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Pro and Con the Phase Transition to Quark Matter in Neutron Stars

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Recently, on the basis of a Bayesian analysis with new observational data for masses, radii, and tidal deformability of neutron stars, the authors of Ref. [1] came to the conclusion that there is evidence against a strong first-order phase transition to quark matter in neutron star cores.

On the other hand, numerous models for hybrid neutron star equations of state with a strong first-order phase transition have been published that correspond to mass-radius curves and tidal deformabilities perfectly fulfilling the observational constraints, see [2-8] for recent examples.

I will discuss the question of physics-informed versus agnostic Bayesian analyses and observable signals for quark deconfinement in supernovae, neutron star mergers [9,10] and neutron stars in binaries [11,12].

References:

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