

# GAUGE TOPOLOGY, FLUX TUBES AND HOLOGRAPHIC MODELS: THE INTRICATE DYNAMICS OF QCD IN VACUUM AND EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS



ECT\*  
EUROPEAN CENTRE  
FOR THEORETICAL STUDIES  
IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS AND RELATED AREAS

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*Symmetry* 13 (2021) 10, 1833



23 May 2022 — 27 May 2022



Issues/questions:

Strongly coupled Quark Gluon Plasma

Nature of the crossover to weakly coupled plasma

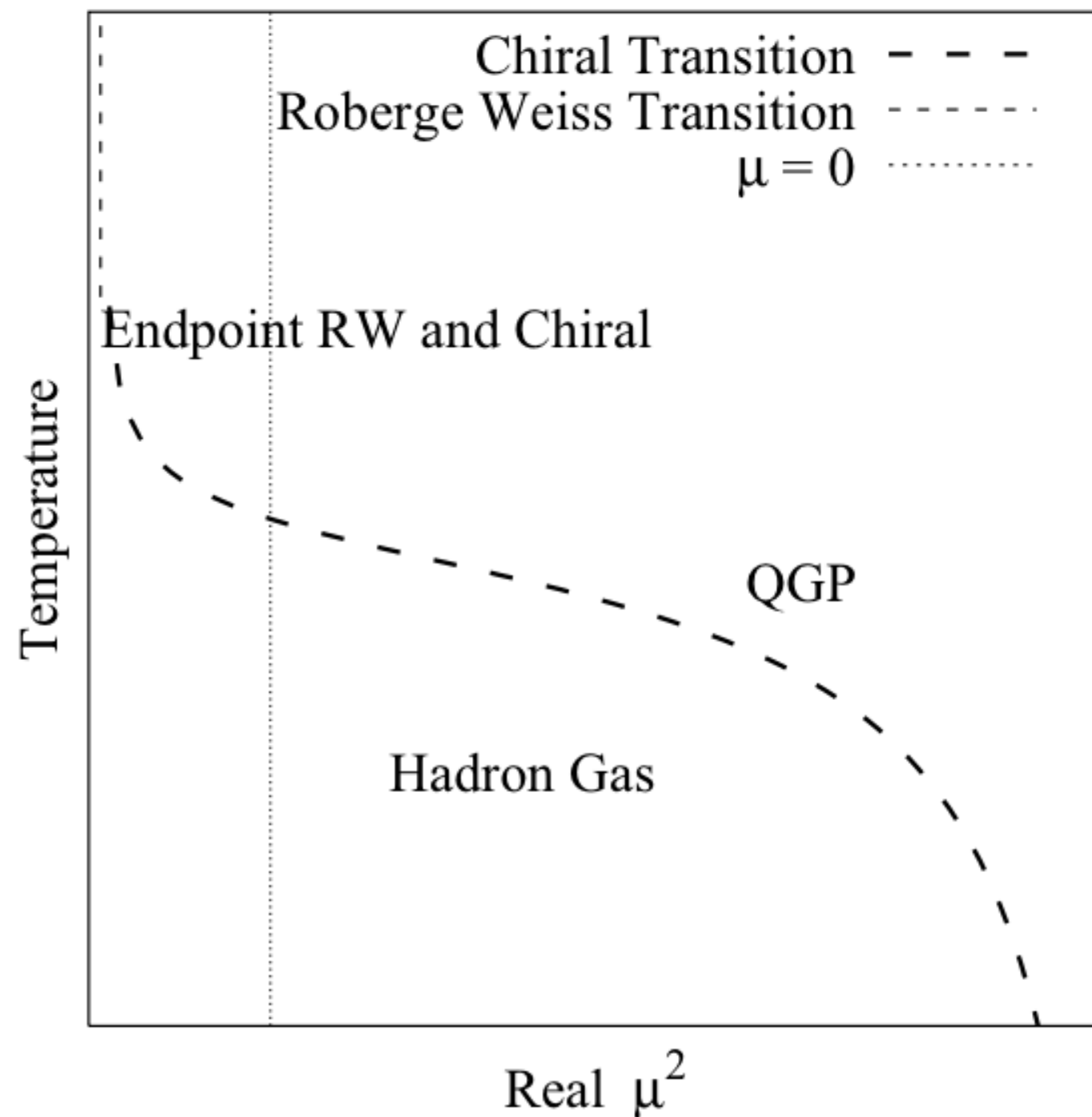
A new phase within the QGP?

How can topology help diagnose this phase?

Role of the known critical points?



# Strongly coupled QGP and singularities



$T_{RW}$  approx. 207 MeV

Talk by F. Di Renzo

*Speculation:* sQGP at least for  $T < T_{RW}$

$$T = T_{RW} \quad n(\mu_I) = A\mu_I(\mu_I^c{}^2 - \mu_I^2)^\alpha$$



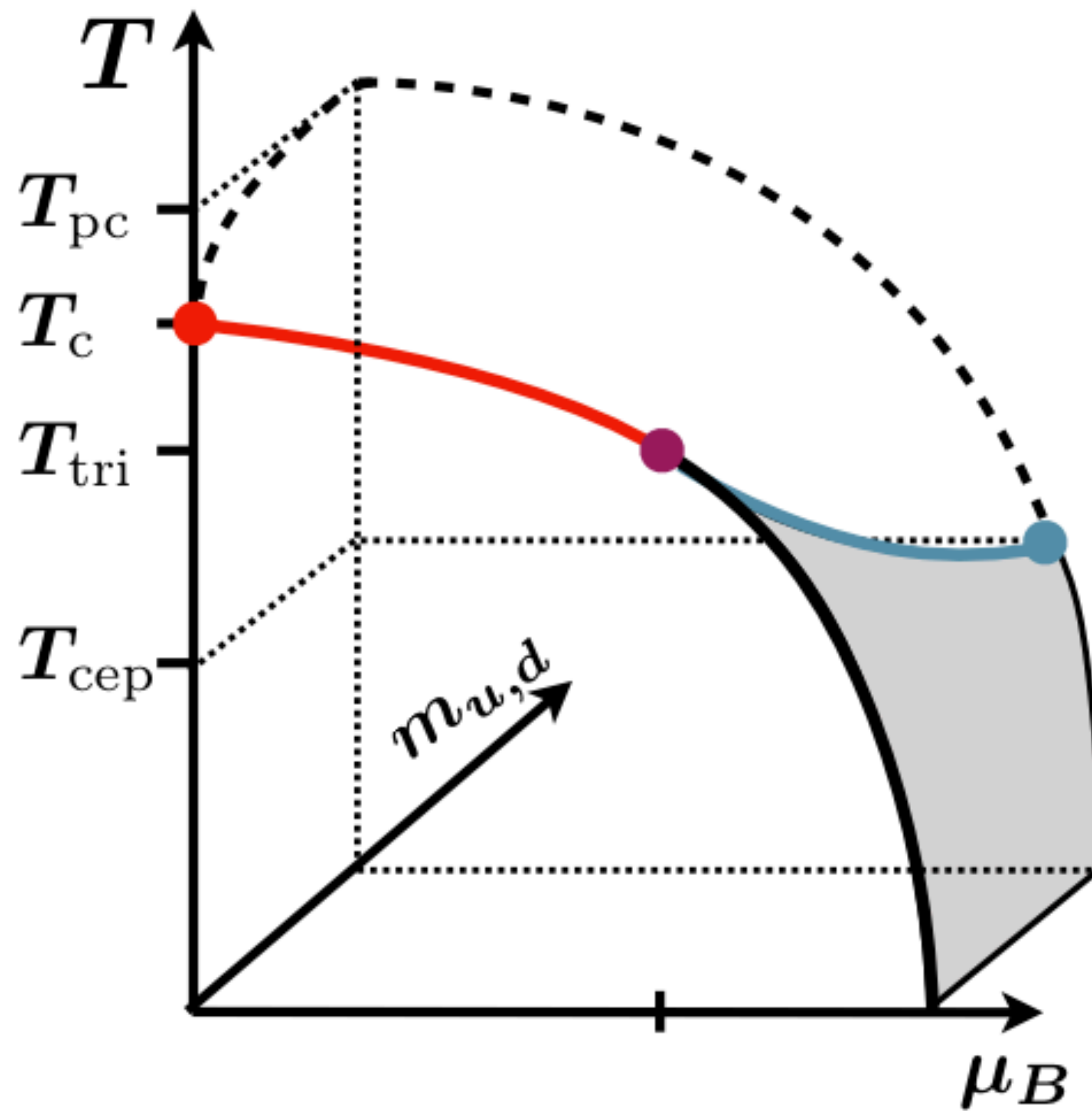
simple, but true (!)?

Di Renzo, D'Elia, MpL 2007

*How far from the critical point does a system “feel” a singularity?*

How “far”  
in mass  
and temperature  
does  $T_c$  influence the  
QGP?

$$T_c \simeq 132 \text{ MeV}$$



Karsch 2019

Possible answer:  
within the scaling window  
of the theory

Byproducts of the study of the scaling window:

- .Universality class at  $T_c$  — which, in turn, gives information on topology
- .Value of  $T_c$ , upper bound to  $T_{cep}$



# Outline

Topology at high Temperature

Scaling window around  $T_c$

*(Speculations of a possible further threshold at  $T > T_{pc}$ )*

# What do we know about

$$\chi_{top}(T) \equiv \left. \frac{\partial^2 F(\theta, T)}{\partial \theta^2} \right|_{\theta=0}$$

## Topological Susceptibility and $\theta$ -dependence

### The QCD axion, precisely

Giovanni Grilli di Cortona<sup>a</sup>, Edward Hardy<sup>b</sup>,  
Javier Pardo Vega<sup>a,b</sup> and Giovanni Villadoro<sup>b</sup>

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Via Bonomea 265, 34136, Trieste, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics,  
Strada Costiera 11, 34151, Trieste, Italy

$$\frac{\chi_{top}(T)}{\chi_{top}} \stackrel{\text{NLO}}{=} \frac{m_\pi^2(T) f_\pi^2(T)}{m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2} = \frac{\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_T}{\langle \bar{q}q \rangle}$$

$$T \rightarrow 0 \left| \begin{aligned} F(\theta) &= -m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_u m_d}{(m_u + m_d)^2} \sin^2 \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)} \\ &= \langle \bar{q}q \rangle \sqrt{m_u + m_d + 2m_u m_d \cos \theta} \end{aligned} \right.$$

$$T \rightarrow \infty \left| \sim C \left( \frac{T_c}{T} \right)^\beta \cos(\theta) \quad \beta = 7 + n_f/3 \right.$$

$$\frac{F(\theta)_T}{F(\theta)} = 1 + \frac{3}{2} \frac{T^4}{f_\pi^2 m_\pi^2(\theta)} J_0 \left[ \frac{m_\pi^2(\theta)}{T^2} \right]$$

$$J_0[\xi] \equiv -\frac{1}{\pi^2} \int_0^\infty dq q^2 \log \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{q^2 + \xi}} \right)$$

### QCD and instantons at finite temperature

David J. Gross

Department of Physics, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544

Robert D. Pisarski

J. W. Gibbs Laboratories, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520

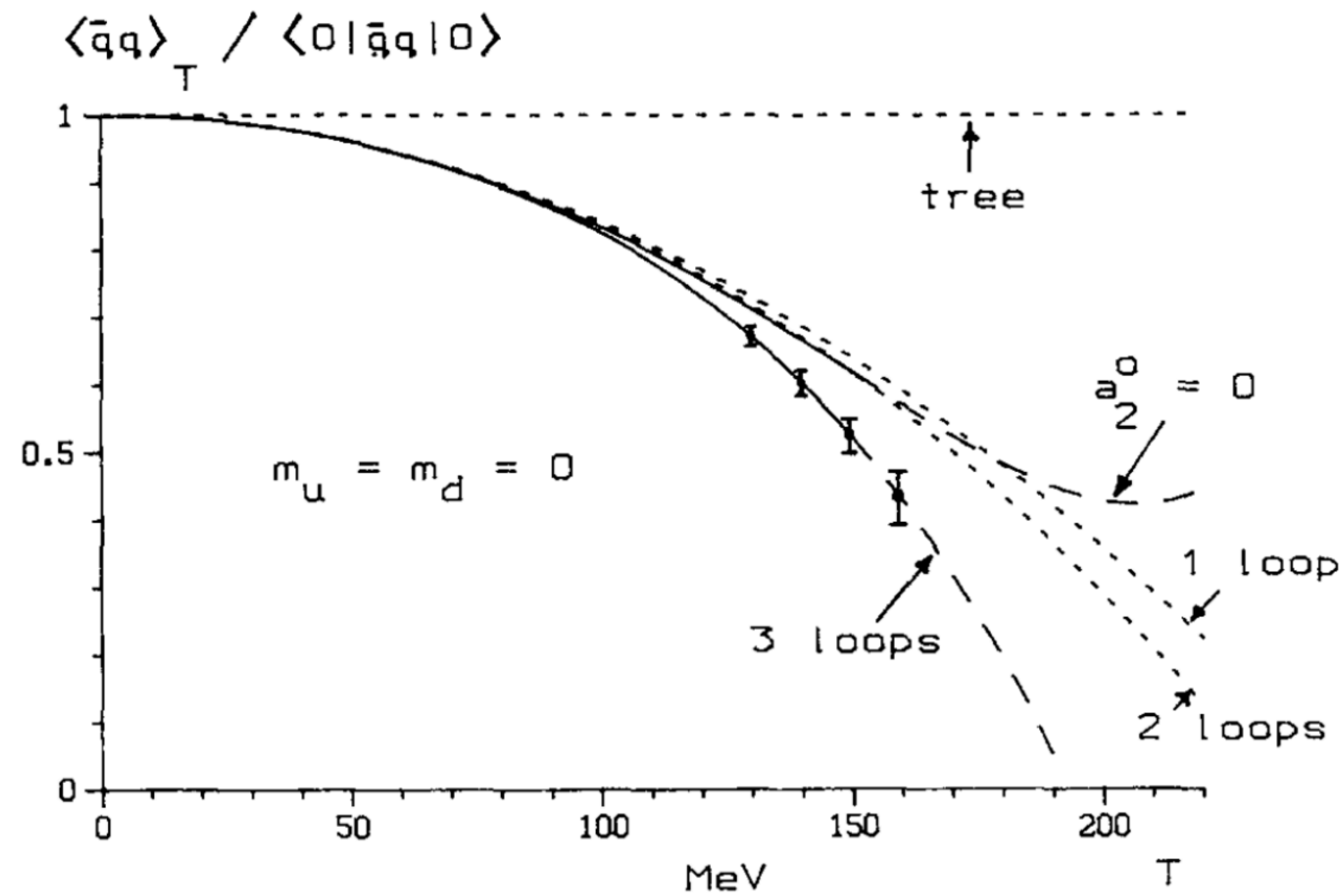
Laurence G. Yaffe\*

Department of Physics, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544

# Finite temperature

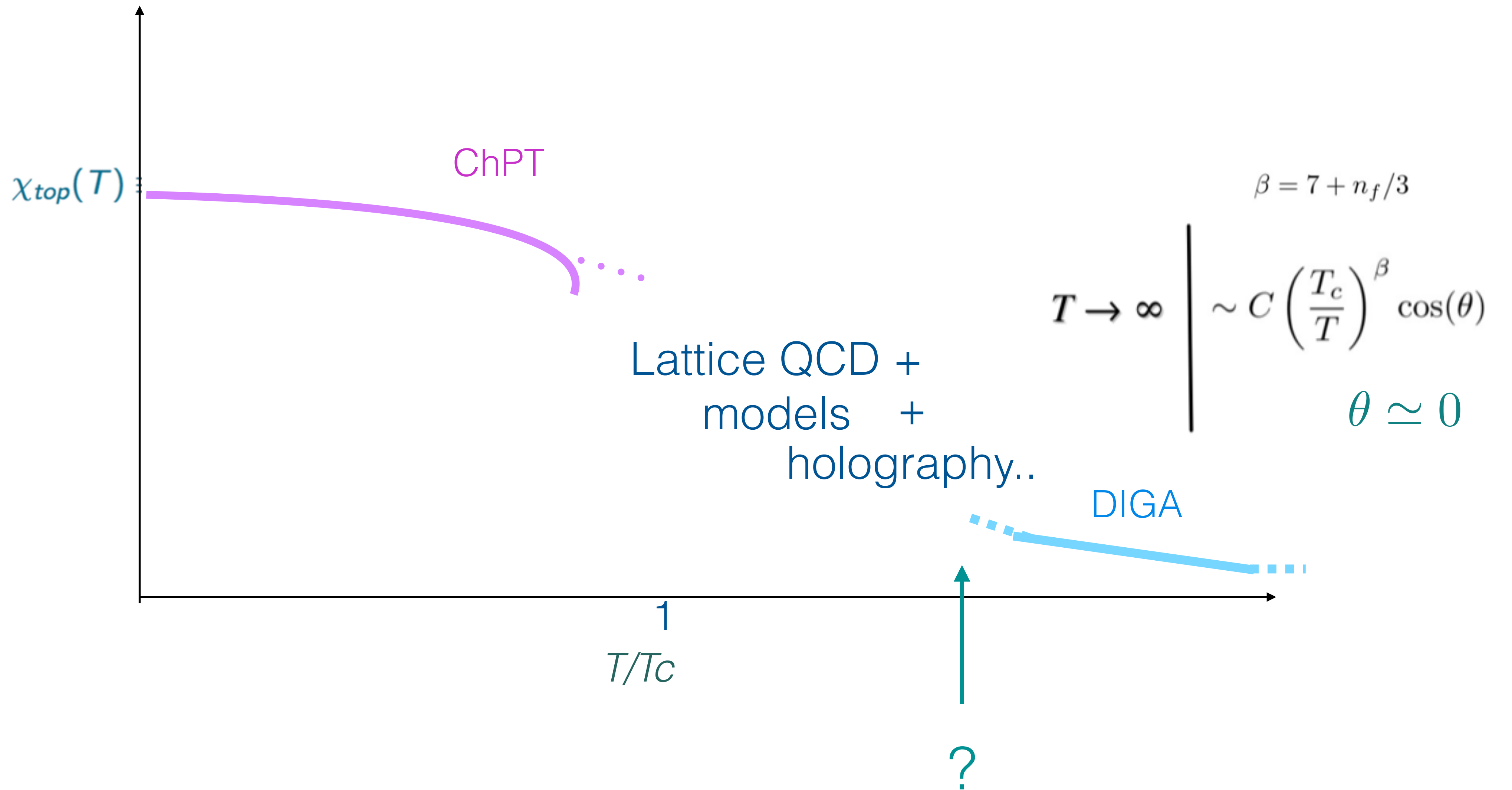
$$\frac{\chi_{top}(T)}{\chi_{top}} \stackrel{\text{NLO}}{=} \frac{m_\pi^2(T) f_\pi^2(T)}{m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2} = \frac{\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_T}{\langle \bar{q}q \rangle}$$

$$\langle \bar{q}q \rangle \stackrel{m \rightarrow 0}{=} \langle 0 | \bar{q}q | 0 \rangle \left( 1 - \frac{T^2}{8F^2} - \frac{T^4}{384F^4} - \frac{T^6}{288F^6} \ln \frac{\Lambda_q}{T} + \mathcal{O}(T^8) \right)$$





What do we know about  $\chi_{top}(T) \equiv \left. \frac{\partial^2 F(\theta, T)}{\partial \theta^2} \right|_{\theta=0}$



- ▶ Gluonic: Luscher(2010), Bonati, d'Elia et al (2014), Alexandrou et al . (2015)

$$Q = \frac{a^4}{32\pi^2} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \sum_n \text{Tr}[F_{lat}^{\mu\nu}(n) F_{lat}^{\rho\sigma}(n)],$$

Need smooth configurations, using smearing, cooling, gradient flow..

$$\dot{V}_\mu(n, \tau) = -g^2 [\partial_{n,\mu} S_G(V(\tau))] V_\mu(n, \tau), \quad V_\mu(n, 0) = U_\mu(n),$$

Pros: Easy

Cons: suffers very much from lattice artifacts

- ▶ Fermionic: Atiyah Singer(1971,1984)

$$Q = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \int \text{Tr}[F^{\mu\nu}(x) F^{\rho\sigma}(x)] d^4x = n_+ - n_-$$

Pros: not affected but UV fluctuations

Cons: very high computational cost

- ▶ Fermionic - simple but approximate: Kogut et al.(1996), Petreczky, Sharma(2016)

$$\chi_{top} = \frac{\langle Q^2 \rangle}{V} = m_l^2 \chi_{5,disc}$$

$$\chi_{top}(T \gtrsim T_c) = m_l^2 \chi_{disc} = m_l^2 \frac{V}{T} (\langle (\bar{\psi}\psi)^2 \rangle_l - \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_l^2).$$

**C. Bonanno's talk**

**S.Sharma's talk**

# Setup

Twisted mass - Maximal twist

Dynamical strange and charm

$$N_f = 2 + 1 + 1, \quad m_\pi^{phys} < m_\pi < 470 \text{ MeV} \quad a = 0.06 - 0.09 \text{ fm}$$

Fixed scale approach - Temperature range  $130 \text{ MeV} < T < 500 \text{ MeV}$

Observables: Chiral condensate and Susceptibility,  
[light mesons' screening masses,  $\eta'$ ]

Statistics for physical  
pion mass

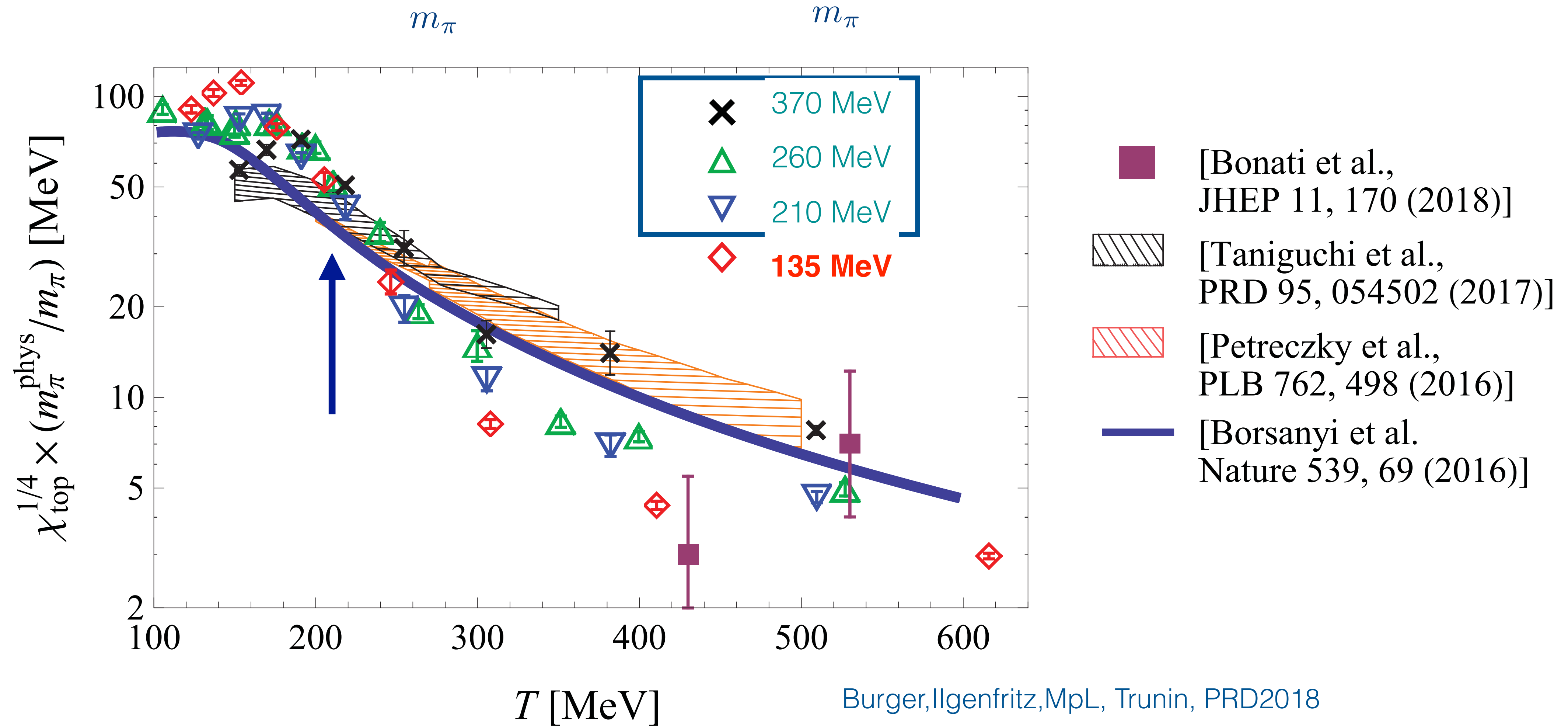
$N_t$	$T$ [MeV]	# conf	$N_t$	$T$ [MeV]	# conf
20	123(1)	782	10	246(1)	592
18	137(1)	892	8	308(2)	498
16	154(1)	534	6	411(2)	195
14	176(1)	359	4	616(3)	472
12	205(1)	337			

Heavier masses:



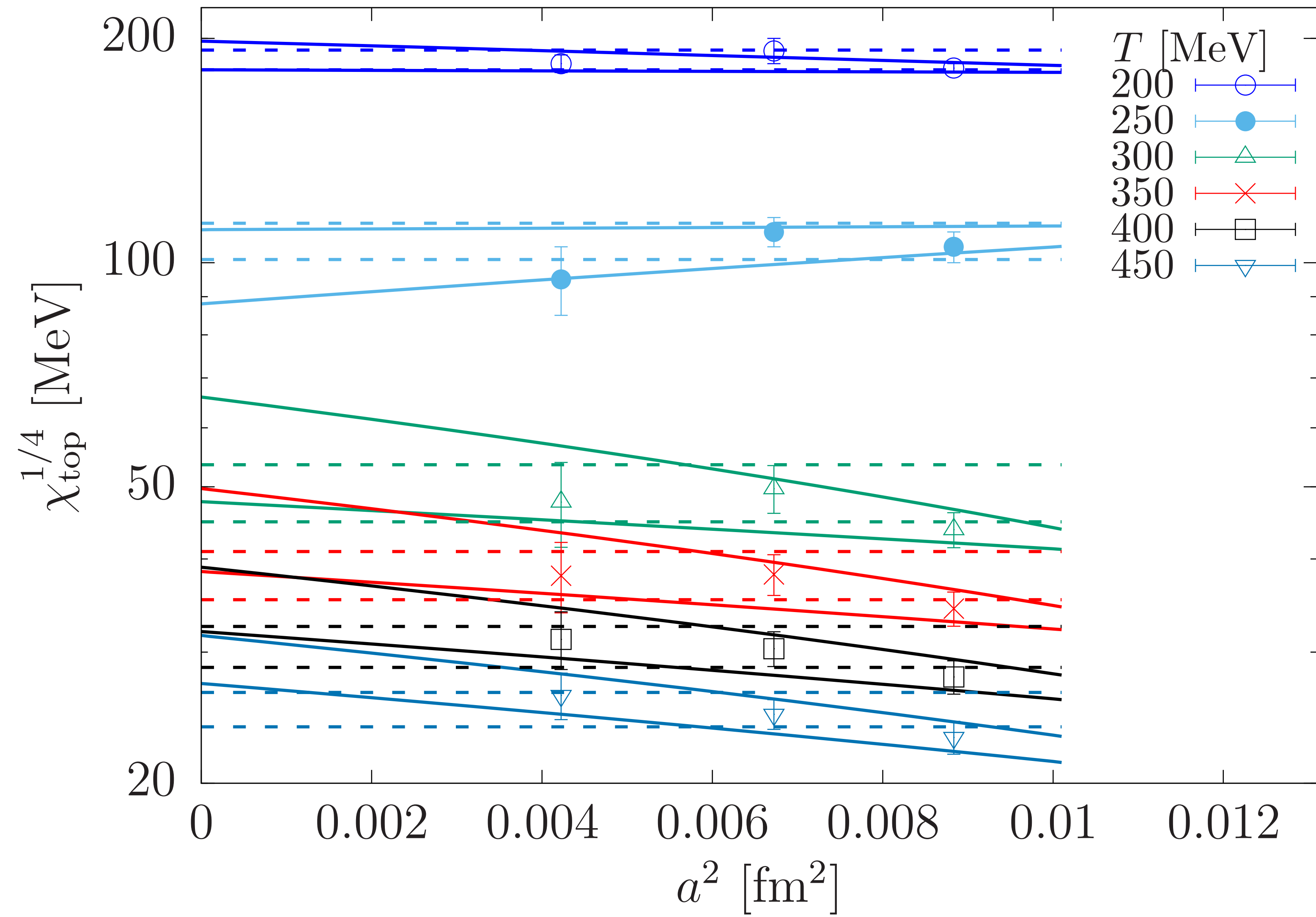
# Results for physical pion mass + Rescaled heavier masses

$$T^{4-\beta_0} \left(\frac{m}{T}\right)^{N_f} \text{ Diga}$$



Burger, Ilgenfritz, MpL, Trunin, PRD2018

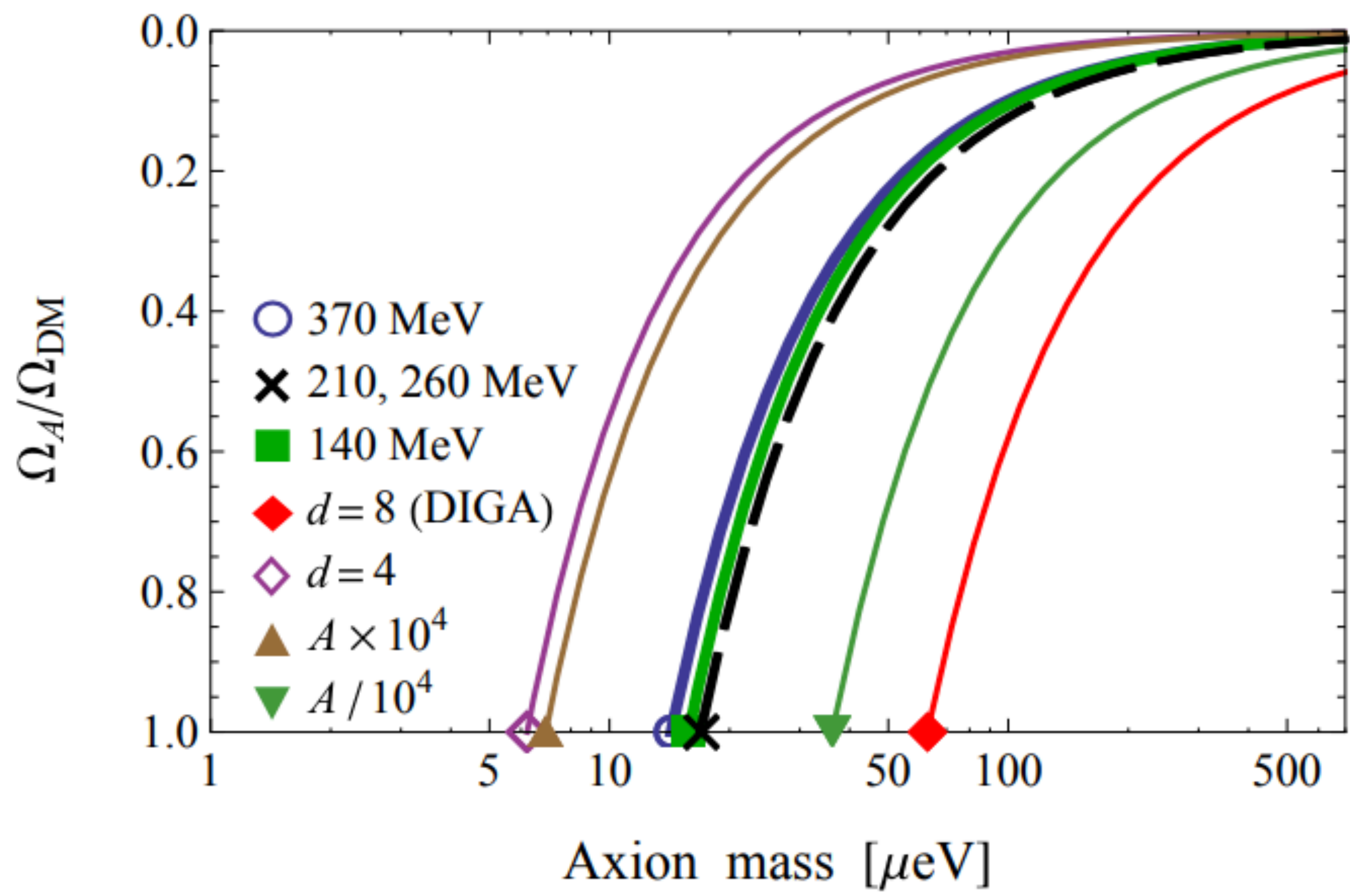
Kotov, Trunin, MpL, arXiv 2021



Continuum limit

Burger et al. (2018)

[as an aside]





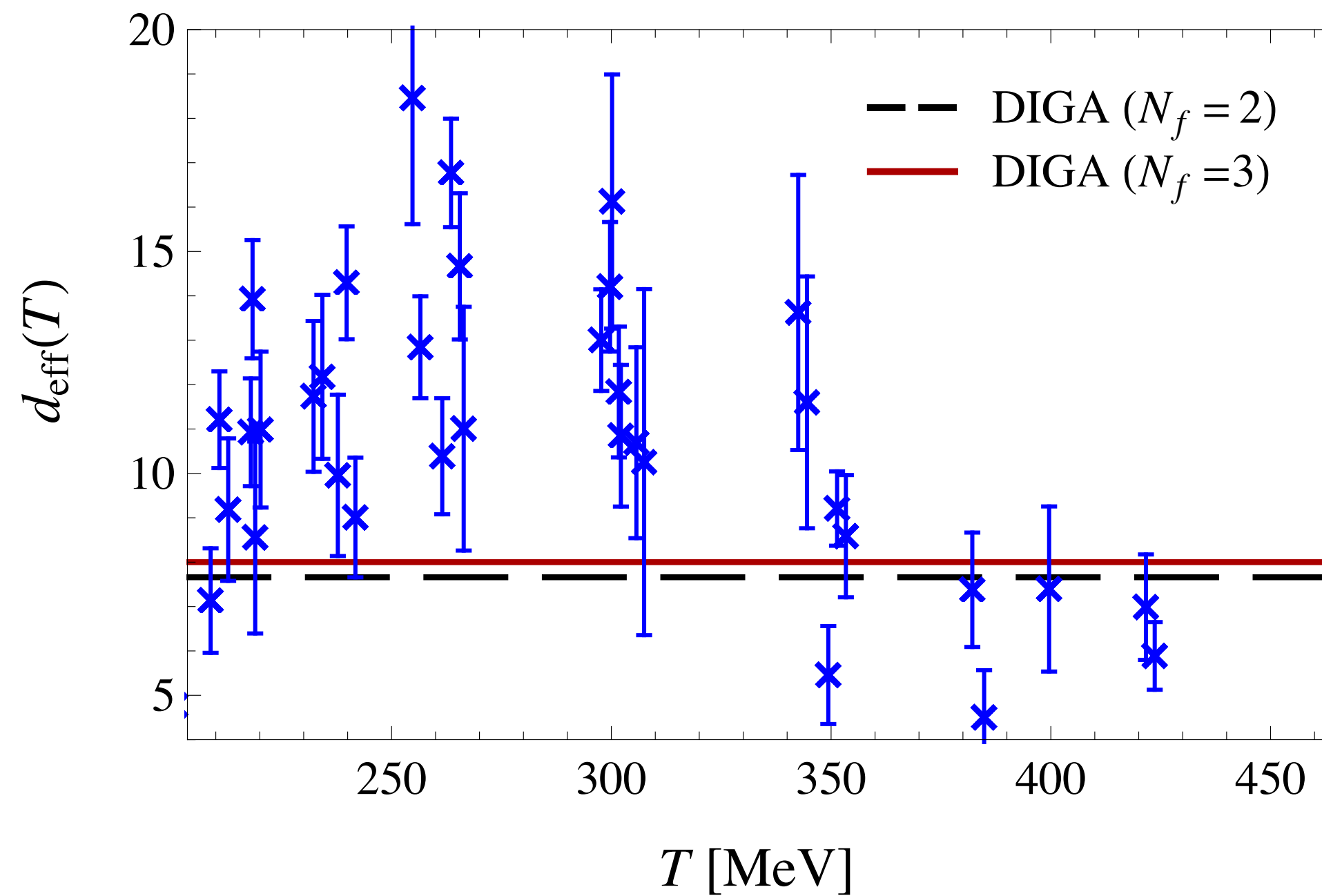
# Power-law decay?

For instanton gas

$$\chi^{0.25}(T) = aT^{-d(T)}$$

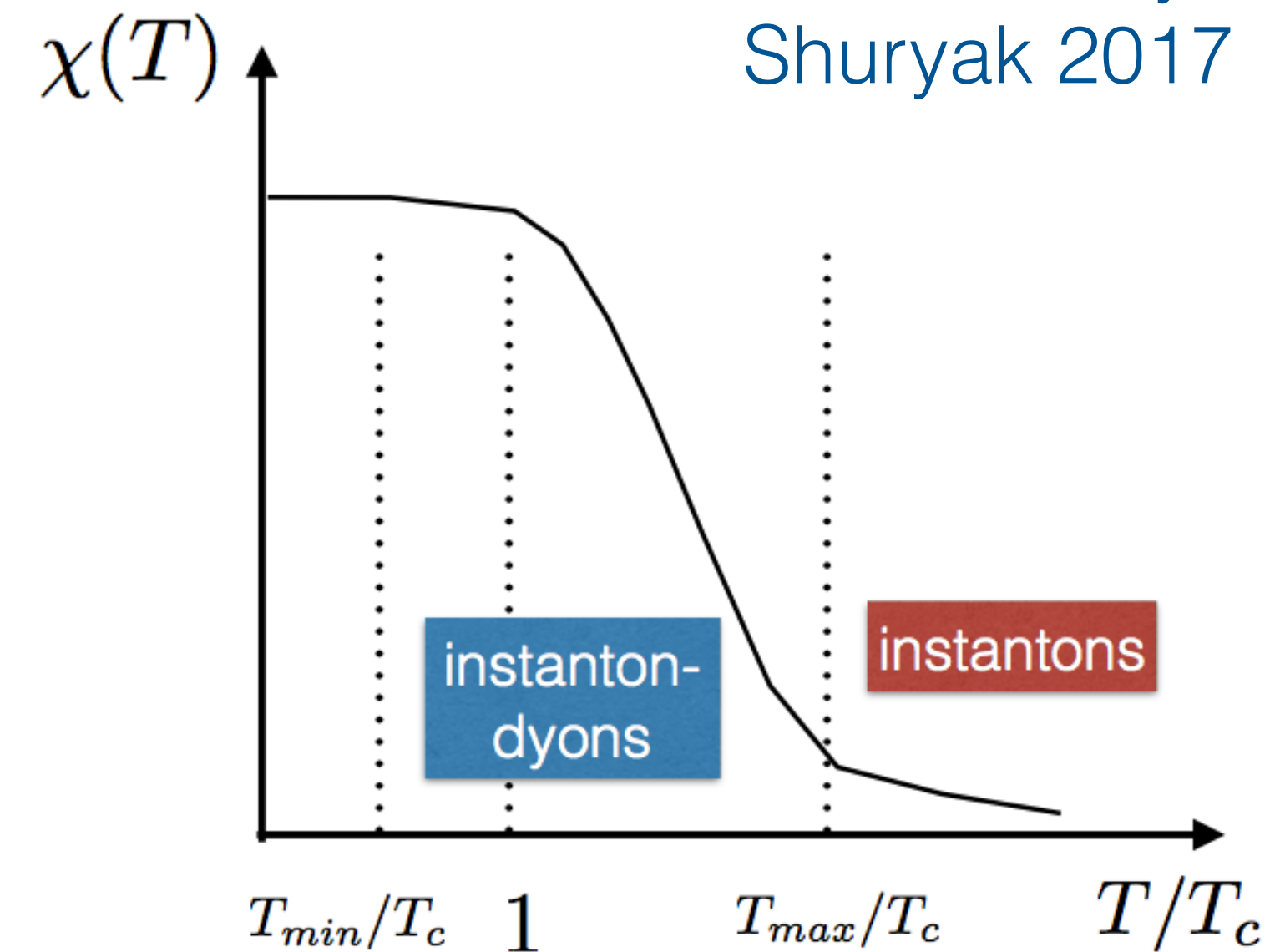
$$d(T) \equiv \text{const} \simeq \left(7 + \frac{N_f}{3}\right)$$

$$d(T) = -T \frac{d}{dT} \ln \chi^{0.25}(T)$$



Faster decrease before DIGA sets in

Possibly consistent with instant-dyon?  
 Shuryak 2017



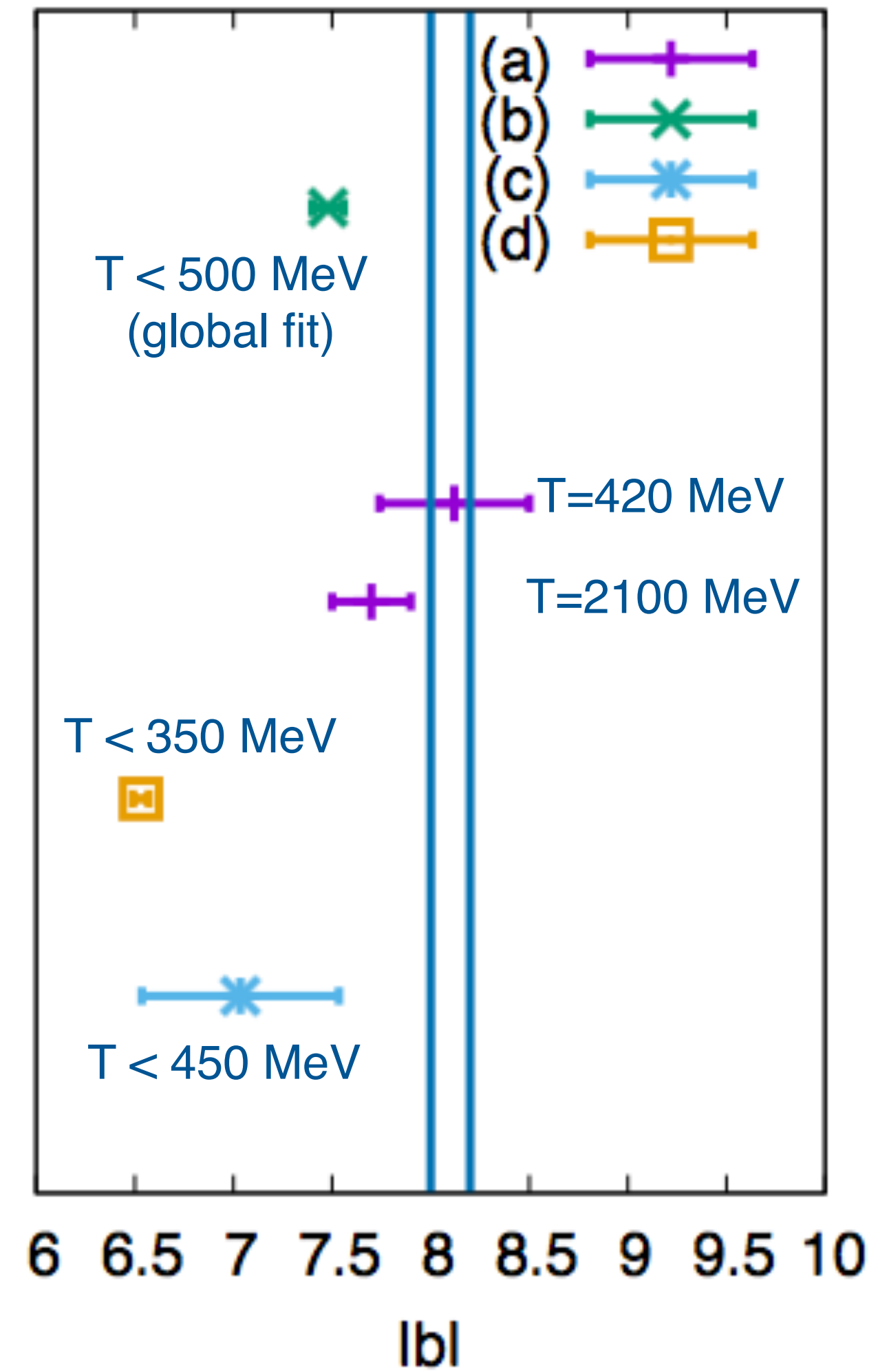
# QCD - Summary of b parameter

$$\chi(T) = AT^b$$

Y. Taniguchi, K. Kanaya, H. Suzuki and T. Umeda (2017) (d),  
 Borsanyi et al. (2016) (a)  
 Petreczky, Schlaeder, Scharma (2016) (b)  
 Burger et al. (2018) (c)  
 DIGA, Nf = 3  
 DIGA, Nf=4

For  $T > 300$  MeV the DIGA exp  
 is approached *from below*

$T_c < T < 250$  MeV ??



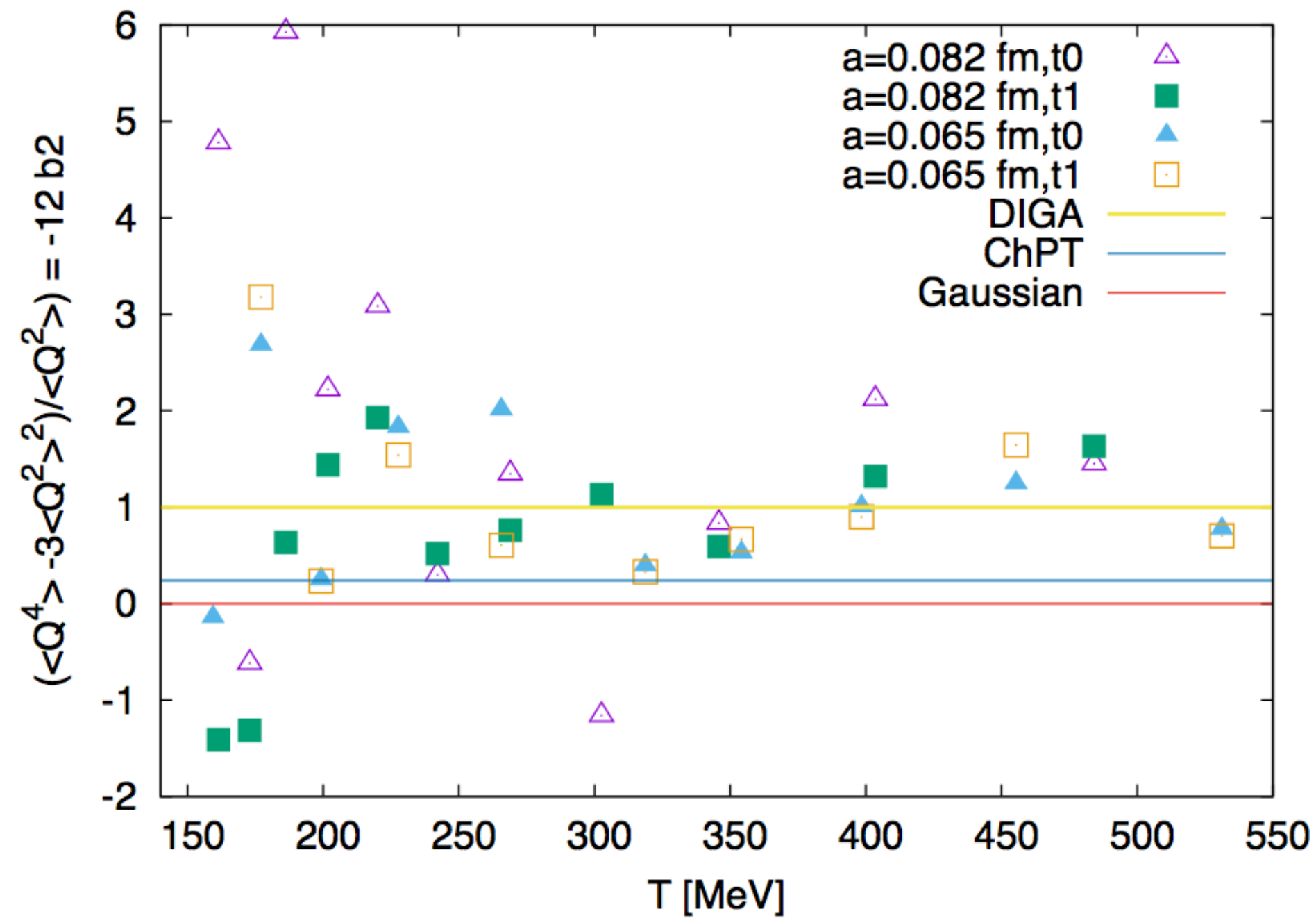
# Further evidence of DIGA behaviour

$$T \rightarrow \infty \left| \sim C \left( \frac{T_c}{T} \right)^\beta \cos(\theta) \right.$$

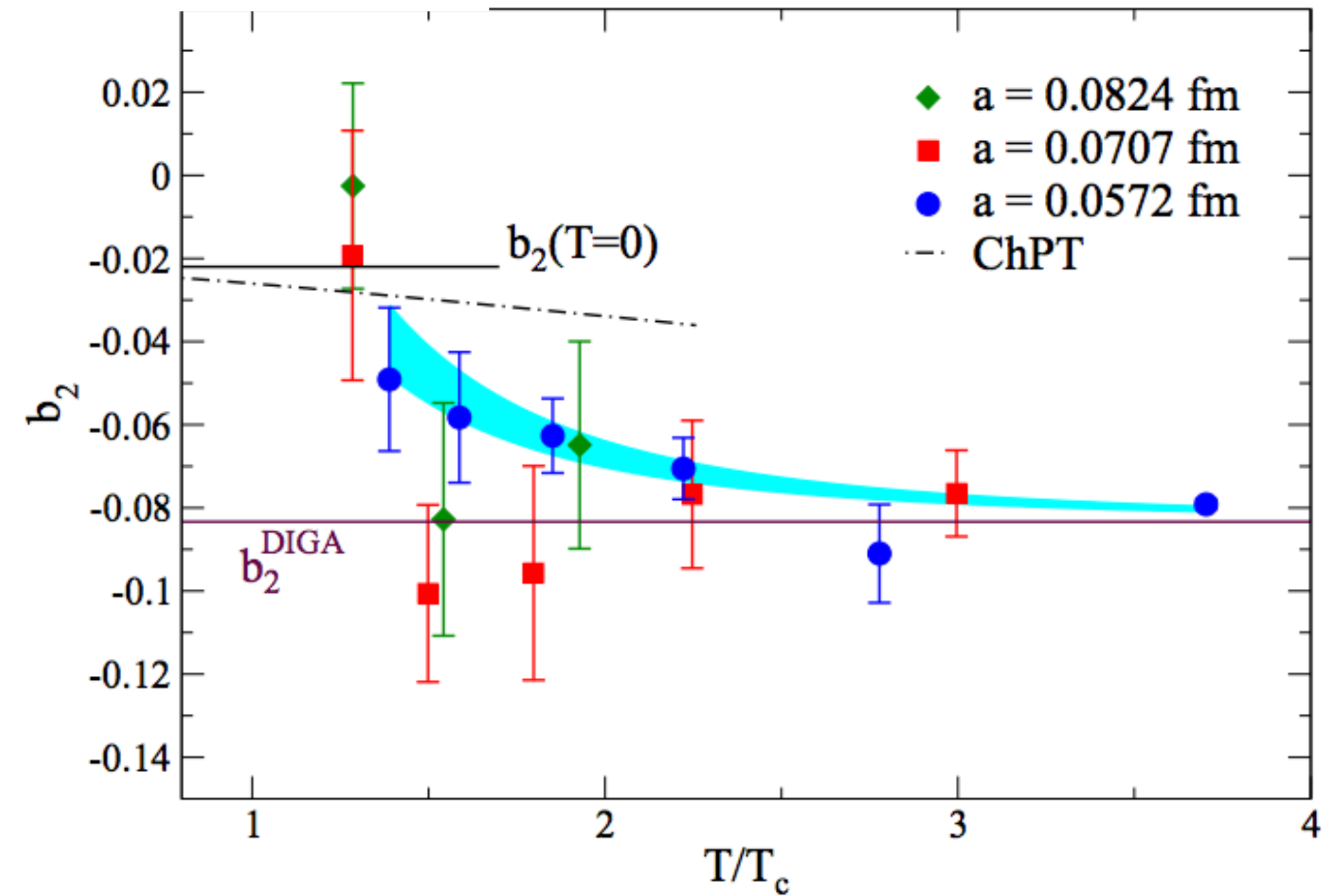
$T > 250-300 \text{ MeV}$

$$C_n = (-1)^{n+1} \frac{d^{2n}}{d\theta^{2n}} F(\theta, T) \Big|_{\theta=0} = \langle Q^{2n} \rangle_{conn.}$$

d'Elia, Vicari 1301.7640



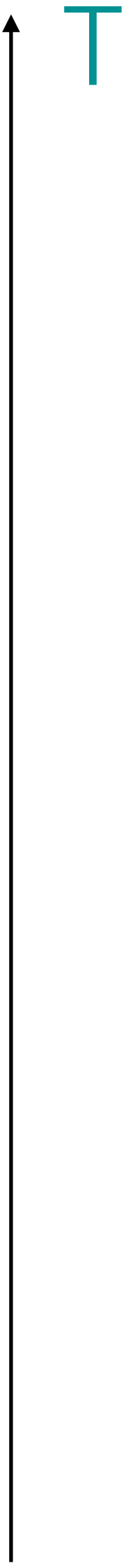
Trunin et al (2018)

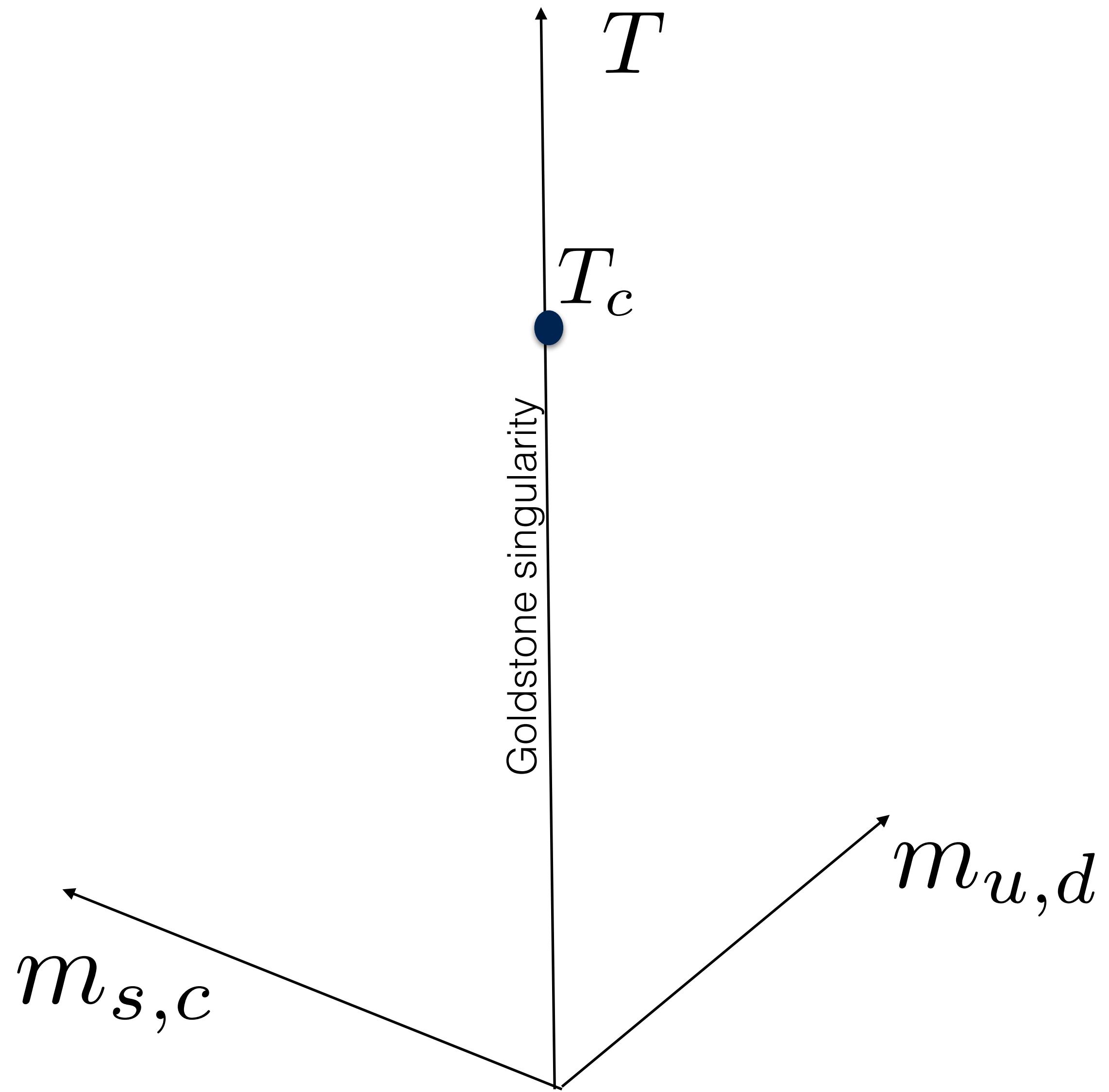


Bonati et al. (2016)

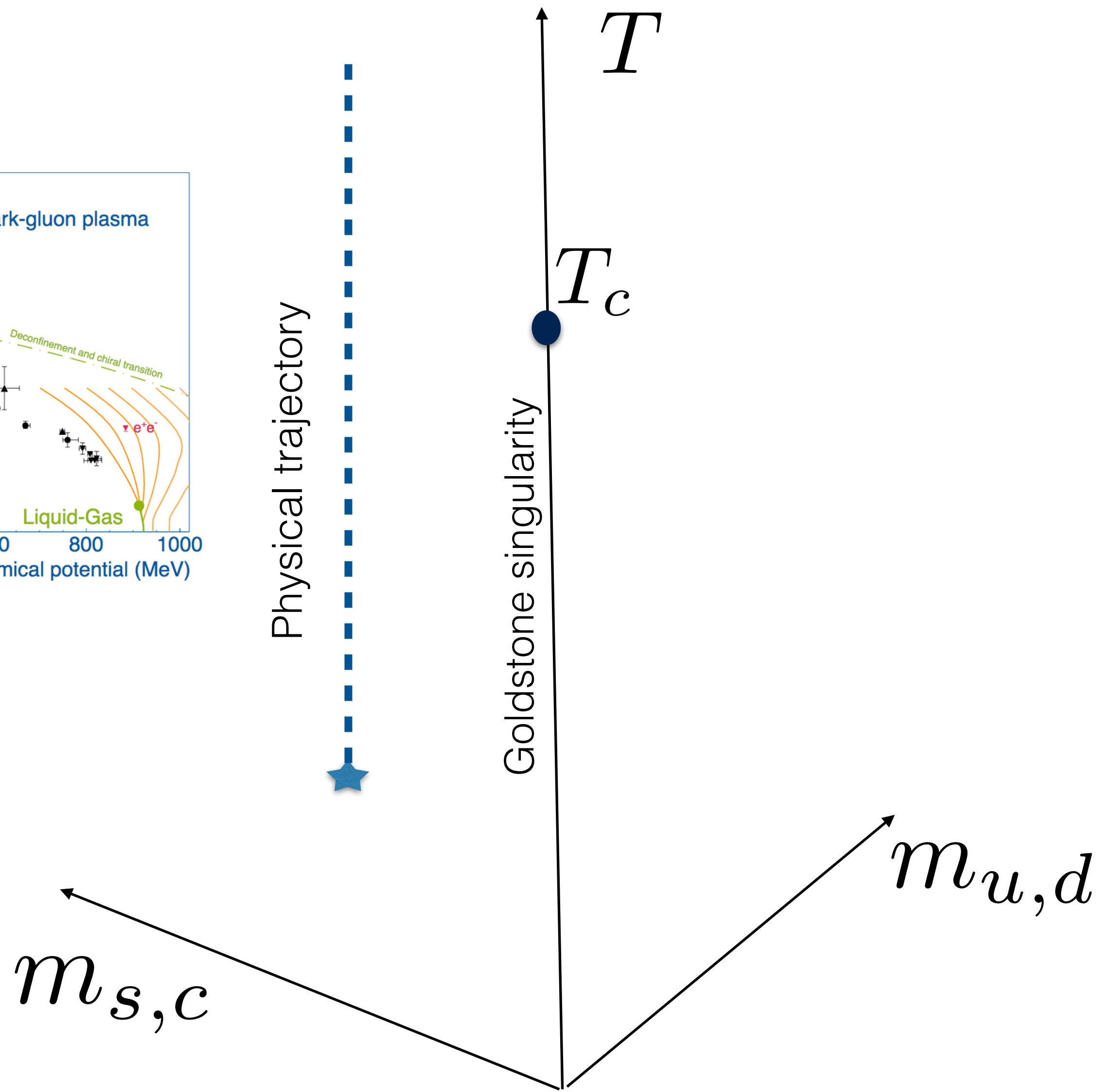
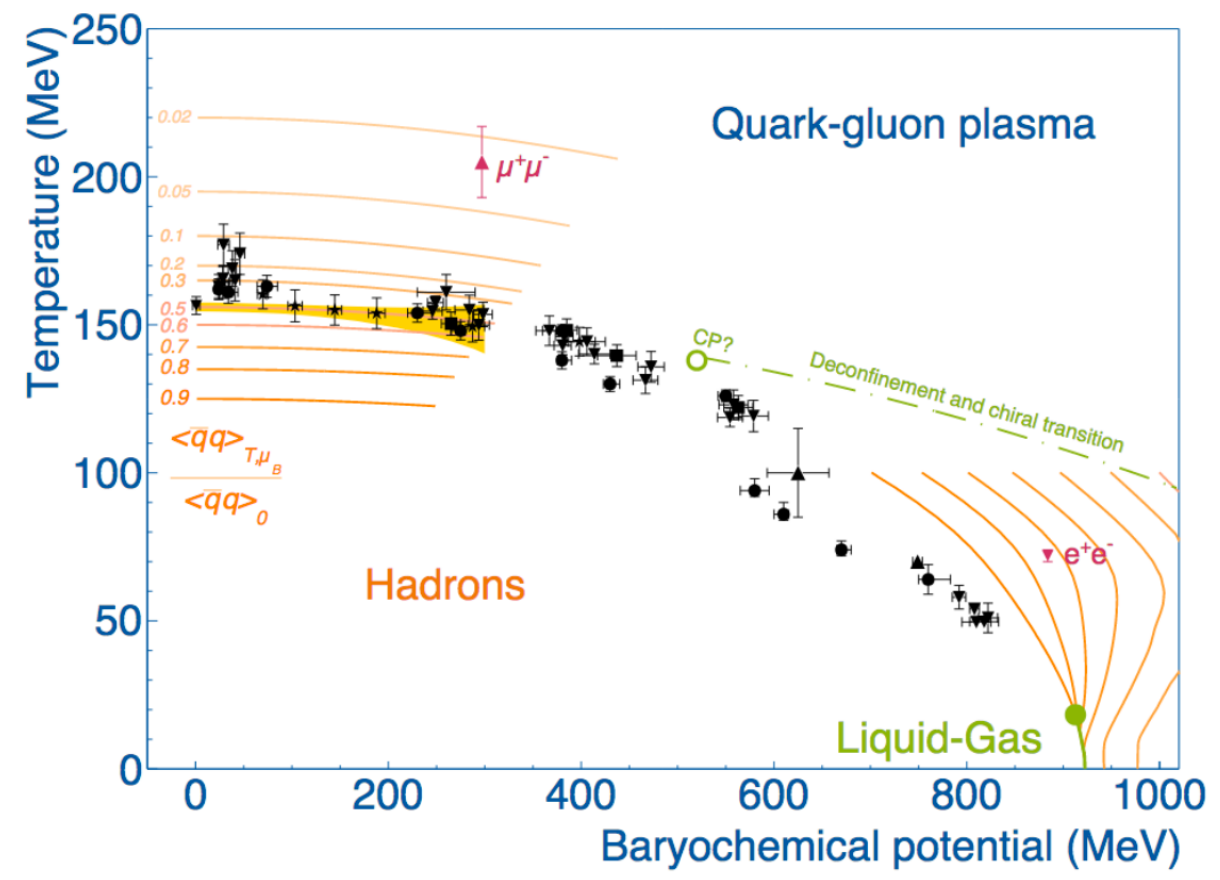


Scaling window around  $T_c$









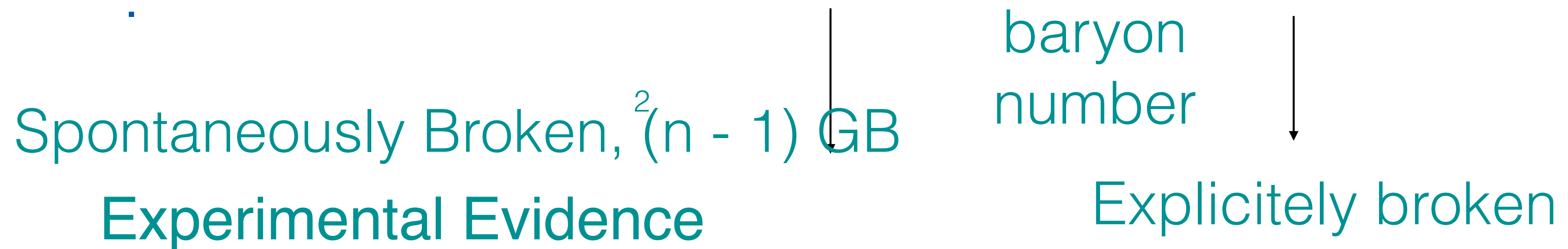
# Symmetries of QCD

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{a=1}^n \bar{q}_{La} \not{\partial} q_{La} + \bar{q}_{Ra} \not{\partial} q_{Ra} - m(\bar{q}_{La} q_{La} + \bar{q}_{Ra} q_{Ra}) + \theta \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} F_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{F}_a^{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{L}_{gauge}$$

With  $m = 0$ , invariant under  
 $q_L \rightarrow V_L q_L, q_R \rightarrow V_R q_R$ , with  $V \in U(n)$

Global symmetry:

$$U(n)_L \times U(n)_R \cong SU(n) \times SU(n) \times U(1)_V \times U(1)_A$$



$$N_f = ?$$

T=0, no difference, just different #Goldstones

$$m_{u,d} = 0$$

$$N_f = 3$$

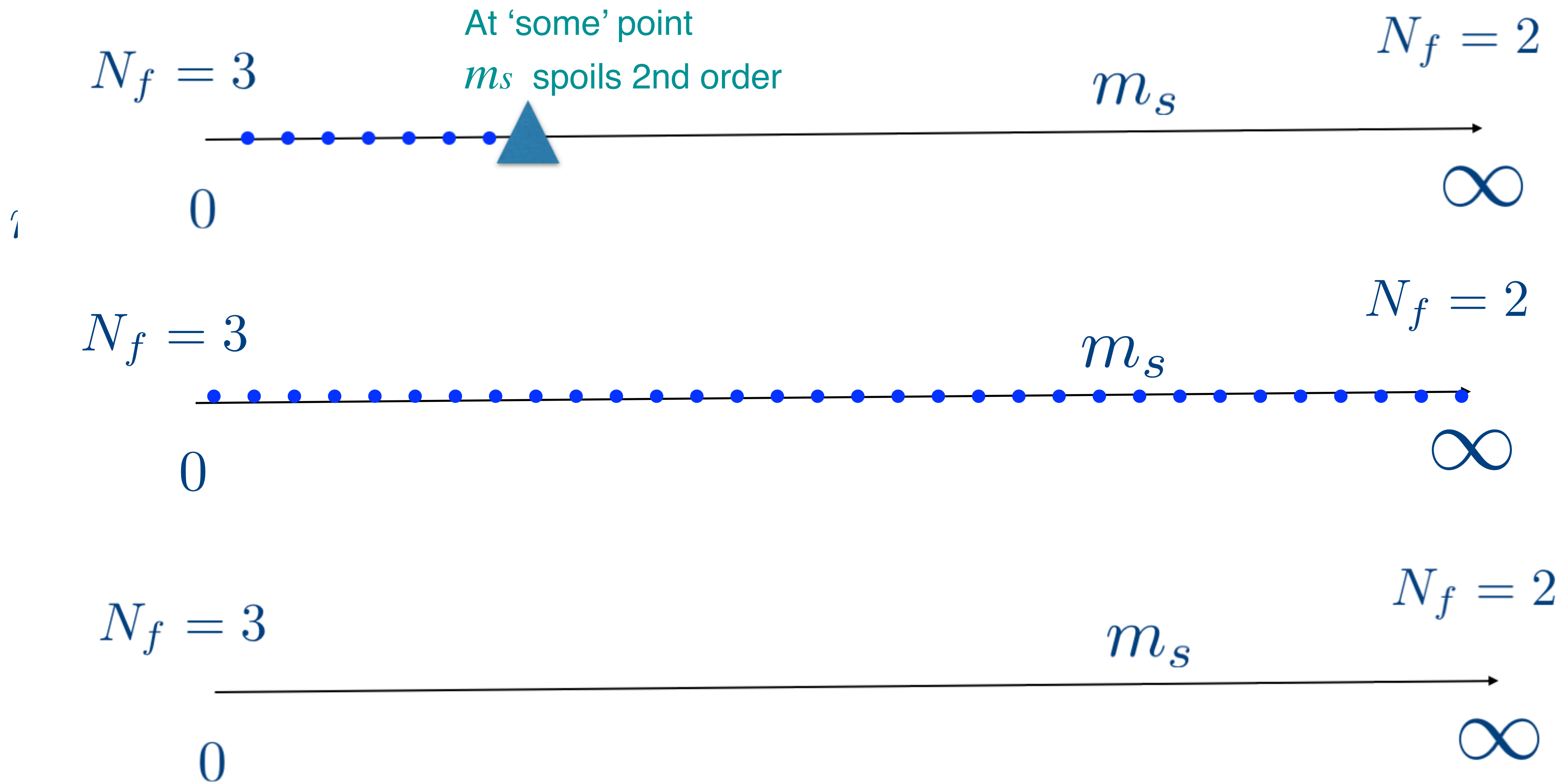
$m_s$

$$N_f = 2$$

0

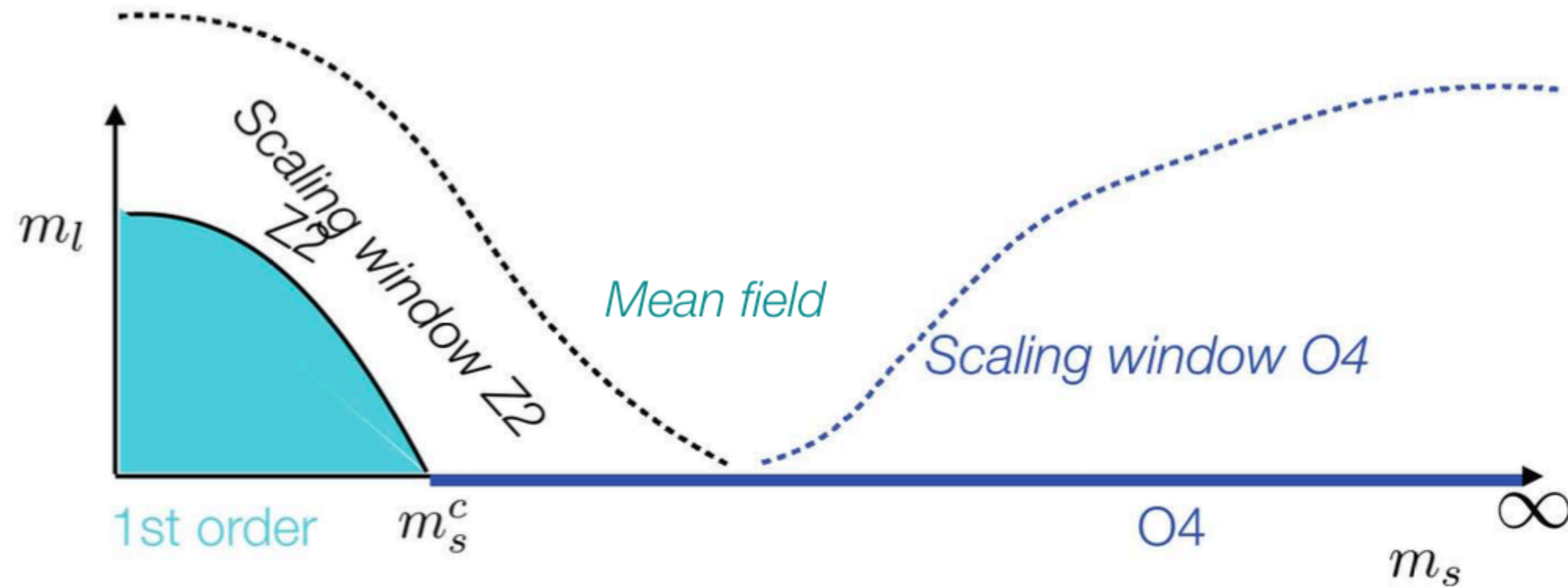
$\infty$

# Strange mass as interpolator between $N_f=3$ and $N_f=2$

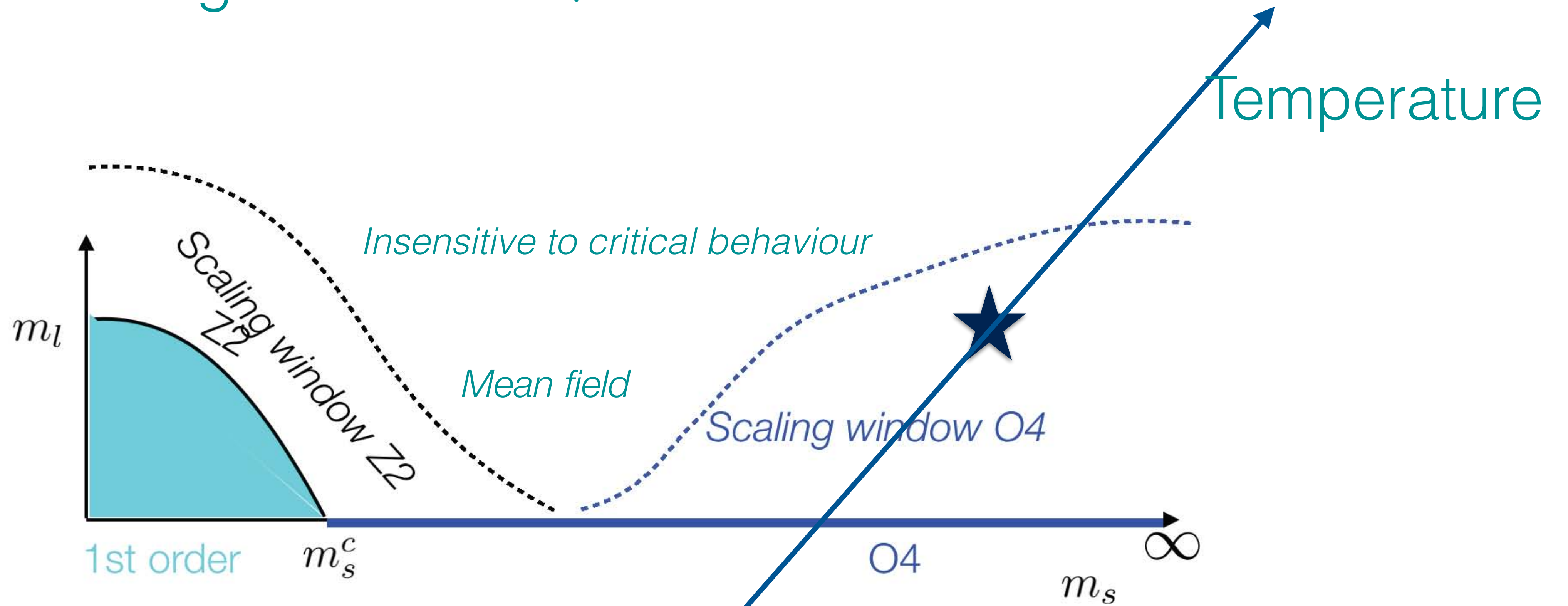




# Switching on the light mass: a possible Scenario



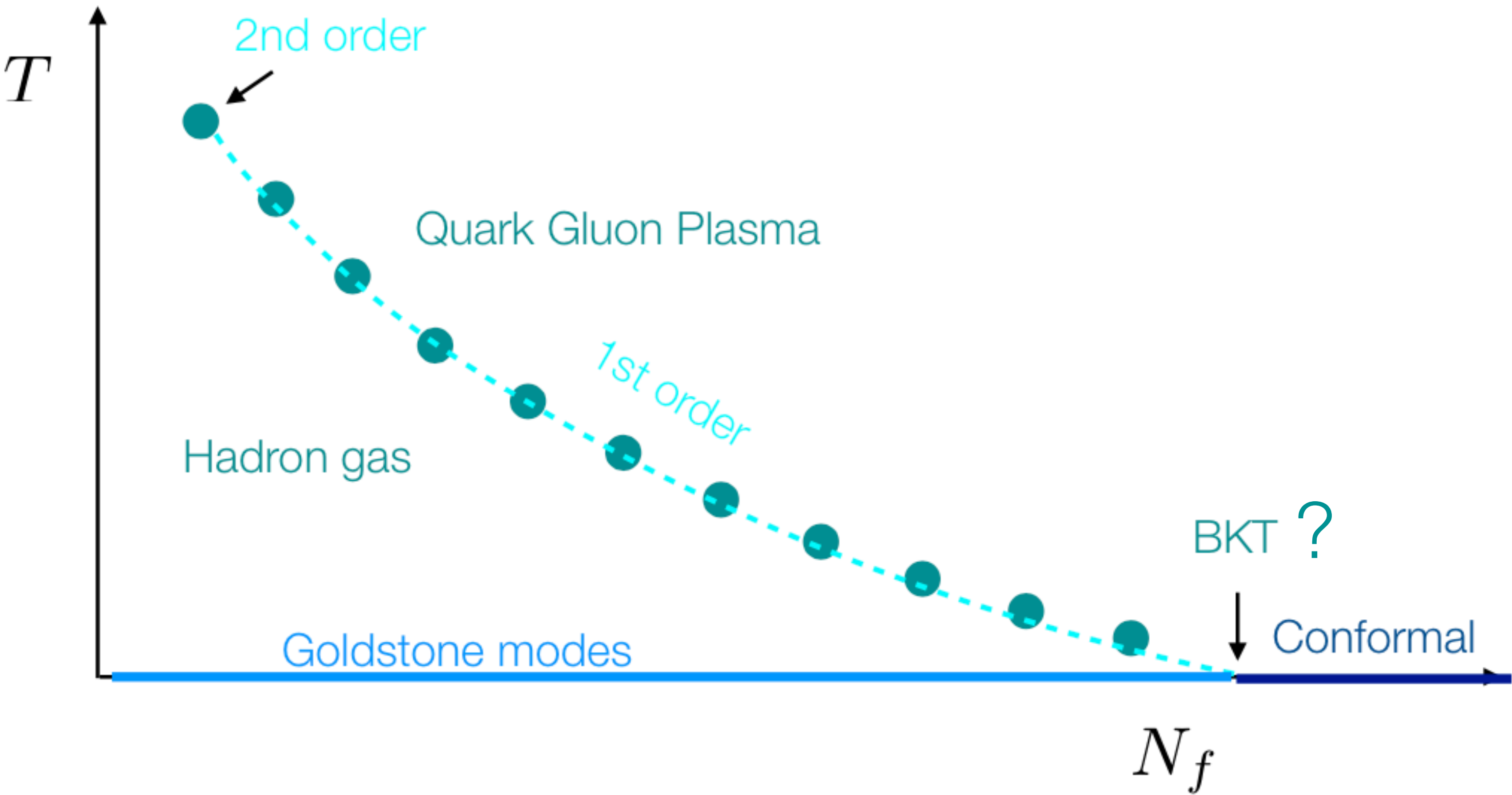
Where is the scaling window in QCD in mass and T?



★ Physical point :  $m_u, m_d, m_s$

# Switching on temperature -

## AdS/CFT



The magnetic equation of State:

$$h = M^\delta f(t/M^{1/\beta}).$$

$M \equiv \bar{\psi}\psi$ ,  $h \equiv m_q$ ,  $t \equiv T - T_c$ ,  $m_q$  is the quark mass and  $T_c$  is the critical temperature

Three strategies to identify the scaling behaviour:

- direct comparison with the Equation of State
- the study of the dependence of the pseudo-critical temperatures on the breaking field, also known as scaling of pseudo-critical temperatures
- definition of RG invariant quantities, which do not depend on the breaking field at the critical point.

Byproduct: critical temperature in the chiral limit

Significant source of scaling violations:

additive linear mass corrections to  $\bar{\psi}\psi$



# Playing with the order parameter

also mentioned in the PhD thesis by Wolfgang Unger

'Beating' the regular terms/additive renormalization for more stringent universality checks

$$\Delta_3 \equiv (\bar{\psi}\psi - m\chi_L) \equiv \left(\bar{\psi}\psi - m \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}\psi}{\partial m}\right) \equiv m(\chi_T - \chi_L)$$

Advantage wrt standard subtracted condensate: admits EoS

Note: Transverse and longitudinal susceptibilities

$$\chi_T = \frac{\bar{\psi}\psi}{m}$$

$$R_\pi \equiv \chi_T^{-1} / \chi_L^{-1}$$

$$\frac{1}{R_\pi(t, m)} = \delta - \frac{x f'(x)}{\beta f(x)},$$

$$\chi_L = \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}\psi}{\partial m}.$$

$$R_\pi(0, m) = \frac{1}{\delta}$$

Kocic, Kogut, MpL;  
Karsch, Laermann

## Equation of State for $\Delta_3$

- linear terms in  $m$  drop in  $\Delta_3 \equiv (\bar{\psi}\psi - m\chi_L) \equiv (\bar{\psi}\psi - m \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}\psi}{\partial m})$

Use:  $M = h^{1/\delta} f_G(t/h^{1/\beta\delta})$  (parametrization in:

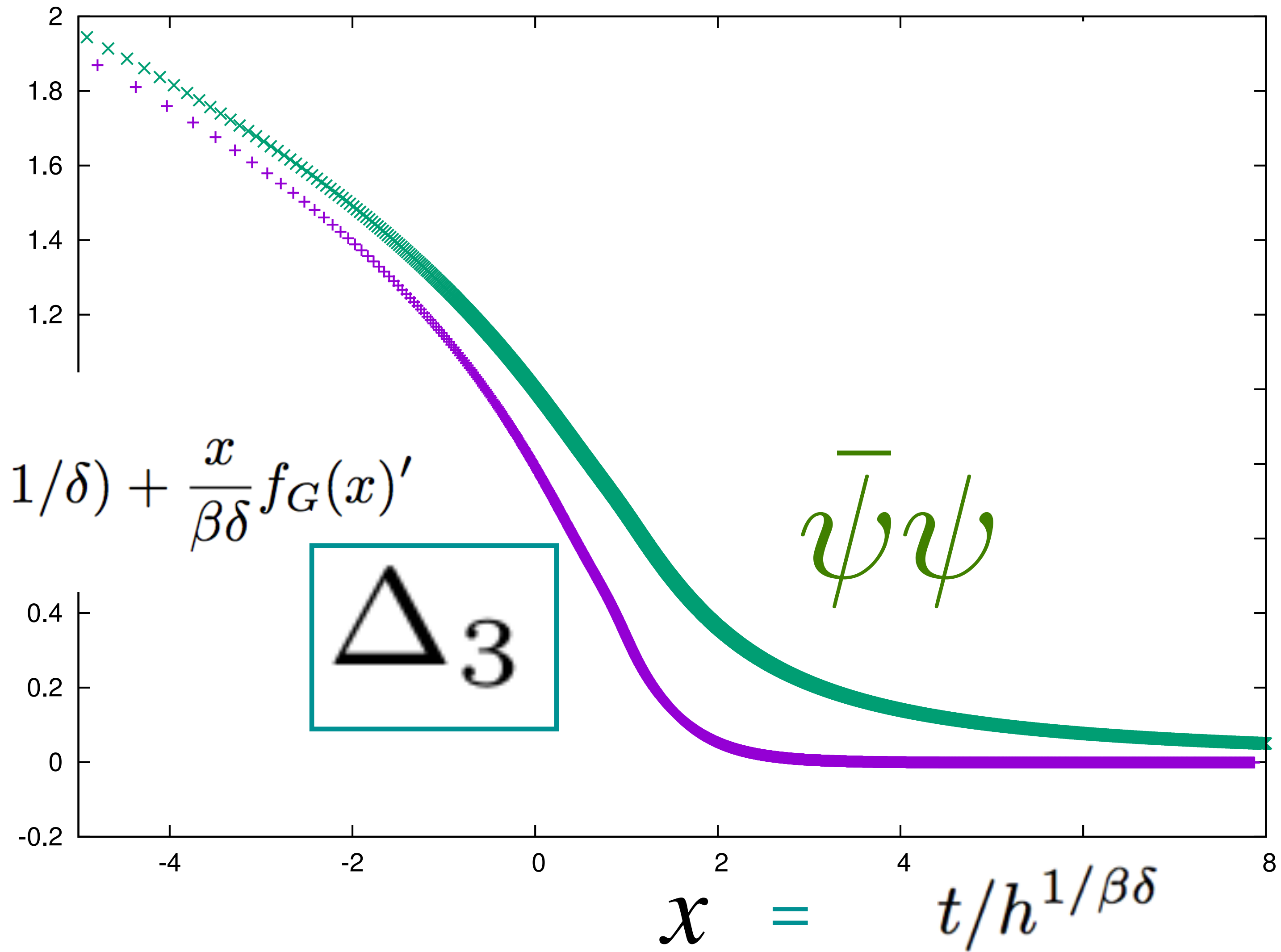
J.Engels and F.Karsch, Phys. Rev. D 85, (2012)

To get EoS for  $\Delta_3$

$$\Delta_3 = m^{1/\delta-1} f_G(t/m^{1/\beta\delta}) - 1/\delta m^{1/\delta-1} f_G(t/m^{1/\beta\delta}) + m^{1/\beta\delta+1} f'_G((t/m^{1/\beta\delta}))$$

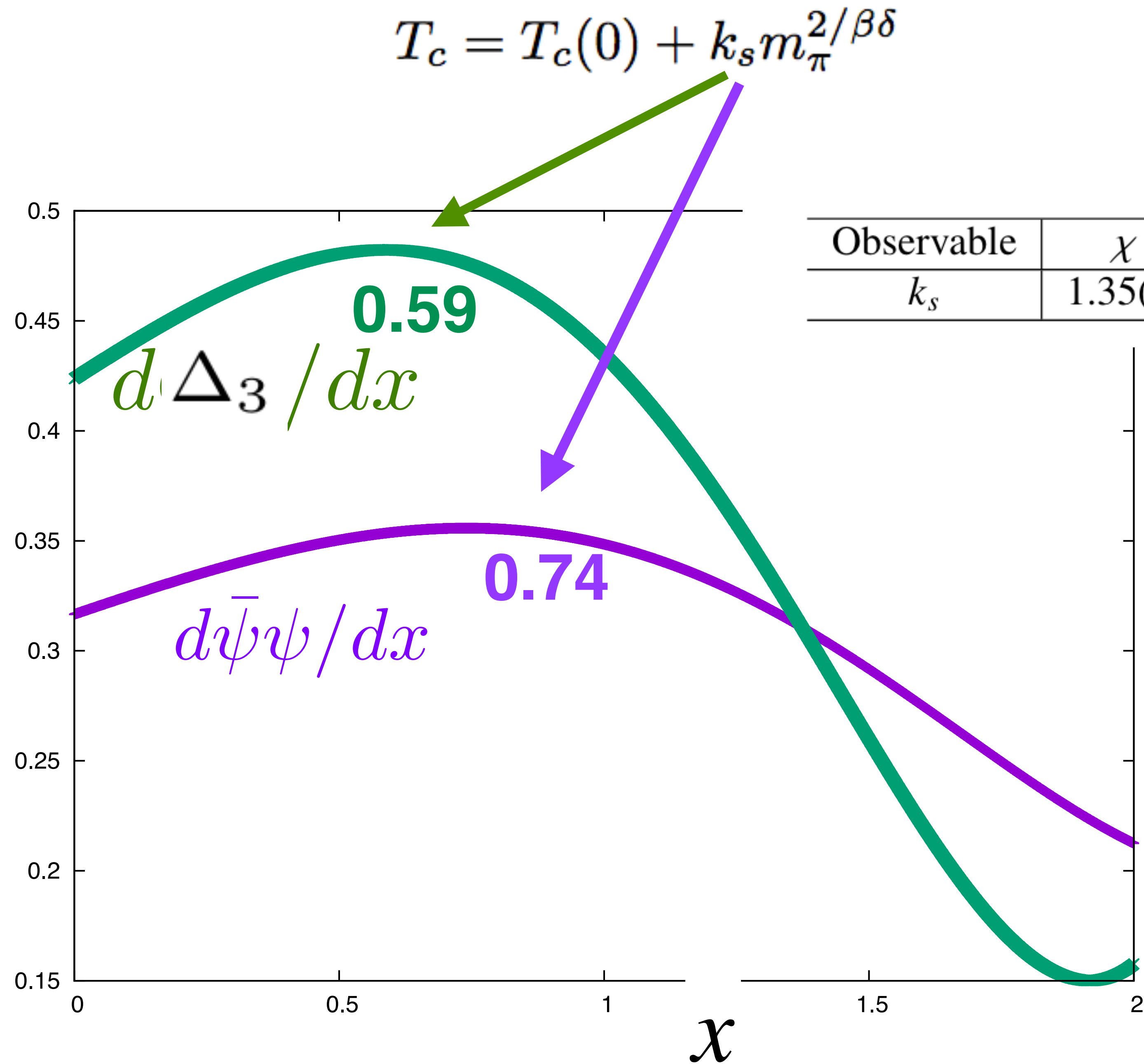
$$\frac{\Delta_3}{m^{1/\delta}} = f_G(x)(1 - 1/\delta) + \frac{x}{\beta\delta} f'_G(x)$$

$$\frac{\Delta_3}{m^{1/\delta}} = f_G(x)(1 - 1/\delta) + \frac{x}{\beta\delta} f_G(x)'$$



$\bar{\psi}\psi$

Derivatives:  
 give scaling  
 of pseudo  
 critical  
 temperature  
 $T_c$   
 with mass

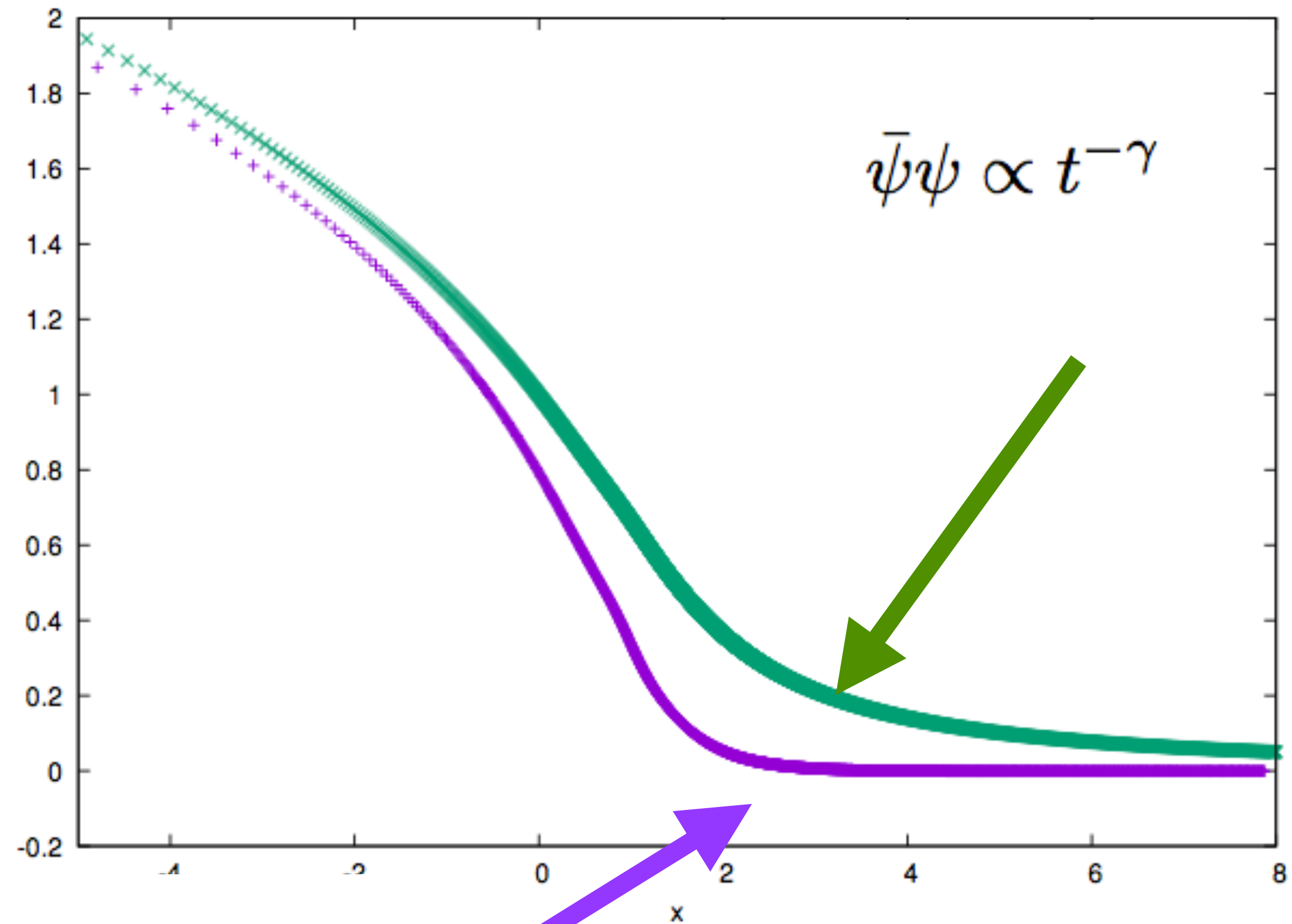




# Asymptotic behavior - high T expansion

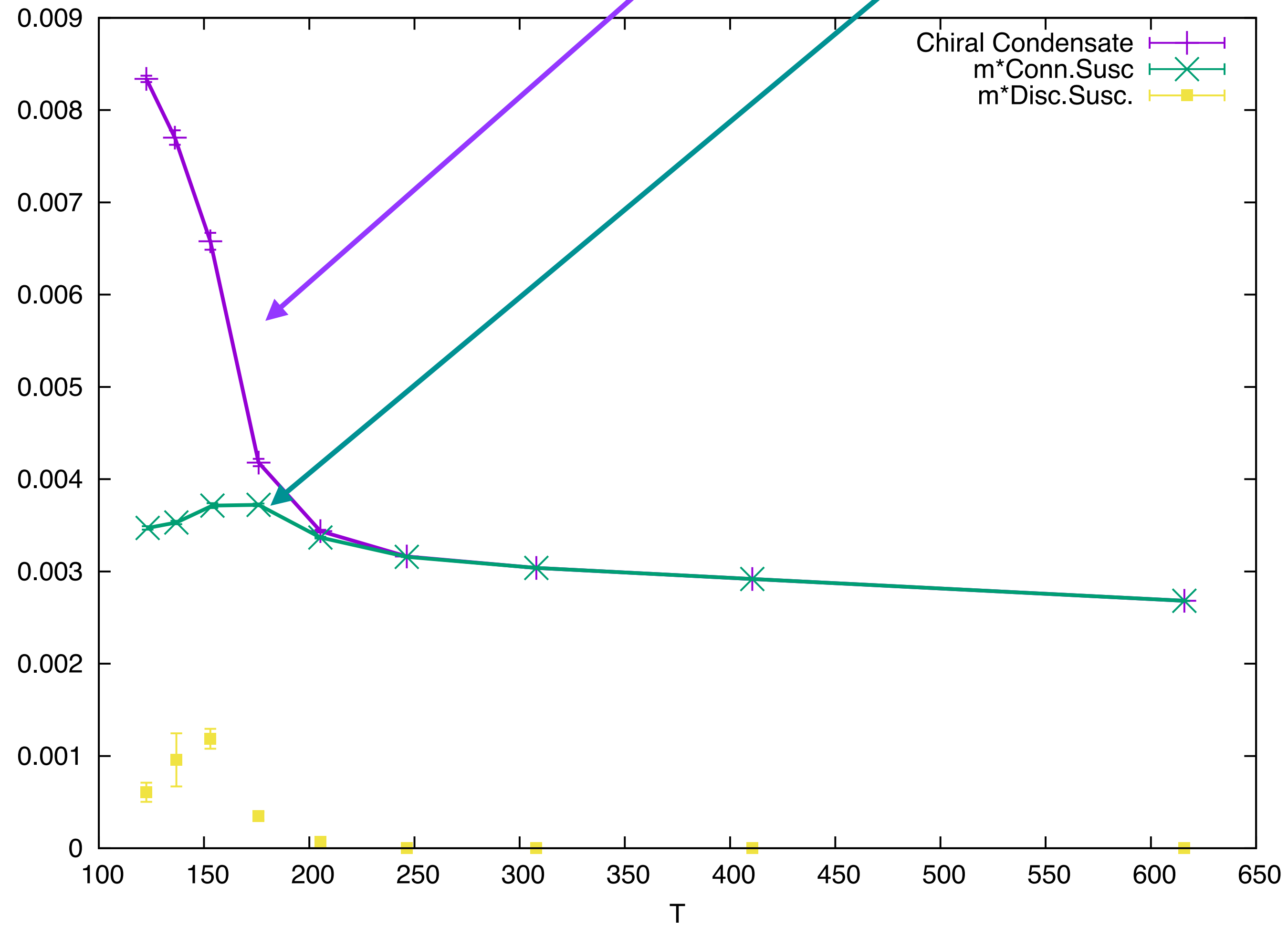
$$f_G(x) = x^{-\gamma} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d_n x^{-2n\Delta}$$

again, linear term  
drops in  $\Delta_3$

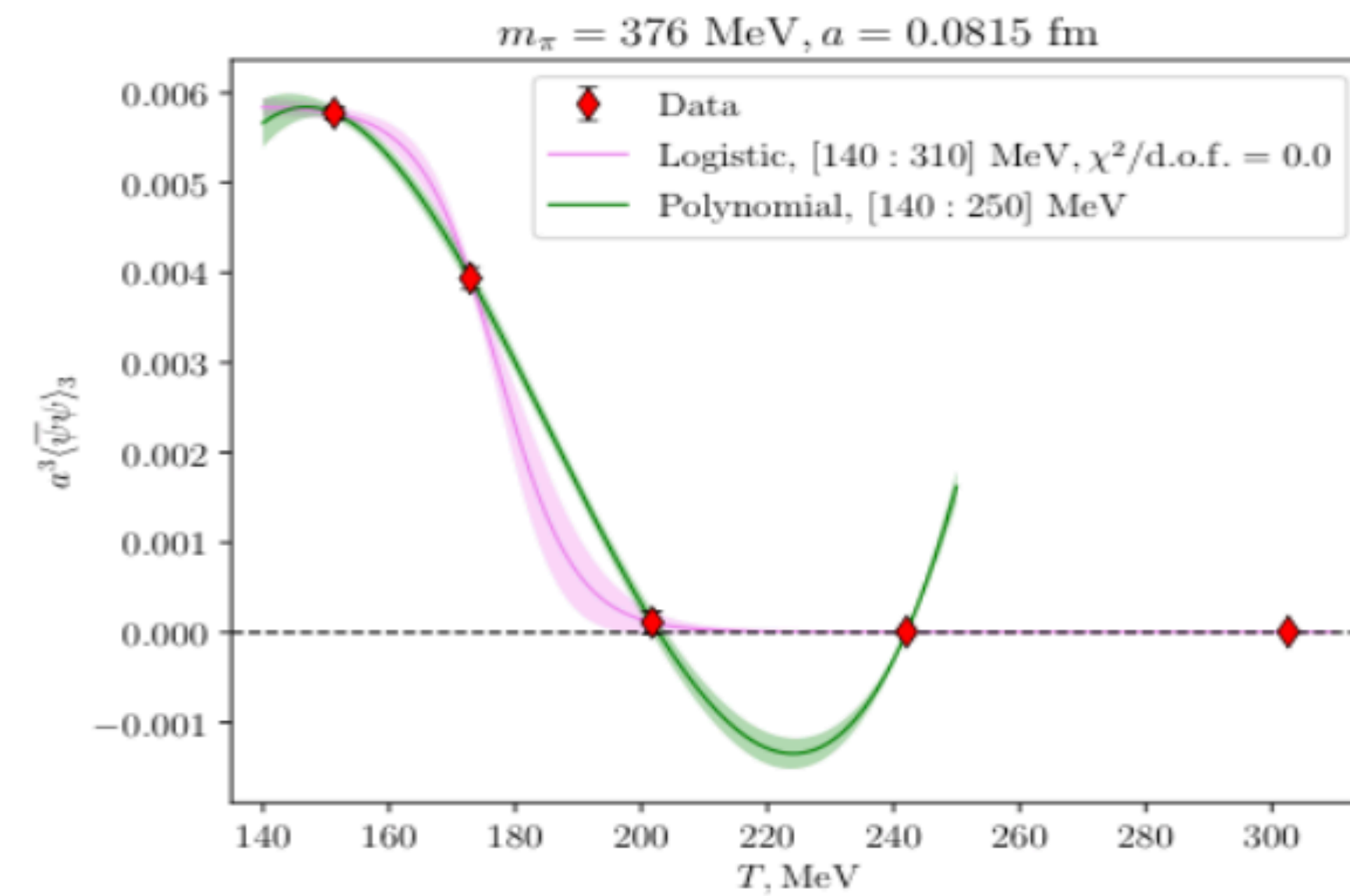
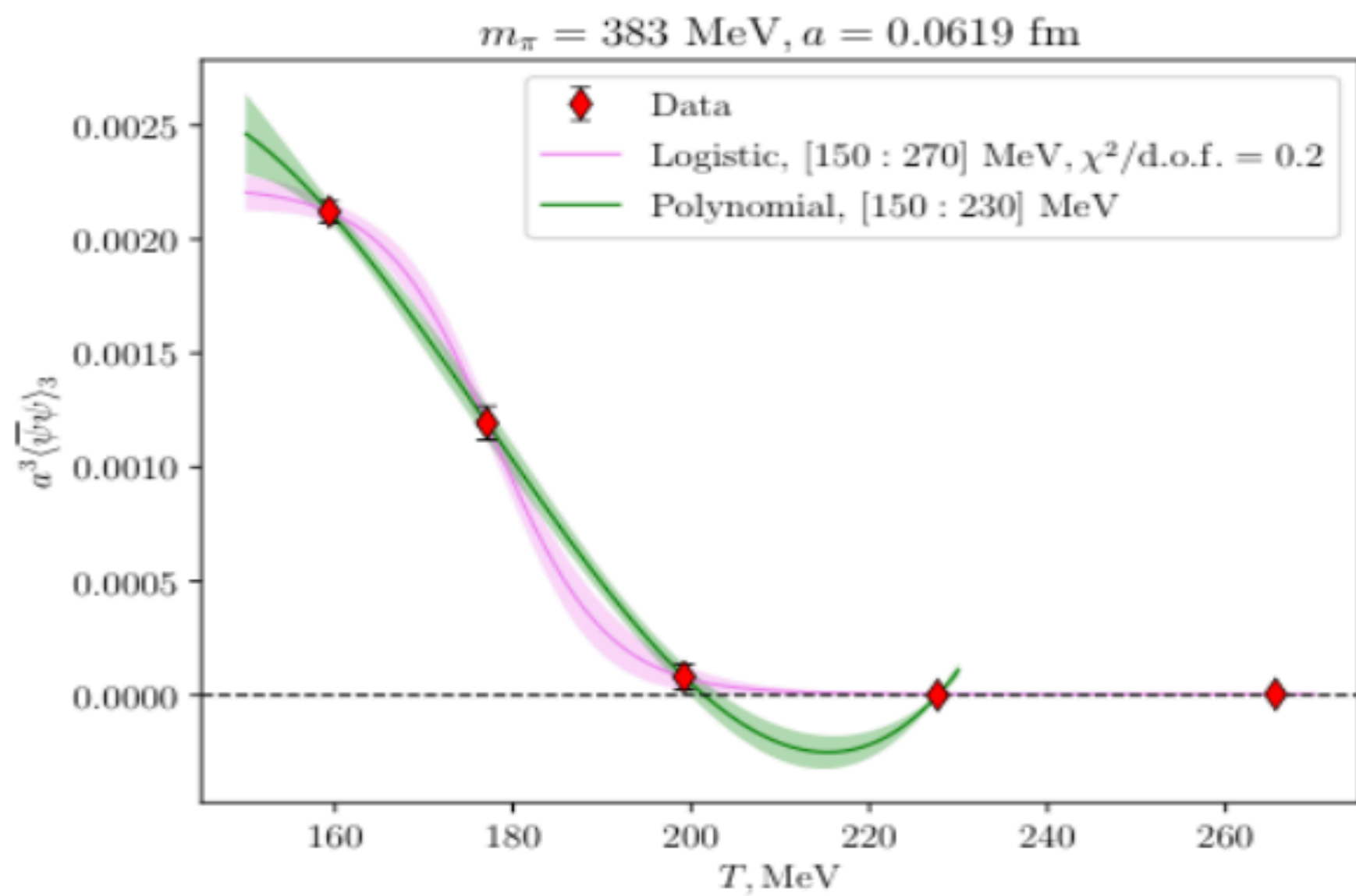
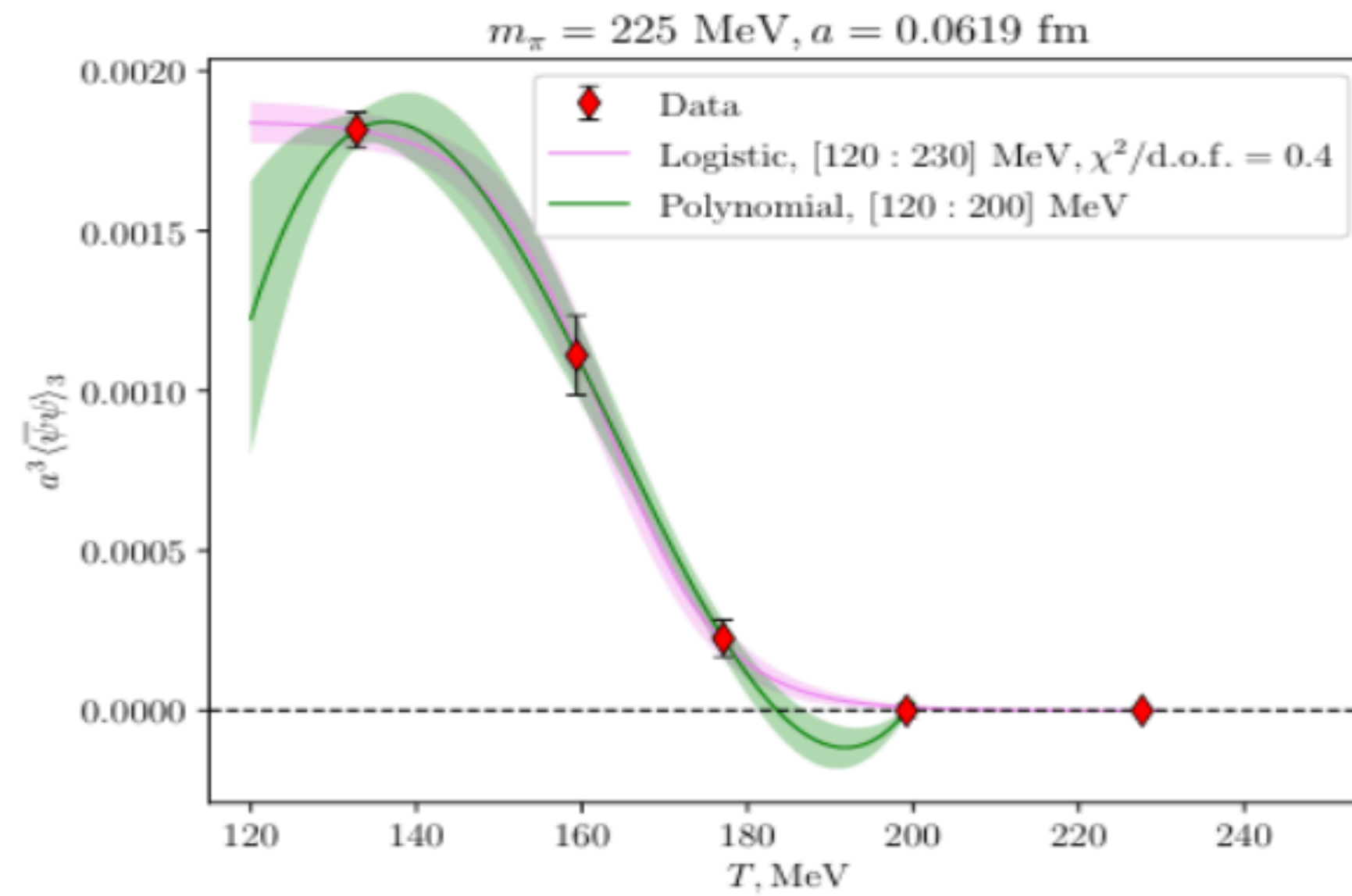
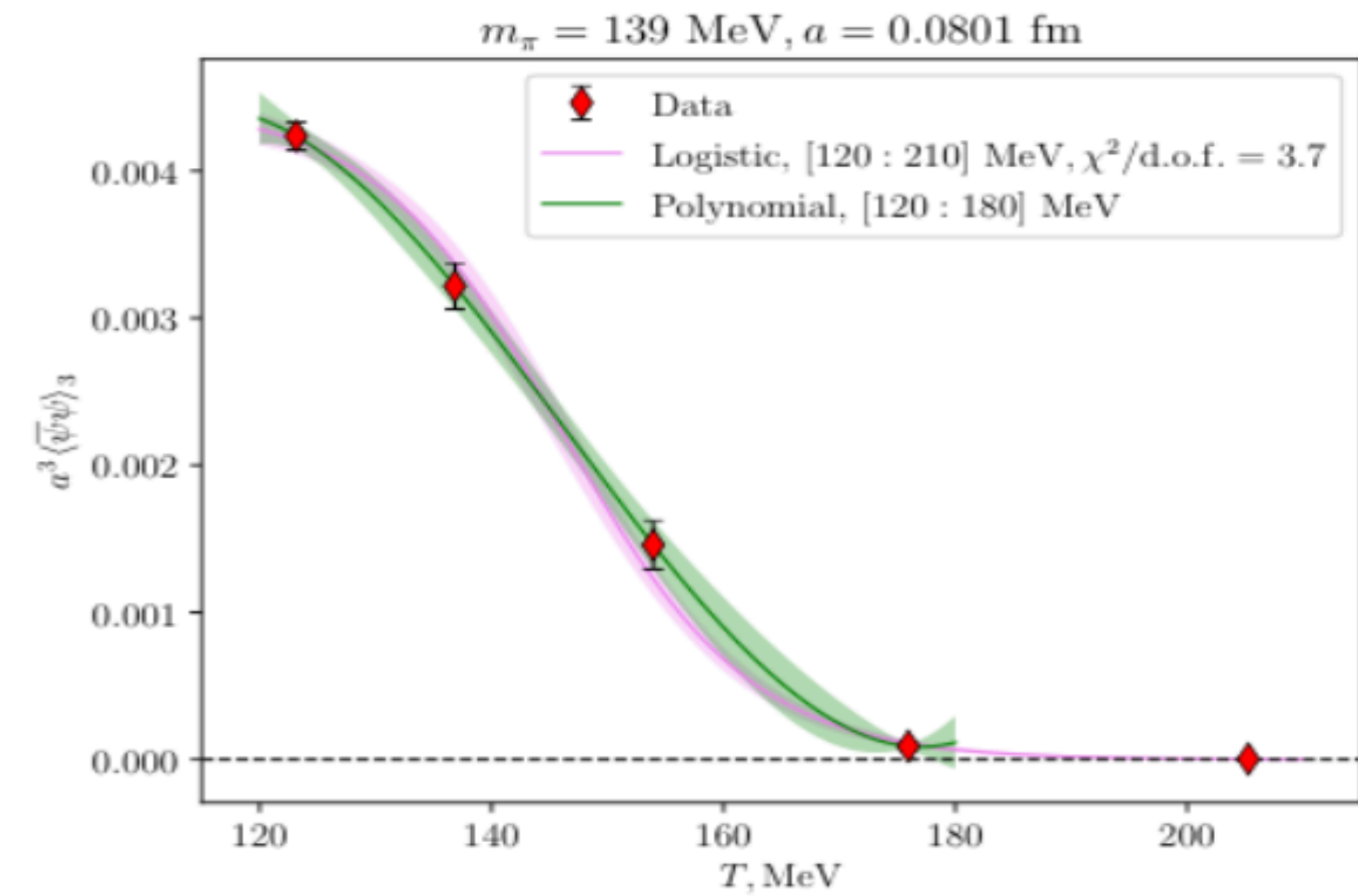


$$\Delta_3 \propto t^{-\gamma-2\beta\delta}$$

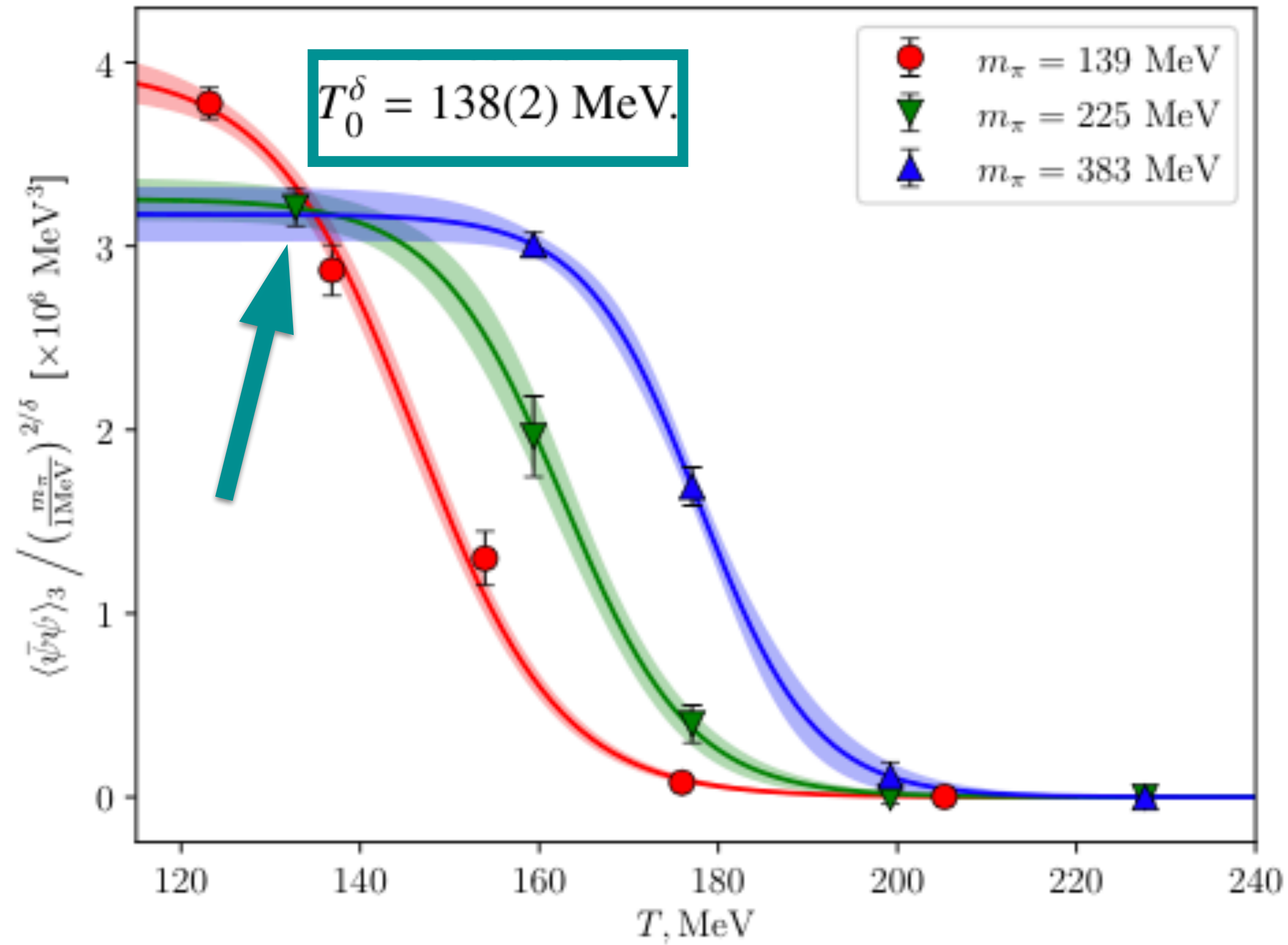
Building  $\Delta_3 \equiv (\bar{\psi}\psi - m \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}\psi}{\partial m})$



# Bare $\Delta_3$



Scaling at the critical point: searching for  $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_3 (T = T_0) = Am_\pi^{2/\delta}$



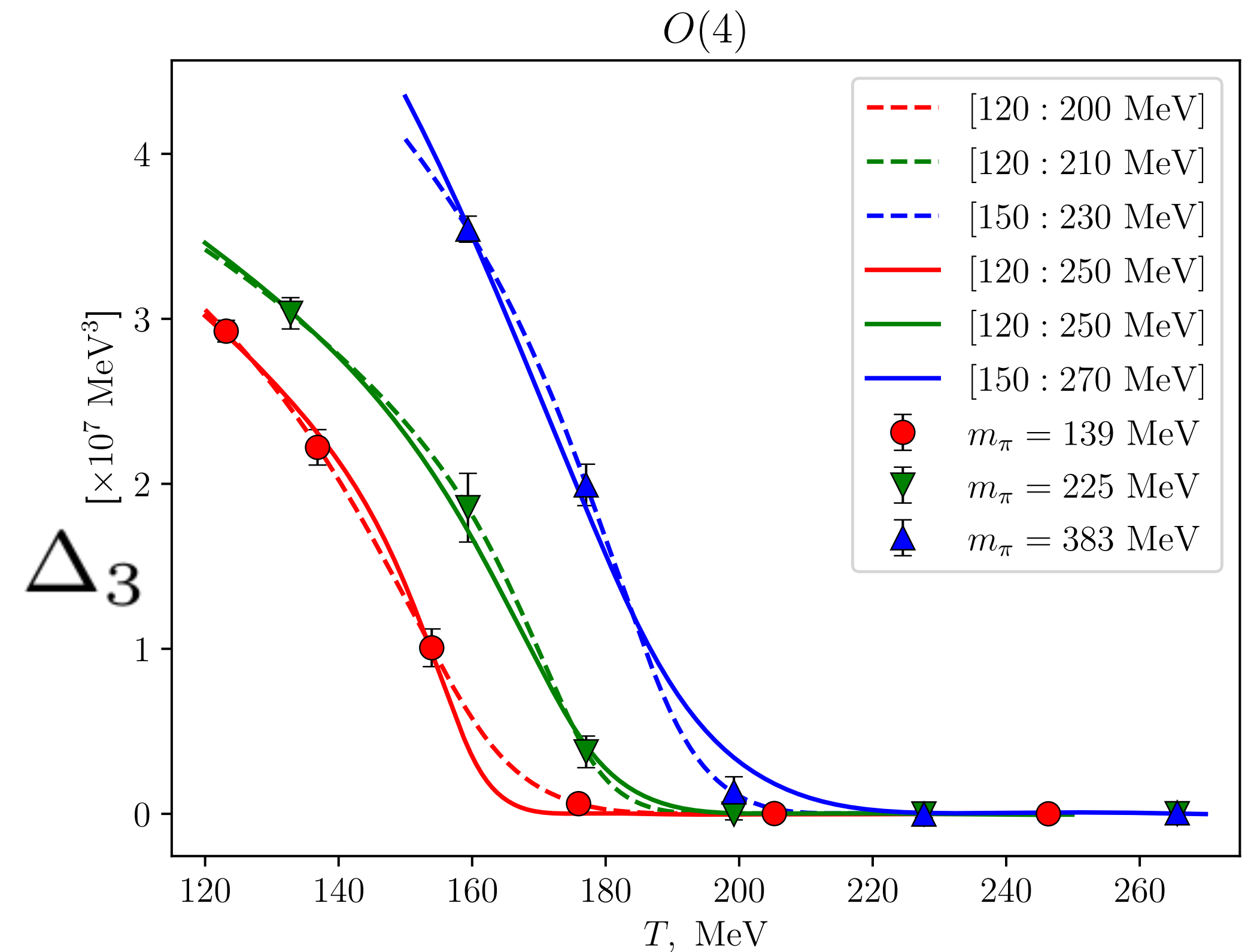
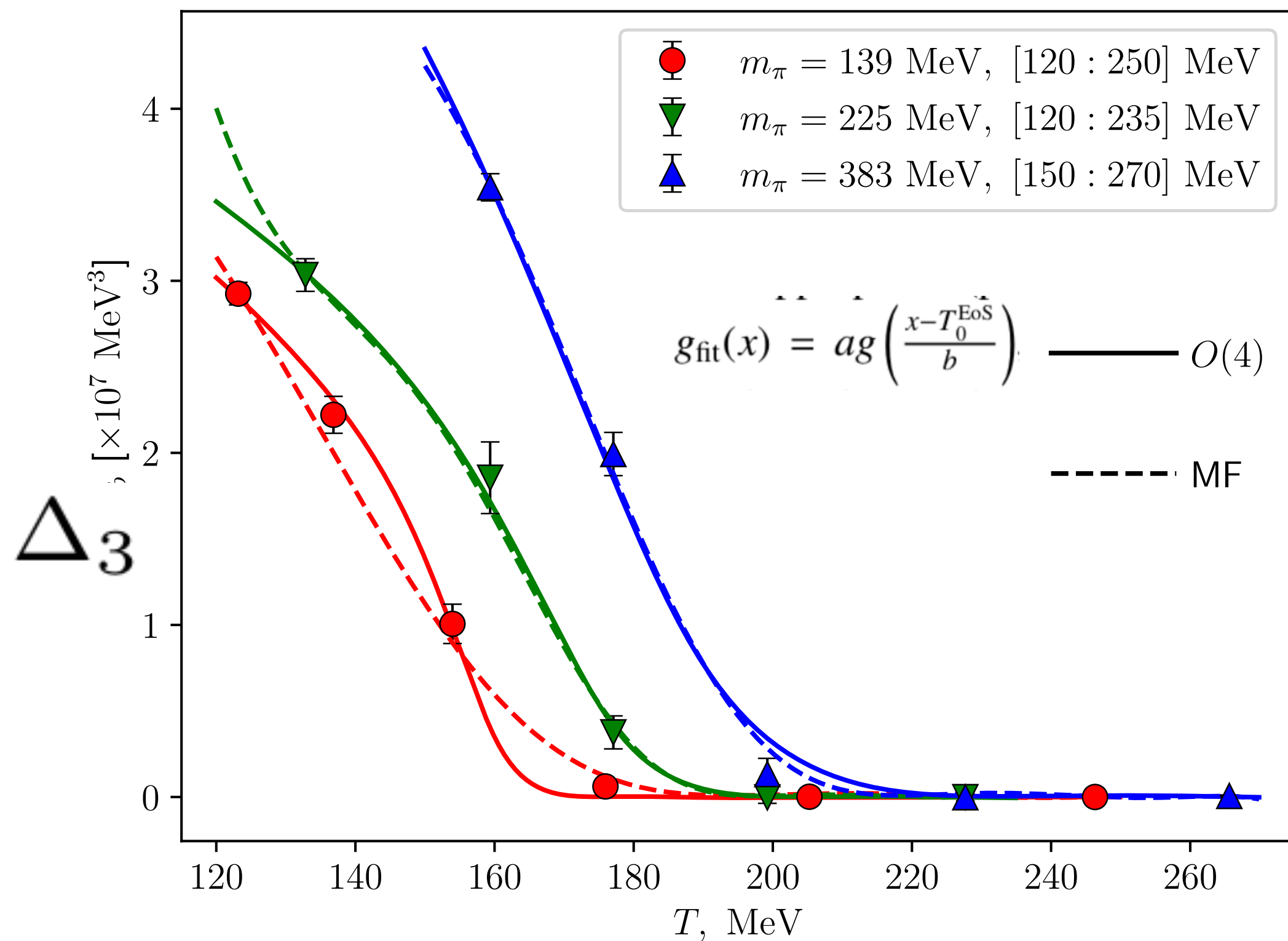
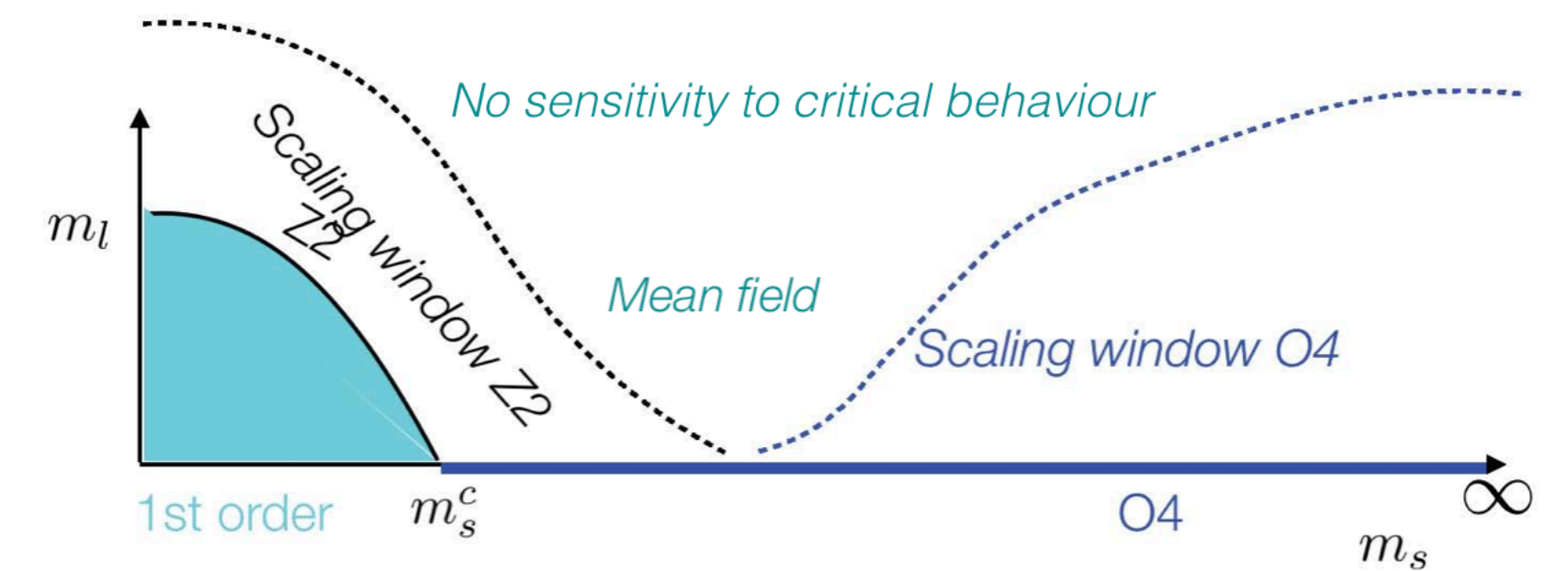


# Searching for the scaling window in mass

## O(4) or mean field?

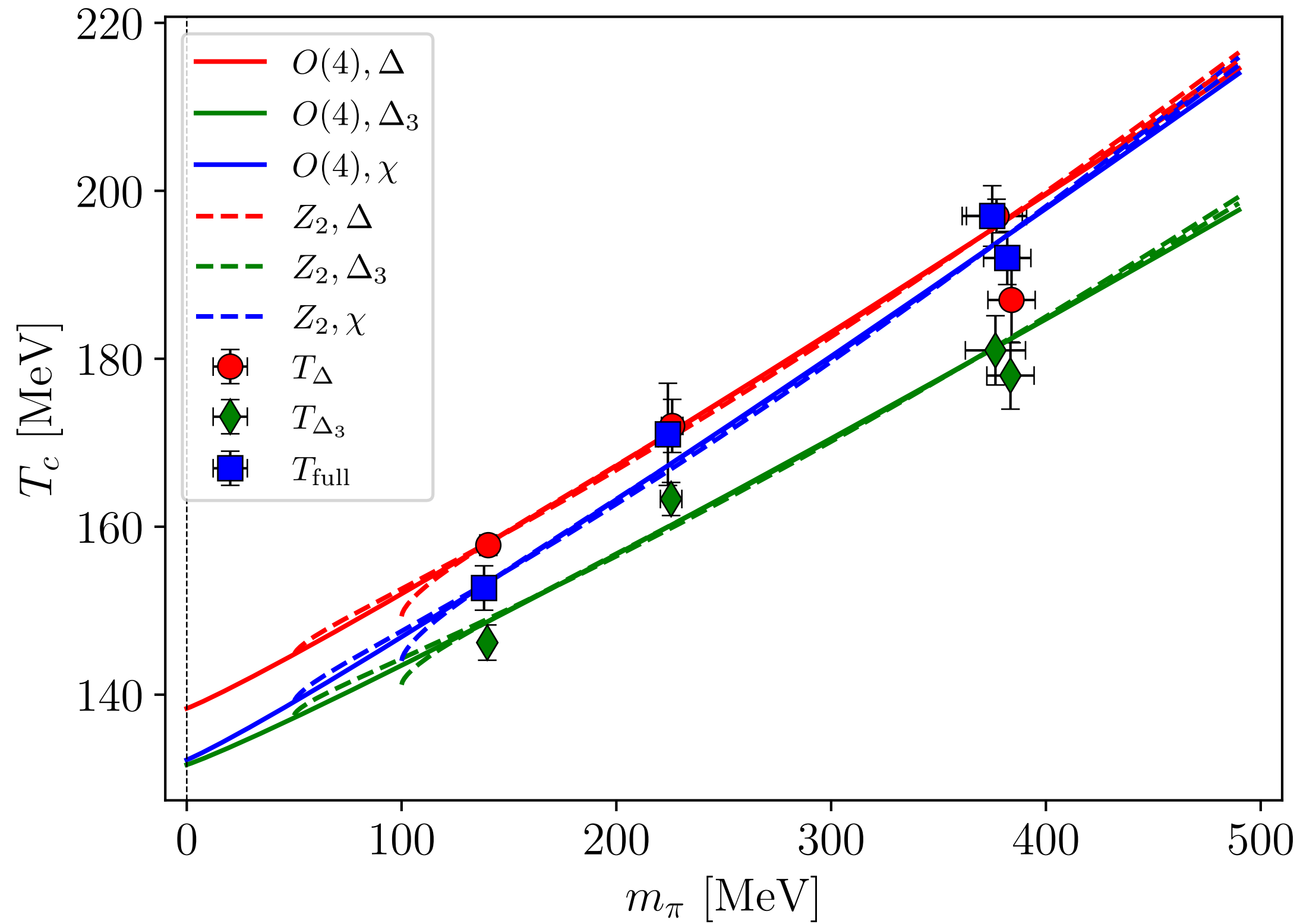
### Unrealistic $T_0$ from O4 at high mass

$$T_{\text{EOS}} = 142(2), 159(3), 174(2) \text{ MeV}$$





# Scaling of the pseudo critical temperatures



## Check O4:

$$T_c(m_\pi) = T_0 + Az_p m_\pi^{2/\beta\delta}$$

Observable	$T_0$ [MeV]	$z_p/z_{\bar{\psi}\psi_3}$	$z_p/z_{\bar{\psi}\psi_3}$ O(4)	$z_p$ O(4)
$\chi$	132(4)	1.24(17)	2.45(4)	1.35(3)
$\langle\bar{\psi}\psi\rangle$	138(2)	1.15(24)	1.35(7)	0.74(4)
$\langle\bar{\psi}\psi\rangle_3$	132(3)	1	1	0.55(1)

## O4 vs Z2

$$T_c(m_\pi) = T_0 + B(m_\pi^2 - m_c^2)^{1/\beta\delta}$$

$m_c = 100$  MeV still OK

$m_c = 0$  still OK, indistinguishable from O4

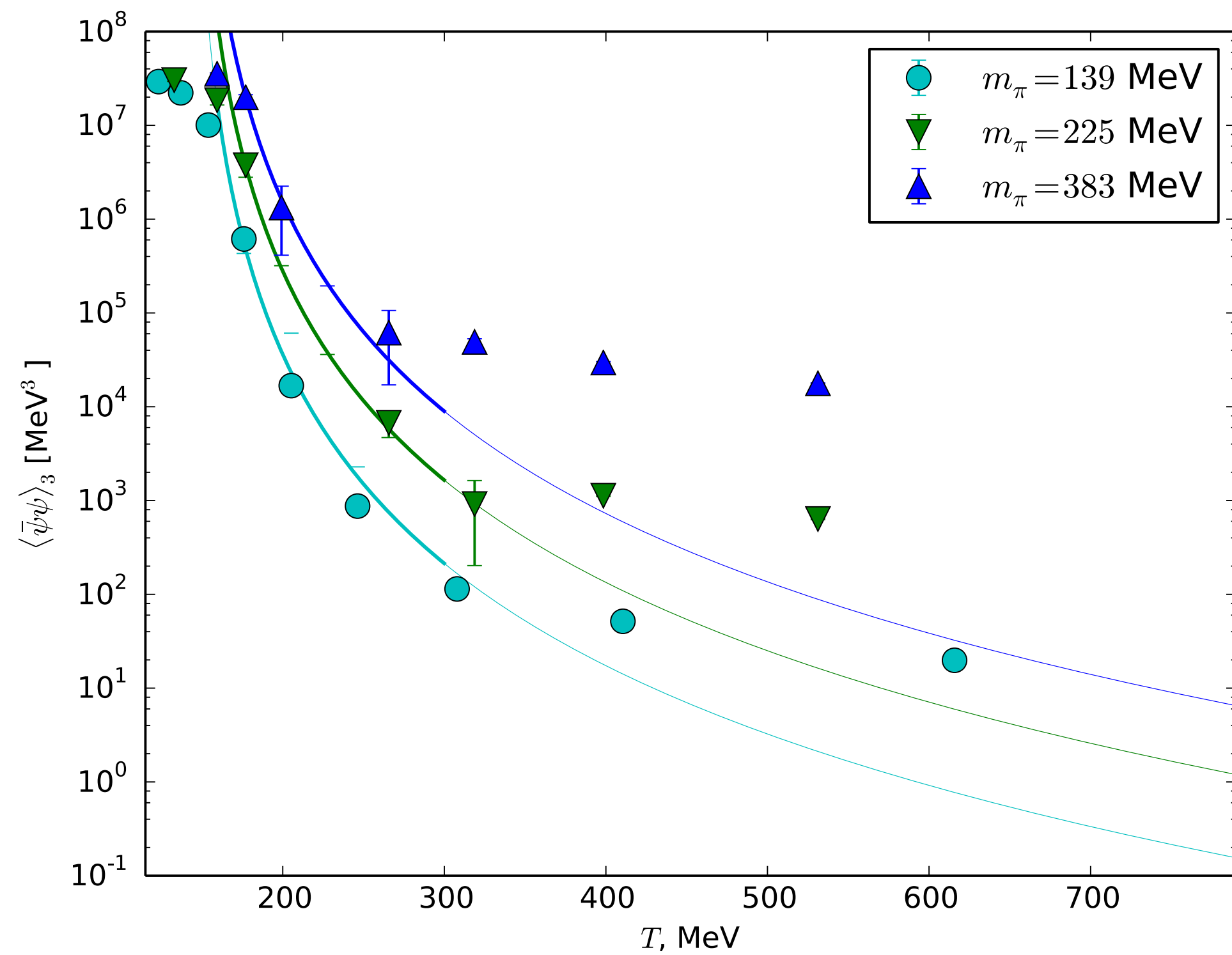
Consistent (not a proof) with O4

Robust extrapolation:

$$T_0 \equiv T_c(m_\pi \rightarrow 0) = 134_{-4}^{+6} \text{ MeV}$$

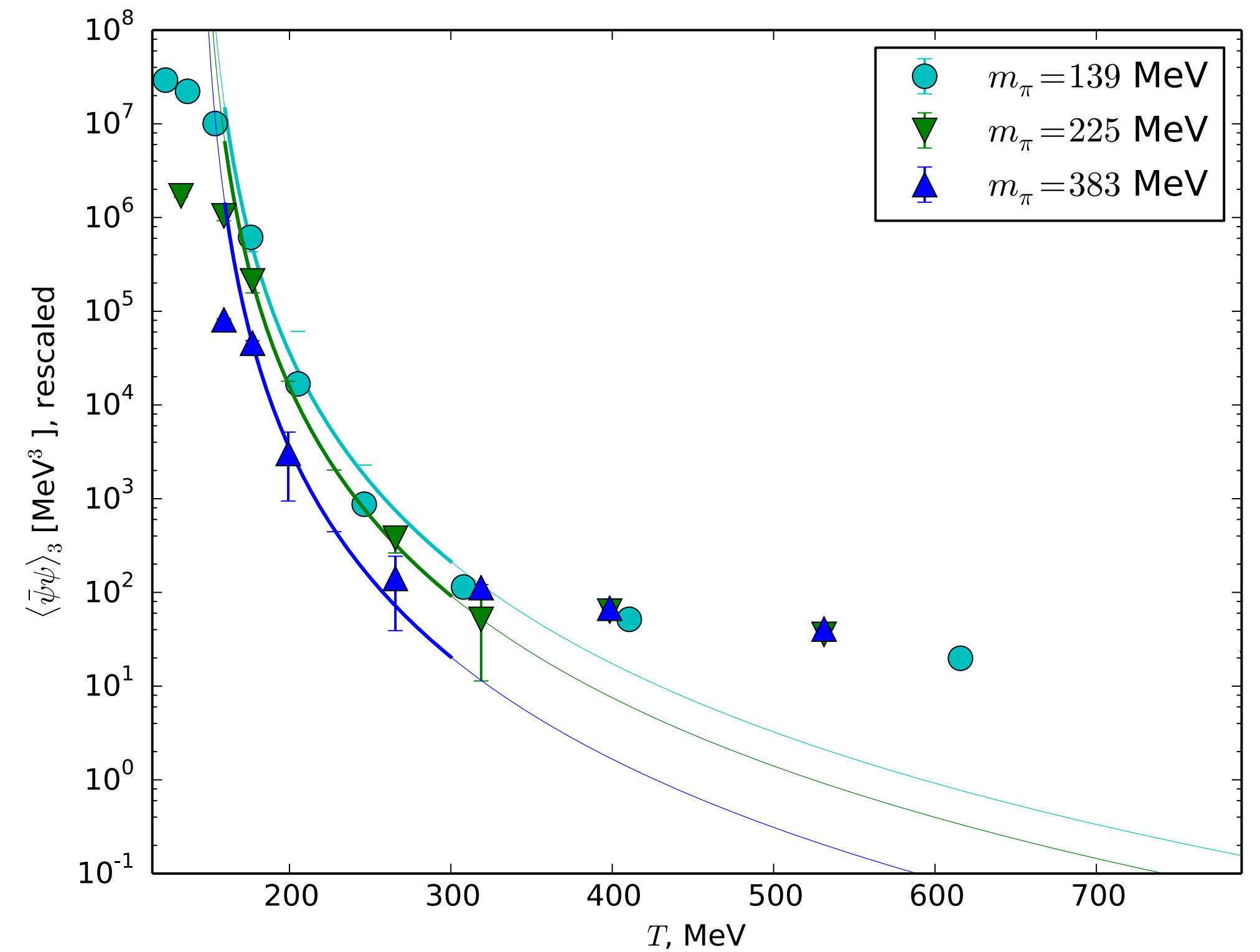
# Searching for the scaling window in temperature

‘Forgotten’ microscopic dynamics



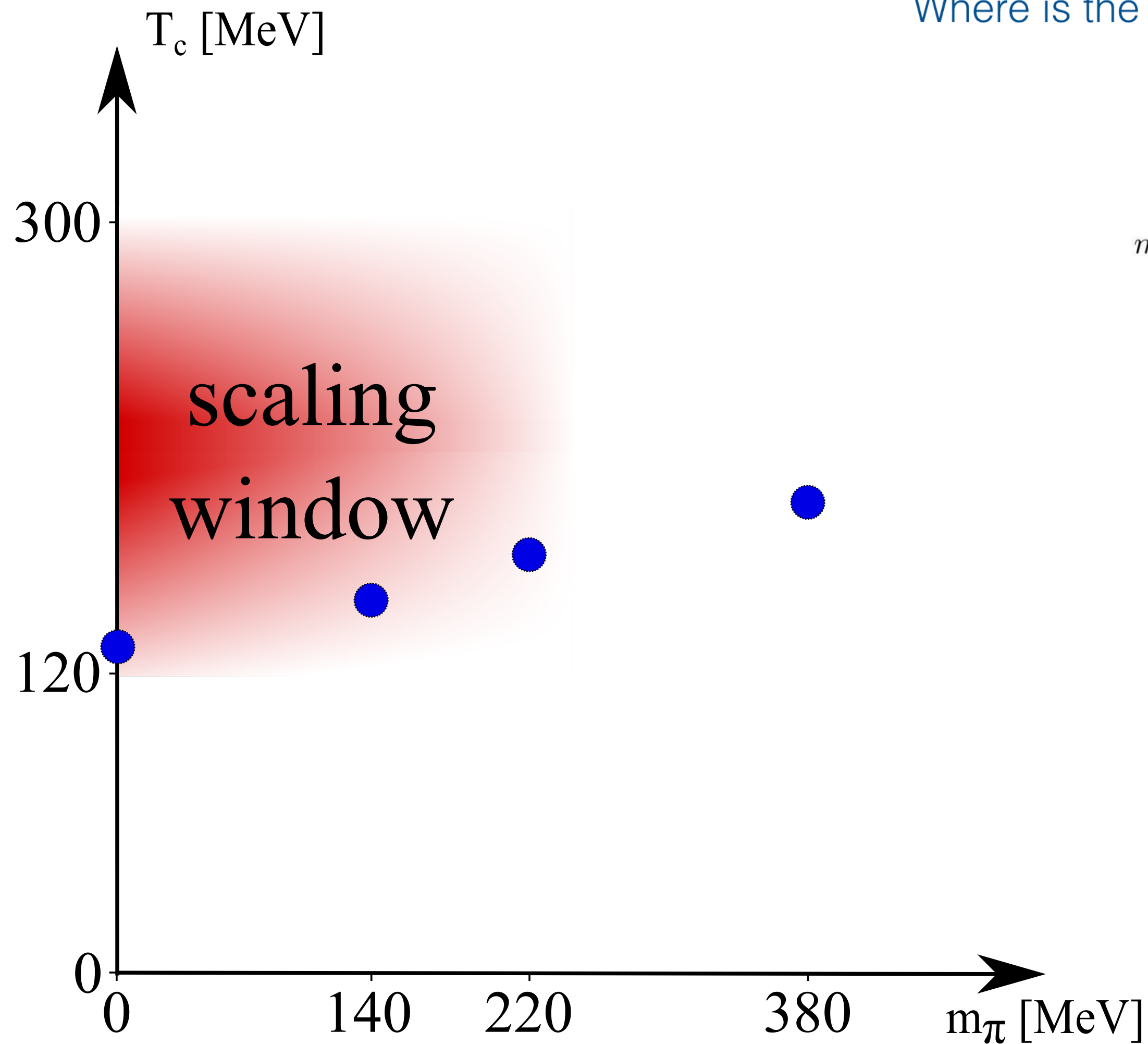
$$\Delta_3 \propto t^{-\gamma-2\beta\delta} \quad T < 300 \text{ MeV}$$

‘Forgotten’ critical behaviour..

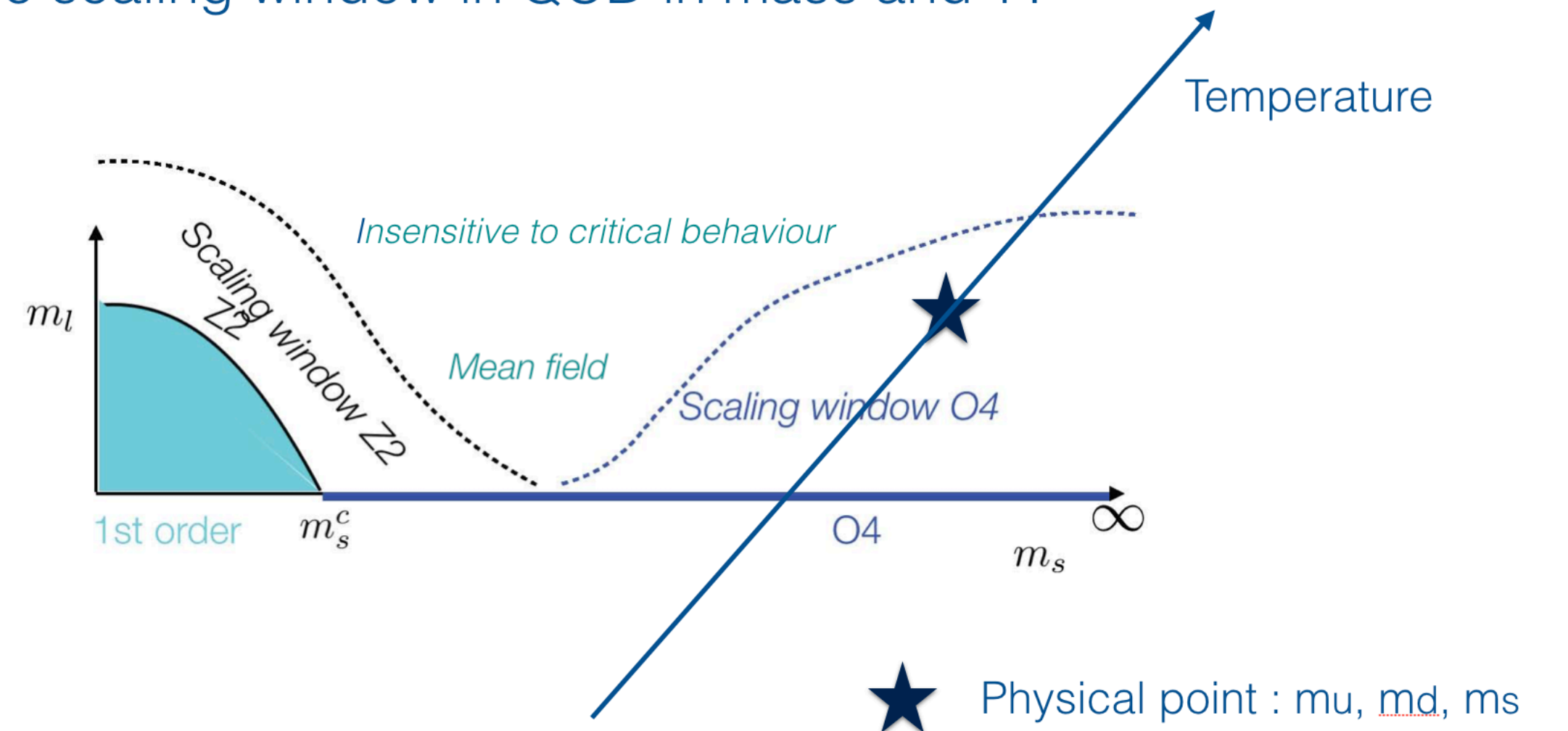


$$\Delta_3 \propto m_\pi^6 \quad T > 300 \text{ MeV}$$

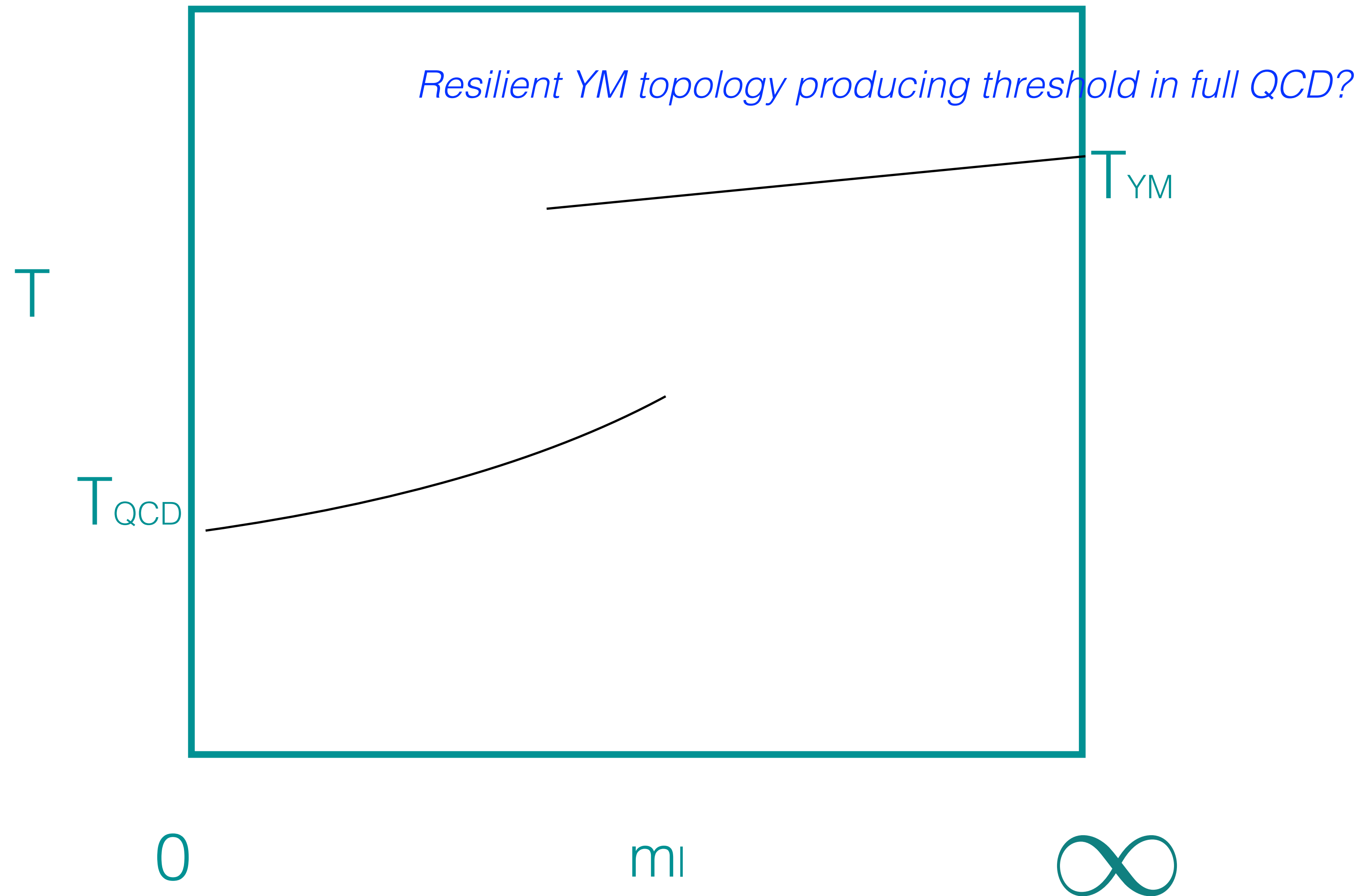
# A sketch of the scaling window for physical strange mass



Where is the scaling window in QCD in mass and T?

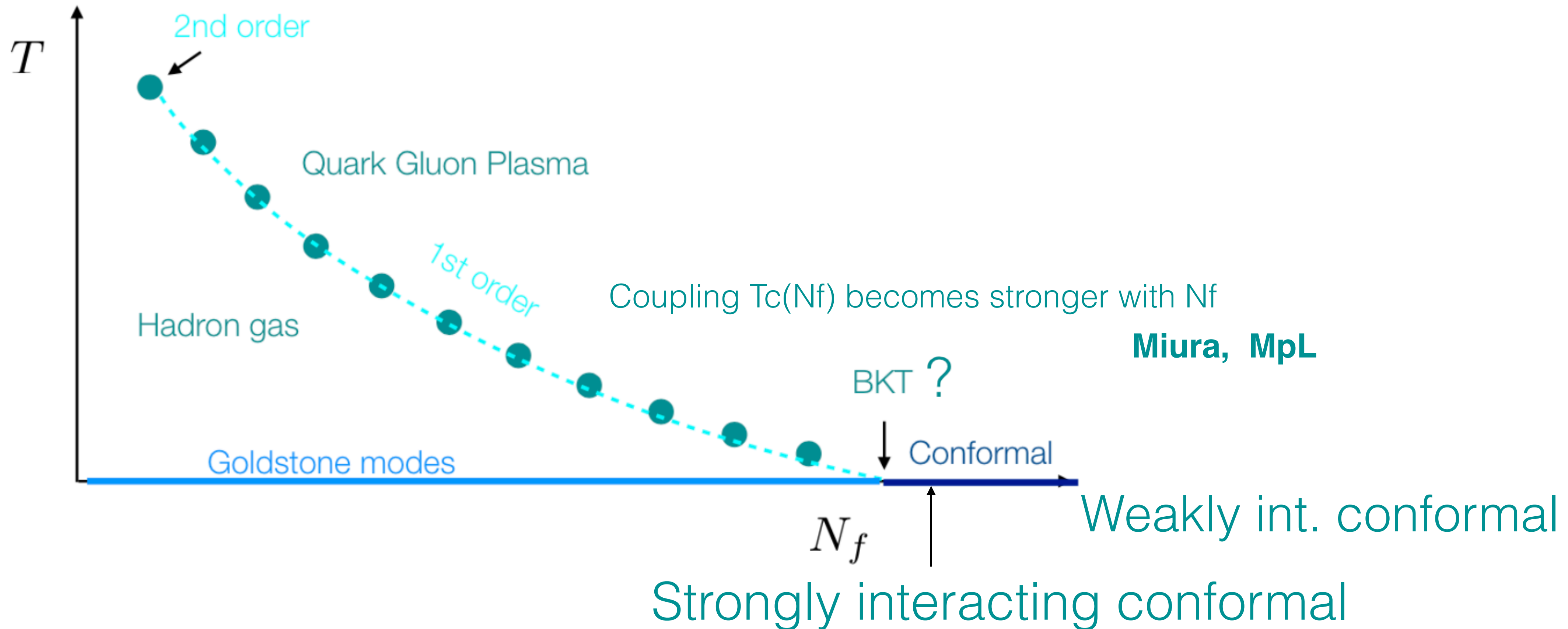


.. a speculation...



*another speculation*

IR phase? **Alexandru and Horvath**





# Summary

Three different 3D O(4) scaling checks produce  $T_0$  in the chiral limit:

-Conformal scaling  $T_c = 138(2)$  MeV

-EoS analysis  $T_c = 142(2)$  MeV

-Mass dependence of the pseudo critical temperatures  $T_c = 134 (+6,-4)$  MeV

Consistency with 3D O4 scaling at physical pion masses, and temperatures  $T < \simeq 300$  MeV

No memory of criticality for  $T > \simeq 300$  MeV  $> T_{RW}$

The upper limit of the scaling window in temperature  $T \simeq 300$  MeV is in the same range as the observed crossover for the topological susceptibility to a DIGA behaviour as seen in the fall-off exponent and  $b_2$ ,

Other indications of crossover in the plasma: Alexandru and Horvath (2019-2021);

Glozman et al; Glozman, Philipsen, Pisarski (2016-2022)

*In short, consistent indications of a broad crossover from strong to weakly coupled QGP between 200 and 300 MeV. The sQGP is influenced by the critical point(s).*