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# Neutron Stars in Covariant $f(Q)$ Gravity

Based on Alwan, et.al. *JCAP* 09 (2024) 011

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Slowly Rotating Neutron Stars and  $\bar{I} - C$  Universal Relations

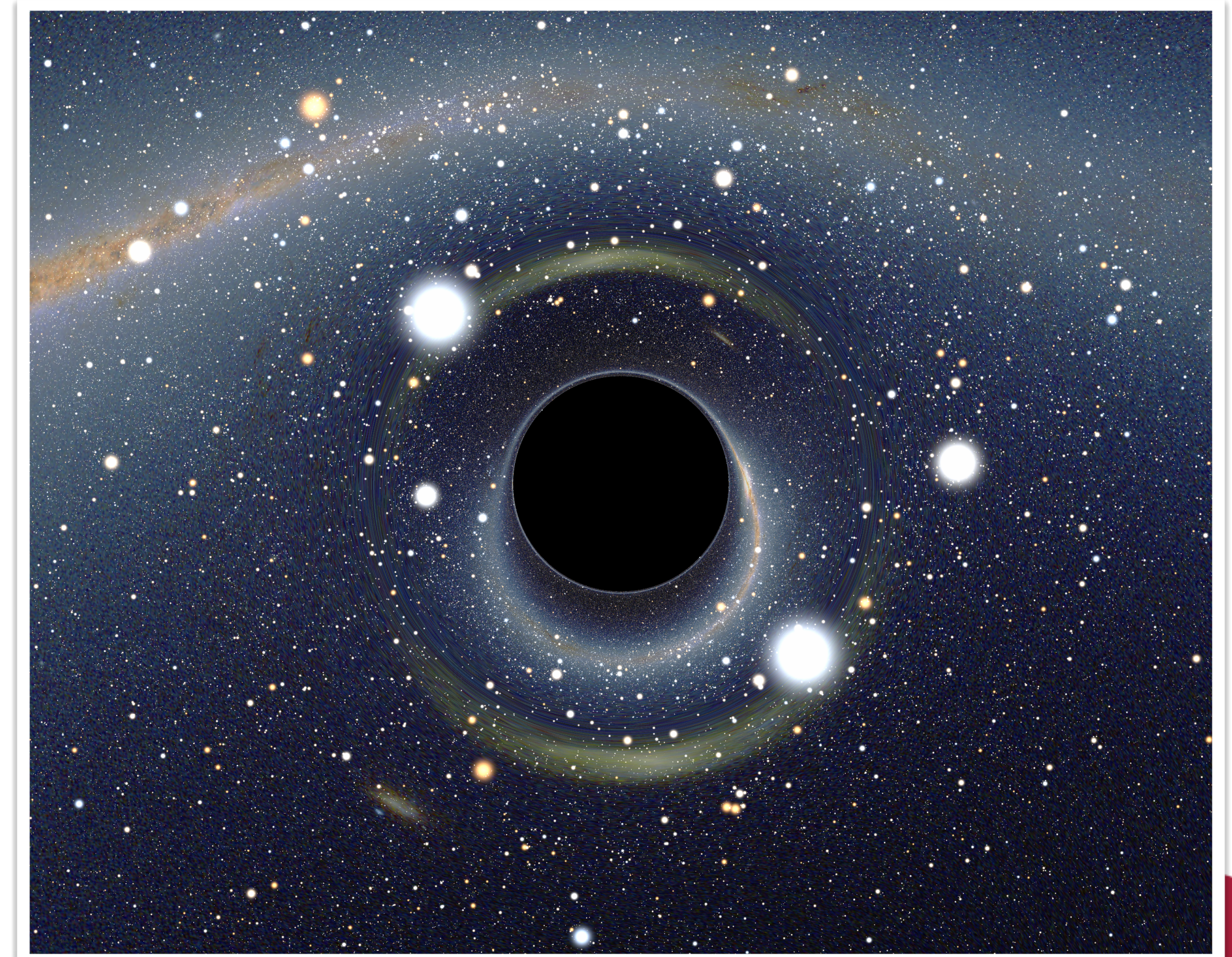
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Summary and Future Works

# Background

## Neutron Stars Characteristics

- Neutron Stars has become natural laboratories for studying the behavior of high-density nuclear matter.



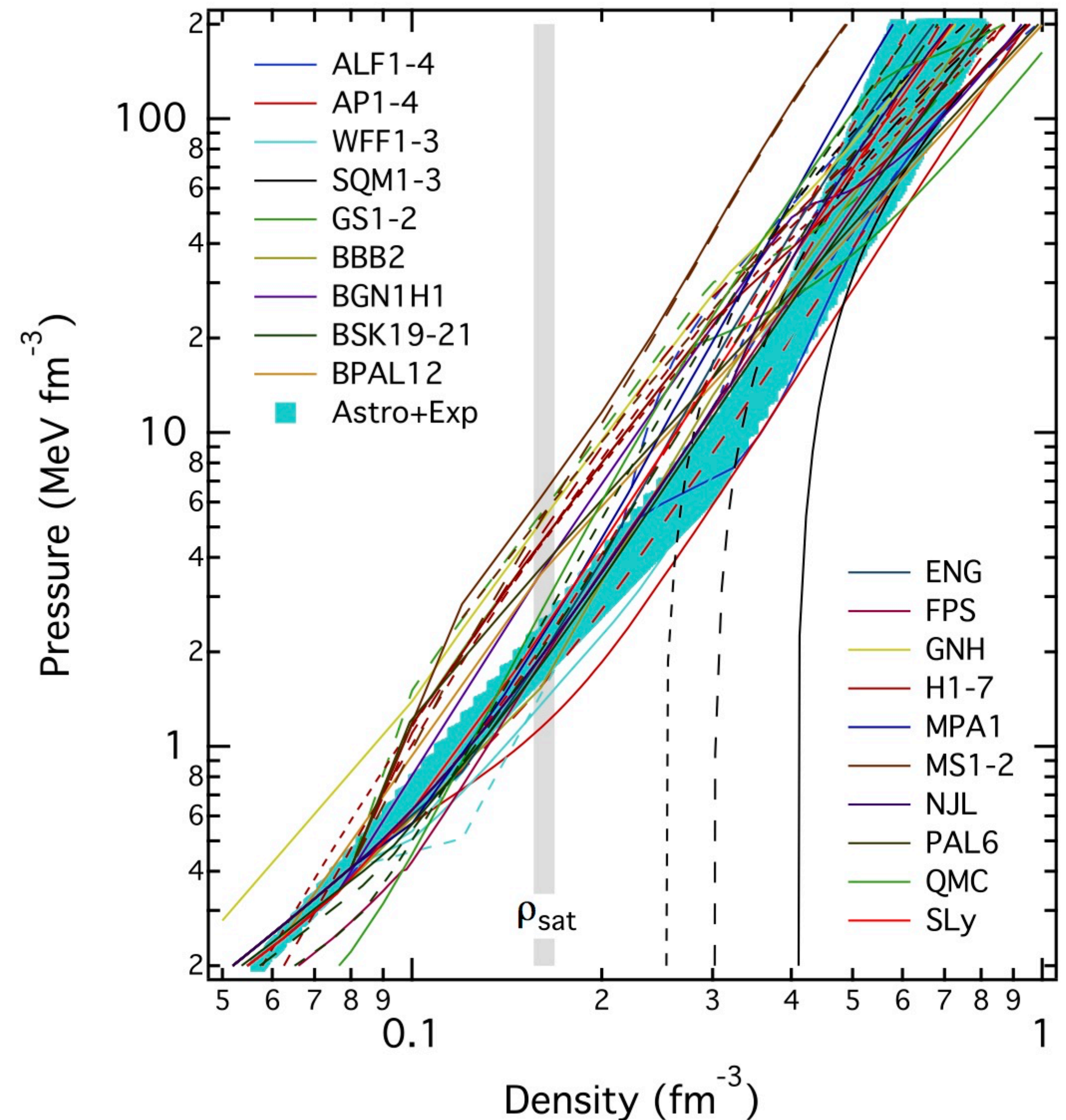
**Figure 1. Compact Objects in Astrophysics**

Source : <https://www.h-its.org/>

# Background

## Neutron Stars Characteristics

- Neutron Stars has become natural laboratories for studying the behavior of high-density nuclear matter.
- Using appropriate EoS, we can get macroscopic properties such as Mass-Radius, tidal deformability, and the stellar momentum of inertia



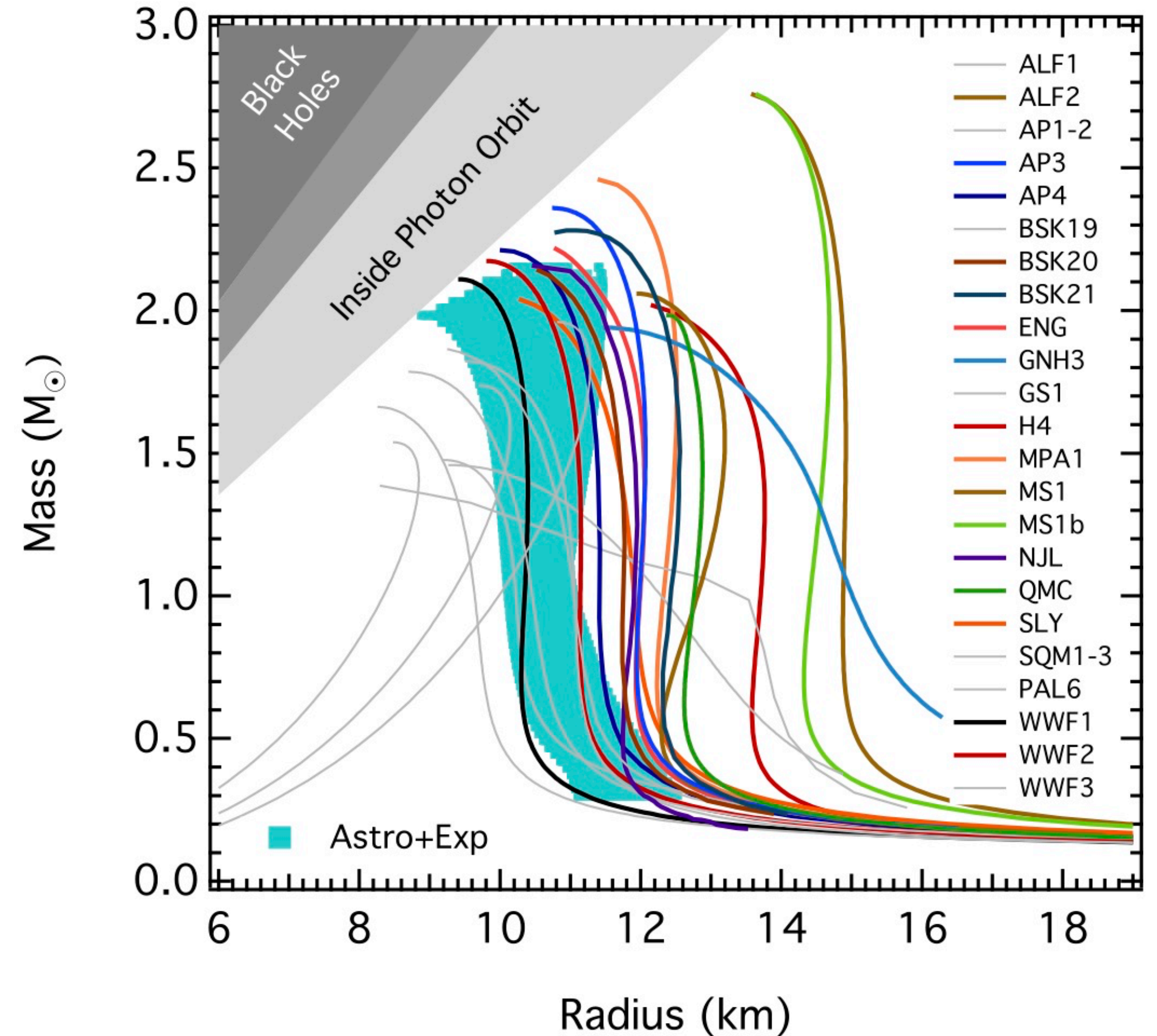
**Figure 2. Various EoS in Neutron Star**

Source : Ozel, Feryal and Paulo C. C. Freire. "Masses, Radii, and the Equation of State of Neutron Stars." Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics 54 (2016): 401-440.

# Background

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**Figure 3. Mass-Radius Relation under various EoS**

Source : Ozel, Feryal and Paulo C. C. Freire. "Masses, Radii, and the Equation of State of Neutron Stars." Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics 54 (2016): 401-440.

# Background

## Neutron Stars as High-Densed Laboratory

- Due to its high compactness, high-energy behavior, and abundance of observational data, signatures of modified gravity theories may emerge, providing insights beyond the predictions of GR, which makes it an ideal environment to test the limits of General Relativity.

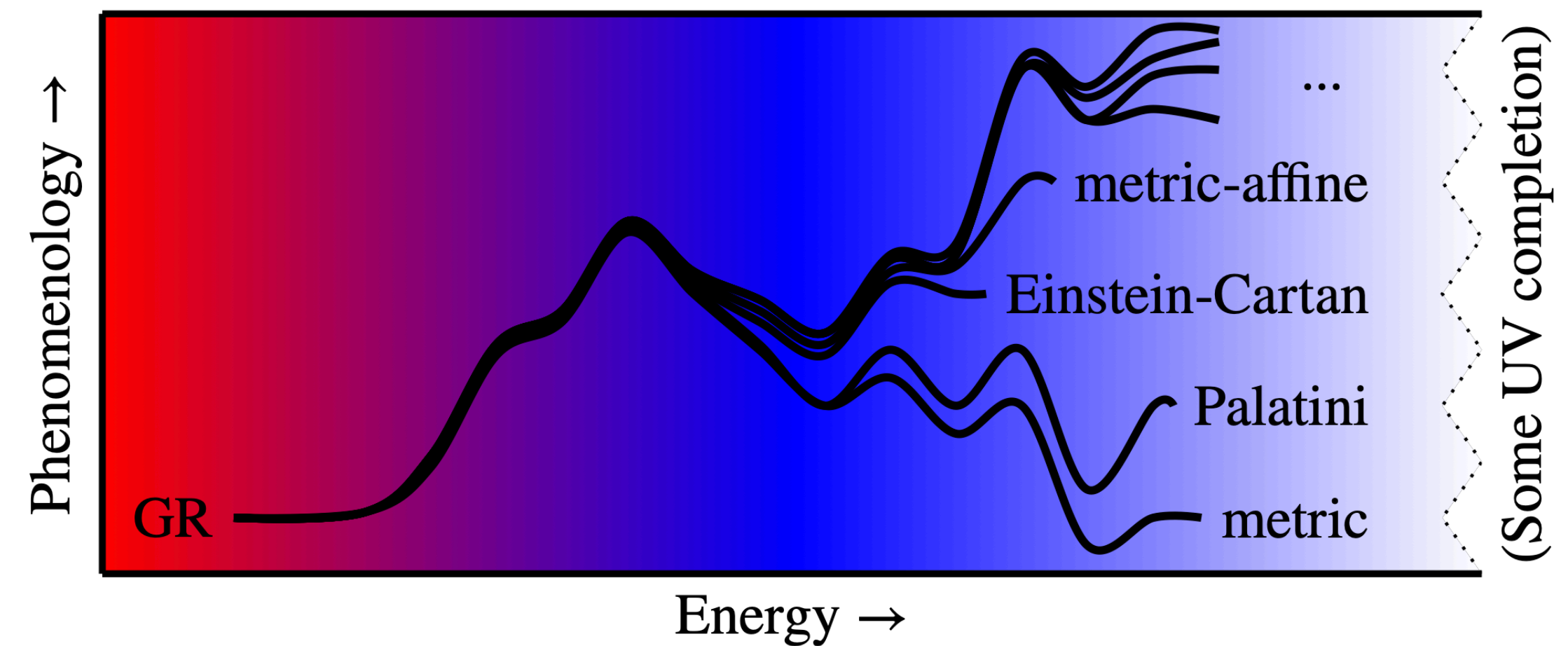


Figure 4. As a low-energy effective theory, Einstein's GR has many equivalent geometrical formulations that will only be distinguishable by experimental bounds on their high-energy phenomenology

Source : Barker, Will and Sebastian Zell. "Consistent particle physics in metric-affine gravity from extended projective symmetry." (2024). arXiv:2402.14917

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## Neutron Stars as High-Densed Laboratory

- Due to its **high compactness, high-energy behavior, and abundance of observational data**, signatures of modified gravity theories may emerge, providing insights beyond the predictions of GR, which makes it **an ideal environment to test the limits of General Relativity**.
- The **presence of exotic matter** in NS could help address some of the problems faced by GR and the Standard Model across different energy scales.

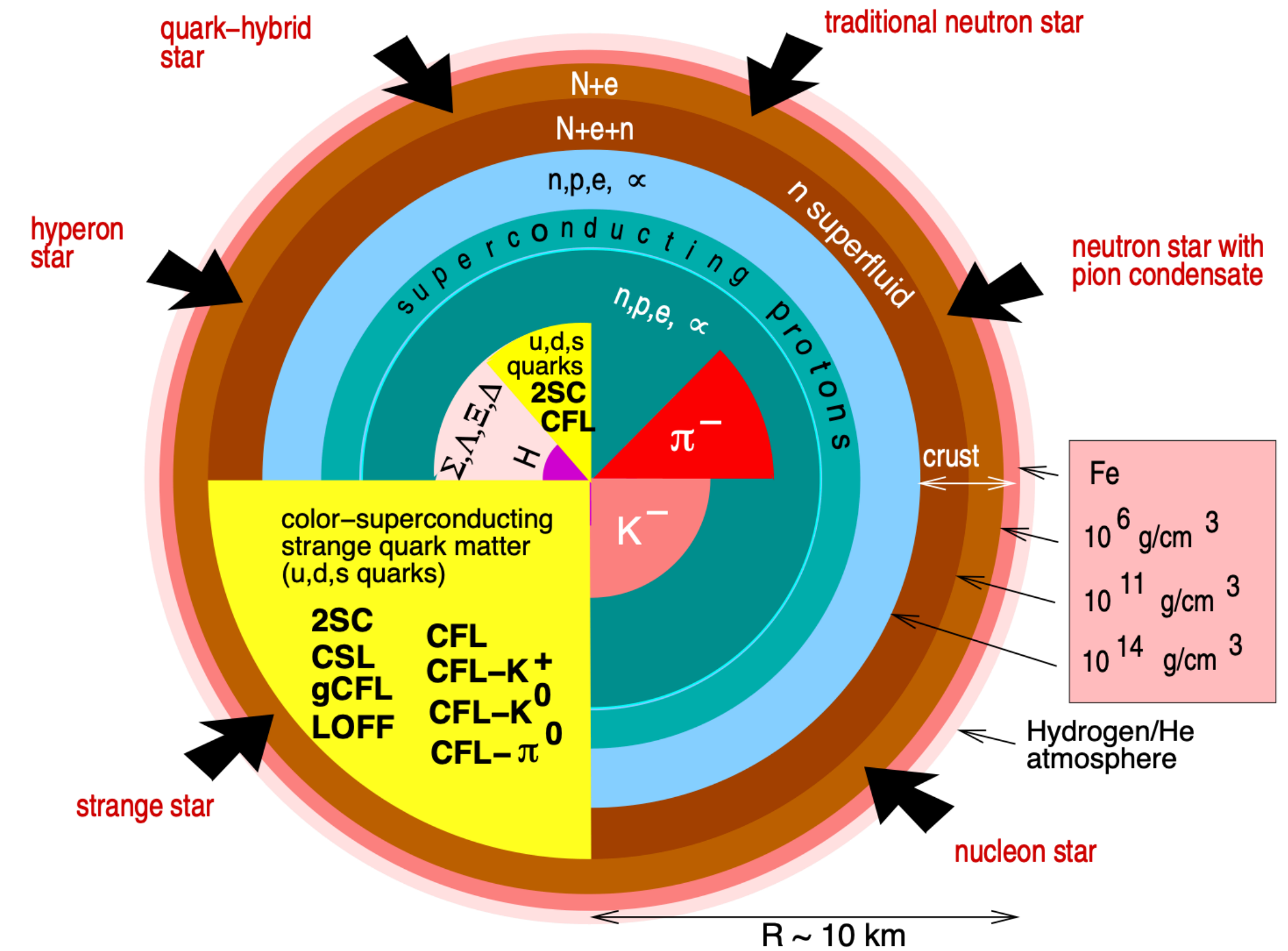


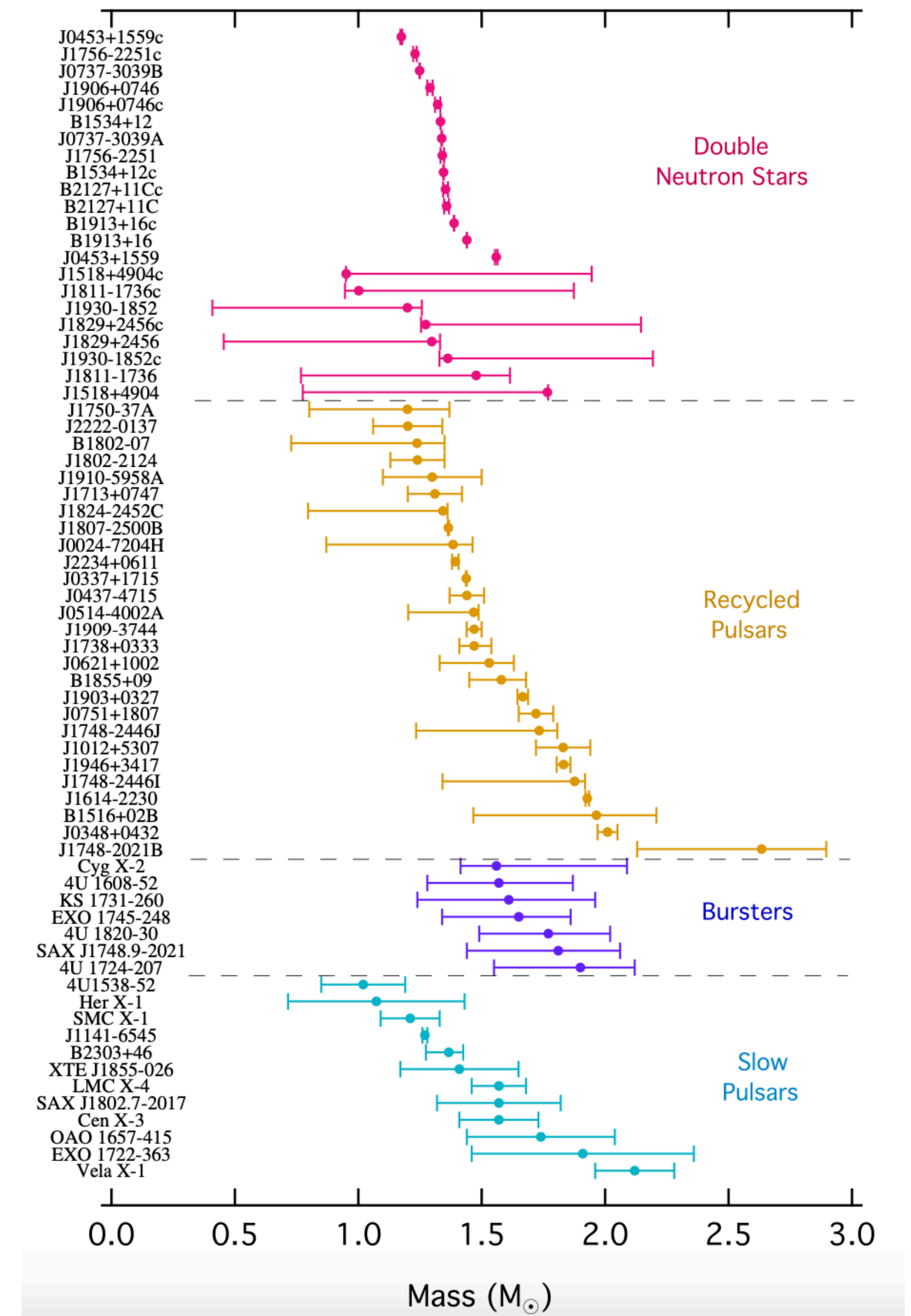
Figure 5. Neutron Star Structure

Source : Weber, Fridolin. "Strange quark matter and compact stars." Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 54 (2004): 193-288.

# Background

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- Due to its **high compactness, high-energy behavior, and abundance of observational data**, signatures of modified gravity theories may emerge, providing insights beyond the predictions of GR, which makes it **an ideal environment to test the limits of General Relativity**.
- The **presence of exotic matter** in neutron stars could help address some of the problems faced by GR and the Standard Model (SM) across different energy scales.
- Modified gravity theories providing alternative options to describe the interiors and changing the macroscopic and microscopic properties of neutron stars.



**Figure 6. Mass-Radius Relation from Observational Data**

Source : Ozel, Feryal and Paulo C. C. Freire.  
“Masses, Radii, and the Equation of State of Neutron Stars.” Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics 54 (2016): 401-440.



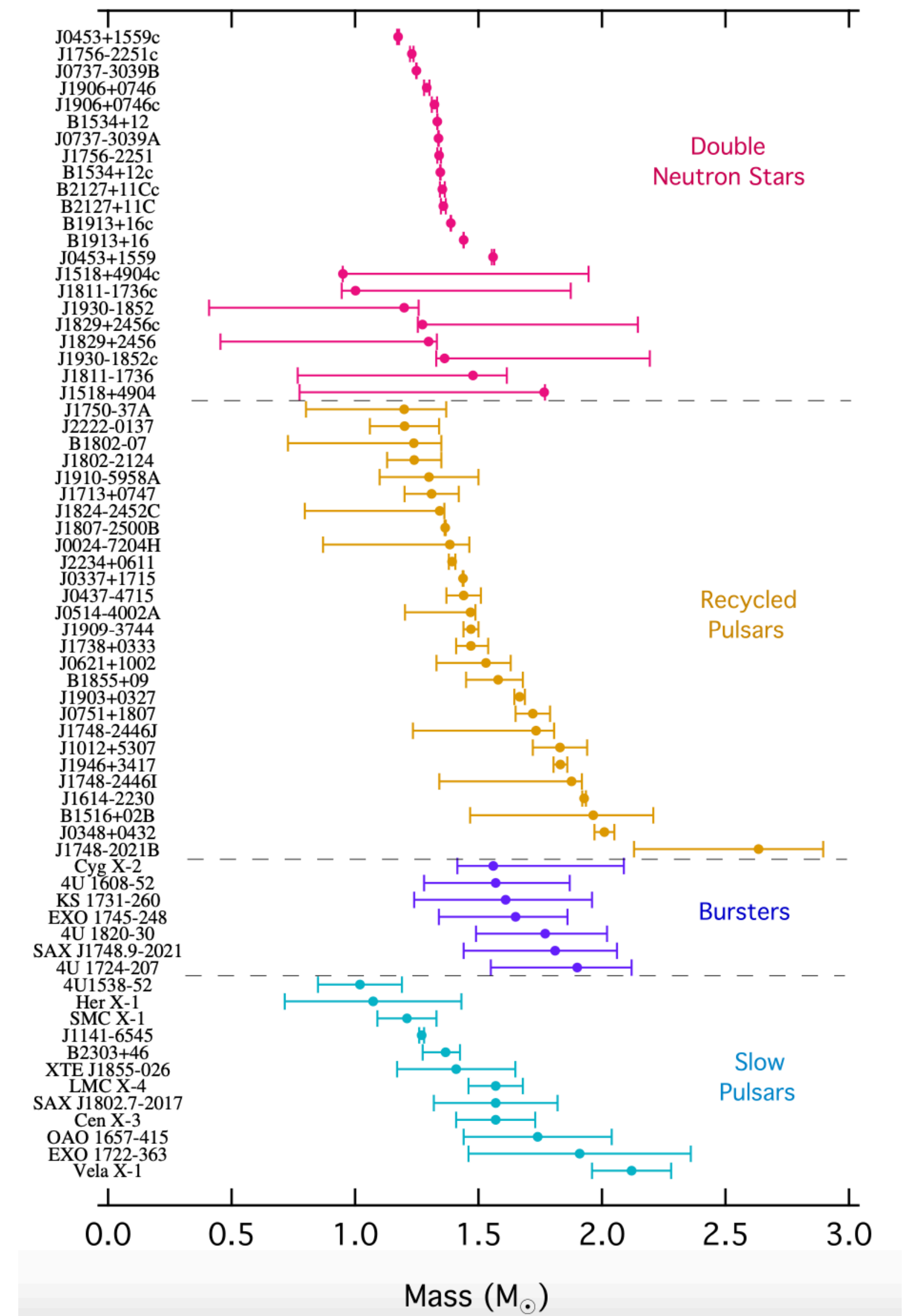
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## Neutron Stars as High-Densed Laboratory

- Due to its high compactness and high energy behavior, **signatures of modified gravity theories** may emerge, providing insights beyond the predictions of GR, which makes it **an ideal environment to test the limits of General Relativity.**
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For example:

- The observation from GW190814 observations with mass  $2.59 \pm 0.08 M_{\odot}$ .
- From pulsar observations, PSR J0952–0607 with mass  $2.35 \pm 0.17 M_{\odot}$ .



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# Modified Gravity

## Metric-Affine Gravity

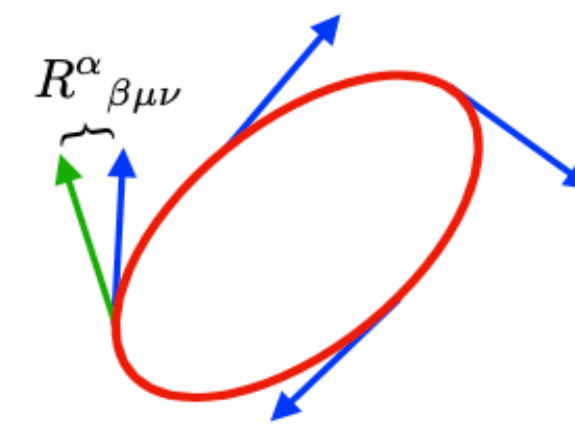
- In Riemannian geometry  $\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha} = \left\{ \begin{matrix} \alpha \\ \mu\nu \end{matrix} \right\}$   $\longrightarrow G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R$
- But, can decompose the connection become more general as

$$\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha} = \left\{ \begin{matrix} \alpha \\ \mu\nu \end{matrix} \right\} + K_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha} + L_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha}, \text{ where}$$

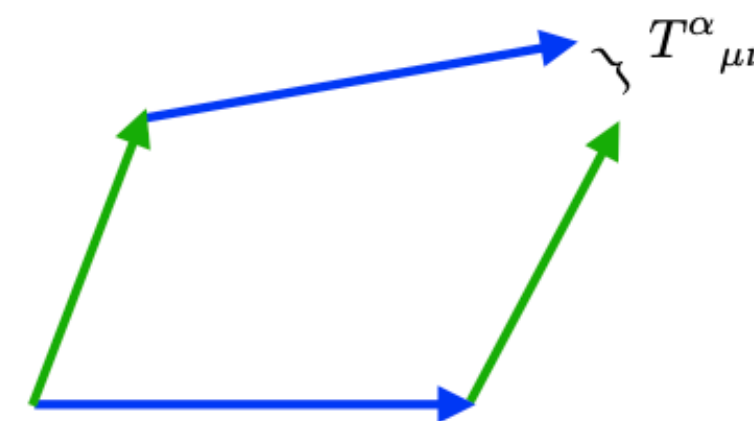
$$K_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\alpha\lambda}(T_{\lambda\mu\nu} + T_{\nu\mu\lambda} + T_{\mu\nu\lambda}),$$

$$L_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\alpha\lambda}(Q_{\lambda\mu\nu} - Q_{\mu\lambda\nu} - Q_{\nu\lambda\mu}),$$

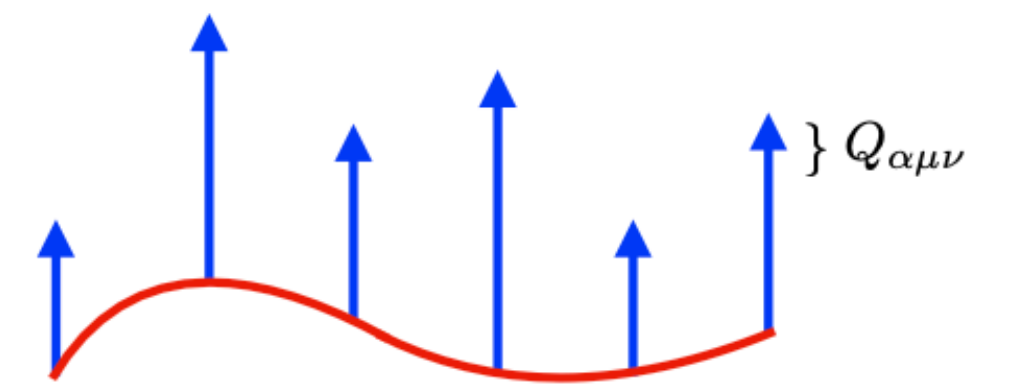
where  $K_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha}$  is contorsion tensor and  $L_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha}$  is disformation tensor.



The rotation of a vector transported along a closed curve is given by the curvature: General Relativity.



The non-closure of parallelograms formed when two vectors are transported along each other is given by the torsion: Teleparallel Equivalent of General Relativity.



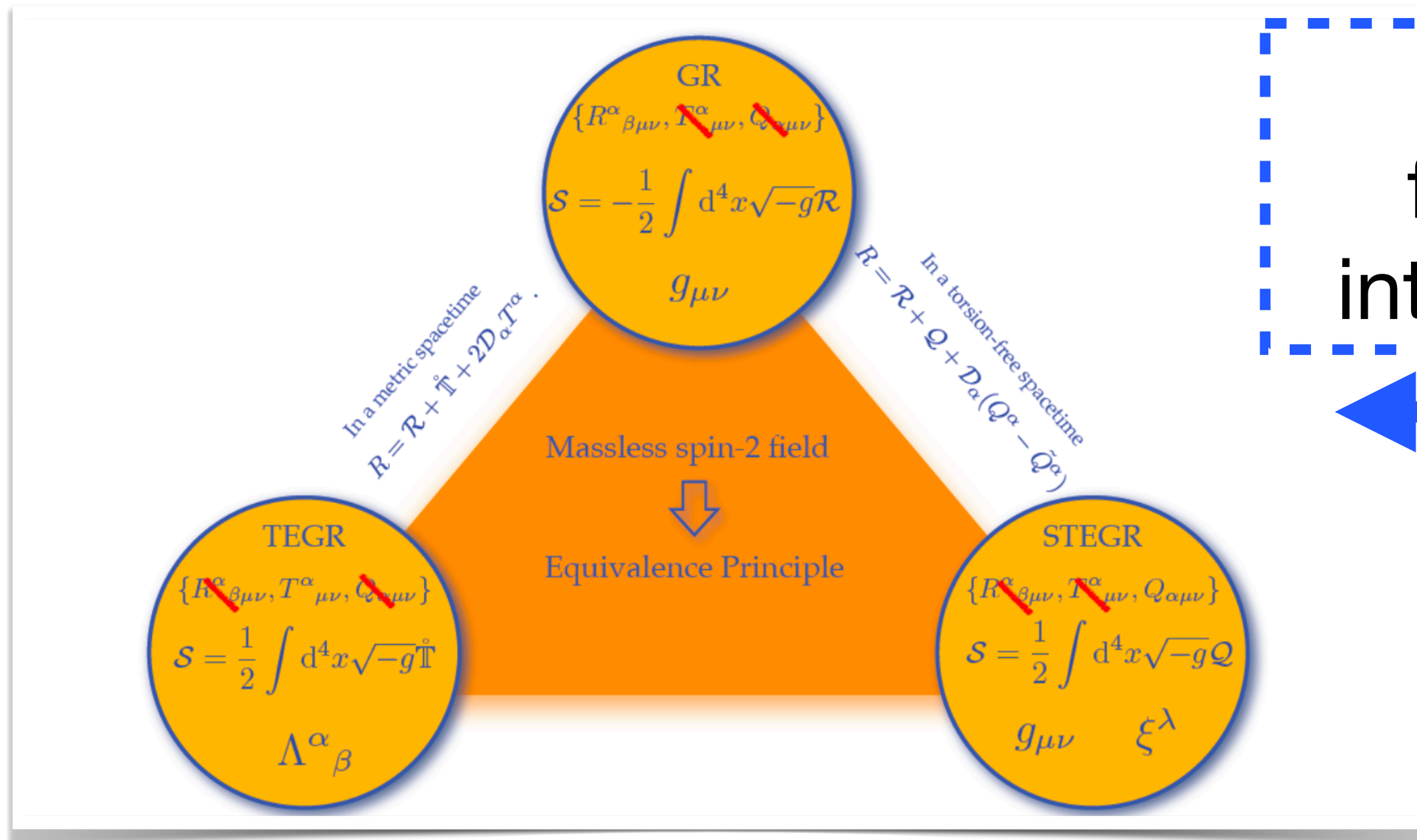
The variation of the length of a vector as it is transported is given by the non-metricity: Symmetric Teleparallel Equivalent of General Relativity.

**Figure 7. Illustration geometrical meaning for Curvature, Torsion, and Non-Metricity**

Source : Beltrán Jiménez, Jose, Lavinia Heisenberg and Tomi S. Koivisto. "The Geometrical Trinity of Gravity." Universe (2019)

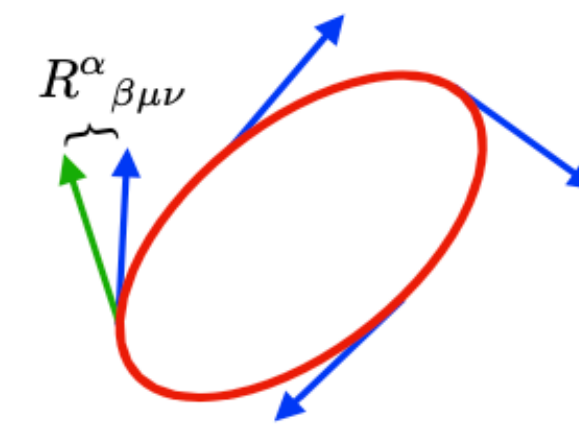
# Modified Gravity

## The Geometrical Trinity of Gravity

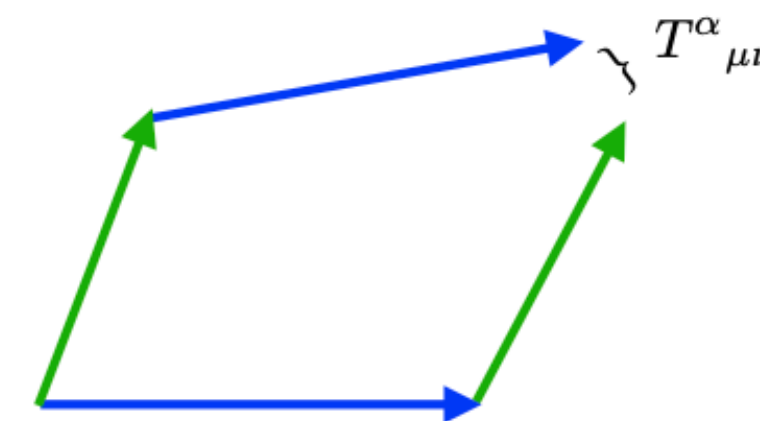


**Figure 8. The Geometrical Trinity of Gravity**

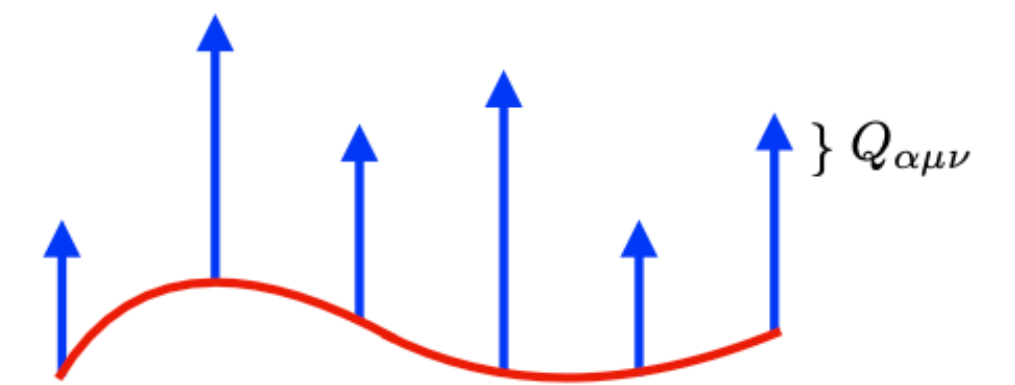
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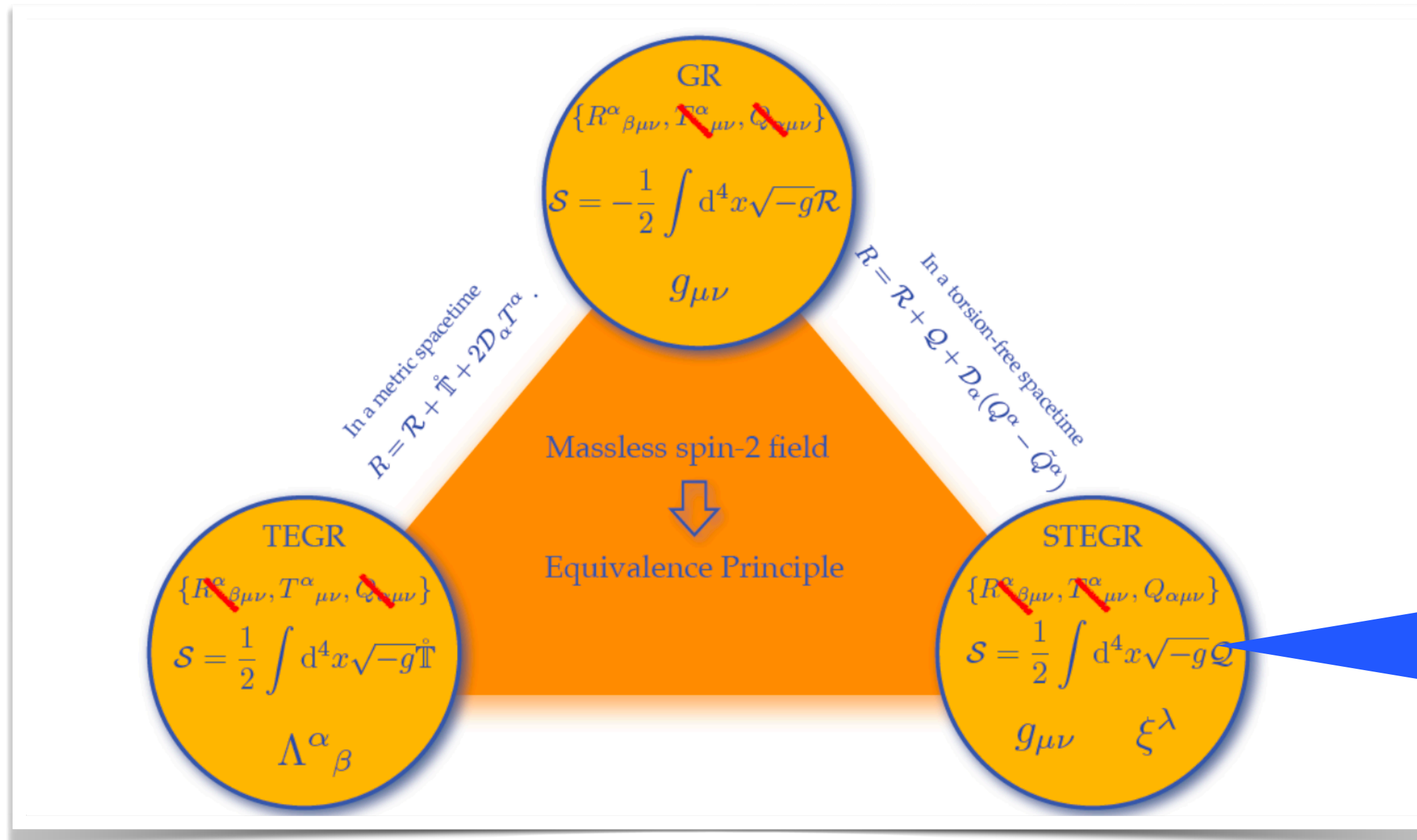
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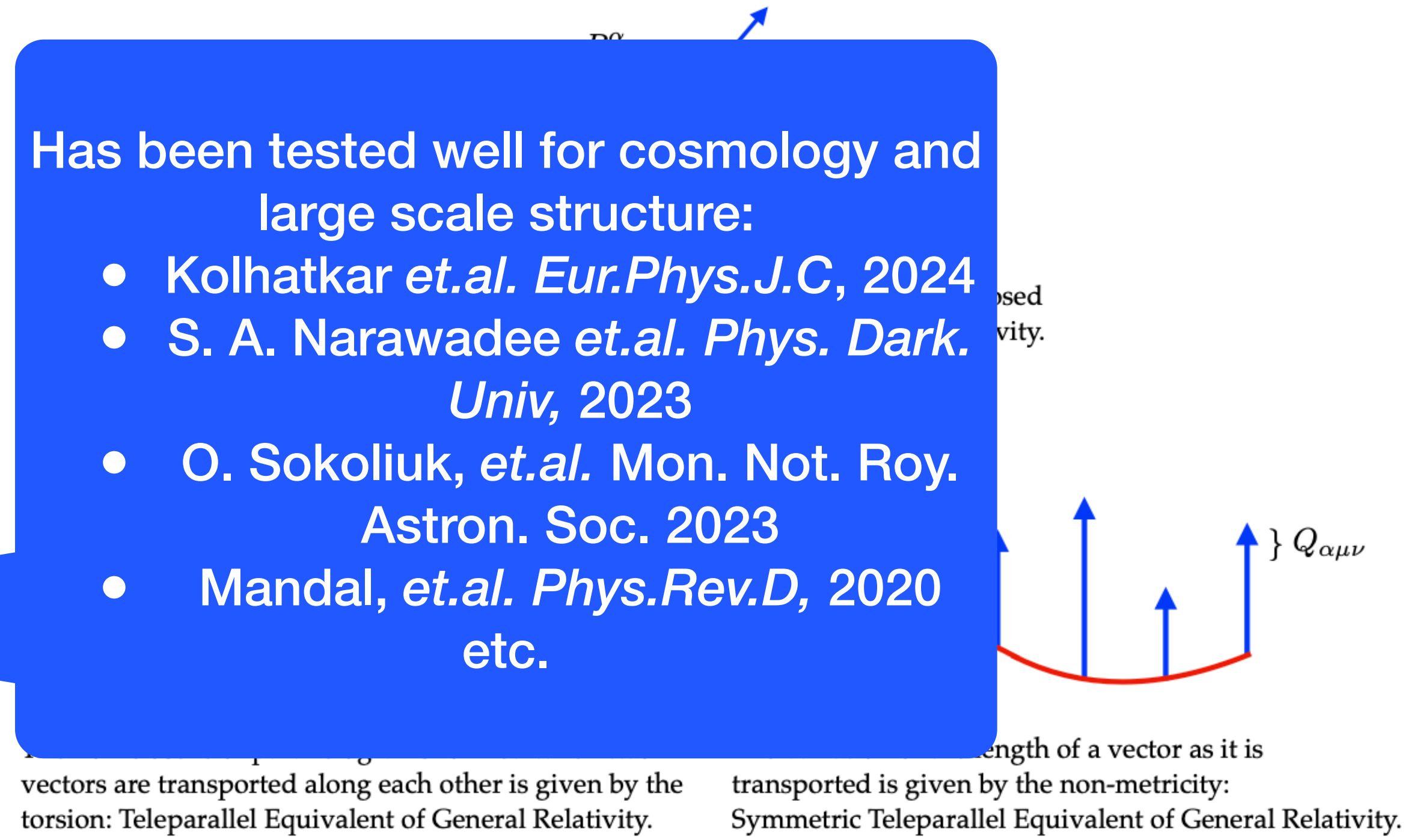
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## The Geometrical Trinity of Gravity



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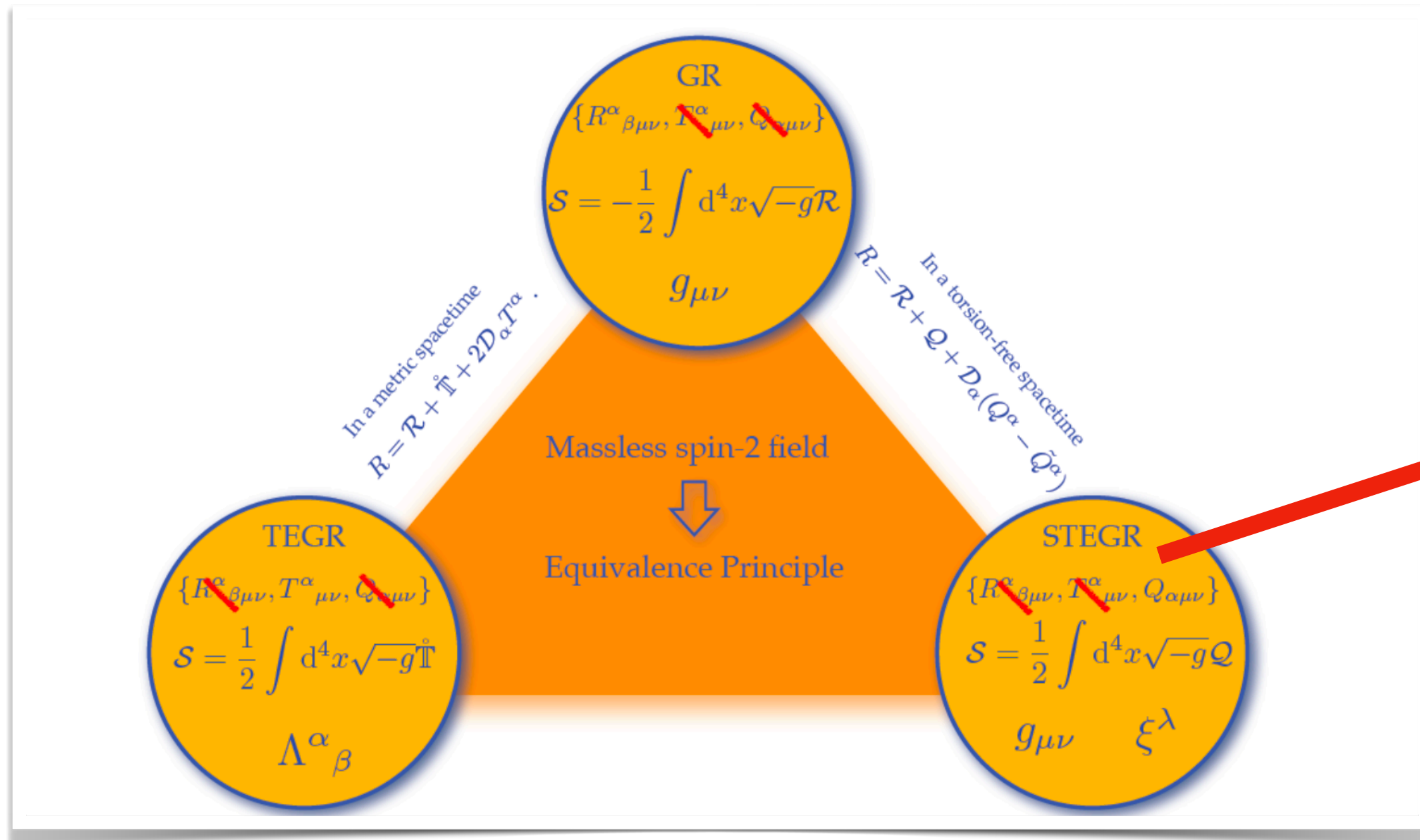
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# Motivations



**Figure 8. The Geometrical Trinity of Gravity**

Source : Beltrán Jiménez, Jose, Lavinia Heisenberg and Tomi S. Koivisto. "The Geometrical Trinity of Gravity." Universe (2019)

- Can  $f(Q)$  remain consistent when tested on astrophysical objects like NS?
- Are neutron stars sufficient to reveal the signature of  $f(Q)$  gravity?
- How does non-metricity affect the structure of NS?
- Can  $f(Q)$  provide an alternative explanation for neutron stars reaching higher masses?

# Covariant $f(Q)$ formulation

- Here we use the lagrangian action as:

$$S = \int \frac{1}{2\kappa} f(Q) \sqrt{-g} d^4x + \int \mathcal{L}_m \sqrt{-g} d^4x,$$

- Where non-metricity scalar is defined as  $Q = Q_{\lambda\mu\nu} P^{\lambda\mu\nu}$ .  $Q_{\lambda\mu\nu}$  and  $P^{\lambda\mu\nu}$  are called as non-metricity tensor and conjugate and given as

$$Q_{\lambda\mu\nu} := \nabla_{\lambda} g_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\lambda} g_{\mu\nu} - \Gamma^{\alpha}_{\lambda\mu} g_{\alpha\nu} - \Gamma^{\alpha}_{\lambda\nu} g_{\alpha\mu};$$

$$P^{\lambda\mu\nu} = -\frac{1}{4} Q^{\lambda\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{4} (Q^{\lambda}_{\mu\nu} + Q^{\lambda}_{\nu\mu}) + \frac{1}{4} Q^{\lambda} g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{8} (2\tilde{Q}^{\lambda} g_{\mu\nu} + \delta_{\mu}^{\lambda} Q_{\nu} + \delta_{\nu}^{\lambda} Q_{\mu}).$$

- Using least action principle, we can get the field equation as ( D. Zhao, *Eur. Phys. J. C.*, 2022).

$$f_Q \mathring{G}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} (Q f_Q - f) + 2 f_{QQ} P^{\lambda\mu\nu} \mathring{\nabla}_{\lambda} Q = \kappa T_{\mu\nu}$$

where,  $f_Q$  is derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $Q$  and  $\mathring{G}_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R$ , with  $R_{\mu\nu}$  and  $R$  are the Riemannian Ricci tensor and scalar respectively which are constructed by the Levi-Civita connection.

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where,  $f_Q$  is derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $Q$  and  $\mathring{G}_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R$ , with  $R_{\mu\nu}$  and  $R$  are the Riemannian Ricci tensor and scalar respectively which are constructed by the Levi-Civita connection.

# Covariant $f(Q)$ formulation

## Field Equations under Spherical Symmetric Metric

- Assuming perfect fluid matter and using static and spherically symmetric metric as

$$ds^2 = -e^{A(r)}dt^2 + e^{B(r)}dr^2 + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

- The field equations become

Geometry Profile

$$\kappa\mathcal{T}_{tt} = \frac{e^{A-B}}{2r^2} \left\{ r^2 e^B f + 2f'_Q r(e^B - 1) + f_Q [(e^B - 1)(2 + rA') + (1 + e^B)rB'] \right\},$$

$$\kappa\mathcal{T}_{rr} = \frac{-1}{2r^2} \left\{ r^2 e^B f + 2f'_Q r(e^B - 1) + f_Q [(e^B - 1)(2 + rA' + rB') - 2rA'] \right\},$$

$$\kappa\mathcal{T}_{\theta\theta} = -\frac{r}{4e^B} \left\{ f_Q [-4A' - r(A')^2 - 2rA'' + rA'B' + 2e^B(A' + B')] + 2e^B r f - 2f'_Q r A' \right\}.$$

where  $Q = \frac{(e^{-B} - 1)(A' + B')}{r}$  and  $f'_Q = f_{QQ} \frac{dQ}{dr}$ .



# TOV Equations in Covariant $f(Q)$ Gravity

- From the field equations, we can extract the TOV equations as

$$A'' = \frac{-((1 + e^B)f_Q r(A')^2) + 2e^B(-1 + e^B)(r(f + 2p\kappa) + f_Q B') + A'(2(-1 + e^B)^2 f_Q)}{2(-1 + e^B)f_Q r}$$

$$+ \frac{e^B r^2 (f + \kappa(p - \rho + e^B(p + \rho))) + (-1 + e^B)f_Q r B'}{2(-1 + e^B)f_Q r}$$

$$B' = \frac{-\kappa e^B (p + \rho) r + f_Q A'}{f_Q}$$

$$p' = -\frac{(p + \rho)}{2} A'$$

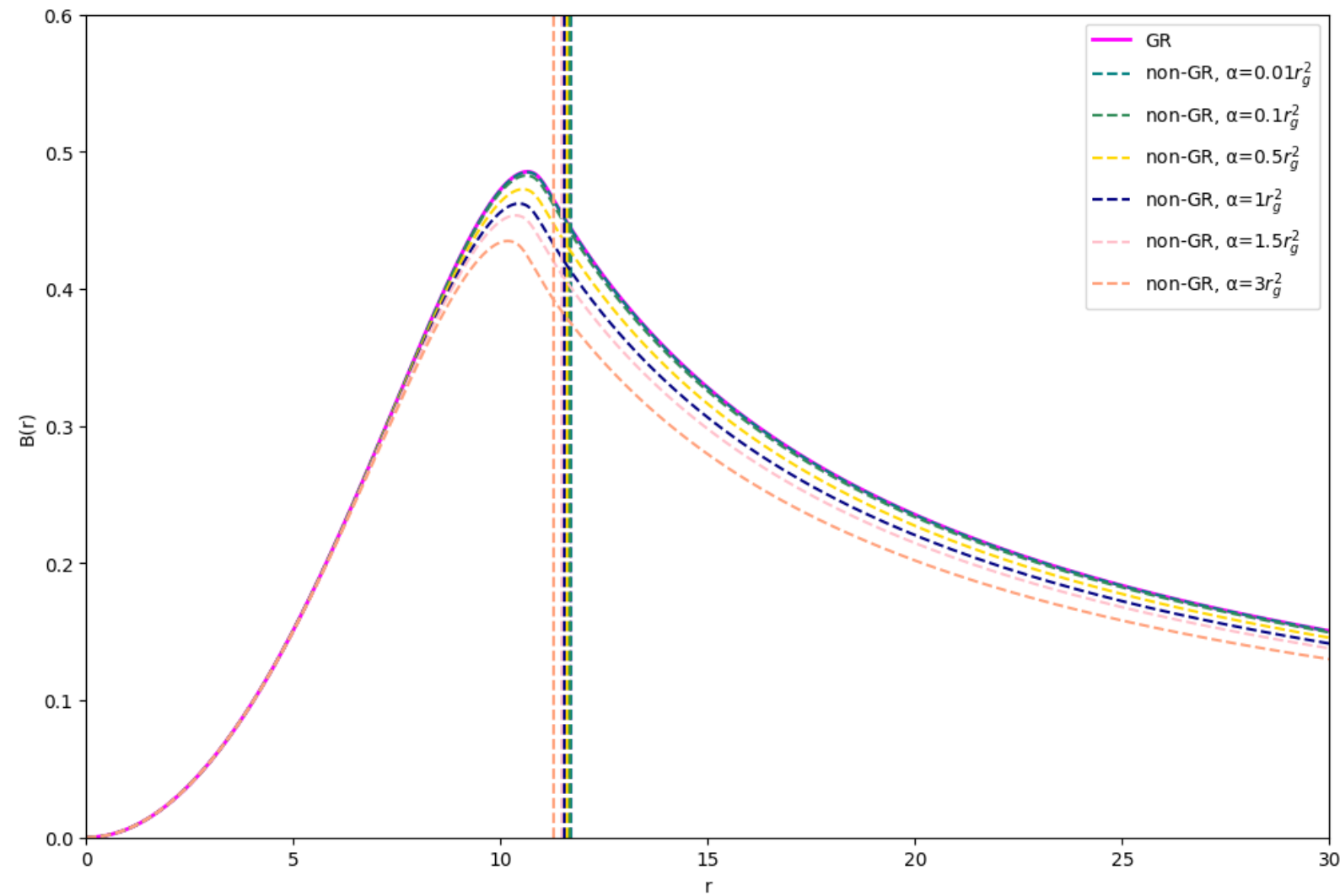


Solved using realistic EoS SLy and APR4  
 —> Previous works using Polytropic EoS  
 R.-H. Lin, *et. al.*, *Phys. Rev. D*, 2022

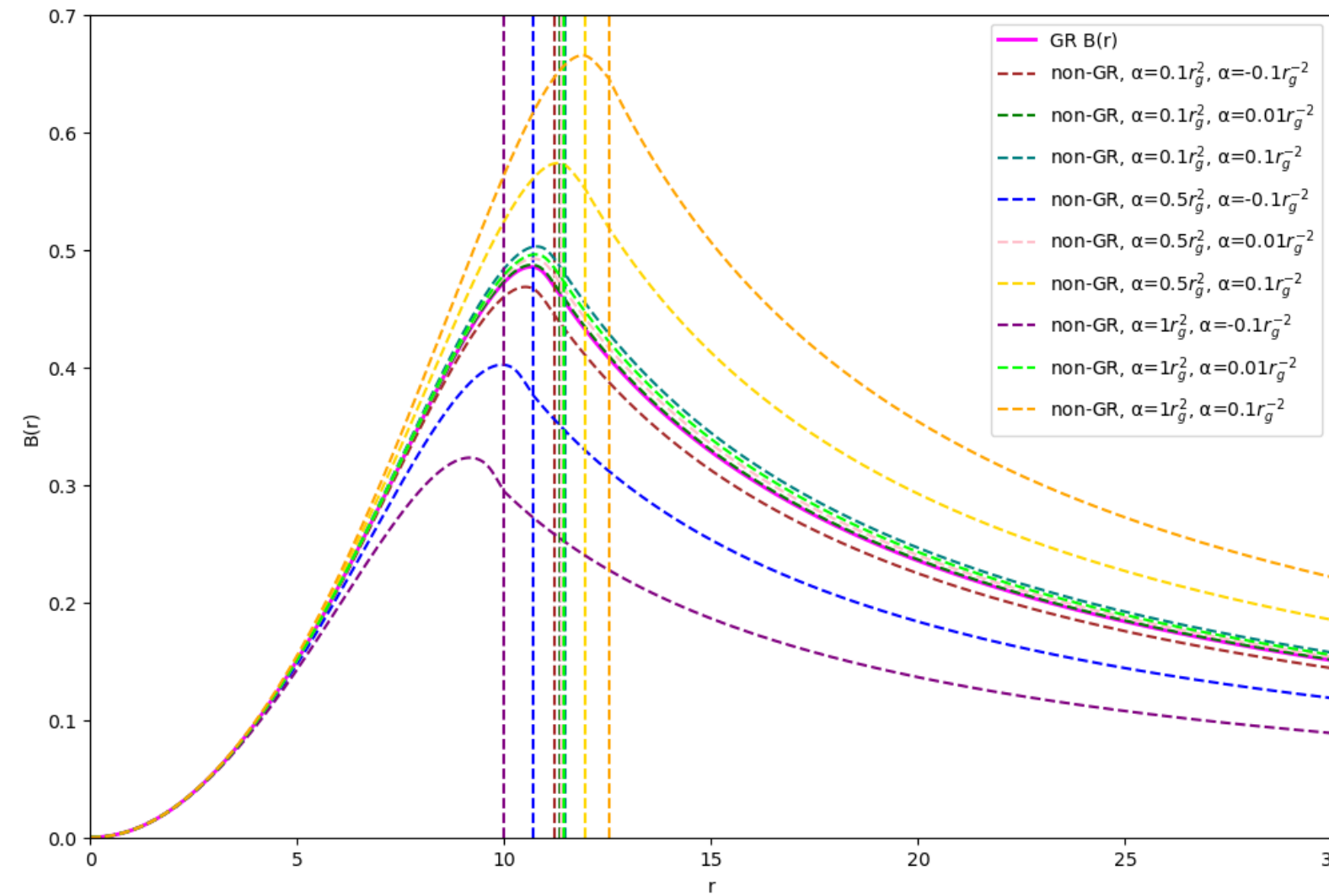
# TOV Equations in Covariant $f(Q)$ Gravity

- Here we will consider three models of  $f(Q)$ :
  - $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$  (Lin, *et. al.*, *Phys. Rev. D*, 2022)
  - $f(Q) = Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$  (Anagnostopoulos, *et al.*, *Phys. Lett. B*, 2021)
  - $f(Q) = Q - \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$  (N´ajera, *et.al.* *Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc.*, 2023)
- $\alpha$  will act as a coarse tuning parameter, determining the effects of the additional term on the total function.
- $\beta$  will act as a fine tuning parameter, controls the growth of exponential and logarithmic term.

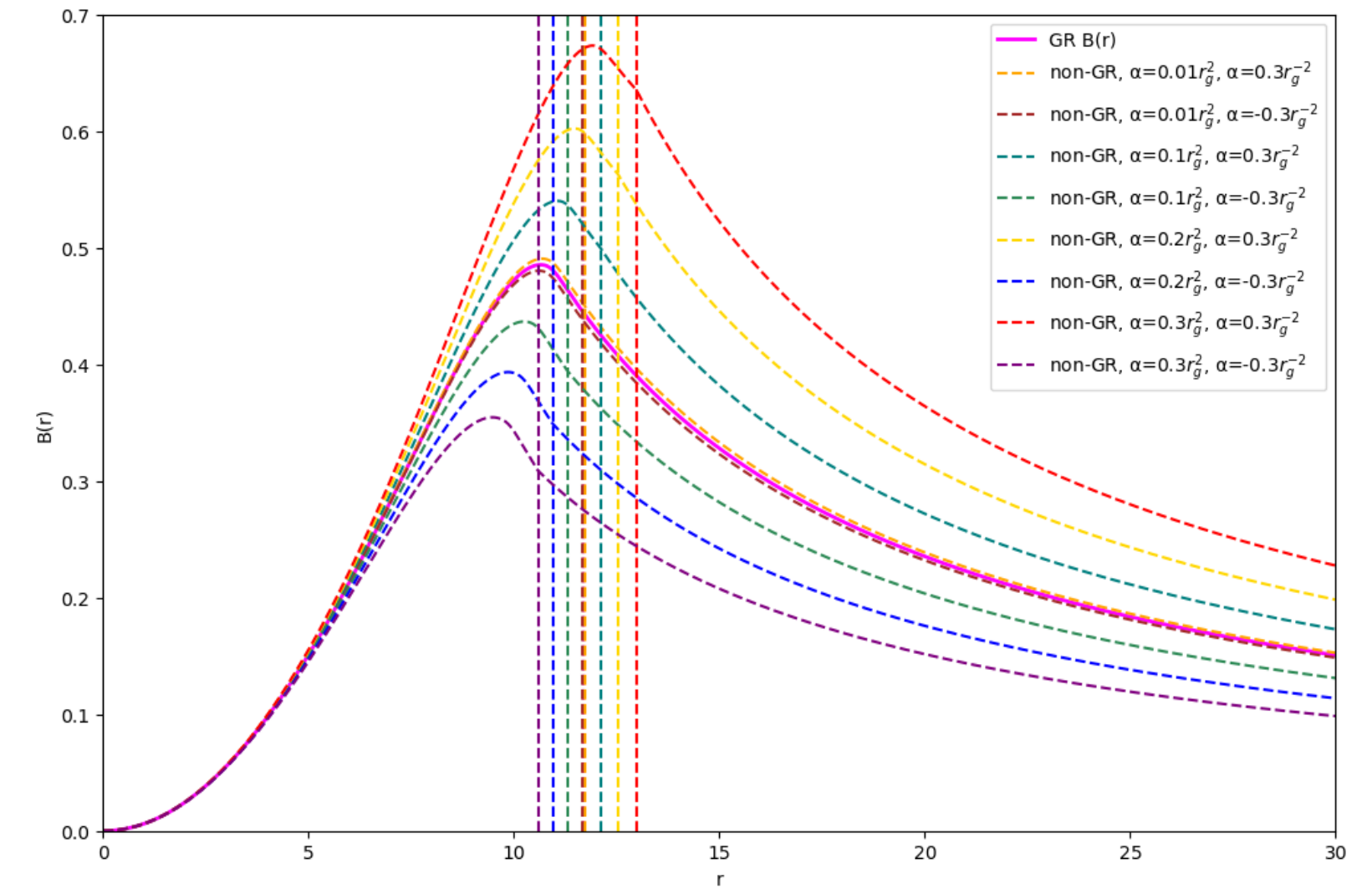
# $B(r)$ and $Q(r)$ profile



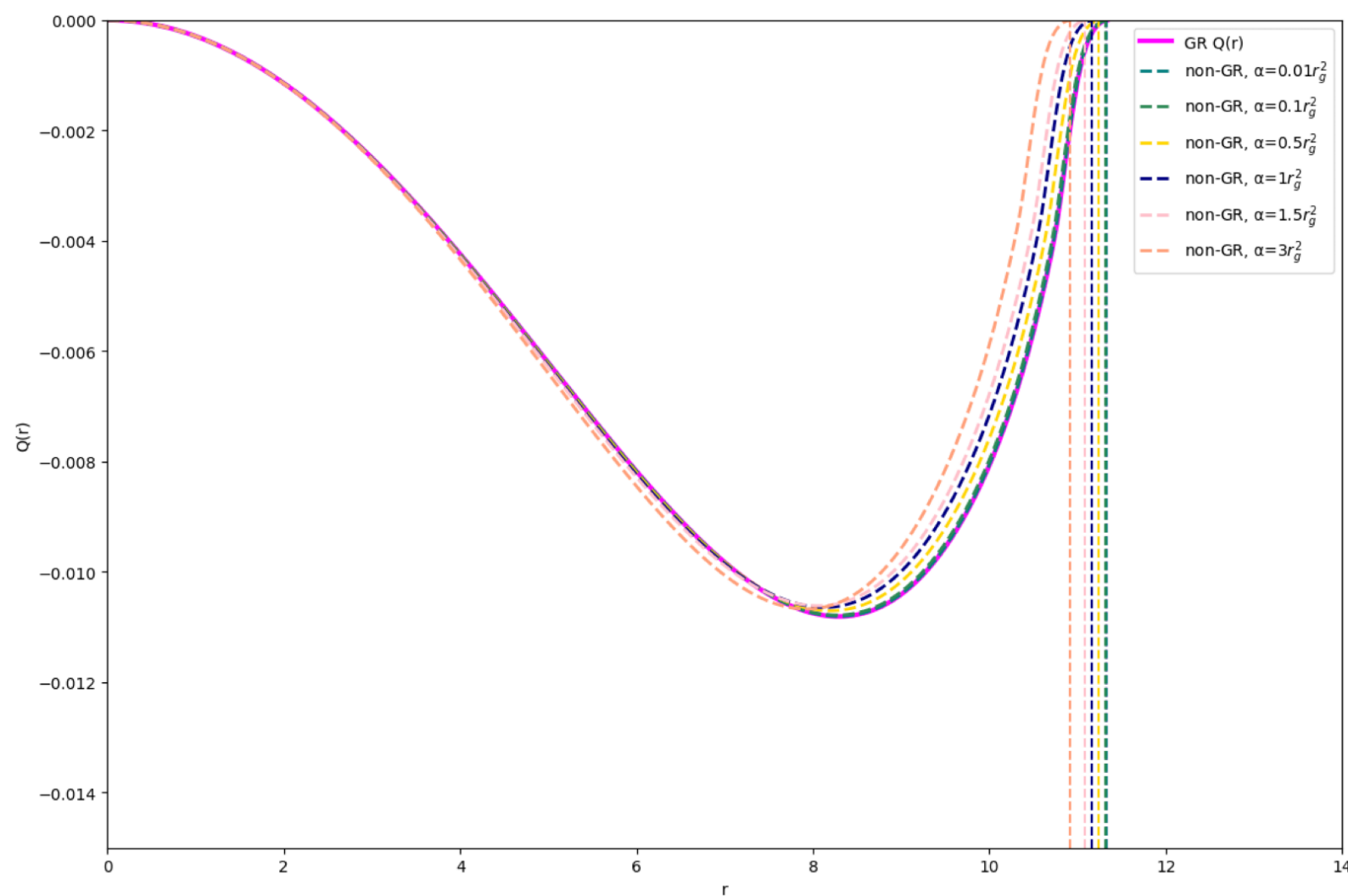
$B(r)$  profile using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$



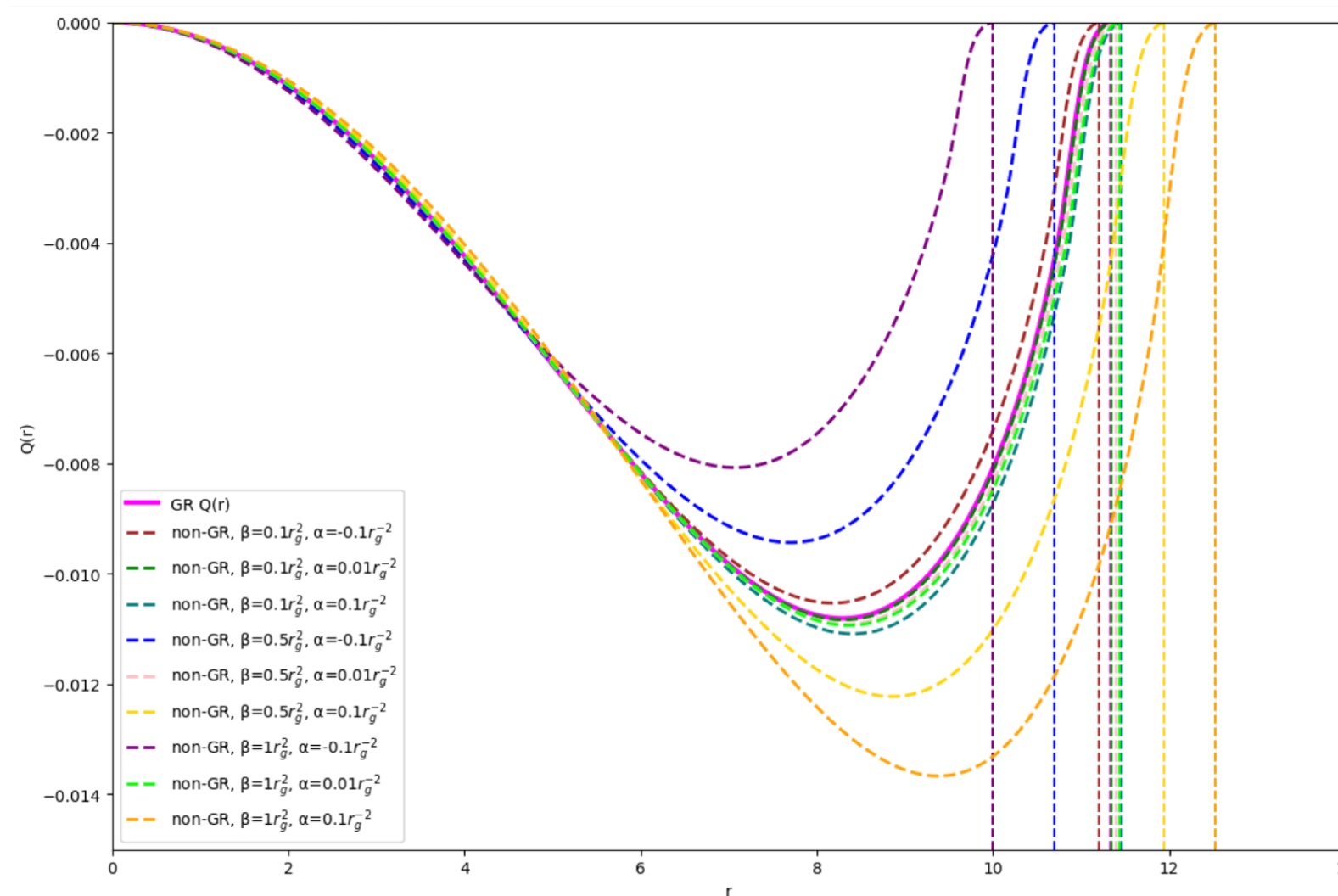
$B(r)$  profile using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$



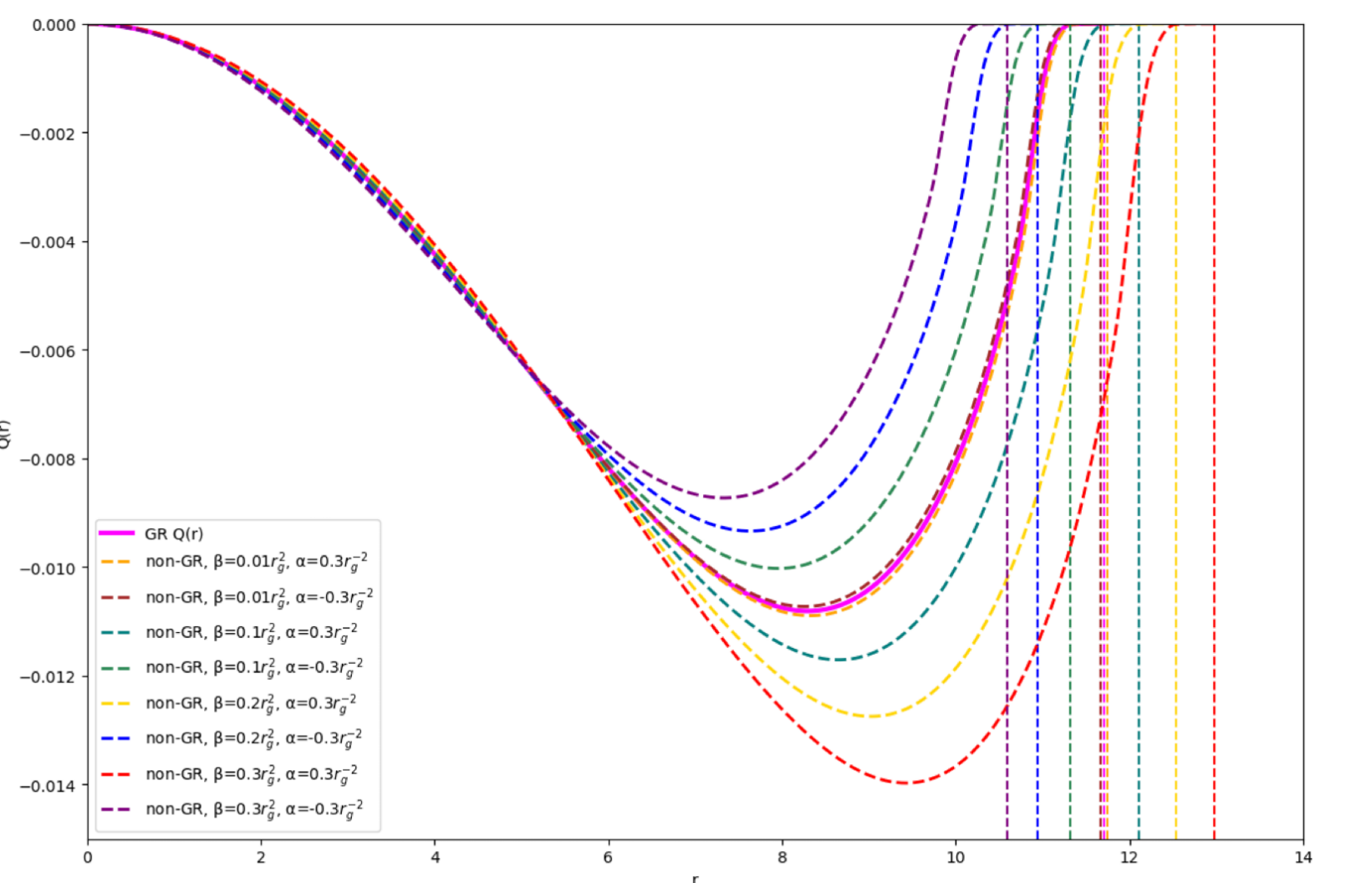
$B(r)$  profile using  $f(Q) = Q - \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$



Non-metricity profile using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$

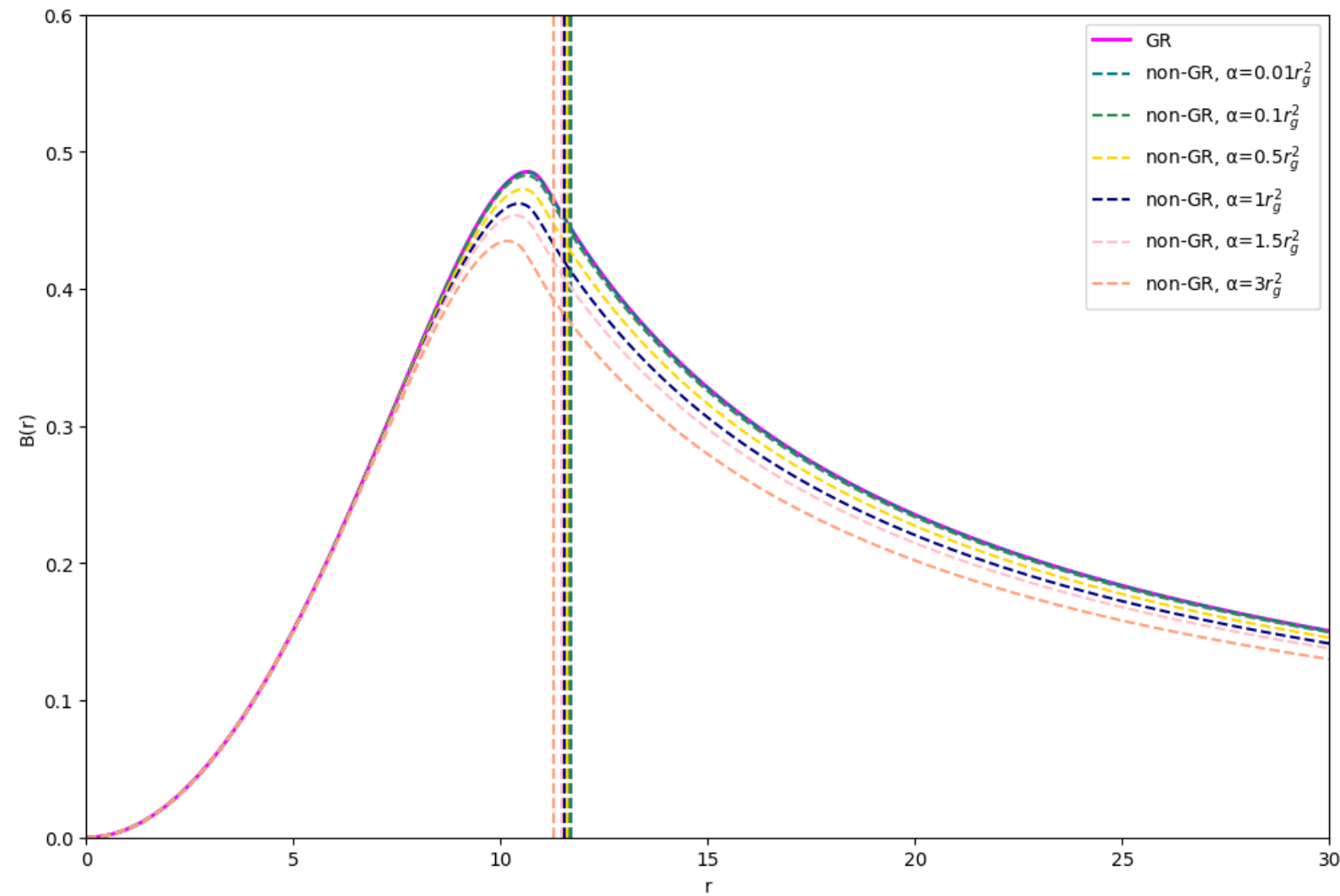


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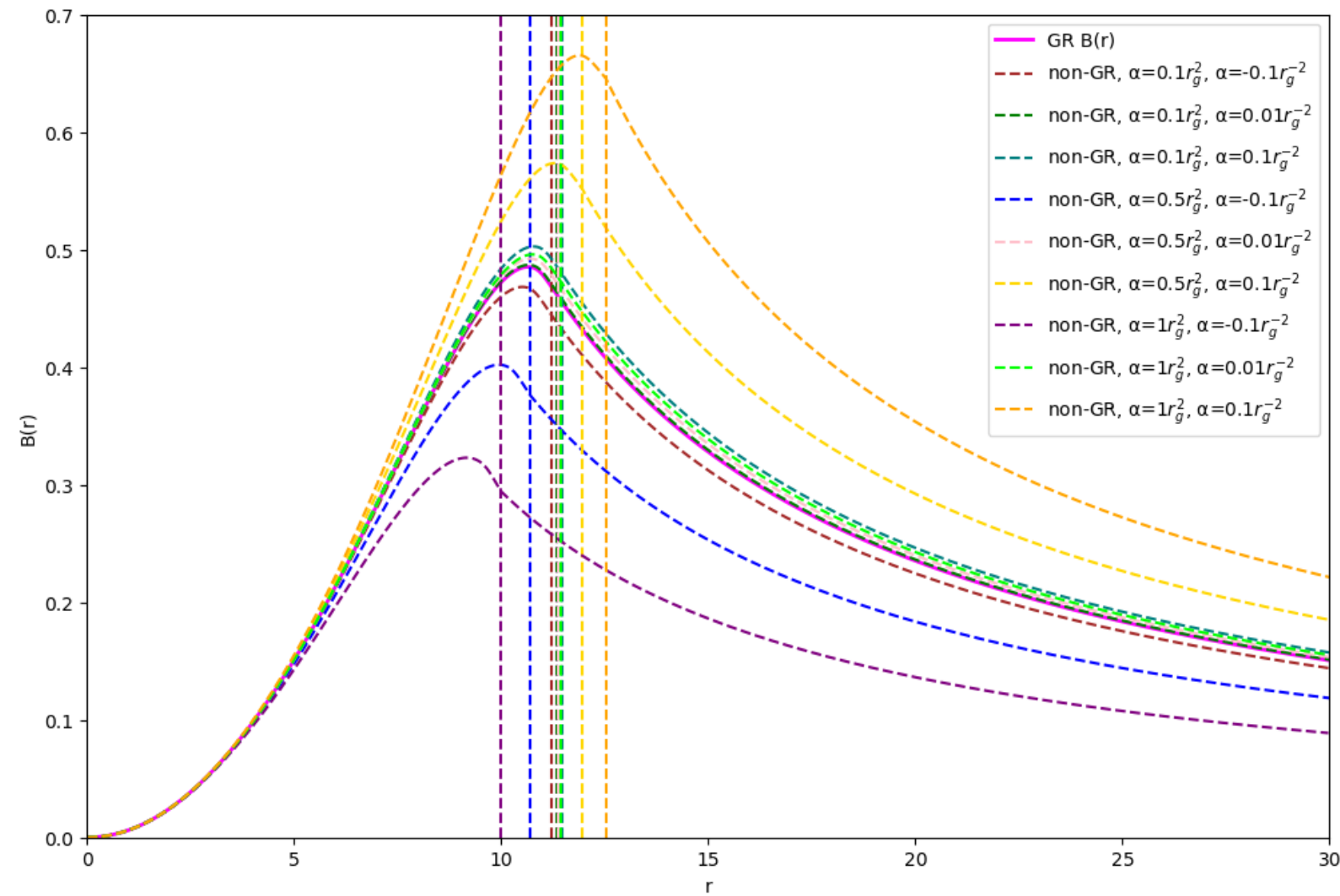


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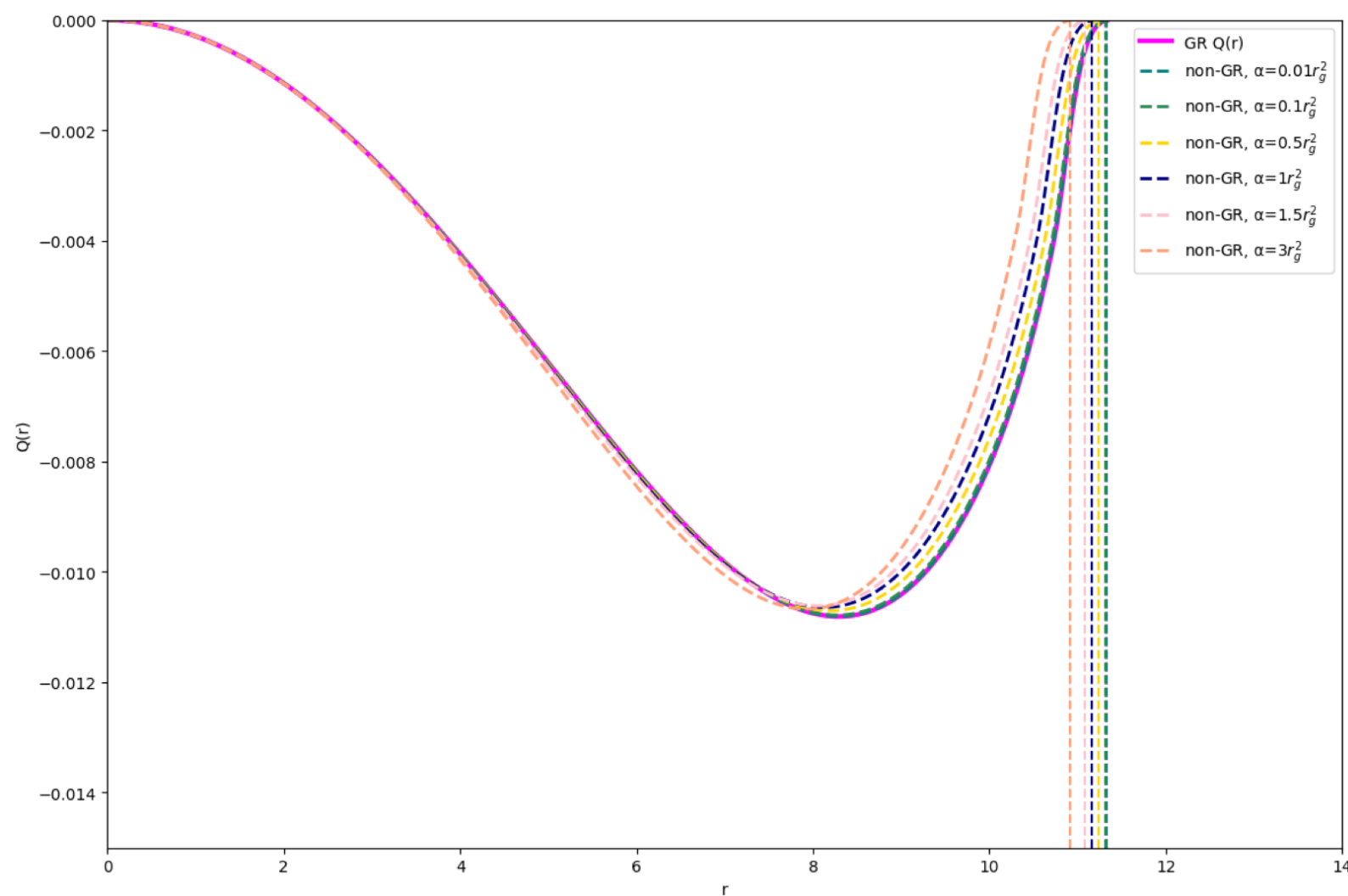
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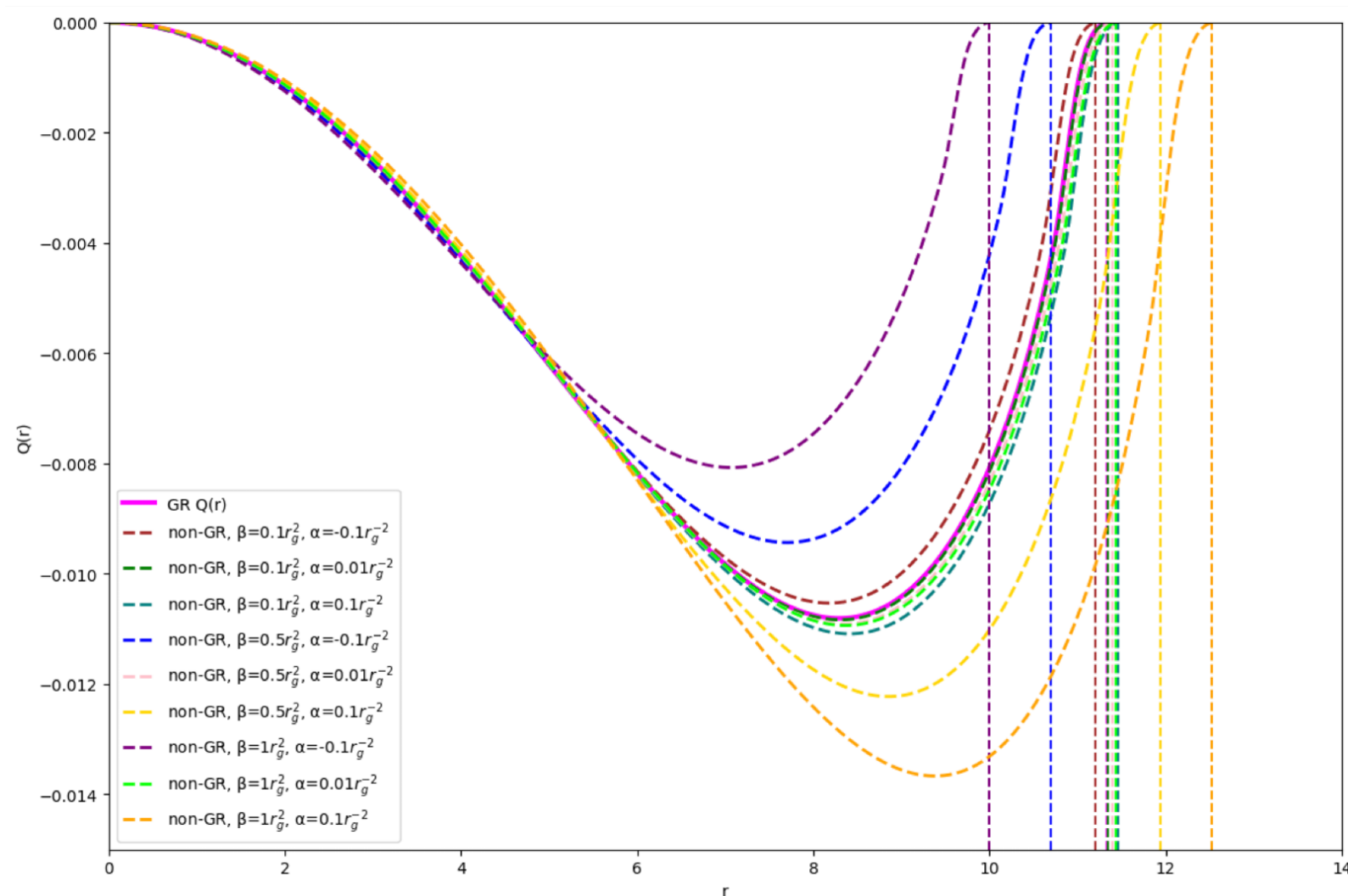
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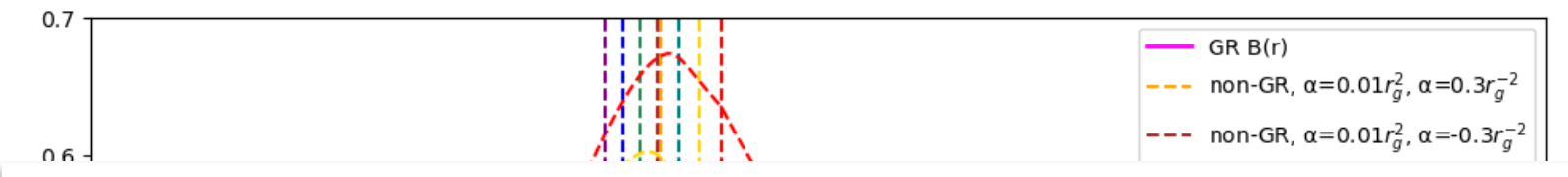
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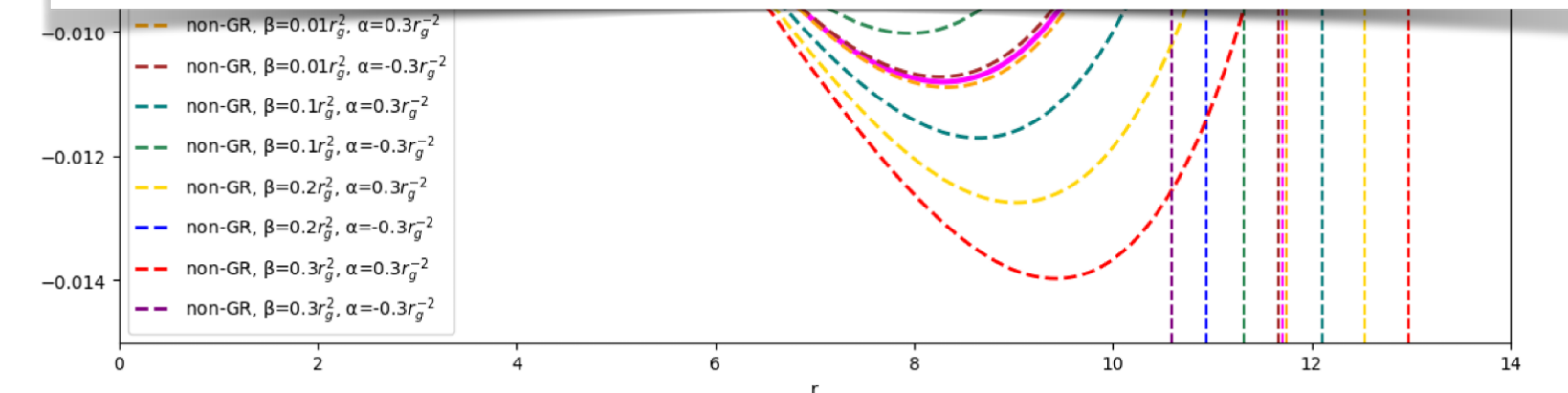
Non-metricity profile using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$



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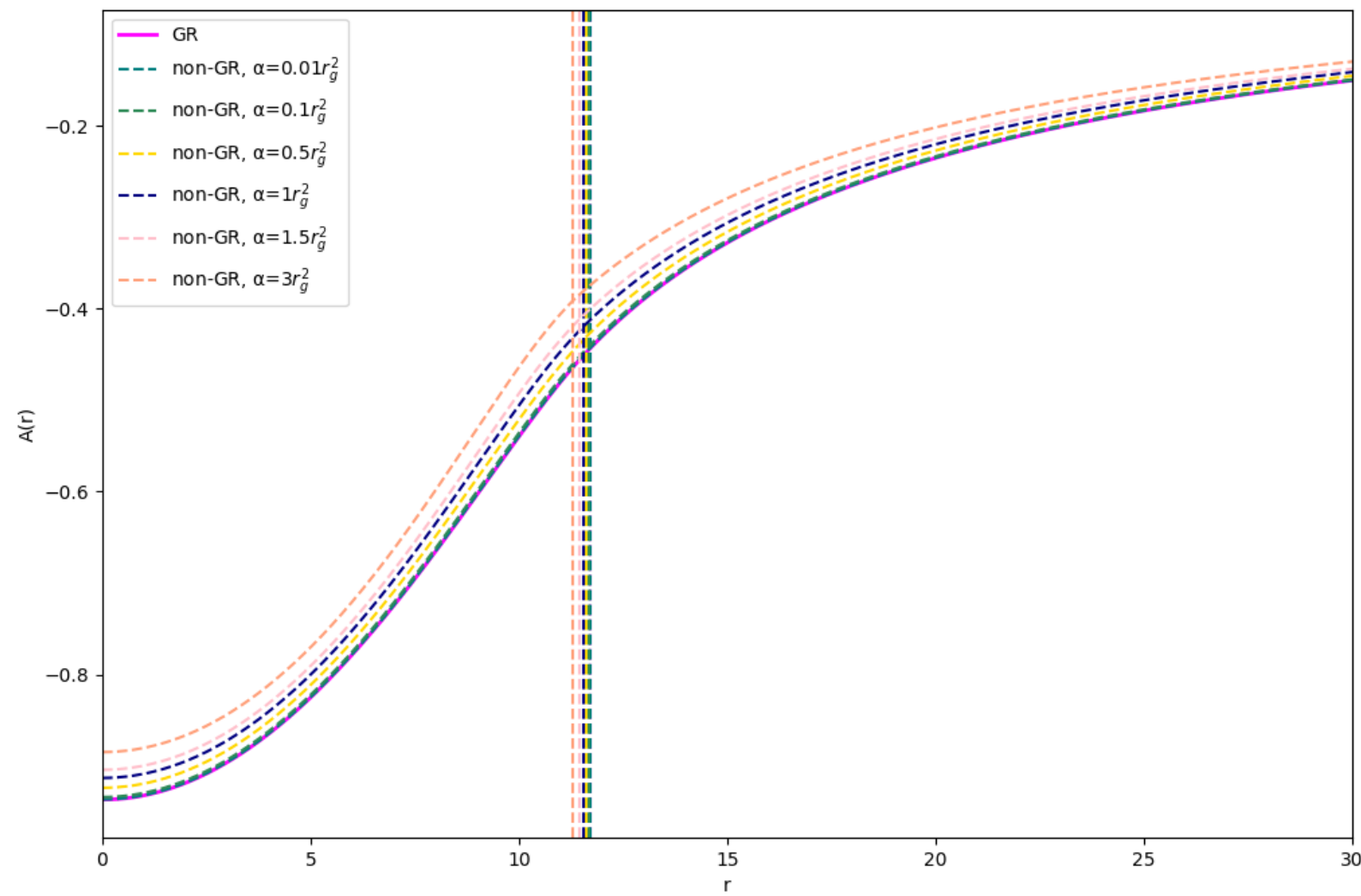


- Deviations in  $Q(r)$  affect the  $B(r)$  profile.
- In the Schwarzschild solution within the star's interior,  $e^{B(r)} = 1 - \frac{2m(r)}{r}$ . It means, deviations in  $B(r)$  clearly affect the mass function  $m(r)$ .
- When  $B(r)$  deviates due to  $Q(r)$ , the star can either accommodate more matter or less matter, impacting the total mass. Will be clearer after we see the mass-radius diagram.

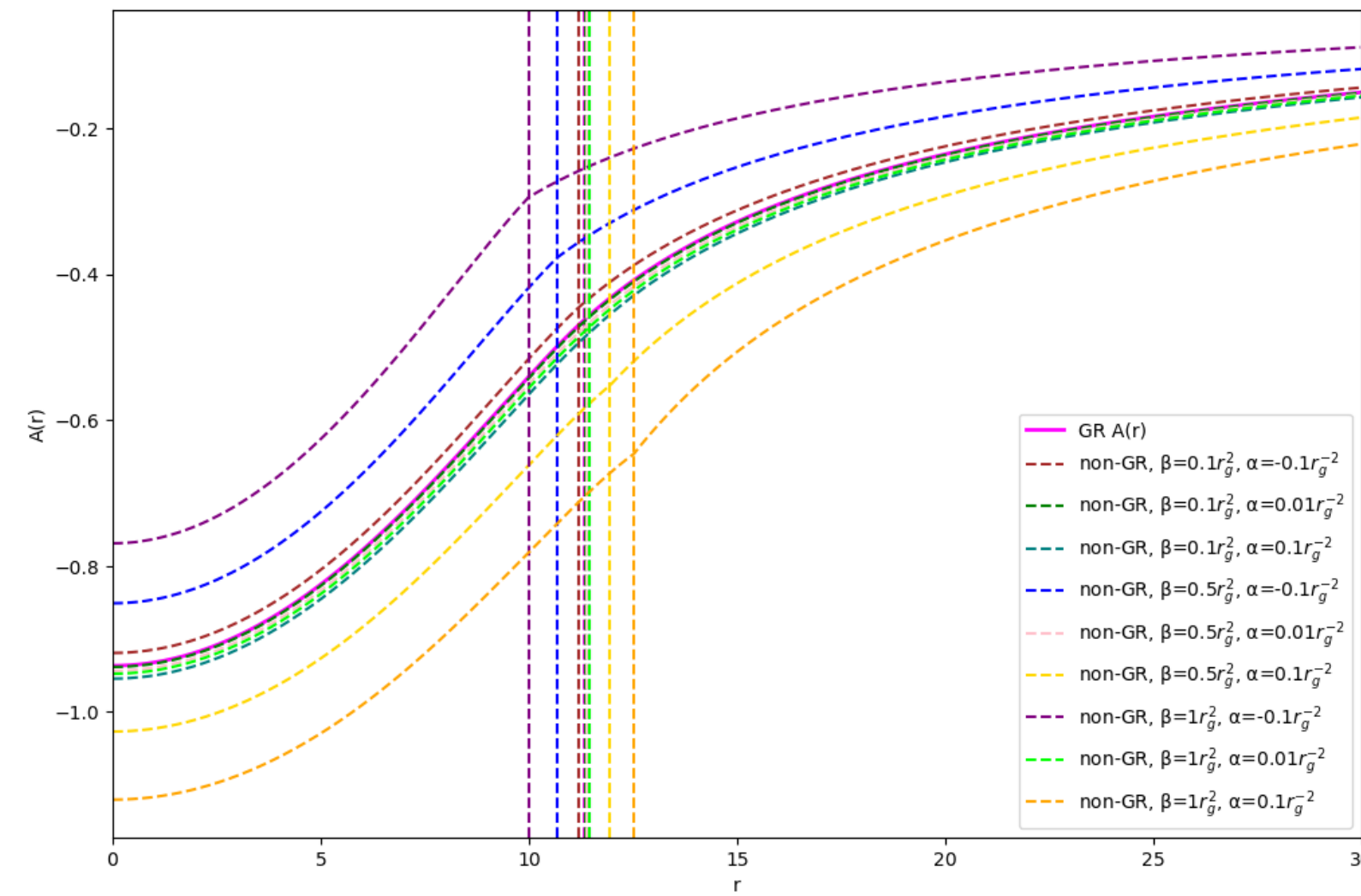


Non-metricity profile using  $f(Q) = Q - \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$

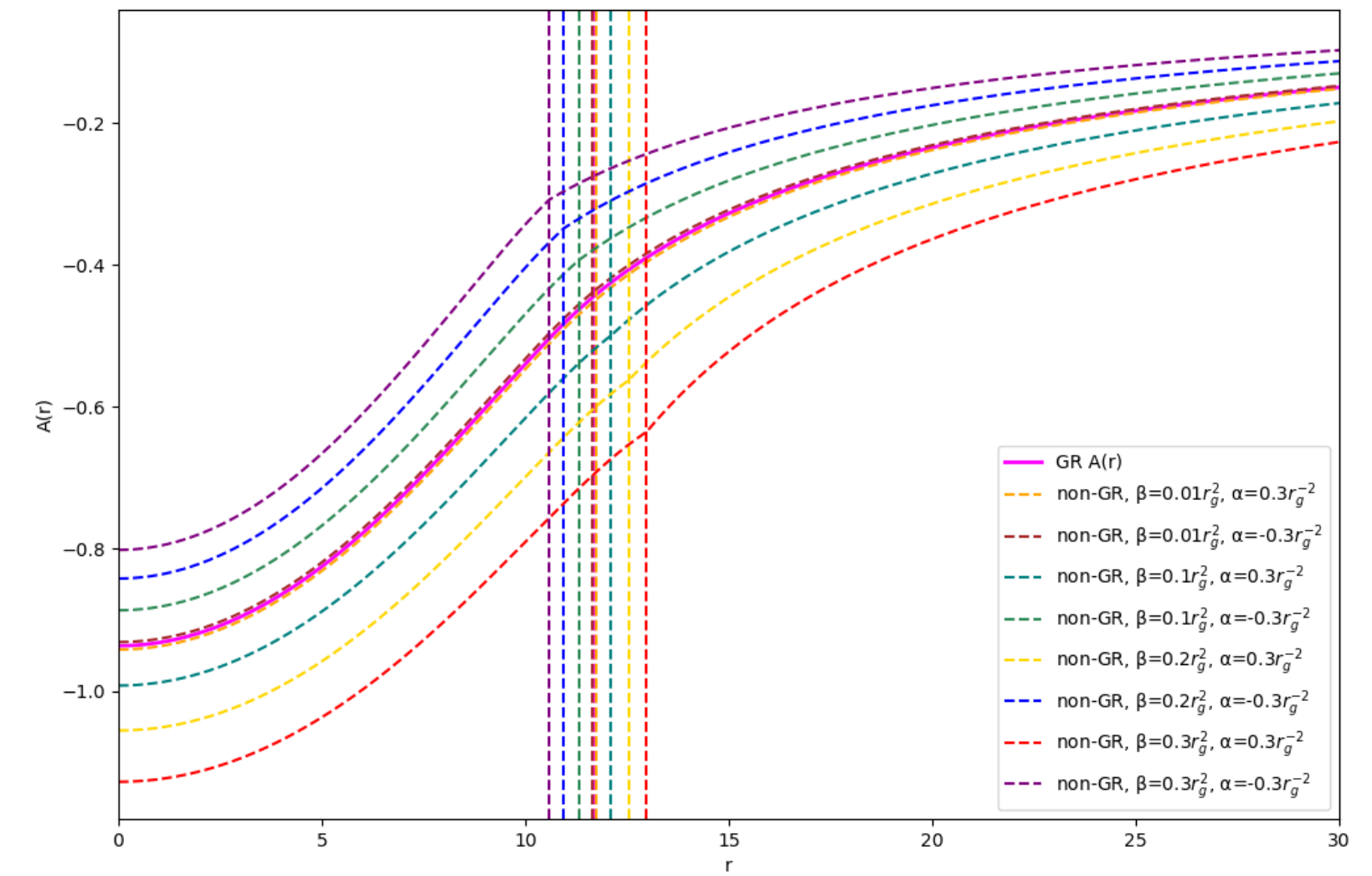
# $A(r)$ profile and pressure distribution



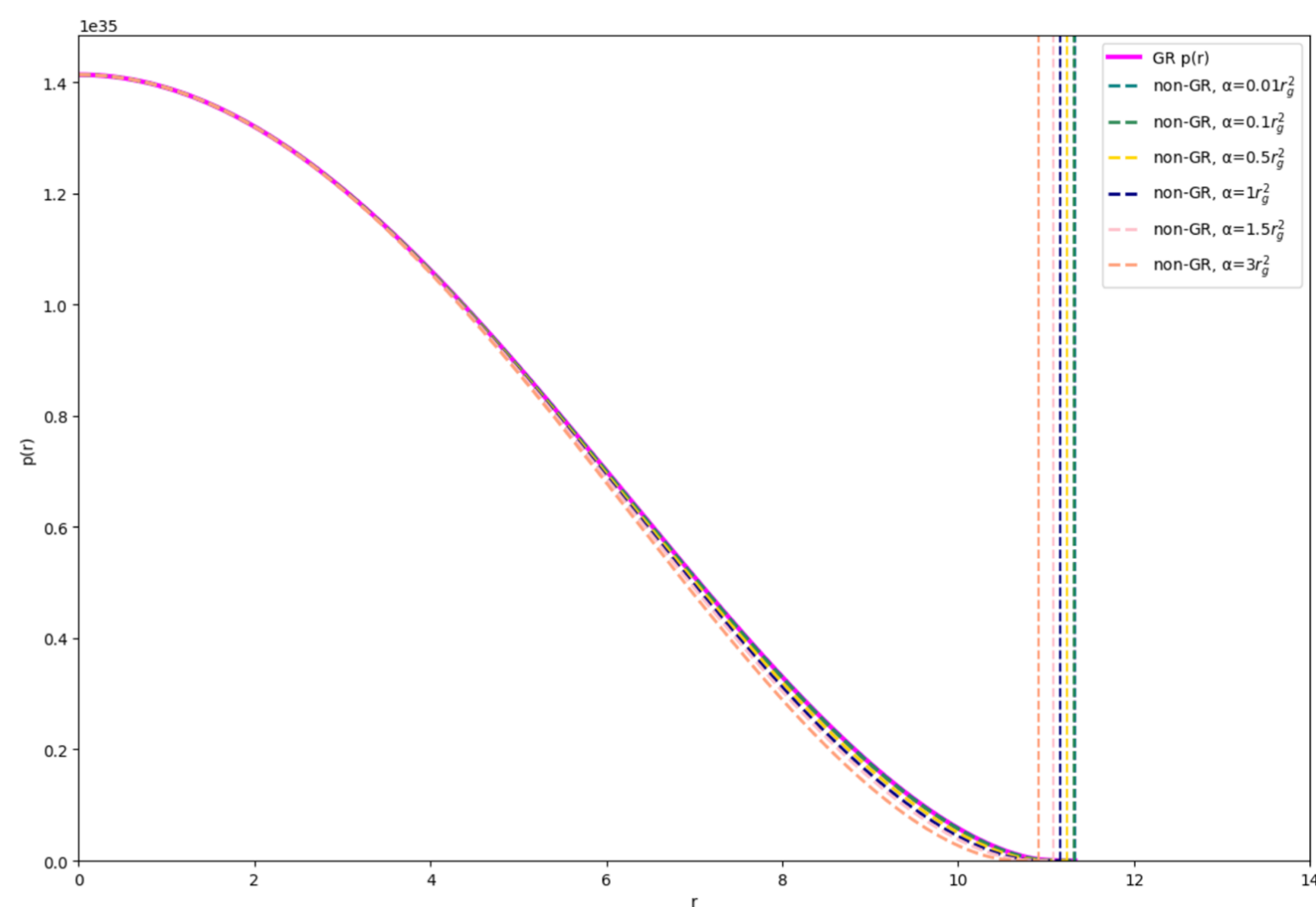
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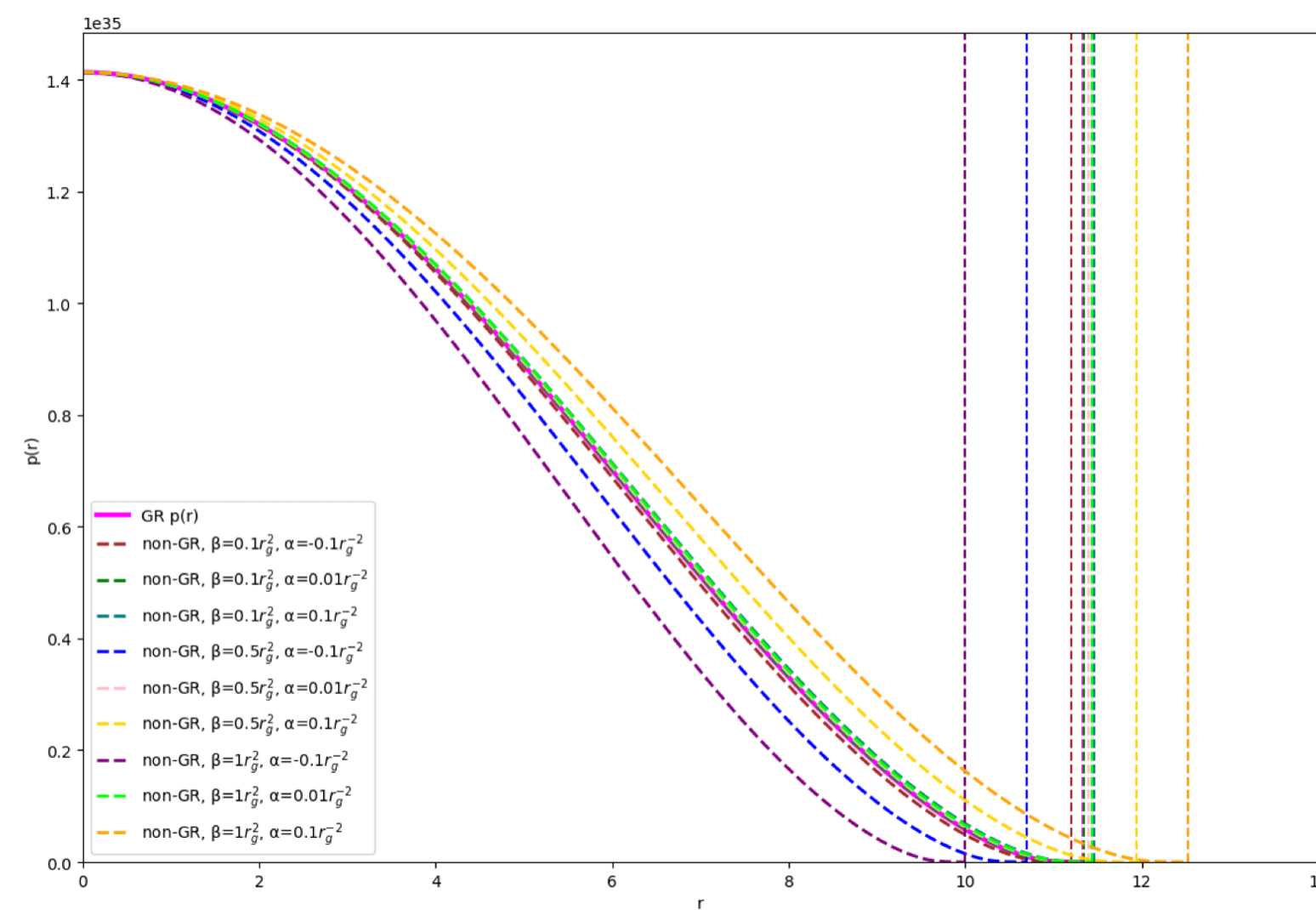
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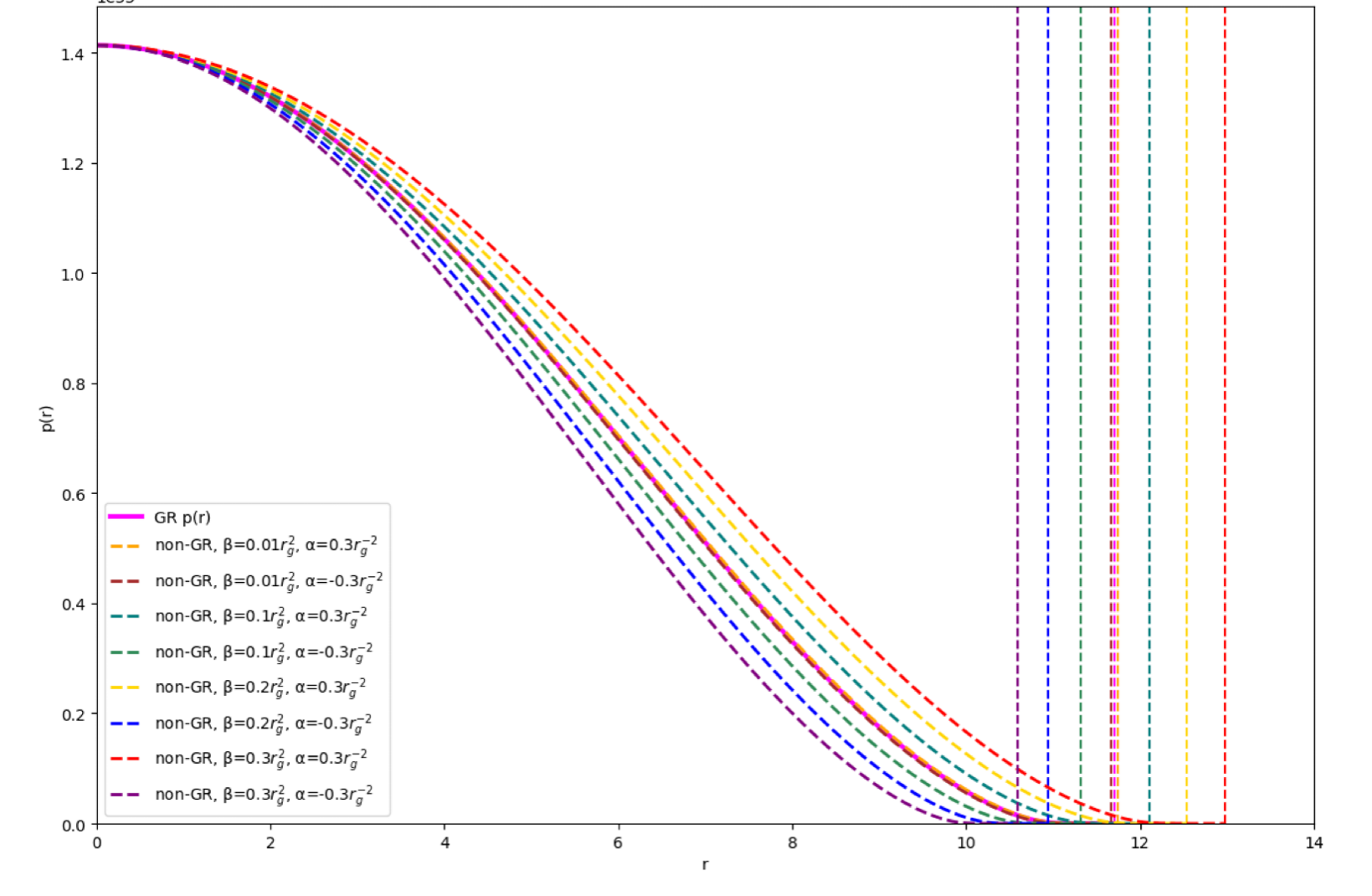
$B(r)$  profile using  $f(Q) = Q - \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$



Pressure distribution using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$

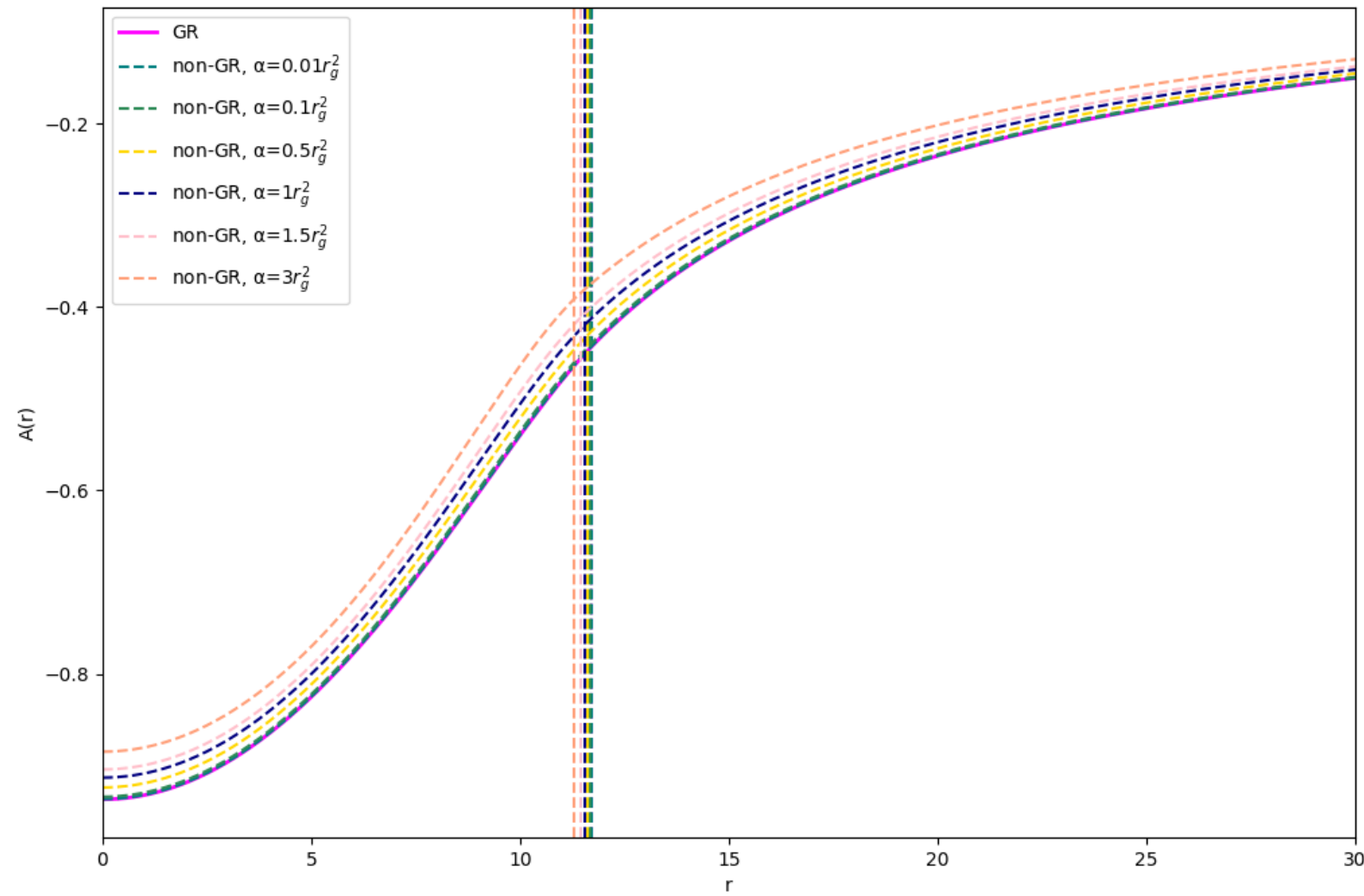


Pressure distribution using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$

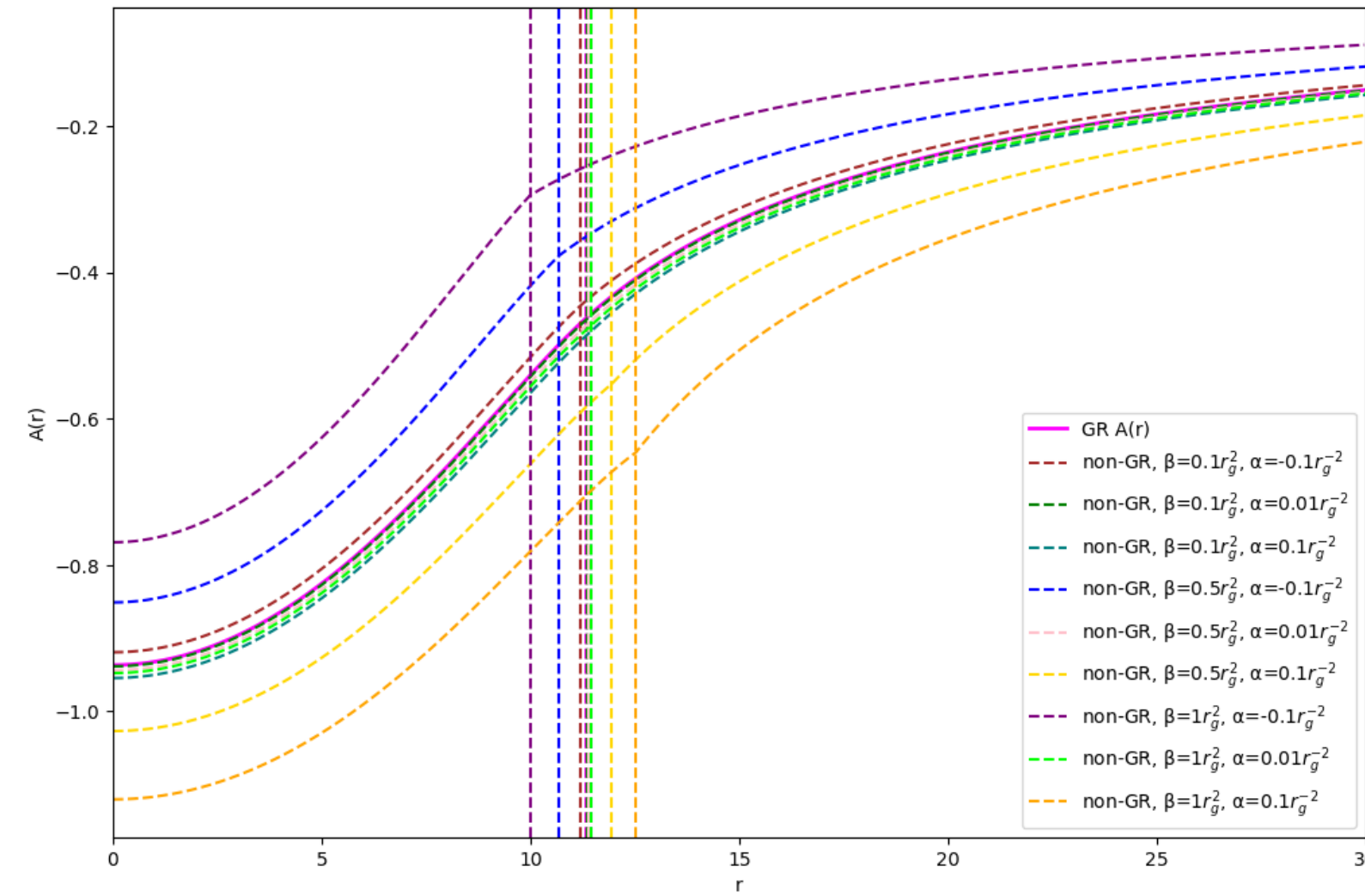


Pressure distribution using  $f(Q) = Q - \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$

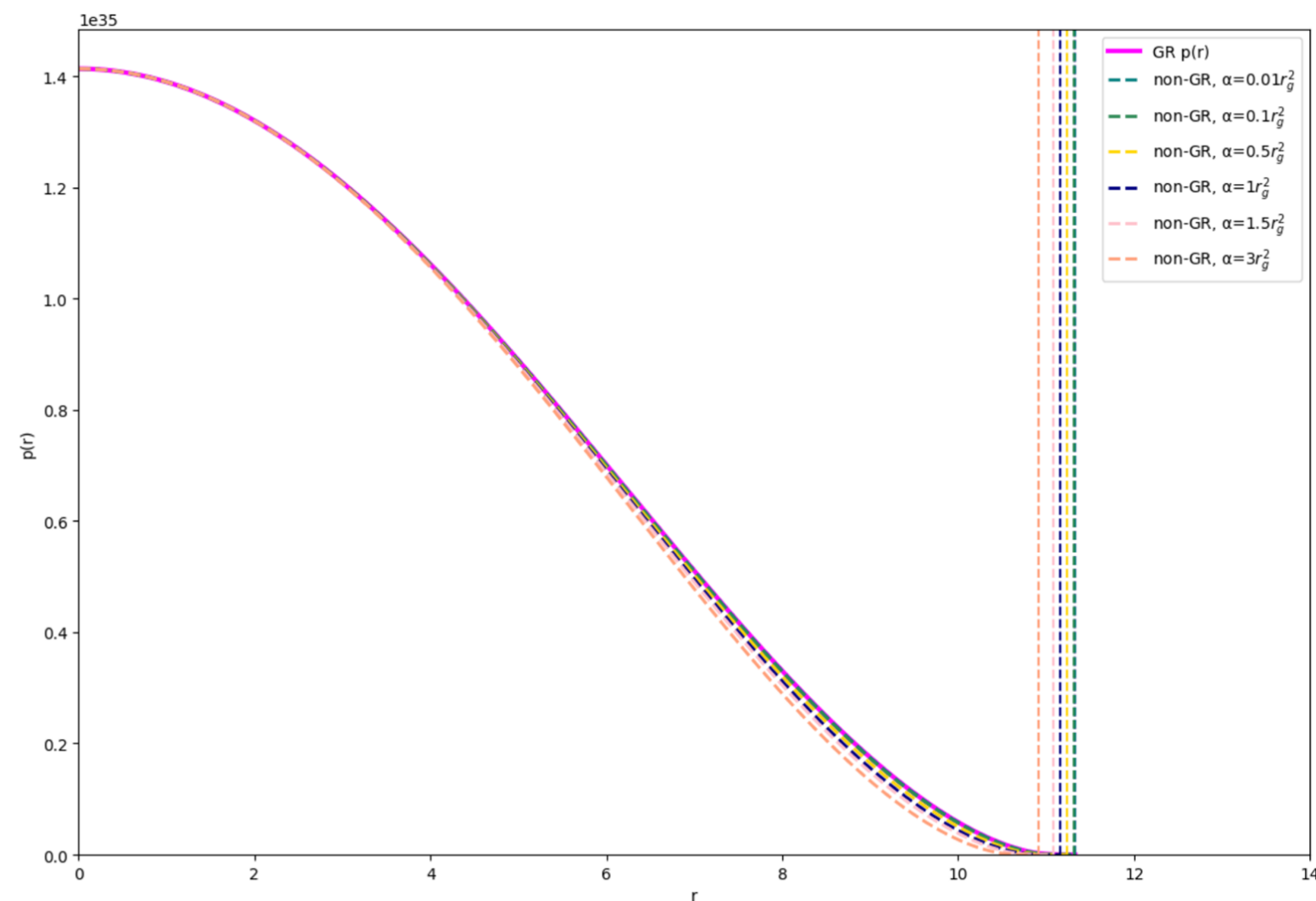
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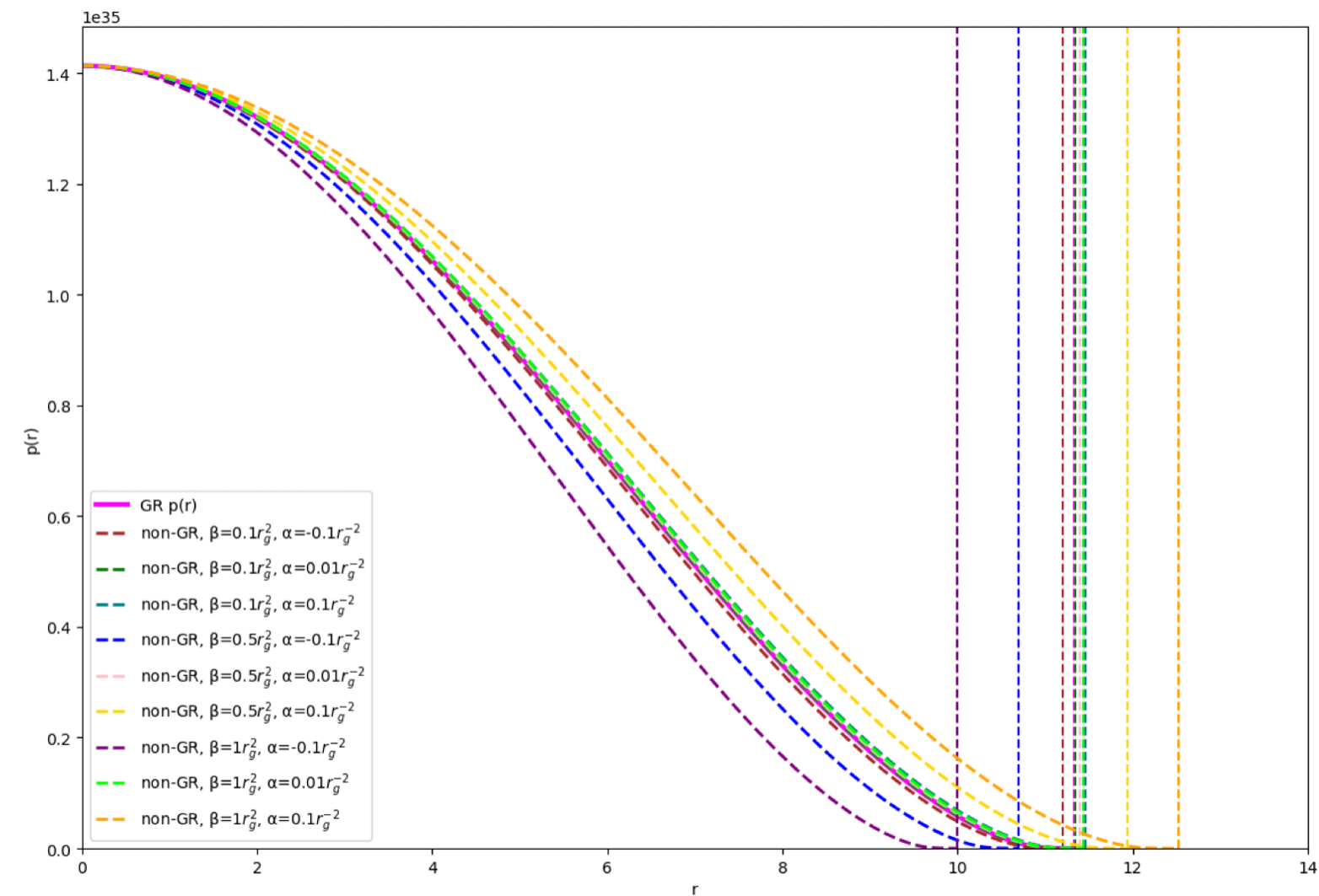
$A(r)$  profile using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$



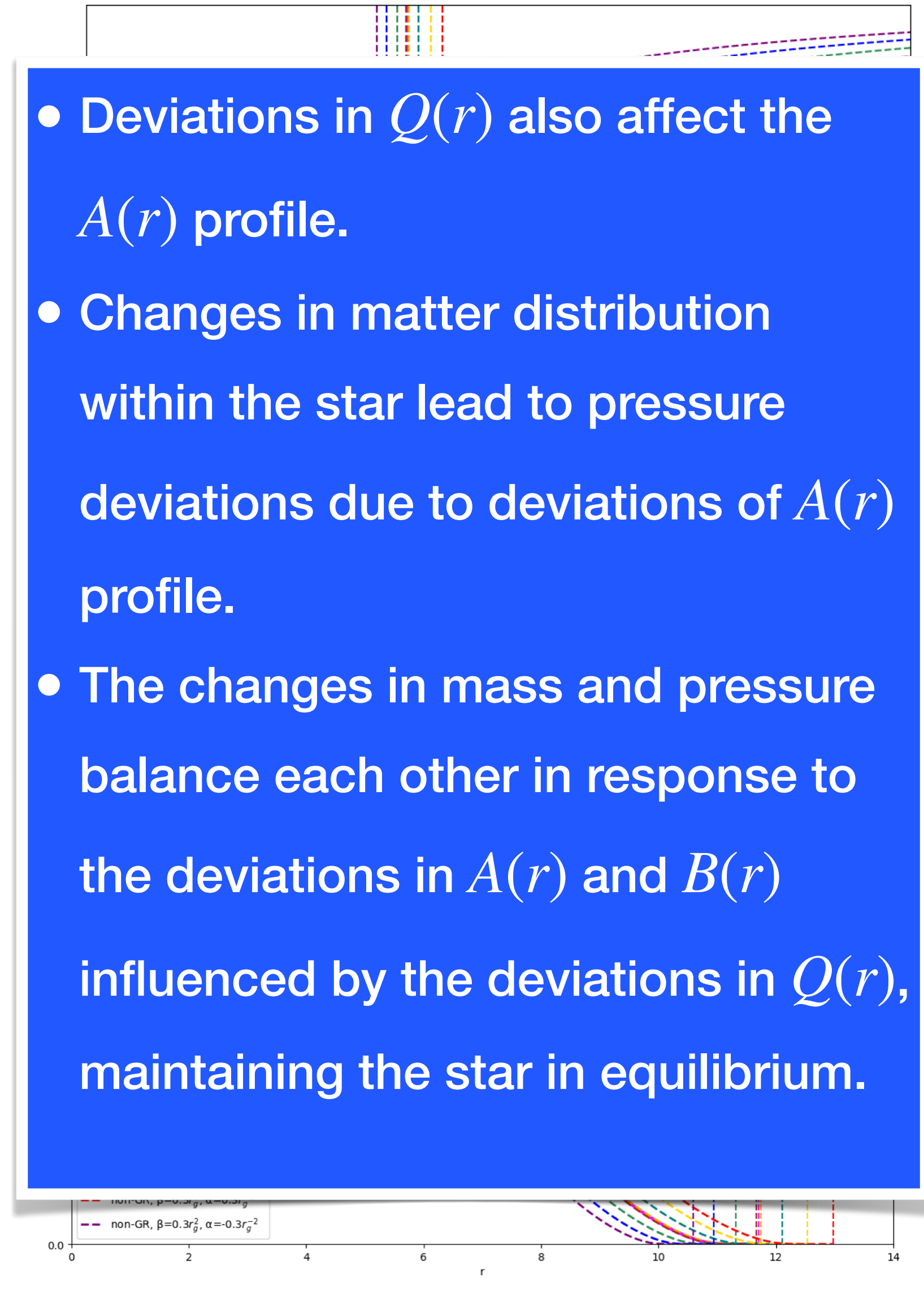
$A(r)$  profile using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$



Pressure distribution using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$



Pressure distribution using  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$

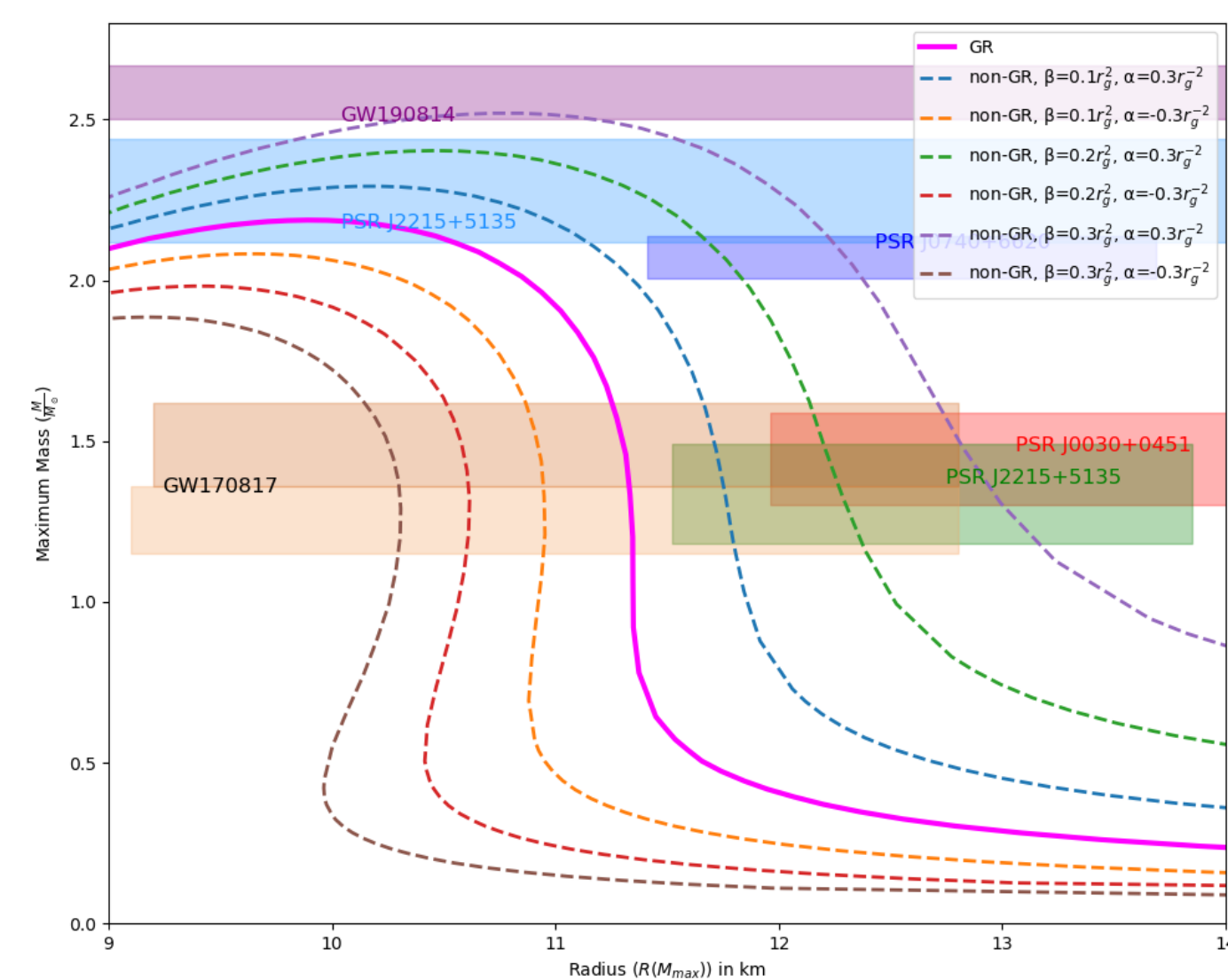
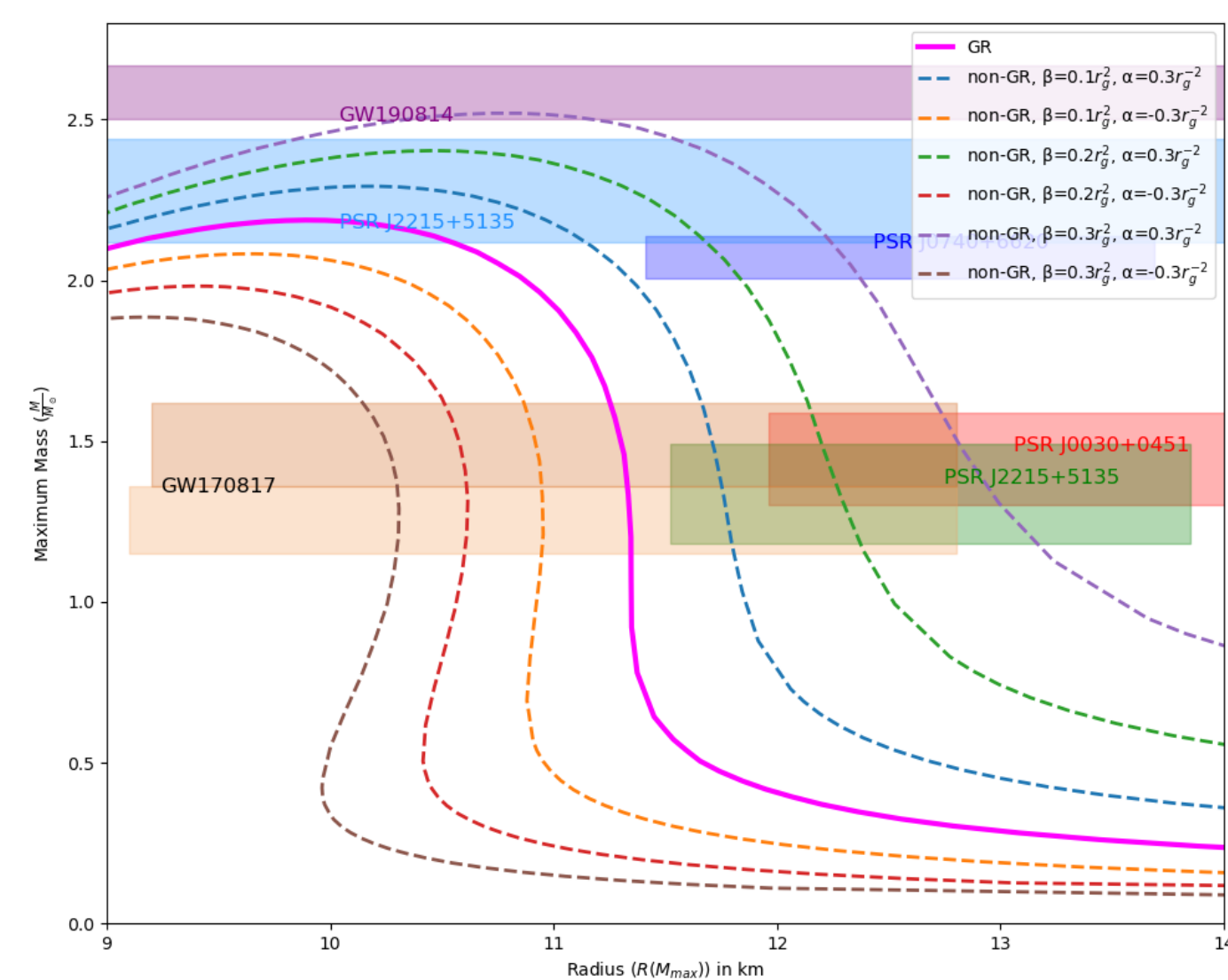
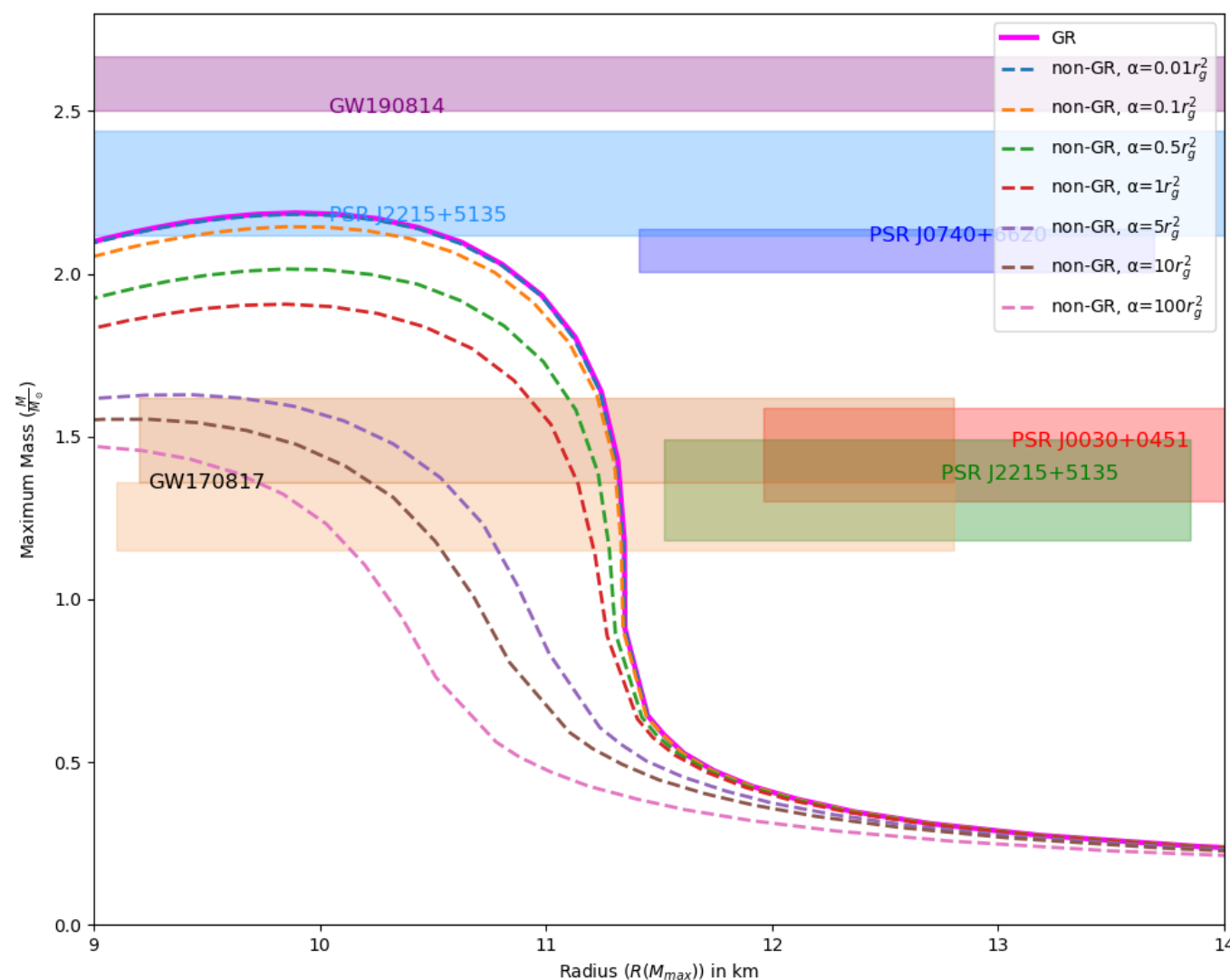
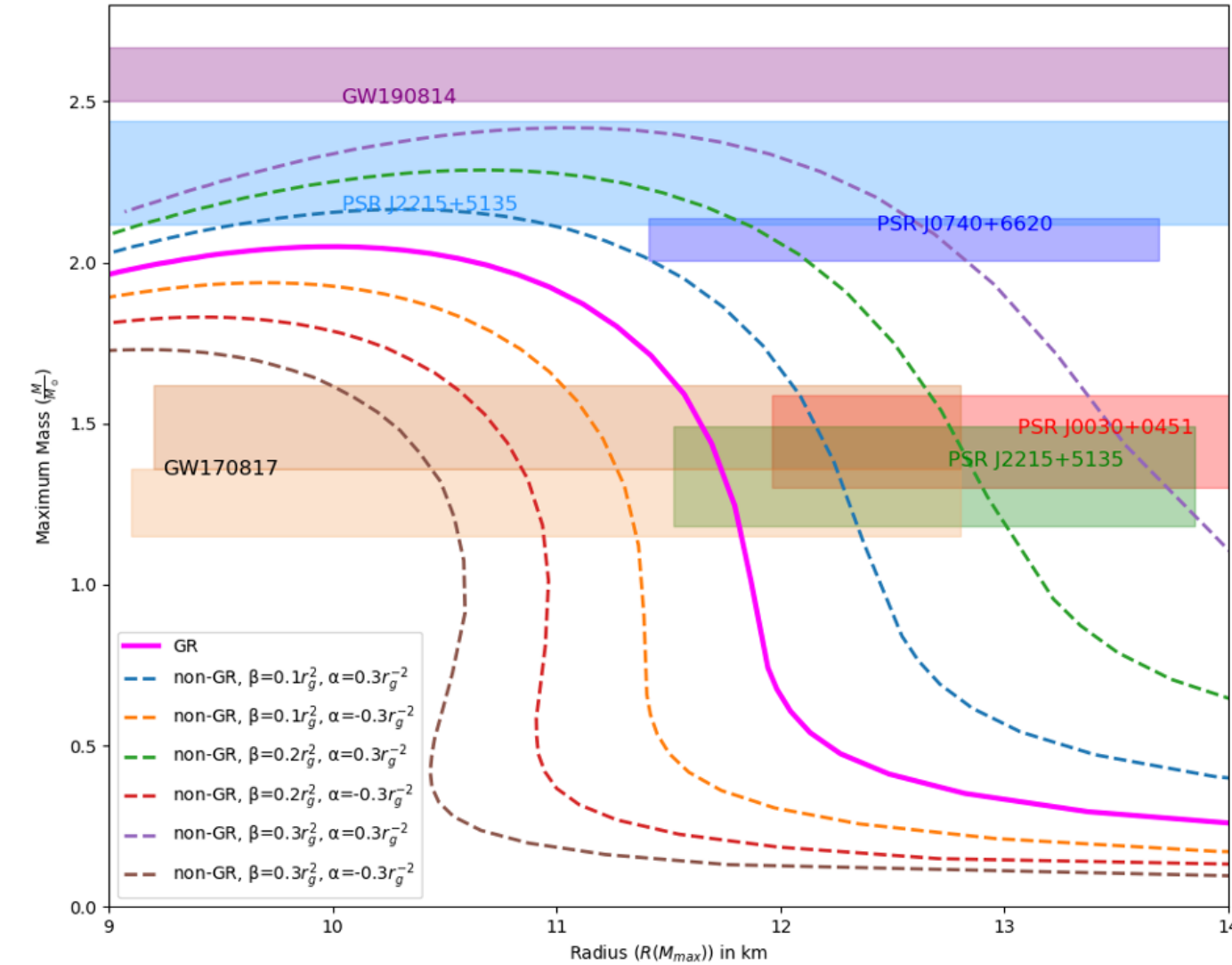
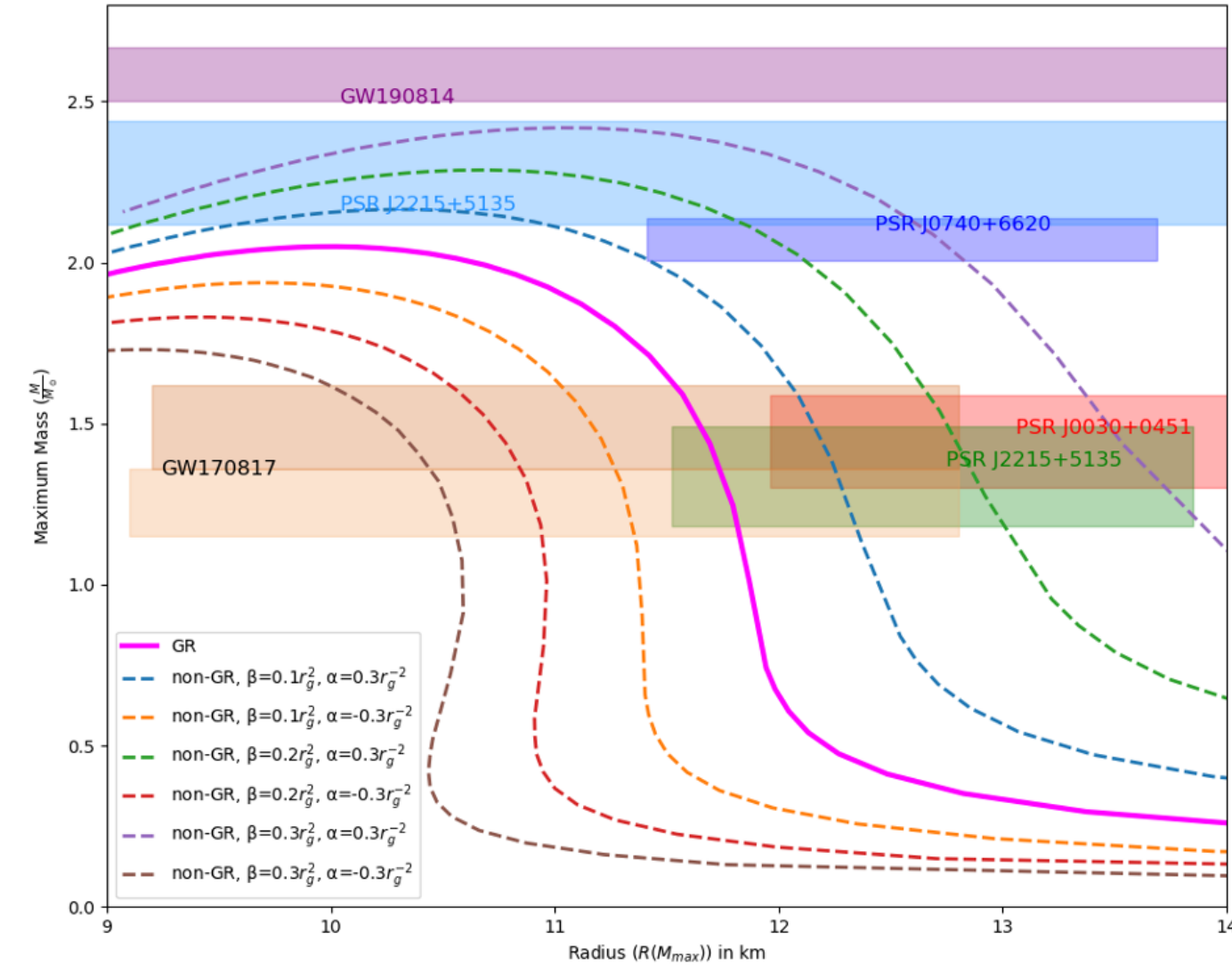
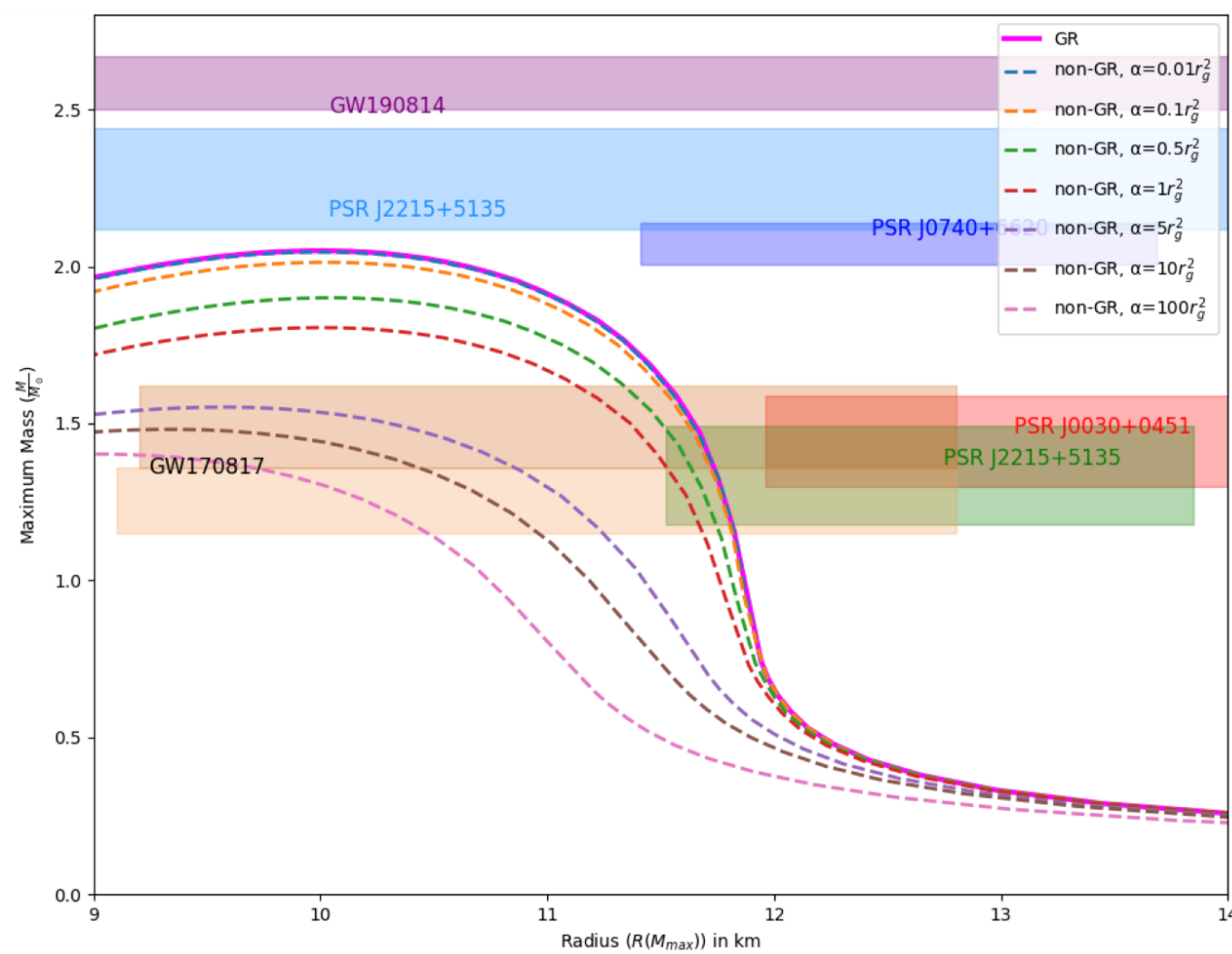


Pressure distribution using  $f(Q) = Q - \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$

- Deviations in  $Q(r)$  also affect the  $A(r)$  profile.
- Changes in matter distribution within the star lead to pressure deviations due to deviations of  $A(r)$  profile.
- The changes in mass and pressure balance each other in response to the deviations in  $A(r)$  and  $B(r)$  influenced by the deviations in  $Q(r)$ , maintaining the star in equilibrium.

# Mass-Radius Relation

Using observational constraint as GW190814, GW170817, PSR J2215+5135, PSR J0740+6620, and PSR J0030+0451.

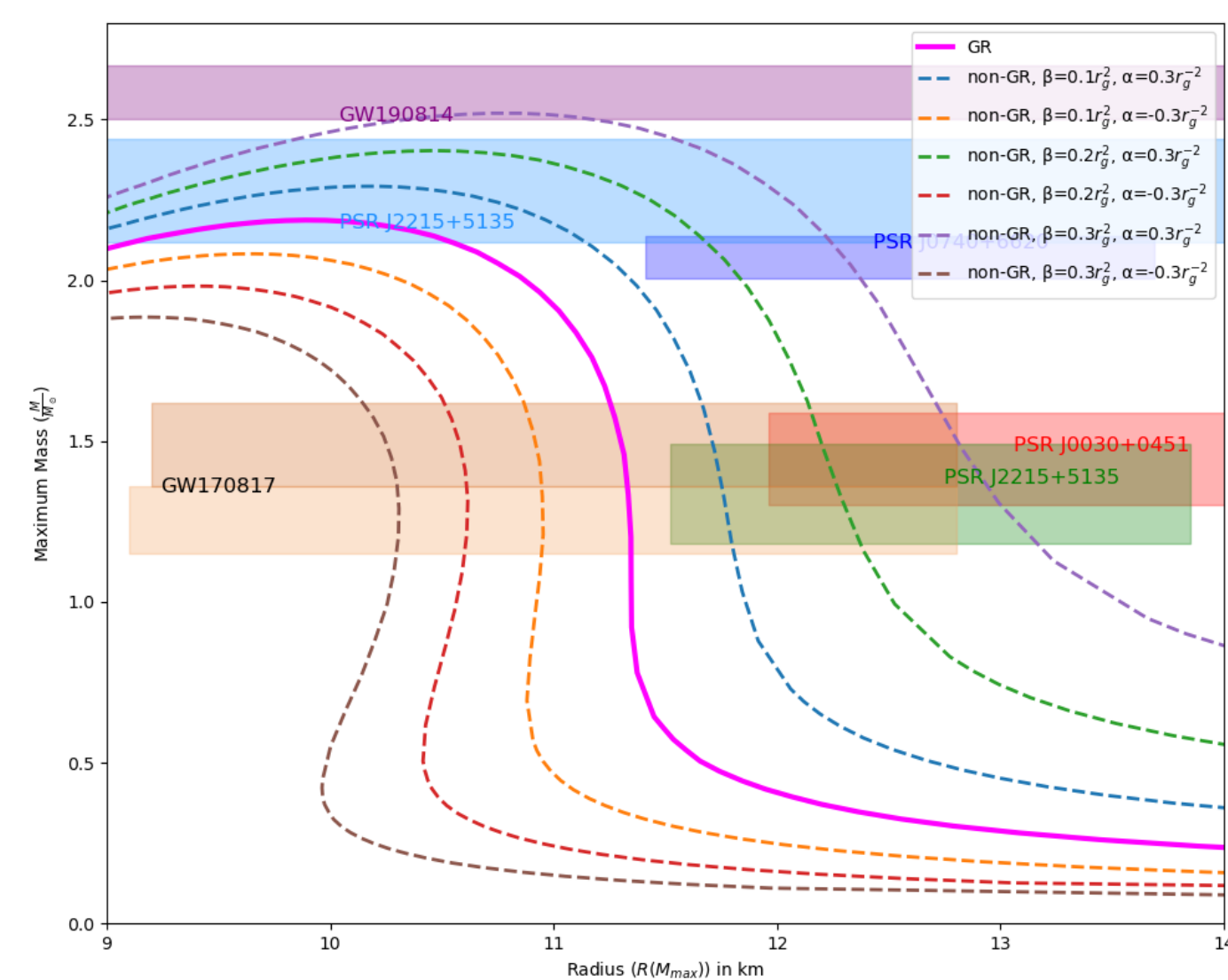
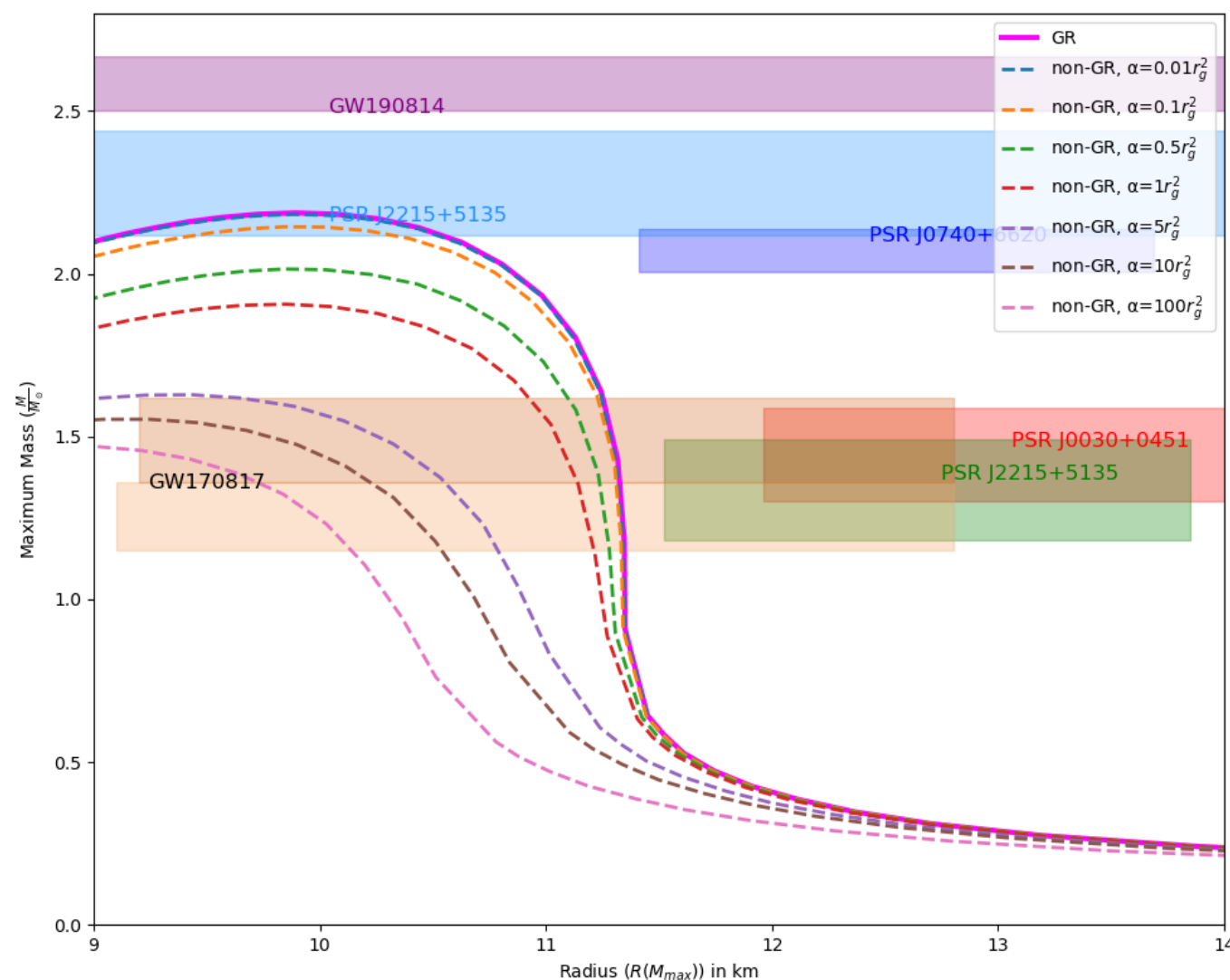
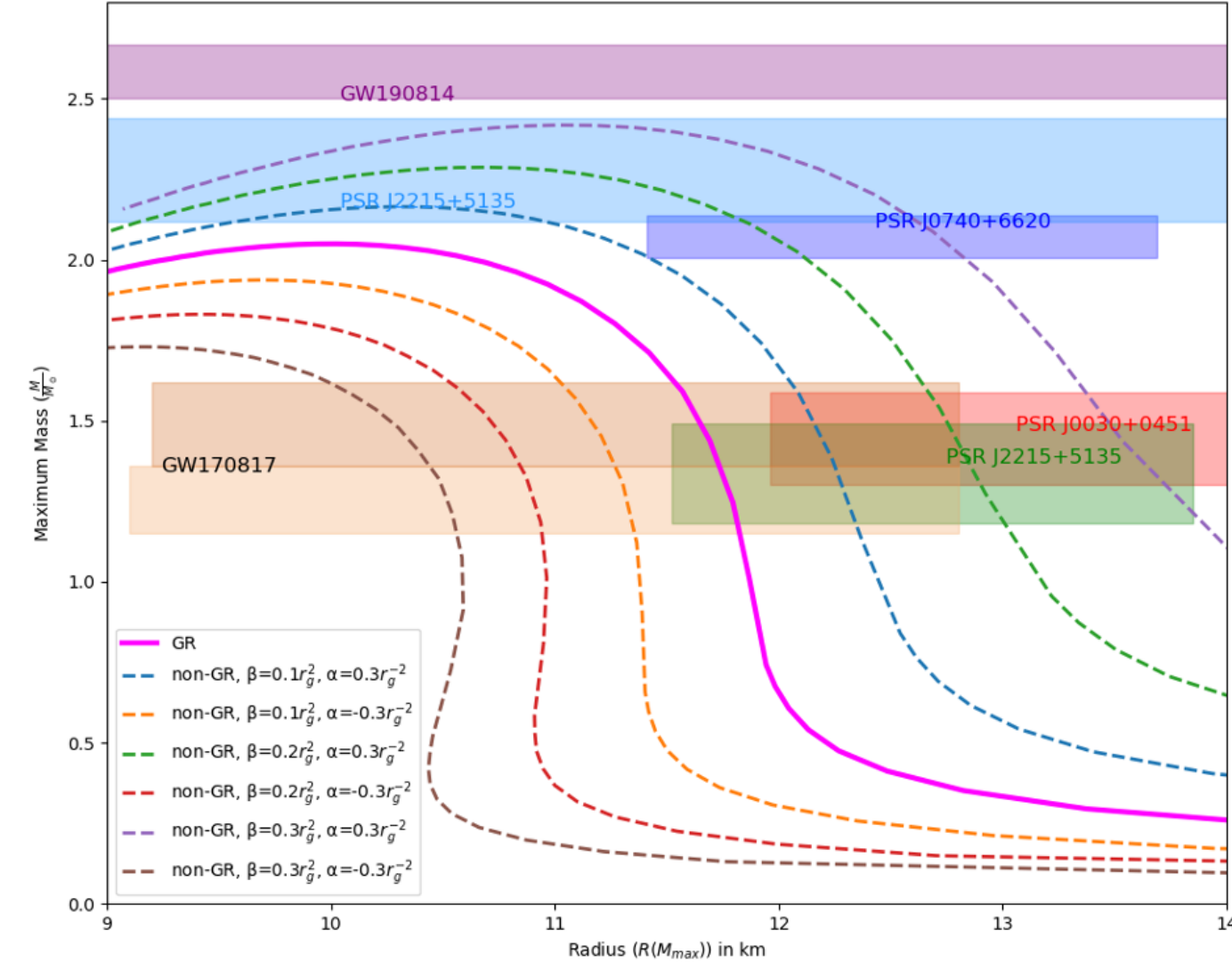
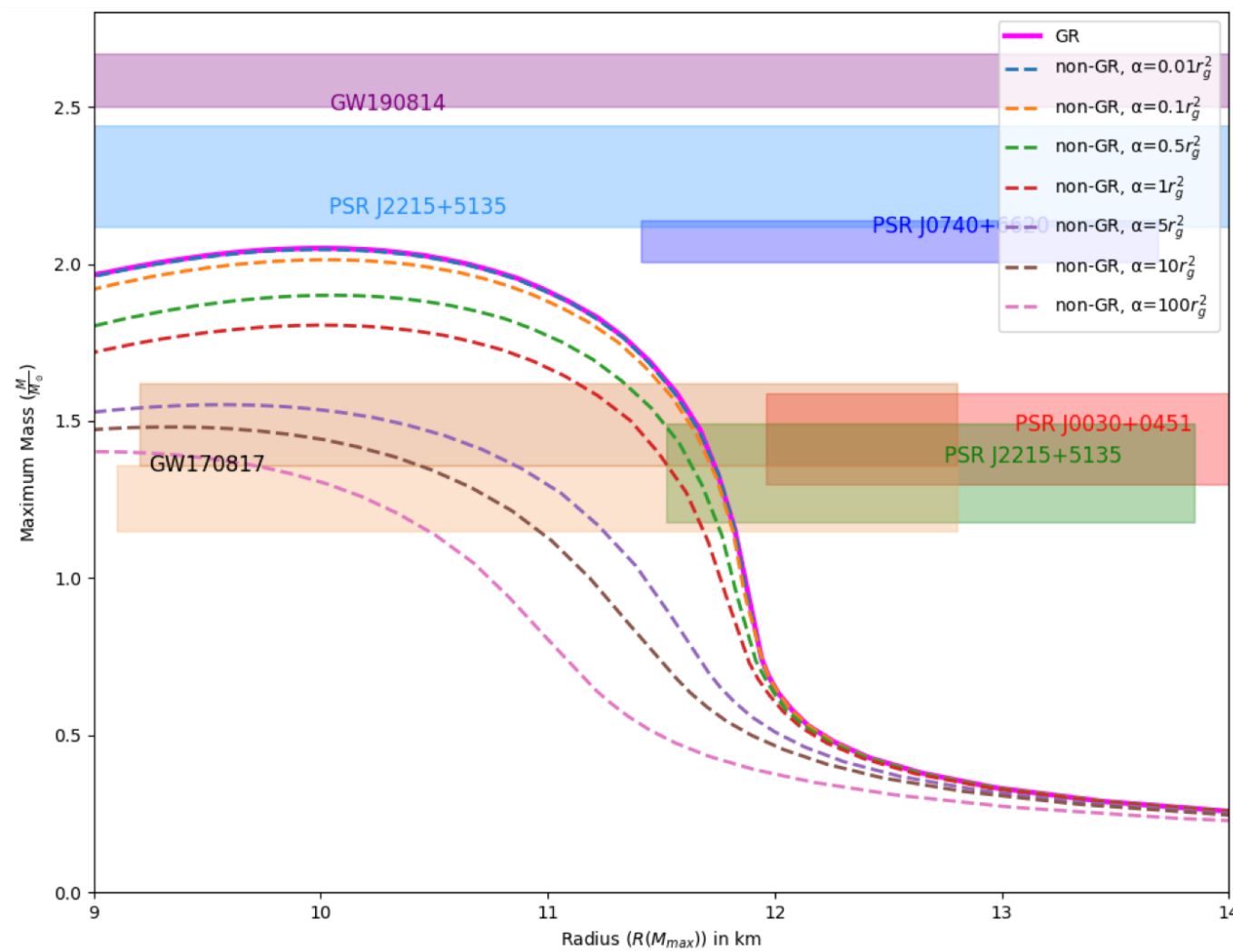


Mass-Radius Relation using SLy and APR4 EoS for  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$

Mass-Radius Relation using SLy and APR4 EoS for  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$

Mass-Radius Relation using SLy and APR4 EoS for  $f(Q) = Q - \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$

# Mass-Radius Relation



Mass-Radius Relation using SLy and APR4 EoS for  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$

Mass-Radius Relation using SLy and APR4 EoS for  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$

- Quadratic model can't accommodate larger NS (consistent with R.-H. Lin, *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. D*, 2022 that use polytropic EoS)
- For exponential and logarithmic model, they can accommodate larger and smaller NS.
- In both model, using  $\alpha = 2r_g^{-2}$ , we can get massive stars  $> 2.75M_{\odot}$  at small  $\beta$  values such as  $\beta = 0.1r_g^2$ .
- For  $\alpha > 2r_g^{-2}$ , the star will become unstable and collapse.

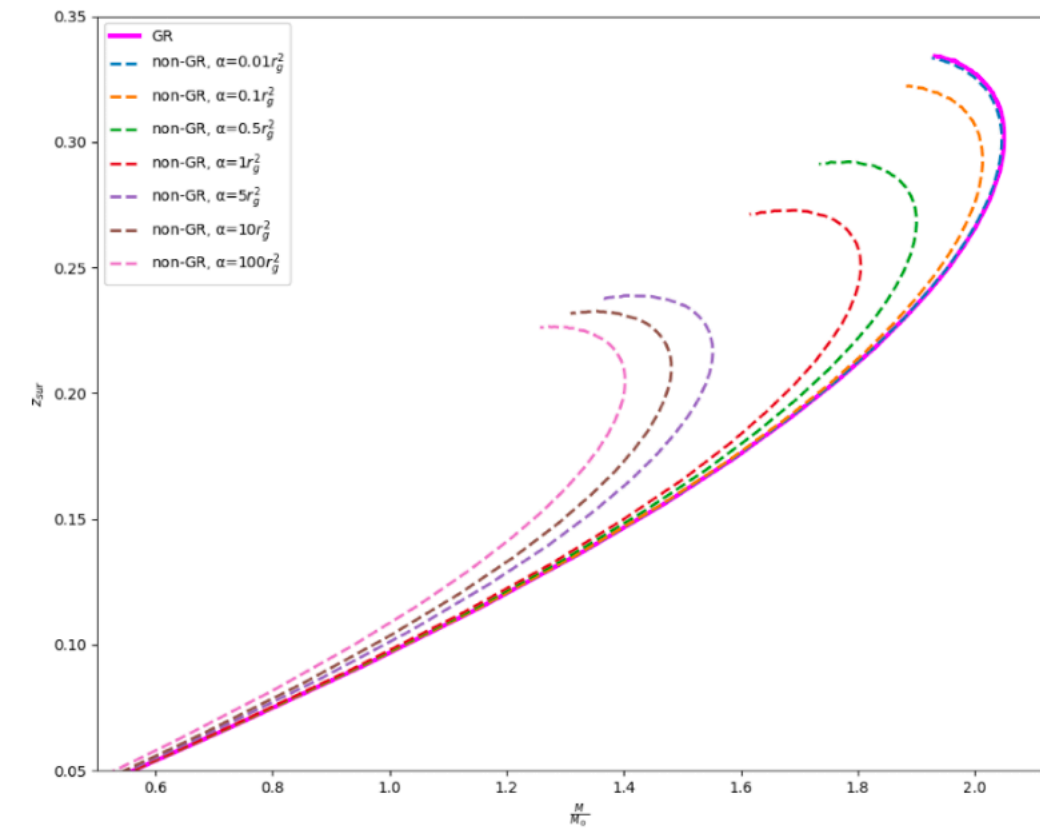
Mass-Radius Relation using SLy and APR4 EoS for  $f(Q) = Q - \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$



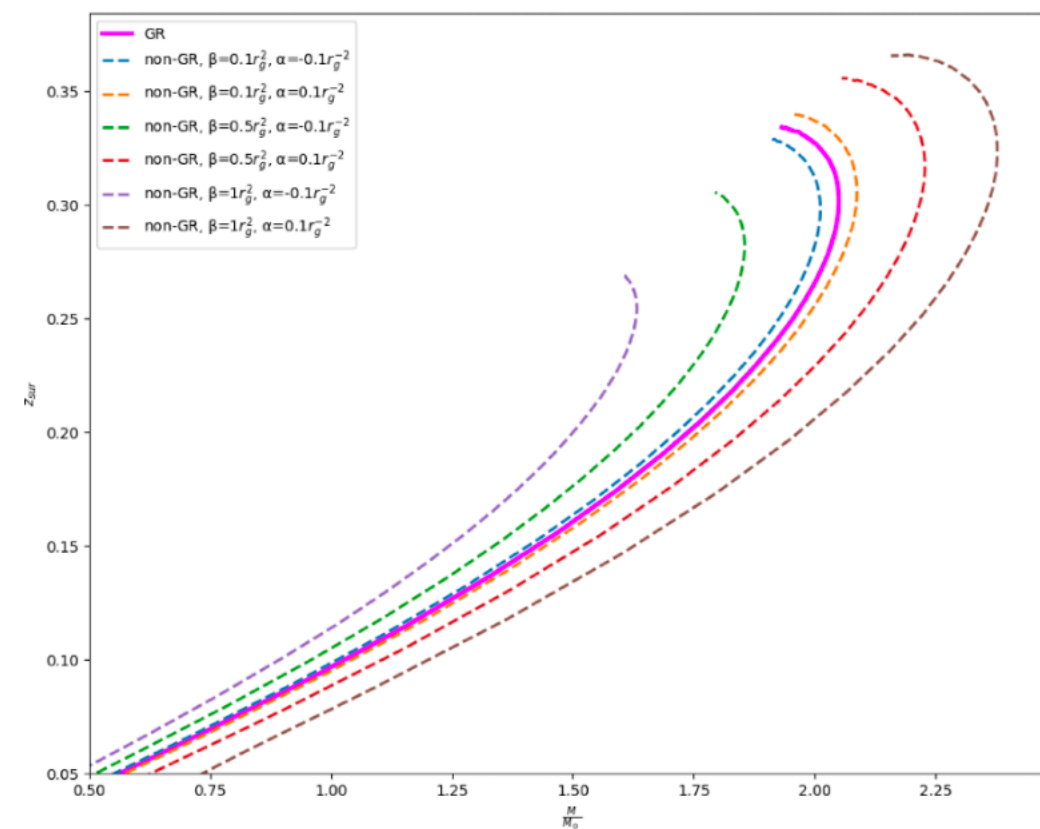
# Compactness ( $C$ ) and Surface gravitational redshift ( $z_s$ )

$f(Q)$ Model	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\mathcal{M}_{Max}$	$\mathcal{R}$	$C$	$z_s$
$Q + \alpha Q^2$	GR		2.05	9.995	0.205	0.302
	0.01		2.046	9.989	0.205	0.302
	0.1		2.013	10.044	0.200	0.291
	0.5		1.900	10.032	0.189	0.268
	1		1.805	10.029	0.180	0.250
	5		1.552	9.545	0.163	0.218
	10		1.481	9.346	0.158	0.209
	100		1.402	8.987	0.156	0.206
$Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$		0.1	2.012	9.8895	0.203	0.297
	-0.1	0.5	1.855	9.460	0.196	0.282
		1	1.632	8.947	0.182	0.254
	GR		2.05	9.995	0.205	0.302
		0.1	2.087	10.098	0.207	0.306
	0.1	0.5	2.227	10.531	0.211	0.315
		1	2.378	11.053	0.215	0.325
	0.5	0.1	2.238	10.515	0.213	0.320
	0.2	2.426	11.048	0.220	0.336	
	0.3	2.616	11.663	0.224	0.346	
	1	0.1	2.429	11.078	0.219	0.334
	0.2	2.826	12.294	0.230	0.361	
$Q + \alpha \ln(1 - \beta Q)$		0.1	1.937	9.702	0.200	0.291
	-0.3	0.2	1.831	9.406	0.195	0.280
		0.3	1.73	9.164	0.189	0.268
	GR		2.05	9.995	0.205	0.302
		0.1	2.165	10.310	0.210	0.313
	0.3	0.2	2.288	10.690	0.214	0.322
		0.3	2.418	11.027	0.219	0.334
	0.5	0.1	2.244	10.529	0.213	0.320
	0.2	2.459	11.172	0.220	0.336	
	0.3	2.706	12.009	0.225	0.348	
	1	0.1	2.447	11.206	0.218	0.332
	0.2	2.968	12.964	0.229	0.358	

Table I. Table of Neutron Stars Parameter using SLy EoS

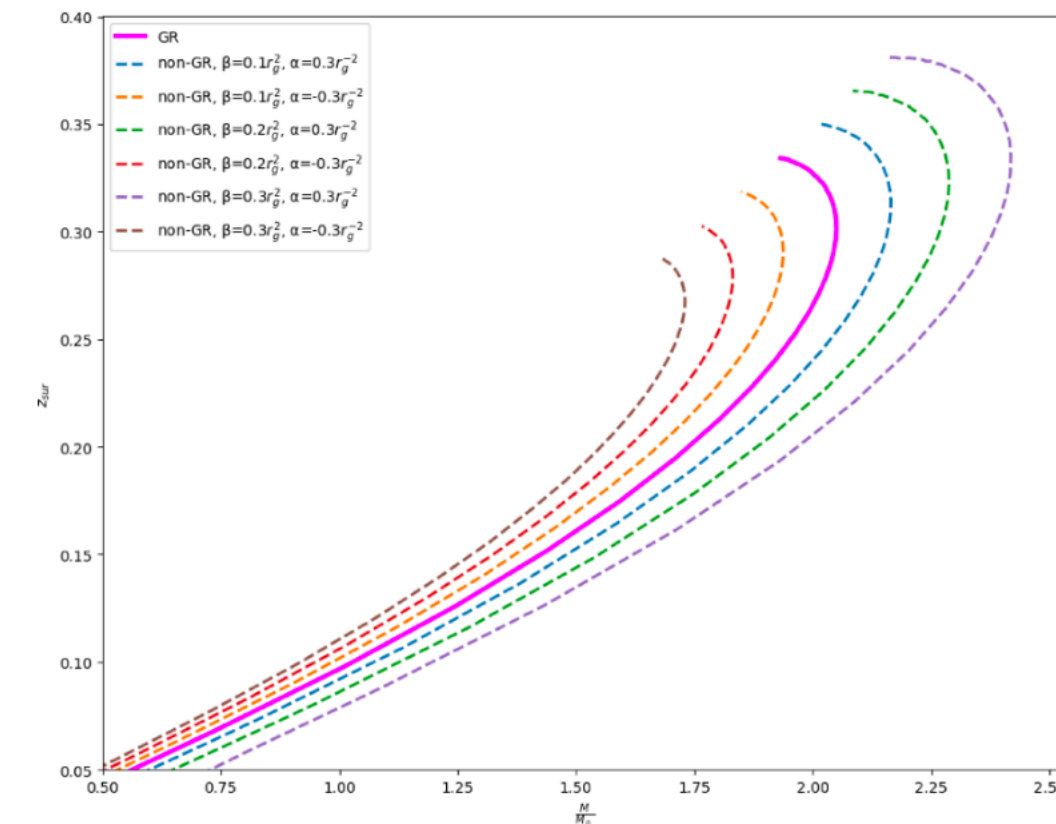


(a)  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$



(b)  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha e^{\beta Q}$

Satisfy constraint from Buchdahl  
Limit for  $C \leq \frac{4}{9}$  and  $z_s \leq 2$



(c)  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha \log(1 - \beta Q)$

Figure 12. The surface gravitational redshift ( $z_s$ )

# Slowly Rotating NS

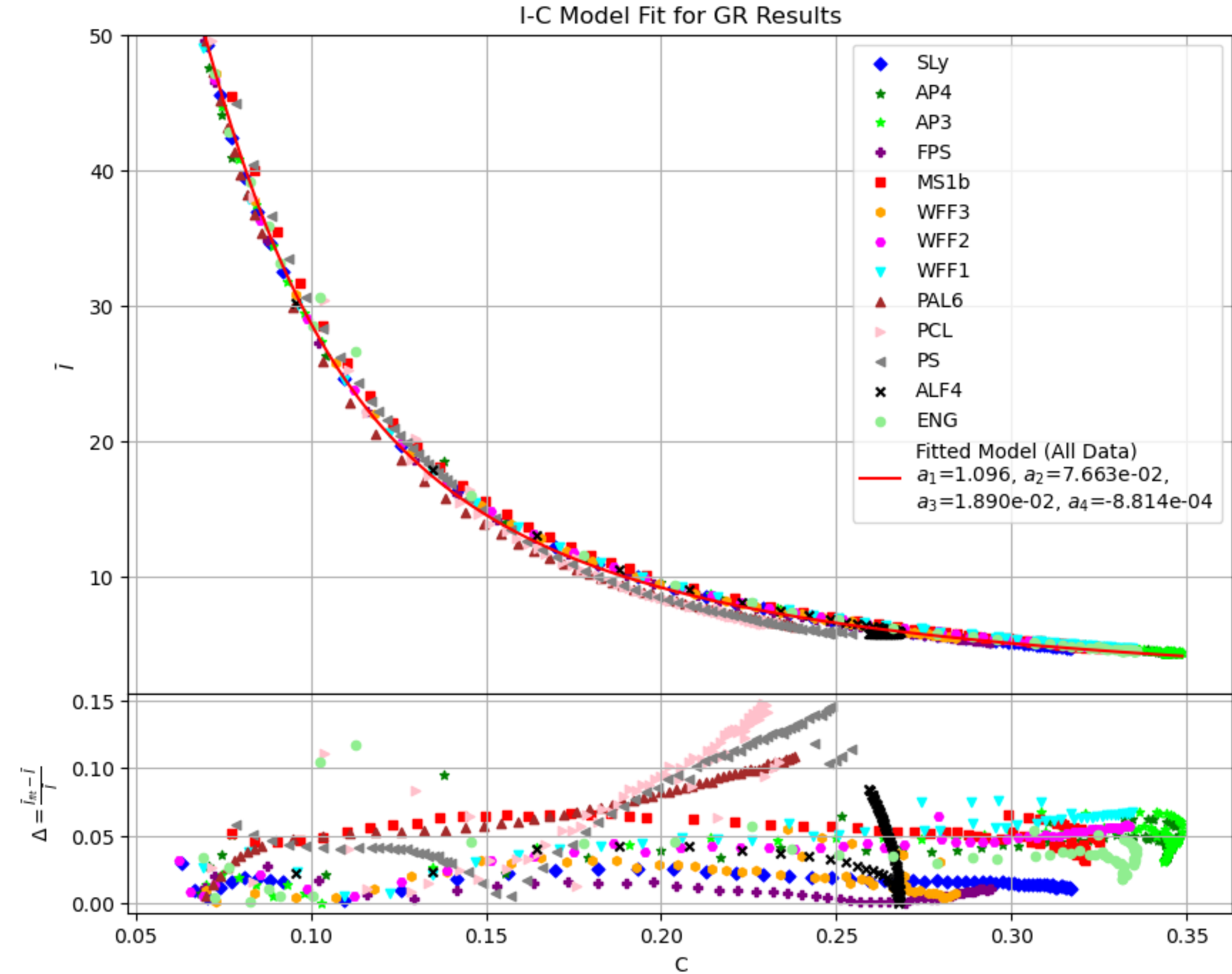
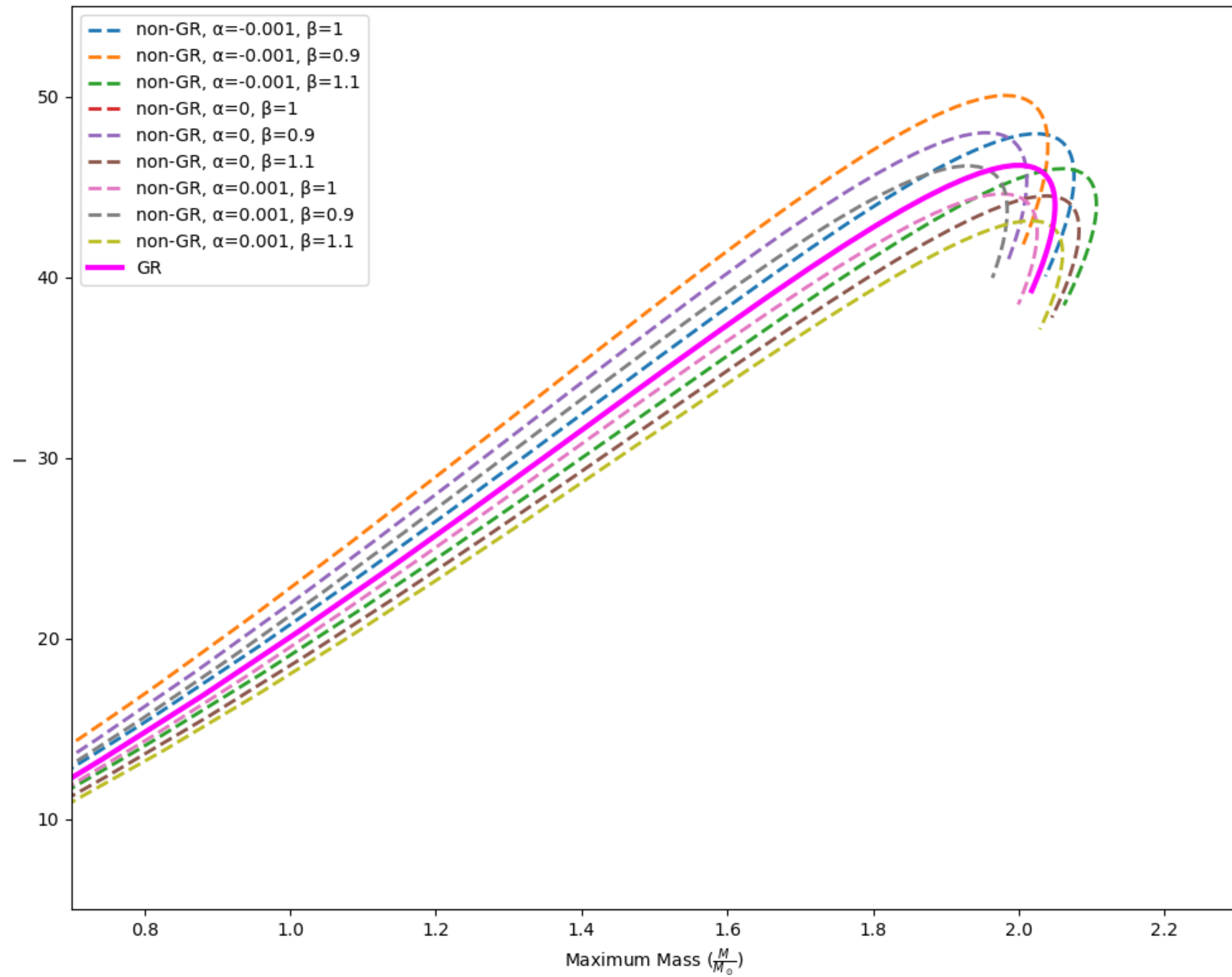
- We also tried to extend the calculation using slowly rotating case with metric as
- $ds^2 = -e^{A(r)}dt^2 + e^{B(r)}dr^2 + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta(d\phi - (\omega(r, \theta) + \mathcal{O}(\Omega^3))dt)^2)$
- From this, we tried to see the signature of  $f(Q)$  under dimensionless moment inertia and compactness ( $\bar{I} - C$ ) universal relation that can be expressed as (C. Breu and L. Rezzolla, 2016)

- $$\bar{I} = \frac{I}{MR^2} = a_1 C^{-1} + a_2 C^{-2} + a_3 C^{-3} + a_4 C^{-4}$$

- where  $a_{1,2,3,4}$  are fitting constant from scattering plot for each  $\bar{I} - C$  plot under different EoS.
- Here, we have tried to use 12 EoSs for getting  $\bar{I} - C$  universal relation.

# $\bar{I} - C$ Relation

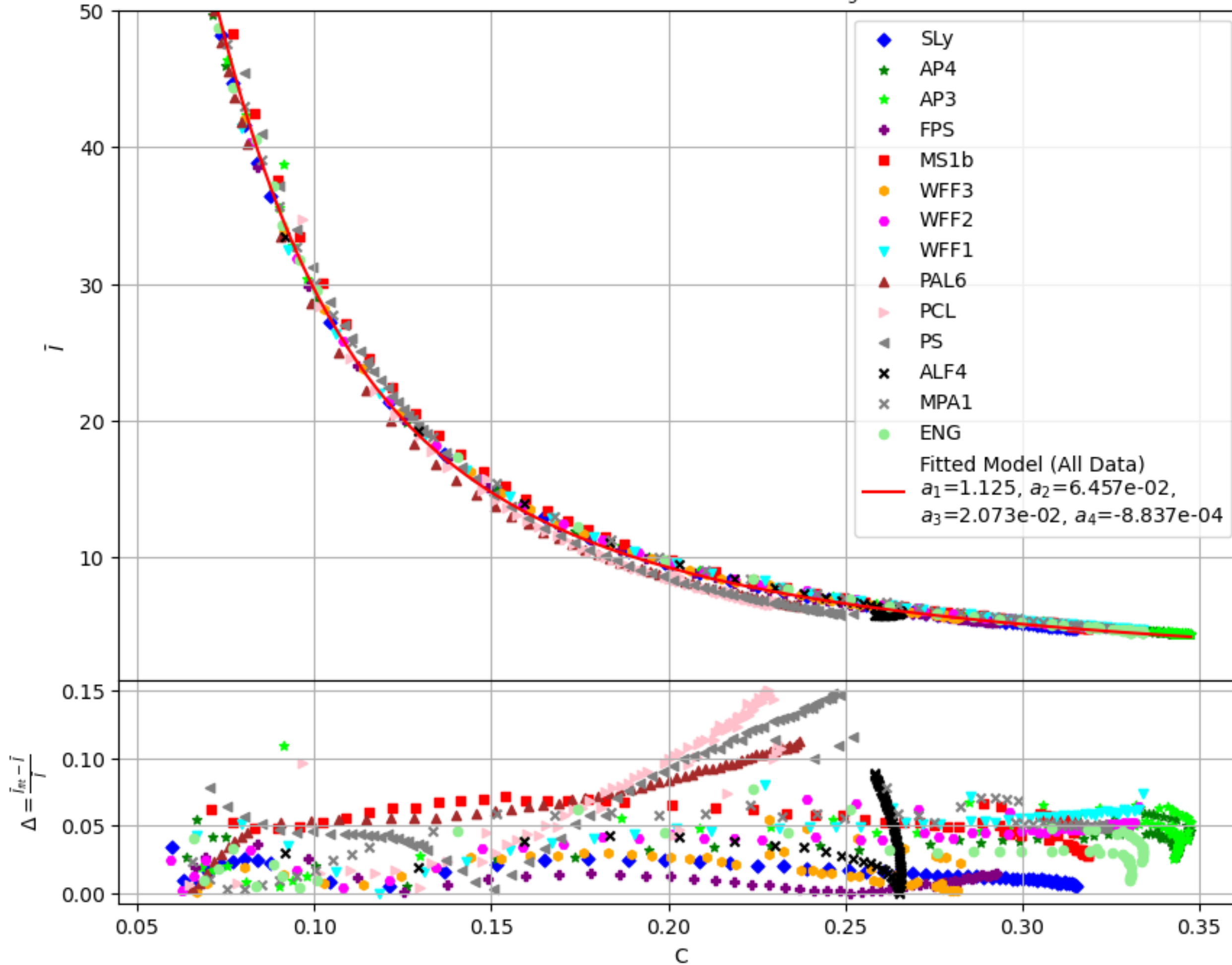
Here we are still using simple linear  $f(Q) = \alpha Q + \beta$  model.



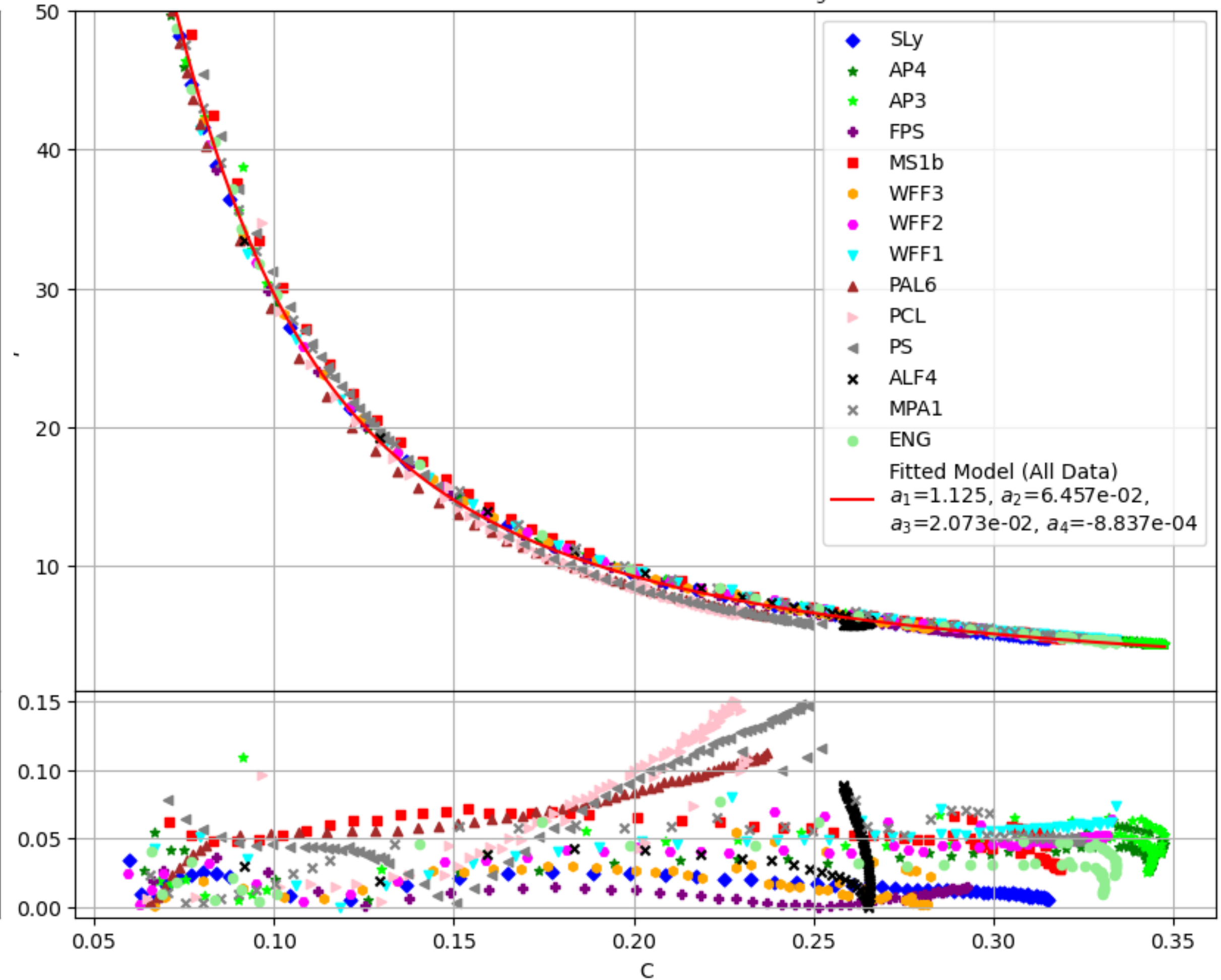
# $\bar{I} - C$ Relation

Here we are still using simple linear  $f(Q) = \alpha Q + \beta$  model.

I-C Model Fit for  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\beta = 0.001r_g^2$  Results

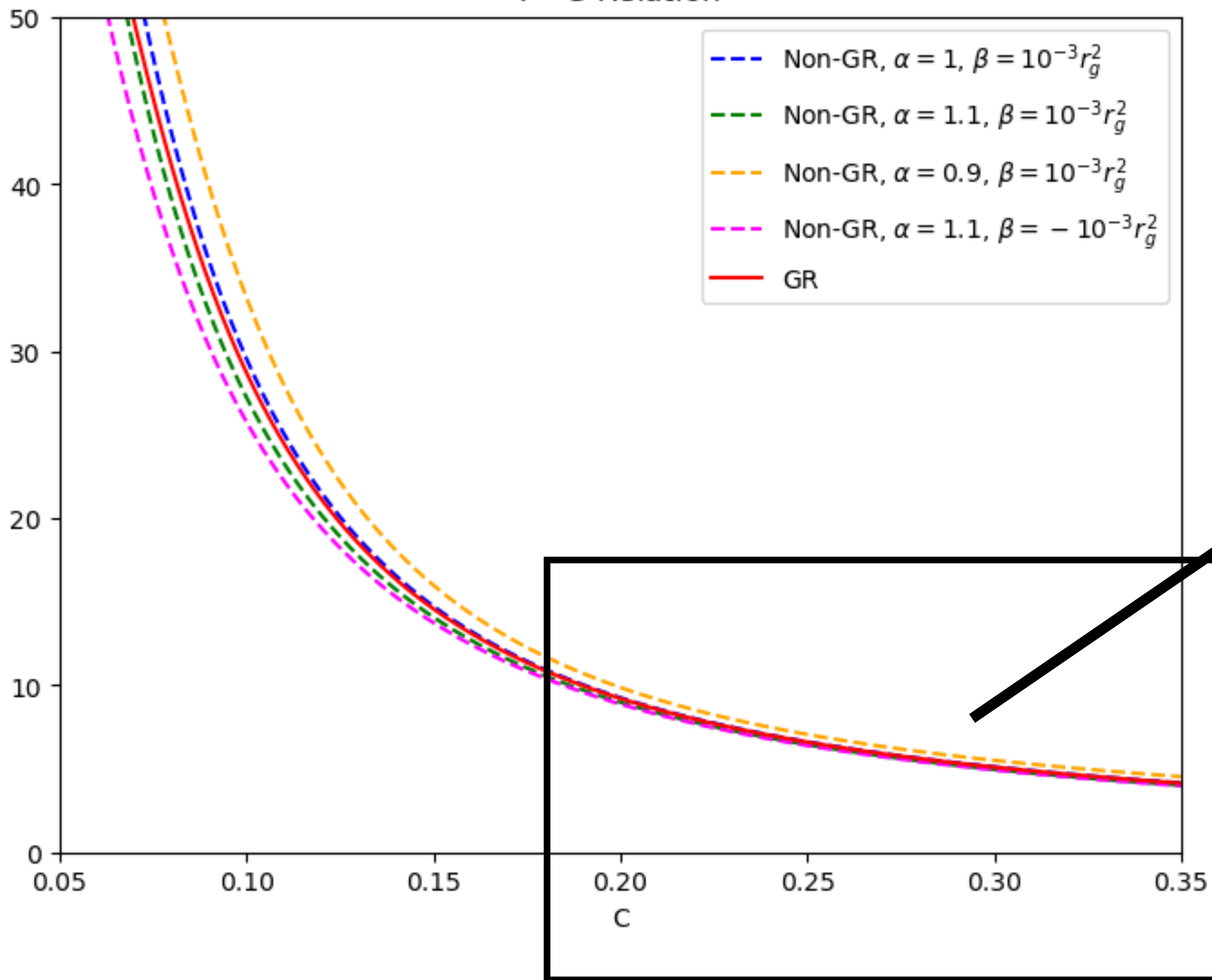


I-C Model Fit for  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\beta = 0.001r_g^2$  Results

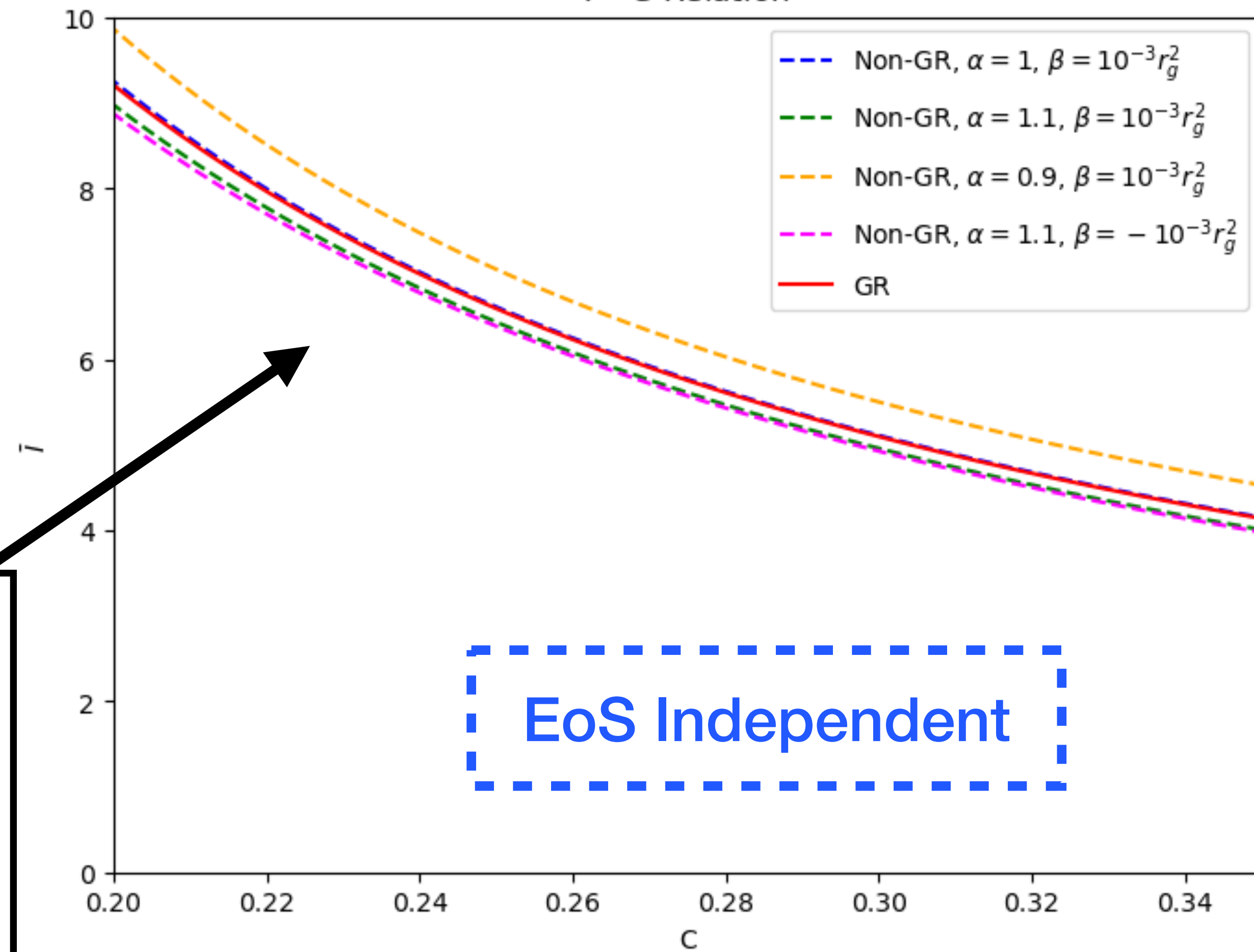


# $\bar{I} - C$ Relation

$\bar{I} - C$  Relation

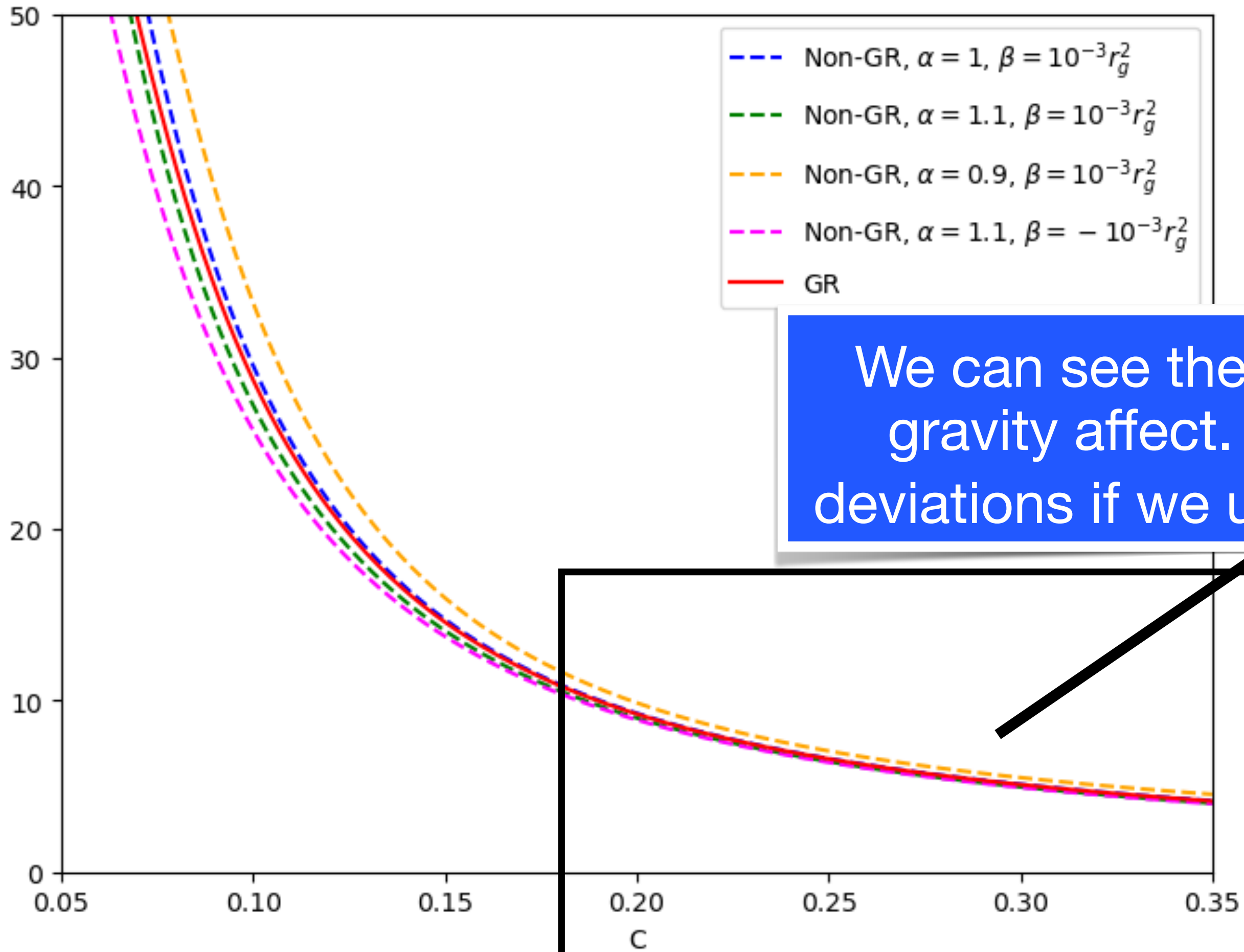


$\bar{I} - C$  Relation

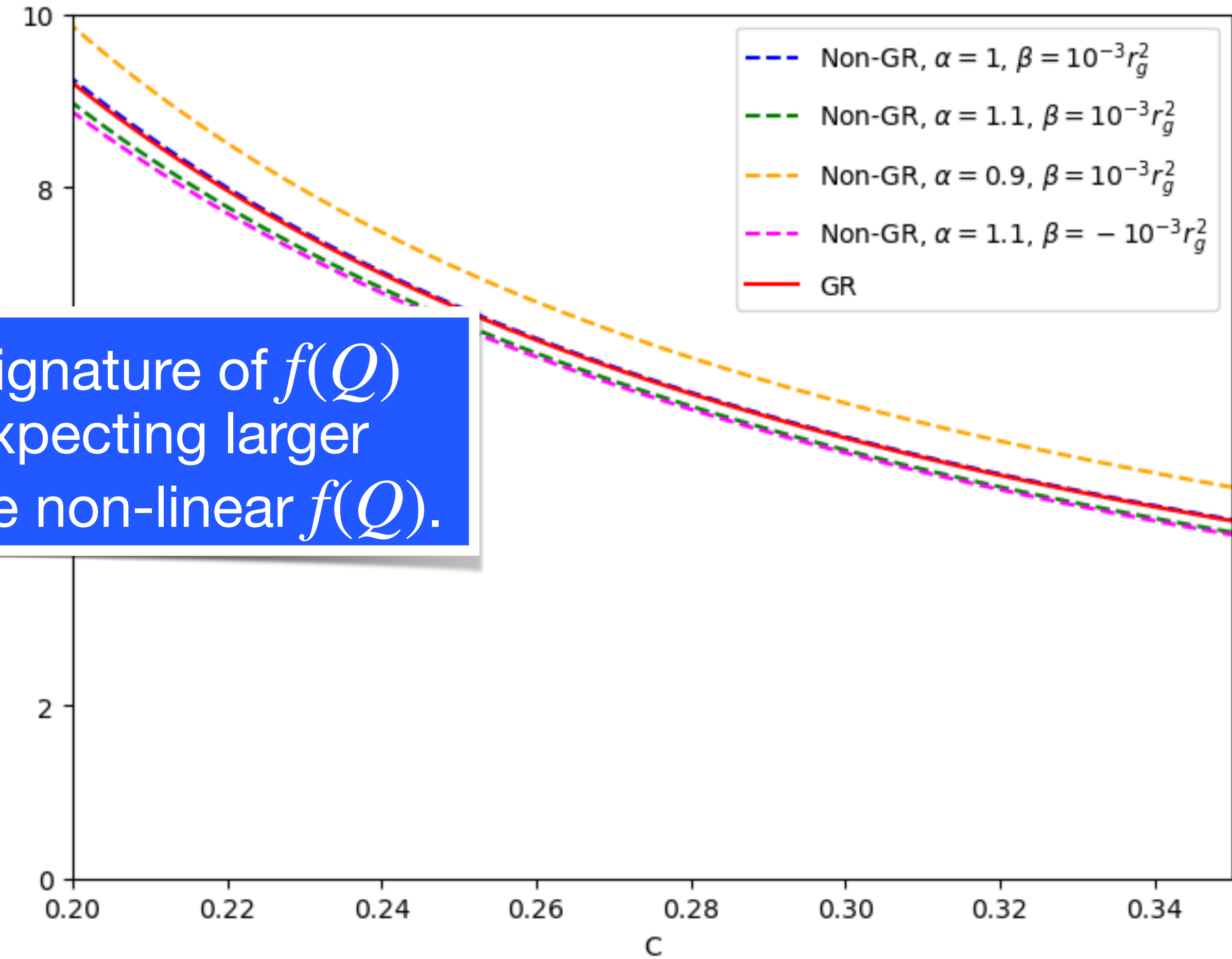


# $\bar{I} - C$ Relation

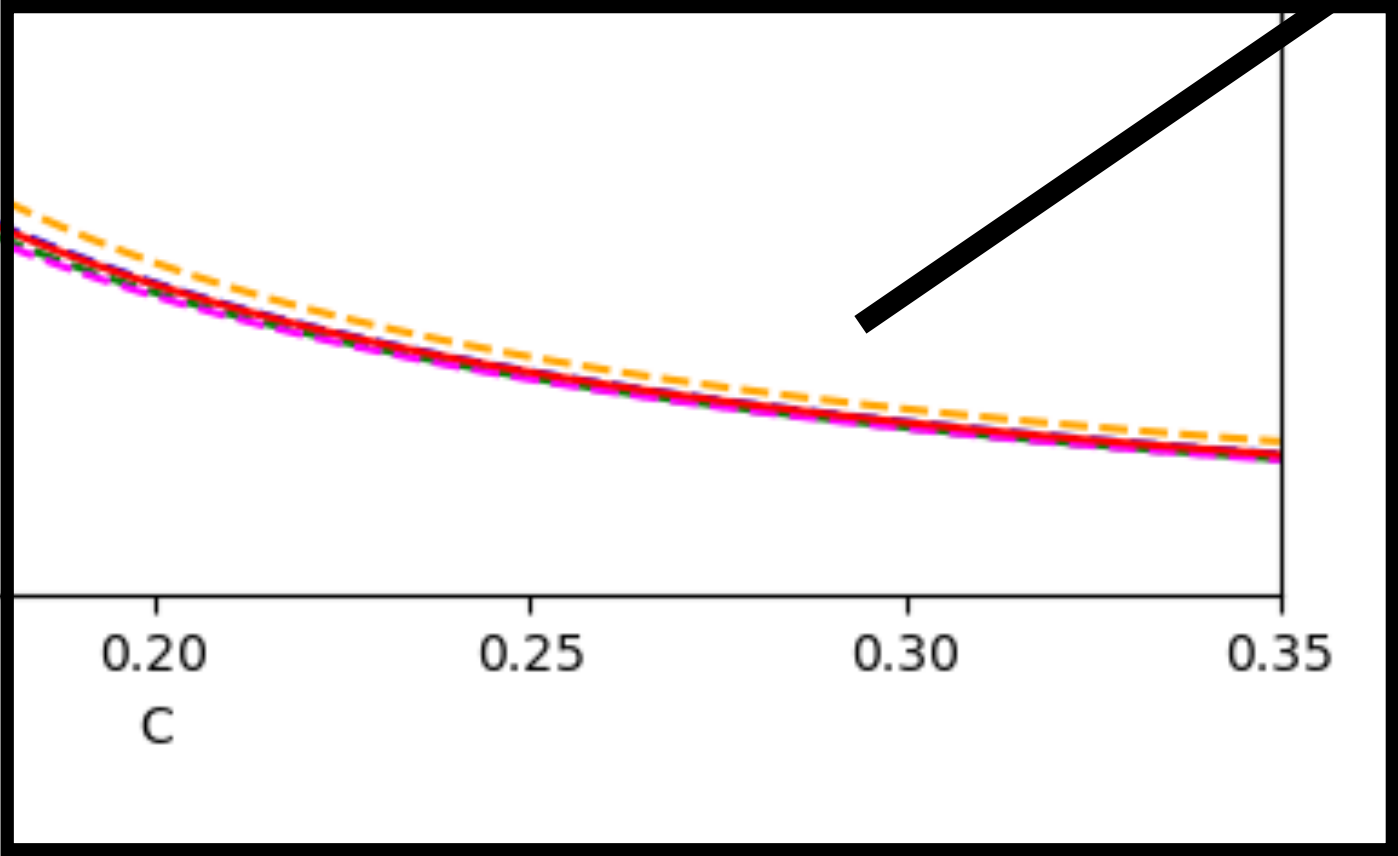
$\bar{I} - C$  Relation



$\bar{I} - C$  Relation



We can see the signature of  $f(Q)$  gravity affect. Expecting larger deviations if we use non-linear  $f(Q)$ .



# Summary and future work

- **Summary**

- The Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkoff (TOV) equation was derived within the context of Covariant  $f(Q)$  Gravity and the calculation show how  $Q$  affects the internal geometry of the star, which in turn affects the density, pressure, and overall stability of the neutron star. This enables the star to accommodate more matter and withstand a heavier mass.
- For  $f(Q) = Q + \alpha Q^2$  model, neutron stars lose their mass for positive  $\alpha$ , meanwhile for negative  $\alpha$ , we cant generate stable stars. For the exponential and the logarithmic model, neutron stars gain mass as  $\alpha$  increase, and lose their mass as  $\alpha$  decrease. Both models can satisfy observational constraints up to the possible most massive neutron star, GW190814, by tuning both parameters.
- From  $\bar{I} - C$  relation, using linear  $f(Q) = \alpha Q + \beta$  model, we can show signature of  $f(Q)$ , expecting clearer signature using non-linear model.

- **Future work**

- Continue for non-linear case for slowly rotating and calculating also rapidly rotating NS (Staykov, et.al., *PRD* 93 (2016))
- Analyze the tidal deformation properties and NS cooling mechanism for thermal properties within the framework of  $f(Q)$  (Doneva, et.al., *PRD* 92 (2015), Dohi, et.al, *PTEP* 9 (2021))
- Extend to Scalar mode Quadrupole and GWs under NS Binary scenario (Narang, et.al. *JCAP* 03 (2023), and Inagaki, et.al., *PRD* 108 (2023))



**Thank you very much!**

