

# Charm degrees of freedom in hot matter from lattice QCD

Sipaz Sharma, F. Karsch, P. Petreczky, et al.

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University of Wrocław



# Motivation

- ▶ Strong interaction matter undergoes a chiral crossover at  $T_{pc} = 156.5 \pm 1.5$  MeV.  
[HotQCD Collaboration, 2019; Borsanyi et al., 2020; Kotov et al., 2021]
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- ▶ When do charmed hadrons stop contributing to the total charm pressure?
- ▶ Charm fluctuations (cumulants) calculated in the framework of Lattice QCD can receive enhanced contributions due the existence of not-yet-discovered open-charm states; it is possible to compare this enhancement to the HRG calculations.

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- ▶  $\hat{\mu}_X = \mu/T$ ,  $X \in \{B, Q, S, C\}$ .

# Generalized susceptibilities of the conserved charges

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- ▶  $\Lambda_c^+$  mass  $\sim 2286$  MeV,  $\Xi_{cc}^{++}$  mass  $\sim 3621$  MeV. At  $T_{pc}$ , contribution to  $B_C$  from  $\Xi_{cc}^{++}$  will be suppressed by a factor of  $10^{-4}$  in relation to  $\Lambda_c^+$ .

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- ▶ Dimensionless generalized susceptibilities of the conserved charges:

$$\chi_{klmn}^{BQSC} = \frac{\partial^{(k+l+m+n)} [P(\hat{\mu}_B, \hat{\mu}_Q, \hat{\mu}_S, \hat{\mu}_C) / T^4]}{\partial \hat{\mu}_B^k \partial \hat{\mu}_Q^l \partial \hat{\mu}_S^m \partial \hat{\mu}_C^n} \Big|_{\vec{\mu}=0}$$

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- ▶ At present, we have gone upto fourth order in calculating various cumulants.



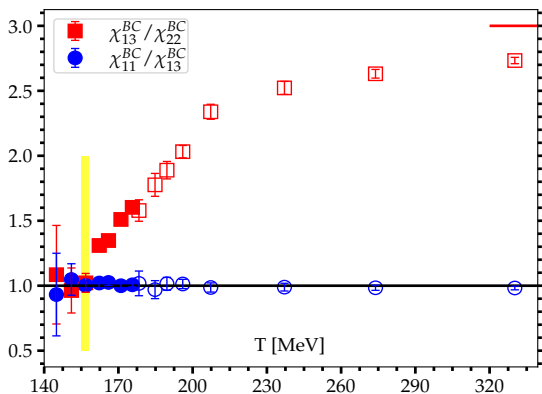
# Ratios independent of the hadron spectrum

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- ▶  $\chi_{1n}^{\text{BC}}/\chi_{1l}^{\text{BC}} = 1$ ,  $\forall n, l \in \text{odd}$ , for the entire temperature range.

# Onset of the charmed hadron melting

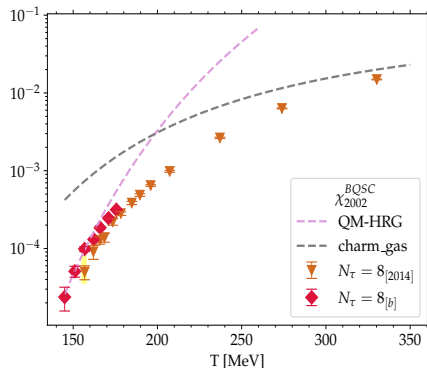
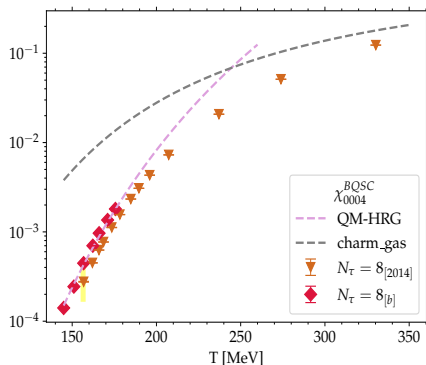


- States with fractional B start appearing near  $T_{pc}$ . Is it possible to determine this fractional B?

# Approach to free charm-quark gas limit

$$Q_C(T, \vec{\mu}) = \frac{3}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{m_c}{T} \right)^2 K_2(m_c/T) \cosh \left( \frac{2}{3} \hat{\mu}_Q + \frac{1}{3} \hat{\mu}_B + \hat{\mu}_C \right)$$

$$m_c = 1.27 \text{ GeV.}$$



# Charm degrees of freedom in the intermediate T range

- Based on carriers of C in low and high-T phase, pose a quasi-particle model consisting of non-interacting meson, baryon and quark-like states:

$$P_C(T, \hat{\mu}_C, \hat{\mu}_B)/T^4 = P_M^C(T) \cosh(\hat{\mu}_C + \dots) + P_B^C(T) \cosh(\hat{\mu}_C + \hat{\mu}_B + \dots) \\ + P_q^C(T) \cosh\left(\frac{2}{3}\hat{\mu}_Q + \frac{1}{3}\hat{\mu}_B + \hat{\mu}_C\right)$$

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- ▶ Use quantum numbers B and C to construct partial pressures:

$$P_q^C = 9(\chi_{13}^{BC} - \chi_{22}^{BC})/2$$

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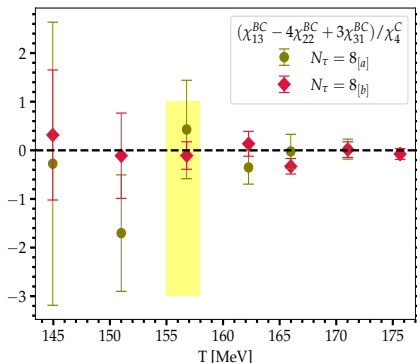
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- ▶ Constraint on cumulants in a simple quasi-particle model:

$$c = \chi_{13}^{BC} + 3\chi_{31}^{BC} - 4\chi_{22}^{BC} = 0$$

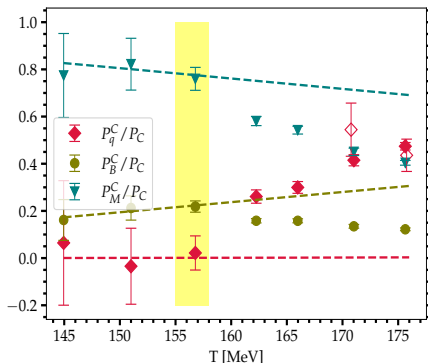
# Quasi-particle model



The constraint holds true  $\implies$  quasi-particle states with  $|B| = 0, 1$  or  $1/3$  exist in the intermediate temperature range.



# Charm-quark-like excitations in QGP



Right after  $T_{pc}$ ,  $P_q$  starts contributing to  $P_C$ , which is compensated by a reduction (and deviation from HRG) in the fractional contribution of the hadron-like states to  $P_C$ .

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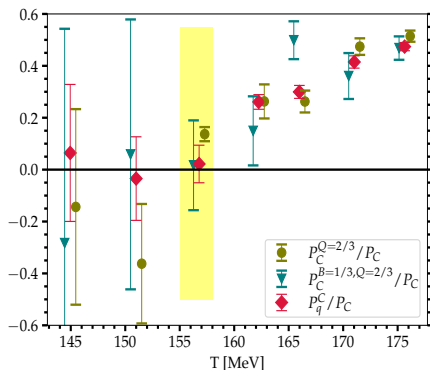
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- ▶ For the BQC sector there are three possibilities: i)  $\{|B| = 1, |Q| = 1\}$ ;  
ii)  $\{|B| = 1, |Q| = 2\}$ ; iii)  $\{|B| = 1/3, |Q| = 2/3\}$ .

$$P_C^{B=1/3, Q=2/3} = \frac{27}{4} [\chi_{112}^{BQC} - \chi_{211}^{BQC}]$$

# Charm-quark-like excitations in QGP



Clear agreement between three independent observables which correspond to the partial pressures of

- $B = 1/3$ ,
- $Q = 2/3$ , and
- $B = 1/3$  and  $Q = 2/3$  charm subsectors.

# Conclusions and Outlook I

- ▶ Charmed hadrons start dissociating at  $T_{pc}$ .
- ▶ Evidence of deconfinement in terms of presence of charm quark-like excitations in QGP.
- ▶  $P_C$  receives 50% contribution from charmed hadron-like excitations at  $T \simeq 1.1 T_{pc}$ .

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- ▶  $P_C$  receives 50% contribution from charmed hadron-like excitations at  $T \simeq 1.1 T_{pc}$ .
- ▶ We performed most calculations at  $N_\tau = 8$ . Since cutoff effects largely cancel in the ratios of different generalized susceptibilities, we expect our conclusions based on these ratios to hold in the continuum limit.
- ▶ It would be good to look into spectral functions for charmed hadron correlators in order to further give support to the quasi-particle nature of the hadronic excitations above  $T_{pc}$ .

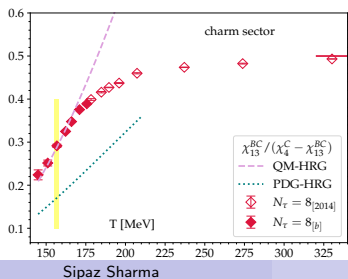
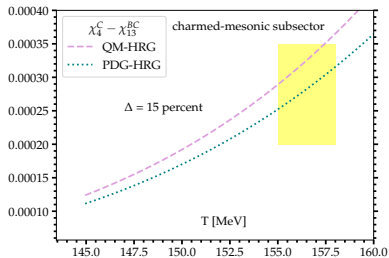
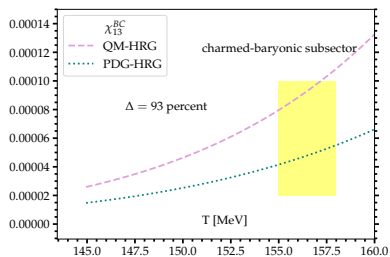


# Baryonic and mesonic contributions to $P_C$

In the low temperature range, where HRG works,

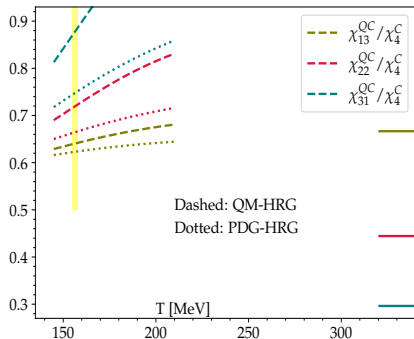
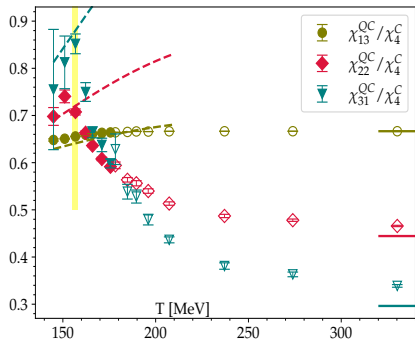
- ▶  $\chi_{13}^{BC}$  is the partial pressure from the charmed-baryonic subsector.
- ▶  $\chi_4^C - \chi_{13}^{BC}$  can be interpreted as the partial pressure from the charmed-mesonic subsector.

# Ratios of baryonic and mesonic contributions to $P_C$



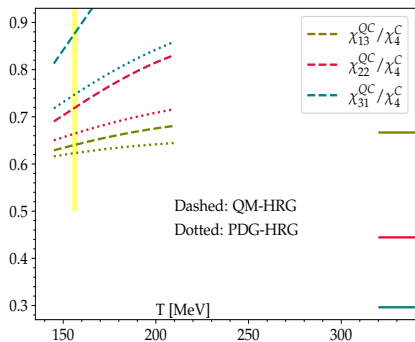
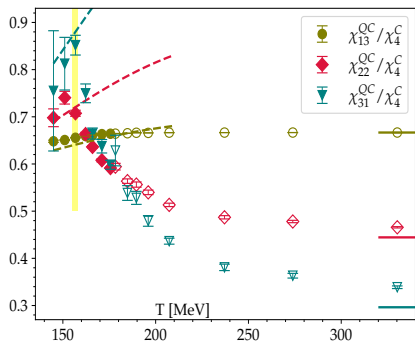
- ▶ Missing charmed-baryonic states below  $T_{pc}$ .
- ▶  $\Delta = (|1 - \text{QM-HRG}/\text{PDG-HRG}|)|_{T_{pc}}$

# Electrically-charged-charm subsector



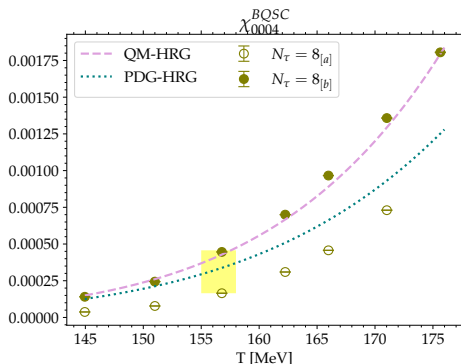
- ▶ Ratio of QM-HRG/PDG-HRG increases with increasing  $Q$ -moments  
 $\implies |Q| = 2$  sector more sensitive to 'missing resonances'.
- ▶  $\chi_{22}^{QC}$  and  $\chi_{31}^{QC}$  give evidence for 'missing resonances'.

# Electrically-charged-charm subsector



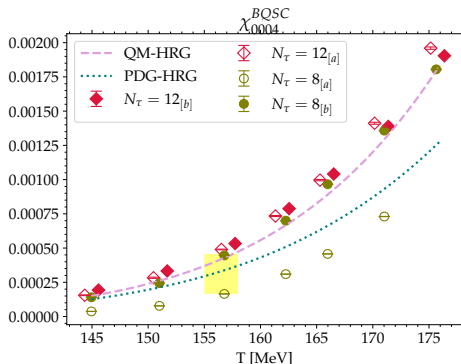
- ▶ Ratio of QM-HRG/PDG-HRG increases with increasing Q-moments.
- ▶ Close to freeze-out, an enhancement over the PDG expectation in the fractional contribution of the  $|Q| = 2$  ( $\Sigma_c^{++}$ ) charm subsector to the total charm partial pressure.

# Continuum limit: Total charm pressure



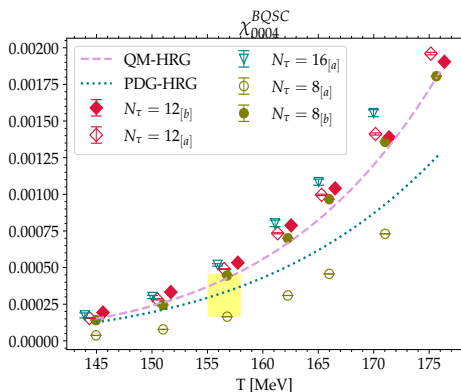
- ▶ Two different LCPs:
  - a) charmonium mass, b)  $m_c/m_s$
- ▶  $a \approx 0.2$  fm

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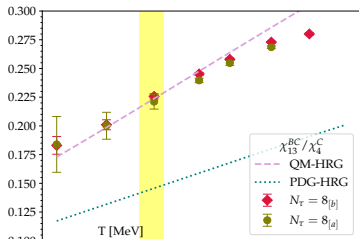
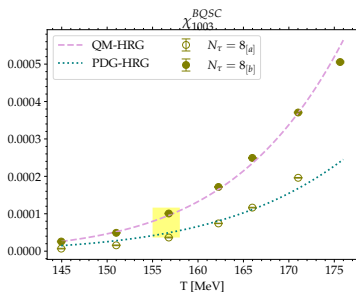
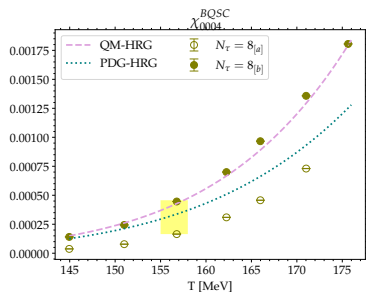
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# Continuum limit: Total charm pressure



- ▶ Absolute predictions in the charm sector are particularly sensitive to the precise tuning of the bare input quark masses.
- ▶ Two different LCPs converge in the continuum limit:  
 $a \approx 0.2 \text{ fm} + a \approx 0.1 \text{ fm} + a \approx 0.05 \text{ fm}$

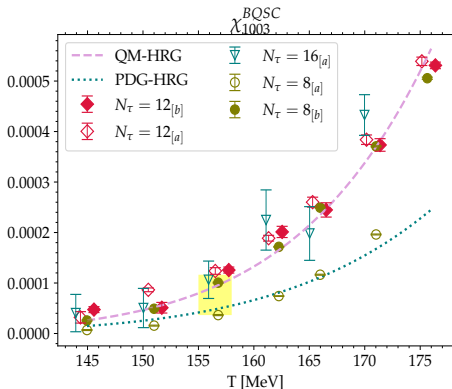
# Ratios calculated using different LCPs



- Sensitivity to the choice of LCP cancels to a large extent in the ratios.
- All previously shown results were based on ratios, and hence valid in the continuum limit.

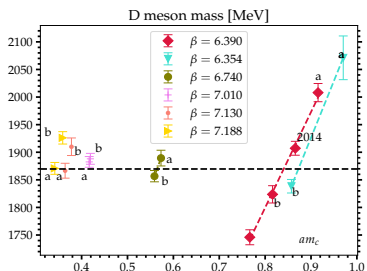
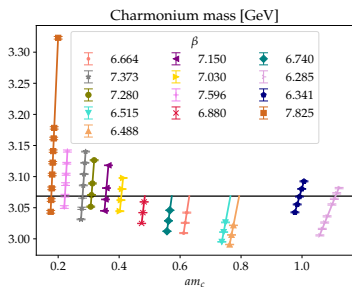


# Continuum limit: BC correlations



- ▶ For  $N_\tau = 12$ , an enhancement of charmed baryon pressure by a factor 2.3 – 2.6 at  $T_{pc}$ .

# Major source of the cutoff effects



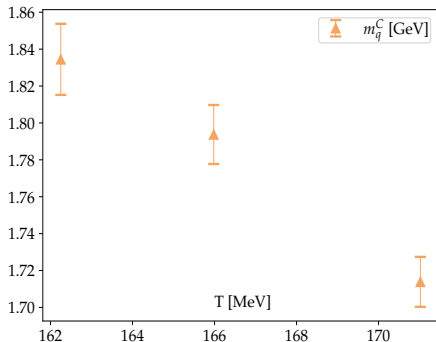
- ▶ The ordering of various partial charm pressures based on different LCPs and  $N_\tau$  values can be understood from the ordering of the  $am_c$  values which determine the mass of the lightest charmed hadron i.e., D-meson.
- ▶  $\beta = [6.285 - 6.500]$  is relevant for  $N_\tau = 8$ ;  $\beta = [6.712 - 6.910]$  is relevant for  $N_\tau = 12$ ;  $\beta = [7.054 - 7.095]$  is relevant for  $N_\tau = 16$ .

## Conclusions and Outlook II

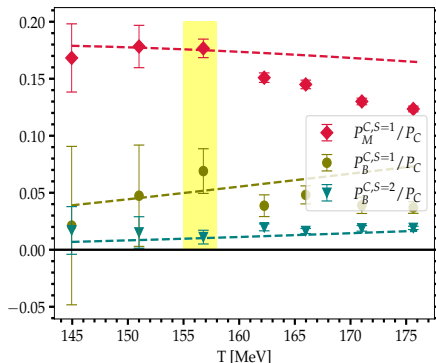
- ▶ For  $N_\tau > 8$ , results from two different LCPs converge and lie within 20% of the QM-HRG prediction for  $T < T_{pc}$ . the QM-HRG model calculations.
- ▶ Incomplete PDG records of the charmed hadrons in each subsector.
- ▶ Soon will be publishing our low- $T$  ( $T < T_{pc}$ ) analysis on the high-statistics datasets of HotQCD collaboration. Preliminary results in the proceedings: [[arXiv:2401.01194](https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.01194)], [[arXiv:2212.11148](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.11148)].
- ▶ Continuum limit with three different LCPs is in progress.

# Preliminary thermal mass of charm quark-like excitation

$$P_q^C(T, \vec{\mu}) = \frac{3}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{m_q^C}{T} \right)^2 K_2(m_q^C/T) \cosh \left( \frac{2}{3} \hat{\mu}_Q + \frac{1}{3} \hat{\mu}_B + \hat{\mu}_C \right)$$



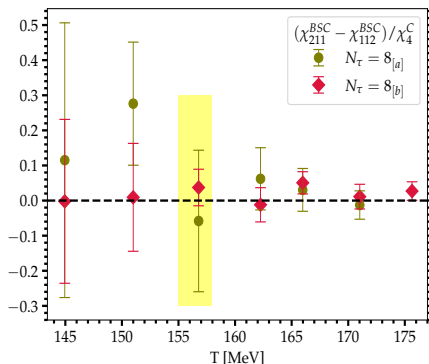
# Backup slide I



Why not consider only charm-quark-like excitations?

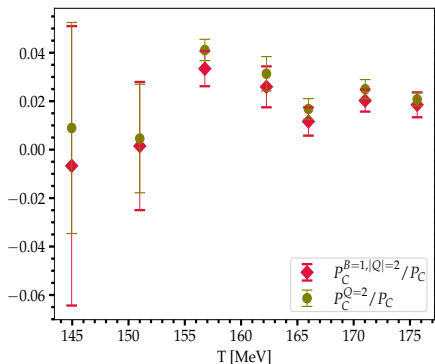
⇒ Contribution from SC sector above  $T_{pc}$  – these states can not be quark-like.

## Backup slide II: Fate of diquarks



If strange-quark diquarks exist in QGP, their contribution to  $P_C$  has to be less than 20%.

# Backup slide III



Only  $|B| = 1$  sector contributes to partial pressure from  $|Q| = 2$  charm subsector.