

# Bayesian inference of hybrid stars with large quark cores

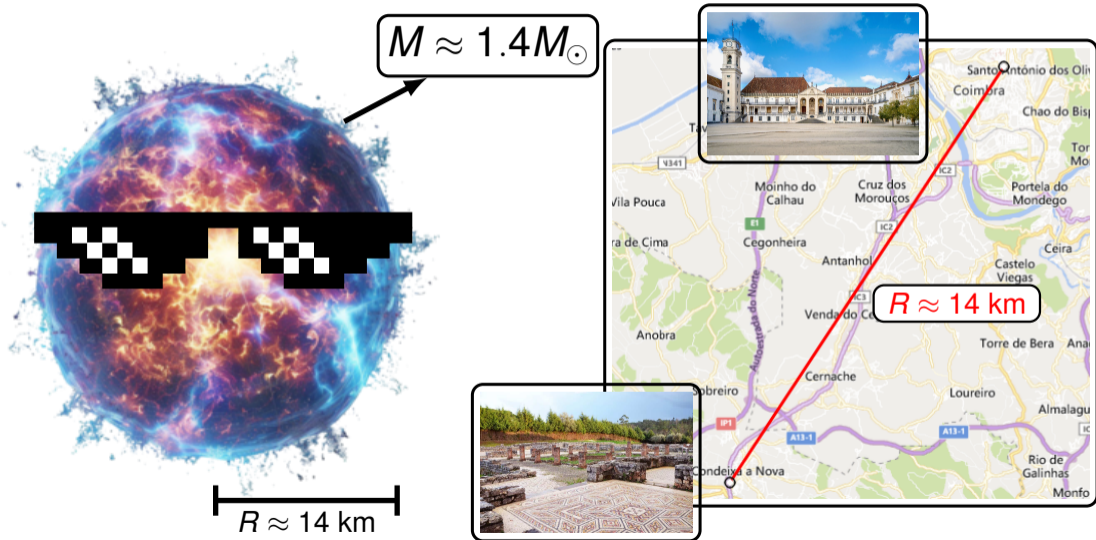
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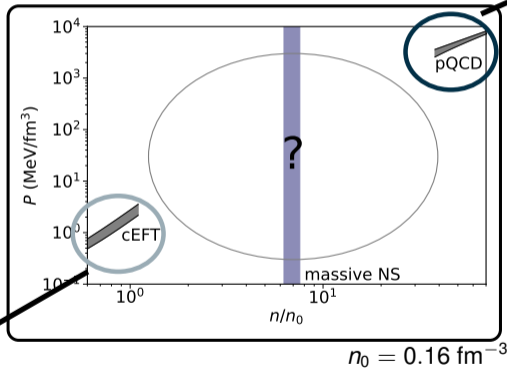
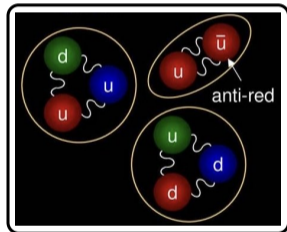
Milena Albino, Constança Providência, Tuhin Malik and Márcio Ferreira  
Phys. Rev. D 113, 083019 (DOI: [10.1103/jrz4-zjq1](https://doi.org/10.1103/jrz4-zjq1))

June 26, 2026

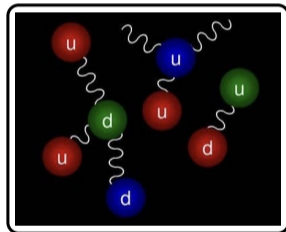
Universidade de Coimbra

# Why are Neutron Stars cool?



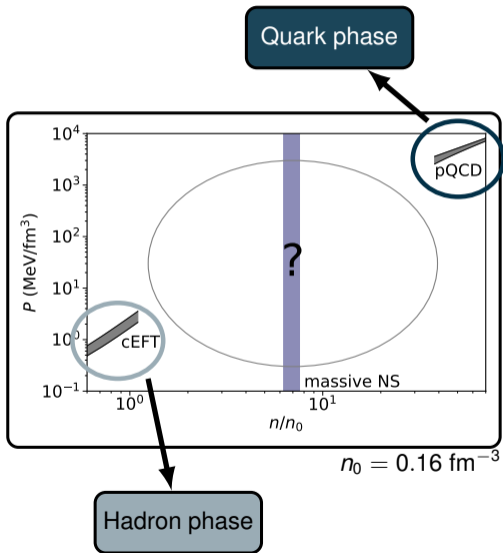


Quark phase

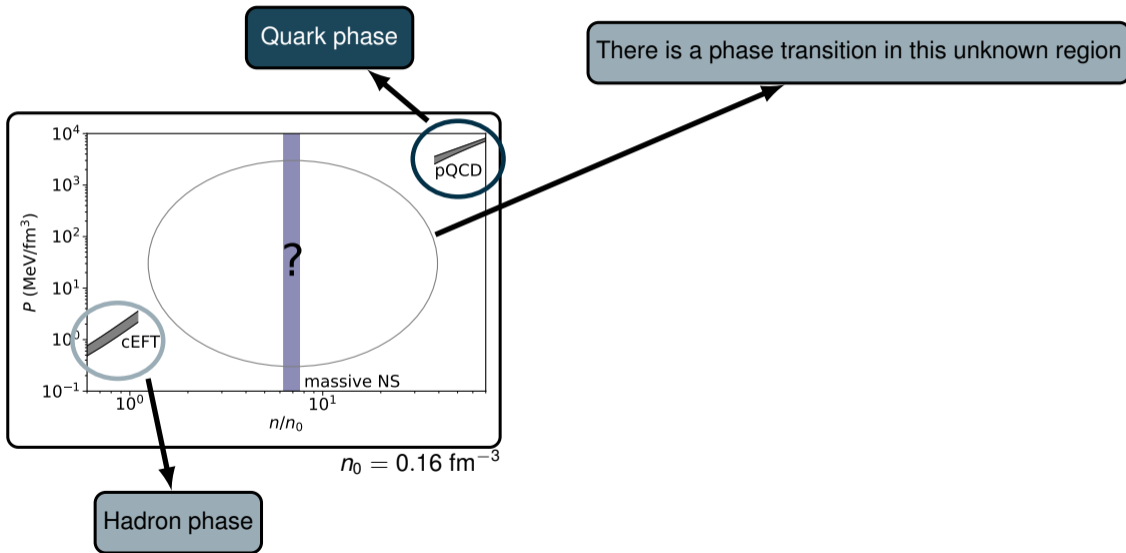


Hadron phase

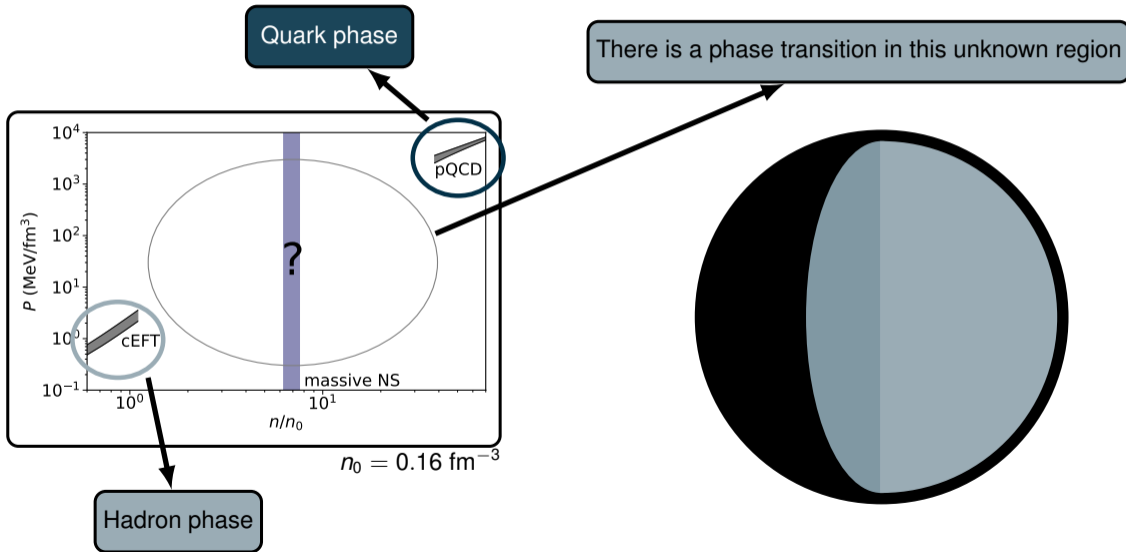
# A question to be answered



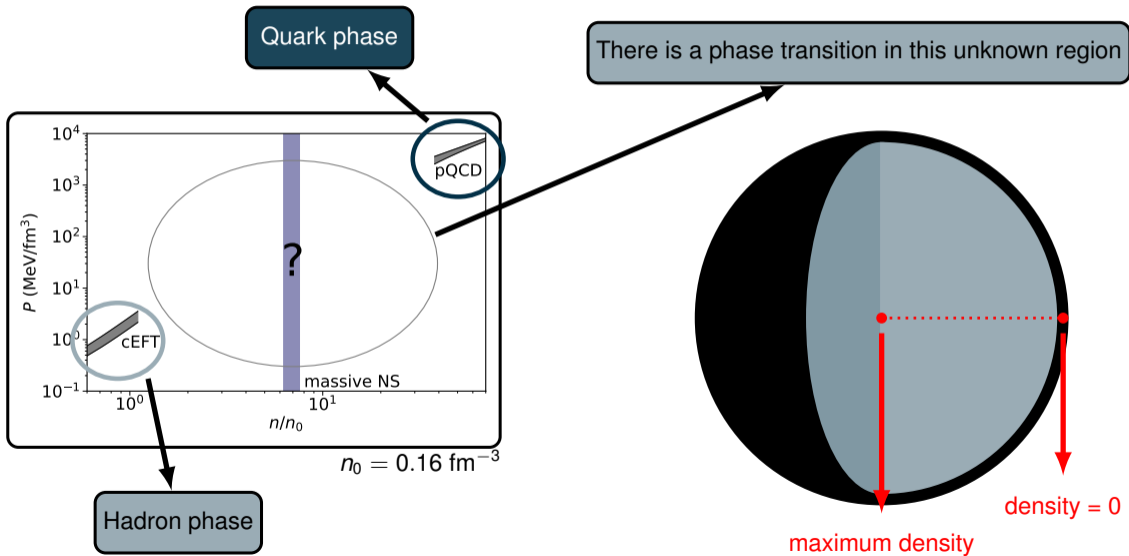
# A question to be answered



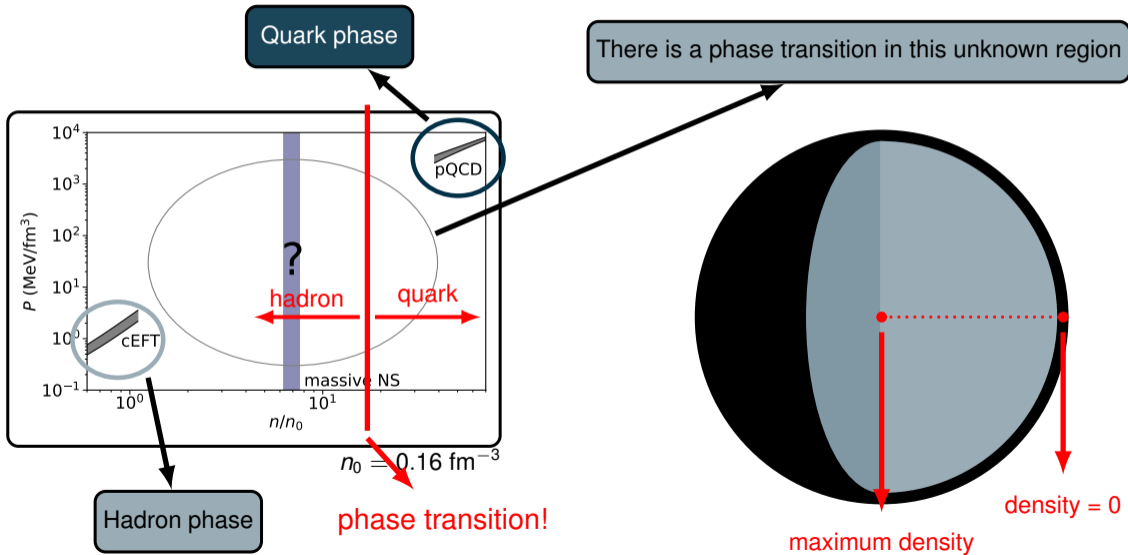
# A question to be answered



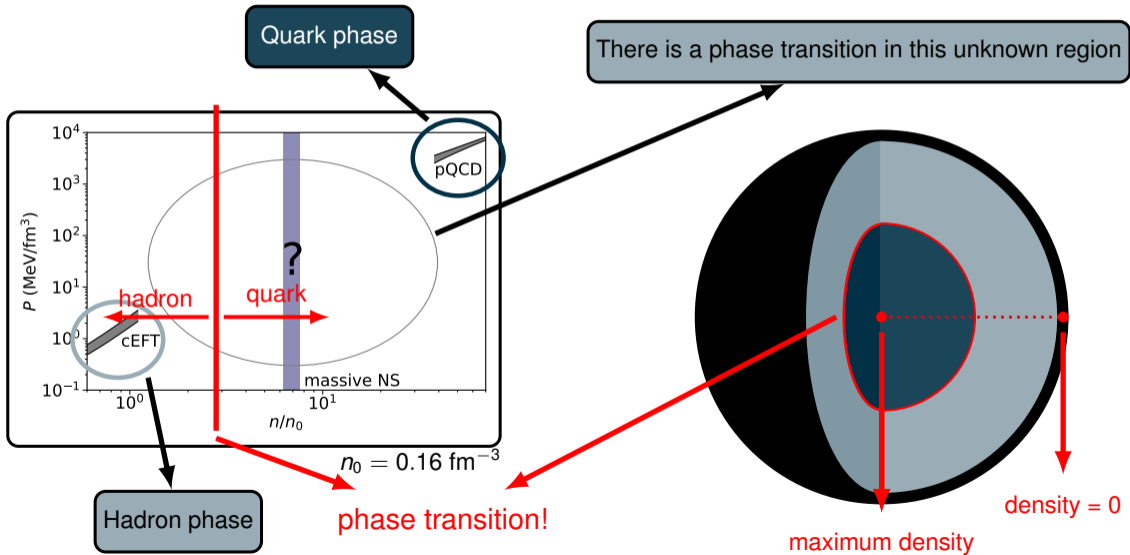
# A question to be answered



# A question to be answered



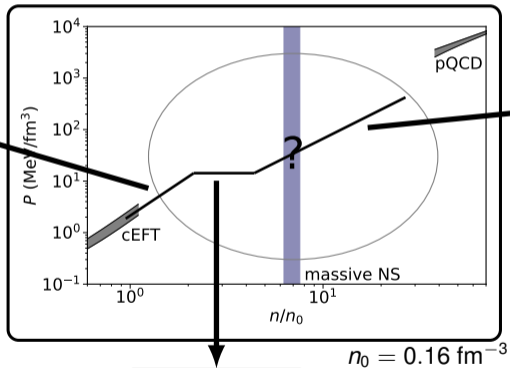
# A question to be answered



Objective:  
Explore the possibility of  
neutron stars with large quark cores

We must to assume models for the hadron and quark phases

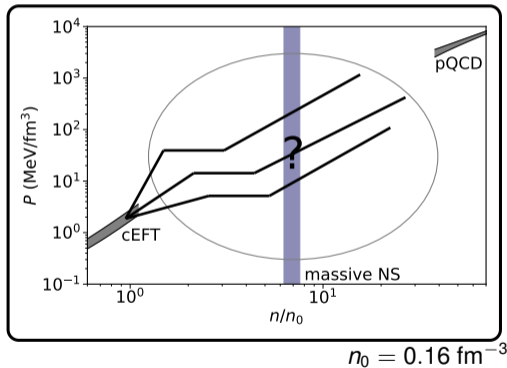
Hadron equation



Quark equation

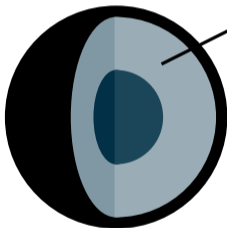
Phase transition

We must to assume models for the hadron and quark phases



By changing some parameters, we get more equations

Objective: Explore the possibility of neutron stars with large quark cores



Hadron phase

Relativistic Mean Field (RMF)<sup>1</sup>

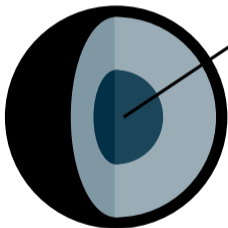
$$\mathcal{L}_N = \bar{\Psi} [\gamma^\mu (i\partial_\mu - \mathbf{g}_\omega \omega_\mu - \mathbf{g}_\rho \mathbf{t} \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu) - (m - g_\sigma \phi)] \Psi,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_M = \frac{1}{2} [\partial_\mu \sigma \partial^\mu \sigma - m_\sigma^2 \sigma^2] - \frac{1}{4} \omega_{\mu\nu} \omega^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\omega^2 \omega_\mu \omega^\mu - \frac{1}{4} \boldsymbol{\rho}_{\mu\nu} \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\rho^2 \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho}^\mu,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{NL} = -\frac{1}{3} b m g_\sigma^3 (\sigma)^3 - \frac{1}{4} c g_\sigma^4 (\sigma)^4 + \frac{\xi}{4!} g_\omega^4 (\omega_\mu \omega^\mu)^2 + \Lambda_\omega g_\rho^2 \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho}^\mu g_\omega^2 \omega_\mu \omega^\mu,$$

<sup>1</sup>Tuhin Malik et al. "Spanning the full range of neutron star properties within a microscopic description". In: *Phys. Rev. D* 107.10 (2023), p. 103018. DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.107.103018. arXiv: 2301.08169 [nucl-th].

Objective: Explore the possibility of neutron stars with large quark cores



### Quark phase

#### NJL

(Nambu-Jona-Lasinio)

- t' Hooft term;
- 5 different types of interactions.

#### MFTQCD

(Mean Field Theory of QCD)<sup>2</sup>

- from the QCD Lagrangian
- decomposition of gluon field in soft and hard momentum components.

<sup>2</sup>D. A. Fogaca and F. S. Navarra. "Gluon condensates in a cold quark-gluon plasma". In: *Phys. Lett. B* 700 (2011), pp. 236–242. DOI: 10.1016/j.physletb.2011.05.011. arXiv: 1012.5266 [hep-ph].

We use the following SU(3) NJL lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} (i\cancel{\partial} - m + \mu\gamma^0) \psi + \frac{G}{2} \left[ (\bar{\psi}\lambda_a\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}i\gamma^5\lambda_a\psi)^2 \right] + \mathcal{L}'_{\text{'t Hooft}} + \mathcal{L}_I$$

standard NJL term

't Hooft term

added interaction terms

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}_1 = & -G_\omega \left[ (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\lambda_0\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5\lambda_0\psi)^2 \right] \\
 & - G_\rho \sum_{a=1}^8 \left[ (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\lambda^a\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5\lambda^a\psi)^2 \right] \\
 & - G_{\omega\omega} \left[ (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\lambda_0\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5\lambda_0\psi)^2 \right]^2 \\
 & - G_{\sigma\omega} \sum_{a=0}^8 \left[ (\bar{\psi}\lambda_a\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}i\gamma^5\lambda_a\psi)^2 \right] \left[ (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\lambda_0\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5\lambda_0\psi)^2 \right] \\
 & - G_{\rho\omega} \sum_{a=1}^8 \left[ (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\lambda_0\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5\lambda_0\psi)^2 \right] \left[ (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\lambda_a\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5\lambda_a\psi)^2 \right]. \tag{1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$P \rightarrow P + B. \tag{2}$$

- Start with the QCD lagrangian;
- Assume we can decompose the gluon field in<sup>3</sup>
  - low momentum components (soft gluons);
  - high momentum components (hard gluons);

$$P = \frac{27}{2} \xi^2 \rho_B^2 - B + P_F, \quad (4)$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{27}{2} \xi^2 \rho_B^2 + B + \epsilon_F, \quad (5)$$

where

- $\xi = g/m_G$  and  $m_G = \frac{9}{32} g^2 \mu_0^2$ ;
- $B = \frac{9}{4(34)} g^2 \phi_0^4$ ;
- $P_F$  and  $\epsilon_F$  are the pressure and energy density of a non-interacting Fermi gas of quarks and electrons.

$$\tilde{G}^{a\mu}(k) = \tilde{A}^{a\mu}(k) + \tilde{\alpha}^{a\mu}(k) \quad (3)$$

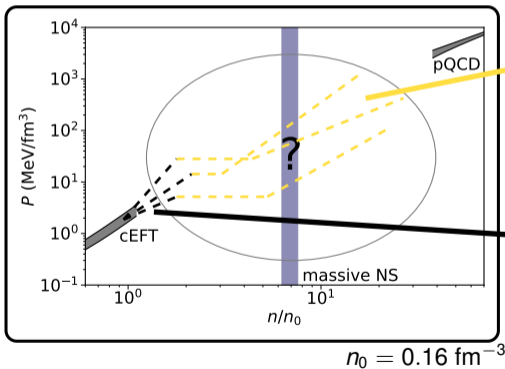
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graph TD; A["\tilde{G}^{a\mu}(k) = \tilde{A}^{a\mu}(k) + \tilde{\alpha}^{a\mu}(k)"] --> B[soft gluons]; A --> C[hard gluons];
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<sup>3</sup>Fogaca and Navarra, "Gluon condensates in a cold quark–gluon plasma".

NJL-GW Set

NJL Set

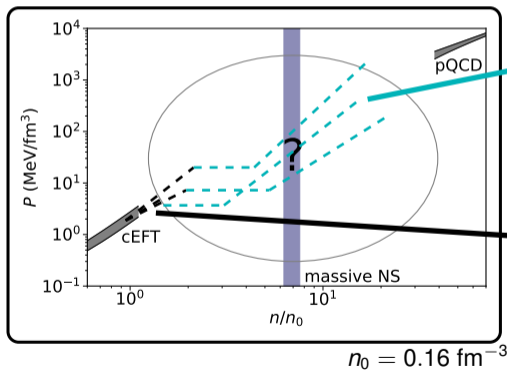
r-NJL Set



Quark model: NJL

Hadron model: RMF

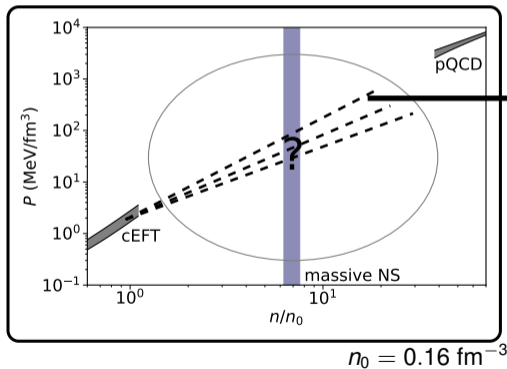
## MFTQCD Set



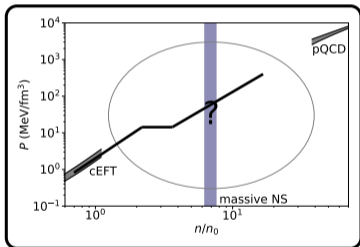
Quark model: MFTQCD

Hadron model: RMF

## RMF Set

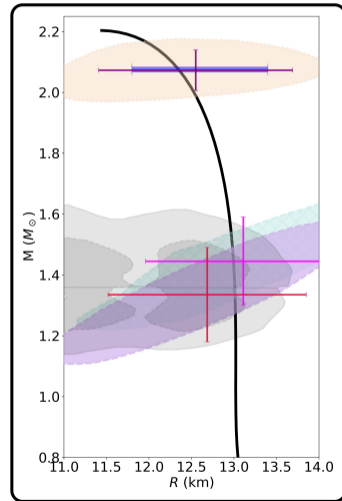


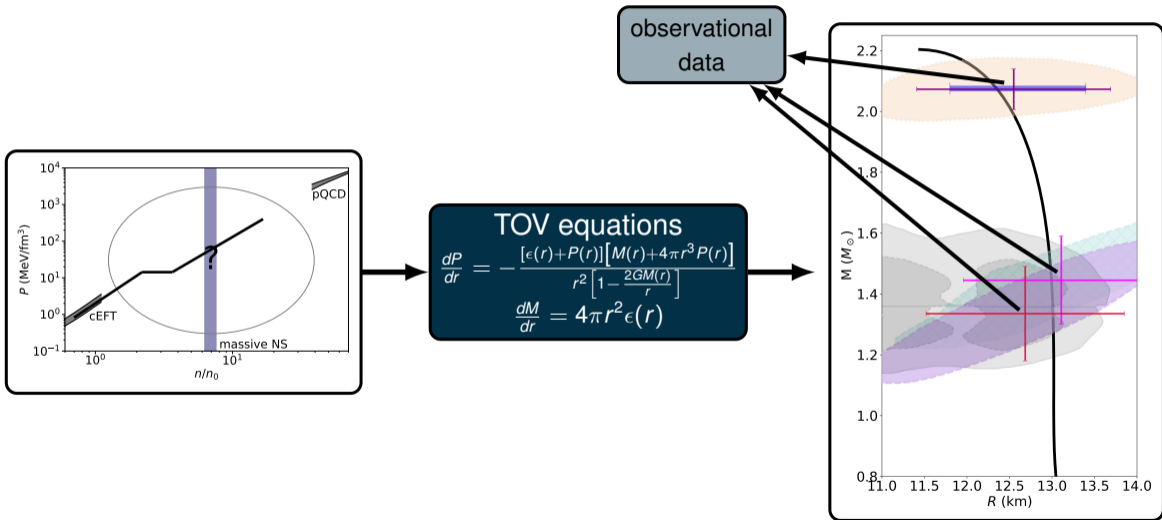
Hadron model: RMF

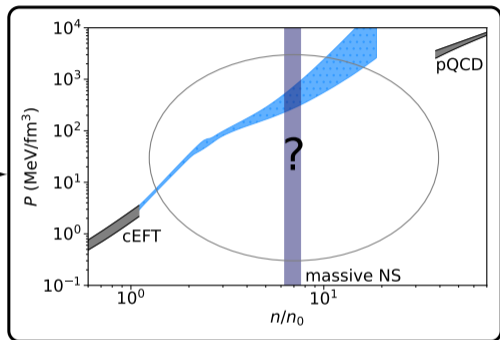
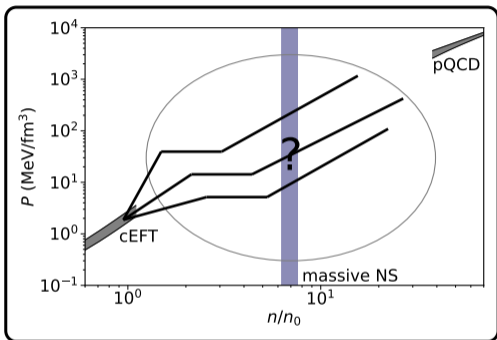


**TOV equations**

$$\frac{dP}{dr} = - \frac{[\epsilon(r) + P(r)][M(r) + 4\pi r^3 P(r)]}{r^2 \left[1 - \frac{2GM(r)}{r}\right]}$$
$$\frac{dM}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \epsilon(r)$$







Bayesian inference

$$\mathcal{P}(\Theta|D) \propto \mathcal{L}(D|\Theta) \pi(\Theta)$$

### Posterior probability

Probability that the model  $\Theta$  is true, given the data  $D$ .

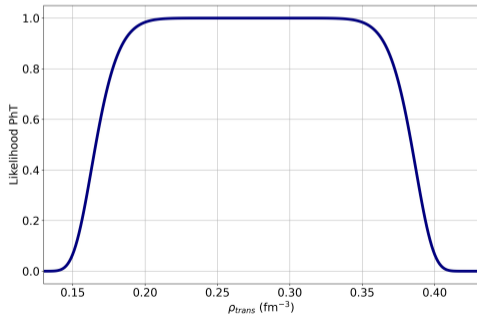
Bayesian inference samples the parameters  $\Theta$  to obtain the EoS with large posterior probabilities.

$$\mathcal{P}(\Theta|D) \propto \mathcal{L}(D|\Theta) \pi(\Theta)$$

Likelihood probability

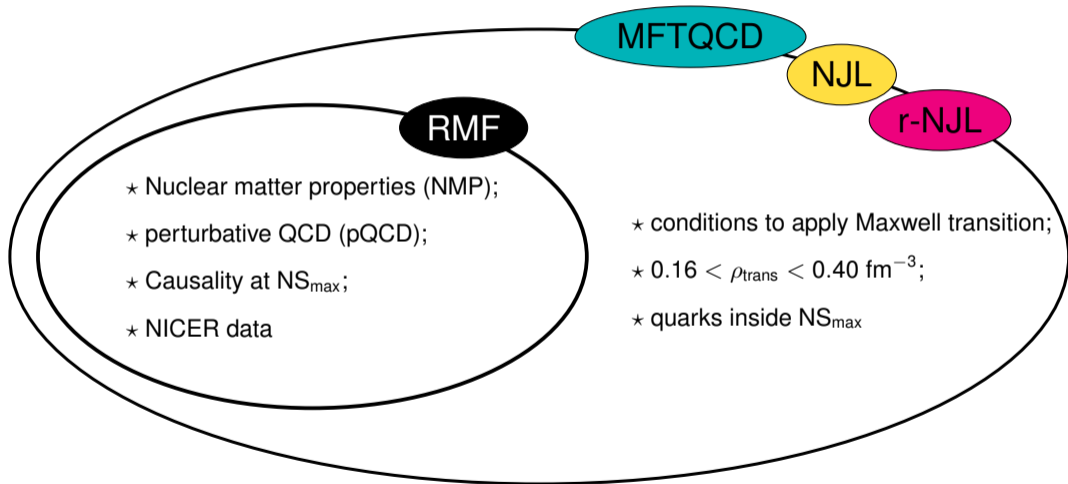
Probability that the model  $\Theta$  satisfies the data  $D$ .

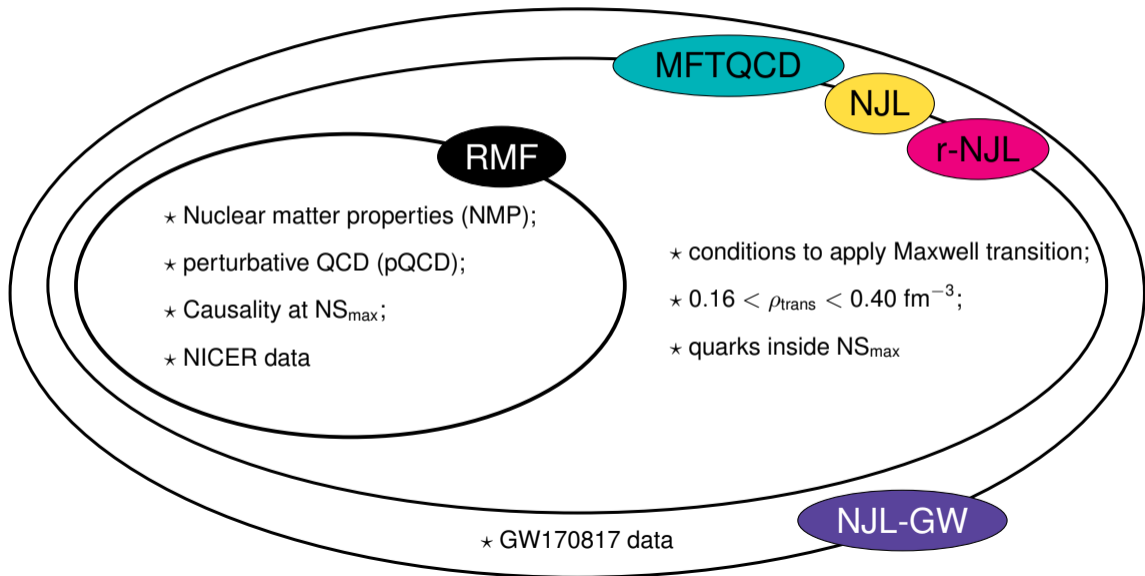
exemple: phase transition density



## RMF

- ★ Nuclear matter properties (NMP);
- ★ perturbative QCD (pQCD);
- ★ Causality at  $NS_{\max}$ ;
- ★ NICER data



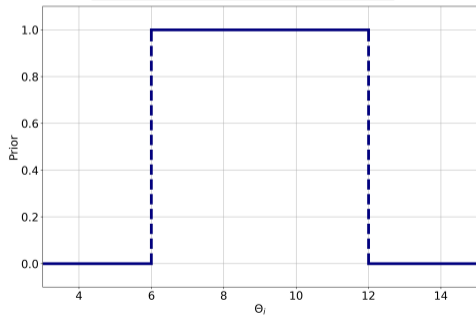


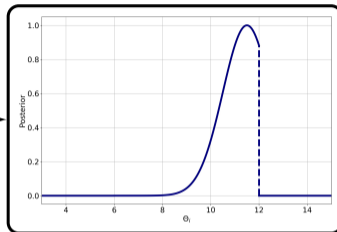
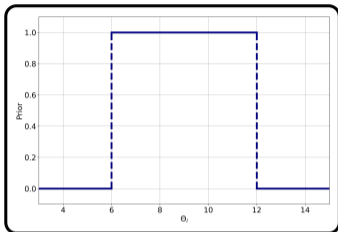
$$\mathcal{P}(\Theta|D) \propto \mathcal{L}(D|\Theta) \pi(\Theta)$$

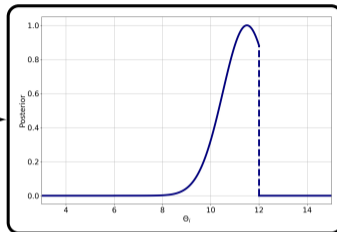
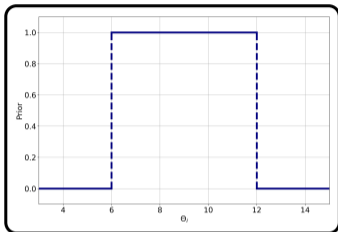
## Prior probability

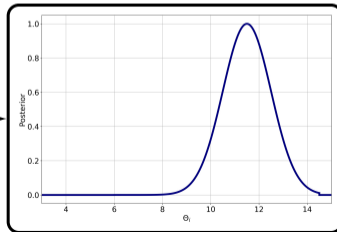
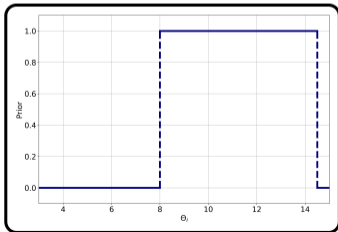
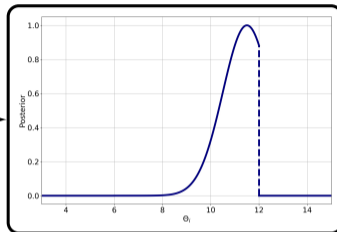
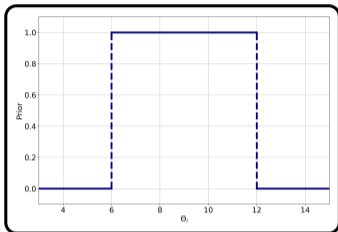
Probability that the model  $\Theta$  is true before considering the data  $D$ .

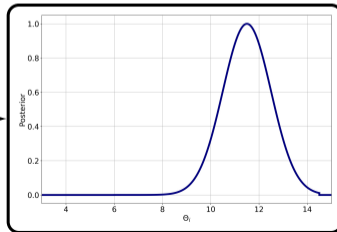
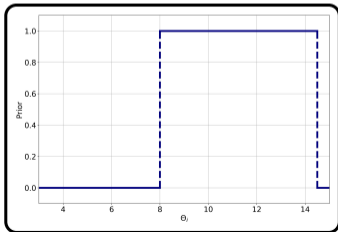
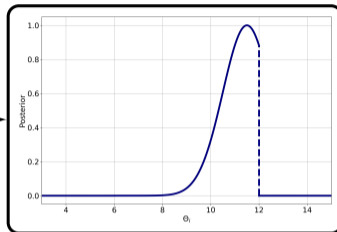
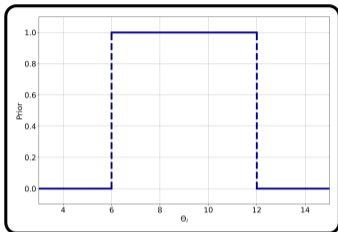
exemple: uniform distribution









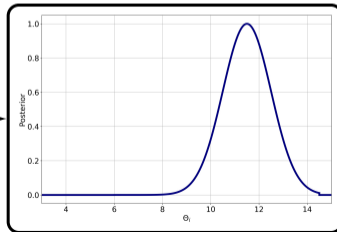
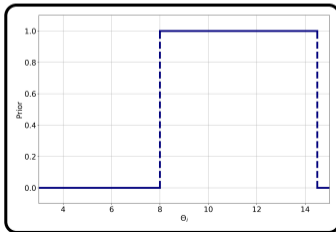


NJL

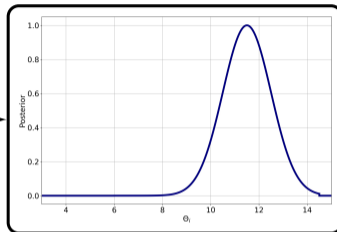
MFTQCD

RMF

NJL-GW



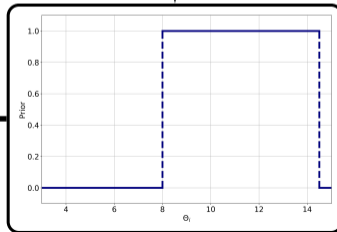
Posterior distribution of RMF set

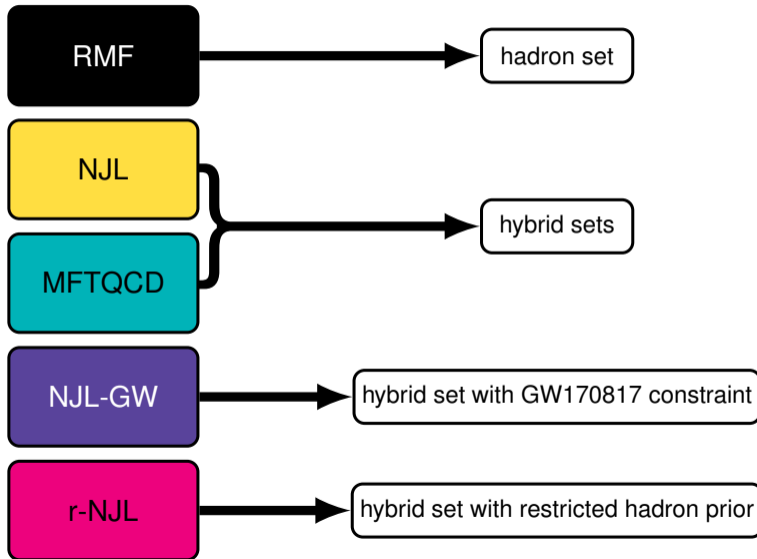


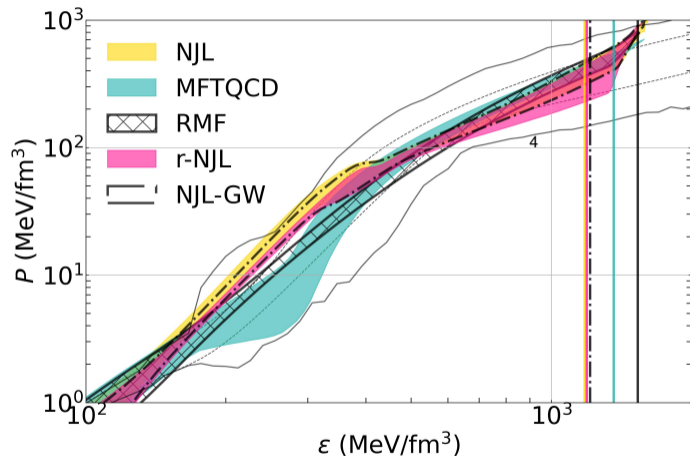
as the prior of

r-NJL

\*for the hadron parameters





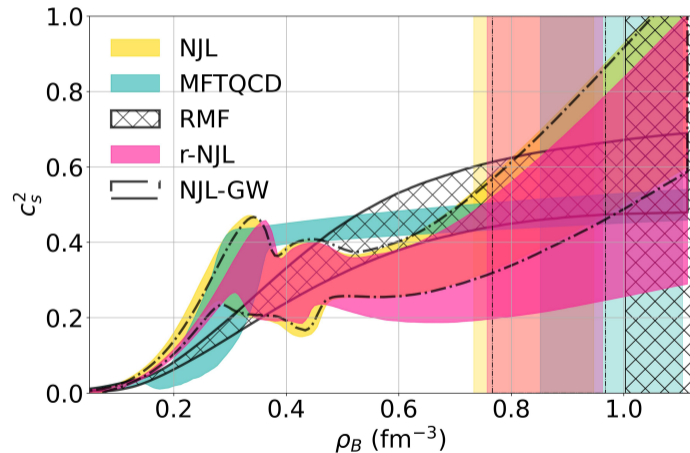


- Compatible with agnostic model<sup>4</sup>;
- The three NJL sets have stiffer hadron phase;

$\rho_{\text{trans}}$  (90% CI)

	median	min	max
NJL	0.353	0.304	0.388
MFTQCD	0.222	0.170	0.308
NJL-GW	0.362	0.314	0.391
r-NJL	0.369	0.333	0.395

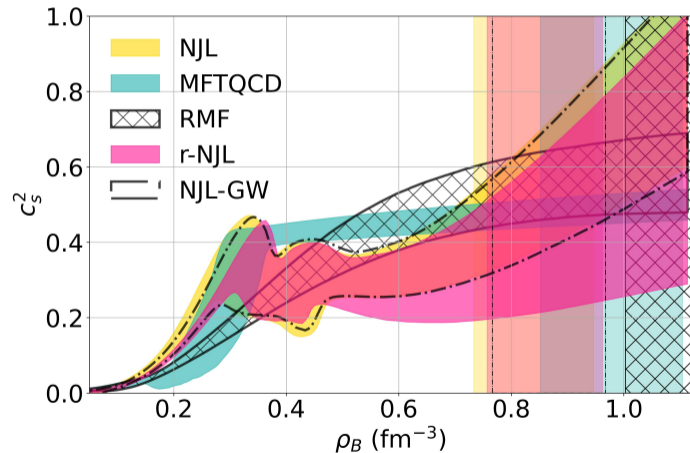
<sup>4</sup>Sinan Altiparmak, Christian Ecker, and Luciano Rezzolla. "On the Sound Speed in Neutron Stars". In: *Astrophys. J. Lett.* 939.2 (2022), p. L34. DOI: 10.3847/2041-8213/ac9b2a. arXiv: 2203.14974 [astro-ph.HE].



- The three NJL sets have two bumps: due to the phase transition and the onset of quark strange.

$c_{s,\max}^2$  (90% CI)

	median	min	max
NJL	0.529	0.329	0.776
MFTQCD	0.487	0.458	0.515
RMF	0.582	0.478	0.692
NJL-GW	0.564	0.340	0.795
r-NJL	0.388	0.200	0.744

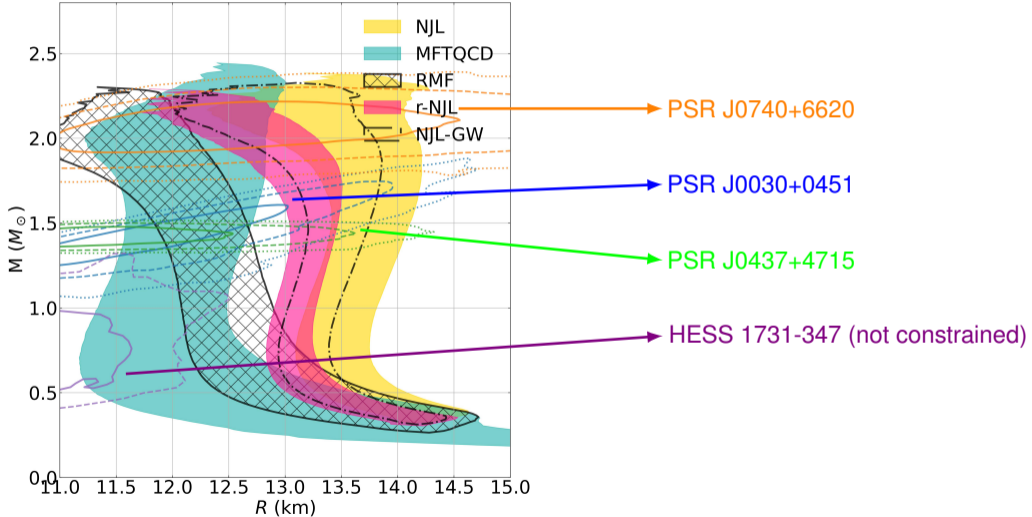


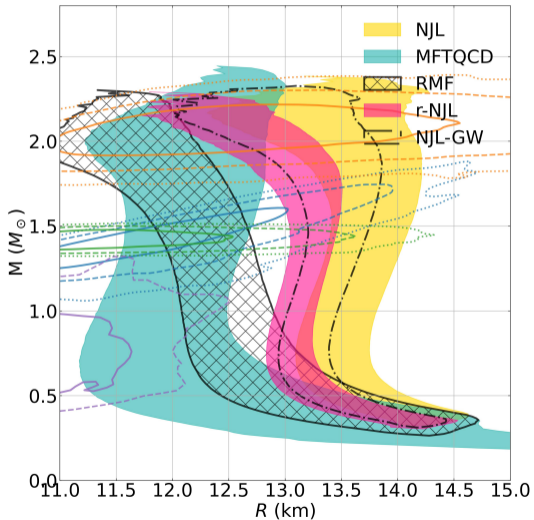
- The three NJL sets have two bumps: due to the phase transition and the onset of quark strange.

$\rho_{\text{max}}$  (90% CI)

	median	min	max
NJL	0.829	0.733	0.947
MFTQCD	0.976	0.852	1.104
RMF	1.103	1.003	1.212
NJL-GW	0.871	0.767	0.968
r-NJL	0.861	0.757	0.962

# Mass-radius diagram

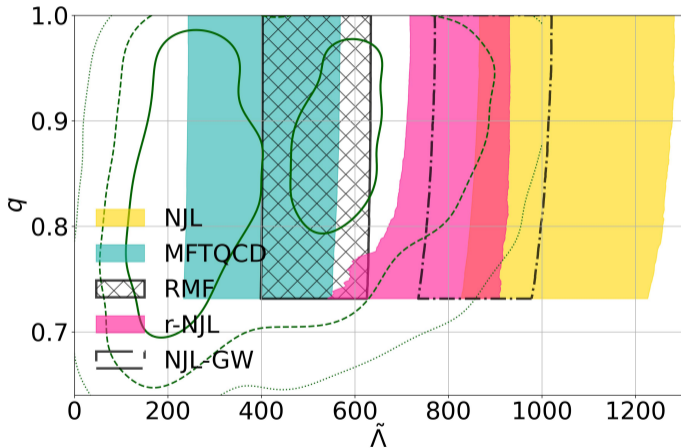




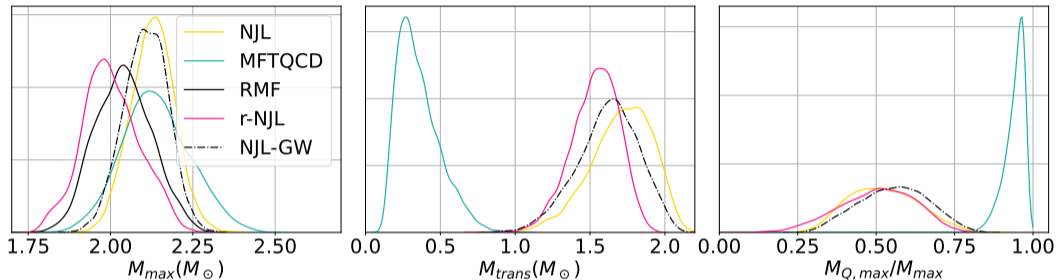
- The three NJL sets have larger radius;
- The MFTQCD set has smaller radius – compatible with HESS data.

$M_{\max}$  (90% CI)

	median	min	max
NJL	2.130	2.018	2.236
MFTQCD	2.133	1.970	2.315
RMF	2.039	1.905	2.185
NJL-GW	2.108	1.993	2.212
r-NJL	1.996	1.863	2.154

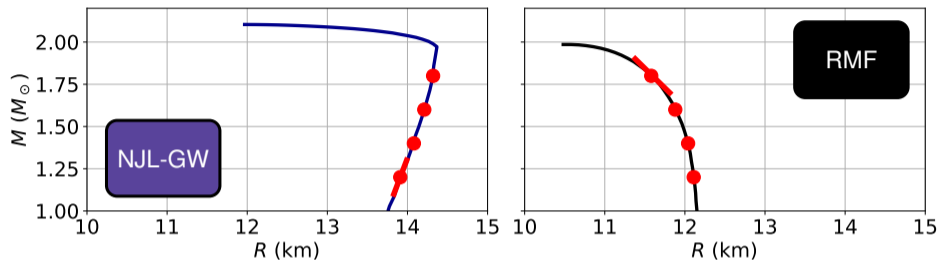


- binary mass ratio  $q = M_2/M_1 < 1$ ;
- effective tidal deformability  $\tilde{\Lambda}$ ;
- MFTQCD and RMF compatible with 68% CI;
- NJLs struggles to satisfy the GW170817 data.



- $M_{trans}$ : minimum mass in which NSs have a quark core;
- NSs with  $1.4M_{\odot}$ : have (MFTQCD) or may have (NJLs) quark matter;
- NSs with  $2M_{\odot}$ : both models indicate the presence of quark matter.
- $M_{Q,max}/M_{max}$ : fraction of quark matter at  $NS_{max}$ ;
- NJLs:  $\sim 50\%$  of the mass is from the quark core;
- MFTQCD: over 80% of the mass is from the quark core;

# Slope of mass-radius diagram



$M$	$1.2M_{\odot}$		$1.4M_{\odot}$		$1.6M_{\odot}$		$1.8M_{\odot}$	
$dM/dR$	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
NJL	6306	208	6008	506	4896	1618	2509	4005
NJL-GW	7268	253	6656	865	4699	2822	1653	5868
r-NJL	5180	147	4562	765	2358	2969	206	5121
MFTQCD	4392	487	4326	553	3459	1420	1119	3760
RMF	822	5215	175	5862	70	5967	38	5999

}

→

positive

→

negative

	NJL	NJL-GW	r-NJL	MFTQCD	RMF
agnostic models	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
phase transition	$\sim 2\rho_0$	$\sim 2\rho_0$	$\sim 2\rho_0$	$\rho_0 < \rho_{\text{trans}} \lesssim 2\rho_0$	...
NICER data	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
GW170817 data	$\gtrsim 90\%$ CI	$\gtrsim 90\%$ CI	$\gtrsim 90\%$ CI	yes	yes
NSs with $1.4M_{\odot}$ are	undefined	undefined	undefined	hybrid NS	hadron NS
NSs with $2M_{\odot}$ are	hybrid NS	hybrid NS	hybrid NS	hybrid NS	hadron NS
fraction of quark core	$\sim 50\%$	$\sim 50\%$	$\sim 50\%$	$\gtrsim 80\%$	0%
slope $dM/dR$	positive	positive	positive	positive	negative

# THANK YOU!

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**FCT**

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia  
MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR



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## References

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