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## Quark deconfinement in compact stars through sexaquark condensation \*

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In this contribution, we present for the first time a scenario according to which early quark deconfinement in compact stars is triggered by the Bose-Einstein condensation (BEC) of a light sexaquark (S) with a mass  $m_S < 2054$  MeV, that has been suggested as a candidate particle to explain the baryonic dark matter in the Universe. The onset of S BEC marks the maximum mass of hadronic neutron stars and it occurs when the condition for the baryon chemical potential  $\mu_B = m_S/2$  is fulfilled in the center of the star, corresponding to  $M_{onset} \leq 0.7M_\odot$ . In the gravitational field of the star the density of the BEC of the S increases until a new state of the matter is attained, where each of the S-states got dissociated into a triplet of color-flavor-locked (CFL) diquark states. These diquarks are the Cooper pairs in the color superconducting CFL phase of quark matter, so that the developed scenario corresponds to a Bose-Einstein condensation - Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BEC-BCS) transition in strongly interacting matter. For the description of the CFL phase, we develop here for the first time the three-flavor extension of the density-functional formulation of a chirally symmetric Lagrangian model of quark matter where confining properties are encoded in a divergence of the scalar self-energy at low densities and temperatures.

- Contribution to the Book “New Phenomena and New States of Matter in the Universe. From Quarks to Cosmos” edited by C. A. Z. Vasconcellos, P. O. Hess and T. Boller.

### Present via

**Authors:** BLASCHKE, David; SHAHRBAF, Mahboubeh; IVANYTSKYI, Oleksii (University of Wroclaw)

**Presenter:** IVANYTSKYI, Oleksii (University of Wroclaw)

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