Exploring the QCD Phase Diagram: RHIC Beam Energy Scan II

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The RHIC Beam Energy Scan I

• We built RHIC to find the QGP. And we did it!

• But QGP is a new and complicated phase of matter. We have made huge progress in understanding its nature. At high energy, we expect a **cross-over** transition. At lower energy there should be a **first order** transition and a **critical point**.

 The structure of the QCD matter phase diagram is
 fundamental. This will be in textbooks in future decades

• Three Goals:

- Turn-off of QGP signatures
- Critical Point
- First order phase transition.



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Overview of the Beam Energy Scan I Results

- 1. **Turn-off of QGP signatures:**
 - NCQ breaks down below 19.6 GeV
 - High p_t suppression not seen below 19.6 Gev
 - LPV effect not seen below 11.5 GeV

2. Evidence of the first order phase transition.

- *v₁* sign change above 7.7
- Inflection in v_2 and $dE_T/d\eta$ at 7.7
- Azimuthal HBT signal inconclusive

3. Search for the critical point.

- K/ π , K/p, or p/ π fluctuations are not conclusive.
- Higher moments of the proton distributions

Hints

Strong

Hints

Turn-off of QGP Signatures



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Search for 1st Order PhaseTransition

Excitation function for freeze-out eccentricity, ϵ_{r}



Search for the Critical Point



What Have We Learned? What Needs to be Done?

1) The key QGP signatures disappear, no need to search above 19.6

- 2) First order phase transition or Onset of deconfinement *likely* at the lower end of the range
 - low energy performance is critical
- 3) Critical Point will need more statistics
 - Do we need finer steps? Over 100 MeV Gap in μ_B between 11.5 and 19.8
- 4) Determination of the temperature dependence of transport properties



Beam Energy Scan II: Answering the remaining questions

| | √S _{NN} (GeV) | 19.6 | 15 | 11.5 | 7.7 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| | μ_{B} (GeV) | 205 | 250 | 315 | 420 | |
| | BES I (MEvts) | 36 | | 11.7 | 4.3 | |
| | BES II (MEvts) | 400 | 100 | 120 | 80 | |
| • Fi | ner steps in μ_{B} | |) | | | |
| High Statistics | | Critical Point | | Ons Deconf | Onset of Deconfinement | |

But that's a lot of data... at current rates, this would take ~70 weeks of RHIC operations! Isn't there a better way? → Yes! We can cool the beams!

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Low Energy Electron Cooling at RHIC



Simulation of luminosity with electron cooling at beam energy of 3.85 GeV/n ($V s_{NN} = 7.7 \text{ GeV}$).



Timeline for RHIC's Next Decade

| | Years | Beam Species and Energies | Science Goals | New Systems Commissioned |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | 2013 | • 500 GeV $\vec{p} + \vec{p}$ • 15 GeV Au+Au | Sea antiquark and gluon polarization QCD critical point search | Electron lenses upgraded pol'd source STAR HFT |
| No rur →I Stil thi: | 2014 te: This wi n, without ower stati l need to c s energy la | 200 GeV Au+Au and baseline data via 200 I be a 3 week eded for cooling, bsystems) stics (30-40M) ome back to ter | Heavy flavor flow, energy loss, thermalization, etc. quarkonium studies | 56 MHz SRF full HFT STAR Muon Telescope Detector PHENIX Muon Piston Calorimeter Extension (MPC-EX) |
| | 2015- 2017 | High stat. Au+Au at 200 and ~40 GeV U+U/Cu+Au at 1-2 energies 200 GeV p+A 500 GeV p + p | Extract η/s(T_{min}) + constrain initial quantum fluctuations further heavy flavor studies sphaleron tests @ μ_B≠0 gluon densities & saturation finish p+p W prod'n | Coherent Electron Cooling (CeC) test Low-energy electron cooling STAR inner TPC pad row upgrade |
| | 2018- 2021 | 5-20 GeV Au+Au (E scan phase 2) long 200 GeV + 1-2 lower √s Au+Au w/ upgraded dets. baseline data @ 200 | x10 sens. increase to QCD critical point and deconfinement onset jet, di-jet, γ-jet quenching probes of E-loss mechanism color screening for different qq states transverse spin asyms. Drell-Yan & | sPHENIX forward physics upgrades The BES II program needs electron cooling |
| | | GeV and lower \sqrt{s} • 500 GeV $\vec{p} + \vec{p}$ • 200 GeV $\vec{p} + A$ | gluon saturation | Slide 11 of 18 |

Beam Energy Scan II



Is there another way?

Can another facility do this faster?

Or better?



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Nuclotron based Ion Collider fAcility (NICA)

 •Time Line: Not yet funded. Plan is to submit documents by end of 2012. Operations could not begin before 2017 (probably much later)
 •Energy Range: Vs_{NN} from 3.9 - 11 GeV for Au+Au; μ_B from 0.630 - 0.325 GeV.



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Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR)



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Comparison of Facilities

| Facilty | RHIC BE | SII | SPS | NICA | SIS-300 |
|--|----------------|----------|--|---------------------------------|---------|
| Exp.: | STAR PHENIX | <u> </u> | NA61 | MPD | СВМ |
| Start: | 2017 | | 2009 | >2017? | >2022? |
| Au+Au Energy: √s _{NN} (GeV) | 7.7– 19 | .6+ | 4.9-17.3 | 2.7 - 11 | 2.7-8.2 |
| Event Rate: At 8 GeV | 100 HZ | | 100 HZ | <10 kHz | <10 MHZ |
| Physics: | CP&OD | | CP&OD | OD&DHM | OD&DHM |
| CP = Critical Point | Fixed Target | | | | |
| OD = Onset of Deconfinement DHM = Dense Hadronic Matter | | | Lighter ion collisions RHIC is the | | : |
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Conclusions

There are scenarios that would see a limited time to termination of RHIC operations. • A BESII program in 2018 would not be run

• A shorter run without eCooling would not have the statistics needed

What would be lost?

- RHIC is optimally suited to find the critical point
- NICA and FAIR are **too low** in energy for CP searches
- NA61 is a **fixed-target** experiment and is running lighter ions
- → Without RHIC, the QCD phase diagram will not be understood
- Currently, the US is the leader in the field. Without RHIC, that leadership moves overseas.

Study of the phase diagram needs RHIC and eCooling!

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