



# Phase structure of $QC_2D$ at $T=0$ and large quark density

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# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Lattice setup
- Confinement-deconfinement transition at zero temperature. Flux tube
- Spatial string tension
- Polyakov loop and its correlators. Quark number density
- Screening mass
- Conclusions and Outlook

# Motivation

- Detailed understanding of  $QC_2D$  at  $\mu > 0$  should give insight into phenomena expected in QCD at  $\mu > 0$
- Results are useful for other approaches, e.g. DSE or approaches using uncontrolled approximations (effective actions like PNJL model, massive YM)

# Related Talks

- Nikita Astrahantsev

Study of confinement/deconfinement transition in cold dense quark matter in QCD-like theories  
(evening session)

- Roman Rogalyov

Gluon propagators in QC\_2D at high baryon density  
(evening session)

# Other lattice studies of $QC_2D$

## $N_f = 4$ , staggered

- Kogut, Toublan and Sinclair, The phase diagram of four flavor SU(2) lattice gauge theory at nonzero chemical potential and temperature, [Nucl. Phys. B 642 \(2002\) 181](#)

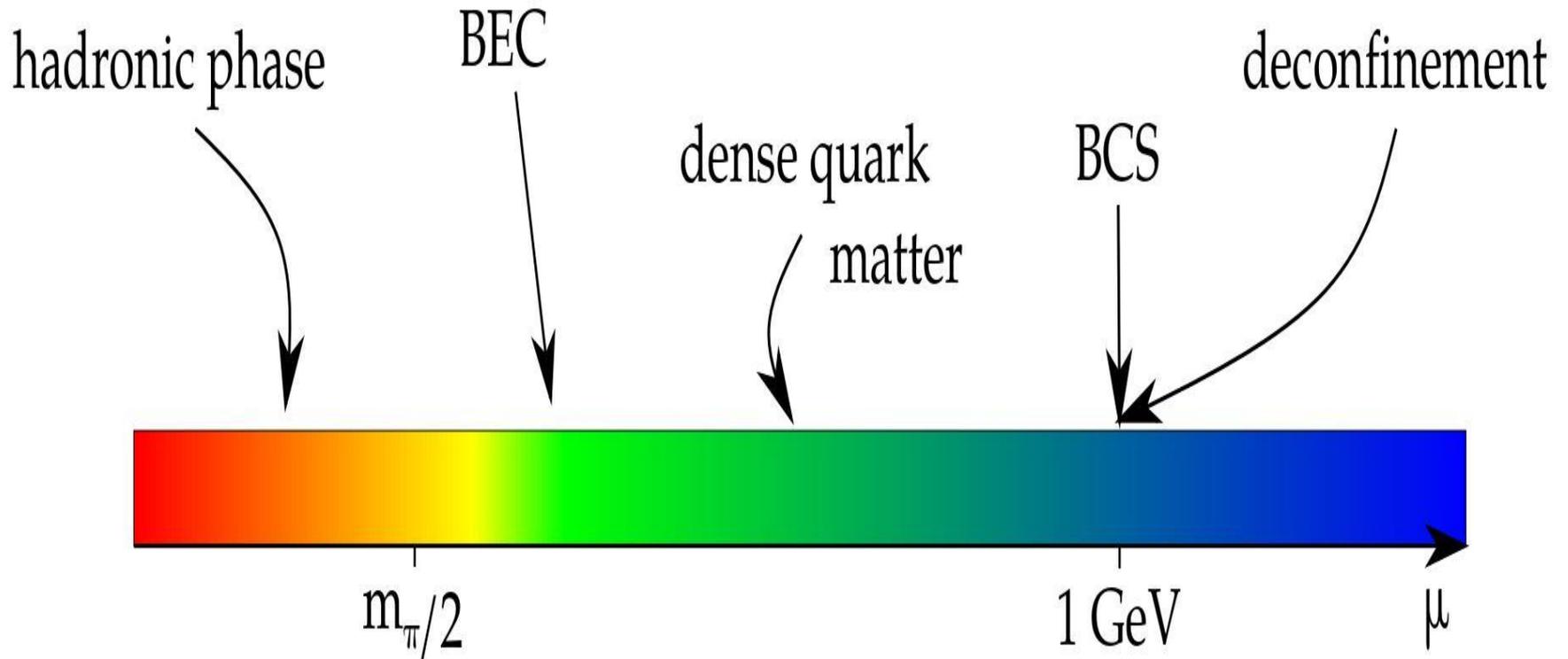
## $N_f = 2$ , staggered

- Braguta, Ilgenfritz, Kotov, Molochkov, Nikolaev, Study of the phase diagram of dense two-color QCD within lattice simulation, [Phys. Rev. D 94 \(2016\)114510](#)
- Holicki, Wilhelm, Smith, Wellegehausen and von Smekal, Two-colour QCD at finite density with two flavours of staggered quarks, [PoS\(LATTICE2016\)052](#)

## $N_f = 2$ , Wilson

- Cotter, Giudice, Hands and Skullerud, Towards the phase diagram of dense two-color matter, [Phys. Rev. D 87 \(2013\) 034507](#)

# Phase Diagram of QC\_2D at T=0



# Simulation settings

- SU(2) lattice QCD with  $N_f = 2$  staggered Dirac operator
- Lattice size  $32^4$
- Lattice spacing  $a = 0.044$  fm
- Pion mass  $m_\pi = 740(40)$  MeV
- Range of  $\mu$  values:  $0 \leq a\mu \leq 0.5$   
or  
 $0 \leq \mu \lesssim 2000$  MeV

# Simulation settings

Lattice fermion action:

$$S_F = \sum_{x,y} \bar{\psi}_x M(\mu, m)_{x,y} \psi_y + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_x (\psi_x^T \tau_2 \psi_x + \bar{\psi}_x \tau_2 \bar{\psi}_x^T)$$

$M$  is the staggered lattice Dirac operator,

$\lambda$ - term is needed to make the di-quark condensate nonzero

Partition function:

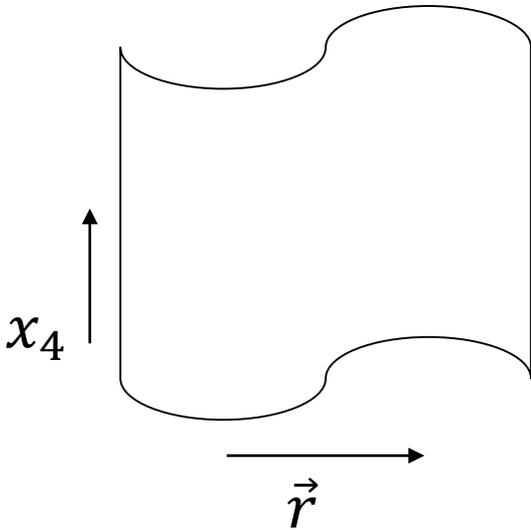
$$Z = \int DU e^{-S_G} \cdot (\det(M^\dagger M + \lambda^2))^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

# Definitions

Wilson loop

$$W(C) = \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr} \left\{ P \exp \left( i \oint_C dx_\mu A_\mu(x) \right) \right\}$$

To compute  $V_{\bar{q}q}(r)$  the contour  $C$  is



$$\langle W(r, t) \rangle = C_0 e^{-E_0(r)t} + C_1 e^{-E_1(r)t} + \dots$$

$$E_0(r) = V_{\bar{q}q}(r)$$

$$V_{\bar{q}q}(r) = -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \langle W(r, t) \rangle$$

Spectral representation of WL.

Confinement phase:

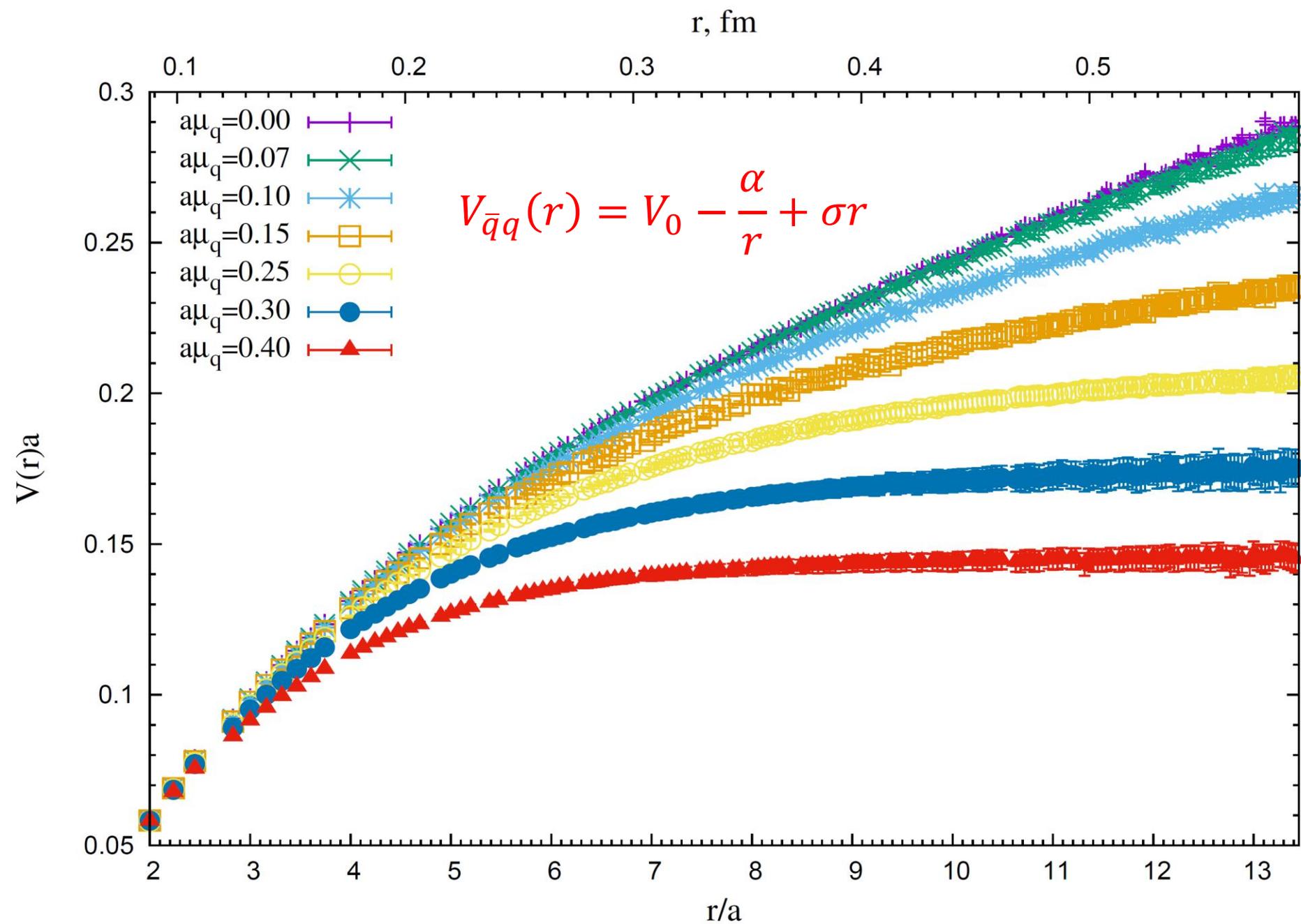
Ground state – hadron string up to distance  $r_{sb}$ , then – 2 h-l mesons

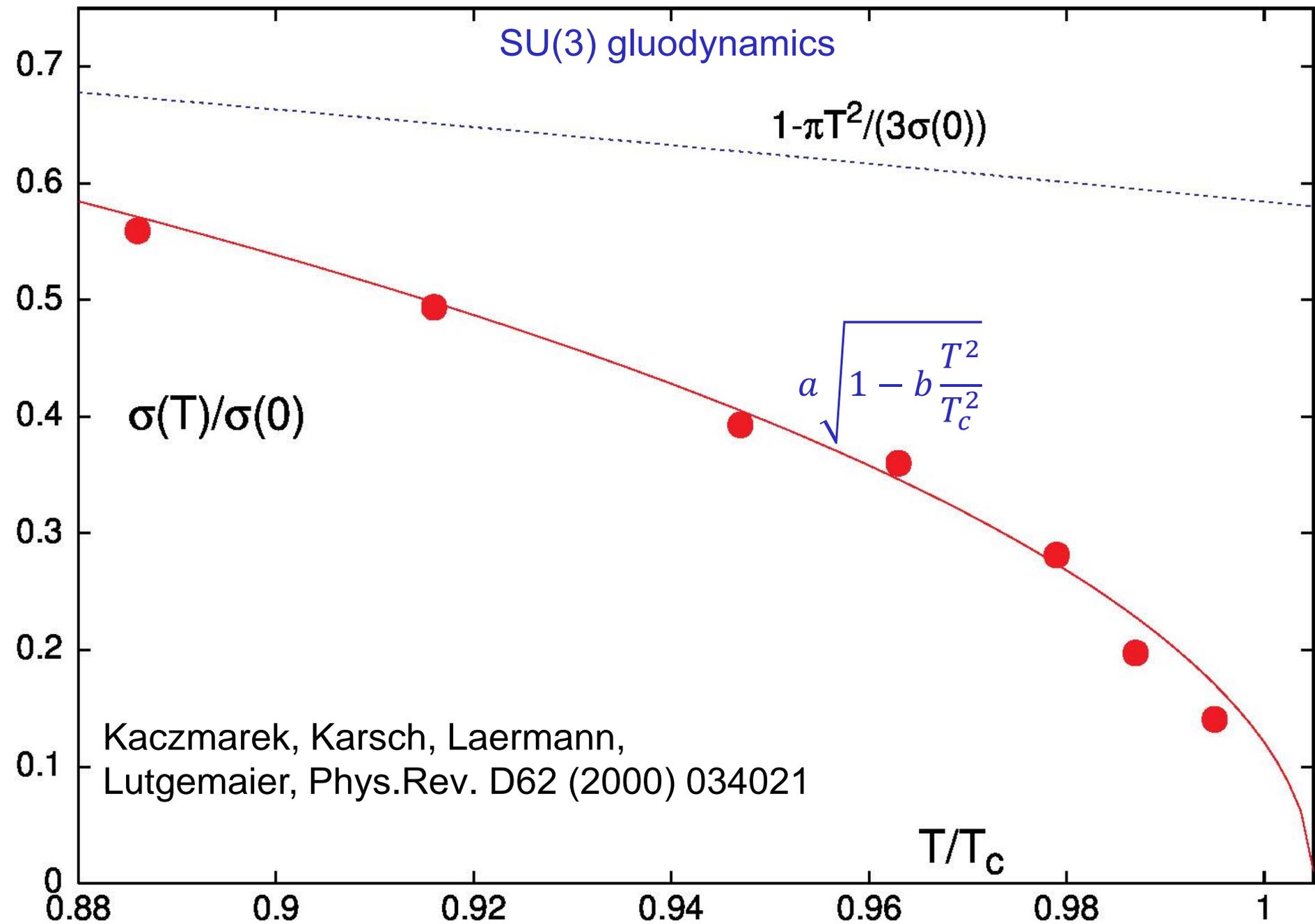
But WL has very small overlap with h-l meson state,  $C_{hl} \ll 1$

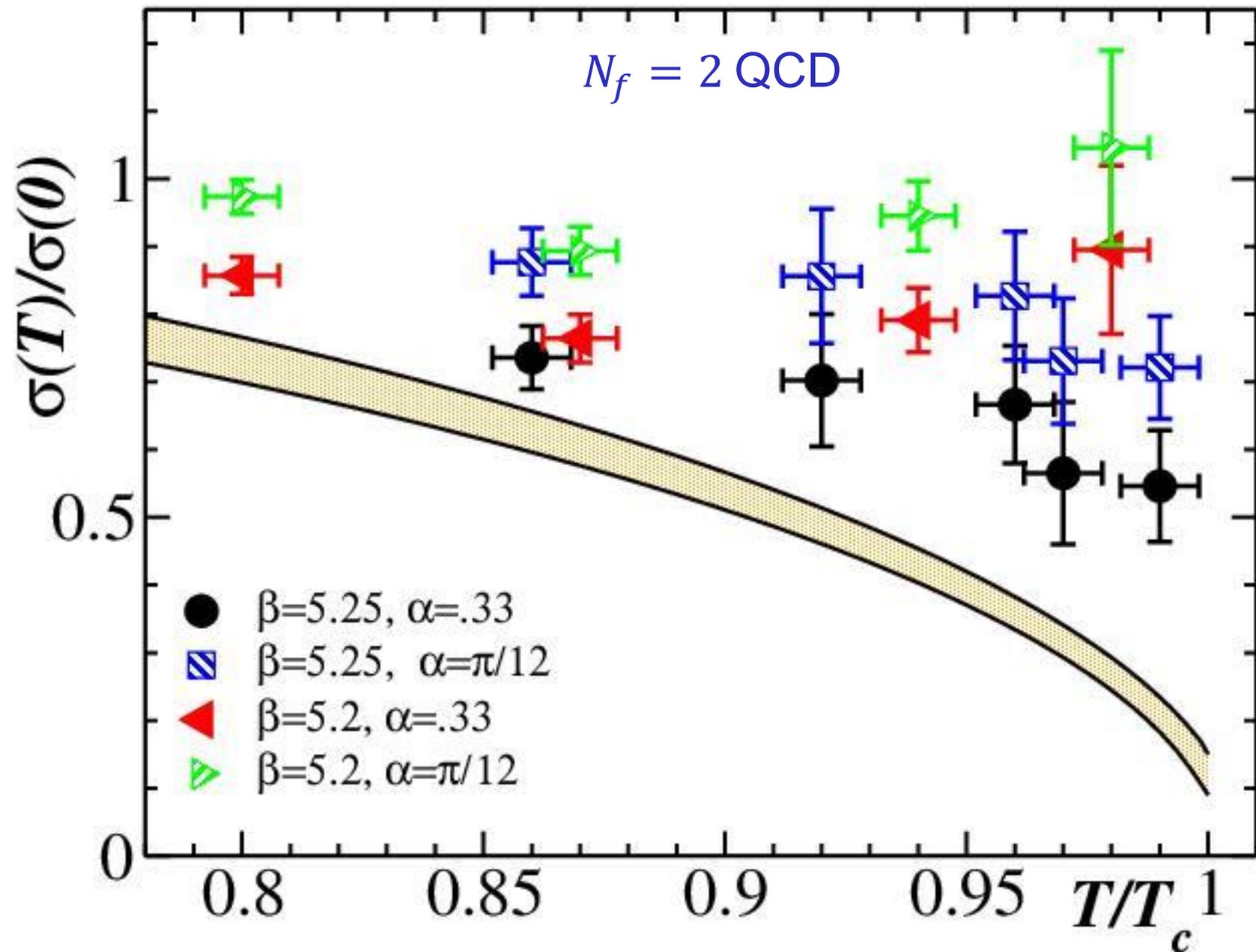
For this reason we do not see string breaking, but clearly see hadron string state

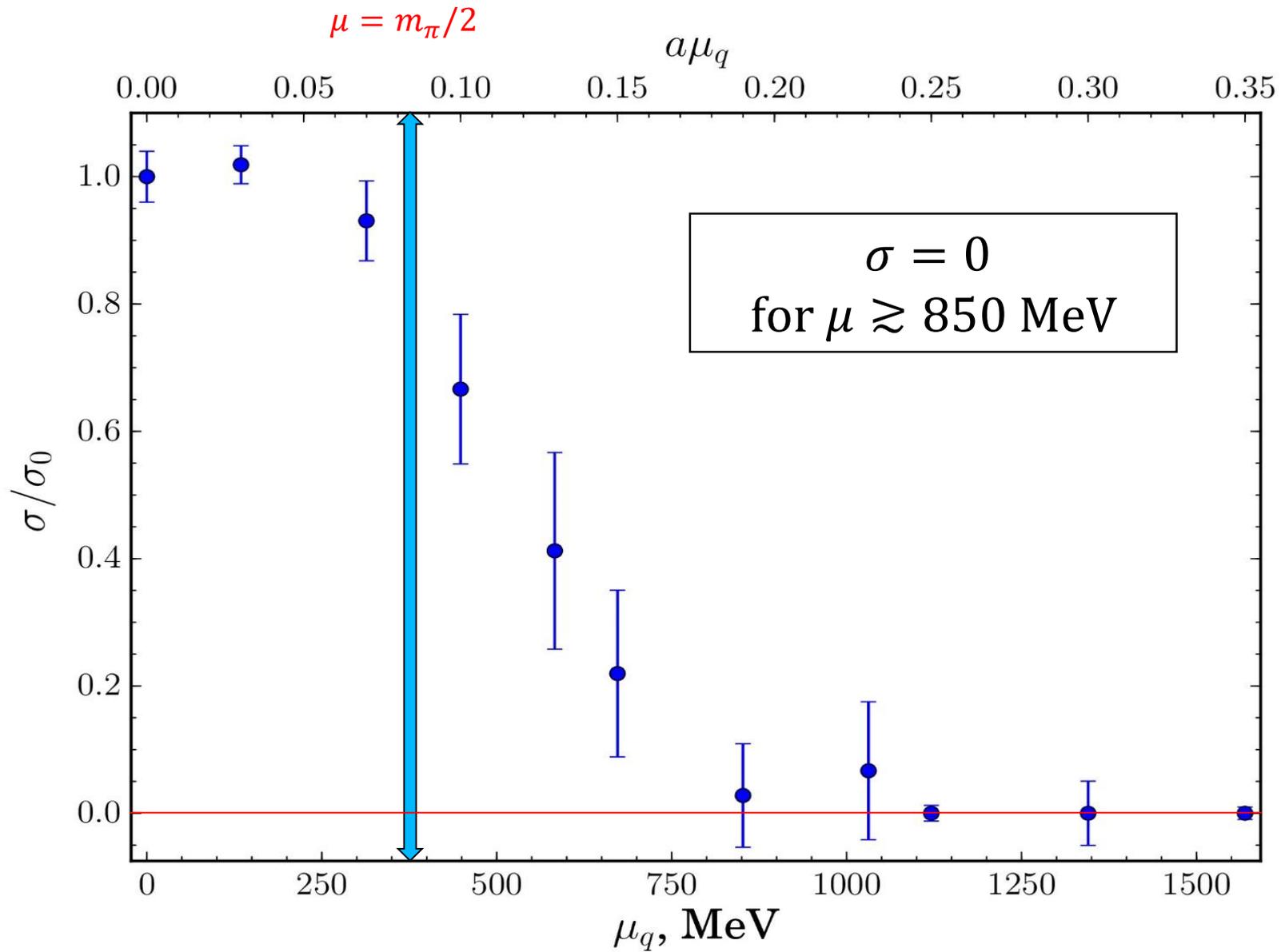
Deconfinement phase:

Ground state – color interaction is screened, Debye screening









String tension vs.  $\mu$

The confinement-deconfinement transition thus happens in the range

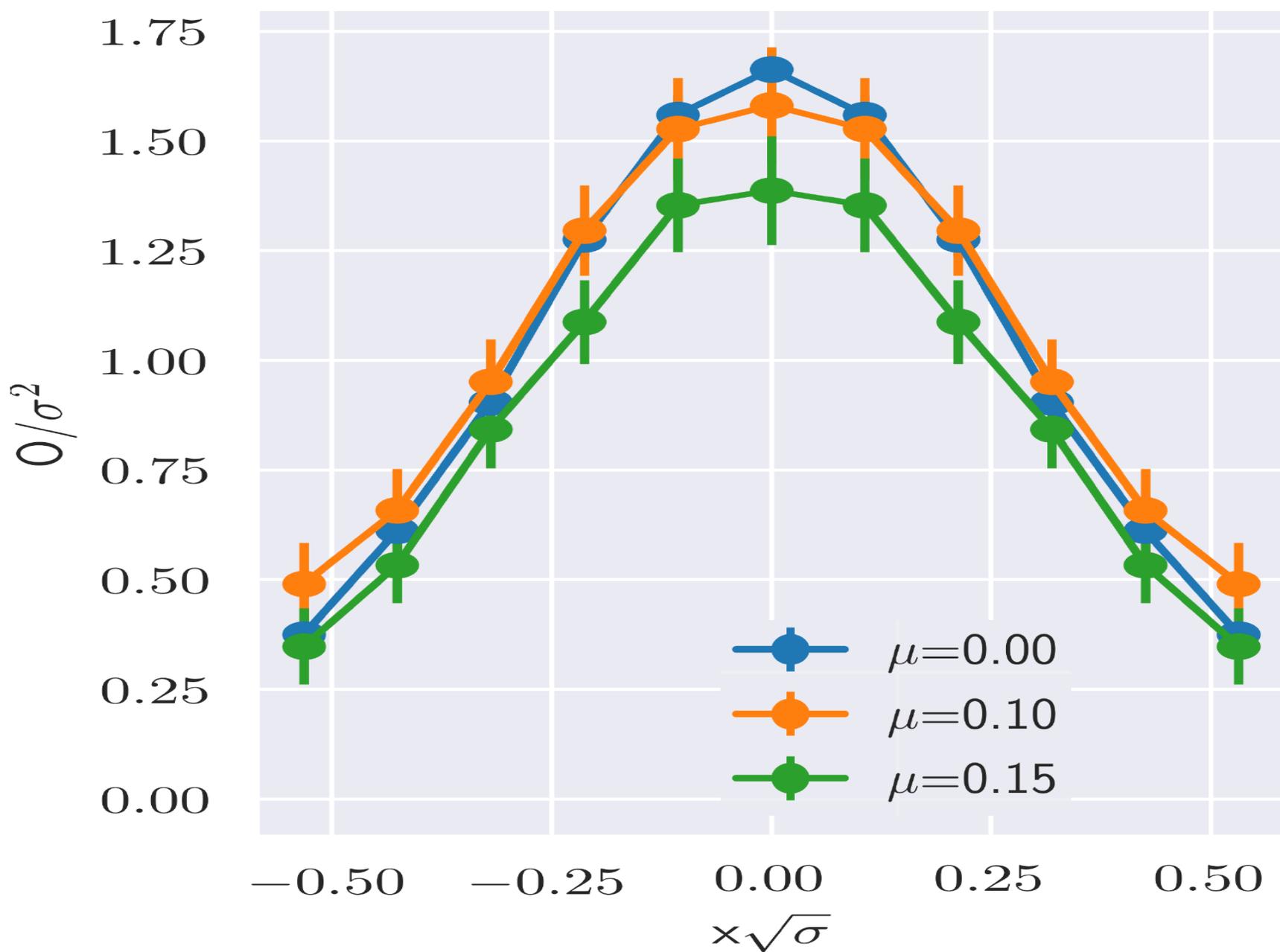
$$850 \text{ MeV} < \mu < 1100 \text{ MeV}$$

( we find screening at  $\mu > 1100 \text{ MeV}$  )

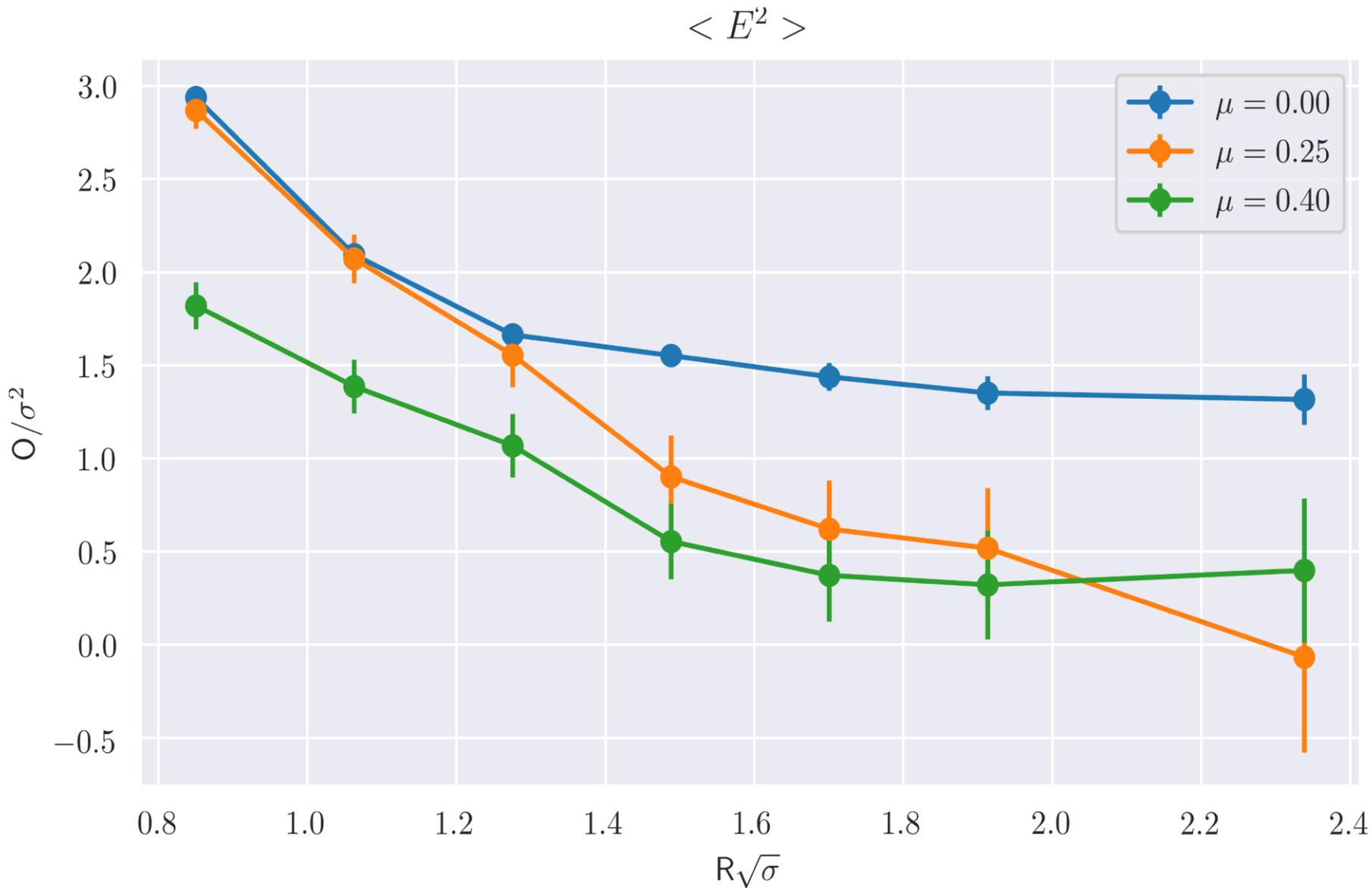
# Flux tube

$$\langle E^2 \rangle_{q\bar{q}} , \quad \langle B^2 \rangle_{q\bar{q}}$$

$$\langle P \rangle_W = \frac{\langle W(R,T) P(T/2) \rangle}{\langle W(R,T) \rangle} - \langle P \rangle$$



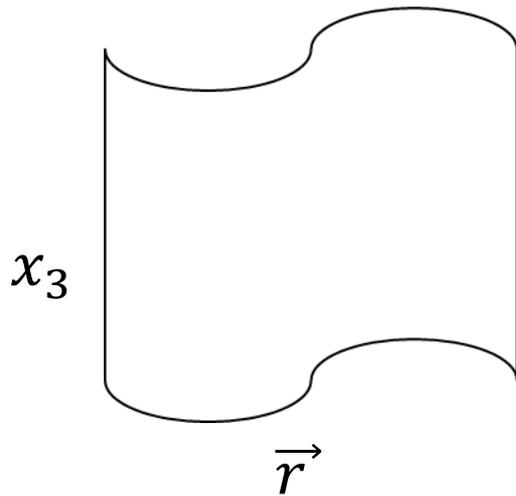
Transverse profile of  $\langle E^2 \rangle_q \bar{q}$  at distance  $R/a = 12$



$\langle E_{max}^2 \rangle$  vs.  $q\bar{q}$  distance  $R$ . Flux tube is absent at large  $\mu$

# Spatial string tension

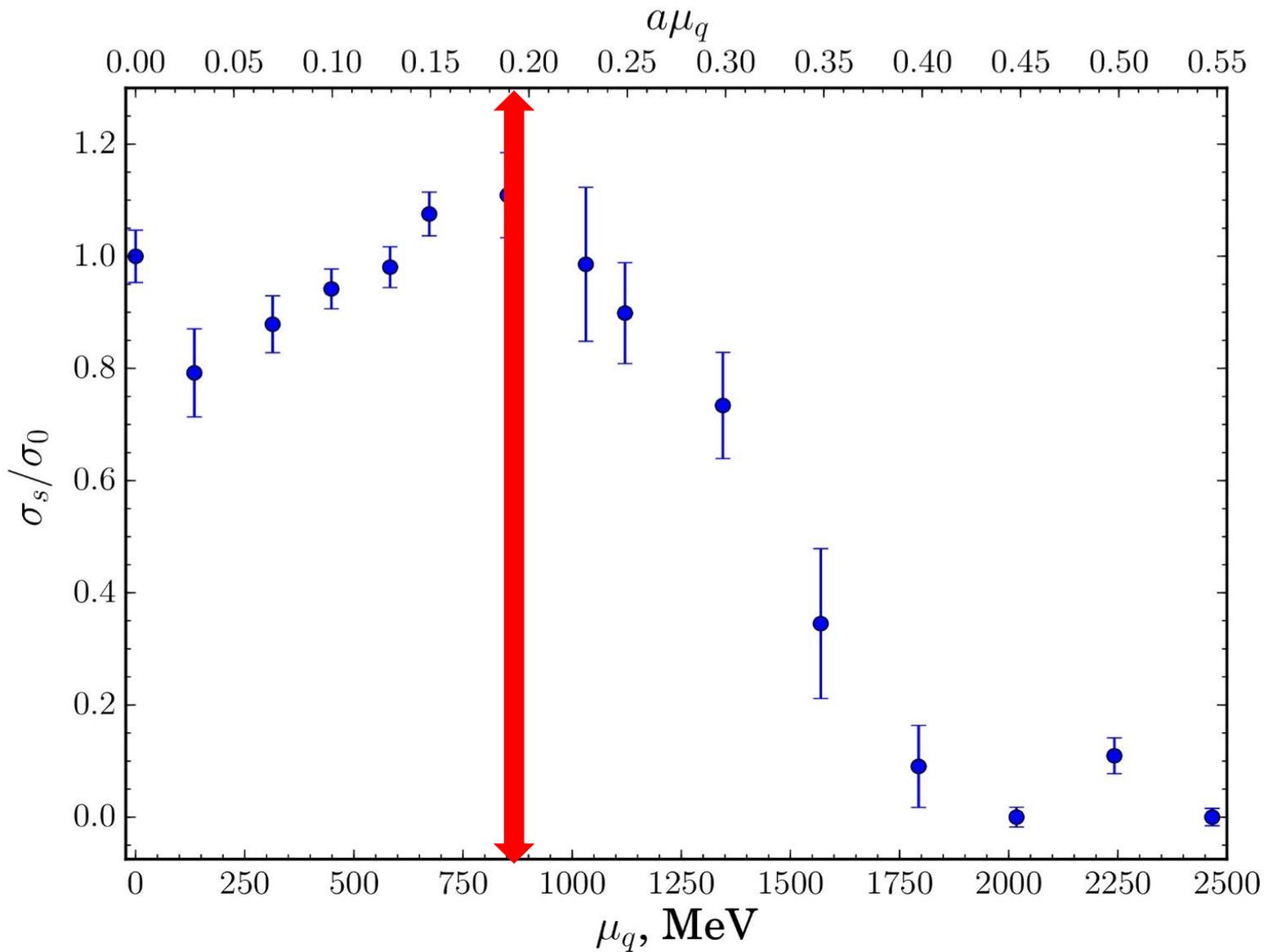
Spatial Wilson loop



$$V_s(r) = V_{0s} - \frac{c}{r} + \sigma_s r$$

At  $T > T_c$   $\sigma_s$  is increasing  $\sim g^2 T$  both in SU(2) and SU(3) theories

This is different in QC<sub>2</sub>D, see next slide



Spatial string tension

# Polyakov loop correlators

(order parameter for heavy quarks)

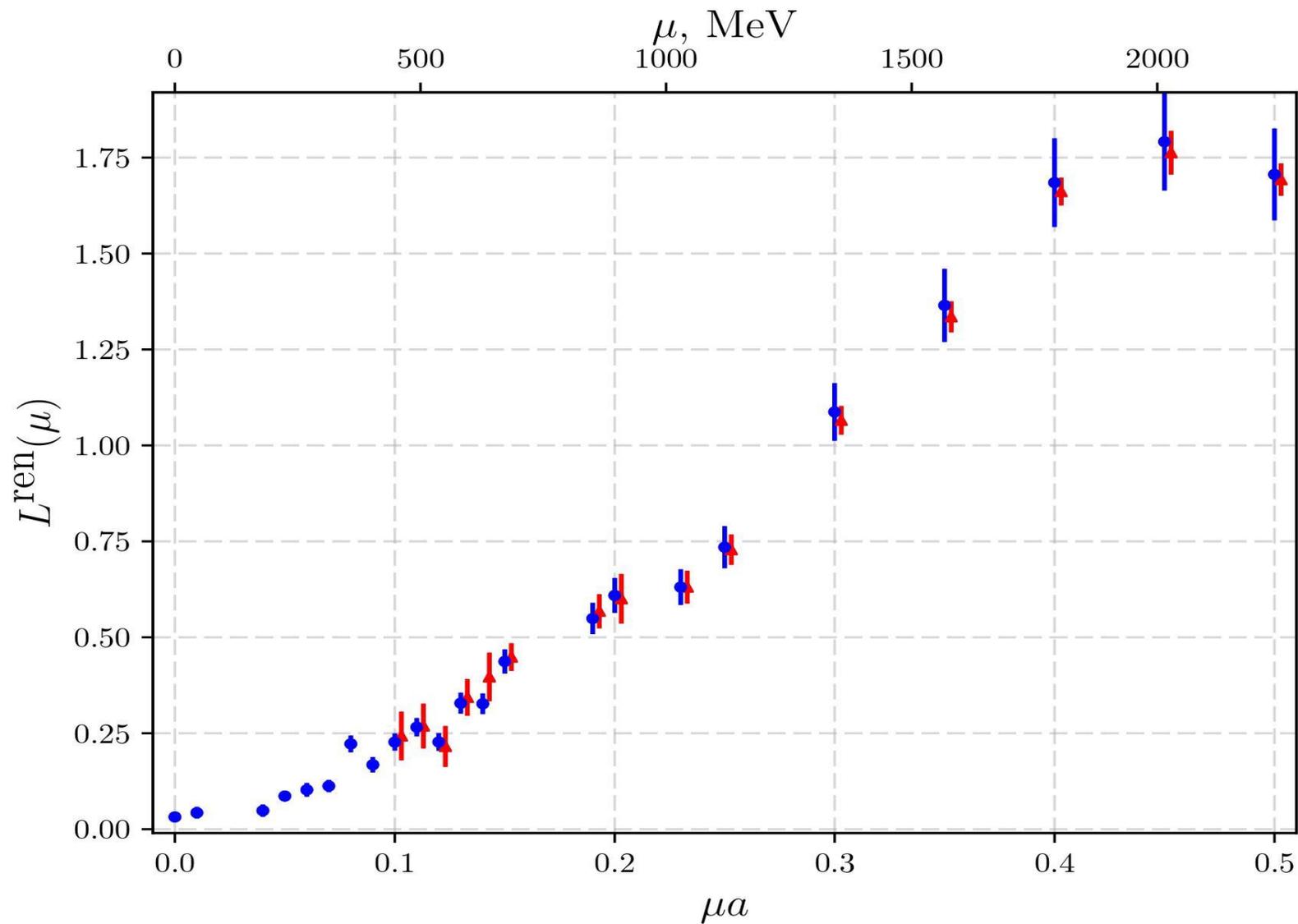
$$L(\vec{r}) = \text{P exp} \left\{ i \int dx_4 A_4(\vec{r}, x_4) \right\}$$

$$\langle L \rangle = \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} L(\vec{r}) \right\rangle$$

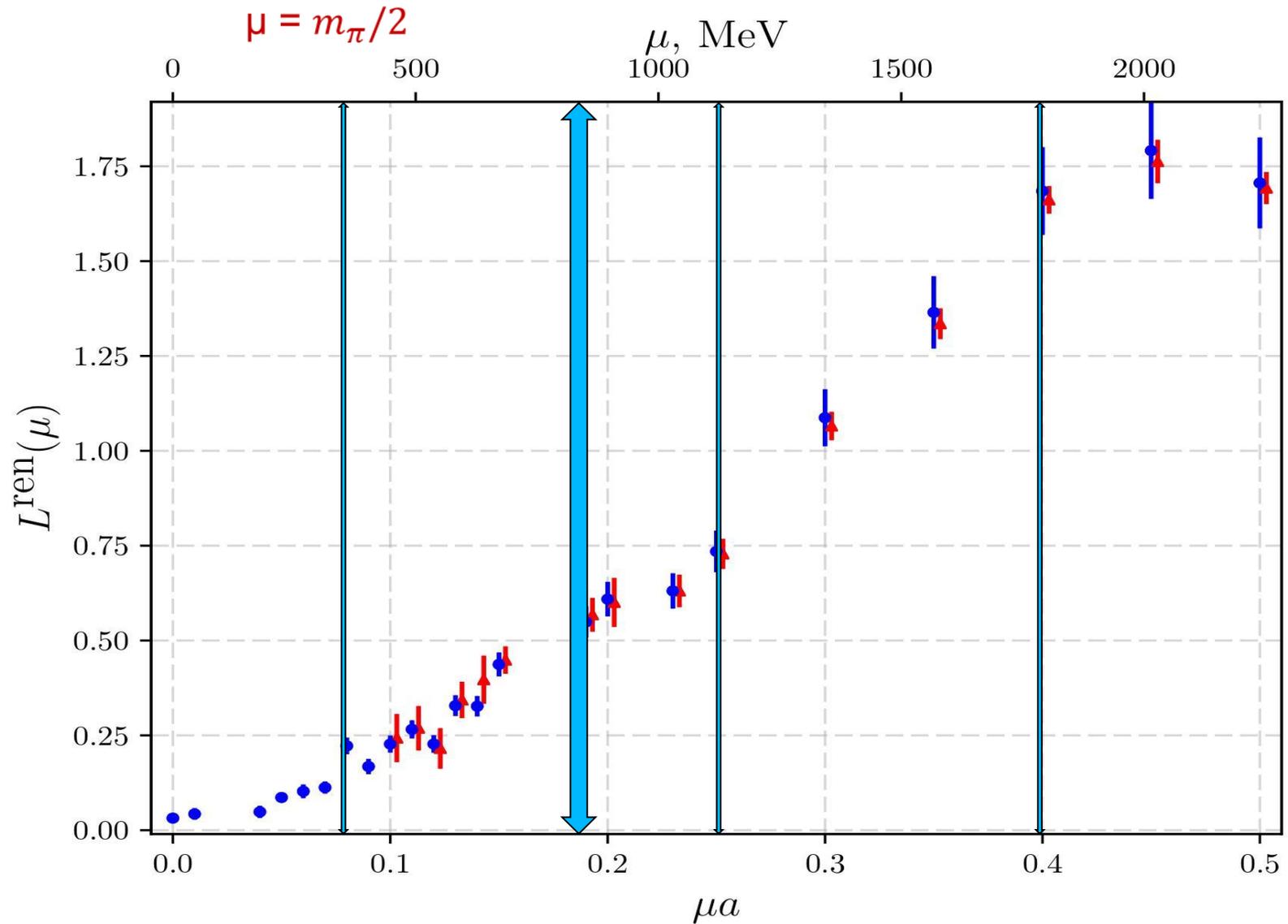
At  $T > 0$  it determines free energy of a static source  $F_q(T)$ .

At  $\mu_q > 0$  it determines grand potential  $\Omega(\mu_q, T)$ .

# Polyakov loop vs. $\mu$



# Polyakov loop vs. $\mu$



Polyakov loop correlators allow to study static quarks interaction in vacuum or in medium as in our case

$$\exp \left[ -\frac{\Omega_{\bar{q}q}(r, \mu)}{T} \right] = \frac{1}{4} \left\langle \text{Tr} L(\vec{r}) \text{Tr} L^\dagger(0) \right\rangle ,$$

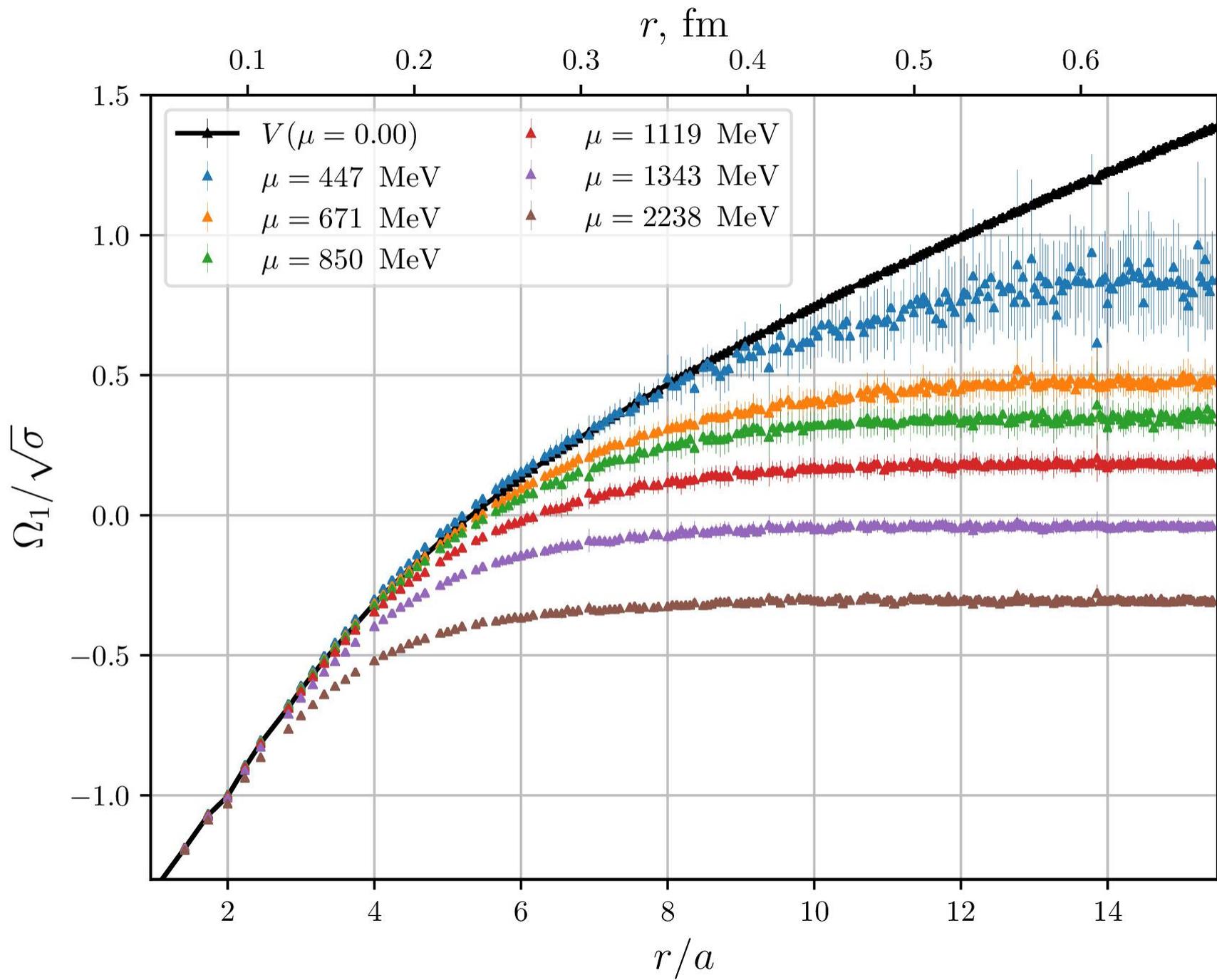
$$\exp \left[ -\frac{\Omega_1(r, \mu)}{T} \right] = \frac{1}{2} \left\langle \text{Tr} L(\vec{r}) L^\dagger(0) \right\rangle ,$$

$$\exp \left[ -\frac{\Omega_3(r, \mu)}{T} \right] = \frac{1}{3} \left\langle \text{Tr} L(\vec{r}) \text{Tr} L^\dagger(0) \right\rangle - \frac{1}{6} \left\langle \text{Tr} L(\vec{r}) L^\dagger(0) \right\rangle$$

S. Nadkarni, Phys. Rev. D 34 (1986) 3904, O. Philipsen, Phys. Lett. B 535 (2002) 138

In perturbation theory

$$\Omega_1(r, \mu) = -3 \Omega_3(r, \mu) = -\frac{g^2(r)}{8\pi r}$$

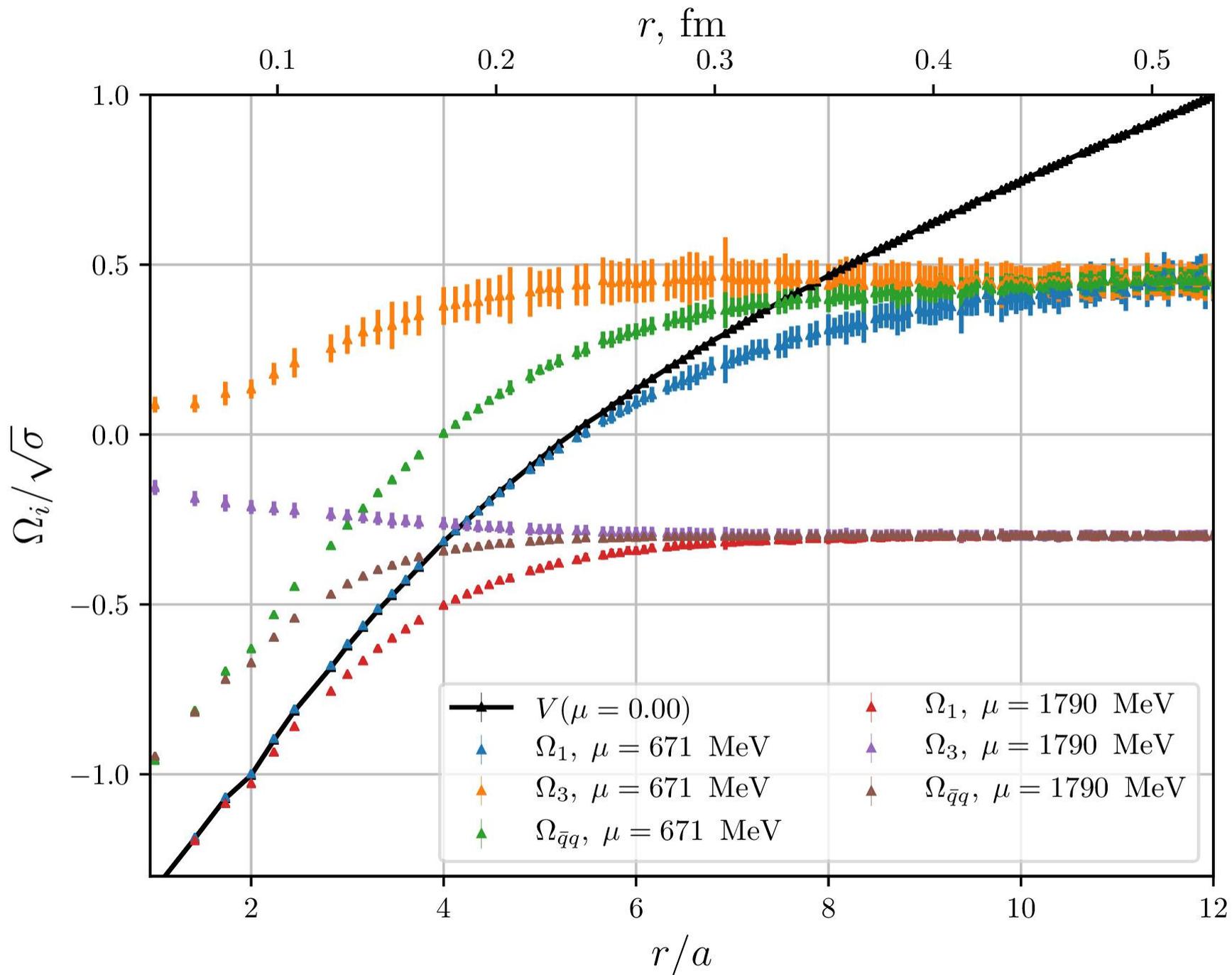


Behavior of  $\Omega_1(\mu, r)$  is similar to that of free energy  $F_1(T, r)$  :

- At small distances they agree with  $V(r)$ , this agreement stops at smaller distances for larger  $\mu$  or  $T$
- At large distances they flatten. This flattening signals string breaking in the confinement phase and screening in the deconfinement phase

Thus at  $\mu=0.447$  MeV and 671 MeV we observe **string breaking** at  **$T=0$**  in a **theory with fundamental fermions** using **Polyakov loop correlator**.

So far to observe string breaking at  $T=0$  operators mixing hadronic string and static-light mesons were used.



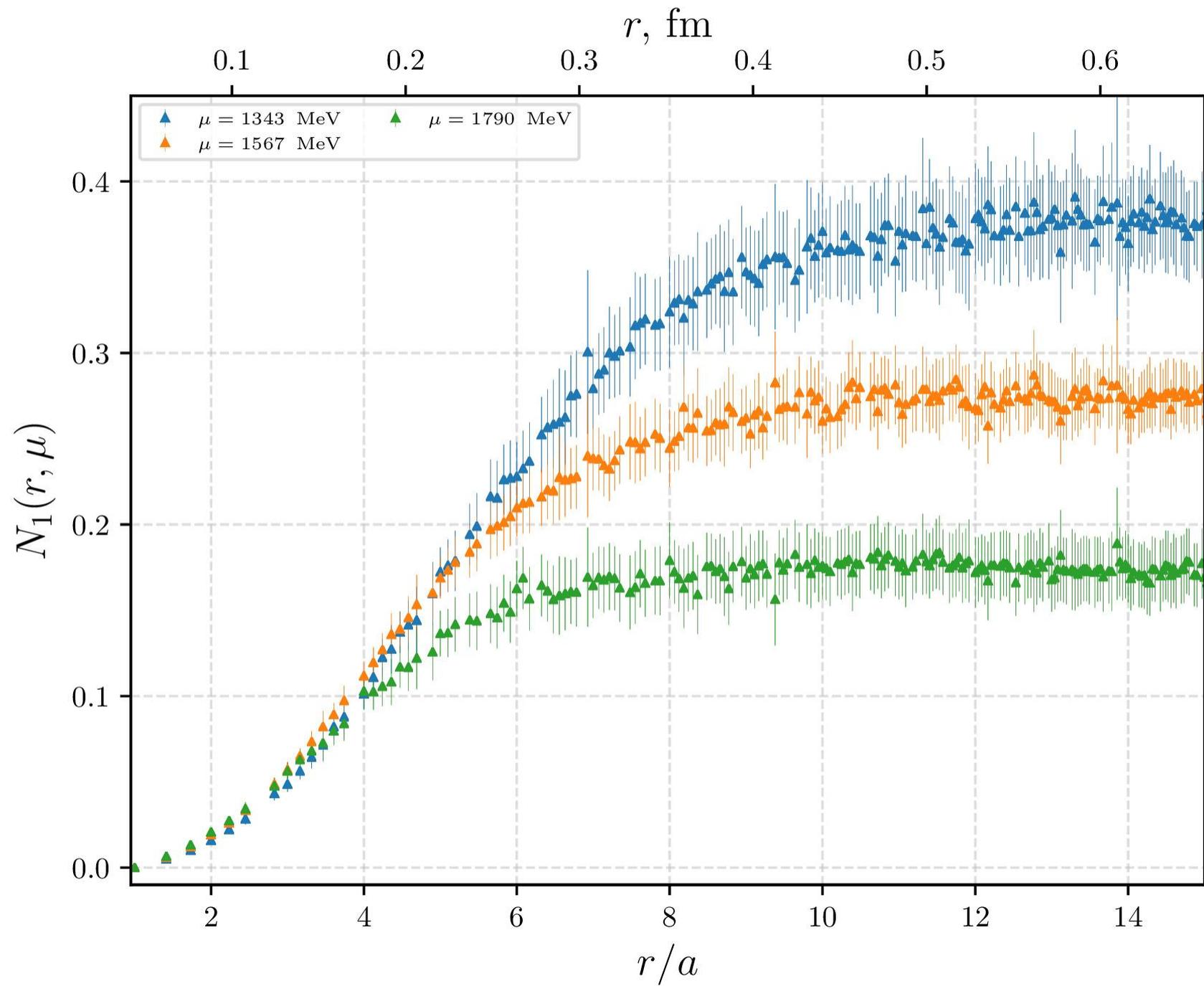
# Number density

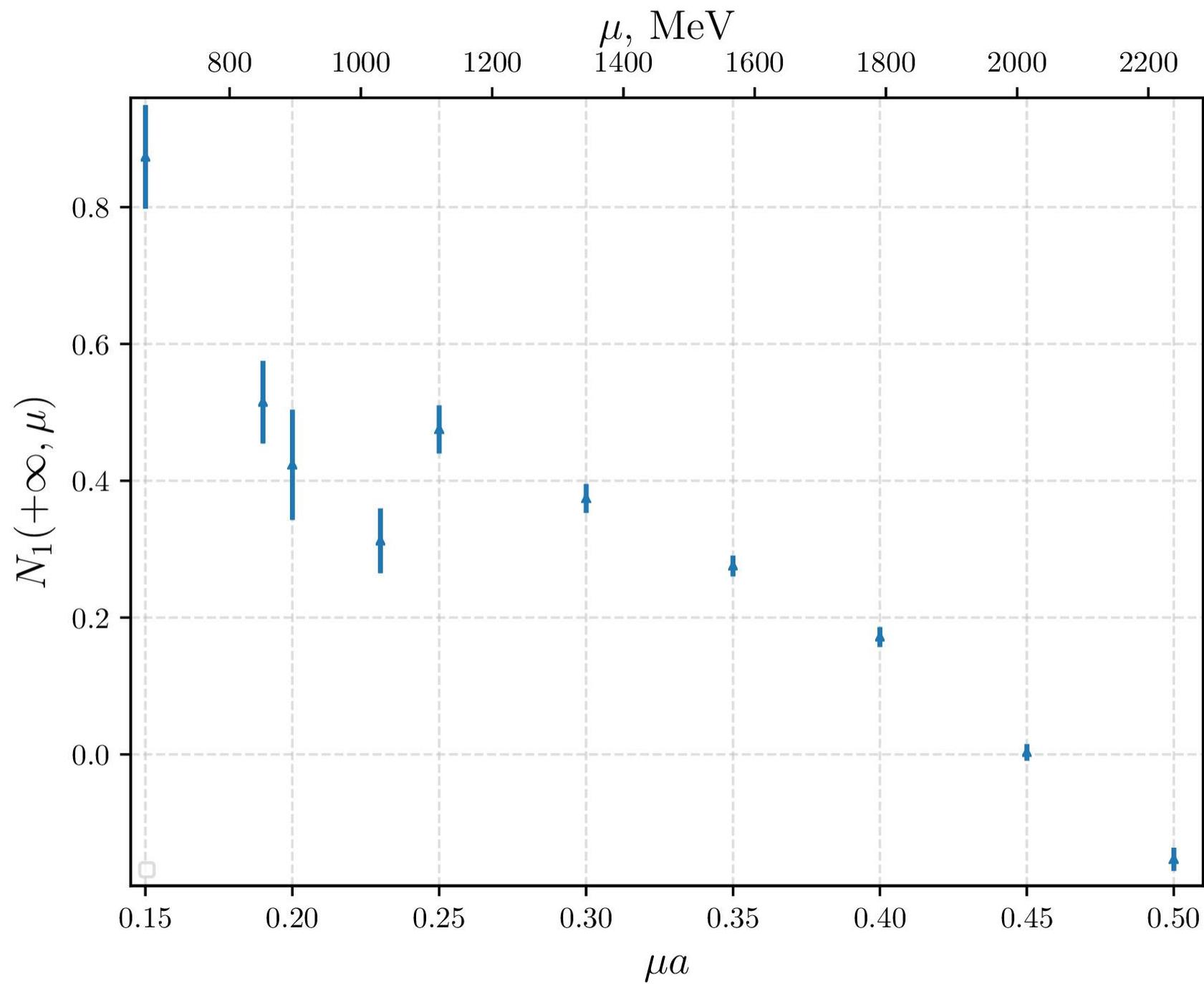
$$\Omega_1(r, \mu, T) = U_1(r, \mu, T) - TS_1(r, \mu, T) - \mu N_1(r, \mu, T)$$

$$N_1(r, \mu) = -\frac{\partial \Omega_1(r, \mu)}{\partial \mu}$$

(numerical differentiation)

Important quantity  $N_1(\infty, \mu)$  - determines variation of the Polyakov loop. Expected to have maximum at transition.





# Screening length

We introduce screening length  $R_{sc}$  defined for all  $\mu$  (in analogy with  $T>0$  case) as

$$V_{\mu=0}(R_{sc}) = \Omega_1(\infty, \mu)$$

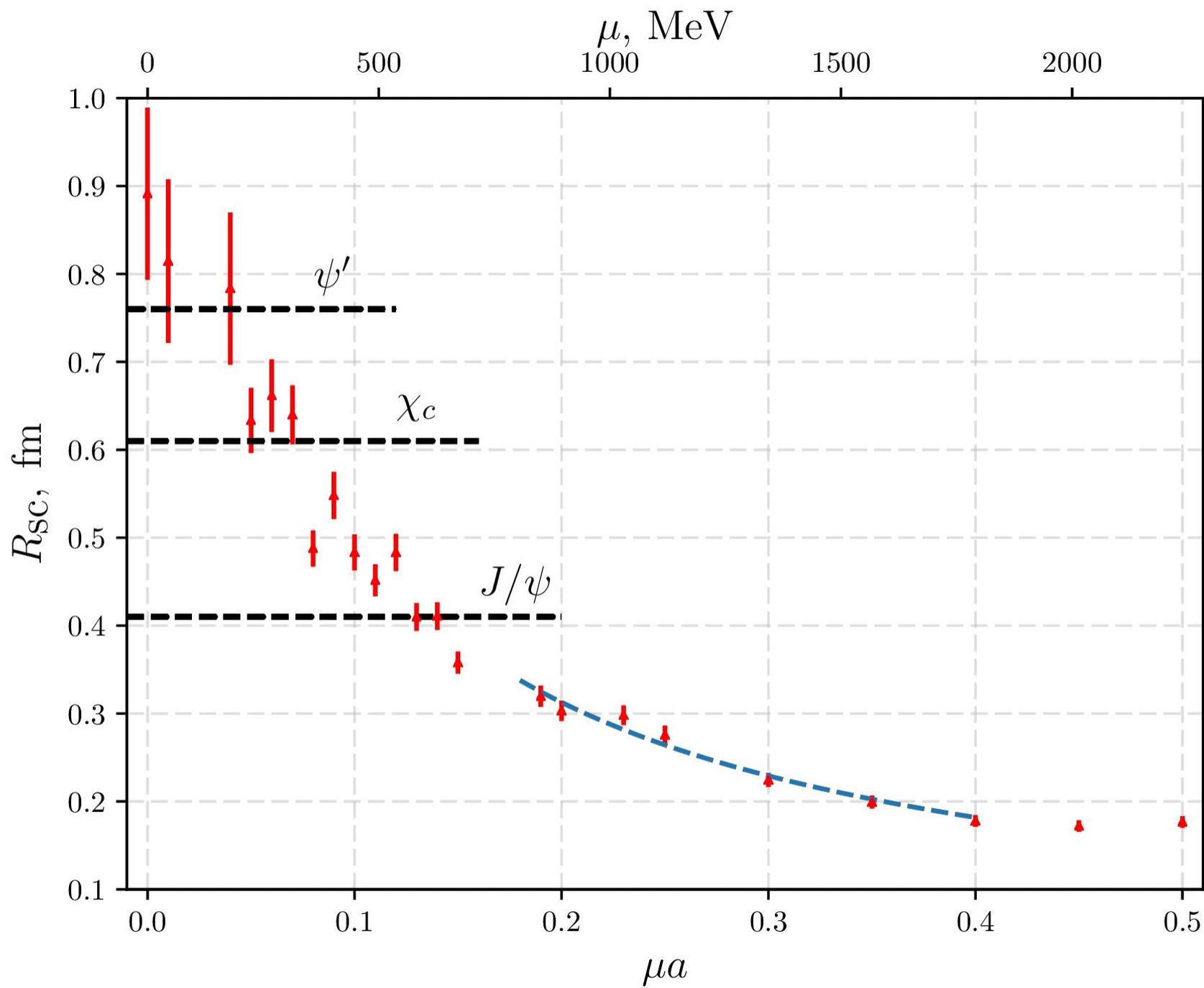
Kaczmarek, Karsch, Petreczky, Zantow Phys.Lett. B543 (2002) 41

Perturbation theory gives for screening mass

$$m_D^2(\mu) = \frac{4}{\pi} \alpha_s(\mu) \mu^2$$

for large  $\mu$  we fit  $R_{sc}$  by

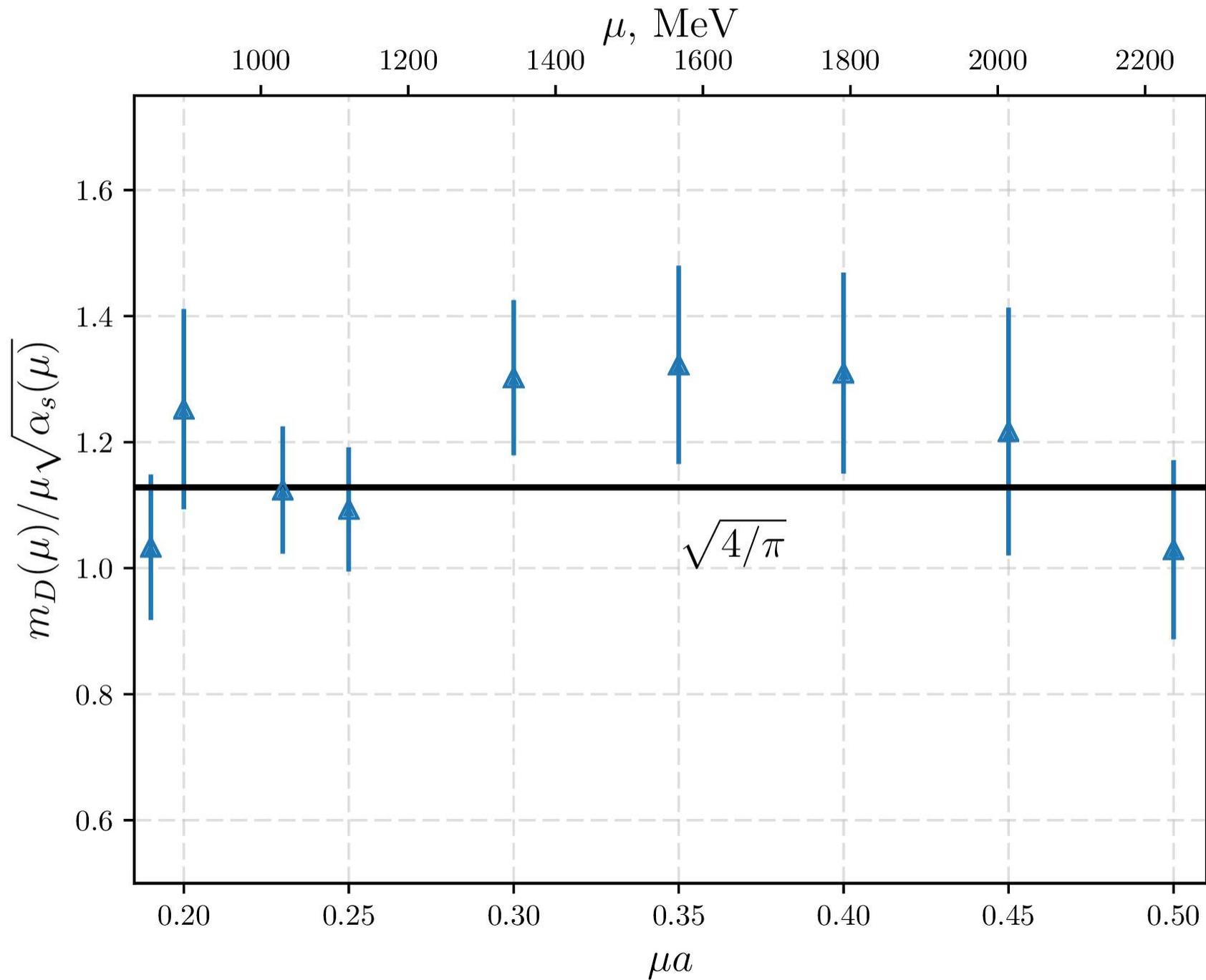
$$R_{sc} = \frac{1}{Am_D(\mu)}$$



# Screening mass

$$\Omega_1(r, \mu) = \Omega_1(\infty, \mu) - \frac{3}{4} \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{r} e^{-m_D r}$$

$$m_D^2(\mu) = \frac{4}{\pi} \alpha_s(\mu) \mu^2$$



# Conclusions

- Confinement-deconfinement transition range of  $\mu_q$  values was determined by string tension computation:

$$850 \text{ MeV} < \mu_q < 1100 \text{ MeV}$$

- It was discovered that the spatial string tension  $\sigma_s$  goes to zero in the deconfinement phase at  $\mu_q > 2000 \text{ MeV}$
- Number density and internal energy were computed for static pair of quark and anti-quark
- String breaking distance and Debye screening length were computed. Some agreement with perturbation theory was found

# Outlook

Simulations in  $N_f = 2$   $SU(2)$  QCD are planned

- with improved staggered Dirac operator (stout smearing)
- small lattice spacing ( $\sim 0.05$  fm)
- bigger volume ( $\sim 2$  fm)
- smaller pion mass

To confirm our findings, to clarify possible volume effects, to uncover physics at  $\mu > 2000$  MeV

Study of mixed effects of temperature and chemical potential is also planned

Study of the analytic continuation from imaginary  $\mu$  to real  $\mu$  is going on