QCD at finite isospin density

Philippe de Forcrand
ETH Zürich and CERN

with

Misha Stephanov (U. Illinois) and Urs Wenger (ETH)

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

QCD at finite isospin density

- Special case of the physically relevant situation $\mu_u \neq \mu_d \neq \mu_s$,
- Platform to assess limitations of various numerical approaches to finite baryon density,
- Provides a rich range of physical phenomena:
  - (almost free) pion gas at low temperature and density,
  - (almost free) quark gas at high temperature,
  - Bose condensation of charged pions at large density.

QCD at finite isospin density

- Isospin chemical potential: $\mu_d = -\mu_u = \mu_I/2$

$$m_u = m_d \;\Rightarrow \det(m_u, -\mu_I/2) = \det(m_d, +\mu_I/2)^*$$
$$\det_u \times \det_d = |\det|^2$$

  - No sign problem (phase quenched)
  - System does not carry net baryon number: $Q_u = -Q_d$

- Chemical potential favors creation of $\bar{u}d$ mesons, especially the lightest one, $\pi^- \sim \bar{u}\gamma_5 d \;\Rightarrow$ Bose condensation

- QCD inequalities (Son & Stephanov) $\longrightarrow$ symmetry breaking driven by $\langle \bar{\psi} i\gamma_5 \tau_{1,2} \psi \rangle$

Small isospin density

- At small isospin densities one can use chiral perturbation theory

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{4} f_\pi^2 \mathrm{Tr}[D_\mu \Sigma D_\mu \Sigma^\dagger - 2 m_\pi^2 \mathrm{Re}\Sigma]$$

where $\Sigma \in SU(2)$ is the matrix pion field:

  - μ_I breaks $SU(2)_{L+R} \to U(1)_{L+R}$,
  - no additional low energy constant needed (to leading order),
  - valid for $\mu_I \lesssim m_\rho$.

- Effective potential can be minimized as a function of μ_I using

$$\overline{\Sigma} = \cos\alpha + i(\tau_1 \cos\phi + \tau_2 \sin\phi)\sin\alpha,$$

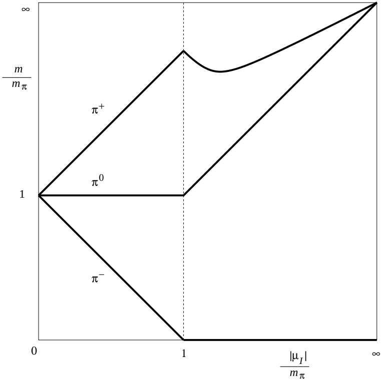
  - flavour rotation angle ϕ irrelevant.

Small isospin density

- Two distinct regimes can be identified:
- $|\mu_I| < m_\pi$:
  - no pion can be excited,
  - $\overline{\Sigma} = 1$, i.e. $\langle \bar{u}u + \bar{d}d \rangle = 2\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_0$
  - normal QCD vacuum.
- $|\mu_I| \geq m_\pi$:
  - π^- particles can be excited,
  - a Bose condensate of π^- may form where $\langle \bar{u}\gamma_5 d \rangle \neq 0$,
  - chiral condensate rotates into pion condensate as a function of μ_I,
  - $U(1)_{L+R}$ spontaneously broken $\longrightarrow$ $3d$ XY universality class,
  - π^- becomes massless, π^+, π^0 remain massive.
- When $|\mu_I| \gtrsim m_\rho$ chiral perturbation theory breaks down.

Free energy at low temperature

- Energies m to excite a pion from the vacuum at low temperature:



$\Rightarrow$ at $\mu_I = m_\pi$ the π^- Bose condense.

'Equation of state' (EoS)

- 'Equation of state' (EoS) : density as a function of isospin chemical potential:

$$\rho_I = \frac{Q}{V} = \rho_I(\hat{\mu}_I)$$

where $\hat{\mu}_I = \mu_I/T$.

- Canonical simulations give the free energy $F(Q) = -\ln Z_C(Q)$ and its derivative

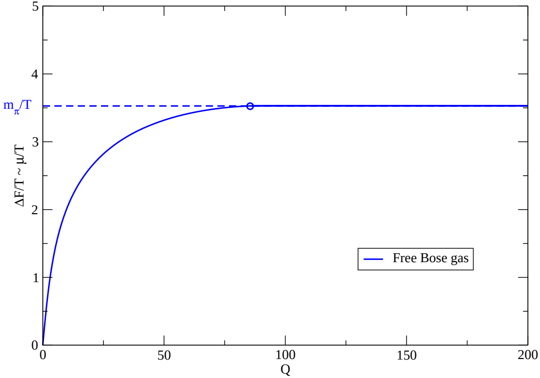
$$F(Q) - F(Q-1) \quad \overset{V\to\infty}{\Longrightarrow} \quad \frac{dF}{d\rho_I} = \mu_I.$$

EoS at low temperature

- EoS for free bosons, i.e. non-interacting pions at low density ($am_\pi \approx 0.89\ \forall\beta$):

$$\rho(\hat{\mu},\hat{m}) = \frac{T^3}{2\pi^2}\int_0^{+\infty} d\hat{p}\,\hat{p}^2\left(\frac{1}{e^{(\omega-\hat{\mu})}-1} - \frac{1}{e^{(\omega+\hat{\mu})}-1}\right)$$

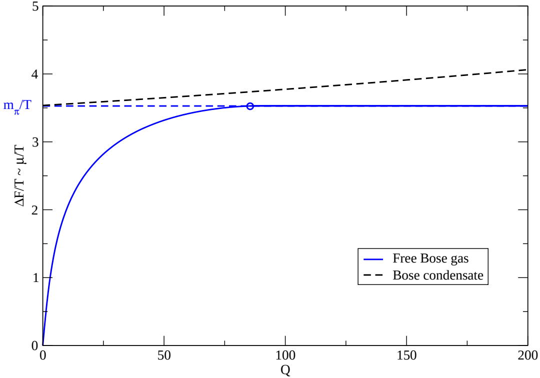
where $\omega = \sqrt{\hat{p}^2+\hat{m}^2}$.



EoS at low temperature

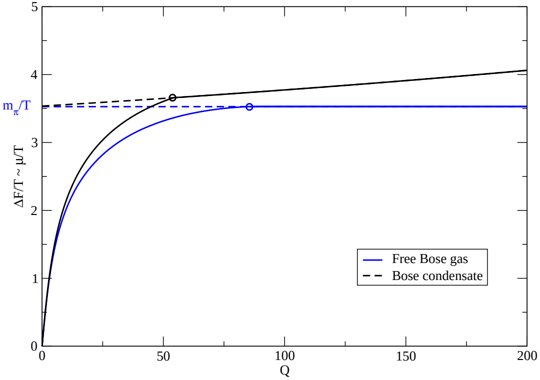
- Weak pion repulsion ($\sim \frac{1}{f_\pi^2}$) at $T = 0 \longrightarrow$ Bose condensation:

$$\rho_I = f_\pi^2 \mu_I \left(1 - (\frac{m_\pi}{\mu_I})^4 \right)$$



EoS at low temperature

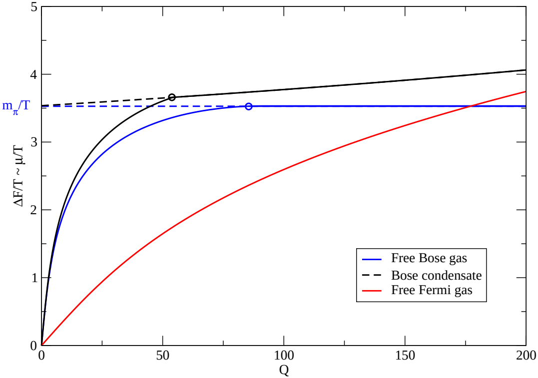
- Weak pion repulsion ($\sim \frac{1}{f_\pi^2}$) at low T: $T_c(\mu = 0)$ increases $\mu_{\rm crit} > m_\pi$, but interaction pushes critical density down



EoS at high temperature

- EoS for a massless, free Fermi gas via the pressure:

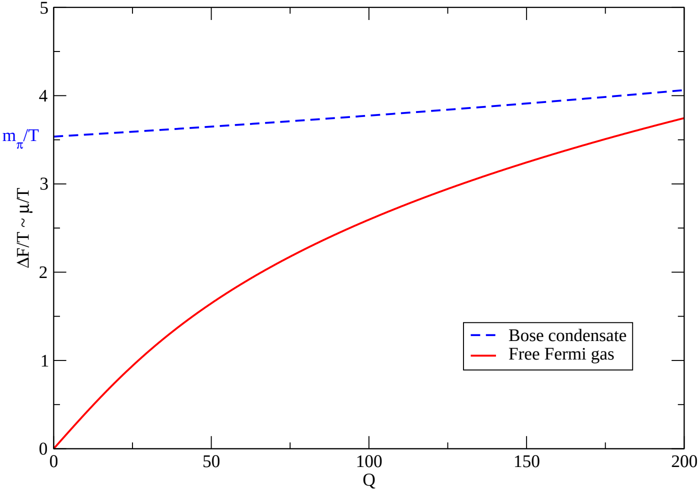
$$\frac{P(\mu_I) - P(\mu_I = 0)}{T^4} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\mu_I}{T}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{4\pi^2}\left(\frac{\mu_I}{T}\right)^4 .$$



Lattice simulation details

- $N_f = 4+4$, i.e. 2 staggered fermions on $8^3 \times 4$ at $am = 0.14$:
  $\Rightarrow$ deconfinement transition at $\mu = 0$ is 1^{st} order
- Temperature range $\frac{T}{T_c} \sim [\frac{1}{2}, 1]$
- Pion mass am_π changes only by few percent:
  $\Rightarrow m_\pi/T \sim$ constant
- Combine 69 ensembles at 6 values of μ up to $\mu/T = 4$ with Ferrenberg-Swendsen reweighting.
- No $U(1)$ breaking term (à la Kogut-Sinclair):
  - maintain importance sampling
  - order parameter $\frac{1}{V}\chi_{\pi^-}$, $\chi_{\pi^-} \equiv \langle \sum_x \pi^-(0)\pi^-(x) \rangle$

Free energy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m_π/T
ΔF/T ~ μ/T
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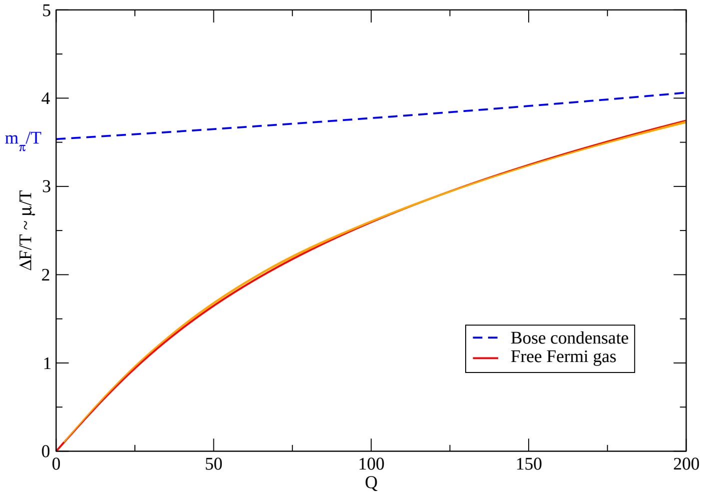
Q
Bose condensate
Free Fermi gas

Free energy



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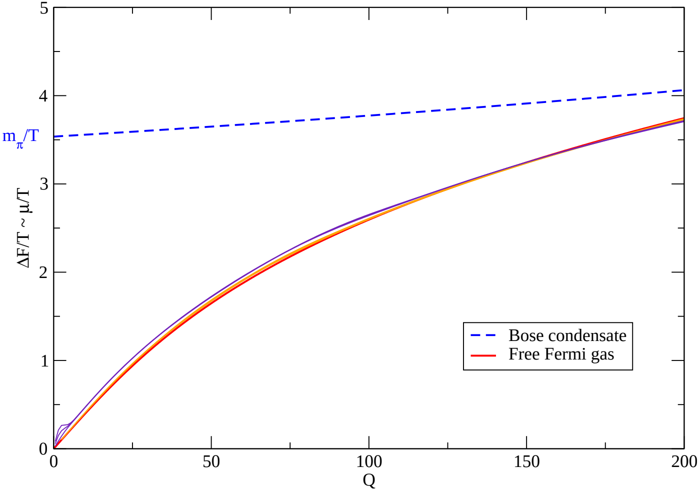
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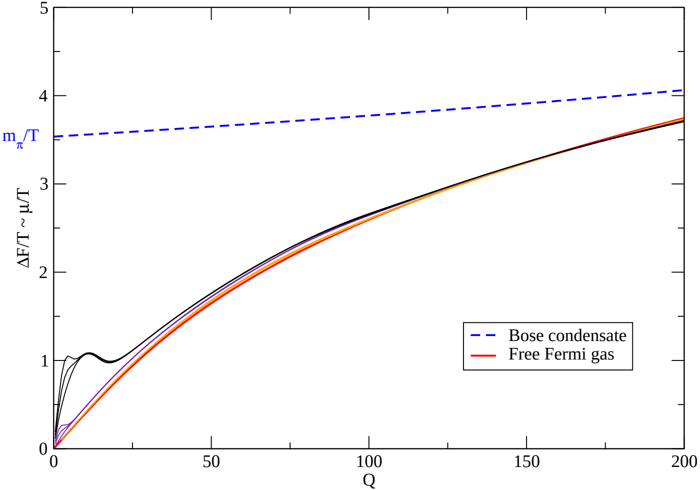
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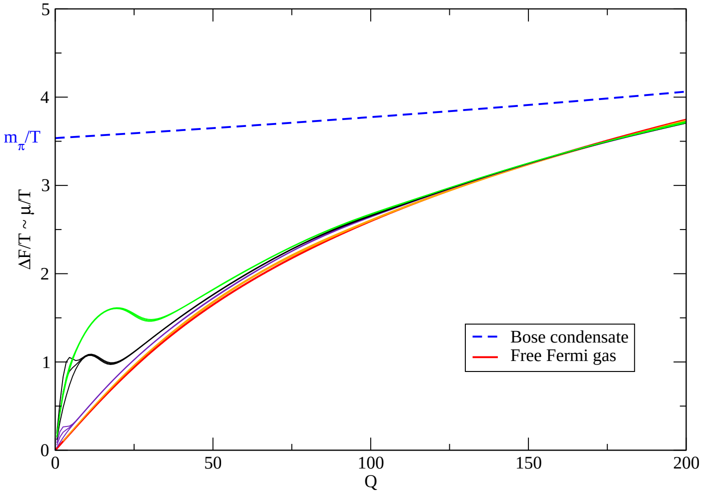

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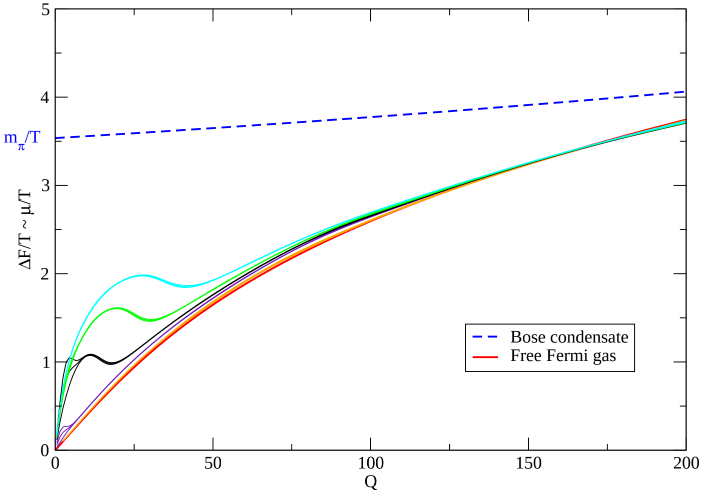

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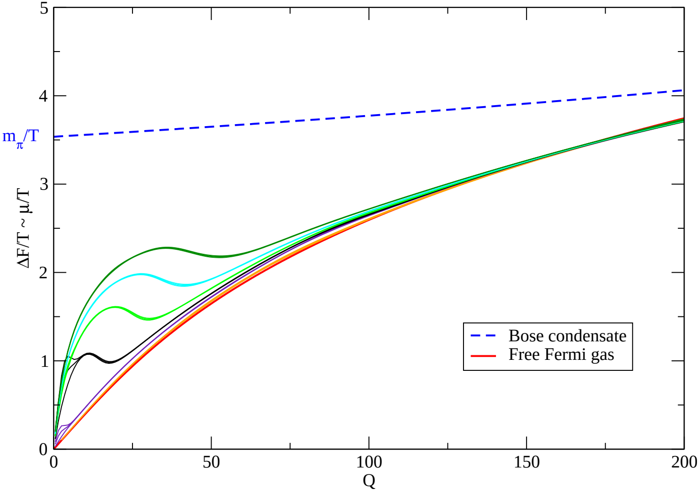
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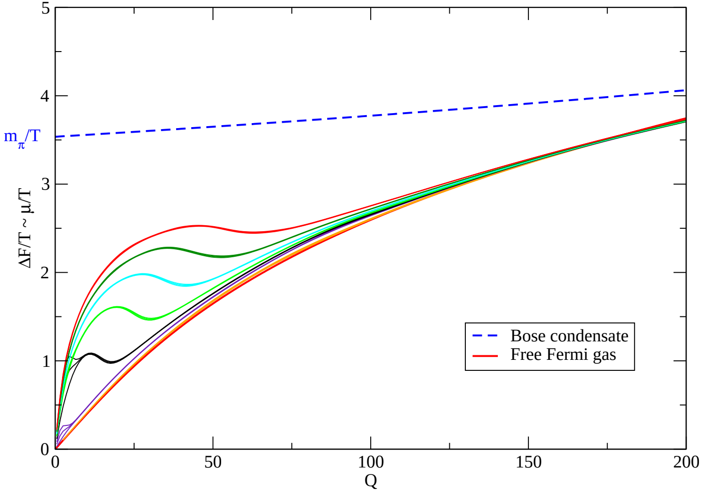

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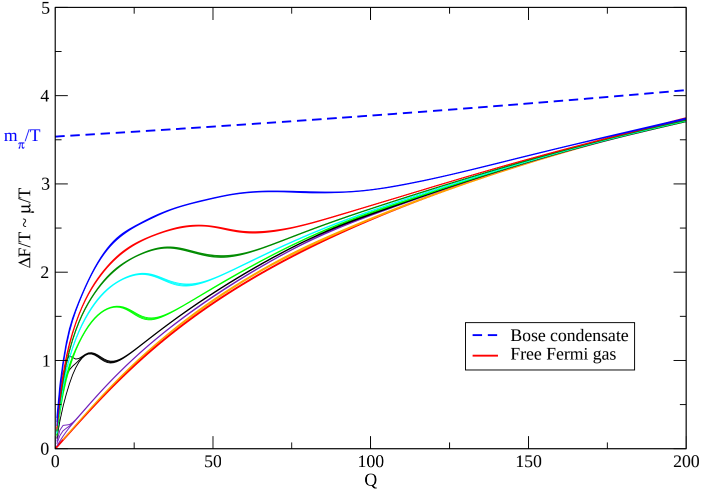
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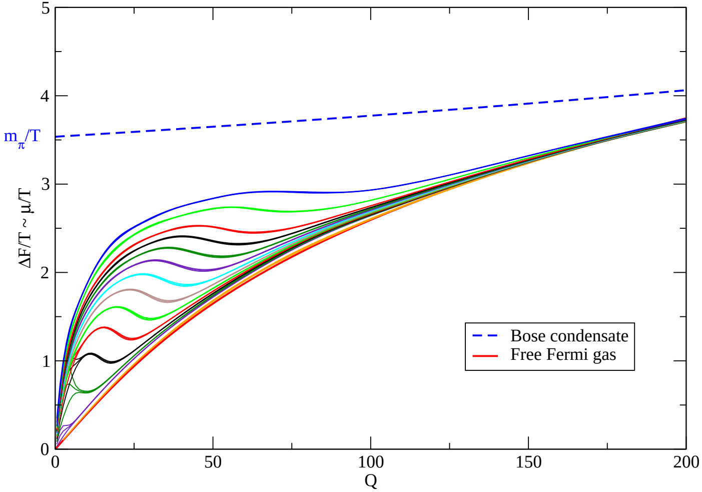
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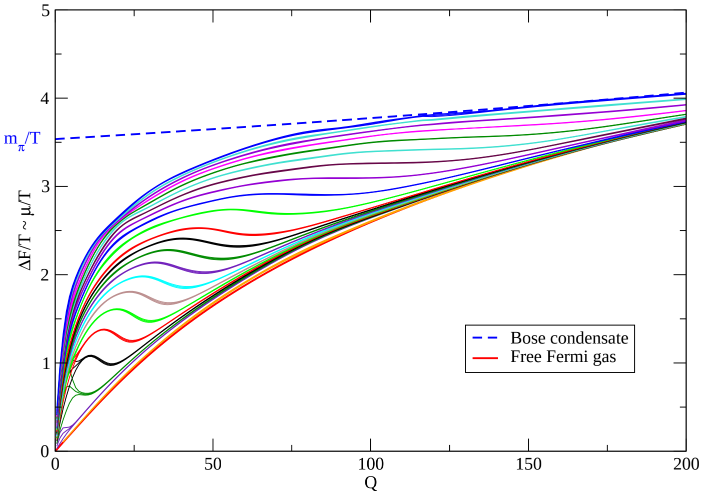

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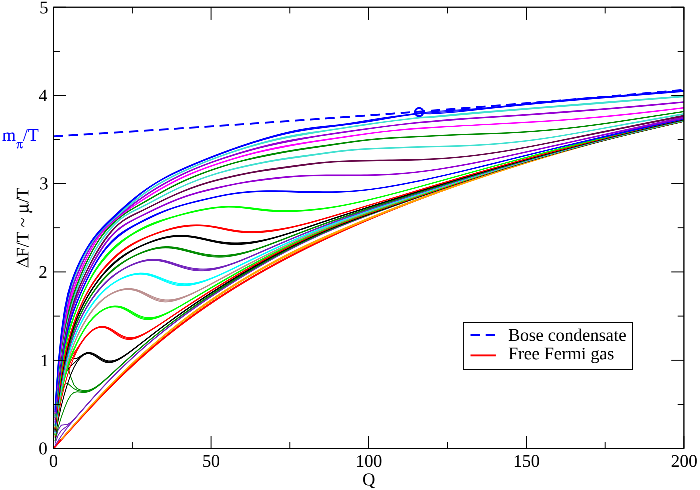
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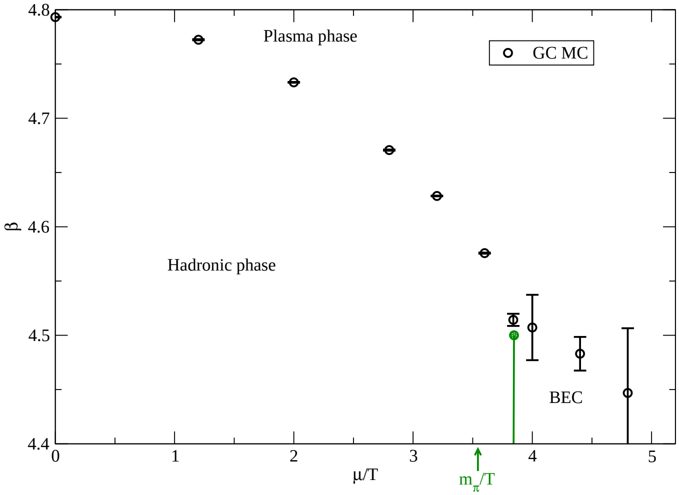
Phase diagram



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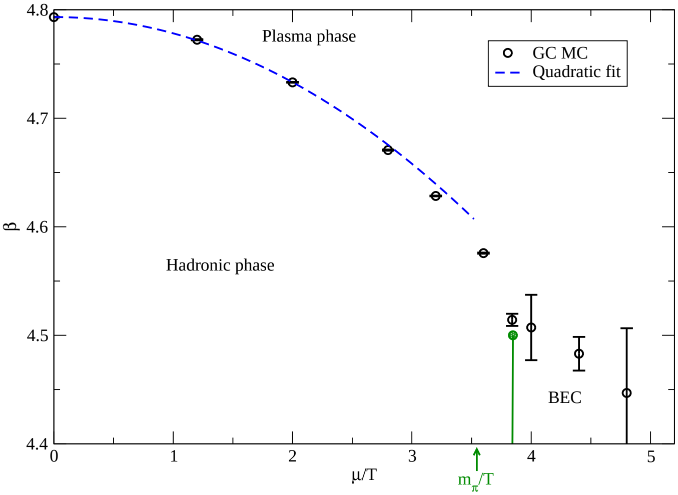

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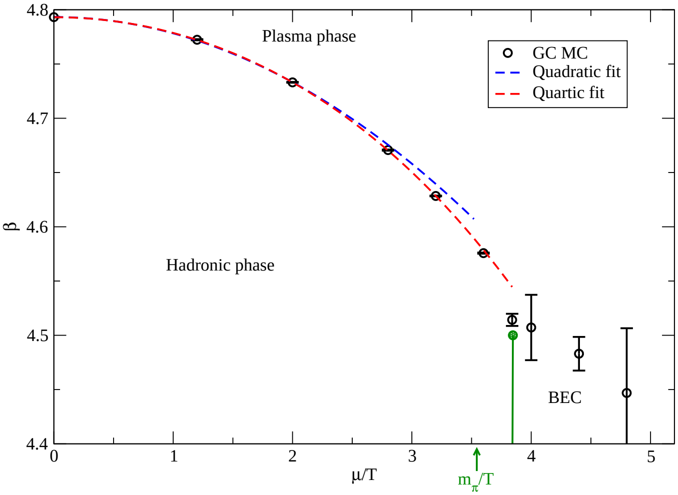

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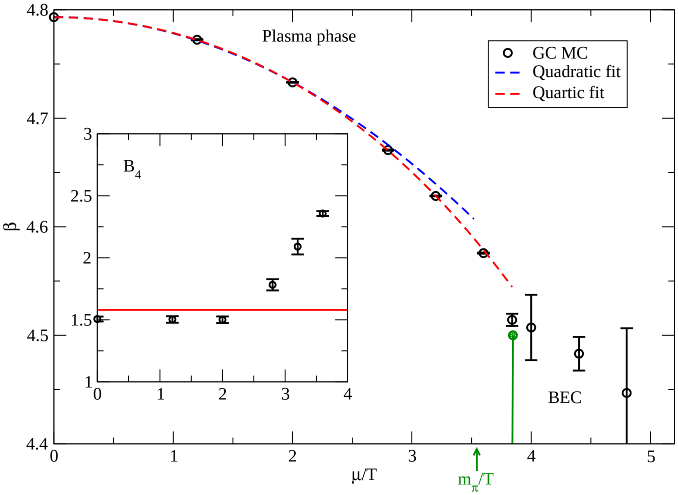

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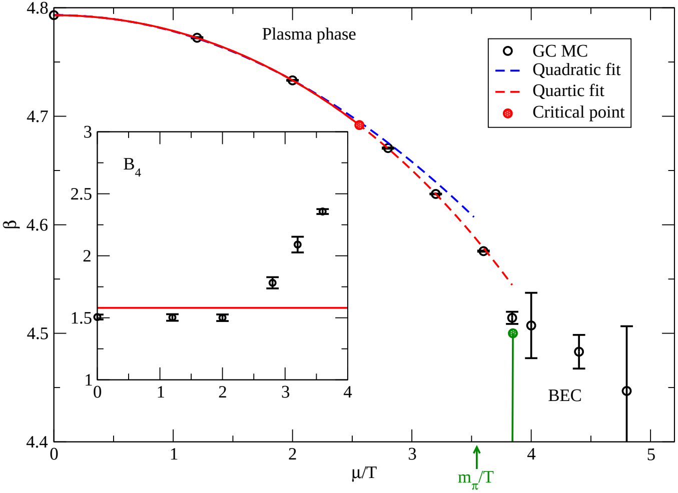
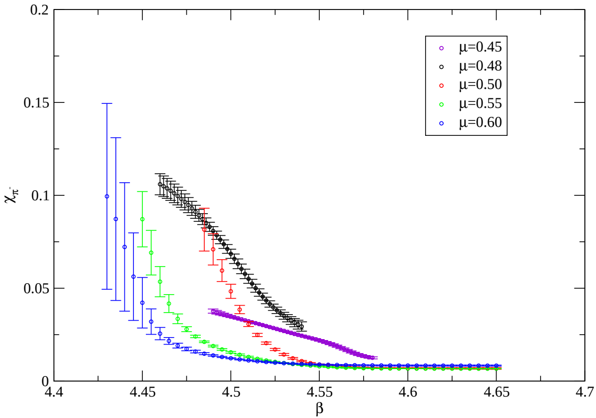


Bose condensation

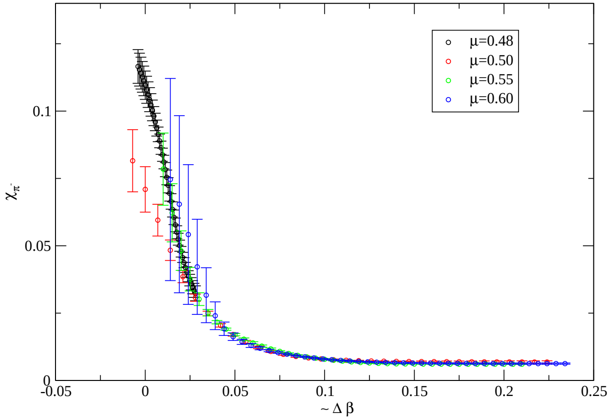
- Transition BEC $\leftrightarrow$ Fermi gas:

  $\Rightarrow$ measure order parameter: pion susceptibility χ_{π^-}



Bose condensation

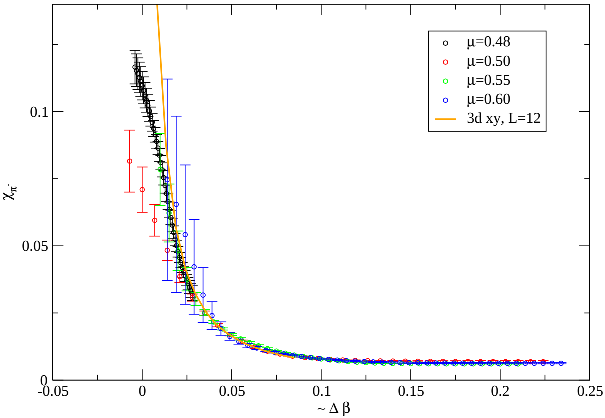
- Rescale to recover universal behaviour:



⇒ good agreement

Bose condensation

- Universality class of the 3*d* xy-model:

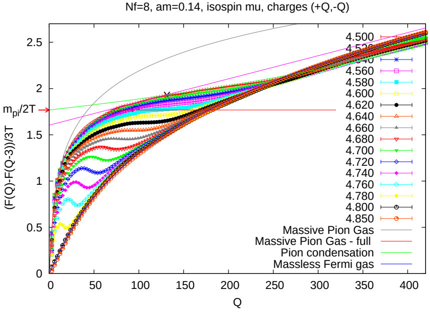


$\Rightarrow$ good agreement

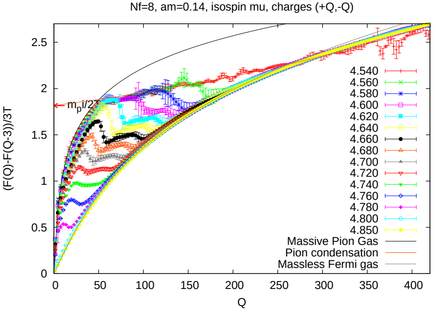
Lessons for finite baryon density

- Reweighting from $\mu = 0$ ensembles alone gives unreliable results

full

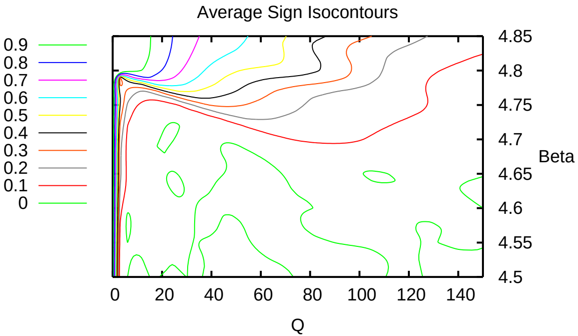


from $\mu = 0$ only



Lessons for finite baryon density

- Average sign of the determinant smaller than commonly believed



Reweighting from isospin to baryonic μ over very limited range
(Onset of BEC phase at $(Q,\beta) \sim (120, 4.52)$)
To be expected: $Z_{\rm baryon}(\beta, \frac{1}{3}\mu_B) \ll Z_{\rm isospin}(\beta, \frac{1}{2}\mu_I)$ at low T

Summary

- We determined the EoS and the phase diagram of $N_f = 4+4$ QCD at finite isospin density and finite temperature.

- We exposed the two mechanisms at work:
  - Bose condensation at high density,
  - deconfinement at high temperature (first-order $\longrightarrow$ crossover).

- Implications for the baryonic density case.