The chiral phase transition in (2+1)-flavor QCD

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Faculty of Physics

- Critical behavior in the limit of vanishing light quark masses
- Finite size scaling and chiral limit
- The chiral PHASE TRANSITION temperature

BEST COLLABORATION

CRC-TR 211 Strong-interaction matter under extreme conditions

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

The chiral PHASE TRANSITION temperature

R. D. Pisarski, F. Wilczek,
Remarks on the chiral phase transition in chromodynamics,
Phys. Rev. D 29 (1984) 338(R)

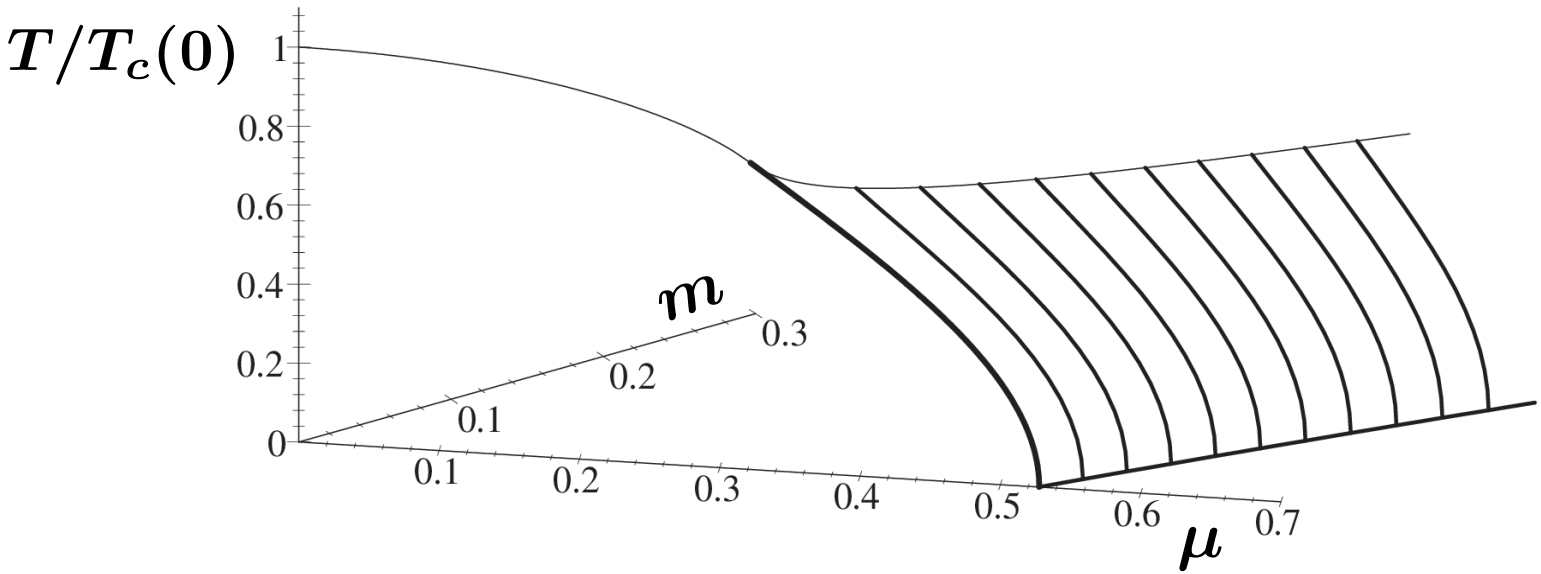
Abstract:
The phase transition restoring chiral symmetry at finite temperatures is considered in a linear σ model. For three or more massless flavors, the perturbative ϵ expansion predicts the phase transition is of first order.
At high temperatures, the UA(1) symmetry will also be effectively restored.

– since 35 years it is understood that critical behavior in strong-interaction matter is due to **chiral symmetry restoration**

– the **phase transition temperature** in the chiral limit of QCD is one of the fundamental scales in strong-interaction physics

– **neither the order of the transition in 2 or (2+1)-flavor QCD nor the value of the transition temperature have been established so far**

Phase diagram of QCD with two light flavors of mass m as calculated from random matrix theory



A.M. Halasz, A.D. Jackson, R.E. Shrock, M.A. Stephanov, J.J.M. Verbaarschot, On the phase diagram of QCD, Phys. Rev. D 58 (1998) 096007

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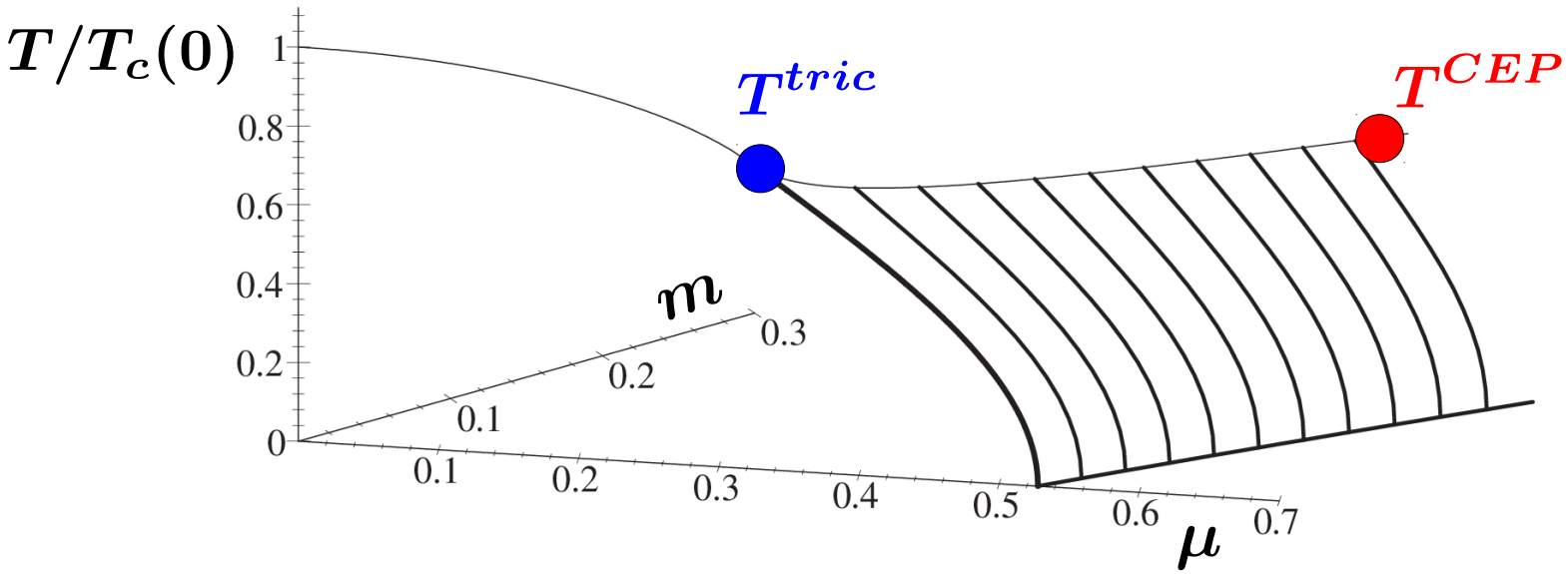


M.A. Stephanov, K. Rajagopal, E.V. Shuryak, PRL 81 (1998)

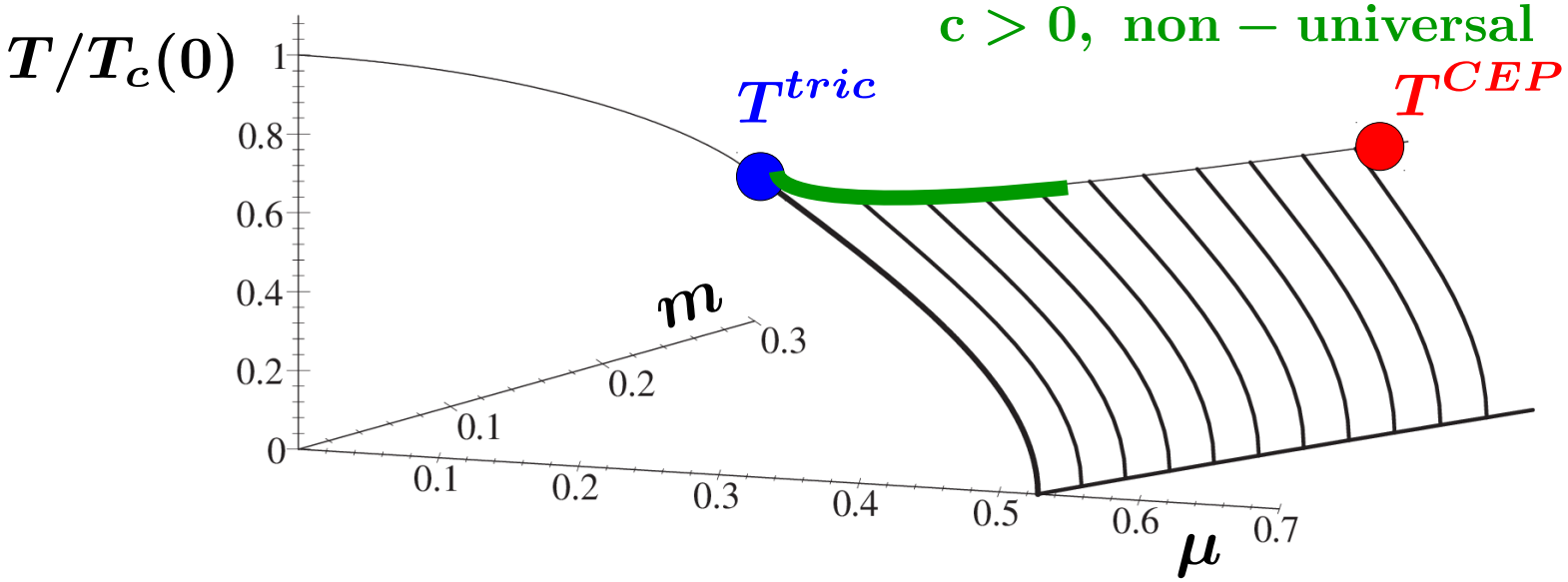
A.M. Halasz, A.D. Jackson, R.E. Shrock, M.A. Stephanov, J.J.M. Verbaarschot, On the phase diagram of QCD, Phys. Rev. D 58 (1998) 096007

Phase diagram of QCD with two light flavors of mass m as calculated from random matrix theory

$$T_c(m) = T^{tric} - c\, m^{2/5}$$

Y. Hatta, T. Ikeda, Phys. Rev. D67 (2003) 014028

$c > 0,\ \text{non} - \text{universal}$



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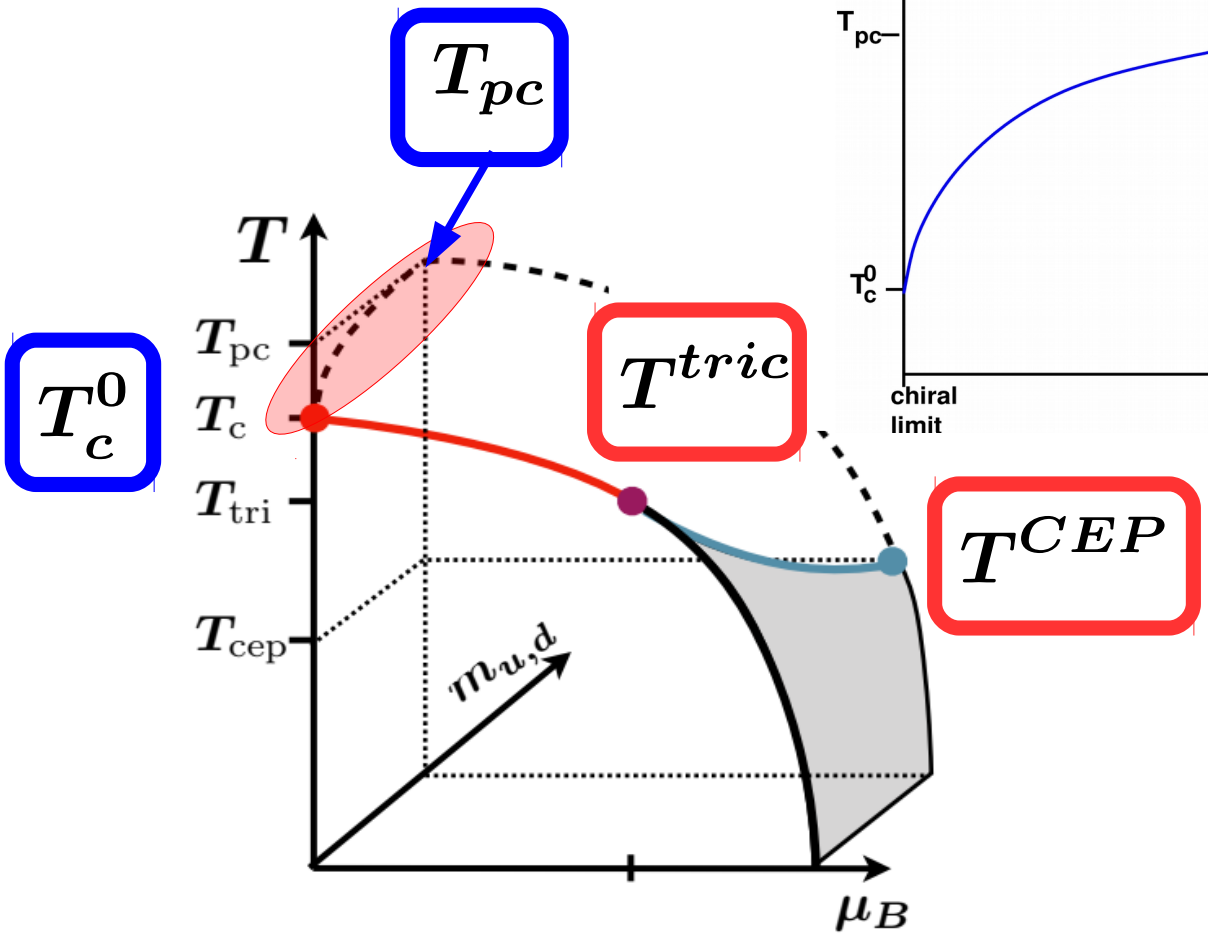
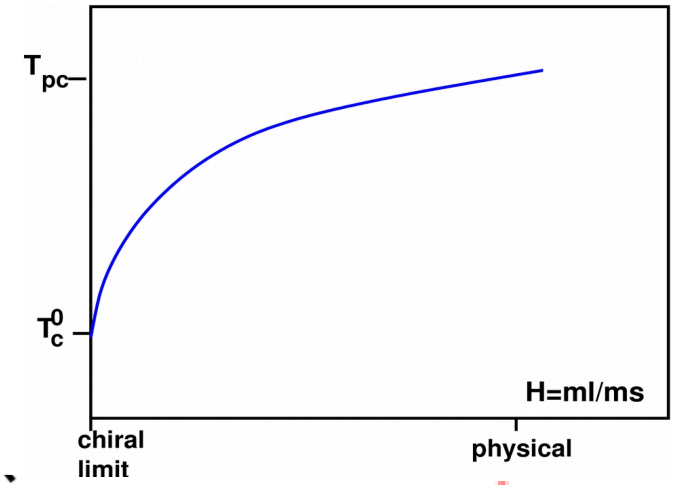
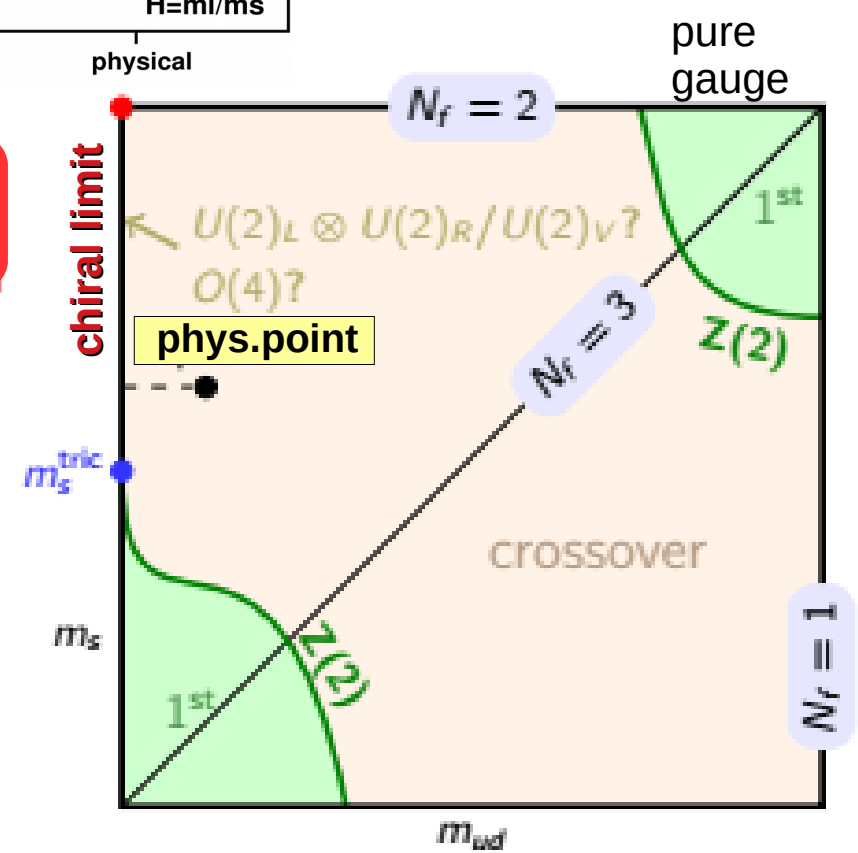
Phases of strong-interaction matter







determination of T_c^0 puts an upper limit on T^{CEP}, if c>0 (not yet known)

Critical behavior in QCD

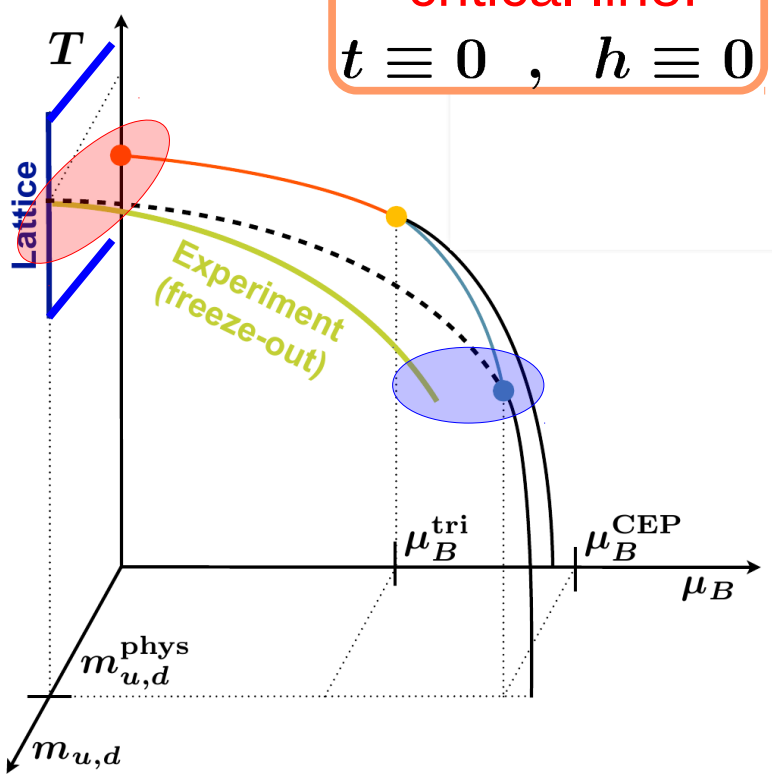
- close to the chiral limit thermodynamics in the vicinity of the QCD transition(s) is controlled by a universal scaling function

singular regular

$$\frac{p}{T^4} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \ln Z(V,T,\vec{\mu}) = -h^{(2-\alpha)/\beta\delta} f_f(t/h^{1/\beta\delta}) - f_r(V,T,\vec{\mu})$$

critical line: $t \equiv 0 \;,\; h \equiv 0$

$$t \sim \frac{T-T_c}{T_c} + \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_q}{T}\right)^2 \;,\quad h \sim \frac{m_q}{T_c}$$



here only: $\mu_q \equiv 0$

question: Where is the chiral PHASE TRANSITION for $m_u = m_d = 0$ located? What is its influence on observables at the pseudo-critical temperature?

Critical behavior in QCD

- close to the chiral limit thermodynamics in the vicinity of the QCD transition(s) is controlled by a universal scaling function

singular regular

$$\frac{p}{T^4} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \ln Z(V,T,\vec{\mu}) = -h^{(2-\alpha)/\beta\delta} f_f(t/h^{1/\beta\delta}) - f_r(V,T,\vec{\mu})$$

$$t \sim \frac{T-T_c}{T_c} + \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_q}{T}\right)^2$$

$$h \sim \frac{m_q}{T_c}$$

Pseudo-critical temperatures

response functions
2nd order cumulants

- magnetic

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial h^2} \sim \left(\frac{m_l}{T_c}\right)^{1/\delta-1} \sim -0.79$$

mixed

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial h\, \partial t} \sim \left(\frac{m_l}{T_c}\right)^{(\beta-1)/\beta\delta} \sim -0.34$$

thermal

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial t^2} \sim \left(\frac{m_l}{T_c}\right)^{-\alpha/\beta\delta} \sim +0.11$$

O(4) critical exponents

$\alpha = -0.21$

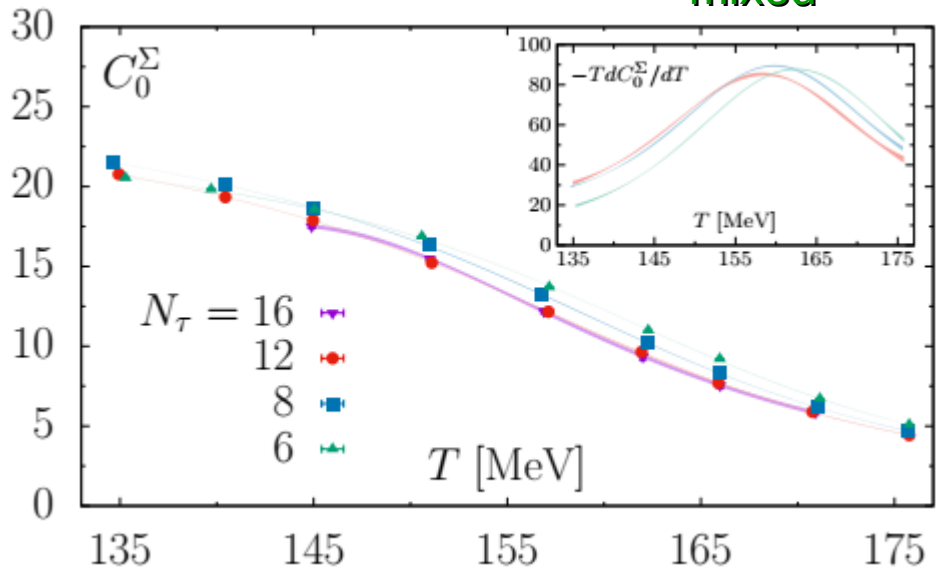
$\beta = 0.38$

$\delta = 4.82$

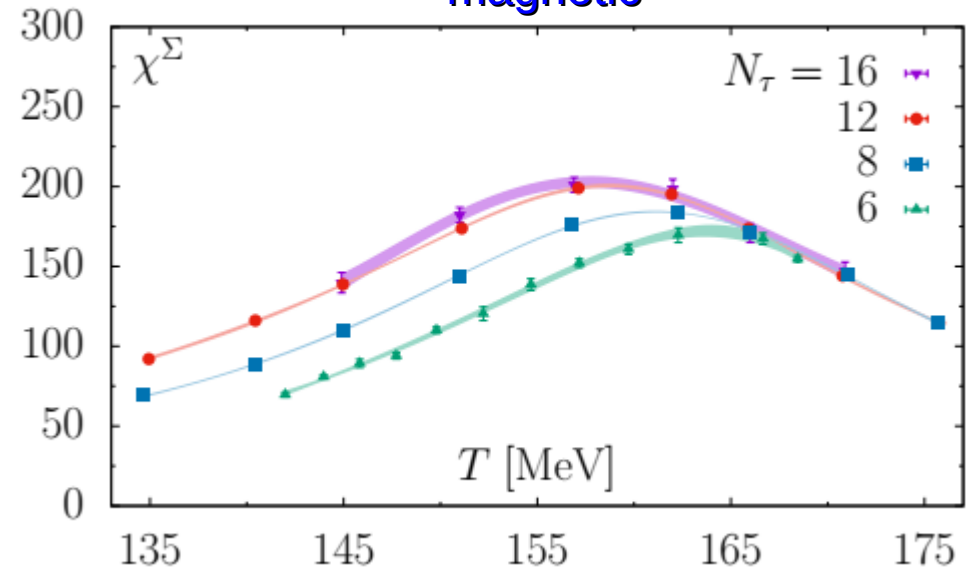
divergence: strong moderate none

Pseudo-critical temperatures from chiral observables

mixed

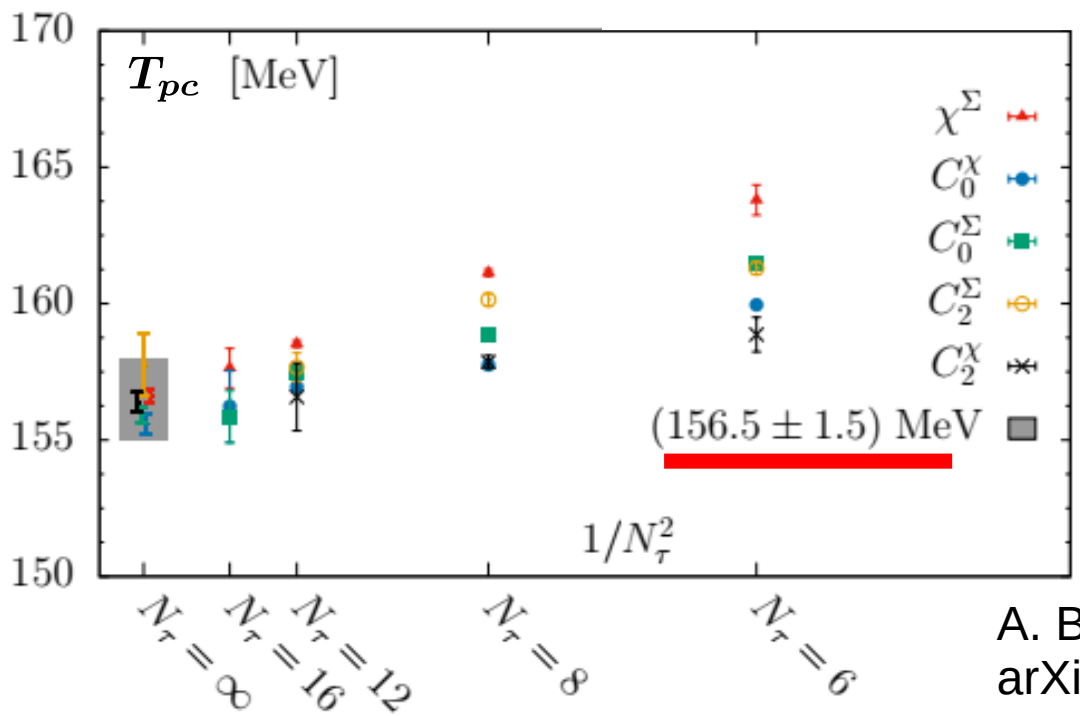


magnetic



physical
light & strange
quark masses;

continuum
extrapolated



$\chi^\Sigma \Leftrightarrow \chi_M$

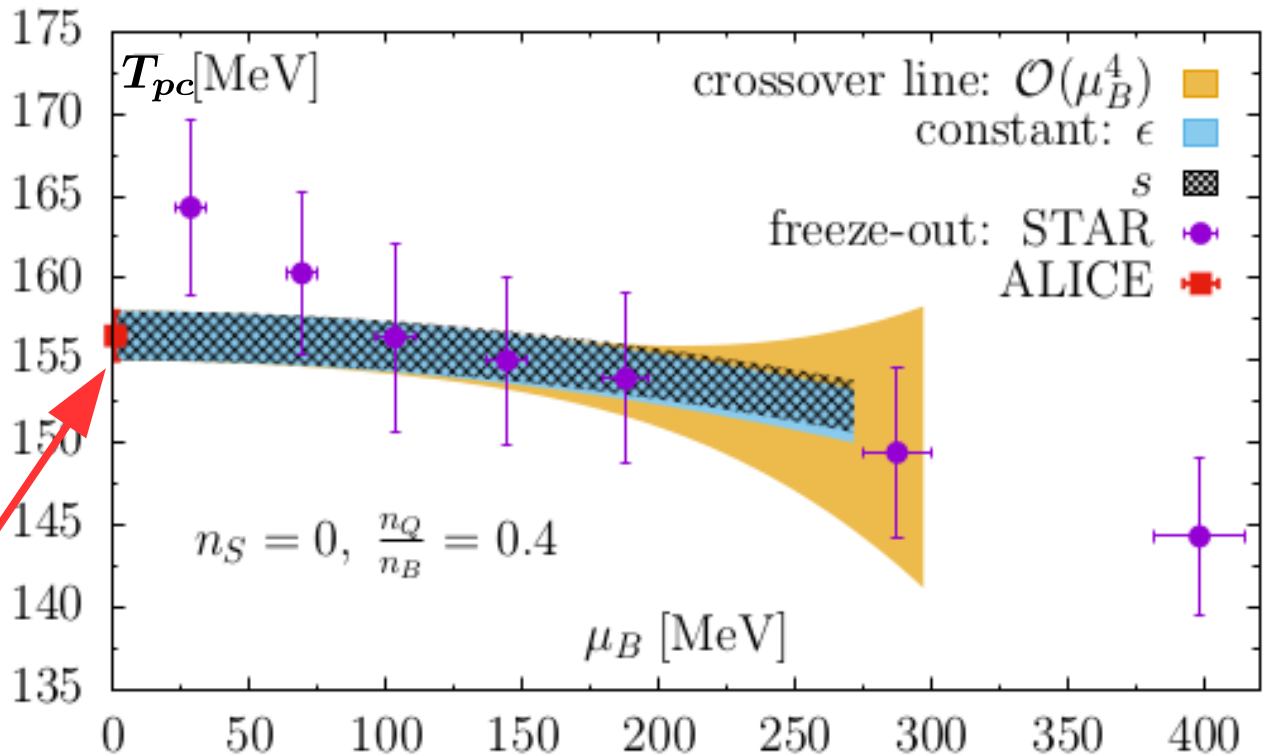
$C_0^\Sigma \Leftrightarrow T(\partial M/\partial T)$

A. Bazavov et al [HotQCD], arXiv:1812.08235

Phases of strong-interaction matter

$$T_{pc}(\mu_B) = T_{pc}\left(1 + \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T_c}\right)^2 + \ldots\right)$$

phase diagram at physical values of the quark masses



A. Andronic et al., Nature 561 (2018) 321

$T_{pc} = (156.5 \pm 1.5)$ MeV

$\kappa_2 = 0.012(4)$

A. Bazavov et al. [HotQCD], arXiv:1812.08235

Scaling in the thermodynamic (infinite volume) limit
– approaching the chiral limit –

some definitions

$$z = \frac{t}{h^{1/\beta\delta}}$$
$$t \equiv \frac{1}{t_0}\frac{T-T_c}{T_c}$$
$$h = \frac{1}{h_0}H$$
$$H \equiv \frac{m_l}{m_s}$$
$$z_0 = h_0^{1/\beta\delta}/t_0$$

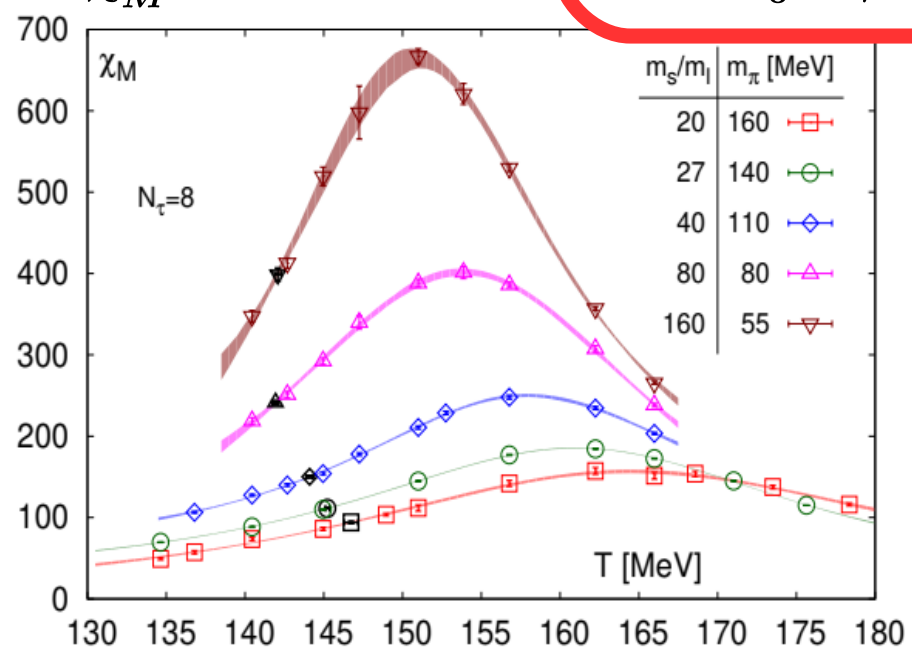
– order parameter M and it's susceptibility

$$M = h^{1/\delta} f_G(z) + f_{sub}(T,H)$$
$$\chi_M = h_0^{-1} h^{1/\delta-1} f_\chi(z) + \tilde{f}_{sub}(T,H)$$

for ANY fixed z:

$$T_{pc}(H) = T_c^0\left(1 + \frac{z}{z_0}H^{1/\beta\delta}\right) + \text{sub leading}$$

$$\chi_M^{max} \sim H^{1/\delta-1}$$



conventional steps to determine T_c^0

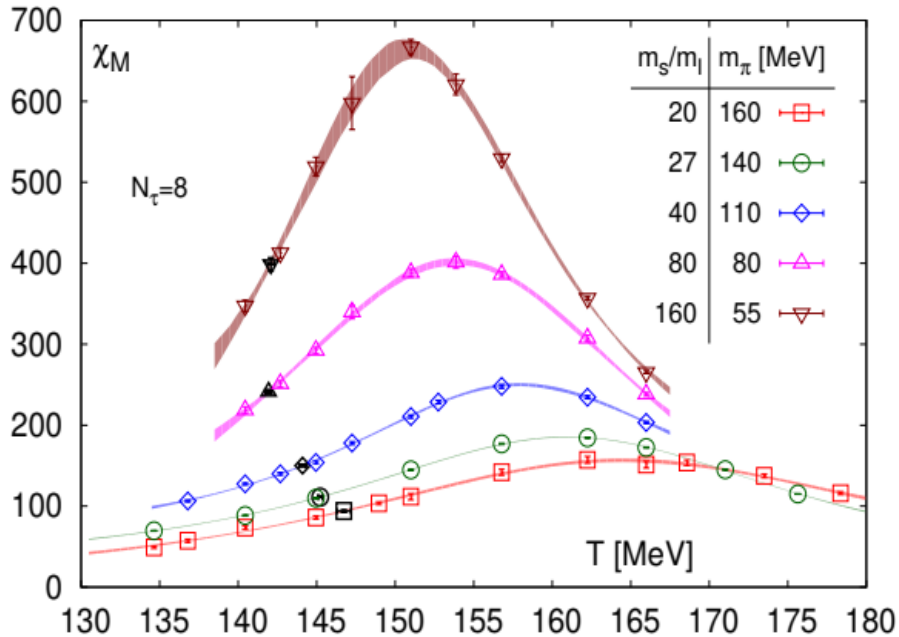
– choose a characteristic feature of χ_M
→ the maximum χ_M^{max}

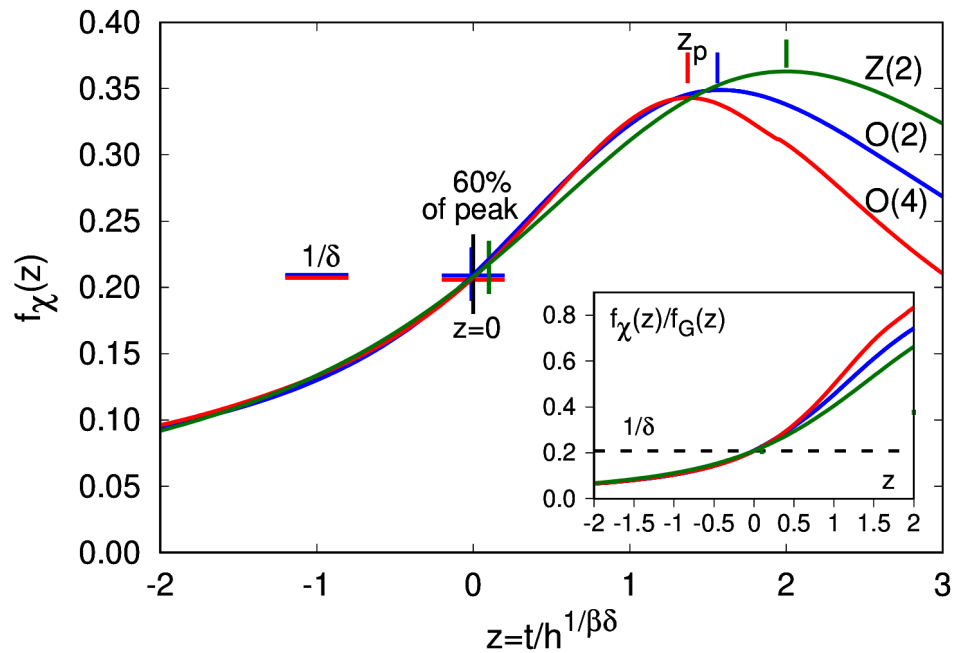
– in the scaling regime this is located at z_p

– using the scaling ansatz for $T_{pc}(H)$ allows to extract T_c^0

A. Lahiri et al, QM 2018, arXiv:1807.05727
H.T. Ding et al, arXiv:1903.04801

Chiral PHASE TRANSITION temperature





T_{60} temperature at which χ_M reaches 60% of its maximal value

estimators for $\sim T_c^0$

$$\frac{H\chi_M}{M} = \frac{f_\chi(z)}{f_G(z)} + \text{regular}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 1/\delta & , \; z = 0 \quad \Rightarrow T_\delta \\ \sim 0.5 & , \; z = z_p \end{cases}$$

Finite size scaling functions of the 3-d, O(4) spin model

$$M = h^{1/\delta} f_G(z, z_L) + f_{sub}(T, H, L)$$
$$\chi_M = h_0^{-1} h^{1/\delta - 1} f_\chi(z, z_L) + \tilde{f}_{sub}(T, H, L)$$

$$z_L = \frac{1}{L h^{\nu_c}}$$
$$z = \frac{t}{h^{1/\beta\delta}}$$
$$\nu_c = \nu/\beta\delta = (0.5 - 0.6)$$

$$\frac{H\chi_M}{M} = \frac{f_\chi(z, z_L)}{f_G(z, z_L)} + \text{sub leading}$$

$$\lim_{L\to\infty} \left(\frac{H\chi_M}{M}\right)_{z=0} = \frac{1}{\delta}$$

volume dependence controlled by $z_L \sim 1/m_\pi^{2\nu_c} L \ , \ 2\nu_c \simeq 1$

define $z_\delta(z_L)$ as the value z for given z_L at which $\left(\frac{H\chi_M}{M}\right)_{z_\delta(z_L)} = \frac{1}{\delta}$

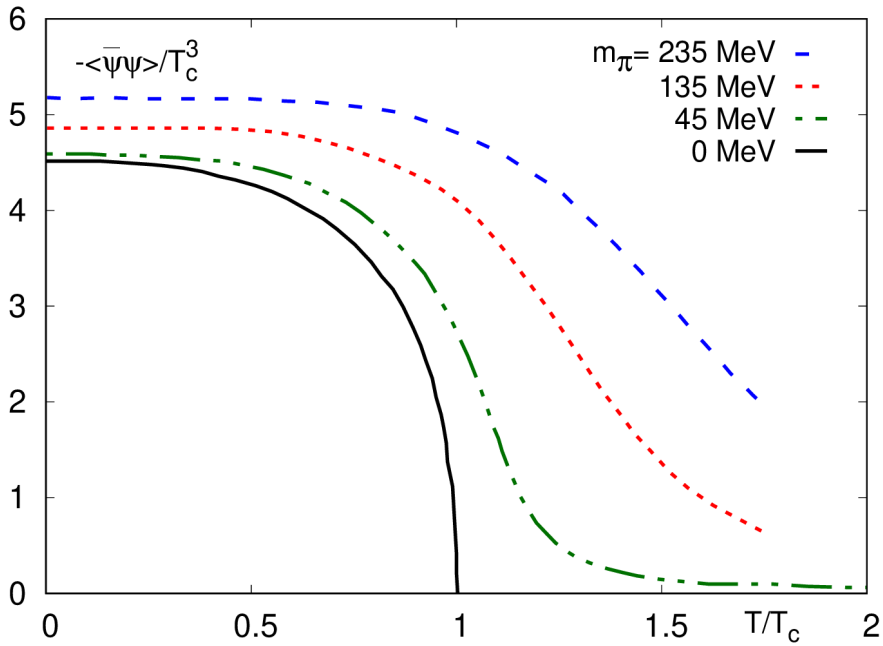
$$T_\delta(H, L) = T_c^0 \left(1 + \frac{z_\delta(z_L)}{z_0} H^{1/\beta\delta}\right) + \text{sub leading}$$

$z_\delta(0) = 0$

$z_\delta \simeq 0 \quad \Rightarrow$ weak H-dependence of T_δ even at finite H and/or L
– almost perfect estimator for T_c in the limit $H \to 0 \ , \ L \to \infty$

Chiral extrapolation in the Quark Meson Model

$$\Gamma_{\Lambda_{UV}}[\phi] = \int d^4x \left\{ \bar{q}(\partial\!\!\!/ + g m_c) q + g\bar{q}(\sigma + i\vec{\tau}\cdot\vec{\pi}\gamma_5) q + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi)^2 + U_{\Lambda_{UV}}(\phi) \right\}$$



$$\Delta T \equiv T_{pc}(m_\pi^{phys}) - T_c(0) \simeq 30 \text{ MeV}$$

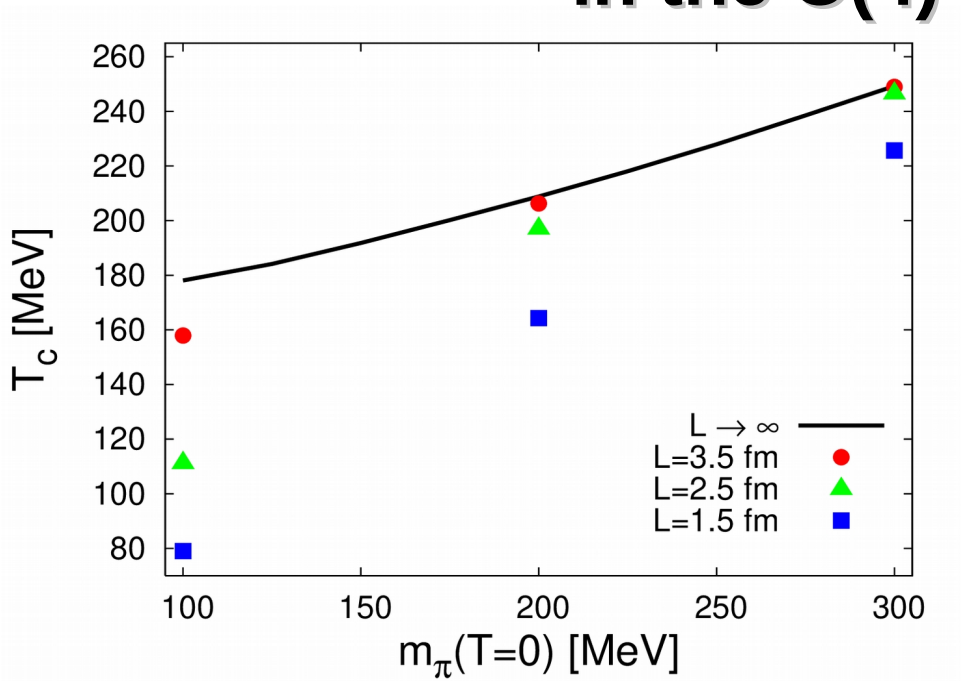
m_π[MeV]	0	45	135	230
$T_{pc}^{(1)}$[MeV]	100.7	$\simeq 110$	$\simeq 130$	$\simeq 150$
$T_{pc}^{(2)}$[MeV]	100.7	113	128	—

– strong pion mass dependence of $T_{pc}(m_\pi)$

$T_{pc}(m_\pi)$ almost linear in m_π ,
even for $m_\pi = m_\pi^{phys}$
trivial?
put O(4) in, get O(4) out?

J. Berges, D.U. Jungnickel, C. Wetterich, Phys. Rev. D59 (1999) 034010

Chiral extrapolation and finite volume effects in the O(4) ϕ^4 model



$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4}\phi^4$$

$$\phi = (\phi_1, ..., \phi_4)$$

$$\Delta T \equiv T_{pc}(m_\pi^{phys}) - T_c(0) \simeq 35 \text{ MeV}$$

L [fm]	$m_\pi^{(0)} = 100\,\text{MeV}$	$m_\pi^{(0)} = 200\,\text{MeV}$	$m_\pi^{(0)} = 300\,\text{MeV}$
1.5	79.0 MeV	164.3 MeV	225.7 MeV
2.5	111.3 MeV	197.1 MeV	246.6 MeV
3.5	157.9 MeV	206.3 MeV	249.0 MeV
∞	178.1 MeV	208.3 MeV	249.3 MeV

– increasing volume dependence with decreasing pion mass

J. Braun, B. Klein, H.-J. Pirner, A.H. Rezaeian, Phys. Rev. D73 (2006) 074010

Finite size scaling functions of the 3-d, O(4) spin model

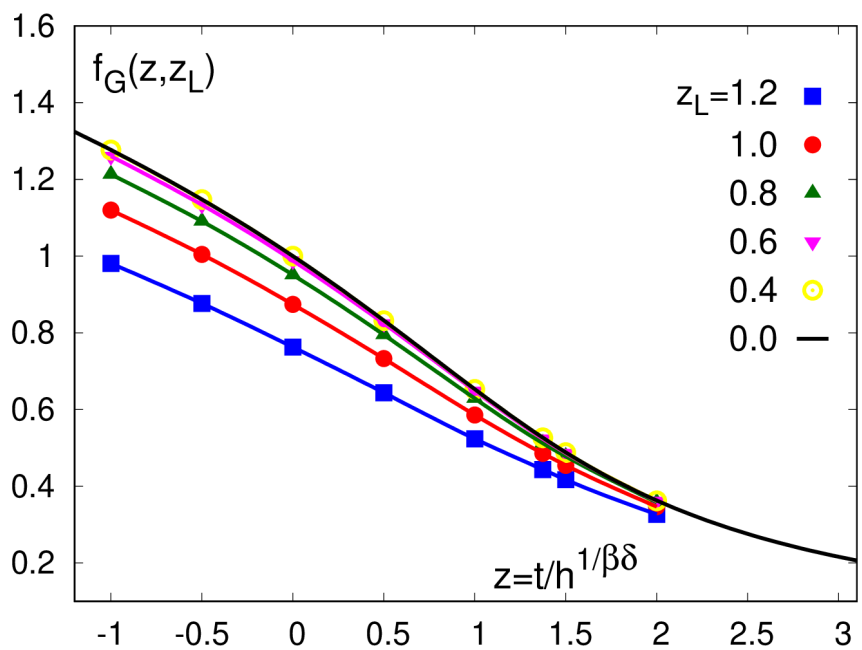
$$V \equiv L^3 \equiv (N_\sigma a)^3$$

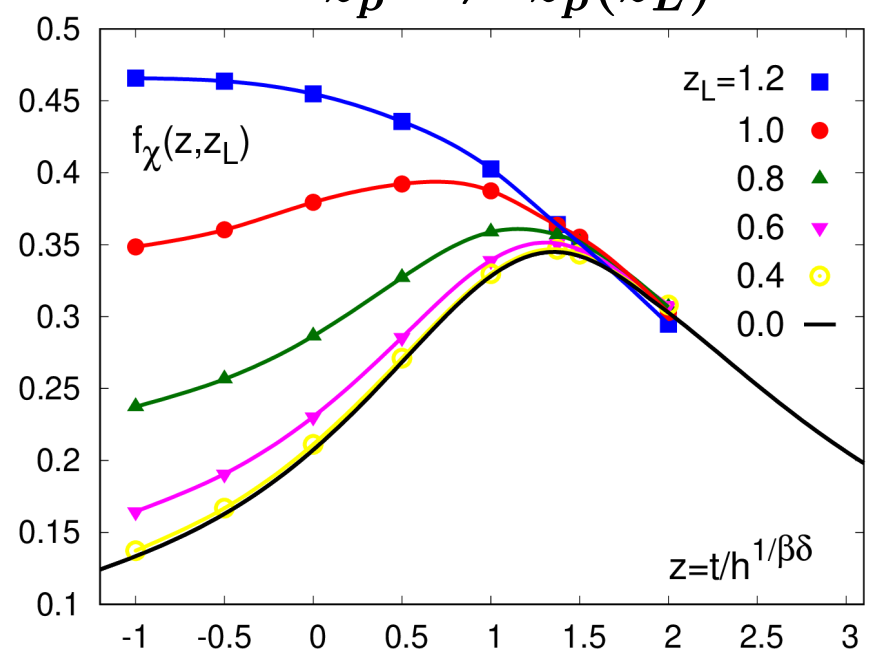
$$\begin{aligned} M &= h^{1/\delta} f_G(z, z_L) + f_{sub}(T, H, L) \\ \chi_M &= h_0^{-1} h^{1/\delta - 1} f_\chi(z, z_L) + \tilde{f}_{sub}(T, H, L) \end{aligned}$$

any "characteristic" z becomes a function of z_L :

$$T_{pc}(H, L) = T_c^0 \left(1 + \frac{z_p(z_L)}{z_0} H^{1/\beta\delta}\right) + \text{sub leading}$$

$$z_p \Rightarrow z_p(z_L)$$





J. Engels, FK, Phys. Rev. D90 (2014) 014501

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$$\equiv (N_\sigma a)^3$$

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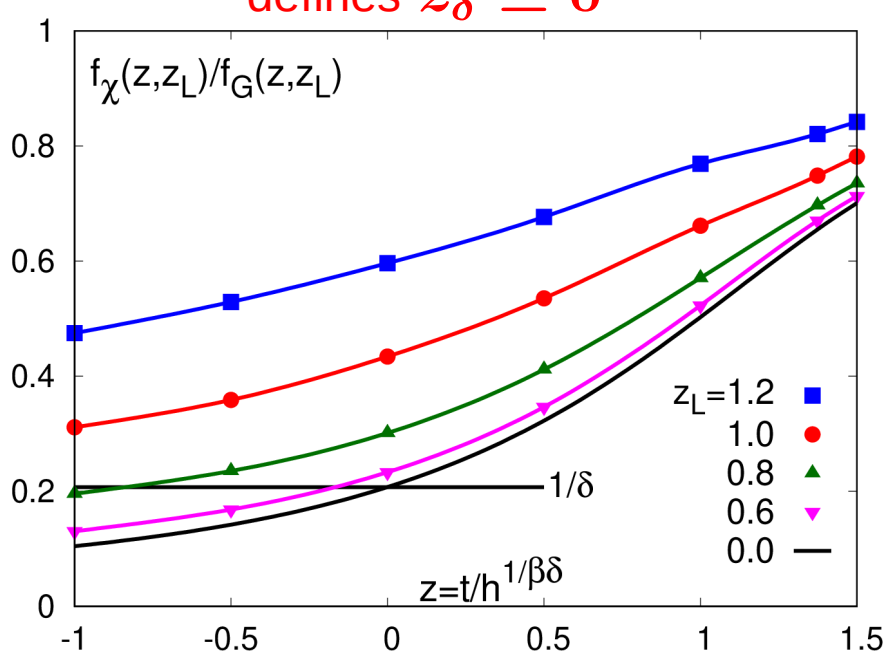
$$\chi_M = h_0^{-1} h^{1/\delta - 1} f_\chi(z, z_L) + \tilde{f}_{sub}(T, H, L)$$

$$\frac{H\chi_M}{M} = \frac{f_\chi(z, z_L)}{f_G(z, z_L)} + \text{sub leading}$$

$$\lim_{L\to\infty} \left(\frac{H\chi_M}{M}\right)_{z=0} = \frac{1}{\delta}$$

defines $z_\delta \simeq 0$



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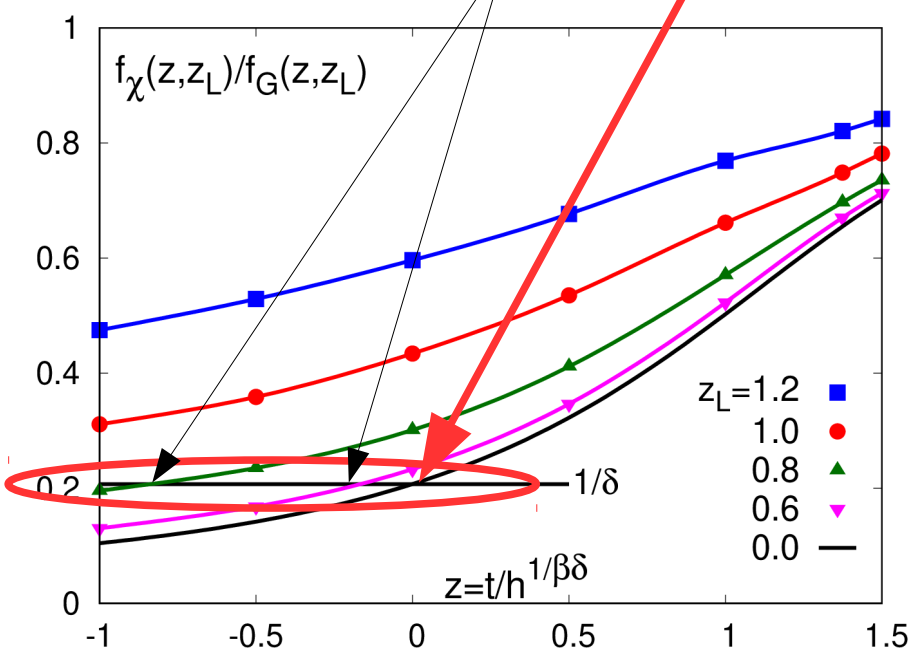
$$\frac{H\chi_M}{M} = \frac{f_\chi(z, z_L)}{f_G(z, z_L)} + \text{sub leading}$$

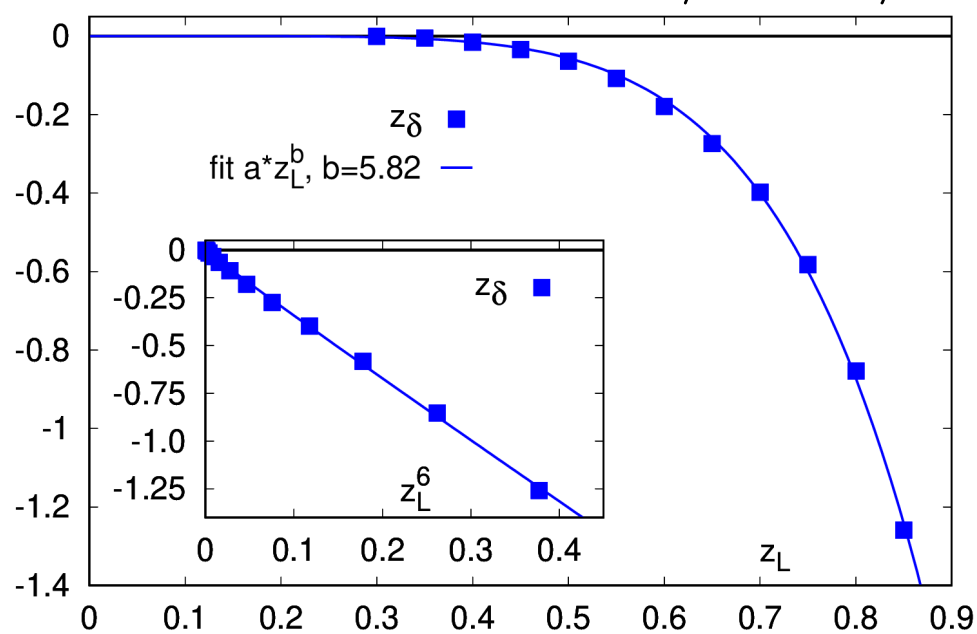
quark mass dependence arises only as a finite volume effect (+s.l.)

$$T_\delta(H, L) = T_c^0 \left(1 + \frac{z_\delta(z_L)}{z_0} H^{1/\beta\delta}\right)$$

$$\lim_{L\to\infty} T_\delta(L) = T_c^0$$

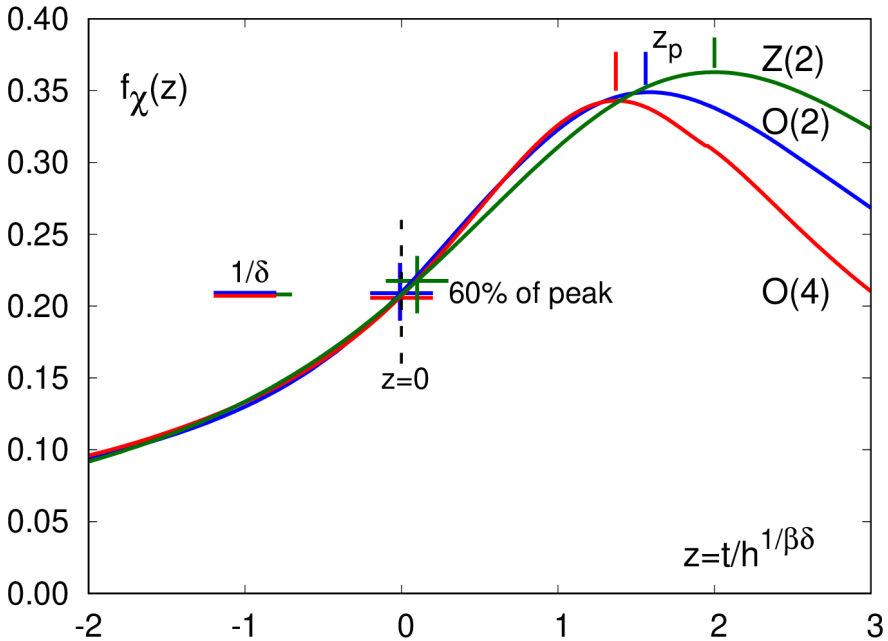
finite volume effects $\sim 1/V^2 \equiv 1/L^6$





Chiral PHASE TRANSITION in (2+1)-flavor QCD

A. Lahiri et al, QM 2018, arXiv:1807.05727
H.T. Ding et al (HotQCD), arXiv:1903.04801



– physical strange quark mass
– vary light quark mass

$$55\ \mathrm{MeV} \leq m_\pi \leq 160\ \mathrm{MeV}$$

– use new estimators for pseudo-critical temperatures

$$T_\delta,\ T_{60}$$

– control finite volume effects

$$2 \leq m_\pi L \leq 5$$

– extrapolate to infinite volume limit and chiral limit

$$1/aT = 6,\ 8,\ 12$$

	δ	z_p	z_{60}	$f_G(z_p)$	$f_\chi(z_p)$	$f_\chi(0)/f_\chi(z_p)$
Z(2)	4.805	2.00(5)	0.10(1)	0.548(10)	0.3629(1)	0.573(1)
O(2)	4.780	1.58(4)	-0.005(9)	0.550(10)	0.3489(1)	0.600(1)
O(4)	4.824	1.37(3)	-0.013(7)	0.532(10)	0.3430(1)	0.604(1)

Chiral PHASE TRANSITION in (2+1)-flavor QCD

$$\langle\bar\psi\psi\rangle_f = \frac{T}{V}\frac{\partial \ln Z(T,V,m_u,m_d,m_s)}{\partial m_f}$$

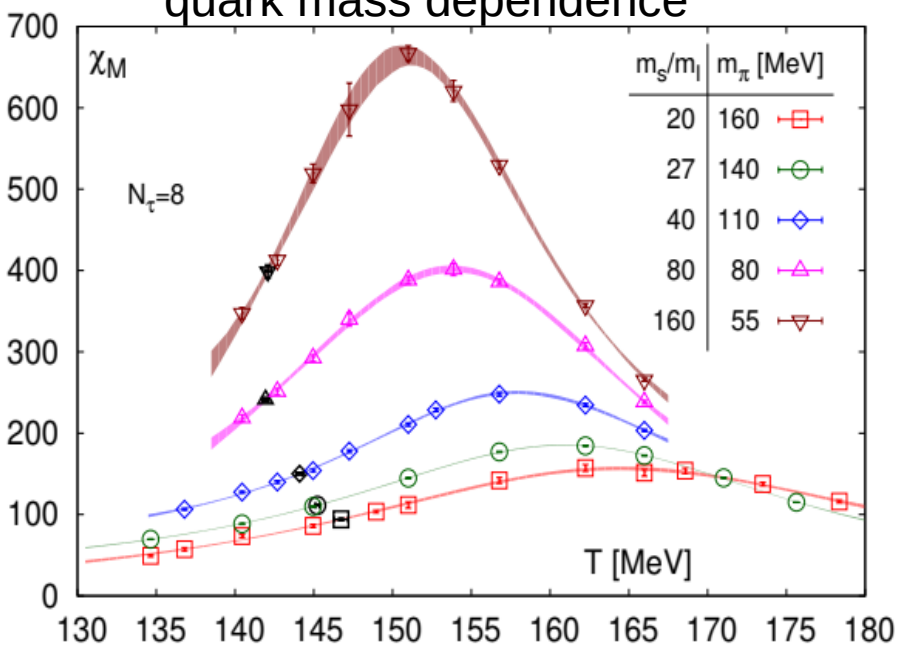
$$\langle\bar\psi\psi\rangle_l = (\langle\bar\psi\psi\rangle_u + \langle\bar\psi\psi\rangle_d)/2$$

renormalization group invariant order parameter: $M = 2\left(m_s\langle\bar\psi\psi\rangle_l - m_l\langle\bar\psi\psi\rangle_s\right)/f_K^4$

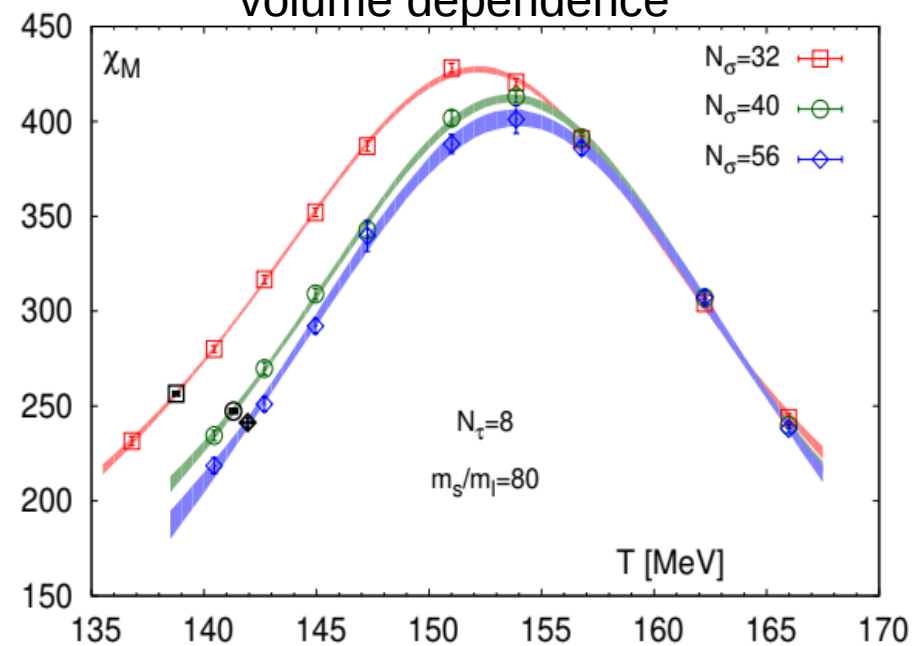
chiral susceptibility: $\chi_M = m_s(\partial_u + \partial_d)M$

lattice sizes: $N_\sigma^3 \times N_\tau\ ,\quad 4 \le N_\sigma/N_\tau \le 8$

quark mass dependence



volume dependence



H.T. Ding et al, arXiv:1903.04801

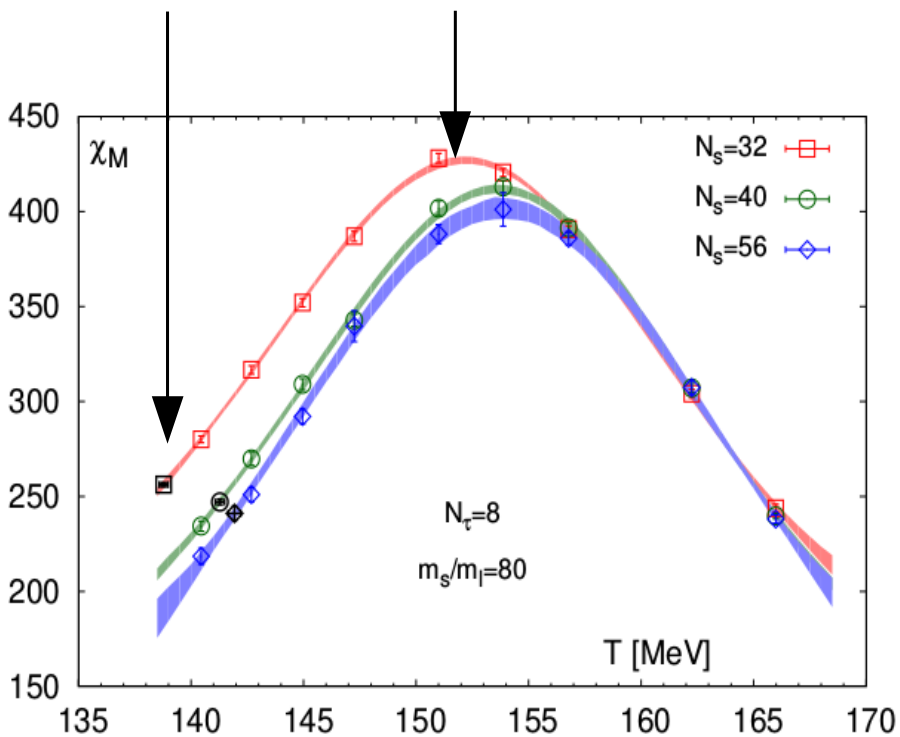
Chiral PHASE TRANSITION in (2+1)-flavor QCD

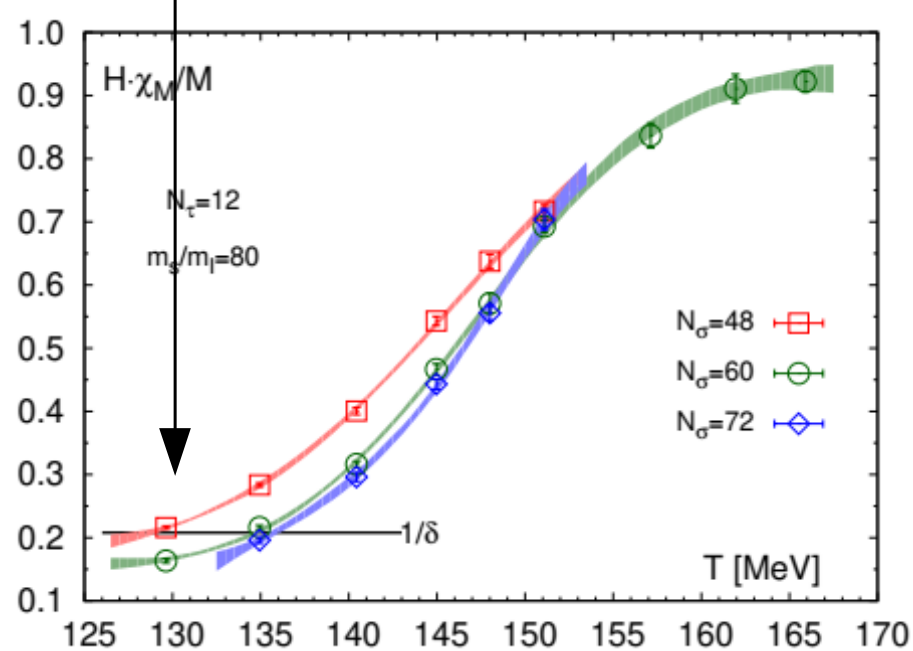
use two novel observables for the determination of the chiral PHASE TRANSITION TEMPERATURE, which in the infinite volume limit correspond to $z \simeq 0$, i.e. in the scaling regime they have almost no quark mass dependence

$$T_X(H,L) = T_c^0 \left(1 + \frac{z_X(z_L)}{z_0} H^{1/\beta\delta}\right) + \text{sub leading}\ ,\ X = \delta,\ 60$$

$$\chi_{M,60} = 0.6\chi^{max} \Rightarrow T_{60}$$

$$\frac{H\chi_M}{M} = \frac{1}{\delta} \Rightarrow T_\delta$$





H.T. Ding et al, arXiv:1903.04801

Finite size & and quark mass scaling

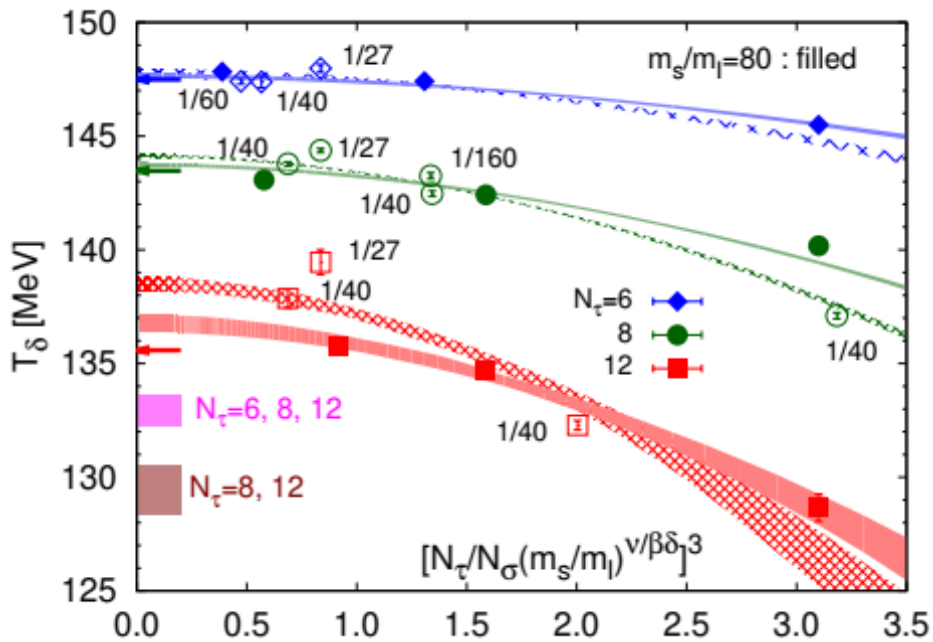
$$T_\delta(H,L) = T_c^0\left(1 + \frac{z_\delta(z_L)}{z_0} H^{1/\beta\delta}\right) + \text{sub leading}$$

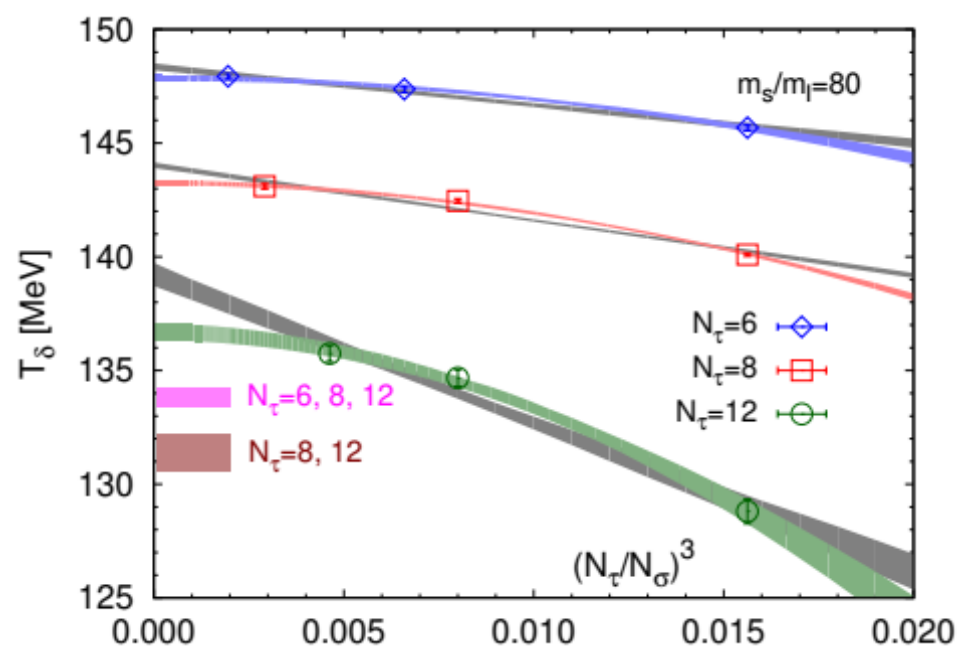
$$\left(T_\delta(H,L)/T_c^0 - 1\right) H^{-1/\beta\delta} - c_r H^{1-1/\delta} = \frac{z_\delta(z_L)}{z_0}$$

leading regular term

$$z_L = z_{L,0}\left(\frac{m_s}{m_l}\right)^{\nu_c} \frac{N_\tau}{N_\sigma}$$

$$\nu_c = \nu/\beta\delta$$

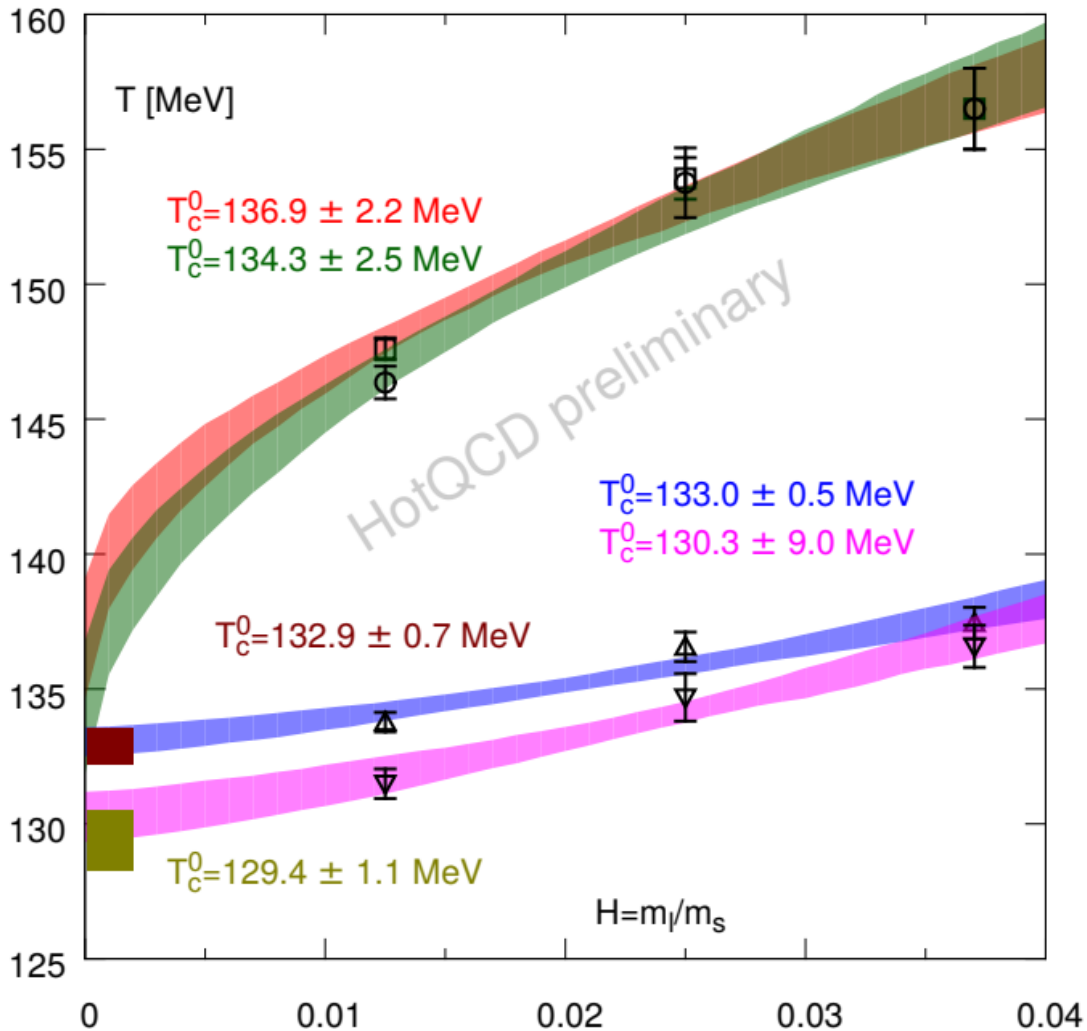




$z_\delta(z_L)$ for O(4) from
J. Engels, FK, Phys. Rev. D90 (2014) 014501

Finite size & and quark mass scaling

$$T_\delta(H,L) = T_c^0\left(1 + \frac{z_\delta(z_L)}{z_0} H^{1/\beta\delta}\right) + \text{sub leading}$$



T_{pc} : N_τ=6, 8, 12
T_{pc} : N_τ=6, 8, 12
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T_δ : N_τ=6, 8, 12
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T_δ : N_τ=8, 12
T_c^0 : N_τ=6, 8, 12
T_c^0 : N_τ=8, 12

$(i)\ L \to \infty$
$(ii)\ a \to 0$
$(iii)\ H \to 0$

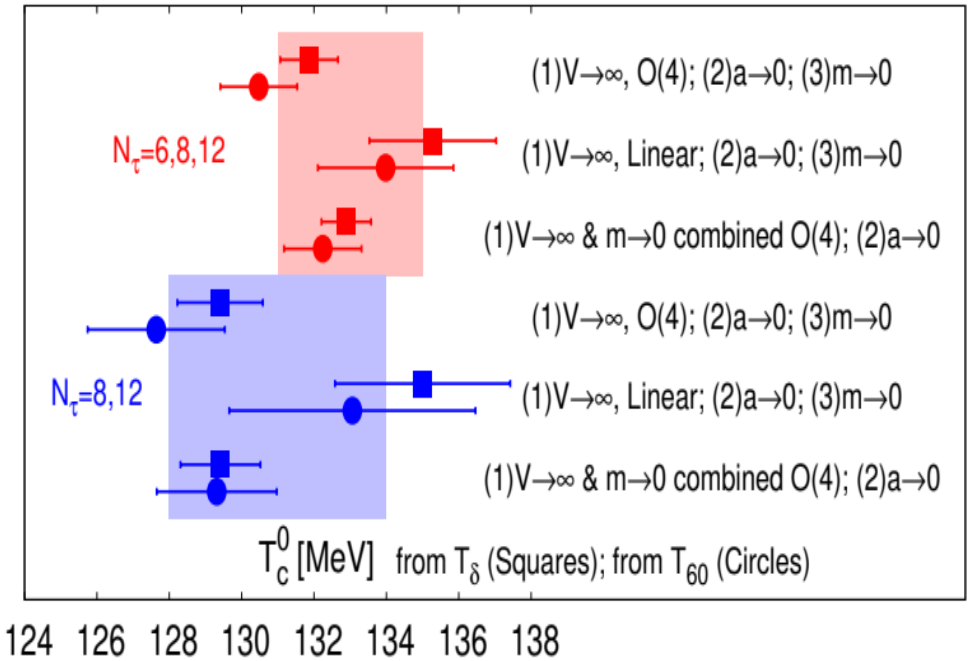
(i)+(iii) combined
O(4) ansatz

The chiral PHASE TRANSITION temperature

– using extrapolations linear in 1/V and m
as well as O(4) scaling ansatz

– extrapolations with and without data from coarsest lattice

– averaging results for T_δ and T_{60}



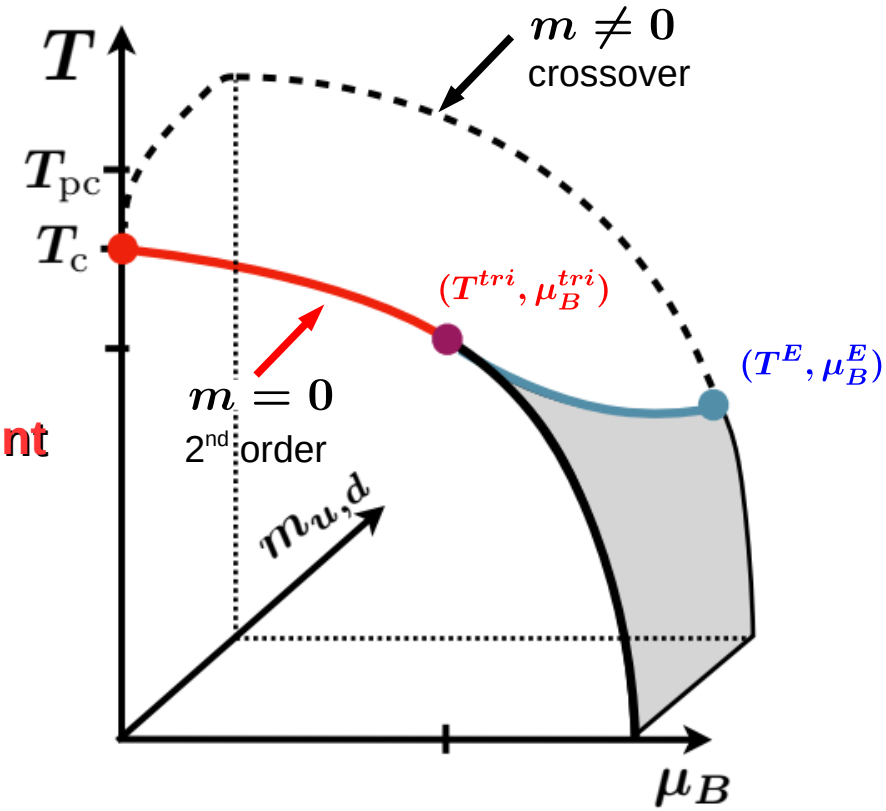
$$T_c = 132^{+3}_{-6}\ \mathrm{MeV}$$

H.T. Ding et al, arXiv:1903.04801

Crossover, chiral phase transition at $\mu_B = 0$ and the (tri)-critical point at $\mu_B > 0$

(156.5 ± 1.5) MeV

132^{+3}_{-6} MeV



a possible tri-critical point will show up only at

$T < 135$ MeV

the critical point is likely to be located at

$T < 130$ MeV

Random Matrix Model	A. Halasz, A.D. Jackson, R.E. Shrock, M.A. Stephanov, J.J.,M. Verbaarschot, Phys. Rev. D58 (1998) 096007
QCD&RMT	M. Stephanov, Phys. Rev. D73 (2006) 094508
NJL	M. Buballa, S. Carignano, Phys. Lett. B791 (2019) 361

The chiral PHASE TRANSITION temperature

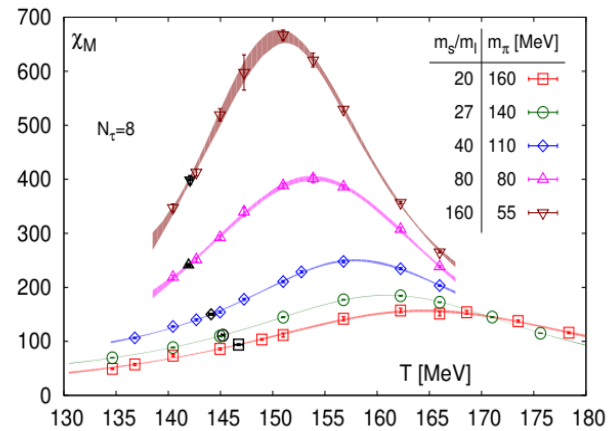
– evidence for a 2nd order transition in the chiral limit–

in the thermodynamic limit: suppose there occurs a 1st order transition for $H < H_c$

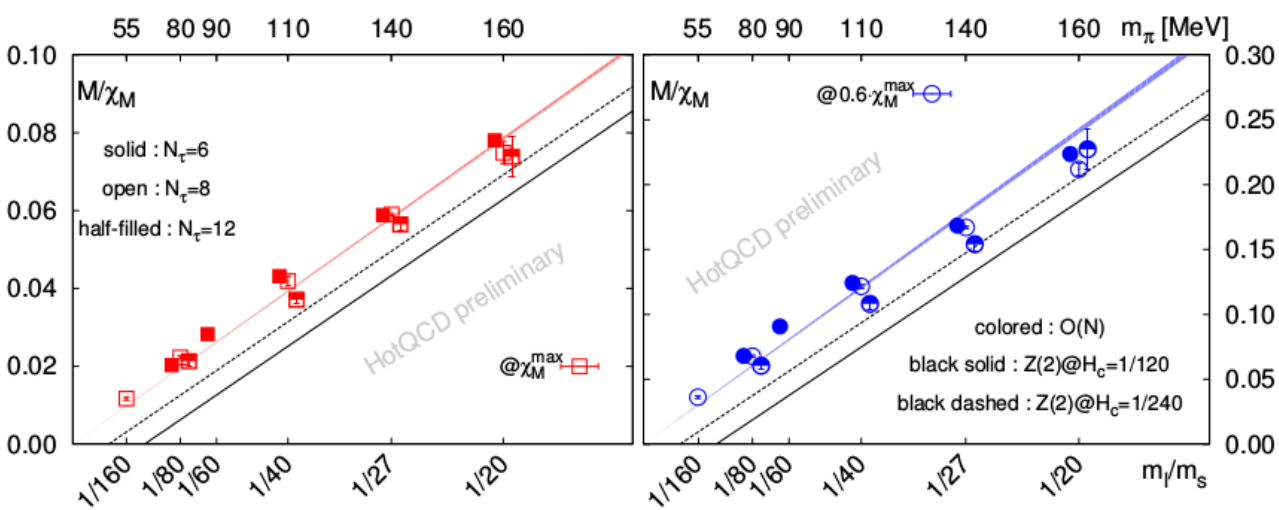
$$M(T,H) \sim (H - H_c)^{1/\delta} f_G(z)$$ (M is "almost" an order parameter)

$$\chi(T,H) \sim (H - H_c)^{1/\delta - 1} f_\chi(z) + \ldots$$

for ANY fixed z: $\frac{M}{\chi_M} \sim (H - H_c) \frac{f_G(z)}{f_\chi(z)}$ ⇒ bound on H_c



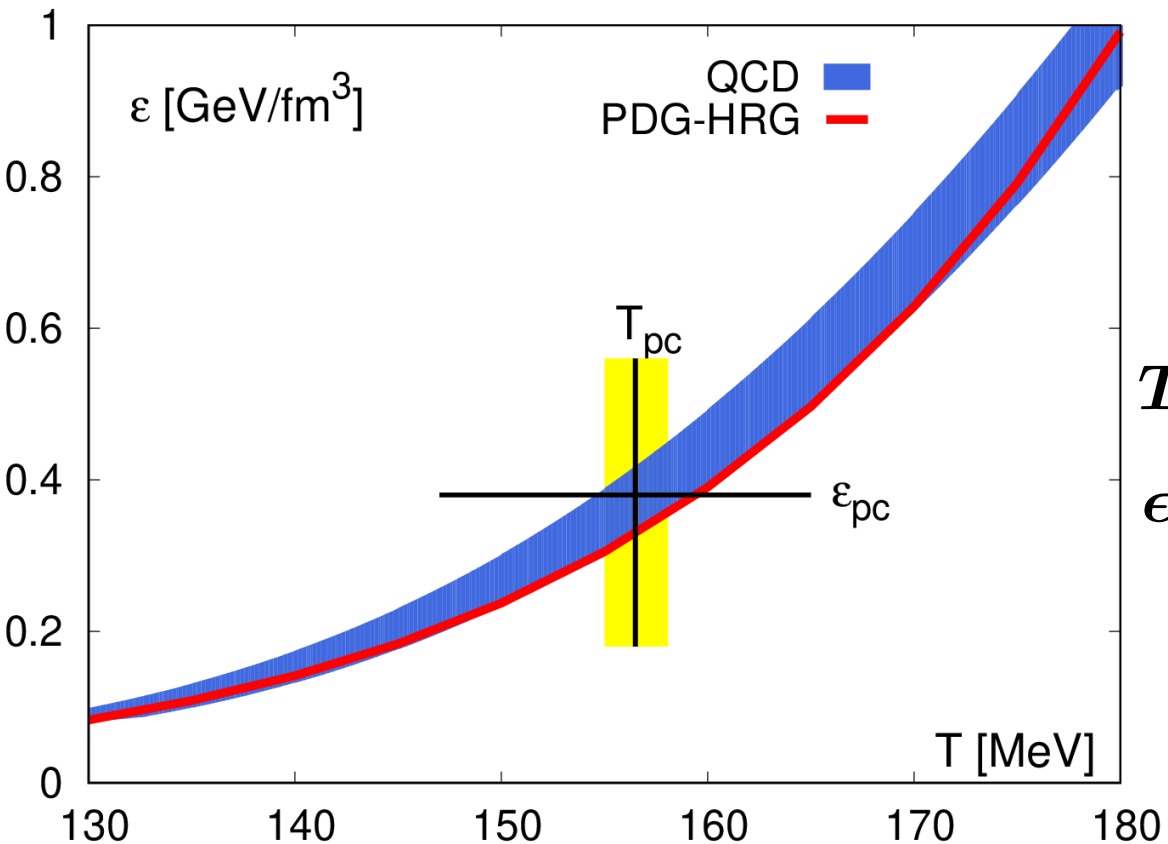
χ_M would diverge already for non-zero H_c



A. Lahiri et al, QM 2018, arXiv:1807.05727

Crossover transition parameters

PDG: Particle Data Group hadron spectrum



$$\mu_B/T = 0$$

physical quark masses

$$T_{pc} = (156.5 \pm 1.5)\ \mathrm{MeV}$$

$$\epsilon_{pc} = (0.42 \pm 0.06)\mathrm{GeV/fm}^3$$

compare with:

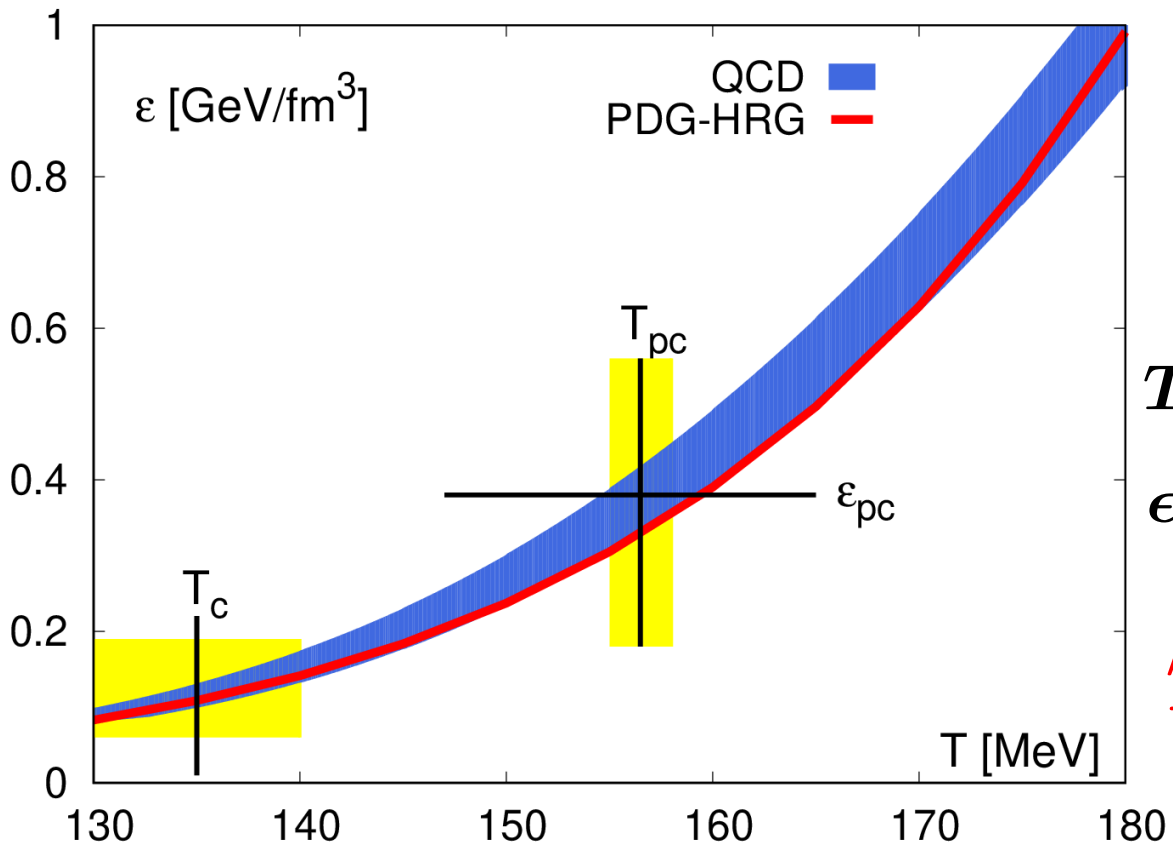
$$\epsilon^{\mathrm{nucl.\ mat.}} \simeq 150\ \mathrm{MeV/fm}^3$$

$$\epsilon^{\mathrm{nucleon}} \simeq 450\ \mathrm{MeV/fm}^3$$

A. Bazavov et al. (HotQCD) ,
Phys. Rev. D90 (2014) 094503
and arXiv:1812.08235

Crossover transition parameters – and chiral limit –

PDG: Particle Data Group hadron spectrum



$$\mu_B/T = 0$$

physical quark masses

$$T_{pc} = (156.5 \pm 1.5)\ \mathrm{MeV}$$

$$\epsilon_{pc} = (0.42 \pm 0.06)\mathrm{GeV/fm^3}$$

chiral limit

$$T_c = 132^{+3}_{-6}\ \mathrm{MeV}$$

$$\epsilon_c \simeq 0.15(5)\ \mathrm{GeV/fm^3}$$

compare with:

$$\epsilon^{\mathrm{nucl.\ mat.}} \simeq 150\ \mathrm{MeV/fm^3}$$

$$\epsilon^{\mathrm{nucleon}} \simeq 450\ \mathrm{MeV/fm^3}$$

A. Bazavov et al. (HotQCD) ,
Phys. Rev. D90 (2014) 094503
and arXiv:1812.08235

Transition parameters in the chiral limit

What drives the chiral transition?

– hadron resonance gas in the interval (132-156.5) MeV

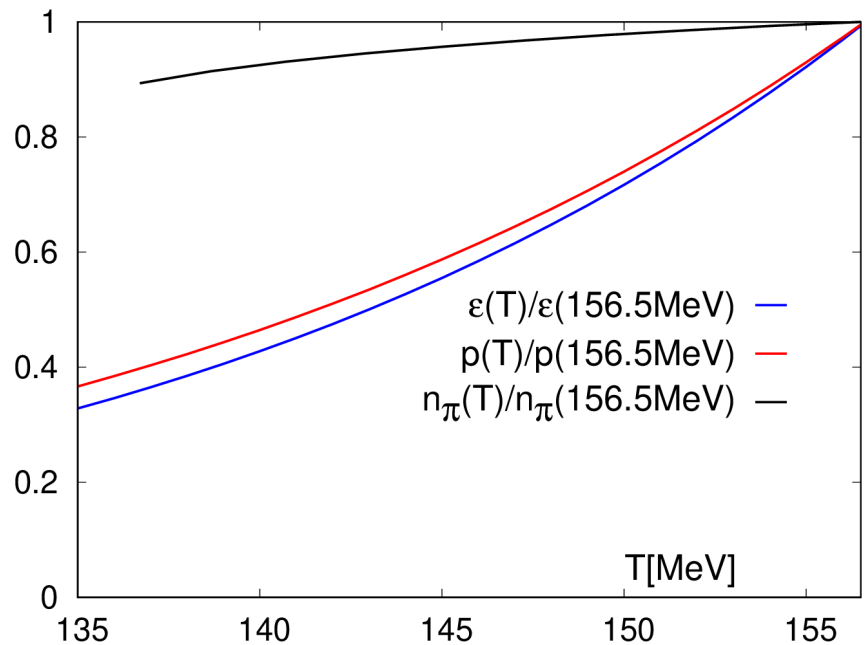
– pion mass varies from 0 to its physical values

in the range $T \simeq (130 - 156.5)\ \mathrm{MeV}$:

contributions to total energy density and pressure change by a factor 3

but, pion density stays roughly constant

$$n_\pi \simeq 0.12/\mathrm{fm}^3$$



Conclusions

– no evidence for a 1st order transition in QCD for pion masses $m_\pi \geq 55\ \mathrm{MeV}$

– the chiral phase transition in QCD is **likely to be 2nd order**

– the chiral phase transition is (20-25) MeV smaller than the pseudo-critical temperature for physical values of the quark masses

$$T = 132^{+3}_{-6}\mathrm{MeV}$$

– the chiral phase transition occurs at a pion density

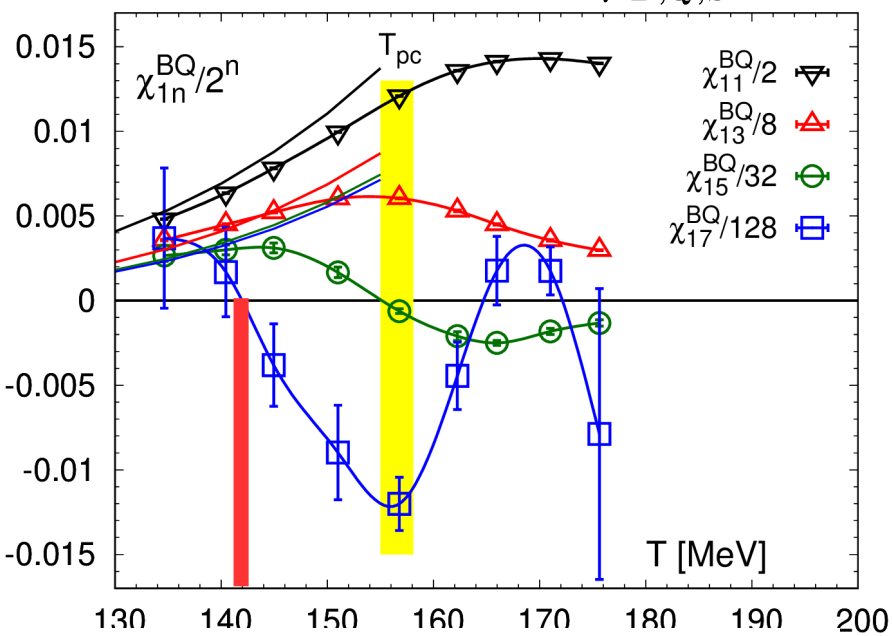
$$n_\pi \simeq 0.12/\mathrm{fm}^3$$

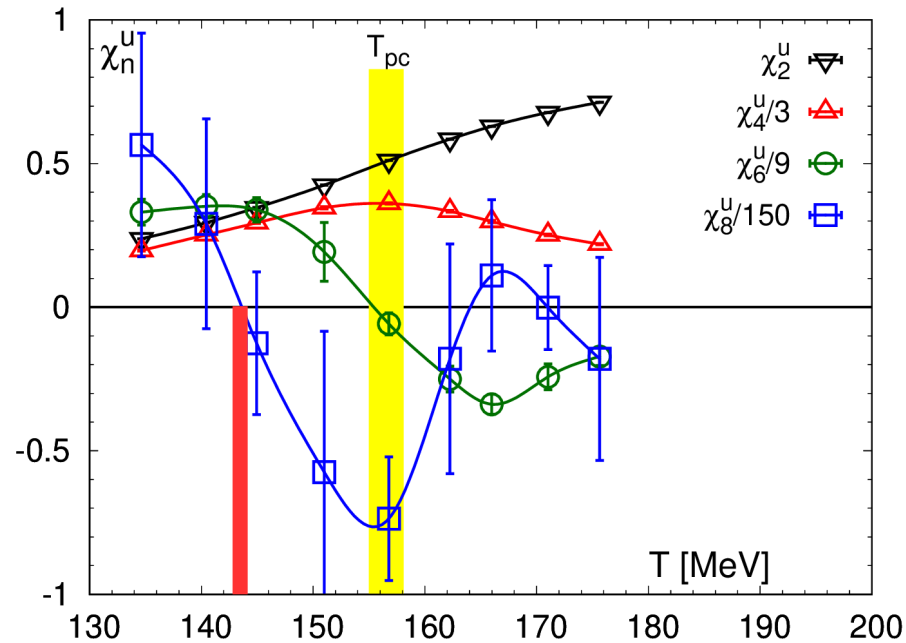
– **a critical endpoint with $T^{CEP} < 140\ \mathrm{MeV}$ makes it difficult to be observed in experimental searches at RHIC**

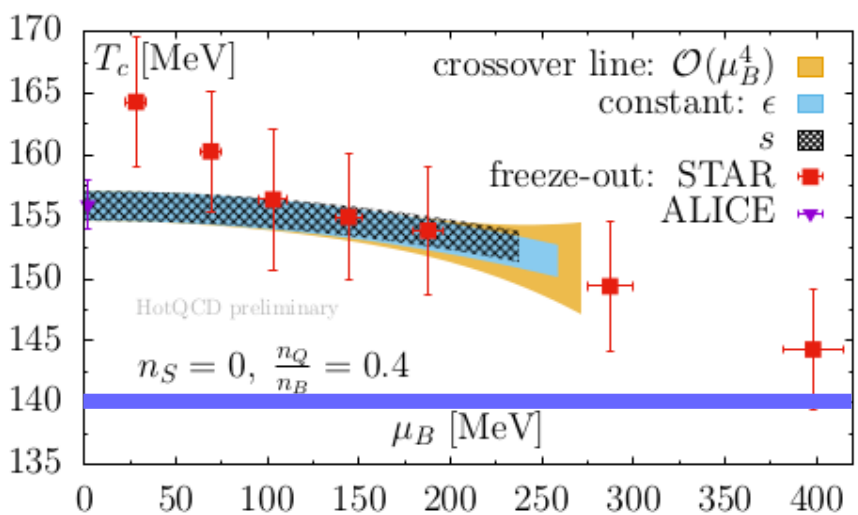
Critical behavior and higher order cumulants

$$\chi_{1n}^{BQ} = \left.\frac{\partial^{n+1} P/T^4}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B \partial \hat{\mu}_Q^n}\right|_{\mu_{B,Q,S}=0}$$

$$\chi_n^u = \left.\frac{\partial^n P/T^4}{\partial \hat{\mu}_u^n}\right|_{\mu_{u,d,s}=0}$$







many 8th order cumulants turn negative for

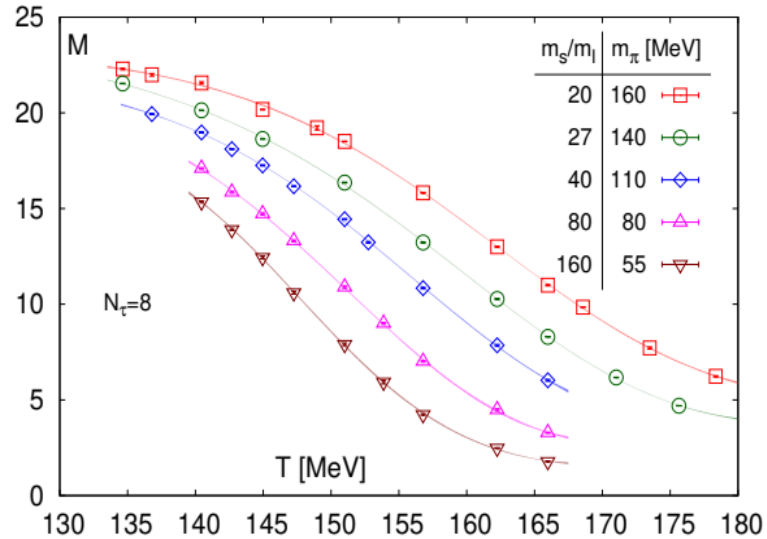
$$T^- \gtrsim (140 - 145)\ \mathrm{MeV}$$

→ plausible scenario:

$$T_{cp} < 140\mathrm{MeV}\ ,\ \mu_B^{cp} > 400\mathrm{MeV}$$

The Chiral PHASE TRANSITION in (2+1)-flavor QCD

$$M \sim m_s \frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial m_l}$$



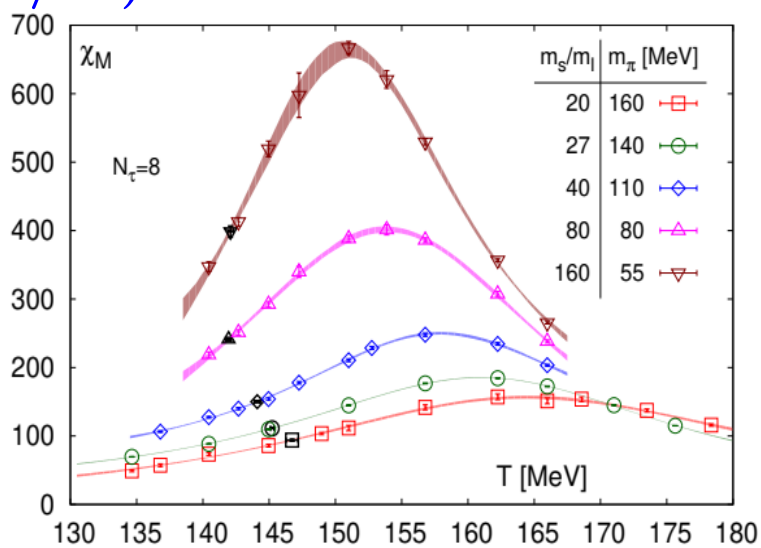
$$m_l = (m_u + m_d)/2 \Rightarrow 0$$

m_s fixed, physical

"magnetic" susceptibility

$$\sim (m_s/m_l)^{0.79}$$

$$(160/27)^{0.79} \sim 4$$



"mixed" susceptibility

$$\sim (m_s/m_l)^{0.34}$$

$$(160/27)^{0.34} \sim 1.8$$