

The role of neutron stars in constraining the QCD equation of state (The QCD equation of state from CMF)

Veronica Dexheimer



★ Astrophysics group



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A. Clevinger



R. Jacobsen



Y. Wang



M. Pelicer



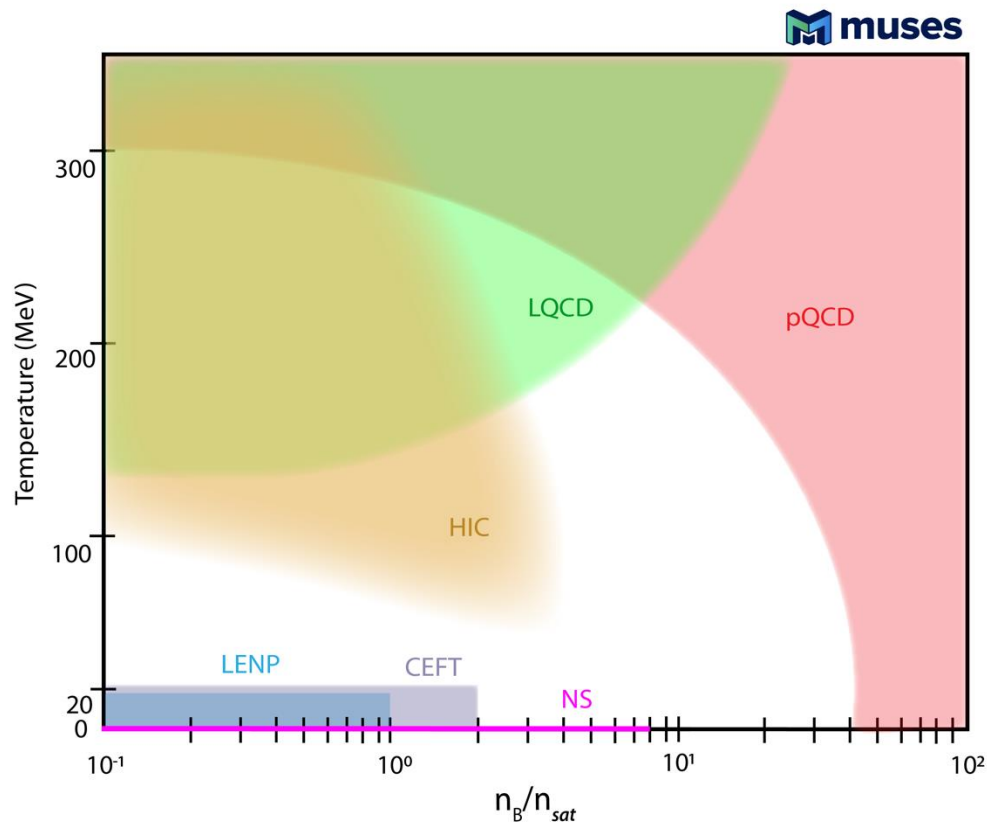
J. Grefa



★ QCD phase diagram

- * Current input from different (first-principle and effective) theories and experiments

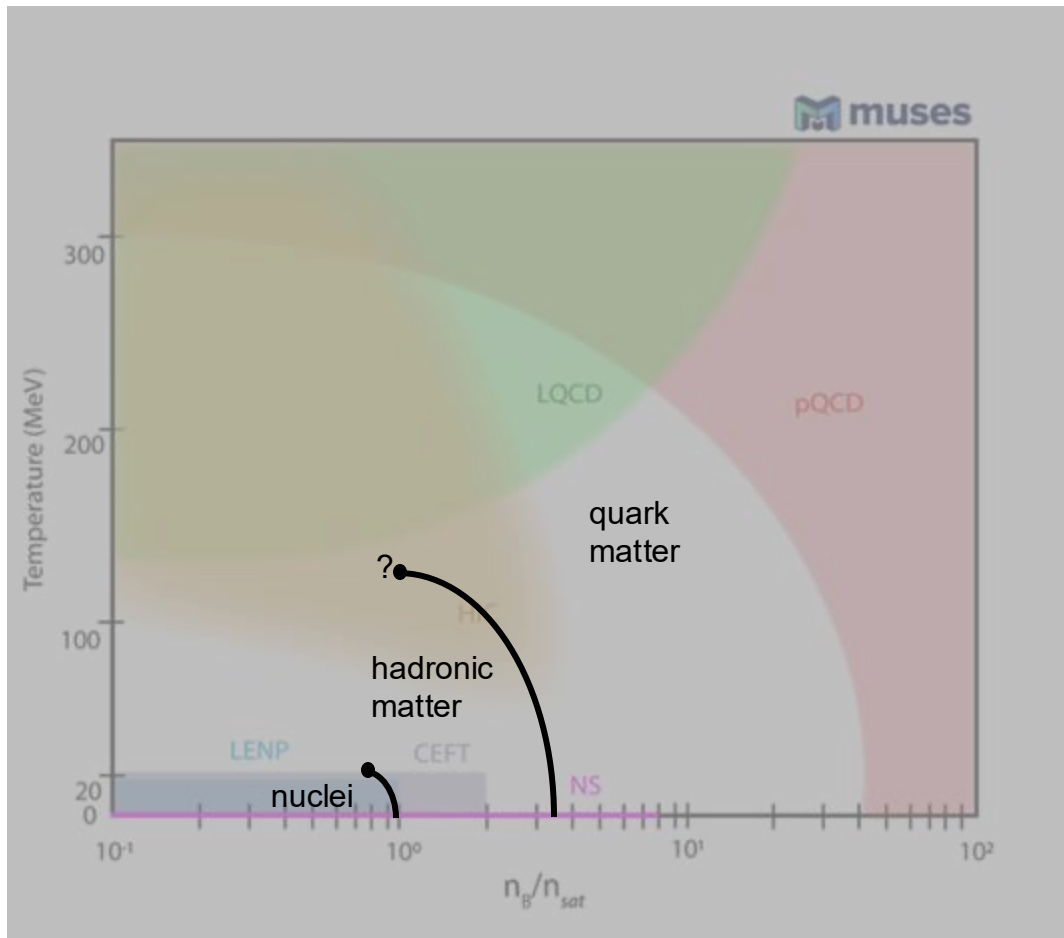
Living Rev.Rel. 27 (2024) 1, 3
e-Print: [2303.17021](https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.17021)



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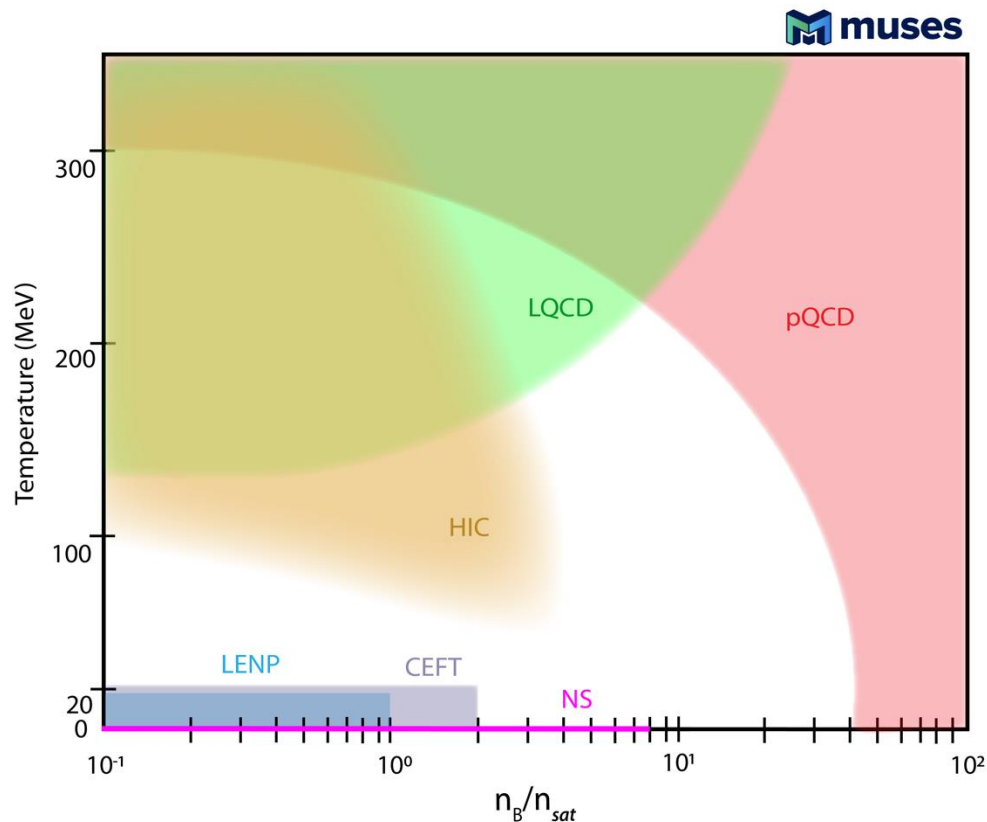
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★ Lattice QCD

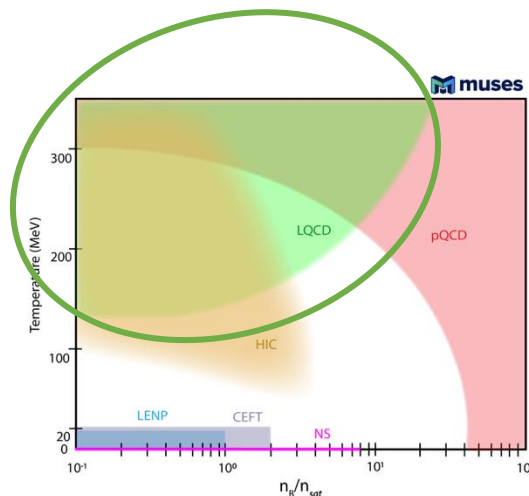
- ★ EoS up to $\mu_B/T=3.5$ obtained from Taylor expansion

Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 23, 232001
e-Print: [2102.06660](https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.06660)

- ★ BSQ susceptibilities
- ★ Partial pressures (with hadronic phase treated as ideal resonance gas)
- ★ Pseudo phase-transition line
- ★ Limits on the critical point location
 $\mu_B \gtrsim 300$ MeV and $T_c \lesssim 132$ MeV.

Phys.Rev.Lett. 125 (2020) 5, 052001
e-Print: [2002.02821](https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.02821)

Phys.Rev.Lett. 123 (2019) 6, 062002
e-Print: [1903.04801](https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.04801)



★ Perturbative QCD

- ★ Resummed perturbative QCD EoS calculated to N3LO using HTL perturbation theory in agreement with lattice for $T \gtrsim 2 T_c$ at $\mu_B=0$

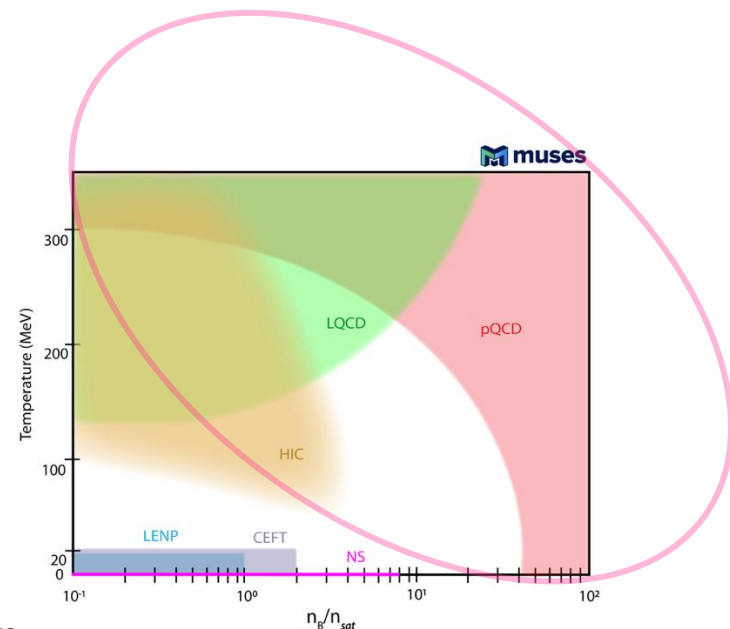
JHEP 08 (2011) 053 e-Print: [1103.2528](#)

- ★ The curvature of the QCD phase transition line
- ★ Application at high density: starting at $n_B \sim 40 n_{\text{sat}}$ from N3LO calculation

Phys.Rev.D 104 (2021) 7, 074015 e-Print: [2103.07427](#)

(and extrapolations to lower densities)

- ★ Transport coefficients at finite T and μ_B



★ Chiral Effective Field Theory

- ★ EoS computed up to N3LO in many-body perturbation theory (with three-body forces up to N2LO) for $n_B \lesssim 2n_{\text{sat}}$
- ★ Provides E_{sym} and slope parameter L at n_{sat}

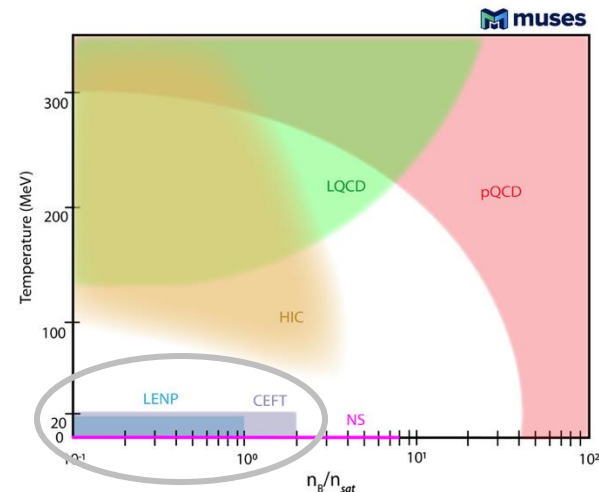
Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 71 (2021) 403-432

e-Print: [2101.01709](#)

- ★ Can be used to study the liquid-gas phase transition for isospin-symmetric nuclear matter from a finite-temperature calculation up to $T \sim 25$ MeV

Phys.Rev.C 95 (2017) 3, 034326

e-Print: [1612.04309](#)



★ Low-energy nuclear physics

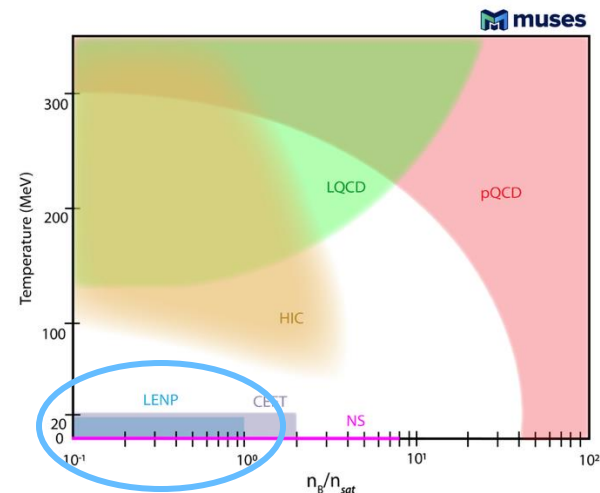
- ★ Isospin symmetric matter at n_{sat}

Saturation density, n_{sat} (fm^{-3})	0.17 ± 0.03
	0.148 - 0.185
	0.148 ± 0.0038
Binding energy per nucleon, B/A (MeV)	-15.677
	-16.24
Compressibility, K_{∞} (MeV)	240 ± 20
	210 - 270
	251 - 315

Phys.Rev.C 89 (2014) 4, 044316

e-Print: [1404.0744](https://arxiv.org/abs/1404.0744)

- ★ Hyperon and Δ -baryon potentials at n_{sat}
- ★ Symmetry energy E_{sym} and derivative L at and around n_{sat}
- ★ Heavy-ion collision measurements of neutron skin
- ★ Liquid-gas critical point

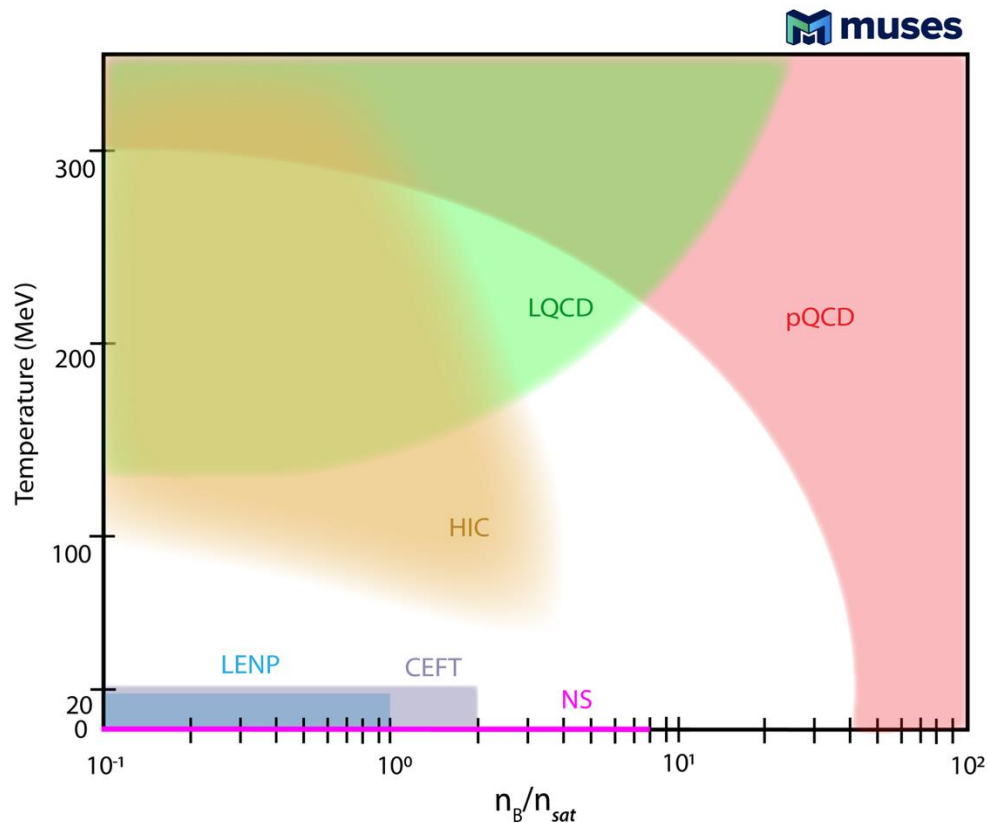


★ QCD phase diagram

- * Current input from different (first-principle and effective) theories and experiments

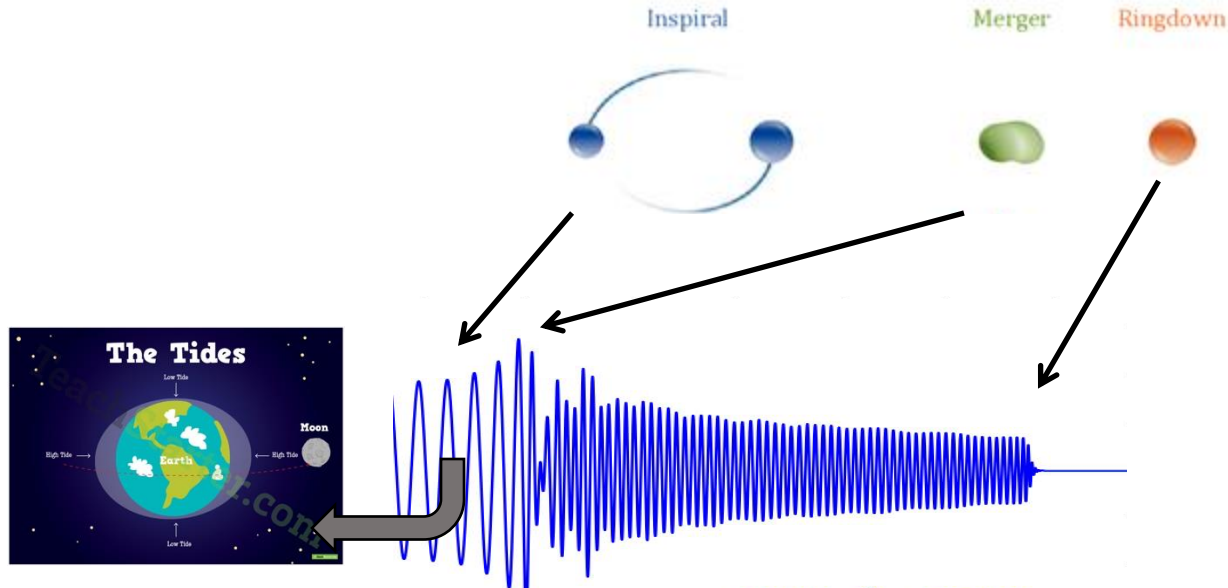
Living Rev.Rel. 27 (2024) 1, 3
e-Print: [2303.17021](https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.17021)

- * Astrophysics input only at $T \sim 0$...



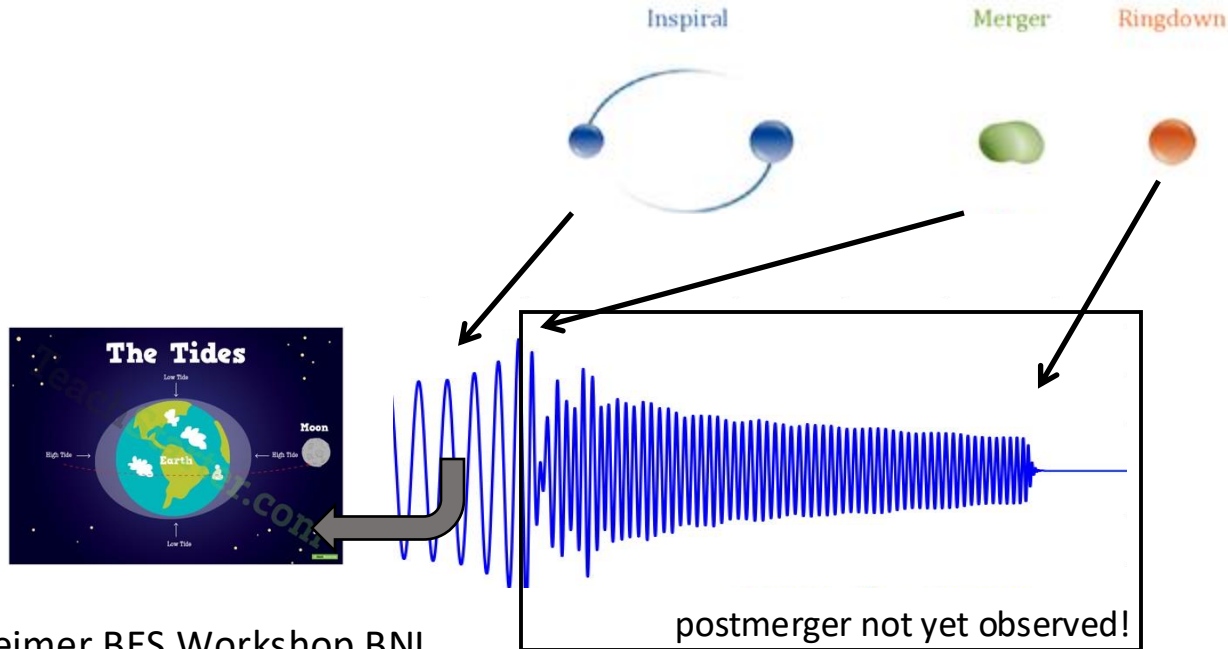
★ Gravitational wave data

- * Several measurements from neutron-star mergers but only GW170817 provided electromagnetic counterparts and a relevant measurement of the tidal deformability



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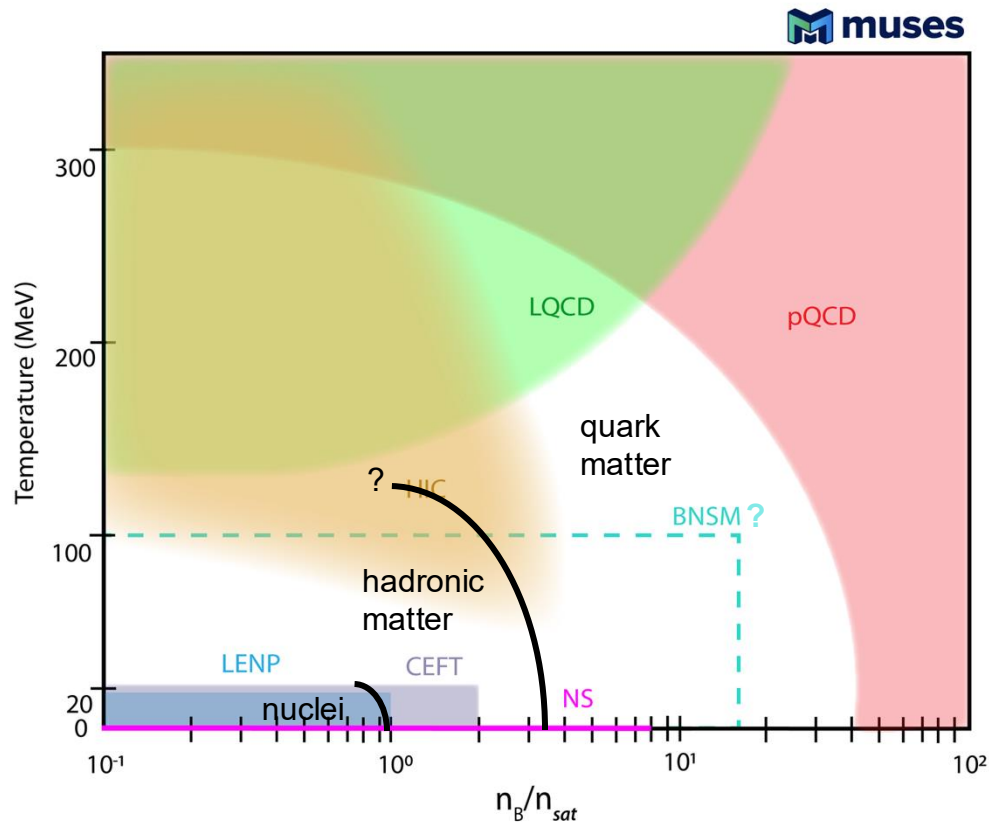


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Living Rev.Rel. 27 (2024) 1, 3
e-Print: [2303.17021](https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.17021)

- * Astrophysics input only at $T \sim 0$ for now
- * But finite T input is coming soon

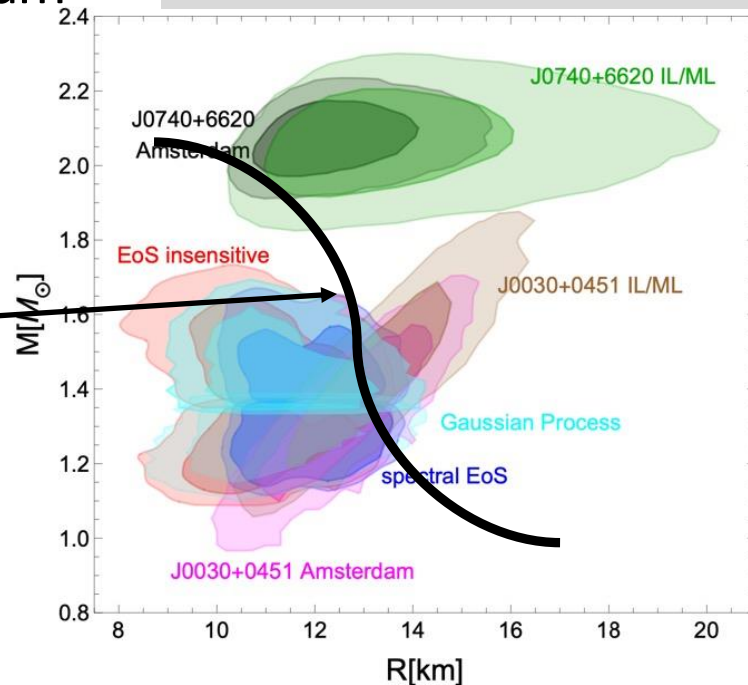


★ Astrophysics: mass-radius diagram

- * Equation of state (EoS): $P(\epsilon)$
- * Einstein's equations:
Tolman–Oppenheimer–Volkoff (TOV) equation
- * Mass-radius for neutron stars
(for many central densities)
- * How can we invert the mass-radius diagram to obtain the EoS? Start from
 - microscopic models
 - interpolations
 - parametric EoSs ...

and check if they match data!

PRD 105 (2022) 2, 023018 e-Print: [2106.03890](https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.03890)



★ Astrophysics data

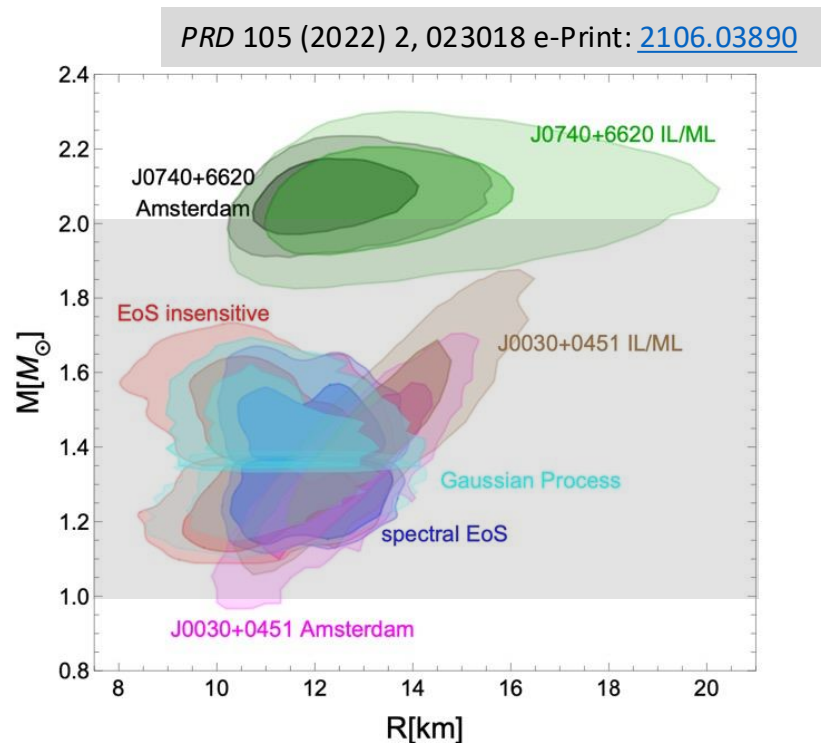
★ Neutron-star maximum mass

Neutron Star	$M_{max} (M_{\odot})$
PSR J0740+6620	$\geq 2.08 \pm 0.07$
PSR J0348+0432	$\geq 2.01 \pm 0.04$

★ Masses and radii from NICER

Neutron Star	$M (M_{\odot})$	Radius (km)
PSR J0030+0451	$1.34^{+0.15}_{-0.16}$	$12.71^{+1.14}_{-1.19}$
PSR J0740+6620	$2.072^{+0.067}_{-0.066}$	$12.39^{+1.30}_{-1.98}$ → $12.92 \pm^{2.09}_{1.13}$
PSR J0030+0451	$1.44^{+0.15}_{-0.14}$	$13.02^{+1.24}_{-1.06}$
PSR J0740+6620	$2.08^{+0.07}_{-0.07}$	$13.7^{+2.6}_{-1.5}$
PSR J0437+4715	$1.418^{+0.037}_{-0.037}$	$11.36^{+0.95}_{-0.63}$

★ More neutron star radii and masses, cooling data, ...

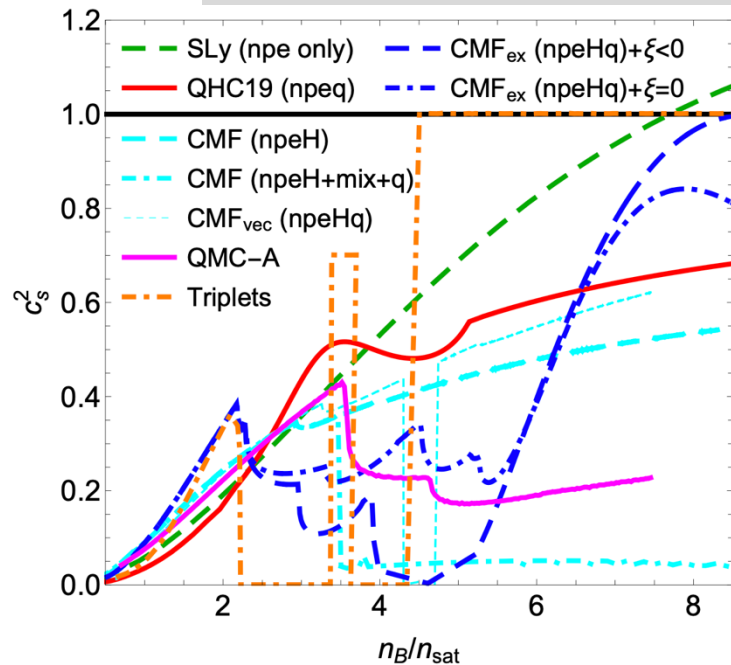


Living Rev.Rel. 27 (2024) 1, 3
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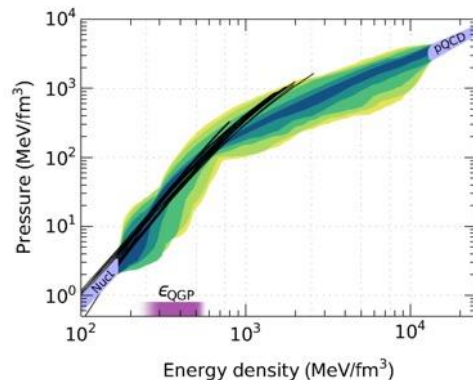
★ Speed of sound of dense matter

- ★ Structure associated with different particles, interactions, phase transitions, ...

PRD 105 (2022) 2, 023018 e-Print: [2106.03890](https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.03890)



- ★ Structure needed to reproduce nuclear + astrophysics data

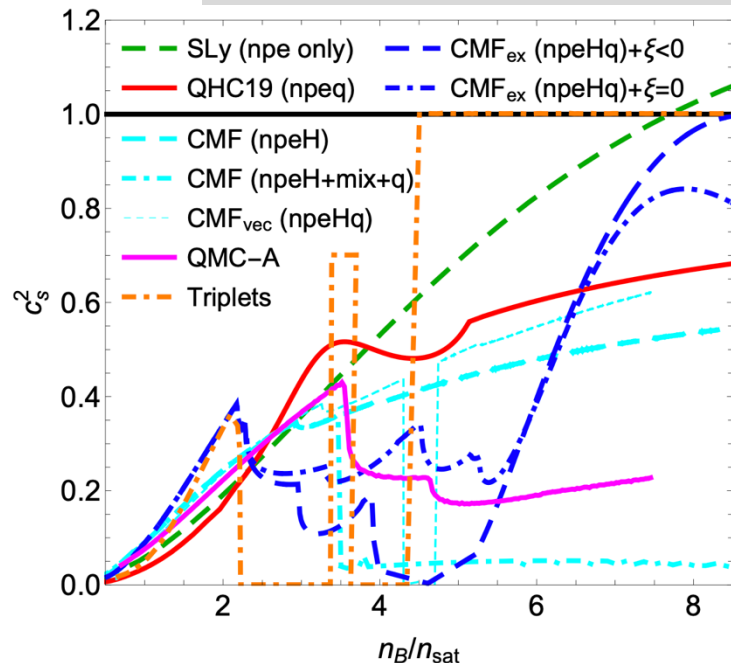


Nature Phys. 16 (2020) 9, 907-910
e-Print: [1903.09121](https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.09121)

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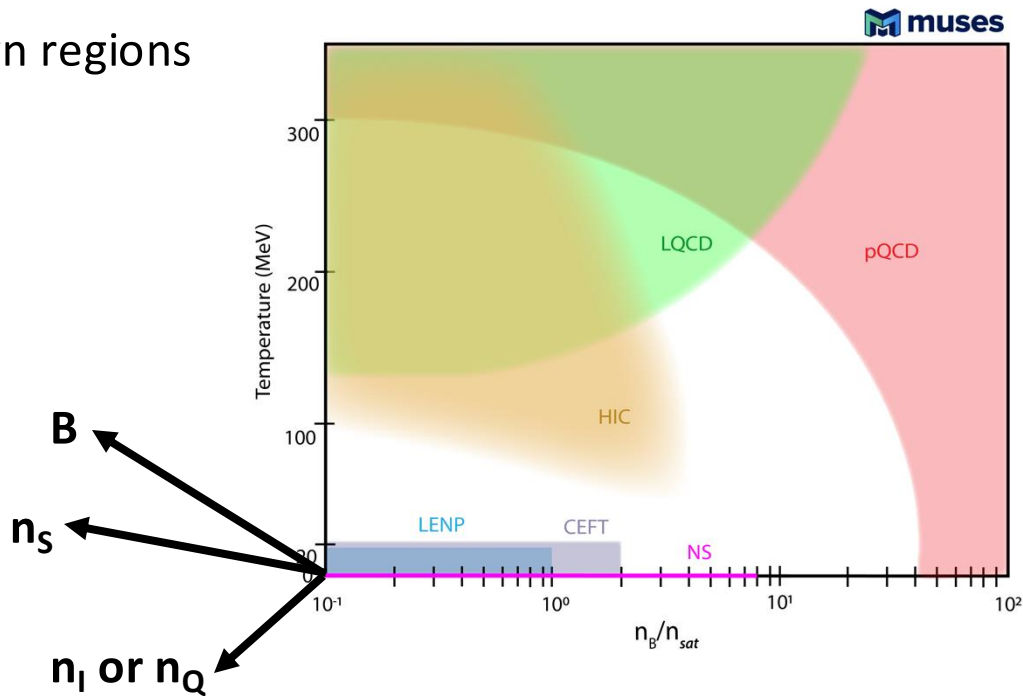


- * See Nanxi Yao's talk for connections with heavy-ion collisions

Phys.Rev.C 109 (2024) 6, 065803
e-Print: [2311.18819](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.18819)

★ QCD phase diagram with more dimensions

- * Strangeness, isospin, magnetic fields, ...
- * Large unknown regions

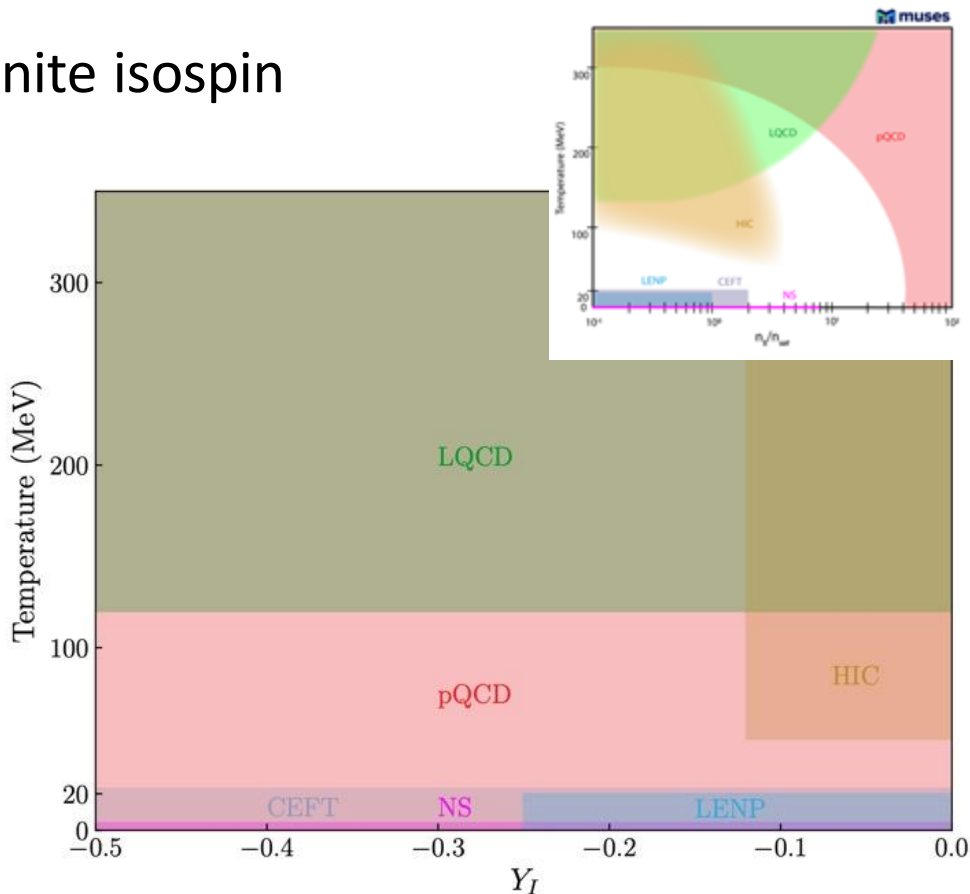


★ QCD phase diagram at finite isospin

- ★ Current input from different (first-principle and effective) theories and experiments concerning isospin

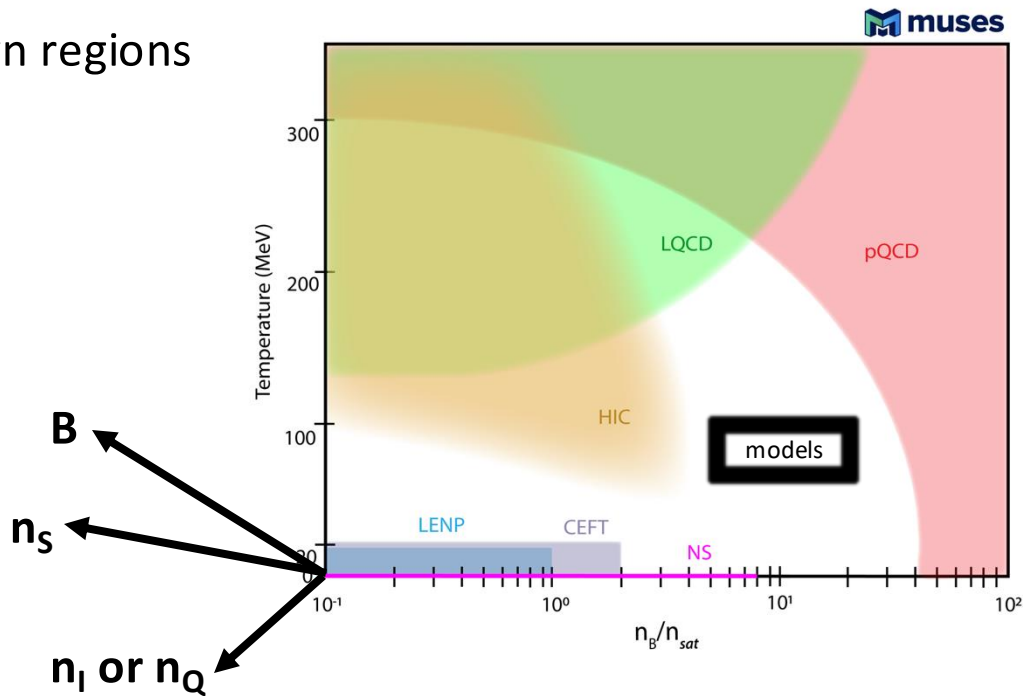
e-Print: [2503.23413](https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.23413)

Region	Isospin Fraction (Y_I)
PQCD	-0.5 to 0
LQCD	-0.5 to 0
CEFT	-0.5 to 0
NS	-0.5 to 0
LENP	$(-0.5), -0.25$ to 0
HIC	-0.12 to 0



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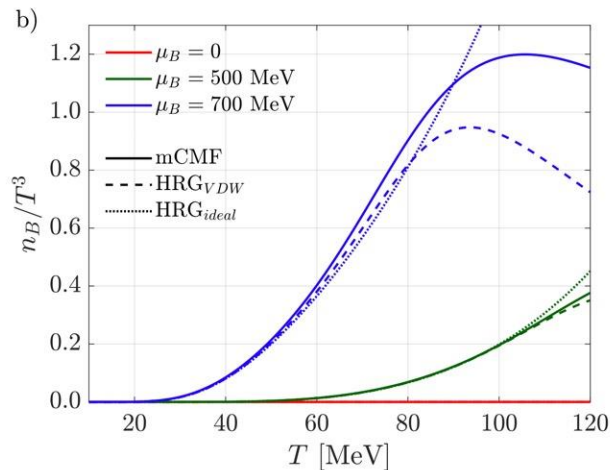
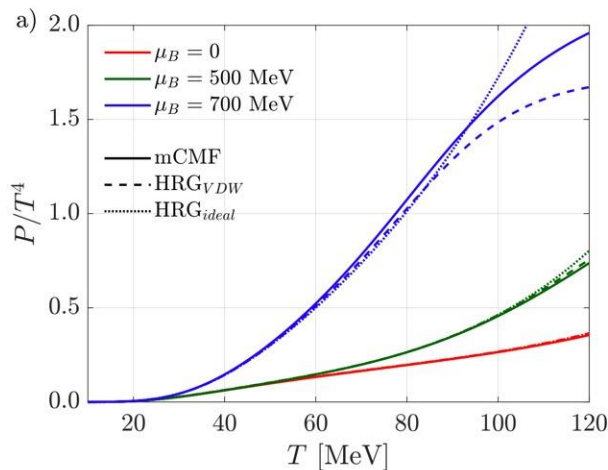


★ Chiral Mean Field (CMF) model

- ★ microscopic model with chiral symmetry restoration and quark deconfinement
- ★ reproduces liquid-gas, and crossover/1st-order phase transition for deconfinement
- ★ in agreement with nuclear physics, astrophysics, and lattice QCD
- ★ now with improved meson description (**mCMF**) for $\mu_Q = \mu_S = 0$

low
energy

Phys.Rev.D 111
(2025) 7, 074029
e-Print: [2503.03057](https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.03057)

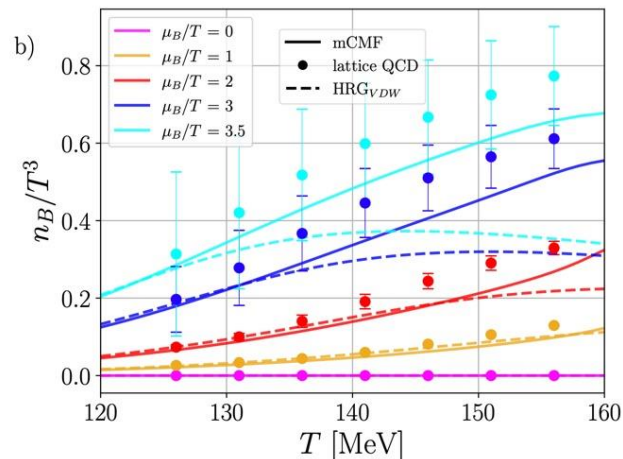
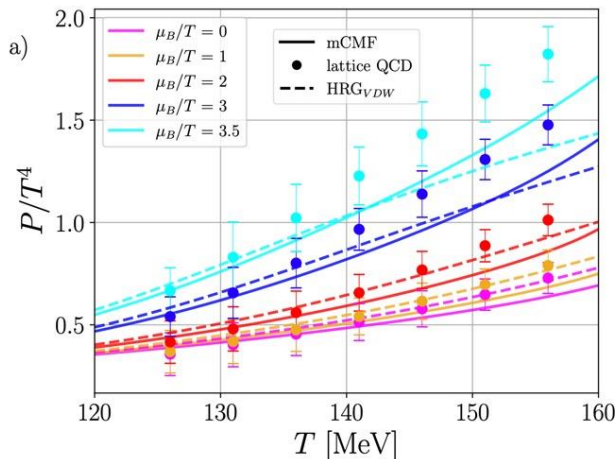


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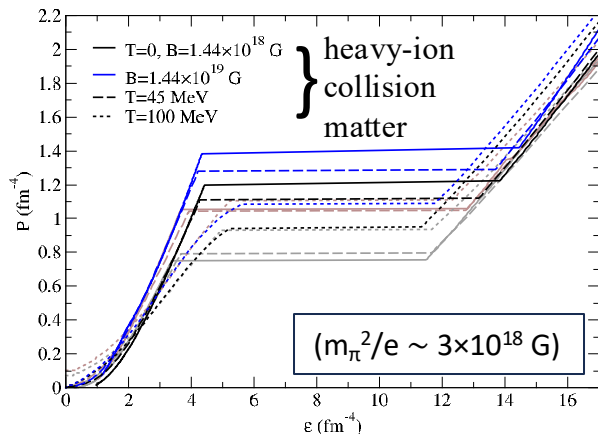
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(2025) 7, 074029
e-Print: [2503.03057](https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.03057)



★ CMF in more dimensions

- ★ CMF can be extended in 5 dimensions



Phys.Rev.D 108 (2023) 6, 063011
e-Print: [2304.02454](https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.02454)

- ★ Neutron-star matter also shown for comparison in different colors

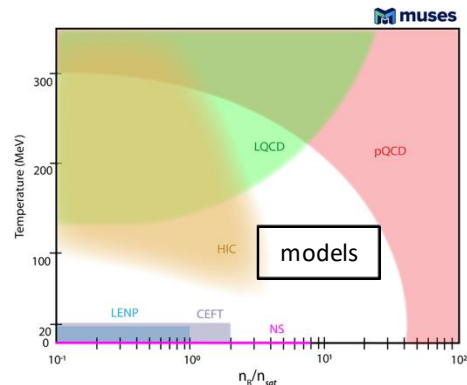
$B=1.44 \times 10^{18} \text{ G}$ for neutron-star matter

$B=1.44 \times 10^{19} \text{ G}$ for neutron-star matter

- ★ Temperature, magnetic fields, isospin, and strangeness have comparable effects!
... but code takes too long to run

★ **muses** cyberinfrastructure

- ★ **Modular Unified Solver of the Equation of State (EoS)**
- ★ Modular: different theories/models (modules) for the user to pick from **and modify**
- ★ Unified: different modules are combined in different ways to ensure maximal coverage of the phase diagram
- ★ Web-based tools and services that provide interactive interfaces to the Calculation Engine
- ★ Job management system and a deployment system that can be reproduced in other computing environments
- ★ EoS description modules and observable modules that link to experiments
- ★ Developers: physicists + computer scientists working together to develop optimized software in modern programming languages + Users





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
3. Jorge Noronha; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; co-PI
4. Claudia Ratti; University of Houston; co-PI and **spokesperson**
5. Veronica Dexheimer; Kent State University; co-PI

Senior investigators

1. Matias Carrasco Kind; National Center for Supercomputing Applications
2. Roland Haas; National Center for Supercomputing Applications
3. Timothy Andrew Manning; National Center for Supercomputing Applications
4. Andrew Steiner; University of Tennessee, Knoxville
5. Jeremy Holt; Texas A&M University
6. Gordon Baym; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
7. Mark Alford; Washington University in Saint Louis
8. Elias Most; Princeton University

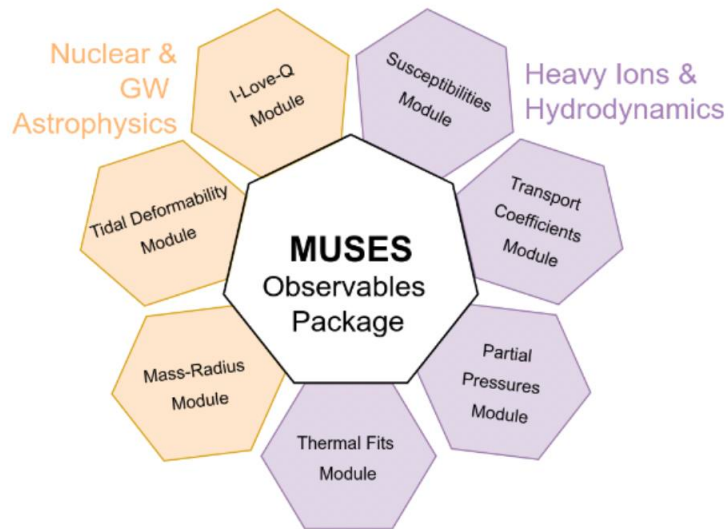
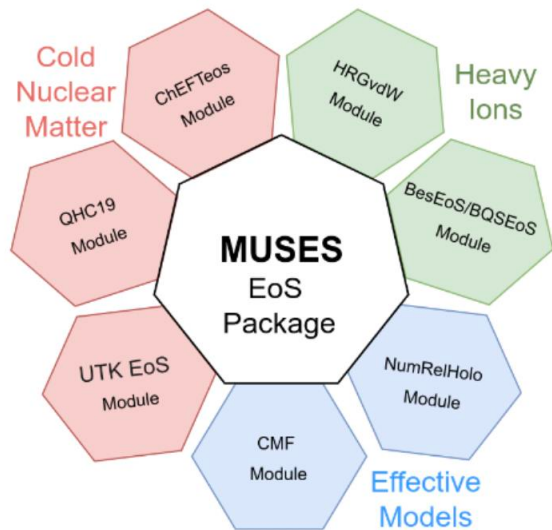
External collaborators



Now we have 91+ collaborators



★ M **muses** Modules



+ Lepton Module, Synthesis Module, Interpolator Module, ...



★ **muses** beta release (February 2025)

- * Includes a first set of modules (free and open-source) but still preliminary
- * We invite everyone to test these modules and provide feedback

- finite T

- ✓ BQS EOS: 4D lattice QCD with alternative expansion scheme in μ_B
 - ✓ ISING-TEXS EOS: 2D Critical behavior into lattice QCD alternative expansion
 - ✓ NUMRELHOLO: 2D AdS/CFT correspondence based EoS
- $T \sim 0$

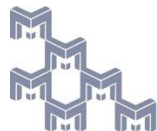
- ✓ CMF: 3D Chiral EoS with different orders for deconfinement
 - ✓ CEFT: 2D EoS for interacting nucleons
 - ✓ UTK or Crust DFT: 2D EoS including nucleons and nuclei
 - ✓ Lepton module, Synthesis module, CompOSE outputs
- 



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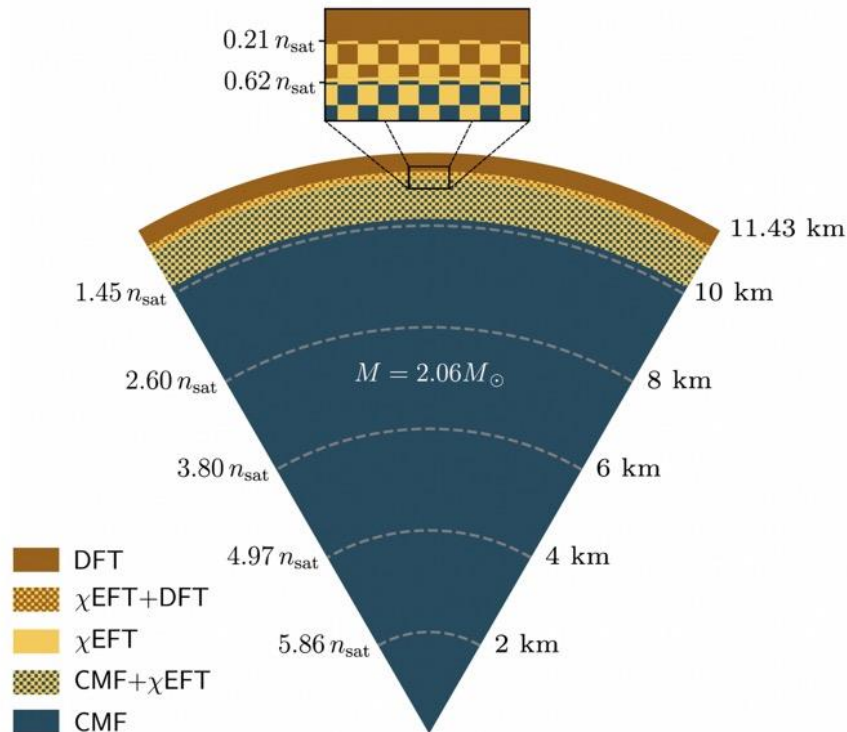
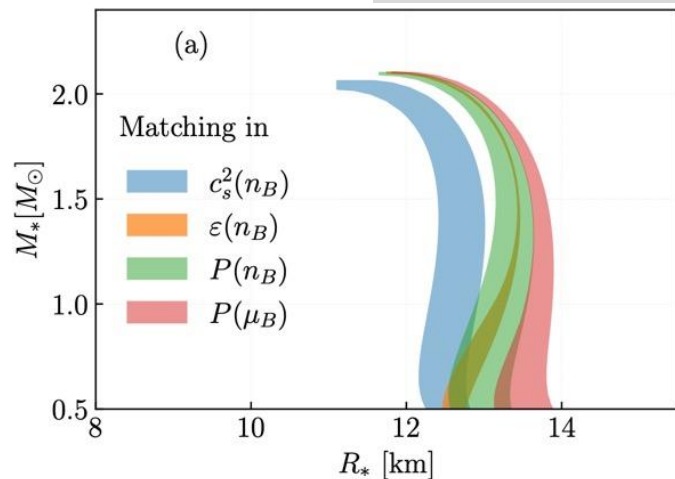
- finite T
- $T \sim 0$
- both
- ✓ Transport coefficients: thermal conductivity, baryon conductivity & diffusion, shear & bulk viscosities, ...
 - ✓ QLIMR module: quadrupole moment, tidal Love number, moment of inertia, mass, and radius of static and slowly rotating neutron stars
 - ✓ Flavor equilibration for weak β -equilibrium: Urca rates, relaxation rates, damping time, bulk viscosity
 - ✓ Susceptibilities
- Observables



★ Results for a neutron-star

- ★ Crust-DFT + χ EFT + CMF
- ★ Smooth matching using speed of sound

e-Print: [2502.07902](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.07902)





- * MUSES: <https://musesframework.io/>
- * Seminar series: <https://musesframework.io/seminar/>
- * Publications: <https://musesframework.io/publications/>
- * Forum discussions: <https://forum.musesframework.io/>
- * Code documentation and links to module source :
<https://ce.musesframework.io/docs/>

