

Fluctuations of conserved charges and the QCD phase diagram - a lattice QCD perspective

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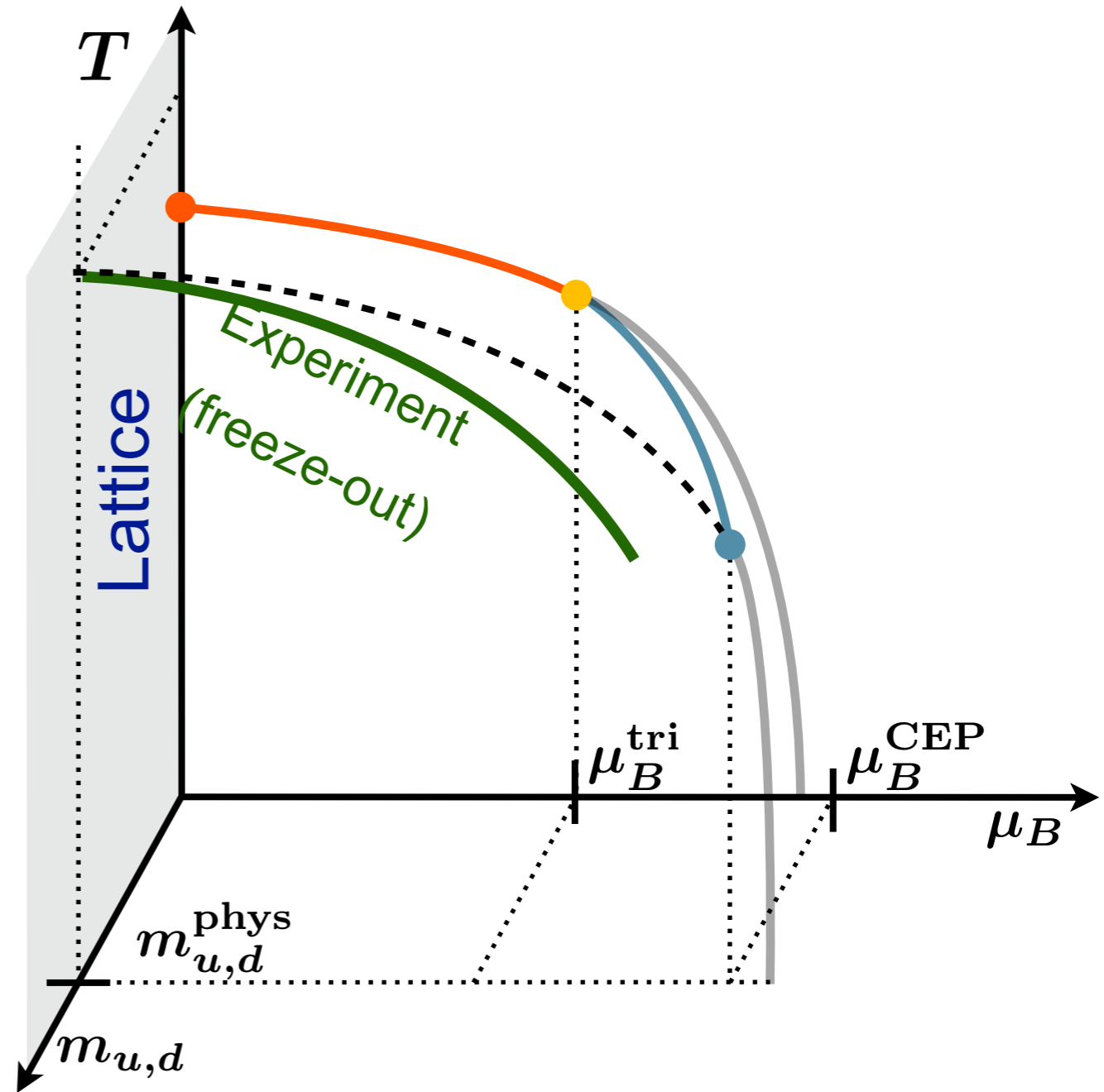
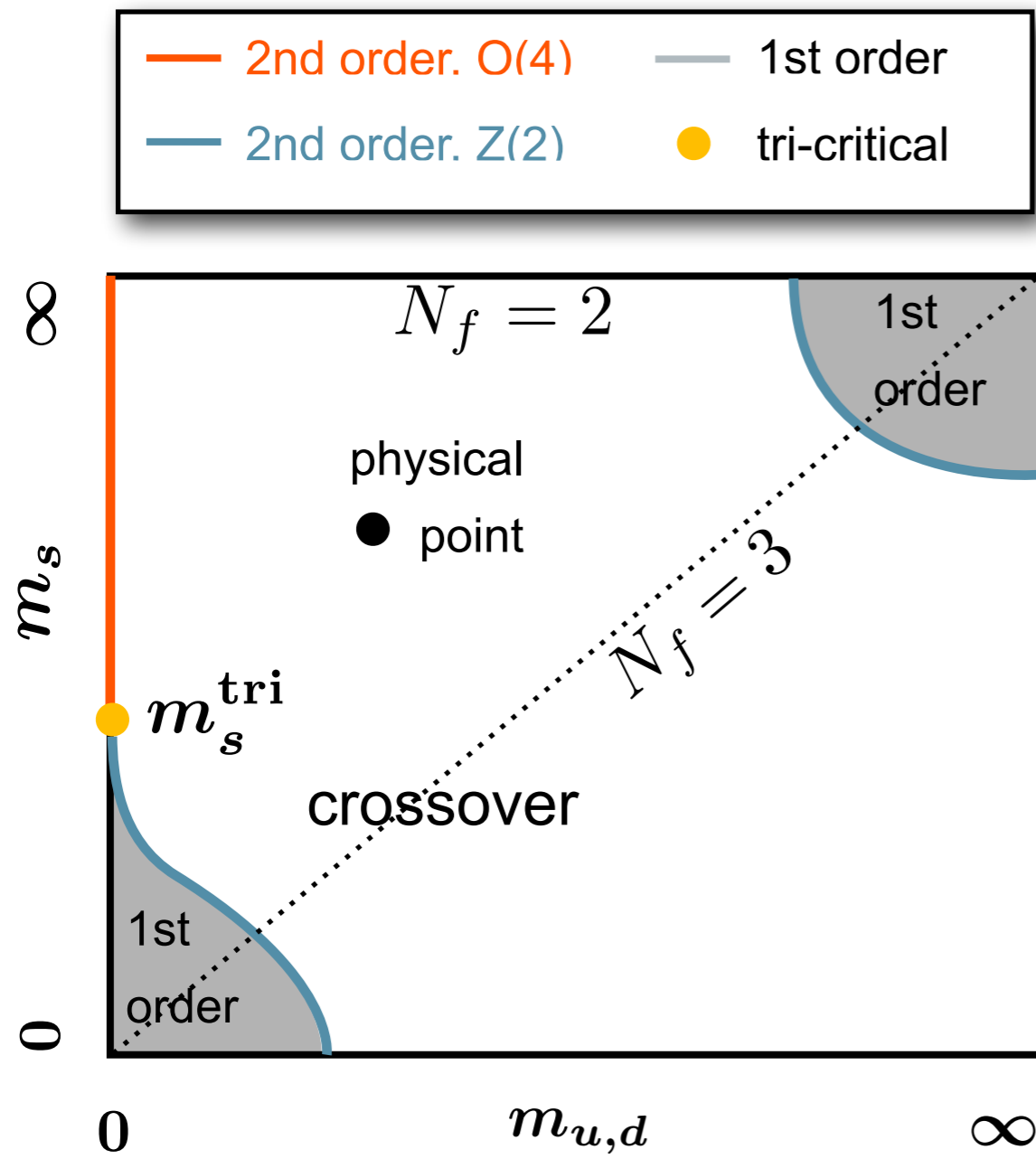
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The QCD phase diagram



- Expectations based on [Pisarski, Wilczek, PRD 29 \(1984\)](#)

Overview

- The lattice setup
- Taylor Expansion Approach
- The equation of state
- The chiral crossover line
- Fluctuations of conserved charges at ALICE
- Fluctuations of conserved charges at RHIC
- The radius of convergence and the critical point
- Summary

Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D95 (2017) 054505.

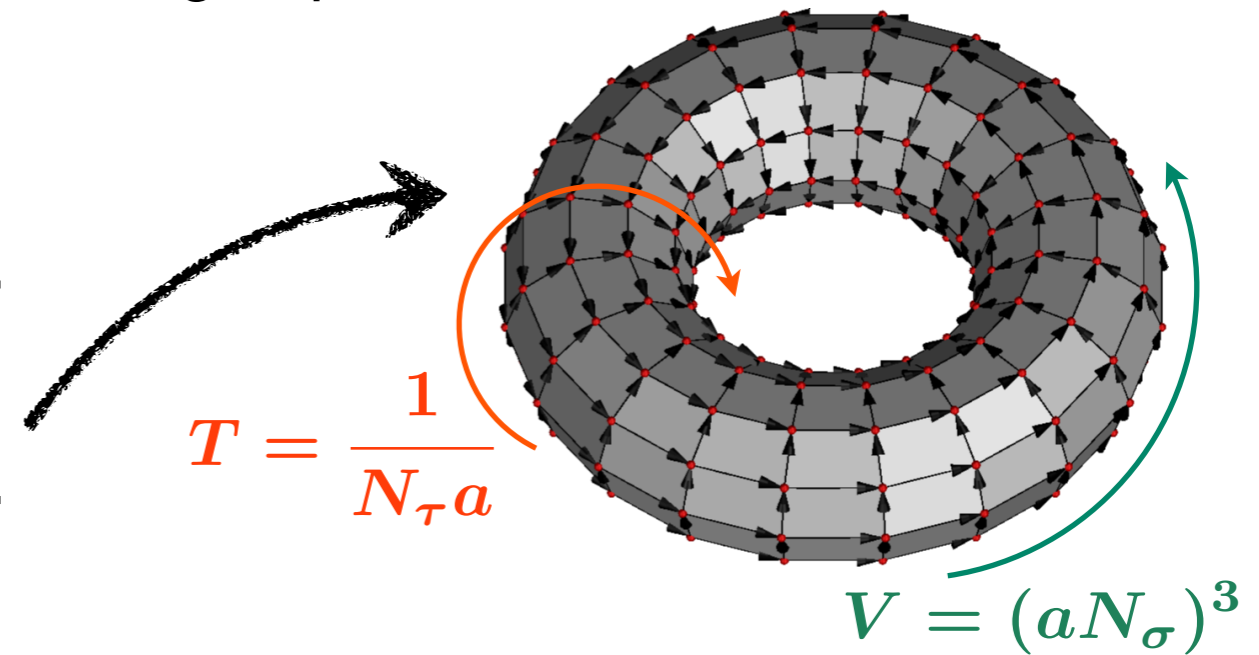
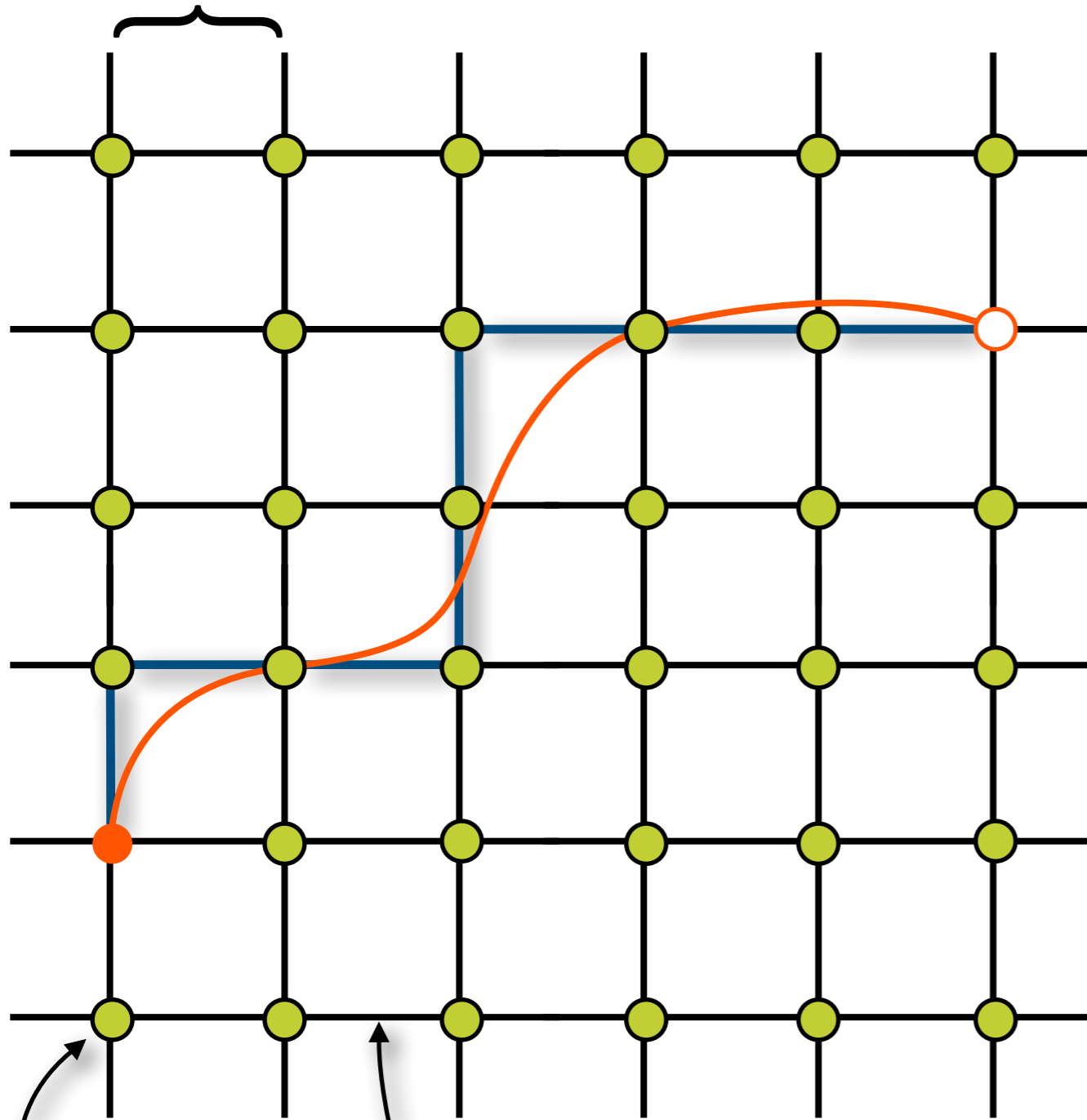
Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D96 (2017) 074510.

**Bazavov et al.,
arXiv:1812.08235**

Lattice QCD

- introduce a (3+1)-dim. grid with Euclidean signature and periodic boundary conditions (anti-periodic in time), typically 10^6 - 10^8 grid points

lattice spacing a



Consequences:

- Need to take continuum limit $a \rightarrow 0$ of all calculations
- momentum cutoff is introduced as $\mathcal{O}(1/a)$
- observables are given in units of a , use physical quantity as input to set the scale

K.G. Wilson, PRD 10 (1974)

M. Creutz PRD 21 (1980)

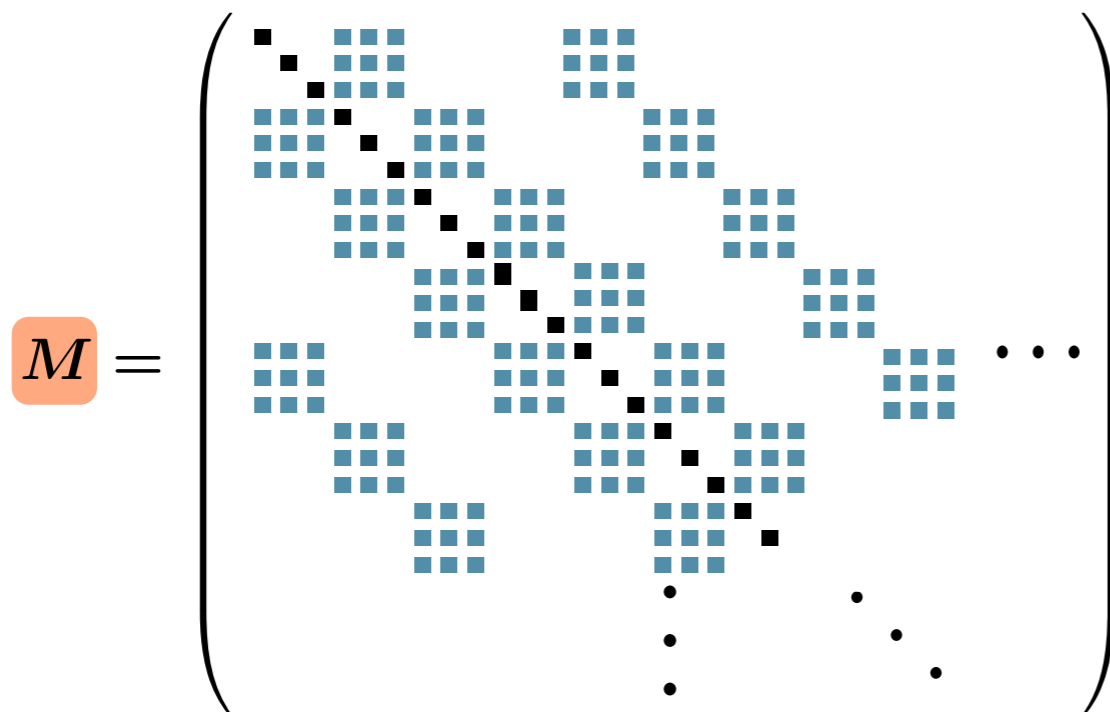
quarks $\psi(x), \bar{\psi}(x)$ gluons $U_\mu(x) \Rightarrow \text{SU}(3)$ valued link variables

Lattice QCD

- The QCD partition function as path integral:

$$\begin{aligned} Z(T, V, \mu) &= \int \left(\prod_{x, \mu} d\bar{\psi}_x d\psi_x dU_{x, \mu} \right) e^{-\bar{\psi}_x M_{xy}(U) \psi_y - \beta S_G(U)} \\ &= \int \left(\prod_{x, \mu} dU_{x, \mu} \right) \det M(U) e^{-\beta S_G(U)} \end{aligned}$$

x-dim. *y-dim.* ...



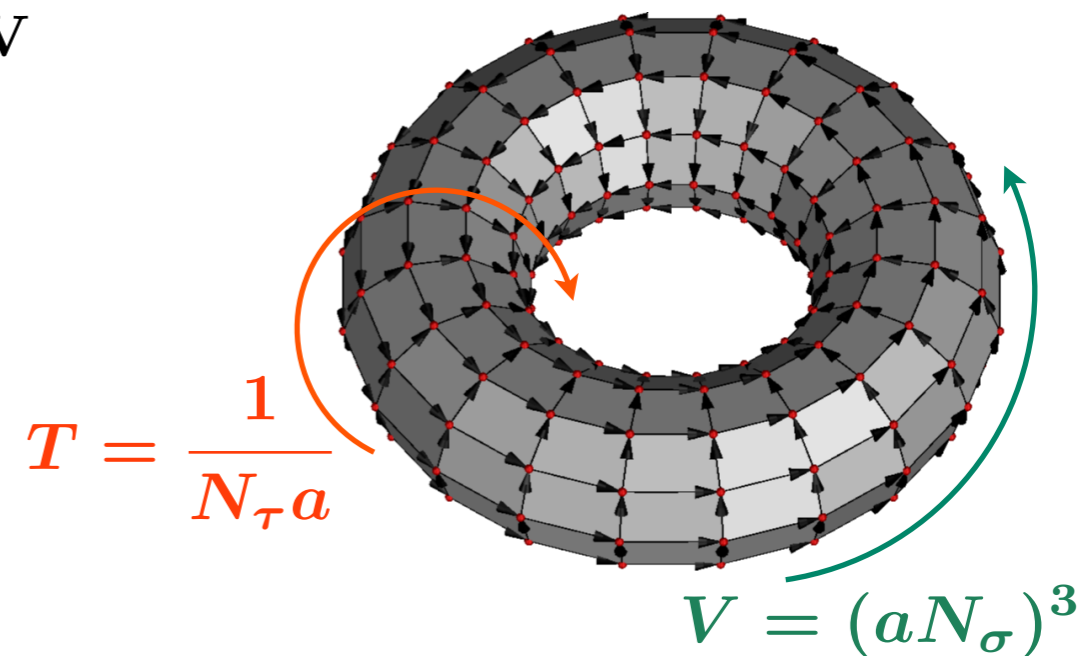
Fermion matrix: large space matrix, band structure due to nearest neighbor interaction, engineered to reduce discretization effects

Monte Carlo integration:
 $\approx 10^6$ lattice points,
 $\approx 10^8$ degrees of freedom



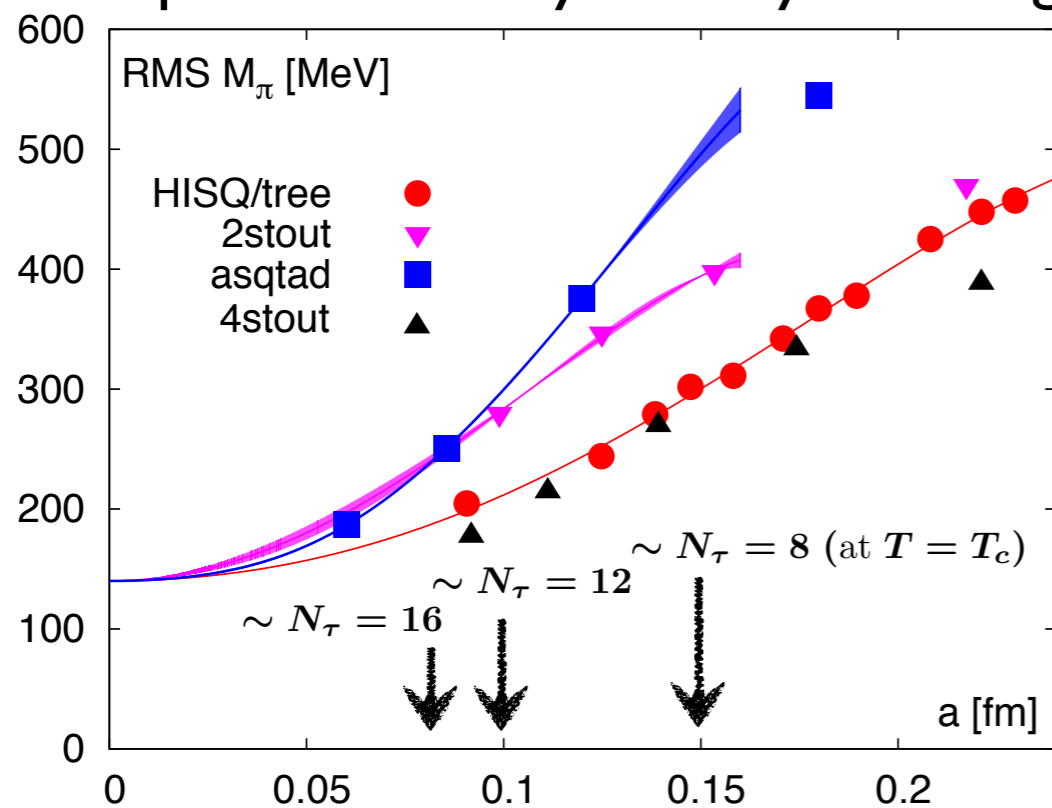
Lattice setup

- We use (2+1)-flavor of HISQ fermions at physical quark masses in the range $135 \text{ MeV} \leq T \leq 175 \text{ MeV}$
- Our lattice sizes are $N_\sigma^3 \times N_\tau$, with $N_\sigma = 4N_\tau$ and $N_\tau = 6, 8, 12, 16$

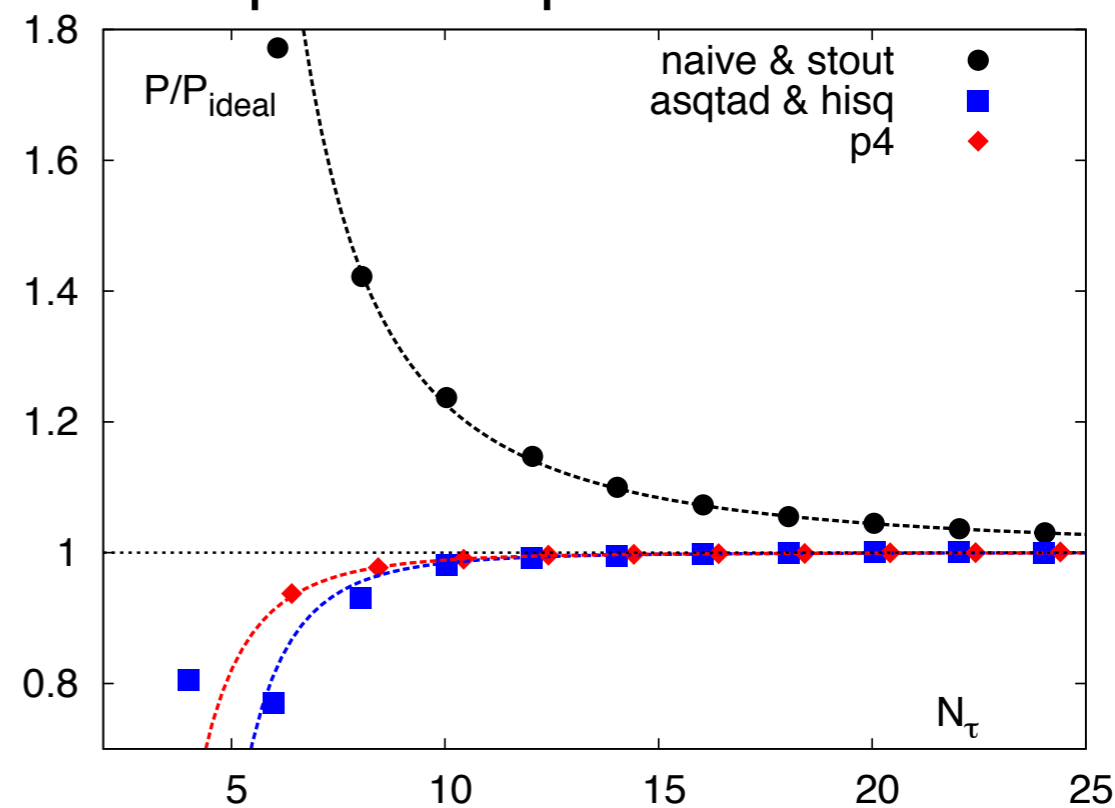


HISQ properties:

improved taste symmetry breaking



improved dispersion relation



Lattice observables

- Equilibrium thermodynamic behavior is determined by the partition function of the system

$$p(T, V, \vec{\mu}) = \frac{T}{V} \ln Z(T, V, \vec{\mu}) \quad (\text{thermal EoS})$$

- Thermodynamic expectation values are calculated numerically by means of Monte Carlo methods (with importance sampling) at $\vec{\mu} \equiv 0$

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \left(\prod_{x,\nu} dU_{x,\nu} \right) \mathcal{O} \underbrace{\det M(U, \vec{m}, \vec{\mu}) e^{-\beta S_G(U)}}_{\text{positive-definite weight function at } \vec{\mu} \equiv 0,}$$

at $|\vec{\mu}| > 0$: $\det(M)$ becomes complex

Sign problem!

- Study derivatives of $\ln Z$ at $\vec{\mu} \equiv 0$

Chiral condensate

$$\frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial m} = \langle \text{Tr}[M^{-1}] \rangle = \langle \bar{\psi} \psi \rangle$$

Order-parameter of spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking

Baryon number density

$$\frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial \mu_B} = \langle \text{Tr}[M^{-1} M'] \rangle$$

$$M' := \frac{\partial M}{\partial \mu}$$

Baryon number fluctuations

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial \mu_B^2} = \langle \text{Tr}[M^{-1} M''] \rangle - \langle \text{Tr}[M^{-1} M' M^{-1} M'] \rangle$$

→ Fermion matrix need to be inverted: computationally demanding

Fluctuations of conserved charges

$$\frac{p(\vec{\mu}, T)}{T^4} = \sum_{i,j,k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!j!k!} \chi_{i,j,k}^{BQS}(T) \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T}\right)^i \left(\frac{\mu_Q}{T}\right)^j \left(\frac{\mu_S}{T}\right)^k$$

with $\chi_{i,j,k}^{BQS}(T) = \frac{1}{VT^3} \left. \frac{\partial^{i+j+k} \ln Z(\vec{\mu}, T)}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B^i \partial \hat{\mu}_Q^j \partial \hat{\mu}_S^k} \right|_{\vec{\mu}=0}$ and $\hat{\mu} = \mu/T$

Example:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial \mu^2} = \langle \text{Tr} [M^{-1} M''] \rangle - \langle \text{Tr} [M^{-1} M' M^{-1} M'] \rangle + \langle \text{Tr} [M^{-1} M']^2 \rangle$$

$$\simeq \langle n^2(x) \bigcirc \rangle - \langle n(x) \bigcirc n(y) \rangle + \langle n(x) \bigcirc \bigcirc n(y) \rangle$$

Lattice

Experiment

$$R_{12}^X(T, \mu_B) \equiv \frac{\chi_1^X(T, \mu_B)}{\chi_2^X(T, \mu_B)}$$

=

$$\frac{M_X}{\sigma_X^2}$$

$$R_{32}^X(T, \mu_B) \equiv \frac{\chi_3^X(T, \mu_B)}{\chi_2^X(T, \mu_B)}$$

=

$$S_X \sigma_X$$

$$R_{42}^X(T, \mu_B) \equiv \frac{\chi_4^X(T, \mu_B)}{\chi_2^X(T, \mu_B)}$$

=

$$\kappa_X \sigma_X^2$$

$M :=$ mean

$\sigma^2 :=$ variance

$S :=$ skewness

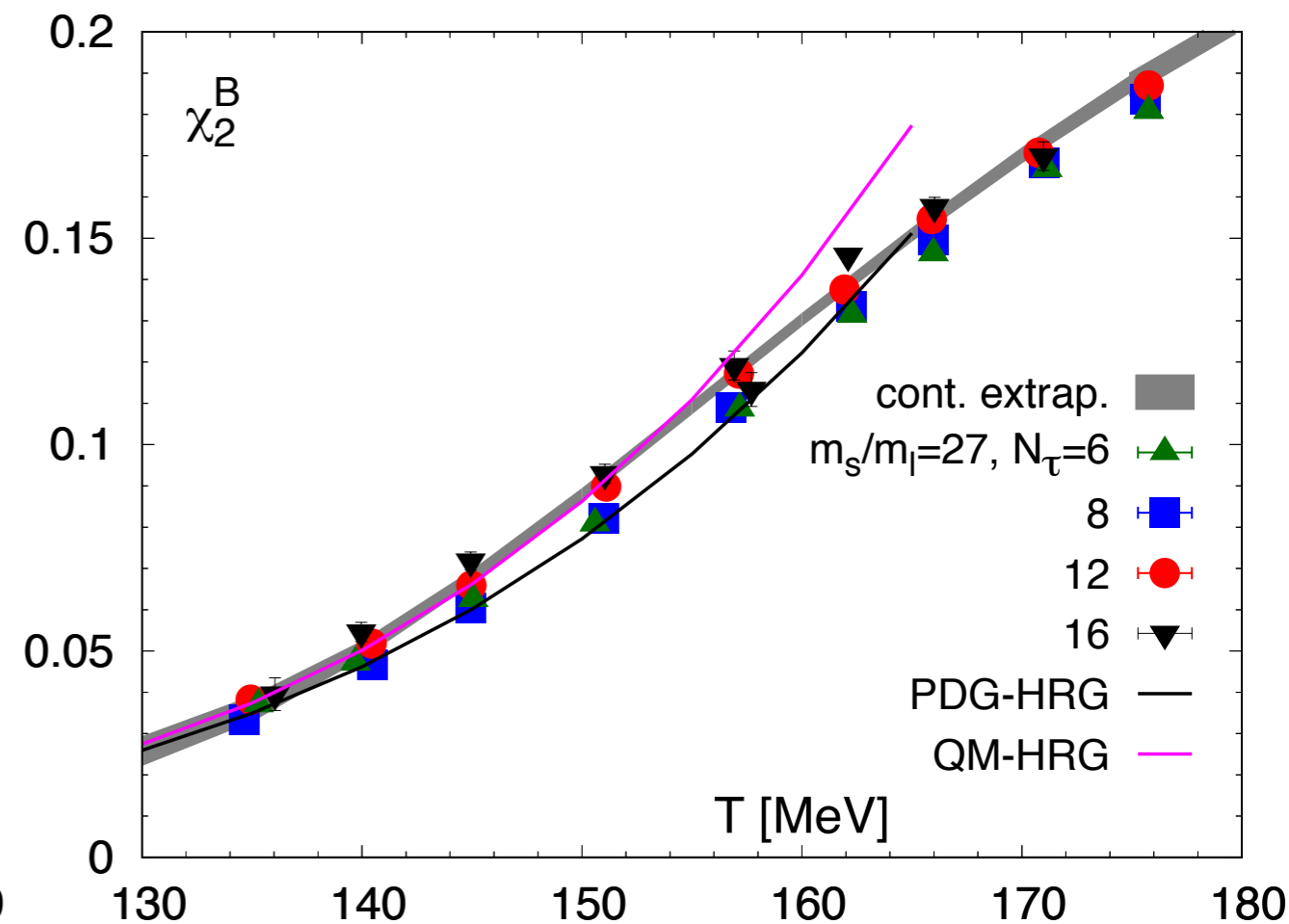
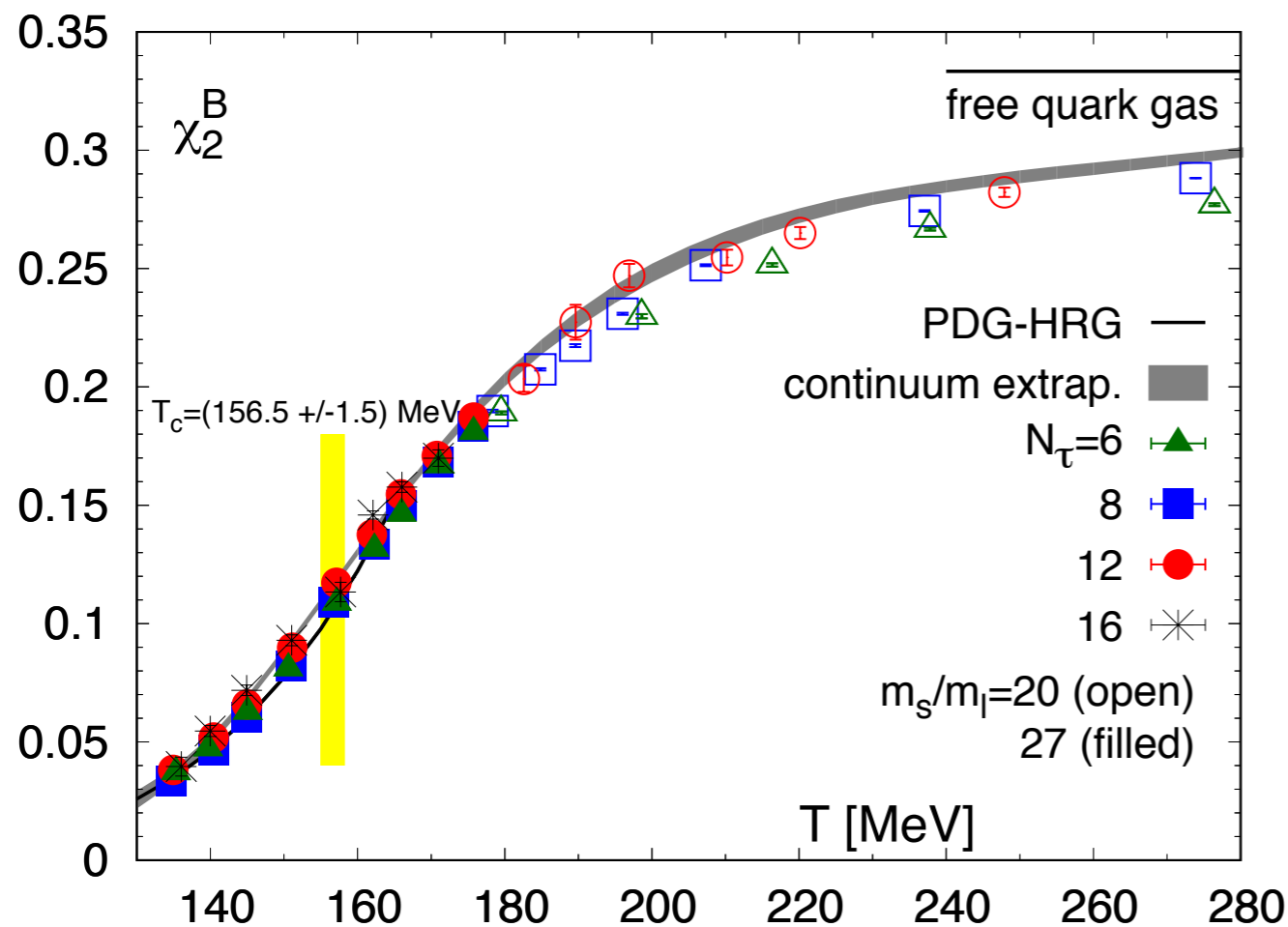
$\kappa :=$ kurtosis

Equation of State at $\mu_B > 0$

pressure correction due to non-vanishing baryon chemical potential:

$$\frac{\Delta p(T, \mu_B)}{T^4} = \frac{p(T, \mu_B) - p(T, 0)}{T^4} = \frac{1}{2} \chi_2^B \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T} \right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{12} \frac{\chi_4^B}{\chi_2} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T} \right)^2 + \dots \right)$$

LO: variance of baryon number fluctuation

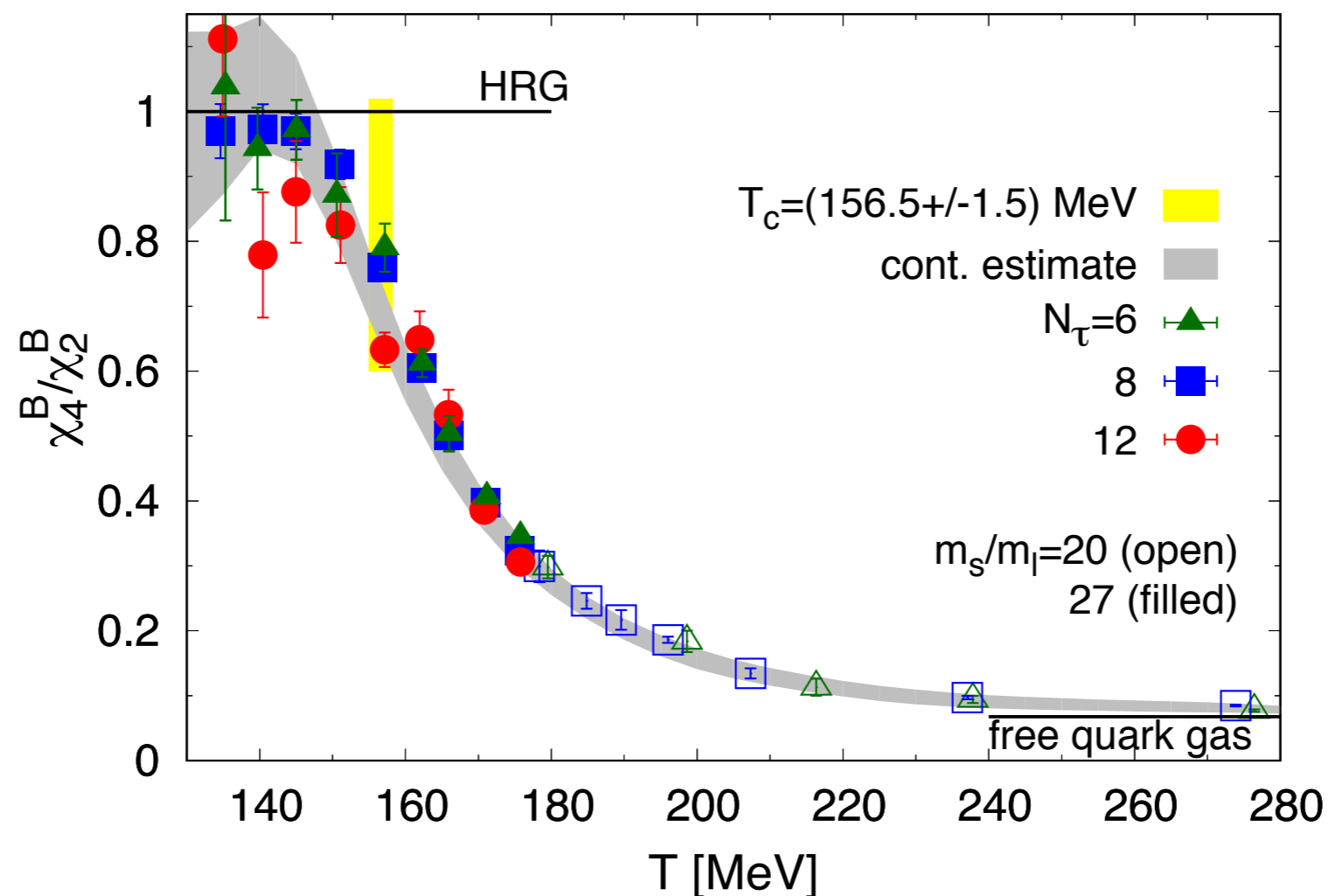


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NLO: kurtosis x variance

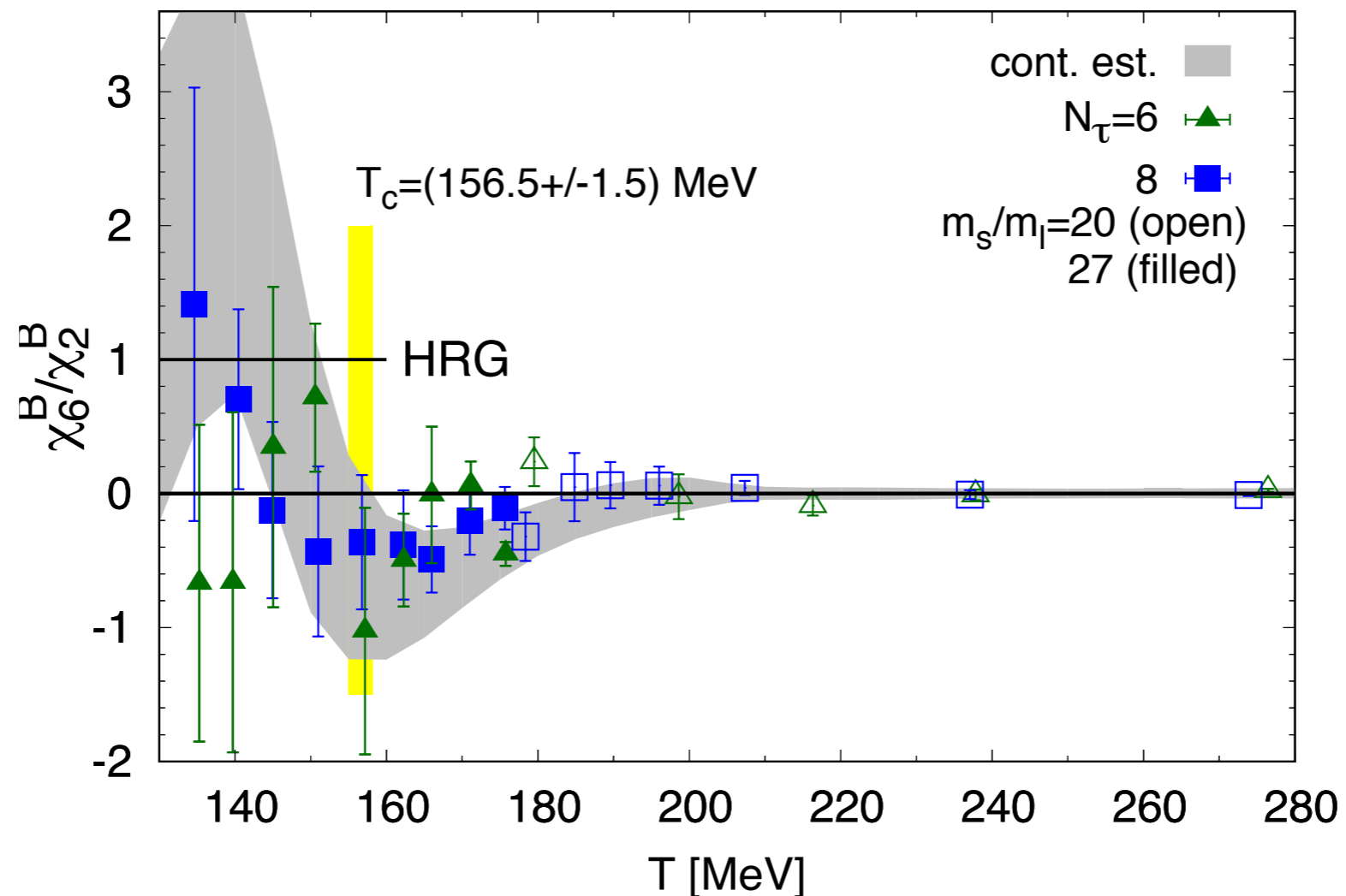


Equation of State at $\mu_B > 0$

pressure correction due to non-vanishing baryon chemical potential:

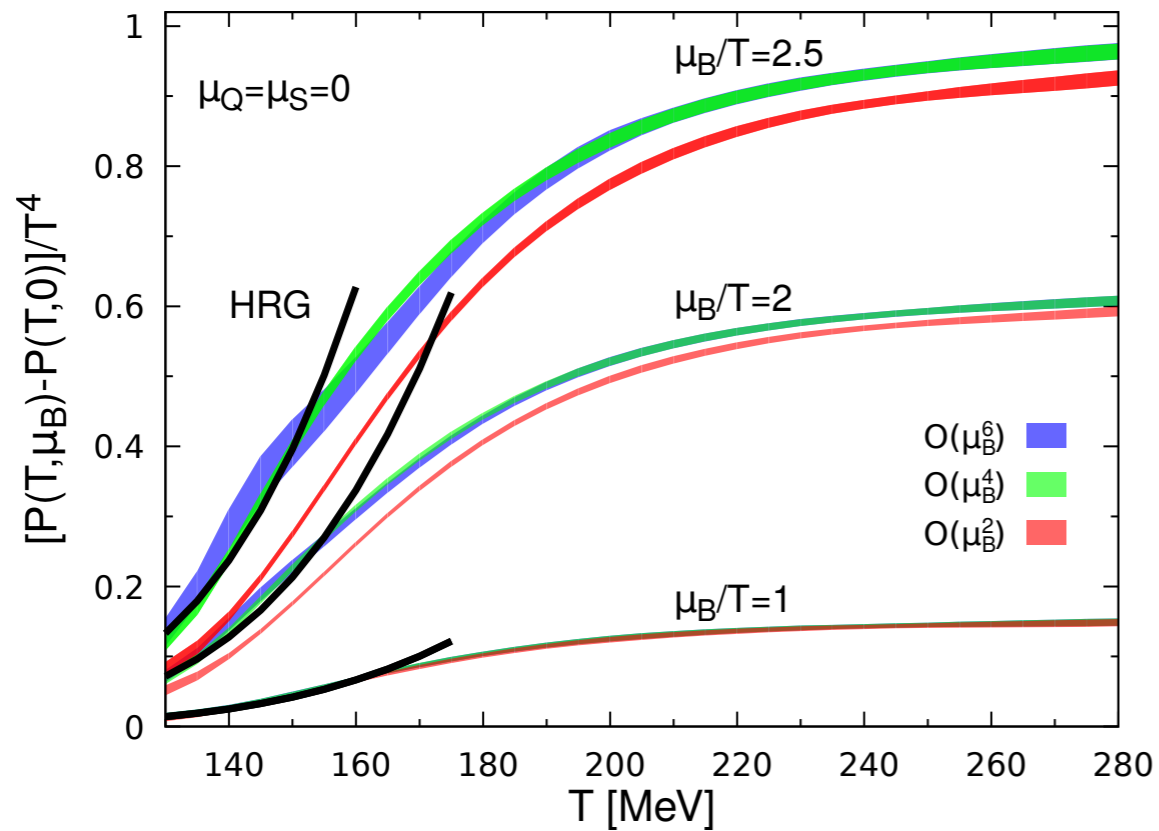
$$\frac{\Delta p(T, \mu_B)}{T^4} = \frac{1}{2} \chi_2^B \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T} \right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{12} \frac{\chi_4^B}{\chi_2} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{360} \frac{\chi_6^B}{\chi_2} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T} \right)^4 + \dots \right)$$

NNLO

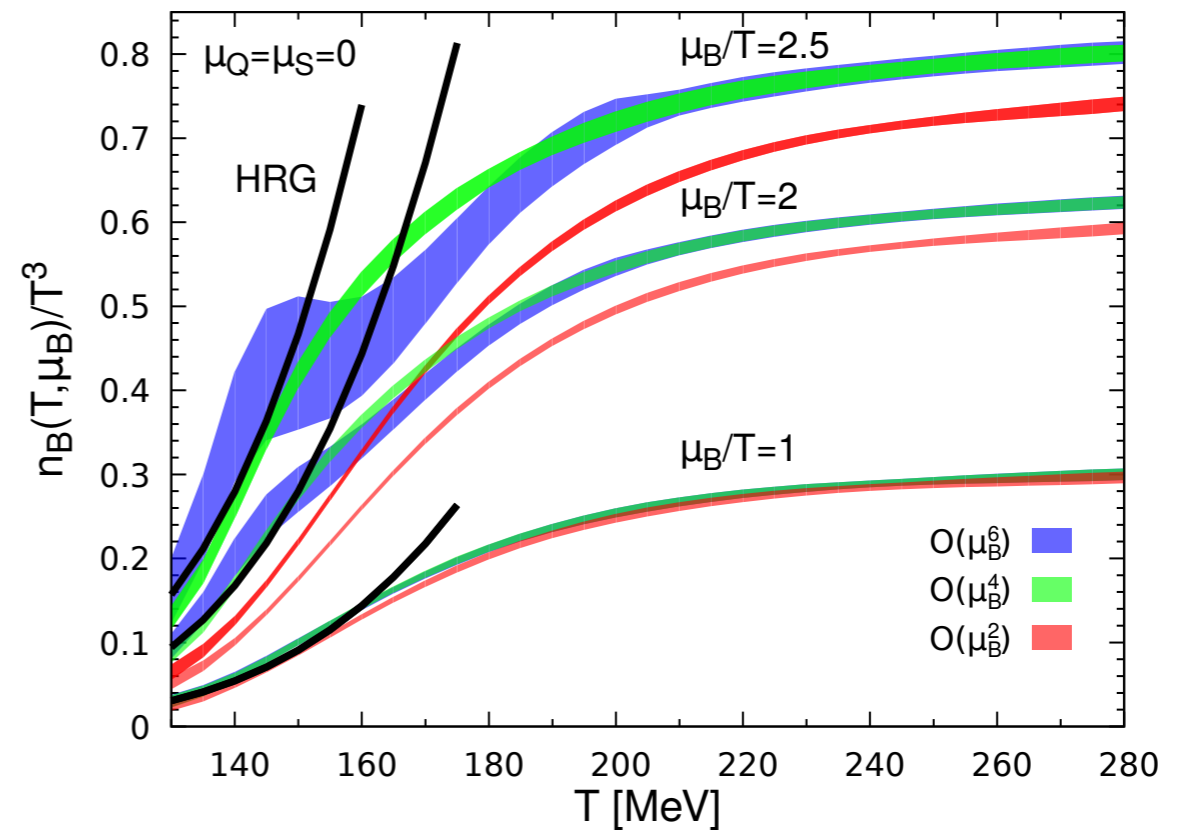


Equation of State at $\mu_B > 0$

pressure correction



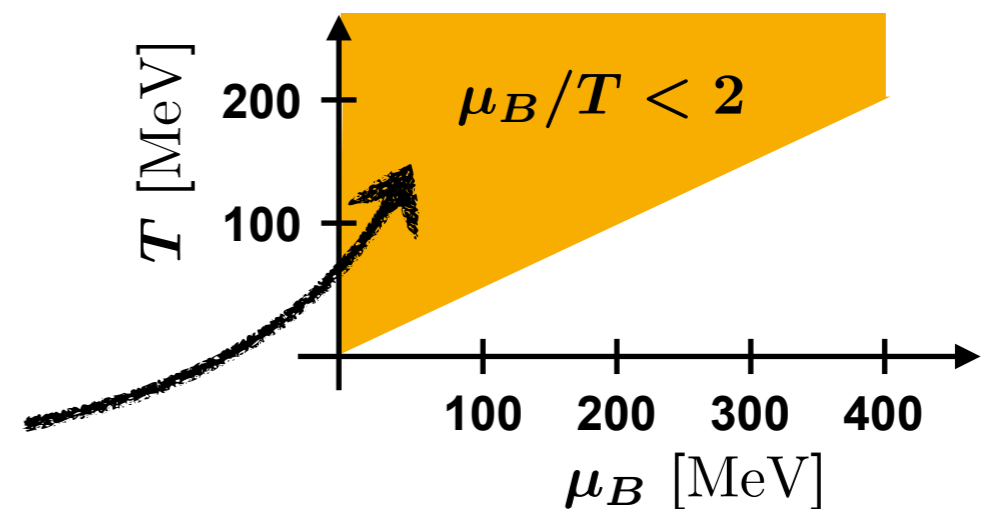
baryon number



Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D95 (2017) 054505.

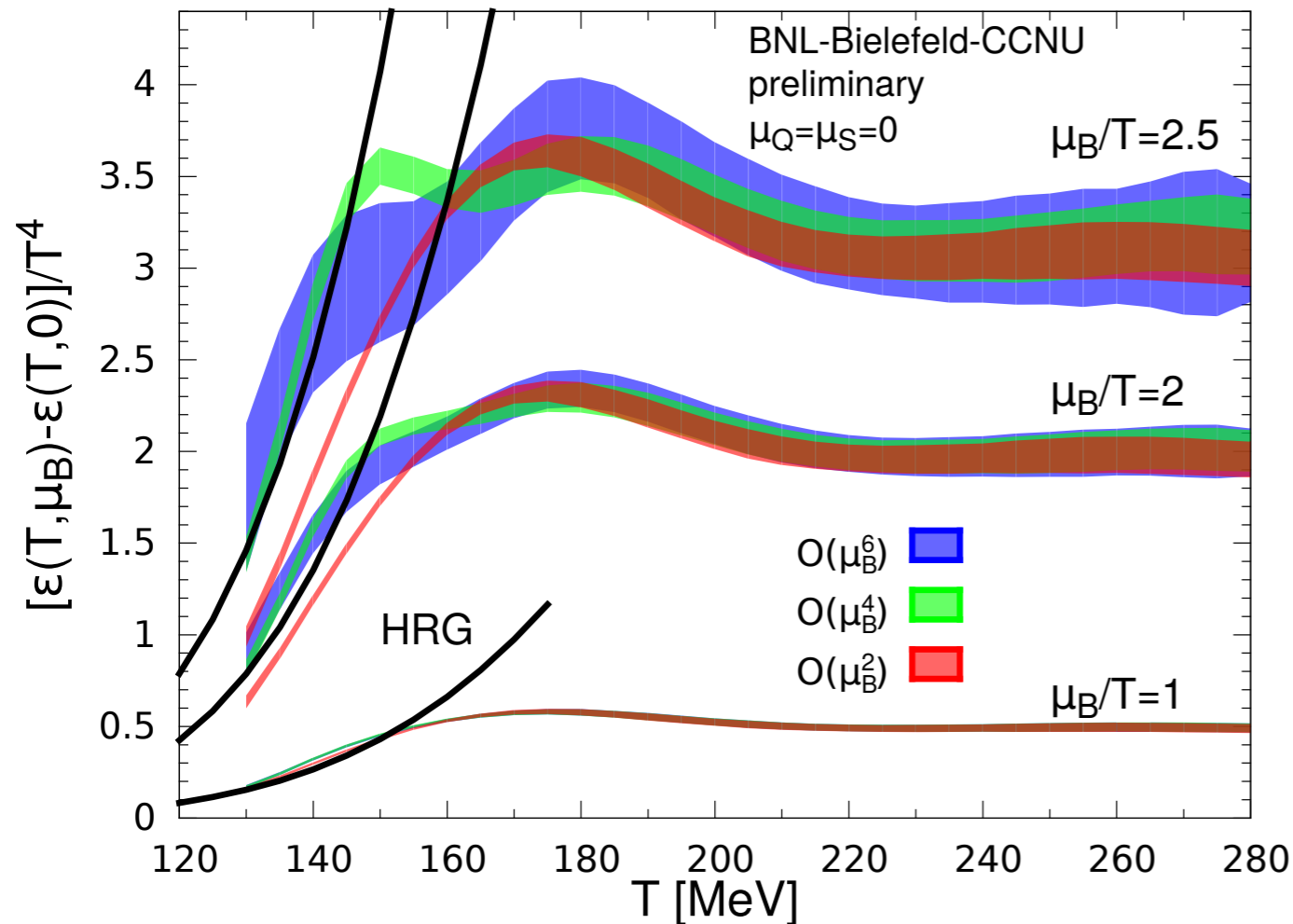
➔ Sixth order contributions are small
for $\mu_B/T < 2$

Currently accessible region
of the QCD phase diagram
(by lattice QCD calculations)



Equation of State at $\mu_B > 0$

energy density correction



- energy coefficients are readily obtained from the pressure coefficients

$$\frac{\Delta\epsilon}{T^4} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (3\chi_{2i}^B - \tilde{\chi}_{2i}^B) \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T}\right)^{2i}$$

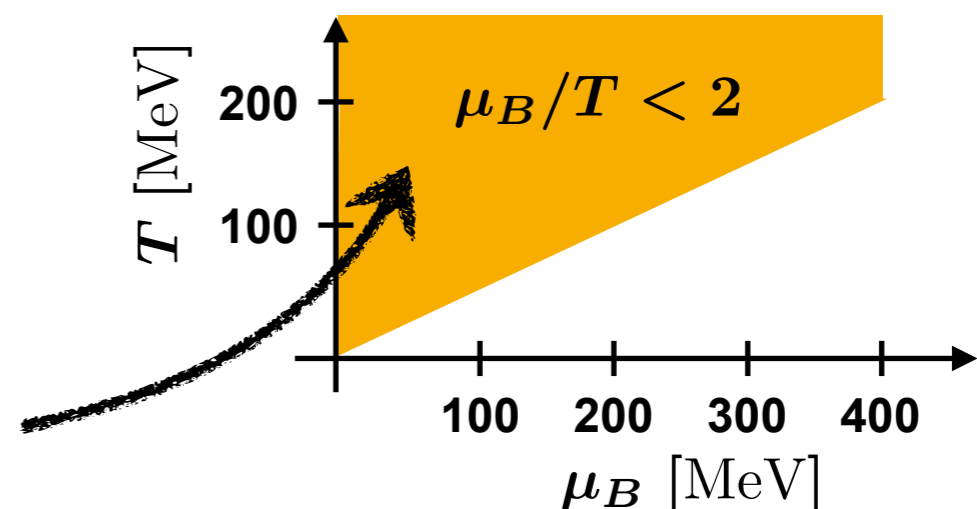
$$\text{with } \tilde{\chi}_{2i}^B = T \frac{d\chi_{2i}^B(T)}{dT}$$

- convergence deferred due to additional temperature derivative

Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D95 (2017) 054505.

➔ Sixth order contributions are small for $\mu_B/T < 2$

Currently accessible region of the QCD phase diagram (by lattice QCD calculations)



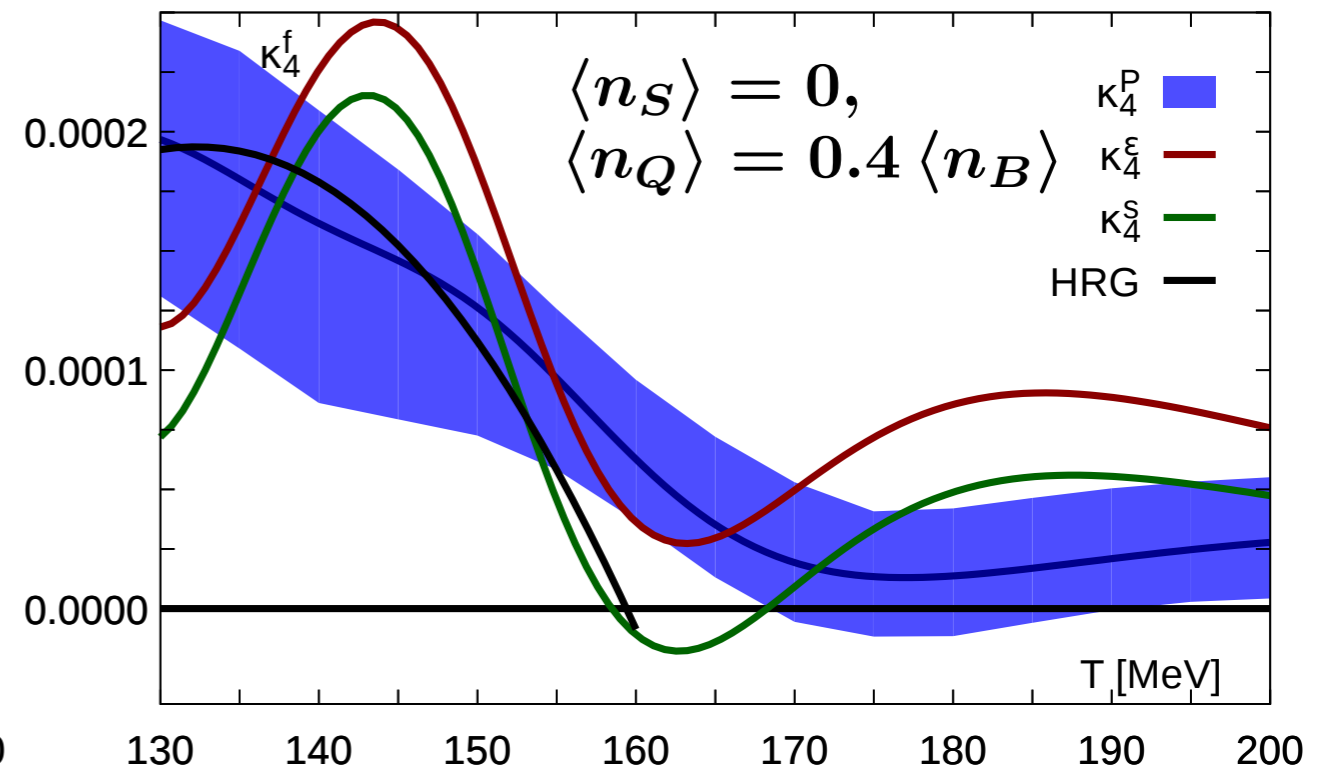
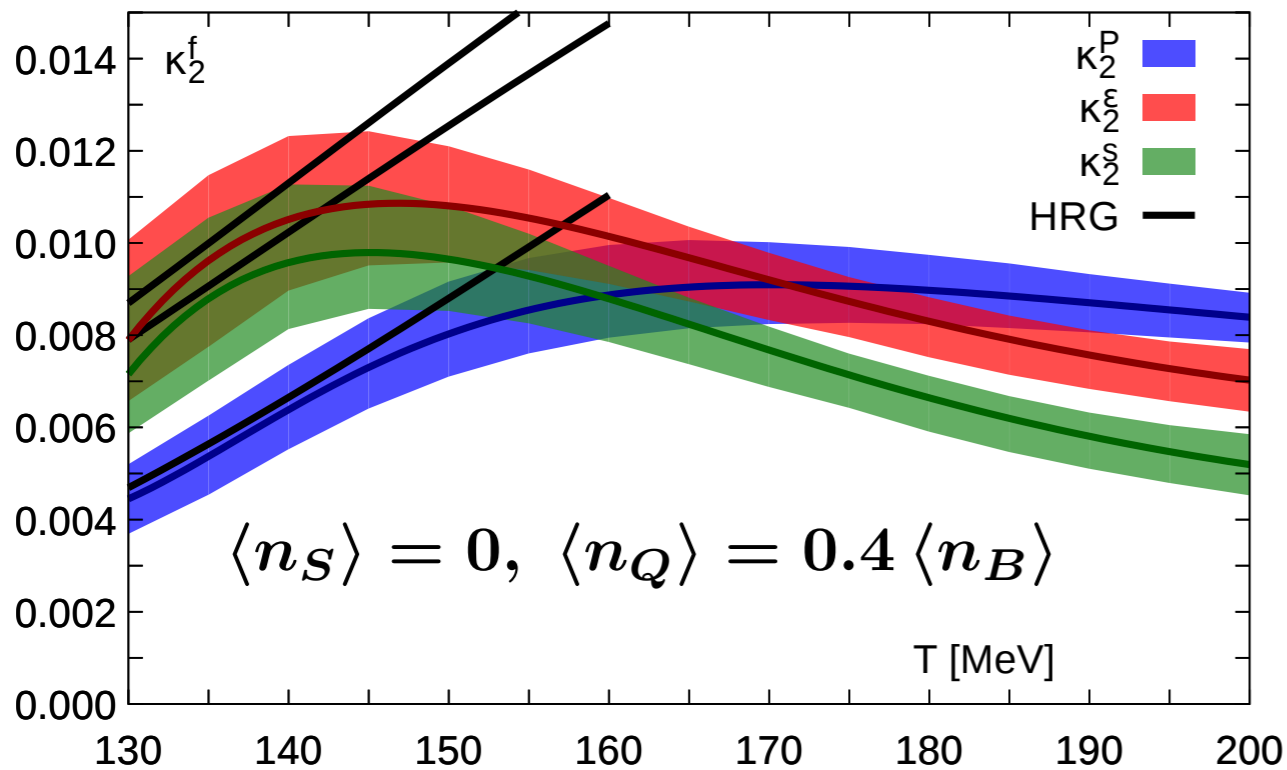
Lines of constant physics

Consider lines of constant $f \equiv p, \varepsilon, s, \dots$

Ansatz:
$$T_f(\mu_B) = T_0 \left(1 - \kappa_2^f \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T_0} \right)^2 - \kappa_4^f \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T_0} \right)^4 - \dots \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \kappa_2^f = \frac{T_0}{2} \frac{\frac{\partial^2 f(T, \mu_B)}{\partial \mu_B^2} \Big|_{(T_0, 0)}}{\frac{\partial f(T, \mu_B)}{\partial T} \Big|_{(T_0, 0)}}$$

Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D95 (2017) 054505.



→ Small κ_2^f

→ $\kappa_2^p, \kappa_2^\varepsilon, \kappa_2^s$ agree for $T \in [145, 165]$

→ κ_2^f is $O(10^2)$ smaller than κ_4^f

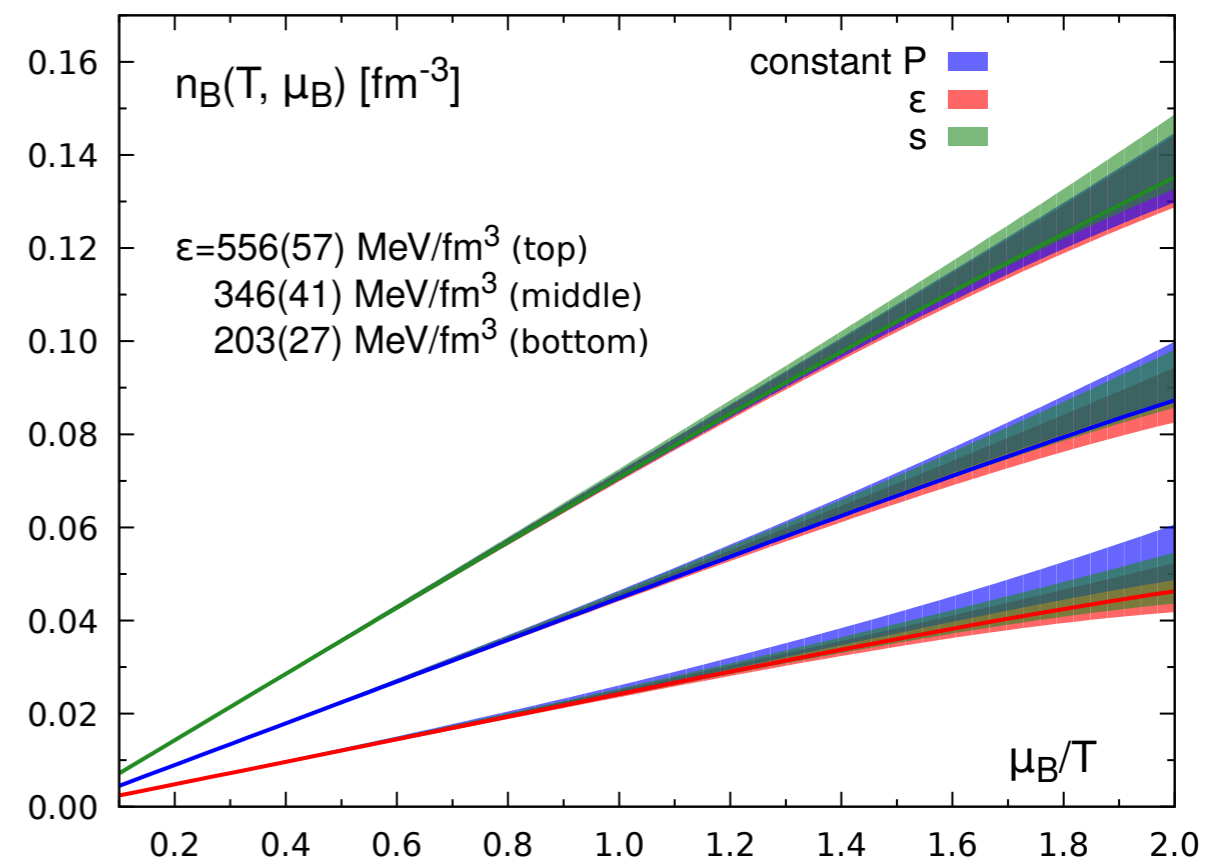
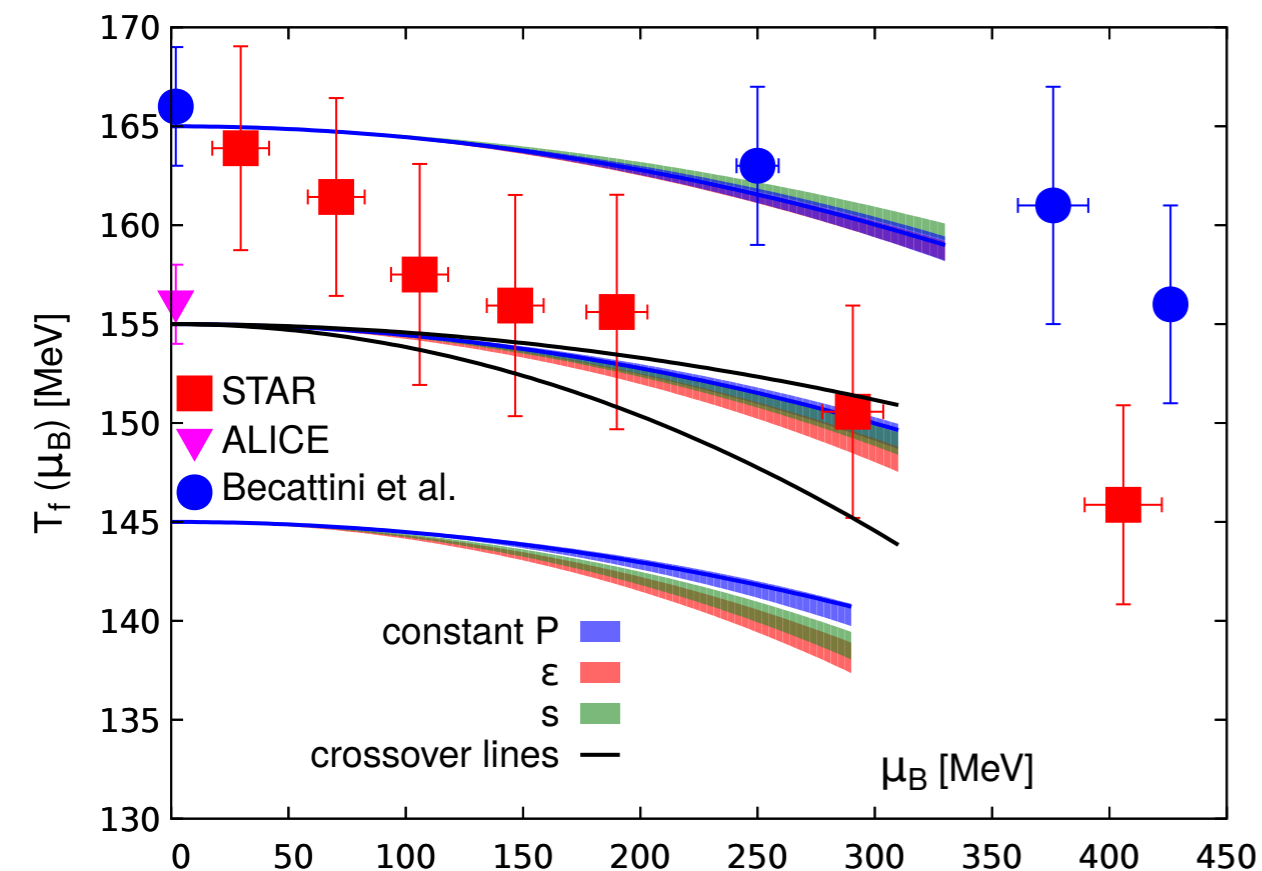
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Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D95 (2017) 054505.



$$\langle n_S \rangle = 0, \quad \langle n_Q \rangle = 0.4 \langle n_B \rangle$$

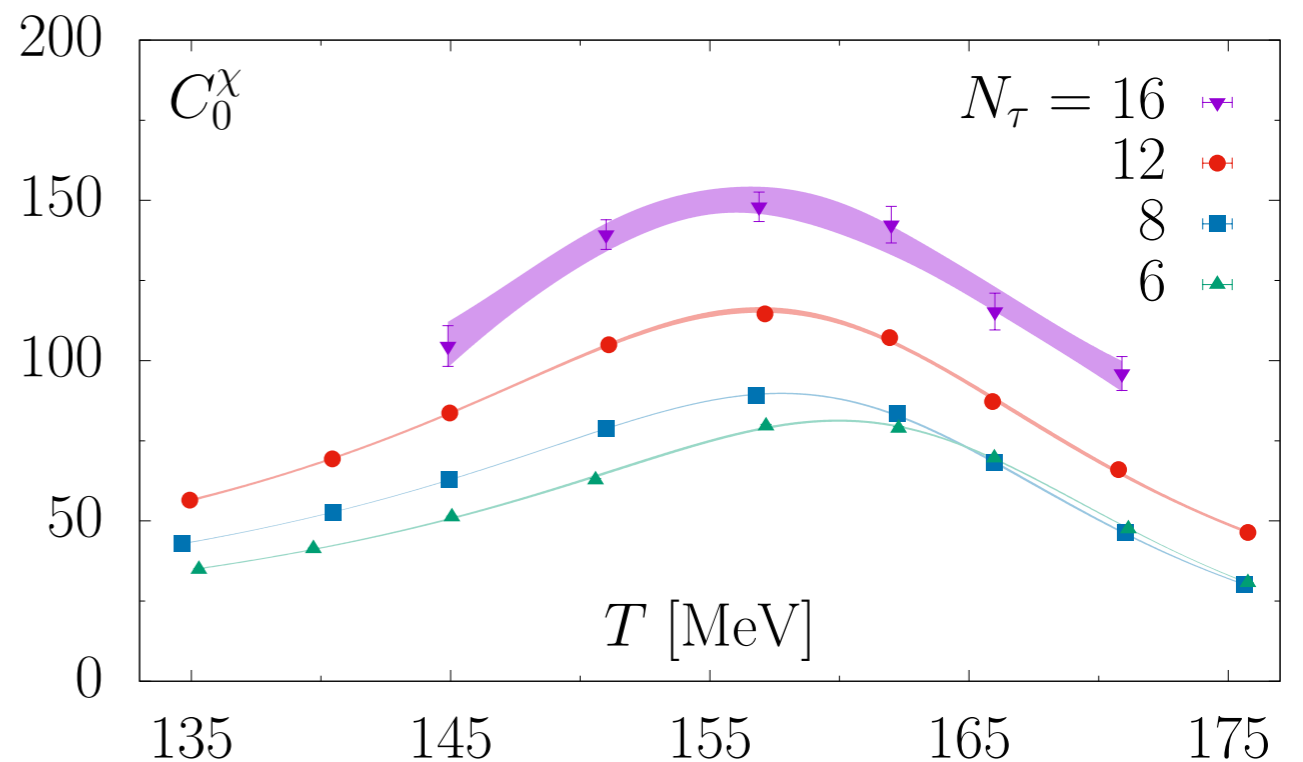
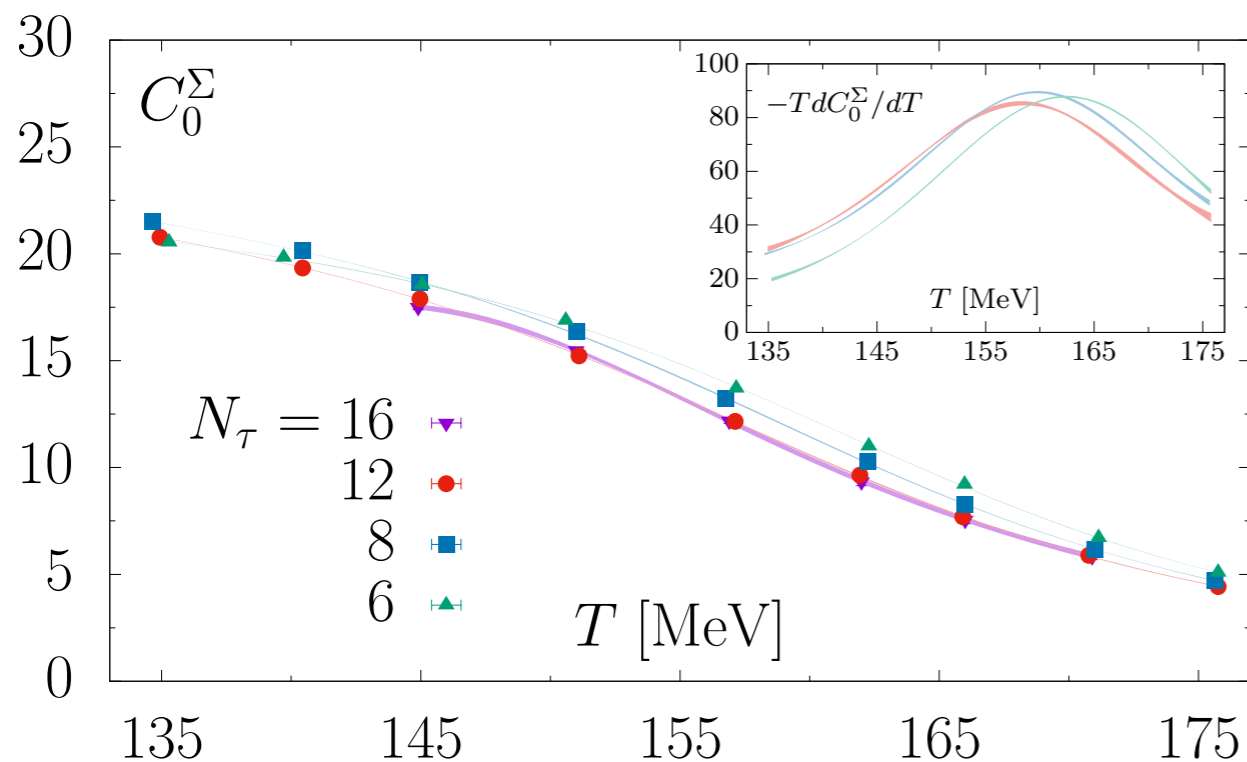
The chiral crossover line

• Chiral observables: $\Sigma = \frac{1}{f_K} [m_s \langle \bar{u}u + \bar{d}d \rangle - (m_u + m_d) \langle \bar{s}s \rangle]$

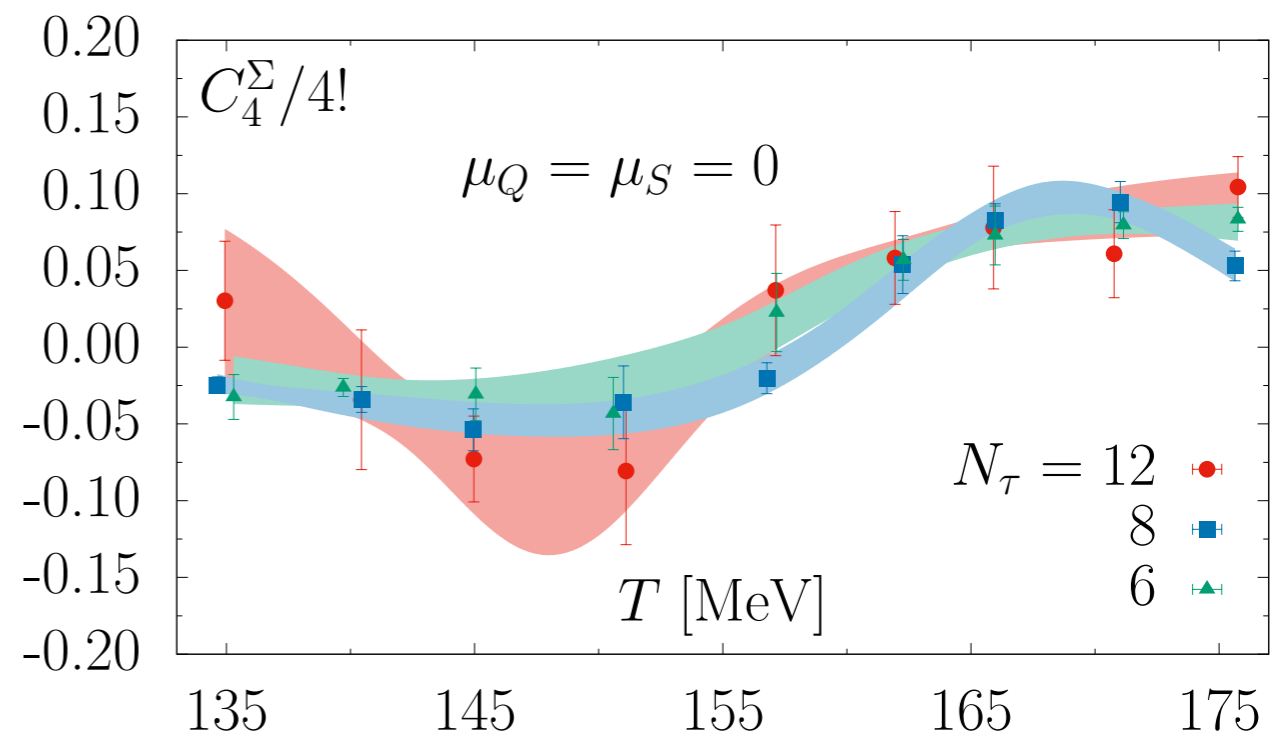
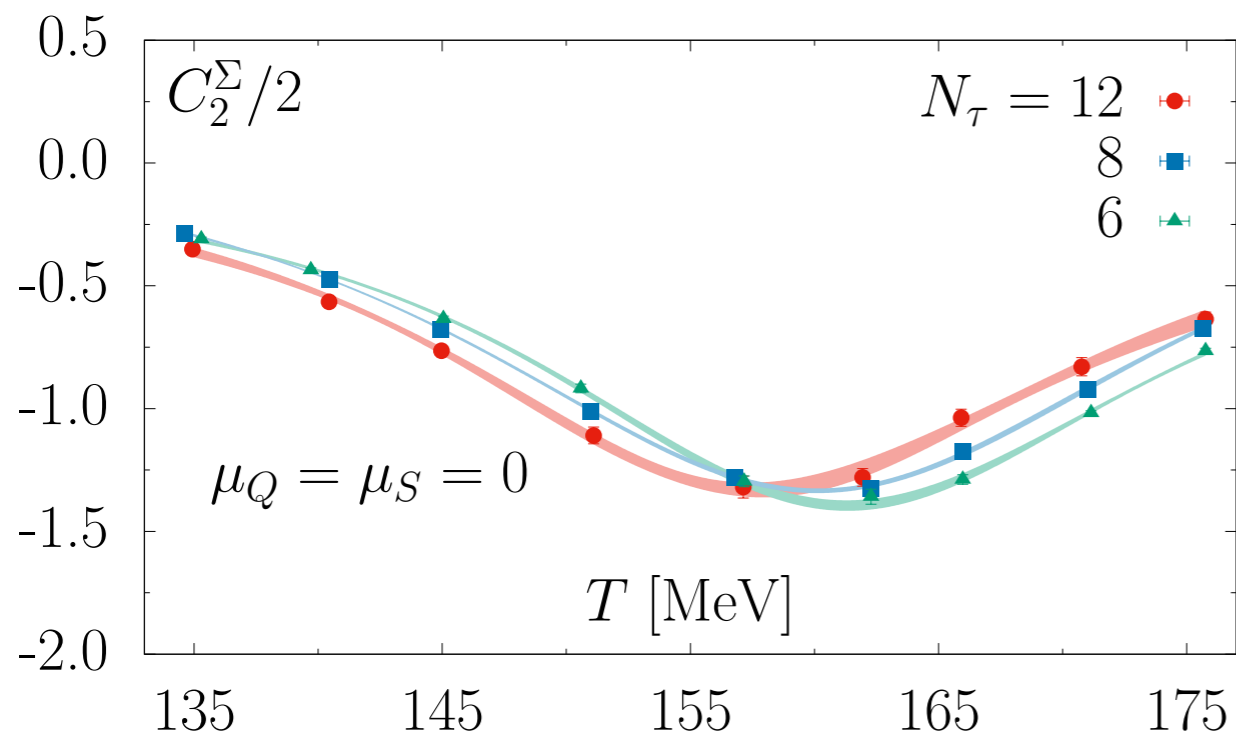
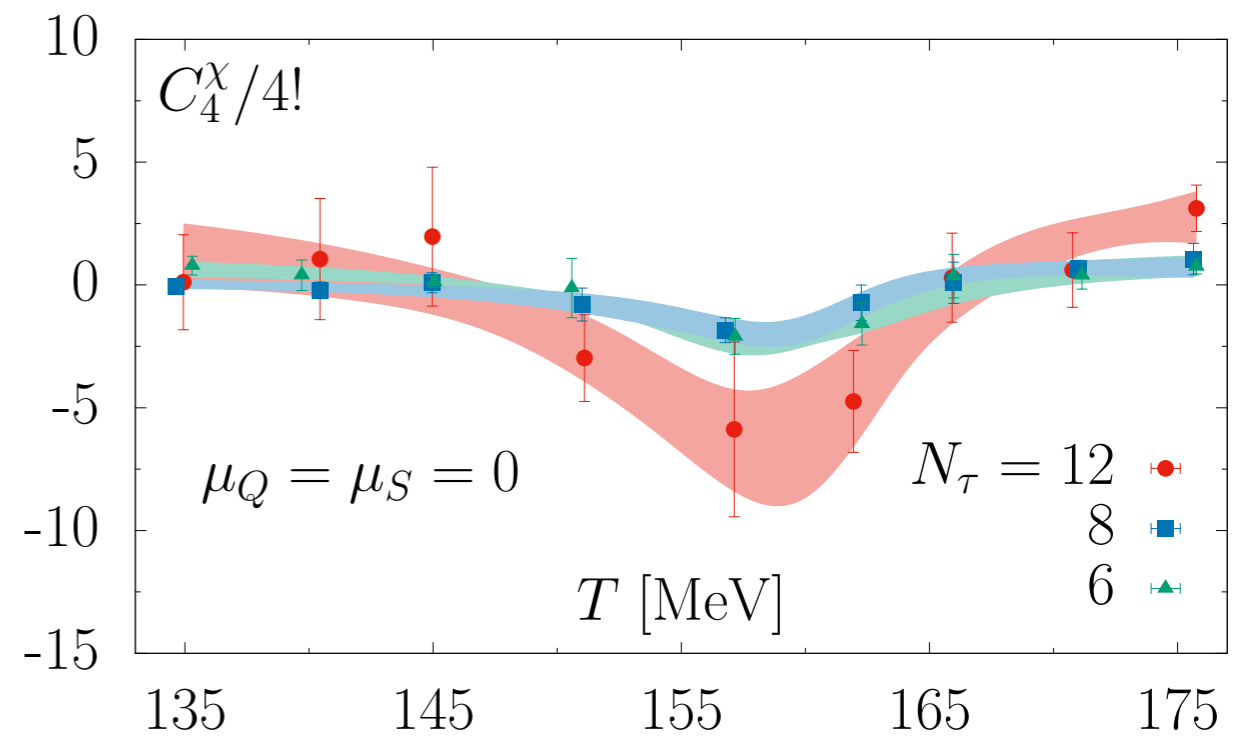
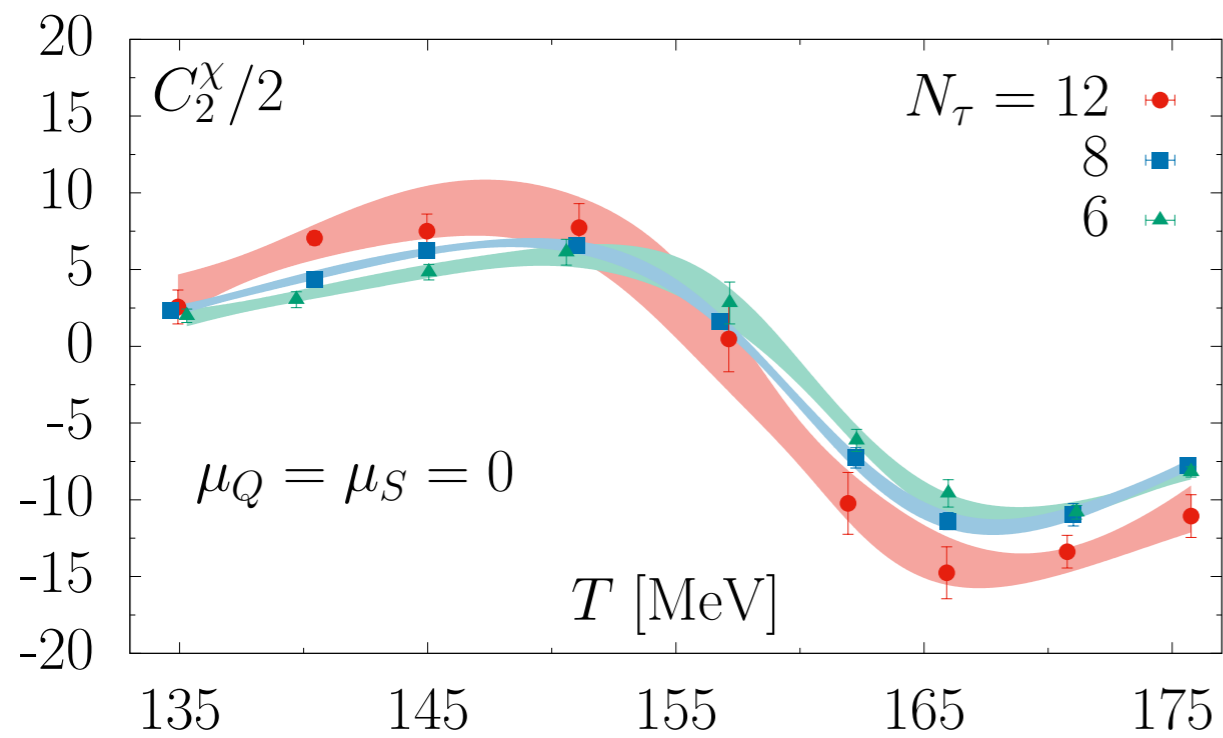
$$\chi = \frac{m_s^2}{f_K} [m_s \langle (\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d)^2 \rangle - (\langle \bar{u}u \rangle + \langle \bar{d}d \rangle)^2]$$

• Taylor expansion in μ_X , $X = B, Q, S, I, \dots$, e.g.

$$\Sigma(T, \mu_X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{C_{2n}^{\Sigma}(T)}{(2n)!} \left(\frac{\mu_X}{T} \right)^{2n} \quad \text{with} \quad C_{2n}^{\Sigma}(T) = \left. \frac{\partial^{2n} \Sigma}{\partial (\mu_X/T)^{2n}} \right|_{\mu_X=0}$$



The chiral crossover line

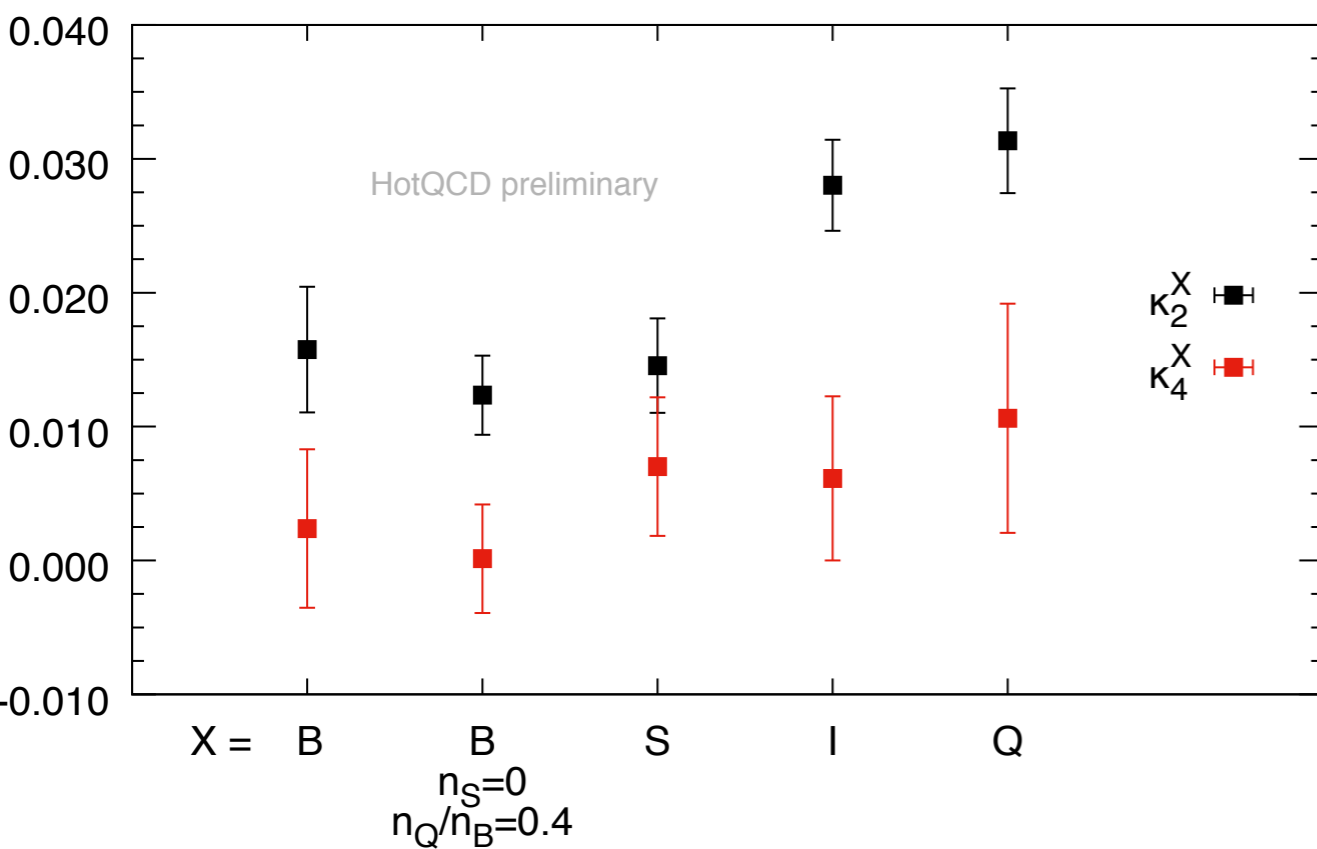


The chiral crossover line

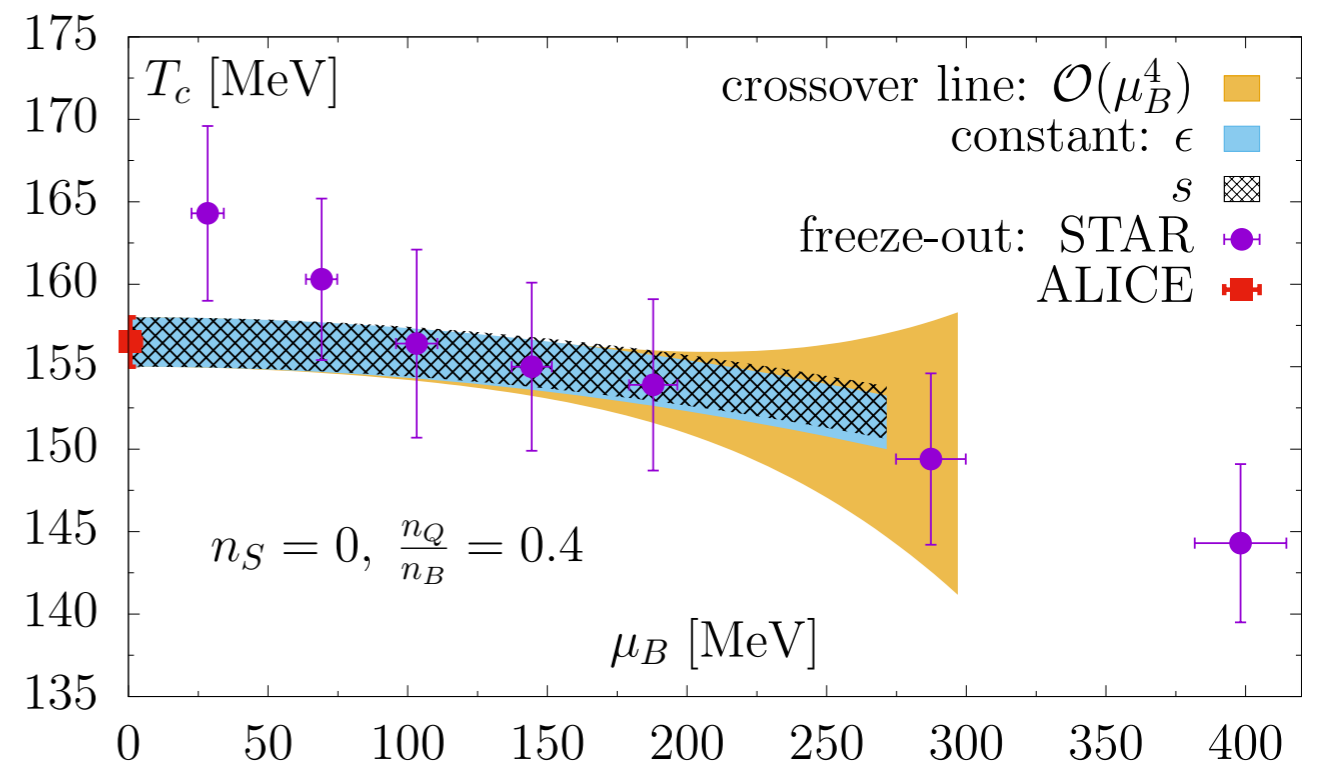
• Calculate lines of constant: $\partial_T^2 \Sigma(T, \mu_X) \big|_{\mu_X} = 0$

$$\partial_T \chi(T, \mu_X) \big|_{\mu_X} = 0$$

	κ_2^B	κ_4^B	κ_2^S	κ_4^S	κ_2^Q	κ_4^Q	κ_2^I	κ_4^I	$\kappa_2^{B,f}$	$\kappa_4^{B,f}$
Σ	0.015(4)	-0.001(3)	0.018(3)	0.001(3)	0.027(4)	0.004(5)	0.023(3)	0.004(4)	0.012(2)	0.000(2)
χ	0.016(5)	0.002(6)	0.015(4)	0.007(5)	0.031(4)	0.011(9)	0.028(3)	0.006(6)	0.012(3)	0.000(4)
Average	0.016(6)	0.001(7)	0.017(5)	0.004(6)	0.029(6)	0.008(1)	0.026(4)	0.005(7)	0.012(4)	0.000(4)



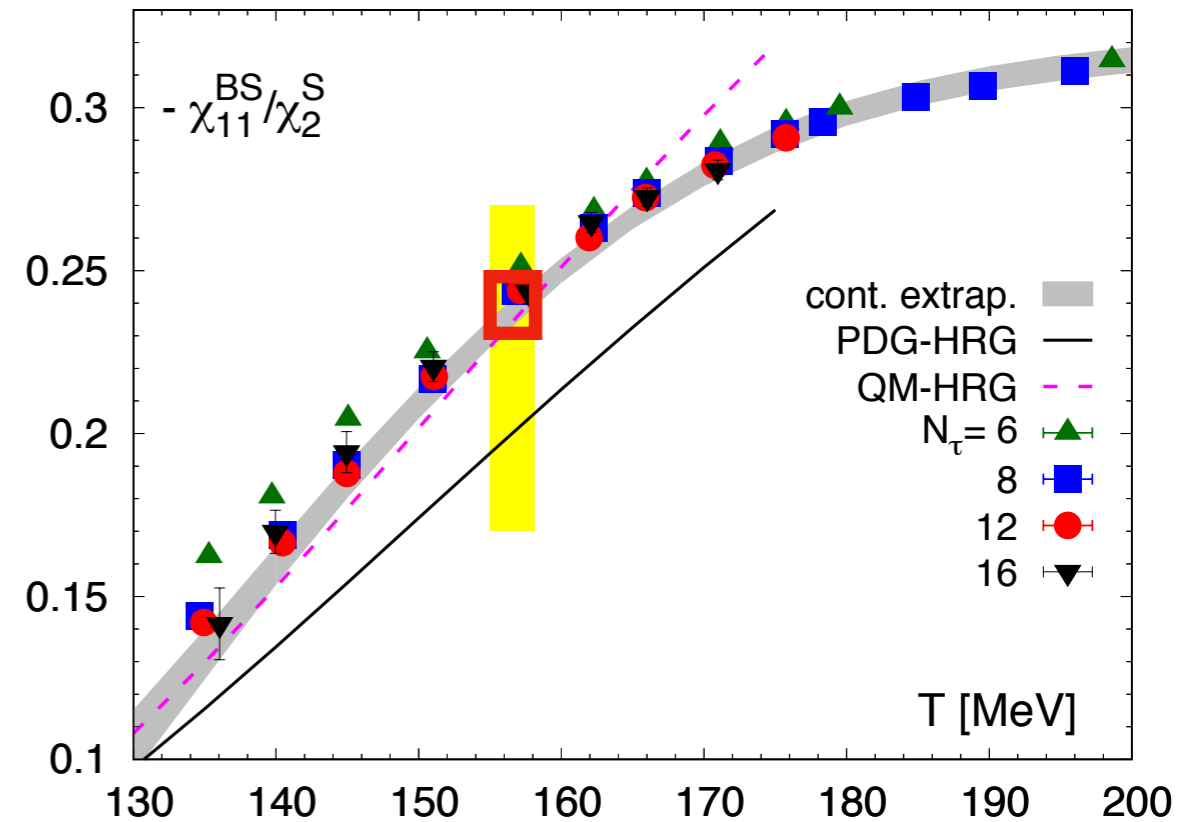
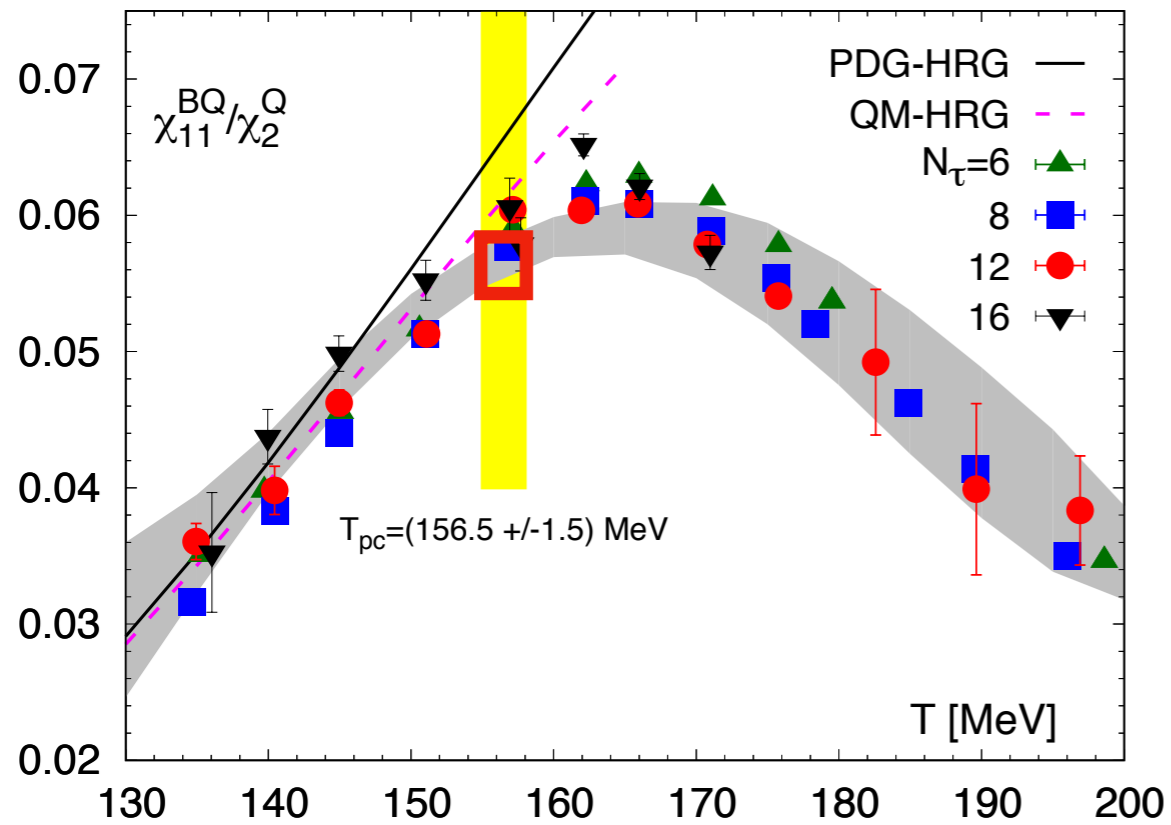
➔ Slight dependence on the type of conserved charge



➔ Agreement with the lines of constant physics

Fluctuations of conserved charges at LHC

- 2nd order fluctuations: BQ and BS correlations



At ALICE: freeze-out temperature
 == chiral crossover temperature

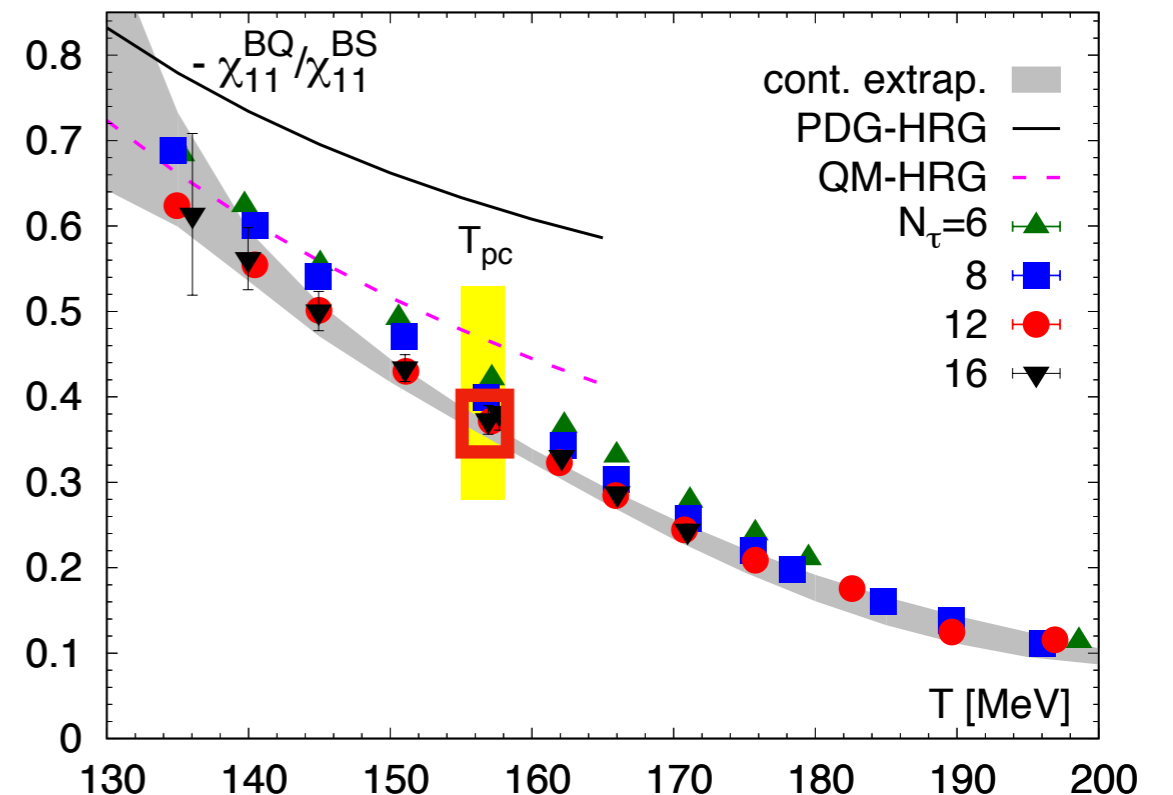
$$T_{f0} = 156.5(1.5) \text{ MeV}$$

$$\chi_{11}^{BQ} / \chi_2^Q = 0.058(2)$$

$$\chi_{11}^{BS} / \chi_2^S = -0.235(15)$$

$$\chi_{11}^{BQ} / \chi_{11}^{BS} = -0.37(3)$$

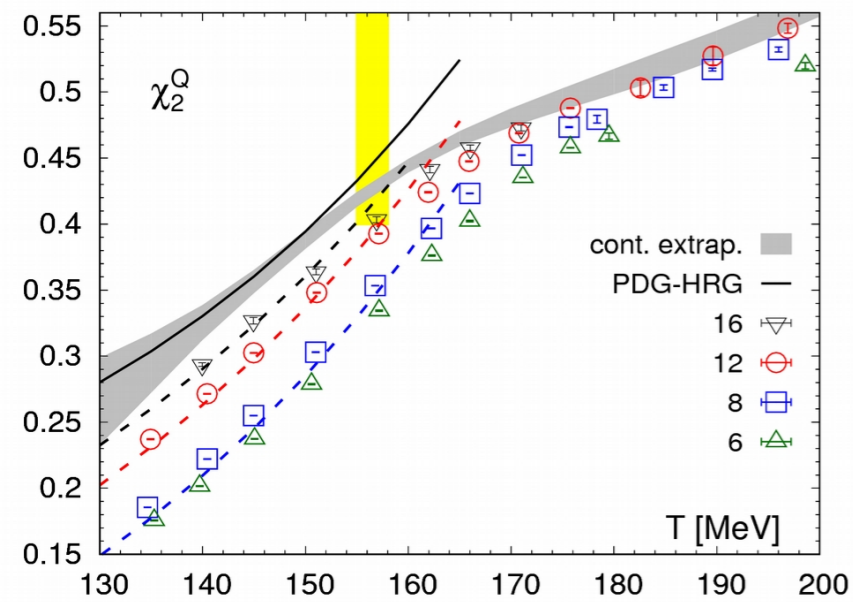
➔ Evidence for not yet observed hadrons?



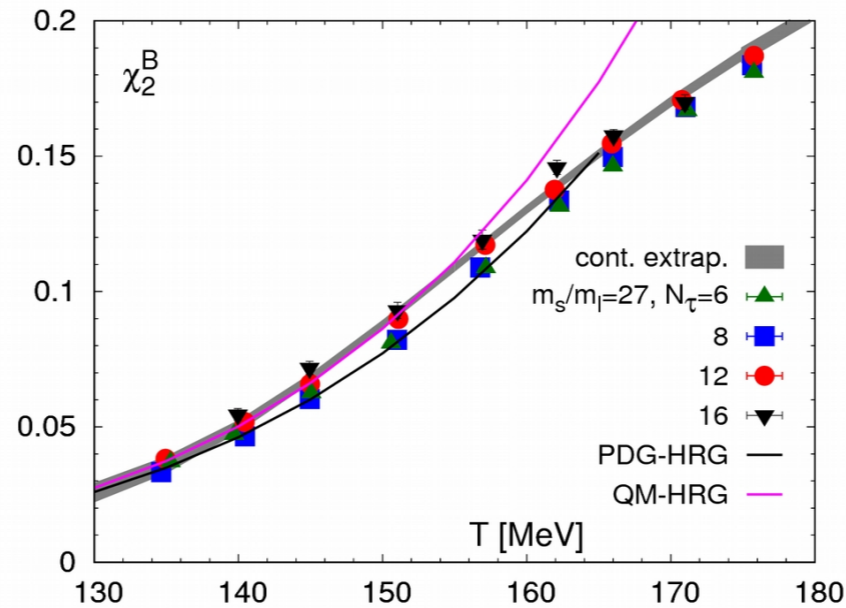
Fluctuations of conserved charges at LHC

- Continuum results for all 2nd order observables

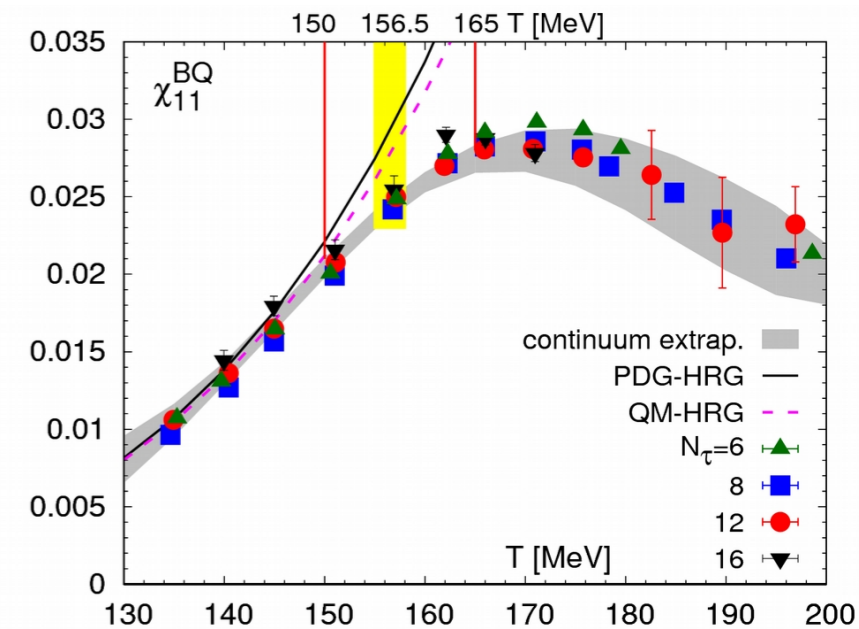
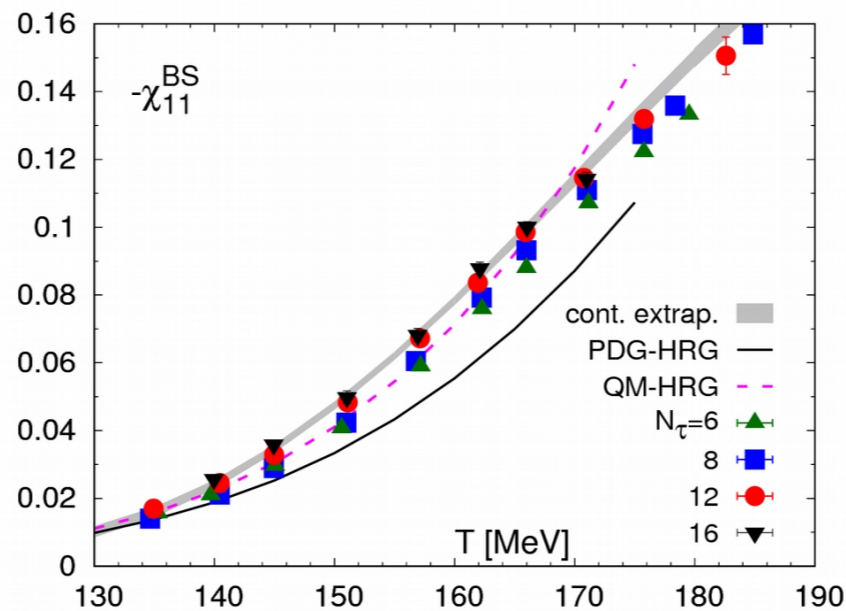
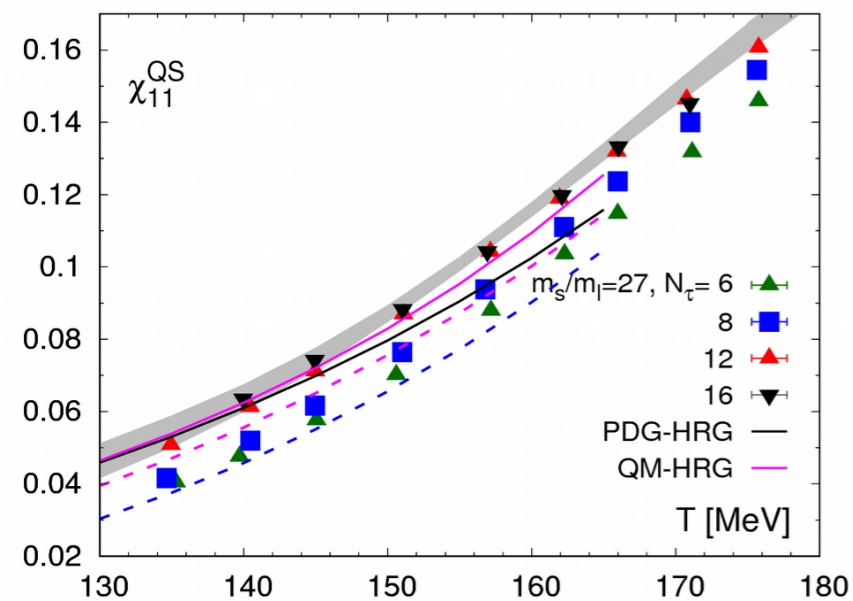
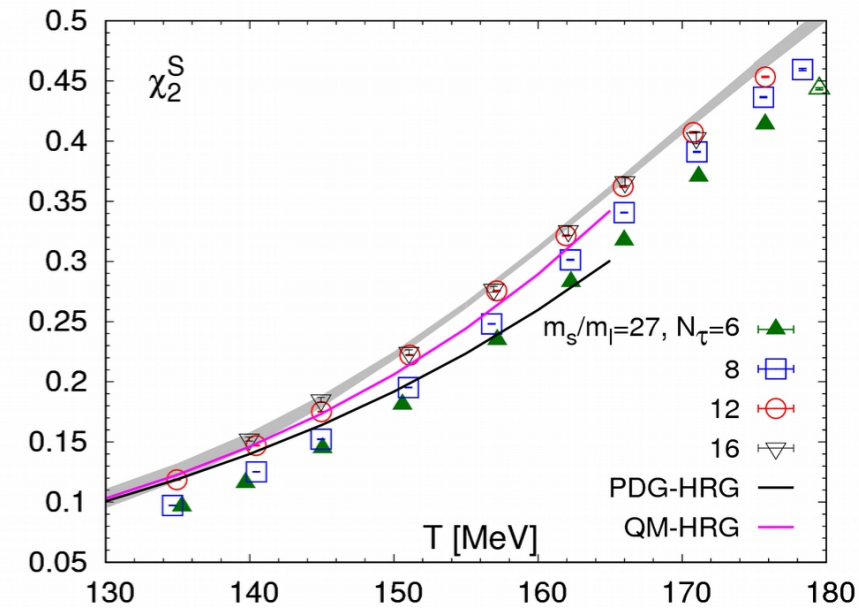
$$T_c = (156.5 \pm 1.5)\text{MeV}$$



$$\chi_2^B = 2\chi_{11}^{BQ} - \chi_{11}^{BS}$$



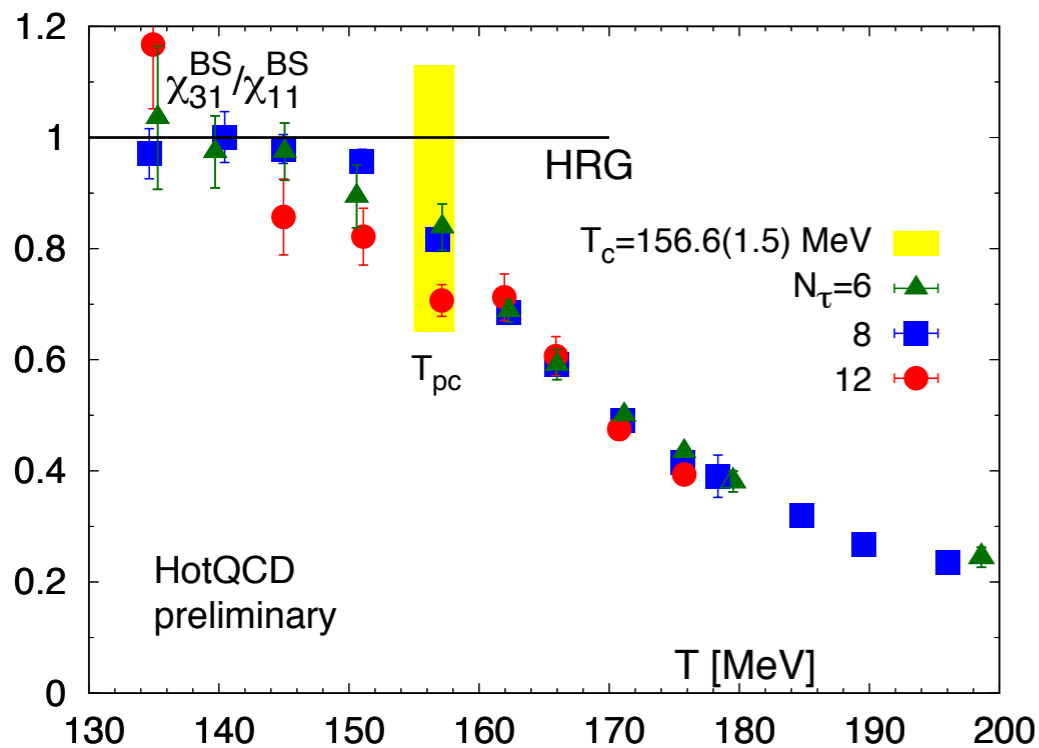
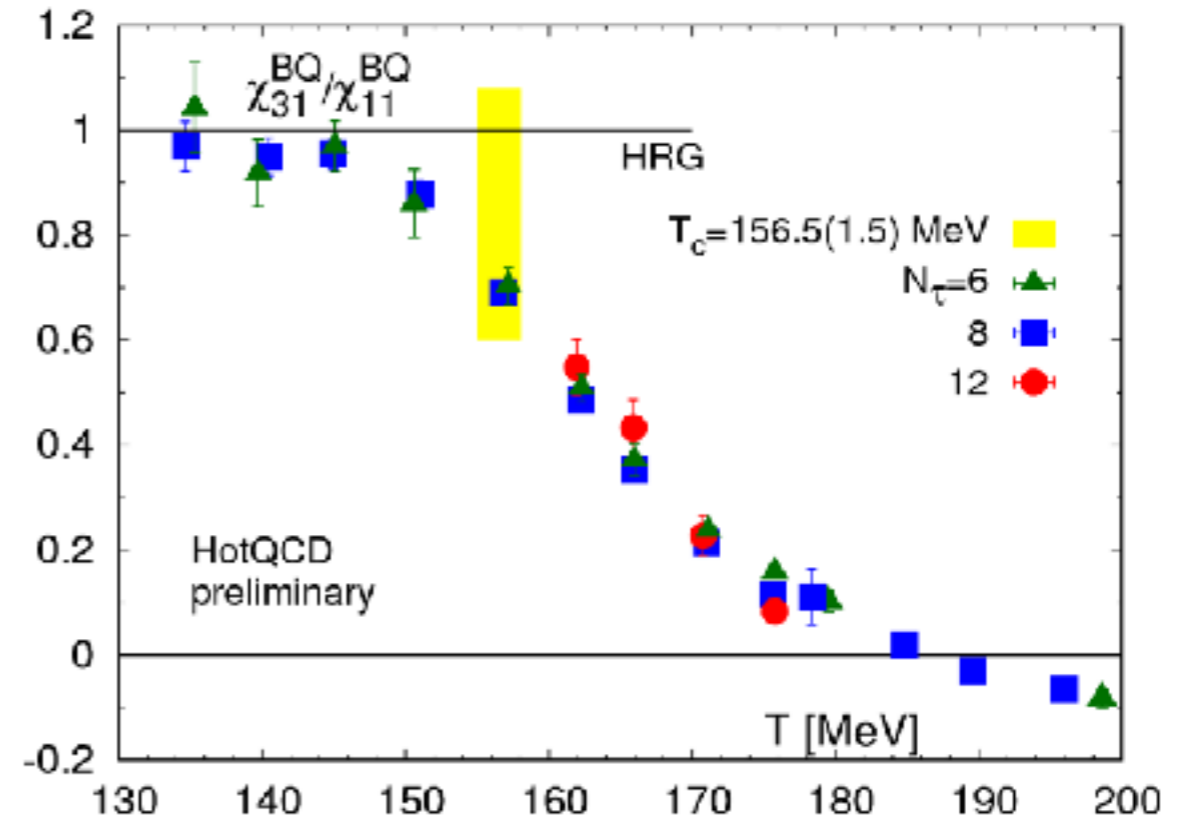
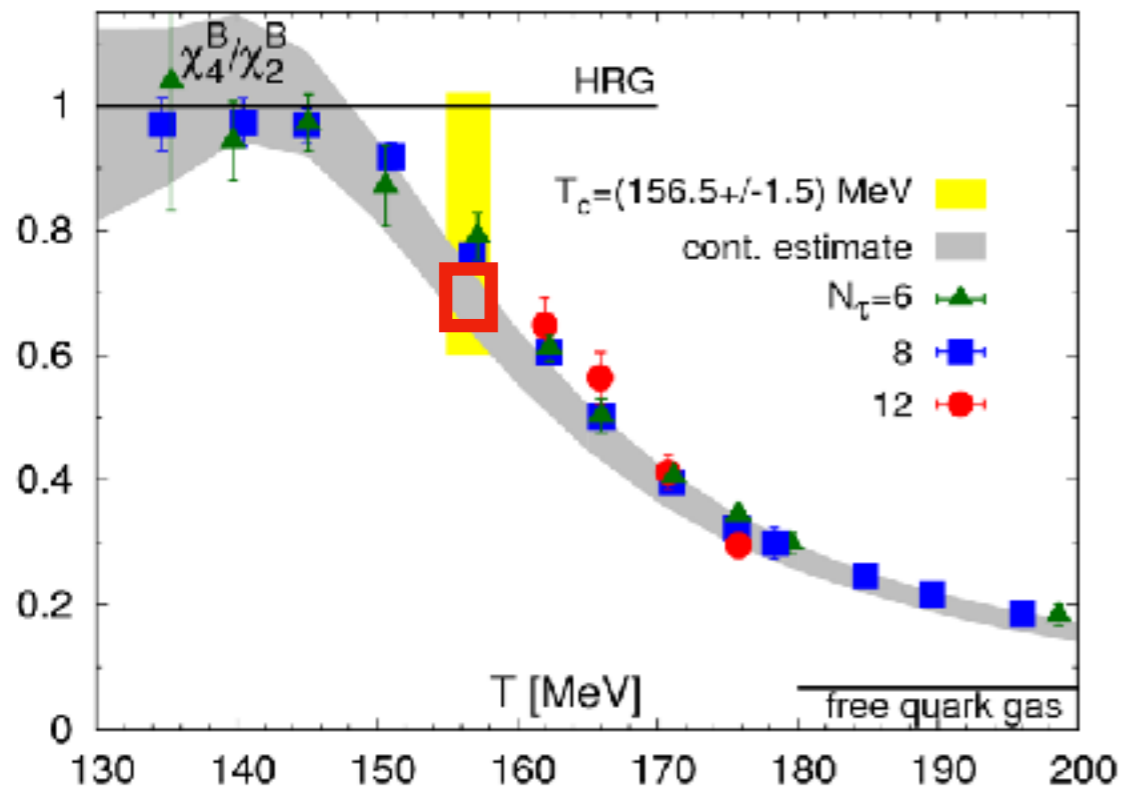
$$\chi_2^S = 2\chi_{11}^{QS} - \chi_{11}^{BS}$$



→ Only 4 out of 6 observables are independent

Fluctuations of conserved charges at LHC

- Some 4th order fluctuations



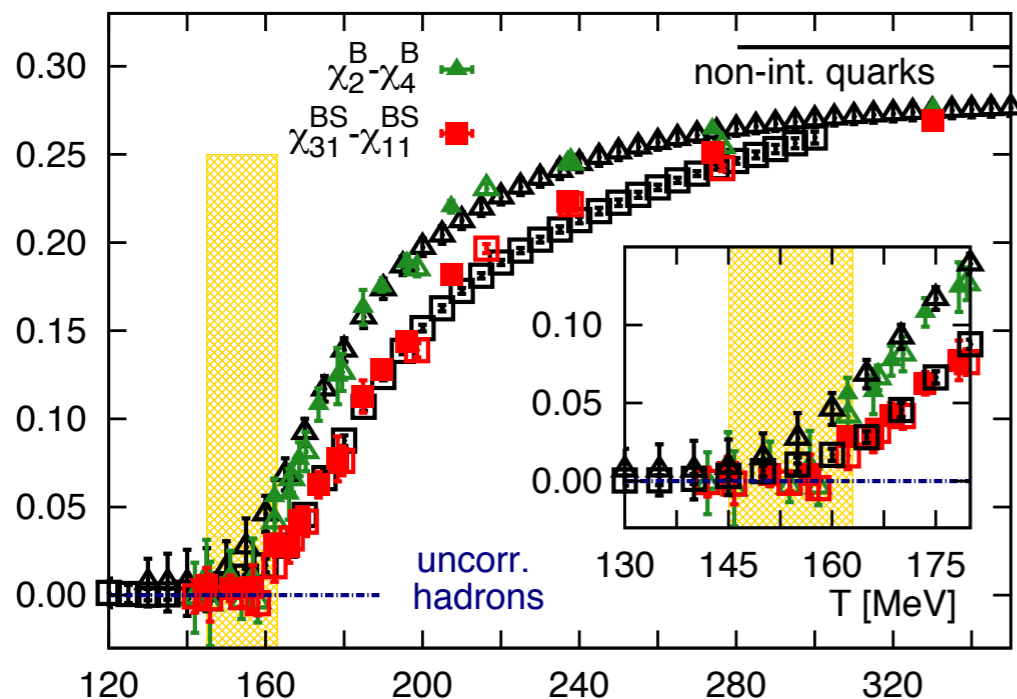
- ➔ Differ from HRG for $T > 145$ MeV
- ➔ Change (20-40)% percent in the crossover region

➔ Sensitive probes for freeze-out

The effective degrees of freedom

- **cumulants are sensitive to effective charges:** compare cumulants from non-perturbative (lattice) QCD calculations to other scenarios such as an uncorrelated gas of hadrons (HRG) or perturbative QCD

probing HRG DoFs:

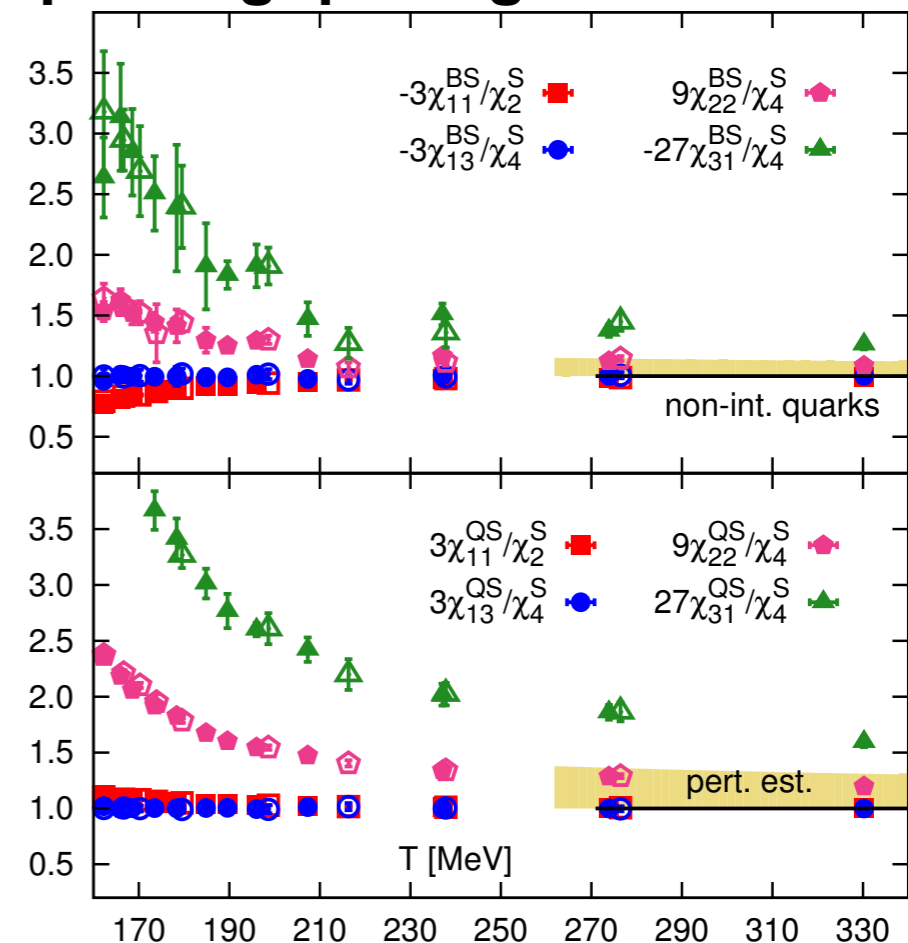


Bazavov et al., PRL 111 (2013)

Bellwied et al., PRL 111 (2013)

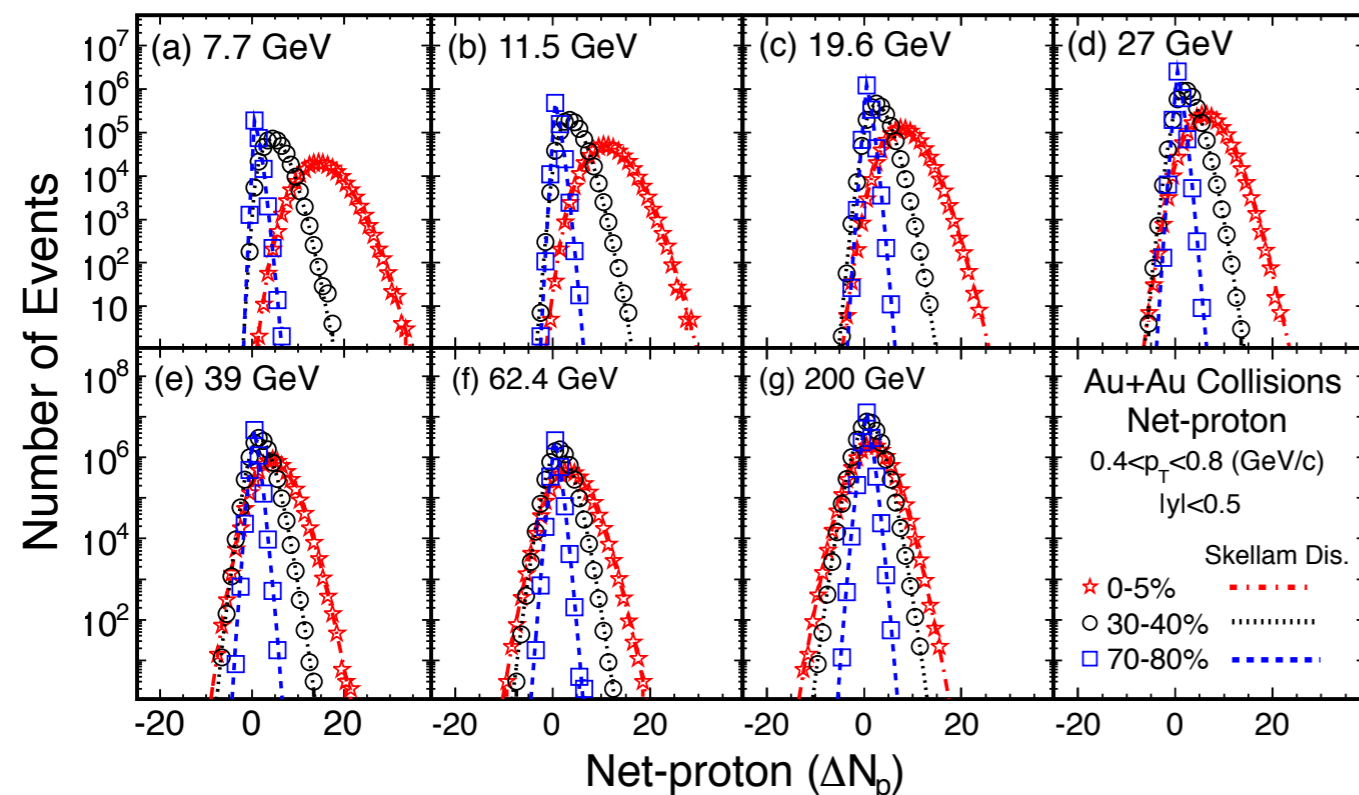
⇒ relevant degrees of freedom are hadronic and uncorrelated for $T \lesssim T_c$

probing quark gas DoFs:

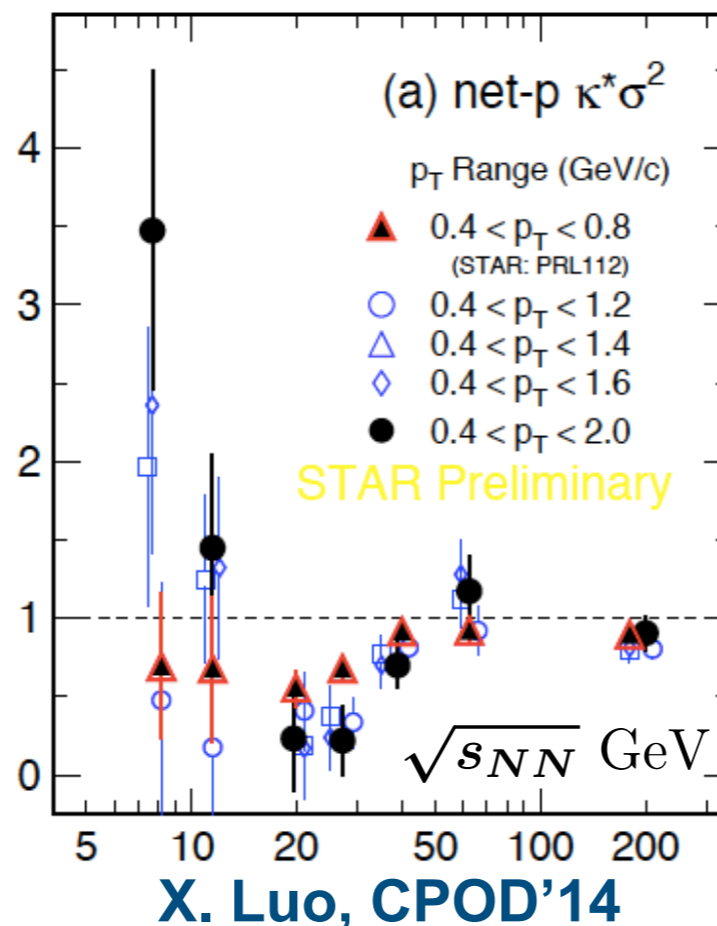


⇒ relevant degrees of freedom are that of a weakly interact. quark gas for $T \gtrsim 2T_c$

STAR data for net-proton number fluctuations



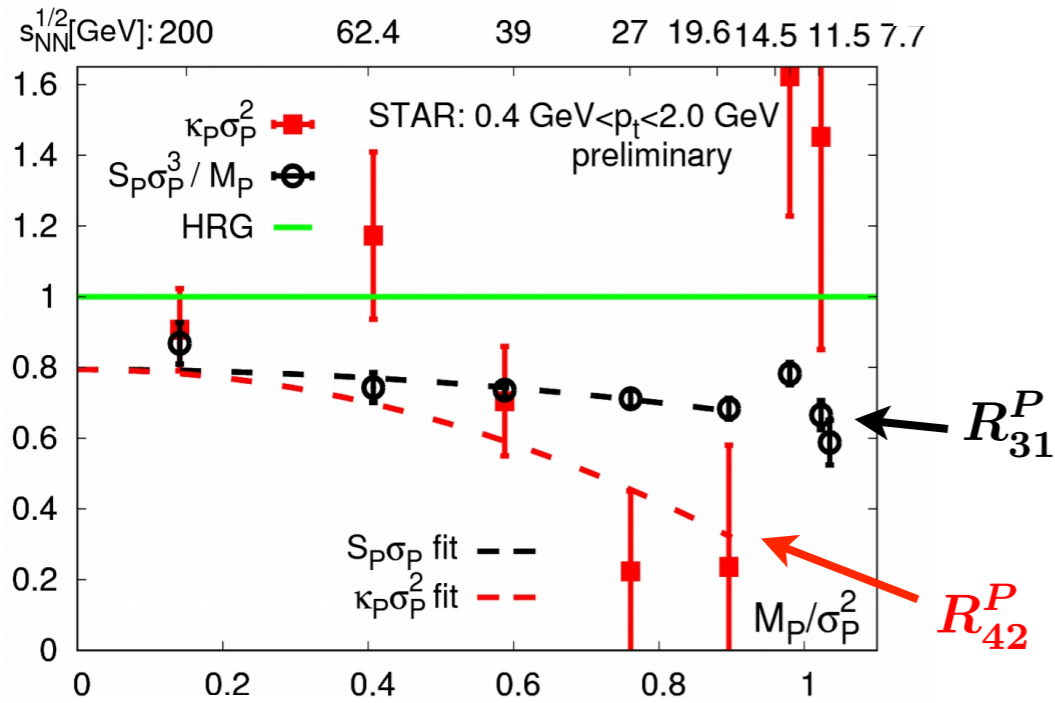
STAR, PRL 112 (2014)



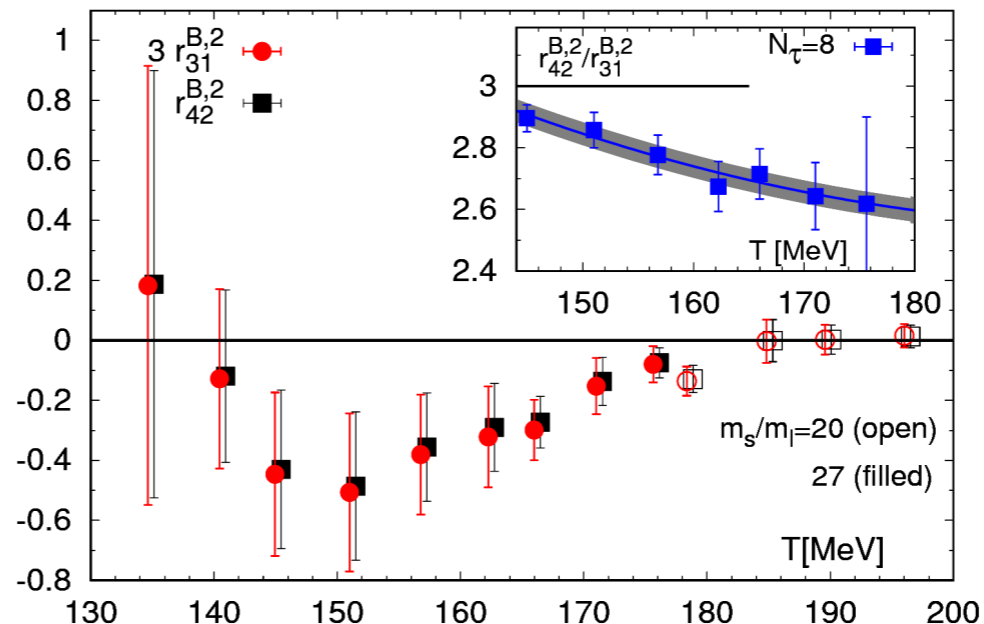
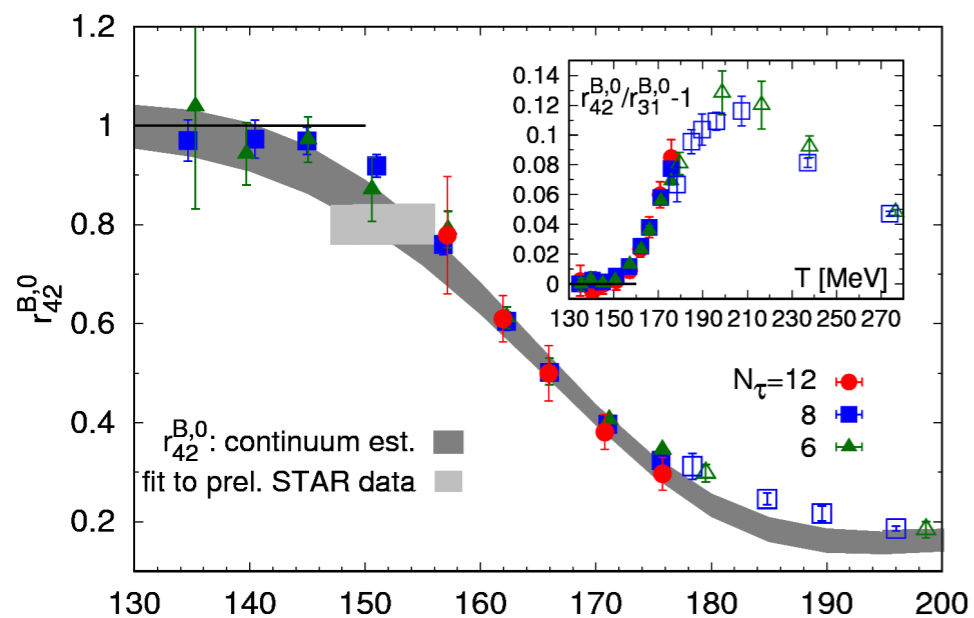
- STAR has measured the event-by-event fluctuations of the net-proton number.
- STAR found non-Gaussian fluctuations (non-vanishing skewness and kurtosis).
- Indication for a critical point?
- Can the data be explained by equilibrium thermodynamics?

STAR data for net-proton number fluctuations

- How can we compare STAR data to the lattice results without using a model dependent parametrization of the freeze-out line?
 - ➔ Consider only ratios of cumulants to eliminate the freeze-out volume.
 - ➔ Eliminate also μ_B in favor of the ratio $R_{12}^B \equiv \chi_1^B / \chi_2^B$.



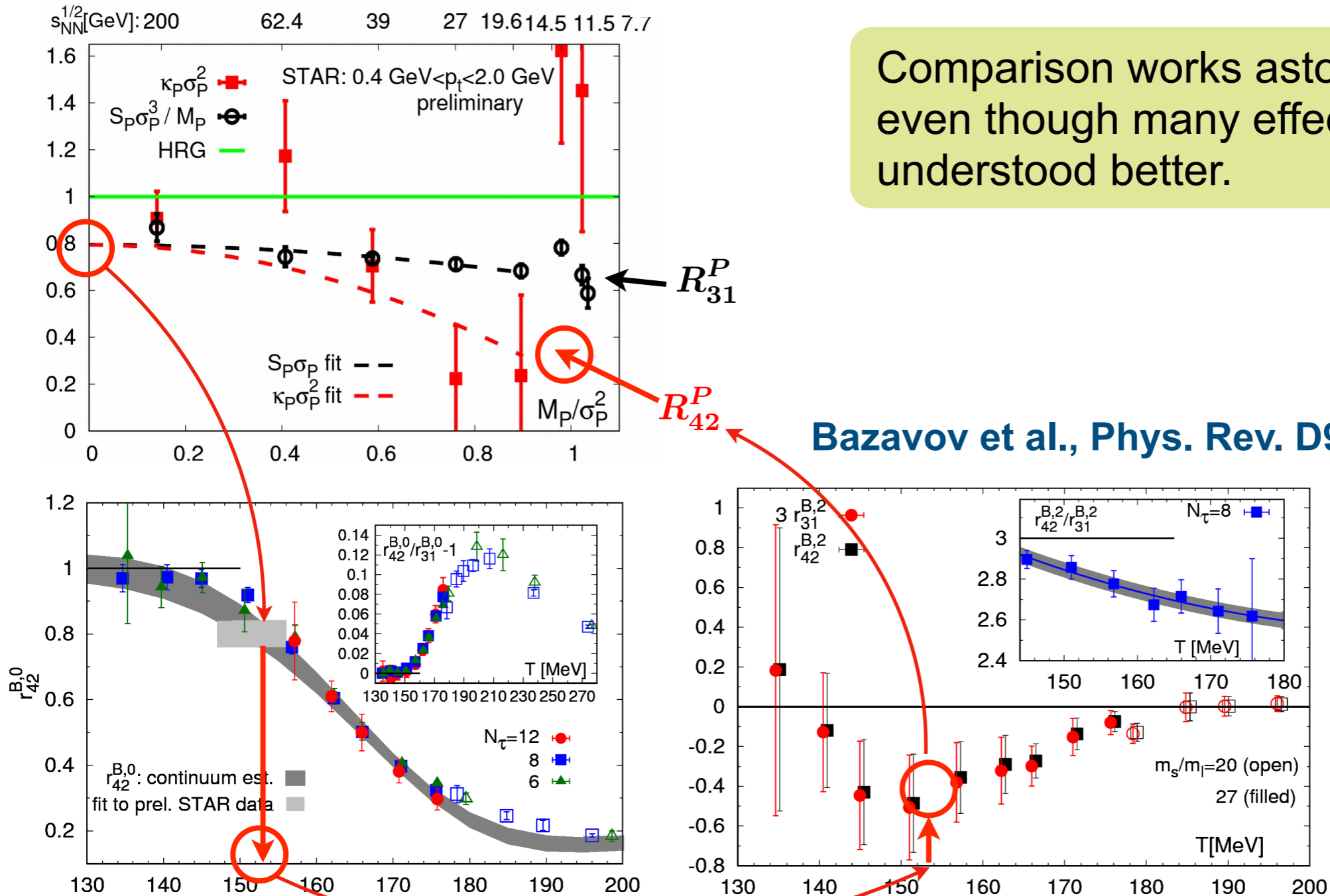
Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D96 (2017) 074510.



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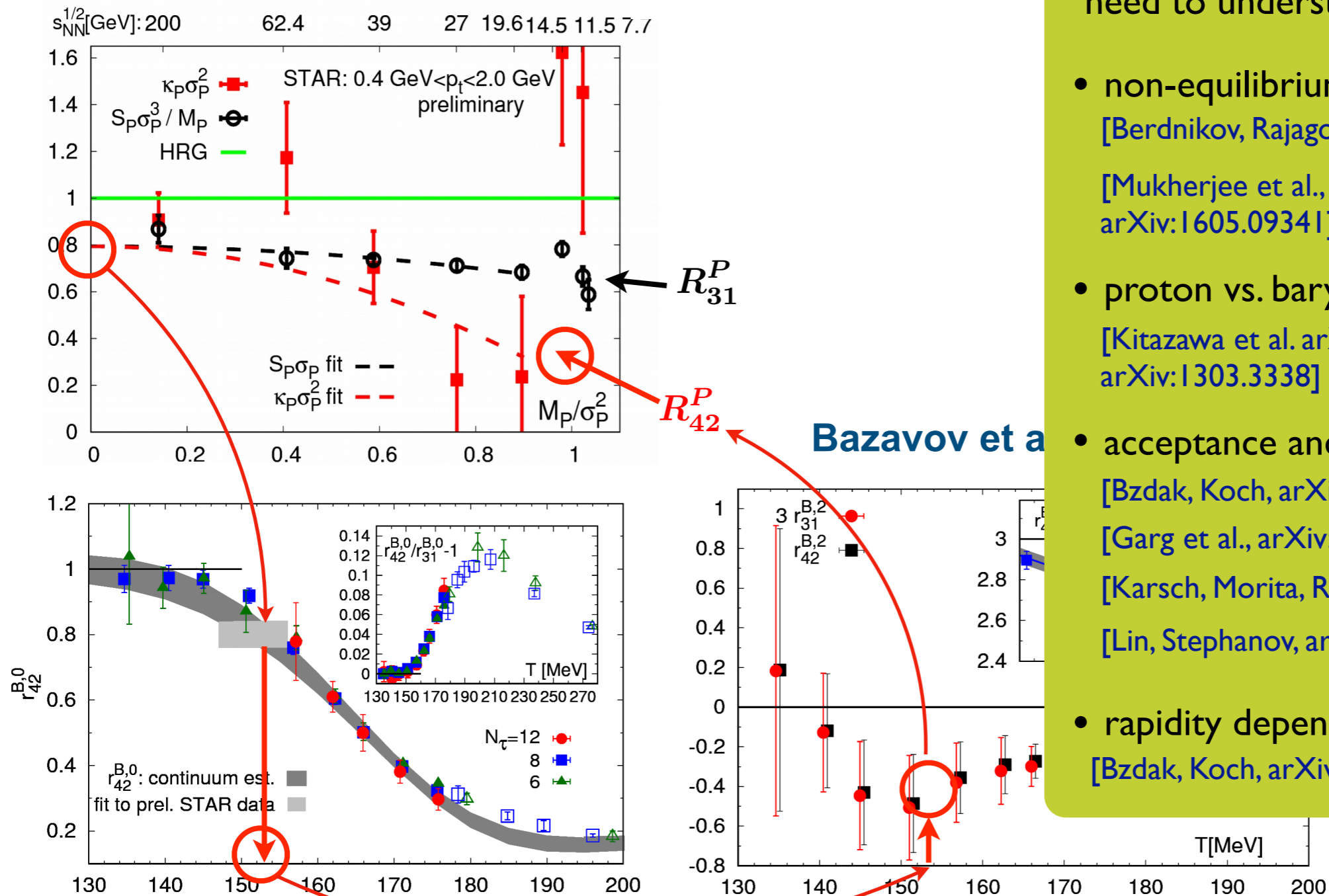
Comparison works astonishingly well, even though many effects need to be understood better.



Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D96 (2017) 074510.

STAR data for net-proton number fluctuations

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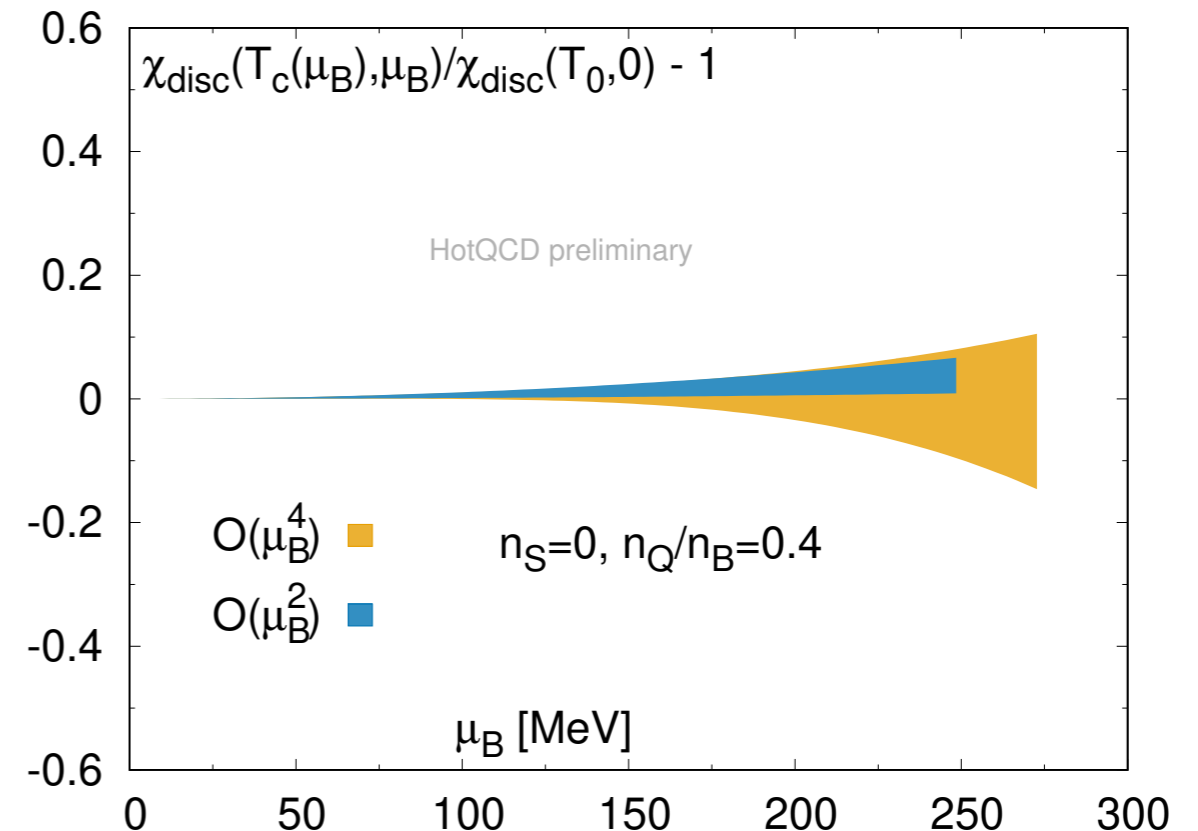
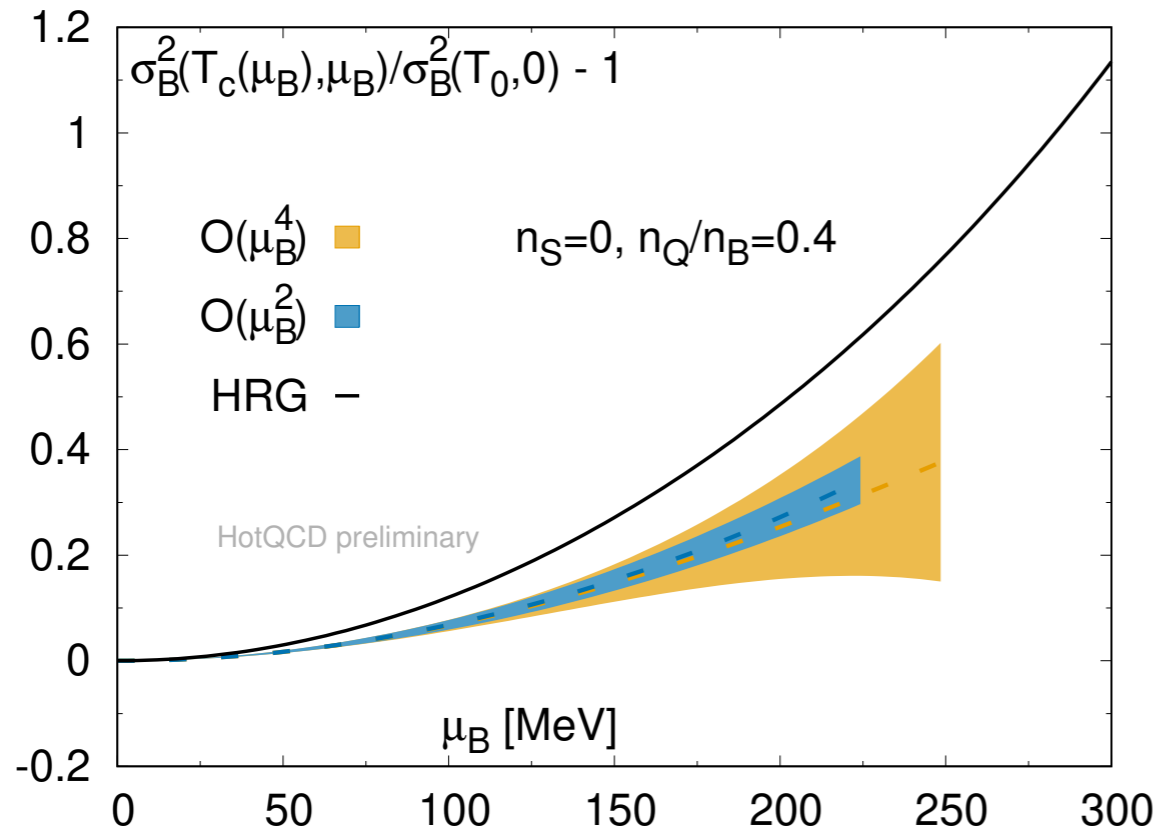


need to understand:

- non-equilibrium effects
[Berdnikov, Rajagopal, hep-ph/9912274]
[Mukherjee et al., arXiv:1506.00645, arXiv:1605.09341]
- proton vs. baryon number distributions
[Kitazawa et al. arXiv:1205.3292, arXiv:1303.3338]
- acceptance and pt-cuts
[Bzdak, Koch, arXiv:1206.4286]
[Garg et al., arXiv:1304.7133]
[Karsch, Morita, Redlich, arXiv:1508.02614]
[Lin, Stephanov, arXiv:1512.09125]
- rapidity dependence
[Bzdak, Koch, arXiv:1707.02640]

Fluctuations and critical behavior

- Consider baryon number fluctuations and fluctuations of the chiral condensate along the crossover line



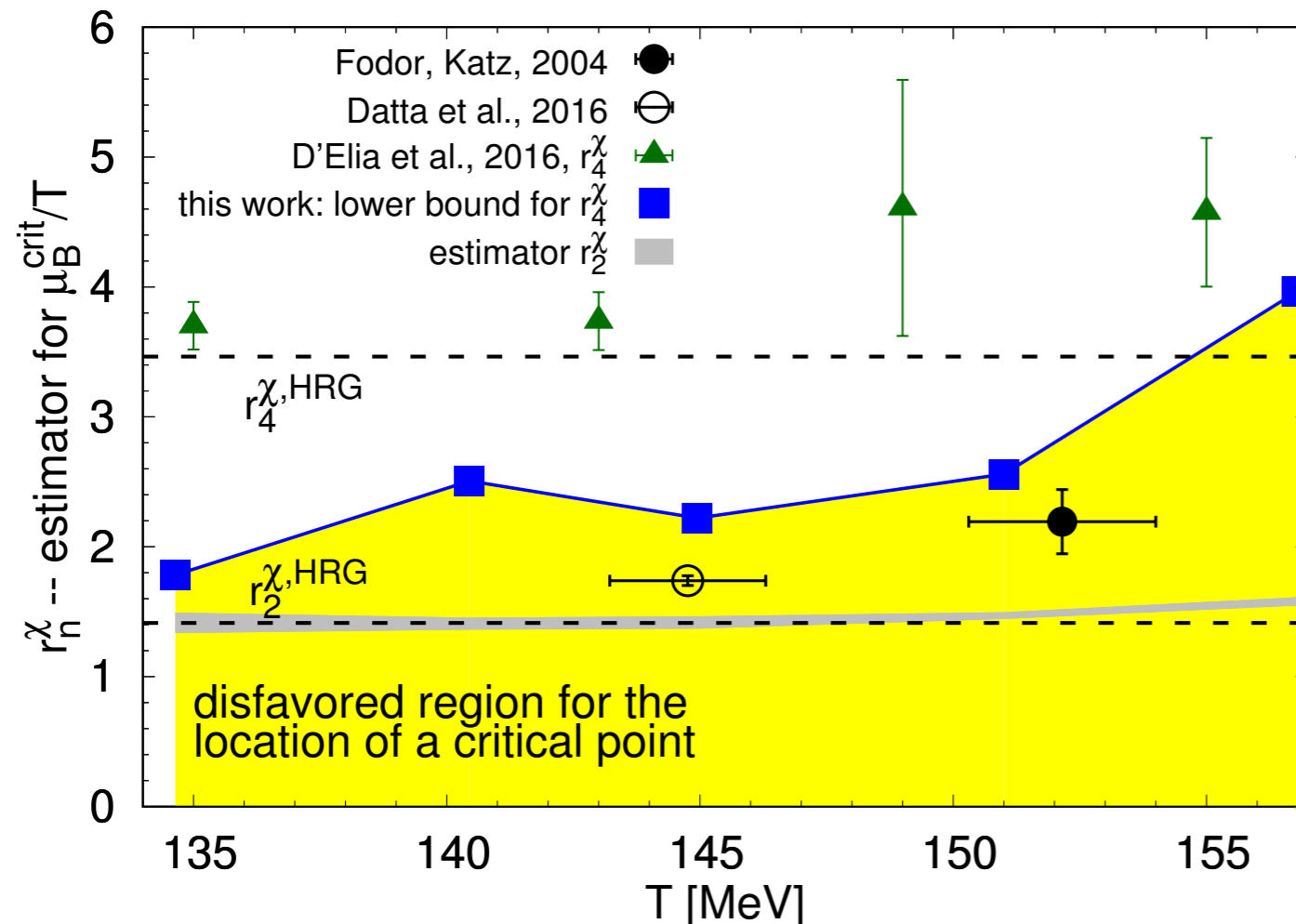
- ➔ No sign of critical fluctuations / critical point
- ➔ No sign that crossover gets stronger

Will a critical point ever be seen by a Taylor expansion?

Theoretical Method: estimate the radius of convergence from successive expansion coefficient. So far, not conclusive.

Radius of convergence

$$\frac{p(T, \mu_B) - p(T, 0)}{T^4} = \frac{\chi_2^B}{2!} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T}\right)^2 + \frac{\chi_4^B}{4!} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T}\right)^4 + \frac{\chi_6^B}{6!} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T}\right)^6 + \dots$$



possible definitions of estimators:

$$r_{2n}^P = \left| \frac{(2n+2)(2n+1)\chi_{2n}^B}{\chi_{2n+2}^B} \right|^{1/2}$$

$$r_{2n}^\chi = \left| \frac{2n(2n-1)\chi_{2n}^B}{\chi_{2n+2}^B} \right|^{1/2}$$

true radius of convergence:

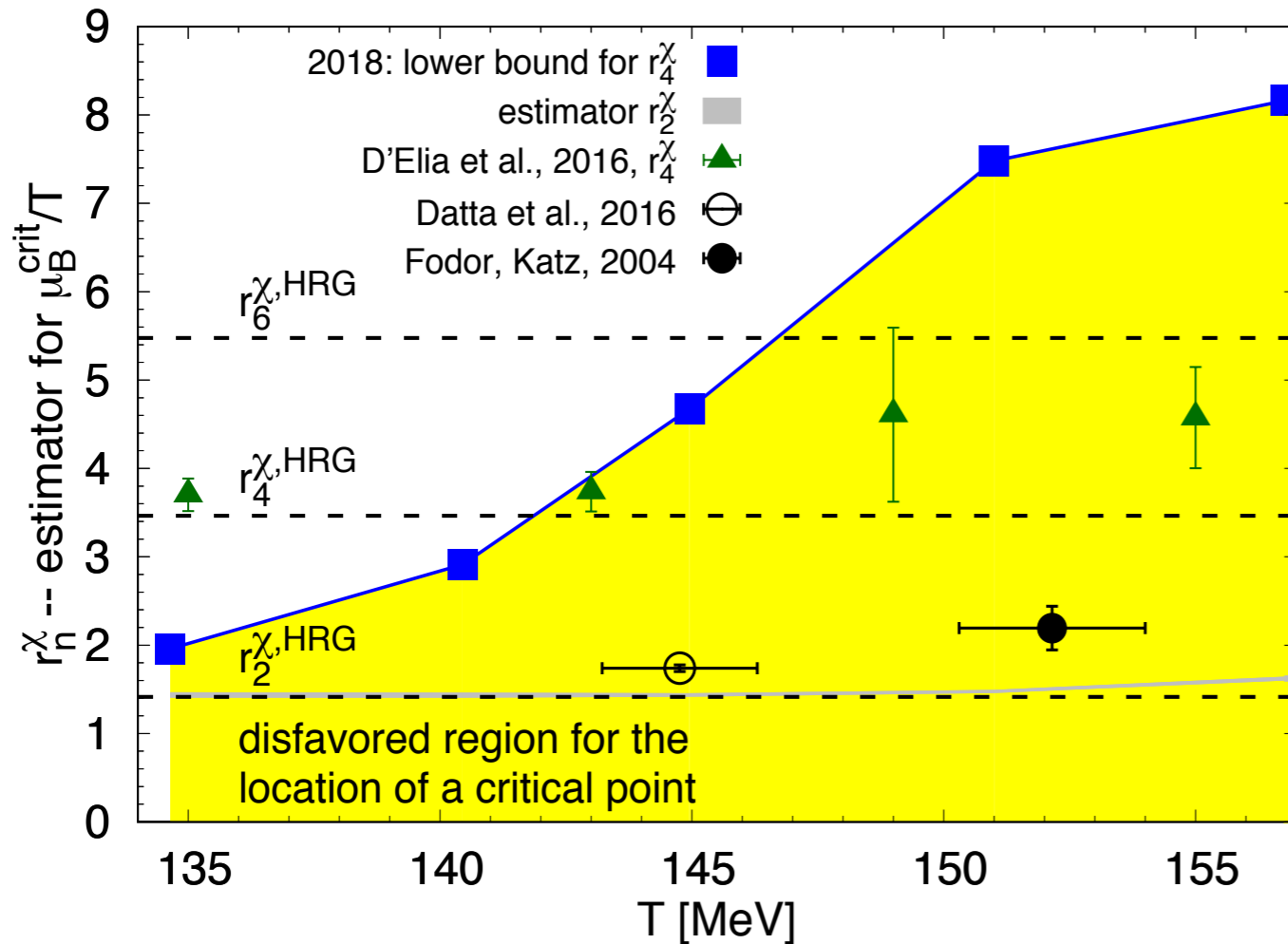
$$\rho(T) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_{2n}^P(T) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_{2n}^\chi(T)$$

Bazavov et al., Phys. Rev. D95 (2017) 054505.

- the radius of convergence only corresponds to a critical point if all expansion coefficients are positive
- HRG: all ratios $\chi_{2n}^B / \chi_{2n+2}^B$ are unity.

Radius of convergence

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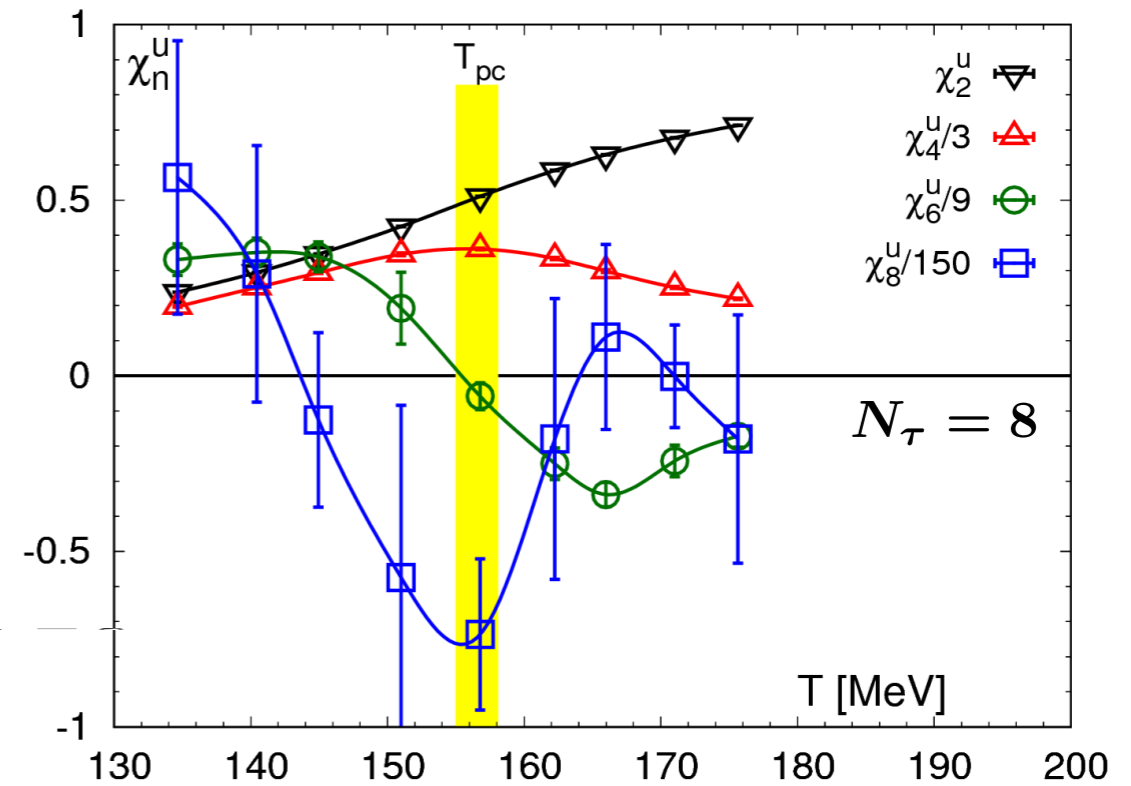
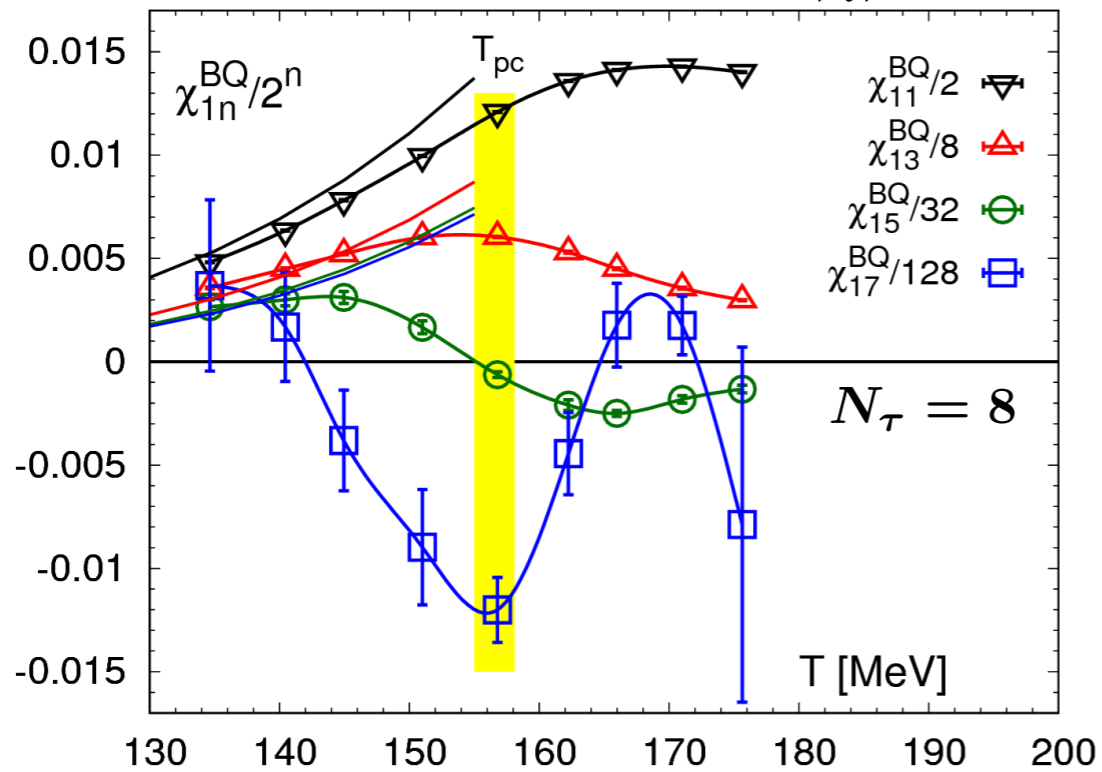
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Where is the critical point?

- All expansion coefficients need to be positive (for $n > n_c$)

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

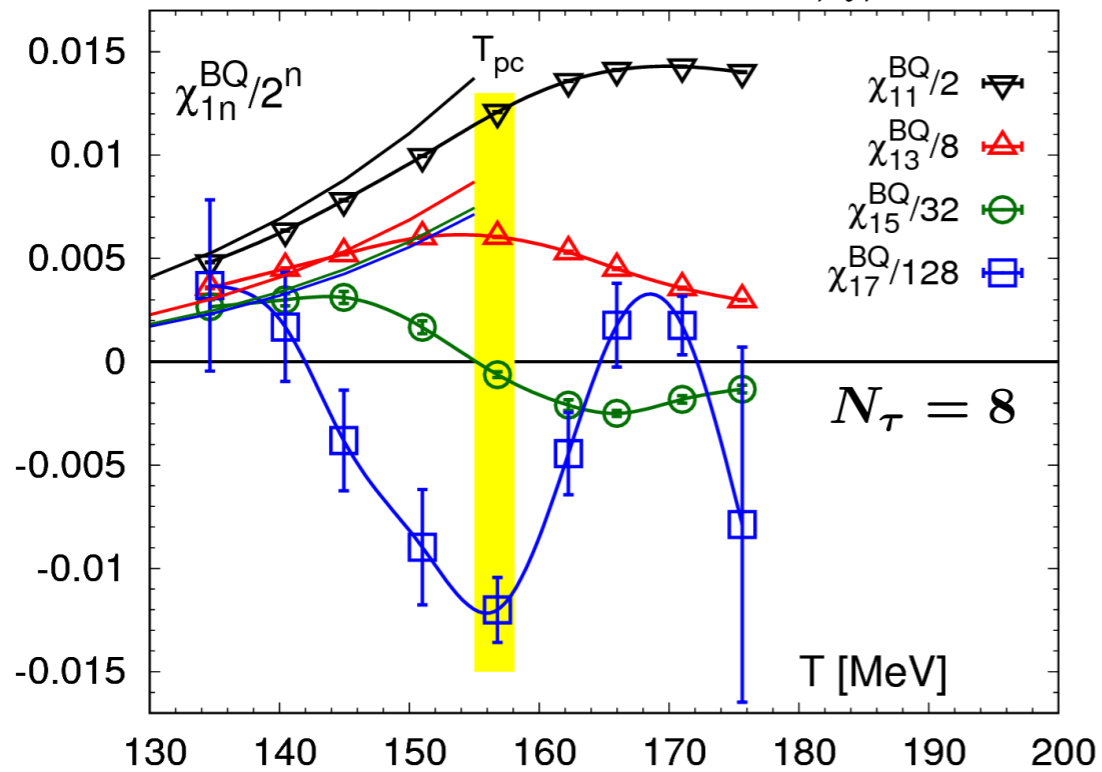
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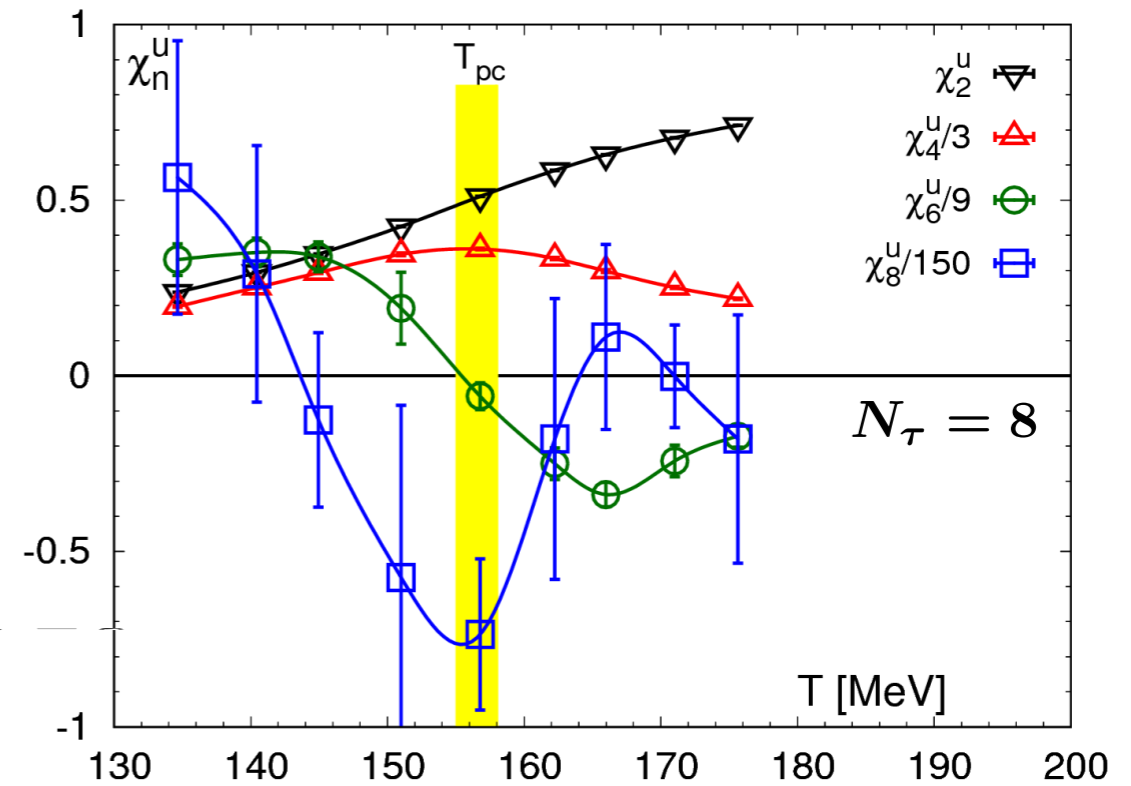
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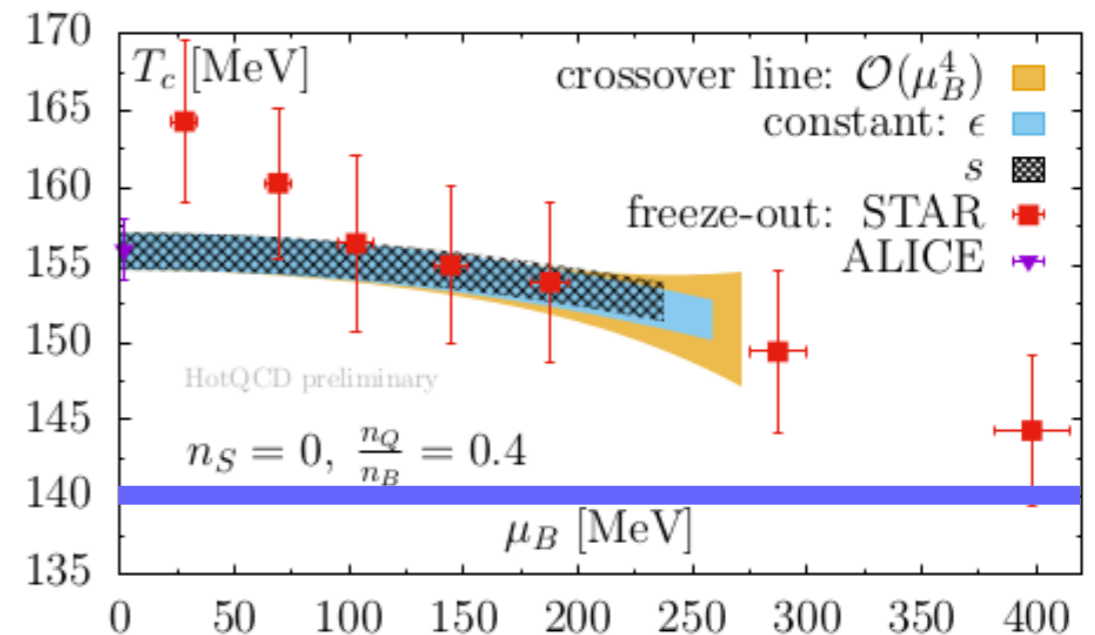
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$$\chi_n^u = \frac{\partial^n P/T^4}{\partial \hat{\mu}_u^n} \Big|_{\mu_{u,d,s}=0}$$



- Temperature of CEP is likely below 140 MeV
- μ_B^{CEP} likely above 400 MeV



- ➔ New precise transition temperature: $T_{pc} = 156.5 \pm 1.5$ MeV
- ➔ Equation of state (phase diagram) accessible to $\mu_B/T < 2$
- ➔ Curvature of the crossover line is small

$$\frac{T_c(\mu_B)}{T_0} = 1 - \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T_0}\right)^2 - \kappa_4 \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T_0}\right)^4 + \mathcal{O}(\mu_B^6)$$

$$\kappa_2 = 0.012(2)$$

$$\kappa_4 = 0.000(2)$$

- ➔ At T_c : Higher order cumulants show large deviations from (non-interacting) HRG
- ➔ Above T_c : quark number cumulants provide evidence for liberated quark degrees of freedom.
- ➔ No indication for critical point, limit: $\mu_B^{\text{CEP}} > 400\text{MeV}$