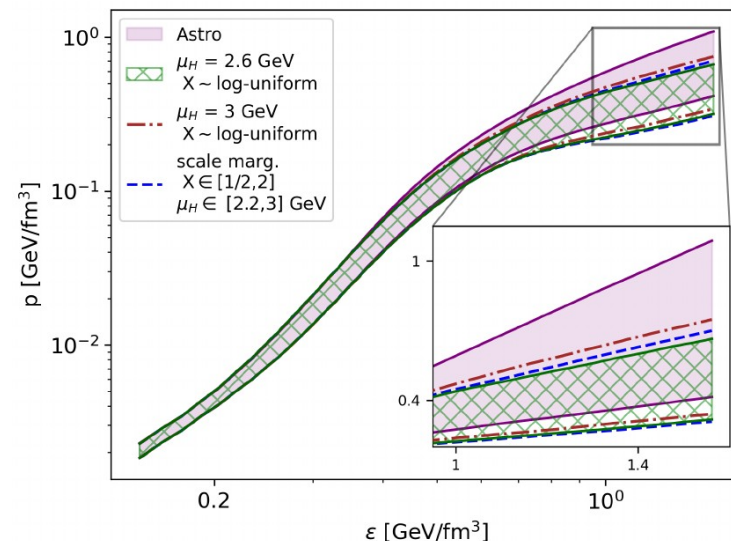


# Bayesian uncertainty quantification of **pQCD input** to the neutron-star equation of state

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Heidelberg University

Tyler Gorda, Oleg Komoltsev, Aleksi Kurkela, AM, JHEP (2023), 2303.02175  
Claude Duhr, Alexander Huss, AM, Robert Szafron, JHEP (2021), 2106.04585



[aleksas.eu](http://aleksas.eu)



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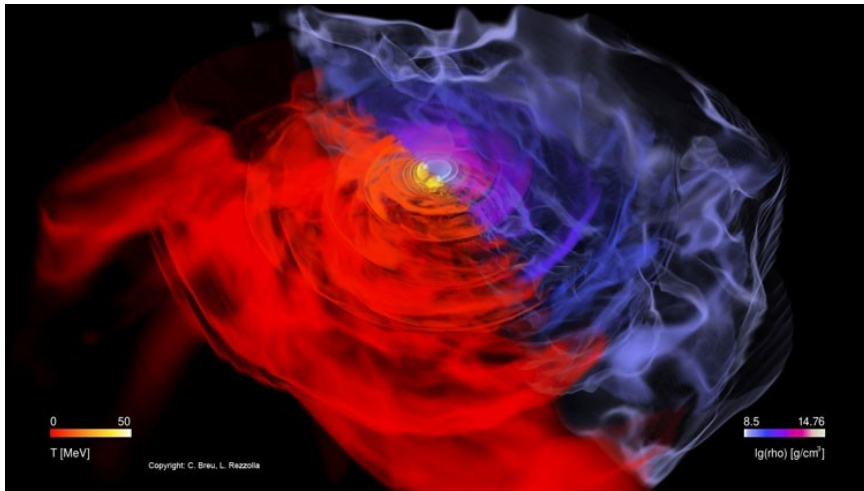


[www.isoquant-heidelberg.de](http://www.isoquant-heidelberg.de)

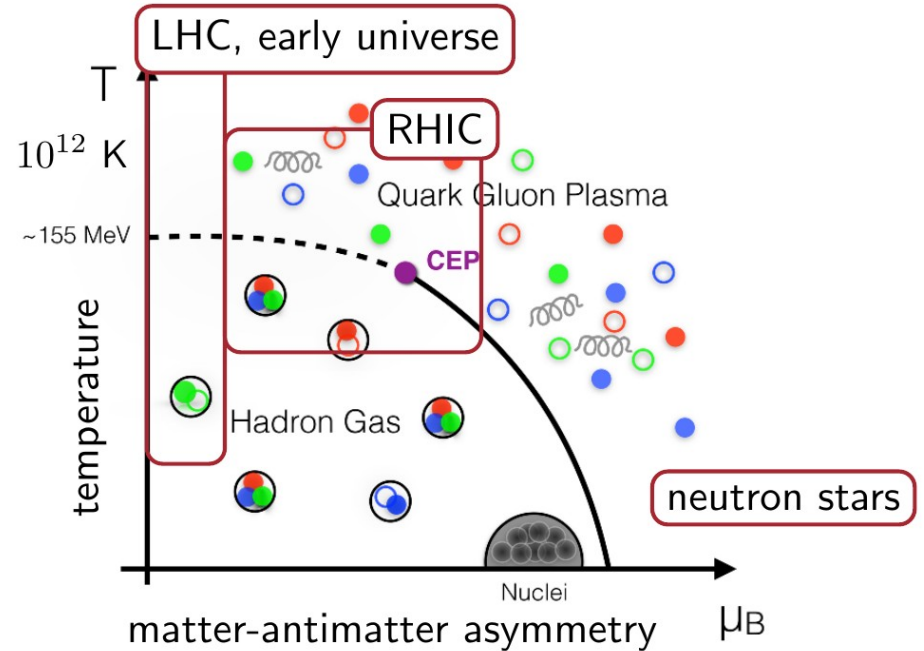
# Neutron stars – corpses of dead stars

$$M \leq 2M_{\odot} \quad R \sim 10 \text{ km} \quad T \leq \text{keV} = 10^7 \text{ K}$$

neutron star merger



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Neutron stars probe cold nuclear matter equation of state:  $p(\mu), n(\mu), \varepsilon(\mu)$

# QCD equation of state $p(\varepsilon)$ at $T=0$

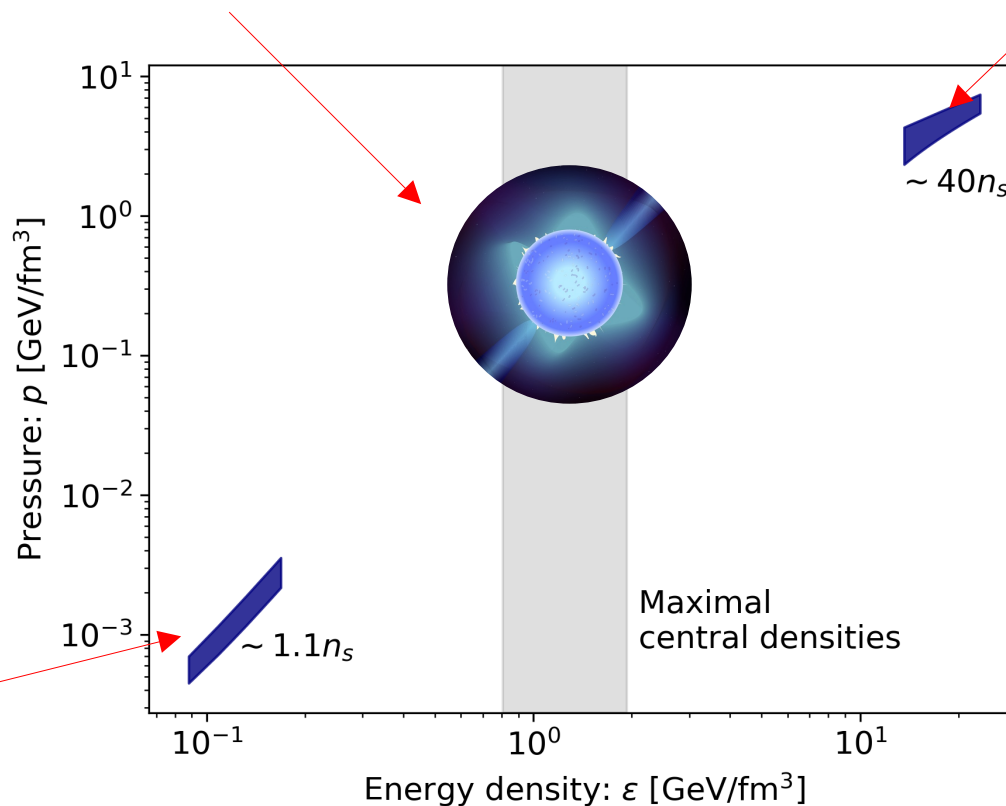
Astrophysical observations

- masses
- deformability
- radii

See talk by Laura Tolós on Mon

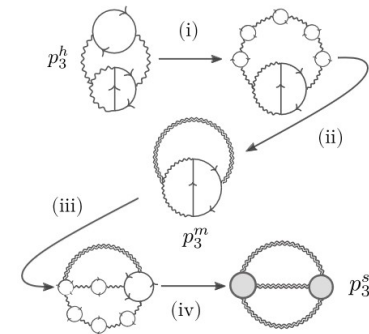
Chiral effective field theory (CET)

Hebeler et.al. *Astrophys.J.* (2013)



Perturbative QCD

Gorda et al. *PRL* (2021, 2023)



# Connecting low and high density regions

Komoltsev, Kurkela, PRL (2022)

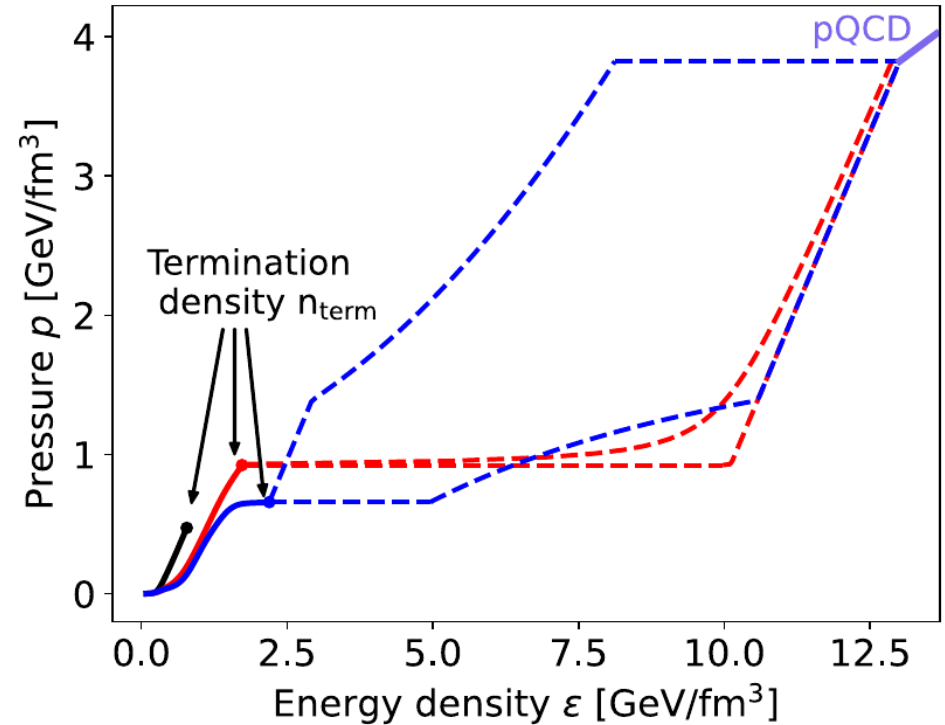
- Stability  $\partial_\mu n(\mu) \geq 0$

- Causality  $c_s^2 = \frac{n/\mu}{\partial_\mu n} \leq 1$

- Consistency

$$\int n(\mu) d\mu = p_{\text{pQCD}} - p_{\text{CET}}$$

Komoltsev et al., PRD (2024)



pQCD results at high densities constrain neutron-star equation of state

# pQCD equation of state at high densities

$$\frac{p}{p_0} = 1 + a_1 \alpha_s(\bar{\Lambda}) + a_2 \alpha_s^2(\bar{\Lambda}) + a_3 \alpha_s^3(\bar{\Lambda}) + \dots$$

$p_0 \propto \mu^4$

	NLO	N2LO	N3LO*	MHO
	Freedman McLerran PRD (1977)		Gorda et al. PRL (2018, 2021, 2023) - ongoing	

Uncertainties:

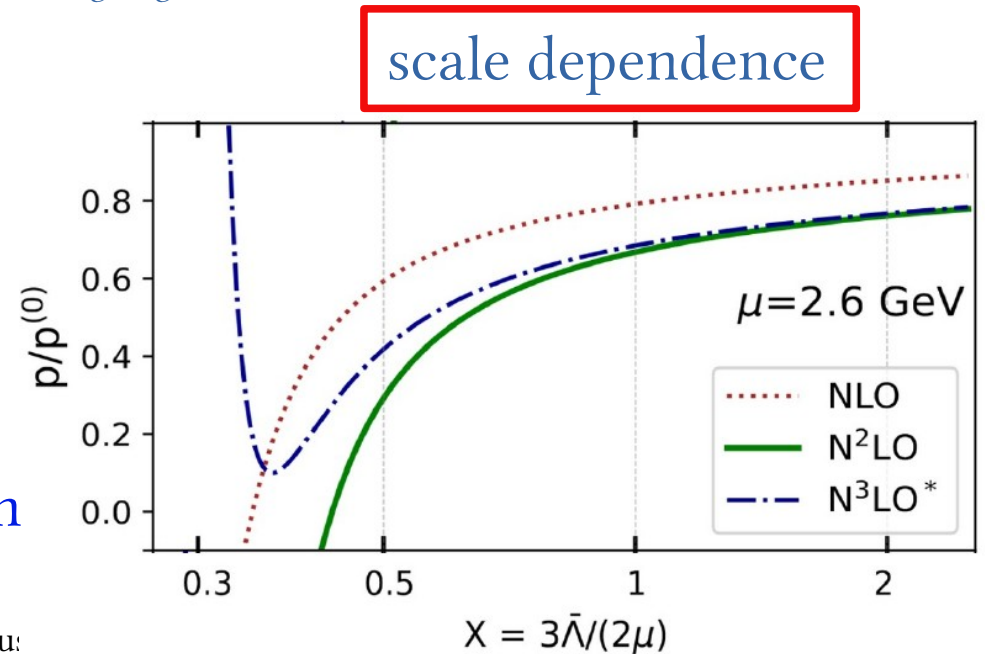
- 1) Missing higher order terms (MHO)
- 2) Unphysical renormalisation scale

$$\bar{\Lambda} = X \times \frac{2}{3} \mu$$

Bayesian inference for error estimation

Duhr, Huss, AM, Szafron, JHEP (2021), 2106.04585

Aleksas Mazeliau:



# Bayesian model for MHO

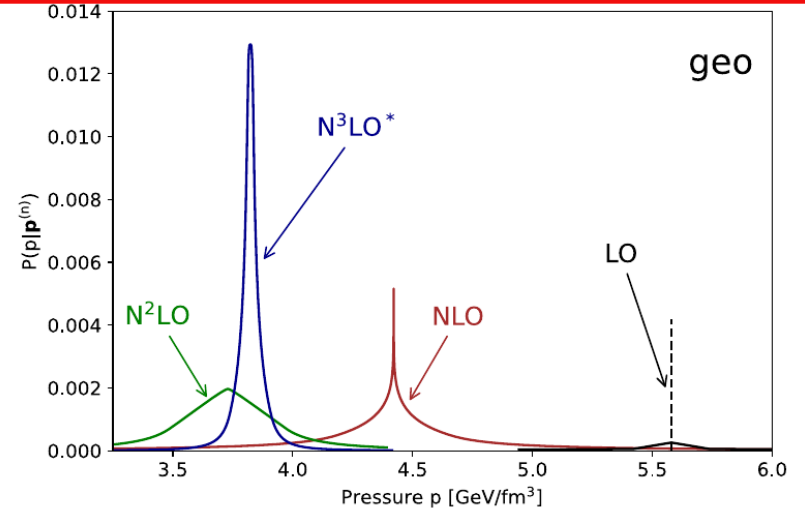
Duhr, Huss, AM, Szafron, JHEP (2021)  
Bonvini, EPJC (2020)

$$\Sigma_n = \Sigma_0 \times \left( 1 + \underbrace{\delta_1}_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1)} + \underbrace{\delta_2}_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)} + \dots + \underbrace{\delta_n}_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^n)} \right)$$

Geometric model:  $|\delta_k| \leq ca^k$

probability distribution for  $\delta_{k+1}$

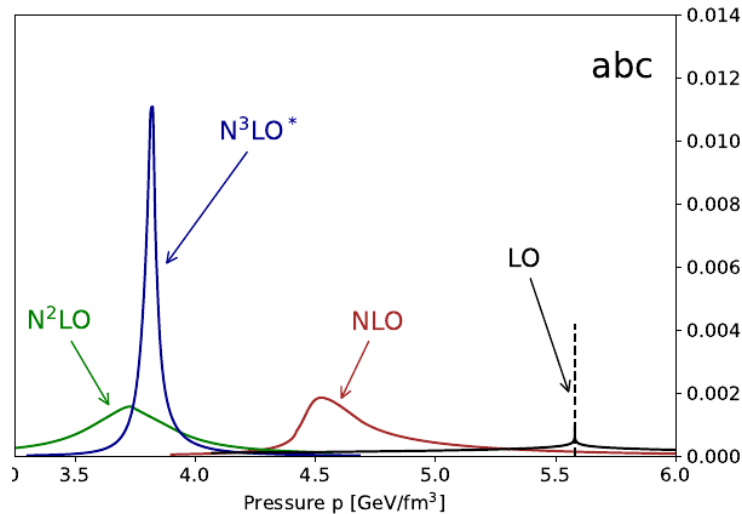
$$P(ac|\vec{\delta}_k) = \frac{\overset{\text{likelihoods}}{P(\vec{\delta}_k|ac)} \overset{\text{prior}}{P_0(ac)}}{\underset{\text{marginal likelihood}}{P(\vec{\delta}_k)}}$$



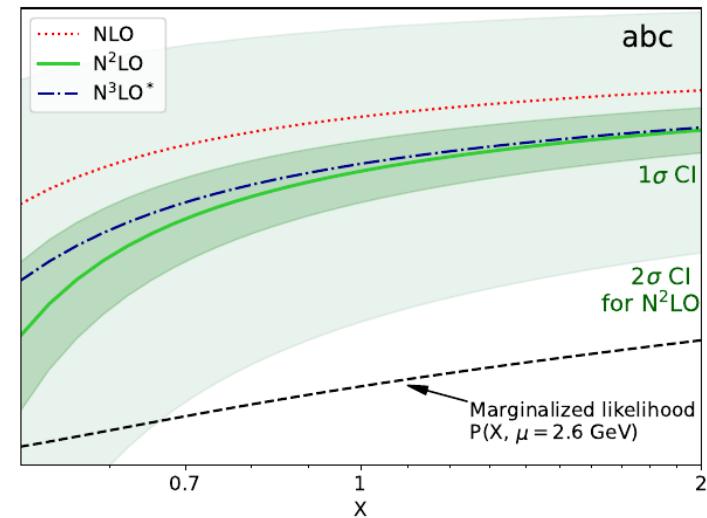
# Asymmetric geometric (ABC) model

Extension to asymmetric and alternating series:  $b - c \leq \frac{\delta_n}{a^n} \leq b + c$

posterior at fixed scale



scale dependent confidence interval



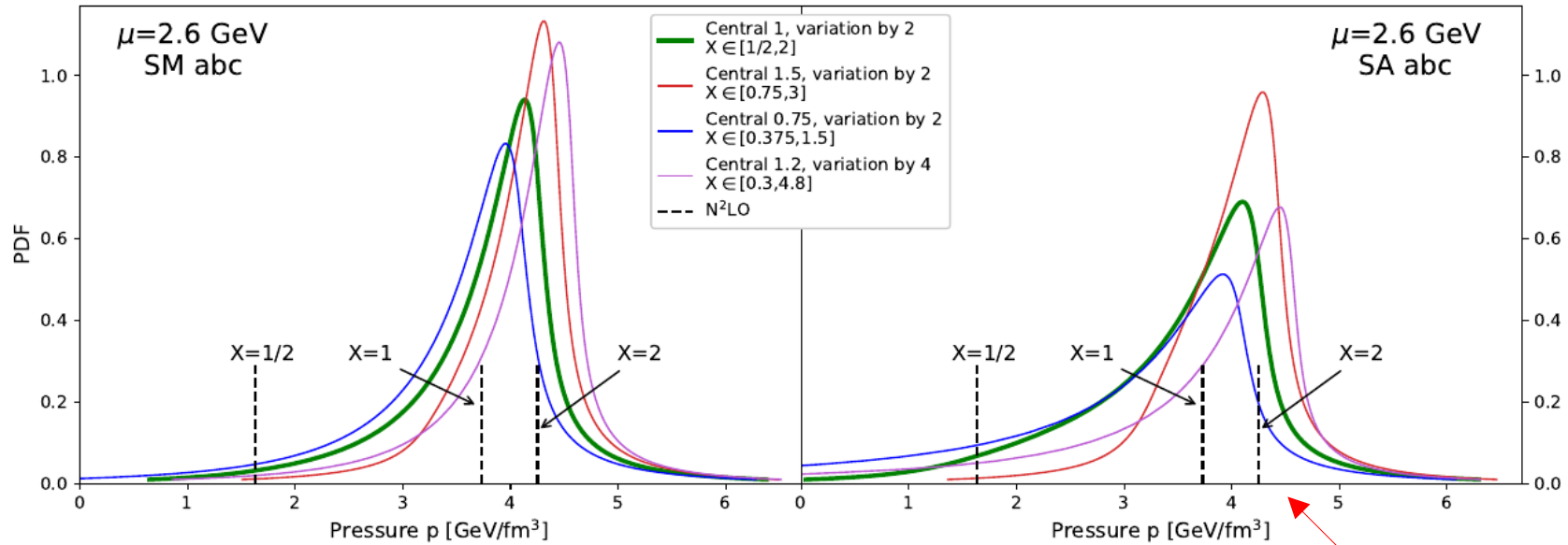
Need prescription to combine error estimates at different scales.

# Scale marginalisation vs averaging

Integrate distributions at different scales weighted with

likelihood  $P(X|\vec{\delta}_k)$

uniform weight in  $\log X$



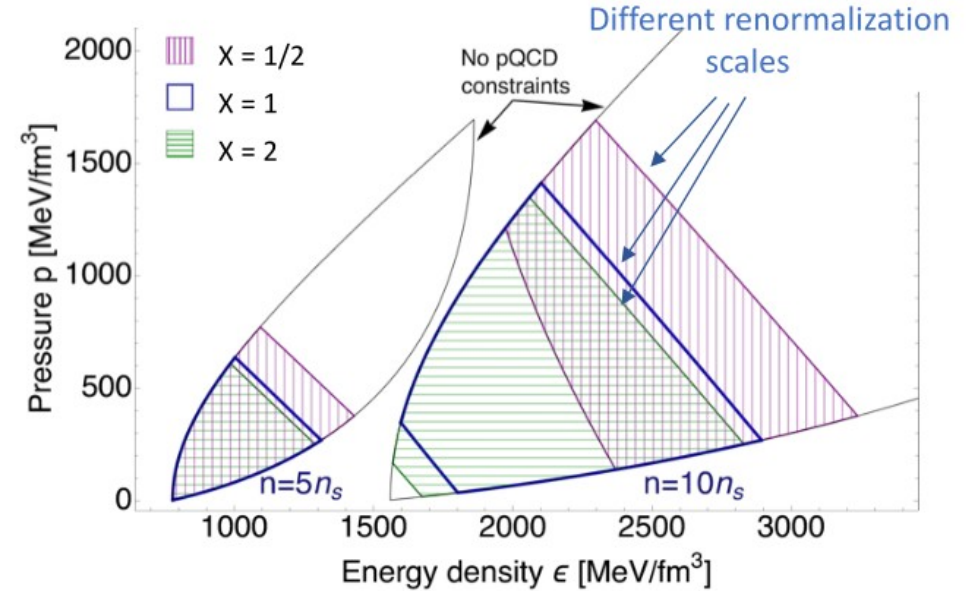
Mild dependence on the range of scales



# Master formula for EoS

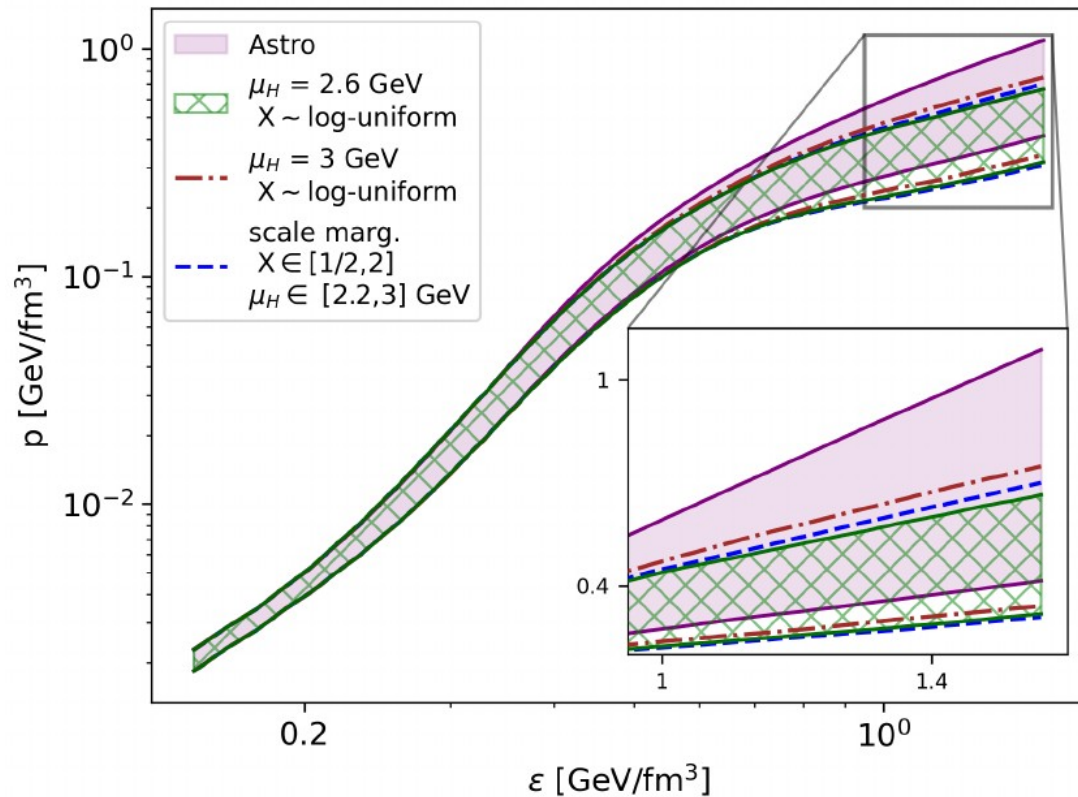
$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\epsilon_L, p_L | n_L, p^{(k)}) &= \int d\mu_H dp_H dn_H dX \\
 \text{SCC constraint} &\times P(\epsilon_L, p_L | n_L, \mu_H, p_H, n_H) \\
 \text{scale prescription} &\times P_{\text{sa/sm}}(\mu_H, X | p^{(k)}) \\
 \text{MHO probability} &\times P_{\text{MHO}}(p_H | p^{(k)}(\mu_H, X)) \\
 \text{convergence in } n &\times \delta(n^{(k)}(\mu_H, X) - n_H)
 \end{aligned}$$

Using public MiHO code: [github.com/aykhuss/miho](https://github.com/aykhuss/miho)



Different choices leads to different exclusion ranges → systematic scan

# EoS inference at NS densities



Robust prediction: pQCD favours softer equation of state

# Conclusions

- pQCD at high density + stability, causality and consistency  
→ constraints of neutron-star EoS
- Robust uncertainty estimation with Bayesian methods  
→ softening of neutron-star EoS

[github.com/aykhuss/miho](https://github.com/aykhuss/miho)

[github.com/OKomoltsev/QCD-likelihood-function](https://github.com/OKomoltsev/QCD-likelihood-function)

## Open positions in my group:

- PhD, see Grossi, Tue 15:20, [inspirehep.net/jobs/2786994](https://inspirehep.net/jobs/2786994),
- Postdoc, see Heyen, Tue 09:50, opening soon, send inquires to [a.mazeliauskas@thphys.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:a.mazeliauskas@thphys.uni-heidelberg.de)



[www.isoquant-heidelberg.de](http://www.isoquant-heidelberg.de)

CE Poster: Minijet quenching in non-equilibrium QGP by Fabian Zhou

# Pressure vs chemical potential

