

Reaching conformality in neutron stars

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MM, McLerran, Redlich, Sasaki, *PRC* 107 (2023) 2, 025802

MM, Redlich, Sasaki, *PRD* 109 (2024) 4, L041302

MM, *arXiv:2407.15486*

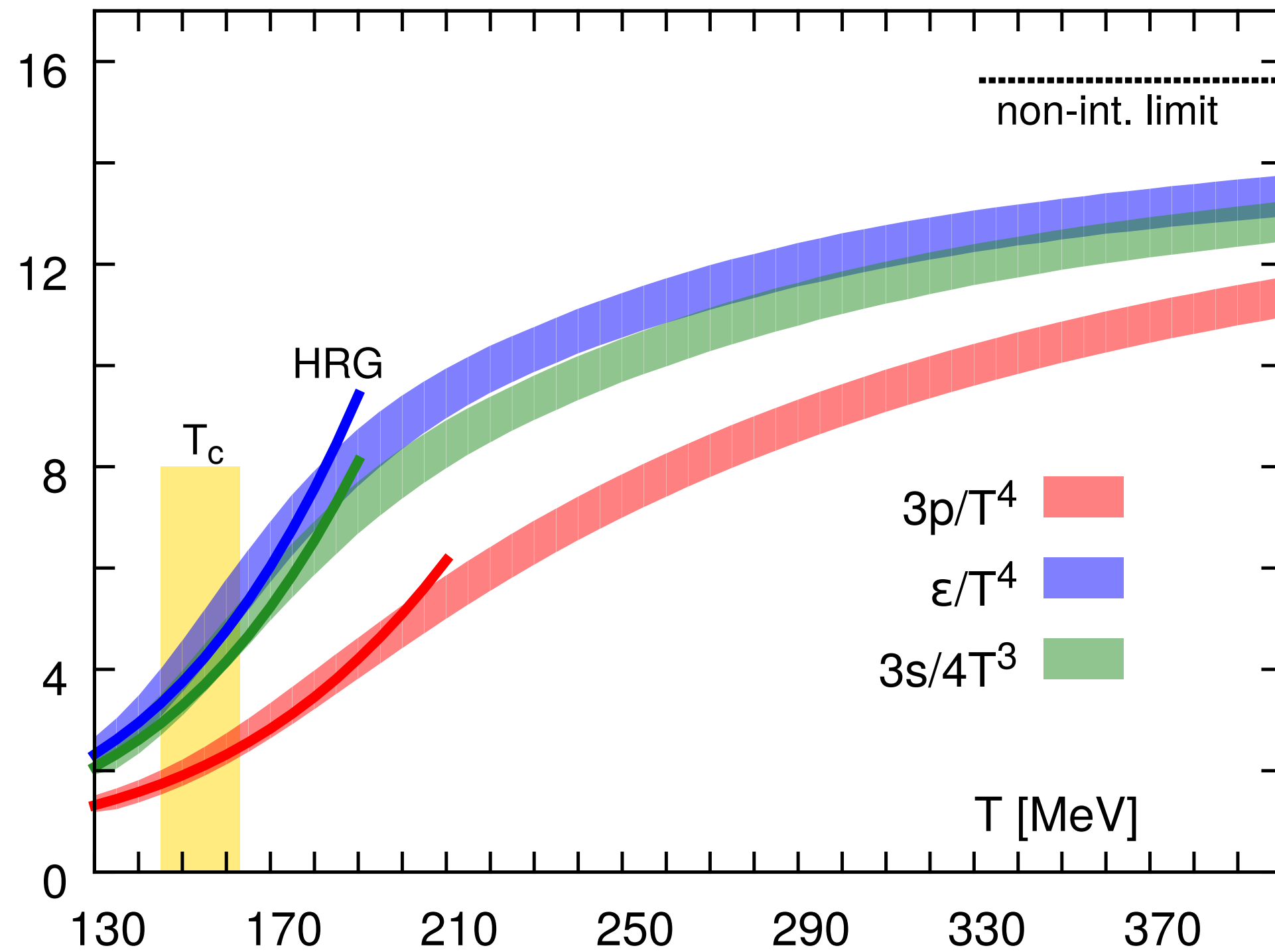
New developments in studies of the QCD phase diagram

ECT*, Trento, 10.09.2024



Lattice Quantum Chromodynamics

HotQCD, 2014

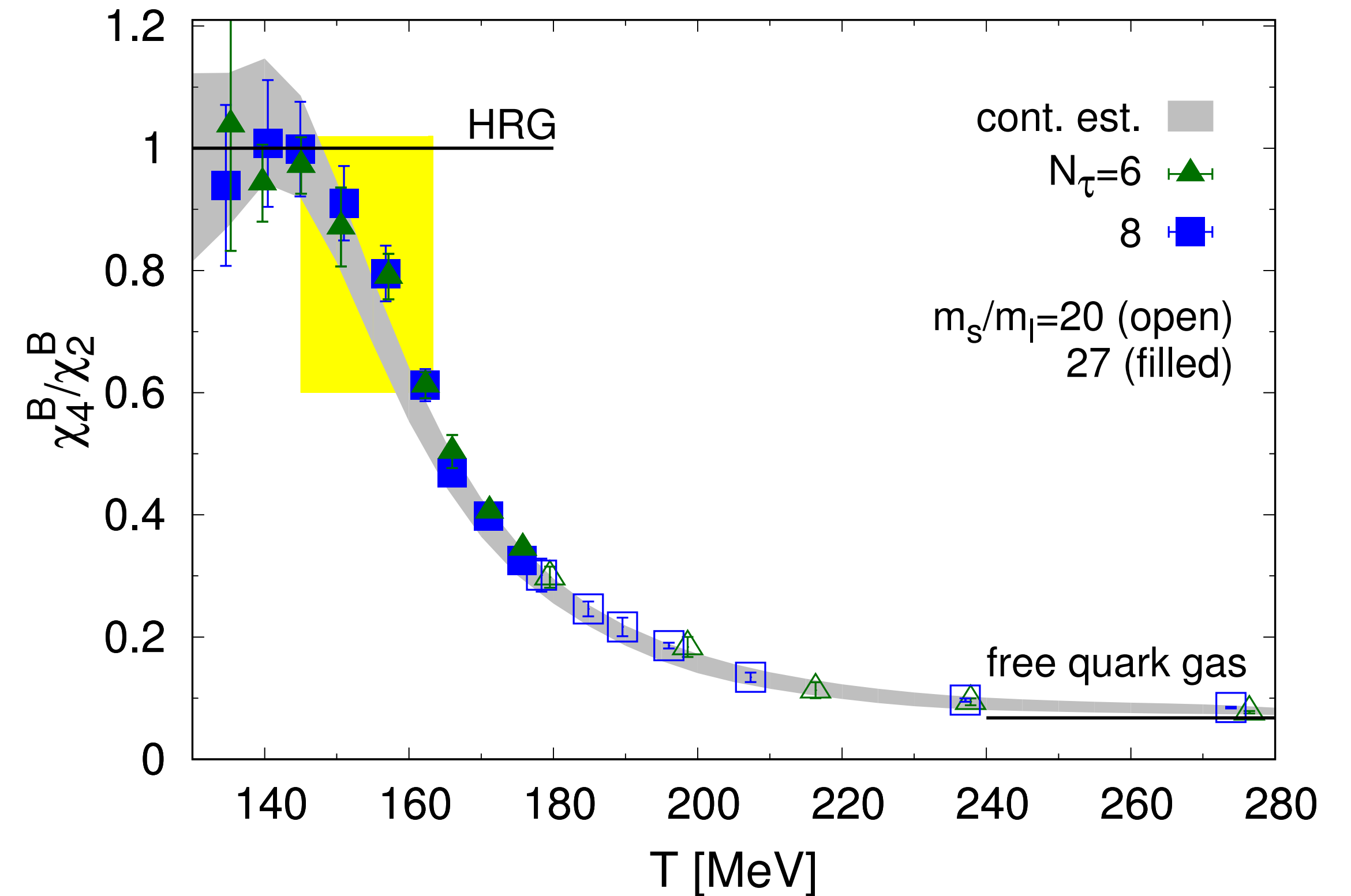


Pressure in the HRG model

$$P^{\text{HRG}} = \sum_{i \in \text{had}} P^{\text{id}}(T, \mu_i; m_i)$$

Agreement with LQCD EoS up to $\simeq T_c$

HotQCD, 2017



Taylor expansion of LQCD EoS

$$\frac{P}{T^4} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T} \right)^k \frac{\chi_k^B}{k!}, \text{ where } \chi_k^B = \frac{\partial^k P/T^4}{\partial (\mu_B/T)^k}$$

Kurtosis: $\frac{\chi_4^B}{\chi_2^B} \sim B^2$: breakdown $\sim T_c$: changeover to QGP

Quark Matter in Neutron Stars?

Solid Constraints

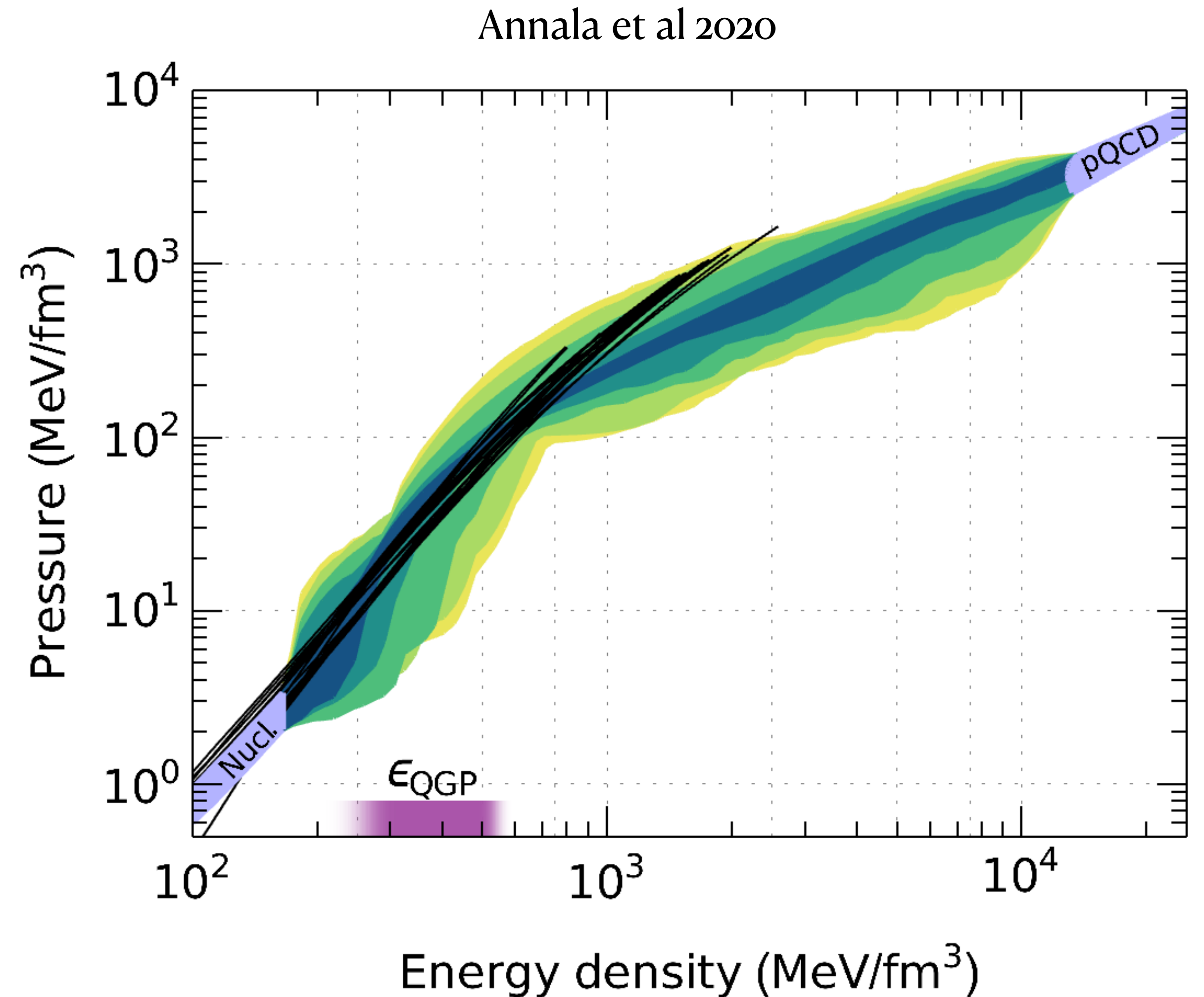
- Low density: χ EFT ($n \lesssim 1.1n_0$) Tews et al, 2013
- High density pQCD ($n \gtrsim 40n_0$) Gorda et al, 2018

Interpolation methods

- Polytropes, CSS, Linear Speed of Sound
eg. Annala et al, 2018, 2020; Alford et al 2013, 2017, Li et al 2021

Deconfinement by polytropic index

$$\gamma = \frac{d \log p}{d \log \epsilon} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \gamma > 1.75 \rightarrow \text{Hadrons} \\ \gamma < 1.75 \rightarrow \text{Quarks} \end{cases}$$



Quark Matter in Neutron Stars?

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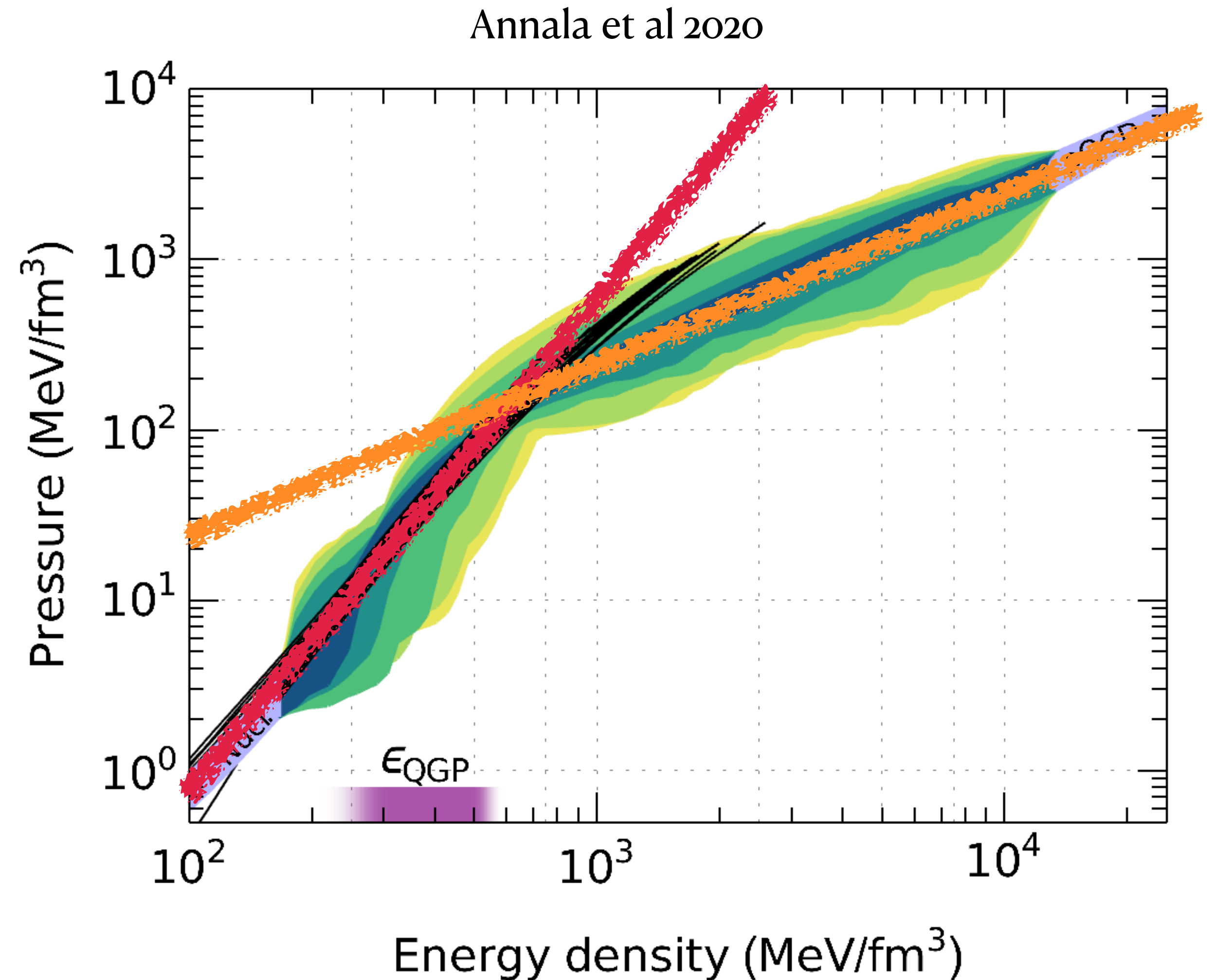
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Methodology: Piecewise-linear speed of sound

Annala et al 2020

$$c_s^2 = \frac{n}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dn} \quad c_{s,i}^2 = \frac{(\mu_i - \mu)c_{s,i}^2 + (\mu - \mu_i)c_{s,i+1}^2}{\mu_{i+1} - \mu_i}$$

+

χ EFT + pQCD

+

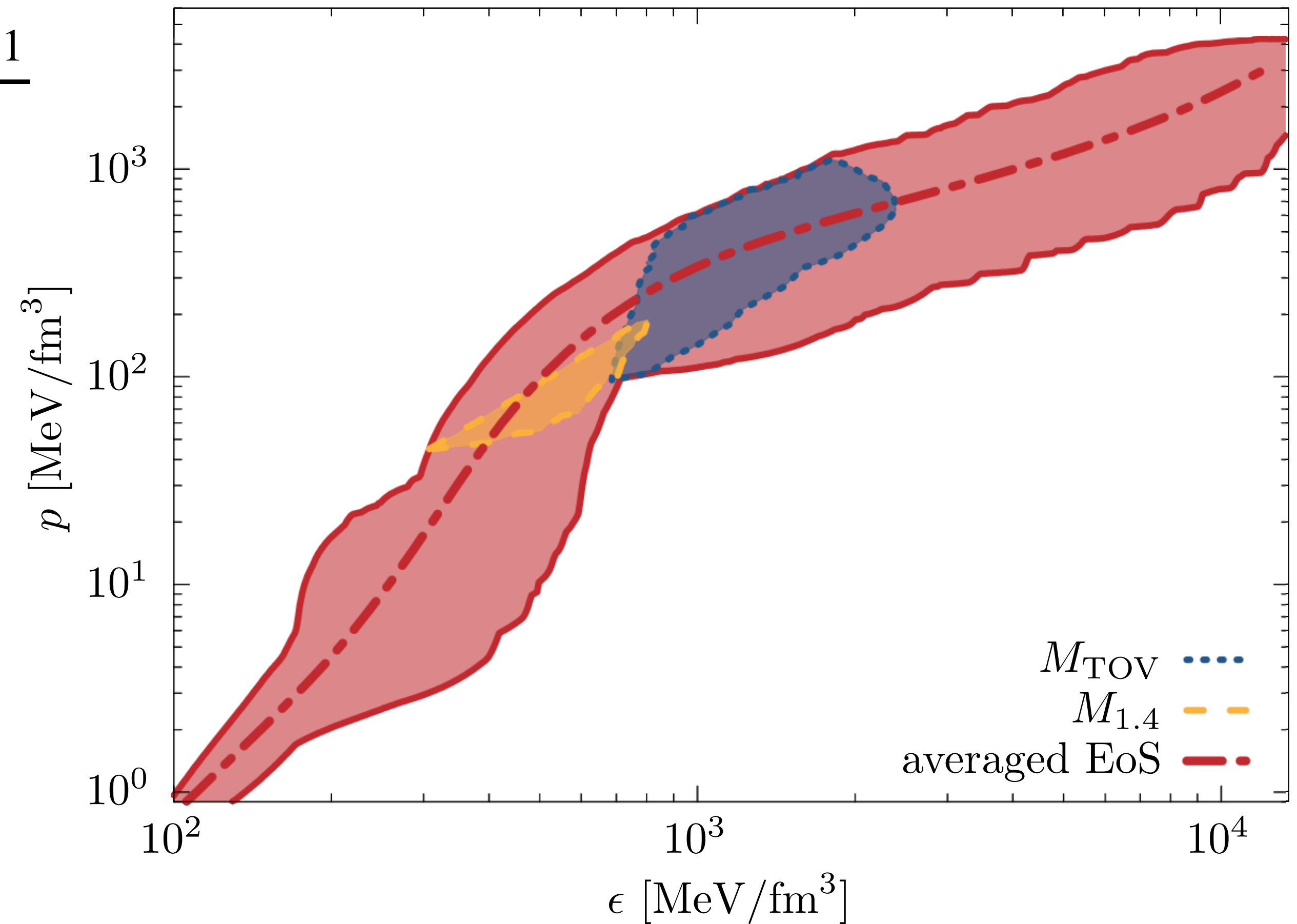
Mass measurement of J0740+6620

$$M_{\text{TOV}} \geq (2.08 \pm 0.07) M_{\odot} \text{ Fonseca et al 2021}$$

+

Tidal Deformability from GW170817

$$\Lambda_{1.4M_{\odot}} = 190_{-120}^{+380} \text{ Abbott et al 2018}$$



6×10^5 viable Equations of State

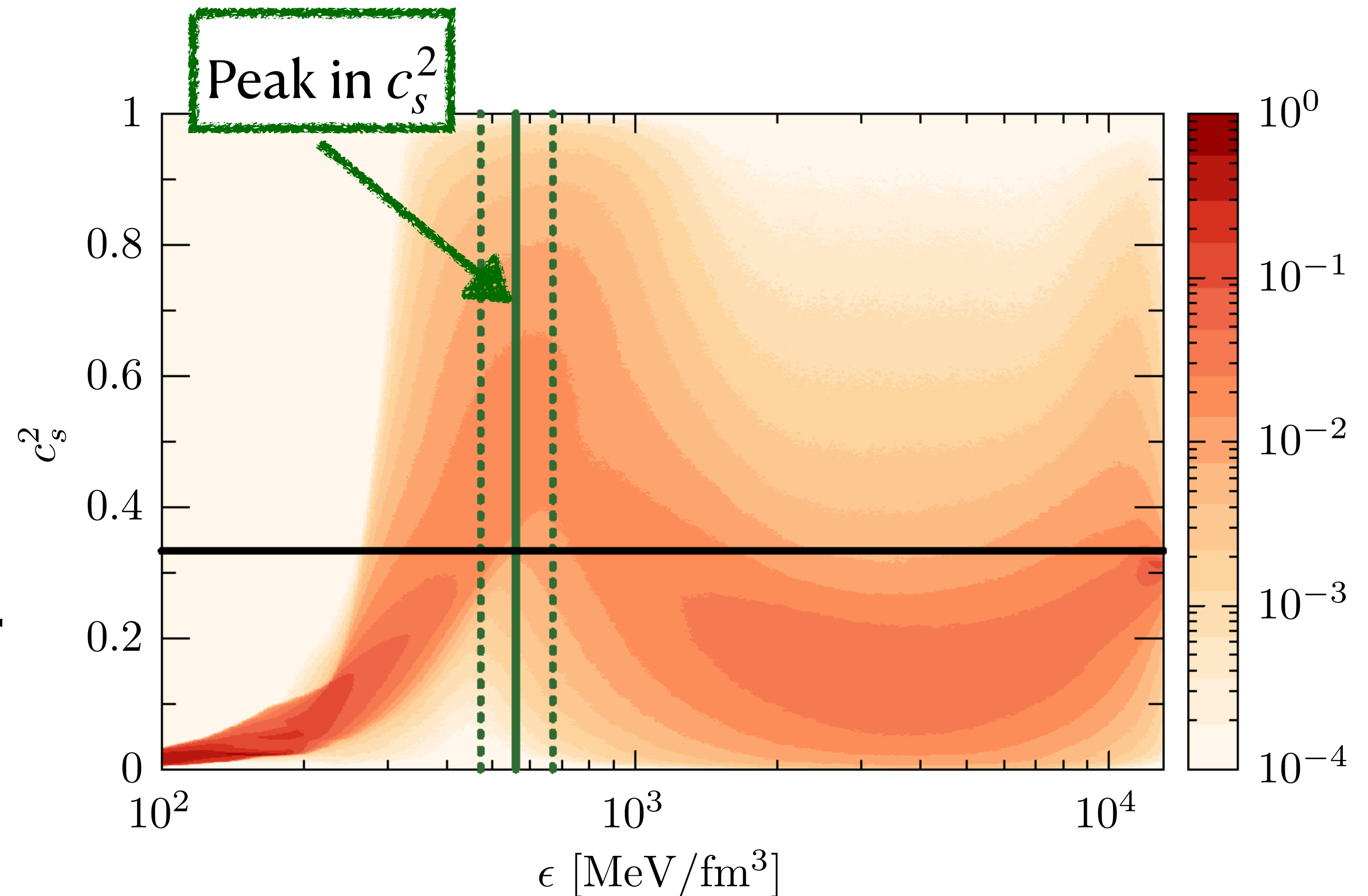
General Structure of Speed of Sound

- General peak-dip structure

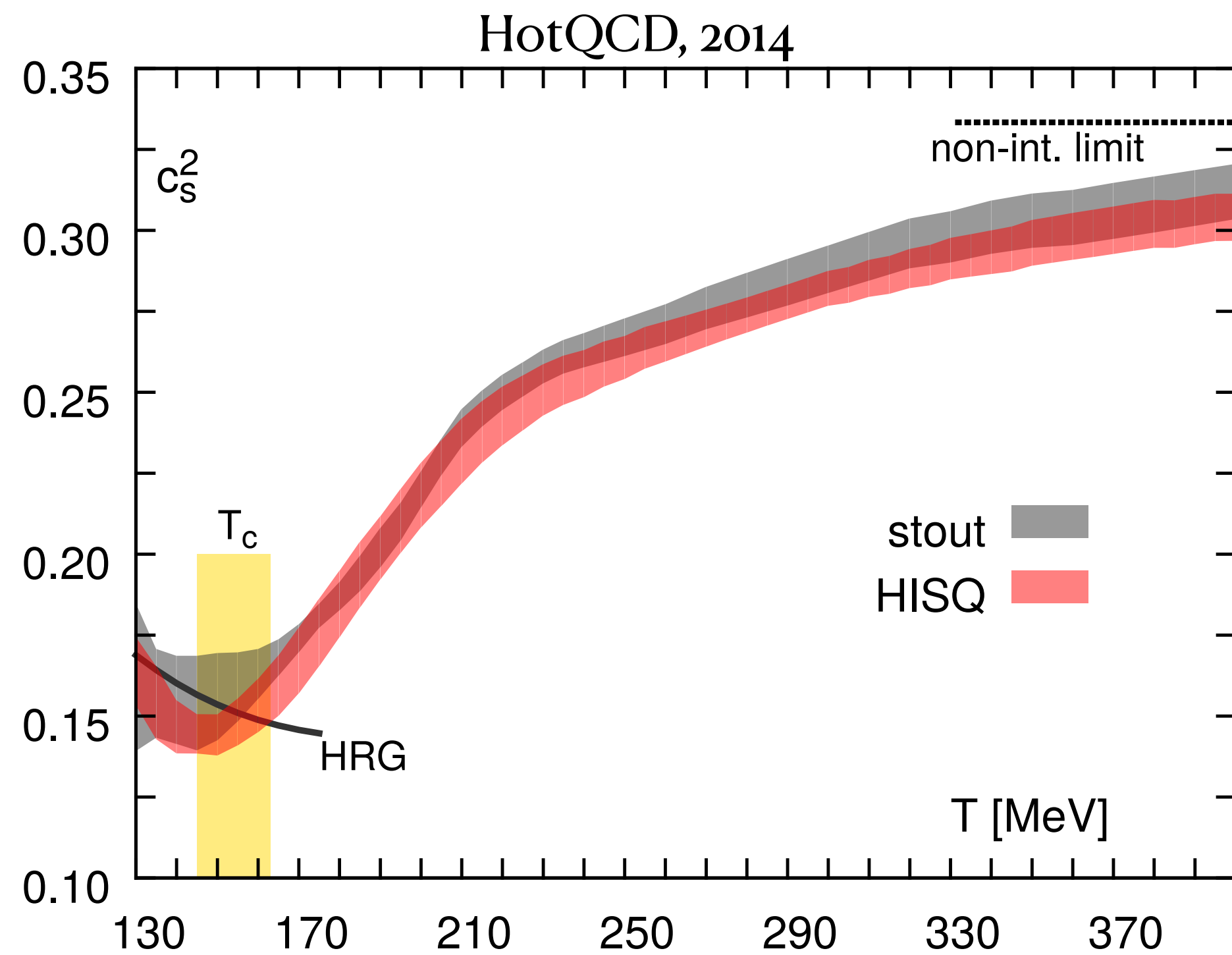
Altiparmak et al, 2022

- Peak similar to quarkyonic matter

McLerran, Reddy, 2019; Pang et al, 2023



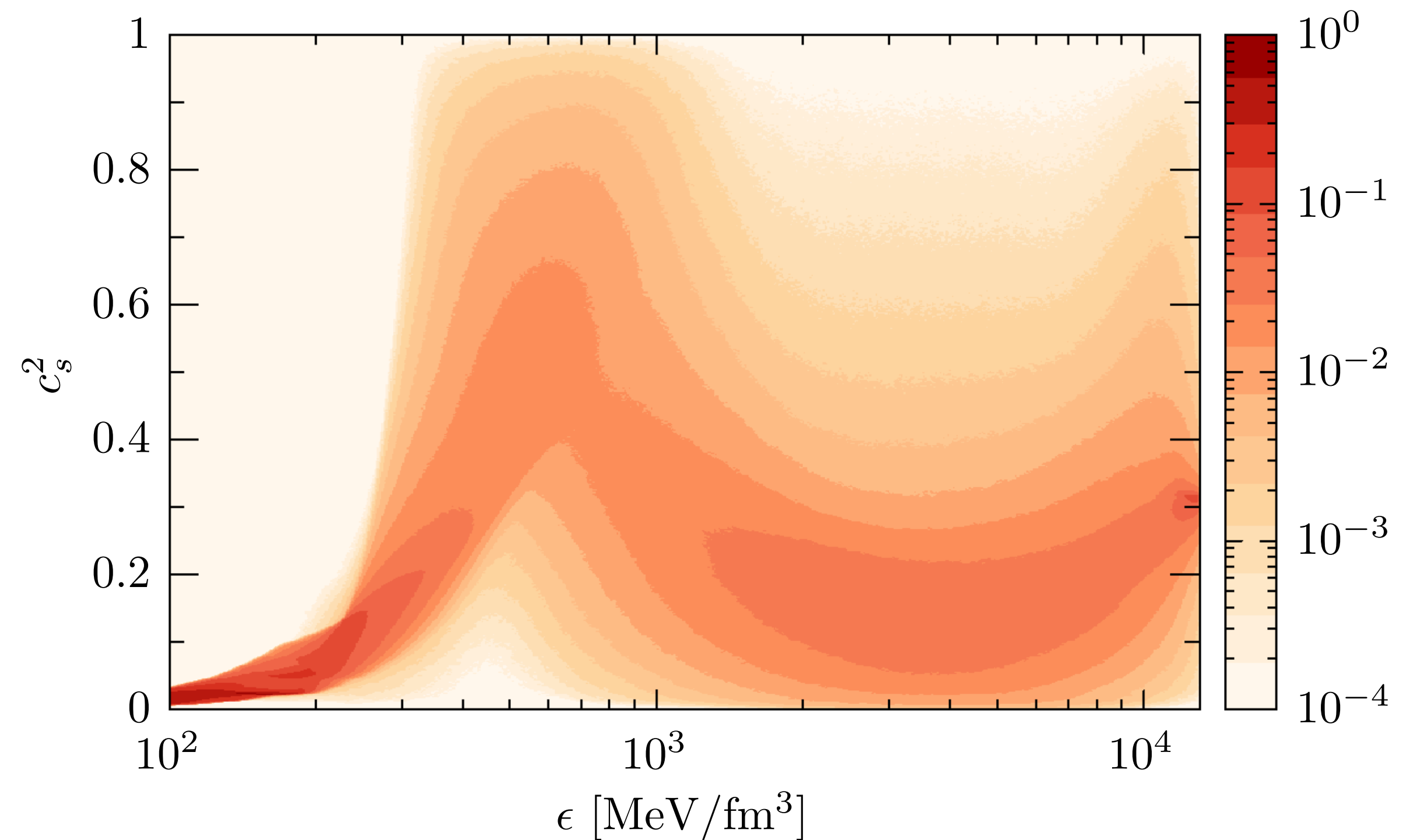
Local maximum at $\epsilon_{\text{peak}} = 0.56^{+0.11}_{-0.09}$ GeV/fm³ with $c_s^2 = 0.82 \pm 0.08$



$$c_s^2 = \frac{S}{T} \frac{dT}{dS} < \frac{1}{3}$$

- Attractive interactions with resonance formation
- Chiral symmetry restoration and deconfinement

Non-monotonicity



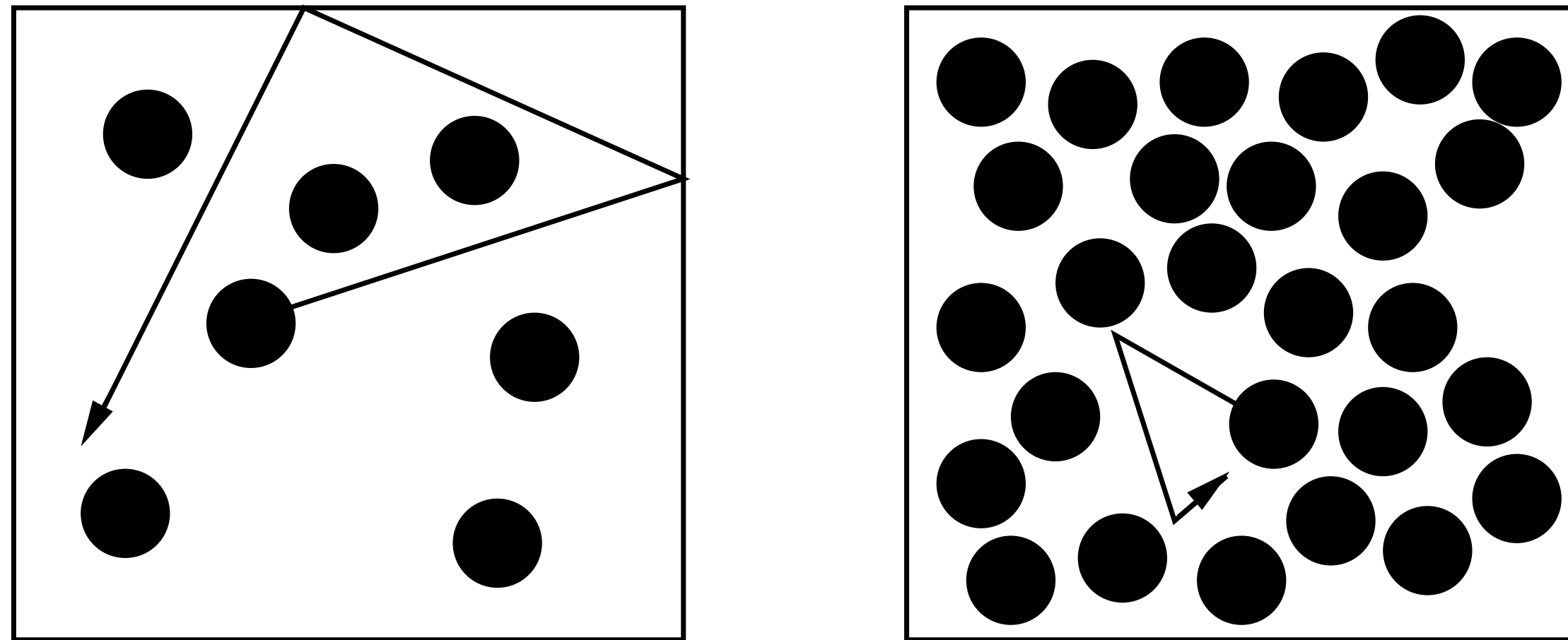
$$c_s^2 = \frac{n}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dn} > \frac{1}{3}$$

- Dominance of repulsive interactions
- Onset of quark or quarkyonic, or baryquark matter?

Change of phase

Percolation theory vs speed of sound

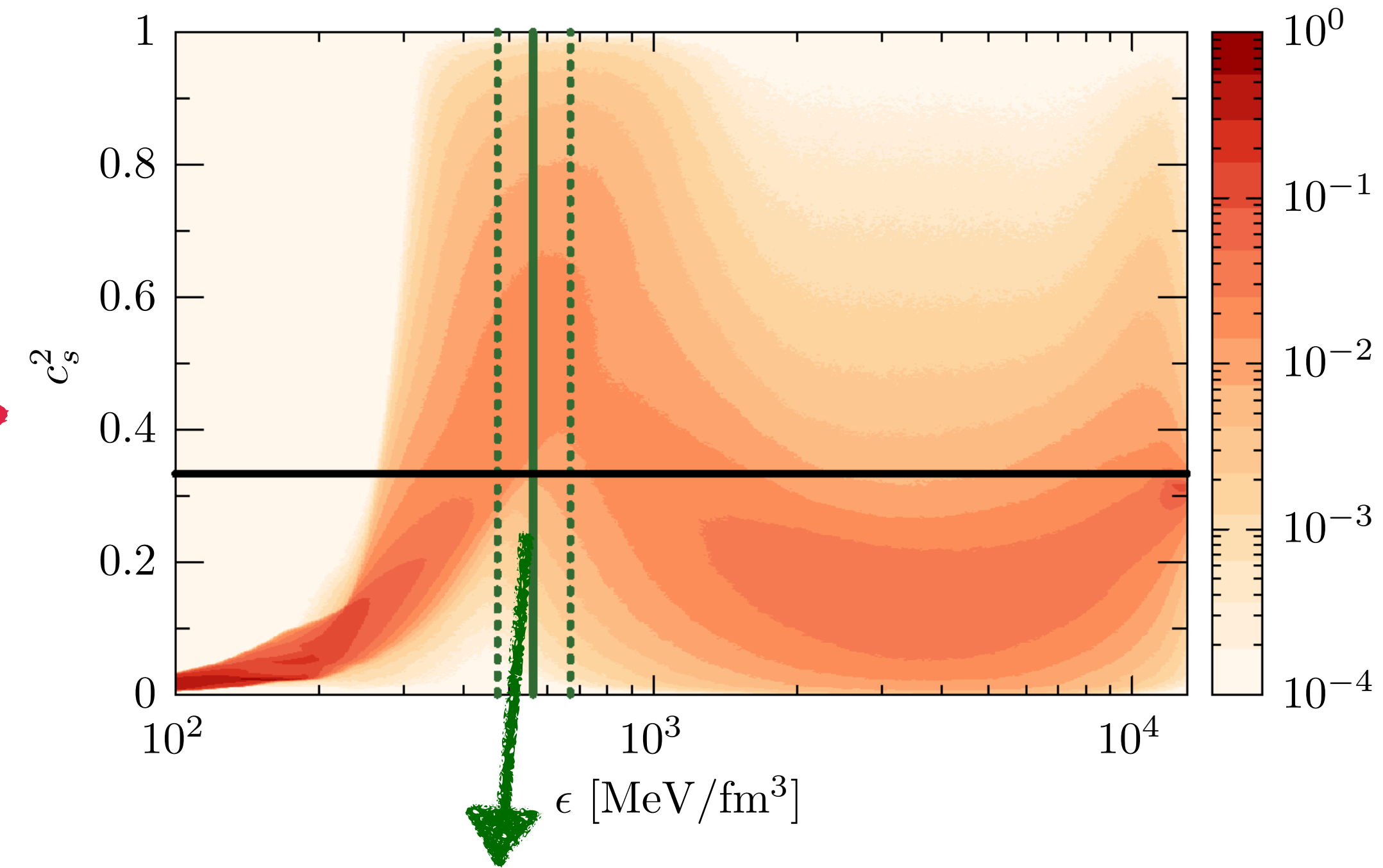
see e.g. Satz, 1998; Castorina et al, 2009; Fukushima, 2020



Percolation theory: $n_c = 1.22/V_0$

Avg. proton radius: $R_0 = 0.80 \pm 0.05$ fm
Wang et al 2022

Pb-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 2.76$ TeV
Andronic et al 2018



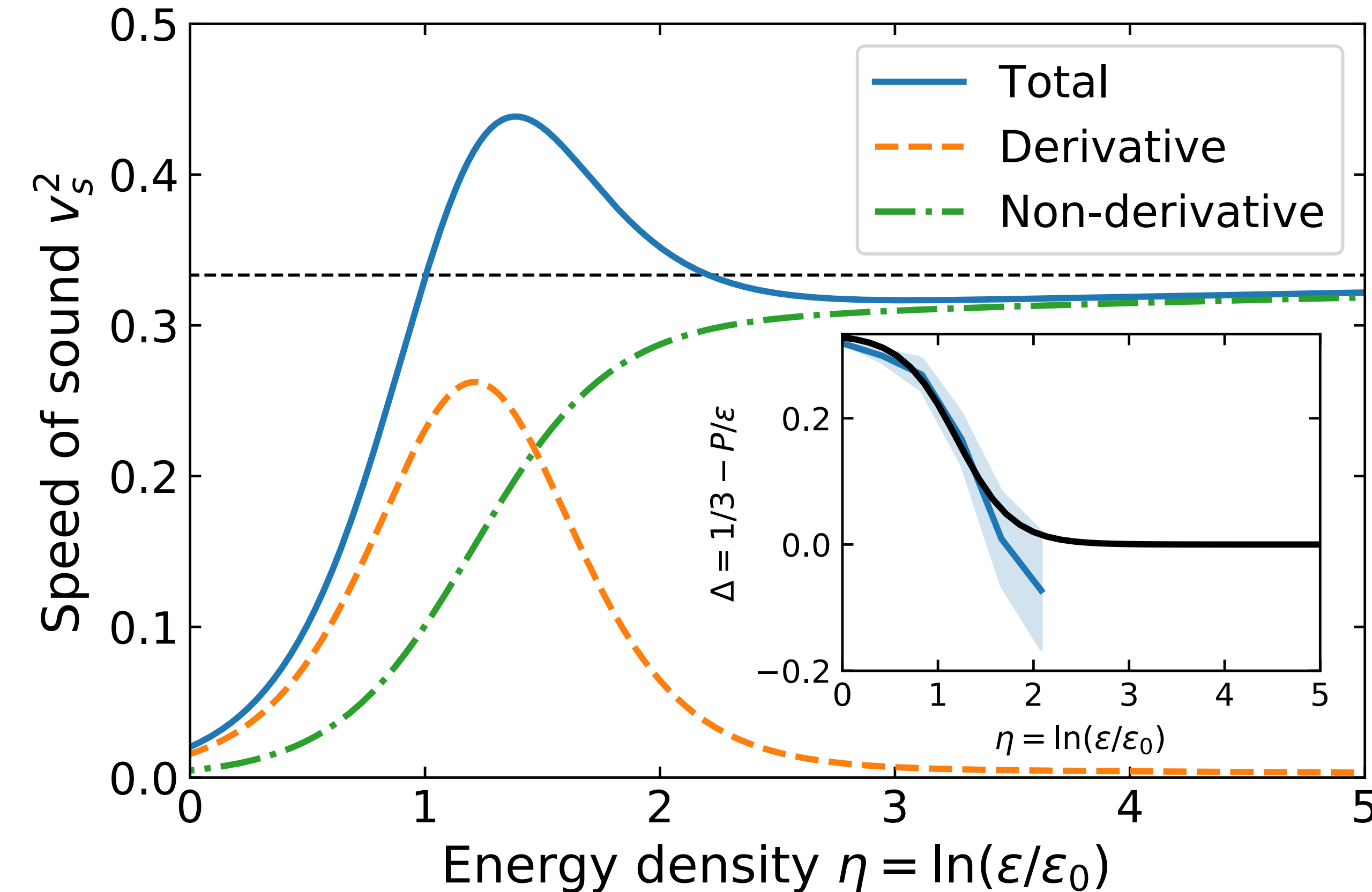
$$n_{\text{peak}} = 0.54^{+0.09}_{-0.07} \text{ fm}^{-3}$$

$$n_c = 0.57^{+0.12}_{-0.09} \text{ fm}^{-3}$$

$$n_c = 0.60 \pm 0.07 \text{ fm}^{-3}$$

Speed of Sound as Trace Anomaly

Fujimoto et al 2022



$$\text{Trace Anomaly: } \Delta = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{p}{\epsilon}$$

$$c_s^2 = \frac{d\left(\epsilon \frac{p}{\epsilon}\right)}{d\epsilon} = \frac{1}{3} - \Delta - \epsilon \frac{d\Delta}{d\epsilon}$$

Trace anomaly more informative than speed of sound

Measure of conformality

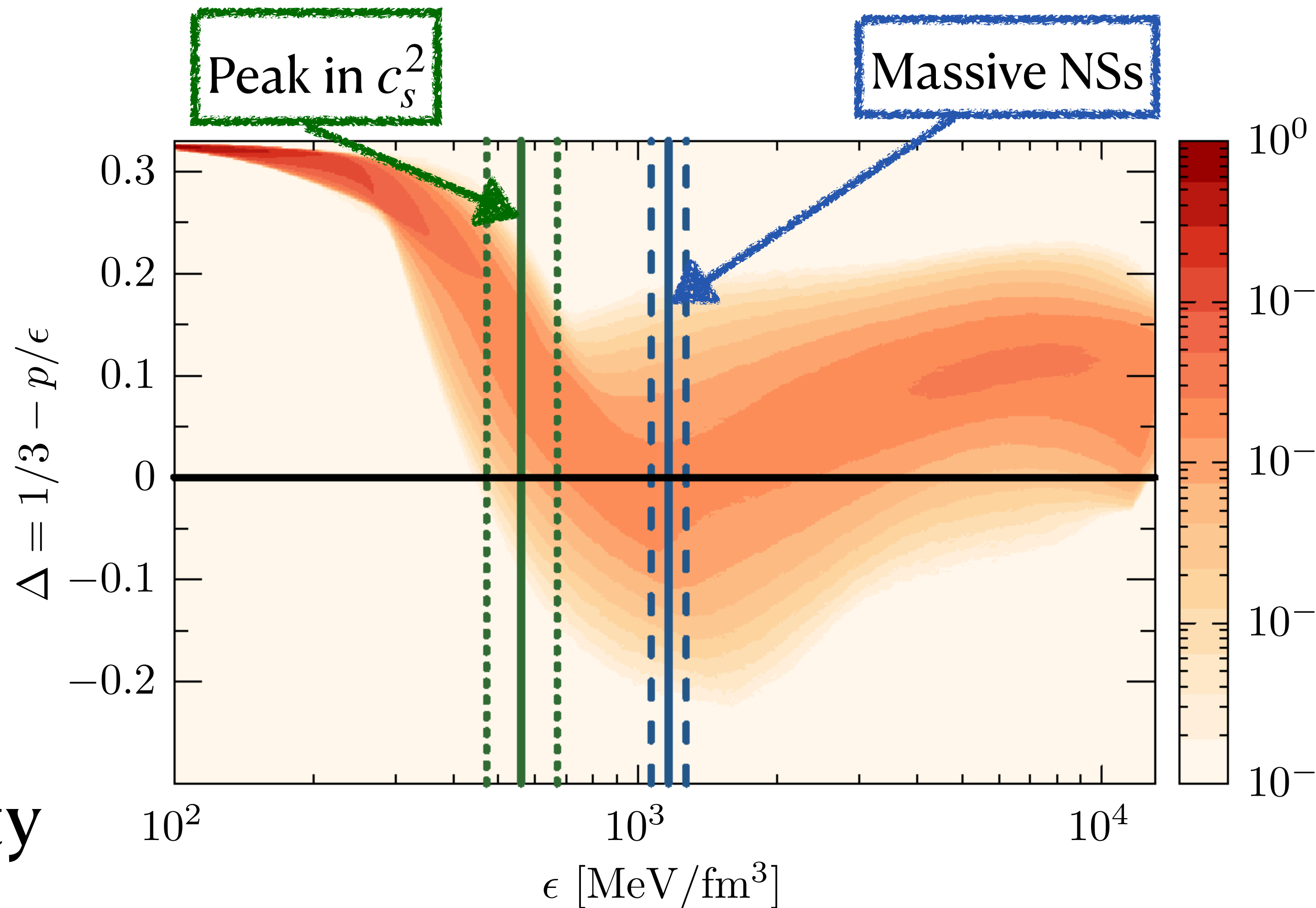
Δ monotonic up to $\simeq \epsilon_{\text{TOV}}$

$$c_s^2 = \frac{1}{3} - \Delta - \epsilon \frac{d\Delta}{d\epsilon}$$

Maximum in c_s^2

Fast approach to conformality

$$\Delta \simeq 0 \text{ at } \epsilon \simeq 1 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$$



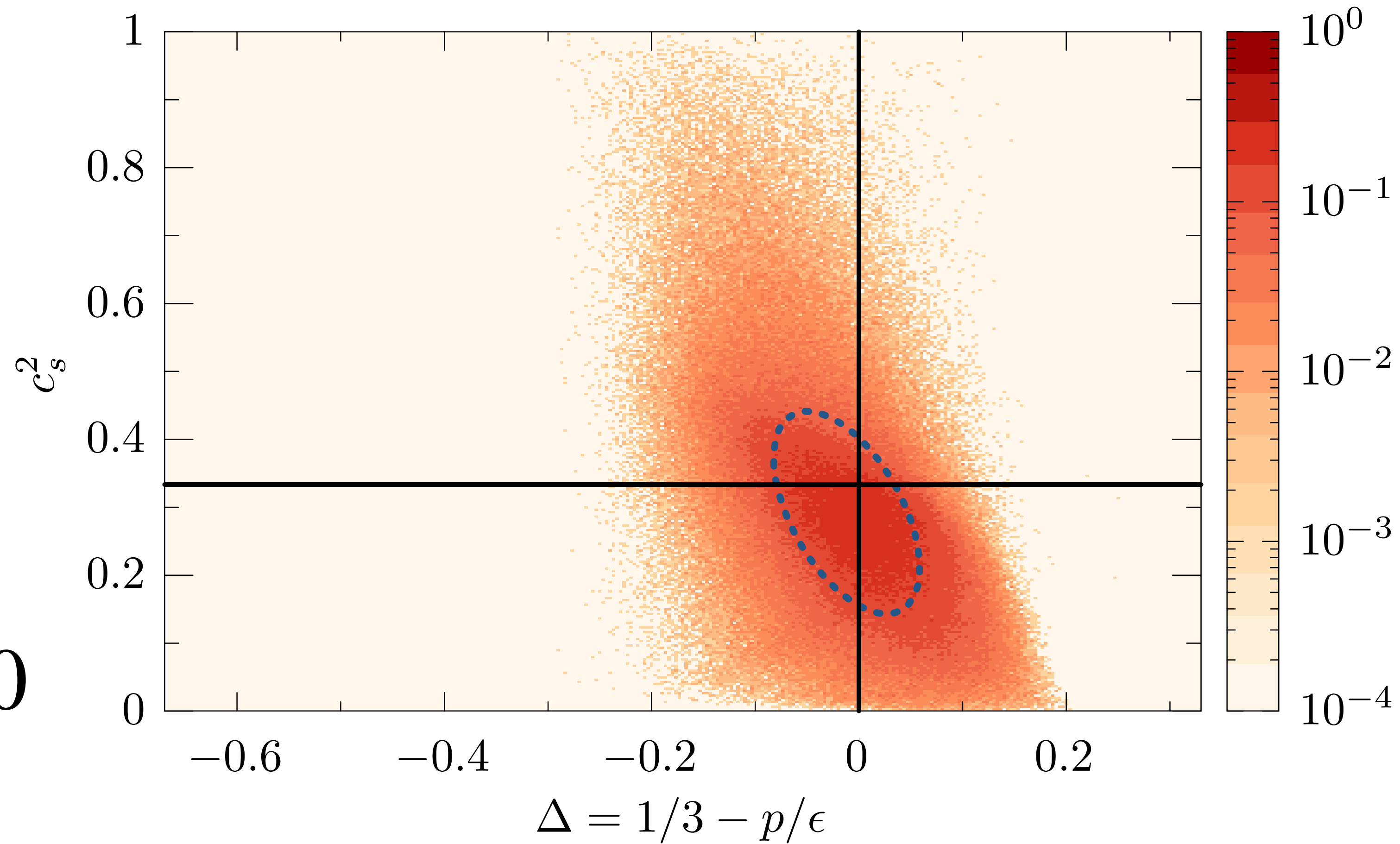
c_s^2 and Δ in Heavy Neutron Stars

Conformality:

$$c_s^2 = \frac{1}{3} \text{ and } \Delta = 0$$

$$c_{s, \text{TOV}}^2 = 0.28 \pm 0.16 \simeq \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\Delta_{\text{TOV}} = -0.01 \pm 0.03 \simeq 0$$



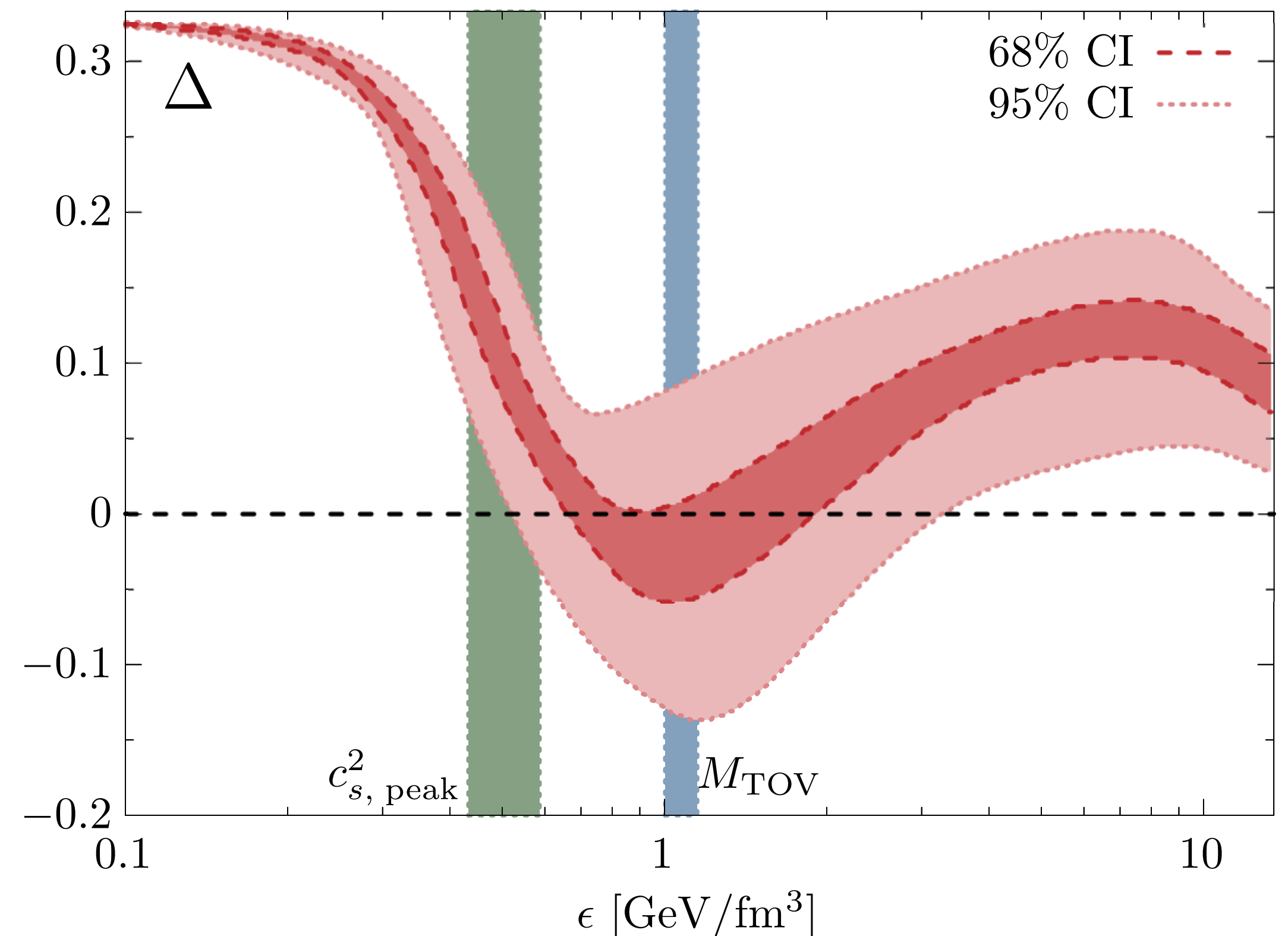
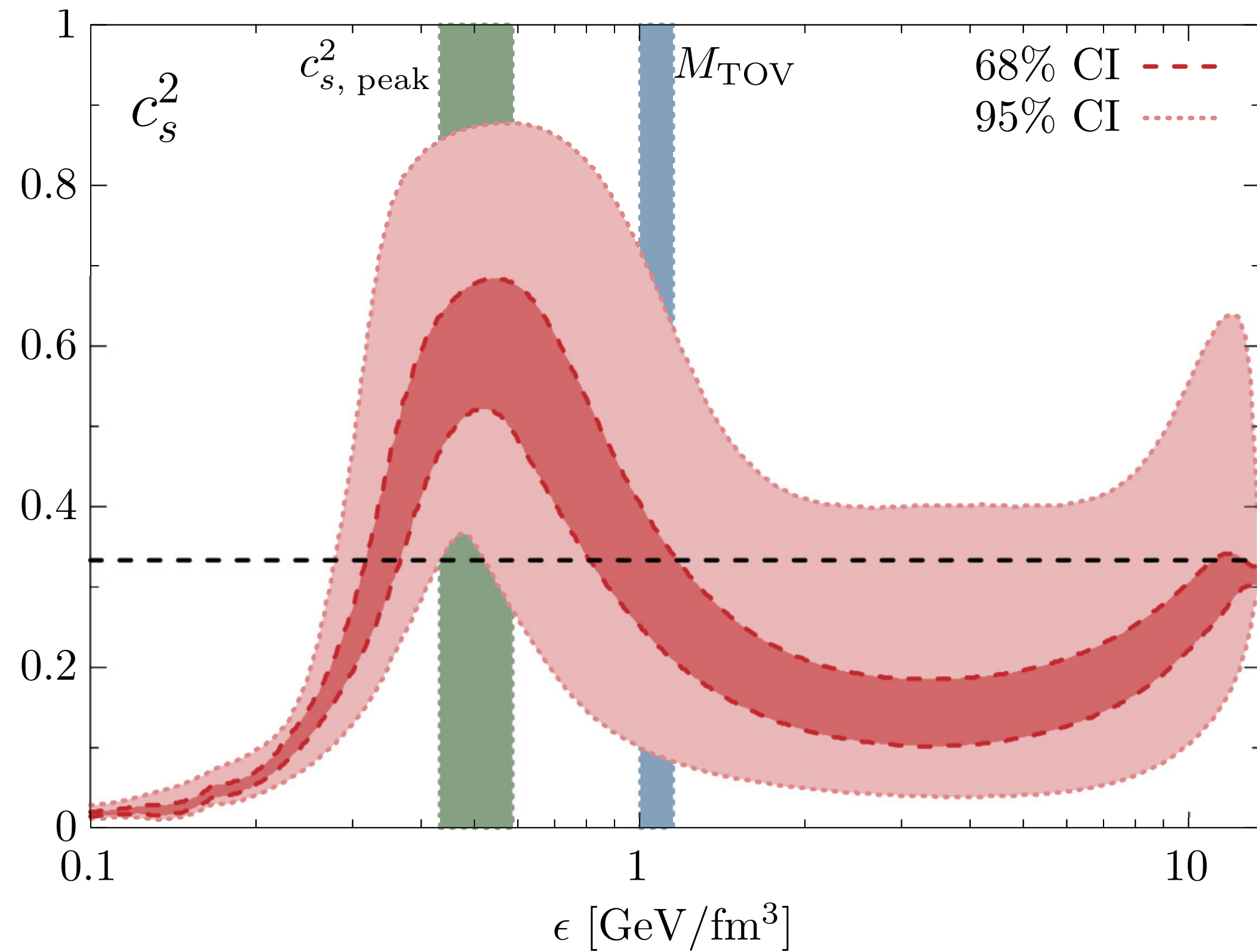
Matter almost conformal in the cores of maximally massive NSs

Measures of conformality

$$c_s^2 \simeq \frac{1}{3}$$

Fujimoto et al 2022

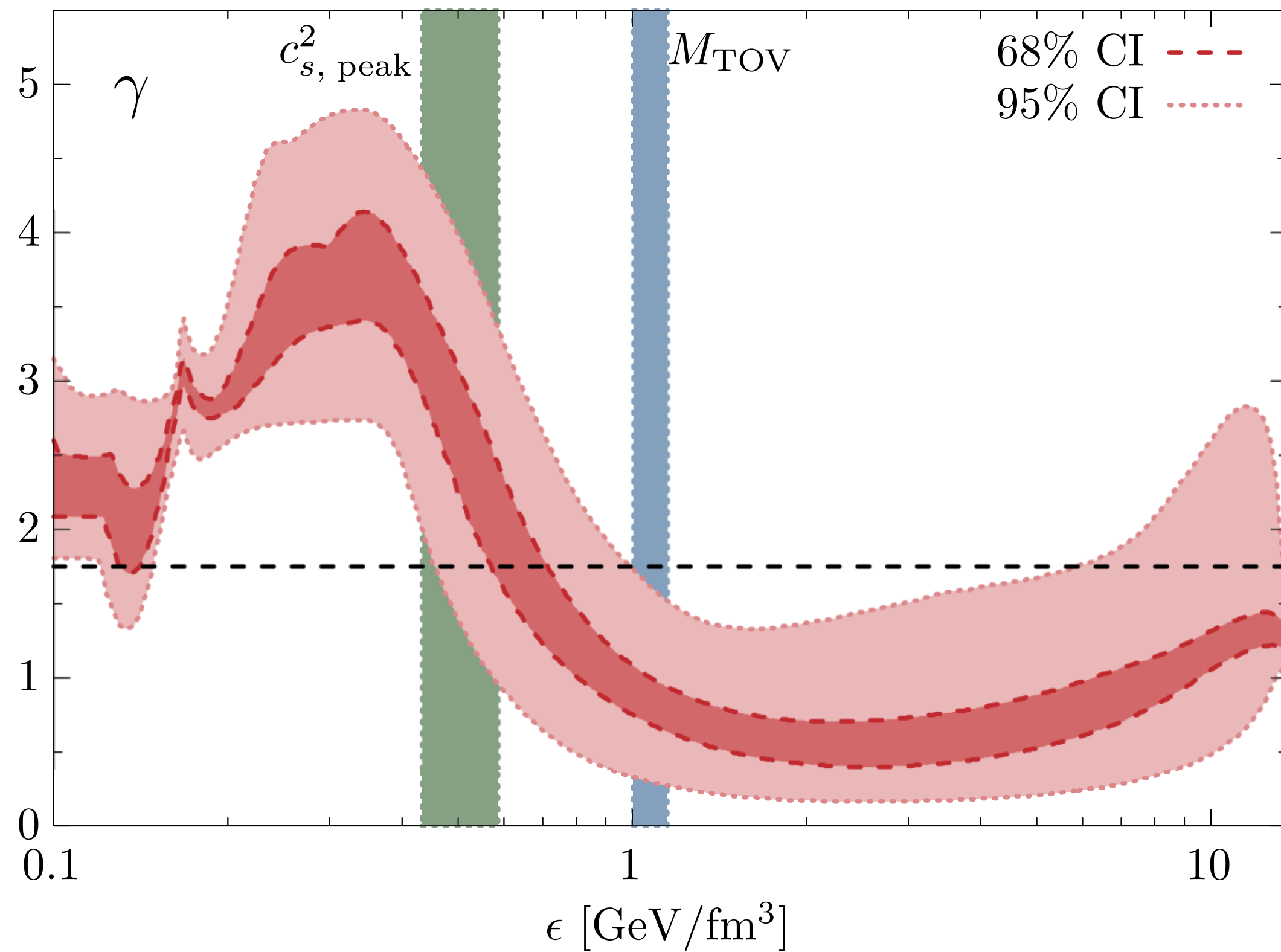
$$\Delta = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{p}{\epsilon} \simeq 0$$



Measures of conformality 2

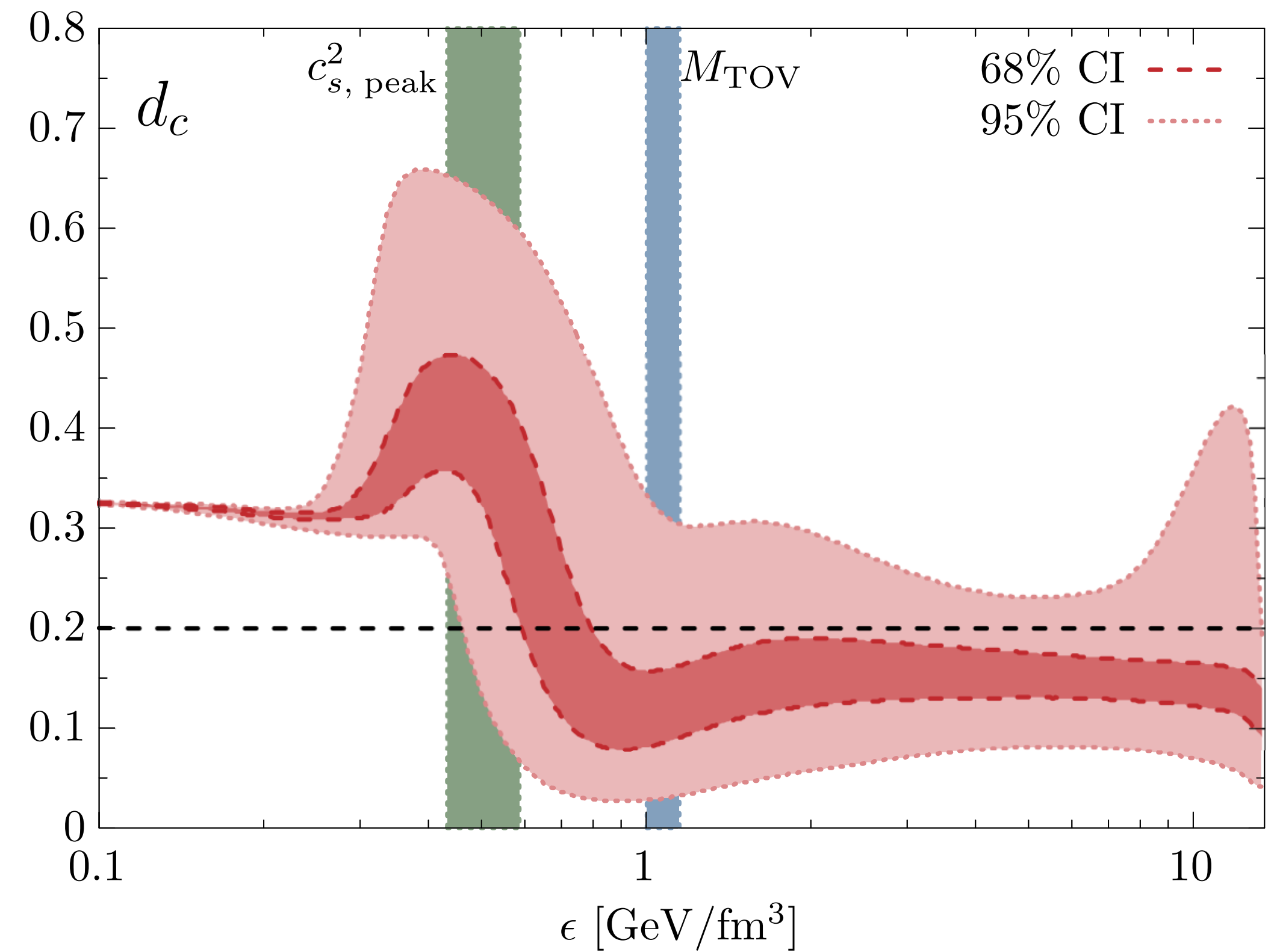
$$\gamma = \frac{\epsilon}{p} c_s^2 = \frac{c_s^2}{1/3 - \Delta} \lesssim 1.75$$

Annala et al 2020



$$d_c = \sqrt{\Delta^2 + (\epsilon \Delta')^2} \lesssim 0.2$$

Annala et al 2023



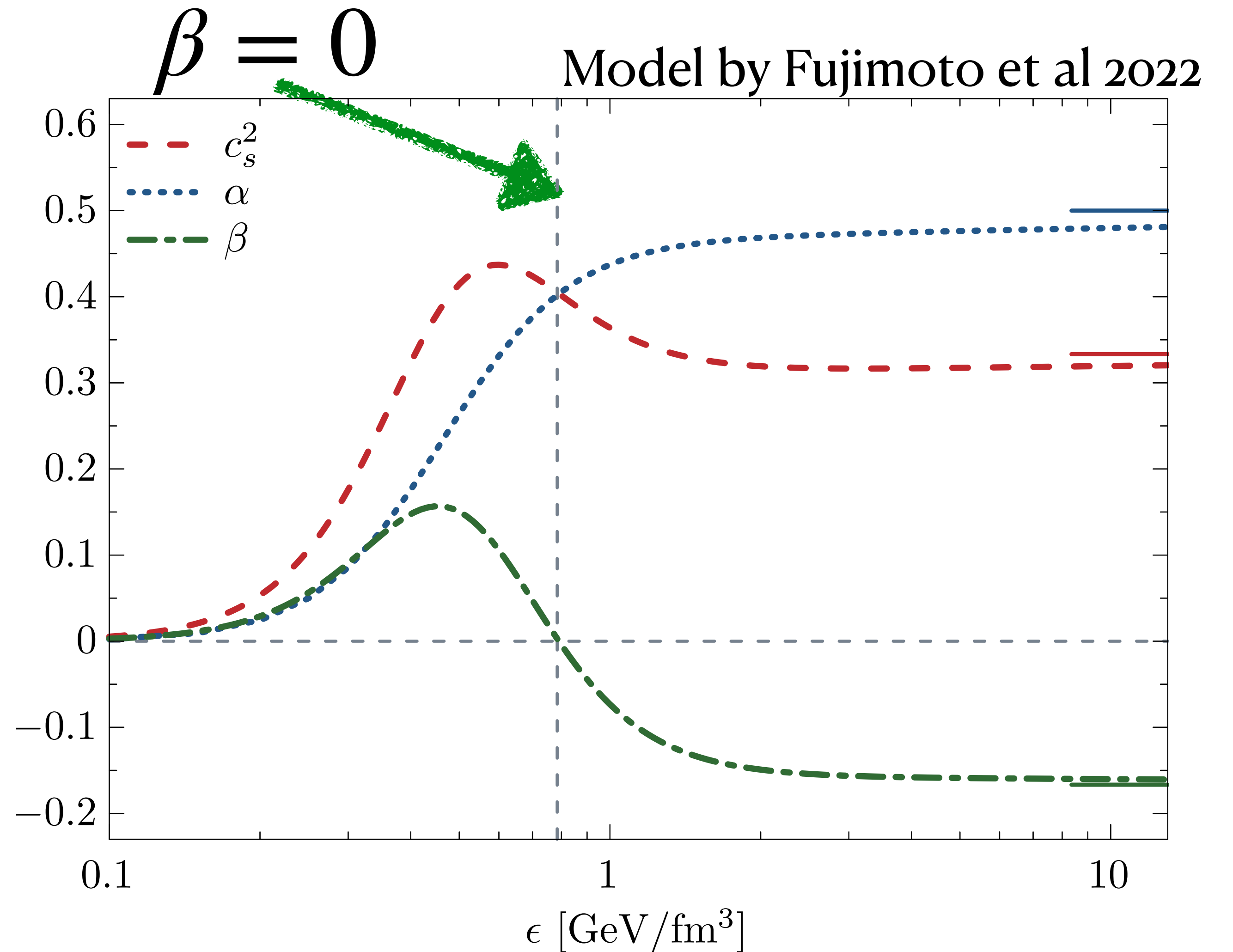
Curvature of the energy per particle

Pressure from $\frac{\epsilon}{n} \rightarrow p = n^2 \frac{d\epsilon/n}{dn}$

$$c_s^2 = \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{dp}{dn} = \alpha + \beta$$

$$\alpha = 2 \frac{n}{\mu} \frac{d\epsilon/n}{dn} = 2 \frac{1/3 - \Delta}{4/3 - \Delta}$$

$$\beta = \frac{n^2}{\mu} \frac{d^2\epsilon/n}{dn^2} = c_s^2 - \alpha$$

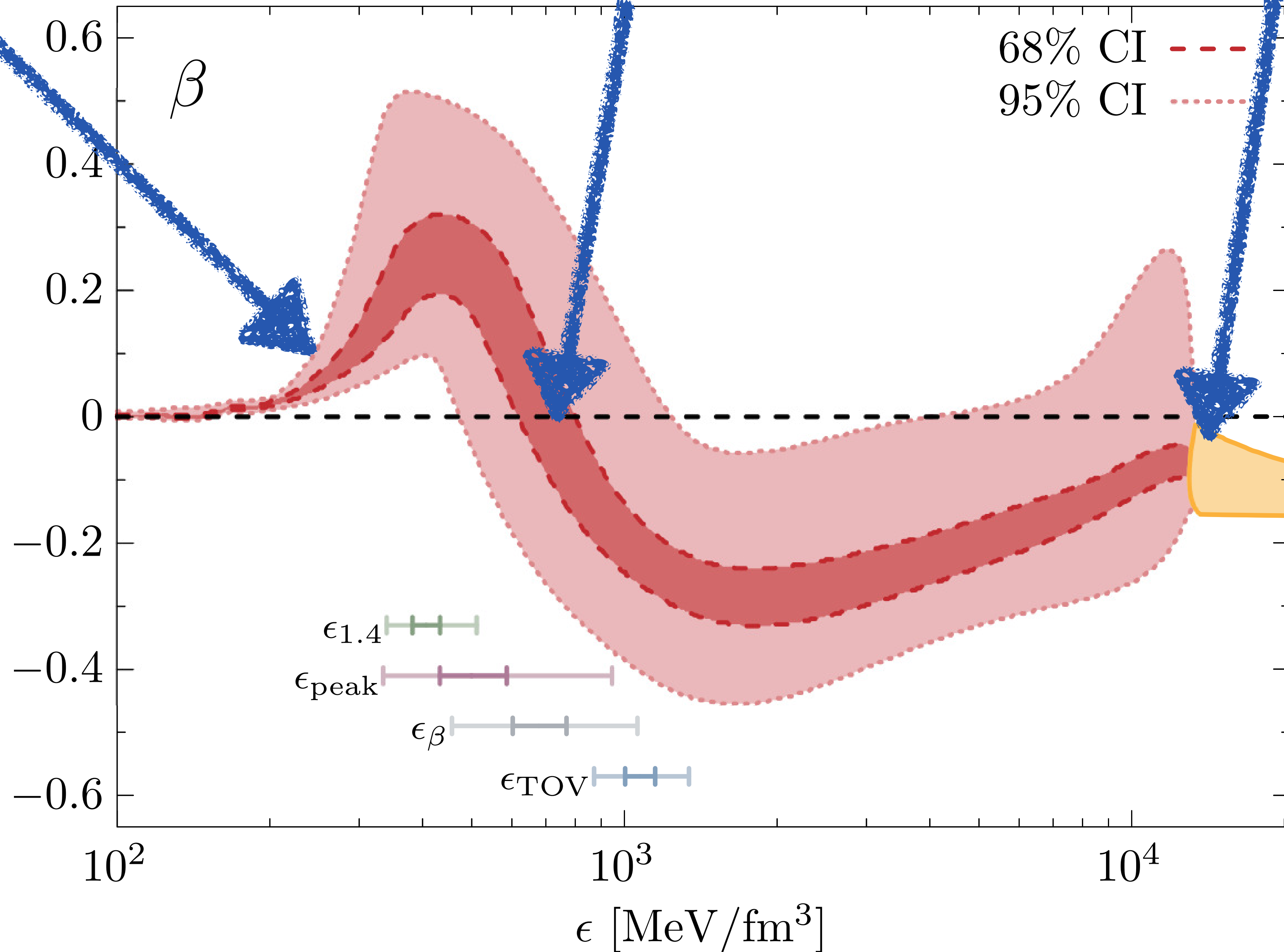


$\beta = 0 \rightarrow$ changeover to conformal regime

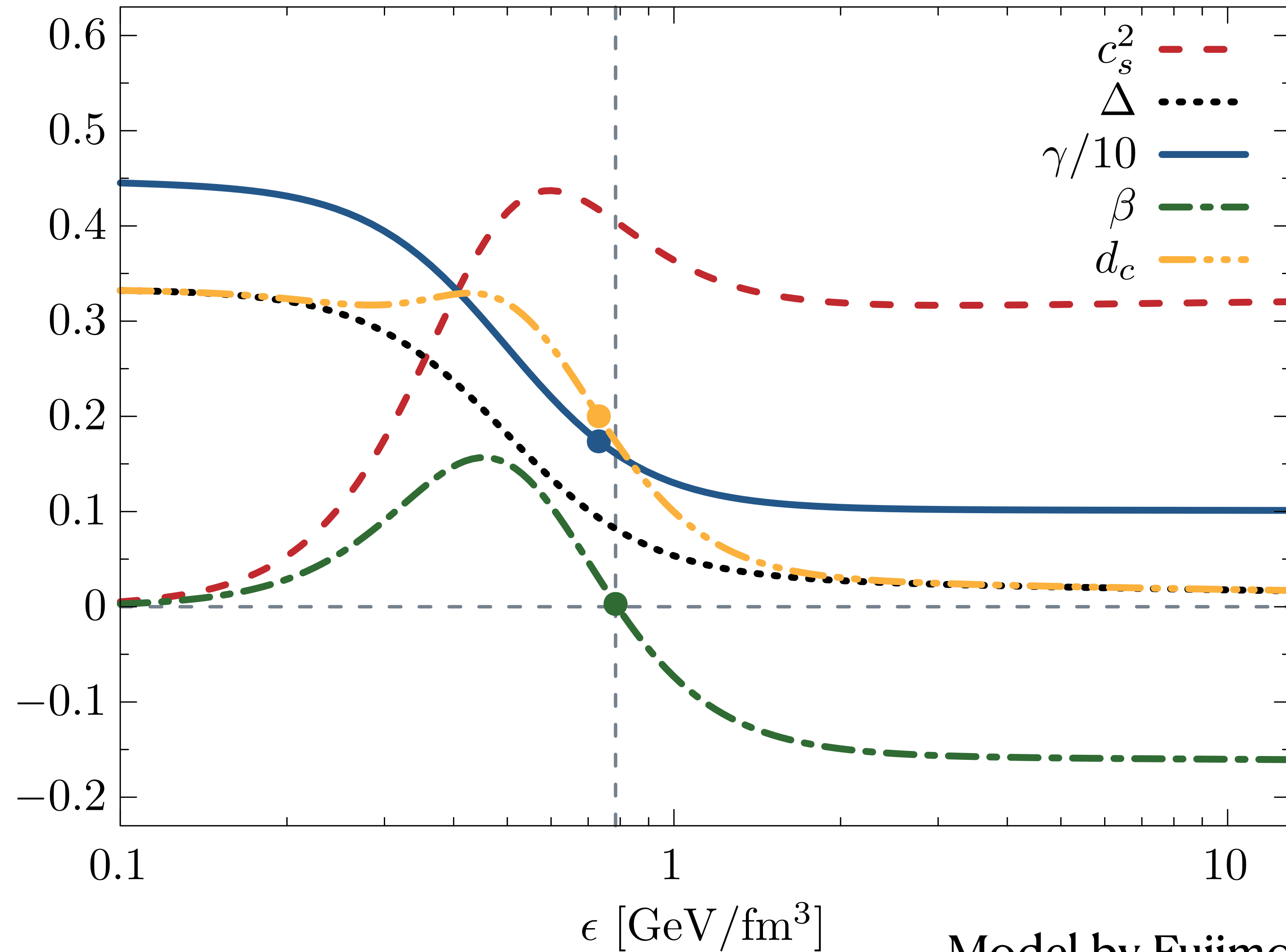
$$\beta \simeq c_s^2 > 0$$

$$\beta < 0 \text{ at } \epsilon \simeq \epsilon_{\text{TOV}}$$

$$\beta \simeq -1/6$$



Changeover consistent other measures



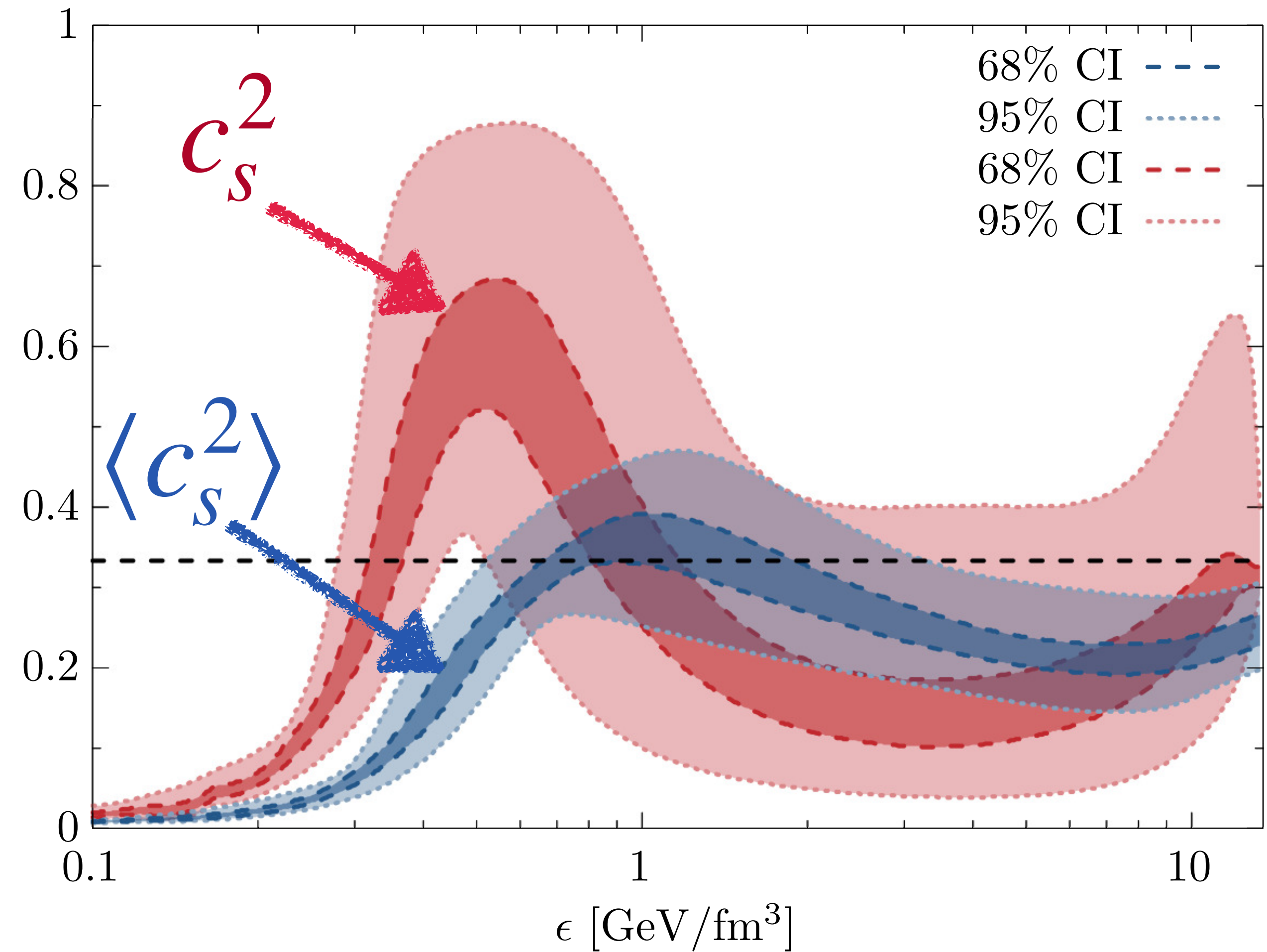
Model by Fujimoto et al 2022

Average Speed of Sound

$$\frac{p}{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \int_0^{\epsilon} d\epsilon' \frac{dp}{d\epsilon'} = \langle c_s^2 \rangle$$

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{3} - \langle c_s^2 \rangle \quad \epsilon \Delta' = \langle c_s^2 \rangle - c_s^2$$

$$\gamma = c_s^2 / \langle c_s^2 \rangle$$



Conformality : $\Delta \simeq 0 \Leftrightarrow c_s^2 \simeq 1/3$ and $\epsilon \Delta' \simeq 0 \Leftrightarrow c_s^2 \simeq \langle c_s^2 \rangle$

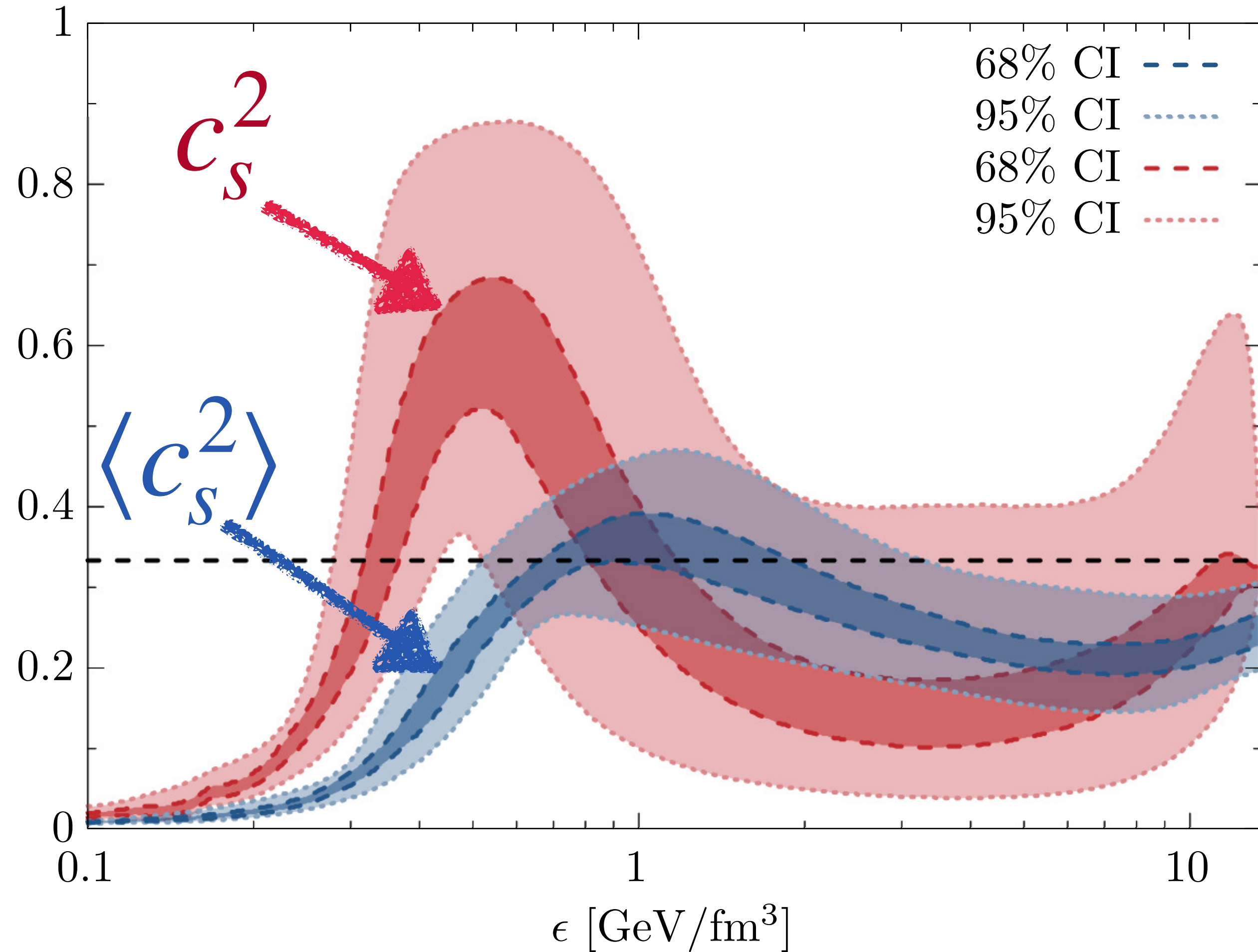
Implications of vanishing trace anomaly

$$\Delta_{\text{TOV}} = -0.01 \pm 0.03 \simeq 0$$

↓

$$\text{Ansatz 1: } \Delta_{\text{TOV}} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \langle c_s^2 \rangle_{\text{TOV}} = 1/3$$

- ↓
- c_s^2 must exceed $1/3$
 - c_s^2 features maximum



Implications of vanishing trace anomaly

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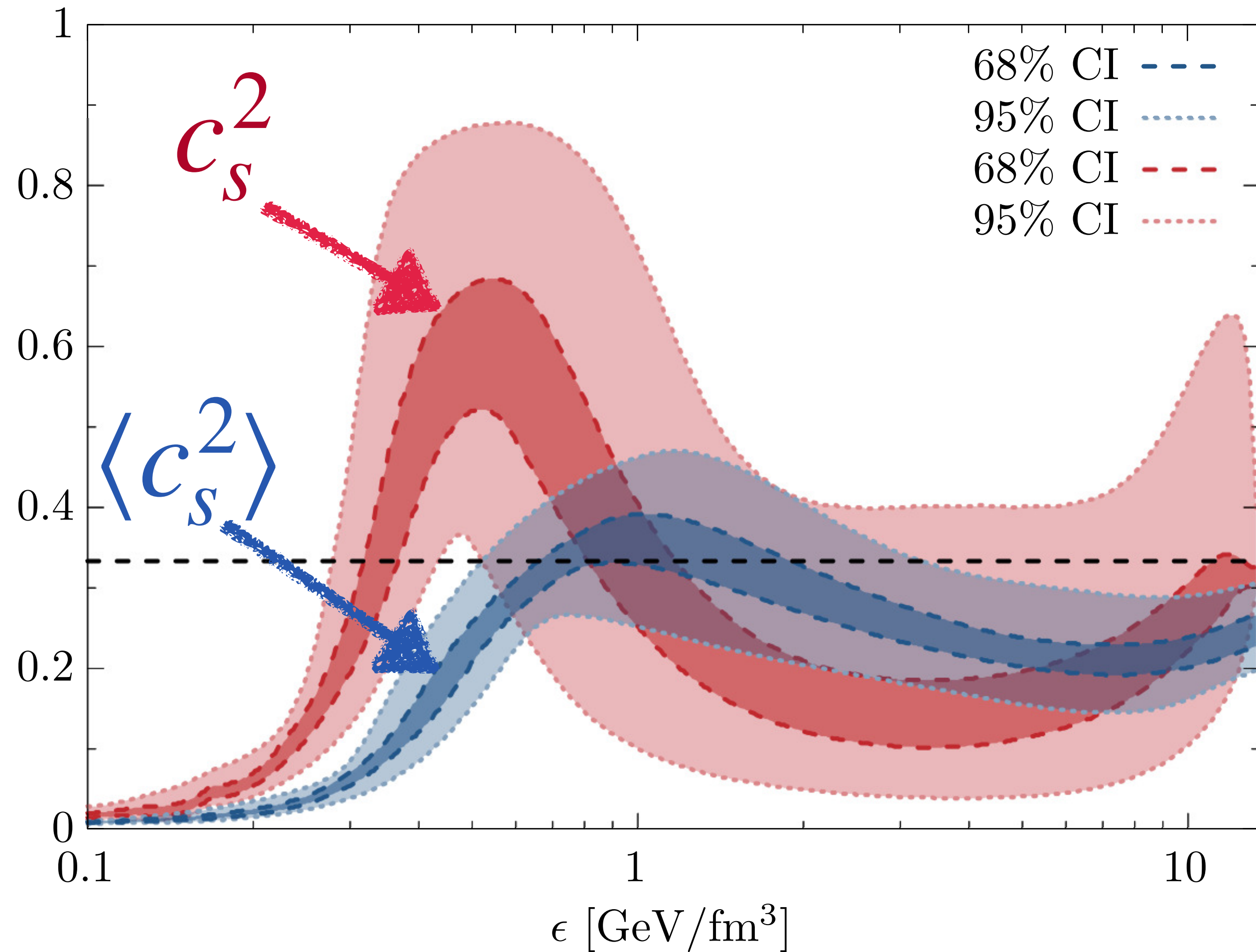
Ansatz 1: $\Delta_{\text{TOV}} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \langle c_s^2 \rangle_{\text{TOV}} = 1/3$

Ansatz 2: $\Delta \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \langle c_s^2 \rangle \leq 1/3$



- c_s^2 must exceed $1/3$
- c_s^2 features maximum at $\epsilon \leq \epsilon_{\text{TOV}}$
- consequences for NS phenomenology

Fujimoto et al 2022



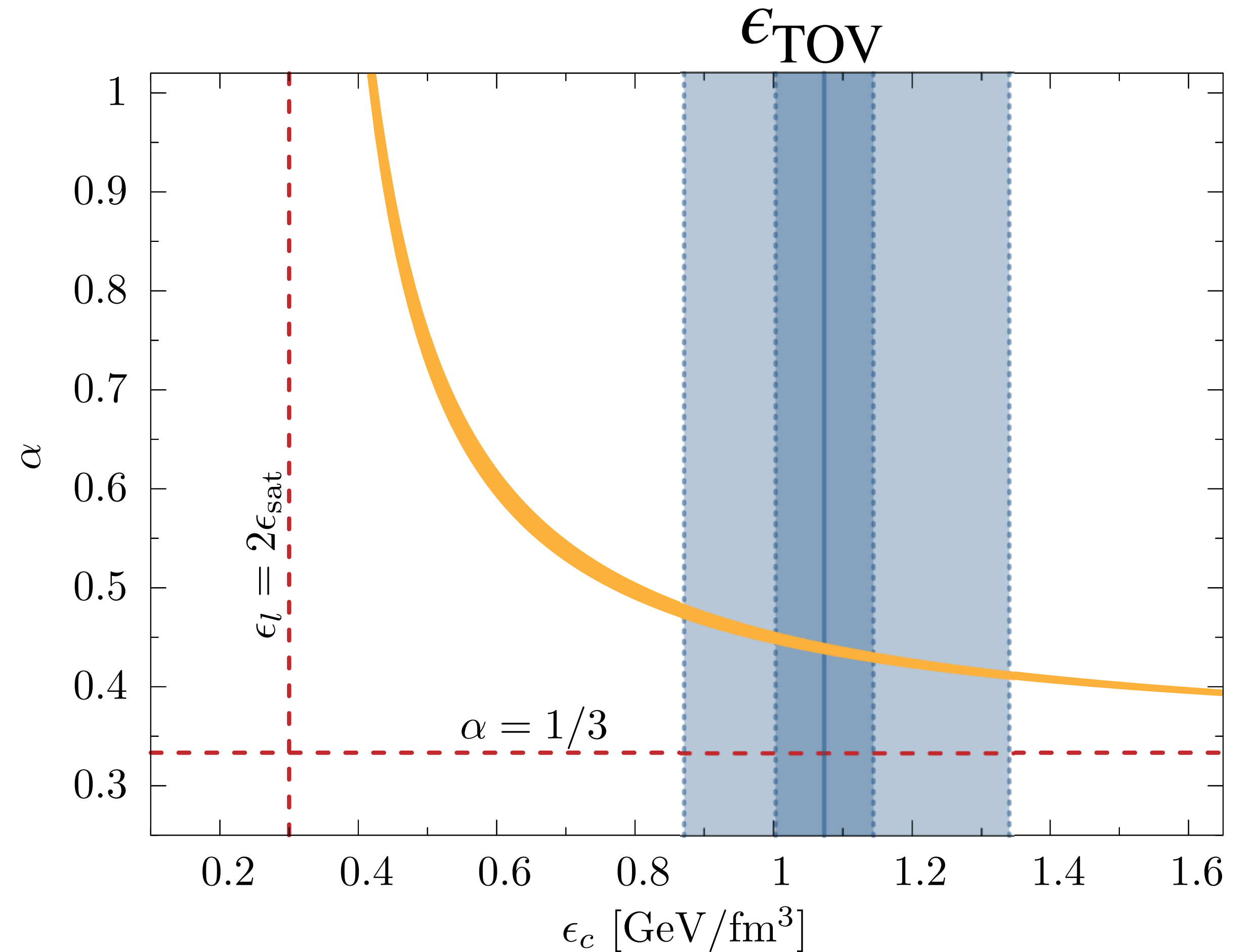
Implications of vanishing trace anomaly 2

$$\langle c_s^2 \rangle_c = \langle c_s^2 \rangle_l \frac{\epsilon_l}{\epsilon_c} + \alpha \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon_l}{\epsilon_c} \right) = \frac{1}{3}$$

Average c_s^2 at $\langle \epsilon_l, \epsilon_c \rangle$

$\langle c_s^2 \rangle_l$ from χ EFT at $2\epsilon_0 = 5 - 8 \times 10^{-3}$

Drischler et al (2021)



$\epsilon_c = \epsilon_{\text{TOV}} \simeq 1 \text{ GeV/fm}^3 \longrightarrow \alpha \simeq 0.4 - 0.5 \longrightarrow c_{s,\text{max}}^2 > \alpha$

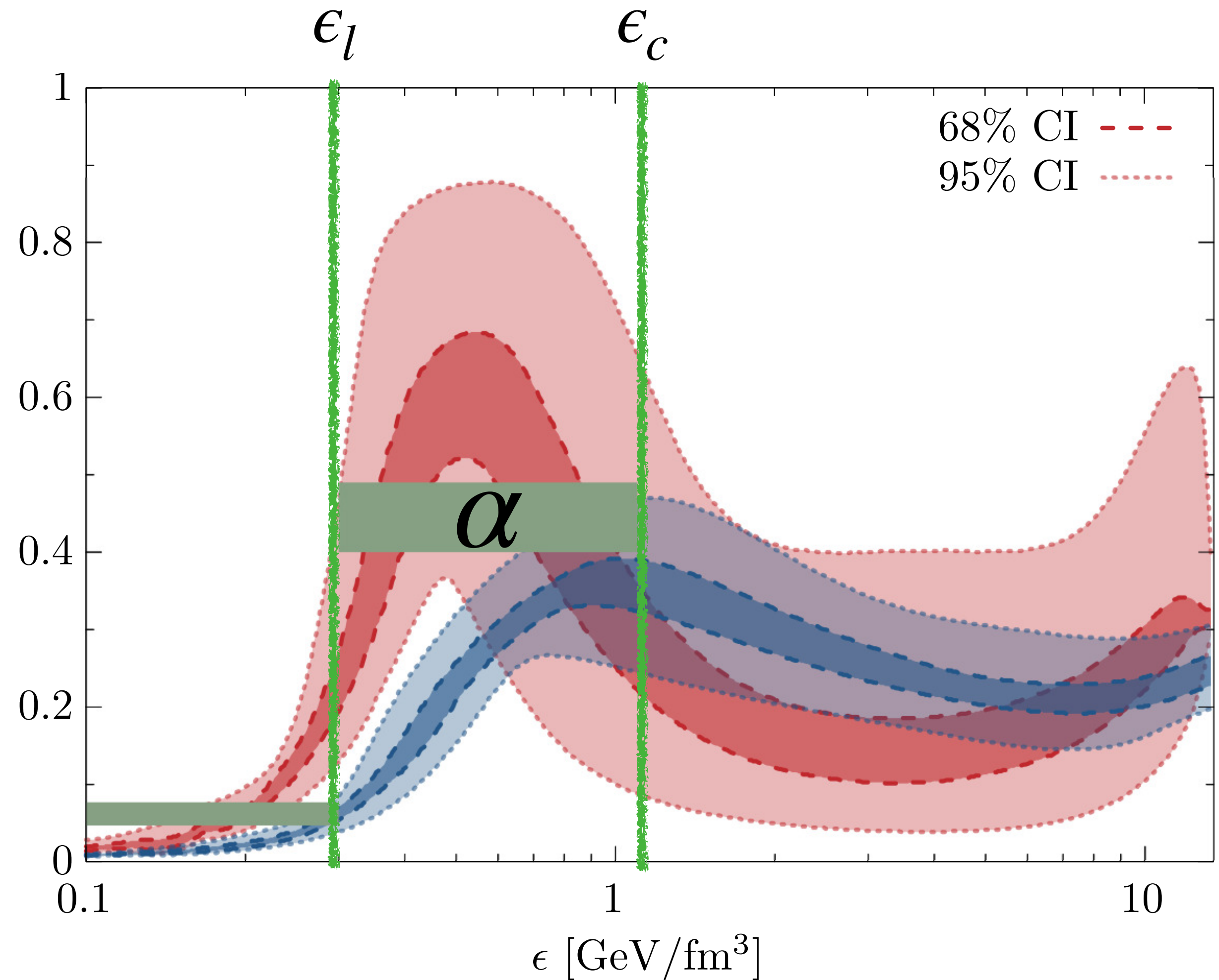
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Summary

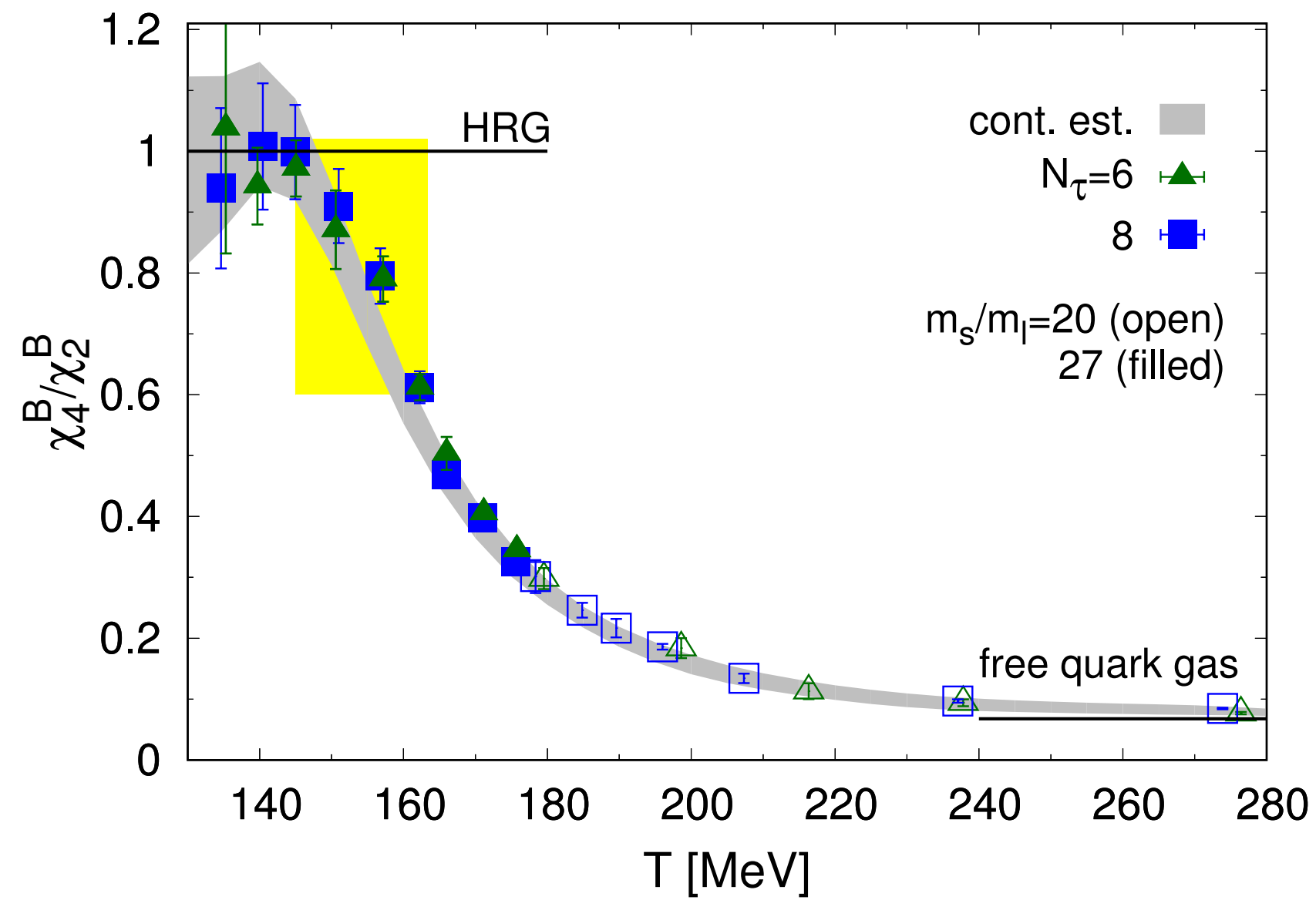
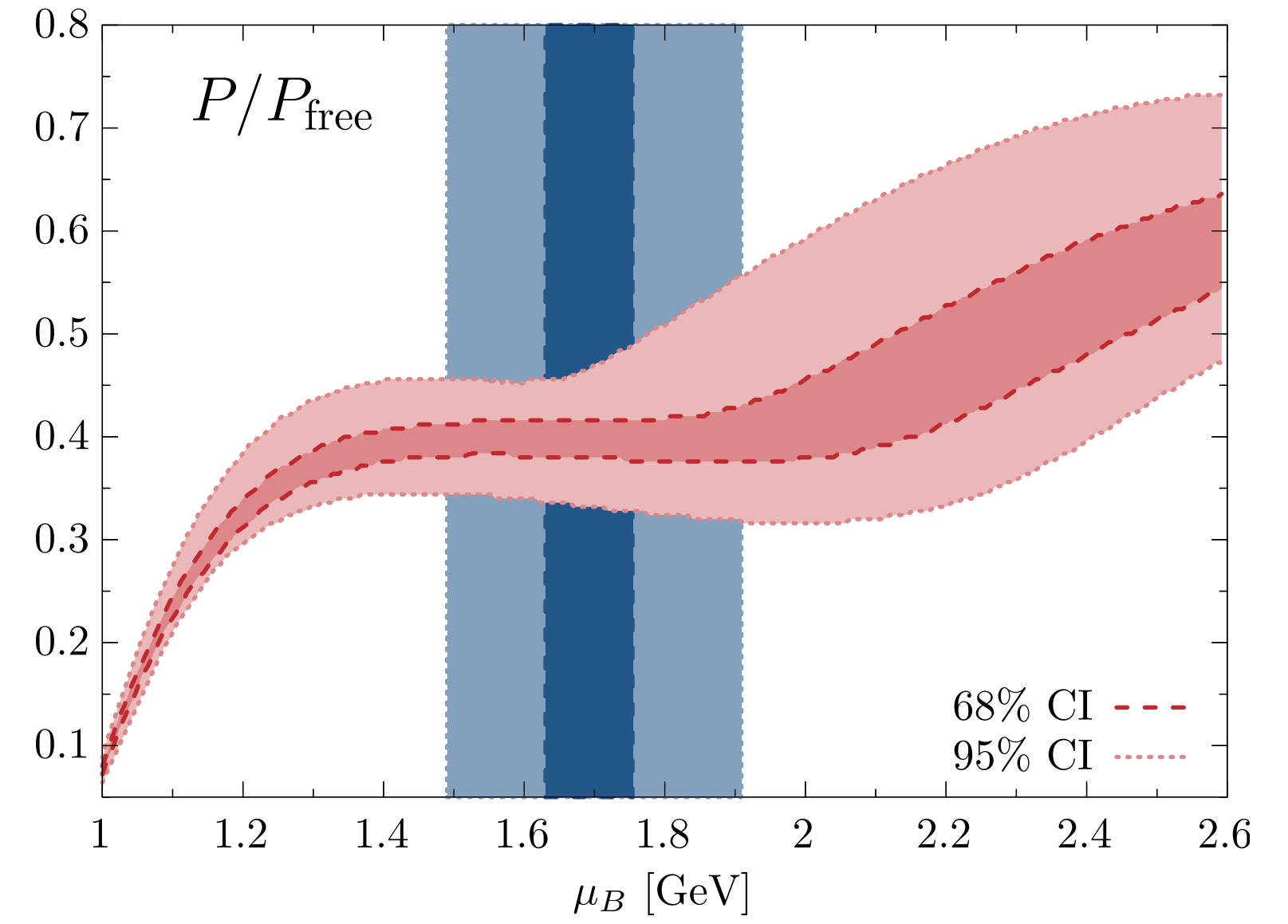
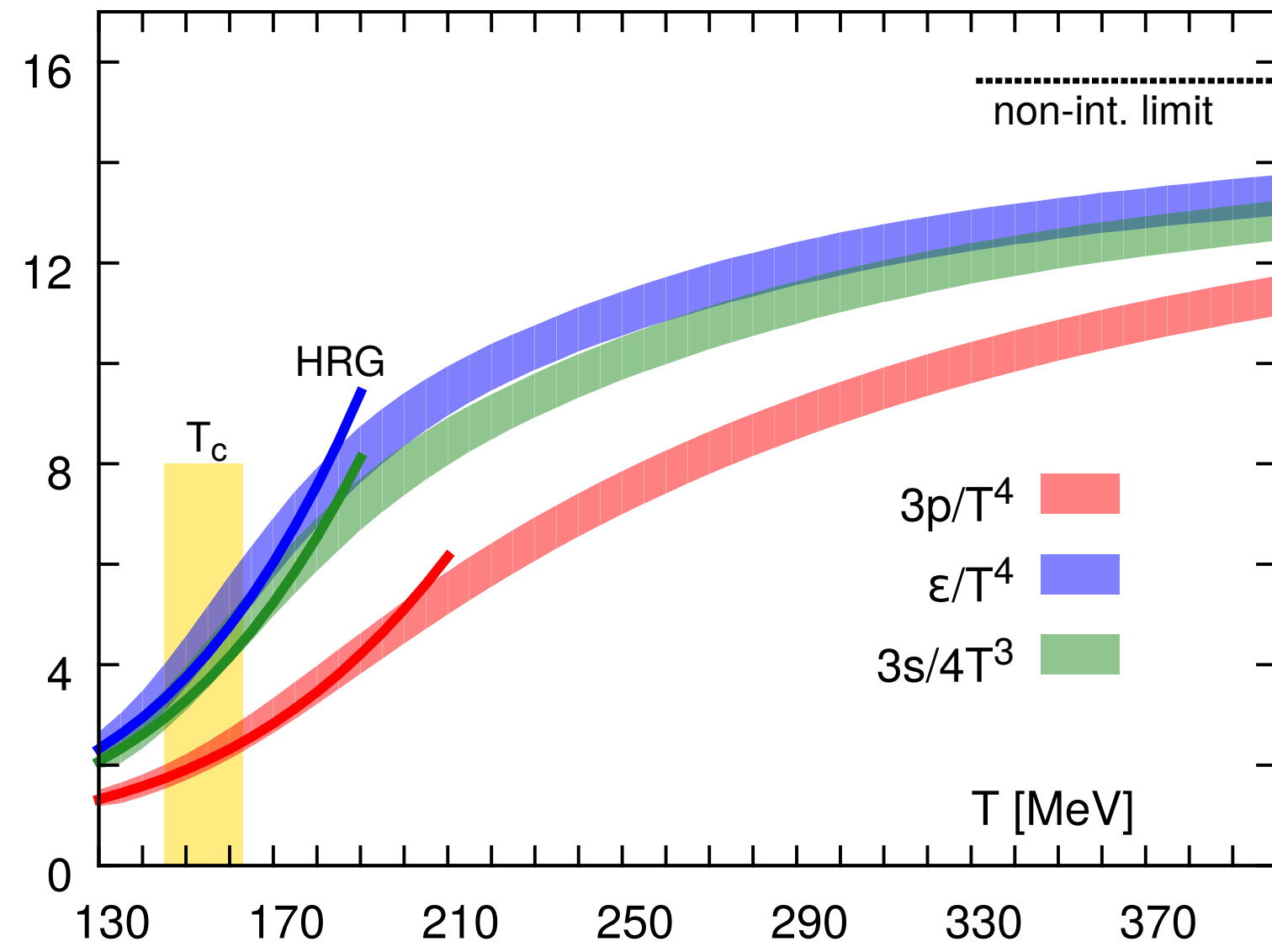
Maximum of c_s^2 consistent with percolation threshold

Matter seems to be conformal in the cores of massive NSs

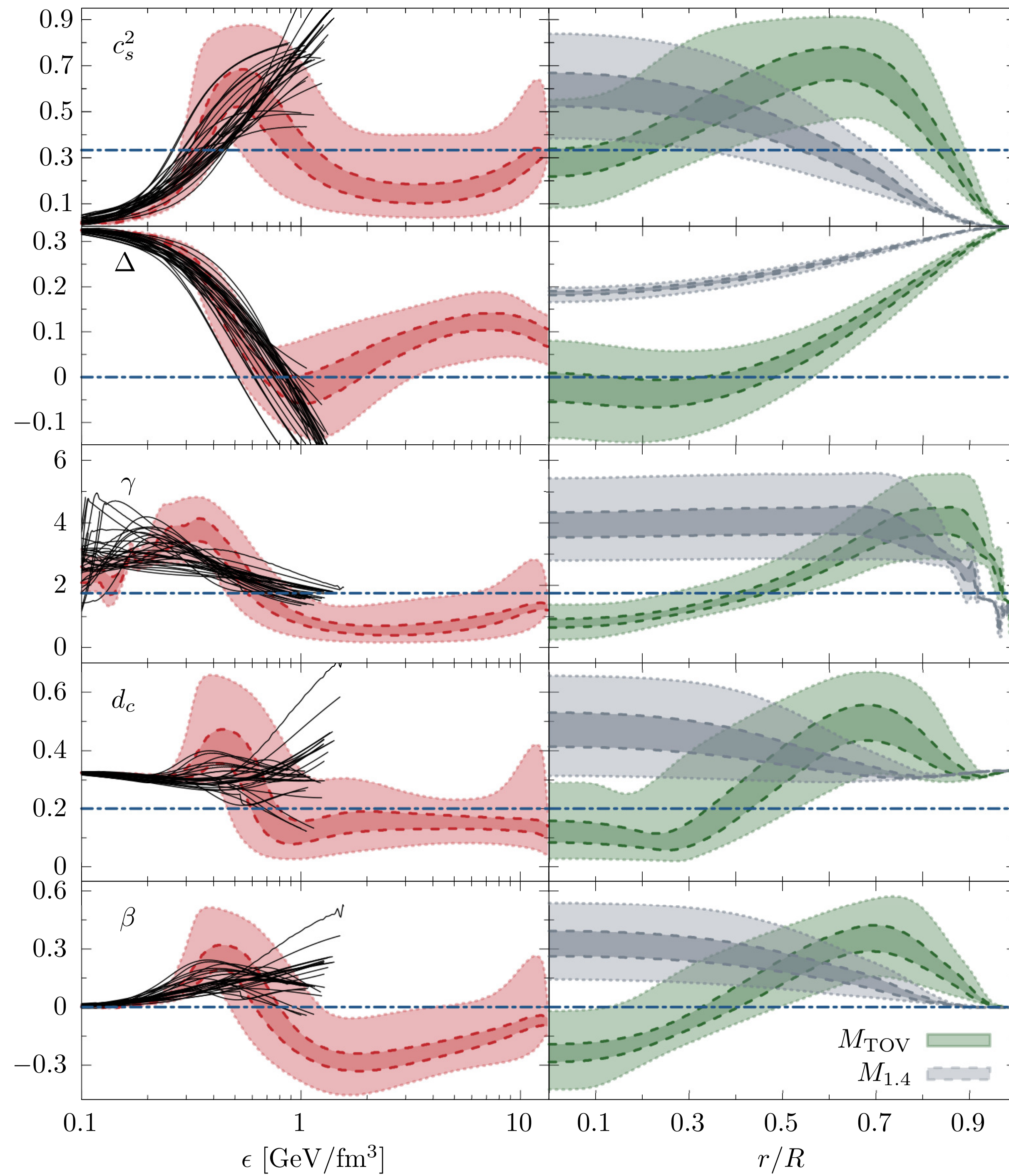
Curvature of ϵ/n can quantify restoration of conformal symmetry

Thank You

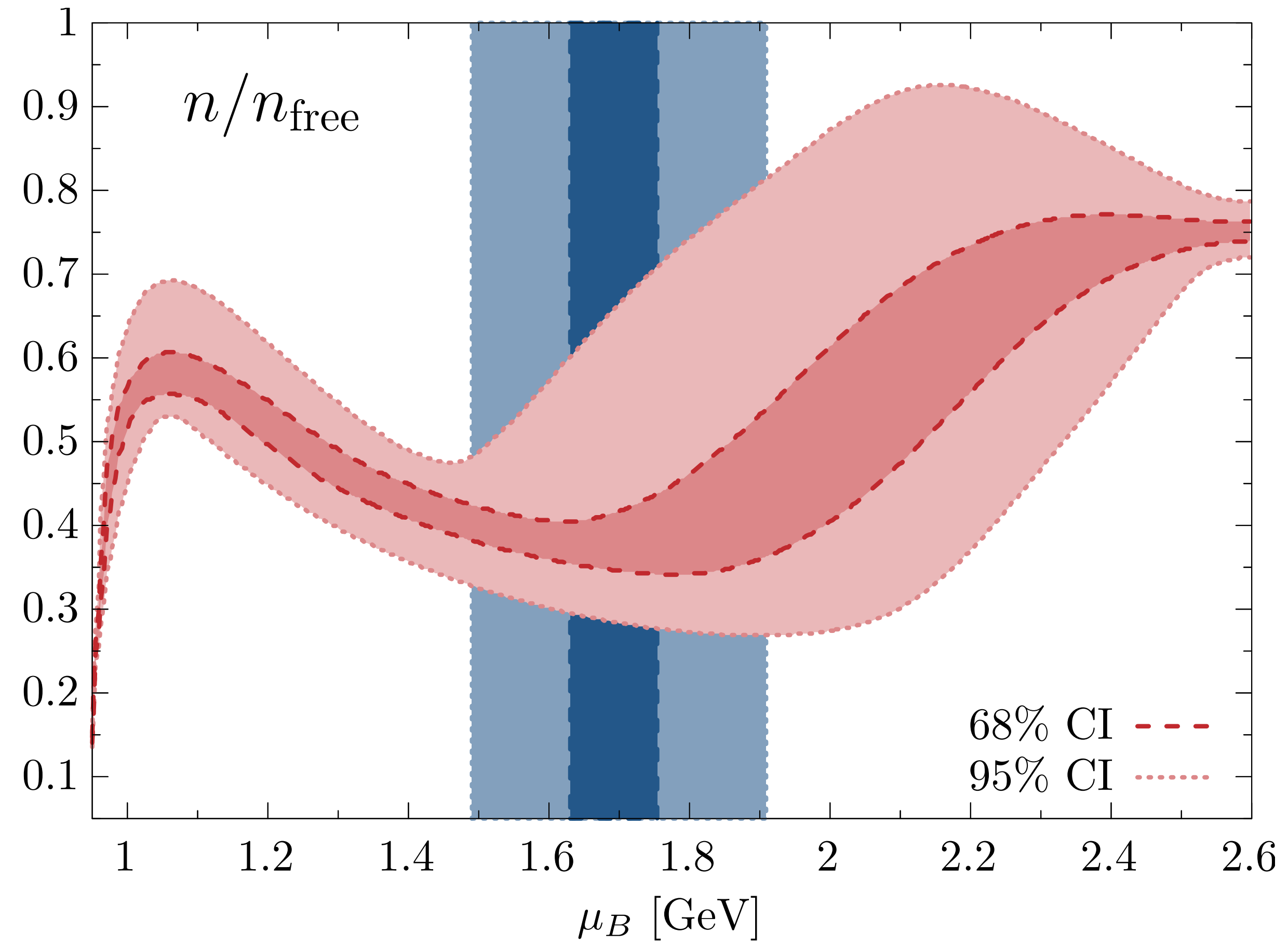
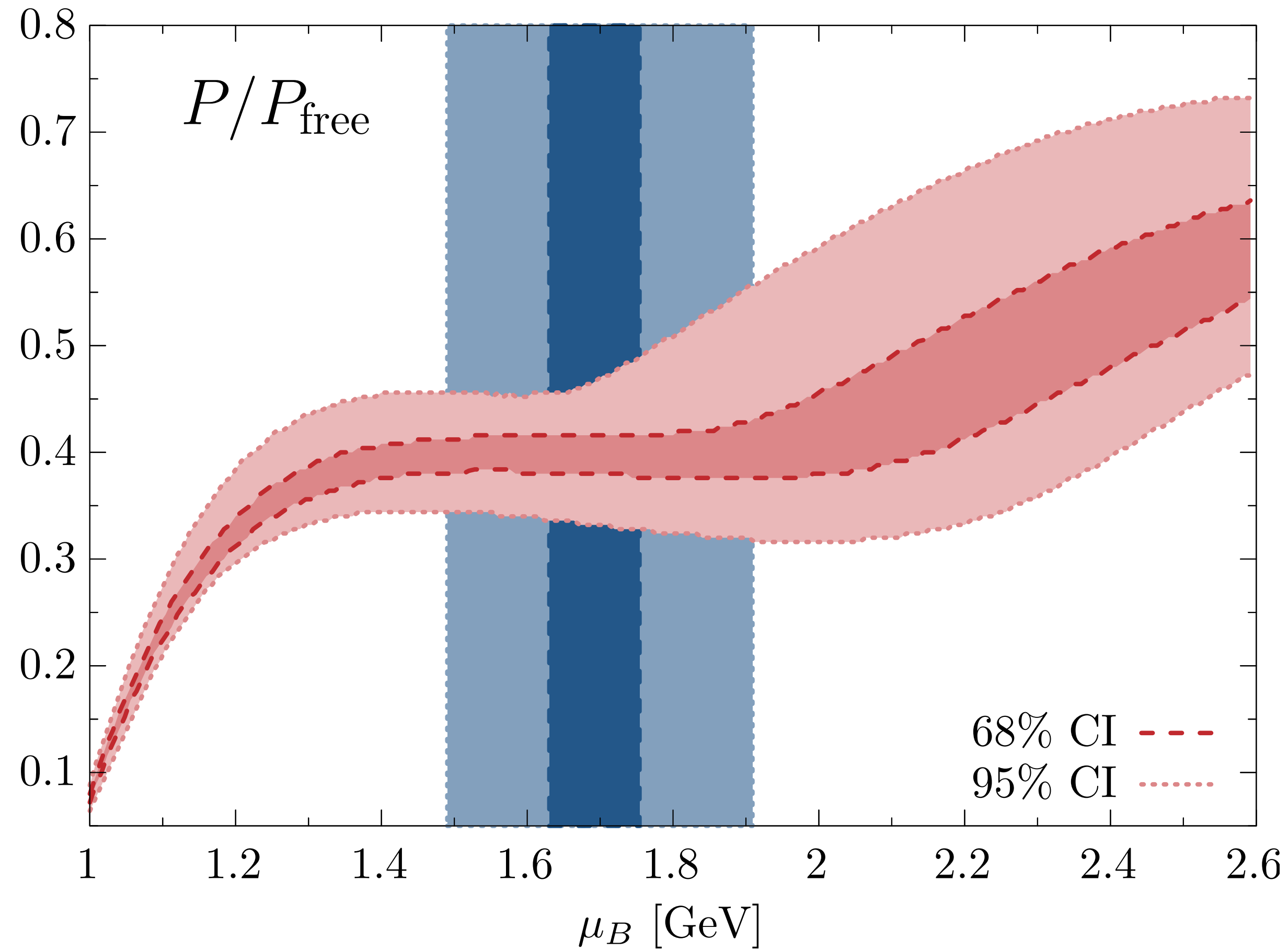
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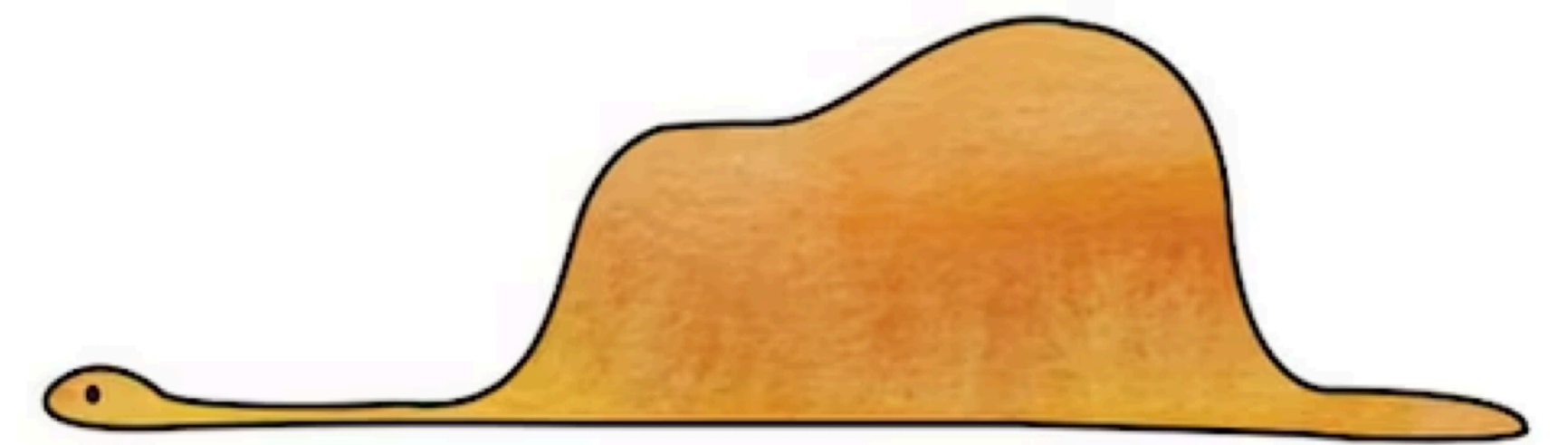
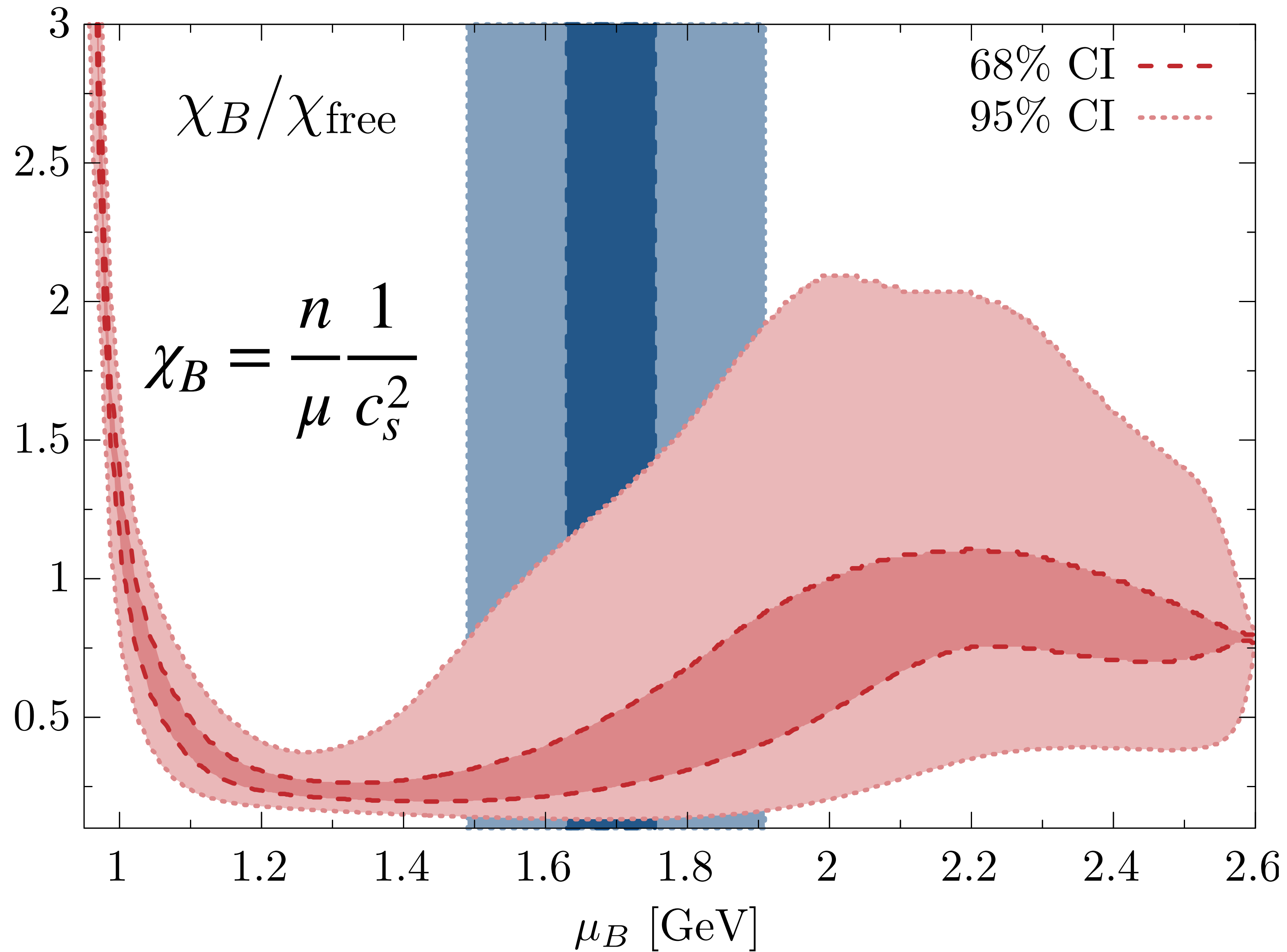
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Equation of State



Net-baryon number susceptibility



"My drawing was not a picture of a bat. ~~χ_B~~
 It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant."

