

# Signature of hadron-quark crossover in binary neutron star mergers

**Yuki Fujimoto**  
(University of Washington)



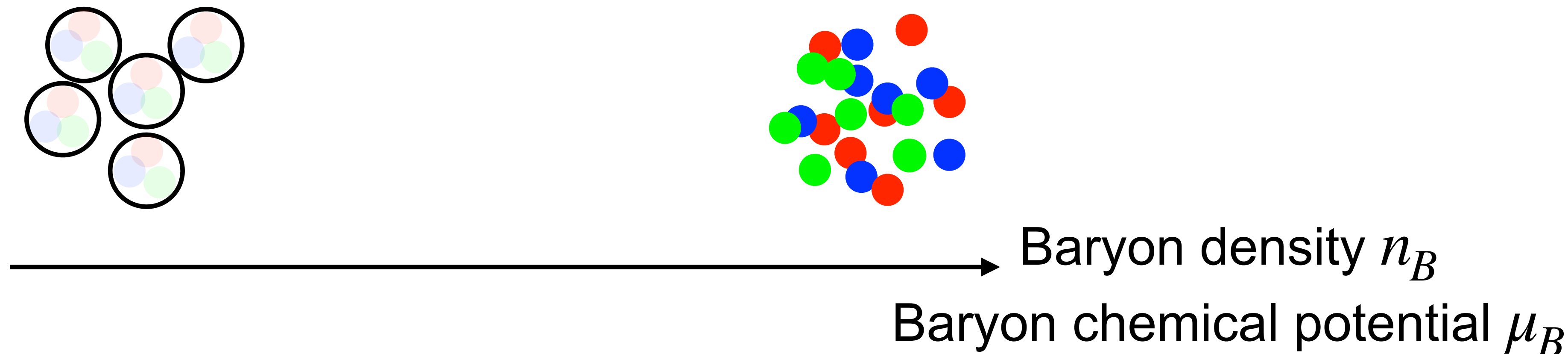
References:

- [1] [Y. Fujimoto](#), K. Fukushima, K. Hotokezaka, K. Kyutoku, PRL130 (2023) [2205.03882]; [2408.10298]
- [2] [Y. Fujimoto](#), T. Kojo, L. McLerran, PRL132 (2024) [2306.04304]

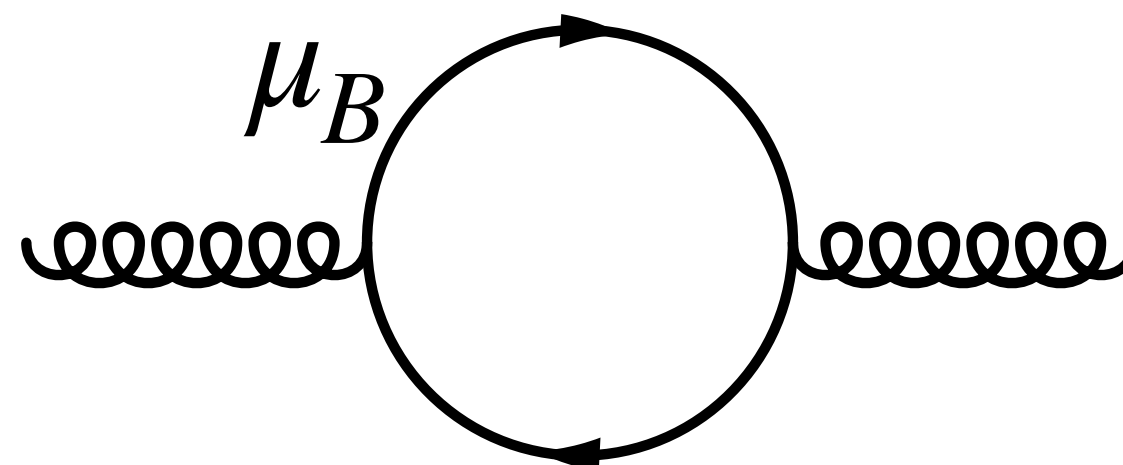
# Quark deconfinement at high density

Collins & Perry (1974): Naive picture of deconfinement

In weak-coupling regime at high density, quarks liberate



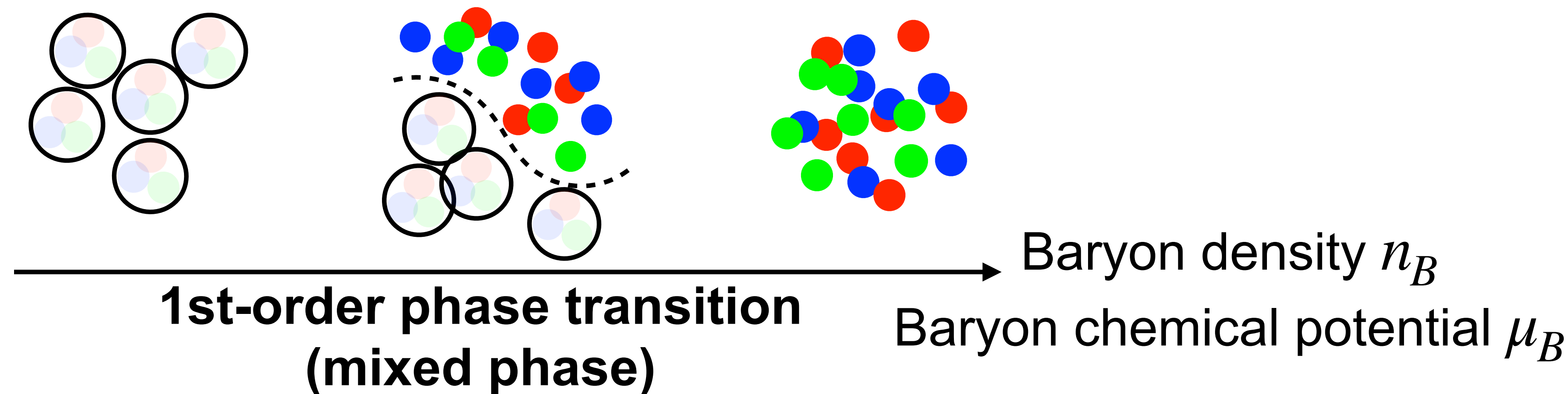
This is led by screening of the confinement potential



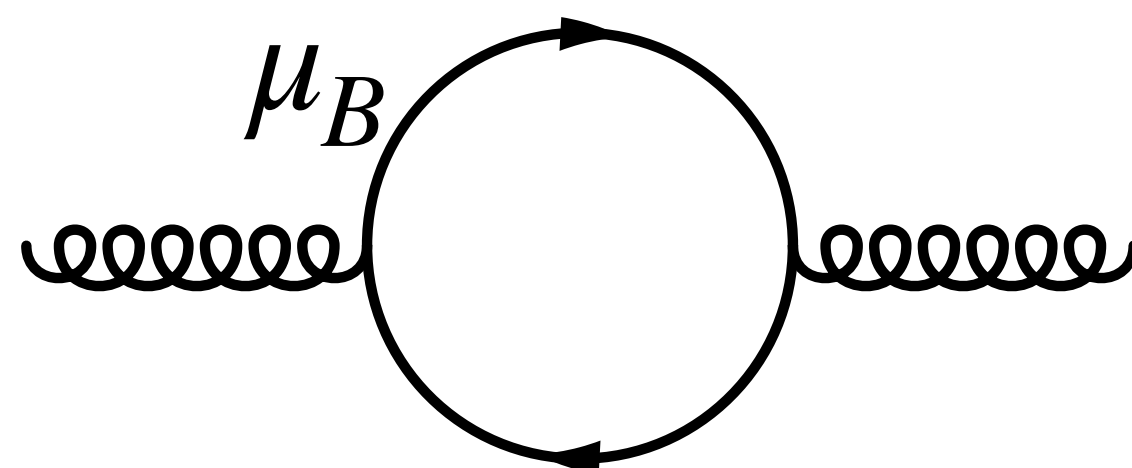
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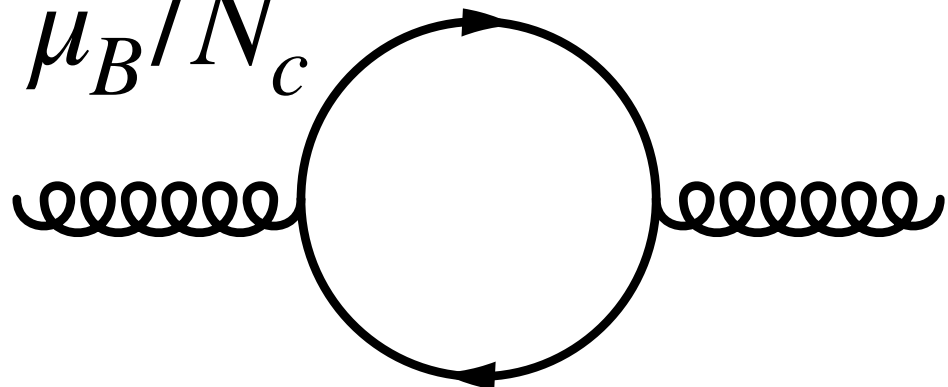
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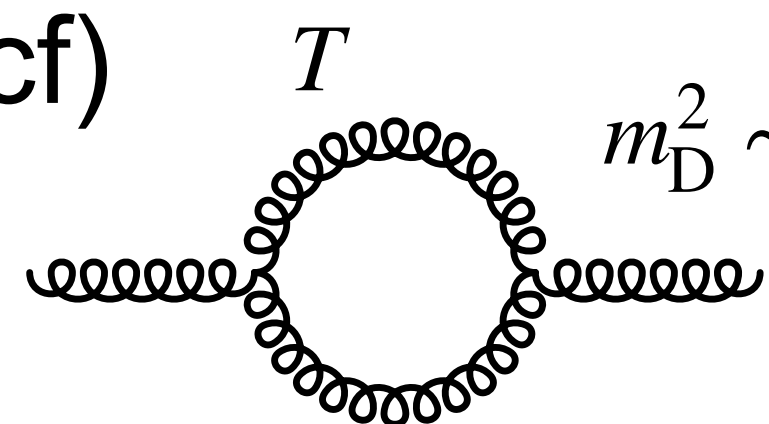
# Quark deconfinement at high density

Deconfinement at high density may not be that simple...

McLerran & Pisarski (2007): Quarks never deconfine in large- $N_c$  QCD

$$\mu = \mu_B / N_c \quad m_D^2 \sim \frac{\lambda_{t \text{ Hoof}} \mu^2}{N_c} \rightarrow 0$$
A Feynman diagram showing a quark loop. A circle with two arrows indicates a quark loop. Two wavy lines representing gluons enter and exit the loop from the left and right sides.

cf)

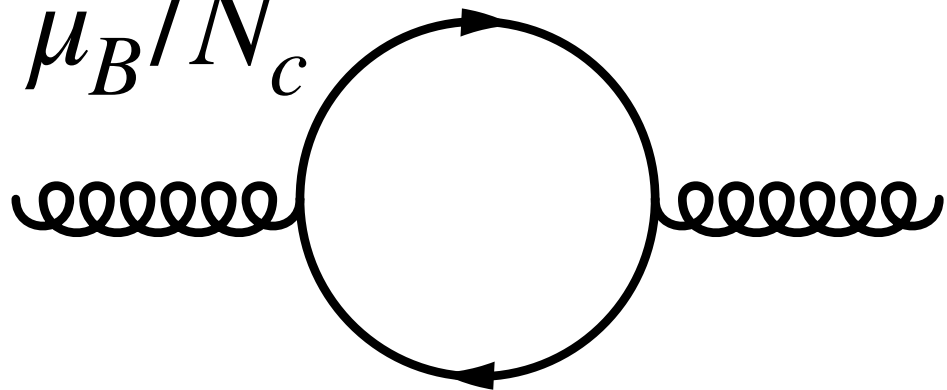
$$m_D^2 \sim g^2 N_c T^2 \sim \lambda_{t \text{ Hoof}} T^2$$
A Feynman diagram showing a gluon loop. A circle with two arrows indicates a gluon loop. Two wavy lines representing gluons enter and exit the loop from the left and right sides. The temperature T is written above the loop.

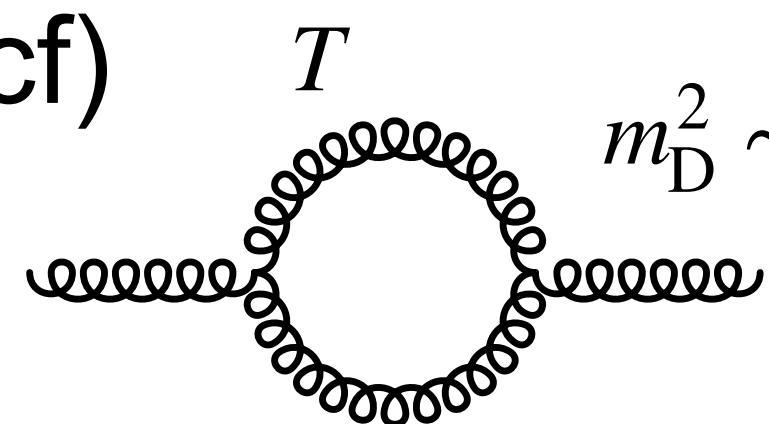
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Dense large- $N_c$  QCD matter can be described **either** as

- **Confined baryons** (because confining interaction is never screened)
- **Quarks** (at densities where weak-coupling QCD is valid)

→ implies duality between quark and confined baryonic matter

**Quark yonic**

# Quark deconfinement at high density

Another famous examples

**Son & Stephanov (2000):** QCD at finite isospin density and zero baryon density

- Quarks are gapped by  $\Delta$
- At energy scale below the gap  $\Delta$ , no Debye screening for gluons  
→ only pure  $SU(3)$  gluodynamics, which is confining! Cf. Srimoyee Sen's talk last week

**Rischke, Son & Stephanov (2001):** Two-flavor color superconductor

- Color superconductor “breaks” the gauge redundancy:  $SU(3)_c \rightarrow SU(2)_c$
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**These examples also points to the duality between confined hadrons and quarks**

# Hadron-quark crossover

- These are examples for confinement-deconfinement duality
- Such duality leads to **hadron-quark crossover** in the EoS  
Not 1st-order phase transition
- This was confirmed by model analysis in  
[Fujimoto, Kojo, McLerran, PRL132 \(2024\)](#)  
See also: [McLerran, Reddy \(2018\)](#); [Lattimer, Zhao \(2020\)](#); ...

**Can crossover be detectable from the postmerger signal  
in binary neutron star mergers?**



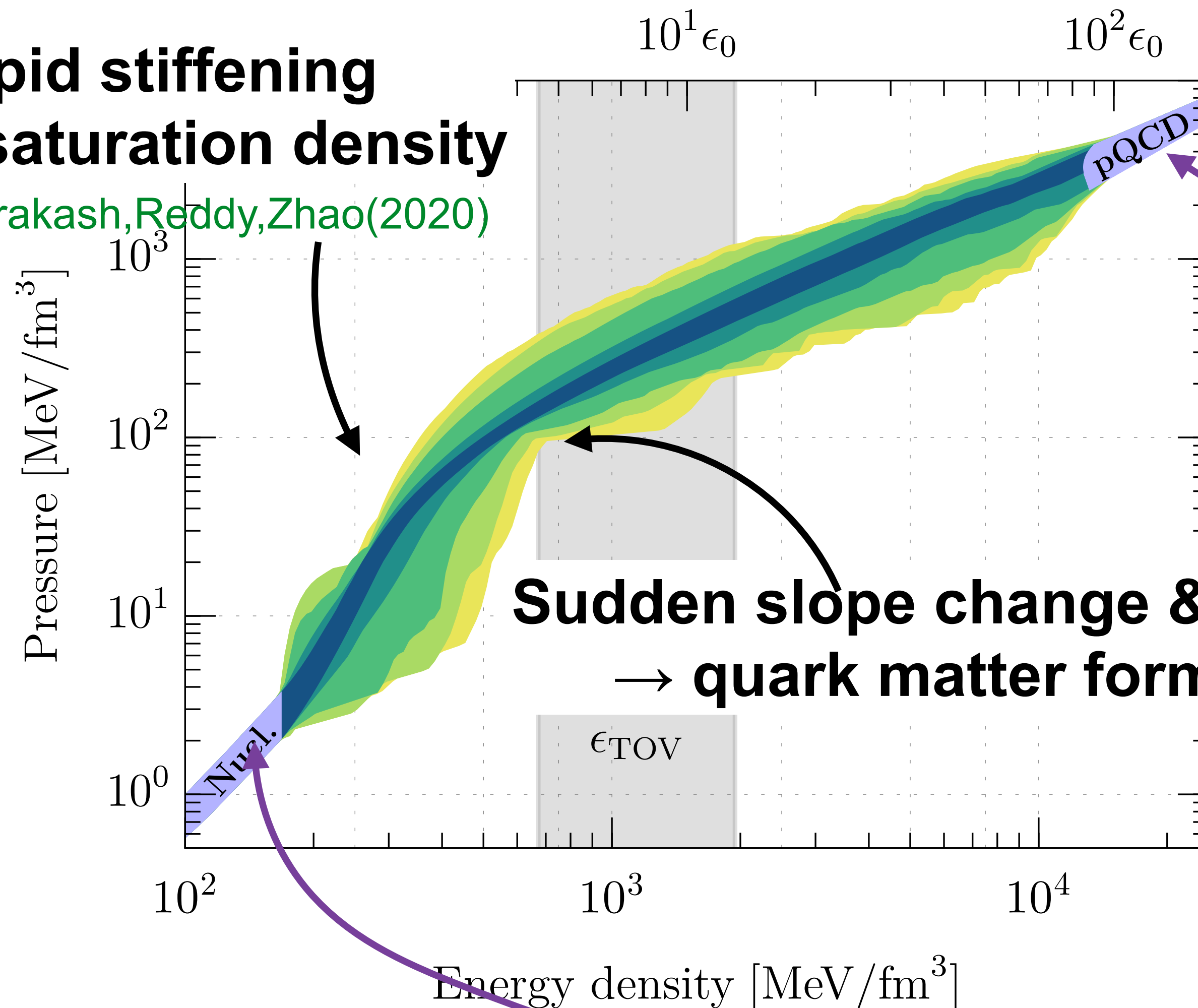
# Modeling the crossover EoS

Annala, Gorda, Katerini, Kurkela, Nättilä, Paschalidis, Vuorinen (2021)

## QCD-based view:

**Rapid stiffening  
above saturation density**

e.g., Drischler, Han, Lattimer, Prakash, Reddy, Zhao (2020)



**ab initio QCD calculations: Chiral EFT & perturbative QCD**

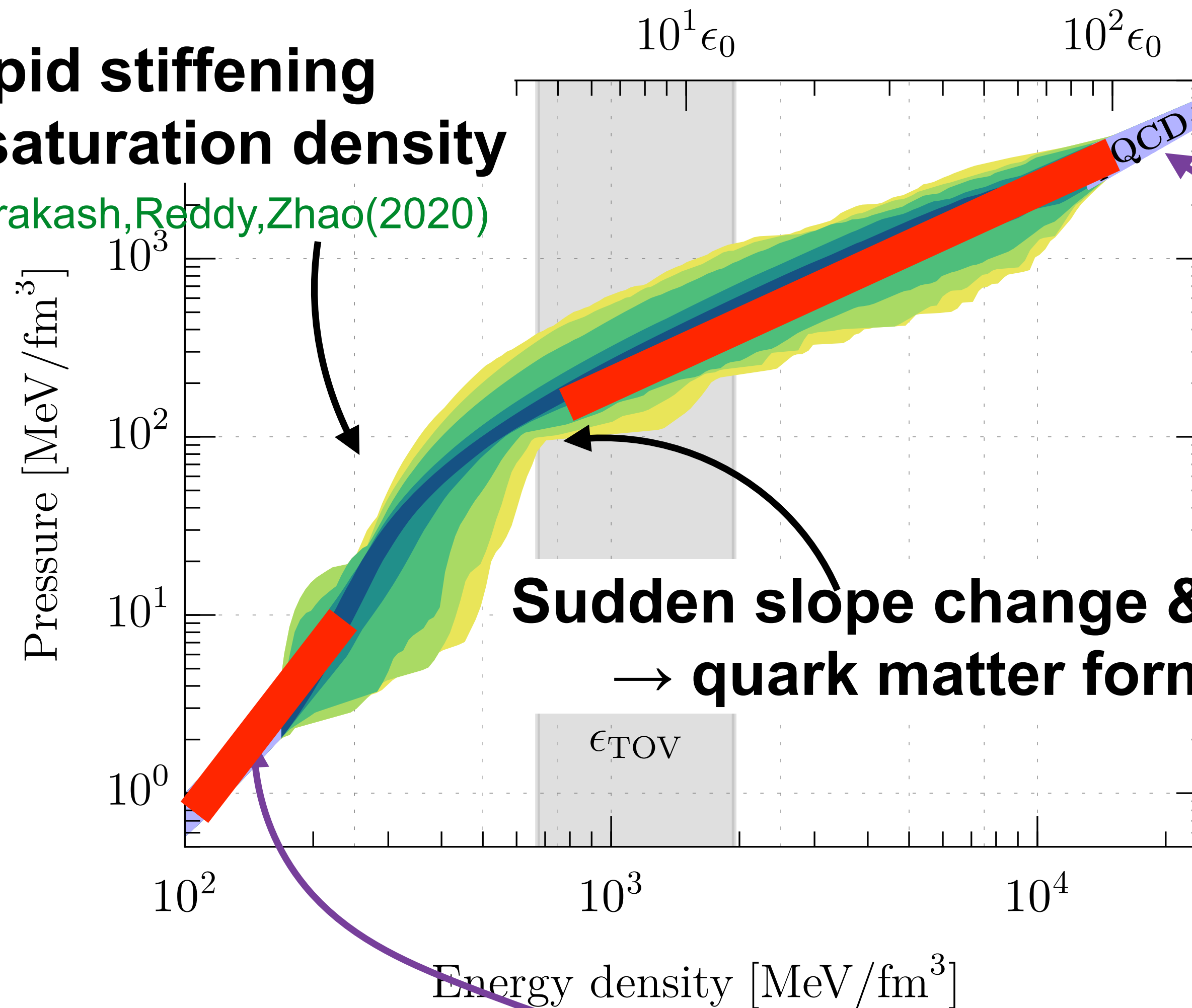
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# Modeling the crossover EoS

[Fujimoto, Fukushima, Hotokezaka, Kyutoku, PRL 130 \(2023\)](#)

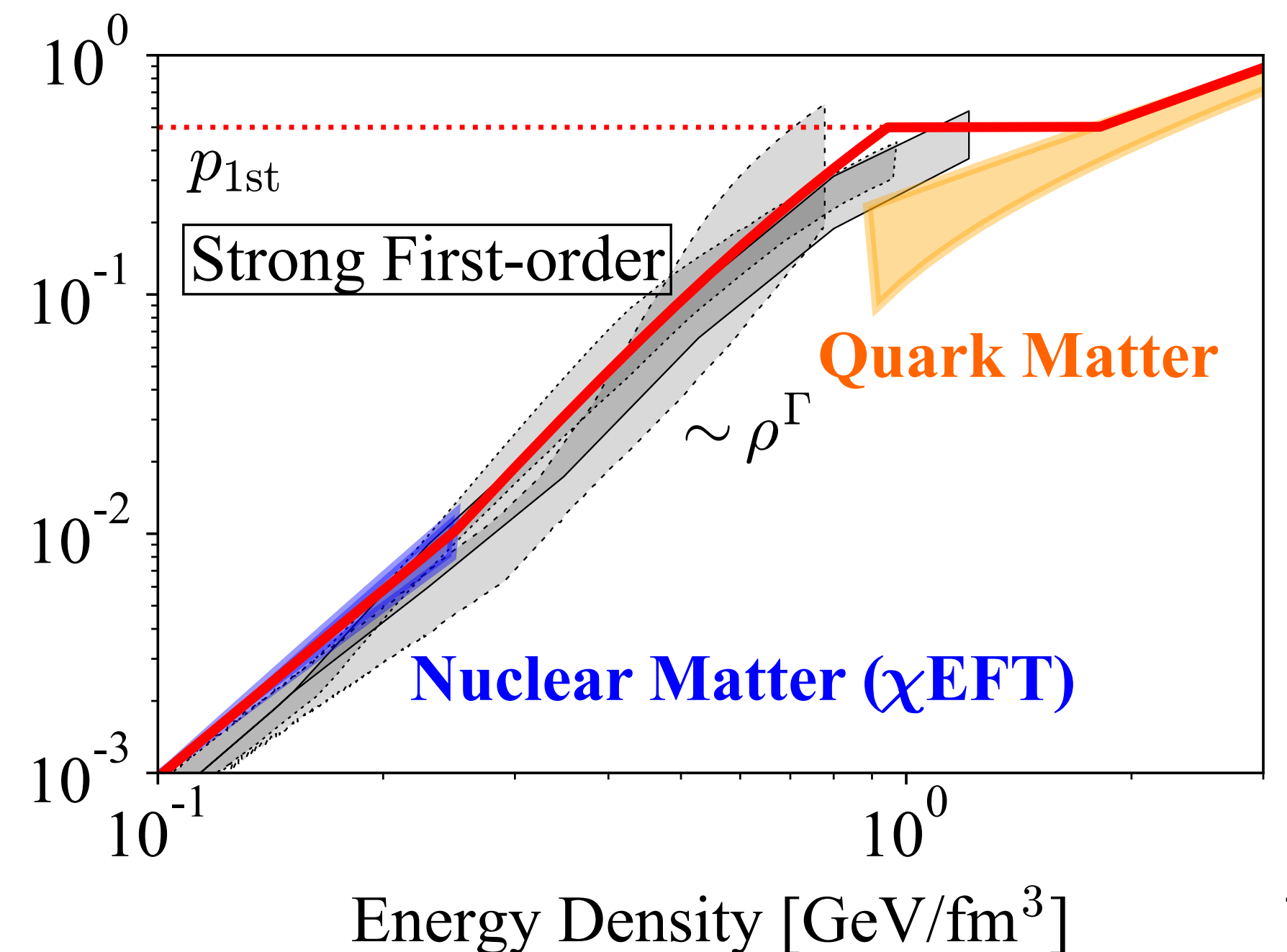
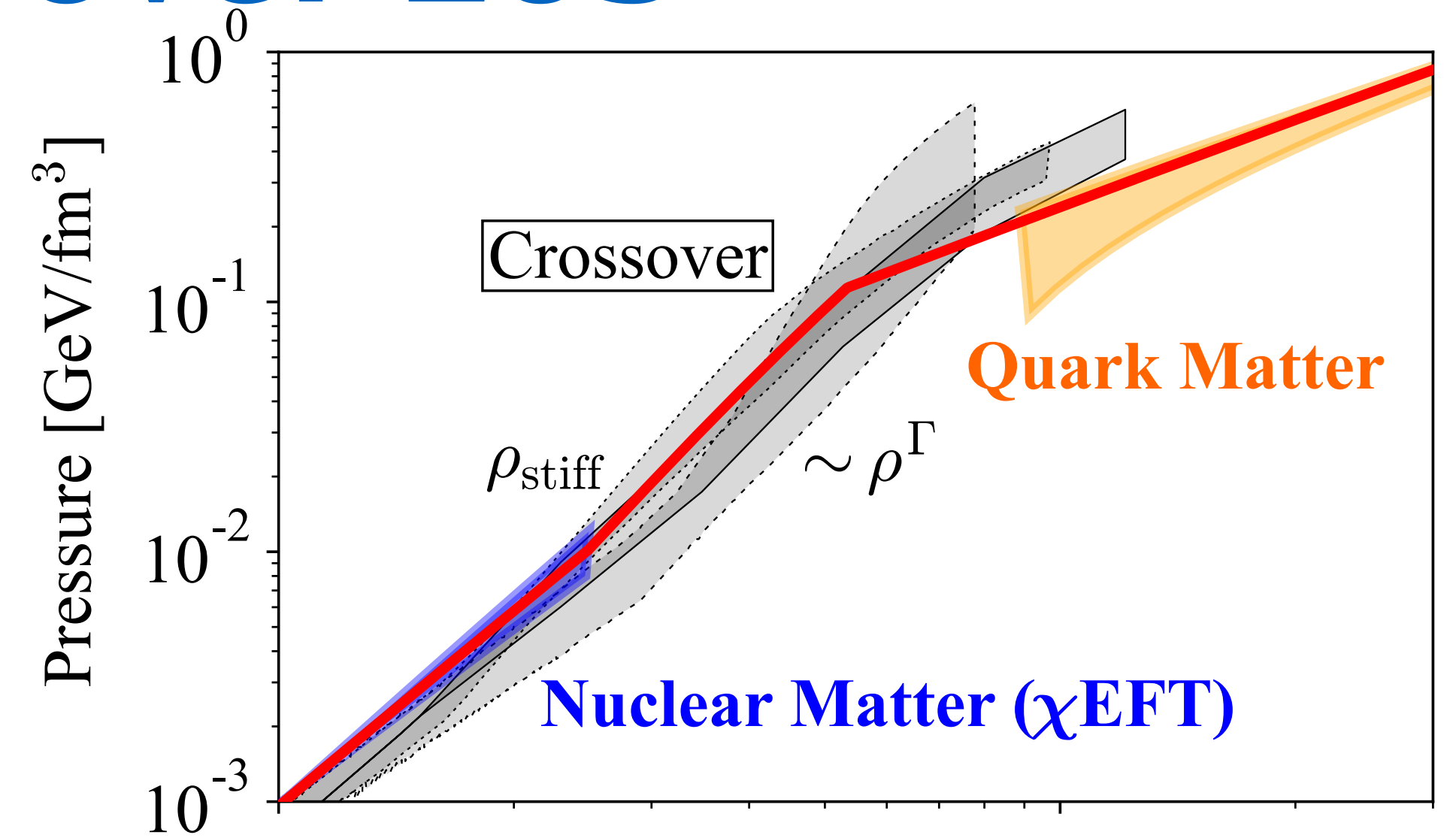
## Crossover (CO):

Smoothly connects two limits  
by fulfilling the two-solar-mass condition

VS

## 1st-order Phase Transition (PT):

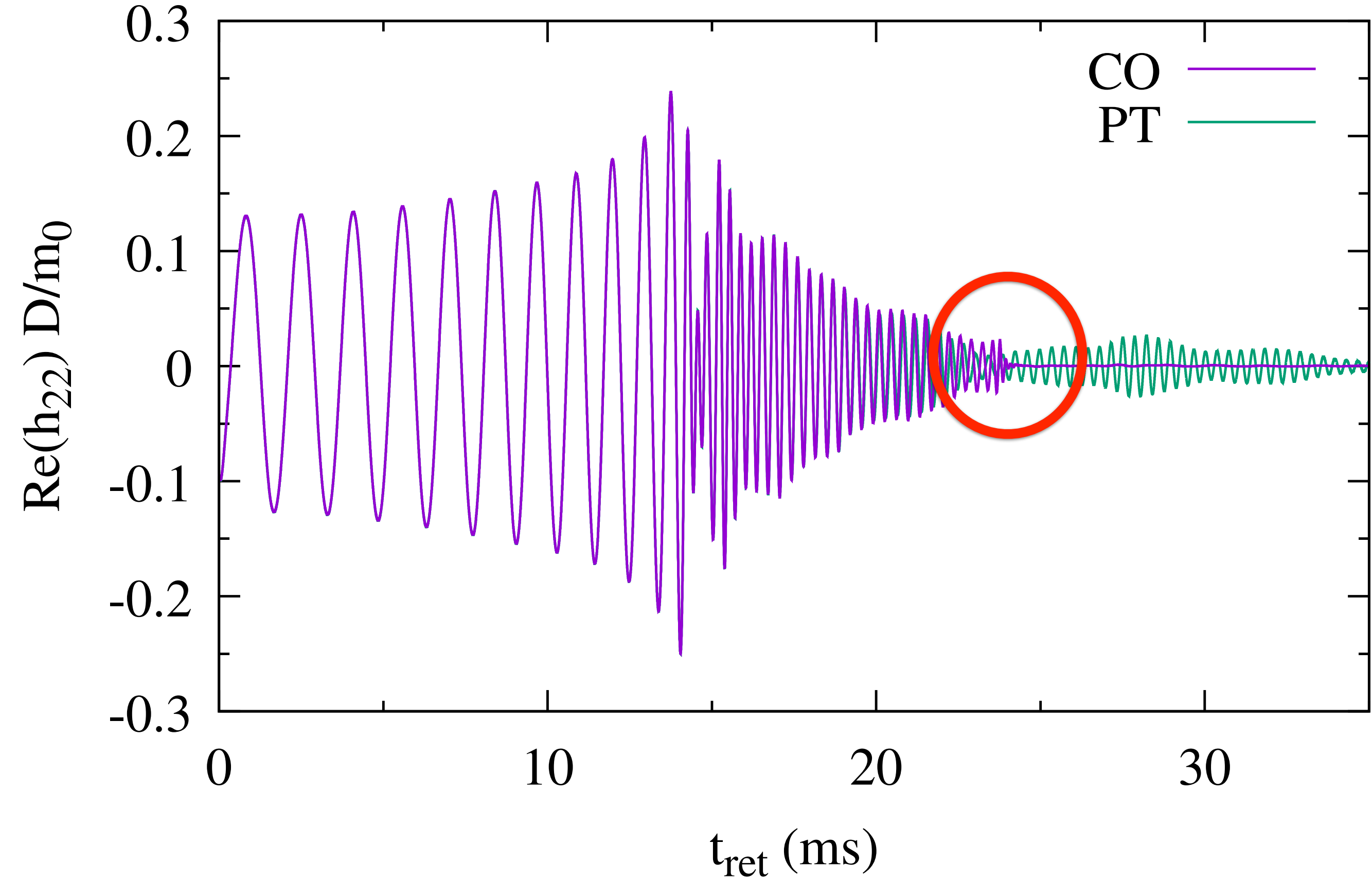
Within this setup, strong density jump  
is feasible only at high density  
Virtually hadronic EoS because the onset of PT  
is beyond the reach of the maximum density



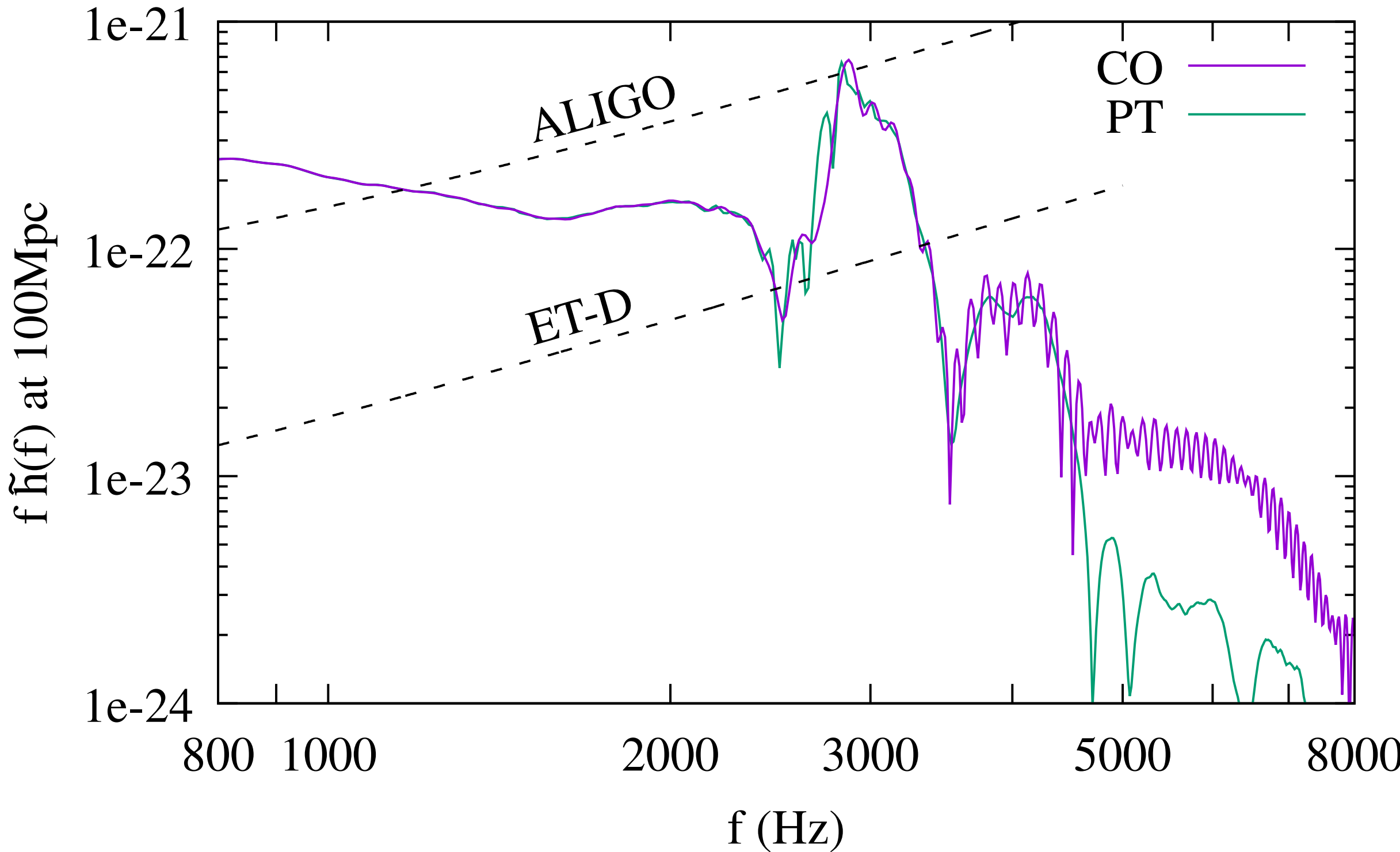
# Postmerger signal: Black hole formation as a key

[Fujimoto, Fukushima, Hotokezaka, Kyutoku, PRL 130 \(2023\): 2408.10298](#)

$1.4M_{\text{sun}}-1.35M_{\text{sun}}$



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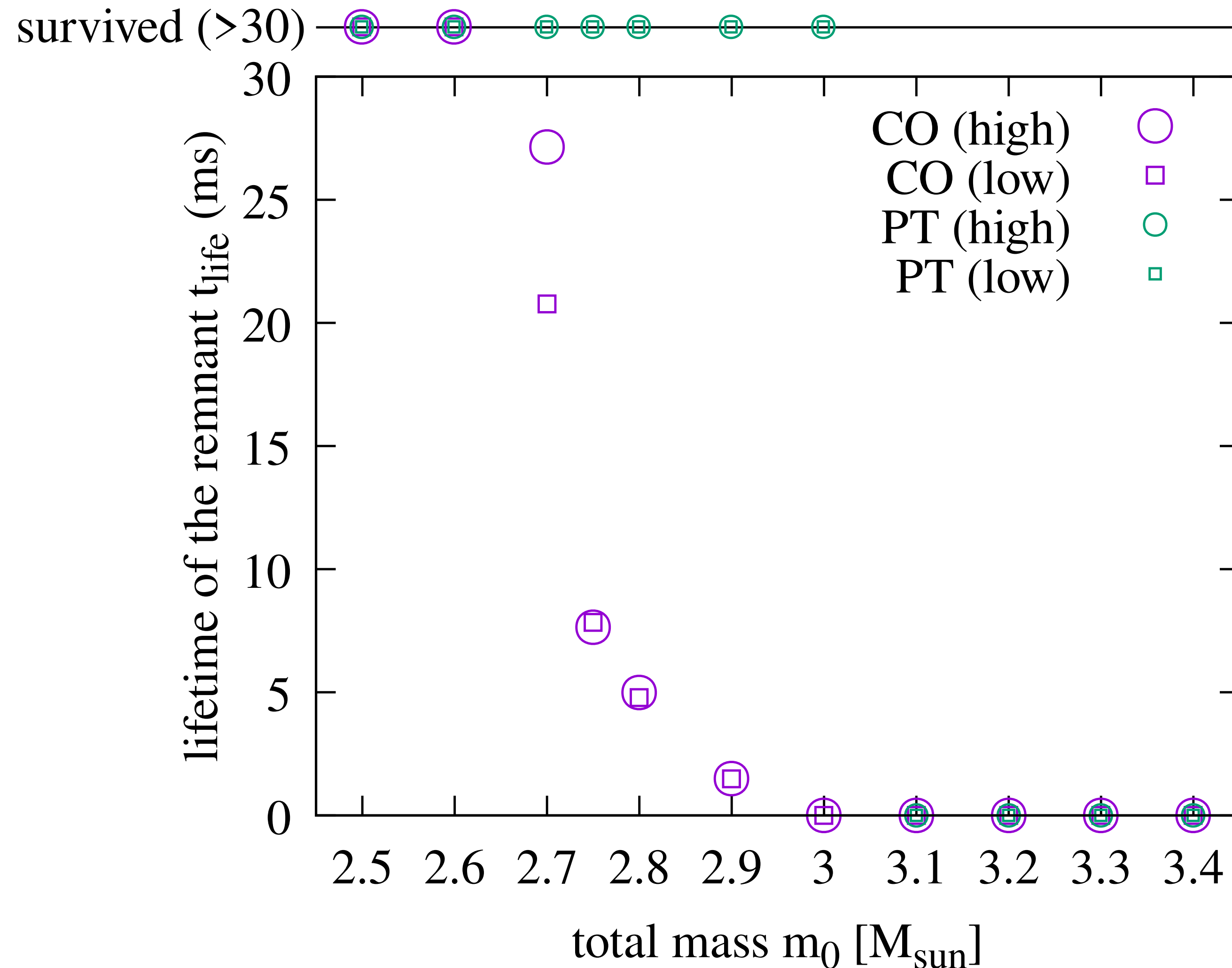


**Crossover (softening) drives the collapse to black holes**

# Lifetime of the merger remnant

[Fujimoto, Fukushima, Hotokezaka, Kyutoku, 2408.10298](#)

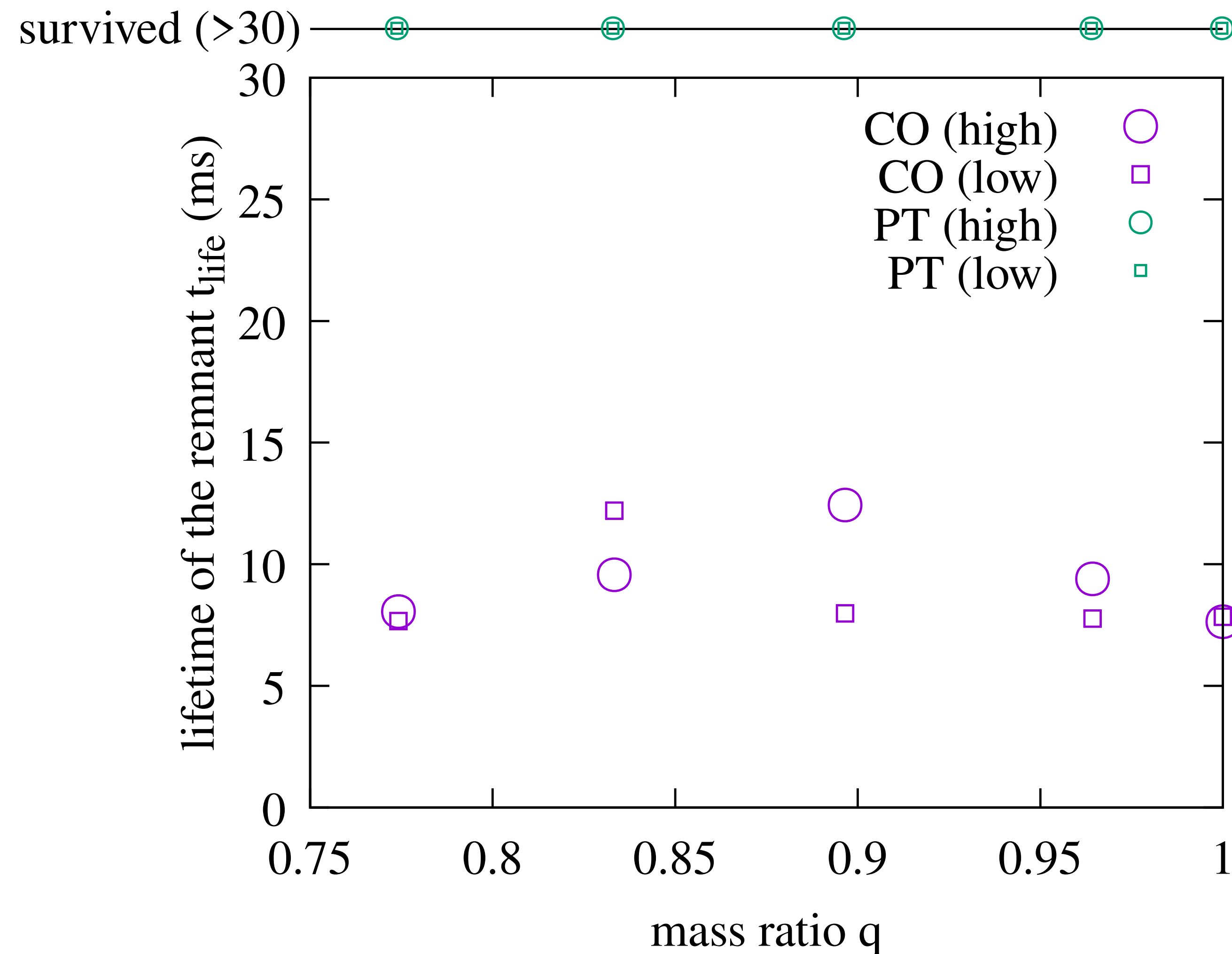
Lifetime is determined primarily by the total mass of binary



# Weak dependence on mass ratio

[Fujimoto, Fukushima, Hotokezaka, Kyutoku, 2408.10298](#)

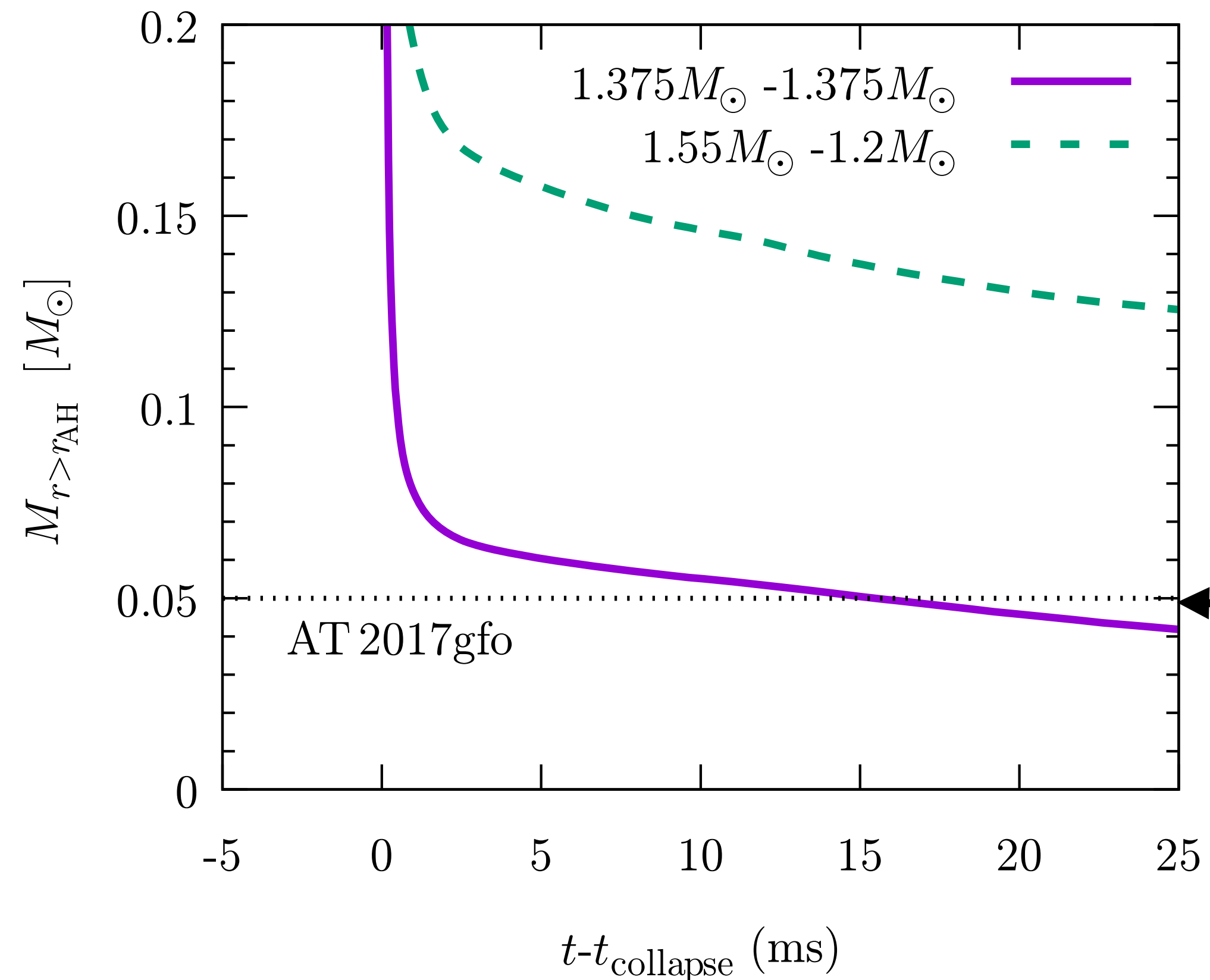
For total mass  $m_0 = 2.75 M_{\odot}$ , mass ratio dependence is weak



# Consistency with kilonova AT2017gfo

[Fujimoto, Fukushima, Hotokezaka, Kyutoku, PRL 130 \(2023\): 2408.10298](#)

## Remnant mass outside the apparent horizon of the BH



AT2017gfo, electromagnetic counterpart of GW170817, requires ejection of  $\approx 0.05 M_{\odot}$  for its observed luminosity

# Summary

- **Deconfinement transition:** may not just be a simple transition to deconfined matter. Involves intricate screening and confinement. There may be a duality between confined d.o.f. and bare quarks.
- **Hadron-Quark crossover (CO):** maybe a realistic scenario. We contrasted with the strong 1st-order phase transition (PT) scenario.
- **Postmerger signals:** Blackhole formation may be regarded as a signature of the crossover within this model.  
Although strong PT is hard to accommodate within the current constraints, how can we disentangle the crossover with PT?  
Also, weak PT is still possible. Indistinguishable from CO?