

Perturbative QCD at high densities

Tyler Gorda
TU Darmstadt

Course on Neutron-Star Physics, IGFAE
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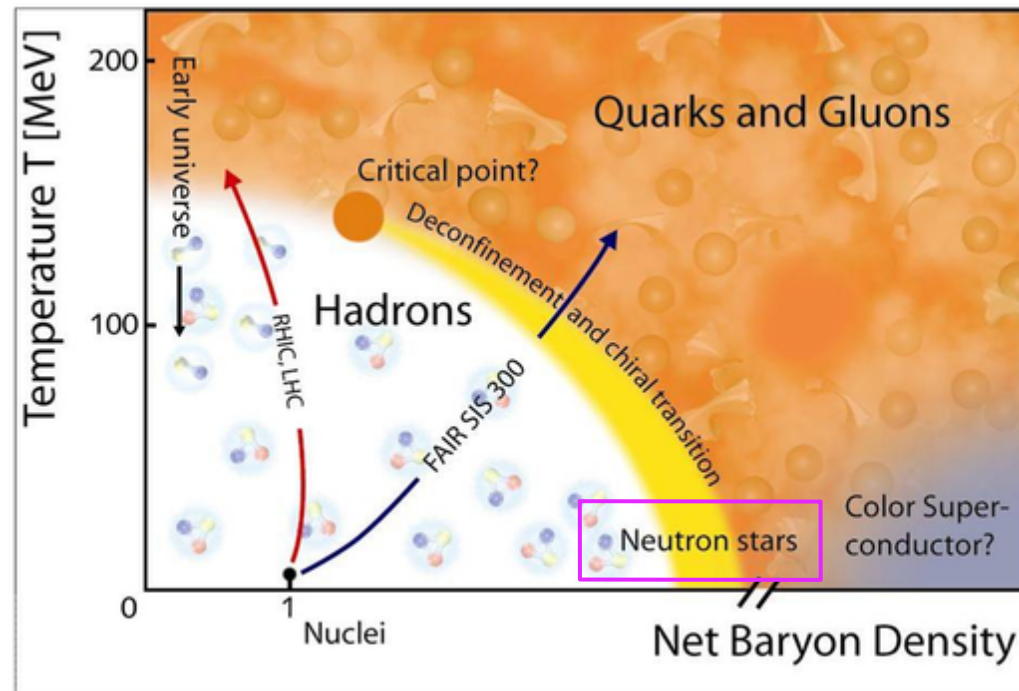
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Summary / Overview:

The big picture

Motivation: Why pQCD at high density?

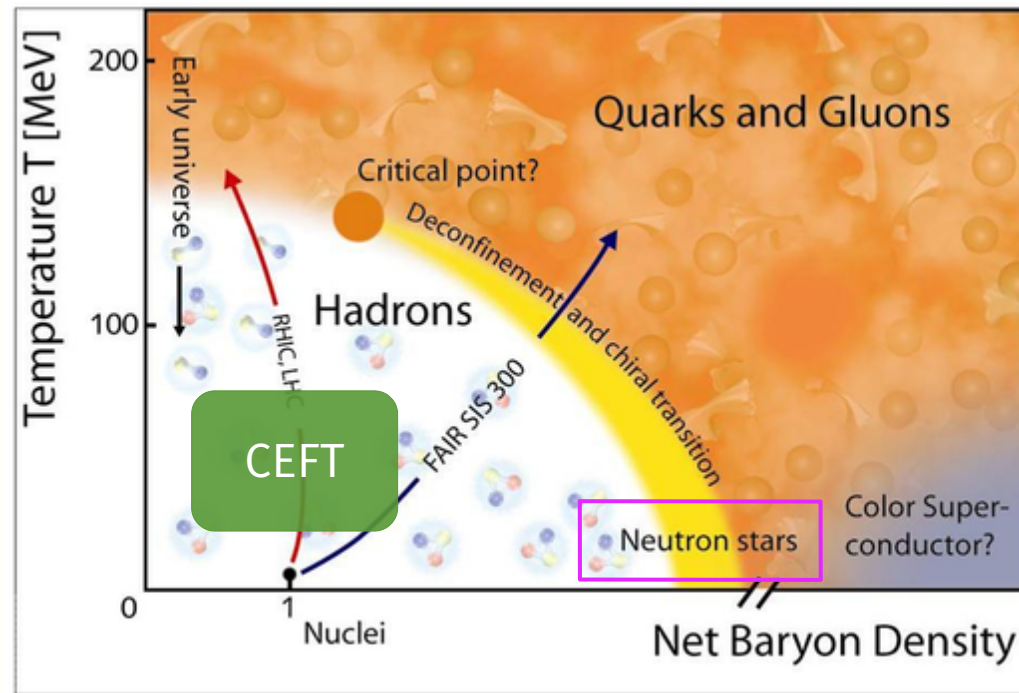
NSs probe densities beyond nuclear density, but below pQCD densities



Compressed Baryonic Matter (CBM) experiment

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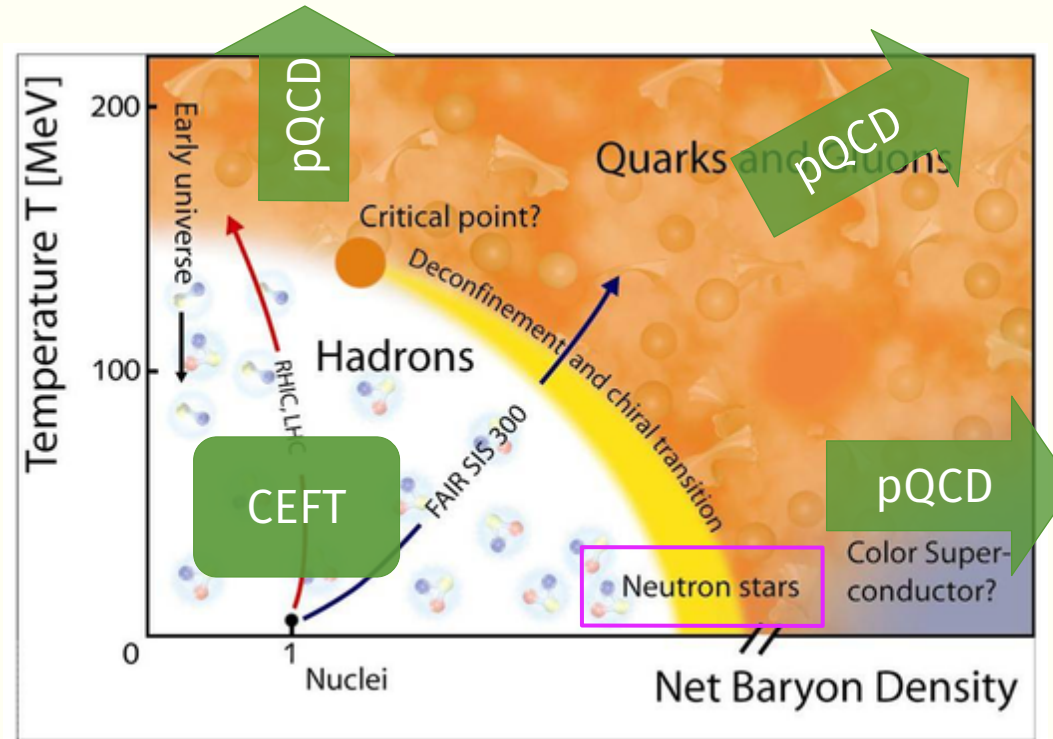
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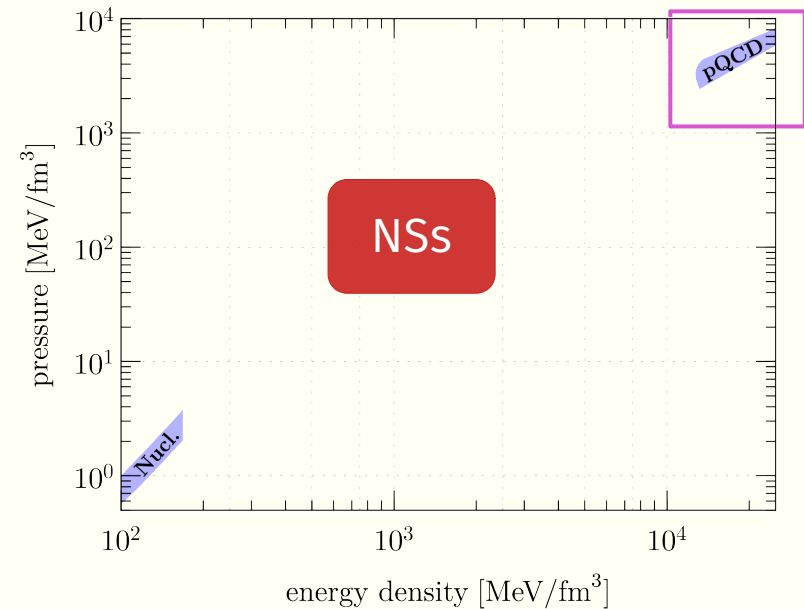
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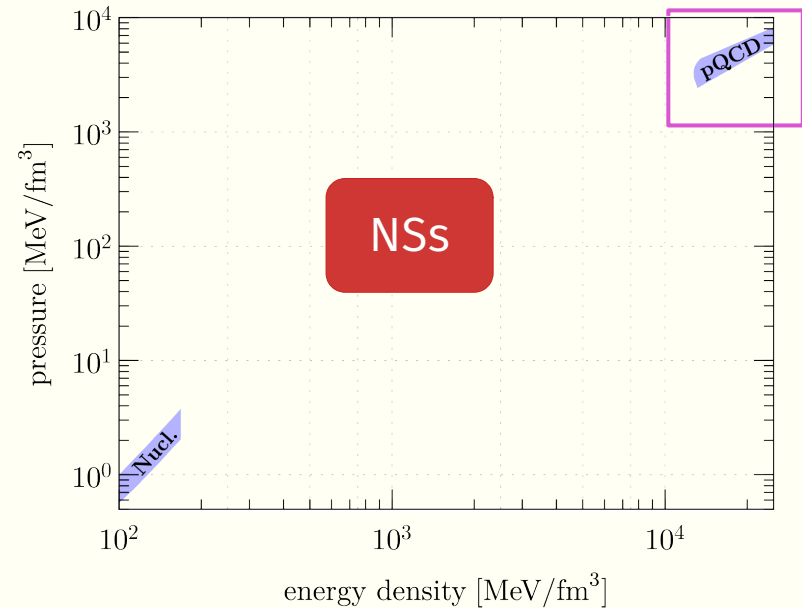
Want to use the fact that NS matter (EoS) goes to pQCD EoS at high densities as asymptotic limit



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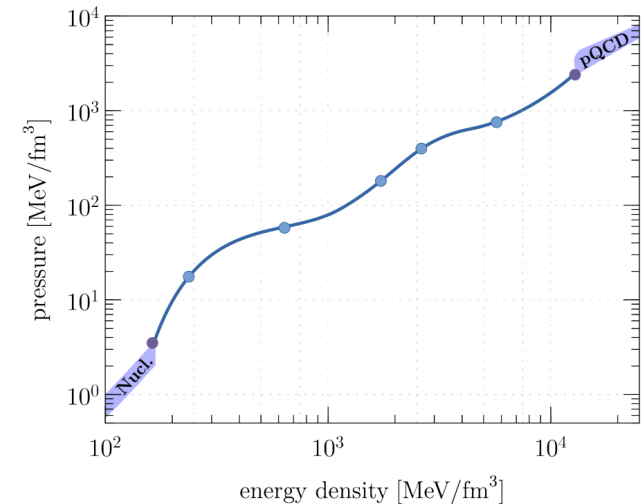
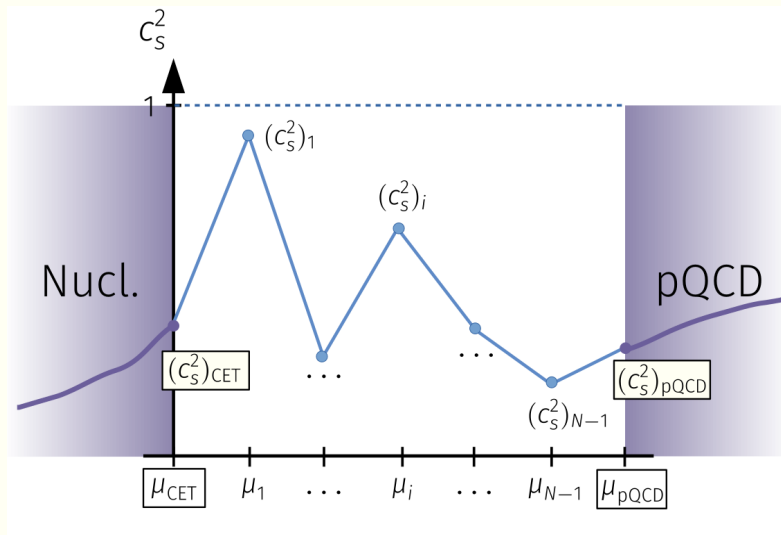
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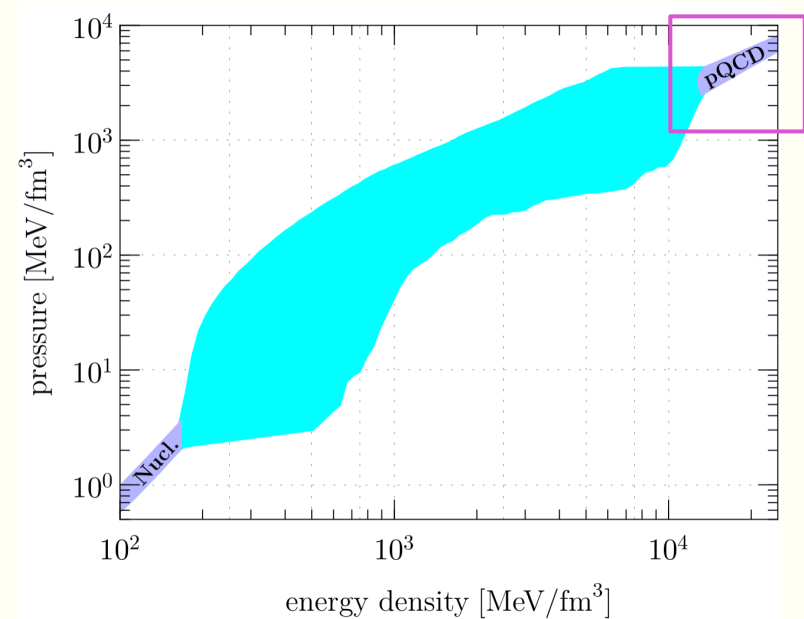
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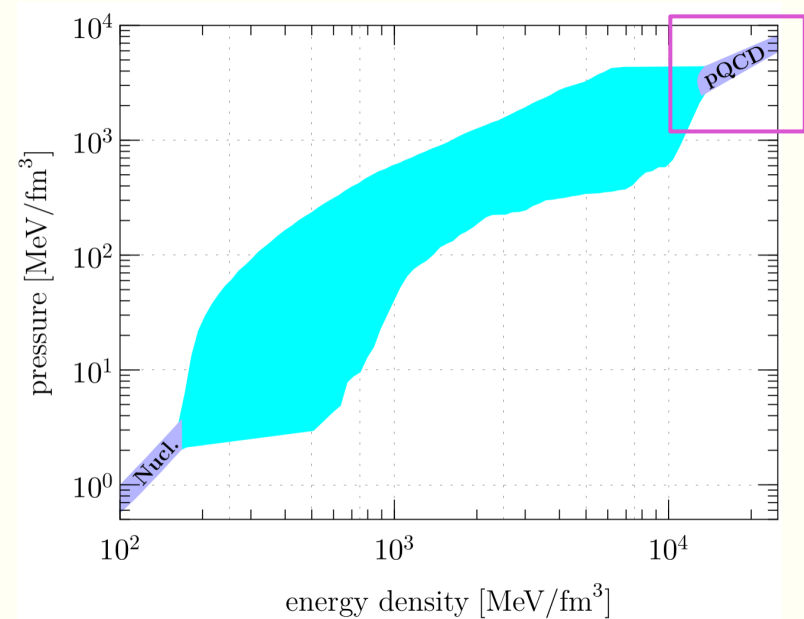
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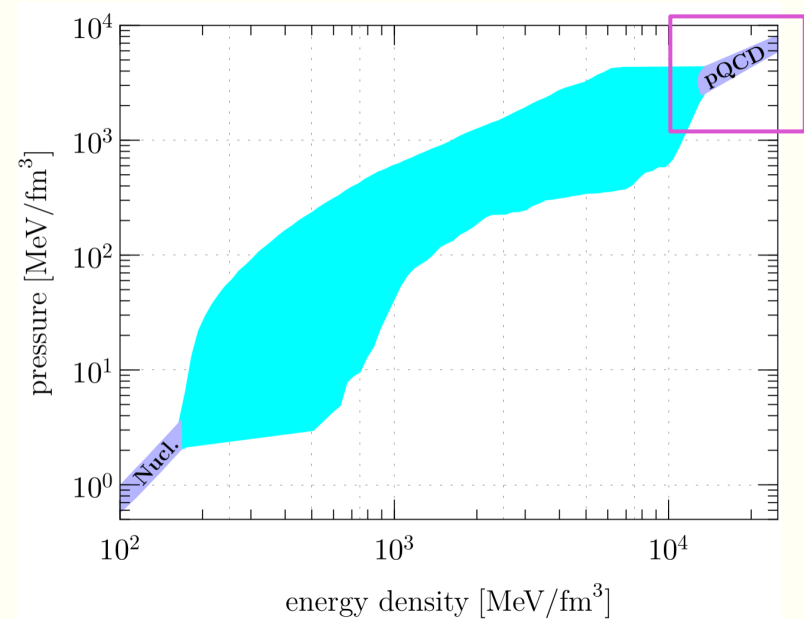
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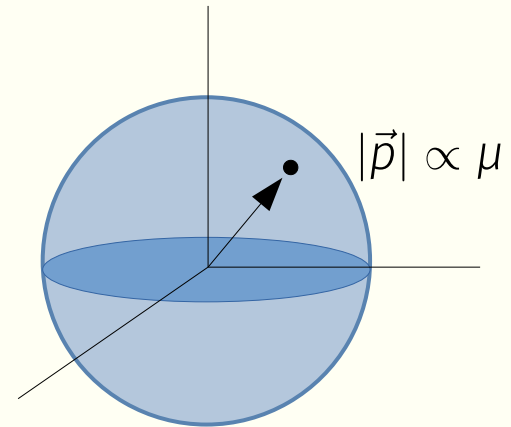
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- *This is why we are interested in pQCD, and improving pQCD at high density*



Motivation: What is pQCD (cold QM)?

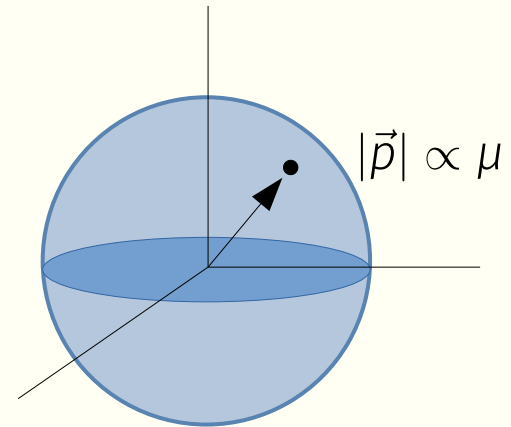
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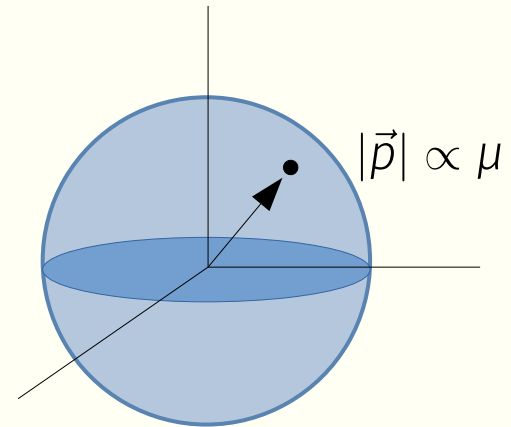
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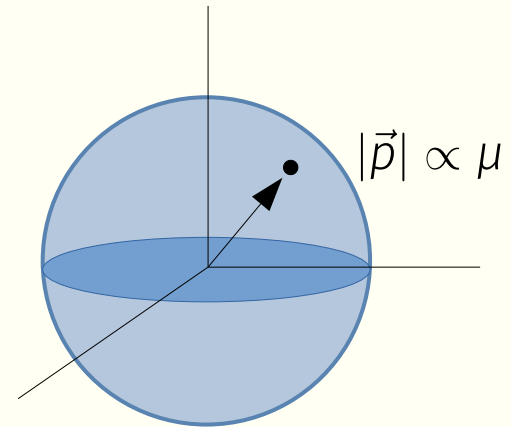
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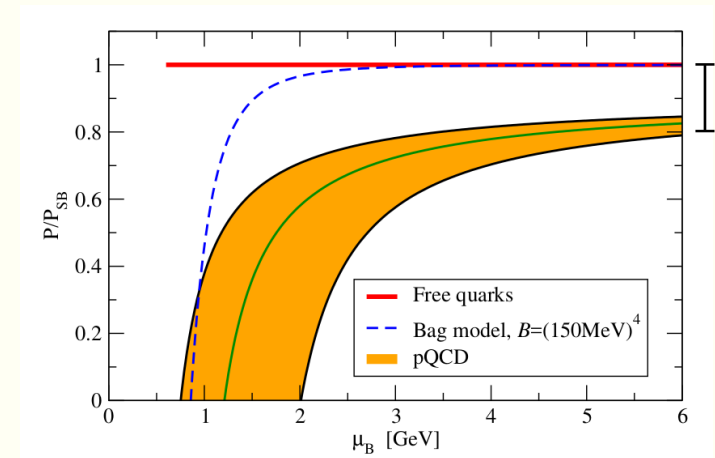
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- **However**, the interaction corrections do matter (20% effect!), and $\alpha_s(\Lambda)$ depends on a *renormalization mass scale* (runs with energy of interaction)

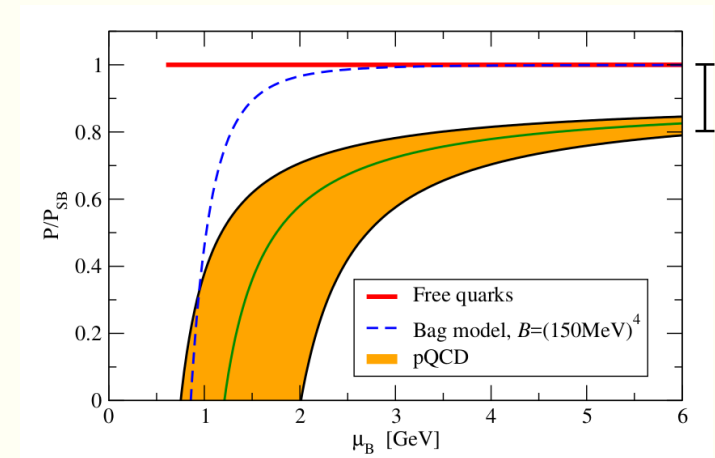


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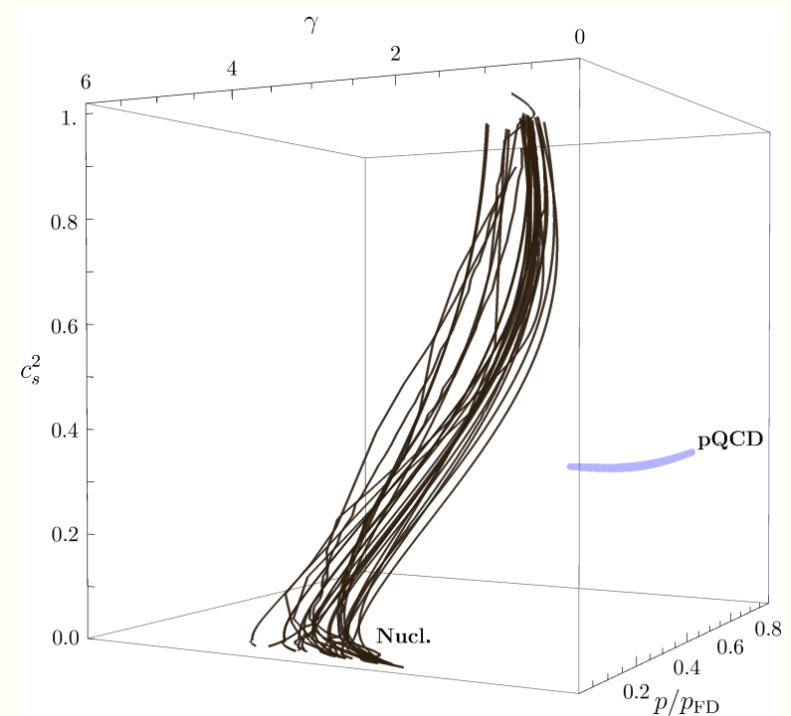
So we want to calculate these corrections accurately!

Motivation: what is Quark Matter? *Physical properties*

- QM has different physical properties than hadronic matter:

Fortin+ Phys. Rev. C 94, (2016), Lattimer & Prakash, Astrophys. J. 550 (2001), Gandolfi+ Phys. Rev. C 85 (2012)

	Hadronic	Quark
c_s^2	increases	$\lesssim 1/3$
$\gamma \equiv \frac{d \ln p}{d \ln \varepsilon}$	≈ 2.5	≈ 1
p/p_{FD}	$\approx 0.1 - 0.3$	$\approx 0.5 - 0.8$



Annala, TG, Kurkela, Nättilä, Vuorinen Nat. Phys. 16 (2020)

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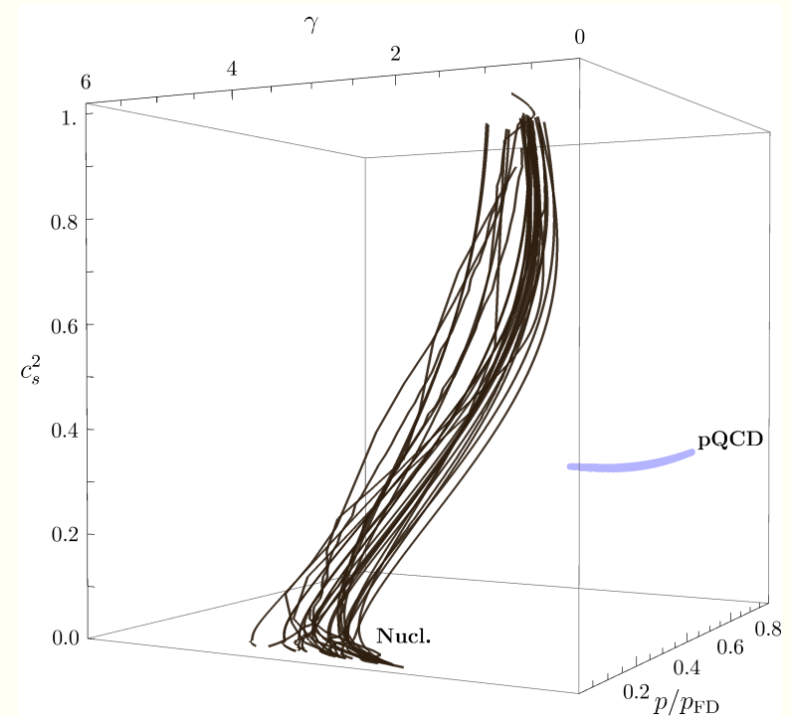
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- Strategy:**

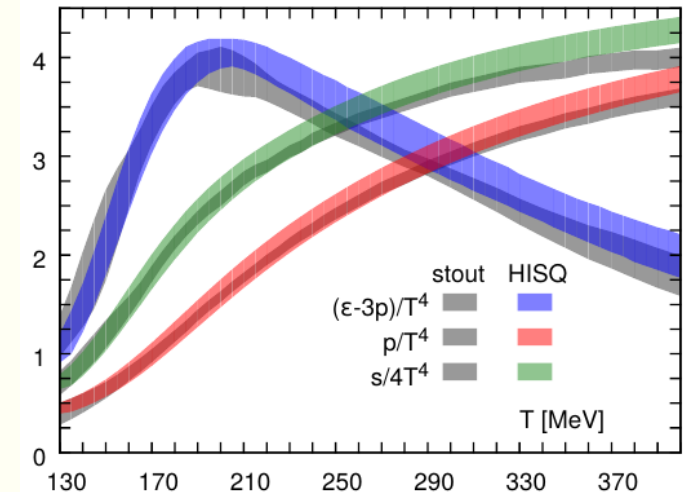
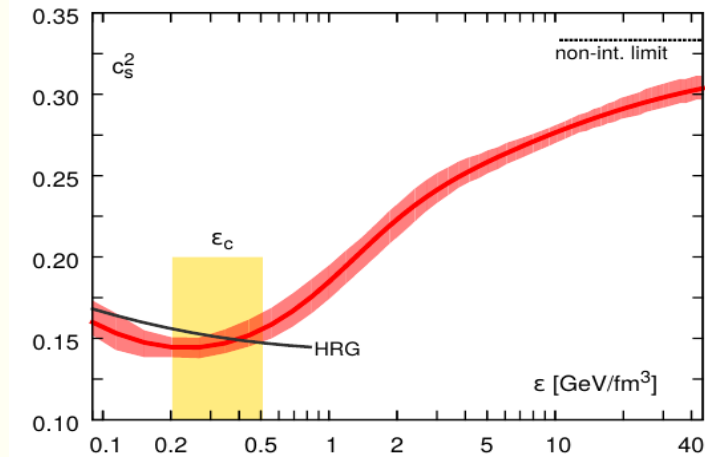
Identify where EoS changes physical properties from hadronic \rightarrow quark



Annala, TG, Kurkela, Nättilä, Vuorinen Nat. Phys. 16 (2020)

Motivation: what is Quark Matter? *Physical properties*

- Similar to looking for change in behavior of lattice results at high T .
- Identify change in phase from *change in physical properties* of matter



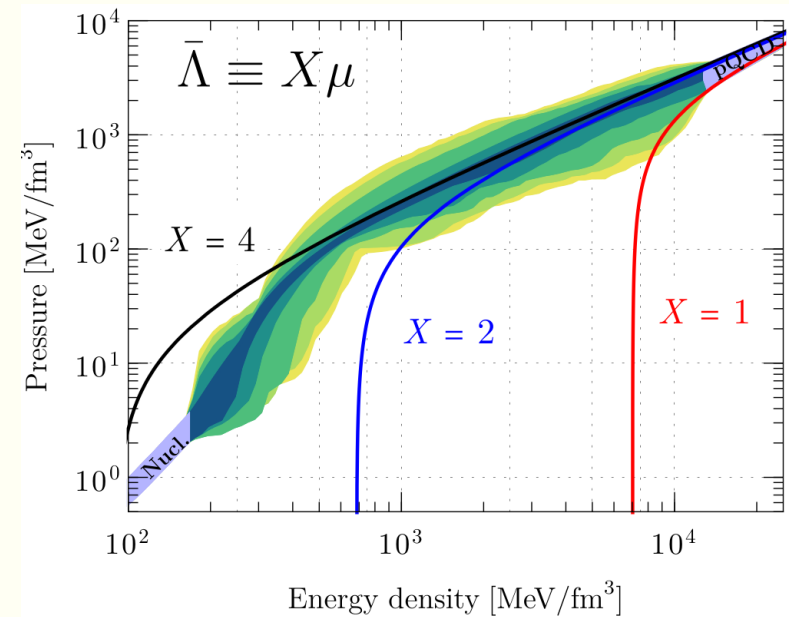
HotQCD Phys.Rev.D 90 (2014), Borsanyi+ Phys. Lett. B 370 (2014)

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Currently, have *large* renorm.-scale dependence

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- Hope that higher-order pQCD calculations will allow us to fix renorm. scale by, e.g., Principle of minimum sensitivity

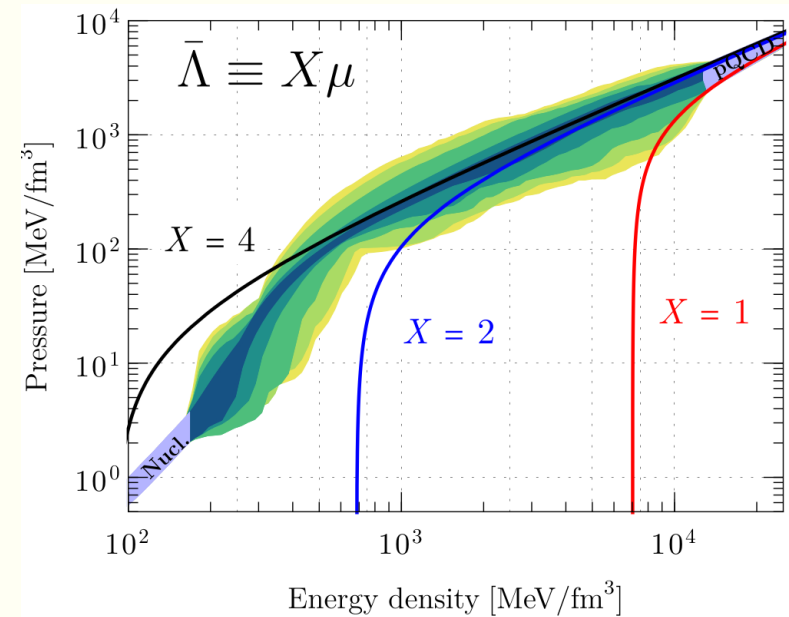
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- *Want to improve cold QM EoS to use down to more relevant densities*



Framework of high-density calculations

Framework for cold QM computations is relativistic thermal QFT.

- Systematic framework for calculating corrections in a series expansion in α_s^* (*important caveats to come!*)

$$p = \underbrace{p_0}_{\text{free quark gas}} + p_1 \alpha_s + p_2 \alpha_s^2 + \dots$$

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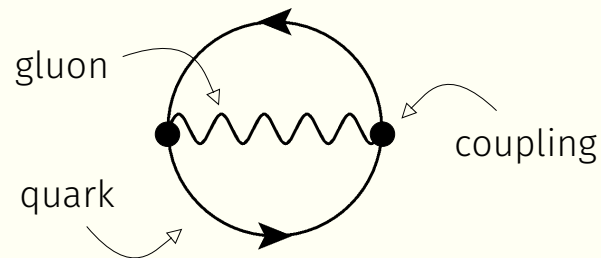
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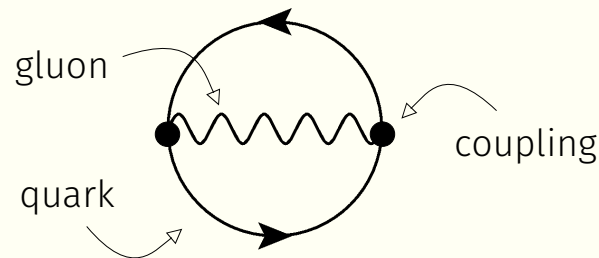
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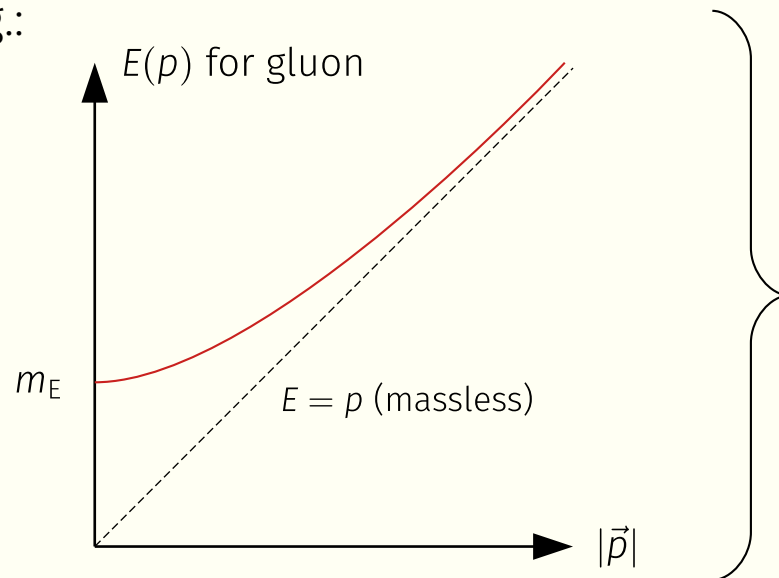


*(no external lines because this is the vacuum with $\mu > 0$)

IR problems...

Important caveat is that TQFT has IR (long-wavelength) differences from what you would expect

e.g.:



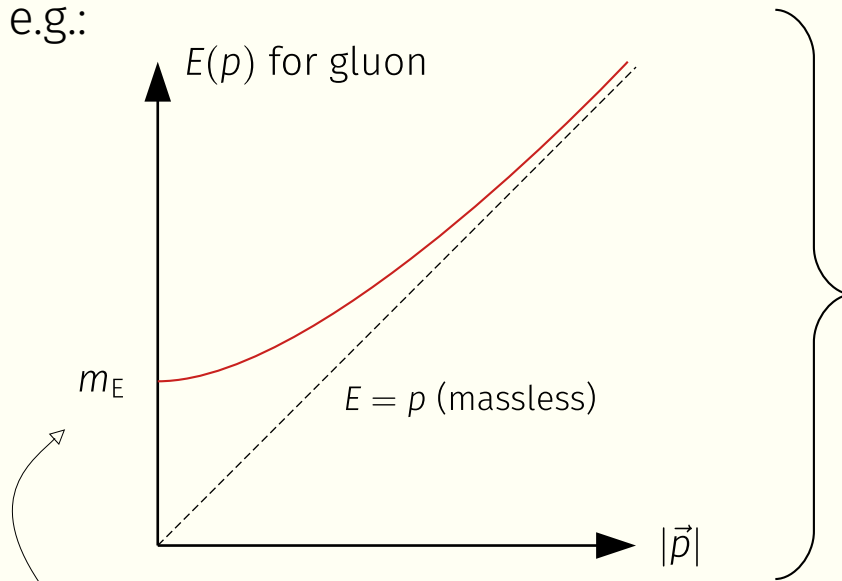
$$-E(\vec{p})^2 + \vec{p}^2 + \overbrace{\Pi(E(\vec{p}), \vec{p})}^{\text{"self-energy"}} = 0$$

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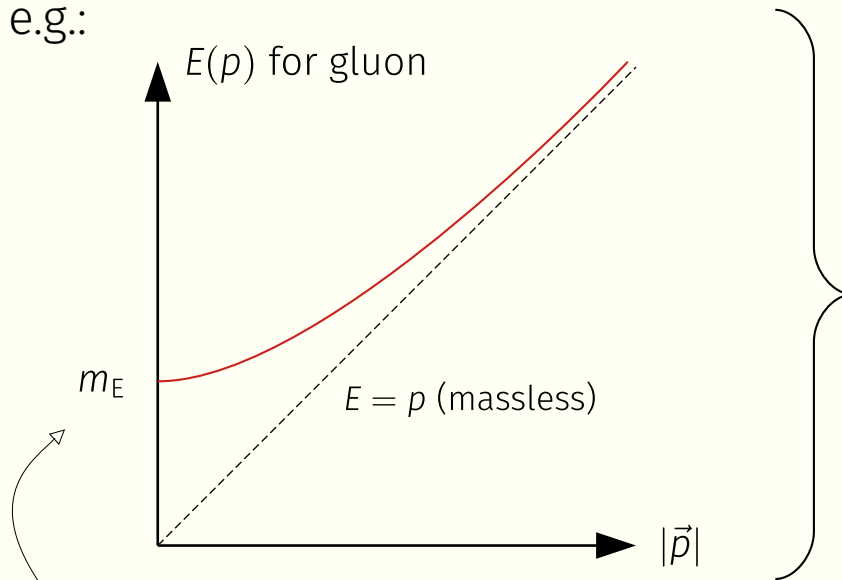
gluon has a *thermal mass*!

$$m_E = O(\alpha_s^{1/2} \mu, \alpha_s^{1/2} T)$$

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- Mass screws up naive Feynman-diagram expansions

Loop expansion \neq coupling expansion

...and their effects

This will modify the naive expectations:

$$p = \underbrace{p_0 + p_1^h \alpha_s + p_2^h \alpha_s^2 + p_3^h \alpha_s^3}_{\text{free quark gas}} \leftarrow \text{scale } |P| \gtrsim \mu$$
$$+ \underbrace{p_2^s \alpha_s^2 + p_3^s \alpha_s^3}_{\text{free soft pressure (screened)}} \leftarrow \text{scale } |P| \lesssim m_E$$
$$+ p_3^m \alpha_s^3 \leftarrow \text{mixed; both scales}$$

TG+ Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021), Phys. Rev. Lett. 127 (2021);
see also TG+ Phys. Rev. Lett. 121 (2018); $O(\alpha_s^2)$: Freedman & McLerran Phys. Rev. D 16 (1977)

Let's dive in!

Defining equations of QCD as a theory

Defining equations (Minkowski space):

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} &= \bar{\psi}(i\not{D} - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu} \\ &= \sum_f \bar{\psi}_f^i \left(\delta_{ij} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_f) - \boxed{g\gamma^\mu A_\mu^a T_{ij}^a} \right) \psi_f^j - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu},\end{aligned}$$

with

interactions

$$F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a - \boxed{gf^{abc}A_\mu^b A_\nu^c}$$

$T^a = \lambda^a/2$ generators of SU(3) in the fundamental representation.

$$f^{111} = 1, f^{458} = f^{678} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}.$$

$$f^{147} = f^{165} = f^{246} = f^{257} = f^{345} = f^{376} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\lambda^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\lambda^4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda^5 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\lambda^6 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda^7 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda^8 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Usually, the algebraic identities below are more important than the actual matrices: ($T_F = \frac{1}{2}$, $C_A = 8$, $C_F = \frac{4}{3}$)

$$[T^a, T^b] = if^{abc}T^c \quad \text{tr}(T^a T^b) = T_F \delta^{ab}, \quad (T^a T^a)_{ij} = C_F \delta_{ij}, \quad f^{acd}f^{bcd} = C_A \delta^{ab},$$

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*Note that only u,d,s
active in dense matter!*

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Thermodynamics of relativistic QFTs: partition function

Want to evaluate partition function:

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conserved current *thermodynamic grand potential*

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- Like in normal QFT, simplest to construct a *path-integral* representation of the partition function by dividing up the “time” interval into equal pieces:

$$e^{-\beta(\hat{H}-\mu\hat{N})} = \underbrace{e^{-\Delta\tau(\hat{H}-\mu\hat{N})} e^{-\Delta\tau(\hat{H}-\mu\hat{N})} \dots e^{-\Delta\tau(\hat{H}-\mu\hat{N})}}_{N \text{ equal pieces}}, \quad \Delta\tau \equiv \frac{\beta}{N}$$

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$$\text{Differentiation: } \frac{d}{d\psi}(c) = 0, \quad \frac{d}{d\psi} \psi = 1; \quad \text{linear}$$

$$\text{(Definite) Integration: } \int d\psi = 0, \quad \int d\psi \psi = 1; \quad \text{linear}$$

Path integral for the partition function: Grassman variables

First need a quick summary of how to deal with fermionic (Grassman) variables.

ψ is an anticommuting variable. We define it to behave the following way:

$$\text{Anticommuting: } \psi_1 \psi_2 = -\psi_2 \psi_1 \quad (\implies \psi^2 = 0)$$

Functions: *defined* by Taylor series

$$f(\psi) \equiv f(0) + \psi f'(0) \quad \text{truncates!}$$

$$\text{Differentiation: } \frac{d}{d\psi}(c) = 0, \quad \frac{d}{d\psi} \psi = 1; \quad \text{linear}$$

$$\text{(Definite) Integration: } \int d\psi = 0, \quad \int d\psi \psi = 1; \quad \text{linear}$$

(Essentially, all operations defined algebraically)

Path integral for the partition function: Coherent states

Follow **Altland and Simons** and use *coherent states* to evaluate [then bosons ($\zeta=+1$) and fermions ($\zeta=-1$) are very similar]:

$$|\varphi\rangle \equiv e^{\pm\varphi\hat{a}^\dagger} |0\rangle \quad \text{so that}$$

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Need the following relations:

$$\text{Completeness:} \quad \text{Id} = \int d(\varphi^\dagger, \varphi) e^{-\varphi^\dagger \varphi} |\varphi\rangle \langle \varphi|$$

$$\text{Overlap:} \quad \langle \varphi' | \varphi \rangle = \exp(\varphi'^\dagger \varphi)$$

$$\text{Measure:} \quad d(\varphi^\dagger, \varphi) = \frac{d\varphi^\dagger d\varphi}{\pi^{(1+\zeta)/2}}$$

Path integral for the partition function: Derivation

First we want to write the trace in the partition function in terms of an integral over these coherent states at the beginning and final “times”:

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= \text{tr} \left[e^{-\beta(\hat{H} - \mu\hat{N})} \right] = \sum_{n>0} \langle n | e^{-\beta(\hat{H} - \mu\hat{N})} | n \rangle \\ &= \int d(\varphi^\dagger, \varphi) e^{-\varphi^\dagger \varphi} \sum_{n>0} \underbrace{\langle n | \varphi \rangle}_{\text{coherent state}} \langle \varphi | e^{-\beta(\hat{H} - \mu\hat{N})} | n \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Path integral for the partition function: Derivation

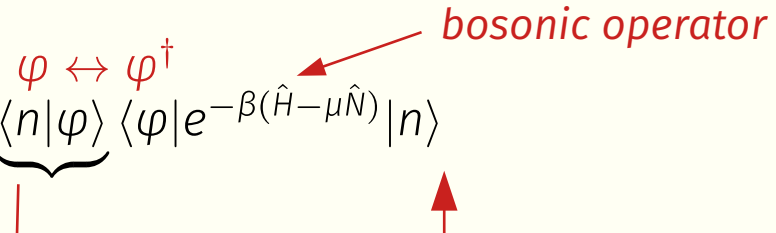
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move to end; exchanges Grassman variables!

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 \end{aligned}$$

Bosons return to same state; fermions to negative the state!

Path integral for the partition function: Derivation

Now break up into little pieces, inserting identities along the way (following **Laine and Vuorinen**)

$$Z = \int d(\varphi^\dagger, \varphi) e^{-\varphi^\dagger \varphi} \langle \pm \varphi | e^{-\beta(\hat{H} - \mu \hat{N})} | \varphi \rangle$$

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Now deal with each term:

$$e^{-\varphi_i^\dagger \varphi_i} \langle \varphi_i | e^{-\Delta\tau(\hat{H}[\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}] - \mu \hat{N}[\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}])} | \varphi_{i-1} \rangle \approx e^{-\varphi_i^\dagger \varphi_i} \langle \varphi_i | \varphi_{i-1} \rangle e^{-\Delta\tau(H[\varphi_i^\dagger, \varphi_{i-1}] - \mu N[\varphi_i^\dagger, \varphi_{i-1}])}$$

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Path integral for the partition function: Derivation

Taking the limit of a large N , gives:

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= \int d(\varphi^\dagger, \varphi) e^{-\varphi^\dagger \varphi} \langle \pm \varphi | e^{-\beta(\hat{H} - \mu \hat{N})} | \varphi \rangle \\ &= \int_{\substack{\varphi^\dagger(\beta) = \pm \varphi^\dagger(0) \\ \varphi(\beta) = \pm \varphi(0)}} \mathcal{D}\varphi^\dagger(\tau) \mathcal{D}\varphi(\tau) \exp \left\{ - \int_0^\beta d\tau \left[\varphi^\dagger(\tau) \frac{d\varphi(\tau)}{d\tau} + H[\varphi^\dagger(\tau), \varphi(\tau)] - \mu N[\varphi^\dagger(\tau), \varphi(\tau)] \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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For usual Hamiltonians, Legendre transformation gives *Euclidean Lagrangian* (now go back to fields as well):

$$Z = \int_{\substack{\varphi^\dagger(\beta, \vec{x}) = \pm \varphi^\dagger(0, \vec{x}) \\ \varphi(\beta, \vec{x}) = \pm \varphi(0, \vec{x})}} \mathcal{D}\varphi^\dagger \mathcal{D}\varphi \exp \left\{ - \int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^3x [\mathcal{L}_E - \mu \mathcal{N}] \right\}$$

Path integral: Summary

$$Z = \int_{\substack{\varphi^\dagger(\beta, \vec{x}) = \pm \varphi^\dagger(0, \vec{x}) \\ \varphi(\beta, \vec{x}) = \pm \varphi(0, \vec{x})}} \mathcal{D}\varphi^\dagger \mathcal{D}\varphi \exp \left\{ - \int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^3x [\mathcal{L}_E - \mu \mathcal{N}] \right\}$$

- Compact “time” integral
- Bosons periodic in imaginary time (energies $\omega_n = 2\pi nT$)
- Fermions anti-periodic in imaginary time [energies $\omega_n = 2\pi(n + \frac{1}{2})T$]
- Path integral with Euclidean Lagrangian ($t \rightarrow -i\tau$)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}}^E = \sum_f \bar{\psi}_f^i \left(\delta_{ij} (\gamma_\mu^E \partial_\mu + m_f) - ig \gamma_\mu^E A_\mu^a T_{ij}^a \right) \psi_f^j + \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu},$$

High density

$$Z = \int_{\substack{\varphi^\dagger(\beta, \vec{x}) = \pm \varphi^\dagger(0, \vec{x}) \\ \varphi(\beta, \vec{x}) = \pm \varphi(0, \vec{x})}} \mathcal{D}\varphi^\dagger \mathcal{D}\varphi \exp \left\{ - \int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^3x [\mathcal{L}_E - \mu \mathcal{N}] \right\}$$

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- As $T \rightarrow 0$, “time” interval becomes infinite again (periodic/antiperiodic doesn’t matter)
- Chemical potential is like imaginary A^0 field in Euclidean Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_E \ni (\bar{\psi} \not{\partial}_\mu \psi) - (\bar{\psi} \gamma_E^0 \psi) i g A^0 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad (\bar{\psi} \not{\partial}_\mu \psi) - (\bar{\psi} \gamma_E^0 \psi) \mu$$

$$\partial_0 - i g A^0 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \partial_0 - \mu$$

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$$i\omega_n \mapsto i\omega_n - \mu = i(\omega_n + i\mu) \text{ imaginary shift to the frequency!}$$

Perturbation theory

Interacting fields / perturbation theory

Write the action as a free part plus an interacting part, $S[\varphi] = S_0[\varphi] + S_I[\varphi]$
assume interaction is small:

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connected

$$\Omega = \Omega_0 + \langle S_I - \frac{1}{2}S_I^2 + \dots \rangle_{0,c}$$

connected corrections!

Interacting fields: Wick's theorem

Q: How do we compute these connected corrections?

A: Introduce a source and differentiate:

Write $S_0[\varphi] = \int_{x,y} \frac{1}{2} \varphi_x A_{x,y} \varphi_y,$


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*complete square and
shift φ by constant*



Define $Z[J] = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \exp \left[\int_{x,y} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \varphi_x A_{x,y} \varphi_y + J_x \varphi_x \right) \right] = \exp \left[\int_{x,y} \frac{1}{2} J_x A_{x,y}^{-1} J_y \right] Z[0]$


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Then $\langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \cdots \varphi_N \rangle_{0,c} = \frac{1}{Z[0]} \frac{\delta}{\delta J_1} \frac{\delta}{\delta J_2} \cdots \frac{\delta}{\delta J_N} Z[J] \Big|_{J=0}$


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$$= \frac{\delta}{\delta J_1} \frac{\delta}{\delta J_2} \cdots \frac{\delta}{\delta J_N} \left(1 + \int_{a,b} \frac{1}{2} J_a A_{a,b}^{-1} J_b + \frac{1}{2} \int_{a,b} \frac{1}{2} J_a A_{a,b}^{-1} J_b \int_{c,d} \frac{1}{2} J_c A_{c,d}^{-1} J_d + \cdots \right) \Big|_{J=0}$$

Interacting fields: Wick's theorem

Q: How do we compute these connected corrections?

A: Introduce a source and differentiate:

Write $S_0[\varphi] = \int_{x,y} \frac{1}{2} \varphi_x A_{x,y} \varphi_y,$

*complete square and
shift φ by constant*

Define $Z[J] = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \exp \left[\int_{x,y} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \varphi_x A_{x,y} \varphi_y + J_x \varphi_x \right) \right] = \exp \left[\int_{x,y} \frac{1}{2} J_x A_{x,y}^{-1} J_y \right] Z[0]$

Then $\langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \cdots \varphi_N \rangle_{0,c} = \frac{1}{Z[0]} \frac{\delta}{\delta J_1} \frac{\delta}{\delta J_2} \cdots \frac{\delta}{\delta J_N} Z[J] \Big|_{J=0}$

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Feynman diagrams, propagator, self-energy

An example, from ϕ^4 theory:

$$\langle S_I \rangle_{0,c} = \frac{\lambda}{4!} \langle \phi\phi\phi\phi \rangle_{0,c}$$

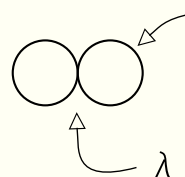
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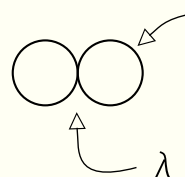
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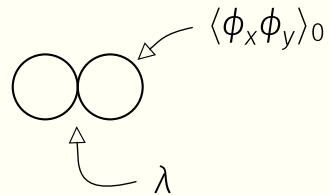
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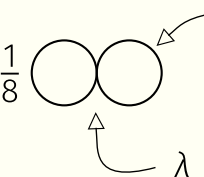
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Full correlation function \rightarrow

$$\text{---} = \text{---} - \text{---}(\Pi)\text{---} + \text{---}(\Pi)(\Pi)\text{---} - \dots$$

$$\langle \phi\phi \rangle_c = \langle \phi\phi \rangle_0 - \langle \phi\phi \rangle_0 \Pi \langle \phi\phi \rangle_c \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \langle \phi\phi \rangle_c^{-1} = \langle \phi\phi \rangle_0^{-1} + \Pi$$

Self-energy evaluation

The self energy has a nontrivial IR limit; let's calculate it in QCD:

Rearranging prev. expression for the one-loop gluon self energy at high density:

$$\langle\phi\phi\rangle_c - \langle\phi\phi\rangle_0 = \langle\phi\phi(e^{-S_i} - 1)\rangle_{0,c} = -\langle\phi\phi\rangle_0 \Pi \langle\phi\phi\rangle_c$$

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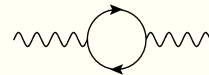
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$$= \text{diagram: a wavy line with a fermion loop}$$

$$\Pi(P) = -g^2 T_f \delta^{ab} \int_Q \text{tr} \left\{ \left[\frac{i \not{Q}}{Q^2} \right] \gamma^\mu \left[\frac{i(\not{P} + \not{Q})}{(P+Q)^2} \right] \gamma^\nu \right\} = g^2 T_f \delta^{ab} \int_Q \frac{\text{tr} \{ \not{Q} \gamma^\mu (\not{P} + \not{Q}) \gamma^\nu \}}{Q^2 (P+Q)^2}$$

(Remember $Q^0 \rightarrow Q^0 + i\mu$)

Self-energy evaluation; Hard Thermal/Dense Loop limit

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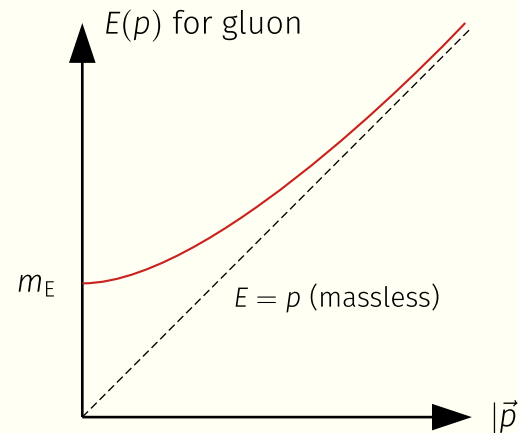
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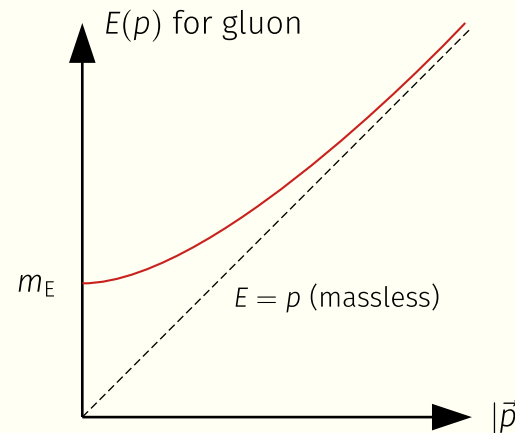
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“Hard thermal/dense loops”



Braaten & Pisarski, Phys. Rev. D 42 (1990), 46 (1992); in cold QM context: Manuel, Phys. Rev. D 53 (1996)

Self-energy evaluation; Hard Thermal/Dense Loop limit

Nontrivial dependence on $P^0/|\vec{p}|$ in the HTL result (so more than just a thermal mass):

$$\Pi_{ab}^{\mu\nu}(P) = m_E^2 \int_{\hat{V}} \left(\delta^{\mu 0} \delta^{\nu 0} - \frac{i P^0}{P \cdot V} V^\mu V^\nu \right)$$

$$m_E \equiv \sum_f \frac{g^2 \mu_f^2}{2\pi^2}, \quad V^\mu \equiv (-i, \hat{v}), \quad \hat{v} \in S^2 \text{ (unit vector in } \mathbb{R}^3), \quad \int_{\hat{v}} \text{ normalized to 1}$$

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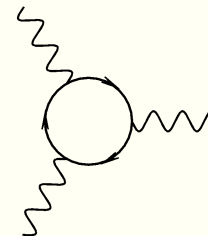
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Similar HTL contributions for N -point gluon functions:



Corrections to the EoS from different kinematic regions

Current state-of-the-art: contributions from different kinematic regions

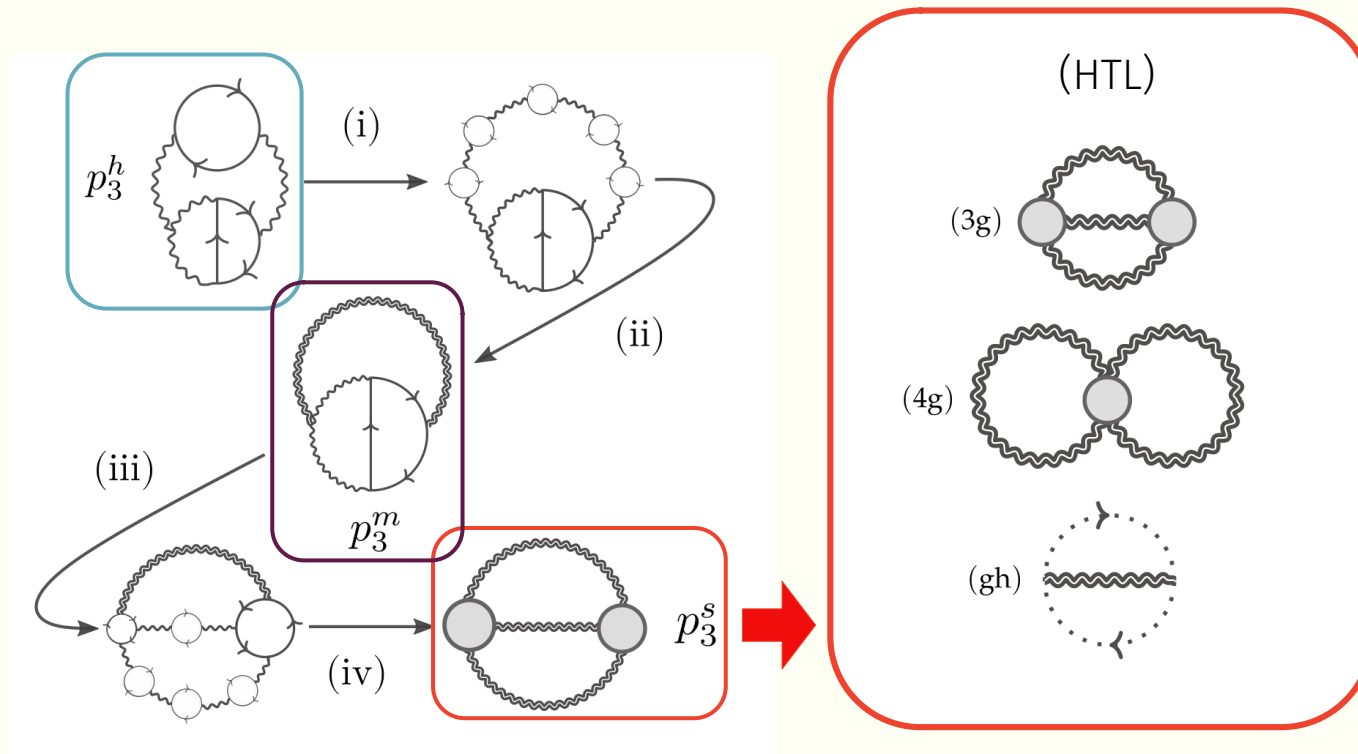
$$\begin{aligned}
 p = & \underbrace{p_0}_{\text{free quark gas}} + p_1^h \alpha_s + p_2^h \alpha_s^2 + p_3^h \alpha_s^3 \quad \leftarrow \text{scale } |P| \gtrsim \mu \\
 & + \underbrace{p_2^s \alpha_s^2 + p_3^s \alpha_s^3}_{\text{free soft pressure (screened)}} \quad \leftarrow \text{scale } |P| \lesssim m_E \\
 & + p_3^m \alpha_s^3 \quad \leftarrow \text{mixed; both scales}
 \end{aligned}$$

TG+ Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021), Phys. Rev. Lett. 127 (2021);
 see also TG+ Phys. Rev. Lett. 121 (2018); $O(\alpha_s^2)$: Freedman & McLerran Phys. Rev. D 16 (1977)

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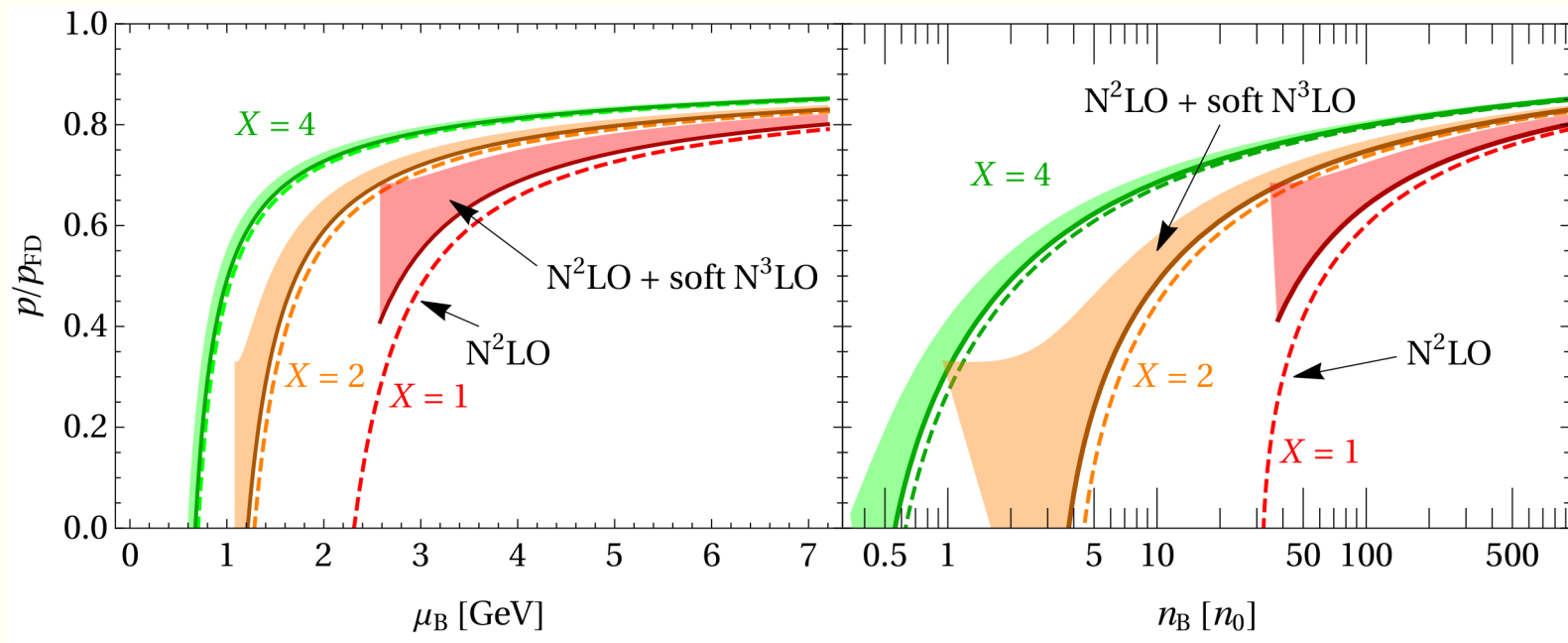
TG, Kurkela, Paatelainen, Säppi, Vuorinen, Phys. Rev. Lett. 127 (2021), Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021)



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Decreases renormalization-scale sensitivity

Concluding remarks

- TQFT at high density is systematically improvable framework for calculating corrections to thermodynamic properties
- Rich EFT structure, involving multiple scales
- Current state-of-the-art for cold QM calculations are N³LO, and are ongoing, using approach of kinematic regions
- Cold QM EoS restricts NS-matter EoS at lower densities

References to books:

Two books I referenced, and one I recommend for general QFT:

- A. Altland, B. Simons. Condensed matter field theory. Cambridge, Univ. Press (2006).
- M. Laine, A. Vuorinen. Basics of thermal field theory. Lect. Notes Phys. 925 (2016).
- M. Schwartz. Quantum field theory and the standard model. Cambridge, Univ. Press (2013).