

Universality and critical behavior in QCD

– The chiral phase transition in (2+1)-flavor QCD –

Frithjof Karsch
Bielefeld University



सादगी सार्वभौमिकता का सार है ।
मो. क. गांधी

Simplicity is the essence of universality.
M. K. Gandhi

Universality and critical behavior in QCD

UNIVERSALITY IN FINITE TEMPERATURE LATTICE QCD

R.V. GAVAI*, F. KARSCH** and H. SATZ

Fakultät für Physik, Universität Bielefeld, Germany

Received 26 October 1982
(Revised 19 January 1983)

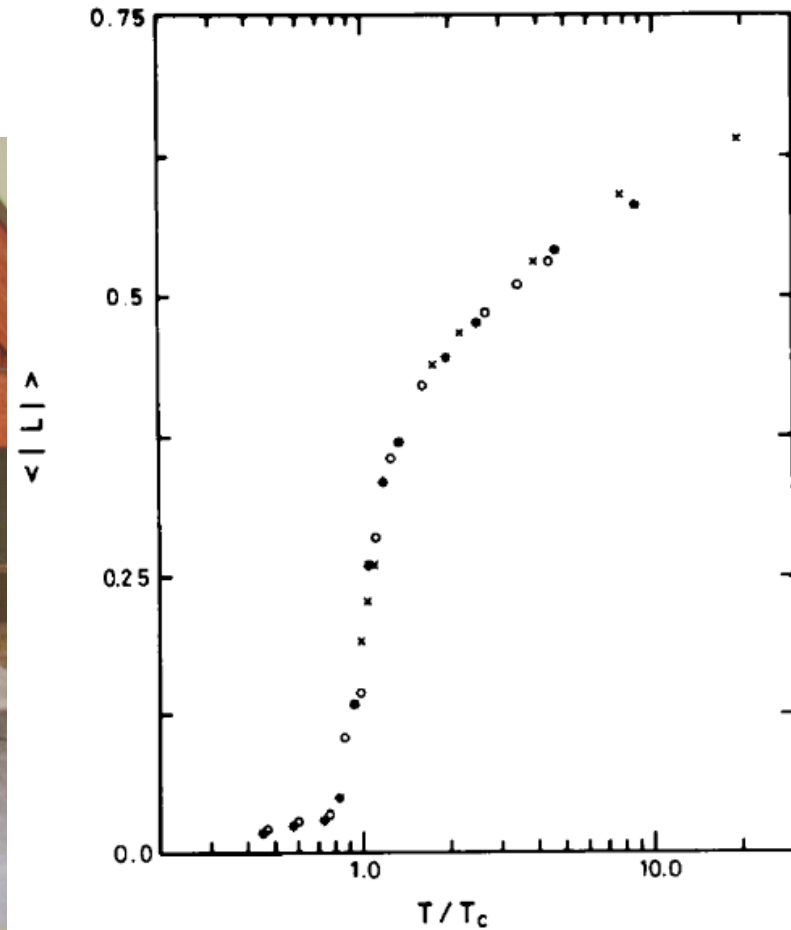


Fig. 1. Thermal Wilson loop as a function of T/T_c , calculated on a 3×10^3 lattice for Wilson action (\times), Manton action (\bullet) and Villain action (O). Here T is the temperature of the SU(2) gluon matter while T_c is the deconfinement temperature.

ARCTIC SCHOOL OF PHYSICS 1982

ÄKÄS-HOTELLI



Universality and critical behavior in QCD

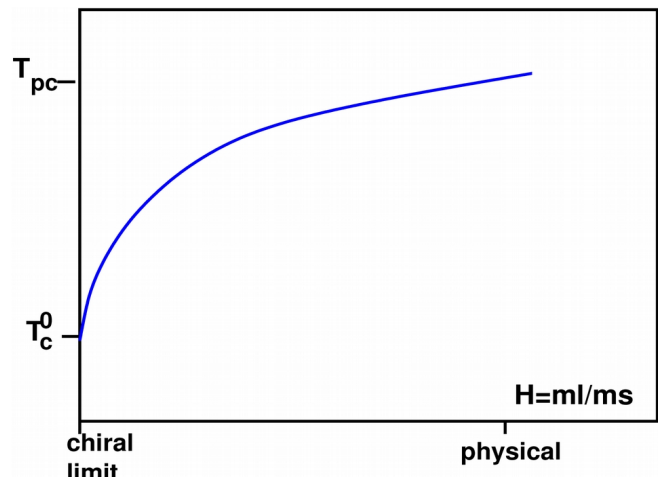
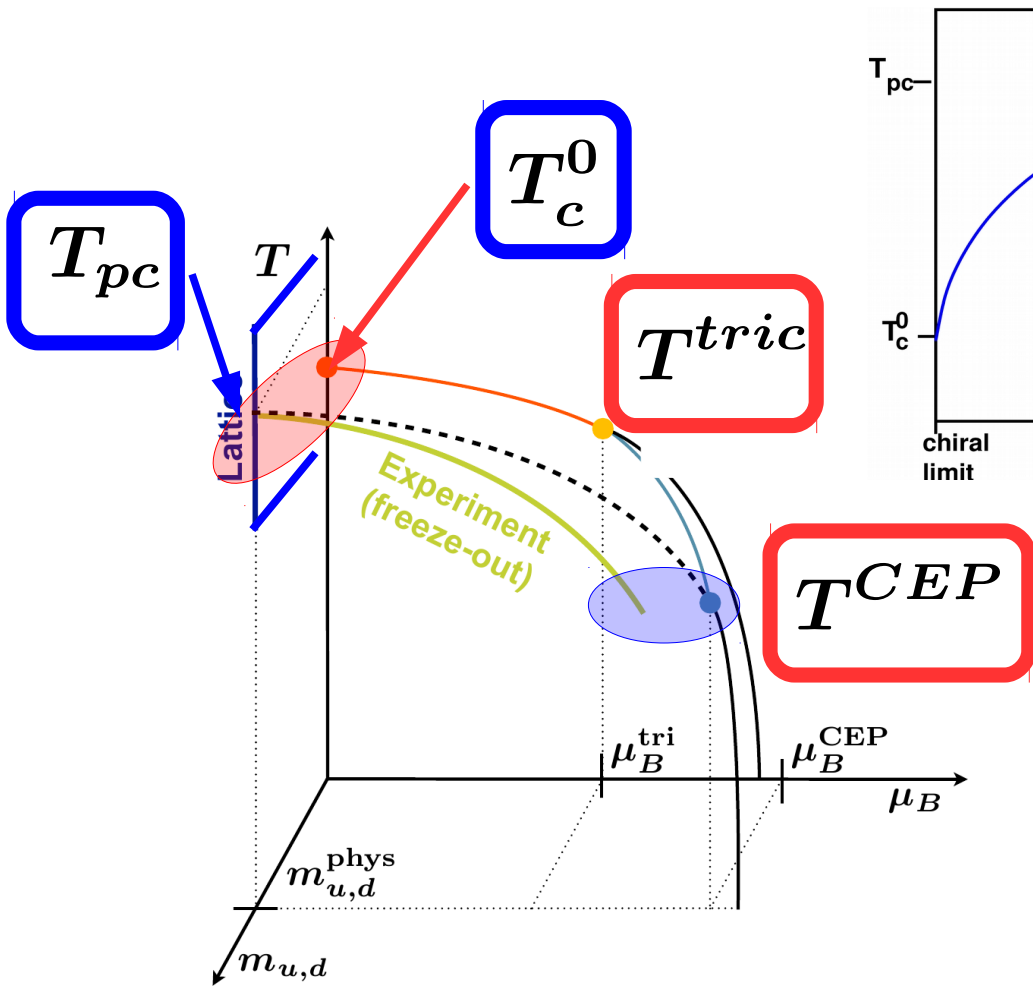
– The chiral phase transition in (2+1)-flavor QCD –

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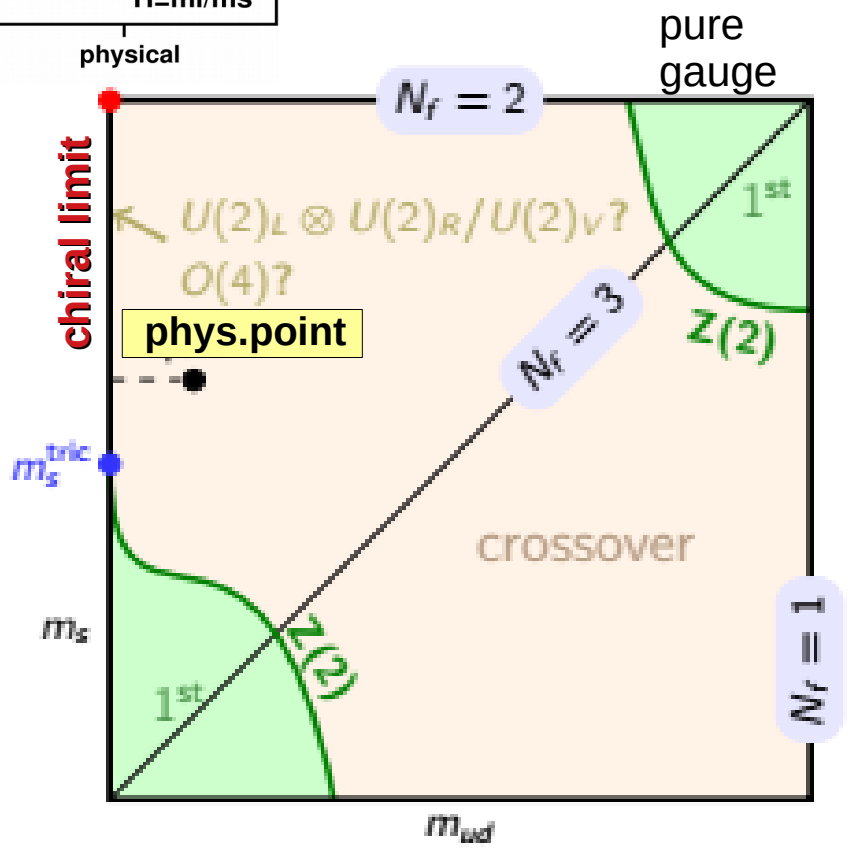


- **Universality and critical behavior** in the limit of vanishing light quark masses
 - the chiral **PHASE TRANSITION**
- Higher order cumulants of **conserved charge fluctuations**
 - making contact to fluctuation data from **heavy ion experiments**

Phases of strong-interaction matter



this talk focuses on
 $\mu_B = 0$



$$T_{pc} > T_c^0 > T^{tric} > T^{CEP}$$

- determination of the critical temperature (and the order of the transition)

Universality and Critical behavior in QCD

- close to the chiral limit thermodynamics in the vicinity of the QCD transition(s) is controlled by a **universal scaling function**

singular

regular

$$\frac{p}{T^4} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \ln Z(V, T, \vec{\mu}) = -h^{(2-\alpha)/\beta\delta} f_f(t/h^{1/\beta\delta}) - f_r(V, T, \vec{\mu})$$

critical line:

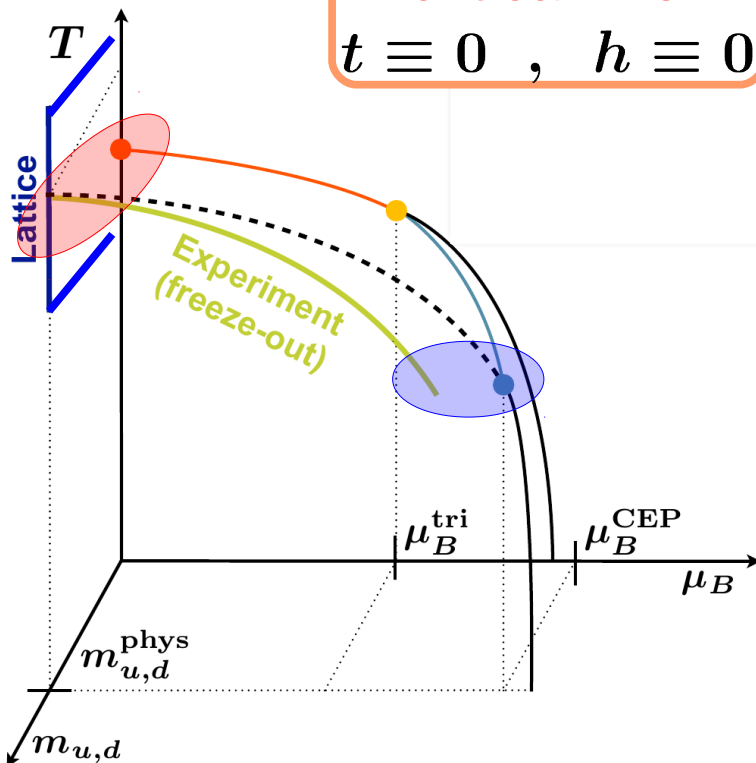
$$t \equiv 0, \quad h \equiv 0$$

$$t \sim \frac{T - T_c}{T_c} + \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_q}{T} \right)^2$$

$$h \sim \frac{m_q}{T_c}$$

“thermal” coupling

“magnetic” coupling



here only: $\mu_q \equiv 0$

question: Where is the chiral PHASE TRANSITION for $m_u = m_d = 0$ located? What is its influence on observables at the pseudo-critical temperature?

Universality and Critical behavior in QCD

- close to the chiral limit thermodynamics in the vicinity of the QCD transition(s) is controlled by a **universal scaling function**

$$\frac{p}{T^4} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \ln Z(V, T, \vec{\mu}) = -h^{(2-\alpha)/\beta\delta} f_f(t/h^{1/\beta\delta}) - f_r(V, T, \vec{\mu})$$

singular
regular

$$t \sim \frac{T - T_c}{T_c} + \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_q}{T} \right)^2$$

$$h \sim \frac{m_q}{T_c}$$

Pseudo-critical temperatures

response functions
2nd order cumulants

• magnetic

mixed

thermal

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial h^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial h \partial t}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln Z}{\partial t^2}$$

$$\sim \left(\frac{m_l}{T_c} \right)^{1/\delta - 1}$$

↑

$$\sim -0.79$$

$$\sim \left(\frac{m_l}{T_c} \right)^{(\beta-1)/\beta\delta}$$

↑

$$\sim -0.34$$

$$\sim \left(\frac{m_l}{T_c} \right)^{-\alpha/\beta\delta}$$

↑

$$\sim +0.11$$

divergence: **strong**

moderate

none

O(4) critical exponents

$\alpha = -0.21$

$\beta = 0.38$

$\delta = 4.82$

Chiral observables in QCD

– chiral condensate: $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_q = \frac{\partial P/T}{\partial m_q/T}$, $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_l = (\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_u + \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_d)/2$

– chiral order parameter: $M = \frac{2}{f_K^4} [m_s \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_l - m_l \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_s]$

$$m_l = (m_u + m_d)/2$$

– chiral susceptibility: $\chi_M = m_s \left(\frac{\partial M}{\partial m_u} + \frac{\partial M}{\partial m_d} \right)$ **magnetic**

– mixed chiral susceptibility: $\chi_t = T \frac{\partial M}{\partial T}$ **mixed**

– conserved charge fluctuations: $\chi_x = T^2 \frac{\partial^2 P/T^4}{\partial \mu_x^2} \Big|_{\mu_x=0}$ **thermal**

$$X = B, S, \dots$$

Scaling in the thermodynamic (infinite volume) limit

– approaching the chiral limit –

some definitions

$$z = \frac{t}{h^{1/\beta\delta}}$$

$$t \equiv \frac{1}{t_0} \frac{T - T_c}{T_c}$$

$$h = \frac{1}{h_0} H$$

$$H \equiv \frac{m_l}{T_c}$$

$$z_0 = h_0^{1/\beta\delta} / t_0$$

– order parameter M and its susceptibility

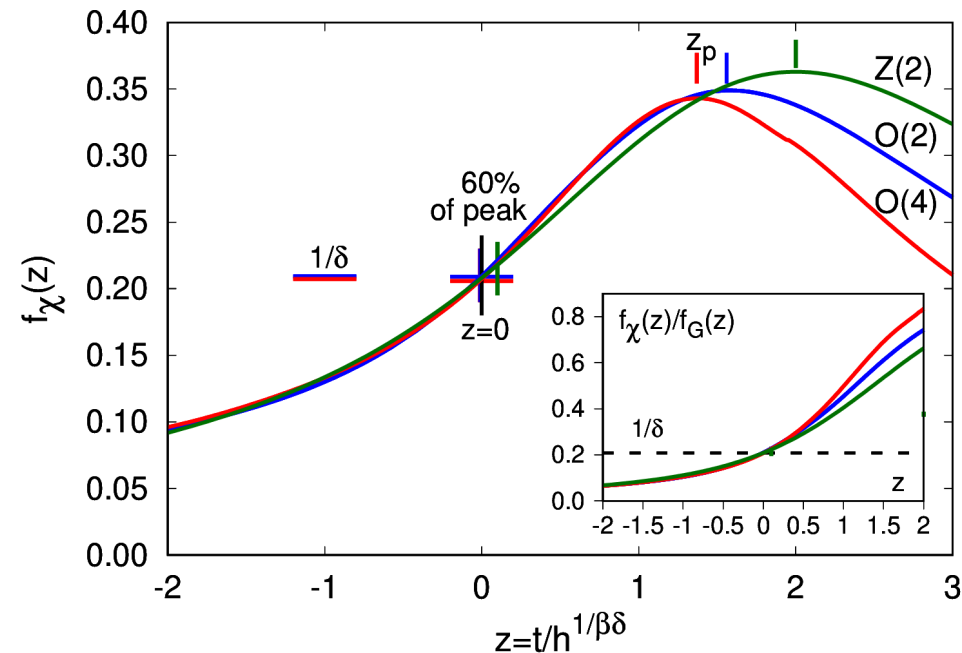
$$M = h^{1/\delta} f_G(z) + f_{sub}(T, H)$$

$$\chi_M = h_0^{-1} h^{1/\delta-1} f_\chi(z) + \tilde{f}_{sub}(T, H)$$

for ANY fixed z:

$$T_{pc}(H) = T_c^0 \left(1 + \frac{z}{z_0} H^{1/\beta\delta} \right) + \text{sub leading}$$

↪ – corrections-to-scaling
– regular terms

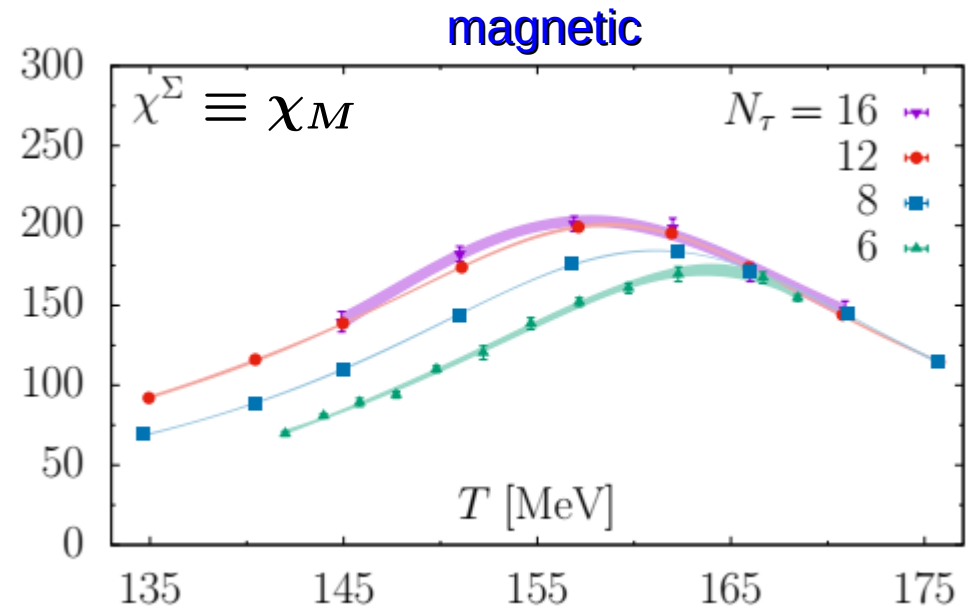
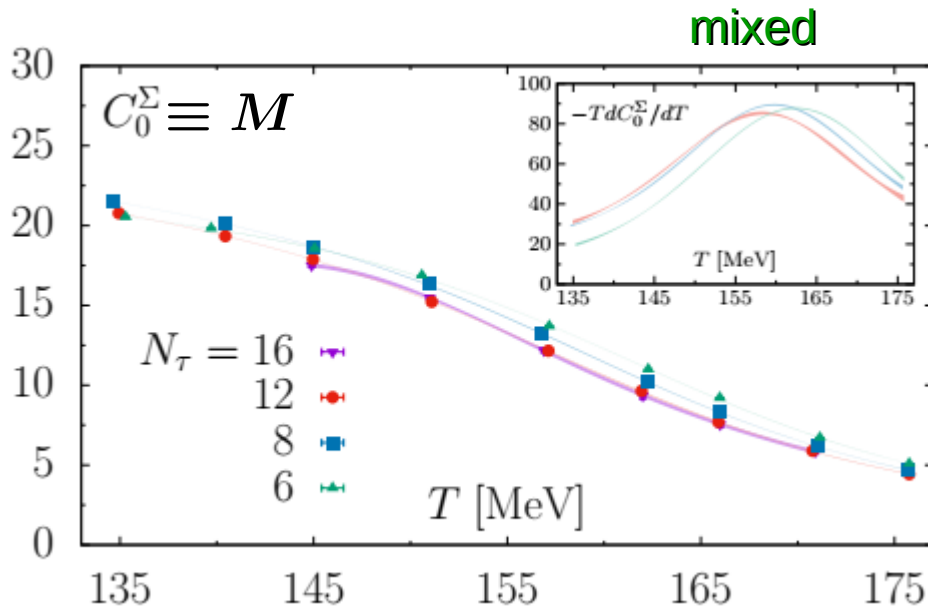


scaling functions $f_\chi(z)$ for some 3-d universality classes:

	δ	$1/\beta\delta$	z_p	z_{60}	z_δ
Z(2)	4.805	0.640	2.00(5)	0.10(1)	0
O(2)	4.780	0.599	1.58(4)	-0.005(9)	0
O(4)	4.824	0.545	1.37(3)	-0.013(7)	0

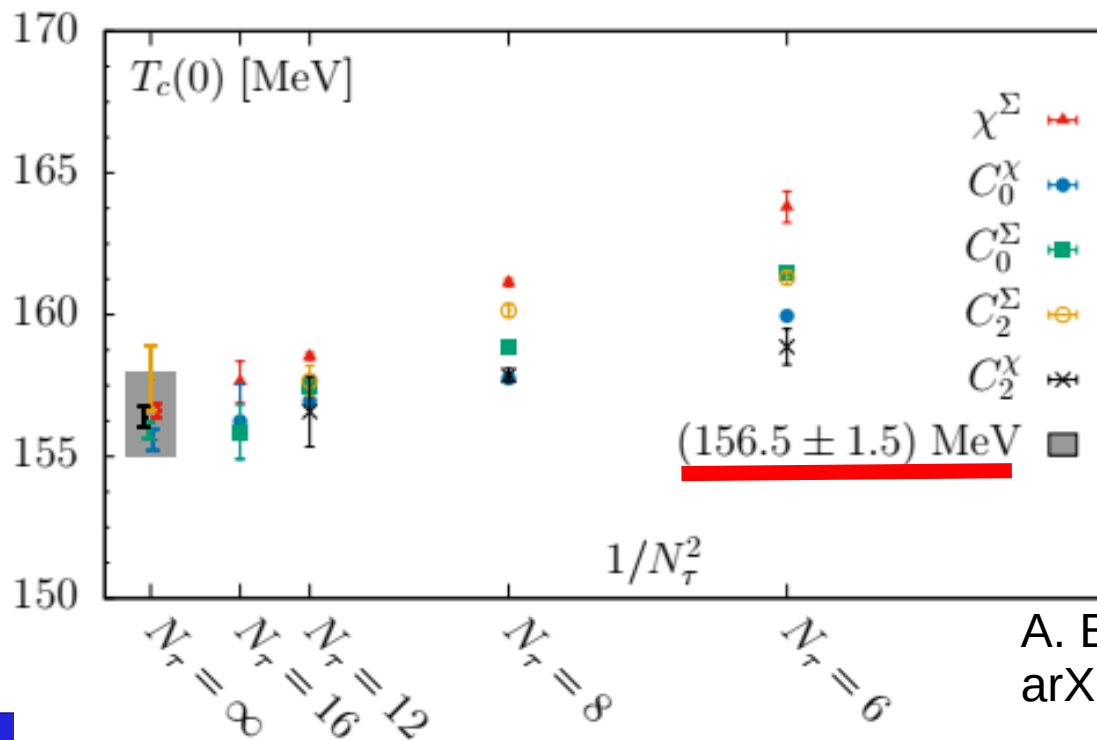
characteristic points on the scaling function $f_\chi(z)$

Pseudo-critical temperatures from chiral observables



physical
light & strange
quark masses;

continuum
extrapolated

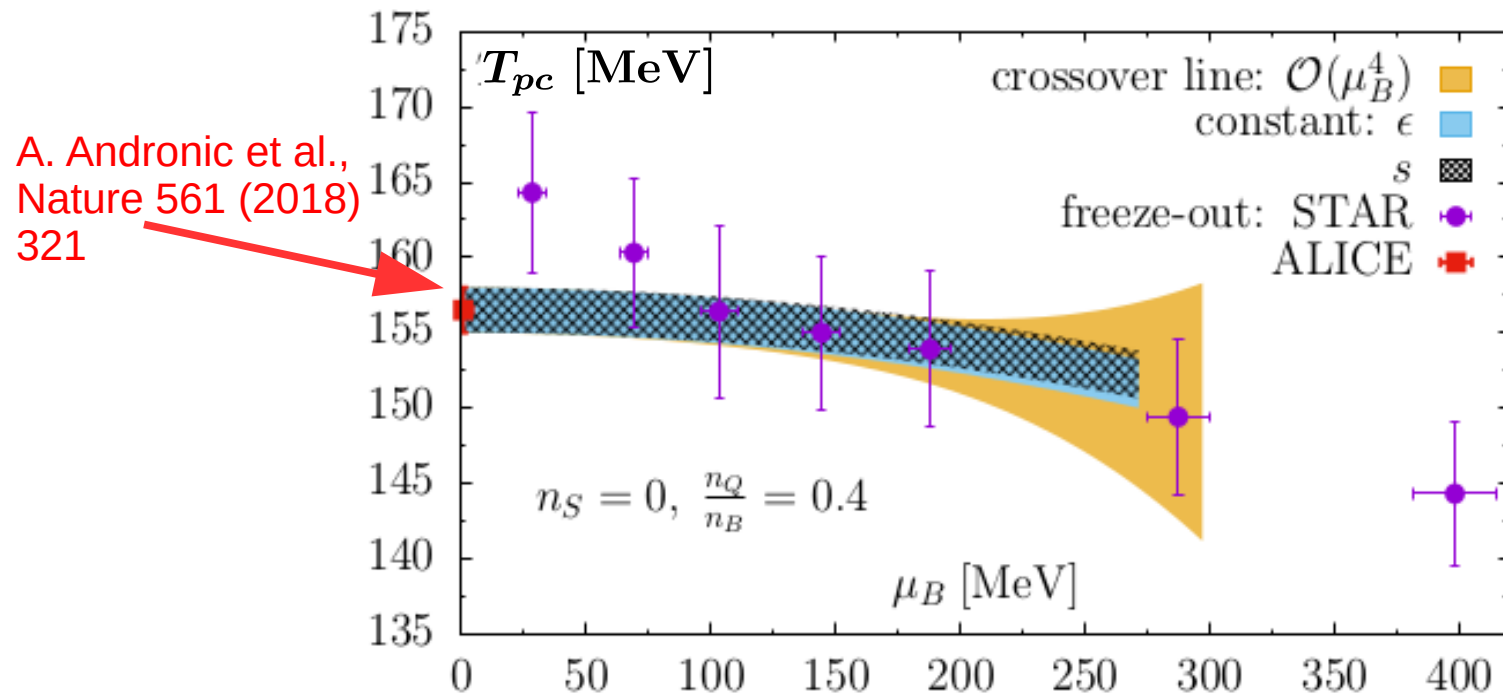


- $\chi^\Sigma : \partial_T \chi_M = 0$
- $C_0^\chi : \partial_T \chi^{disc} = 0$
- $C_0^\Sigma : \partial_T^2 M = 0$
- $C_2^\Sigma : \partial_T \partial_\mu^2 M = 0$
- $C_2^\chi : \partial_\mu^2 \chi^{disc} = 0$

A. Bazavov et al [HotQCD],
arXiv:1812.08235

Pseudo-critical (**crossover**) temperature

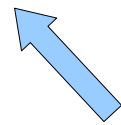
$$T_{pc}(\mu_B) = T_{pc}^0 \left(1 - \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T_c} \right)^2 - \kappa_4 \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T_c} \right)^4 + \dots \right)$$



$$T_{pc}^0 = (156.5 \pm 1.5) \text{ MeV}$$

$$\kappa_2 = 0.012(4)$$

$$\kappa_4 = 0.000(4)$$



average over 5 definitions
of a pseudo-critical temperature

A. Bazavov et al [HotQCD],
arXiv:1812.08235

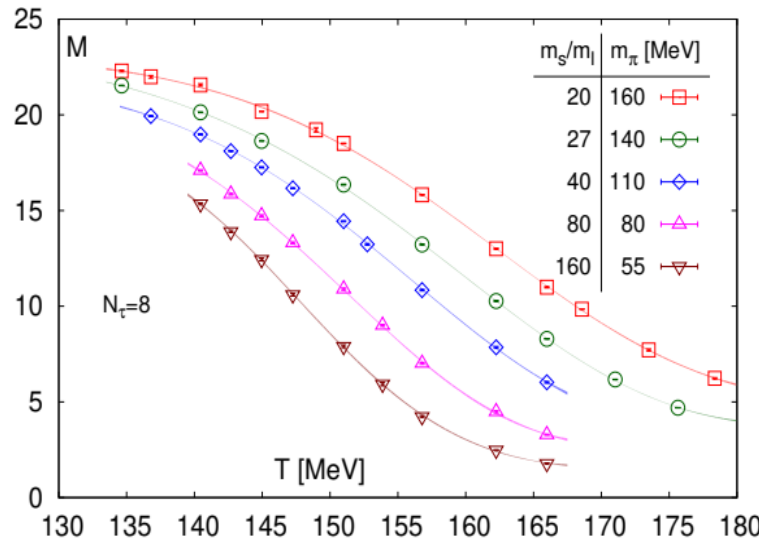
The Chiral **PHASE TRANSITION** in (2+1)-flavor QCD: $m_l/m_s \rightarrow 0$

$$M \sim m_s \frac{\partial \ln Z}{\partial m_l}$$

“magnetic”
susceptibility

$$\sim (m_s/m_l)^{0.79}$$

$$(160/27)^{0.79} \sim 4$$



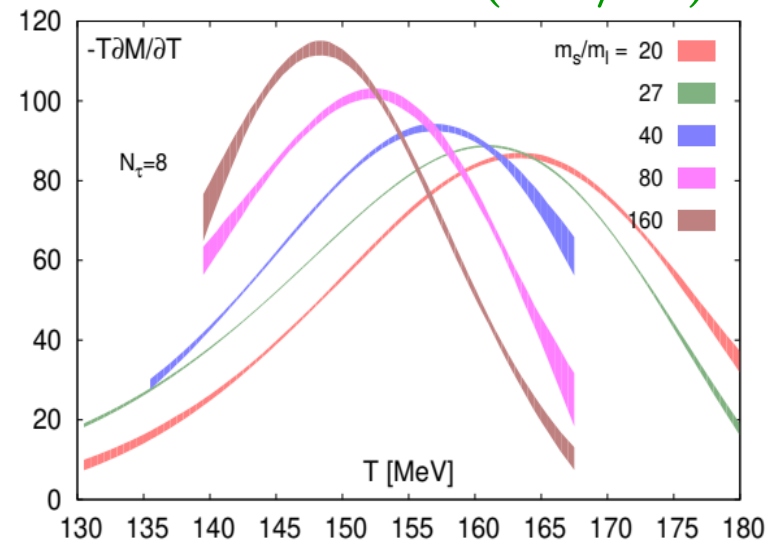
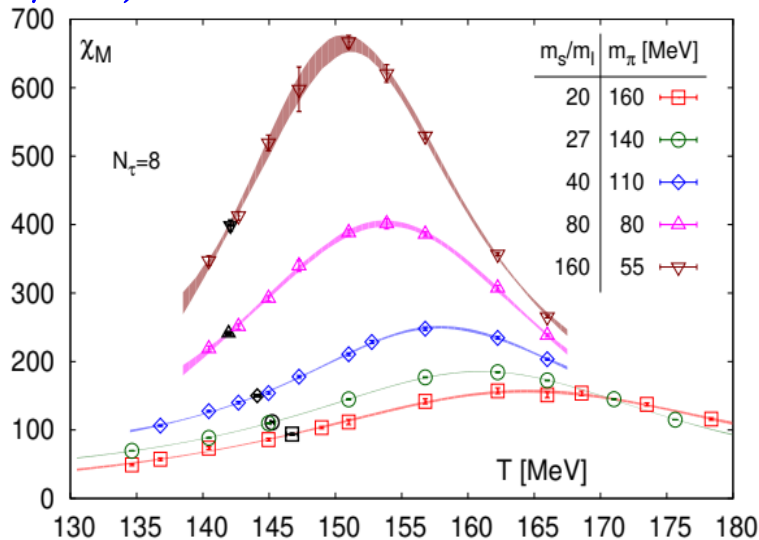
$$m_l = (m_u + m_d)/2 \Rightarrow 0$$

m_s fixed, physical

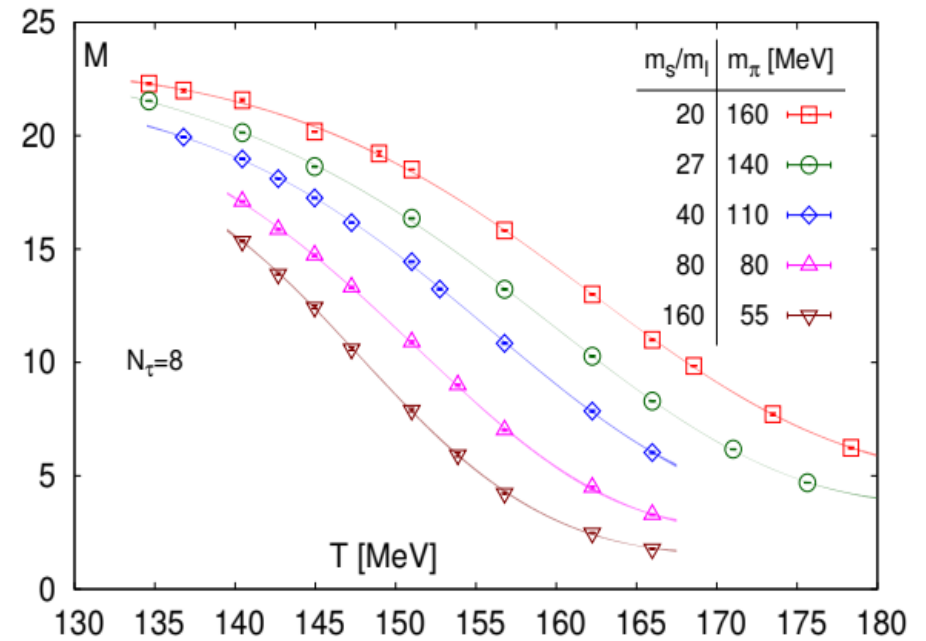
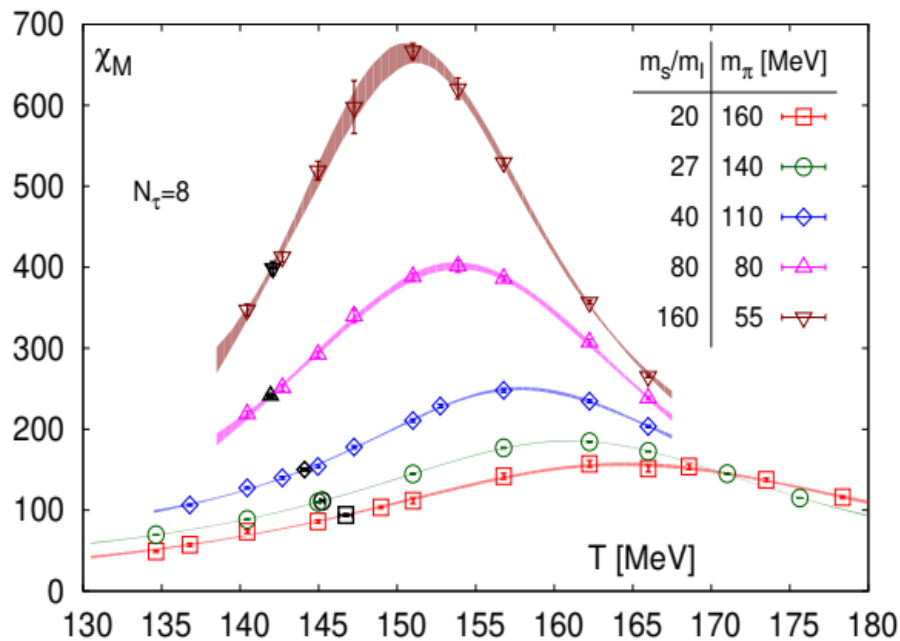
“mixed”
susceptibility

$$\sim (m_s/m_l)^{0.34}$$

$$(160/27)^{0.34} \sim 1.8$$



Chiral PHASE TRANSITION



a universal ratio at any fixed z

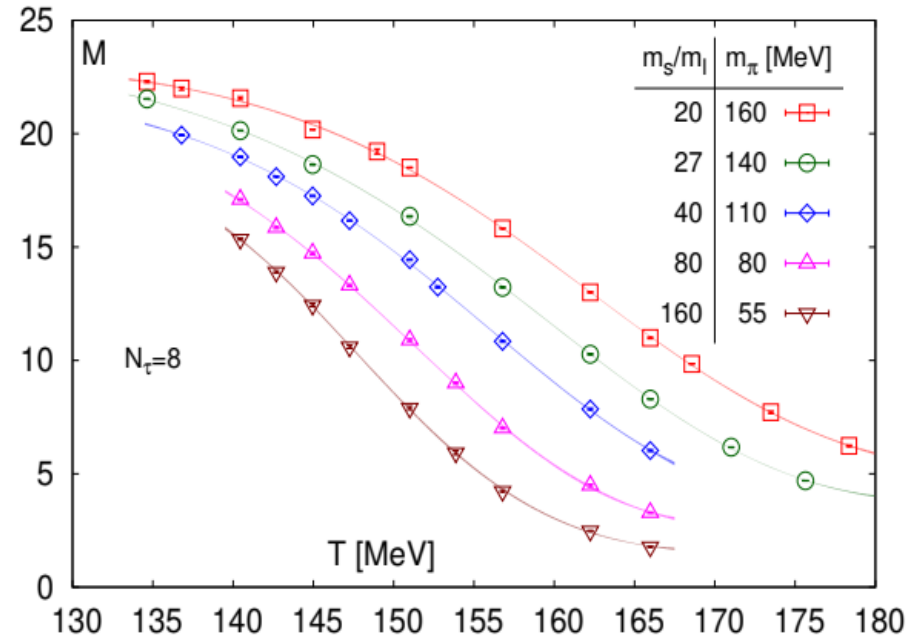
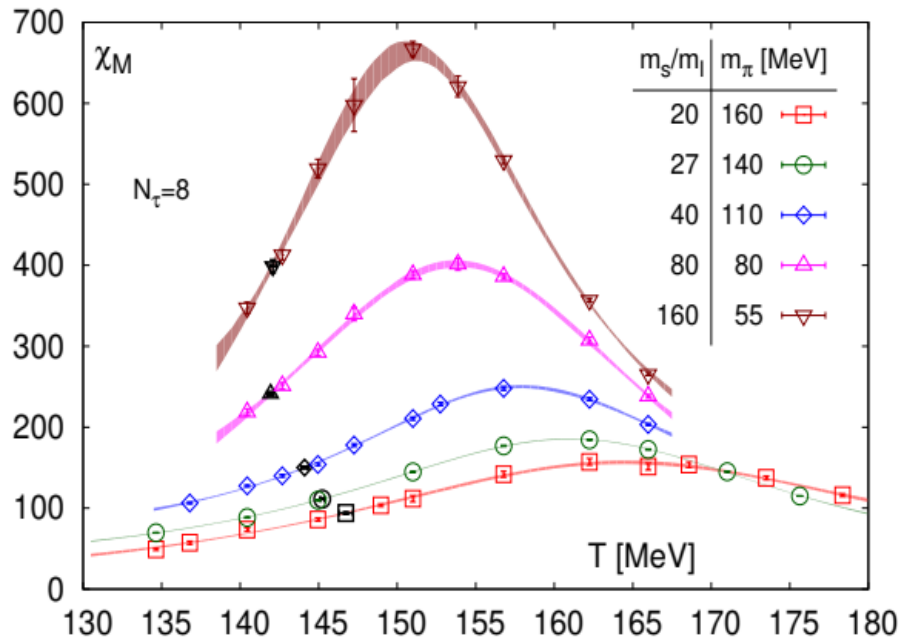
$$\frac{H\chi_M}{M} = \frac{f_\chi(z)}{f_G(z)} + \text{regular}$$

estimators for $\sim T_c^0$

characteristic points on the scaling function $f_\chi(z)$

$$T_{pc}(H) = T_c^0 \left(1 + \frac{z}{z_0} H^{1/\beta\delta} \right) + \text{sub leading}$$

Chiral PHASE TRANSITION



a universal ratio at any fixed z

$$\frac{H\chi_M}{M} = \frac{f_\chi(z)}{f_G(z)} + \text{regular}$$

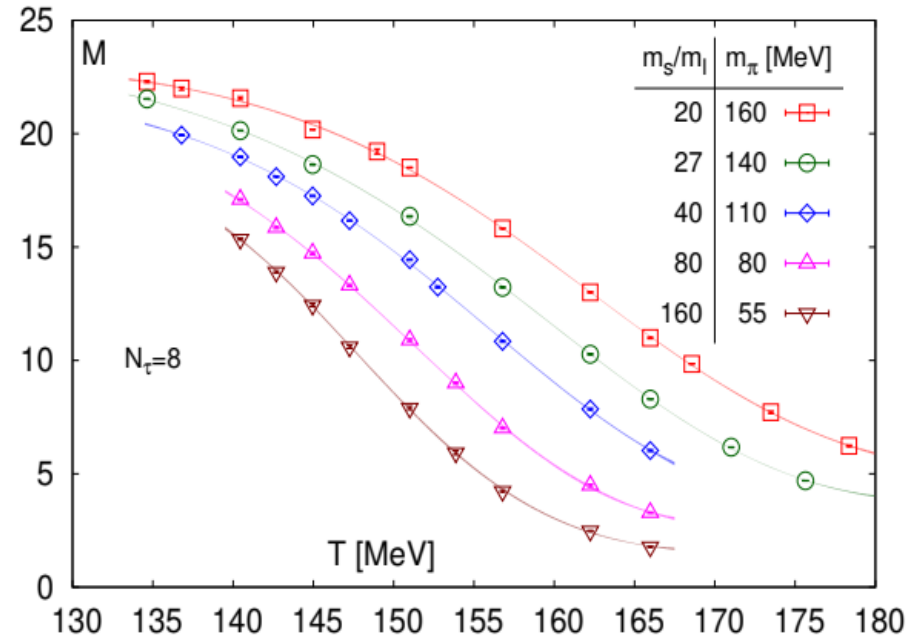
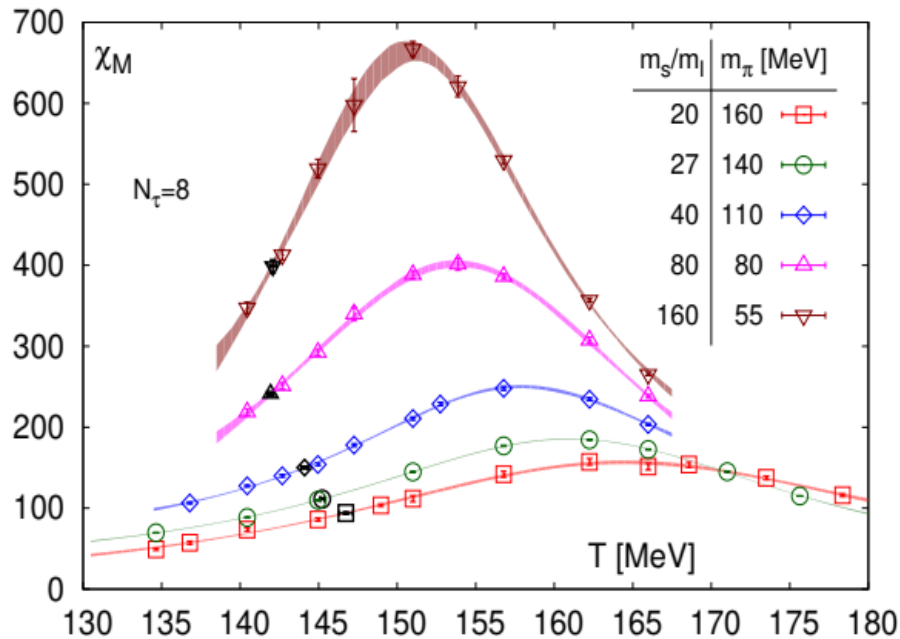
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Chiral PHASE TRANSITION

estimators for $\sim T_c^0$



T_{60} black symbols: 60% of peak height

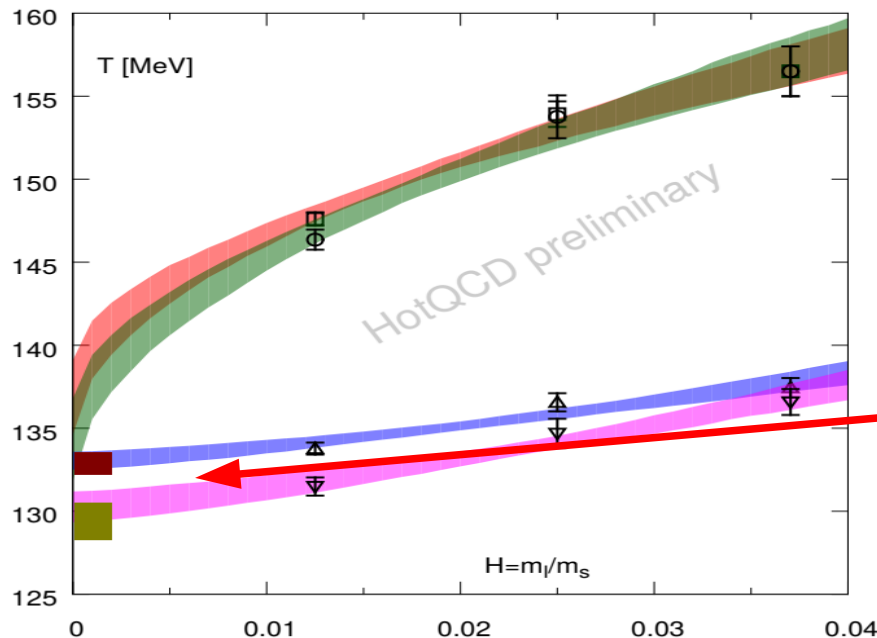
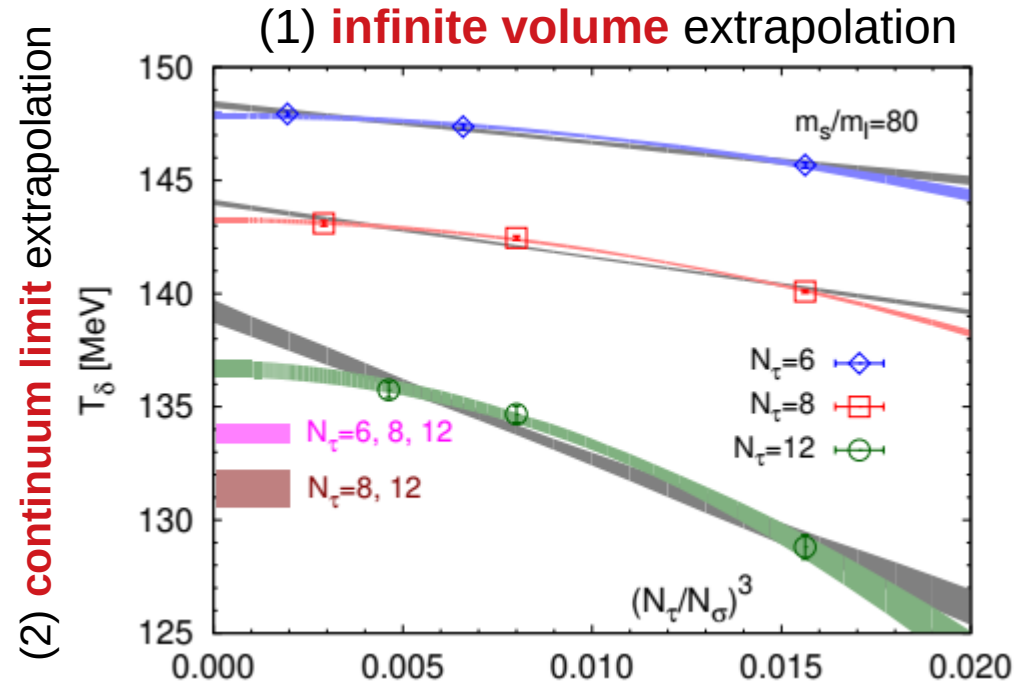
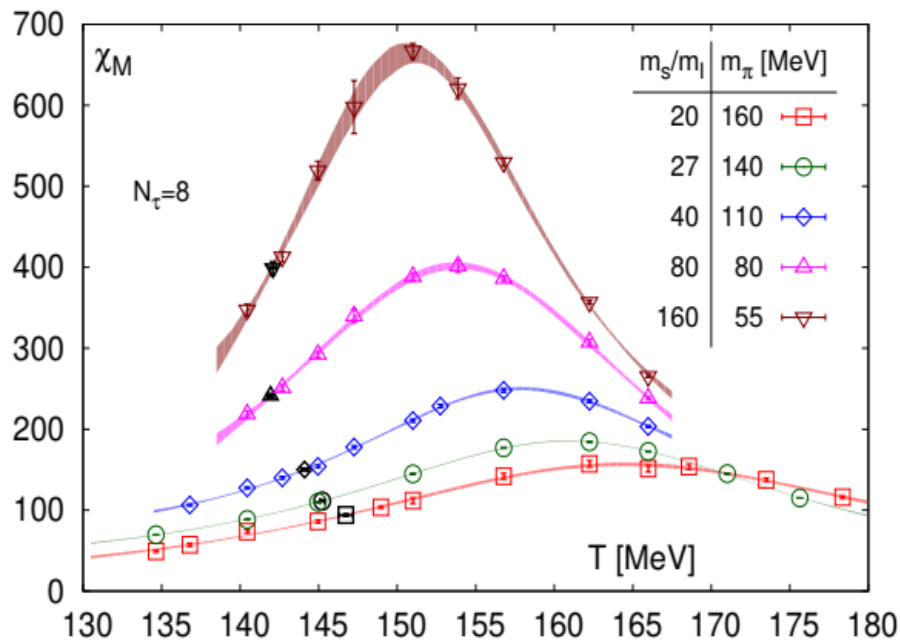
a universal ratio at any fixed z

$$\frac{H\chi_M}{M} = \frac{f_\chi(z)}{f_G(z)} + \text{regular} \quad z = t/h^{1/\beta\delta}$$

!! holds approx. for $m_s/m_l = 27 - 160$

$$\longrightarrow = \begin{cases} 1/\delta & , z = 0 \Rightarrow T_\delta \\ \sim 0.5 & , z = z_p \end{cases}$$

Chiral PHASE TRANSITION temperature



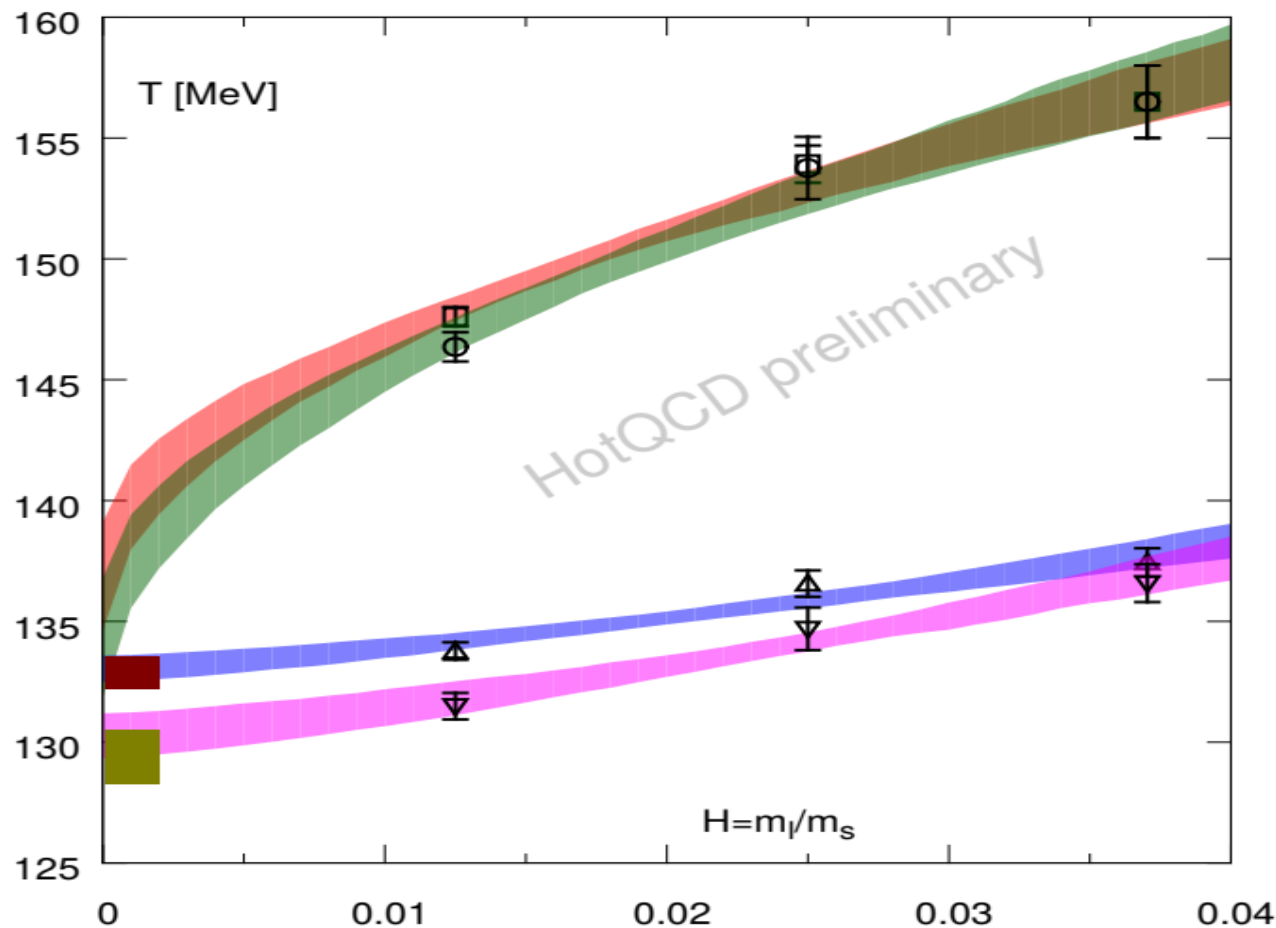
← $T_{pc}^{phys} = (156.5 \pm 1.5) \text{ MeV}$
 A. Bazavov et al [HotQCD],
 arXiv:1812.08235

(3) chiral limit extrapolation

$T_c^0 = 132_{-6}^{+3} \text{ MeV}$

H.-T. Ding et al [HotQCD],
 PRL 123 (2019) 062002
 arXiv:1903.04801

Chiral **PHASE TRANSITION** temperature



$$T_{pc}^{phys} \\ (156.5 \pm 1.5) \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Delta T \simeq 25 \text{ MeV}$$

$$T_c^0 = 132_{-6}^{+3} \text{ MeV}$$

Critical behavior and higher order cumulants

– Taylor expansion and universality –

Taylor expansion of the **QCD** pressure: $\frac{P}{T^4} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \ln Z(T, V, \mu_B, \mu_Q, \mu_S)$

$$\frac{P}{T^4} = \sum_{i,j,k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!j!k!} \chi_{ijk}^{BQS}(T) \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T}\right)^i \left(\frac{\mu_Q}{T}\right)^j \left(\frac{\mu_S}{T}\right)^k$$

cumulants of net-charge fluctuations and correlations:

$$\chi_{ijk}^{BQS} = \left. \frac{\partial^{i+j+k} P/T^4}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B^i \partial \hat{\mu}_Q^j \partial \hat{\mu}_S^k} \right|_{\mu_B, Q, S=0}, \quad \hat{\mu}_X \equiv \frac{\mu_X}{T}$$

Critical behavior and higher order cumulants

- the breakdown of the HRG model description in the “vicinity of T_c ” becomes obvious in properties of **higher order cumulants**,

pressure: $\frac{p}{T^4} = -h^{(2-\alpha)/\beta\delta} f_f(t/h^{1/\beta\delta}) - f_r(V, T, \vec{\mu})$

$$t \sim \frac{T - T_c}{T_c} + \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_q}{T} \right)^2$$

$$h \sim \frac{m_q}{T_c}$$

	alpha
O(4)	-0.213
Z(2)	+0.107

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial T} \simeq \frac{\partial^2}{\partial(\mu_B/T)^2}$$

FK et al., arXiv:1009.5211

chemical potentials are “**thermal couplings**”

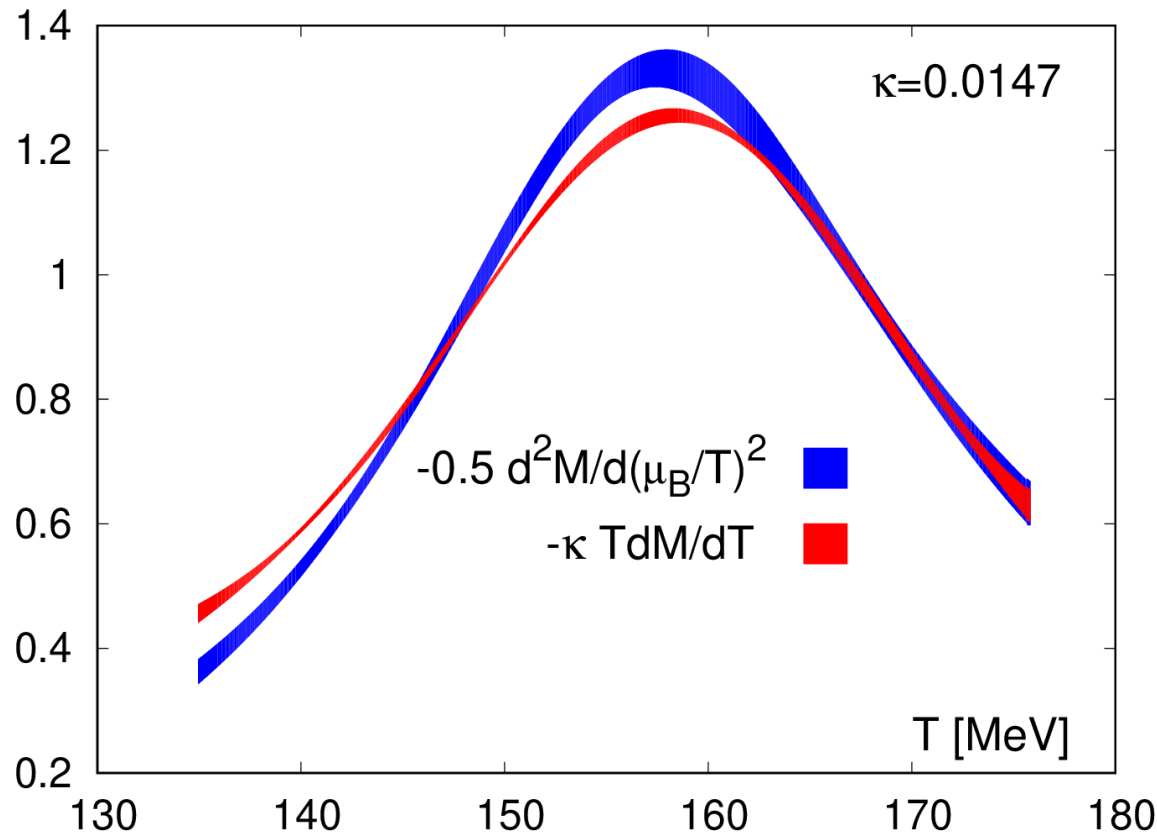
T-derivative \longleftrightarrow two μ -derivatives

Critical behavior and higher order cumulants

critical behavior in chiral observables: the T-derivative of the chiral condensate

a mixed susceptibility

$$\Delta_{ls}(T, \mu_B) = \Delta_{ls}(T, 0) + \frac{1}{2} \left. \frac{\partial^2 \Delta_{ls}}{\partial (\mu_B/T)^2} \right|_{\mu_B=0} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T} \right)^2 + \mathcal{O}(\mu_B^4)$$



$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial (\mu_B/T)^2} \approx \frac{\partial}{\partial T}$$

$$t \sim \frac{T - T_c}{T_c} + \kappa_2 \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T} \right)^2$$

curvature of crossover line

$$\kappa_2 = 0.012(4)$$

Critical behavior and higher order cumulants

- the breakdown of the HRG model description in the “vicinity of T_c ” becomes obvious in properties of **higher order cumulants**,

pressure: $\frac{p}{T^4} = -h^{(2-\alpha)/\beta\delta} f_f(t/h^{1/\beta\delta}) - f_r(V, T, \vec{\mu})$

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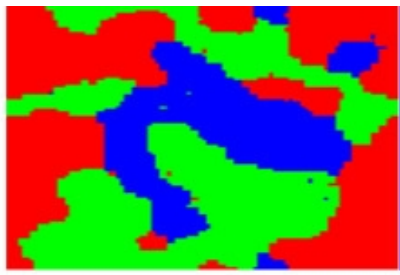
chemical potentials are “**thermal couplings**”

T-derivative \longleftrightarrow two μ -derivatives

cumulants:

$$\chi_X^{(2n)} = \frac{\partial^{2n} p/T^4}{\partial(\mu_X/T)^{2n}} \Big|_{\mu_X=0} = m_q^{(2-\alpha-n)/\beta\delta} f_f^{(n)}(t/h^{1/\beta\delta}), \quad X = B, S, \dots$$

O(4): singular terms dominate only for $2n \geq 6$

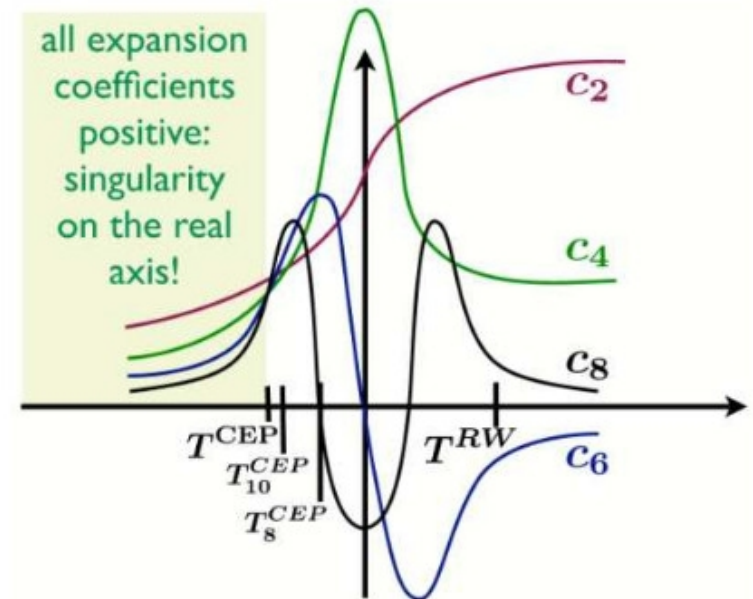
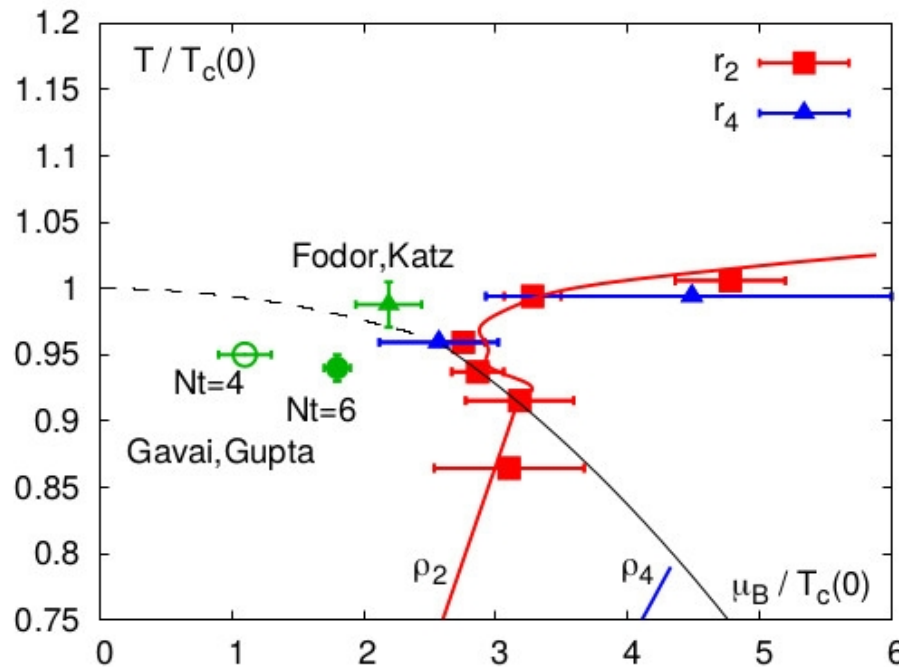


Estimating the location of the critical point: (T^{CEP}, μ_c)

i) T^{CEP} : find the largest temperature for which all c_n stay positive

ii) μ_c/T^{CEP} : estimate $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_n$

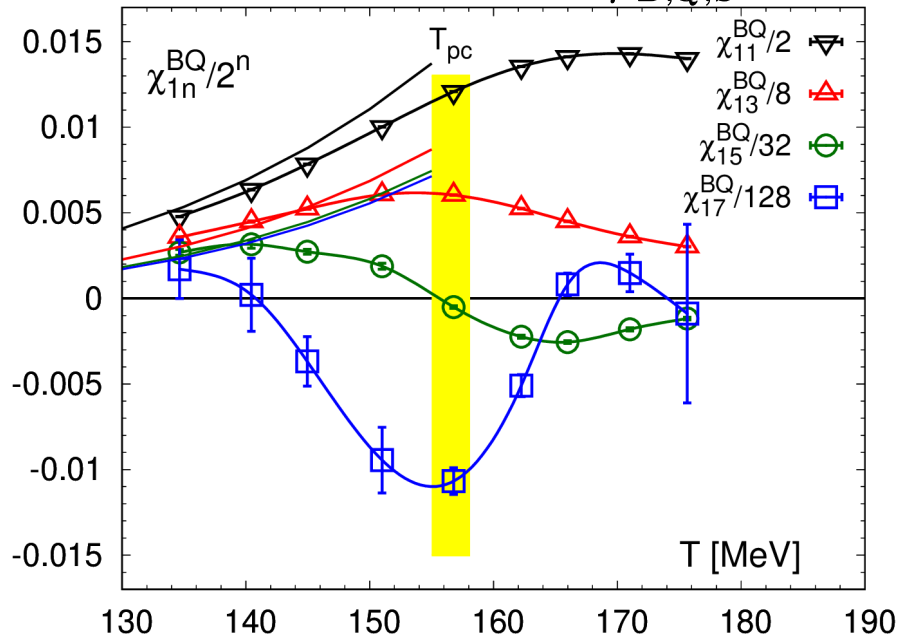
$$r_n \equiv \left(\frac{\mu_c}{T^{CEP}} \right)_n = \sqrt{\frac{c_n}{c_{n+2}}}$$



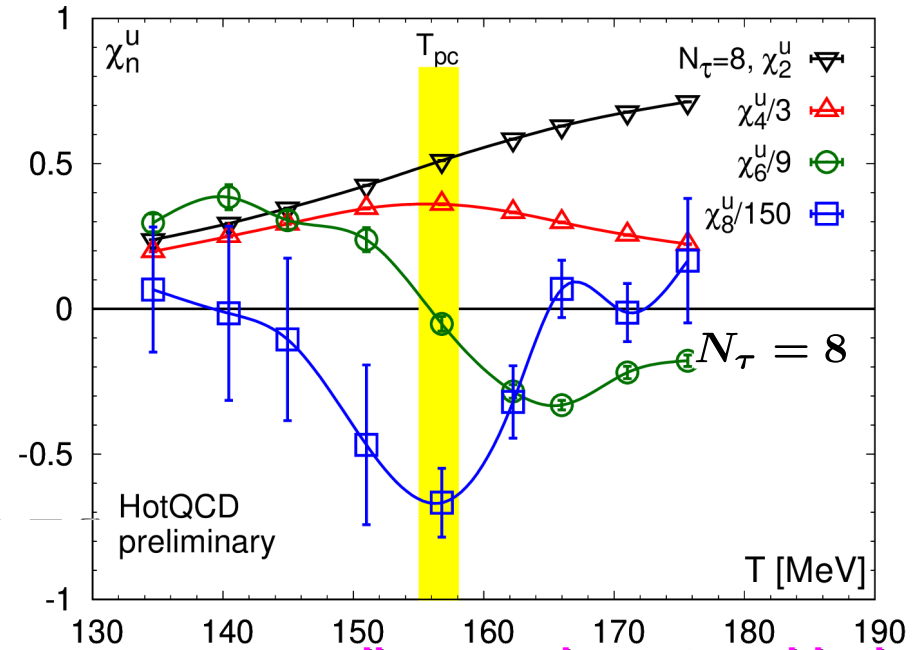
- $\mathcal{O}(a^2)$ improved action; slight quark mass dependence; weak cut-off dependence
- first non-trivial estimate of T^{CEP} requires 8th order for c_n : $\Rightarrow r_6$
- already $\mathcal{O}(c_6)$ requires more statistics

Critical behavior and higher order cumulants

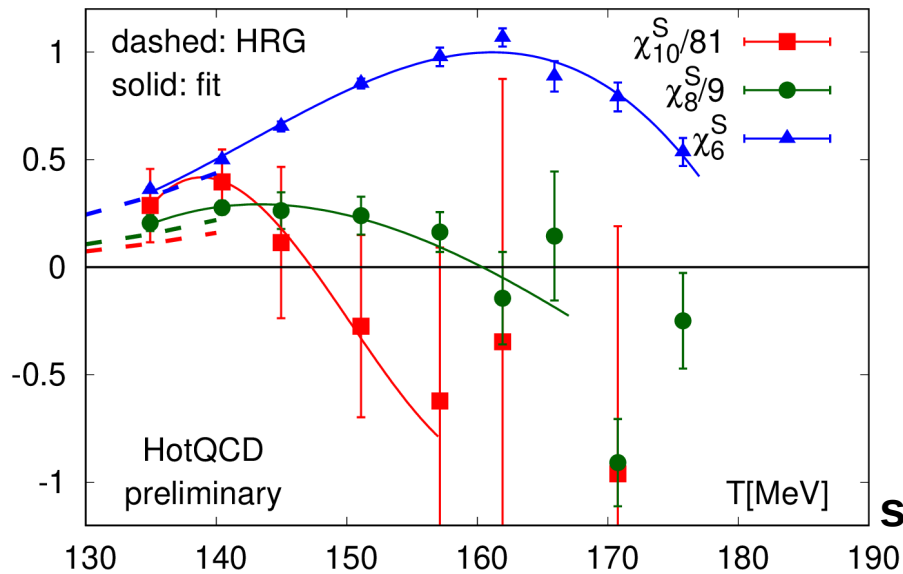
$$\chi_{1n}^{BQ} = \frac{\partial^{n+1} P/T^4}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B \partial \hat{\mu}_Q^n} \Big|_{\mu_{B,Q,S}=0}$$



$$\chi_n^u = \frac{\partial^n P/T^4}{\partial \hat{\mu}_u^n} \Big|_{\mu_{u,d,s}=0}$$



lines are drawn to guide the eye



$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial (\mu_X/T)^2} \simeq \frac{\partial}{\partial T}$$

– expected from structure of $O(N)$ scaling fields

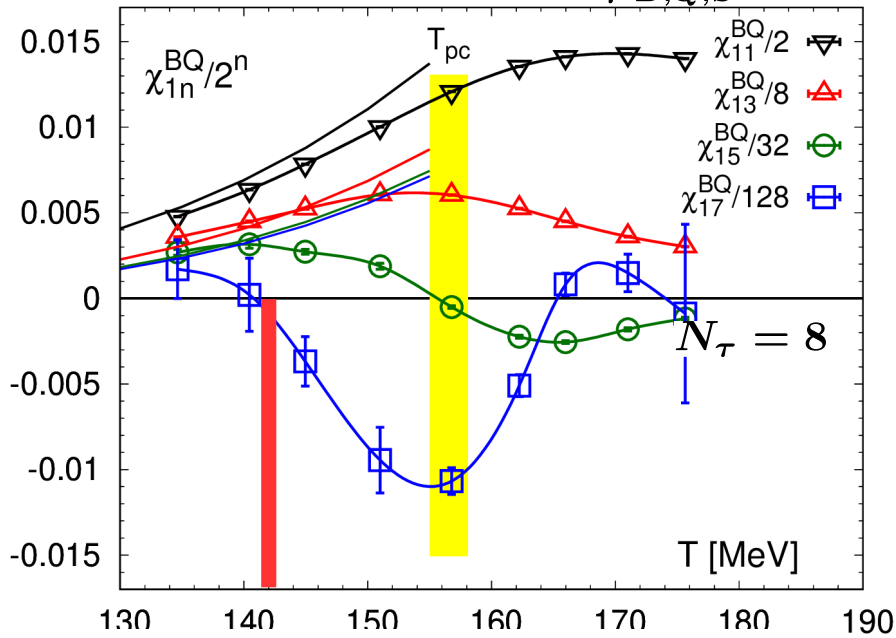
many 8th order cumulants turn negative for

$$T^- \gtrsim (140 - 145) \text{ MeV}$$

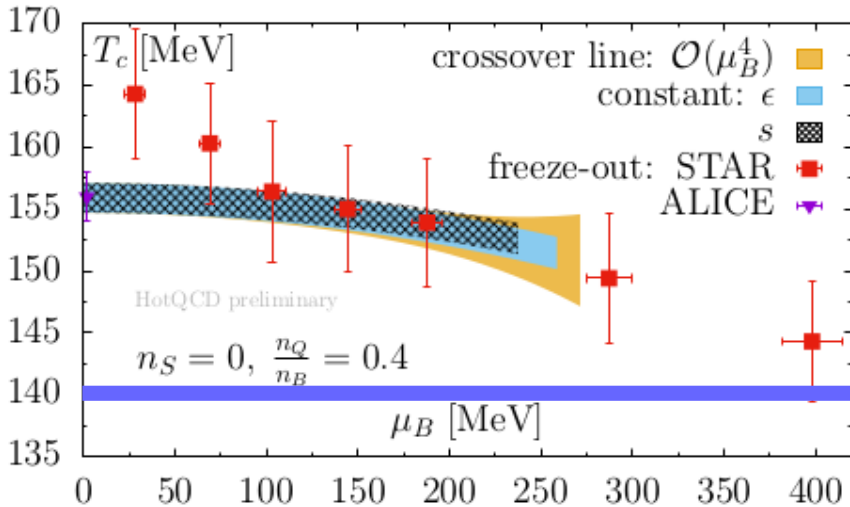
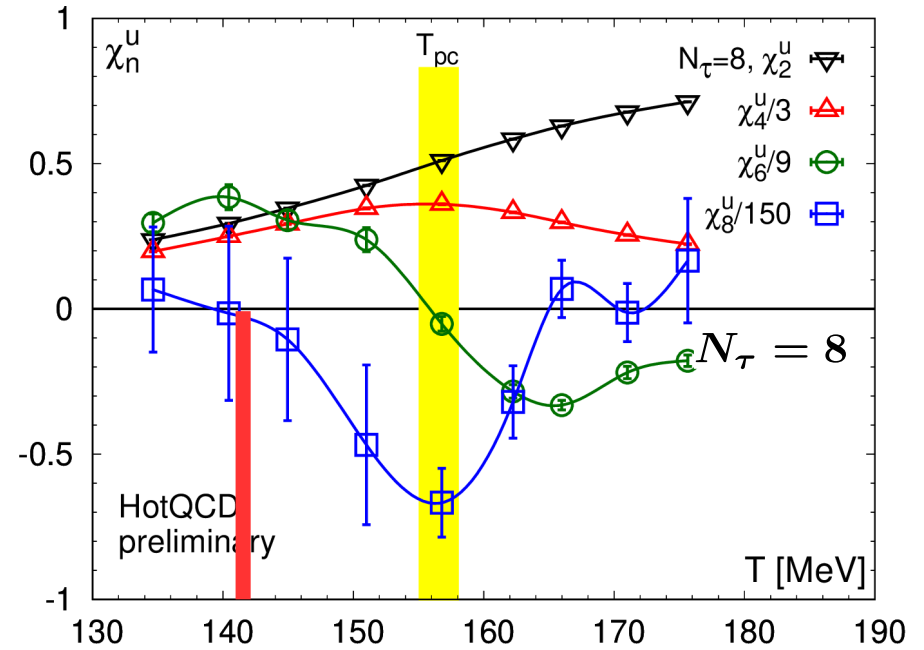
suggests zeroes in complex plane \rightarrow no phase transition

Critical behavior and higher order cumulants

$$\chi_{1n}^{BQ} = \frac{\partial^{n+1} P/T^4}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B \partial \hat{\mu}_Q^n} \Big|_{\mu_{B,Q,S}=0}$$



$$\chi_n^u = \frac{\partial^n P/T^4}{\partial \hat{\mu}_u^n} \Big|_{\mu_{u,d,s}=0}$$



many 8th order cumulants turn negative for

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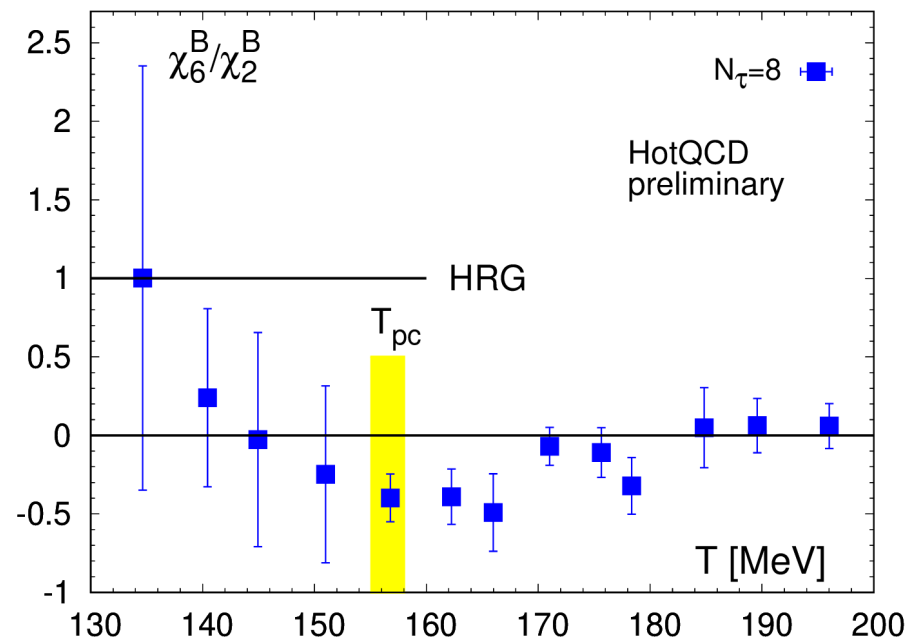
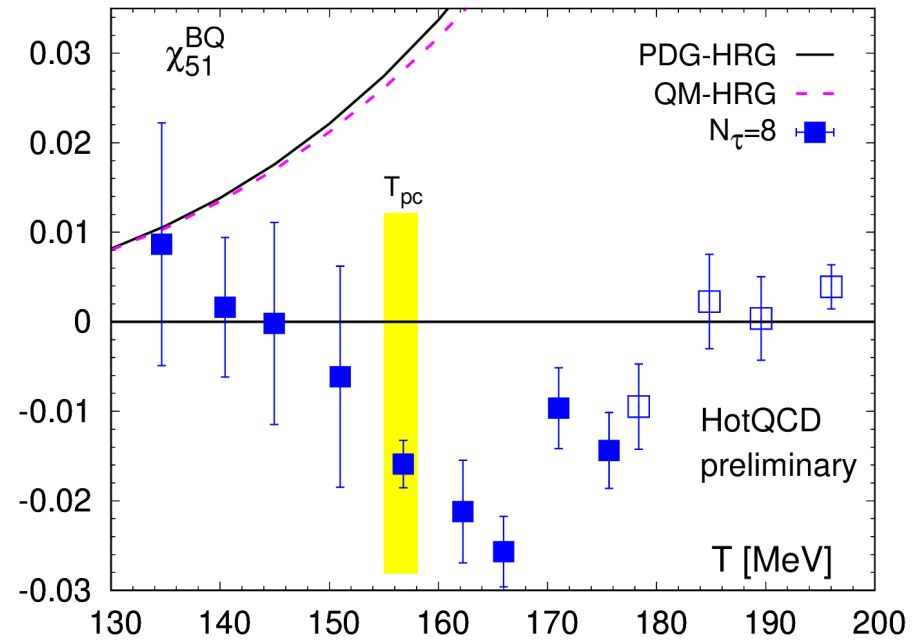
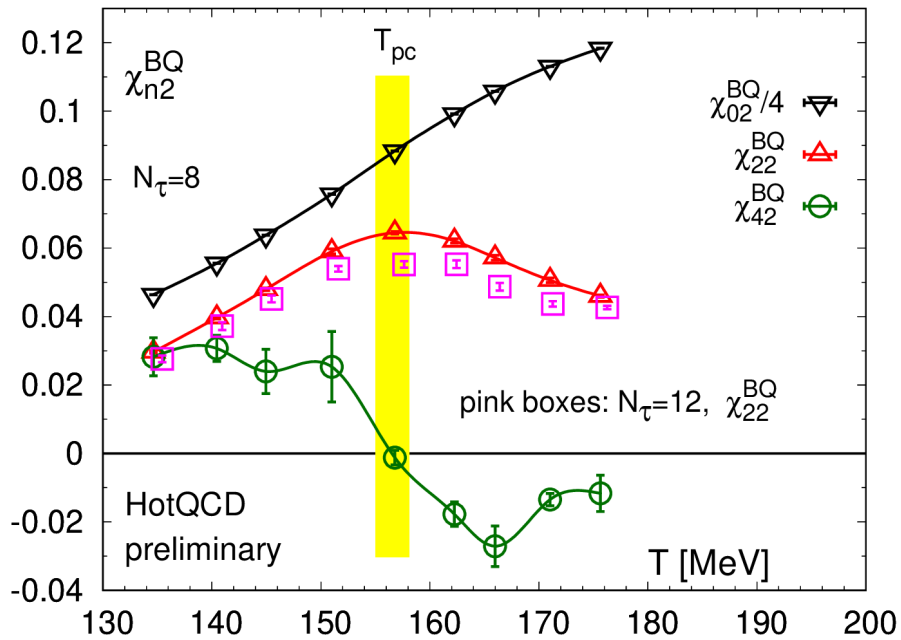
\rightarrow plausible scenario:

$$T_{cp} < 140 \text{ MeV} , \mu_B^{cp} > 400 \text{ MeV}$$

consistent with $T_c^0 = 132_{-6}^{+3} \text{ MeV}$

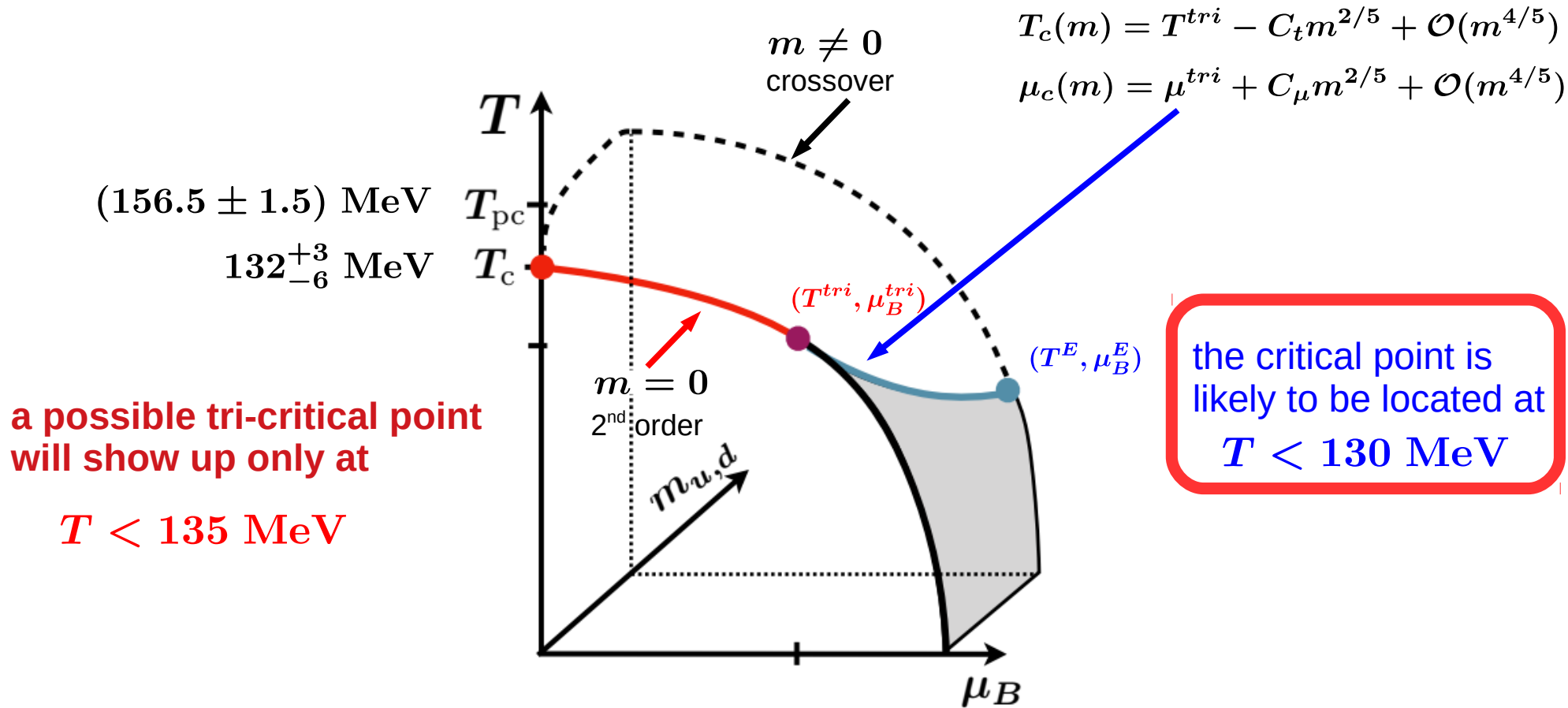
and the analytic structure of the O(4) scaling function
S. Mukherjee, V. Skokov, arXiv:1909.04639

some 6th order cumulants



- 6th order cumulants of baryon number fluctuations and their correlations with electric charge are negative at the pseudo-critical temperature
- large deviations from the non-interacting HRG model
- still largely influenced by regular terms

Crossover, chiral phase transition at $\mu_B = 0$ and the (tri)-critical point at $\mu_B > 0$



Random Matrix Model

MF

QCD

NJL

A. Halasz, A.D. Jackson, R.E. Shrock, M.A. Stephanov, J.J., M. Verbaarschot, Phys. Rev. D58 (1998) 096007

Y. Hatta, T. Ikeda, Phys. Rev. D67 (2003) 01028

M. Stephanov, Phys. Rev. D73 (2006) 094508

M. Buballa, S. Carignano, Phys. Lett. B791 (2019) 361

Conclusions

- the chiral phase transition is located at a temperature T_c^0 about 25 MeV lower than the pseudo-critical temperature T_{pc} at physical values of the quark masses
- for $T \simeq T_{pc}$ chiral (magnetic) observables at physical values of the quark masses are sensitive to critical behavior in the chiral limit.
- higher order cumulants show large deviations from non-interacting (point-like) HRG model calculations even below T_{pc}

negative 6th & 8th order cumulants as well as the low chiral phase transition temperature suggest that a possibly existing critical point may be found only for

$$\mu_B^{cp} > 400\text{MeV} , T_{cp} < (130 - 140)\text{MeV}$$

many thanks to Jishnu Goswami, Anirban Lahiri, Patrick Steinbrecher, Christian Schmidt for their help with the incorporation of recent HotQCD results in this talk