



# Ghostly Quarkyonic Matter at Finite Temperature

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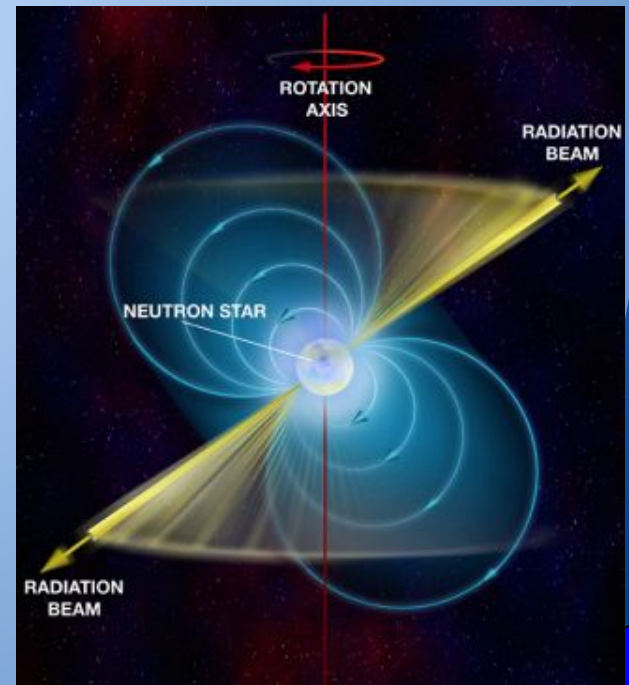
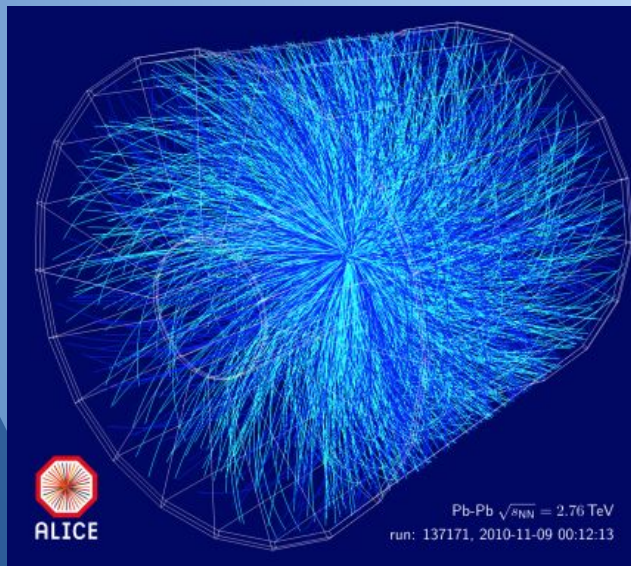


# Outline

- Motivation
- Quarkyonic Matter
- Introducing ghost field
- Finite Temperature
- Final Remarks

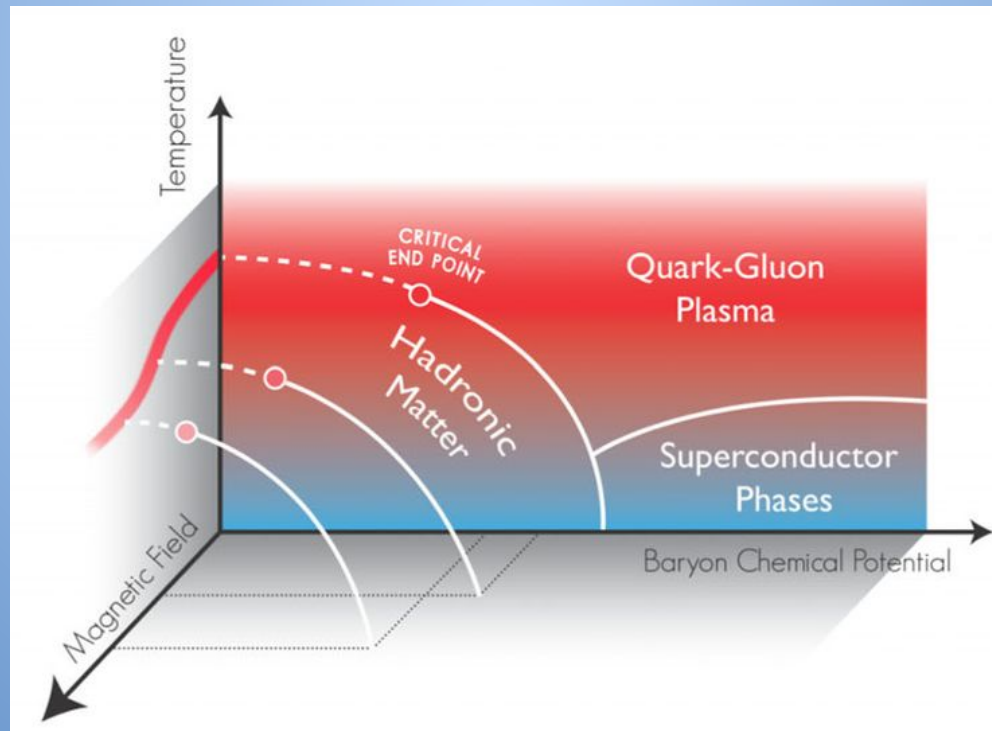
# Motivation

- QCD under extreme conditions (temperature, finite density and magnetic fields) plays an important role in understanding the transitions that took place in the early universe.



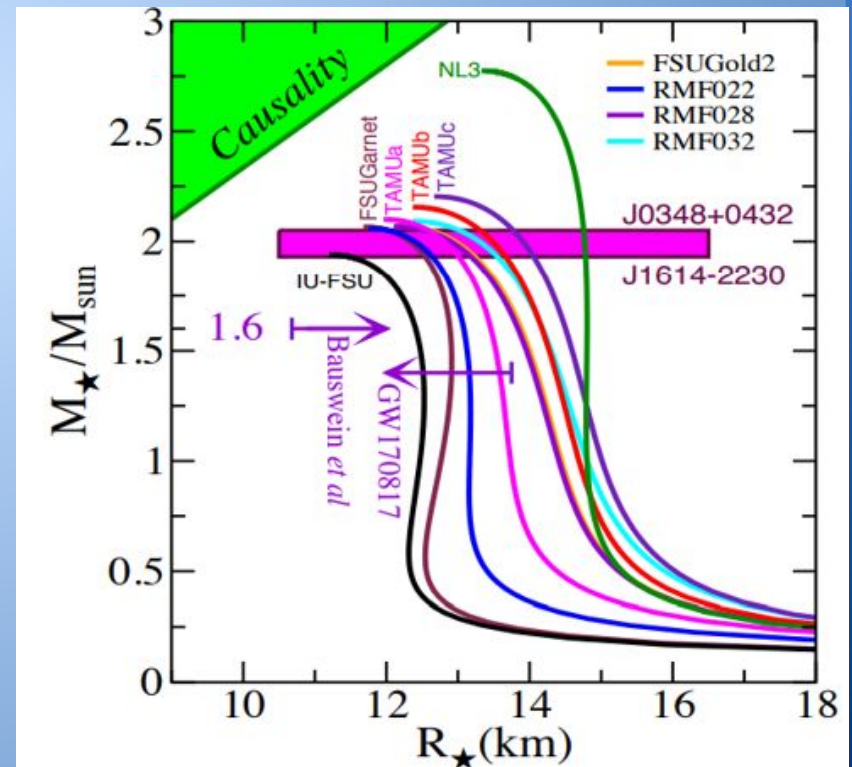
# Motivation

- One way to illustrate the different phases of strongly interacting matter we seek to study is by means of the phase diagram



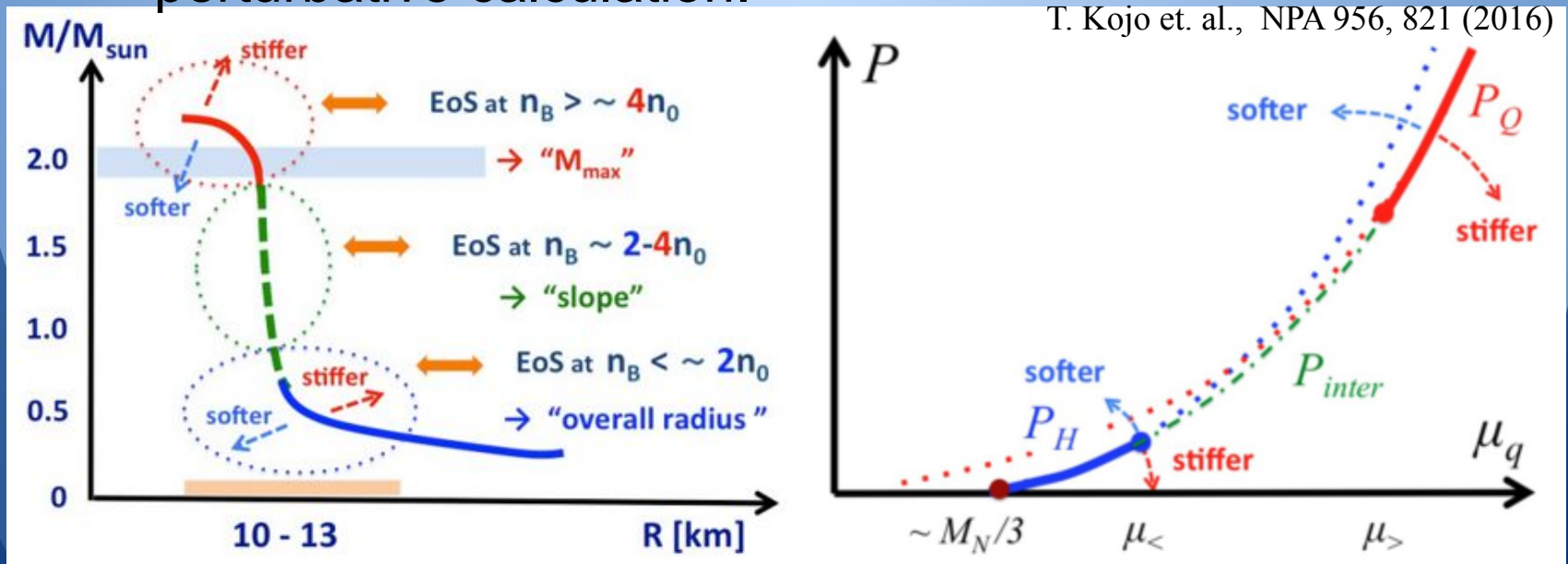
# Motivation

- Observation and analysis of GW170817: Important clues to understand cold and dense matter.
- The structure of a neutron star (NS) is determined by the Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkoff Equation (TOV).



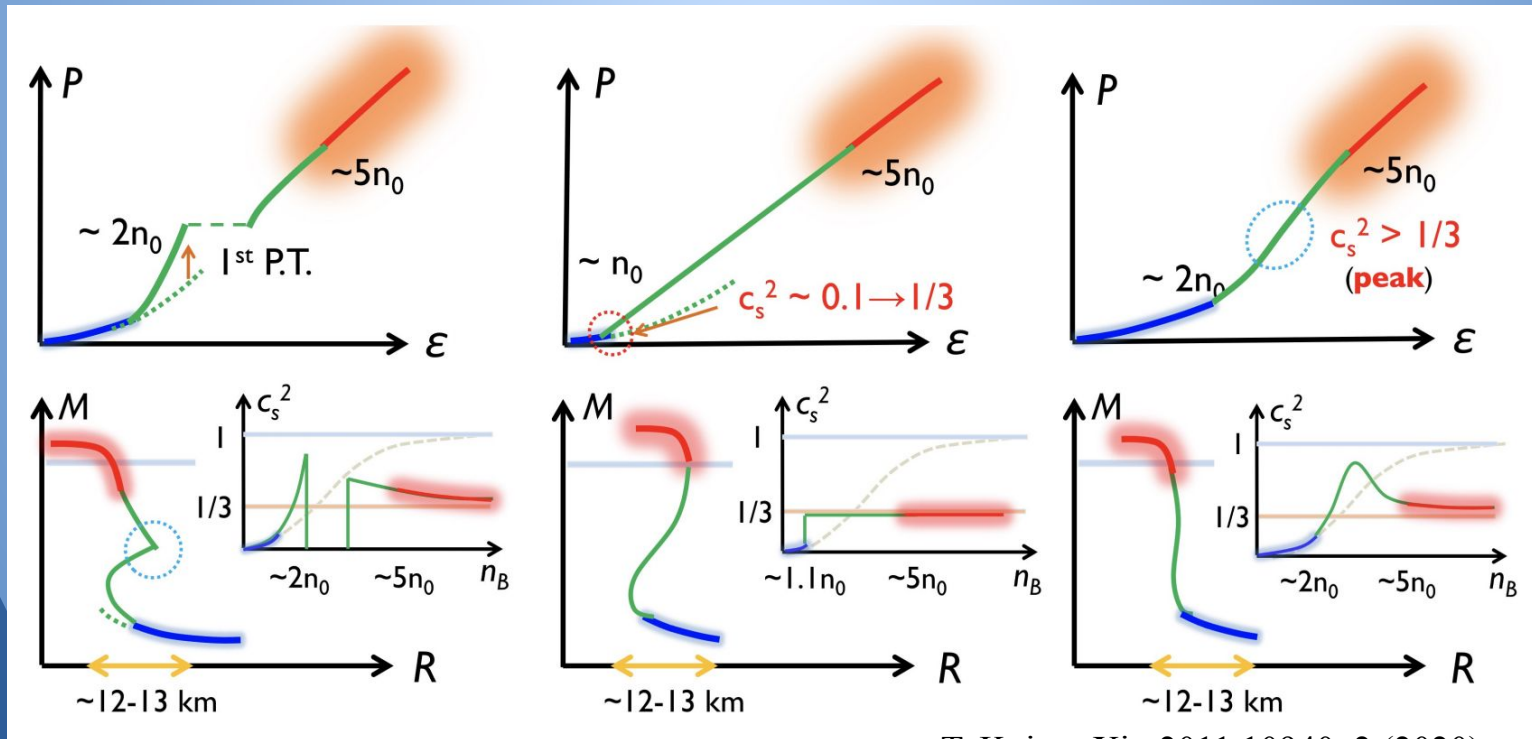
# Motivation

- Description of Equation of State (EoS) of dense QCD matter:
  - Around saturation density: Nuclear experiments.
  - Very high density limit: Asymptotic freedom allows perturbative calculation.



# Motivation

- TOV and EoS can give some insight about the transition quark-nucleon matter.



# Motivation

- The square of the speed of sound is usually defined as

$$c_{\chi}^2 = \left( \frac{\partial p}{\partial \epsilon} \right)_{\chi}$$

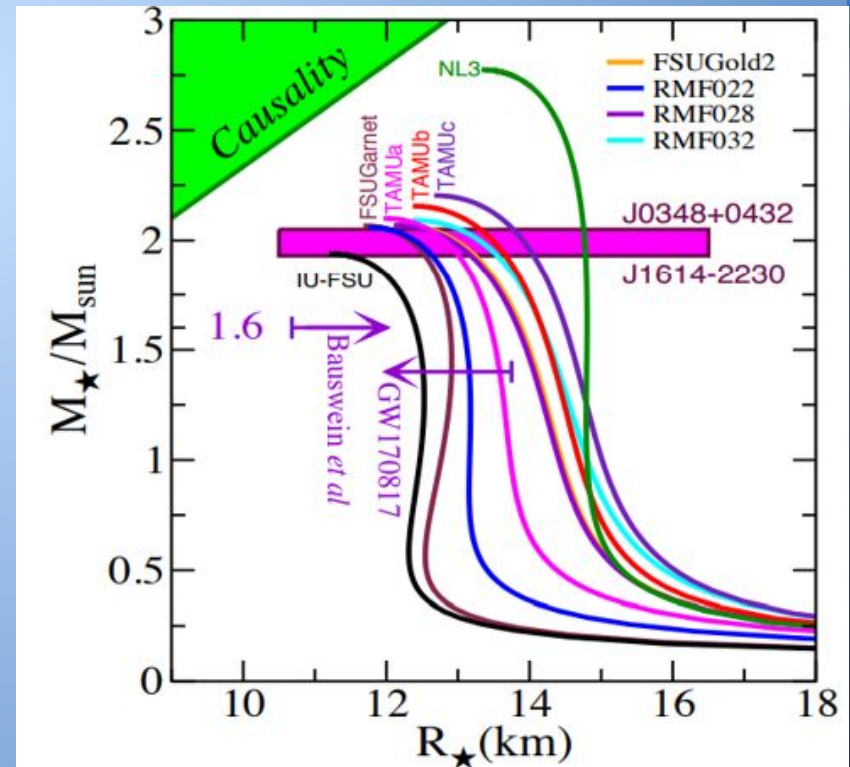
where  $\chi$  denotes the parameter fixed in the calculation of the speed of sound.

- According to the properties on the propagation medium, it may be more useful to keep one quantity fixed rather than another.

# Motivation

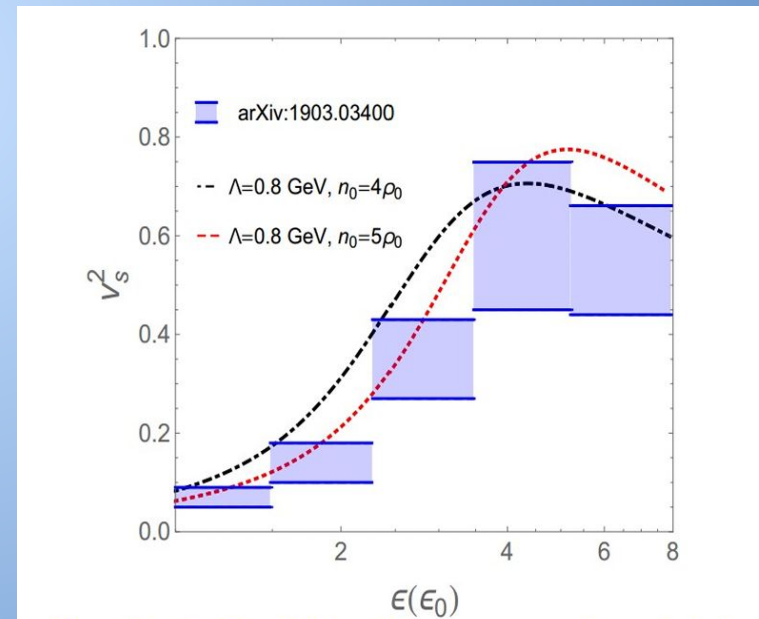
- EoS should be hard enough to support  $2M_{\odot}$  and soft enough to satisfy  $R_{1.4} \leq 13.5$  km.
- This is also reflected in sound velocity, that should increase rapidly and can be greater than its conformal value  $c_s^2 \geq 1/3$ .

***Any suggestions?***



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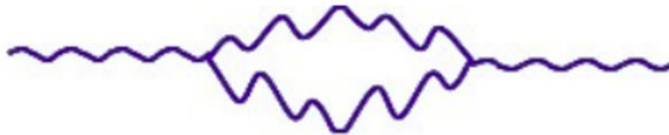
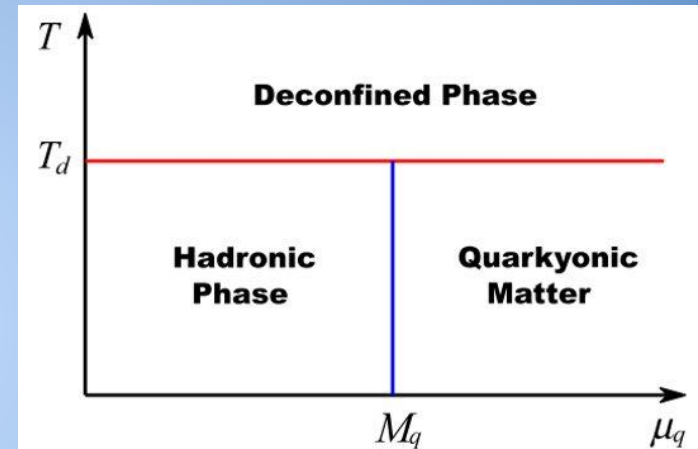


Sound velocity obtained from an equation of state extracted from neutron stars properties using deep neural network.

***Any suggestions?***

# Quarkyonic Matter

Phase of dense matter, argued from large  $N_c$  approximation and model computations.



Gluon loop

$$\rightarrow g^2 N_c T^2 \sim T^2;$$

- Dynamics not affected by quarks;
- Debye screening at large distances.



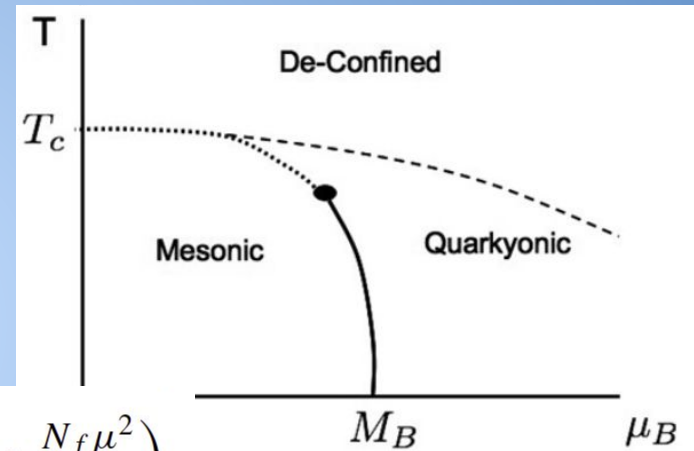
Quark loop

$$\rightarrow \sim \mu_Q^2 g^2 \Rightarrow \text{Suppressed by } 1/N_c \text{ at large } N_c.$$

- High density limit:  $\mu_Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , so quarks are important when  $\mu_Q \sim N_c^{1/2} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ .
- Debye screen mass  $m_D \simeq g \mu_Q$

# Quarkyonic Matter

Phase of dense matter, argued from large  $N_c$  approximation and model computations.



$$\Pi^{\mu\mu}(0) = g^2 \left( \left( N_c + \frac{N_f}{2} \right) \frac{T^2}{3} + \frac{N_f \mu^2}{2\pi^2} \right).$$



Gluon loop

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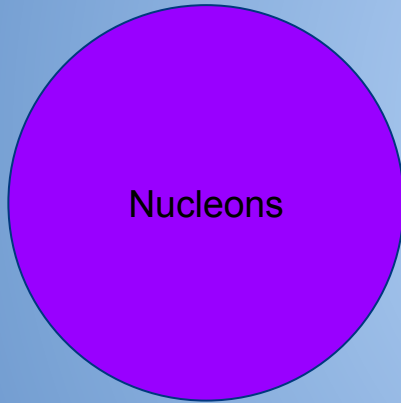


Quark loop

- $\sim \mu_Q^2 g^2 \Rightarrow$  Suppressed by  $1/N_c$  at large  $N_c$ .
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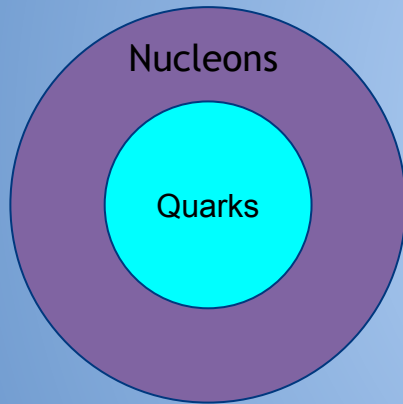
Nuclear  $\longrightarrow$  Quarkyonic  
(at few times  $\rho_0$ )



- For  $k_F^B < \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  : Quarks confined in nucleons.

# Quarkyonic Matter

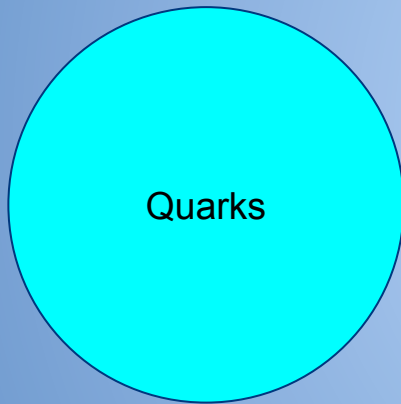
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- For  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \leq k_F^B \leq N_c \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  : Quarks starts to take low phase space, and a shell-like structure is formed.
- For  $k_F^B \simeq N_c^{3/2} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  : Confinement disappears.

- Total baryon density has smooth behavior and chemical potential for confined states enhance suddenly, then pressure suddenly increases.

*This is not an usual phase transition!*

# Quarkyonic Field Theory

- Field theory of quarkyonic matter: nucleonic and quark degrees of freedom in the same description: How to deal with??
  - Nucleons are composed by quarks: since inside the Fermi sea the lower momentum states are occupied by quarks, the nucleons cannot propagate in the region of momentum.
  - In addition to quarkyonic matter, such EFT should reduce to a theory of nucleons and mesons at low densities, and evolve to quarks at high density and temperature.

# Quarkyonic Field Theory

- Field theory of quarkyonic matter: nucleonic and quark degrees of freedom in the same

***Solution:*** Inclusion of a negative metric ghost field, that fill precisely the same state as the quarks, and cancel away the degrees of freedom of unconstrained nucleons.

region of momentum.

- In addition to quarkyonic matter, such EFT should reduce to a theory of nucleons and mesons at low densities, and evolve to quarks at high density and temperature.

# Quarkyonic Field Theory

- Nucleons can be thought of as an ensemble of quarks: If there is a quark Fermi sea with a chemical potential  $\mu_Q$  in the low momentum states, the quarks composing the nucleon cannot occupy the same states.

$$\rho^G = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta(N_c E_Q - \mu_G)}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta(N_c E_Q + \mu_G)}}$$

Density of the states in which nucleons cannot exist: Region of quark Fermi sea up to  $\mu_G = N_c \mu_Q$ .

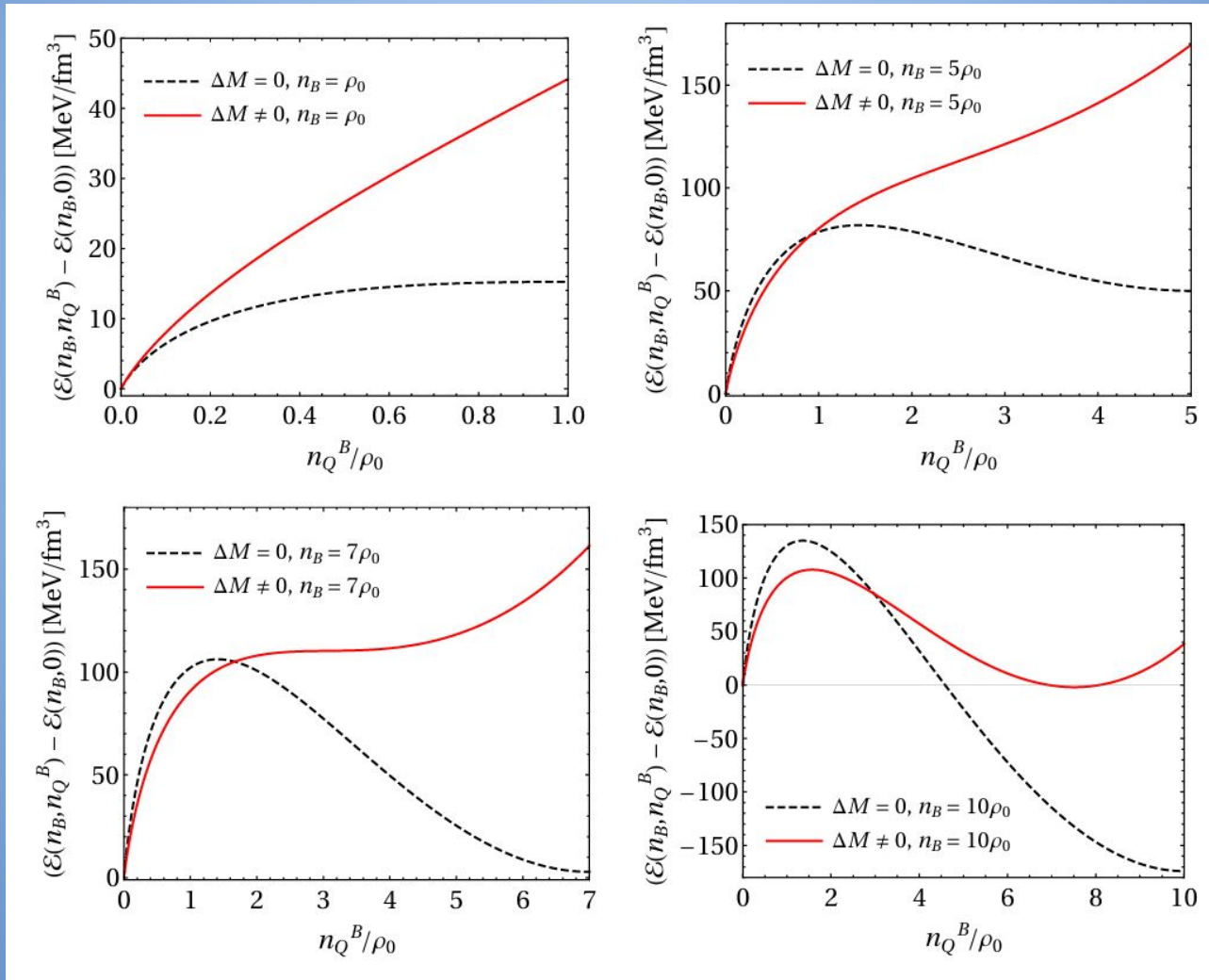
$$\rho^Q = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta(E_Q - \mu_Q)}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta(E_Q + \mu_Q)}}$$

Density of quarks in a noninteracting gas of quarks and nucleons;

$$\rho_{\text{const.}}^N = \rho^n = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta(E_N - \mu_N)}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta(E_N - \mu_G)}}$$

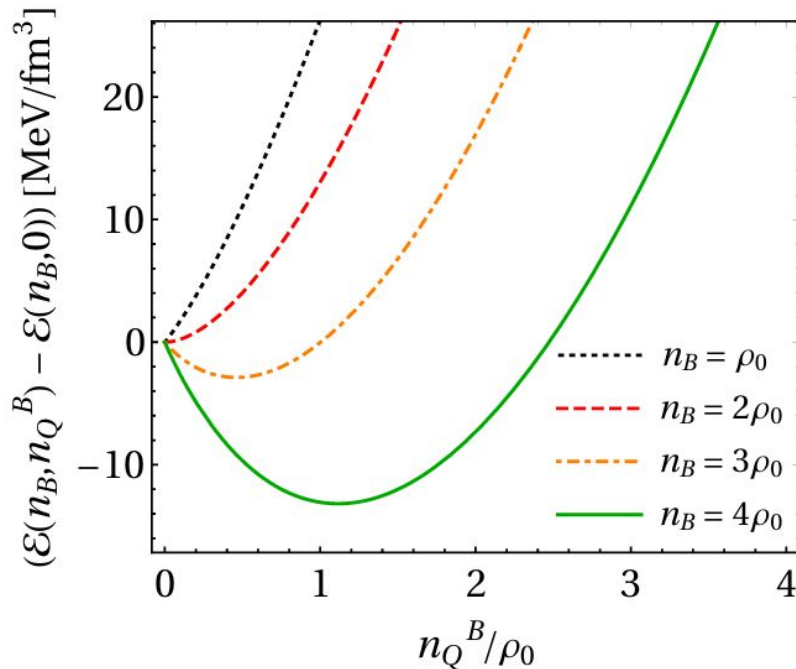
Density of nucleons constrained to not propagate in the quark Fermi sea:

# Quarkyonic Field Theory

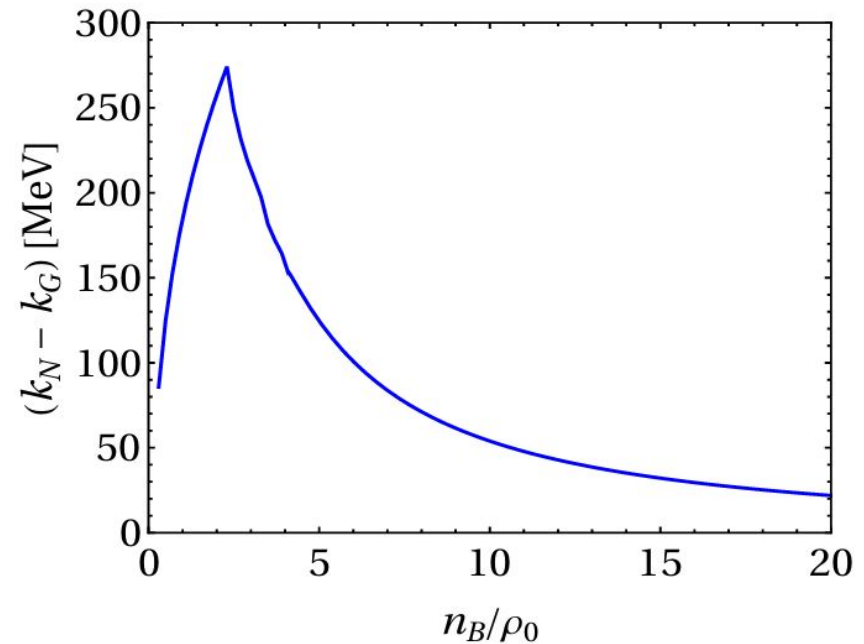


Dyana Duarte, K.S. Jeong, S. Hernandez-Ortiz,  
 L. McLerran, PRC 107, 065201 (2023).

# Quarkyonic Field Theory



Continuous transition at  $T = 0$ .



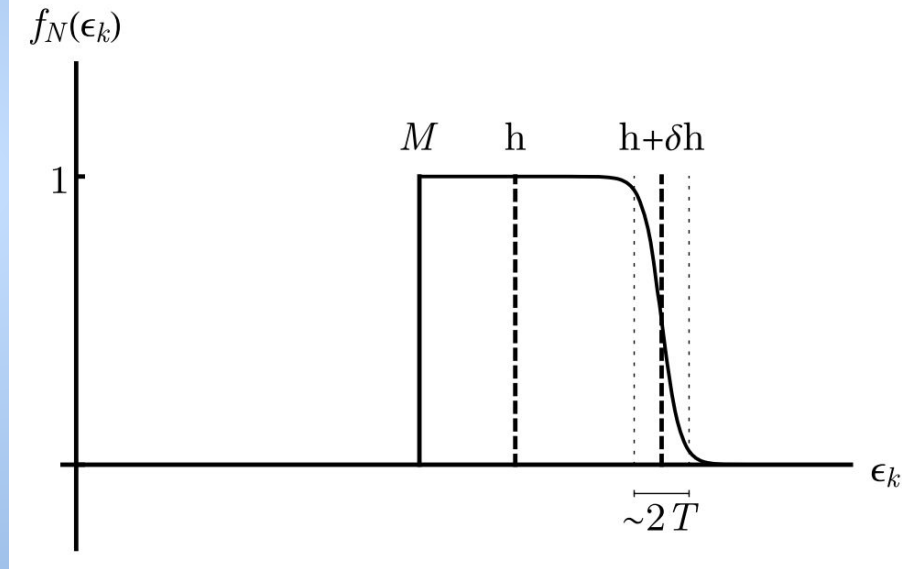
Shell thickness

Dyana Duarte, K.S. Jeong, S. Hernandez-Ortiz, L. McLerran, PRC 107, 065201 (2023).

# Finite temperature case

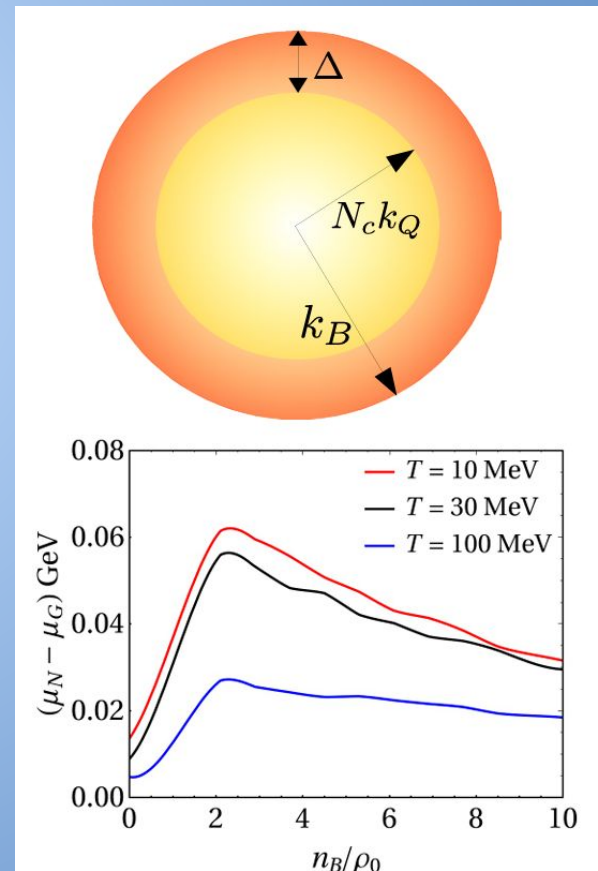
- To implement finite temperature we are trying to do it in the simplest way by softening the boundary of the shell and replacing the step function by fermi-distribution, with,

$$g(\epsilon, \mu) = \frac{1}{e^{\frac{\epsilon - \mu}{T}} + 1}$$



# Quarkyonic Field Theory

- Why EFT+ghost is naturally suited for finite temperature?
- Thermal excitations must preserve the constrained phase space.
- The cancellation mechanism naturally suppresses unphysical low-momentum baryonic states.
- Thermal effects can then be incorporated consistently without modifying the underlying shell structure.

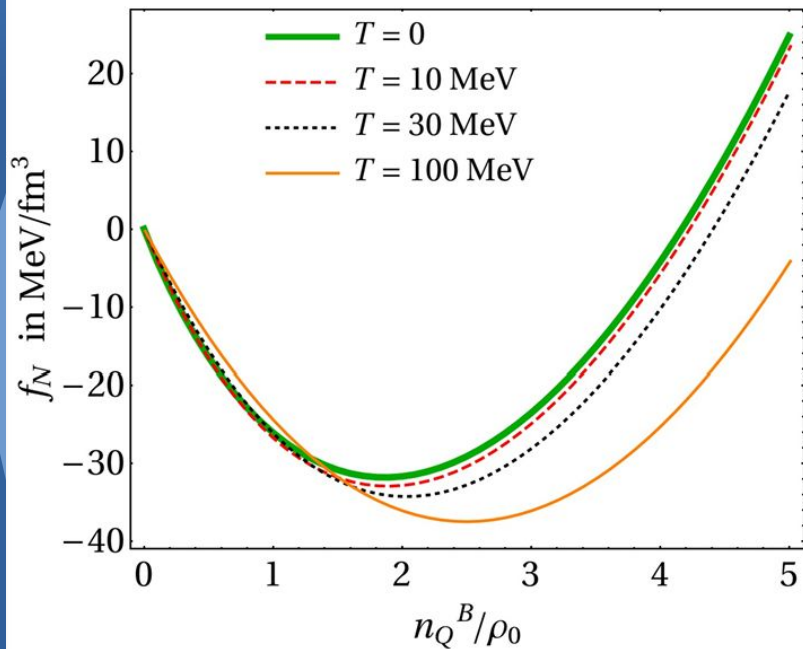


# Quarkyonic Field Theory

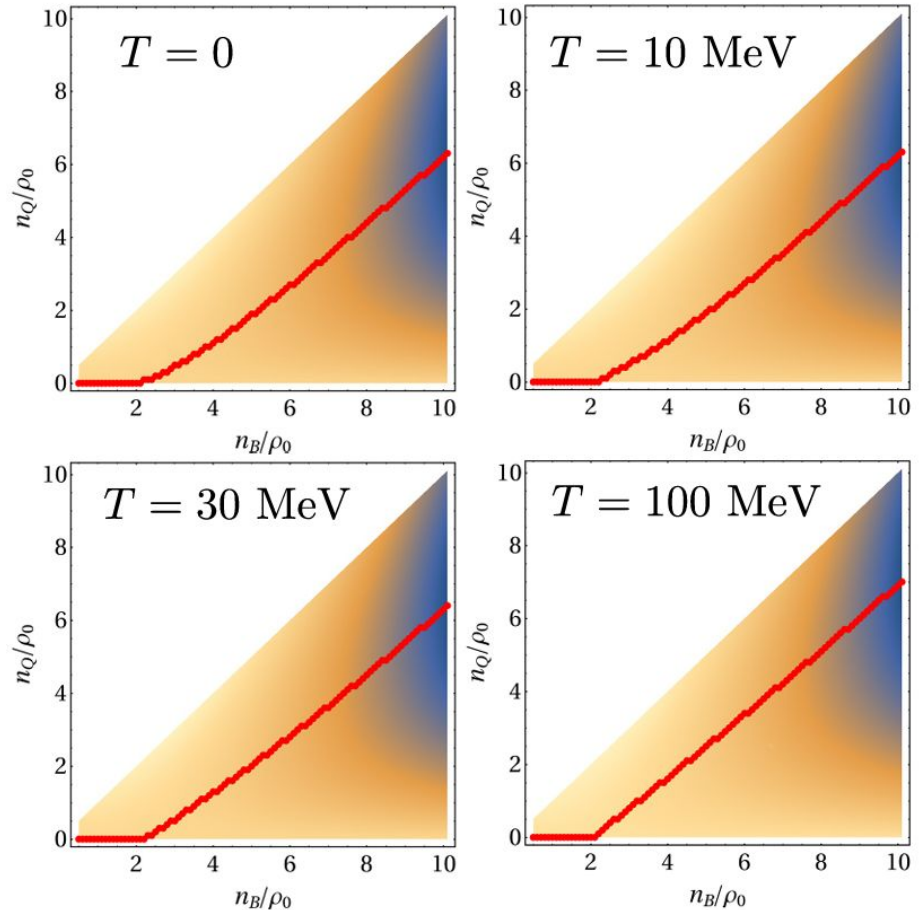
- What should we expect at finite temperature?
  - Thermal broadening of the shell
  - Enhanced quark population
  - Smooth crossover behavior
  - Competition between confinement and thermal excitations

$$\mu_Q^B = N_c \left[ \left( M_Q + n_Q^B \frac{a}{M_Q^2} + a \frac{T^2}{M_Q} \right) \Theta(r - n_Q^B) + \left( \kappa (n_Q^B)^{\frac{1}{3}} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} \frac{T^2}{\kappa (n_Q^B)^{1/3}} \right) \Theta(n_Q^B - r) \right]$$

# Preliminary Results



$$f_N = f(n_B, n_Q, T) - f(n_B, 0, T)$$



# Conclusions

- Quarkyonic matter provides a natural framework for intermediate-density QCD.
- Current GW data do not exclude quarkyonic scenarios. Therefore, extending quarkyonic matter to finite temperature is astrophysically relevant.
- Finite  $T$  effects favor the quark population, but have small effects on the onset of quark Fermi sea.

THANKS FOR  
WATCHING!