



Topology of strong interactions,
between the QCD and the EW transition.

Maria Paola Lombardo

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Florian Burger, Ernst-Michael Ilgenfritz, MpL and Anton Trunin *Phys. Rev. D* 98, 094501
Andrey Kotov, MpL, Anton Trunin arXiv:1903.05633, *Phys. Lett. B*, in press



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare
SEZIONE DI FIRENZE



Preamble

The two faces of QCD topology

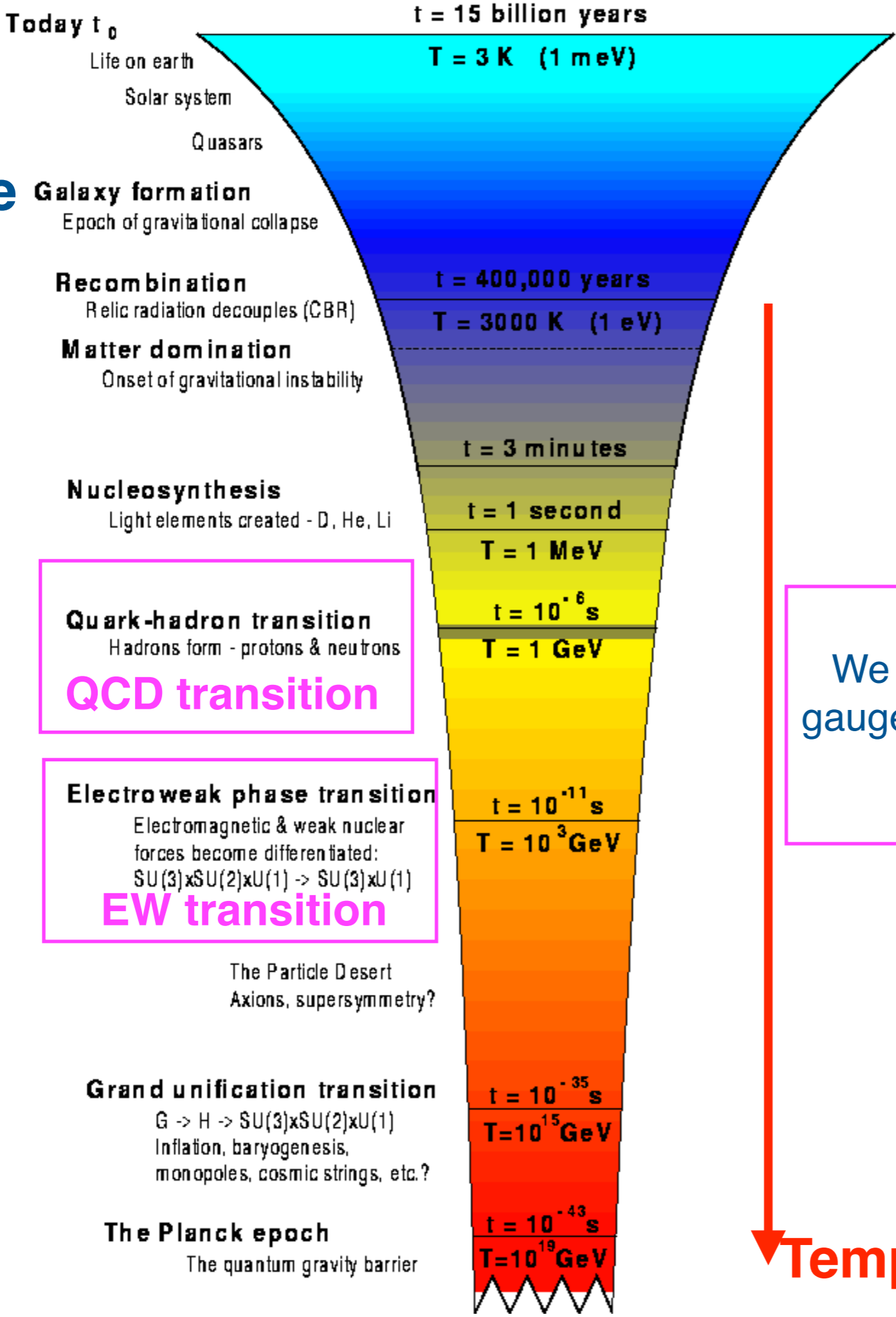


Window to Dark Matter

Strong interactions dynamics

History of the Universe

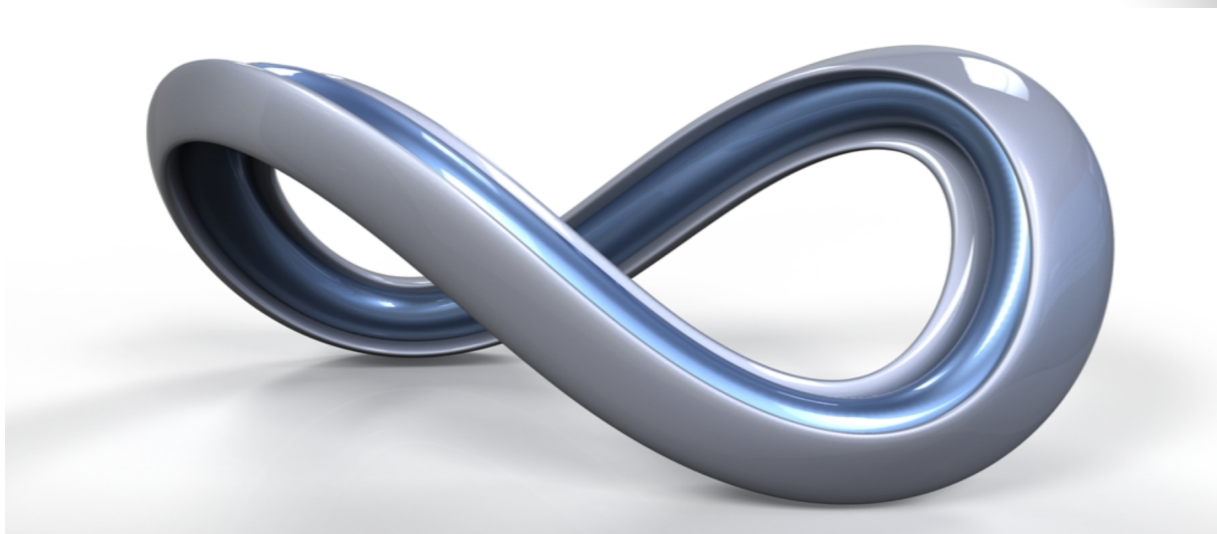
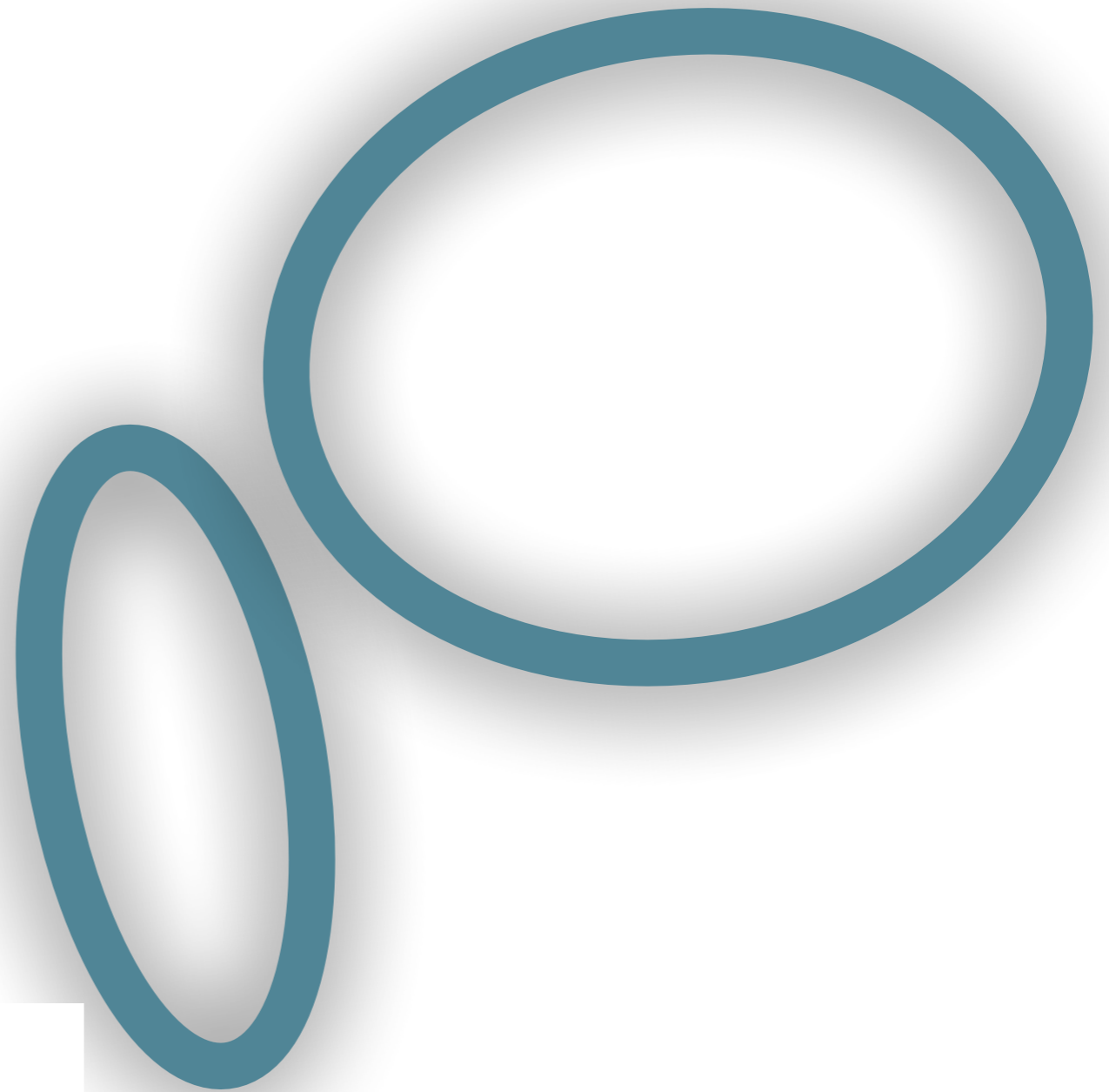
Time



We will concentrate on the topology of gauge fields in this range of temperatures, and on their observable properties

Temperature

Topology: geometric properties which do not change under continuous deformations..



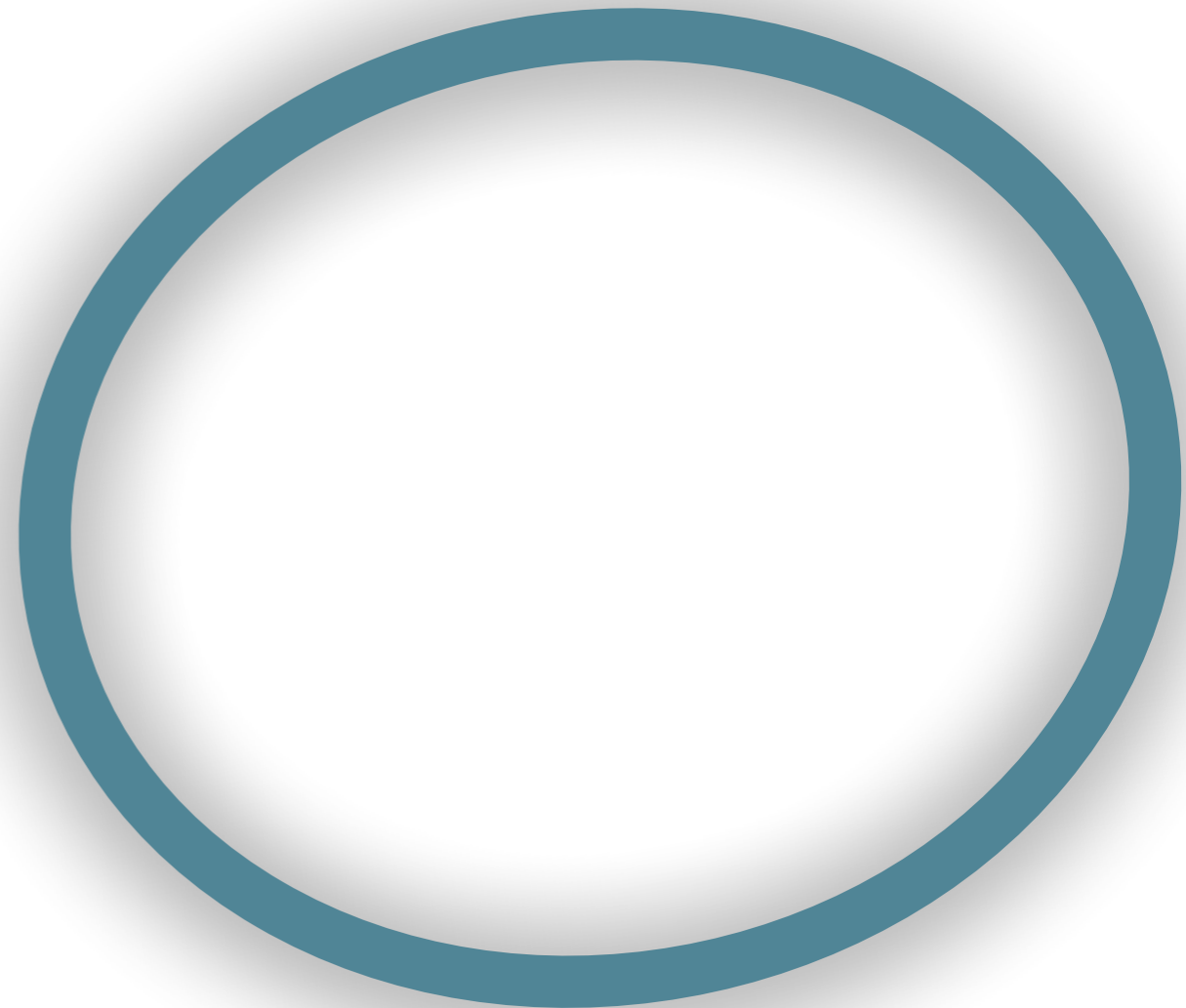
how do we 'measure' them?

$$Q = \sum Q(x) = \sum F_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{F}_a^{\mu\nu}(x)$$

Topological charge Q :
adding up a local -
butterfly-like - operator

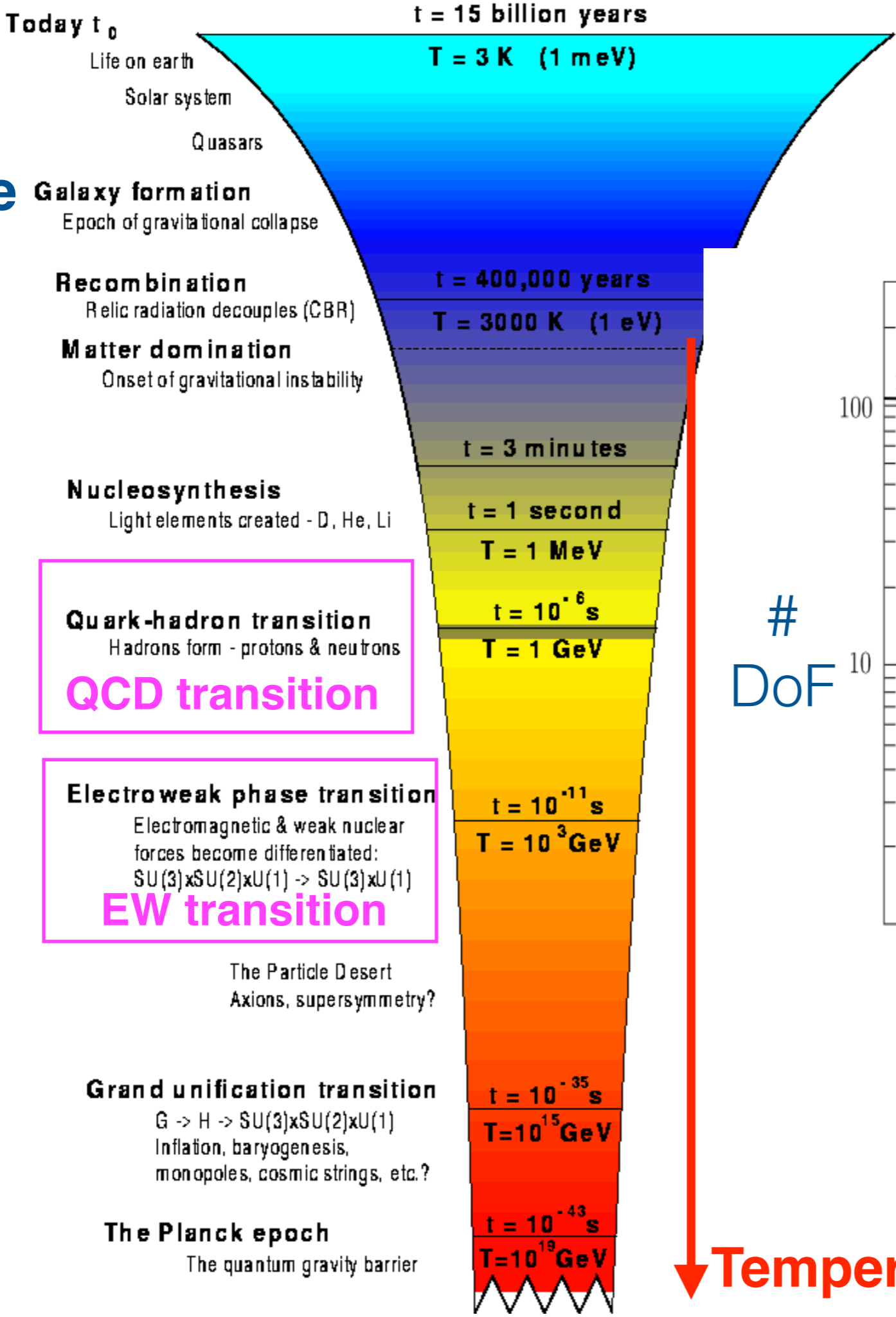
Topological fluctuations
measured by the susceptibility

$$\langle Q^2 \rangle - \langle Q \rangle^2$$

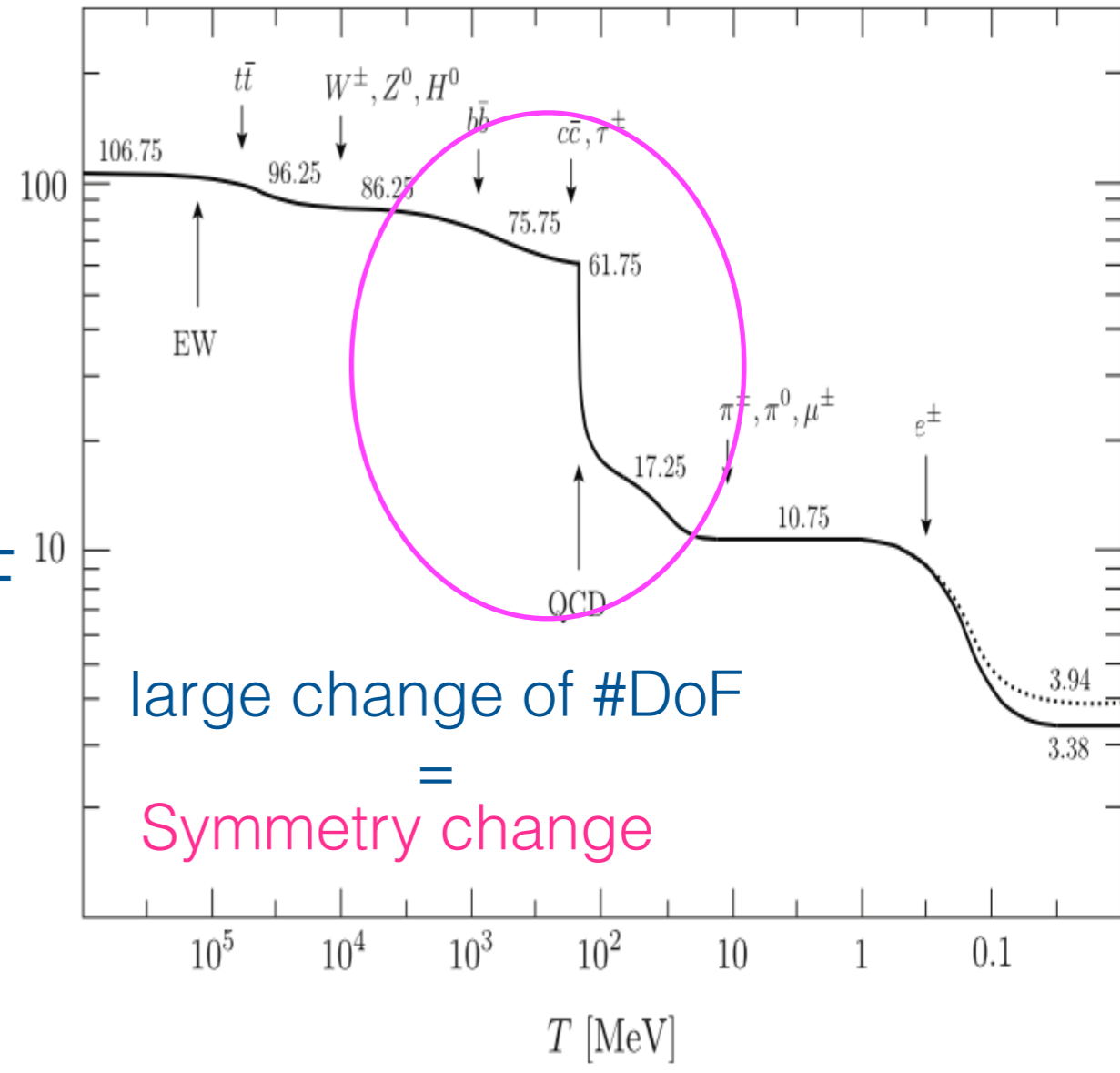


History of the Universe

Time



DoF



Temperature

Cambridge, DAMTP

QCD Lagrangian symmetries:

$$SU(N_f)_L \times SU(N_f)_R \times U(1)_A \times U(1)_B$$

Always exact

Breaking/restoration
at T_c

studied a lot
on the lattice

Always broken if topological charge
fluctuates!

DOES IT?

BUT:

the 'amount' of breaking,
may

depend on temperature!

IMPLICATIONS?

HOW ARE THESE RELATED??

A mystery of QCD...

Pseudoscalar light spectrum: eight pseudoGoldstones

$$SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R \rightarrow SU(3)_V$$

χPT predicts

$$m_\pi^2 \propto (m_u + m_d)\Lambda_{QCD}$$

$$m_K^2 \propto (m_s + m_{u,d})\Lambda_{QCD}$$

$$m_\eta^2 \propto \frac{1}{3}(m_u + m_d + 4m_s)\Lambda_{QCD},$$

Particle name	Particle symbol \blacklozenge	Antiparticle symbol \blacklozenge	Quark content	Rest mass (MeV/c ²) \blacklozenge
Pion ^[6]	π^+	π^-	$u\bar{d}$	139.570 18 ± 0.000 35
Pion ^[7]	π^0	Self	$\frac{u\bar{u} - d\bar{d}}{\sqrt{2}}$ [a]	134.9766 ± 0.0006
Eta meson ^[8]	η	Self	$\frac{u\bar{u} + d\bar{d} - 2s\bar{s}}{\sqrt{6}}$ [a]	547.862 ± 0.018
Eta prime meson ^[9]	$\eta'(958)$	Self	$\frac{u\bar{u} + d\bar{d} + s\bar{s}}{\sqrt{3}}$ [a]	<u>957.78 ± 0.06</u>
Kaon ^[12]	K^+	K^-	$u\bar{s}$	493.677 ± 0.016
Kaon ^[13]	K^0	\bar{K}^0	$d\bar{s}$	497.614 ± 0.024

$U(1)_A$

should be broken
as well
producing a 9th
Goldstone BUT:

← **Exception!**

η' is too heavy

A mystery of QCD: η' too heavy

can be solved by topological charge fluctuations!

Crucial ingredient: $\langle Q^2 \rangle \neq 0$

and $\langle Q(0)Q(t) \rangle$

(more later. ...)

It is possible to couple QCD to topological charge



$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{QCD} + \theta \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} F_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{F}_a^{\mu\nu}$$

Q — topological charge
CP-violating term

but: phenomenology tells us that θ must be unnaturally small

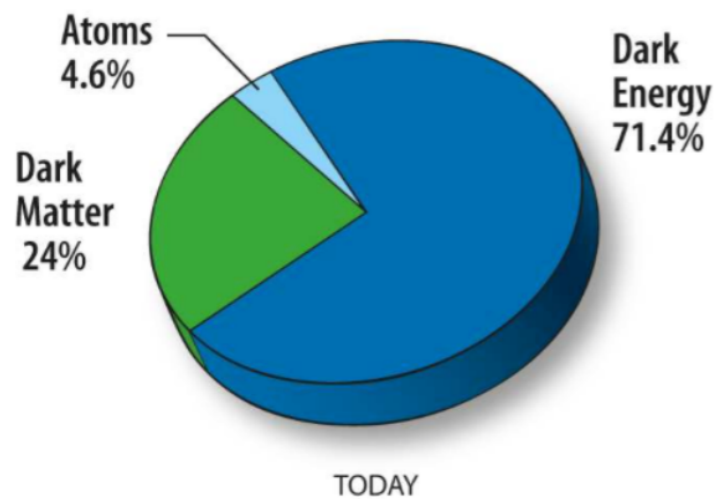
This is the strong CP problem of QCD!

A second mystery of QCD...

the strong CP problem

..can be solved by introducing the AXION

a new particle which is a viable dark matter candidate



Crucial ingredient: $\langle Q^2(T) \rangle$

(more later..)

The experimental side

Tc

340 –380 MeV
RHIC AuAu
200 GeV

420-480 MeV
LHC
2.76 TeV

500- 600MeV
LHC hot spots
2.76 TeV



1 GeV
LHC
7 TeV

≈ 200MeV

Quark Gluon Plasma @
Colliders



RECORDS

PRODUCTS

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

NEWS

ABOUT US

Highest man-made temperature

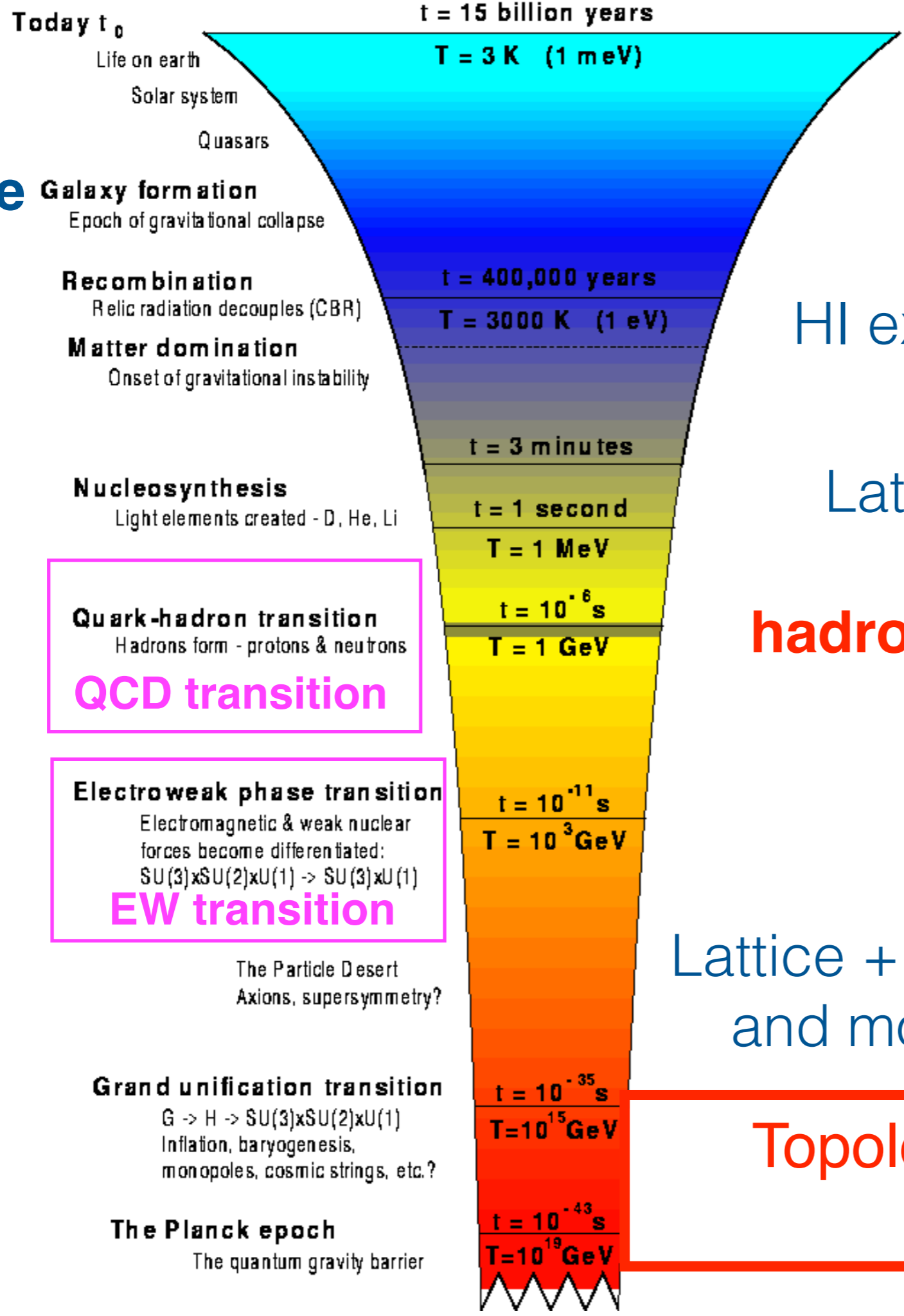
Who

CERN, LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

What

5X10¹² DEGREE(S) KELVIN

Time



HI experiments: $T < 500$ MeV

Lattice: $T < 600-700$ MeV - sufficient for **Tc**, **hadron spectrum** in the plasma and **QGP dynamics**

Lattice + extrap. T about 1000 MeV - and more needed to study **axions**

Topology plays a major role in all this

Plan

Axions

Topology in QCD

Results:

Topological Susceptibility

Bounds on the QCD axion's mass

The η' and its fate in the plasma

Axions 'must' be there (?)

θ term, strong CP problem and topology

$\mathcal{L}_{QCD}(\theta) = \mathcal{L}_{QCD} + \frac{g^2\theta}{32\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_{\rho\sigma}^a$

$Q = \int d^4x \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \text{tr} F \tilde{F}$

$|d_n| < 2.9 \times 10^{-26} \text{ e cm}$

$d_n(\theta) \sim e \theta \frac{m_u m_d}{(m_u + m_d) m_n^2} \Rightarrow |\theta| < 10^{-9}$

electric dipole moment of the neutron

$$Z_{QCD}(\theta, T) = \int [dA][d\psi][d\bar{\psi}] \exp \left(-T \sum_t d^3x \mathcal{L}_{QCD}(\theta) \right) = \exp[-VF(\theta, T)]$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial^2 F(\theta, T)}{\partial \theta^2} \right|_{\theta=0} \equiv \chi(T) = (\langle Q^2 \rangle - \langle Q \rangle^2) / V$$

Axions 'must' be there: solution to the strong CP problem

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD}(\theta) = \mathcal{L}_{QCD} + \frac{g^2 \theta}{32\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_{\rho\sigma}^a$$

Admitted but $\theta < 10^{-9}$

$$Q = \int d^4x \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \text{tr} F \tilde{F}$$

Postulate axions, coupled to Q:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{axions}} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu a)^2 + \left(\frac{a}{f_a} + \theta \right) \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma}$$

$$Z_{QCD}(\theta, T) = \int [dA][d\psi][d\bar{\psi}] \exp \left(-T \sum_t d^3x \mathcal{L}_{QCD}(\theta) \right) = \exp[-V F(\theta, T)]$$

Axion potential

Axion mass $m_a^2(T) f_a^2 = \left. \frac{\partial^2 F(\theta, T)}{\partial \theta^2} \right|_{\theta=0} \equiv \chi(T), \quad f_A \gtrsim 4 \times 10^8 \text{ GeV}$

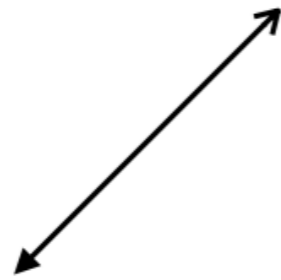
weakly coupled

Time from Big Bang



Axions's freezout

$$3H(T) = m_a(T)$$



**Axions' mass
and density
today**

Temperature

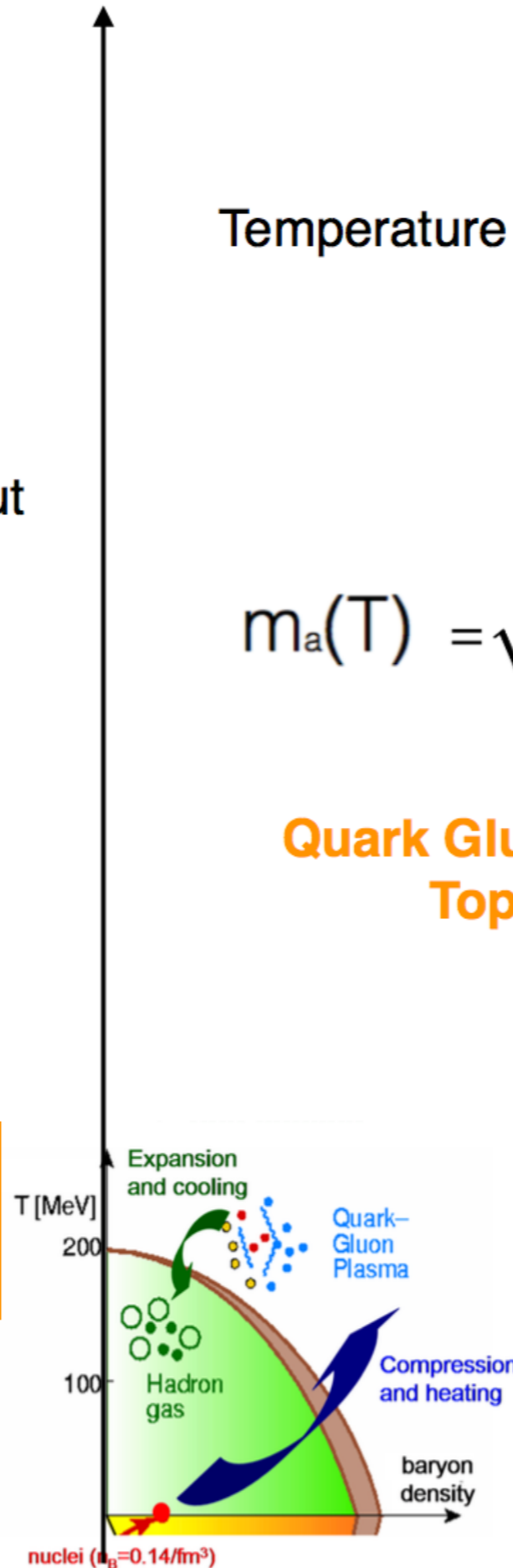
Hubble parameter
 $H(T) \simeq T^2/M_P$

$$m_a(T) = \sqrt{\chi(T)}/f_a$$

**Quark Gluon Plasma:
Topology**

After freezout $\frac{n_a}{s}$ constant

$$\rho_{a,0} = \frac{n_a}{s} m_a s_0$$



Cold Dark Matter candidates might have been created after the inflation

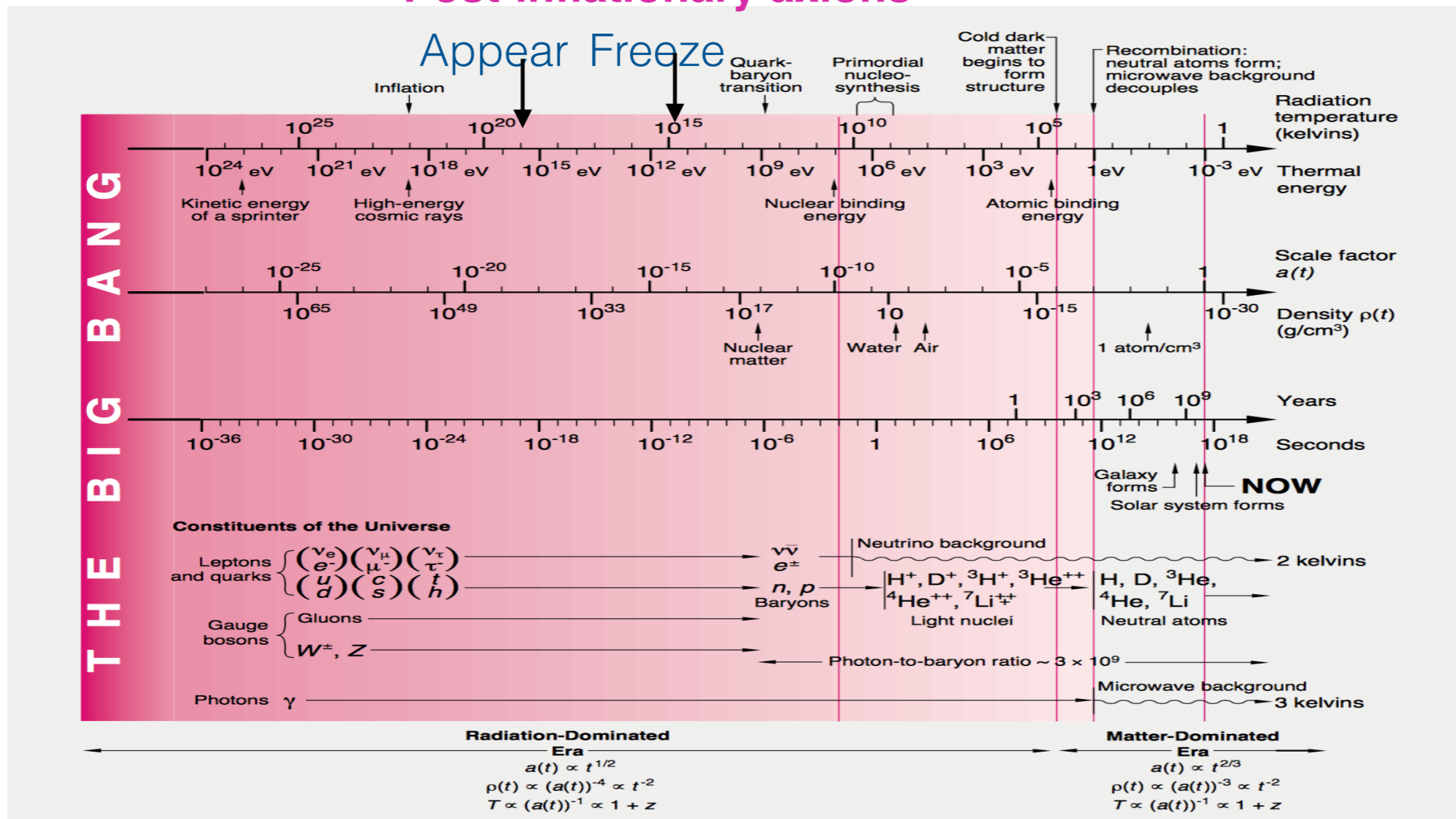
Several CDM candidates are highly speculative - but one, **the axion**, is

Theoretically well motivated in QCD

Amenable to quantitative estimates once QCD topological properties are known:

Post-inflationary axions

$$m_a(T) = \sqrt{\chi(T)} / f_a$$



QCD topology and phenomenology

Hadron cosmology:
Origin of mass

Almost all hadrons can be described taking into account chiral symmetry breaking and confining potential



QCD transition

Nucleosynthesis

Chiral symm. breaking
Confinement:
Chiral perturbation theory +
Potential models
=
Hadron spectrum

Hadron cosmology:
Origin of mass

Almost all hadrons can be described taking into account chiral symmetry breaking and confining potential

With an important exception

Quarks

Hadrons

Nuclei

time

QCD transition

Nucleosynthesis

Chiral symm. breaking
Confinement:

Chiral perturbation theory +
Potential models

=

Hadron spectrum

Pseudoscalar light spectrum: eight pseudoGoldstones

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Exception!

η' is too heavy

Topology, η' and the $U_A(1)$ problem:

The $U_A(1)$ symmetry $q \rightarrow e^{i\alpha\gamma_5} q$

would be broken by the (spontaneously generated) $\bar{q}q$:

the candidate Goldstone is the η'

too heavy!! (900 MeV)

BUT:

the divergence of the current $j_5^\mu = \bar{q}\gamma_5\gamma_\mu q$,

contains a mass independent term

$$\partial_\mu j_5^\mu = m\bar{q}\gamma_5 q + \frac{1}{32\pi^2} F\tilde{F}.$$

$$\text{IF } \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x F\tilde{F} \neq 0$$

The $U_A(1)$ symmetry is **explicitly** broken

Particle name	Particle symbol	Antiparticle symbol	Quark content	Rest mass (MeV/c ²)
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Topology, η' and the $U_A(1)$ problem:

It can be proven that

$$\frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x F \tilde{F} = Q$$

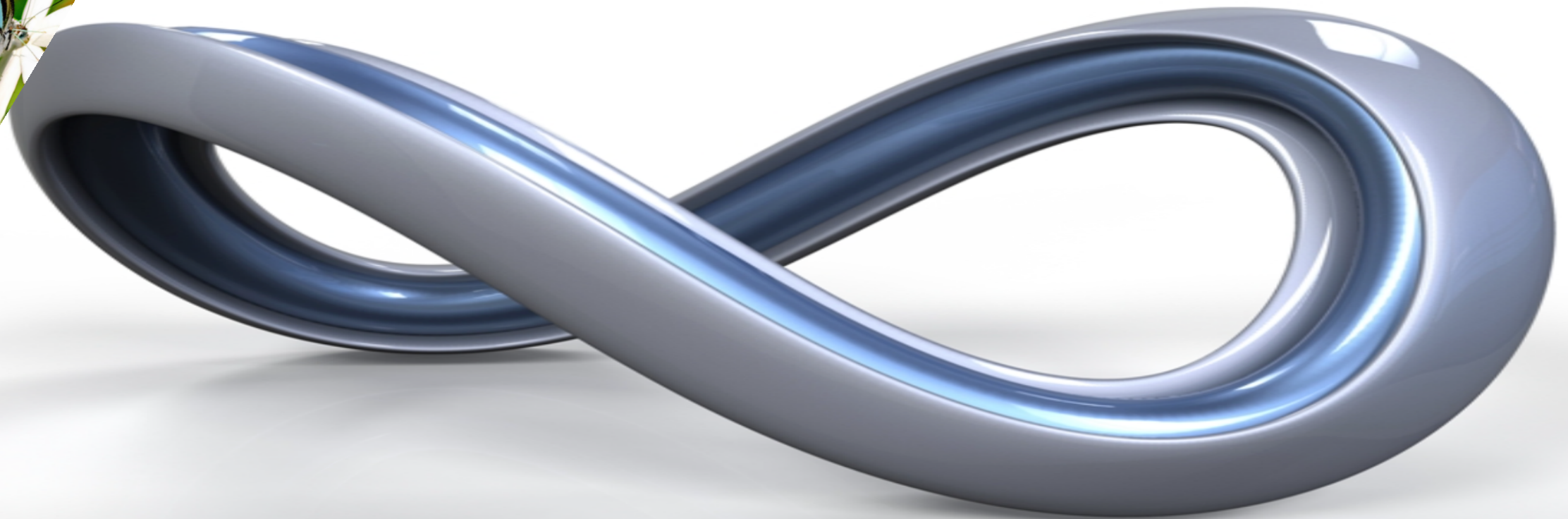
Gluonic definition

and

$$Q = n_+ - n_-$$

Fermionic definition

$F \tilde{F}$



Topology, η' and the $U_A(1)$ problem:

It can be proven that

$$\frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x F \tilde{F} = Q \quad \text{Gluonic definition}$$

and

$$Q = n_+ - n_- \quad \text{Fermionic definition}$$

The η' mass may now be computed from the decay of the correlation

$$\langle \partial_\mu j_5^\mu(x) \partial_\mu j_5^\mu(y) \rangle \propto \frac{1}{N^2} \langle F(x) \tilde{F}(x) F(y) \tilde{F}(y) \rangle$$

which at leading order gives the Witten-Veneziano formula

$$m_{\eta'}^2 = \frac{2N_f}{F_\pi^2} \chi_t^{\text{qu}}$$

Topology, η' and the $U_A(1)$ problem:

It can be proven that

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and

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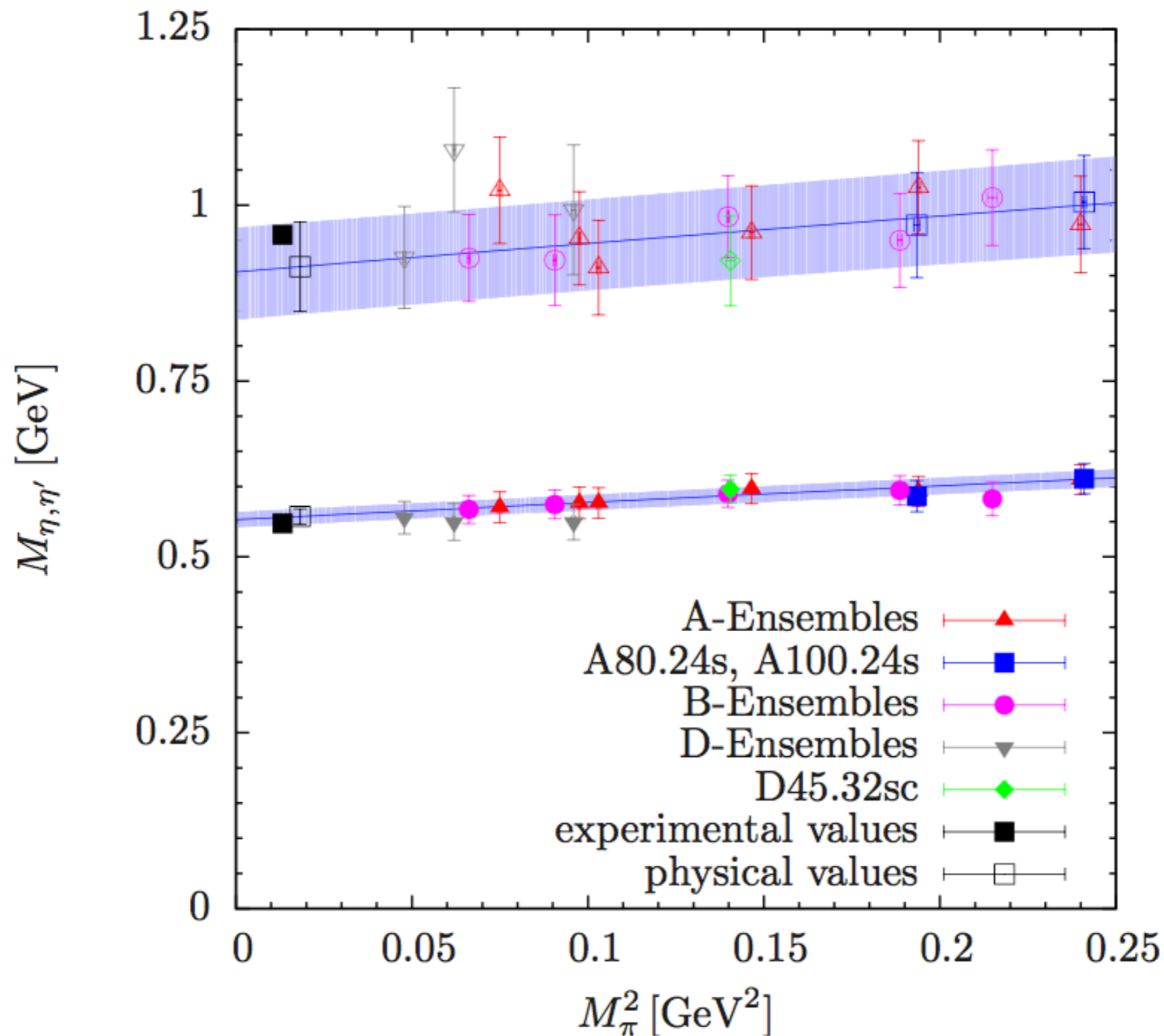
$$\langle \partial_\mu j_5^\mu(x) \partial_\mu j_5^\mu(y) \rangle \propto \frac{1}{N^2} \langle F(x) \tilde{F}(x) F(y) \tilde{F}(y) \rangle$$

which at leading order gives the Witten-Veneziano formula

$$m_{\eta'}^2 = \frac{2N_f}{F_\pi^2} \chi_t^{\text{qu}}$$

**Successful
at T=0**

Topology, η' and the $U_A(1)$ problem... ~~problem~~ solution



ETMC 2017

Results

Twisted mass Wilson Fermions, $N_f=2+1+1$

Wilson fermions with a twisted mass term

Frezzotti Rossi 2003

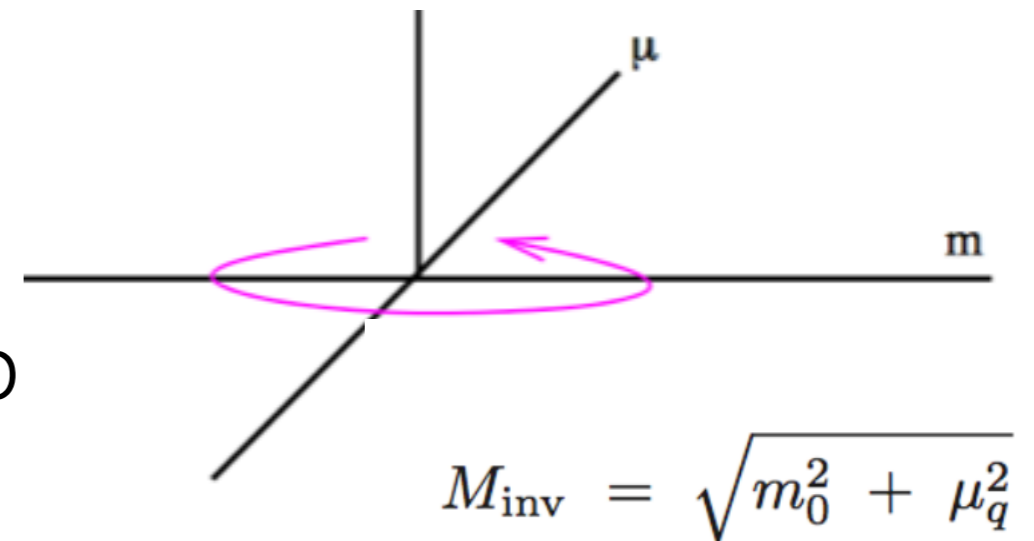
A twisted mass term in flavor space:

$i\mu\tau_3\gamma_5$ for two degenerate light flavors

is added to the standard mass term in the Wilson Lagrangian

Consequences:

- simplified renormalization prop
- automatic $O(a)$ improvement
- control on unphysical zero modes


$$M_{\text{inv}} = \sqrt{m_0^2 + \mu_q^2}$$

Successful phenomenology at $T=0$

Why $N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$?

T_c

340 – 380 MeV
RHIC AuAu
200 GeV

420-480 MeV
LHC
2.76 TeV

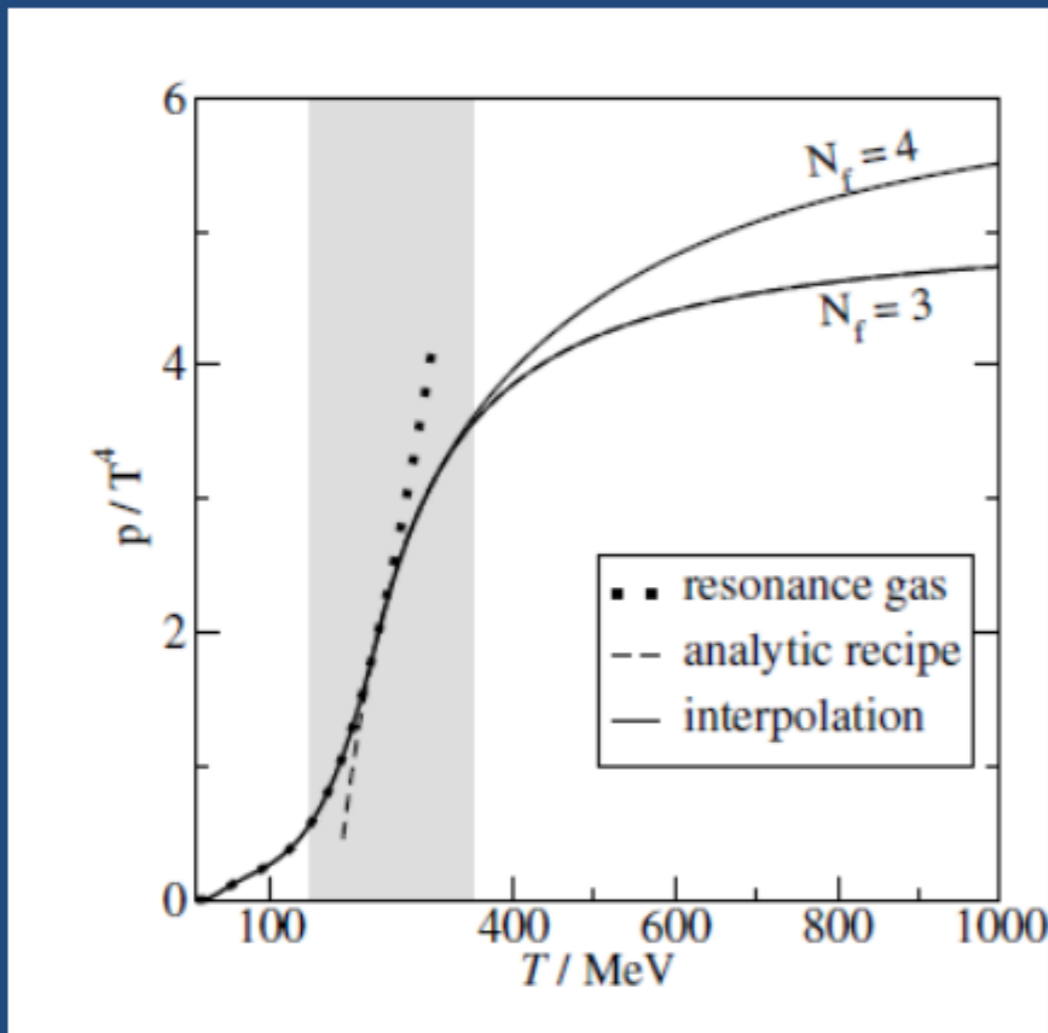
500- 600MeV
LHC hot spots
2.76 TeV

1 GeV
LHC
7 TeV



≈ 200 MeV

Quark Gluon Plasma @ Colliders

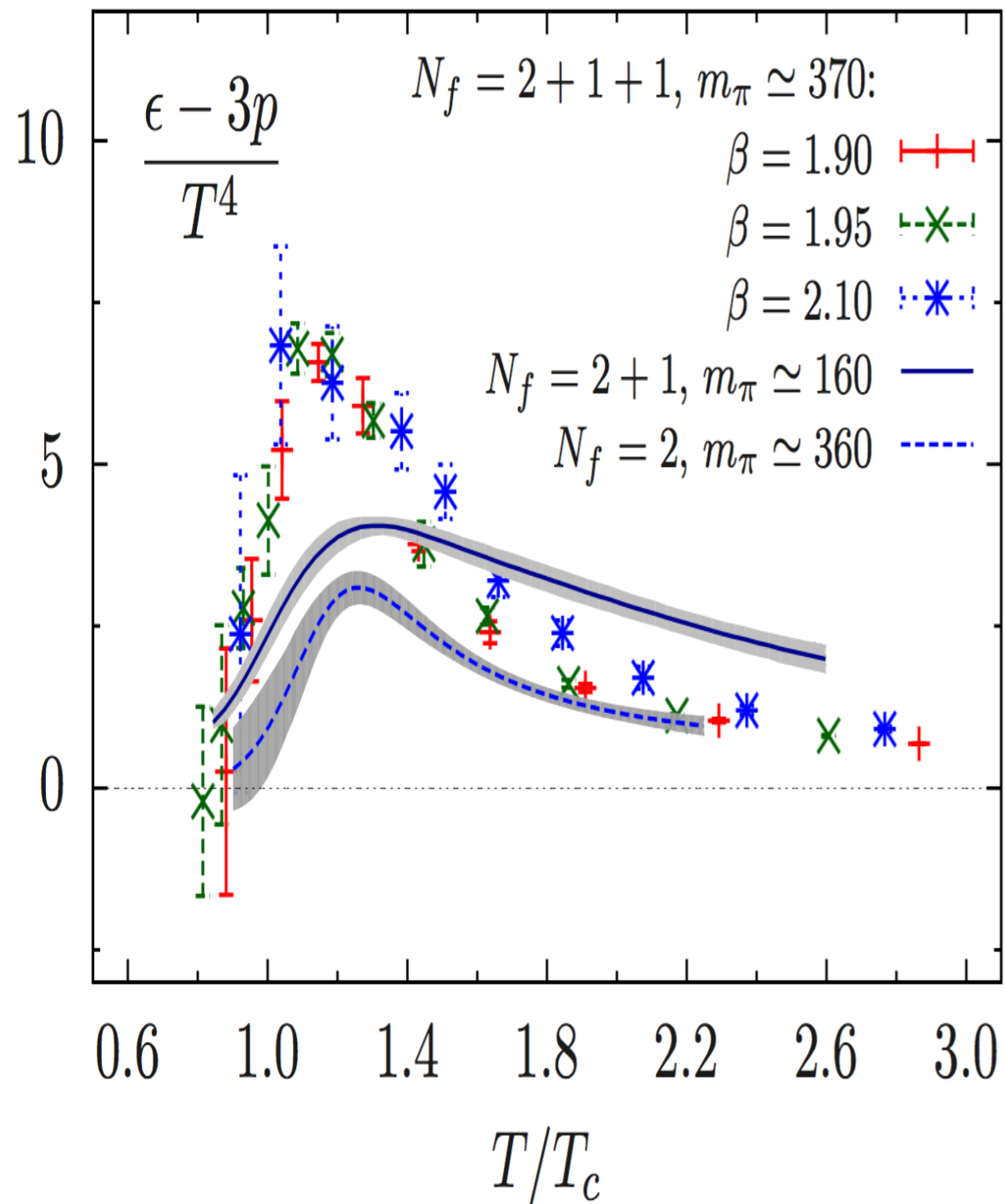


Analytic studies suggest that a dynamical charm becomes relevant above 400 MeV, well within the reach of LHC

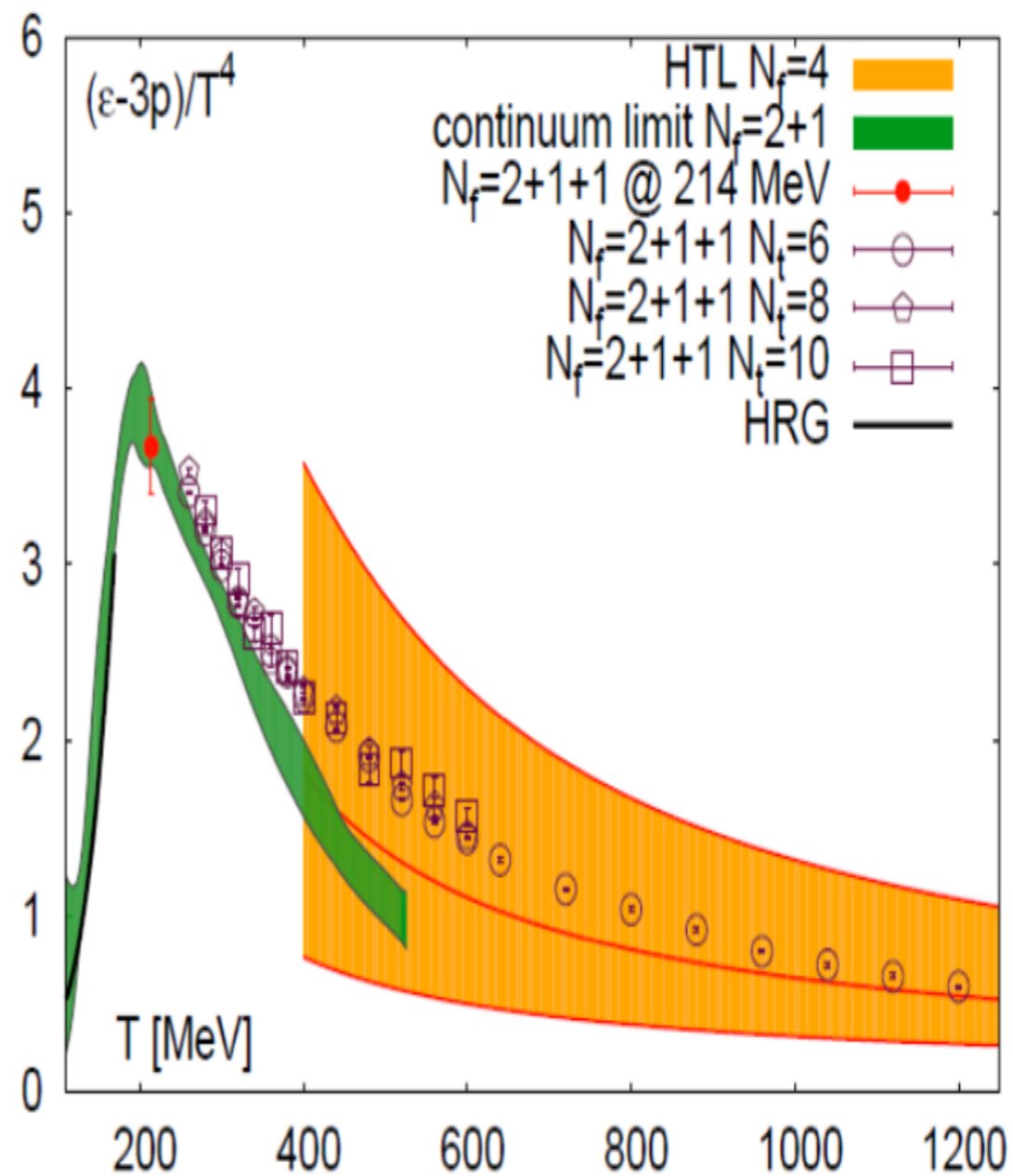
Laine Schroeder 2006

Trace anomaly: effects of a dynamical charm

Tmft



Wuppertal-Budapest



Staggered

Fixed
varying
scale

For each lattice
spacing we explore
a range of
temperatures
150MeV — 500
MeV by varying N_t

We repeat this for
three different lattice
spacings following
ETMC T=0
simulations.

Four pion
masses

Advantages: we
rely on the setup of
ETMC T=0
simulations. Scale is
set once for all.

Disadvantages:
mismatch of
temperatures - need
interpolation before
taking the
continuum limit

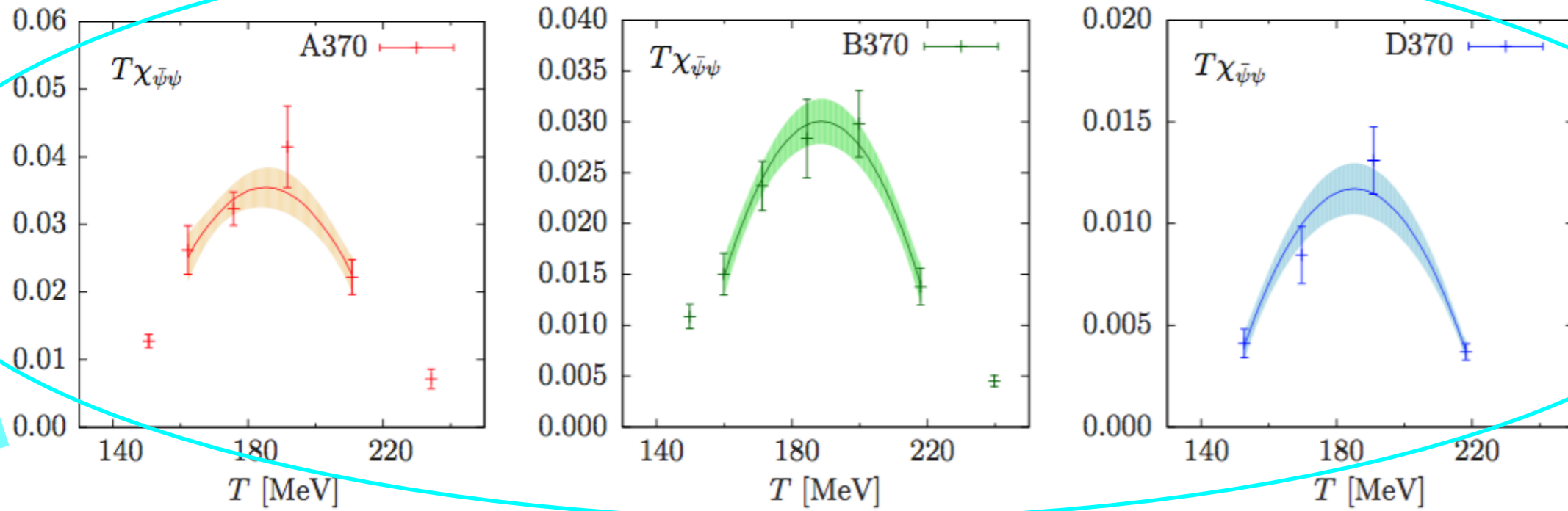
Number of flavours	m_{π^\pm}
	210
$N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$	260
	370
	470
$N_f = 2$	360
	430

$N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$ Setup

$T = 0$ (ETMC) nomenclature	β	a [fm] [6]	N_σ^3	N_τ	T [MeV]	# confs.				
A60.24	1.90	0.0936(38)	24^3	5	422(17)	585				
				6	351(14)	1370				
				7	301(12)	341				
				8	263(11)	970				
				9	234(10)	577				
				10	211(9)	525				
				11	192(8)	227				
			32^3	12	176(7)	1052				
				13	162(7)	294				
				14	151(6)	1988				
				B55.32	1.95	0.0823(37)	32^3	5	479(22)	595
								6	400(18)	345
								7	342(15)	327
								8	300(13)	233
9	266(12)	453								
10	240(11)	295								
11	218(10)	667								
12	200(9)	1102								
13	184(8)	308								
14	171(8)	1304								
15	160(7)	456								
16	150(7)	823								
D45.32	2.10	0.0646(26)	32^3					6	509(20)	403
								7	436(18)	412
								8	382(15)	416
								10	305(12)	420
				12	255(10)	380				
				14	218(9)	793				
				16	191(8)	626				
				18	170(7)	599				
				20	153(6)	582				
						40^3				
		48^3								

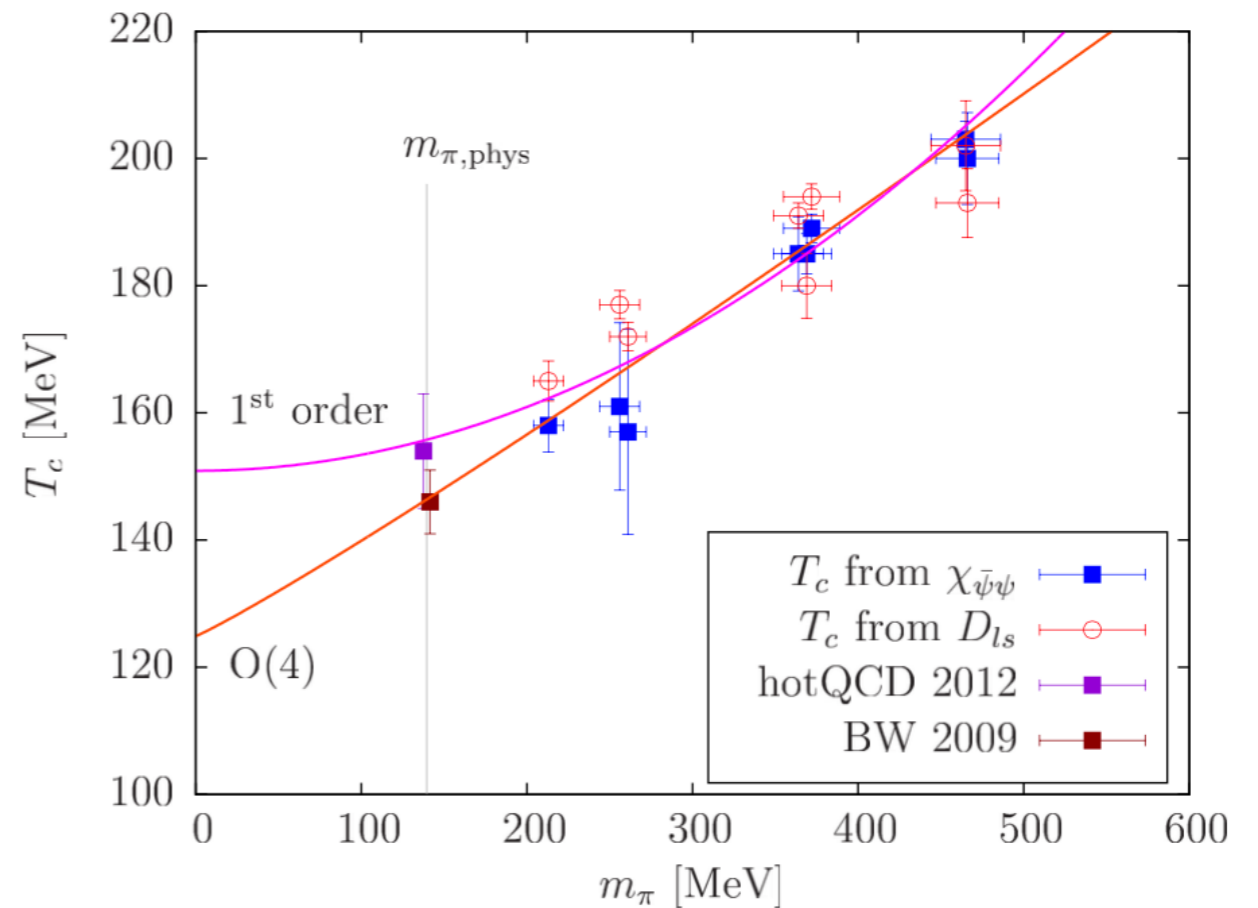
Overview of Chiral observables Nf 2 + 1 + 1

Outcome: twisted mass ok; and the results confirm that a dynamical charm does not contribute around T_c



a [fm]	m_π [MeV]	T_χ [MeV]	T_Δ [MeV]	T_{deconf} [MeV]
0.065	213	158(1)(4)	165(3)(1)	176(8)(8)
0.094	261	157(8)(14)	172(2)(1)	188(6)(1)
0.082	256	161(13)(2)	177(2)(1)	192(9)(2)
0.094	364	185(5)(3)	191(2)(0)	202(3)(0)
0.082	372	189(2)(1)	194(2)(0)	201(6)(0)
0.065	369	185(1)(3)	180(5)(1)	193(13)(2)
0.094	466	200(4)(6)	193(5)(2)	205(4)(2)
0.082	465	203(2)(2)	202(7)(1)	212(6)(1)

spacing effects below statistical errors



Topology

Topological and chiral susceptibility

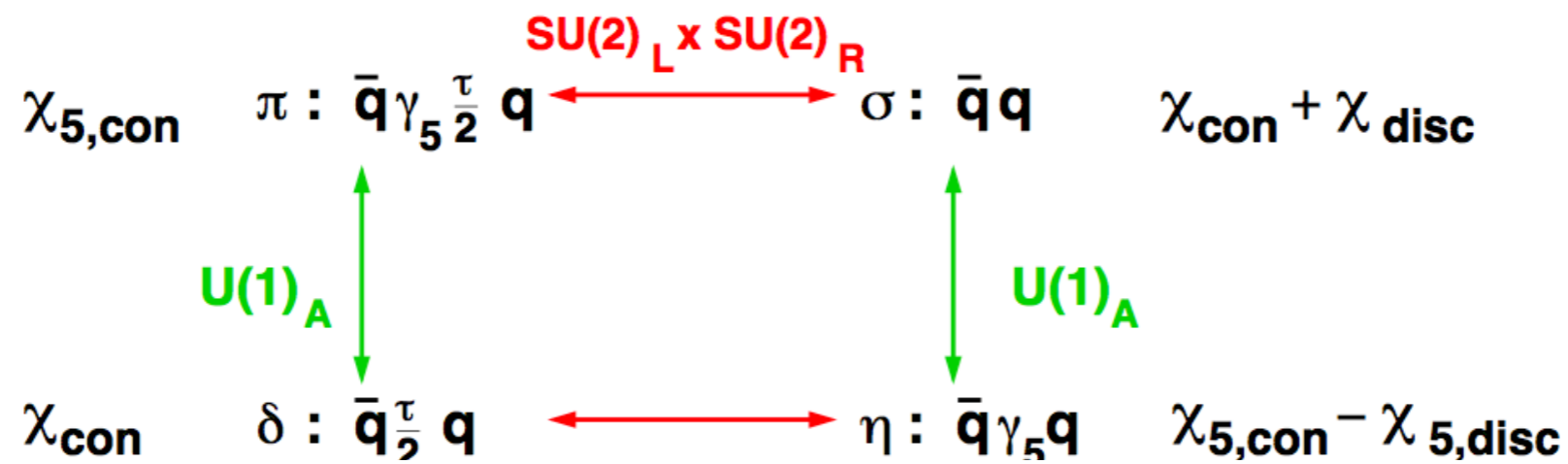
Kogut, Lagaë, Sinclair 1999

HotQCD, 2012

$$\chi_{top} = \langle Q_{top}^2 \rangle / V = m_l^2 \chi_{5,disc}$$

From:

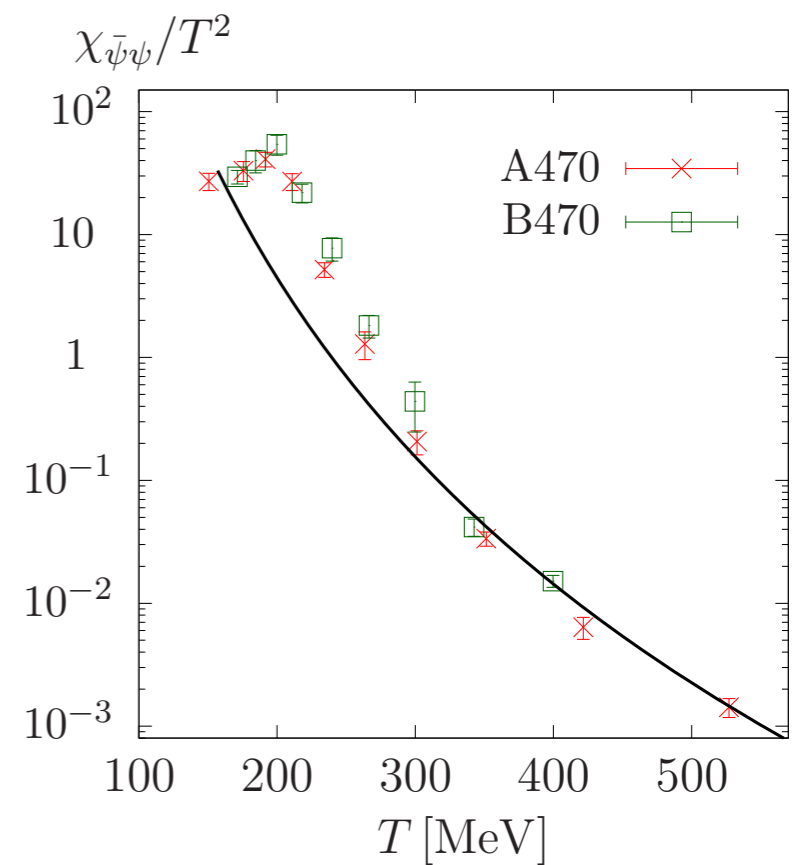
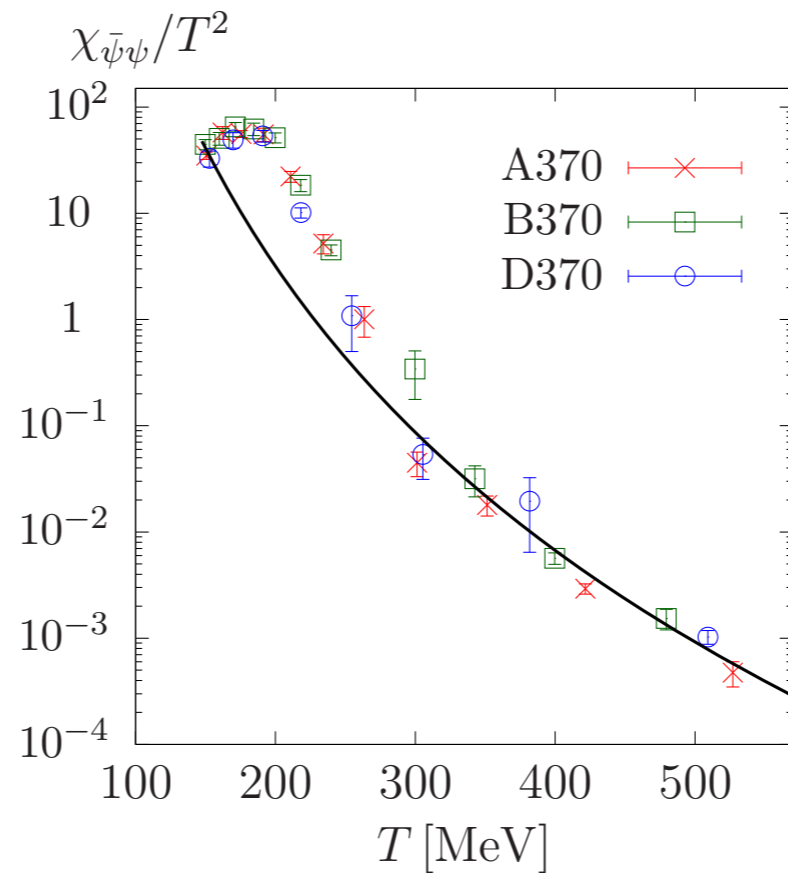
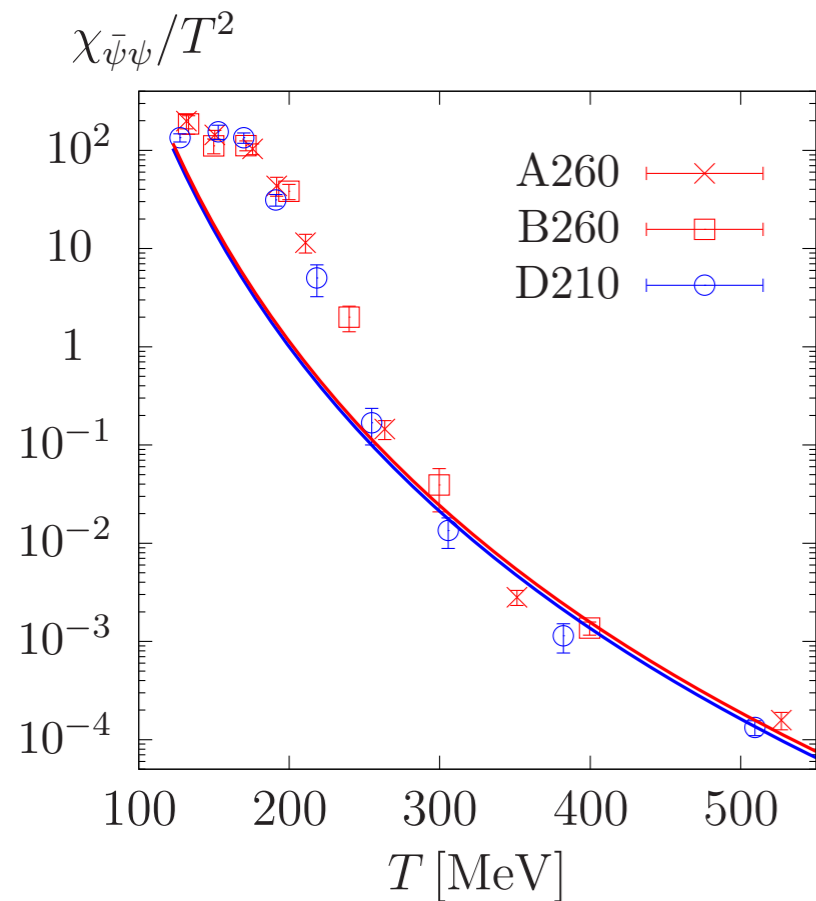
$$m \int d^4x \bar{\psi} \gamma_5 \psi = Q_{top}$$



$$\chi_{\pi} - \chi_{\delta} = \chi_{disc} = \chi_{5,disc}, \quad \text{for } T \geq T_c, m_l \rightarrow 0$$

$$\chi_{top} = \langle Q_{top}^2 \rangle / V = m_l^2 \chi_{disc}$$

Chiral susceptibility

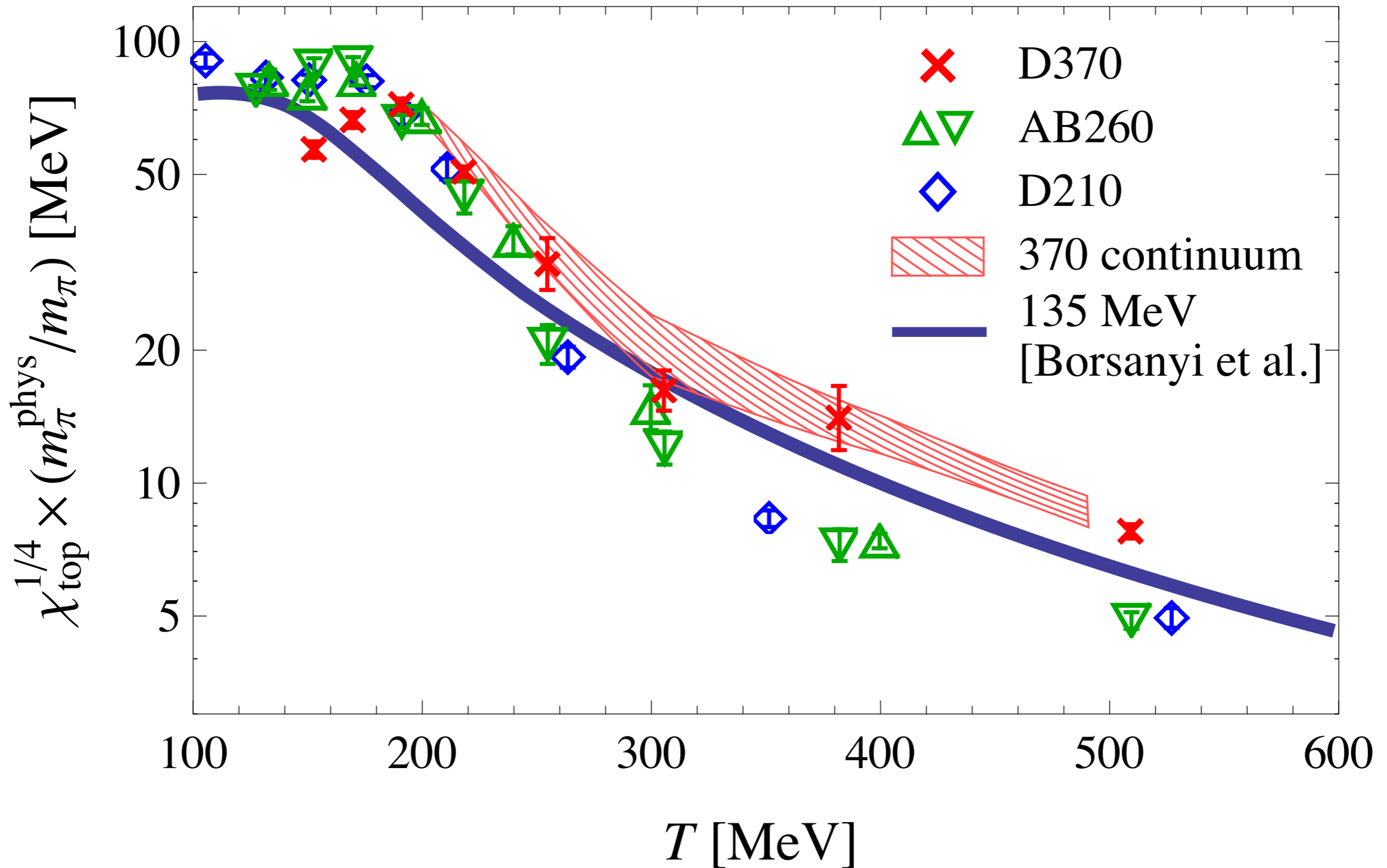


Within errors, no discernable spacing dependence

Results for physical pion mass

Rescaled according to

$$\chi_{\text{top}} = m_l^2 \chi_{\psi\psi}^{\text{disc}} = \sum_{n=0} a_n m_\pi^{4(n+1)}.$$



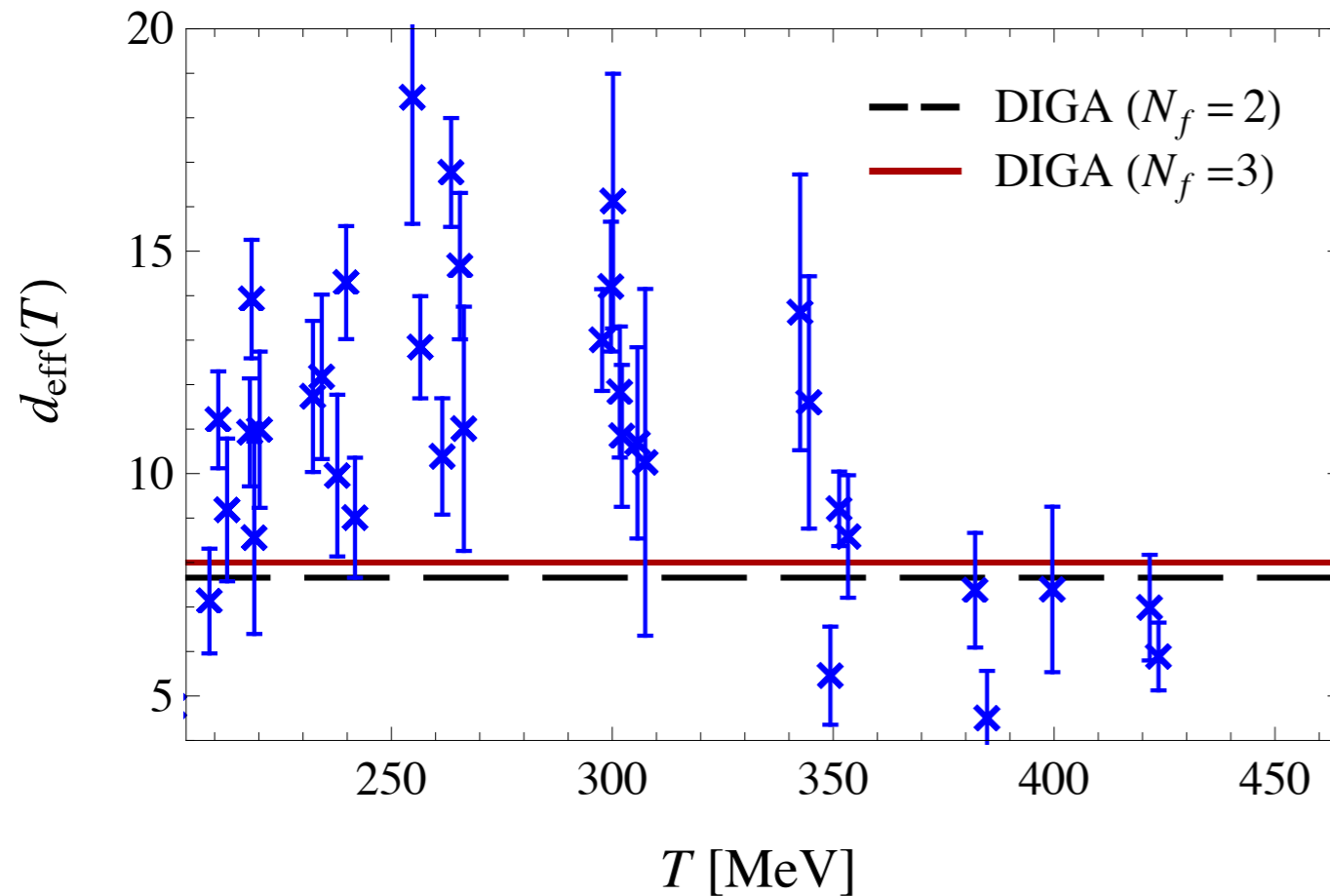
Power-law decay?

For instanton gas

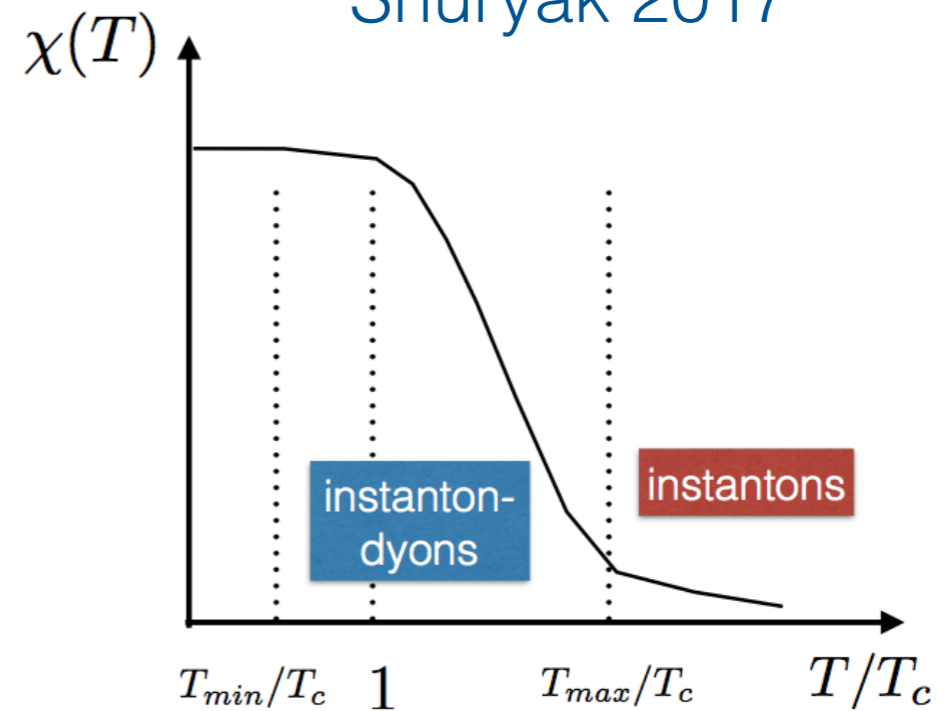
$$\chi^{0.25}(T) = aT^{-d(T)}$$

$$d(T) \equiv \text{const} \simeq (7 + \frac{N_f}{3})$$

$$d(T) = -T \frac{d}{dT} \ln \chi^{0.25}(T)$$



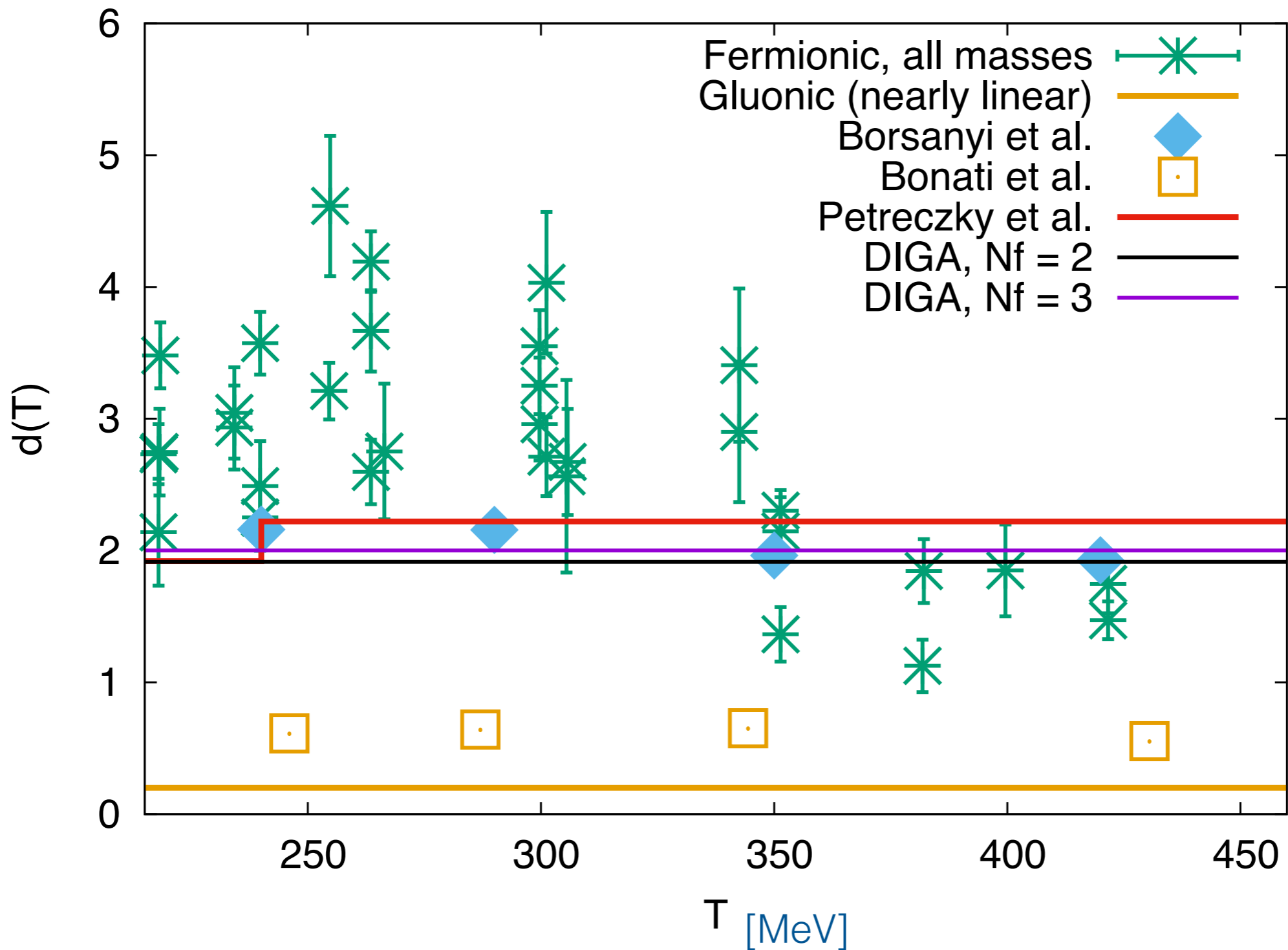
Possibly consistent with instant-dyon?
Shuryak 2017



Faster decrease before DIGA sets in

Effective exponent $d(T)$:

$$\chi_{top}^{1/4} = aT^{-d(T)}$$



<- Revised?

QCD axion

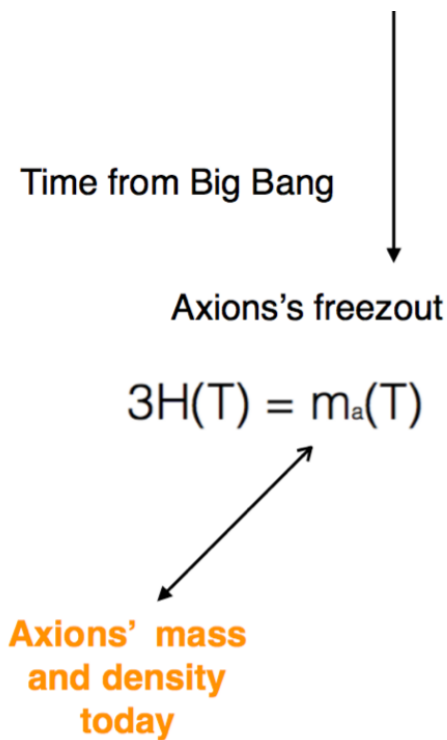
From exponent d to axion mass in three steps

$$\chi_{\text{top}} \simeq AT^{-d}$$

$$d = (6.26, 6.88, 7.52, 7.48)$$

$$m_{\pi} = (470, 370, 260, 210) \text{ MeV}$$

1.

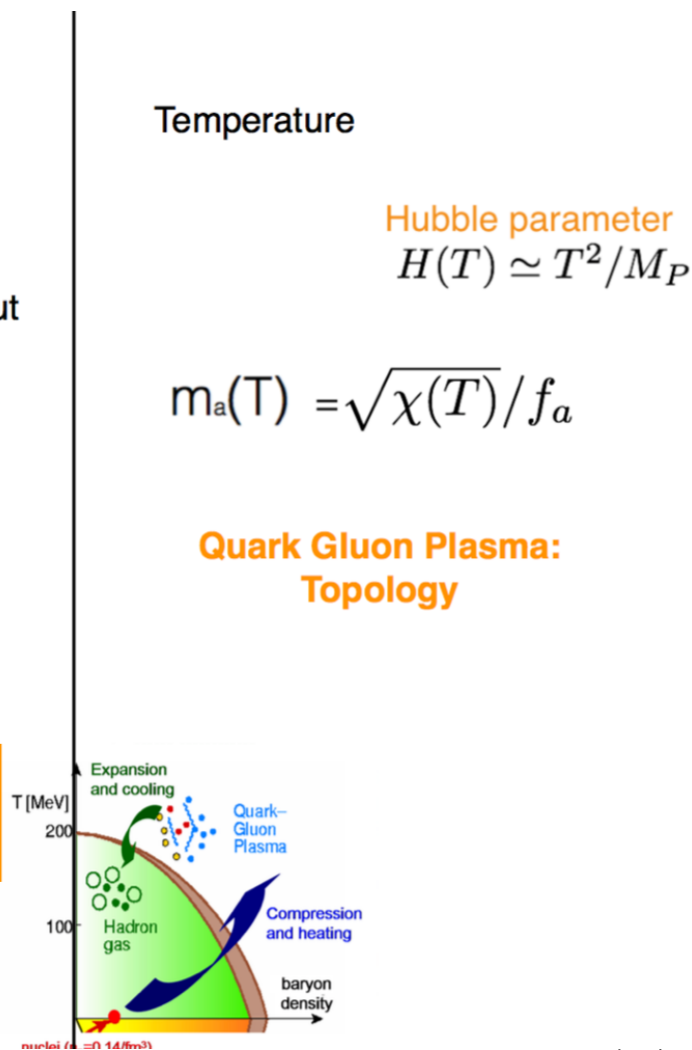


2.

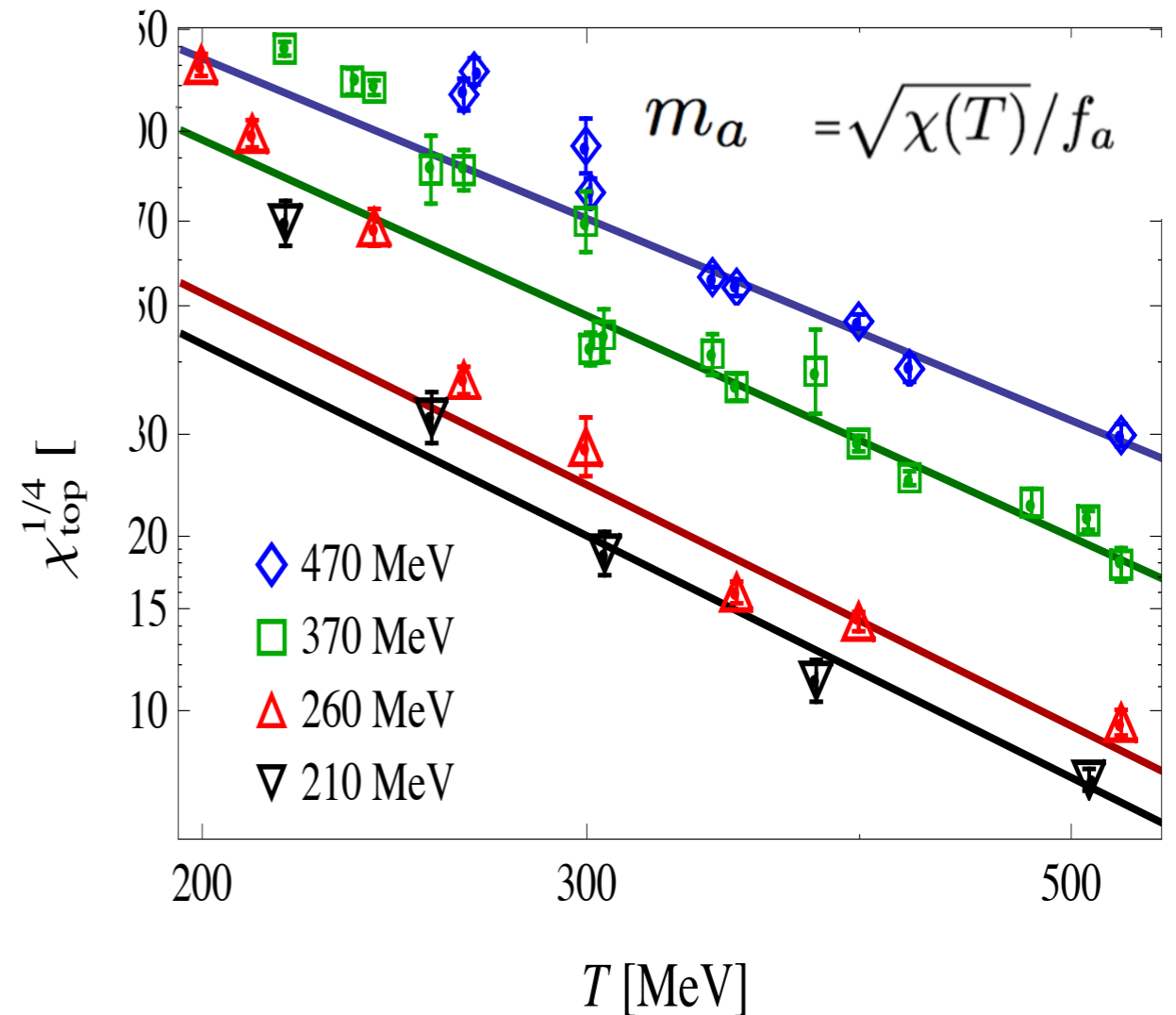
After freezeout $\frac{n_a}{s}$ constant

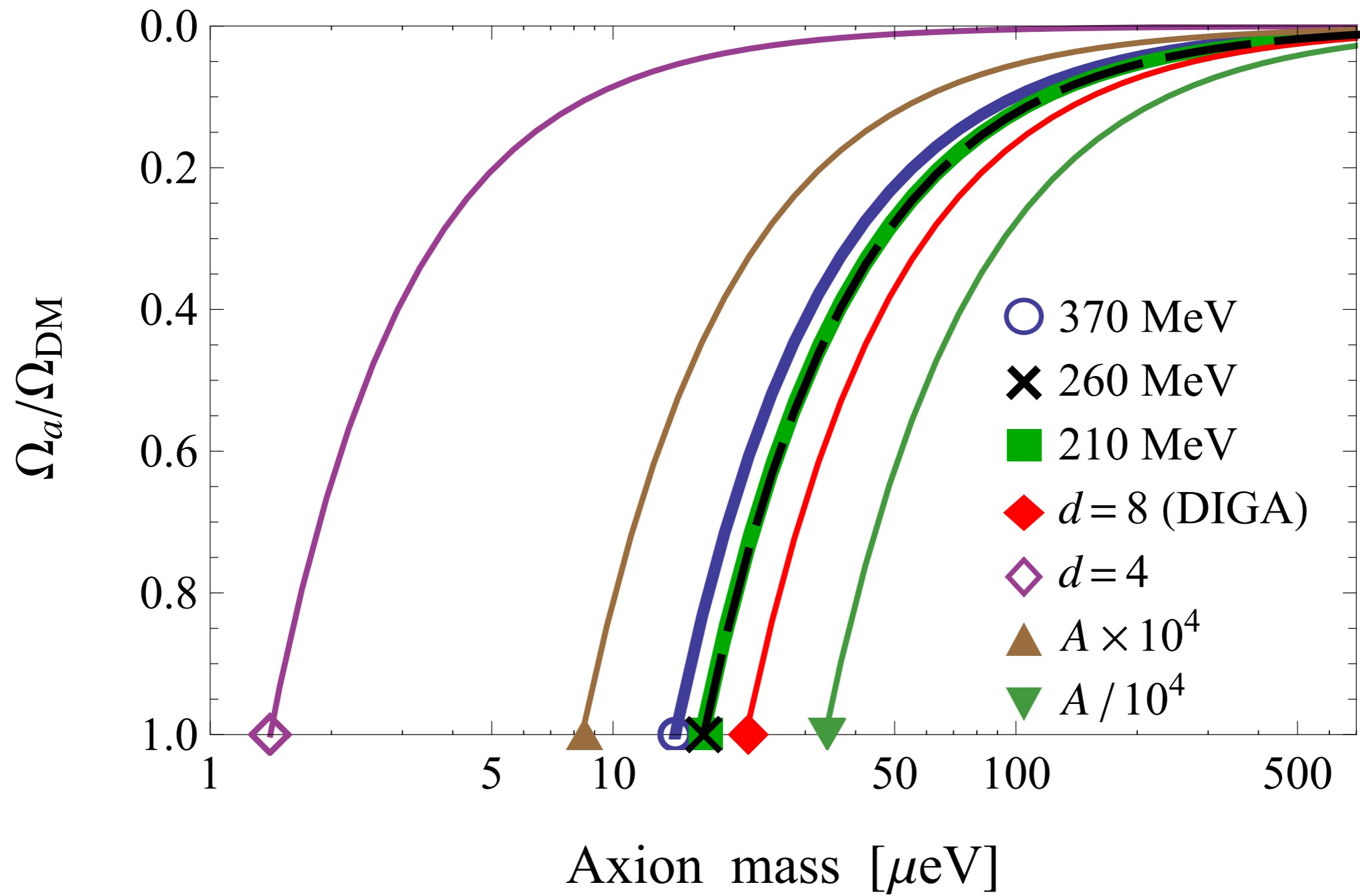
3.

$$\rho_{a,0} = \frac{n_a}{s} m_a s_0$$

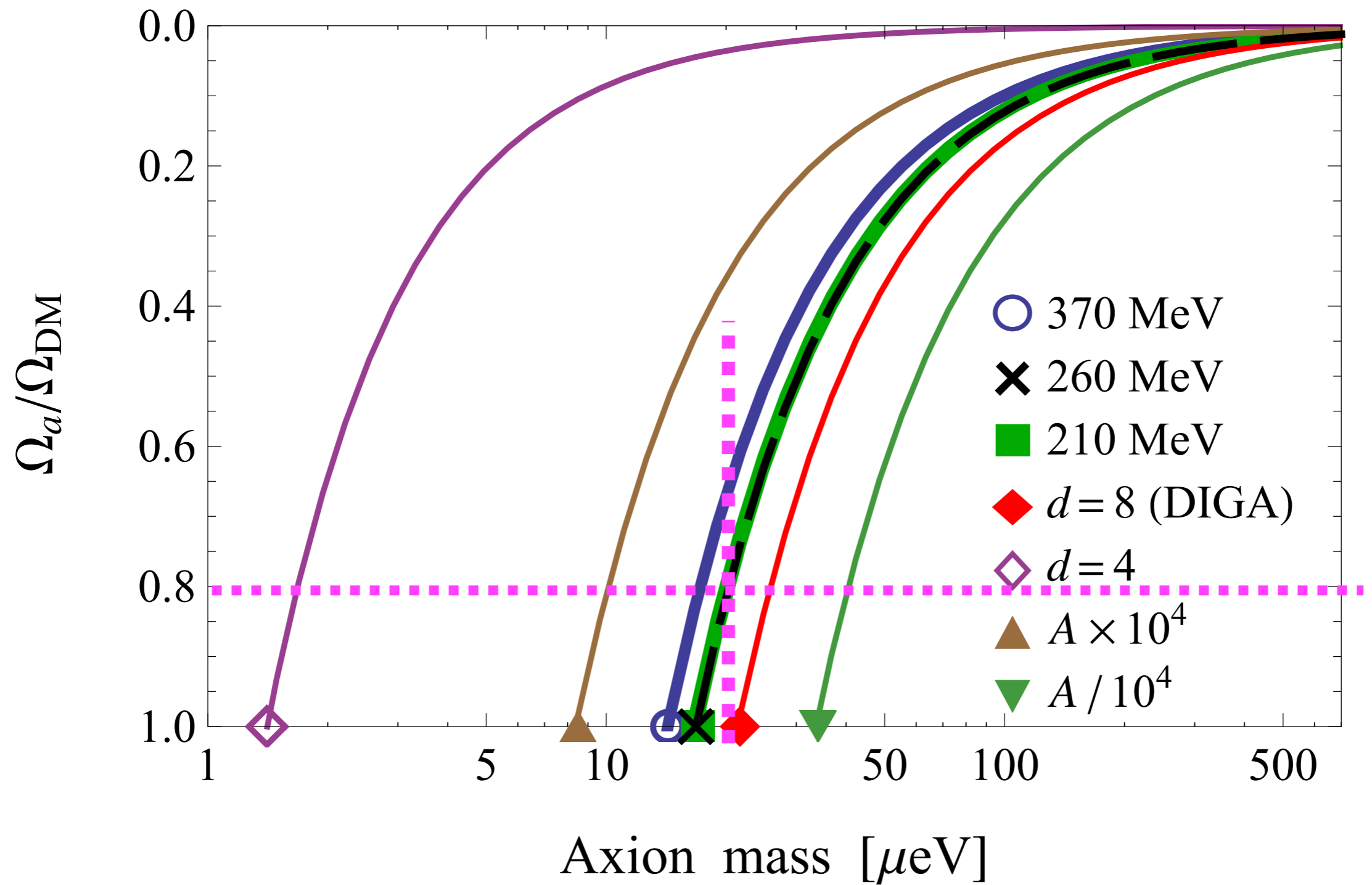


$$\rho_a(m_a) \propto m_a^{-\frac{3.053+d/2}{2.027+d/2}}$$



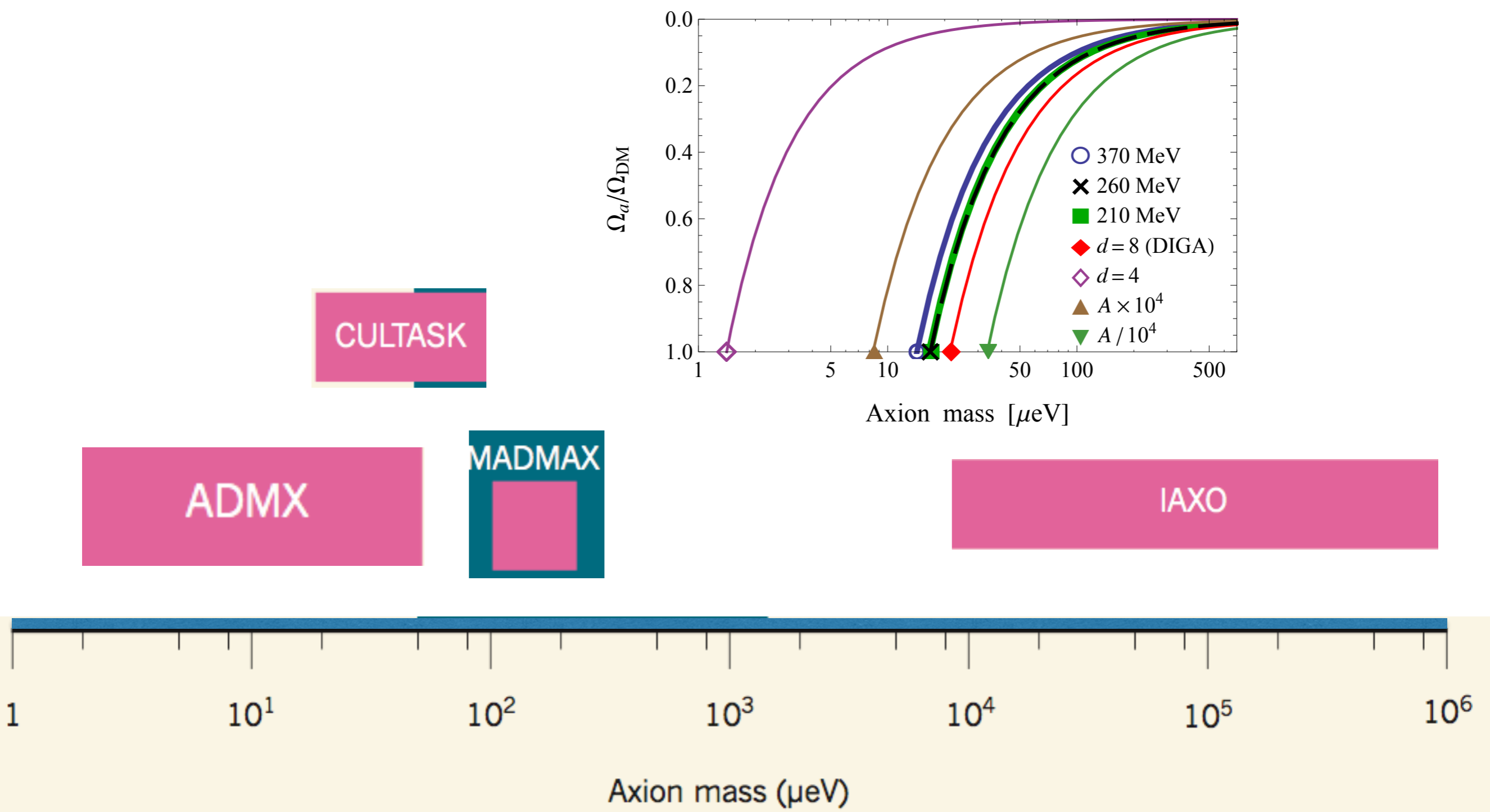


$$\Omega_a = \frac{\rho_{a,0}}{\rho_c};$$



$$\Omega_a = \frac{\rho_{a,0}}{\rho_c};$$

Example: if axions constitute 80% DM,
 our results give a lower bound for the
 axion mass of $\simeq 30\mu\text{eV}$



Adapted from MpL, Nature N&V 2016

η'

Topology from low to high Temperature

In the hadronic phase topology solves the puzzle by explicit breaking

$$U(1)_A$$

$$\eta'$$

What happens to topology in the Quark Gluon Plasma?

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

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1 MAY 1996

Return of the prodigal Goldstone boson

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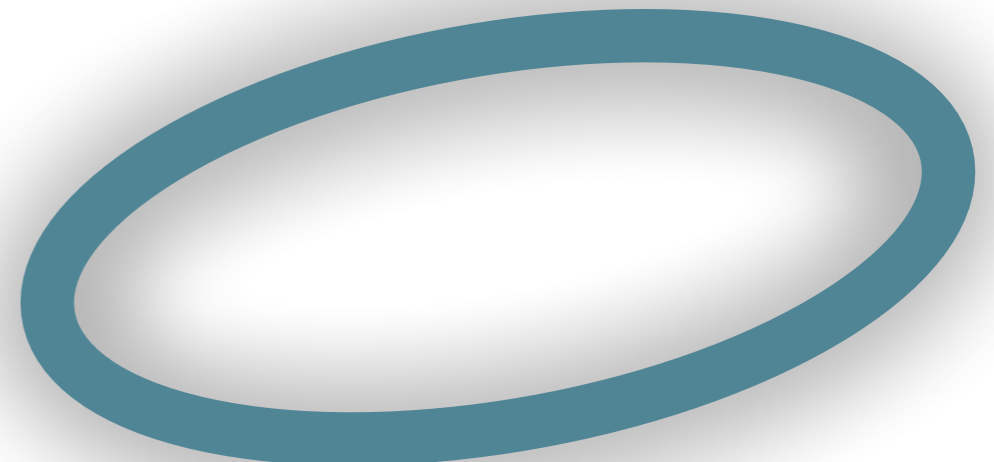
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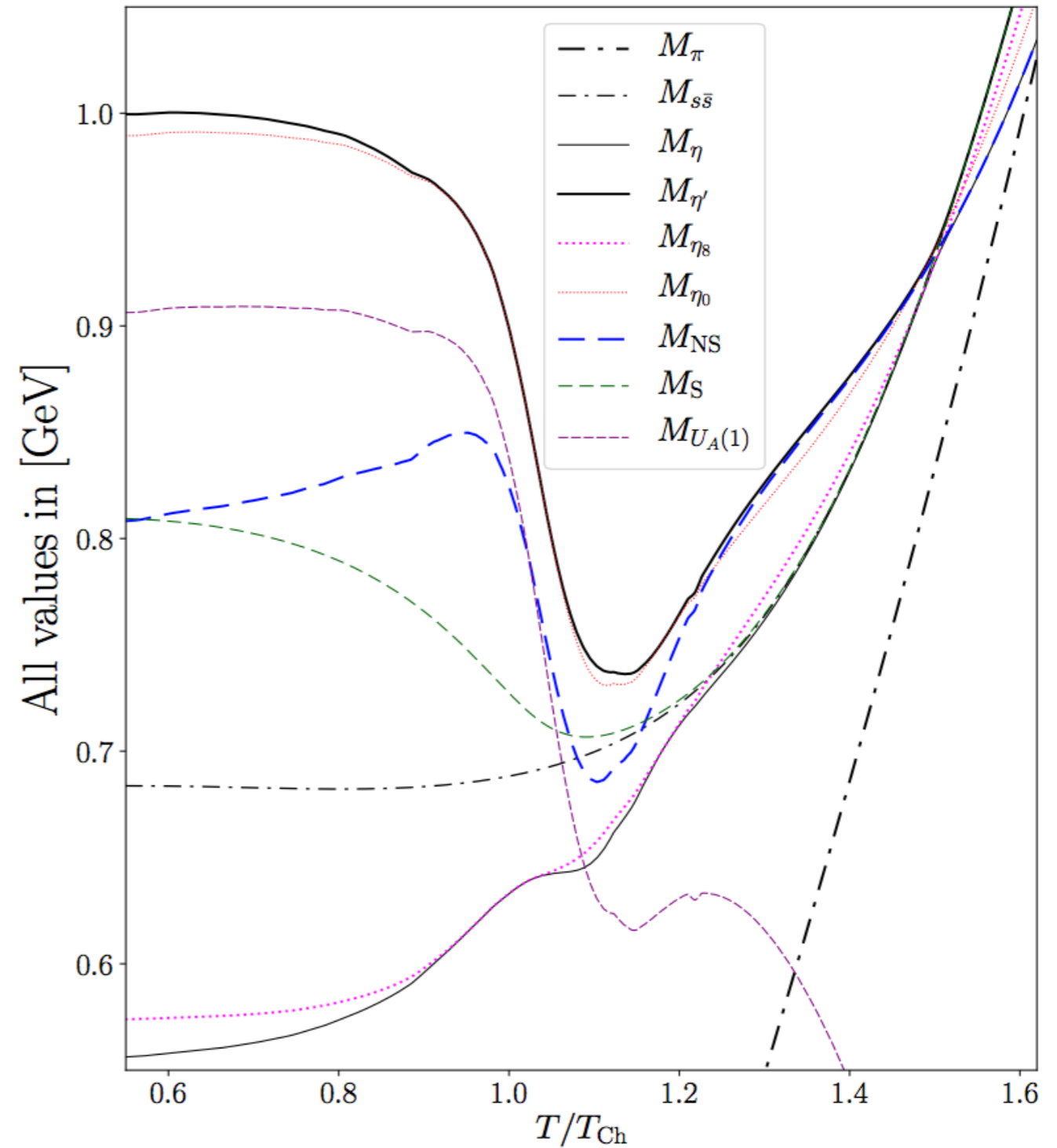
(Received 14 July 1995)

We propose that the mass of the η' meson is a particularly sensitive probe of the properties of finite energy density hadronic matter and quark-gluon plasma. We argue that the mass of the η' excitation in hot and dense matter should be small, and, therefore, that the η' production cross section should be much increased relative to that for pp collisions. This may have observable consequences in dilepton and diphoton experiments.



η' in the QGP

So far, only results from model's studies



Different mechanisms leading to η' (900 MeV) mass reduction

Adopting the basis

$$I \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(u\bar{u} + d\bar{d})$$

$$S \equiv s\bar{s}$$

The mass matrix of the η complex is:

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_\pi^2 + m_A^2 & m_A^2 / \sqrt{2} \\ m_A^2 / \sqrt{2} & 2m_K^2 - m_\pi^2 + m_A^2 / 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$m_A^2 = 2 \frac{N_f}{f_0^2} \chi^2$$

Veneziano, 1981

Non anomalous:

$$\eta' \simeq 700 \text{ MeV} \\ \text{(strange only)}$$

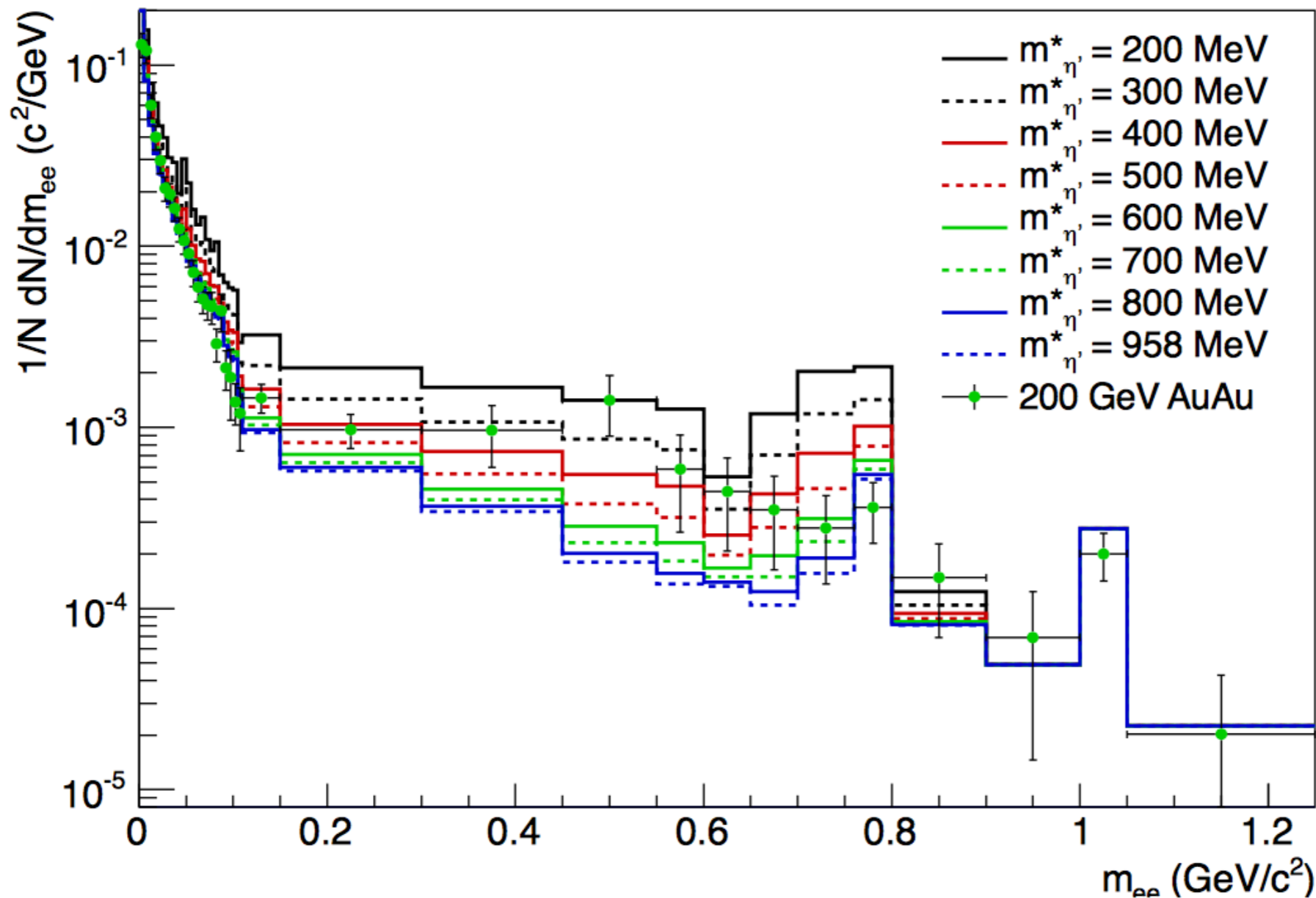
However: also sensitive to $SU(2) \times SU(2)$

Indication of topology suppression in PHENIX

NICA?

Effects of chain decays, radial flow and $U_A(1)$ restoration on the low-mass dilepton enhancement in $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$ GeV Au+Au reactions

Márton Vargyas^{a,b,1}, Tamás Csörgő^{b,2}, Róbert Vértesi^{b,c,3}

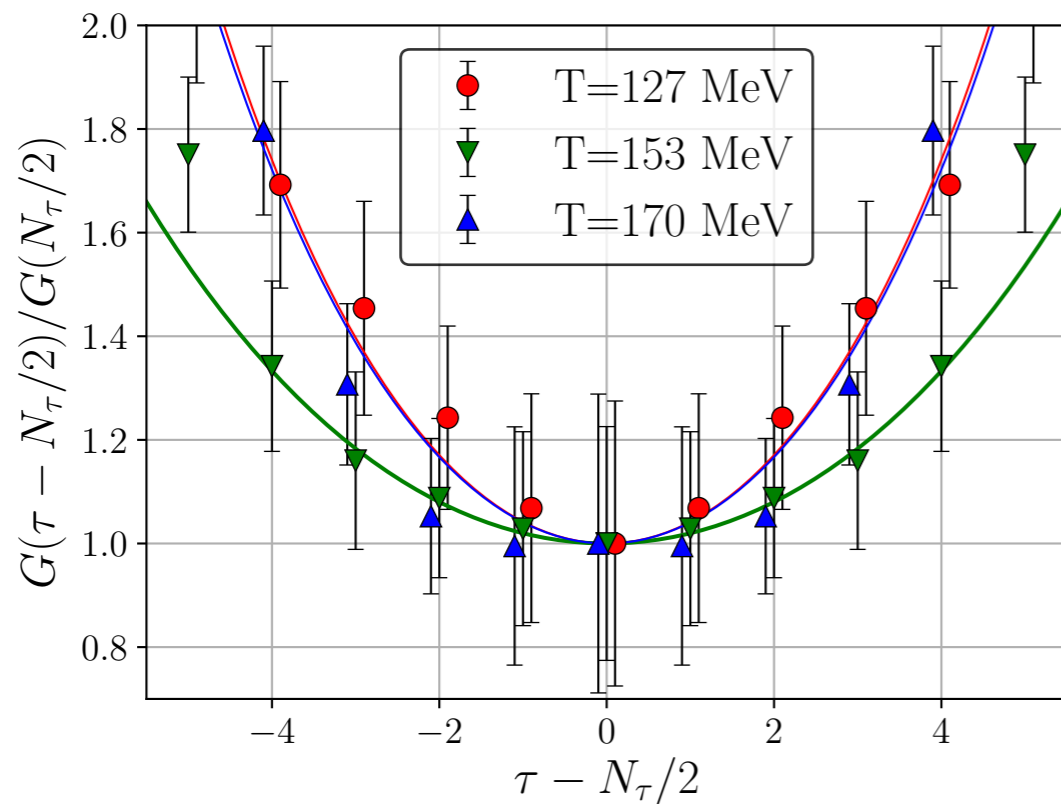


This is
at finite
density!

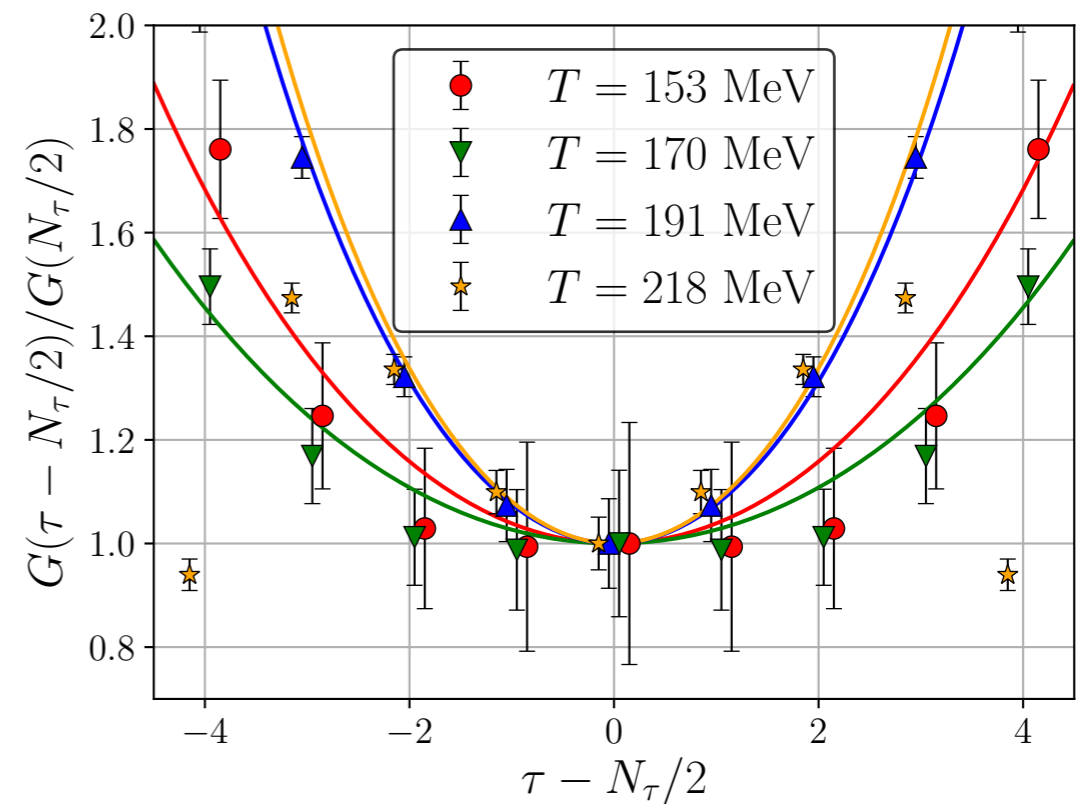
η' mass from topological charge correlators

$$G(\tau) = \int d^3 \bar{x} q(0) q(\tau, \bar{x}) = \int d^3 \bar{x} \frac{1}{32\pi^2} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}(0) \times$$

$$\times \frac{1}{32\pi^2} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}(\tau, \bar{x}) \simeq e^{-m_{\eta'} \tau}$$

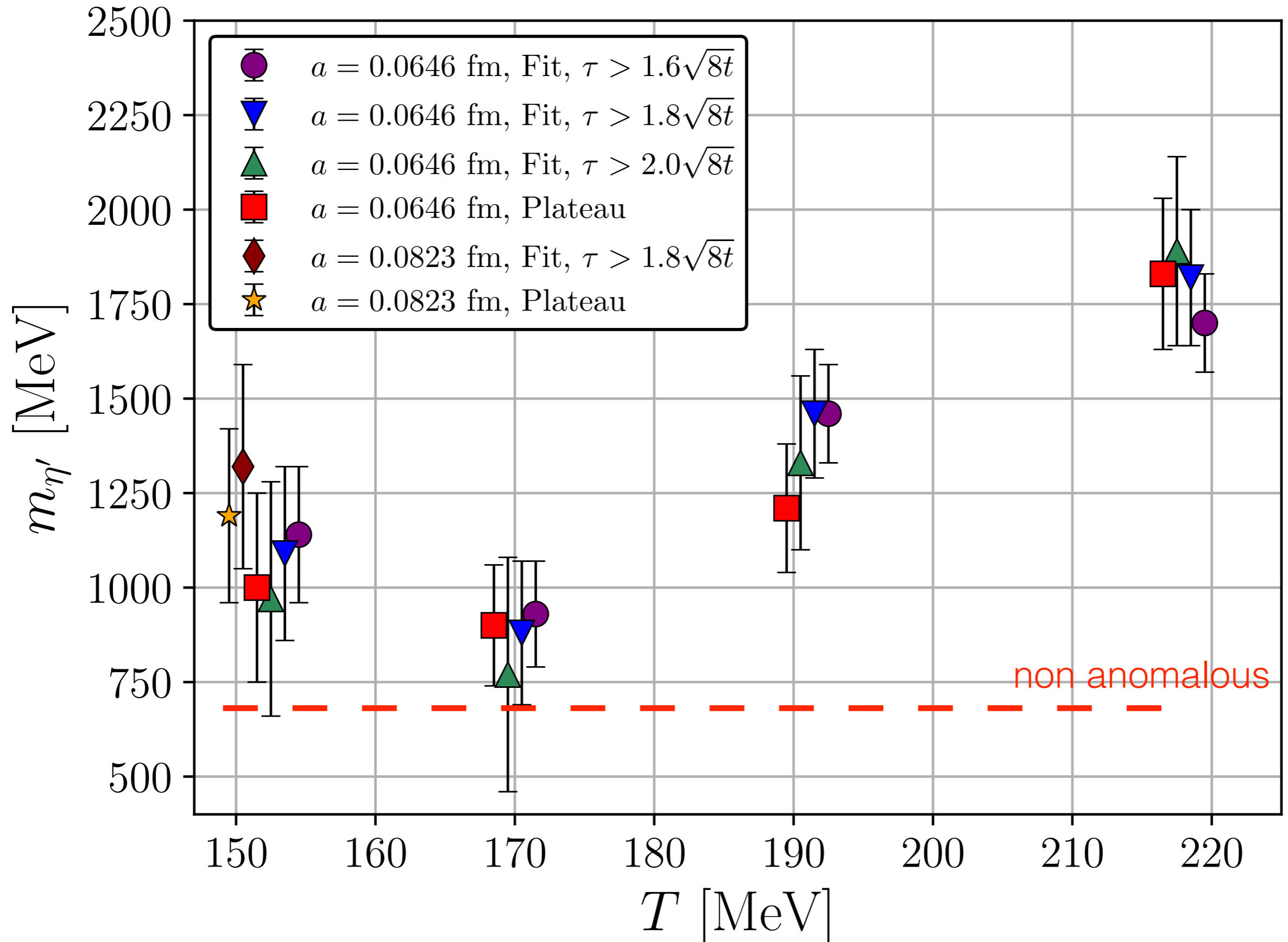


Pion mass 210 MeV

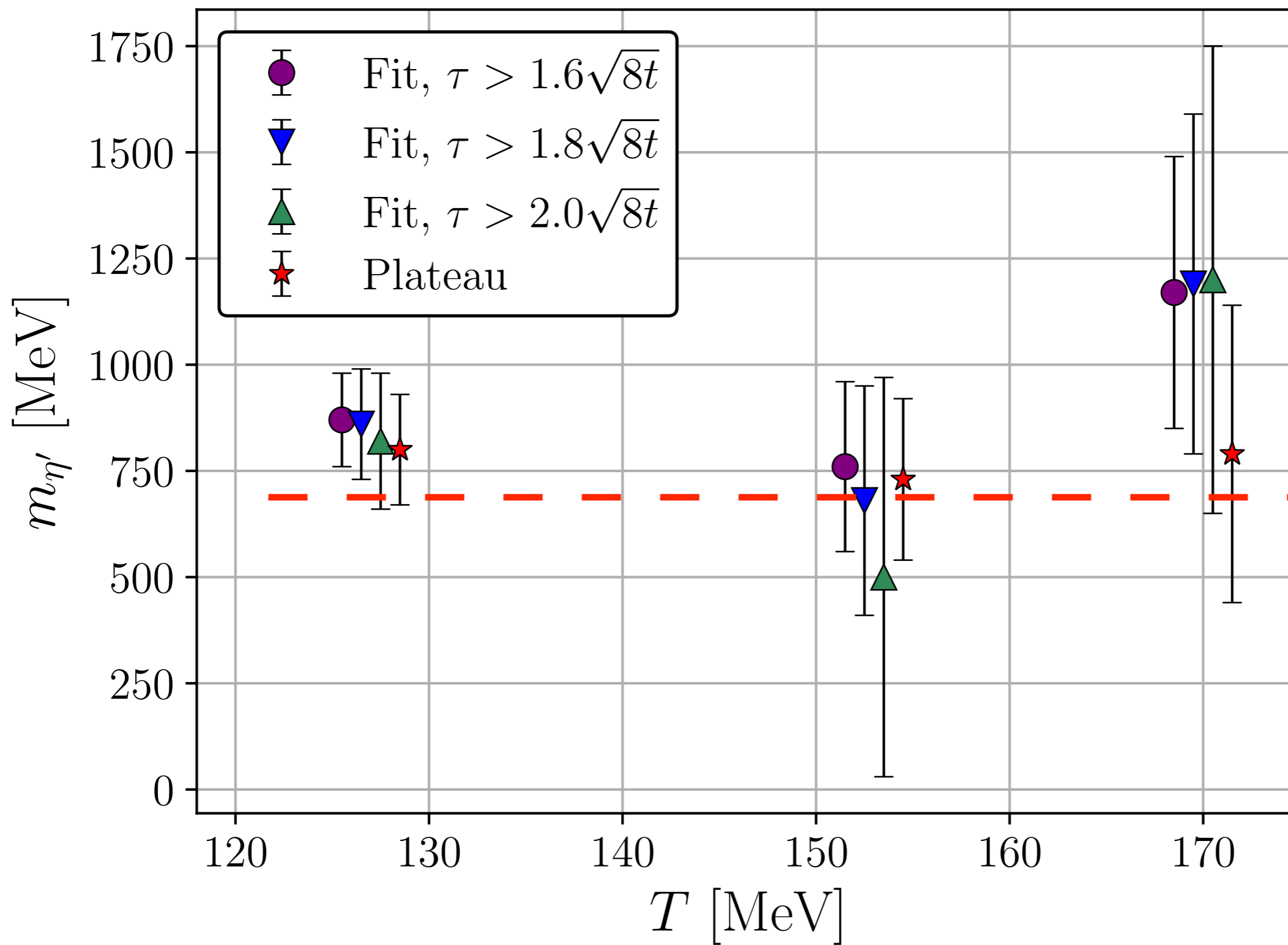


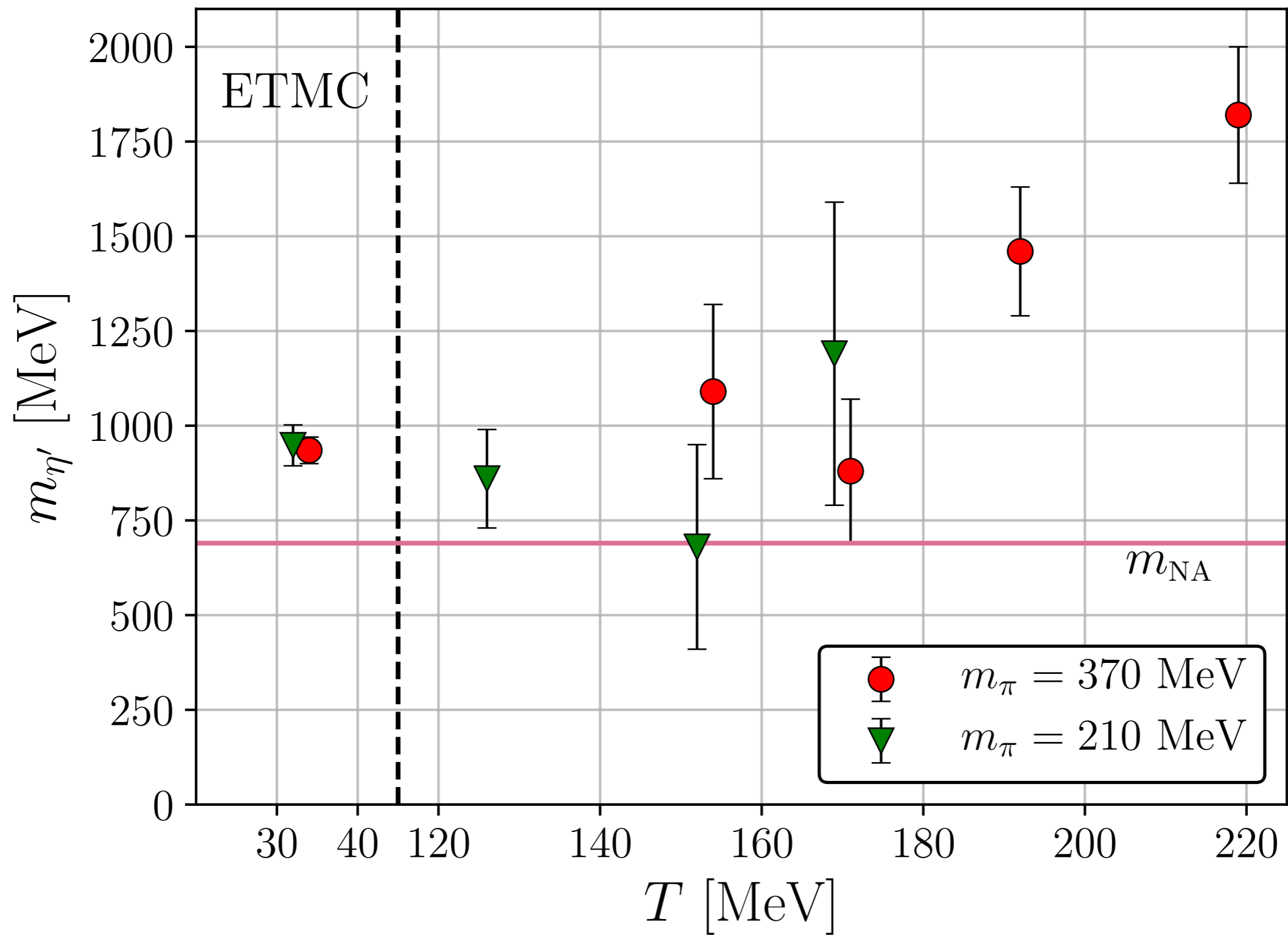
Pion mass 370 MeV

Pion mass = 370 MeV

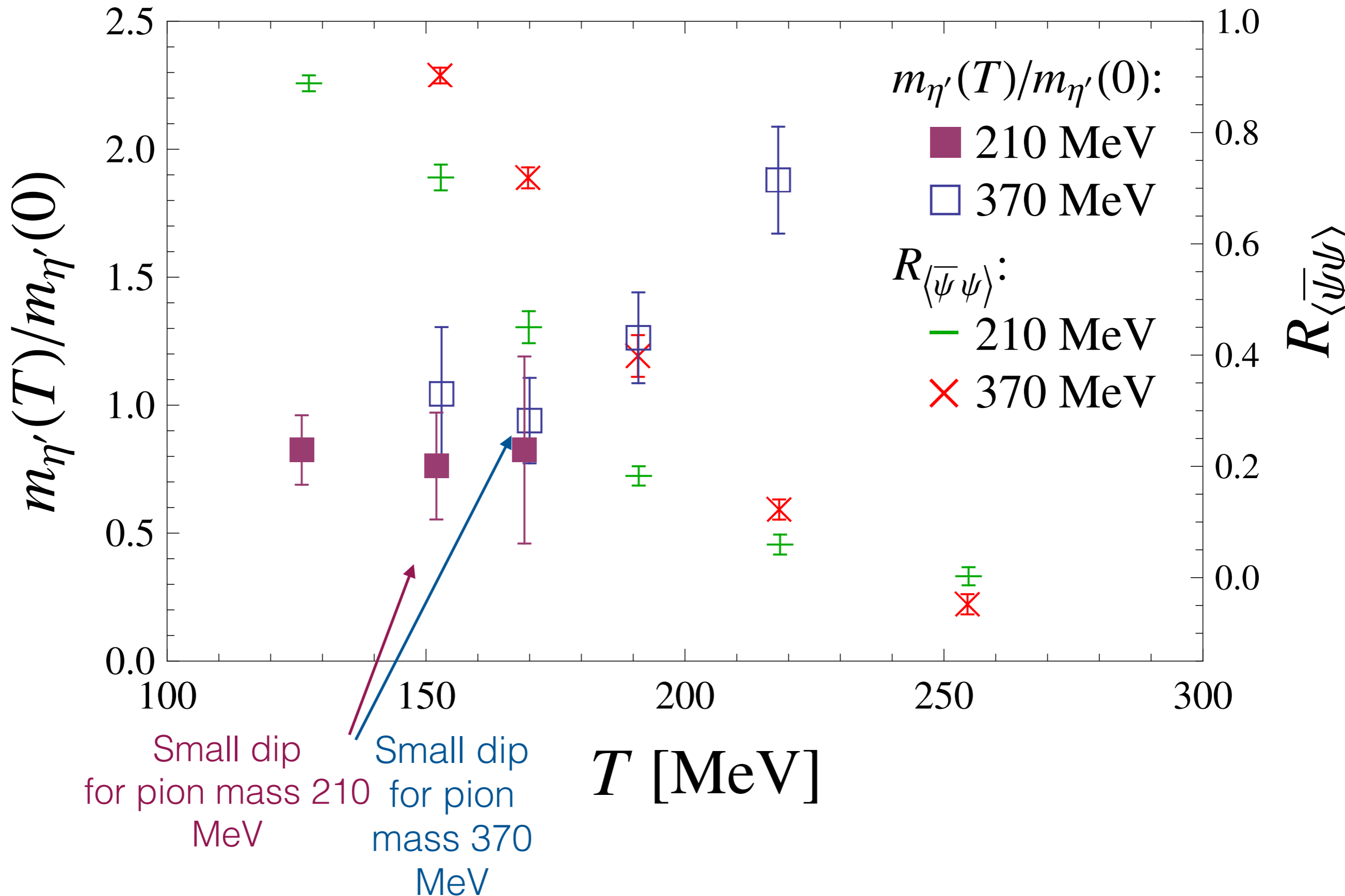


Pion mass 210 MeV





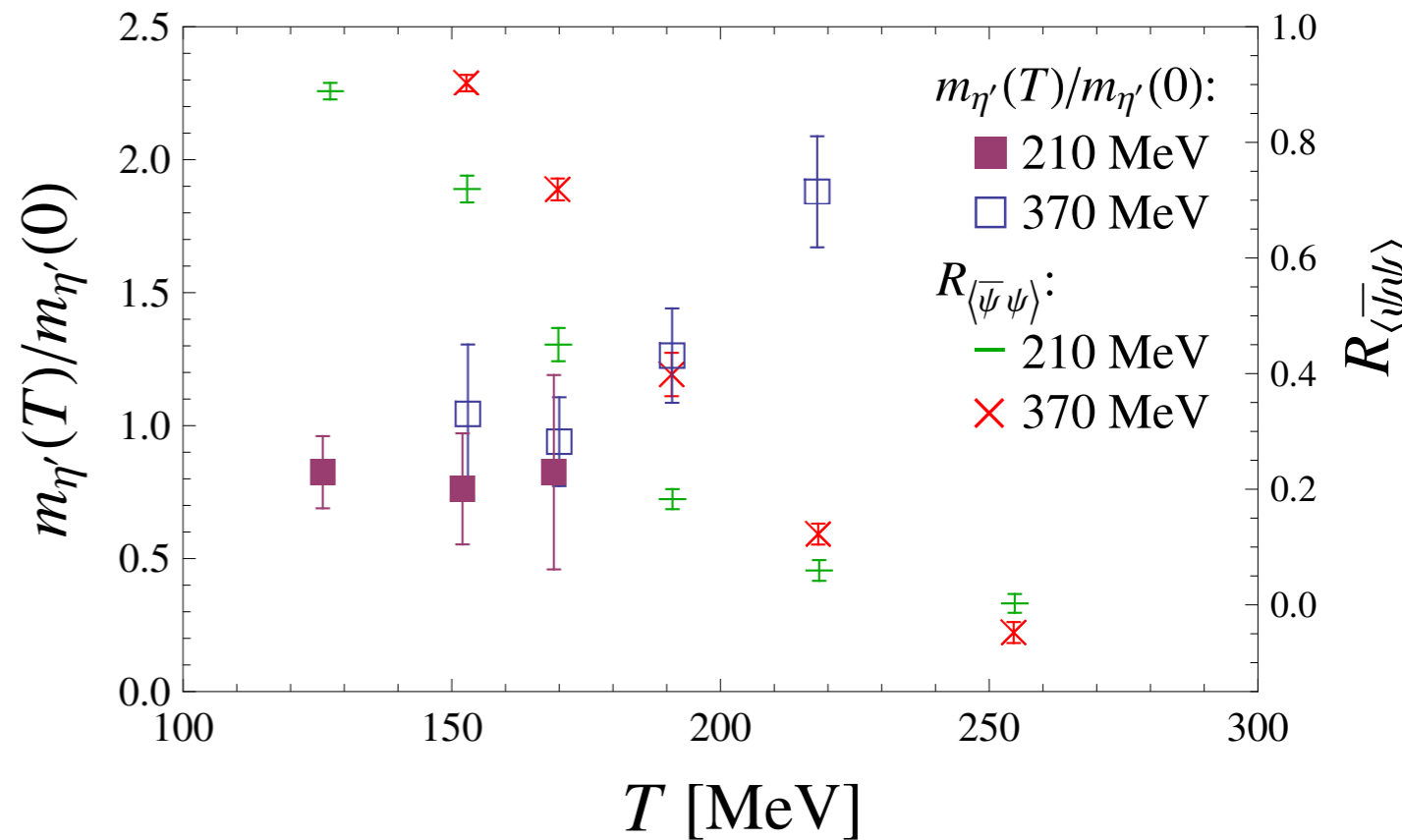
Correlations?



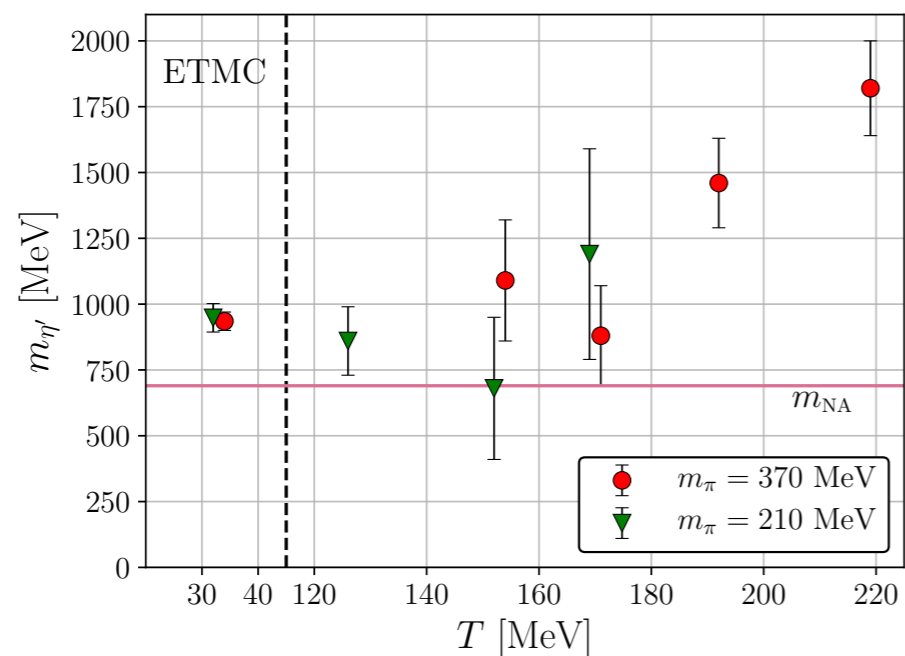
Minimum of the η'

Approx. correlated with T_χ

Ensemble	a [fm]	m_π [MeV]	T_χ [MeV]	$T_{\eta'}$ [MeV]
D210	0.065	213	158(1)(4)	$\simeq 150$
A260	0.094	261	157(8)(14)	
B260	0.082	256	161(13)(2)	
A370	0.094	364	185(5)(3)	$\simeq 170$
B370	0.082	372	189(2)(1)	
D370	0.065	369	185(1)(3)	
A470	0.094	466	200(4)(6)	
B470	0.082	465	203(2)(2)	



Consistent with suppression of the anomalous contribution



Summary

Axions are attractive dark matter candidates

The QCD topological susceptibility at high temperature gives a strict lower bound on the axion mass.

Some of the planned experiments do not seem to be able to explore this region.

The η' meson is an important probe of axial symmetry and of its interplay, or lack thereof, with chiral symmetry.

The correlators of the QCD topological charge afford an estimate of the η' mass, which appears to be correlated with signals of chiral symmetry restoration.





Thank You!