Strange quark matter in neutron stars

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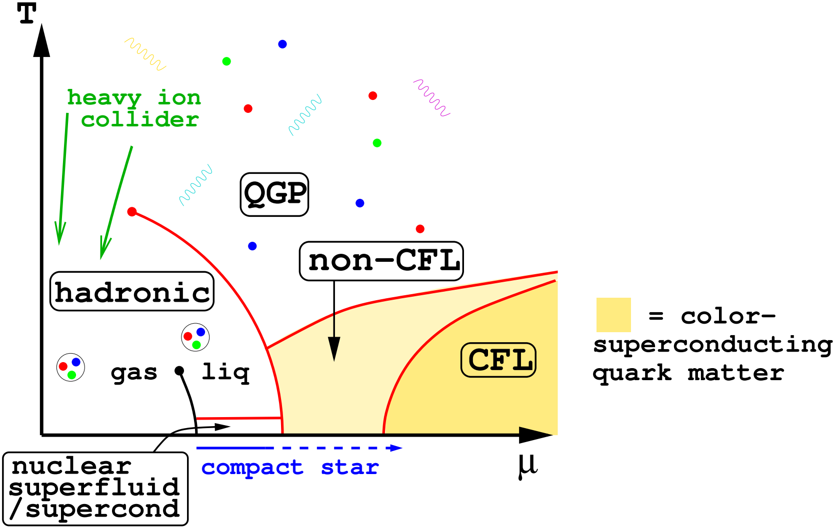
SQM 2013

Schematic QCD phase diagram



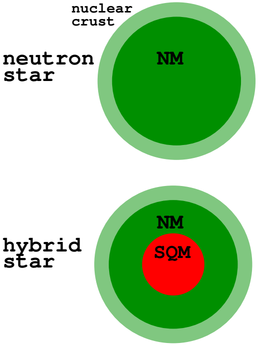
M. Alford, K. Rajagopal, T. Schäfer, A. Schmitt, arXiv:0709.4635 (RMP review)

A. Schmitt, arXiv:1001.3294 (Springer Lecture Notes)

Quark matter in compact stars

Conventional scenario

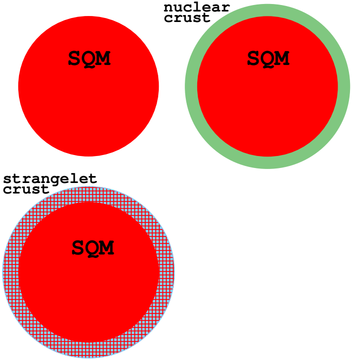
Neutron/hybrid star



Strange Matter Hypothesis

Bodmer 1971; Witten 1984; Farhi, Jaffe 1984

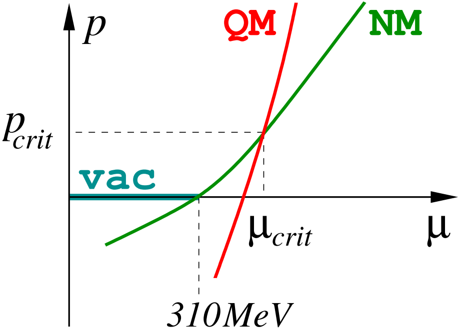
Strange star



Two scenarios for quark matter

Conventional scenario

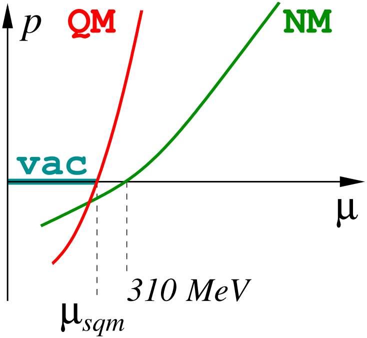
Vac→NM→QM



Nuclear→quark matter transition at high pressure, (μ_{crit}, p_{crit})

Strange Matter Hypothesis

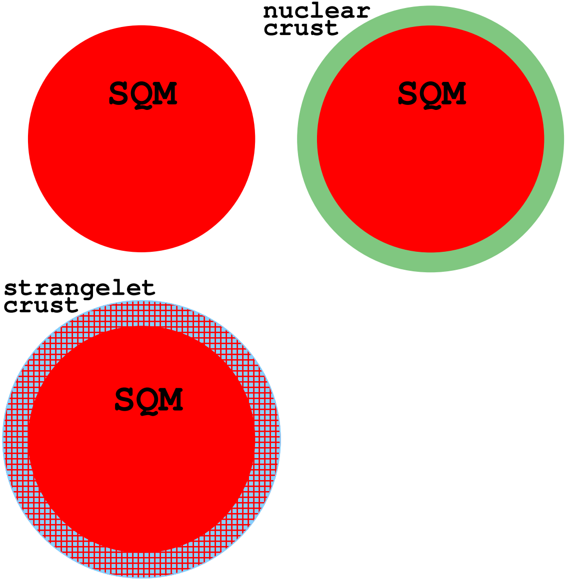
Vac→QM



Vacuum→quark matter transition at $\mu = \mu_{\mathrm{sqm}}$, $p = 0$.

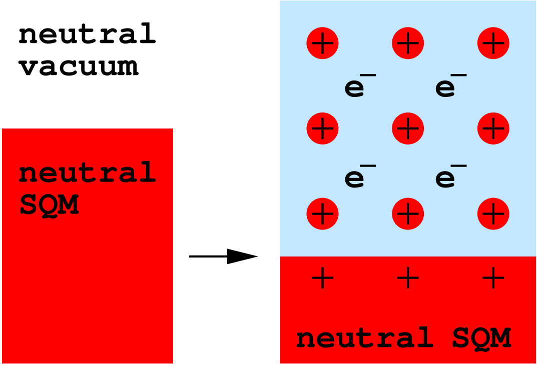
Strange quark matter (SQM) is the favored phase down to $p = 0$.

Stars under the Strange Matter Hypothesis



Strangelet crust

At zero pressure, if its surface tension is low enough, strange matter, like nuclear matter, will undergo charge separation and evaporation in to charged droplets.



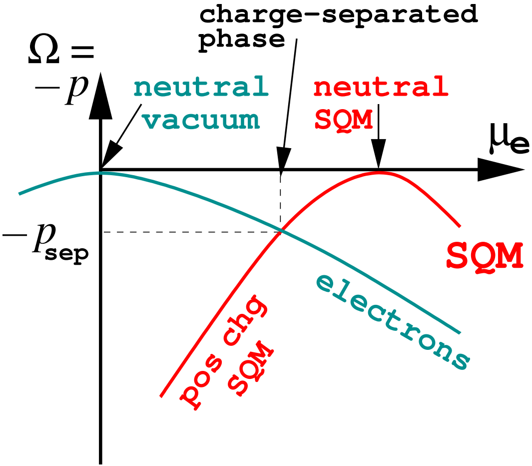
$\sigma_{\rm crit} \lesssim 10\,\text{MeVfm}^{-2}$

Crust thickness
$\Delta R \lesssim 1\,\text{km}$

Alford, Eby, arXiv:0808.0671

Jaikumar, Reddy, Steiner, nucl-th/0507055

Charge separation: a generic feature



charge density $\rho = \dfrac{d\Omega}{d\mu_e}$

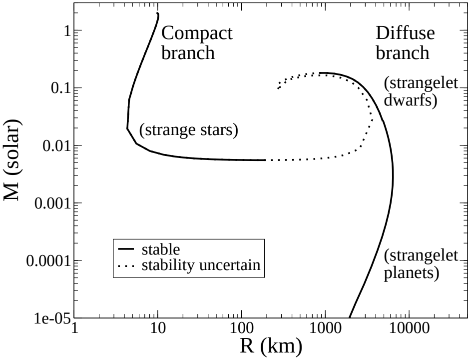
Neutral quark matter and *neutral* vacuum can coexist at zero pressure.

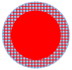
But if they have different electrostatic potentials μ_e then $p_{\rm sep} > 0$ and it is preferable* to form a charge-separated phase with intermediate μ_e.

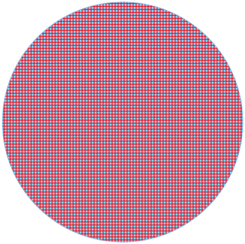
$*$ unless surface costs are too high, e.g. surface tension, electrostatic energy from $\mathbf{E} = \nabla\mu_e$.

Strange quark matter objects

Similar to nuclear matter objects, if surface tension is low enough.







Alford, Han `arXiv:1111.3937`

Strange Matter Hypothesis summary

- Strange matter is the true ground state at zero pressure.
- For a compact star, ground state is strange matter, perhaps with a strangelet or nuclear matter crust.
- Neutron stars will convert to strange stars if hit by a strangelet.
- Regular matter is immune since strangelets are positively charged.
- If surface tension of strange matter is low enough, it will form atoms, planets, dwarfs, compact stars, roughly like nuclear matter.

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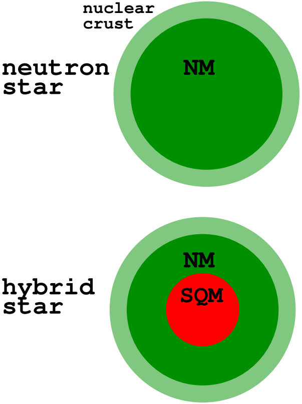
Is SMH ruled out by observations of neutron stars?

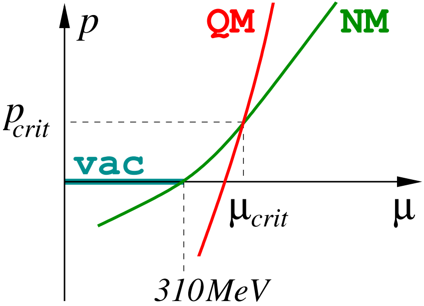
- X-ray bursts oscillations indicate ordinary nuclear crust (Watts, Reddy `astro-ph/0609364`). But...
  — Maybe nuclear crust can show similar behavior?
  — Maybe strangelet crust can show similar behavior?
- Would cosmic strangelet flux be large enough to convert all neutron stars? (Friedman, Caldwell, 1991)?
  Depends on SQM params (Bauswein et. al. `arXiv:0812.4248`).

Conventional hypothesis

Transition from nuclear matter to quark matter occurs at high pressure.
Compact stars have nuclear crust/mantle, possible quark matter core.



Vac→NM→QM



Nuclear→quark matter
at high pressure, ($\mu_{\rm crit}$, $p_{\rm crit}$)

Signatures of quark matter in compact stars

Observable $\leftarrow$ Microphysical properties (and neutron star structure) $\leftarrow$ Phases of dense matter

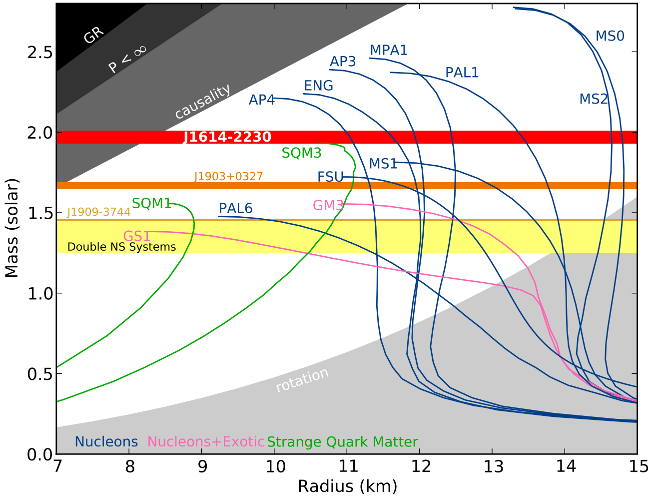
	Property	Nuclear phase	Quark phase
mass, radius	eqn of state $\varepsilon(p)$	known up to $\sim n_{\rm sat}$	unknown; many models

Signatures of quark matter in compact stars

Observable ← Microphysical properties (and neutron star structure) ← Phases of dense matter

	Property	Nuclear phase	Quark phase
mass, radius	eqn of state $\varepsilon(p)$	known up to $\sim n_{\rm sat}$	unknown; many models
spindown (spin freq, age)	bulk viscosity shear viscosity	Depends on phase:	Depends on phase:
		$n\,p\,e$	unpaired
cooling (temp, age)	heat capacity neutrino emissivity thermal cond.	$n\,p\,e,\mu$	CFL
		$n\,p\,e,\Lambda,\Sigma^-$	CFL-K^0
		n superfluid	2SC
glitches (superfluid, crystal)	shear modulus vortex pinning energy	p supercond	CSL
		π condensate	LOFF
		K condensate	1SC
			...

Nucl/Quark EoS $\varepsilon(p) \Rightarrow$ Neutron star $M(R)$



Recent measurement:

$$M = 1.97 \pm 0.04\, M_\odot$$

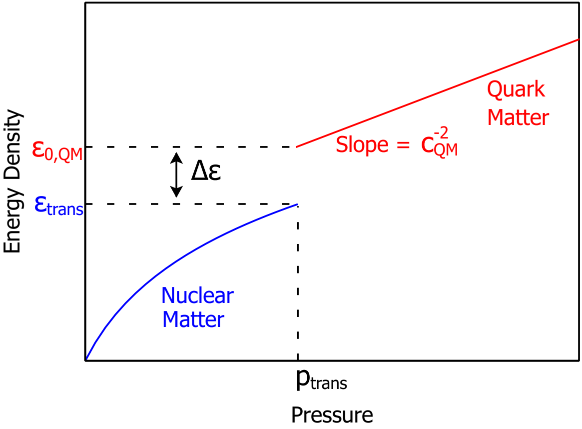
Demorest et al, Nature 467, 1081 (2010).

Can quark matter be the favored phase at high density?

A fairly generic QM EoS

Model-independent parameterization based on Classical Ideal Gas (CIG)

$$\varepsilon(p) = \varepsilon_{\rm trans} + \Delta\varepsilon + c_{\rm QM}^{-2}(p - p_{\rm crit})$$

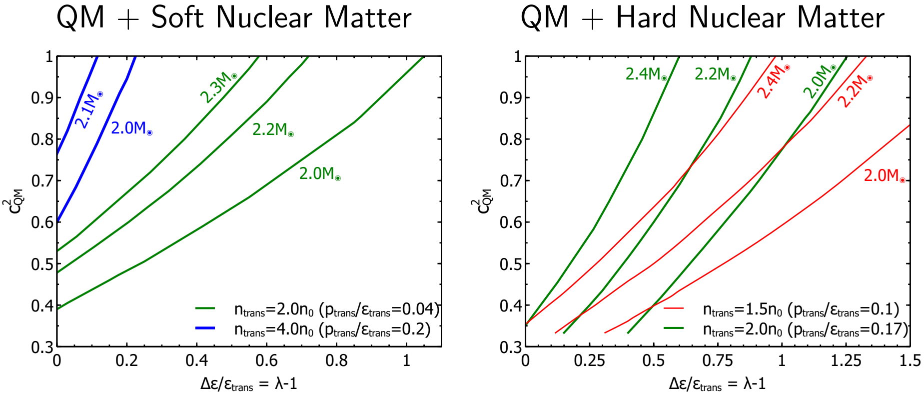


Zdunik, Haensel,
`arXiv:1211.1231`

Alford, Han, Prakash,
`arXiv:1302.4732`

QM EoS params: $p_{\rm trans}/\varepsilon_{\rm trans}$, $\Delta\varepsilon/\varepsilon_{\rm trans}$, $c_{\rm QM}^2$

Constraints on QM EoS from max mass

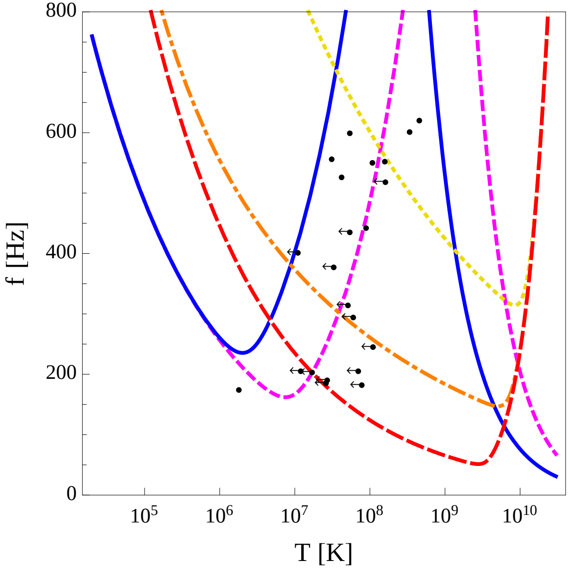


Alford, Han, Prakash, arXiv:1302.4732; Zdunik, Haensel, arXiv:1211.1231

- Max mass can constrain QM EoS but not rule out generic QM
- For soft NM EoS, need $c^2_{\rm QM} \gtrsim 0.4$

r-modes and old pulsars

r-modes cause fast-spinning stars to spin down ⇒ exclusion regions



Nuclear, viscous damping only

Nuclear with some core-mantle friction

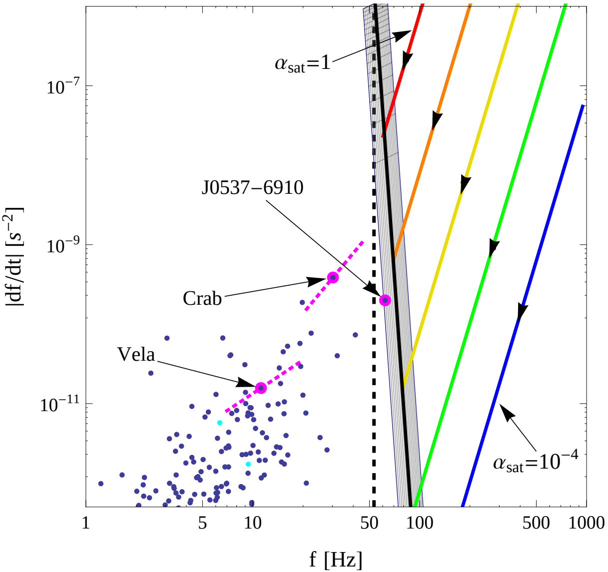
Nuclear with maximum core-mantle friction

Free quarks

Quarks with non-Fermi corrections

(Schwenzer, `arXiv:1212.5242`)

r-modes and young pulsar spindown



(Alford, Schwenzer arXiv:1210.6091)

Conventional Scenario summary

- Critical density for nuclear→quark transition is unknown. Neutron stars may have quark matter cores.
- We need signatures that are sensitive to properties of the core
  - Mass-radius curve
  - Cooling (e.g. Cas. A)
  - Spindown (r-mode exclusion regions)
  - Glitches
  - Grav waves? (Spindown, mergers, "mountains")
- We need to understand quark matter phases and how their properties are manifested in these signature behaviors.

The future

- Neutron stars:
  - More data on neutron star mass, radius, age, temperature, etc.
  - Better understanding of nuclear matter properties
  - r-mode damping mechanisms
  - Color supercond. crystalline phase (glitches) (gravitational waves?)
  - CFL phase: superconductor with unstable vortices
- Quark matter properties:
  - Intermediate density phases
  - Role of large magnetic fields
  - Better models of quark matter: PNJL, Schwinger-Dyson
  - Better weak-coupling calculations
  - Solve the sign problem and do lattice QCD at high density