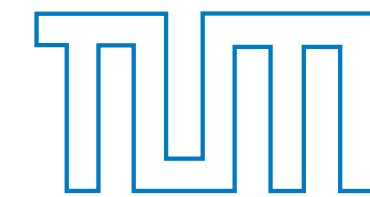


HYPERON-NUCLEAR THREE-BODY FORCES

and

STRANGENESS in NEUTRON STARS



Wolfram Weise
Technische **U**niversität **M**ünchen



- ★ **Brief Survey: Equation-of-State of Dense Matter in Neutron Stars**
 - Observational constraints from $2 M_{\odot}$ neutron stars and mergers (GW signals)
 - Bayesian inference methods, deep learning strategies, and theoretical models
- ★ **Strangeness and Baryonic Matter**
 - Hyperon-nucleon interactions, three-body forces and hypernuclei
 - Hyperons in the core of neutron stars ? Scenarios and the “hyperon puzzle”

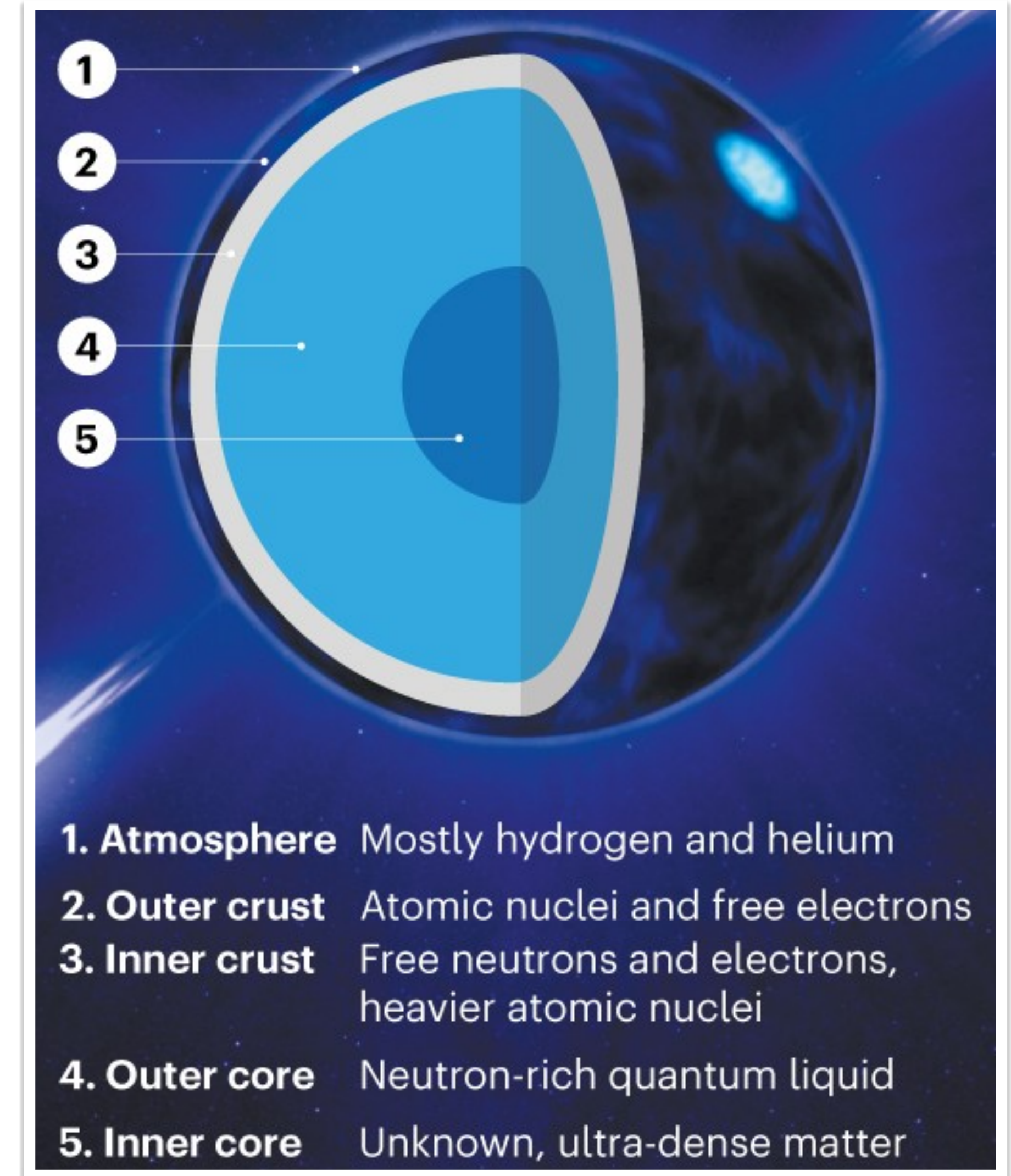
1.

*Equation-of-State of Dense Baryonic Matter :
Observational Constraints from Neutron Stars
. . . and possible Interpretations*



NEUTRON STARS : EQUATION of STATE

- Constraints on **Equation-of-State** of baryonic matter at **HIGH DENSITY** and **LOW TEMPERATURE**
 - **Neutron star mass** measurements (Shapiro delay in n-star - white dwarf binaries)
 - **Gravitational wave** signals of **neutron star mergers** (LIGO and Virgo collaborations)
 - **Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer** (NICER telescope @ ISS)

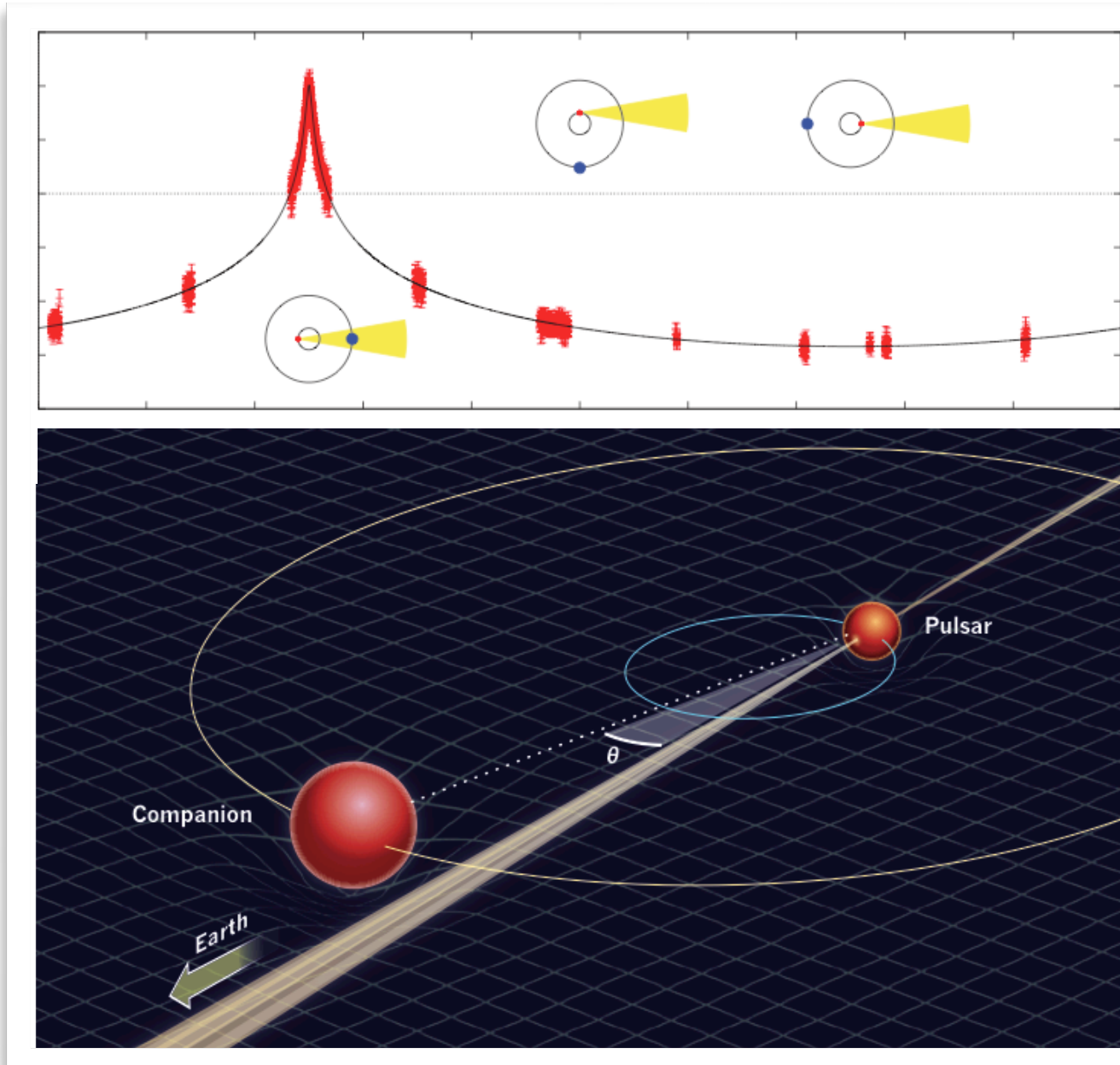


Layers of a Neutron Star



MASSIVE NEUTRON STARS

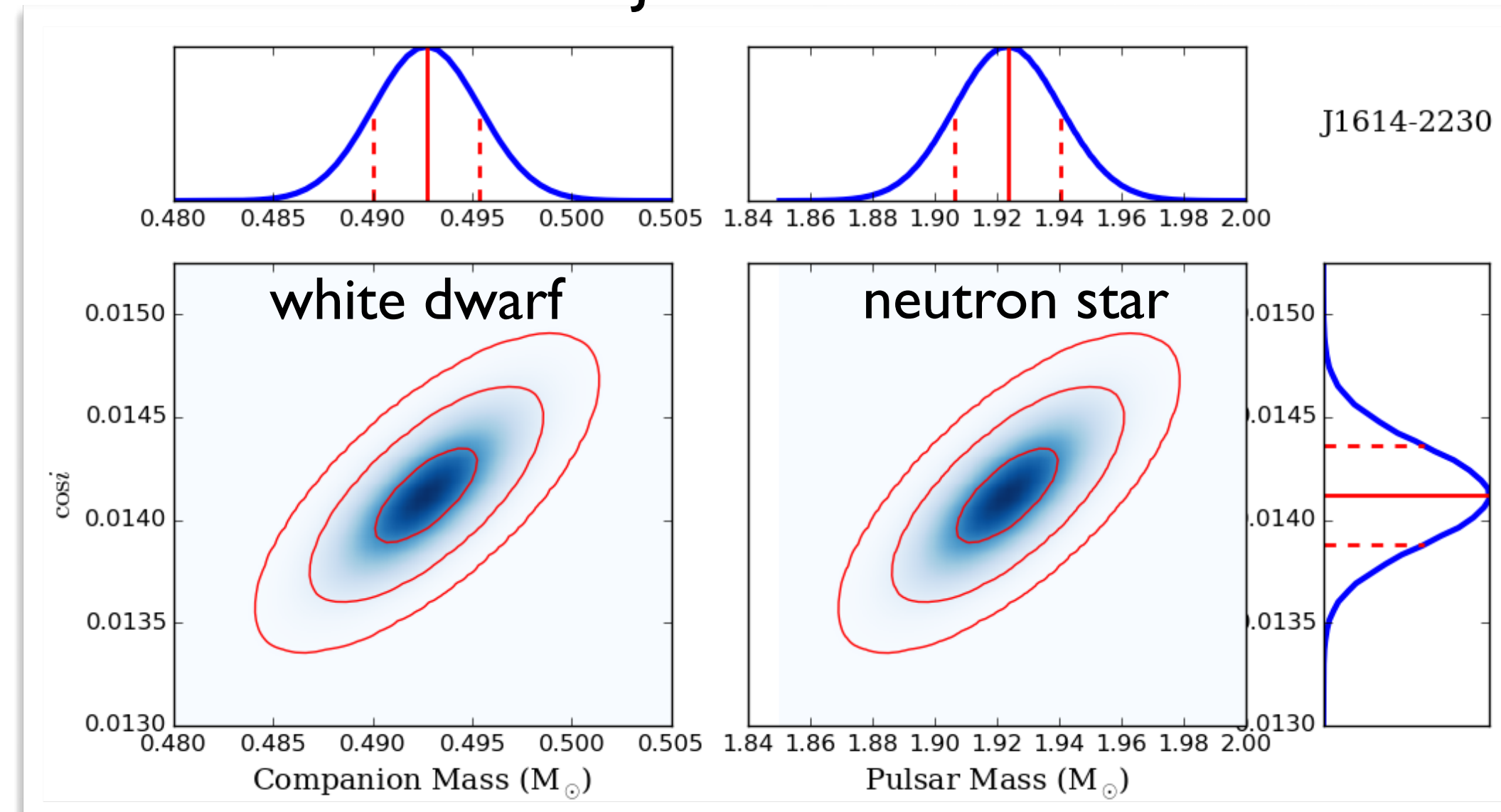
Shapiro delay measurements



P.B. Demorest et al.: Nature 467 (2010) 1081

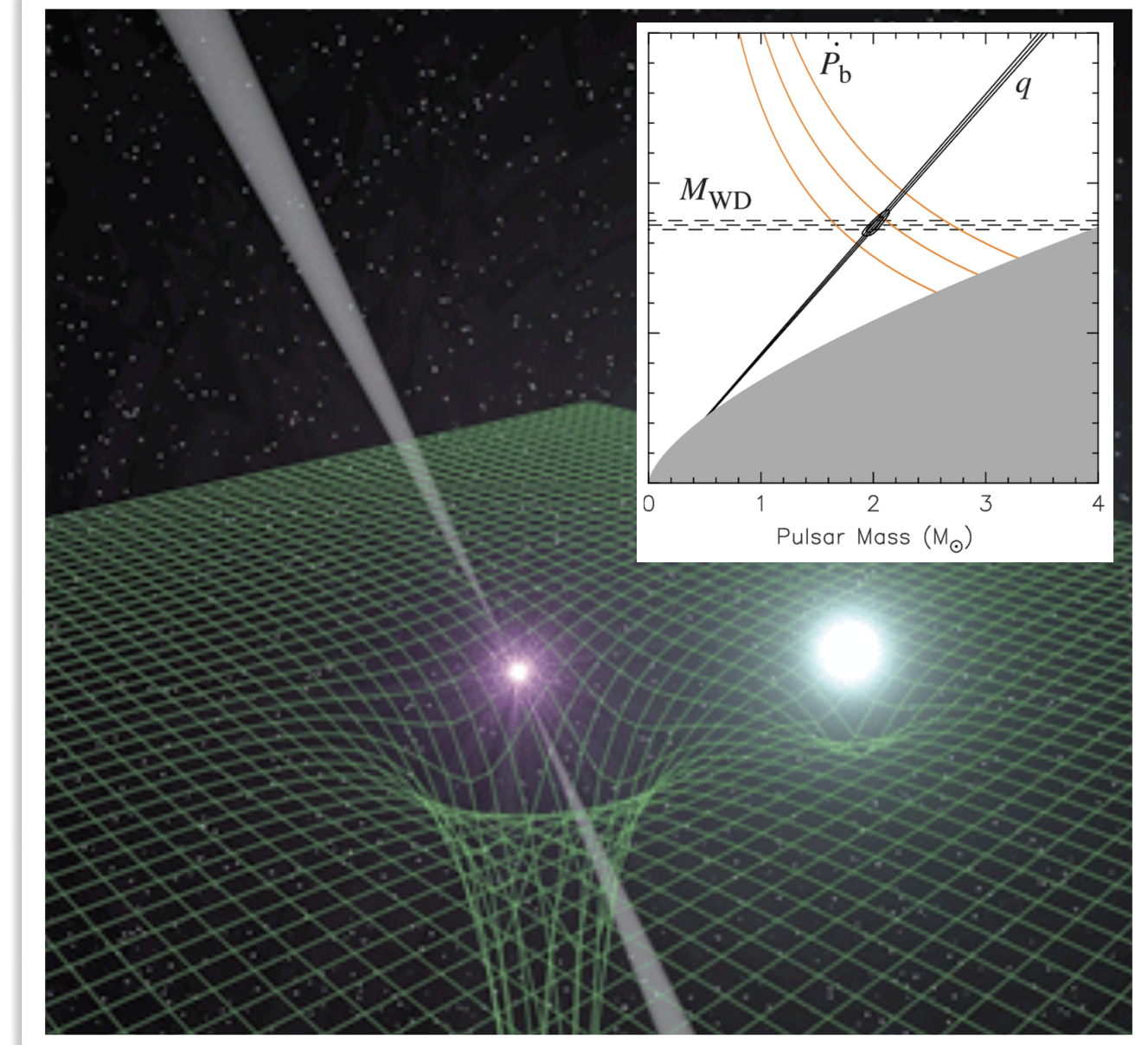
● Neutron star - white dwarf binaries

PSR J1614-2230



E. Fonseca et al., Astrophys.J. 832 (2016) 167

PSR J0348+0432



PSR J1614-2230

$$M = 1.908 \pm 0.016 M_{\odot}$$

Z. Arzoumanian et al., Astrophys.J. Suppl. 235 (2018) 37

PSR J0348+0432

$$M = 2.01 \pm 0.04 M_{\odot}$$

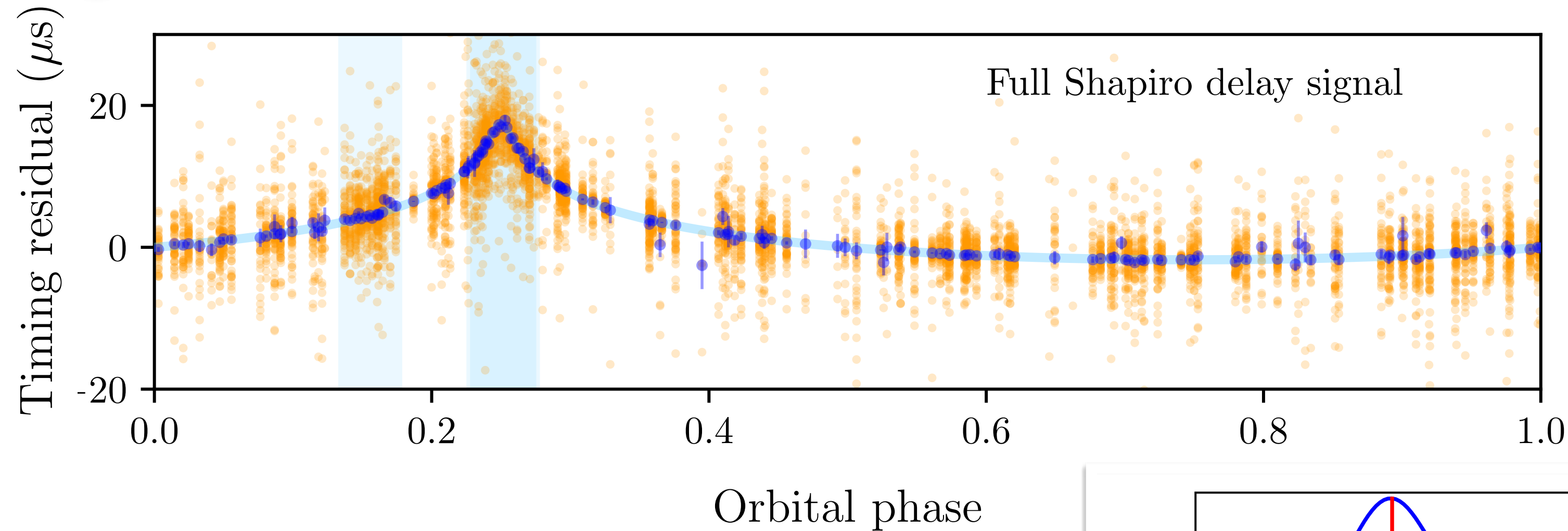
J. Antoniadis et al.: Science 340 (2013) 6131

- Strong constraints for the stiffness of the Equation-of State of cold & dense baryonic matter



MASSIVE NEUTRON STARS (contd.)

- Millisecond pulsar PSR J0740+6620 in neutron star - white dwarf binary



- Observations: Green Bank Telescope



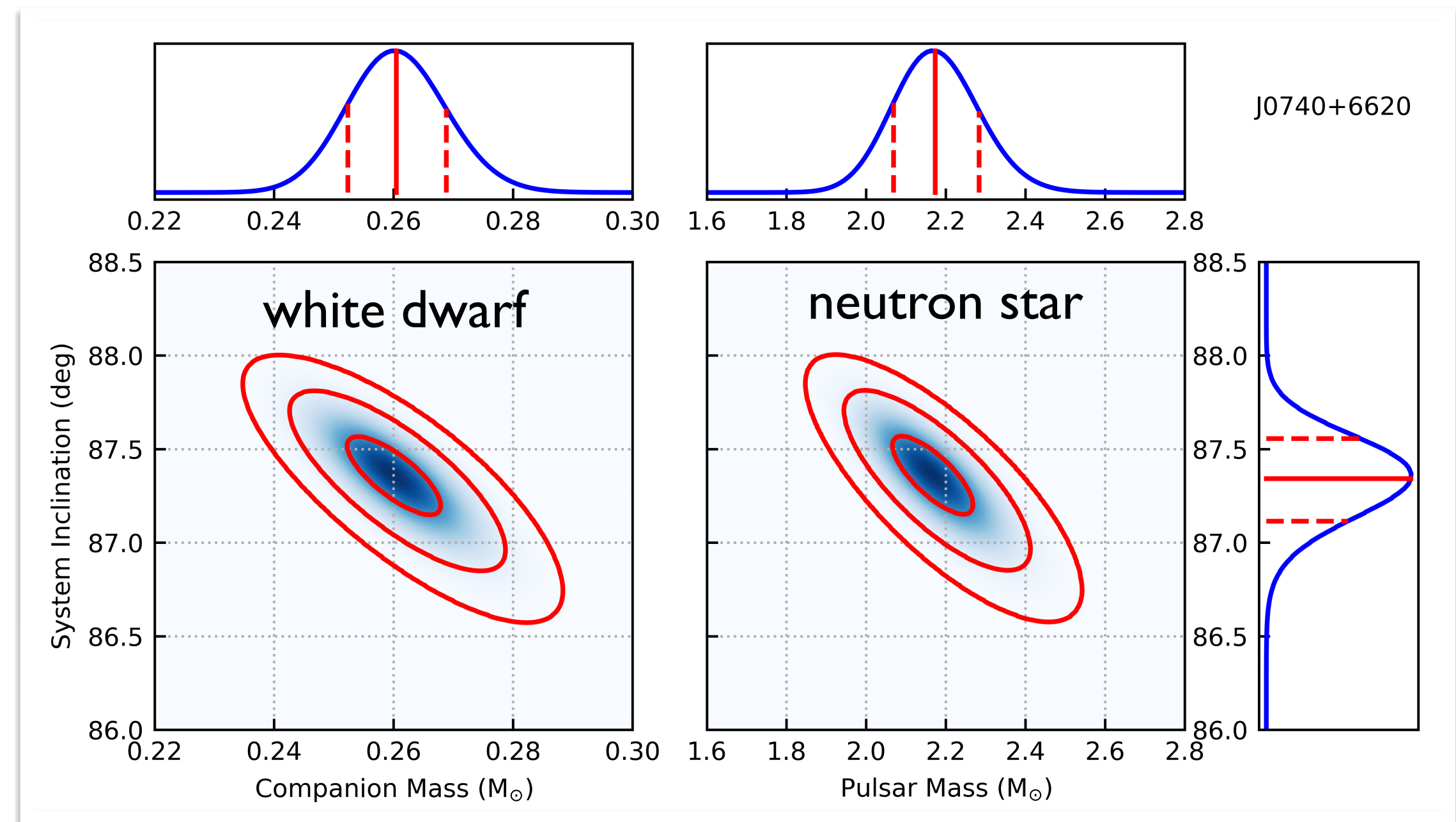
$$M = 2.14^{+0.10}_{-0.09} M_{\odot}$$

H.T. Cromartie et al., Nature Astron. 4 (2019) 72

- updated 1.5 years later:

$$M = 2.08 \pm 0.07 M_{\odot}$$

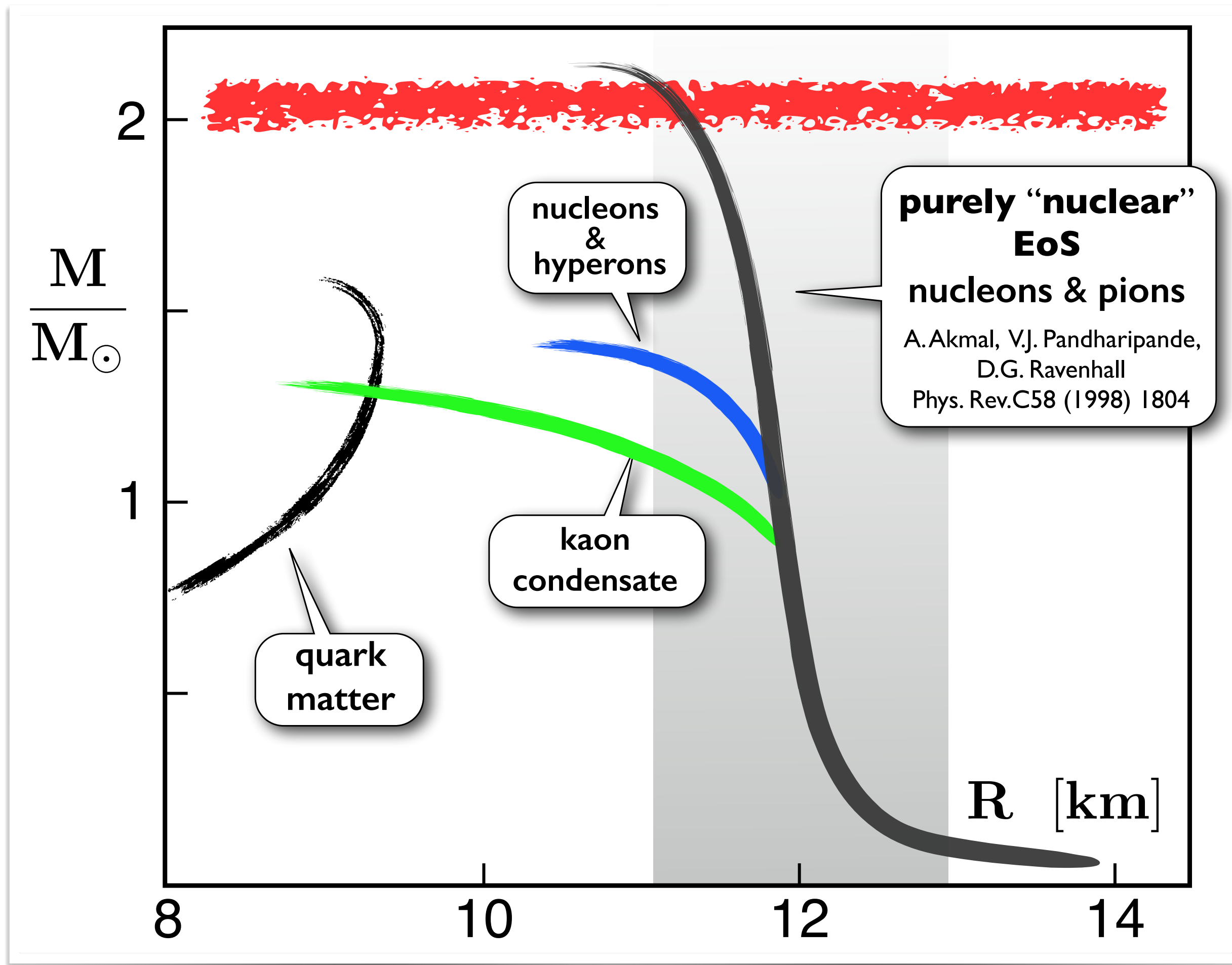
E. Fonseca et al., Astrophys. J. Lett. 915 (2021) L12



CONSTRAINTS on EQUATION-of-STATE

- from observations of $2 M_{\odot}$ neutron stars

Mass-Radius Relation



Tolman - Oppenheimer - Volkov Equations

$$\frac{dP}{dr} = -\frac{G}{c^2} \frac{(\mathcal{E} + P)(M + 4\pi Pr^3)}{r(r - 2GM/c^2)}$$

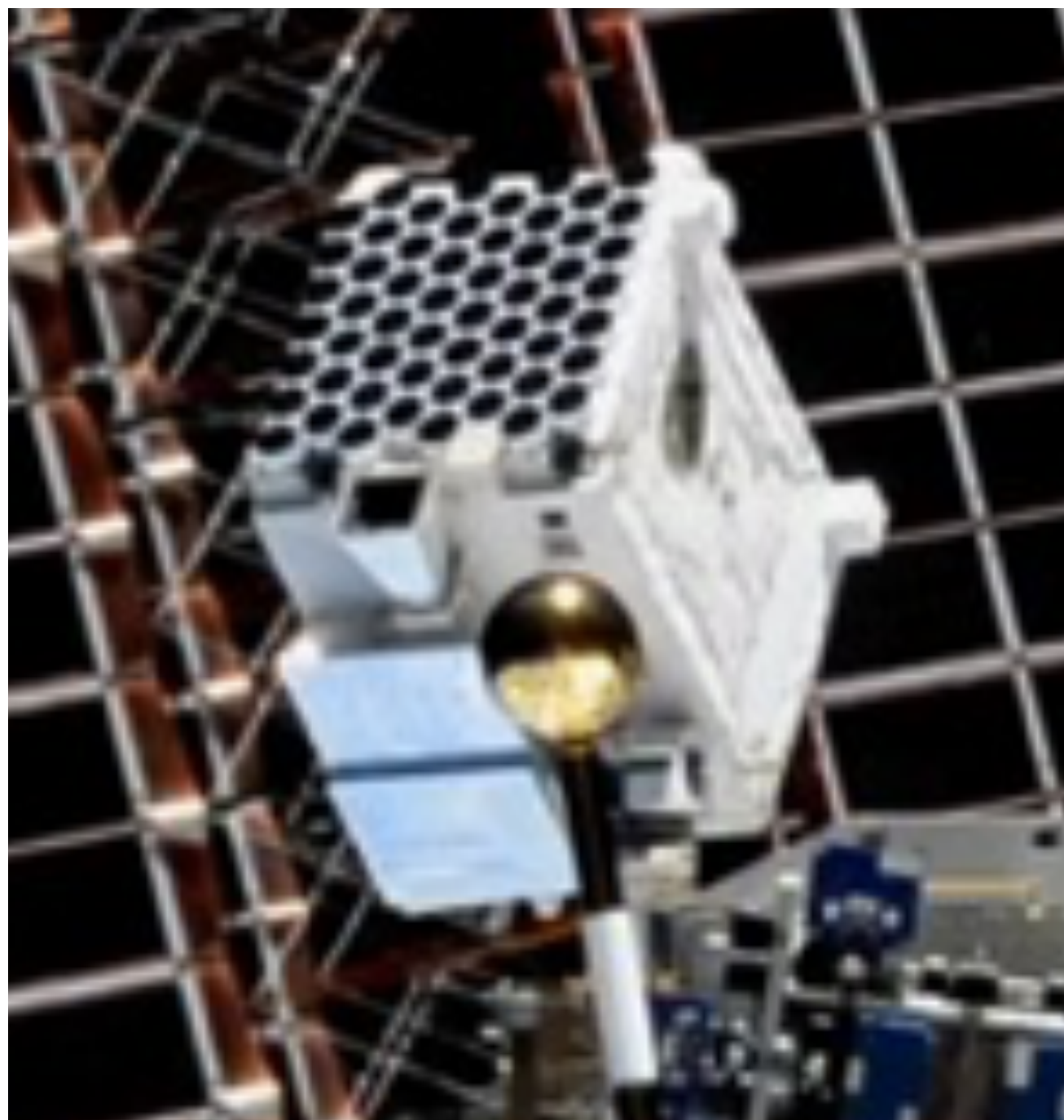
$$\frac{dM}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \frac{\mathcal{E}}{c^2}$$

- Stiff equation-of-state $P(\mathcal{E})$ required
- Simple forms of exotic matter (kaon condensate, quark matter, ...) ruled out

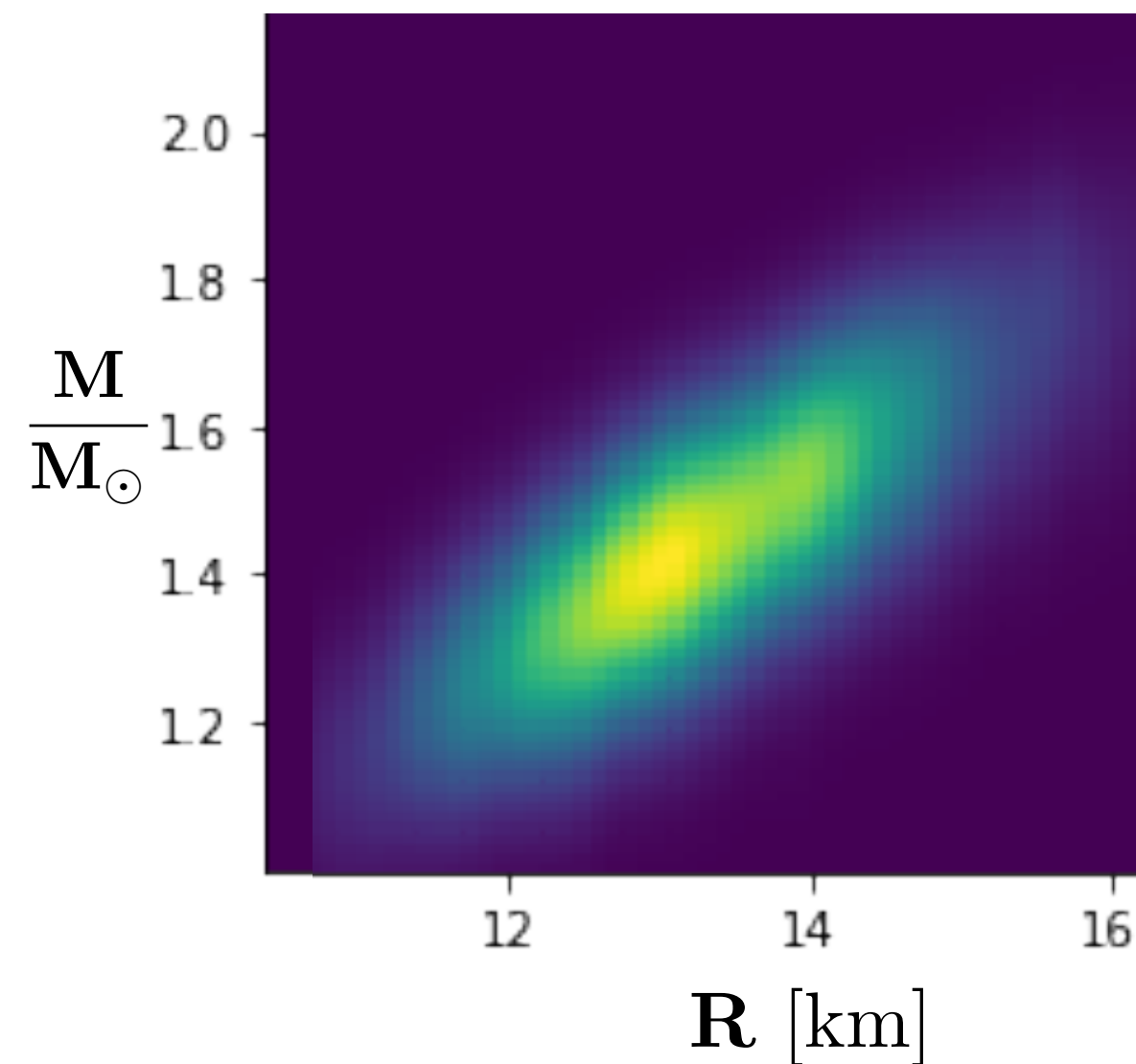
MASSES & RADII of NEUTRON STARS

- **NICER @ International Space Station**

Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer



- X rays from hot spots at the surface of rotating neutron stars

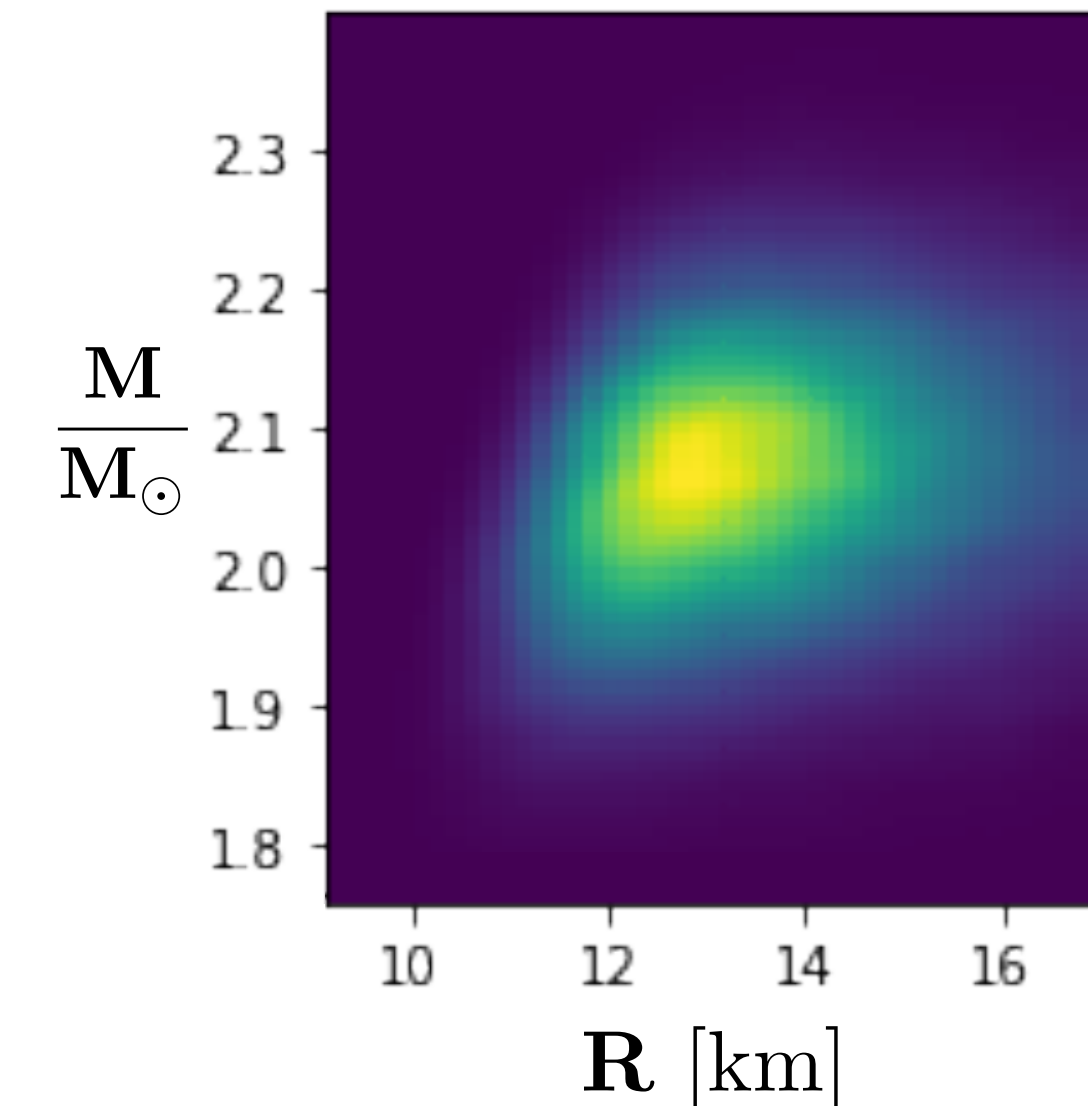


- *PSR J0030 + 0451*
 $M = 1.44 \pm 0.15 M_{\odot}$
 $R = 13.02^{+1.24}_{-1.06} \text{ km}$

M.C. Miller et al. (NICER)
 Astroph. J. Lett. 887 (2019) L24

$$R = 12.71^{+1.14}_{-1.19} \text{ km}$$

T.E. Riley et al. (NICER)
 Astroph. J. Lett. 887 (2019) L21



- *PSR J0740 + 6620*
 $M = 2.08 \pm 0.07 M_{\odot}$
 $R = 13.7^{+2.6}_{-1.5} \text{ km}$

M.C. Miller et al. (NICER + XMM Newton)
 Astroph. J. Lett. 918 (2021) L28

$$R = 12.39^{+1.30}_{-0.98} \text{ km}$$

T.E. Riley et al. (NICER + XMM Newton)
 Astroph. J. Lett. 918 (2021) L27

GRAVITATIONAL WAVES from BINARY NEUTRON STAR MERGERS

LIGO and Virgo Collaborations 2017 - 2020

- Additional constraints on Equation-of-State:
Binary tidal deformability

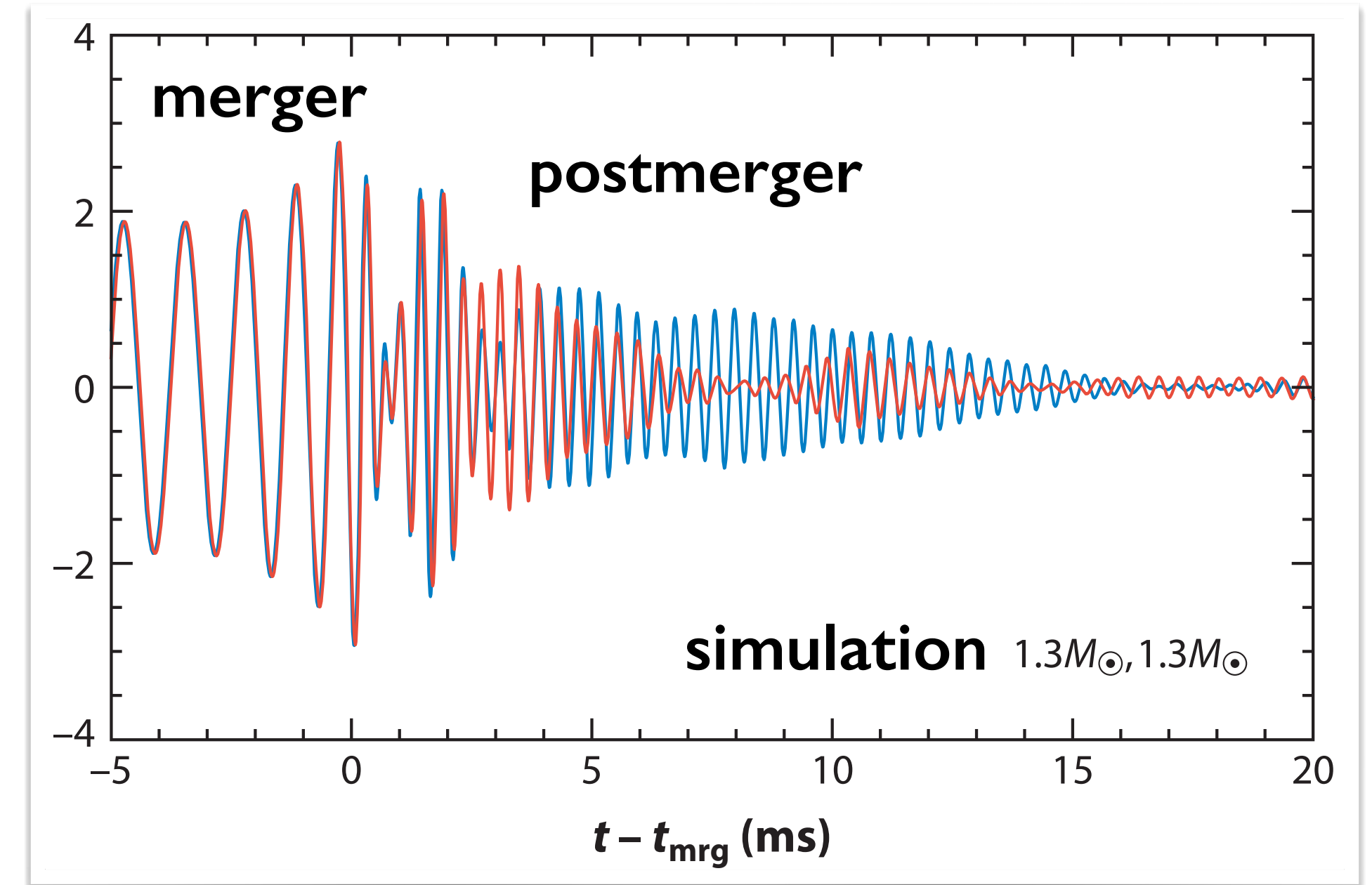
$$\tilde{\Lambda} = \frac{16}{13} \frac{(M_1 + 12 M_2) M_1^4 \Lambda_1}{(M_1 + M_2)^5} + (1 \leftrightarrow 2)$$

- GW 190425** : $M = M_1 + M_2 = 3.3 \pm 0.1 M_\odot$

B.P. Abbot et al. : *Astroph. J. Lett.* 892 (2020) L3

- GW 170817** : $M = M_1 + M_2 = 2.74^{+0.04}_{-0.01} M_\odot$

B.P. Abbot et al. : *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 119 (2017) 161101 *Phys. Rev. X* 9 (2019) 011001



D. Radice, S. Bernuzzi, A. Perego : *Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci.* 70 (2020) 95

Individual neutron star masses and tidal deformabilities (GW170817)

$M_1 = 1.46^{+0.12}_{-0.10} M_\odot$	$M_2 = 1.27 \pm 0.09 M_\odot$
$\Lambda_1 = 255^{+416}_{-171}$	$\Lambda_2 = 661^{+858}_{-375}$

M. Fasano et al. : *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 123 (2019) 141101



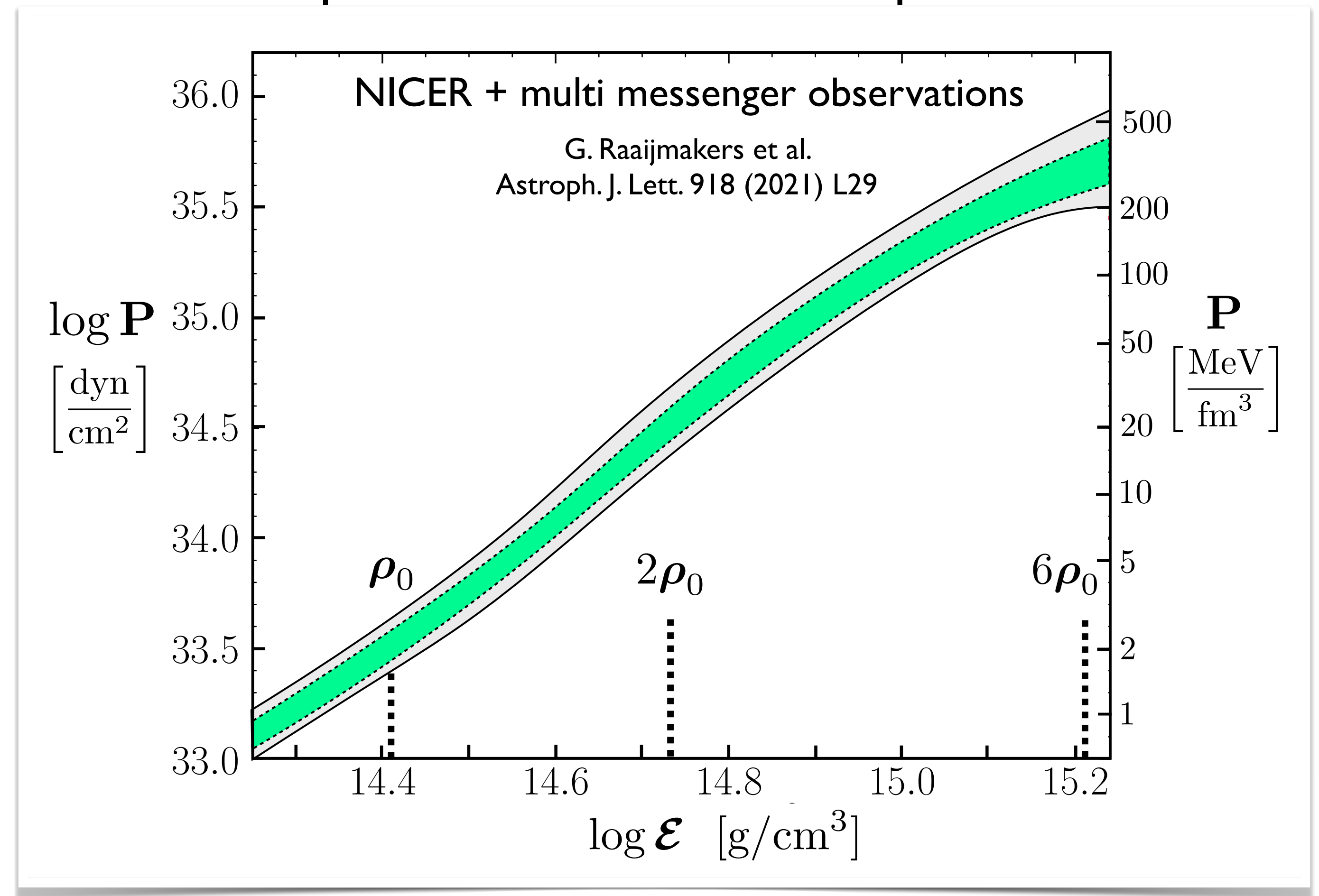
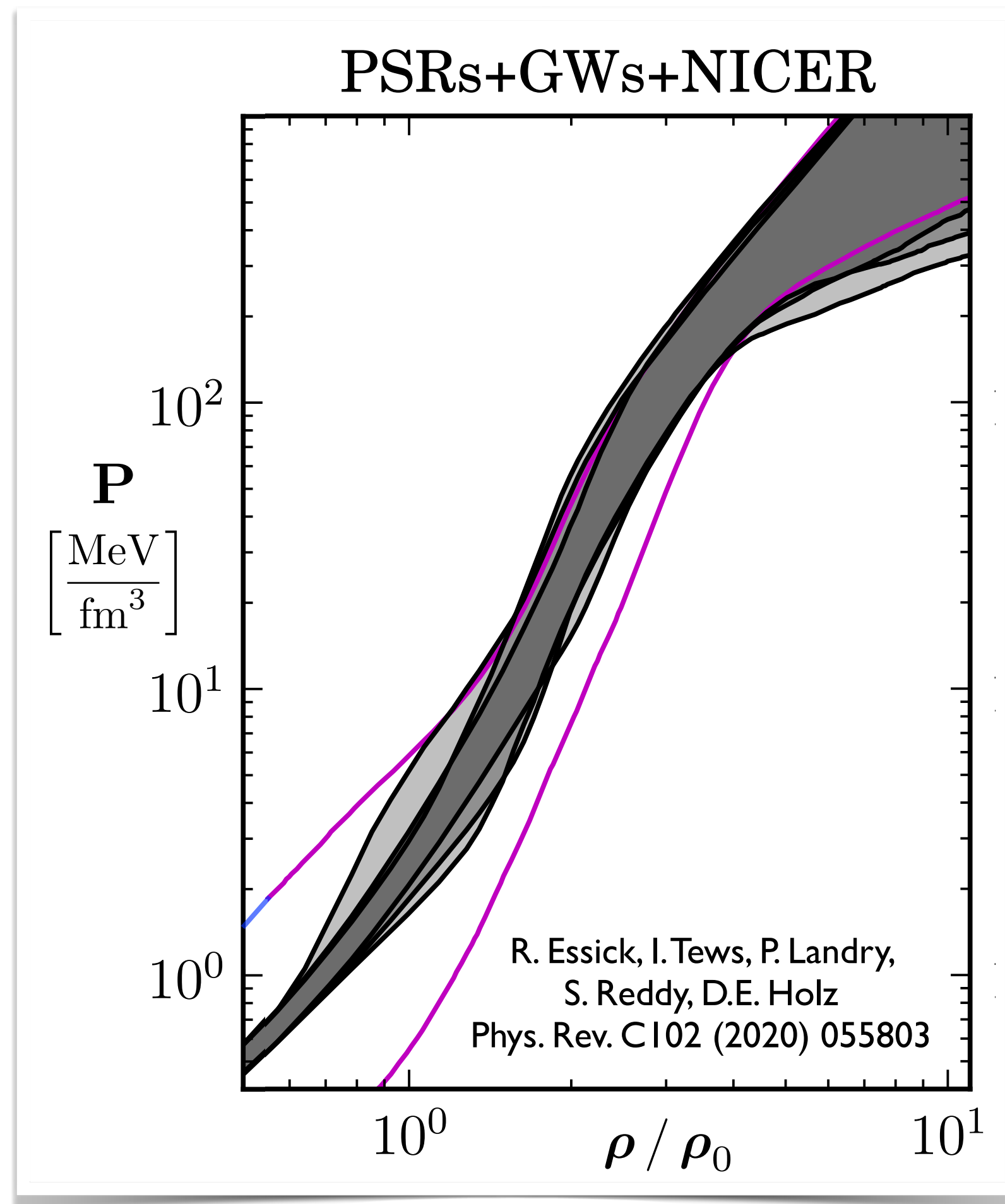
NEUTRON STAR MATTER EQUATION-of-STATE

- Examples of recent **EoS analysis** based on **multimessenger data**

- Bayesian statistical methods : model \mathcal{M} , data \mathcal{D}

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{M}|\mathcal{D}) \propto \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}|\mathcal{M})\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{M})$$

posterior likelihood prior



NEUTRON STAR MATTER EQUATION-of-STATE

L. Brandes, N. Kaiser, W. W. (2022)

- Example of recent **EoS analysis** :

Bayesian Inference

(68% and 95% confidence intervals)

PSR masses, NICER & GW data
low-density constraints (ChEFT)
asymptotic constraints (pQCD)

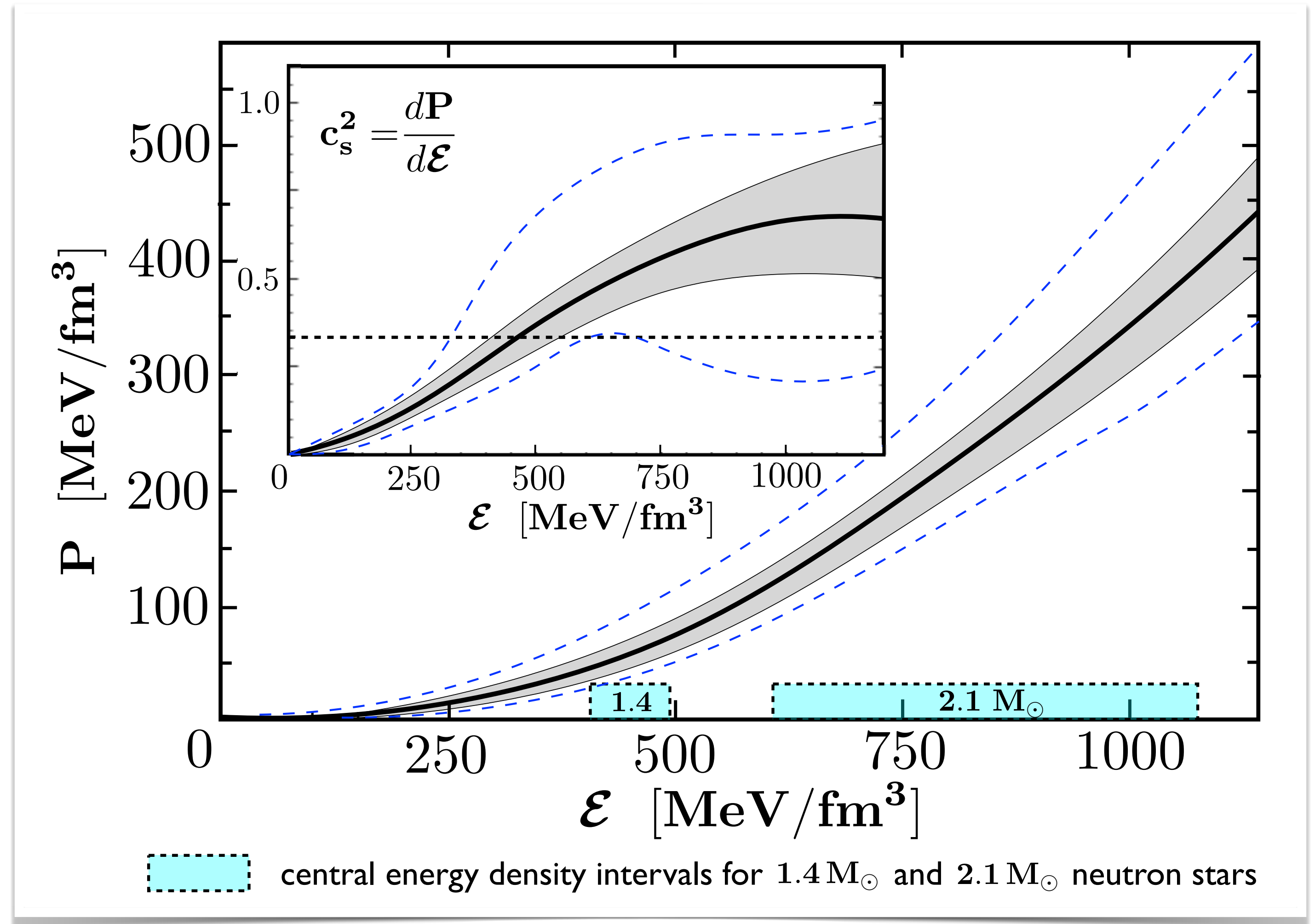
- Squared **speed of sound**

$$c_s^2 = \frac{dP}{d\mathcal{E}}$$

exceeds conformal limit $c_s^2 = \frac{1}{3}$
at densities $\rho > 3\rho_0$

- Strongly repulsive correlations
at high densities

- EoS involving only subconformal sound speeds ($c_s^2 < 1/3$) in neutron star cores is unlikely (only 0.03 % of studied samples)



S. Altiparmak, Ch. Ecker, L. Rezzolla arXiv:2203.14974

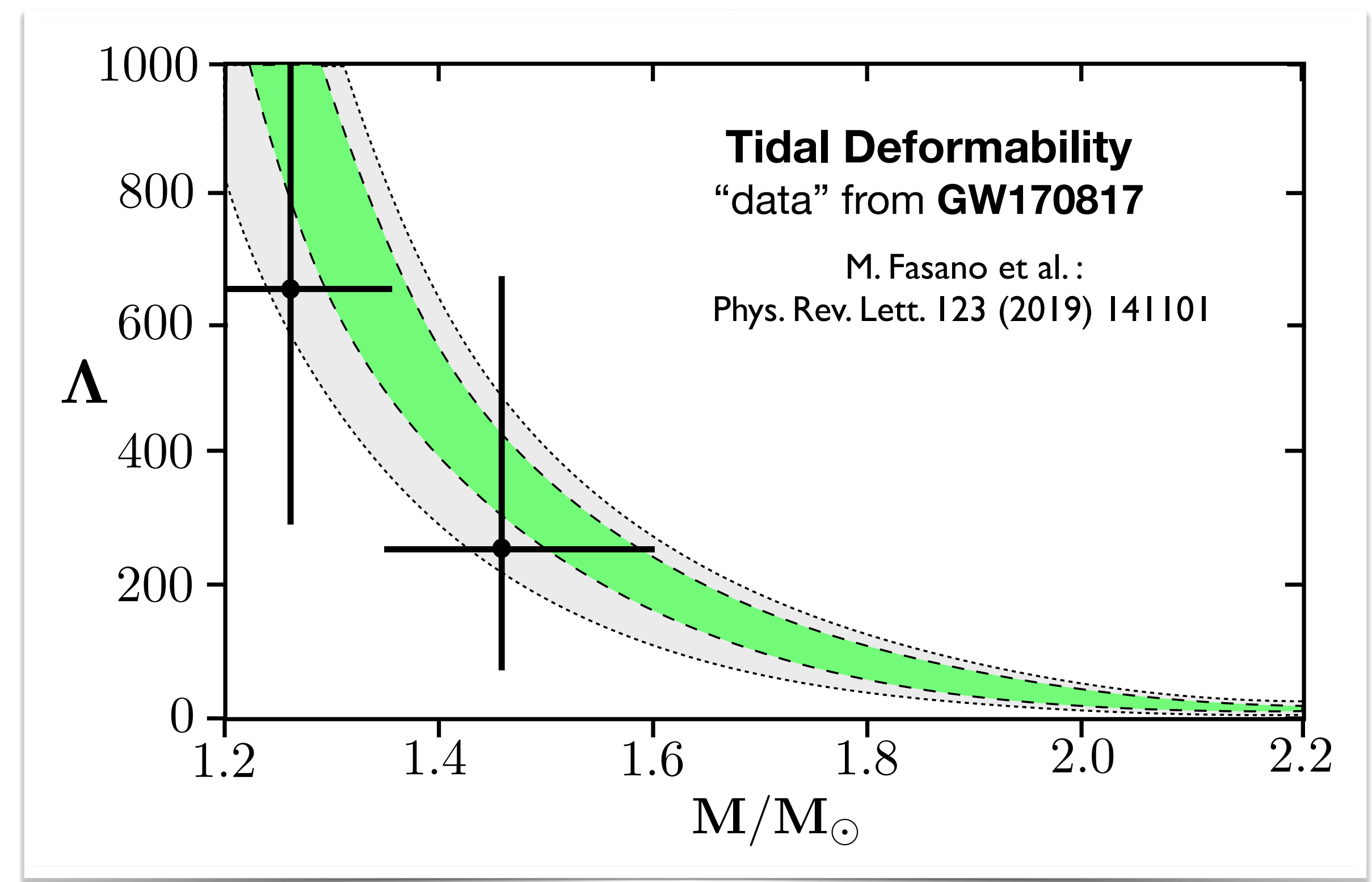
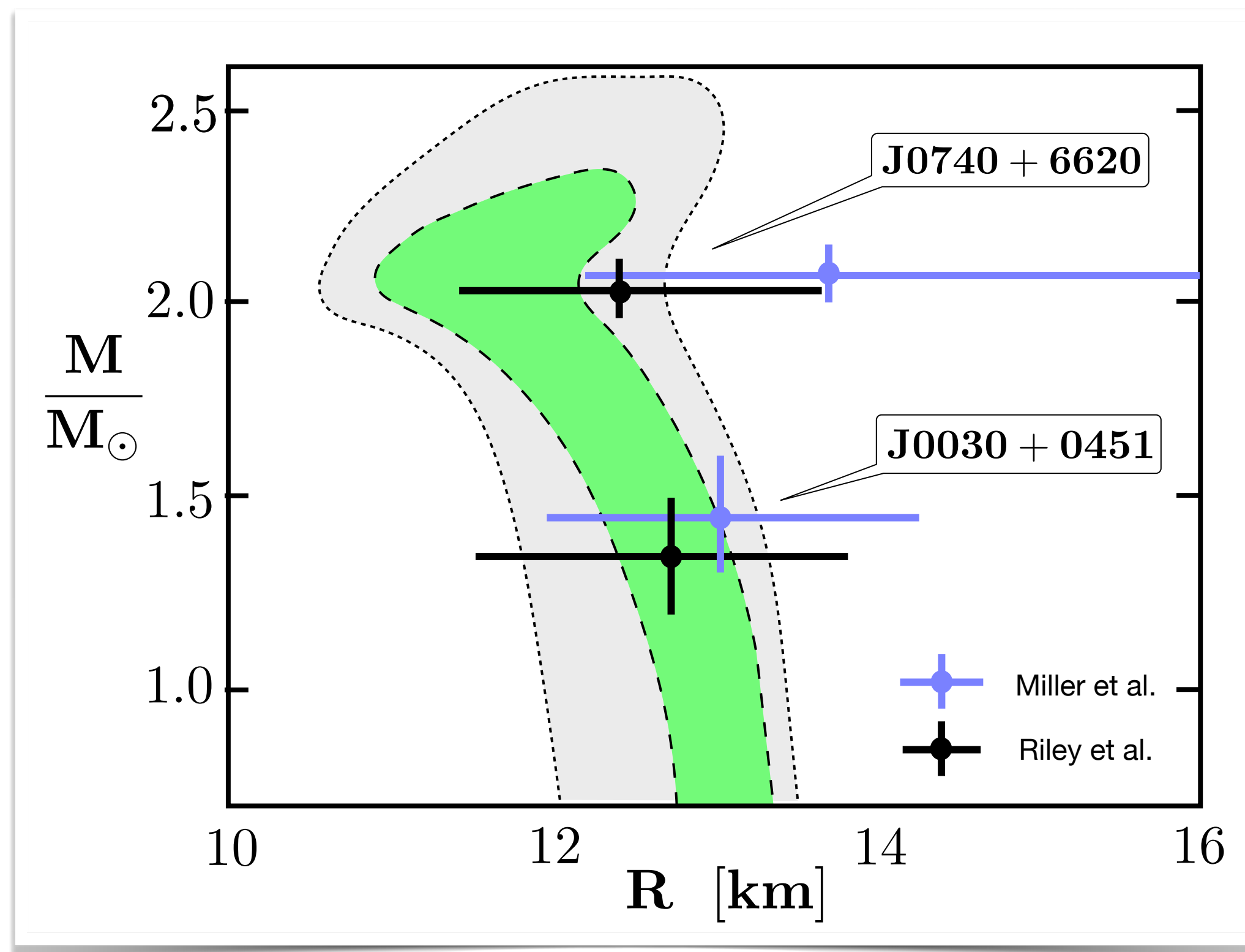


NEUTRON STAR MATTER EQUATION-of-STATE

L. Brandes, N. Kaiser, W. W. (2022)

- Mass - radius relation (from TOV) in comparison with **NICER** data

- Tidal deformabilities in comparison with those of two merging neutron stars observed in gravitational wave signals



Minimal Conditions to be satisfied by Theories of Dense Baryonic Matter

★ Vacuum :

- Low-energy QCD and spontaneously broken **CHIRAL SYMMETRY**
Pion dynamics (theorems: Gell-Mann, Oakes, Renner ; Goldberger-Treiman ; ...)
- Realistic nucleon-nucleon interaction (phase shifts)

★ Low density ($\rho \lesssim 2 \rho_0$) :

- Realistic EoS of symmetric nuclear matter and neutron matter
- Asymmetric nuclear matter and symmetry energy
- Nuclear thermodynamics : liquid-gas phase transition

★ High density :

- Neutron star maximum mass $M_{max} \gtrsim 2 M_{\odot}$
- Neutron star radii (NICER) $11 \text{ km} \lesssim R \lesssim 14 \text{ km}$
- Tidal deformability constraints from neutron star mergers (GW signals)

Equation-of-State of Dense Baryonic Matter

- Theoretical Frameworks and Models -

- ★ **Nuclear degrees of freedom** (nucleons + pions + s.r.c. / vector mesons)
 - **Many-body theory with realistic two- and three-nucleon interactions**
(example: APR EoS - Akhmal, Pandharipande, Ravenhall (1998))
 - **Chiral EFT combined with Functional Renormalisation Group (FRG) methods**
(reviews: Drischler, Holt, Wellenhofer (2021); Drews, W.W. (2017), ...)
- ★ **Nucleons + Hyperons**
 - **Many-body theory of baryonic matter with nucleons and hyperons**
(examples: Djapo, Schaefer, Wambach (2010); Lonardoni, Pederiva, Gandolfi (2014), ...)
 - **Baryon octet plus nonlinear meson couplings including three-body forces**
(examples: Logoteta, Vidaña, Bombaci (2019); Motta, Guichon, Thomas (2021), ...)
- ★ **Hybrid models**
 - **Hadron - quark continuity (crossover) models:
from nucleonic matter at low densities to quark matter at high densities**
(examples: Baym, Hatsuda, Kojo et al. 2018-2021, Fukushima, Kojo, W.W. (2020), ...)



NEUTRON STAR MATTER

Equation-of-State

- Included :

$$M_{max} \gtrsim 2 M_{\odot}$$

+ GW constraints

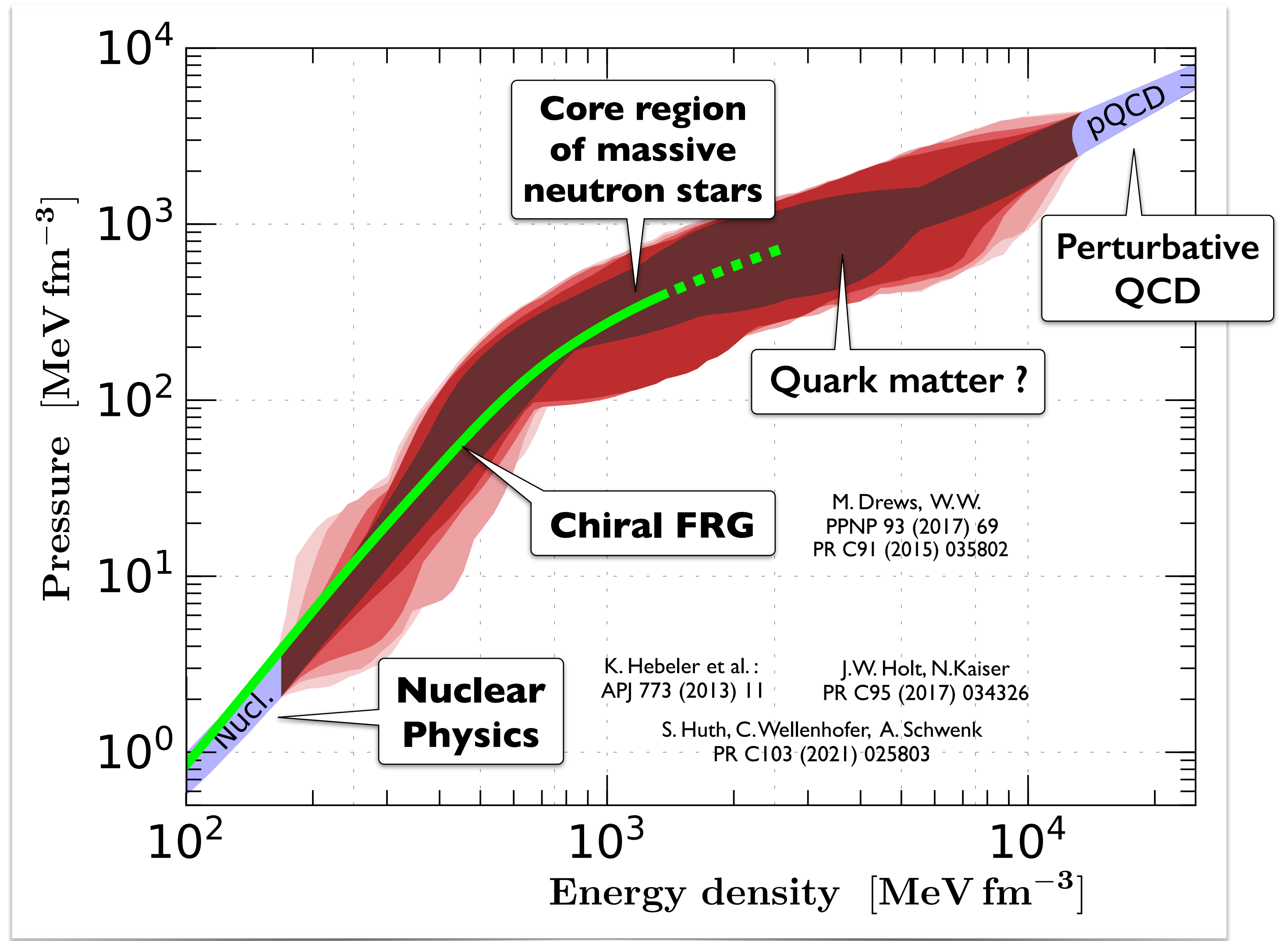
+ multi-messenger data

- Extrapolation to **perturbative QCD limit**

E. Annala, T. Gorda, A. Kurkela, J. Nättilä, A. Vuorinen :
Nature Phys. 16 (2020) 907

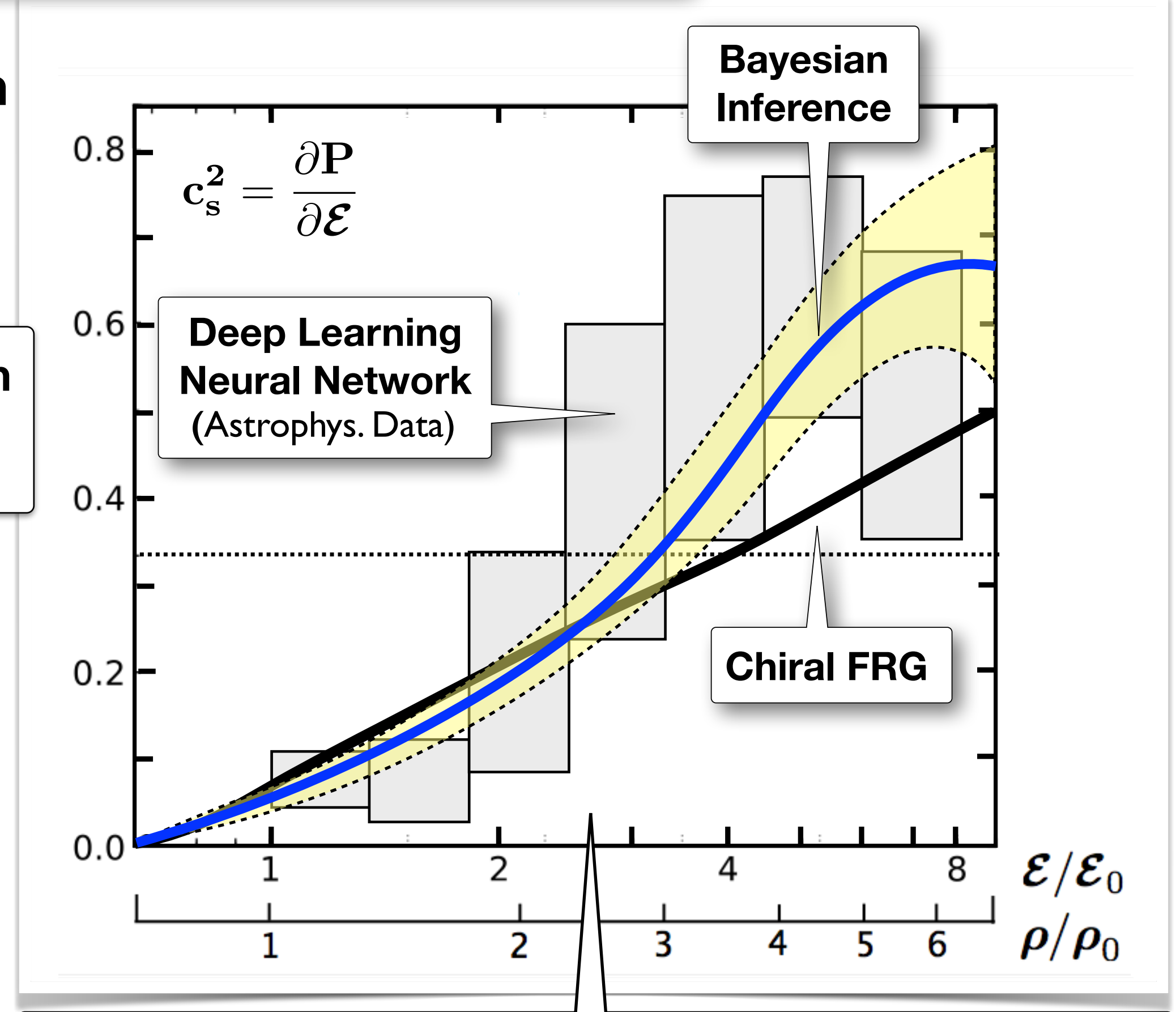
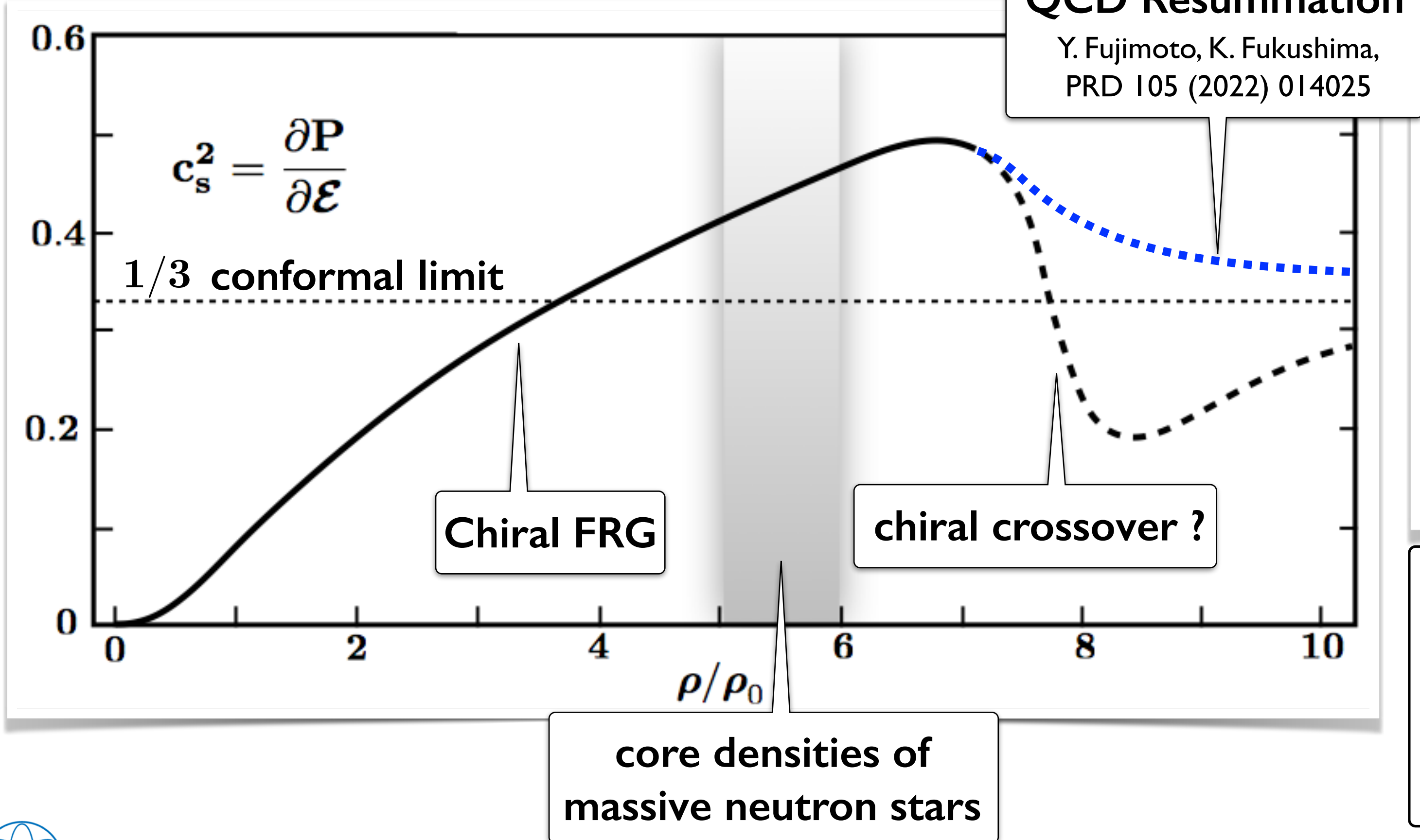
... and a neutron star EoS based on **chiral meson-nucleon** theory combined with (non-perturbative) **Functional Renormalisation Group**

M. Drews, W.W. : PPNP 93 (2017) 69 ; PR C91 (2015) 035802



VELOCITY of SOUND in NEUTRON STAR MATTER

- **Key quantity** to examine phases, degrees of freedom and correlations in Fermi liquids
- Possible scenarios for extrapolation into regions beyond neutron star core densities



deep neural network vs. chiral FRG
 Y. Fujimoto, K. Fukushima, K. Murase
 JHEP 03 (2021) 273

M. Drews, W.W.
 Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 93 (2017) 69

vs. Bayesian inference
 L. Brandes, N. Kaiser, W.W. (2022)



2.

Strangeness (Part 1)

Chiral SU(3) Effective Field Theory of Hyperon - Nucleon Interactions and Hypernuclei



BARYON-BARYON INTERACTIONS

from
CHIRAL SU(3)_L × SU(3)_R EFFECTIVE FIELD THEORY

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\Sigma^0}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\Lambda}{\sqrt{6}} & \Sigma^+ & p \\ \Sigma^- & -\frac{\Sigma^0}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\Lambda}{\sqrt{6}} & n \\ -\Xi^- & \Xi^0 & -\frac{2\Lambda}{\sqrt{6}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\pi^0}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{6}} & \pi^+ & K^+ \\ \pi^- & -\frac{\pi^0}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{6}} & K^0 \\ K^- & \bar{K}^0 & -\frac{2\eta}{\sqrt{6}} \end{pmatrix}$$

short distance contact terms

BB interactions

LO	
NLO	
N ² LO	
N ³ LO	

pion, kaon, eta exchange

- Systematically organized hierarchy in powers of Q/Λ
(Q: momentum, energy, pseudoscalar meson masses)

- Hyperon-Nucleon interaction :
still very limited scattering data base

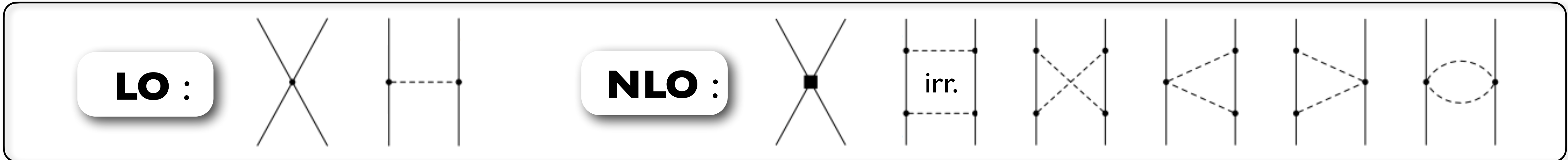


Restriction in practice to
NLO YN interactions plus three-body forces

3 – body forces	
N ² LO	
N ³ LO	
4 – body forces	
N ³ LO	

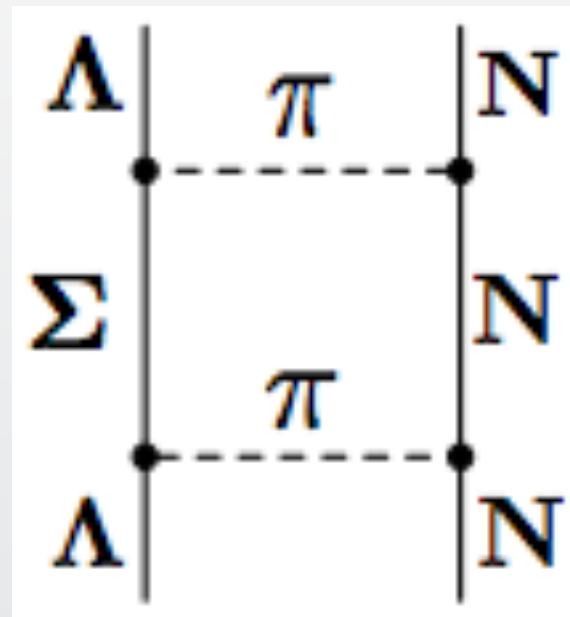
Hyperon - Nucleon Interaction

from **CHIRAL SU(3) Effective Field Theory**

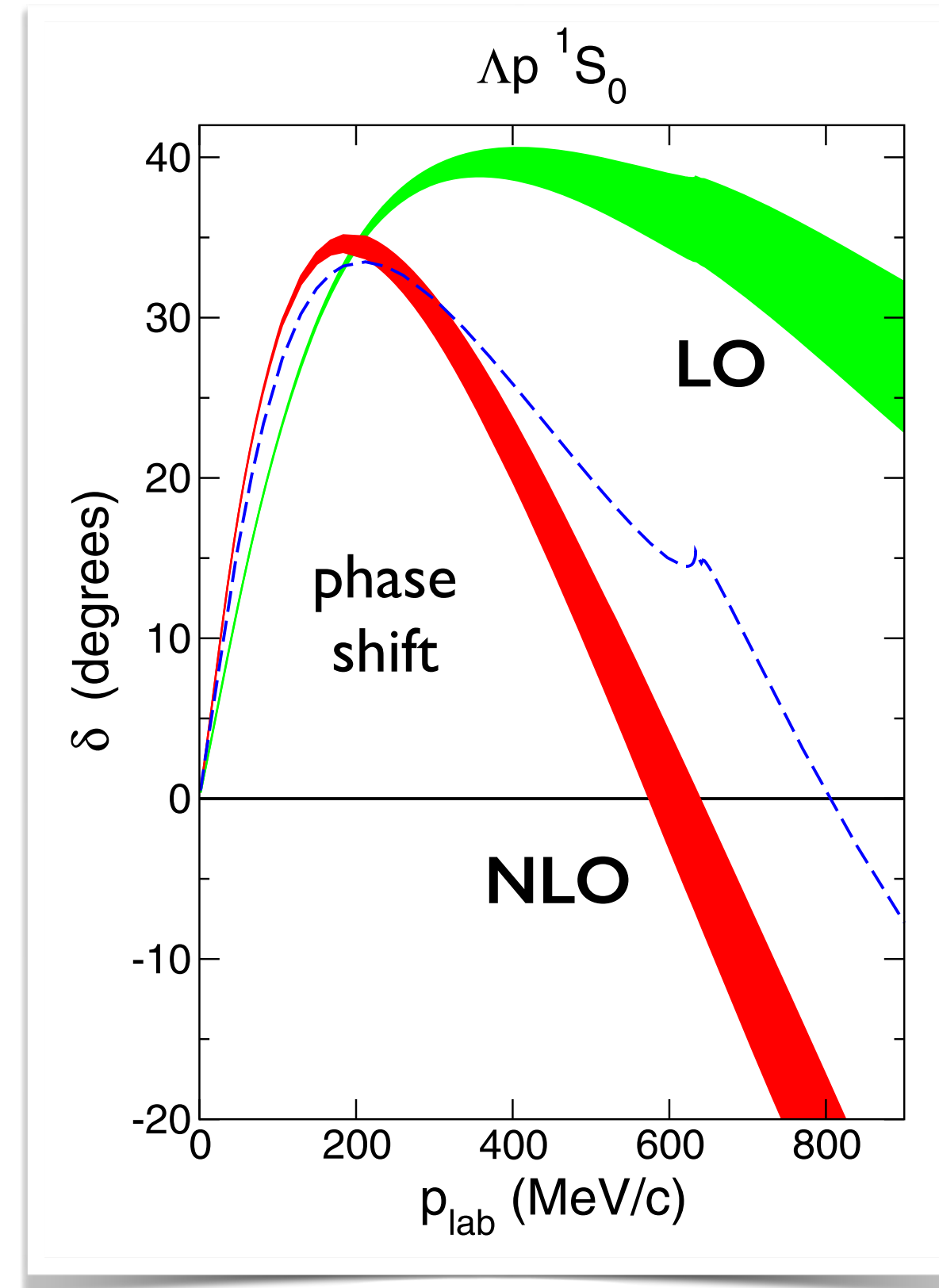
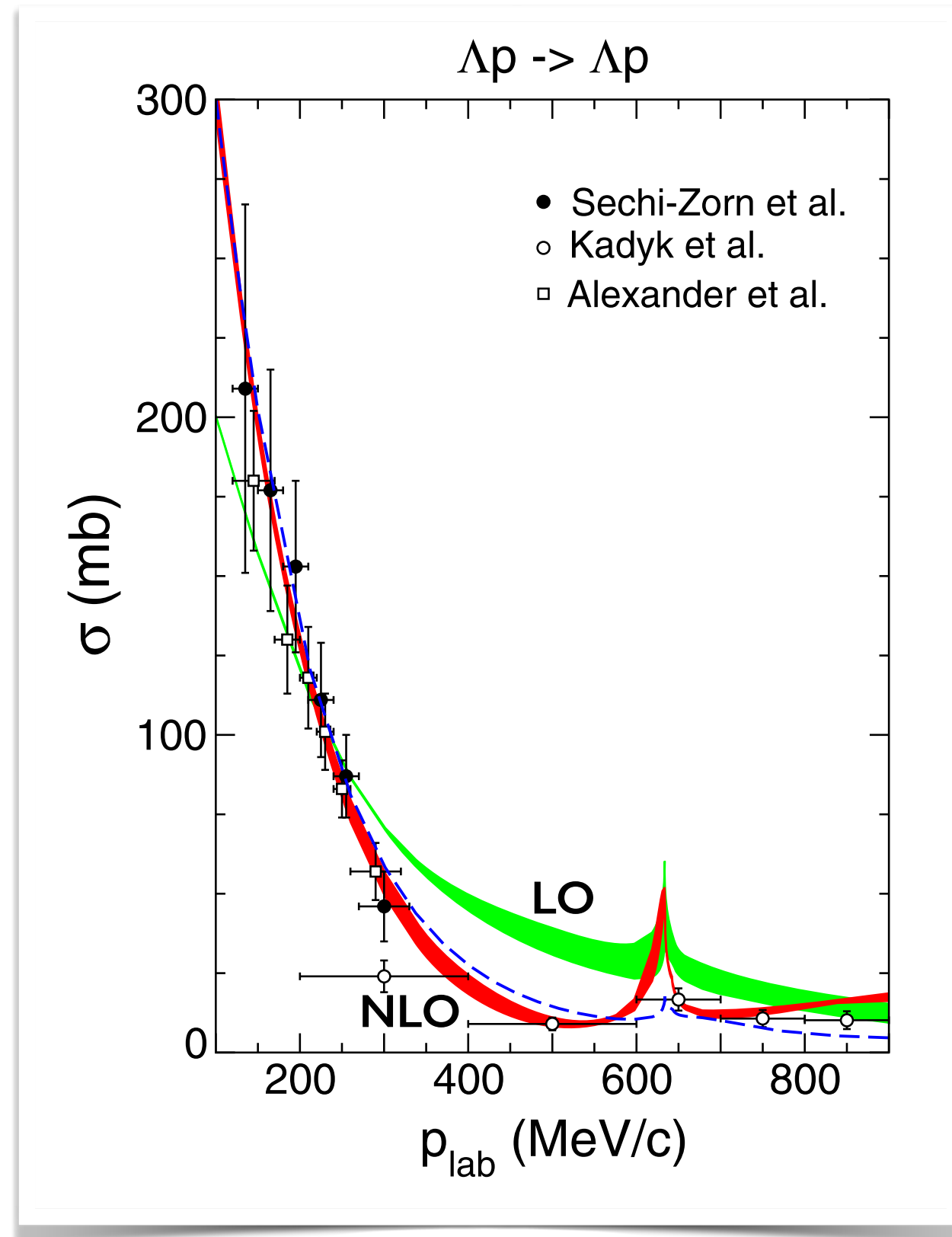


Example

ΛN scattering



Important role of $\Lambda N \leftrightarrow \Sigma N$ coupled channels



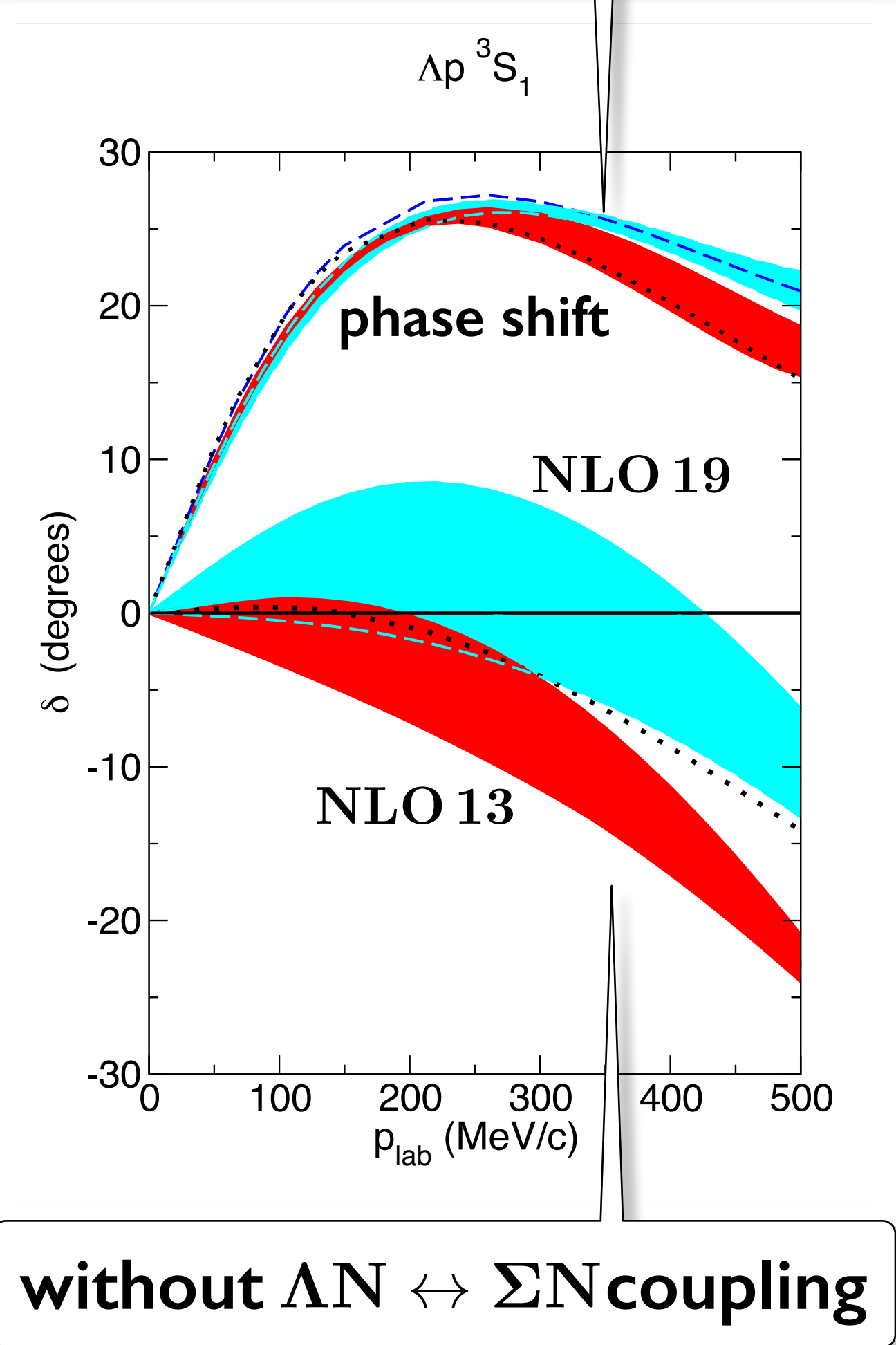
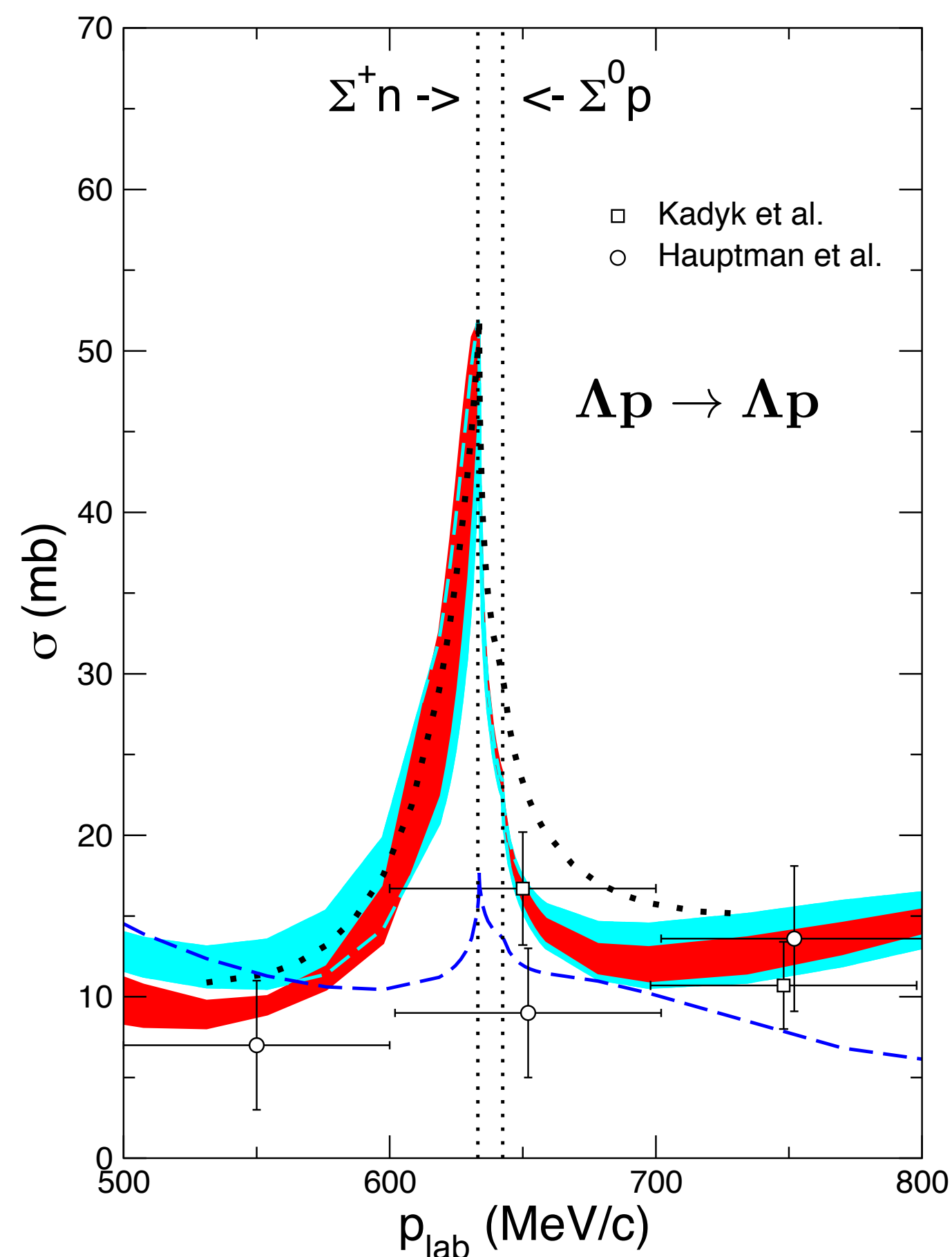
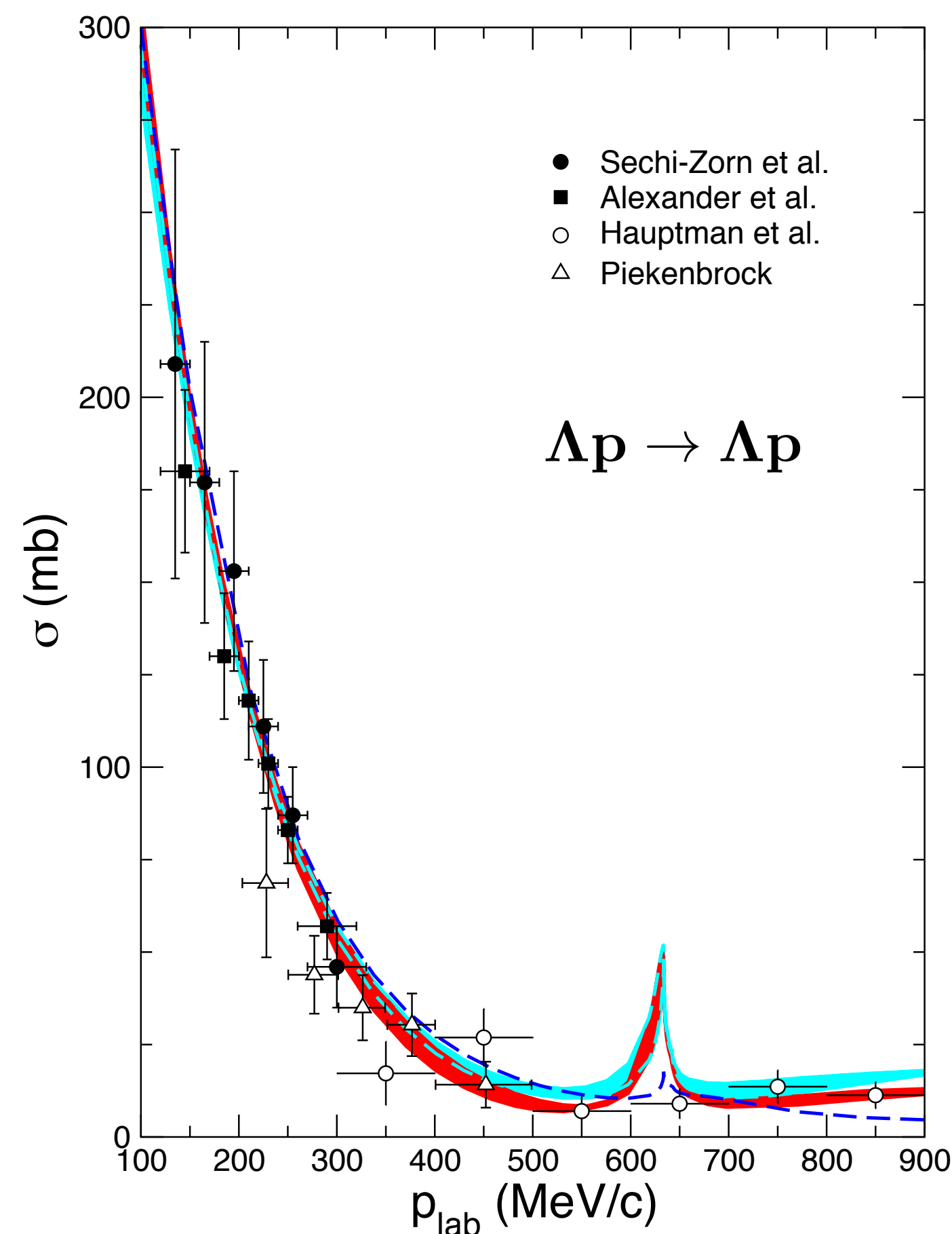
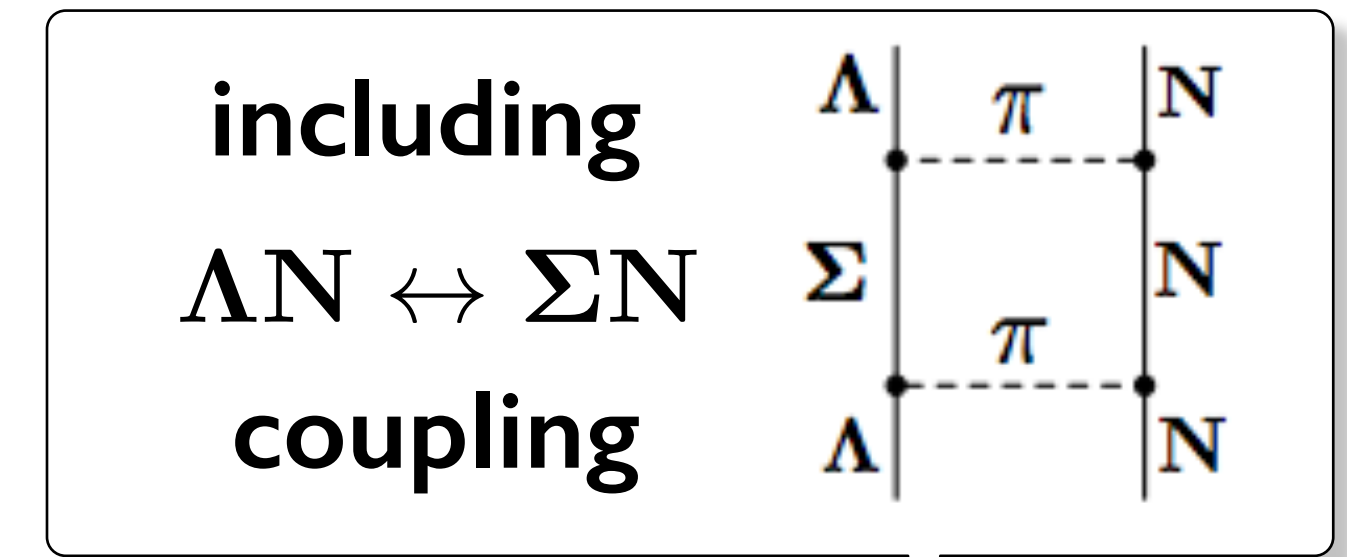
- moderate attraction at low momenta \rightarrow relevant for hypernuclei
- increasing repulsion at higher momenta \rightarrow relevant for dense baryonic matter

J. Haidenbauer, S. Petschauer, N. Kaiser, U.-G. Meißner, A. Nogga, W.W.
Nucl. Phys. A 915 (2013) 24

Λ Hyperon - Nucleon Interaction update

J. Haidenbauer, U.-G. Meißner, A. Nogga Eur. Phys. J. A56 (2020) 91

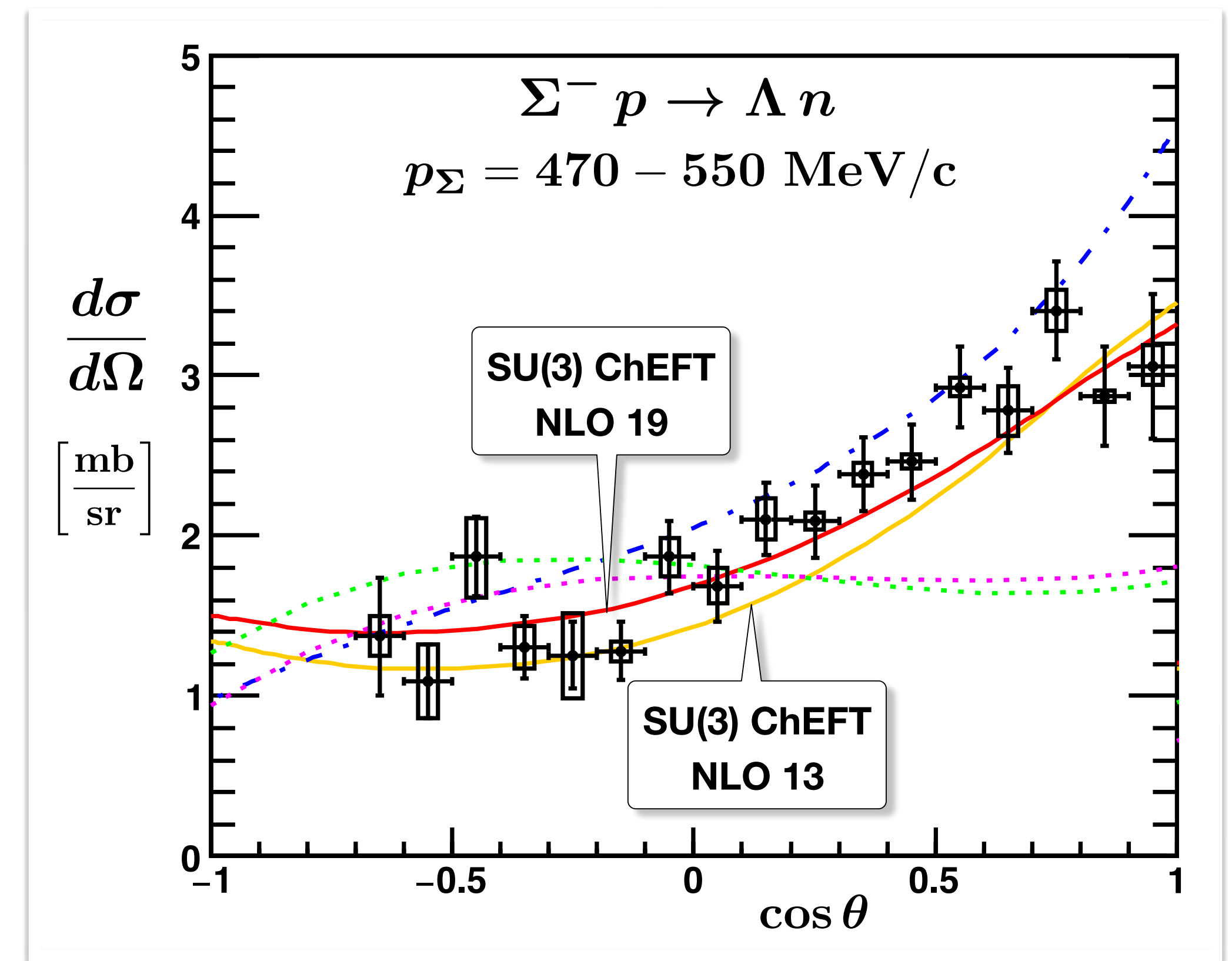
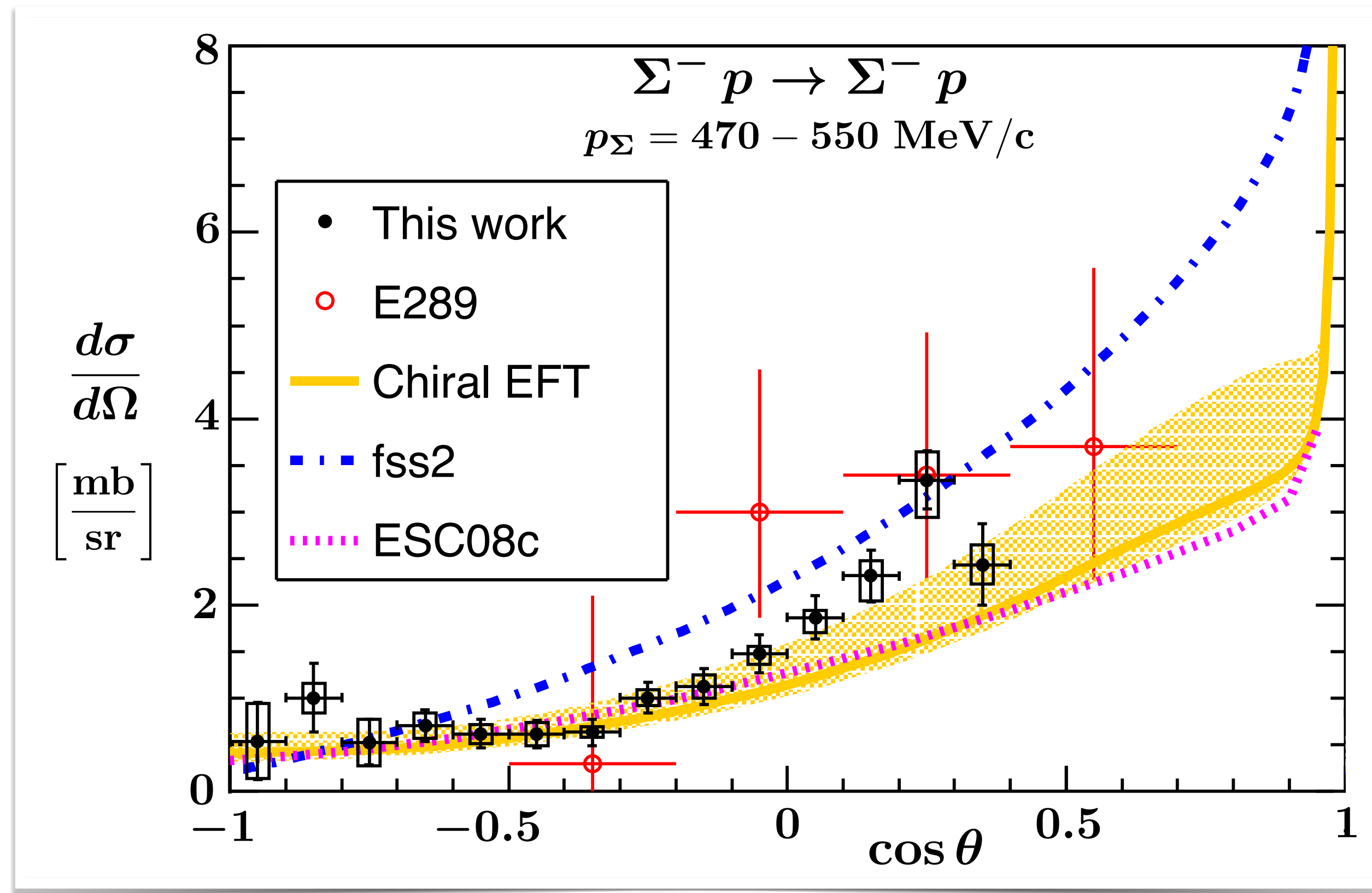
- Reduced no. of independent parameters (contact terms) at NLO by symmetries connecting NN and YN S-waves
 - blue : NLO 19
 - red : NLO 13



Hyperon - Nucleon Interaction

from **CHIRAL SU(3) Effective Field Theory** (contd.)

- $\Sigma^- p \rightarrow \Sigma^- p$ elastic and $\Sigma^- p \rightarrow \Lambda n$ charge exchange scattering (J-PARC E40)
- Further important test of YN interactions based on ChEFT



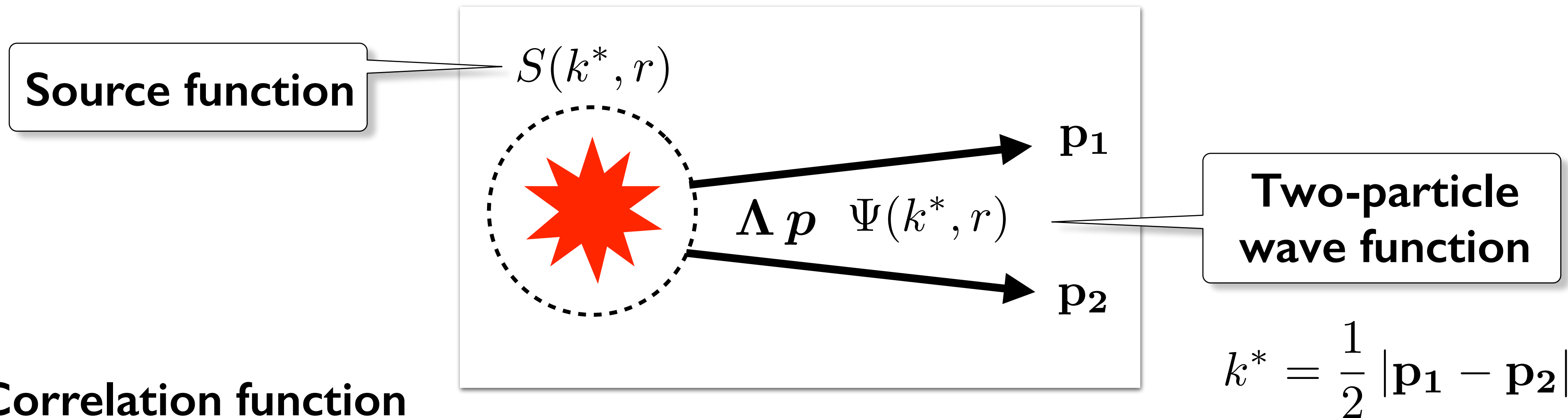
K. Miwa et al. (J-PARC E40 Collaboration) : Phys. Rev. C 104 (2021) 045204

K. Miwa et al. (J-PARC E40 Collaboration)
 Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 (2022) 072501

New : $\Lambda - p$ CORRELATION FUNCTION

- Femtoscopia two-particle correlation studies from $p p$ collisions with ALICE @ LHC

L. Fabbietti, V. Mantovani Sarti, O.Vazquez Doce : Ann.. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 71 (2021) 377



- Correlation function

$$C(k^*) = \frac{\langle \mathcal{P}_1(k^*) \mathcal{P}_2(k^*) \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{P}_1(k^*) \rangle \langle \mathcal{P}_2(k^*) \rangle} = \int d^3r S(k^*, r) |\Psi(k^* r)|^2$$

- Accurate test of low-momentum Λp interaction

$\Lambda - p$

CORRELATION STUDIES

ALICE collaboration arXiv: 2104.04427

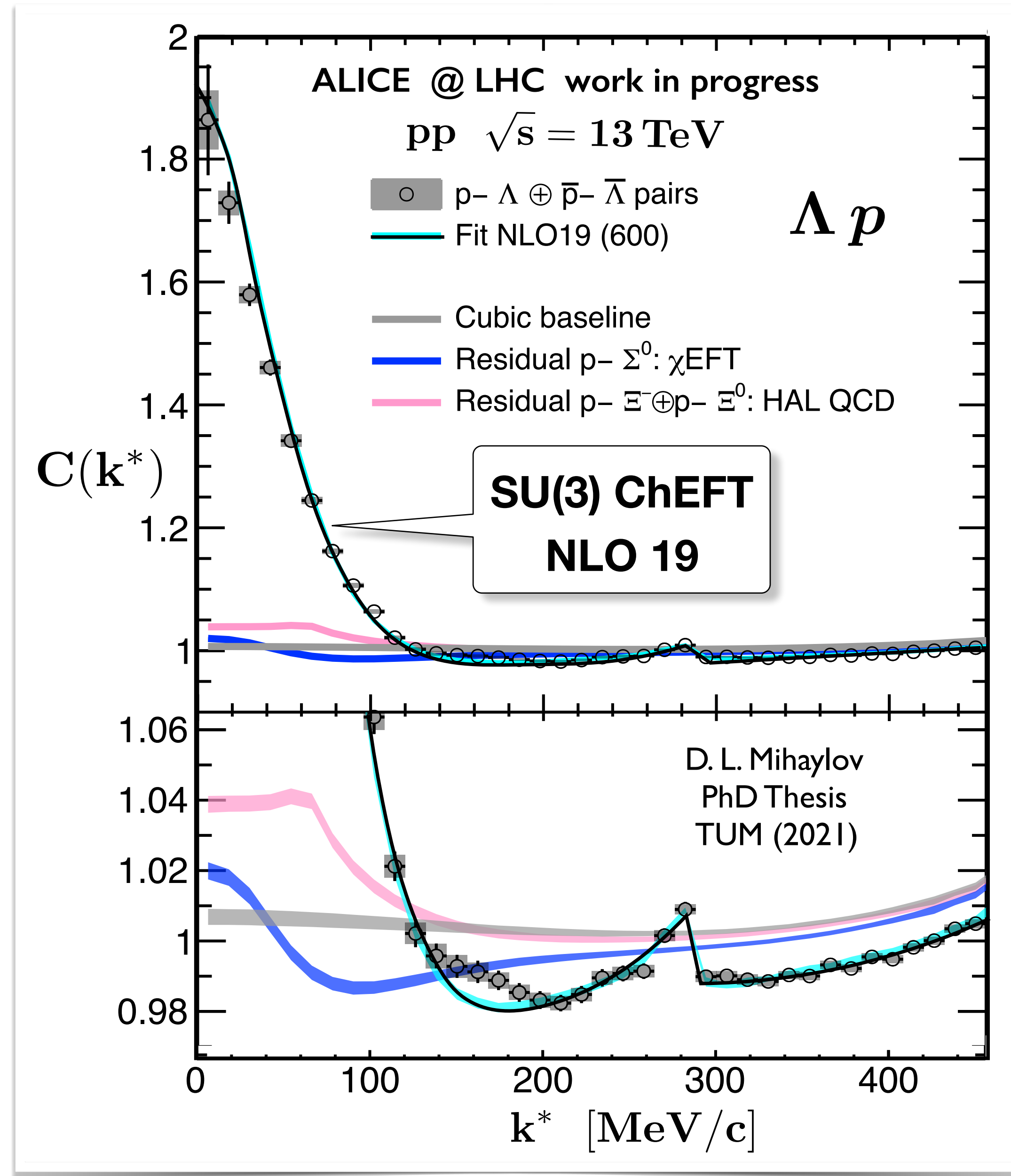
- **Correlation function**

$$C(k^*) = \frac{\langle \mathcal{P}_\Lambda(k^*) \mathcal{P}_p(k^*) \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{P}_\Lambda(k^*) \rangle \langle \mathcal{P}_p(k^*) \rangle}$$

- **Accurate test of low-momentum Λp interaction**

- **Chiral SU(3) EFT (NLO 19) works**

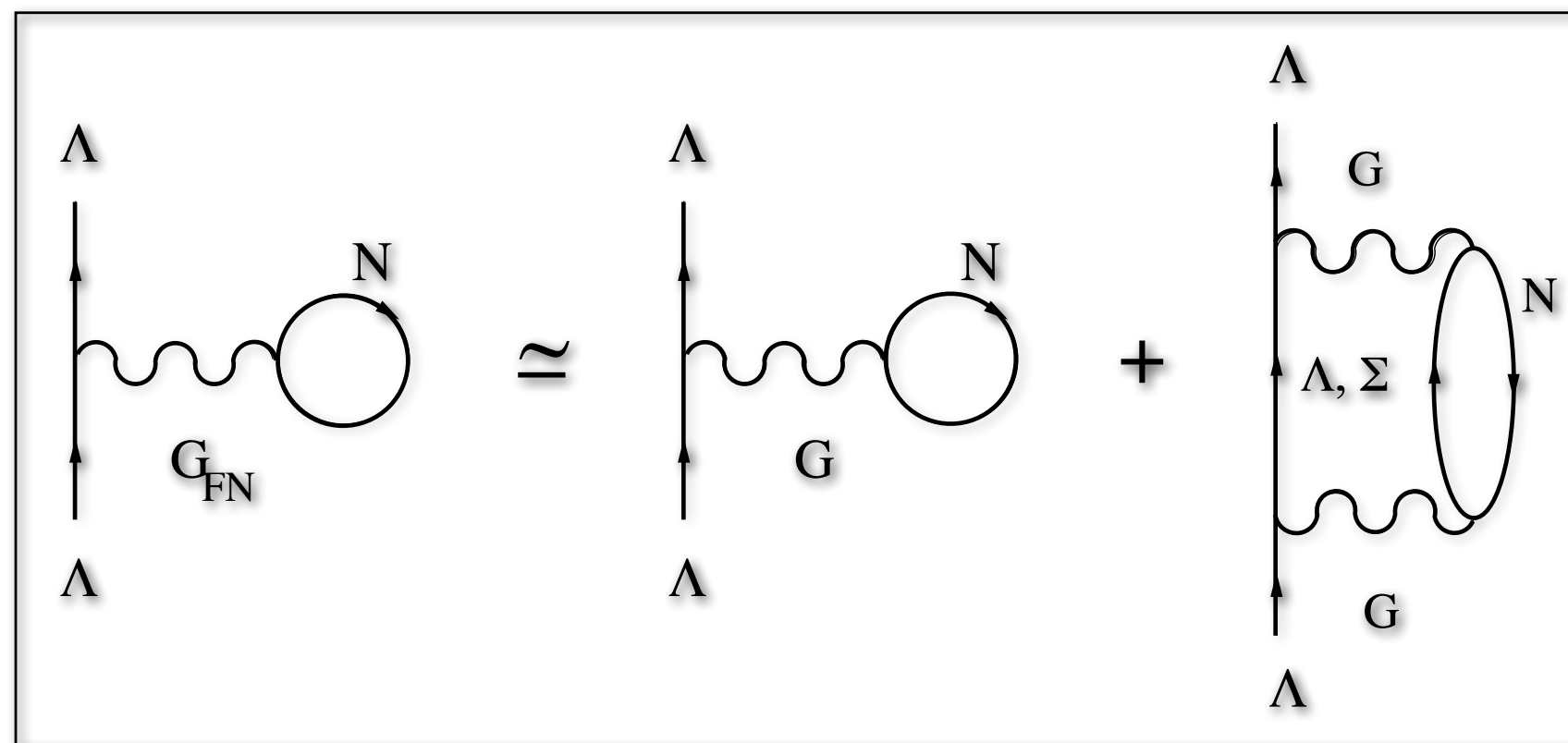
- **Input for calculations of hypernuclei**



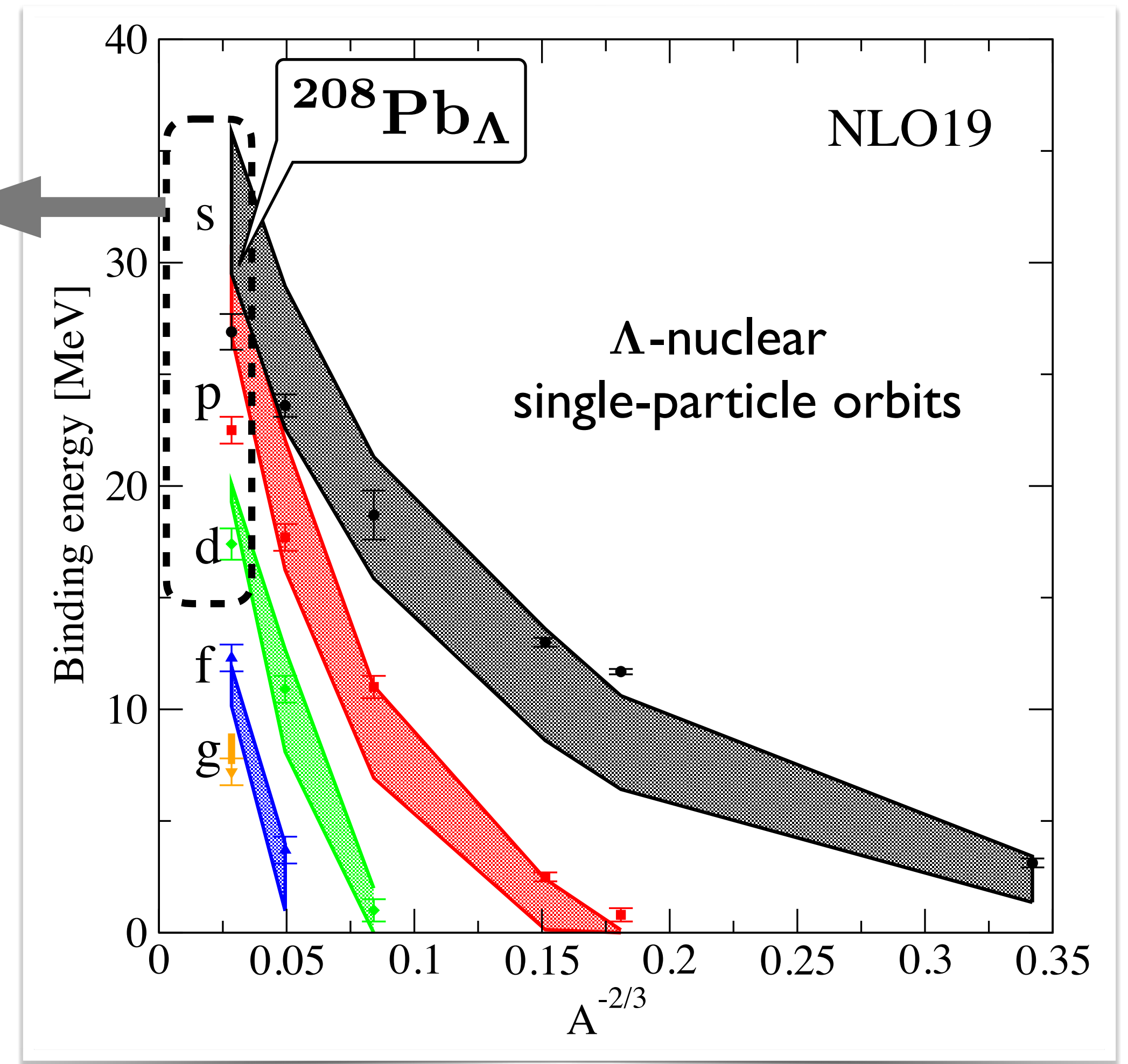
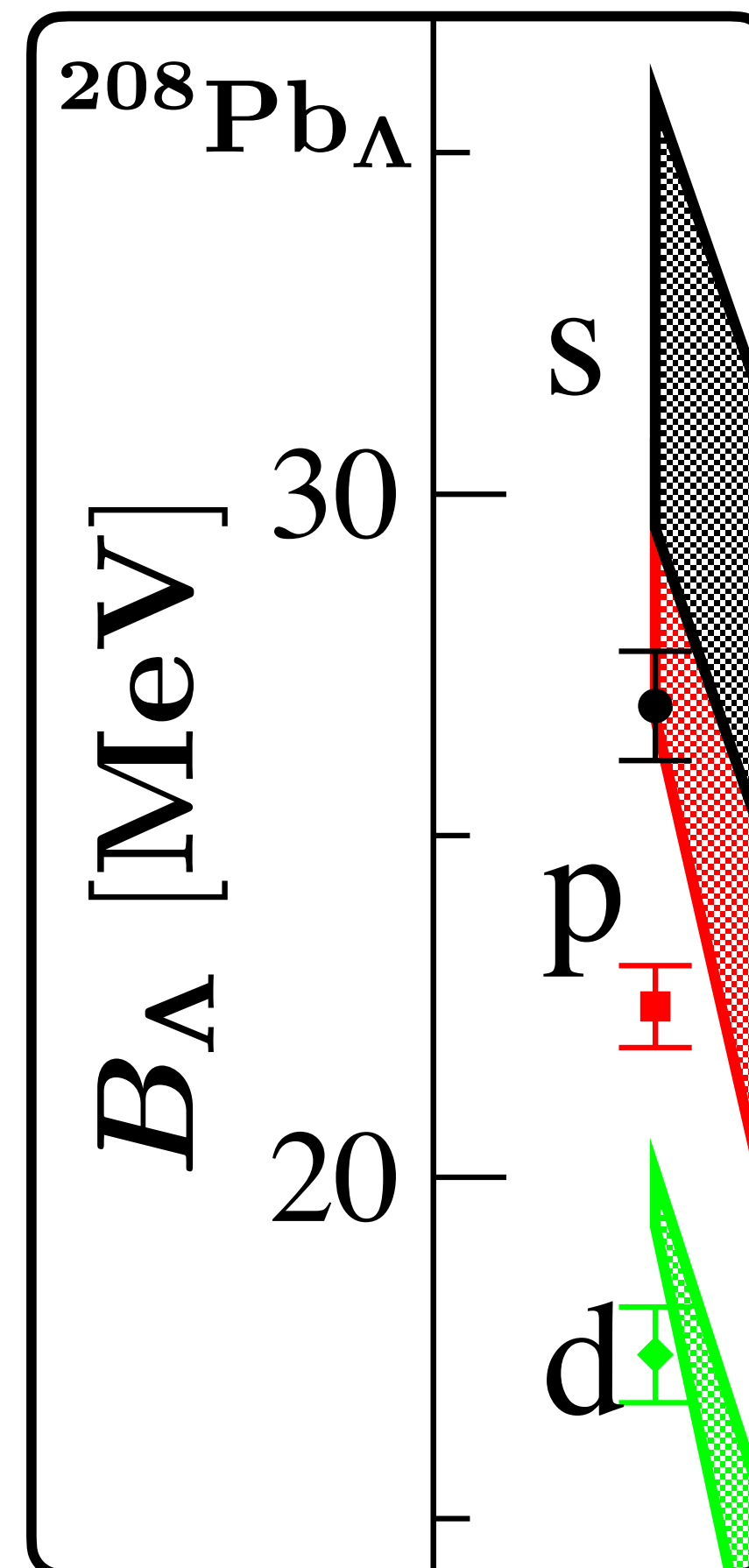
Λ -HYPERNUCLEI with CHIRAL HYPERON-NUCLEON INTERACTION

J. Haidenbauer, I. Vidaña : Eur. Phys. J. A 56 (2020) 55

- 2nd order Brueckner-Hartree-Fock calculations



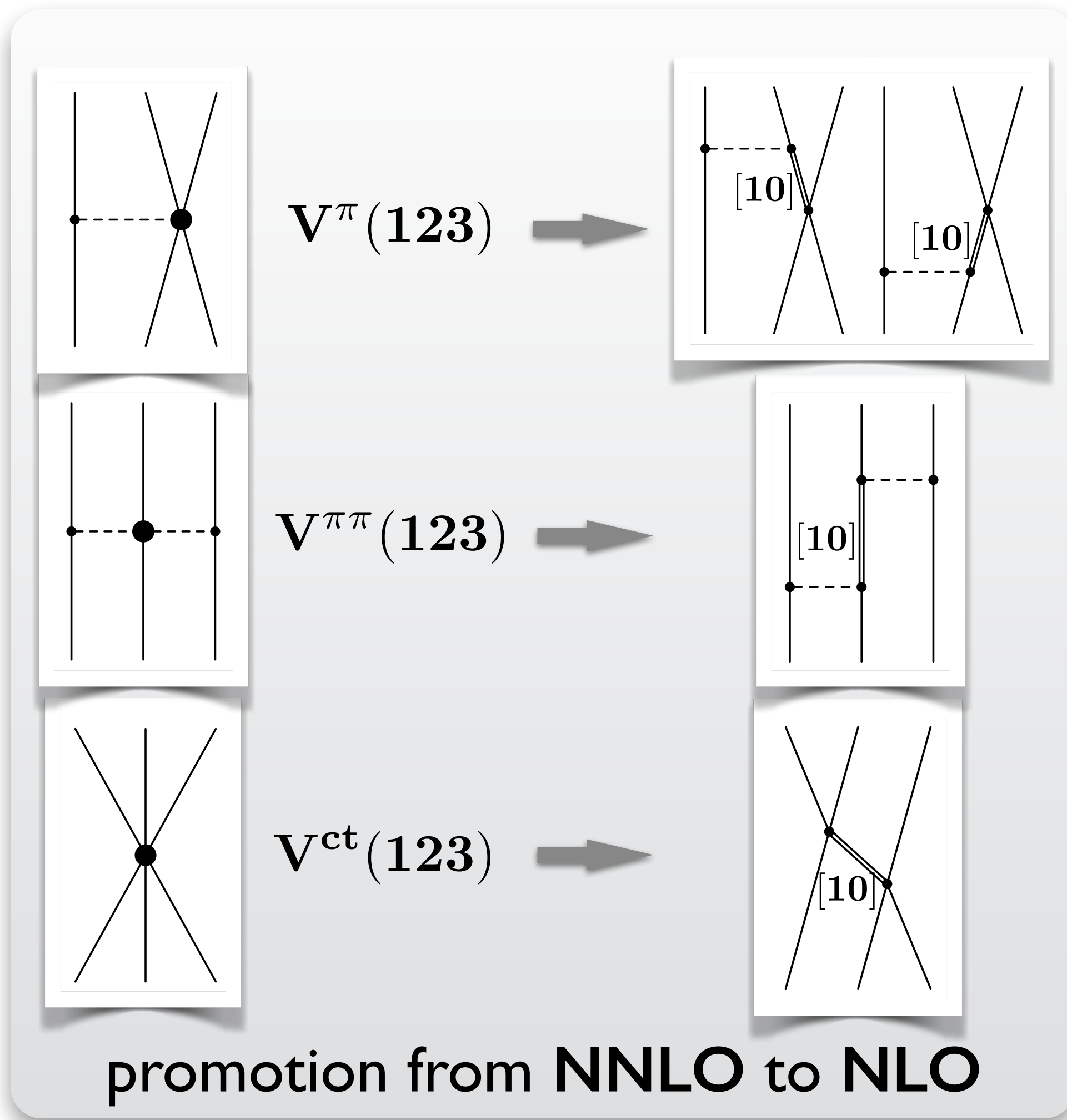
- With chiral hyperon-nucleon **two-body forces**:
too much binding in lower (s, p and d) shell-model levels of heavy hypernuclei ($^{208}\text{Pb}_\Lambda$)



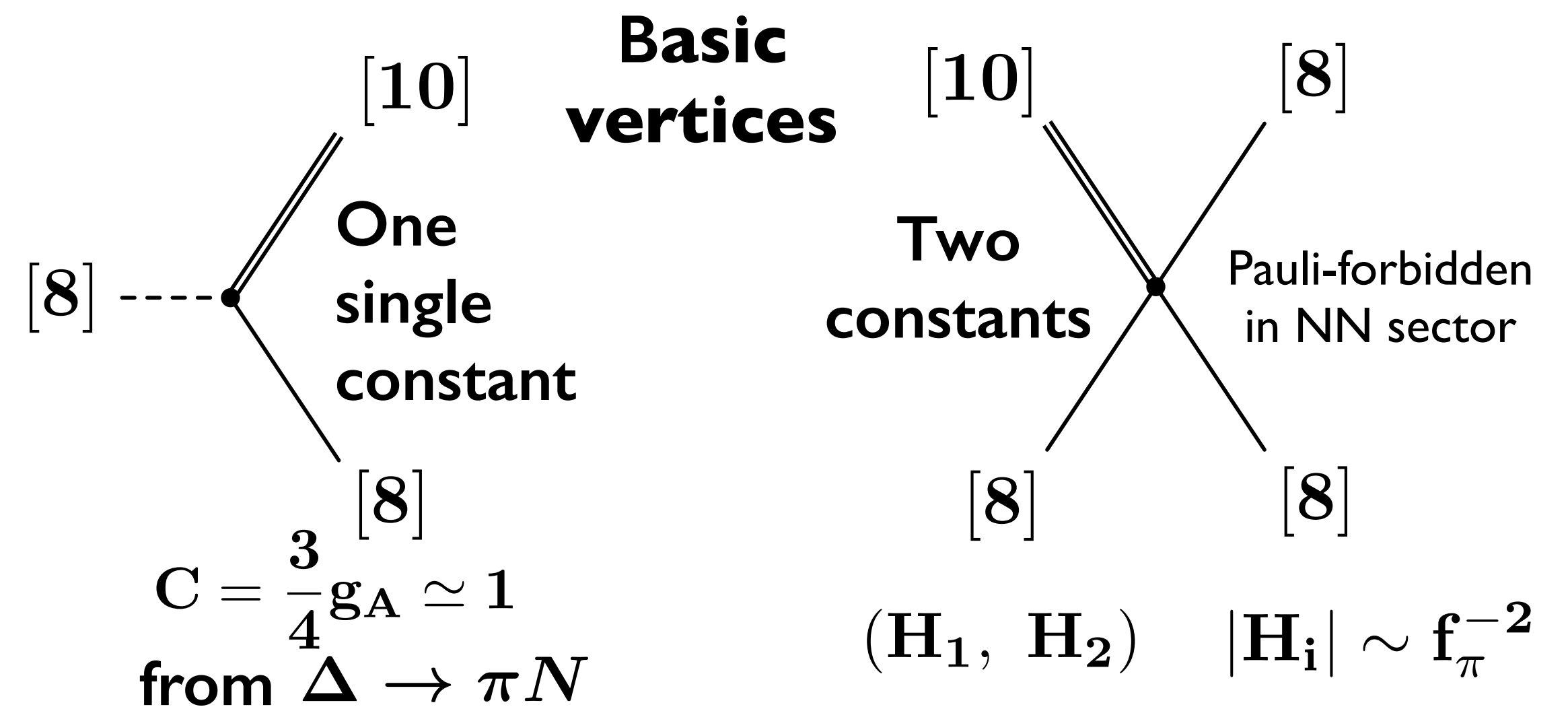
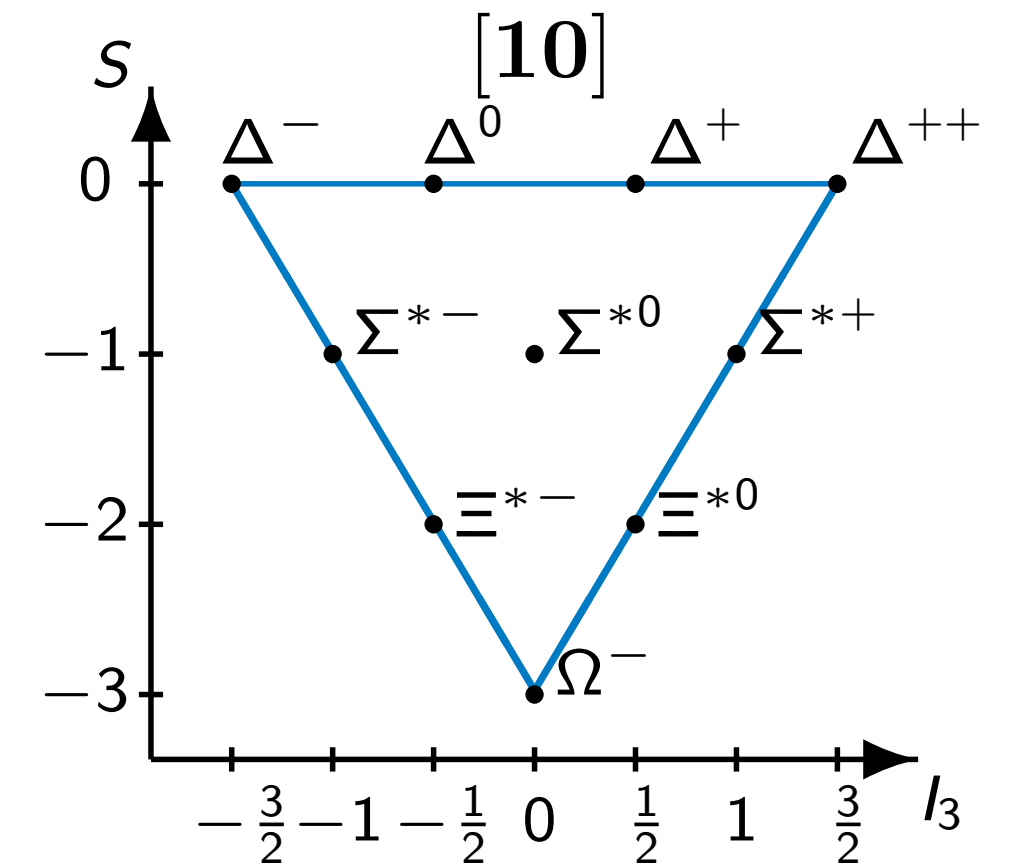
HYPERON - NUCLEON - NUCLEON THREE-BODY FORCES

from Chiral $SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R$ Effective Field Theory

S. Petschauer, N. Kaiser, J. Haidenbauer, U.-G. Meißner, W.W.: Phys. Rev. C93 (2016) 014001



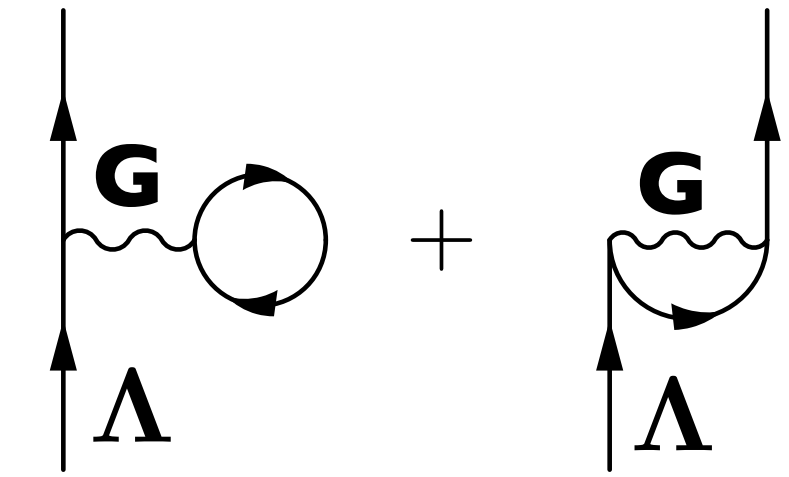
- **Decuplet Dominance** in YNN three-body forces
- Estimates of **YNN** interactions assuming dominant (Σ^* , Δ) intermediate states



Density dependence of Λ single particle potential

- Brueckner - Bethe - Goldstone calculations using chiral SU(3) interactions

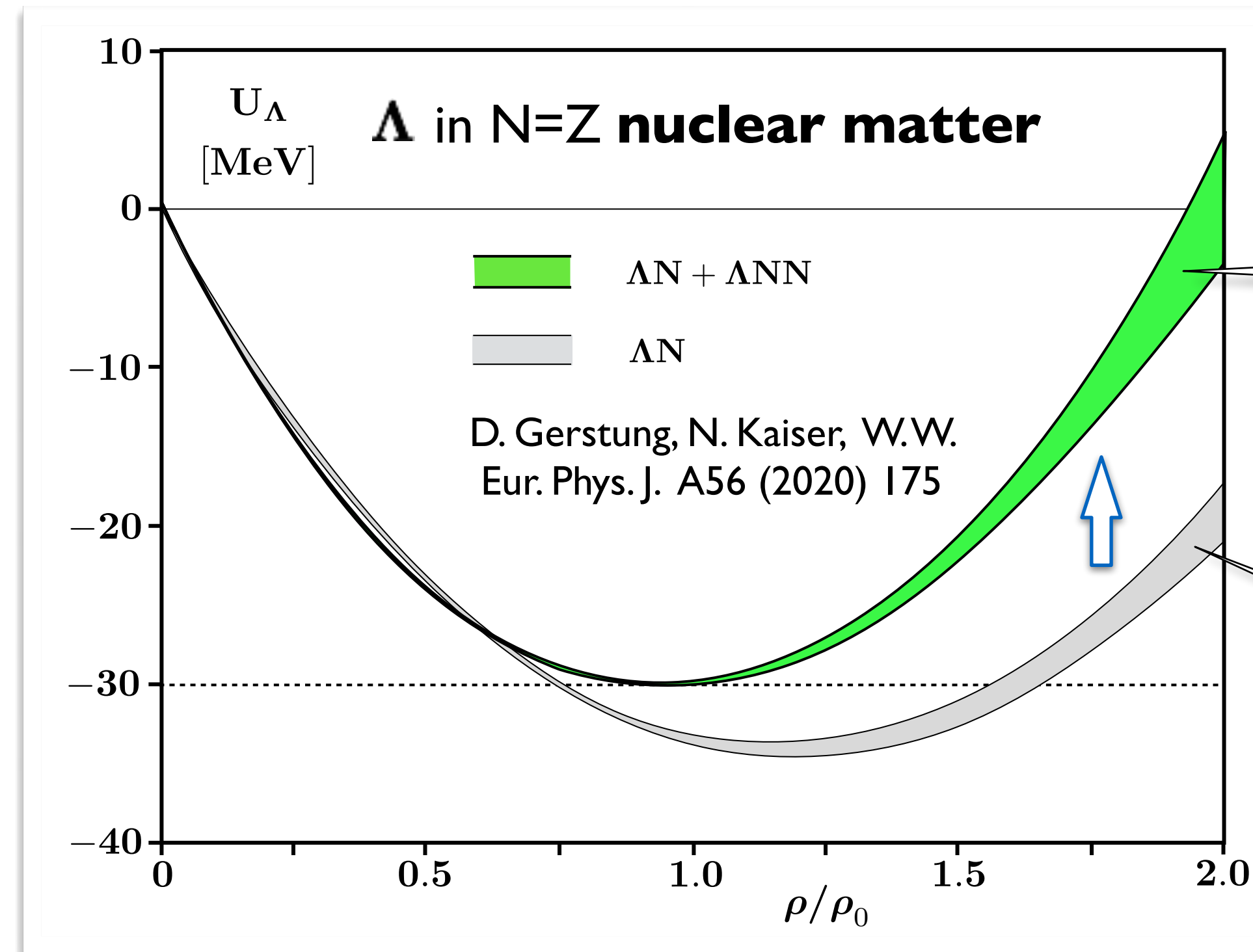
$$\mathbf{G}_{\alpha\beta}(\omega; \rho) = \mathbf{V}_{\alpha\beta}(\rho) + \mathbf{V}_{\alpha\gamma}(\rho) \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{e(\omega) + i\epsilon} \mathbf{G}_{\gamma\beta}(\omega; \rho)$$



- Coupled-channels G-matrix including explicit $\Lambda NN \leftrightarrow \Sigma NN$ three-body interactions treated as effective density-dependent 2-body forces

- Chiral NN (N3LO)
+ YN (NLO) interactions
+ NNN & YNN forces

Strong additional repulsion from YNN three-body forces



2+3-body
 $-\mathbf{H}_1 \in [2.2, 2.5] f_{\pi}^{-2}$
 $\mathbf{H}_2 \in [0, 1.2] f_{\pi}^{-2}$

2-body only

- Constrained by hypernuclear physics : $U_{\Lambda}(\rho = \rho_0) \simeq -30 \text{ MeV}$

A. Gal, E. Hungerford, D. Milner
Rev. Mod. Phys. 88 (2016) 035004

3.

Strangeness (Part 2)

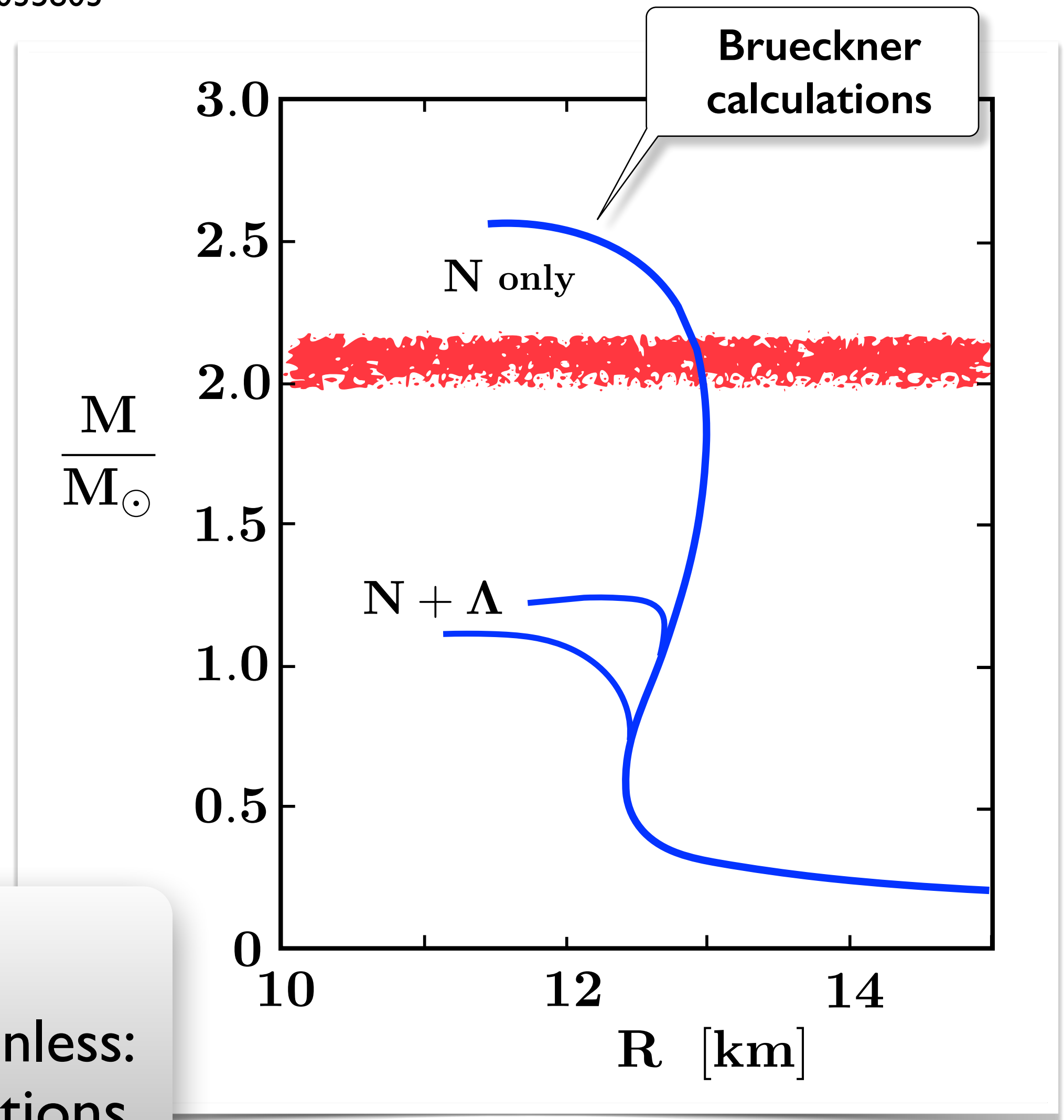
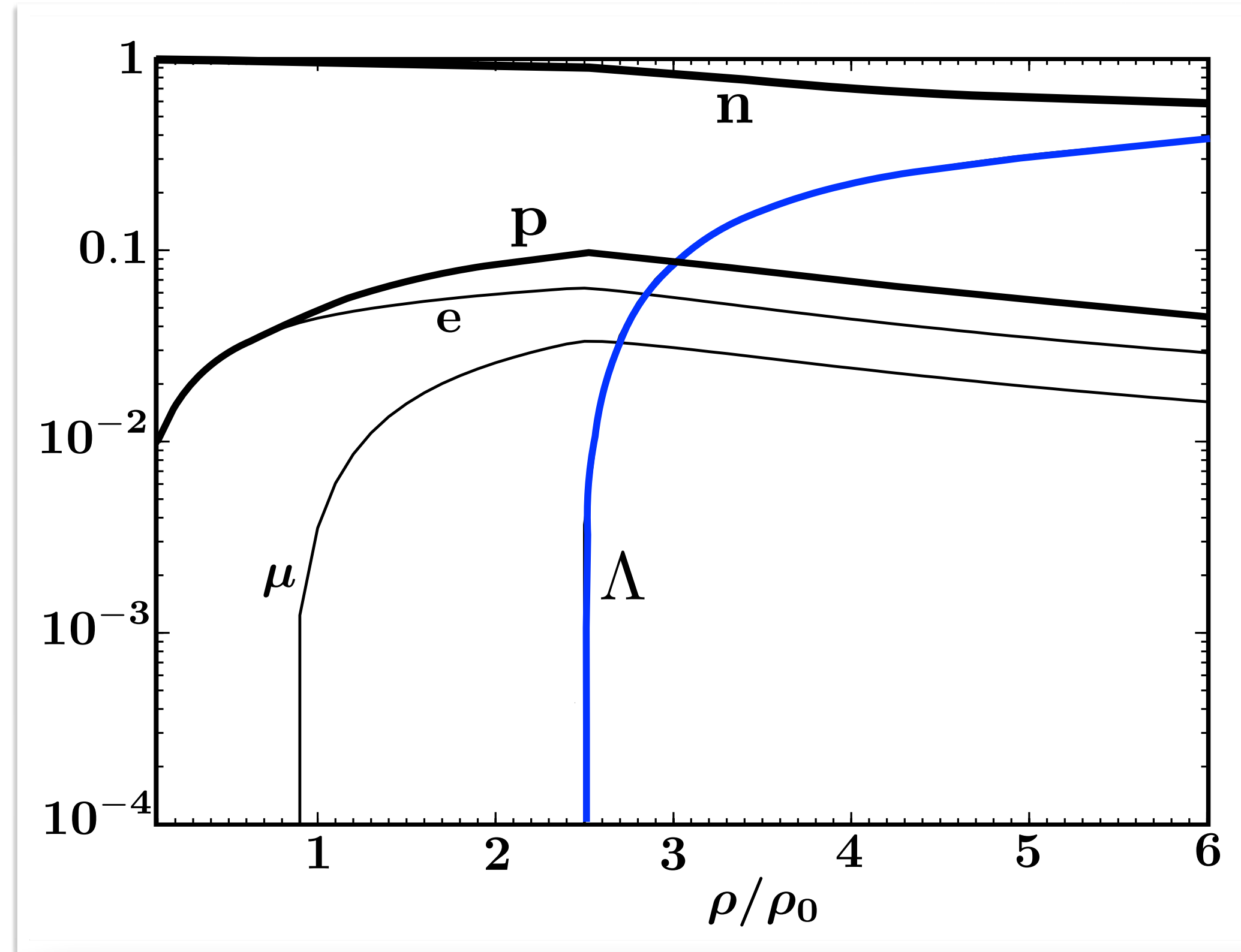
Hyperons in Dense Baryonic Matter and Neutron Stars



NEUTRON STAR MATTER including **HYPERONS**

“Hyperon Puzzle”

H. Djapo, B.-J. Schaefer, J. Wambach : Phys. Rev. C81 (2010) 035803



- Inclusion of hyperons :

**EoS too soft to support 2-solar-mass n-stars, unless:
strong repulsion in YN and/or YNN interactions**

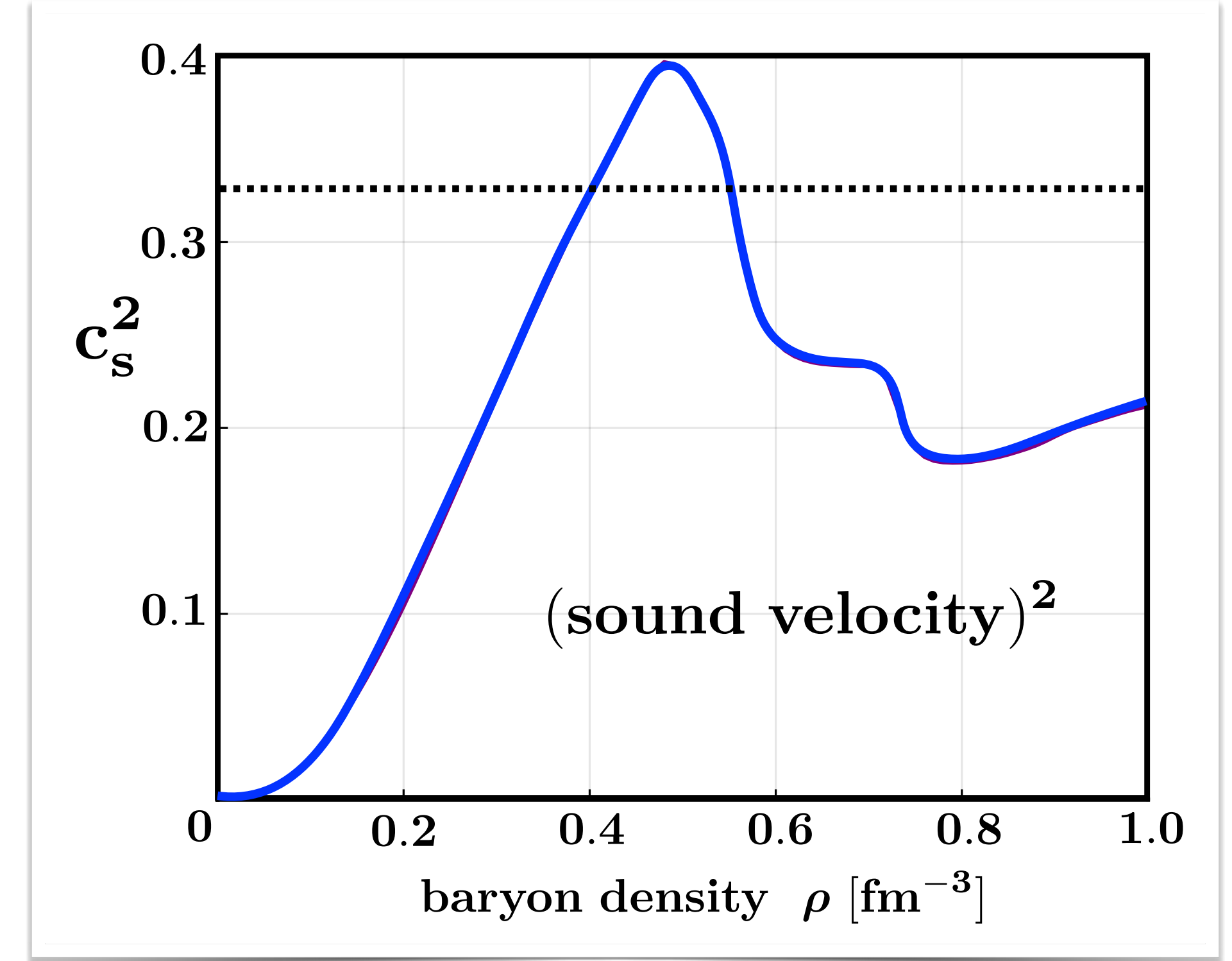
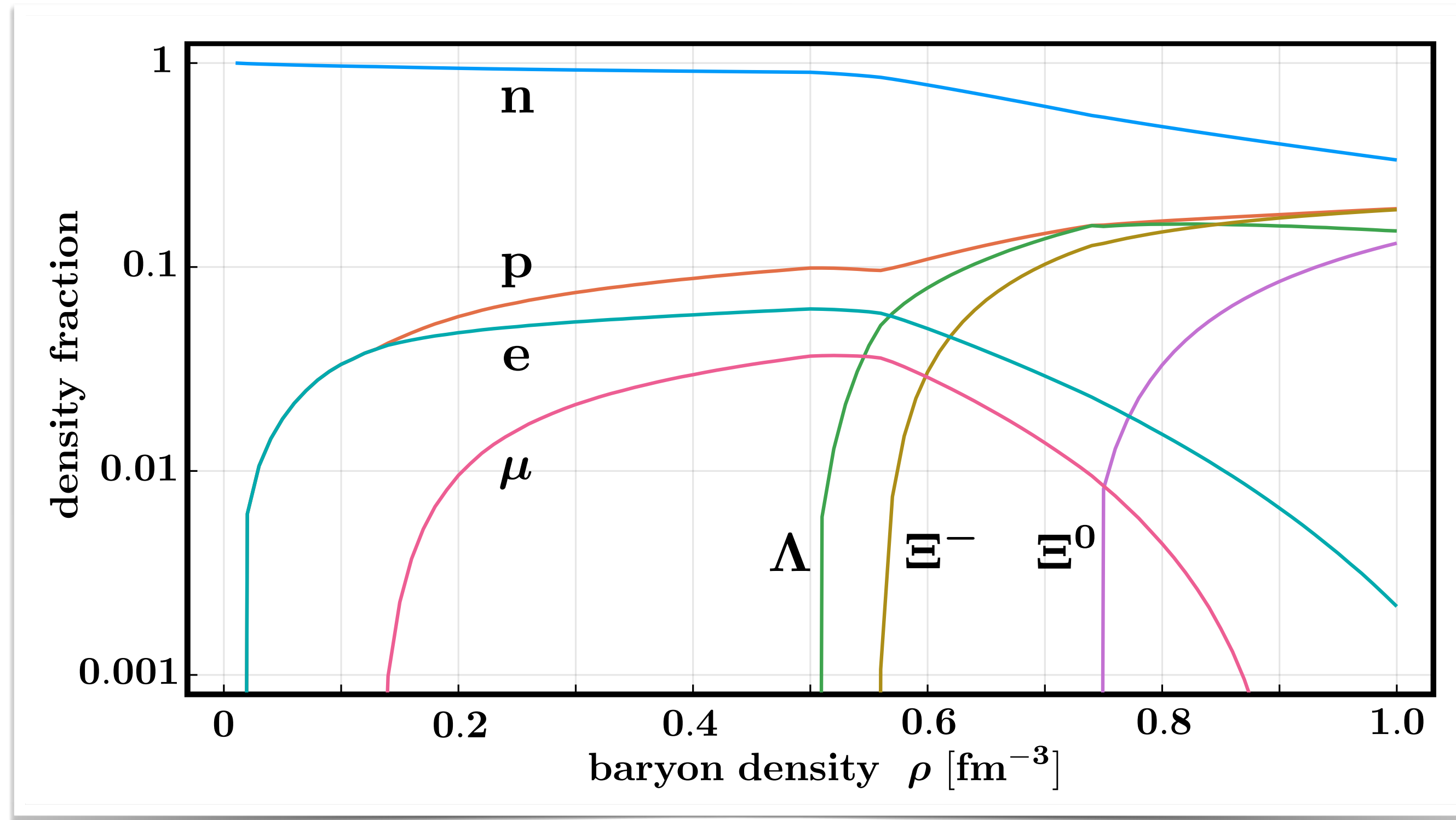


NEUTRON STAR MATTER including **HYPERONS**

NO "Hyperon Puzzle" ?

- **Quark - Meson Coupling model**

T.F. Motta, P.A.M. Guichon, A.W.Thomas : Nucl. Phys. A1009 (2021) 122157

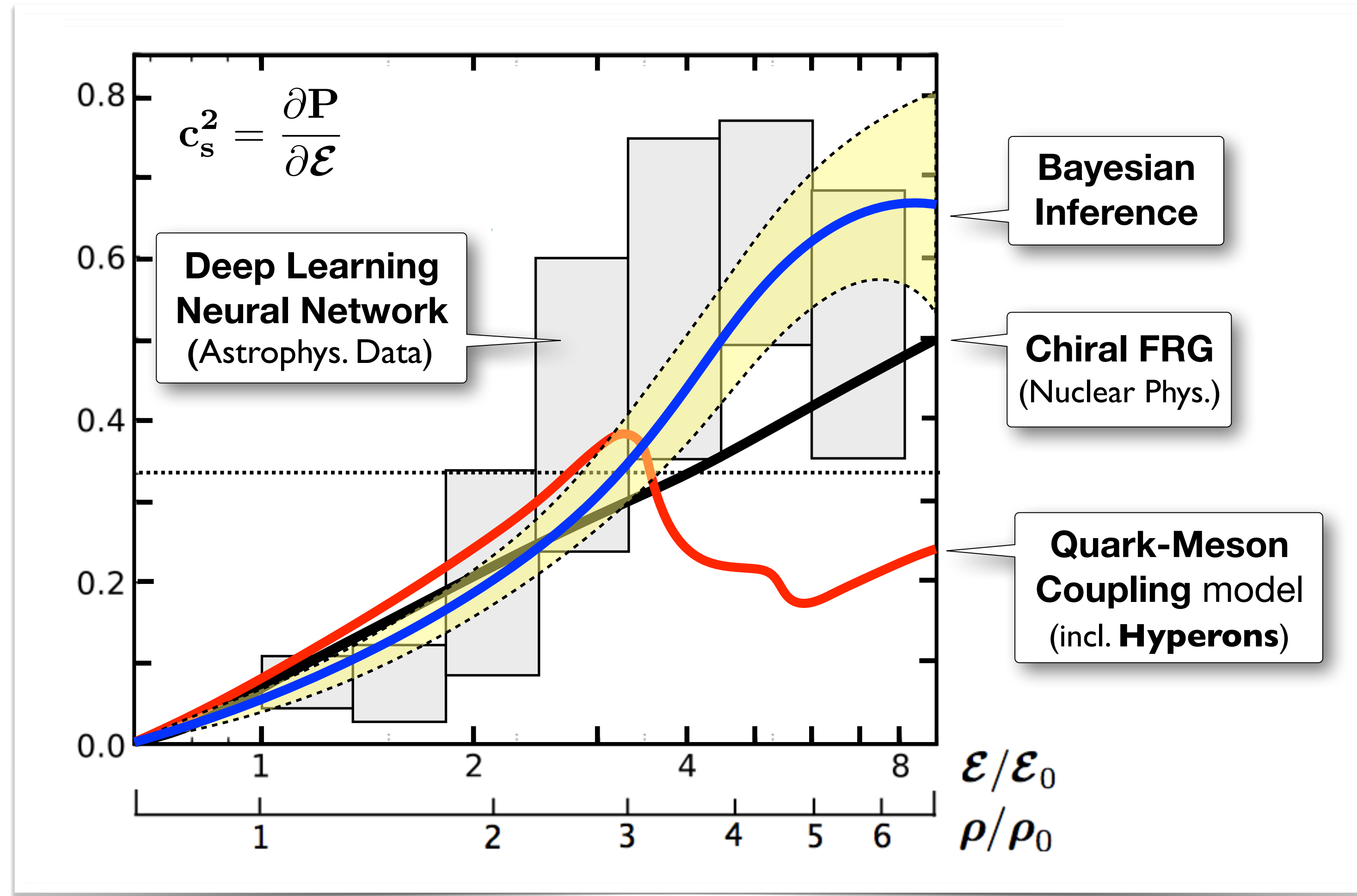


- **Effective in-medium baryon masses including non-linear dependence on σ field, with scalar polarizability d_B representing e.g. effects of three-body forces :**

$$M_B^* = M_B^{(0)} - g_B \bar{\sigma} + \frac{d_B}{2} (g_B \bar{\sigma})^2$$



Key Quantity : **SOUND VELOCITY** in the **NEUTRON STAR CORE MATTER**



*“Hyperon Puzzle”
reiterated ?*

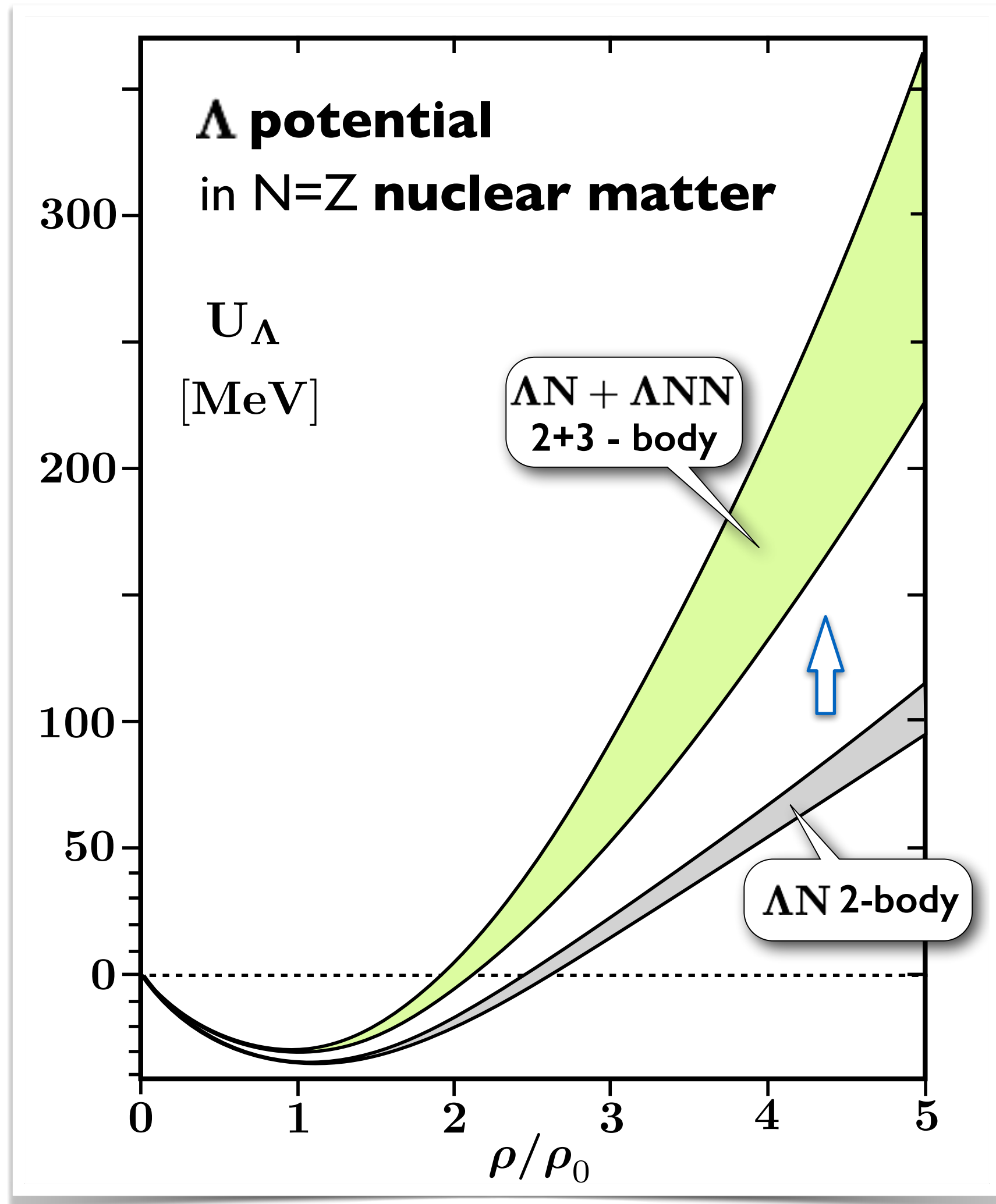
- Strong quest for further reduction of uncertainties in the astrophysical data base



Density dependence of Λ single-particle potential (contd.)

- Extrapolations to high baryon densities

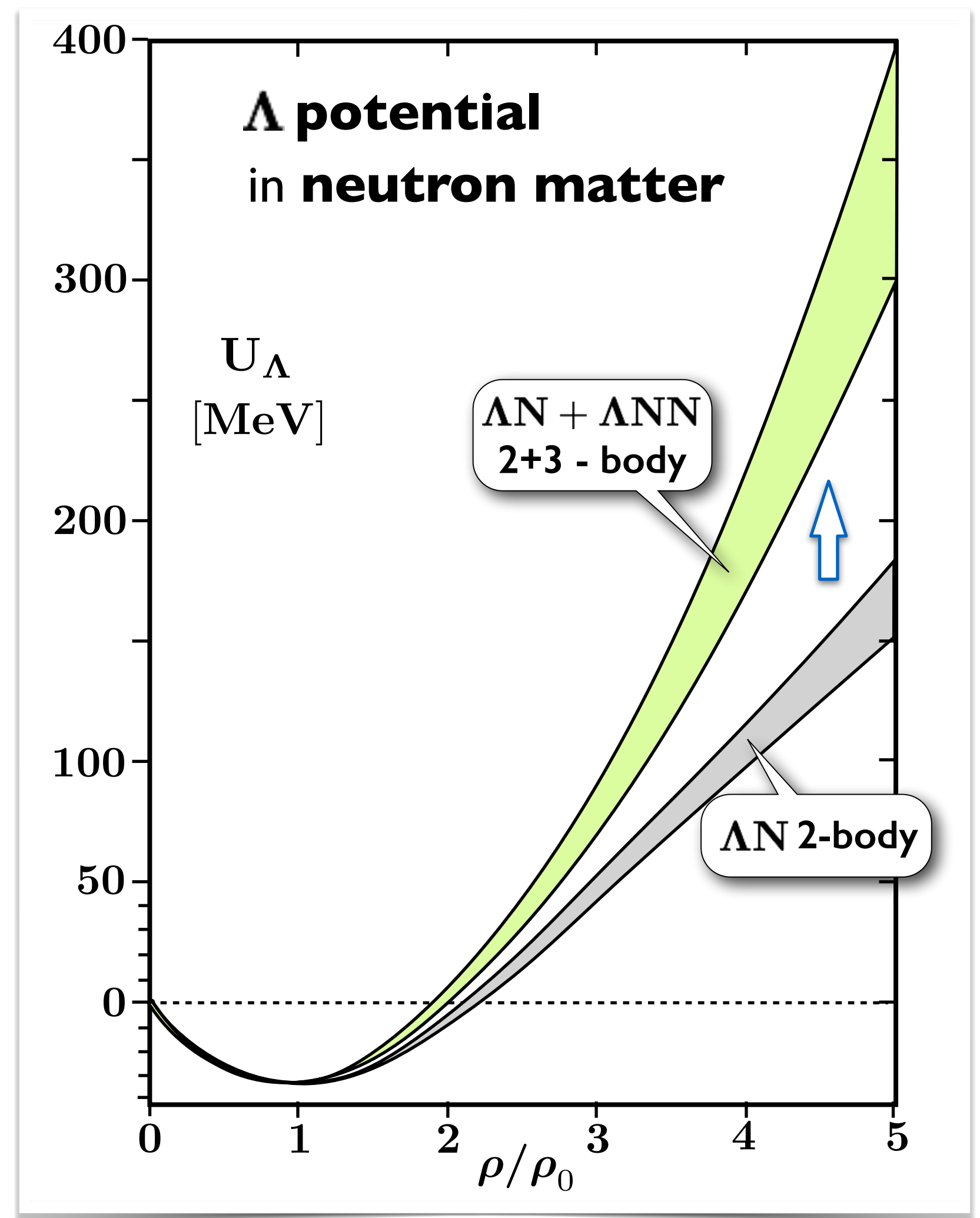
- Coupled-channels G-matrix including explicit 3-body interactions



Chiral
NN (N3LO)
+ YN (NLO)
+ NNN & YNN
interactions

Strong
additional
repulsion
from YNN
three-body
forces

D. Gerstung, N. Kaiser, W.W.
Eur. Phys. J. A56 (2020) 175



Λ Hyperons in Neutron Stars ?

- Onset condition for appearance of Λ hyperons in neutron stars :
Equality of chemical potentials

$$\mu_\Lambda = \mu_n$$

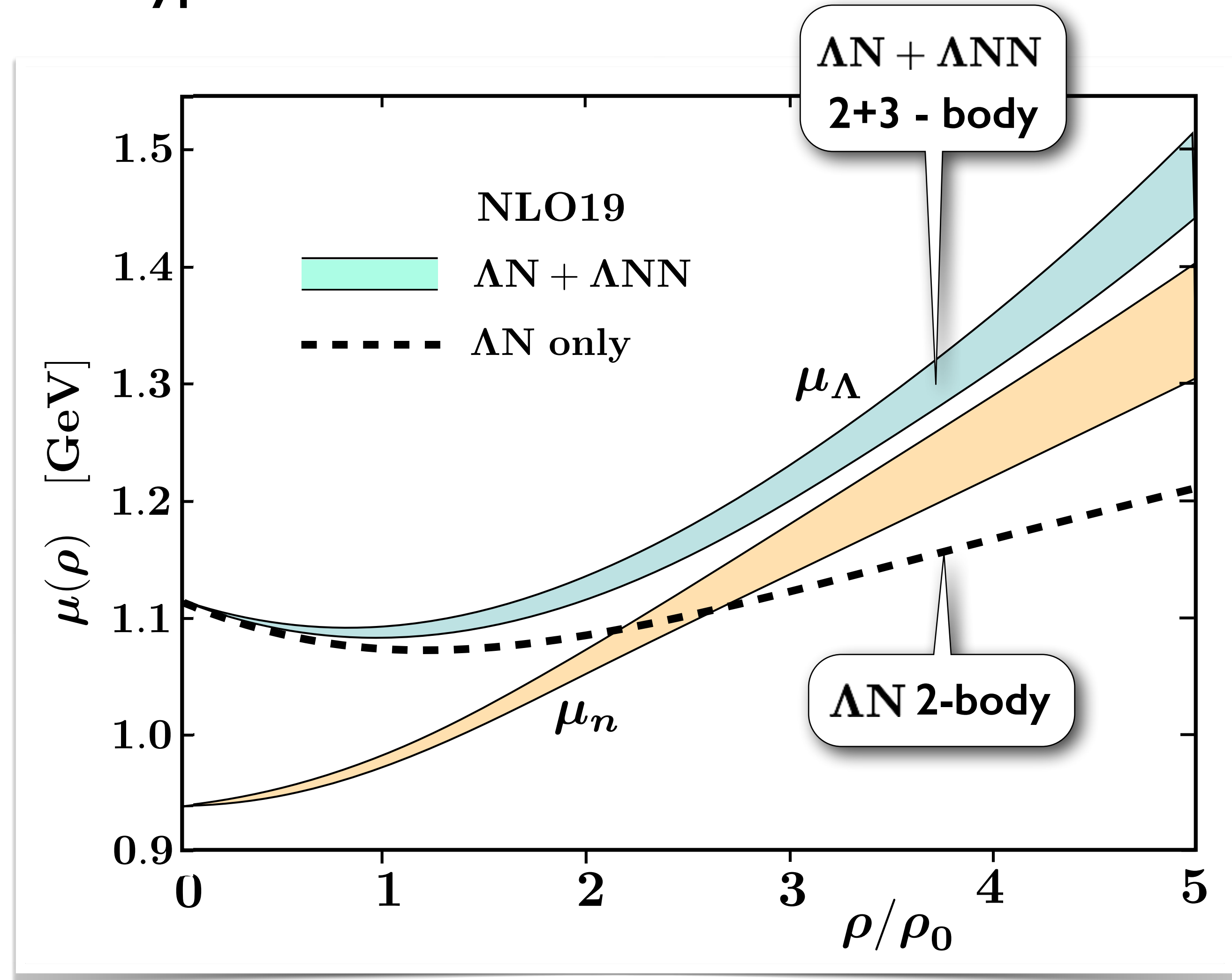
$$\mu_i = \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial \rho_i}$$

- Hyperon chemical potential in neutron star matter from Chiral SU(3) EFT interactions

D. Gerstung, N. Kaiser, W.W.
Eur. Phys. J. A56 (2020) 175

- Neutron chemical potential in neutron star matter from Chiral EFT + FRG EoS

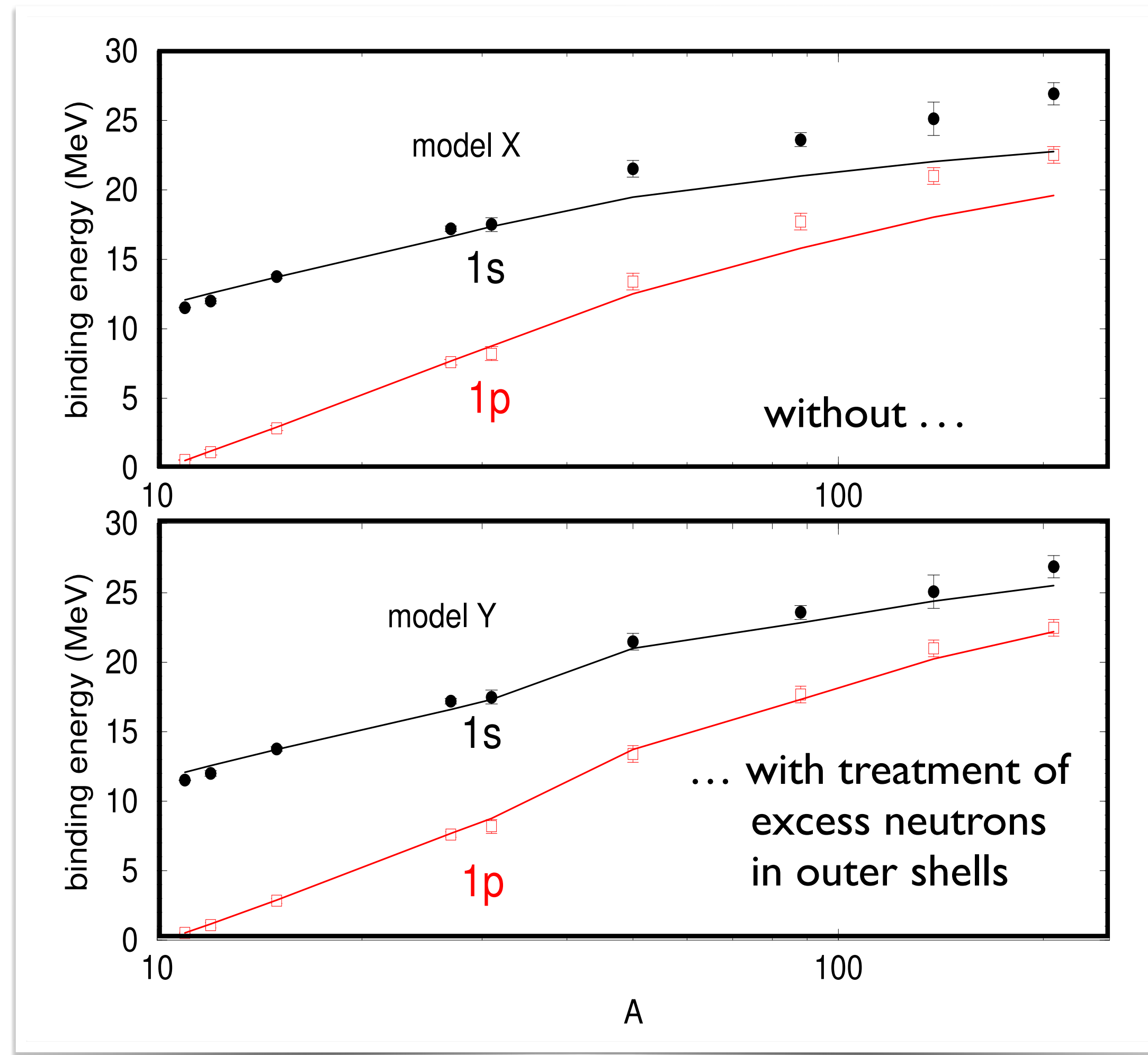
M. Drews, W.W.
Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 93 (2017) 69



Hypernuclear Phenomenology

- Recent update on Λ - nuclear binding energies including Λ NN three-body forces

E. Friedman, A. Gal arXiv: 2204.02264



- Two- and three-body hyperon-nucleus potentials

$$U_{\Lambda}(\rho) = U_0^{(2)} \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r})}{\rho_0} + U_0^{(3)} \left(\frac{\rho(\mathbf{r})}{\rho_0} \right)^2$$

$(\rho_0 = 0.17 \text{ fm}^{-3})$

with realistic (empirically constrained) densities

- Pauli correlations important (no good fit without)
- Detailed treatment of excess neutrons in outer shells of heavier hypernuclei (model Y)
- Best fit (model Y) : $U_{\Lambda}(\rho_0) = -(26.5 \pm 1.6) \text{ MeV}$

$$U_0^{(2)} = -(40.4 \pm 0.6) \text{ MeV}$$

$$U_0^{(3)} = (13.9 \pm 1.4) \text{ MeV}$$

- Three-body Λ NN forces of such repulsive magnitude are likely to solve the hyperon puzzle

CONCLUSIONS and OUTLOOK

Understanding strangeness in dense matter and neutron stars requires detailed evaluation of the **quantitative balance** between **hyperon-nuclear two- and three-body forces**.

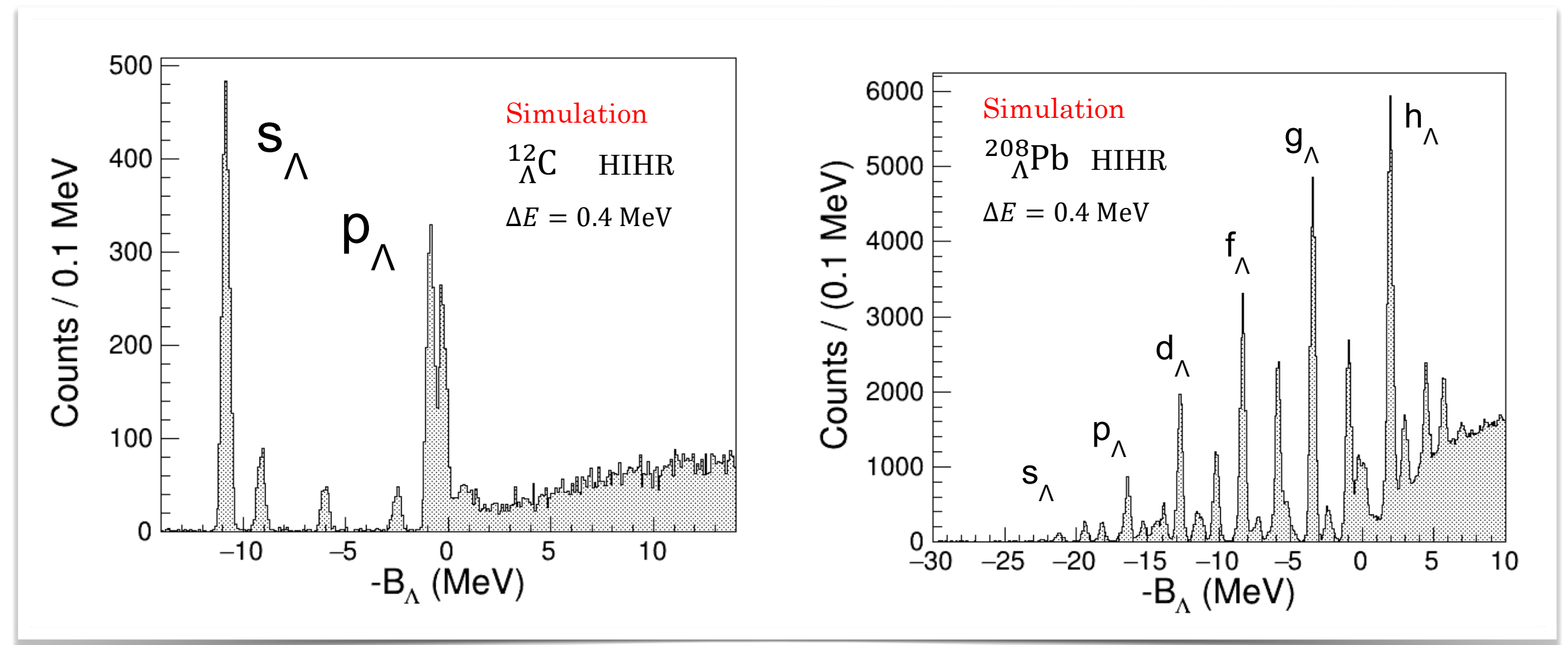
- ★ Improved and expanded high-statistics **YN two-body data base** :
YN scattering and reactions (e.g. J-PARC E40); YN correlation functions (e.g. Femtoscopy)
- ★ Improved systematics of **high-resolution hypernuclear spectroscopy** :
(π^+ , K^+) at J-PARC, (e , $e'K^+$) at JLab, MAMI, with mass resolution better than **0.5 MeV**

Example:

simulation taken from
J-PARC HIHR beamline proposal

S. N. Nakamura et al. (2021)

expected mass resolution :
 ~ 0.33 MeV



- ★ Increasing amounts of **astrophysical data** (focus on **speed of sound** in **neutron stars**)

*Supplementary
Materials*

Density-dependent EFFECTIVE HYPERON - NUCLEON INTERACTION from CHIRAL THREE-BARYON FORCES

S. Petschauer, J. Haidenbauer, N. Kaiser, U.-G. Meißner, W.W.

Nucl. Phys. A957 (2017) 347

$$U_{\text{eff}}(12) = \sum_i \text{tr}_{\sigma_3} \int_{|\vec{p}| \leq p_F^i} \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \mathbf{V}(123)$$

- Example: Λ -neutron density-dependent effective interaction in a nuclear medium (protons + neutrons)

$$U_{\text{eff}}^{\pi}(\Lambda n) = \frac{CH g_A^2}{2f_{\pi}^4 \Delta} [\rho_n + 2\rho_p] + \mathcal{F}(p_F^p, p_F^n)$$

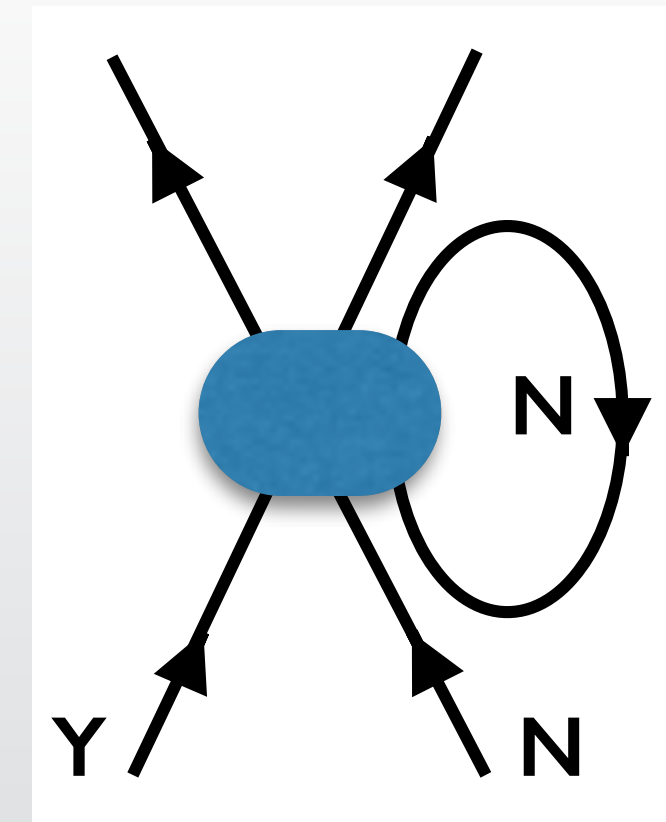
+/-

$$U_{\text{eff}}^{\pi\pi}(\Lambda n) = \frac{C^2 g_A^2}{9f_{\pi}^4 \Delta} [\rho_n + 2\rho_p] + \mathcal{G}(p_F^p, p_F^n)$$

repulsive

$$U_{\text{eff}}^{ct}(\Lambda n) = \frac{H^2}{18 \Delta} [\rho_n + 2\rho_p]$$

repulsive



- Decuplet-octet mass difference

$$\Delta = M_{[10]} - M_{[8]} \simeq 270 \text{ MeV}$$

$$C = \frac{3}{4} g_A \simeq 1$$

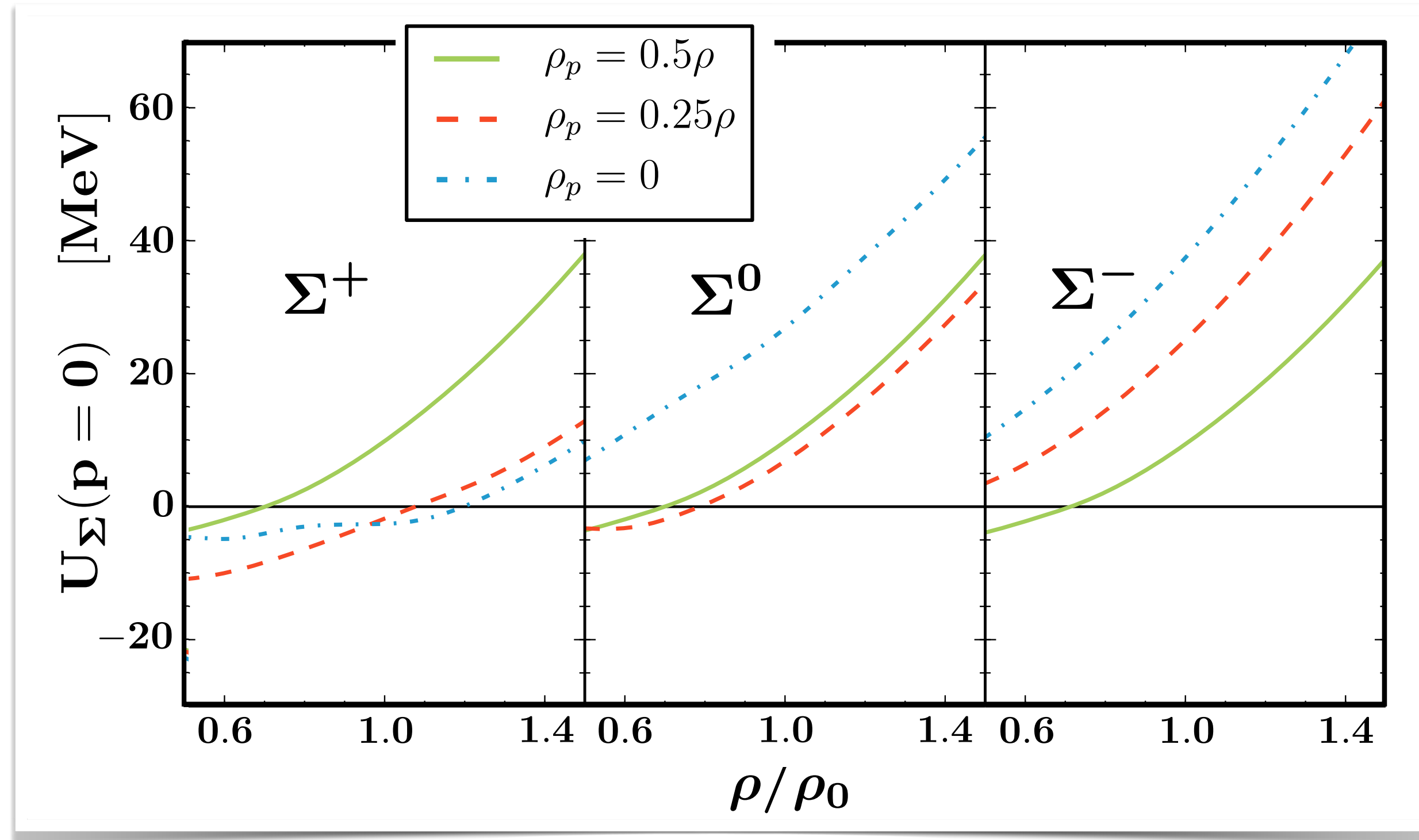
- Coupling parameters :

$$H = H_1 + 3H_2 \quad |H| \lesssim f_{\pi}^{-2}$$

Σ Hyperons in Neutron Stars ?

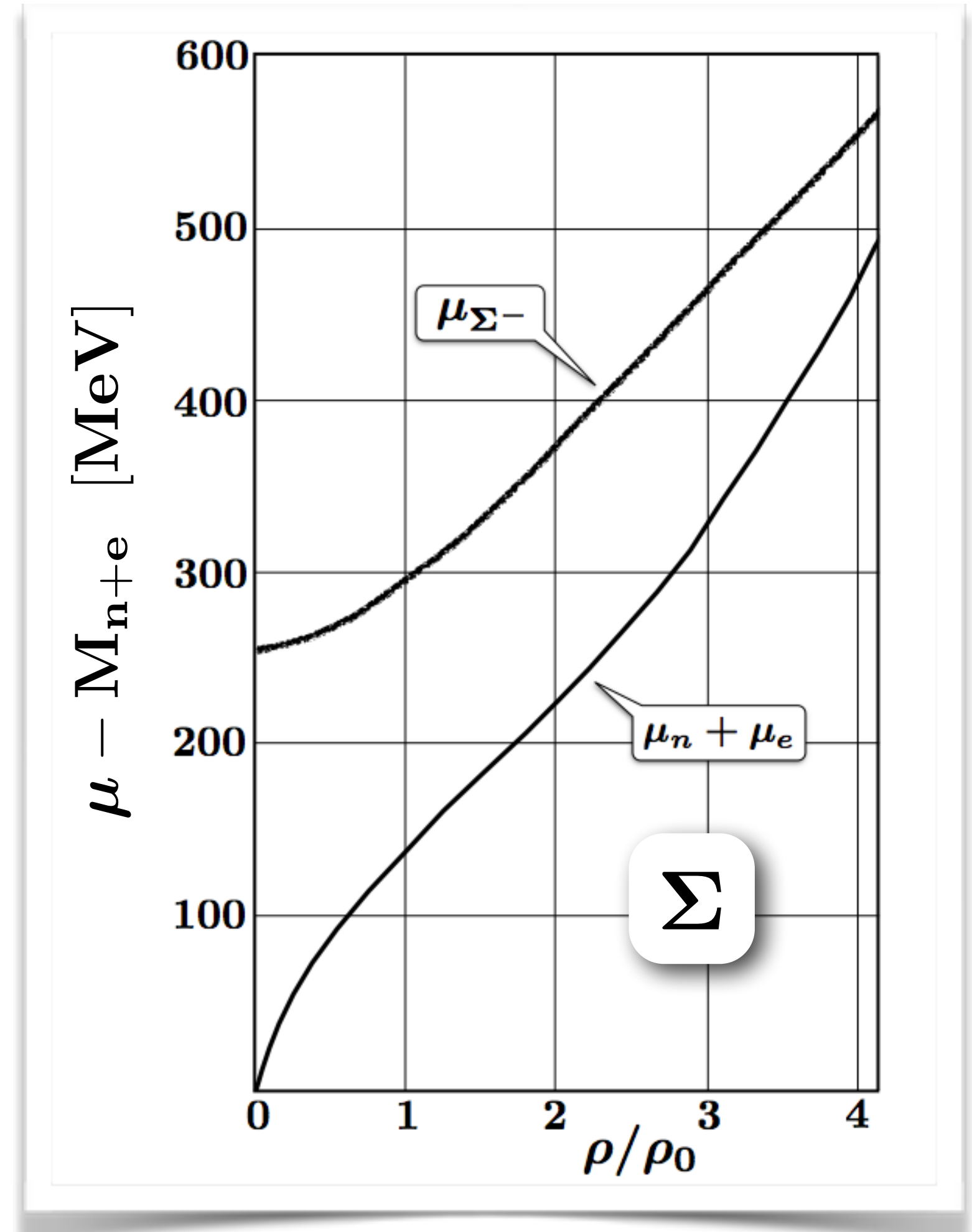
- Σ hyperon potentials from Chiral SU(3) EFT interactions

S. Petschauer, J.Haidenbauer, N. Kaiser,
U.-G. Meißner, W.W.: EPJ A52 (2016) 15



- Σ - nuclear potentials are **repulsive**
- Condition for appearance of Σ^- in neutron star matter :

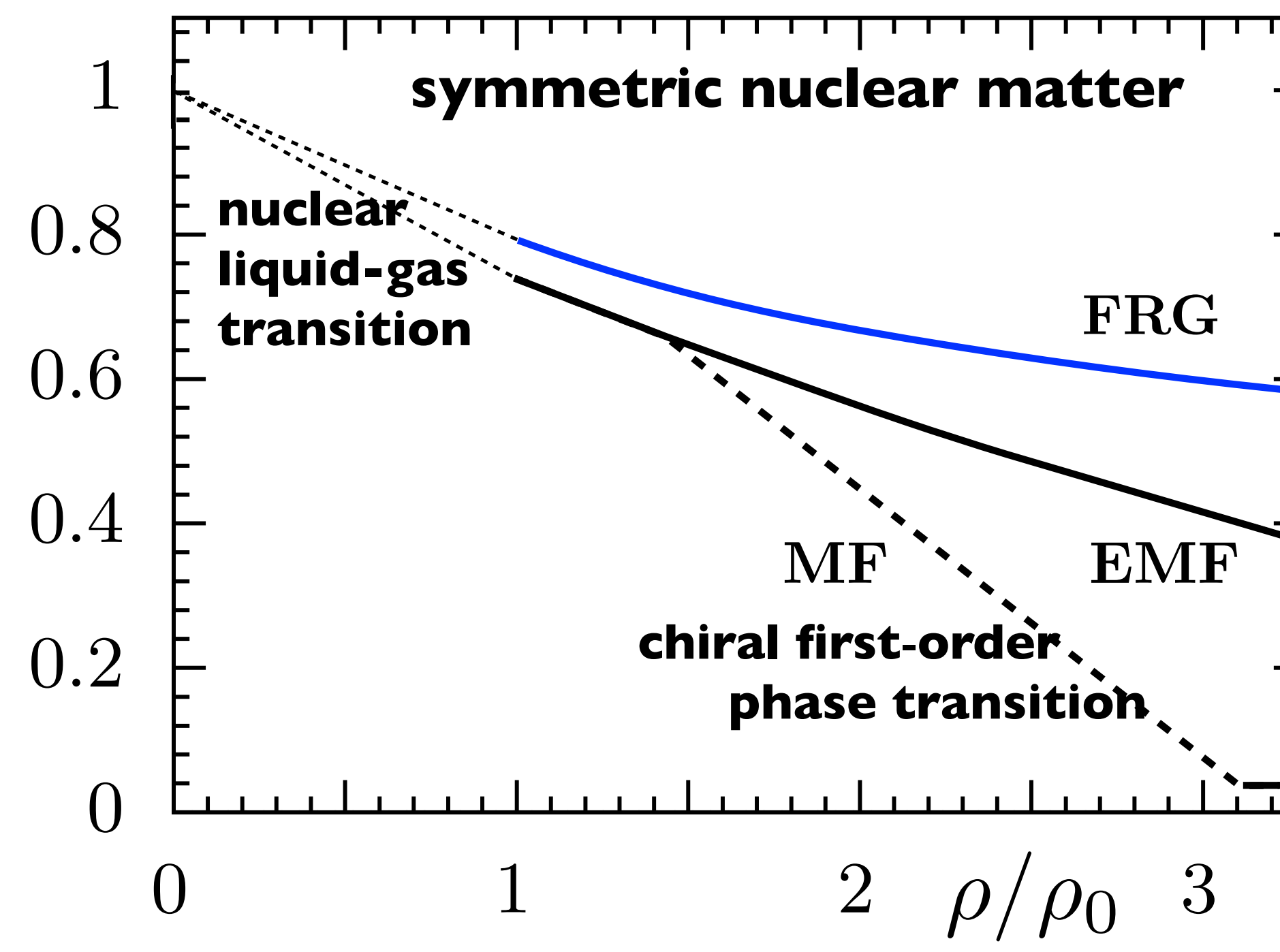
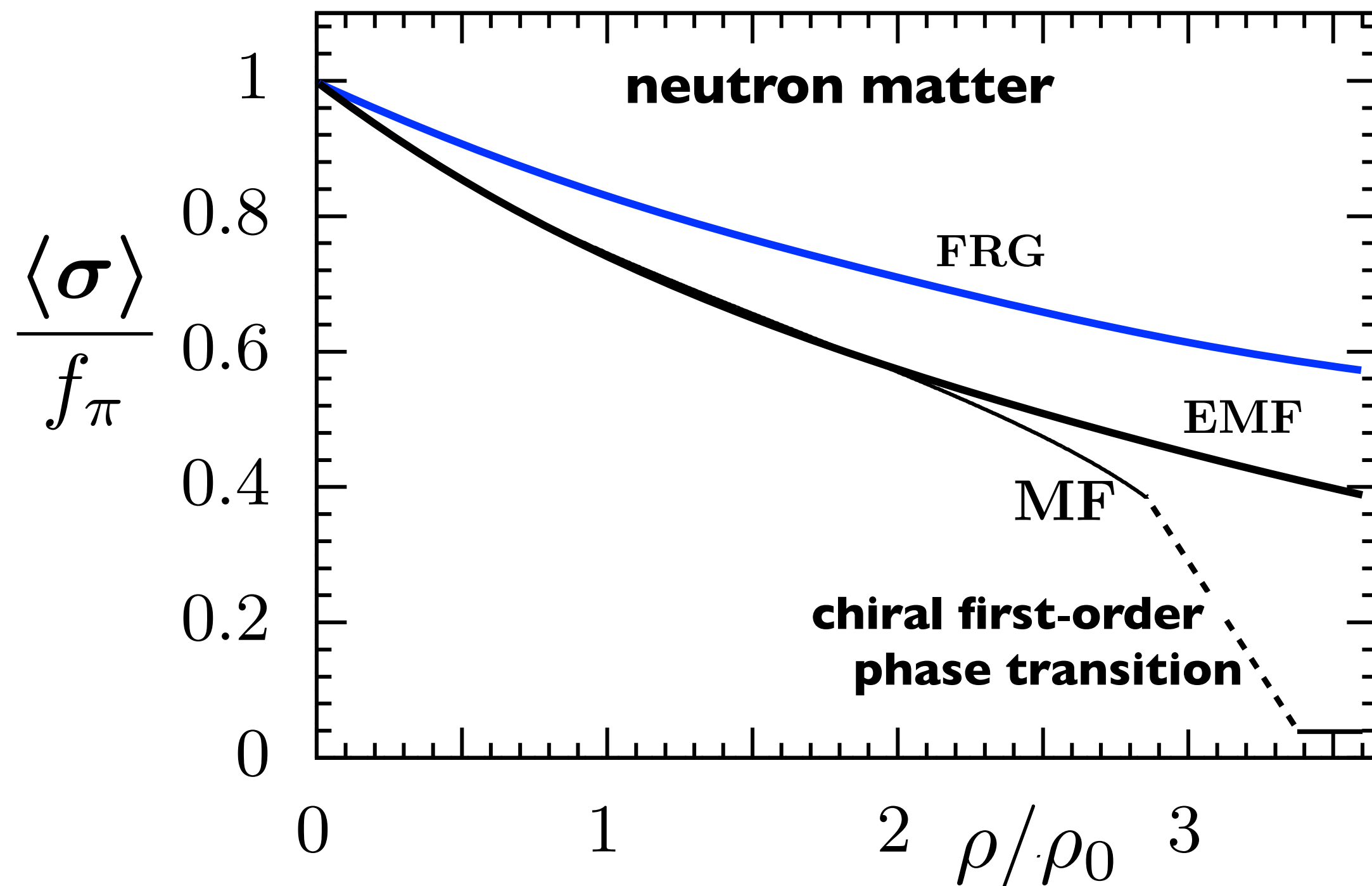
$$\mu_{\Sigma^-} = \mu_n + \mu_e = 2\mu_n - \mu_p \quad \mu_i = \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial \rho_i}$$



CHIRAL ORDER PARAMETER in NUCLEAR and NEUTRON MATTER ($T = 0$)

- Chiral phase transition in dense baryonic matter? Studies in chiral meson-nucleon field theory

L. Brandes, N. Kaiser, W.W.: Eur. Phys. J. A57 (2021) 243



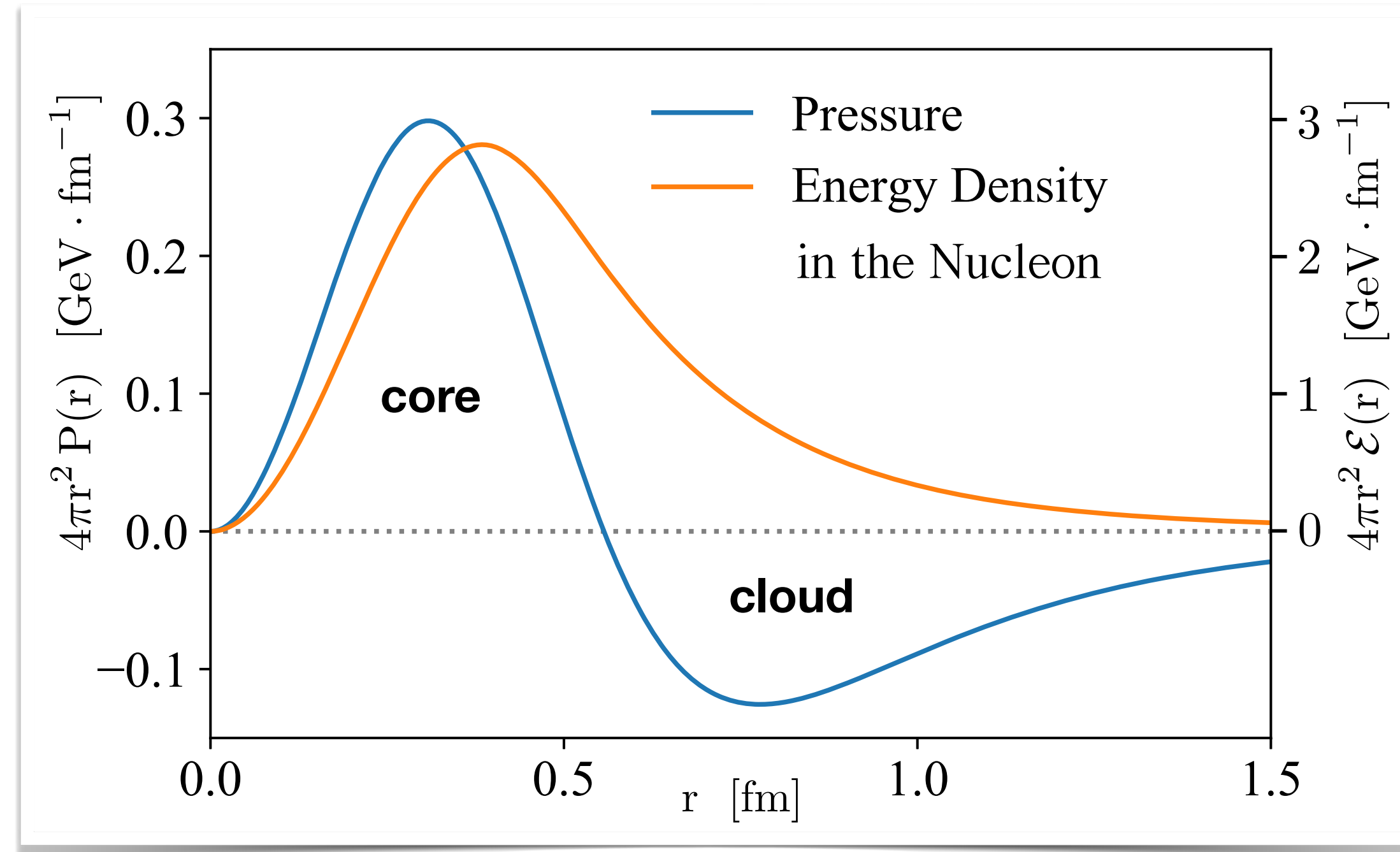
chiral
crossover
transition
at
baryon
densities
 $\rho > 6 \rho_0$

- Mean-field (MF)** approximation (wrongly) features **chiral 1st order transition** at $\rho \sim 2 - 3 \rho_0$
- Vacuum fluctuations (EMF)** shift **chiral transition** to **high density** \rightarrow **smooth crossover**
- FRG** (with non-perturbative **loop corrections** involving **pions**, **nucleons**) enhances this effect

Further **KEYWORDS** on **COLD MATTER** at **EXTREME DENSITIES** **Hadron - Quark Continuity**

K. Fukushima, T. Kojo, W.W. : Phys. Rev. D102 (2020) 096017

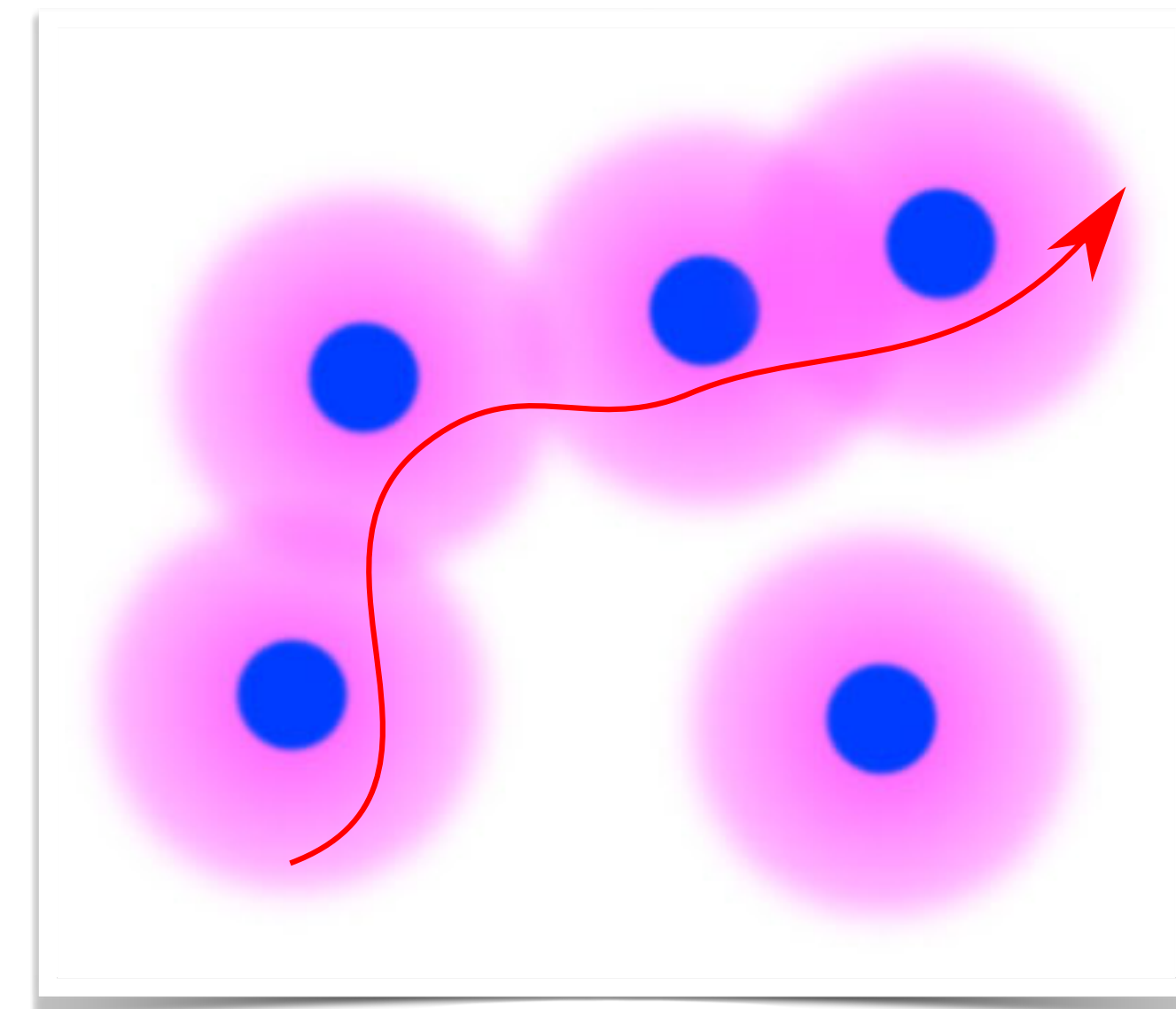
- **Nucleonic scales : **HARD-CORE** deconfinement + **SOFT SURFACE** delocalisation**



- **Nucleon cores touch at baryon densities**

$$\rho_B \sim 6 \rho_0$$
- **Percolation of mesonic clouds at lower densities inducing many-body correlations**

- **Soft delocalisation and collective mobility of quark-antiquark pairs over larger distances**
- **No (first-order) phase transition expected at densities relevant to neutron stars**



F. Karsch, H. Satz
 Phys. Rev.
 D21 (1980) 1168