

# Heavy dense QCD and nuclear matter on the lattice



Owe Philipsen



- Introduction: the QCD phase diagram: what we do and do not know
- 3d effective lattice theory derived by strong coupling methods [JHEP 1102 \(2011\) 057](#)
- Cold and dense QCD: transition to nuclear matter [PRL 110 \(2013\), arXiv:1403.4162](#)

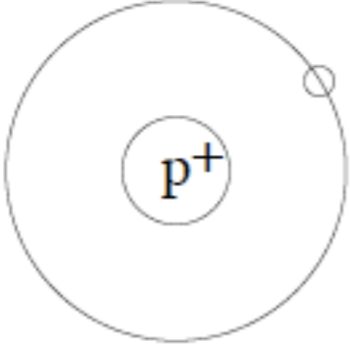
# Quantum Chromodynamics, theory of strong interactions

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \frac{1}{4g^2} \text{Tr} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + \sum_{i=1}^3 \bar{\psi}_i [\gamma_\mu D_\mu + m_i] \psi_i$$

$$m_u \sim 3\text{MeV}, \quad m_d \sim 6\text{MeV}, \quad m_s \sim 120\text{MeV} \Rightarrow N_f \approx 2 + 1$$

weak vs. strong coupling:

QED



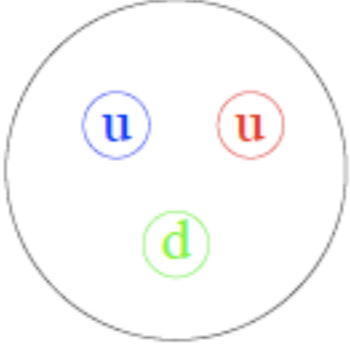
hydrogen (e.m. force)

$M_e = 0.5 \text{ MeV}$   
 $M_p = 938 \text{ MeV}$   
 $E_{\text{bind}} = 13.6 \text{ eV}$

$$\alpha = \frac{e^2}{4\pi} = \frac{1}{137}$$

photons    e,p    gauge group U(1)  
 $\downarrow$              $\downarrow$              $\downarrow$   
 gluons    quarks    gauge group SU(3)

QCD



proton

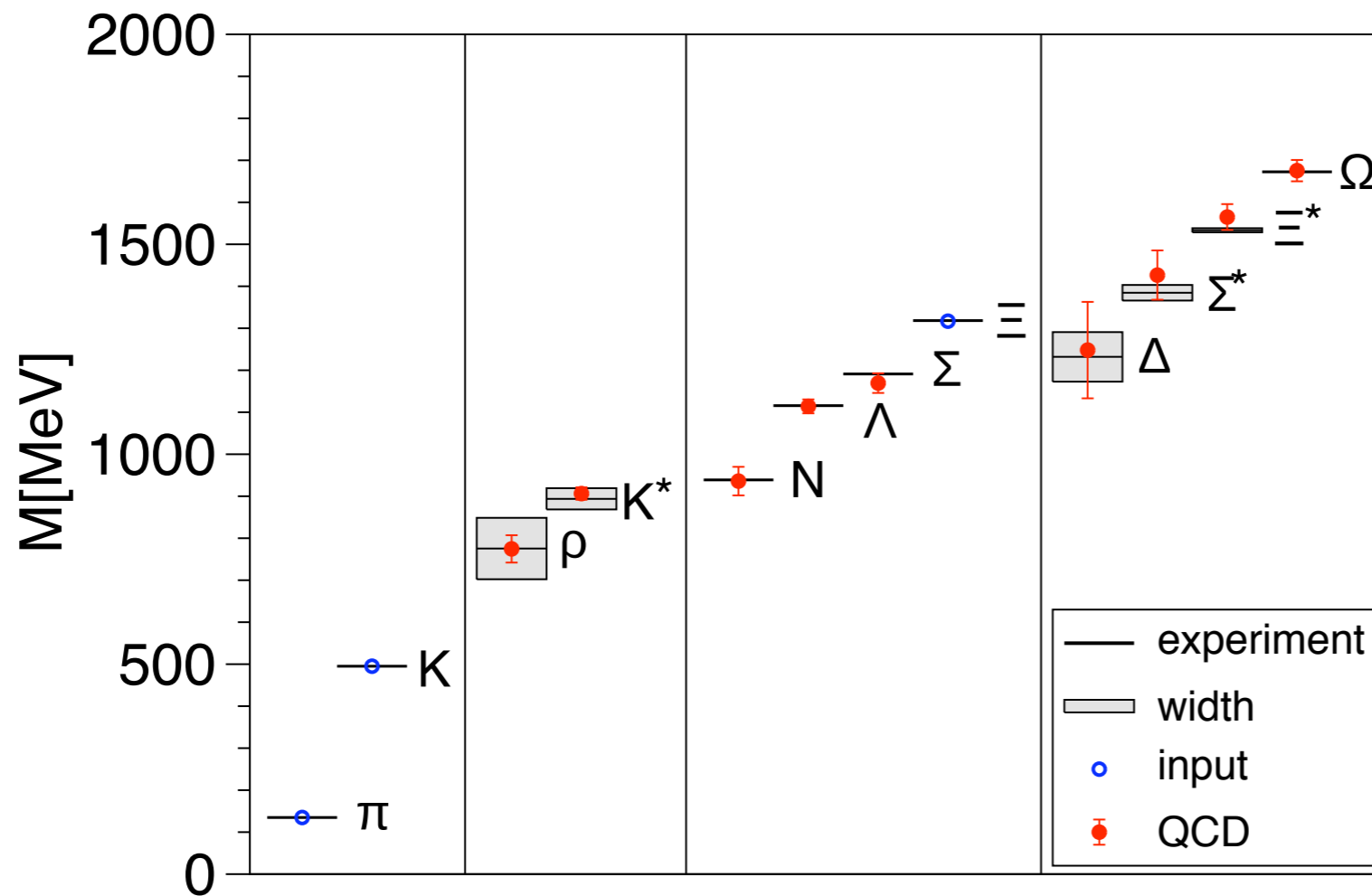
$M_u \sim 3 \text{ MeV}$   
 $M_d \sim 6 \text{ MeV}$   
 $M_p = 938 \text{ MeV}$   
 (strong force)

$$\alpha_s = \frac{g^2}{4\pi} \approx 1$$

$\Rightarrow$  **Confinement, non-perturbative**  
**gluon self-interaction!**

# Light hadron spectrum from the lattice

BMW collaboration (Budapest, Marseille, Wuppertal) 2010

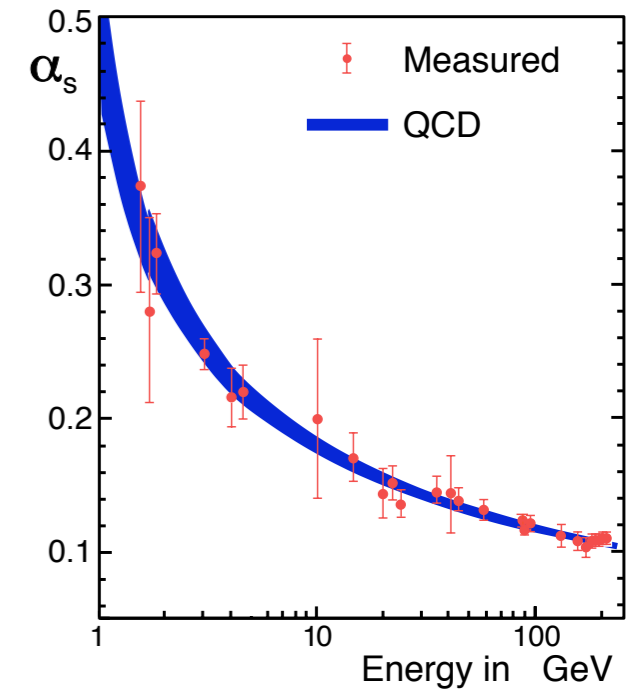


mesons=  
quark anti-quark states

QCD is the correct theory for strong interactions also at low energy!

# QCD at high temperature/density: change of dynamics

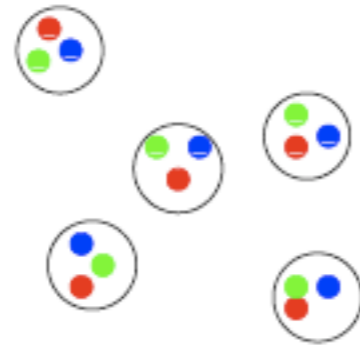
asymptotic freedom  $\alpha_s(p \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow 0$



$T, \mu_B$



Phase transitions?



Hadron gas



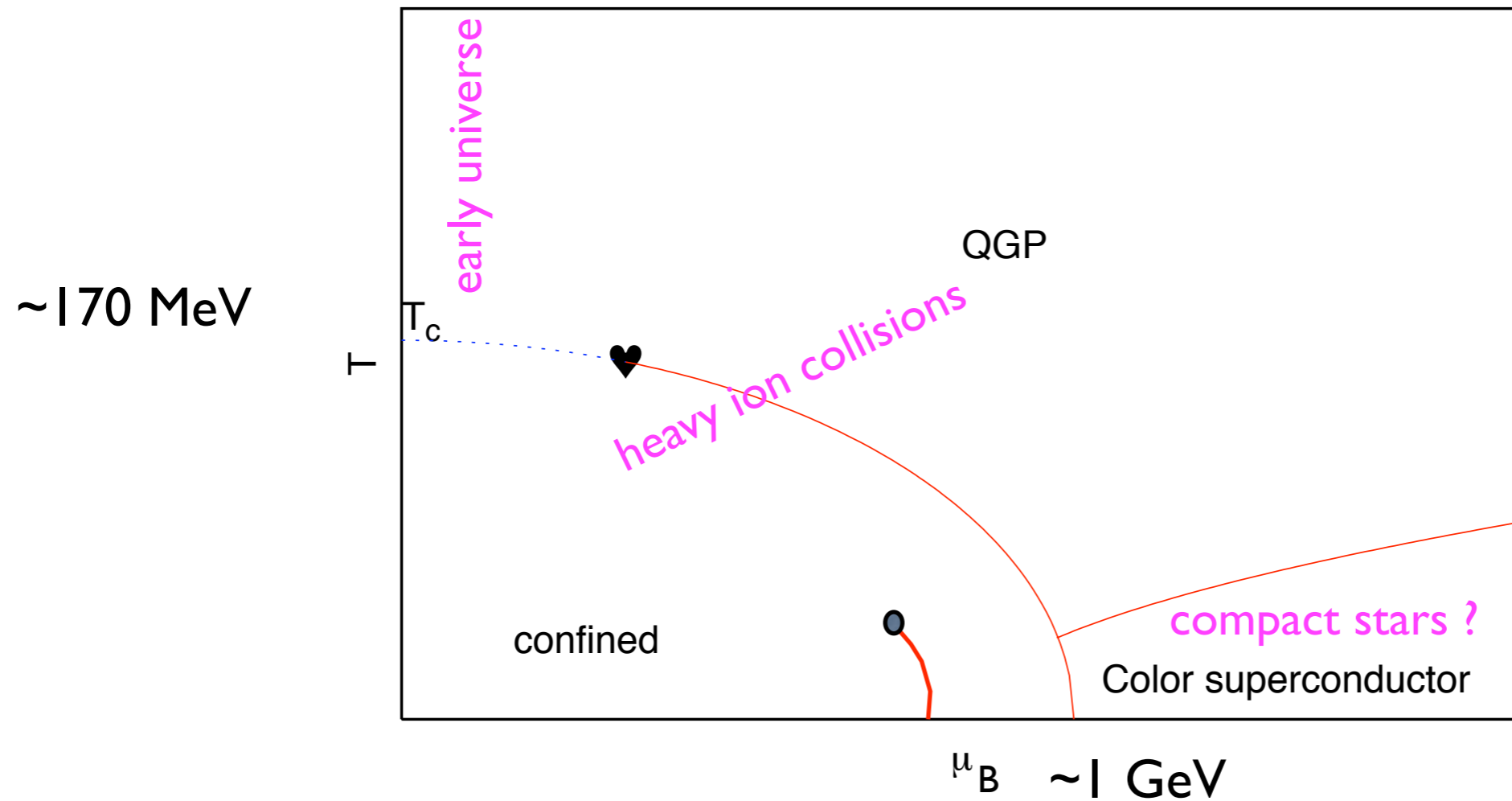
Quark-Gluon-Plasma

Order parameters:

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle, \langle \psi\psi \rangle$$

chiral condensate, Cooper pairs

# QCD phase diagram: theorist's science fiction

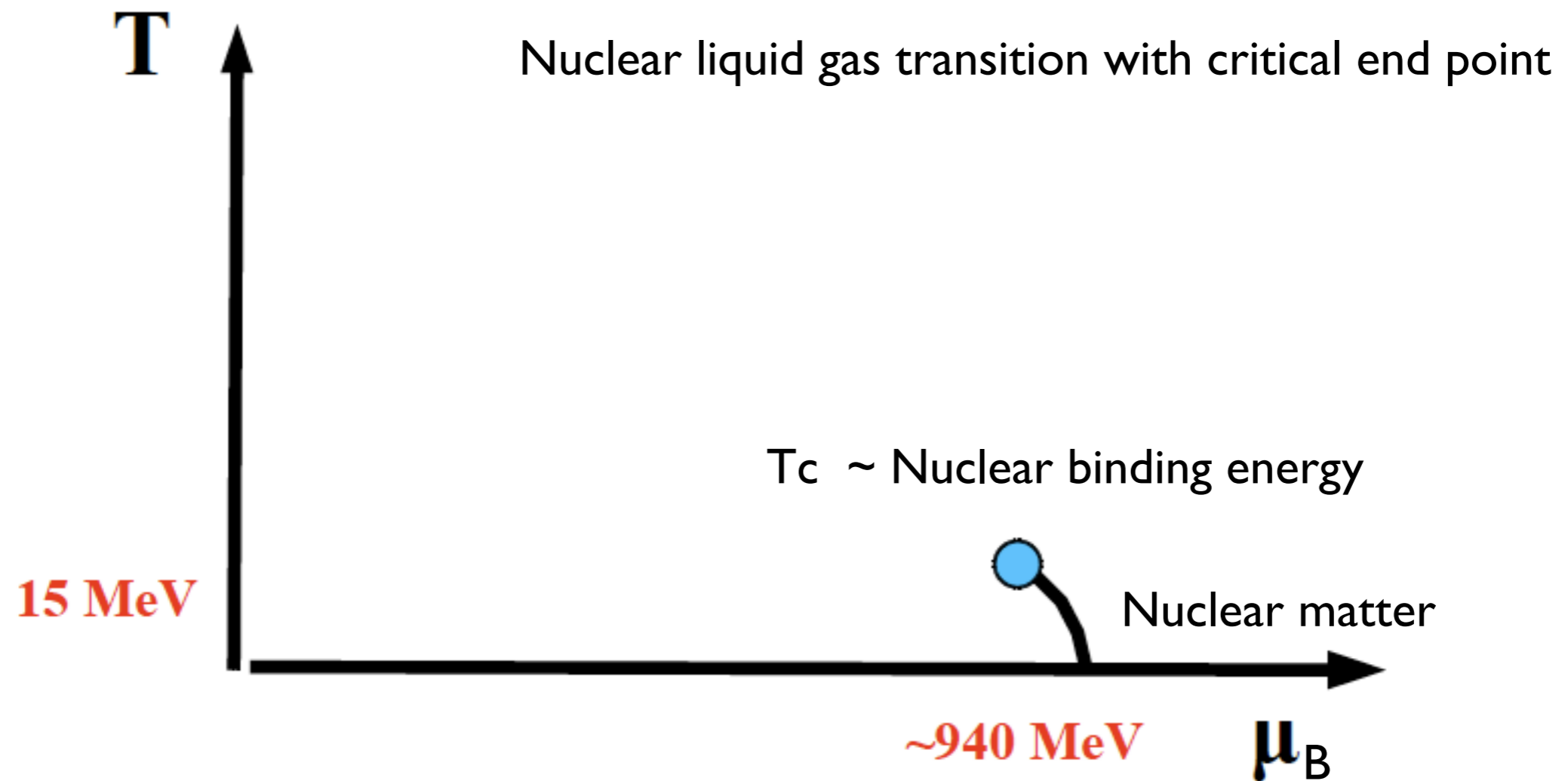


Until 2001: no finite density lattice calculations, **sign problem!**

Expectation based on simplifying models (NJL, linear sigma model, random matrix models, ...) and symmetry arguments

**Check this from first principles QCD!**

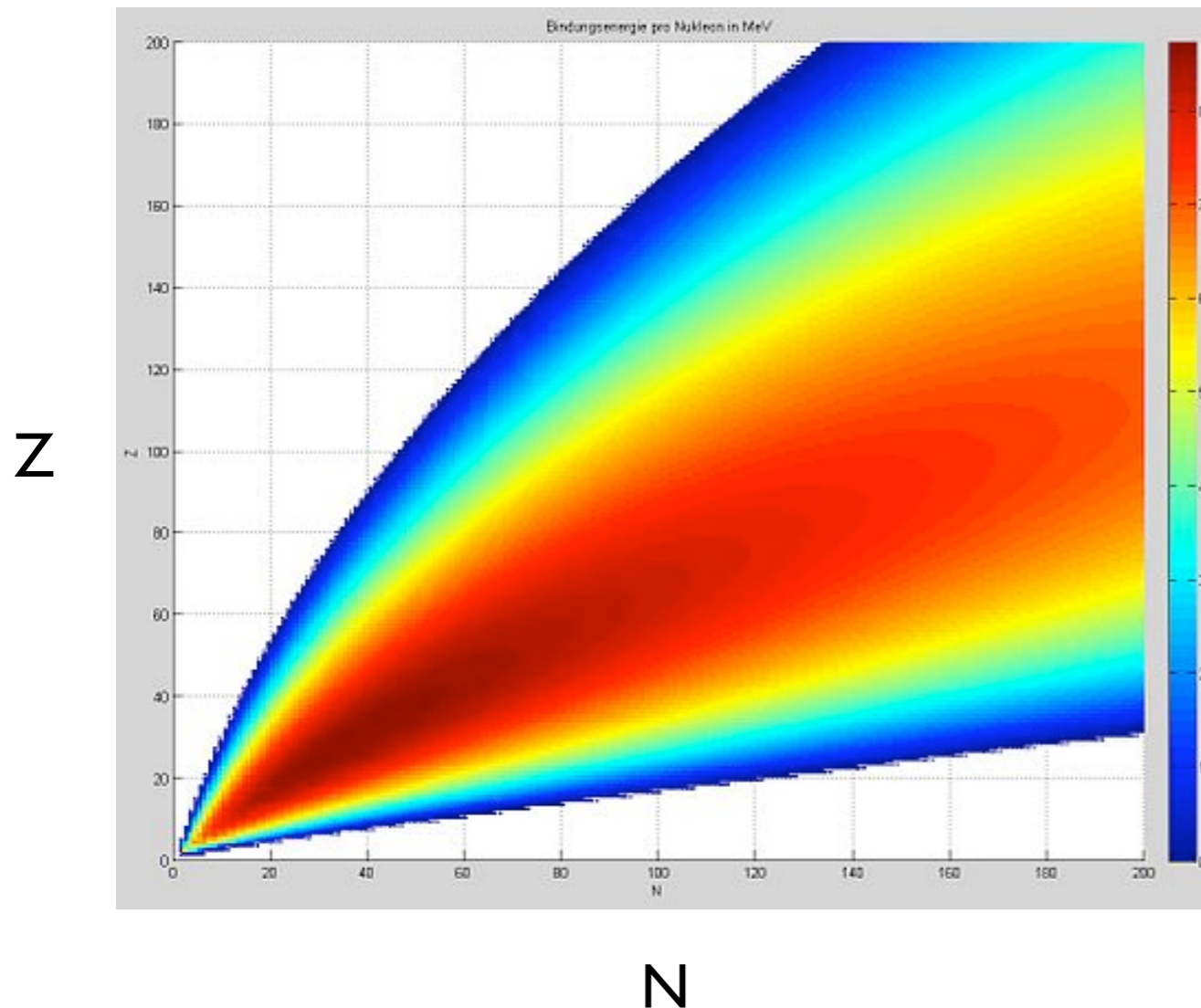
# Experimentally established phase diagram:



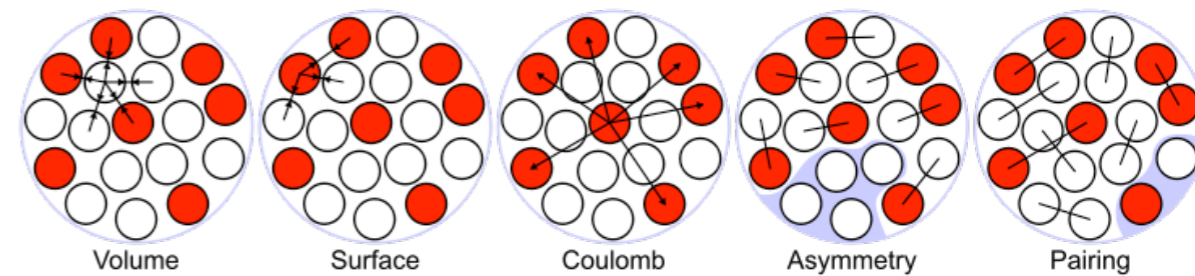
# Nuclear physics

~100 years old, still no fundamental description!

Bethe-Weizsäcker droplet model:



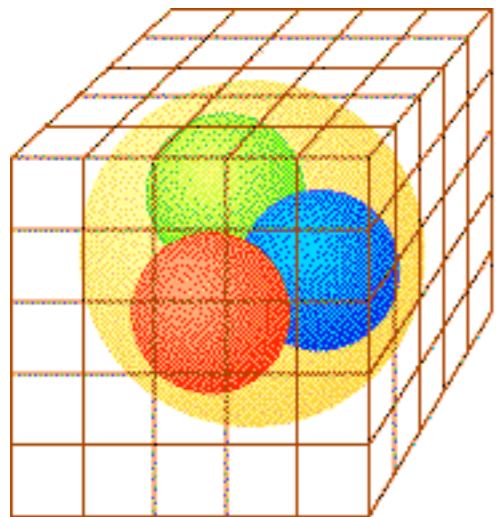
Binding energy per nucleon



QFT descriptions: -Fetter-Walecka model (nucleons + mesons)  
-Skyrme model (skyrmions)

# Lattice QCD + Monte Carlo method

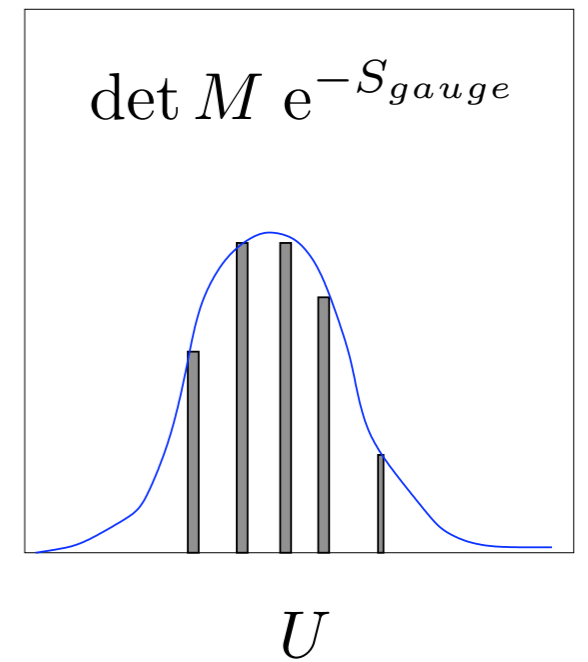
QCD partition fcn:  $Z = \int DU \prod_f \det M(\mu_f, m_f; U) e^{-S_{gauge}(\beta; U)}$   $\beta = \frac{2N_c}{g^2}$



links=gauge fields

Monte Carlo by importance sampling

> 10<sup>8</sup> dimensional integral



$$T = \frac{1}{aN_t}$$

Continuum limit:  $N_t \rightarrow \infty, a \rightarrow 0$

$$N_t = 4, 6$$

$$a \sim 0.3, 0.2 \text{ fm}$$

Sign problem:

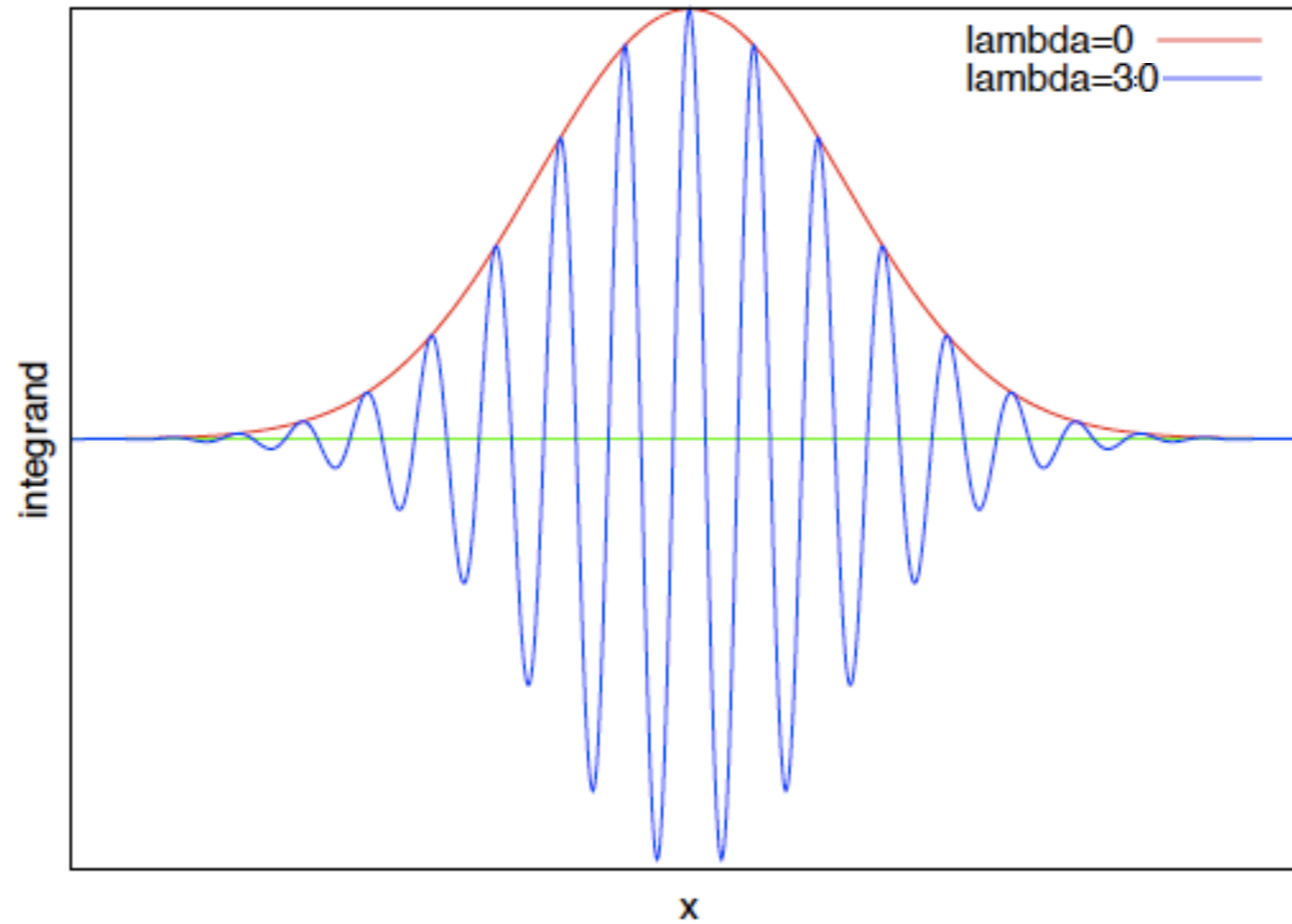
$\det(M)$  complex for SU(3),  $\mu \neq 0$

importance sampling requires  
positive weights



# Sign problem: 1-dim. illustration

- Example:  $Z(\lambda) = \int dx \exp(-x^2 + i\lambda x)$



- $Z(\lambda)/Z(0) = \exp(-\lambda^2/4)$ : exponential cancellations

↑  
QCD:  $\sim$  exp. prop. to volume, chemical potential

# Theory: how to calculate p.t., critical temperature

deconfinement/chiral phase transition  $\rightarrow$  quark gluon plasma

“order parameter”:

chiral condensate  $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle$

generalized susceptibilities:

$$\chi = V(\langle \mathcal{O}^2 \rangle - \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle^2)$$

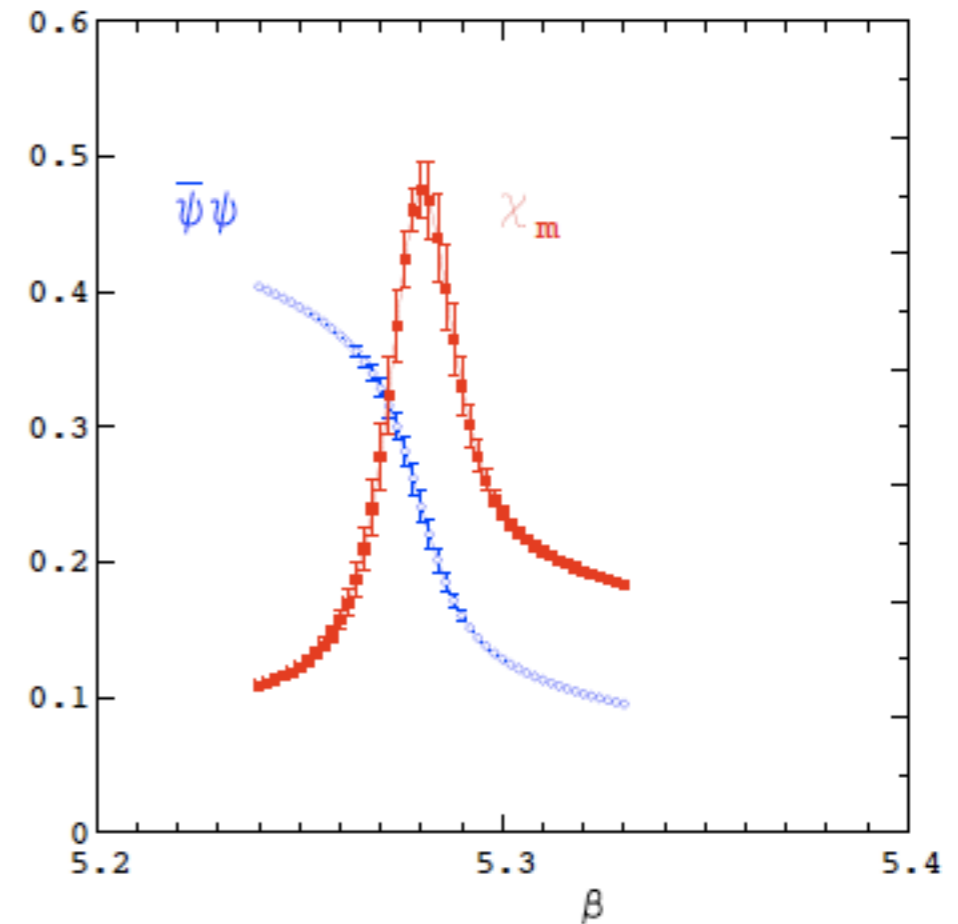
$$\Rightarrow \chi_{max} = \chi(\beta_c) \Rightarrow T_c$$

only pseudo-critical on finite  $V$ !

Order of transition:

finite volume scaling

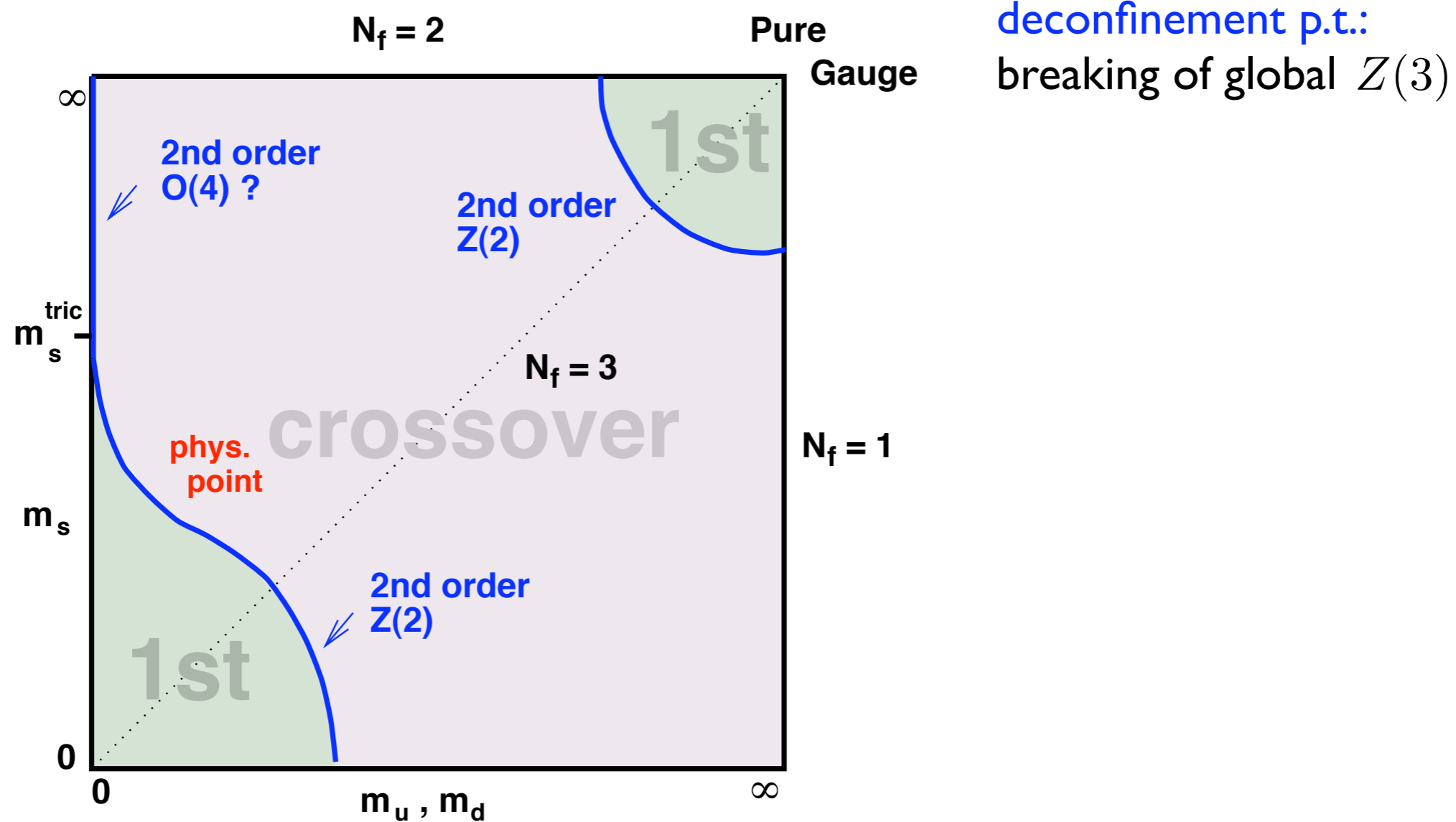
$$\chi_{max} \sim V^\sigma$$



lattice coupling  $\beta$ , viz.  $T$

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| $\sigma = 1$                     | 1st order |
| $\sigma = \text{crit. exponent}$ | 2nd order |
| $\sigma = 0$                     | crossover |

# The order of the p.t., arbitrary quark masses $\mu = 0$



chiral p.t.

restoration of global

$$SU_L(N_f) \times SU_R(N_f) \times U_V(1) \times U_A(1)$$

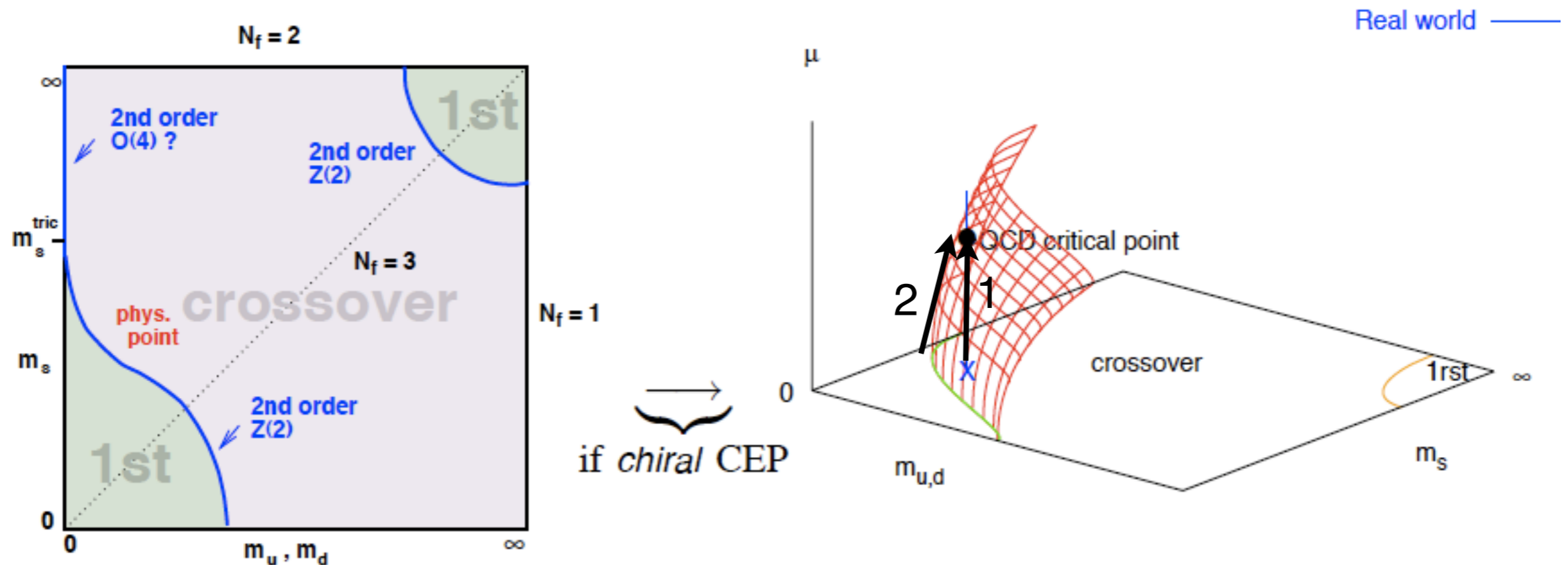


anomalous

● physical point: crossover in the continuum  
Aoki et al. 06

● chiral critical line on coarse lattice  
de Forcrand, O.P. 07

# Much harder: is there a QCD critical point?



Two strategies:

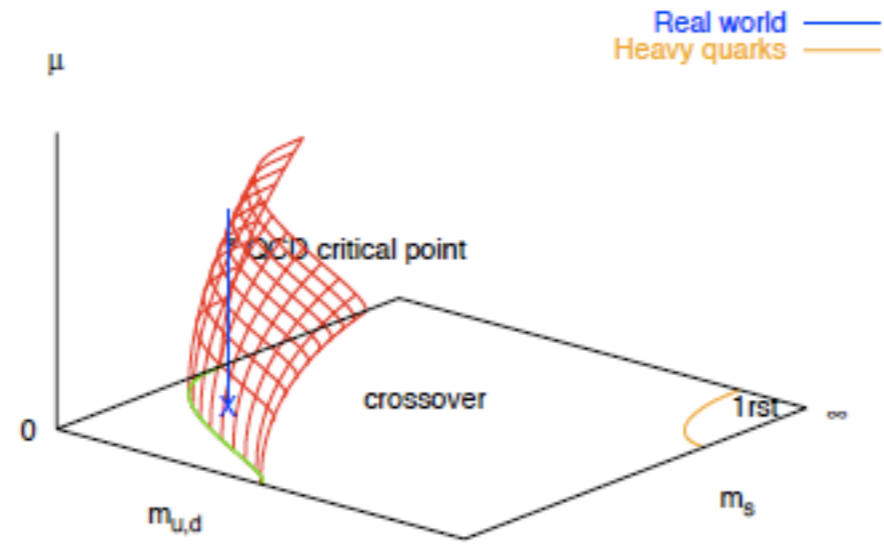
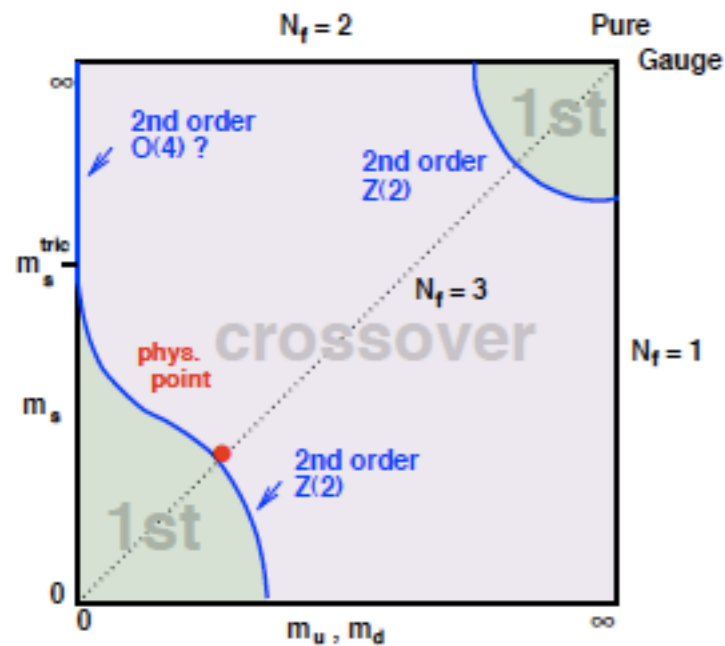
1 follow **vertical line**:  $m = m_{\text{phys}}$ , turn on  $\mu$

2 follow **critical surface**:  $m = m_{\text{crit}}(\mu)$

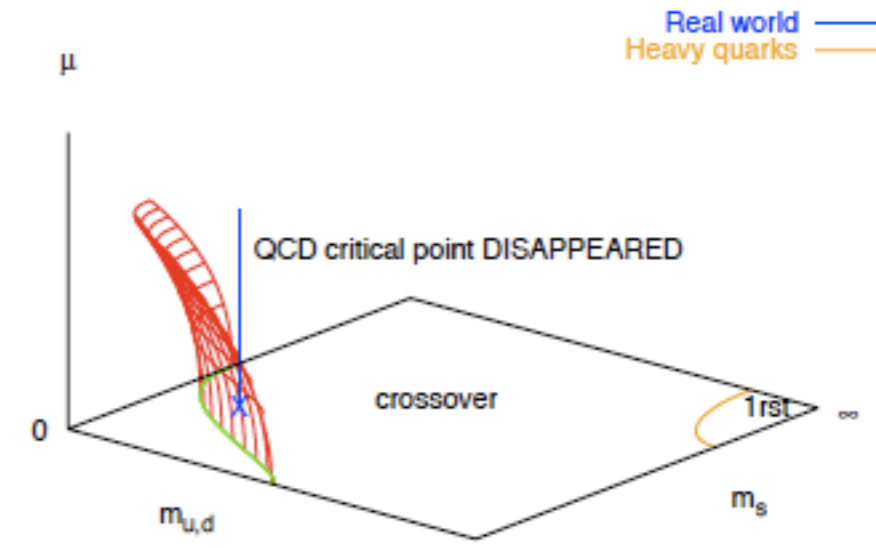
**Approach 1**: some signals (reweighting, extrapolated Taylor series, canonical) systematics not yet controlled !

Fodor, Katz; Gavai, Gupta; Alexandru, Liu

# Approach 2: curvature of chiral critical surface



$c_1 > 0$



$c_1 < 0$

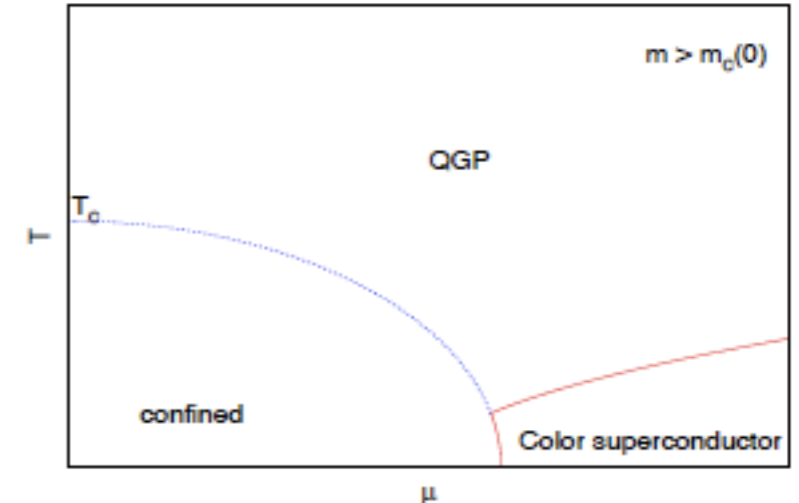
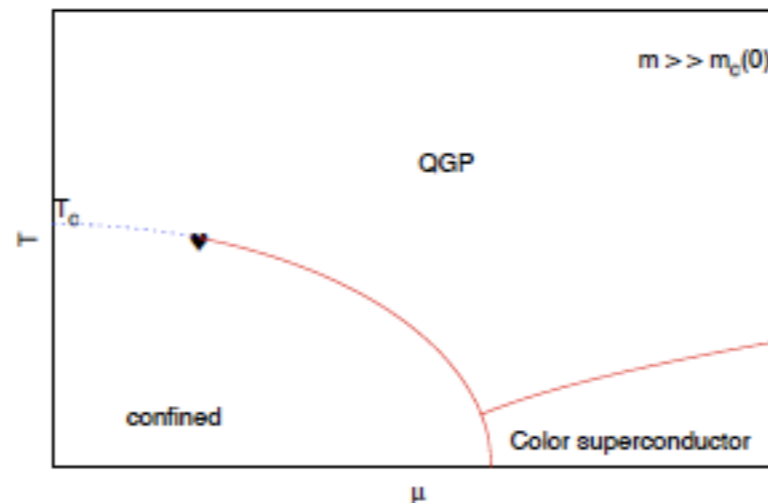
• : critical quark mass  $m_c$  for  $N_f = 3$

## Possible scenarios:

existence and location of chiral critical end-point determined by

- distance phys. point – crit. surface
- curvature crit. surface,  $c_1$

$$\frac{m_c(\mu)}{m_c(0)} = 1 + c_1 \left(\frac{\mu}{\pi T}\right)^2 + c_2 \left(\frac{\mu}{\pi T}\right)^4 + \dots$$

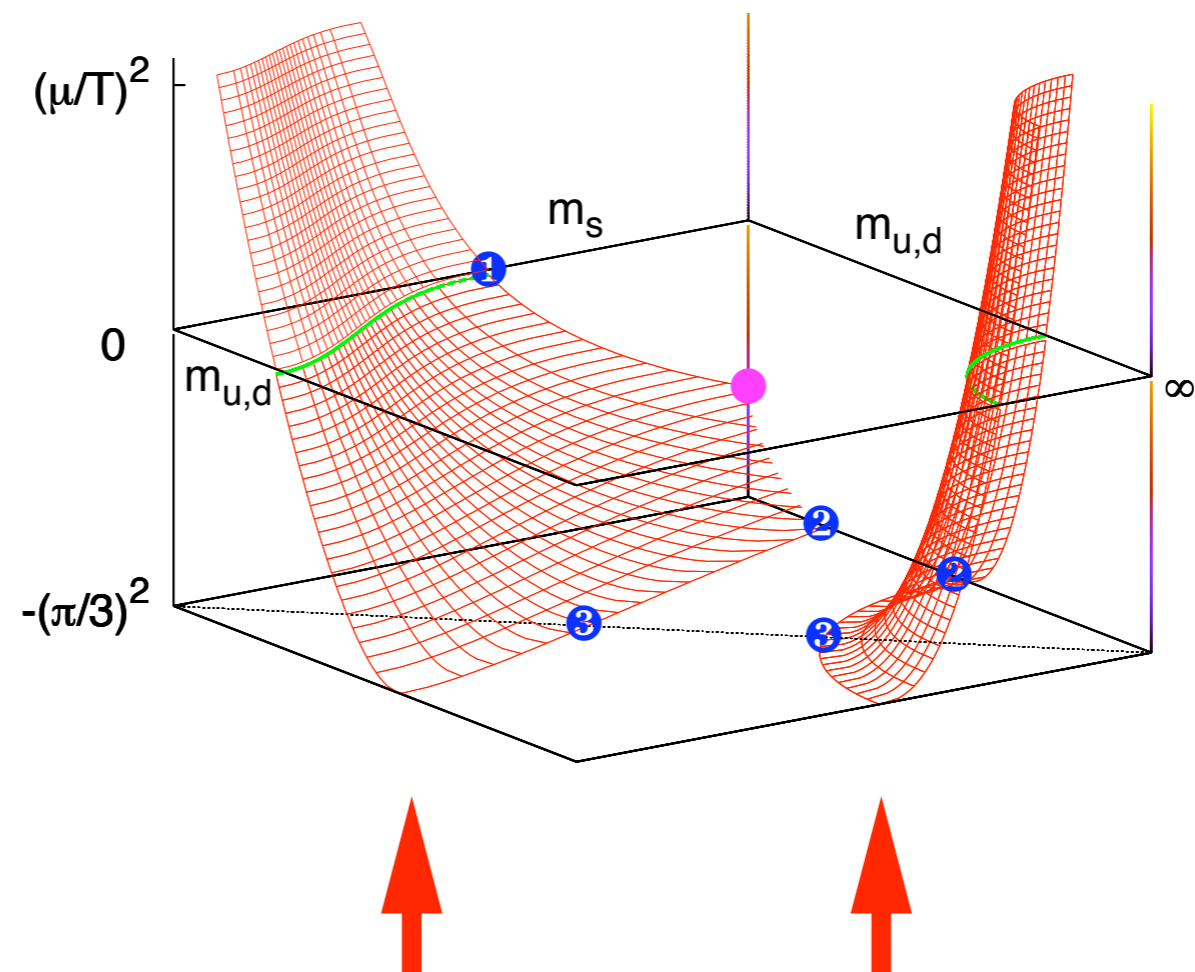


# Chiral and deconfinement critical surfaces

Real chemical potential:  
sign problem

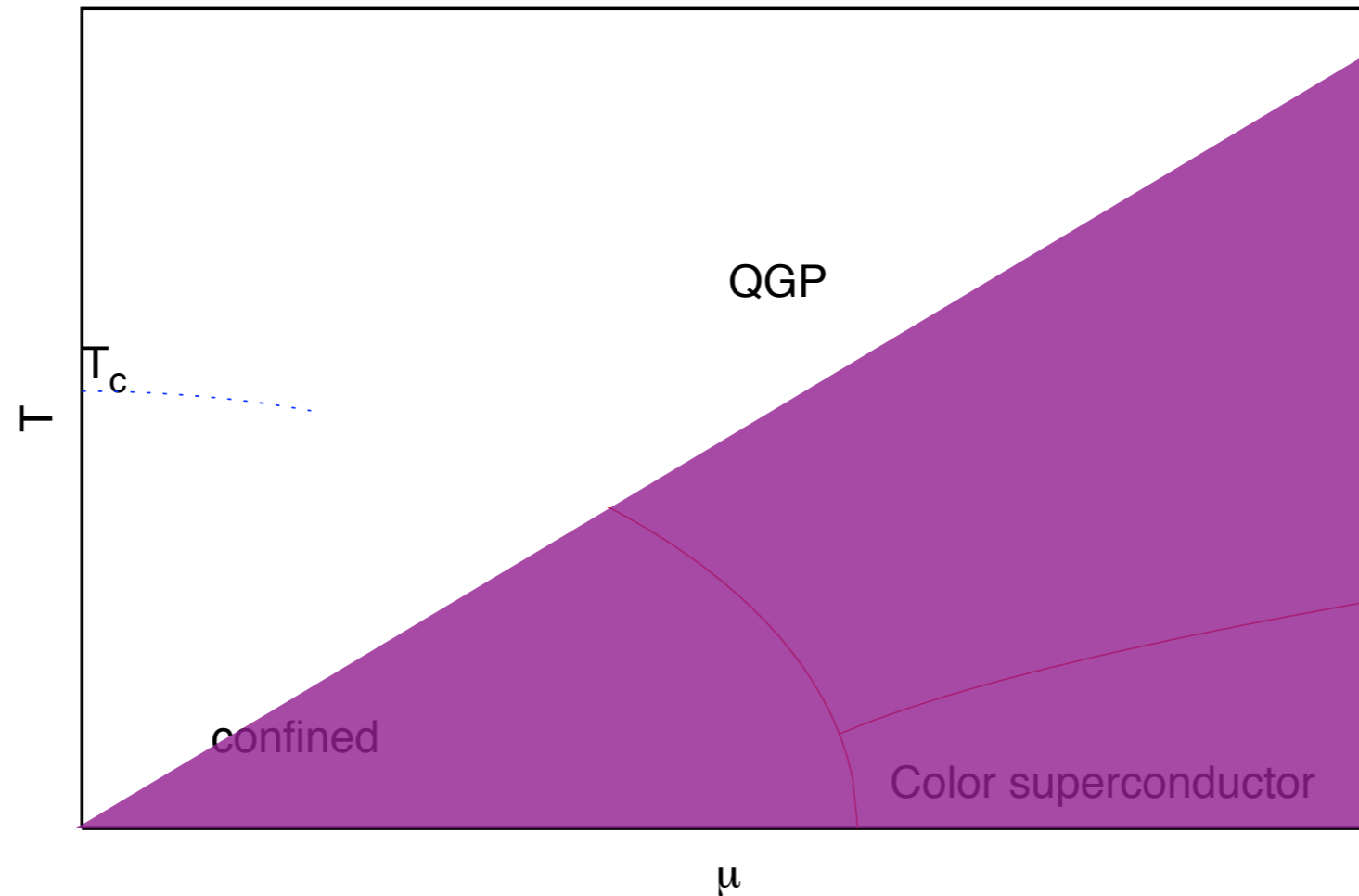
Imaginary chemical potential:  
no sign problem!

de Forcrand, O.P.  
D'Elia, Lombardo  
Bonati, D'Elia, Sanfillippo  
...



shape, sign of curvatures determined by tricritical scaling!

# The lattice-calculable region of the phase diagram



- Sign problem prohibits direct simulation, circumvented by approximate methods: reweighting, Taylor expansion, imaginary chem. pot., need  $\mu/T \lesssim 1$  ( $\mu = \mu_B/3$ )
- No critical point in the controllable region, some signals beyond

# New computational avenues in Lattice QCD:

*“(Wall)Time is Money (CPU hrs)”*

CPU



GPU

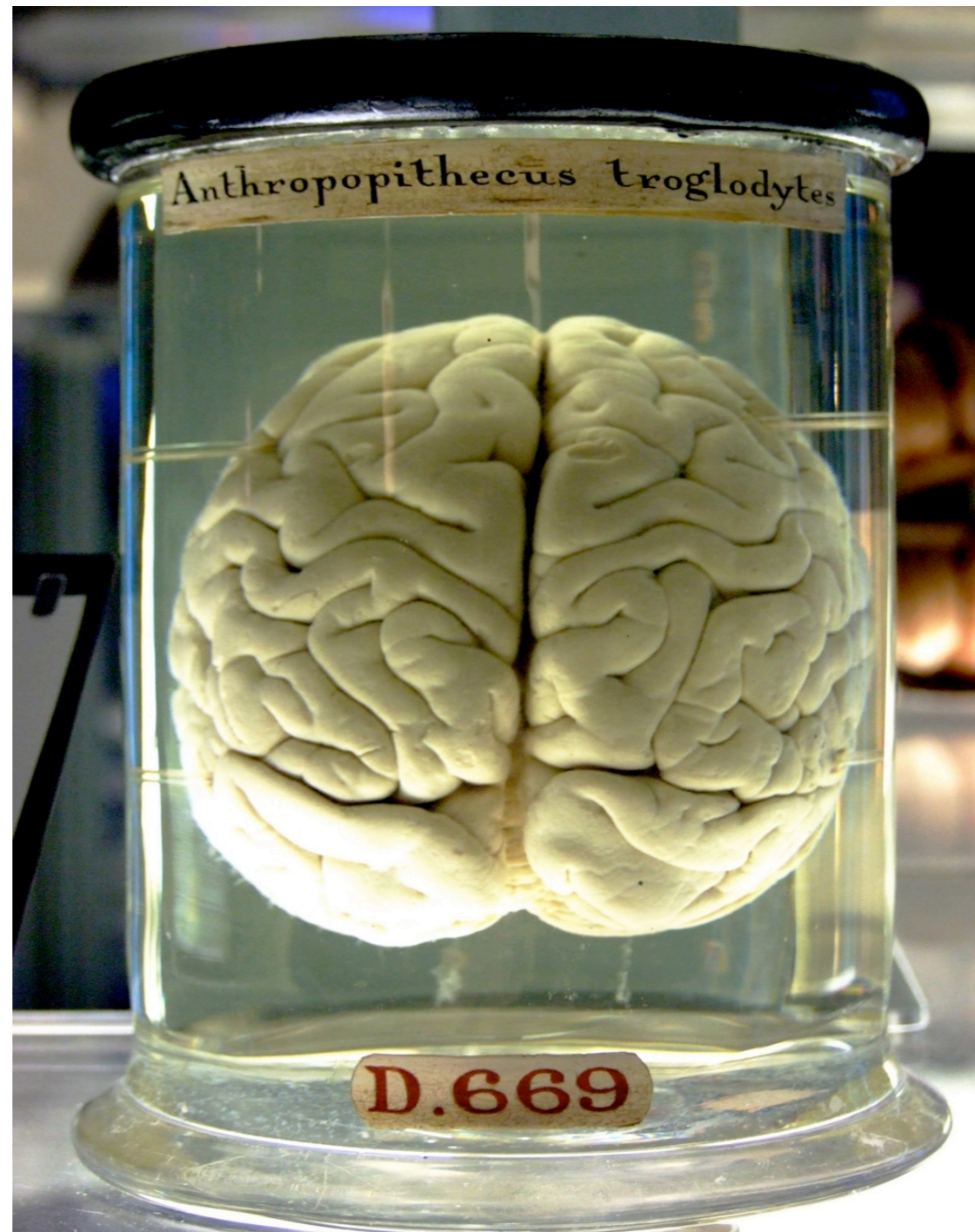


Here, very old-fashioned approach:

**BPU!**



# Biological Processing Unit!



# The effective lattice theory approach

with M. Fromm, J. Langelage, S. Lottini, M. Neuman

- Two-step treatment:

- I. Calculate effective theory analytically

- II. Simulate effective theory

- Step I.: split temporal and spatial link integrations:

$$Z = \int DU_0 DU_i \det Q e^{S_g[U]} \equiv \int DU_0 e^{-S_{eff}[U_0]} = \int DL e^{-S_{eff}[L]}$$

Spatial integration after analytic strong coupling and hopping expansion

- Result: 3d spin model of QCD

- Step II: sign problem milder: Monte Carlo, complex Langevin

- Numerical simulations in 3d without fermion matrix inversion, **very cheap!**

# Effective one-coupling theory for SU(3) YM

- Leading order graph in case of  $N_\tau = 4$ :

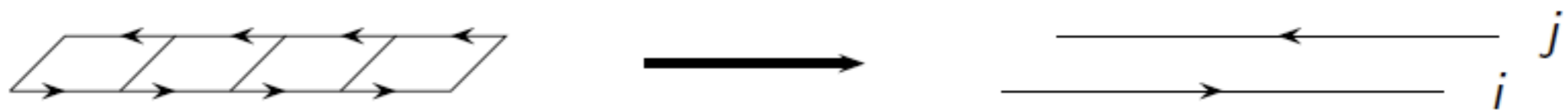


Figure: 4 plaquettes in fundamental representation lead to a 2 Polyakov loop interaction term

- Integration of spatial link variables leads to

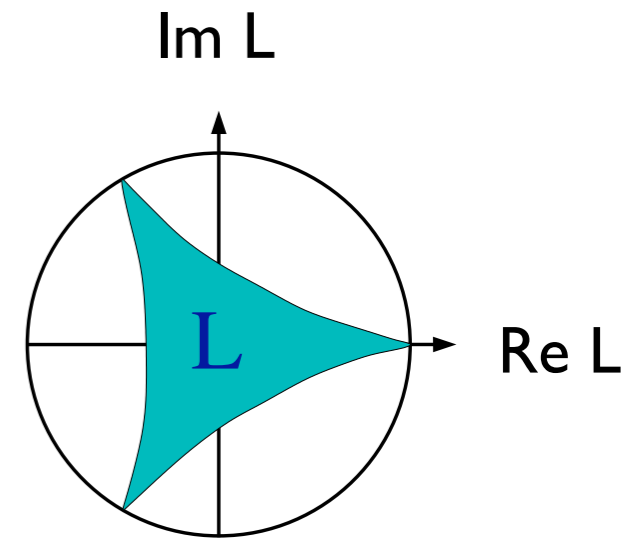
$$-S_1 = u^{N_\tau} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \text{tr } W_i \text{tr } W_j$$

- Possible generalizations: larger distance, higher dimensional representations, larger number of loops involved, ...
- *Here*: Decorate LO graph with additional spatial and temporal plaquettes

# Effective one-coupling theory for SU(3) YM

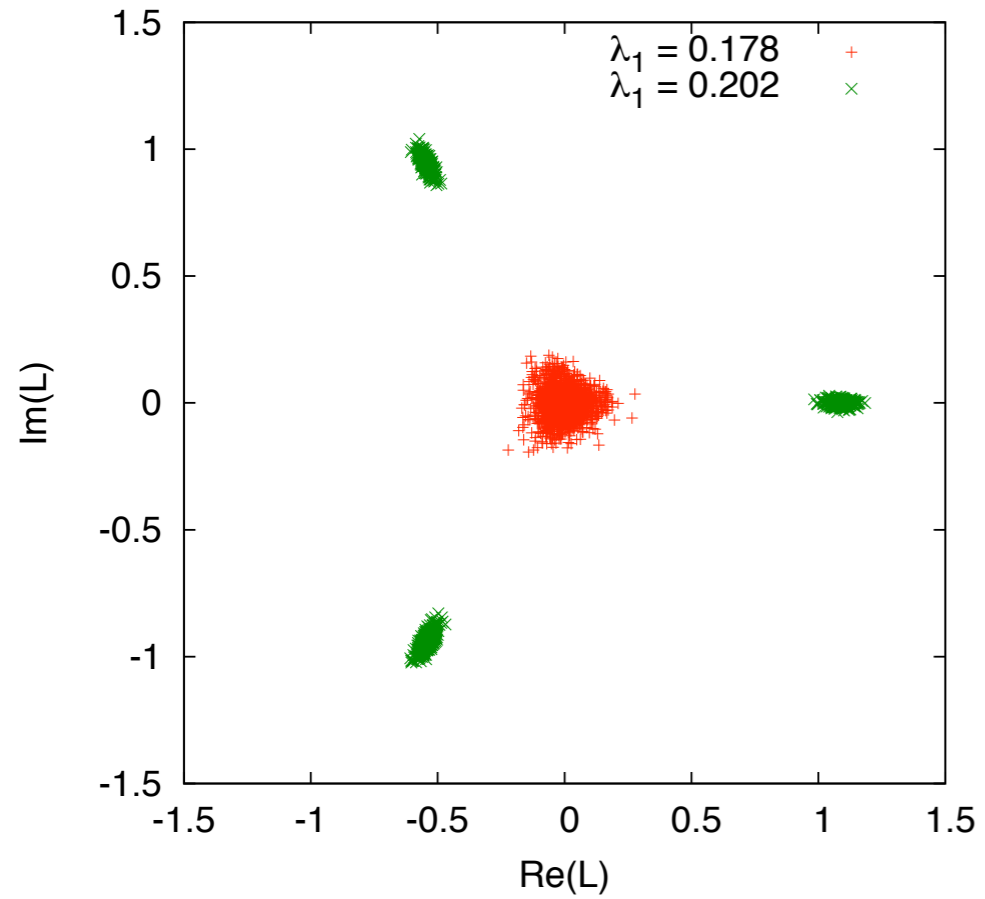
( $L = \text{Tr } W$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z &= \int [dL] \exp [-S_1 + V_{SU(3)}] \\
 &= \int [dL] \prod_{\langle ij \rangle} \left[ 1 + 2\lambda_1 \text{Re}(L_i L_j^*) \right] * \\
 &\quad * \prod_i \sqrt{27 - 18|L_i|^2 + 8\text{Re}L_i^3 - |L_i|^4}
 \end{aligned}$$

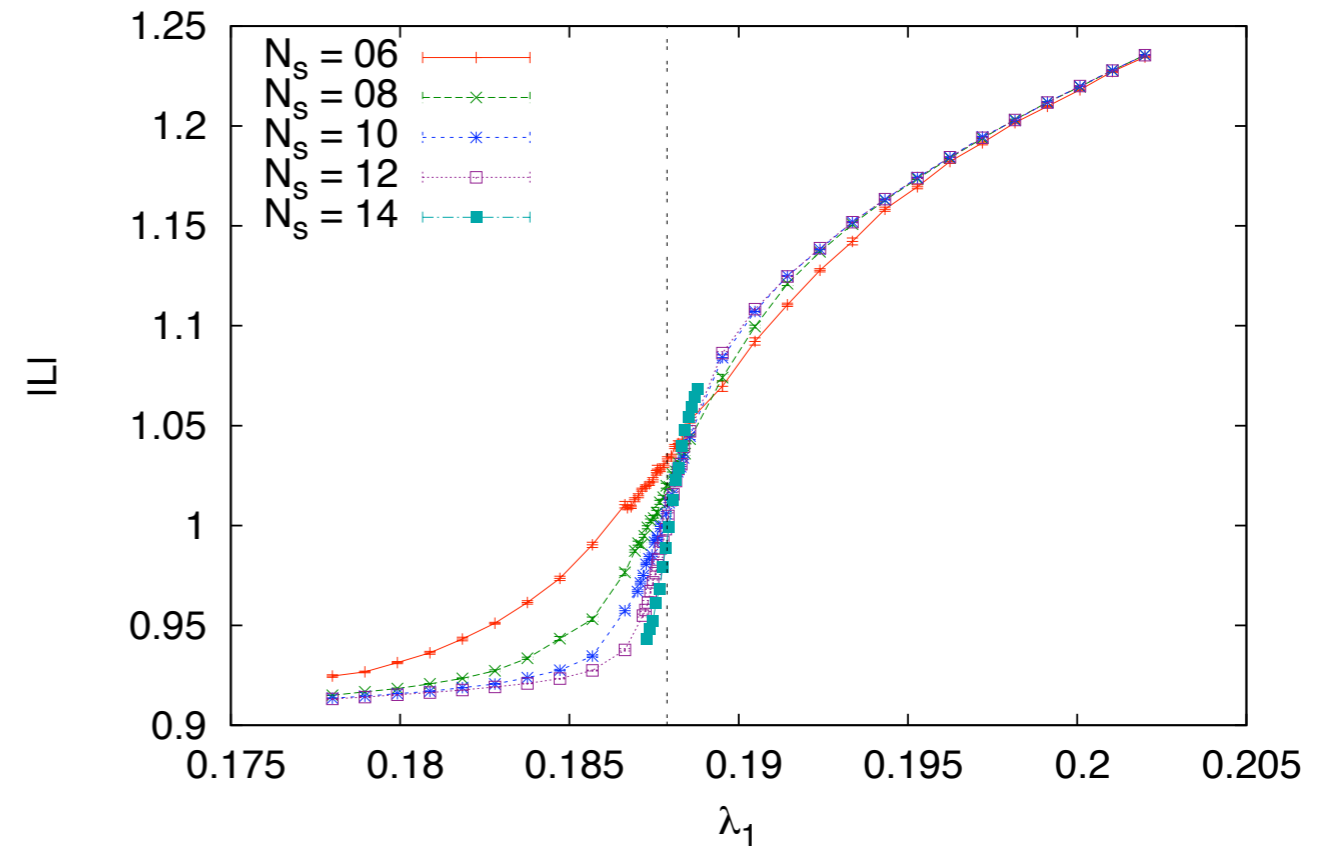


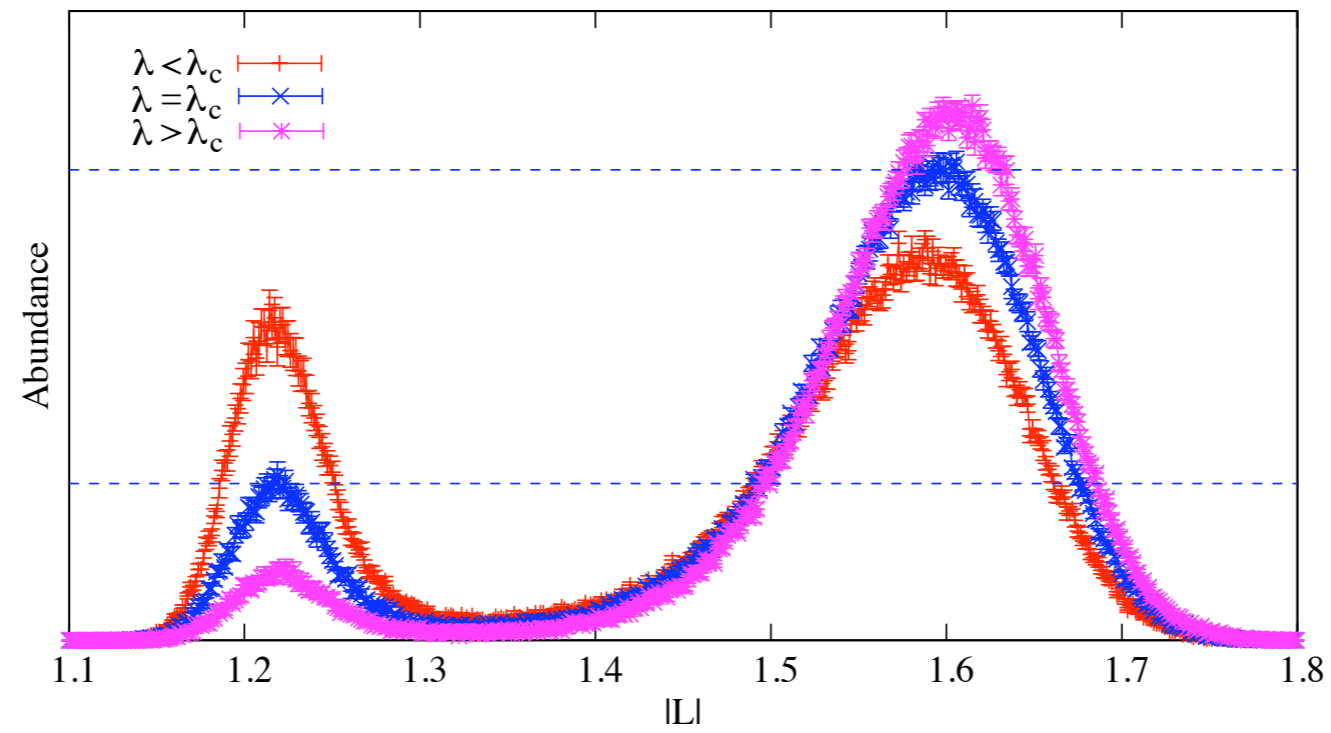
$$\lambda(u, N_\tau \geq 5) = u^{N_\tau} \exp \left[ N_\tau \left( 4u^4 + 12u^5 - 14u^6 - 36u^7 + \frac{295}{2}u^8 + \frac{1851}{10}u^9 + \frac{1055797}{5120}u^{10} \right) \right]$$

# Numerical results for SU(3)



Order-disorder transition



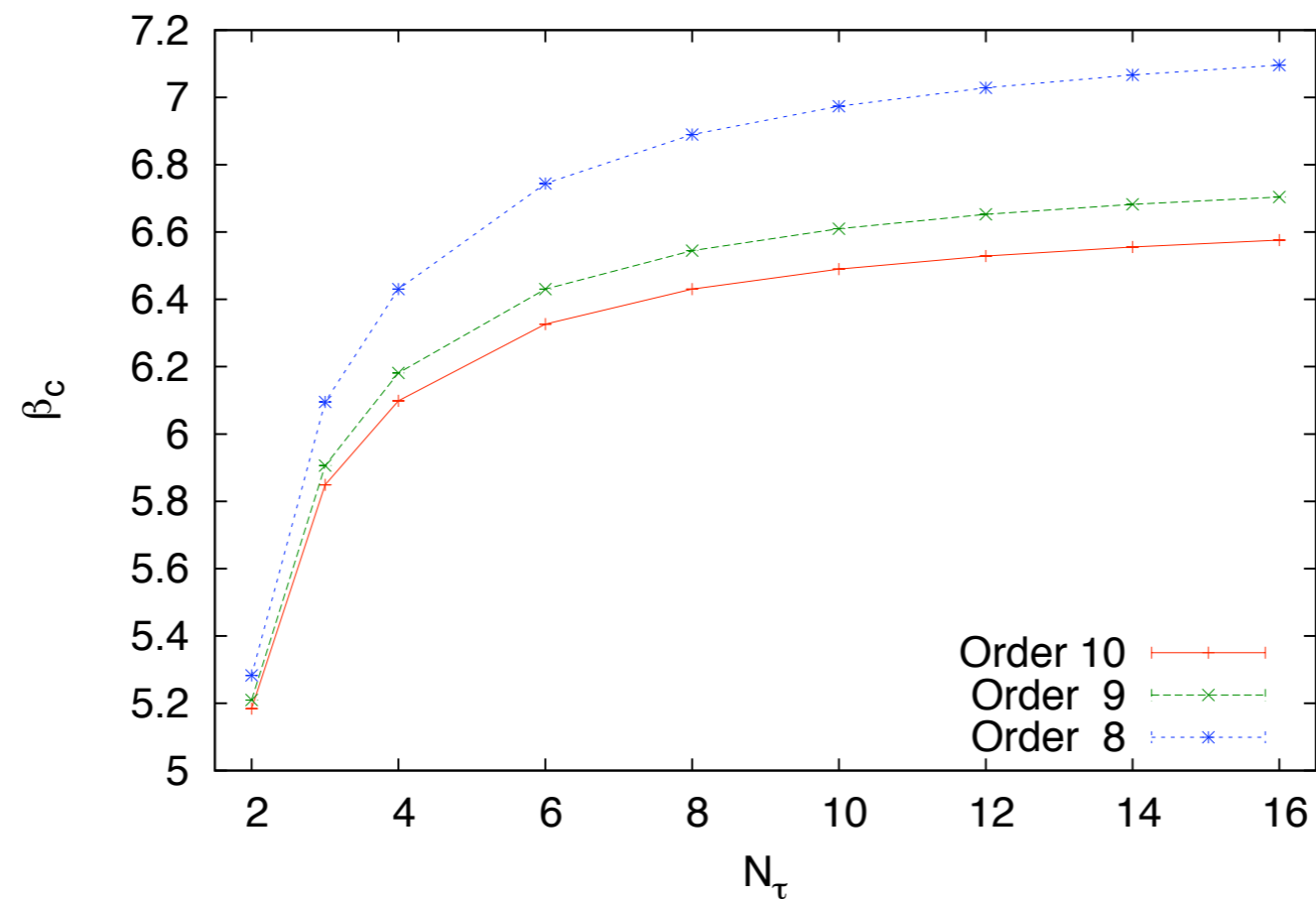


First order phase transition for SU(3) in the thermodynamic limit!

# Mapping back to 4d finite T Yang-Mills

Inverting

$$\lambda_1(N_\tau, \beta) \rightarrow \beta_c(\lambda_{1,c}, N_\tau) \quad \dots \text{points at reasonable convergence}$$



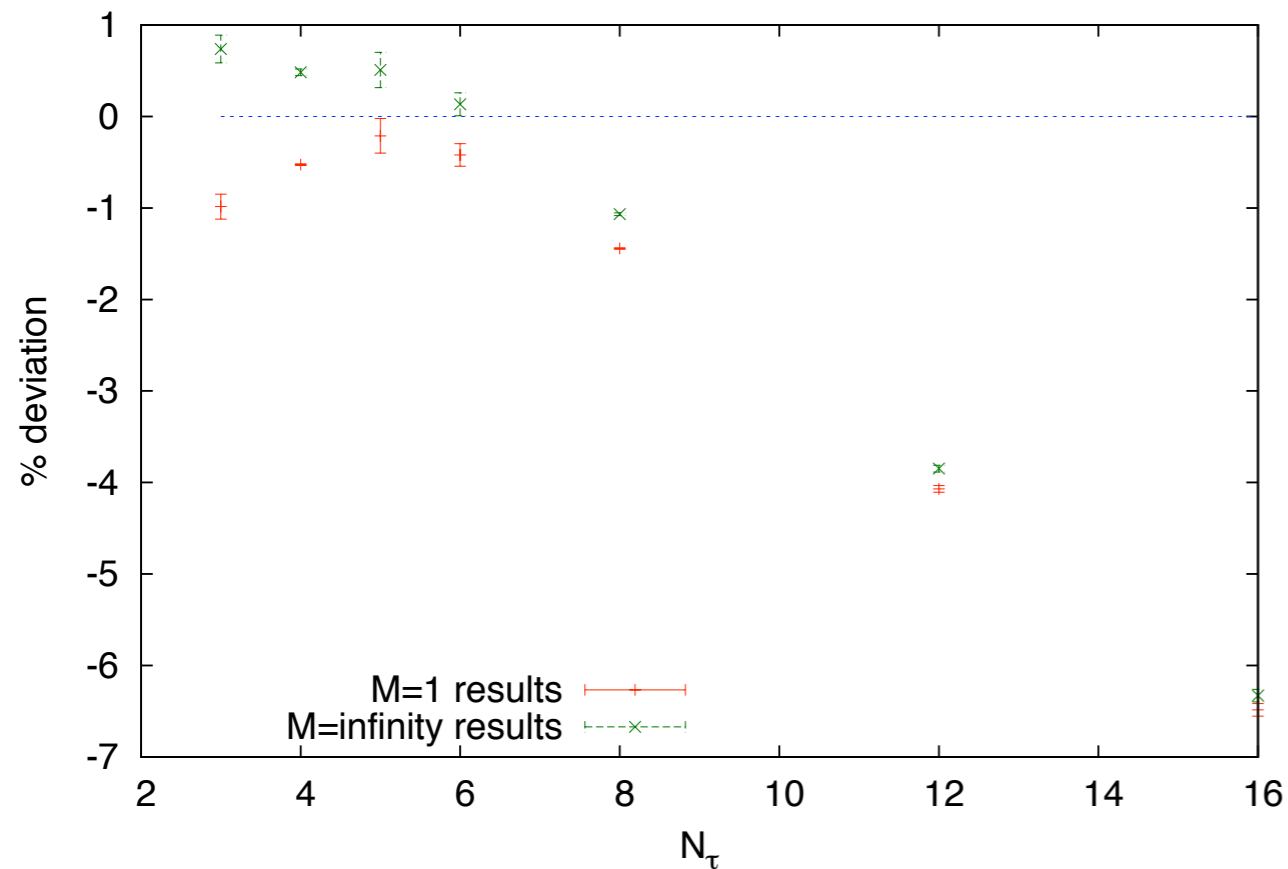
SU(3)



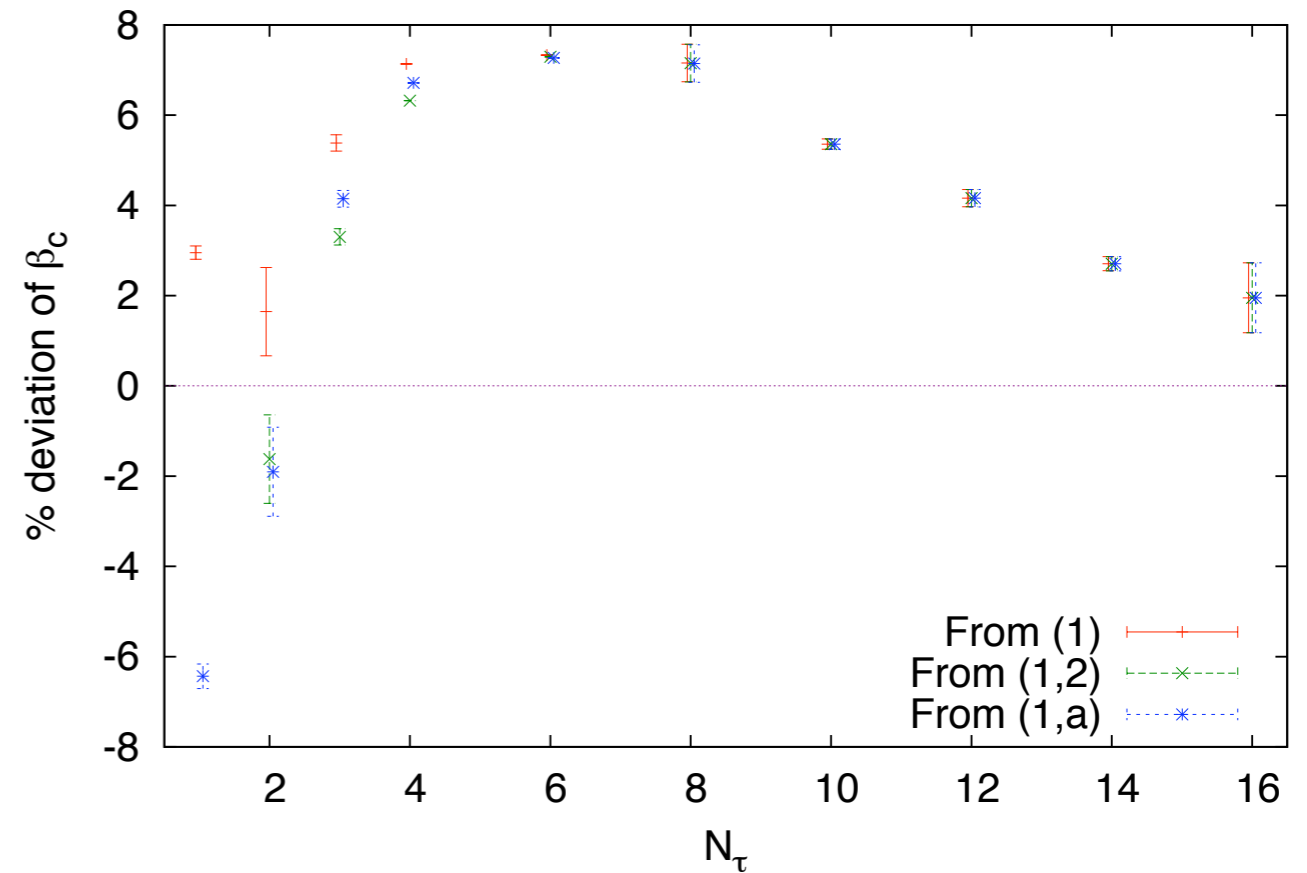
# Comparison with 4d Monte Carlo

Relative accuracy for  $\beta_c$  compared to the full theory

SU(2)



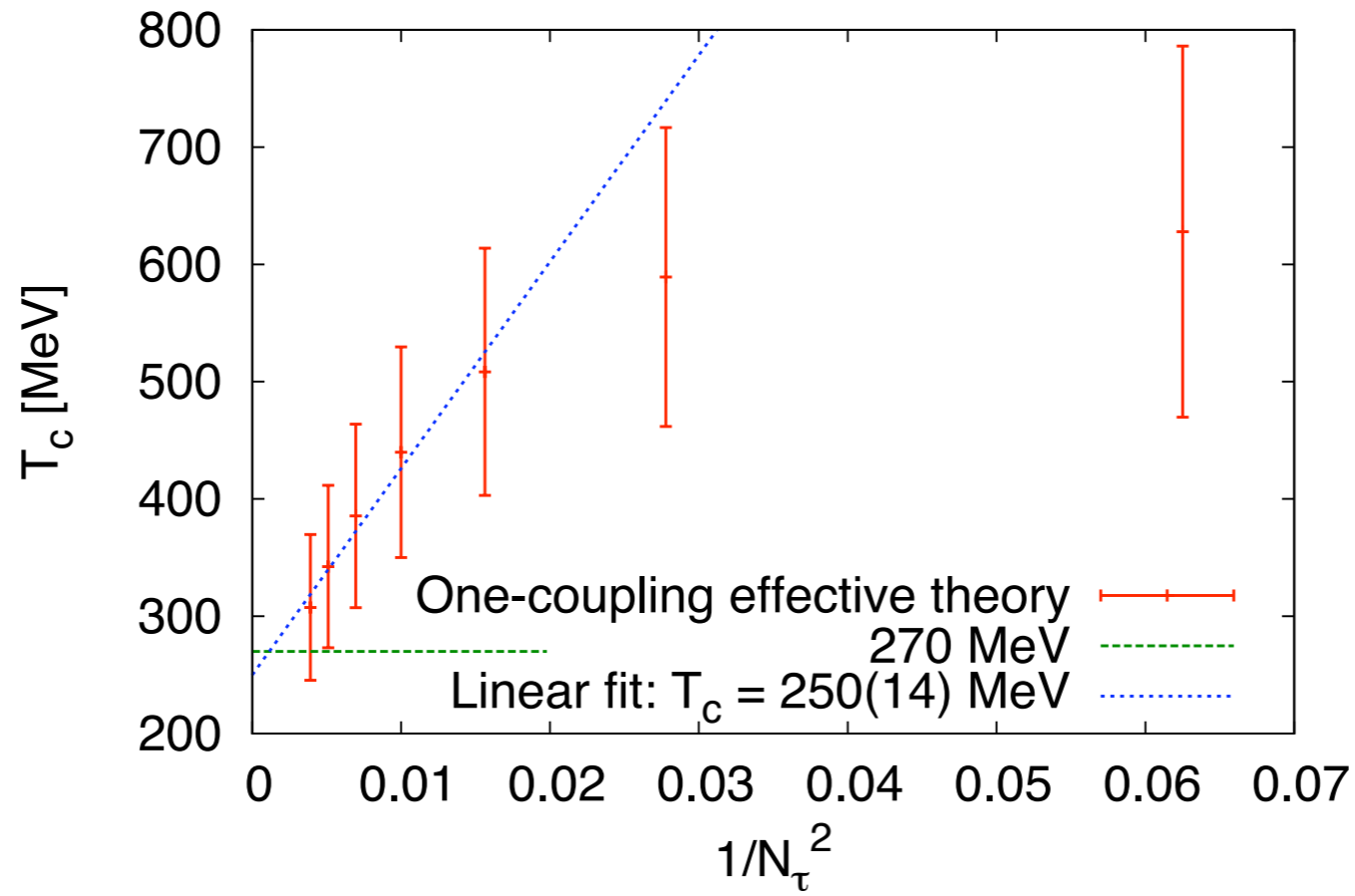
SU(3)



Note: influence of additional couplings checked explicitly!



# Continuum limit feasible!



-error bars: difference between last two orders in strong coupling exp.

-using non-perturbative beta-function (4d T=0 lattice)

-all data points from one single 3d MC simulation!

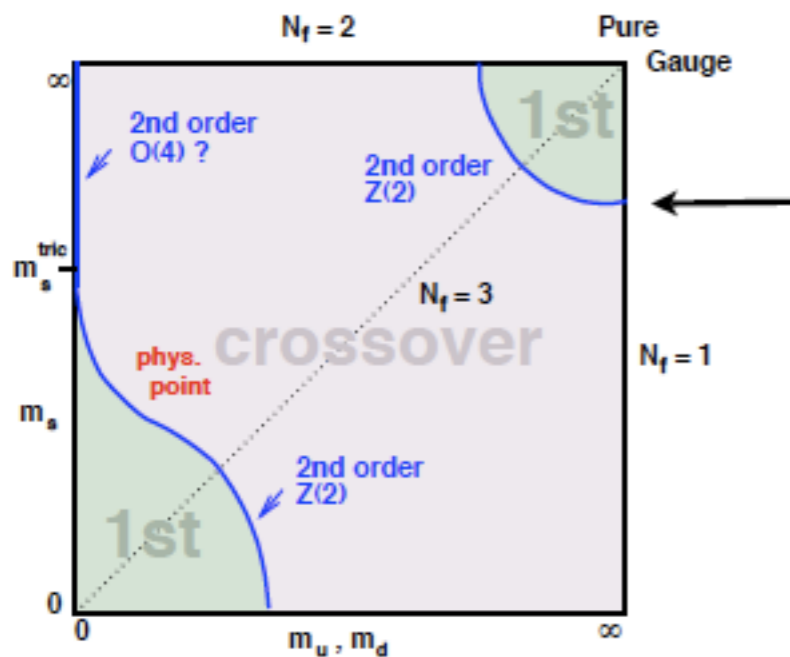
# Including heavy, dynamical Wilson fermions

Expand in the *hopping parameter*  $\kappa = 1/(2aM + 8)$ :

$$-\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}} = \sum_i \lambda_i(u, \kappa, N_\tau) S_i^S - 2N_f \sum_i \left[ h_i(u, \kappa, \mu, N_\tau) S_i^A + \bar{h}_i(u, \kappa, \mu, N_\tau) S_i^{\dagger A} \right]$$

Now, keep only  $\lambda_1 S_1^S$  and  $h_1 S_1^A + \bar{h}_1 S_1^{\dagger A}$

NLO:  $\sim \kappa^2$

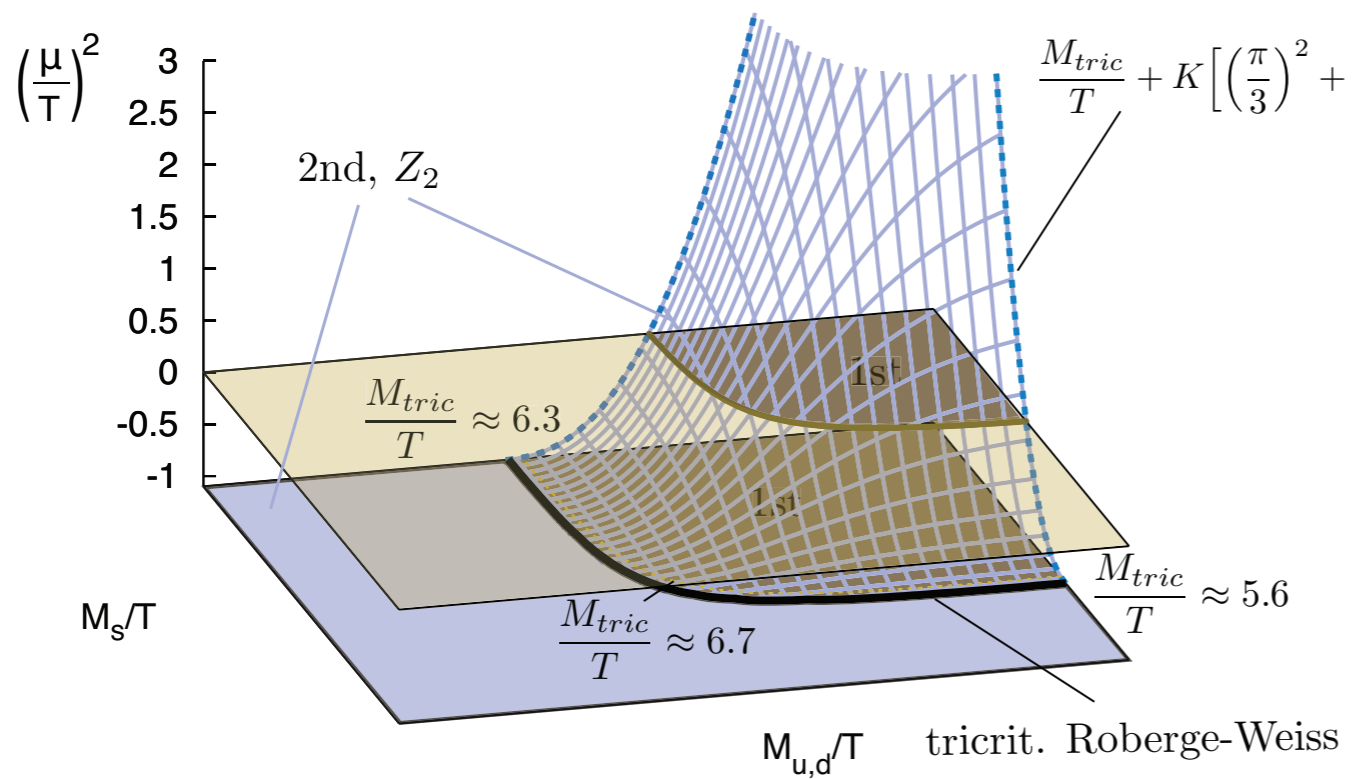


|       |         | eff. theory            | 4d MC, WHOT               | 4d MC, de Forcrand et al  |
|-------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| $N_f$ | $M_c/T$ | $\kappa_c(N_\tau = 4)$ | $\kappa_c(4)$ , Ref. [23] | $\kappa_c(4)$ , Ref. [22] |
| 1     | 7.22(5) | 0.0822(11)             | 0.0783(4)                 | $\sim 0.08$               |
| 2     | 7.91(5) | 0.0691( 9)             | 0.0658(3)                 | —                         |
| 3     | 8.32(5) | 0.0625( 9)             | 0.0595(3)                 | —                         |

Accuracy  $\sim 5\%$ , predictions for  $N_f=6,8,\dots$  available!

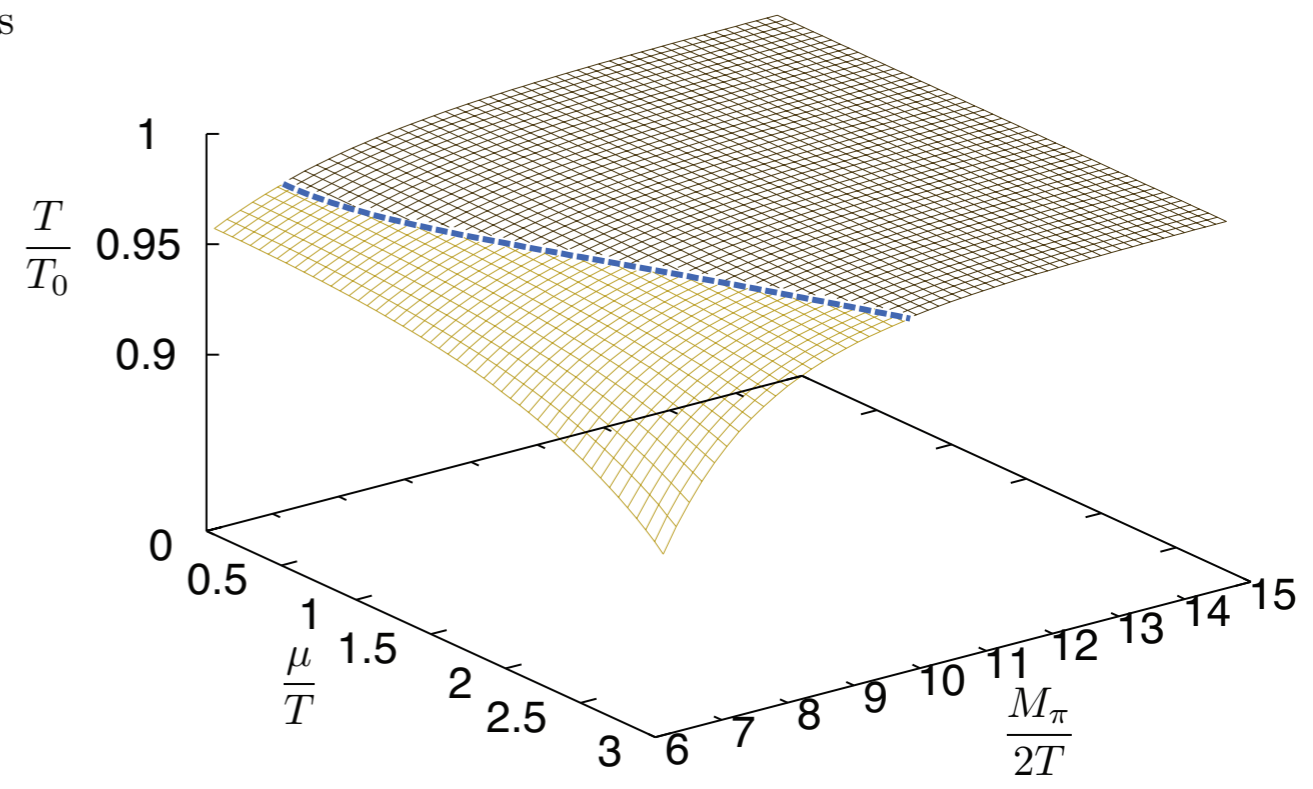
# The deconfinement transition at all densities

Metropolis algorithm,  
Complex Langevin



deconfinement critical surface

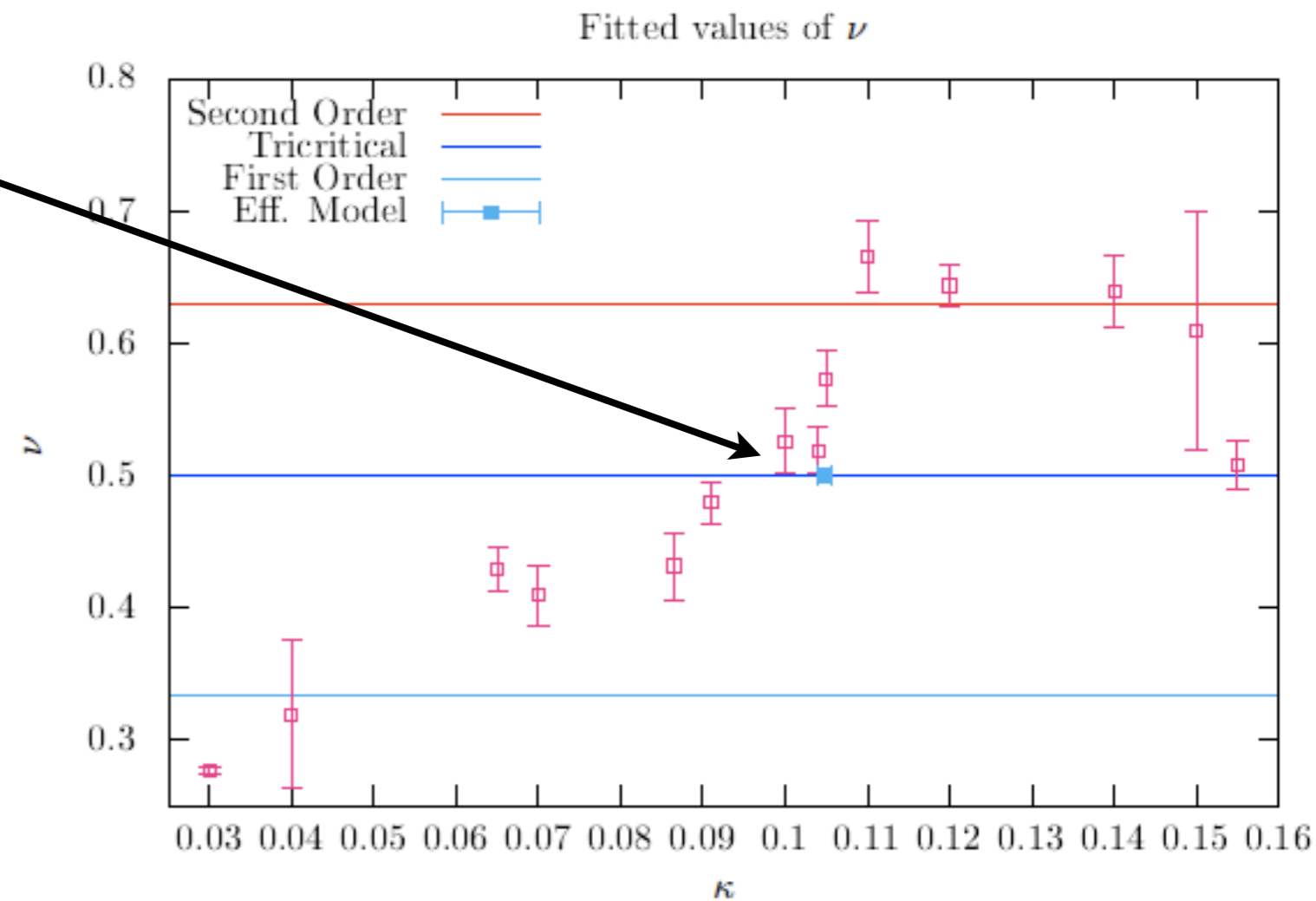
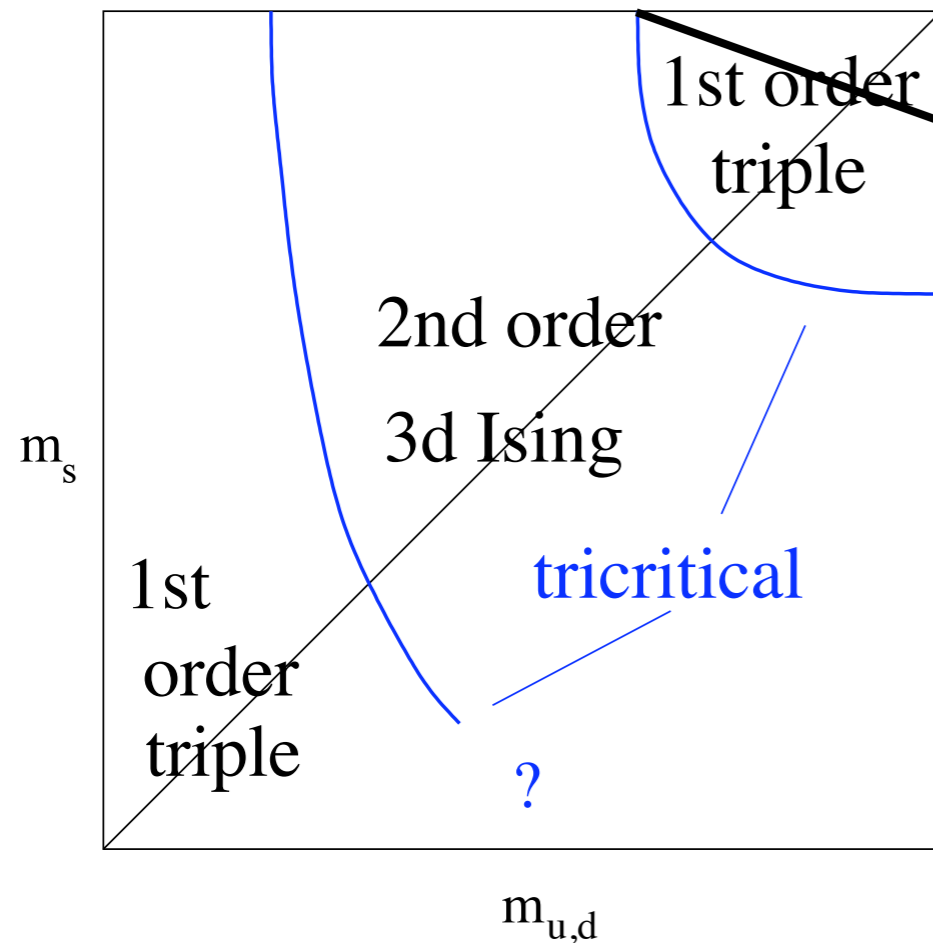
phase diagram for  $N_f=2, N_t=6$



# Roberge-Weiss transition, eff. th. against full 4d

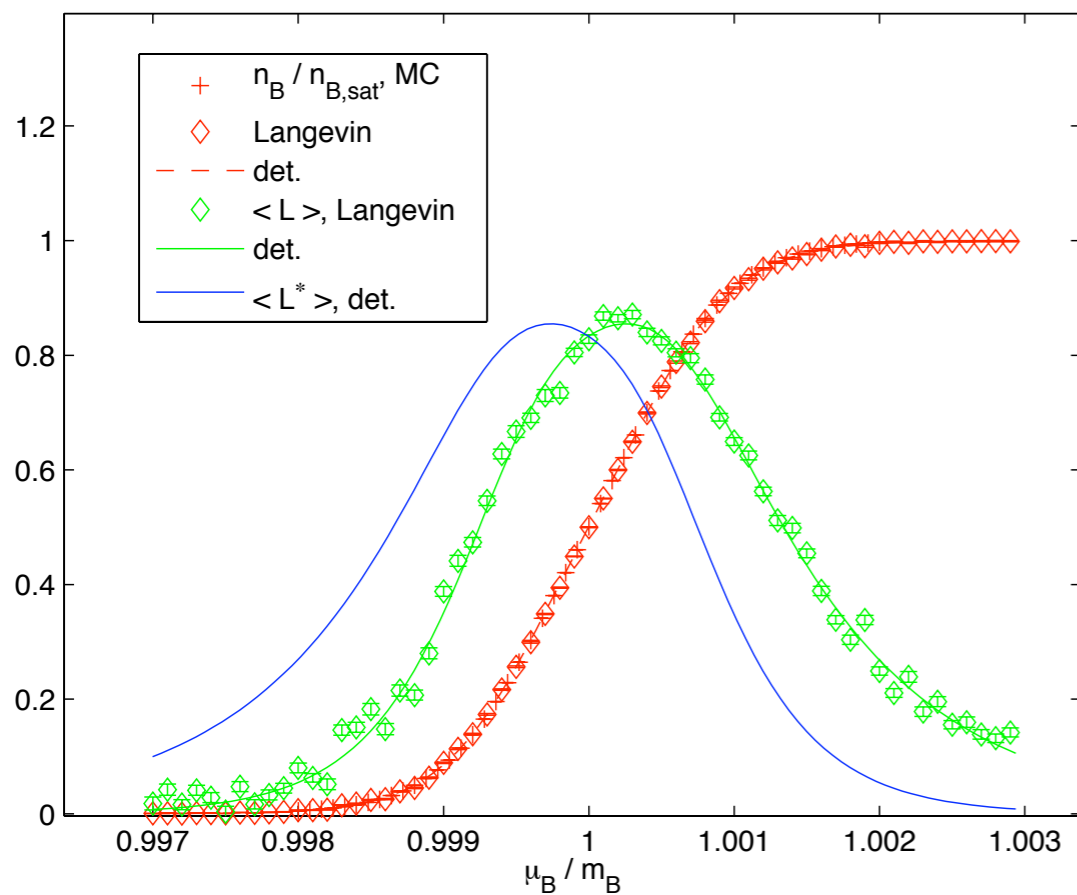
Pinke, O.P. 14

critical exponent distinguishes order of p.t.



$$\mu = i \frac{\pi T}{3}$$

# Cold and dense heavy QCD



$$m_\pi = 20 \text{ GeV}, T = 10 \text{ MeV}, a = 0.17 \text{ fm}$$

$$\beta = 5.7, \kappa = 0.0000887, N_\tau = 116$$

“Silver blaze” property  
+ lattice saturation (Pauli principle)

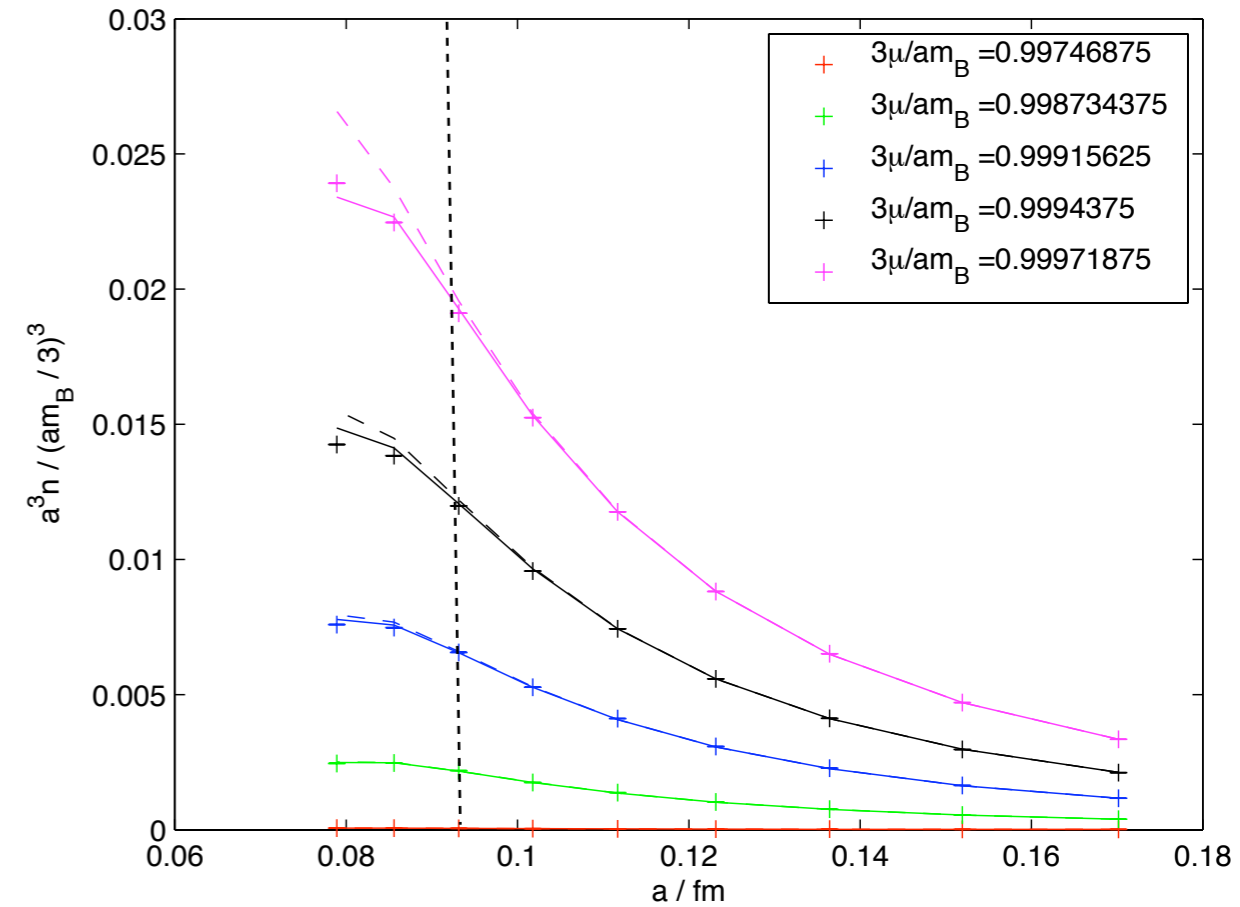
Analytic strong coupling soln. valid!

$$\lambda(\beta = 5.7, N_\tau = 115) \sim 10^{-27}$$

# Continuum extrapolation

Scaling with lattice spacing:

$$\frac{n_{\text{lat}}(\mu)}{m_B^3} = \frac{n_{\text{cont}}(\mu)}{m_B^3} + A(\mu)a + B(\mu)a^2 + \dots$$



Solid/dashed lines: analytic strong coupling limit with/without  $\mathcal{O}(\kappa^2)$  :

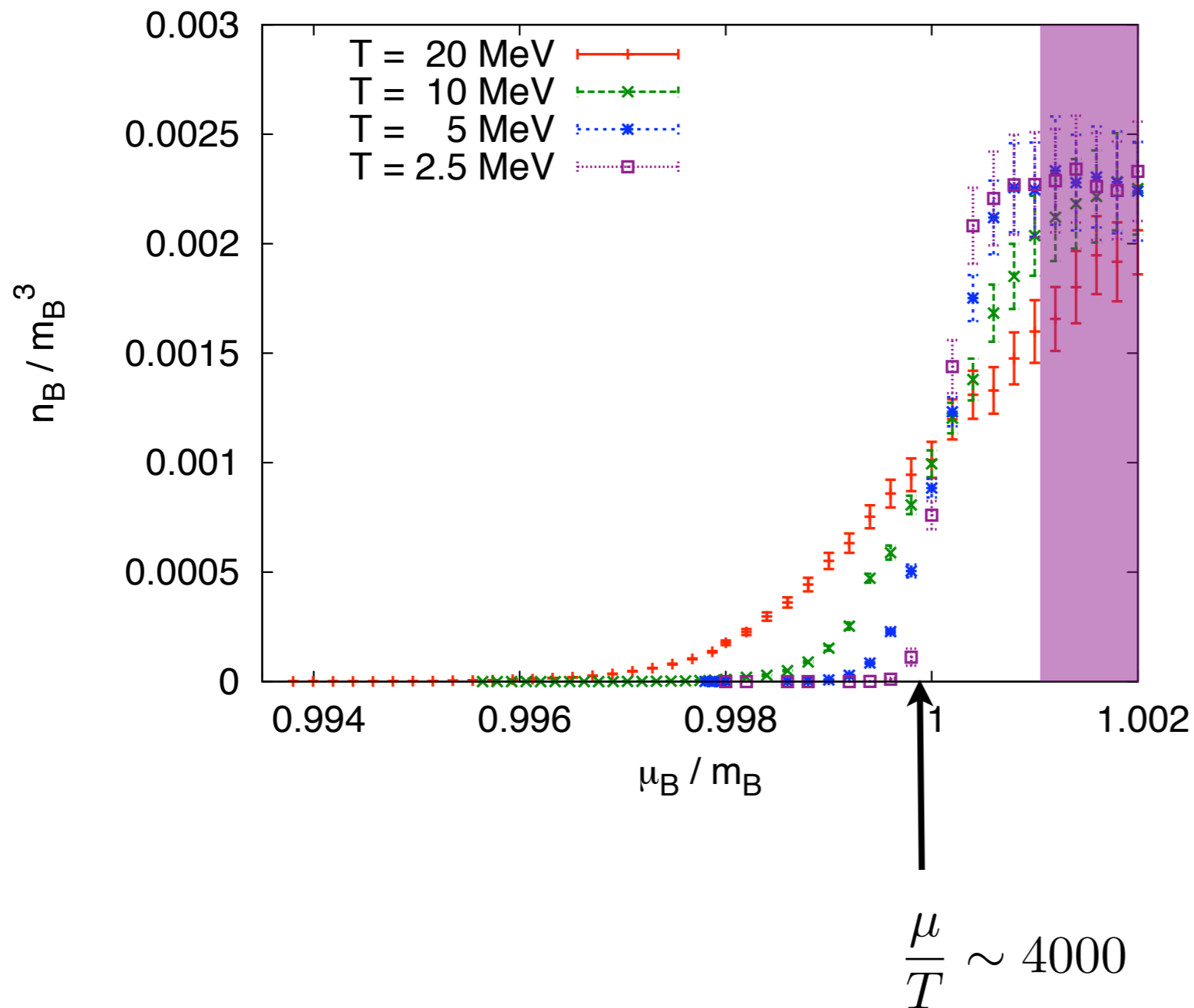
Breakdown of hopping series!

# Onset transition to cold nuclear matter

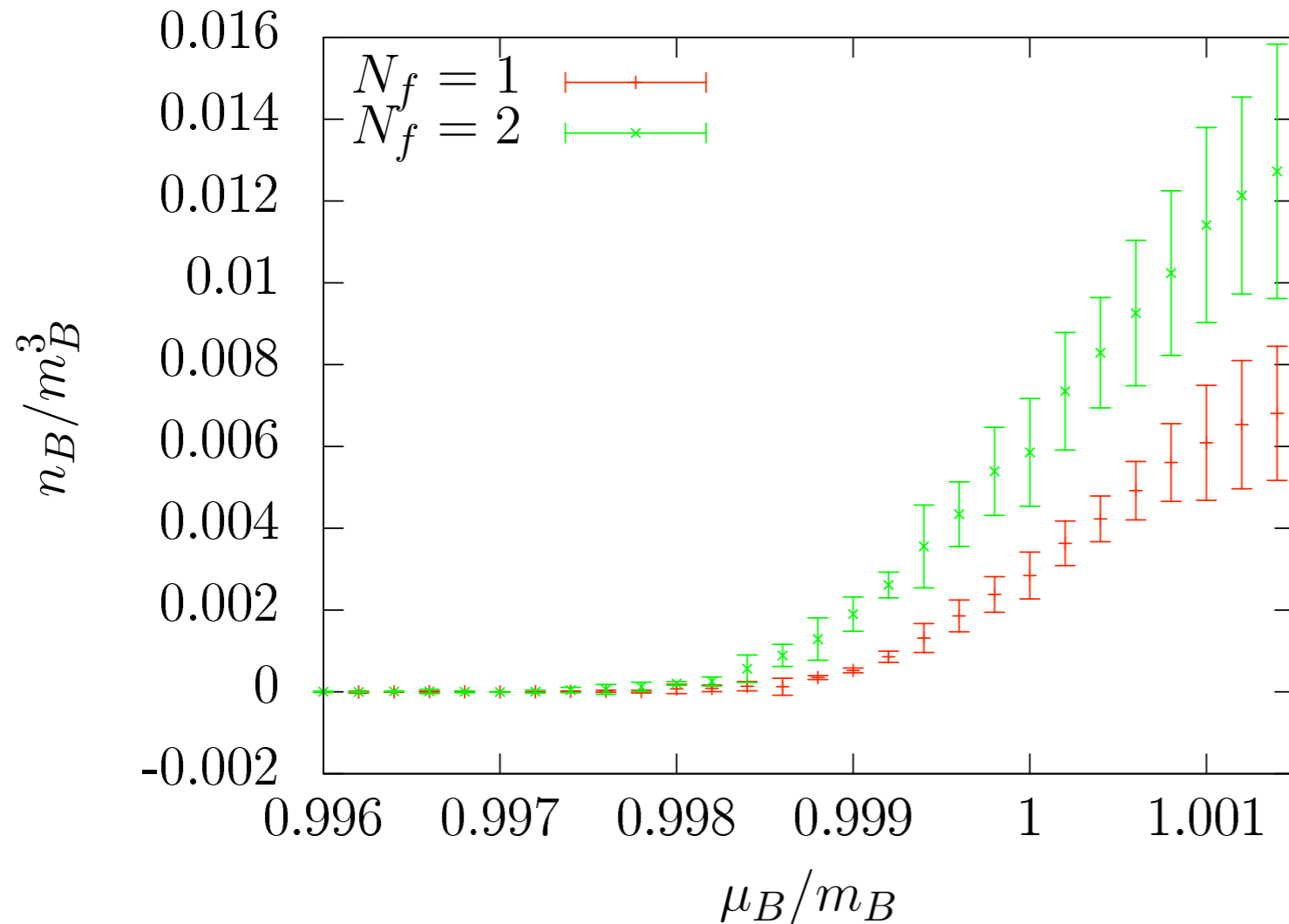
PRL 13

... with very heavy quarks  $m_\pi = 20 \text{ GeV}$

continuum limit with 5-7 lattice spacings per point



# The equation of state for nuclear matter



$$S_{eff} \sim \kappa^n u^m, \quad n + m = 4$$

$$m_\pi = 20 \text{ GeV}, T = 10 \text{ MeV}$$

Effect of binding between baryons:

$$\mu_c < m_B$$

Binding energy per nucleon:

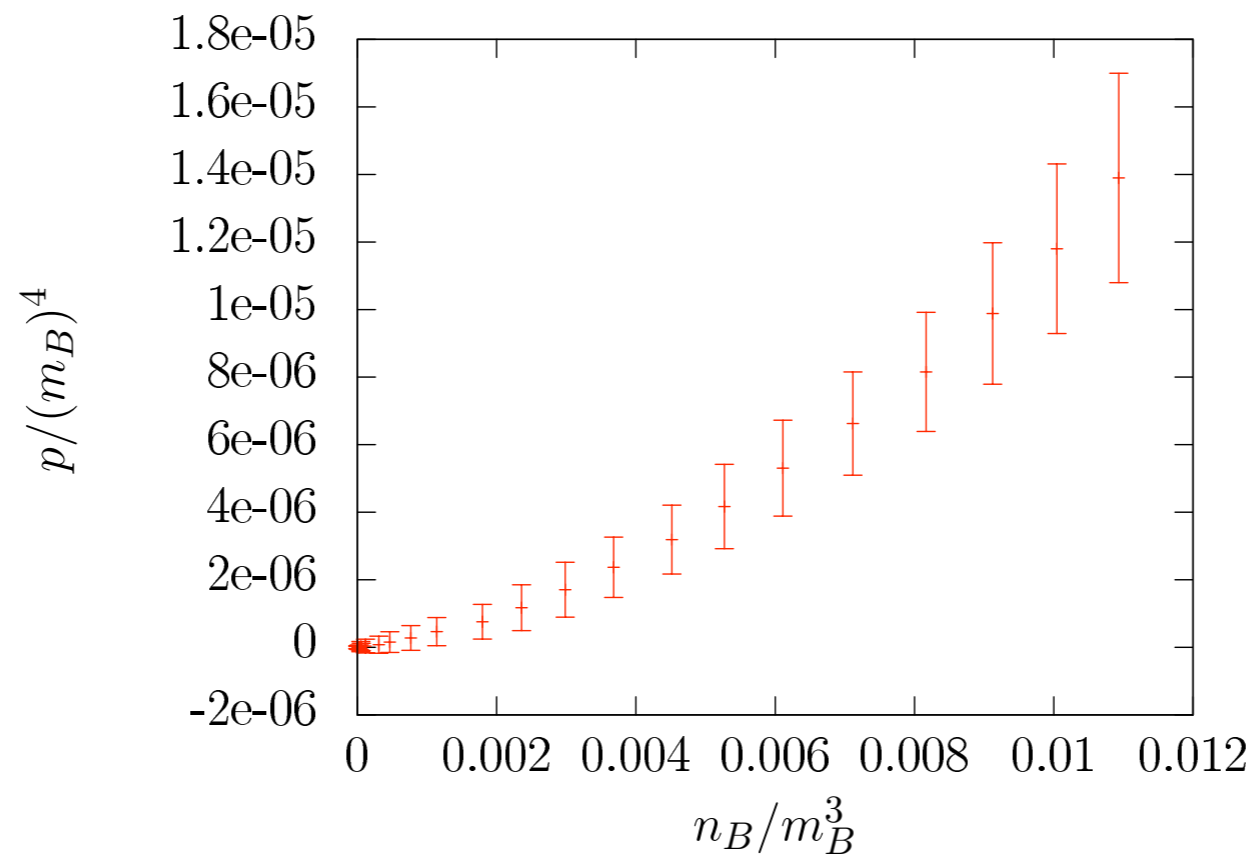
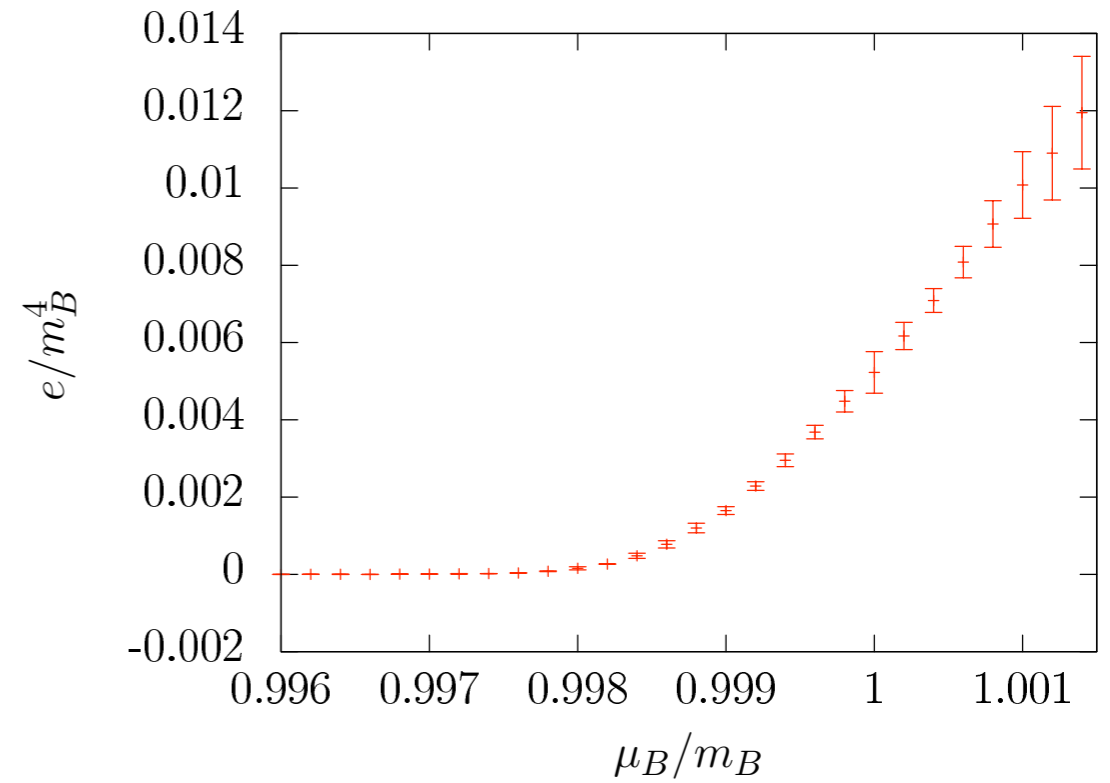
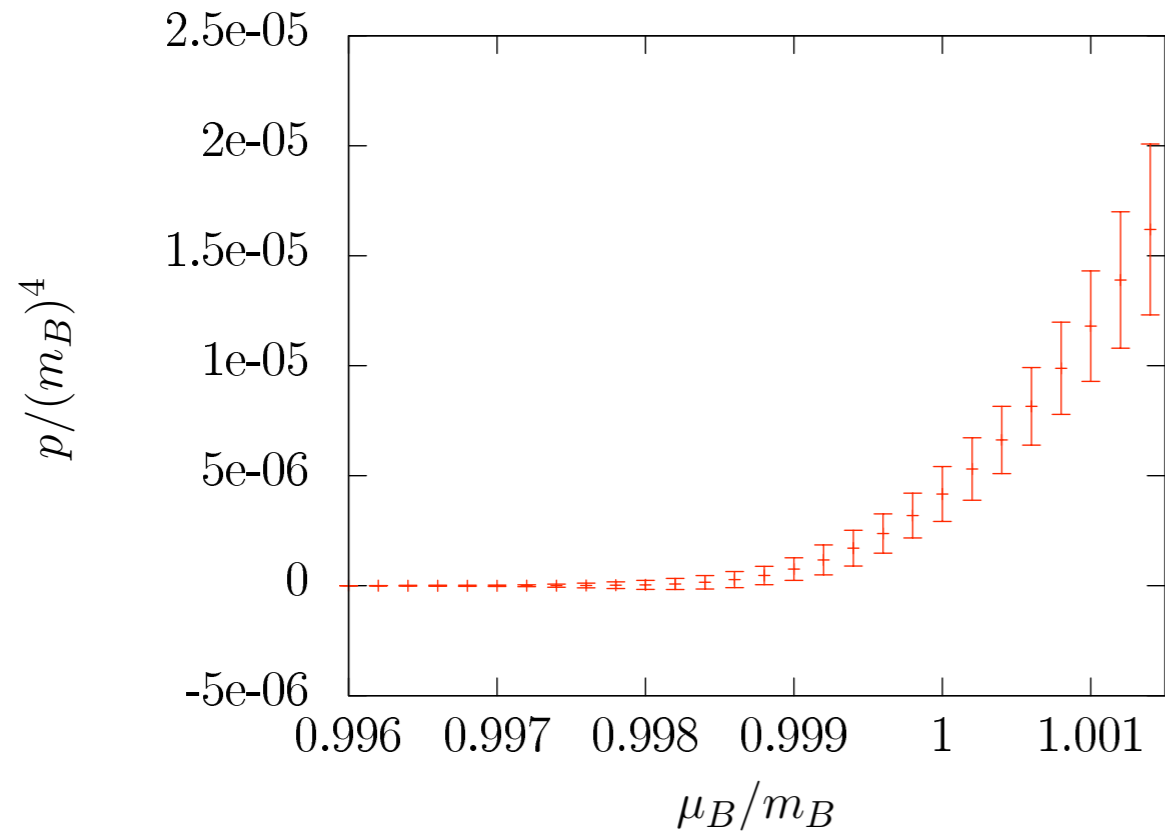
$$\epsilon = \frac{\mu_c - m_B}{m_B} \sim 10^{-3}$$

Transition is smooth crossover:

$$T > T_c \sim \epsilon m_B$$

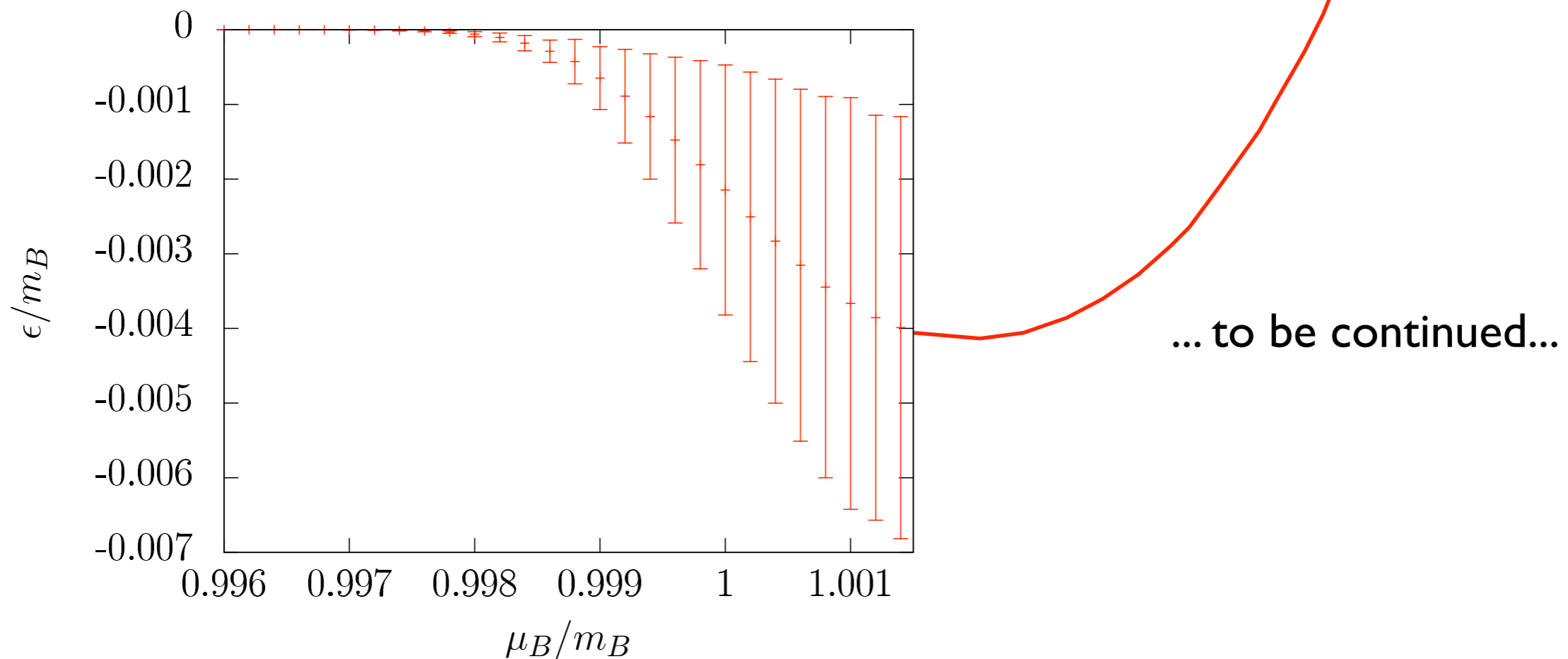


# The equation of state for nuclear matter, $N_f=2$



# Binding energy per nucleon

$$\epsilon = \frac{e - n_B m_B}{n_B m_B} = \frac{e}{n_B m_B} - 1$$



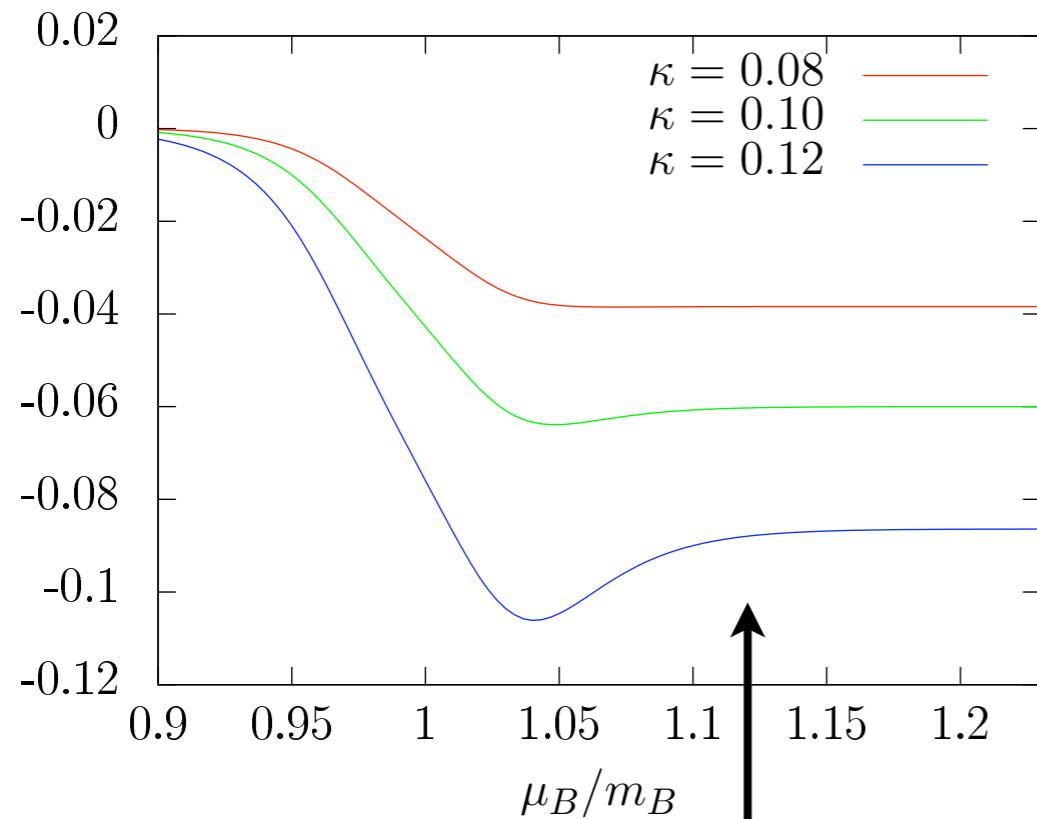
**Minimum:** access to nucl. binding energy, nucl. saturation density!

$\epsilon \sim 10^{-3}$  consistent with the location of the onset transition

## Quark mass dependence of the binding energy:

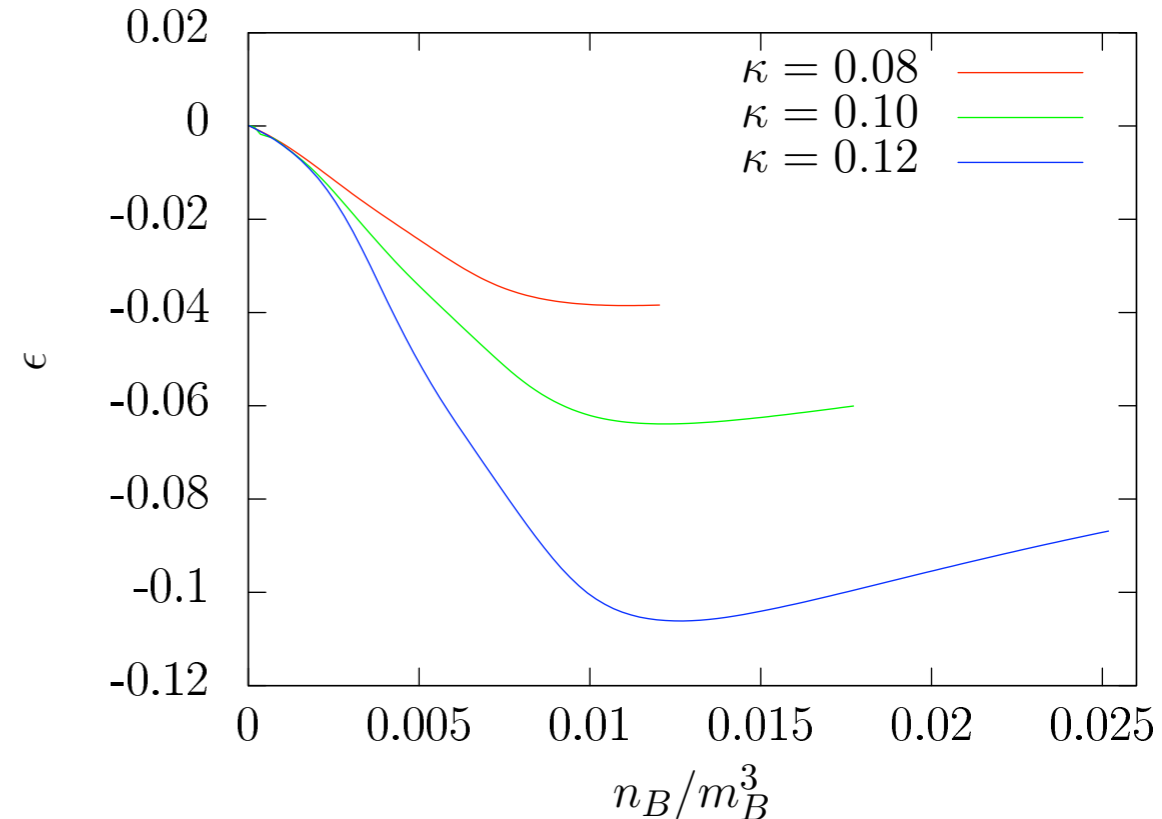
Expect short range nucl. potential for heavy pions,  $V \sim \frac{e^{-m_\pi r}}{r}$

Analytic solution, finite lattice spacing:

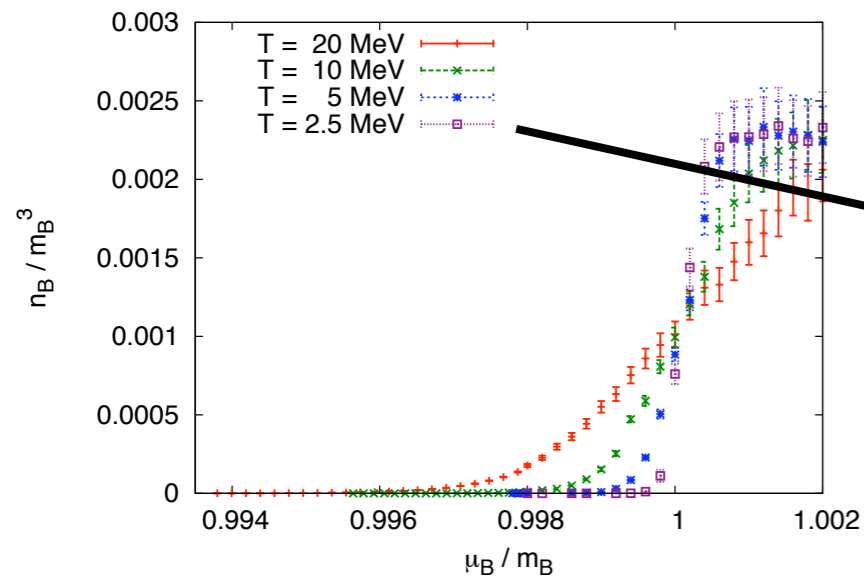


lattice saturation

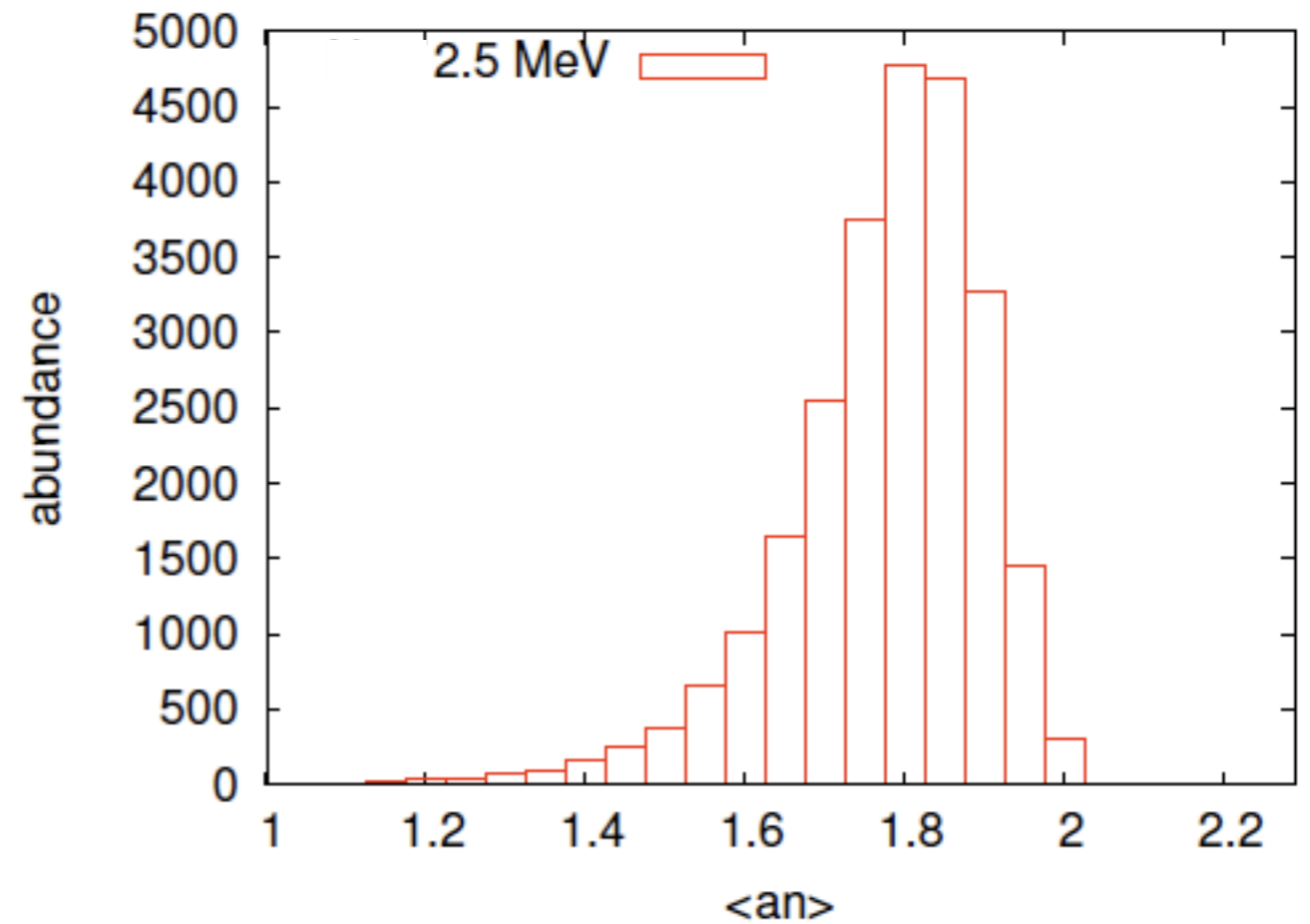
quark mass



# Order of the onset transition?

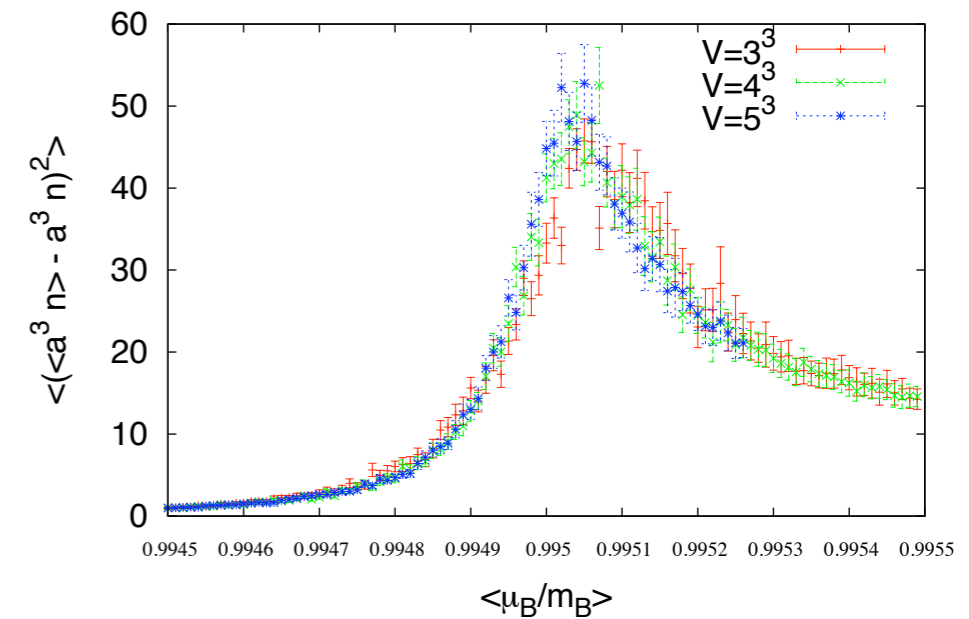
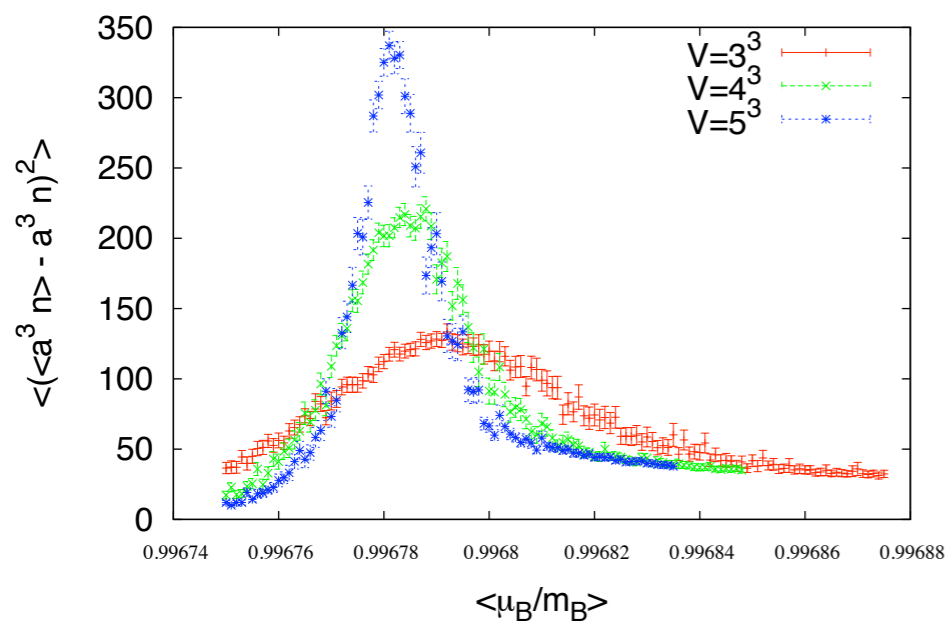
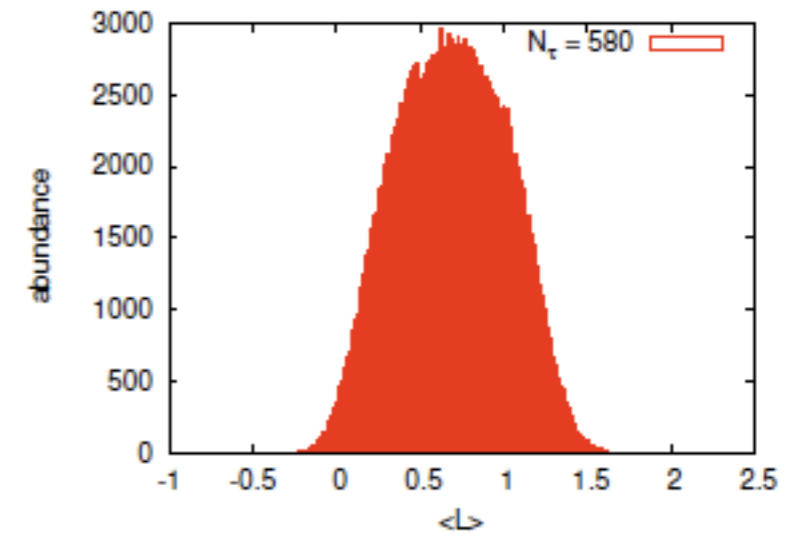
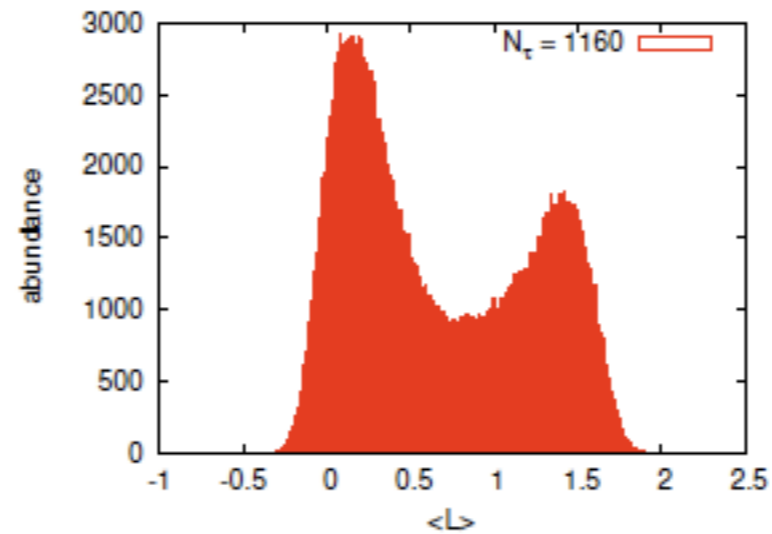
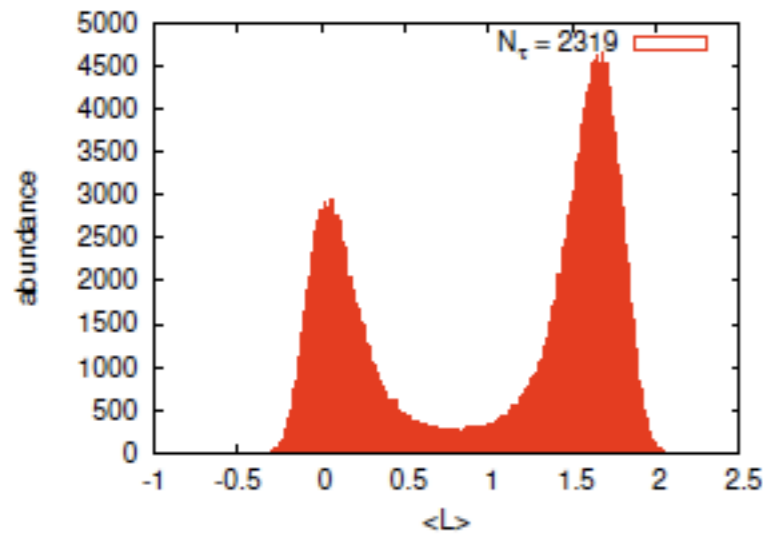


Distribution of fermion density: **crossover!?**



Reason: expect short range nucl. potential for heavy pions,  $V \sim \frac{e^{-m_\pi r}}{r}$

# Lighter quarks: First order signal + endpoint!

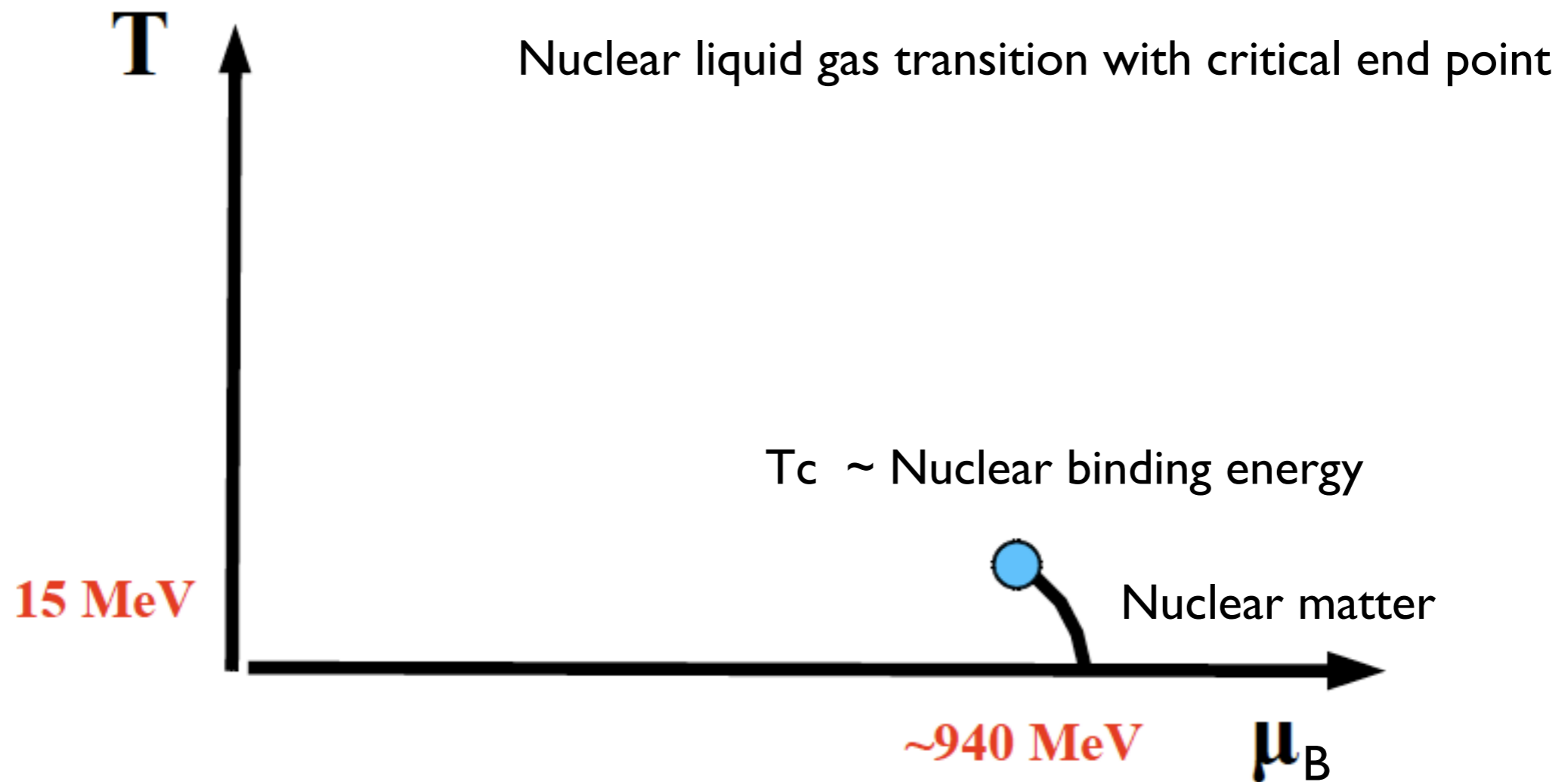


- $O(k^4)$ : Stretching the hopping series,  $\kappa = 0.12, \beta = 5.6$
- Coexistence of vacuum and finite density phase: 1st order
- If the temperature  $T = \frac{1}{aN_\tau}$  or the quark mass is raised this changes to a crossover

attn: no convergence yet!

all features of liquid gas transition!!!

# Within reach of effective lattice QCD!



Can we get high enough orders for light quarks???

# Conclusions

- No chiral critical point for  $\mu/T \lesssim 1$
- New effective lattice theory allows to simulate heavy quarks at all densities
- Onset transition to (heavy) nuclear matter seen from lattice QCD!
- Higher orders, smaller quark masses?

**Backup slides**



# Subleading couplings

Subleading contributions for next-to-nearest neighbours:

$$\lambda_2 \mathcal{S}_2 \propto u^{2N_\tau+2} \sum_{[kl]}' 2\text{Re}(L_k L_l^*) \quad \text{distance} = \sqrt{2}$$

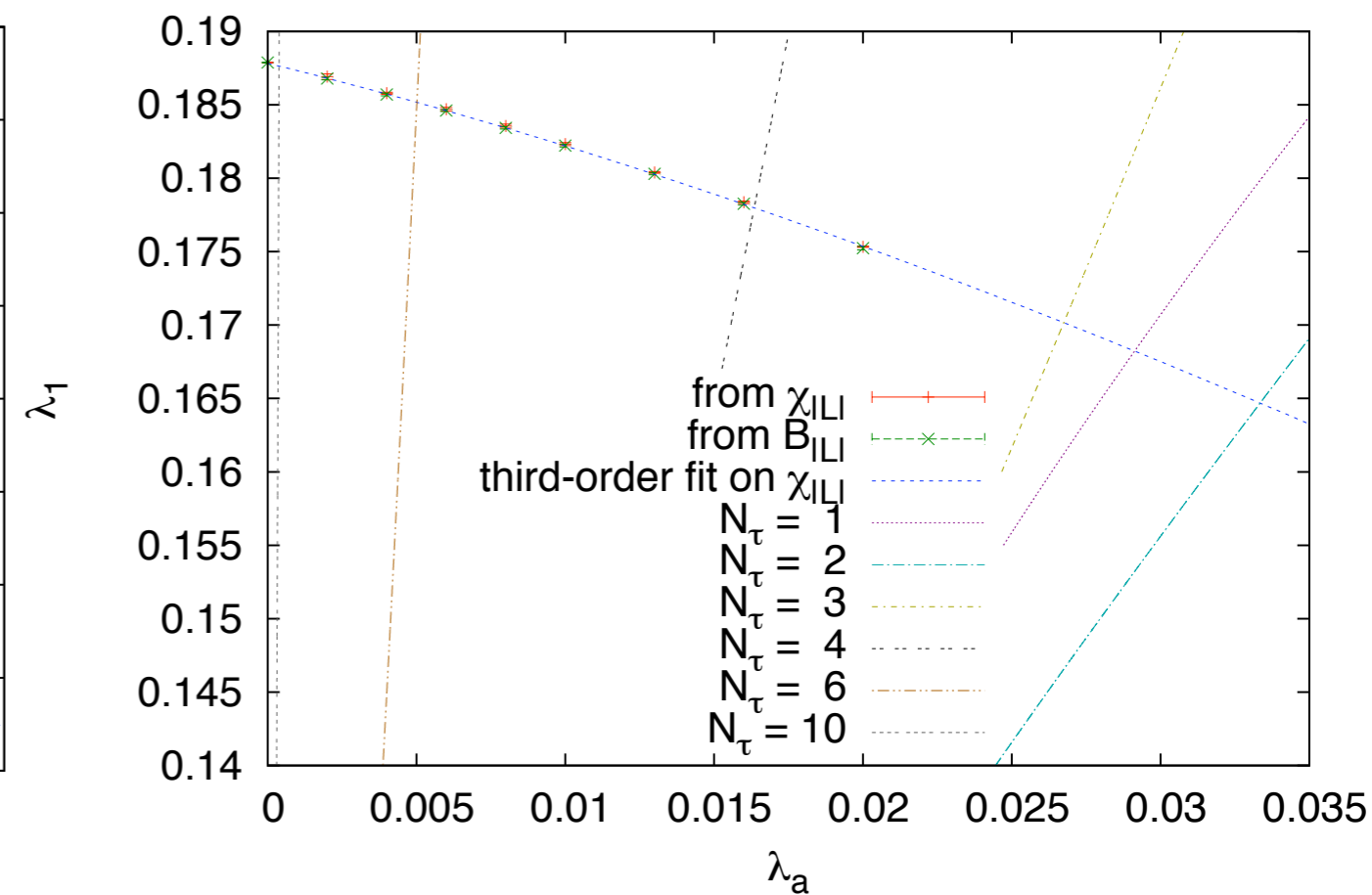
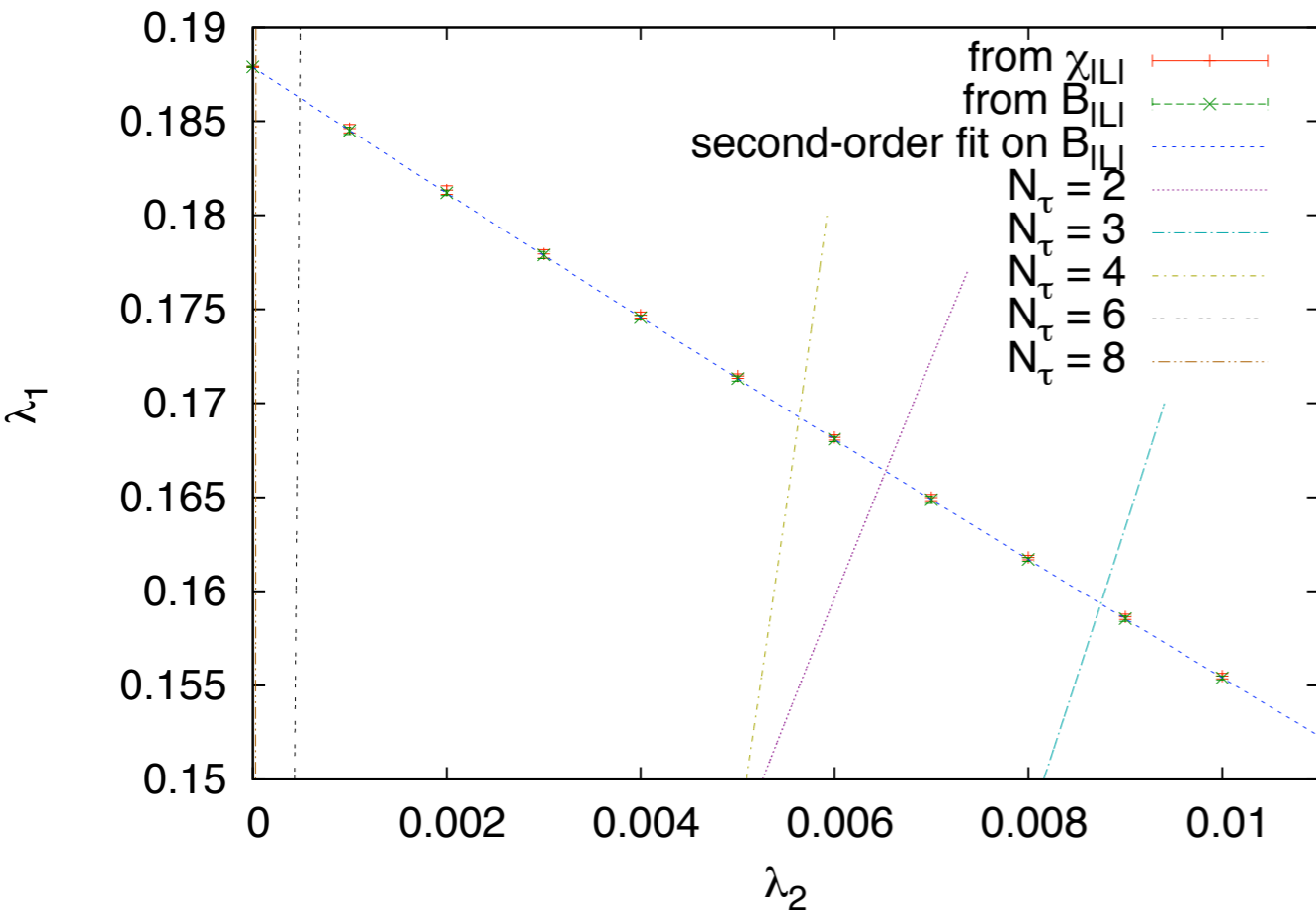
$$\lambda_3 \mathcal{S}_3 \propto u^{2N_\tau+6} \sum_{\{mn\}}'' 2\text{Re}(L_m L_n^*) \quad \text{distance} = 2$$

as well as terms from loops in the *adjoint* representation:

$$\lambda_a \mathcal{S}_a \propto u^{2N_\tau} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \text{Tr}^{(a)} W_i \text{Tr}^{(a)} W_j \quad ; \quad \text{Tr}^{(a)} W = |L|^2 - 1$$

# The influence of a second coupling

NLO-couplings: next-to-nearest neighbour, adjoint rep. loops



...gets **very** small for large  $N_\tau$  !

# Cold and dense QCD I: static, strong coupling limit

For  $T=0$  (at finite density) anti-fermions decouple  $N_f = 1, h_1 = C, h_2 = 0$

$$C_f \equiv (2\kappa_f e^{a\mu_f})^{N_\tau} = e^{(\mu_f - m_f)/T}, \quad \bar{C}_f(\mu_f) = C_f(-\mu_f)$$

$$Z(\beta = 0) = \left[ \prod_f \int dW (1 + C_f L + C_f^2 L^* + C_f^3) \right]^{N_s^3}$$

$$\xrightarrow{T \rightarrow 0} [1 + 4C^{N_c} + C^{2N_c}]^{N_s^3}$$

Free gas of baryons!

Quarkyonic?

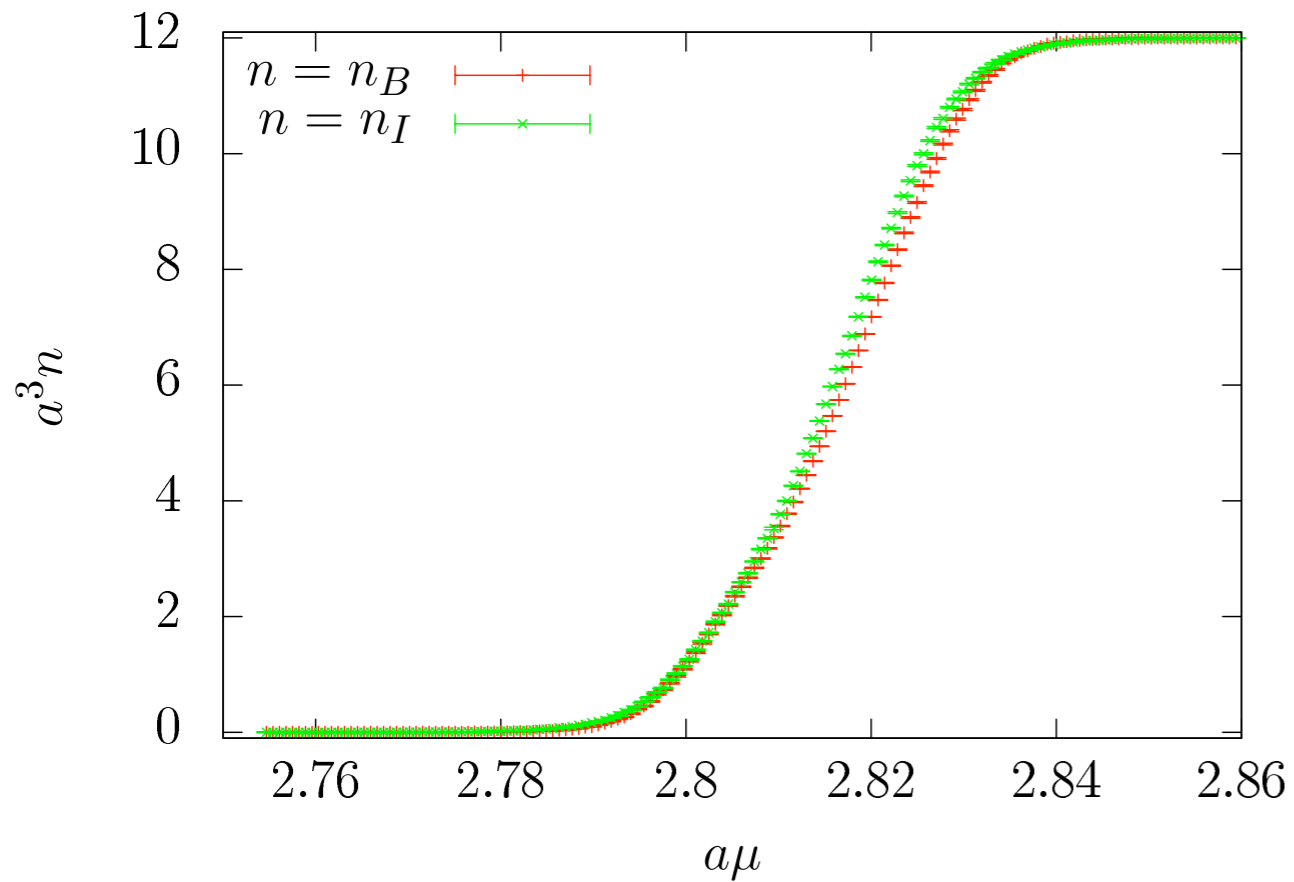
$$n = \frac{T}{V} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \ln Z = \frac{1}{a^3} \frac{4N_c C^{N_c} + 2N_c C^{2N_c}}{1 + 4C^{N_c} + C^{2N_c}}$$

$$\lim_{\mu \rightarrow \infty} (a^3 n) = 2N_c$$

Sivler blaze property + saturation!

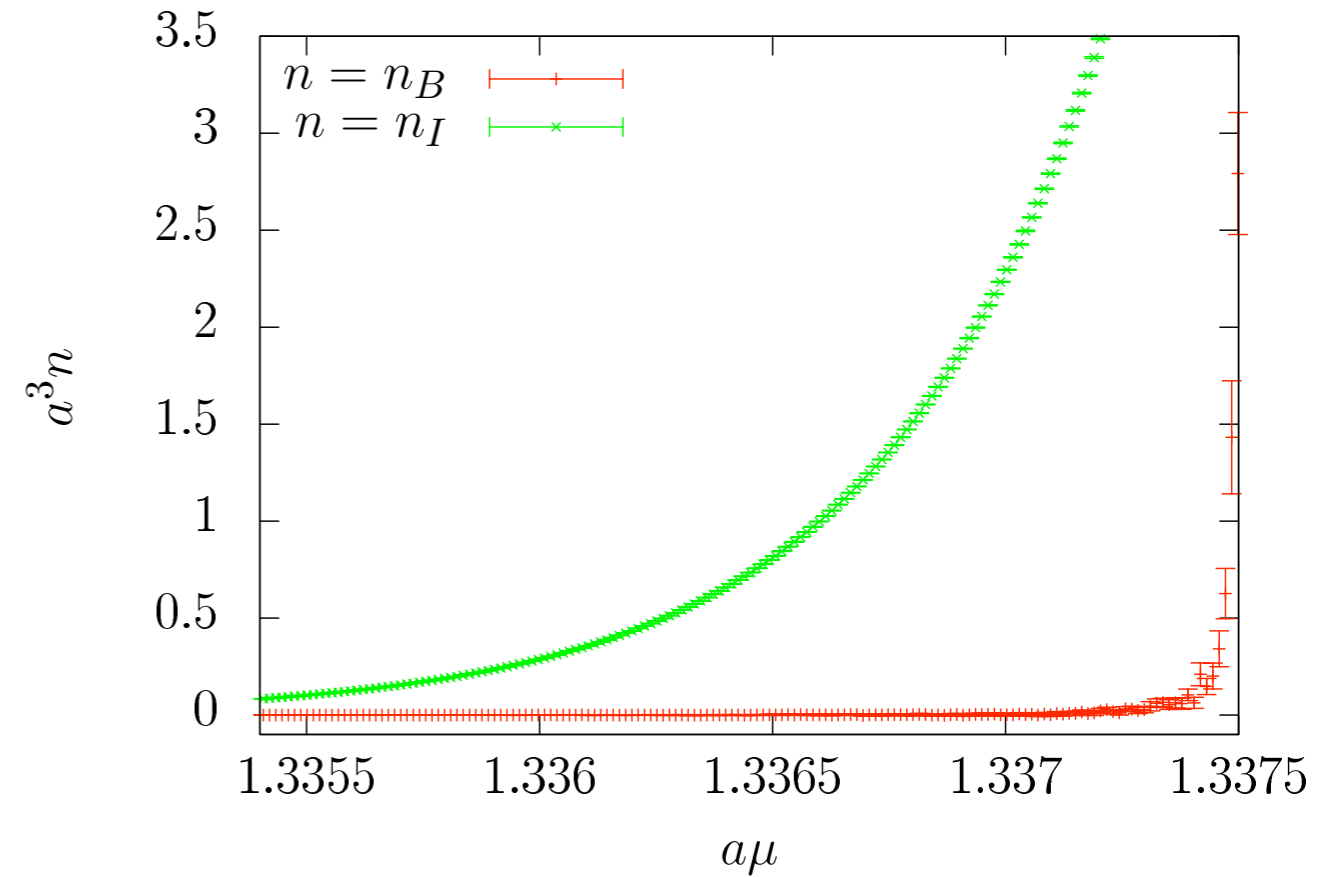
$$\lim_{T \rightarrow 0} a^3 n = \begin{cases} 0, & \mu < m \\ 2N_c, & \mu > m \end{cases}$$

# Finite isospin vs baryon chemical potential



heavy quarks

$$\frac{m_\pi}{2} \approx \frac{m_B}{3}$$



light quarks

$$\frac{m_\pi}{2} < \frac{m_B}{3}$$

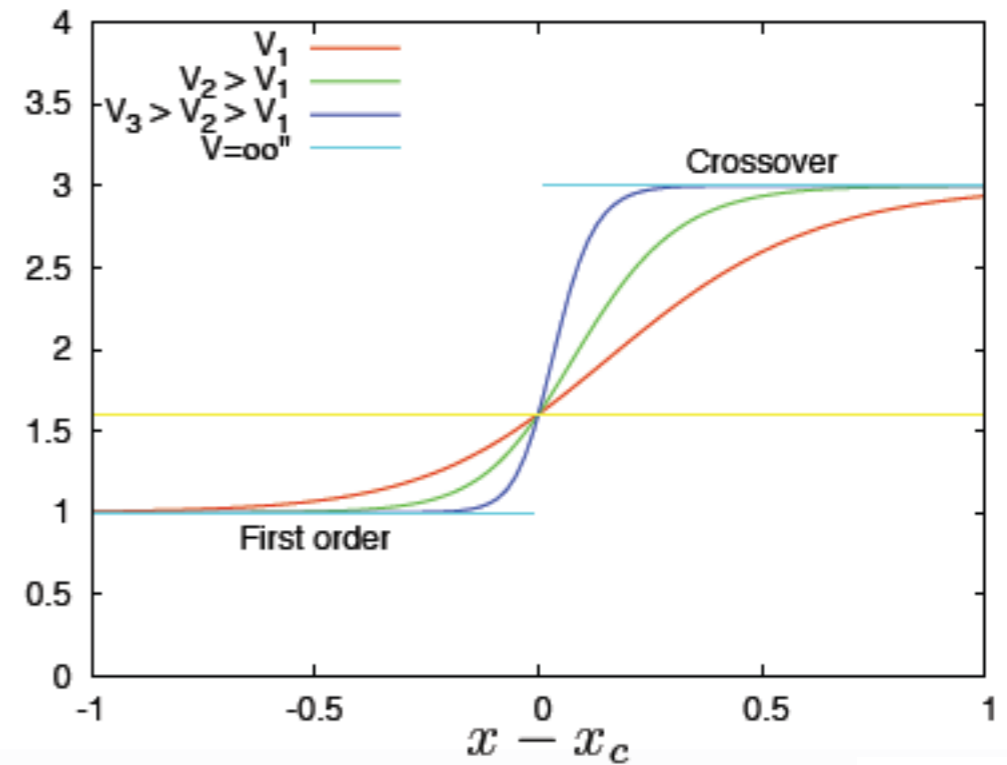
onset at smaller chemical potential

## Observable to identify order of p.t.:

$$\delta B_Q = B_4(\delta Q) = \frac{\langle (\delta Q)^4 \rangle}{\langle (\delta Q)^2 \rangle^2}$$

$$B_4(x) = 1.604 + bL^{1/\nu}(x - x_c) + \dots$$

$B_4$



parameter along phase boundary

