

# QCD thermodynamics on the lattice: (approaching the continuum limit with physical quark masses)

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The nature of the QCD transition
- 3 QCD transition temperature
- 4 The QCD equation of state
- 5 Summary

# Literature: discrepancies between $T_c$

Bielefeld-Brookhaven-Riken-Columbia Coll. (+MILC='hotQCD'):

M. Cheng et.al, Phys. Rev. D74 (2006) 054507

$T_c$  from both  $\chi_{\bar{\psi}\psi}$  and Polyakov loop:

$$T_c = 192(7)(4) \text{ MeV}$$

Wuppertal-Budapest group (WB):

Y. Aoki, Z. Fodor, S.D. Katz, K.K. Szabo, Phys. Lett. B. 643 (2006) 46

chiral susceptibility:

$$T_c = 151(3)(3) \text{ MeV}$$

Polyakov and strange susceptibility:

$$T_c = 175(2)(4) \text{ MeV}$$

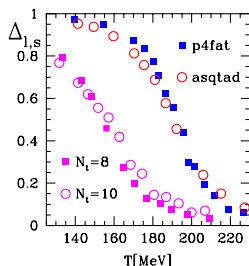
'chiral  $T_c$ ':  $\approx 40$  MeV; 'confinement  $T_c$ ':  $\approx 15$  MeV difference

both groups give continuum extrapolated results with physical  $m_\pi$

# Literature: discrepancies between $T$ dependences

Reason: shoulders, inflection points are difficult to define?

Answer: no, the whole temperature dependence is shifted



for chiral quantities  $\approx 35$  MeV; for confinement  $\approx 15$  MeV  
 this discrepancy would appear in all quantities (eos, fluctuations)

150 MeV transition temperature: isn't it a bit too small?

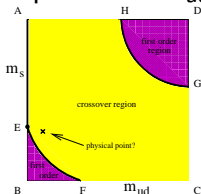
lattice works in  $V \rightarrow \infty$ , which gives much smaller  $T_c$

# Safe and unsafe lattice approaches

three very important issues for a safe lattice result:

i. discretization effects; ii. continuum limit; iii. physical quark masses

i. discretization effects: example of the  $m_{ud}-m_s$  phase diagram



F.Karsch et al., Nucl.Phys.Proc. 129 ('04) 614; G.Endrodi et al. PoS Lat'07 182('07); de Forcrand et al., ibid 178

$n_f=3$  case (standard action,  $N_t=4$ ): critical  $M_{ps} \approx 300$  MeV

different discretization effects (stout or p4 action or  $N_t=6$ ):

critical  $M_{ps}$  drops even below 100 MeV (physical  $M_{ps}$  is between)

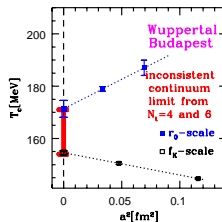
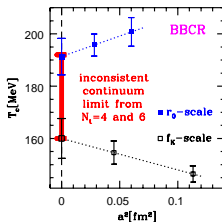
$\implies$  huge uncertainties: safe only in the continuum limit

note: state of the art  $T=0$  physics  $a \lesssim 0.06$  fm;  $T>0$  physics  $a \gtrsim 0.1$  fm

# Safe and unsafe lattice approaches

ii. continuum limit: is there any way to show that it is safe?

a. monitor asymptotic scaling ( $a^2$ ) b. with different scale settings



$N_t=4,6$ : inconsistent, but  $N_t=6,8,10$  consistent continuum limit independently of the quantity used to set the physical scale (MeV)

iii. physical quark masses are needed

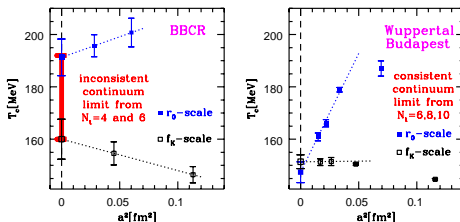
(non-physical masses: only dimensionless ratios in the continuum)

pion splitting (only one  $\pi$  instead of three)  $\propto a^2 \Rightarrow$  mimics large  $M_\pi$

some actions are quite good at reducing this non-physical effect

# Safe and unsafe lattice approaches

ii. continuum limit: don't depend on the quantity which fixes the scale  
monitor asymptotic scaling ( $a^2$ ) with different scale settings



$N_t=4, 6$ : inconsistent, but  $N_t=6, 8, 10$  consistent continuum limit  
independently of the quantity used to set the physical scale (MeV)

iii. physical quark masses are needed to give results in MeV  
(non-physical masses: only dimensionless ratios in the continuum)  
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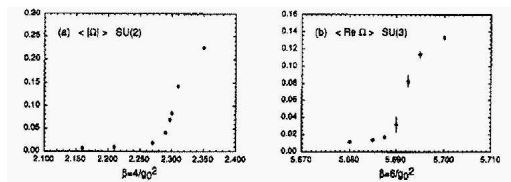
# Finite-size scaling theory

problem with phase transitions in Monte-Carlo studies

Monte-Carlo applications for pure gauge theories ( $V = 24^3 \cdot 4$ )

existence of a transition between confining and deconfining phases:

Polyakov loop exhibits rapid variation in a narrow range of  $\beta$



• theoretical prediction: SU(2) second order, SU(3) first order

⇒ Polyakov loop behavior: SU(2) singular power, SU(3) jump

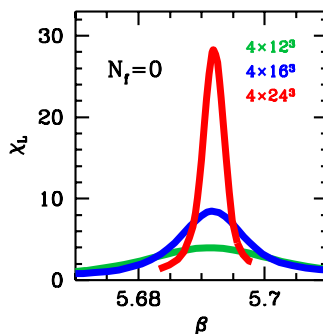
data do not show such characteristics!



# Finite size scaling in the quenched theory

look at the susceptibility of the Polyakov-line

first order transition (Binder)  $\implies$  peak width  $\propto 1/V$ , peak height  $\propto V$



finite size scaling shows: the transition is of first order

# The nature of the QCD transition

Y.Aoki, G.Endrodi, Z.Fodor, S.D.Katz, K.K.Szabo, Nature, 443 (2006) 675

finite size scaling study of the chiral condensate (susceptibility)

$$\chi = (T/V) \partial^2 \log Z / \partial m^2$$

**phase transition:** finite V analyticity  $V \rightarrow \infty$  increasingly singular

(e.g. first order phase transition: height  $\propto V$ , width  $\propto 1/V$ )

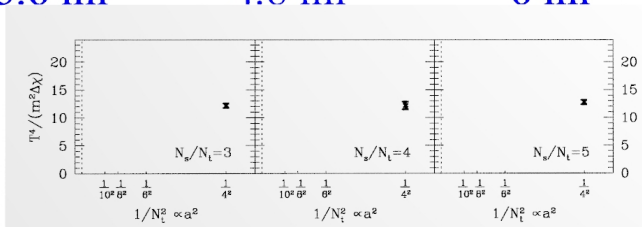
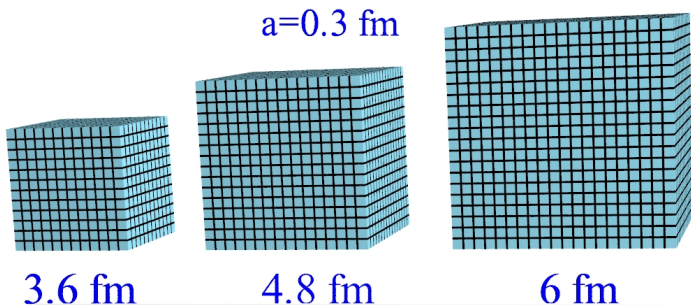
for an **analytic** cross-over  $\chi$  **does not grow with V**

two steps (three volumes, four lattice spacings):

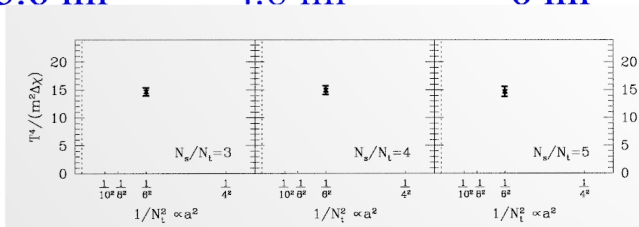
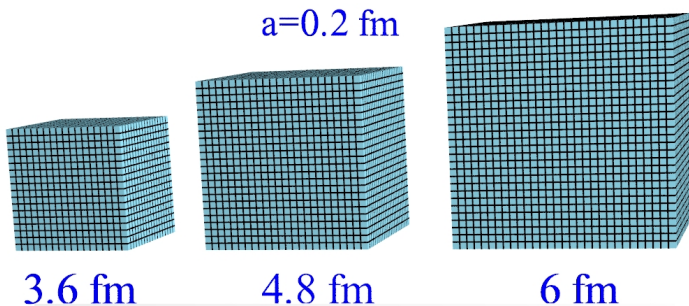
a. **fix V and determine  $\chi$  in the continuum limit:**  $a=0.3, 0.2, 0.15, 0.1 \text{ fm}$

b. using the continuum extrapolated  $\chi_{max}$ : **finite size scaling**

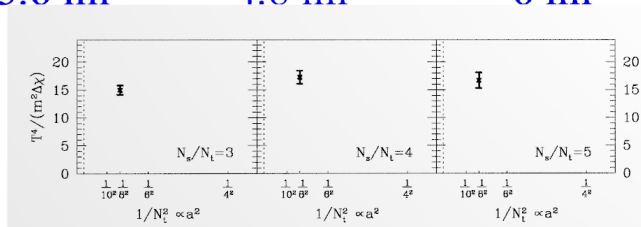
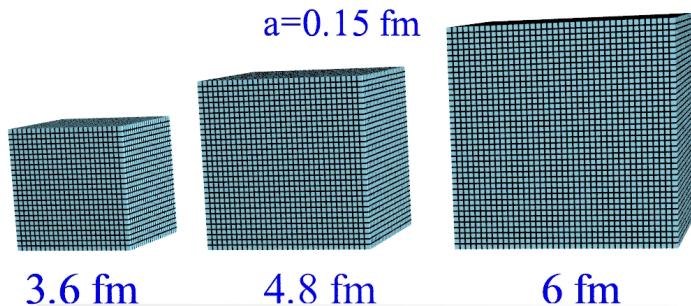
# Approaching the continuum limit



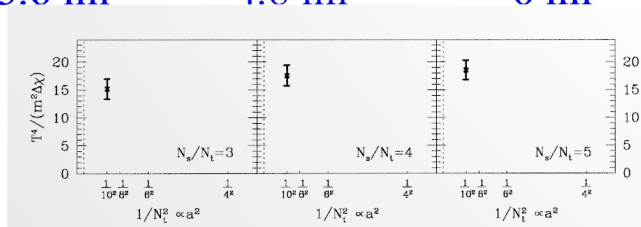
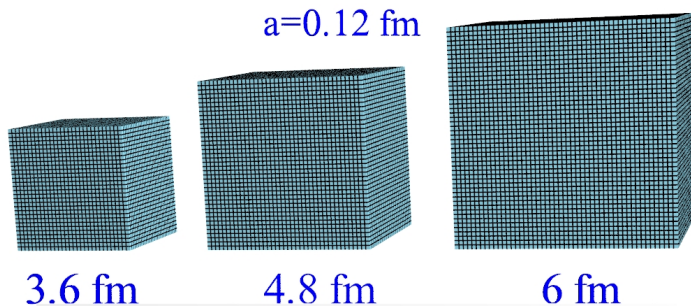
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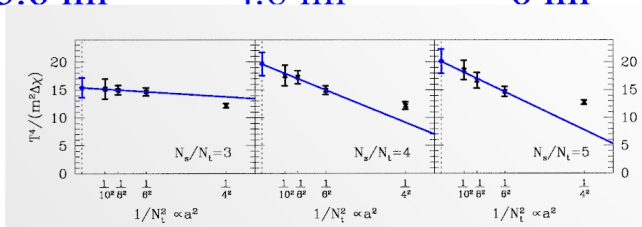
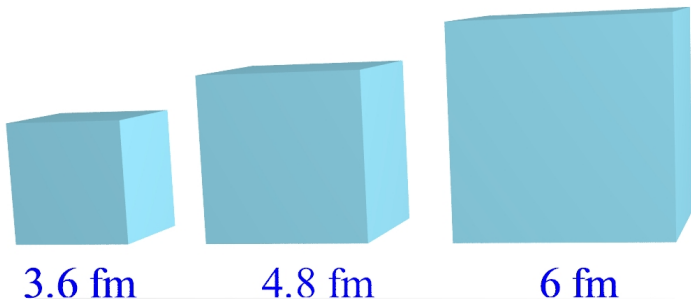
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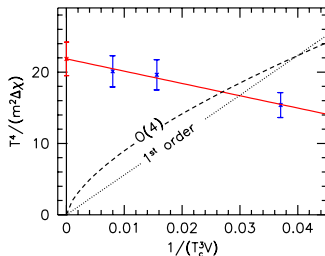


# Approaching the continuum limit



# The nature of the QCD transition: result

- finite size scaling analysis with continuum extrapolated  $T^4/m^2\Delta\chi$



the result is consistent with an approximately constant behavior for a factor of 5 difference within the volume range  
 chance probability for 1/V is  $10^{-19}$  for O(4) is  $7 \cdot 10^{-13}$   
 continuum result with physical quark masses in staggered QCD:

the QCD transition is a cross-over

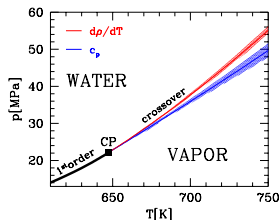
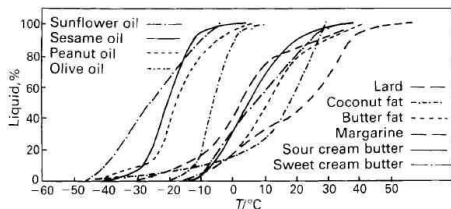


# Analytic QCD transition (cross-over): consequences

highly non-trivial  $a \rightarrow 0$  result [Y.Aoki, G.Endrodi, Z.Fodor, S.D.Katz, K.K.Szabo, Nature, 443 \(2006\) 675](#)

**analytic transition (cross-over)**  $\Rightarrow$  it has no unique  $T_C$ :

examples: melting of butter (not ice) & water-steam transition



above the critical point  $c_p$  and  $d\rho/dT$  give different  $T_C$ s.

**QCD: chiral & quark number susceptibilities or Polyakov loop**

they result in different  $T_C$  values  $\Rightarrow$  physical difference

## Discretization errors in the transition region

we always have discretization errors: nothing wrong with it as long as

- result: close enough to the continuum value (error subdominant)
- we are in the scaling regime ( $a^2$  in staggered)

various types of discretization errors  $\Rightarrow$  we improve on them (costs)

we are speaking about the **transition temperature region**  
**interplay** between hadronic and quark-gluon plasma physics  
 smooth cross-over: one of them takes over the other around  $T_c$

both regimes (low T and high T) are equally important

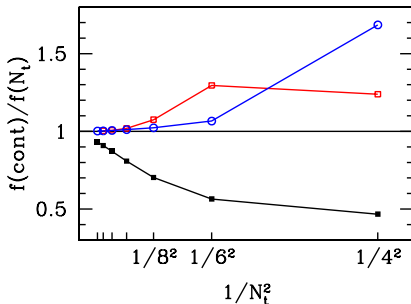
**improving for one:  $T \gg T_c$ , doesn't mean improving for the other:  $T < T_c$**

example: 'expansion' around a Stefan-Boltzman gas (van der Waals)  
 for water: it is a fairly good description for  $T \gtrsim 300^\circ$

calculate the boiling point: more accuracy needed for the liquid phase

## Examples for improvements, consequences

analytic: how to reach the continuum free energy density at  $T=\infty$ ?



Bielefeld: p4 action is essentially designed for this quantity  $T \gg T_c$

MILC: asqtad is designed mostly for  $T=0$  (but good at  $T \gg T_c$ , too)

BW: stout-smear link converges slower but in the  $a^2$  scaling regime (e.g. extrapolation from  $N_t=8,10$  provides a result within about 1%)

# Chiral symmetry breaking and pions

transition temperature for remnant of the chiral transition:

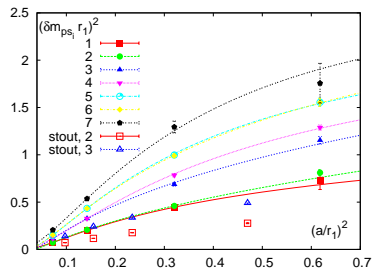
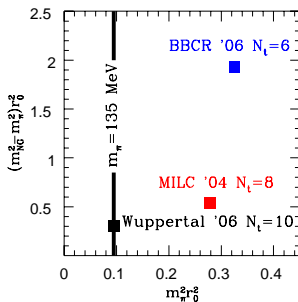
balance between the chirally broken and chirally symmetric sectors

chiral symmetry breaking: 3 pions are the pseudo-Goldstone bosons

staggered QCD: 1 pseudo-Goldstone instead of 3 (taste violation)

staggered lattice artefact  $\Rightarrow$  disappears in the continuum limit

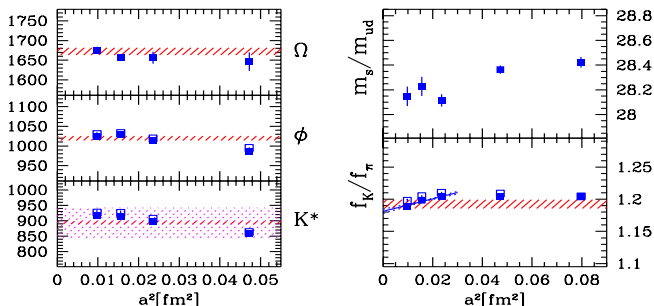
WB: stout-smearing improvement is designed to reduce this artefact



# Setting the scale in lattice QCD

in lattice QCD we use  $g, m_{ud}$  and  $m_s$  in the Lagrangian ('a' not) measure e.g. the vacuum mass of a hadron in lattice units:  $M_\Omega a$  since we know that  $M_\Omega = 1672$  MeV we obtain 'a' and  $T = 1/N_t a$

Y.Aoki et al. [Wuppertal-Budapest Collaboration] JHEP 0906:088,2009

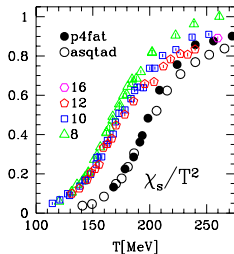


independently which quantity is taken (we used physical masses)

$\Rightarrow$  one obtains the same 'a' and T, result is safe

# $T > 0$ results: strange susceptibility

Compare the Wuppertal-Budapest results [Y.Aoki et al. JHEP 0906:088,2009] with 'hotQCD'



'hotQCD' results are on  $N_t=8$ , WB results are on  $N_t=8,10,12,(16)$

'hotQCD': results with two different actions are almost the same

WB: for large  $T$  one extrapolates according to the known  $a^2$  behaviour

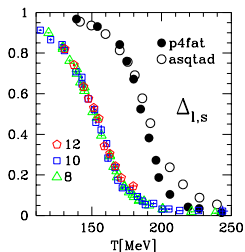
WB: no change in the lattice results compared to our 2006 paper

note, that the experimental value of  $f_K$  decreased by 3% since 2006

about 20 MeV difference between the results

# $T > 0$ results: chiral condensate

Compare the Wuppertal-Budapest results [Y.Aoki et al. JHEP 0906:088,2009] with 'hotQCD'



'hotQCD' results are on  $N_t=8$ , WB results are on  $N_t=8,10,12$

'hotQCD': results with two different actions are almost the same

WB: no lattice spacing dependence observed for  $N_t=8,10,12$

WB: no change in the lattice results compared to our 2006 paper

about 35 MeV difference between the results

# transition temperatures for various observables

	$\chi_{\bar{\psi}\psi}/T^4$	$\chi_{\bar{\psi}\psi}/T^2$	$\chi_{\bar{\psi}\psi}$	$\Delta_{l,s}$	L	$\chi_s$
WB'09	146(2)(3)	152(3)(3)	157(3)(3)	155(2)(3)	170(4)(3)	169(3)(3)
WB'06	151(3)(3)	-	-	-	176(3)(4)	175(2)(4)
BBCR	-	192(4)(7)	-	-	192(4)(7)	-

renormalized chiral susceptibility, renormalized chiral condensate  
Polyakov loop and strange quark number susceptibility

no change compare to our 2006 data (errors are reduced)

note, that the experimental value of  $f_K$  decreased by 3% since 2006

Particle Data Group now gives  $f_K=155.5(2)(8)(2)$  MeV (error 0.5%)

$r_0$  is not directly measurable:

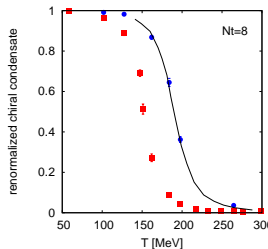
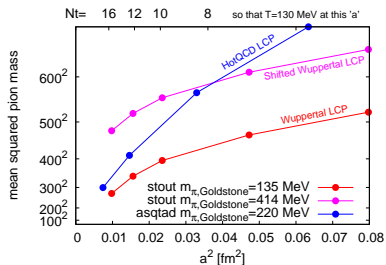
ETM:0.444(4) fm, QCDSF:0.467(6) fm,

HPQCD&UKQCD:0.469(7) fm, PACS-CS:0.492(6)(+7) fm



## Illustration: lattice artefacts due to pion splitting

we have seen: our action (WB) has less unphysical pion splitting than the asqtad (MILC) and far less than the p4 (Bielefeld) action in the continuum limit: no problem; at  $a \neq 0$  it mimics larger  $M_\pi$  “reproduce” the result of hotQCD with larger  $M_\pi$  (asqtad is better)

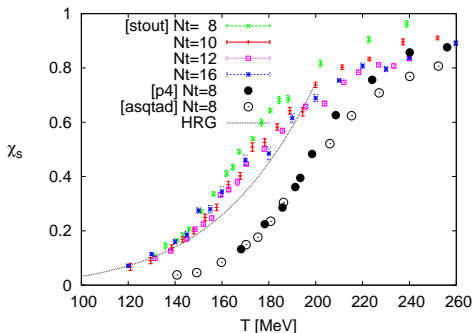


$M_\pi \approx 220$  MeV (hotQCD) “corresponds” to  $M_\pi \approx 410$  MeV (WB)  
 asqtad (MILC) needs finer p4 (Bielefeld) needs much finer lattices  
 in order to handle physical quark masses (suboptimal improvement)

# Illustration: lattice artefacts due to pion splitting

go even closer to the continuum limit:  $N_t=16$  (preliminary)

compare WB and hotQCD with the hadron resonance gas model



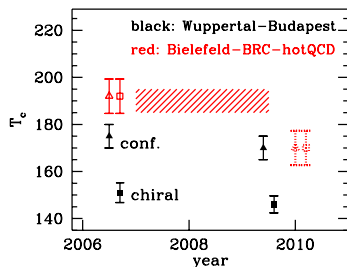
Wuppertal-Budapest: **nice agreement** upto 160 MeV (almost  $T_c$ )

hot-QCD: **several sigma discrepancy**

reason: hotQCD action has large  $\pi$ -splitting  $\Rightarrow$  large hadron masses

# Story of $T_c$ (last 4 years) hotQCD versus Wuppertal

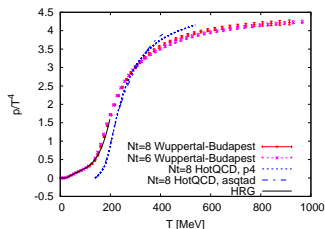
results in physical units (MeV) are meaningful only in the **continuum limit (extrapolation) with physical quark masses**



2006 claims: **continuum limit results with physical quark masses**  
 many standard deviation discrepancy: statistically “impossible”  
 our interpretation since 2006: BBRC result on  $T_c$  is “non-continuum”  
 hotQCD preliminary: closer to continuum  $\Rightarrow$  more than 20 MeV drop  
 trust a result: scaling behavior & independence of scale setting

## Equation of state: preliminary results

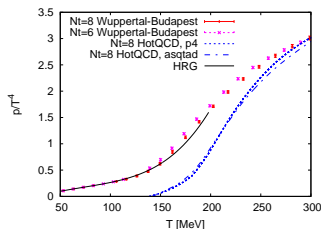
our improved action: Symanzik gauge & stout smeared fermions  
 physical quark masses and our line of constant physics can be used  
 renormalization: [G.Endrodi, Z.Fodor, S.D.Katz, K.K.Szabo, PoS Lat07 228 \(2007\)](#)  
 leading order (SB limit) normalization is also applied  
 full temperature dependence upto 1 GeV is given for  $N_t=8$   
 (monitor the continuum limit: soon 3 sensitive points with  $N_t=10,12$ )



hotQCD result has a larger characteristic temperature (similar to  $T_c$ )  
 hotQCD indicates a steeper (more singular) transition (similar to  $T_c$ )

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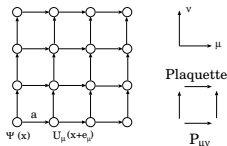


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# Summary

- QCD transition: analytic cross-over (continuum with  $M_\pi=135$  MeV)
- new (2009) results for the transition temperature
- three improvements since 2006
  - a. at  $T=0$  all simulations are done with physical quark masses
  - b. to verify that the results are independent of the scale setting we use 5 experimentally well-known quantities:  $f_K, f_\pi, m_{K^*}, m_\Omega, m_\Phi$
  - c. even smaller lattice spacings:  $N_t=12$  (in one case  $N_t=16$ )
- all findings are in complete agreement with our 2006 results
- Particle Data Group reduced the experimental value of  $f_K$ : 3%
- discrepancy between Wuppertal-Budapest & 'hotQCD' results
  - a. for the remnant of the deconfinement transition: about 20 MeV
  - b. for the remnant of the chiral transition: about 35 MeV
 possible explanation: hotQCD has large discretization effects
- preliminary equation of state results  $N_t=8(10,12)$

# Lattice Lagrangian: gauge fields



$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}(D_\mu \gamma^\mu + m)\psi$$

anti-commuting  $\psi(x)$  quark fields live on the sites  
gluon fields,  $A_\mu^a(x)$  are used as links and plaquettes

$$U(x, y) = \exp\left(ig_s \int_x^y dx'^\mu A_\mu^a(x') \lambda_a/2\right)$$

$$P_{\mu\nu}(n) = U_\mu(n)U_\nu(n+e_\mu)U_\mu^\dagger(n+e_\nu)U_\nu^\dagger(n)$$

$S = S_g + S_f$  consists of the pure gluonic and the fermionic parts

$$S_g = 6/g_s^2 \cdot \sum_{n,\mu,\nu} [1 - \text{Re}(P_{\mu\nu}(n))]$$

# Lattice Lagrangian: fermionic fields

quark differencing scheme:

$$\bar{\psi}(x)\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu\psi(x) \rightarrow \bar{\psi}_n\gamma^\mu(\psi_{n+e_\mu} - \psi_{n-e_\mu})$$

$$\bar{\psi}(x)\gamma^\mu D_\mu\psi(x) \rightarrow \bar{\psi}_n\gamma^\mu U_\mu(n)\psi_{n+e_\mu} + \dots$$

fermionic part as a bilinear expression:  $S_f = \bar{\psi}_n M_{nm} \psi_m$

we need 2 light quarks (u,d) and the strange quark:  $n_f = 2 + 1$

(complication: fermion doubling  $\Rightarrow$  staggered/Wilson)

Euclidean partition function gives Boltzmann weights

$$Z = \int \prod_{n,\mu} [dU_\mu(x)] [d\bar{\psi}_n] [d\psi_n] e^{-S_g - S_f} = \int \prod_{n,\mu} [dU_\mu(n)] e^{-S_g} \det(M[U])$$



# Importance sampling

$$Z = \int \prod_{n,\mu} [dU_\mu(n)] e^{-S_g} \det(M[U])$$

we do not take into account all possible gauge configuration

each of them is generated with a probability  $\propto$  its weight

importance sampling, Metropolis algorithm:

(all other algorithms are based on importance sampling)

$$P(U \rightarrow U') = \min [1, \exp(-\Delta S_g) \det(M[U']) / \det(M[U])]$$

gauge part: trace of  $3 \times 3$  matrices (easy, **without M: quenched**)

fermionic part: determinant of  $10^6 \times 10^6$  sparse matrices (hard)

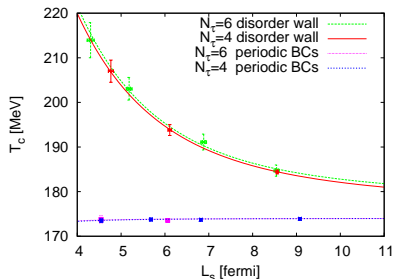
more efficient ways than direct evaluation ( $Mx=a$ ), but still hard

## $T_c$ strongly depends on the geometry

nanotube-water doesn't freeze, even at hundred degrees below  $0^\circ\text{C}$

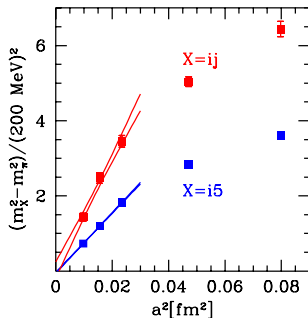
exploratory study: [A. Bazavov and B. Berg, Phys.Rev. D76 \(2007\) 014502](#)

use 'confined' spatial boundary conditions: more like experiments



large deviation (upto 30 MeV) from the infinite volume limit  
if  $V \rightarrow \infty$  is 150 MeV a  $100 \text{ fm}^3$  system might have 170 MeV

# Scaling for the pion splitting

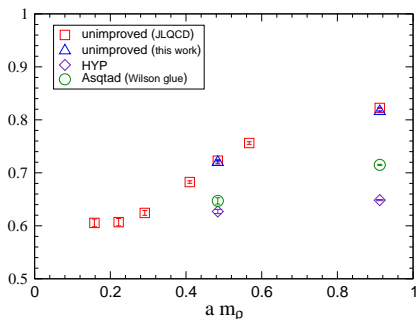


scaling regime is reached if  $a^2$  scaling is observed  
 asymptotic scaling starts only for  $N_t > 8$  ( $a \lesssim 0.15$  fm): two messages  
 a.  $N_t = 8, 10$  extrapolation gives 'p' on the  $\approx 1\%$  level: good balance  
 b. stout-smear improvement is designed to reduce this artefact  
 most other actions need even smaller 'a' to reach scaling

# Scaling of $B_K$ in quenched simulations

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$B_K^{\text{NDR}}$  (2 GeV) in the quenched approximation



unimproved action has large scaling violations

asqtad action is somewhat better

HYP smeared improvement  $\Rightarrow$  almost perfect scaling