

The Lifshitz regime in QCD

RDP, VV Skokov & A Tsvetik, 1801.08156

Chiral spirals and their fluctuations

1. Standard phase diagram in T & μ : critical end-point (CEP)

Not seen from lattice at small μ

2. Quarkyonic phase at large N_c (analytic) and $N_c = 2$ (lattice)

3. Chiral Spirals in Quarkyonic matter: sigma models, $SU(N)$ and $U(1)$

4. Phase diagram: *just* a 1st order line,
with *large* fluctuations in the Lifshitz regime

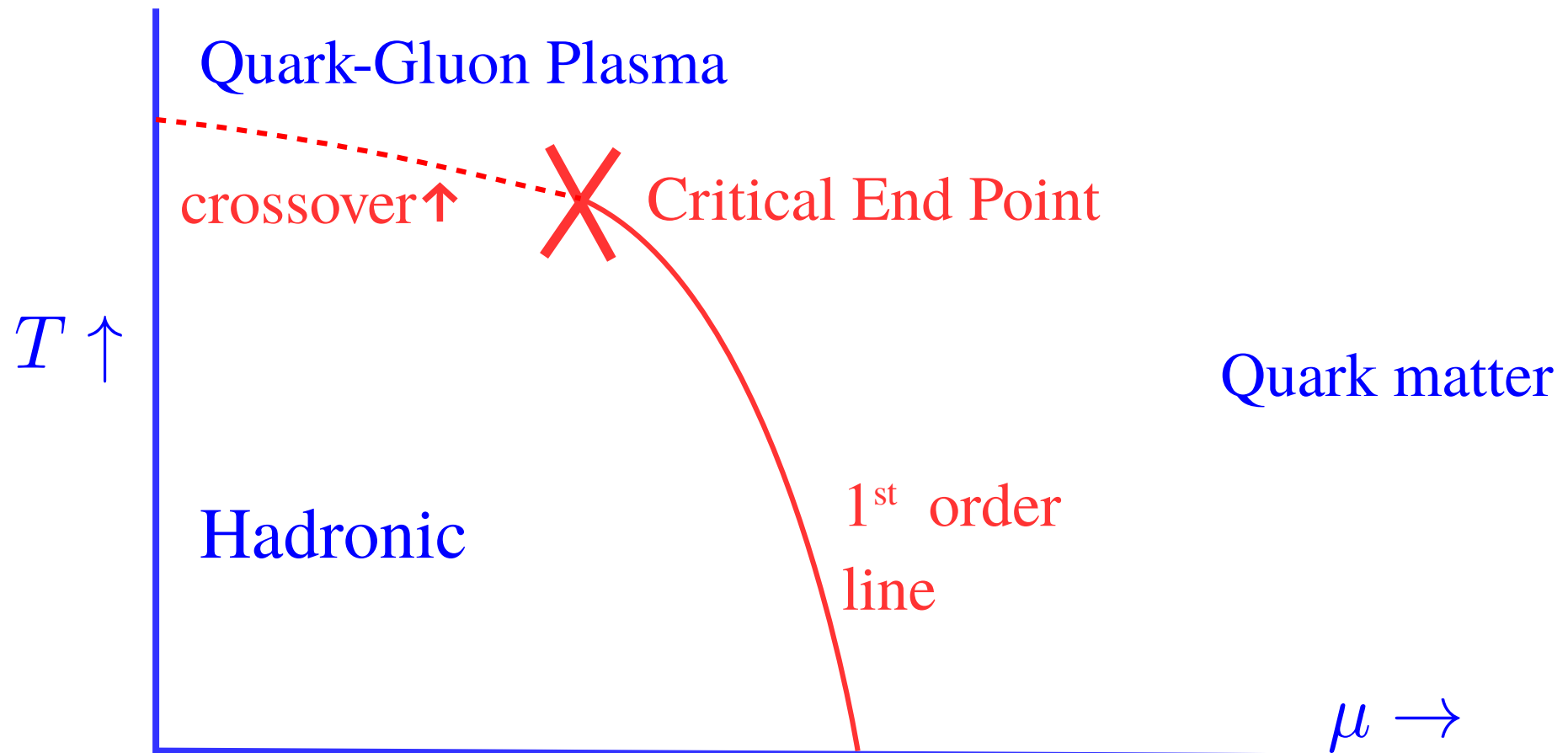
“Standard” phase diagram for QCD in T & μ : CEP?

Lattice: at quark chemical potential $\mu = 0$, crossover at $T_{\text{ch}} \sim 154$ MeV

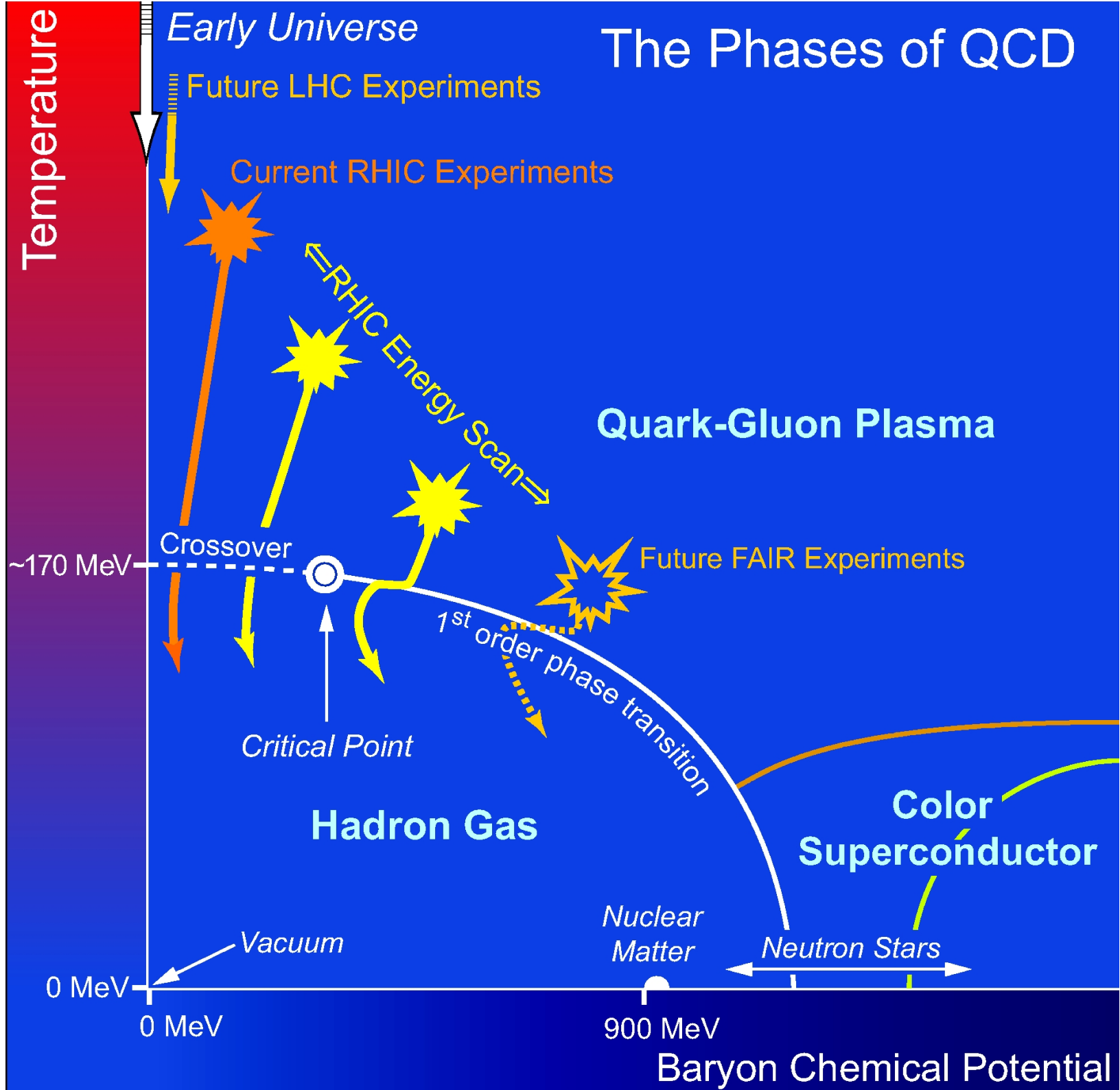
At $\mu \neq 0$, quarks *might* change scalar 4-pt coupling < 0 , so transition 1st order

Must meet at a **Critical End Point (CEP)**, *true* 2nd order phase transition

Asakawa & Yazaki '89, Stephanov, Rajagopal & Shuryak '98 & '99



The Phases of QCD



Lifshitz phase diagram for QCD

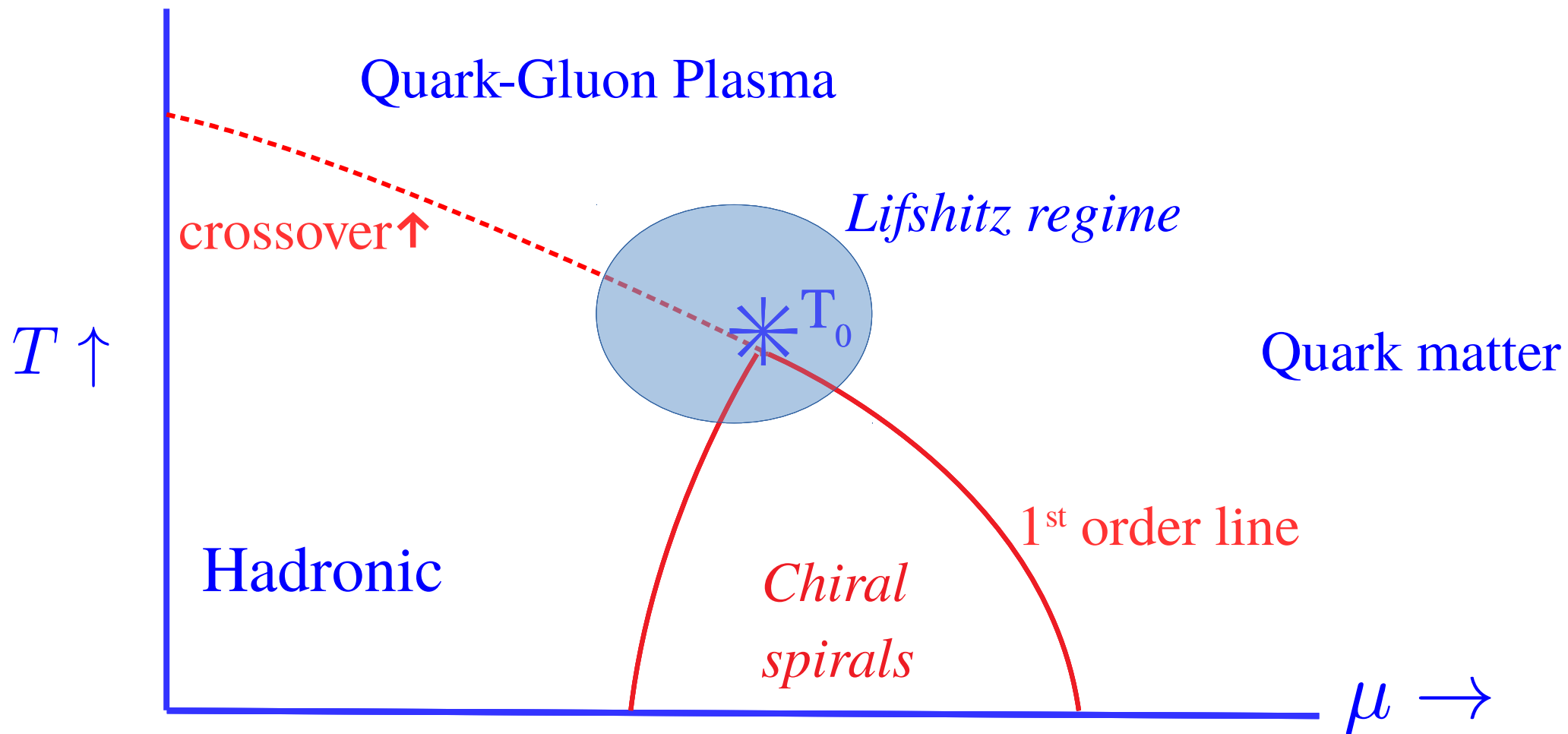
Instead: “Lifshitz regime”: strongly coupled, large fluctuations

Unbroken 1st order line to spatially inhomogeneous phases = “chiral spirals”

Hints in heavy ion data?

Fundamental problem in field theory: analogies to phase diagram for polymers

Could be CEP as well...

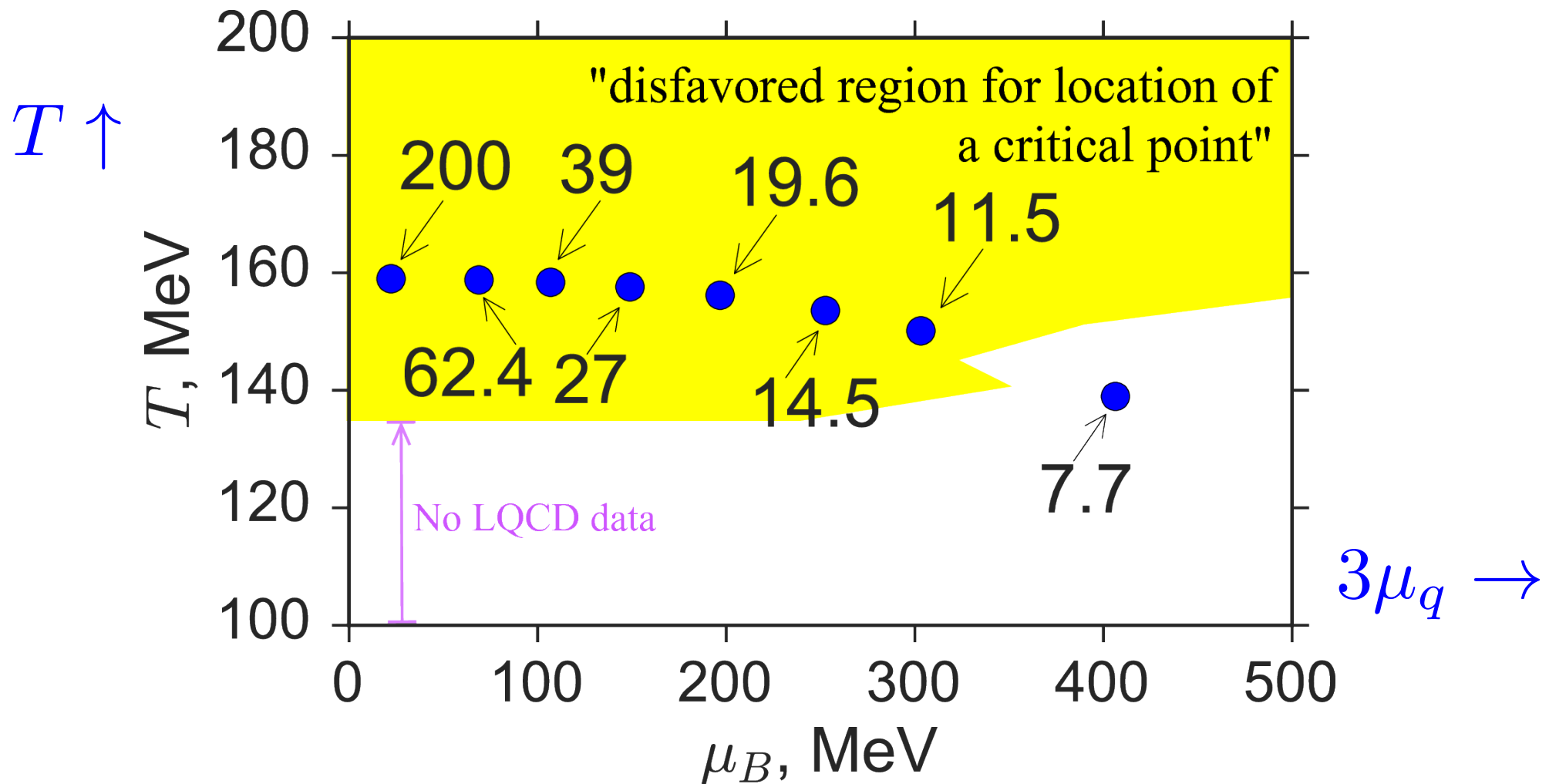


Lattice, hot QCD: no CEP at small μ

Lattice: Hot QCD, 1701.04325

Expand about $\mu = 0$, power series in μ^{2n} , $n = 1, 2, 3$.

Estimate radius of convergence. *No sign of CEP by $\mu_{qk} \sim T$*

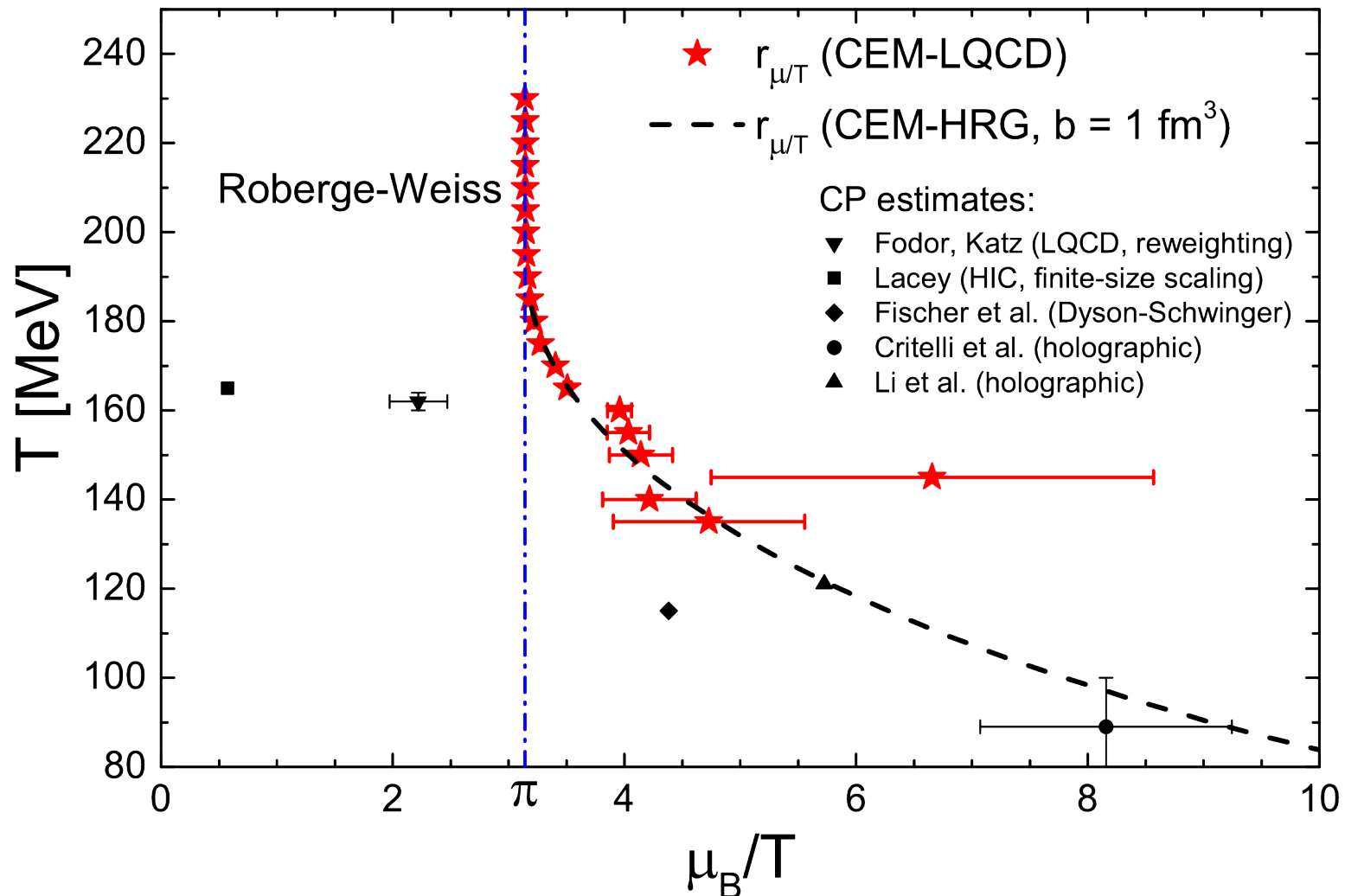


Cluster expansion: no CEP at small μ

Lattice: Vovchenko, Steinheimer, Philipsen & Stoecker, 1701.04325

Use cluster expansion method, different way of estimating power series in μ

No sign of CEP by $\mu_{qk} \sim T$



$3\mu_{qk} \rightarrow$

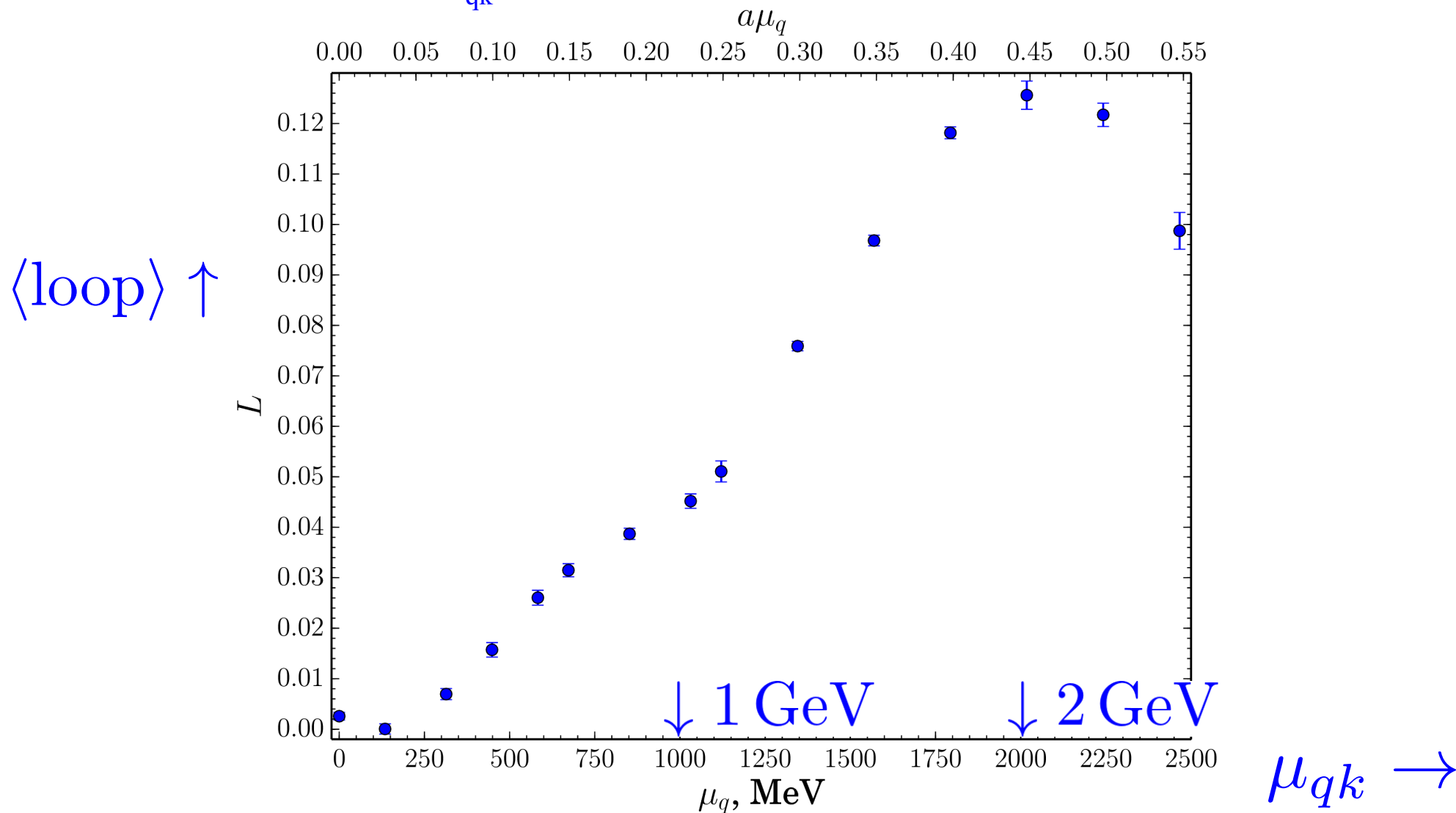
So if there is no critical endpoint,
what could be going on?

Lattice for $T = 0$, $\mu \neq 0$, *two colors*

Lattice: [Bornyakov et al, 1711.01869](#). No sign problem for $N_c = 2$. Two flavors.

Heavy pions, $m_\pi \sim 740$ MeV. $\sqrt{\sigma} = 470$ MeV. 32^4 lattice, $a \sim .04$ fm

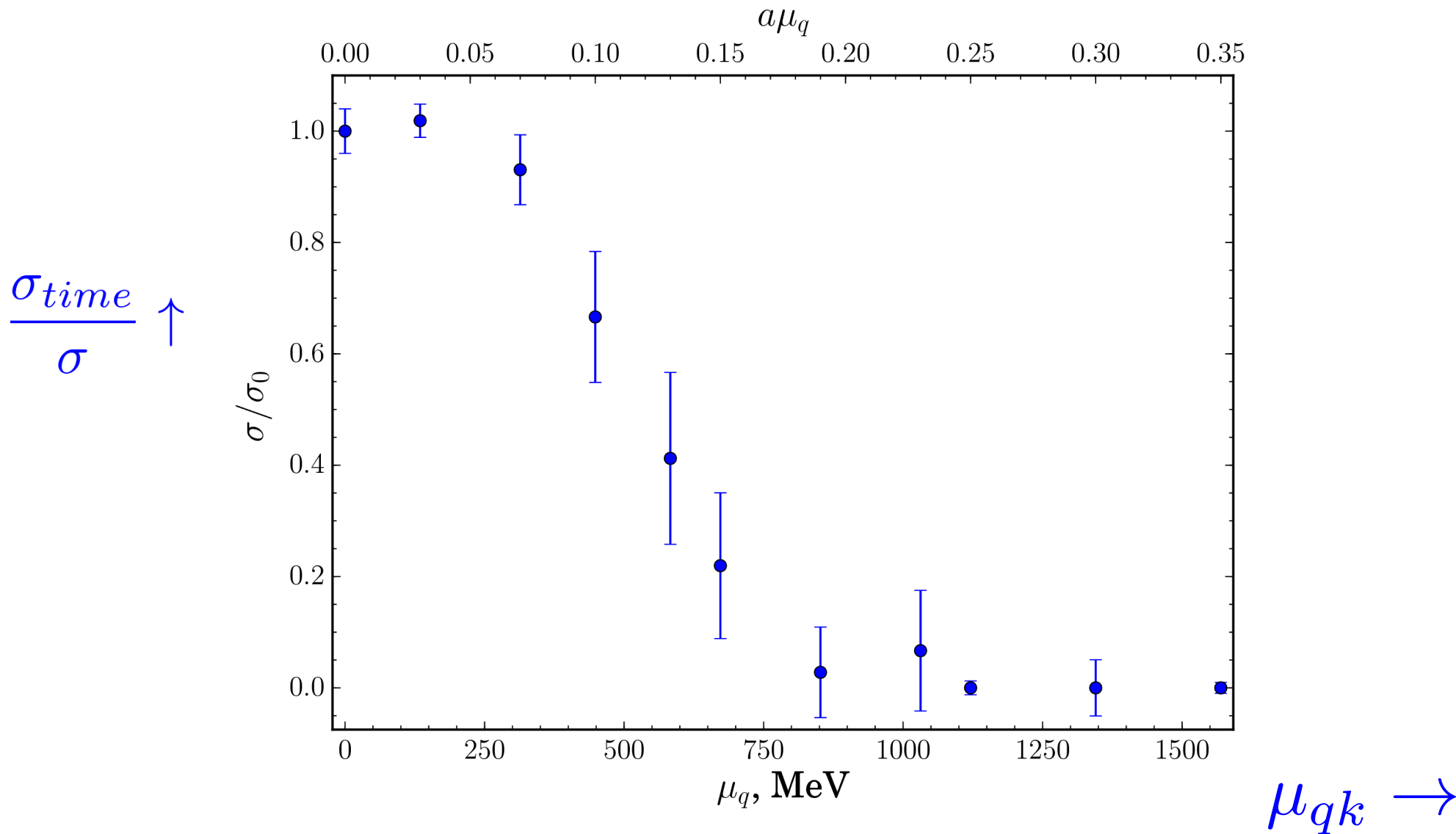
Confined until very high $\mu_{qk} \sim 1$ GeV. *Bare* Polyakov loop:



Lattice for $T = 0$, $\mu \neq 0$, *two colors*

Lattice: [Bornyakov et al, 1711.01869](#).

String tension in time: nonzero up to $\mu_{qk} \sim 750$ MeV



Phases for $N_c = 2$, $T \sim 0$, $\mu \neq 0$

Braguta, Ilgenfritz, Kotov, Molochkov, & Nikolaev, 1605.04090 (earlier: Hands, Skellerud + ...)

Lattice: $N_c = 2$, $N_f = 2$. $m_\pi \sim 400$ MeV, fixed $T \sim 50$ MeV, vary μ_{qk} .

Hadronic phase: $0 \leq \mu_{\text{qk}} < m_\pi / 2 \sim 200$ MeV. Confined, independent of μ

Dilute baryons: $200 < \mu_{\text{qk}} < 350$. Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC) of diquarks.

Dense Baryons: $350 < \mu_{\text{qk}} < 600$. Pressure *not* perturbative, BEC

Quarkyonic: $600 < \mu_{\text{qk}} < 1100$: pressure \sim perturbative, but excitations *confined*
(Wilson loop \sim area)

Perturbative: $1100 < \mu_{\text{qk}}$, but μa too large.

Quarkyonic matter

McLerran & RDP 0706.2191

At large N_c , $g^2 N_c \sim 1$, $g^2 N_f \sim 1/N_c$, so need to go to *large* $\mu \sim N_c^{1/2}$.

$$m_{Debye}^2 = g^2 \left((N_c + N_f/2) T^2 / 3 + N_f \mu^2 / (2\pi^2) \right)$$

Doubt large N_c applicable at $N_c = 2$.

When does perturbation theory work?

$T = \mu = 0$: scattering processes computable for momentum $p > 1$ GeV

$T \neq 0$: $p > 2 \pi T$, lowest Matsubara energy

$\mu \neq 0, T = 0$: μ is like a scattering scale, so *perhaps* $\mu_{\text{pert}} \sim 1$ GeV.

At least for the pressure. Excitations determined by region near Fermi surface

Possible phases of cold, dense quarks

Confined: $0 \leq \mu_{\text{qk}} < m_{\text{baryon}}/3$. μ doesn't matter

Dilute baryons: $m_{\text{baryon}}/3 < \mu_{\text{qk}} < \mu_{\text{dilute}}$. Effective models of baryons, pions

Dense baryons: $\mu_{\text{dilute}} < \mu_{\text{qk}} < \mu_{\text{dense}}$. Pion/kaon condensates.

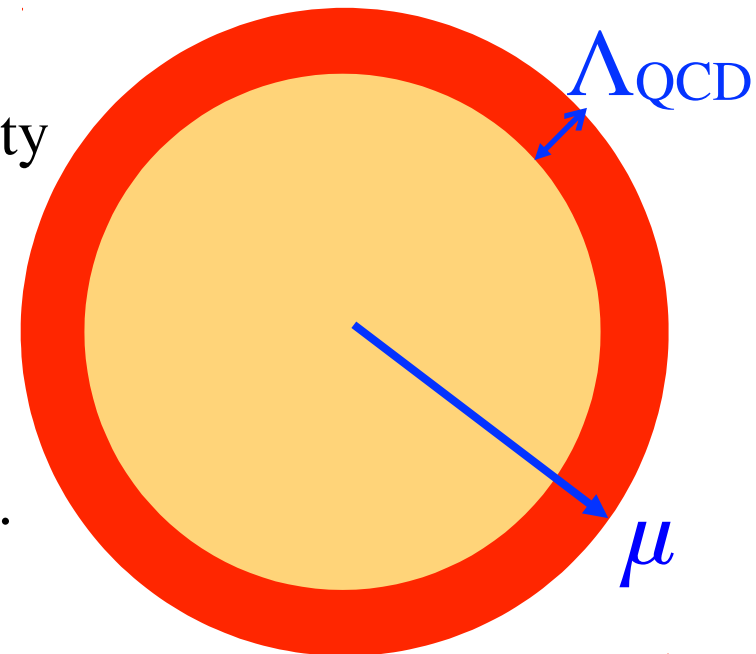
Quarkyonic: $\mu_{\text{dilute}} < \mu_{\text{qk}} < \mu_{\text{perturbative}}$. 1-dim. chiral spirals.

Perturbative: $\mu_{\text{perturbative}} < \mu_{\text{qk}}$. Color superconductivity

$\mu_{\text{perturbative}} \sim 1 \text{ GeV?}$

Dense baryons and quarkyonic *continuously* related.

U(1) order parameter in both.



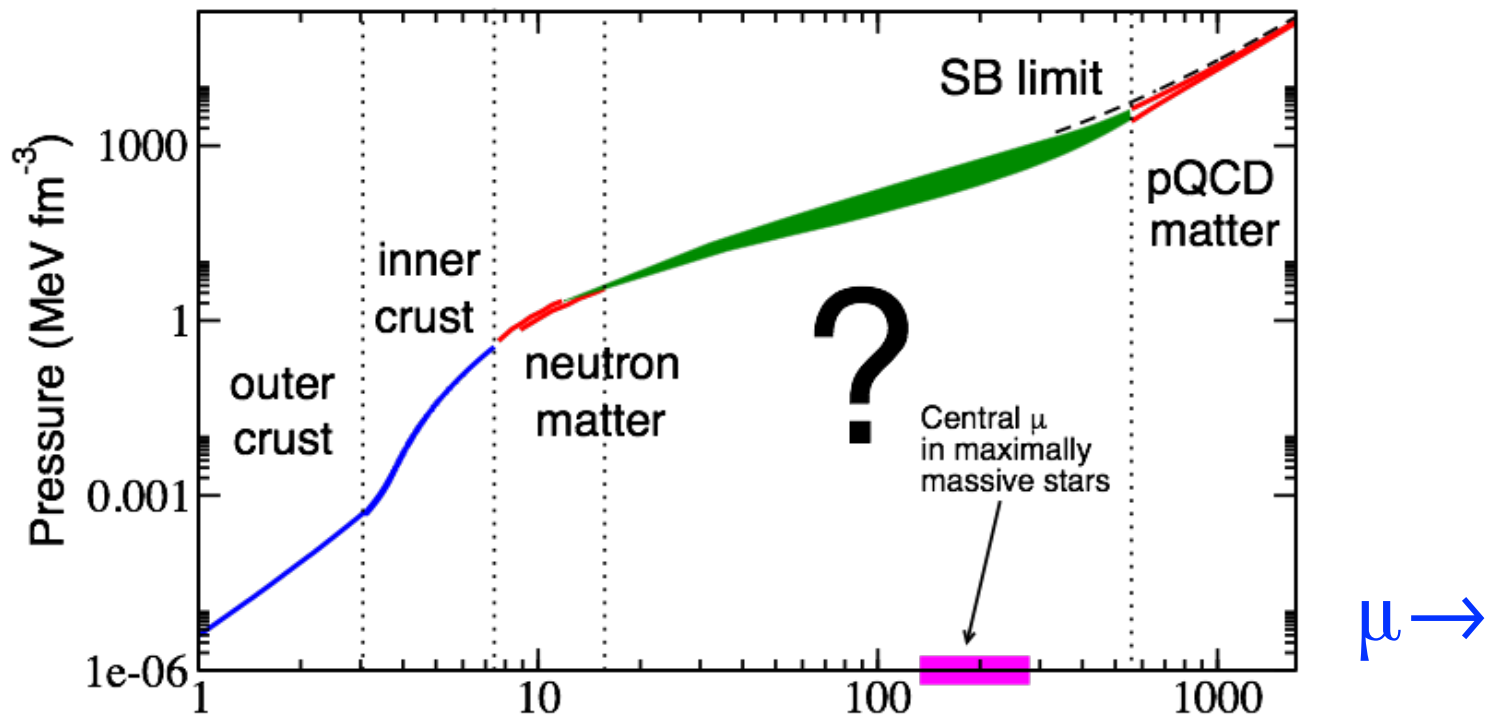
Relevance for neutron stars

Fraga, Kurkela, & Vuorinen 1402.6618.

Maximum μ_{qk} may reach quarkyonic (for pressure), but true perturbative?

Ghisoiu, Gorda, Kurkela, Romatschke, Säppi, & Vuorinen, 1609.04339: $\text{pressure}(\mu_{\text{qk}}) \sim g^6$.

Will be able to compute $\Lambda_{\text{pert}} = \# \mu_{\text{qk}} \# \sim 1$?



$$\mu_q - m_B/3 \rightarrow$$

Dense
Baryons

Quarkyonic

Perturbative

Quarkyonic matter: 1-dim. reduction

Kojo, Hidaka, McLerran & RDP 0912.3800: as toy model, assume confining potential

$$\Delta_{00} = \frac{\sigma_0}{(\vec{p}^2)^2}, \quad \Delta_{ij} \sim \frac{1}{p^2}$$

Near the Fermi surface, reduces to effectively 1-dim. problem in patches. For *either* massless or massive quarks, excitations have zero energy about Fermi surface; just Fermi velocity $v_F < 1$ if $m \neq 0$.

Spin in 4-dim. \rightarrow “flavor” in 1-dim., so *extended* $2N_f$ flavor symmetry,

$SU(N_f)_L \times SU(N_f)_R \rightarrow SU(2N_f)_L \times SU(2N_f)_R$. Similar to [Glozman, 1511.05857](#).

Extended $2N_f$ flavor sym. broken by transverse fluctuations, only approximate.

Number of patches $N_{\text{patch}} \sim \mu/\sigma_0$, so spherical Fermi surface recovered as $\sigma_0 \rightarrow 0$

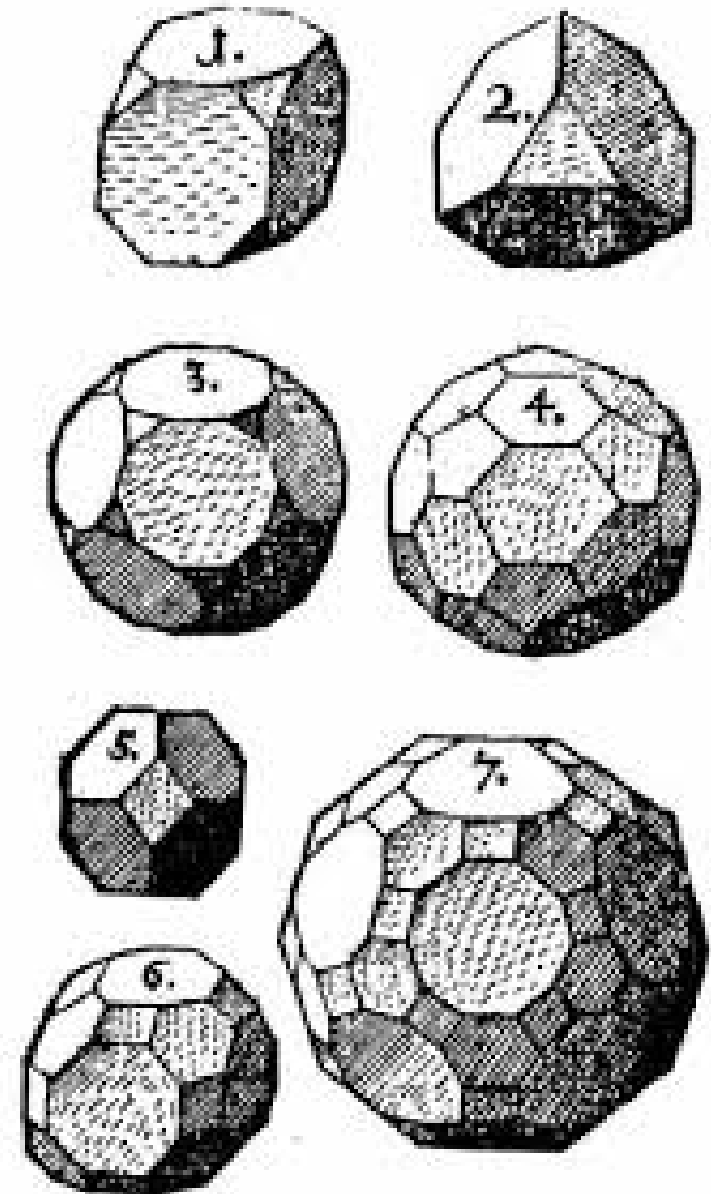
Transitions with # patches

Minimal number of patches = 6.

Probably occurs in dense baryonic phase.

In quarkyonic, presumably weak 1st order transitions as # patches changes.

Like Keplers....



Chiral spirals in 1+1 dimensions

In 1+1 dim., can eliminate μ by chiral rotation:

$$q' = e^{i\mu z \Gamma_5} q, \quad \bar{q}(\not{D} + i\mu\Gamma_0)q = \bar{q}' \not{D}q', \quad \Gamma_5\Gamma_z = \Gamma_0$$

Thus a constant chiral condensate automatically becomes a chiral spiral:

$$\bar{q}'q' = \cos(2\mu z)\bar{q}q + i\sin(2\mu z)\bar{q}\gamma_5q$$

Argument is only suggestive.

N.B.: anomaly ok, gives quark number: $\langle \bar{q}\Gamma_0q \rangle = \mu/\pi$

Pairing is between quark & quark-hole, both at edge of Fermi sea.

Thus chiral condensate varies in z as $\sim 2\mu$.

Bosonization in 1+1 dimensions

Do not need detailed form of chiral spiral to determine excitations.

Use bosonization. For one fermion,

$$\bar{\psi} \not{\partial} \psi \leftrightarrow (\partial_i \phi)^2$$

ϕ corresponds to U(1) of baryon number. In general, non-Abelian bosonization.

For flavor modes,

$$\mathcal{S}_{eff}^{flavor} = \int dt \int dz 3 \frac{1}{16\pi} \text{tr}(\partial_\mu U^\dagger)(\partial_\mu U) + \dots$$

where U is a SU(2 N_f) matrix.

Do not show Wess-Zumino-Witten terms for level 3 = # colors.

Also effects of transverse fluctuations, reduce SU(2 N_f) → SU(N_f); quark mass

Lastly, SU(3) + level 2 N_f sigma model. Modes are gapped by confinement.

Pion/kaon condensates & U(1) phonon

Overhauser '60, Migdal '71....Kaplan & Nelson '86...

Pion/kaon condensate:

$$\langle \bar{q}_L q_R \rangle \sim \langle \Phi \rangle \sim \Phi_0 \exp(i(qz + \phi)t_3)$$

Condensate along σ and $\pi^0 \Rightarrow t_3$. Kaon condensate σ and K , etc.

Excitations are the $SU(N_f)$ Goldstone bosons *and* a “phonon”, φ .

Phases with pion/kaon condensates and quarkyonic Chiral Spirals both spontaneously break U(1), have associated massless field.

Continuously connected: $SU(N_f)$ of π/K condensate $\Rightarrow \sim SU(2 N_f)$ of CS's.

Fluctuations same in both.

Perhaps WZW terms for π/K condensates?

Anisotropic fluctuations in Chiral Spirals

Spontaneous breaking of global symmetry =>

Goldstone Bosons have derivative interactions, $\sim \partial^2$

π/K condensates and CS's break *both* global *and* rotational symmetries

Interactions along condensate direction usual quadratic, $\sim \partial_z^2$

Those quadratic in transverse momenta, $\sim \partial_\perp^2$, *cancel, leaving quartic*, $\sim \partial_\perp^4$.

$$\mathcal{L}_{eff} = f_\pi^2 |(\partial_z - ik_0)U|^2 + \kappa |\partial_\perp^2 U|^2 + \dots$$

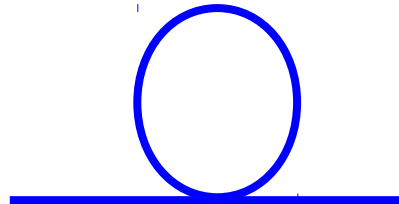
Valid for *both* the U(1) phonon φ and Goldstone bosons U

Hidaka, Kamikado, Kanazawa & Noumi 1505.00848;

Lee, Nakano, Tsue, Tatsumi & Friman, 1504.03185; Nitta, Sasaki & Yokokura 1706.02938

No long range order in Chiral Spirals

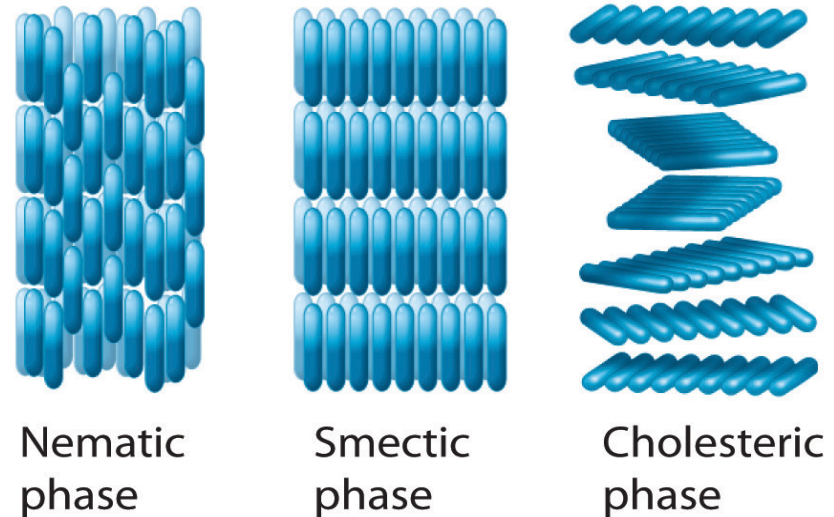
Consider tadpole diagram with anisotropic propagator


$$\int d^2 k_{\perp} dk_z \frac{1}{(k_z - k_0)^2 + (k_{\perp}^2)^2} \sim \int d^2 k_{\perp} \frac{1}{k_{\perp}^2} \sim \log \Lambda_{\text{IR}}$$

Old story for π/K condensates: Kleinert '81; Baym, Friman, & Grinstein, '82 .

Similar to smectic-C liquid crystals:
ordering in one direction,
liquid in transverse.

Hence anisotropic propagator



Increasing opacity 

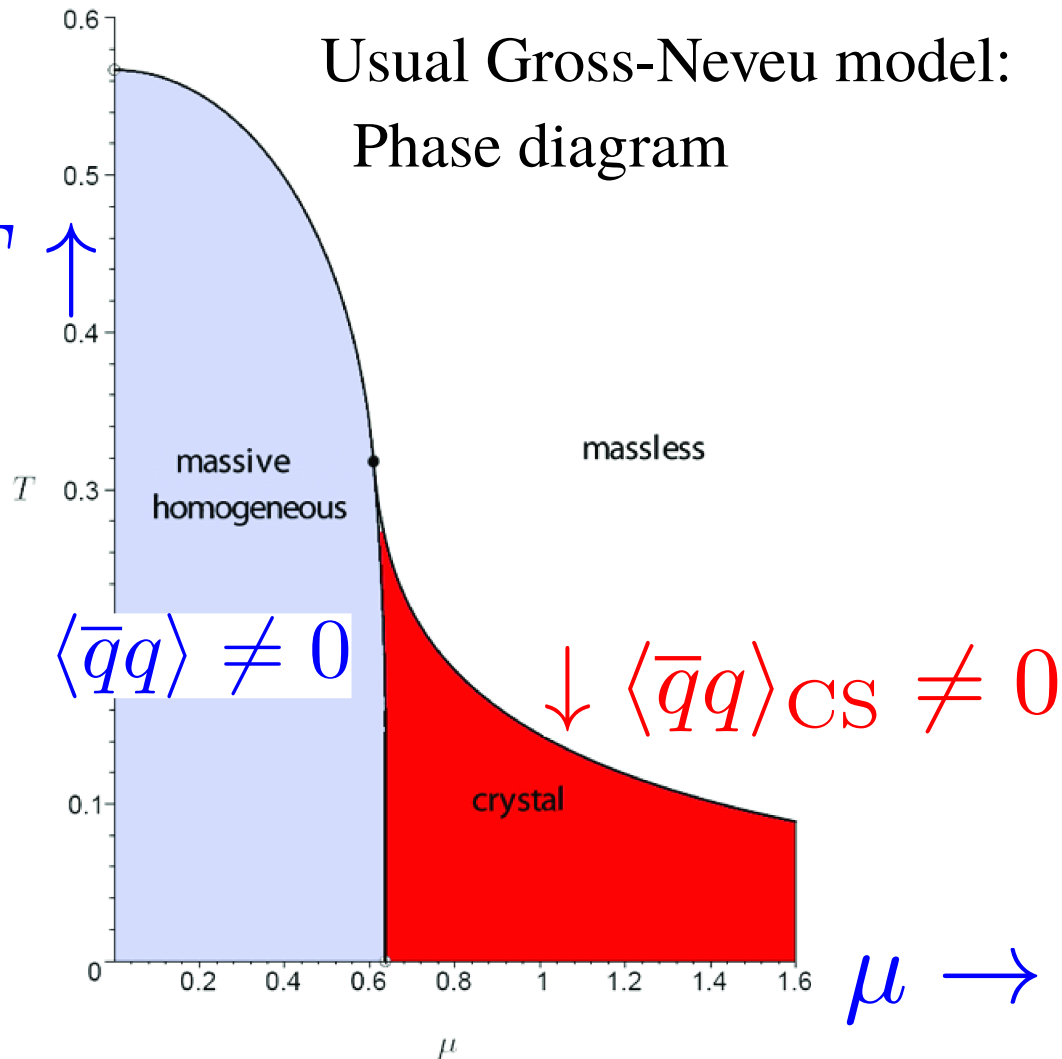
Chiral Spirals in 1+1 dimensions

Overhauser/Migdal's pion condensate: $(\sigma, \pi^0) = f_\pi (\cos(k_0 z), \sin(k_0 z))$

Ubiquitous in 1+1 dimensions: [Basar, Dunne & Thies, 0903.1868](#); [Dunne & Thies 1309.2443](#) + ...

Wealth of exact solutions, phase diagrams at *infinite* N_f .

Usual Gross-Neveu model:
Phase diagram



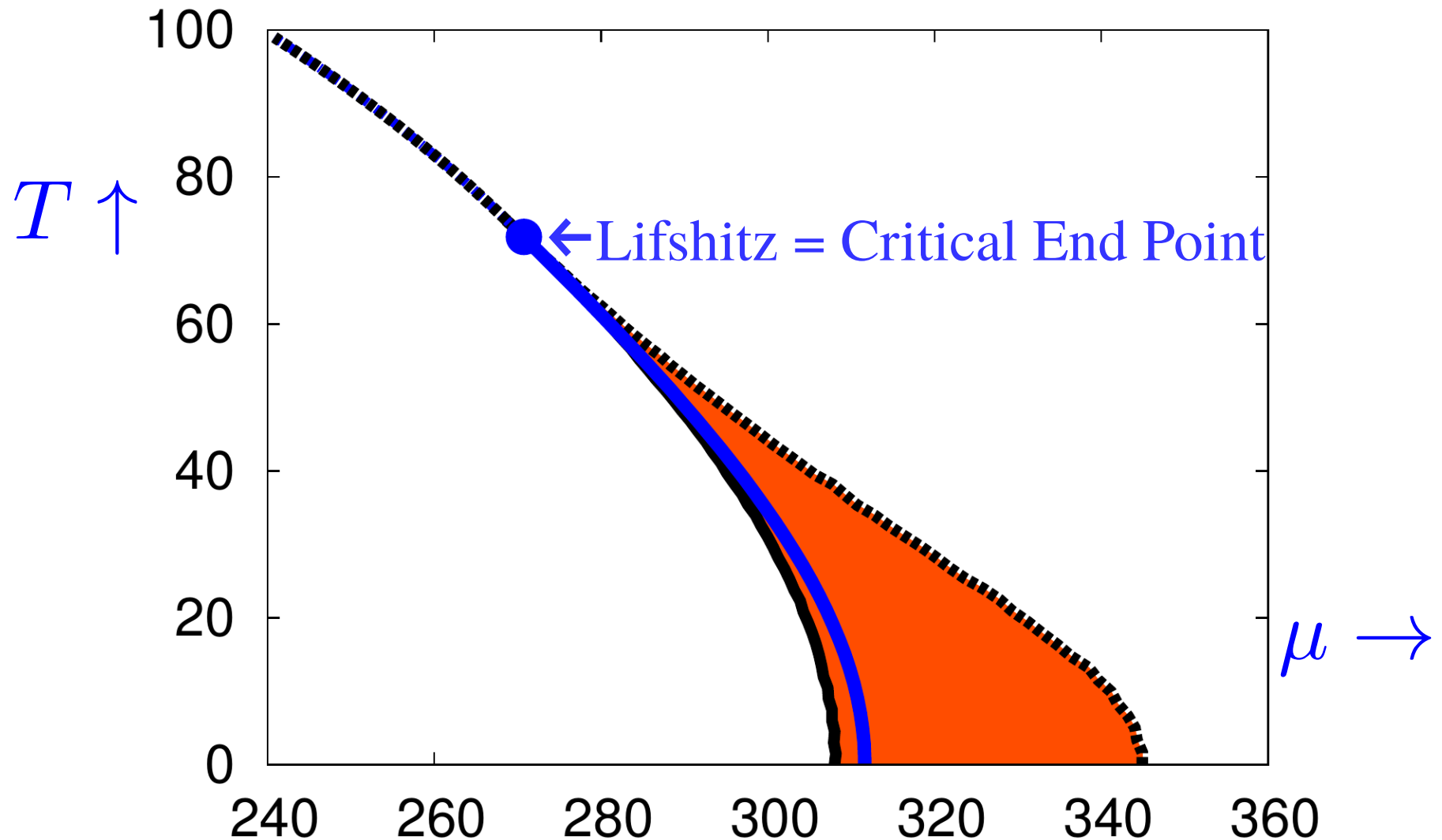
Chiral spiral:



Chiral Spirals in 3+1 dimensions

In 3+1, *common* in NJL models: [Nickel, 0902.1778](#) + ... [Buballa & Carignano 1406.1367](#) + ...

In reduction to 1-dim, $\Gamma_5^{1\text{-dim}} = \gamma_0 \gamma_z$, so chiral spiral between $\bar{q}q$ & $\bar{q}\gamma_0\gamma_z\gamma_5q$



Both of these phase diagrams are
dramatically affected by fluctuations:

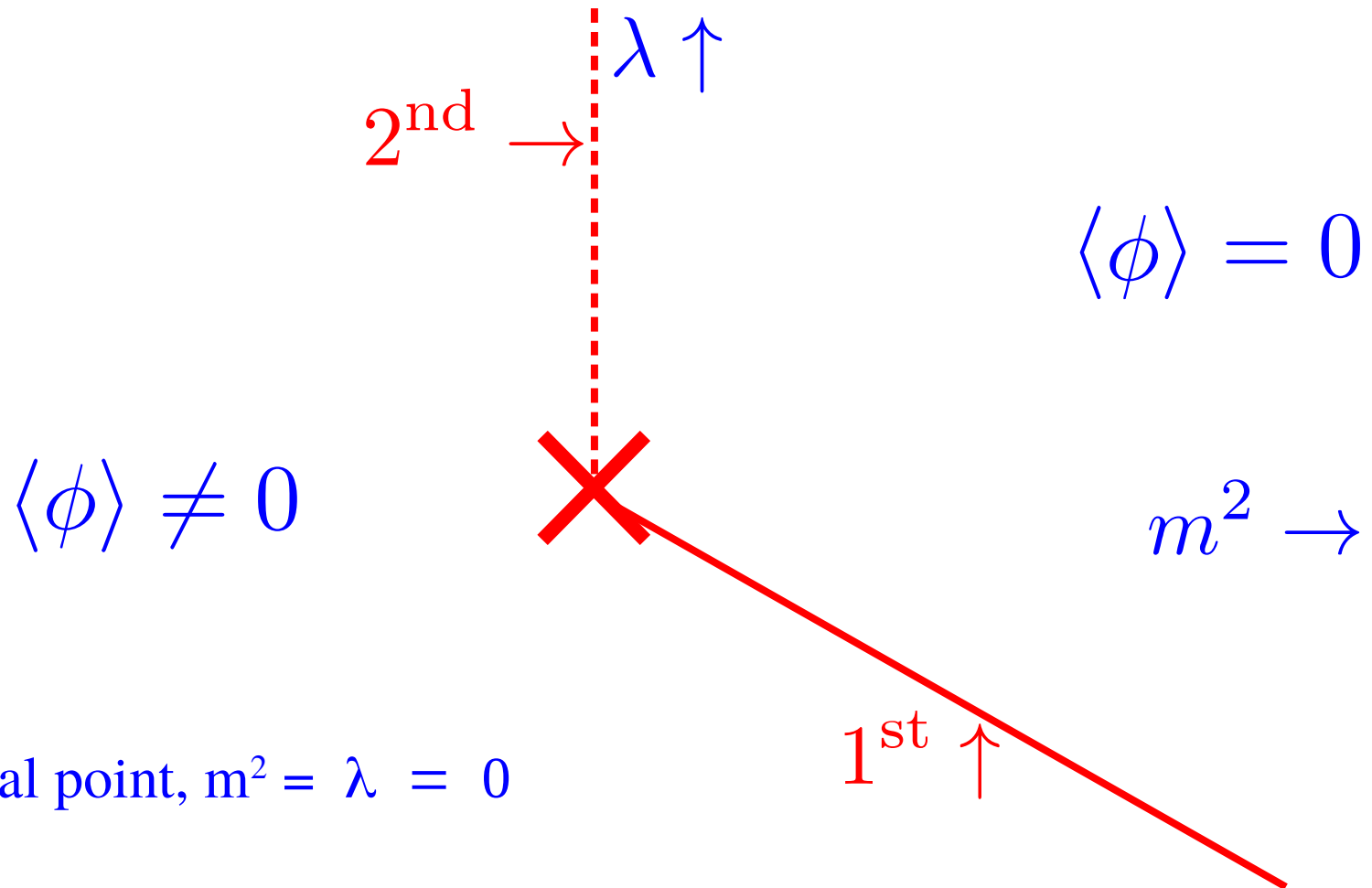
no Lifshitz point in 1+1 or 3+1 dimensions
at finite N

there *is* a *Lifshitz regime*

Standard phase diagram

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 + m^2 \phi^2 + \lambda \phi^4 + \kappa \phi^6$$

Negative quartic coupling, λ , turns a 2nd order transition into 1st order.
Two phases.

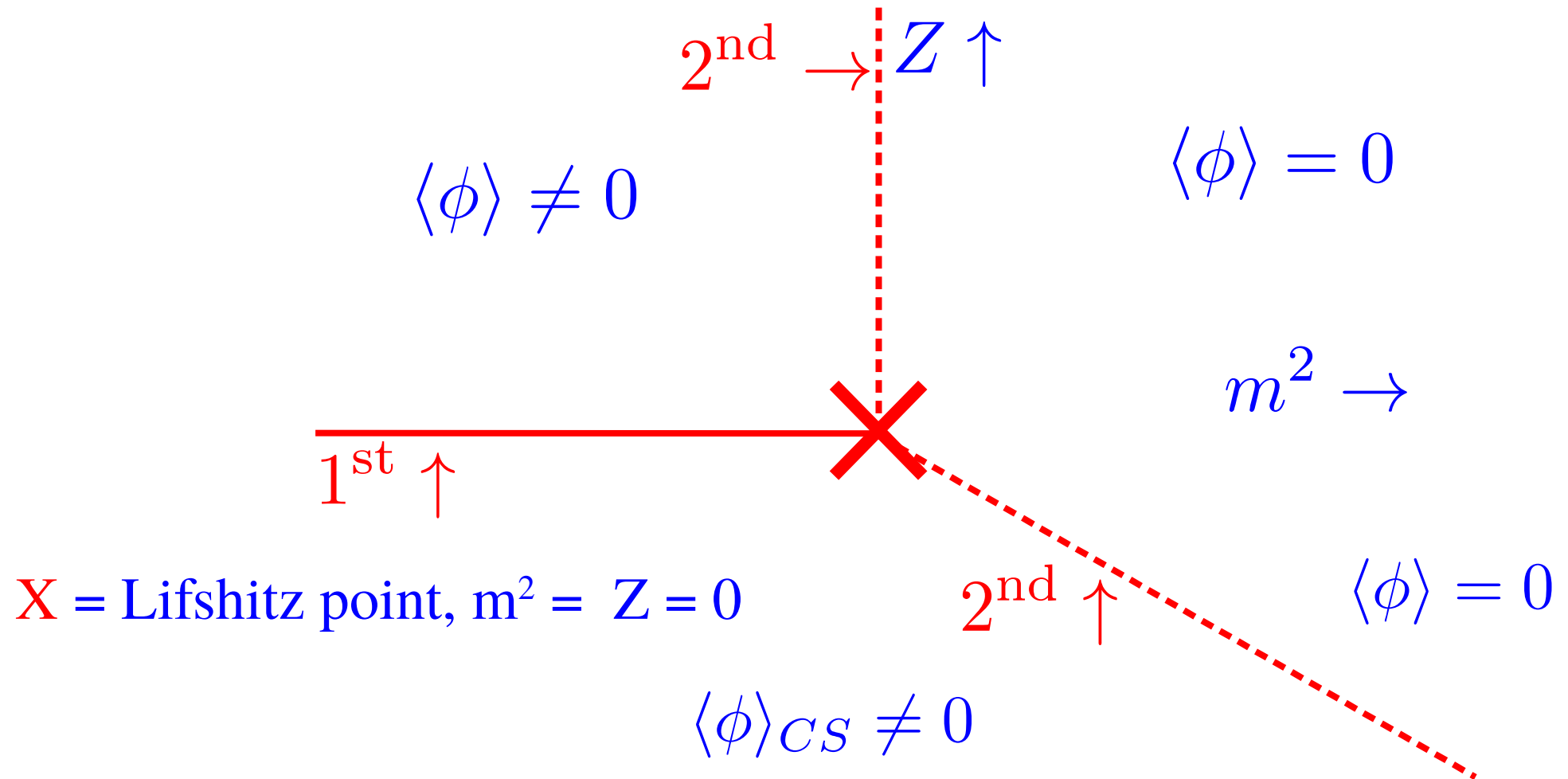


X = tri-critical point, $m^2 = \lambda = 0$

Lifshitz phase diagram (*in mean field theory*)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Lifshitz}} = (\partial_0\phi)^2 + Z(\partial_i\phi)^2 + \frac{1}{M^2}(\partial_i^2\phi)^2 + m^2\phi^2 + \lambda\phi^4$$

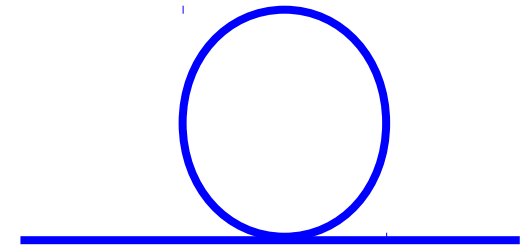
Negative kinetic term, $Z < 0$, generates spatially inhomogeneous phase, CS.
Three phases.



No massless modes in too few dimensions

No massless modes in $d \leq 2$ dimensions:

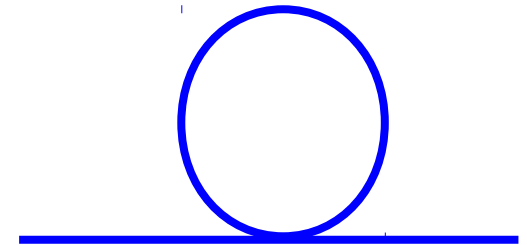
$$\int d^2 k \frac{1}{k^2} \sim \log \Lambda_{\text{IR}}$$



Cannot break a continuous symmetry in $d \leq 2$ dimensions: instead of Goldstone bosons, generate a mass *non-perturbatively*.

Lifshitz point: $Z = m^2 = 0$, so propagator just $\sim 1/k^4$:

$$\int d^4 k \frac{1}{k^4} \sim \log \Lambda_{\text{IR}}$$

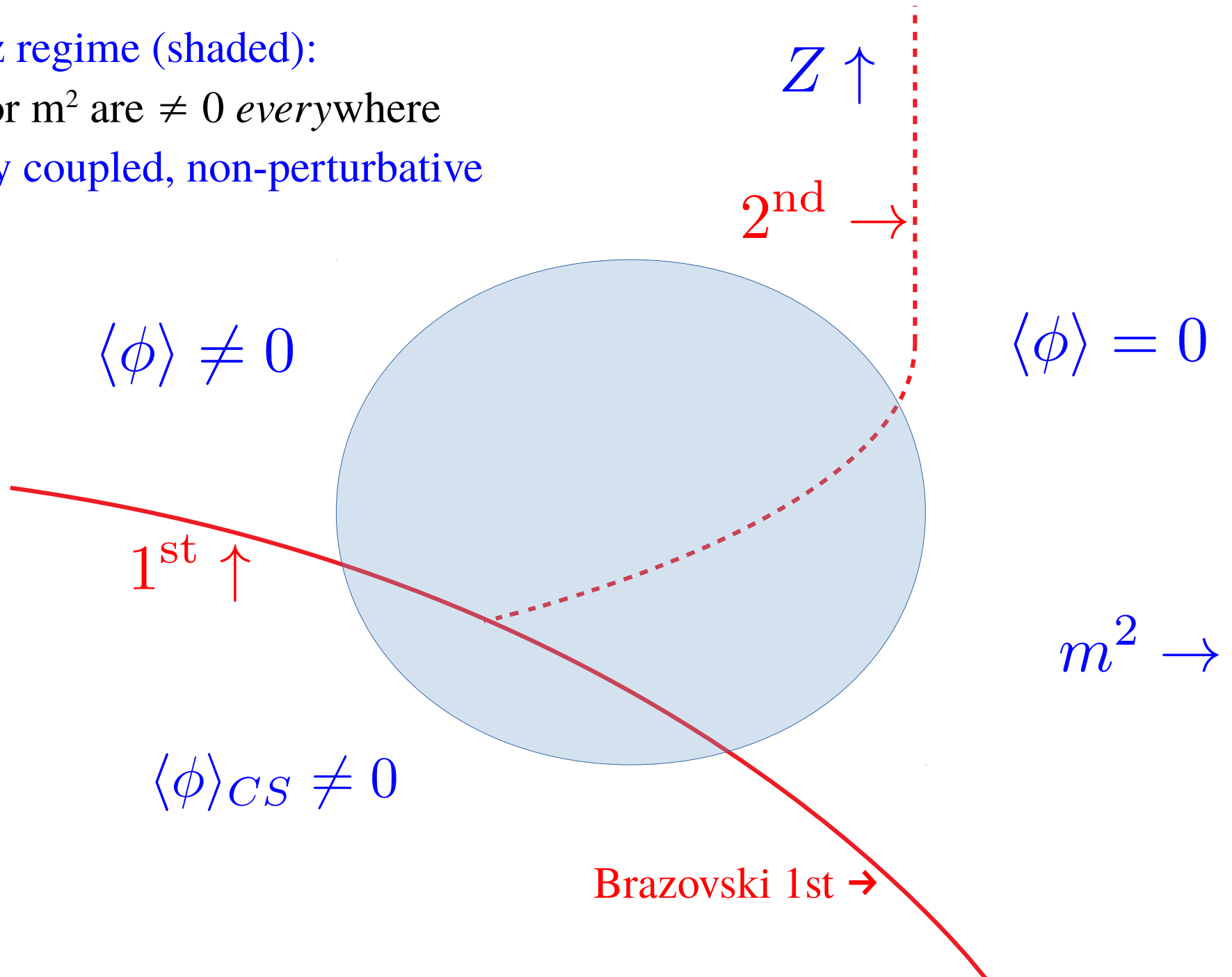


Hence *no* Lifshitz point in $d \leq 4$ (spatial) dimensions.

Must generate either a mass m^2 , or term $\sim Z p^2 \neq 0$, *non-perturbatively*

Lifshitz regime

Lifshitz regime (shaded):
 Z and/or m^2 are $\neq 0$ everywhere
strongly coupled, non-perturbative



Example: inhomogenous polymers

Like mixing oil & water: polymers A & B, with AB diblock copolymer (“co-AB”)

homopolymer



AB diblock copolymer



Three phases: high temperature, A & B mix, symmetric phase

low temperature, little co-AB: A & B separate, broken phase

co-AB tends to decrease interface tension between A & B phases,
can turn it negative. Like $Z < 0$

Low temperature, high concentration co-AB:

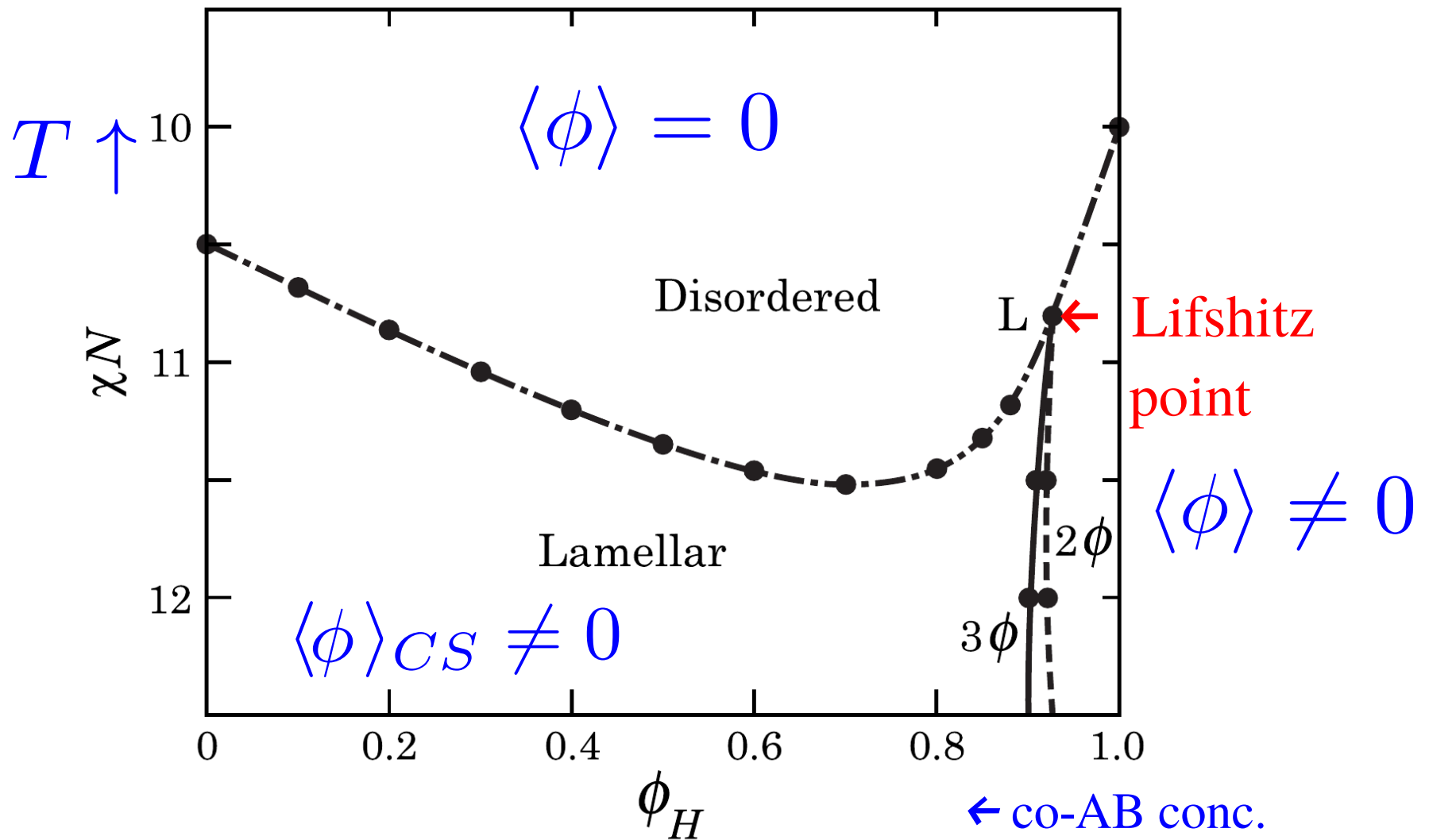
“lamellar” phase, stripes of A & B. Like smectic.

Lifshitz point in inhomogeneous polymers: mean field

Three phases, symmetric, broken, & spatially inhomogeneous

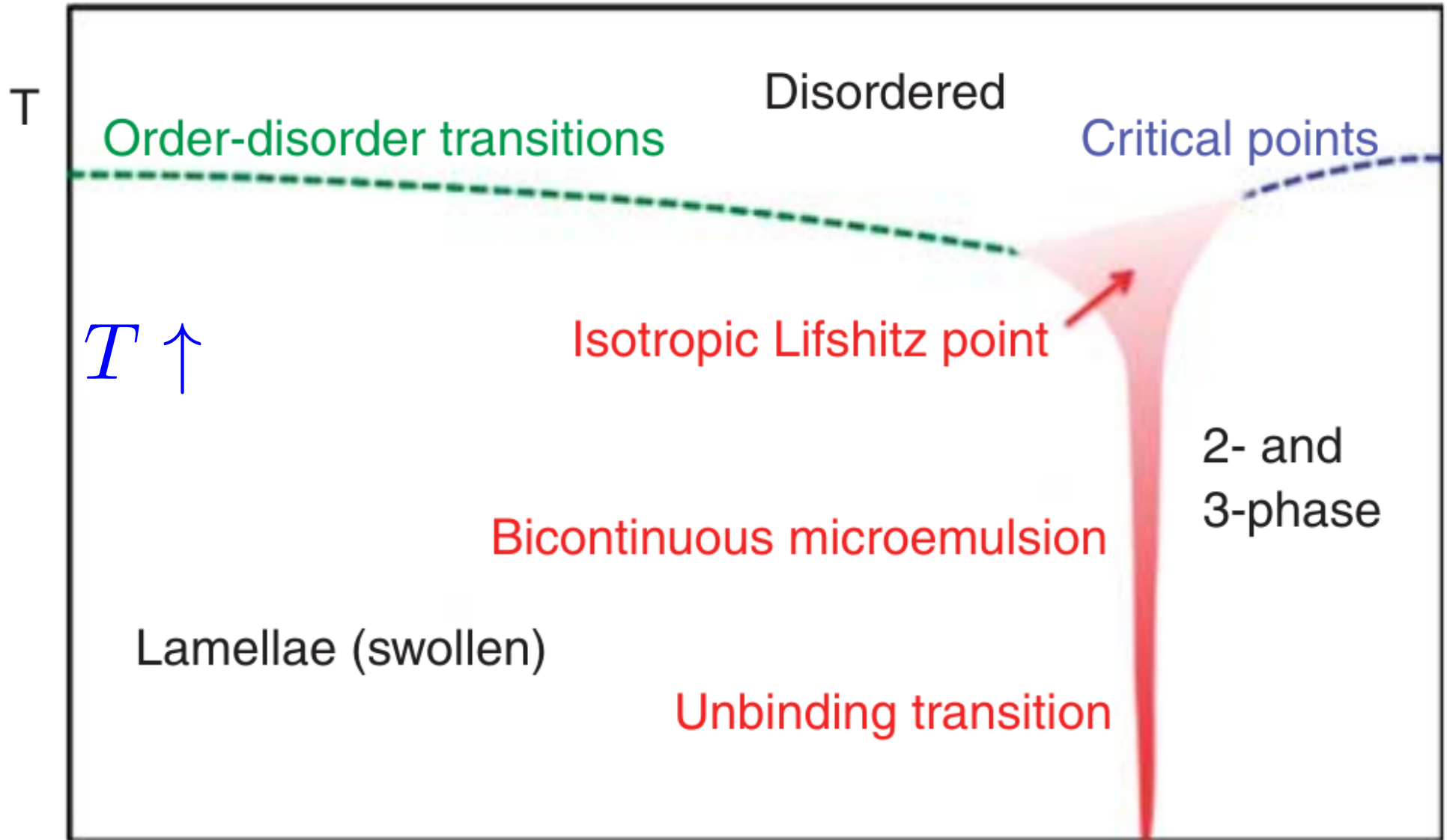
Mean field predicts Lifshitz point at given T & concentration of co-AB

Fredrickson & Bates, *Jour. Polymer Sci.* 35, 2775 (1997)

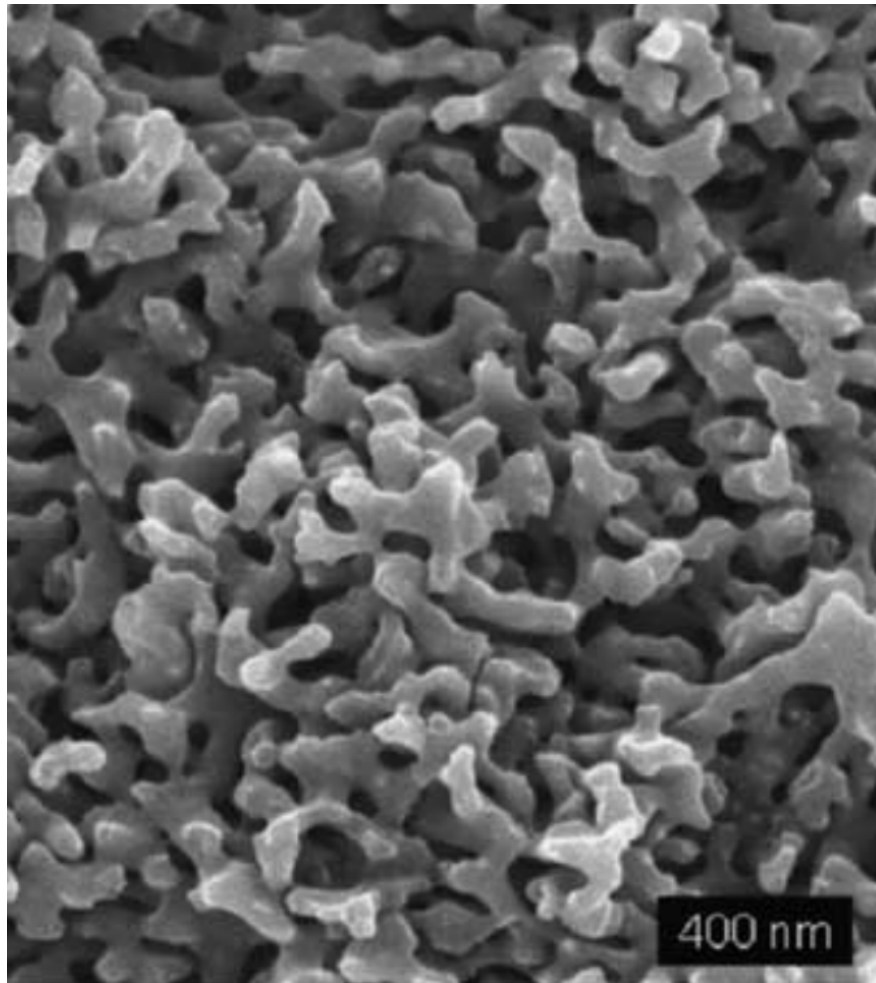


Lifshitz regime in inhomogenous polymers

Instead of Lifshitz point predicted by mean field theory, find
Bicontinuous microemulsion: $Z \neq 0$, $m^2 = 0$: **Lifshitz regime**

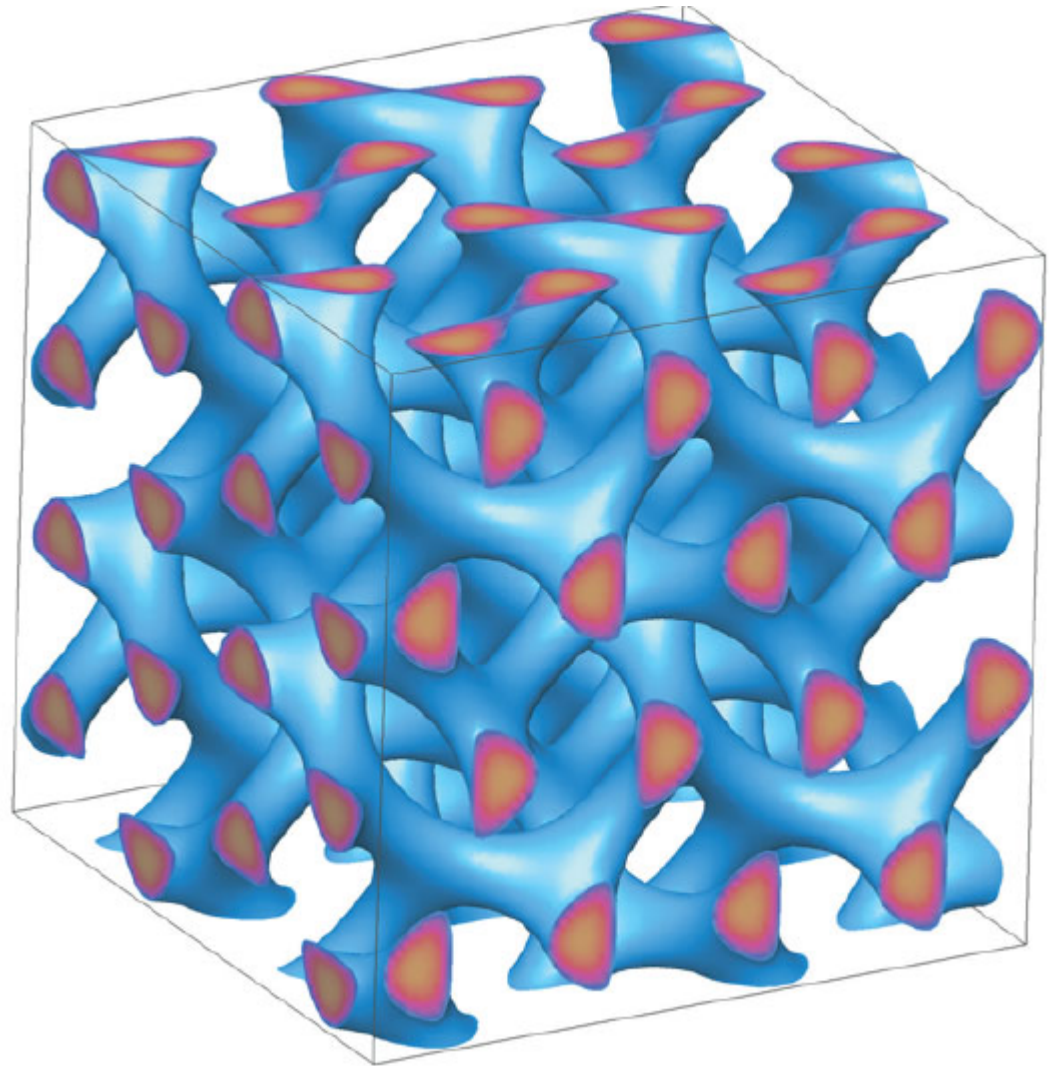


Bicontinuous microemulsion: $Z \approx 0$



Experiment

Jones & Lodge,
Polymer Jour. 131 (44) 2012



Self-consistent field theory

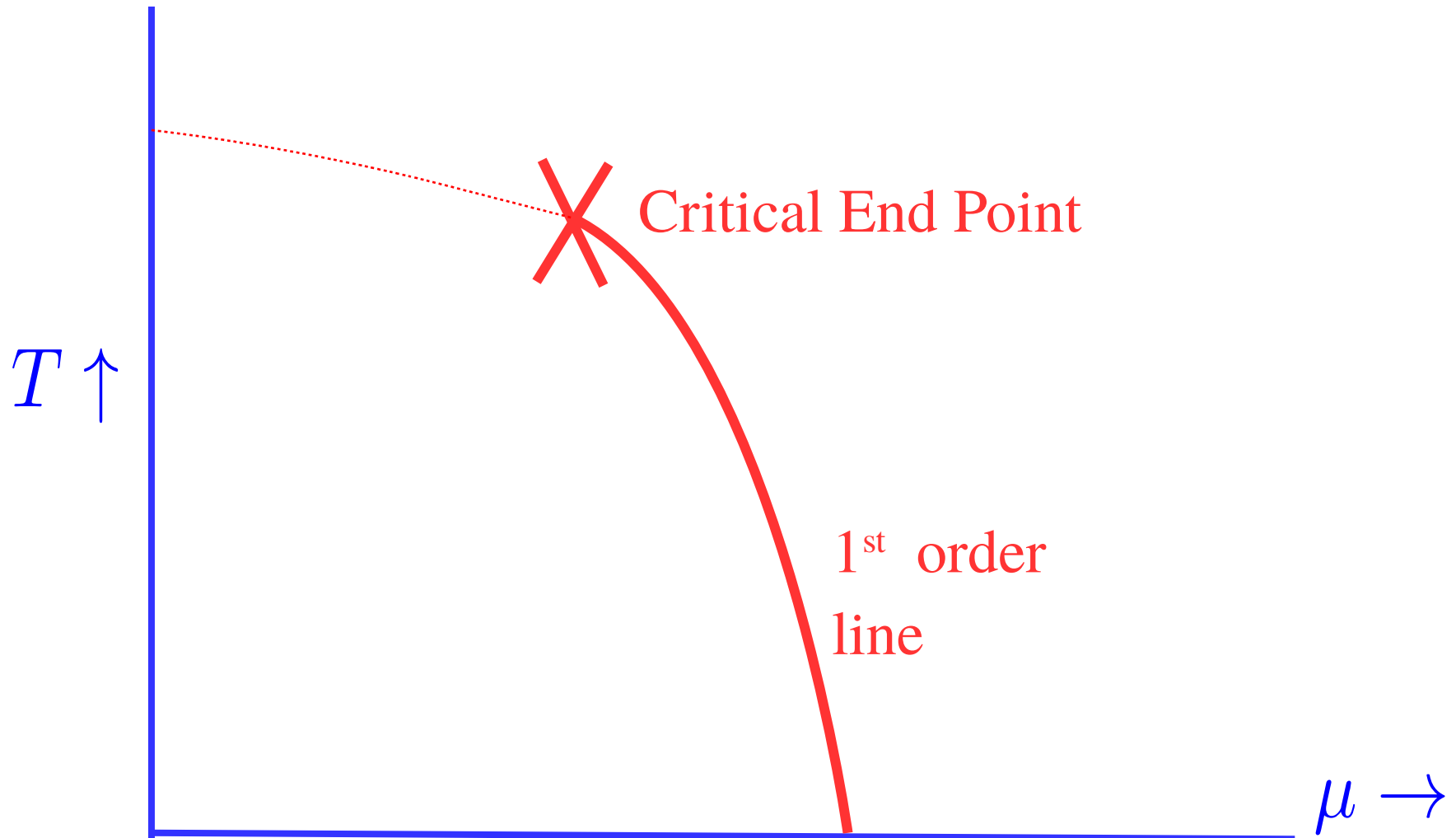
Fredrickson, “The equilibrium theory of
inhomogenous polymers”

Phase diagram for QCD in T & μ : usual picture

Two phases, one Critical End Point (CEP)

between crossover and line of 1st order transitions

Ising fixed point, dominated by *massless* fluctuations at CEP



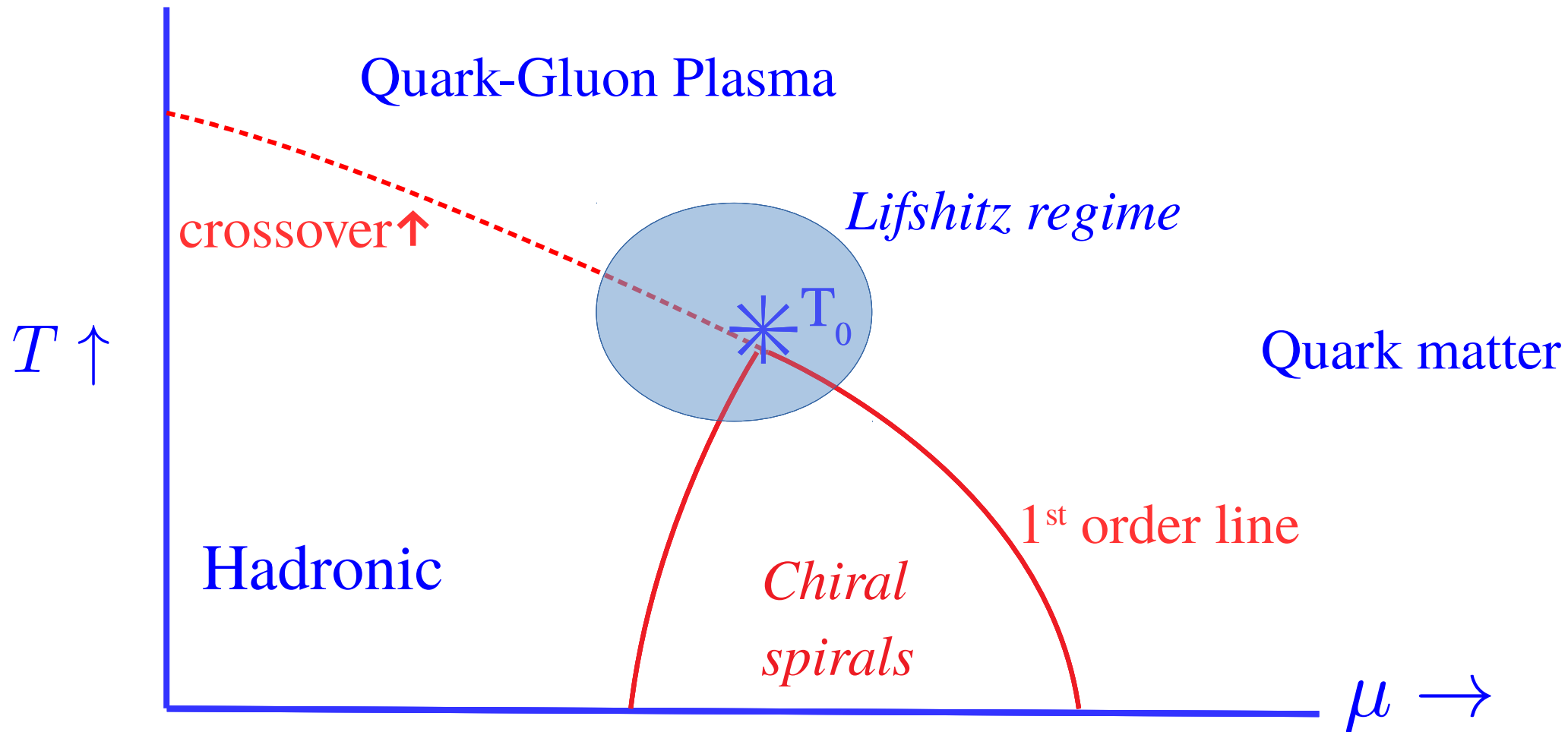
Lifshitz phase diagram for QCD

Lifshitz regime: strongly coupled, large fluctuations

Unbroken 1st order line to spatially inhomogeneous phases = “chiral spirals”

Heavy ions: could go through *two* 1st order transitions

T_0 : maximum T, point of equal concentrations (unequal entropy)



Fluctuations at 7 GeV

Beam Energy Scan, down to 7 GeV.

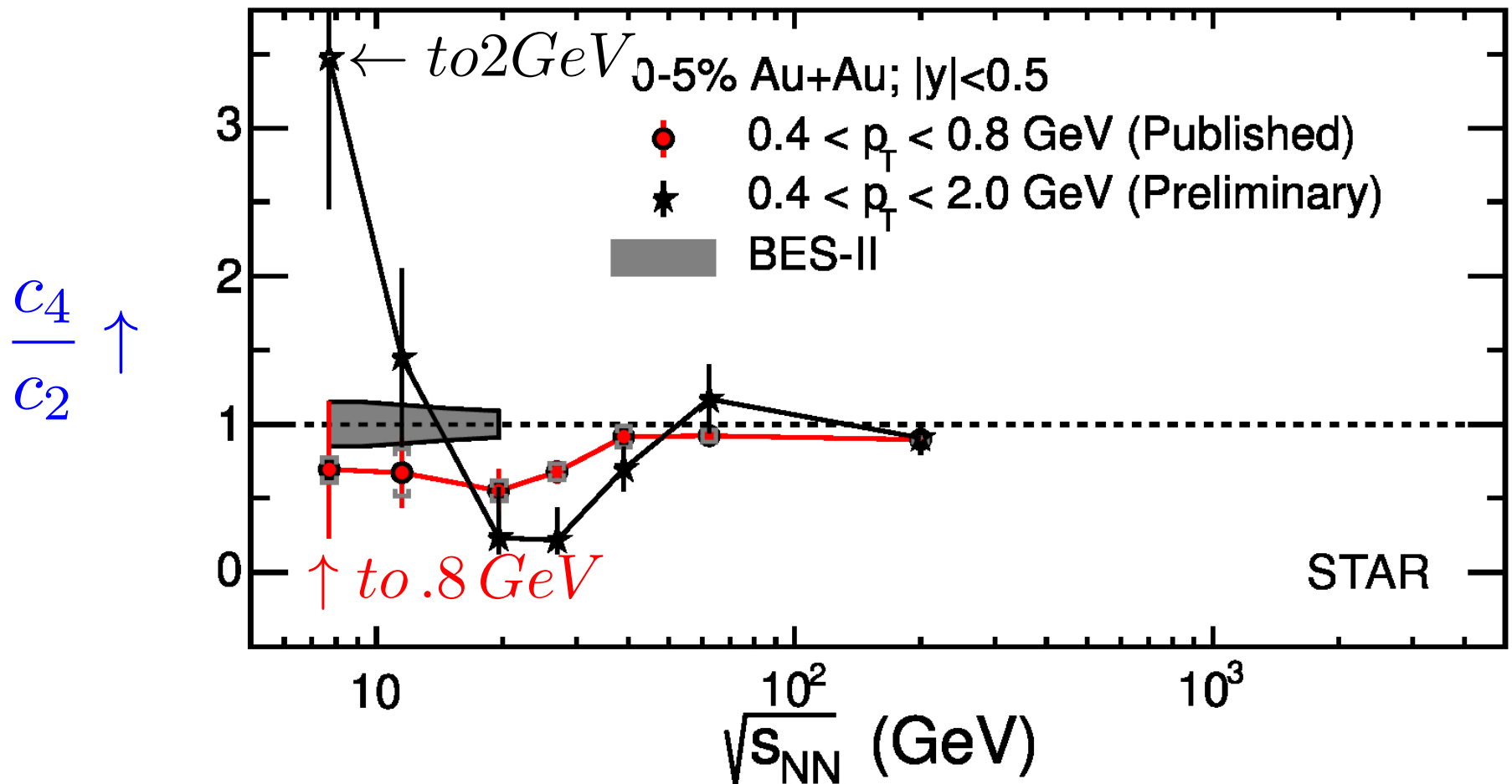
Fluctuations *MUCH* larger when up to 2 GeV than to 0.8 GeV

Trivial multiplicity scaling? ... or Chiral Spiral?

But fluctuations in nucleons, not pions.

$$c_n = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial \mu^n} p(T, \mu)$$

X. Luo & N. Xu, 1701.02105, fig. 37; Jowazee, 1708.03364



Experimentally

For *any* sort of periodic structure (1D, 2D, 3D...),

Fluctuations concentrated about some characteristic momentum k_0

So “slice and dice”: bin in intervals, 0 to .5 GeV, .5 to 1., etc.

If peak in fluctuations in a bin not including zero,
may be evidence for $k_0 \neq 0$.

Signals for Lifshitz regime?

Must measure fluctuations in pions, kaons...

NJL models and Lifshitz points

Consider Nambu-Jona-Lasino models.

Nickel, 0902.1778 & 0906.5295 + + Buballa & Carignano 1406.1367

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NJL}} = \bar{\psi}(\not{\partial} + g\sigma)\psi + \sigma^2$$

Integrating over ψ ,

$$\text{tr log}(\not{\partial} + g\sigma) \sim \dots + \kappa_1((\partial\sigma)^2 + \sigma^4) + \dots$$

Due to scaling, $\partial \rightarrow \lambda\partial$, $\sigma \rightarrow \lambda\sigma$.

Consequently, in NJL @ 1-loop, *tricritical* = *Lifshitz point*.

Special to including only σ at one loop.

Not generic: violated by the inclusion of more fields, to two loop order, etc.

Improved gradient expansion near critical point:

Carignano, Anzuni, Benhar, & Mannarelli, 1711.08607.

Symmetric to CS: 1D (Brazovski) fluctuations

Consider $m^2 > 0$, $Z < 0$: minimum in propagator at *nonzero* momentum

Brazovski '75; Hohenberg & Swift '95 + ... ;

Lee, Nakano, Tsue, Tatsumi & Friman, 1504.03185; Yoshiike, Lee & Tatsumi 1702.01511

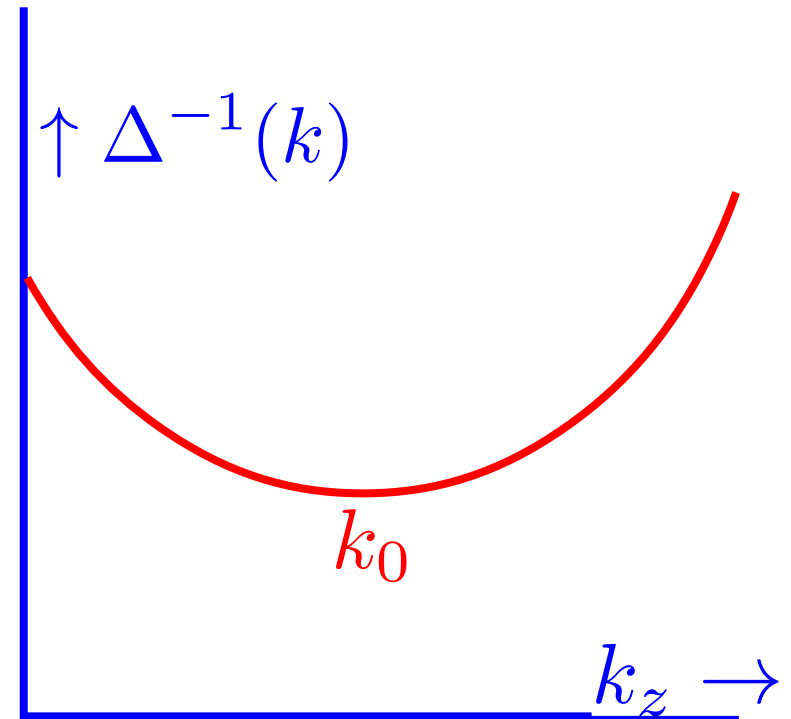
$$\begin{aligned}\Delta^{-1} &= m^2 + Z k^2 + k^4/M^2 \\ &= m_{\text{eff}}^2 - 2Z k_z^2 + O(k_z^3, k_z k_{\perp}^2)\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{k}=(k_{\perp},k_z-k_0)$: *no* terms in k_{\perp}^2 , *only* $(k_{\perp}^2)^2$.

Due to spon. breaking of rotational sym.

1-loop tadpole diagram:

$$\int d^3 k \frac{1}{k_z^2 + m_{\text{eff}}^2 + \dots} \sim M^2 \int \frac{dk_z}{k_z^2 + m_{\text{eff}}^2} \sim \frac{M^2}{m_{\text{eff}}}$$

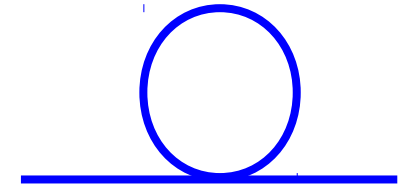


Effective reduction to 1-dim for any spatial dimension d, any global symmetry

1st order transition in 1-dim.

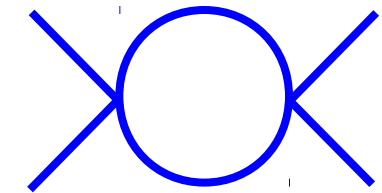
Strong infrared fluctuations in 1-dim., both in the mass:

$$\Delta m^2 \sim \lambda \int d^3 k \frac{1}{k_z^2 + m_{\text{eff}}^2 + \dots} \sim \lambda \frac{M}{m_{\text{eff}}}$$



and for the coupling constant:

$$\Delta \lambda \sim -\lambda^2 \int \frac{d^3 k}{(k_z^2 + m_{\text{eff}}^2 + \dots)^2} \sim -\lambda^2 M^3 \int_{m_{\text{eff}}} \frac{dk_z}{k_z^4} \sim -\lambda \frac{M^3}{m_{\text{eff}}^3}$$



Cannot tune m_{eff}^2 to 0: λ_{eff} goes negative, 1st order trans. induced by fluctuations

Not like other 1st order fluc-ind'd trans's: just that in 1-d, $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \neq 0$ always