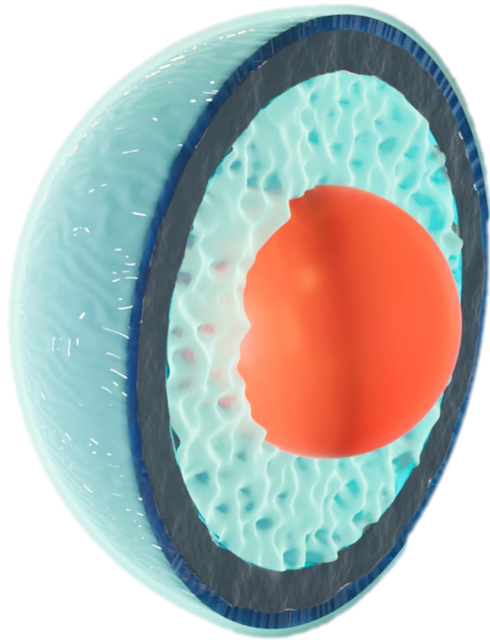


# QCD in the cores of neutron stars



University of  
Stavanger

Oleg Komoltsev  
N-PACT  
August 2023



University of  
Stavanger

- How Perturbative QCD Constrains the Equation of State at Neutron-Star Densities

O.K., Alekski Kurkela

[PRL.128.20270](#)

- Ab-initio QCD Calculations Impact the Inference of the Neutron-star-matter Equation of State

Tyler Gorda, O.K., Alekski Kurkela

[Astrophys.J. 950 \(2023\) 2, 107](#)

- Bayesian uncertainty quantification of perturbative QCD input to the neutron-star equation of state

T.G, O.K., A.K., Aleksas Mazeliauskas

[JHEP 06 \(2023\) 002](#)

- Strongly interacting matter exhibits deconfined behavior in massive neutron stars

Eemeli Annala, T.G., Joonas Hirvonen, O.K.,A.K.

[arXiv:2303.11356](#)

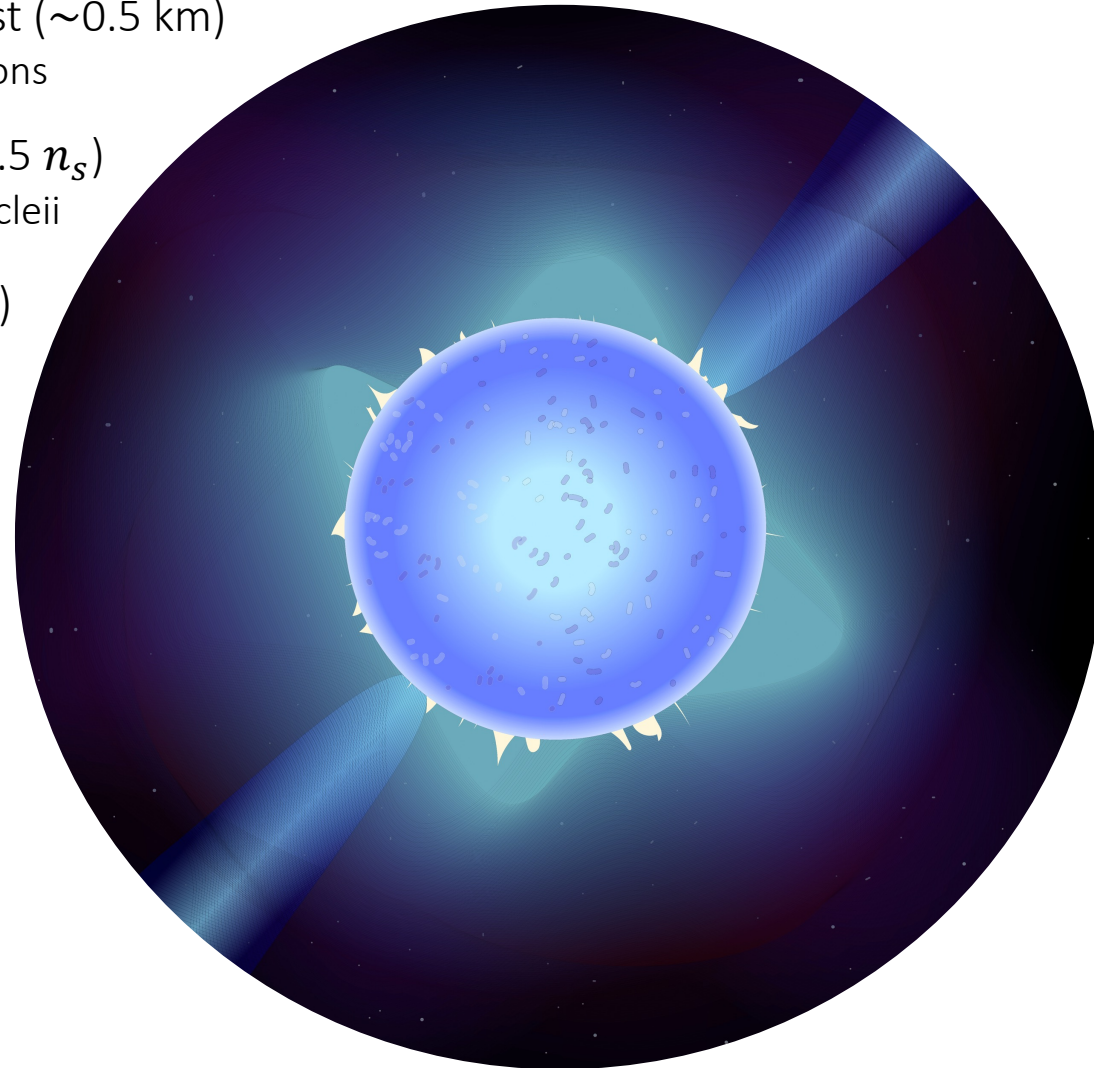
# Neutron stars

Outer Crust ( $\sim 0.5$  km)  
Ions, Electrons

Inner Crust ( $\sim 1$  km,  $0.5 n_s$ )  
Electrons, Neutrons, Nuclei

Outer core ( $\sim 9$  km,  $0.5-2 n_s$ )  
Neutron – Proton Fermi liquid

Inner core ( $\sim 10$  km,  $4-8 n_s$ )  
Quark Matter ?



$$n_s = 0.16 \text{ fm}^{-3}$$

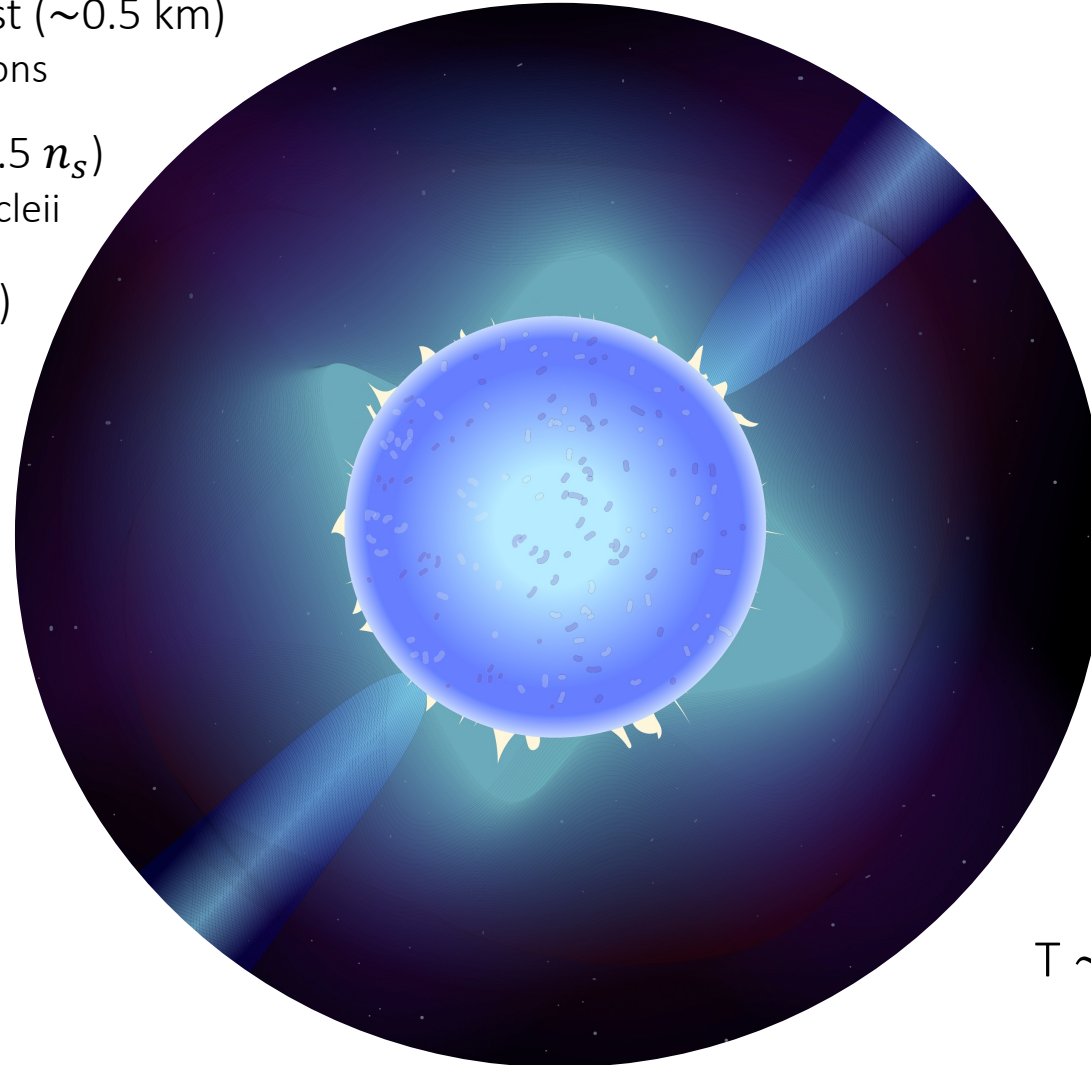
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Quark Matter ?



Masses  $\sim 1.4 - 2.0 M_{\odot}$

Radii  $\sim 10$  km

$T \sim \text{KeV} \sim 10^7$  K

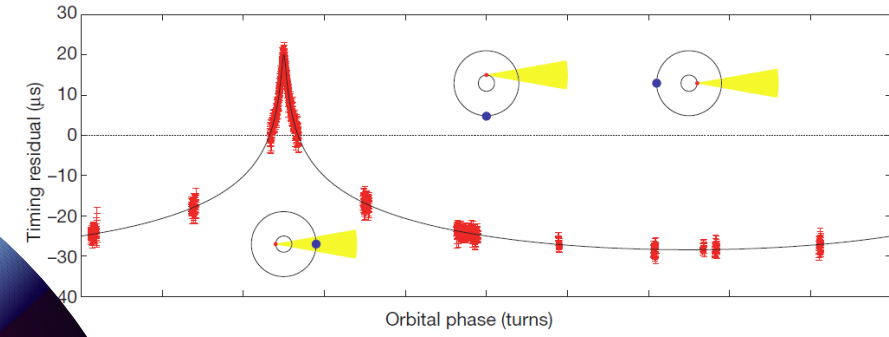
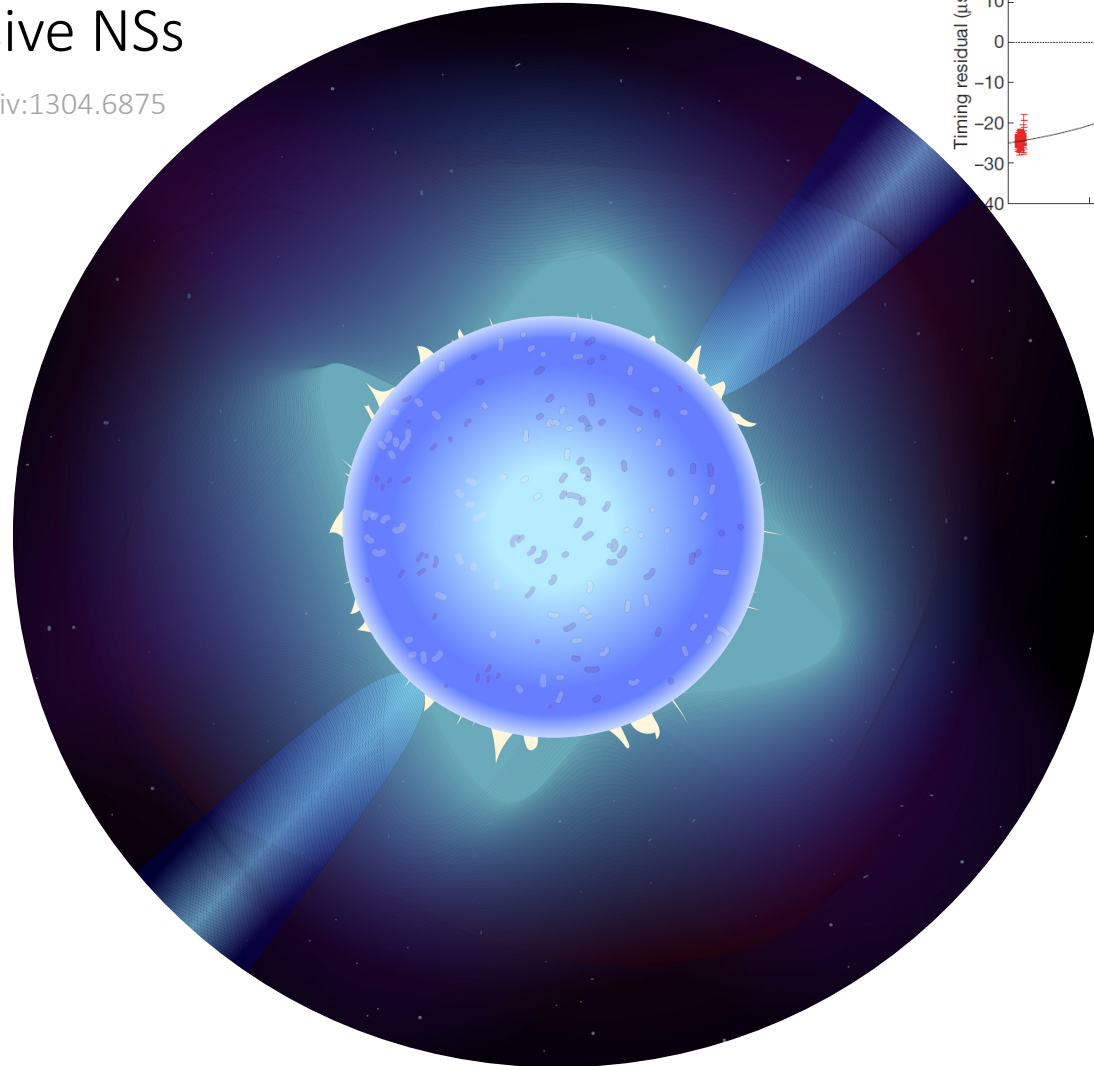
$$n_s = 0.16 \text{ fm}^{-3}$$



# Neutron stars

- Discovery of massive NSs

Antoniadis, Freire et.al. arXiv:1304.6875



Shapiro time delay

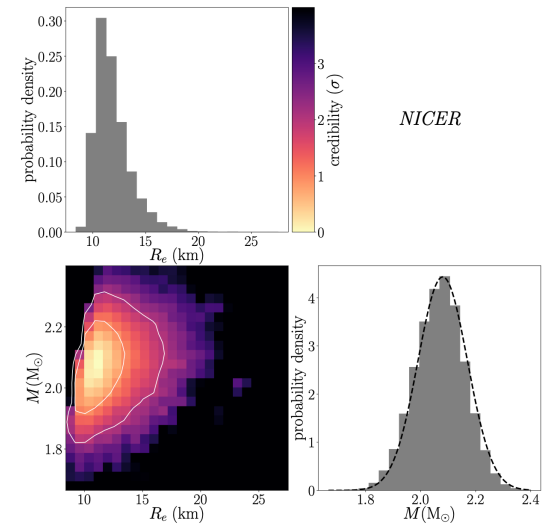
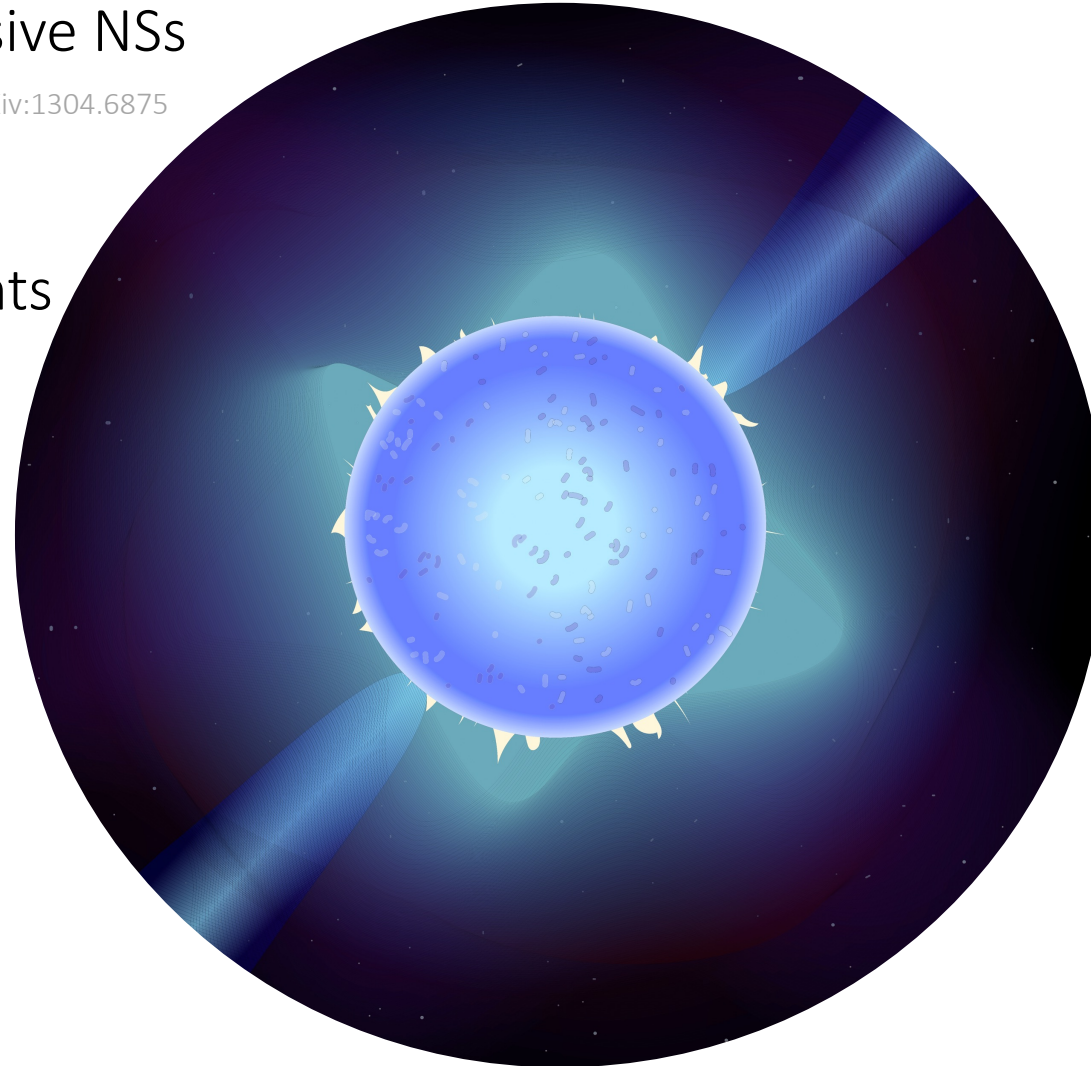
# Neutron stars

- Discovery of massive NSs

Antoniadis, Freire et.al. arXiv:1304.6875

- NS radius measurements

Riley, Watts et.al. arXiv:2105.06980



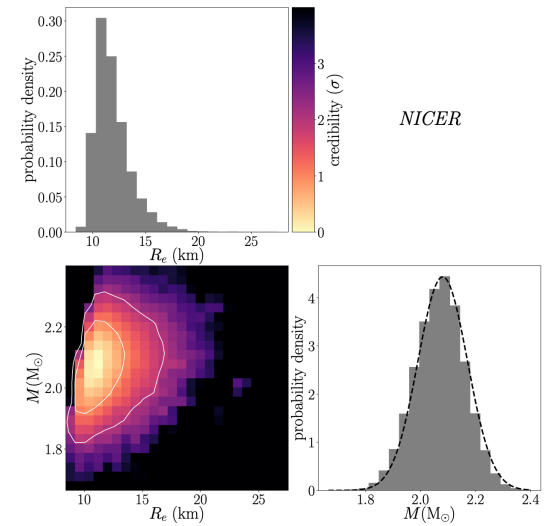
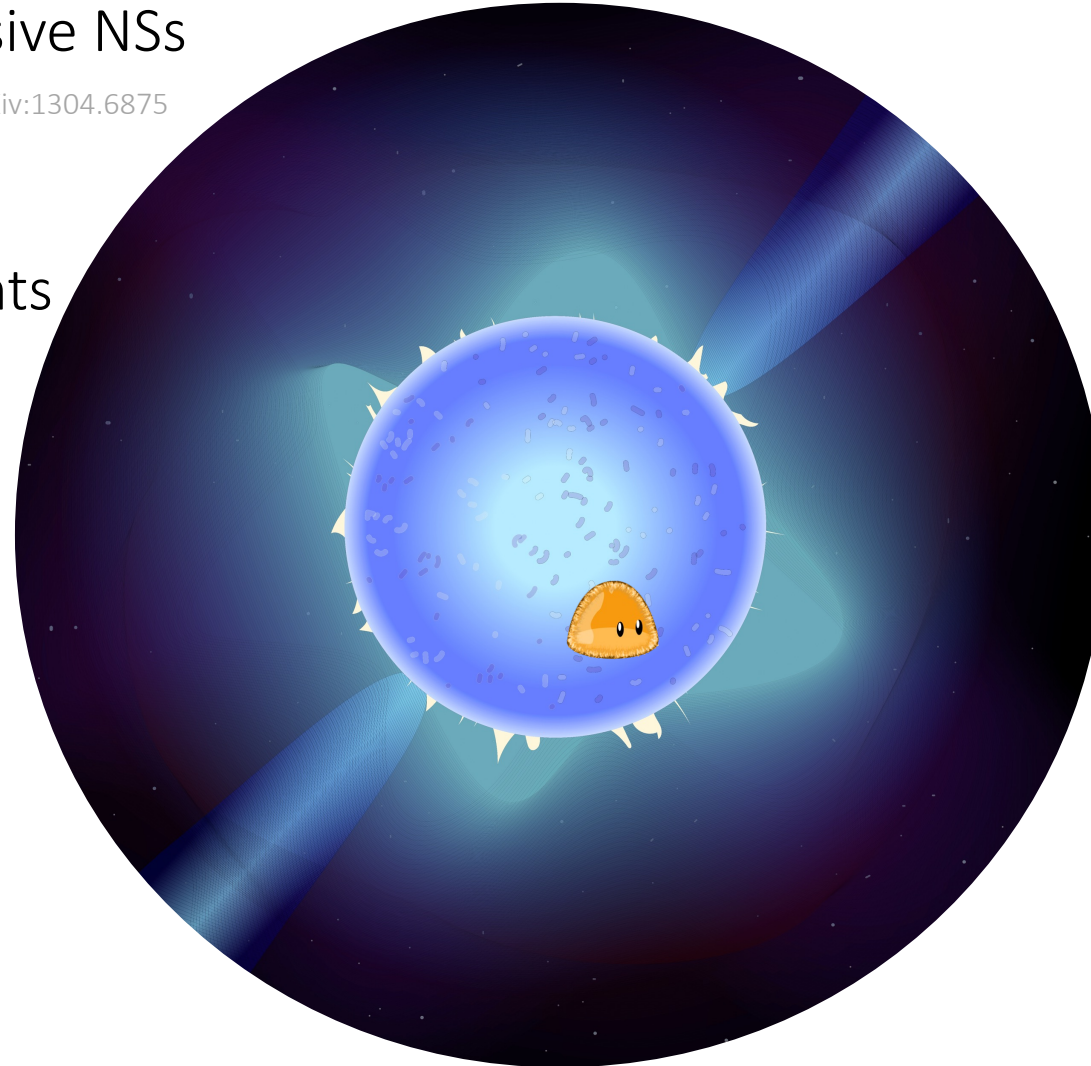
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# Neutron stars

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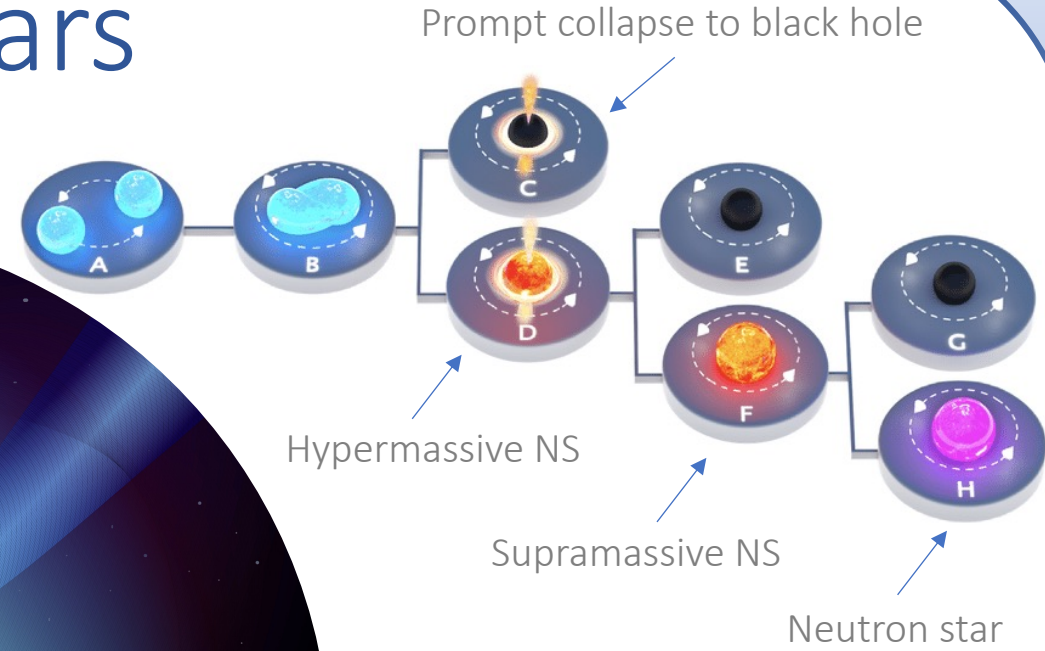
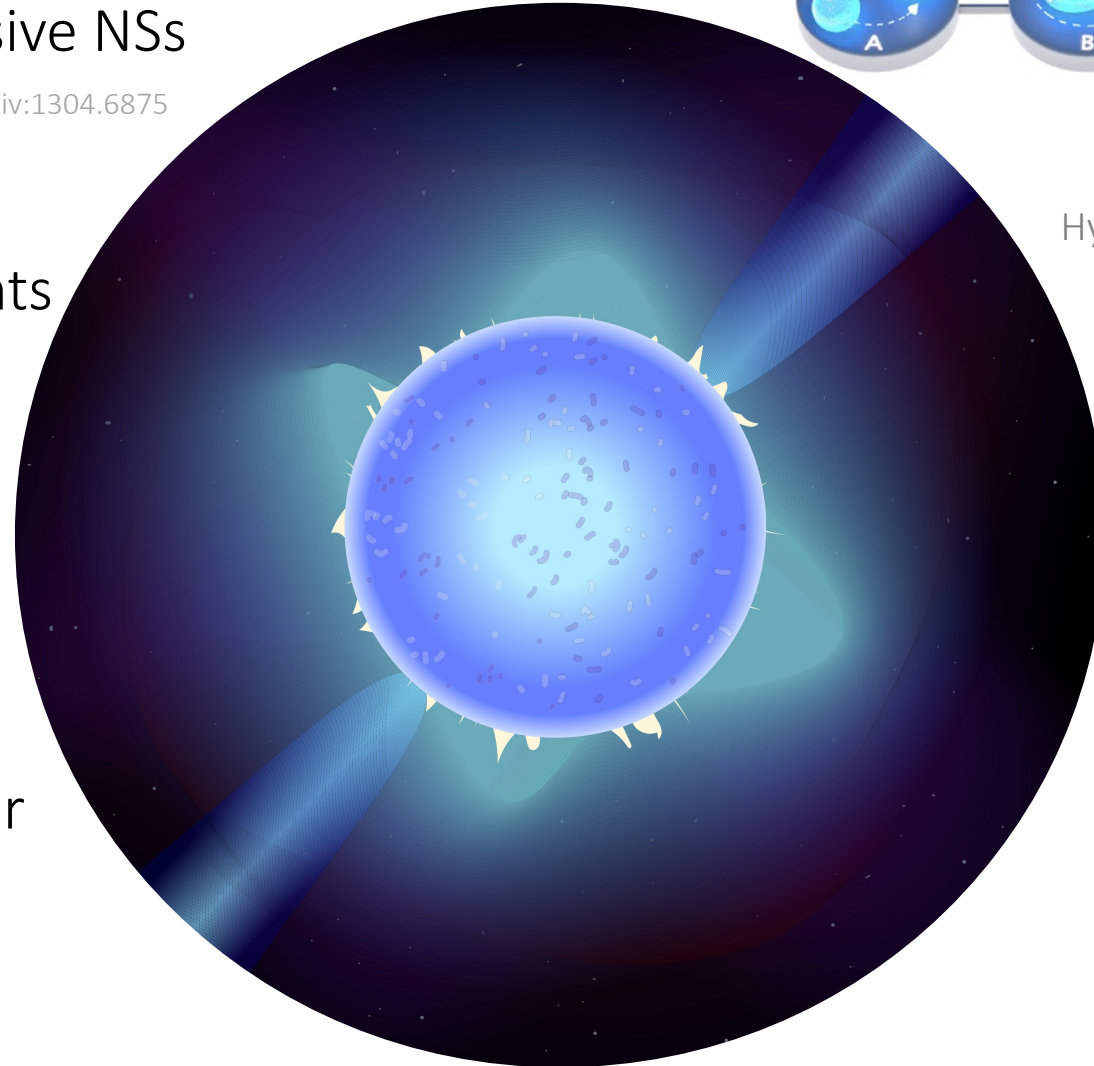
Riley, Watts et.al. arXiv:2105.06980

- Gravitational-wave

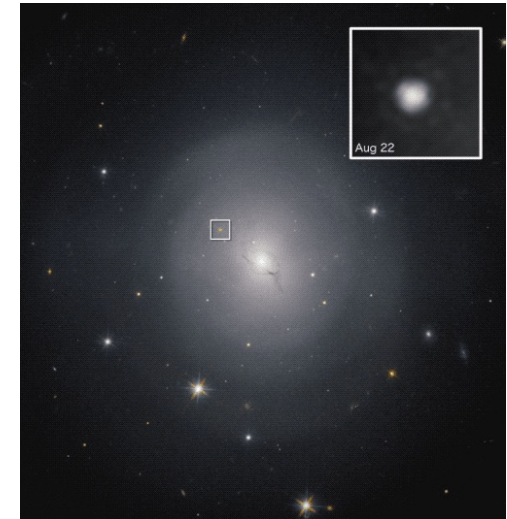
LIGO, VIRGO

- Multi-messenger

LIGO, VIRGO

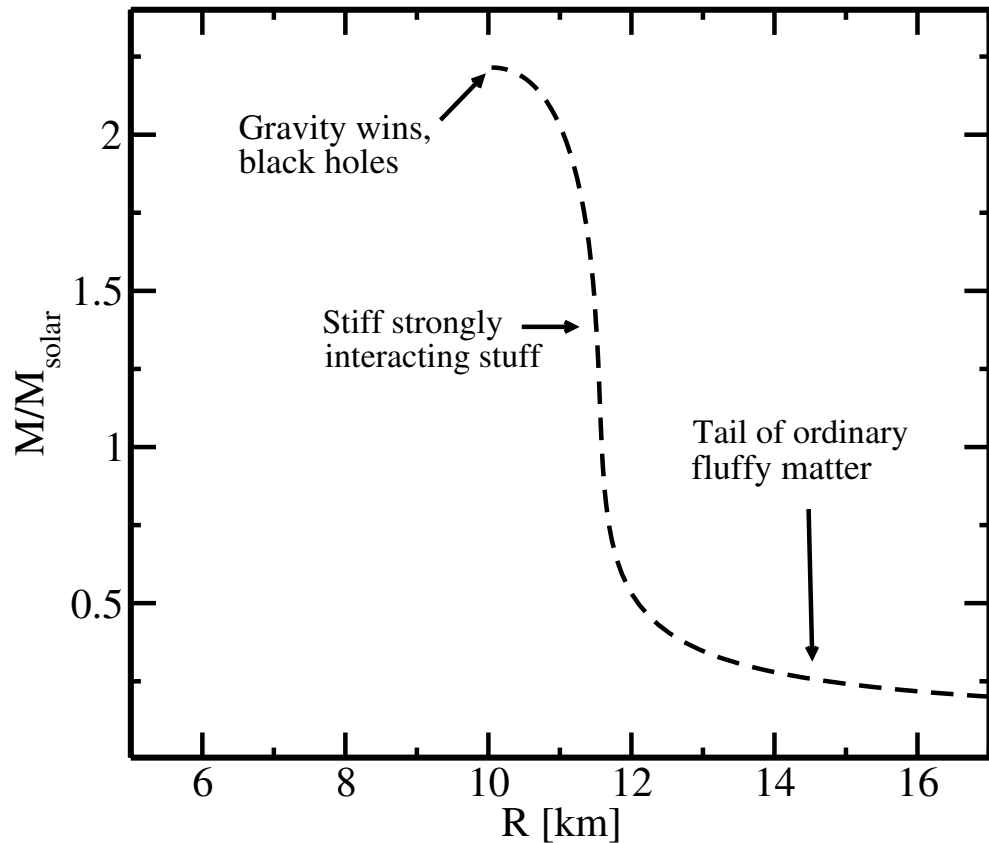


GW170817





# Properties of neutron stars reflect properties of dense matter



Competition between pressure and gravity

Tolman–Oppenheimer–Volkoff equation:

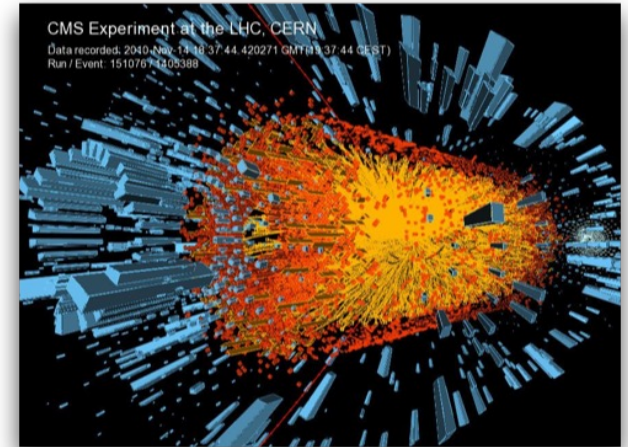
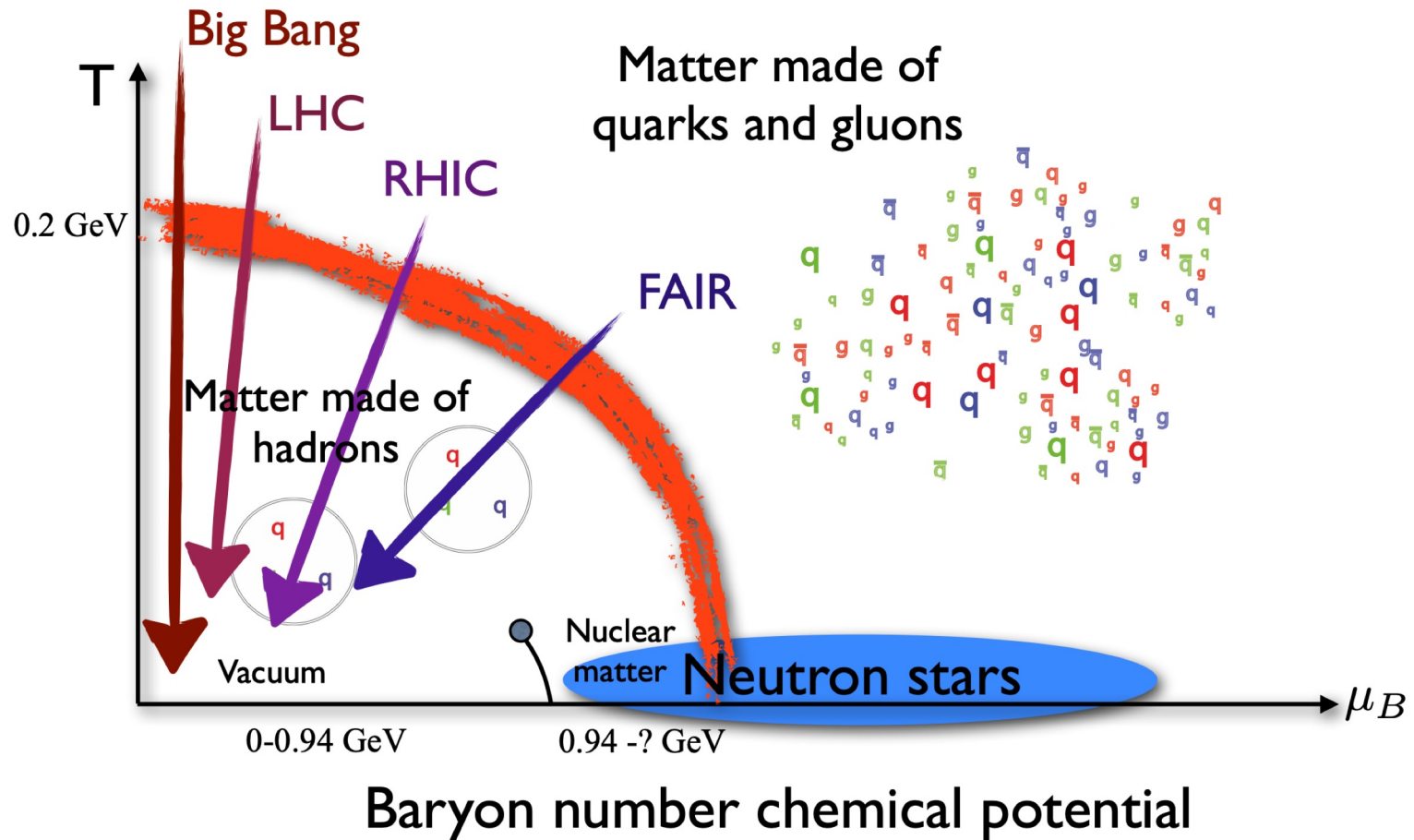
$$\frac{dp}{dr} = -\frac{Gm}{r^2} \left( \epsilon + \frac{p}{c^2} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{4\pi r^3 \epsilon}{m} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{2Gm}{r} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\frac{dm}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \epsilon$$

Macroscopic properties determined by the EoS

$$\epsilon(P) \Leftrightarrow R(M)$$

# Elementary particle matter

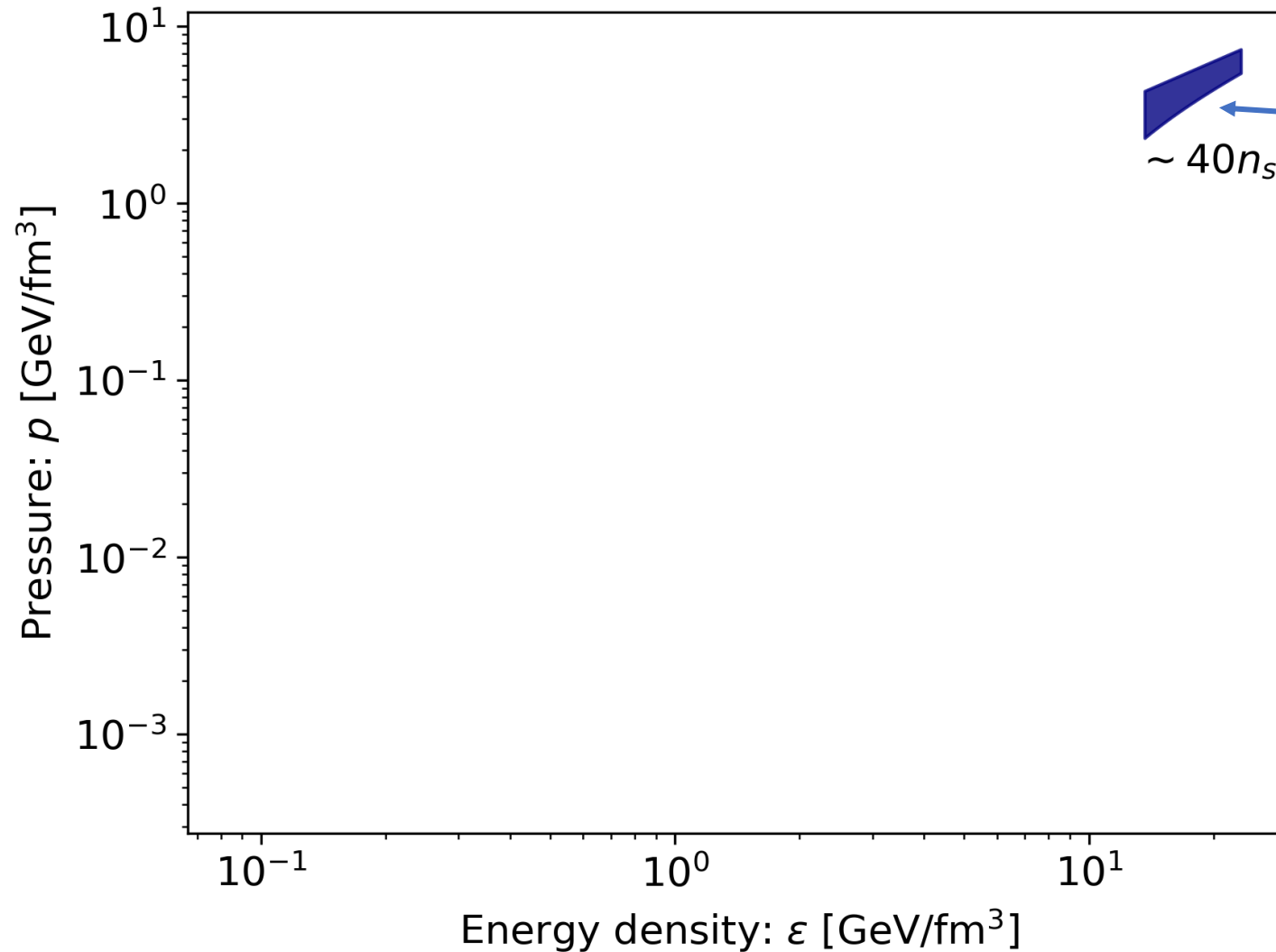


LHC, RHIC, FAIR, NICA,...



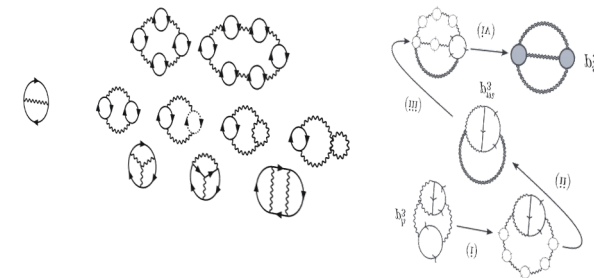
LIGO+Virgo+Kagra, NICER, eXTP,...

# What do we know about EoS, theoretically?

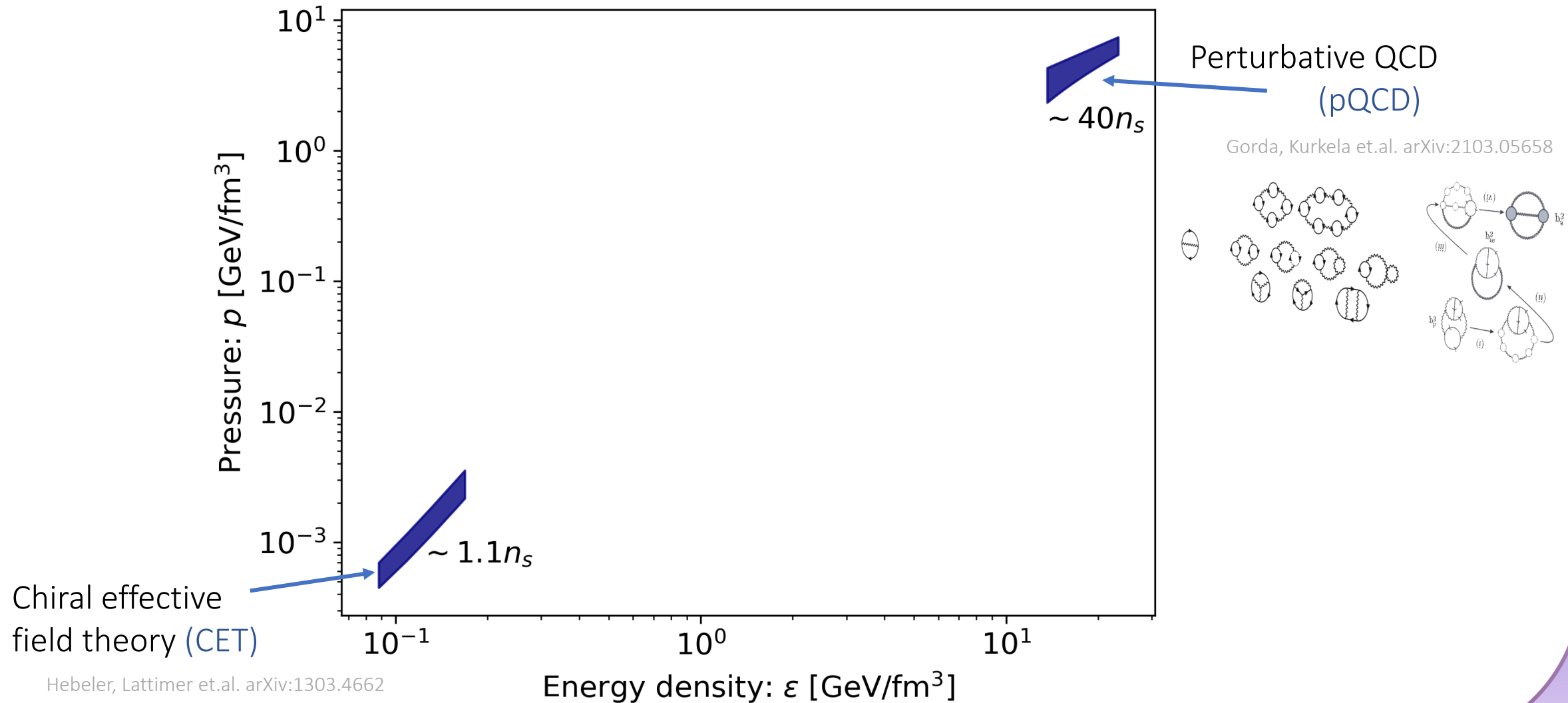


Perturbative QCD  
(pQCD)

Gorda, Kurkela et.al. arXiv:2103.05658

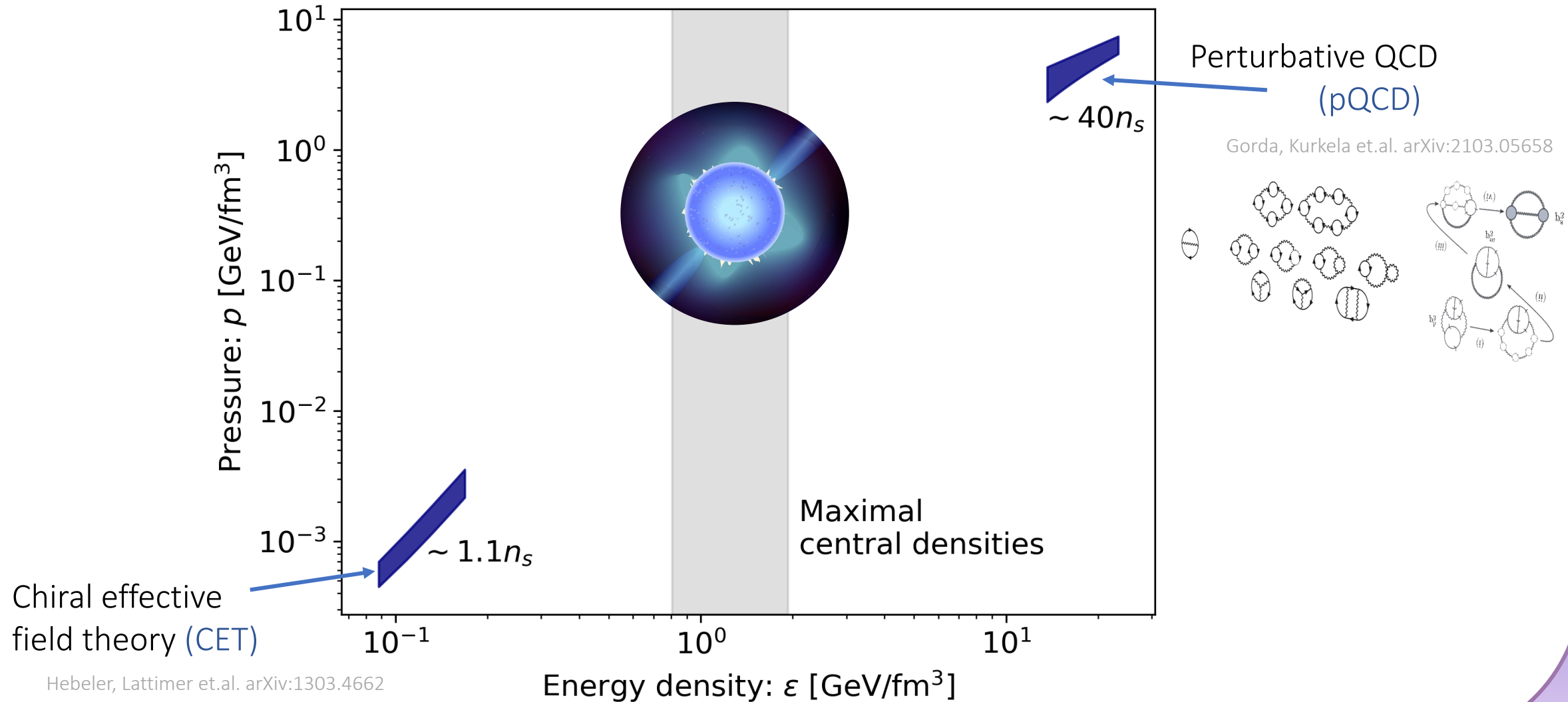


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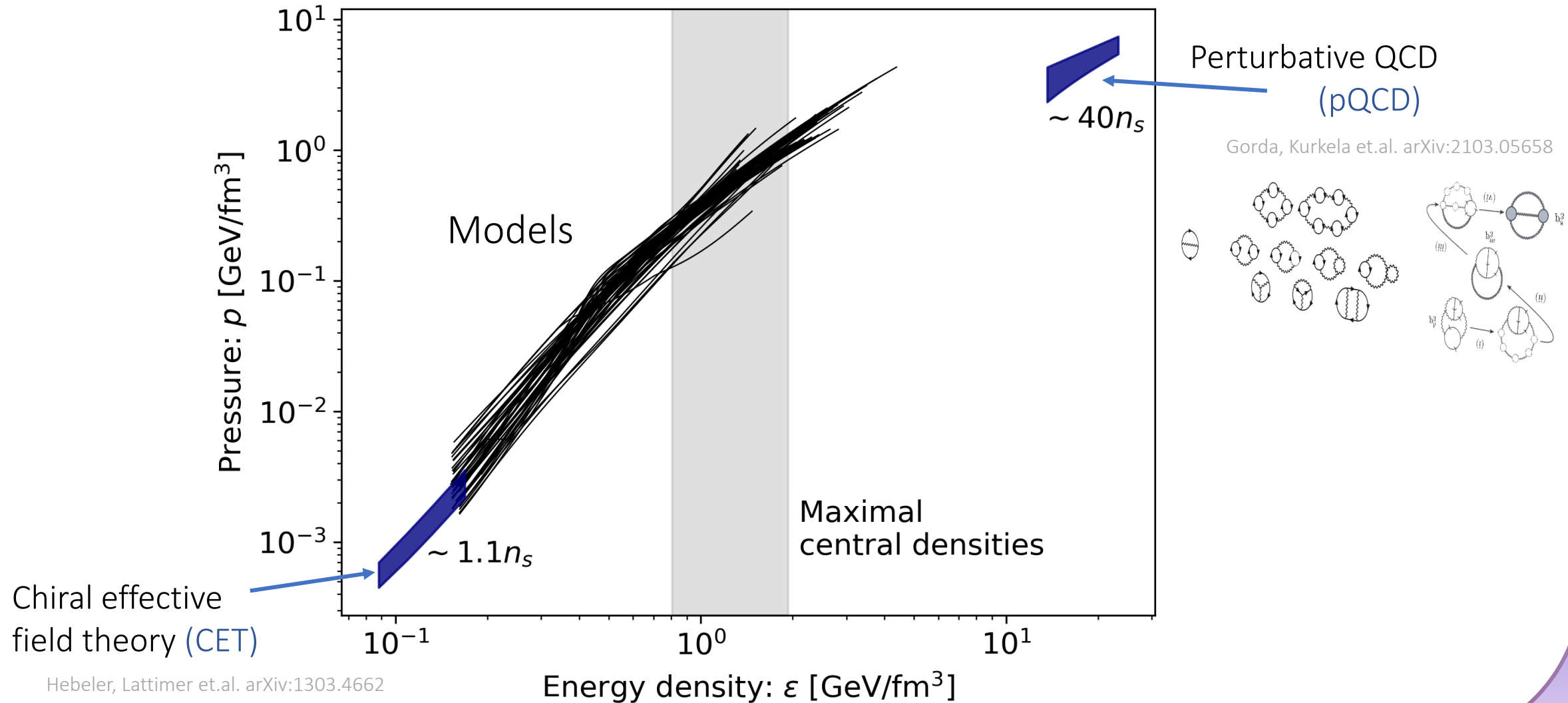




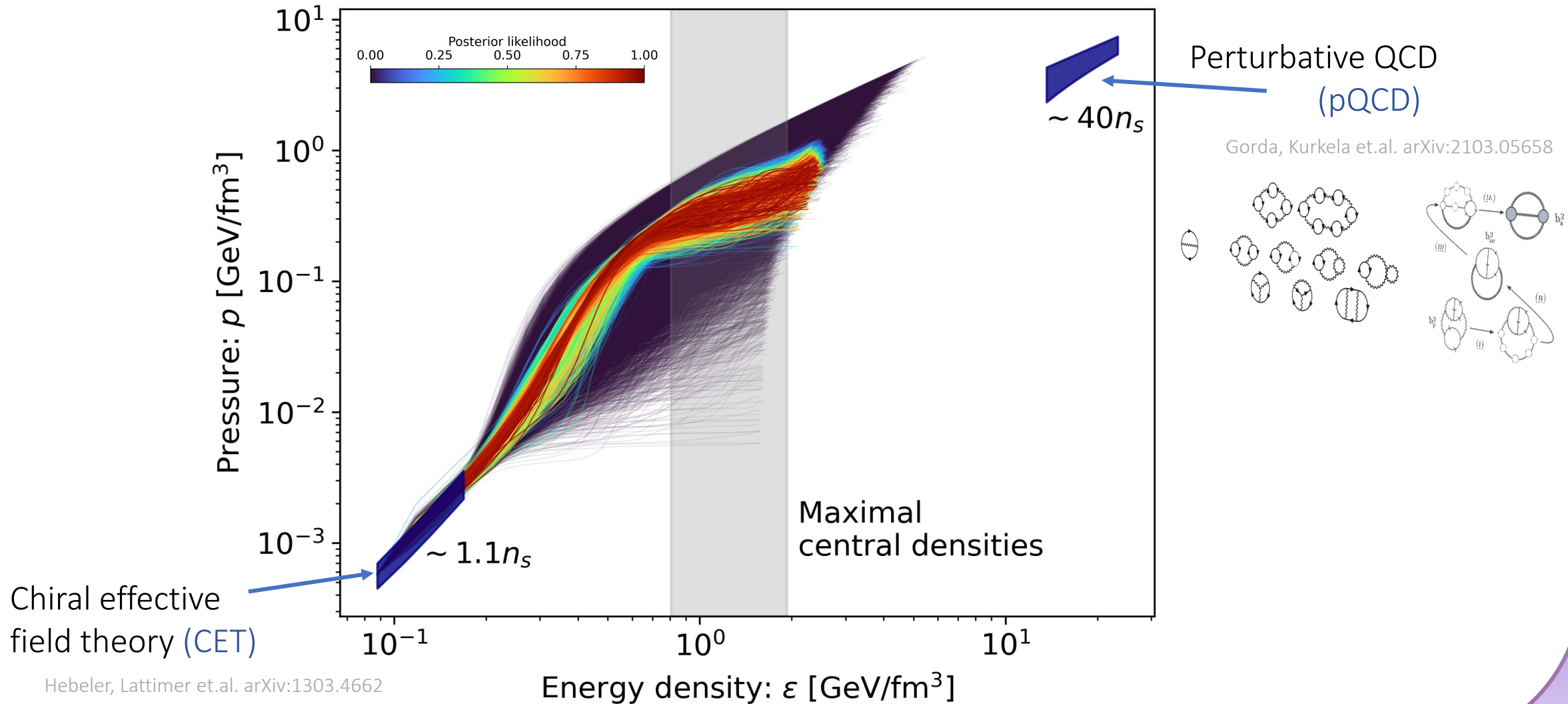
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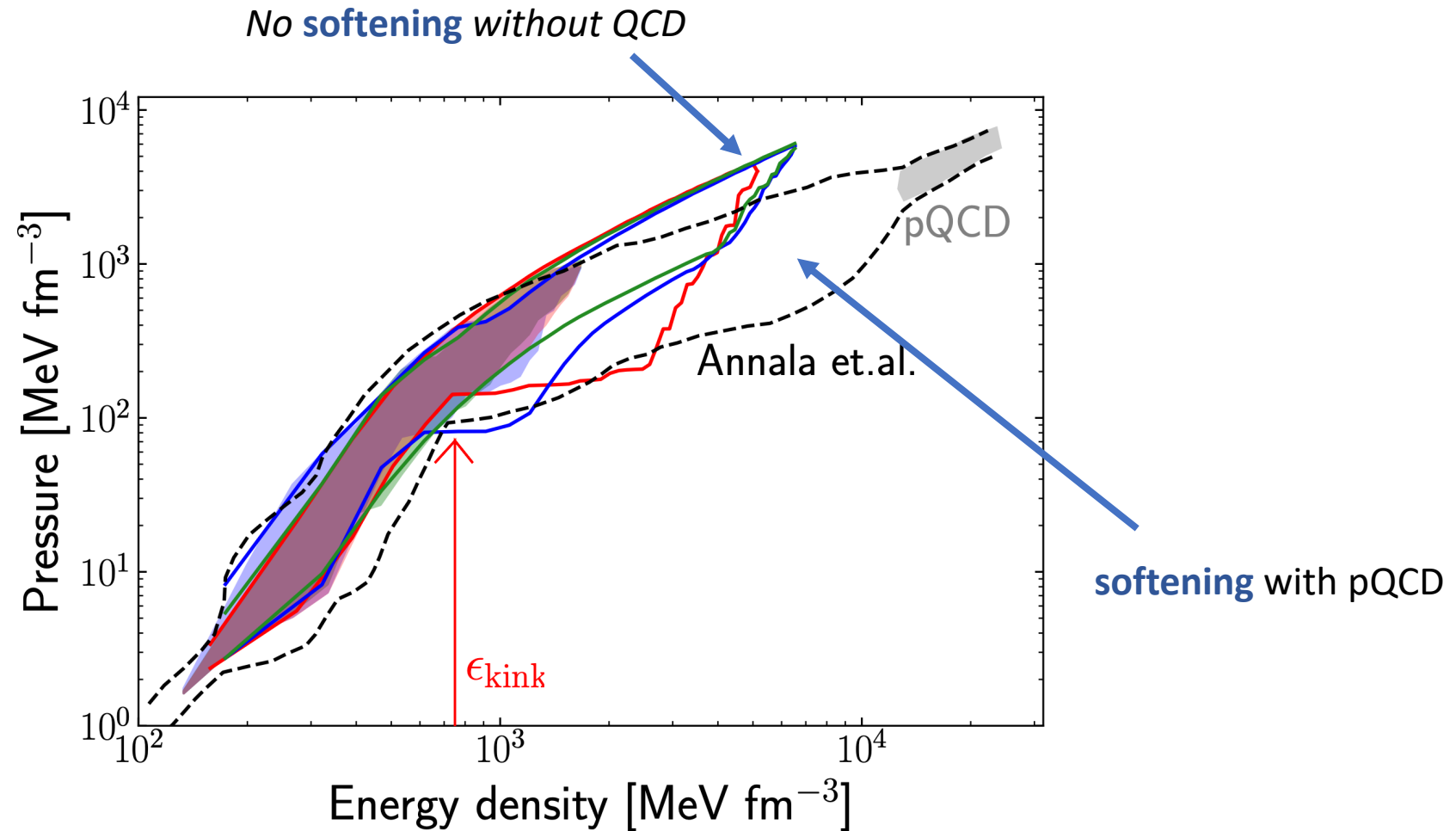
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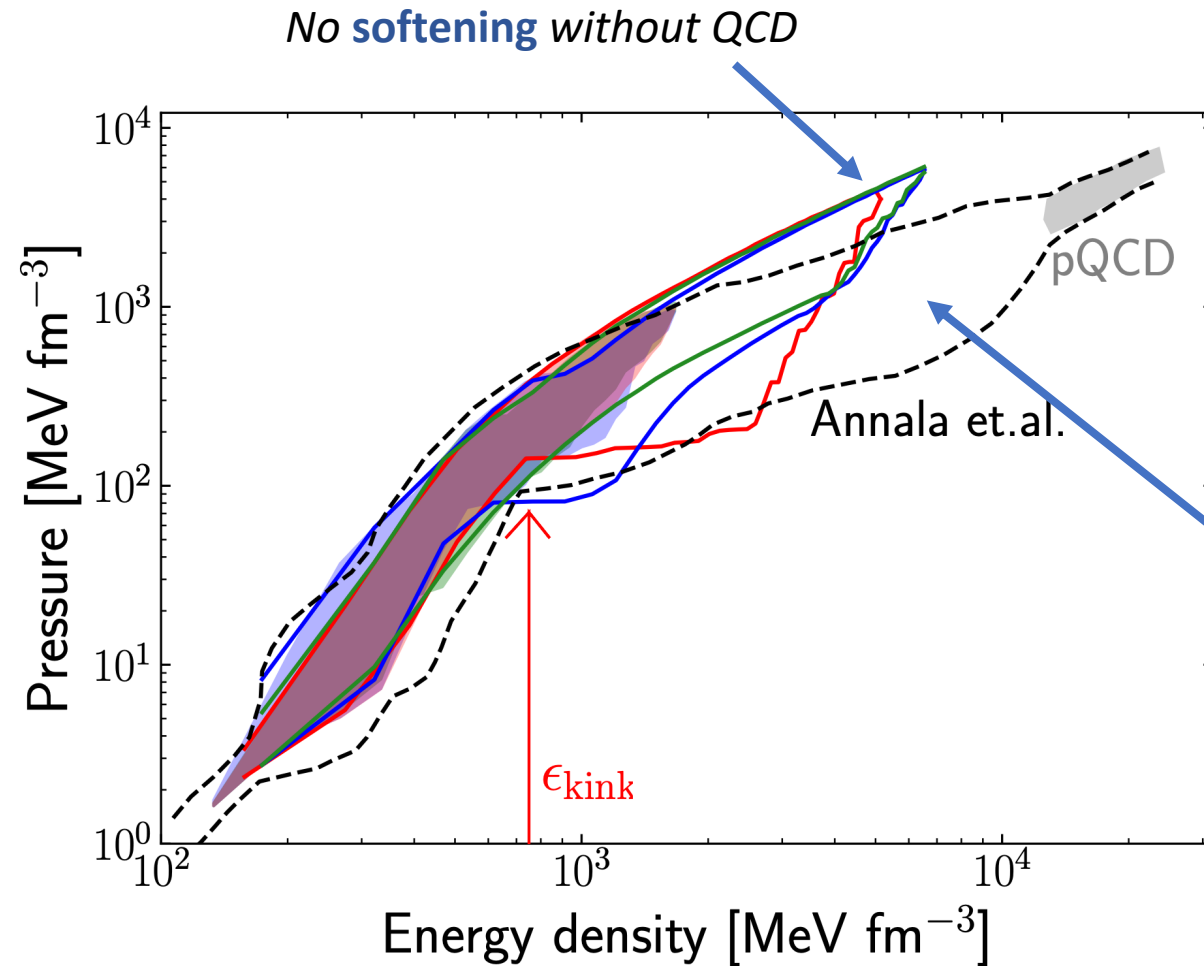
# Studies with pQCD see **softening** of EoS



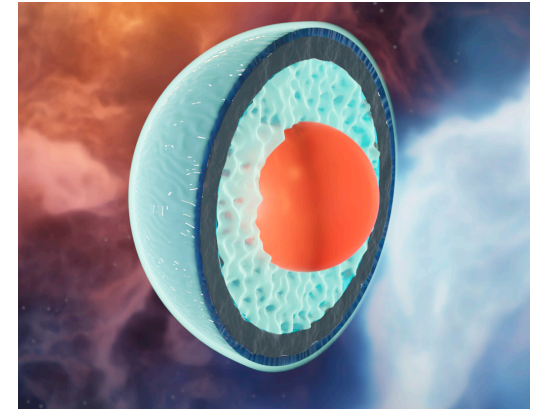
Annala, Gorda, Kurkela, Nättilä, Vuorinen Nature Physics 16 (2020) 9  
Somasundaram, Tews, Margueron 2112.08157



# Studies with pQCD see **softening** of EoS



Quark matter cores?



Annala et.al. arXiv:2303.11356

Annala et.al. Nat. Phys. **16**, 907–910 (2020)

**softening** with pQCD

- **Why** does QCD at  $40n_s$  constrain the EoS at NS densities

How pQCD constrains the equation of state at neutron star densities

OK & Kurkela, PRL128 (2022) 20, 2111.05350

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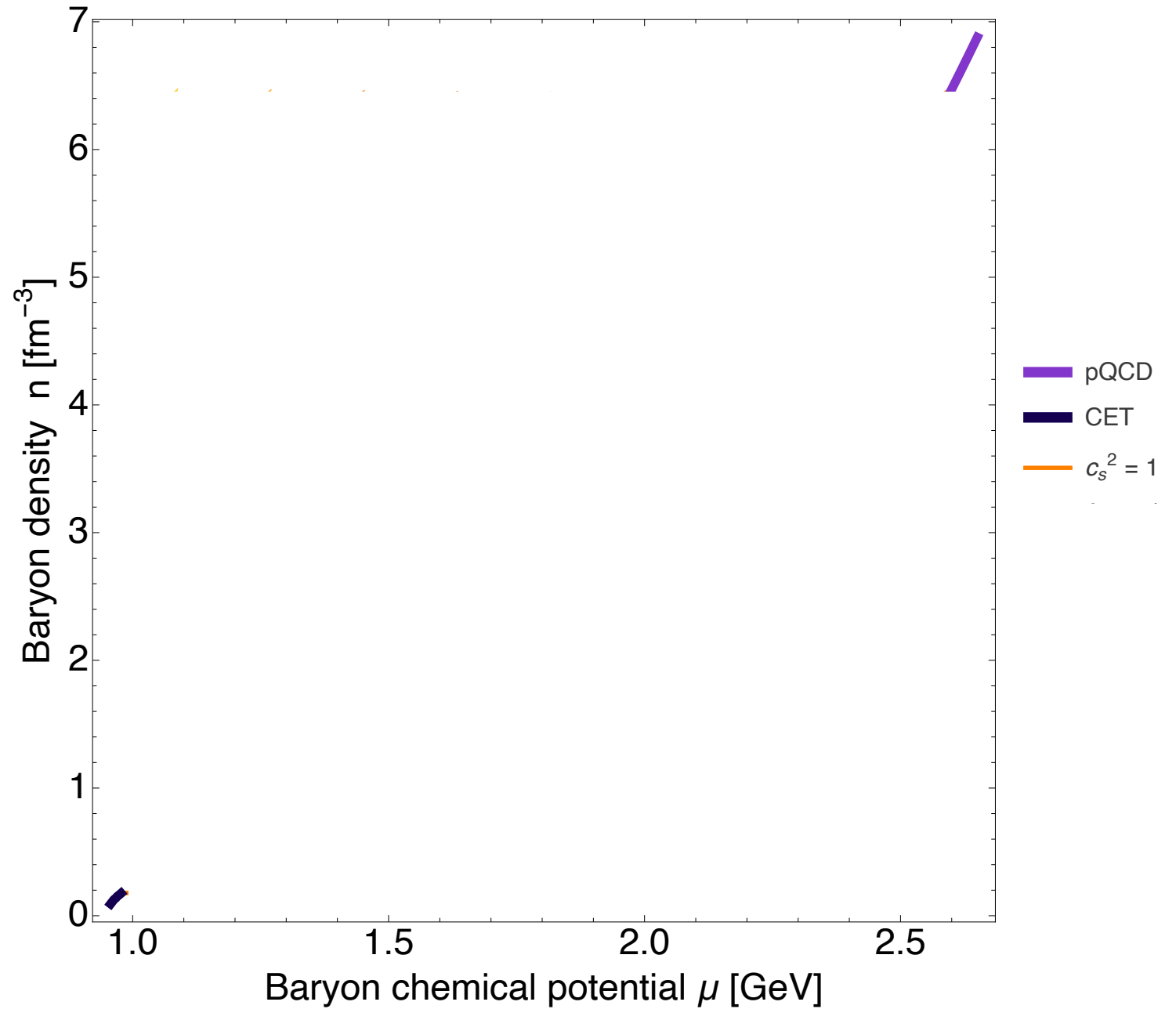
T.G, O.K., A.K., Aleksas Mazeliauskas, JHEP 06 (2023) 002

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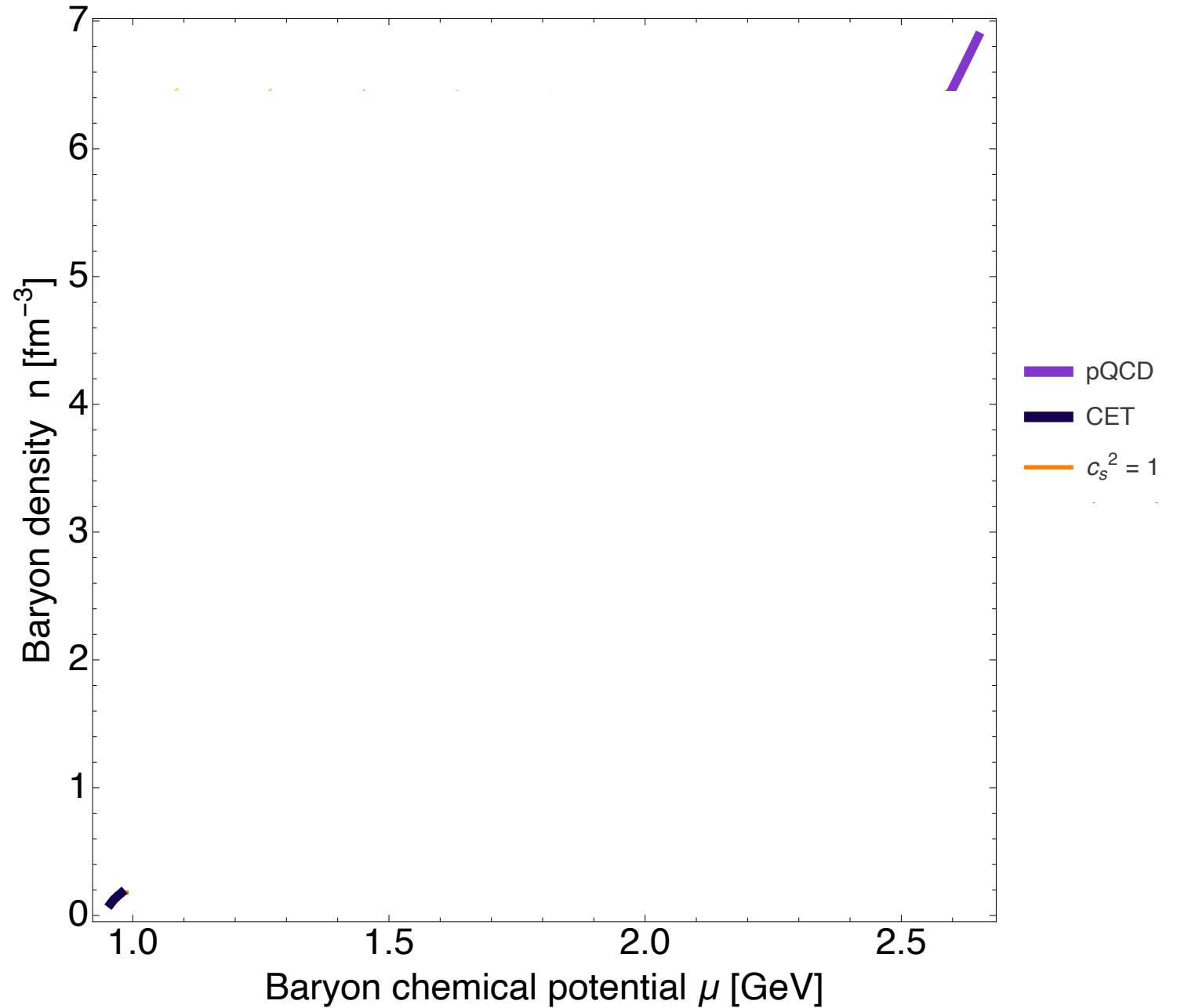
# Setup



# Setup

- Stability

$$\partial_{\mu}^2 \Omega(\mu) \leq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \partial_{\mu} n(\mu) \geq 0$$





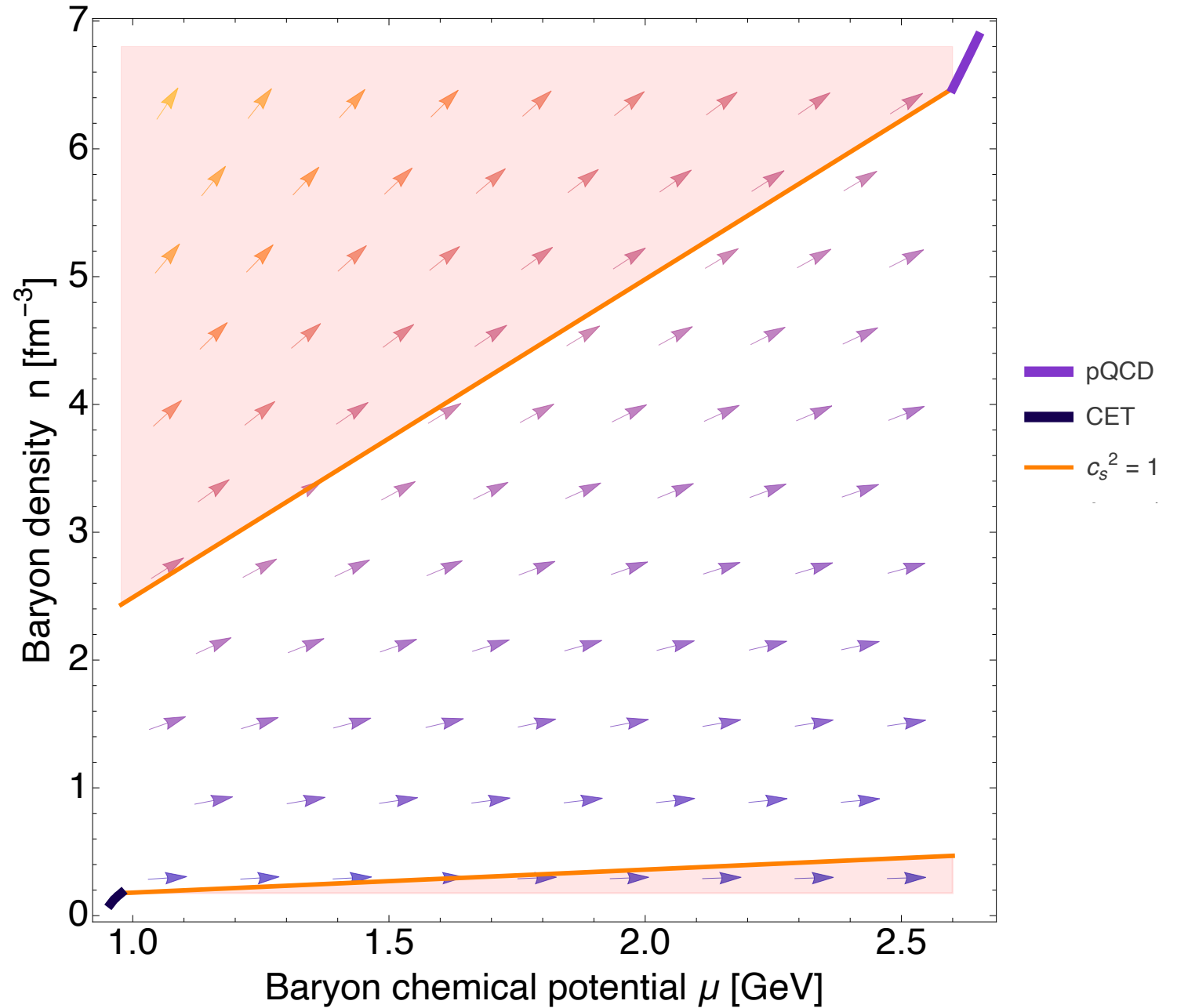
# Setup

- Stability

$$\partial_\mu^2 \Omega(\mu) \leq 0 \Rightarrow \partial_\mu n(\mu) \geq 0$$

- Causality

$$c_s^{-2} = \frac{\mu}{n} \frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu} \geq 1 \Rightarrow \partial_\mu n(\mu) \geq \frac{n}{\mu}$$



# Setup

- Stability

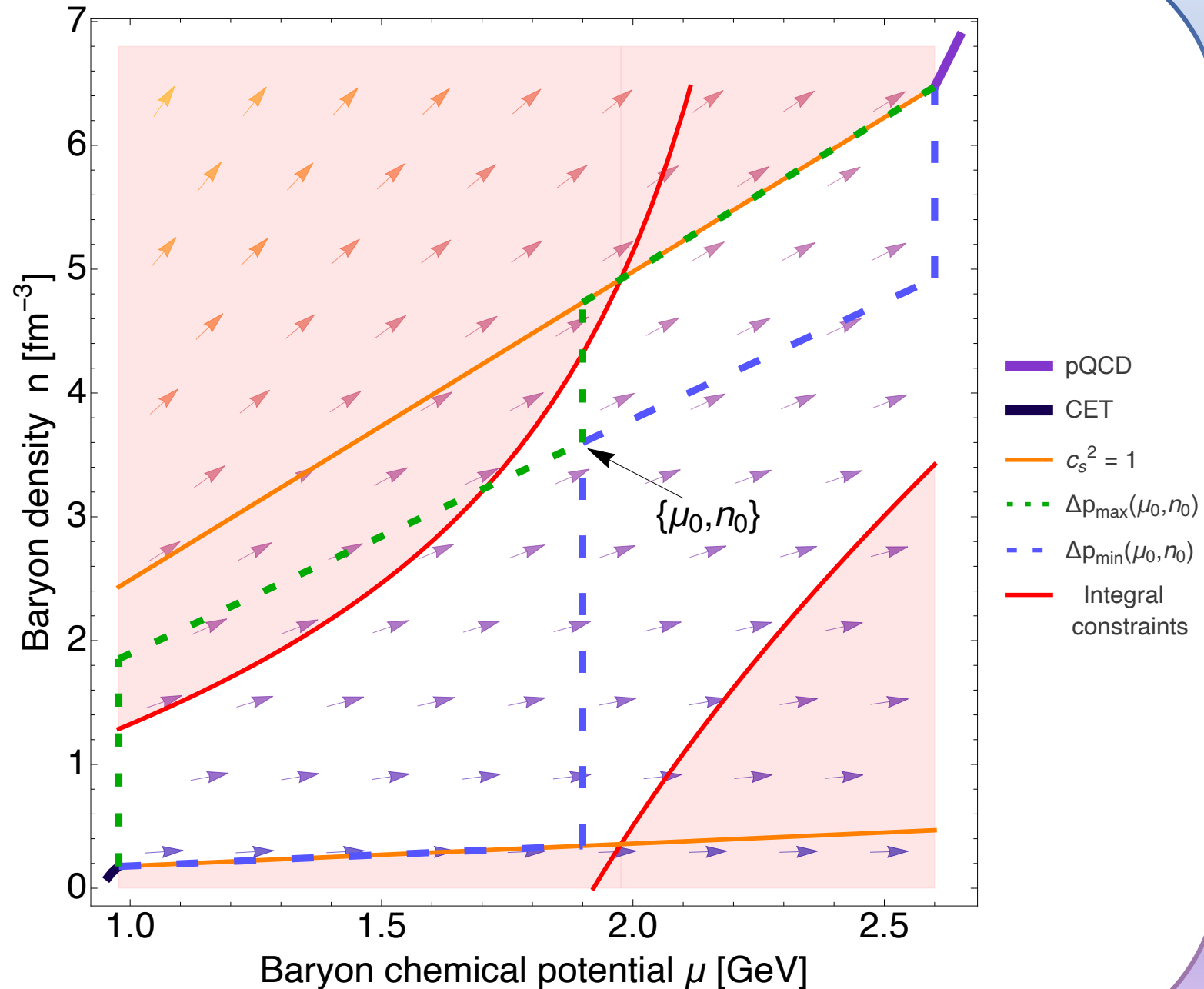
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- Causality

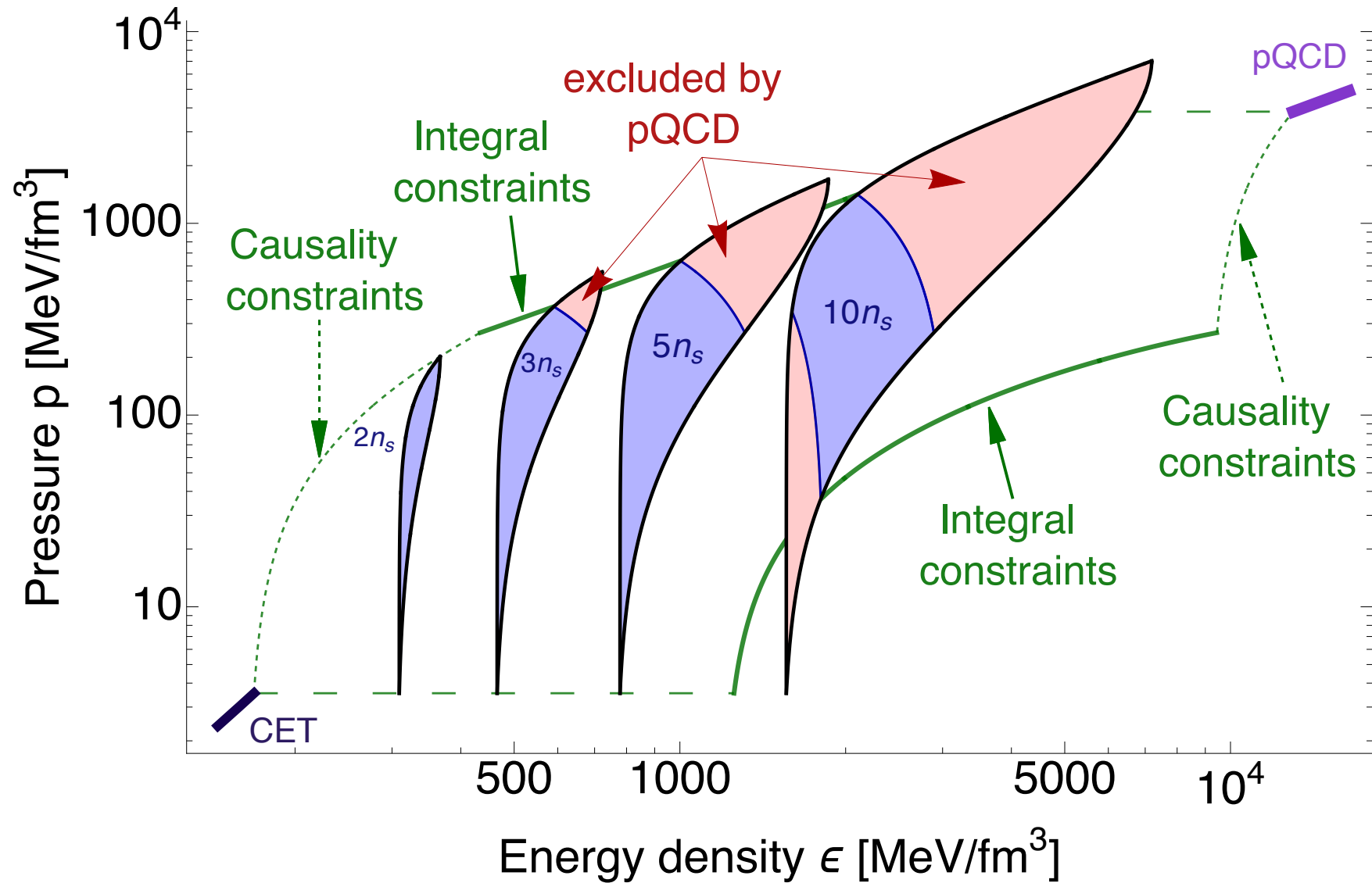
$$c_s^{-2} = \frac{\mu}{n} \frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu} \geq 1 \Rightarrow \partial_\mu n(\mu) \geq \frac{n}{\mu}$$

- Consistency

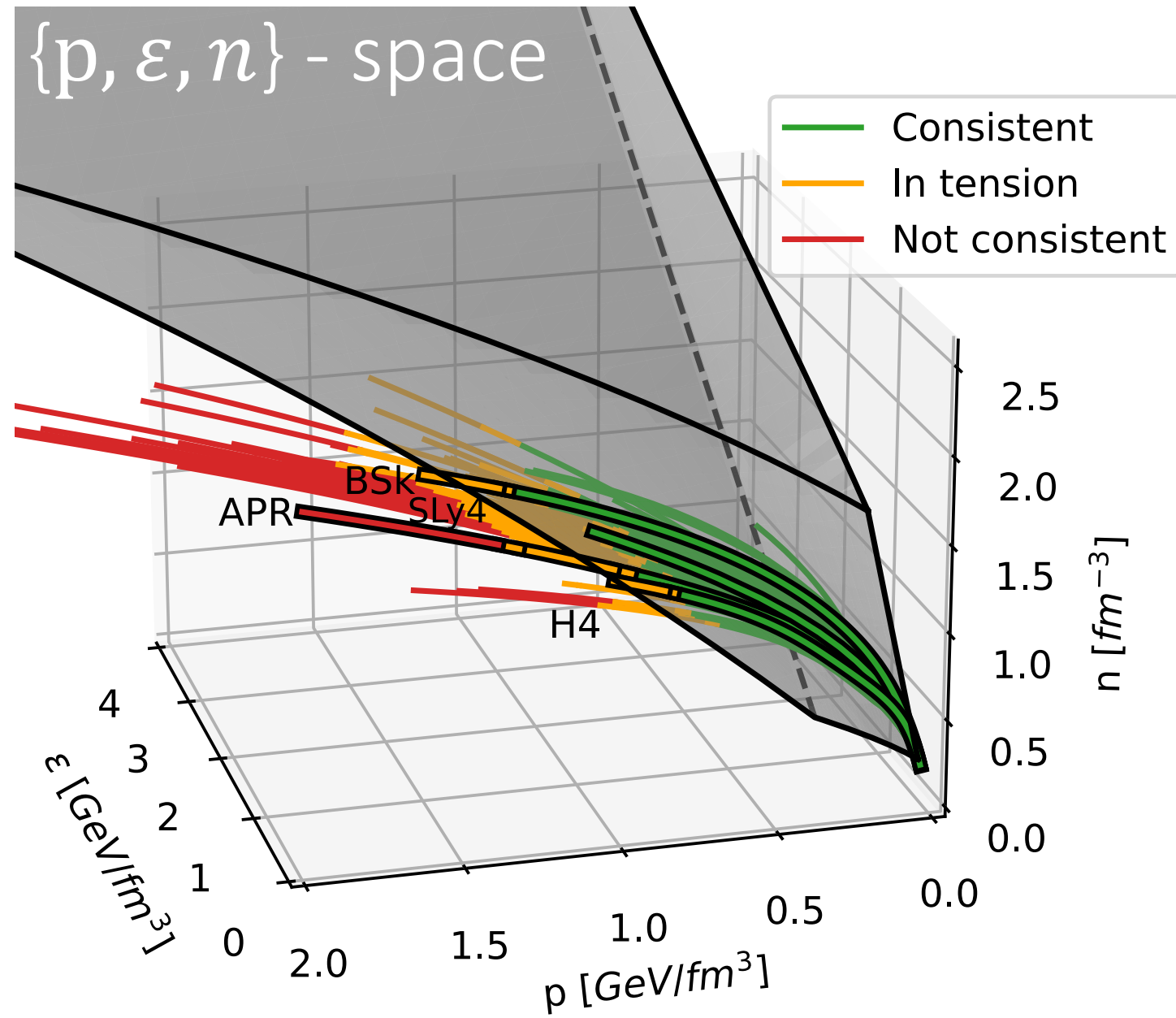
$$\int_{\mu_{CET}}^{\mu_{QCD}} n(\mu) d\mu = p_{QCD} - p_{CET} = \Delta p$$



# Constraints for fixed $n$ on $\epsilon - p$ -plane



# Constraints in $\{p, \varepsilon, n\}$ - space



- Why does QCD at  $40n_s$  constrain the EoS at NS densities

How pQCD constrains the equation of state at neutron star densities

OK & Kurkela, PRL128 (2022) 20, 2111.05350

- **How** QCD affects EoS inference

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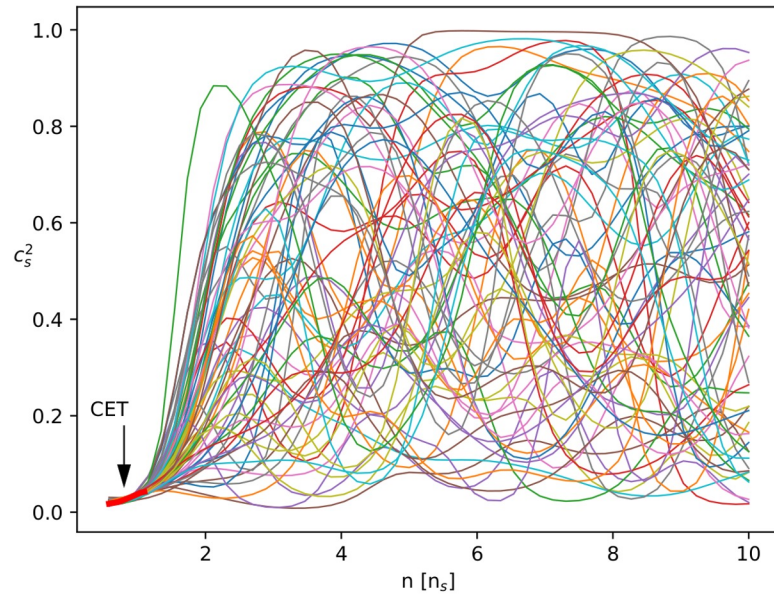
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Eemeli Annala, T.G., Joonas Hirvonen, O.K.,A.K., arXiv:2303.11356

# Gaussian-process based inference



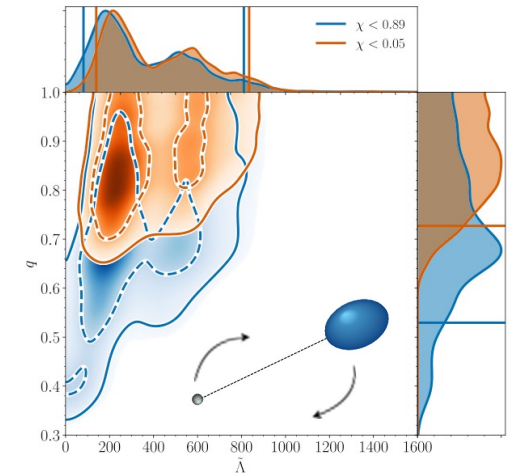
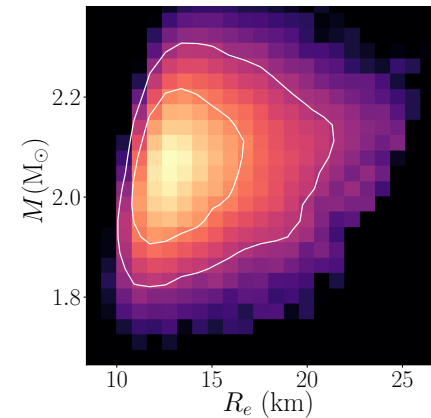
$$P(\text{EoS} | \text{data}) = \frac{P(\text{EoS}) P(\text{data} | \text{EoS})}{P(\text{data})}$$

$$P(\text{data} | \text{EoS}) = P(\text{Mass} | \text{EoS}) P(\text{NICER} | \text{EoS}) P(\tilde{\Lambda}, \text{BH} | \text{EoS})$$

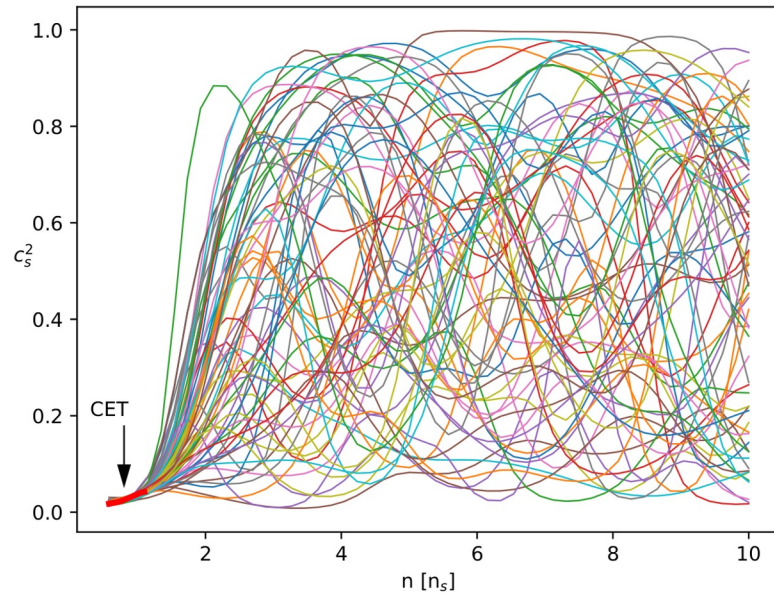
$$M_{J1614-2230} = 1.908(16)$$

$$M_{J048+0432} = 2.01(4)$$

$$M_{J0740+6620} = 2.14(10)$$



# Gaussian-process based inference



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$$P(\text{data} | \text{EoS}) = P(\text{Mass} | \text{EoS}) P(\text{NICER} | \text{EoS}) P(\tilde{\Lambda}, \text{BH} | \text{EoS}) P(\text{QCD} | \text{EoS})$$

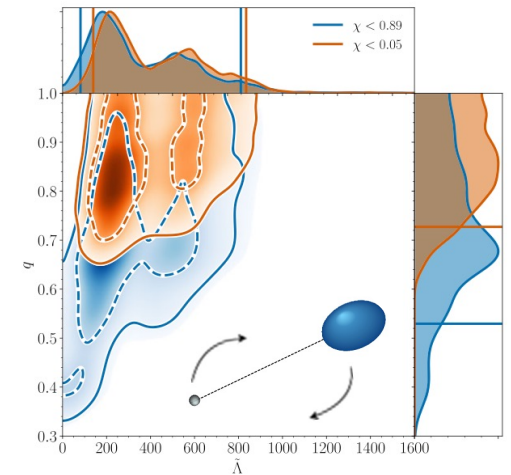
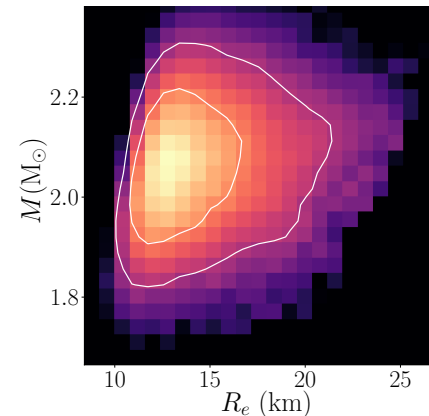
pQCD likelihood function



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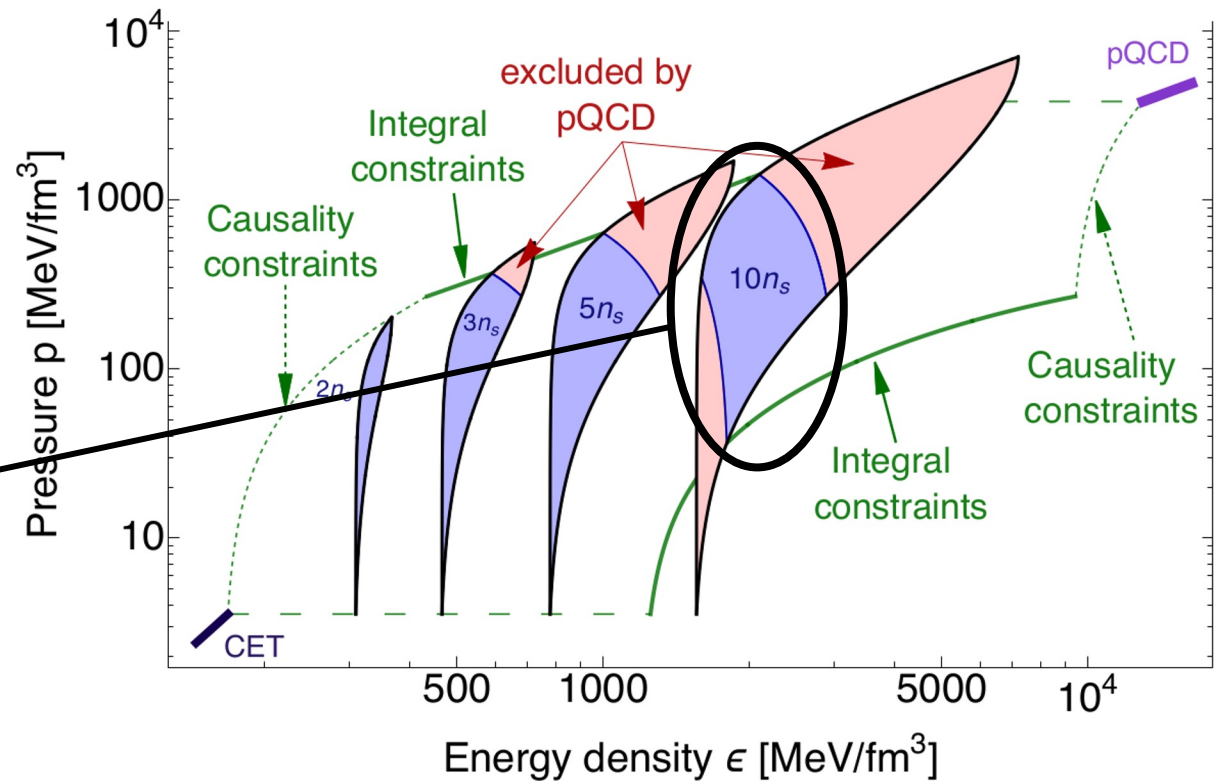




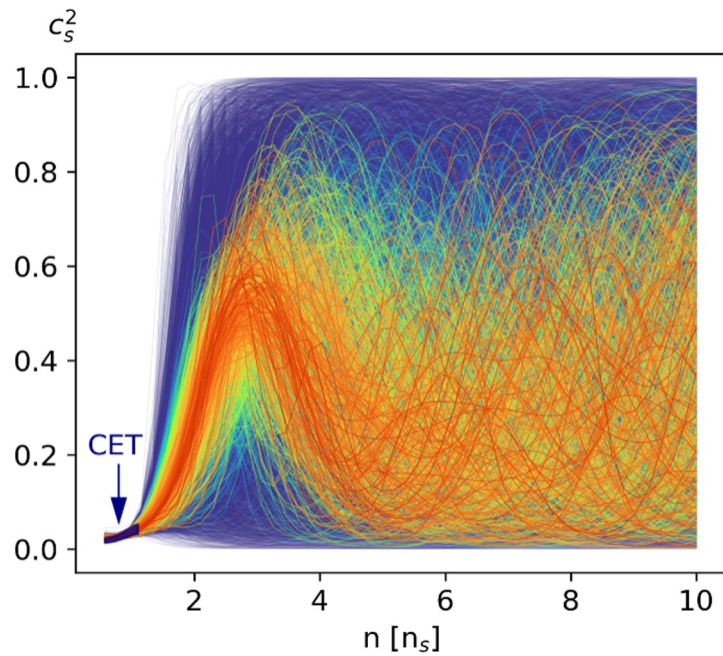
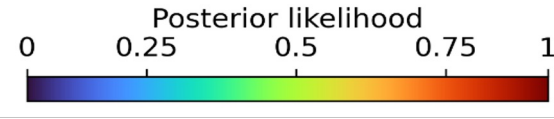
# pQCD likelihood function

- Inference setup where QCD can be turned on/off
- Easily implemented to any other extrapolation setup

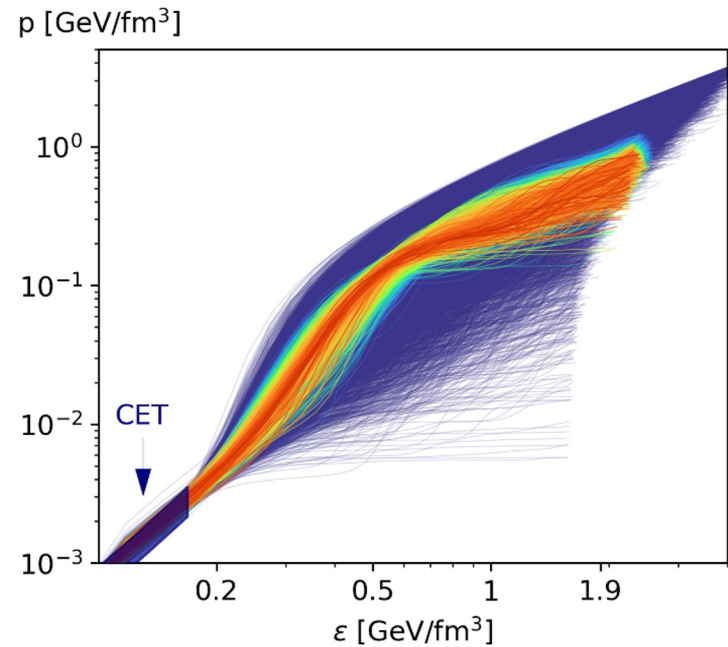
Use this area to condition an extrapolation



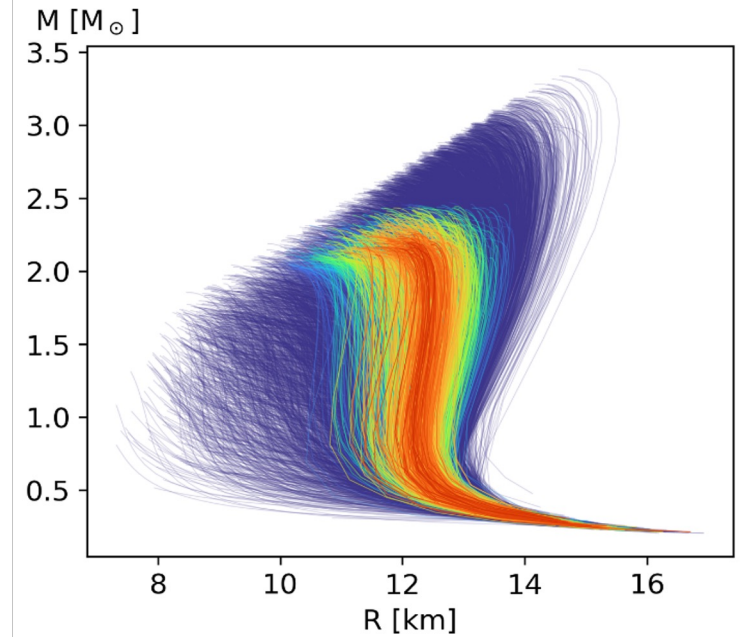
# Inferred EoS:



Speed of sound



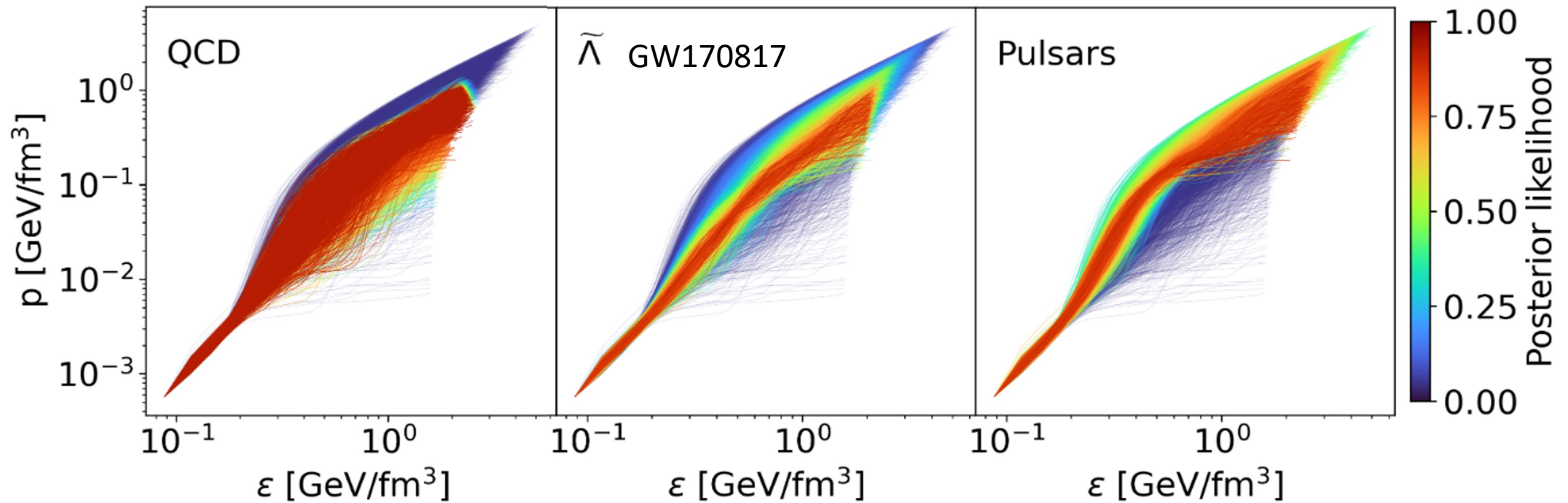
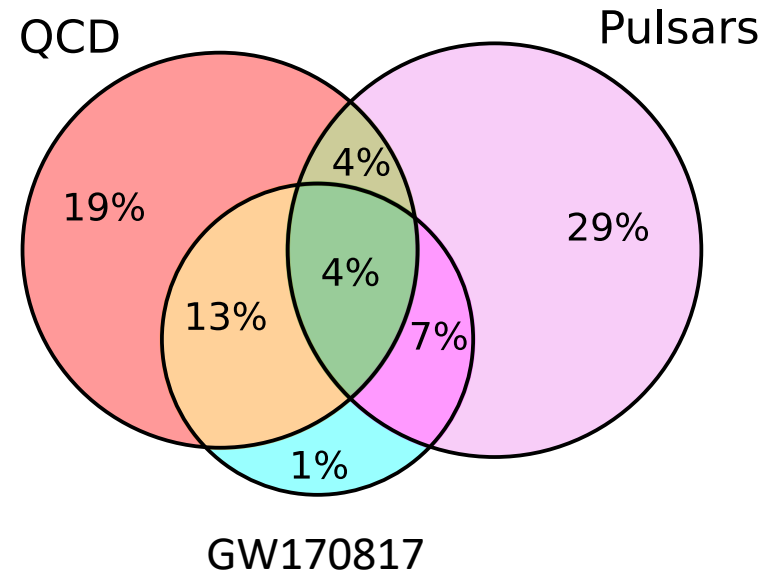
Equation of state



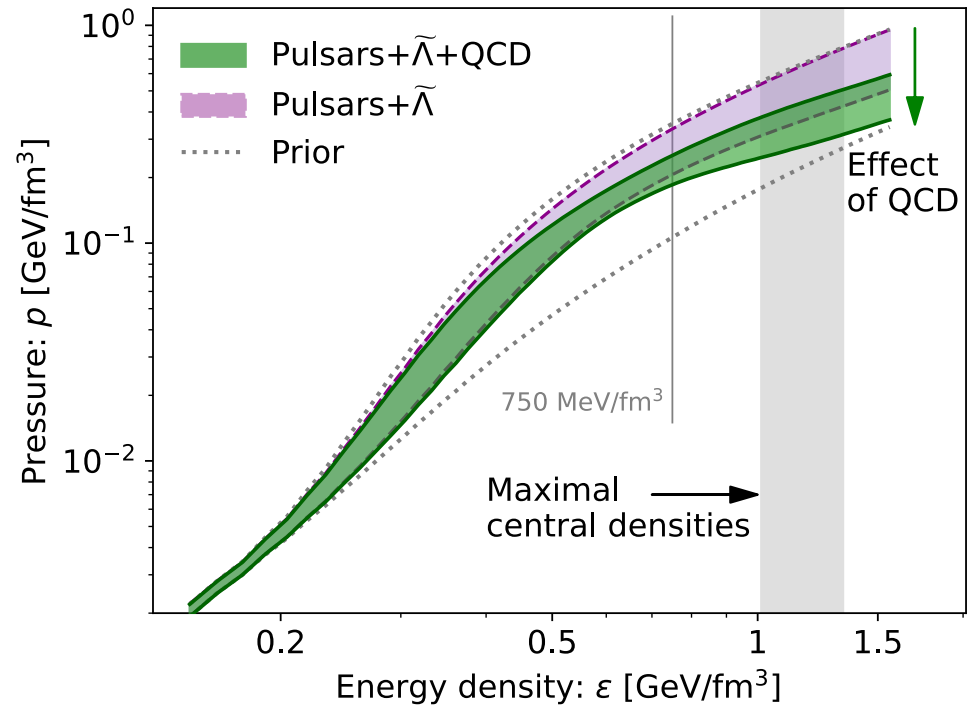
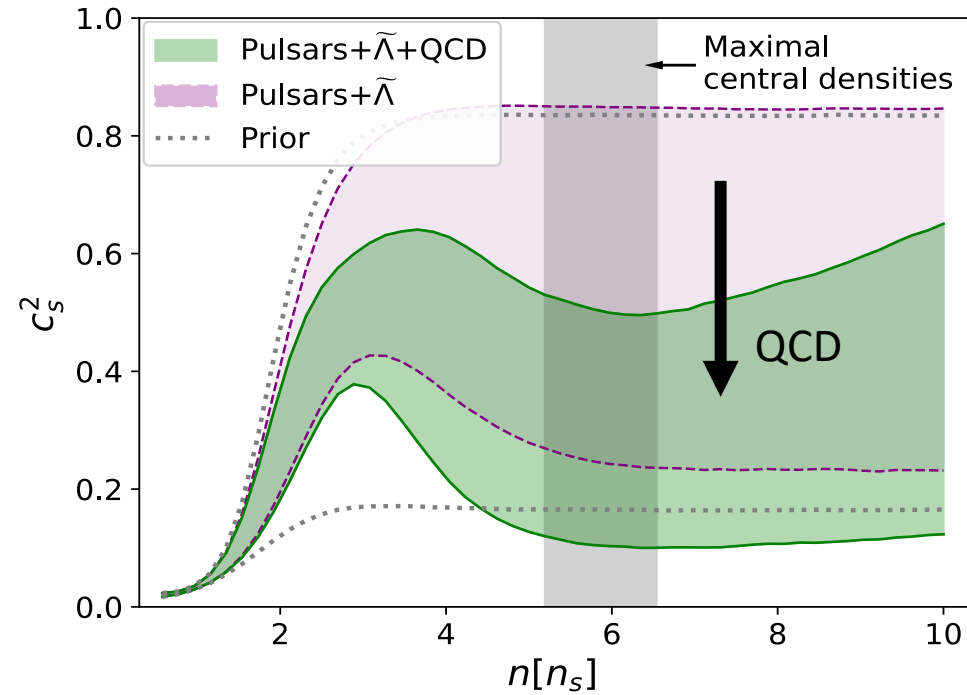
Mass-radius relation

# Effect of QCD

QCD input complements NS observations

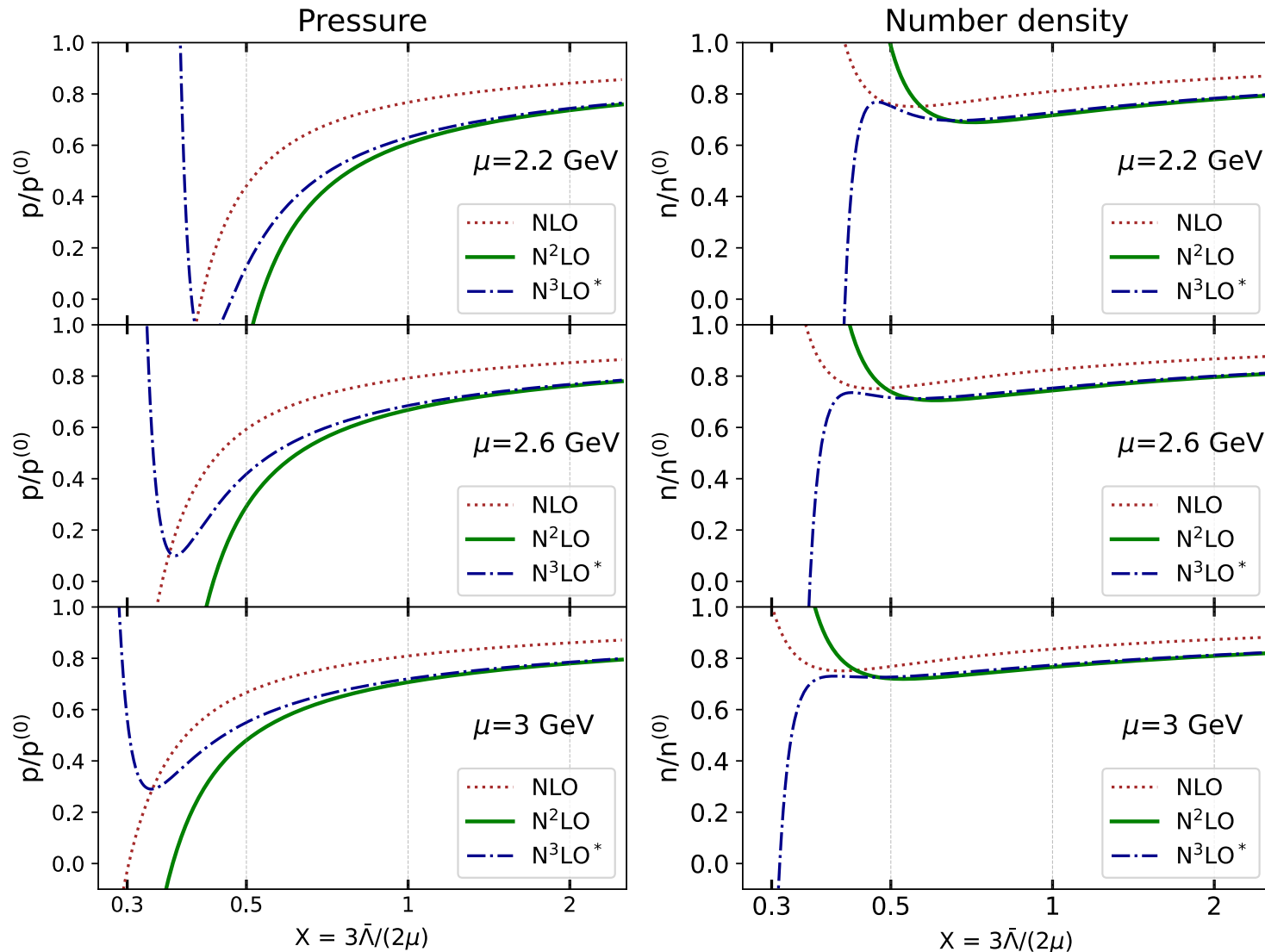


# QCD responsible for the **softening**

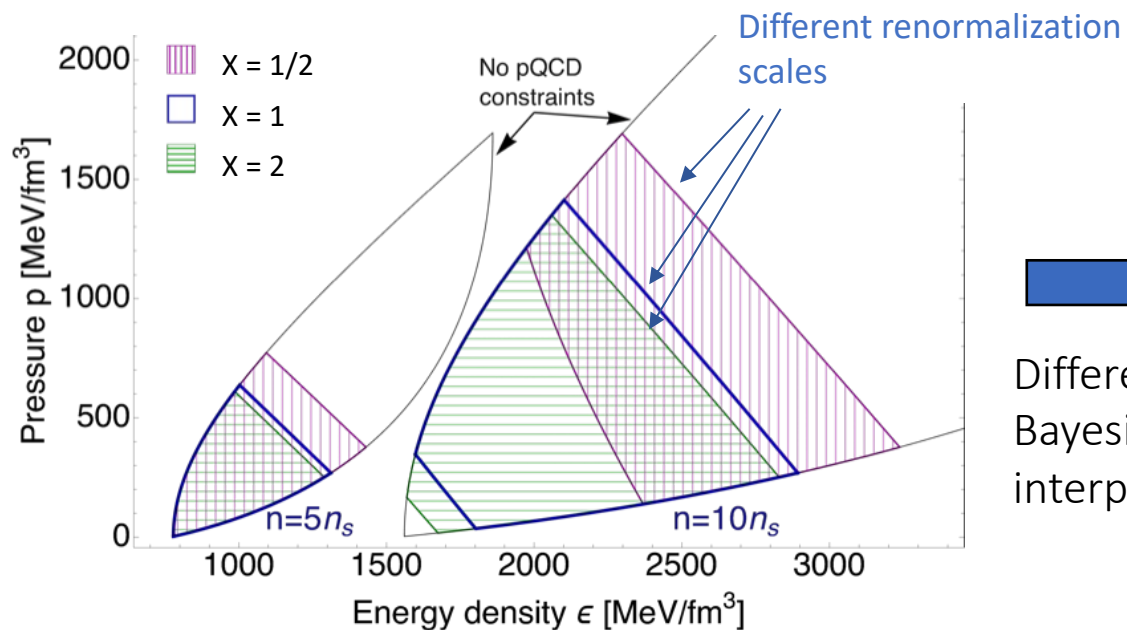


QCD pushes EoS towards conformality, **softening** at high densities

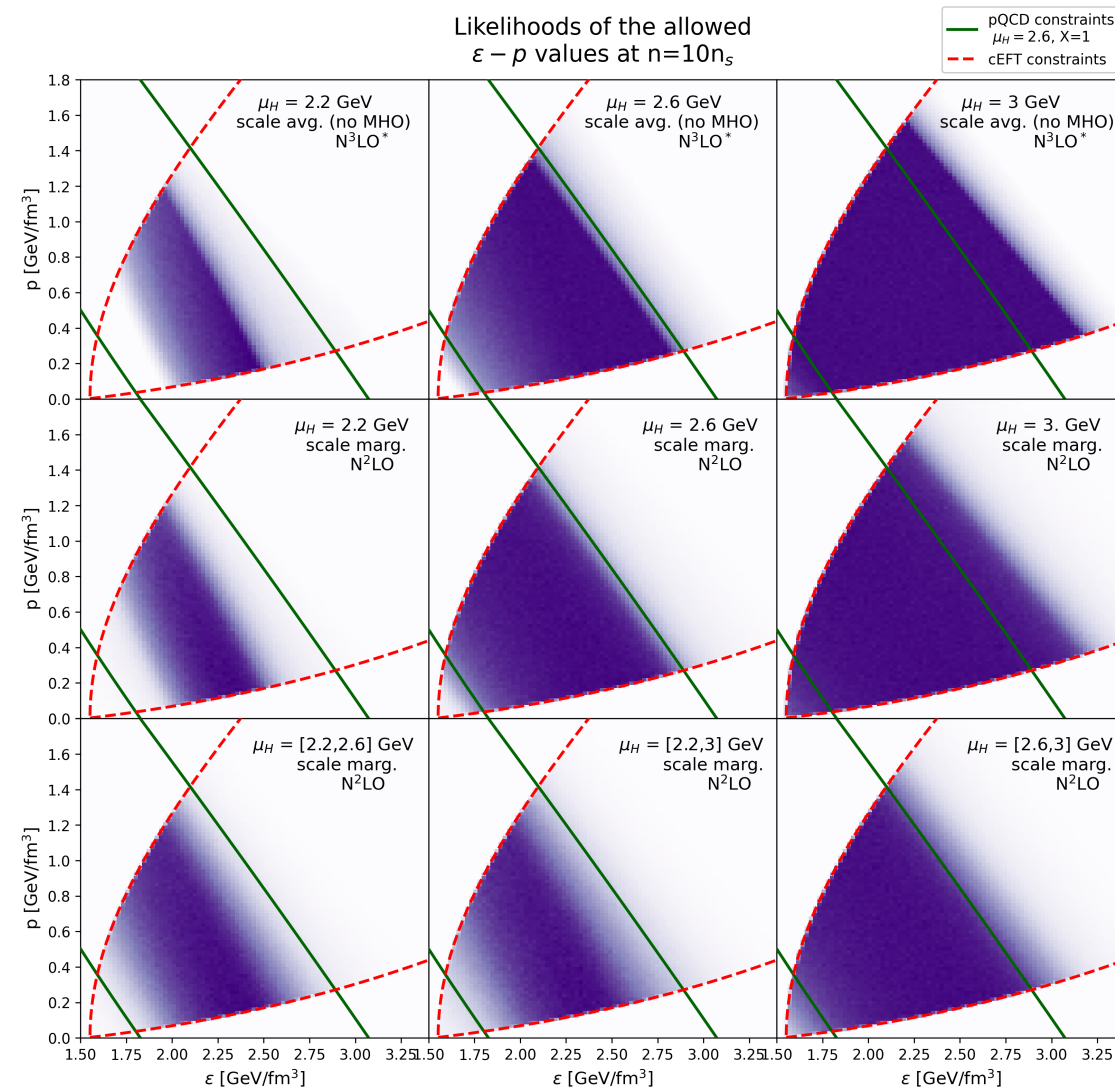
# Renormalization scale dependence



# Bayesian uncertainty quantification of perturbative QCD



Different Bayesian interpretation



- Why does QCD at  $40n_s$  constrain the EoS at NS densities

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OK & Kurkela, PRL128 (2022) 20, 2111.05350

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Eemeli Annala, T.G., Joonas Hirvonen, O.K.,A.K., arXiv:2303.11356



# Studies with pQCD see **softening** of EoS

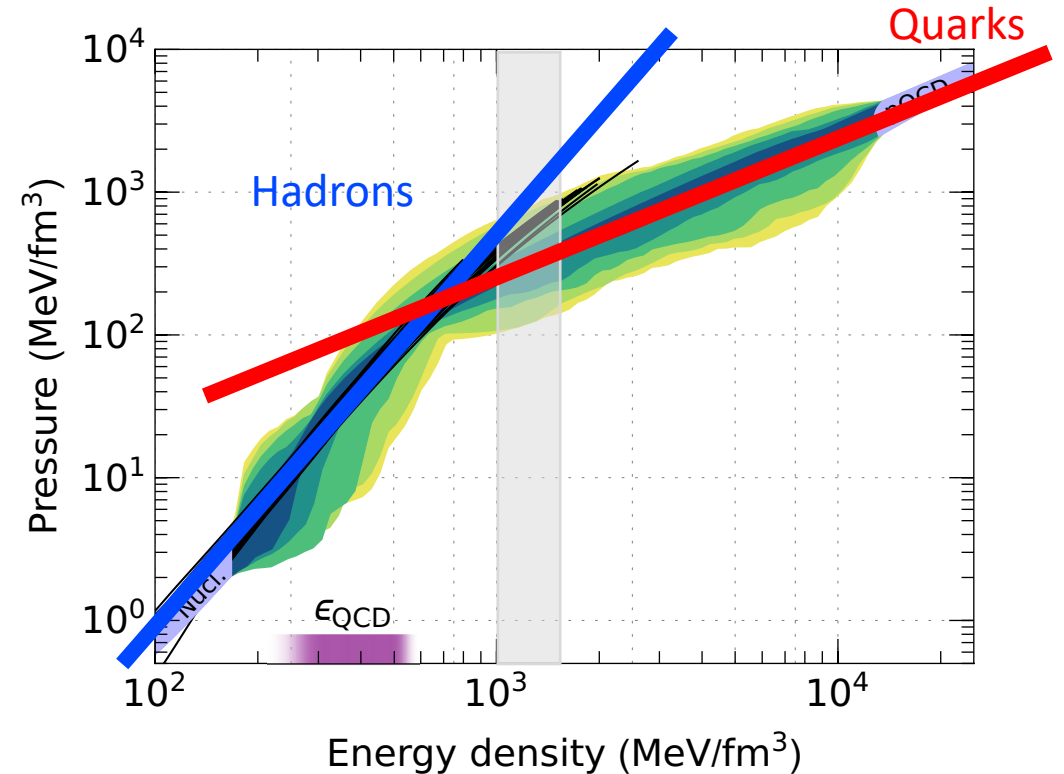
Properties of the EoS reflect the **phase structure** of the matter.

The cores of most massive NSs consistent with **deconfined, nearly conformal Quark Matter**.

**Softening**

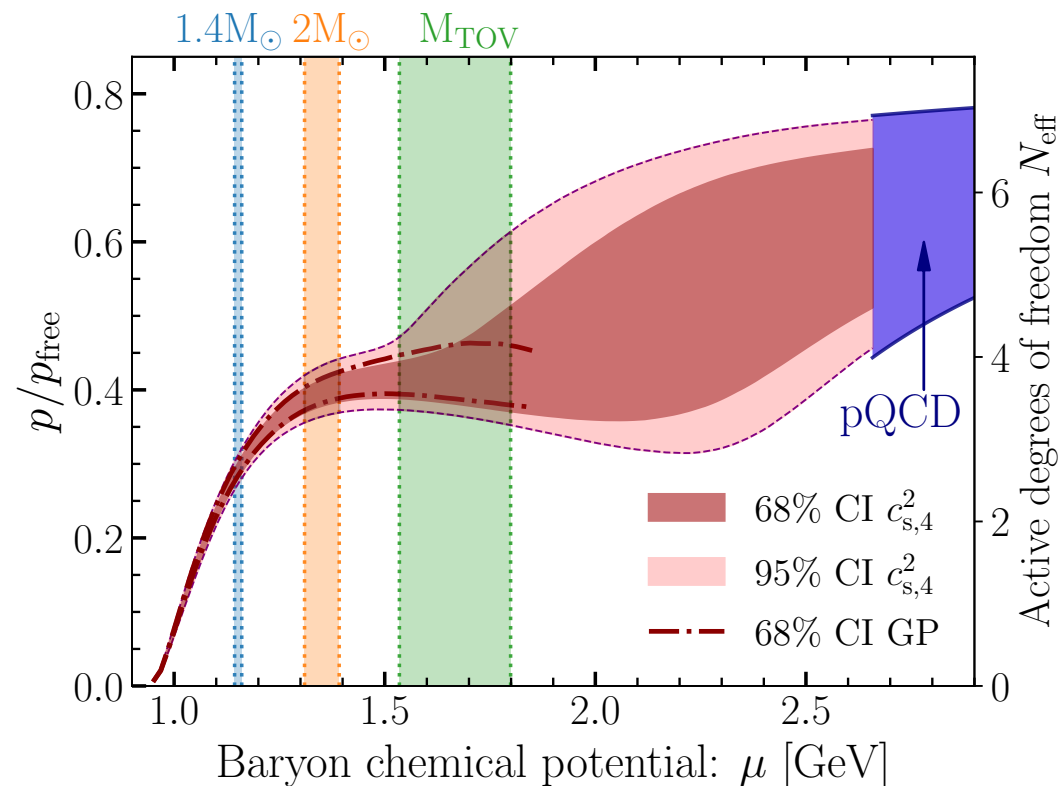
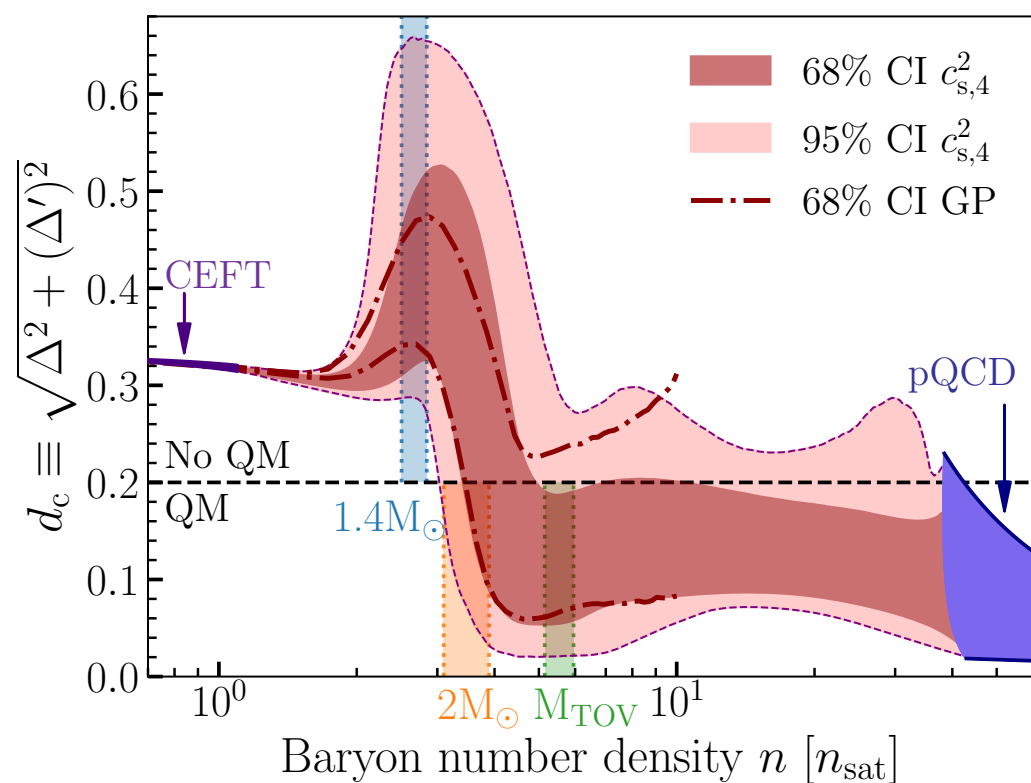
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**Conformalization**



Annala, Gorda, Kurkela, Nättilä, Vuorinen Nature Physics 16 (2020) 9  
Also: Fujimoto, Fukushima, McLerran, Praszalowicz 2207.06753,  
Kojo PRD 104, ...

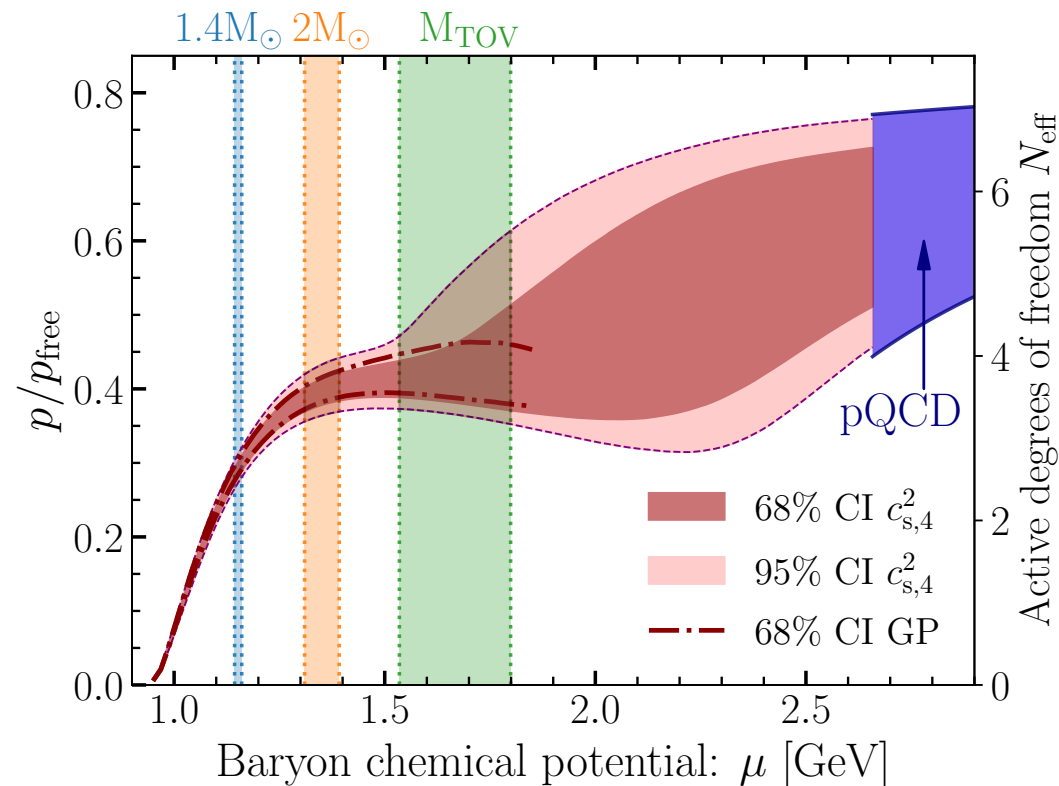
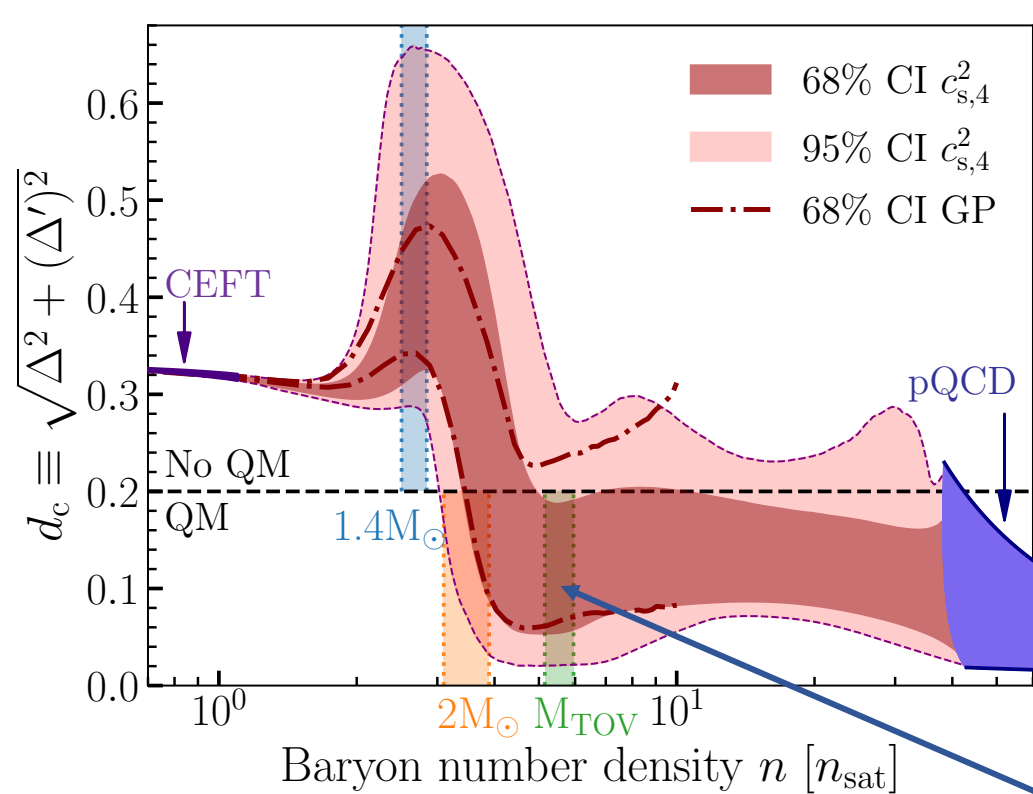
# Quark Matter in the cores of neutron stars



$$\Delta \equiv \frac{1}{3} - \frac{p}{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{c_s^2}{\gamma},$$

$$\Delta' \equiv \frac{d\Delta}{d \log \epsilon} = c_s^2 \left( \frac{1}{\gamma} - 1 \right)$$

# Quark Matter in the cores of neutron stars



$$\Delta \equiv \frac{1}{3} - \frac{p}{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{c_s^2}{\gamma},$$

$$\Delta' \equiv \frac{d\Delta}{d \log \epsilon} = c_s^2 \left( \frac{1}{\gamma} - 1 \right)$$

Conformal symmetry restoration  
with 88% credence

# Conclusion

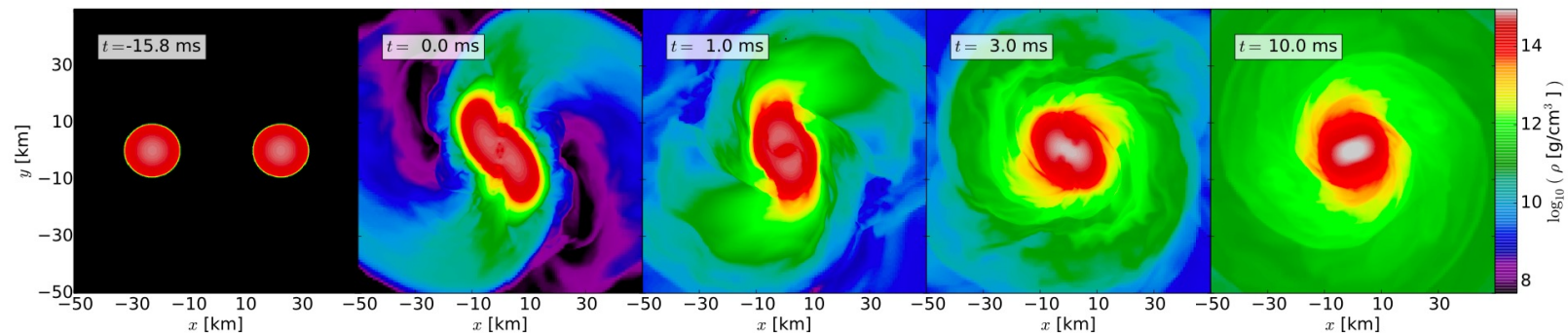
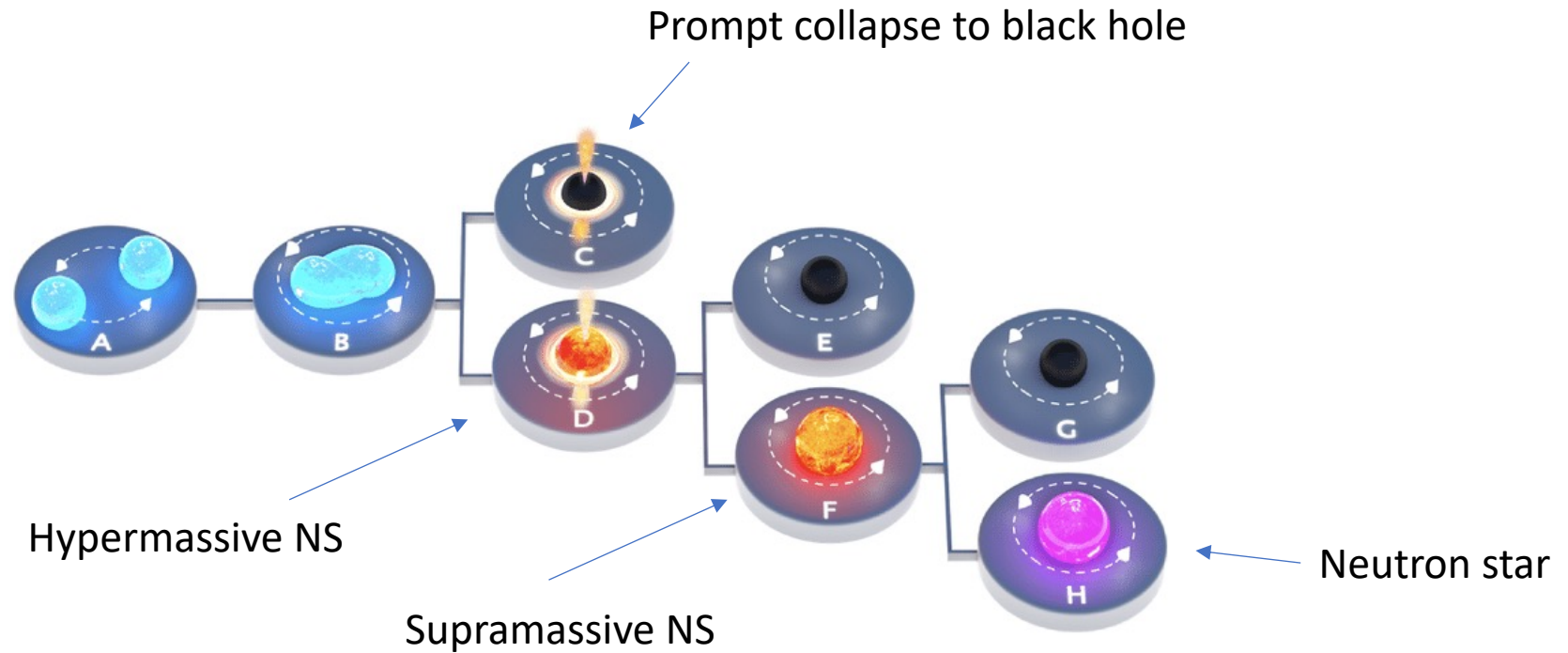
QCD at high densities offers significant and nontrivial information about the **EoS** at NS densities

- We find that strongly interacting matter exhibits deconfined behavior in massive neutron stars
- We provide a Python script to impose pQCD constraints at any density
- pQCD predicts that (most) binary merger products are BHs

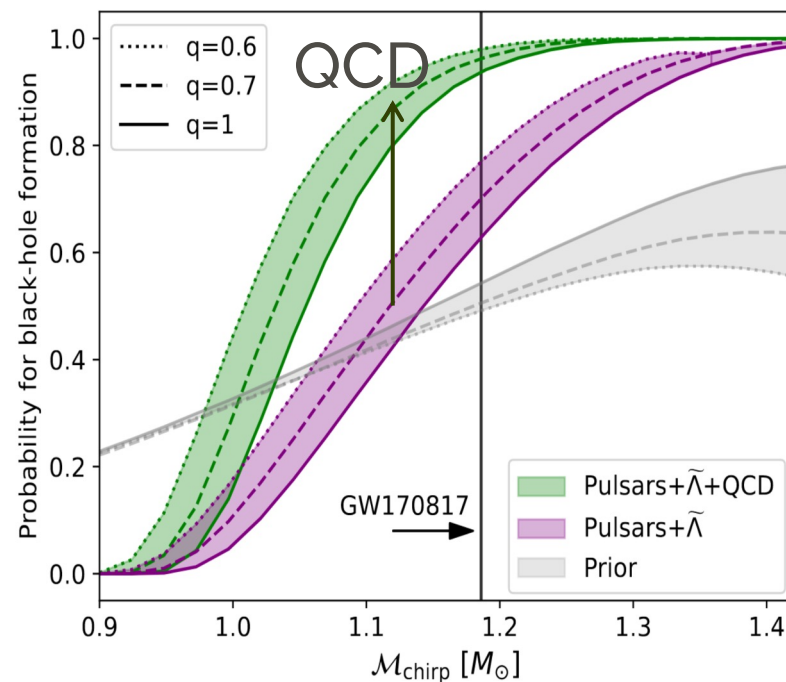
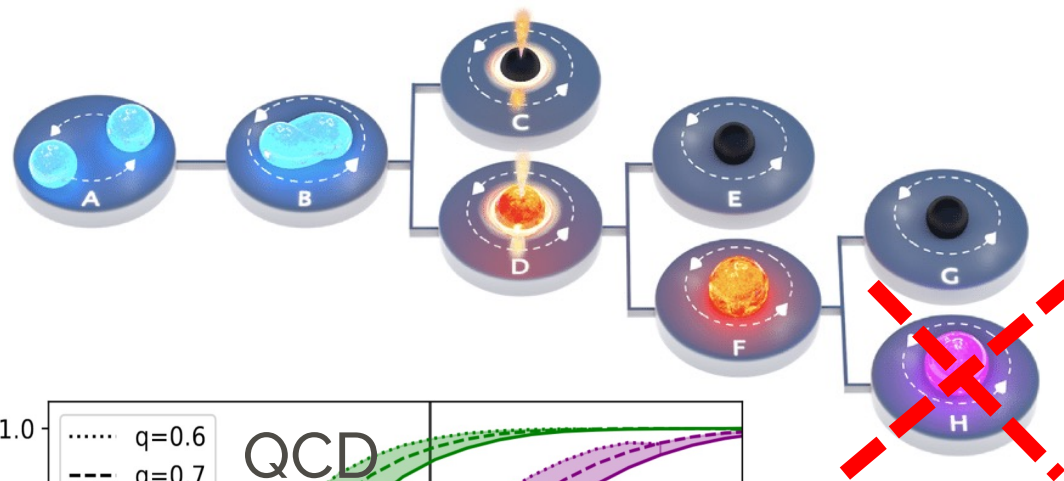
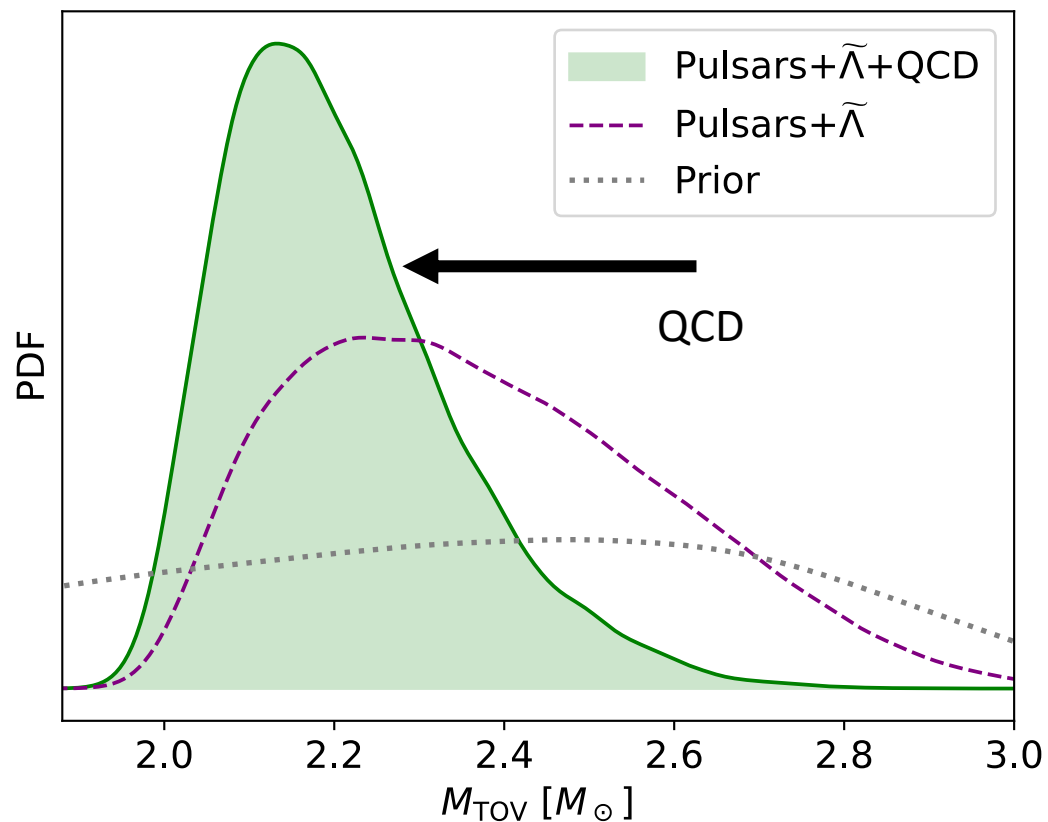
[github.com/OKomoltsev/QCD-likelihood-function](https://github.com/OKomoltsev/QCD-likelihood-function)

Supplemental material  
Can the **softening** be observationally verified?

# Different binary merger products:



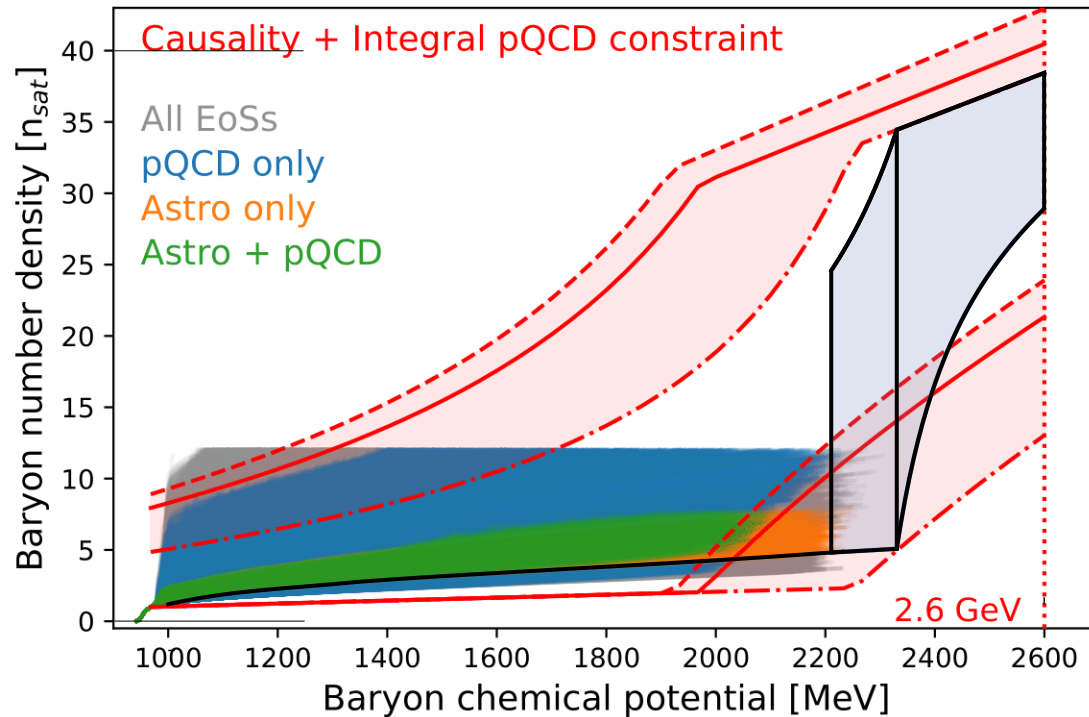
# Effect of QCD:



## Gravitational waves from binary NS mergers



# Comparison with recent work



1. PT at  $n_{\text{TOV}}$  of  $\Delta n = 20n_s$  ( $\Delta n/n = 4$ )

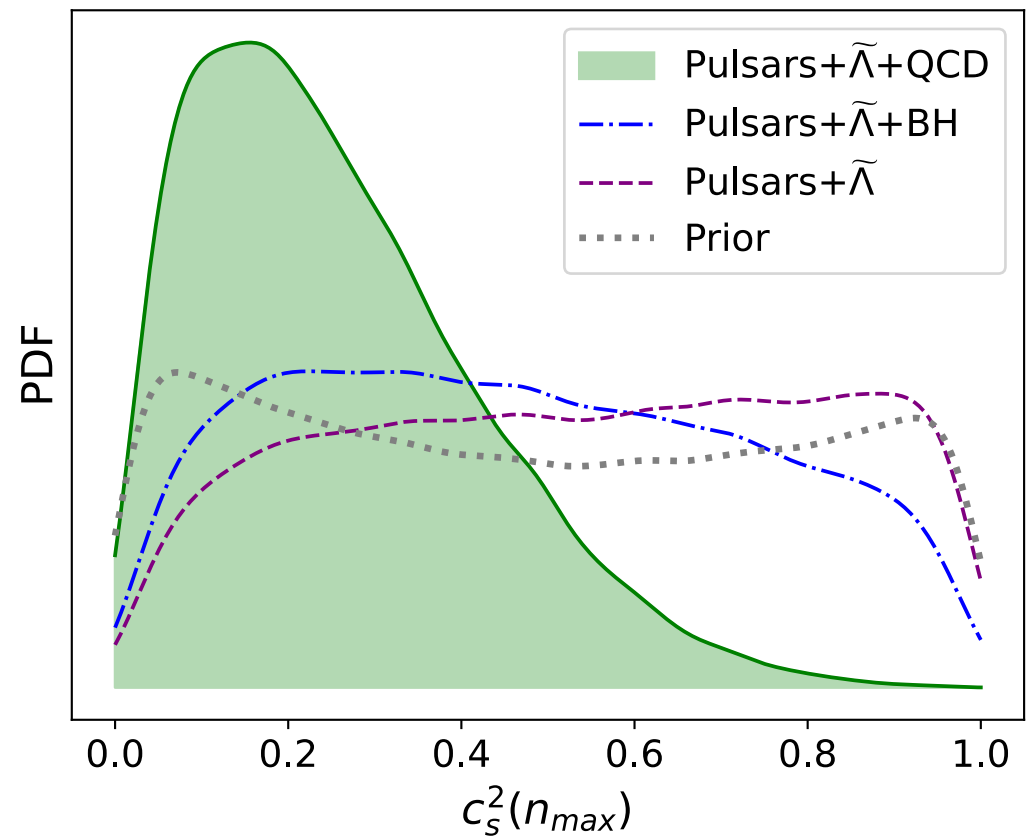
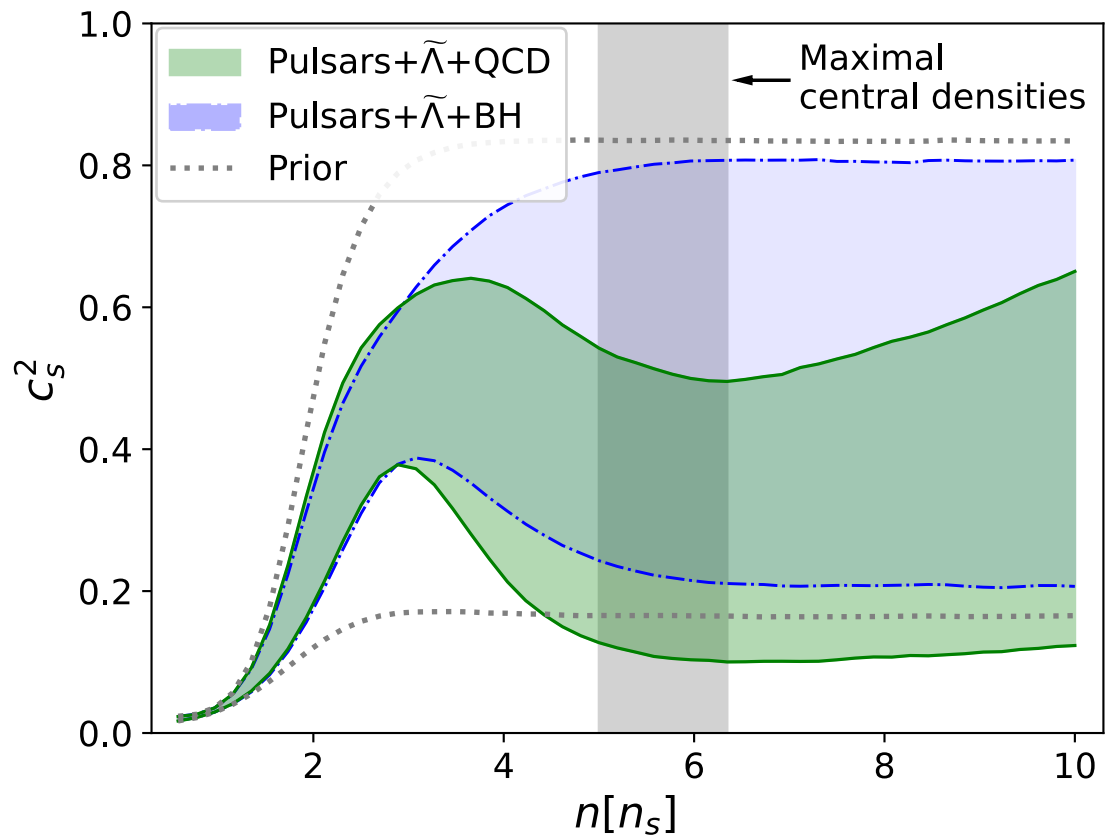
2. PT at  $n_{\text{TOV}} + 0.2n_s$  of  $\Delta n = 30n_s$  ( $\Delta n/n = 6$ )

Somasundaram, Tews, Margueron (2204.14038) perform conservative analysis with QCD input:

- **Results broadly consistent with us**
- No Bayesian treatment of inputs
- Apply QCD input at  $n = n_{\text{TOV}}$  instead of  $n = 10n_s$
- Constraints for most  $X$  – only for small range at  $X = 1-1.3$  not constraining
- These EOSs with  $X \approx 1$  need very specific behaviour beyond  $n_{\text{TOV}}$  to reach pQCD

c.f. Fujimoto + 2205.03882 for signatures of such PTs

# The impact of the QCD input on the EoS



# The softening is a robust prediction

