From strangelets to strange stars: A unified description Xia_Peng_Zhao_Zhou2016_PRD93-085025

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Collaborators: Peng Guang-Xiong, Zhao En-Guang, Zhou Shan-Gui





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- Witten reported on the stability of SQM consisting of approximately equal numbers of *u*, *d* and *s* quarks, suggesting that SQM could indeed be stable even at zero external pressure. (Witten1984_PRD30-272)

If Witten-Bodmer hypothesis is true, there exists stable lumps of SQM with the baryon number $A \approx 2 \sim 10^{57}$:

Strangelets ($A \lesssim 10^7$)

Comparing with nuclei, strangelets have: lower charge-to-mass ratio; larger mass; smaller radius; spherical shape; ...

Nuclearites (Rujula_Glashow1984_Nature312-734); Meteorlike Compact Ultradense Objects (CUDO) (Rafelski_Labun_Birrell2013_PRL110-111102); . . .

Strange stars ($Approx 10^{57}$).

Comparing with traditional neutron stars, strange stars have: no crust; different nass-radius relations: smaller radii: higher rotational frequencies:



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Experimental searches of SQM: Cosmic rays, CUDO, etc.

Reviewed in Klingenberg1999_JPG25-R273, Finch2006_JPG32-S251, Burdin et al.2015_PR582-1, ...

No compelling evidence is found!!!

The extreme complexity of an SQM system:

- involves all the fundamental interactions, i.e., the strong, weak, electromagnetic, and gravitational interactions;
- important effects such as the quark depletion, charge screening, and inhomogeneous particle distributions;
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Hints

Black body spectrum observed in pulsars: RX J1856.5-3754 (Drake et al.2002_ApJ572-996, Burwitz et al.2003_AA399-1109);

Small mass-radius probability: 4U 1746-37 (Li et al.2015_ApJ798-56);

The hyperon puzzle for the traditional neutron stars; . . .



Mass-radius probability distributions obtained with PRE bursts and QLMXBs (Lattimer2012,ARNPS62-485).

Future: the Lightweight Asymmetry and Magnetism Probe (LAMP) project; the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST); the Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER); the Square

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Xia Cheng-Jun@CSQCD5 (May 26, 2016)

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Theoretical descriptions

Approximations in previous descriptions

- strangelets: 1. electrons were ignored; 2. isotropic particle distribution.
- strange stars: local charge neutrality.

Important effects

- charge screening (Heiselberg1993_PRD48-1418, ...);
- electron-positron pair creation (Madsen2008_PRL100-151102);
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The particle number: $N_i(r) = \int_0^r 4\pi n_i(r) e^{\lambda/2} r^2 dr$; The total charge: $Q(r) \equiv \sum_i q_i N_i(r)$; The entropy: $\overline{S}(r) = \int_0^r 4\pi S(r) e^{\lambda/2} r^2 dr$.

By minimizing the mass $M = M_t(\infty)$ with respect to the particle distribution $N_i(r)$ and entropy distribution $\overline{S}(r)$ at fixed the total particle number $N_i(\infty)$ and entropy $\overline{S}(\infty)$, we immediately have

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mu_i}{\mathrm{d}r} = \frac{\alpha Q}{r^2} q_i \mathrm{e}^{\lambda/2} - \frac{\mu_i}{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}\nu}{\mathrm{d}r},\tag{6}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d} r}{\mathrm{d} r} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mathrm{d} \nu}{\mathrm{d} r}.$$
(7)

They are equivalent to the constancy of the generalized chemical potential

$$\bar{\mu}_i = \mu_i e^{\nu/2} + q_i \varphi(\mathbf{r}) = \text{constant}$$
(8)

and gravitationally red-shifted temperature

$$\bar{T} = T e^{\nu/2} = \text{constant}$$
 (9)

with $\frac{d\varphi}{dr} = -\frac{\alpha Q}{r^2} e^{(\lambda+\nu)/2}$ (Klein1949_RMP21-531, Tolman1930_PR35-904, Olson_Bailyn1975_PRD12-3030, Kodama_Yamada1972_PTP47-444), $\triangleleft \equiv \flat \triangleleft \equiv \flat$

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Local properties



Strong interaction (Bag Model)

The thermodynamic potential density at zero temperature:

$$\Omega = -\sum_{i} \frac{g_{i}}{24\pi^{2}} \left[\mu_{i}\nu_{i}(\nu_{i}^{2} - \frac{3}{2}m_{i}^{2}) + \frac{3}{2}m_{i}^{4}\ln\frac{\mu_{i} + \nu_{i}}{m_{i}} \right] + B, \quad (10)$$

with $\mu_i = \sqrt{\nu_i^2 + m_i^2}$. The particle number density, energy density and pressure are given by $n_i = -\frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \mu_i} = \frac{g_i \nu_i^3}{6\pi^2}$, $E = \Omega + \sum_i \mu_i n_i$, and $P = -\Omega$.

Weak interaction

Weak reactions: $d, s \leftrightarrow u + e + \overline{\nu}_e$, $s + u \leftrightarrow u + d$, ... The weak equilibrium is reached: $\mu_u + \mu_e = \mu_d = \mu_s$.

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Surface effects



- The multiple reflection expansion (MRE) method: The average effects due to quark depletion are treated with a modification to the density of states, i.e., $\frac{dN_i^{\text{surf}}}{dp_i} = -\frac{g_i R^2 p_i}{\pi} \arctan\left(\frac{m_i}{p_i}\right) + \frac{2g_i R}{3\pi} \left[1 - \frac{3p_i}{2m_i} \arctan\left(\frac{m_i}{p_i}\right)\right]$ with the contribution to the total energy $\bar{E}_i^{\text{surf}} = \int_0^{\nu_i(R)} \sqrt{p_i^2 + m_i^2} \frac{dN_i^{\text{surf}}}{dp_i} dp_i.$ (Berger_Jaffe1987_PRC35-213, Madsen1994_PRD50-3328)
- Constant surface tension: The contributions to the total energy due to the interface effects are taken into account by a surface tension σ with the modification to the total energy 4πR²σ. (Heiselberg1993_PRL70-1355, Jaikumar_Reddy_Steiner2006_PRL96-041101,...)

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The electron mass: $m_e = 0.511$; Quark masses: $m_u = 2.3$, $m_d = 4.8$, and $m_s = 95$. Obtained from Particle Data Group2014_CPC38-090001.

The bag constant *B* (according to the Witten-Bodmer hypothesis)

- Lower limit (2f-quark matter:
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 930 MeV): $B^{1/4}>$ 144.37 MeV;

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We take $B^{1/4} = 152 \pm 7$ MeV.

The surface tension σ_{\parallel}

Evaluated with lattice QCD, the linear sigma model, the Nambu-Jona-Lasinio model, the three-flavor Polyakov-quark-meson model, and the quasiparticle model etc.: $\sigma \approx 5\text{-}300 \ \mathrm{MeV} \ \mathrm{fm}^{-2}$ Note: No adjustable parameters for the MRE method.

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Energy per baryon



Energy excess per baryon



Xia Cheng-Jun@CSQCD5 (May 26, 2016)

From strangelets to strange stars: A unified description

Charge properties



• (a): The charge-to-mass ratio of the SQM core of strangelets (dashed line: Heiselberg1993_PRD48-1418; thick dash-dotted line:

Berger_Jaffe1987_PRC35-213)

 (b): The surface charge density σ^{surf} of the SQM core for strangelets.

Electric potential



The electric potential from the SQM core to the surface of strange stars with R = 9 km.

The magnetic field of a rotating strange star



The magnetic field formed at the pole area on the surface of a rotating SQM core (Negreiros et al.2010_PRD82-103010): $B_{surf} = \frac{1}{3}u_0\sigma^{surf}Rf.$ (Xia2016_SciSinPMA46-012021)

$$\begin{split} & \sigma^{\rm surf} \approx \\ & 0.0135 \pm 0.0008 \ {\rm fm}^{-2} \\ & ({\sf MRE}); \\ & 0.0081 \pm 0.0007 \ {\rm fm}^{-2} \\ & ({\sf Constant} \ \sigma). \end{split}$$

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The magnetic field of a rotating strange star



The binary pulsars are excluded since their magnetic fields may be dampened by mass accretion (Bhattacharya_van den Heuvel1991_PR203-1).

We proposed a unified description to study SQM objects with all the fundamental interactions and important effects considered.

- The energy per baryon of an SQM object is most likely decreasing with increasing size, and the local minimum may not exist.
- There exist nonzero charge inside an SQM object, i.e., the charge located on the quark-vacuum interface due to the separation of electrons from SQM and the gravity induced charge throughout the object.
- The properties of strangelets as well as the surface profiles of strange stars depend crucially on the surface treatments.
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Thank You!!!

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