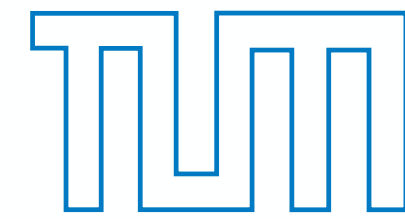
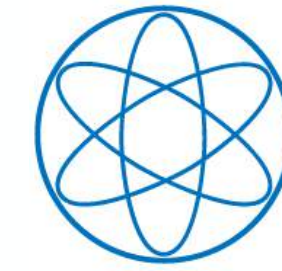


# EXPLORING the MATTER in the CORE of NEUTRON STARS



Wolfram Weise

Technische Universität München



PHYSIK  
DEPARTMENT



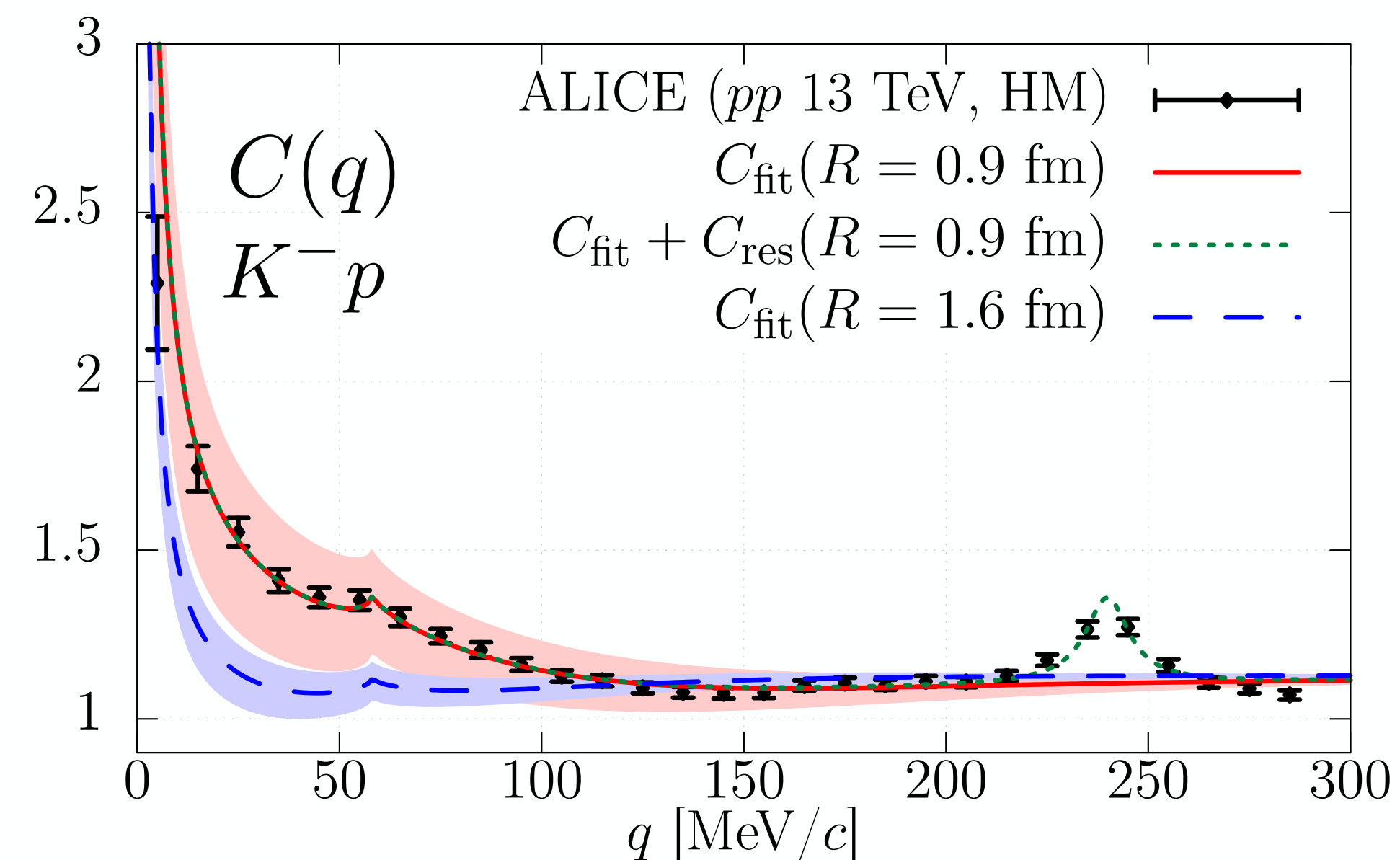
*... in memory of  
Akira Ohnishi  
(June 14, 1964 - May 16, 2023)*





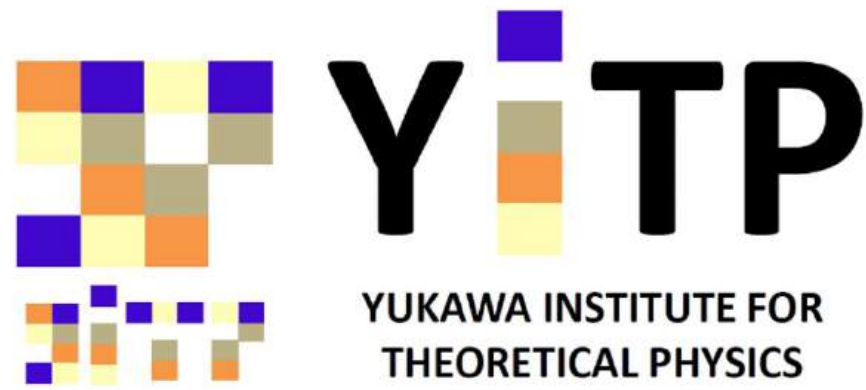
Physical Review Letters  
124, 132501 (2020)

**$K^-p$  correlation function from  
high-energy nuclear collisions  
and chiral SU(3) dynamics**



Yuki Kamiya,<sup>1,\*</sup> Tetsuo Hyodo,<sup>2,3</sup> Kenji Morita,<sup>4,5</sup> Akira Ohnishi,<sup>2</sup> and Wolfram Weise<sup>6,7</sup>

The two-particle momentum correlation function of a  $K^-p$  pair from high-energy nuclear collisions is evaluated in the  $\bar{K}N$ - $\pi\Sigma$ - $\pi\Lambda$  coupled-channels framework. The effects of all coupled channels together with the Coulomb potential and the threshold energy difference between  $K^-p$  and  $\bar{K}^0n$  are treated completely for the first time. Realistic potentials based on the chiral SU(3) dynamics are used which fit the available scattering data. The recently measured correlation function is found to be well reproduced by allowing variations of the source size and the relative weight of the source function of  $\pi\Sigma$  with respect to that of  $\bar{K}N$ . The predicted  $K^-p$  correlation function from larger systems indicates that the investigation of its source size dependence is useful in providing further constraints in the study of the  $\bar{K}N$  interaction.

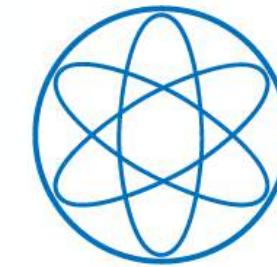


# EXPLORING the MATTER in the CORE of NEUTRON STARS



Wolfram Weise

Technische Universität München



PHYSIK  
DEPARTMENT

- ★ **Dense Matter in Neutron Stars: Speed of Sound and Equation of State**
  - Empirical constraints from heavy neutron stars and binary mergers
  - Bayesian inference results and constraints on phase transitions
- ★ **Phenomenology and Models for Dense Baryonic Matter**
  - Low-energy nucleon structure and a two-scales scenario
  - Hadron-quark continuity and crossover
  - Dense baryonic matter as a (relativistic) Fermi liquid

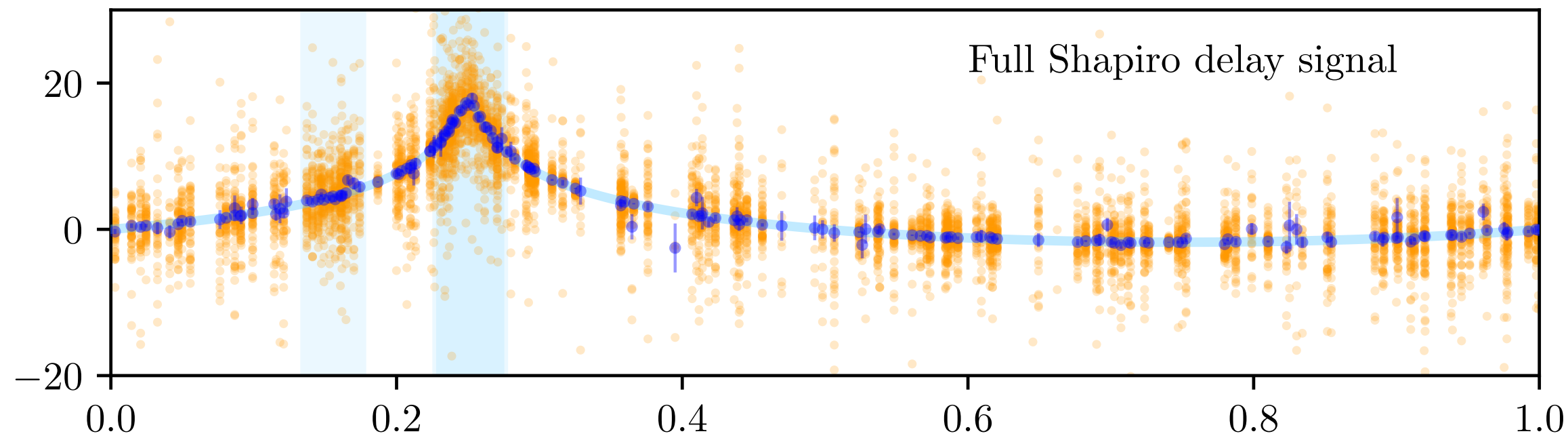
# *Part One*

*Equation-of-State of Dense Baryonic Matter :  
Empirical Constraints from Neutron Star Observations*

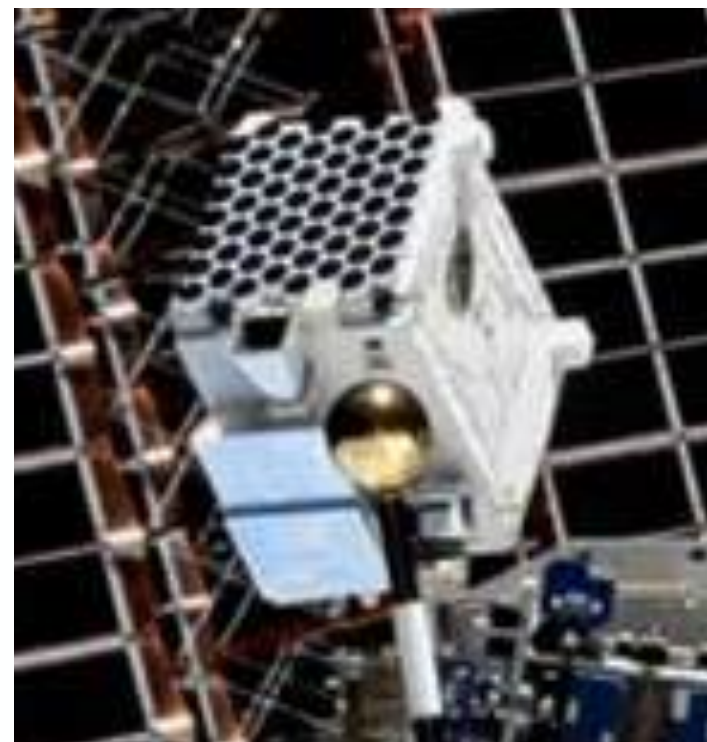


# NEUTRON STARS : DATA

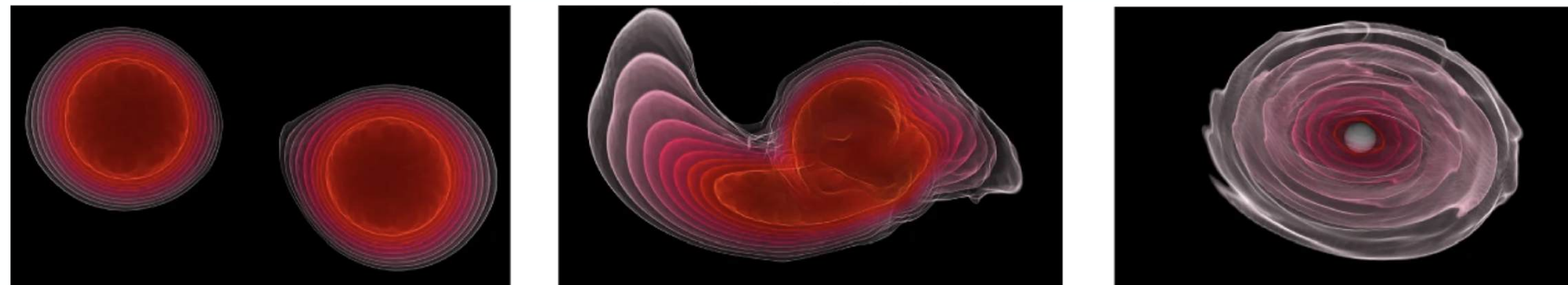
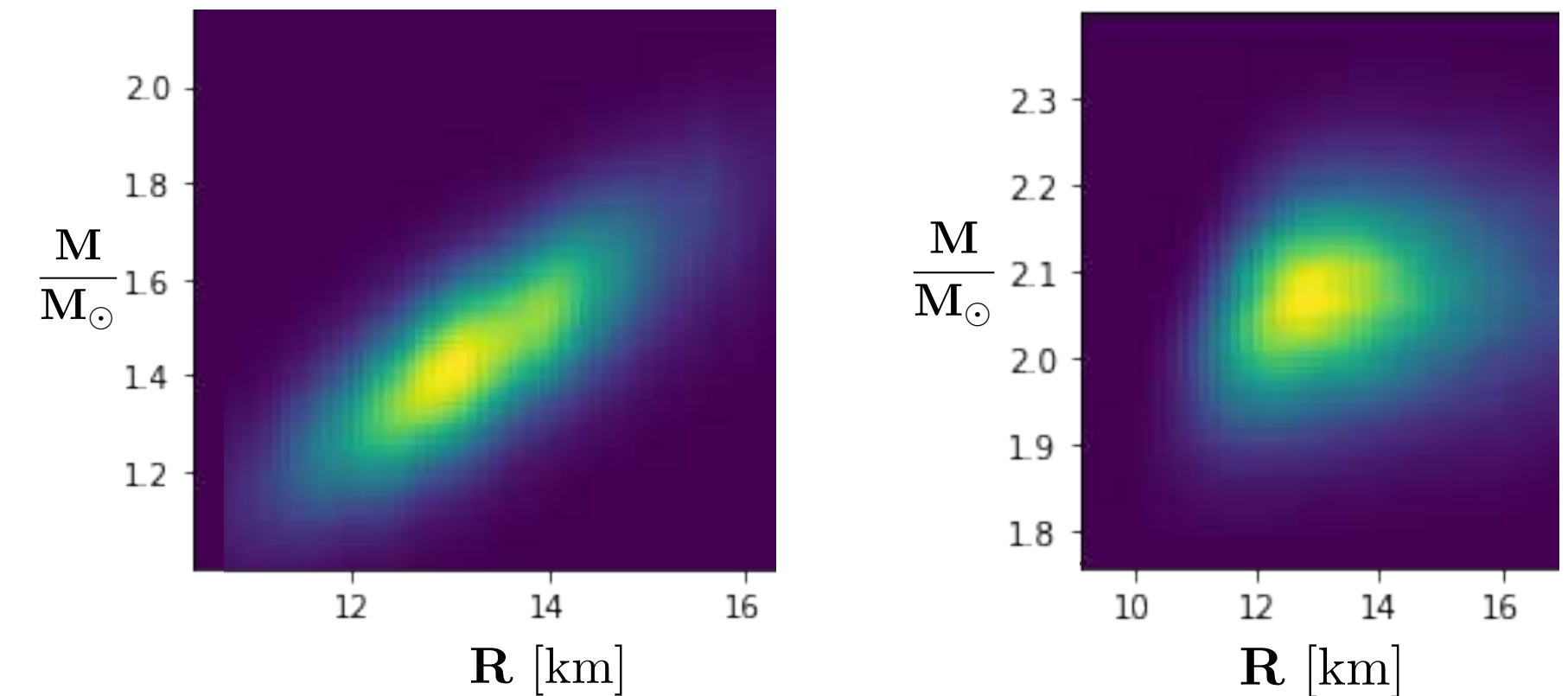
- Database for **inference of Equation-of-State** and other properties of neutron stars



- **Neutron star masses**  
Shapiro delay measurements  
(Green Bank Telescope)  
Radio astronomy  
(Effelsberg)



- **Masses and radii**  
X rays from hot spots on the surface of rotating neutron stars  
(NICER Telescope @ ISS)



- **Tidal deformabilities**  
Gravitational wave signals  
of neutron star mergers  
(LIGO and Virgo Collab.)



# NEUTRON STARS : DATA BASE

- **Masses of  $2 M_{\odot}$  stars**  
(Shapiro delay & radio observations)

PSR J0348+0432

$$M = 2.01 \pm 0.04 M_{\odot}$$

J. Antoniadis et al.: Science 340 (2013) 1233232

PSR J1614-2230

$$M = 1.908 \pm 0.016 M_{\odot}$$

Z. Arzoumanian et al., Astrophys.J. Suppl. 235 (2018) 37

PSR J0740+6620

$$M = 2.08 \pm 0.07 M_{\odot}$$

E. Fonseca et al., Astrophys.J. Lett. 915 (2021) L12

- **Masses and Radii (NICER)**

PSR J0030+0451

$$M = 1.34 \pm 0.16 M_{\odot} \quad R = 12.71^{+1.14}_{-1.19} \text{ km}$$

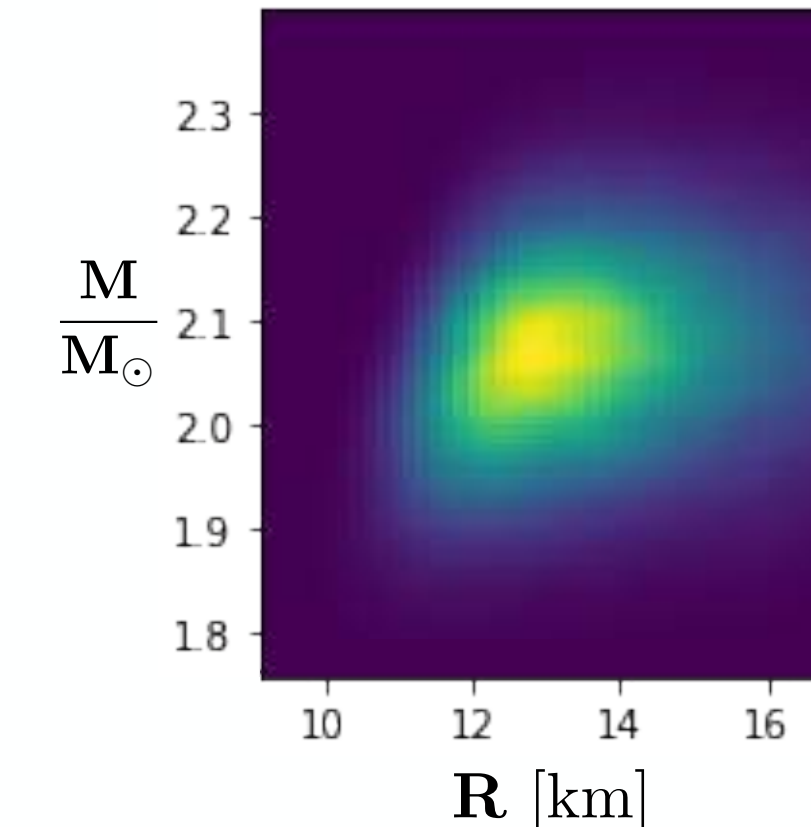
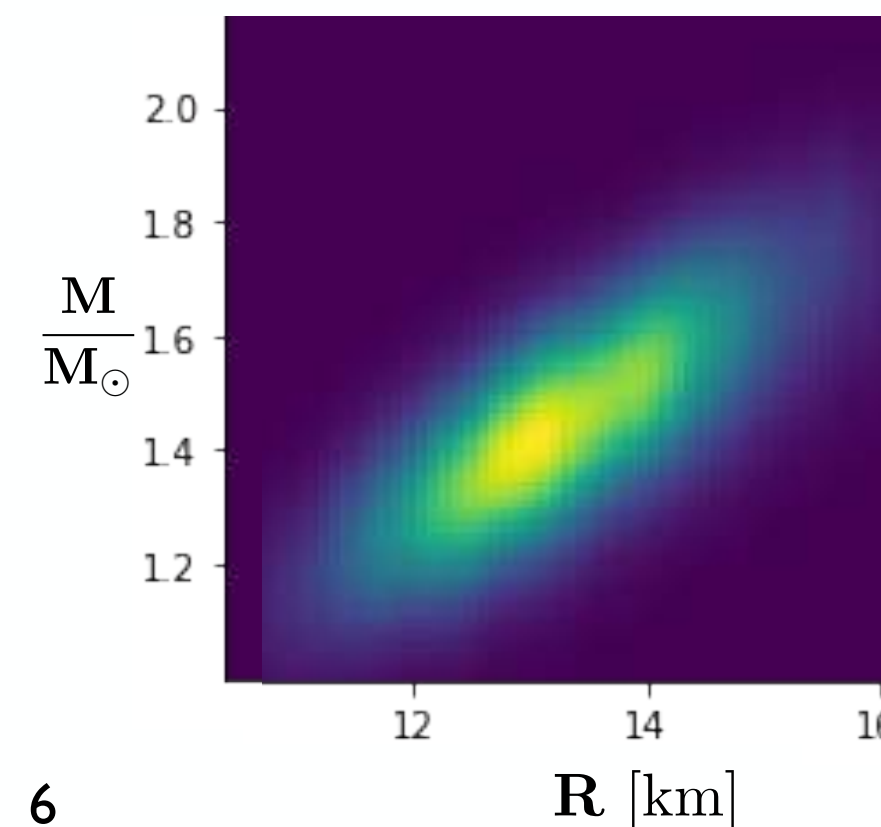
T.E. Riley et al. (NICER), Astroph. J. Lett. 887 (2019) L21

PSR J0740+6620

$$M = 2.073 \pm 0.069 M_{\odot} \quad R = 12.49^{+1.28}_{-0.88} \text{ km}$$

T.E. Riley et al. (NICER + XMM Newton), Astroph. J. Lett. 918 (2021) L27

T. Salmi et al. (NICER), arXiv:2406.14466



# NEUTRON STARS : DATA (contd.)

- **Very massive and fast rotating galactic neutron star**

PSR J0952-0607

$$M = 2.35 \pm 0.17 M_{\odot}$$

R.W. Romani et al. : *Astroph. J. Lett.* 934 (2022) L17



(Keck Observatory)

→ equivalent non-rotating mass  
after rotational correction :  $M = 2.3 \pm 0.2 M_{\odot}$

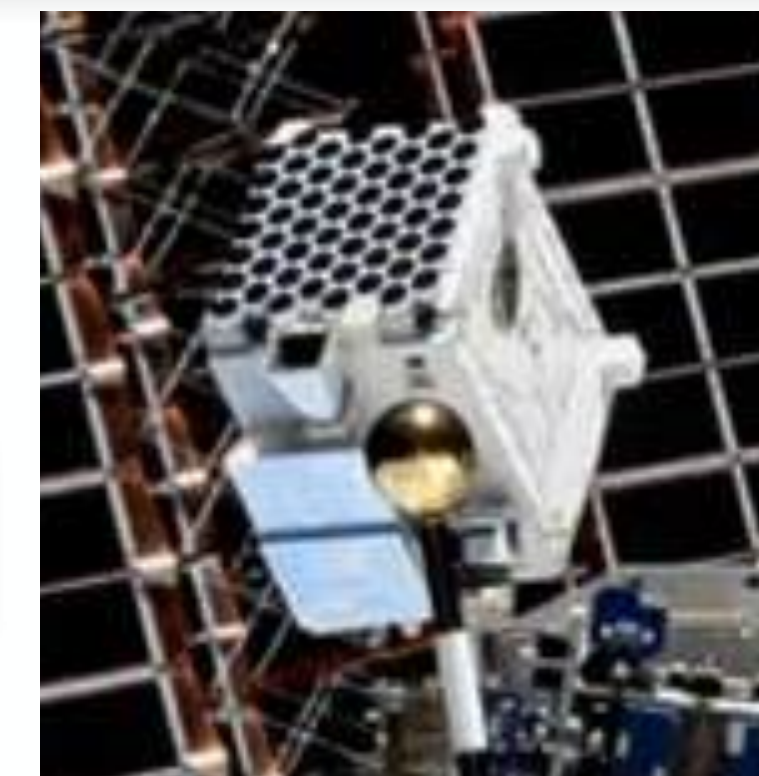
- **New accurate data from NICER**

PSR J0437-4715

$$M = 1.418 \pm 0.037 M_{\odot}$$

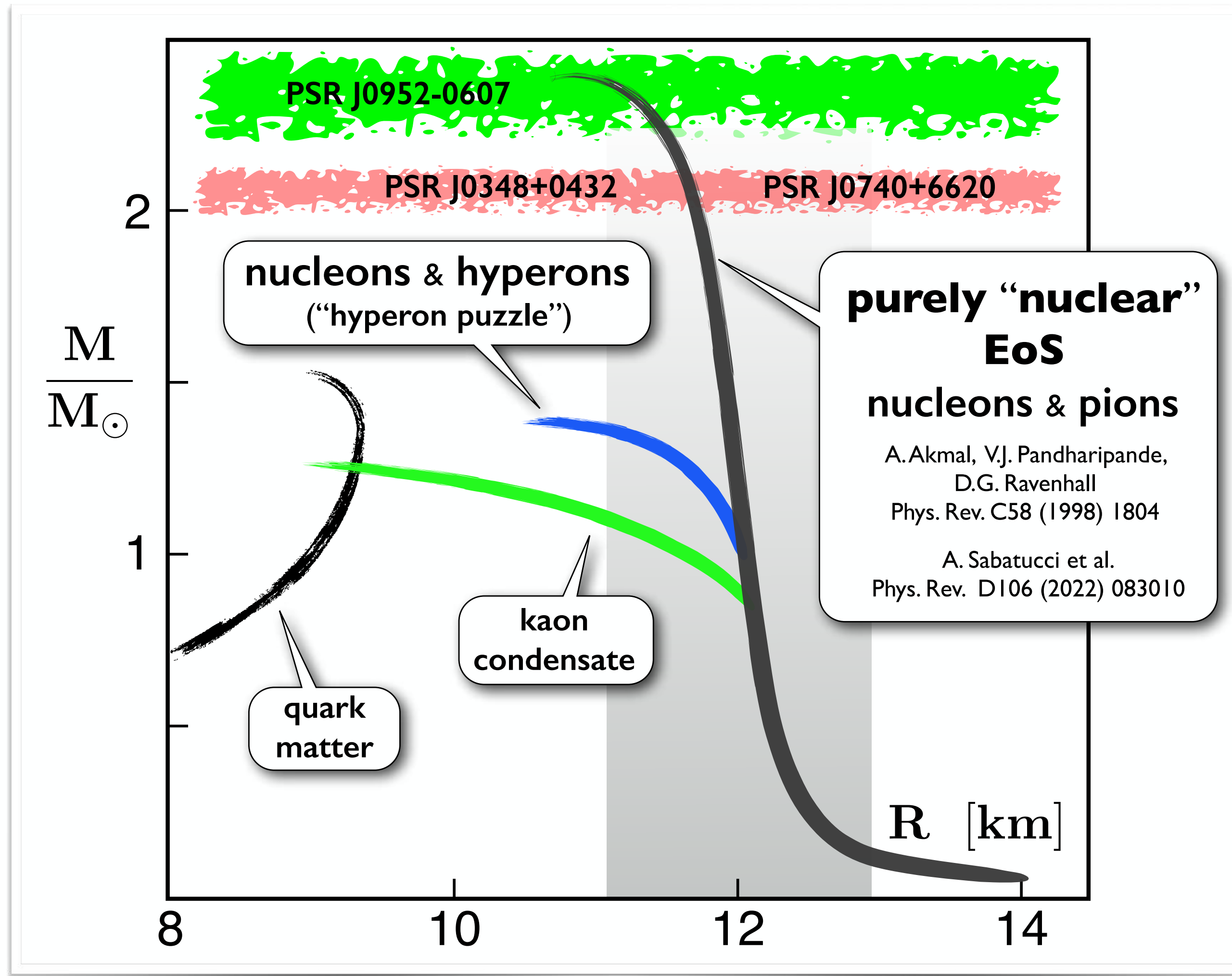
$$R = 11.36^{+0.95}_{-0.63} \text{ km}$$

D. Choudhury et al. : *Astroph. J. Lett.* 971 (2024) L20



# CONSTRAINTS on EQUATION of STATE $P(\varepsilon)$

- from observations of massive neutron stars



## Tolman - Oppenheimer - Volkov Equations

$$\frac{dP(r)}{dr} = \frac{G [\varepsilon(r) + P(r)] [m(r) + 4\pi r^3 P(r)]}{r [r - 2Gm(r)]}$$

$$\frac{dm(r)}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \varepsilon(r)$$

$$M = m(R) = 4\pi \int_0^R dr r^2 \varepsilon(r)$$

- Stiff equation-of-state  $P(\varepsilon)$  required
- Simplest forms of exotic matter (kaon condensate, quark matter, ...) **ruled out**



# SOUND VELOCITY and EQUATION of STATE

- Key quantity : **Speed of Sound**

$$c_s^2(\varepsilon) = \frac{\partial P(\varepsilon)}{\partial \varepsilon}$$

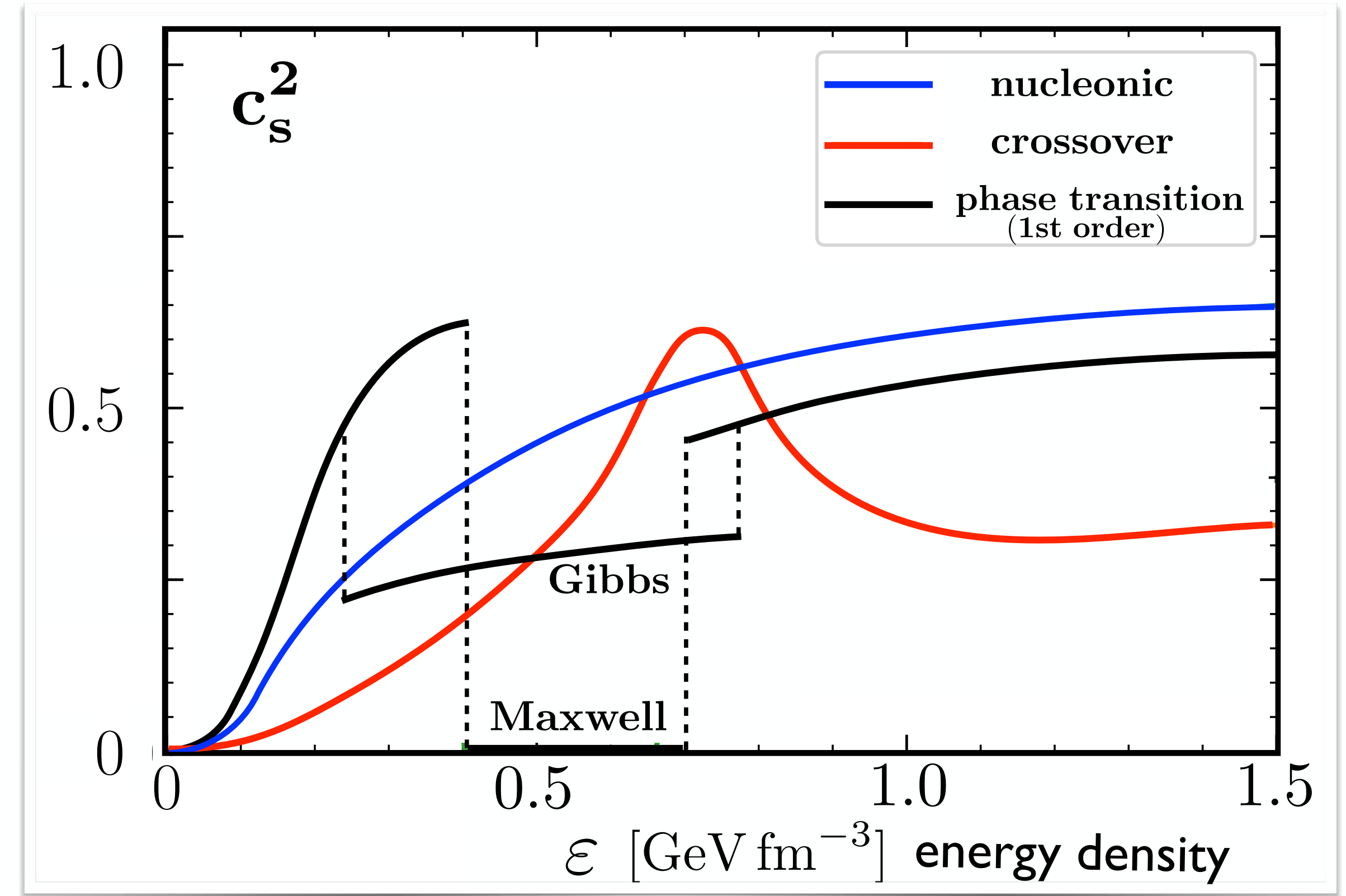
displays characteristic signature of **phase transition** or **crossover**

- Equation of State :

$$P(\varepsilon) = \int_0^\varepsilon d\varepsilon' c_s^2(\varepsilon')$$

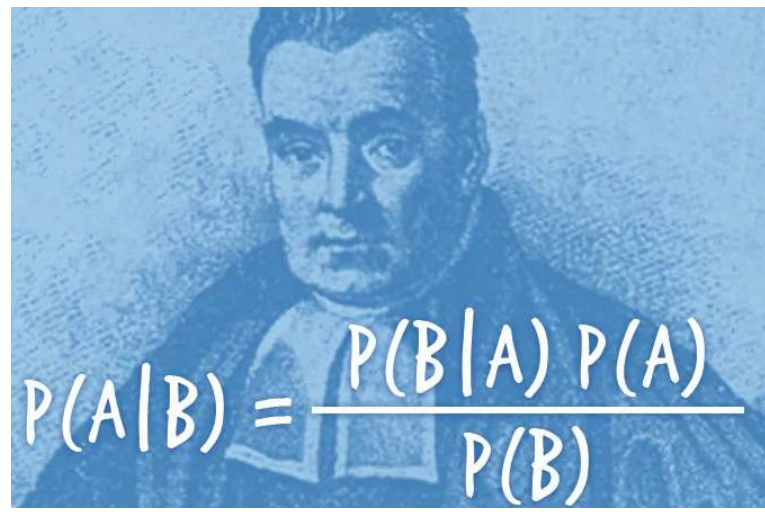
- Gibbs - Duhem equation (T=0)

$$P + \varepsilon = \mu_B n_B = \sum_i \mu_i n_i$$



- Baryon density  $n_B = \partial P / \partial \mu_B$

- Baryon chemical potential  $\mu_B = \partial \varepsilon / \partial n_B$



# INFERENCE of SOUND SPEED and RELATED PROPERTIES of NEUTRON STARS

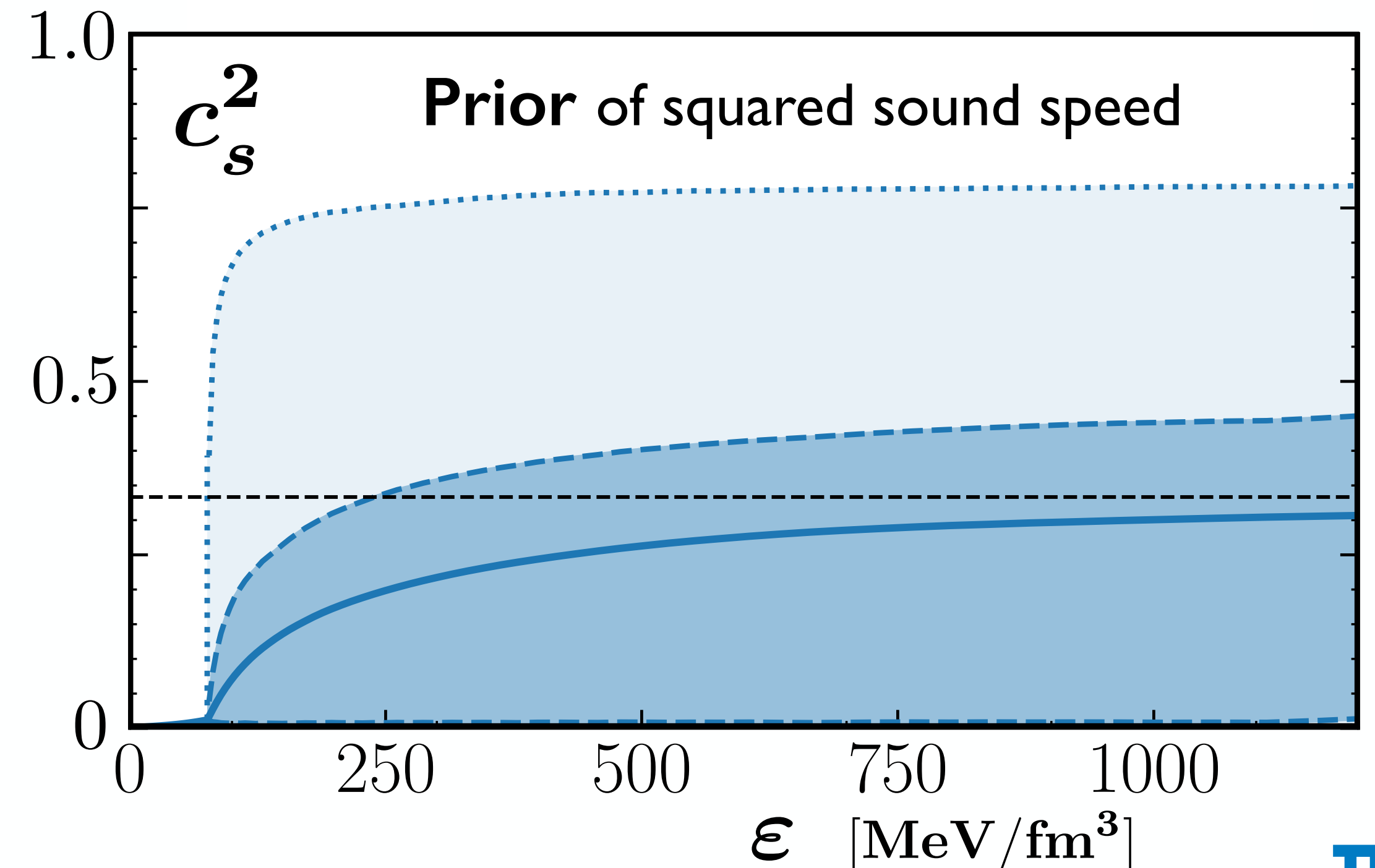
- Introduce general parametrization of sound velocity : segment-wise representation

$$c_s^2(\varepsilon, \theta) = \frac{(\varepsilon_{i+1} - \varepsilon)c_{s,i}^2 + (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_i)c_{s,i+1}^2}{\varepsilon_{i+1} - \varepsilon_i}, \quad \text{parameter set } \theta = (c_{s,i}^2, \varepsilon_i) \quad (i = 1, \dots, N)$$

- Constrain parameters  $\theta$  by Bayesian inference using nuclear and astrophysical data  $\mathcal{D}$

$$\Pr(\theta|\mathcal{D}) \propto \Pr(\mathcal{D}|\theta) \Pr(\theta)$$

- ➔ Choose Prior  $\Pr(\theta)$
- ➔ Compute Posterior  $\Pr(\theta|\mathcal{D})$  from Likelihood  $\Pr(\mathcal{D}|\theta)$
- ➔ Quantify Evidences for hypotheses  $H_0$  vs.  $H_1$  in terms of Bayes factors  $\mathcal{B}_{H_0}^{H_1} = \frac{\Pr(\mathcal{D}|H_1)}{\Pr(\mathcal{D}|H_0)}$

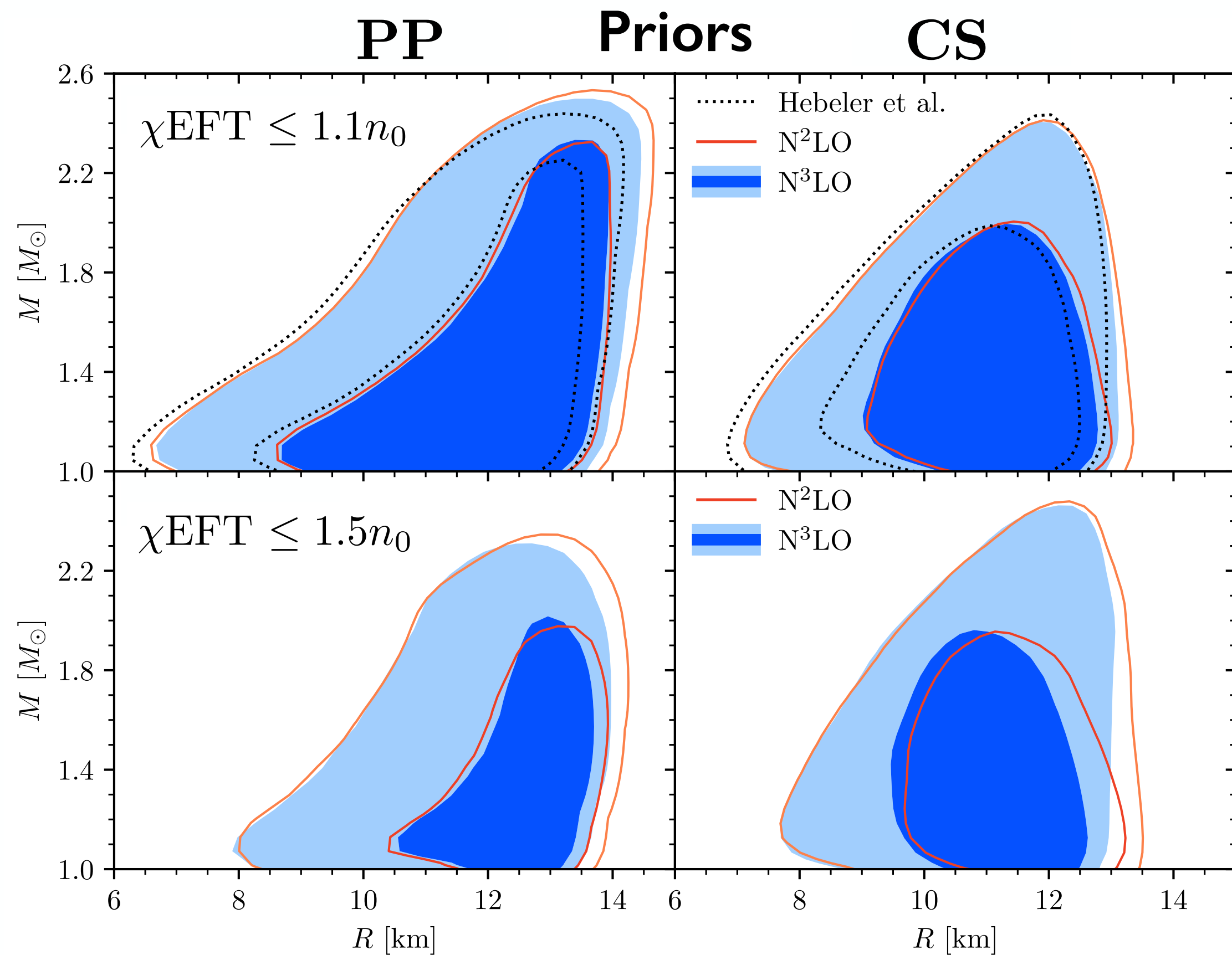


# INFERENCE of EQUATION of STATE

★ Important issue: **Posterior output MUST be independent** of chosen **Prior input**

Recent example where this is not the case :

N. Rutherford et al. : Astrophys. J. Lett. 971 (2024) L19



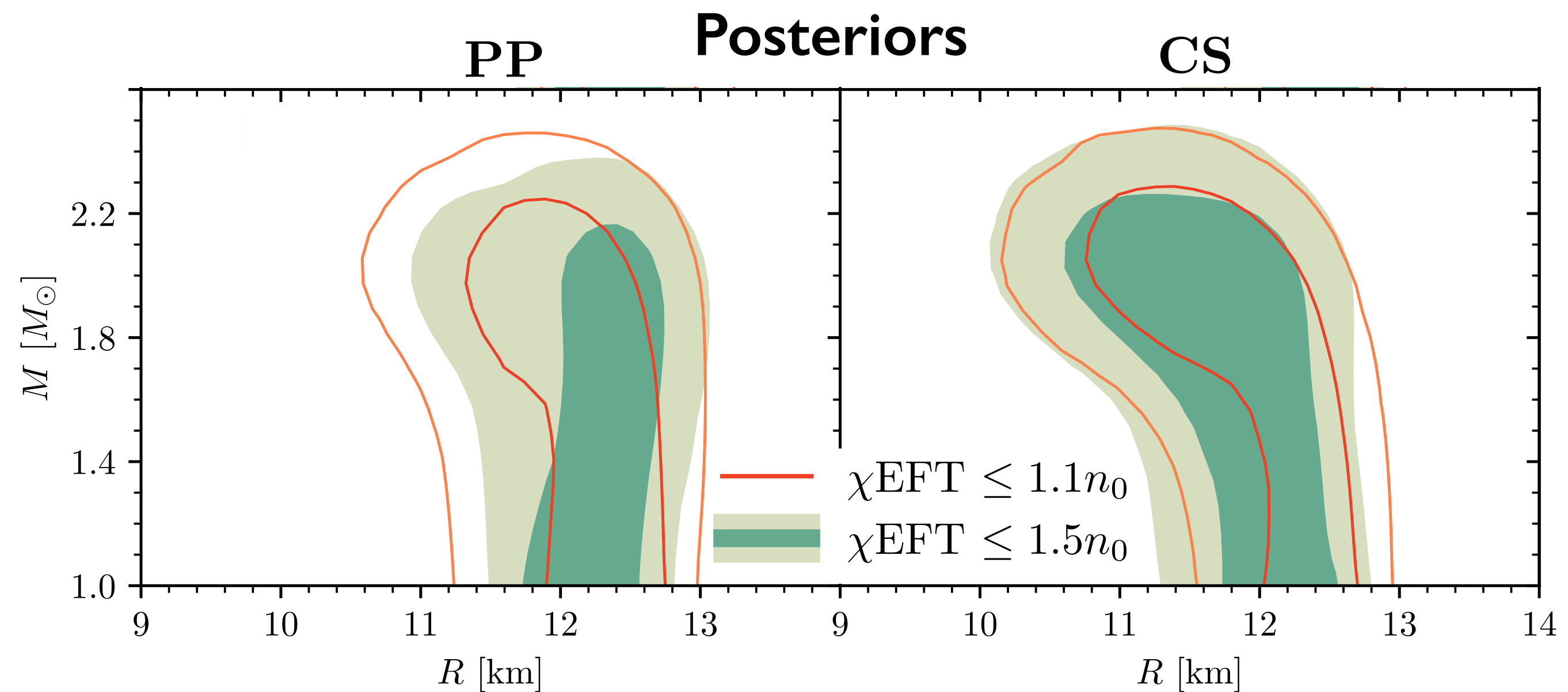
● Prior models (choices too restrictive)

PP : Polytropic parametrization

$$P_i(n) = K_i (n/n_0)^{\Gamma_i} \quad (3 \text{ segments only})$$

CS : Gaussian parametrization of sound speed  $\left(x = \frac{\varepsilon}{M_N n_0}\right)$

$$c_s^2(x) = a_1 e^{-\frac{1}{2}(x-a_2)^2/a_3^2} + a_6 + \frac{\frac{1}{3} - a_6}{1 + e^{-a_5(x-a_4)}}$$

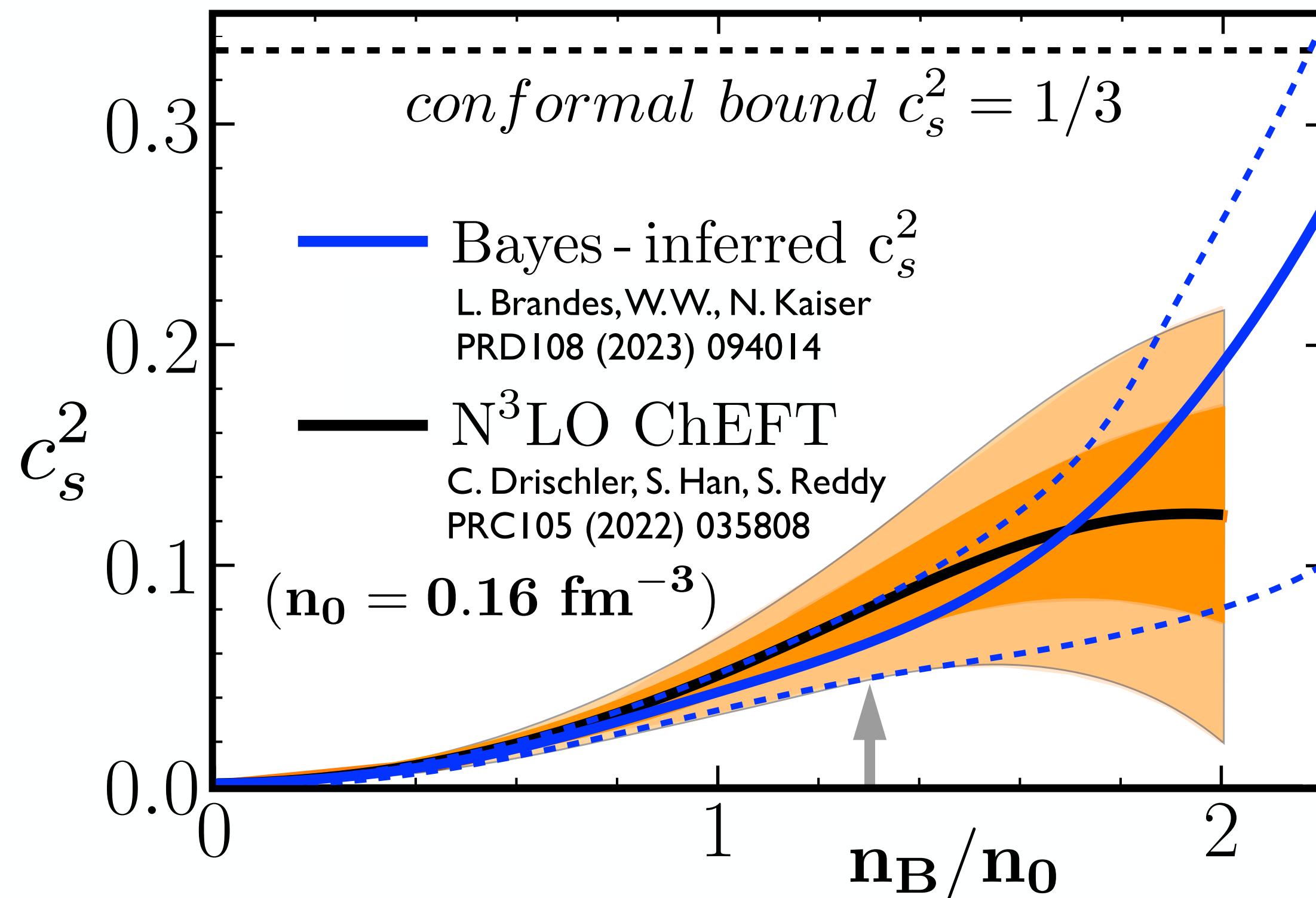


(Chiral EFT constraints implemented as Priors)

# EQUATION of STATE and SOUND VELOCITY

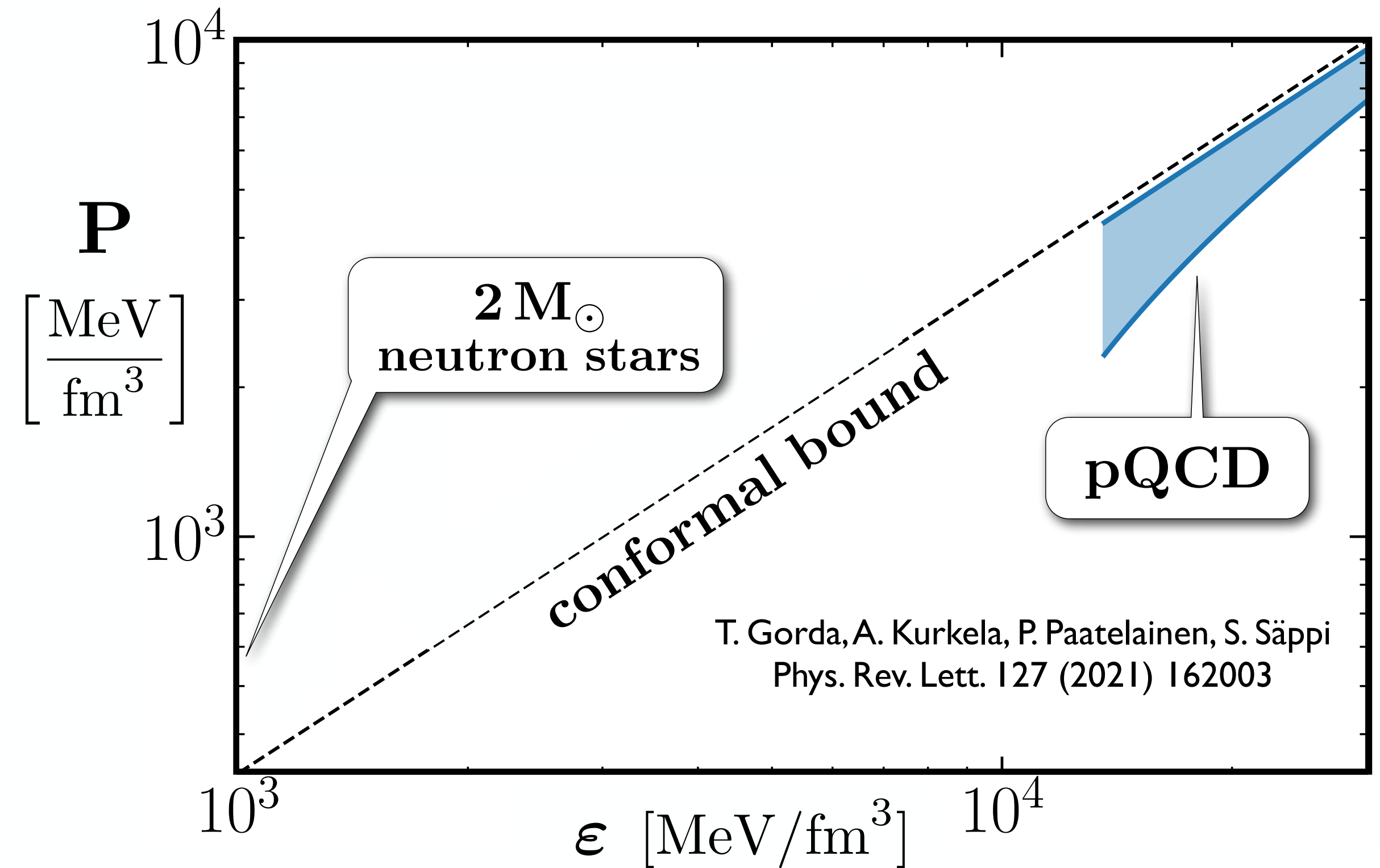
## - boundary conditions -

- Low densities : Chiral EFT @  $n_B \lesssim 2 n_0$



- Employ ChEFT constraint at  $n_B = 1.3 n_0$  in Bayes inference as **Likelihood, NOT Prior**

- Extremely high densities :  $n_B \gg n_c(2M_\odot)$



- **Conformal bound**  $c_s^2 = \frac{1}{3}$  reached asymptotically

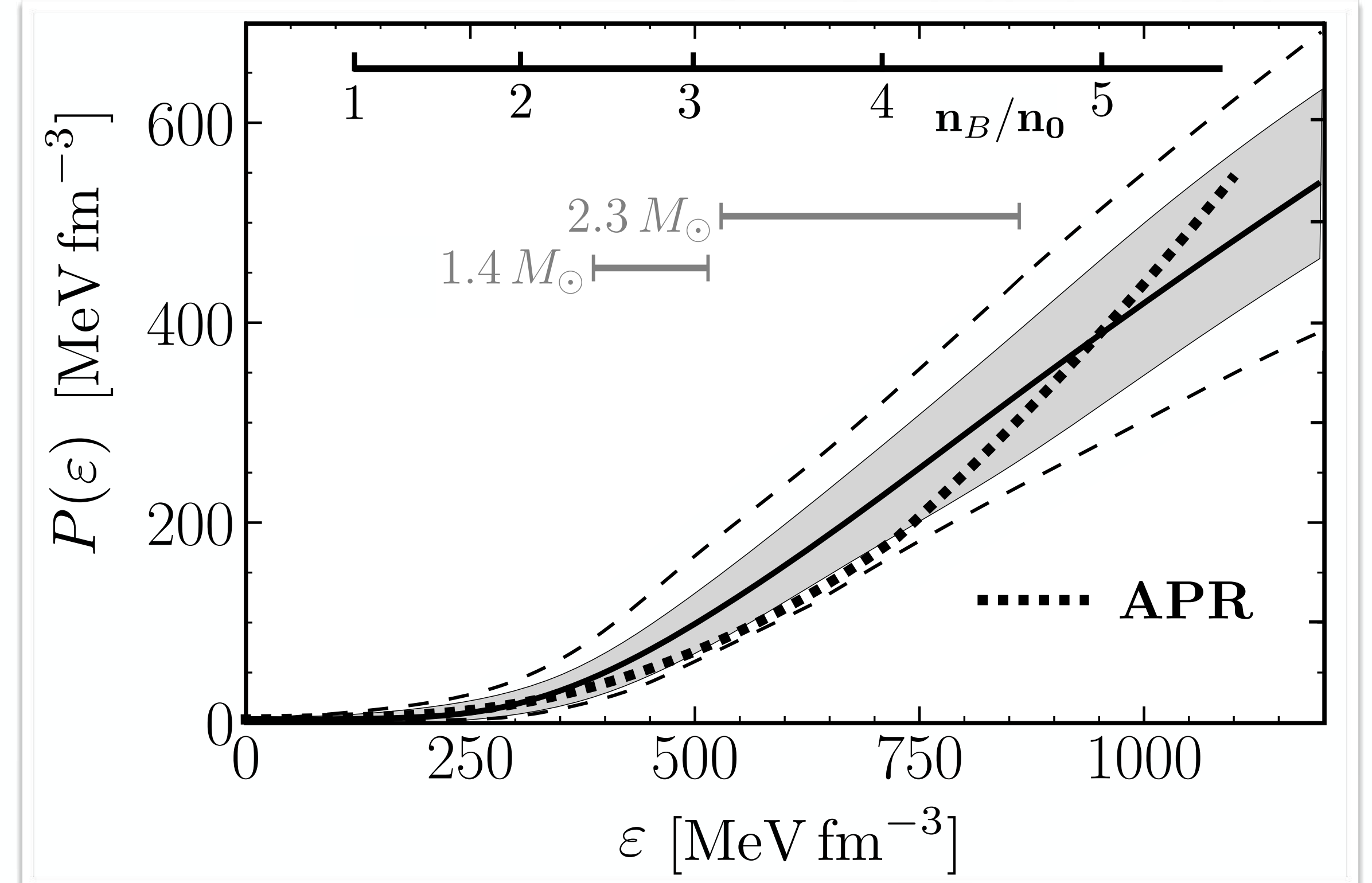
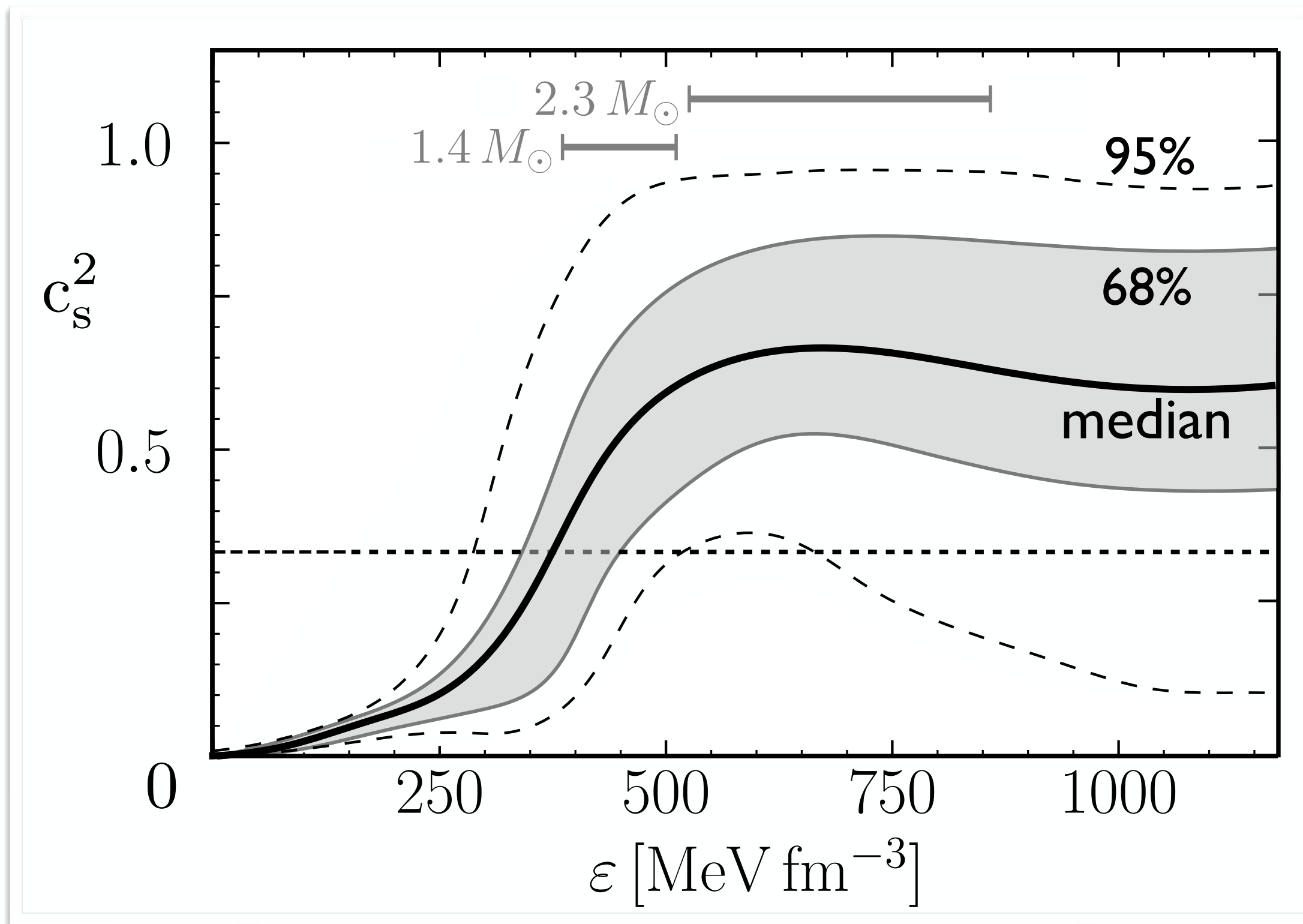


# NEUTRON STAR MATTER : EQUATION of STATE

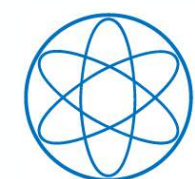
- Bayesian inference of sound speed and EoS

PSR masses, NICER & GW data, low-density constraints (ChEFT), asymptotic constraints (pQCD)

L. Brandes, W.W., N. Kaiser : Phys. Rev. D 107 (2023) 014011 ; Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 094014 - L. Brandes, W.W.: Symmetry 16 (2024) 111



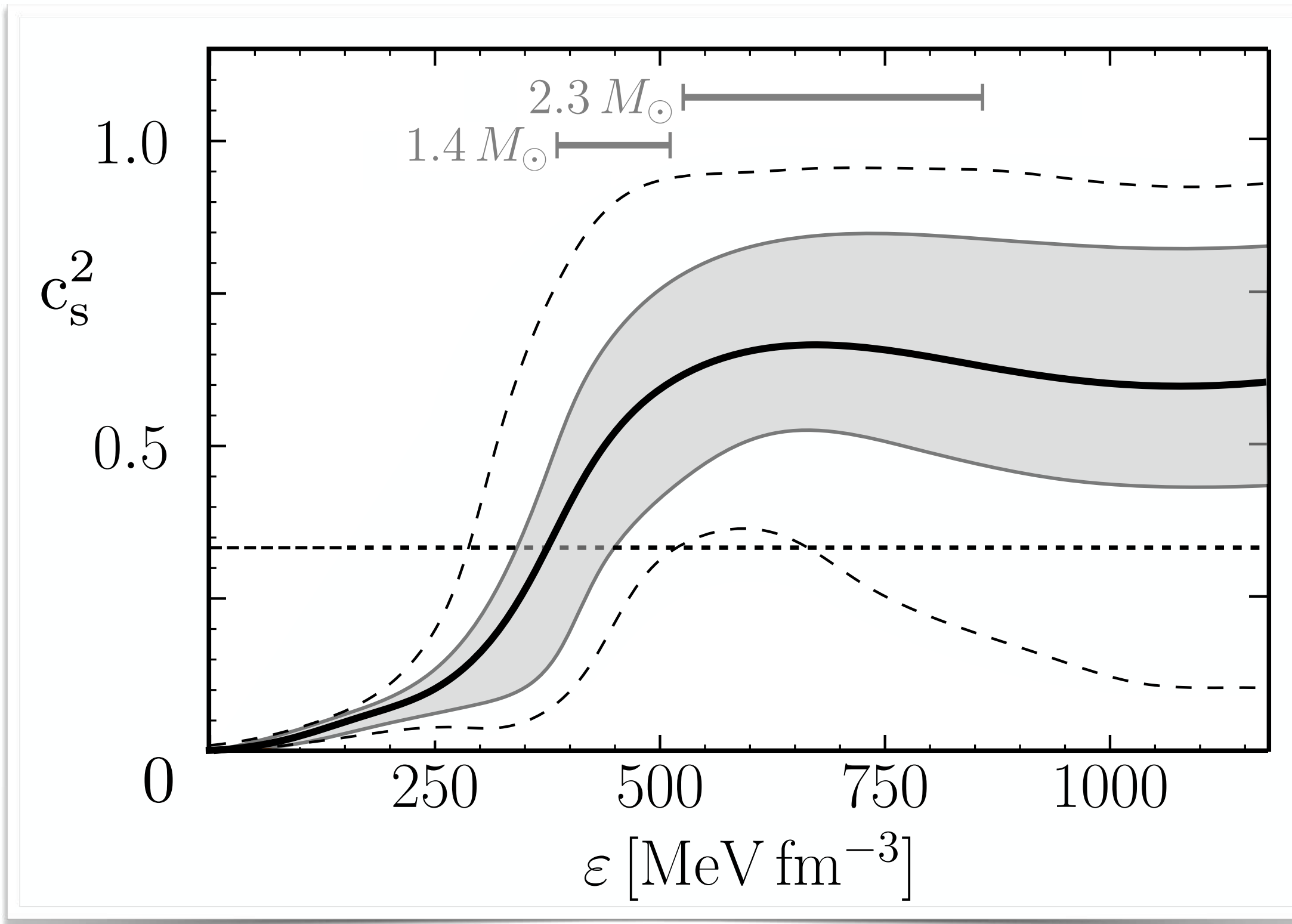
- **Speed of sound** exceeds conformal bound  $c_s = 1/\sqrt{3}$  at baryon densities  $n_B > 2 - 3 n_0$
- **Strongly repulsive correlations** in dense baryonic matter



# Comment : **SPEED of SOUND** exceeding **CONFORMAL BOUND**

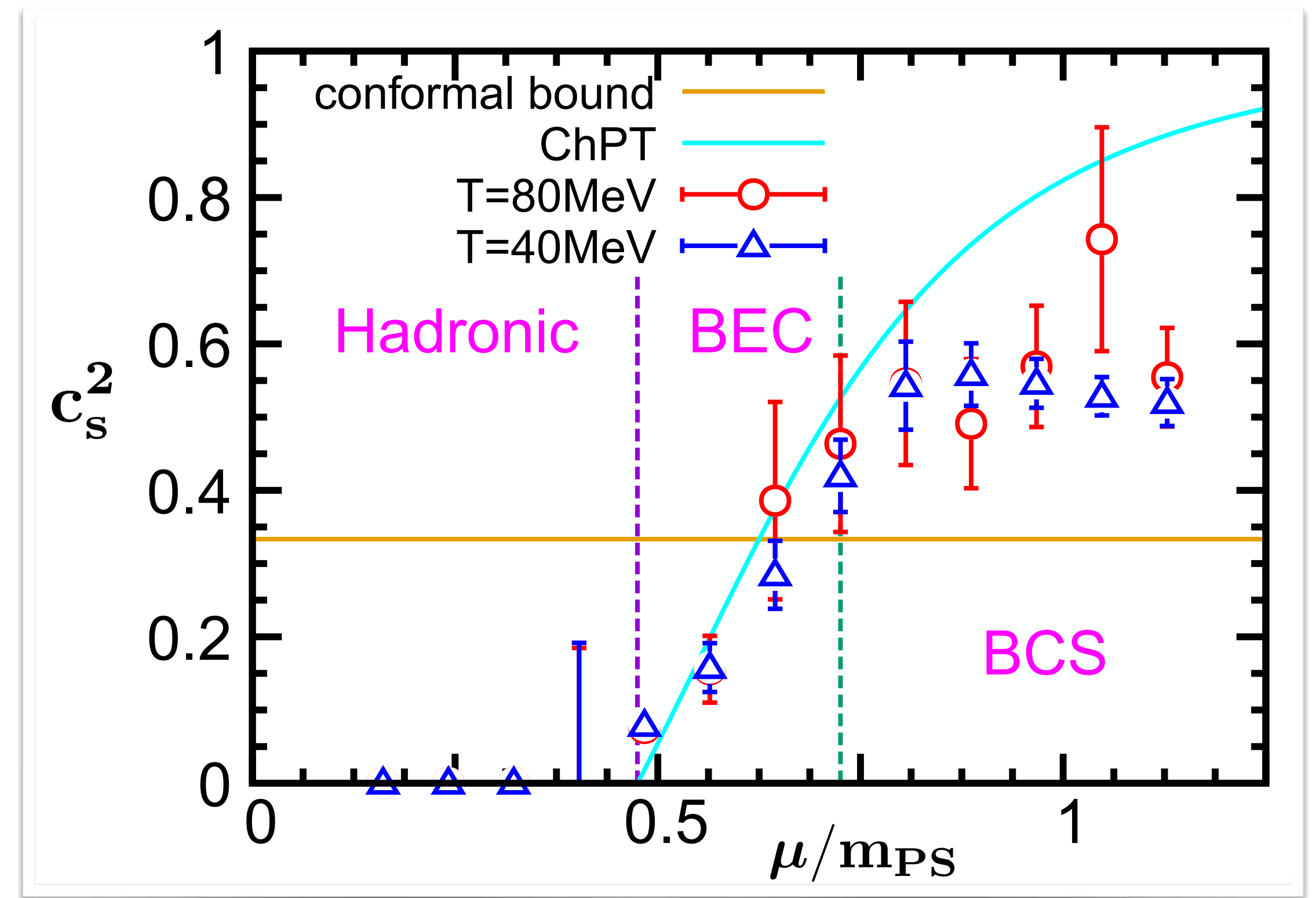
- **Bayesian inference of sound speed in neutron star matter**

L. Brandes, W.W., N. Kaiser : Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 094014

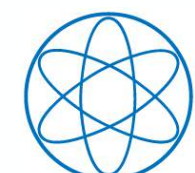


- **Sound speed as function of baryon chemical potential in  $N_c = 2$  LQCD**

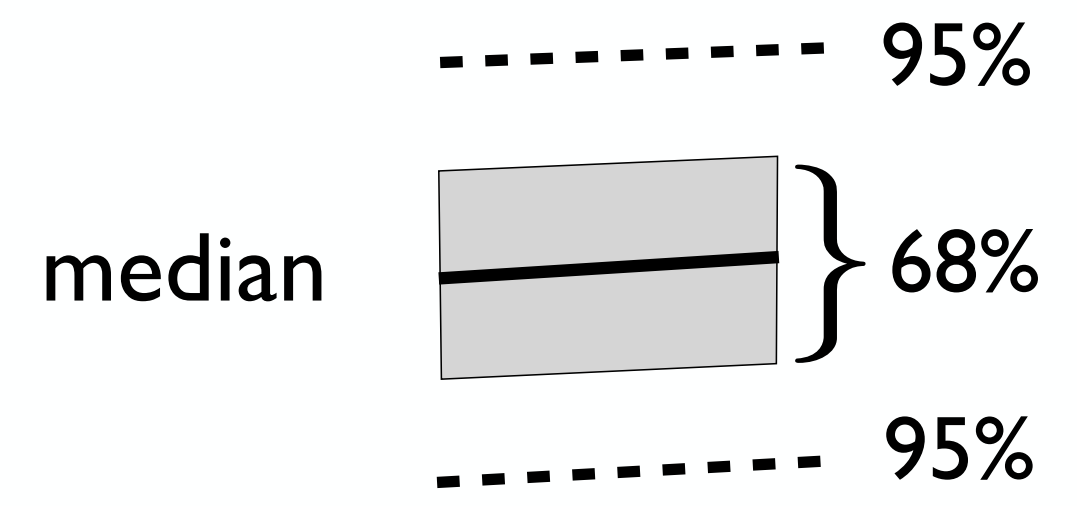
K. Iida, E. Itou, K. Murakami, D. Suenaga : arXiv:2405.20566



- **Speed of sound** exceeds conformal bound  $c_s = 1/\sqrt{3}$  at baryon densities  $n_B > 2 - 3 n_0$

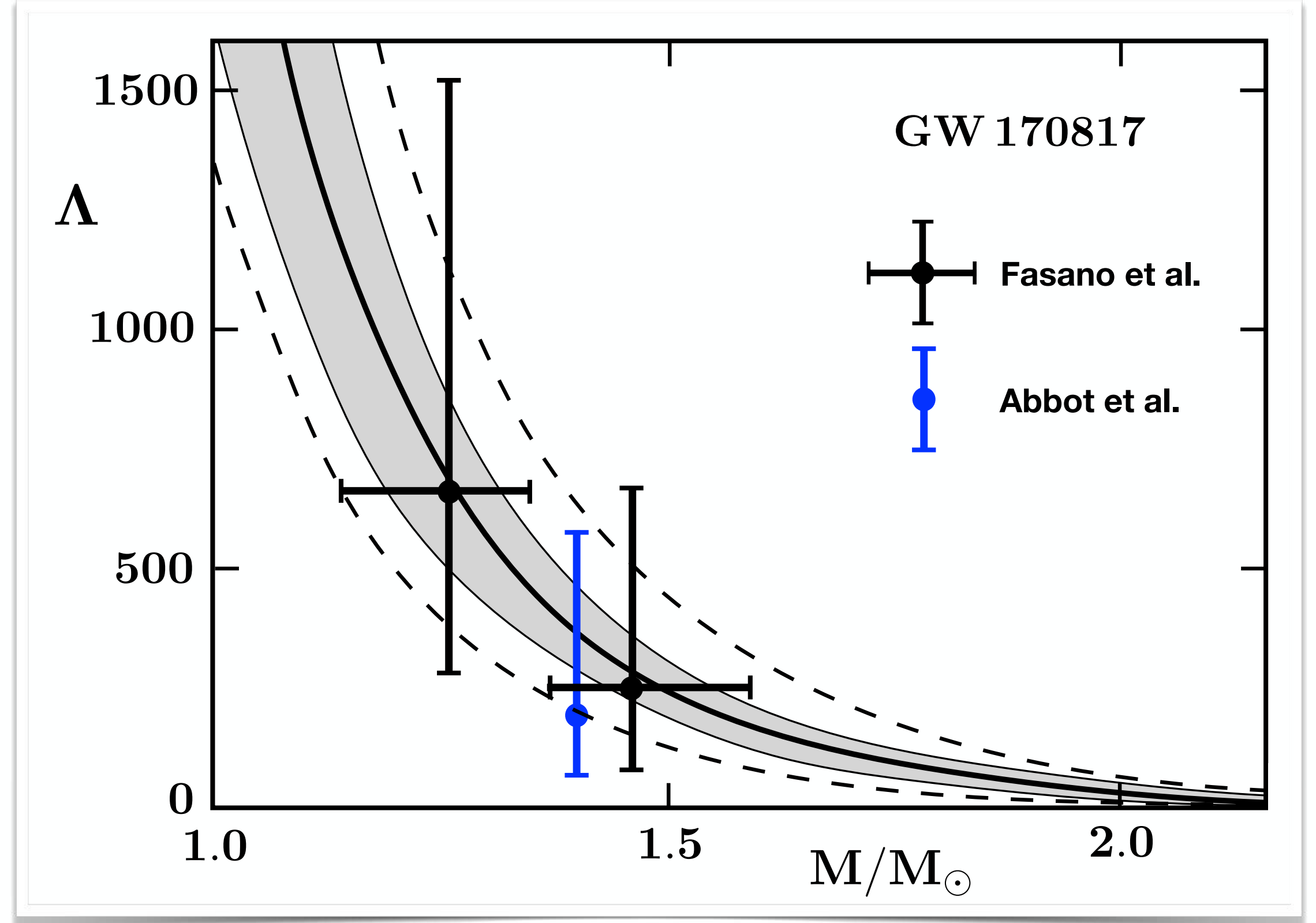
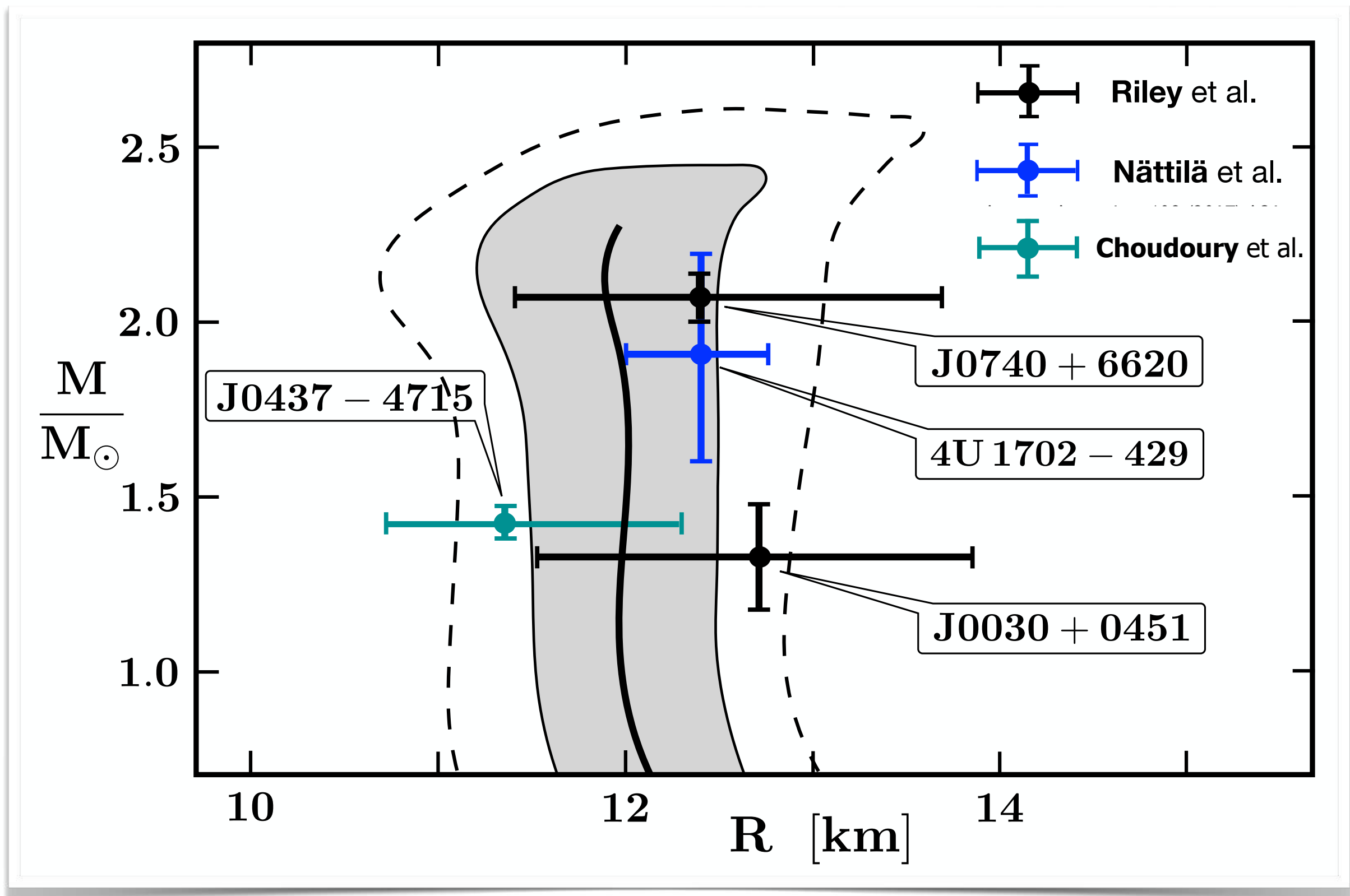


# NEUTRON STAR PROPERTIES

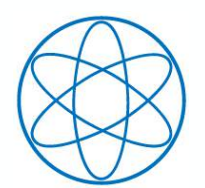


- Bayesian inference posterior bands (68% and 95% c.l.)
- Mass - Radius relation (TOV)

- Tidal deformability



L. Brandes, W. W., N. Kaiser : Phys. Rev. D 107 (2023) 014011 ; Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 094014      L. Brandes, W. W. (2024)



# NEUTRON STAR PROPERTIES (contd.)

- Baryon chemical potential

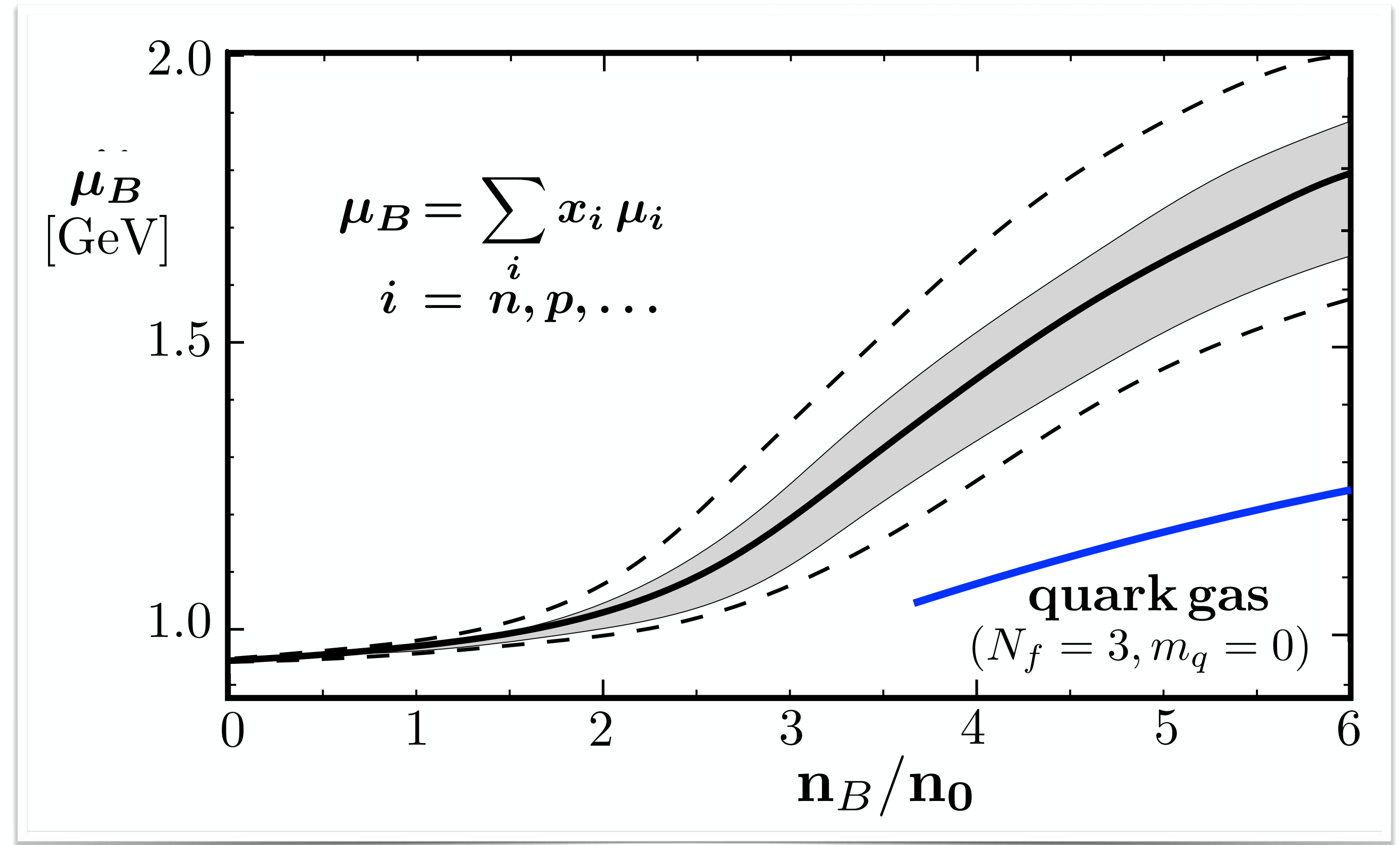
$$\mu_B = \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial n_B}$$

- Stiff equation of state



strongly repulsive  
correlations at work  
between baryons / quarks

- Quark gas ruled out  
at densities  $n_B \sim 4 - 6 n_0$



L. Brandes, W. W., N. Kaiser : Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 094014

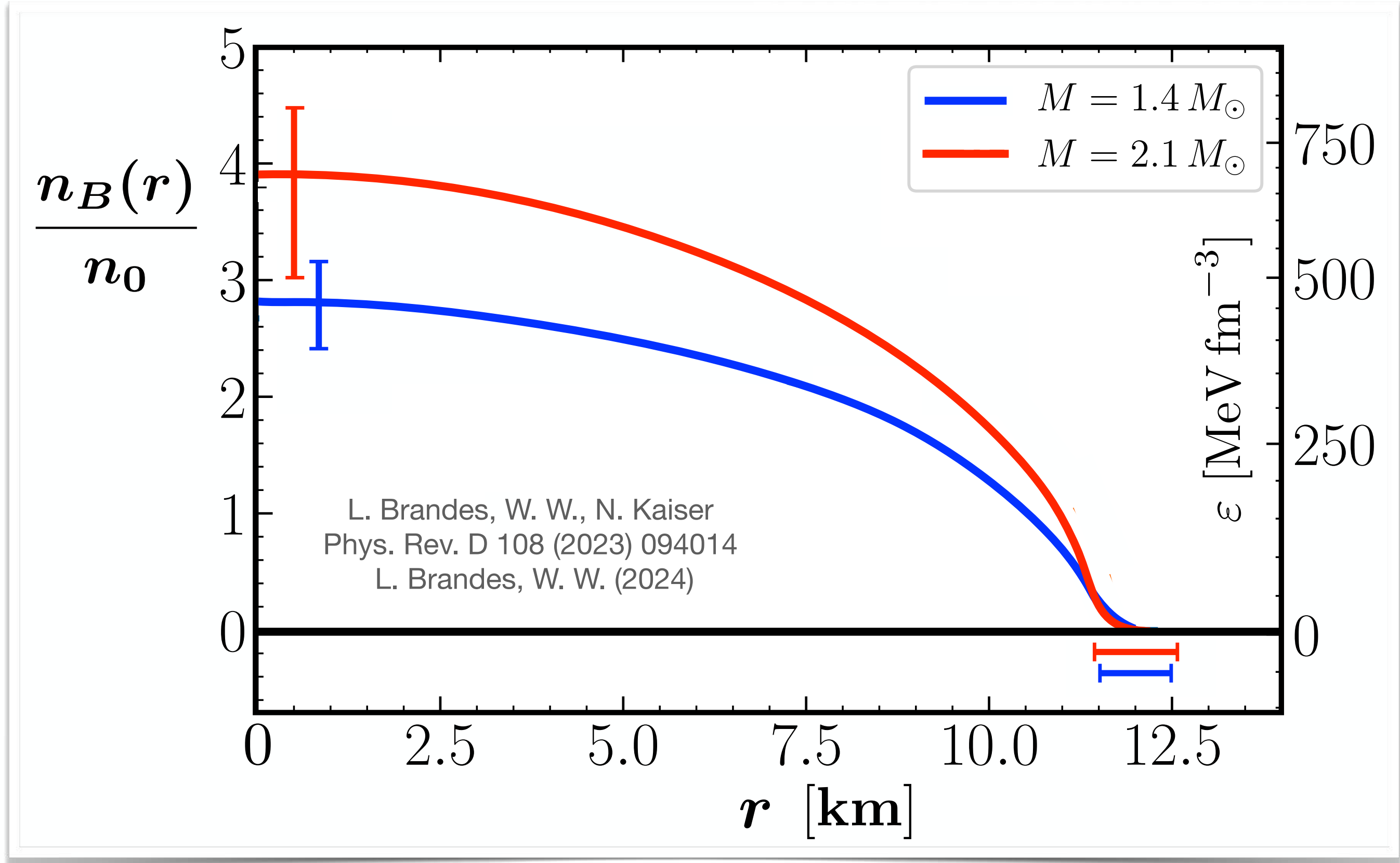




# NEUTRON STAR PROPERTIES (contd.)

- Density profiles of neutron stars using inferred median of  $P(\varepsilon)$

- Central core densities in neutron stars are **NOT** extreme
- Average distance between baryons :  
 $d \gtrsim 1 \text{ fm}$   
 even for the heaviest neutron stars



$$n_c(1.4 M_\odot) = 2.8 \pm 0.4 n_0 \quad n_c(2.1 M_\odot) = 3.9_{-0.9}^{+0.6} n_0 \quad n_c(2.3 M_\odot) = 4.0_{-0.8}^{+0.7} n_0$$

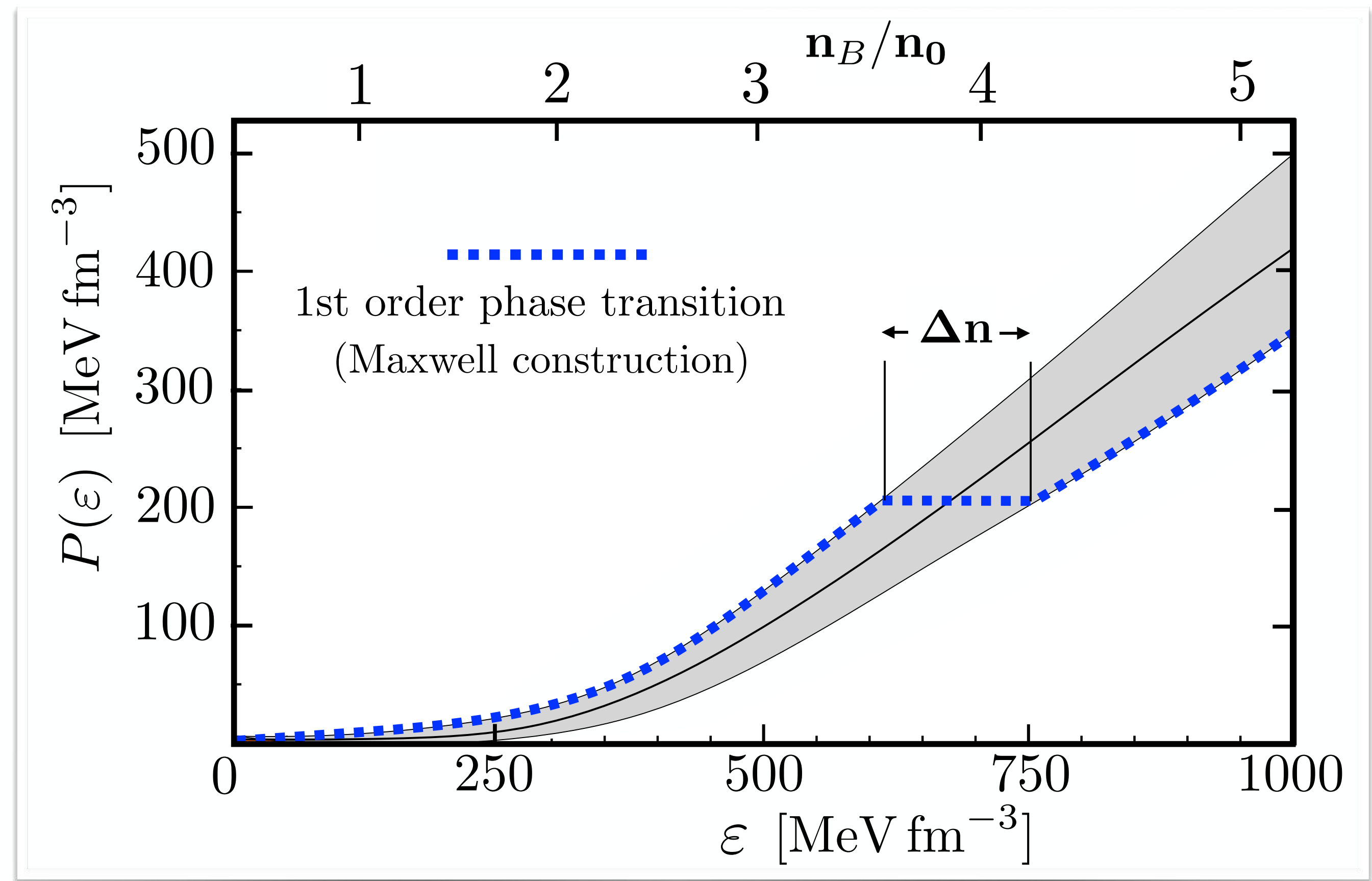
(68% c.l. — including new NICER data and “black widow” PSR J0952-0607)



# Constraints on FIRST-ORDER PHASE TRANSITION in NEUTRON STAR MATTER

- Bayes factor analysis :
  - ➔ Extreme evidence for sound velocities  $c_s > 0.5$  in cores of all neutron stars with  $1.4 \leq M/M_\odot \leq 2.3$

- Evidence against **strong** 1st order phase transition :
  - ➔ Maximum possible extension of phase coexistence domain  $\Delta n/n_B \lesssim 0.2$  (68% c.l.)



L. Brandes, W.W., N. Kaiser : Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 094014 - L. Brandes, W.W.: Symmetry 16 (2024) 111

- ➔ For comparison :  
Maxwell construction for nuclear 1st order liquid-gas phase transition ( $\Delta n/n_B > 1$ )



# Constraints on **FIRST-ORDER PHASE TRANSITION** in **NEUTRON STAR MATTER** (contd.)

- **Bayes factor analysis :**

comparison of likelihoods for or against  
the occurrence of small sound speeds

→ quantifying evidence  
**against low sound velocities**

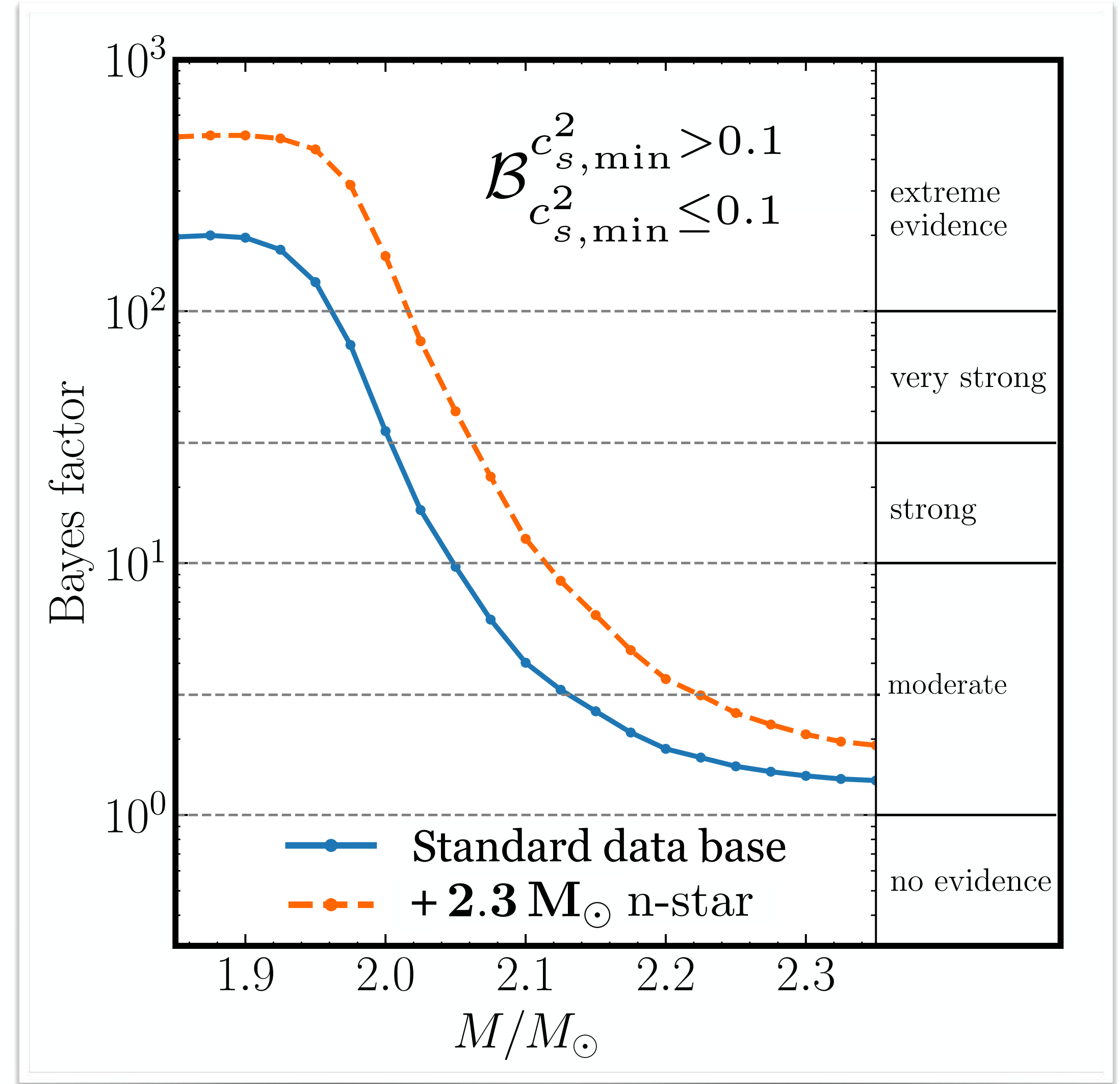
$$c_s^2 < 0.1$$

in neutron stars

→ **extreme evidence against**

$$c_{s,min}^2 \leq 0.1$$

for all neutron stars in the  
mass range  $M \lesssim 2 M_\odot$



# QCD TRACE ANOMALY and CONFORMALITY in NEUTRON STARS

Y. Fujimoto, K. Fukushima, L.D. McLerran, M. Praszalowicz : Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 (2022) 252702

- Trace of energy-momentum tensor :  $T_{\mu}^{\mu} = \Theta = \frac{\beta}{2g} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu} + (1 + \gamma_m) \sum_f m_f \bar{q}_f q_f$
- Finite  $T$  and  $\mu_B$  :

$$\langle \Theta \rangle_{T, \mu_B} = \varepsilon - 3P$$

- Trace anomaly measure

$$\Delta \equiv \frac{\langle \Theta \rangle_{T, \mu_B}}{3\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{P}{\varepsilon}$$

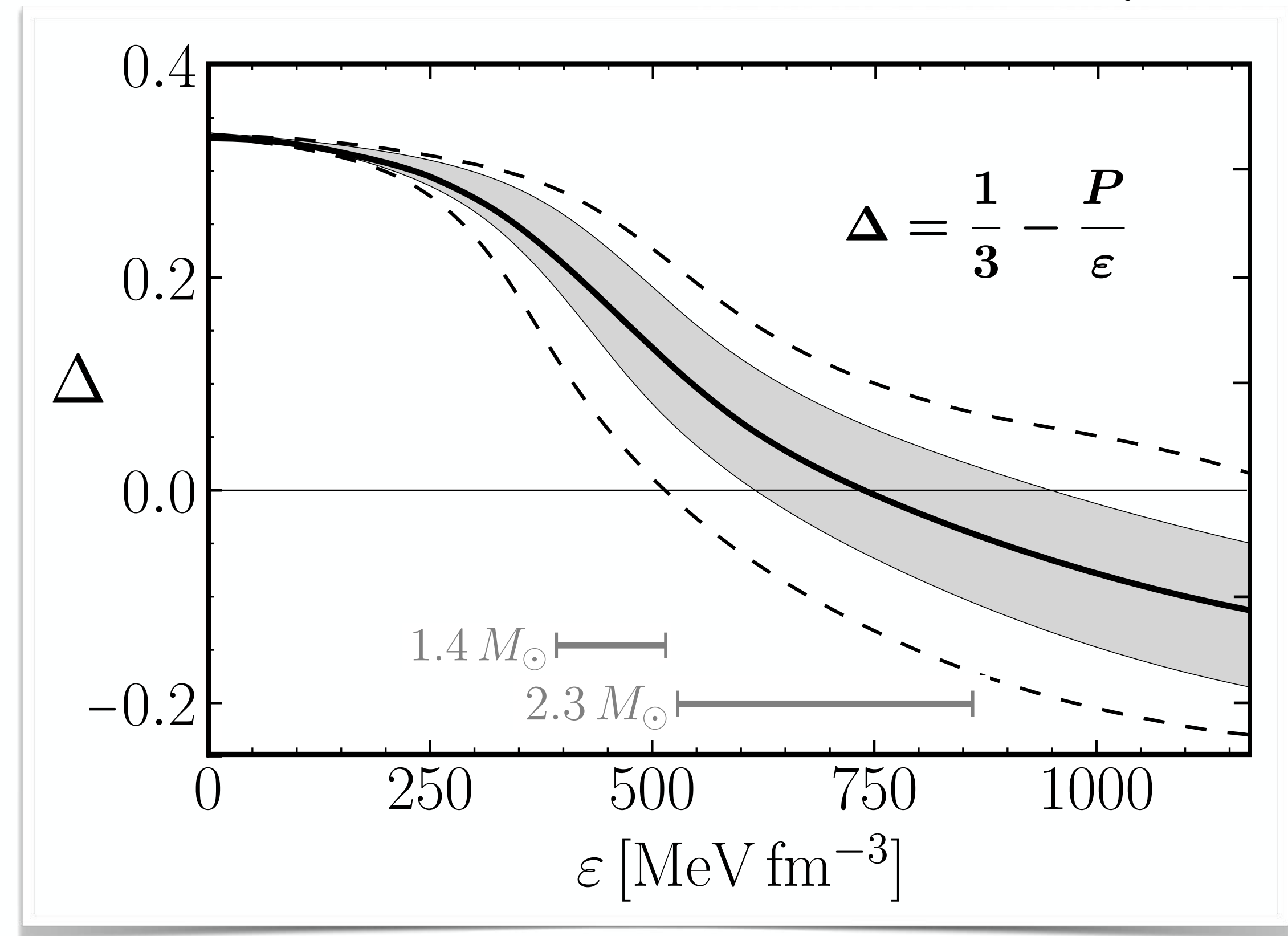
- Conformal limit :  $\Delta \rightarrow 0$

- Bayes factor analysis:

Strong evidence for

$$\Delta < 0 \quad (P > \varepsilon/3)$$

at densities  $n_B \gtrsim 4 n_0$



L. Brandes, W.W., N. Kaiser Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 094014  
L. Brandes, W.W. (2024)



# INTERMEDIATE SUMMARY

## ★ Bayesian inference analysis

including heavy ( $M \simeq 2.3 M_{\odot}$ ) galactic neutron star and NICER news

→ even **stiffer equation of state** required than previously expected

→ almost **constant neutron star radii** ( $R \simeq 12 \pm 1$  km) for all masses

## ★ Extreme evidence for sound velocities $c_s > 1/\sqrt{3}$ in neutron star cores

→ **strongly repulsive correlations** at work

## ★ No extreme central core densities even in the heaviest neutron stars:

$$n_B < 5 n_0 \quad \text{for } M \leq 2.3 M_{\odot} \quad (68\% \text{ c.l.})$$

→ average baryon-baryon distance in the core:  $d \gtrsim 1$  fm

## ★ Evidence against **strong 1st order phase transition** in neutron star cores

→ **not excluded: baryonic matter or hadron-quark continuous crossover**



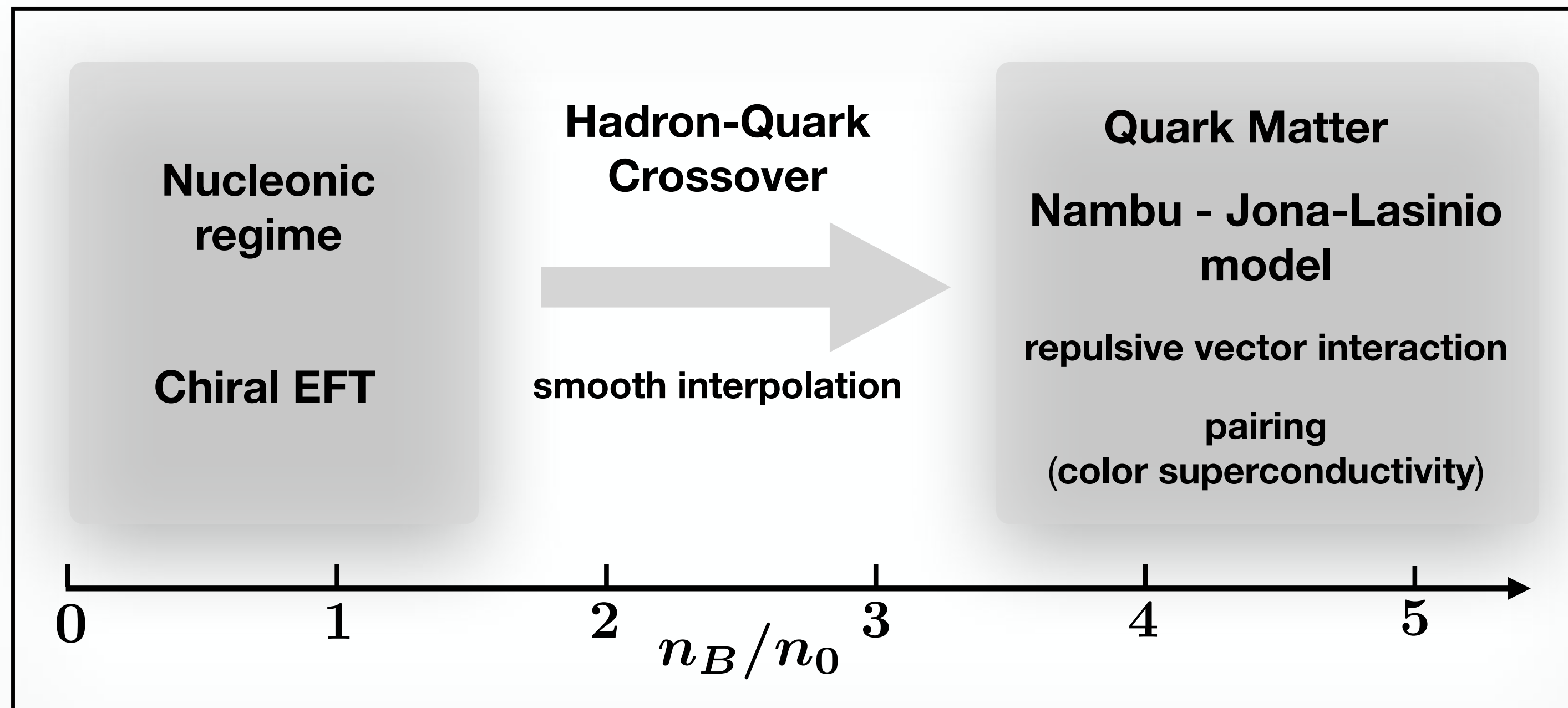
*Part Two*  
*Phenomenology, Models*  
*and*  
*Possible Dense Matter Scenarios*



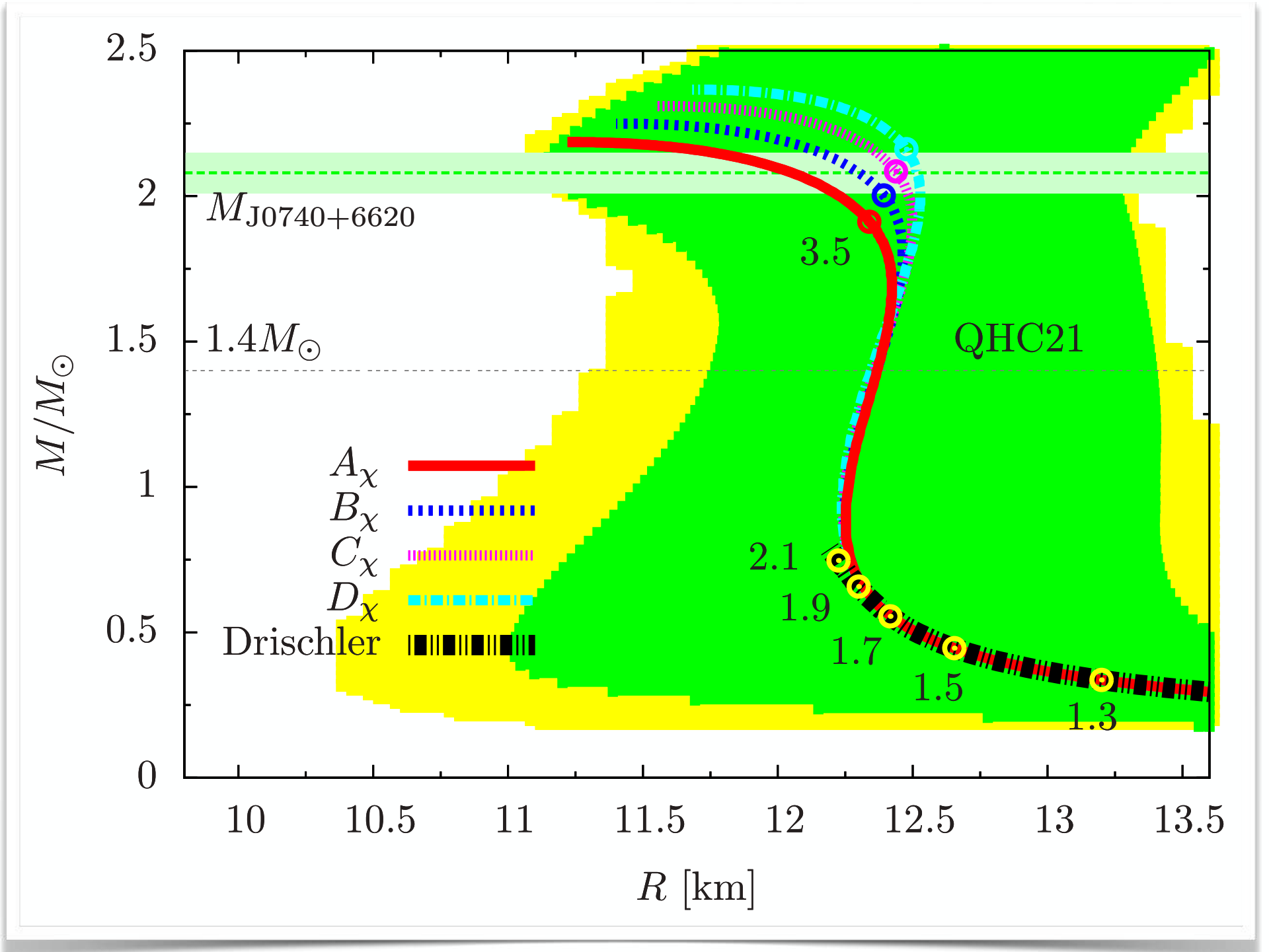
# COLD MATTER at EXTREME DENSITIES

## Hadron - Quark Continuity

- QHC21 Equation-of-State



T. Kojo, G. Baym, T. Hatsuda : *Astroph. J.* 934 (2022) 46



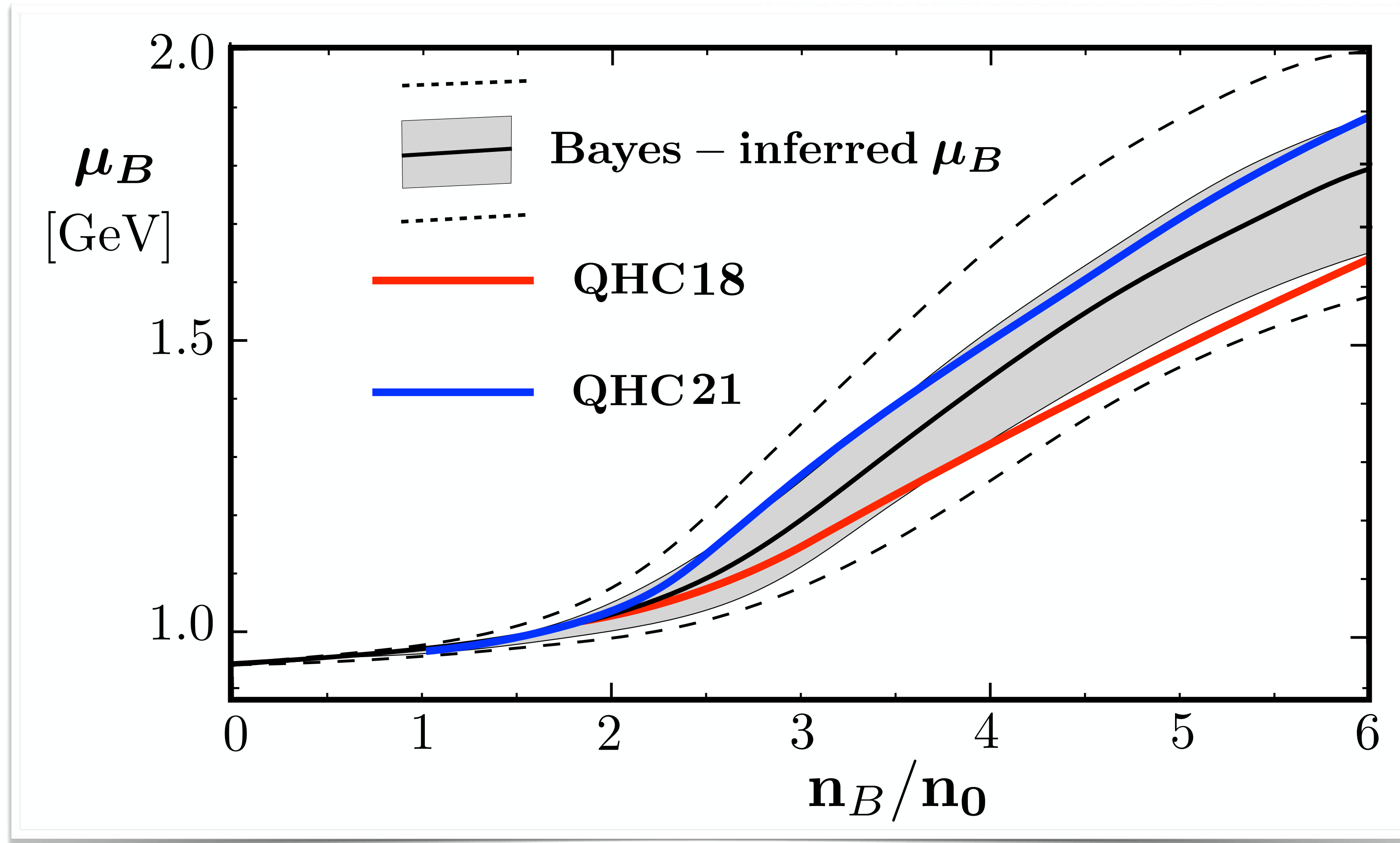
- **NJL model features** : Chiral symmetry restoration      Scalar-pseudoscalar coupling  $G$   
Vector coupling  $g_V/G \simeq 1.0 - 1.3$       Pairing interaction  $H/G \simeq 1.5 - 1.6$
- Intermediate crossover region may involve “quarkyonic” matter

L. McLerran, S. Reddy  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 122 (2019) 122701




# Outlook : How Bayes-inferred baryon chemical potential can help improving EoS models

- Example: QHC equation of state from **QHC18** to **QHC21**



## QHC21

T. Kojo, G. Baym, T. Hatsuda  
Astroph. J. 934 (2022) 46

increasing  repulsion

## QHC18

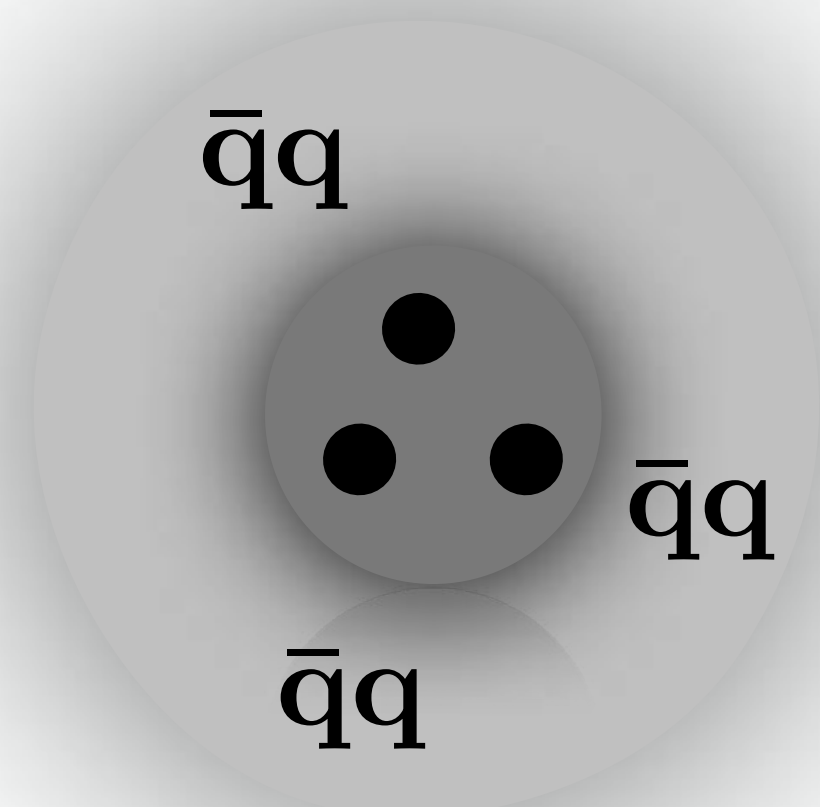
G. Baym, T. Hatsuda, T. Kojo,  
P.D. Powell, Y. Song, T. Takatsuka  
Rept. Prog. Phys. 81 (2018) 056902



# SIZES of the NUCLEON

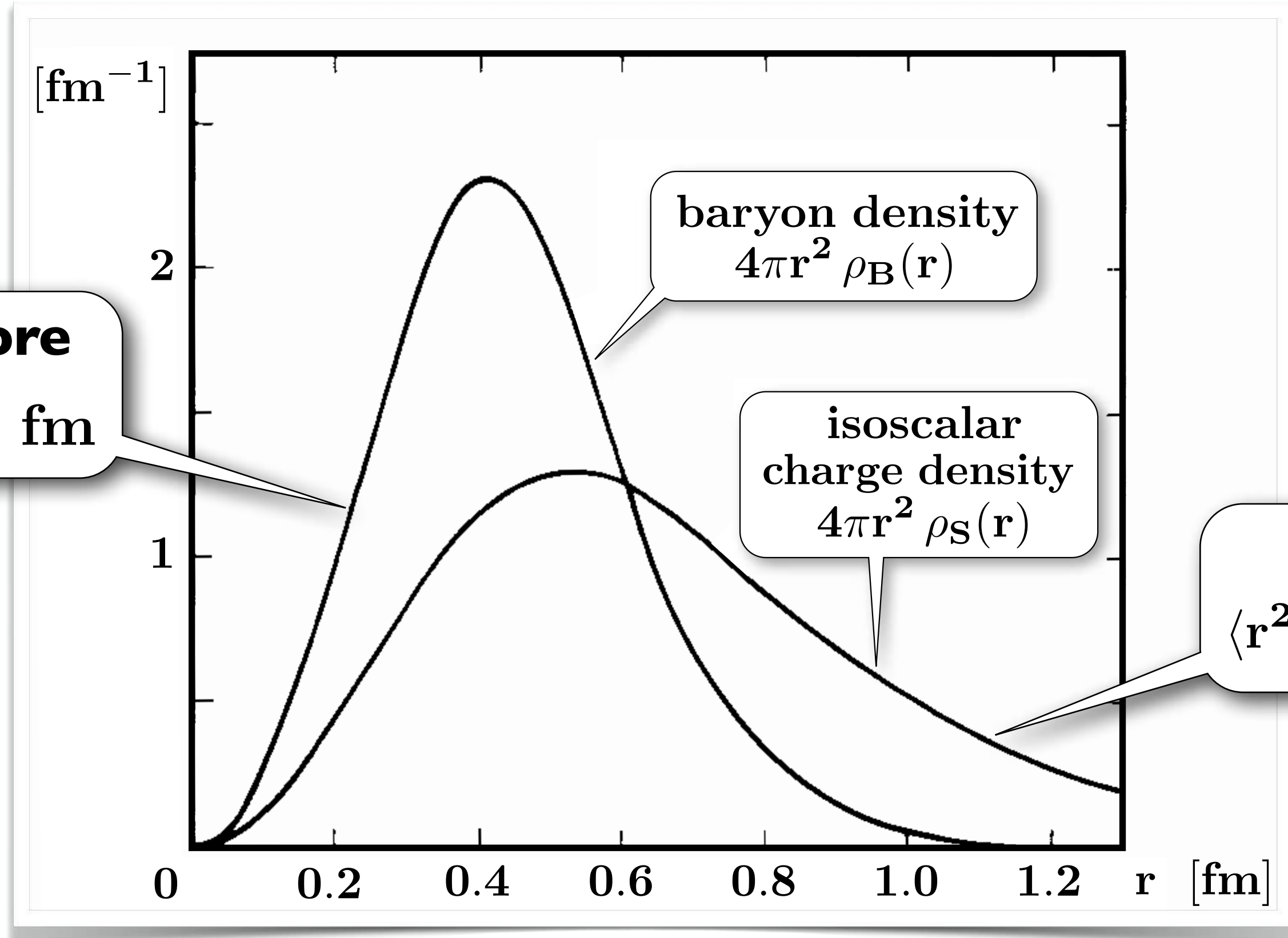
Low-energy QCD: spontaneously broken chiral symmetry + localisation (confinement)

- **NUCLEON** : compact valence quark core + mesonic (multi  $\bar{q}q$ ) cloud
- Historic example: Chiral Soliton Model of the Nucleon



**baryonic core**  
 $\langle r^2 \rangle_B^{1/2} \simeq 0.5 \text{ fm}$

● **Separation of scales**  
 $\left( \frac{R_{cloud}}{R_{core}} \right)^3 \gg 1$

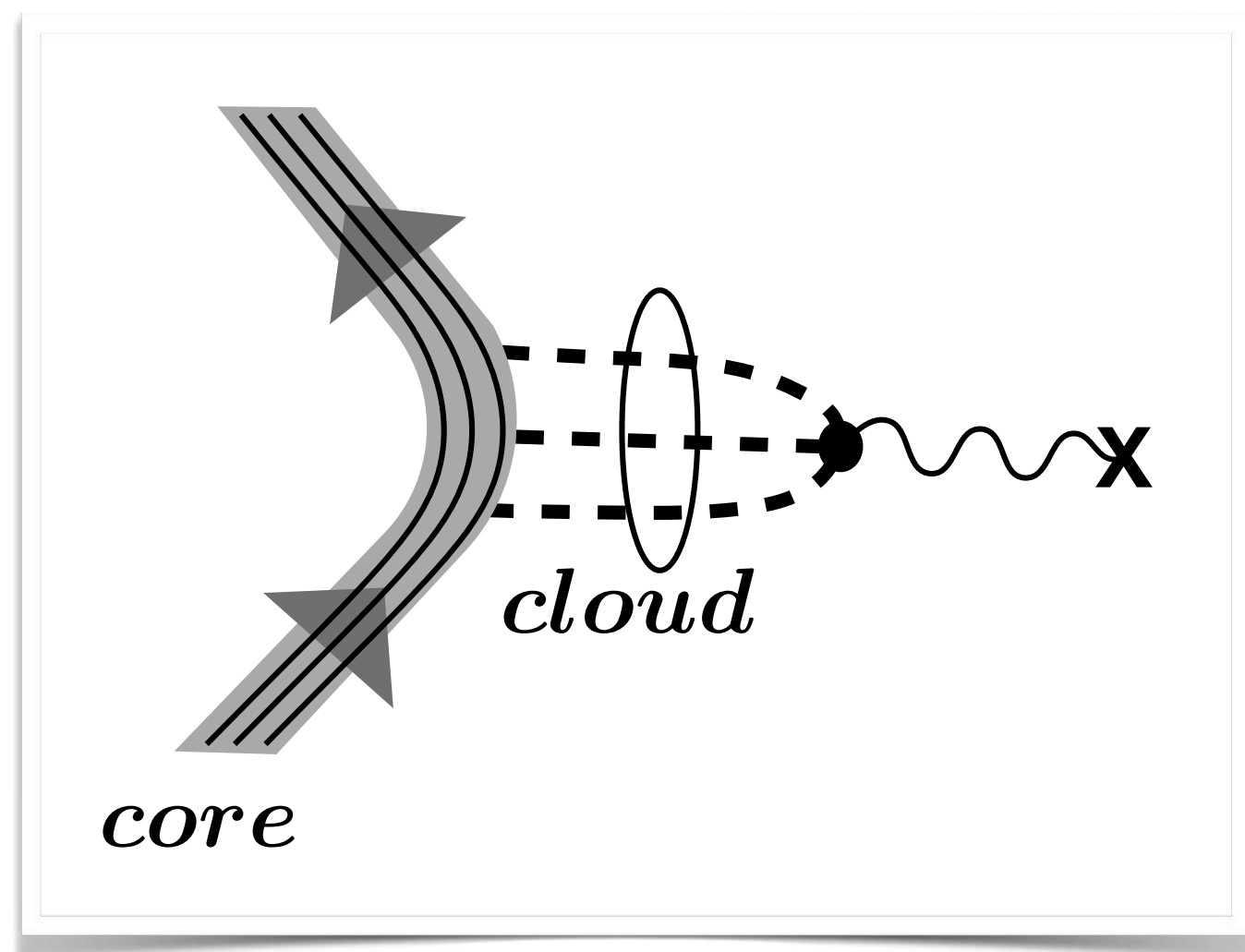


**mesonic cloud**  
 $\langle r^2 \rangle_{E, \text{isoscalar}}^{1/2} \simeq 0.8 \text{ fm}$

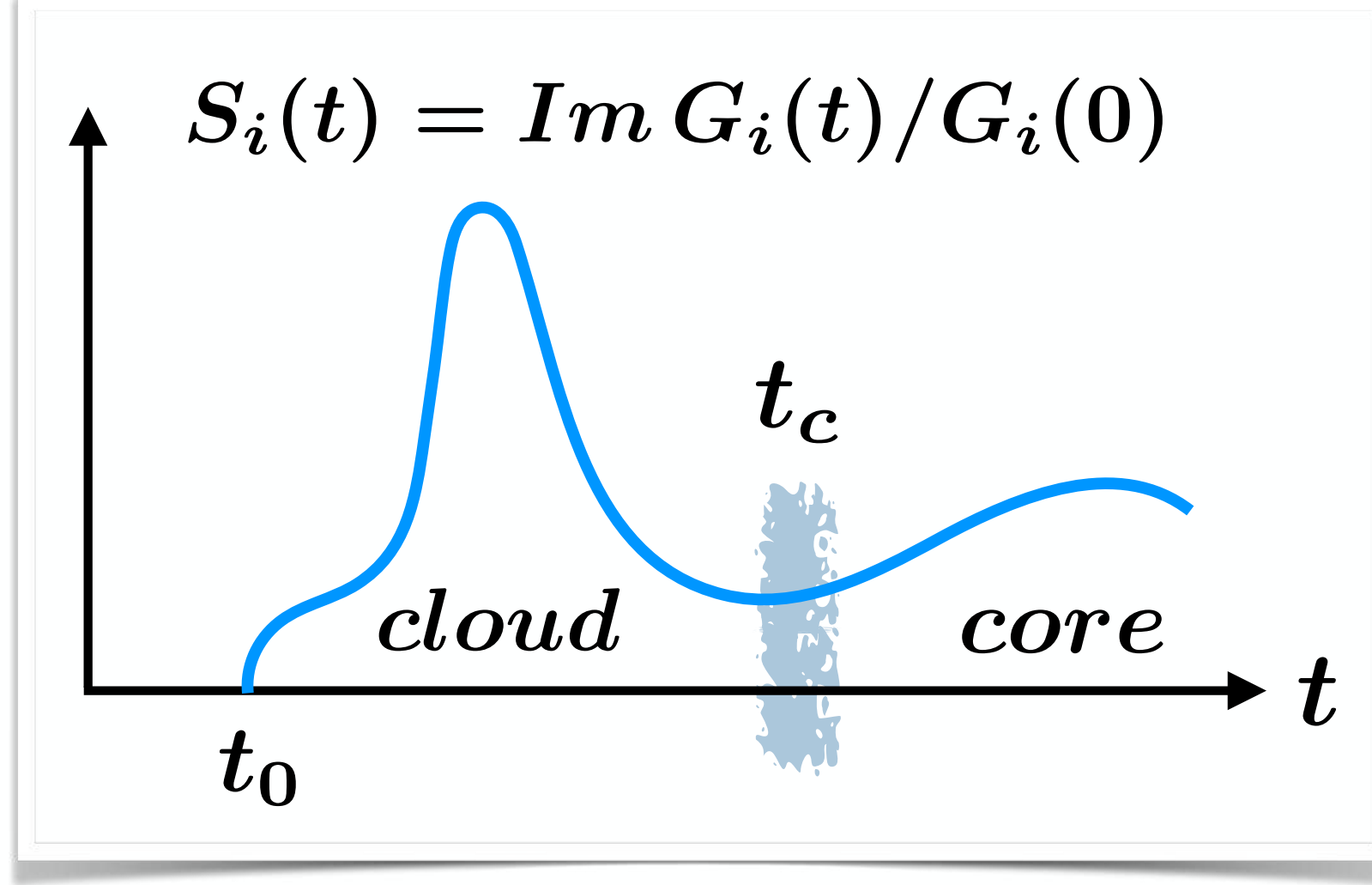
N. Kaiser,  
 U.-G. Meißner,  
 W.W.  
 Nucl. Phys. A466 (1987) 685

# FORM FACTORS of the NUCLEON

$$G_i(q^2) = G_i(0) + \frac{q^2}{\pi} \int_{t_0}^{\infty} dt \frac{\text{Im } G_i(t)}{t(t - q^2 - i\epsilon)} \quad \langle r_i^2 \rangle = \frac{6}{G_i(0)} \left. \frac{dG_i(q^2)}{dq^2} \right|_{q^2=0} = \frac{6}{\pi} \int_{t_0}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{t^2} S_i(t)$$



- Delineation of  
valence quark (  $qqq$  ) **CORE**  
and  
mesonic ( multi  $\bar{q}q$  ) **CLOUD**  
 $t_c \simeq 1 \text{ GeV}^2$



$$\langle r_i^2 \rangle = \langle r_i^2 \rangle_{cloud} + \langle r_i^2 \rangle_{core} = \frac{6}{\pi} \left[ \int_{t_0}^{t_c} \frac{dt}{t^2} S_i(t) + \int_{t_c}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{t^2} S_i(t) \right]$$

- Detailed spectral analysis of accurately determined empirical form factors

# FORM FACTORS of the NUCLEON (contd.)

form factor	$J^\pi$ (cloud)	empirical rms radii
● isoscalar electric	$G_E^S(q^2)$	$1^-$ $\langle r_S^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.78 \pm 0.01$ fm Y.H. Lin, H.-W. Hammer, U.-G. Meißner PRL 128 (2022) 052002
● isovector electric	$G_E^V(q^2)$	$1^-$ $\langle r_V^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.90 \pm 0.01$ fm
● isovector axial	$G_A(q^2)$	$1^+$ $\langle r_A^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.67 \pm 0.01$ fm ( $\langle r_A^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.68 \pm 0.11$ fm) R.J. Hill et al. : Rep. Prog. Phys. 81 (2018) 096301
● mass	$G_m(q^2)$ $= \langle p'   T_\mu^\mu   p \rangle$	$0^+$ $\langle r_m^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.55 \pm 0.03$ fm D. Kharzeev : Phys. Rev. D104 (2021) 054015 $\langle r_m^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.53 \pm 0.04$ fm S.Adhikari et al. : arXiv:2304.03845

## extracted core radii

N. Kaiser, W.W. : Phys. Rev. C110 (2024) 015202

$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} = 0.50 \pm 0.01 \text{ fm}$$

$$\langle r_V^2 \rangle_{core} \simeq 0 (\pm 0.02) \text{ fm}^2 !!$$

$$\langle r_A^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} = 0.53 \pm 0.02 \text{ fm}$$

(0.5 ± 0.2)

$$\langle r_m^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} = 0.48 \pm 0.05 \text{ fm}$$

# TWO-SCALES Picture of the NUCLEON : Implications for DENSE BARYONIC MATTER

$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} \simeq \langle r_A^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} \simeq \langle r_m^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} \equiv R_{core} \simeq \frac{1}{2} \text{ fm}$$

$$R_{core} \sim \frac{1}{2} \text{ fm}$$

$$R_{cloud} \sim 1 \text{ fm}$$



- **Separation of scales**

$$\left( \frac{R_{cloud}}{R_{core}} \right)^3 \gg 1$$

- **Soft mesonic (multi-pion) cloud**

expected to **expand** with increasing baryon density along with

decreasing in-medium pion decay constant  $f_\pi^*(n_B)$

- **Hard baryonic core governed by gluon dynamics**

expected to remain **stable** with increasing baryon density up until

hard compact cores begin to touch and overlap

# TWO-SCALES Scenario for DENSE BARYONIC MATTER

- Baryon densities

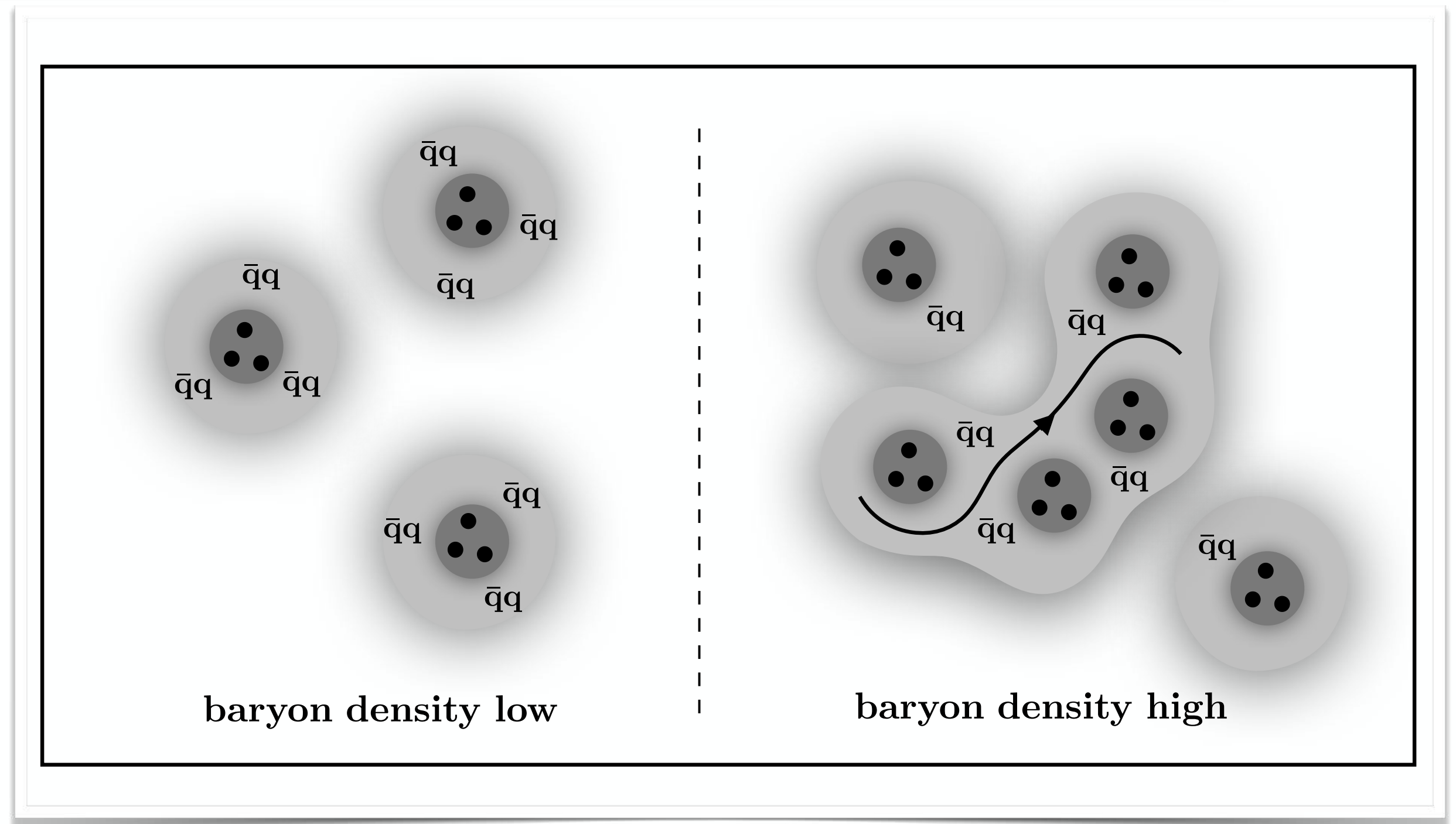
$$n_B \sim n_0 = 0.16 \text{ fm}^{-3}$$

Tails of mesonic clouds overlap :  
two-body exchange forces  
between nucleons

- $n_B \gtrsim 2 - 3 n_0$

Soft  $\bar{q}q$  clouds delocalize :  
**percolation** → many-body forces

baryonic cores still separated, but subject to increasingly strong repulsive Pauli effects



- $n_B > 5 n_0$  (beyond central densities of neutron stars)

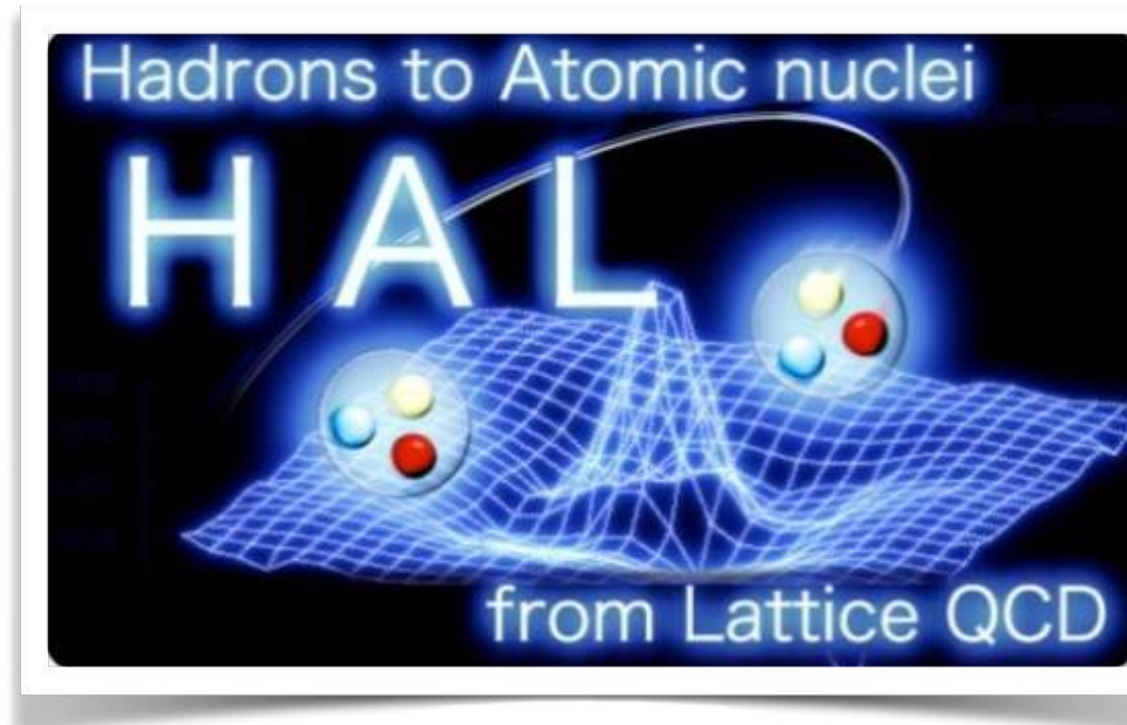
Compact nucleon cores begin to touch and overlap at distances  $d \lesssim 1 \text{ fm}$   
(but still have to overcome the repulsive NN hard core)

K. Fukushima, T. Kojo, W.W.  
Phys. Rev. D 102 (2020) 096017

# NUCLEAR FORCES from LATTICE QCD

## NN Central Potential ( $S = 0, l = 1$ )

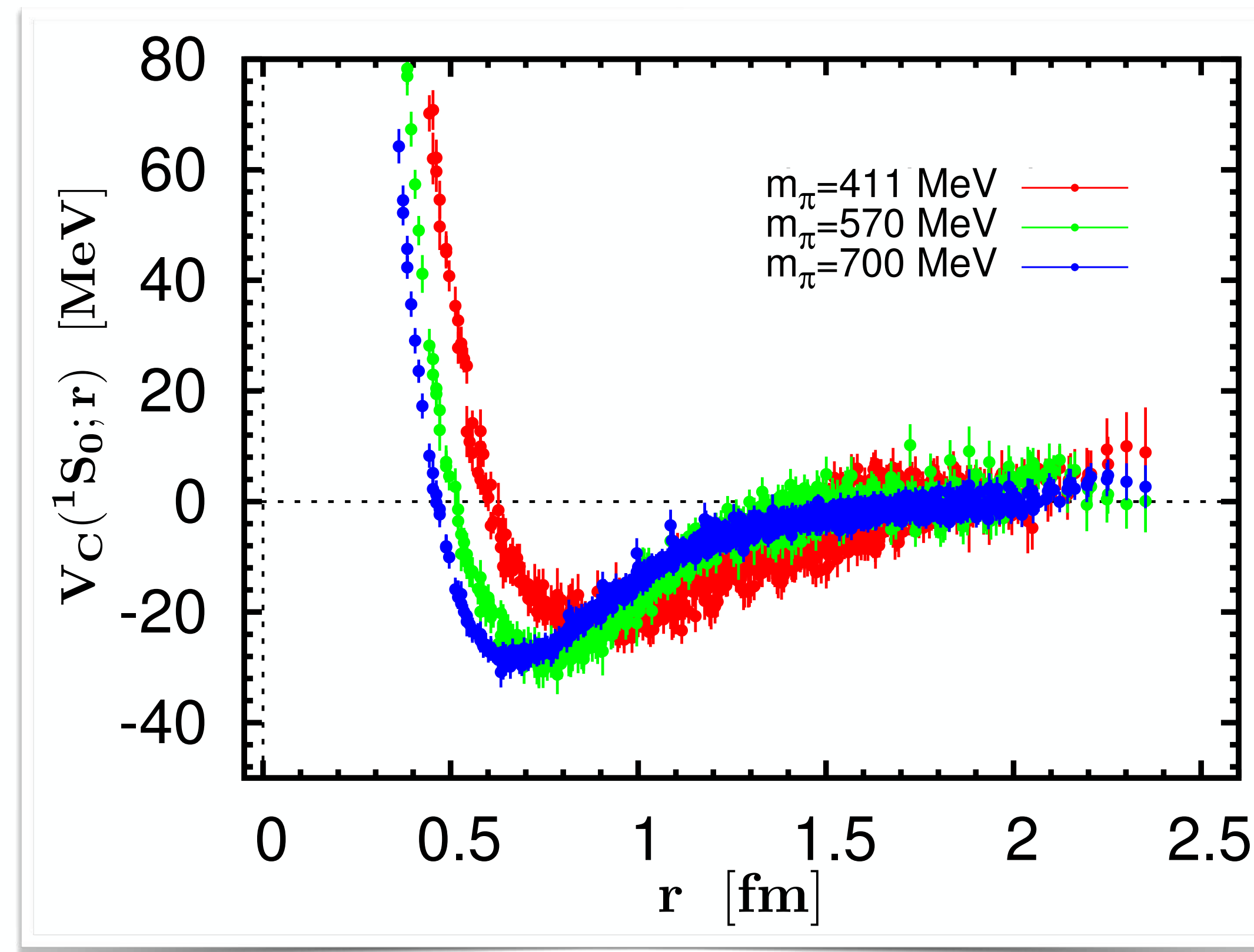
deduced from LQCD two-nucleon (6-quark) correlation function



S.Aoki, T. Hatsuda, N. Ishii  
Prog. Theor. Phys. 123 (2010) 89

S.Aoki  
Eur. Phys. J. A49 (2013) 81

S.Aoki, T. Doi  
arXiv:2402.11759



Nuclear Physics  
Phenomenology:

Short-Range  
Repulsive Core

- **Compression of baryonic matter is energetically expensive**

# CHIRAL PHASE TRANSITION in DENSE BARYONIC MATTER ?

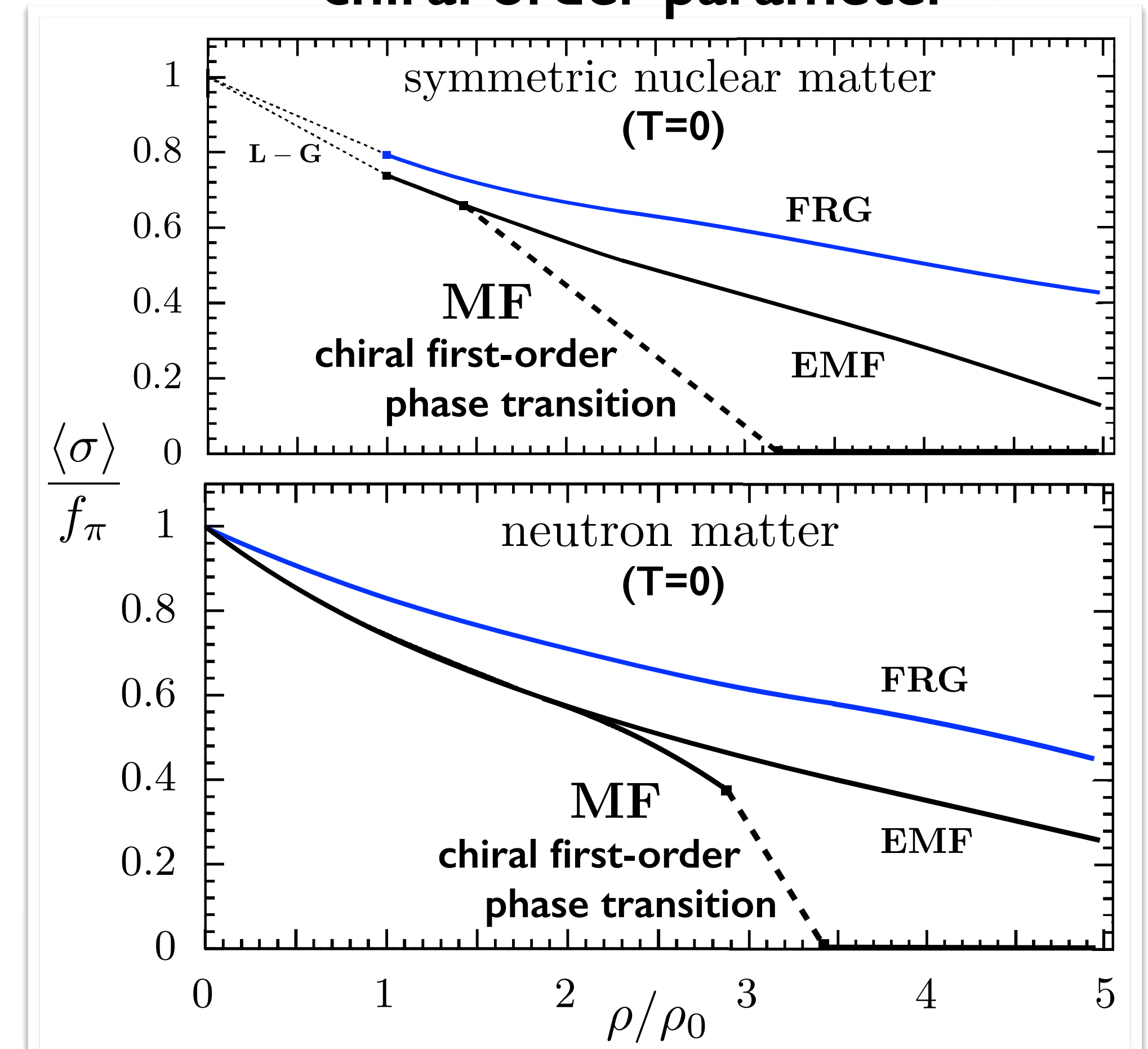
## ★ Studies in chiral nucleon-meson field theory

M. Drews, W.W.: Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 93 (2017) 69 — L. Brandes, N. Kaiser, W.W.: Eur. Phys. J. A57 (2021) 243

- **Mean-field approximation (MF)** :  
**chiral first-order phase transition**  
at baryon densities  $n_B \sim 2 - 3 n_0$
- **Vacuum fluctuations (EMF)** :  
shift **chiral transition** to **high density**  
→ **smooth crossover**
- **Functional Renormalisation Group (FRG)** :  
**non-perturbative loop corrections**  
involving **pions** & **nucleon-hole** excitations  
→ further reinforcement of stabilising effects

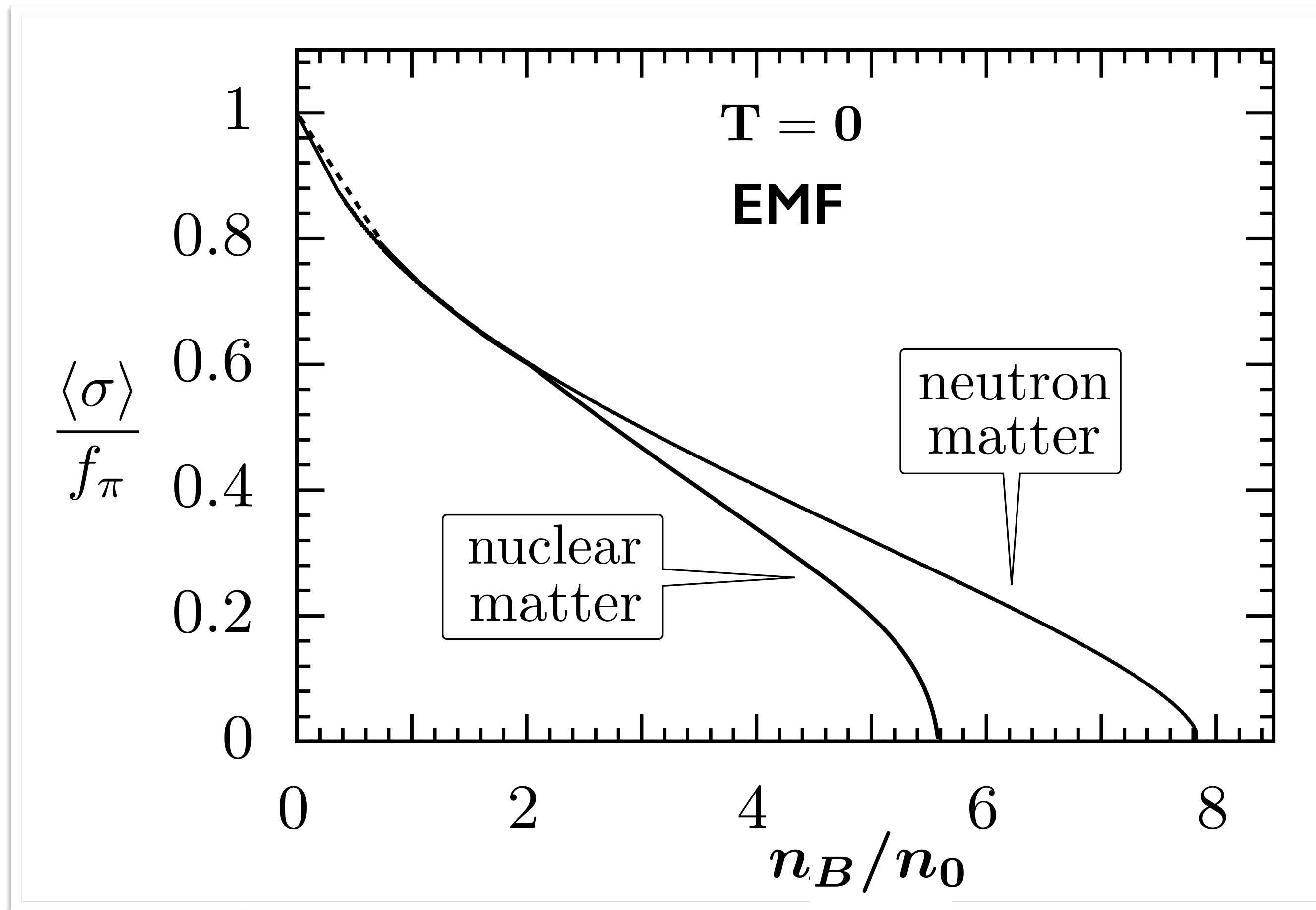
Chiral crossover transition at  $n_B > 6 n_0$   
beyond core densities in neutron stars

## chiral order parameter



# CHIRAL LIMIT ( $m_\pi \rightarrow 0$ )

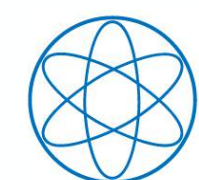
## 2nd order chiral phase transition in nuclear and neutron matter



L. Brandes, N.. Kaiser, W.W.: Eur. Phys. J. A57 (2021) 243

- Chiral Nucleon-Meson Field Theory
- EMF calculations :  
Extended Mean-Field including logarithmic vacuum fluctuations
- Critical densities (chiral limit)  
$$n_B^{cr} > 5 n_0$$
- Alternative approach:  
**Parity-doublet model**  
 $\{N(1/2^+) - N^*(1/2^-)\}$   
Critical densities  $n_B^{cr} > 10 n_0$

J. Eser, J.-P. Blaizot : Phys. Rev. C109 (2024) 045201  
arXiv:2408.01302



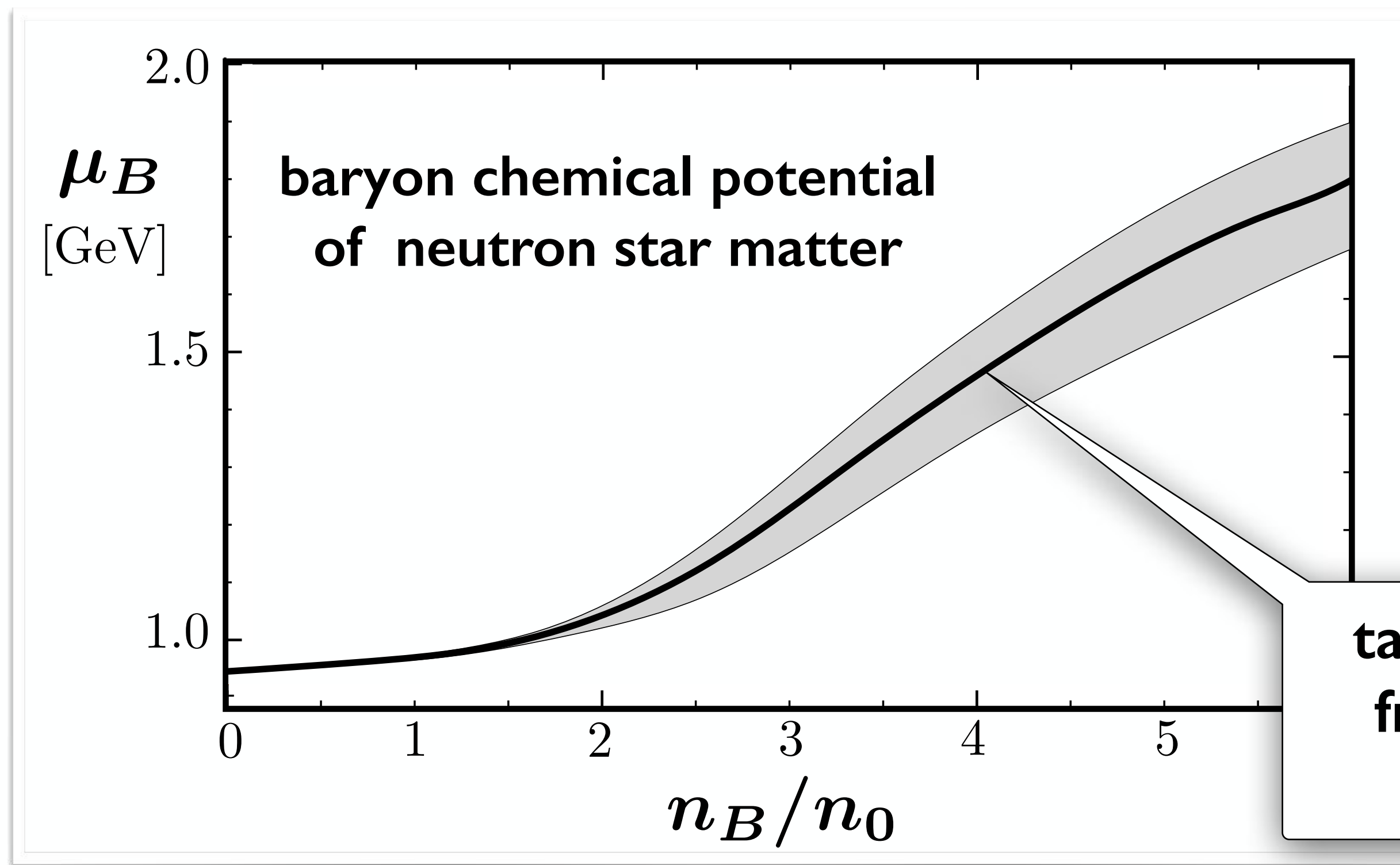


# DENSE BARYONIC MATTER in NEUTRON STARS as a RELATIVISTIC FERMI LIQUID

B. Friman, W.W. : Rhys. Rev. C100 (2019) 065807

L. Brandes, W.W. : Symmetry 16 (2024) 111

- **Neutron Star Matter : Fermi liquid** / dominantly neutrons + ca. 5 % protons
- **Baryonic Quasiparticles :**  
baryons “dressed” by their strong interactions and imbedded in mesonic (multi-pion) field



- **Landau effective mass**

$$m_L^*(n_B) = \sqrt{p_F^2 + M_N^2(n_B)}$$

- **Baryon chemical potential**

$$\mu_B = m_L^*(n_B) + \mathcal{U}(n_B)$$

take median of  $\mu_B(n_B)$   
from Bayesian-inferred  
neutron star EoS

quasiparticle  
potential

# Basics of (Relativistic) Fermi-Liquid Theory

G. Baym, S.A. Chin : Nucl. Phys. A262 (1976) 527

T. Matsui : Nucl. Phys. A370 (1981) 365

- **Variation of the energy** ( $T = 0$ )

$$\delta E = V \delta \mathcal{E} = \sum_p \varepsilon_p \delta n_p + \frac{1}{2V} \sum_{pp'} \mathcal{F}_{pp'} \delta n_p \delta n_{p'} + \dots \quad n_p = \Theta(\mu - \varepsilon_p)$$

**quasiparticle energy**

$$\varepsilon_p = \frac{\delta E}{\delta n_p}$$

**quasiparticle interaction**

$$\mathcal{F}_{pp'} = V \frac{\delta^2 E}{\delta n_p \delta n_{p'}} = f_{pp'} + g_{pp'} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}'$$

- **Landau effective mass**

$$m^* = \sqrt{p_F^2 + M^2(\rho)}$$

- **Density of states at the Fermi surface**

$$N(0) = \frac{m^* p_F}{\pi^2}$$

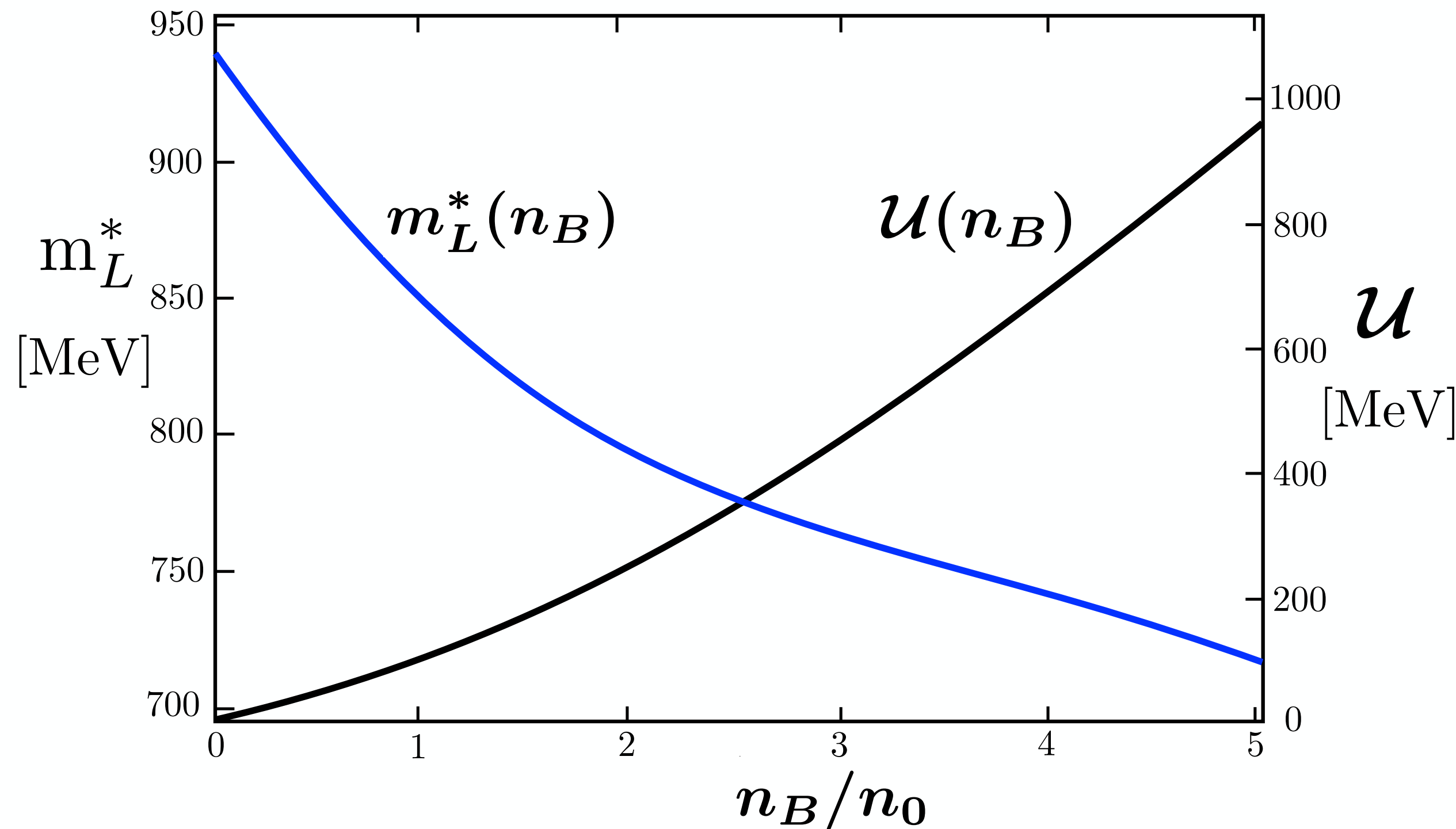
- **Landau parameters** Quasiparticle interaction expanded in Legendre series

$$f_{pp'} = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} f_{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta_{pp'}) \quad F_{\ell} = N(0) f_{\ell}$$

# QUASIPARTICLE POTENTIAL and FERMI-LIQUID PARAMETERS

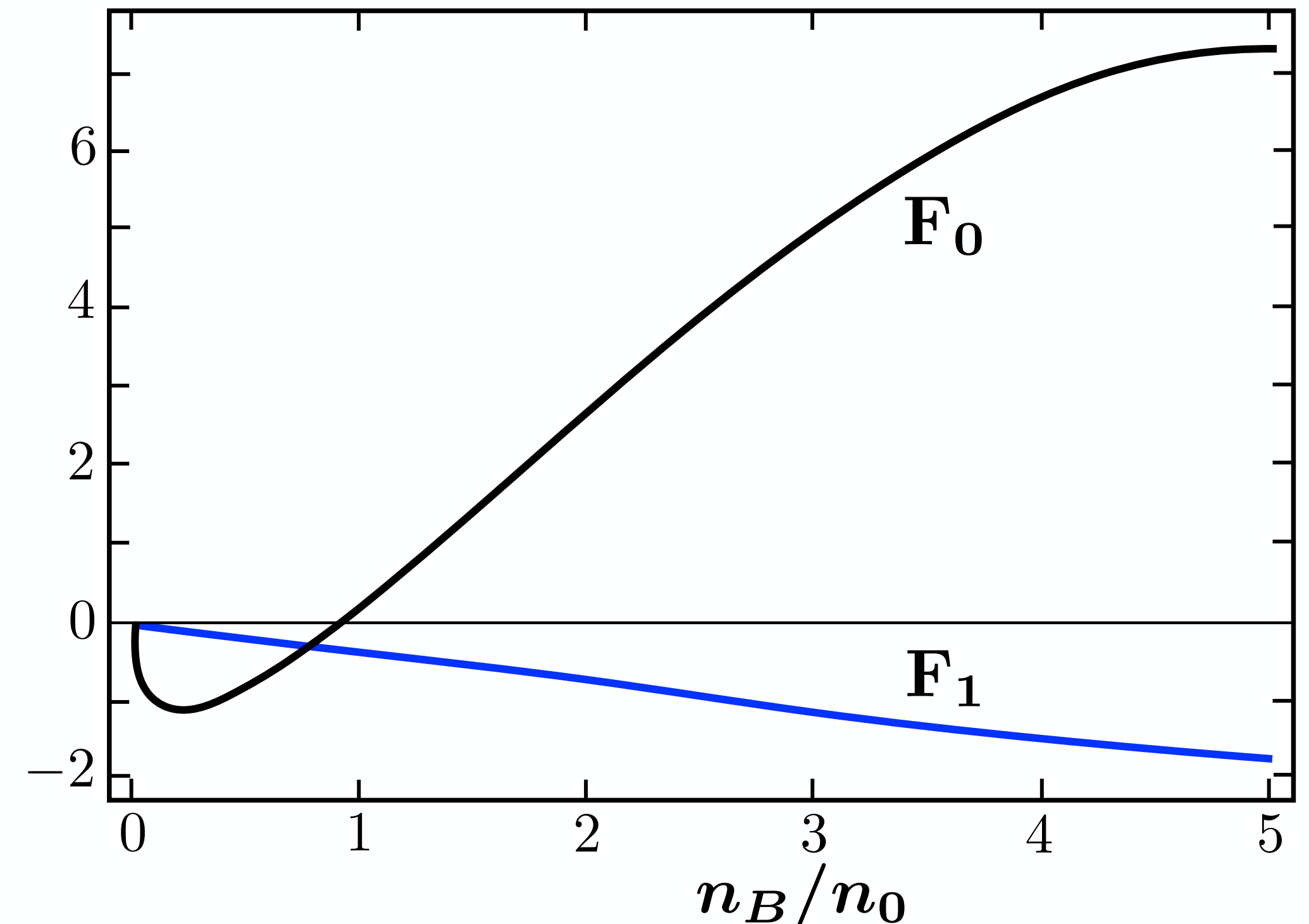
- $m_L^*(n_B)$  from **chiral nucleon-meson field theory & Functional Renormalisation Group**
- **Quasiparticle effective potential**

$$\mathcal{U}(n_B) = \sum_n u_n \left( \frac{n_B}{n_0} \right)^n$$



- **Landau Fermi-Liquid parameters**

$$F_0 = \frac{m_L^* p_F}{\pi^2} \frac{\partial \mu_B}{\partial n_B} - 1 \quad F_1 = -\frac{3\mathcal{U}}{\mu_B}$$



➔ **Strongly repulsive correlations including many-body forces with  $n \geq 2$**

## LANDAU FERMIL LIQUID PARAMETERS (contd.)

- Comparison with atomic liquid helium-3 in its normal phase at low temperature (3 K)

G. Baym, Ch. Pethick : Landau Fermi-Liquid Theory (1991)

- Interaction between He-3 atoms:  
**attractive van der Waals potential** plus strongly **repulsive short-range core**

- Landau Fermi Liquid parameters of liquid helium-3 at pressures  $P = (0 - 30)$  bar:

$$F_0(^3\text{He}) \sim 10 - 70 \qquad F_1(^3\text{He}) \sim 5 - 13$$

D. S. Greywall, Phys. Rev. B33 (1986) 7520

... much larger by magnitude than Landau parameters of neutron star matter !

- Neutron star matter at central densities is a **strongly correlated Fermi system**  
... but not as extreme as one might have thought !



# CONCLUSIONS

- ★ **Constraints on phase transitions in neutron star matter**
  - ➔ **stiff equation of state** implied by Bayesian inference results
  - ➔ **strong first-order transition** unlikely in neutron star cores
  - ➔ **central baryon densities** in neutron stars :  $n_c < 5 n_0$  (68% c.l.)
- ★ **Scenarios for cold dense matter in the core of neutron stars**
  - ➔ **hadron-quark** continuity with “core + cloud” baryons :  
**two-scales** scenario: soft-surface delocalisation (percolation)  
followed by hard-core deconfinement at densities around  $n_c$
  - ➔ neutron-dominated **baryonic** matter :  
e.g. relativistic **Fermi liquid** featuring strongly repulsive  
**many-body forces** between **baryonic quasiparticles**



*Supplementary  
Materials*

# Example I: ISOSCALAR ELECTRIC FORM FACTOR of the NUCLEON

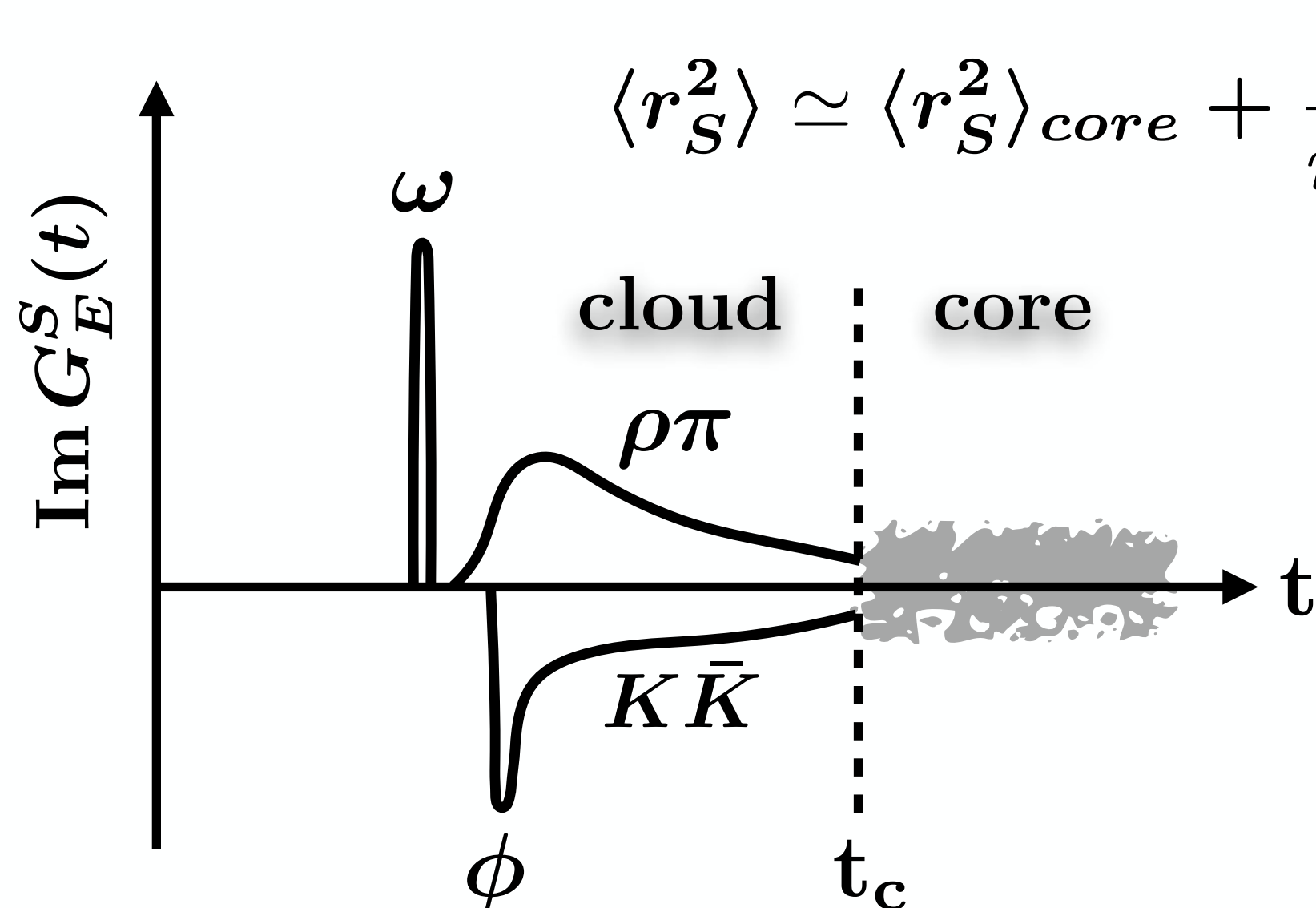
- Isoscalar electric form factor  $G_E^S(q^2) = \frac{1}{2} [G_E^p(q^2) + G_E^n(q^2)]$      $\langle r_S^2 \rangle = \langle r_p^2 \rangle + \langle r_n^2 \rangle$

Empirical :  $\langle r_p^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.840 \pm 0.004 \text{ fm}$      $\langle r_S^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.775 \pm 0.011 \text{ fm}$   
 $\langle r_n^2 \rangle = -0.105 \pm 0.006 \text{ fm}^2$

Y.H. Lin,  
H.-W. Hammer,  
U.-G. Meißner  
PRL 128 (2022) 052002

... based on precision fits to form factors at both spacelike and timelike  $q^2$

- Simplest Vector Dominance Model: “cloud” dominated by  $\omega$  meson



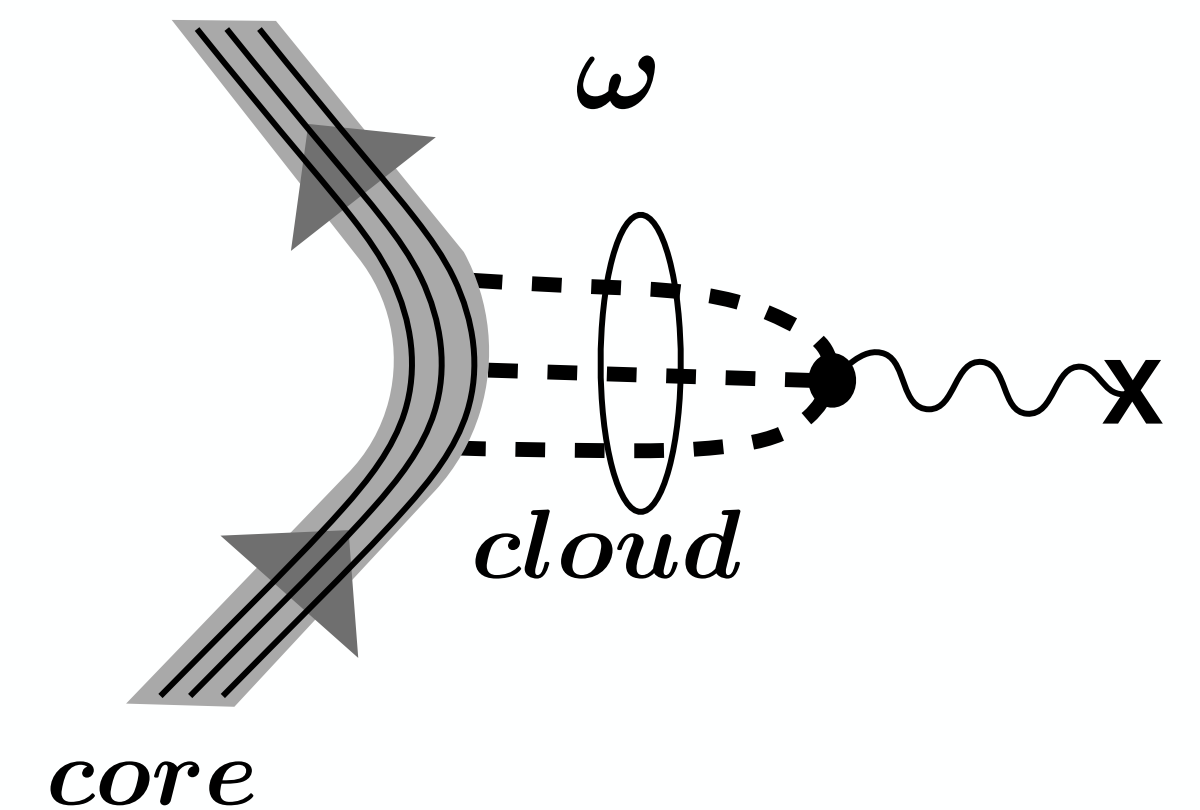
$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle \simeq \langle r_S^2 \rangle_{core} + \frac{6}{m_\omega^2}$$



$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} \simeq 0.47 \text{ fm}$$

- Detailed analysis using best-fit spectral functions :

$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} \equiv \langle r_B^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.50 \pm 0.01 \text{ fm}$$



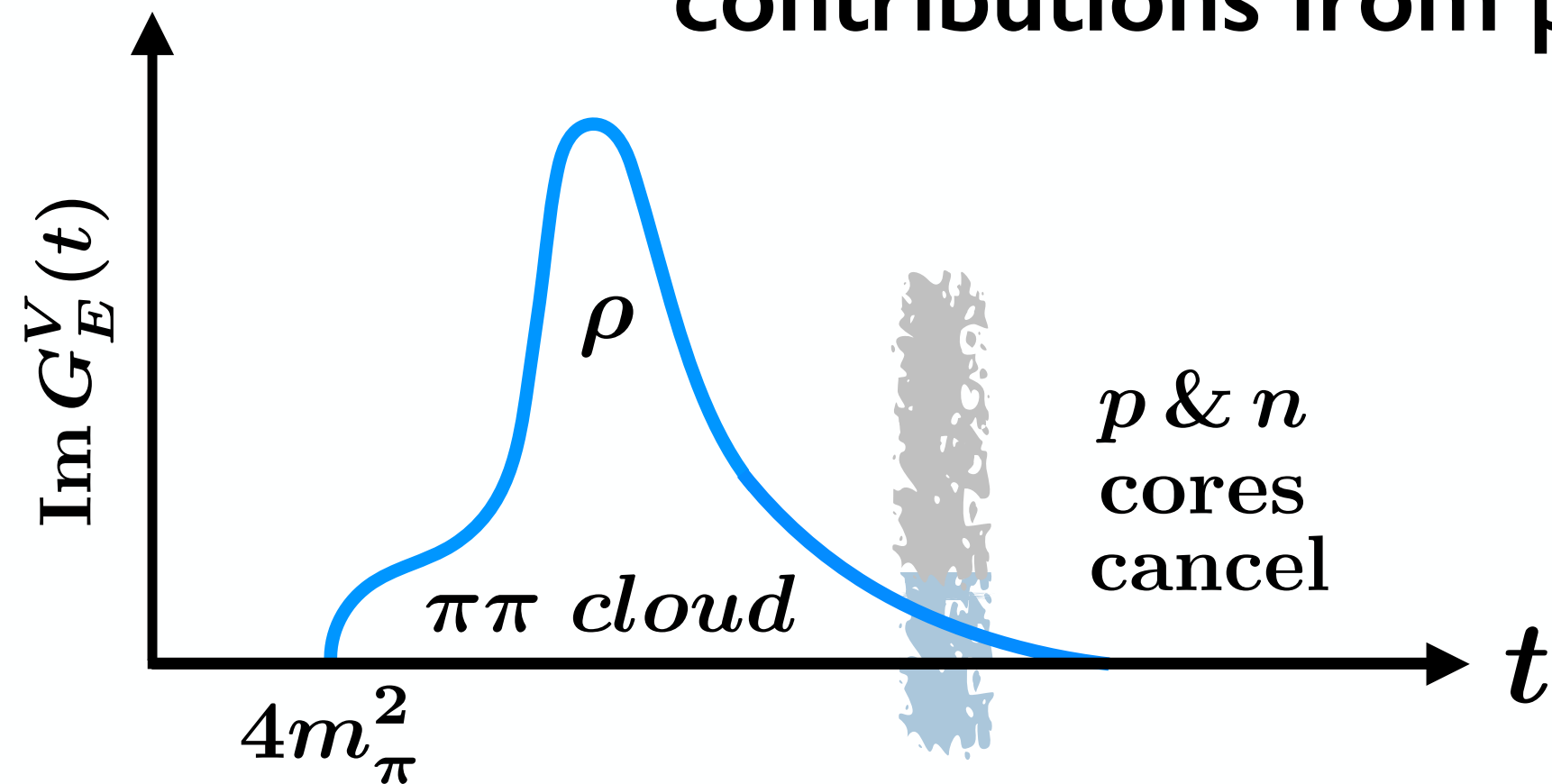
N. Kaiser, W.W.  
Phys. Rev.  
C110 (2024) 015202

# Example II: ISOVECTOR ELECTRIC FORM FACTOR of the NUCLEON

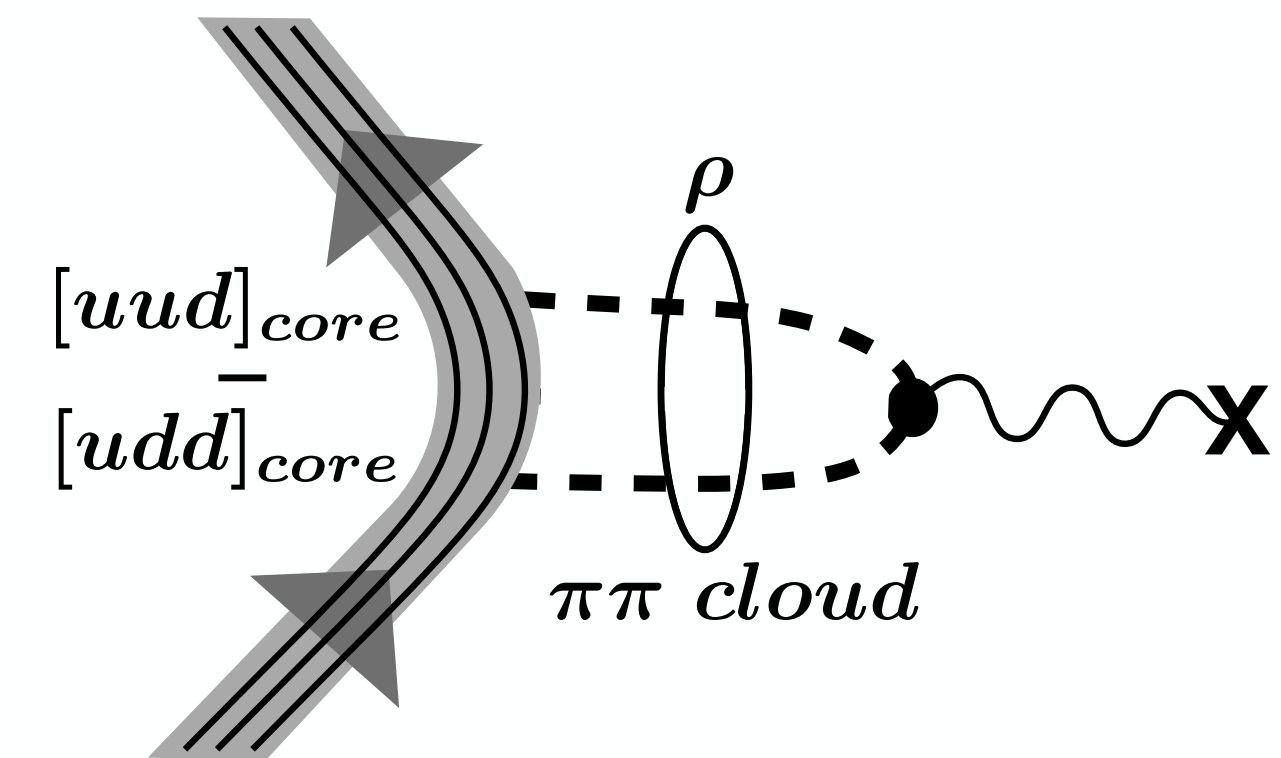
- Isovector electric form factor  $G_E^V(q^2) = \frac{1}{2} [G_E^p(q^2) - G_E^n(q^2)]$       $\langle r_V^2 \rangle = \langle r_p^2 \rangle - \langle r_n^2 \rangle$

Empirical :  $\langle r_V^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 0.901 \pm 0.009$  fm     Y.H. Lin, H.-W. Hammer, U.-G. Meißner PRL 128 (2022) 052002

... clue and test case : in the limit of exact isospin symmetry, contributions from proton and neutron valence quark cores **CANCEL**



- Detailed analysis using best-fit spectral functions :



$$\langle r_V^2 \rangle_{core} = \langle r_p^2 \rangle_{core} - \langle r_n^2 \rangle_{core} = -0.025 \text{ fm}^2 \quad \dots \text{almost vanishing}$$

- Isovector charge radius almost entirely determined by two-pion cloud

N. Kaiser, W.W.  
Phys. Rev.  
C110 (2024) 015202



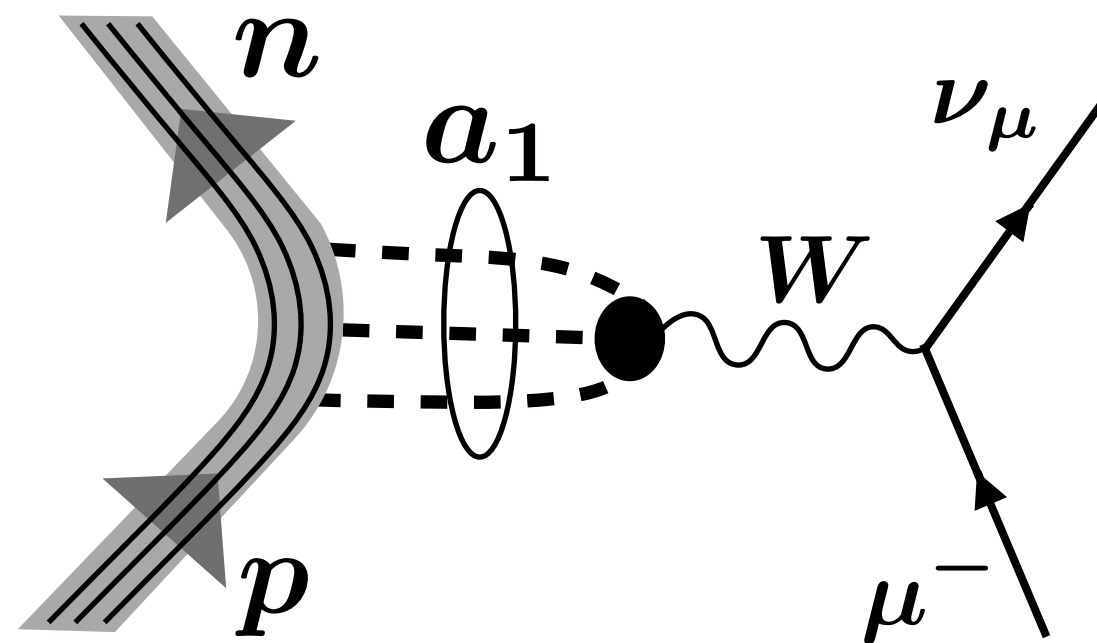
# Example III: ISOVECTOR AXIAL FORM FACTOR of the NUCLEON

- Axial form factor**  $G_A(q^2) = g_A \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{6} \langle r_A^2 \rangle q^2 + \dots \right]$

R.J. Hill, P. Kammel, W.C. Marciano, A. Sirlin  
Rep. Prog. Phys. 81 (2018) 096301

**Empirical :**

a)  $\langle r_A^2 \rangle = 0.454 \pm 0.013 \text{ fm}^2$   
(from  $\nu d$  scattering and  
 $ep \rightarrow en\pi^+$  dipole fits)



b)  $\langle r_A^2 \rangle = 0.46 \pm 0.16 \text{ fm}^2$   
(from  $\mu p$  capture and  
 $\nu d$  scattering analysis)

**Axial radius significantly smaller than proton charge radius** ( $\langle r_p^2 \rangle = 0.71 \pm 0.01 \text{ fm}^2$ )

- Detailed analysis using three-pion spectrum dominated by broad  $a_1$  meson :**

$$\langle r_A^2 \rangle = \langle r_A^2 \rangle_{core} + \frac{6}{m_a^2} (1 + \delta_a) \quad \delta_a = -\frac{m_a^3}{\pi} \int_{9m_\pi^2}^{t_{max}} dt \frac{\Gamma_a(t)}{t^2(t - m_a^2)}$$

→  $\langle r_A^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} = 0.53 \pm 0.02 \text{ fm}$

N. Kaiser, W.W.  
Phys. Rev. C 110 (2024) 015202

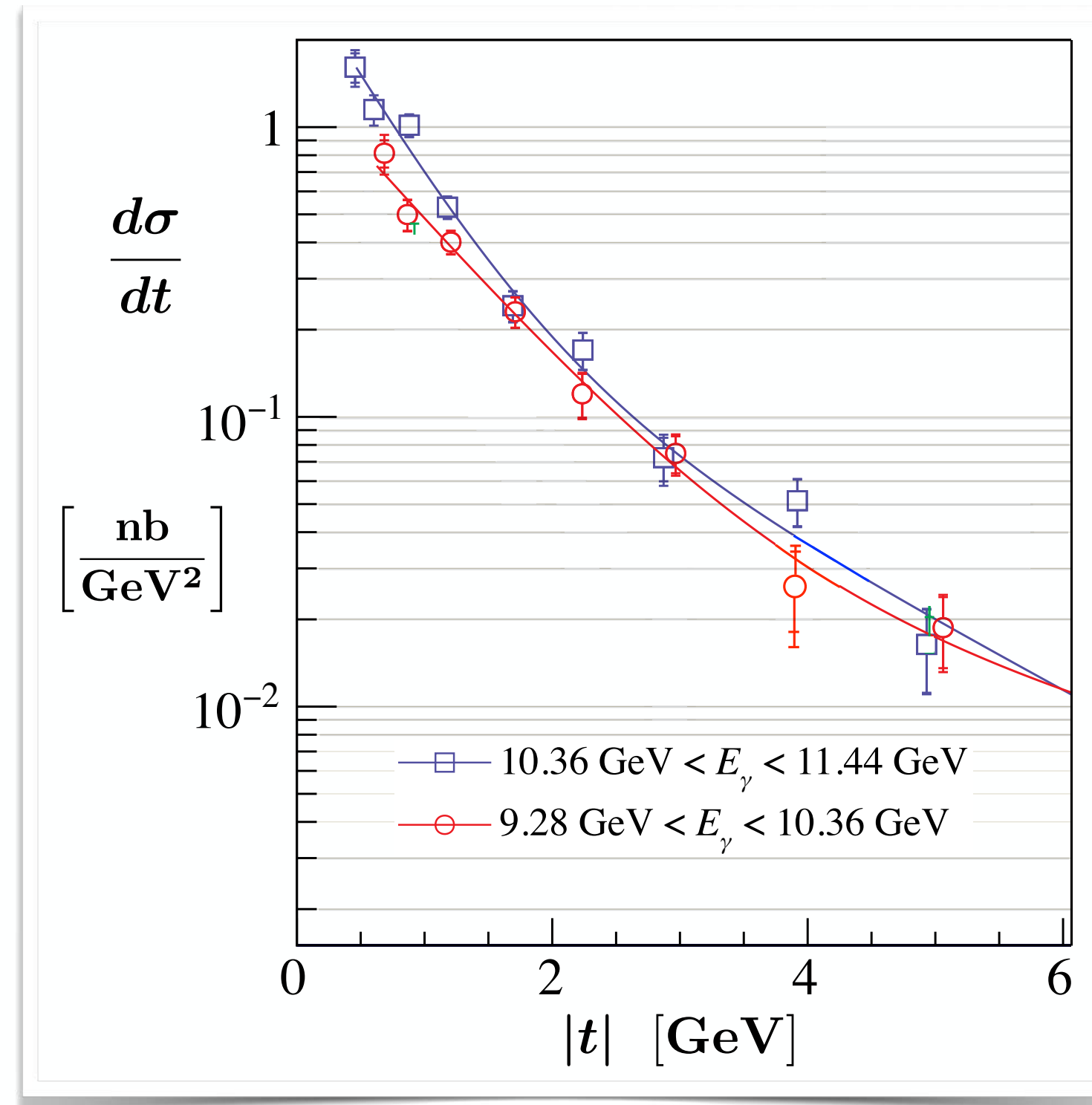
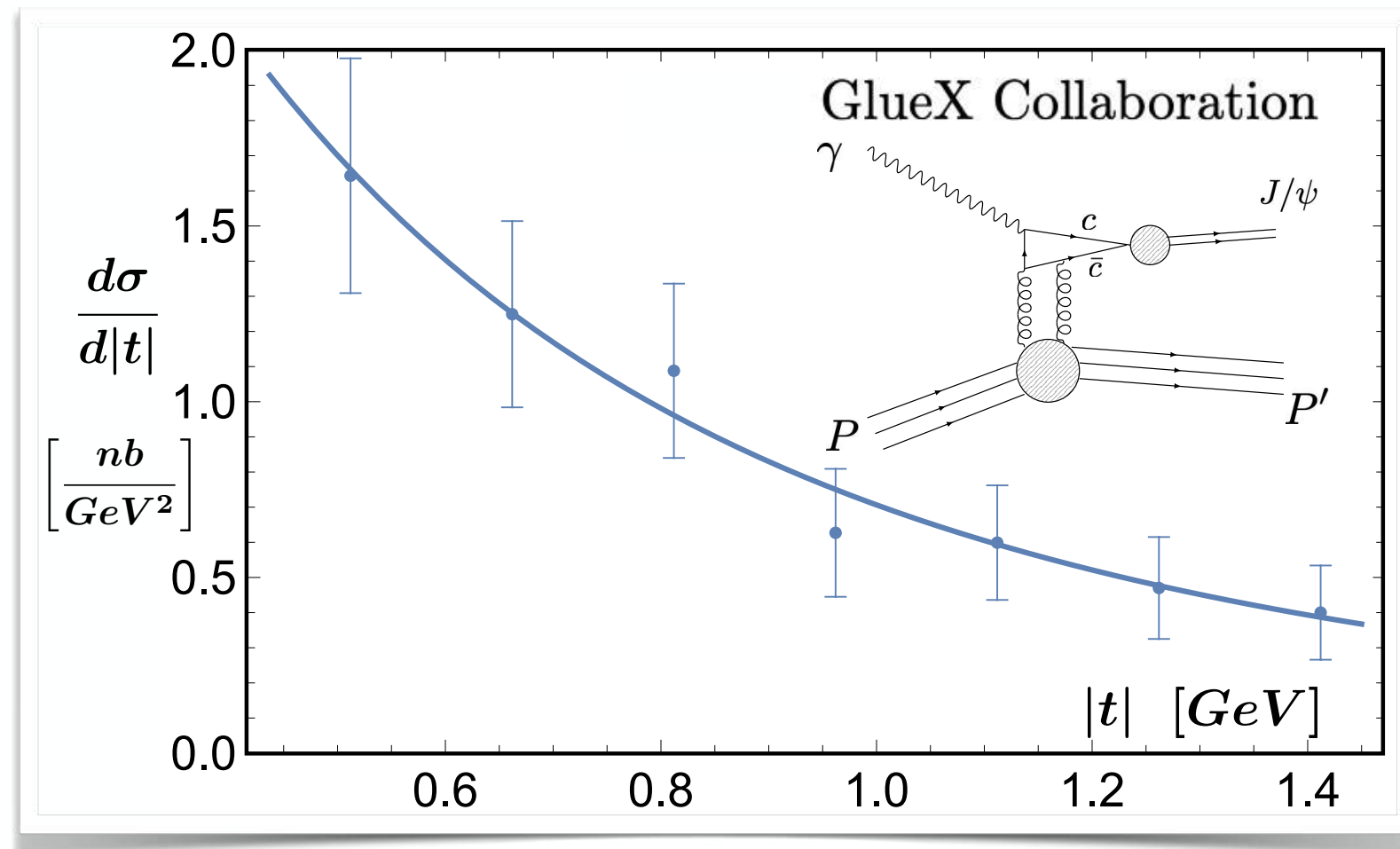
[ based on a) ; correspondingly larger uncertainty when using b) ]

# Example IV: MASS RADIUS of the NUCLEON

- Mass (“gravitational”) form factor

- Trace of QCD energy-momentum tensor

$$G_m(q^2) = \langle P' | T_\mu^\mu | P \rangle = \langle P' | \frac{\beta(g)}{2g} G_a^{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}^a + m_q(\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d) + m_s\bar{s}s | P \rangle$$



$$G_m(0) = M_N \simeq 0.94 \text{ GeV}$$

$$M_N = M_0 + \sigma_N + \sigma_s$$

$$(M_0 \gtrsim 0.9 M_N)$$

$$\langle r_m^2 \rangle = \frac{6}{M_N} \left. \frac{dG_m(q^2)}{dq^2} \right|_{q^2=0}$$

$$\langle r_m^2 \rangle^{1/2} = (0.53 \pm 0.04) \text{ fm}$$

- Empirical mass radius

$$\langle r_m^2 \rangle^{1/2} = (0.55 \pm 0.03) \text{ fm}$$

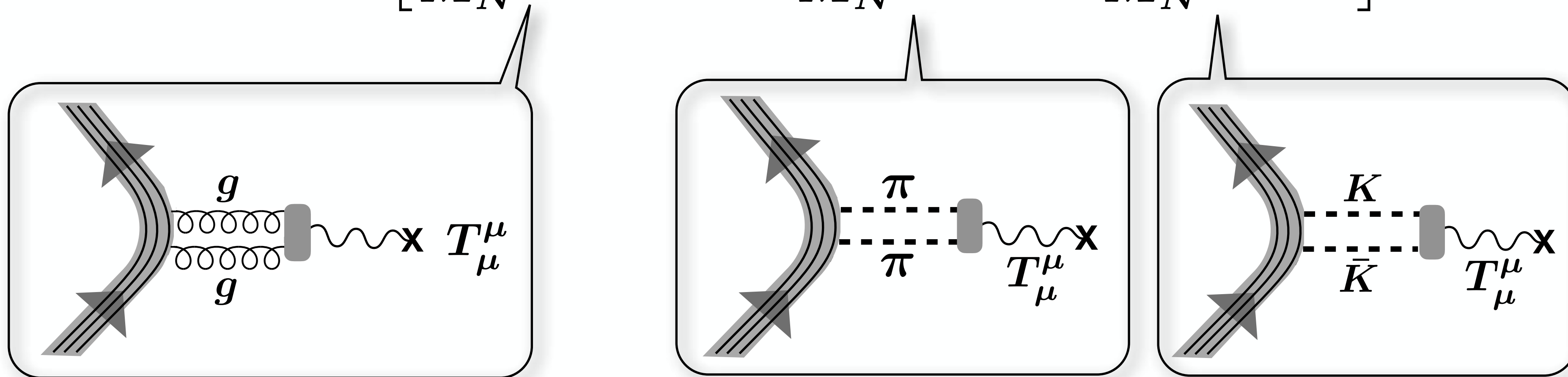
D. Kharzeev : Phys. Rev. D104 (2021) 054015

Recent GlueX update: S.Adhikari et al.; arXiv:2304.03845

# Example IV: MASS RADIUS of the NUCLEON (contd.)

- Core (**gluon**) dominance plus small corrections from sigma terms

$$\langle r_m^2 \rangle = \left[ \frac{M_0}{M_N} \langle r_m^2 \rangle_{core} + \frac{\sigma_N}{M_N} \langle r_{\pi\pi}^2 \rangle + \frac{\sigma_s}{M_N} \langle r_{K\bar{K}}^2 \rangle \right]$$



- Estimates of sigma terms and associated radii from Lattice QCD and ChPT

$$\sigma_N \simeq 40 - 60 \text{ MeV} , \quad \sigma_s \simeq 30 \text{ MeV} \quad \langle r_{\pi\pi}^2 \rangle^{1/2} \simeq 1.3 \text{ fm} , \quad \langle r_{K\bar{K}}^2 \rangle \sim (m_\pi/m_K)^2 \langle r_{\pi\pi}^2 \rangle$$

→  $\langle r_m^2 \rangle_{core}^{1/2} = 0.48 \pm 0.05 \text{ fm}$

N. Kaiser, W.W.  
Phys. Rev. C110 (2024) 015202

★  $\gamma$ -scaling in electron-nucleus scattering → strongly correlated **NUCLEONS**  
at short distances corresponding to densities as high as  $n_B \sim 5 n_0$

*Particles* 2023, 1, 1–11

arXiv:2306.01367

## Testing the Paradigm of Nuclear Many-Body Theory

Omar Benhar

INFN and Department of Physics, Sapienza University, 00185 Rome, Italy; omar.benhar@roma1.infn.it

**Abstract:** Nuclear many-body theory is based on the tenet that nuclear systems can be accurately described as collections of point-like particles. This picture, while providing a remarkably accurate explanation of a wealth of measured properties of atomic nuclei, is bound to break down in the high-density regime, in which degrees of freedom other than protons and neutrons are expected to come into play. Valuable information on the validity of the description of dense nuclear matter in terms of nucleons, needed to firmly establish its limit of applicability, can be obtained from electron–nucleus scattering data at **large momentum transfer** and low energy transfer. The **emergence of  $\gamma$ -scaling** in this kinematic region, unambiguously showing that the beam particles couple to high-momentum nucleons belonging to strongly correlated pairs, indicates that **at densities as large as five times nuclear density—typical of the neutron star interior—nuclear matter largely behaves as a collection of nucleons.**

