



• A few *vignettes* of recent progress in nuclear theory

amazing breadth of activity

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• Directions for the future

Nuclear physics programs are not defined at the moment when accelerators and detectors are commissioned, but evolve as experimentalists and theorists work together to extract data and meaning

► The decade will be defined in part by the **big** questions we try to answer.



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Nuclear theory in the context of the Long Range Plan

some selected highlights:



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2007: Numerical determination of QGP viscosity from relativistic hydro computation, fitting to v₂ (Romatschke²)





Discovery of importance of higher harmonics arising from initial state fluctuations -- the cosmological analogy (2010)



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Perhaps charge separation is due to the topological "chiral magnetic effect" (Kharzheev et al., 2006 - 2010)



Derivation of initial quantum fluctuations: K. Dusling, F. Gelis and R. Venugopalan (2011) K. Dusling, T. Epelbaum, F. Gelis and R. Venugopalan, (2012)



2013: Modeling of anisotropies, from initial fluctuations through hydrodynamical evolution, allowing determination of the temperature dependence of the viscosity (rising with T?!) - Gale, Jeon, Schenke, Tribedy, Venugopalan







From heavy ion collisions to cold trapped fermionic atoms... the same physics spanning 25 orders of magnitude in scale



Extraction of η /s in cold trapped atoms from elliptic flow & breathing modes

Cao et al., 2010



Hard problems are being solved by importing tools from diverse fields of physics

One sees the same problems echoed at many different scales

High fallutin' theory and creative modeling work hand-in-hand toward creating a comprehensive theory

New theory ideas change experiments

2. "QGP" from AdS/CFT



Not QCD, but in some ways not too different

2. "QGP" from AdS/CFT

some highlights (Chesler & Yaffe 2013, JHEP 1407 (2014) 086): solutions to Einstein eqs in 5d anti de Sitter space-time



Test of validity of 1st order viscous hydrodynamics in the collision of shock waves

(*R* = relative deviation; blue = good, red = bad)

Not QCD, but in some ways not too different



"QGP" from AdS/CFT

(Chesler & Yaffe 2013):

10⁸

emergence of turbulent flow through cascade of plasma instabilities





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When you wonder if you might be approximating the right problem wrong, it can help to solve the wrong problem right

Analytical and precise numerical results for complex systems are jewels to treasure

3. The ultimate heavy ion and the ultimate heavy ion collision:





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Binary neutron star mergers





Neutron Star Merger Dynamics



(General) Relativistic (Very) Heavy-Ion Collisions at ~ 100 MeV/nucleon















Are neutron star mergers the site of r-process nucleosynthesis?





Nucleosynthesis & Neutrinos





Dynamics & the Neutron Star Crust

Key to understanding a host of time dependent phenomena: Glitches, Superbursts, Transient Cooling, Magnetic Field Decay, Giant Flares.

Recent theoretical work sheds light on:

- Transport properties (thermal and electrical conductivity, viscosity)
- Nuclear and neutrino reactions
- Superfluid properties and vortex dynamics







New frontiers for nuclear theory are constantly opening up.

There are no real boundaries between nuclear theory and branches of physics.

4. Advances in Lattice QCD



Precise determination of low-lying hadron spectrum with physical dynamical quarks

2008 (Dürr et al.):



Meson resonances from LQCD



Dudek et al, Phys.Rev. D88 (2013) 094505

LQCD is constantly developing new ingenious algorithms for extracting physics directly from QCD with increasing precision





Magnetic moments computed from LQCD at m_{π} =806 MeV, in lattice nuclear magnetons



NPLQCD collaboration, arXiv:1409.3556





The challenge and the prospect: physics of nuclei directly from QCD



LQCD as the 1st step in a sequence of descriptions of nuclei at different length scales

credit: W. Nazarewicz



QCD (and more generally, the standard model) is informing nuclear theory from every direction...even where "more is different"

Computational physics is as much part of nuclear physics now as is theory and experiment



Overall lessons from Physics (Recent) Past:



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• This isn't your grandmother's nuclear theory



Overall lessons from Physics (Recent) Past:

- This isn't your grandmother's nuclear theory
- Experimental programs evolve and are enriched as experimentalists and theorists work together



Looking to the future

- I. The fruitful collaboration between experiment and theory must continue to make the most of our investments...and will keep theorists *busy*
 - Develop further the characterization of the QGP from combined RHIC and LHC results
 - Predictions for and interpretation of GlueX data from JLab... can we see gluonic excitations in the hadron spectrum?
 - Developing reaction theory to a level of sophistication where it can be used to predict and explain FRIB results.
 - Computing hadronic corrections to the muon (g-2) to a precision comparable to the future experimental precision.
 - Use observations of transient astrophysical phenomena to better understand the properties of extreme matter
 - Compute nuclear matrix elements for precision symmetry tests and dark matter detection for physics beyond the SM...

One example



Fundamental symmetry tests and neutrino physics

- Superallowed Fermi $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+ \beta$ -decays
- Neutrinoless double-beta decays
- Schiff moment for EDM
- Neutrino-nucleus scattering



Current $0\nu\beta\beta$ predictions

"There is generally significant variation among different calculations of the nuclear matrix elements for a given isotope. For consideration of future experiments and their projected sensitivity it would be very desirable to reduce the uncertainty in these nuclear matrix elements." (Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay NSAC Report 2014)

Looking to the future



II. Keep an eye on the BIG questions (and have a tolerance for crazy no-good answers)

David B. Kaplan & Joint Town Mtgs on QCD & Temple U. & Sept. 13, 2014

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

16 November 1964

SPIN AND UNITARY-SPIN INDEPENDENCE IN A PARAQUARK MODEL OF BARYONS AND MESONS O.W. Greenberg* Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey (Received 27 October 1964) Wigner's supermultiplet theory,¹ transplanted ticle supermultiplet theory, the possible indeindependently by Gürsey, Pais, and Radicati,² pendence of both spin and unitary spin of those and by Sakita,² from nuclear-structure physforces relevant to the masses of certain lowics to particle-structure physics, has aroused lying bound states (particles) makes it interesta good deal of interest recently. In the nuclear ing to classify the states according to irreducsupermultiplet theory, the approximate indeible representations of SU(6). Three results

"This can be done if quarks are parafermions of order p=3. This suggestion is the main idea of this article."

II. Keep an eye on the BIG questions cont'd



- How can we map out the entire QCD phase diagram?
- How can we evade sign problems in computing the properties of many-body systems?
- Can we develop analytical tools to connect hadron structure at low energy to the parton description at high energy?
- How does glue arrange itself in hadrons?
- Is there a holographic dual of real QCD?
- Can one successfully complete a coherent and consistent framework to describe nuclei from QCD for few-body interactions, to *ab initio* methods for light and medium mass nuclei, to mean field and its generalizations for heavy nuclei?
- Can one develop the computational tools of mean field theory and its extensions capable of describing induced fission over its entire time evolution from excitation to scission?
- Where are heavy r-process elements created?
- How do massive stars evolve and explode?
- How will dark matter interact with ordinary matter? ...

III. A future requires young scientists



Early Career Awards in Nuclear Theory 2010--2014

Principal Investigator	Institution	Year of award
Feng Yuan	LBNL	FY 2010
Denes Molnar	Purdue	FY 2010
Sofia Quaglioni	LLNL	FY 2011
Jozef Dudek	Old Dominion	FY 2011
James Kneller	North Carolina State	FY 2011
Ivan Vitev	LANL	FY 2012
Huaiyu Duan	U New Mexico	FY 2012
Daniel Kasen	UC Berkeley	FY 2012
Paul Romatschke	U Colorado	FY 2012
Gaute Hagen	ORNL	FY 2013
William Detmold	MIT	FY 2013
Carla Frohlich	North Carolina State	FY 2013
Matthias Schindler	U South Carolina	FY 2013
Bjoern Schenke	BNL	FY 2014
Andre Walker-Loud	William & Mary/JLab	FY 2014

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... and young scientists are attracted by both big ideas and job prospects



job prospects:





job prospects:

grad student support

post-doc positions

lab/university bridge positions

faculty/staff

positions

topical collaborations

The INT experience:

- 57 former post-docs
- 35 now in tenured or tenure track university positions
- 6 have permanent lab staff positions
- 8 employed in industry

Exciting science enlarges job possibilities at universities



job prospects:

grad student support

- topical collaborations
 - SciDAC Collaborations

The vulnerable link

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post-doc positions



LRP needs for nuclear theory:

Personpower to be able to successfully develop with experimentalists the ongoing and upcoming **NP** experimental programs: **GlueX**, **Qweak**, **Majorana**, **FRIB**, **RHIC**, **LHC**, **EIC**...

Personpower to be able to successfully develop with experimentalists the ongoing and upcoming **other** experimental programs: (g-2), LHC, LIGO, LBNE, DM searches...

A viable and stable career path for young scientists

Support the needs for high performance computing...a critical partner to both theory and experiment

Encourage intellectual risk-taking as a critical element of a successful theory program

One way to quantify person-power needs:



3 Topical Collaborations were funded in 2010:

- JET: Quantitative Jet and Electromagnetic Tomography of Extreme Phases of Matter in HIC, lead PI: Xin-Nian Wang, LBNL
 5-year funding: \$2,230k
- NuN: Nucleosynthesis and Neutrinos in Hot and Dense Matter lead PI: Sanjay Reddy, INT, UW 5-year funding: \$2,270k
- TORUS: Theory Of Reactions for Unstable iSotopes, lead PI: Ian Thompson, LLNL
 5-year funding: \$1,329k
- ...and **16** proposals were not:



- Hadronic physics
- Relativistic heavy ion physics
- LQCD/EFT nuclear structure
- Traditional nuclear structure
- Nuclear astrophysics
- Fundamental symmetries

What are the missed opportunities?

Are investments in the experimental programs being adequately exploited?



Nuclear theory support has a structure that works well overall



What is the best way to meet our needs without tearing down what works?

Meeting LRP needs for nuclear theory*: **a consensus opinion of a committee of one*

- Encourage expanding bridge position programs bonding universities and national labs (e.g. with FRIB)
- "Regularize" the topical collaboration program (e.g., 1 new one funded per year), with an emphasis on student, postdoc, and bridged faculty/staff positions
- Support a high performance computing initiative







...and emphasize throughout the LRP the collaborative effort between experimentalists and theorists to make the most of NP investments — and to discover more than what was originally envisioned