

# The in-medium heavy-quark potential and its phenomenology

Alexander Rothkopf

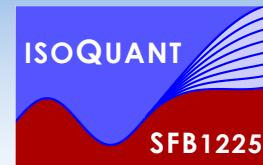
Institute for Theoretical Physics

Collaborative Research Center SFB1225 ISOQUANT

Heidelberg University

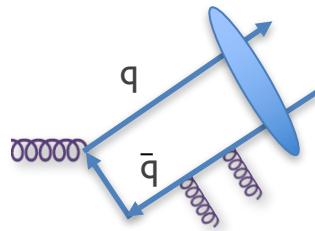
## References:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| with Y. Burnier and O.Kaczmarek         | JHEP 1512 (2015) 101, JHEP 1610 (2016) 032 |
| with Y. Burnier                         | PRD95 (2017) 054511                        |
| with S. Kajimoto, Y.Akamatsu, M.Asakawa | arXiv:1705.03365                           |
| with P. Petreczky and J.Weber           | in preparation                             |
| with B. Krouppa and M. Strickland       | in preparation                             |



# Motivation: Heavy-ion collisions

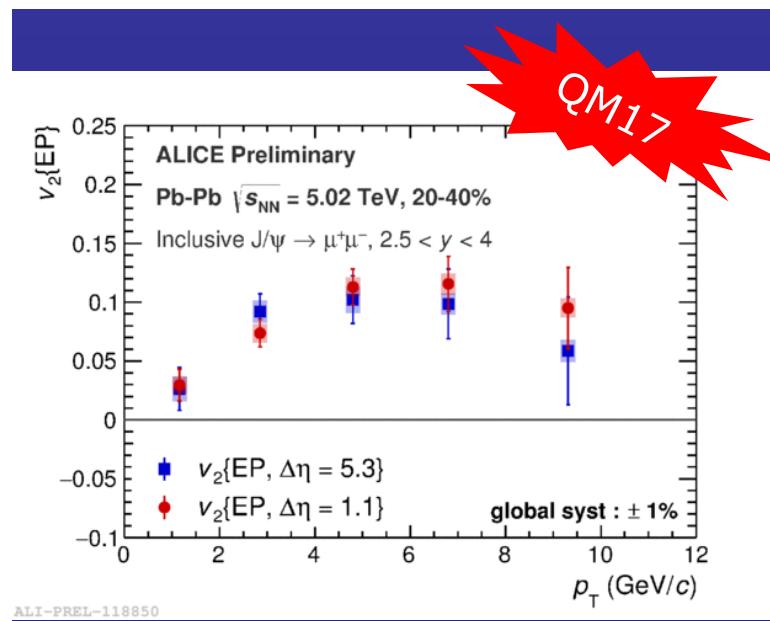
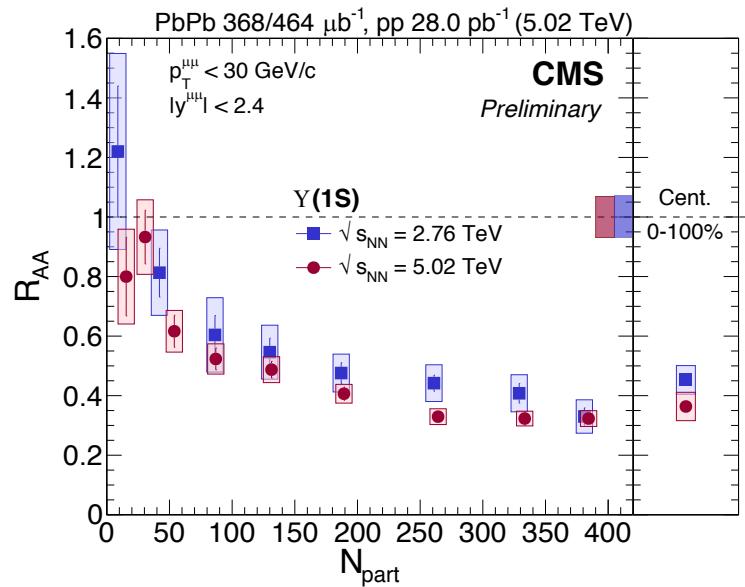
- Hard probes: susceptible to medium but distinguishable from it  $Q_{\text{probe}} > T_{\text{med}}$



Bound states of  $c\bar{c}$  or  $b\bar{b}$ : **Heavy quarkonium**  $M_Q > T_{\text{med}}$

In vacuum:  $m^{\Upsilon}=9.460 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $\Gamma^{\Upsilon} = 54(1) \text{ keV}$ ;  $m^{J/\psi}=3.096 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $\Gamma^{J/\psi} = 93(3) \text{ keV}$

see QM2017 summary  
by E. Scomparin arXiv:1705.05810

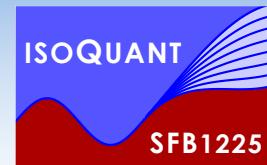


bb: sampling the full QGP evolution

cc: thermal probe of the late stages

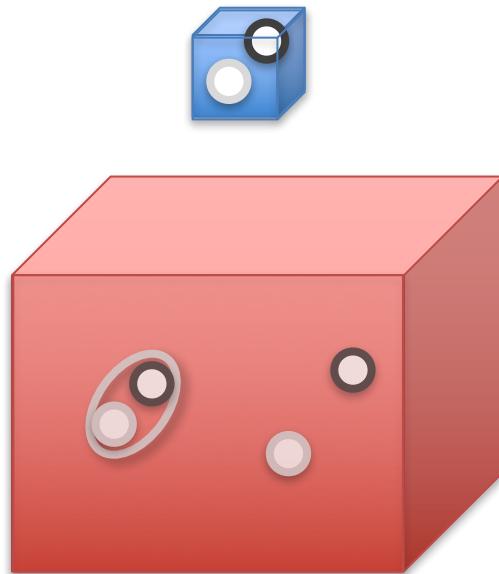
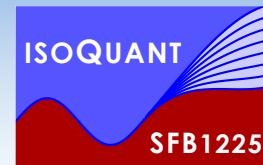
- Goal: Non-relativistic potential for in-medium QQbar from first principles

# Outline

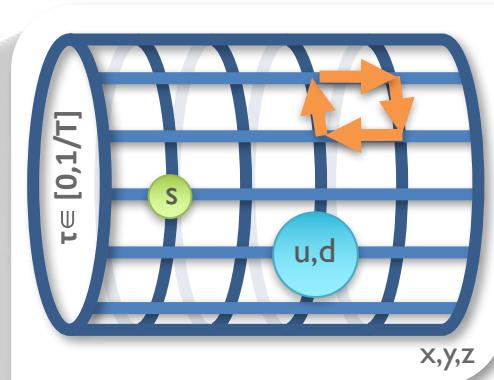


- Motivation: Relativistic heavy-ion collisions
- The in-medium heavy-quark potential from lattice QCD
  - Current status of the potential extraction from the lattice
  - Gauss-Law parametrization and Debye mass parameter
- Quarkonium phenomenology from the in-medium potential
  - Charmonium production at the phase boundary at LHC
  - Bottomonium suppression at RHIC and LHC
- Summary

# A first-principles scenario



thermal medium  
from lattice QCD



T. Matsui and H. Satz: Phys.Lett. B178 (1986) 416

Kinetically equilibrated heavy quarks

Static medium at finite temperature

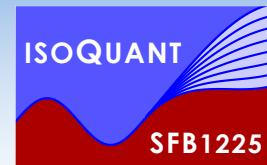
- Gauge fields as links:  $U_\mu(x) = \exp[i g \Delta x_\mu A_\mu(x)]$
- Dynamical fermions with realistic masses
- Finite extent in imaginary time:  $1/T = \beta = N_\tau a_\tau$

$$\langle O(U) \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}U O(U) e^{-S_E^{\text{QCD}}[U]}$$

$$P(U_i) \sim e^{-S[U_i]} \Rightarrow \langle O(U) \rangle \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N O(U_i)$$

How to establish a non-perturbative potential picture for  $Q\bar{Q}$  using lattice QCD?

# Towards a potential for $Q\bar{Q}$



- **Intuition:** Interactions with medium via a non-relativistic potential description

$$\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{m_Q} \ll 1, \quad \frac{T}{m_Q} \ll 1, \quad \frac{p}{m_Q} \ll 1$$

- Potential at  $T=0$  well understood from lattice QCD: Cornell  $V(R) = -\alpha_s/R + \sigma R$

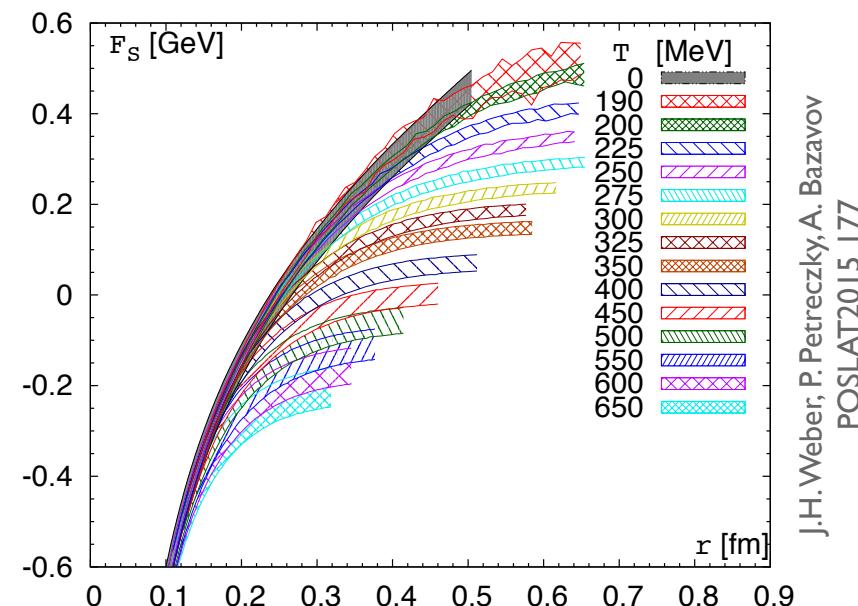
- Potential models at  $T>0$ :

- Ad hoc identification of  $V(r)$  with color singlet free energies in Coulomb Gauge

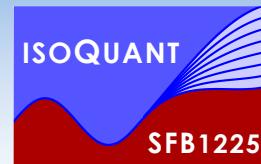
$$F^{(1)}(R) = -\frac{1}{\beta} \log [\langle P(R)P^\dagger(0) \rangle]$$

Nadkarni, PRD 34,(1986)

- Many other proposals:  
internal energy  $U^I$ , linear combinations  
C.Y.Wong, PRC 72, (2005), H. Satz JPG 36,(2009), ...



- A QCD derived Schrödinger equation required to define first principles potential



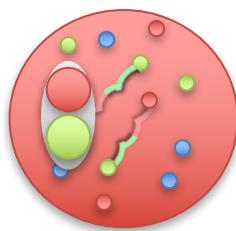
# Defining the $T > 0$ $Q\bar{Q}$ potential

## ■ Effective field theory

$$\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{m_Q} \ll 1, \quad \frac{T}{m_Q} \ll 1, \quad \frac{p}{m_Q} \ll 1$$

Brambilla, Ghiglieri, Vairo  
and Petreczky PRD 78 (2008) 014017

Relativistic thermal  
field theory



**QCD**

Dirac fields

$$\bar{Q}(x), Q(x)$$

$$\bar{q}(x), q(x), A^\mu(x)$$

**NRQCD**

Pauli fields

$$\chi^\dagger(x), \chi(x)$$

**pNRQCD**

Singlet/Octet

$$\psi_S(R, t), \psi_O(R, t)$$

Quantum  
mechanics



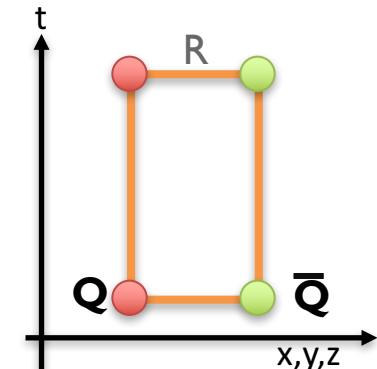
$$i\partial_t \psi_S = \left( V^{\text{QCD}}(R) + \mathcal{O}(m_Q^{-1}) \right) \psi_S$$

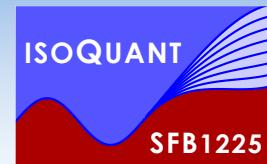
## ■ Matching between QCD and pNRQCD in the static limit

$$\langle \psi_S(R, t) \psi_S^*(R, 0) \rangle_{\text{pNRQCD}} \equiv W_\square^>(R, t) = \text{Tr} \left( \exp \left[ -i \int_\square dx^\mu A_\mu(x) \right] \right)$$

$$i\partial_t W_\square(R, t) \stackrel{t \gg t_{\text{med}}}{=} V^{\text{QCD}}(R) W_\square(R, t)$$

$$V^{\text{QCD}}(R) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{i\partial_t W_\square(R, t)}{W_\square(R, t)} \in \mathbb{C}$$

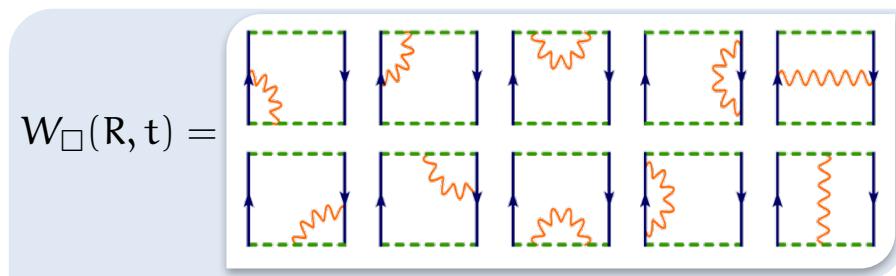




# The potential at high temperature

- $T \gg T_C$ : Asymptotic freedom of QCD allows weak coupling evaluation (HTL)

Laine et al. JHEP03 (2007) 054;  
Beraudo et. al. NPA 806:312,2008

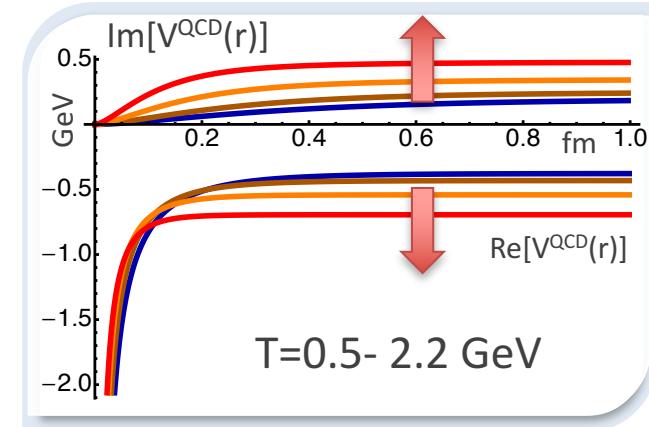


$$V_{\text{HTL}}^{\text{QCD}}(R) = -\frac{gC_F}{4\pi} \left[ m_D + \frac{e^{-m_D R}}{R} \right] - i \frac{g^2 T C_F}{4\pi} \phi(m_D R)$$

Debye screening

Landau damping

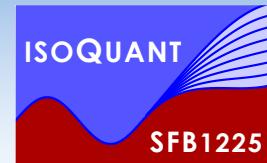
Singlet-Octet transitions



$$\phi(x) = \int_0^\infty dz \frac{z}{(z^2 + 1)^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\sin[zx]}{zx} \right]$$

- $\text{Re}[V]$  from Debye screening: presence of deconfined color charges
- $\text{Im}[V]$  from Landau damping: scattering with medium partons (decoherence)
- In the phenomenologically relevant regime  $T \sim T_C$  non-perturbative contributions

# Extracting $V^{\text{QCD}}$ from lattice QCD



- On the lattice real-time observables not directly accessible!
- How to connect to the Euclidean domain: **spectral functions**

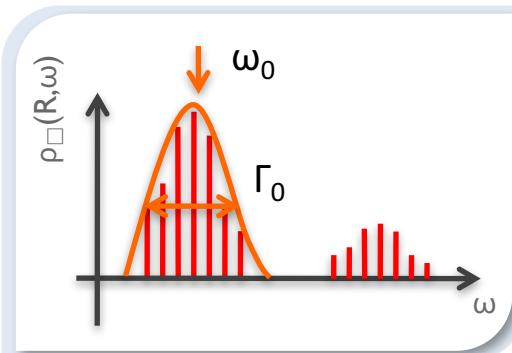
$$W_{\square}(R, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega e^{-i\omega t} \rho_{\square}(R, \omega) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad W_{\square}(R, \tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega e^{-\omega \tau} \rho_{\square}(R, \omega)$$

$$V^{\text{QCD}}(R) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \omega e^{-i\omega t} \rho_{\square}(R, \omega)}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega e^{-i\omega t} \rho_{\square}(R, \omega)}$$

**Improved Bayesian spectral reconstruction**

Y.Burnier, A.R. PRL 111 (2013) 182003

- Relation between spectrum and potential from the symmetries of  $W_{\square}(R, t)$

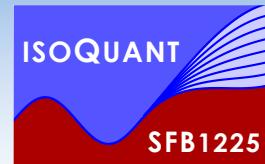


$$\rho_{\square}(R, \omega) = \frac{1}{\pi} e^{\gamma_1(R)} \frac{\Gamma_0(R) \cos[\gamma_2(R)] - (\omega_0(R) - \omega) \sin[\gamma_2(R)]}{\Gamma_0^2(R) + (\omega_0(R) - \omega)^2} + \kappa_0(R) + \kappa_1(R)(\omega_0(R) - \omega) + \dots$$

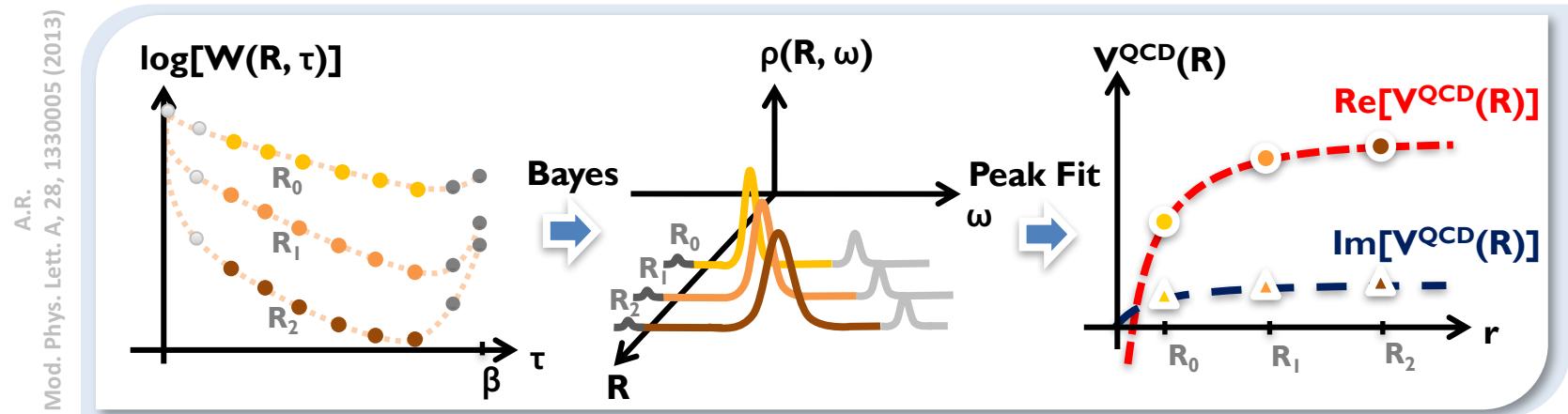
$$V^{\text{QCD}}(R) = \omega_0(R) + i\Gamma_0(R)$$

technical details: Y.Burnier, A.R. Phys.Rev. D86 (2012) 051503

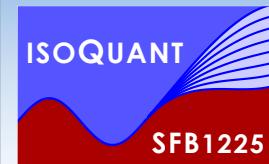
# Summary: $V^{\text{QCD}}$ from the lattice



- From lattice QCD correlators to the complex heavy quark potential

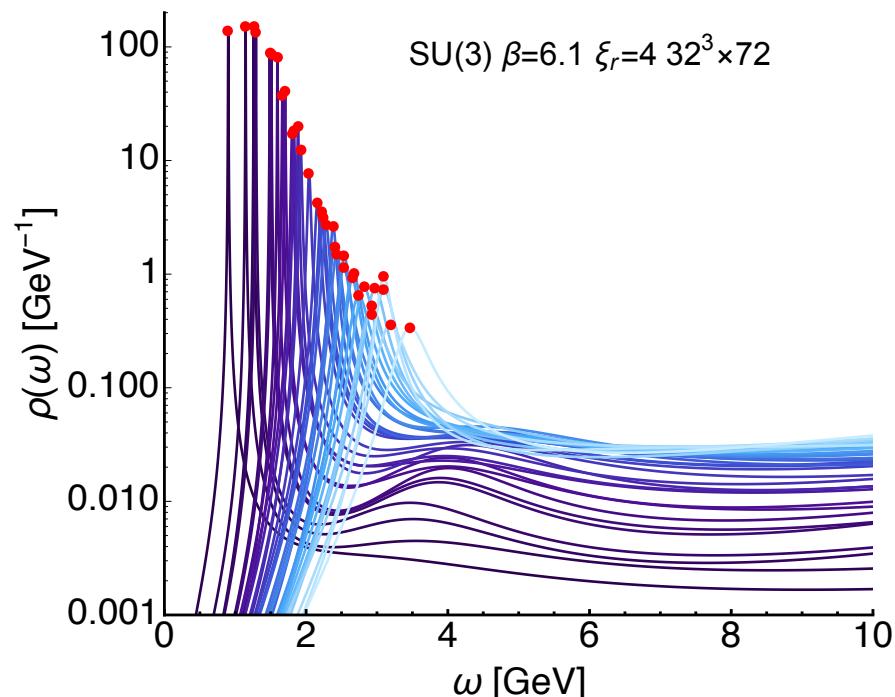
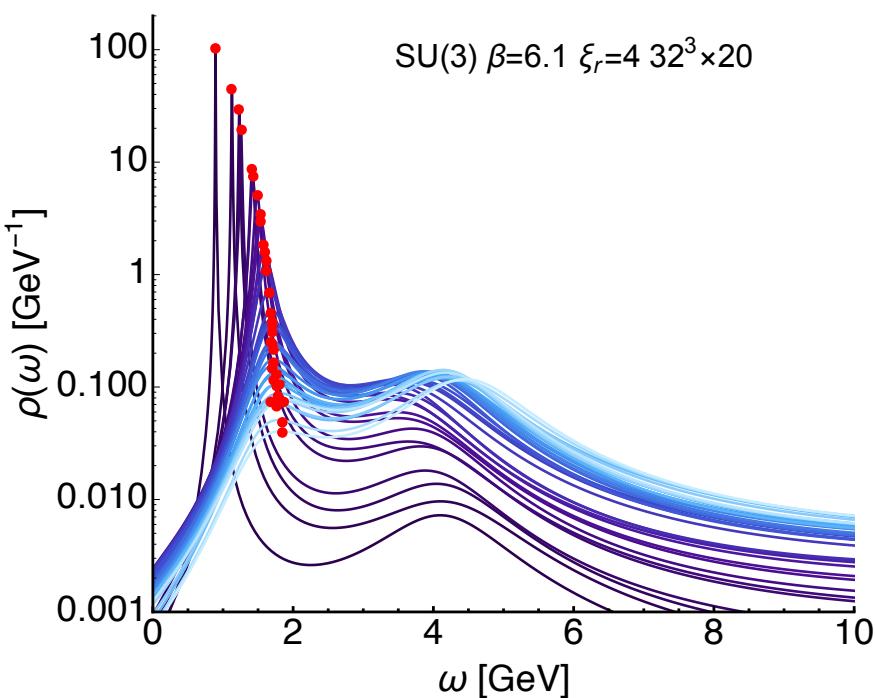


- Technical detail: Wilson Line correlators in Coulomb gauge instead of Wilson loops  
Practical reason: Absence of cusp divergences, hence less suppression along  $T$



# T>0 potential in quenched QCD (I)

- Naïve Wilson action SU(3) on  $32^3 \times N_T$   $\beta=6.1$   $\xi=4$   $N_T=[72..20]$   $T=[113-406]$  MeV



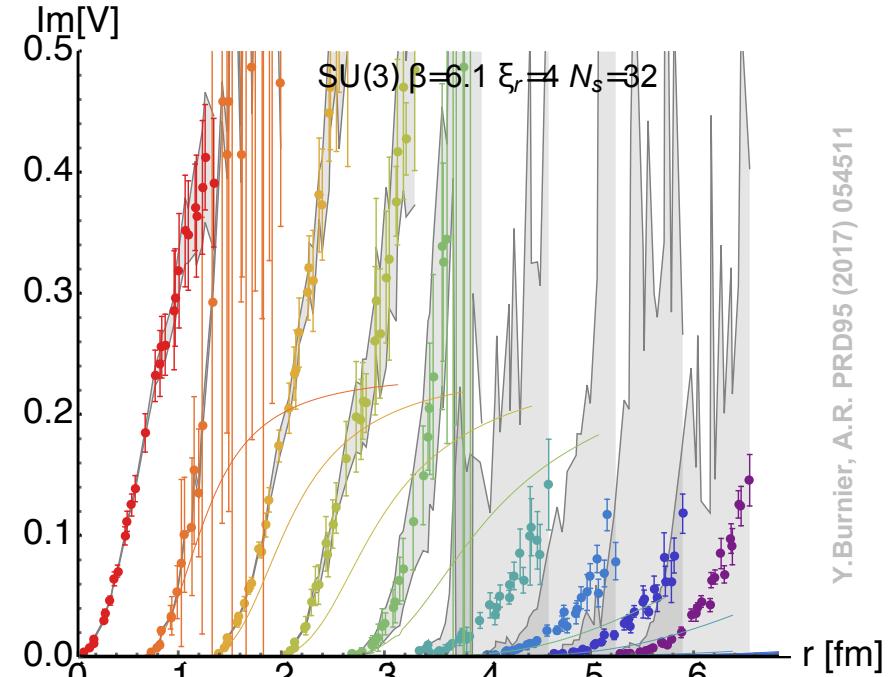
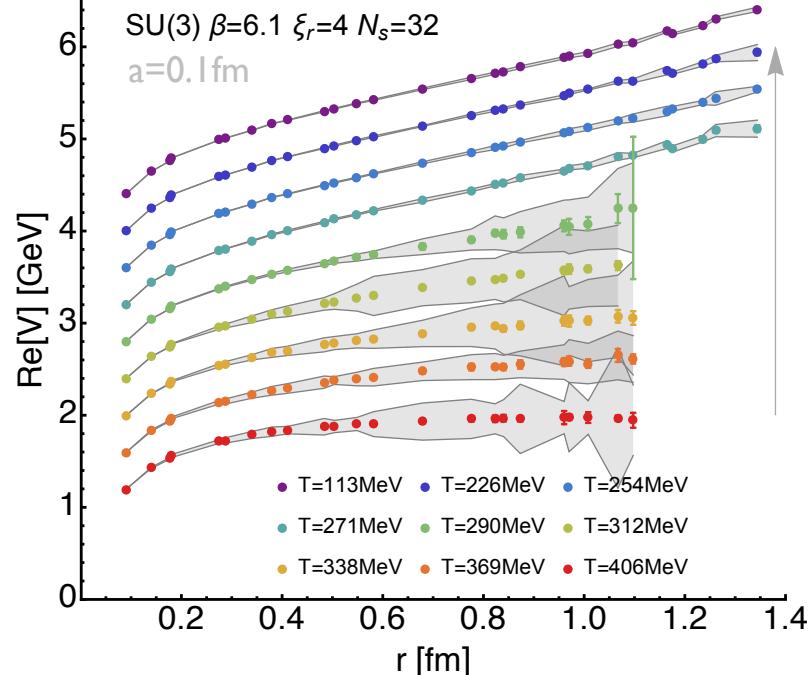
Y.Burnier, A.R. PRD95 (2017) 054511

- Spectral reconstruction successful due to simple structure: peak and shoulder
- Clear signal for well defined lowest lying peak at all T: potential picture valid



# T>0 potential in quenched QCD (II)

- Naïve Wilson action SU(3) on  $32^3 \times N_t$   $\beta=6.1$   $\xi=4$   $N_t=[72..20]$   $T=[113..406]$  MeV

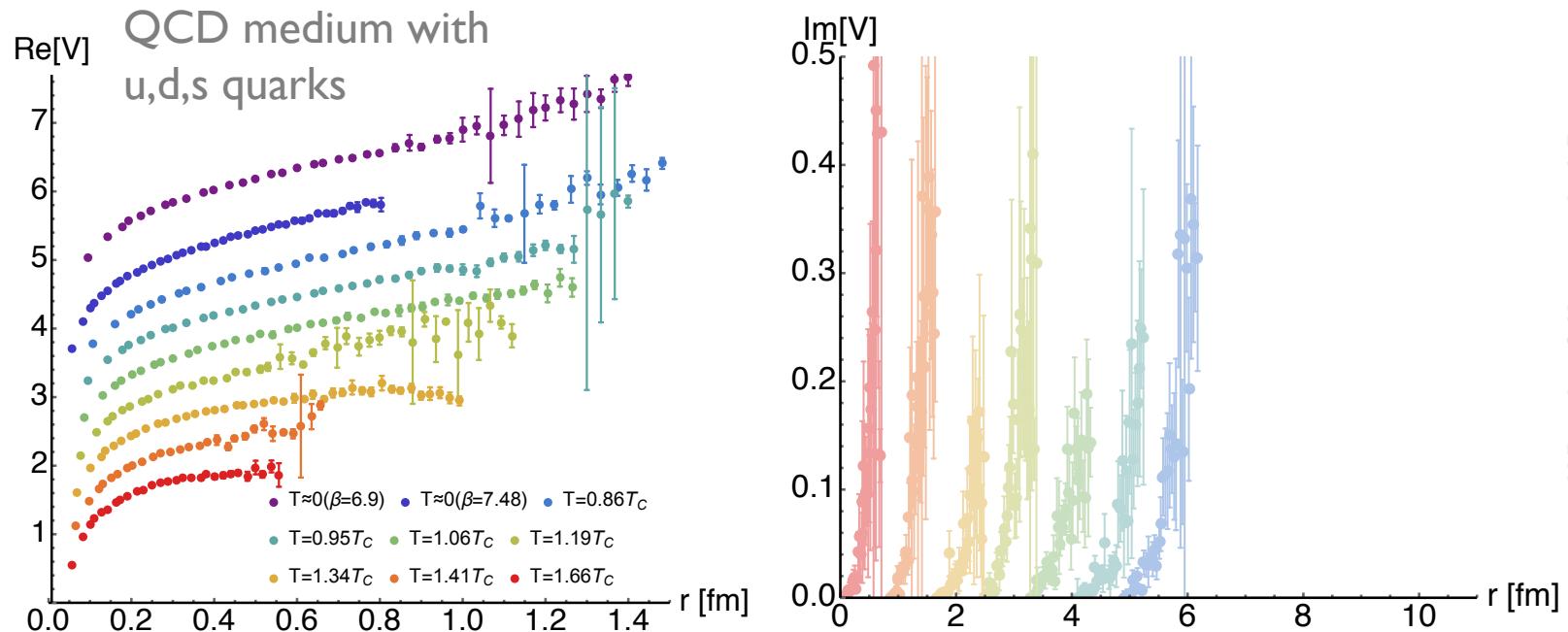


- New results closer to thermodynamic limit: clear signs of the phase transition
- $\text{Re}[V]$  shows no T-dep. in confined phase, changes significantly in deconfined
- $\text{Im}[V]$  below  $T_c$  compatible with zero, finite in the deconfined phase



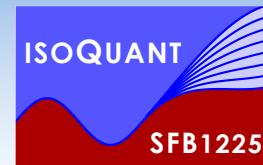
# T>0 static potential in full LQCD (I)

■ N<sub>f</sub>=2+1 AsqTad 48<sup>3</sup>×12 m<sub>π</sub>~300MeV T<sub>C</sub>=173MeV β=[6.8..7.48] T=[148-286]MeV



- $\text{Re}[V]$  shows smooth transition from confining to Debye screened behavior
- $\text{Re}[V]$  compatible with color singlet free energies in Coulomb gauge  $F^1$
- $\text{Im}[V]$  shows finite values above  $T_{PC}$  but errors are still large

# The Pade approximation



- For Wilson line correlators: exploit analyticity in case of high statistics
- Find the "best" rational approximation  $R_n^m$  to Matsubara correlator data  $D(\omega_n)$

$$R_n^m(\omega_n) = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^m a_j \omega_n^j}{1 + \sum_{k=0}^n b_k \omega_n^k} \quad C(\omega) = \frac{z_0}{1 + \frac{z_1(\omega - \omega_1)}{1 + \frac{z_2(\omega - \omega_2)}{\ddots}}}$$

- $z_i$  chosen such that  $C(\omega_n) = D(\omega_n)$  - approximation to  $R_n^m$
- Corresponds to a projection method onto rational basis functions
- Spectral functions from analytic continuation  $-\text{Im}[C(i\omega)]$



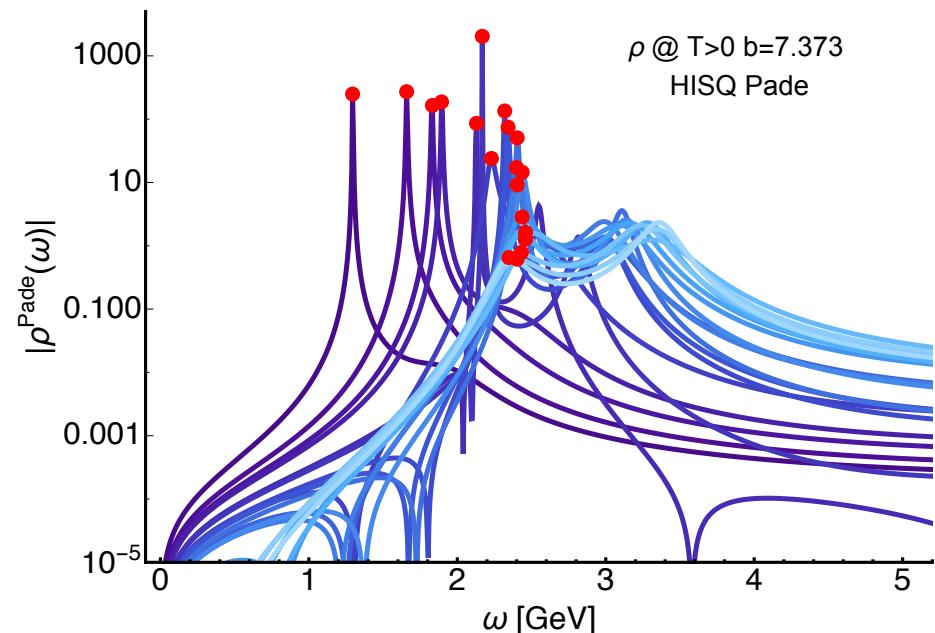
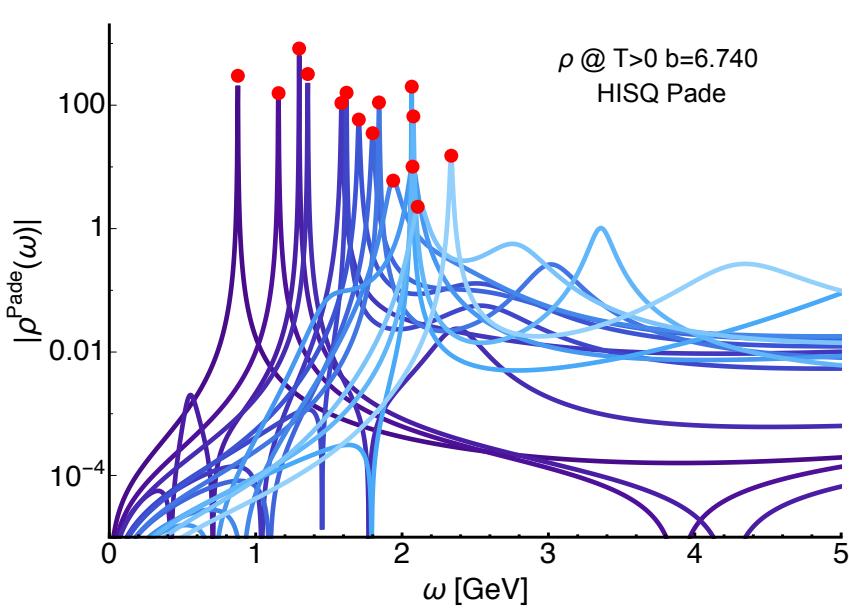
Not a Bayesian method: no prior information needed

In practice for high precision data robust results



# T>0 static potential in full LQCD (II)

- N<sub>f</sub>=2+1 HISQ 48<sup>3</sup>x12 m<sub>π</sub>~161MeV T<sub>C</sub>=159MeV β=[6.74..7.825] T=[150-408]MeV

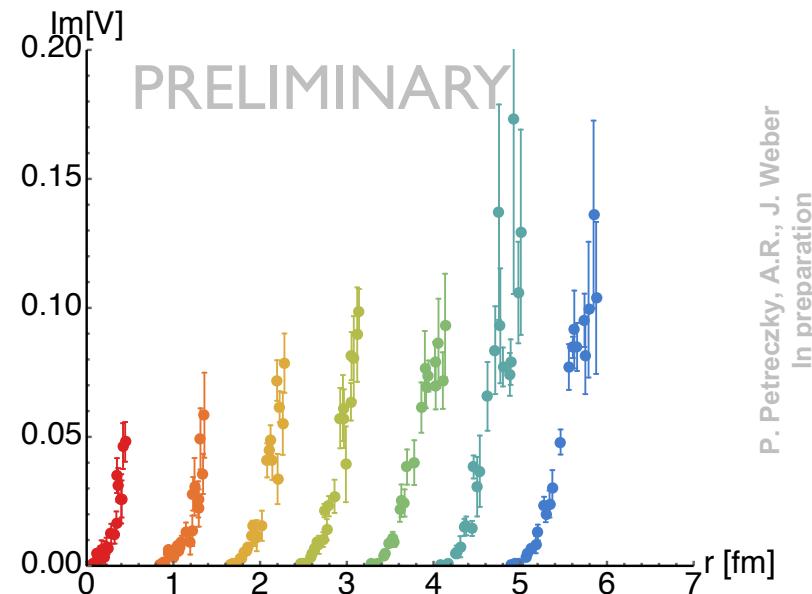
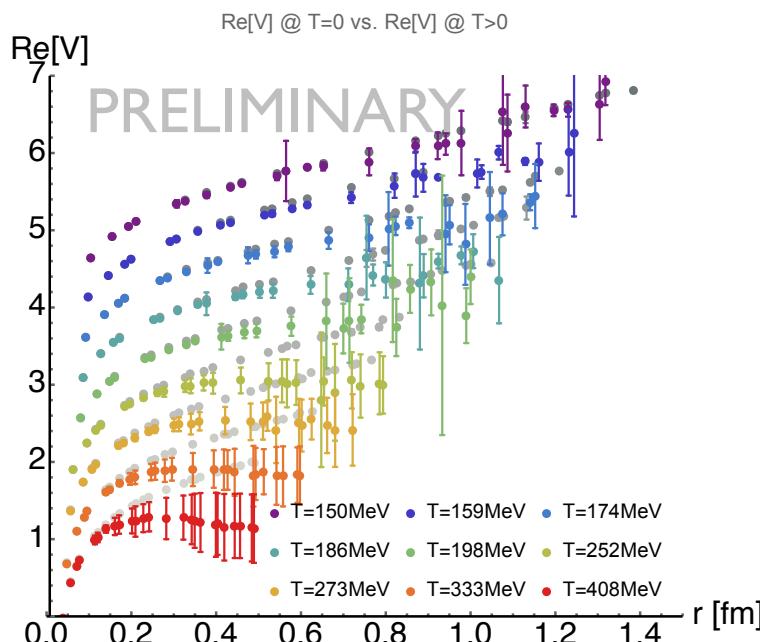


- High statistics on HotQCD ensembles ( $>5 \times 10^3$ ): also Pade for spectral reconstruction



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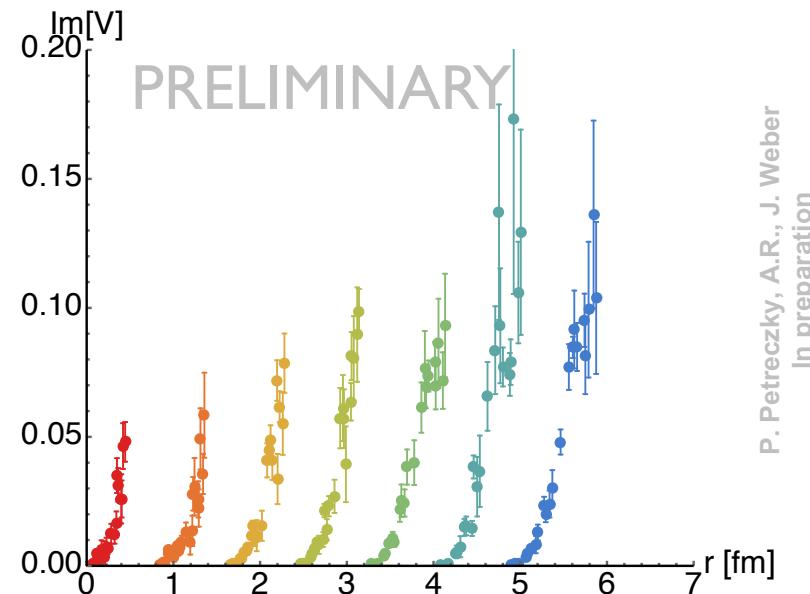
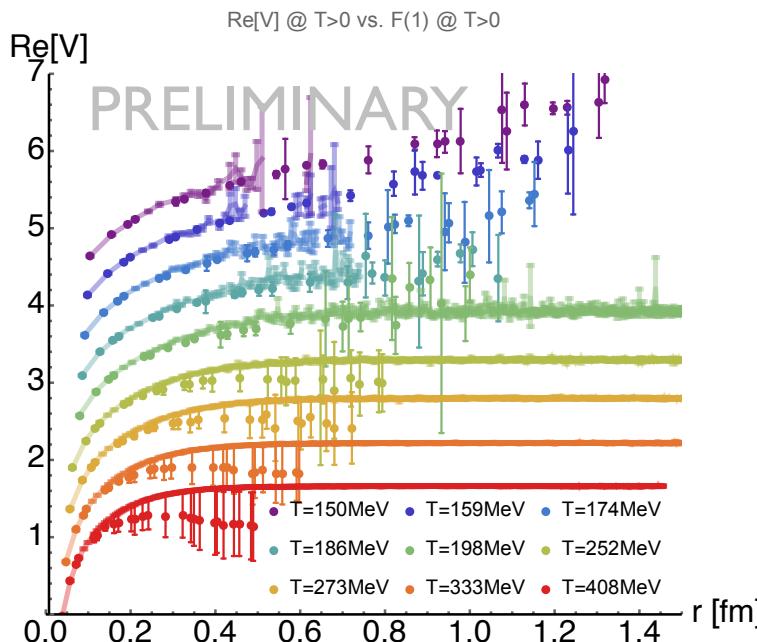


- High statistics on HotQCD ensembles (>5x10<sup>3</sup>): also Pade for spectral reconstruction
- Smooth changes in Re[V] but large uncertainty at high T, compatible with F<sup>1</sup>
- Investigation of systematic errors still ongoing



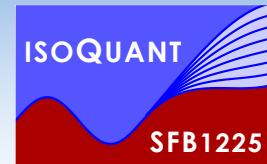
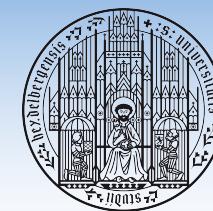
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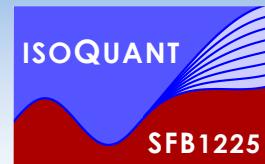
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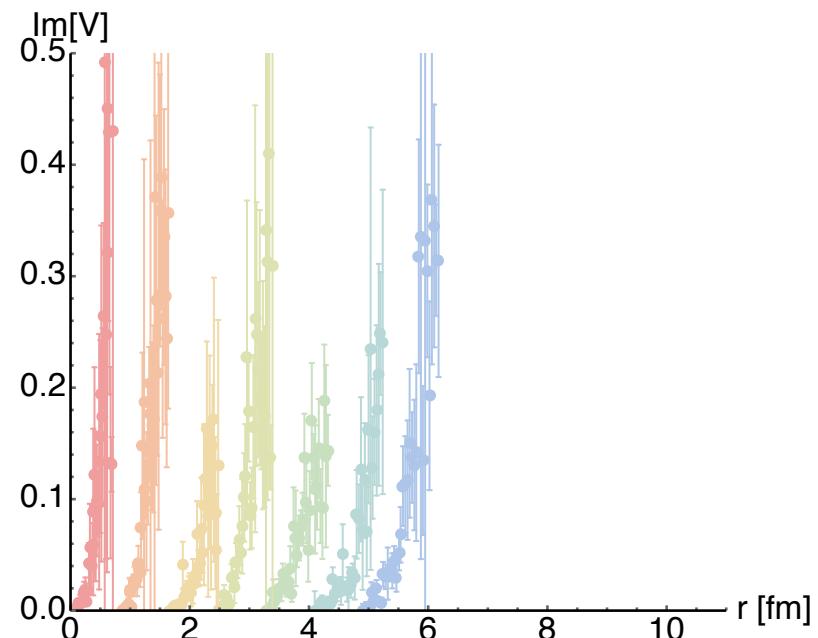
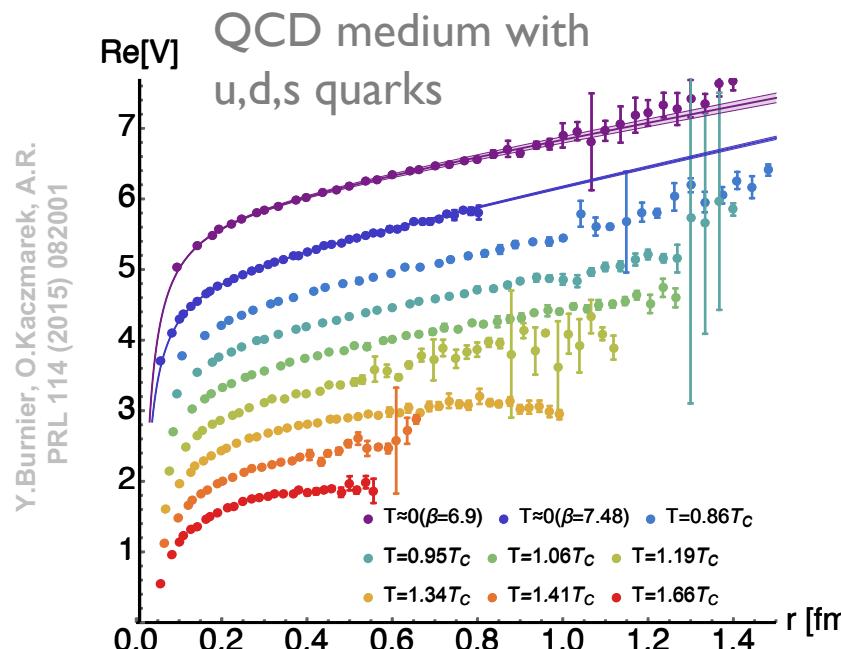


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# Towards $Q\bar{Q}$ phenomenology

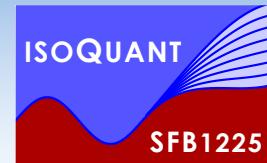


- $N_f=2+1$  AsqTad  $48^3 \times 12$   $m_\pi \sim 300$  MeV  $T_c = 173$  MeV  $\beta = [6.8..7.48]$   $T = [148-286]$  MeV

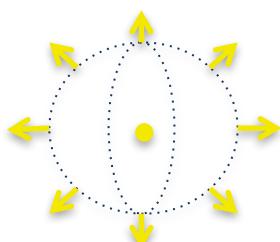


- At  $T \sim 0$   $Re[V]$  well described by naïve Cornell ansatz:  $V = -a/r + \sigma r + c$

# Generalized Gauss law and VQCD



- Towards phenomenology: Analytic expression for  $\text{Re}[V^{\text{QCD}}]$  and  $\text{Im}[V^{\text{QCD}}]$  needed



$$V_{Q\bar{Q}}^{T=0} = V_C(r) + V_S(r) = -\frac{\alpha_s}{r} + \sigma r + c$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \left( \frac{\vec{\nabla} V(r)}{r^{a+1}} \right) = -4\pi q \delta(\vec{r})$$

$$V(r) = a q r^a$$

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla} V(r)$$

Coulombic:  $a=-1$   $q=\alpha_s$

$$\vec{\nabla} \left( \vec{\nabla} V_C(r) \right) = -4\pi \alpha_s \delta(\vec{r})$$

String-like:  $a=+1$   $q=\sigma$

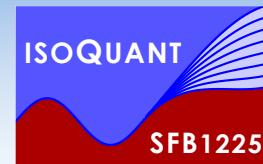
$$\vec{\nabla} \left( \frac{\vec{\nabla} V_S(r)}{r^2} \right) = -4\pi \sigma \delta(\vec{r})$$

**Strategy:**

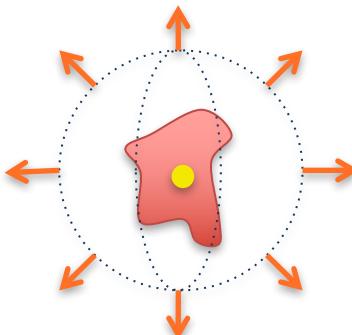
$\alpha_s, \sigma$  and  $c$  are vacuum prop.  
and do not change with  $T$

At  $r$ 's relevant for  $bb$  and  $cc$   
running of  $\alpha_s$  is not essential

V. V. Dixit,  
Mod. Phys. Lett. A 5, 227 (1990)



# Introducing medium effects



In the classical theory of Debye: Boltzmann distr. backgr. charges  $\langle \rho \rangle$

$$\vec{\nabla} (\vec{\nabla} V_C(r)) = -4\pi \alpha (\delta(\vec{r}) + \langle \rho(\vec{r}) \rangle)$$

P. Debye, H. Hückel,  
Phys.Z. 24, 185-206 (1923)

Here instead: Introduce medium via weak coupling HTL permittivity  $\epsilon$

$$p^2 V_C(\vec{p}) = 4\pi \frac{\alpha_s}{\epsilon(\vec{p}, m_D)} \quad \epsilon^{-1}(\vec{p}, m_D) = \frac{p^2}{p^2 + m_D^2} - i\pi T \frac{p m_D^2}{(p^2 + m_D^2)^2}$$

linear response form  
where  $m_D > 0$  is possible

$$g(x) = 2 \int_0^\infty dp \frac{\sin(px)}{px} \frac{p}{p^2 + 1}$$

Y.Burnier, A.R.: arXiv:1506.08684

$$-\nabla^2 V_C(r) + m_D^2 V_C(r) = \alpha_s (4\pi \delta(\vec{r}) - i T m_D^2 g(m_D r))$$

solving for  $\text{Re}[V_C]$  and  $\text{Im}[V_C]$ : reproduces Laine's HTL potential

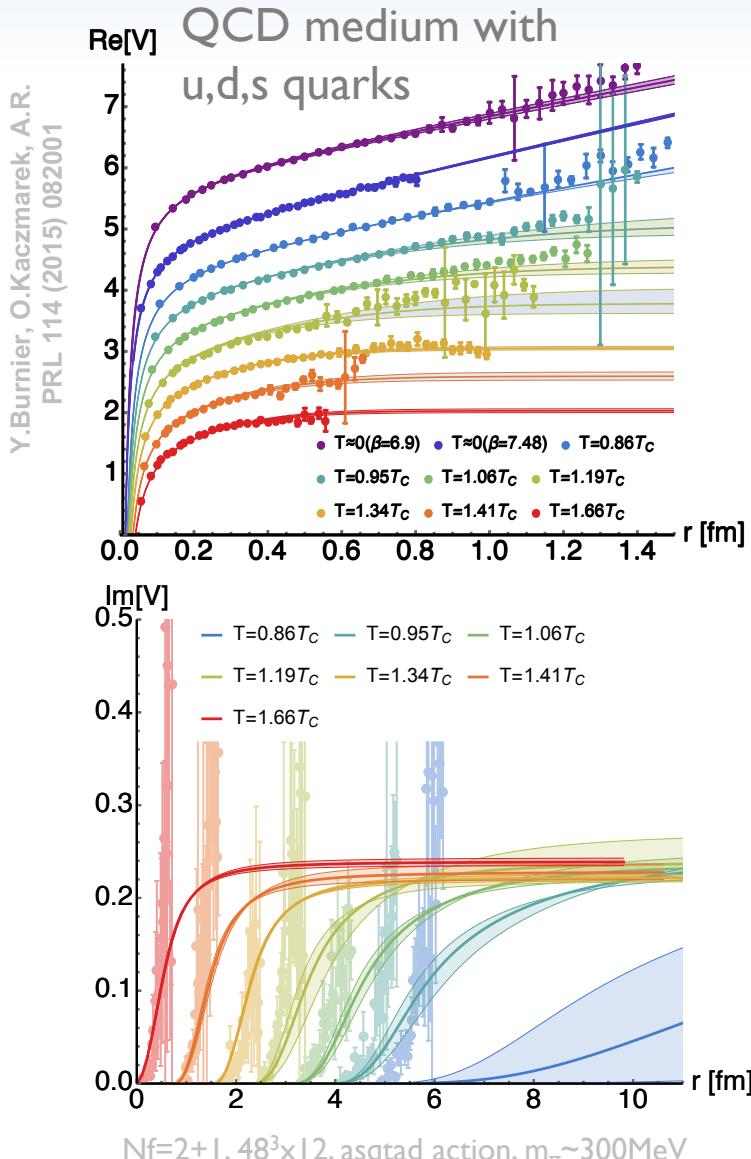
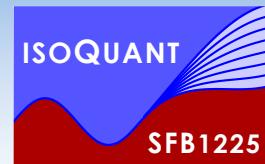
$V_S(r)$ : Gauss Law operator not diagonal in Fourier space: assume validity of linear response

$$-\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d^2 V_S(r)}{dr^2} + \mu^4 V_S(r) = \sigma (4\pi \delta(\vec{r}) - i T m_D^2 g(m_D r)) \quad \mu^4 = m_D^2 \frac{\sigma}{\alpha_s}$$

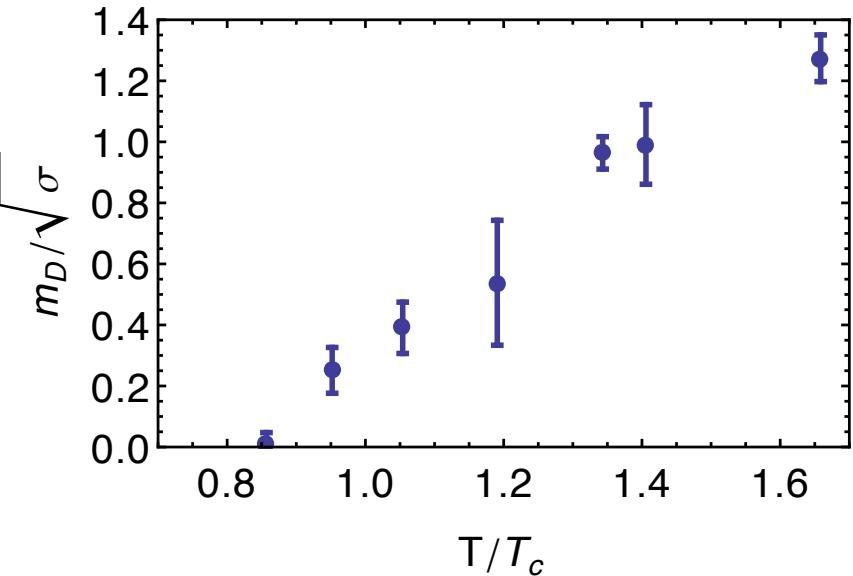
$$\text{Re} V_S(r) = \frac{\Gamma[\frac{1}{4}]}{2^{\frac{3}{4}} \sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\sigma}{\mu} D_{-\frac{1}{2}}(\sqrt{2}\mu r) + \frac{\Gamma[\frac{1}{4}]}{2\Gamma[\frac{3}{4}]} \frac{\sigma}{\mu} \quad \text{Im}[V_S] \text{ as integral expression using Wronskian}$$

$D_V$  parabolic cylinder function

# T>0 potential for phenomenology

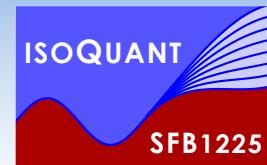


Y.Burnier, O.Kaczmarek, A.R. JHEP 1512 (2015) 101

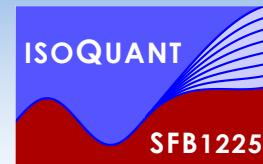


- For realistic phenomenology a continuum extrapolated potential is needed but not yet available

# Outline



- Motivation: Relativistic heavy-ion collisions
- The in-medium heavy-quark potential from lattice QCD
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- Summary



# Towards phenomenology

- Start with Bottomonium, since velocity- and radiative corrections small
- Bottom quark mass from renormalon subtracted scheme (RG flow to lower scale)

$$m_b^{\bar{MS}}(m_b^{\bar{MS}}) = 4.21(31)\text{GeV} \quad \rightarrow \quad m_b^{RS'}(E_{\text{bind}}) = 4.882(41)\text{GeV}$$

A. Pineda, JHEP 0106 (2001) 022

- Continuum T=0 values for  $\alpha_s$ ,  $\sigma$  and  $c$  : Cornell fit to PDG Bottomonium masses

$$\alpha_s = 0.50 \pm 0.03, \sqrt{\sigma} = 0.415 \pm 0.015\text{GeV}, c = -0.177 \pm 0.021$$

- Solve a Schrödinger equation for the spectral function in Fourier space:

Y. Burnier, M. Laine and M. Vepsäläinen, JHEP 0801, 043 (2008)

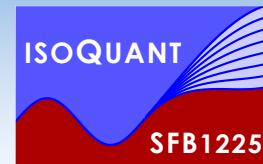
$$[\tilde{H} \mp i|\text{Im}V(r)|] D^>(t, r, r') = i\partial_t D^>(t, r, r'), \quad t \gtrless 0$$

$$\tilde{H} = 2m_Q - \frac{\nabla^2}{2m_q} + \text{Re}[V](r) + \frac{l(l+1)}{m_b r^2}$$

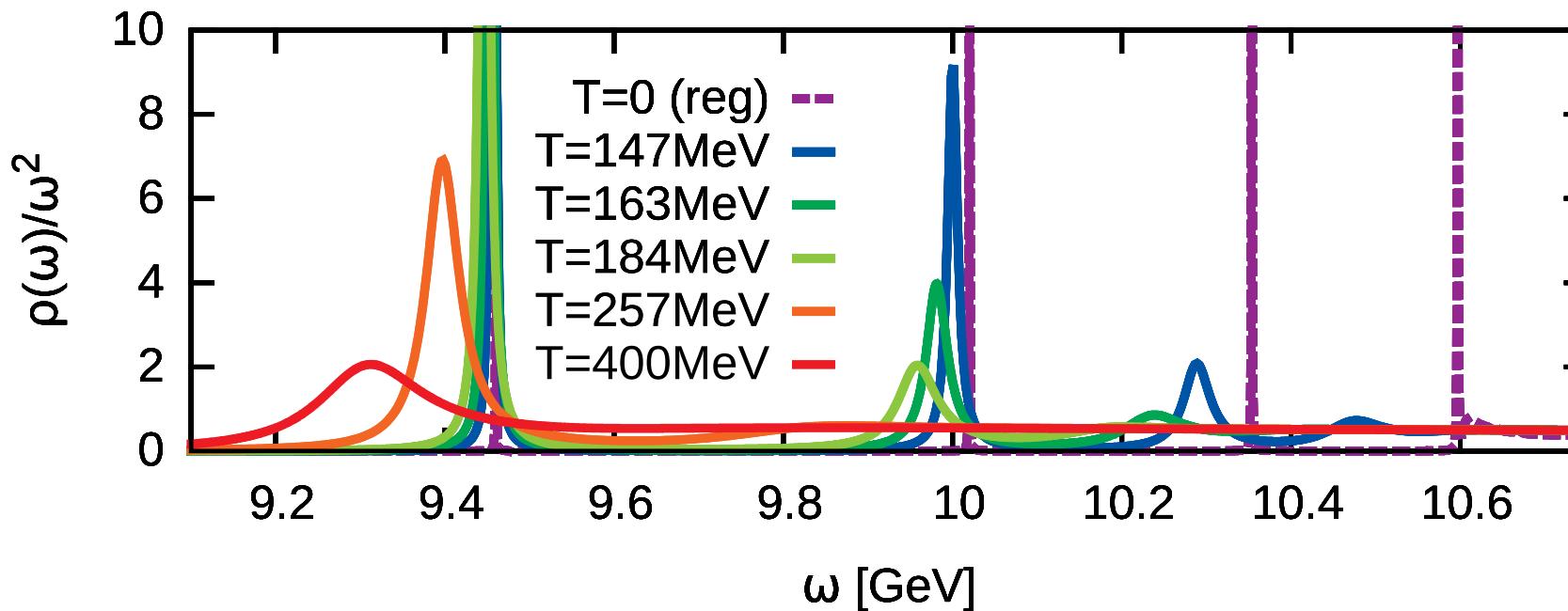
$$\tilde{D}(\omega, r, r') \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} D^>(t, r, r') \quad \rightarrow \quad \rho^V(\omega) = \lim_{r, r' \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2} \tilde{D}(\omega, r, r')$$

Reminder:

This complex potential is NOT the potential to evolve the wavefct.  $\psi(t, r)$

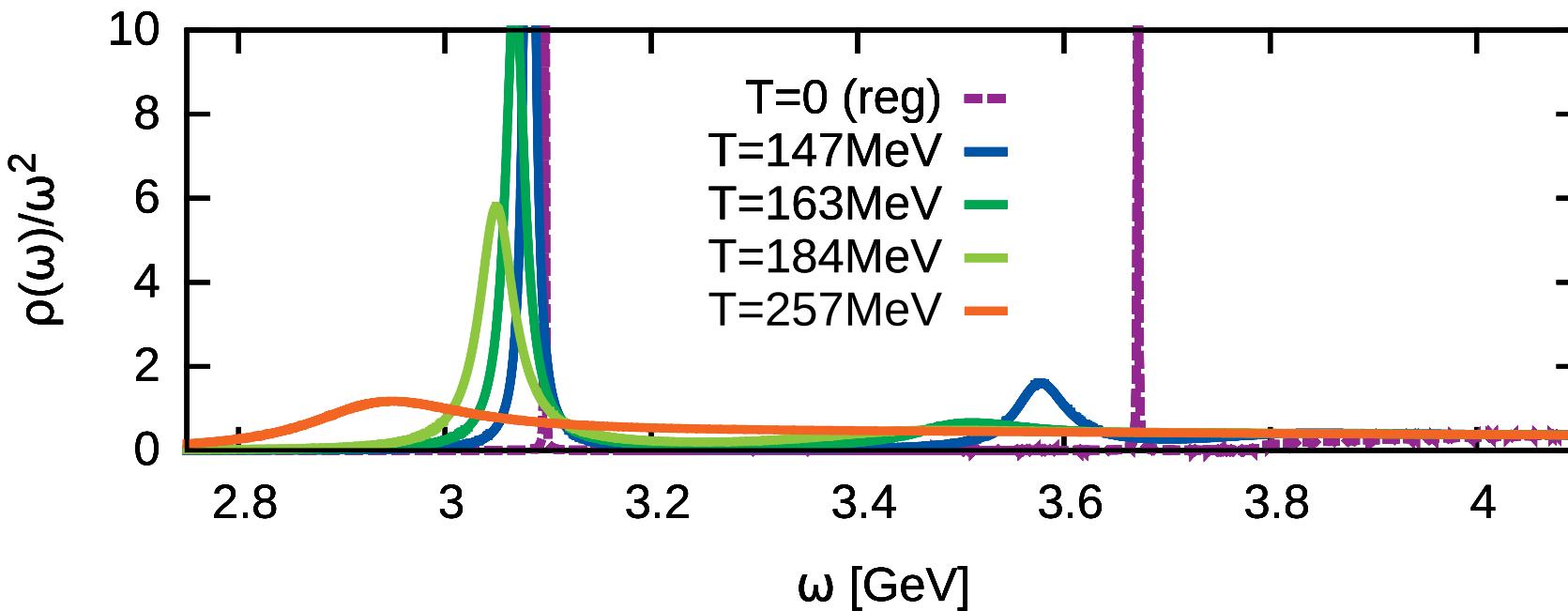
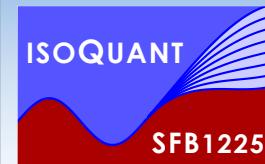


# In-medium Bottomonium (S-wave)



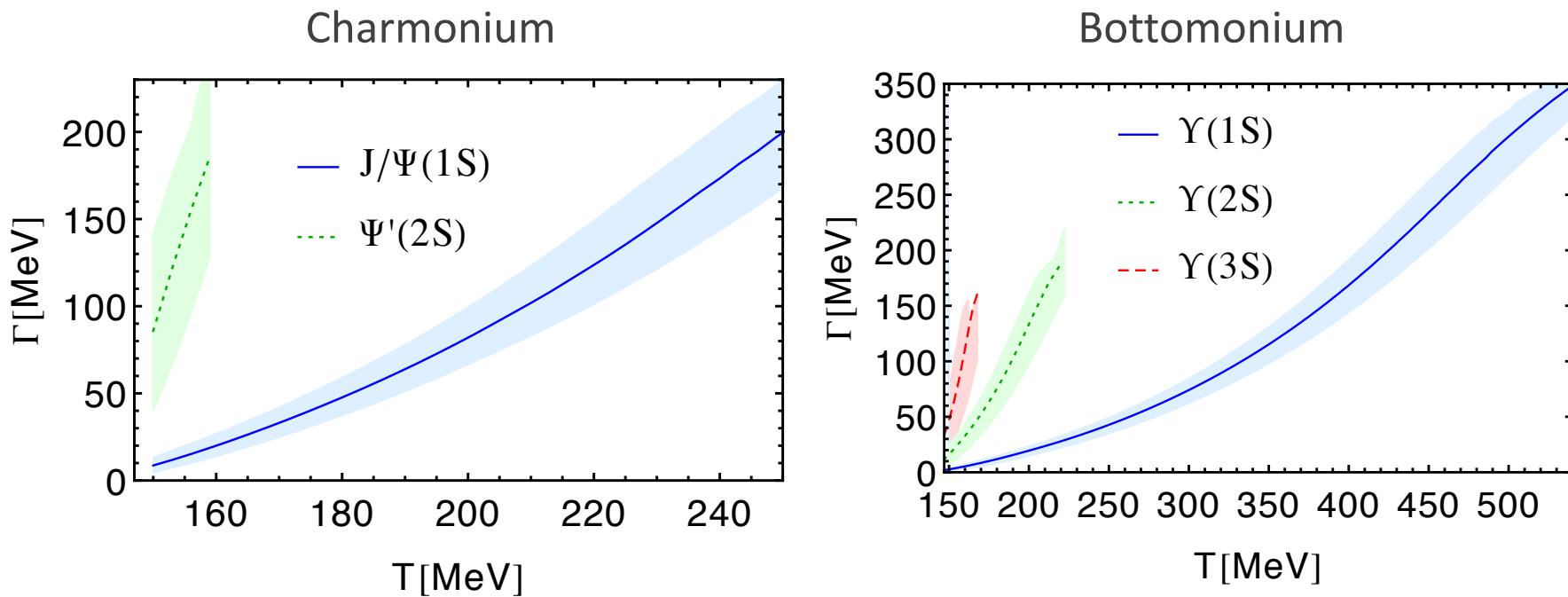
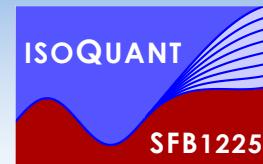
- Only at  $T=0$ : small artificial  $\text{Im}[V^{\text{QCD}}]$  added, to give peaks a finite width
- Clear sequential melting pattern visible
- Systematic shift to lower mass: weakened bound state has less binding energy  
(opposite to fundamental particle which gains a thermal mass)

# In-medium Charmonium (S-wave)



- Charmonium uses the same  $V^{\text{QCD}}(r)$  as  $bb$  but  $m_c=1.47\text{GeV}$  from fit to PDG states
- Characteristic shift to lower masses, excited state quickly dissolves

# Bound state spectral widths



Y.Burnier, O. Kaczmarek, A.R.  
JHEP 1512 (2015) 101

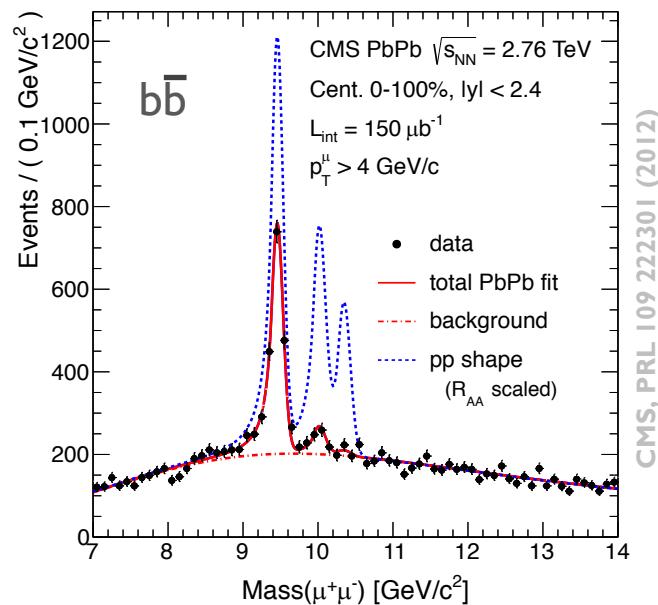
- Size of width significantly influenced by the presence of an imaginary part in  $V^{\text{QCD}}$
- Scanning the  $T$  range to observe where  $\Gamma = E_{\text{bind}}$  estimates melting temperature

state	$J/\Psi(1S)$	$\Psi'(2S)$	$\Upsilon(1S)$	$\Upsilon(2S)$	$\Upsilon(3S)$	$\Upsilon(4S)$	
$T_{\text{melt}}$	$213^{+13}_{-11}$	$< 147$	$412^{+76}_{-22}$	$193^{+26}_{-8}$	$157^{+5}_{-4}$	$< 147$	[MeV]

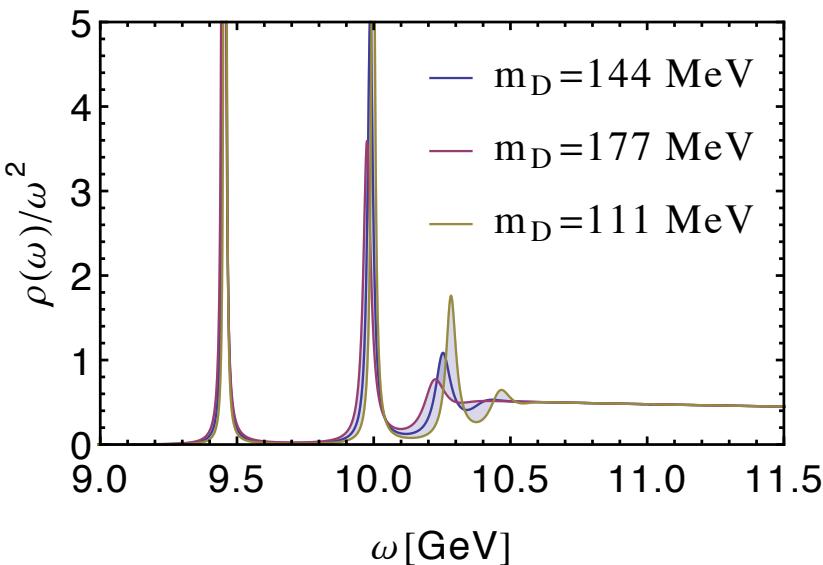


# Towards a comparison with data

- Measured Di-leptons are not thermal but originate in the decay of vacuum states



$\neq$

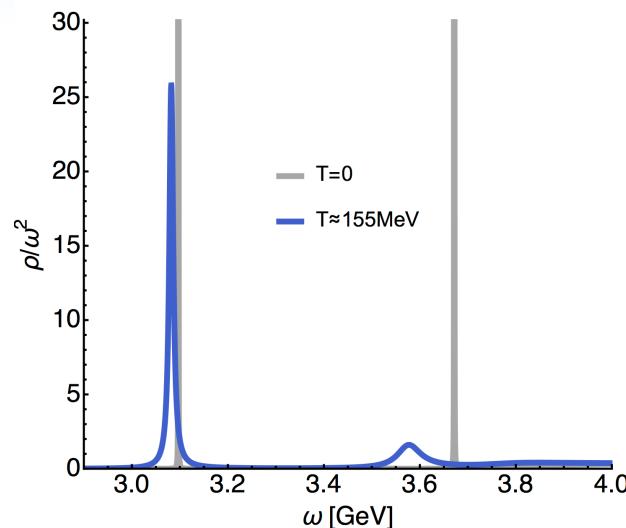


- How to take into account hadronization: possible for instantaneous freezeout at  $T_C$
- Assume that states described by a spectral peak do form real quarkonium at freezeout



# $\psi'$ to $J/\psi$ ratio from $T>0$ spectra

Y.Burnier, O.Kaczmarek, A.R.  
JHEP 1512 (2015) 101



- "How many vacuum states do the in-medium peaks correspond to?"
- Number density: divide in-medium by  $T=0$  dimuon emission rate:

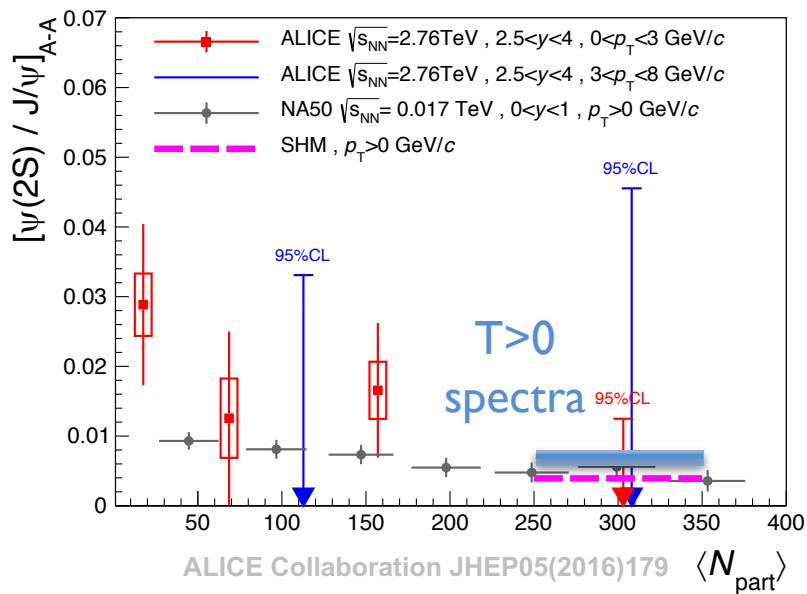
$$\frac{N_{\Psi'}}{N_{J/\psi}} = \frac{R_{\ell\bar{\ell}}^{\Psi'}}{R_{\ell\bar{\ell}}^{J/\psi}} \frac{M_{\Psi'}^2 |\Phi_{J/\psi}(0)|^2}{M_{J/\psi}^2 |\Phi_{\Psi'}(0)|^2}$$

Y.Burnier, O. Kaczmarek, A.R. JHEP 1512 (2015) 101

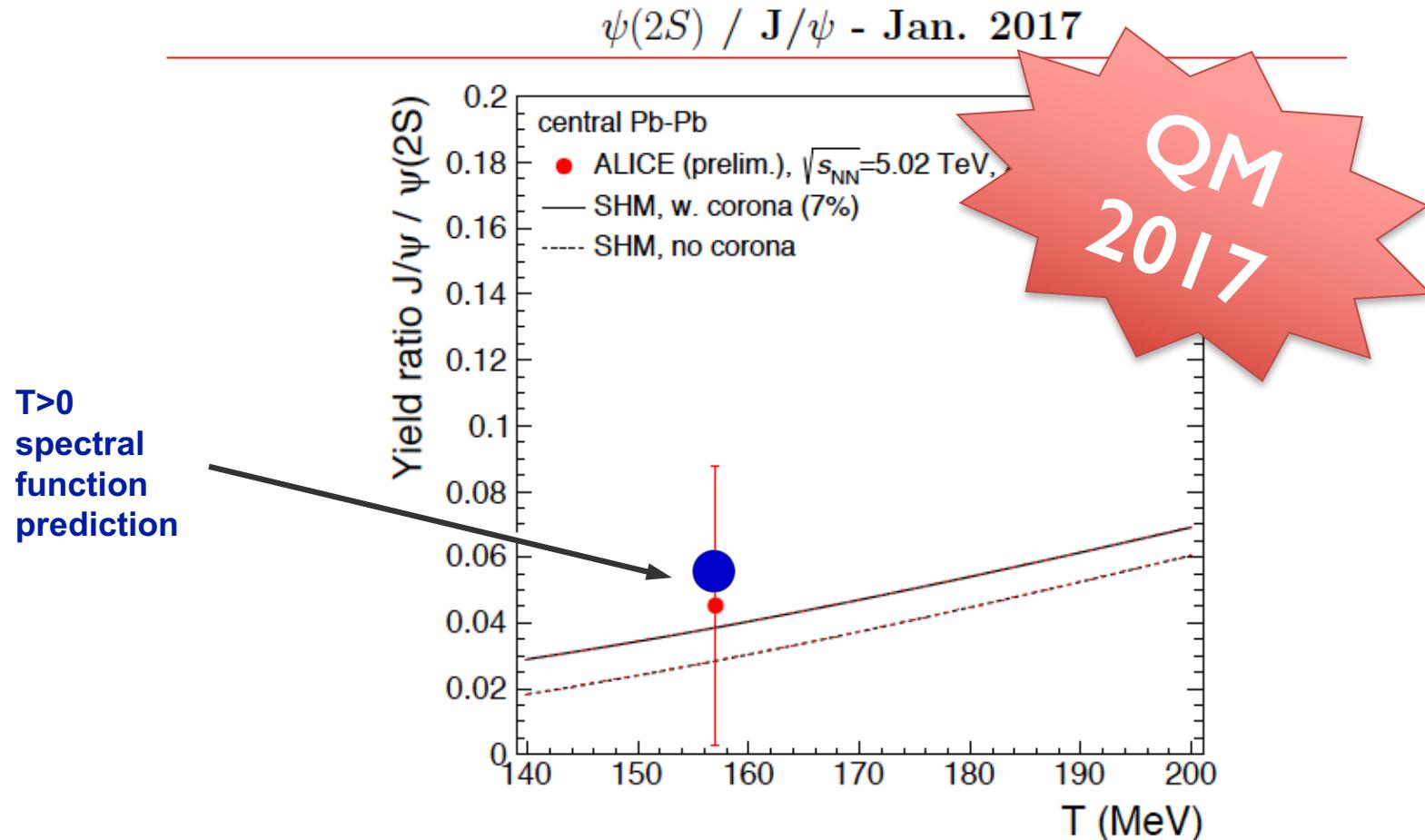
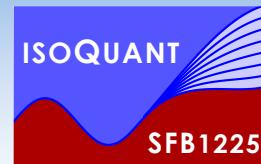
- Assume instantaneous freezeout:  $T>0$  states convert to real vacuum particles at around  $T_C$
- In-medium dilepton emission from area under spectral resonance peaks

$$R_{\ell\bar{\ell}} \propto \int dp_0 \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\rho(P)}{P^2} n_B(p_0)$$

( to leading order  $\rho(P) = \rho(p_0^2 - p^2)$  )



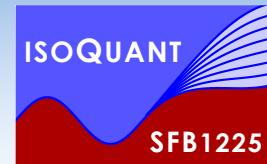
# First preliminary ALICE data



ALICE data, Pb-Pb: Quark Matter 2017; pp: [arXiv:1702.00557](https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.00557)

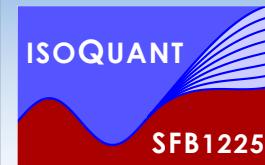
slide adapted from  
Peter Braun-Munzinger

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# Bottomonium suppression



- With M. Strickland: aim to reduce modeling input and give uncertainties for  $V_{QQ}$

Anisotropic  
Hydro ( $m_D(\tau, x)$ )

&

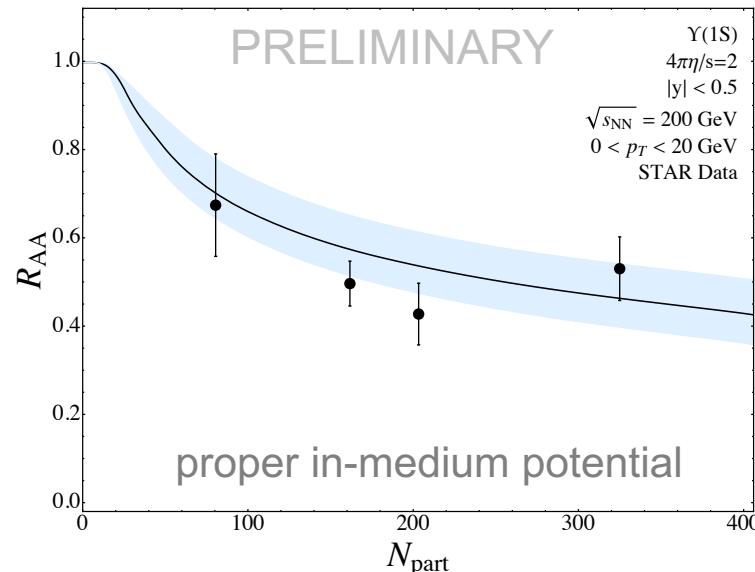
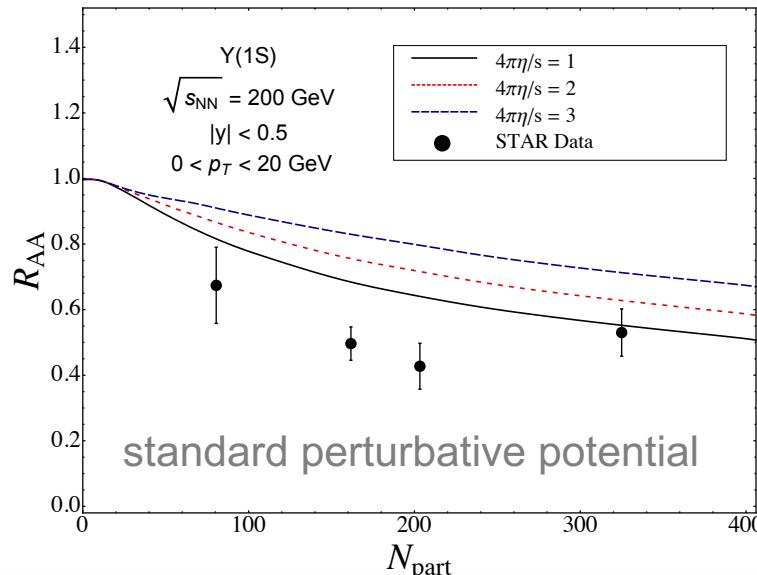
Glauber initial pure  
state QQ prod.

&

$V_{QQ}$  in Schrödinger Eq.  
 $E_{bind}$  and  $\Gamma(\tau, x)$

Folding together over real-time evolution gives  $R_{AA}$

- No regeneration contributions included: our first try at RHIC data

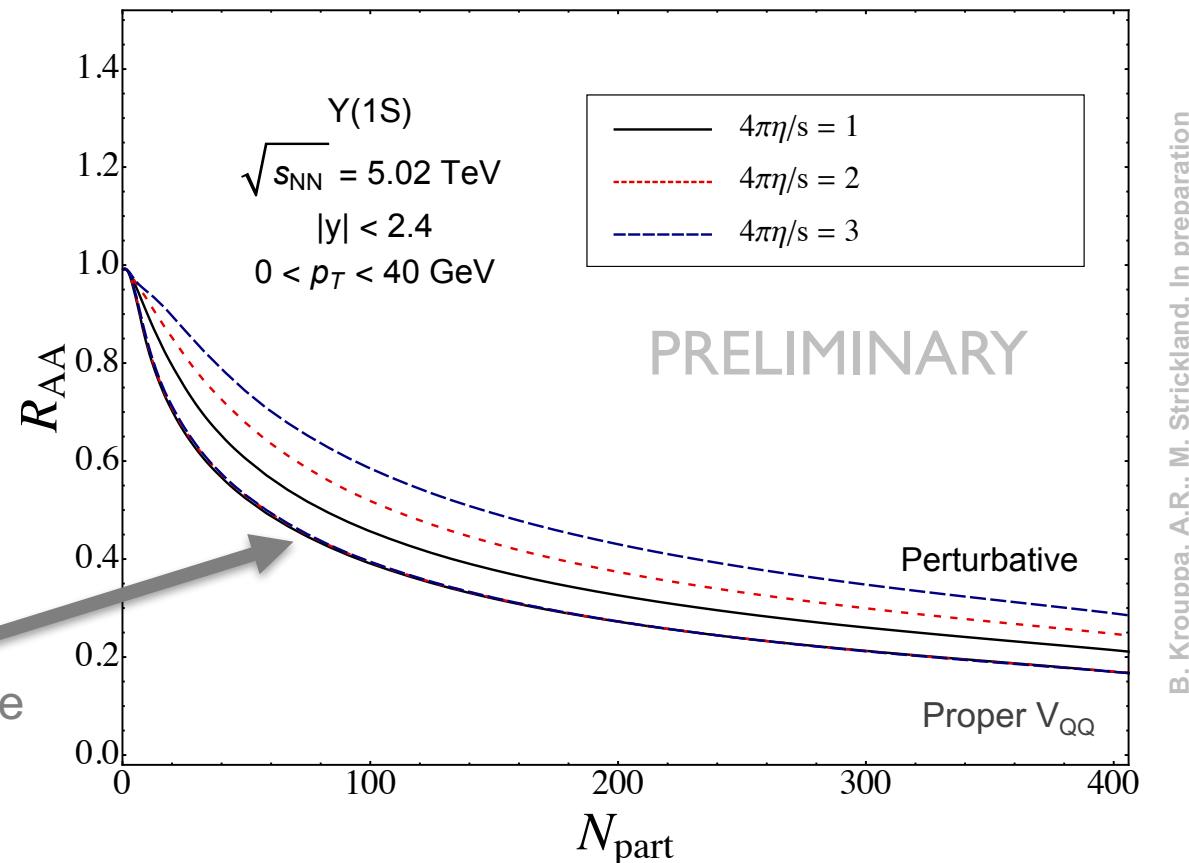


B. Kroupa, A.R., M. Strickland  
In preparation



# Viscosity dependence of $R_{AA}$

- With the proper potential dependence on  $\eta/S$  significantly reduced



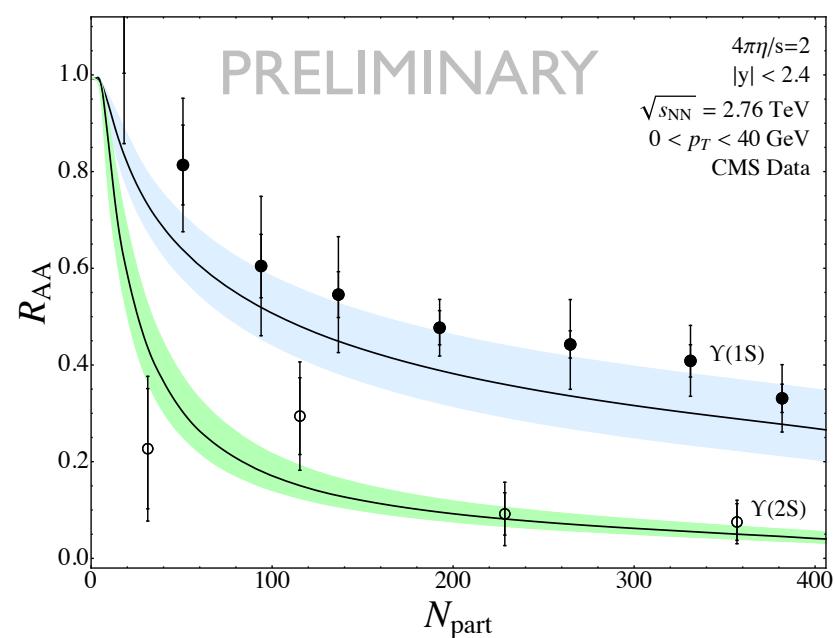
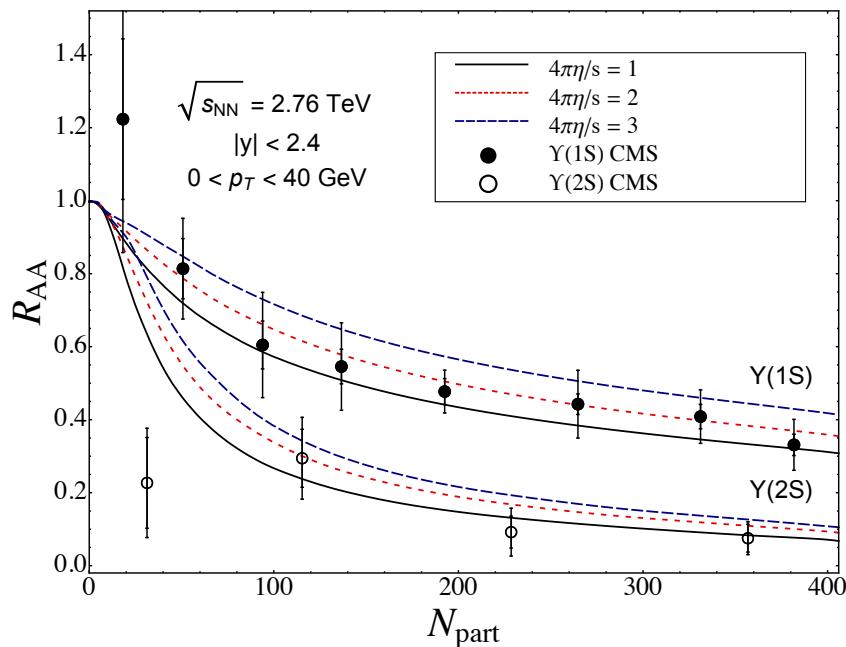
B. Krouppa, A.R., M. Strickland, In preparation

- Reinforces the picture of Bottomonium as a dynamical thermometer



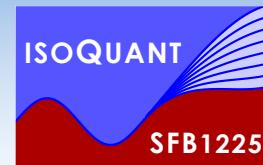
# Bottomonium at LHC energies

- Perturbative potential appears to work better at LHC than at RHIC
- Proper in-medium potential slightly low on  $\Upsilon(1S)$ , excellent agreement with  $\Upsilon(2S)$



B. Krouppa, A.R., M. Strickland  
In preparation

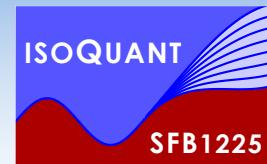
- Recent finding: Naïve treatment of  $V_{QQ}$  in Schrödinger eq. underestimates GS  $R_{AA}$   
S.Kajimoto, Y.Akamatsu, M. Asakawa, A.R., arXiv 1705.03365
- Outstanding question: What is the role of regeneration (work in progress)



# Summary

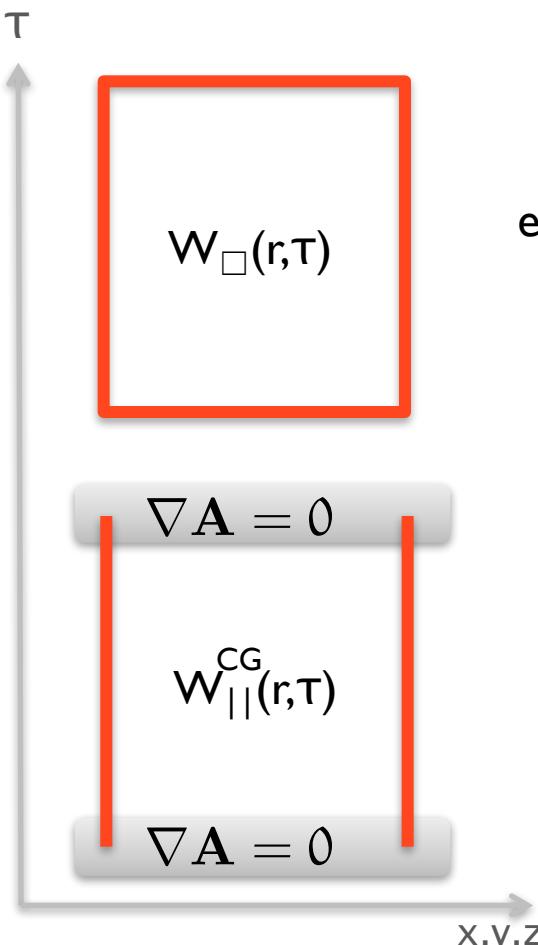
- ***QCD derived static potential  $V_{QQ}$***  for in-medium heavy-QQ available
- ***Lattice QCD progress*** in determining  $\text{Re} & \text{Im}$  of  $V_{QQ}$ 
  - Clear signs for phase transition in quenched QCD on coarse lattices  
Y.Burnier, A.R. PRD95 (2017) 054511
  - Ongoing work to extract the potential on current generation HISQ lattices  
P. Petreczky, A.R., J. Weber in progress
- ***Lattice QCD vetted Gauss-Law parametrization of  $V_{QQ}$***
- Promising results on ***quarkonium phenomenology*** from the potential
  - Predictions for  **$\psi' / J/\psi$  ratio** agree very well with preliminary ALICE data  
Y.Burnier, O.Kaczmarek, A.R. JHEP 1512 (2015) 101, JHEP 1610 (2016) 032
  - **$R_{AA}$  of  $Y(1S, 2S)$**  in HIC promising for STAR, at LHC question of regeneration?  
B.Krouppa, M. Strickland, A.R. In progress

**Thank you for your attention**



# Wilson Loop vs. Wilson Lines

- Wilson loop contains cusp divergencies: supresses the signal exponentially



In LO HTL perturbation theory:  $W_{\square}$  and  $W_{||}^{CG}$  encode same spectral peak



Is there gauge invariant information in  $W_{||}$ ?



Relax the gauge fixing  
 $\nabla A < \Delta$

- Wilson line: potential information remains gauge independent

