

Hagedorn legacy

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Abstract. These remarks open the one-day session “50 years of Hagedorn’s Temperature and the Statistical Bootstrap Model”. These developments set the path at CERN towards the discovery of Quark-Gluon Plasma in the year 2000.



Rolf Hagedorn in his CERN office in 1977/8, Photo: Johann Rafelski

In 1964/5 Rolf Hagedorn single handedly had set CERN on the path to the study of hot hadronic matter and quark-gluon plasma. This session of the ICFNP2015 meeting has been set aside to celebrate 50 years of Hagedorn’s pivotal ideas which opened to study the high energy density matter defining our Universe in primordial times above Hagedorn temperature T_H ; that is, before the emergence of matter as we know it. T_H is the pivotal concept that gave birth to a new field of physics. Thanks to early Hagedorn ideas, we understand today the different phases of strongly interacting matter, the early Universe, and we gained a deep insight into the working of quark confinement.

Let me begin with some personal remarks: I first met ‘Herr Hagedorn’ in Winter 1975/76, at his Colloquium on the Statistical Bootstrap Model (SBM). After the lecture and some discussion that followed, I asked if I could visit him at CERN. I arrived as a CERN-fellow in September 1977. The two most important impressions: Herr Hagedorn was an extraordinary thorough and understanding teacher; Herr Hagedorn was available to help those who were in need. For a more comprehensive account see the special volume [1] dedicated to his life and work, see figure 1.

After the vagaries of WW II, the path of Hagedorn to CERN was direct, as was his preparation for the work and discoveries he was to accomplish. In the early 1950s Werner Heisenberg hired Rolf

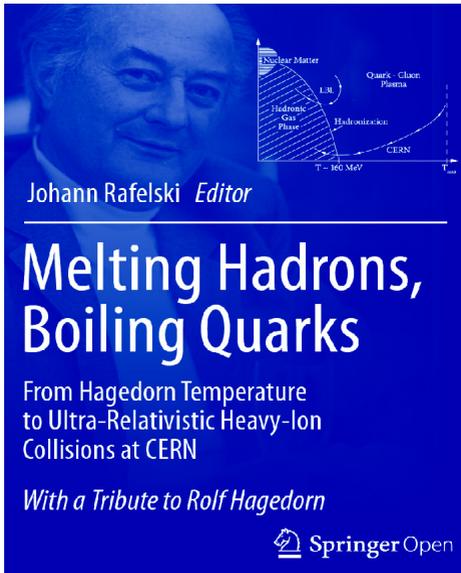


Figure 1. The tale of Hagedorn temperature and its impact on today's science is told in *Melting Hadrons, Boiling Quarks: From Hagedorn Temperature to Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions at CERN; With a Tribute to Rolf Hagedorn*, <http://www.springer.com/de/book/9783319175447>, see [1].

Hagedorn, who was trained by the preeminent thermodynamics theorist Richard Becker, to work on his cosmic emulsion-star 'hobby'. From the present day perspective this was the precursor research into hot hadronic matter. Heisenberg encouraged Hagedorn to consider CERN for continuing this work. Hagedorn consequently applied on January 27, 1954 to join the future CERN laboratory, with thermal physics and cosmic event stars as his scientific preparation. Hagedorn was hired by J.B. Adams, however, first to help build the 1st CERN accelerator, the PS. A few years on when J.B. Adams became director of CERN, he assigned Hagedorn effective January 1, 1961 to a permanent position in the CERN Theory Division, charging Hagedorn with research tasks that Hagedorn dutifully executed in the following decades: "It is intended that you devote your time partly to investigations and computing problems associated with the experimental programs of CERN, such as the use of statistical models for predicting particle production, and partly to those aspect of theoretical physics that will enable you to keep abreast of modern developments. . . ."

Hagedorn's work of 1960-64 had set the stage for his big discoveries that followed in Winter 1964/65. The pivotal period 1964/65 was a singularly critical event in the history of modern physics as several new ideas emerged, which are today merging into a unified view about our Universe:

- Hagedorn proposed the Hagedorn Temperature T_H and the statistical description of elementary particles, the statistical bootstrap model (SBM);
- Gell-Man and Zweig independently recognized that strongly interacting particles have more elementary constituents, the quarks;
- Higgs mechanism was recognized, opening the door for the standard model of particle physics;
- The cosmic microwave background was discovered helping to establish the hot big-bang theory.

Akin to quarks, the Hagedorn temperature had an uneasy birth: Hagedorn work of 1960-1964 showed that the Fermi model produces too few pions - could this mean particles are distinguishable? Hagedorn prepared a report [2] that was a direct precursor of all his coming discoveries. But he reconsidered and withdrew his preprint as new ideas were born quickly.

Within a few more weeks Hagedorn realized how particles can be made distinguishable: he introduced an exponential hadron spectrum where despite large particle abundance, no particle is the

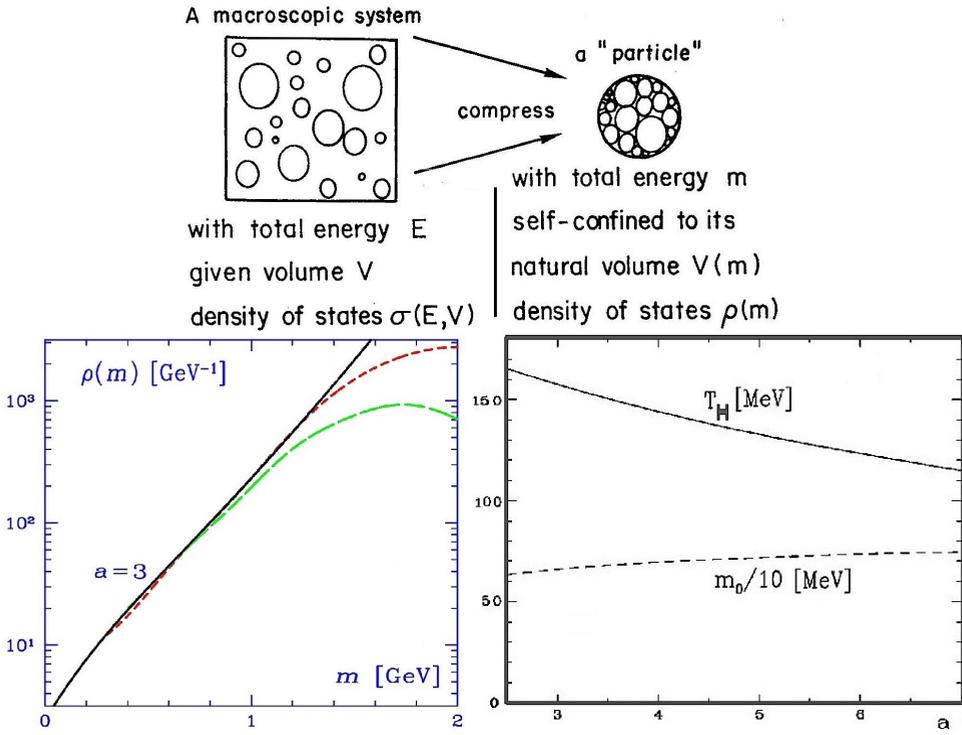


Figure 2. Top: Hagedorn’s picture illustration of his model prepared for review of 1984 [4]. Bottom on left: The mass spectrum for $a = 3$, compared to two sets of experimental data: available in early days to Hagedorn (long dashed, green) and recent vintage (short-dashed, red). On right: the parameters of Eq.(1): T_H and m_0 as functions of the power index a .

same as the other. He created the bootstrap model to compute this spectrum. And, he found that the spectrum he theoretically predicted agreed with experiment. This was the Hagedorn revolution of November 1964-January 1965, published as his monumental model [3]: the SBM: Statistical Bootstrap Model.

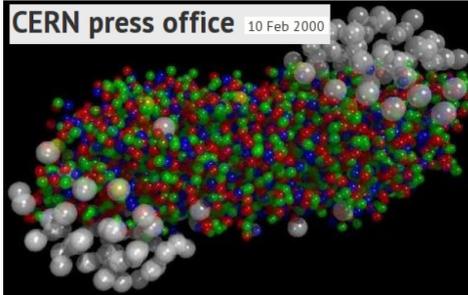
The idea of SBM was straightforward, a volume V filled with particles to the limit is itself a new hadron. This is illustrated in figure 2, top part. This yielded the exponential mass spectrum of hadronic states

$$\rho \propto \frac{e^{m/T_H}}{(m_0^2 + m^2)^{a/2}}, \quad (1)$$

where the exponential slope was the Hagedorn temperature T_H . The index a was at first believed shown by Hagedorn to have a value $a = 2.5$.

In order to determine T_H given a limited range of experimental data available for the hadron resonance mass spectrum, see left hand, bottom, of figure 2, Hagedorn had to use a value of the parameter $a = 2.5$. A greater value $7 \geq a \geq 3$ emerged in a more realistic versions of SBM. As we see on right in figure 2 the larger is a , the smaller is the expected value of the Hagedorn temperature. For a discussion of this situation see Ref.[5]. Therefore the value of T_H which was at first reported to be at $T_H = 164$ MeV, was recognized to be well below this upper limit. The mechanism that

New State of Matter created at CERN



At a special seminar on 10 February, spokespersons from the experiments on CERN's Heavy Ion programme presented compelling evidence for the existence of a new state of matter in which quarks, instead of being bound up into more complex particles such as protons and neutrons, are liberated to roam freely.

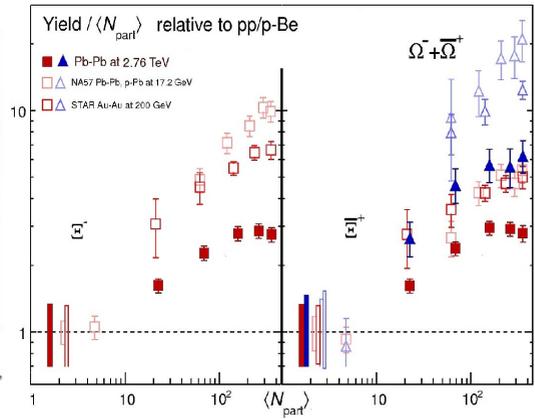


Figure 3. On left: CERN announces the discovery of quark-gluon plasma press.web.cern.ch/press-releases/2000/02/new-state-matter-created-cern; On right: the 2014 summary of strange antibaryon signature of QGP, adapted from a CERN-LHC-Alice collaboration report [6].

increased value of a and decreased value of T_H was the canonical conservation of baryon number, and strangeness.

The work of Hagedorn has attracted interest by many researchers; some are today here. They followed in Hagedorn's footsteps, often working at CERN. We were using statistical methods in strong interaction physics. After 1977 this effort turned into the exploration of hot hadronic matter created in nuclear collisions. This effort had created at CERN a hot spot in a new research field that was not fully appreciated everywhere at first. It was this development which made it natural that in late 1970s and early 1980s CERN became the host to a new experimental research program into the physics of relativistic heavy ion collisions. Ultimately, this led to the announcement of the discovery of quark-gluon plasma at CERN in early 2000, see figure 3 on left. Among the prominent signatures was the strange antibaryon production enhancement, the largest and predicted effect of quark deconfinement in hot hadron matter, shown on the right in figure 3, see Refs. [1, 5].

References

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