

# The Chiral Phase Transition in QCD

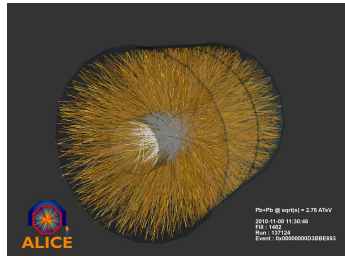
$\hookrightarrow$  Mean-Field  $\leftrightarrow$  Functional Renormalisation Group

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# Motivation

- Heavy Ion Collisions  
(RHIC, LHC, FAIR)



Picture taken from [cern.ch](http://cern.ch)

# Motivation

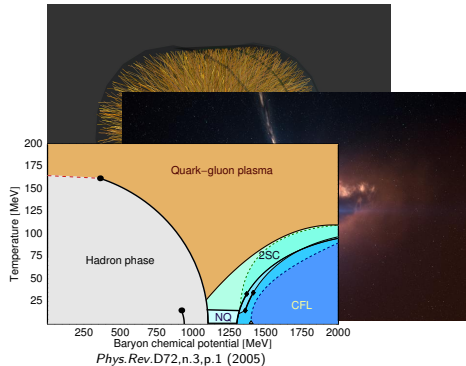
- Heavy Ion Collisions (RHIC, LHC, FAIR)
- Dense-massive stars



Picture taken from [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov)

# Motivation

- Heavy Ion Collisions (RHIC, LHC, FAIR)
- Dense-massive stars
- The  $T$ - $\mu$  phase diagram of QCD



# The Linear Sigma Model

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LSM}} = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} [\partial_\mu \Phi^\dagger \partial^\mu \Phi] + U(\Phi)$$
$$U(\Phi) = \frac{1}{2} m^2 \text{tr} [\Phi^\dagger \Phi] + \frac{\lambda_1}{4!} \left( \text{tr} [\Phi^\dagger \Phi] \right)^2 + \text{tr} [h(\Phi^\dagger + \Phi)] + \dots$$

- The linear  $h$  term explicitly breaks the  $\mathcal{O}(N)$  symmetry of the  $\Phi$  field
- $\Phi$  is composite of the mesons, scalar ( $\sigma$ ) and pseudoscalar ( $\pi$ ),  $\Phi = \sigma + i\pi$

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$N_F = 2$

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma \end{pmatrix} + i \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \pi_0 & \pi_- \\ \pi_+ & -\pi_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$N_F = 3$

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sigma_{ud} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} a_0 & a_0^- & K_0^{*-} \\ a_0^+ & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sigma_{ud} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} a_0 & \bar{K}_0^* \\ K_0^{*+} & K_0^* & \sigma_s \end{pmatrix} + \text{pseudo scalar mesons}$$

## ... with quarks

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LSMq}} = \bar{\psi} (i\not{\partial} - g(\sigma + i\gamma^5\pi))\psi + \mathcal{L}_{\text{LSM}}$$

- We have chiral symmetry of the quark Lagrangian when the fermionic fields are massless
- $\Rightarrow$  The degree of Chiral symmetry determined by  $\langle\Phi\rangle$
- Which itself is determined by the thermodynamic potential

$$\Omega = -\frac{1}{V\beta} \log \mathcal{Z}$$

# Perturbative methods

↪ Mean Field Approximation

Simplest first approximation is at one-loop, where all mesonic quantum fluctuations are suppressed.

$$\Omega[\Phi] = U(\Phi) + \Omega_{q\bar{q}}[\Phi]$$

- The physical free energy  $\Omega$  is given at its minimum,  $\Phi_0$ ,

$$\left. \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \Phi} \right|_{\Phi_0} = 0$$

- where  $\Omega_{q\bar{q}}$  is the free energy of  $N_F$  massive free fermionic fields, with masses given by  $\Phi_0$ .



# Functional Renormalisation Group

↪ Effective Average Action

## *Goal*

Find the evolution of Gibb's free energy with respect to the renormalisation scale.

# Functional Renormalisation Group

↪ Effective Average Action

- First regularise the action by using Pauli-Villars regularisation:

$$S[\phi] \rightarrow S[\phi] + \Delta_k[\phi] = S[\phi] + \frac{1}{2} \int d^d p R_{k,i,j}(p) \phi_{p,i} \phi_{-p,j}$$

- Which in turns adds a renormalisation scale dependence to Gibb's free energy<sup>1</sup>
- Can in turn find a PDE for Gibb's free energy

The Wetterich equation

$$\partial_k \Gamma_k = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \int_q \partial_k R_{k,i,j}(q) \left( \frac{\delta^2 \Gamma_k}{\delta \phi_i(p) \delta \phi_j(p')} + \delta(p+p') R_{k,i,j}(p) \right)^{-1}_{q,-q}$$

- With an identical procedure for fermionic fields

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<sup>1</sup> being the Legendre transform of Helmholtz' free energy

- Expand Gibb's free energy in powers of the  $\partial$  operator, and truncate it

$\mathcal{O}(\partial^2)$

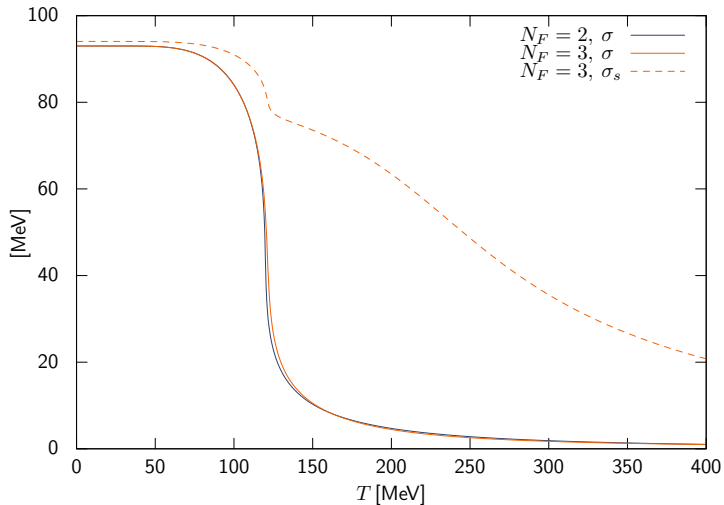
$$\Gamma_k[\phi] = \int d^d x \left( \frac{1}{2} Z_k(\phi) (\nabla_4 \phi)^2 + U_k(\phi) \right)$$

- Without the field renormalisation term  $Z_k(\phi)$ , the expansion is  $\mathcal{O}(\partial^0)$ , also known as the Local Area Approximation. In this expansion, the Wetterich eq. is:

$$\partial_k U_k = \frac{1}{2} \int_q \partial_k R_k(q) \left[ q^2 + \frac{\partial^2 U_k}{\partial \phi^2} + R_k(q) \right]^{-1}$$

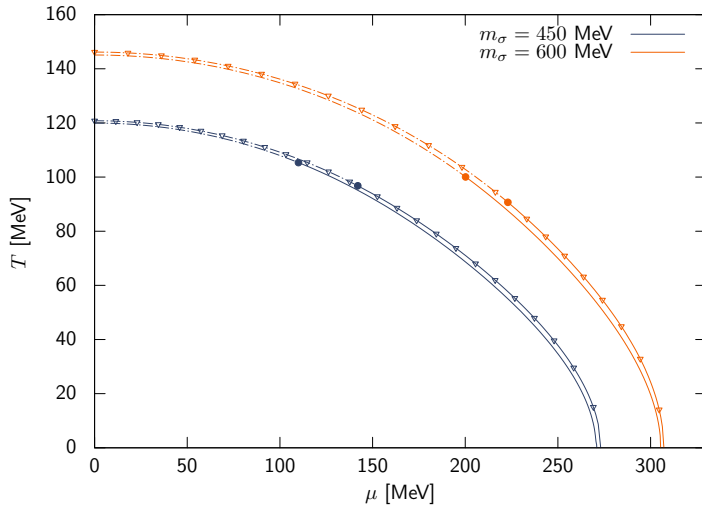
# Results

↪ MF - Chiral phase transition



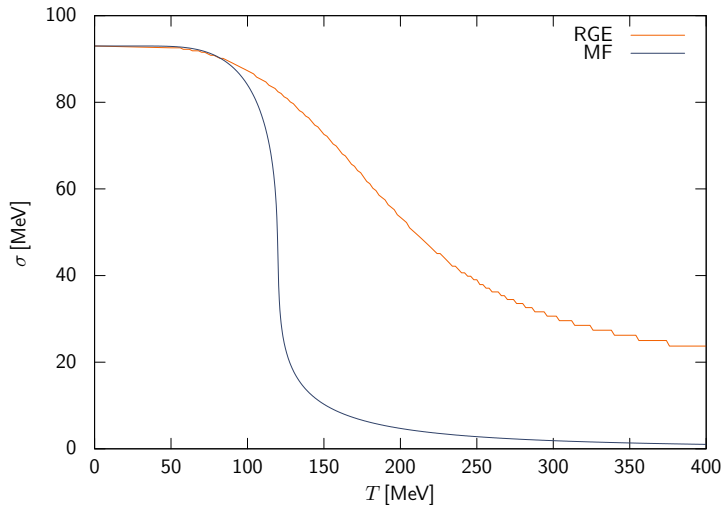
# Results

↪ MF - Chiral phase diagram



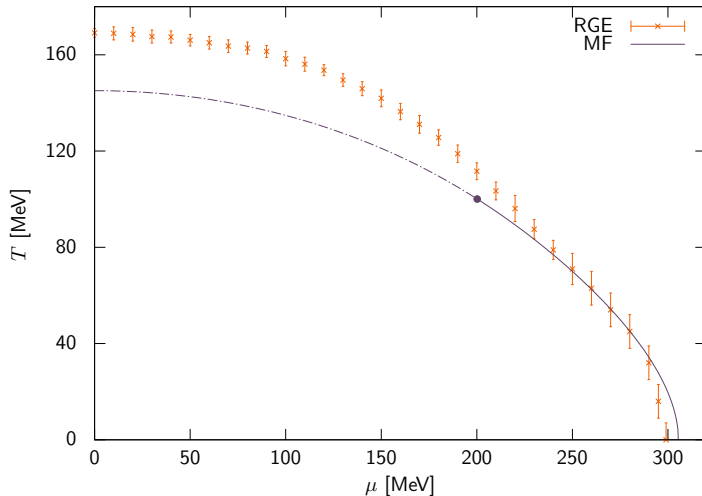
# Results

↪ RGE - Chiral phase transition



# Results

↪ RGE - Chiral phase diagram



# Summary

Got a short introduction to:

- The Linear Sigma Model with Quarks
- Symmetry considerations
- The perturbative Mean Field Approximation
- The nonperturbative Local Area Approximation