

Phases of Matter Inside Neutron Stars

Veronica Dexheimer



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Research**



**FULBRIGHT
Portugal**

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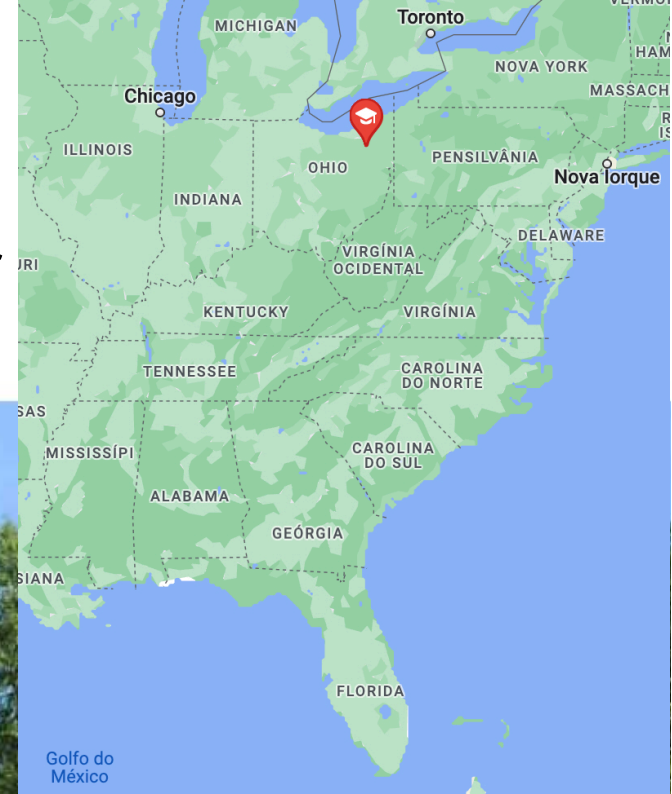
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★ Kent State University:

<https://www.kent.edu/physics/profile/veronica-dexheimer>



Overview

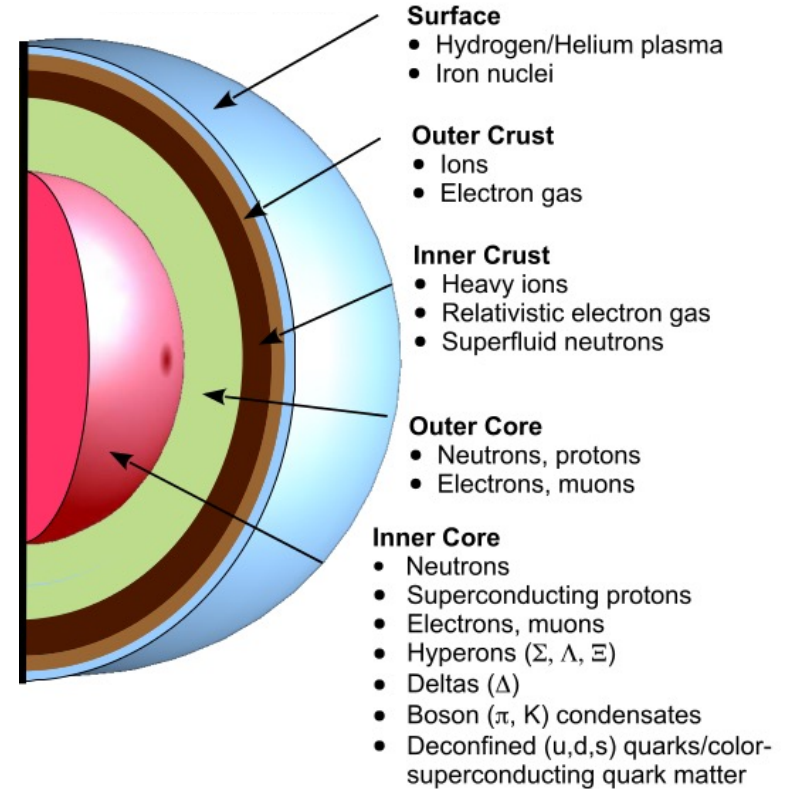
- * Introduction to neutron stars and the dense-matter equation of state (EoS)
- * Neutron-star astrophysical observables and relation to dense-matter EoS
- * Comparison with other systems
- * Where to find dense-matter and neutron-star EoS's

Introduction to dense-matter EoS

- * Official meaning: a thermodynamic equation relating state variables
- * Stiffer EoSs provide larger pressure (for a given energy density)
- * In astrophysics we (when available) also provide/expect:
 - full thermodynamic list of variables
 - particle composition
 - microscopic information
 - stellar properties ...
- * 1D or 2D (usually for neutron stars or isospin symmetric)
- * 3D (usually n_B , T , Y_Q) ...

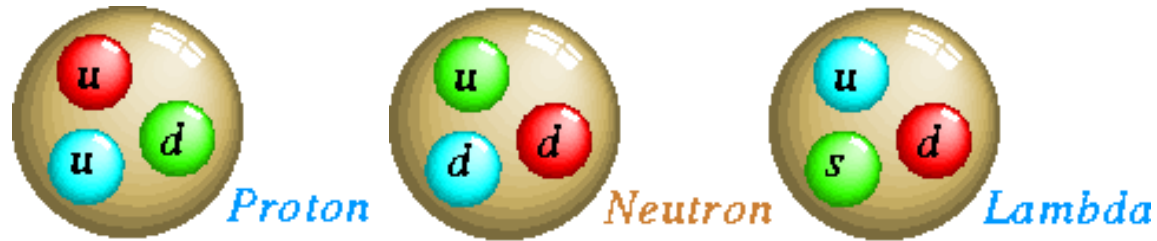
EoS ingredients

- * Low-density EoS with nuclei
- * High-density EoS with bulk hadronic matter: nucleons, hyperons, deconfined quarks, ...

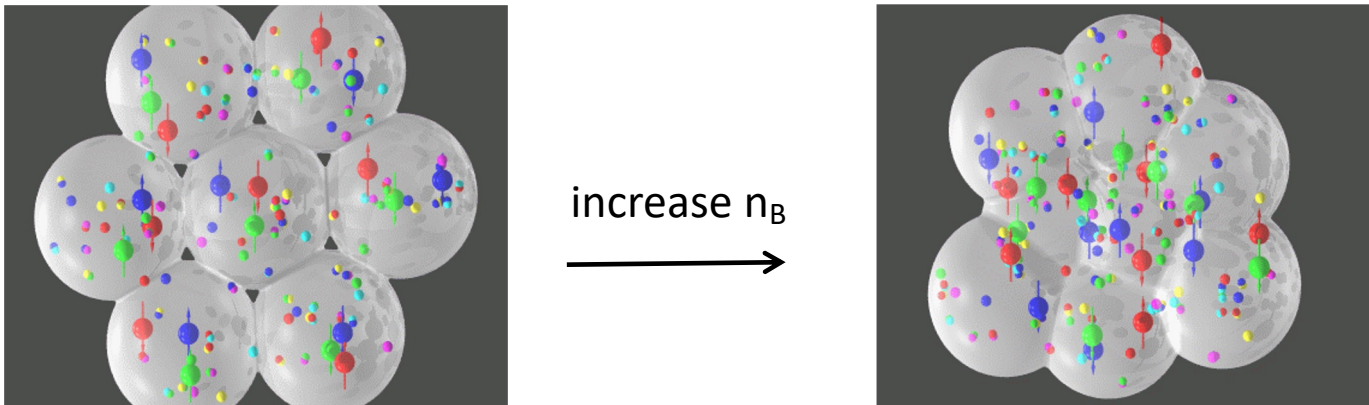


Mod.Phys.Lett.A 29 (2014) 1430022
e-Print: [1408.0079](#)

- * Baryons (hadrons made up of 3 quarks)

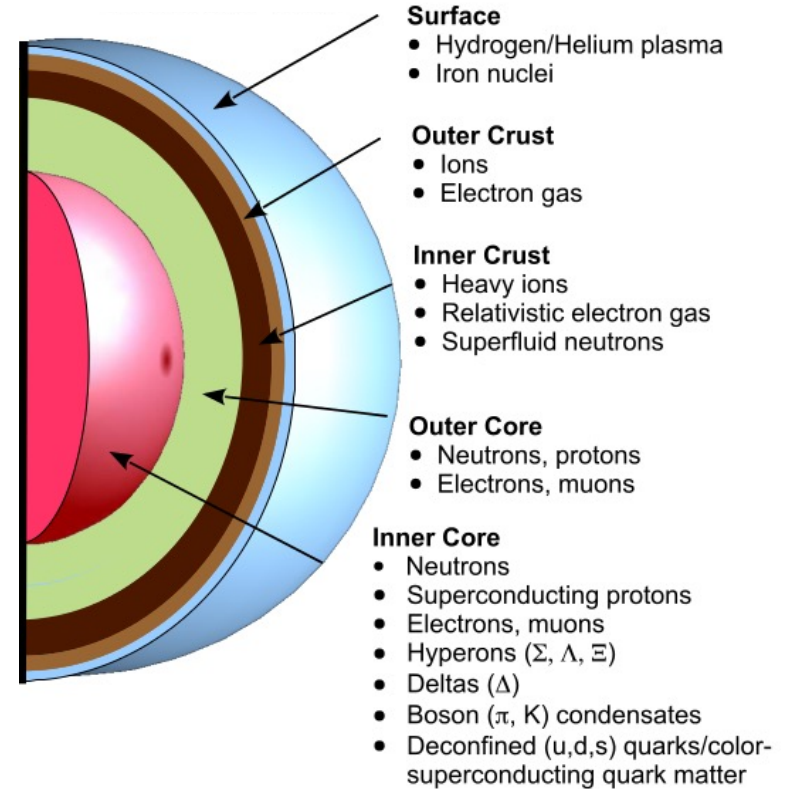


- * With more massive quarks generating more massive hadrons
- * Appearance of Lambdas and other hyperons at large densities ~ 2 nuclear saturation density (n_{sat})
- * Leptons (electrons, muons) are also present
- * Eventually, quarks inside hadrons are deconfined



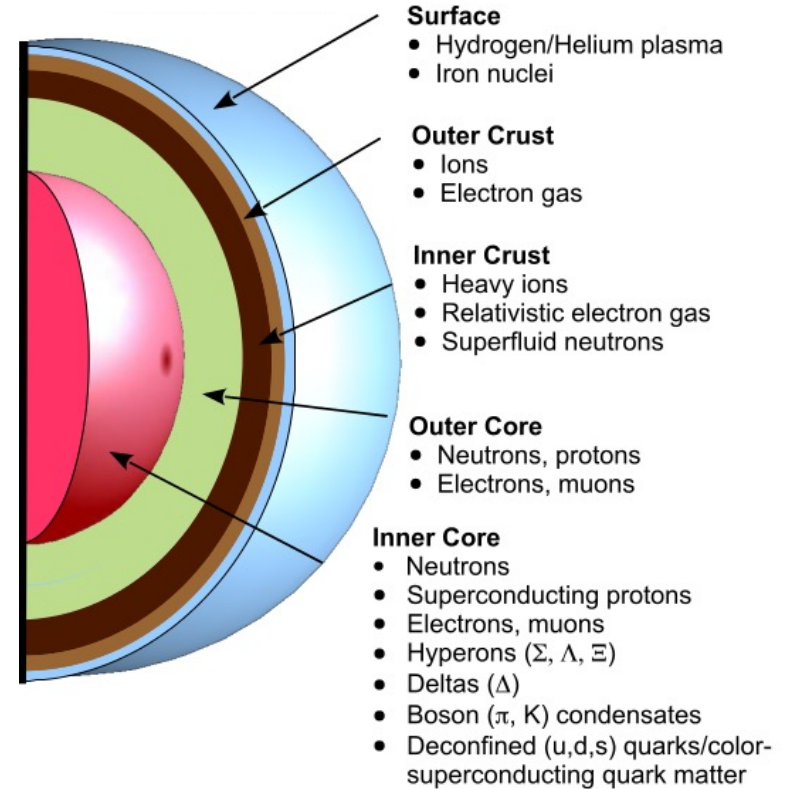
EoS ingredients

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- * Quantum relativistic description
- * Reproduce chiral symmetry restoration (masses from medium)



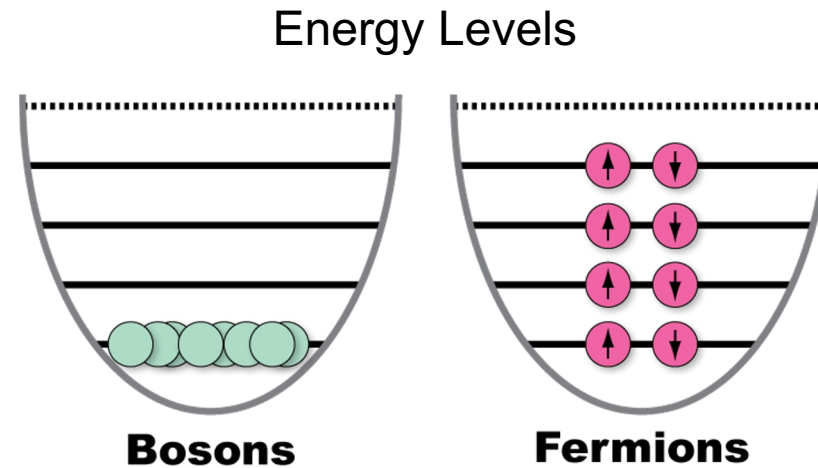
EoS ingredients

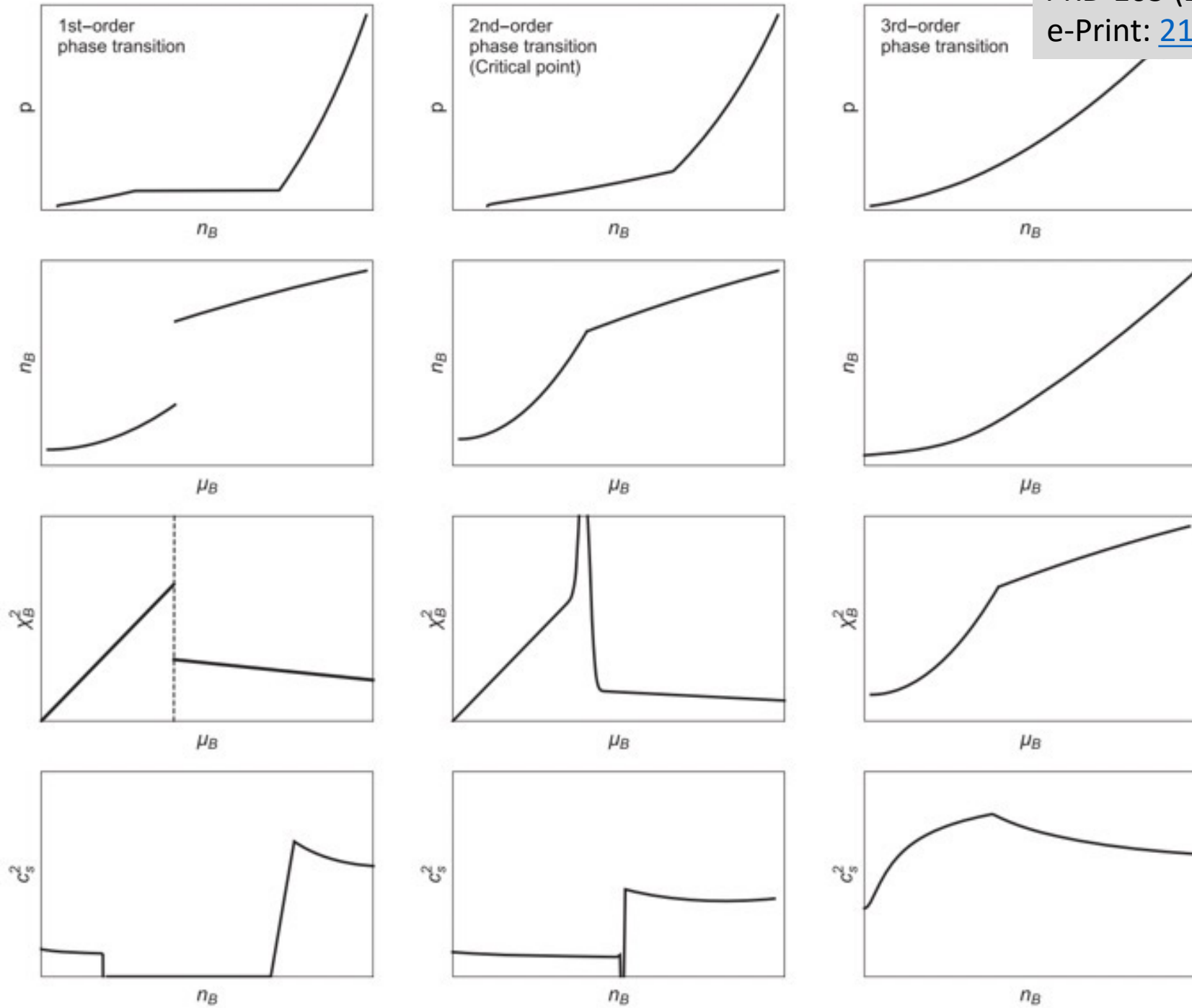
- * Low-density EoS with nuclei
- * High-density EoS with bulk hadronic matter: nucleons, hyperons, deconfined quarks, ...
- * Quantum relativistic description
- * Reproduce chiral symmetry restoration
- * Reproduce lattice QCD results at finite temperature
- * In agreement with heavy-ion collision physics at finite temperature
- * Reproduce perturbative QCD results in the relevant regime



Neutron star composition

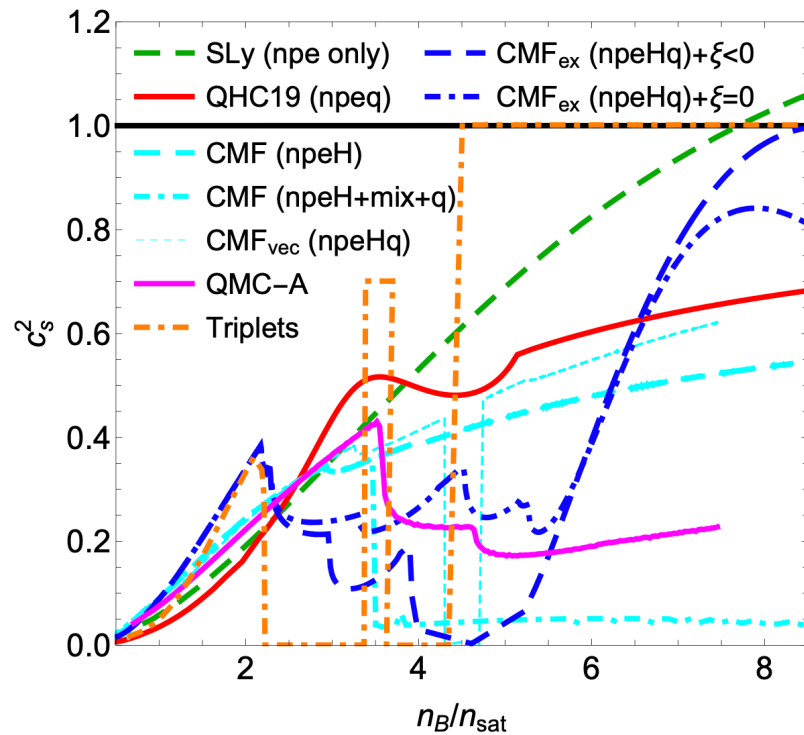
- * Different exotic matter associated with different phase transitions





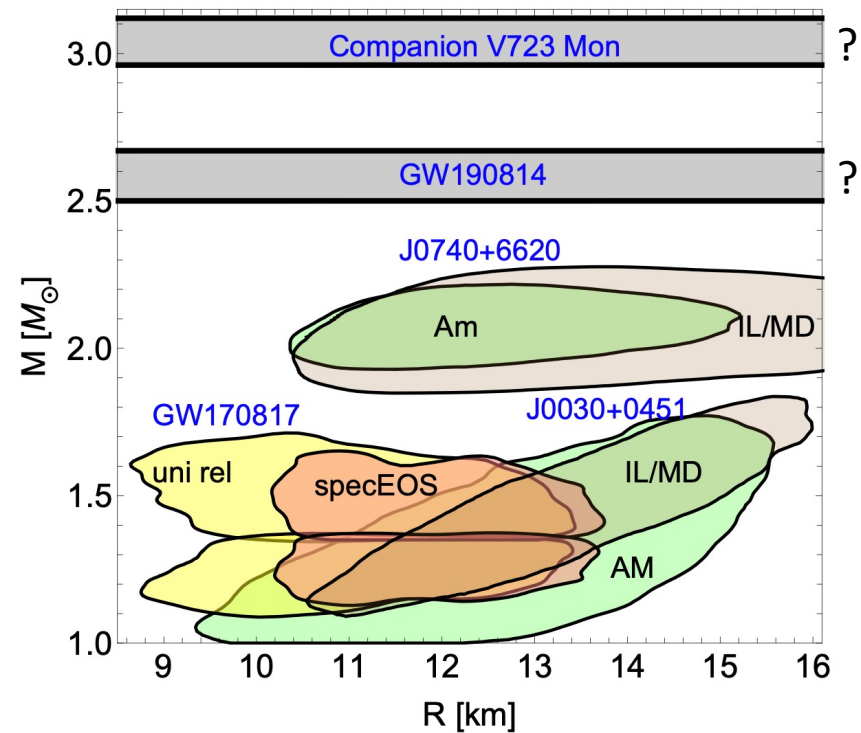
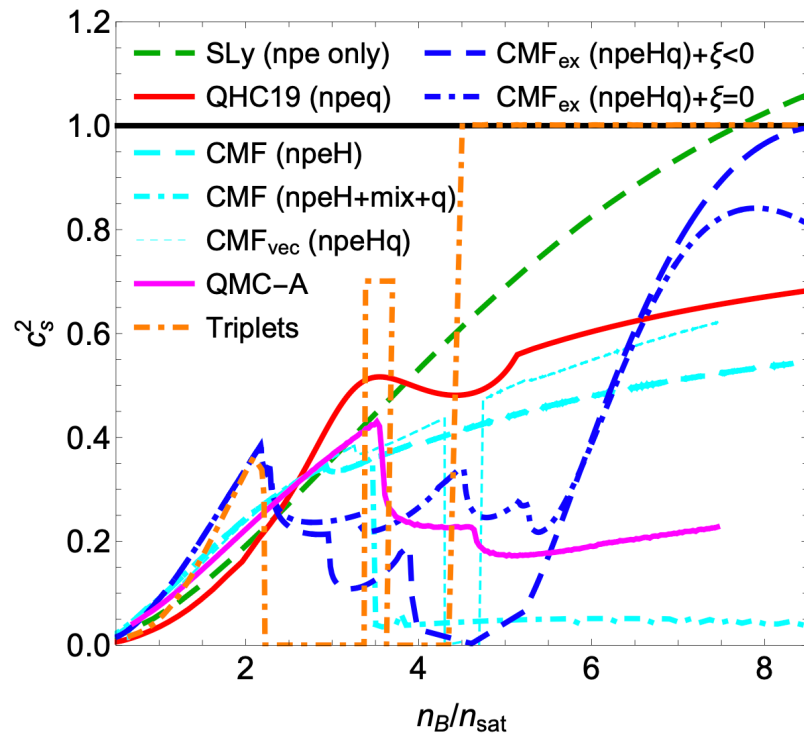
Neutron star composition

- ★ Different exotic matter associated with different phase transitions
- ★ Not noticeable in the EoS, but easily seen in speed of sound ($dP/d\varepsilon$)



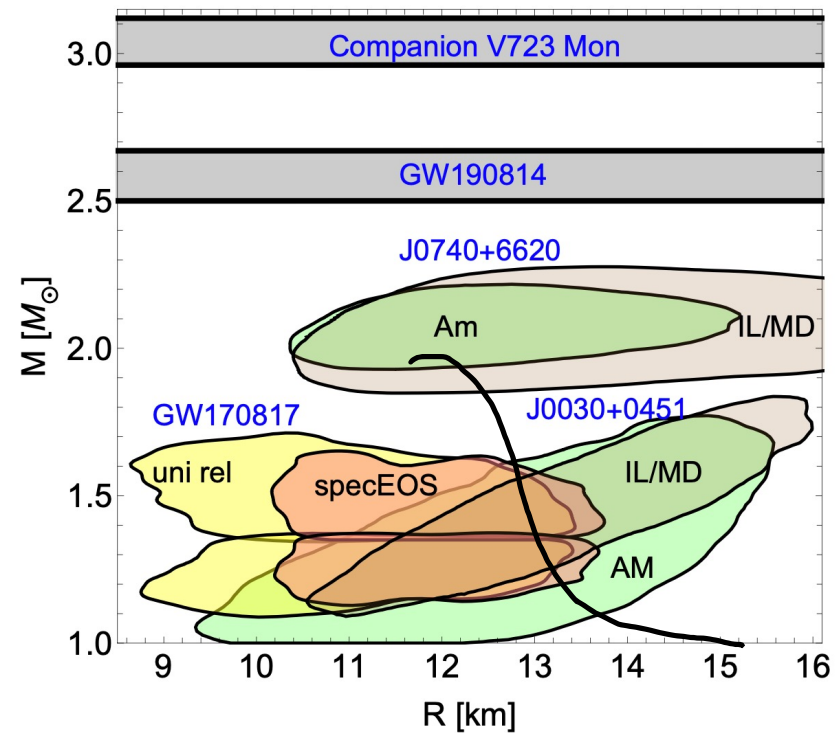
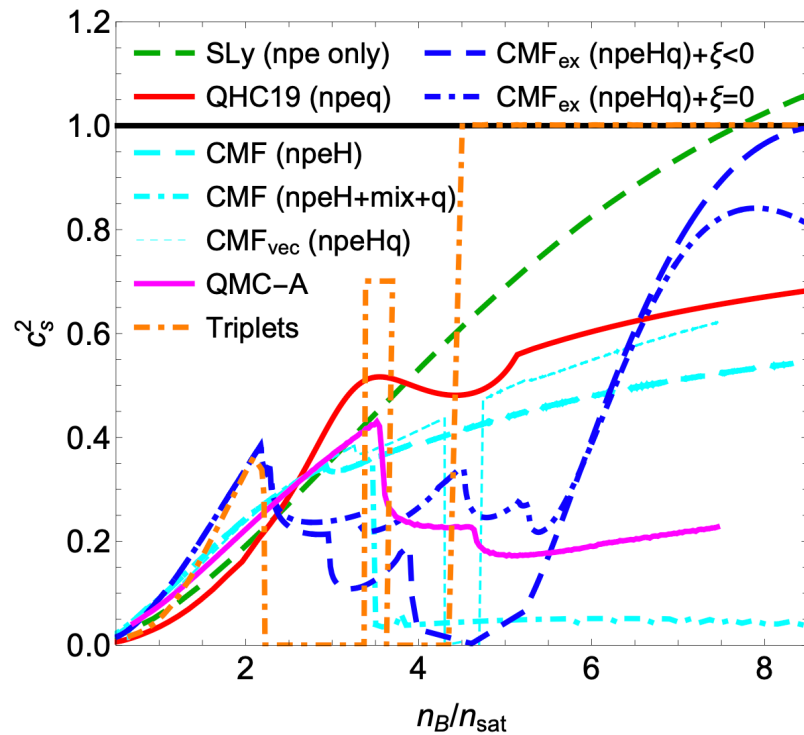
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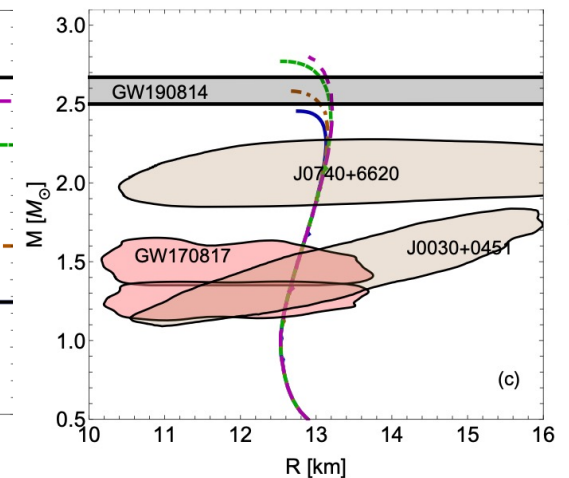
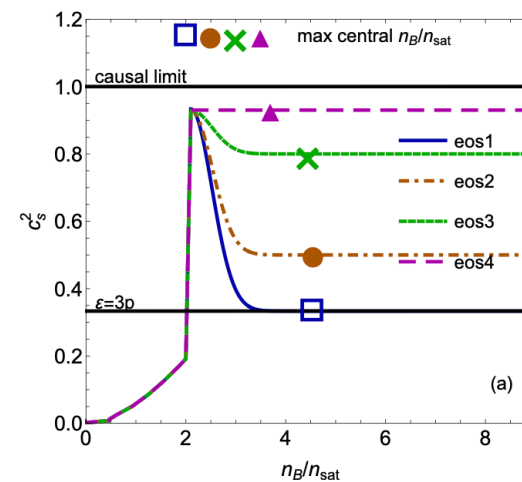
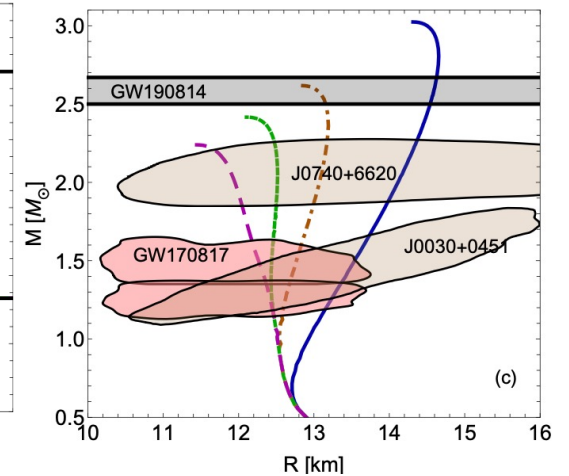
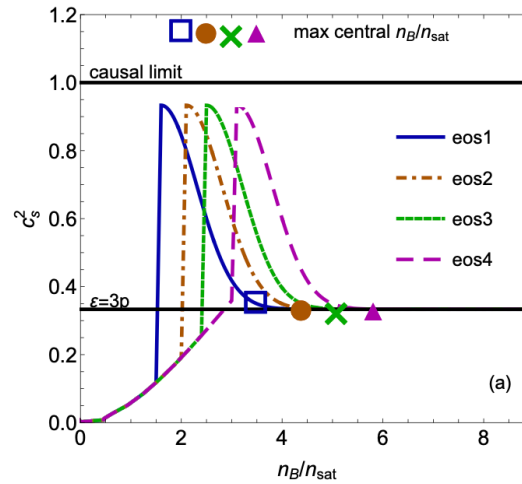
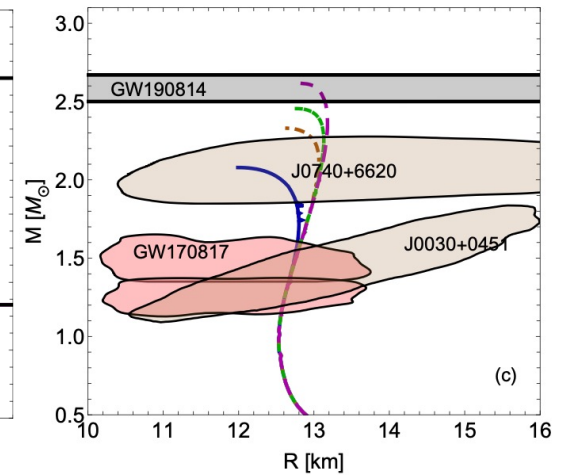
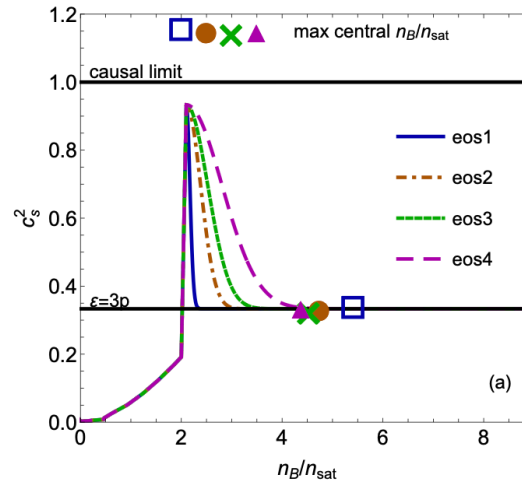


Parametric approach

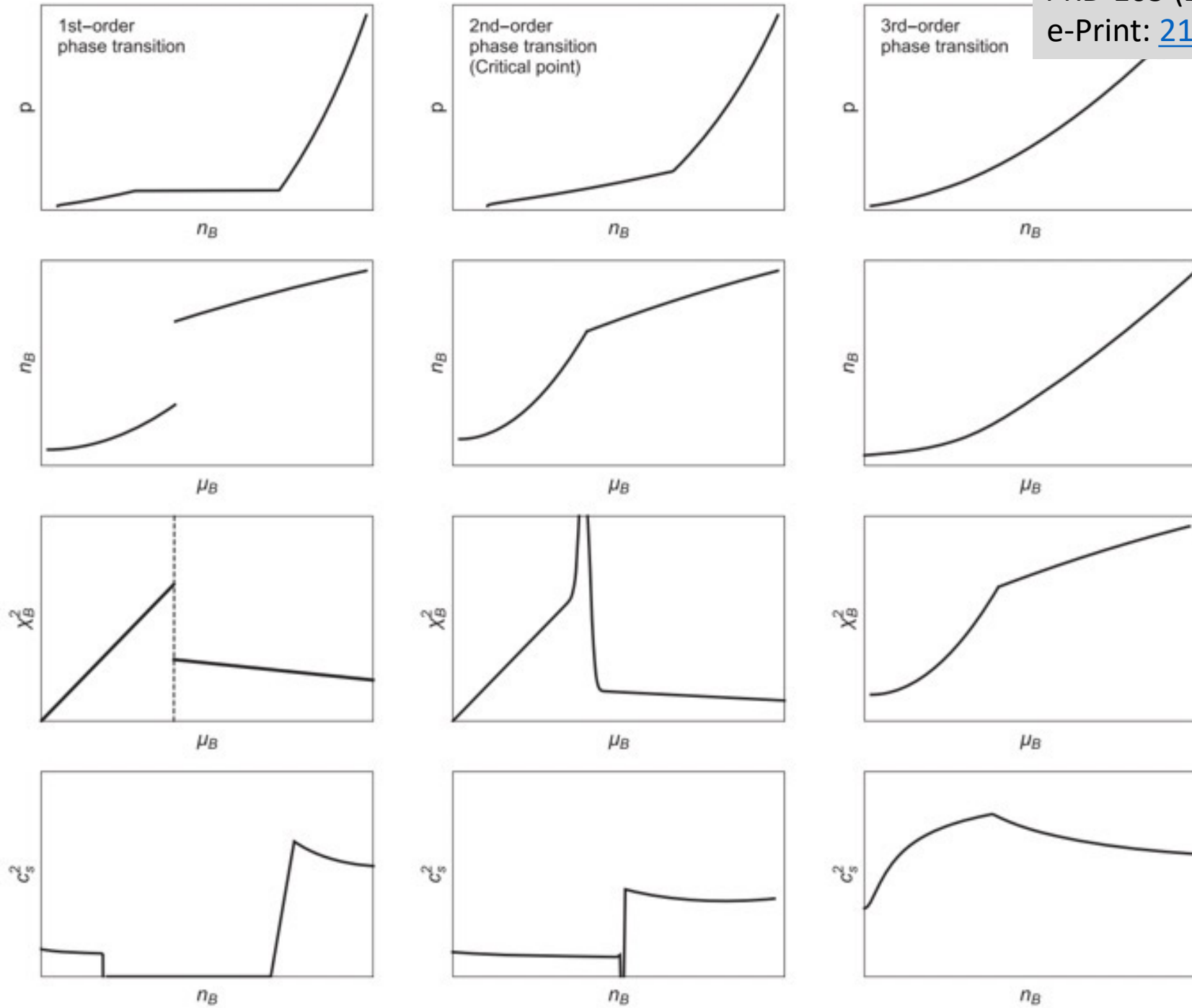
- ★ More systematic parametric form for the speed of sound can help to determine neutron-star composition
- ★ Maximum stellar mass and radius can determine width, density, and height of bumps

PRD 105 (2022) 2, 023018

e-Print: [2106.03890](https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.03890)



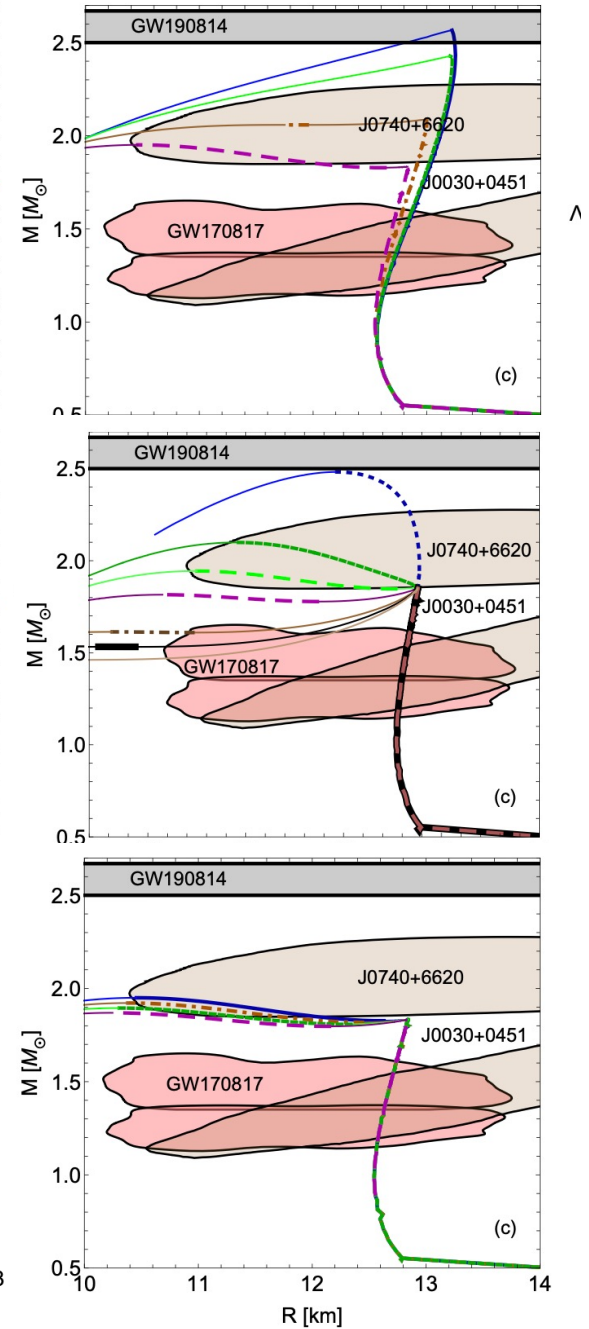
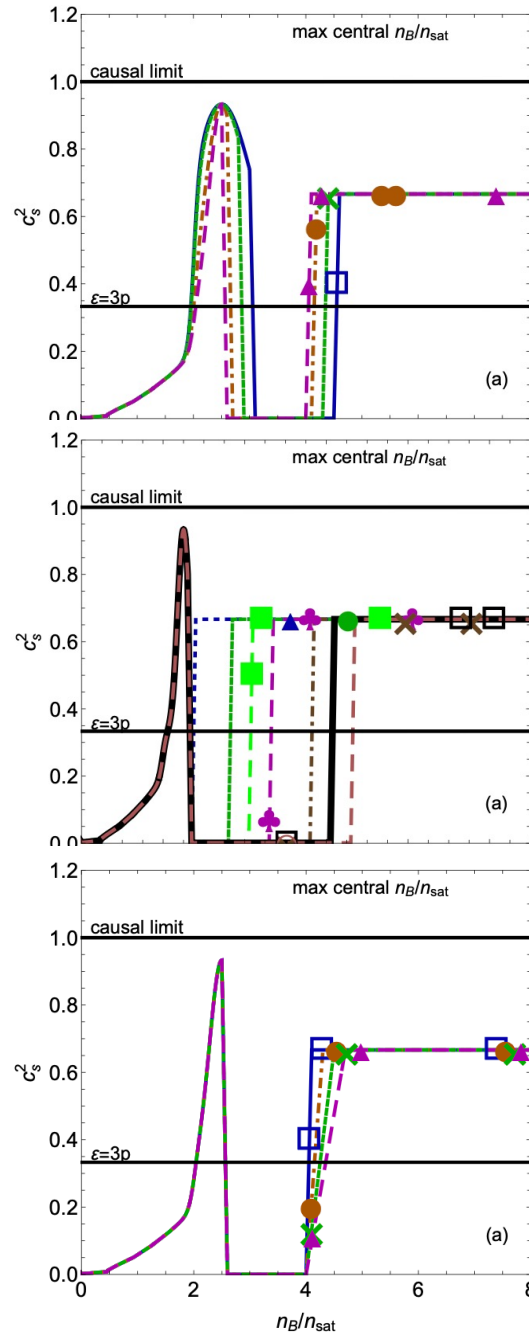
With 1st order
phase transition



With 1st order phase transition

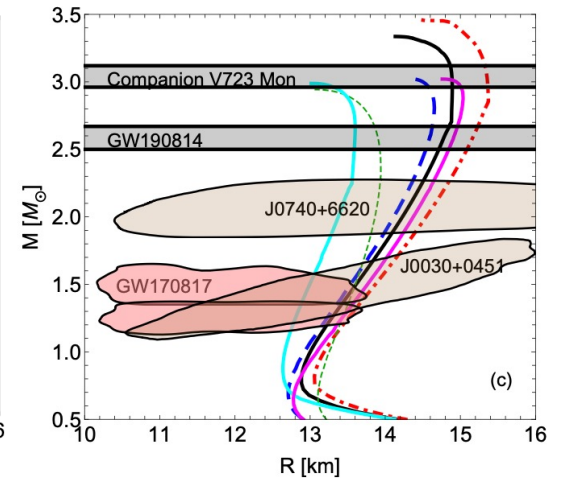
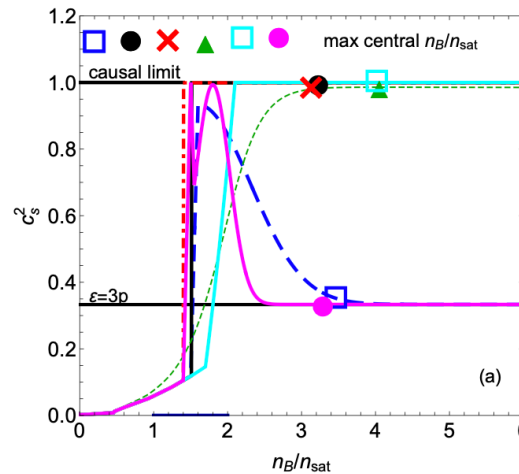
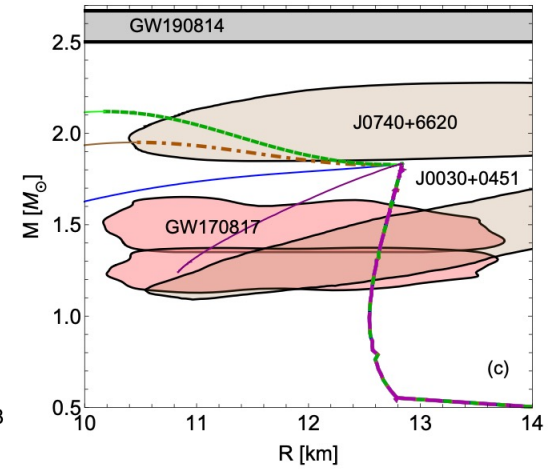
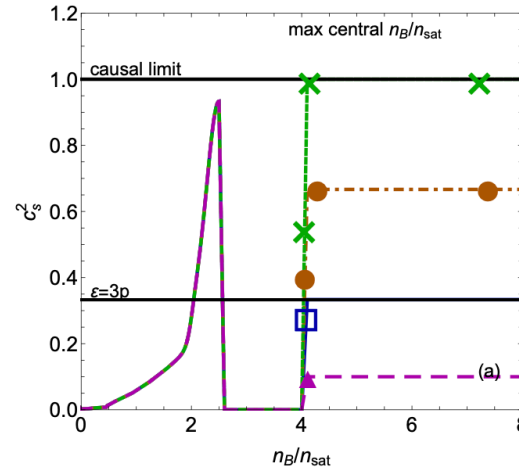
- ★ Zero speed of sound not ruled out by observation of massive stars
- ★ But constrained by extremely massive objects

PRD 105 (2022) 2, 023018
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High-density limit

- ★ There are many degeneracies
- ★ But high-density behavior could be determined by large mass, small radius measurement
- ★ $M \geq 2.91 \pm 0.08 M_{\text{Sun}}$ implies $n_{\text{cent}} \lesssim 4 n_{\text{sat}}$

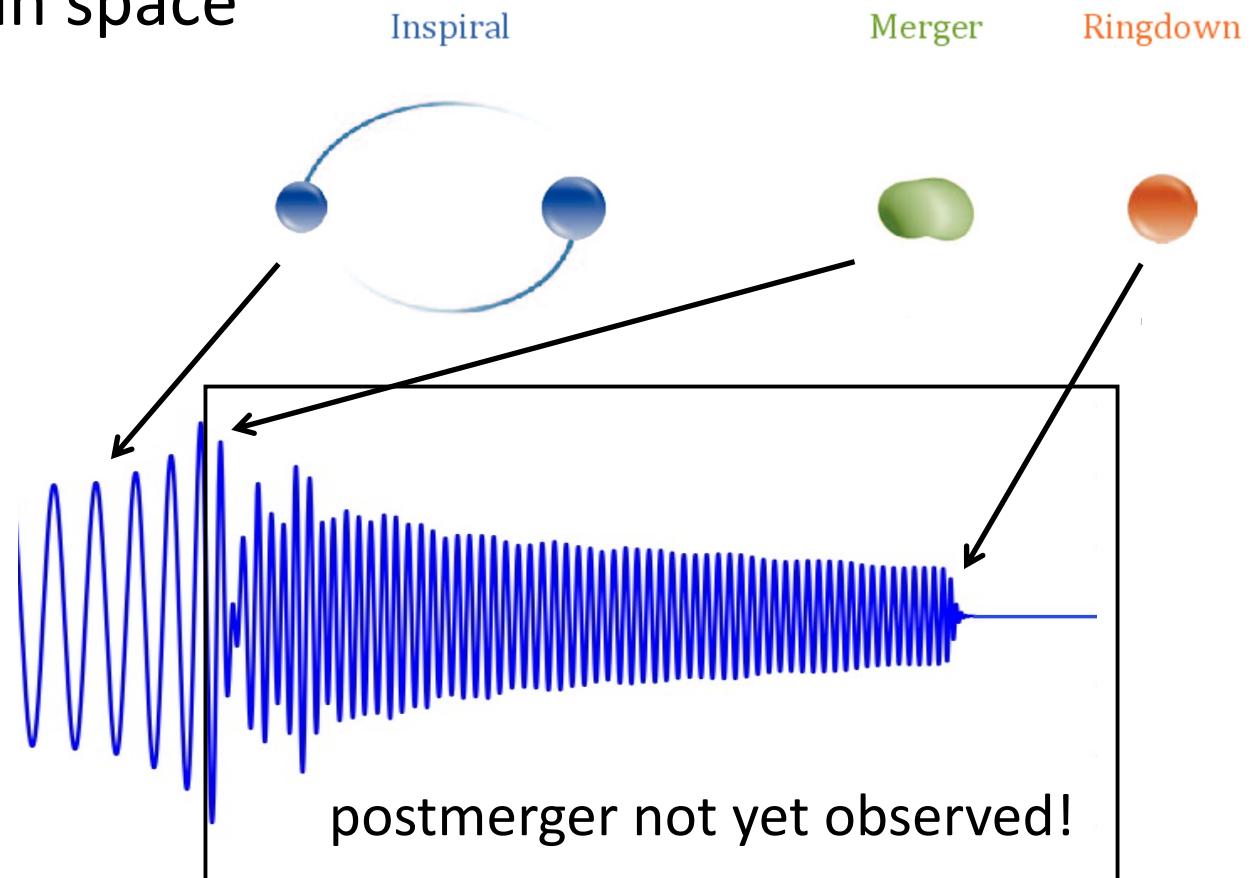


PRD 105 (2022) 2, 023018

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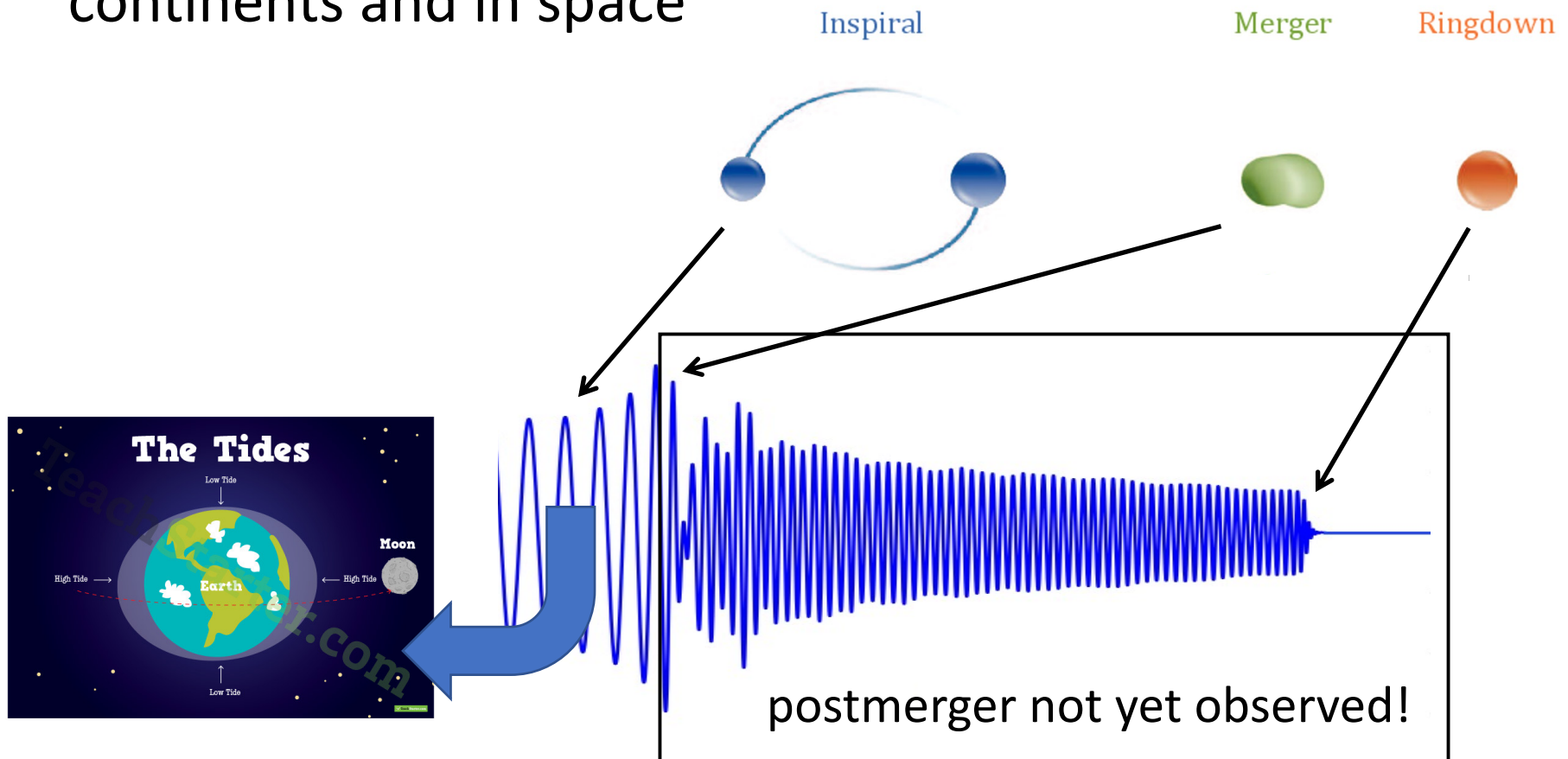
Neutron Star Merger 170817

- Observed by LIGO/VIRGO in 17 August 2017
- From galaxy NGC 4993 140 million light-years away
- Observed electromagnetically by 70 observatories on 7 continents and in space



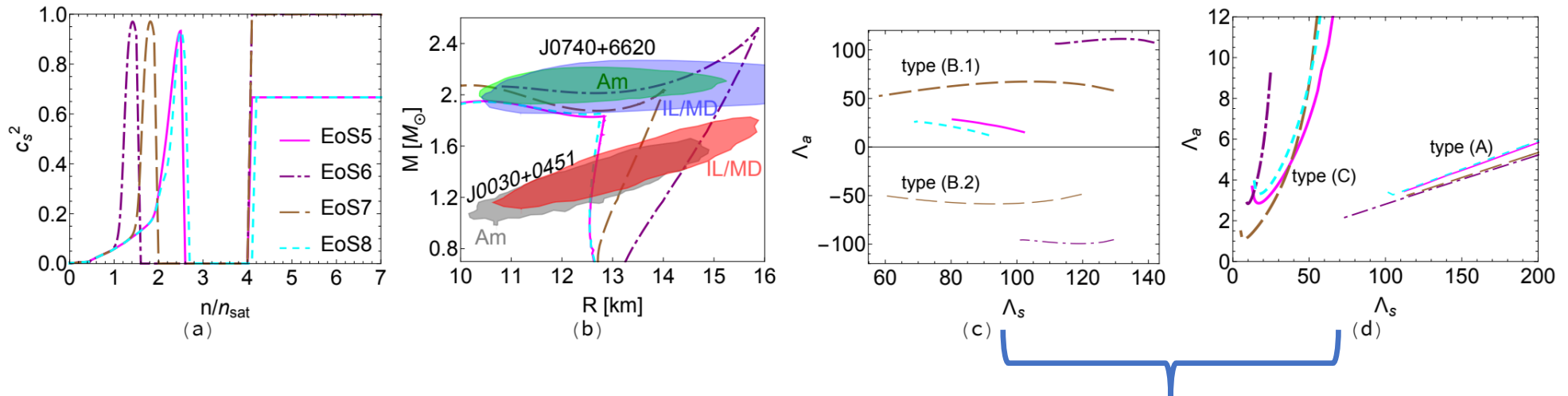
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Tidal deformability

- ★ Bumps and 1st-order phase transitions tilt the mass-radius diagram

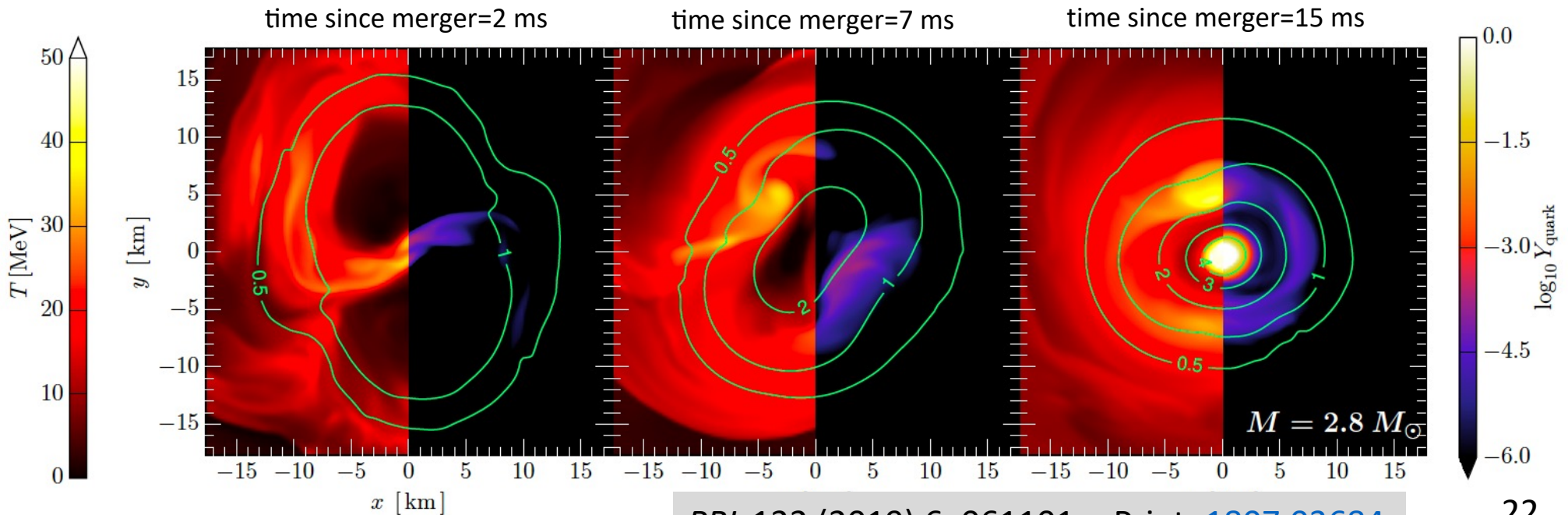
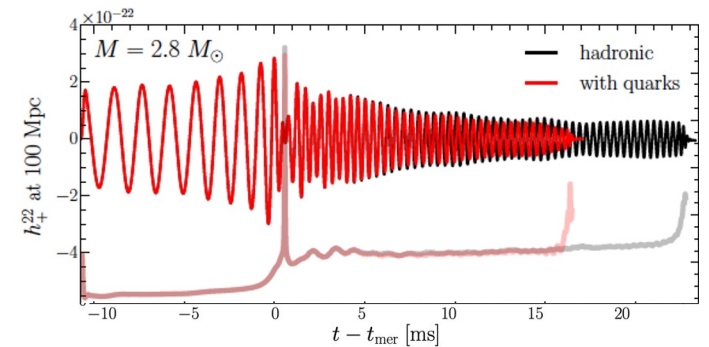


- ★ Can create structure in the binary Love relations: slope, hill, drop, and swoosh
- ★ Structure could be observed in near future

Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 16, 161101
e-Print: [2111.10260](https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.10260)

Neutron-star merger simulation

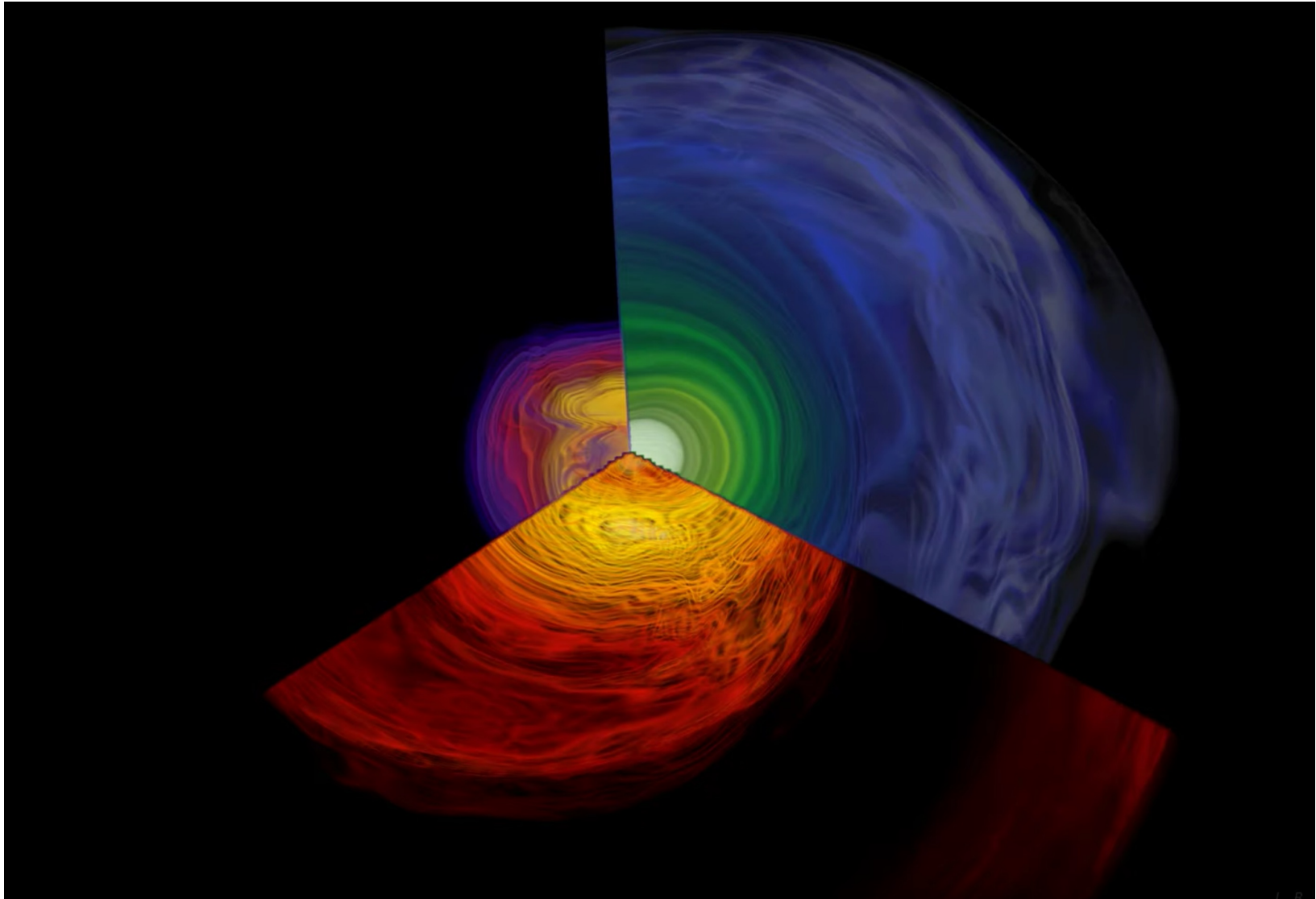
- ★ 3D (T, n_B, Y_Q) CMF tables with 1st order phase transition
- ★ Into coupled Einstein-hydrodynamics system (*Frankfurt/IllinoisGRMHD* code)
- ★ Hot ring forms first, then a very hot region in the center with quarks



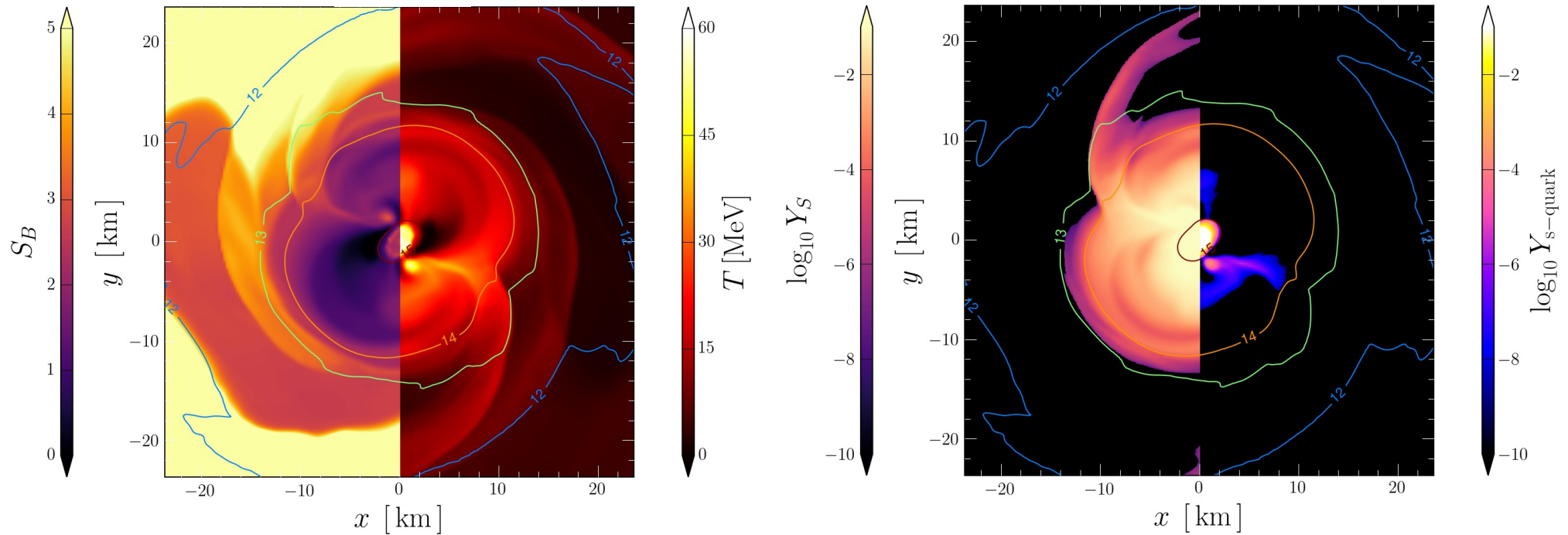
Simulation

★ [Our simulation \(Youtube\)](#)

PRL 122 (2019) 6, 061101 e-Print: [1807.03684](#)



Inside hypermassive neutron star



- ★ Increase of temperature, entropy per baryon, and s-quark fraction at phase transition
- ★ Total strangeness (hyperons \rightarrow s-quarks) remains the same

EPJA 56 (2020) 2, 59 e-Print: [1910.13893](https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.13893)

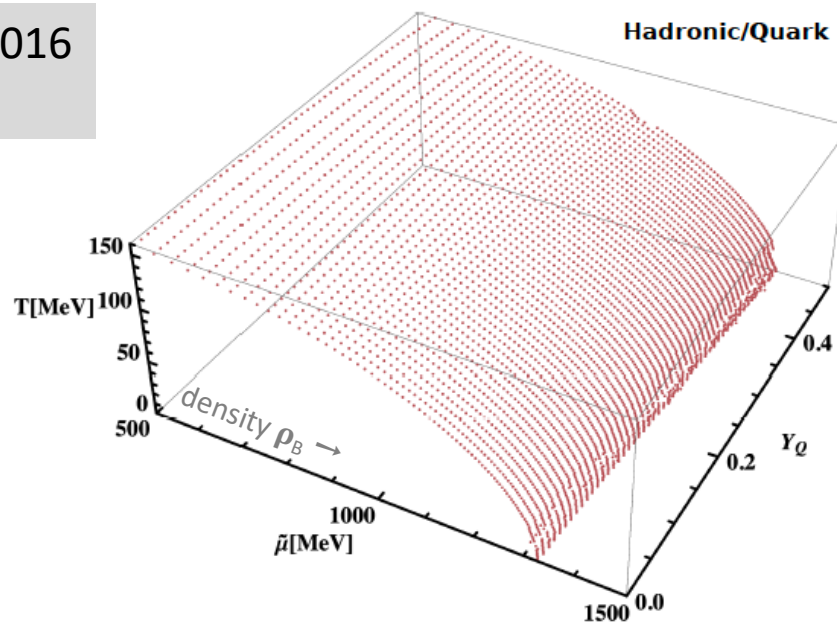
3D QCD phase diagrams ($Y_S=0$)

- * $T, \tilde{\mu}, Y_Q$ with charge fraction $Y_Q = Q/B = 0 \rightarrow 0.5$
and Gibbs free energy per baryon $\tilde{\mu} = \mu_B + Y_Q \mu_Q$

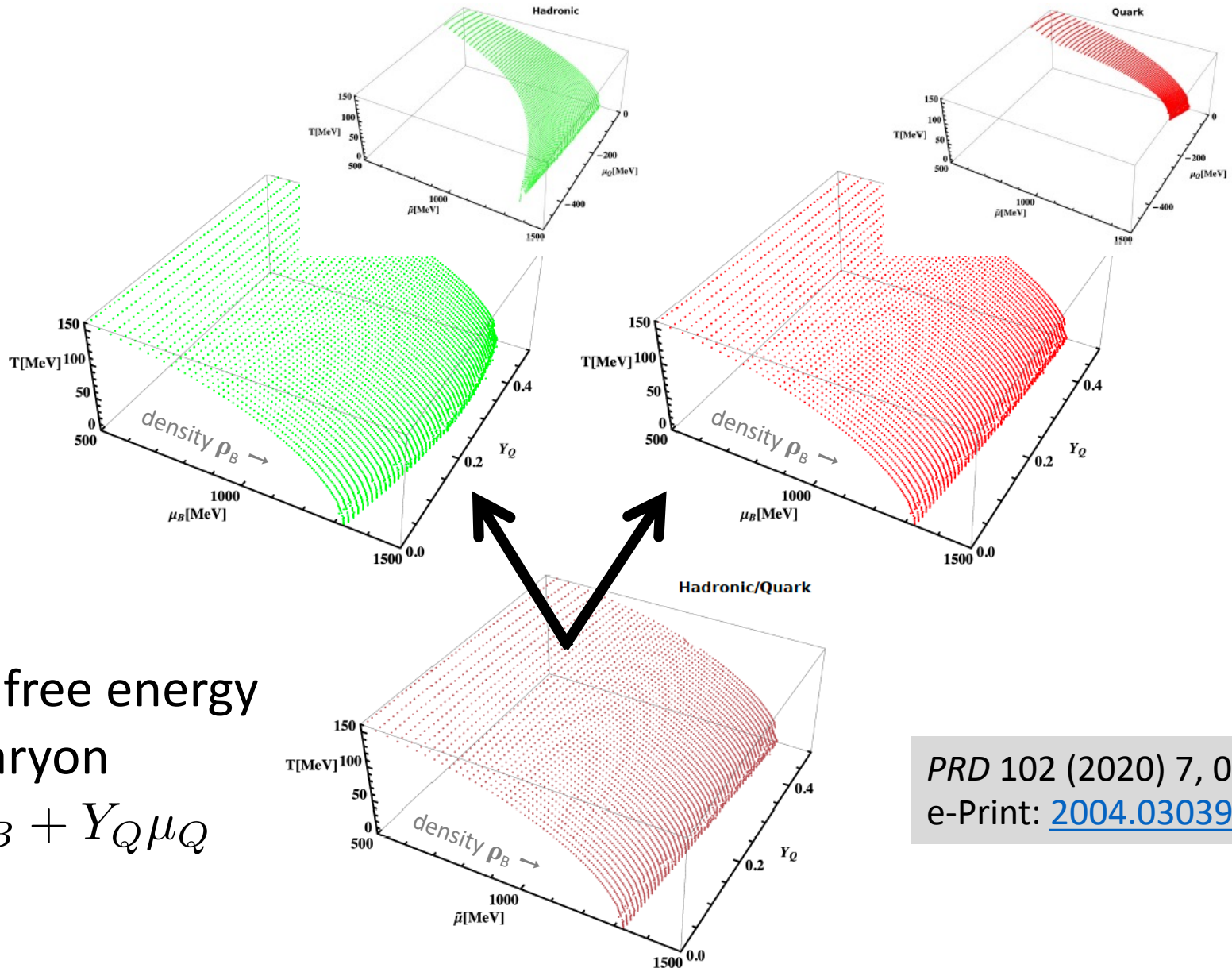
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- * $T, \tilde{\mu}, Y_Q$ with charge fraction $Y_Q = Q/B = 0 \rightarrow 0.5$ and Gibbs free energy per baryon $\tilde{\mu} = \mu_B + Y_Q \mu_Q$
- * Larger Y_Q (at fixed T) pushes the phase transition to larger $\tilde{\mu}$
- * Lower Y_Q (at fixed T) pushes the phase transition to lower $\tilde{\mu}$!
- * Changes due to Y_Q effects on stiffness (particle population) on each side

PRD 102 (2020) 7, 076016
e-Print: [2004.03039](https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.03039)



3D QCD phase diagrams ($Y_S=0$)

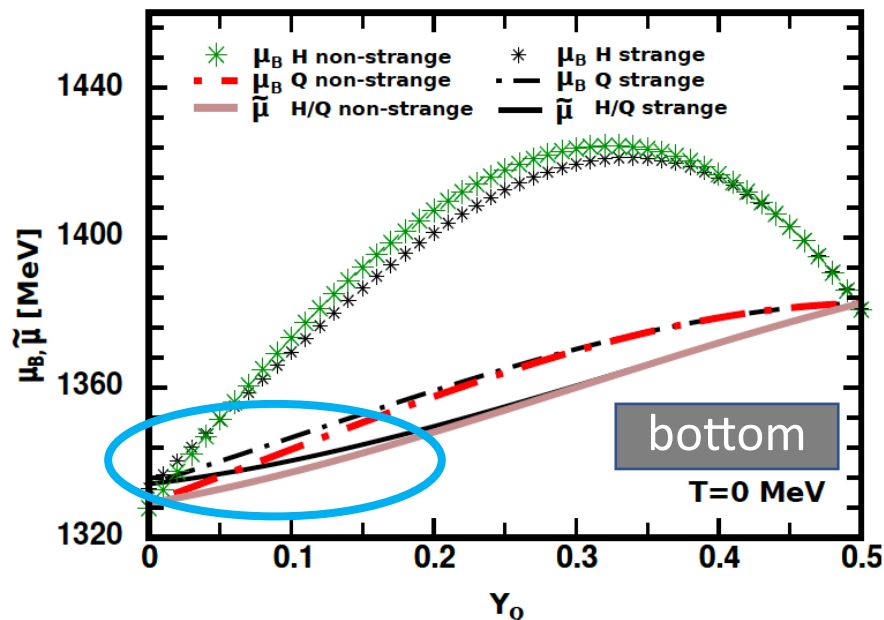


Gibbs free energy
per baryon
 $\tilde{\mu} = \mu_B + Y_Q \mu_Q$

PRD 102 (2020) 7, 076016
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Slices of 3D QCD phase diagrams ($Y_S=0$, $Y_S \neq 0$ in black)

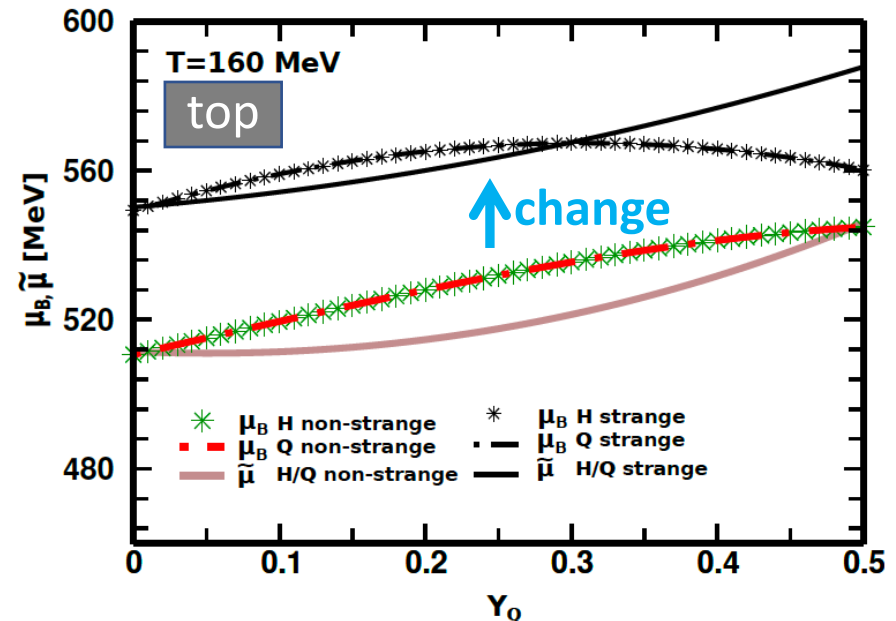
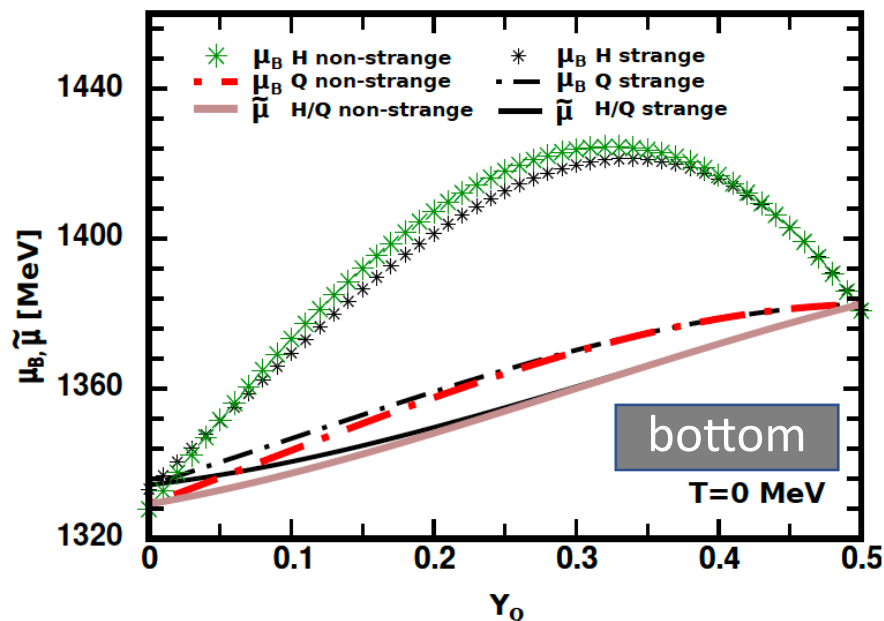
- * For finite net strangeness $Y_S \neq 0$, deconfinement takes place at larger free energy/ baryon chemical potential



PRD 102 (2020) 7, 076016 e-Print: [2004.03039](https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.03039)

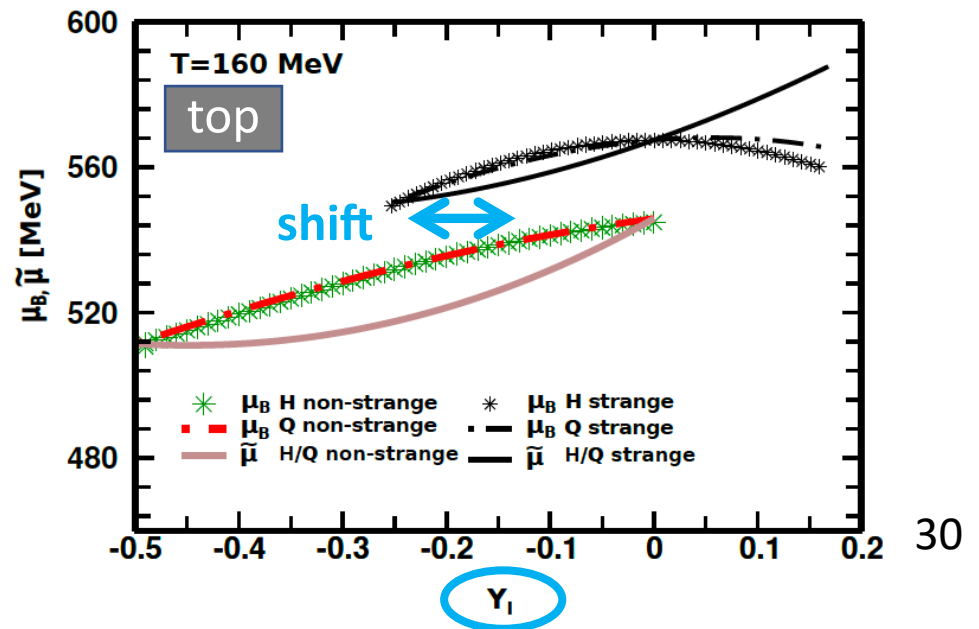
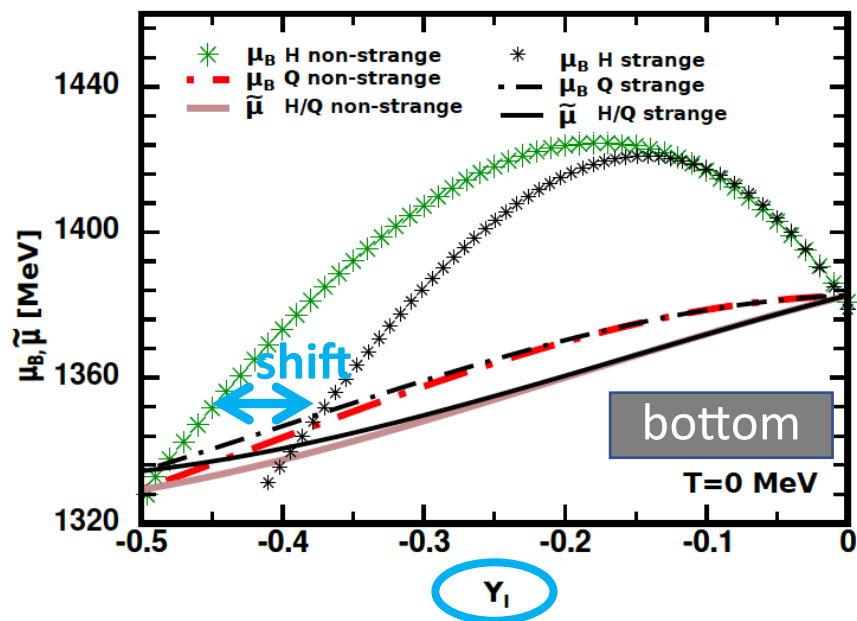
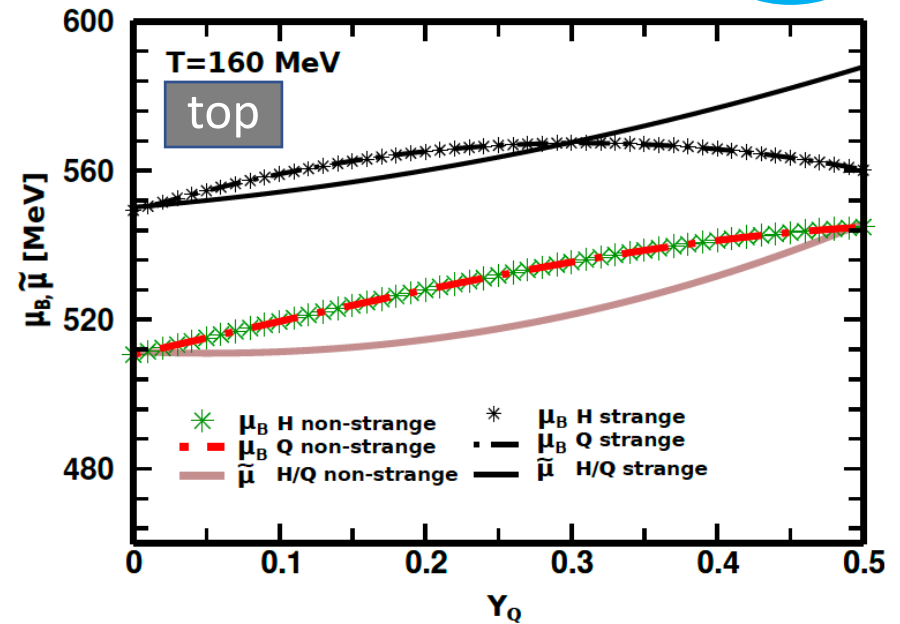
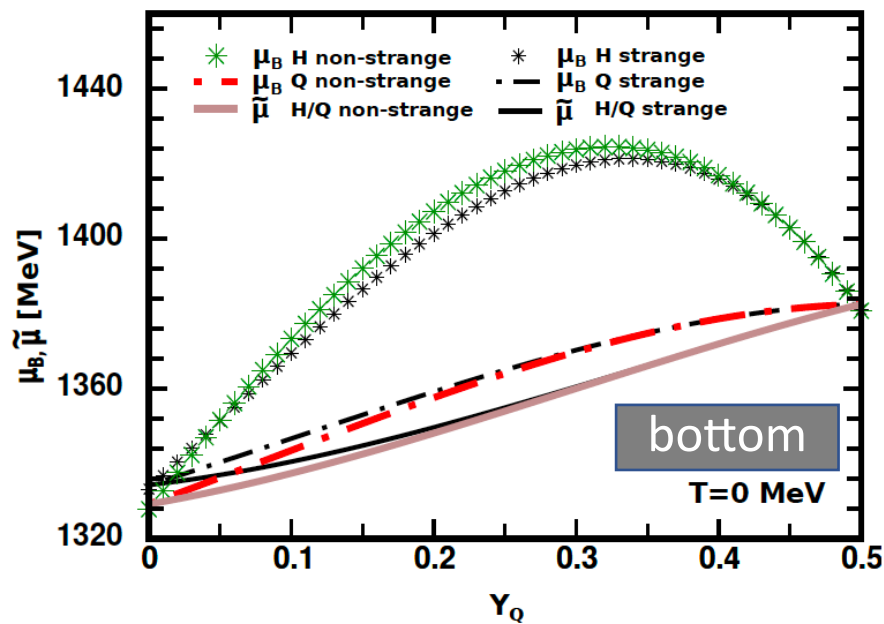
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PRD 102 (2020) 7, 076016 e-Print: [2004.03039](https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.03039)

- For finite net strangeness $Y_S \neq 0$, isospin and charge fraction relation is not trivial $Y_I = Y_Q - 0.5 + \frac{1}{2}Y_S$



Heavy-ion collisions

- ★ CMF 3D EoS (n_B , T , Y_Q)

Astron.Astrophys. 608 (2017) A110 e-Print: [1706.09191](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.09191)

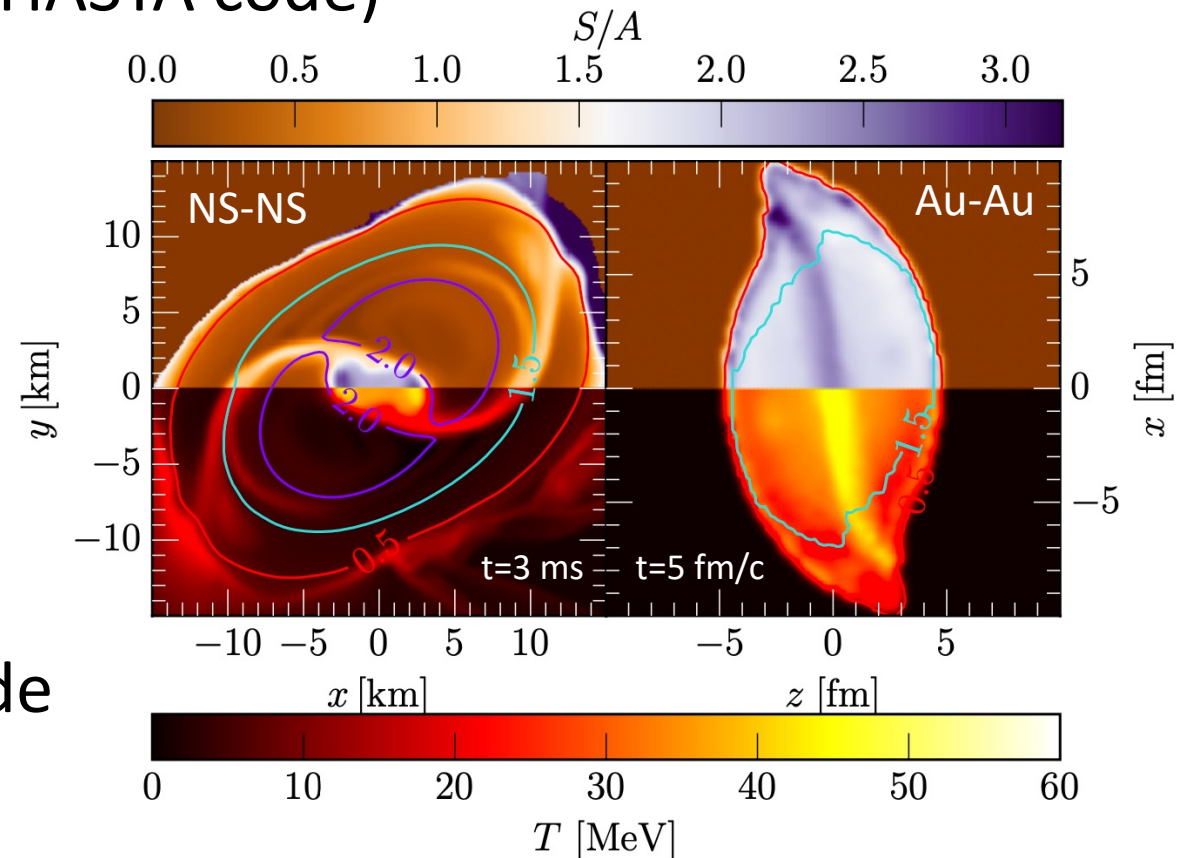
e-Print: [2201.13150](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.13150)

PRC 101 (2020) 3, 034904 e-Print: [1905.00866](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.00866)

- ★ Relativistic hydrodynamics simulations of **neutron-star mergers** (Frankfurt/Illinois GRMHD code) and **heavy-ion collisions** (Frankfurt SHASTA code)

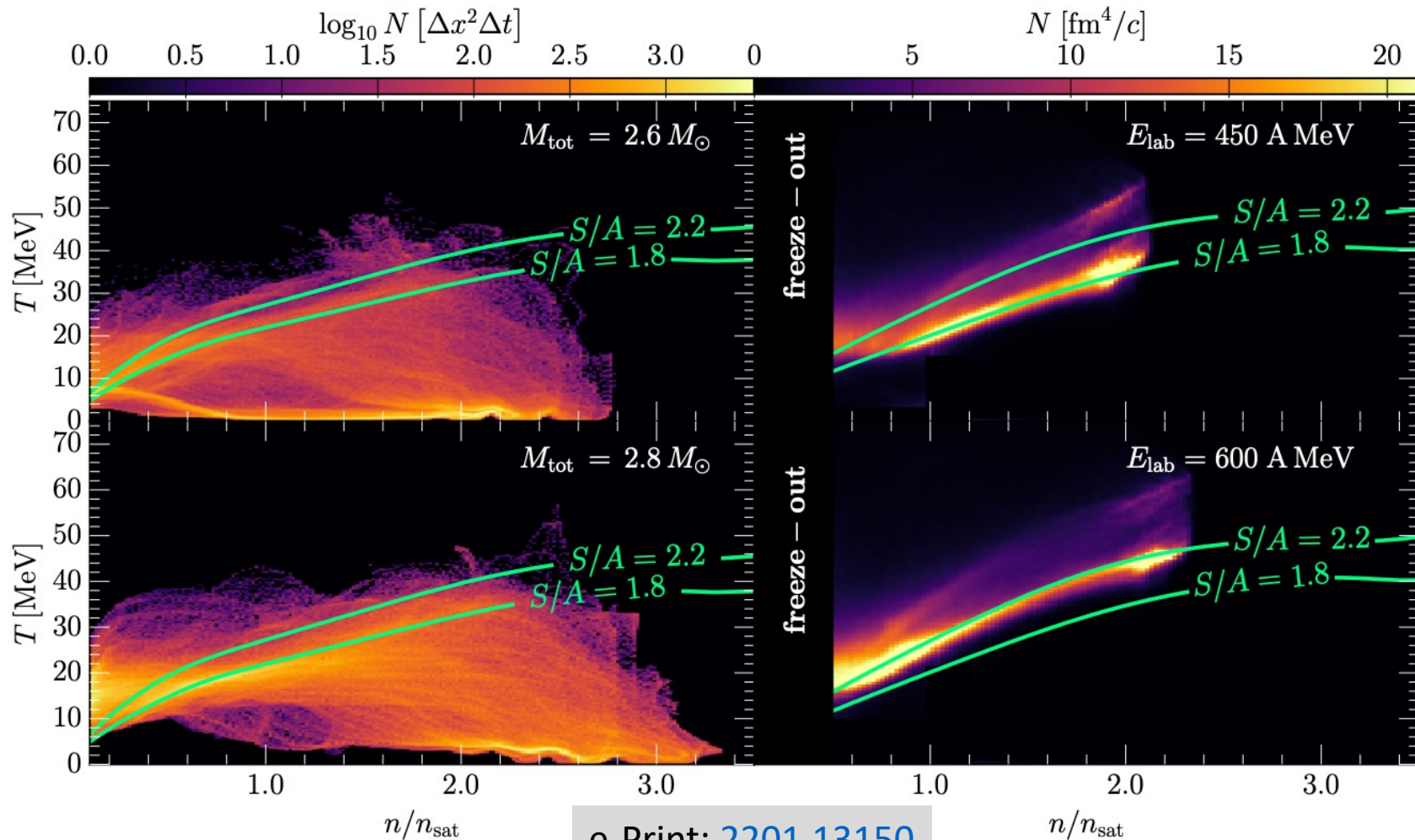
- ★ Final merger mass of $2.9 M_{\text{Sun}}$ and low-energy collision with $E_{\text{lab}} = 450 \text{ MeV}$

- ★ Similar geometry and properties across 18 orders of magnitude



Comparison of phase diagrams

- ★ Similar trajectories (other than stellar cold center and hot ring) allow connection of merger mass with lab energy



e-Print: [2201.13150](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.13150)

Modern sources for EoS's

- *  CompOSE

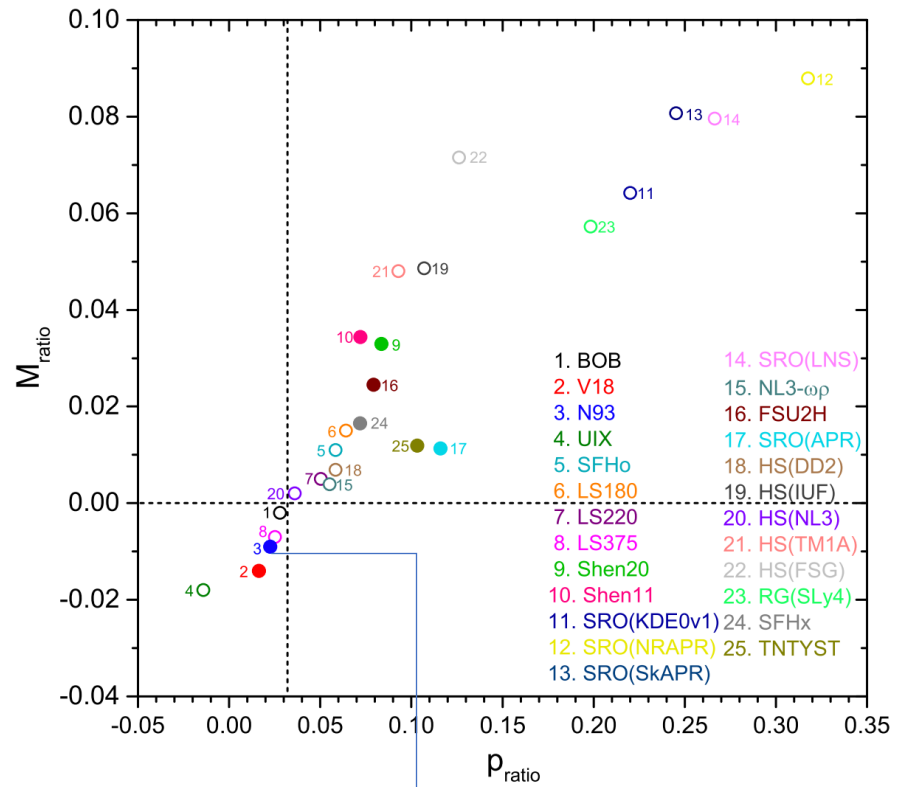
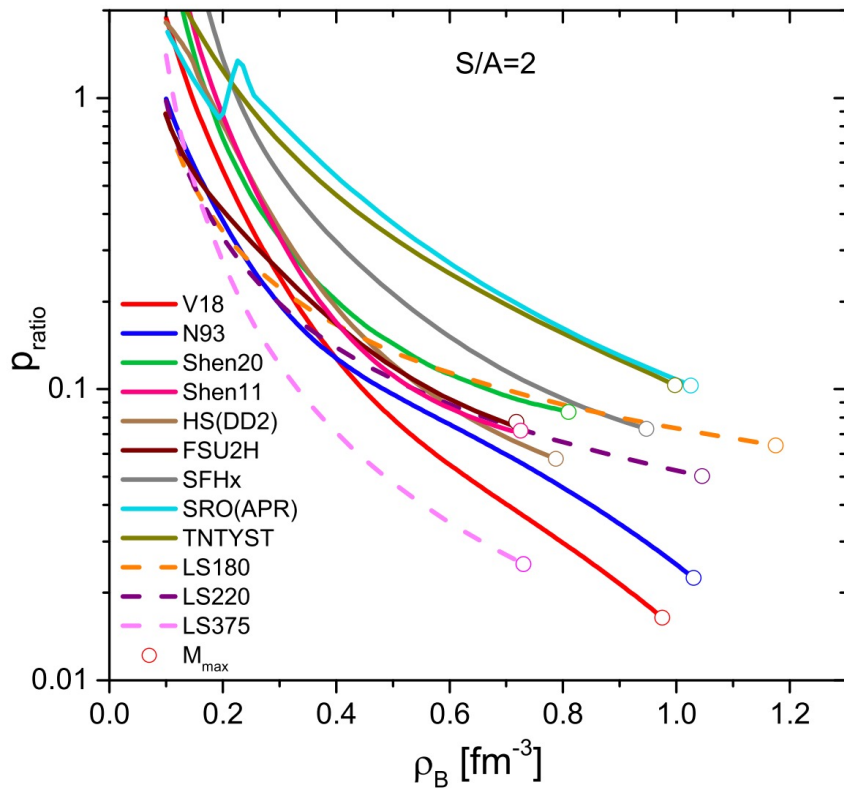
CompStar Online Supernovae Equations of State

<https://compose.obspm.fr>

(Stefan Typel, Micaela Oertel, Thomas Klöhn)

- * Online service provides standardized 1D, 2D, 3D EoS tables for astrophysical applications
- * Additional software to combine or interpolate data, calculate additional quantities, and graph EoS dependencies
- * Instruction manual e-Print: [2203.03209](#) with summarized [providers quick guide](#) and [users quick guide](#)

★ Example: young (hot) β -equilibrated stars



$2.1 < M_{\text{max}}/M_{\odot} < 2.4$

$$P_{\text{ratio}} \equiv \frac{P_{\text{th}}}{P_0}(\rho, T)$$

Phys.Rev.C 104 (2021) 6, 065806
e-Print: [2112.05323](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.05323)

$$P_{\text{th}}(\rho, T) \equiv P(\rho, x_T, T) - P(\rho, x_0, 0)$$

$$M_{\text{ratio}} \equiv \frac{M_{\text{max}}^{\text{hot}} - M_{\text{max}}^{\text{cold}}}{M_{\text{max}}^{\text{cold}}}$$



- * Modular Unified solver of the Equation of state
<https://muses.physics.illinois.edu/>
- * Modular: while at low μ_B the EoS is known from 1st principles, at high μ_B there will be different models for the user to choose
- * Unified: different modules will be merged together to ensure maximal coverage of the phase diagram
- * Developers: physicists + computer scientists will work together to develop the software that generates EoS's over large ranges of temperature and chemical potentials to cover the whole phase diagram
- * Users: interested scientists from different communities, who provide input to the future open-source cyberinfrastructure

PI and co-PIs

1. Nicolas Yunes; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; **PI**
2. Jacquelyn Noronha-Hostler; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; co-PI
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4. Claudia Ratti; University of Houston; co-PI and **spokesperson**
5. Veronica Dexheimer; Kent State University; co-PI

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5. Jeremy Holt; Texas A&M University
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7. Mark Alford; Washington University in Saint Louis
8. Elias Most; Princeton University

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4. Phillip Landry; California State University Fullerton
5. Reed Essick; Perimeter Institute
6. Rene Bellwied; University of Houston
7. David Curtin; University of Toronto
8. Michael Strickland; Kent State University
9. Matthew Luzum; University of Sao Paulo
10. Hajime Togashi; Kyushu University
11. Toru Kojo; Central China Normal University
12. Hannah Elfner; GSI/Goethe University Frankfurt



Conclusions and outlook

- ★ New tight constraints on neutron-star masses and radii can inform us about dense ($T=0$) neutron-star matter
- ★ Neutron-star mergers create unique ideal conditions to achieve and detect new phases of matter
- ★ EoS repositories help speeding up understanding of dense matter
- ★ LIGO, Virgo, and KAGRA are coordinating O4 observing run in March 2023

