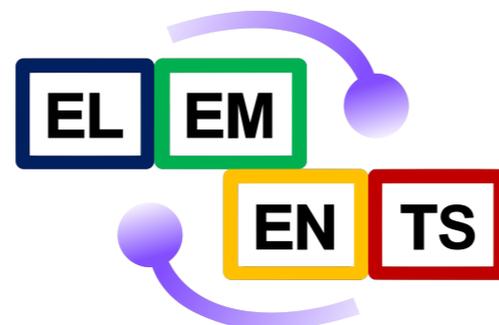


# The (Lattice) QCD thermal transition as a function of the parameters

Owe Philipsen

- I. Chiral phase transition in the massless limit
- II. Evidence for chiral spin symmetric intermediate temperature regime
- III. Cold+dense, qualitatively: nuclear liquid gas transition + quarkyonic matter

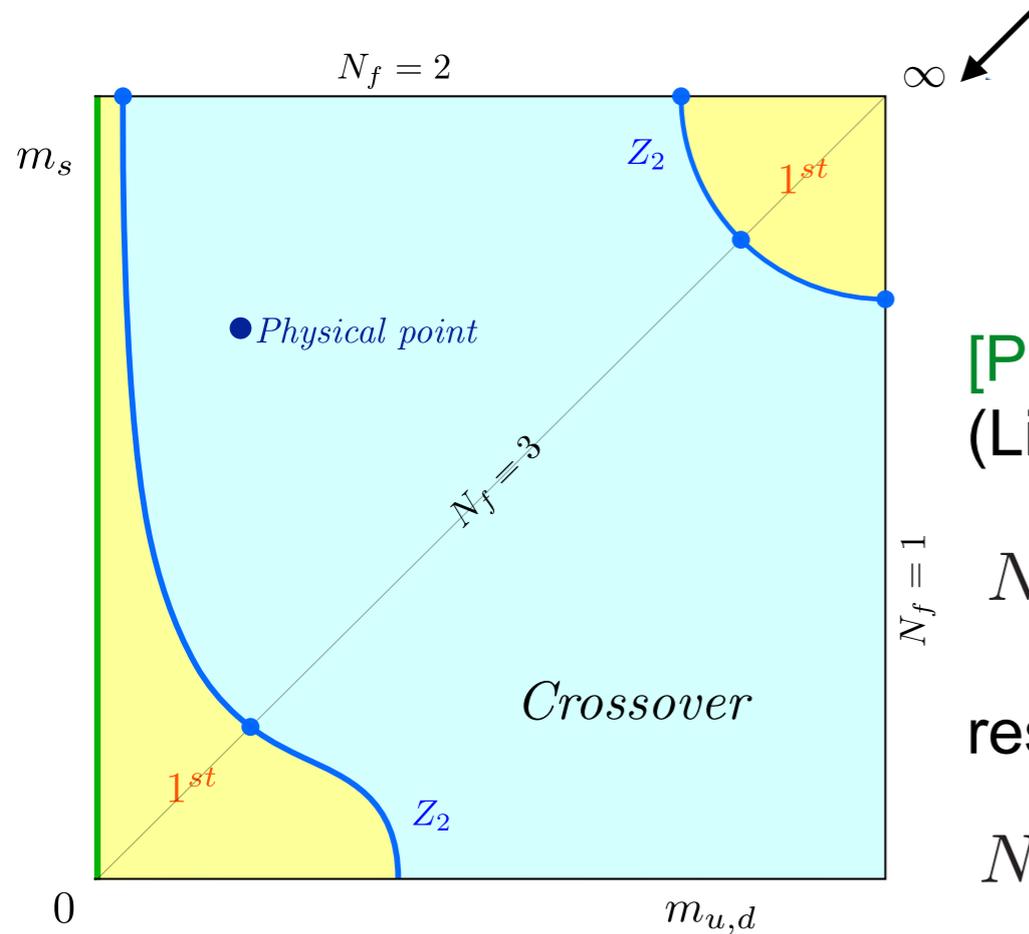
Tool: QCD away from physical point, study limits + parameter dependence: constraints!



# I. Nature of the QCD thermal transition at zero density

$$N_f = 2 + 1$$

deconfinement p.t.:  
breaking of global  $Z(3)$  symmetry



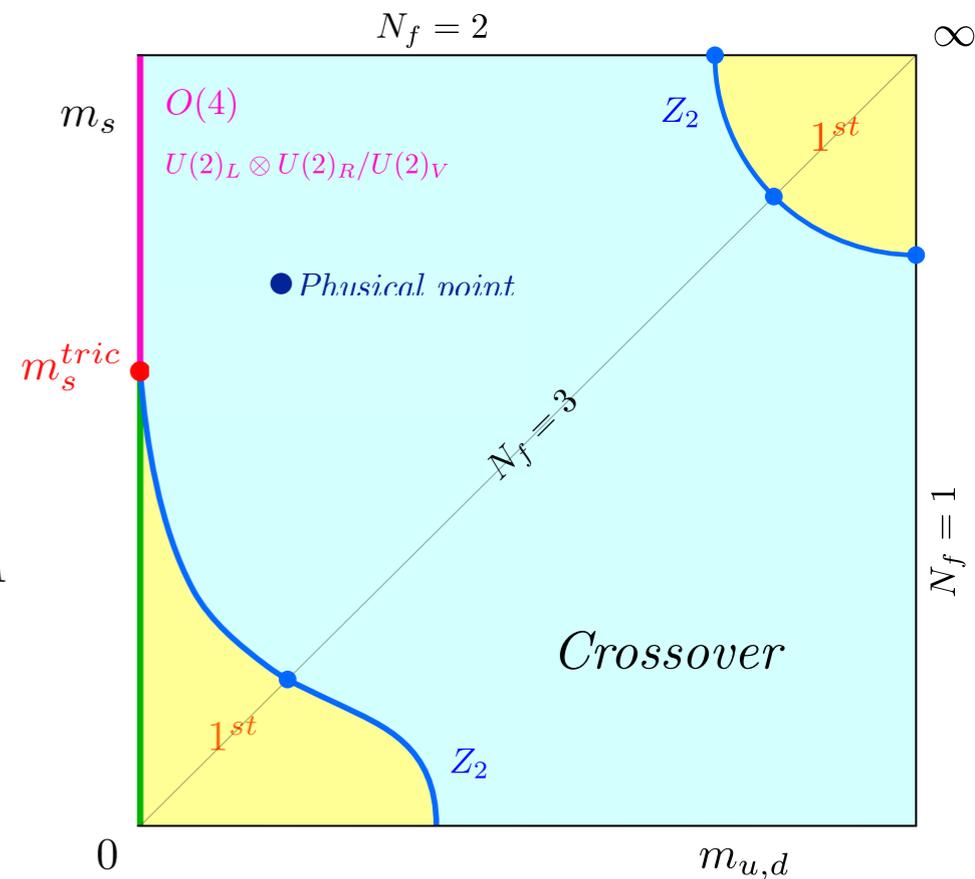
[Pisarski, Wilczek, PRD 84]:  
(Linear sigma model in 3d)

$N_f = 2$  depends on  $U(1)_A$

restored

broken

$N_f \geq 3$  1st order



chiral p.t.

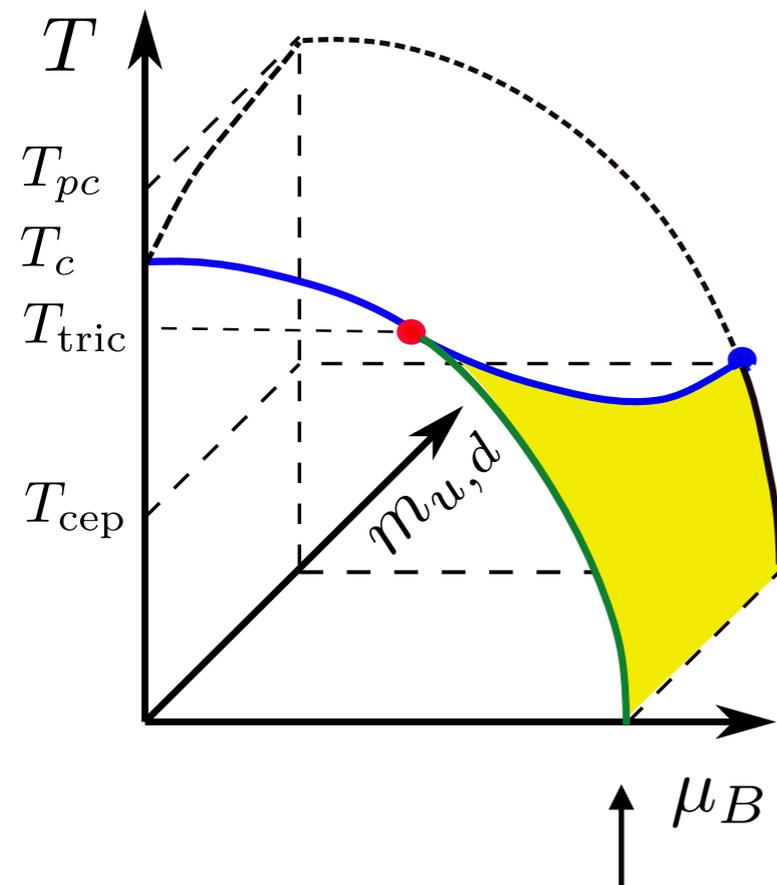
restoration of global symmetry in flavour space

$$SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_A$$

↑  
anomalous

# Including chemical potential

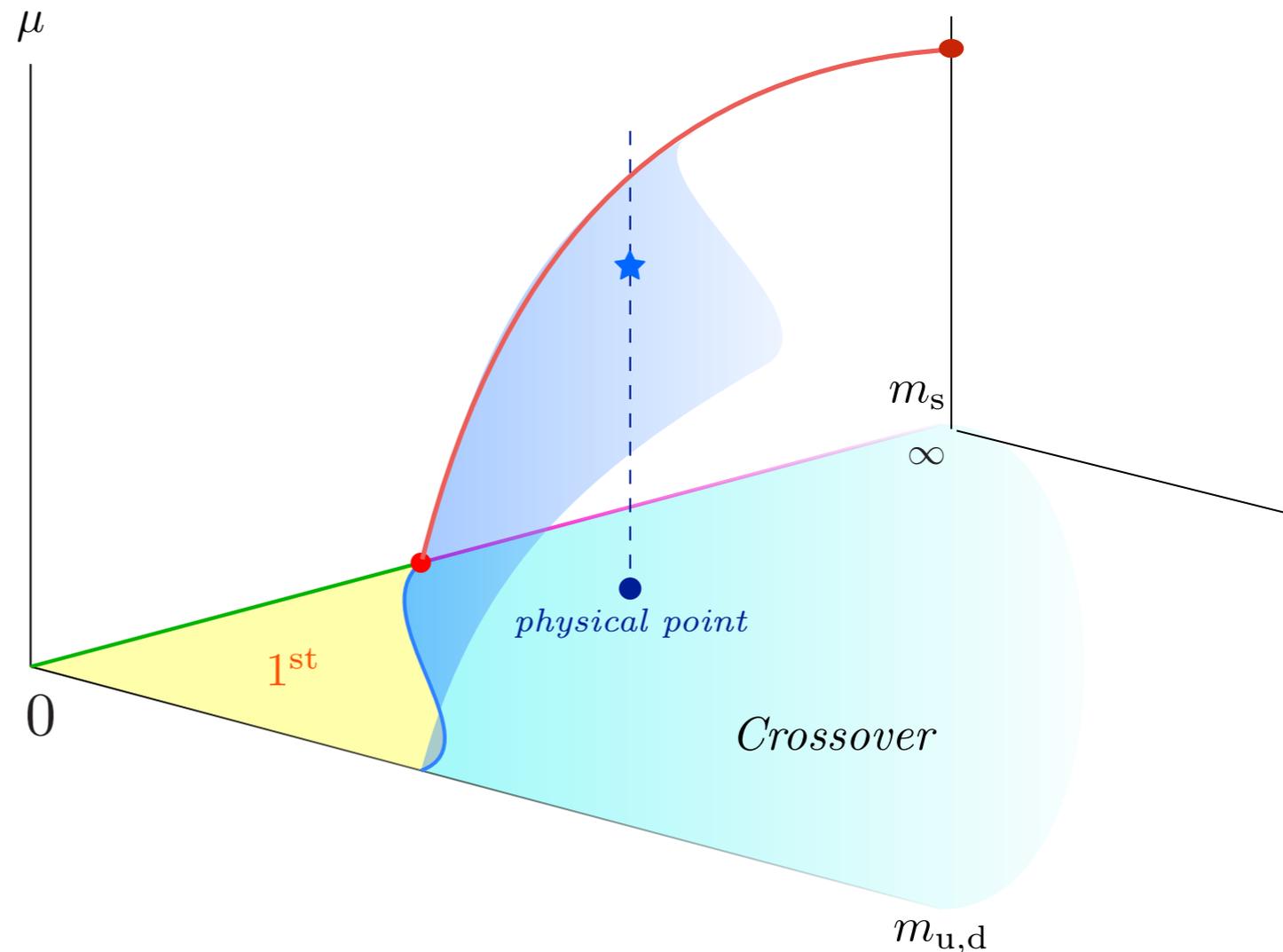
$$N_f = 2$$



Model predictions, **no full QCD information**

$$N_f = 2 + 1$$

[edited from Sciarra, PhD thesis 2016]

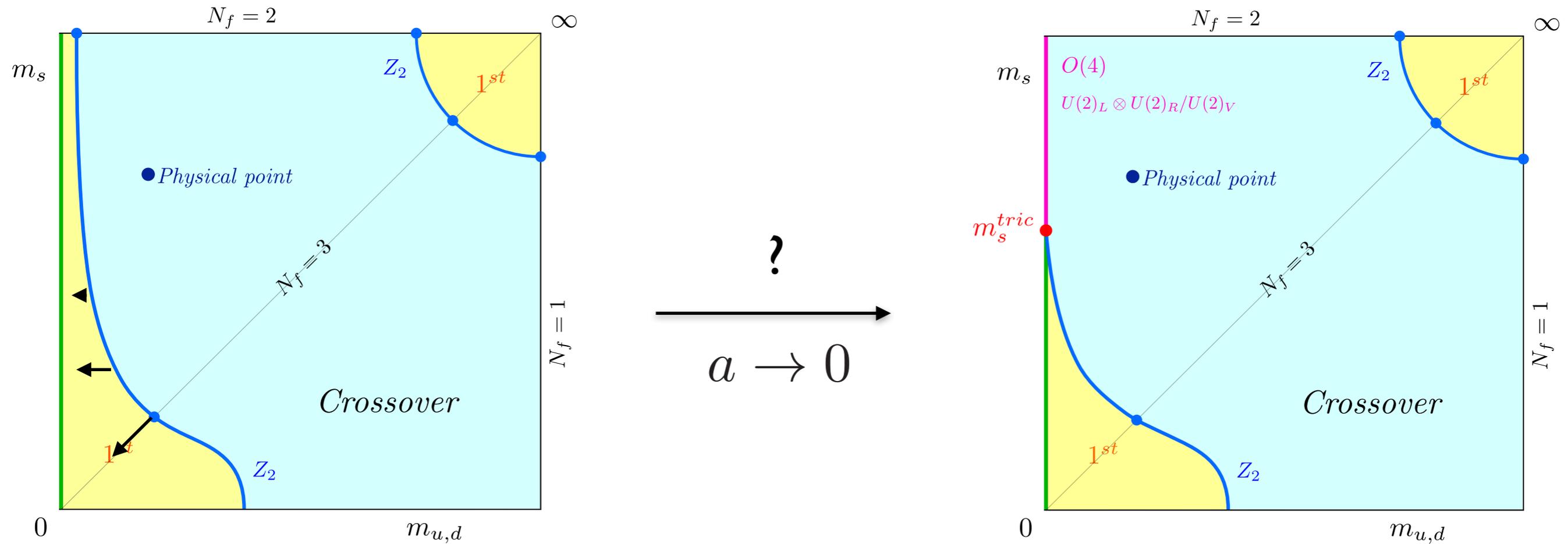


[Stephanov, Rajagopal, Shuryak PRL 98]: (models + early lattice results)

“As  $m_s$  is reduced from infinity, the tricritical point ... moves to lower  $\mu$  until it reaches the T-axis and can be identified with the tricritical point in the  $(T, m_s)$ -plane”

# The nature of the QCD chiral transition at zero density

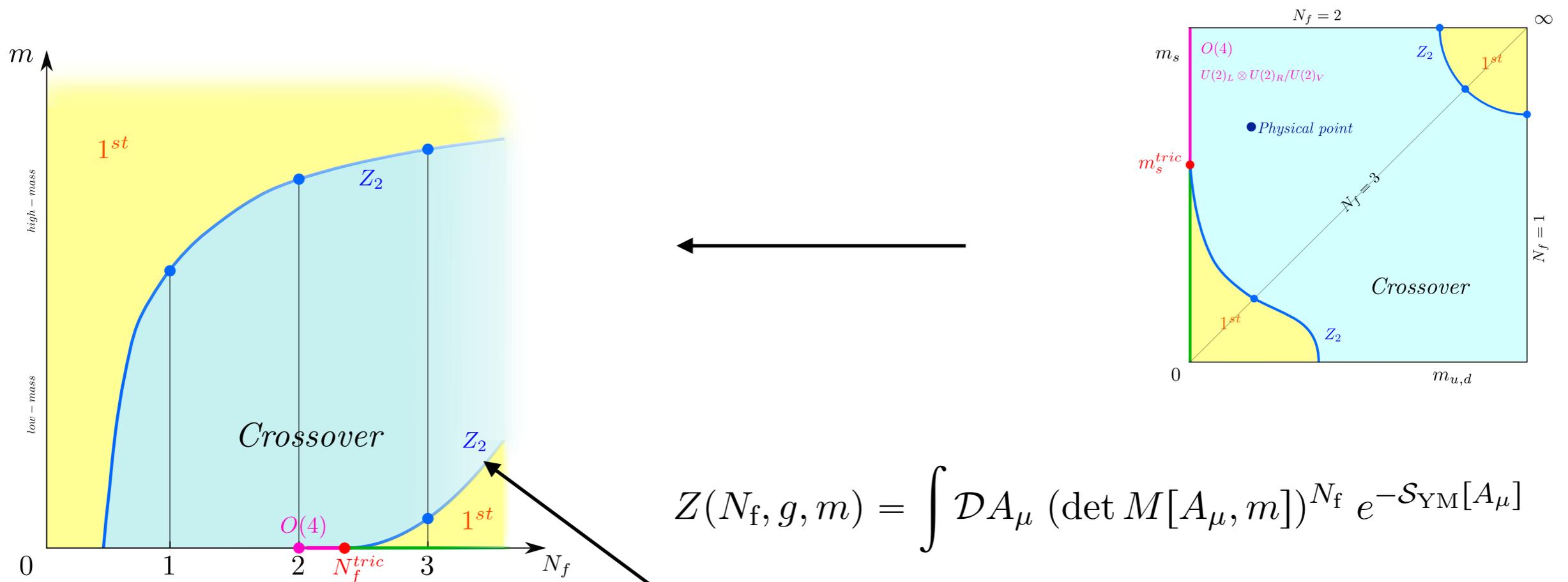
...is elusive, massless limit **not simulable!**



- Coarse lattices with unimproved actions: 1st order for  $N_f = 2, 3$
- 1st order region shrinks rapidly as  $a \rightarrow 0$ , no 1st order for improved staggered actions
- Apparent contradictions between different lattice actions?

Details and reference list: [\[O.P., Symmetry 13, 2021\]](#)

# Different view point: mass degenerate quarks



$$Z(N_f, g, m) = \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu (\det M[A_\mu, m])^{N_f} e^{-\mathcal{S}_{\text{YM}}[A_\mu]}$$

$$N_f^c(am) = N_f^{\text{tric}} + \mathcal{B}_1 \cdot (am)^{2/5} + \mathcal{O}((am)^{4/5})$$

- Consider analytic continuation to continuous  $N_f$
- Tricritical point **guaranteed** to exist if there is 1st order at any  $N_f$
- Known exponents for critical line entering tric. point!
- Continuation to  $a \neq 0$ :  $Z(2)$  surface ends in tricritical line

# Different view point: mass degenerate quarks

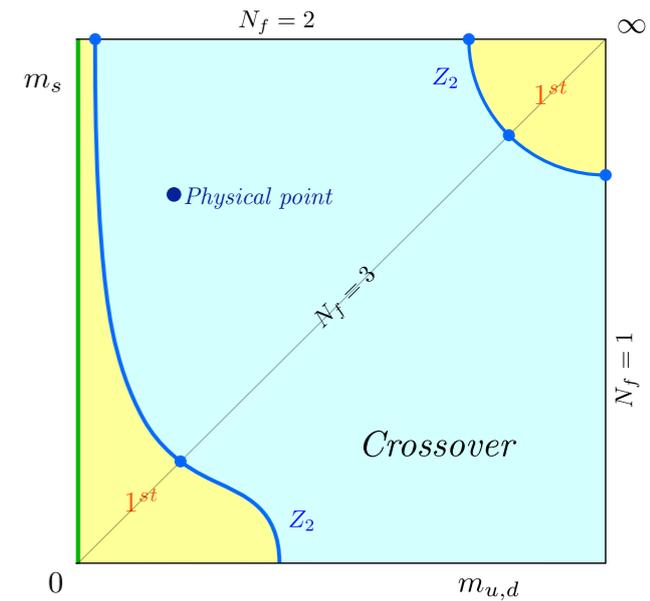
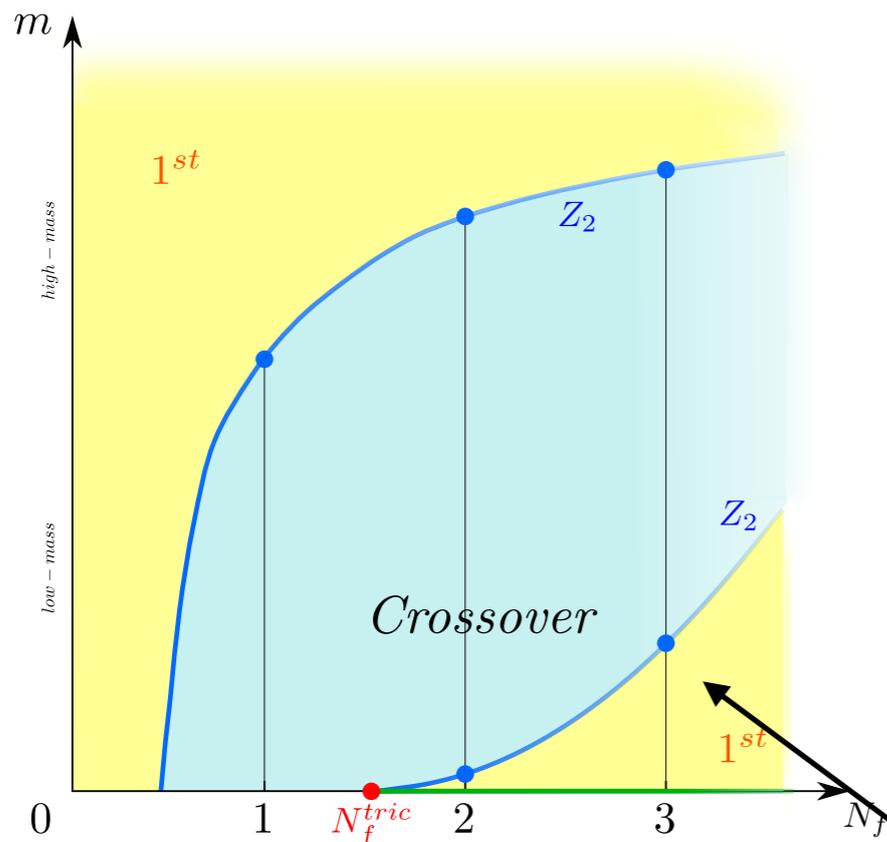


$$Z(N_f, g, m) = \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu (\det M[A_\mu, m])^{N_f} e^{-\mathcal{S}_{\text{YM}}[A_\mu]}$$

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# Methodology to determine order of transition

Finite size scaling of generalised cumulants

$$B_n = \frac{\langle (\bar{\psi}\psi - \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle)^n \rangle}{\langle (\bar{\psi}\psi - \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle)^2 \rangle^{n/2}}$$

Standard staggered fermions, bare parameters:

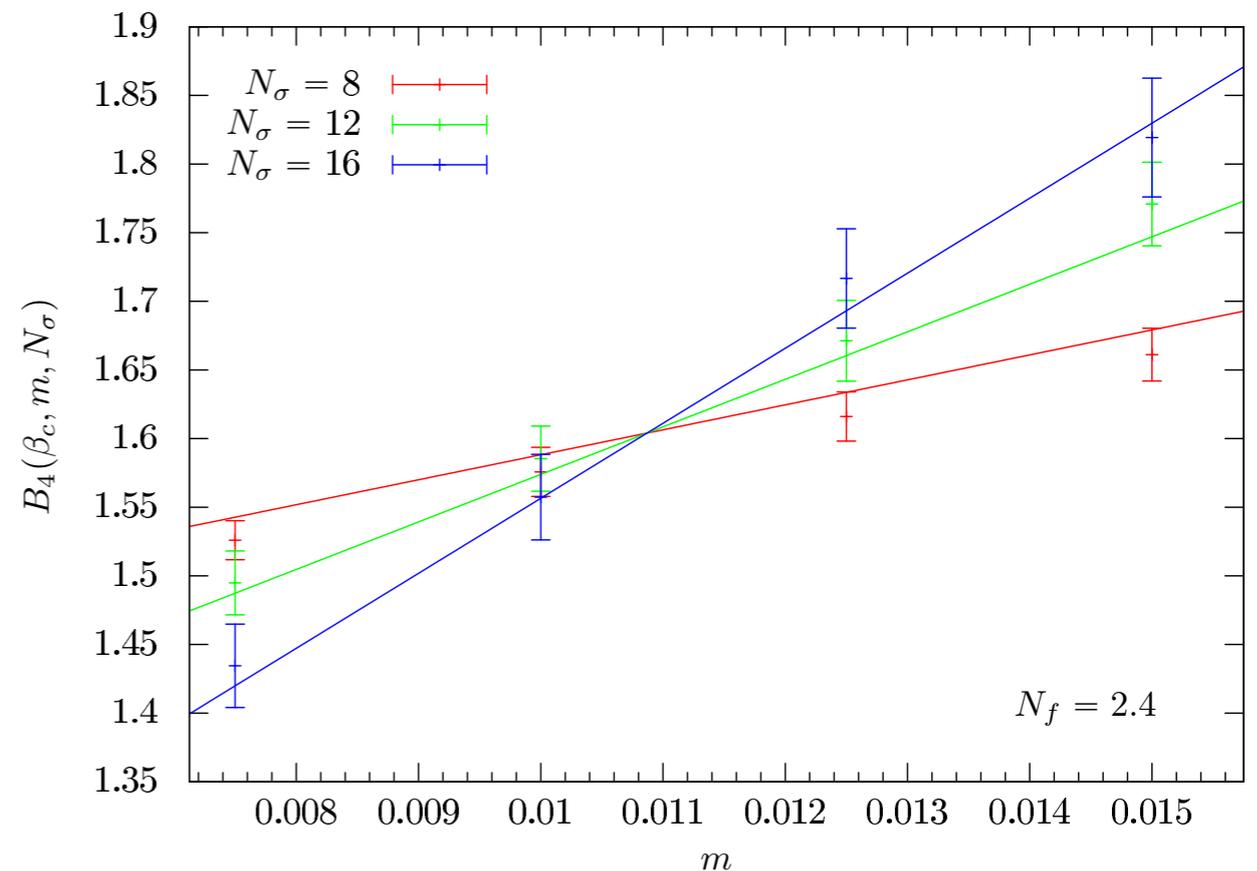
$$\beta, am, N_f, N_\tau$$

(Pseudo-critical) phase boundary:  $B_3 = 0$

3d manifold

Second-order 3d Ising:

2d chiral critical surface separates 1st order from crossover



$$B_4(\beta_c, am, N_\sigma) \approx 1.604 + c(am - am_c) N_\sigma^{1/0.6301}$$

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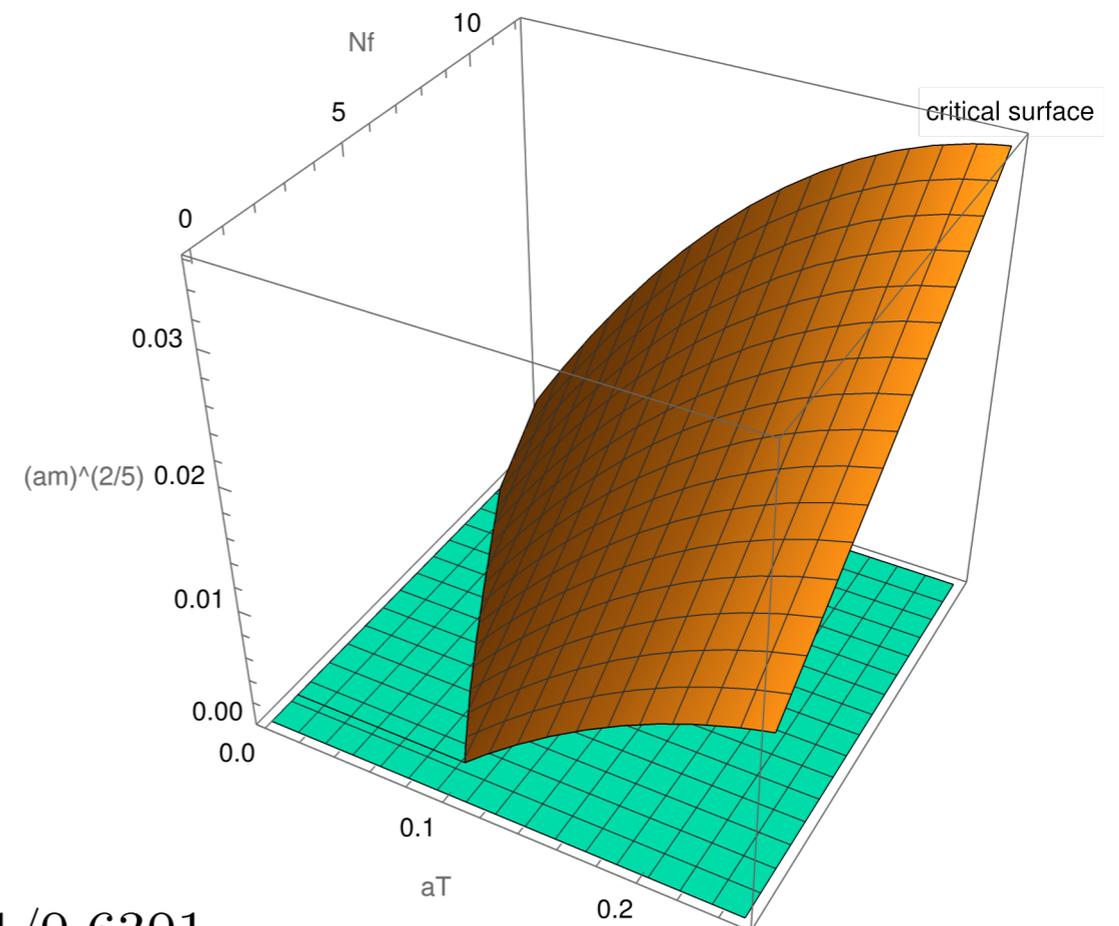
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3d manifold

Second-order 3d Ising:

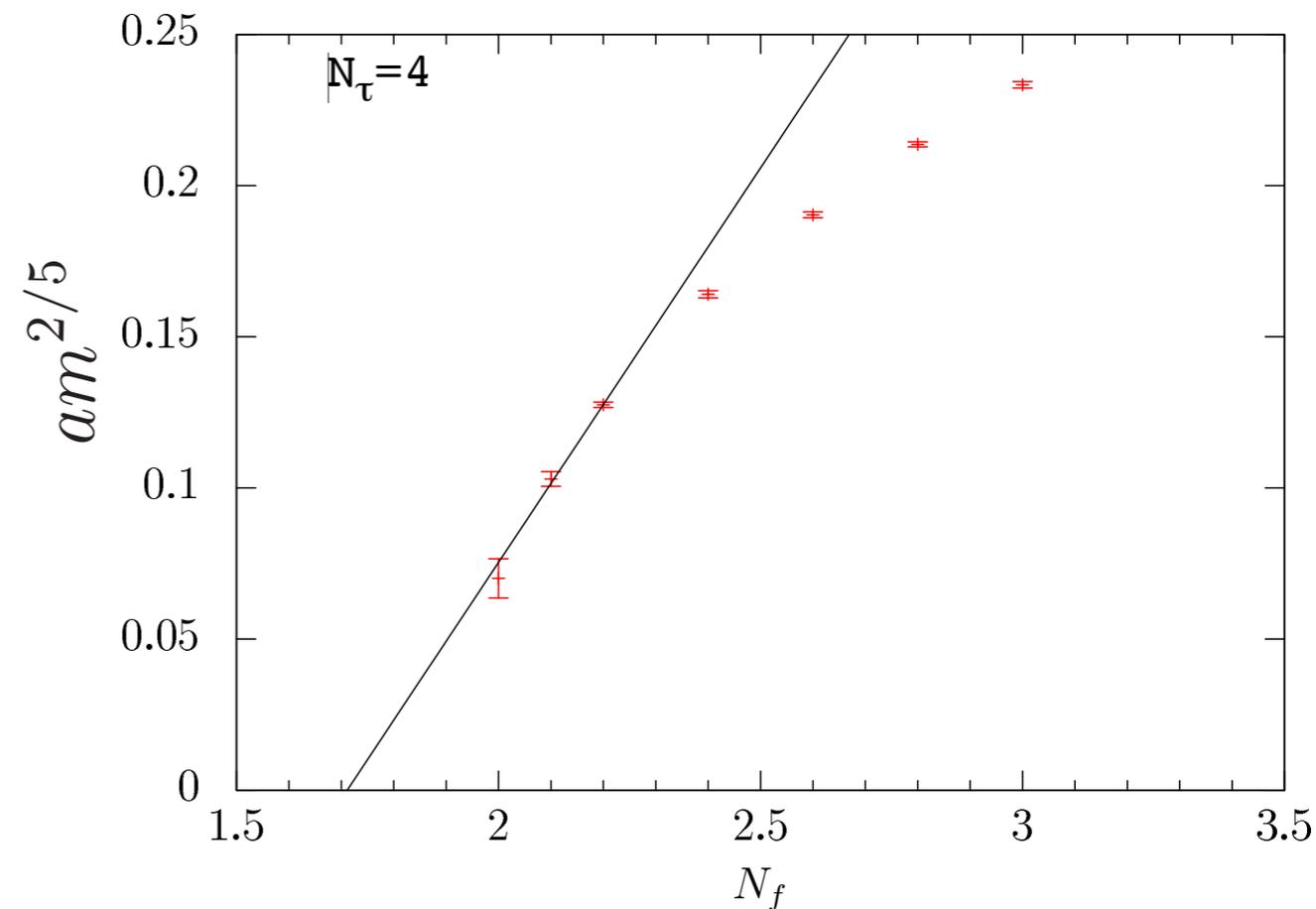
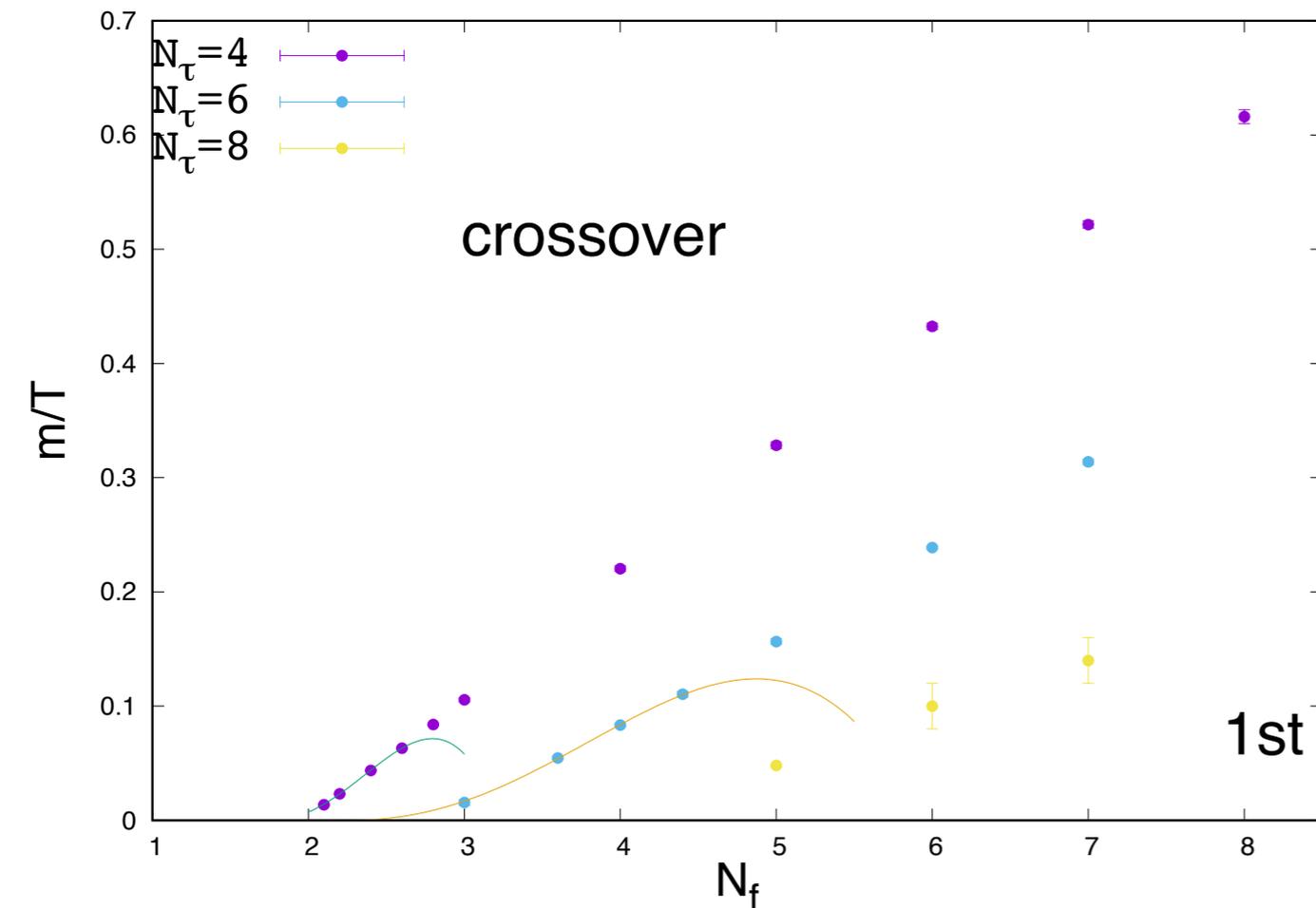
2d chiral critical surface separates 1st order from crossover



$$B_4(\beta_c, am, N_\sigma) \approx 1.604 + c(am - am_c) N_\sigma^{1/0.6301}$$

# Bare parameter space of unimproved staggered LQCD

[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra 21] ~120 M Monte Carlo trajectories with light fermions, aspect ratios 3,4,5

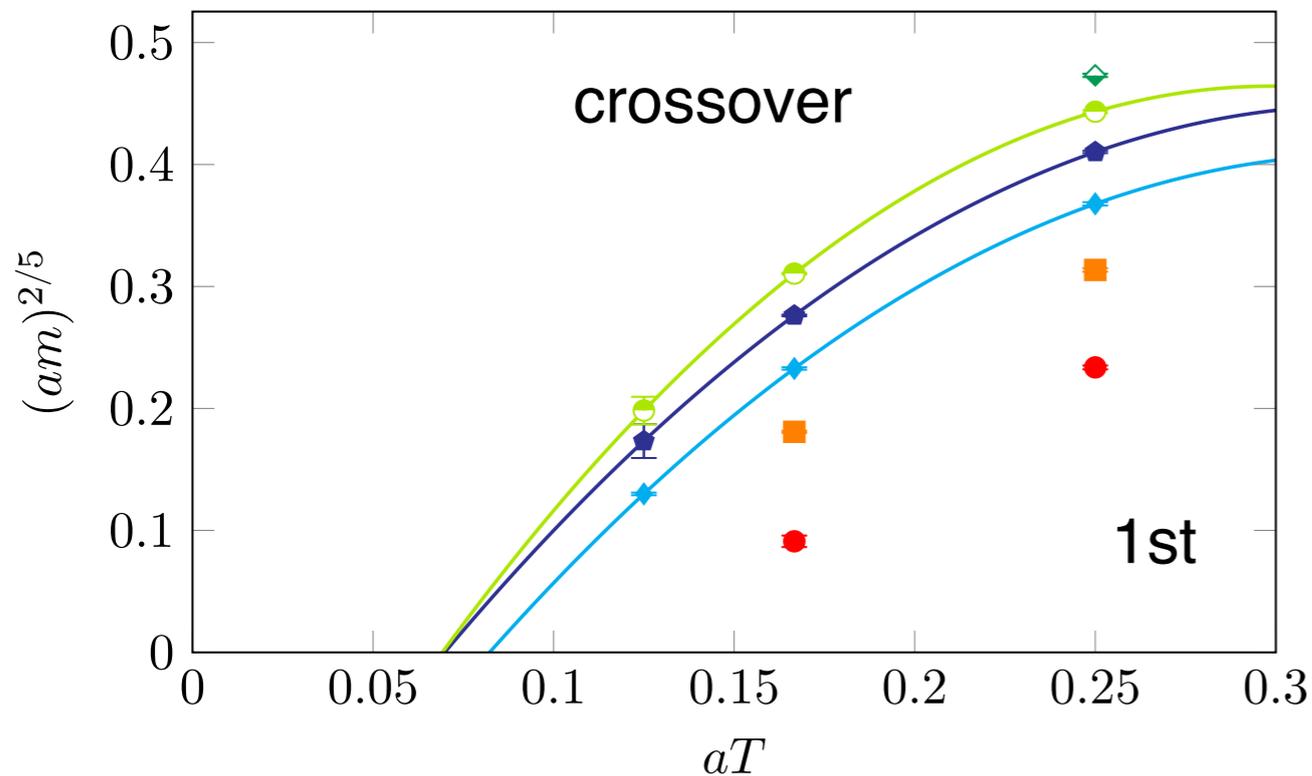


- Tricritical scaling observed in different variable pairings
- Old question:  $m_c/T = 0$  or  $\neq 0$  ? Answered for  $N_f = 2$
- New question: will  $N_f^{\text{tric}}$  slide beyond  $N_f = 3$  ?

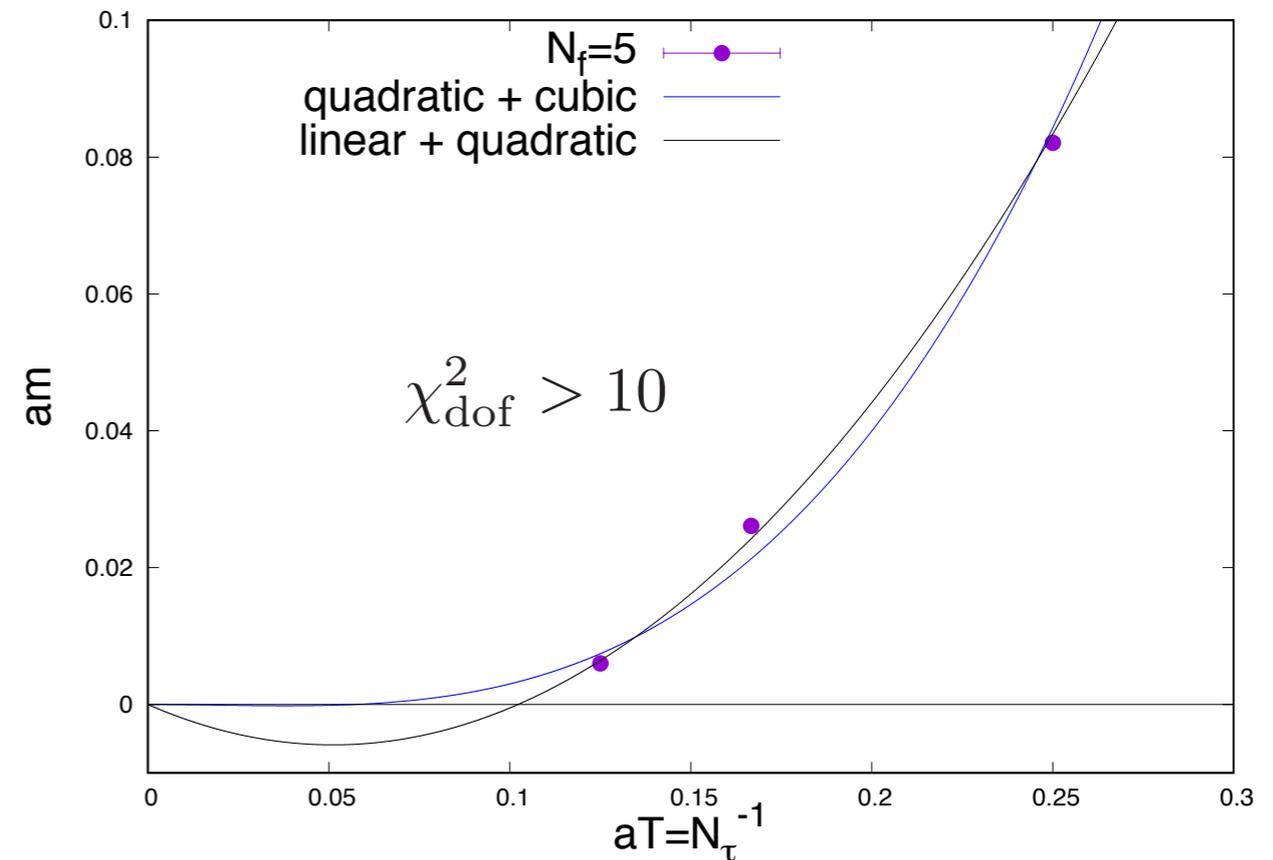
# Bare parameter space of unimproved staggered LQCD

[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra 21]

$N_f = 3$   $N_f = 4$   $N_f = 5$   
 $N_f = 6$   $N_f = 7$   $N_f = 8$



1st order scenario does not fit!

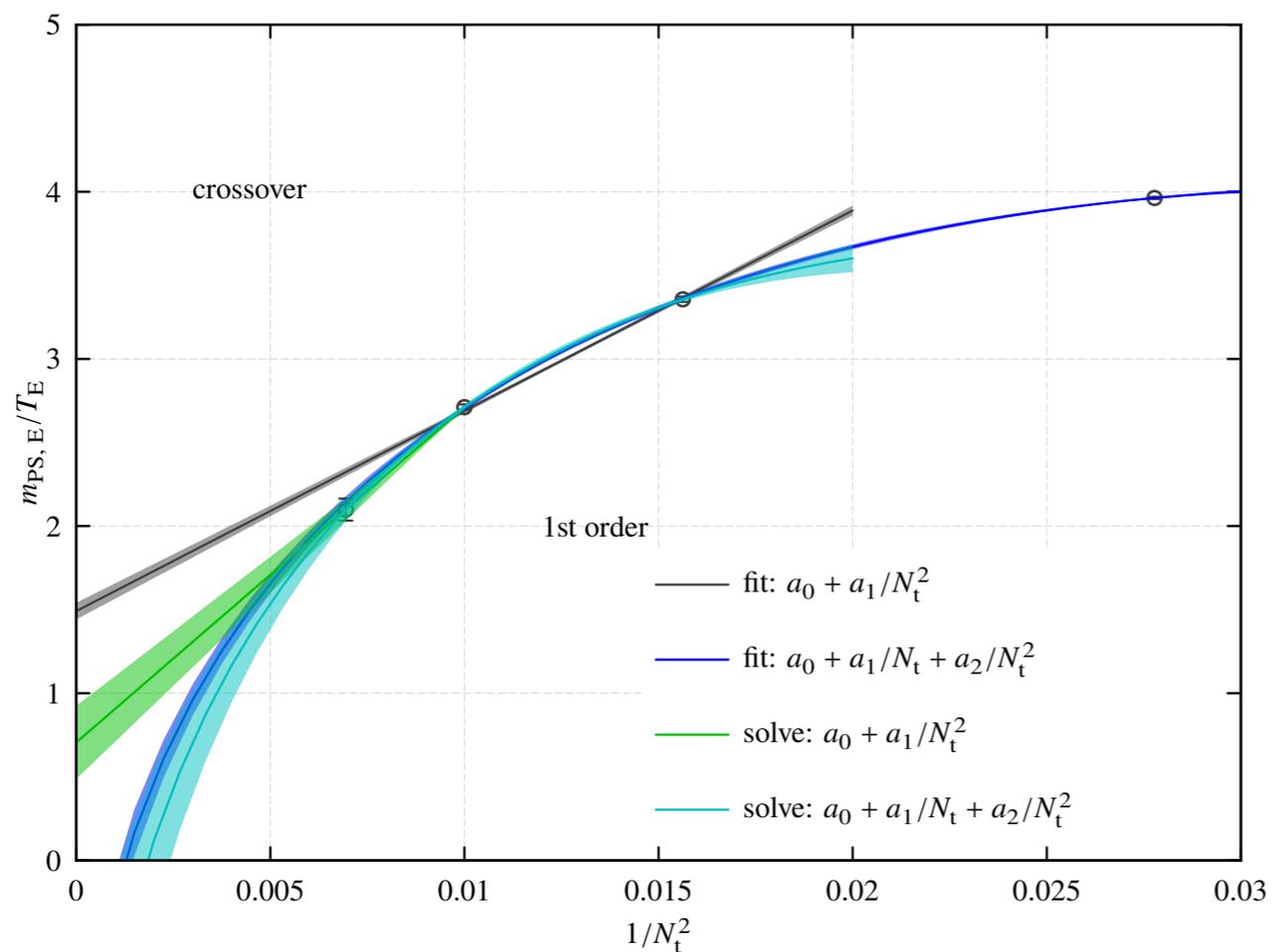


- Tricritical scaling observed also in plane of mass vs. lattice spacing
- Allows extrapolation to lattice chiral limit, tricritical points  $N_\tau^{\text{tric}}(N_f)$
- 1st order scenario:  $m_c(a) = m_c(0) + c_1(aT) + c_2(aT)^2 + \dots$  **incompatible!**
- The chiral transition is second order for  $N_f = 2 - 6$

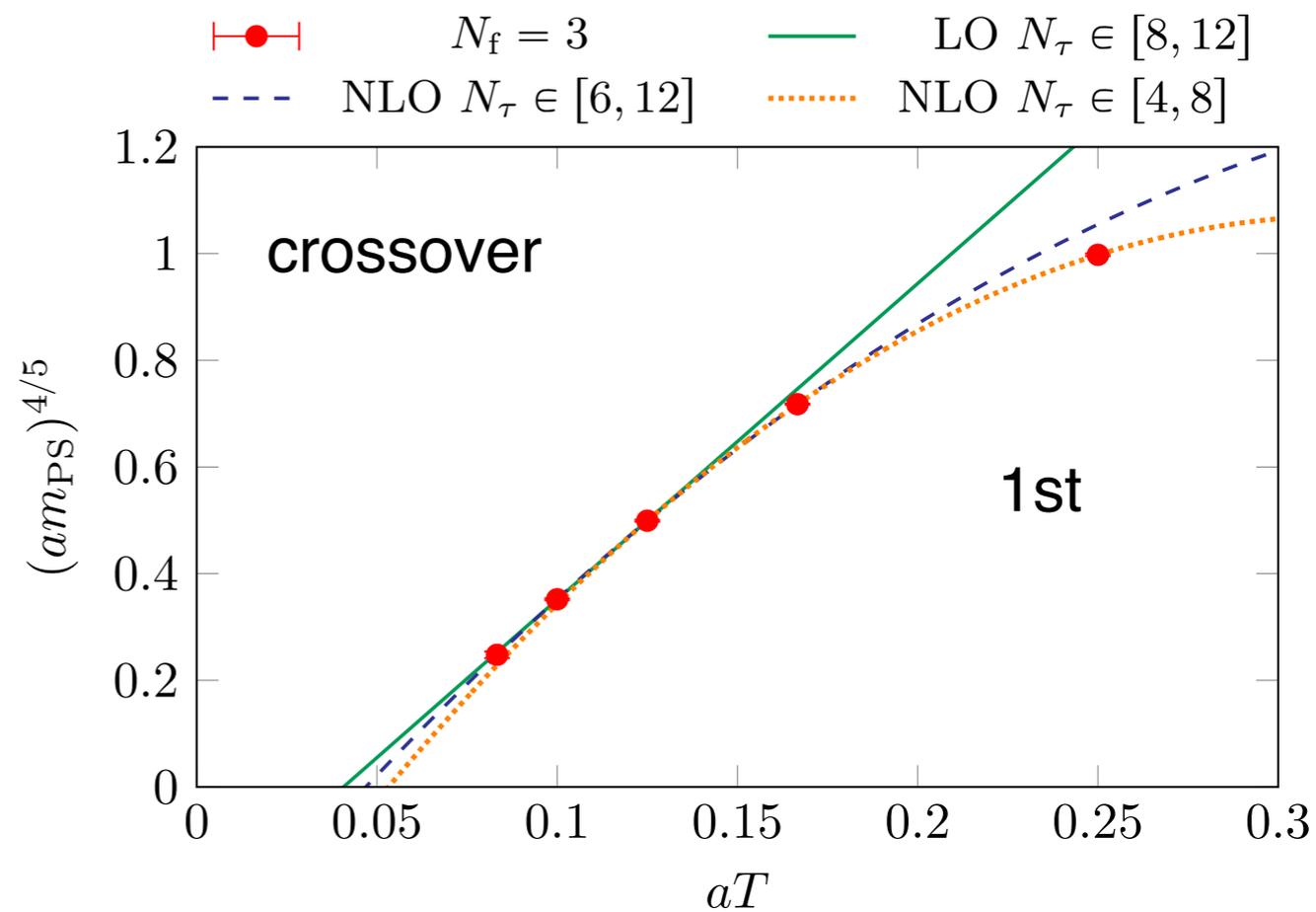
# Nf=3 O(a)-improved Wilson fermions

[Kuramashi et al. PRD 20]

$$m_\pi^c \leq 110 \text{ MeV} \quad N_\tau = 4, 6, 8, 10, 12$$



Re-analysis using:  $am_{PS}^2 \propto am_q$



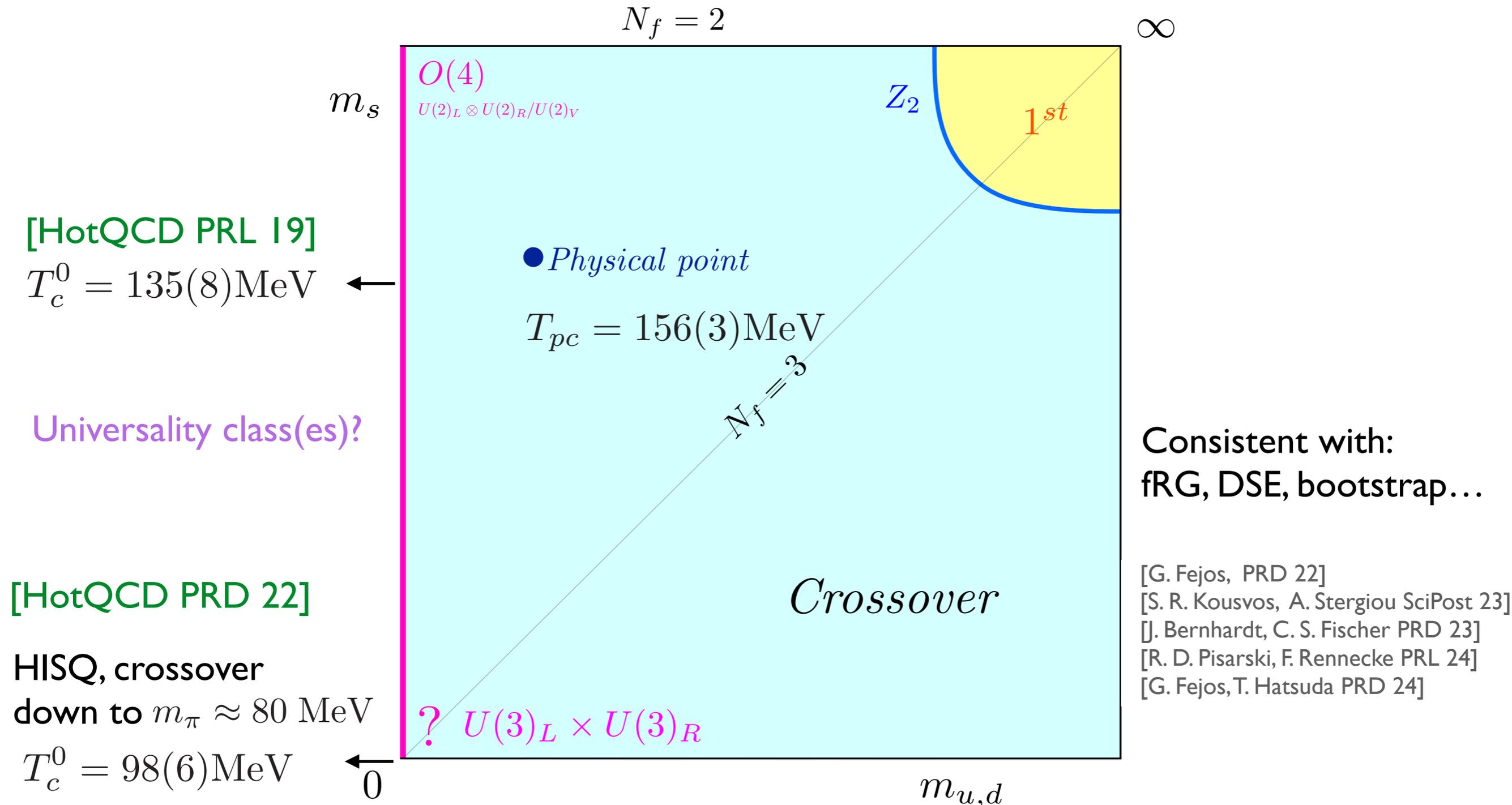
[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra, JHEP 21]

Tricritical scaling!

Nf=3 consistent with staggered, 2nd order in chiral continuum limit!

# The Columbia plot in the continuum

[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra JHEP 21]



Crossover for DW fermions,  $N_f=3$ ,  $m_q \sim m_{phys}$  [Zhang et al., PoS LAT22, 23]

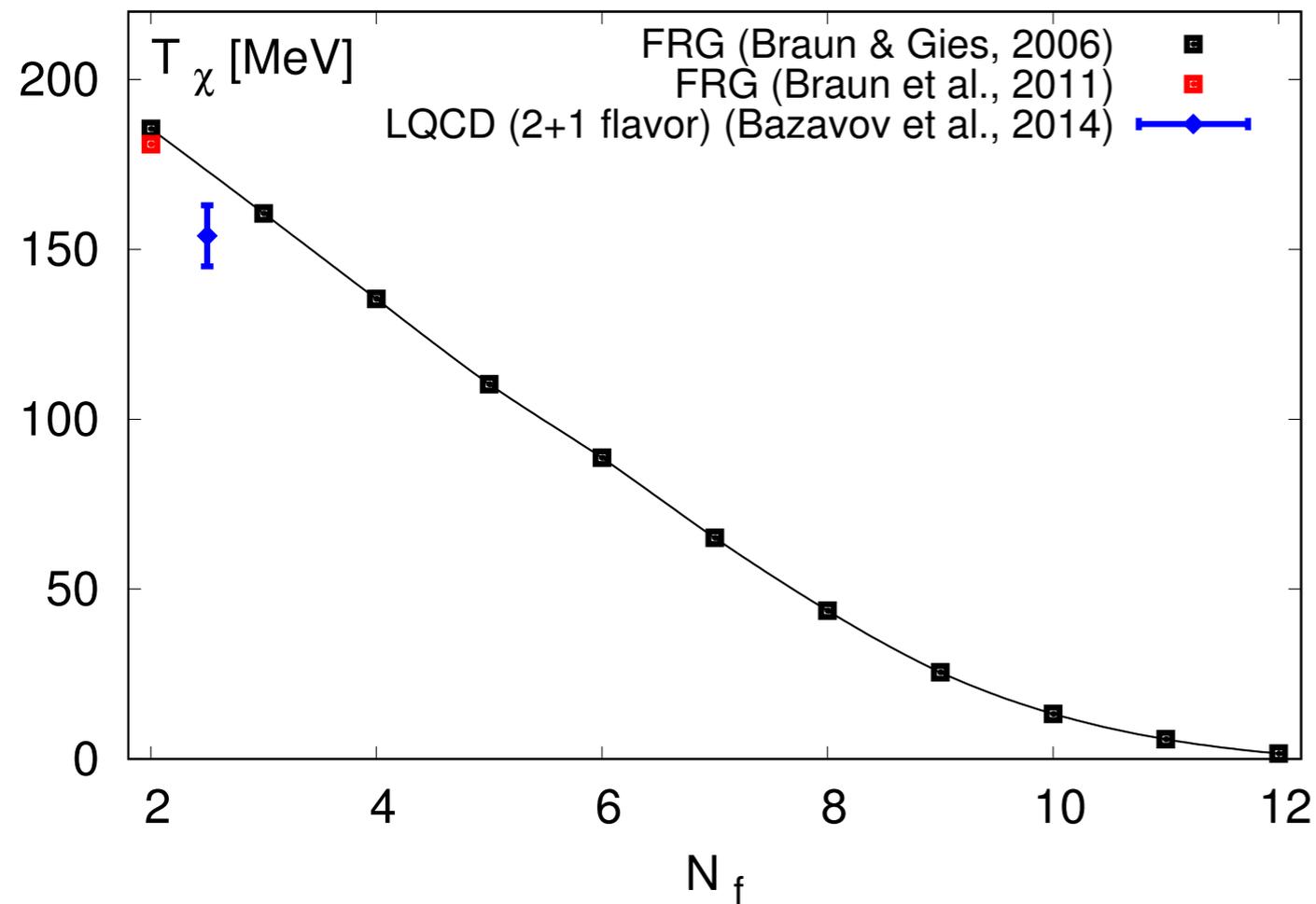






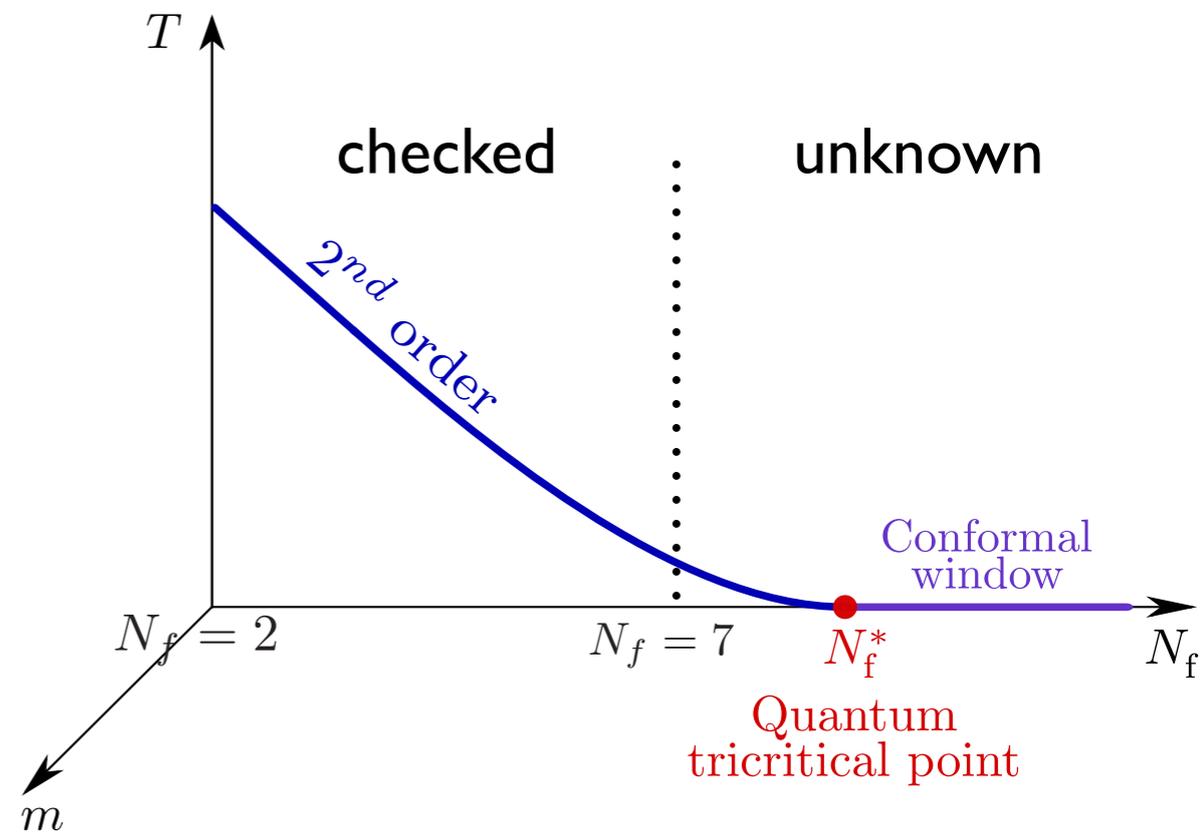
# The chiral phase transition for different $N_f$

Temperature dependence:



For lattice, see [\[Miura, Lombardo, NPB 13\]](#)

Order of the transition:



[\[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra, JHEP 21\]](#)

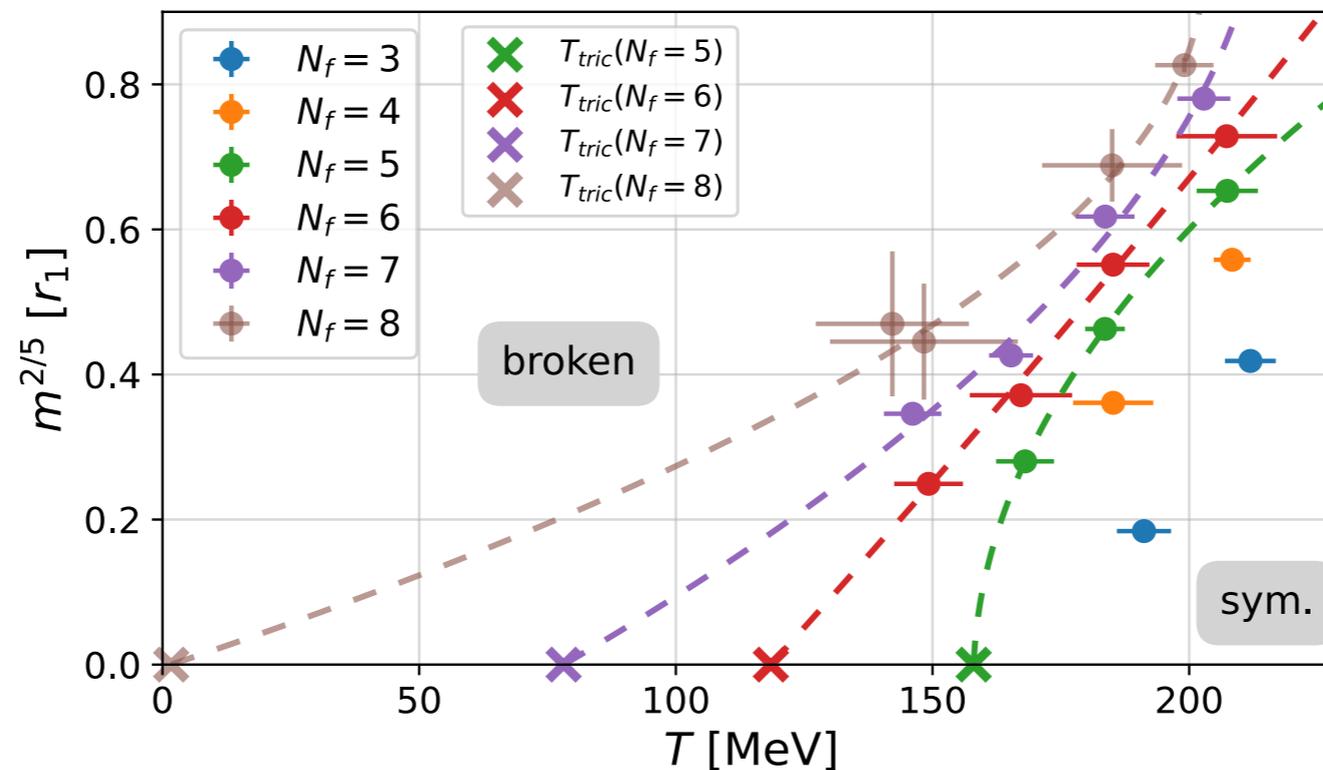
The chiral phase transition in the massless limit is likely second-order for all  $N_f$

Consistent with [\[Fejos, Hatsuda PRD 24, Pisarski, Renneke PRD 24\]](#) with conditions on anomaly

# $N_f > 6$ , preliminary

- Additional lattice spacing,  $N_\tau = 10$
- Scale setting for temperature: Sommer scales  $r_0, r_1$
- Quantitative values of T not important, but when is T=0?
- $N_f^*$  is boundary for tricritical scaling (conformal scaling beyond!)

$$T_c(m) = T_{tric} + A \cdot m^{2/5} + B \cdot m^{4/5}$$



Preliminary result:  $7 < N_f^* < 9$

# Emergent chiral spin symmetry of QCD

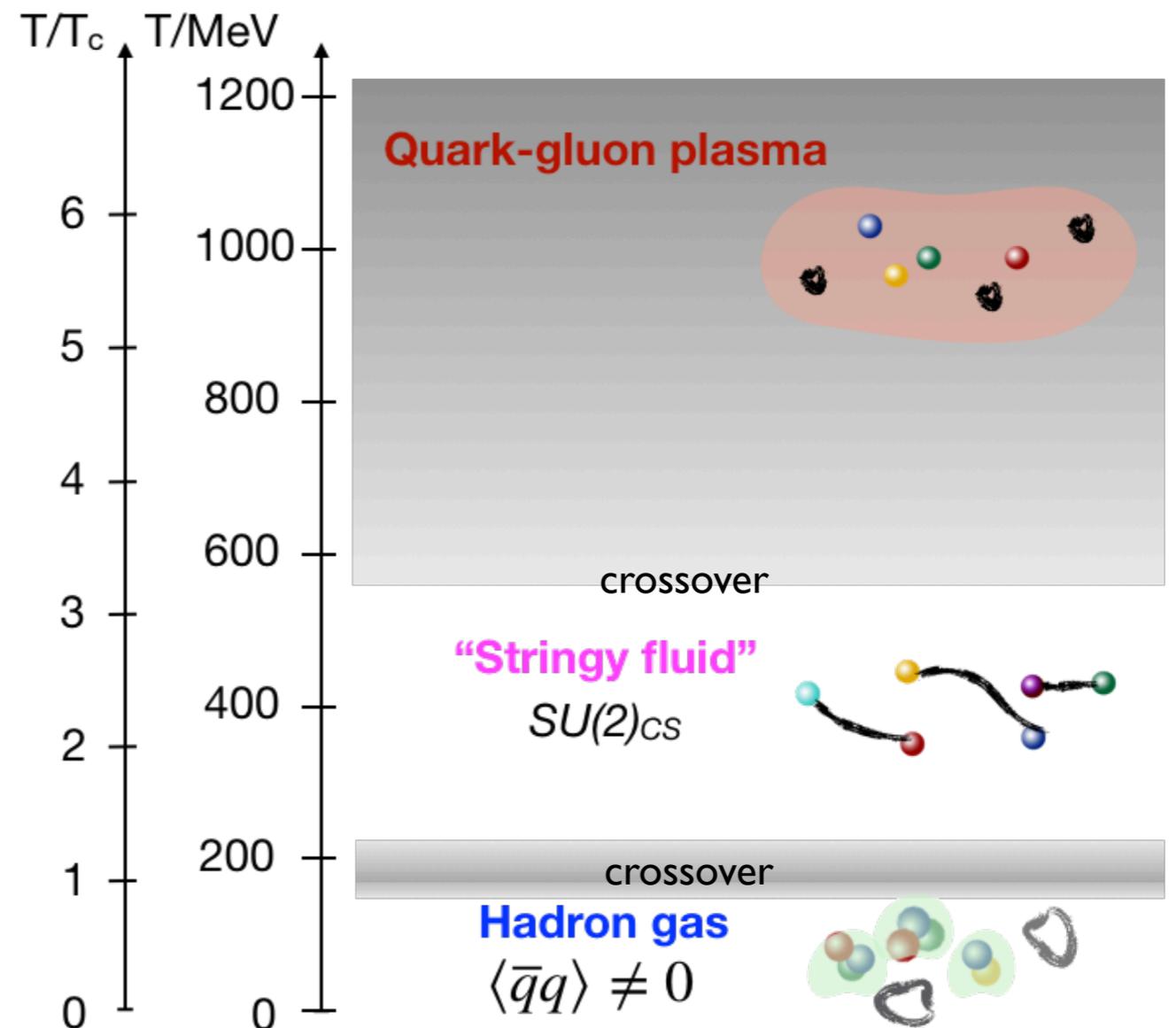
Symmetries (verified):

Degrees of freedom (to be verified):

Chiral symmetry (approximate)

Chiral spin symmetry (approximate)

Chiral symmetry broken



Rohrhofer et al., Phys. Rev. D 100 (2019)

# Check well-studied observables: screening masses

$$C_{\Gamma}^s(z) = \sum_{x,y,\tau} C_{\Gamma}(\tau, \mathbf{x}) \xrightarrow{z \rightarrow \infty} \text{const.} e^{-m_{scr} z}$$

Directly related to the partition function and equation of state

by transfer matrices:

$$T = e^{-aH}, T_z = e^{-aH_z}$$

$$\begin{aligned} e^{pV/T} = Z &= \text{Tr}(e^{-aH N_{\tau}}) \\ &= \text{Tr}(e^{-aH_z N_z}) = \sum_{n_z} e^{-E_{n_z} N_z} \end{aligned}$$

Screening masses: eigenvalues of  $H_z$

For  $T=0$  equivalent to eigenvalues of  $H$ , for  $T \neq 0$  temperature effects

# Meson screening masses at high temperatures

[Dalla Brida et al., JHEP 22]

Nf=3, T=1 GeV -160 GeV

Highly non-trivial technically:  
shifted b.c. + step-scaling techniques

$$\frac{m_{PS}}{2\pi T} = 1 + p_2 \hat{g}^2(T) + p_3 \hat{g}^3(T) + p_4 \hat{g}^4(T)$$

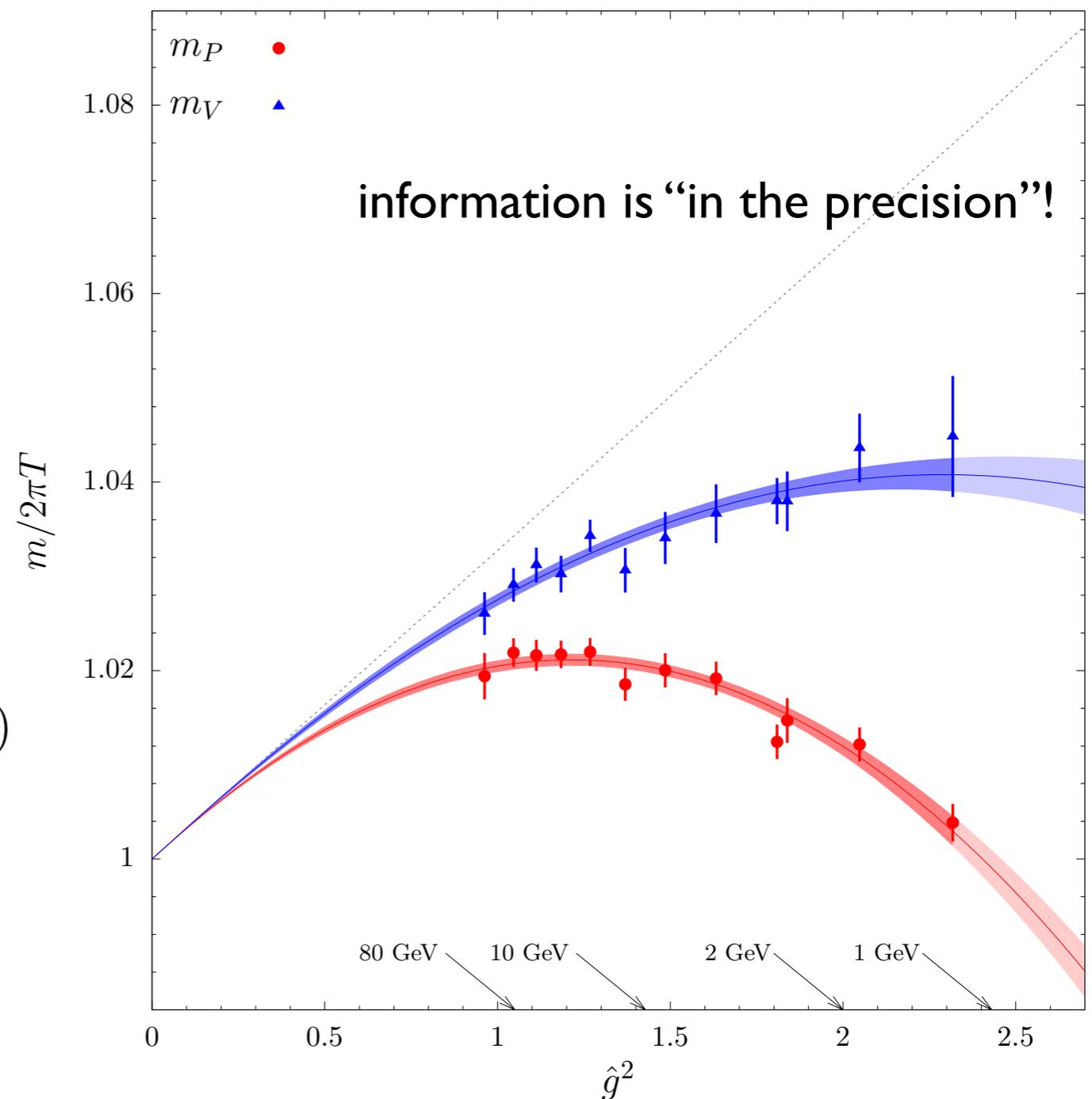
$$\frac{m_V}{2\pi T} = \frac{m_{PS}}{2\pi T} + s_4 \hat{g}^4(T)$$

$$p_2 = 0.032739961$$

[Laine, Vepsäläinen., JHEP 04]

$p_3, p_4, s_4$  fitted, excellent  $\chi_{\text{dof}}^2$

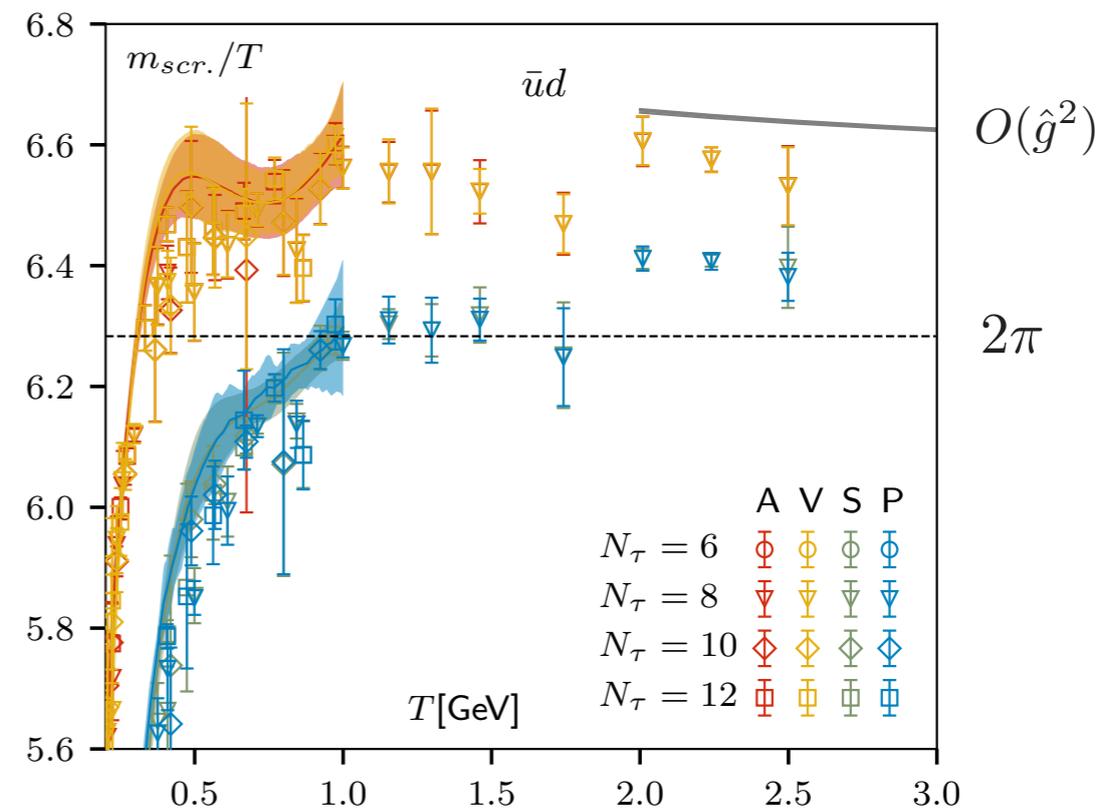
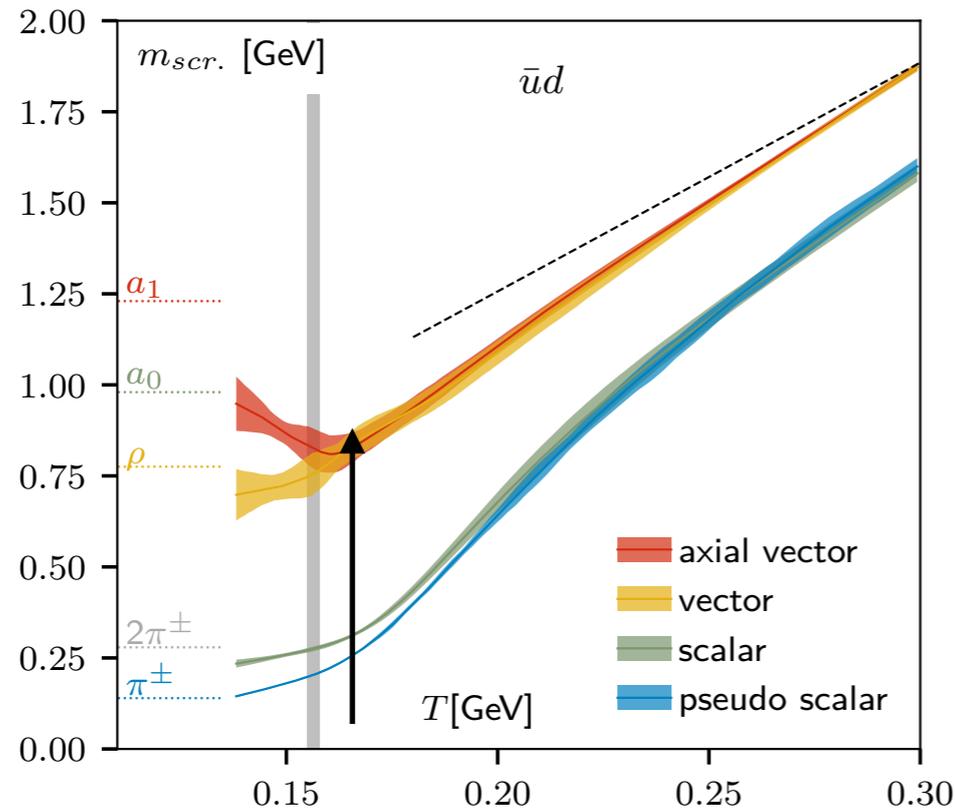
Quark hadron duality holds



$$\frac{1}{\hat{g}^2(T)} \equiv \frac{9}{8\pi^2} \ln \frac{2\pi T}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} + \frac{4}{9\pi^2} \ln \left( 2 \ln \frac{2\pi T}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} \right)$$

# Meson screening masses at intermediate temperatures

[HotQCD, PRD 19]



Chiral symmetry restoration

Heavy chiral partners “come down”  
in all flavour combinations

➔ pressure increases

Resummed pert. theory:

$$\frac{m_{PS}}{2\pi T} = 1 + p_2 \hat{g}^2(T) + p_3 \hat{g}^3(T) + p_4 \hat{g}^4(T) ,$$

$$\frac{m_V}{2\pi T} = \frac{m_{PS}}{2\pi T} + s_4 \hat{g}^4(T) ,$$

Cannot describe the “bend”

No quark hadron duality for  $T < 0.5$  GeV in 12 lightest meson channels! CS symmetry!

[Glozman, O.P., Pisarski, EPJA 22]

# Spectral functions at finite T

General euclidean correlator:

$$C(\tau, \mathbf{p}) = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \frac{\cosh(\omega(|\tau| - \beta/2))}{\sinh(\beta\omega/2)} \rho(\omega, \mathbf{p})$$

- Inversion problem ill-defined on a discrete lattice
- Statistical approaches to find “most likely” spectral function
- Alternative: microcausality + KMS [Bros, Buchholz, Ann. Inst. Poincare Phys, Theo 96]

$$\rho(\omega, \mathbf{p}) = \int_0^\infty ds \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{u}}{(2\pi)^2} \epsilon(\omega) \delta(\omega^2 - (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{u})^2 - s) \tilde{D}_\beta(\mathbf{u}, s) \quad \leftarrow \text{Thermal spectral density}$$

$$\tilde{D}_\beta(\vec{u}, s) = \tilde{D}_{m,\beta}(\vec{u}) \delta(s - m^2) + \tilde{D}_{c,\beta}(\vec{u}, s) \quad \leftarrow \text{negligible at low T}$$

“thermoparticle”
continuous, scattering, Landau damping etc.

$$C(x_3) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty ds \int_{|x_3|}^\infty dR e^{-R\sqrt{s}} D_\beta(R, s)$$

[Lowdon, O.P. JHEP 22]

# The pion spectral function

[Lowdon, O.P., JHEP 22]

2-state fits  $\pi, \pi^*$

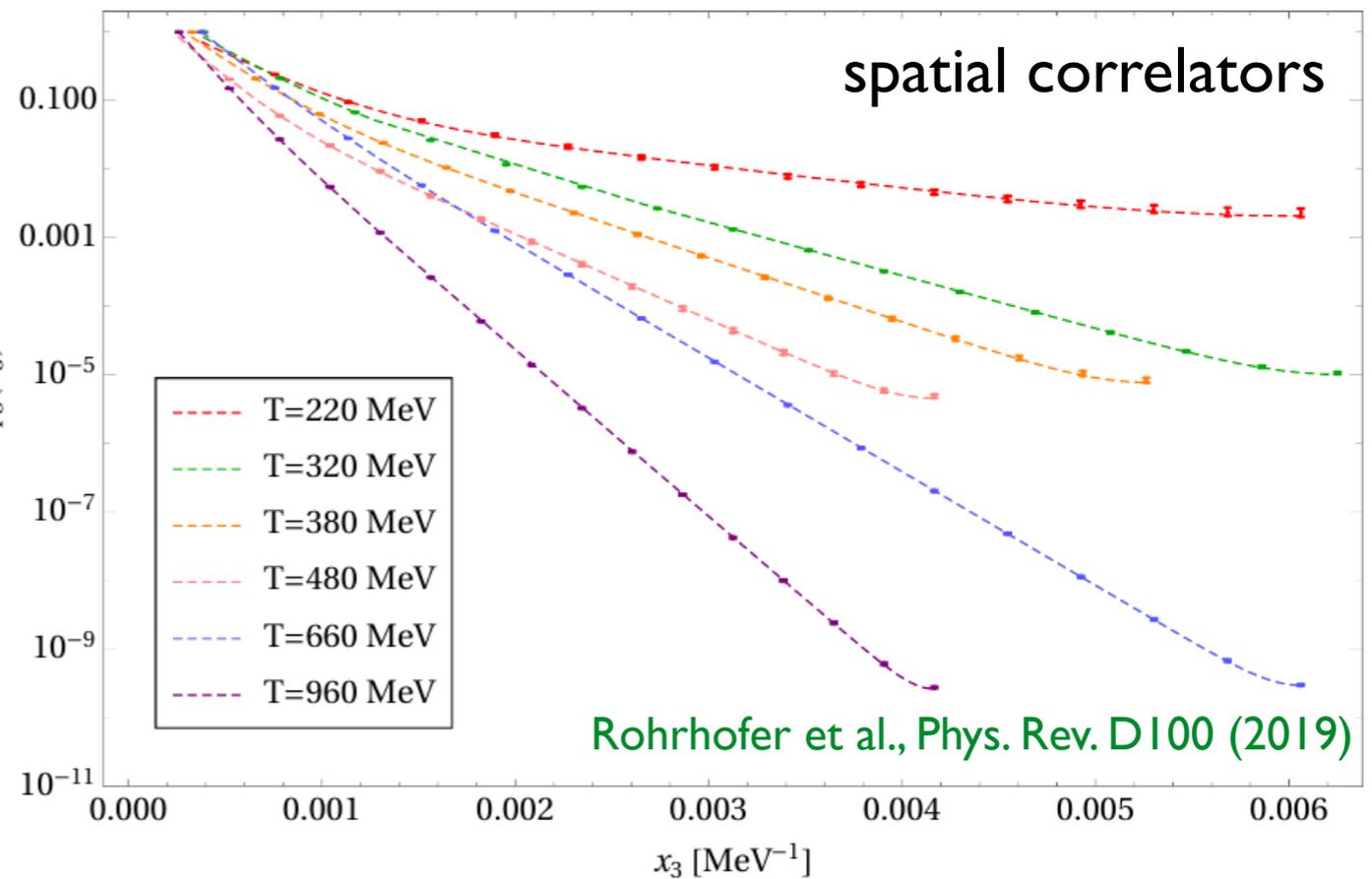
$$D_{m_{\pi^{(*)}}, \beta} = \alpha_{\pi^{(*)}} e^{-\gamma_{\pi^{(*)}} x_3}$$



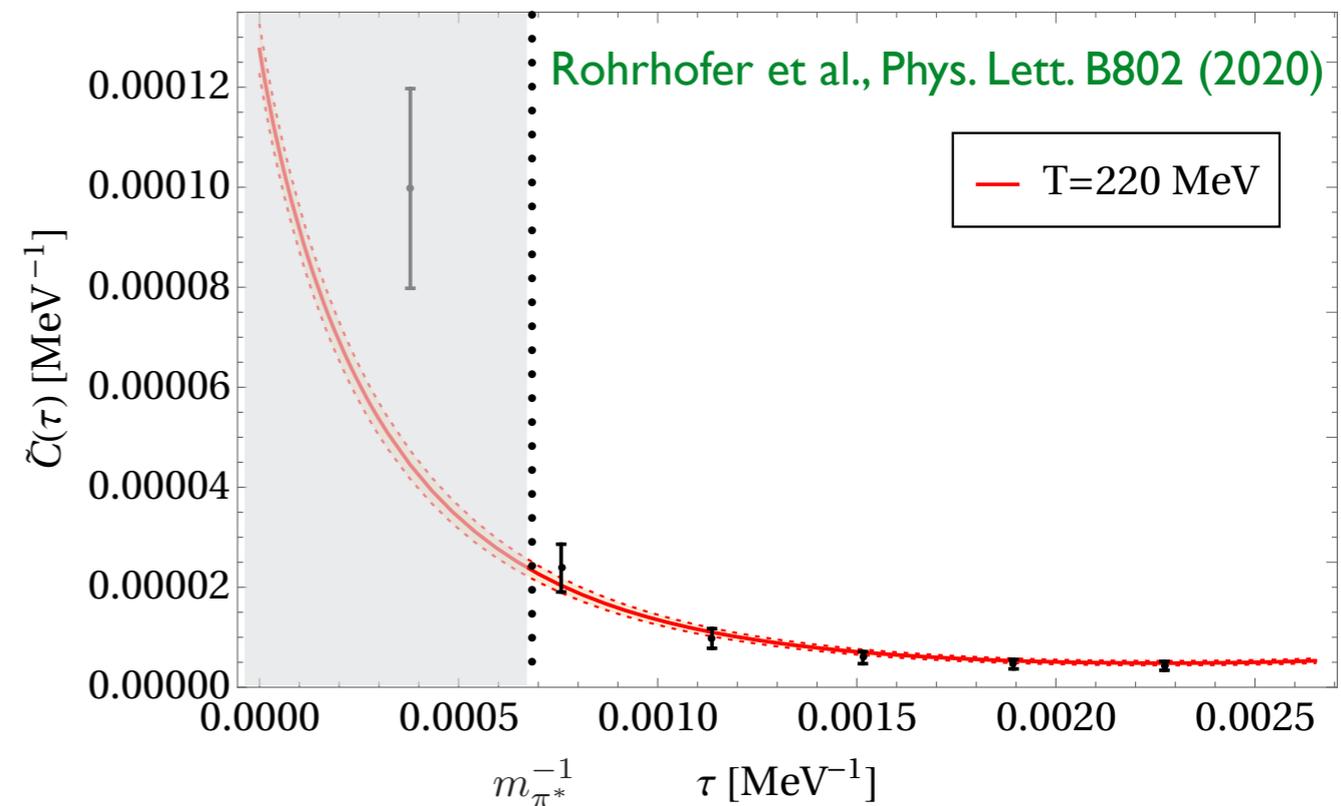
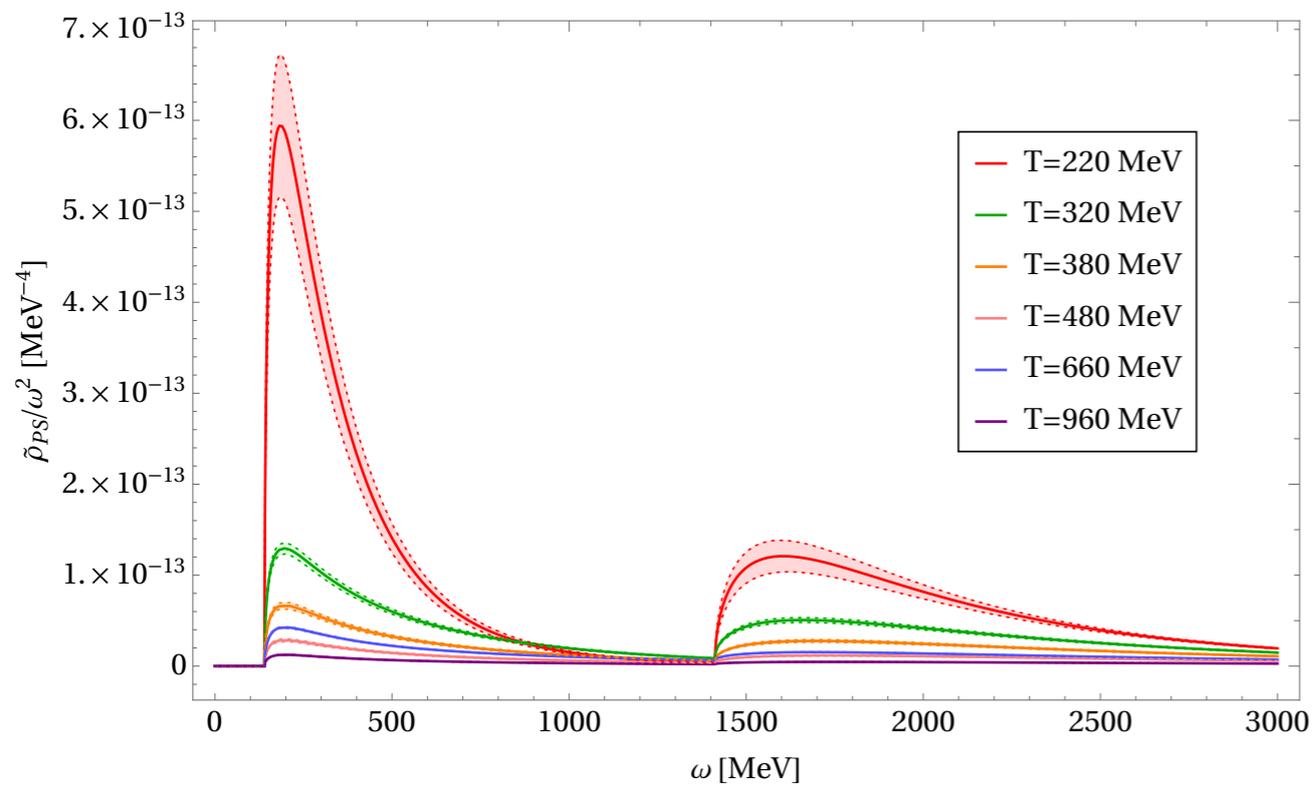
spectral functions



$C_{PS}(x_3)$



predict temporal correlators, compare with data

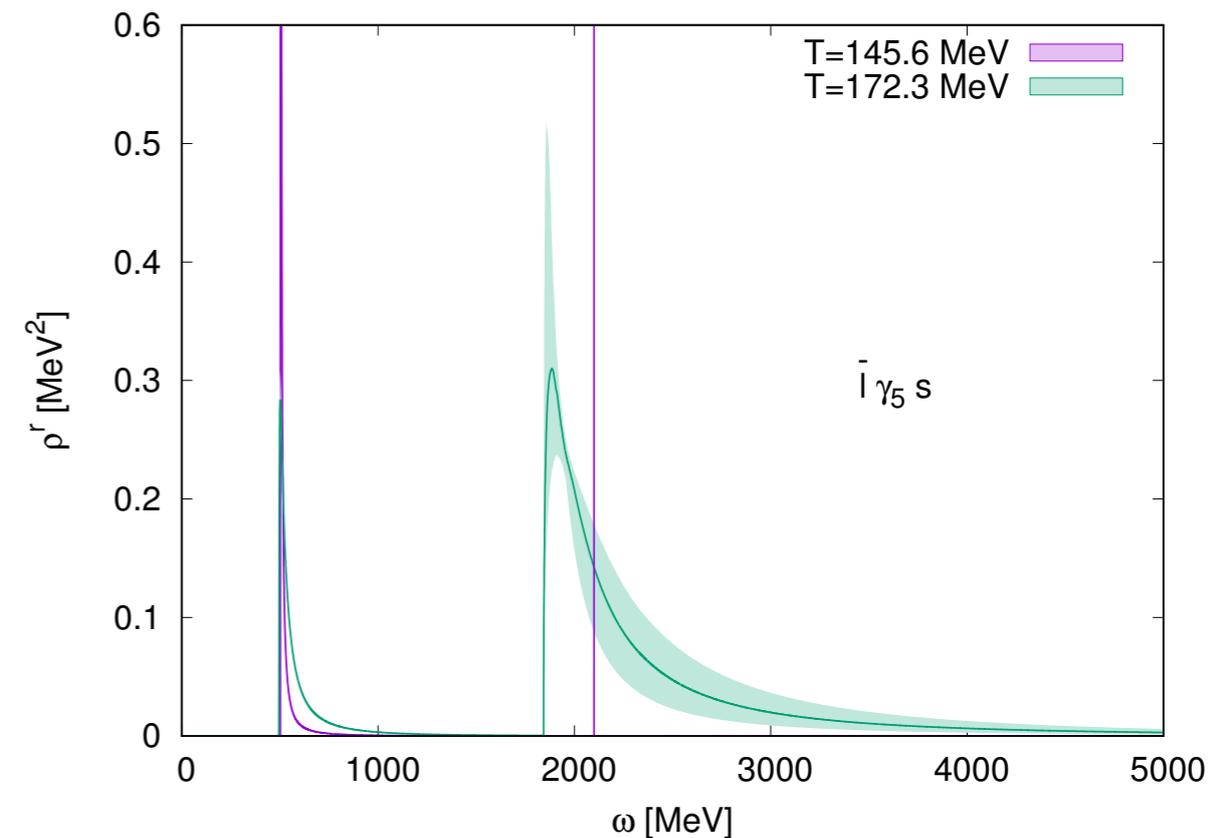


# Does QCD deconfine across the chiral crossover ?

[Bala et al., JHEP 24]

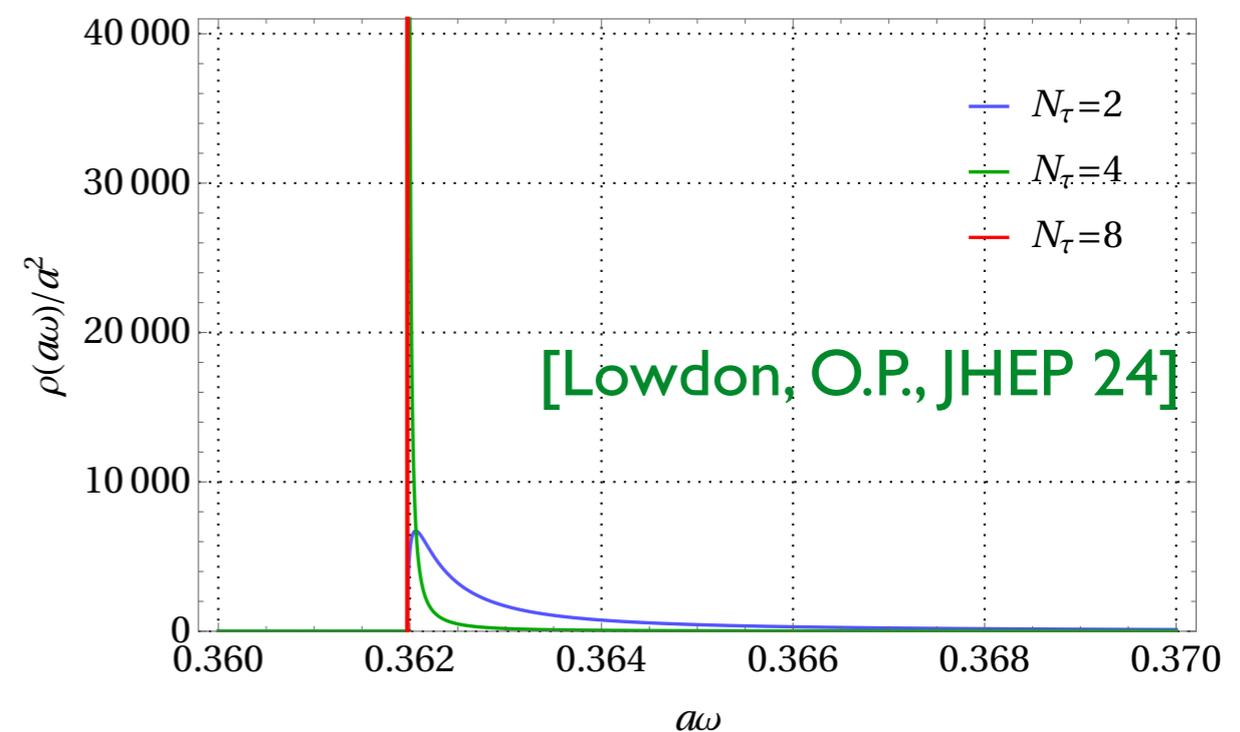
Kaon + Kaon\* in full QCD

slightly below and above chiral crossover



Scalar point particle in  $\phi^4$

no phase transition, no “melting”,  
only “collisional broadening”



# III. Effective heavy (dense) lattice theory from Wilson action

Pure gauge part: character expansion

$$u(\beta) = \frac{\beta}{18} + \frac{\beta^2}{216} + \dots < 1$$

$$\beta = \frac{2N_c}{g^2} \quad T = \frac{1}{aN_\tau}$$

Fermion determinant:

expansion in **spatial** hops,  
temporal hops fully included

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{2am + 8}$$

Integrate analytically over spatial links:

$$W_{\mathbf{x}} = \prod_{\tau=1}^{N_\tau} U_0(\tau, \mathbf{x}), \quad L(\mathbf{x}) = \text{Tr}W(\mathbf{x}), \quad DW = \prod_{\mathbf{x}} dW(\mathbf{x})$$

$$Z = \int DW \prod_{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle} \left[ 1 + \lambda_1 (L_{\mathbf{x}} L_{\mathbf{y}}^* + L_{\mathbf{x}}^* L_{\mathbf{y}}) \right]$$

$$\times \prod_{\mathbf{x}} [1 + h_1 L_{\mathbf{x}} + h_1^2 L_{\mathbf{x}}^* + h_1^3]^{2N_f} [1 + \bar{h}_1 L_{\mathbf{x}}^* + \bar{h}_1^2 L_{\mathbf{x}} + \bar{h}_1^3]^{2N_f}$$

$$\times \prod_{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle} \left[ 1 - 2N_f h_2 \left( \text{Tr} \frac{h_1 W_{\mathbf{x}}}{1 + h_1 W_{\mathbf{x}}} - \text{Tr} \frac{\bar{h}_1 W_{\mathbf{x}}^\dagger}{1 + \bar{h}_1 W_{\mathbf{x}}^\dagger} \right) \left( \text{Tr} \frac{h_1 W_{\mathbf{y}}}{1 + h_1 W_{\mathbf{y}}} - \text{Tr} \frac{\bar{h}_1 W_{\mathbf{y}}^\dagger}{1 + \bar{h}_1 W_{\mathbf{y}}^\dagger} \right) \right]$$

$\times \dots$

pure gauge

stat. det.  $\sim \kappa_s^0$

kinetic det.

$\sim \kappa_s^2$

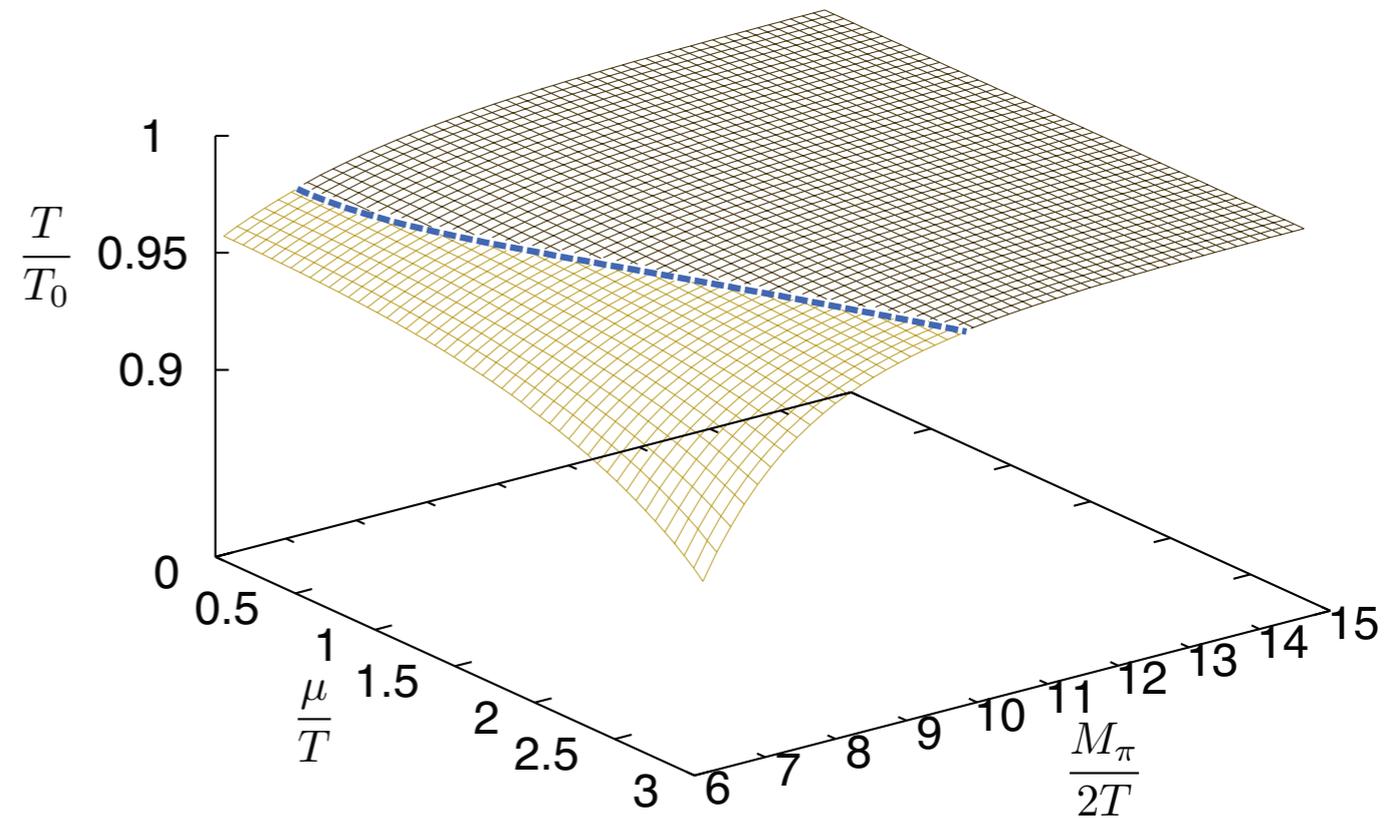
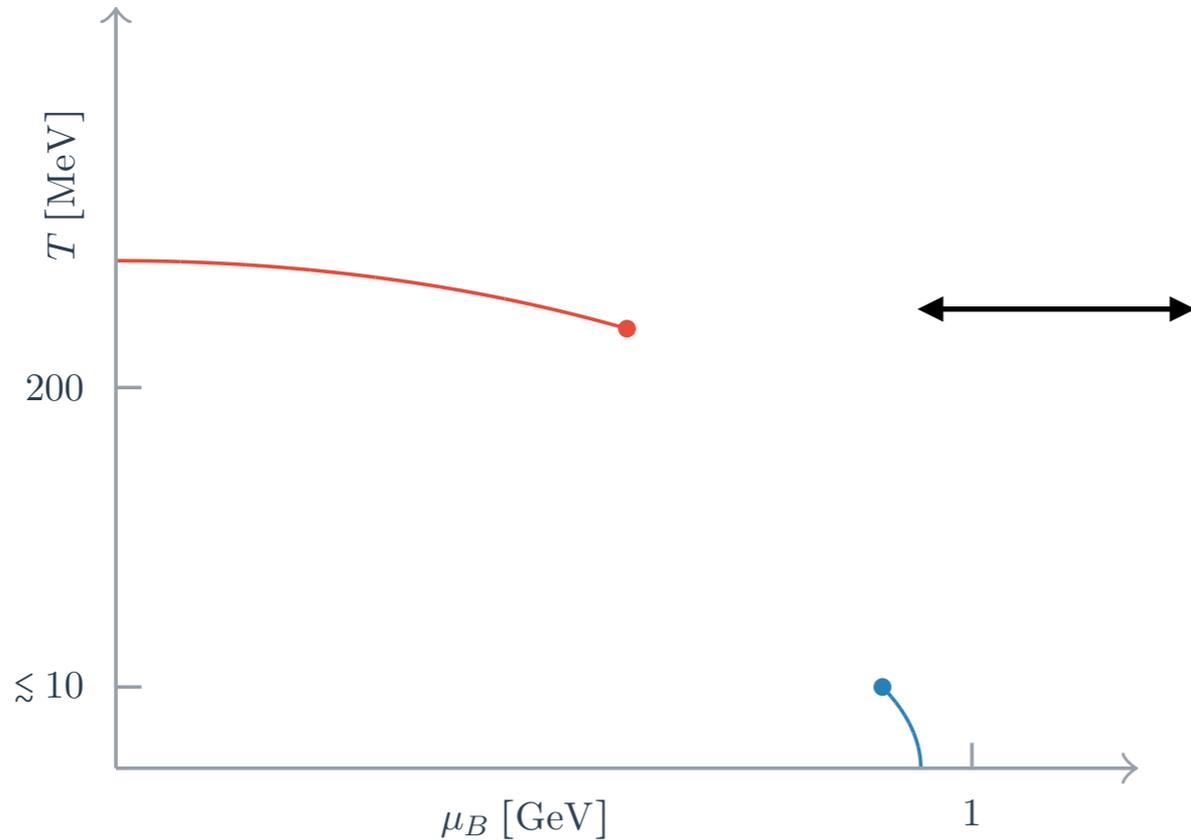
$O(\kappa_s^4)$

Example LL\* :  $\lambda(u, N_\tau \geq 5) = u^{N_\tau} \exp \left[ N_\tau \left( 4u^4 + 12u^5 - 14u^6 - 36u^7 + \frac{295}{2}u^8 + \frac{1851}{10}u^9 + \frac{1055797}{5120}u^{10} \right) \right]$

# The deconfinement transition at finite density

(no continuum limit yet)

"Heavy QCD" phase diagram

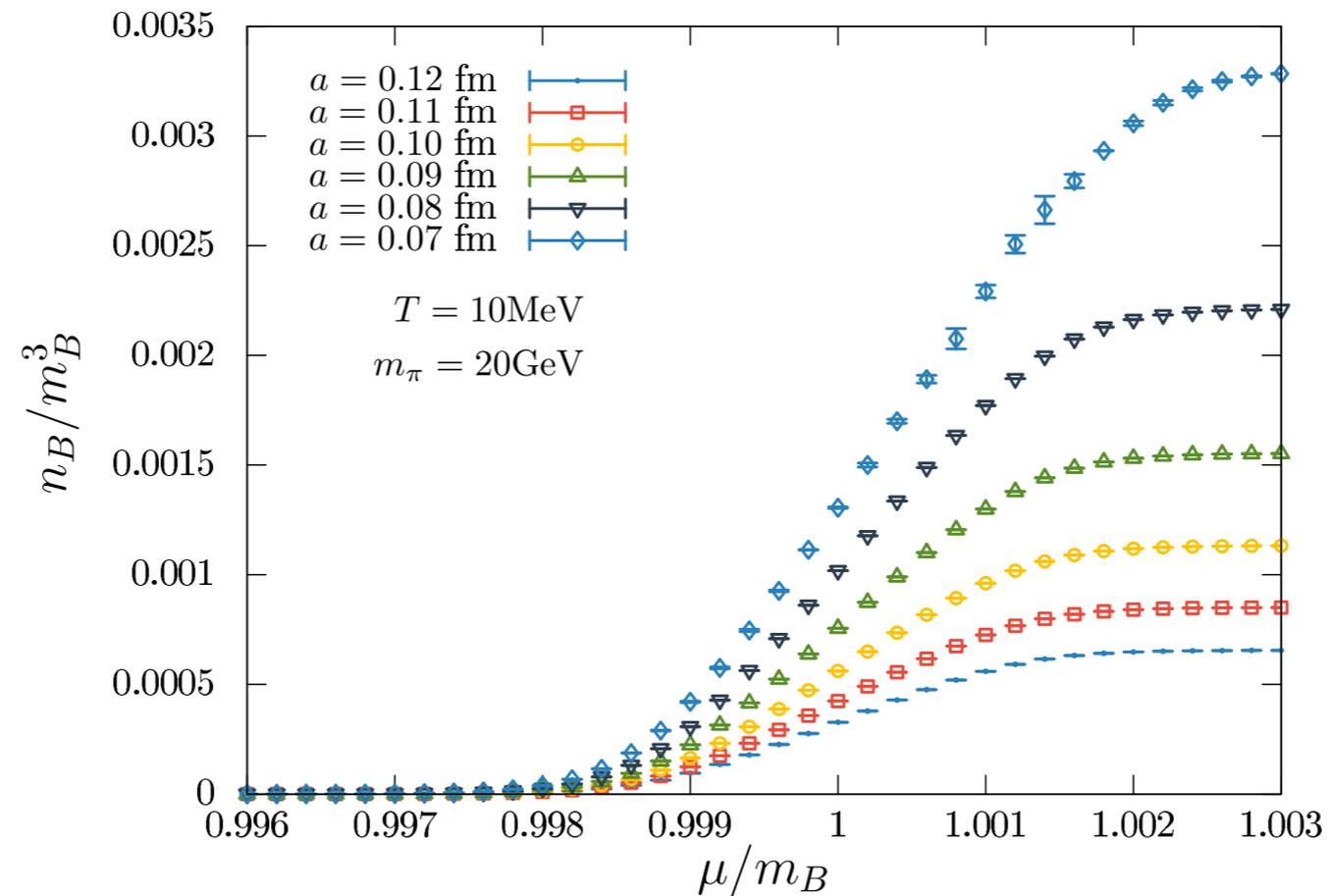


Zero density agrees within 10% with full lattice simulations on  $N_t=6$ !

[Fromm, Langelage, Lottini, O.P. JHEP (2012)]

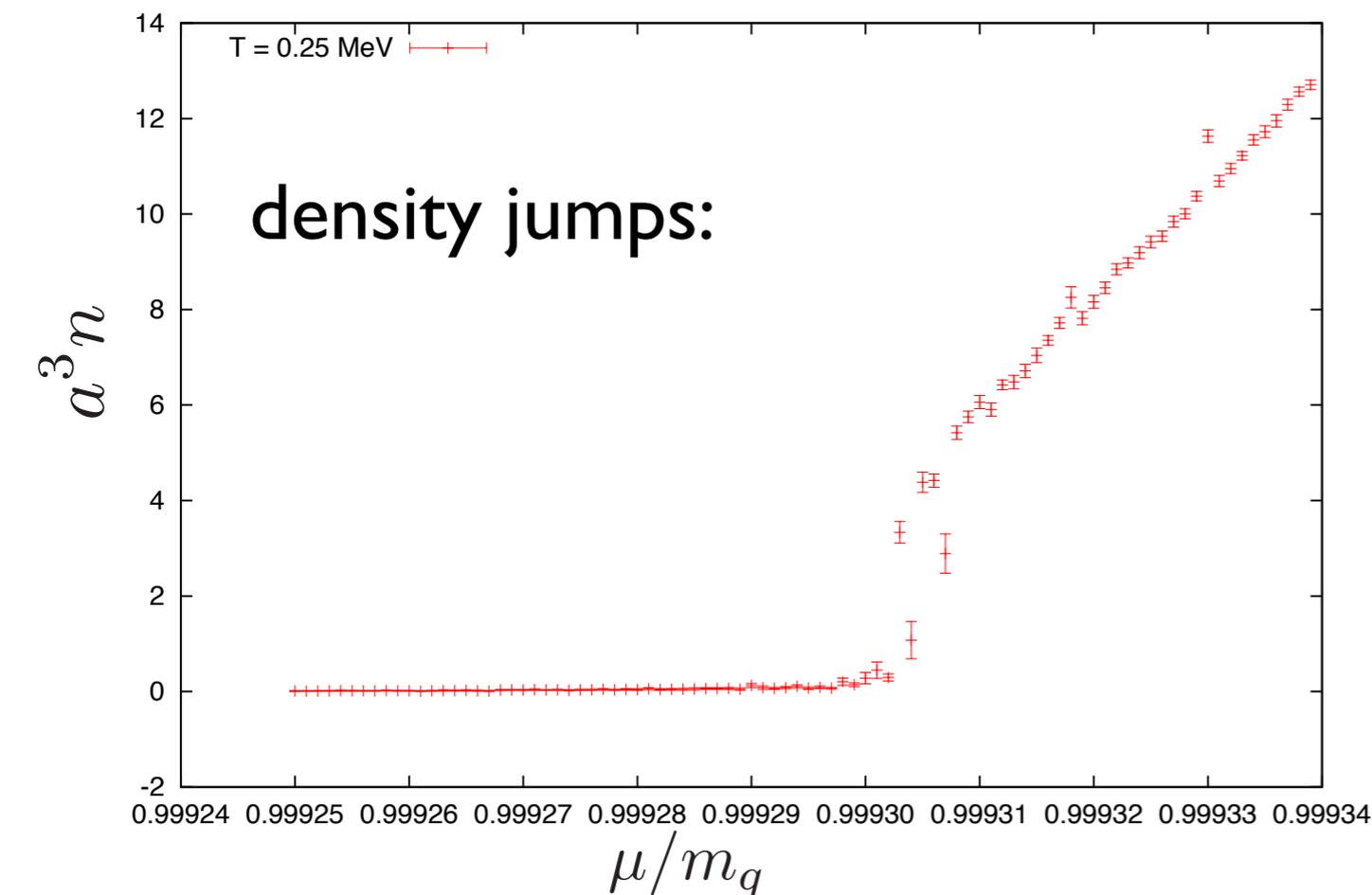
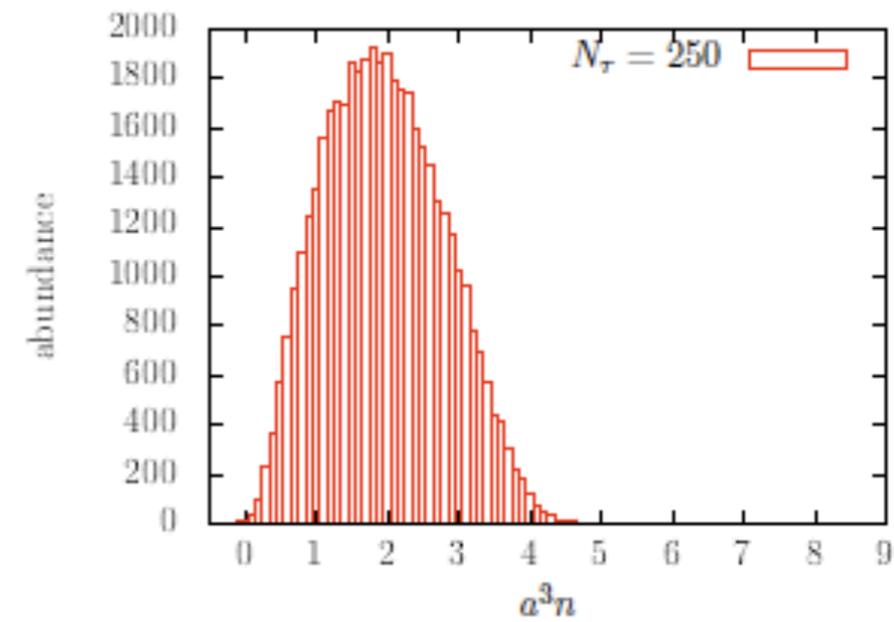
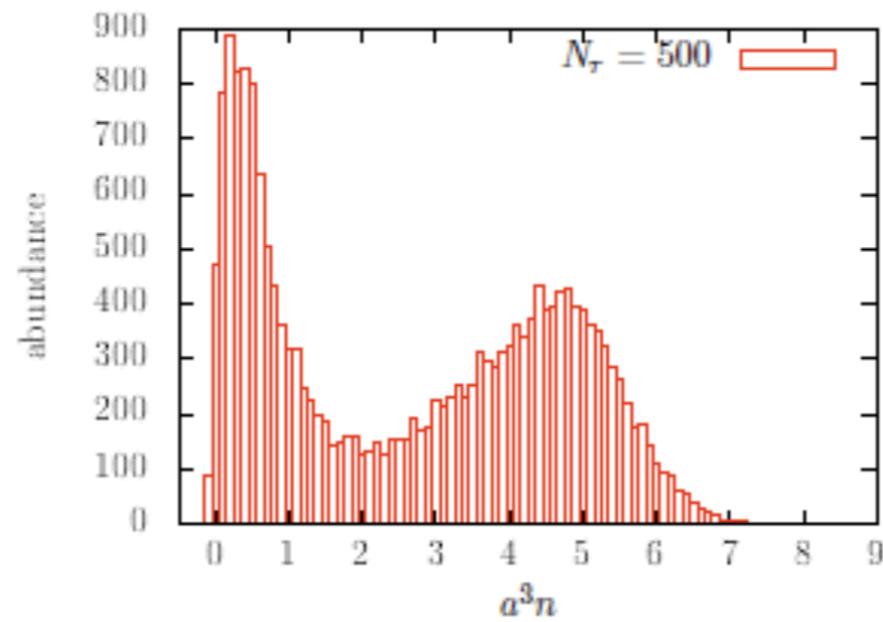
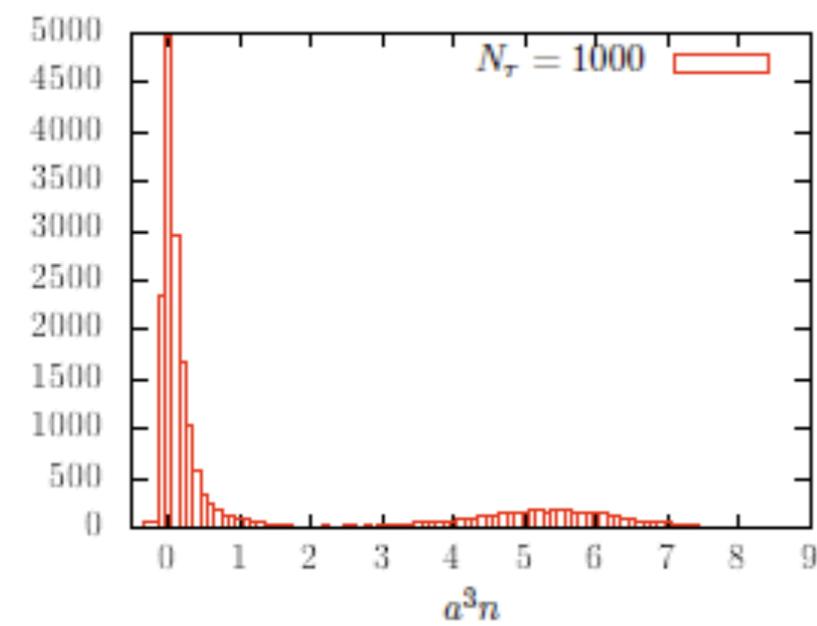
# Cold and dense regime

[Fromm, Langelage, Lottini, Neuman, O.P., PRL 13, Glesaaen, Neuman, O.P., JHEP 15]



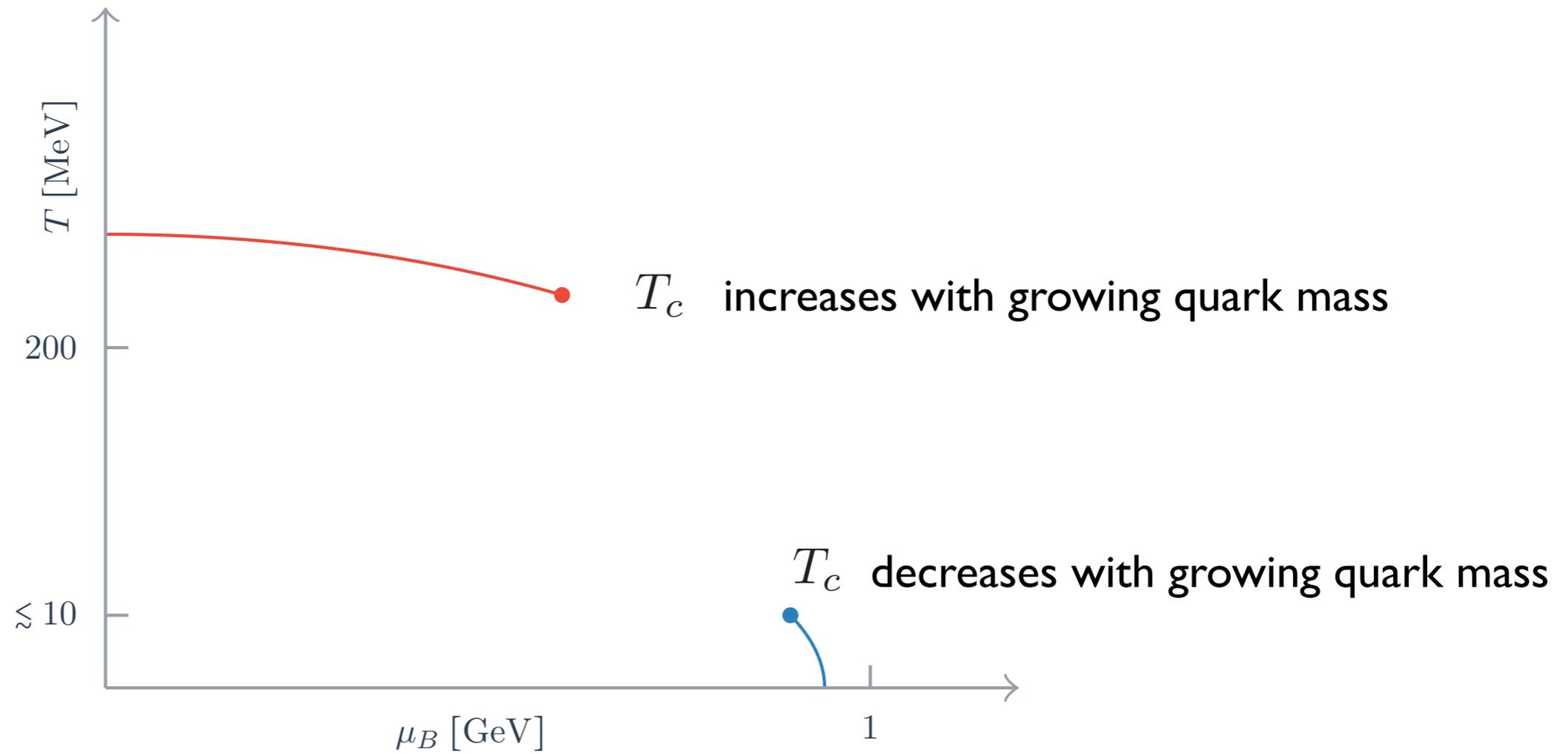
- Cut-off effects grow rapidly beyond onset transition: **lattice saturation!**
- Finer lattice necessary for larger densities!

# Light quarks: first order transition + endpoint



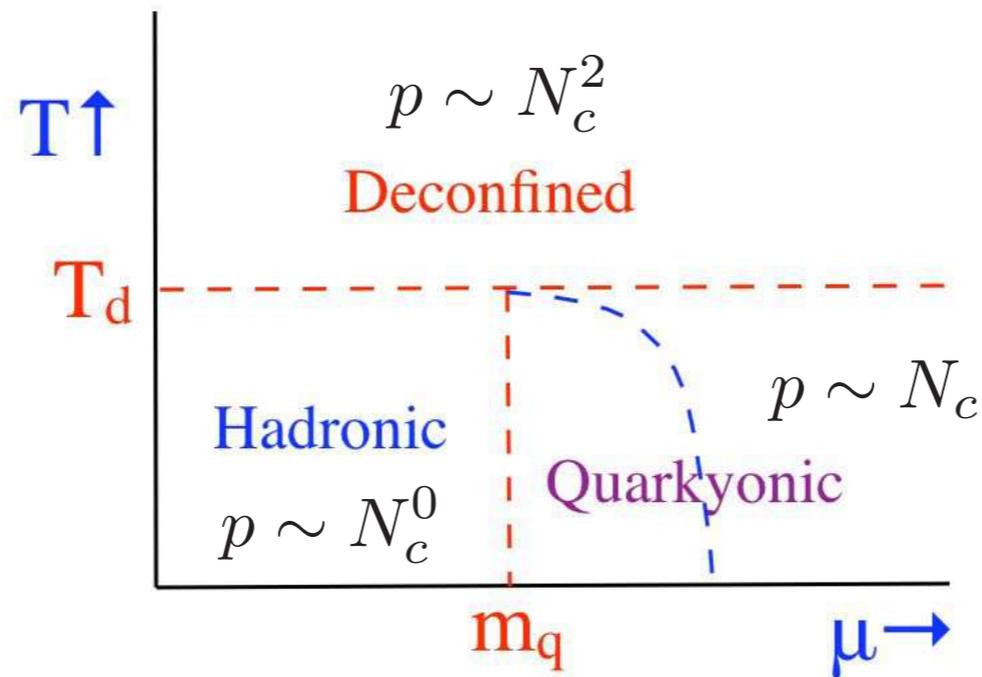
- phase coexistence: first order
- for higher  $T = \frac{1}{aN_\tau}$  crossover
- **nuclear liquid gas transition!**

# Phase diagram of heavy quark QCD



# The large $N_c$ QCD phase diagram

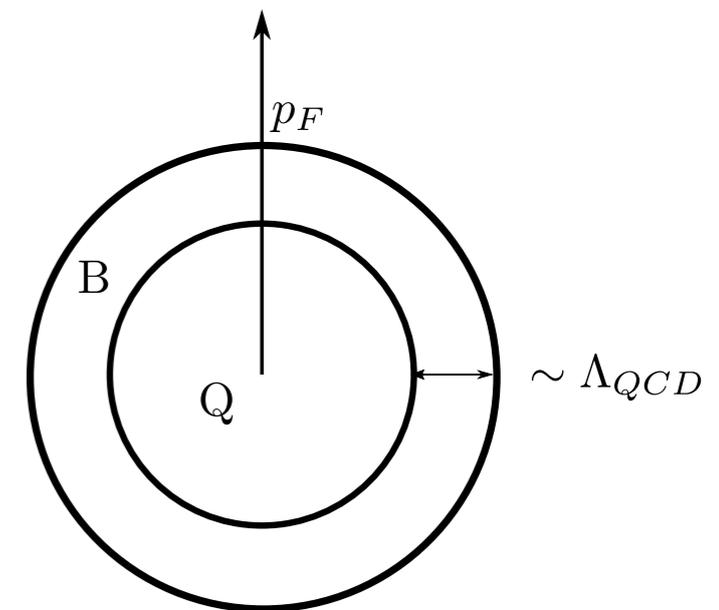
[McLerran, Pisarski NPA (2007), ...]



Quarkyonic matter in momentum space:

Fermi sea of quarks, surrounded by Fermi shell of baryons;

$p_F \sim \mu$  can interpolate from purely baryonic to quark matter



# From conjecture to calculation: eff. theory for general $N_c$

Strong coupling limit

[O.P., Scheunert JHEP (2019)]

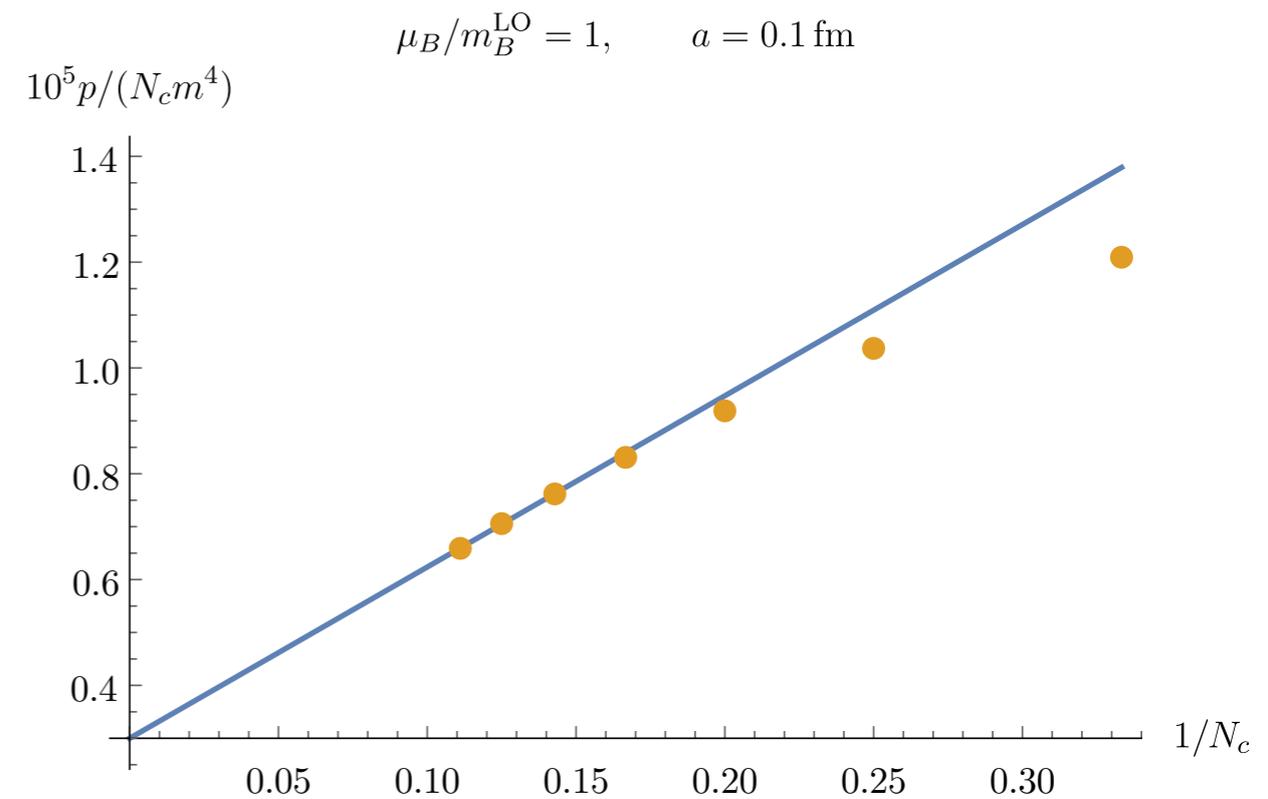
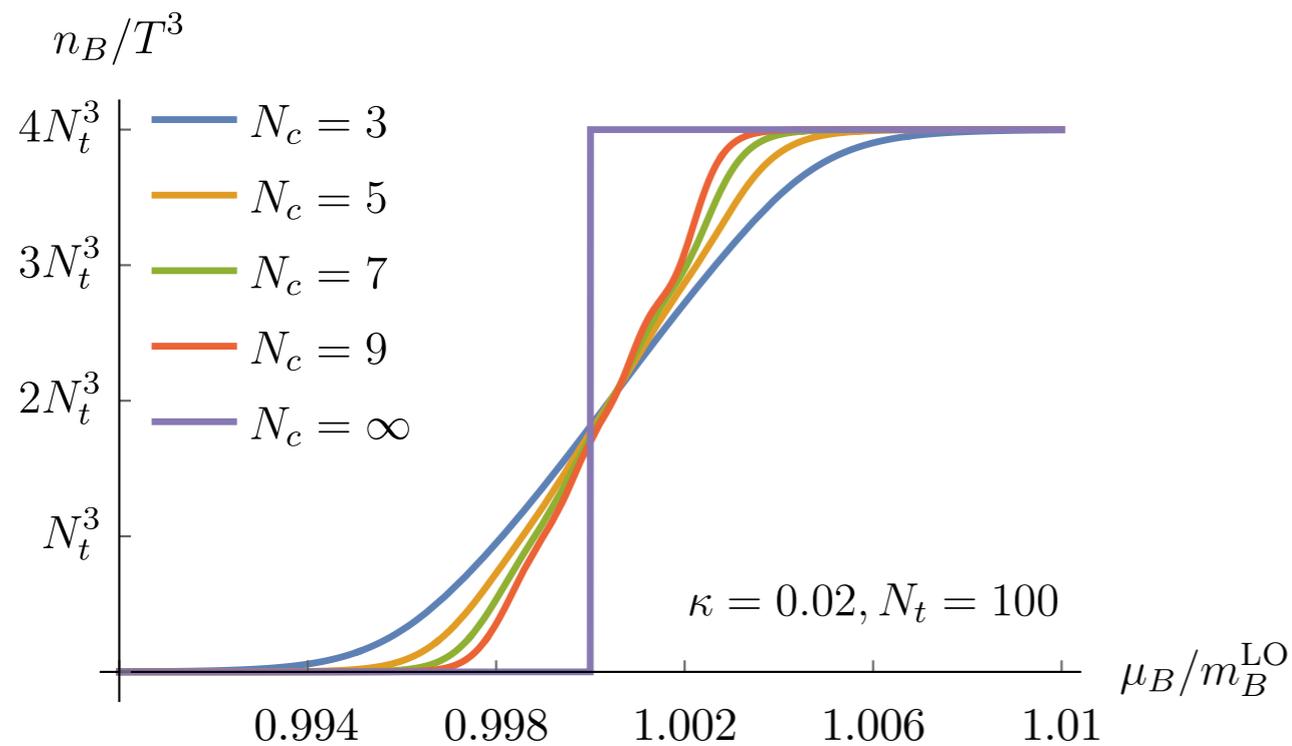
Order hopping expansion		$\kappa^0$	$\kappa^2$	$\kappa^4$
$h_1 < 1$ $(\mu_B < m_B)$	$a^4 p$	$\sim \frac{1}{6N_\tau} N_c^3 h_1^{N_c}$	$\sim -\frac{1}{48} N_c^7 h_1^{2N_c}$	$\sim \frac{3N_\tau \kappa^4}{800} N_c^8 h_1^{2N_c}$
	$a^3 n_B$	$\sim \frac{1}{6} N_c^3 h_1^{N_c}$	$\sim -\frac{N_\tau}{24} N_c^7 h_1^{2N_c}$	$\sim \frac{(9N_\tau+1)N_\tau}{1200} N_c^8 h_1^{2N_c}$
	$a^4 e$	$\sim -\frac{\ln(2\kappa)}{6} N_c^4 h_1^{N_c}$	$\sim \frac{N_\tau \ln(2\kappa)}{48} N_c^8 h_1^{2N_c}$	
	$\epsilon$	0	$\sim -\frac{1}{4} N_c^3 h_1^{N_c}$	
$h_1 > 1$ $(\mu_B > m_B)$	$a^4 p$	$\sim \frac{4 \ln(h_1)}{N_\tau} N_c$	$\sim -12 N_c$	$\sim 198 N_c$
	$a^3 n_B$	$\sim 4$	$\sim -N_\tau \frac{N_c^4}{h_1^{N_c}}$	$\sim -\frac{(59N_\tau-19)N_\tau}{20} \frac{N_c^5}{h_1^{N_c}}$
	$a^4 e$	$\sim -4 \ln(2\kappa) N_c$	$\sim 24 \ln(2\kappa) N_c$	
	$\epsilon$	0	$\sim -6$	

Beyond the onset transition:  $p \sim N_c$  definition of quarkyonic matter!

# The baryon onset transition for growing $N_c$

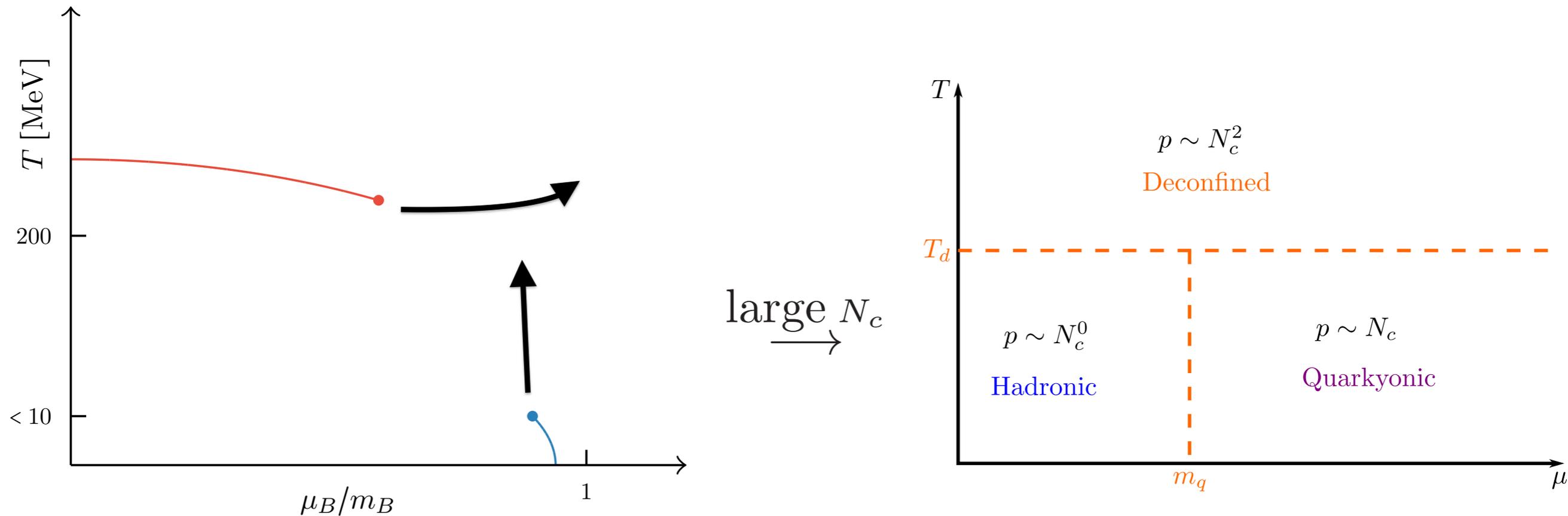
Transition becomes more strongly 1st-order for every T!

Pressure scaling right after onset



$$p \sim N_c(1 + \text{const.} N_c^{-1})$$

# Altogether:



- Large  $N_c$  phase diagram emerges smoothly
- Varying  $N_c$ : dense QCD is consistent with quarkyonic matter
- Should also hold for light quarks,  $N_c$ -scaling is property of expansion coefficients!

Baryon matter is special case of quarkyonic matter

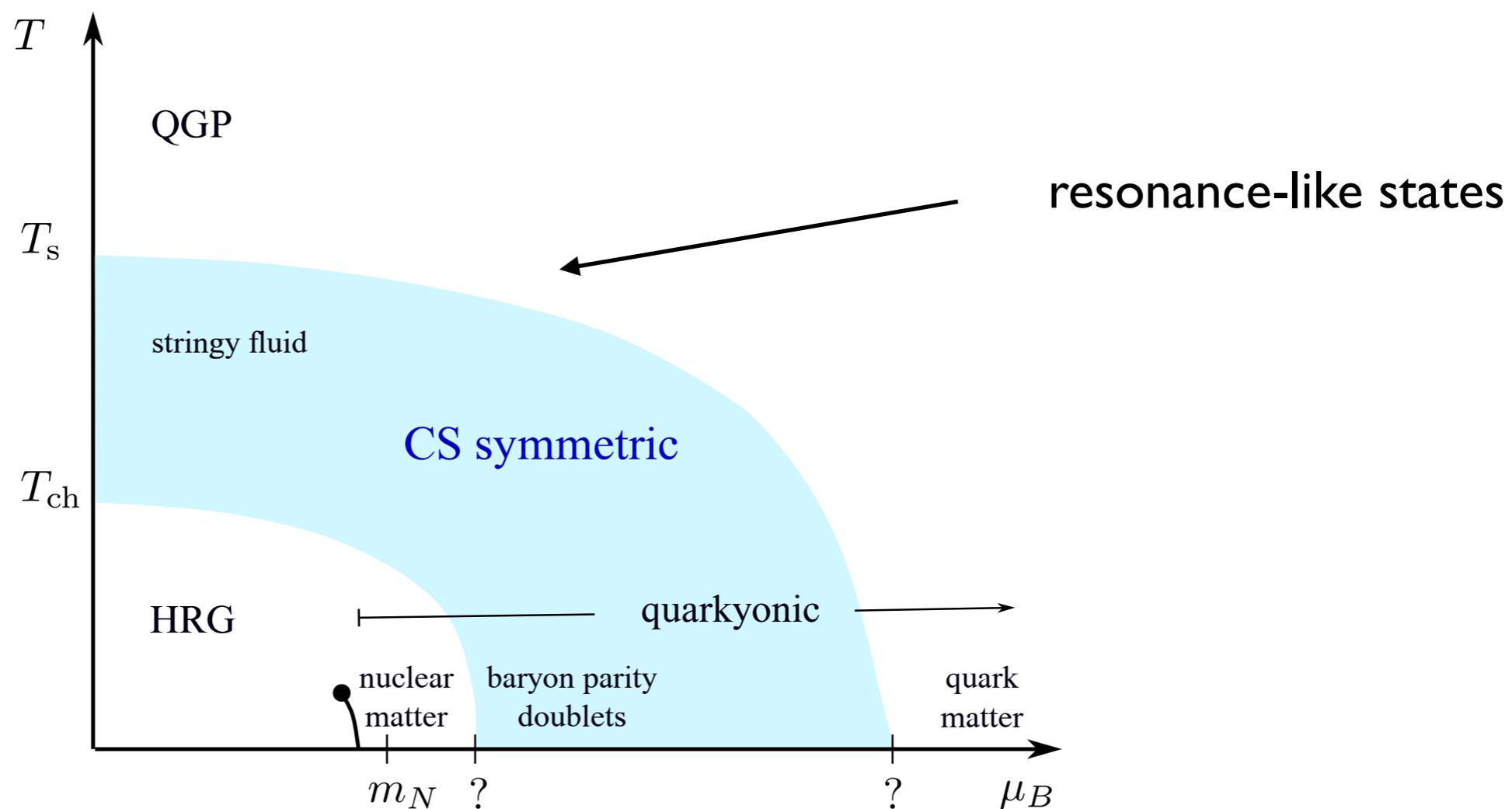
Phenomenological evidence: [Koch, McLerran, Miller, Vovchenko, PRC 24]

# Implications for physical QCD?

One viable scenario (more possibilities):

[L. Glozman, R. Pisarski, O.P., EJPA 22]

$\mu\bar{\psi}\gamma_0\psi$  is CS symmetric



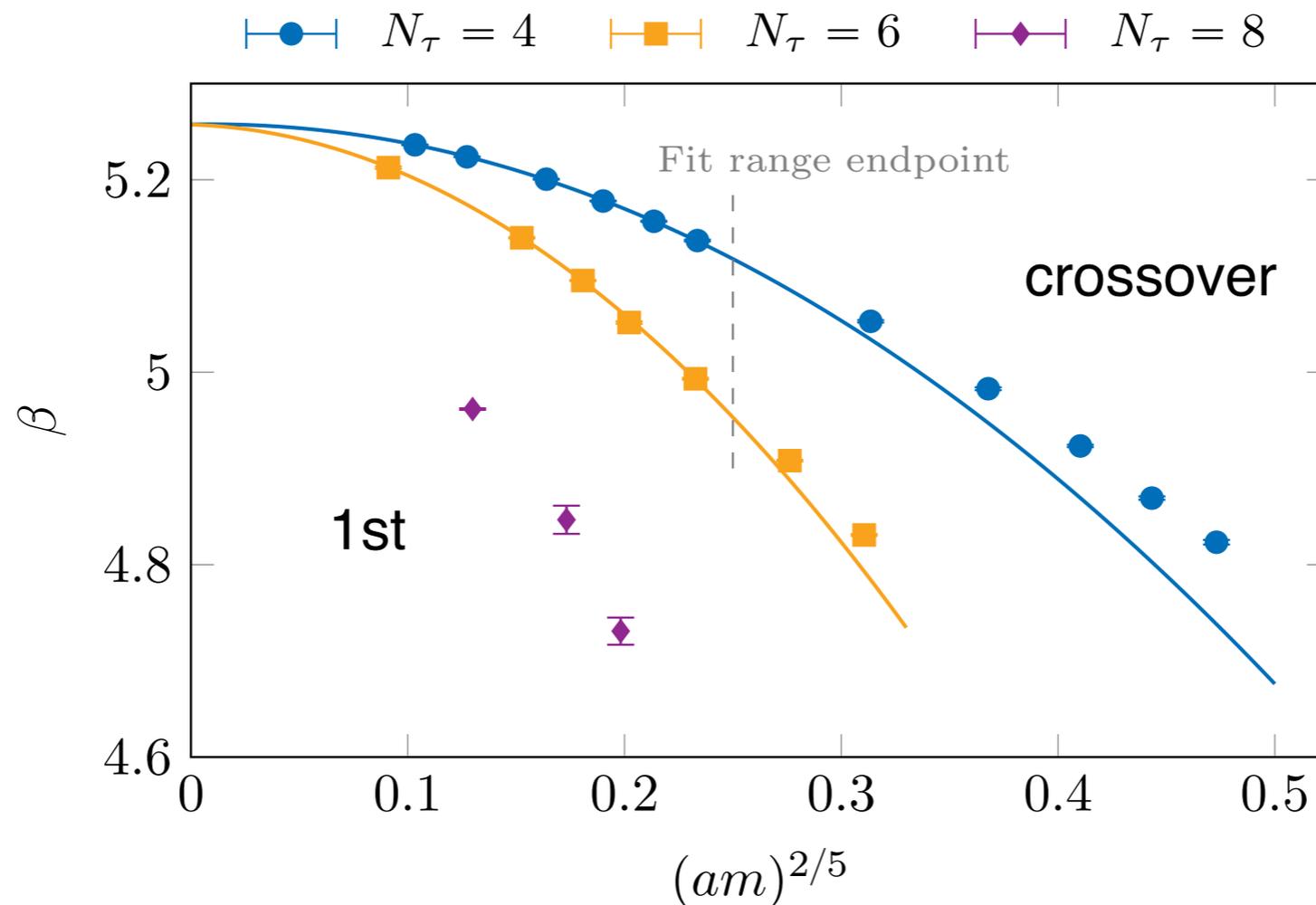
# Conclusions

- Chiral transition at zero density is likely 2nd order for  $N_f=2-7$  massless quark flavours
- Imaginary chemical potential has no effect on the order of the chiral transition
- Evidence for chiral-spin symmetry: screening masses, spectral functions resonance-like
- Heavy mass LQCD consistent with quarkyonic matter and quark-hadron continuity

**Backup slides**

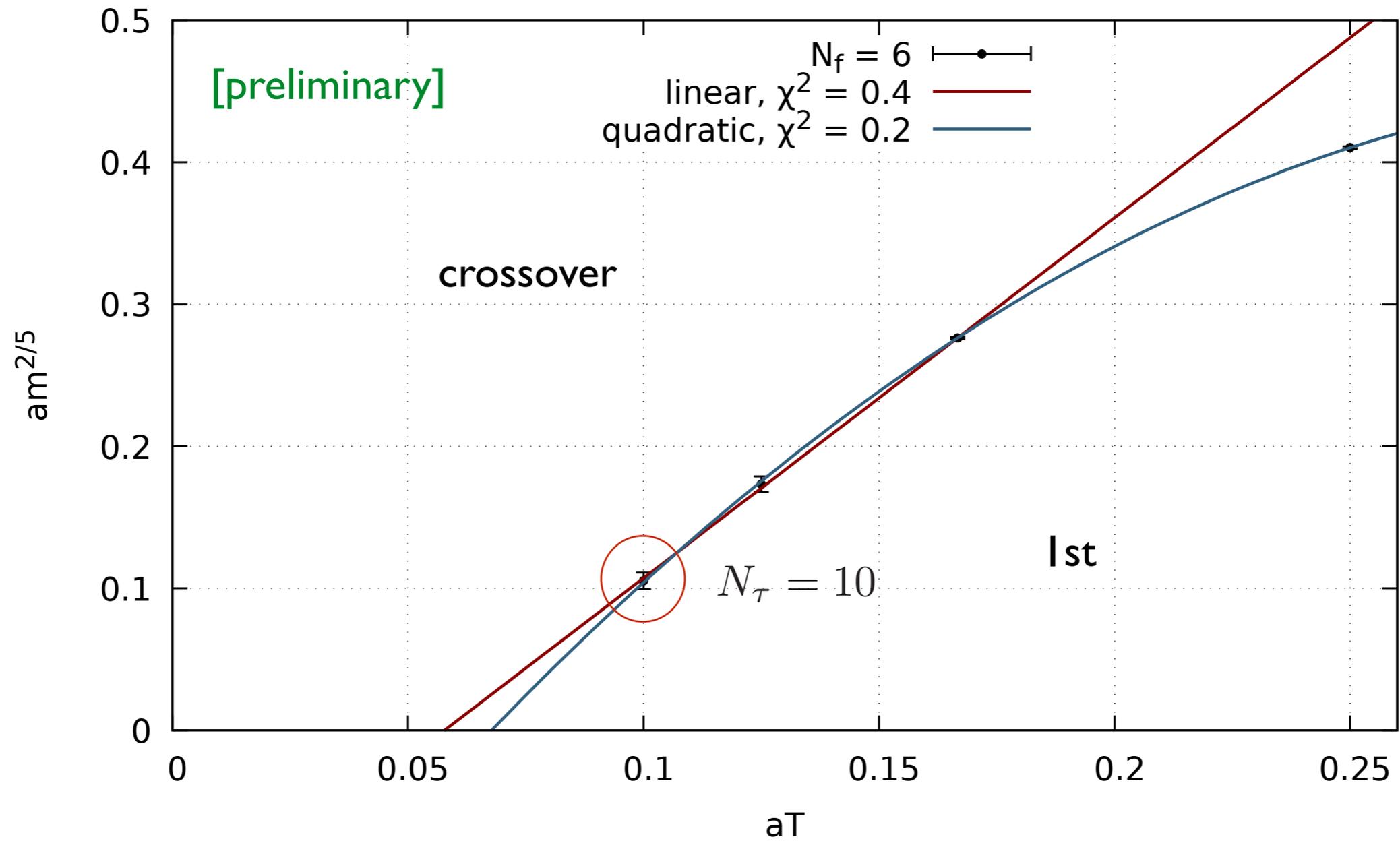
# Bare parameter space of unimproved staggered LQCD

[Cuteri, O.P., Sciarra JHEP 21] ~120 M Monte Carlo trajectories with light fermions, aspect ratios 3,4,5



- Data points implicitly labeled by  $N_f$
- Tricritical scaling observed in lattice bare parameter space
- Tricritical extrapolation always possible!

# progressing to finer lattices



New  $N_\tau = 10$  result on predicted scaling curve!

# Thermal spectral density + thermoparticles

- The thermal spectral density  $\tilde{D}_\beta(\mathbf{u}, s)$  holds the key to understanding in-medium phenomena, but what structure does it have?
- A natural decomposition [Bros, Buchholz, *NPB* 627 (2002)] is:

$$\tilde{D}_\beta(\vec{u}, s) = \tilde{D}_{m,\beta}(\vec{u}) \delta(s - m^2) + \tilde{D}_{c,\beta}(\vec{u}, s)$$

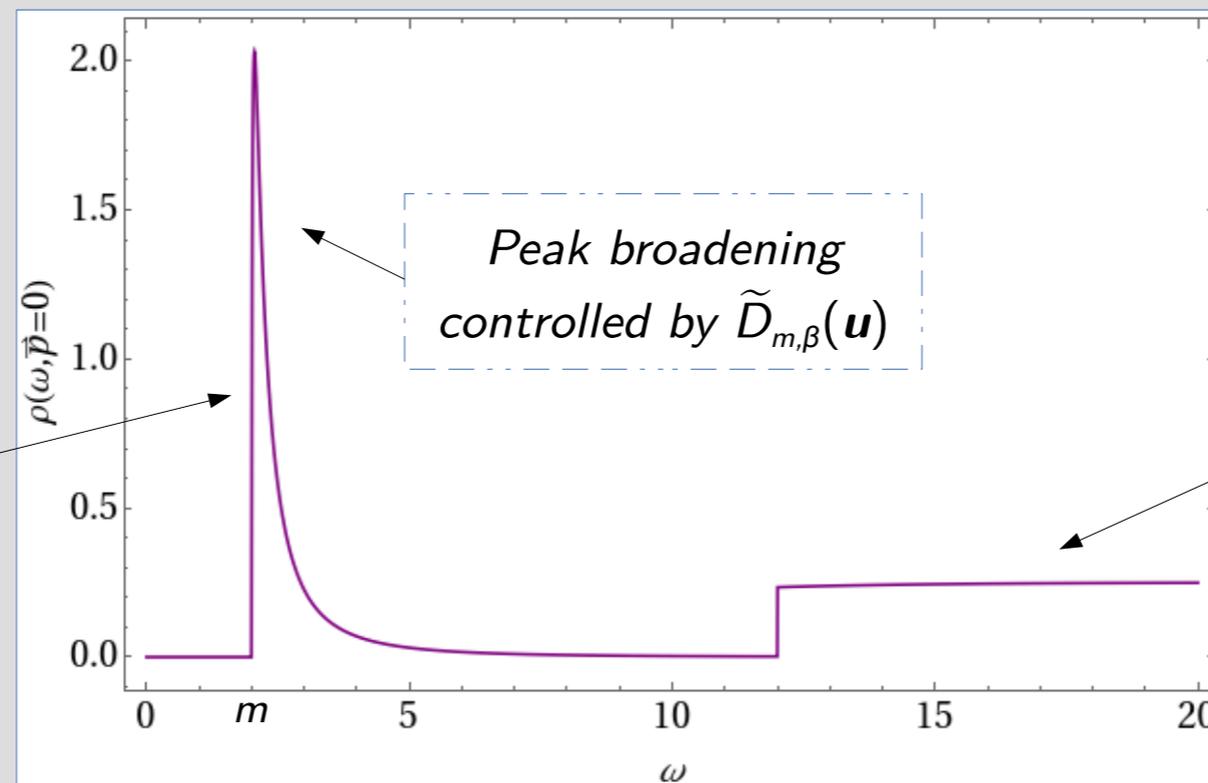
**Thermoparticle component**

“Damping factor”

(Negligible at low T)

**Continuous component**

Causes  $T=0$  mass pole  $m$  to be screened by thermal effects



Fixes  $T$ -dependence of continuous spectral contributions

[slide by P. Lowdon]

# Comparison with plasmon ansatz

Bros+Buchholz Ansatz

Perturbative plasmon: Breit-Wigner shape

Both fit spatial correlator

$$\rho_{PS}(\omega, \mathbf{p} = 0) = \epsilon(\omega) \left[ \theta(\omega^2 - m_\pi^2) \frac{4 \alpha_\pi \gamma_\pi \sqrt{\omega^2 - m_\pi^2}}{(\omega^2 - m_\pi^2 + \gamma_\pi^2)^2} + \theta(\omega^2 - m_{\pi^*}^2) \frac{4 \alpha_{\pi^*} \gamma_{\pi^*} \sqrt{\omega^2 - m_{\pi^*}^2}}{(\omega^2 - m_{\pi^*}^2 + \gamma_{\pi^*}^2)^2} \right]$$

$$\rho_{PS}^{BW}(\omega, \mathbf{p} = 0) = \frac{4 \alpha_\pi \omega \Gamma_\pi}{(\omega^2 - m_\pi^2 - \Gamma_\pi^2)^2 + 4 \omega^2 \Gamma_\pi^2} + \frac{4 \alpha_{\pi^*} \omega \Gamma_{\pi^*}}{(\omega^2 - m_{\pi^*}^2 - \Gamma_{\pi^*}^2)^2 + 4 \omega^2 \Gamma_{\pi^*}^2}$$

Predicted temporal correlators:

