

# Predictions for neutron star mergers from the gauge/gravity duality

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**POSTECH**

POHANG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

XVIth Quark Confinement and the Hadron Spectrum

Cairns, Australia – 19 August 2024



National Research  
Foundation of Korea

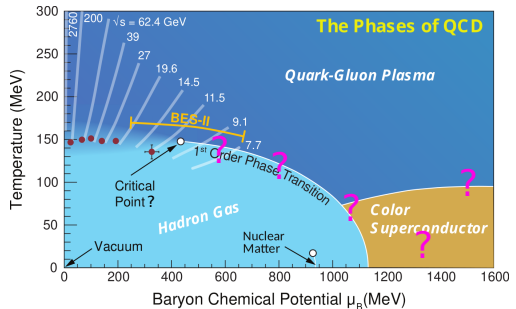
# Outline

1. Introduction and motivation
2. Holographic equation of state
  - ▶ Holographic quark matter
  - ▶ Holographic nuclear matter
3. Holographic neutron star mergers
  - ▶ Production of quark matter
  - ▶ Prompt collapse to a black hole
4. Conclusion

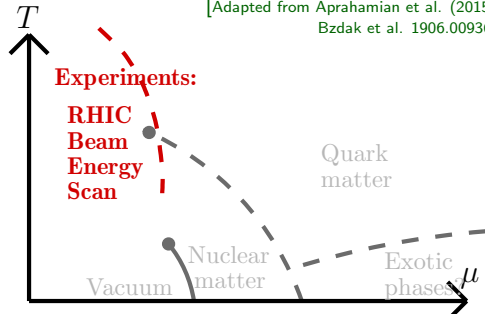
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# QCD phase diagram and the critical point

Search for the critical point: ongoing effort at RHIC (Beam Energy Scan)



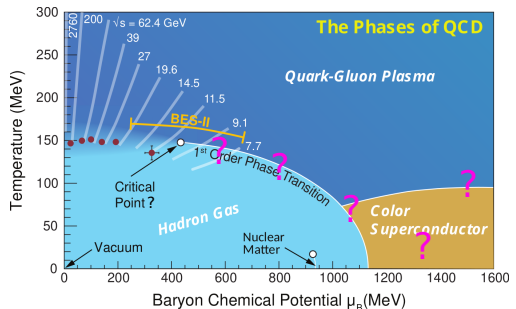
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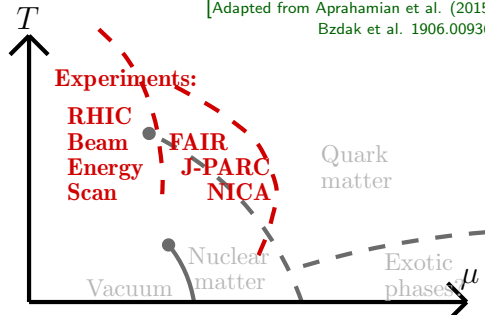
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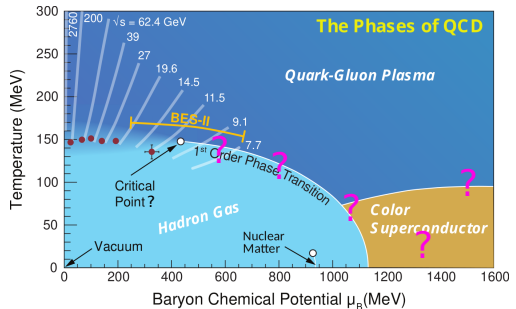


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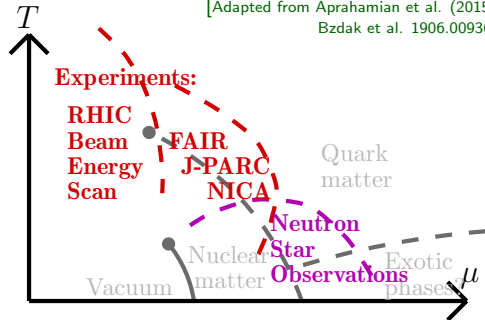
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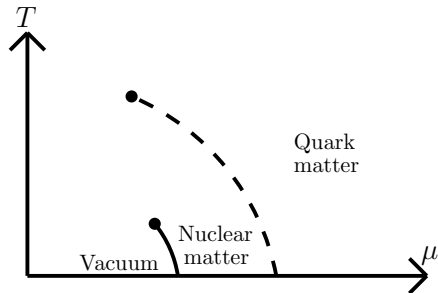
Neutron star observations give complementary information at high density



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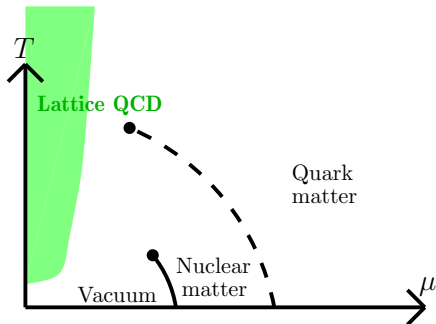


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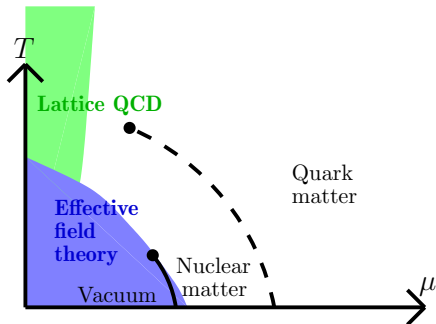
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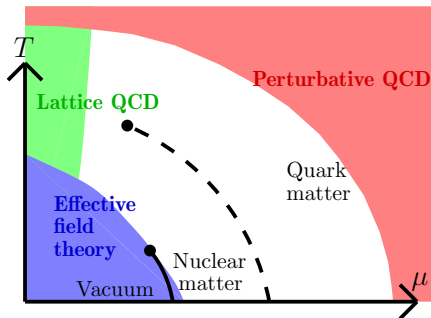
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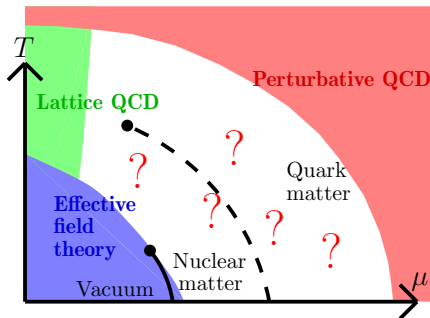
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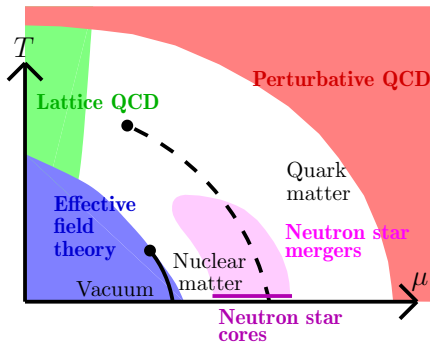
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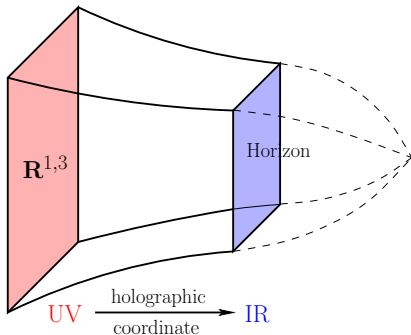
- ▶ This region is highly relevant for neutron star physics!
- ▶ Improving theoretical predictions important!
- ▶ Strongly coupled physics – use the gauge/gravity duality?

# Gauge/gravity duality for QCD

- ▶ Motivated by the original AdS/CFT correspondence for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  Super Yang-Mills
- ▶ Strongly coupled gauge theory  $\leftrightarrow$  classical 5D gravity

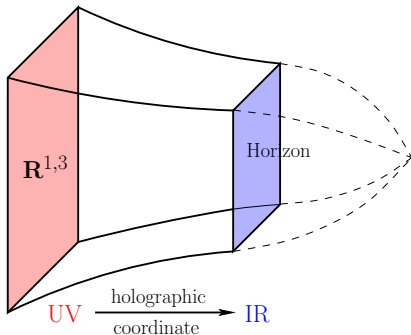
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- ▶ Operators  $O_i(x^\mu) \leftrightarrow$  classical bulk fields  $\phi_i(x^\mu, r)$

$$Z_{\text{grav}}(\phi_i|_{\text{bdry}} = J_i(x^\mu)) = \int \mathcal{D} e^{iS_{\text{QCD}} + i \int d^4x J^i(x^\mu) O_i(x^\mu)}$$

- ▶ Thermodynamics of QCD  $\leftrightarrow$  thermodynamics of a planar bulk black hole

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Already various models available in the literature – perhaps the gauge/gravity duality is just another uncontrolled approximation?



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There is however **strong motivation** for this approach:

- ▶ Strongly coupled physics: holography may work better than many other approaches
- ▶ Different phases (quark, nuclear, color superconducting, quarkyonic . . . ) in the same footing or even in a single model
  - ▶ Typically not achieved in the literature
  - ▶ Gives rise to predictions for phase transitions
- ▶ As it turns out, predictions do make sense!
  - ▶ Highly nontrivial – as the precise holographic dual for QCD is not known, these model cannot be derived
  - ▶ I will show examples later in this talk

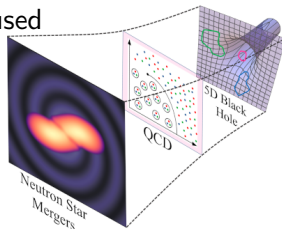
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# The approach

Goal: construct a state-of-the-art EOS, to be used

1. to describe (isolated) neutron stars
2. in simulations of neutron star mergers
3. in simulations of core collapse supernovae
4. when analyzing heavy-ion collisions (?)



[Based on Demircik, Ecker, MJ 2112.12157 (PRX) + earlier work]

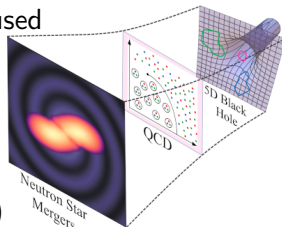
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- ▶ Many other approaches available, I will cover only this one
- ▶ Some parts could also be covered using simpler models (e.g. quark matter using Einstein-Maxwell-dilaton)



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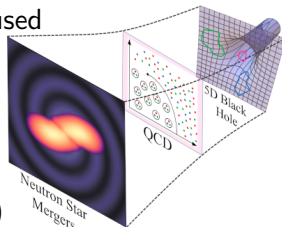
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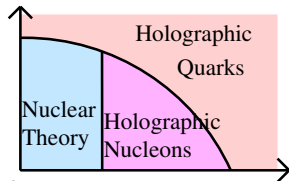
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Main ingredients are

1. Holographic model for quark matter
2. (Slightly adjusted) holographic model for nuclear matter
3. Nuclear theory model for hadronic phase  
– at low density holography not very useful

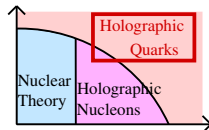


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# Model for quark matter

V-QCD: a holographic bottom-up model for QCD with backreacted quarks

- ▶ Combines model for glue (IHQCD) with flavor (brane action) [Gürsoy, Kiritsis, Nitti]  
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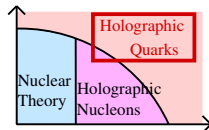


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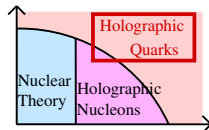
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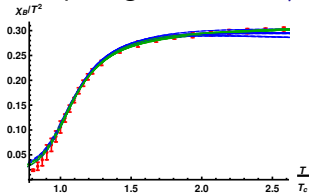
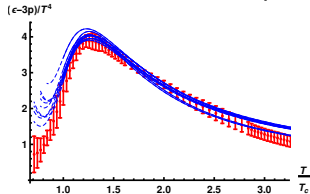
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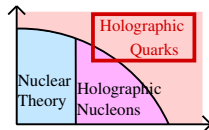




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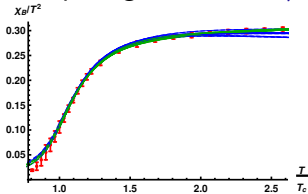
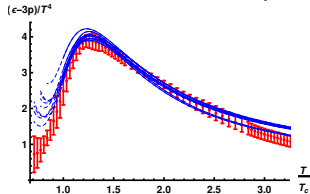
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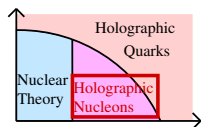


Equation of state obtained numerically from black hole thermodynamics of charged black holes

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Standard method for baryons in holographic models: Each baryon maps to a solitonic 5D “instanton” of gauge fields

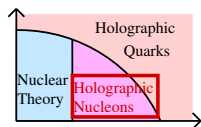
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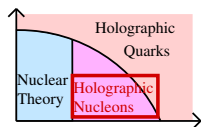


[Rozali, Shieh, Van Raamsdonk, Wu 0708.1322]  
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The V-QCD nuclear matter EOS as such is

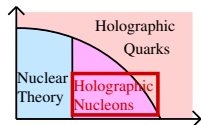
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Our solution: we extrapolate the holographic nuclear matter EOS to nonzero  $T$  by using a van der Waals approach

- ▶ Gas of protons, neutrons and electrons with an excluded volume correction and a potential term

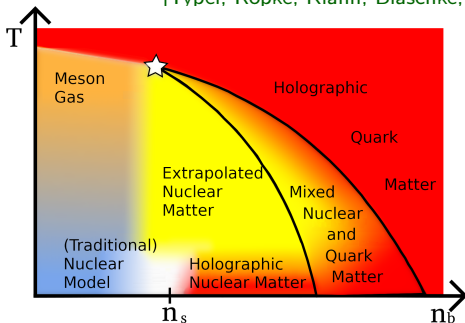
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# Combining the building blocks: the hybrid model

- ▶ For low density nuclear matter, Hempel-Schaffner-Bielich DD2

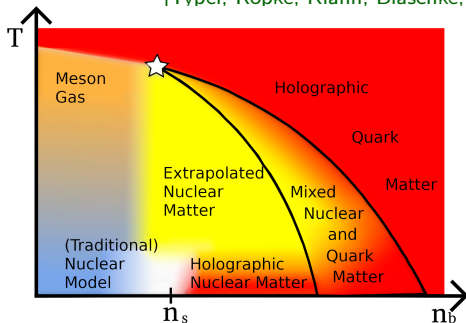
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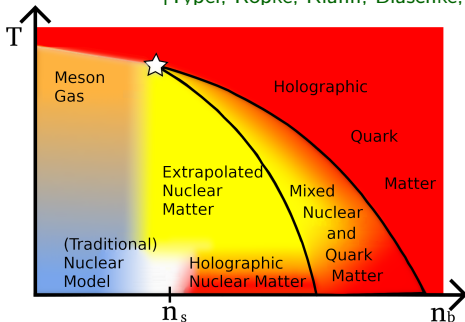
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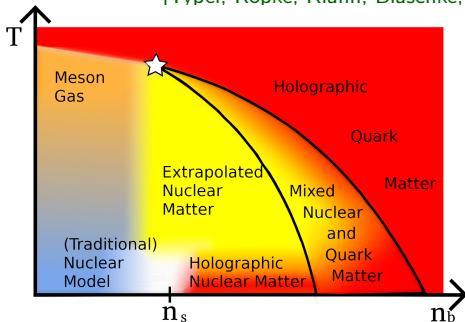
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- ▶ One of the most ambitious attempts to describe the QCD EOS to date, in any approach
- ▶ Consistent with theoretical and observational constraints
- ▶ Pick three variants (soft, intermediate, stiff) – different fits of the holographic model to lattice data – published in the ComPOSE database of EOSs

# Advantages of the model

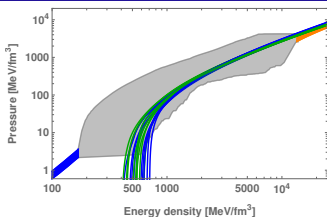
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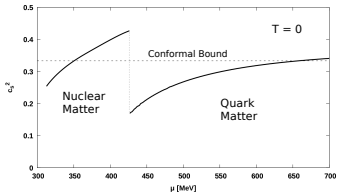
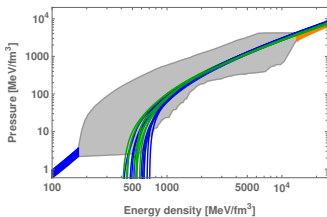
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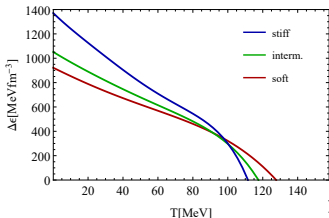
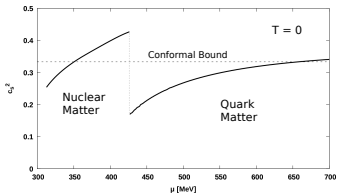
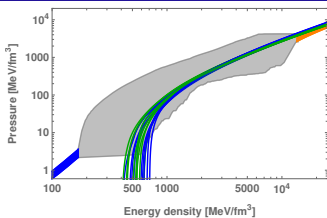
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3. Nuclear matter equation is stiff (high speed of sound)
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4. Simultaneous modeling of nuclear and quark matter phases
  - ▶ Predictions for the phase transition
  - ▶ Btw no stable quark cores inside neutron stars

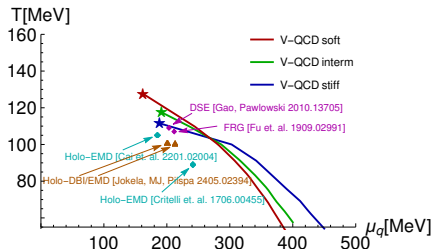


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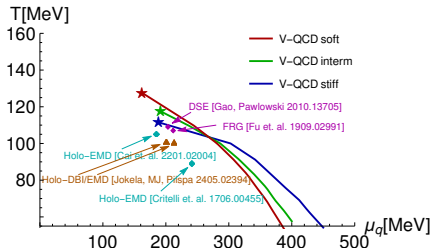
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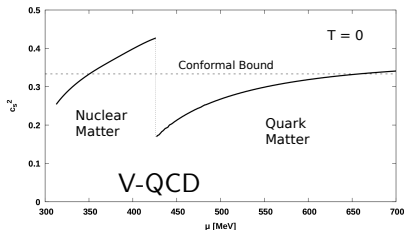
► Critical point

# Agreement with FRG

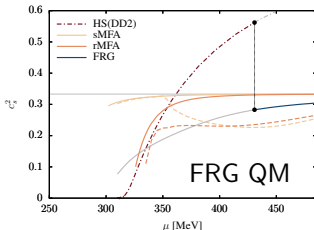
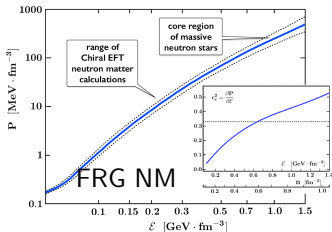
Close agreement with functional renormalization group (FRG)



► Critical point



► Speed of sound at  $T = 0$





## A digression: instability in quark matter phase

Any holographic model for QCD must include Chern-Simons terms

- ▶ Required by the anomalies of QCD
- ▶ Known to give rise to **spatial** instabilities at finite density

[Nakamura, Ooguri, Park 0911.0679;  
Ooguri, Park 1011.4144]

[Cruz Rojas, Demircik, MJ 2405.02399; Demircik, Jokela, MJ, Piispa 2405.02392]

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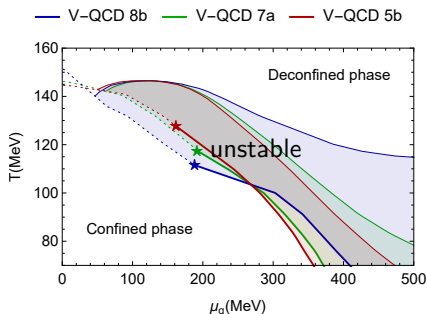
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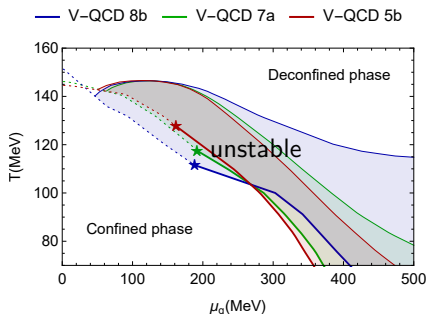
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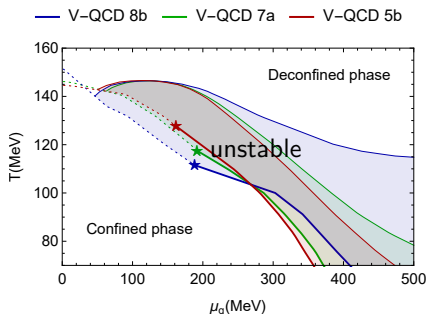
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- ▶ Result largely model-independent
- ▶ However, might be sensitive to strange quark mass
  - requires further study



[Cruz Rojas, Demircik, MJ 2405.02399; Demircik, Jokela, MJ, Piispa 2405.02392]

# Outline

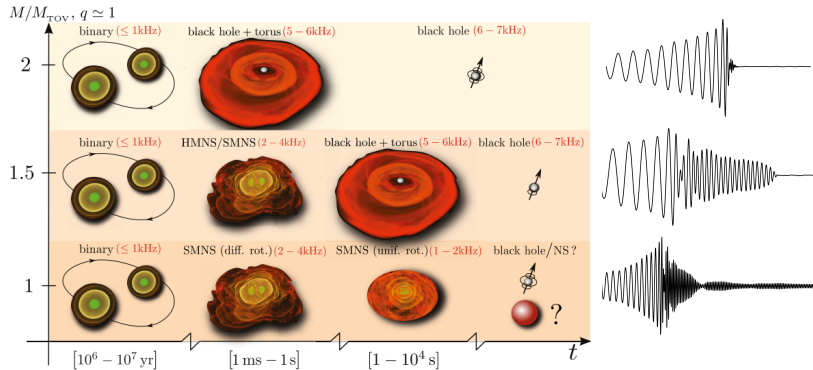
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2. Holographic equation of state
  - ▶ Holographic quark matter
  - ▶ Holographic nuclear matter
3. Holographic neutron star mergers
  - ▶ Production of quark matter
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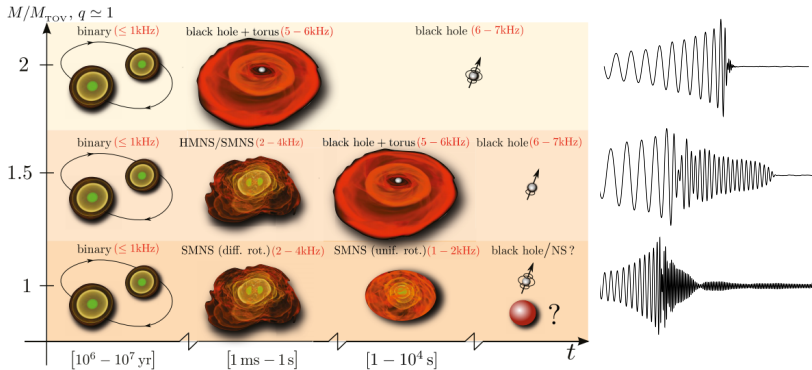


[picture: Baiotti, Rezzola 1607.03540]



# Neutron star mergers

- ▶ Significant sources of gravitational radiation
- ▶ Microscopic properties of dense matter encoded in the gravitational waves and the electromagnetic signal



[picture: Baiotti, Rezzola 1607.03540]

One good event (GW170817) and a few other events already observed!

[LIGO/Virgo, 1710.05832]

# Simulating neutron star mergers

Have to solve the 3+1D General Relativistic hydrodynamics equations:

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G_N T_{\mu\nu}, \quad \nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0, \quad \nabla_\mu J^\mu = 0$$

with initial state modelling a neutron star binary system

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[Papenfort, Tootle, Grandclement, Most, Rezzolla 2103.09911]
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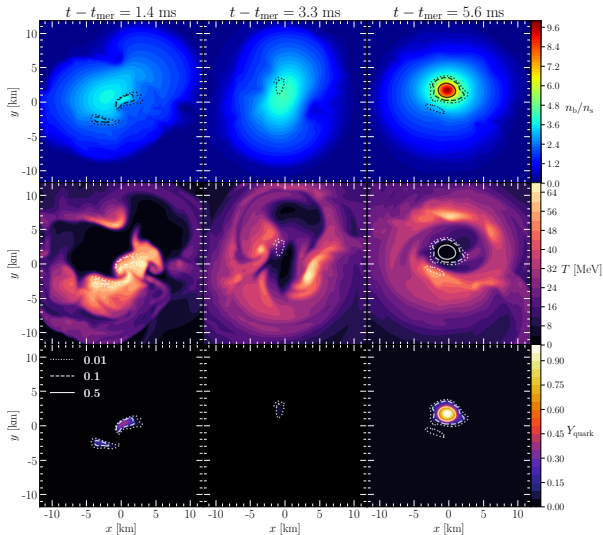
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[<http://einsteintoolkit.org>]
- ▶ Need supercomputing!

# Hot, warm and cold quarks

Quark matter formation in the hypermassive neutron star stage:

Hot quarks      Warm quarks      Cold quarks



# Threshold mass of prompt black hole formation

Analysis of mergers at high mass where the system collapses to a black hole

- ▶ Idea: use curvature invariants for precise classification of “prompt” collapse



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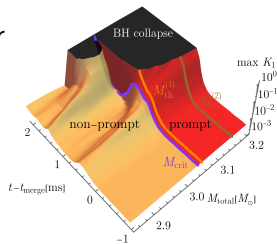
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Motivated by simulations, in particular dependence of  $K_1$  on  $t$  and  $M_{\text{total}}$ , we define

1. The critical mass

$$M_{\text{crit}} = \min(M) : \frac{dt_{\text{crit}}}{dM_{\text{total}}} < 0 \quad \forall M_{\text{total}} > M,$$

where  $t_{\text{crit}}$  is the time of formation of an apparent horizon



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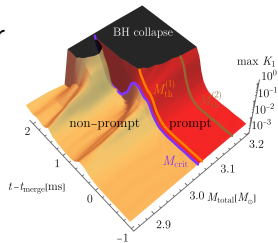
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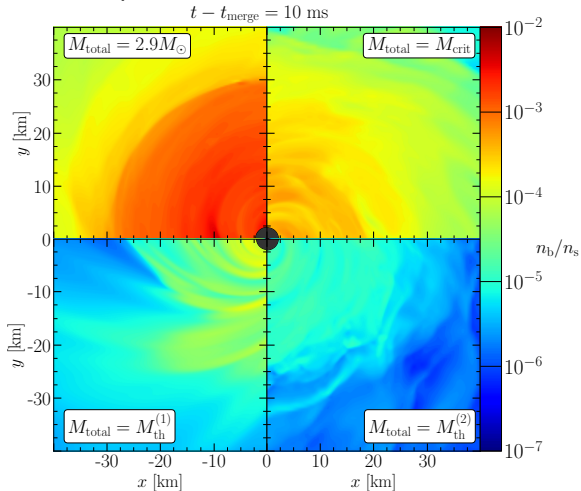
2. Threshold masses of promptness  $p$

$$\left\{ M_{\text{th}}^{(p)} = \min(M_{\text{total}}) : \frac{dp}{dt^p} \max(K_1) \geq 0 \quad \forall t > t_{\text{merge}} \right\}$$



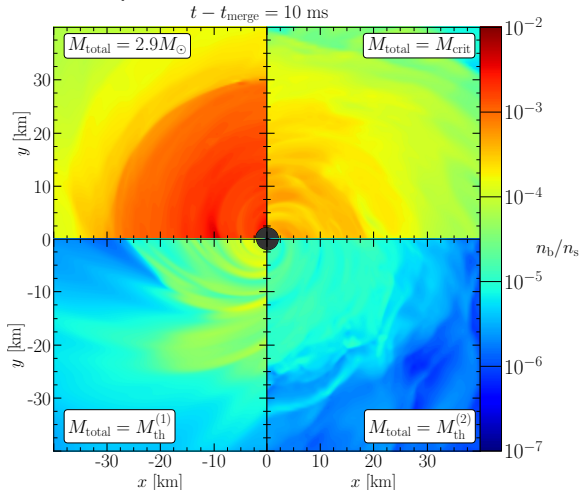
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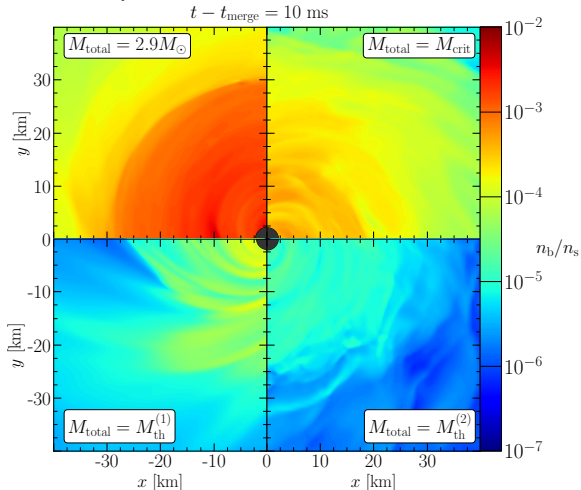
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- ▶ Enhanced by the transition to quark matter
- ▶ So  $M_{\text{crit}}$  can potentially be measured precisely by observing the EM counterpart

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- ▶ Recent/ongoing/future improvements: turning on strange quark mass, transport (e.g. viscosities and neutrino transport), isospin asymmetry, color superconducting phases, improving predictions for spatial modulation . . .

Thank you!

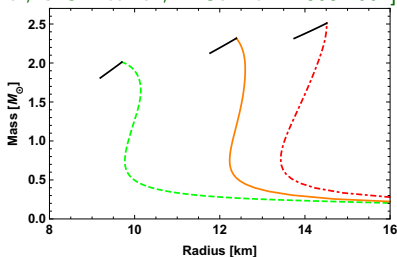
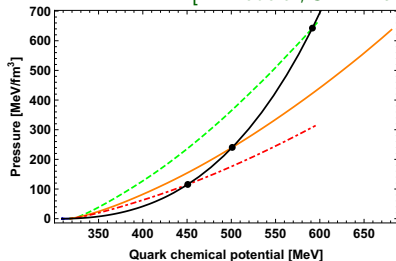
# Recent progress on dense holographic QCD

For **quark matter**, use D3-D7 top down model:  $\epsilon = 3p + \frac{\sqrt{3}m^2}{2\pi} \sqrt{p}$   
[Karch, O'Bannon, 0709.0570]

- ▶  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM +  $N_f = 3$  probe hypermultiplets in the fundamental representation

For **nuclear matter** use with **stiff**, **intermediate**, and **soft** “extrapolations” of EFT results

[K. Hebeler, J. M. Lattimer, C. J. Pethick, A. Schwenk 1303.4662]



- ▶ Strong first order nuclear to quark matter transitions
- ▶ Neutron stars with “holographic” quark matter core (black curves) are unstable

Varying the quark mass  $m$  one can get quark stars and hybrid stars

[Annala, Ecker, Hoyos, Jokela, Rodriguez-Fernandez, Vuorinen 1711.06244]

- ▶ Sizeable deviations from universal I-Love-Q relations

[Yagi, Yunes, 1303.1528]

Including running of the quark mass + color superconductivity

[Bitaghsir Fadafan, Cruz Rojas, Evans, 1911.12705; 2009.14079]

- ▶ Possibility of an intermediate  $\chi$ SB deconfined phase
- ▶ Stiffer holographic equations of state (high speed of sound)
- ▶ Quark matter cores

Using Einstein-Maxwell-dilaton for quark matter

[Mamani, Flores, Zanchin, 2006.09401]

(Largish) quark stars also studied in Witten-Sakai-Sugimoto and in D4-D6 models

[Burikham, Hirunsirisawat, Pinkanjanarod, 1003.5470  
Kim, Shin, Lee, Wan, 1108.6139, 1404.3474]

This talk: towards more realistic model of quark matter?

# Constraining the potentials

In the UV ( $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ ):

- ▶ UV expansions of potentials matched with perturbative QCD beta functions  $\Rightarrow$  asymptotic freedom and logarithmic flow of the coupling and quark mass, as in QCD

[Gürsoy, Kiritsis 0707.1324; MJ, Kiritsis 1112.1261]

In the IR ( $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ): various qualitative constraints

- ▶ Linear confinement, discrete glueball & meson spectrum, linear radial trajectories
- ▶ Existence of a “good” IR singularity
- ▶ Correct behavior at large quark masses
- ▶ Working potentials often string-inspired power-laws, multiplied by logarithmic corrections (i.e, first guesses usually work!)

[Gürsoy, Kiritsis, Nitti 0707.1349; MJ, Kiritsis 1112.1261; Arean, Iatrakis, MJ, Kiritsis 1309.2286, 1609.08922; MJ 1501.07272]

Final task: determine the potentials in the middle,  $\lambda = \mathcal{O}(1)$

- ▶ Qualitative comparison to lattice/experimental data

## Ansatz for potentials, ( $x = 1$ )

$$V_g(\lambda) = 12 \left[ 1 + V_1 \lambda + \frac{V_2 \lambda^2}{1 + \lambda/\lambda_0} + V_{\text{IR}} e^{-\lambda_0/\lambda} (\lambda/\lambda_0)^{4/3} \sqrt{\log(1 + \lambda/\lambda_0)} \right]$$

$$V_{f0}(\lambda) = W_0 + W_1 \lambda + \frac{W_2 \lambda^2}{1 + \lambda/\lambda_0} + W_{\text{IR}} e^{-\lambda_0/\lambda} (\lambda/\lambda_0)^2$$

$$\frac{1}{w(\lambda)} = w_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{w_1 \lambda/\lambda_0}{1 + \lambda/\lambda_0} + \bar{w}_0 e^{-\lambda_0/\lambda w_s} \frac{(w_s \lambda/\lambda_0)^{4/3}}{\log(1 + w_s \lambda/\lambda_0)} \right]$$

$$V_1 = \frac{11}{27\pi^2}, \quad V_2 = \frac{4619}{46656\pi^4}$$

$$W_1 = \frac{8 + 3W_0}{9\pi^2}; \quad W_2 = \frac{6488 + 999W_0}{15552\pi^4}$$

Fixed UV/IR asymptotics  $\Rightarrow$  fit parameters only affect details in the middle



# Constraining the model at $\mu \approx 0$

Standard recipe (charged black holes)  $\Rightarrow$  lots of numerical work  
 $\Rightarrow$  description of hot and dense quark matter

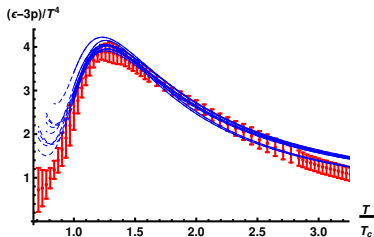
Fit to lattice data near  $\mu = 0$

[MJ, Jokela, Remes, 1809.07770]

- ▶ Many parameters already fixed by requiring qualitative agreement with QCD
- ▶ Results only weakly dependent of remaining parameters
- ▶ Good description of lattice data – nontrivial result!

Interaction measure  $\frac{\epsilon - 3p}{T^4}$ ,  
2+1 flavors

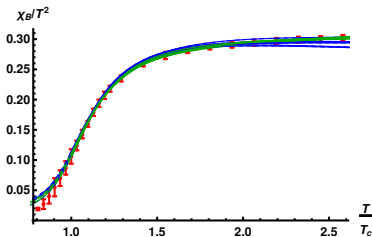
[Data: Borsanyi et al. 1309.5258]



Baryon number

susceptibility  $\chi_B = \left. \frac{d^2 p}{d\mu^2} \right|_{\mu=0}$

[Data: Borsanyi et al. 1112.4416]



# Extrapolated EOSs of cold quark matter

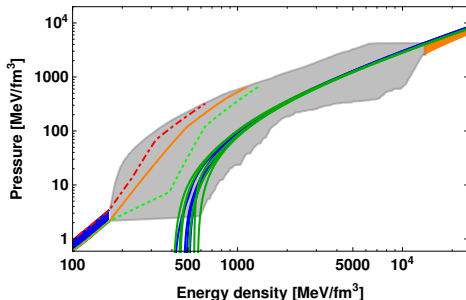
The V-QCD cold quark matter result compares nicely to known constraints:

- ▶ Band of allowed equations of state (EOSs) (gray, polytropic interpolations)

- ▶ **Stiff**, **intermediate**, and **soft** nuclear EOSs

[Hebeler, Lattimer, Pethick,  
Schwenk 1303.4662]

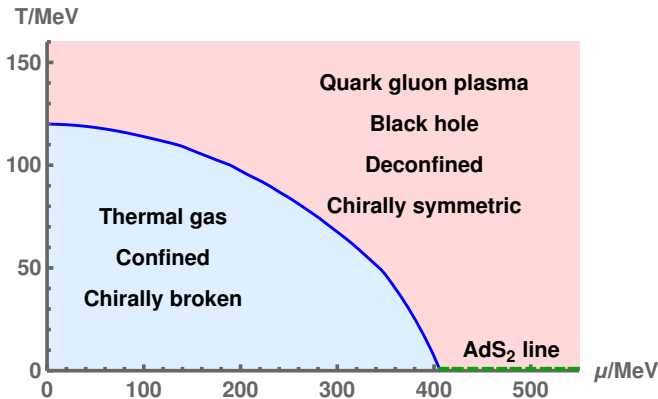
[MJ, Jokela, Remes, 1809.07770]



Approach similar in spirit to studies of the QCD critical point

[DeWolfe, Gubser, Rosen 1012.1864; Knaute, Yaresko, Kämpfer 1702.06731;  
Critelli, Noronha, Noronha-Hostler, Portillo, Ratti, Rougemont, 1706.00455;  
Cai, He, Li, Wang 2201.02004]

# Phase diagram with quark matter



- ▶ With quark matter only, expected phase diagram
- ▶ Cold QM equation of state (EOS) and location of the  $T = 0$  phase transition agree with constraints

# Homogeneous nuclear matter in V-QCD

Nuclear matter in the probe limit: consider full brane action

$S = S_{\text{DBI}} + S_{\text{CS}}$  where

[Bigazzi, Casero, Cotrone, Kiritsis, Paredes; Casero, Kiritsis, Paredes]

$$S_{\text{DBI}} = -\frac{1}{2} M^3 N_c \text{Tr} \int d^5x V_{f0}(\lambda) e^{-\tau^2} \left( \sqrt{-\det A^{(L)}} + \sqrt{-\det A^{(R)}} \right)$$
$$A_{MN}^{(L/R)} = g_{MN} + \delta_M^r \delta_N^r \kappa(\lambda) \tau'(r)^2 + \delta_{MN}^{rt} w(\lambda) \Phi'(r) + w(\lambda) F_{MN}^{(L/R)}$$

gives the dynamics of the solitons (will be expanded in  $F^{(L/R)}$ ) and

$$S_{\text{CS}} = \frac{N_c}{8\pi^2} \int \Phi(r) e^{-b\tau^2} dt \wedge \left( F^{(L)} \wedge F^{(L)} - F^{(R)} \wedge F^{(R)} + \dots \right)$$

sources the baryon number for the solitons

► Extra parameter,  $b > 1$ , to ensure regularity of solutions

Set  $N_f = 2$  and consider the **homogeneous** SU(2) Ansatz

[Rozali, Shieh, Van Raamsdonk, Wu 0708.1322]

$$A_L^i = -A_R^i = h(r) \sigma^i$$

[Ishii, MJ, Nijs, 1903.06169]

# Discontinuity and smeared instantons

With the homogeneous Ansatz  $A_i^a(r) = h(r)\delta_i^a$  baryon number vanishes for any smooth  $h(r)$ :

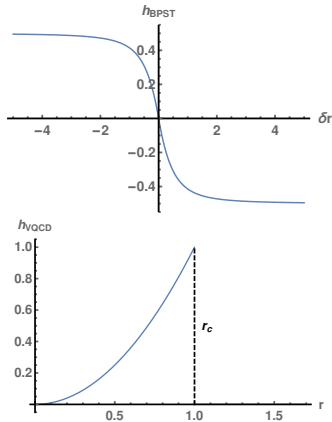
$$N_b \propto \int dr \frac{d}{dr} [\text{CS - term}] = 0$$

How can this issue be avoided?

- ▶ Smearing the BPST soliton in **singular Landau gauge**:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A_i^a \rangle &\sim \int \frac{d^3x \eta_{i4}^a \delta r}{(\delta r^2 + x^2 + \rho^2)(\delta r^2 + x^2)} \\ &\sim -\frac{\delta_i^a \delta r}{\sqrt{\delta r^2 + \rho^2} + |\delta r|} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ This suggests a solution: introduce a discontinuity in  $h(r)$  at  $r = r_c$
- ▶ The discontinuity sources nonzero baryon charge!



# Van der Waals model

Ideal gas of protons, neutrons and electrons with

- ▶ Excluded volume correction for nucleons

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\text{ex}}(T, \{\mu_i\}) &= p_{\text{id}}(T, \{\tilde{\mu}_i\}) \\ \tilde{\mu}_i &= \mu_i - v_0 p_{\text{ex}}(T, \{\mu_i\}) \quad (i = p, n) \end{aligned}$$

$v_0 \sim$  volume of one nucleon

- ▶ (Mostly) attractive potential term to match with (APR and V-QCD at  $T = 0$ )

$$p_{\text{vdW}}(T, \{\mu_i\}) = p_{\text{ex}}(T, \{\mu_i\}) + \Delta p(\{\mu_i\})$$

schematically:

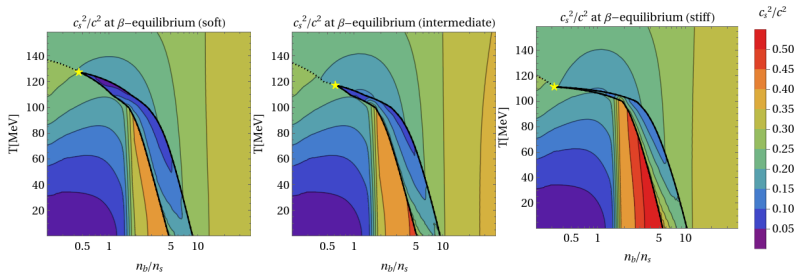
$$\Delta p(\{\mu_i\}) = p_{\text{V-QCD}}(T = 0, \{\mu_i\}) - p_{\text{ex}}(T = 0, \{\mu_i\})$$

[Rischke, Gorenstein, Stoecker, Greiner, Z Phys. C 51, 485 (1991)]

[Vovchenko, Gorenstein, Stoecker, 1609.03975]

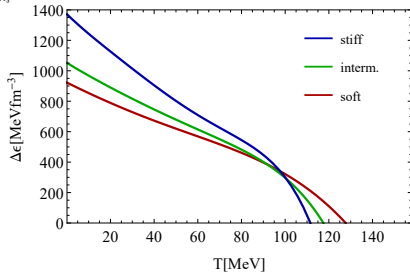
[Vovchenko, Motornenko, Alba, Gorenstein, Satarov, Stoecker, 1707.09215]

# Results: critical point



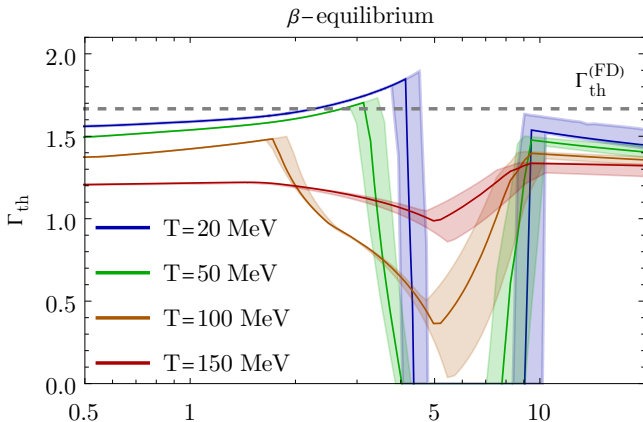
$$110 \text{ MeV} \lesssim T_c \lesssim 130 \text{ MeV}$$

$$0.3n_s \lesssim n_c \lesssim 0.6n_s$$



Critical point is determined by fitting the latent heat in the region of strong phase transition and extrapolating

# Results: thermal index



$$\Gamma_{\text{th}}(n_b, T) = 1 + \frac{\rho(n_b, T) - \rho(n_b, 0)}{e(n_b, T) - e(n_b, 0)}$$

- ▶ Values in expected range
- ▶ Low values in the mixed phase



# Rapidly spinning holographic neutron stars

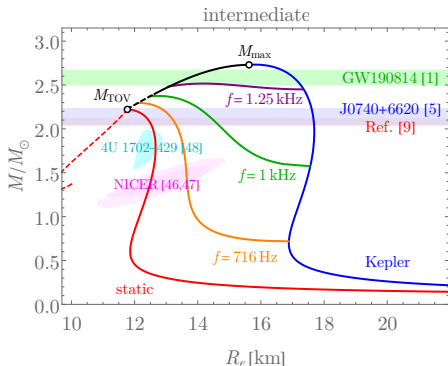
GW190814: LIGO/Virgo observed a merger of a  $23M_{\odot}$  black hole with a  $2.6M_{\odot}$  compact object

[2006.12611]

►  $2.6M_{\odot}$  falls in the “gap”: a black hole or a neutron star?

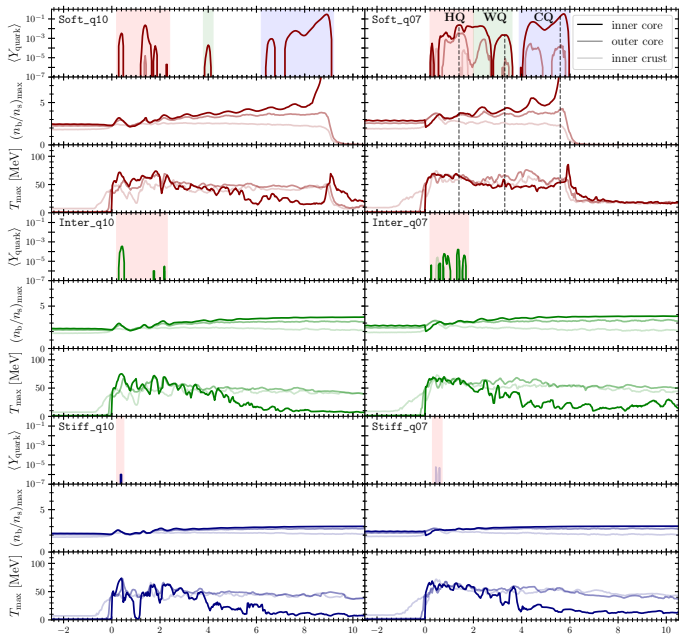
► Holographic EOSs easily compatible with the neutron star interpretation

► However requires **fast rotation**,  $f \gtrsim 1$  kHz



[Demircik, Ecker, MJ, 2009.10731]

# Details on quark formation



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# Mechanical Toy Model

