

# Charm fluctuations and charm deconfinement from lattice QCD

Sipaz Sharma, F.Karsch, P.Petreczky

HotQCD Collaboration

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# Motivation

- ▶ Strong interaction matter undergoes a chiral crossover at  $T_{pc} = 156.5 \pm 1.5$  MeV.  
[HotQCD Collaboration, 2019; Borsanyi et al., 2020; Kotov et al., 2021]
- ▶ In heavy-ion collisions, relevant degrees of freedom change from partonic to hadronic in going from high temperature phase to temperatures below  $T_{pc}$ .

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- ▶ When do charmed hadrons stop contributing to the total charm pressure?
- ▶ Charm fluctuations (cumulants) calculated in the framework of Lattice QCD can receive enhanced contributions due the existence of not-yet-discovered open-charm states; it is possible to compare this enhancement to the HRG calculations.

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- ▶  $\hat{\mu}_X = \mu/T$ ,  $X \in \{B, Q, S, C\}$ .

# Generalized susceptibilities of the conserved charges

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- ▶  $K_2(x) \sim \sqrt{\pi/2x} e^{-x} [1 + \mathcal{O}(x^{-1})]$ . If  $m_i \gg T$ , then contribution to  $P_C$  will be exponentially suppressed.
- ▶  $\Lambda_c^+$  mass  $\sim 2286$  MeV,  $\Xi_{cc}^{++}$  mass  $\sim 3621$  MeV. At  $T_{pc}$ , contribution to  $B_C$  from  $\Xi_{cc}^{++}$  will be suppressed by a factor of  $10^{-4}$  in relation to  $\Lambda_c^+$ .

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- ▶ Dimensionless generalized susceptibilities of conserved charges:

$$\chi_{klmn}^{BQSC} = \frac{\partial^{(k+l+m+n)} [P(\hat{\mu}_B, \hat{\mu}_Q, \hat{\mu}_S, \hat{\mu}_C) / T^4]}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B^k \partial \hat{\mu}_Q^l \partial \hat{\mu}_S^m \partial \hat{\mu}_C^n} \Big|_{\vec{\mu}=0}$$

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- ▶  $\chi_{mn}^{BC} = B_{C,1} + 2^n B_{C,2} + 3^n B_{C,3} \simeq B_{C,1}$

$$\chi_{m00n}^{\text{BQSC}}$$

- ▶ At present, we have gone upto fourth order in calculating various cumulants.

# Ratios independent of the hadron spectrum

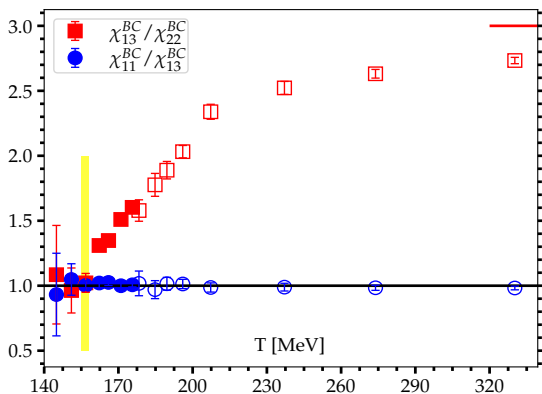
- ▶ Irrespective of the details of the baryon mass spectrum, in the validity range of HRG,  $\chi_{mn}^{\text{BC}}/\chi_{kl}^{\text{BC}} = 1, \forall (m+n), (k+l) \in \text{even}$ .

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- ▶  $\chi_{1n}^{\text{BC}}/\chi_{1l}^{\text{BC}} = 1$ ,  $\forall n, l \in \text{odd}$ , for the entire temperature range.



# Change in the charm degrees of freedom

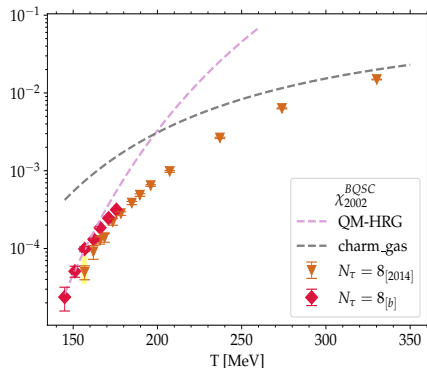
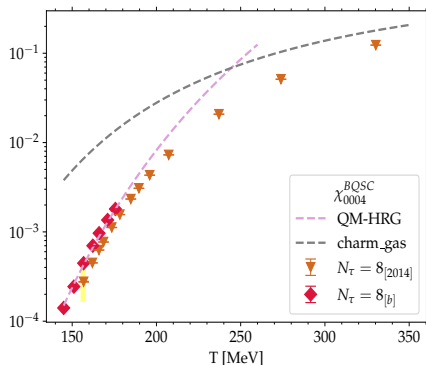


- States with fractional B start appearing near  $T_{pc}$ . Is it possible to determine this fractional B?

# Approach to free charm-quark gas limit

$$P_c(T, \vec{\mu}) = \frac{3}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{m_c}{T} \right)^2 K_2(m_c/T) \cosh \left( \frac{2}{3} \hat{\mu}_Q + \frac{1}{3} \hat{\mu}_B + \hat{\mu}_C \right)$$

$$m_c = 1.27 \text{ GeV.}$$



# Charm degrees of freedom in the intermediate T range

Quasi-particle model:

$$P^C(T, \hat{\mu}_C, \hat{\mu}_B)/T^4 = P_M^C(T) \cosh(\hat{\mu}_C) + P_B^C(T) \cosh(\hat{\mu}_C + \hat{\mu}_B) \\ + P_q^C(T) \cosh(\hat{\mu}_C + \hat{\mu}_B/3)$$

$$P_q^C = 9(\chi_{13}^{BC} - \chi_{22}^{BC})/2$$

$$P_B^C = (3\chi_{22}^{BC} - \chi_{13}^{BC})/2$$

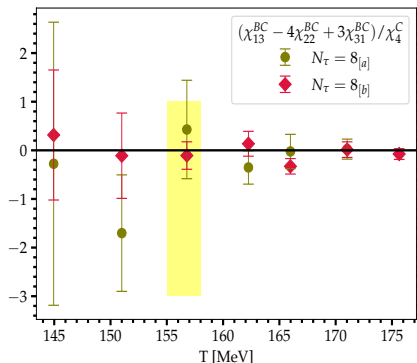
$$P_M^C = \chi_4^C + 3\chi_{22}^{BC} - 4\chi_{13}^{BC}$$

Constraint on cumulants in a simple quasi-particle model:

$$c = \chi_{13}^{BC} + 3\chi_{31}^{BC} - 4\chi_{22}^{BC} = 0$$

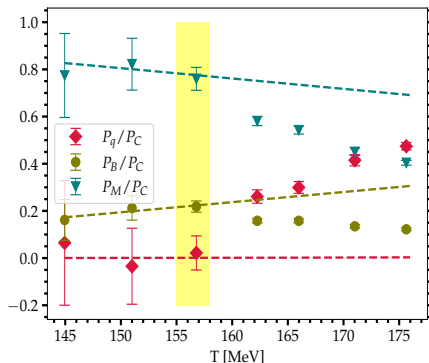
[S. Mukherjee et al., 2016]

# Quasi-particle model



The constraint holds true  $\implies$  quasi-particle states with  $|B| = 0, 1$  or  $1/3$  exist in the intermediate temperature range.

# Charm-quark-like excitations in QGP



Right after  $T_{pc}$ ,  $P_q$  starts contributing to  $P_C$ , which is compensated by a reduction (and deviation from HRG) in the fractional contribution of the hadron-like states to  $P_C$ .

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- ▶ We can use four fourth-order QC correlations to determine partial pressures of the four possible electrically-charged-charm subsectors.

$$P_C^{|Q|=2/3} = \frac{1}{8} [54\chi_{13}^{QC} - 81\chi_{22}^{QC} + 27\chi_{31}^{QC}]$$



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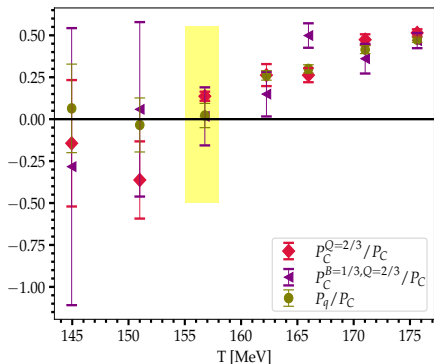
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- ▶ For the BQC sector there are three possibilities: i)  $\{|B| = 1, |Q| = 1\}$ ;  
ii)  $\{|B| = 1, |Q| = 2\}$ ; iii)  $\{|B| = 1/3, |Q| = 2/3\}$ .

$$P_C^{B=1/3, Q=2/3} = \frac{27}{4} [\chi_{112}^{BQC} - \chi_{211}^{BQC}]$$

# Charm-quark-like excitations in QGP



Clear agreement between three independent observables which correspond to the partial pressures of  
i)  $B = 1/3$ , ii)  $Q = 2/3$ , and iii)  $B = 1/3$  and  $Q = 2/3$  charm subsectors.

# Baryonic and mesonic contributions to $P_C$

In the low temperature range, where HRG works,

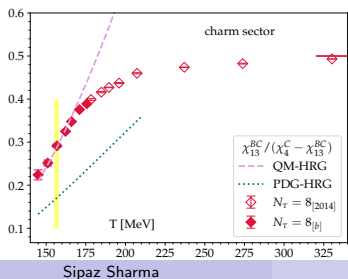
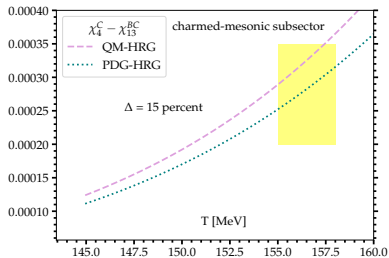
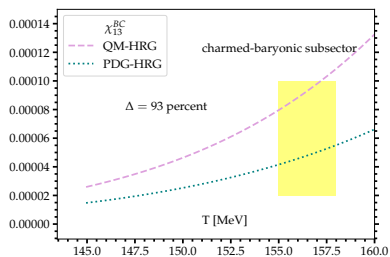
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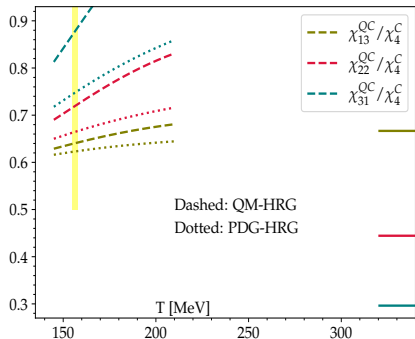
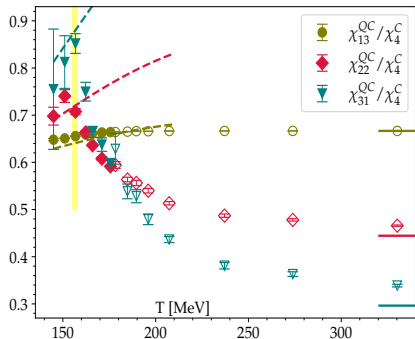
- ▶  $\chi_{13}^{\text{BC}}$  is the partial pressure from the charmed-baryonic subsector.
- ▶  $\chi_4^{\text{C}} - \chi_{13}^{\text{BC}}$  can be interpreted as the partial pressure from the charmed-mesonic subsector.
- ▶ Unlike the previous quantities shown, ratios such as  $\chi_{13}^{\text{BC}} / (\chi_4^{\text{C}} - \chi_{13}^{\text{BC}})$  will partially depend upon the hadron spectrum.

# Ratios of baryonic and mesonic contributions to $P_C$



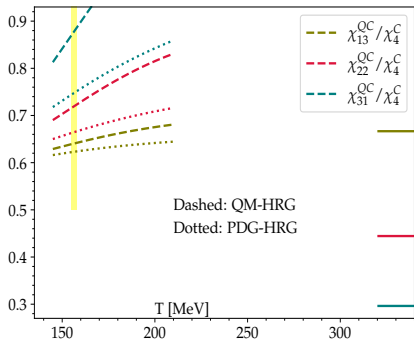
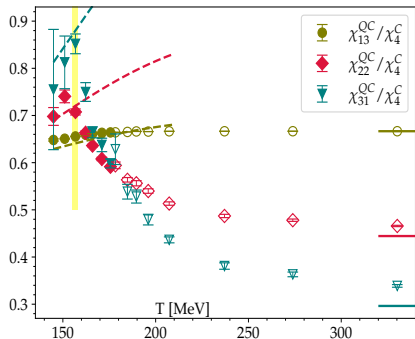
- ▶ Missing charmed-baryonic states below  $T_{pc}$ .
- ▶  $\Delta = (|1 - \text{QM-HRG}/\text{PDG-HRG}|)|_{T_{pc}}$

# Electrically-charged-charm subsector



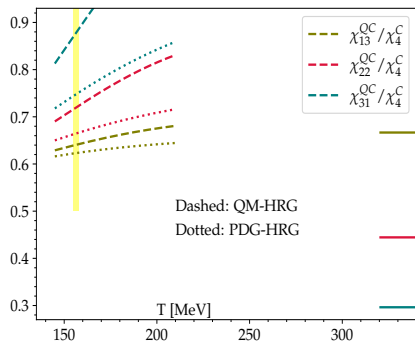
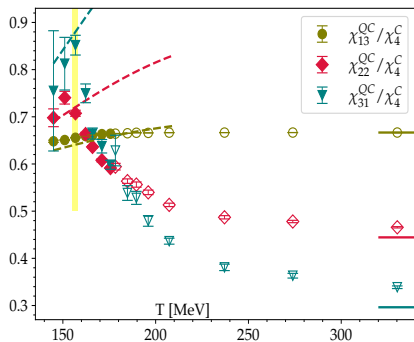
- ▶ With now available statistics, possibility of distinguishing  $|Q| = 0, 1, 2$  charm subsectors in the hadronic phase.

# Electrically-charged-charm subsector



- ▶ Ratio of QM-HRG/PGD-HRG increases with increasing  $Q$ -moments  
 $\implies |Q| = 2$  sector more sensitive to 'missing resonances'.
- ▶  $\chi_{22}^{QC}$  and  $\chi_{31}^{QC}$  give evidence for 'missing resonances'.

# Electrically-charged-charm subsector



- ▶ Ratio of QM-HRG/PDG-HRG increases with increasing Q-moments.
- ▶ Close to freeze-out, an enhancement over the PDG expectation in the fractional contribution of the  $|Q| = 2$  ( $\Sigma_c^{++}$ ) charm subsector to the total charm partial pressure.



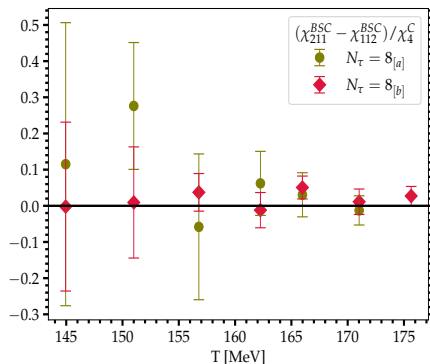
# Conclusions & Outlook

- ▶ Onset of hadron melting at  $T_{pc}$ .
- ▶ Evidence of deconfinement in terms of presence of charm-quark-like excitations in QGP.
- ▶ No evidence for the existence of charmed diquarks above  $T_{pc}$ .
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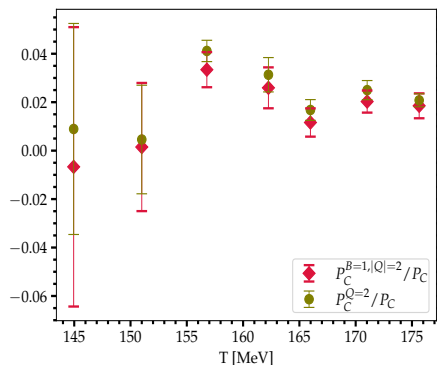
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- ▶ Analysis shows that there are missing states in the PDG record.
- ▶ Continuum limit with two different LCPs is in progress; it will enable us to make a statement based on the absolute cumulants.

# Backup Slide I



No strange-charm diquarks.

## Backup Slide II



Only  $|B| = 1$  sector contributes to partial pressure from  $|Q| = 2$  charmed subsectors.

# Backup Slide III

