

# Exotic Matter in Neutron Stars

Veronica Dexheimer



**KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**Center for Nuclear  
Research**



**FULBRIGHT  
Portugal**

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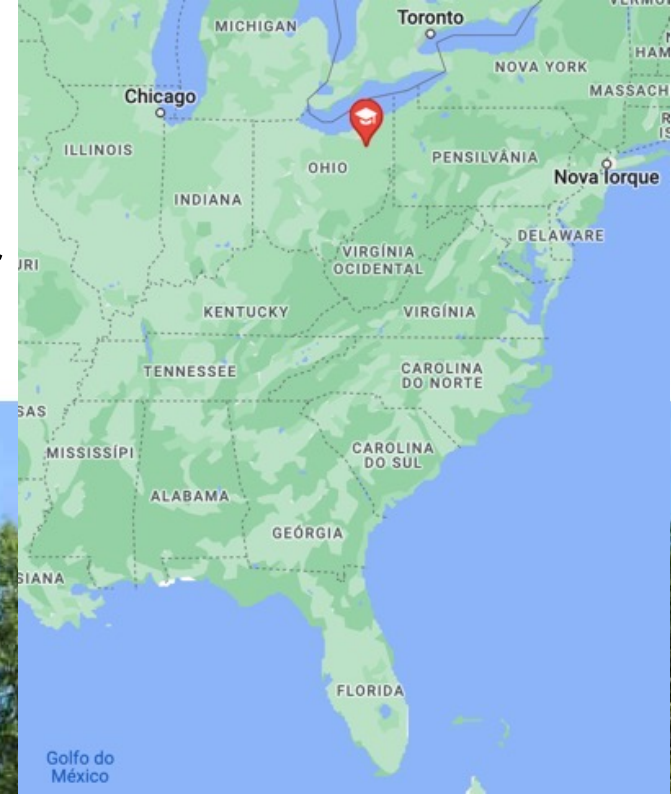
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# ★ Kent State University:

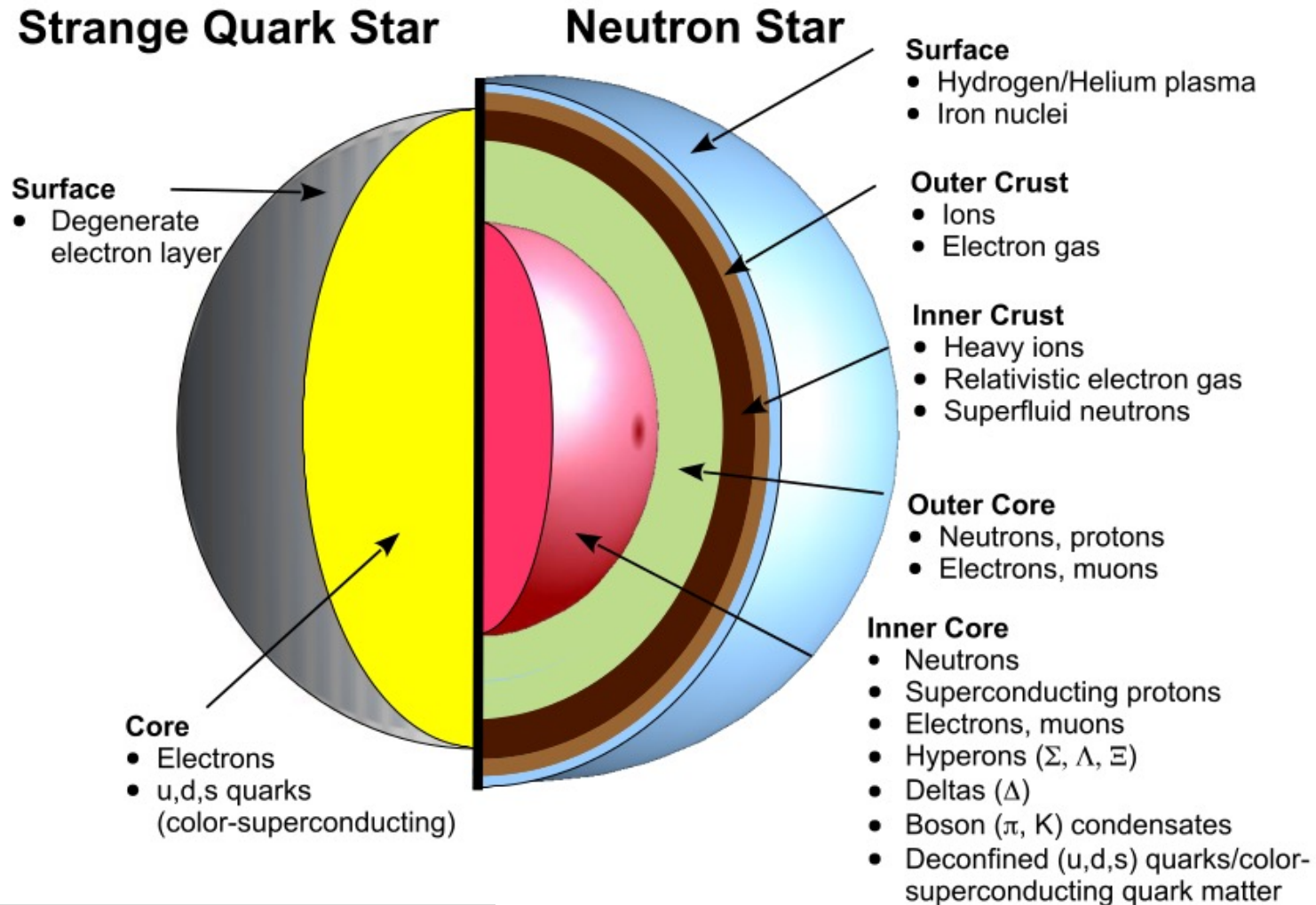
<https://www.kent.edu/physics/profile/veronica-dexheimer>



# Overview

- \* Introduction to neutron stars and the dense-matter equation of state (EoS)
- \* Neutron-star astrophysical observables and relation to dense-matter EoS
- \* Comparison with other systems
- \* Where to find dense-matter and neutron-star EoS's

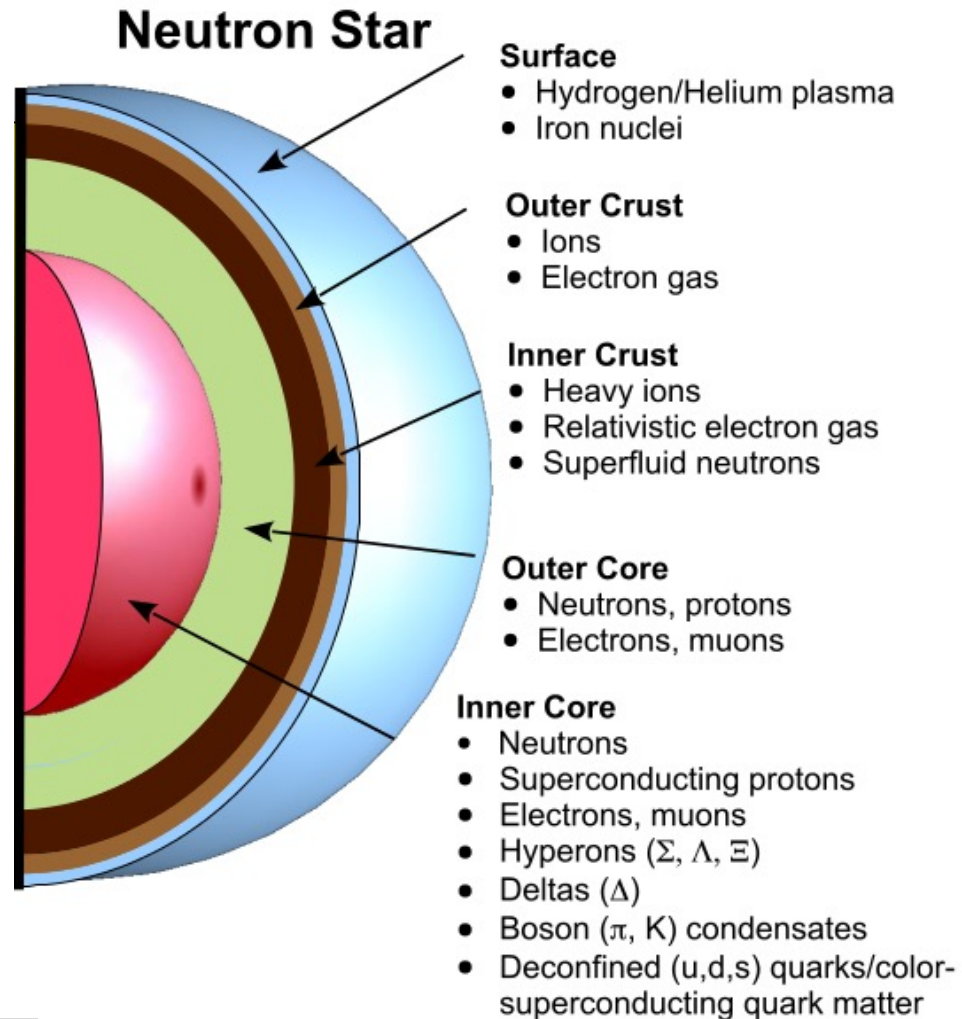
# NS vs. Strange Quark Star structure



*Mod.Phys.Lett.A* 29 (2014) 1430022

e-Print: [1408.0079](https://arxiv.org/abs/1408.0079)

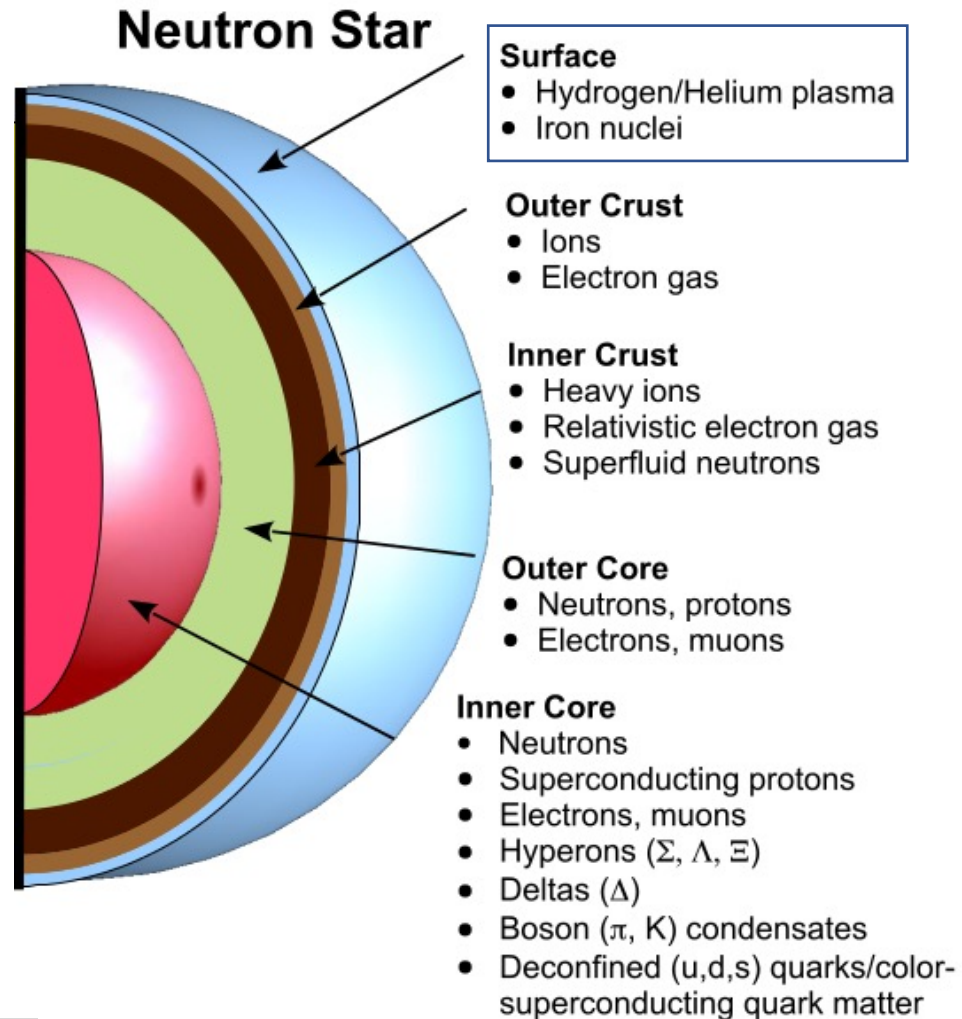
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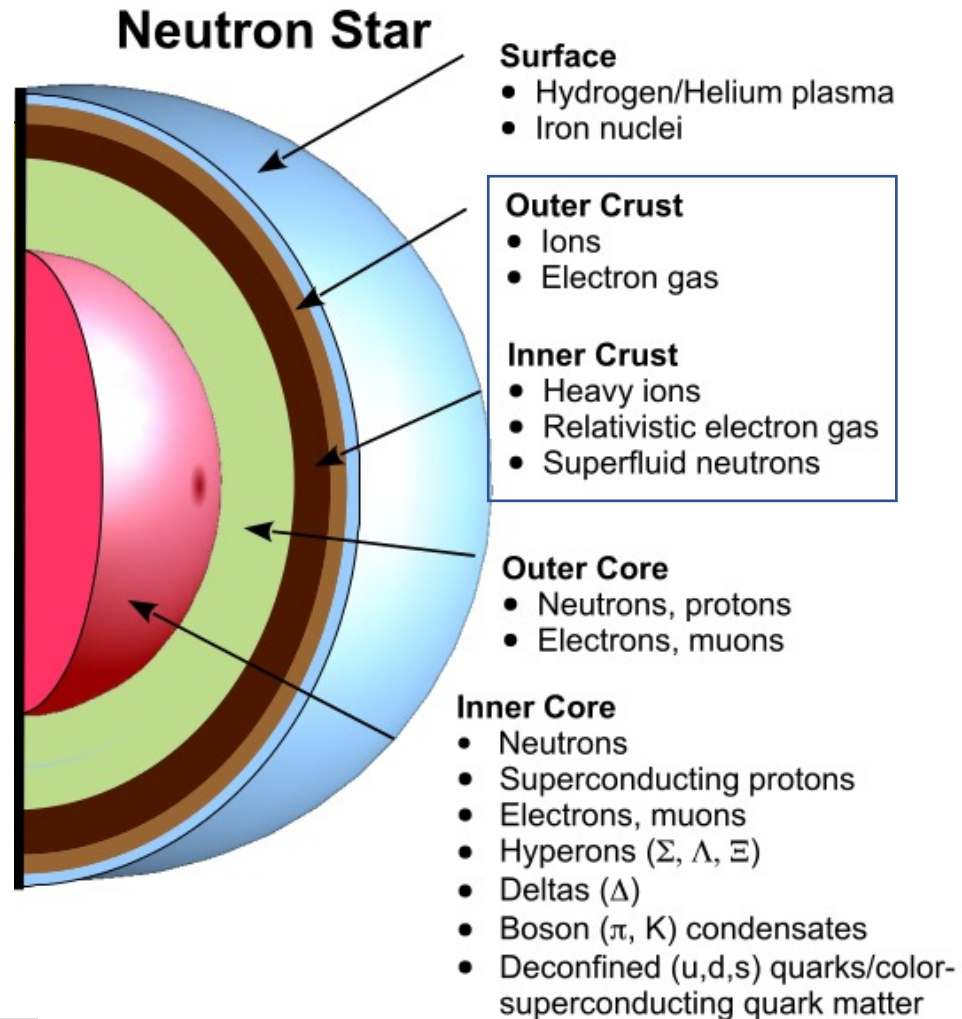
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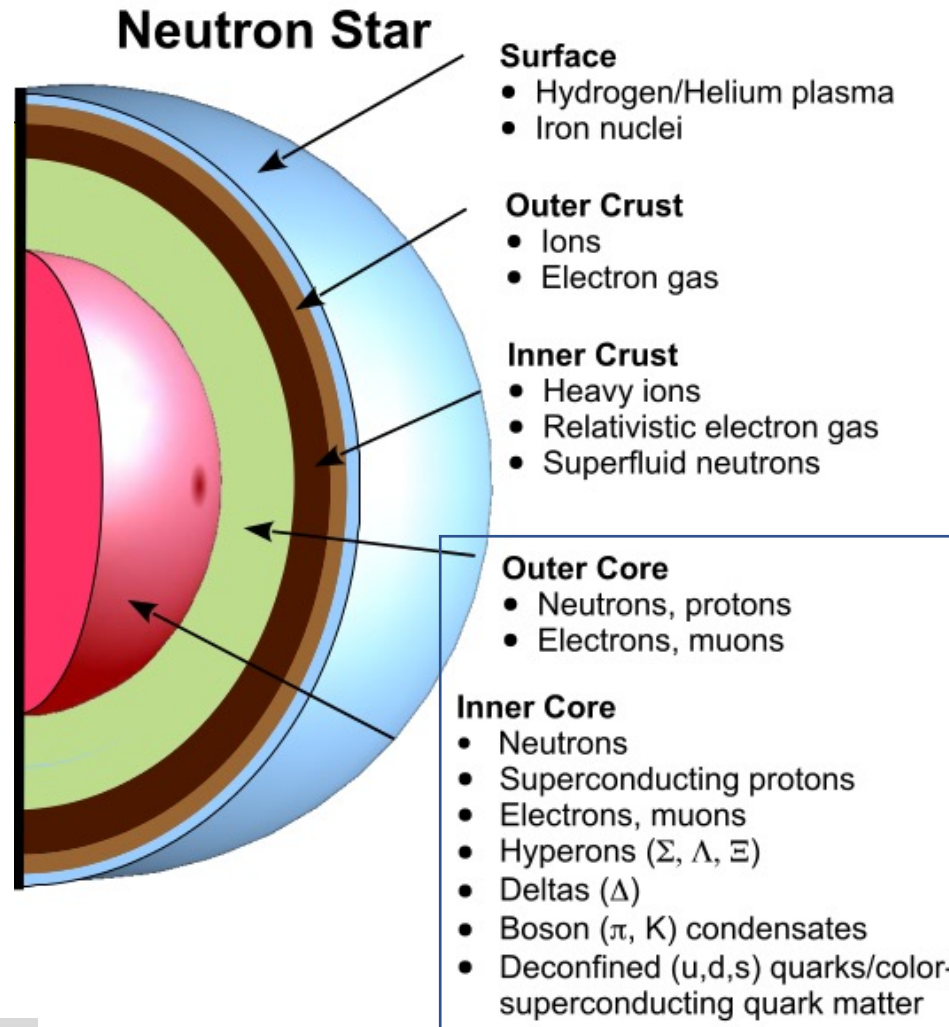
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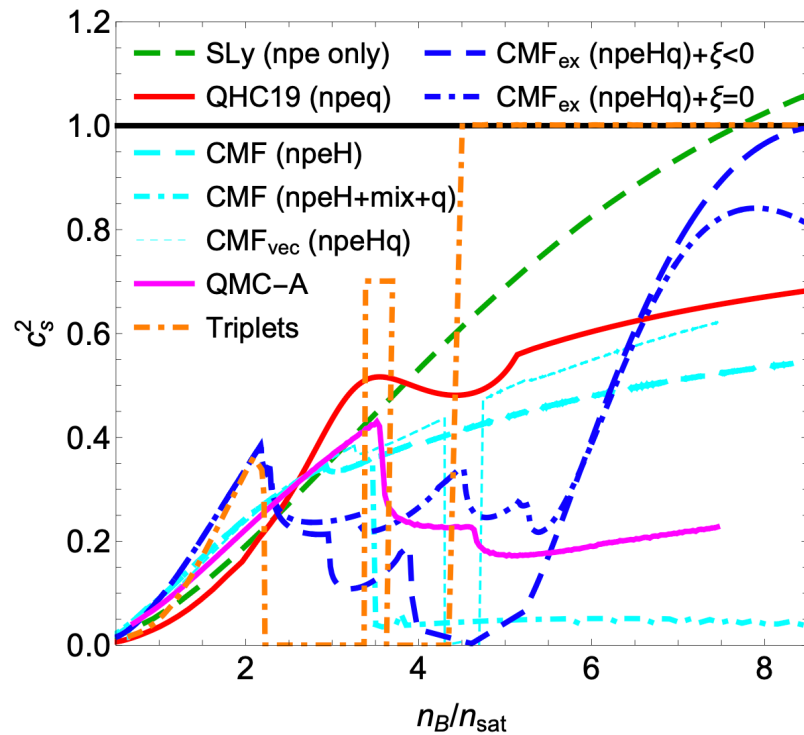
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# Neutron-star core composition

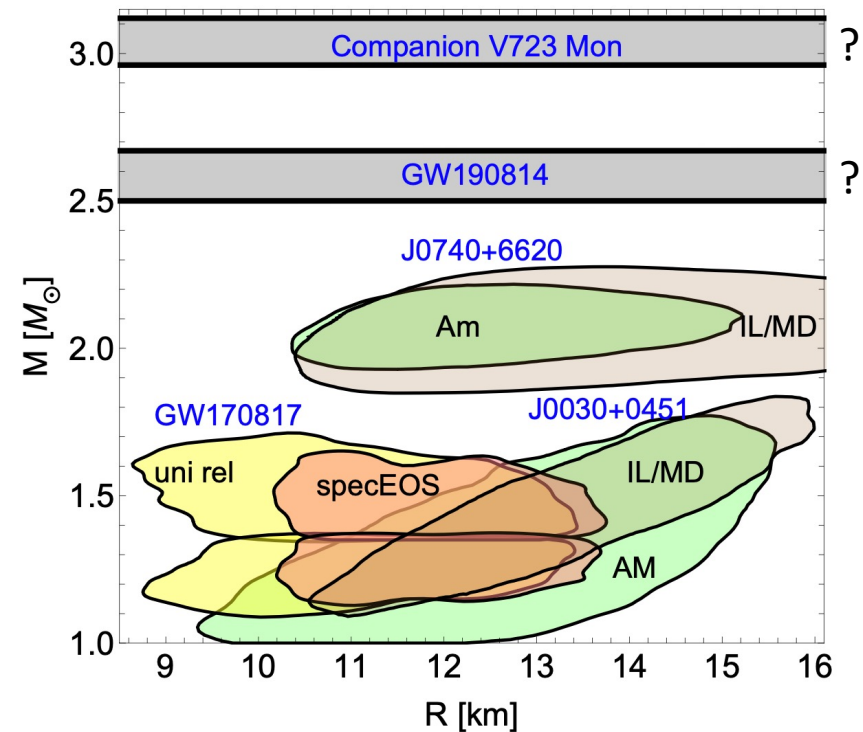
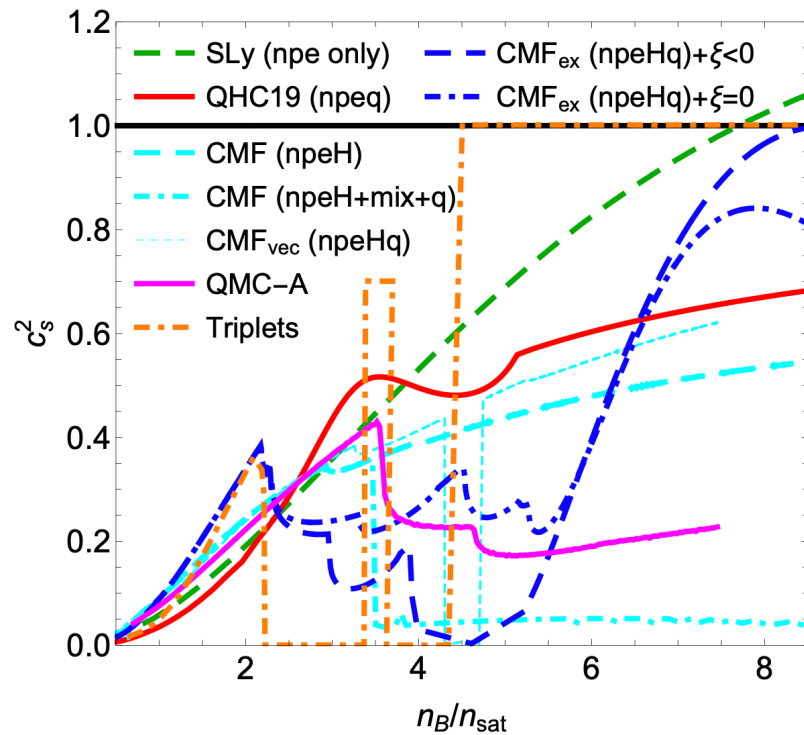
- ★ Different exotic matter associated with different phase transitions
- ★ Not noticeable in the EoS ( $P$  vs.  $\varepsilon$ ), but easily seen in speed of sound ( $dP/d\varepsilon$ )



PRD 105 (2022) 2, 023018 e-Print: [2106.03890](https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.03890)

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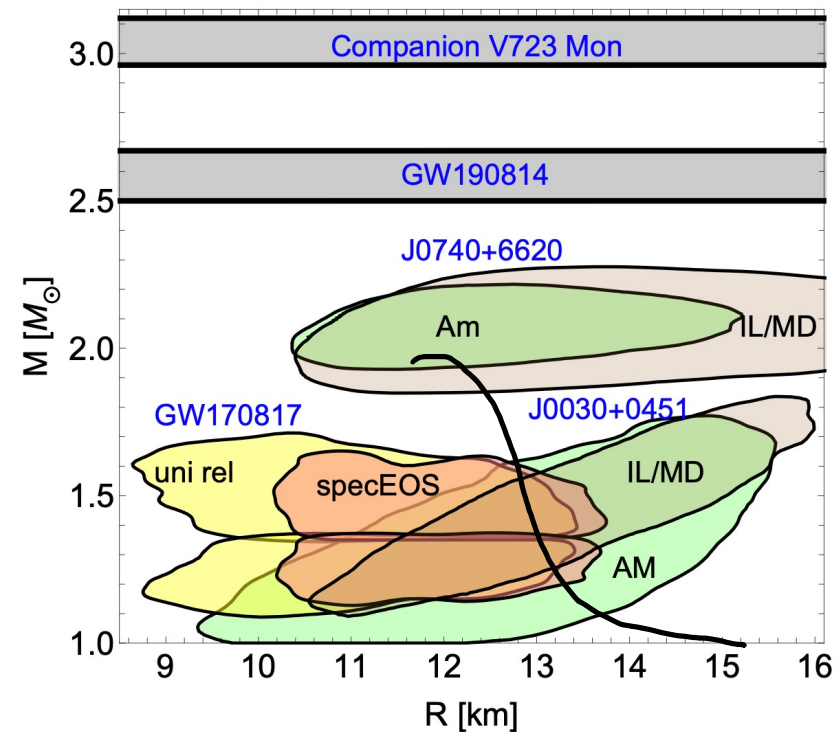
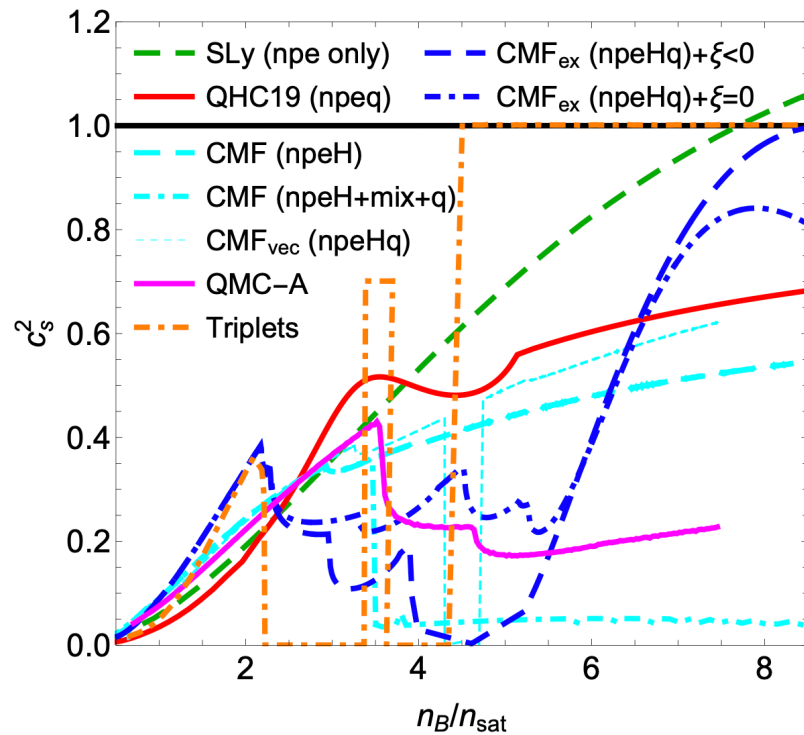
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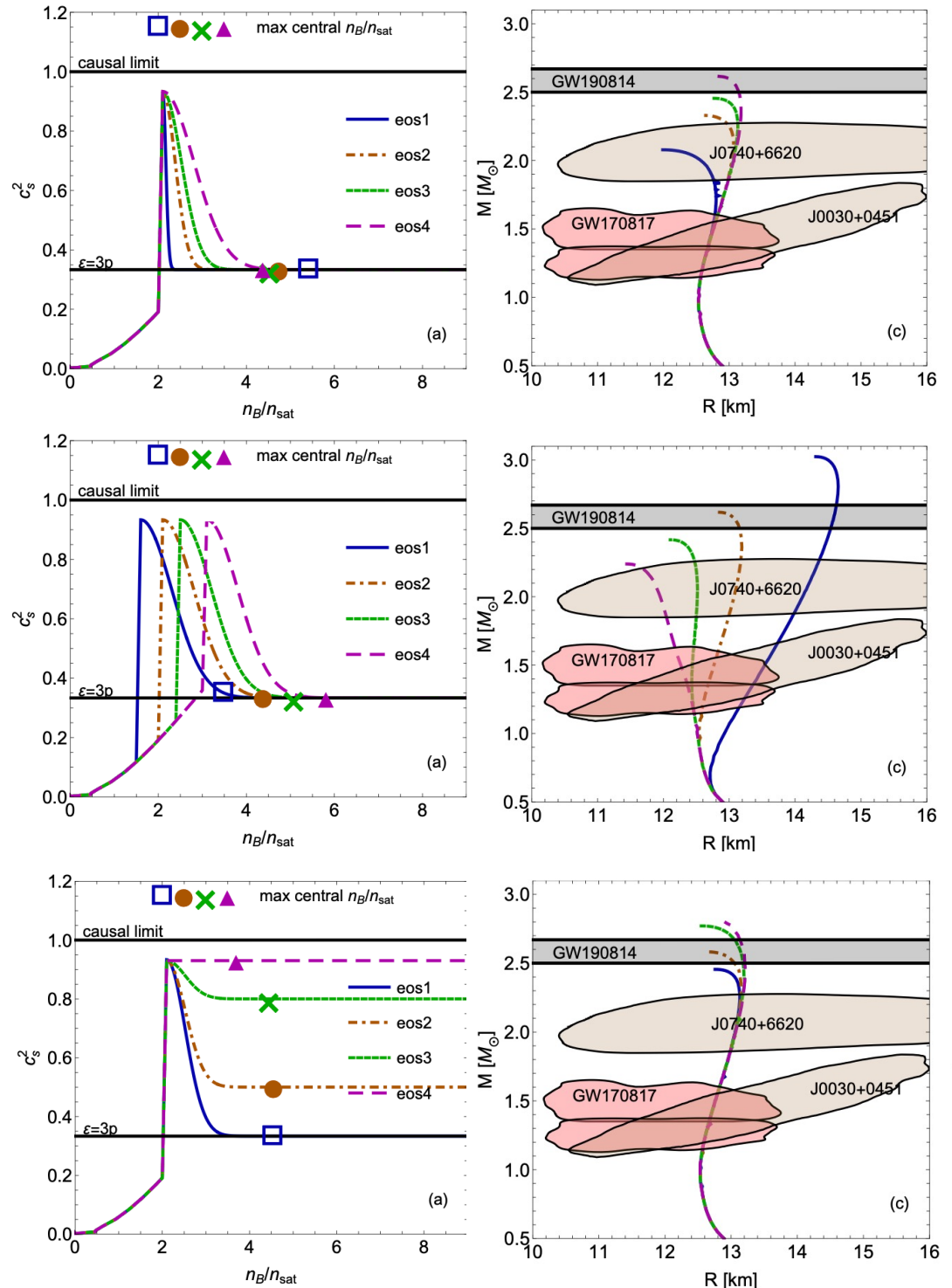


PRD 105 (2022) 2, 023018 e-Print: [2106.03890](https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.03890)

# Parametric approach

- ★ More systematic parametric form for the speed of sound can help to determine neutron-star composition
- ★ Maximum stellar mass and radius can determine width, density, and height of bumps, plus central density of stars

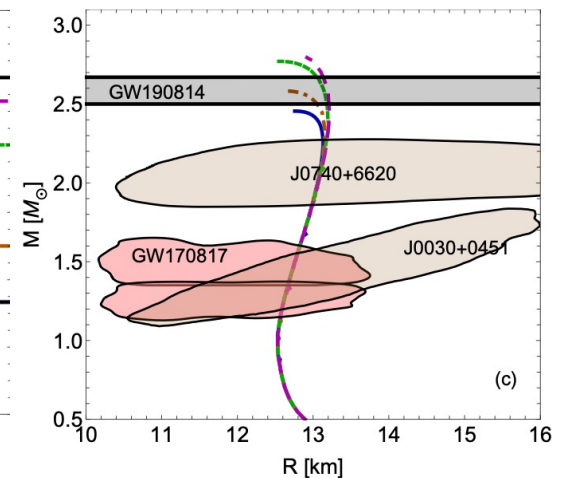
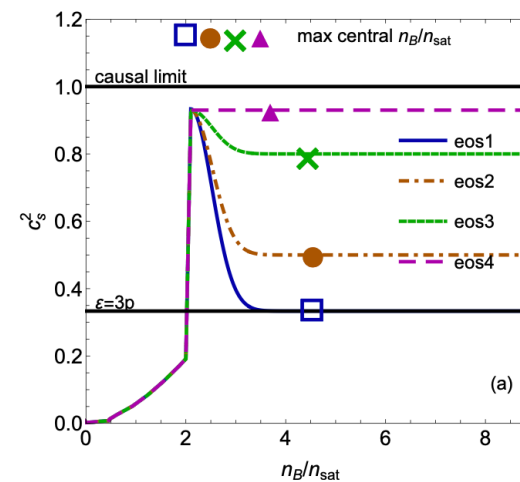
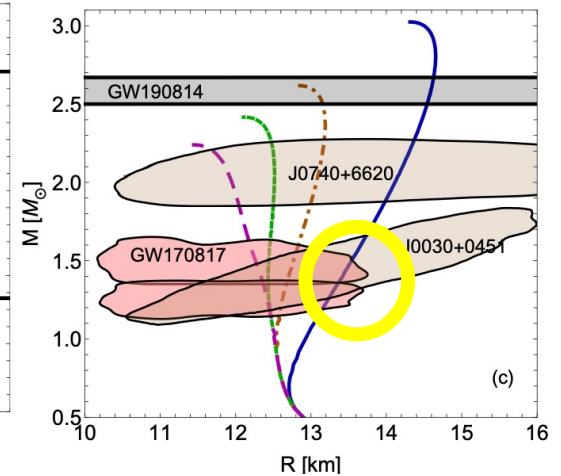
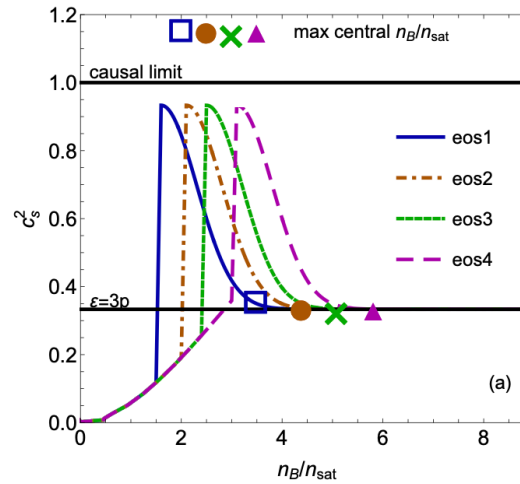
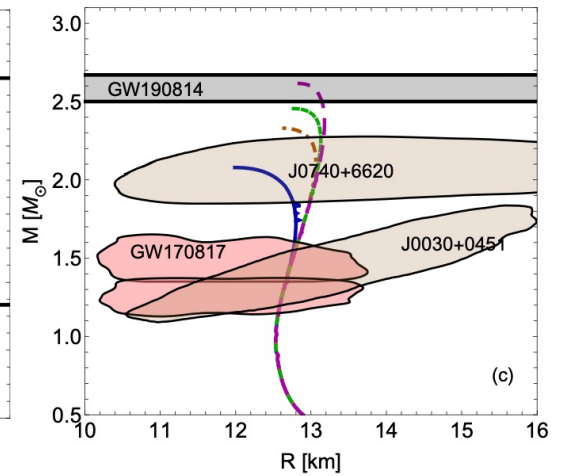
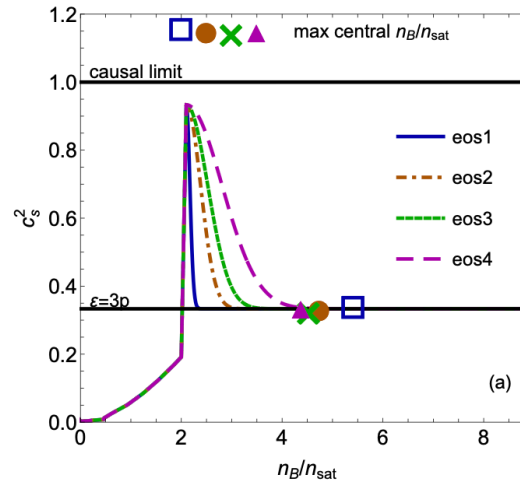
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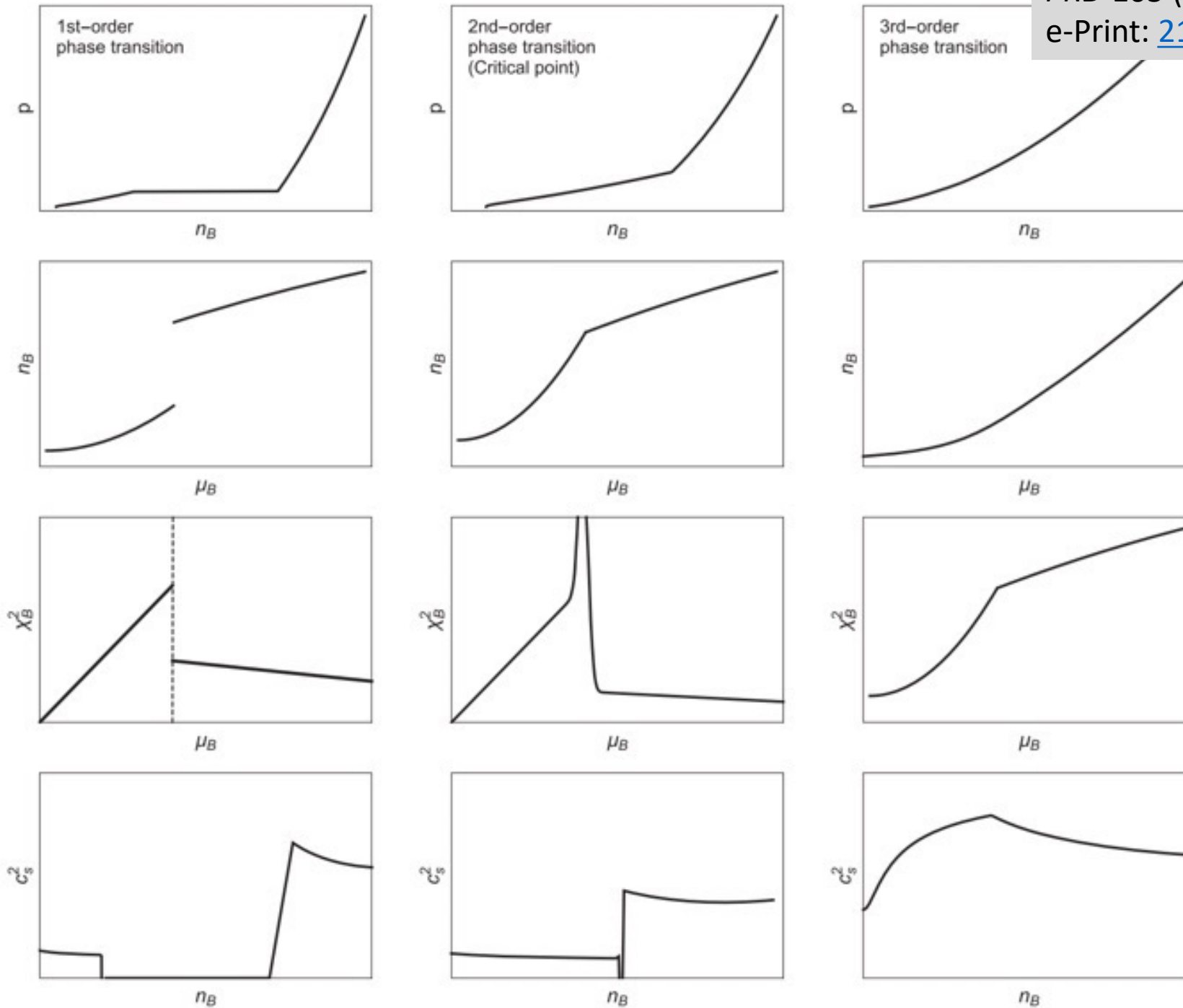
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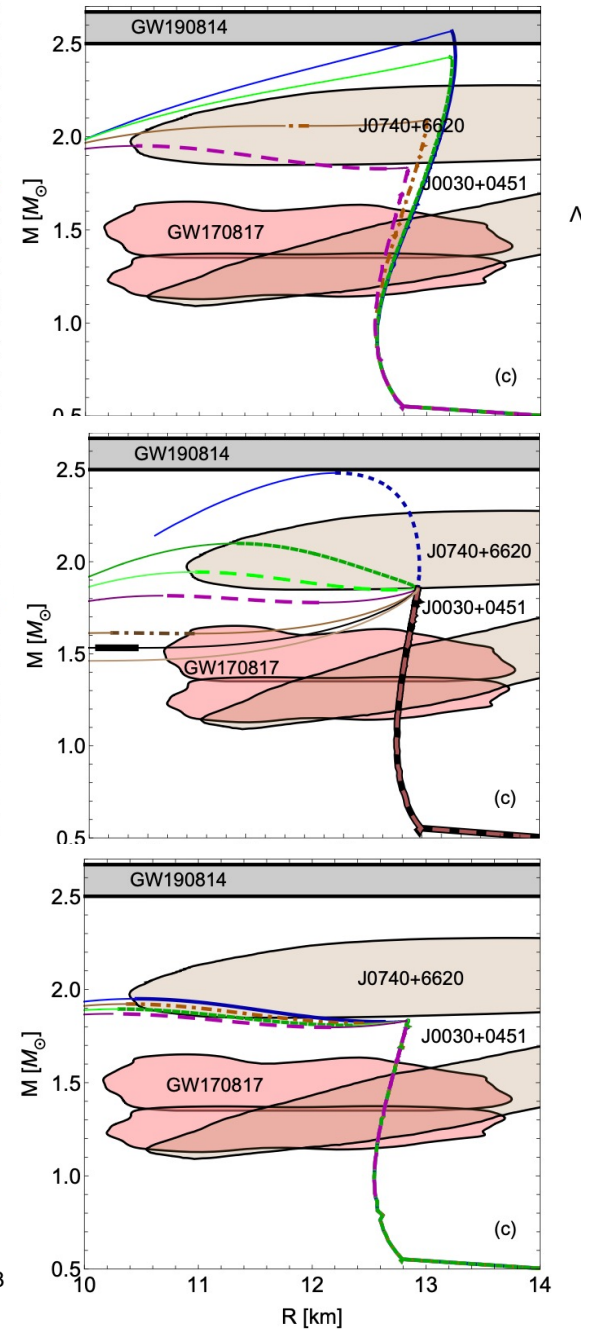
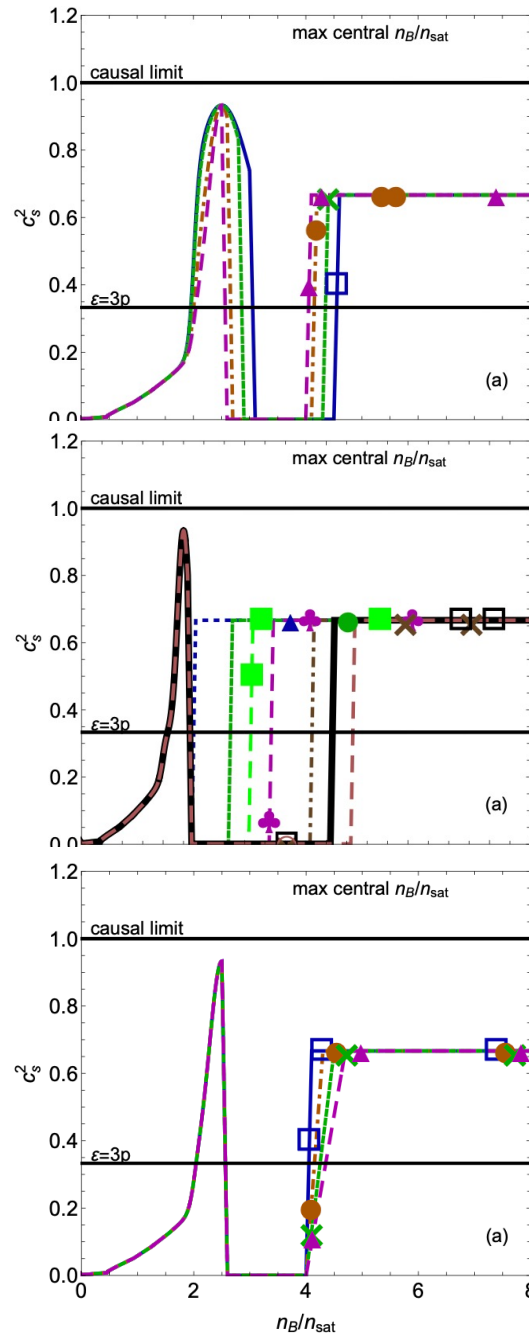
With 1<sup>st</sup> order  
phase transition



# With 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition

- ★ Zero speed of sound not ruled out by observation of massive stars
- ★ But constrained by extremely massive objects

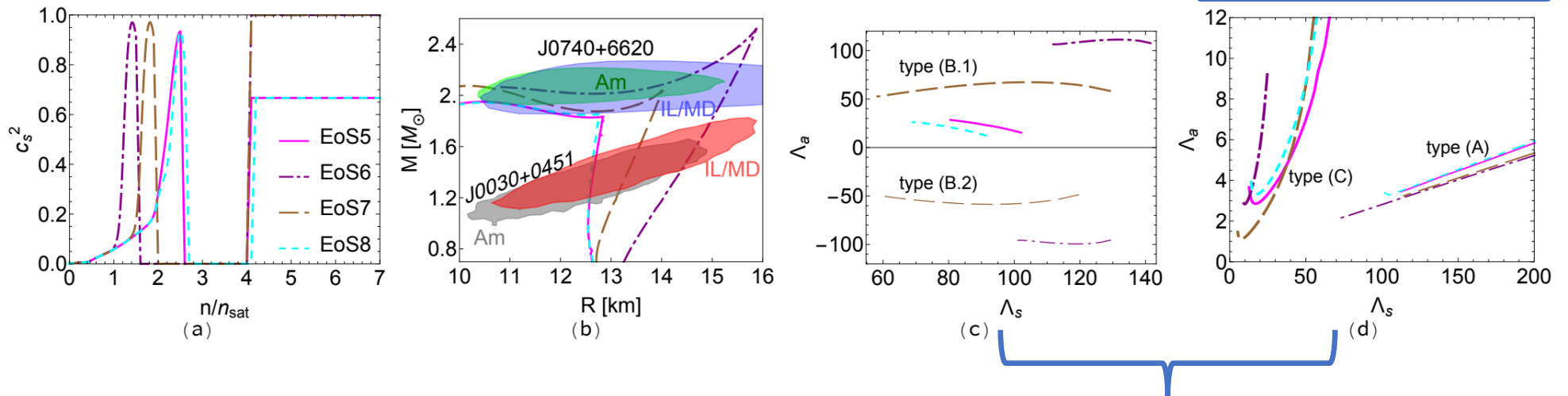
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# Tidal deformability

- ★ Bumps and 1<sup>st</sup>-order phase transitions tilt the mass-radius diagram



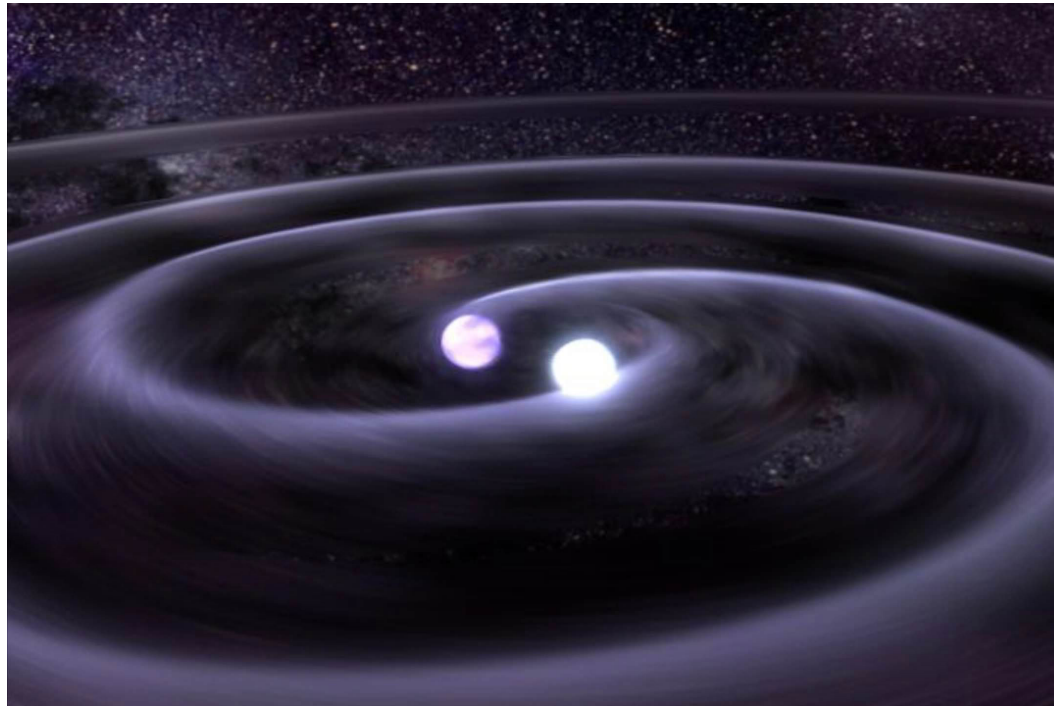
and can create structure in the binary Love relations: slope, hill, drop, and swoosh

- ★ Structure could be observed in near future

*Phys.Rev.Lett.* 128 (2022) 16, 161101  
e-Print: [2111.10260](https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.10260)

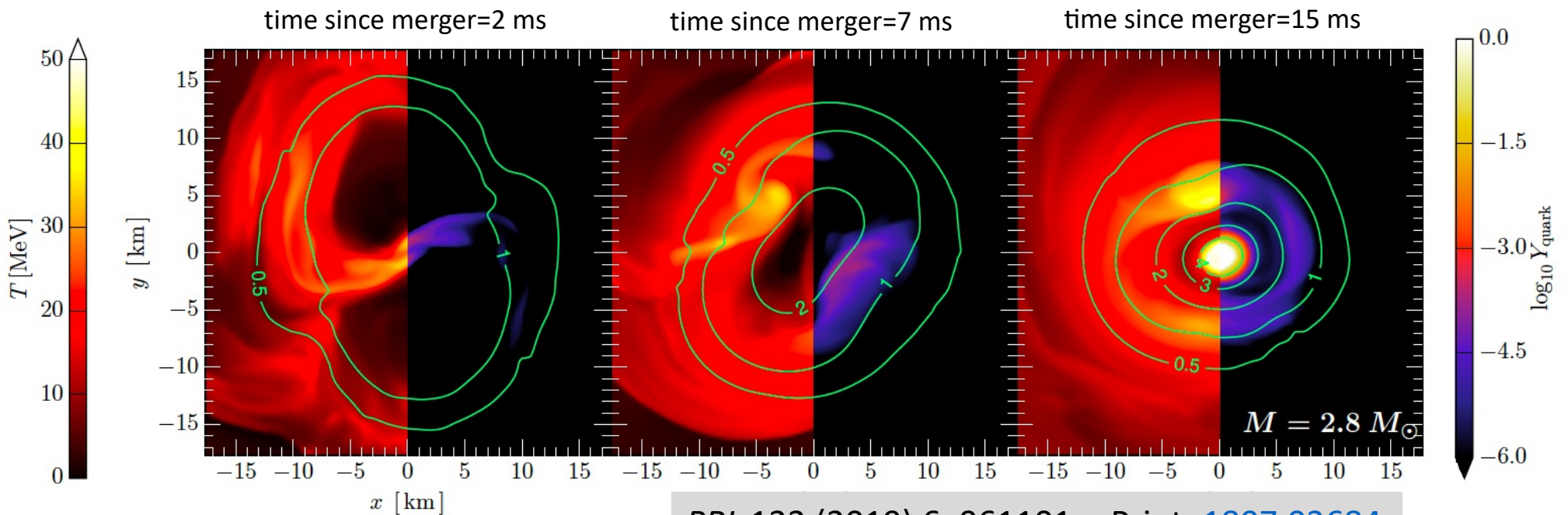
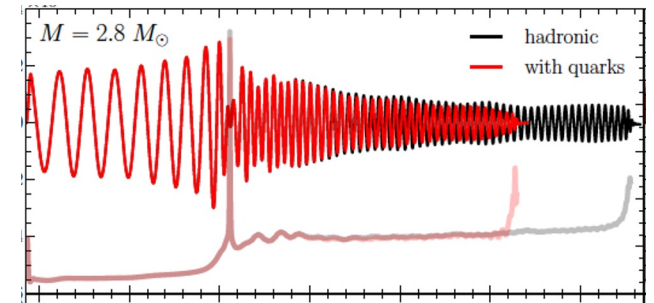
# Comparison with other systems

- \* Fully-evolved neutron-star cores:  $Y_Q = Q/B = 0 \rightarrow 0.2$  (0.1)
- \* Heavy-ion collisions:  $Y_Q = 0.4 \rightarrow 0.5$  (also have  $Y_S = S/B = 0$ )
- \* Supernovae explosions/proto-neutron stars:  $Y_Q = 0.1 \rightarrow 0.5$  (0.4)
- \* Neutron-star mergers ?



# Neutron-star merger simulation

- ★ 3D  $(T, n_B, Y_Q)$  CMF tables with 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition
- ★ Into coupled Einstein-hydrodynamics system (*Frankfurt/IllinoisGRMHD* code)
- ★ Hot ring forms first, then a very hot region in the center with quarks

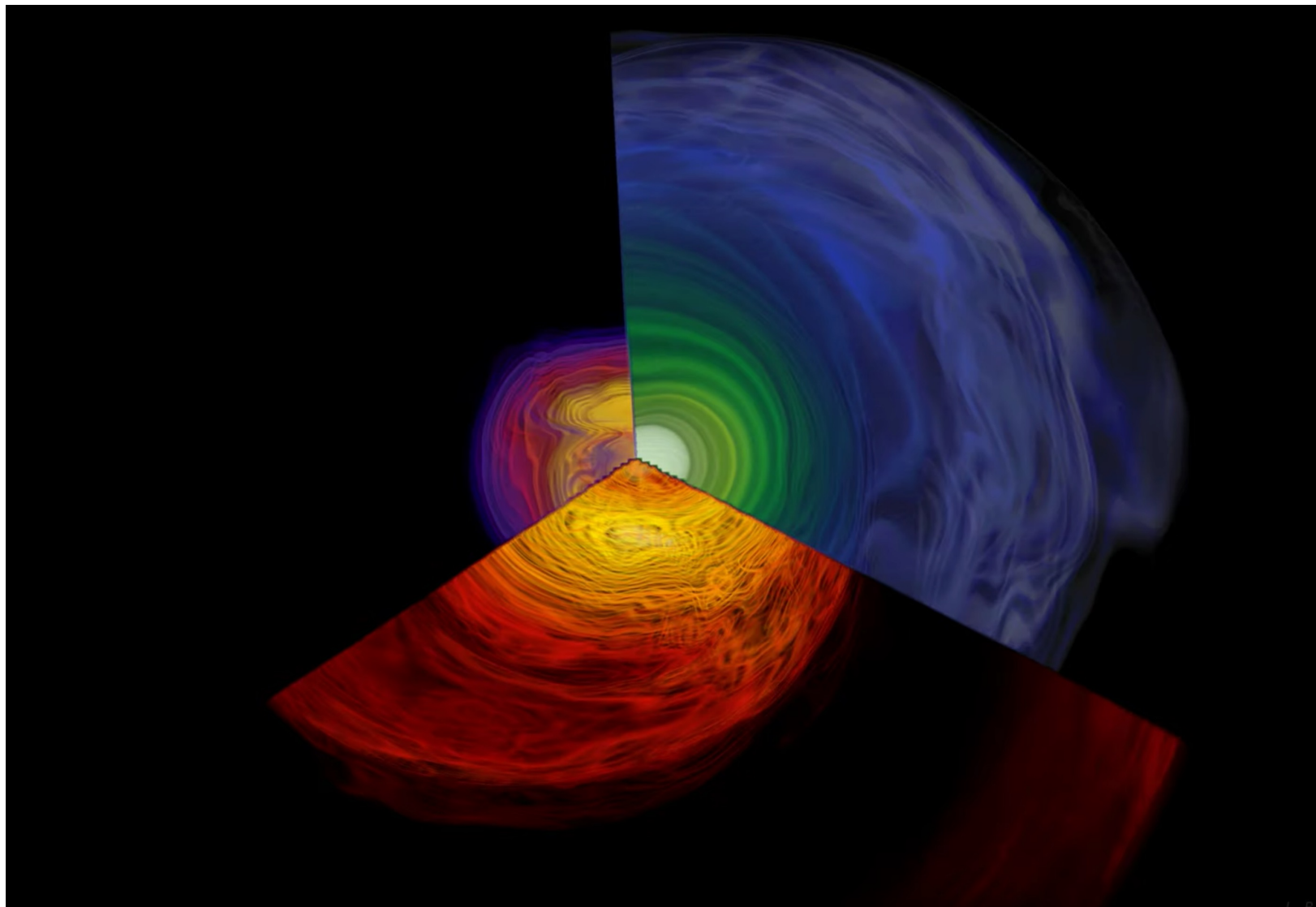


PRL 122 (2019) 6, 061101 e-Print: [1807.03684](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.03684)

# Simulation

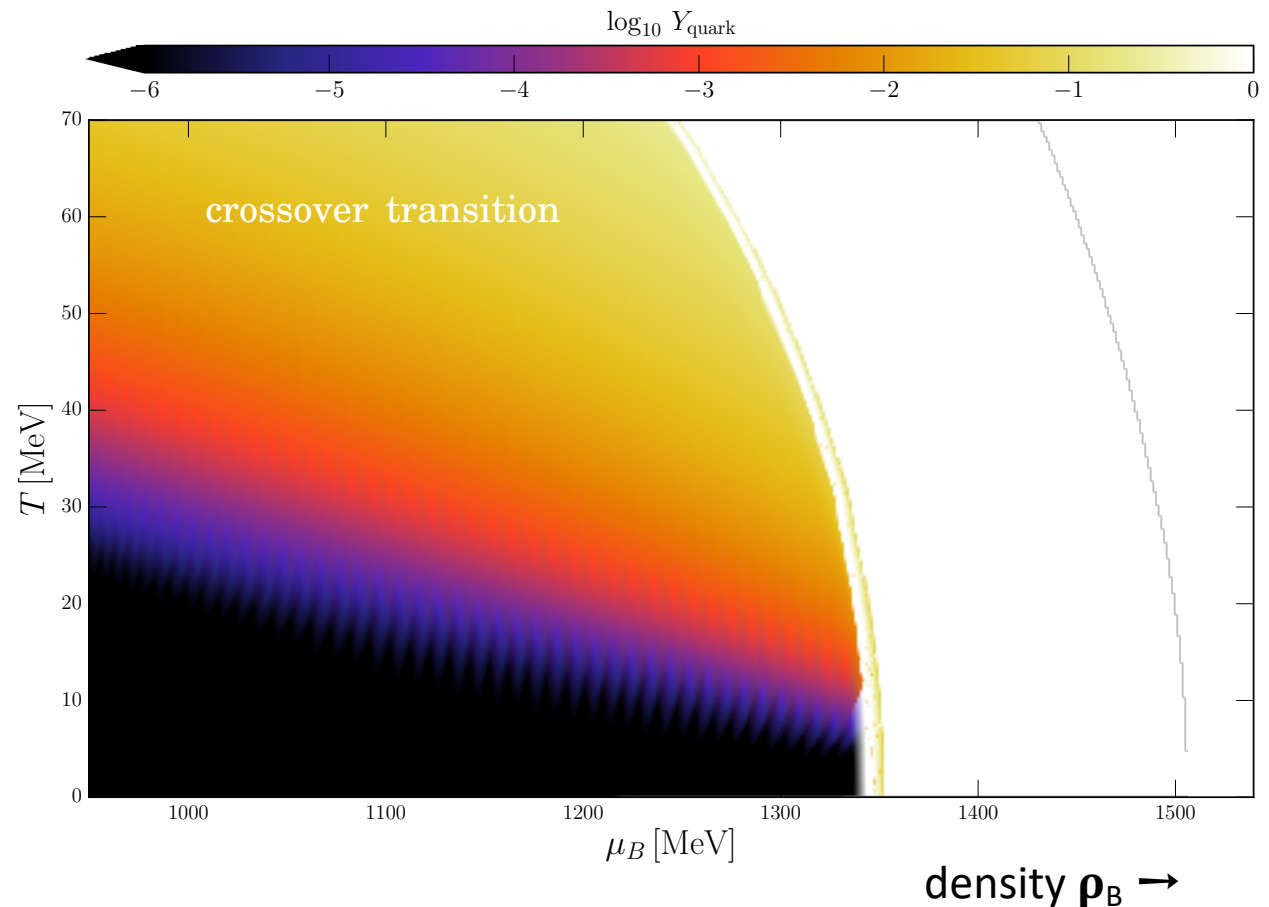
★ [Our simulation \(Youtube\)](#)

*PRL* 122 (2019) 6, 061101 e-Print: [1807.03684](#)



# Merger in the QCD phase diagram

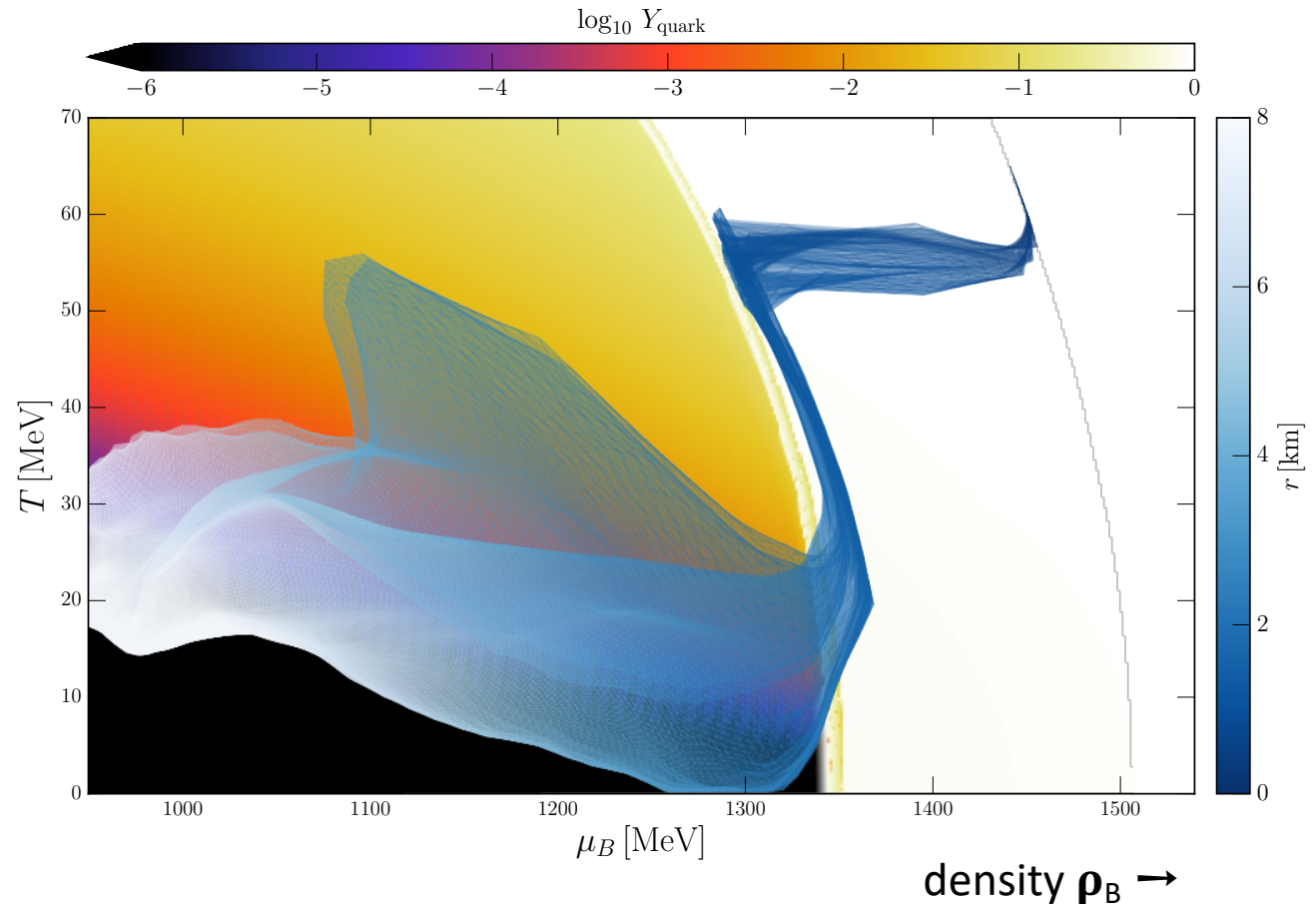
- \* Background: 2D  $(T, n_B)$  CMF EoS with 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition for  $Y_Q=Q/B=0.05$



*PRL* 122 (2019) 6, 061101  
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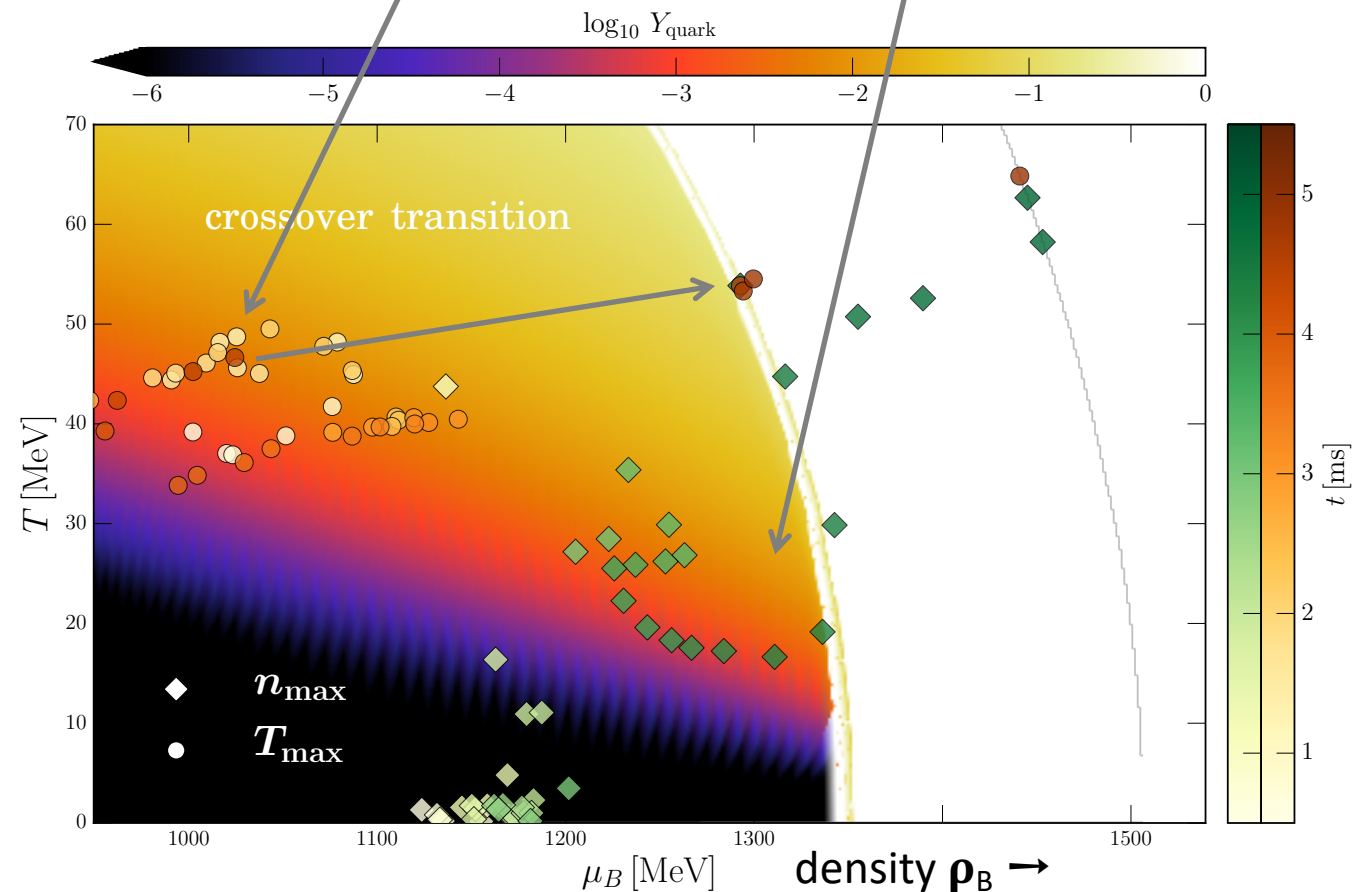
- \* 3D CMF EoS with 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition
- \* Hypermassive star with final mass of  $2.9 M_{\text{Sun}}$  at  $\sim 5$  ms (after deconfinement but before collapse to black hole)



PRL 122 (2019) 6, 061101  
e-Print: [1807.03684](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.03684)

# Merger in the QCD phase diagram

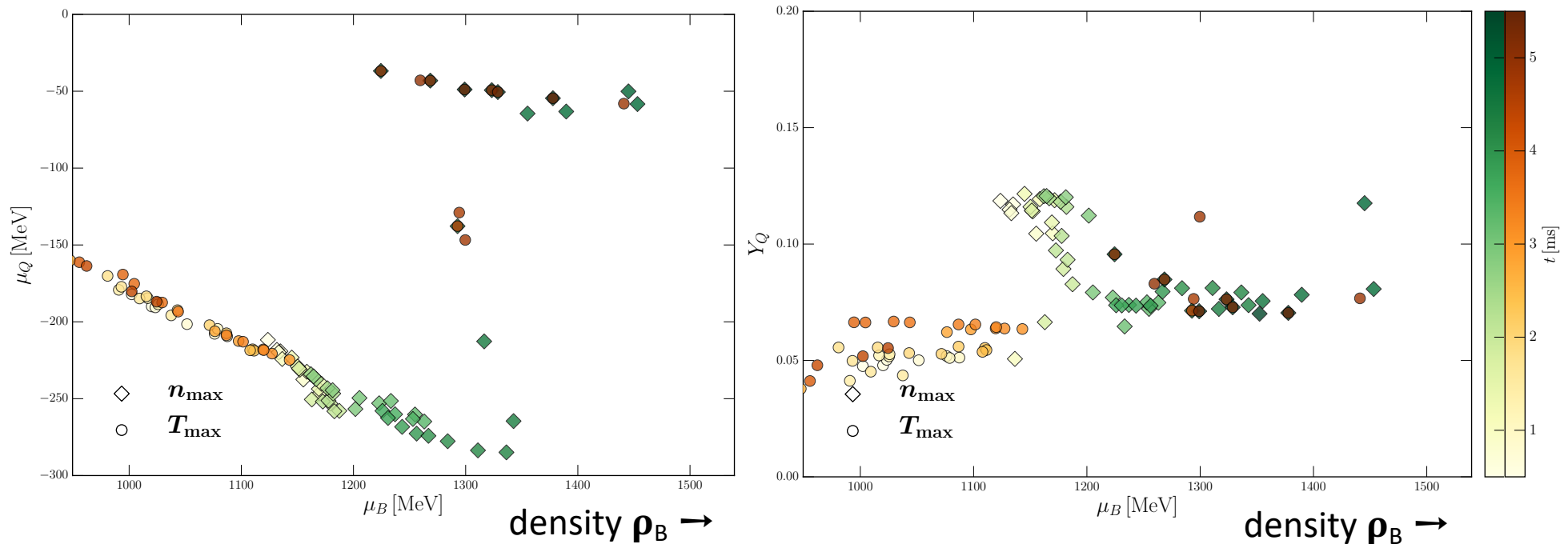
- \* Tracking maximum temperature  $\bullet$  and density  $\blacklozenge$  during merger



PRL 122 (2019) 6, 061101  
e-Print: [1807.03684](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.03684)

# More merger phase diagrams

- ★ Tracking maximum temperature ● and density ◆



- ★ Increase in abs. value of charged chemical potential until phase transition, when it drops
  - ★ Decrease in charge fraction of core when quarks appear (never reaching heavy-ion/supernovae conditions)
- EPJA 56 (2020) 2, 59 e-Print: [1910.13893](https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.13893)



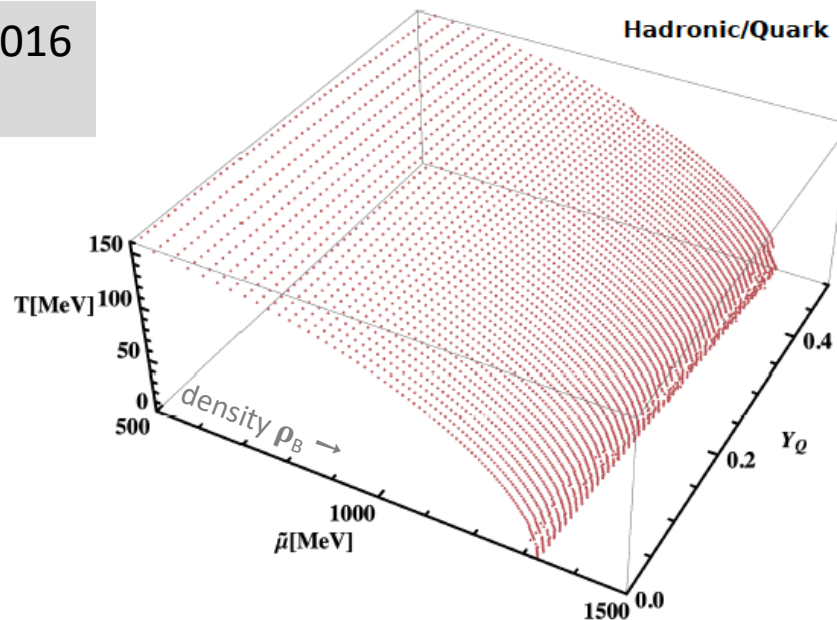
# 3D QCD phase diagrams ( $Y_S=0$ )

- \*  $T, \tilde{\mu}, Y_Q$  with charge fraction  $Y_Q = Q/B = 0 \rightarrow 0.5$   
and Gibbs free energy per baryon  $\tilde{\mu} = \mu_B + Y_Q \mu_Q$

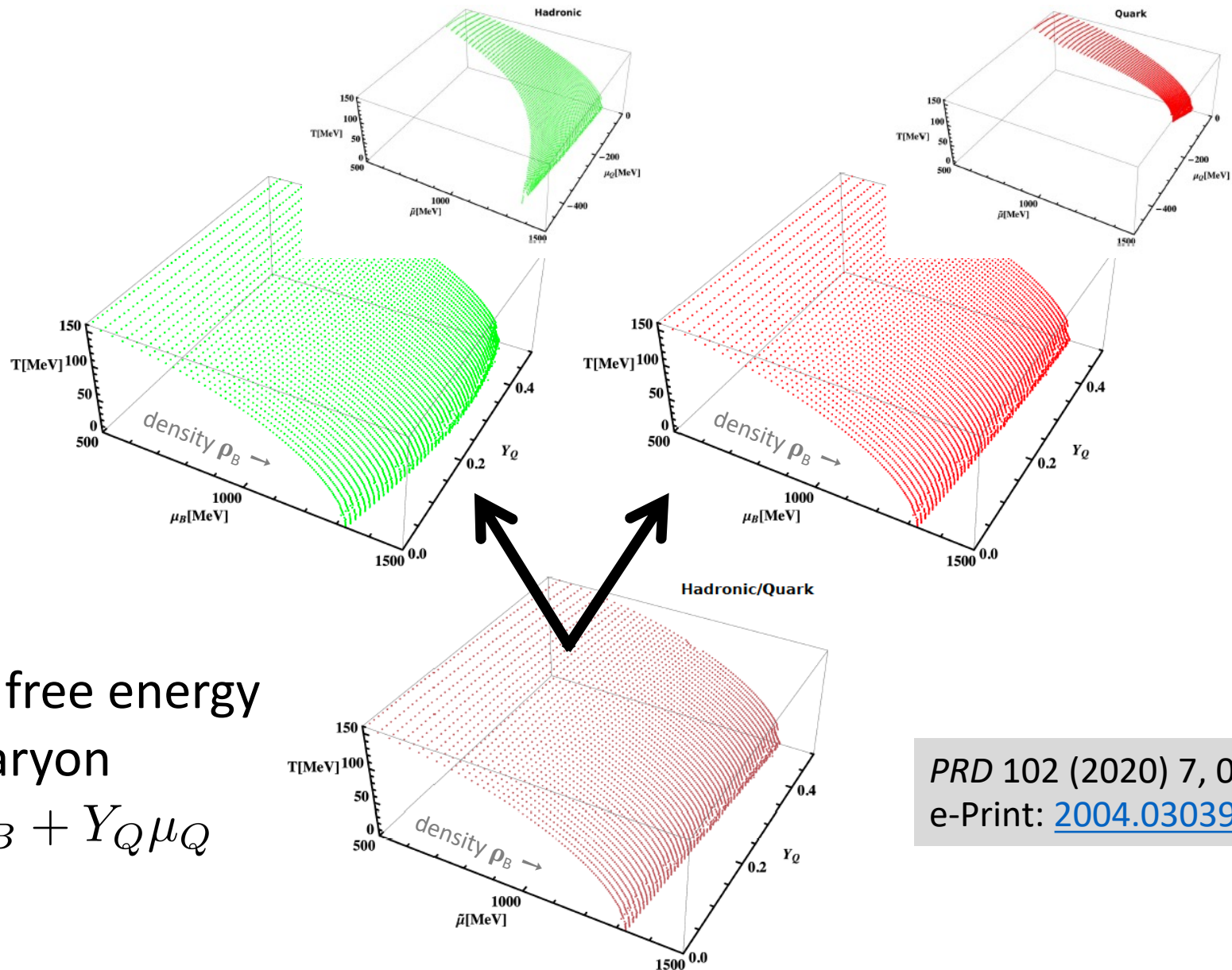
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- \*  $T, \tilde{\mu}, Y_Q$  with charge fraction  $Y_Q = Q/B = 0 \rightarrow 0.5$  and Gibbs free energy per baryon  $\tilde{\mu} = \mu_B + Y_Q \mu_Q$
- \* Larger  $Y_Q$  (at fixed  $T$ ) pushes the phase transition to larger  $\tilde{\mu}$
- \* Lower  $Y_Q$  (at fixed  $T$ ) pushes the phase transition to lower  $\tilde{\mu}$
- \* Changes due to  $Y_Q$  effects on stiffness (particle population) on each side

PRD 102 (2020) 7, 076016  
e-Print: [2004.03039](https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.03039)



# 3D QCD phase diagrams ( $Y_S=0$ )

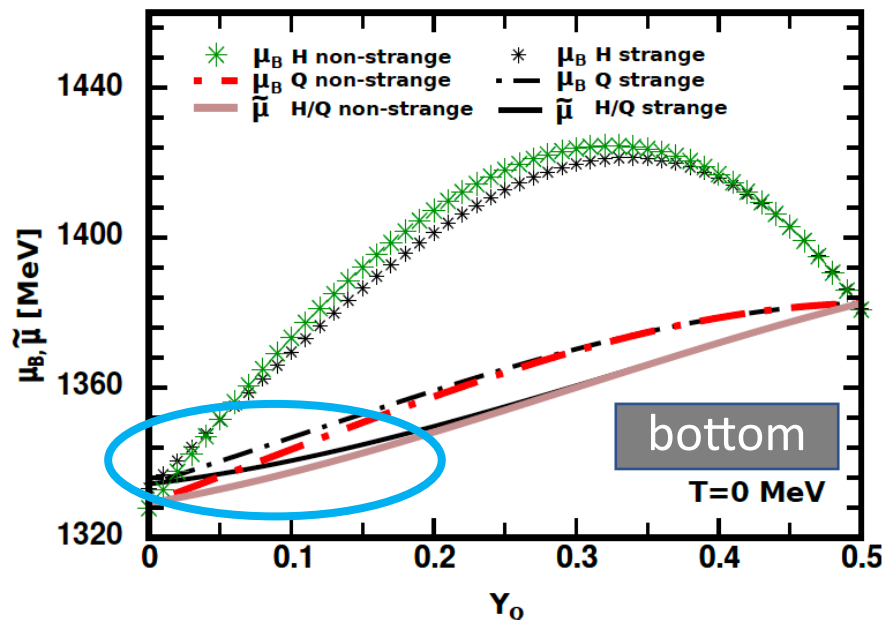


Gibbs free energy  
per baryon  
 $\tilde{\mu} = \mu_B + Y_Q \mu_Q$

PRD 102 (2020) 7, 076016  
e-Print: [2004.03039](https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.03039)

# Slices of 3D QCD phase diagrams ( $Y_S=0$ , $Y_S \neq 0$ in black)

- \* For finite net strangeness  $Y_S \neq 0$ , deconfinement takes place at larger free energy/ baryon chemical potential

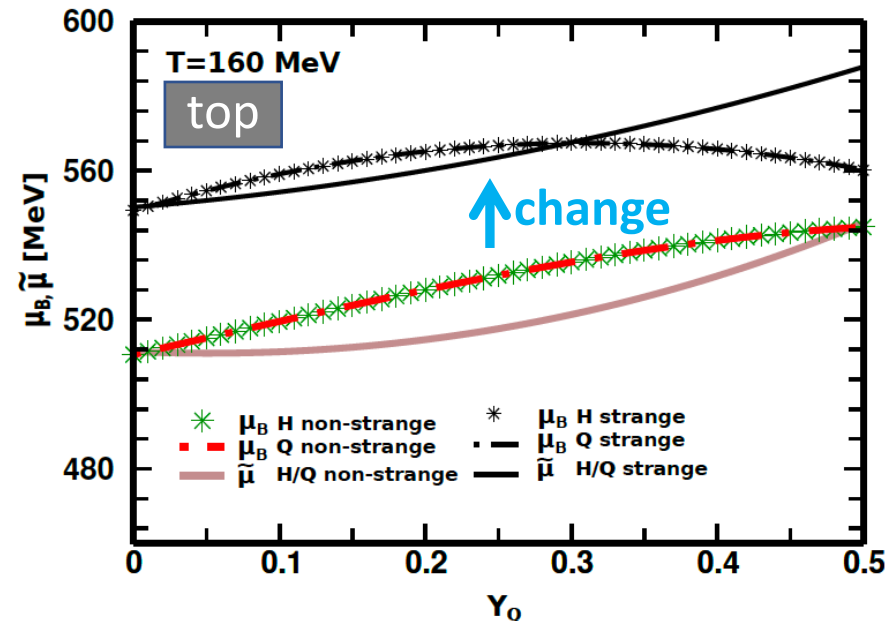
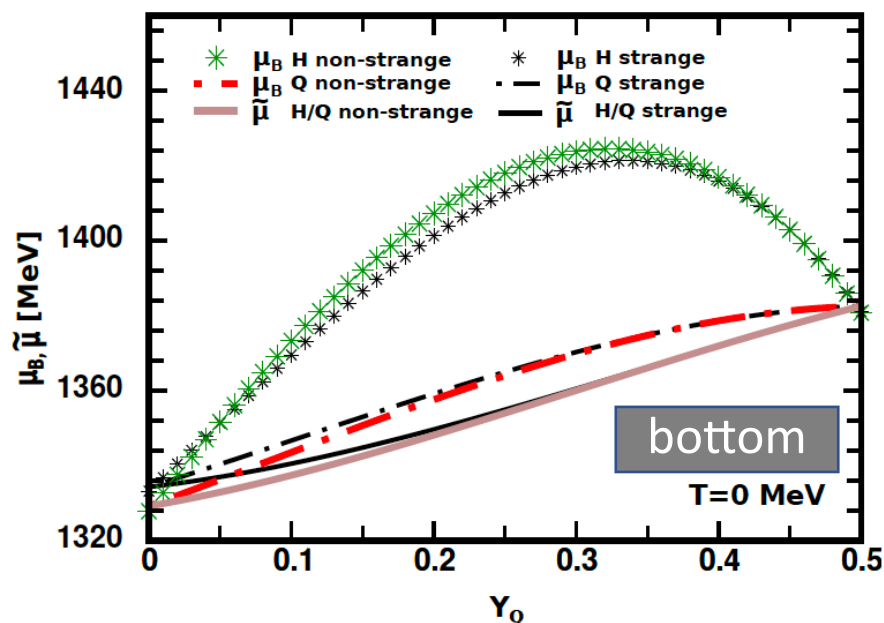


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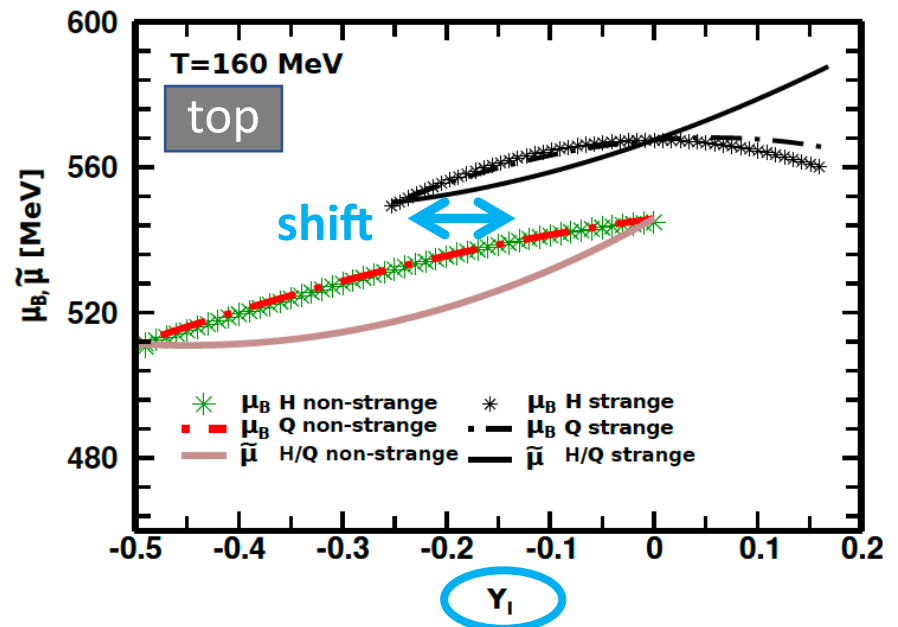
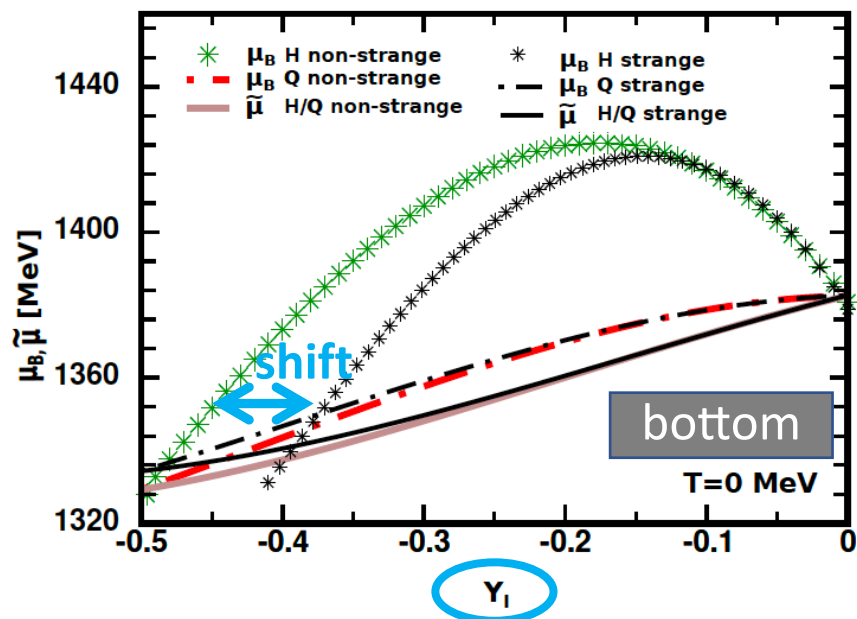
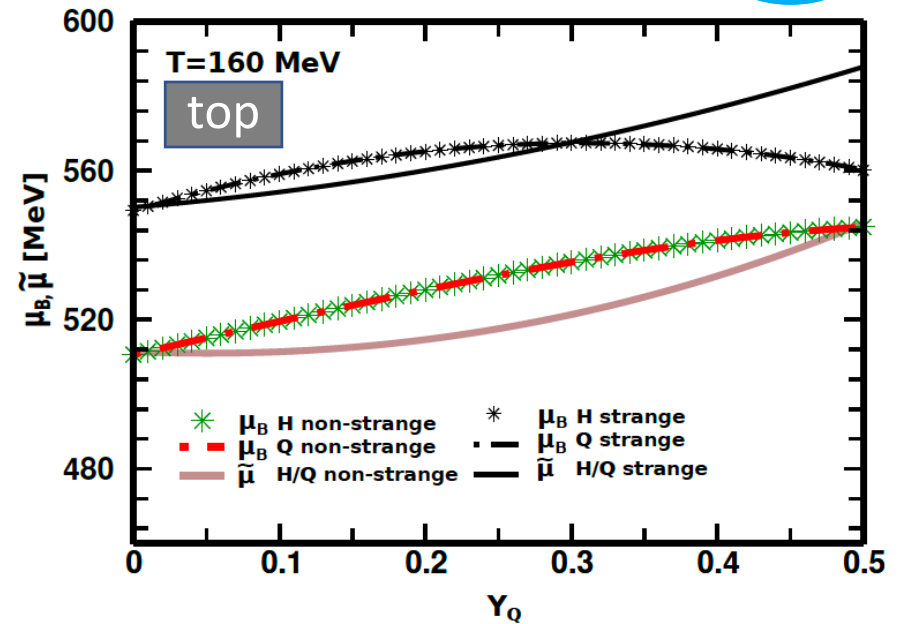
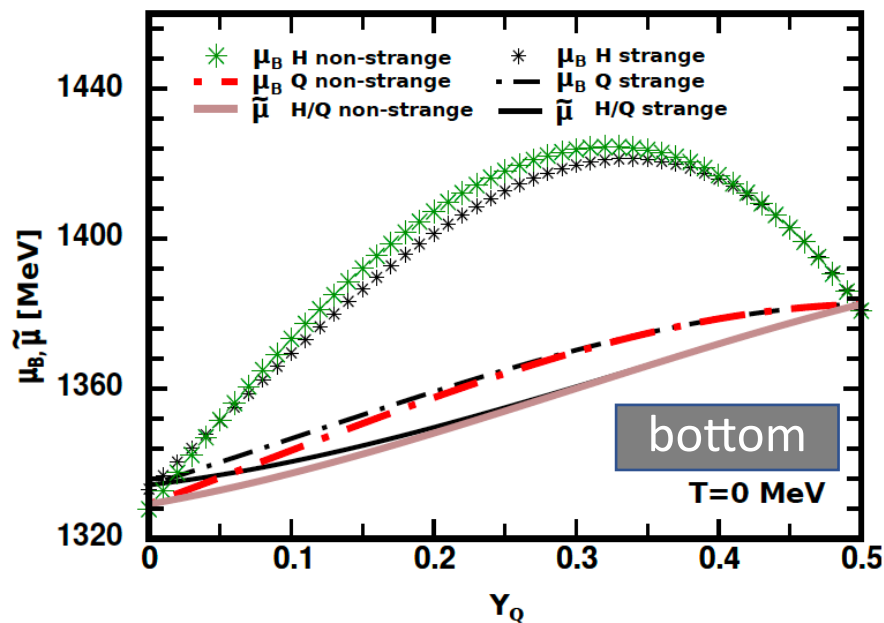
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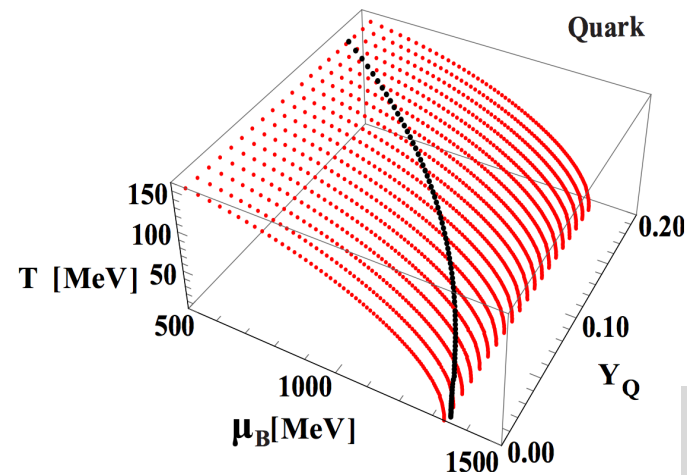
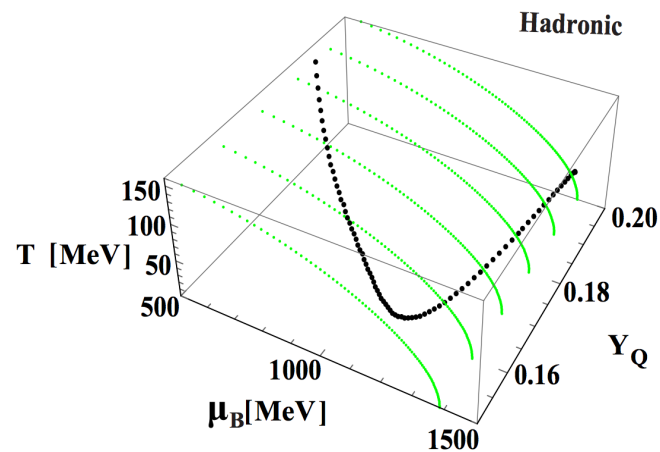
PRD 102 (2020) 7, 076016 e-Print: [2004.03039](https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.03039)

- For finite net strangeness  $Y_S \neq 0$ , isospin and charge fraction relation is not trivial  $Y_I = Y_Q - 0.5 + \frac{1}{2}Y_S$

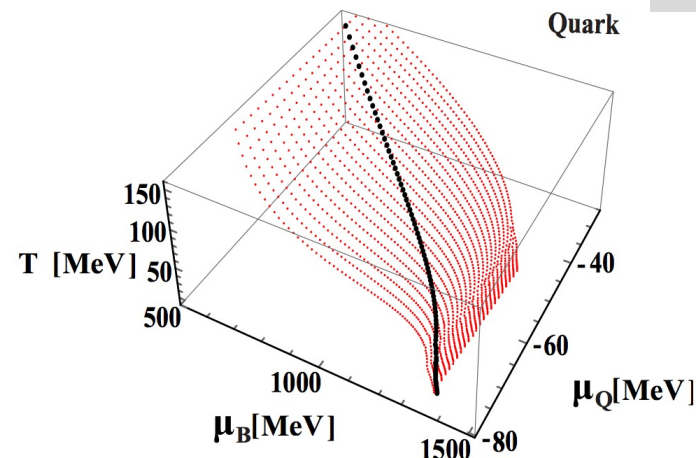
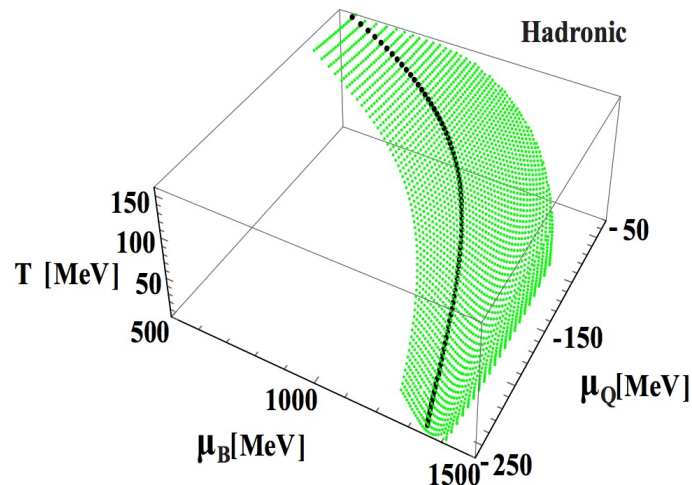


# Chemical equilibrium lines

- \* Leptons in chemical equil. with baryons/quarks  $\mu_Q = -\mu_e, \mu$
- \* Charge neutrality  $Y_Q = Y_{lepton}$ , finite strangeness  $Y_S \neq 0$

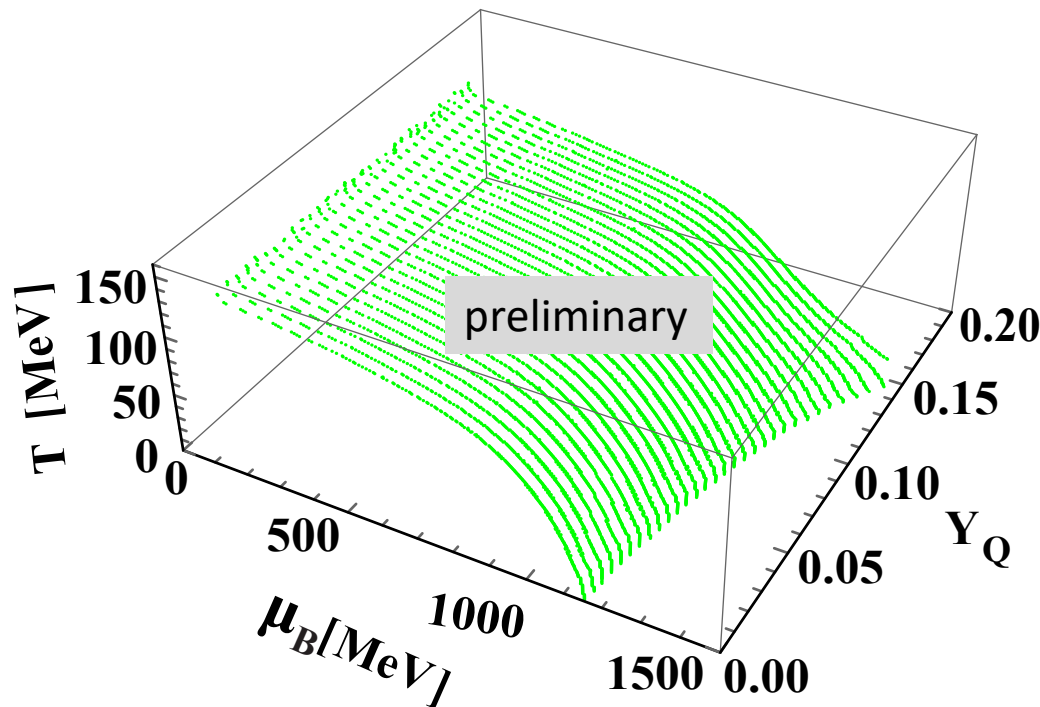


Astron.Nachr. 342 (2021)  
e-Print: [2011.11686](https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.11686)



# Weaker phase transition

- ★ Different parametrization *Eur.Phys.J.A* 58 (2022) 5, 96 reproducing a much weaker phase transition ( $Y_S \neq 0$ ) enhances  $Y_Q$  effect



- ★ For small  $Y_Q$ 's,  $\tilde{\mu} \sim \mu_B$  (hadron)  $\sim \mu_B$  (quark)



# Comparison with low-energy collision

- ★ CMF 3D EoS ( $n_B$ ,  $T$ ,  $Y_Q$ )

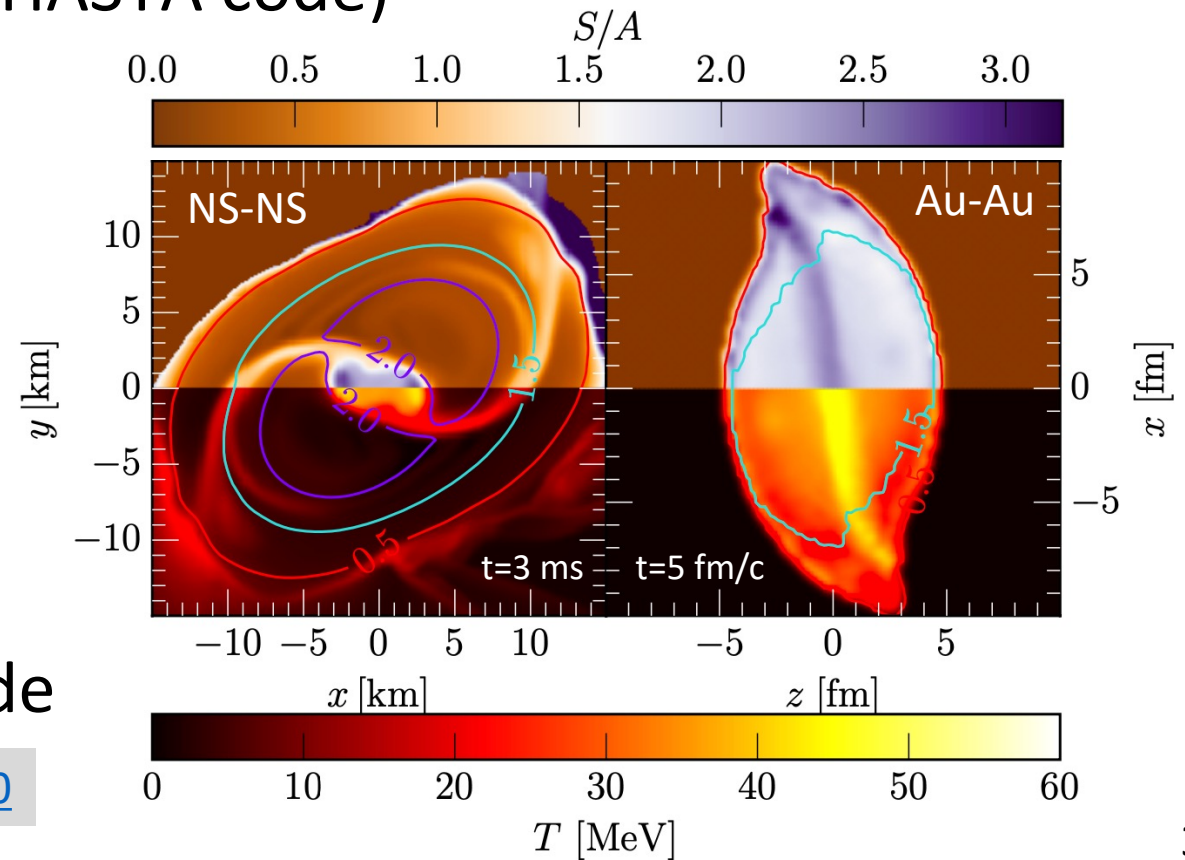
*Astron.Astrophys.* 608 (2017) A110 e-Print: [1706.09191](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.09191)

*PRC* 101 (2020) 3, 034904 e-Print: [1905.00866](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.00866)

- ★ Relativistic hydrodynamics simulations of **neutron-star mergers** (Frankfurt/Illinois GRMHD code) and **heavy-ion collisions** (Frankfurt SHASTA code)

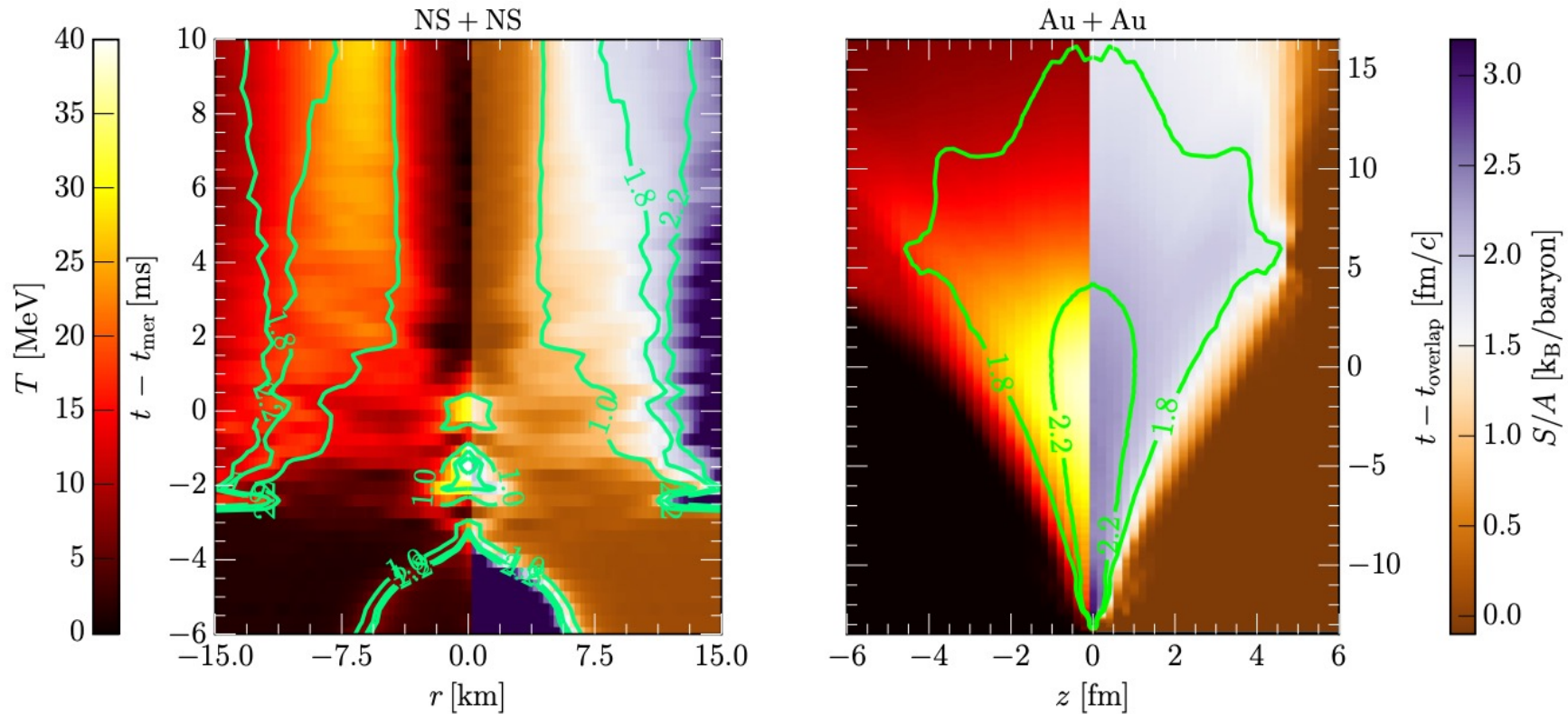
- ★ Final merger mass of  $2.9 M_{\text{Sun}}$  and low-energy collision with  $E_{\text{lab}} = 450 \text{ MeV}$
- ★ Similar geometry and properties across 18 orders of magnitude

e-Print: [2201.13150](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.13150)



# Comparison with low-energy collision

- ★ Present similar temperatures/entropies per baryon

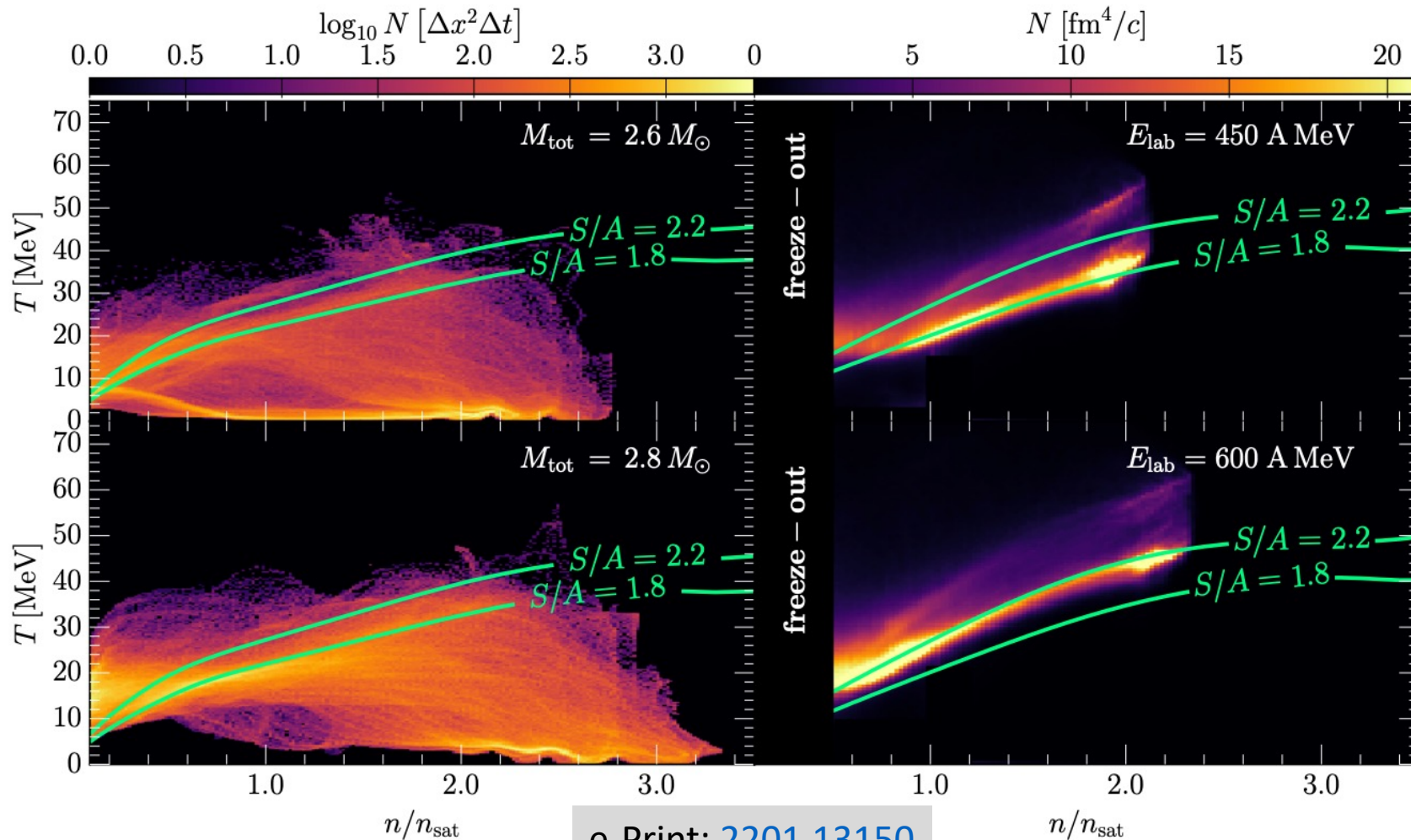


e-Print: [2201.13150](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.13150)

but different time evolution

# Comparison of phase diagrams

- ★ Similar trajectories (other than stellar cold center and hot ring) allow connection of merger mass with lab energy



e-Print: [2201.13150](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.13150)

# Modern sources for EoS's

- \*  CompOSE

CompStar Online Supernovae Equations of State

<https://compose.obspm.fr>

(Stefan Typel, Micaela Oertel, Thomas Klöhn)

- \* Online service provides standardized 1D, 2D, 3D EoS tables for astrophysical applications
- \* Additional software to combine or interpolate data, calculate additional quantities, and graph EoS dependencies
- \* Instruction manual e-Print: [2203.03209](#) with summarized [providers quick guide](#) and [users quick guide](#)



- \* Modular Unified solver of the Equation of state  
<https://muses.physics.illinois.edu/>
- \* Modular: while at low  $\mu_B$  the EoS is known from 1<sup>st</sup> principles, at high  $\mu_B$  there will be different models for the user to choose
- \* Unified: different modules will be merged together to ensure maximal coverage of the phase diagram
- \* Developers: physicists + computer scientists will work together to develop the software that generates EoS's over large ranges of temperature and chemical potentials to cover the whole phase diagram
- \* Users: interested scientists from different communities, who provide input to the future open-source cyberinfrastructure

### PI and co-PIs

1. Nicolas Yunes; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; **PI**
2. Jacquelyn Noronha-Hostler; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; co-PI
3. Jorge Noronha; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; co-PI
4. Claudia Ratti; University of Houston; co-PI and **spokesperson**
5. Veronica Dexheimer; Kent State University; co-PI

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2. Roland Haas; National Center for Supercomputing Applications
3. Timothy Andrew Manning; National Center for Supercomputing Applications
4. Andrew Steiner; University of Tennessee, Knoxville
5. Jeremy Holt; Texas A&M University
6. Gordon Baym; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
7. Mark Alford; Washington University in Saint Louis
8. Elias Most; Princeton University

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4. Phillip Landry; California State University Fullerton
5. Reed Essick; Perimeter Institute
6. Rene Bellwied; University of Houston
7. David Curtin; University of Toronto
8. Michael Strickland; Kent State University
9. Matthew Luzum; University of Sao Paulo
10. Hajime Togashi; Kyushu University
11. Toru Kojo; Central China Normal University
12. Hannah Elfner; GSI/Goethe University Frankfurt



# Conclusions and outlook

- \* New tight constraints on neutron-star masses and radii can inform us about dense ( $T=0$ ) neutron-star matter
- \* Neutron-star mergers create unique ideal conditions to achieve and detect new phases of dense and hot matter
- \* Comparisons among HIC's and NS's can be very useful but must be done with care ( $Y_Q$ ,  $Y_S$ , leptons, ...)
- \* EoS repositories help speeding up understanding of dense matter
- \* Coordinating O4 GW observing run starts in May 2023

