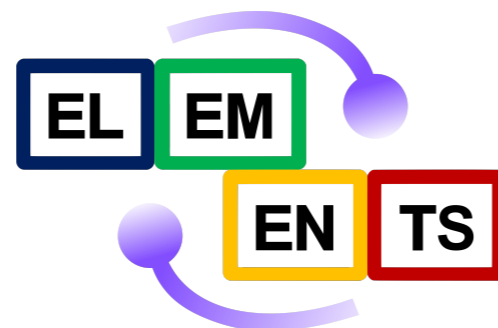


Surprises on the way to the QCD phase diagram from the lattice

Owe Philipsen

- I. Chiral phase transition, massless limit: 40 of common wisdom + resolution
- II. Chiral spin symmetry: emergent intermediate temperature regime
- III. Cold+dense, qualitatively: nuclear liquid gas transition + quarkyonic matter

Tool: QCD away from physical point, study limits + parameter dependence: constraints!



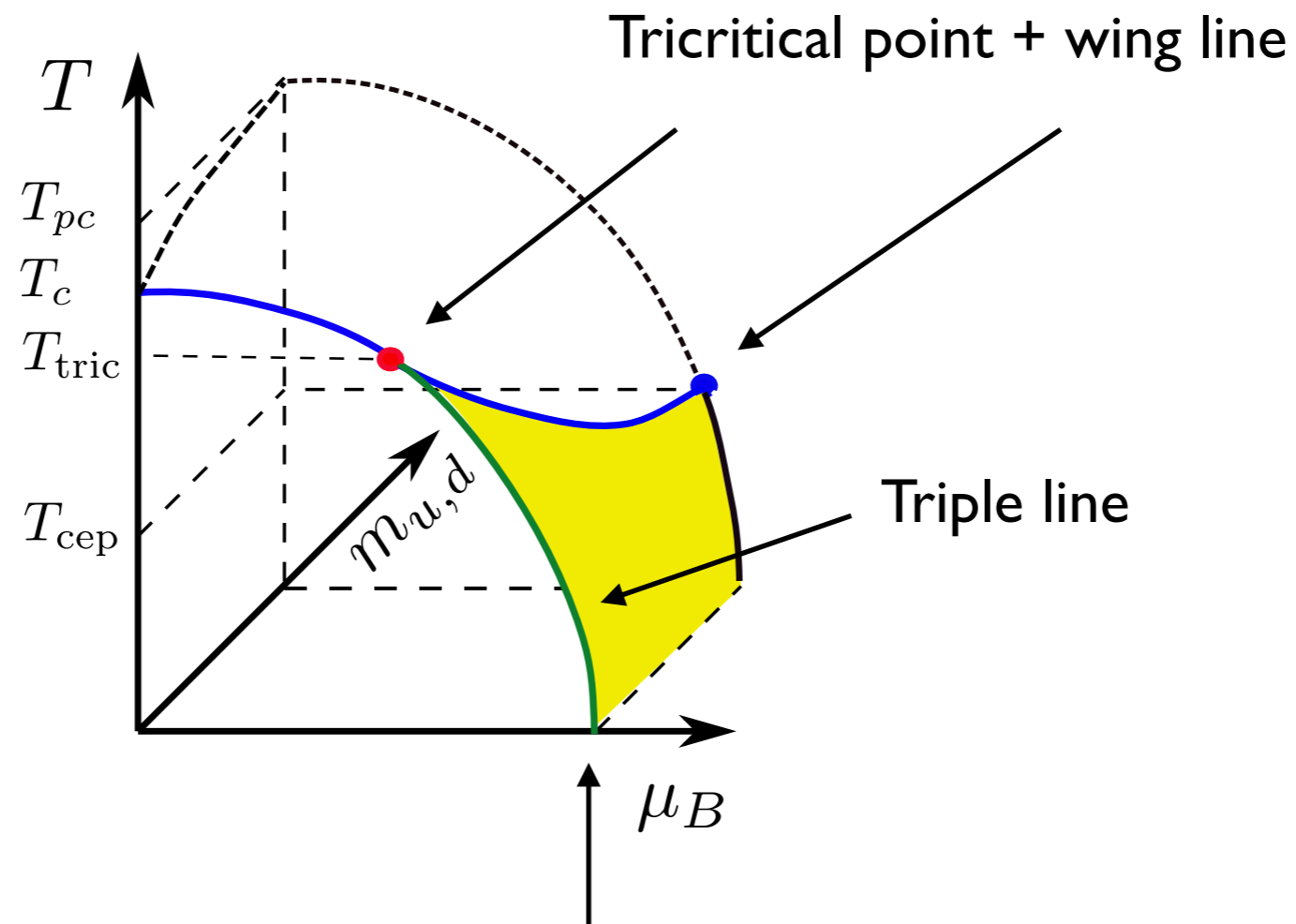
History: motivation for the critical endpoint

[Rajagopal 95, Halasz et al., PRD 98, Stephanov, Rajagopal, Shuryak PRL 98, Rajagopal, Wilczek 00, Hatta, Ikeda, PRD 03,...]

Breaking/restoration of exact chiral symmetry requires a (non-analytic) phase transition

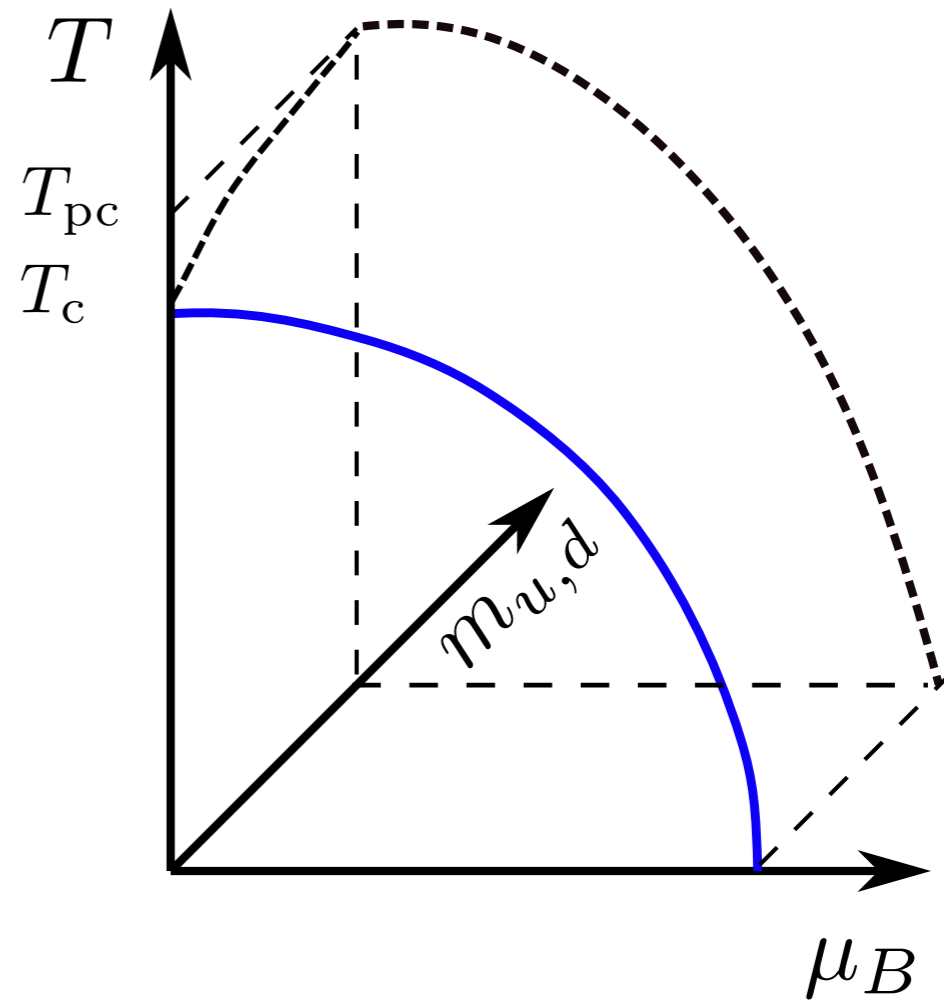
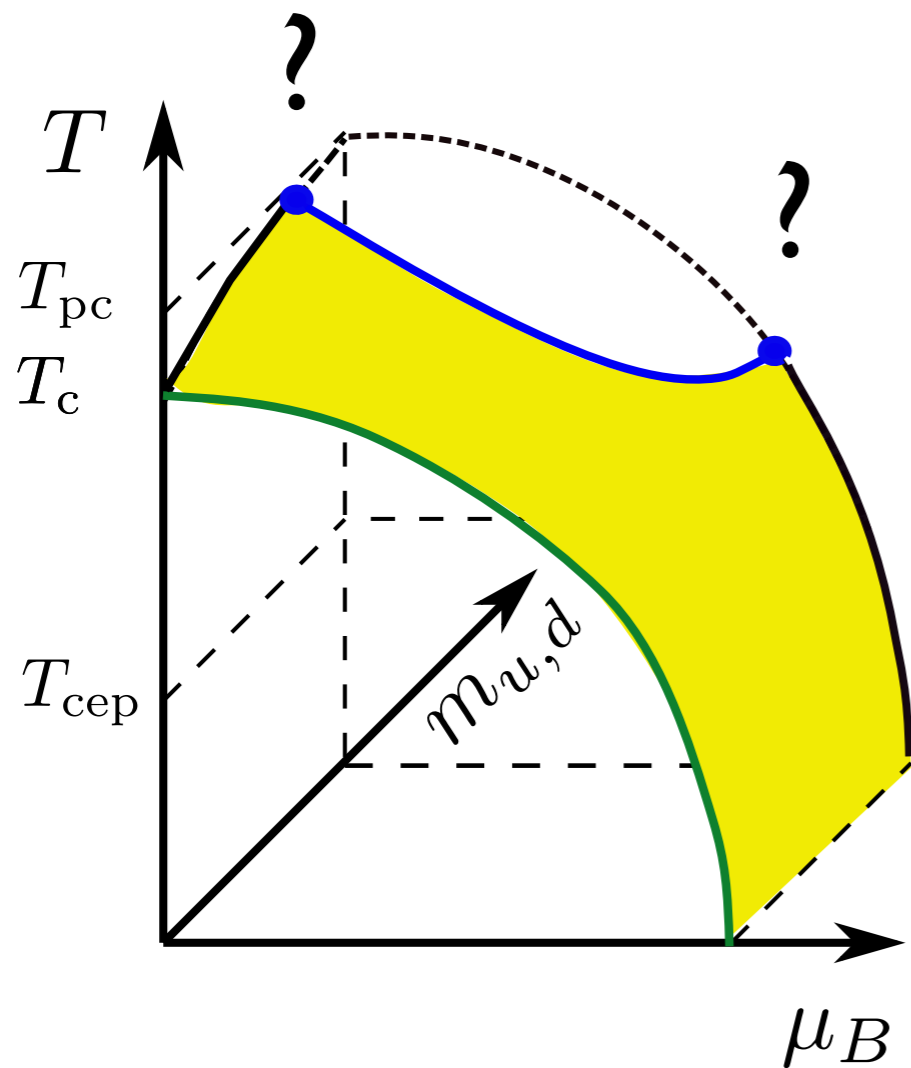
$N_f = 2$:

Model predictions,
early lattice results



Model predictions, **no full QCD information**

Other (mostly ignored) possibilities

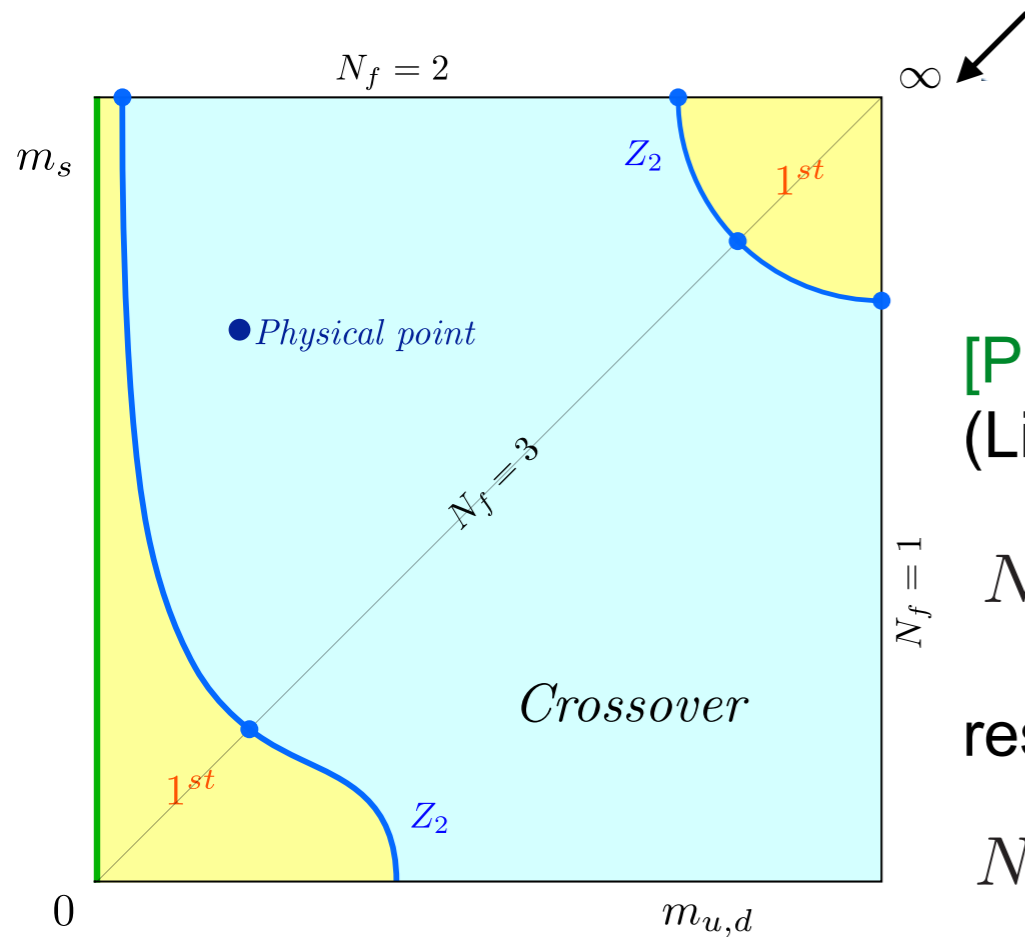


Knowledge of the chiral phase transition at $\mu_B = 0$ narrows down possibilities

I. Nature of the QCD thermal transition at a) zero density

$$N_f = 2 + 1$$

deconfinement p.t.:
breaking of global $Z(3)$ symmetry



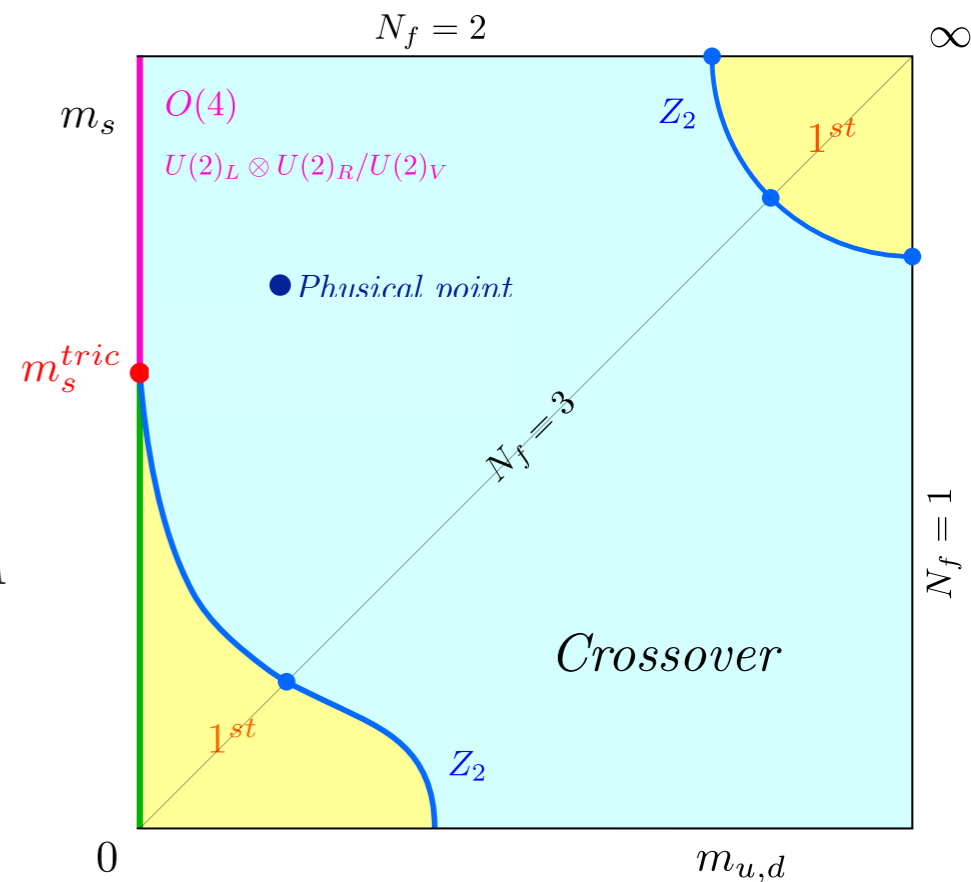
[Pisarski, Wilczek, PRD 84]:
(Linear sigma model in 3d)

$N_f = 2$ depends on $U(1)_A$

restored

broken

$N_f \geq 3$ 1st order



chiral p.t.

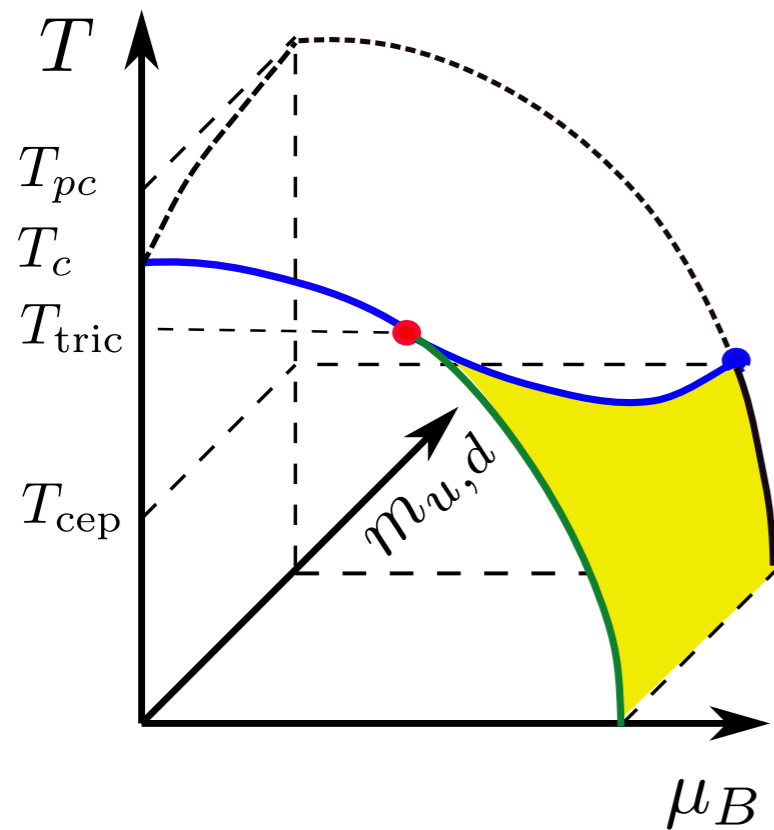
restoration of global symmetry in flavour space

$$SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_A$$

↑
anomalous

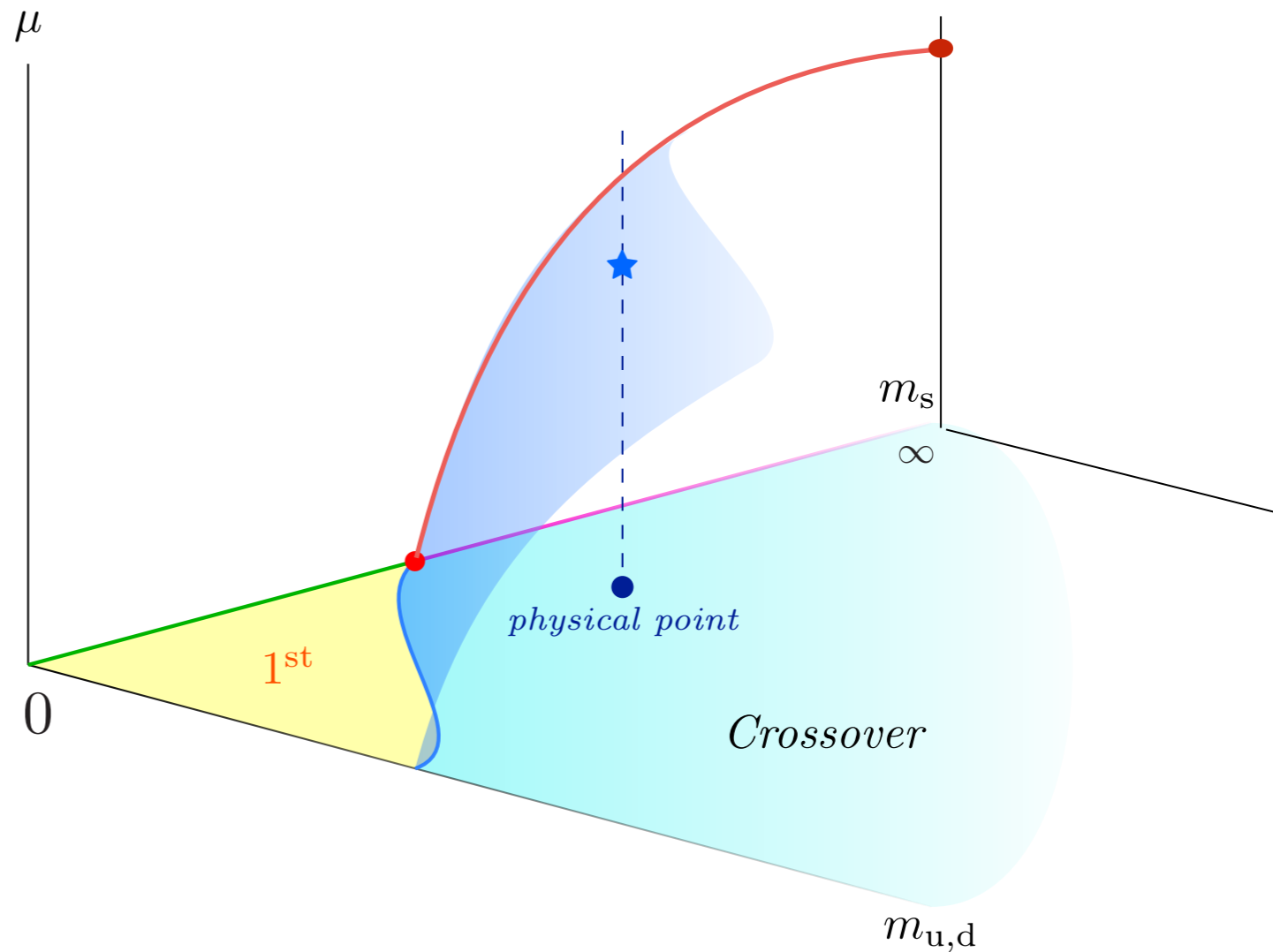
The Columbia plot with chemical potential

$$N_f = 2$$



$$N_f = 2 + 1$$

[edited from Sciarra, PhD thesis 2016]

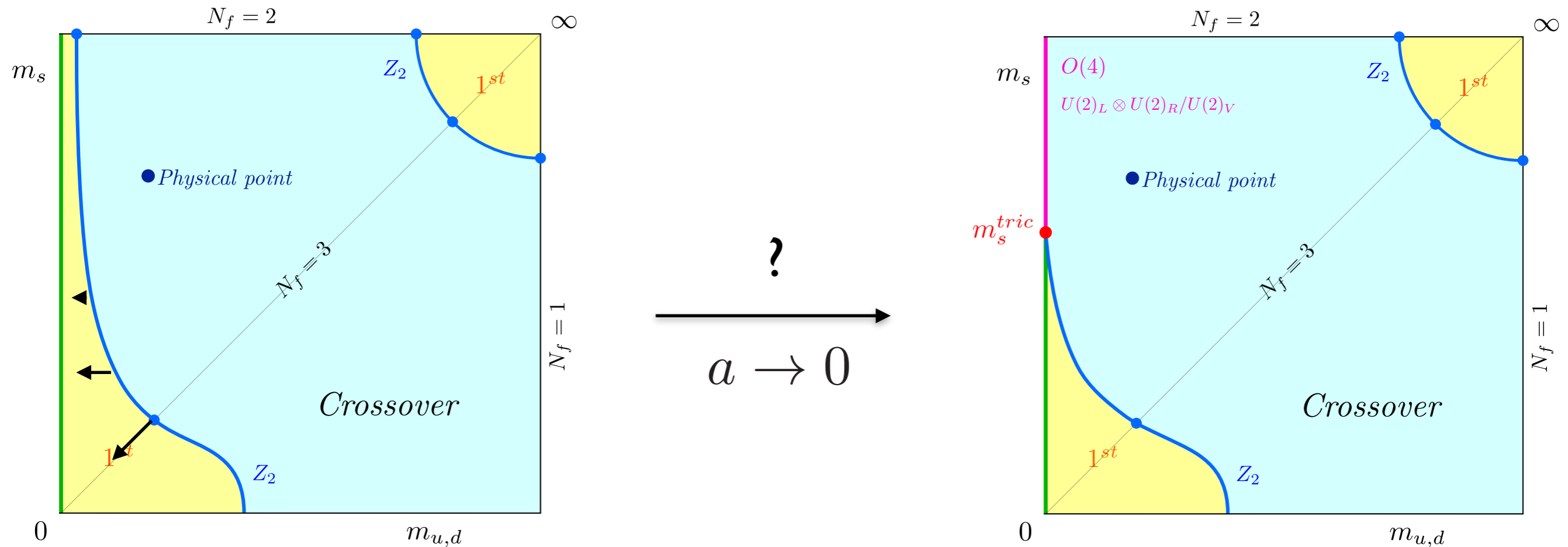


[Stephanov, Rajagopal, Shuryak PRL 98]: (models + early lattice results)

“As m_s is reduced from infinity, the tricritical point ... moves to lower μ until it reaches the T-axis and can be identified with the tricritical point in the (T, m_s) -plane”

The nature of the QCD chiral transition at zero density

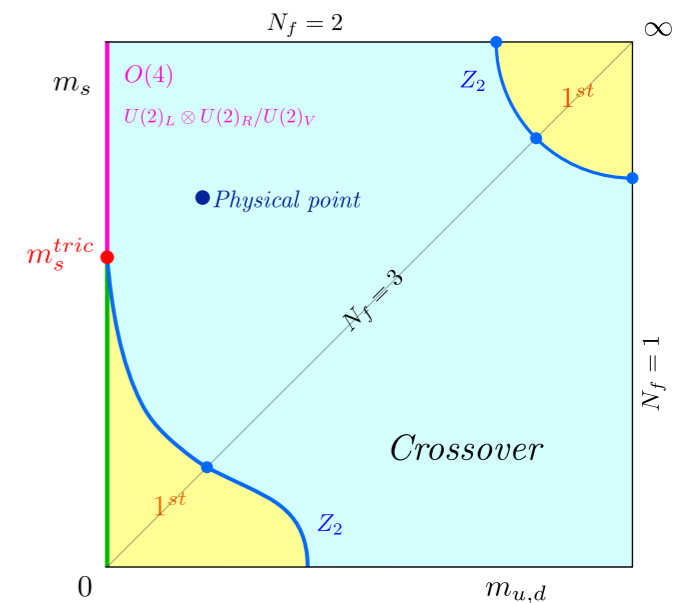
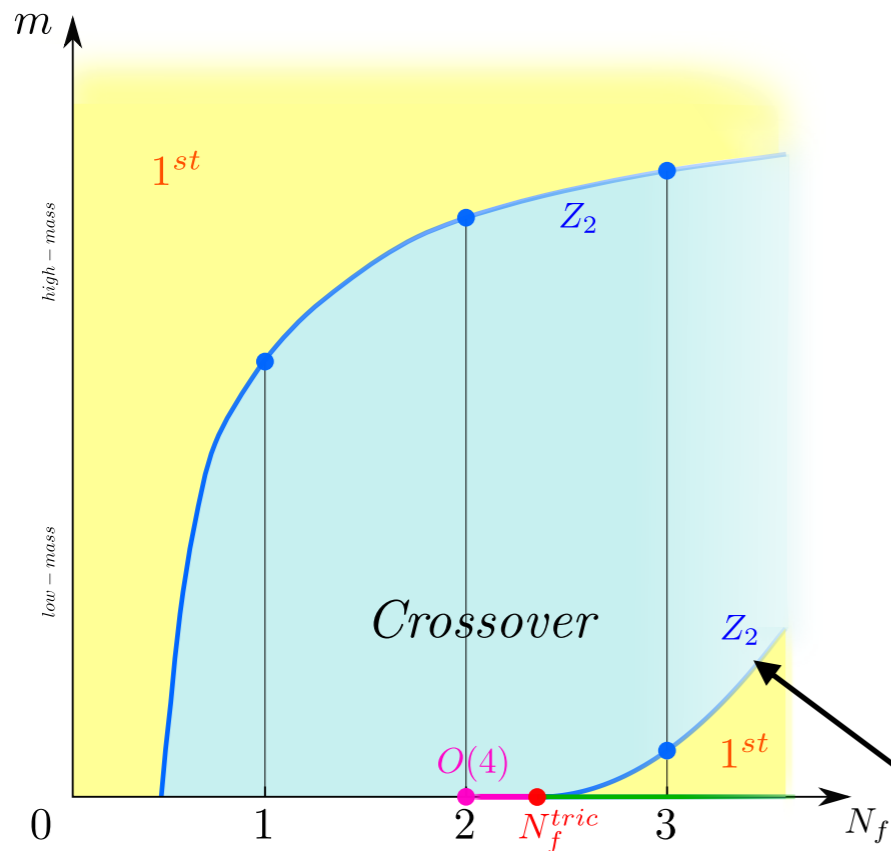
...is elusive, massless limit **not simulable!**



- Coarse lattices with unimproved actions: 1st order for $N_f = 2, 3$
- 1st order region shrinks rapidly as $a \rightarrow 0$, no 1st order for improved staggered actions
- Apparent contradictions between different lattice actions?

Details and reference list: [\[O.P., Symmetry 13, 2021\]](#)

Different view point: mass degenerate quarks

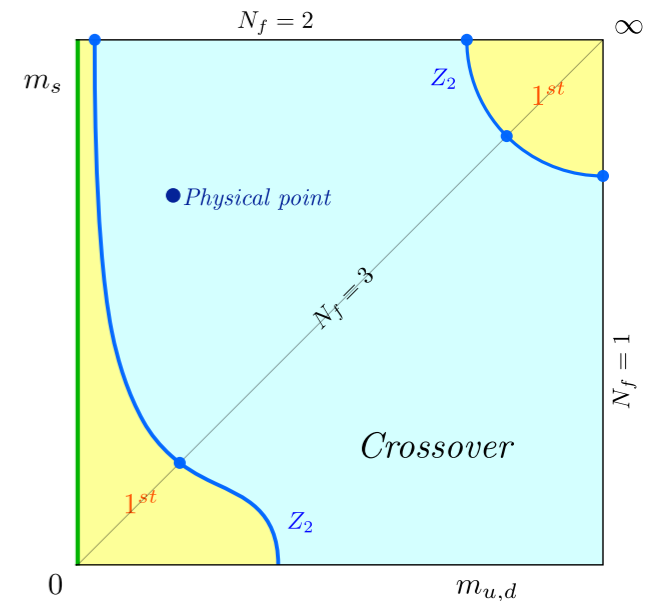
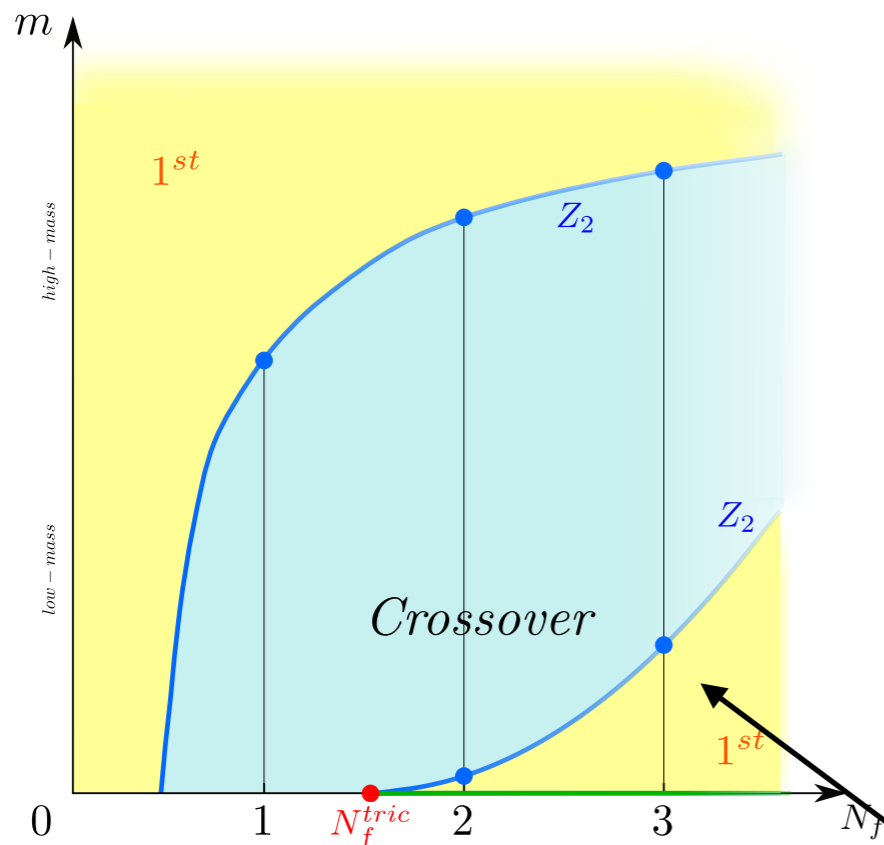


$$Z(N_f, g, m) = \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu (\det M[A_\mu, m])^{N_f} e^{-\mathcal{S}_{\text{YM}}[A_\mu]}$$

$$N_f^c(am) = N_f^{\text{tric}} + \mathcal{B}_1 \cdot (am)^{2/5} + \mathcal{O}((am)^{4/5})$$

- Consider analytic continuation to continuous N_f
- Tricritical point **guaranteed** to exist if there is 1st order at any N_f
- Known exponents for critical line entering tric. point!
- Continuation to $a \neq 0$: $Z(2)$ surface ends in tricritical line

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Methodology to determine order of transition

Finite size scaling of generalised cumulants

$$B_n = \frac{\langle (\bar{\psi}\psi - \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle)^n \rangle}{\langle (\bar{\psi}\psi - \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle)^2 \rangle^{n/2}}$$

Standard staggered fermions, bare parameters:

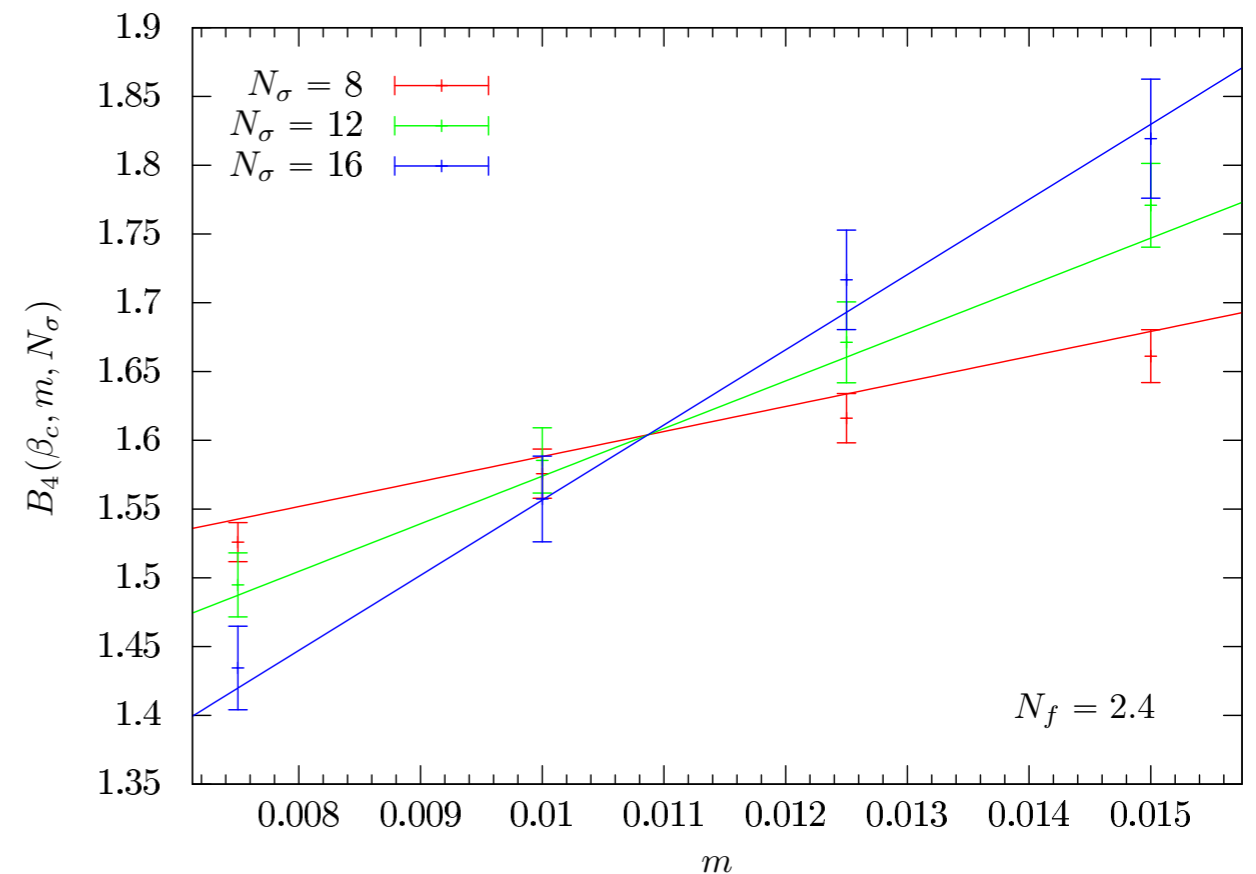
$$\beta, am, N_f, N_\tau$$

(Pseudo-critical) phase boundary: $B_3 = 0$

3d manifold

Second-order 3d Ising:

2d chiral critical surface separates 1st order from crossover



$$B_4(\beta_c, am, N_\sigma) \approx 1.604 + c(am - am_c) N_\sigma^{1/0.6301}$$

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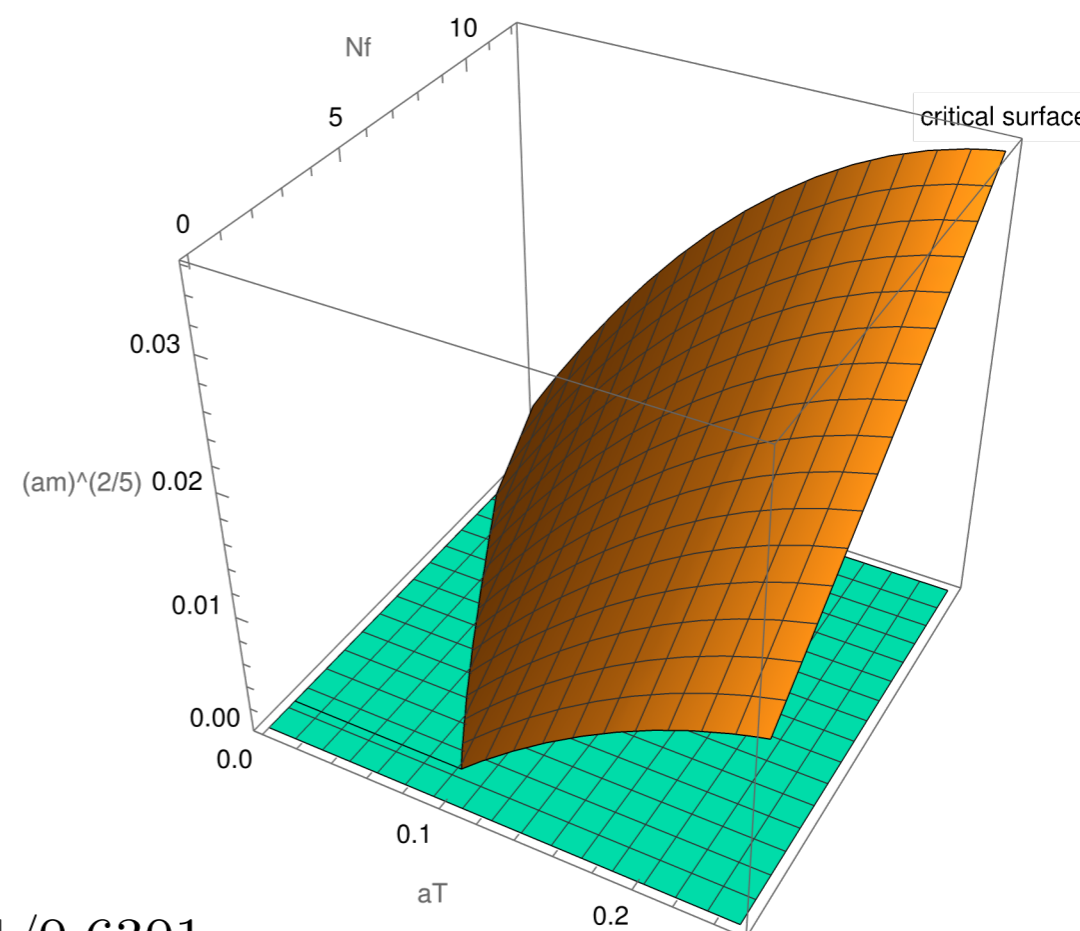
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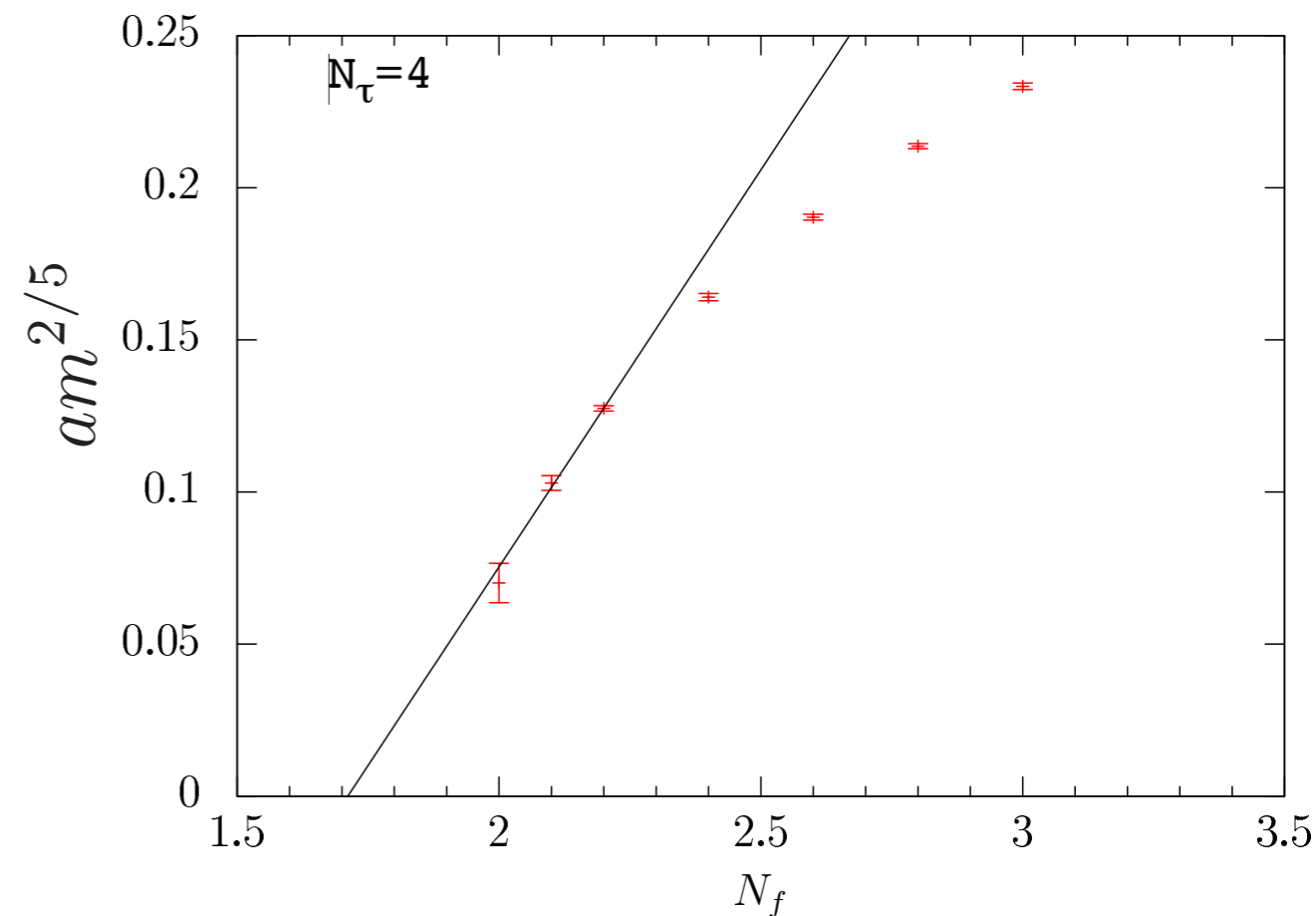
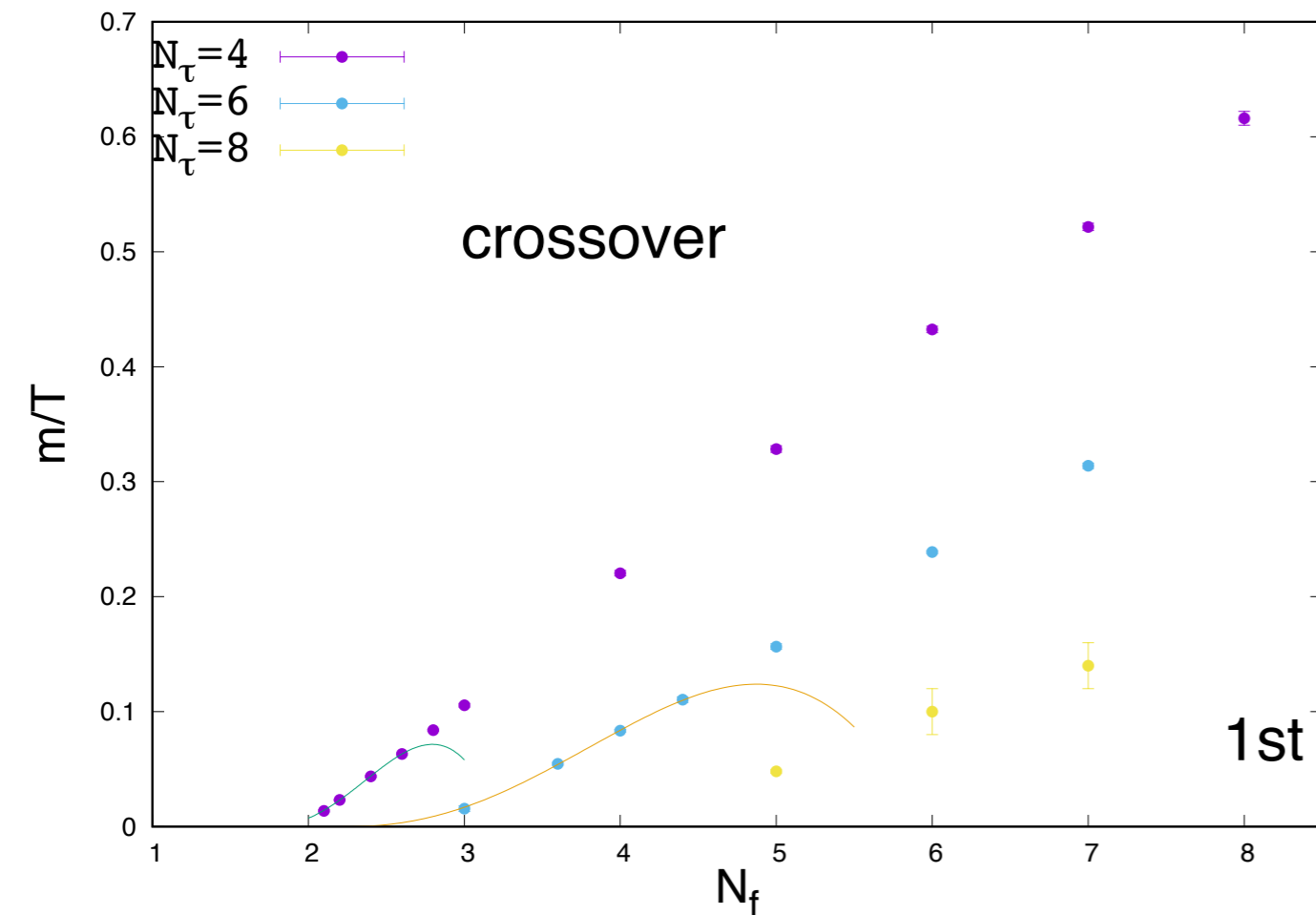
2d chiral critical surface separates 1st order from crossover



$$B_4(\beta_c, am, N_\sigma) \approx 1.604 + c(am - am_c) N_\sigma^{1/0.6301}$$

Bare parameter space of unimproved staggered LQCD

[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra 21] ~120 M Monte Carlo trajectories with light fermions, aspect ratios 3,4,5

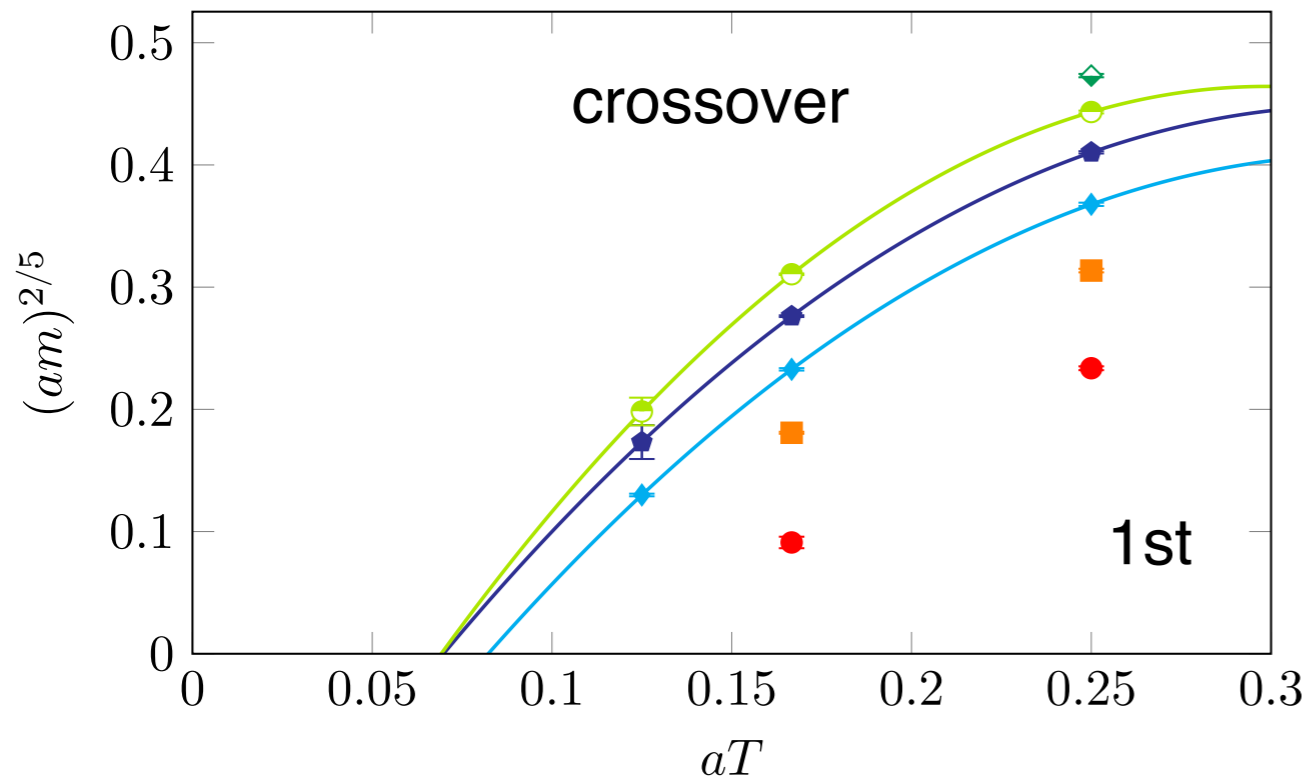


- Tricritical scaling observed in different variable pairings
- Old question: $m_c/T = 0$ or $\neq 0$? Answered for $N_f = 2$
- Surprising new question: will N_f^{tric} slide beyond $N_f = 3$?

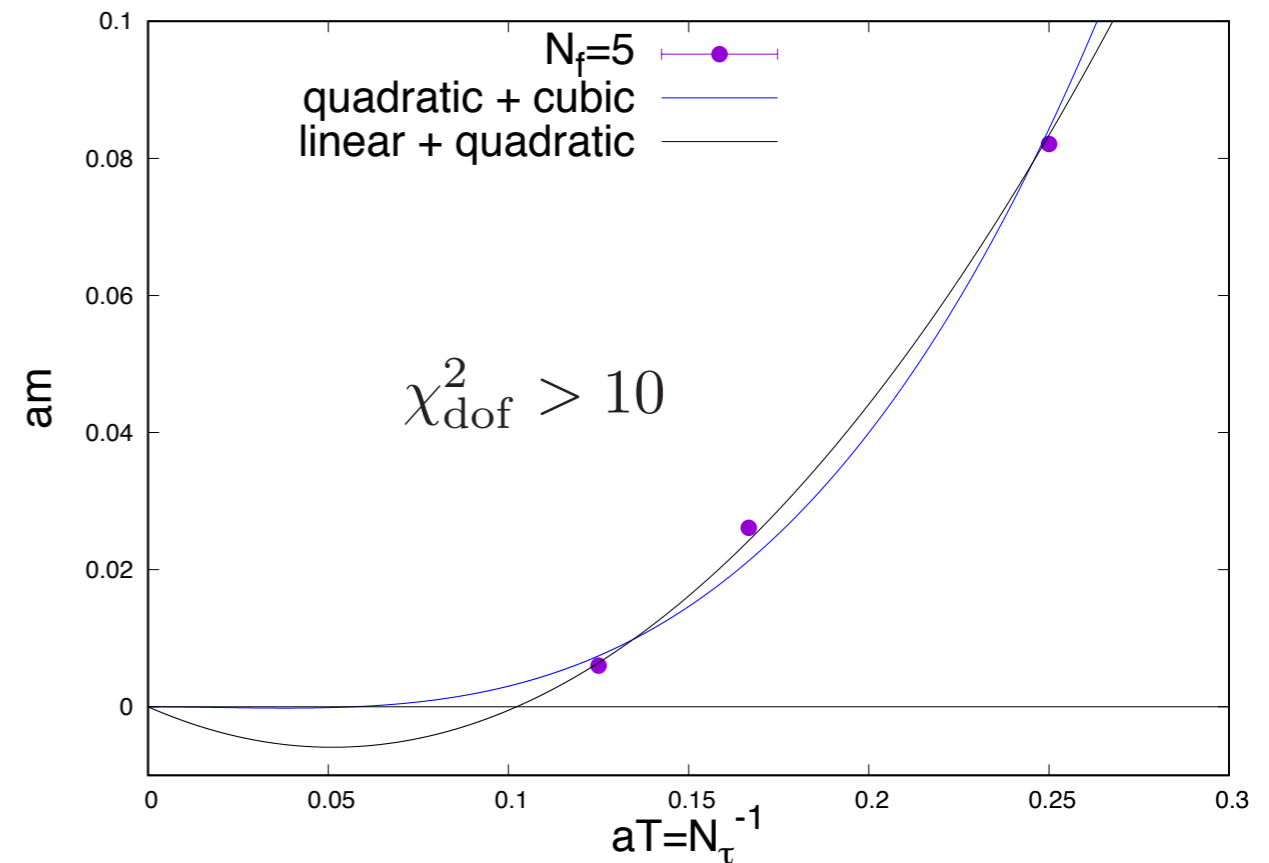
Bare parameter space of unimproved staggered LQCD

[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra 21]

$N_f = 3$ $N_f = 4$ $N_f = 5$
 $N_f = 6$ $N_f = 7$ $N_f = 8$



1st order scenario does not fit!

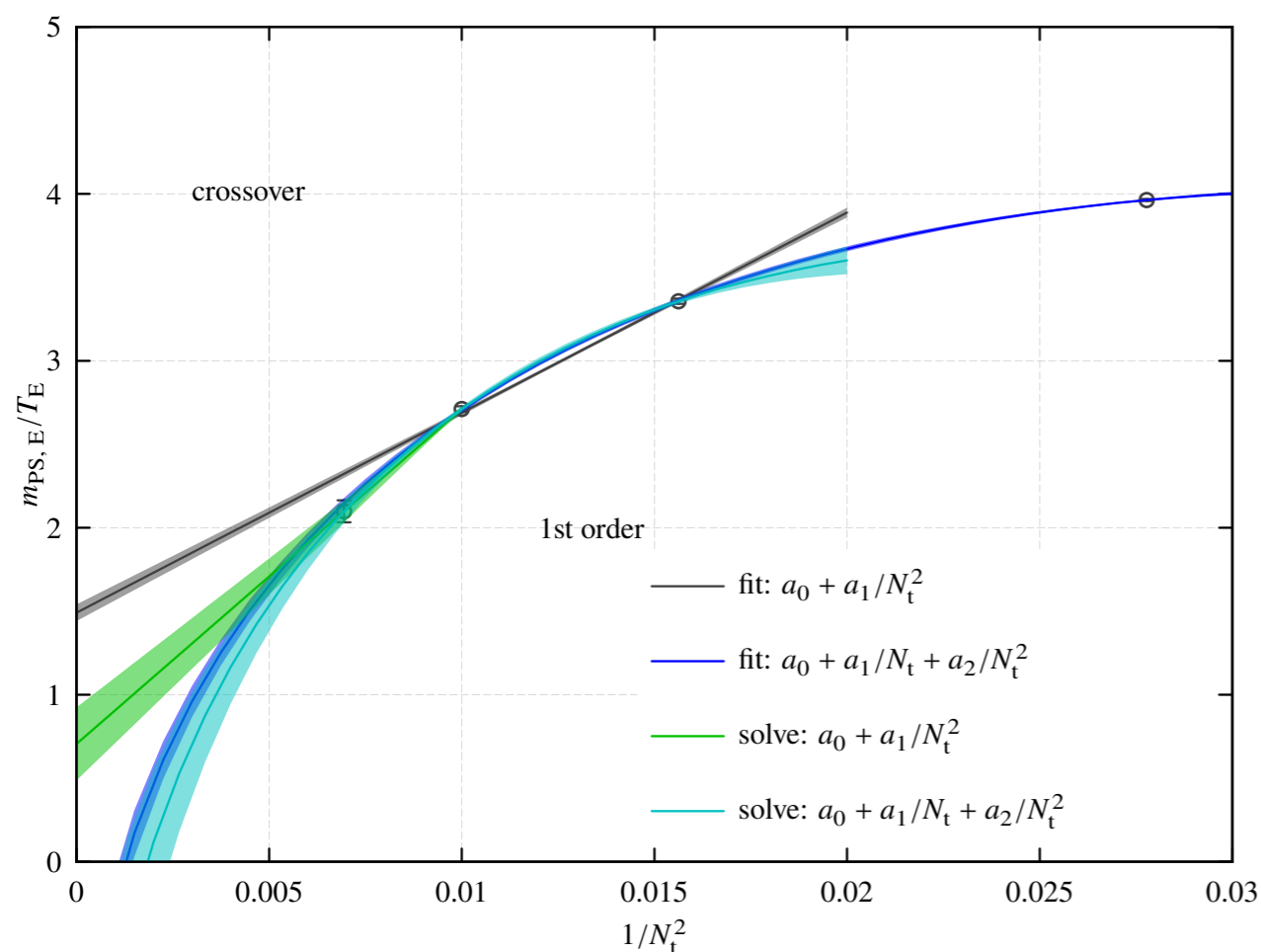


- Tricritical scaling observed also in plane of mass vs. lattice spacing, 2nd order in continuum
- Allows extrapolation to lattice chiral limit, tricritical points $N_\tau^{\text{tric}}(N_f)$
- 1st order scenario: $m_c(a) = m_c(0) + c_1(aT) + c_2(aT)^2 + \dots$ **incompatible!**
- The chiral transition is second order for $N_f = 2 - 6$

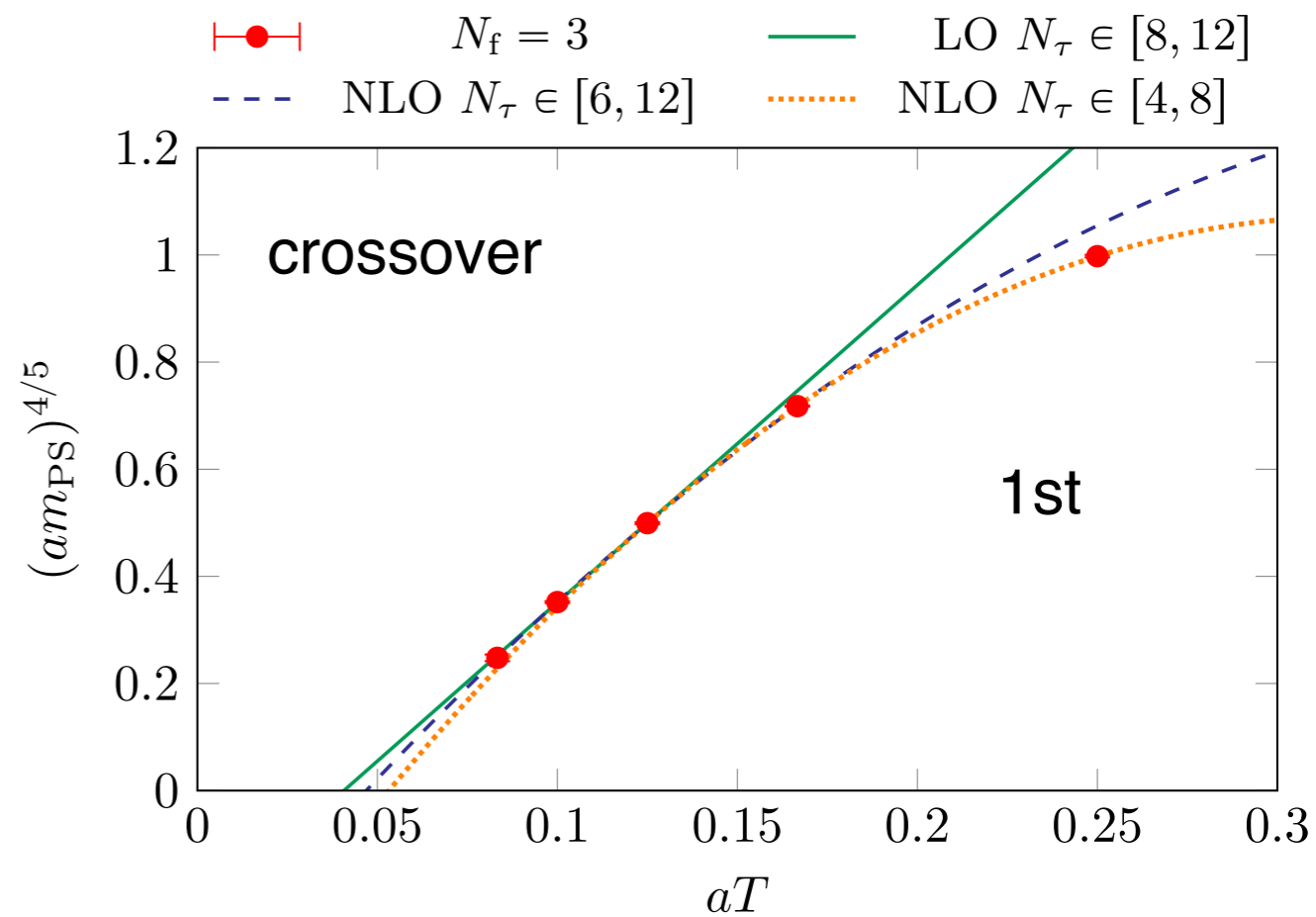
Nf=3 O(a)-improved Wilson fermions

[Kuramashi et al. PRD 20]

$$m_\pi^c \leq 110 \text{ MeV} \quad N_\tau = 4, 6, 8, 10, 12$$



Re-analysis using: $am_{PS}^2 \propto am_q$



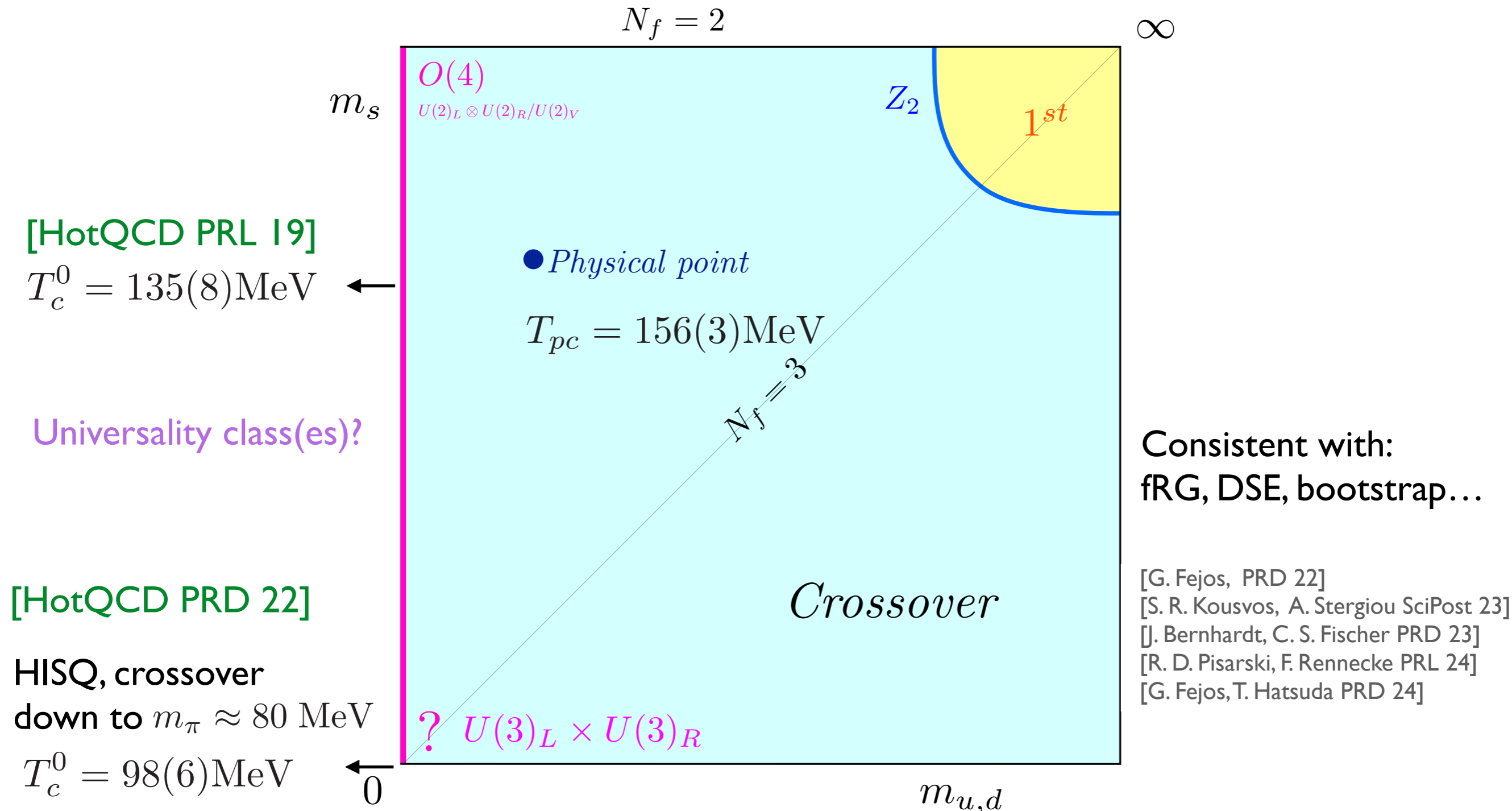
[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra, JHEP 21]

Tricritical scaling!

Nf=3 consistent with staggered, 2nd order in chiral continuum limit!

The Columbia plot in the continuum

[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra JHEP 21]



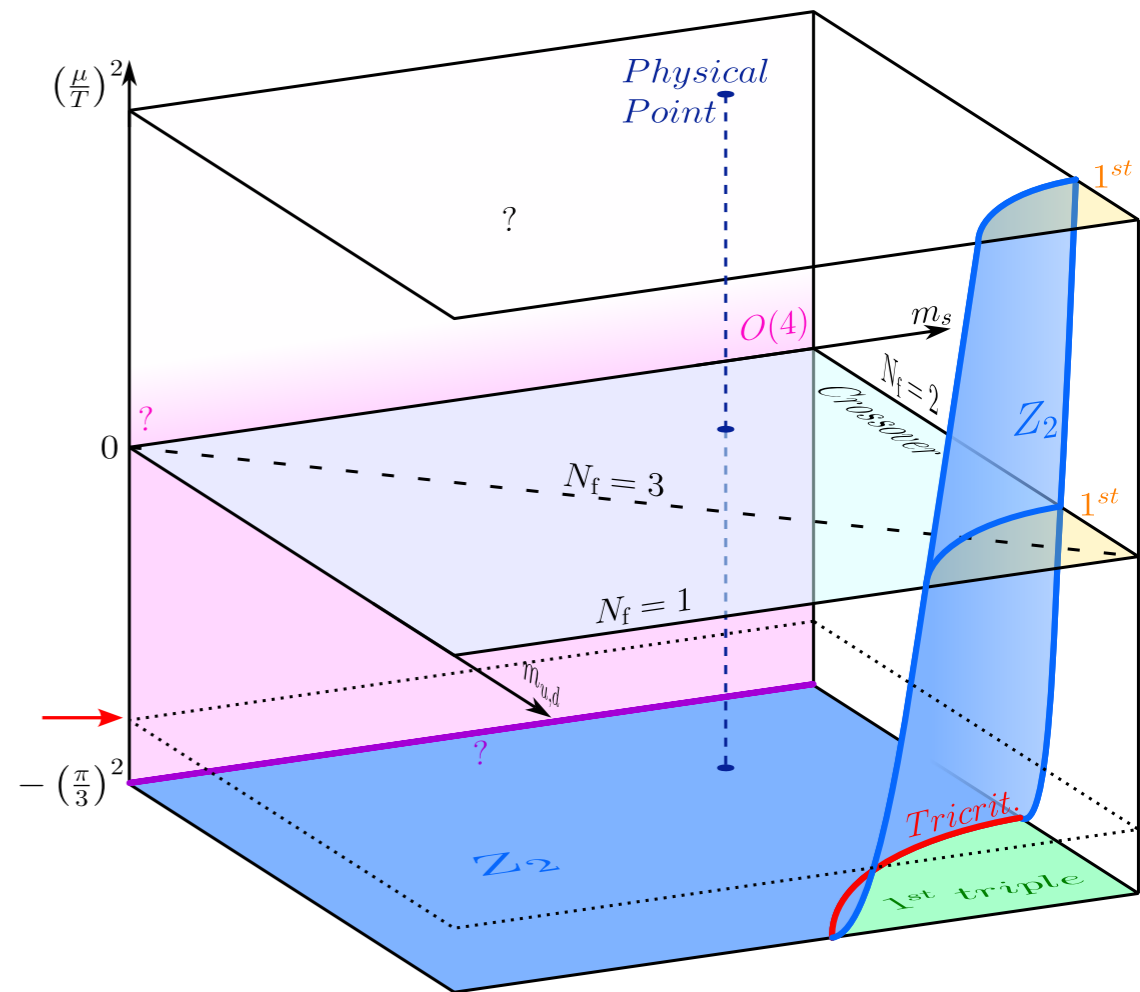
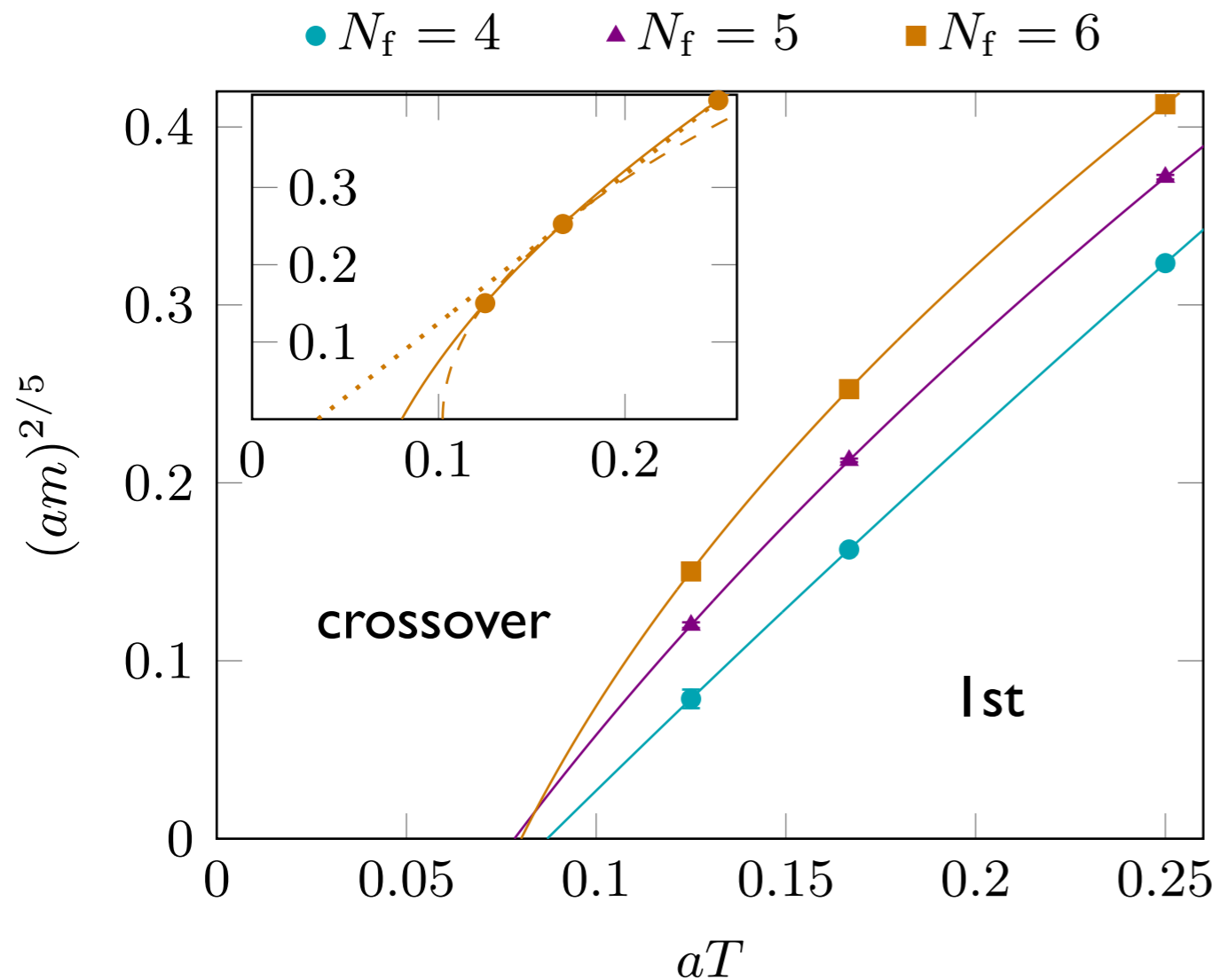
Crossover for DW fermions, $N_f=3$, $m_q \sim m_{phys}$ [Zhang et al., PoS LAT22, 23]

b) Imaginary chemical potential

[D'Ambrosio, Kaiser, O.P., PoS LAT 22 + in preparation]

Repeat study of Columbia plot with $\mu = i 0.81\pi T/3$

Same situation as $\mu = 0$

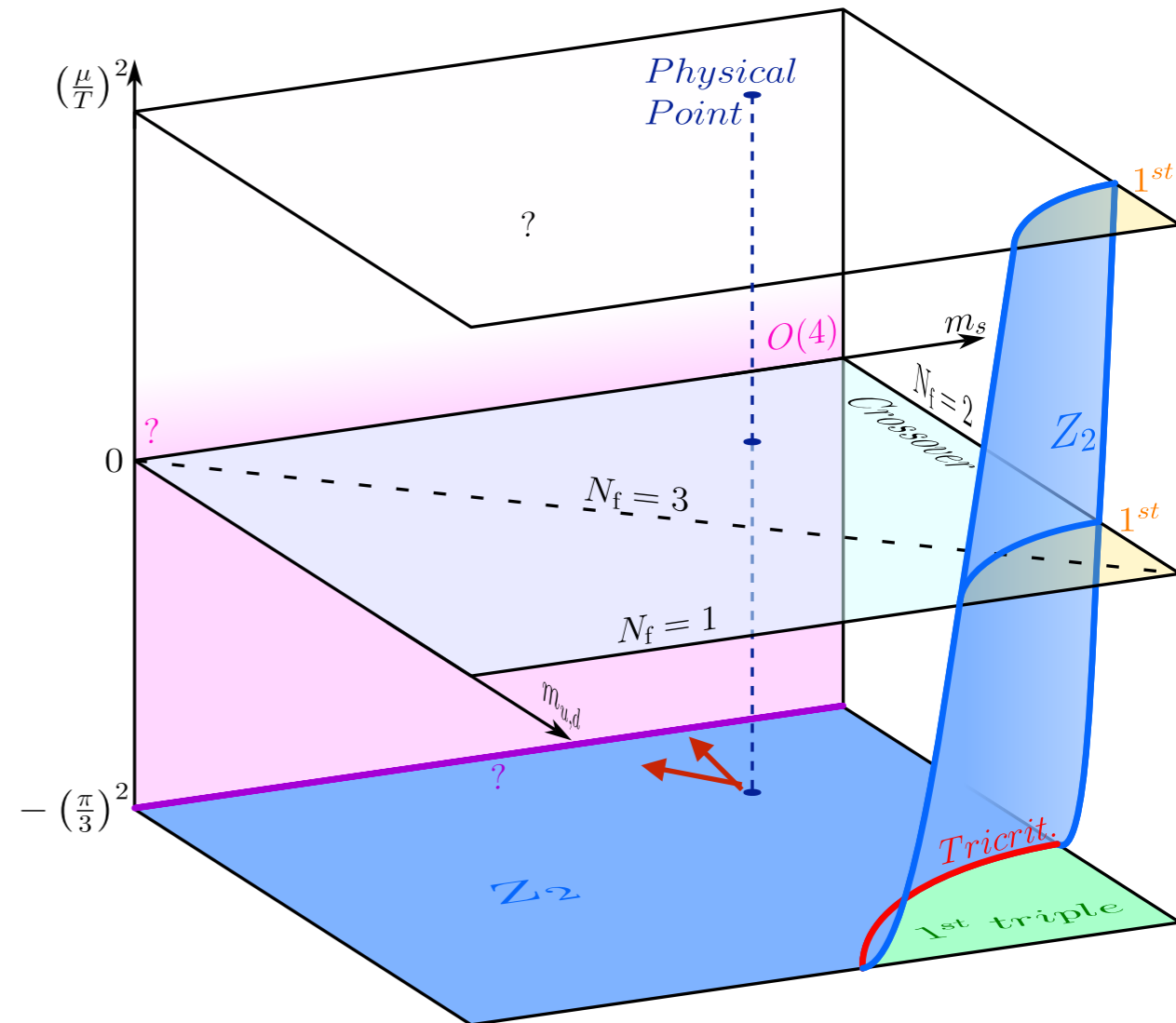


1st-order region not connected to continuum limit!

Imaginary chemical potential, improved actions

$\mu = i\pi T/3$ Roberge-Weiss boundary

- [Bonati et al., PRD 19] $N_\tau = 4$
 stout-smearred staggered
 quark mass scan down to $m_\pi \approx 50$ MeV
 fixed m_{ud}/m_s
- [Bielefeld+Frankfurt, PRD 22]
 HISQ $N_\tau = 4$
 quark mass scan down to $m_\pi \approx 55$ MeV
 fixed m_s
- No sign of 1st-order phase transition!
- Consistent with DSE approach [Bernhardt, Fischer, PRD 23]
- Entire chiral critical surface moves to massless limit

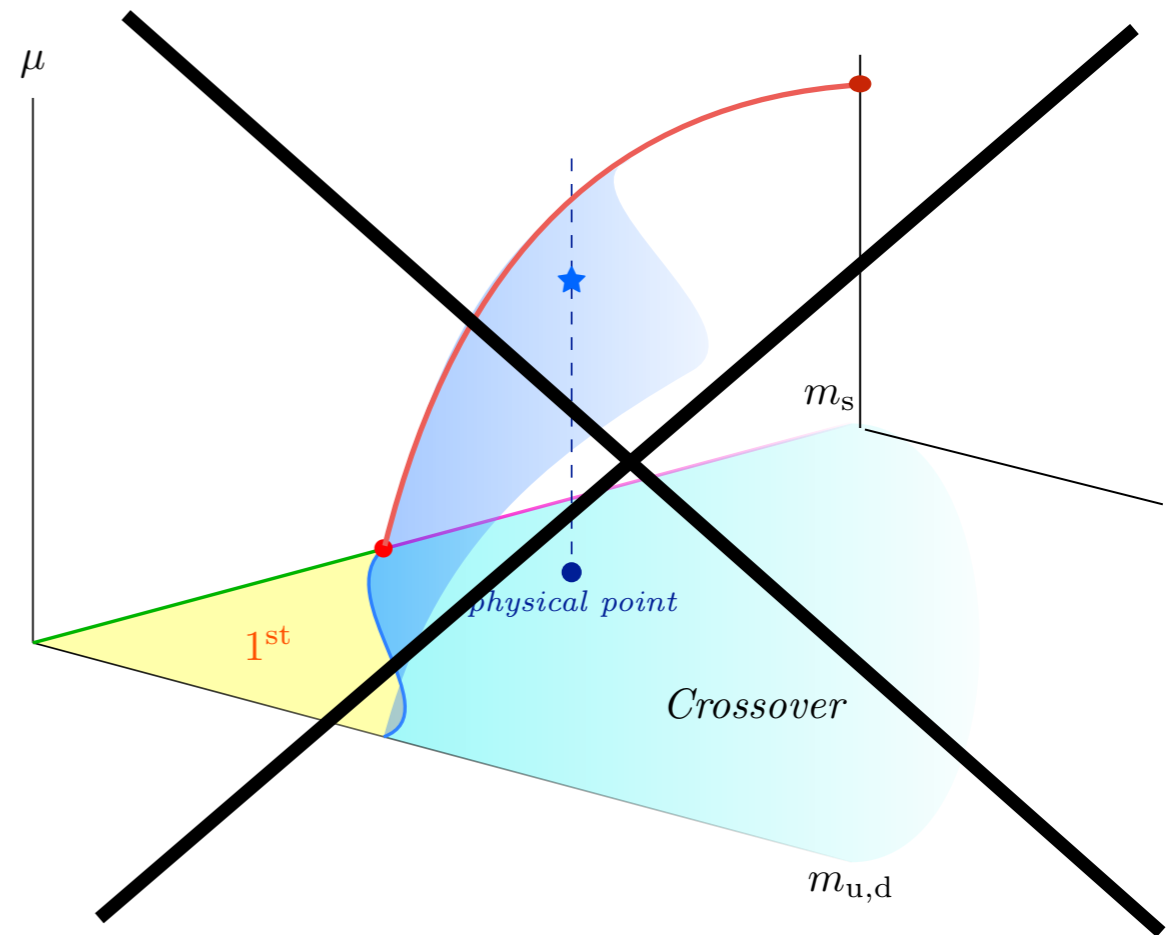
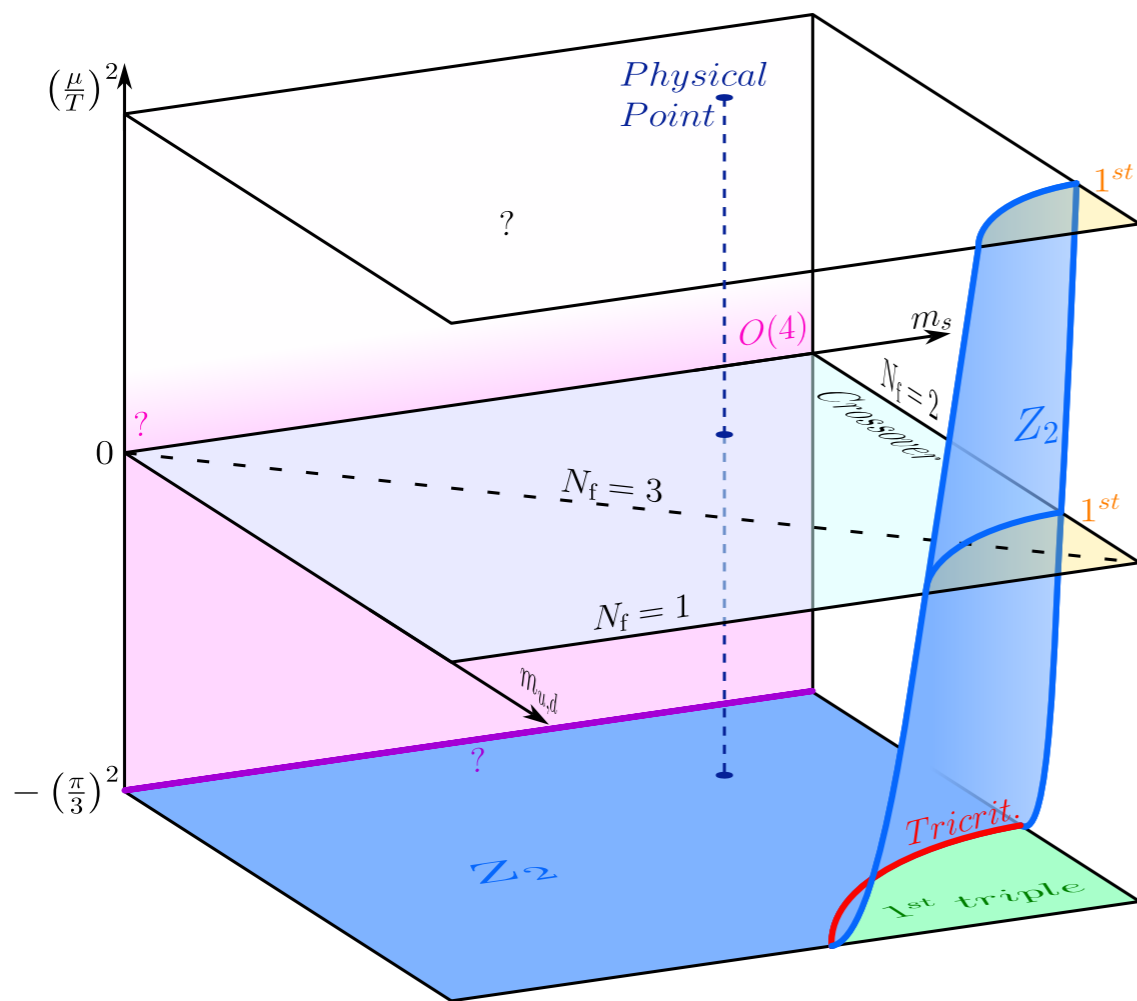


Columbia plot with chemical potential

If we take these results seriously:

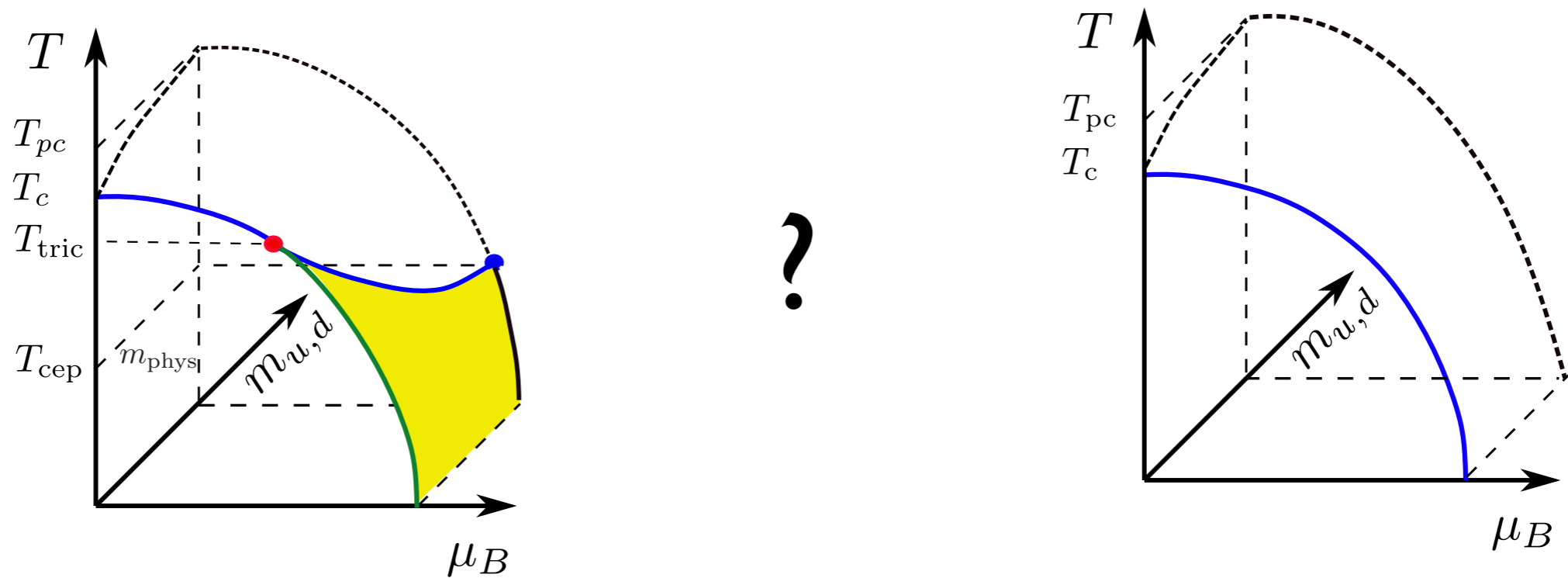
Critical point not ruled out,
requires additional critical surface

Class of low energy models now ruled out!



⚡ Tuning of parameters for $N_f = 2 + 1$ theory with critical point at $\mu = 0$!

Summary: constraints on the critical point



- ▶ Ordering of critical temperatures $\mu_B^{cep} > 3.1 T_{pc}(0) \approx 485 \text{ MeV}$ [O.P. Symmetry 21]
 - ▶ Cluster expansion model of lattice fluctuations $\mu_B^{cep} > \pi T$ [Vovchenko et al. PRD 18]
 - ▶ Singularities, Pade-approx. fluctuations $\mu_B^{cep} > 2.5T, T < 125 \text{ MeV}$ [Bollweg et al. PRD 21]
 - ▶ Direct simulations with refined reweighting $\mu_B^{cep} > 2.5T$ [Wuppertal-Budapest collaboration, PRD 21]
-
- ▶ Consistent with DSE, fRG [Fischer PNP 19; Fu, Pawłowski, Rennecke PRD 20; Gao, Pawłowski PRD 21]
 - CEP seen at larger density, but “not yet controlled” $(T_{CEP}, \mu_{B_{CEP}}) = (98, 643) \text{ MeV}$

II. Emergent chiral spin symmetry

Chiral spin transformation, $SU(2)_{CS}$: $\psi \rightarrow \psi' = \exp\left(i\frac{\varepsilon^n \Sigma^n}{2}\right) \psi$ $\Sigma^n = \{\gamma_k, -i\gamma_5 \gamma_k, \gamma_5\}$

$$SU(2)_{CS} \otimes SU(2)_V \simeq SU(4) \supset SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_A$$

QCD quark action, chiral limit: $\bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu D_\mu \psi = \bar{\psi} \gamma^0 D_0 \psi + \bar{\psi} \gamma^i D_i \psi$

\uparrow \uparrow
CS invariant **breaks CS**

Necessary condition for approximate CS symmetry:

Quantum effective action **dynamically dominated by colour-electric interactions!**

CS-symmetry observed in meson correlators

JLQCD domain wall fermions at phys. point

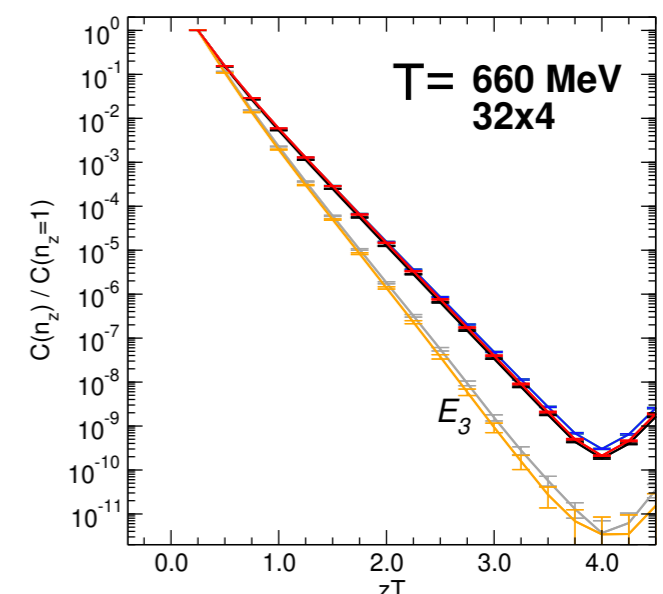
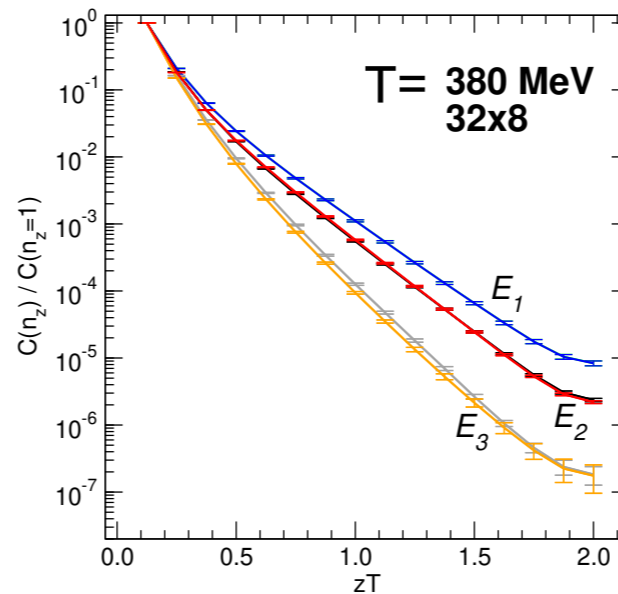
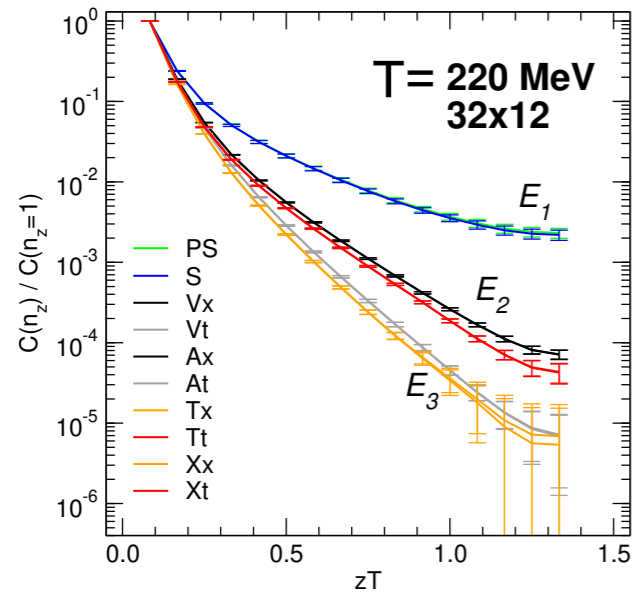
Spatial correlators: [Rohrhofer et al., PRD 19]

Nf=2+1+1 DW [Chiu, PRD 23]

$$E_1 : \quad PS \leftrightarrow S, \quad U(1)_A$$

$$E_2 : \quad V_x \leftrightarrow T_t \leftrightarrow X_t \leftrightarrow A_x, \quad SU(4)$$

$$E_3 : \quad V_t \leftrightarrow T_x \leftrightarrow X_x \leftrightarrow A_t, \quad SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_A$$

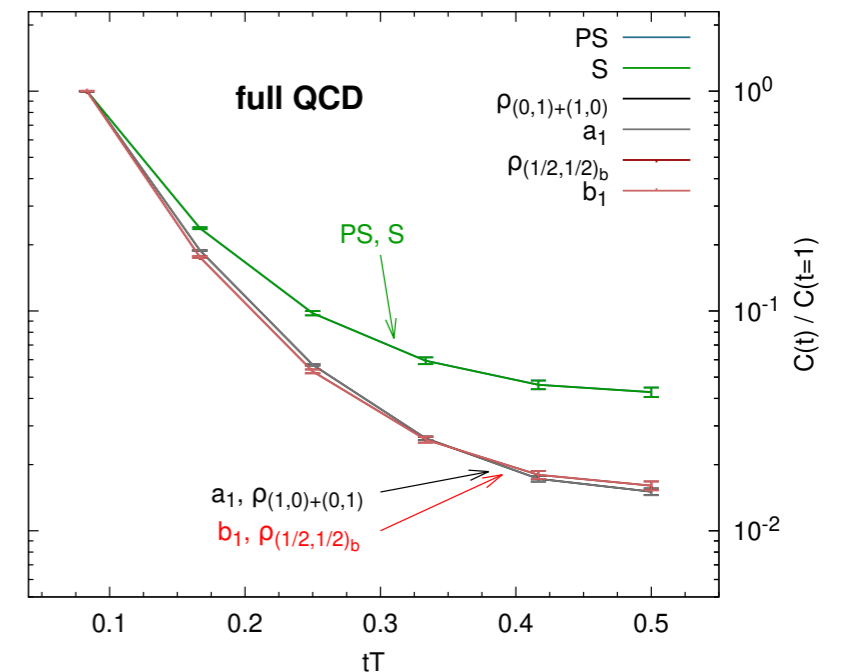
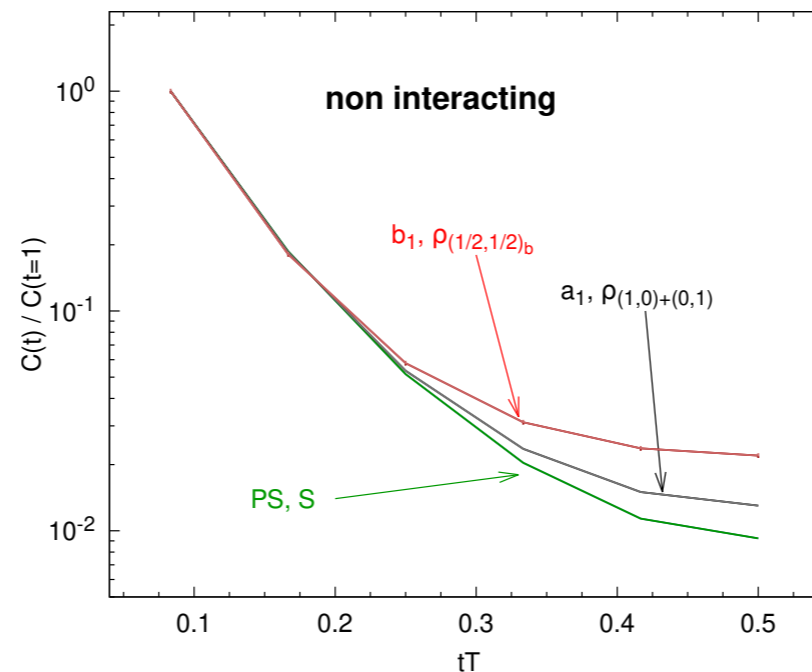


Temporal correlators:

[Rohrhofer et al., PLB 20]

$T = 220\text{MeV} (1.2T_c)$

$48^3 \times 12$ ($a = 0.075 \text{ fm}$)



Three temperature regimes of QCD

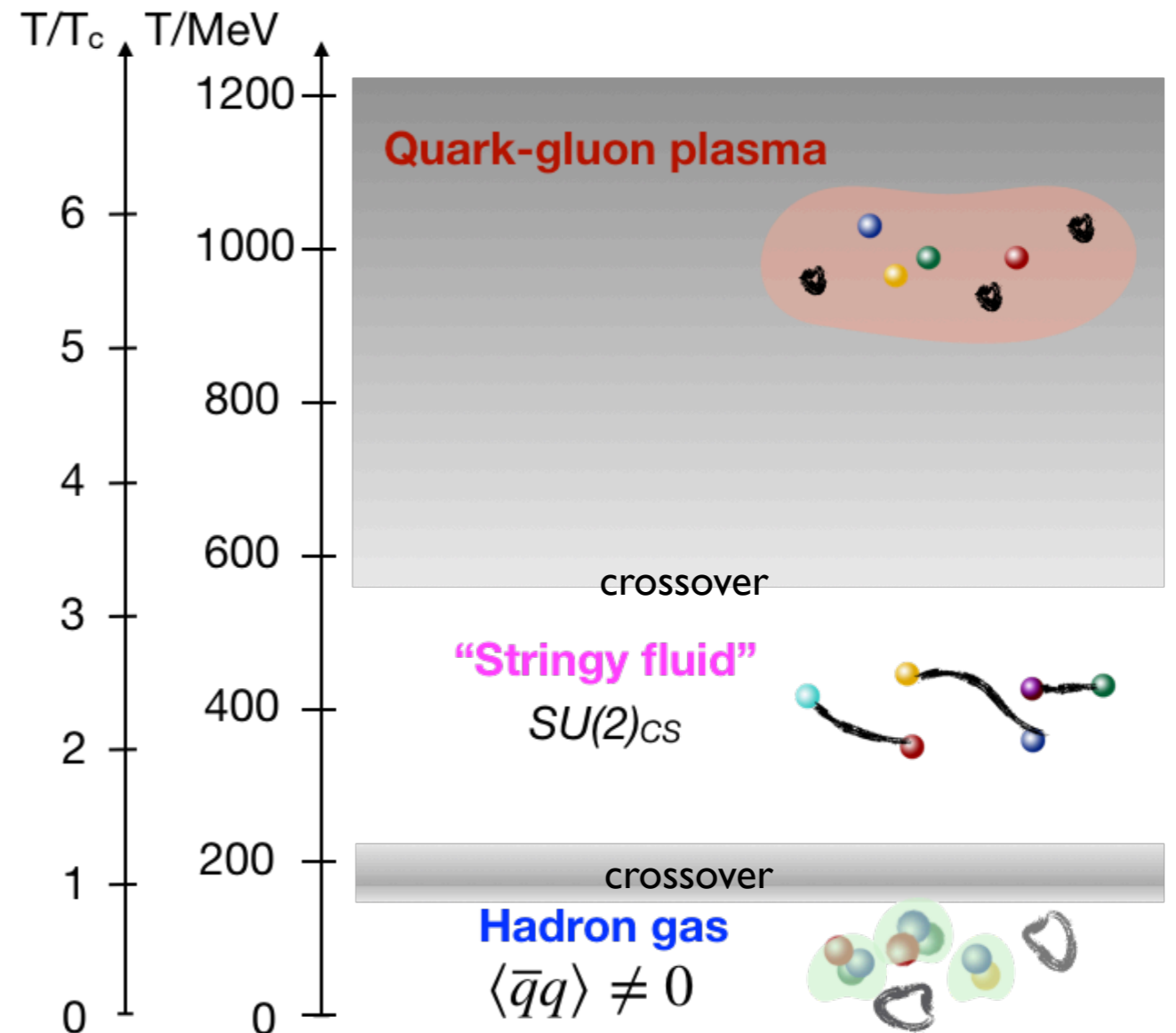
Symmetries (verified):

Degrees of freedom (to be verified):

Chiral symmetry (approximate)

Chiral spin symmetry (approximate)

Chiral symmetry broken



Rohrhofer et al., Phys. Rev. D 100 (2019)

Check well-studied observables: screening masses

$$C_{\Gamma}^s(z) = \sum_{x,y,\tau} C_{\Gamma}(\tau, \mathbf{x}) \xrightarrow{z \rightarrow \infty} \text{const.} e^{-m_{scr} z}$$

Directly related to the partition function and equation of state

by transfer matrices:

$$T = e^{-aH}, T_z = e^{-aH_z}$$

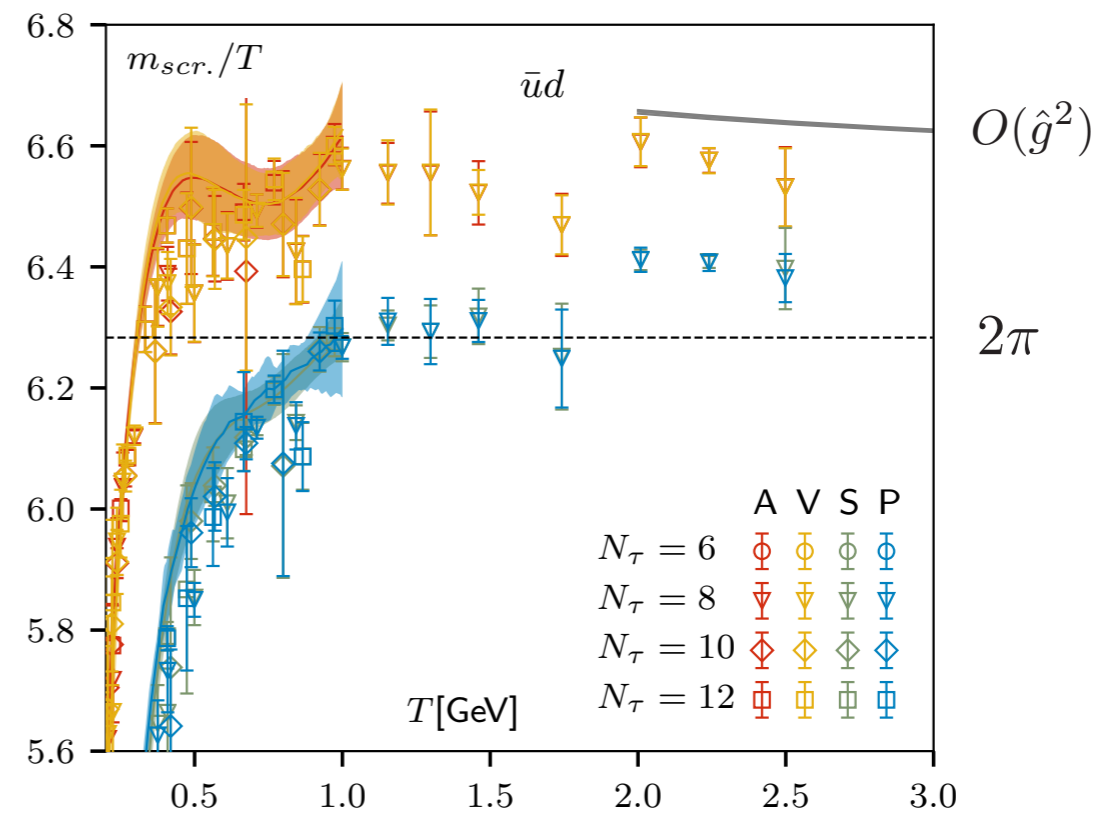
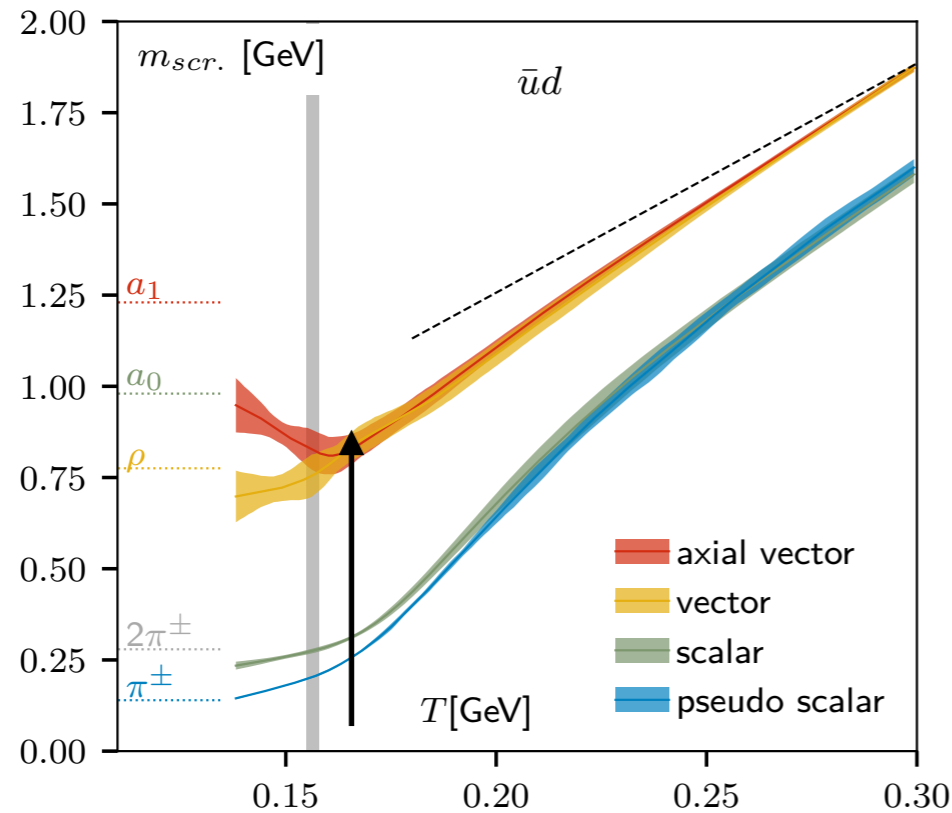
$$\begin{aligned} e^{pV/T} = Z &= \text{Tr}(e^{-aH N_{\tau}}) \\ &= \text{Tr}(e^{-aH_z N_z}) = \sum_{n_z} e^{-E_{n_z} N_z} \end{aligned}$$

Screening masses: eigenvalues of H_z

For $T=0$ equivalent to eigenvalues of H , for $T \neq 0$ temperature effects

Meson screening masses at intermediate temperatures

[HotQCD, PRD 19]



Chiral symmetry restoration

Heavy chiral partners “come down”
in all flavour combinations

➔ pressure increases

Resummed pert. theory:

$$\frac{m_{PS}}{2\pi T} = 1 + p_2 \hat{g}^2(T) + p_3 \hat{g}^3(T) + p_4 \hat{g}^4(T),$$

$$\frac{m_V}{2\pi T} = \frac{m_{PS}}{2\pi T} + s_4 \hat{g}^4(T),$$

Cannot describe the “bend”

No quark hadron duality for $T < 0.5$ GeV in 12 lightest meson channels! CS symmetry!

[Glozman, O.P., Pisarski, EPJA 22]

Spectral functions at finite T

General euclidean correlator:

$$C(\tau, \mathbf{p}) = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \frac{\cosh(\omega(|\tau| - \beta/2))}{\sinh(\beta\omega/2)} \rho(\omega, \mathbf{p})$$

- Inversion problem ill-defined on a discrete lattice
- Statistical approaches to find “most likely” spectral function:

Maximum entropy, Bayesian, Backus-Gilbert methods,.....

[Asakawa, Hatsuda, Nakahara, PPNP 01
Meyer, PoS INPC 16
Spriggs et al., EPJ Web Conf. 22
...]

- Alternative: microcausality + KMS [Bros, Buchholz, Ann. Inst. Poincare Phys, Theo 96]

$$\rho(\omega, \mathbf{p}) = \int_0^\infty ds \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{u}}{(2\pi)^2} \epsilon(\omega) \delta(\omega^2 - (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{u})^2 - s) \tilde{D}_\beta(\mathbf{u}, s) \leftarrow \text{Thermal spectral density}$$

$$C(x_3) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty ds \int_{|x_3|}^\infty dR e^{-R\sqrt{s}} D_\beta(R, s) \quad \text{[Lowdon, O.P.] JHEP 22}$$

Thermal spectral density + thermoparticles

- The thermal spectral density $\tilde{D}_\beta(\mathbf{u}, s)$ holds the key to understanding in-medium phenomena, but what structure does it have?
- A natural decomposition [Bros, Buchholz, *NPB* 627 (2002)] is:

$$\tilde{D}_\beta(\vec{u}, s) = \tilde{D}_{m,\beta}(\vec{u}) \delta(s - m^2) + \tilde{D}_{c,\beta}(\vec{u}, s)$$

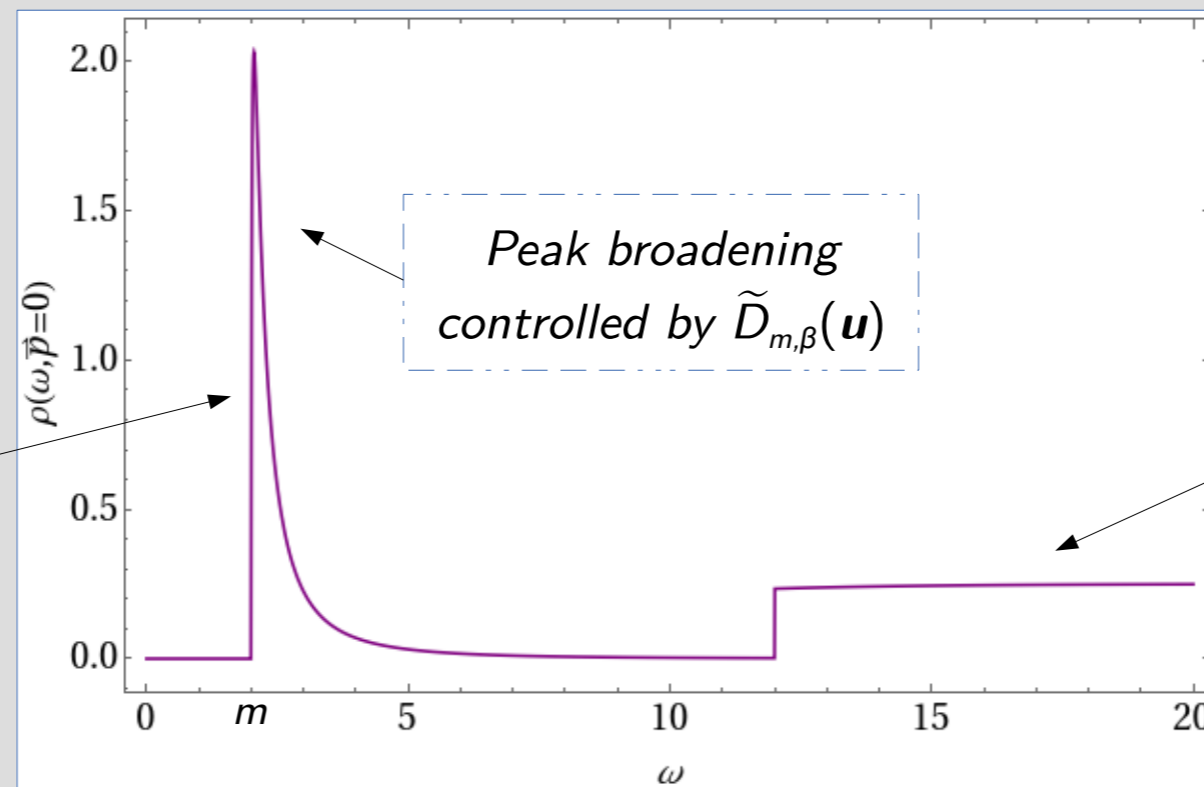
Thermoparticle component

“Damping factor”

(Negligible at low T)

Continuous component

Causes $T=0$ mass pole m to be screened by thermal effects



Fixes T -dependence of continuous spectral contributions

[slide by P. Lowdon]

The pion spectral function

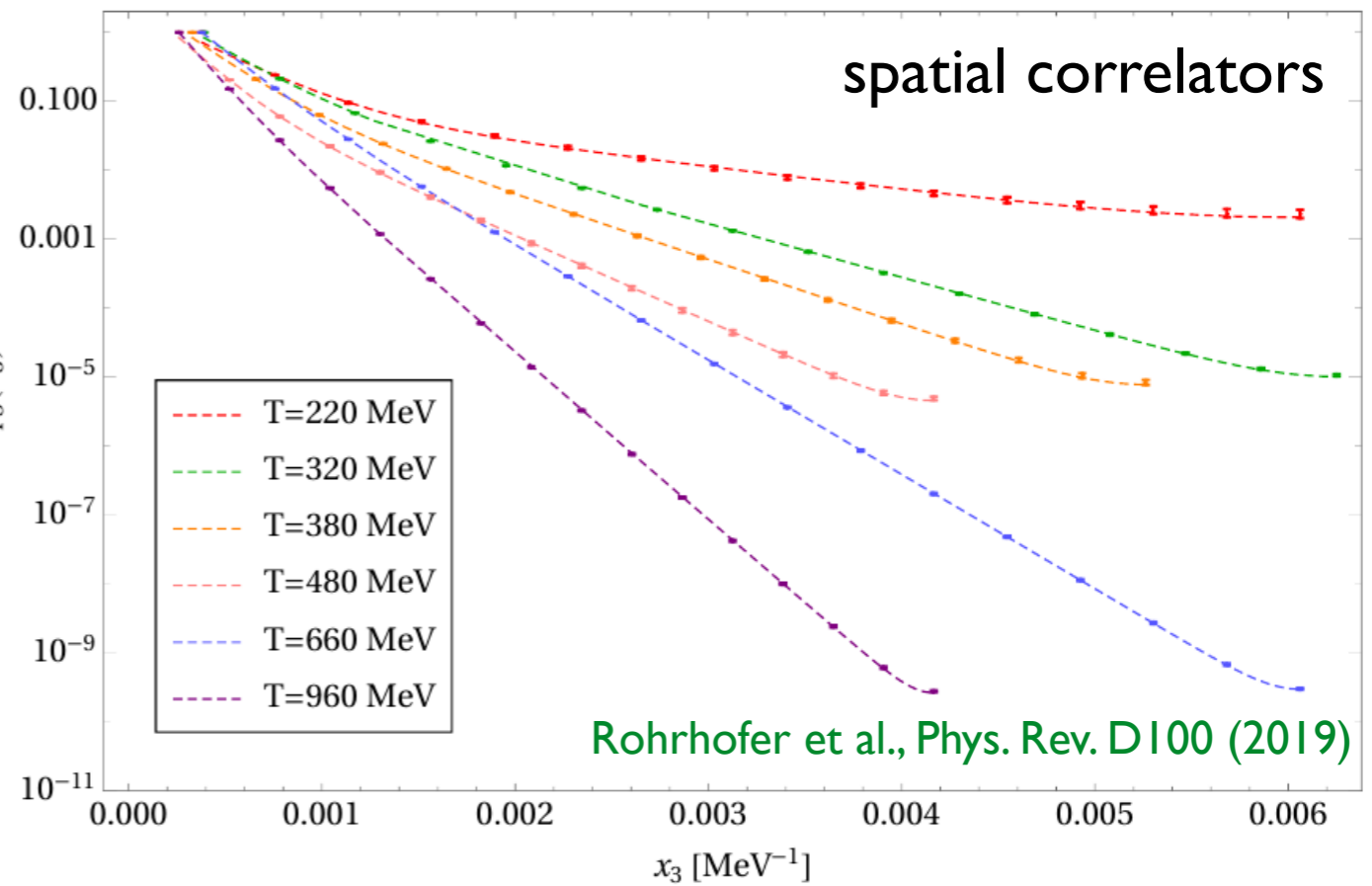
[Lowdon, O.P., JHEP 22]

2-state fits π, π^*

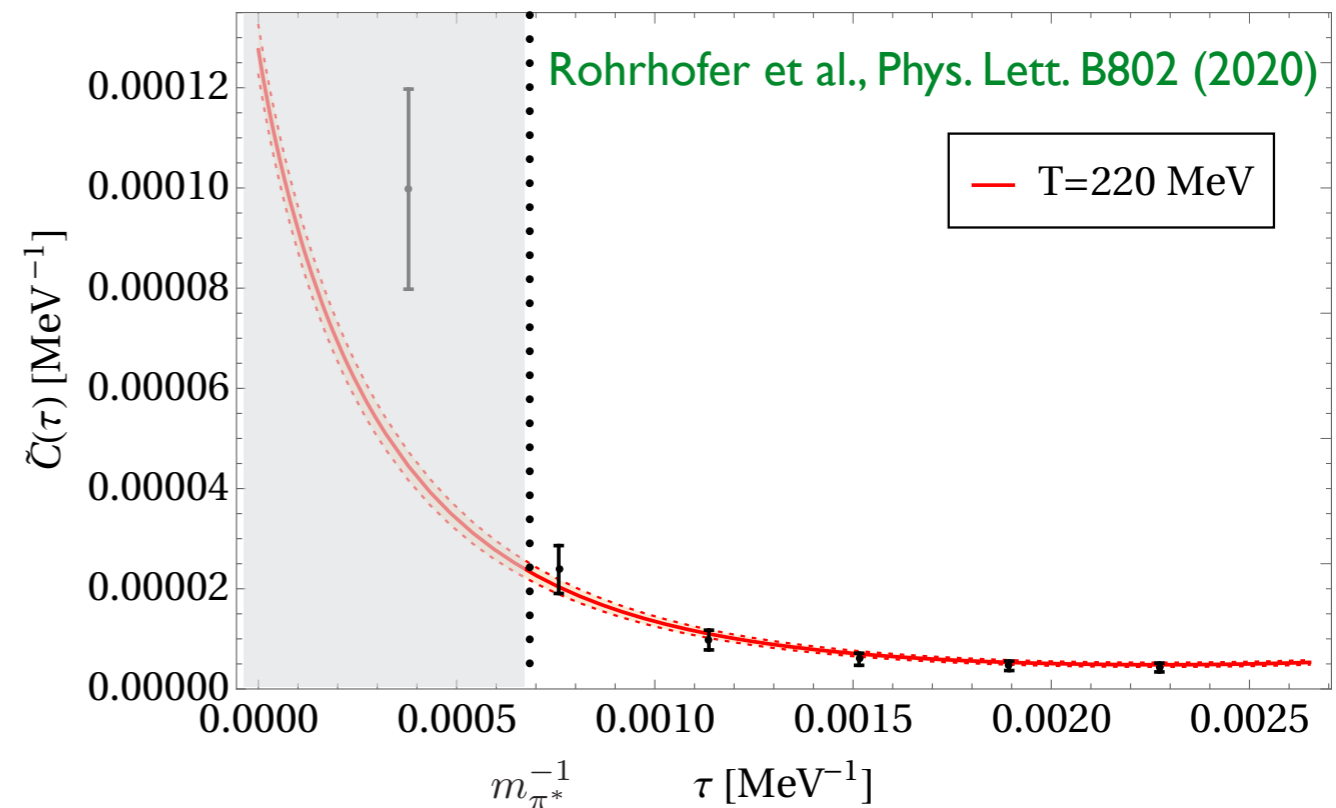
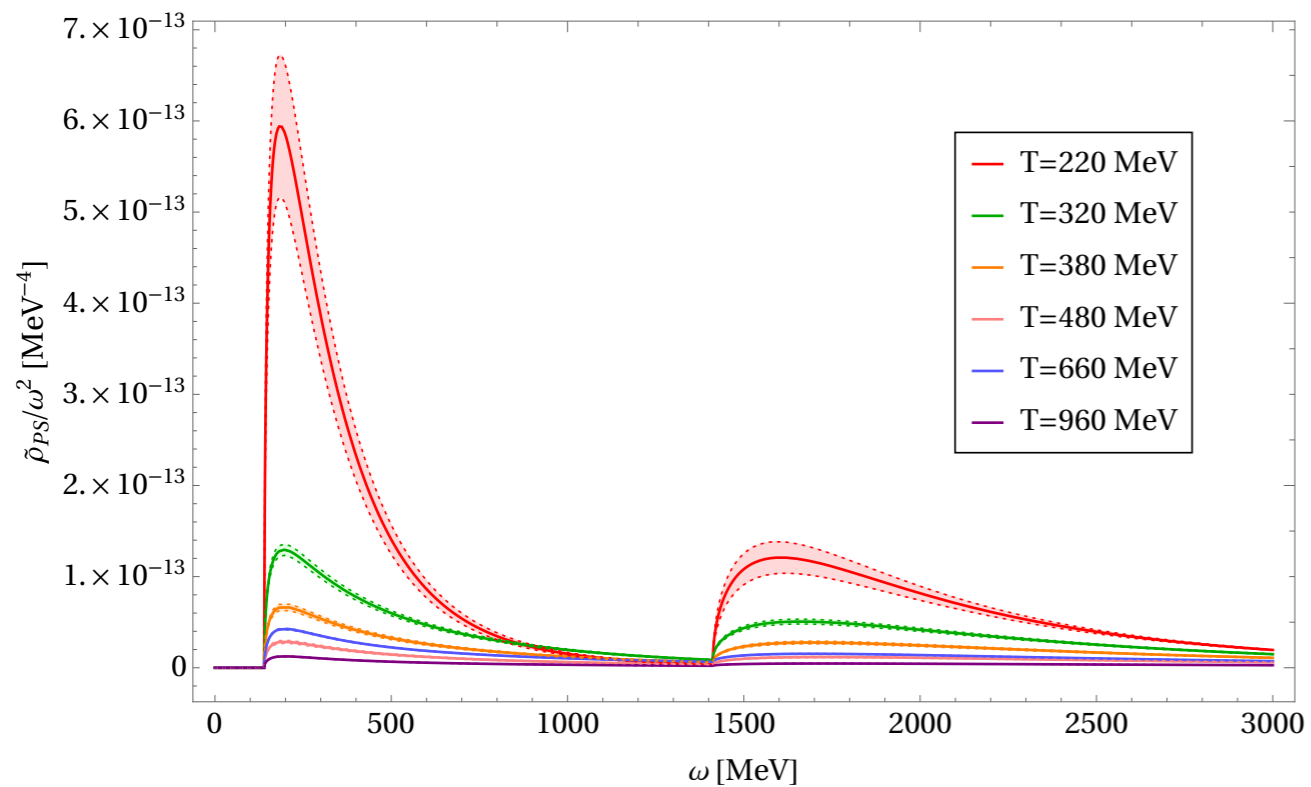
$$D_{m_{\pi^{(*)}}, \beta} = \alpha_{\pi^{(*)}} e^{-\gamma_{\pi^{(*)}} x_3}$$

spectral functions

$C_{PS}(x_3)$



predict temporal correlators, compare with data

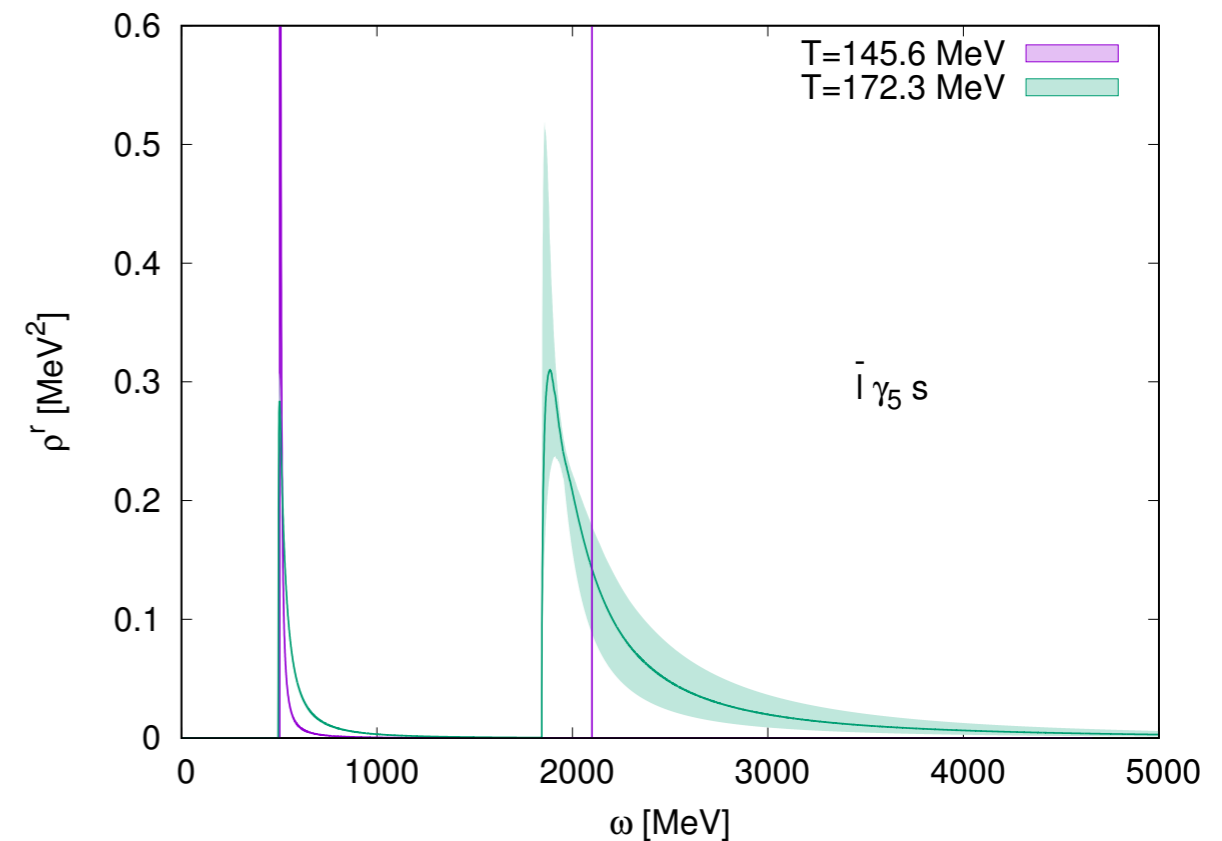


Does QCD deconfine across the chiral crossover ?

[Bala et al., JHEP 24]

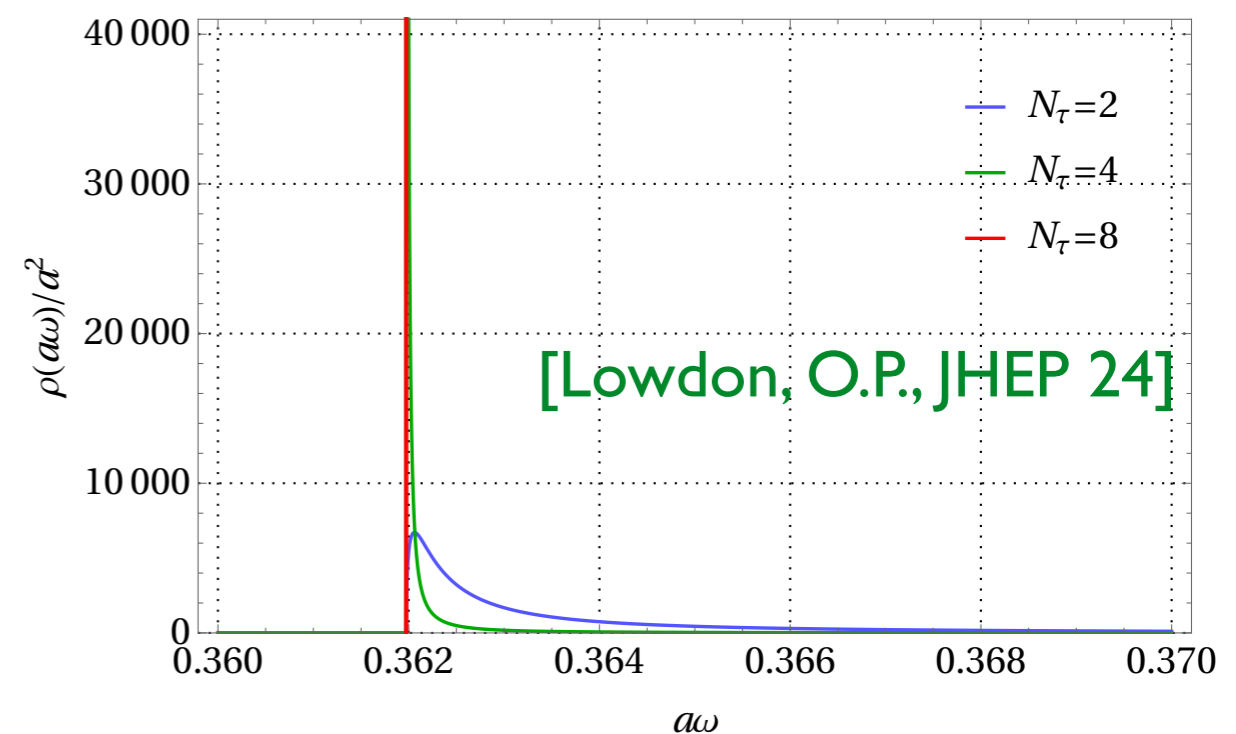
Kaon + Kaon* in full QCD

slightly below and above chiral crossover



Scalar point particle in ϕ^4

no phase transition, no “melting”,
only “collisional broadening”



III. Effective heavy (dense) lattice theory from Wilson action

Pure gauge part: character expansion

$$u(\beta) = \frac{\beta}{18} + \frac{\beta^2}{216} + \dots < 1$$

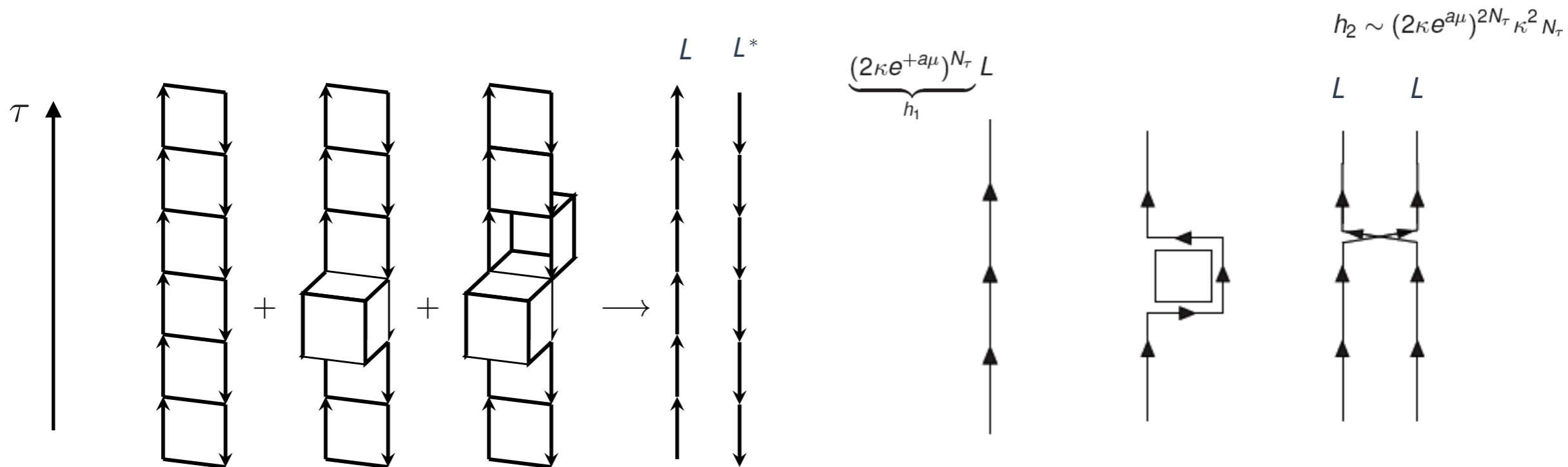
$$\beta = \frac{2N_c}{g^2} \quad T = \frac{1}{aN_\tau}$$

Fermion determinant:

expansion in **spatial** hops,
temporal hops fully included

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{2am + 8}$$

Generates couplings over **all** distances, n-pt. couplings, higher reps....:



Example LL^* : $\lambda(u, N_\tau \geq 5) = u^{N_\tau} \exp \left[N_\tau \left(4u^4 + 12u^5 - 14u^6 - 36u^7 + \frac{295}{2}u^8 + \frac{1851}{10}u^9 + \frac{1055797}{5120}u^{10} \right) \right]$

The 3d effective lattice theory, leading interactions

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z = & \int DW \prod_{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle} \left[1 + \lambda_1 (L_{\mathbf{x}} L_{\mathbf{y}}^* + L_{\mathbf{x}}^* L_{\mathbf{y}}) \right] && \text{pure gauge} \\
 & \times \prod_{\mathbf{x}} [1 + h_1 L_{\mathbf{x}} + h_1^2 L_{\mathbf{x}}^* + h_1^3]^{2N_f} [1 + \bar{h}_1 L_{\mathbf{x}}^* + \bar{h}_1^2 L_{\mathbf{x}} + \bar{h}_1^3]^{2N_f} && \text{stat. det. } \sim \kappa_s^0 \\
 & \times \prod_{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle} \left[1 - 2N_f h_2 \left(\text{Tr} \frac{h_1 W_{\mathbf{x}}}{1 + h_1 W_{\mathbf{x}}} - \text{Tr} \frac{\bar{h}_1 W_{\mathbf{x}}^\dagger}{1 + \bar{h}_1 W_{\mathbf{x}}^\dagger} \right) \left(\text{Tr} \frac{h_1 W_{\mathbf{y}}}{1 + h_1 W_{\mathbf{y}}} - \text{Tr} \frac{\bar{h}_1 W_{\mathbf{y}}^\dagger}{1 + \bar{h}_1 W_{\mathbf{y}}^\dagger} \right) \right] && \text{kinetic det.} \\
 & \times \dots && \sim \kappa_s^2 \\
 & && O(\kappa_s^4)
 \end{aligned}$$

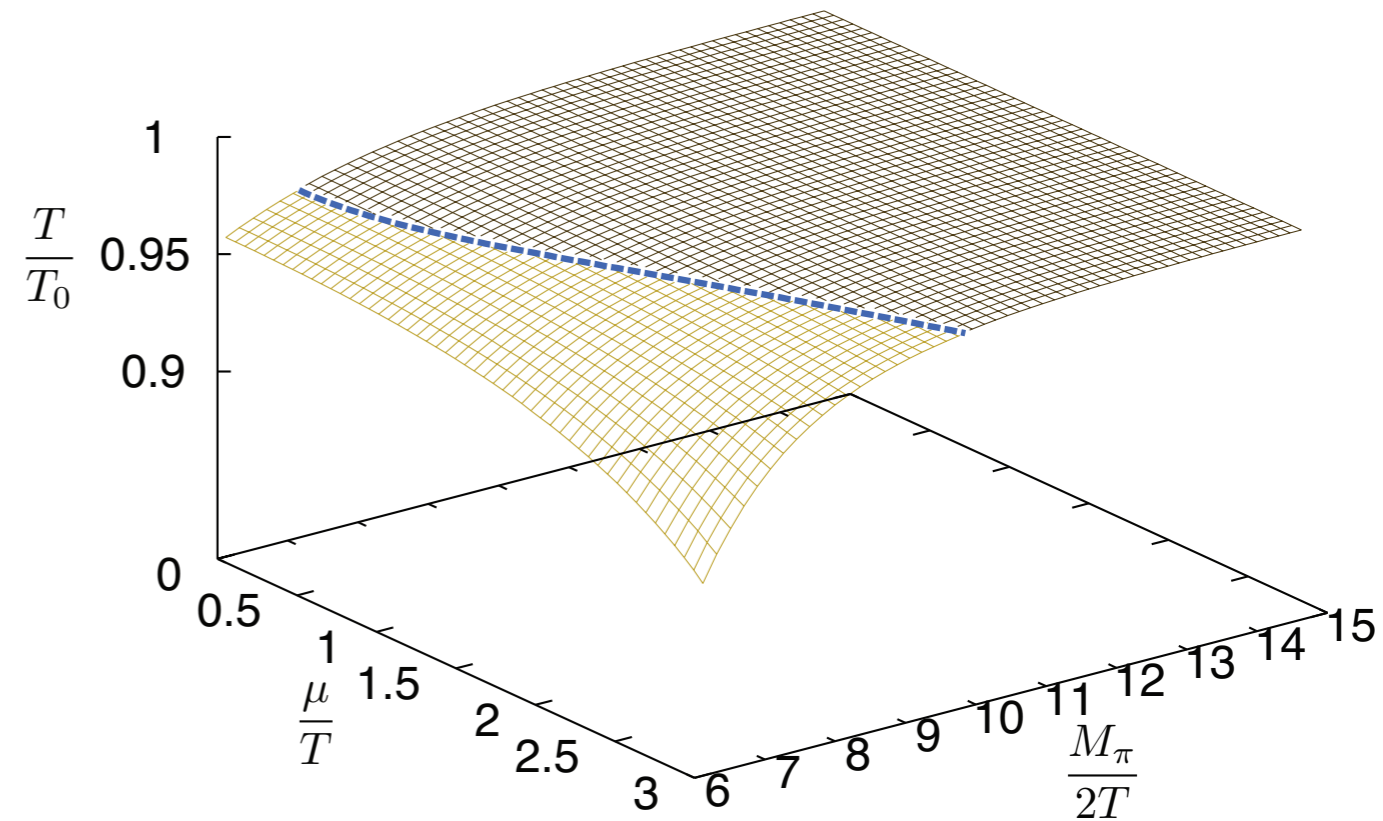
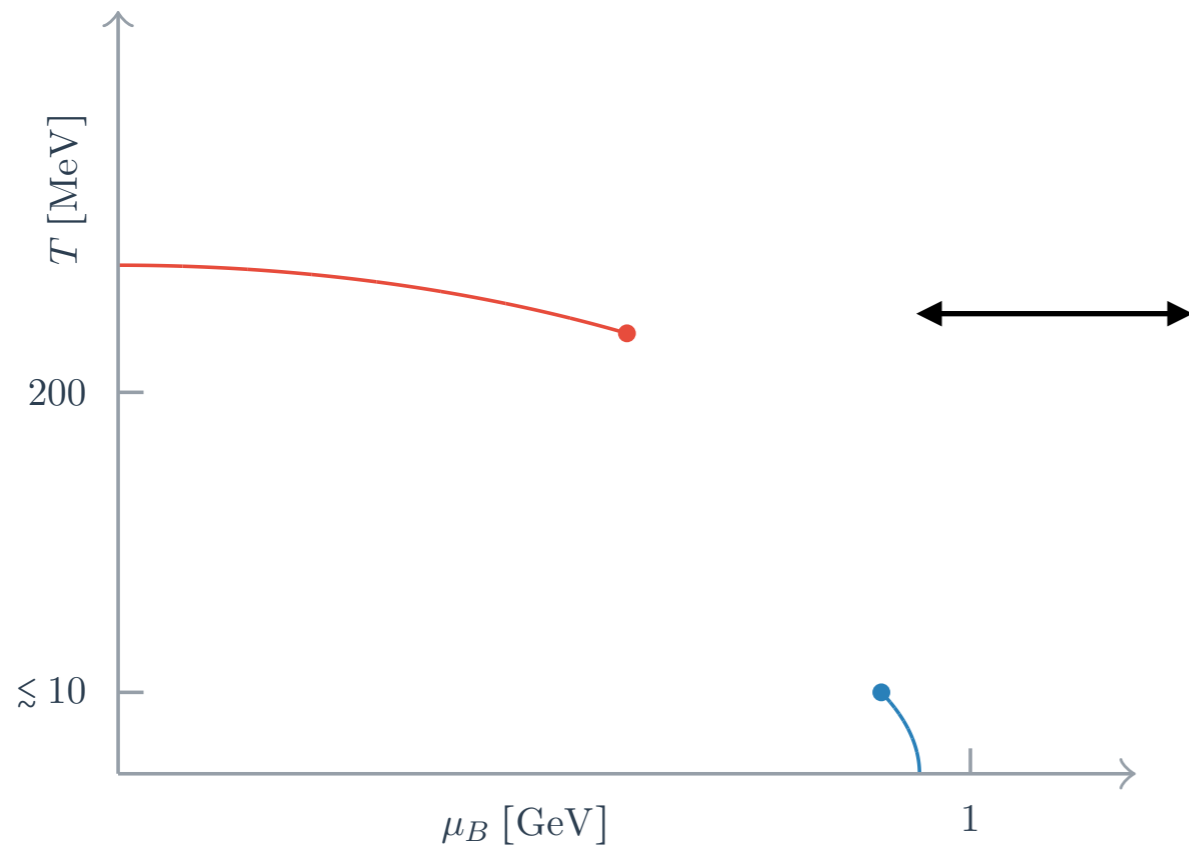
$$W_{\mathbf{x}} = \prod_{\tau=1}^{N_\tau} U_0(\tau, \mathbf{x}), \quad L(\mathbf{x}) = \text{Tr} W(\mathbf{x}), \quad DW = \prod_{\mathbf{x}} dW(\mathbf{x})$$

This is a class of 3d SU(3) spin models!

The fully calculable deconfinement transition

(no continuum limit yet)

"Heavy QCD" phase diagram

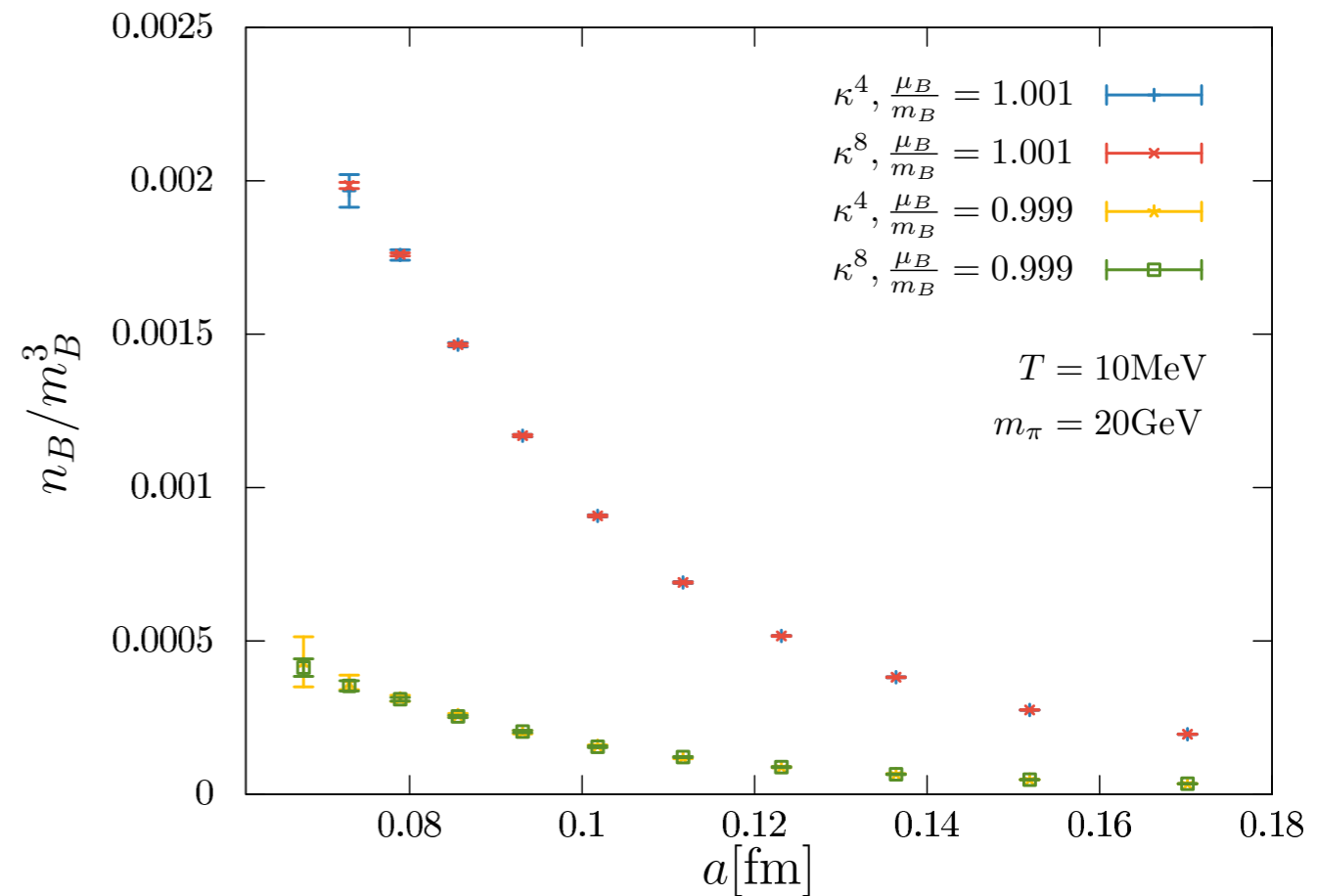
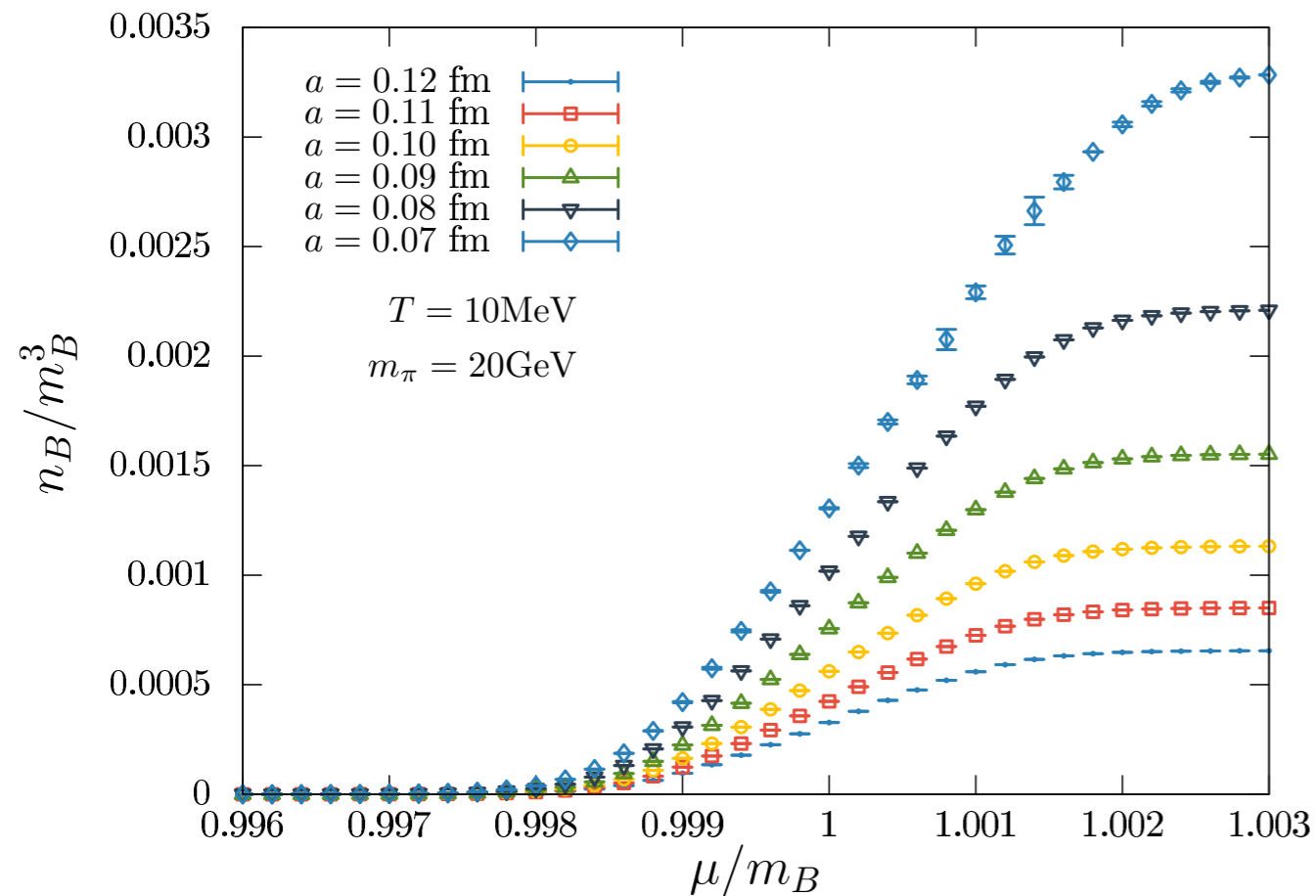


Zero density agrees within 10% with full lattice simulations on $N_t=6$!

[Fromm, Langelage, Lottini, O.P. JHEP (2012)]

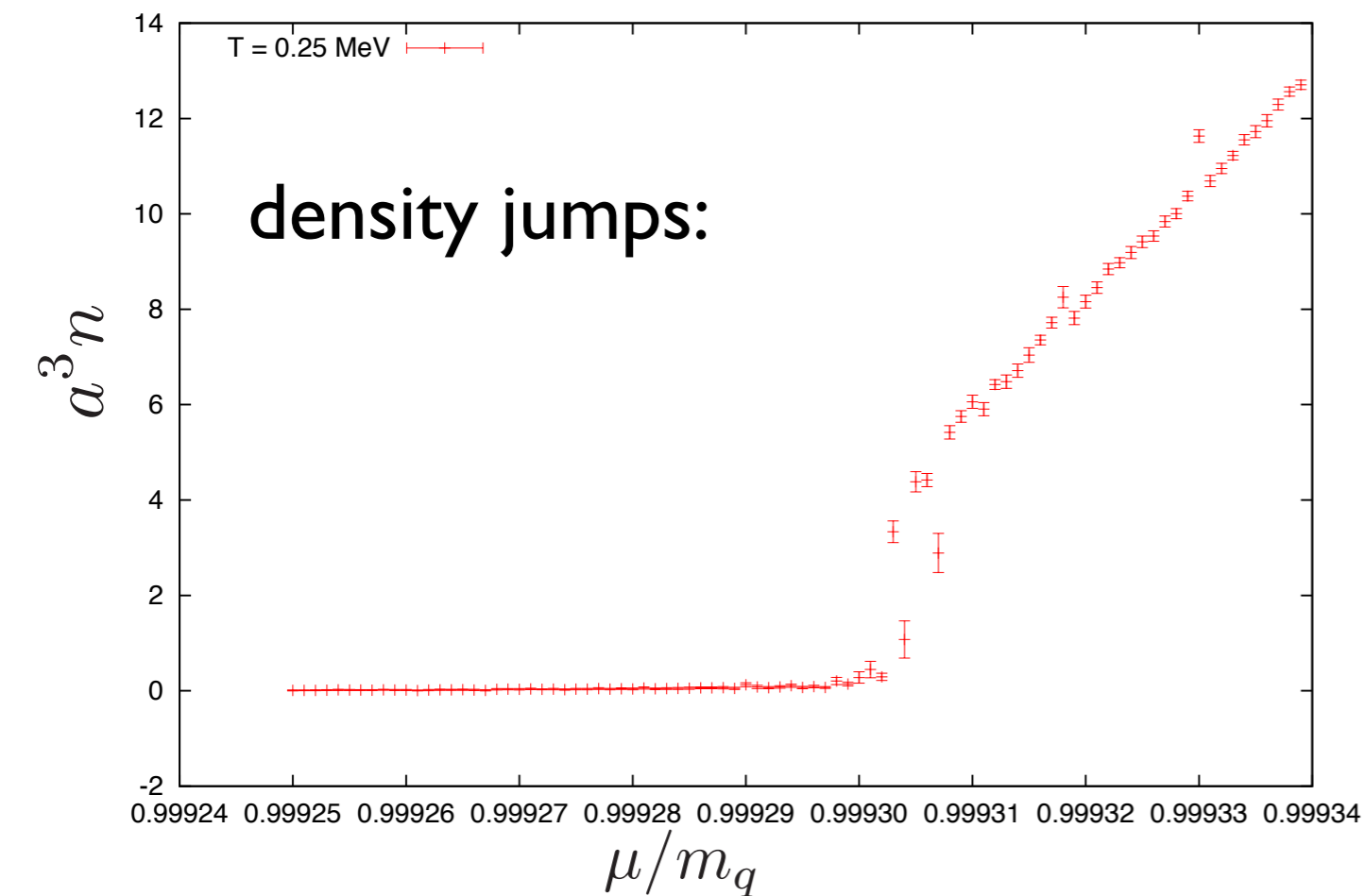
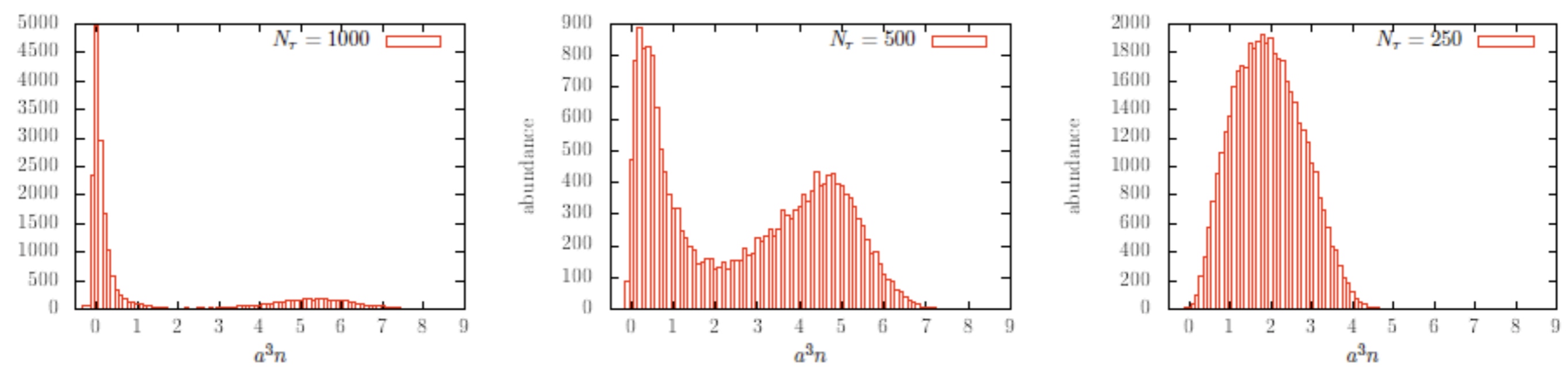
Cold and dense regime

[Fromm, Langelage, Lottini, Neuman, O.P., PRL 13, Glesaaen, Neuman, O.P., JHEP 15]



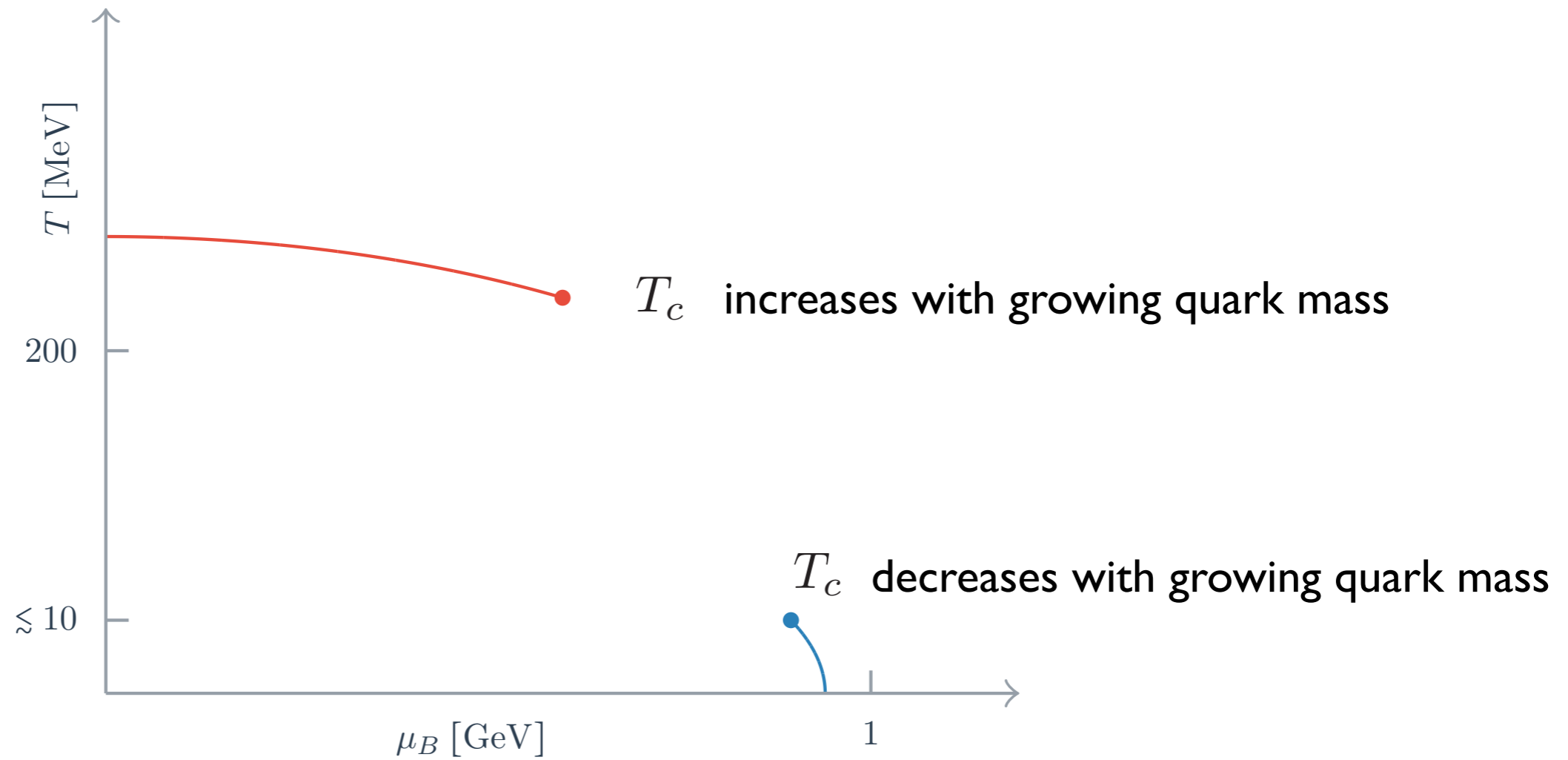
- Continuum approach $\sim a$ as expected for Wilson fermions
- Cut-off effects grow rapidly beyond onset transition: **lattice saturation!**
- Finer lattice necessary for larger densities!

Light quarks: first order transition + endpoint



- phase coexistence: first order
- for higher $T = \frac{1}{aN_\tau}$ crossover
- nuclear liquid gas transition!

Phase diagram of heavy quark QCD

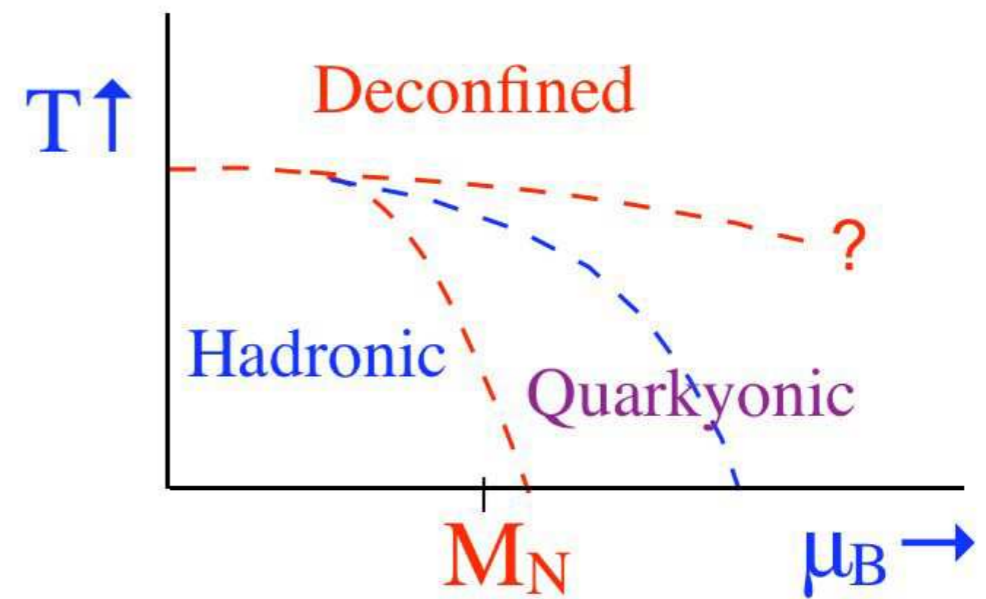
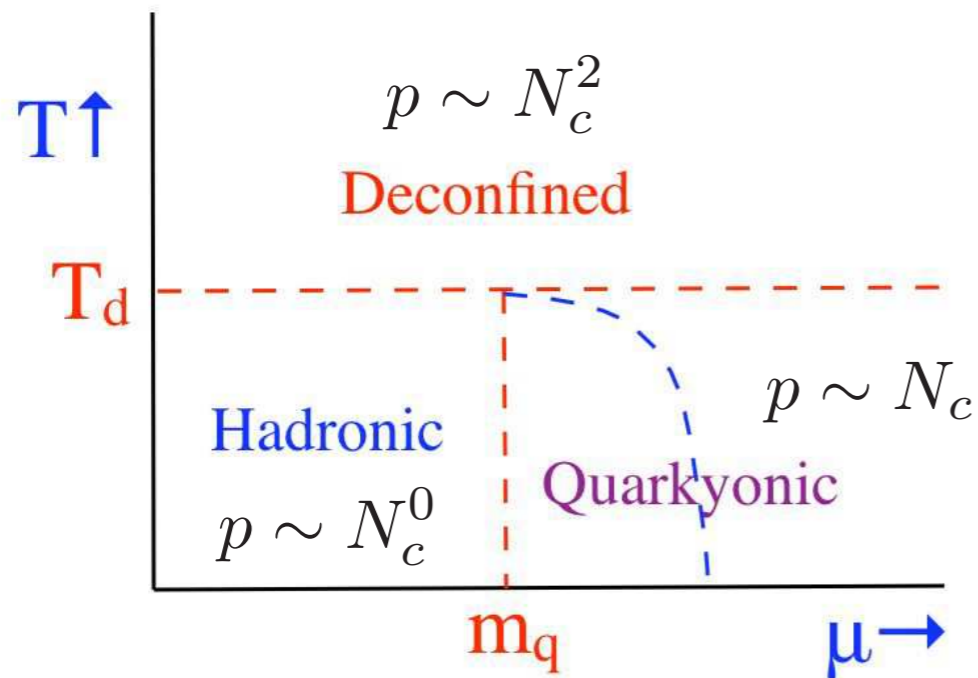


The large N_c QCD phase diagram

[McLerran, Pisarski NPA (2007), ...]

large N_c

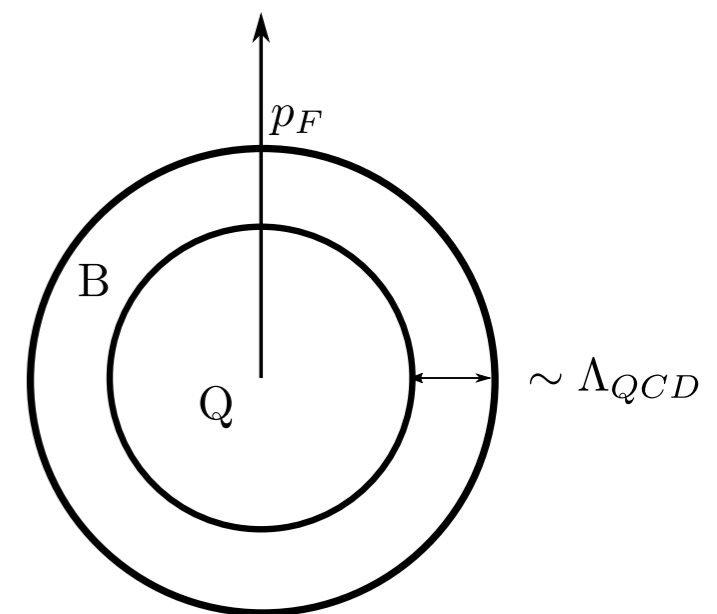
$N_c = 3$



Quarkyonic matter in momentum space:

Fermi sea of quarks, surrounded by Fermi shell of baryons;

$p_F \sim \mu$ can interpolate from purely baryonic to quark matter



From conjecture to calculation: eff. theory for general N_c

Strong coupling limit

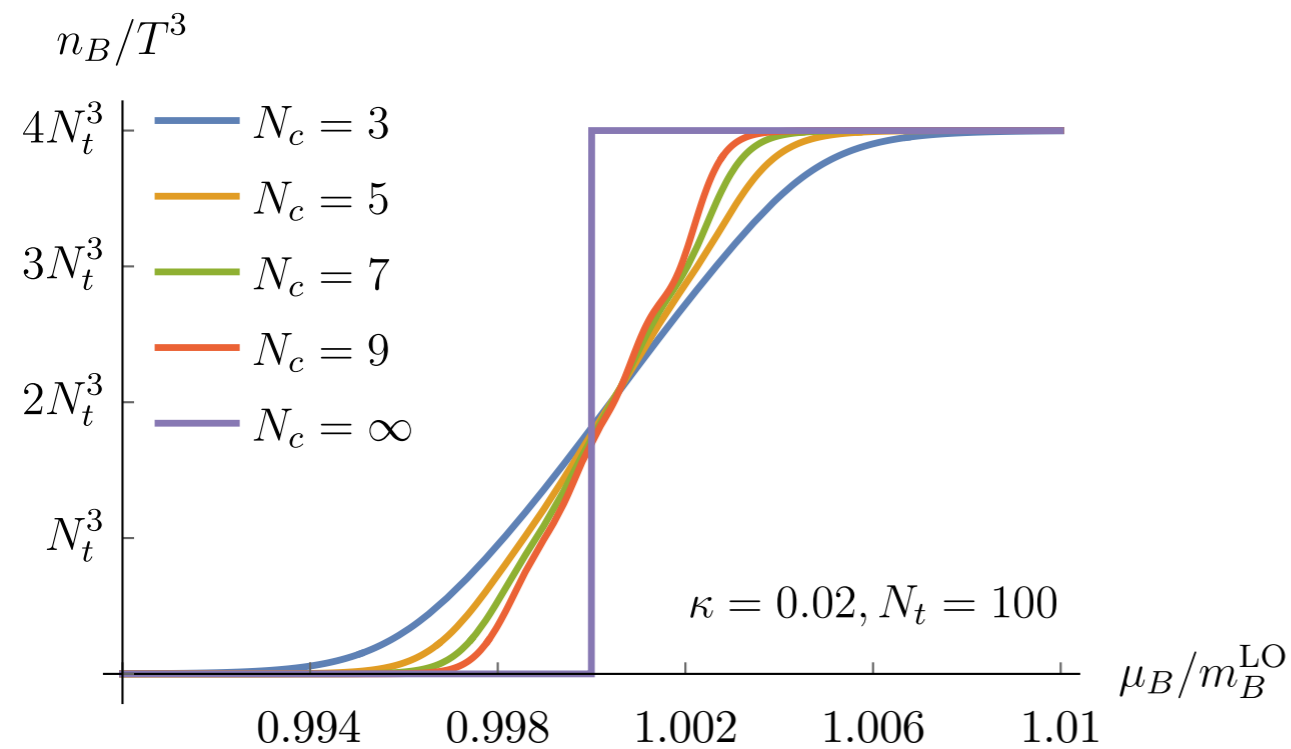
[O.P., Scheunert JHEP (2019)]

Order hopping expansion		κ^0	κ^2	κ^4
$h_1 < 1$ ($\mu_B < m_B$)	$a^4 p$	$\sim \frac{1}{6N_\tau} N_c^3 h_1^{N_c}$	$\sim -\frac{1}{48} N_c^7 h_1^{2N_c}$	$\sim \frac{3N_\tau \kappa^4}{800} N_c^8 h_1^{2N_c}$
	ϵ	0	$\sim -\frac{1}{4} N_c^3 h_1^{N_c}$	
$h_1 > 1$ ($\mu_B > m_B$)	$a^4 p$	$\sim \frac{4 \ln(h_1)}{N_\tau} N_c$	$\sim -12 N_c$	$\sim 198 N_c$
	ϵ	0	~ -6	

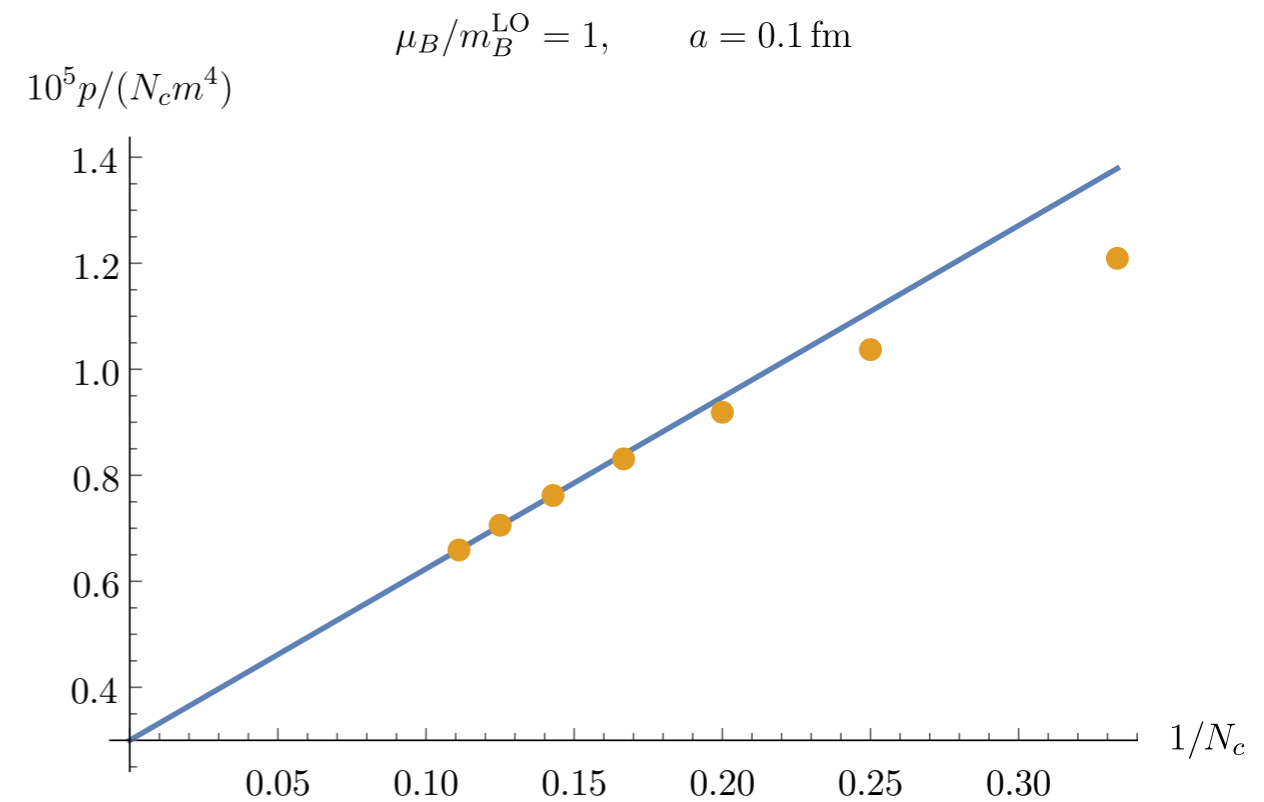
Beyond the onset transition: $p \sim N_c$ definition of quarkyonic matter!

The baryon onset transition for growing N_c

Transition becomes more strongly 1st-order for every T!

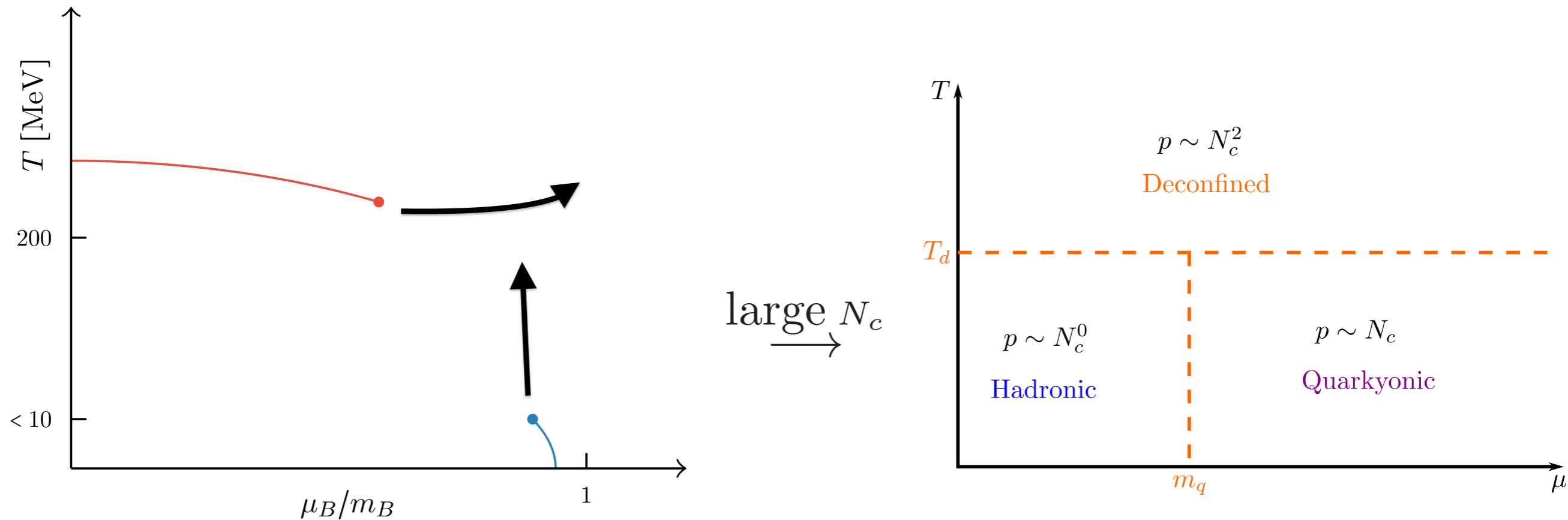


Pressure scaling right after onset



$$p \sim N_c(1 + \text{const.} N_c^{-1})$$

Altogether:



- Large N_c phase diagram emerges smoothly
- Varying N_c : dense QCD is consistent with quarkyonic matter
- Should also hold for light quarks, N_c -scaling is property of expansion coefficients!

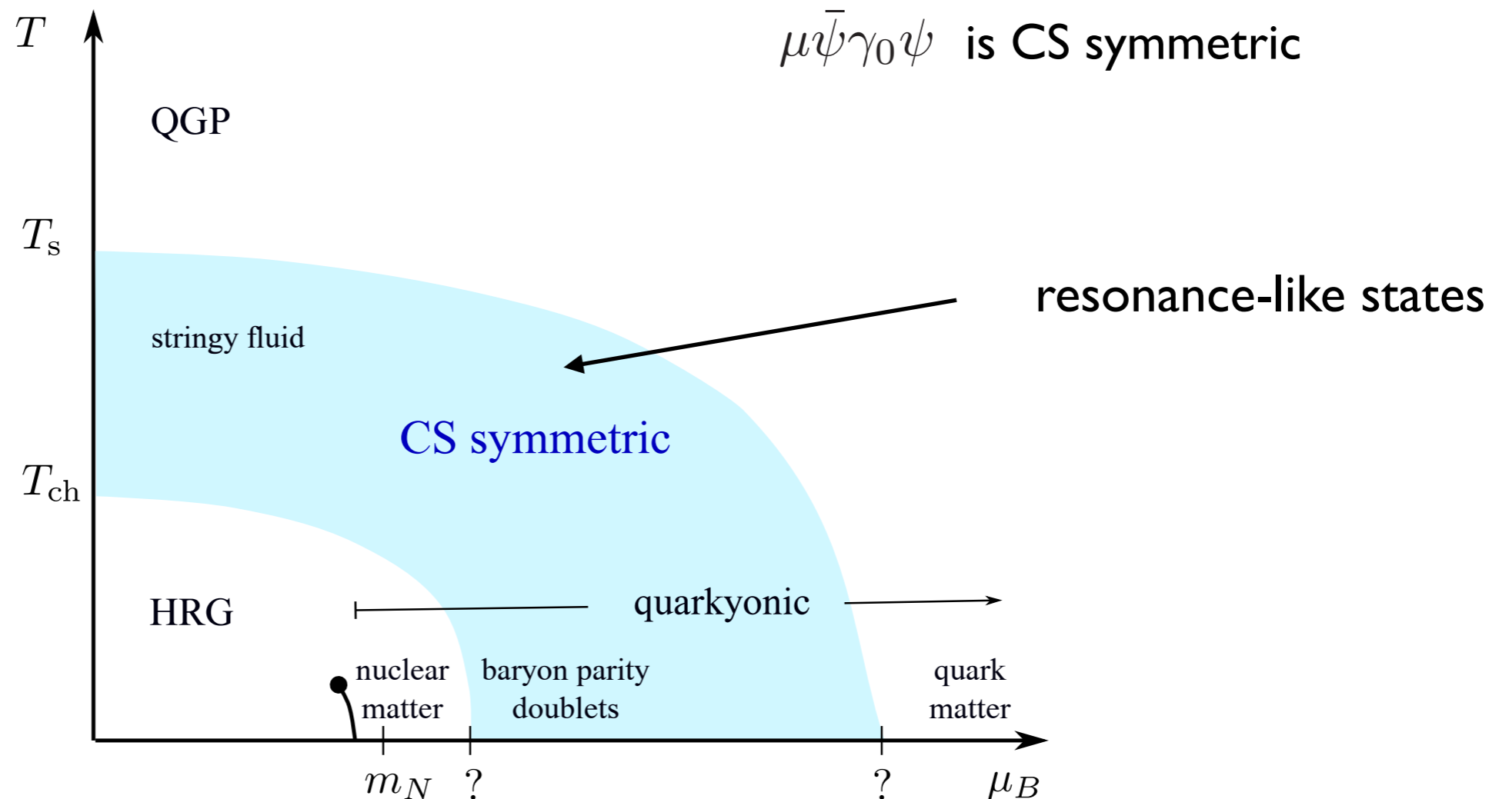
If so: physical baryon matter is special case of quarkyonic matter!

See also phenomenological evidence: [\[Koch, McLerran, Miller, Vovchenko, PRC 24\]](#)

Implications for physical QCD?

One viable scenario (more possibilities):

[L. Glozman, R. Pisarski, O.P., EJPA 22]



Consistent with neutron star data analysis in Wolfram Weise's talk!

- 1st order transition in neutron star “unlikely”, consistent with quark-hadron continuity
- Ordinary nuclear matter (a few times nucl. density) consistent with mass-radius relations

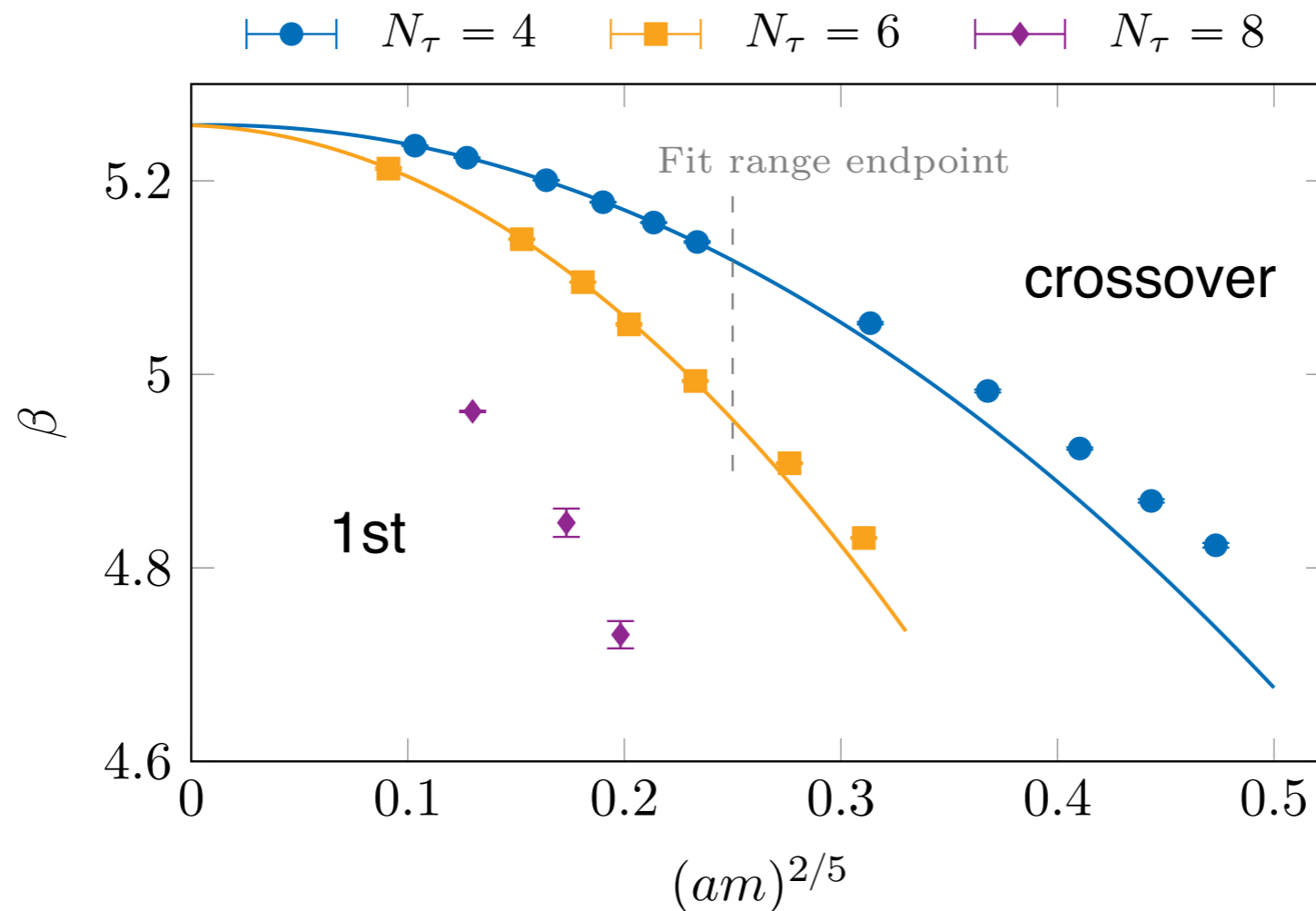
Conclusions

- Chiral transition at zero density is likely 2nd order for $N_f=2-7$ massless quark flavours
- Imaginary chemical potential has no effect on the order of the chiral transition
- There is an intermediate T-regime with chiral-spin symmetry and predominantly resonance-like degrees of freedom: correlator multiplets, screening masses, spectral functions
- Heavy mass LQCD consistent with quarkyonic matter and quark-hadron continuity

Backup slides

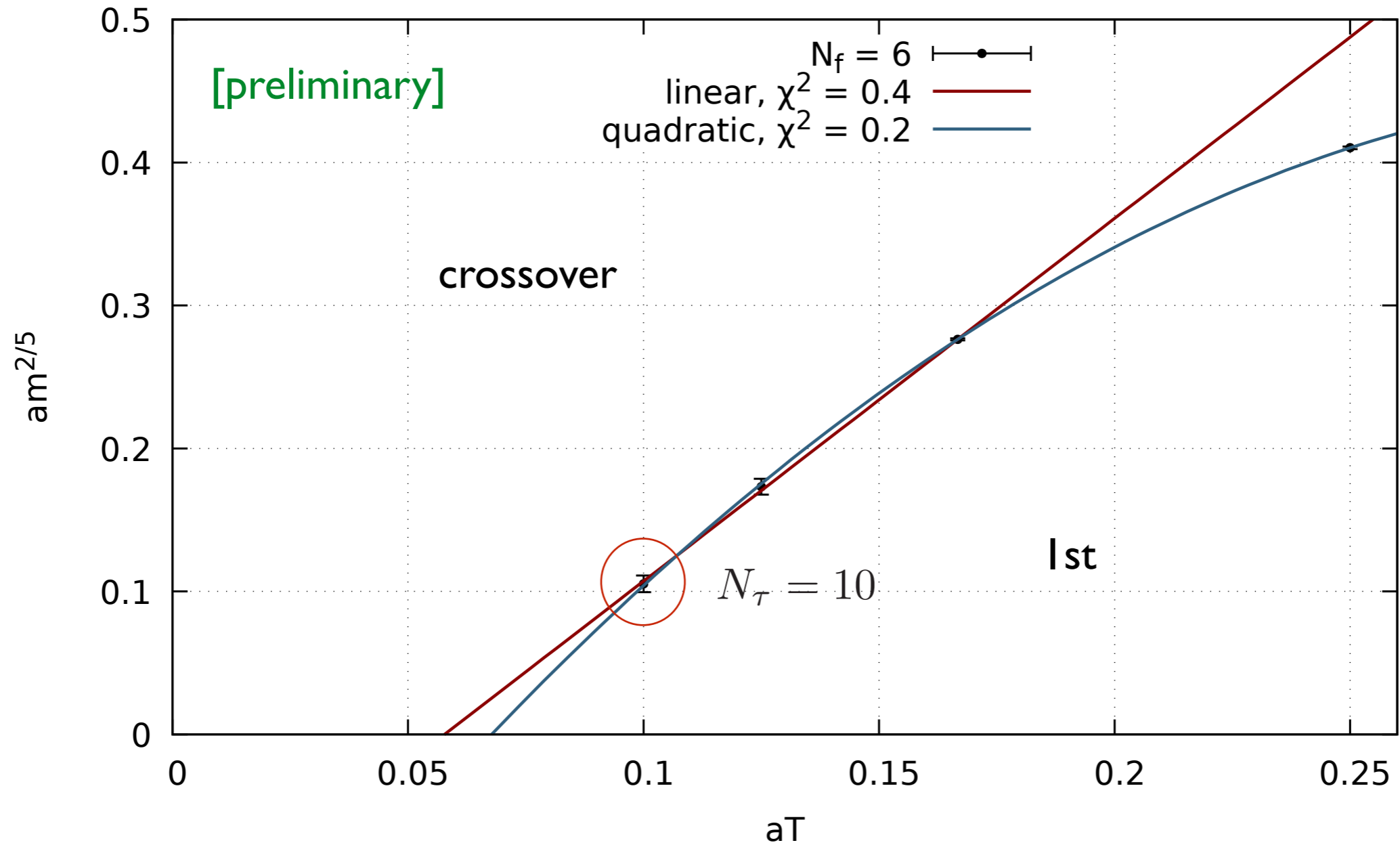
Bare parameter space of unimproved staggered LQCD

[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra JHEP 21] ~120 M Monte Carlo trajectories with light fermions, aspect ratios 3,4,5



- Data points implicitly labeled by N_f
- Tricritical scaling observed in lattice bare parameter space
- Tricritical extrapolation always possible!

progressing to finer lattices



New $N_\tau = 10$ result on predicted scaling curve!

Meson screening masses at high temperatures

[Dalla Brida et al., JHEP 22]

Nf=3, T=1 GeV -160 GeV

Highly non-trivial technically:
shifted b.c. + step-scaling techniques

$$\frac{m_{PS}}{2\pi T} = 1 + p_2 \hat{g}^2(T) + p_3 \hat{g}^3(T) + p_4 \hat{g}^4(T)$$

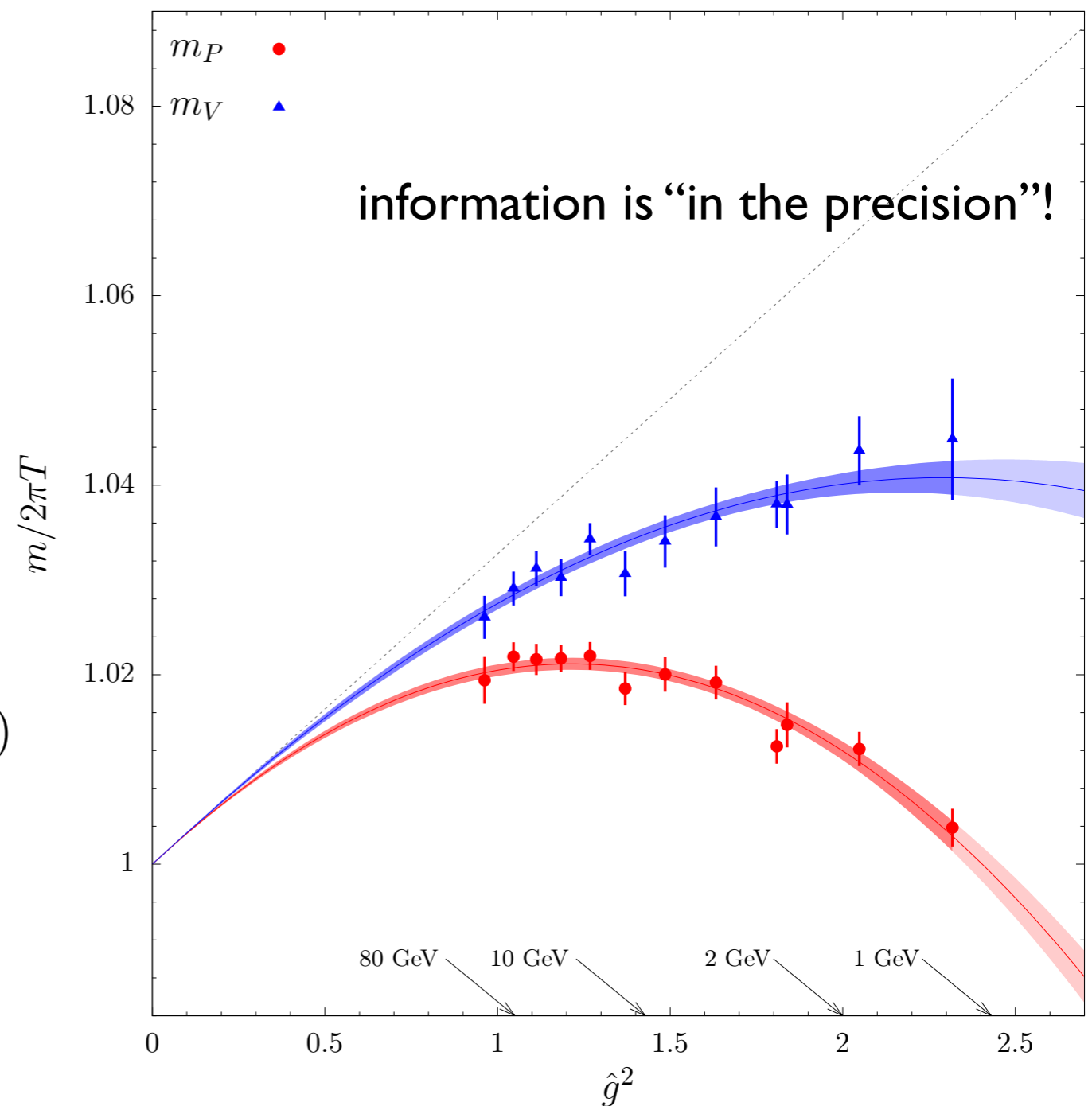
$$\frac{m_V}{2\pi T} = \frac{m_{PS}}{2\pi T} + s_4 \hat{g}^4(T)$$

$$p_2 = 0.032739961$$

[Laine, Vepsäläinen., JHEP 04]

p_3, p_4, s_4 fitted, excellent χ_{dof}^2

Quark hadron duality holds



$$\frac{1}{\hat{g}^2(T)} \equiv \frac{9}{8\pi^2} \ln \frac{2\pi T}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} + \frac{4}{9\pi^2} \ln \left(2 \ln \frac{2\pi T}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} \right)$$

Comparison with plasmon ansatz

Bros+Buchholz Ansatz

Perturbative plasmon: Breit-Wigner shape

Both fit spatial correlator

$$\rho_{PS}(\omega, \mathbf{p} = 0) = \epsilon(\omega) \left[\theta(\omega^2 - m_\pi^2) \frac{4 \alpha_\pi \gamma_\pi \sqrt{\omega^2 - m_\pi^2}}{(\omega^2 - m_\pi^2 + \gamma_\pi^2)^2} + \theta(\omega^2 - m_{\pi^*}^2) \frac{4 \alpha_{\pi^*} \gamma_{\pi^*} \sqrt{\omega^2 - m_{\pi^*}^2}}{(\omega^2 - m_{\pi^*}^2 + \gamma_{\pi^*}^2)^2} \right]$$

$$\rho_{PS}^{BW}(\omega, \mathbf{p} = 0) = \frac{4 \alpha_\pi \omega \Gamma_\pi}{(\omega^2 - m_\pi^2 - \Gamma_\pi^2)^2 + 4 \omega^2 \Gamma_\pi^2} + \frac{4 \alpha_{\pi^*} \omega \Gamma_{\pi^*}}{(\omega^2 - m_{\pi^*}^2 - \Gamma_{\pi^*}^2)^2 + 4 \omega^2 \Gamma_{\pi^*}^2}$$

Predicted temporal correlators:

