

The improved Ginzburg-Landau technique

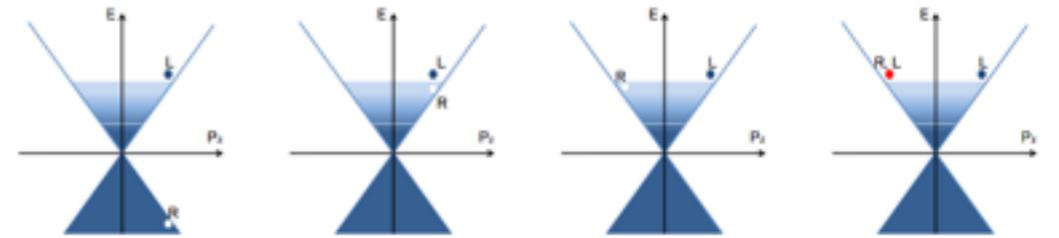
Massimo Mannarelli
INFN-LNGS
massimo@lngs.infn.it

Outline

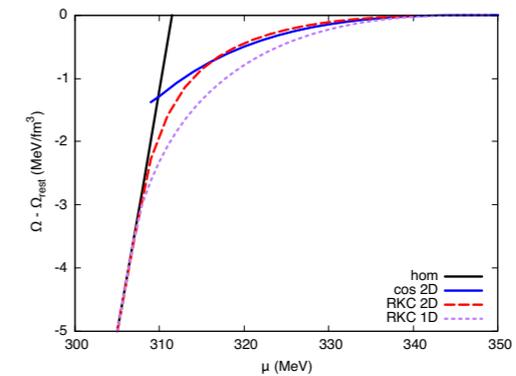
- Background

$$SU(3)_c \times \underbrace{SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R}_{\supset [U(1)_{\text{e.m.}}]} \times U(1)_B$$

- Competing condensates



- Improved Ginzburg-Landau expansion



BACKGROUND

Symmetries of QCD

Symmetries of the three flavor massless QCD Lagrangian

color gauge
group

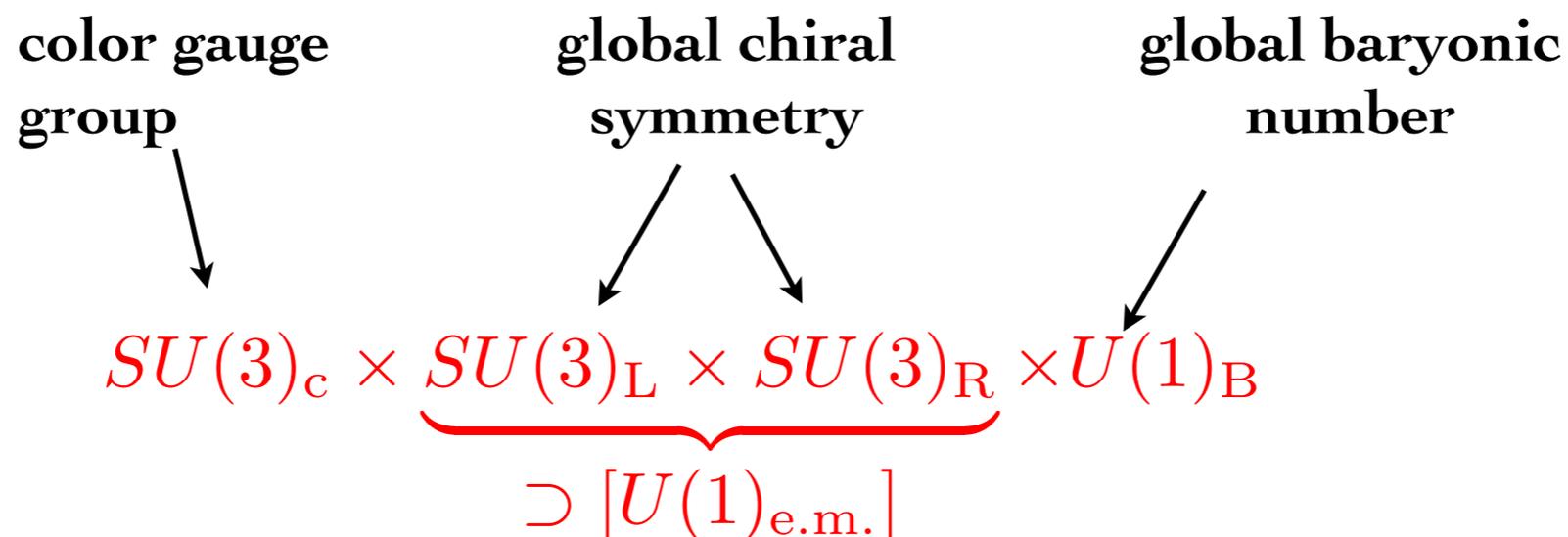
global chiral
symmetry

global baryonic
number

$$SU(3)_c \times \underbrace{SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R}_{\supset [U(1)_{\text{e.m.}}]} \times U(1)_B$$

Symmetries of QCD

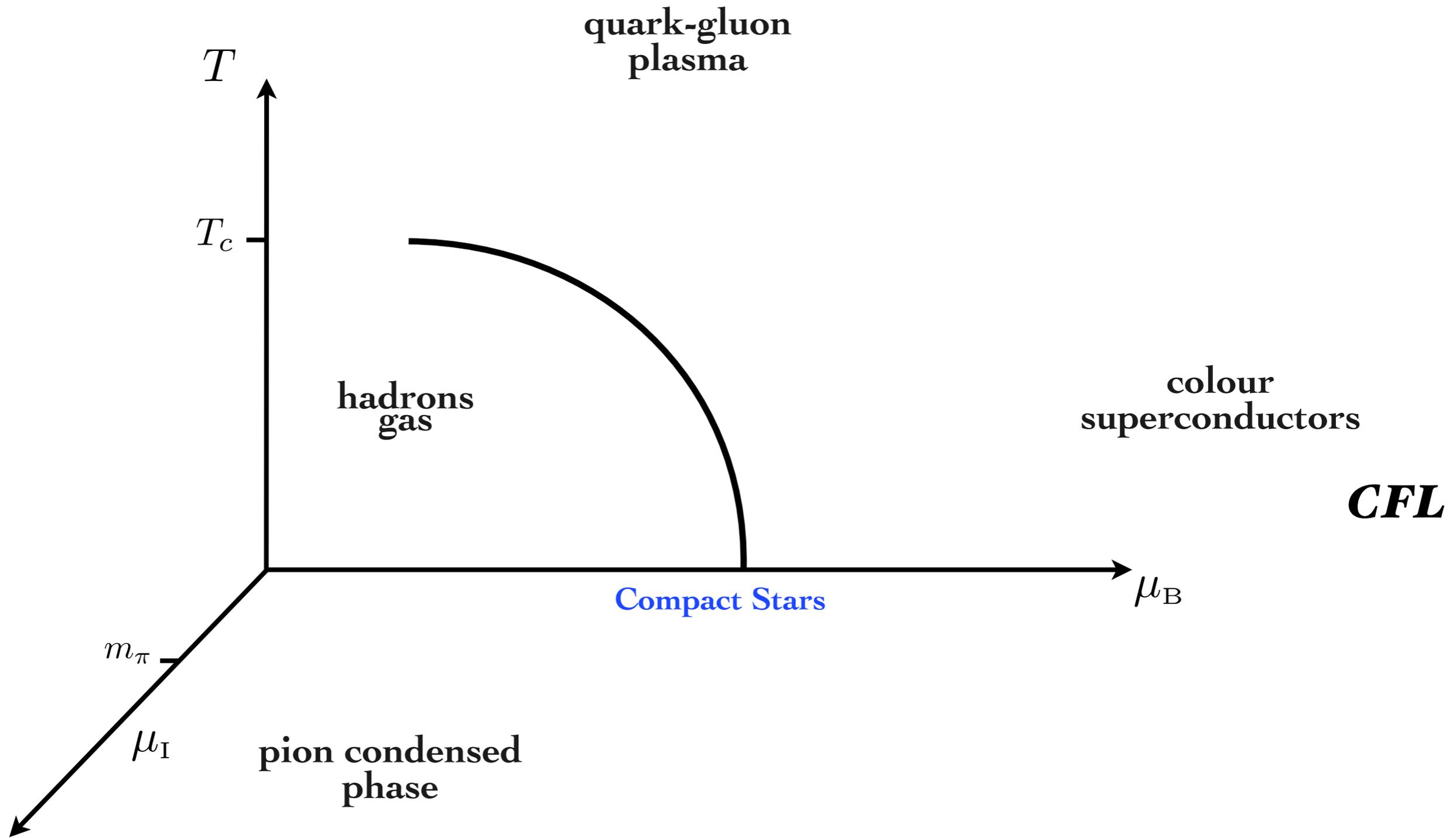
Symmetries of the three flavor massless QCD Lagrangian



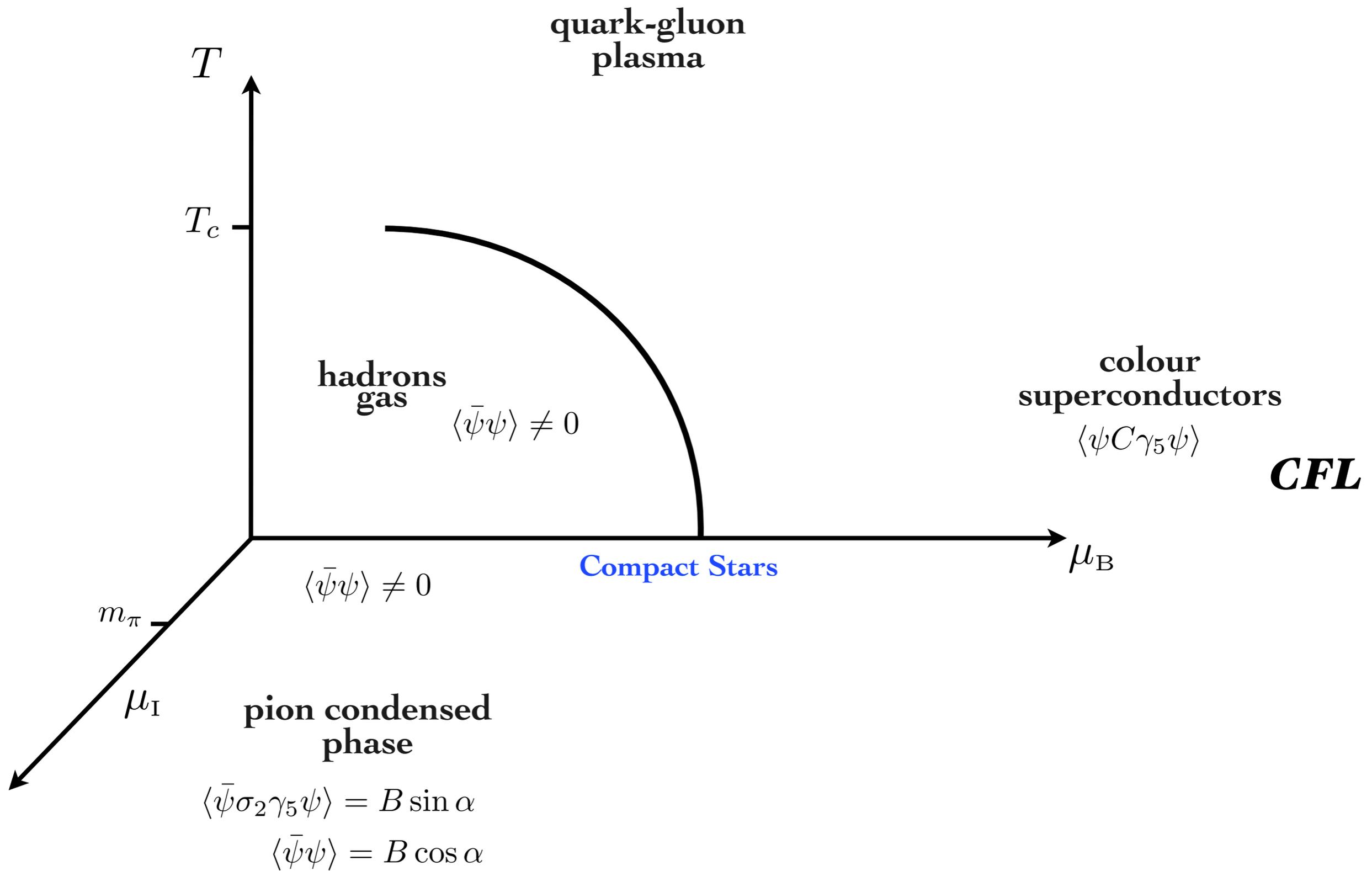
The ground state may have a lower symmetry because of quark condensates

- $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle$ Chiral condensate: Locks chiral rotations
- $\langle \bar{\psi}\sigma_2\gamma_5\psi \rangle$ Pion condensate: Locks chiral rotations and breaks $U(1)_{\text{e.m.}}$
- $\langle \psi C\gamma_5\psi \rangle$ Diquark condensate: Breaks the gauge group and may lock chiral rotations

Quark matter phase diagram

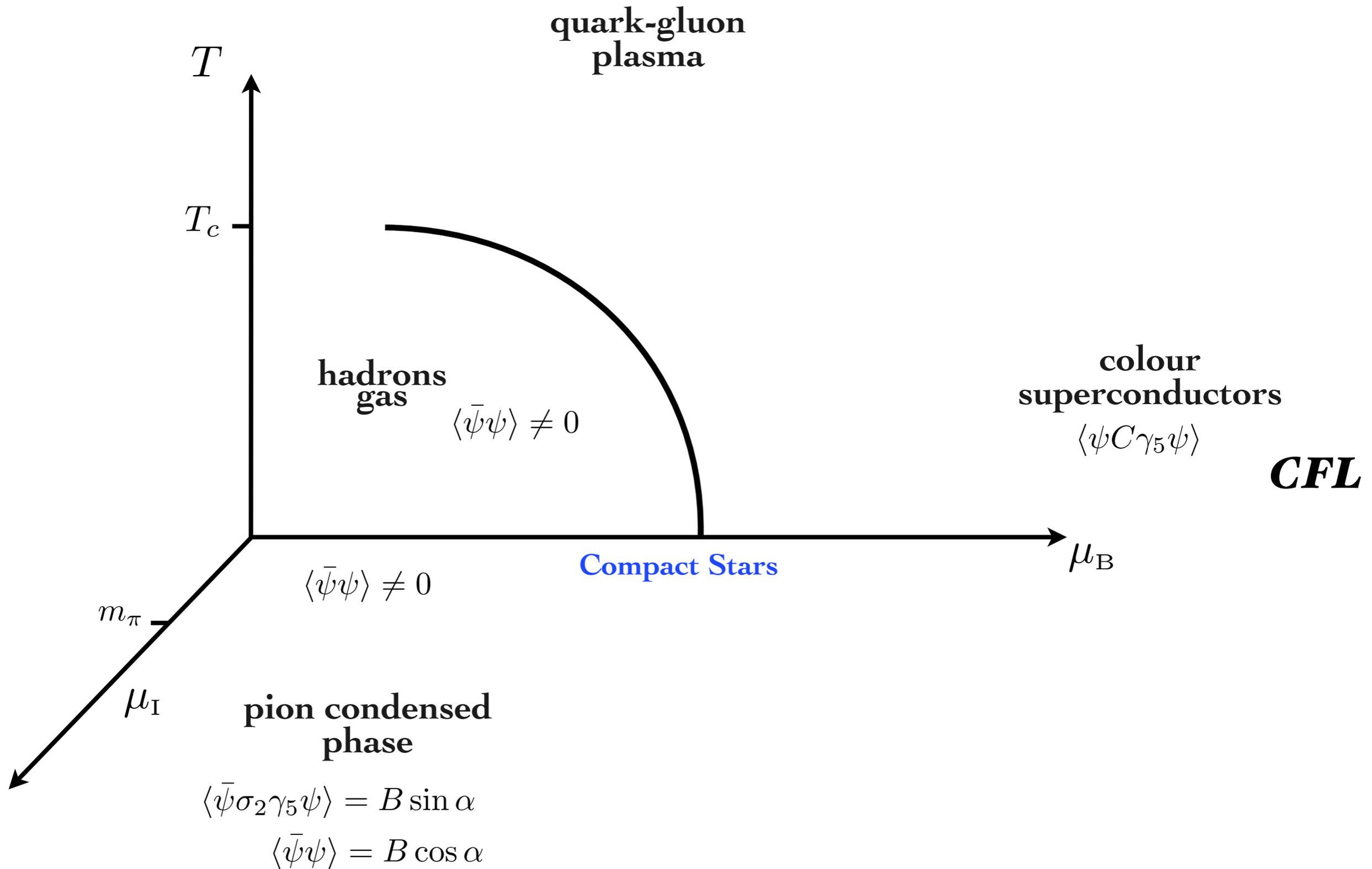


Quark matter phase diagram

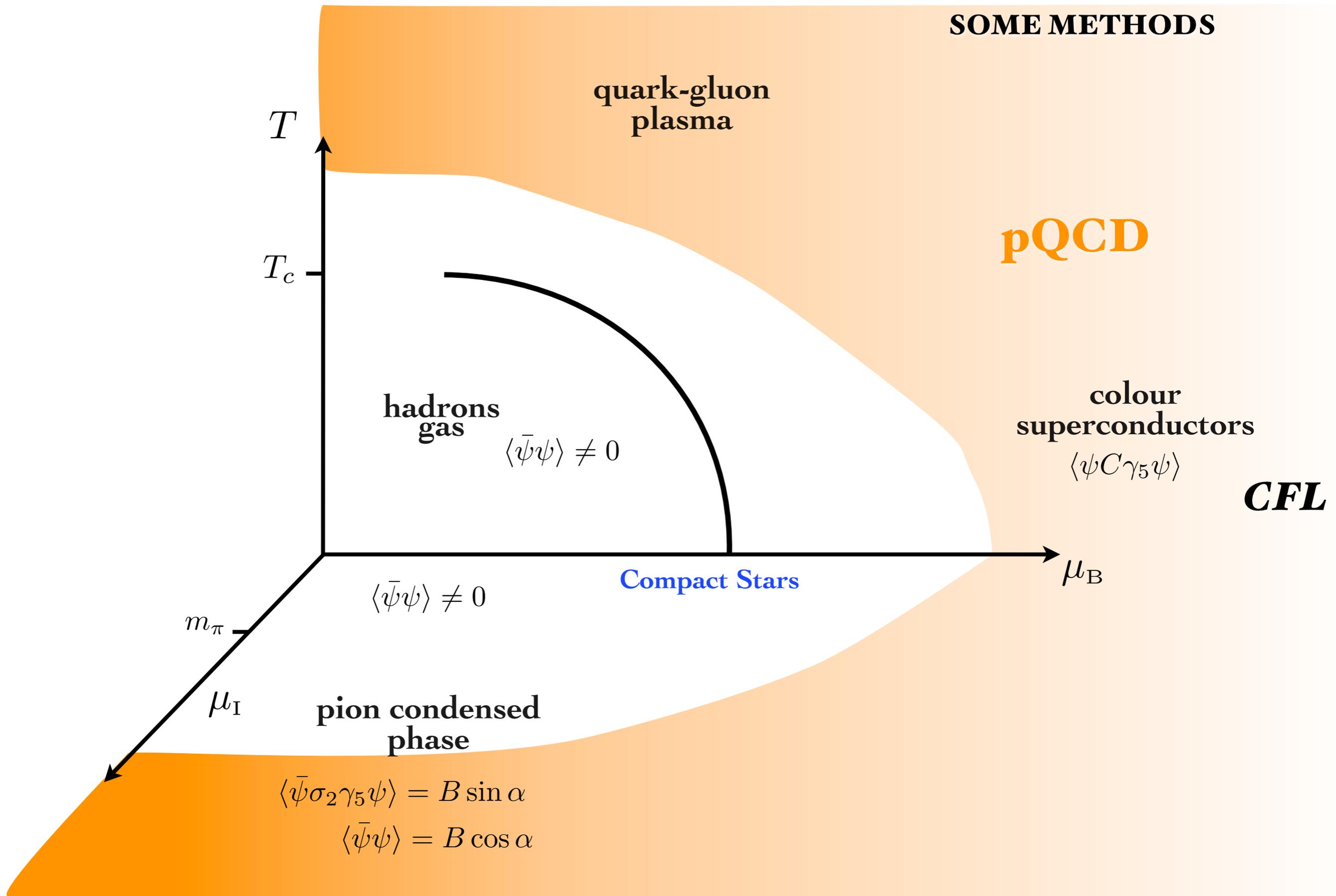


Quark matter phase diagram

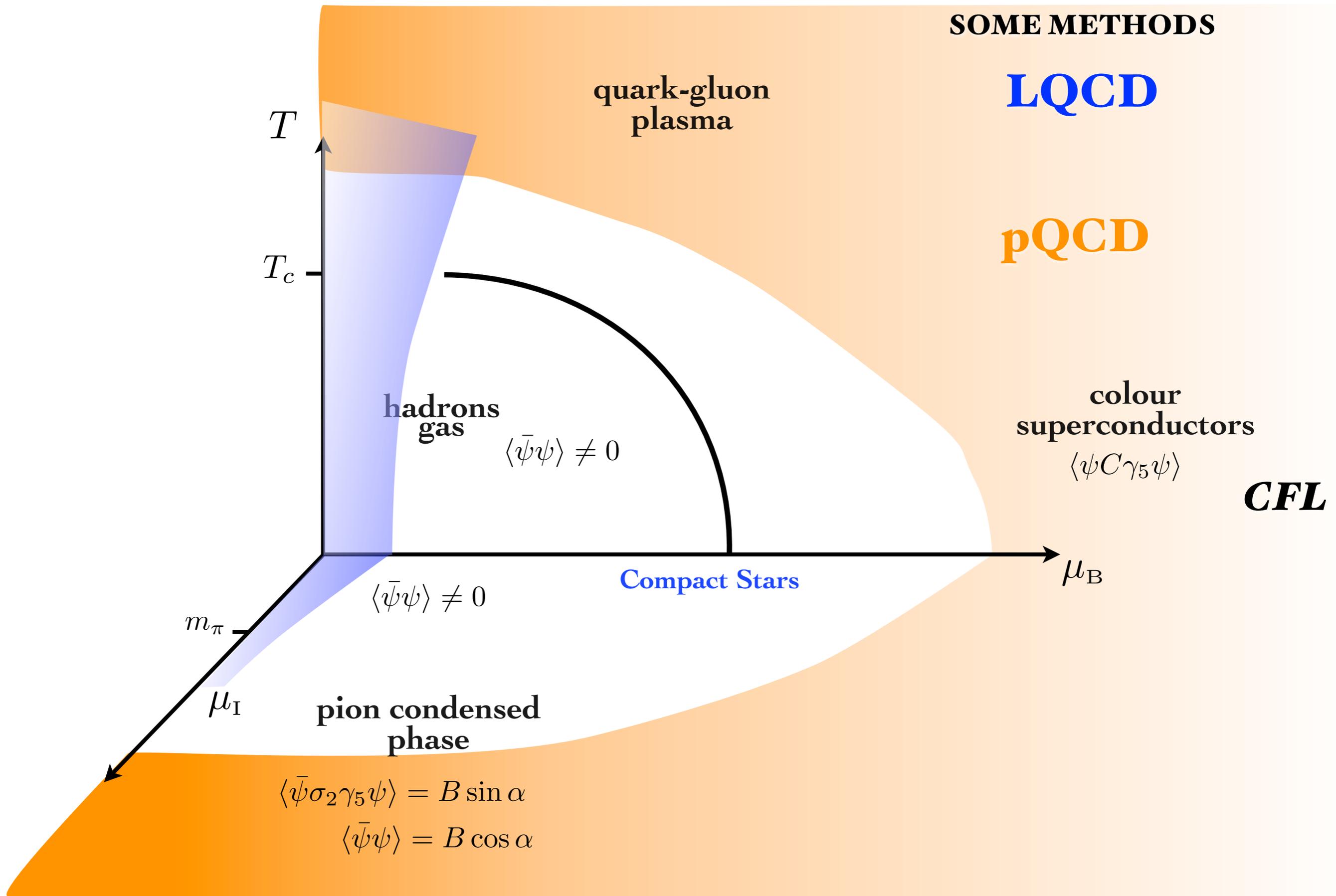
SOME METHODS



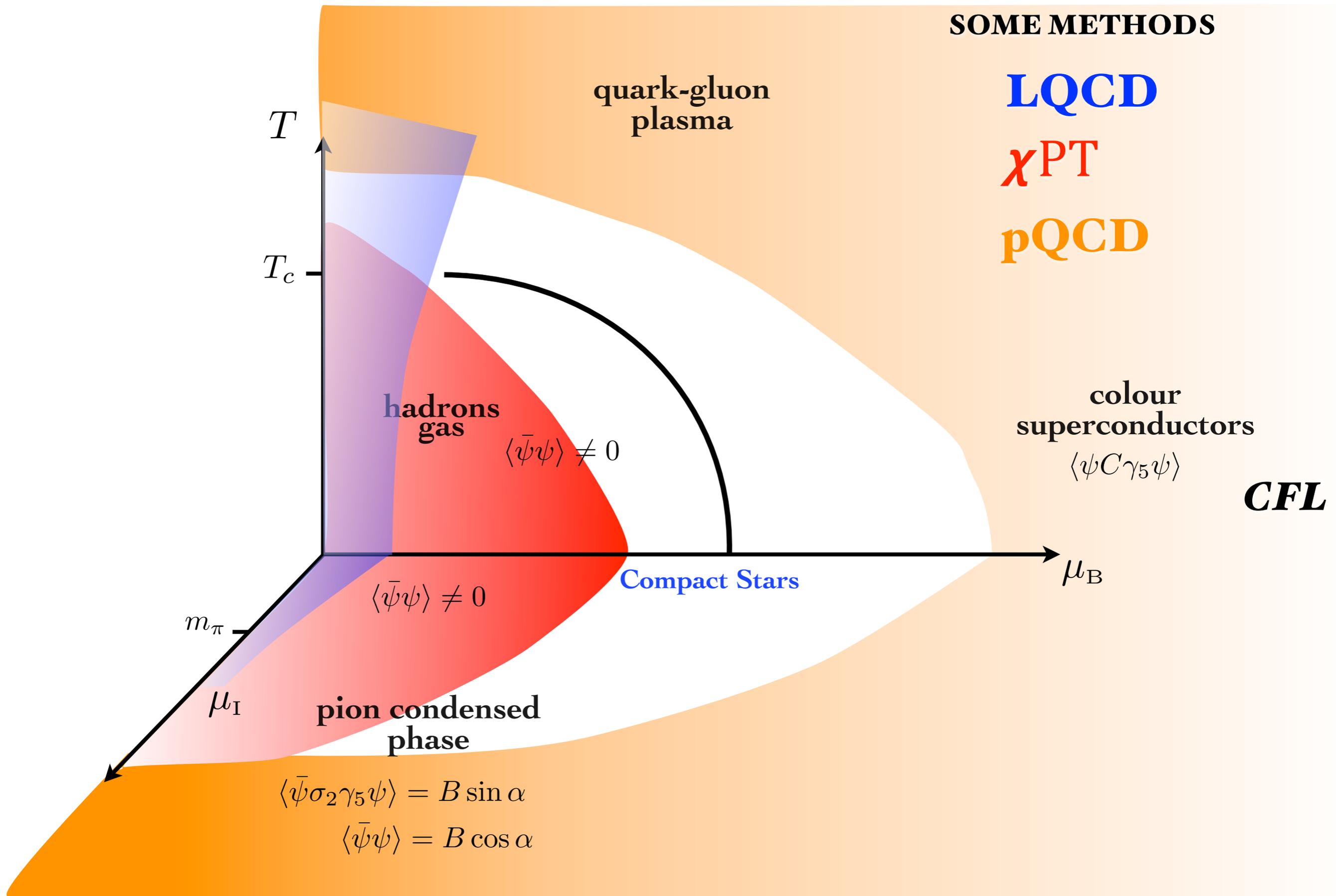
Quark matter phase diagram



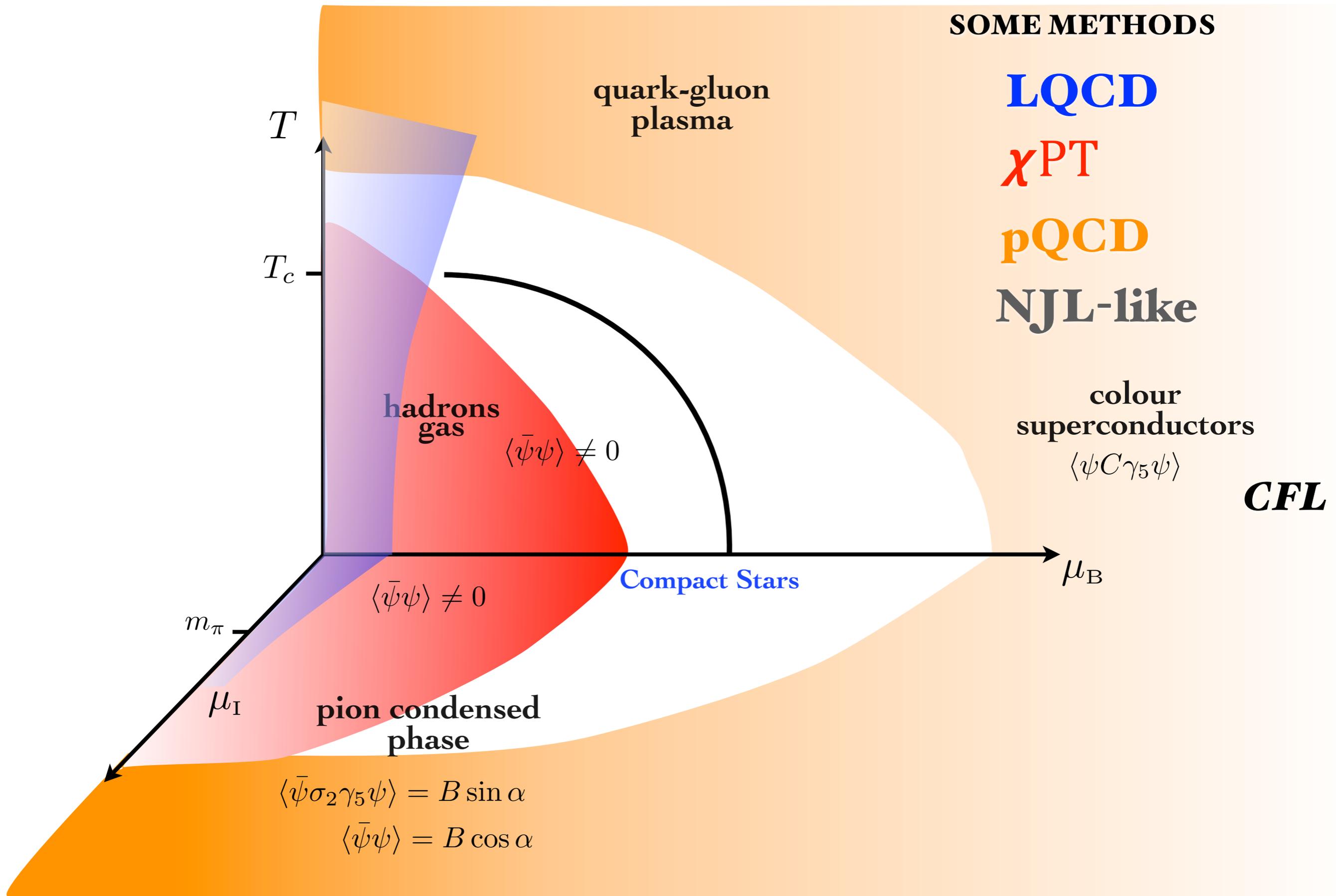
Quark matter phase diagram



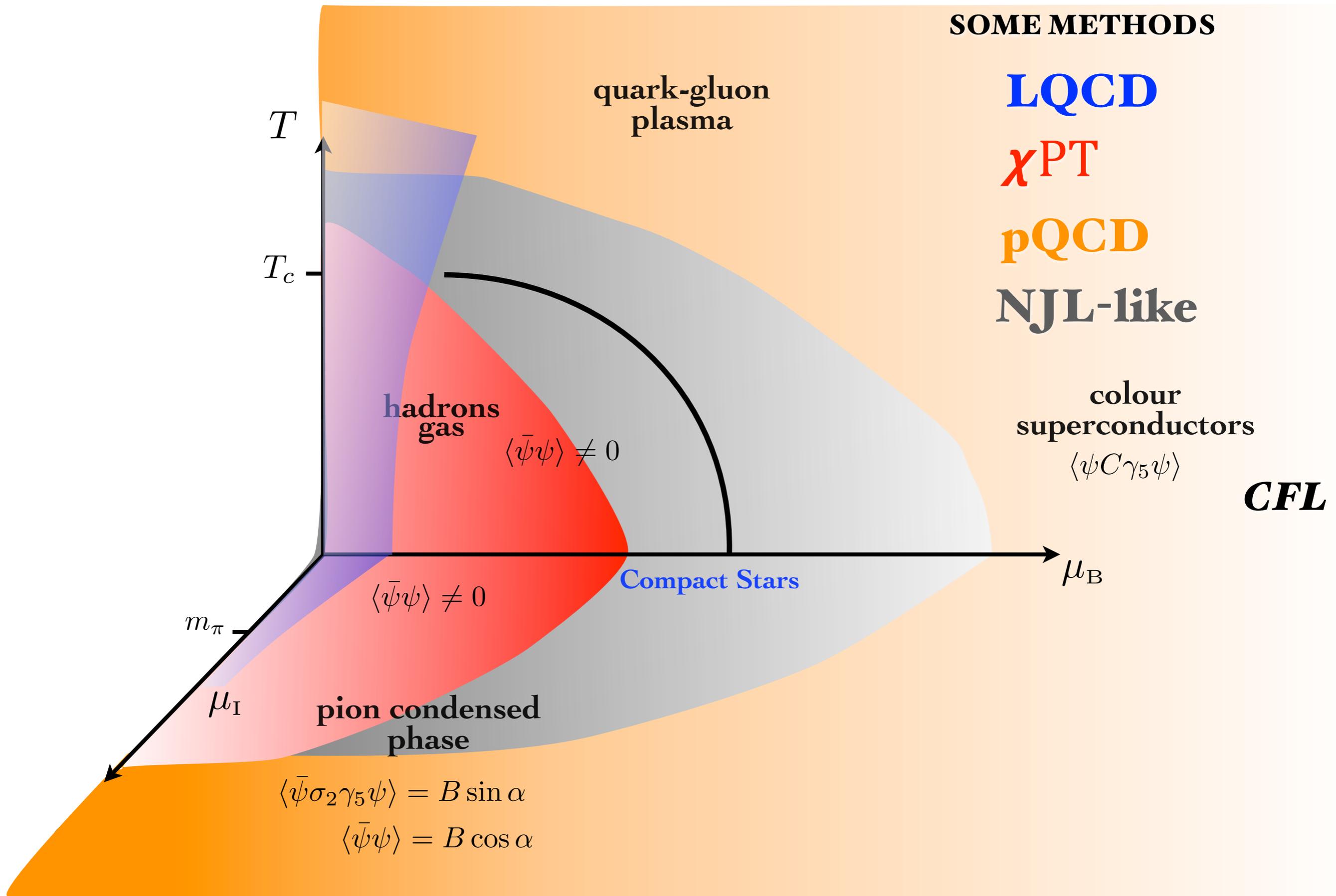
Quark matter phase diagram



Quark matter phase diagram



Quark matter phase diagram

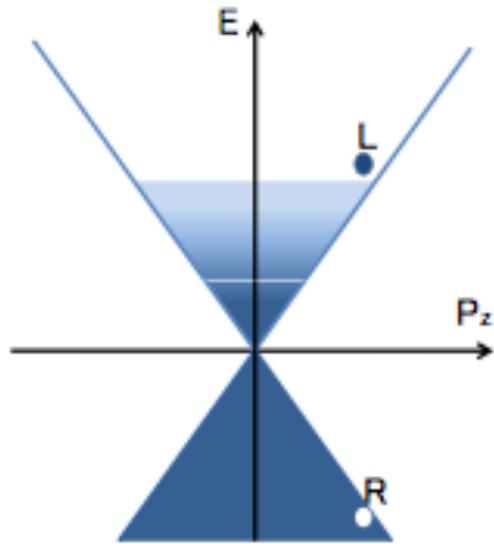


COMPETING CONDENSATES

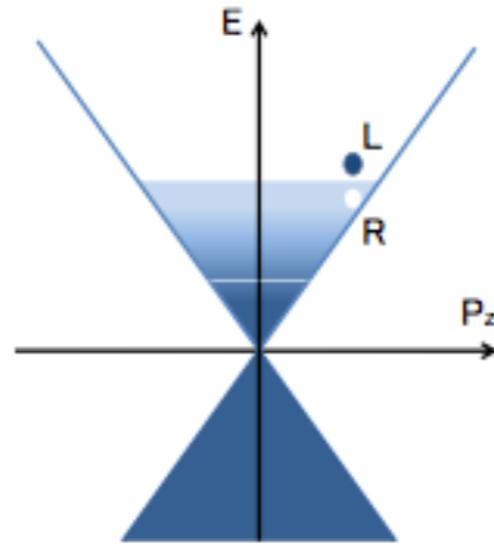
Fight of condensates

Different kind of pairings

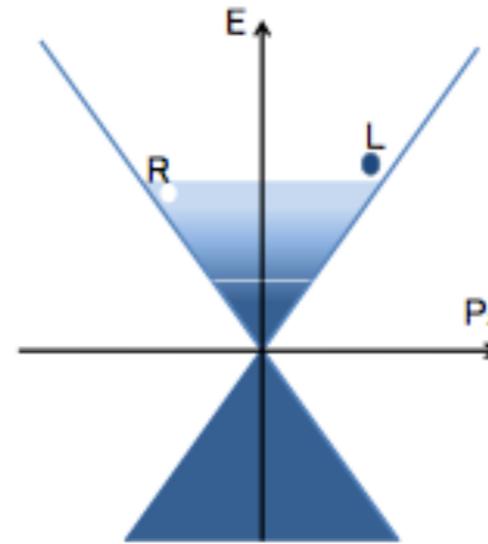
T. Kojo, Y. Hidaka, L. McLerran, R. D. Pisarski, Nucl. Phys. A 843 (2010) 37



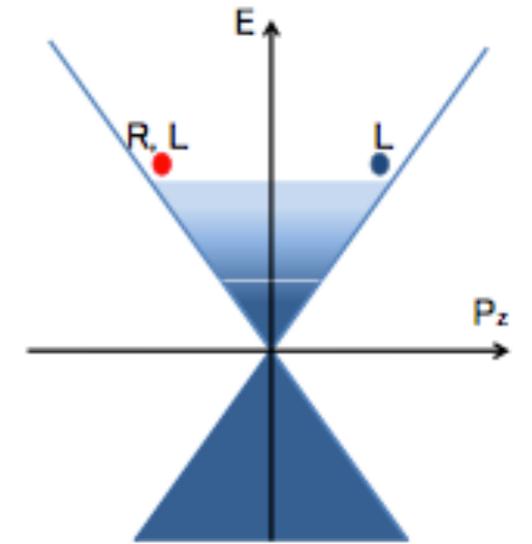
quark-antiquark



quark-hole
(exciton-like)



quark-hole
(cdw-like)



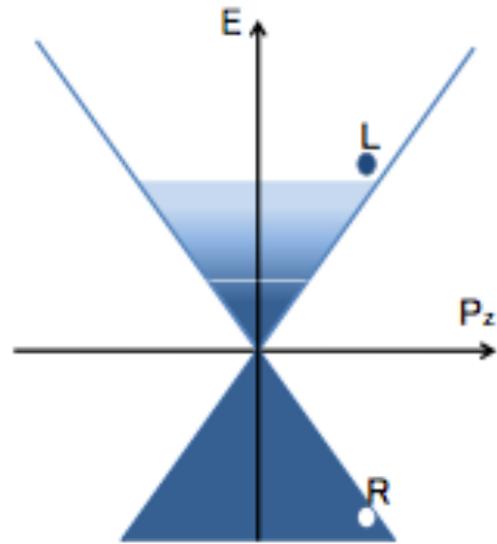
quark-quark
color superconductor

Not obvious which of these is energetically favored

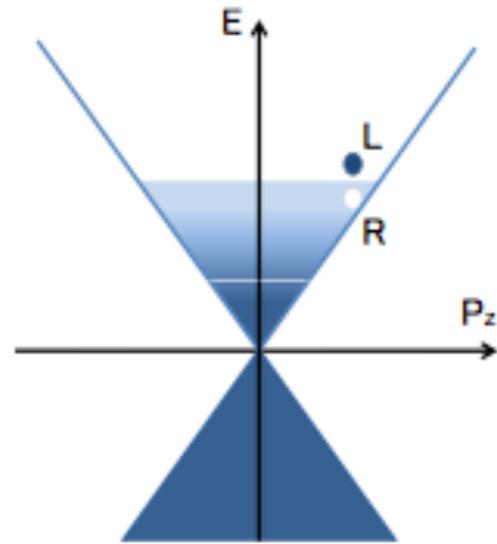
Fight of condensates

Different kind of pairings

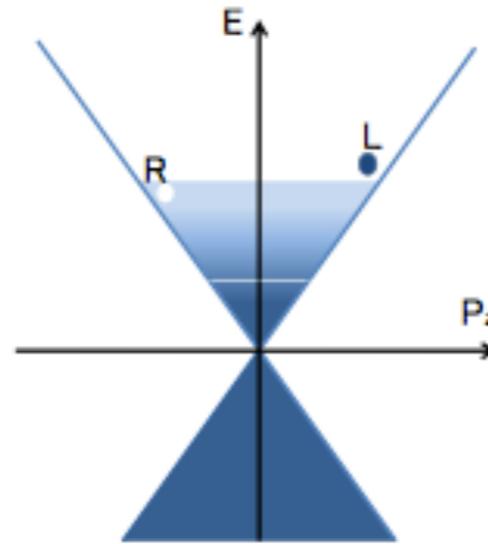
T. Kojo, Y. Hidaka, L. McLerran, R. D. Pisarski, Nucl. Phys. A 843 (2010) 37



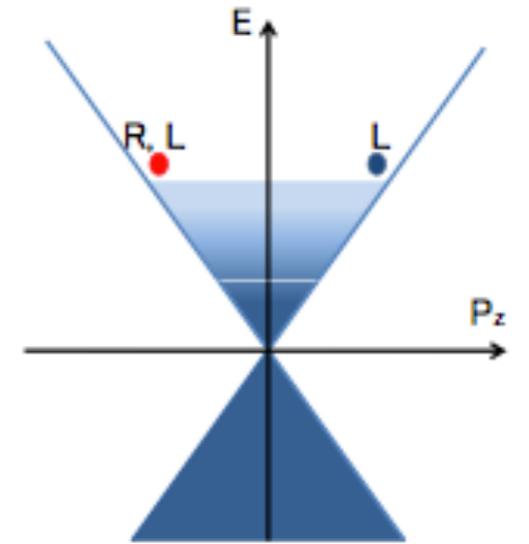
quark-antiquark



quark-hole
(exciton-like)



quark-hole
(cdw-like)



quark-quark
color superconductor

Not obvious which of these is energetically favored

Unfortunately it seems that the favored condensate is somehow model dependent.
The appearance of inhomogeneous phases makes the picture even more complicated

Melting the chiral condensate

The chiral condensate becomes disfavored with increasing density

It can melt in different ways:

- 1) By a second order phase transition
- 2) By a first order phase transition
- 3) Passing through an inhomogeneous phase

Melting the chiral condensate

The chiral condensate becomes disfavored with increasing density

It can melt in different ways:

- 1) By a second order phase transition
- 2) By a first order phase transition
- 3) Passing through an inhomogeneous phase

NJL-model analysis

Pauli-Villars regulator $\Lambda = 757.048$ MeV

Scalar coupling constant $G = 6/\Lambda^2$

CDW ansatz

$$M(z) = \Delta e^{2iqz}$$

variational parameters



Melting the chiral condensate

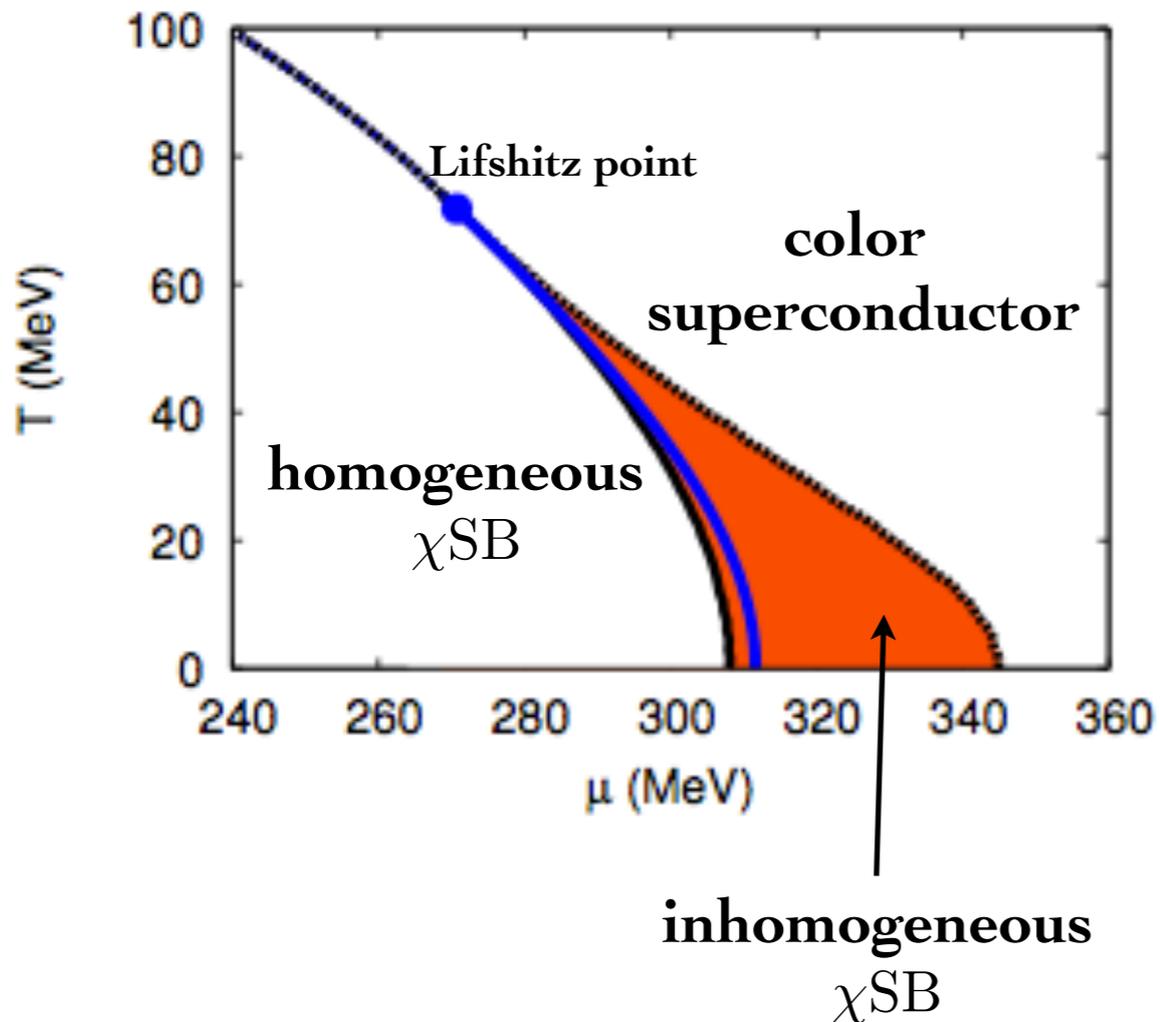
The chiral condensate becomes disfavored with increasing density

It can melt in different ways:

- 1) By a second order phase transition
- 2) By a first order phase transition
- 3) Passing through an inhomogeneous phase

NJL-model analysis

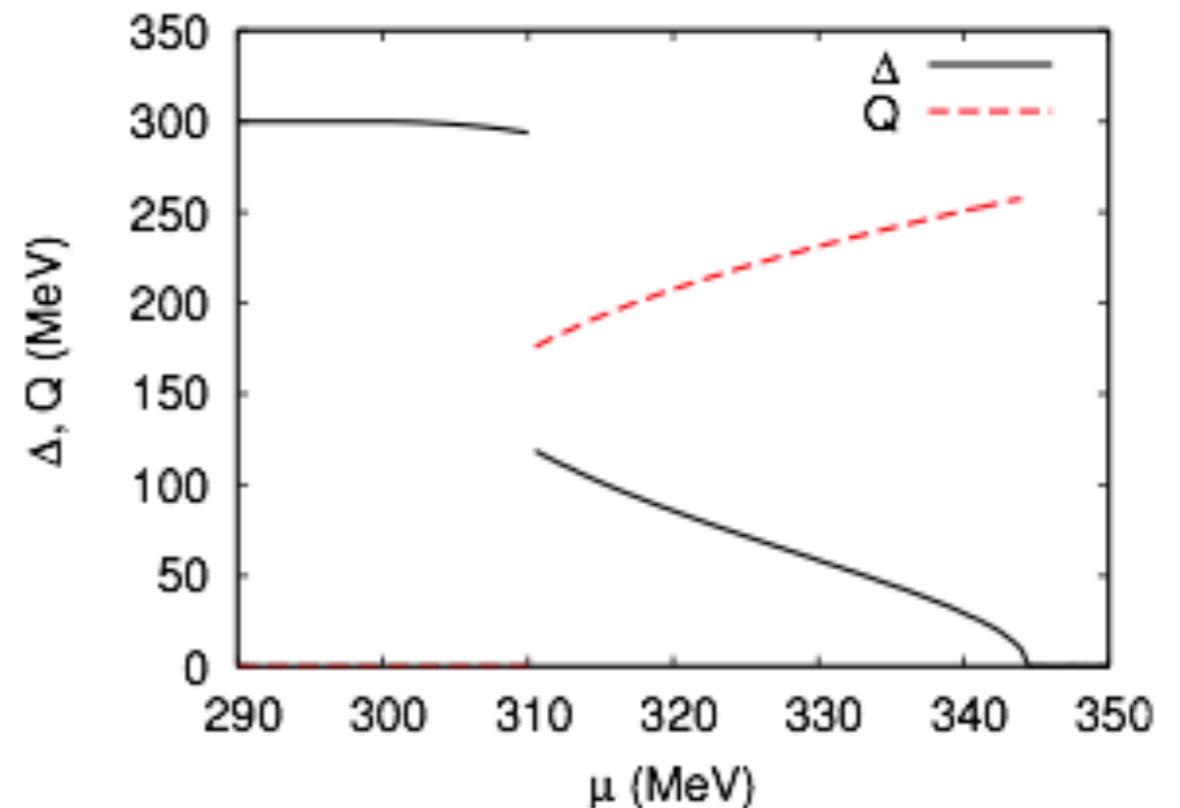
Pauli-Villars regulator $\Lambda = 757.048$ MeV
Scalar coupling constant $G = 6/\Lambda^2$



CDW ansatz

$$M(z) = \Delta e^{2iqz}$$

variational parameters



**IMPROVED
GINZBURG-LANDAU
EXPANSION**

Standard GL expansion

We focus on inhomogeneous chiral symmetry breaking

$$\Omega_{\text{GL}} = \Omega[0] + \frac{1}{V} \int d\mathbf{x} \left[\alpha_2 M^2 + \alpha_4 (M^4 + (\nabla M)^2) + \alpha_6 \left(M^6 + 3(\nabla M)^2 M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla M^2)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla^2 M)^2 \right) \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_8 \left(14M^4(\nabla M)^2 - \frac{1}{5}(\nabla M)^4 + \frac{18}{5}M(\nabla^2 M)(\nabla M)^2 + \frac{14}{5}M^2(\nabla^2 M)^2 + \frac{1}{5}(\nabla^3 M)^2 \right) + \dots \right]$$

D. Nickel, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 072301 (2009)

H. Abuki, D. Ishibashi, and K. Suzuki, Phys.Rev. D85, 074002 (2012)

Standard GL expansion

We focus on inhomogeneous chiral symmetry breaking

$$\Omega_{\text{GL}} = \Omega[0] + \frac{1}{V} \int d\mathbf{x} \left[\alpha_2 M^2 + \alpha_4 (M^4 + (\nabla M)^2) + \alpha_6 \left(M^6 + 3(\nabla M)^2 M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla M^2)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla^2 M)^2 \right) \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_8 \left(14M^4(\nabla M)^2 - \frac{1}{5}(\nabla M)^4 + \frac{18}{5}M(\nabla^2 M)(\nabla M)^2 + \frac{14}{5}M^2(\nabla^2 M)^2 + \frac{1}{5}(\nabla^3 M)^2 \right) + \dots \right]$$

D. Nickel, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **103**, 072301 (2009)

H. Abuki, D. Ishibashi, and K. Suzuki, *Phys.Rev.* **D85**, 074002 (2012)

Reasoning: terms with the same α_n are equally important.

This is correct **close to the Lifshitz point** where both M and ∇M are small.

But is not in general true.

Standard GL expansion

We focus on inhomogeneous chiral symmetry breaking

$$\Omega_{\text{GL}} = \Omega[0] + \frac{1}{V} \int d\mathbf{x} \left[\alpha_2 M^2 + \alpha_4 (M^4 + (\nabla M)^2) + \alpha_6 \left(M^6 + 3(\nabla M)^2 M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla M^2)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla^2 M)^2 \right) \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_8 \left(14M^4(\nabla M)^2 - \frac{1}{5}(\nabla M)^4 + \frac{18}{5}M(\nabla^2 M)(\nabla M)^2 + \frac{14}{5}M^2(\nabla^2 M)^2 + \frac{1}{5}(\nabla^3 M)^2 \right) + \dots \right]$$

D. Nickel, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **103**, 072301 (2009)

H. Abuki, D. Ishibashi, and K. Suzuki, *Phys.Rev.* **D85**, 074002 (2012)

Reasoning: terms with the same α_n are equally important.

This is correct **close to the Lifshitz point** where both M and ∇M are small.

But is not in general true.

What is the “correct expansion” away from the Lifshitz point?

How to compute the relevant terms?

Which are the characteristic scales of fluctuations?

“Universality”

The α_n coefficients are “universal”, for the considered system.

They should be derived from the microscopic theory. Since in this regime QCD is non perturbative, they depend on the effective model we use.

“Universality”

The α_n coefficients are “universal”, for the considered system.

They should be derived from the microscopic theory. Since in this regime QCD is non perturbative, they depend on the effective model we use.

Using a NJL model, they do not only depend on μ , but also on the regularization scale Λ

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{1}{4G} - \frac{N_f N_c}{8\pi^2} \left(3\Lambda^2 \log\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) - 2\mu^2 \right)$$

$$\alpha_4 = -\frac{N_f N_c}{16\pi^2} \log\left(\frac{32\mu^2}{3\Lambda^2}\right)$$

$$\alpha_6 = \frac{N_f N_c}{96\pi^2} \left(\frac{11}{3\Lambda^2} + \frac{1}{\mu^2} \right)$$

$$\alpha_8 = \frac{N_f N_c}{256\pi^2} \left(\frac{1}{2\mu^4} - \frac{85}{27\Lambda^4} \right)$$

“Universality”

The α_n coefficients are “universal”, for the considered system.

They should be derived from the microscopic theory. Since in this regime QCD is non perturbative, they depend on the effective model we use.

Using a NJL model, they do not only depend on μ , but also on the regularization scale Λ

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{1}{4G} - \frac{N_f N_c}{8\pi^2} \left(3\Lambda^2 \log\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) - 2\mu^2 \right)$$

$$\alpha_4 = -\frac{N_f N_c}{16\pi^2} \log\left(\frac{32\mu^2}{3\Lambda^2}\right)$$

$$\alpha_6 = \frac{N_f N_c}{96\pi^2} \left(\frac{11}{3\Lambda^2} + \frac{1}{\mu^2} \right)$$

$$\alpha_8 = \frac{N_f N_c}{256\pi^2} \left(\frac{1}{2\mu^4} - \frac{85}{27\Lambda^4} \right)$$

Even within the NJL model they are not easy to compute. **Brute force is not very rewarding.**

Improved GL expansion (for chiral symmetry breaking)

Idea: scale separation between slow and fast fluctuations + use a simple model to compute some of the coefficients.

Long wavelengths: dominant at the onset of the inhomogeneous phase

Short wavelengths: dominant at the transition to the normal phase.

Improved GL expansion (for chiral symmetry breaking)

Idea: scale separation between slow and fast fluctuations + use a simple model to compute some of the coefficients.

Long wavelengths: dominant at the onset of the inhomogeneous phase

Short wavelengths: dominant at the transition to the normal phase.

$$\Omega_{\text{IGL}} = \frac{1}{V} \int d\mathbf{x} \left[\Omega_{\text{hom}}(\overline{M^2}) + \alpha_6 \left(3(\nabla M)^2 M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla M^2)^2 \right) \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_8 \left(14M^4(\nabla M)^2 - \frac{1}{5}(\nabla M)^4 + \frac{18}{5}M(\nabla^2 M)(\nabla M)^2 + \frac{14}{5}M^2(\nabla^2 M)^2 \right) + \sum_{n \geq 1} \tilde{\alpha}_{2n+2}(\nabla^n M)^2 \right]$$

$$\overline{M(z)^2} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{z-\lambda/2}^{z+\lambda/2} M^2(\xi) d\xi$$

Improved GL expansion (for chiral symmetry breaking)

Idea: scale separation between slow and fast fluctuations + use a simple model to compute some of the coefficients.

Long wavelengths: dominant at the onset of the inhomogeneous phase

Short wavelengths: dominant at the transition to the normal phase.

$$\Omega_{\text{IGL}} = \frac{1}{V} \int d\mathbf{x} \left[\Omega_{\text{hom}}(\overline{M^2}) + \alpha_6 \left(3(\nabla M)^2 M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla M^2)^2 \right) \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_8 \left(14M^4(\nabla M)^2 - \frac{1}{5}(\nabla M)^4 + \frac{18}{5}M(\nabla^2 M)(\nabla M)^2 + \frac{14}{5}M^2(\nabla^2 M)^2 \right) + \sum_{n \geq 1} \tilde{\alpha}_{2n+2}(\nabla^n M)^2 \right]$$

$$\overline{M(z)^2} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{z-\lambda/2}^{z+\lambda/2} M^2(\xi) d\xi$$

Captures long-wavelength oscillations similar to the Local Density Approximation.
It “sums” all the M^{2n} terms

Improved GL expansion (for chiral symmetry breaking)

Idea: scale separation between slow and fast fluctuations + use a simple model to compute some of the coefficients.

Long wavelengths: dominant at the onset of the inhomogeneous phase

Short wavelengths: dominant at the transition to the normal phase.

$$\Omega_{\text{IGL}} = \frac{1}{V} \int d\mathbf{x} \left[\Omega_{\text{hom}}(\overline{M^2}) + \alpha_6 \left(3(\nabla M)^2 M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla M^2)^2 \right) \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_8 \left(14M^4(\nabla M)^2 - \frac{1}{5}(\nabla M)^4 + \frac{18}{5}M(\nabla^2 M)(\nabla M)^2 + \frac{14}{5}M^2(\nabla^2 M)^2 \right) + \sum_{n \geq 1} \tilde{\alpha}_{2n+2}(\nabla^n M)^2 \right]$$

$$\overline{M(z)^2} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{z-\lambda/2}^{z+\lambda/2} M^2(\xi) d\xi$$

Captures short-wavelength oscillations by larger number of gradients.

Captures long-wavelength oscillations similar to the Local Density Approximation.
It “sums” all the M^{2n} terms

Computing the additional terms

We compute the $\tilde{\alpha}_{2n+2}$ using a simple model

We must have an analytical or semi-analytical expression of the free energy in one simple case:

$$M(z) = \Delta e^{2iqz}$$

Double expansion

Computing the additional terms

We compute the $\tilde{\alpha}_{2n+2}$ using a simple model

We must have an analytical or semi-analytical expression of the free energy in one simple case:

$$M(z) = \Delta e^{2iqz}$$

Double expansion

In powers of Δ

$$\Omega = \Omega_0 + \Omega_2 \Delta^2 + \Omega_4 \Delta^4 + \dots$$

Computing the additional terms

We compute the $\tilde{\alpha}_{2n+2}$ using a simple model

We must have an analytical or semi-analytical expression of the free energy in one simple case:

$$M(z) = \Delta e^{2iqz}$$

Double expansion

In powers of Δ $\Omega = \Omega_0 + \Omega_2 \Delta^2 + \Omega_4 \Delta^4 + \dots$

In powers of q/μ

$$\Omega_2(q) = \frac{N_f N_c}{4\pi^2} \mu^2 \left[-\log \left(\frac{32\mu^2}{3\Lambda^2} \right) \left(\frac{q}{\mu} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{11\mu^2}{9\Lambda^2} \right) \left(\frac{q}{\mu} \right)^4 \right. \\ \left. + \left(\frac{1}{10} - \frac{17\mu^4}{27\Lambda^4} \right) \left(\frac{q}{\mu} \right)^6 + \left(\frac{1}{21} + \frac{230\mu^6}{567\Lambda^6} \right) \left(\frac{q}{\mu} \right)^8 + \dots \right]$$

Computing the additional terms

We compute the $\tilde{\alpha}_{2n+2}$ using a simple model

We must have an analytical or semi-analytical expression of the free energy in one simple case:

$$M(z) = \Delta e^{2iqz}$$

Double expansion

In powers of Δ $\Omega = \Omega_0 + \Omega_2 \Delta^2 + \Omega_4 \Delta^4 + \dots$

In powers of q/μ

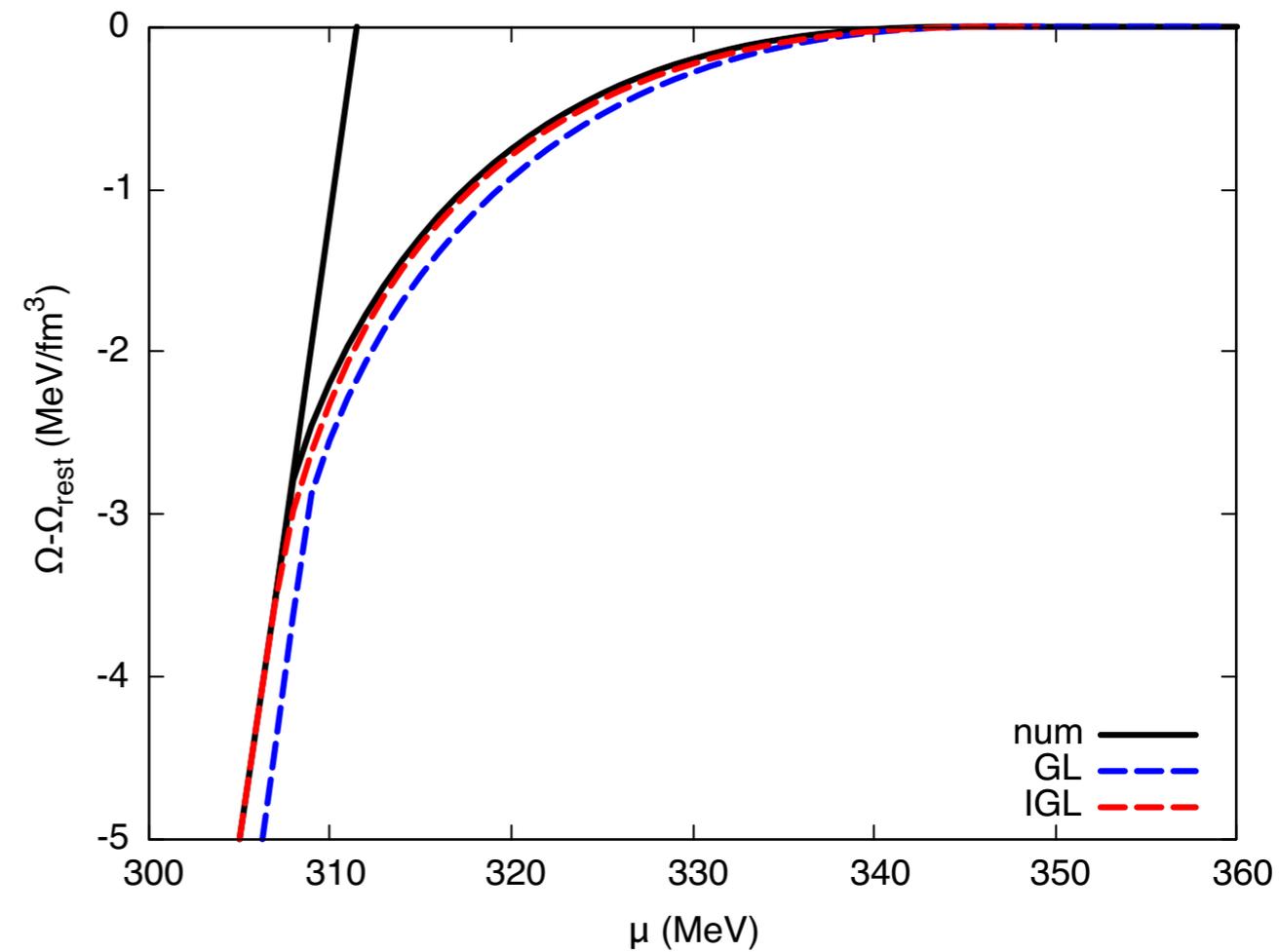
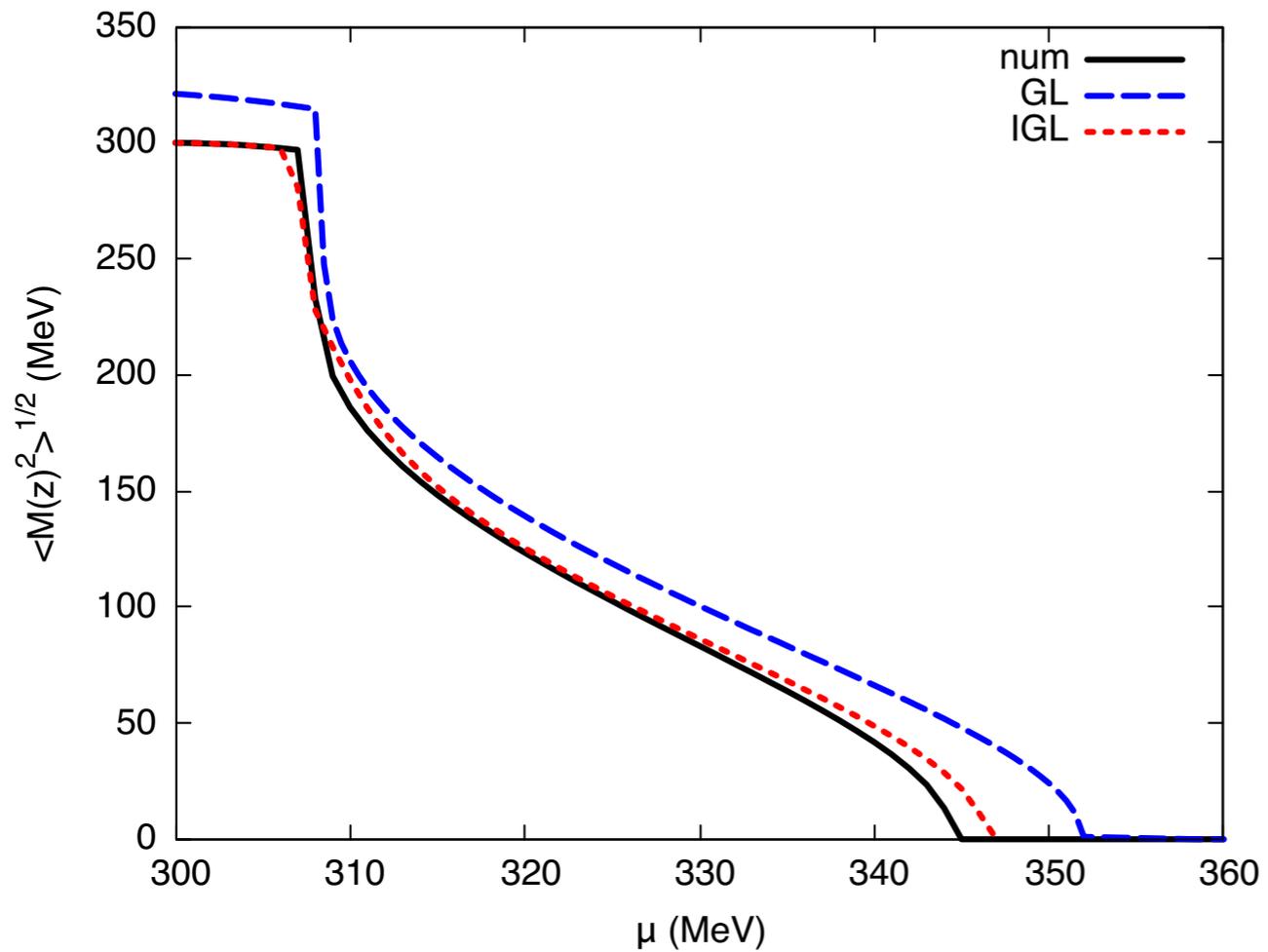
$$\Omega_2(q) = \frac{N_f N_c}{4\pi^2} \mu^2 \left[-\log\left(\frac{32\mu^2}{3\Lambda^2}\right) \left(\frac{q}{\mu}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{11\mu^2}{9\Lambda^2}\right) \left(\frac{q}{\mu}\right)^4 + \left(\frac{1}{10} - \frac{17\mu^4}{27\Lambda^4}\right) \left(\frac{q}{\mu}\right)^6 + \left(\frac{1}{21} + \frac{230\mu^6}{567\Lambda^6}\right) \left(\frac{q}{\mu}\right)^8 + \dots \right]$$

Therefore $\tilde{\alpha}_{10} = \frac{N_f N_c}{1024\pi^2} \left(\frac{230}{567\Lambda^6} + \frac{1}{21\mu^6} \right)$ and we can in principle extract more terms

Comparison: kink case

Real kink

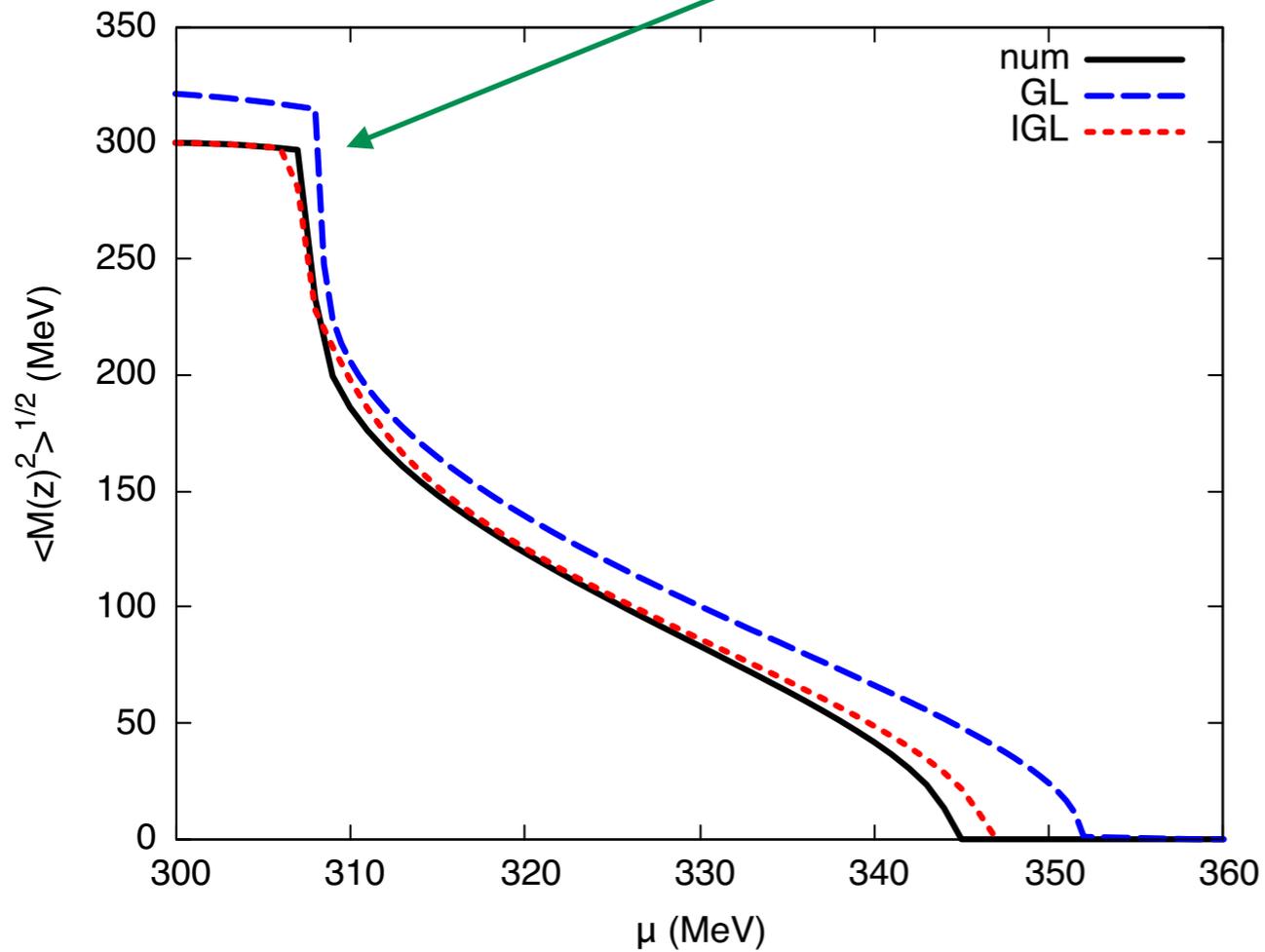
$$M(z) = \Delta\sqrt{\nu} \operatorname{sn}(\Delta z|\nu)$$



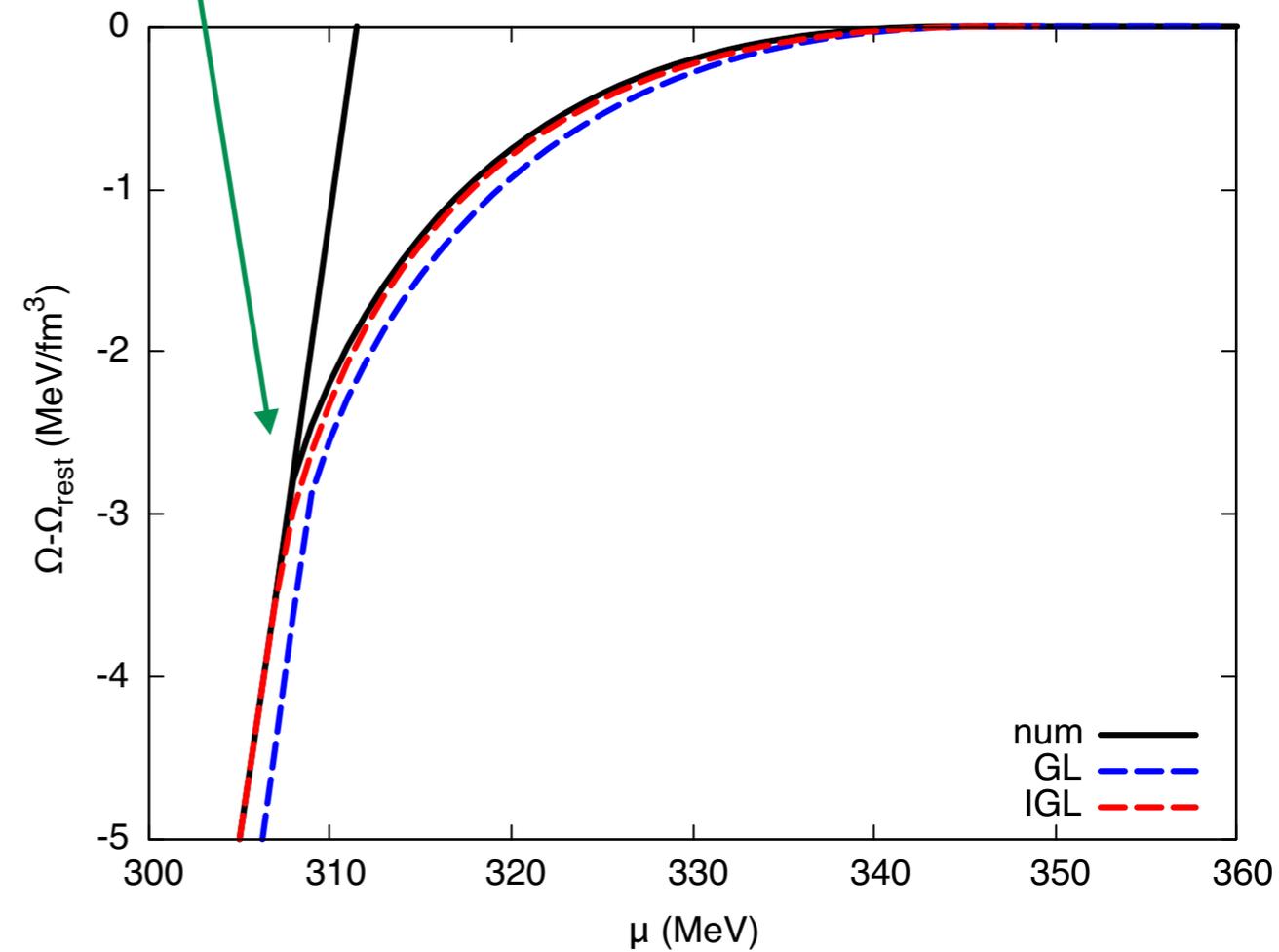
Comparison: kink case

Real kink

$$M(z) = \Delta\sqrt{\nu} \operatorname{sn}(\Delta z|\nu)$$



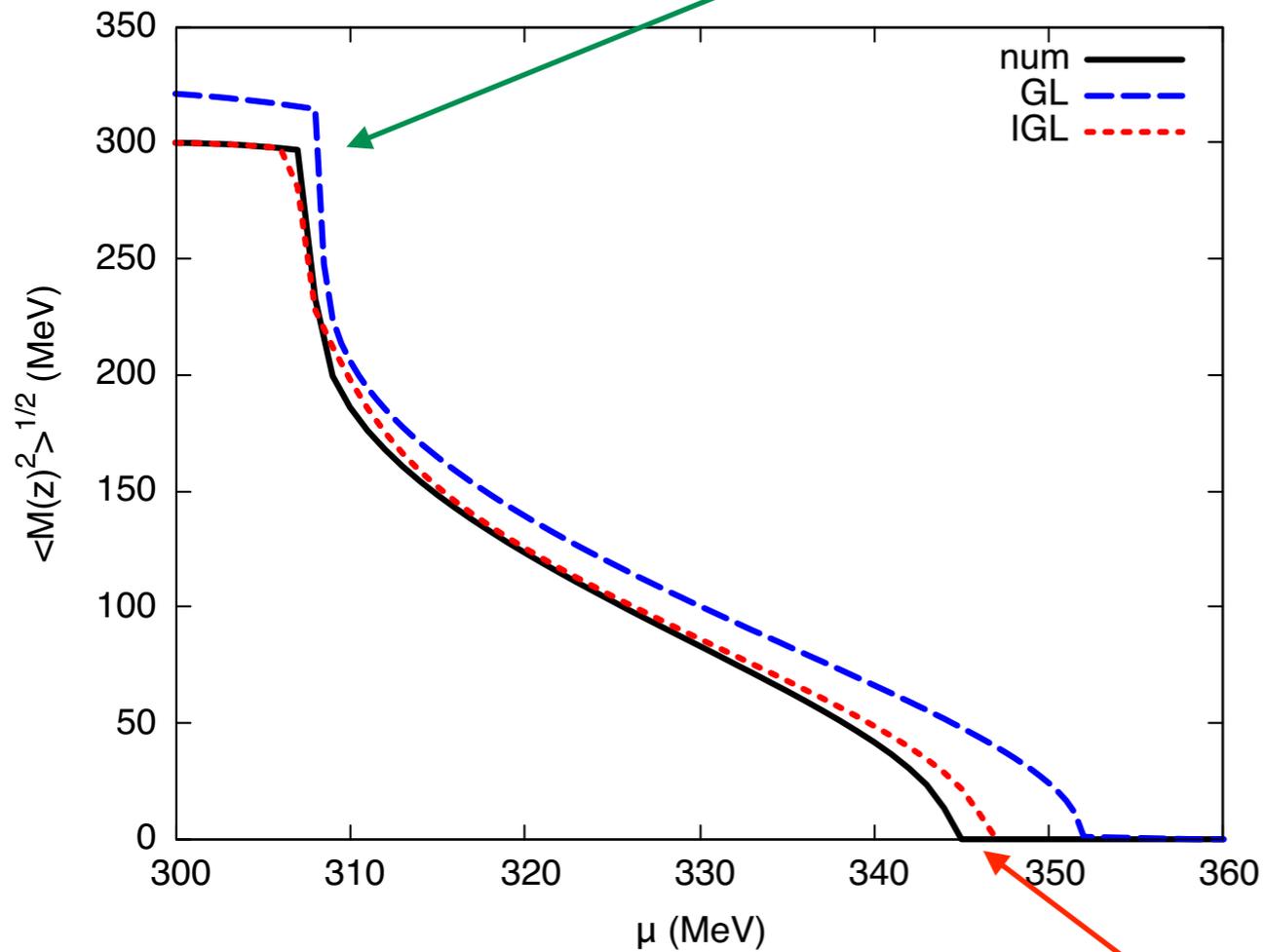
The IGL smoothly leads to the homogeneous phase



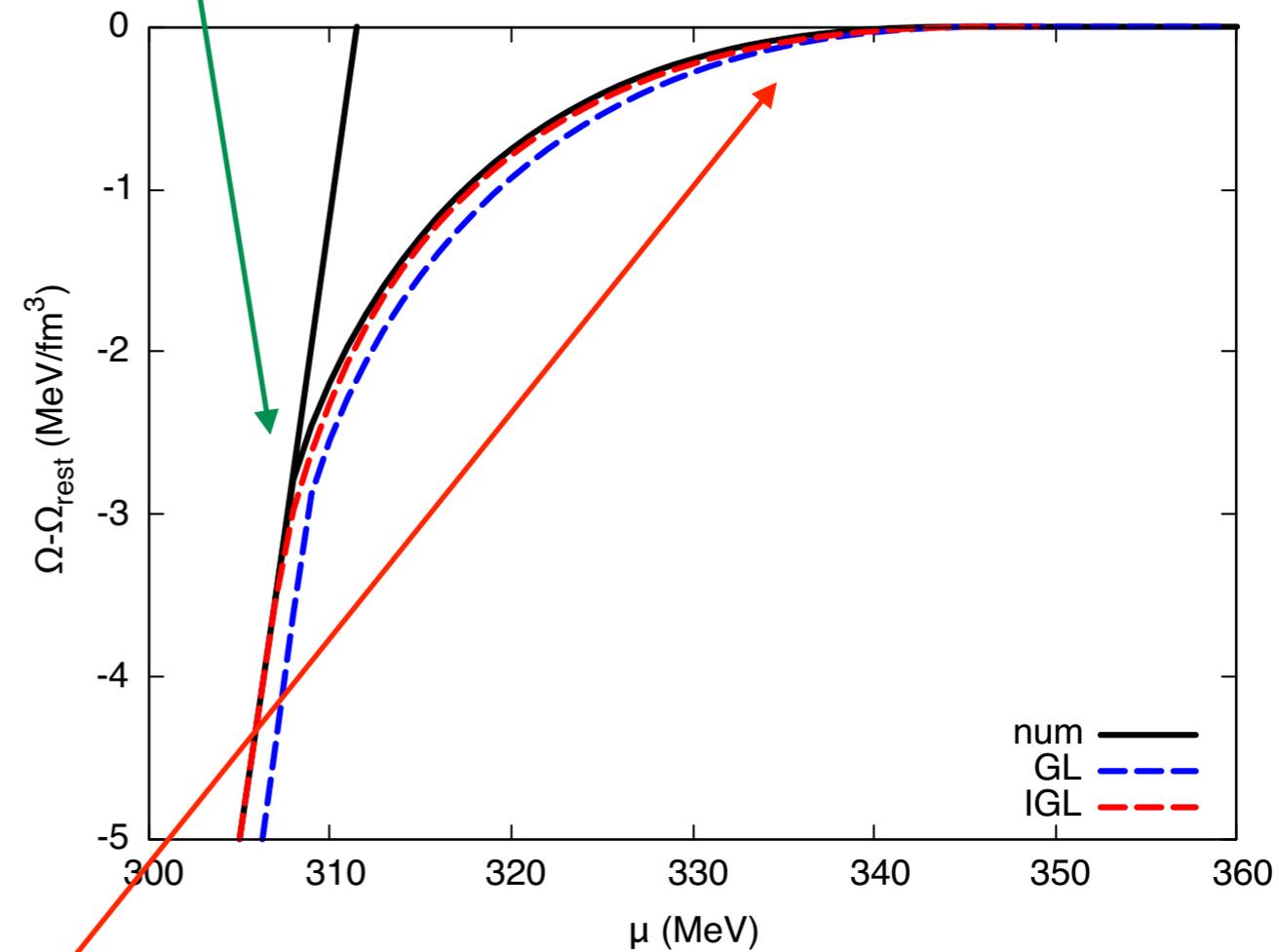
Comparison: kink case

Real kink

$$M(z) = \Delta\sqrt{\nu} \operatorname{sn}(\Delta z|\nu)$$



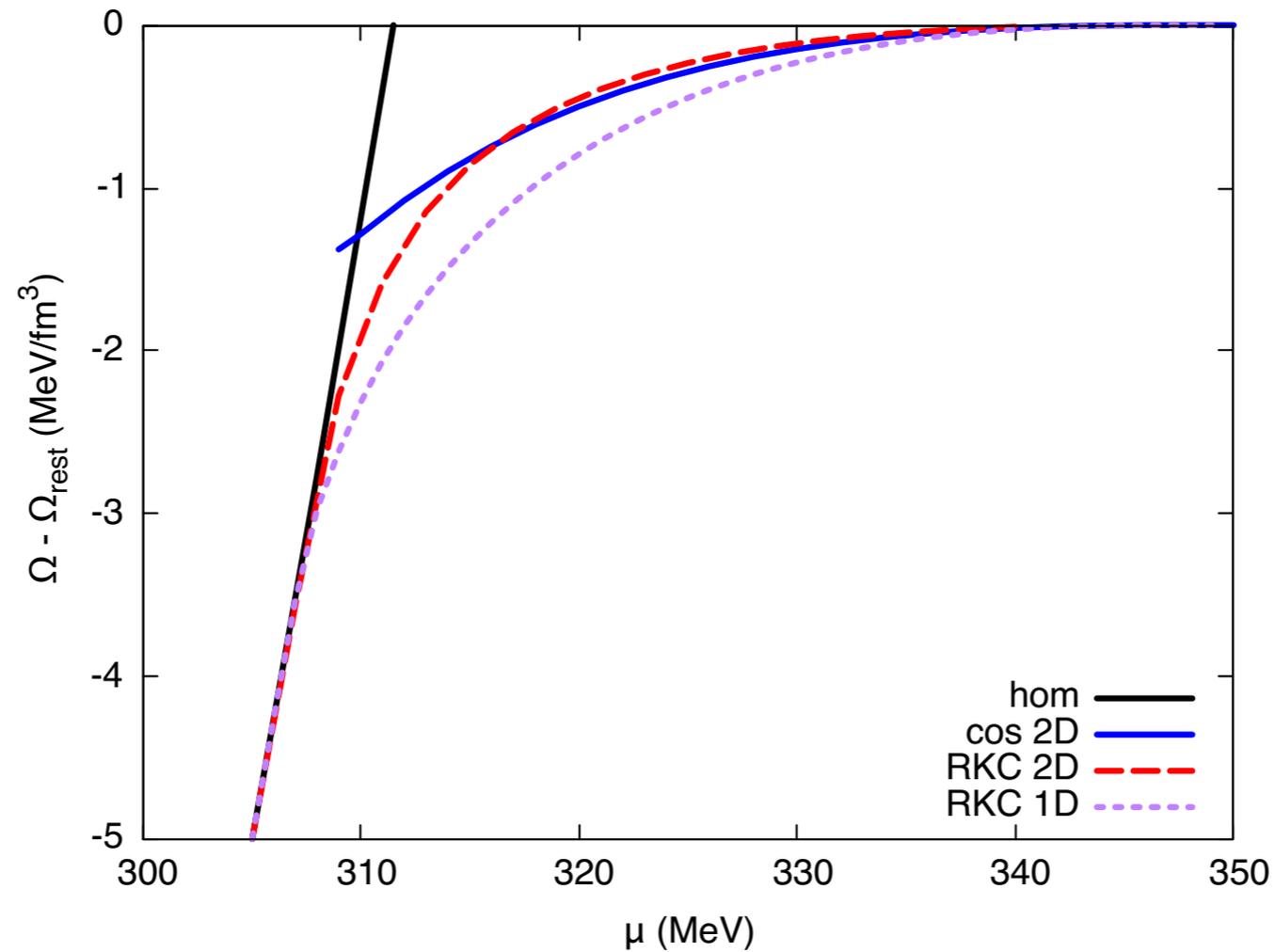
The IGL smoothly leads to the homogeneous phase



Improvement due to the inclusion of higher order terms

Comparison of some 1D and 2D modulations

Free energy of various phases in the IGL approximation



Why 1D modulations always win? Where does pairing occur?

Conclusions

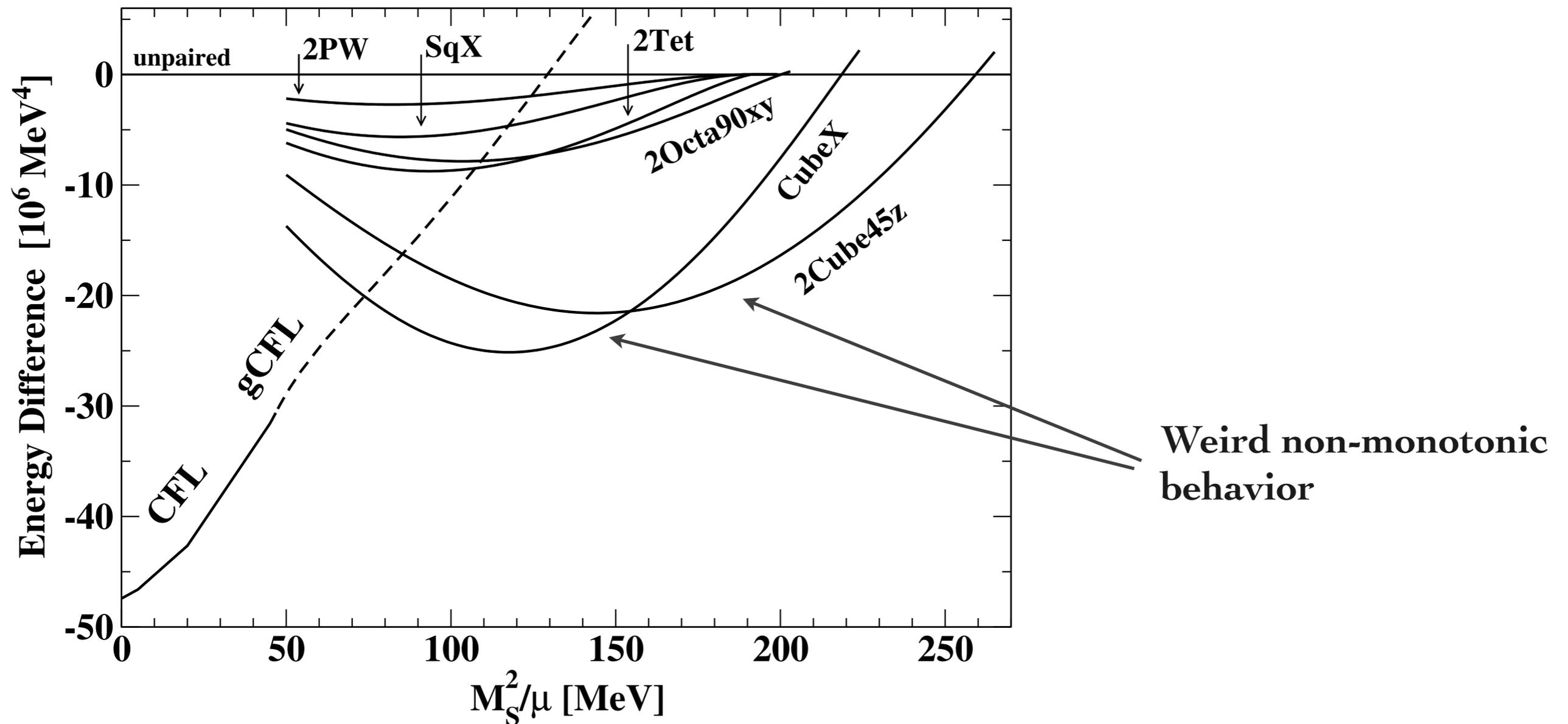
- 1) We have proposed a novel GL expansion, which improves the description of the phase transitions to the inhomogeneous phases
- 2) It requires the knowledge of one (semi-)analytical expression of the free energy for a simple case
- 3) We have applied it to the inhomogeneous chiral symmetry breaking
- 4) It can be applied to any inhomogeneous phase transition that satisfies the condition 2), as for example the crystalline color superconducting phase

BACKUP

Outlook

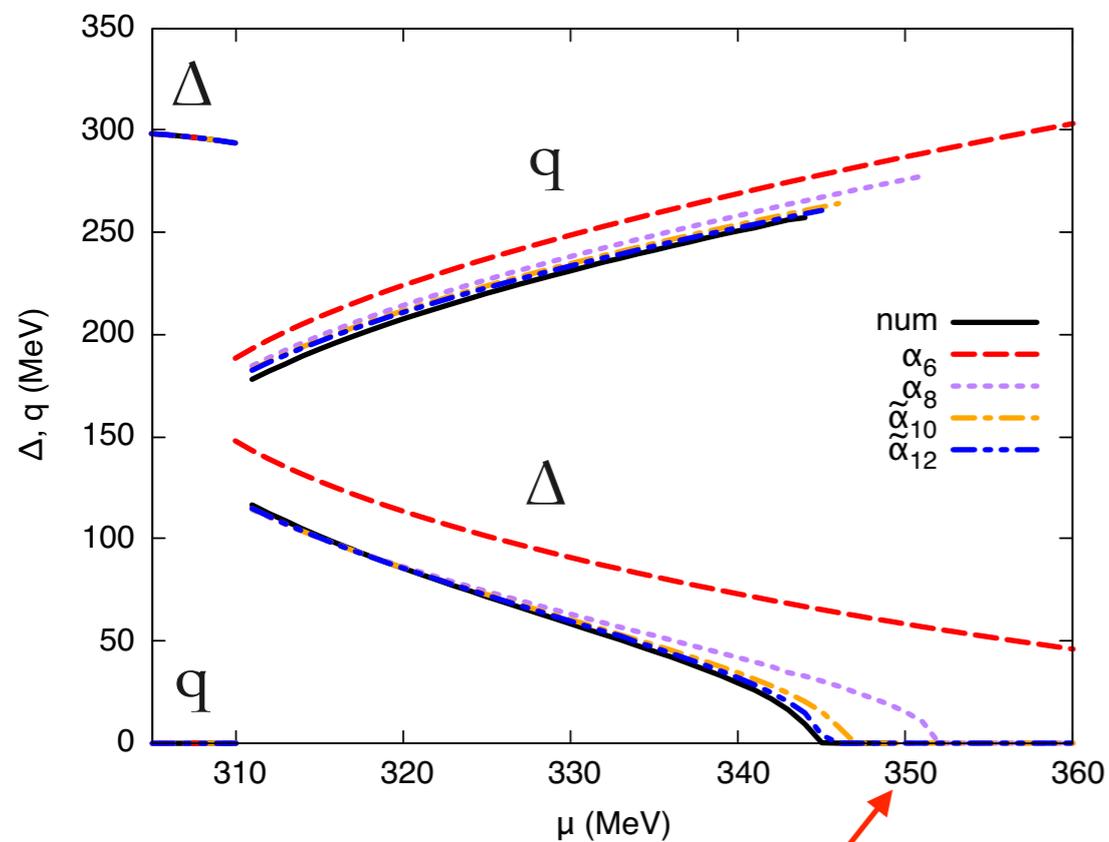
The IGL technique can be applied to the Crystalline Color Superconductors

NJL + GL expansion

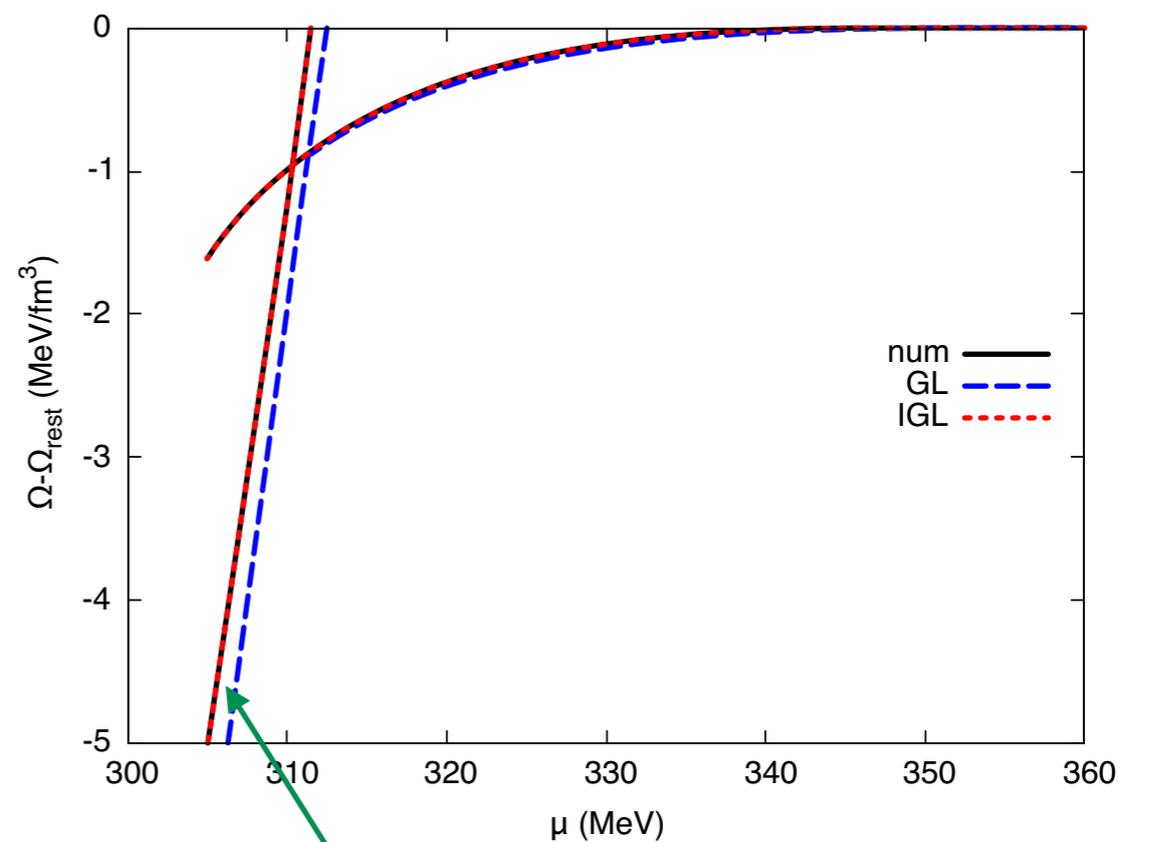


Comparison: CDW case

Let us see what happens for the CDW ansatz $M(z) = \Delta e^{2iqz}$
 In this case we have the numerical solution.



Improvement due to the inclusion of higher order terms



By construction IGL reproduces the homogeneous phase

Qualitative analysis of pairing

We closely inspect the integrand of the CDW ansatz

$$\Omega_{\text{CDW}} = -\frac{N_f N_c}{4\pi^2} \int_0^\infty dp_\perp p_\perp \int_{-\infty}^\infty dp_z \sum_{\epsilon=\pm} \left[E_{PV}^\epsilon + (\mu - E^\epsilon) \theta(\mu - E^\epsilon) \right] + \frac{\Delta^2}{4G}$$

Qualitative analysis of pairing

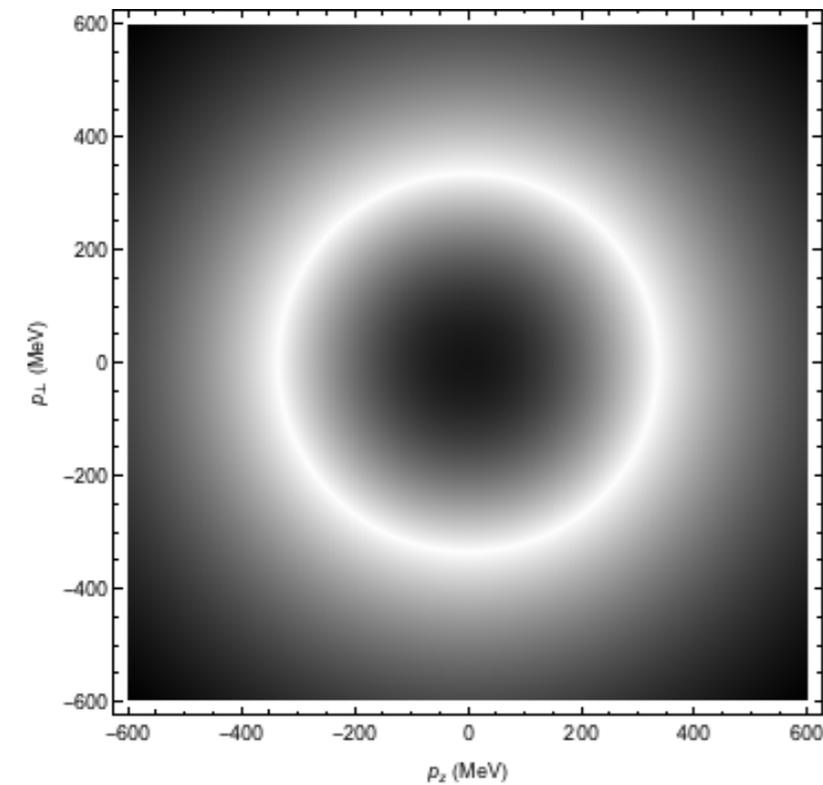
We closely inspect the integrand of the CDW ansatz

$$\Omega_{\text{CDW}} = -\frac{N_f N_c}{4\pi^2} \int_0^\infty dp_\perp p_\perp \int_{-\infty}^\infty dp_z \sum_{\epsilon=\pm} \left[E_{PV}^\epsilon + (\mu - E^\epsilon) \theta(\mu - E^\epsilon) \right] + \frac{\Delta^2}{4G}$$

2D projection of the Fermi spheres for $\mu = 335$ MeV.

Light region: the energy cost for exciting quasiparticle is small

$$\Delta = 0, Q = 0$$



2 coincident Fermi spheres

Qualitative analysis of pairing

We closely inspect the integrand of the CDW ansatz

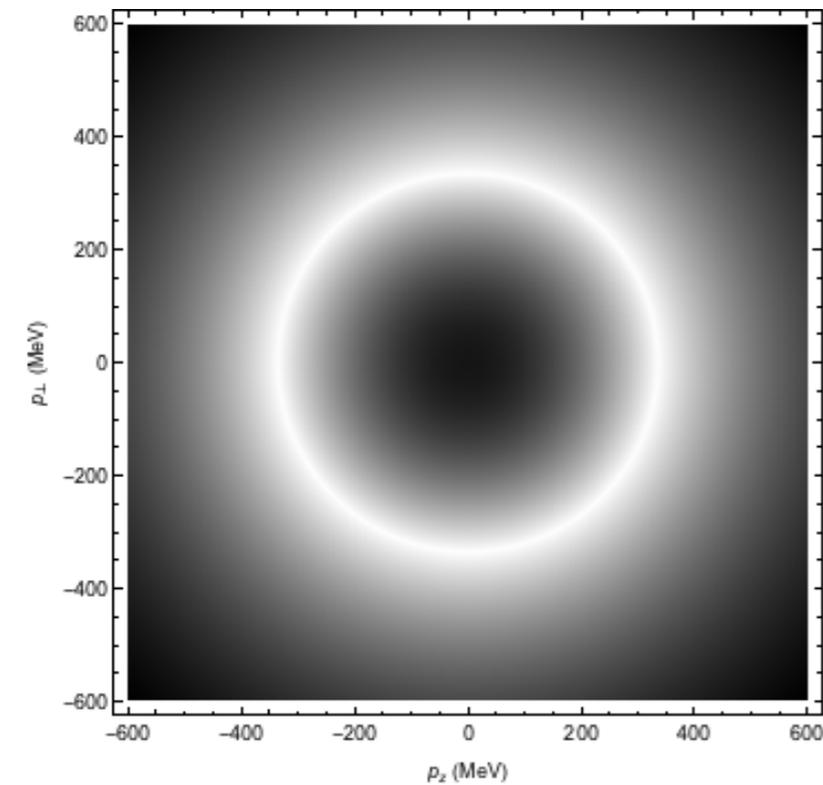
$$\Omega_{\text{CDW}} = -\frac{N_f N_c}{4\pi^2} \int_0^\infty dp_\perp p_\perp \int_{-\infty}^\infty dp_z \sum_{\epsilon=\pm} \left[E_{PV}^\epsilon + (\mu - E^\epsilon) \theta(\mu - E^\epsilon) \right] + \frac{\Delta^2}{4G}$$

2D projection of the Fermi spheres for $\mu = 335$ MeV.

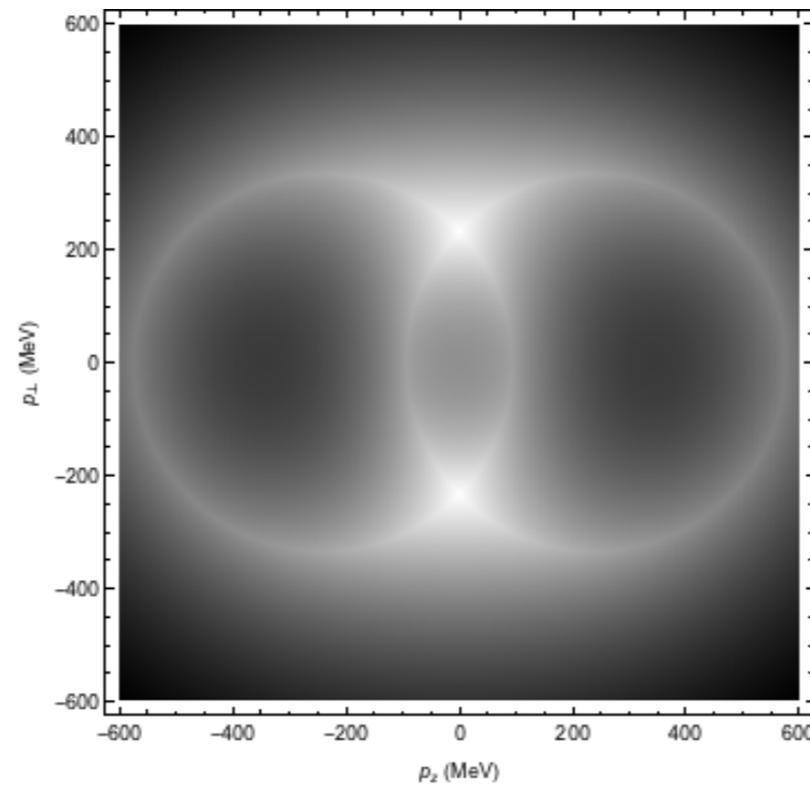
Light region: the energy cost for exciting quasiparticle is small

$$\Delta = 0, Q = 0$$

$$\Delta = 0, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$



2 coincident Fermi spheres



2 displaced Fermi spheres

Qualitative analysis of pairing

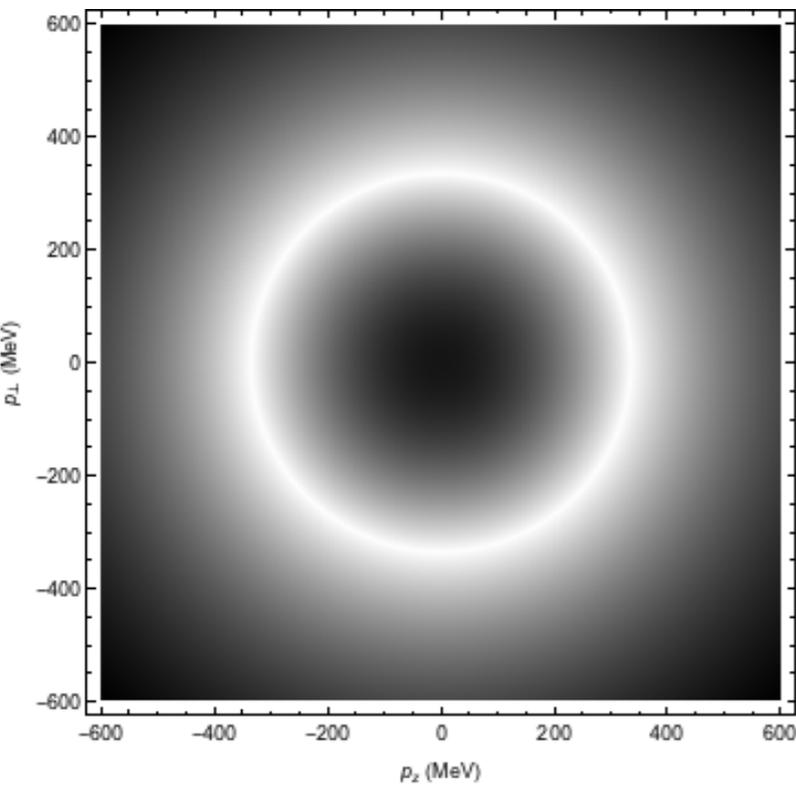
We closely inspect the integrand of the CDW ansatz

$$\Omega_{\text{CDW}} = -\frac{N_f N_c}{4\pi^2} \int_0^\infty dp_\perp p_\perp \int_{-\infty}^\infty dp_z \sum_{\epsilon=\pm} \left[E_{PV}^\epsilon + (\mu - E^\epsilon)\theta(\mu - E^\epsilon) \right] + \frac{\Delta^2}{4G}$$

2D projection of the Fermi spheres for $\mu = 335$ MeV.

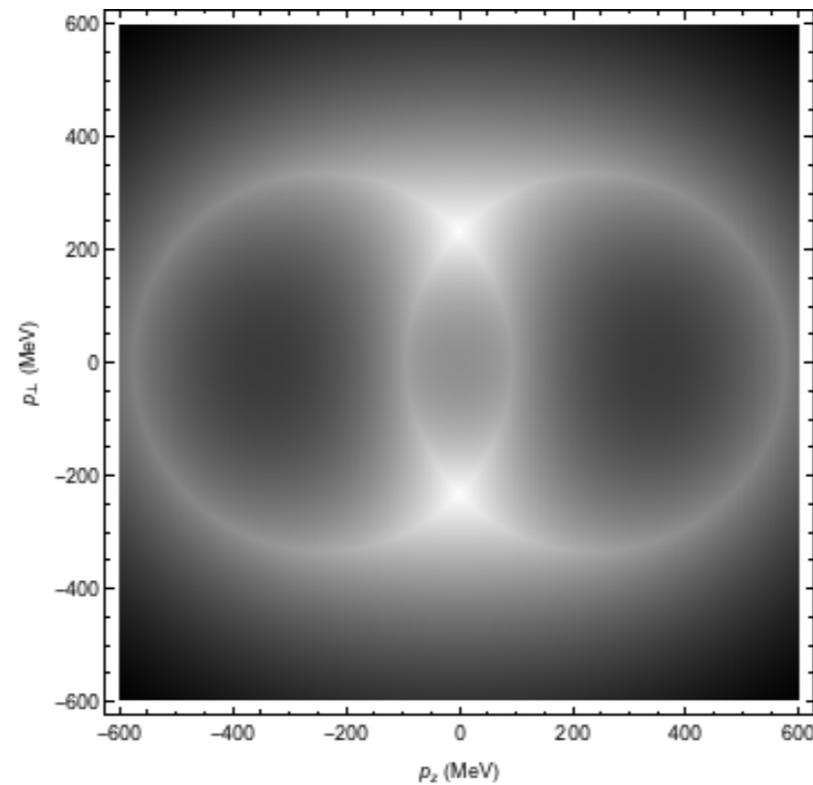
Light region: the energy cost for exciting quasiparticle is small

$$\Delta = 0, Q = 0$$



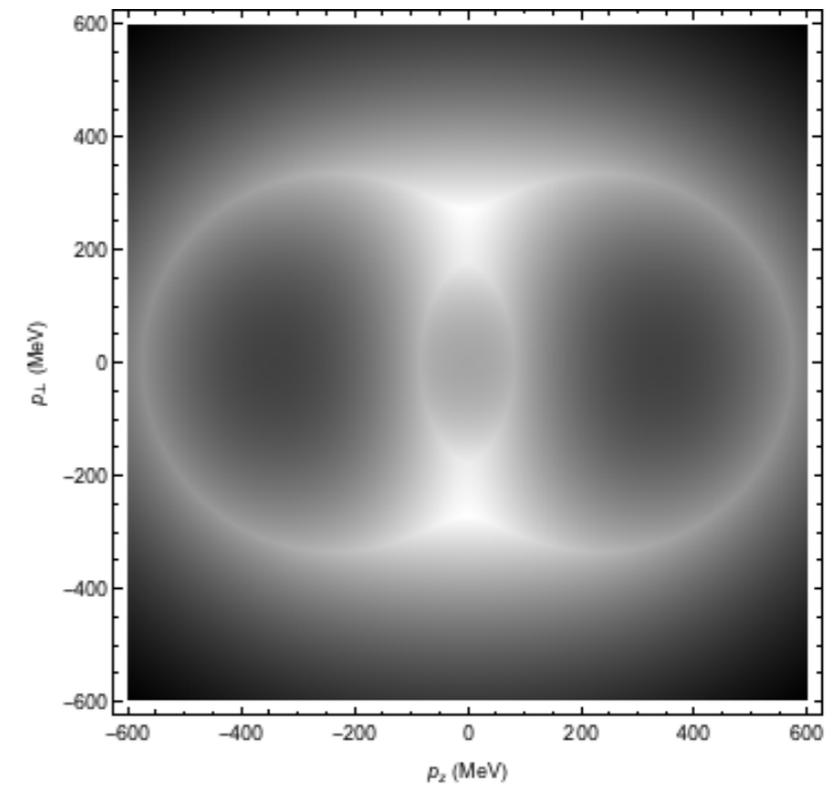
2 coincident Fermi spheres

$$\Delta = 0, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$



2 displaced Fermi spheres

$$\Delta = 44 \text{ MeV}, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$

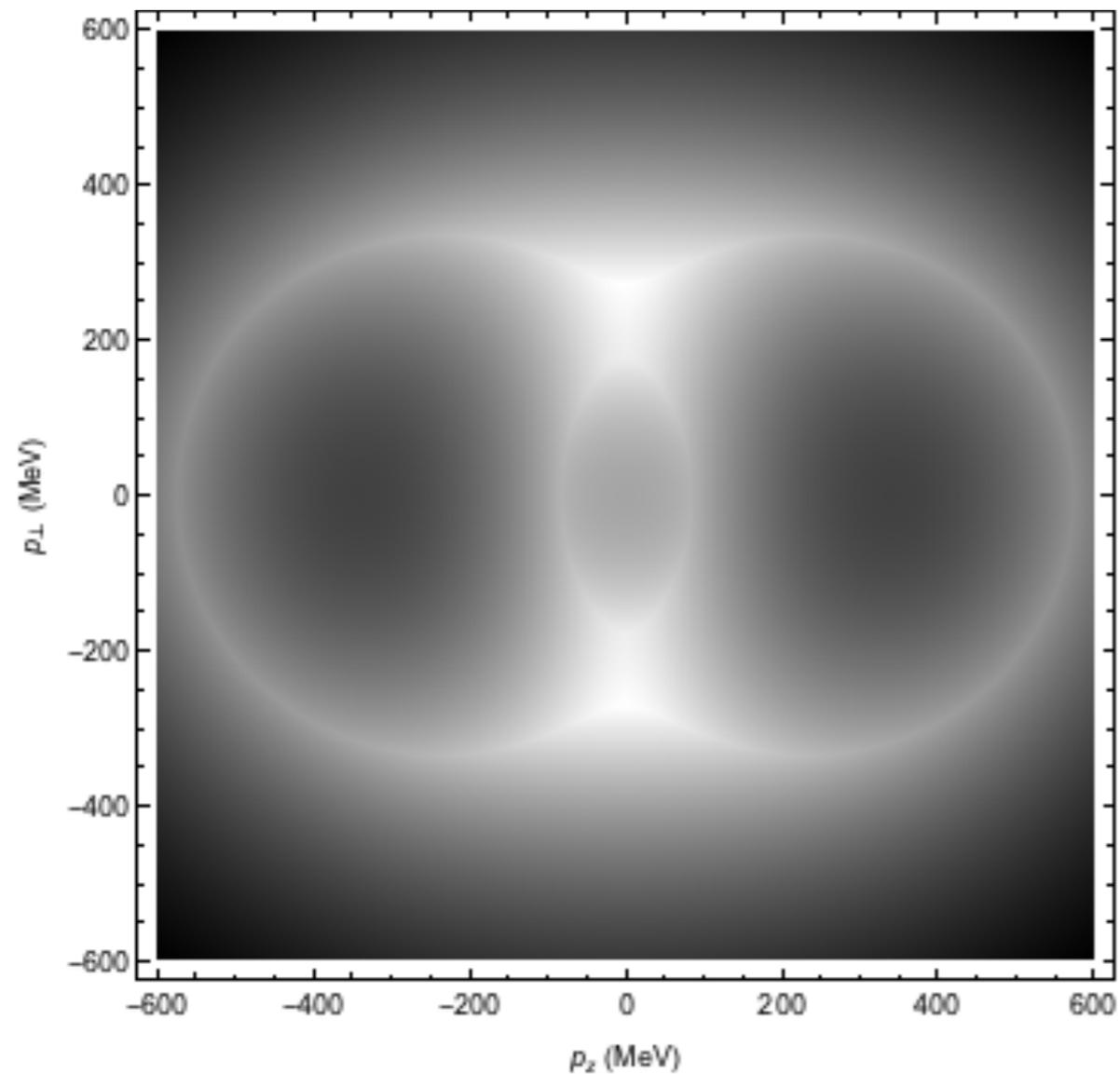


Turning on pairing

Analysis of pairing

The Fermi spheres are strongly modified. As far as Q is large, only 1D modulation can be favored

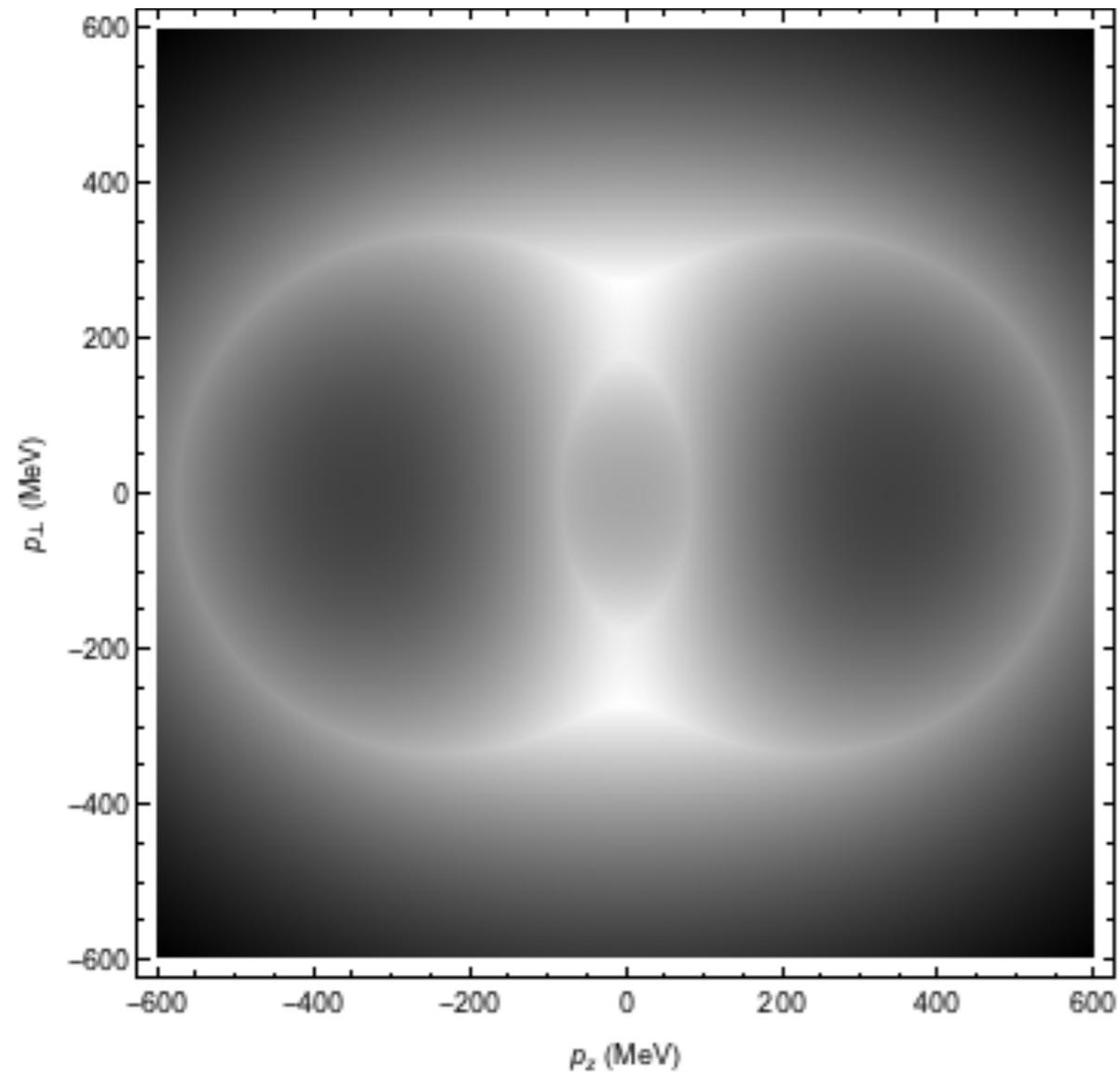
$$\Delta = 44 \text{ MeV}, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$



Analysis of pairing

The Fermi spheres are strongly modified. As far as Q is large, only 1D modulation can be favored

$$\Delta = 44 \text{ MeV}, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$

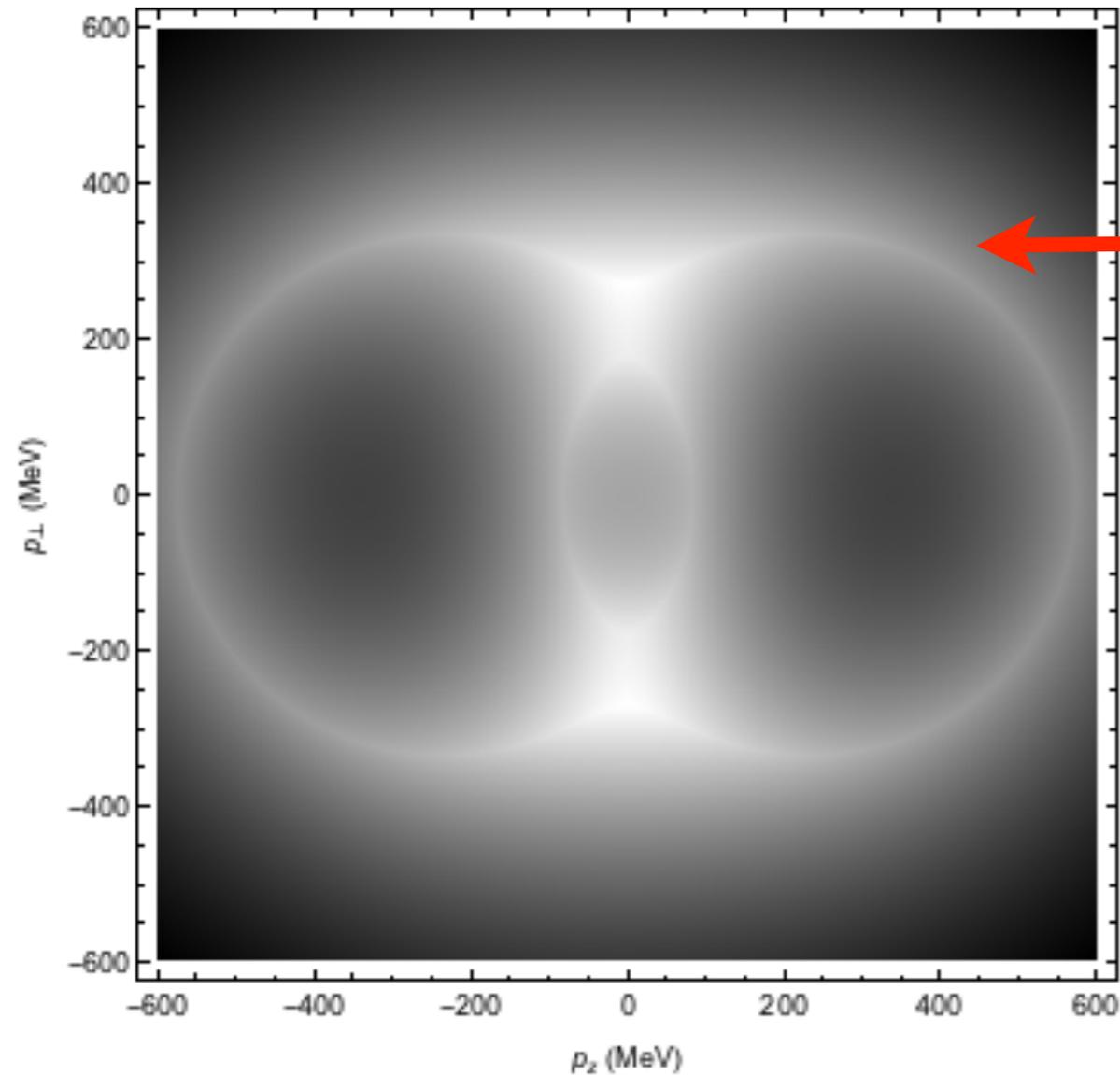


For example: pairing

Analysis of pairing

The Fermi spheres are strongly modified. As far as Q is large, only 1D modulation can be favored

$$\Delta = 44 \text{ MeV}, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$



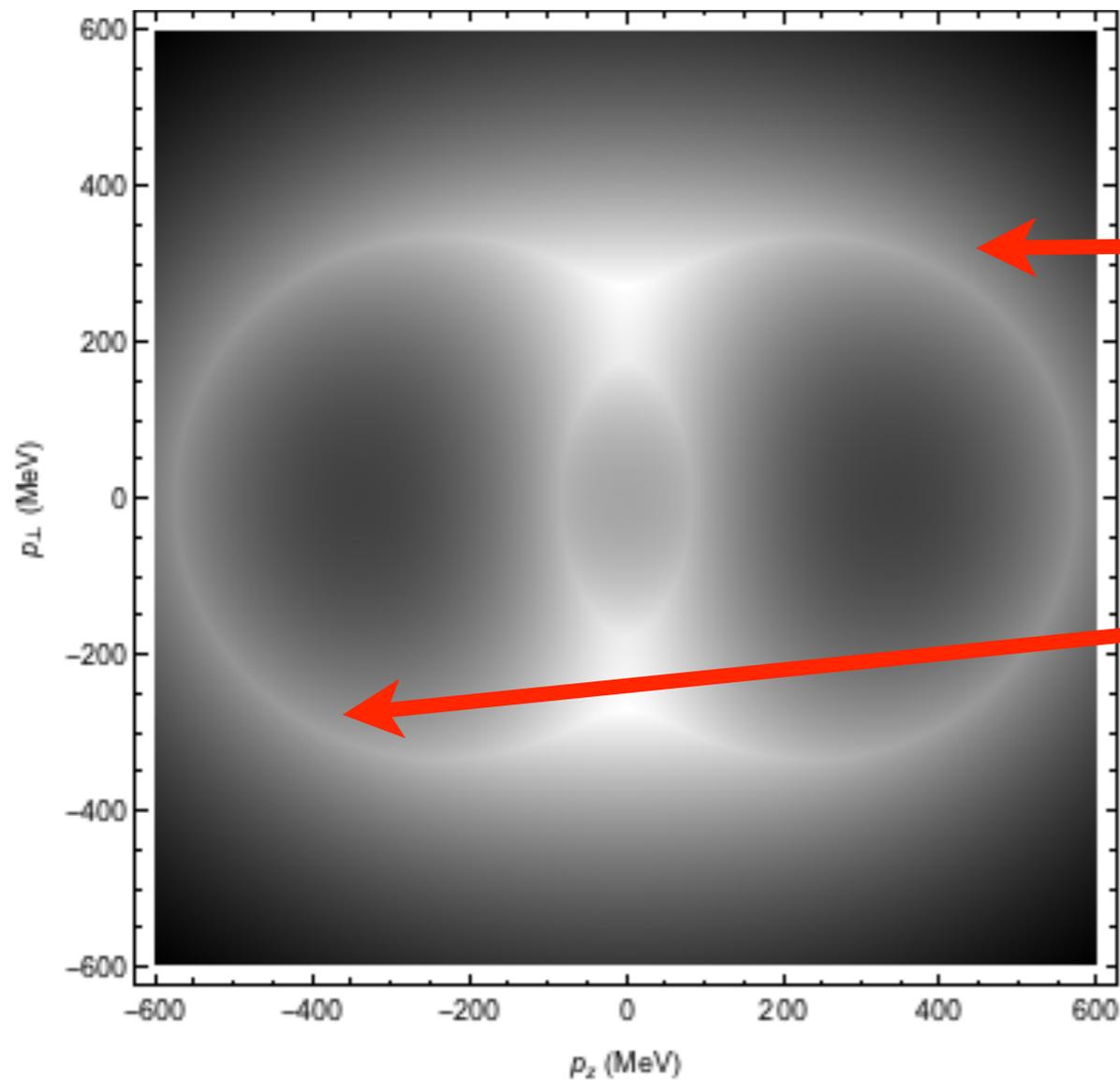
For example: pairing

quarks here

Analysis of pairing

The Fermi spheres are strongly modified. As far as Q is large, only 1D modulation can be favored

$$\Delta = 44 \text{ MeV}, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$



For example: pairing

quarks here

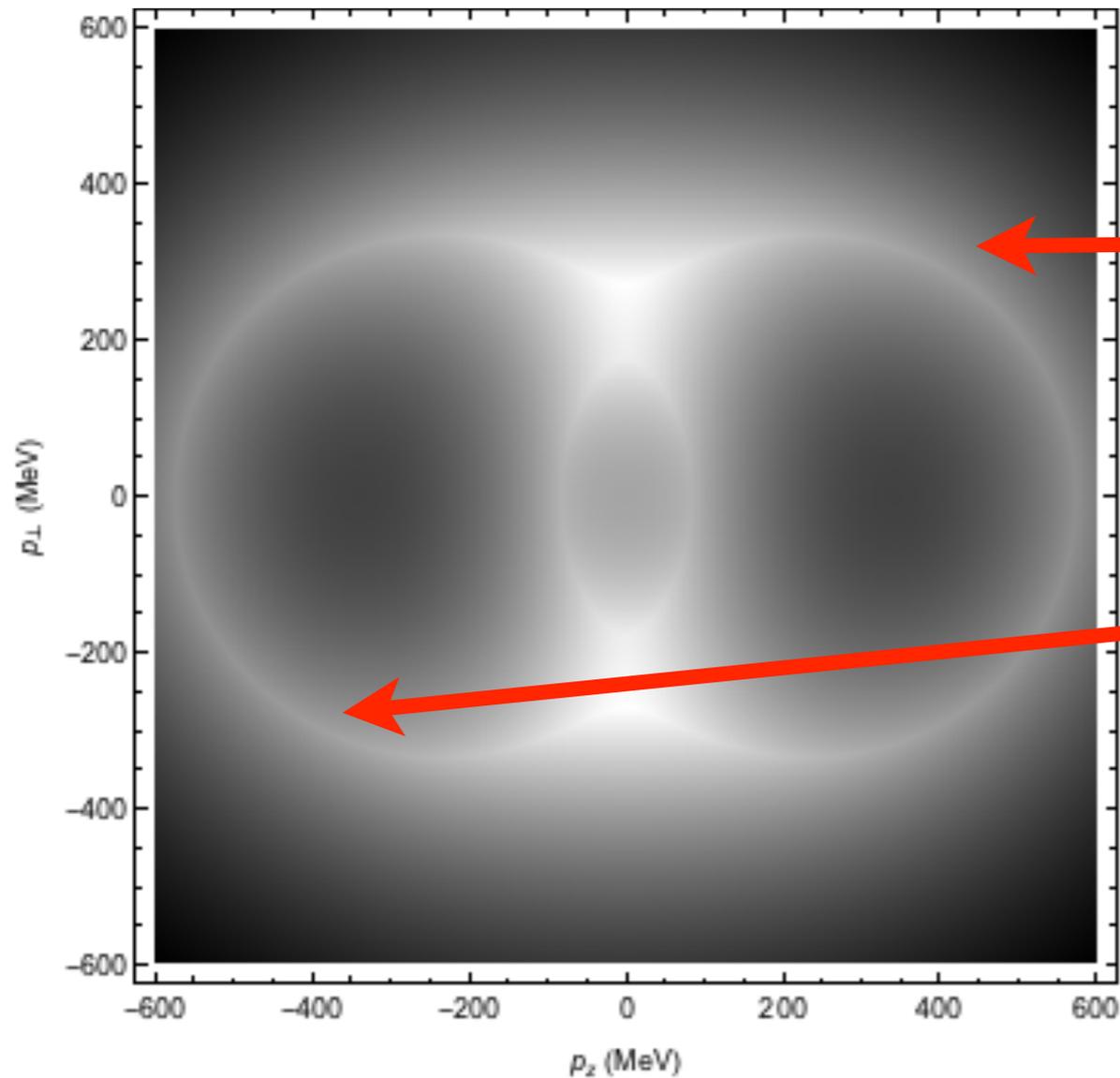
with

quarks here

Analysis of pairing

The Fermi spheres are strongly modified. As far as Q is large, only 1D modulation can be favored

$$\Delta = 44 \text{ MeV}, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$



For example: pairing

quarks here

with

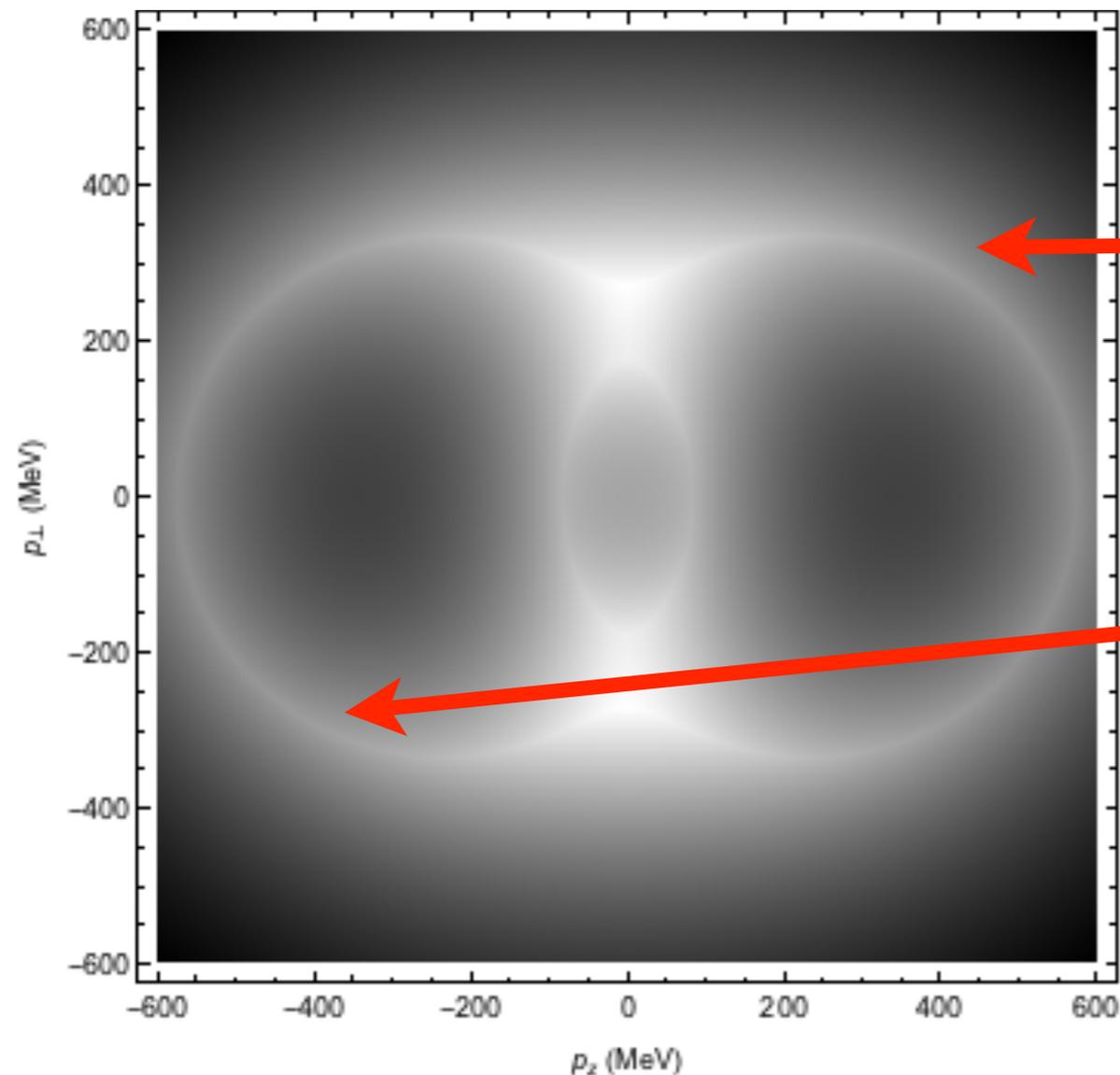
quarks here

requires a large deformation of the Fermi sphere

Analysis of pairing

The Fermi spheres are strongly modified. As far as Q is large, only 1D modulation can be favored

$$\Delta = 44 \text{ MeV}, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$



For example: pairing

quarks here

with

quarks here

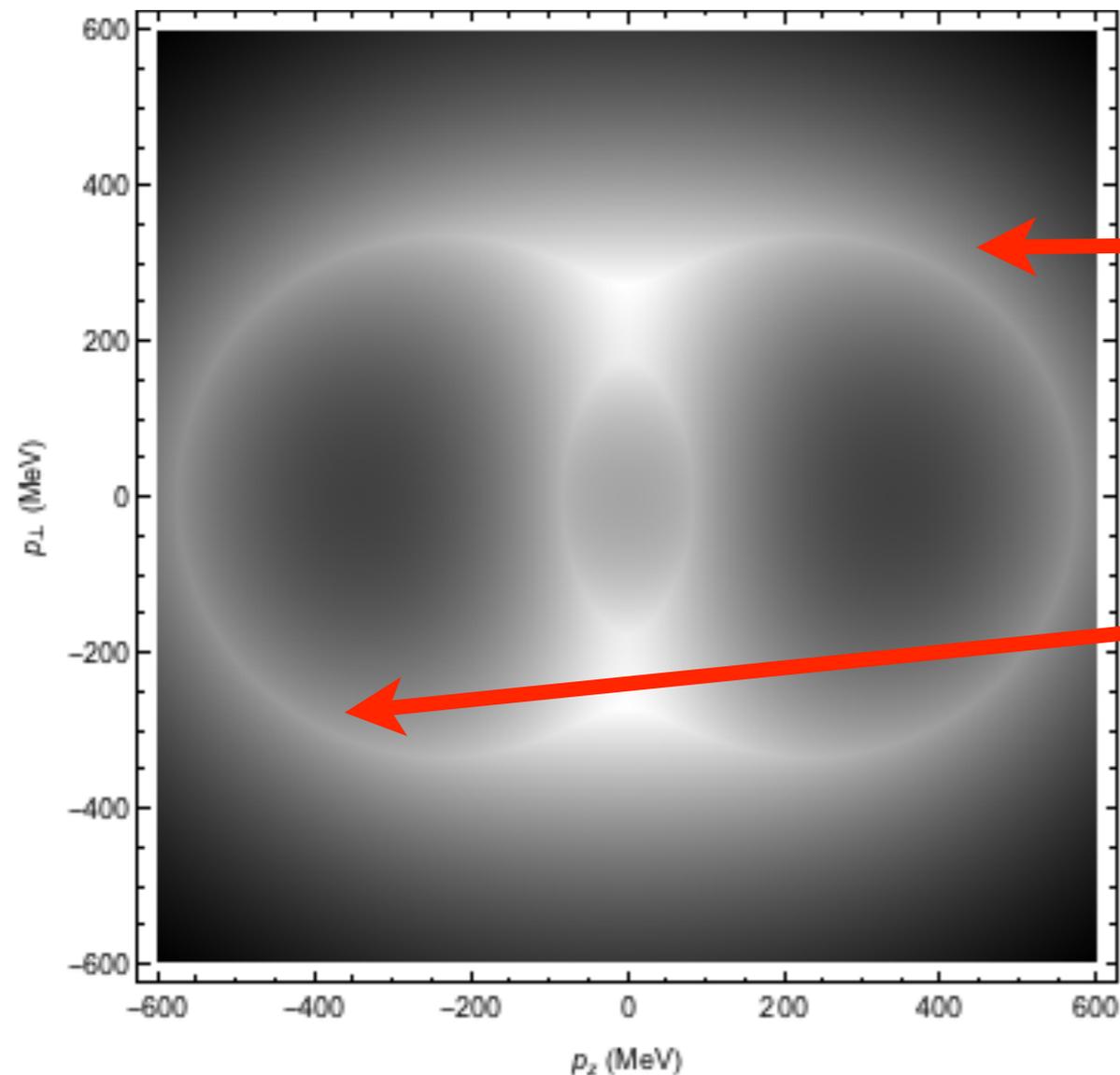
requires a large deformation of the Fermi sphere

There seems no way to have a crystalline phase.

Analysis of pairing

The Fermi spheres are strongly modified. As far as Q is large, only 1D modulation can be favored

$$\Delta = 44 \text{ MeV}, Q = 241 \text{ MeV}$$



For example: pairing

quarks here

with

quarks here

requires a large deformation of the Fermi sphere

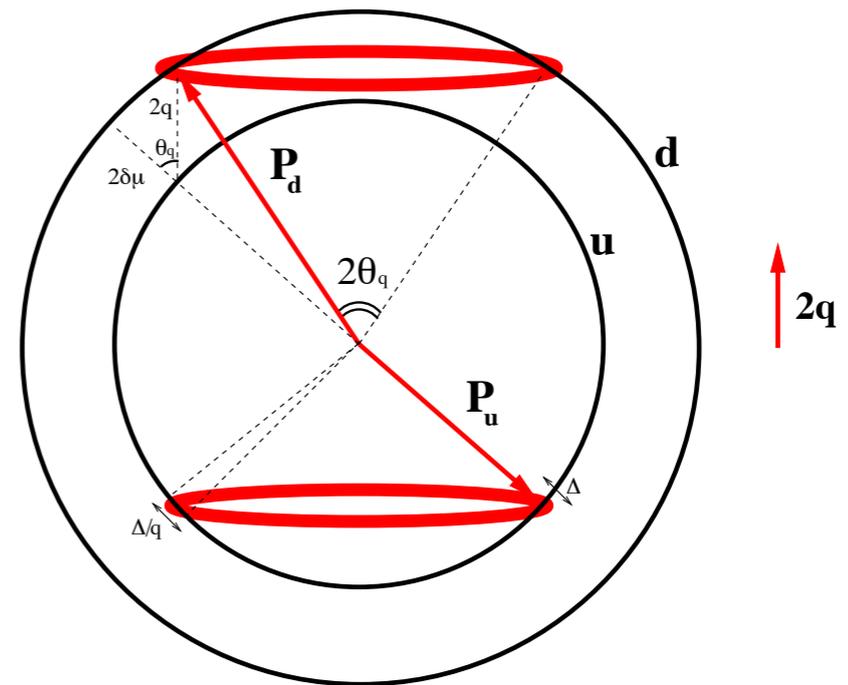
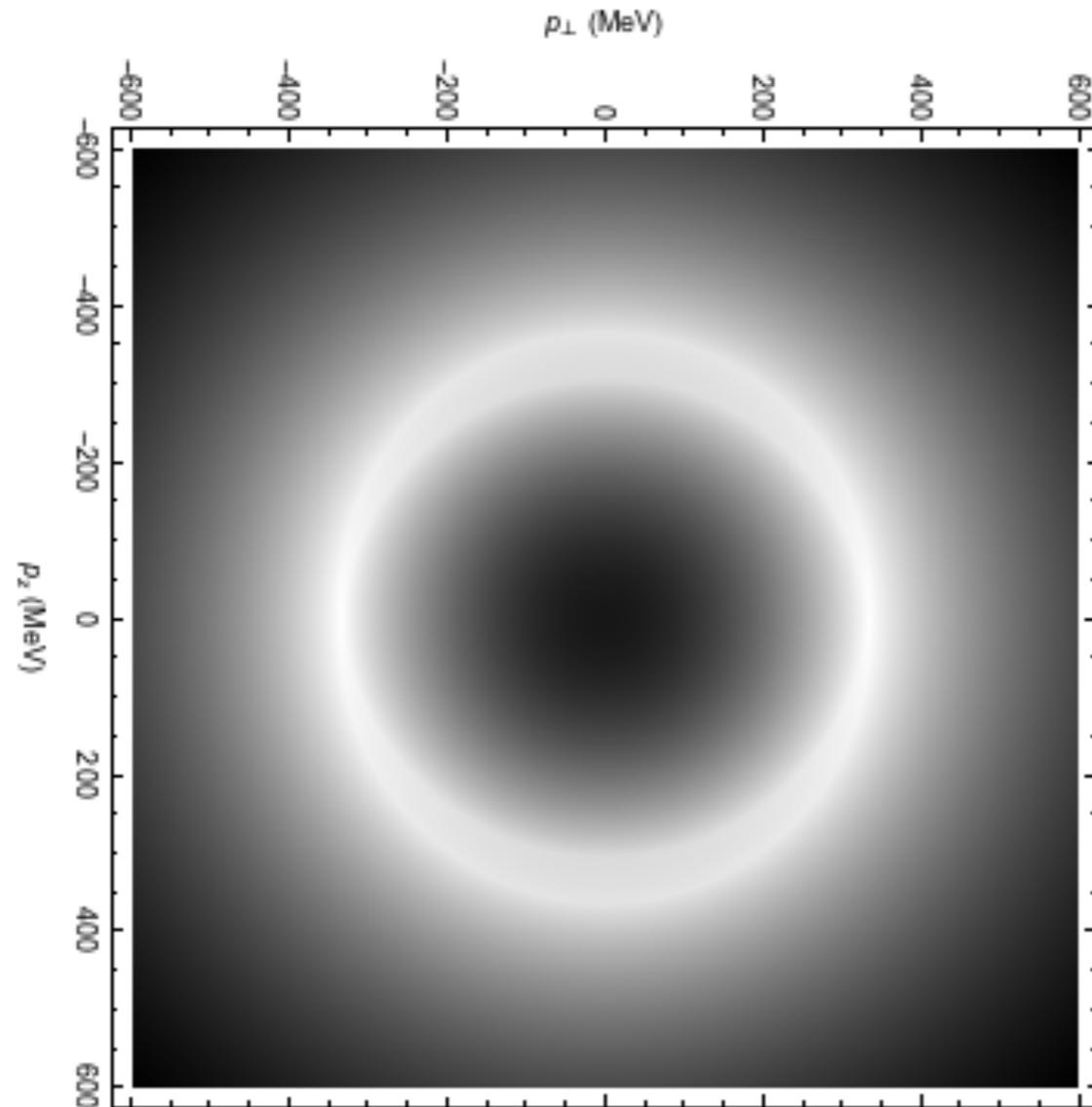
There seems no way to have a crystalline phase.

But then why a crystalline phase is realized in color superconductors?

FFLO-phase (quark-quark pairing)

Mismatched two flavor quark matter

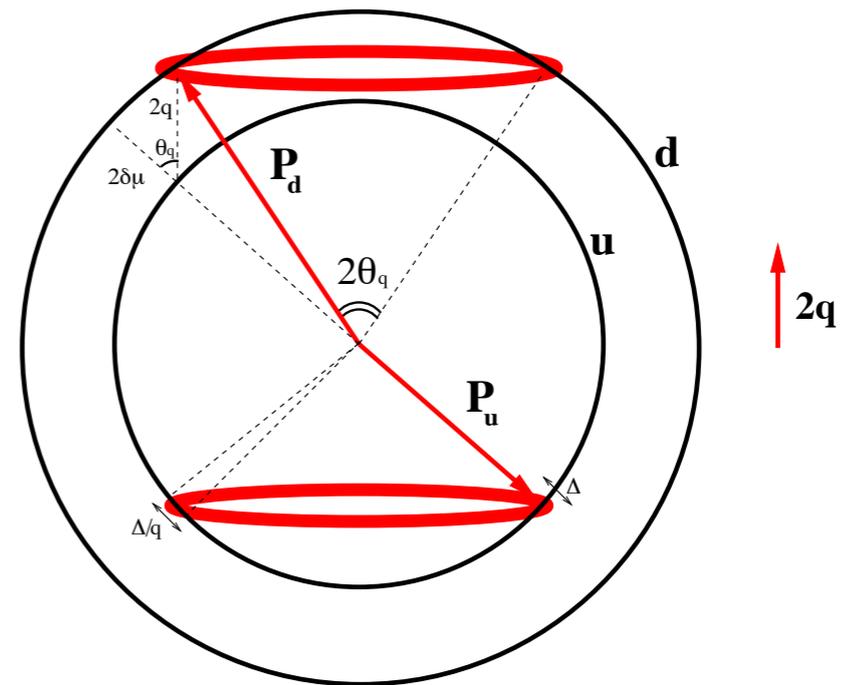
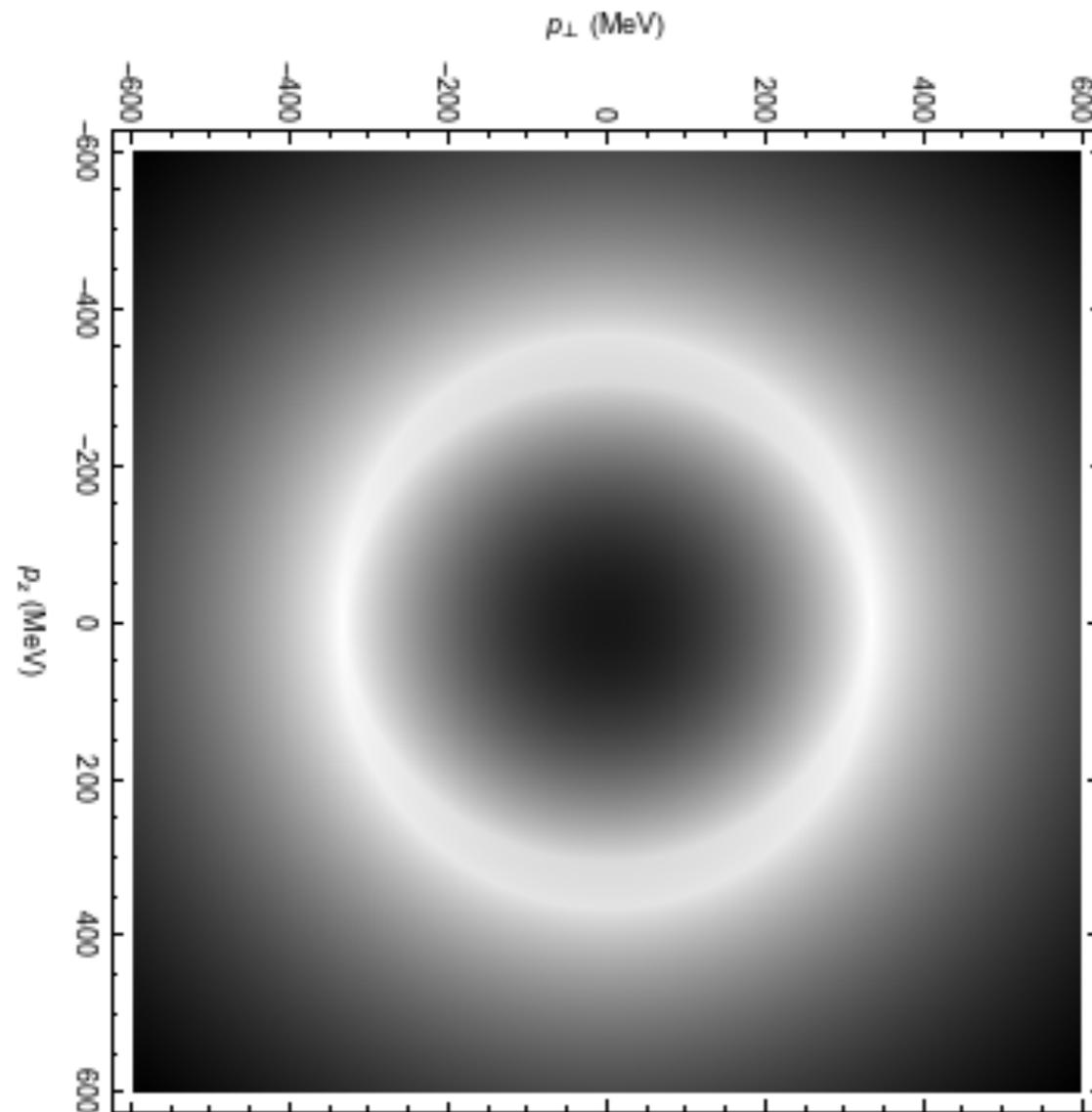
For $\delta\mu_1 < \delta\mu < \delta\mu_2$ the superconducting phase with Cooper pairs of non-zero total momentum is favored



FFLO-phase (quark-quark pairing)

Mismatched two flavor quark matter

For $\delta\mu_1 < \delta\mu < \delta\mu_2$ the superconducting phase with Cooper pairs of non-zero total momentum is favored

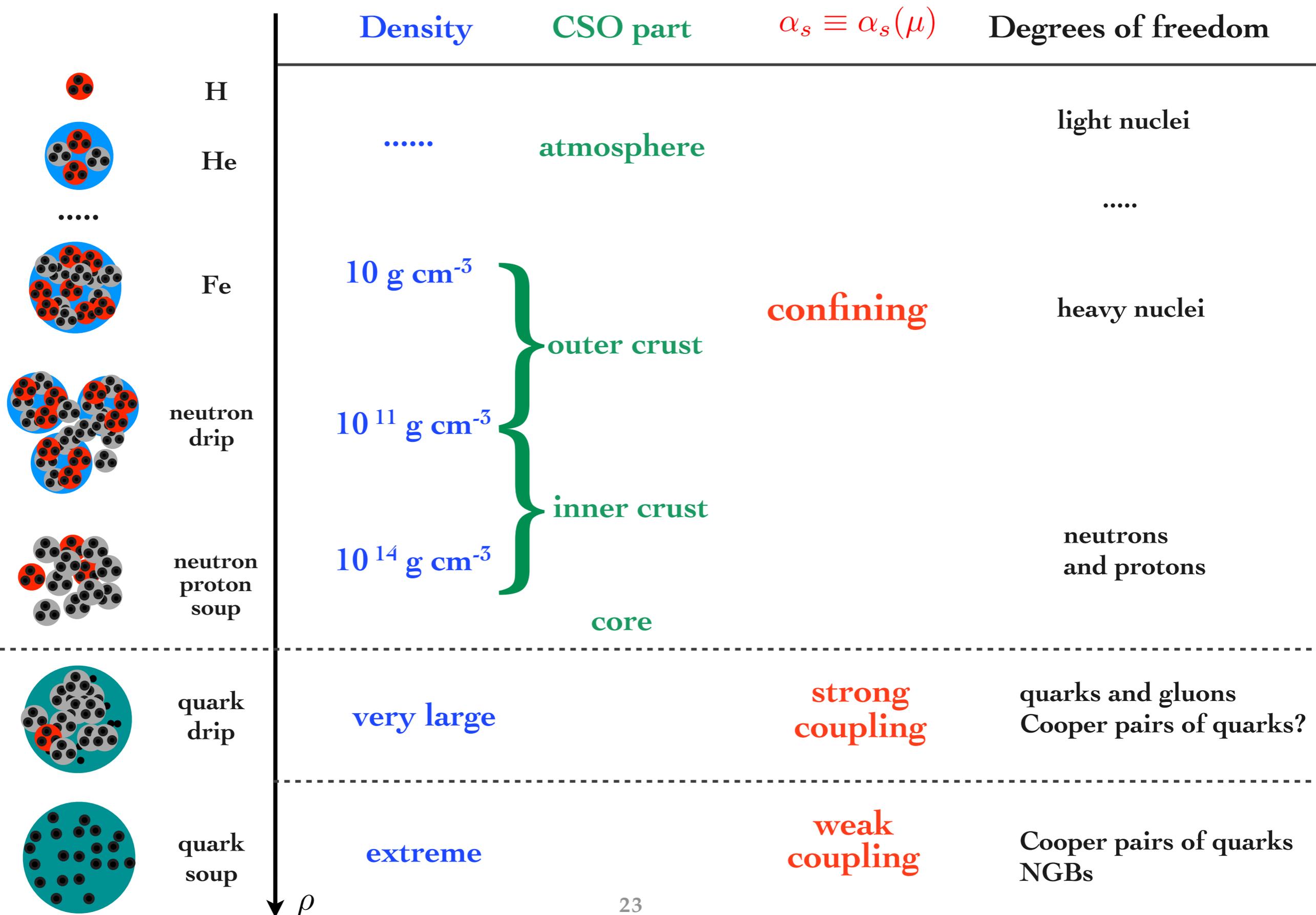


In weak coupling

$$\delta\mu_1 \simeq \frac{\Delta_0}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \delta\mu_2 \simeq 0.75 \Delta_0$$

Deforming the Fermi sphere does not cost too much!
The free energy gain due to pairing overcompensates this cost

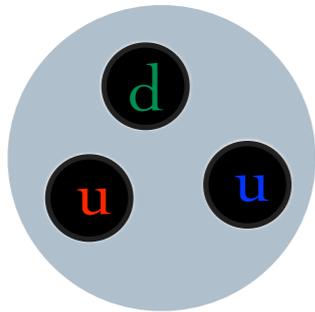
Increasing baryonic density



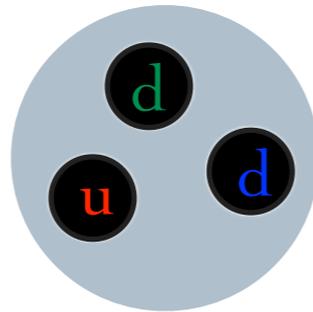
Quark model

BARYONS

proton



neutron

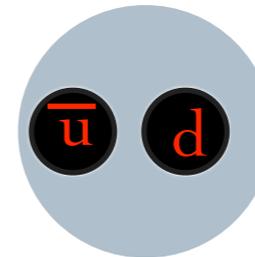


....

$$M_n \sim 1\text{GeV} \gg m_{u,d}$$

MESONS

pions



....

$$M_\pi \sim 135 \text{ MeV} \gg m_{u,d}$$

Quarks and gluons are the building blocks of hadrons

Q	quark flavor (mass in MeV)		
$+2/3$	u (3)	c (1300)	t (170000)
$-1/3$	d (5)	s (130)	b (4000)

The theory describing quarks and gluons is **Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD)**: a nonabelian $SU(3)$ gauge theory.

Quarks form a triplet in the fundamental representation

Gluons are the vector gauge bosons associated to the octet adjoint representation