

Estimates on the convergence of expansions at finite baryon chemical potential

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Based on: Phys. Rev. D 110 (2024) 1, 016008

Authors: Rui Wen (main author), SY and Wei-jie Fu

Trento, 11.09.2025



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG



Outline

1. Introduction
 - QCD phase structure
 - Functional renormalization group
2. Baryon number fluctuations from fRG
 - QCD-assisted LEFT
 - Predictions
3. Comparison between direct calculation and expansion
 - Polyakov-Quark-Meson (PQM) Model
 - Comparison of different Expansion methods
4. Summary and conclusion

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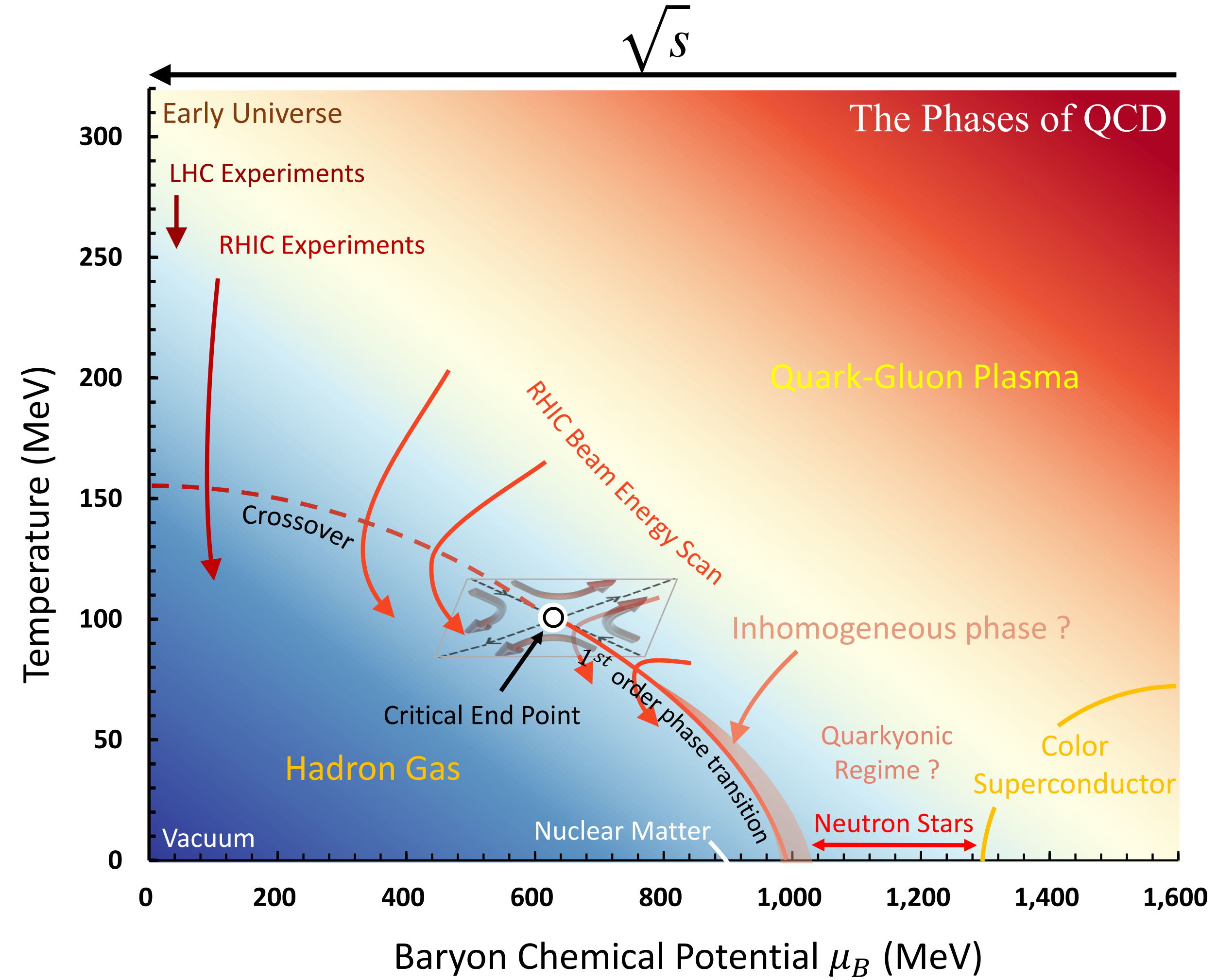
QCD phase structure

Experiments:

- LHC Experiments at Low density
- RHIC Beam Energy Scan at finite density
- Fixed target at high density
- ...

Goals:

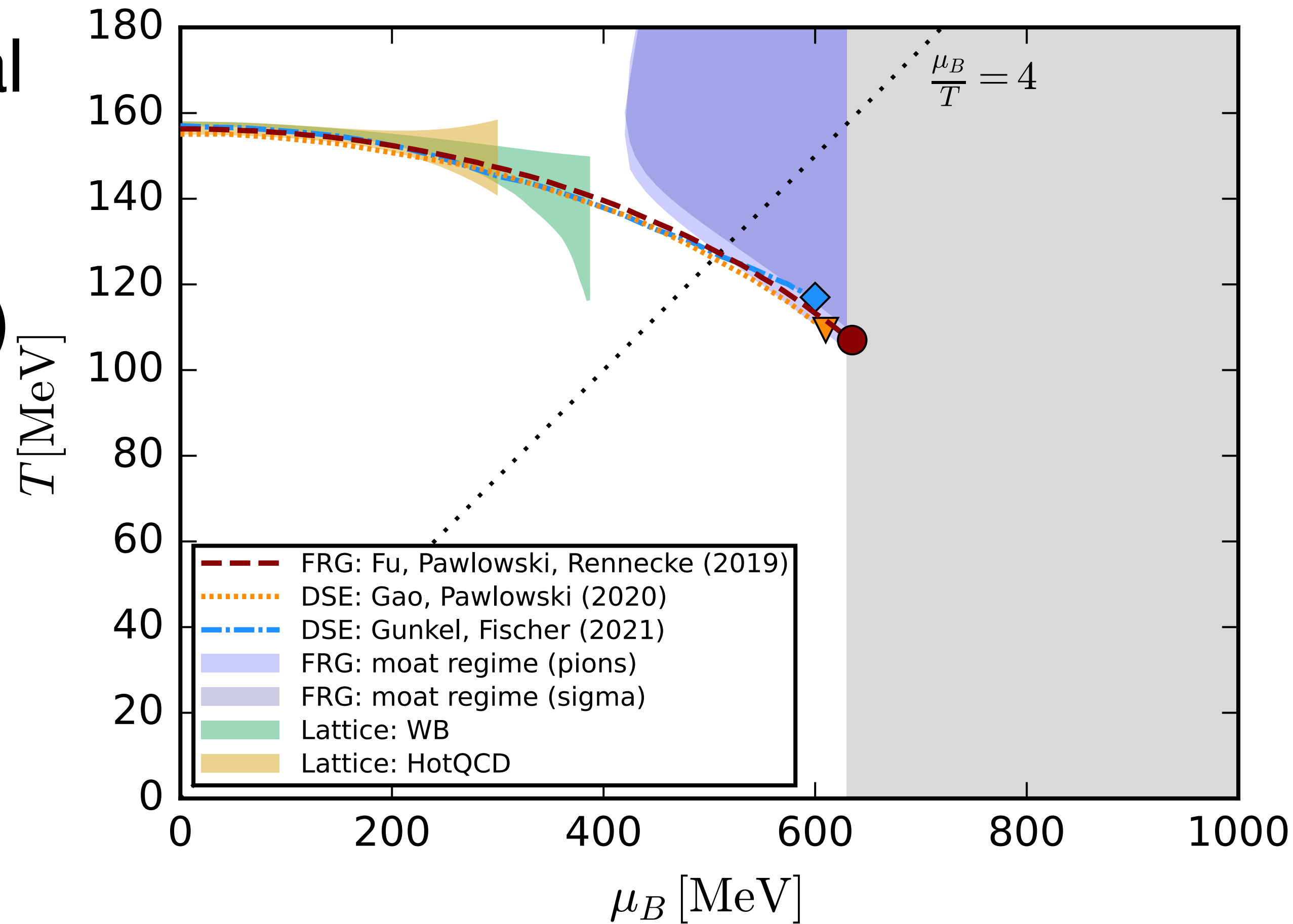
- Location of Critical End Point (CEP)
- New phase at high density region
- EoS
- ...



SY, Tan, Fu (2023)

Theoretical predictions

- Lattice QCD (at vanishing chemical potential)
- Dyson-Schwinger Equations (DSE)
- Functional renormalization group (fRG)
- ...



fQCD 2025

More complete version see Jan's talk

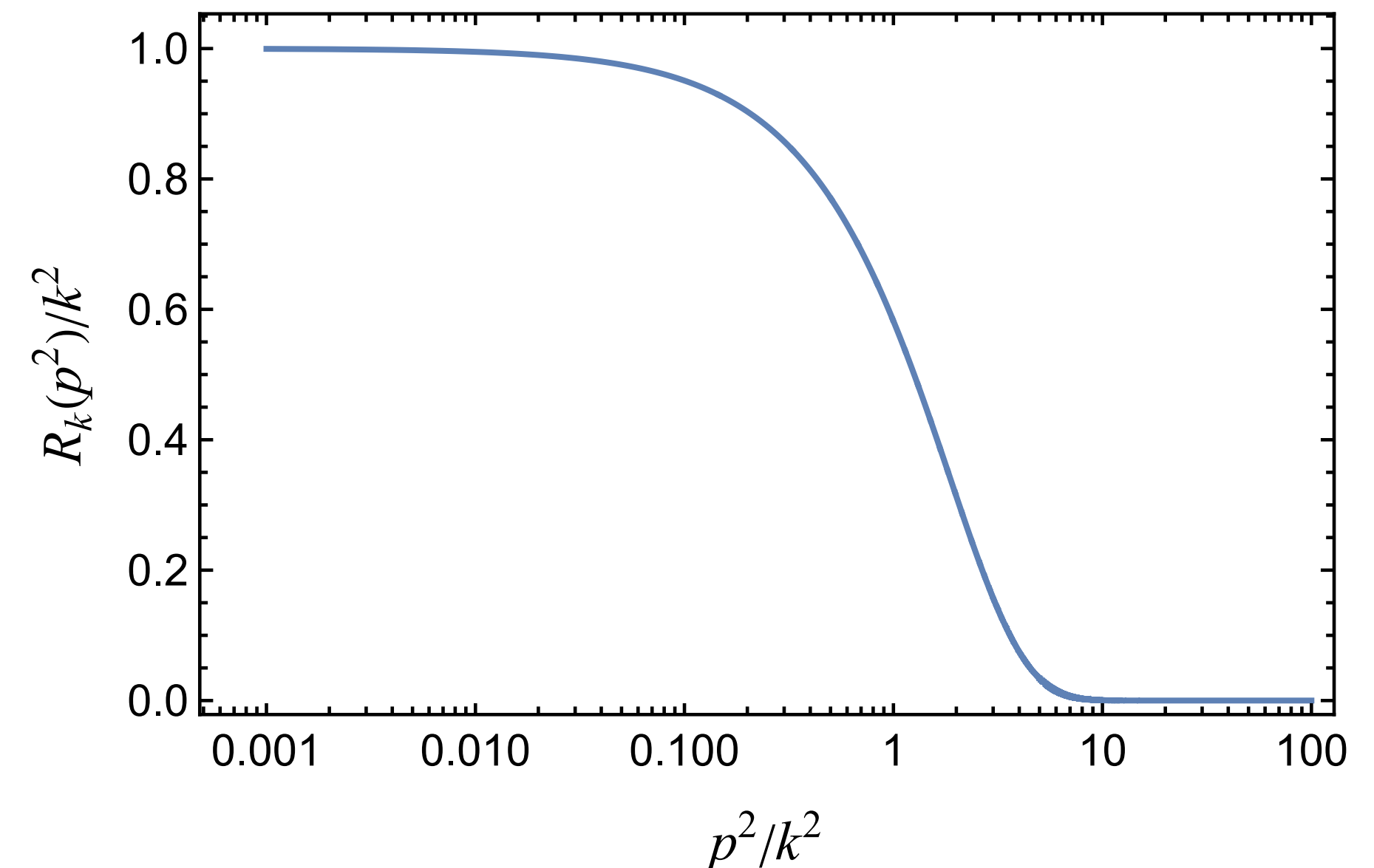
Functional renormalization group

Generating functional

$$\mathcal{Z}_k[J] = e^{W_k[J]} = \int_{\Lambda} \mathcal{D}\chi \, e^{-S[\chi] - \Delta S_k[\chi] + J \chi}$$

$$\Delta S_k[\phi] = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \phi(-q) R_k(q) \phi(q) \quad \text{A cutoff in two-point function}$$

- The modes for $p^2 \lesssim k^2$ are suppressed
- The modes for $p^2 \gtrsim k^2$ are unchanged

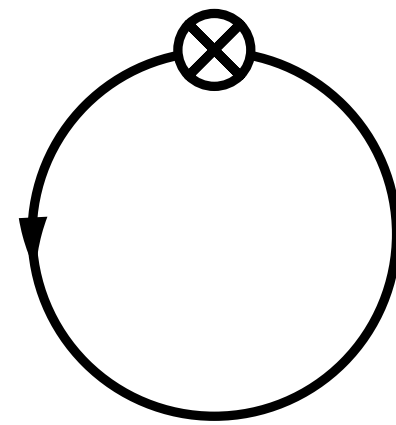


Functional renormalization group

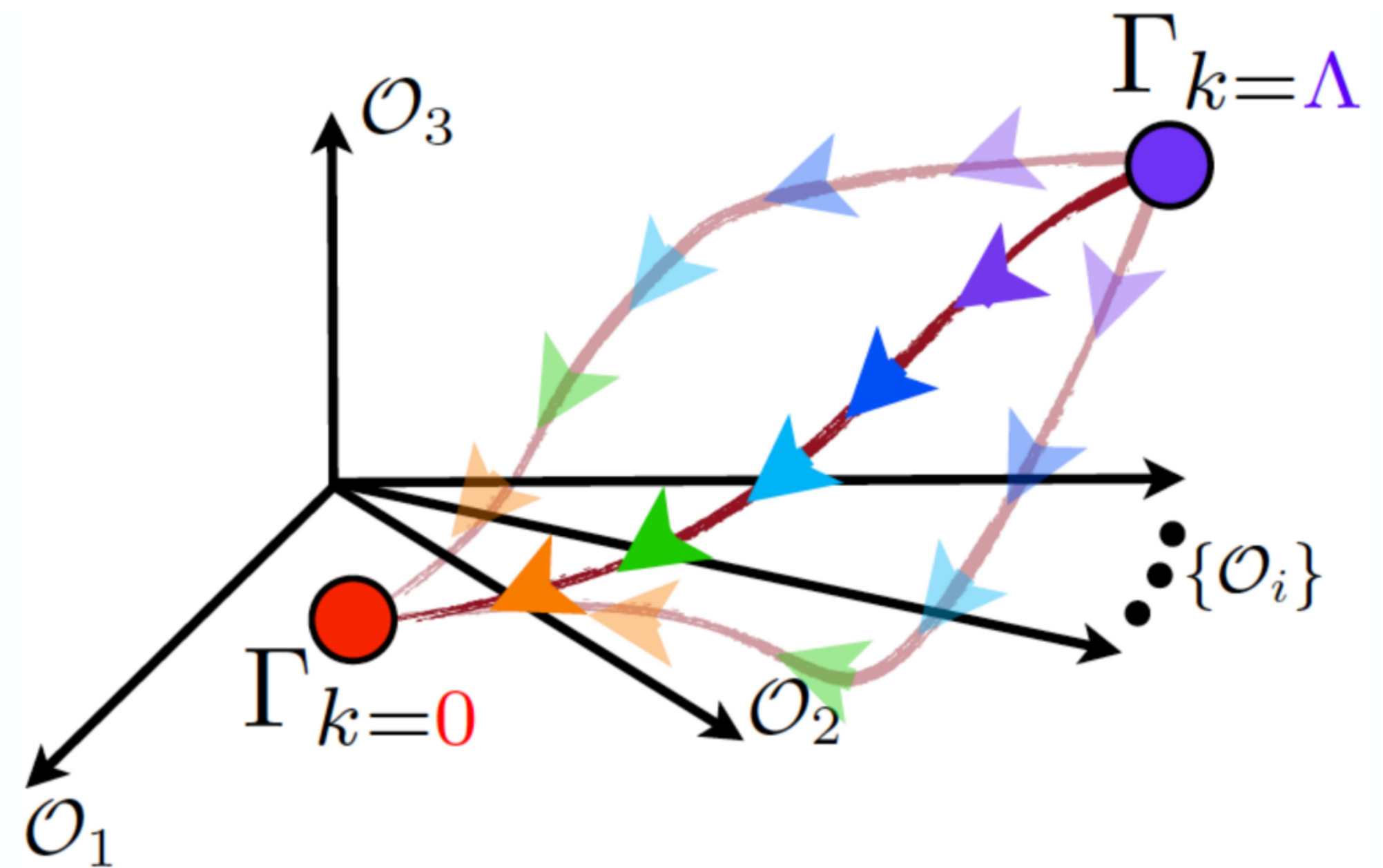
Wetterich Equation

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k[\phi] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \frac{1}{\Gamma_k^{(2)}[\phi] + R_k} \partial_t R_k$$

$$t = \ln\left(\frac{k}{\Lambda}\right)$$



- Different paths correspond to different regulation functions
- Regulators will not influence the infrared results



Functional renormalization group for QCD phase structure

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k[\Phi] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Gauge} - \text{Matter} + \frac{1}{2} \text{Gauge}$$

Gauge

Matter

$$\partial_t \longrightarrow^{-1} = \tilde{\partial}_t \left(\text{gluon self-energy} + \text{ghost self-energy} \right)$$

$$\partial_t \text{gluon}^{-1} = \tilde{\partial}_t \left(\text{gluon loop} - \frac{1}{2} \text{ghost loop} - \text{fermion loop} - \text{gluon tadpole} \right)$$

$$\partial_t \text{double line}^{-1} = \tilde{\partial}_t \left(-\text{fermion loop} + \text{gluon loop} - \frac{1}{2} \text{double line tadpole} \right)$$

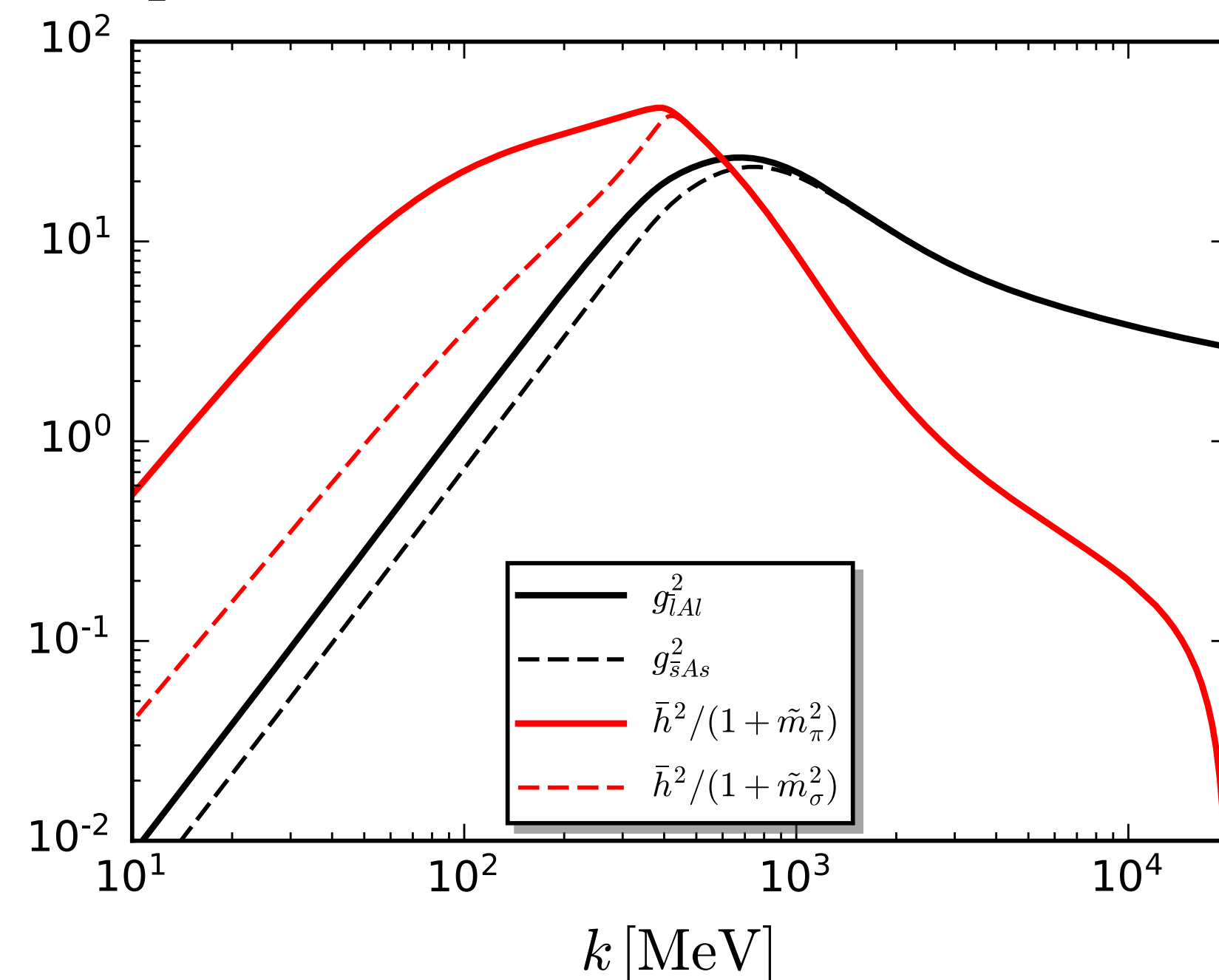
$$\partial_t \text{triangle} = \tilde{\partial}_t \left(-\text{triangle} - \text{triangle} - \text{triangle} \right)$$

$$\partial_t \text{cross} = \tilde{\partial}_t \left(-\text{triangle} - \text{triangle} - \text{triangle} \right)$$

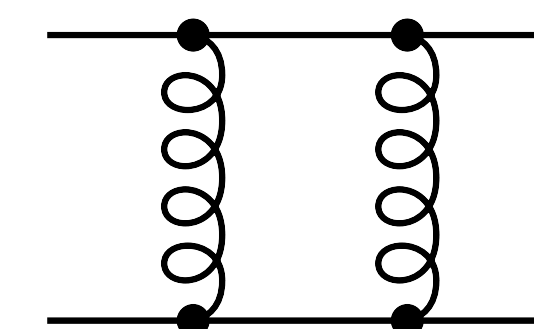
$$\partial_t \text{triangle} = \tilde{\partial}_t \left(-\text{triangle} - \text{triangle} + \text{triangle} + \text{triangle} \right)$$

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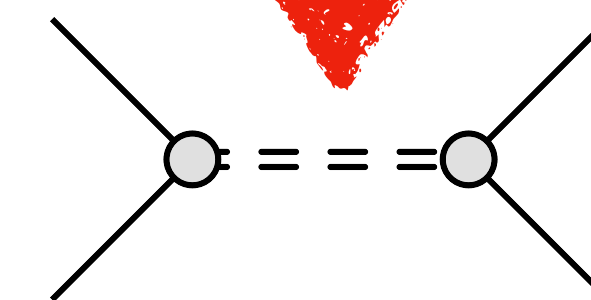


Fu, Rennecke, Pawłowski (2019)



Four-quark interaction

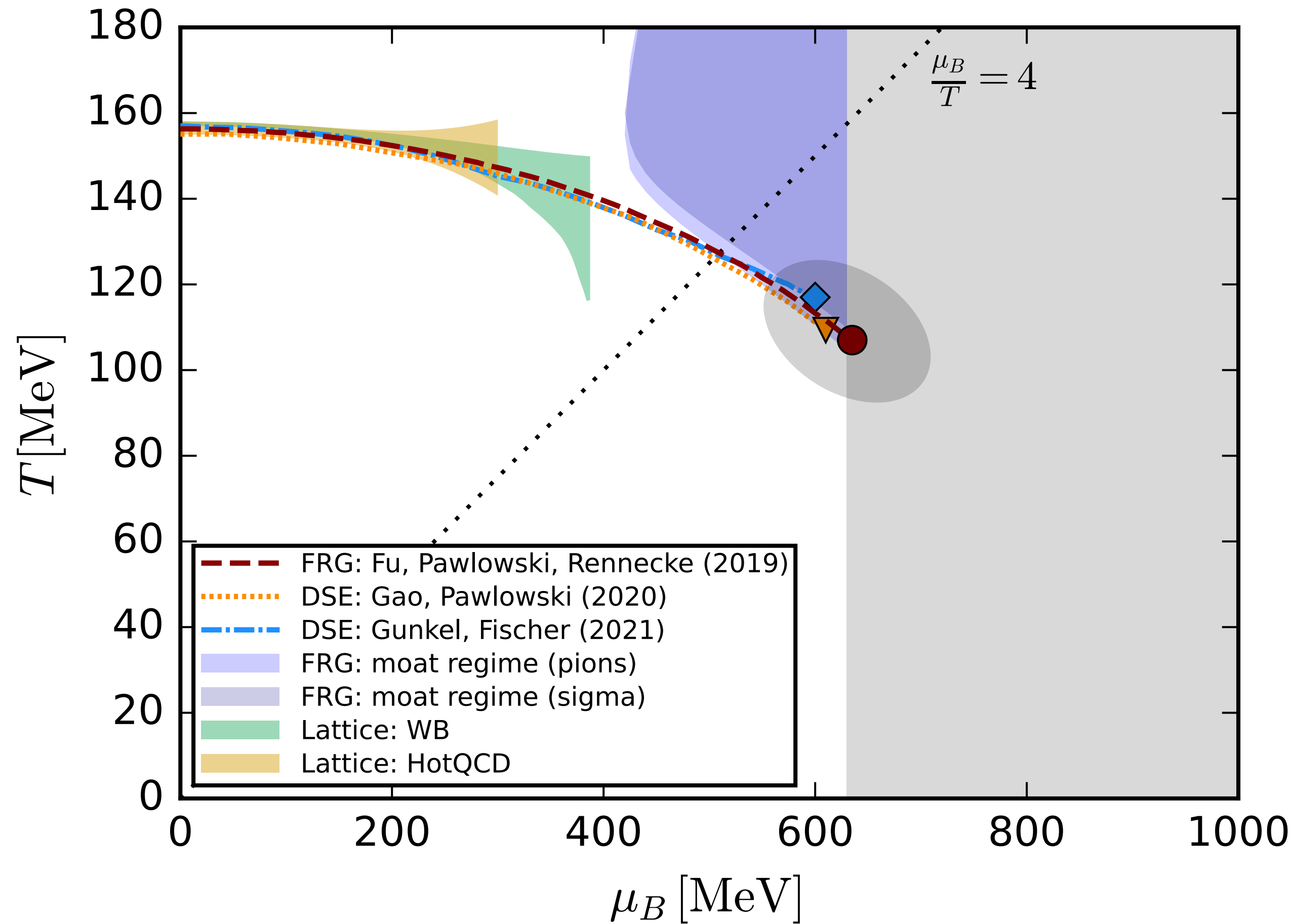
Dynamical hadronization



Yukawa coupling

Functional renormalization group for QCD phase structure

- Give the prediction of the phase boundary
- Try to have a better truncation at high density region (has little impact on the position of the CEP)
- High accuracy needed to have high-order thermodynamic quantities
- ...



fQCD 2025

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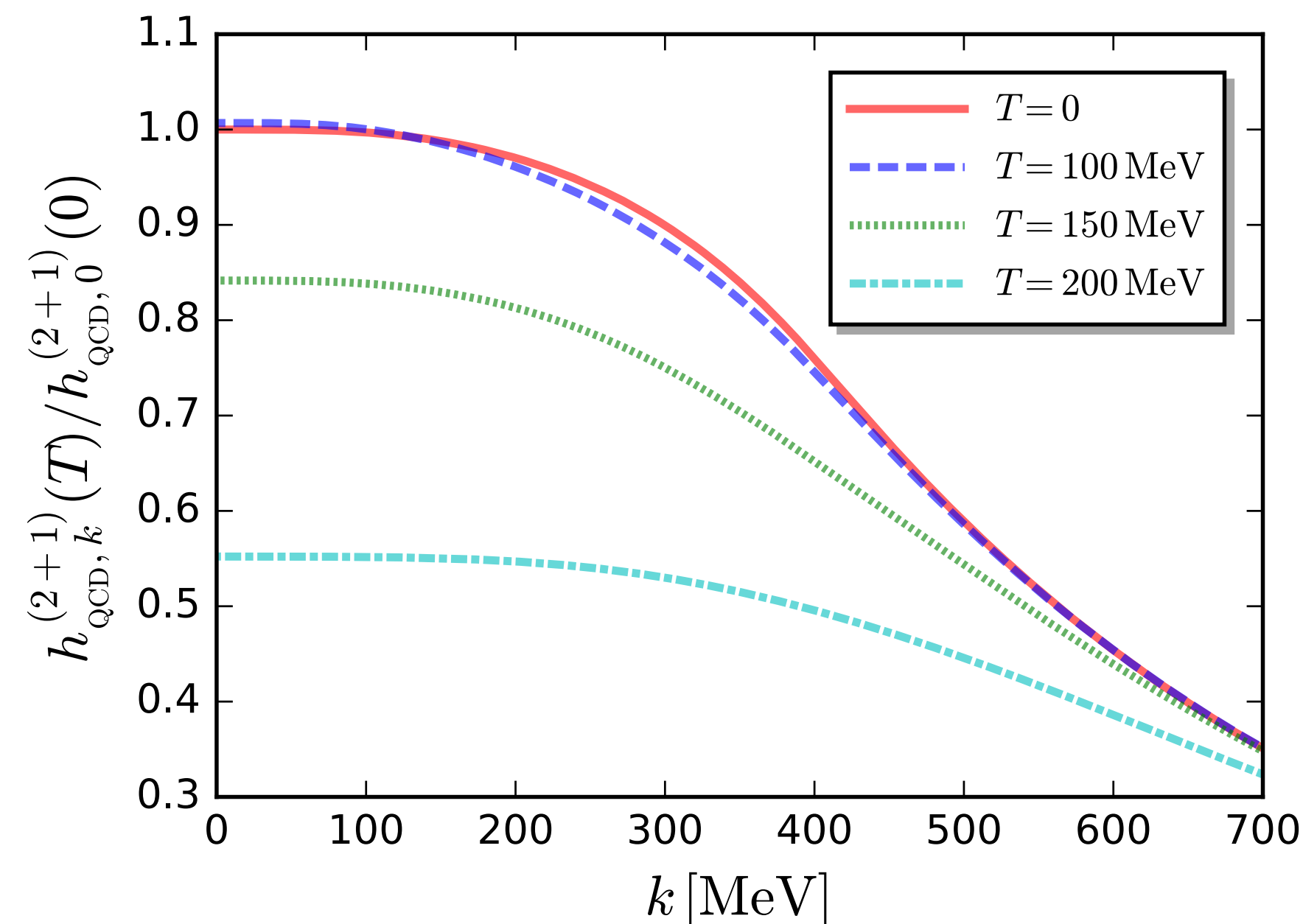
QCD-assisted LEFT

Effective action:

$$\Gamma_k = \int_x \left\{ Z_q \bar{q} [\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu - \gamma_0 (\mu + ig A_0)] q + \frac{1}{2} Z_\phi (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 \right. \\ \left. + h \bar{q} (T^0 \sigma + i \gamma_5 \vec{T} \cdot \vec{\pi}) + V_k(\rho) - c \sigma + V_{\text{glue}}(L, \bar{L}) \right\}$$

Together with some information from fRG-QCD:

Input from fRG-QCD



Flow equations:

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k[\Phi] = - \text{[Bubble Diagram]} + \frac{1}{2} \text{[Double Bubble Diagram]}$$

Baryon number fluctuations

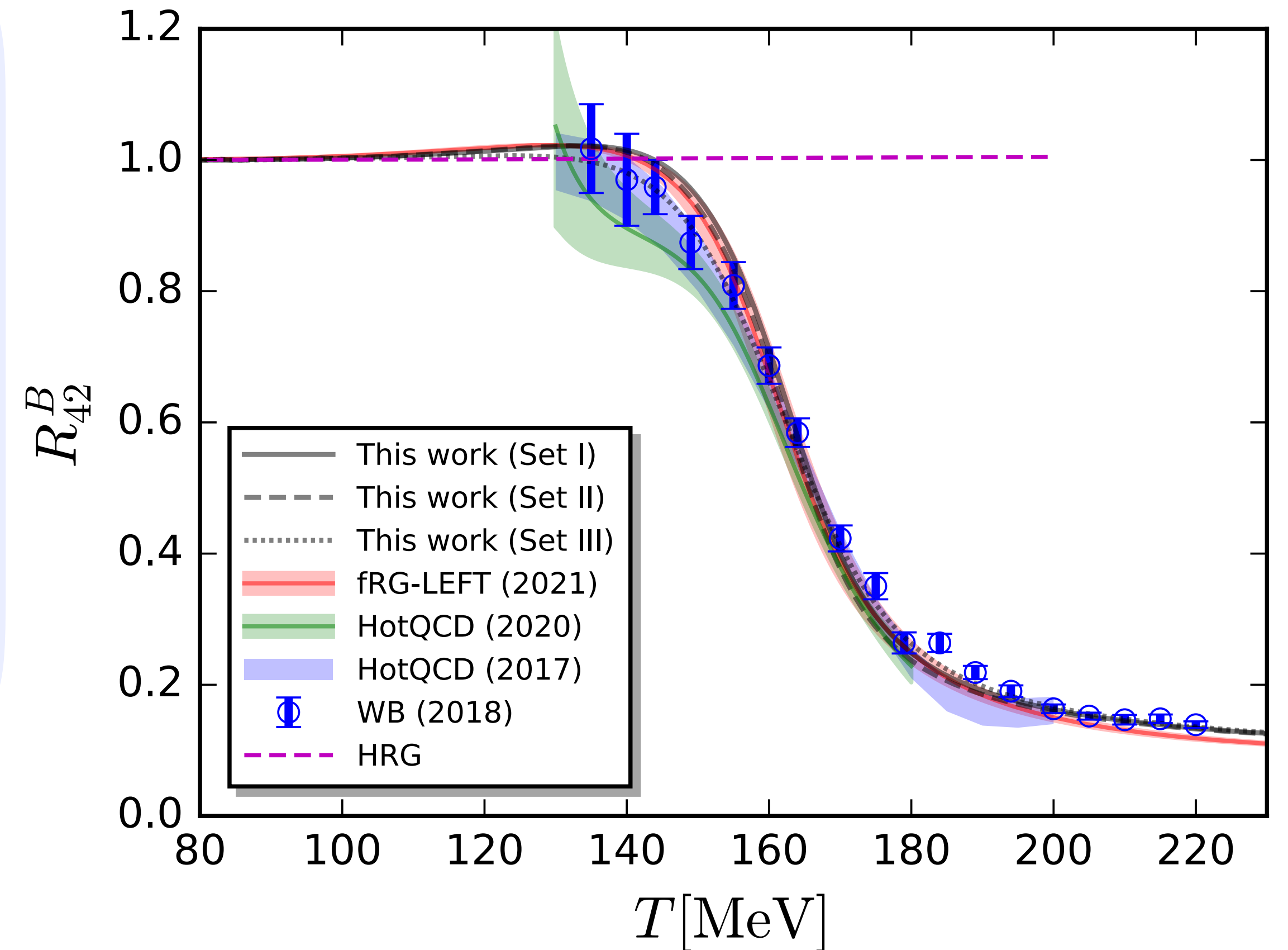
Pressure and Baryon number fluctuations:

$$p(T, \mu) = -\Omega(\mu, T)$$

$$\chi_n^B = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B^n} \frac{p}{T^4}, \quad \hat{\mu}_B = \frac{\mu_B}{T}$$

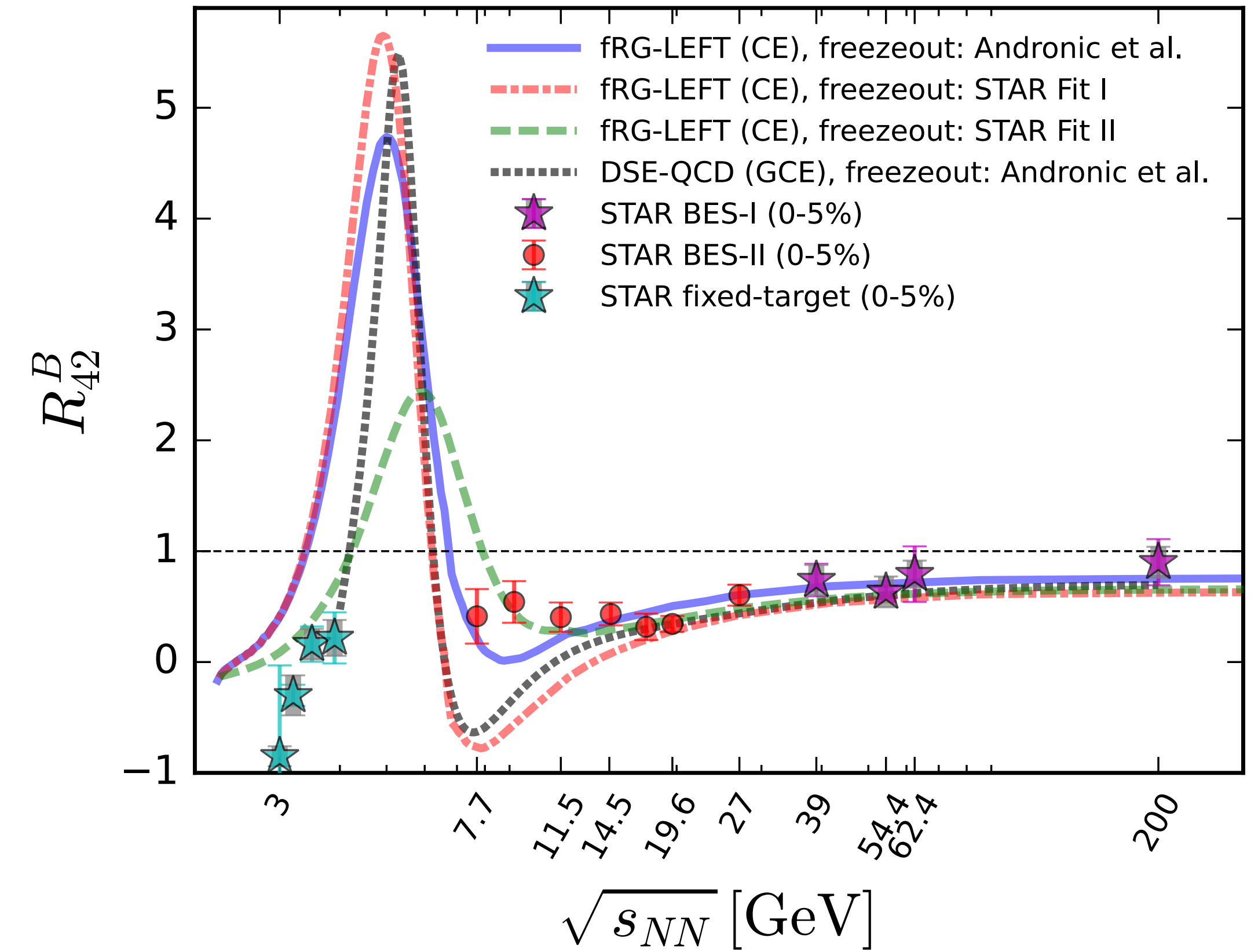
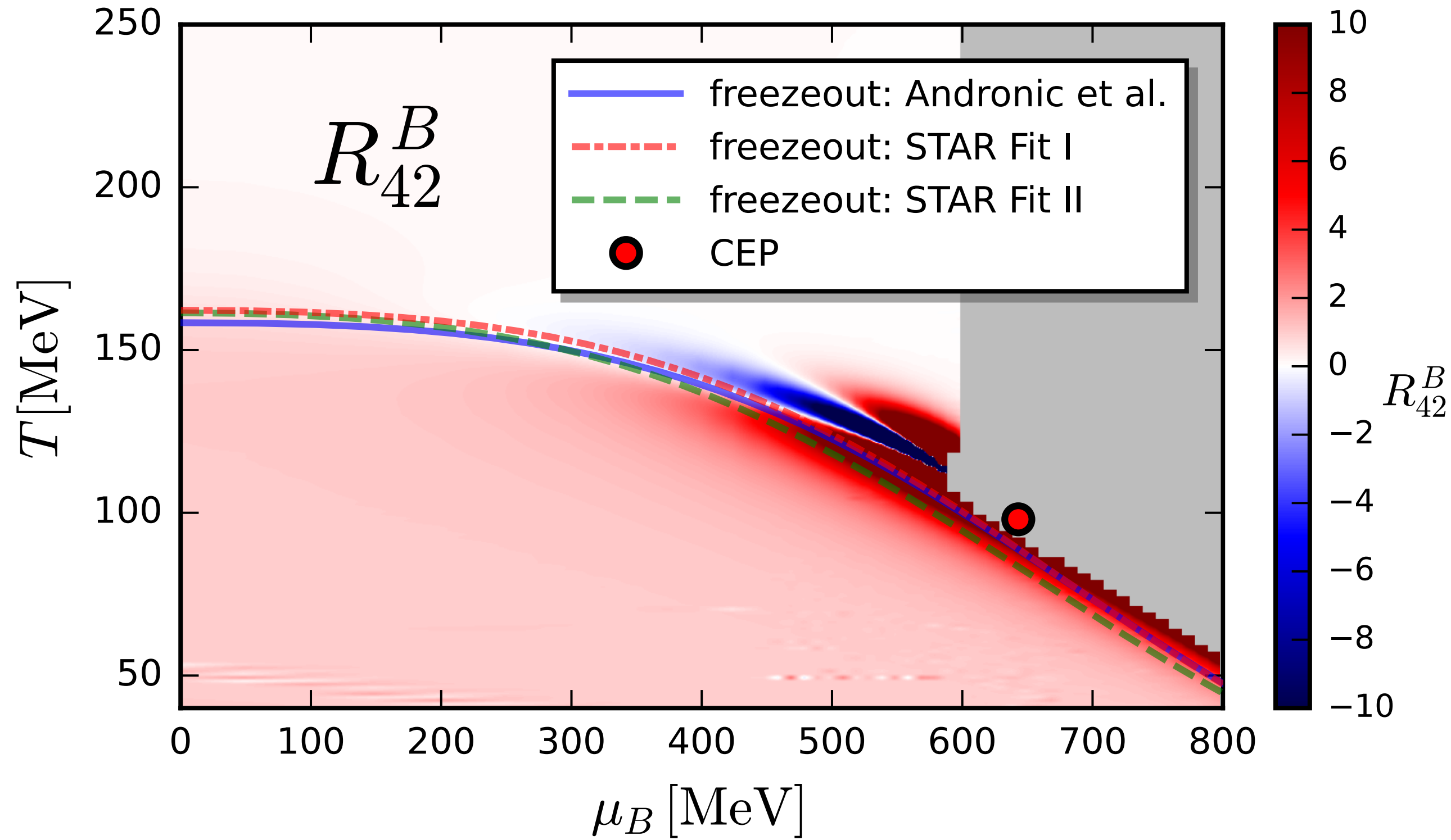
$$R_{m,n}^B = \frac{\chi_m^B}{\chi_n^B}$$

- The baryon number fluctuations at vanishing chemical potential can be used as Taylor coefficients



Fu, Luo, Pawłowski, Rennecke, SY (2024)

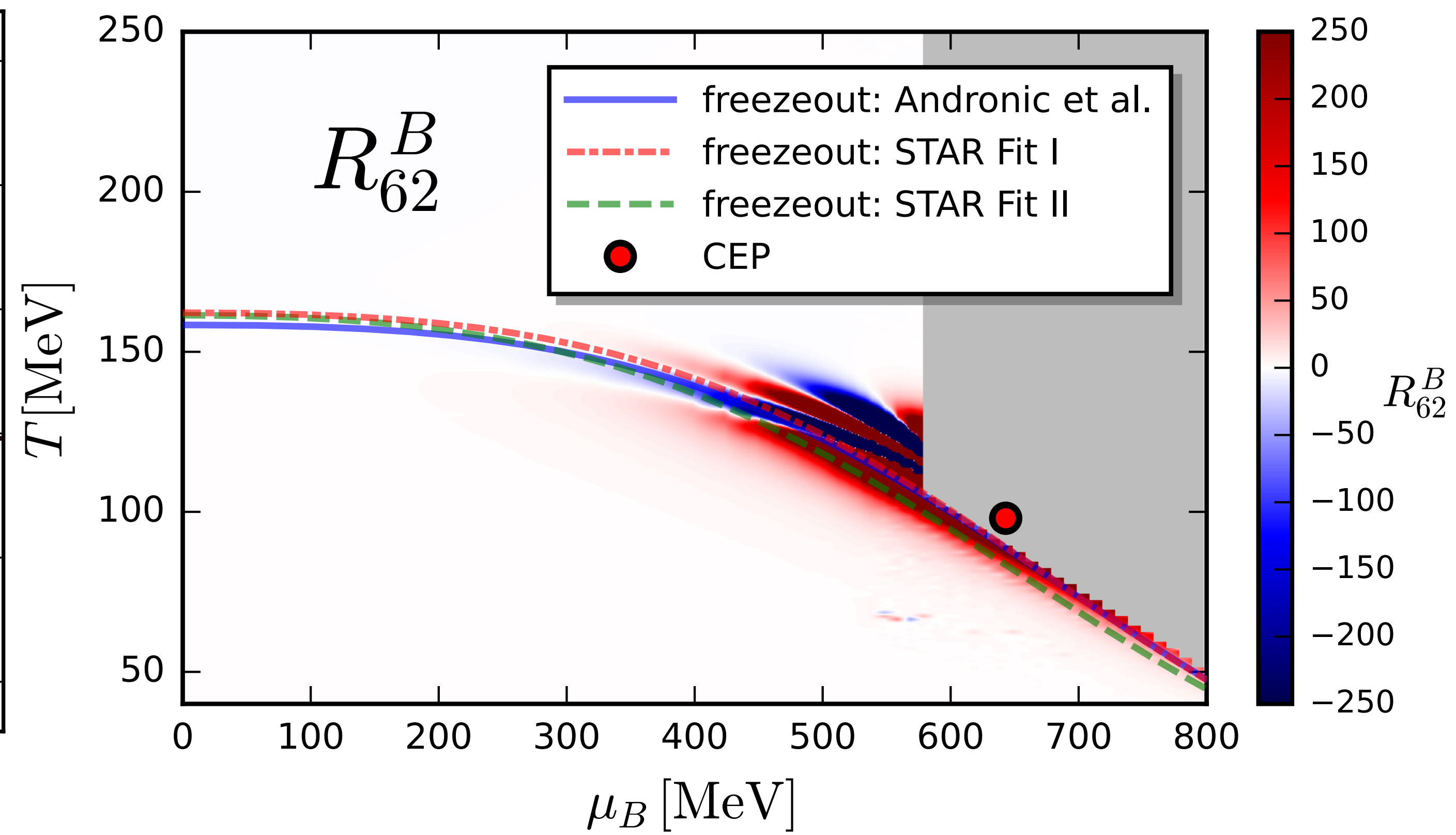
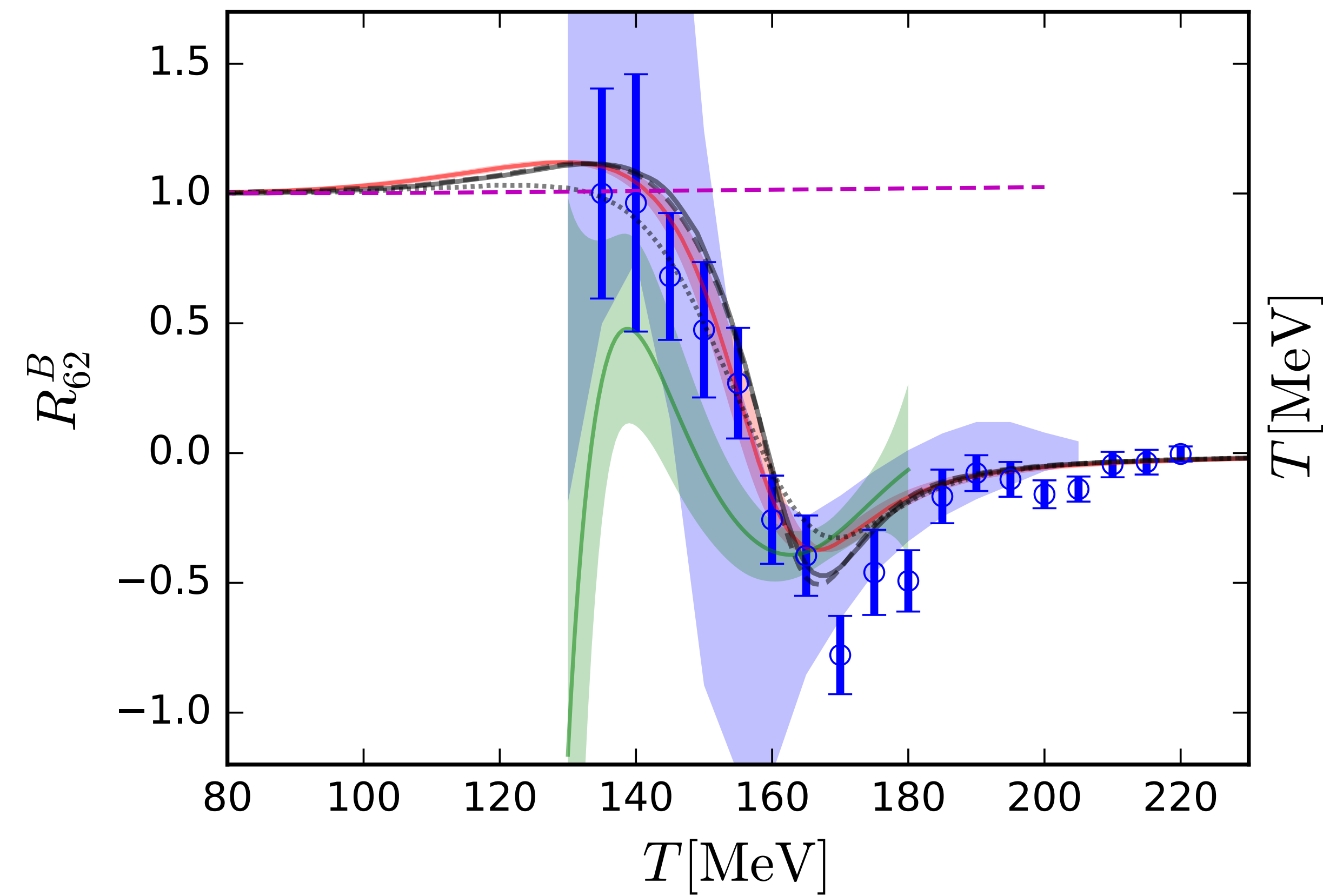
Predictions



Fu, Luo, Pawlowski, Rennecke, SY (2024)

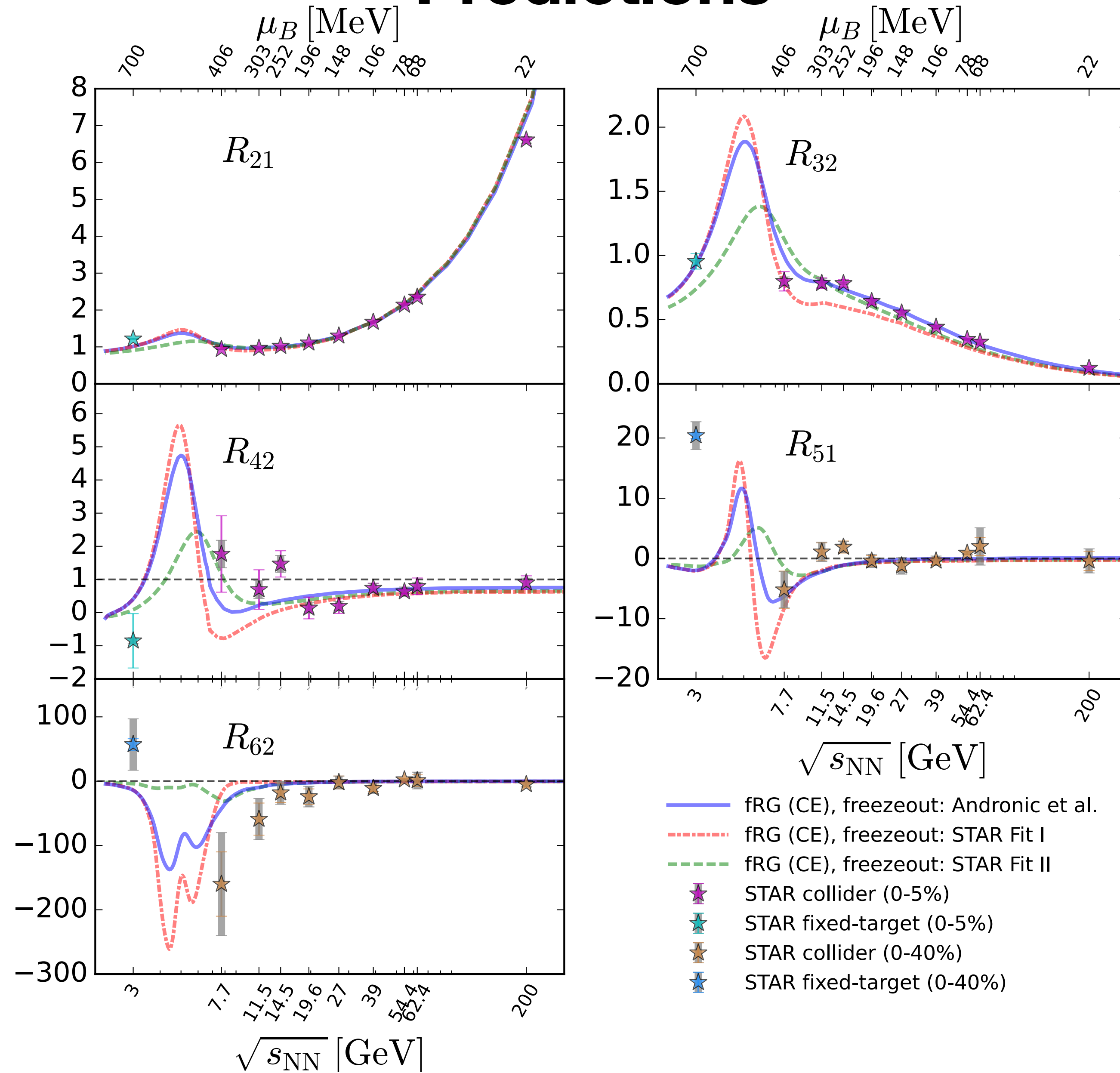
Predictions

$$\mu_B = 0$$



Fu, Luo, Pawłowski, Rennecke, SY (2024)

Predictions



Fu, Luo, Pawlowski, Rennecke, SY (2024)

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Idea of this work

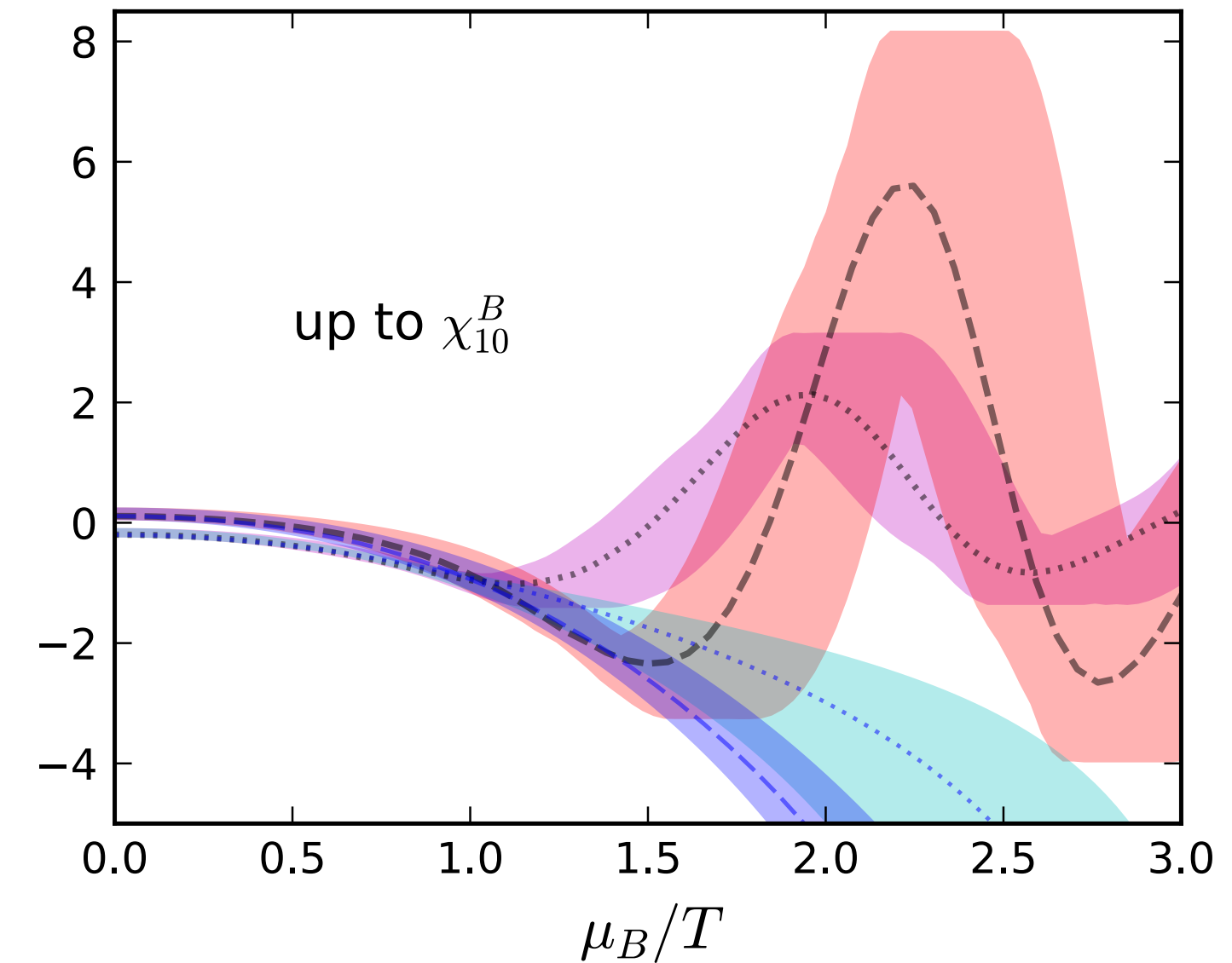
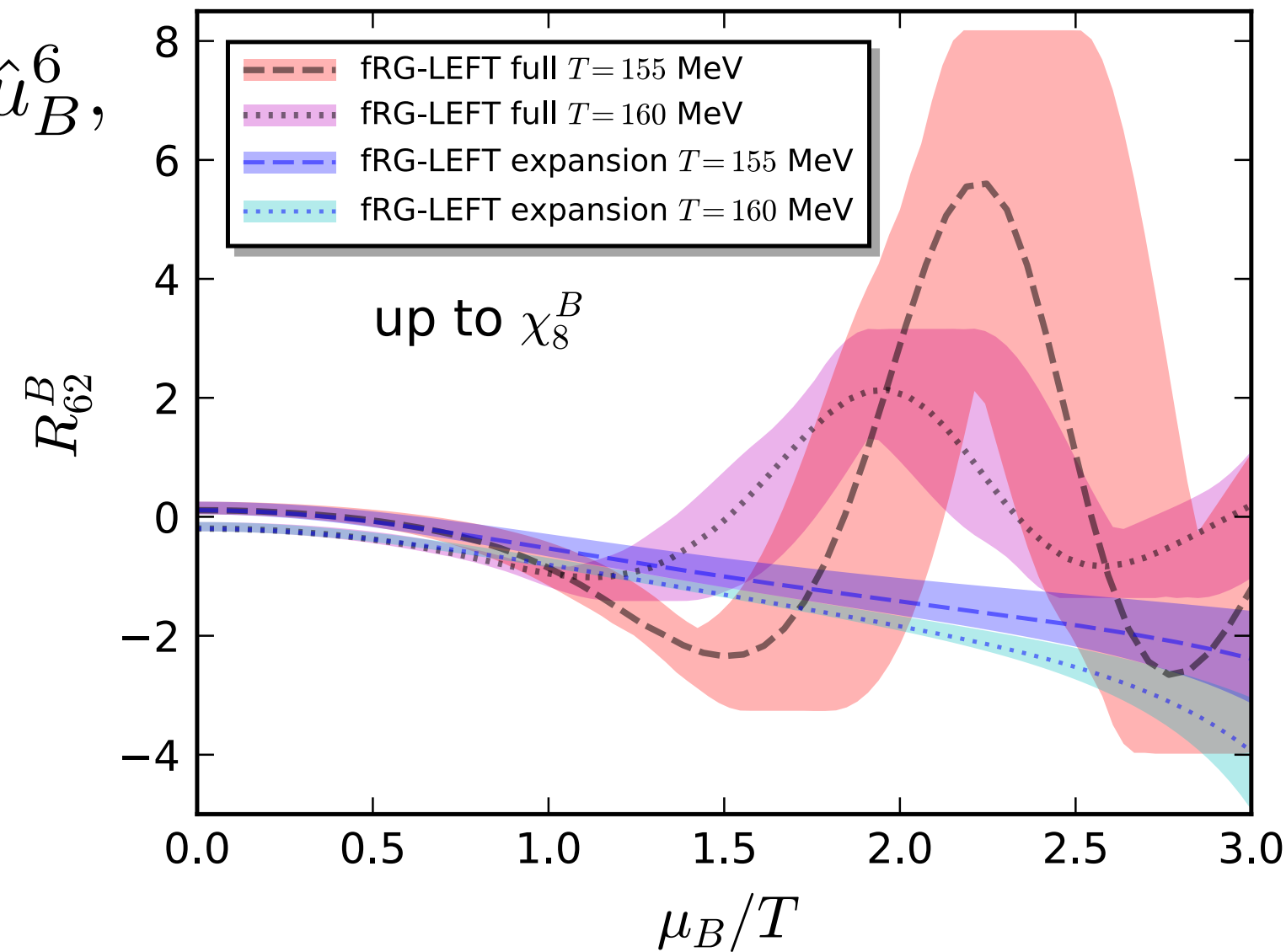
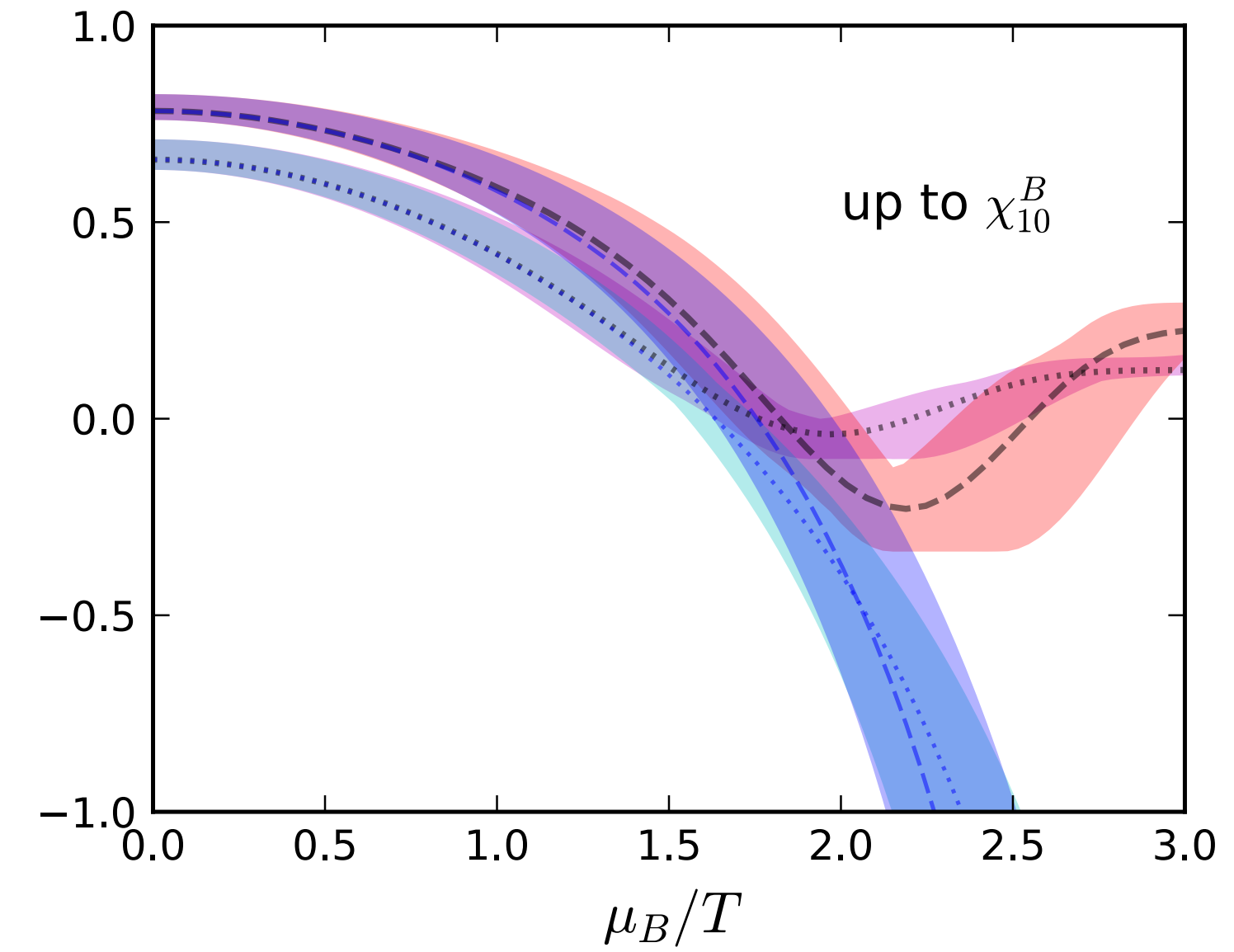
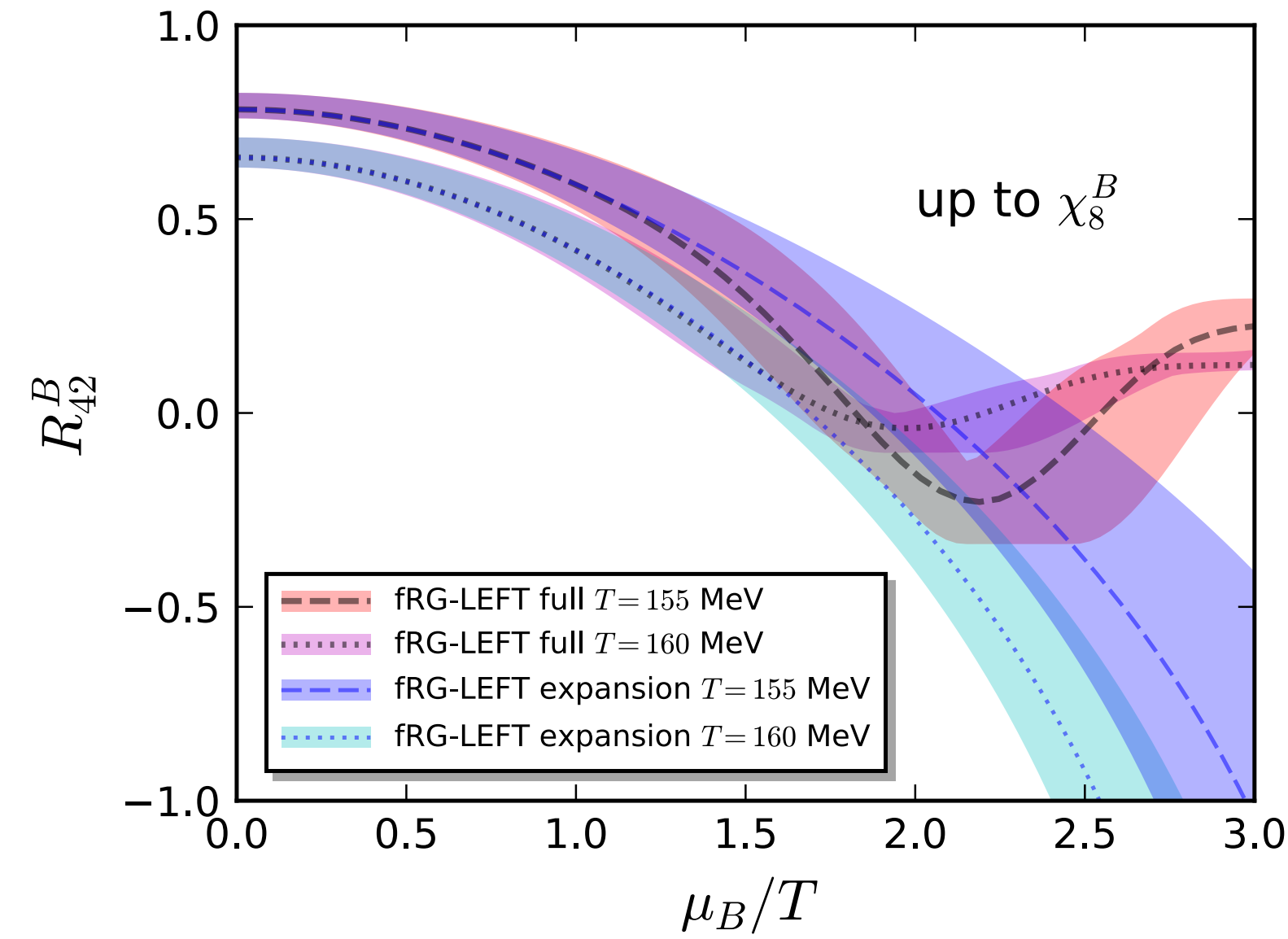
Taylor Expansion:

$$\frac{p(\mu_B)}{T^4} = \frac{p(0)}{T^4} + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\chi_{2i}^B(0)}{(2i)!} \hat{\mu}_B^{2i}$$

$$\chi_2^B(\mu_B) \simeq \chi_2^B(0) + \frac{\chi_4^B}{2!} \hat{\mu}_B^2 + \frac{\chi_6^B}{4!} \hat{\mu}_B^4 + \frac{\chi_8^B(0)}{6!} \hat{\mu}_B^6,$$

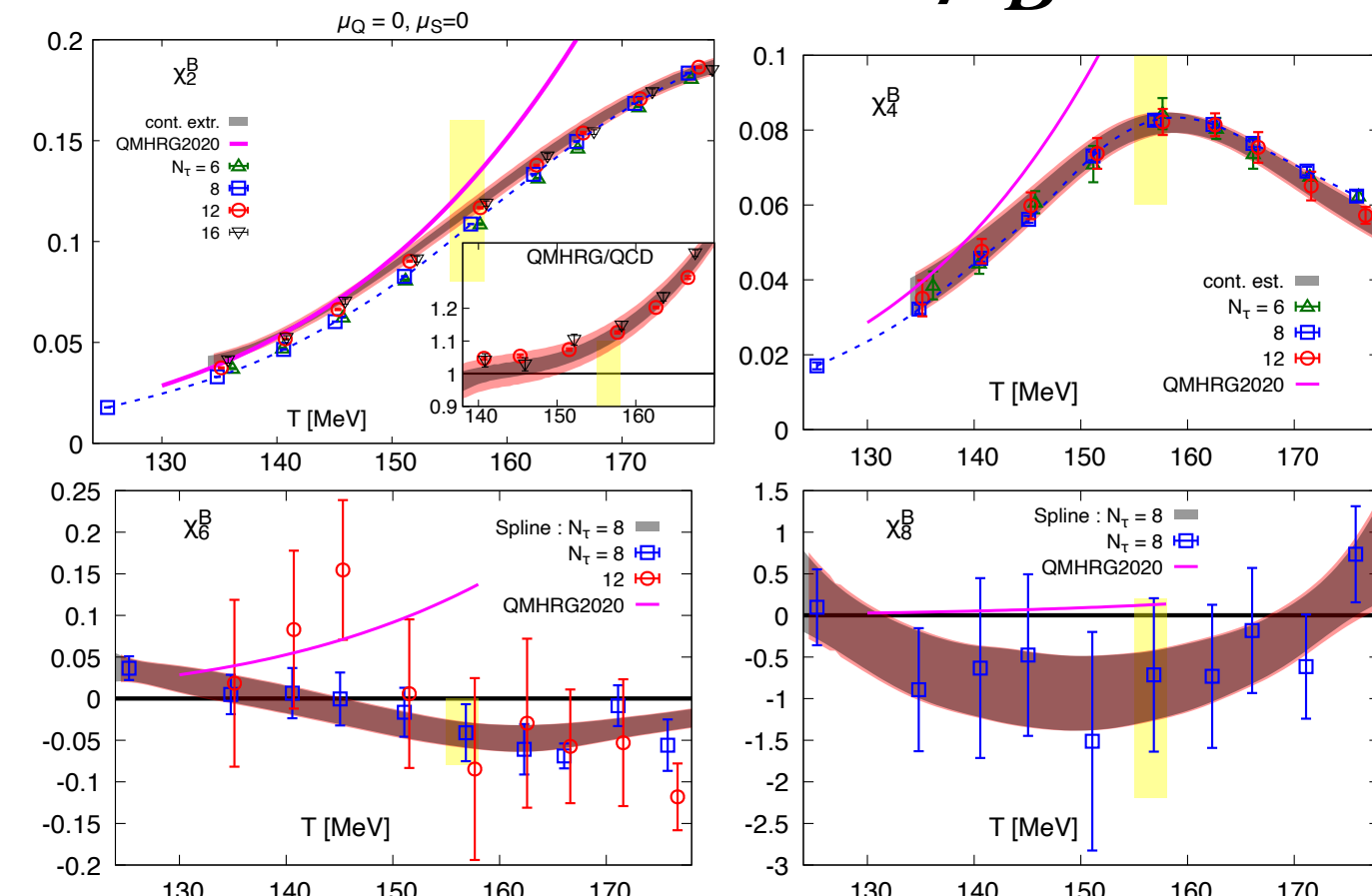
$$\chi_4^B(\mu_B) \simeq \chi_4^B(0) + \frac{\chi_6^B}{2!} \hat{\mu}_B^2 + \frac{\chi_8^B}{4!} \hat{\mu}_B^4,$$

$$\chi_6^B(\mu_B) \simeq \chi_6^B(0) + \frac{\chi_8^B}{2!} \hat{\mu}_B^2.$$



Idea of this work

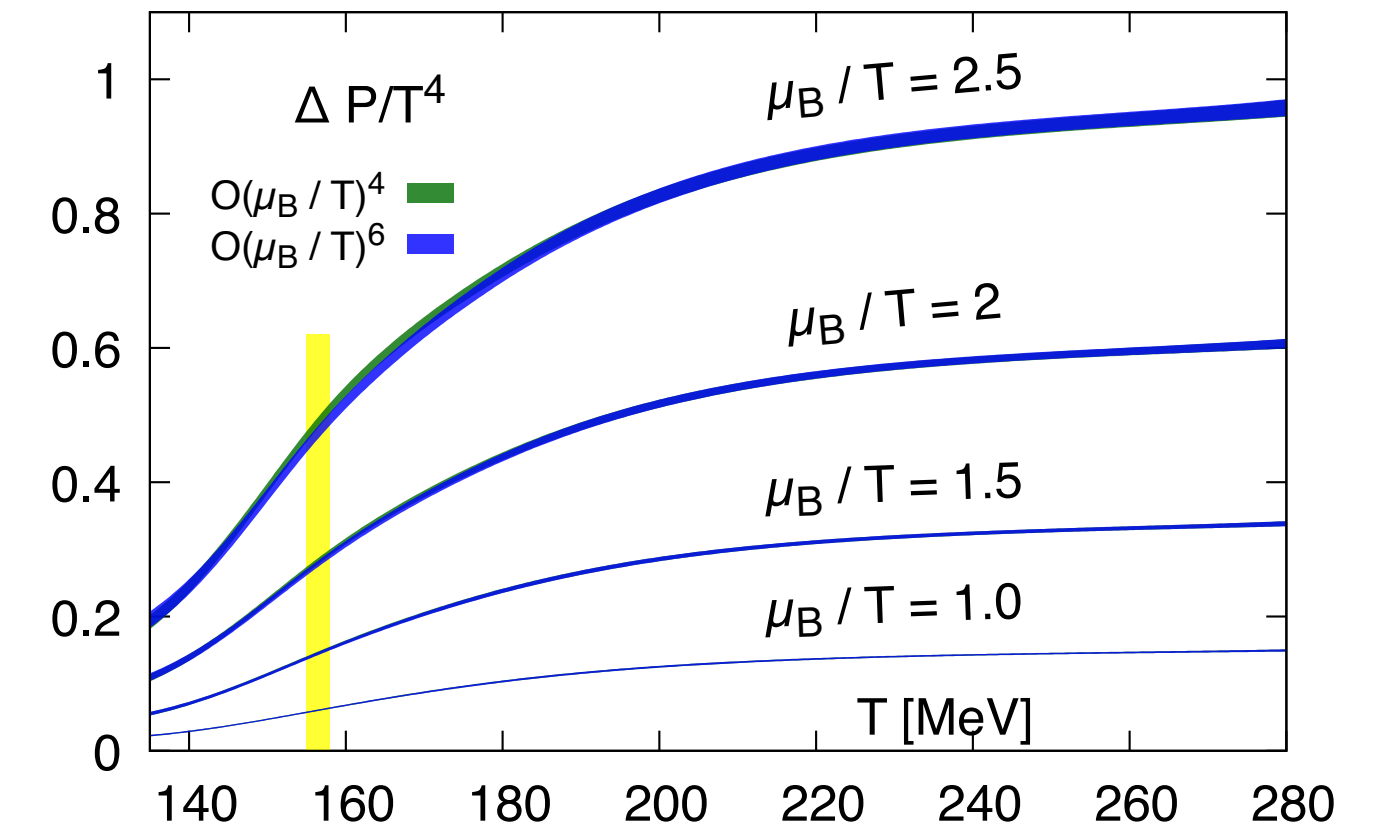
Lattice QCD at $\mu_B = 0$



Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022) 7, 074511

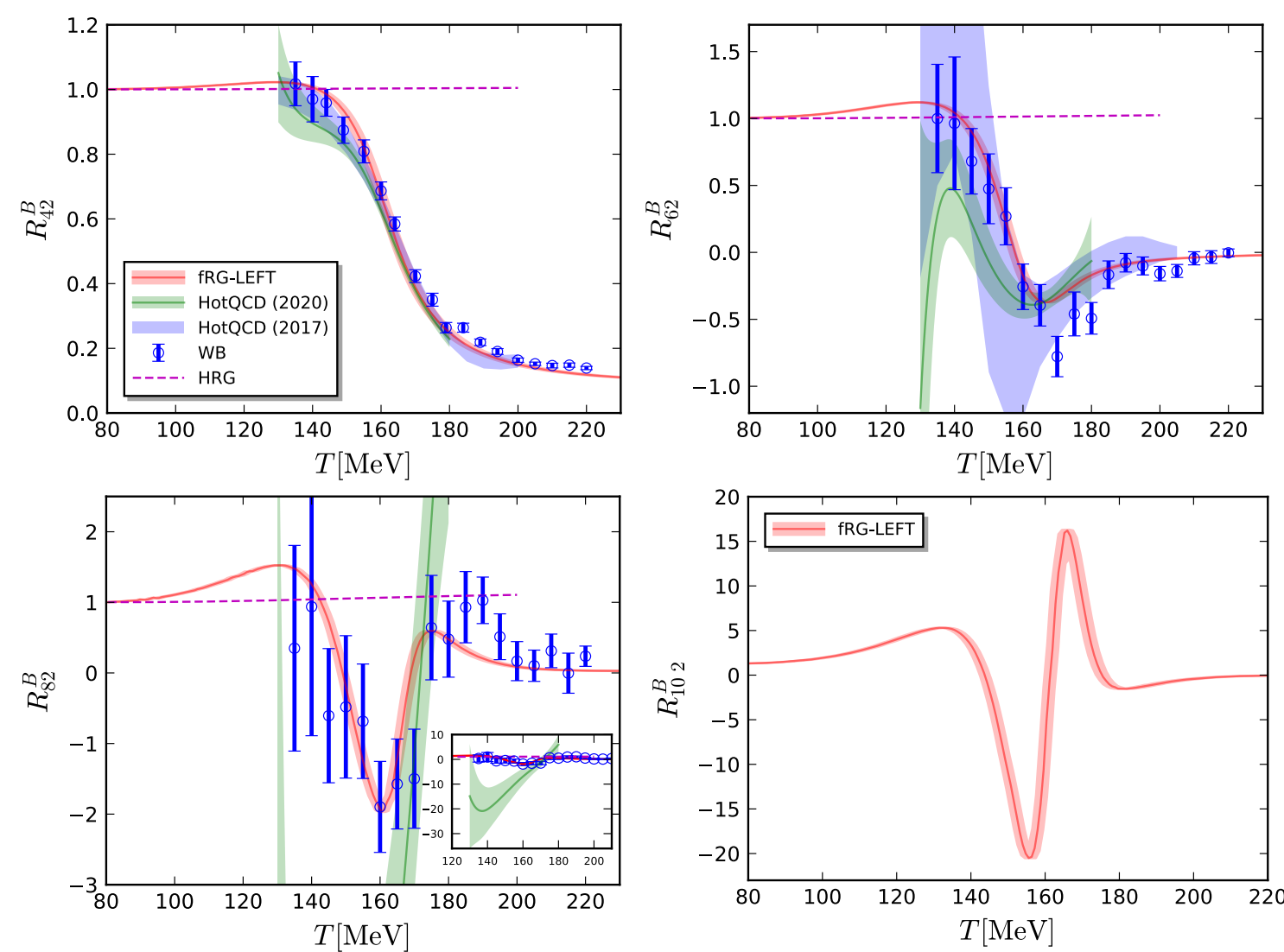
Finite μ_B

$\mu_Q = \mu_S = 0$



Extrapolation

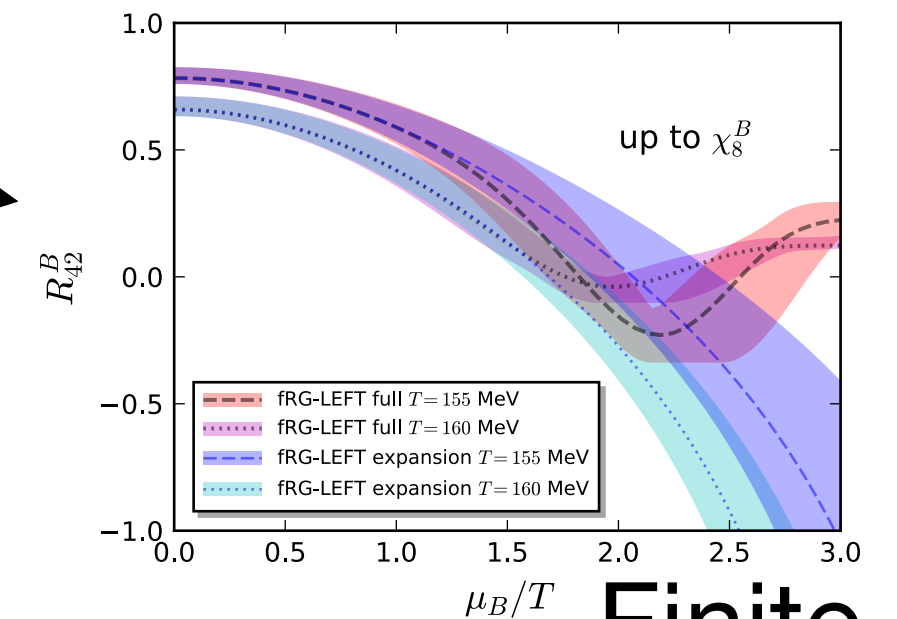
fRG at $\mu_B = 0$



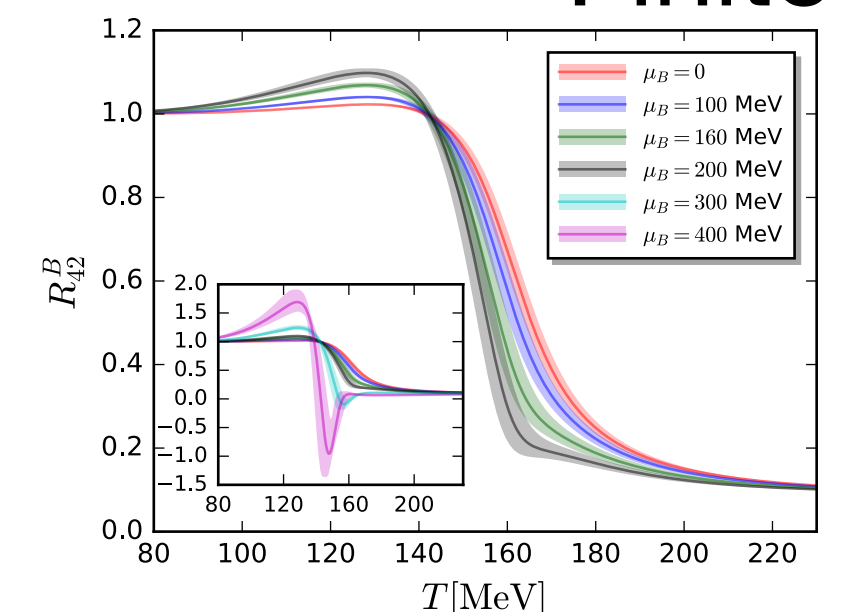
Extrapolation

Compare

Direct calculation

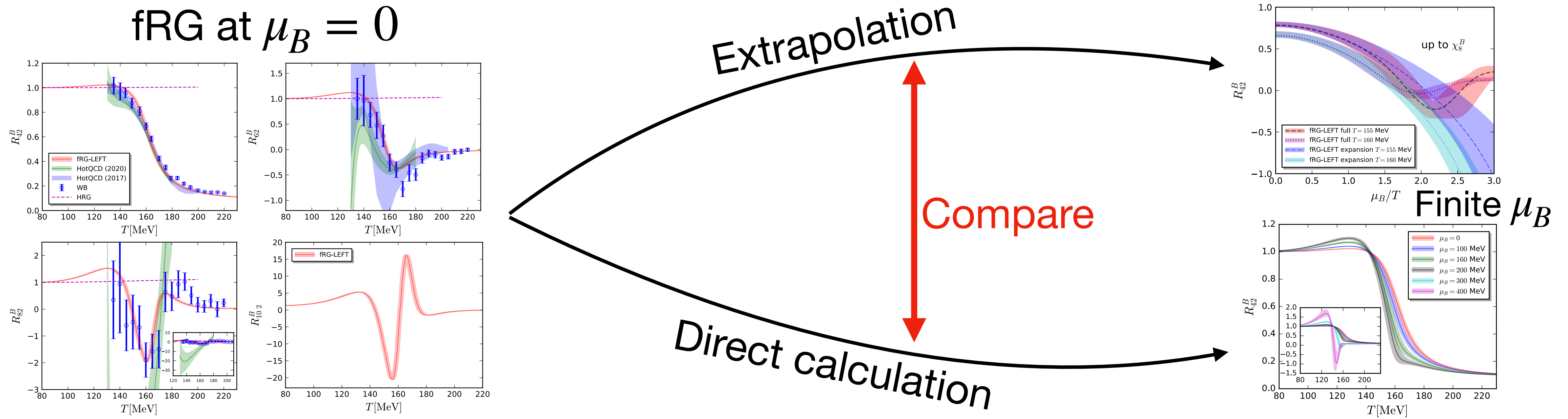


Finite μ_B



Idea of this work

- Match fRG results with lattice QCD results at 0 chemical potential
- Estimate how large is the range that the extrapolation results match with the direct computed results



Polyakov-Quark-Meson (PQM) Model

Effective action:

$$\Gamma_k = \int_x \left\{ Z_q \bar{q} [\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu - \gamma_0 (\mu + ig A_0)] q + \frac{1}{2} Z_\phi (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 \right. \\ \left. + h \bar{q} (T^0 \sigma + i \gamma_5 \vec{T} \cdot \vec{\pi}) + V_k(\rho) - c\sigma + V_{\text{glue}}(L, \bar{L}) \right\}$$

Here we use Local potential approximation (LPA):

$$\partial_t Z_{q/\phi} = 0$$

$$\partial_t h = 0$$

We only consider a simple computation of the effective potential.

Effective potential

Flow equation of effective potential:

$$\partial_t V_k(\rho) = \frac{k^4}{4\pi^2} \left[3 l_0^{(B)}(m_\pi^2; T) + l_0^{(B)}(m_\sigma^2; T) - 4N_c N_f l_0^{(F)}(m_f^2; \mu, T) \right]$$

The fermion loop for real and imaginary chemical potential

$$\begin{aligned} l_0^{(F)}(m_f^2; \mu, T) &= \frac{k}{3\sqrt{k^2 + m_f^2}} \left(1 - n_F(m_f^2; \mu, T; L, \bar{L}) - \bar{n}_F(m_f^2; -\mu, T; L, \bar{L}) \right) \\ &= \frac{k}{3\sqrt{k^2 + m_f^2}} \left(1 - 2 \operatorname{Re} \left(n_F(m_f^2; \mu, T; L, \bar{L}) \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Ensure the T and curvature are the same with lattice

$$\begin{aligned} T_{QCD}^{(N_f=2+1)} &= c_T T_{PQM}^{(N_f=2)} \\ \mu_{B_{QCD}}^{(N_f=2+1)} &= c_\mu \mu_{B_{PQM}}^{(N_f=2)} \end{aligned}$$

Expansion methods

Methods:

A. Taylor Expansion

B. Padé Approximant

C. T' Expansion

- A. Taylor Expansion
- B. Padé Approximant
- C. T' Expansion

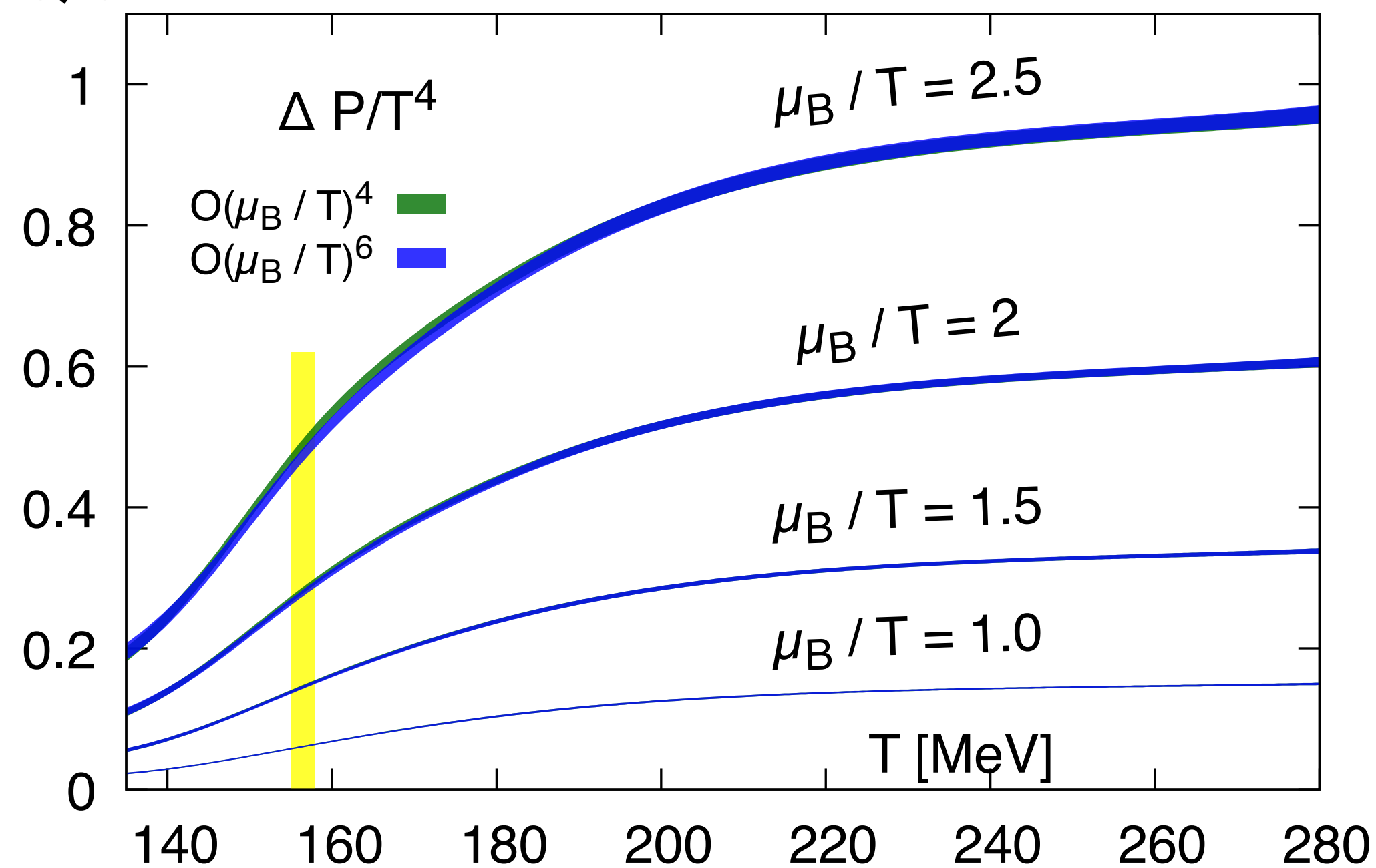
Extrapolation to finite density

A. Taylor Expansion of the pressure:

$$\frac{p(T, \hat{\mu}_B) - p(T, 0)}{T^4} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n)!} \chi_{2n}^B(T, 0) \hat{\mu}_B^{2n}$$

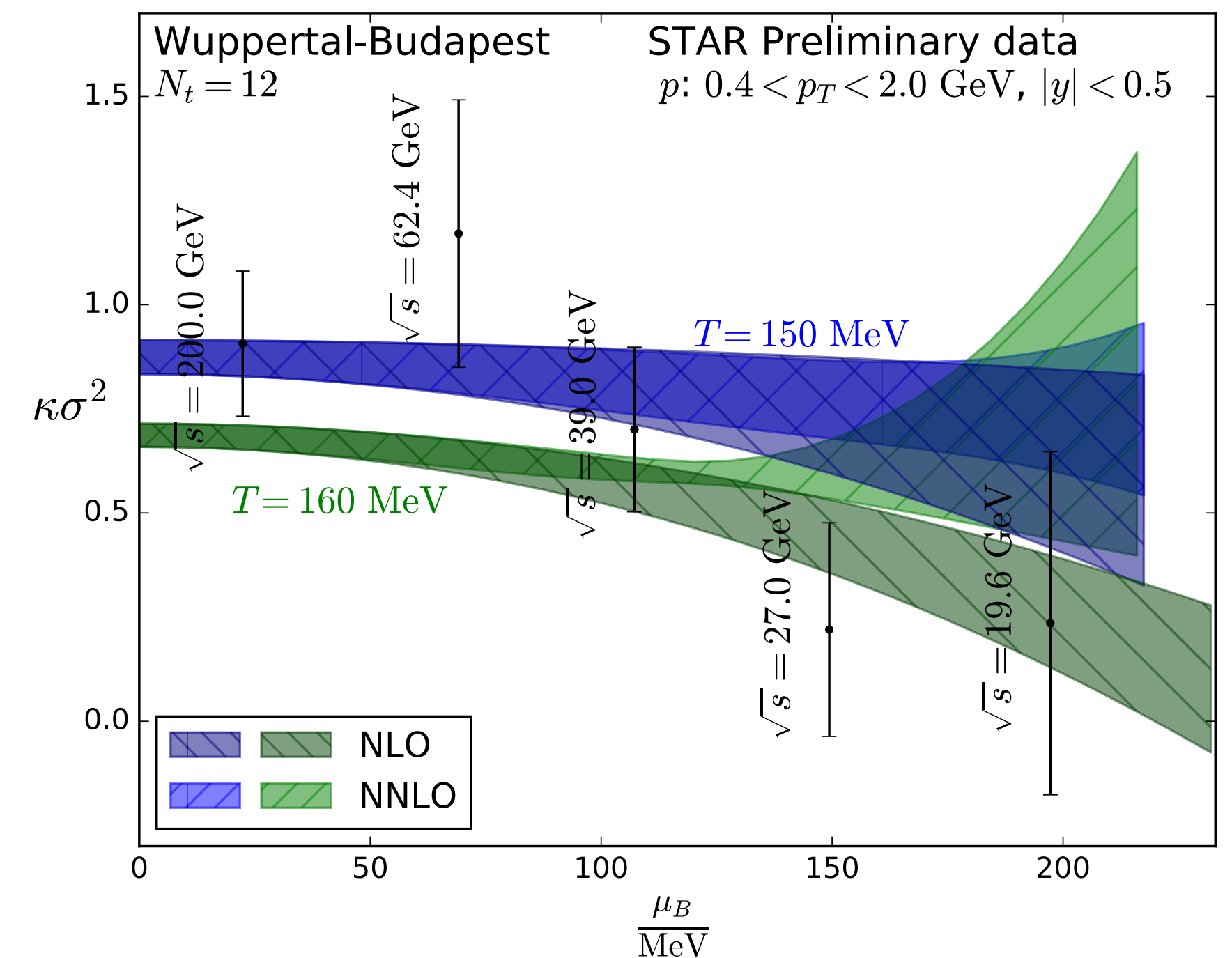
HotQCD:

$$\mu_Q = \mu_S = 0$$



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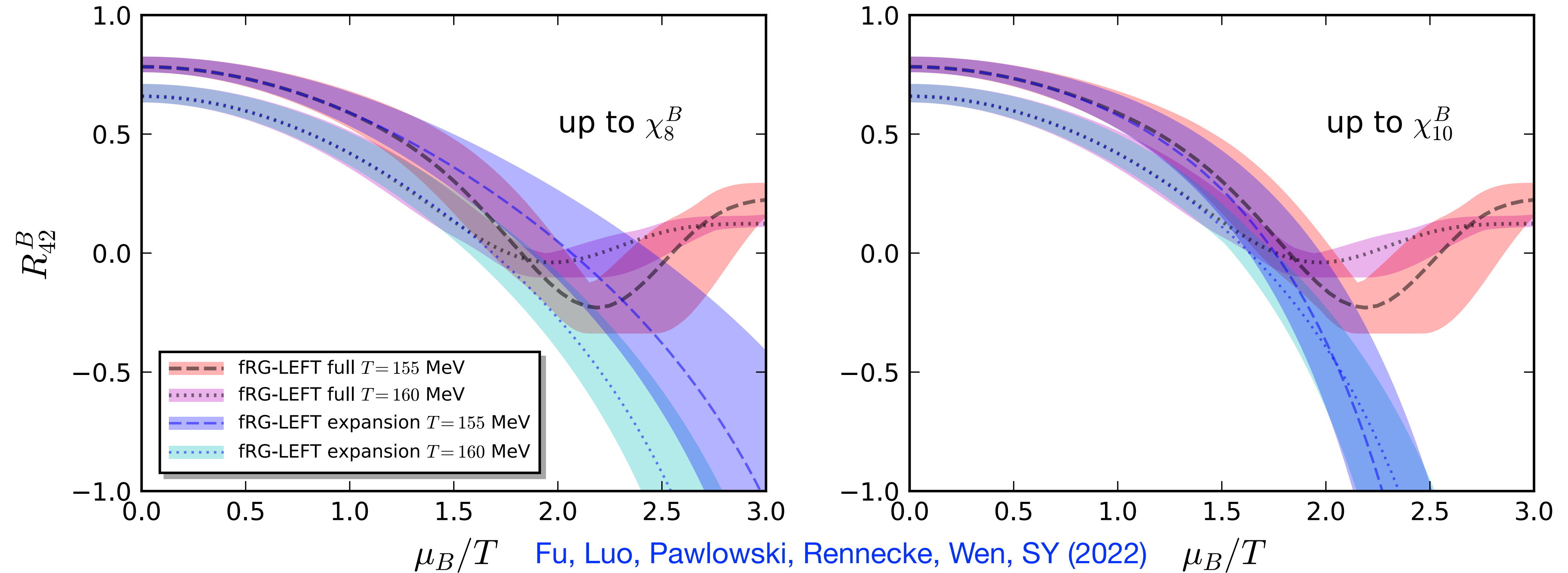
WB:



JHEP 10, 205 (2018)

- A. Taylor Expansion
- B. Padé Approximant
- C. T' Expansion

Example of Taylor Expansion



- Direct calculation vs Taylor expansion of R_{42}^B
- The R_{42}^B around T_{pc} exhibits strong fluctuations at high chemical potential, which are difficult to capture with a finite-order Taylor expansion

- A. Taylor Expansion
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Extrapolation to finite density

B. Padé approximant:

$$P[m, n] = \frac{p(T, \hat{\mu}_B) - p(T, 0)}{T^4} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n/2} a_i \hat{\mu}_B^{2i}}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{m/2} b_j \hat{\mu}_B^{2j}}$$

Here the coefficients a_i and b_i are determined by

$$\frac{\partial^i P[m, n]}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B^i} = \chi_i^B$$

- When $m=0$ the Padé approximant will go back to Taylor expansion
- The poles of Padé approximant can be used to estimate the convergence radius of Taylor expansion

- A. Taylor Expansion
- B. Padé Approximant
- C. T' Expansion

Extrapolation to finite density

Ratio estimator: (the poles of P[2,n])

$$r_{c,2n}^{\text{ratio}} = \left| \frac{(2n+1)(2n+2)\chi_{2n}^B}{\chi_{2n+2}^B} \right|^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Mercer-Roberts estimator: (the poles of P[4,n])

$$r_{c,2n}^{\text{MR}} = \left| \left[\frac{\chi_{2n+2}^B \chi_{2n-2}^B}{(2n+2)!(2n-2)!} - \left(\frac{\chi_{2n}^B}{(2n)!} \right)^2 \right] \right|^{\frac{1}{4}} \left| \left[\frac{\chi_{2n}^B \chi_{2n+4}^B}{(2n)!(2n+4)!} - \left(\frac{\chi_{2n+2}^B}{(2n+2)!} \right)^2 \right] \right|^{-\frac{1}{4}}$$

- The estimators are given by the poles of the Padé approximant
- They can give an approximate convergence radius of Taylor expansion

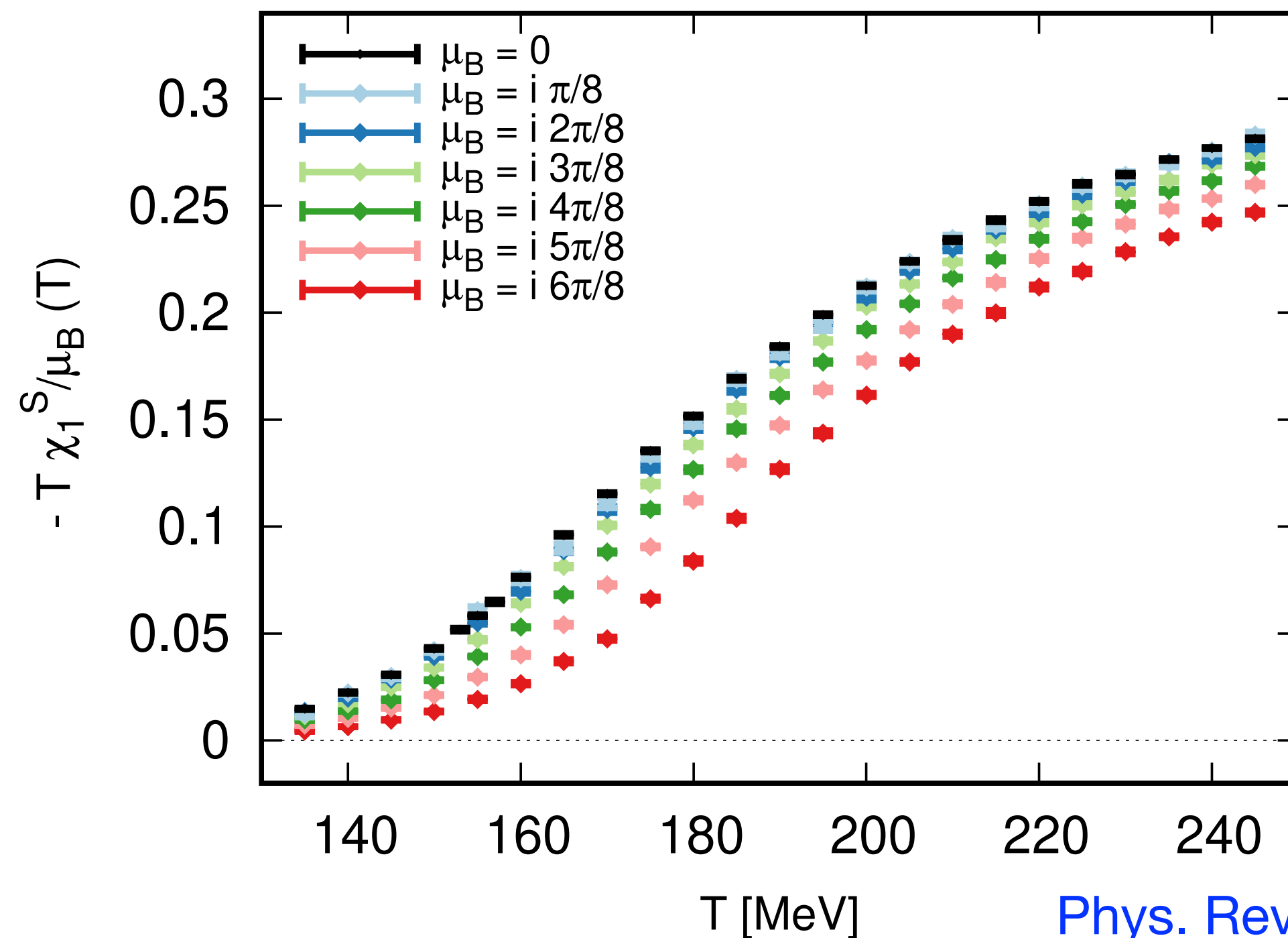
- A. Taylor Expansion
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Extrapolation to finite density

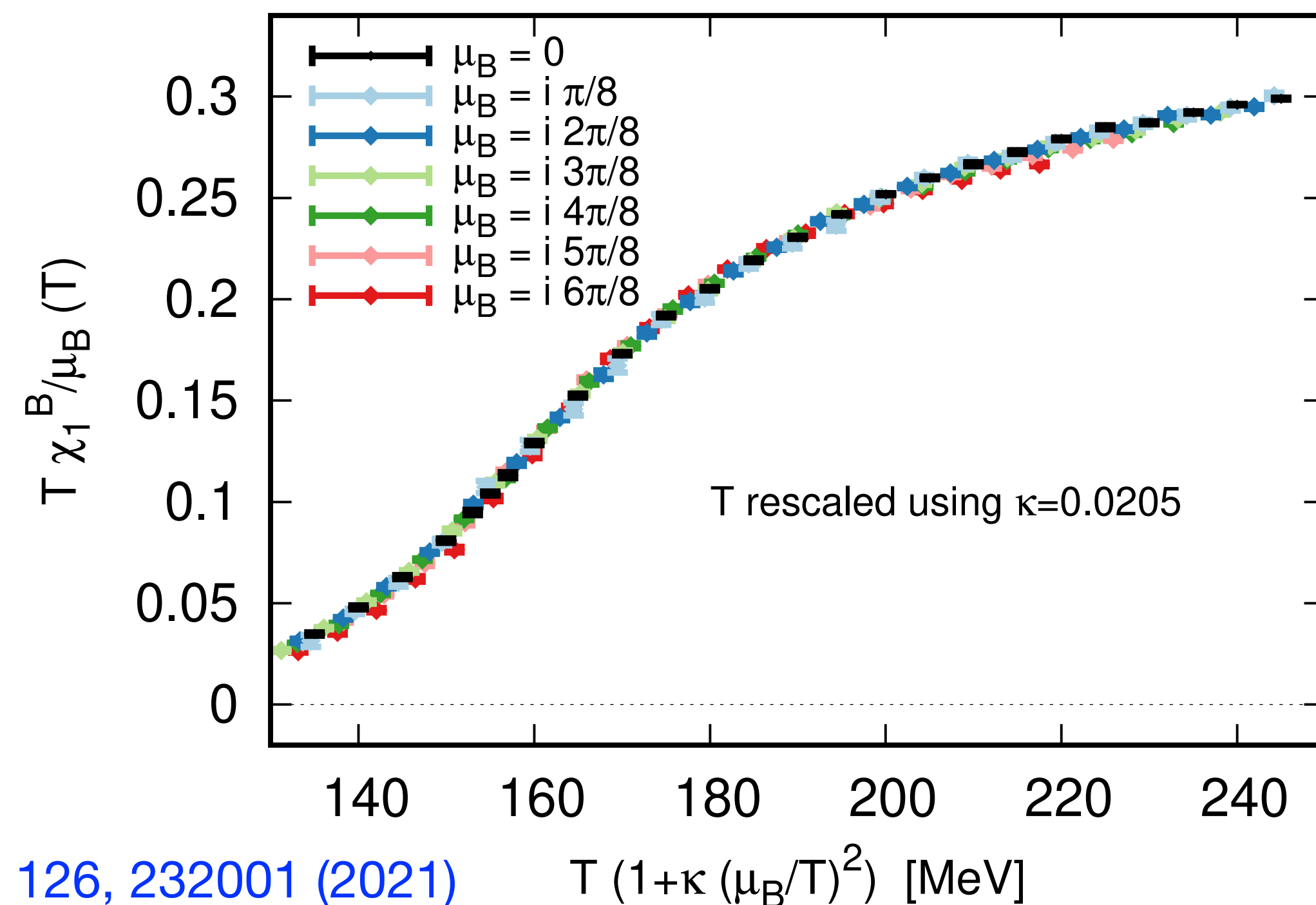
C. T' expansion:

$$\frac{\chi_1^B(T, \hat{\mu}_B)}{\hat{\mu}_B} = \chi_2^B(T', 0)$$

$$T'(T, \hat{\mu}_B) = T \left(1 + \kappa_2(T) \hat{\mu}_B^2 + \kappa_4(T) \hat{\mu}_B^4 + \mathcal{O}(\hat{\mu}_B^6) \right)$$



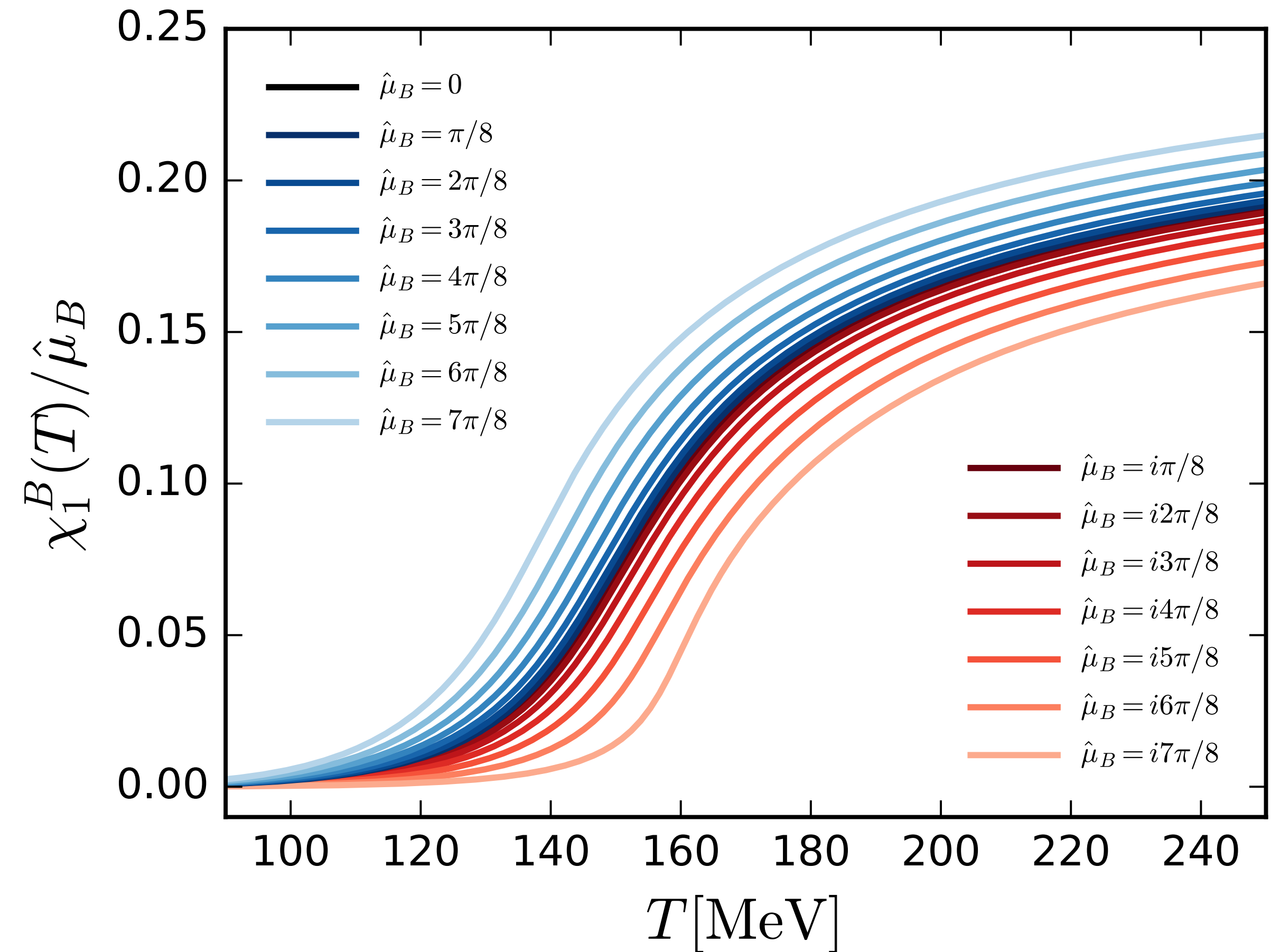
Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 232001 (2021)



- A. Taylor Expansion
- B. Padé Approximant
- C. T' Expansion

T' Expansion

- Direct compute at both real and imaginary chemical potential
- Apply the T' expansion to perform extrapolation

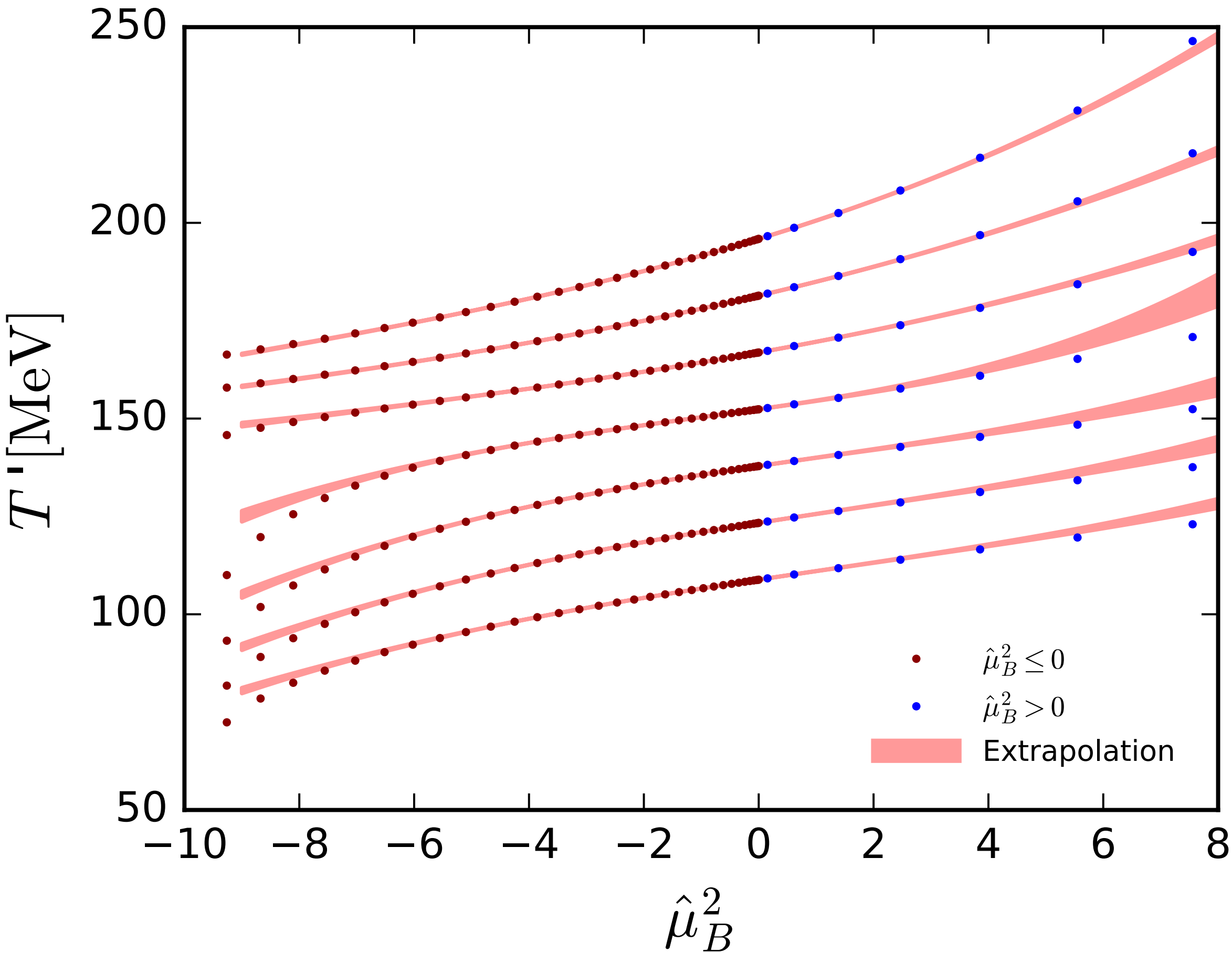


- A. Taylor Expansion
- B. Padé Approximant
- C. T' Expansion

T' Expansion

- Extrapolation by T' expansion

$$T' = T \left(1 + \kappa_2^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^2 + \kappa_4^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^4 + \kappa_6^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^6 + \dots \right)$$

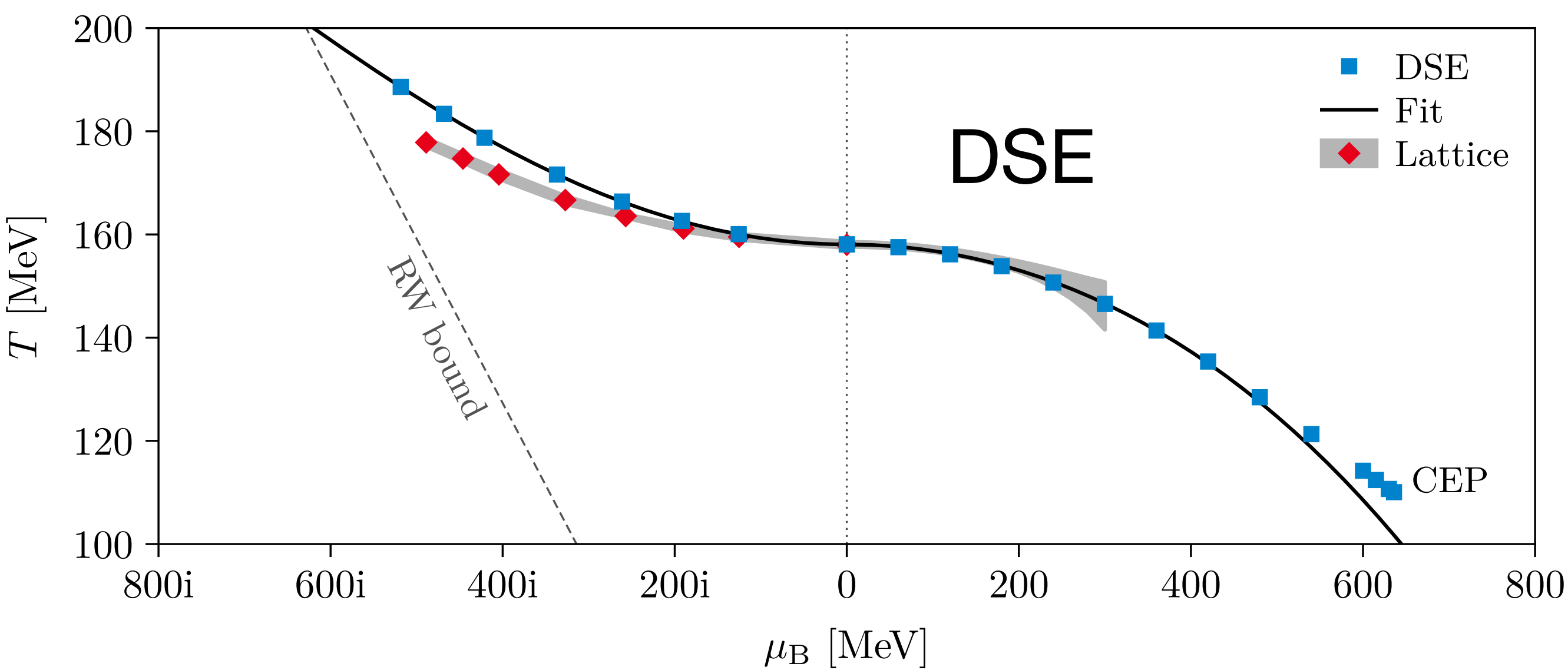


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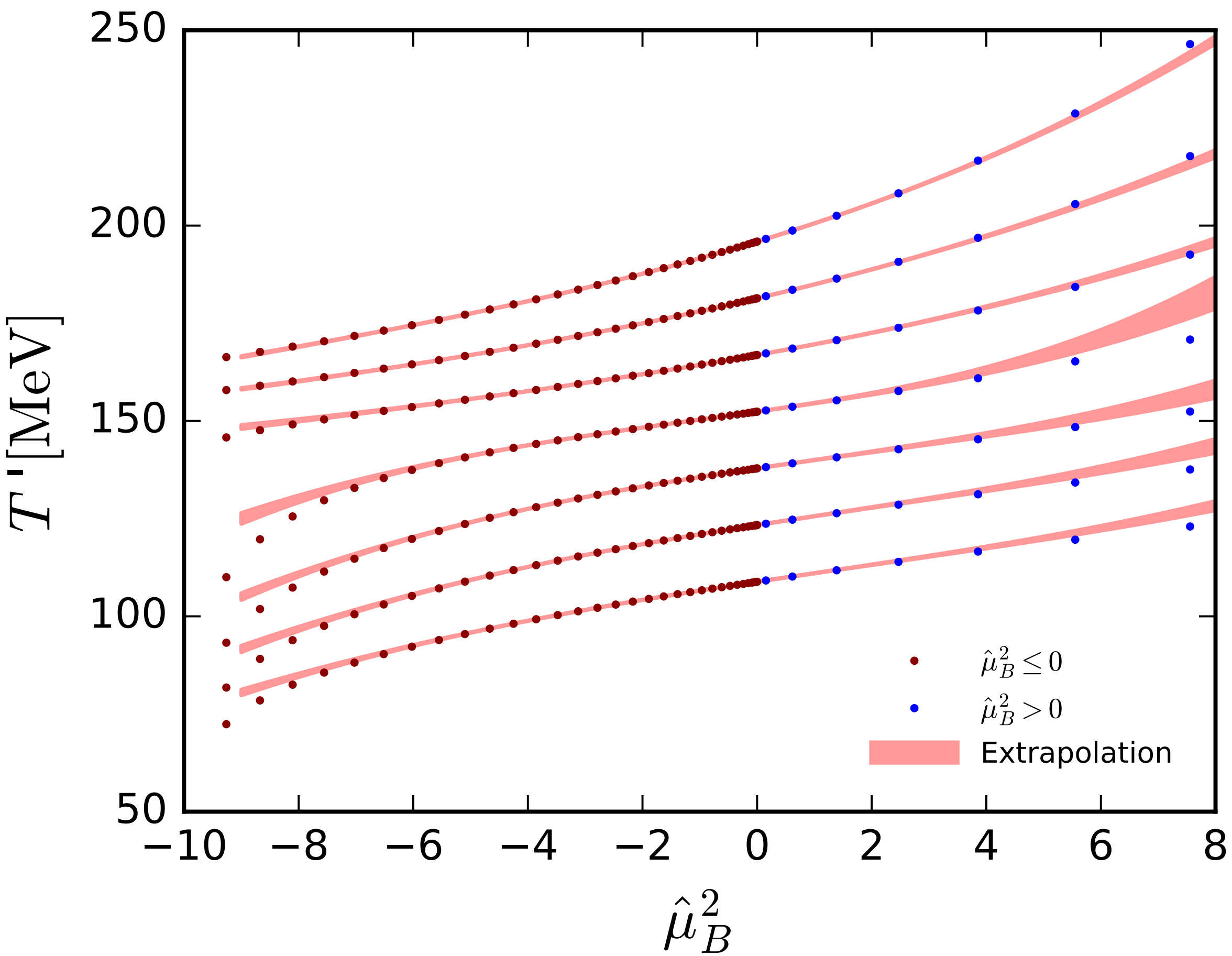
T' Expansion

- Extrapolation by T' expansion

$$T' = T \left(1 + \kappa_2^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^2 + \kappa_4^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^4 + \kappa_6^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^6 + \dots \right)$$



Bernhardt, Fischer (2023)



Phys. Rev. D 110 (2024) 1, 016008

- A. Taylor Expansion
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T' Expansion

- Extrapolation by T' expansion

$$T' = T \left(1 + \kappa_2^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^2 + \kappa_4^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^4 + \kappa_6^B(T) \hat{\mu}_B^6 + \dots \right)$$

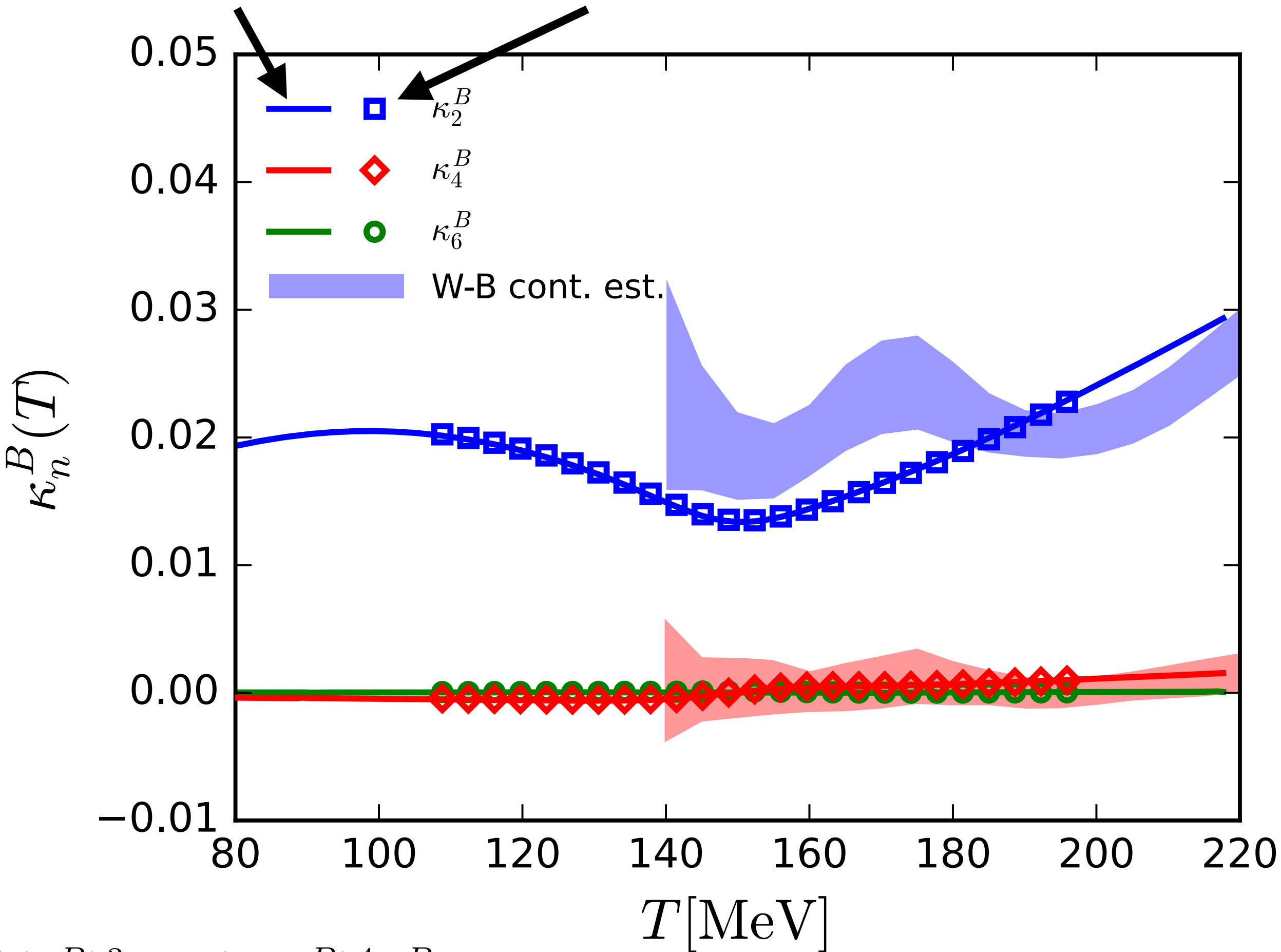
$$\kappa_2^B = \frac{\chi_4^B}{6 T (\partial_T \chi_2^B)}$$

$$\kappa_4^B = \frac{3(\partial_T \chi_2^B)^2 \chi_6^B - 5(\partial_T^2 \chi_2^B)(\chi_4^B)^2}{360 T (\partial_T \chi_2^B)^3}$$

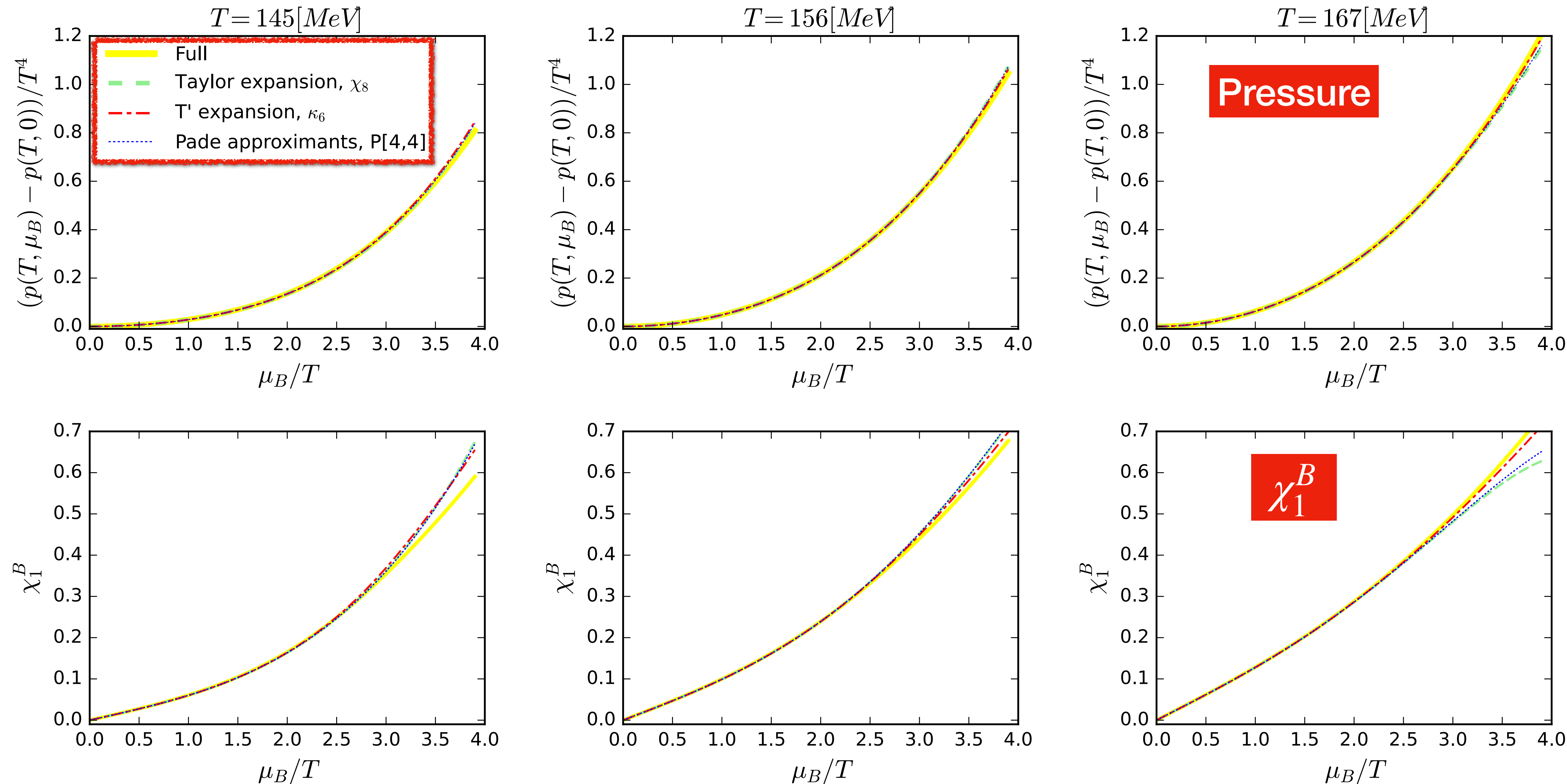
$$\kappa_6^B = \frac{105 (\partial_T^2 \chi_2^B)^2 (\chi_4^B)^3 - 63 \partial_T^2 \chi_2^B (\partial_T \chi_2^B)^2 \chi_4^B \chi_6^B - 35 \partial_T^3 \chi_2^B \partial_T \chi_2^B (\chi_4^B)^3 + 9 (\partial_T \chi_2^B)^4 \chi_8^B}{45360 (\partial_T \chi_2^B)^5 T}$$

Direct compute

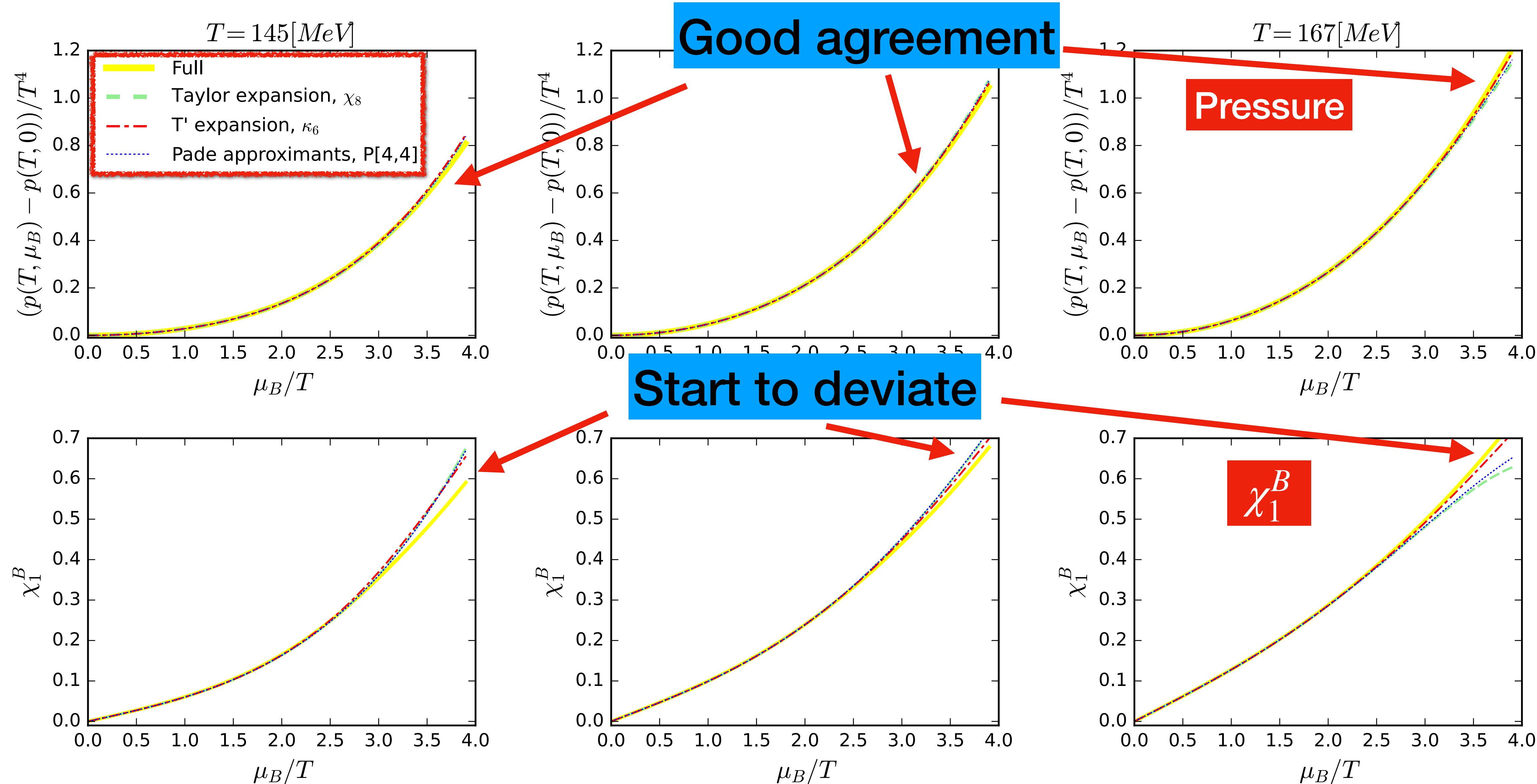
Fit results



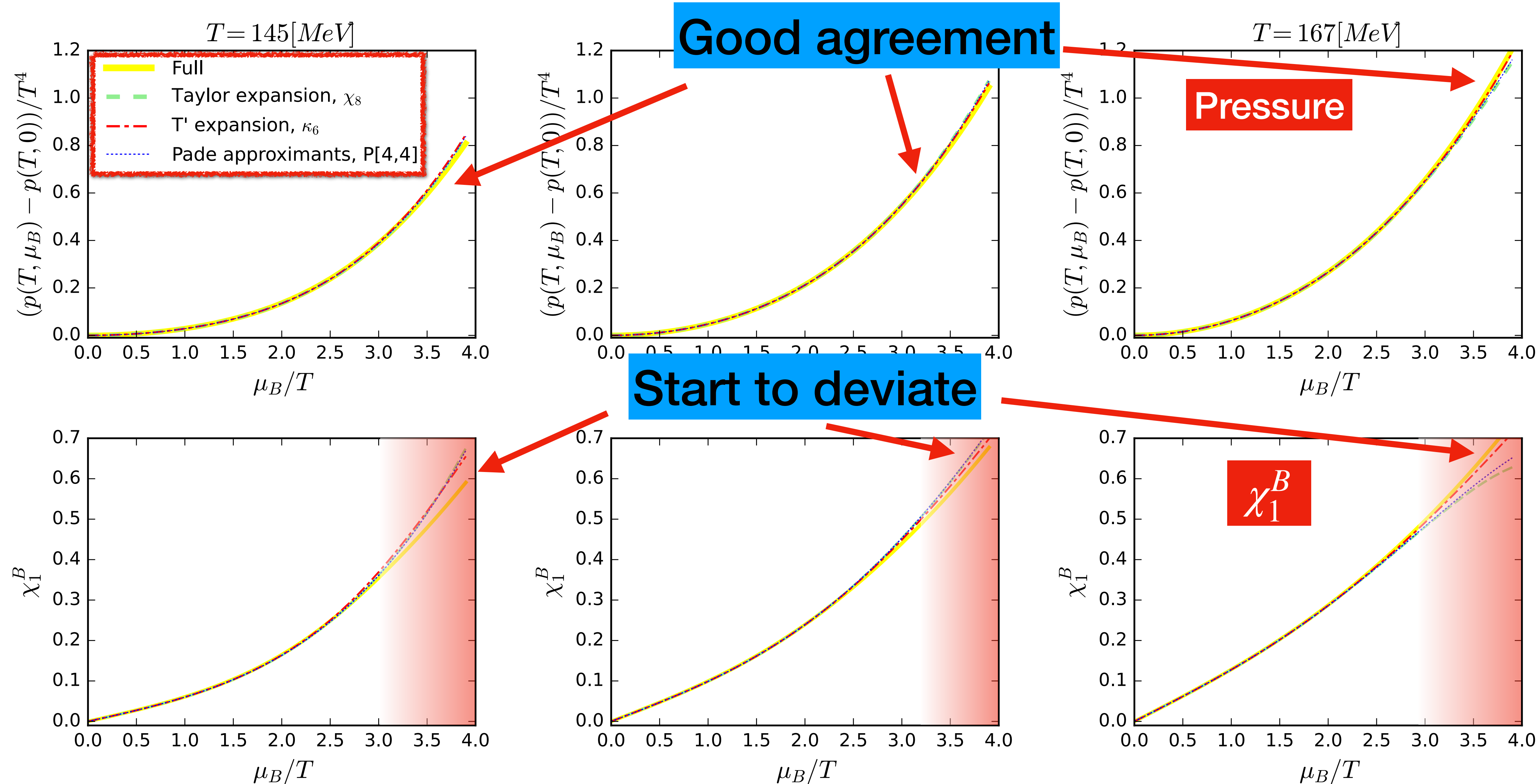
Comparison of different Expansion methods



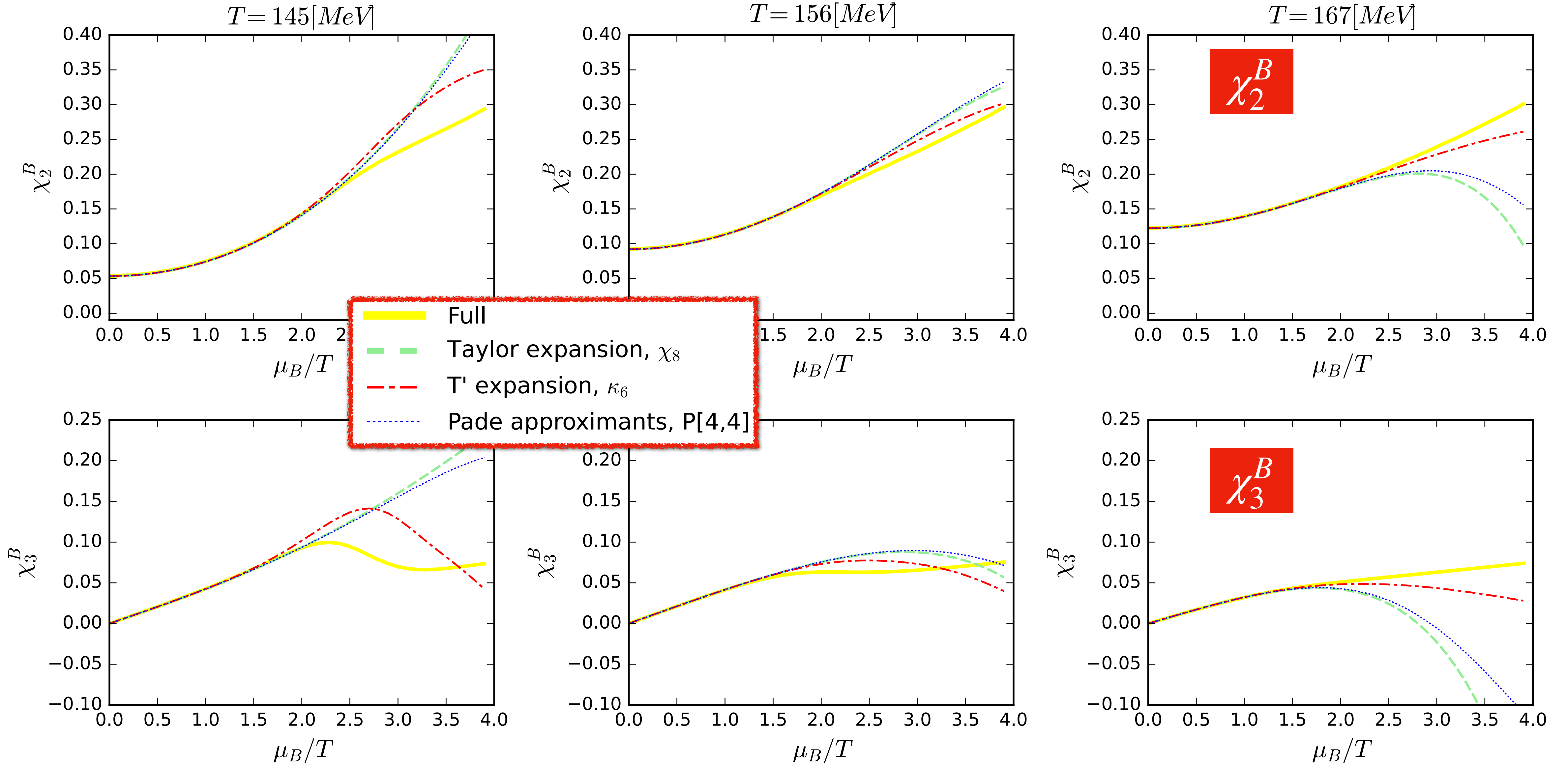
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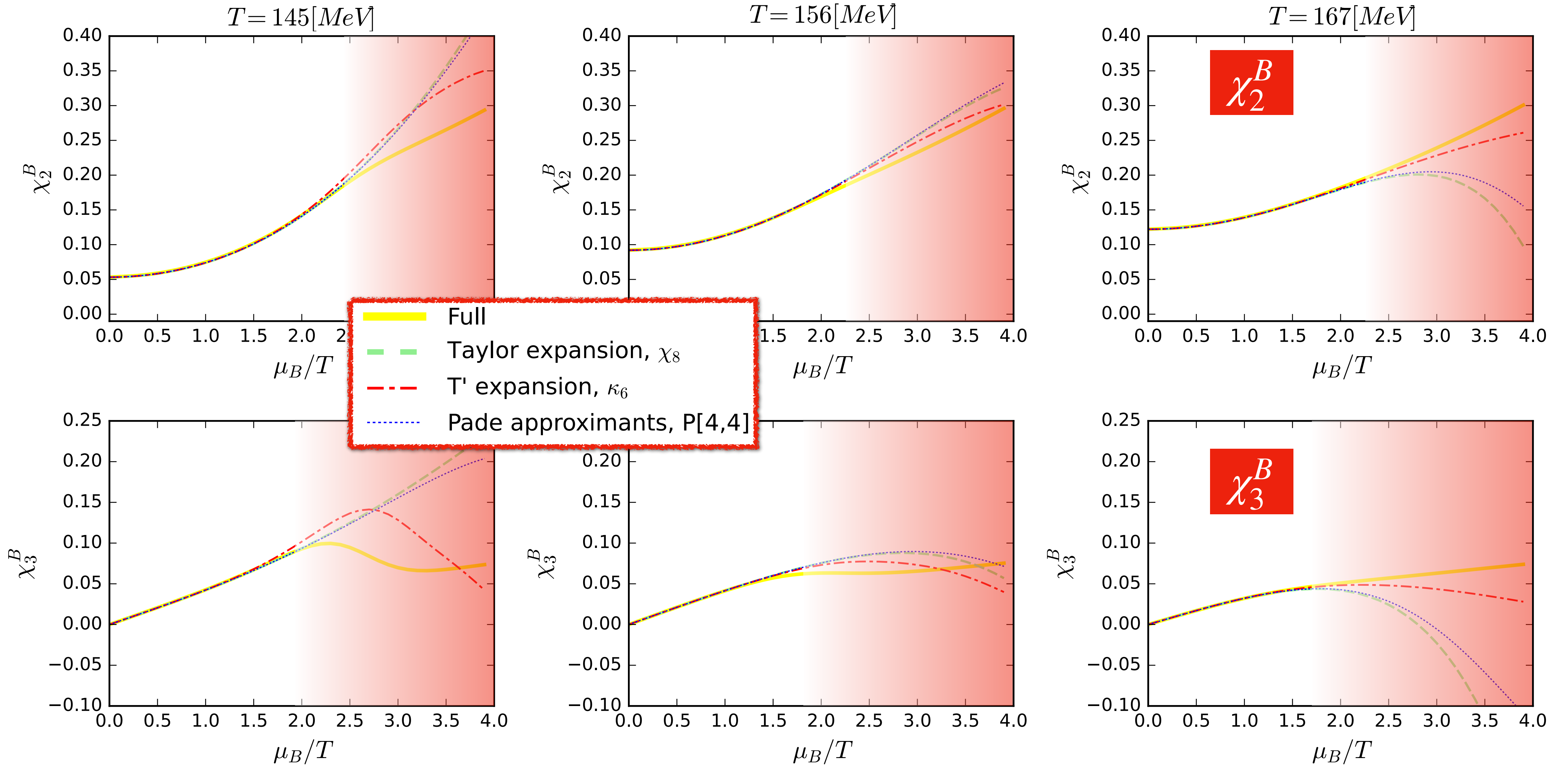
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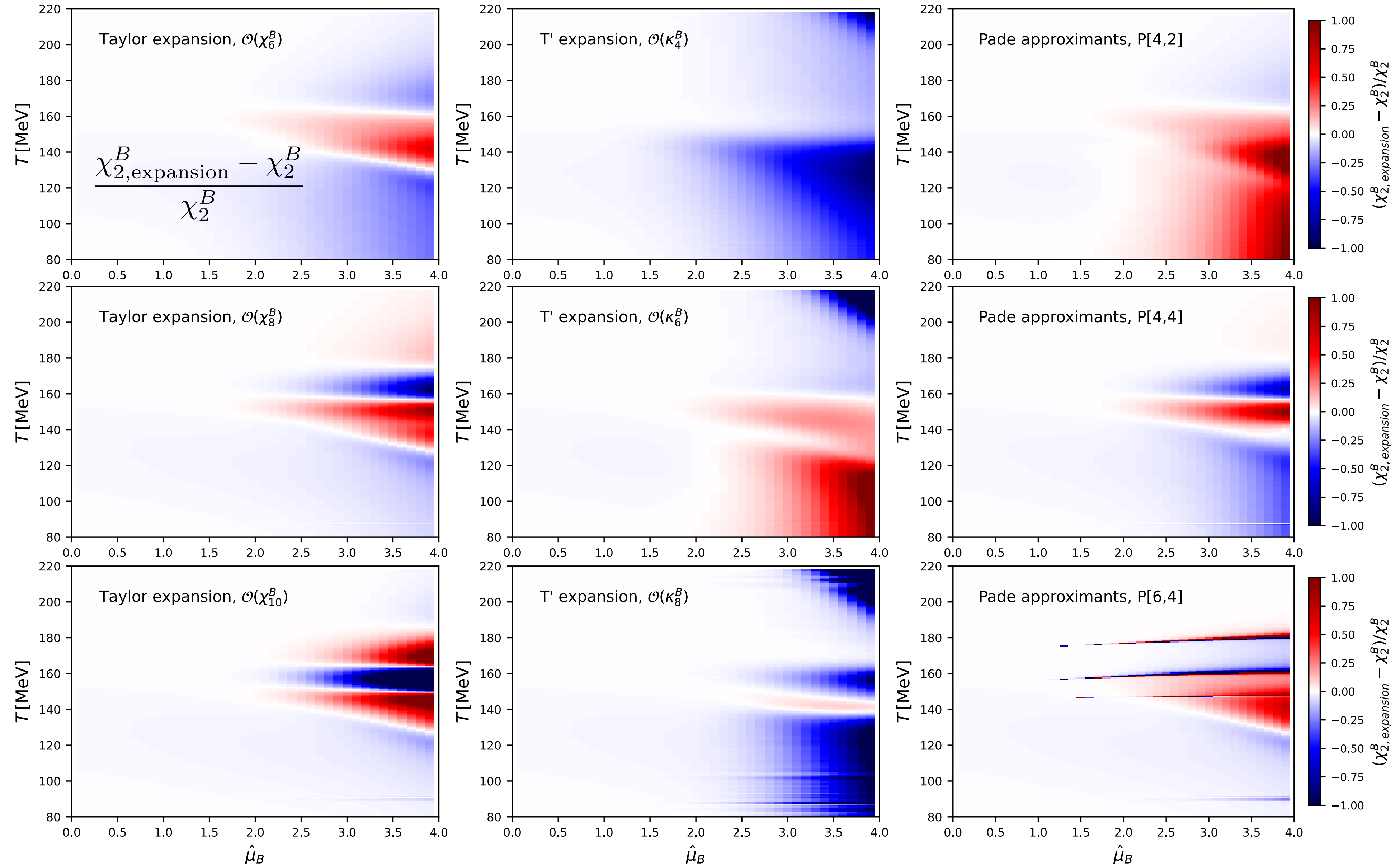
Comparison of different Expansion methods



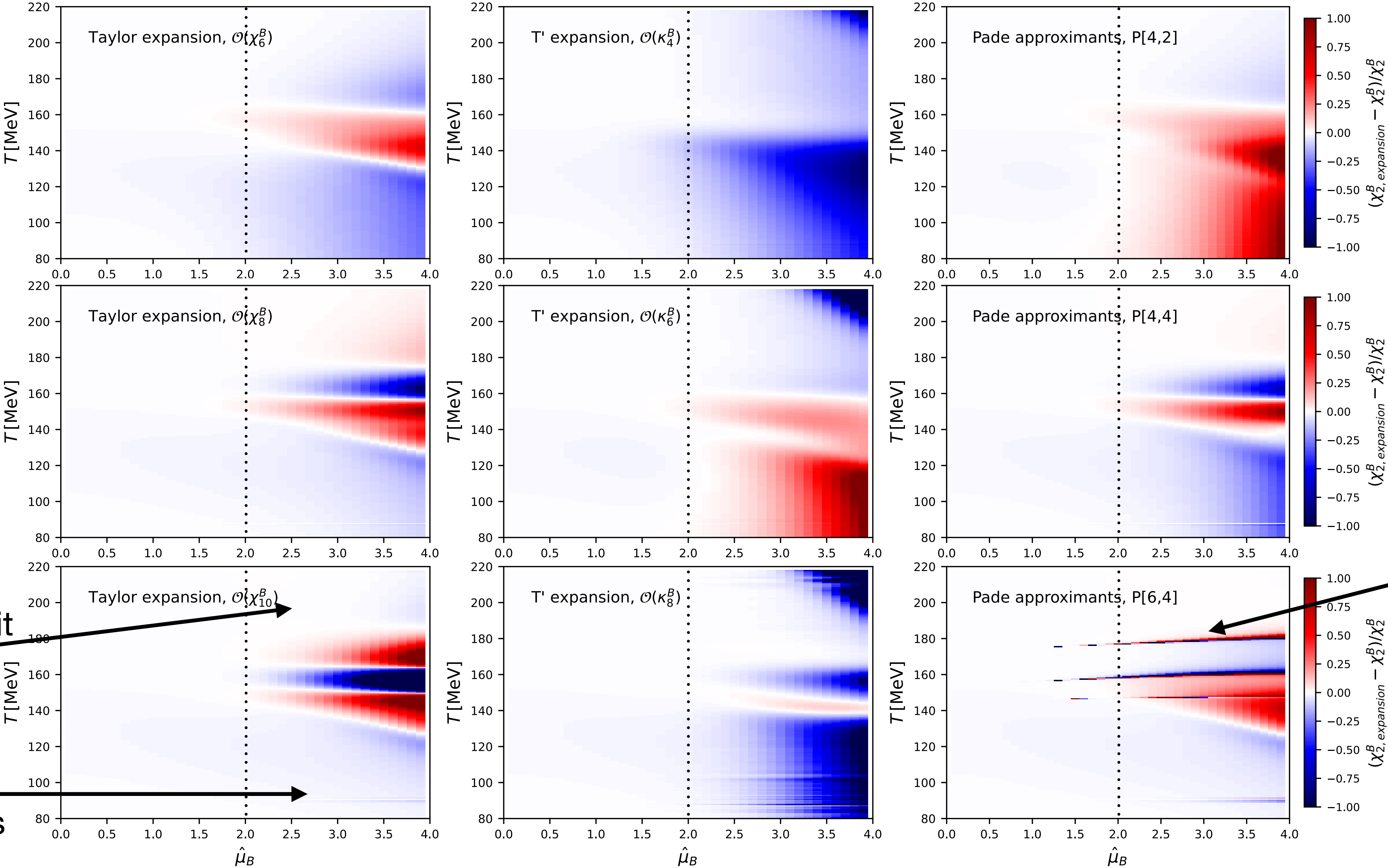
Comparison of different Expansion methods



Comparison of different Expansion methods



Comparison of different Expansion methods



Poles at
T=146 MeV
T=157 MeV
T=175 MeV

Stefan-Boltzmann limit

Hadron resonance gas

Estimation of Lee-Yang edge

Radius of convergence: Mukherjee, Skokov (2019)

$$R_{\text{conv}} = \left| \frac{z_c}{z_0} \left(\frac{m_l^{\text{phys}}}{m_s^{\text{phys}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta\delta}} - \frac{T - T_c^0}{T_c^0} \right|^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\kappa_2}}$$

Parameters:

$$\frac{m_l^{\text{phys}}}{m_s^{\text{phys}}} = \frac{1}{27}$$

scaling variable: $z_c = |z_c| e^{i \frac{\pi}{2\beta\delta}}$

$$\text{fRG O(4)} \quad |z_c| = 1.665$$

$$z_0 \in [1, 2]$$

Connelly, Johnson, Rennecke, Skokov (2020)

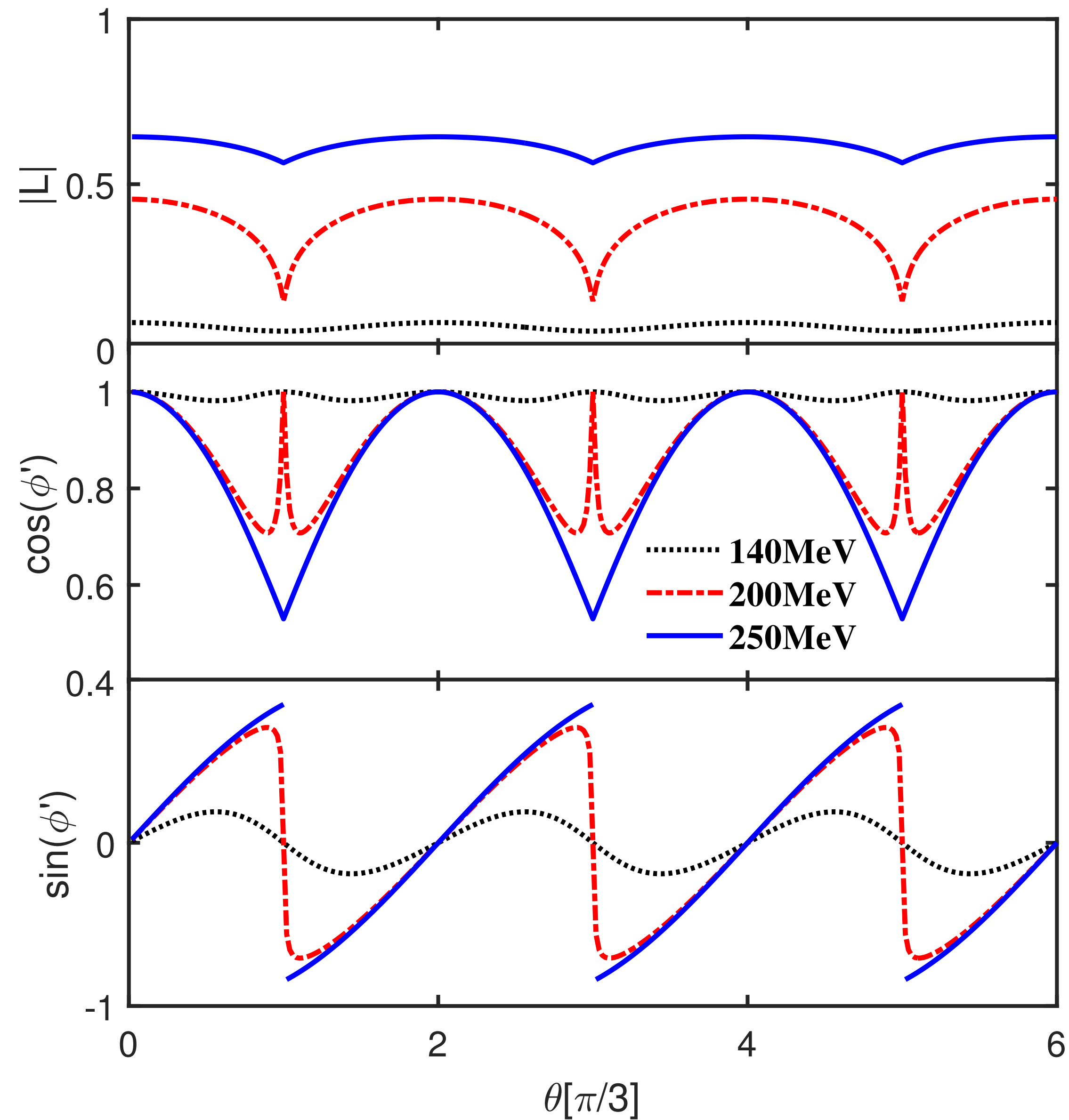
Curvature of
phase boundary: $\kappa_2 = 0.0184$

Critical
exponents: $\beta = 0.3989$
 $\delta = 4.975$

Critical
temperature: $T_c^0 = 142.6 \text{ MeV}$

From fRG LPA computation

Roberge-Weiss critical point

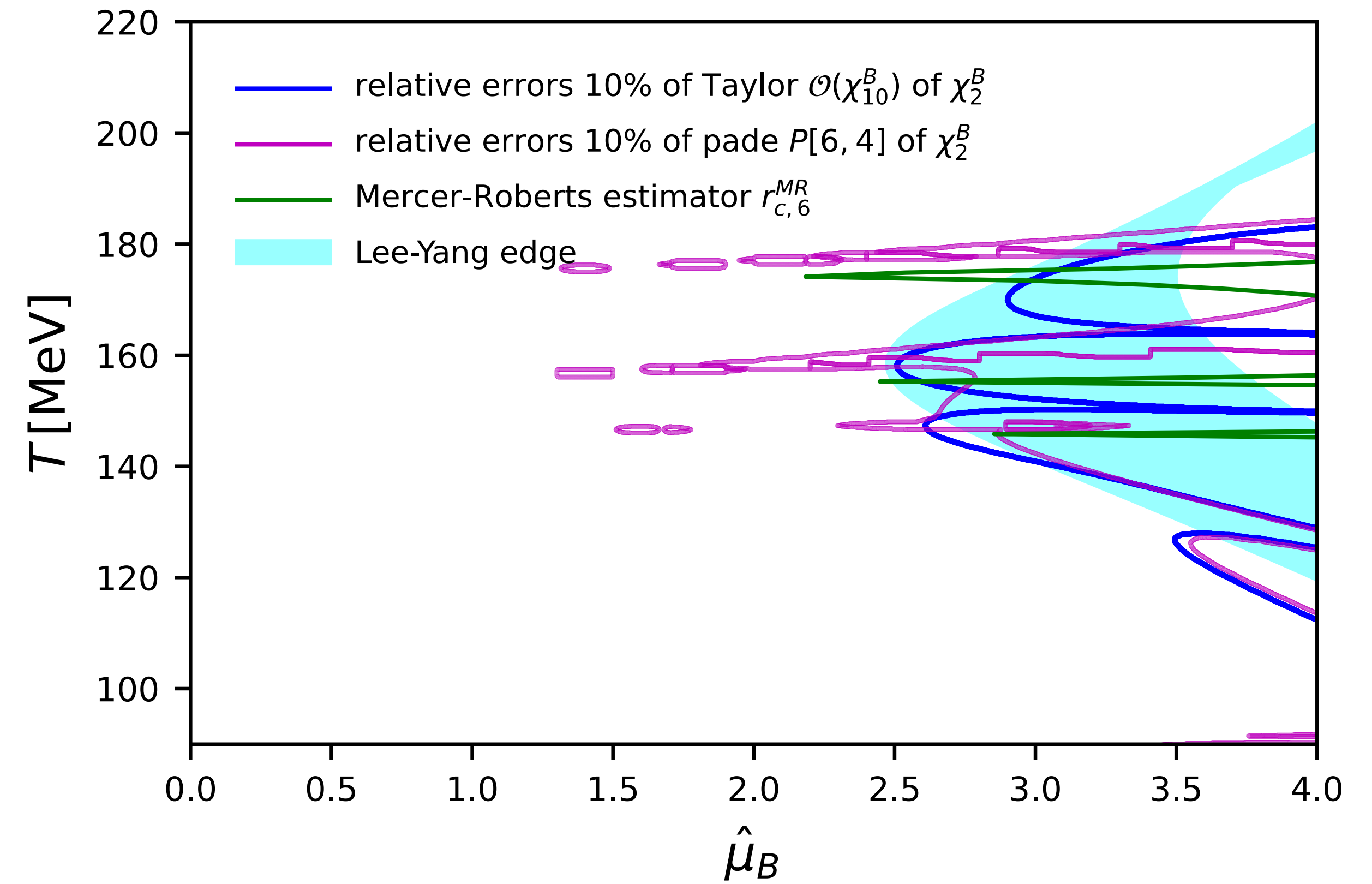
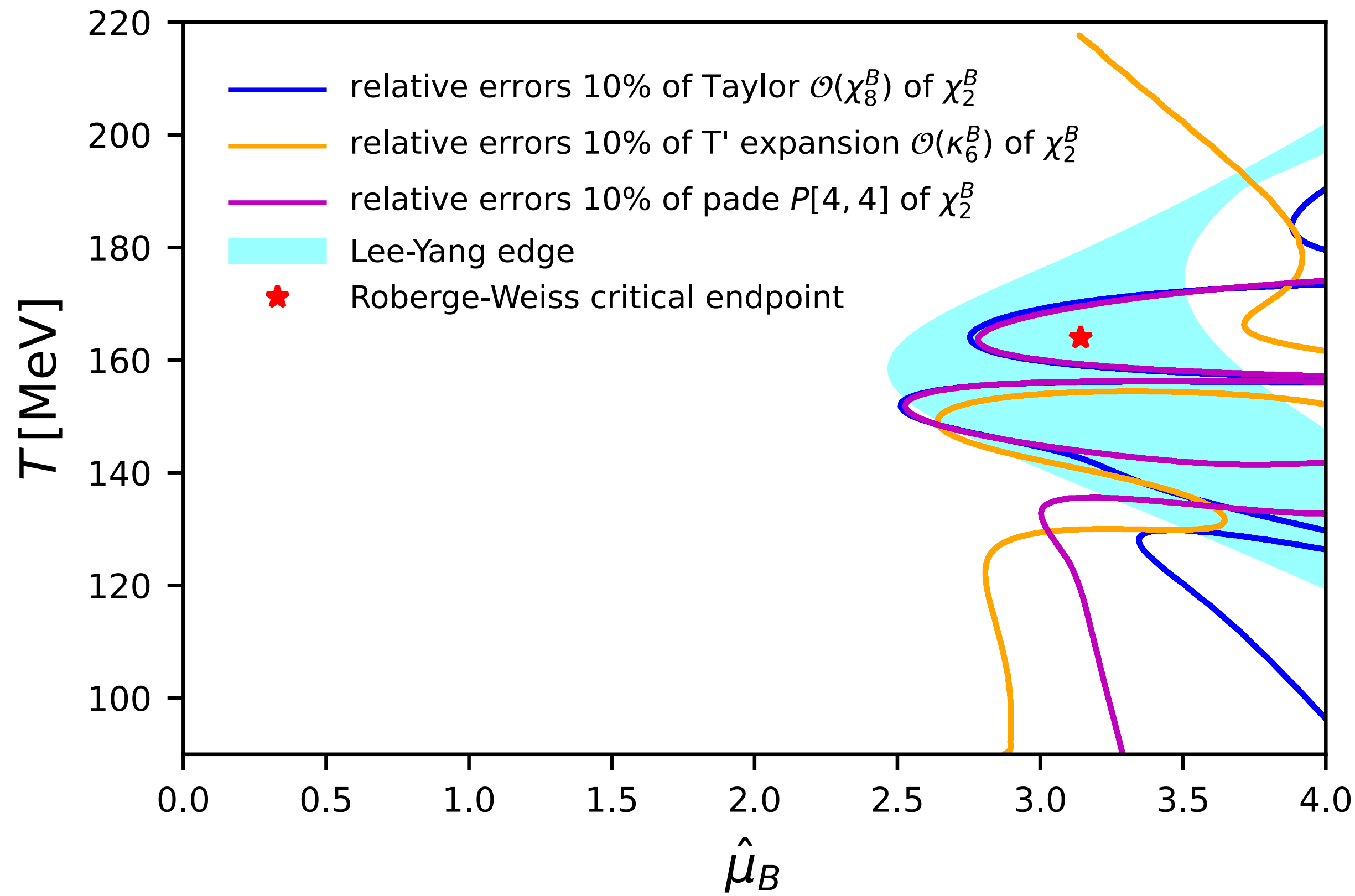


$$\mu^{\text{RW}} = i\frac{\pi}{3}T$$

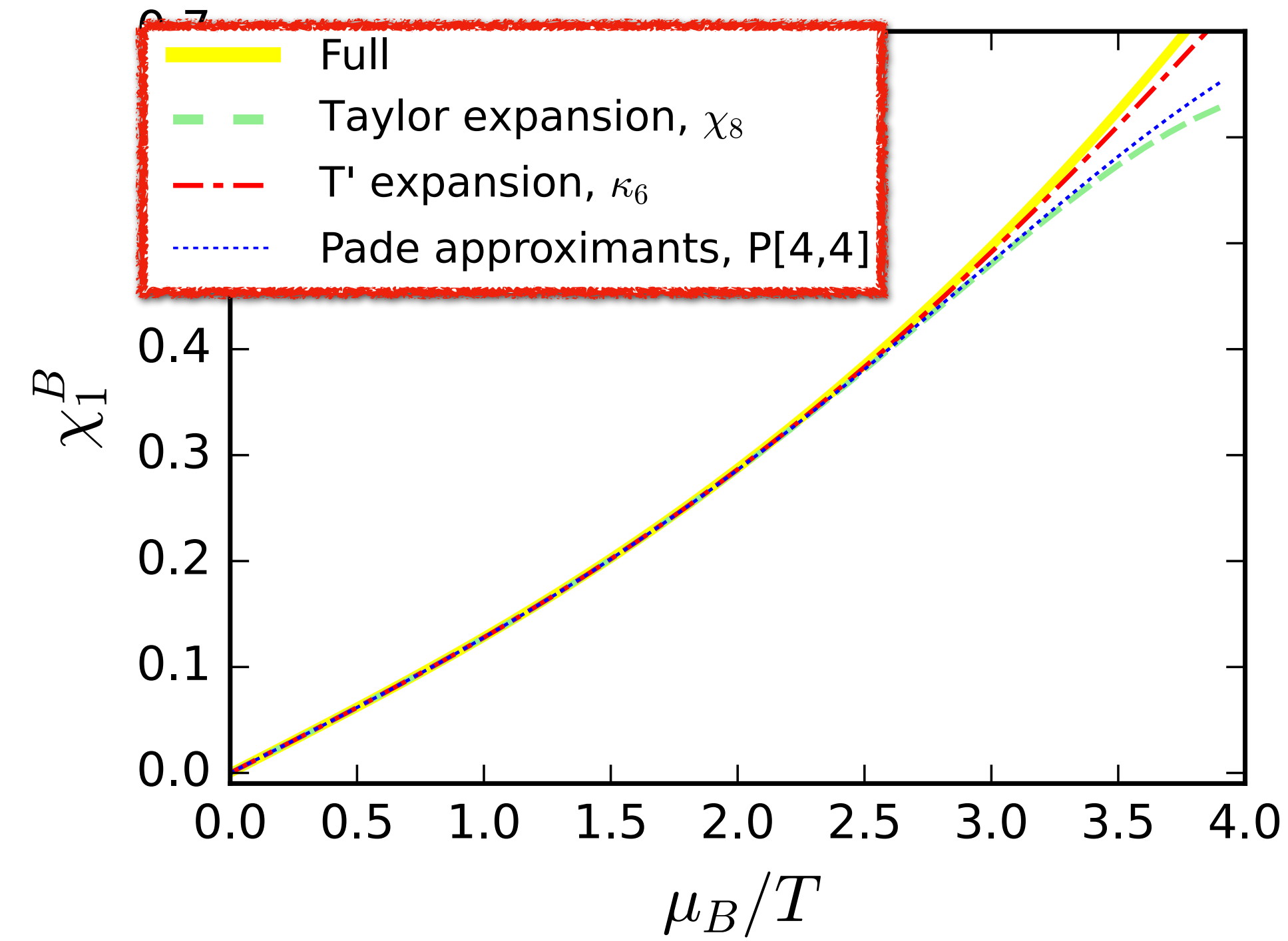
$$\hat{\mu}_B^{\text{RW}} = i\pi$$

Estimation of reliable region of expansion

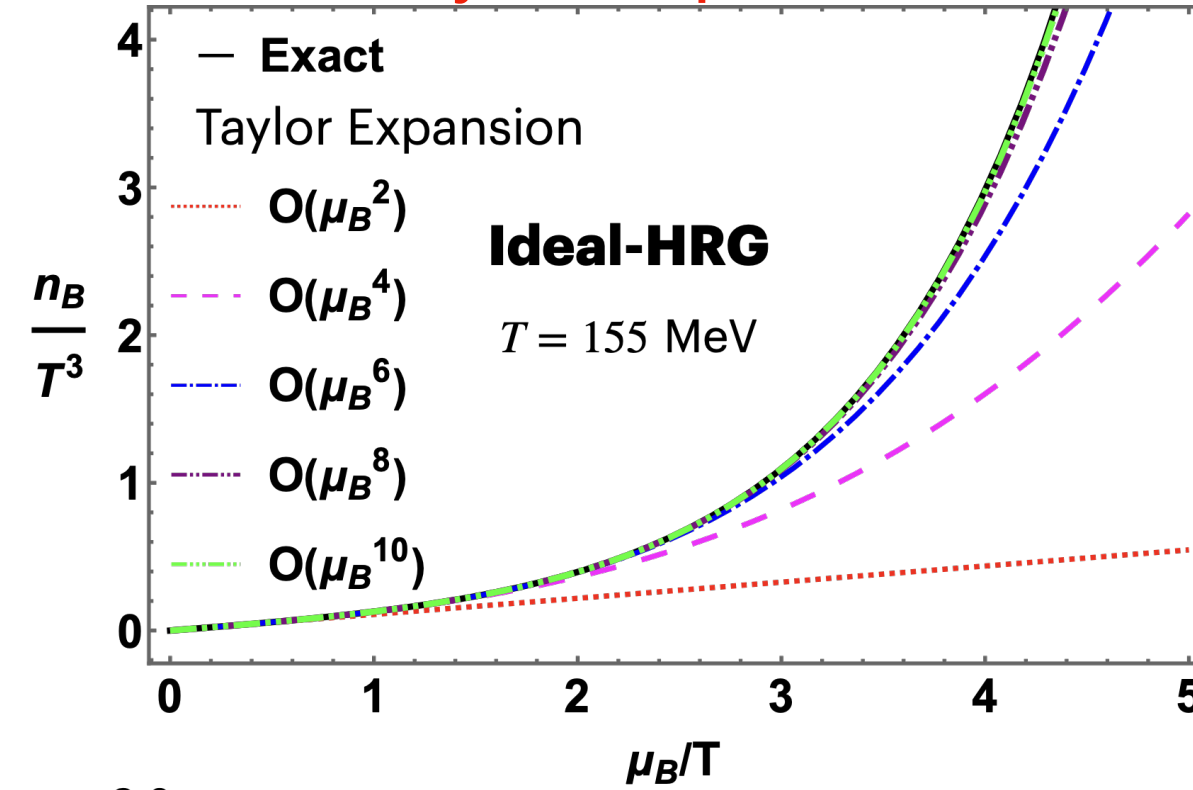
CEP of the model: ($T_{\text{CEP}} = 40 \text{ MeV}$, $\mu_{B_{\text{CEP}}} = 667 \text{ MeV}$)



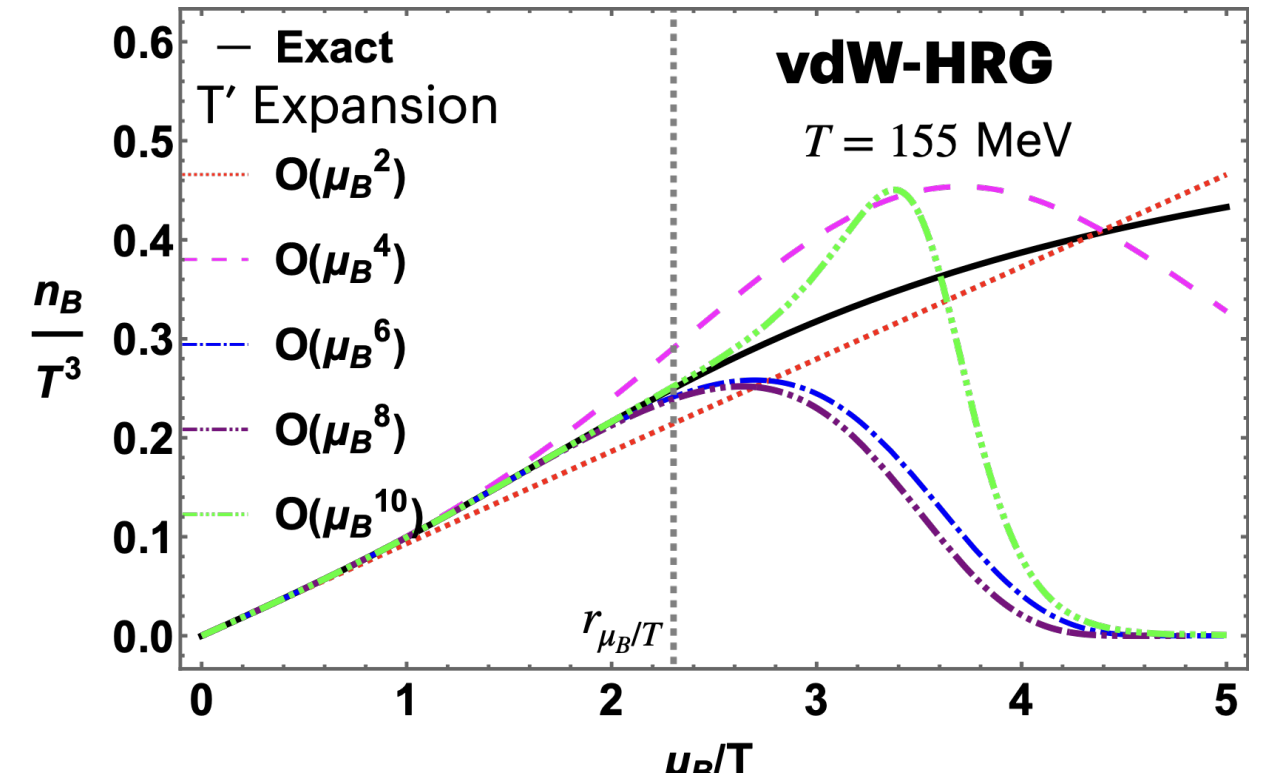
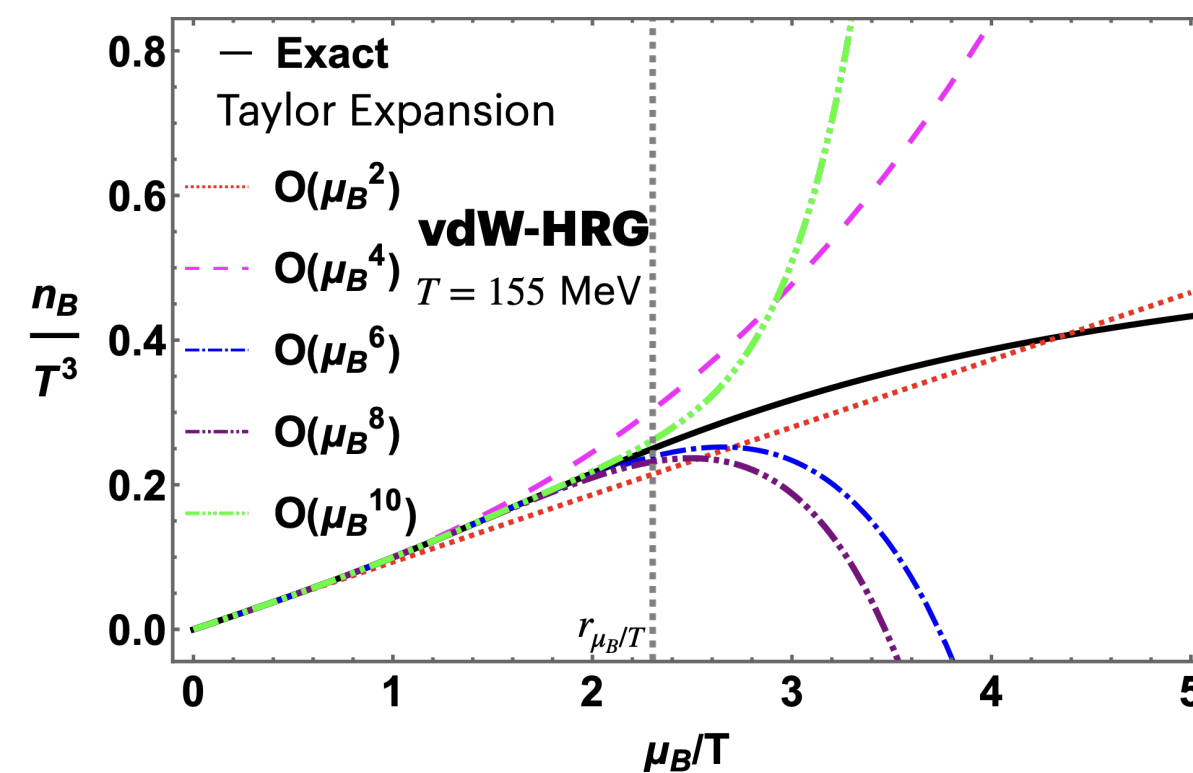
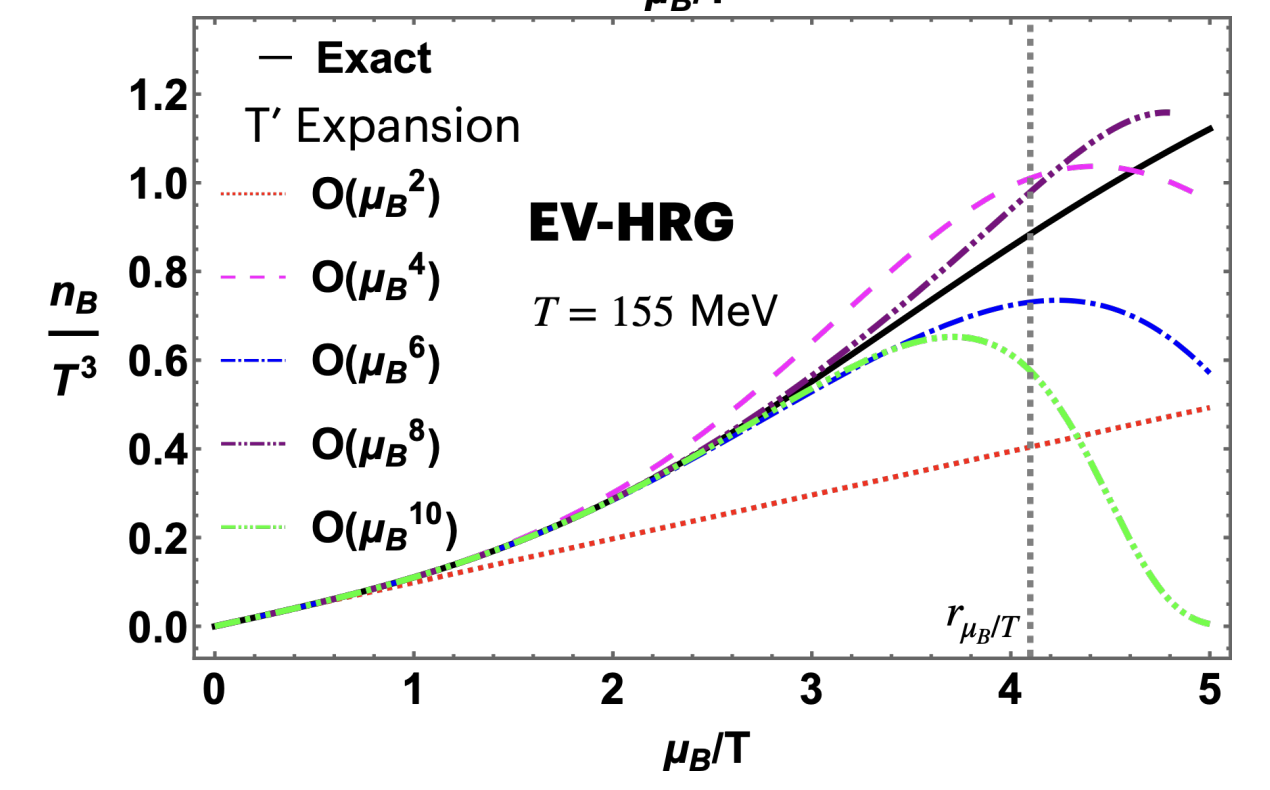
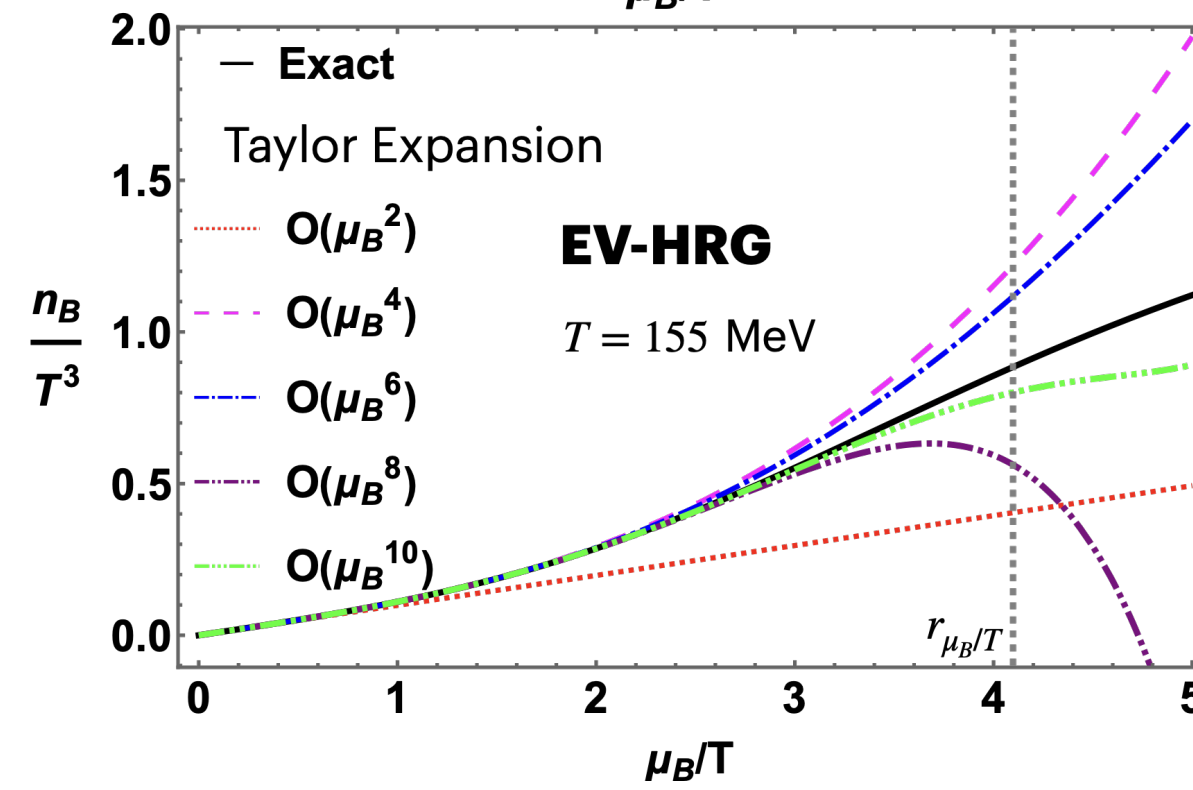
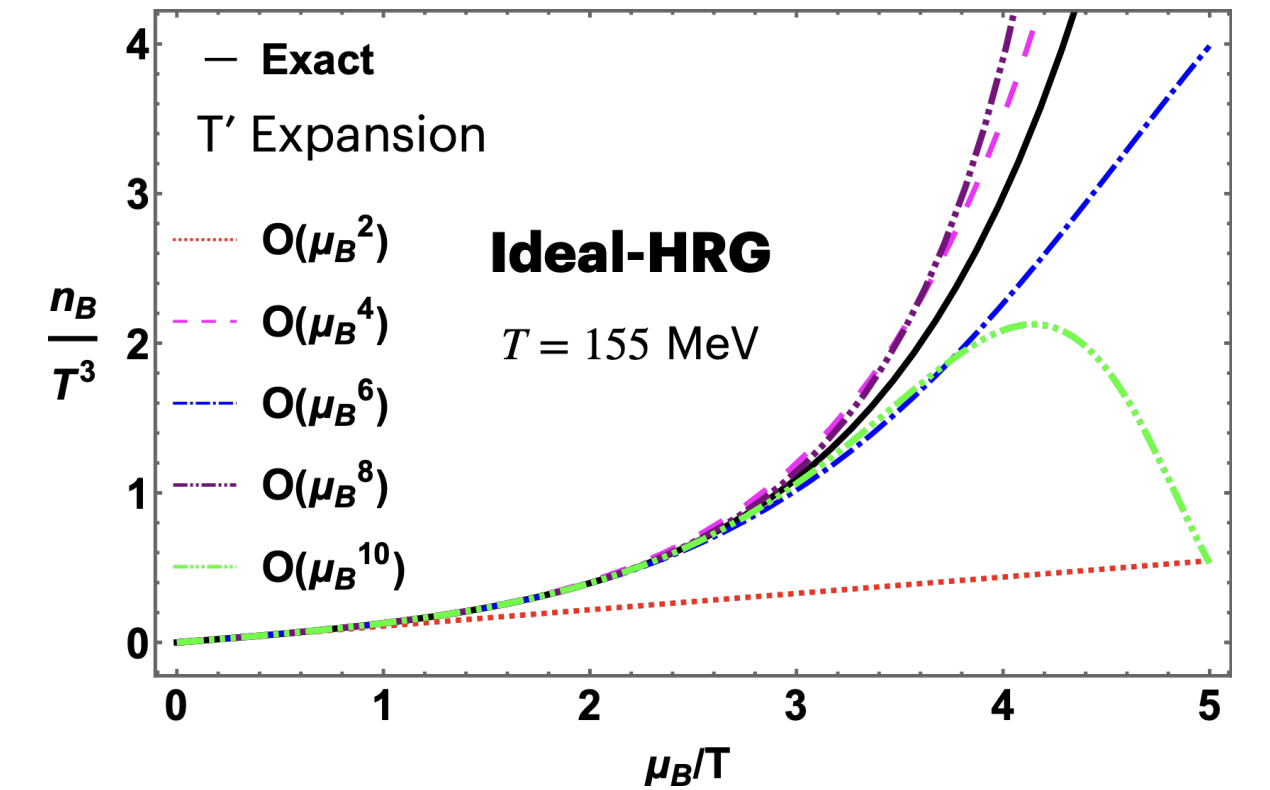
Estimation of reliable region of expansion



Taylor Expansion



T' Expansion



Outline

1. Introduction
 - QCD phase structure
 - Functional renormalization group
2. Baryon number fluctuations from fRG
 - QCD-assisted LEFT
 - Predictions
3. Comparison between direct calculation and expansion
 - Polyakov-Quark-Meson (PQM) Model
 - Comparison of different Expansion methods
4. Summary and conclusion

Summary and Conclusion

- ① Pressure and baryon number fluctuations are computed by fRG at real and imaginary chemical potential within a low energy effective theory
- ② The convergence of Taylor expansion, Padé approximant and T' expansion are investigated

1. Consistent region: up to $\mathcal{O}(\mu_B^8)$ p/T^4 $\mu_B/T \lesssim 3.5$ around T_{pc}

$$\chi_1^B \quad \mu_B/T \lesssim 3.0$$

$$\chi_2^B \quad \mu_B/T \lesssim 2.0$$

$$\chi_3^B \quad \mu_B/T \lesssim 1.5$$

- 2. Consistent regions are similar for all these three expansion methods
- 3. Convergence radius of Lee-Yang edge singularities are in agreement with expansion consistent regions

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Thank you very much!!!