

The static potential in $2 + 1 + 1$ -flavor QCD

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For the TUMQCD-collaboration

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QCD static energy of a quark-antiquark pair

- Conceptually an observable $O(\nu)$ is computed on the lattice at a sufficiently high scale ν in order to allow for a weak-coupling perturbative approach. This gives rise to the window problem:

$$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \ll \nu \ll 1/a,$$

which is hard to realize in practice.

- The QCD static energy of a quark-antiquark pair, $E(r)$, is an important physical observable in the continuum and on the lattice.
- It has been studied by the TUMQCD-collaboration since 2010 using quenched¹ and 2+1-flavor² simulations and in this talk is extended to 2+1+1-flavor simulations.
- For the static energy, the scale is set by the inverse distance $\nu = 1/r$ and further scales may be involved (ultra-soft $\mu_{\text{us}} \sim \alpha_s/r$).

¹ N. Brambilla et al. In: *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 105 (2010), 212001.

² A. Bazavov et al. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 86 (2012), 114031; A. Bazavov et al. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 90.7 (2014), 074038; A. Bazavov et al. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 100.11 (2019), 114511.

Static quark-antiquark energy in perturbation theory

- Static energy is determined from the large-time behavior of Wilson loops

$$E(r) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{i}{t} \langle \ln W(t, r) \rangle, \quad W(t, r) = \exp \left[ig \oint_{r,t} dx^\mu A_\mu(x) \right] \quad (1)$$

- In perturbation theory known up to N³LL

$$E(r) = \Lambda_s - \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{r} (1 + \#\alpha_s + \#\alpha_s^2 + \#\alpha_s^3 + \#\alpha_s^3 \ln \alpha_s + \dots) . \quad (2)$$

- US contributions can be understood in pNRQCD³

$$E(r) = \Lambda_s + V_s(r, \nu, \mu_{us}) + \delta_{us}(r, \nu, \mu_{us}) . \quad (3)$$

- The color singlet static potential, V_s , is affected by an r -independent renormalon that is dealt with by reintegrating the force⁴ (formulae in⁵)

$$F(r, 1/r) = \left. \frac{\partial E(r, \nu)}{\partial r} \right|_{\nu=1/r} \Rightarrow E(r) = \int_{r^*}^r dr' F(r', 1/r') + \text{const} . \quad (4)$$

³ N. Brambilla et al. In: *Nucl. Phys. B* 566 (2000), 275.

⁴ S. Necco and R. Sommer. In: *Nucl. Phys. B* 622 (2002), 328–346.

⁵ X. G. Tormo I. In: *Mod. Phys. Lett. A* 28 (2013), 1330028.

Finite charm quark effects

- Including a massive quark of mass m to the static potential, $V^{(N_f)}$, with N_f massless flavors yields the potential⁶, known at two loop accuracy

$$V_m^{(N_f)}(r, \nu) = V^{(N_f+1)}(r, \nu) + \delta V^{(N_f+1)}(r, \nu), \quad (5)$$

where the *rhs* can be rewritten as a correction to the potential with N_f massless flavors (typo-corrected formulae to be found in⁷).

- Satisfies the limits at two loop accuracy

$$V_m^{(N_f)}(r, \nu) \xrightarrow{m \rightarrow \infty} V^{(N_f)}(r, \nu) + \mathcal{O}((\alpha_s)^4), \quad (6)$$

$$V_m^{(N_f)}(r, \nu) \xrightarrow{m \rightarrow 0} V^{(N_f+1)}(r, \nu) + \mathcal{O}((\alpha_s)^4). \quad (7)$$

⁶ D. Eiras and J. Soto. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 61 (2000), 114027; M. Melles. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 62 (2000), 074019; D. Eiras and J. Soto. In: *Phys. Lett. B* 491 (2000), 101–110; M. Melles. In: *Nucl. Phys. B Proc. Suppl.* 96 (2001), 472–476; A. H. Hoang. In: *hep-ph/0008102* (2000).

⁷ S. Recksiegel and Y. Sumino. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 65 (2002), 054018.

Static energy on the lattice

- We extract the static energy from the correlator of two Wilson lines in Coulomb gauge and extract the ground state.
- We use the (rooted) Highly Improved Staggered Quark (HISQ)⁸ action and a one-loop Symanzik-improved (Lüscher–Weisz) gauge action.
- Lattices are MILC ones⁹ used in many state of the art calculations.
- We employ tree-level improvement for the distance to correct for artifacts.
- We also additionally simulate one step of hyper-cubic (HYP) smearing¹⁰.
- Ensembles (focus on the physical $m_l/m_s = 1/27$ case in the following):

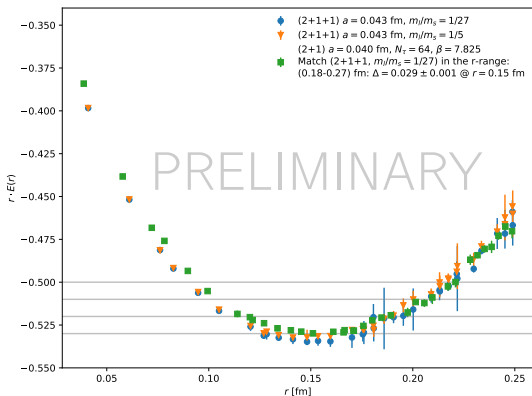
β	$N_\sigma^3 \times N_\tau$	a [fm]	m_l/m_s	r_{\max} [fm]
7.0	$64^3 \times 192$	0.043	1/5	0.852
7.0	$144^3 \times 288$	0.043	1/27	0.852
7.28	$96^3 \times 288$	0.032	1/5	0.708

⁸ E. Follana et al. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 75 (2007), 054502.

⁹ A. Bazavov et al. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 98.7 (2018), 074512.

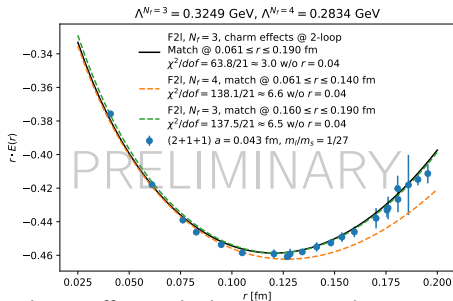
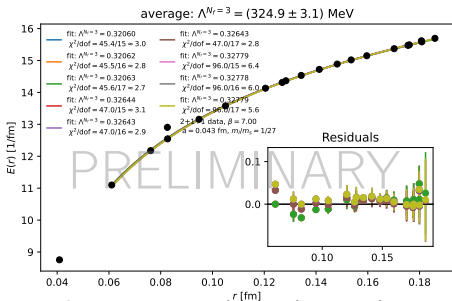
¹⁰ A. Hasenfratz and F. Knechtli. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 64 (2001), 034504.

Static energy on the lattice - comparison



- At large $r \gg 1/m_c \sim 0.15$ fm, 2+1 and 2+1+1-flavor agree up to a constant because the charm quark decouples \Rightarrow three-flavor running of α_s .
- At short distances $r \ll 1/m_c$ four-flavor running of α_s .
- The effects due to the different light-quark masses are smaller than the **clearly visible effect due to the additional charm-quark** at these distances.

Charm-quark effects in the data



- Compare to weak-coupling prediction for charm effects which is known only at two-loop accuracy.
- Determine sensible $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ using $m_c = 1.28 \text{ GeV}$ and three-loop running of α_s . Turns out $\sim 5\%$ higher than the 2019 2+1-flavor determination¹¹, but compatible within perturbative truncation errors.
- Compare weak-coupling to lattice: $N_f = 4$ matched to data at smaller r range, $N_f = 3$ + massive charm matched to data at small to larger r range, $N_f = 3$ matched to data at larger r range.
- $N_f = 3$ + massive charm gives best description of the data and interpolates between limiting cases.

11 A. Bazavov et al. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 100.11 (2019), 114511.

Lattice scales and the string tension

- The static energy based lattice scales r_i/a , $i = 0, 1, 2$, have not been determined in 2+1+1-flavor QCD yet. They are defined via

$$(r/a)^2 F(r/a)|_{r/a=r_i/a} = \begin{cases} 1.65, & i = 0 \\ 1.0, & i = 1 \\ 0.5, & i = 2 \end{cases}, \quad (8)$$

which have the continuum values

$$r_0 \sim 0.475 \text{ fm}, \quad r_1 \sim 0.3106 \text{ fm}, \quad r_2 \sim 0.145 \text{ fm} \sim 1/m_c.$$

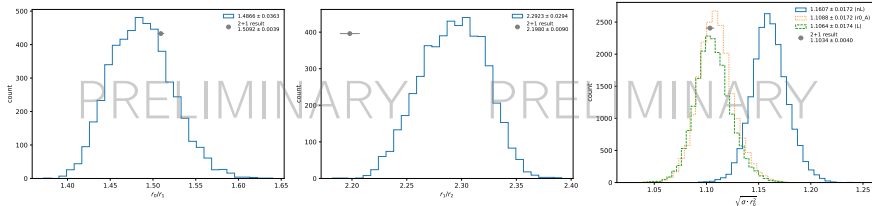
- A general fit ansatz is given by the Cornell parametrization ($r \equiv r/a$)

$$aE(r) = -A/r + B + \sigma \cdot r, \quad \Rightarrow \quad a^2 F(r) = A/r^2 + \sigma, \quad (9)$$

where σ would correspond to the string tension at sufficiently large distances.

- Generate pseudo-random resamples of the data.
- For each r_i choose a range $\pm 15\%$ around the continuum value.
- For the σ determination, vary r_{\min} around 0.6 fm and use different values for the A -parameter ($0, A_{r_0}, \pi/12$).
- Thin out the data in order to invert the correlation matrix (i) equidistant or (ii) randomly (10 points for r_i , 15 points for σ , keeping end points).

Determination results ($\beta = 7.0$, $m_l/m_s = 1/27$)



- We get consistent results for the scales r_i/a using the two procedures.
- The ratio r_0/r_1 should not be affected by the massive charm-quark. The result shown here is in good agreement with a previous 2+1-flavor determination¹². This **shows the decoupling at large distances**.
- The ratio r_1/r_2 should be affected by the massive charm-quark. The result shown here deviates from the 2+1-flavor determination¹³.
- Our value for $\sqrt{\sigma \cdot r_0^2}$ from the smeared ensemble agrees well with a determination¹⁴ using up to 1 fm and the Lüscher term.

¹² A. Bazavov et al. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 90 (2014), 094503.

¹³ A. Bazavov, P. Petreczky, and J. H. Weber. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 97.1 (2018), 014510.

¹⁴ M. Cheng et al. In: *Phys. Rev. D* 77 (2008), 014511.

Summary

- We can see effects of a non-zero charm-quark mass in the data that is qualitatively described by perturbation theory at two-loop accuracy.
- $N_f = 3 +$ massive charm interpolates between $N_f = 4$ and $N_f = 3$, similar in weak coupling and on the lattice.
- We can see decoupling of the charm-quark for the first time:
 - Short distance data ($r \ll 1/m_c$) is well described by $N_f = 3 +$ massive charm and $N_f = 4$.
 - Long distance data ($r \gg 1/m_c$) is well described by $N_f = 3$.
- We get overall consistent estimates for the scales r_i/a and of $\sqrt{\sigma \cdot r_i^2}$ for the first time in 2+1+1-flavor simulations.
- We obtain consistent results within errors of the lattice scales r_0/a and r_1/a , or r_0/r_1 , as well as the string tension $\sqrt{\sigma \cdot r_0^2}$ for different number of flavors.
- r_1/r_2 deviates due to the effects from the massive charm-quark on r_2/a .
- For the string tension we can see some dependence on the choices of A and r_{\min} and effects due to $r_{\max} < 1$ fm.
- All results are still preliminary at this point and we do not yet have the final error budget.

Backup slides

Static energy on the lattice

- Extract the static energy from the Wilson line correlator (in Coulomb gauge)

$$W(\vec{r}/a, t/a) = \prod_{u=0}^{t/a} U_4(\vec{r}/a, u), \quad (10)$$

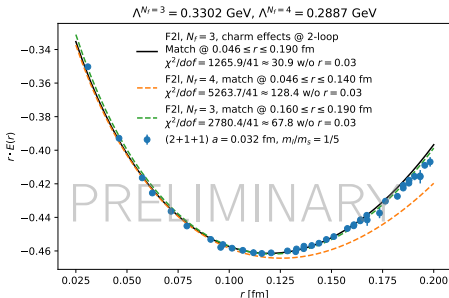
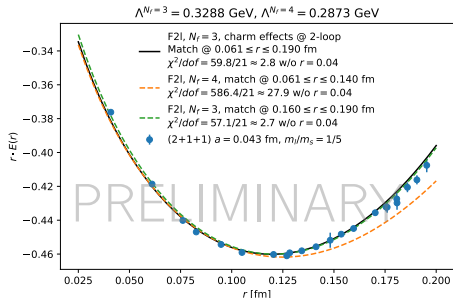
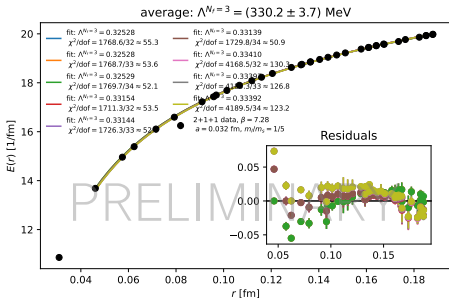
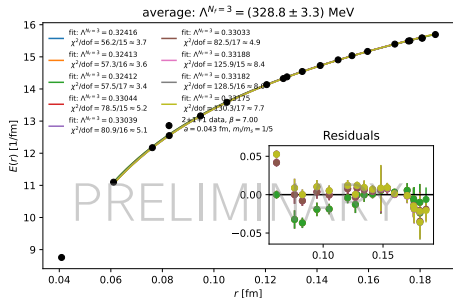
$$C(\vec{r}/a, t/a) = \left\langle \sum_{\vec{y}=R(\vec{r})} \frac{1}{N_c N_{\vec{r}}} \text{Tr} \left[W^\dagger(\vec{y}/a, t/a) W(\vec{0}, t/a) \right] \right\rangle, \quad (11)$$

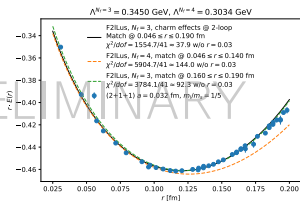
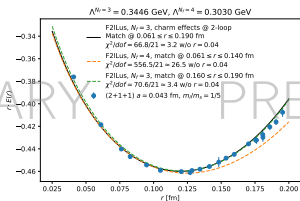
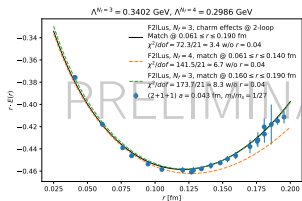
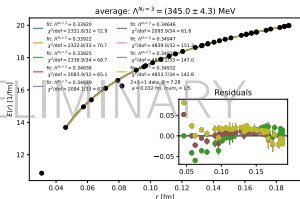
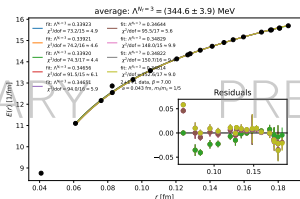
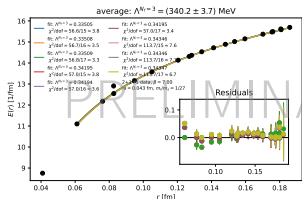
$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n(\vec{r}/a) \left(e^{-tE_n(\vec{r}/a)} + e^{-(aN_\tau - t)E_n(\vec{r}/a)} \right), \quad (12)$$

where U_4 is a temporal link, $N_c = 3$, the sum is over all distances \vec{y} that are a cubic rotation-reflection R of \vec{r} , $N_{\vec{r}}$ is the number of such operations, and N_τ is the temporal extent of the lattice.

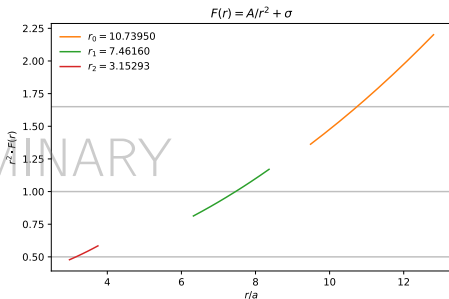
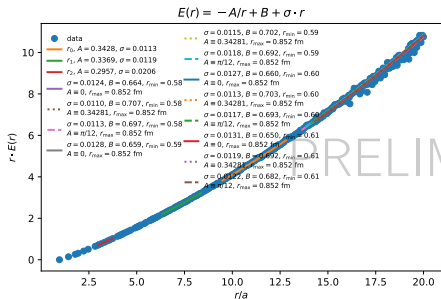
- We are only interested in the lowest-lying state, $aE_0(\vec{r}/a)$ which we get using multi-exponential fits, i.e., truncating the above sum to a finite number of states over a time interval $[t_{\min}, t_{\max}]$.
- We do not have the backwards-propagating state with the static $Q\bar{Q}$.

Charm-quark effects in the data



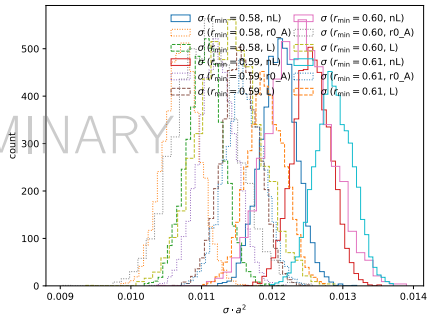
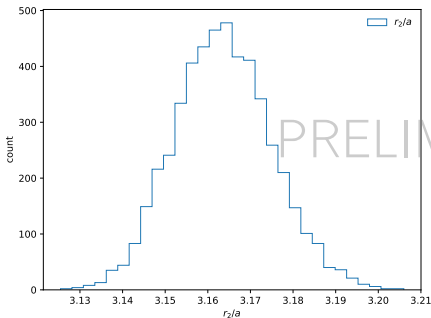
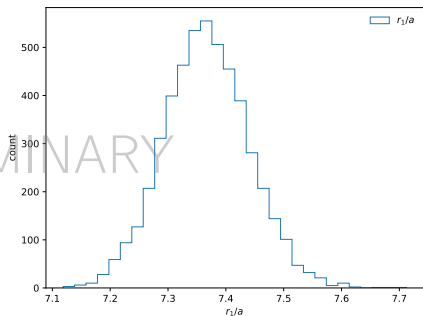
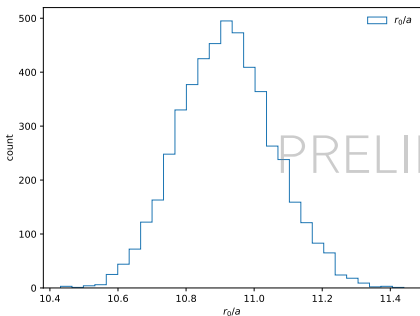


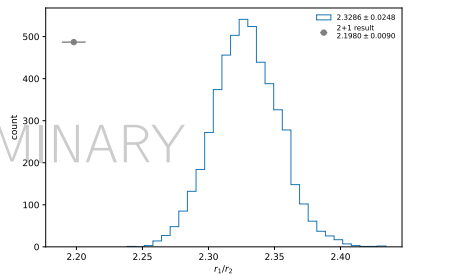
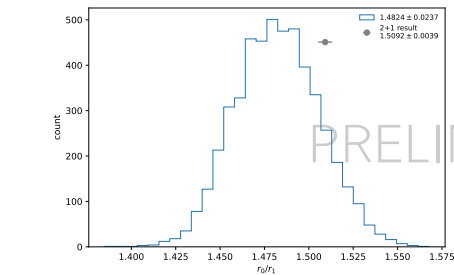
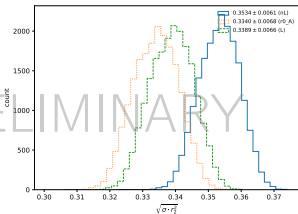
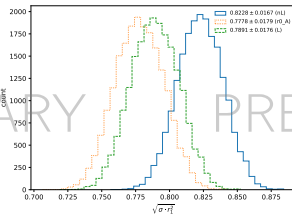
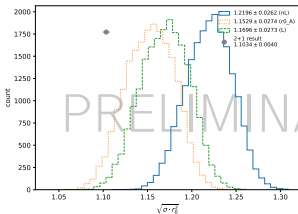
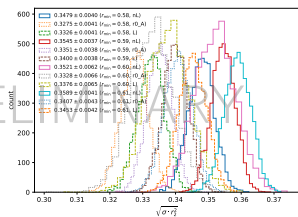
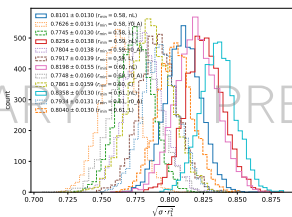
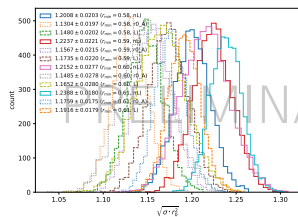
Determination procedure



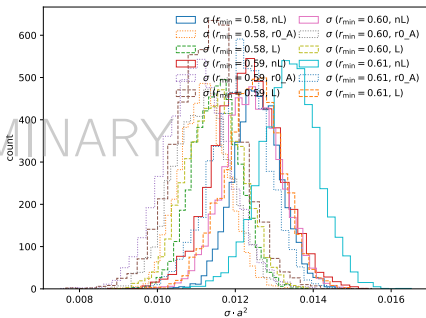
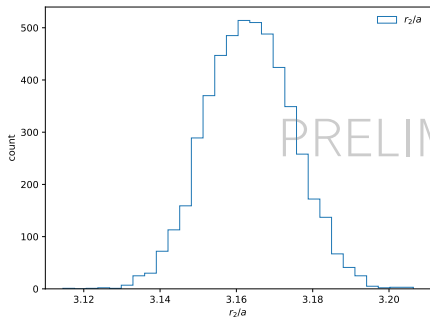
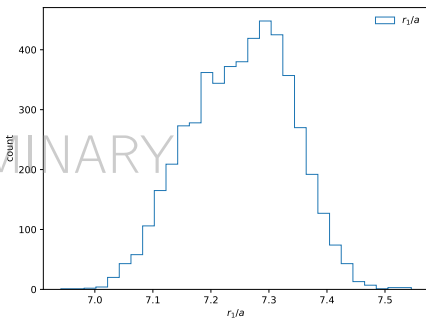
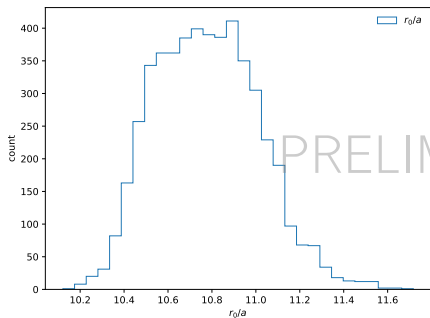
- Generate pseudo-random resamples of the data that are distributed normally, taking into account the full correlation matrix.
- For each r_i choose a range $\pm 15\%$ around the continuum value and fit a Cornell. Eliminate parameter B by normalizing $aE(1, 0, 0) \equiv 0$. Read off r_i from the r^2F plot.
- For the determination of σ , vary r_{\min} around 0.6 fm and use different constraints for the A -parameter: setting it to zero, using the value from the r_0 -determination, and setting it to $\pi/12$ (Lüscher term).
- Thin out the data in order to invert the correlation matrix (i) equidistant or (ii) randomly (10 points for r_i , 15 points for σ , keeping end points).

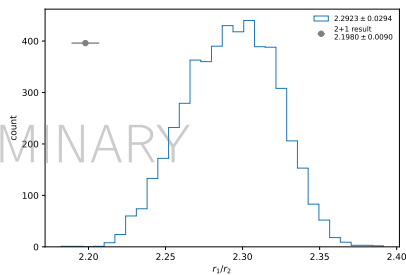
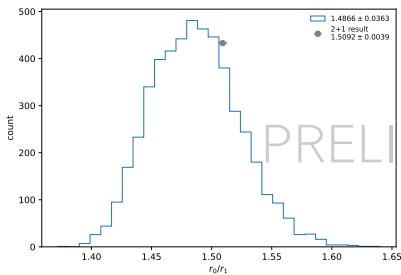
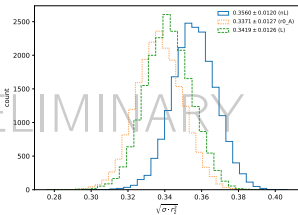
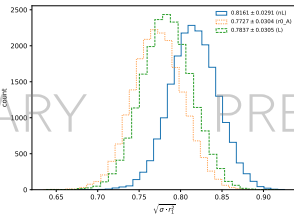
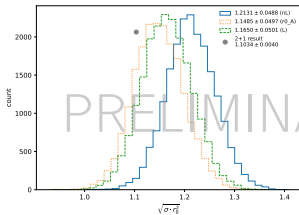
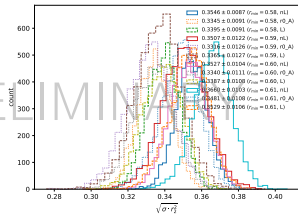
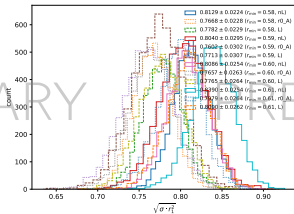
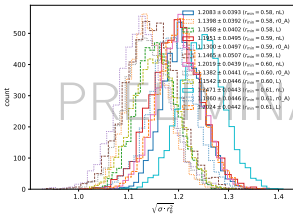
Method 1 ($\beta = 7.0, m_l/m_s = 1/27$)



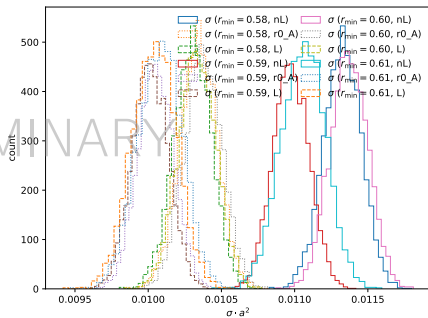
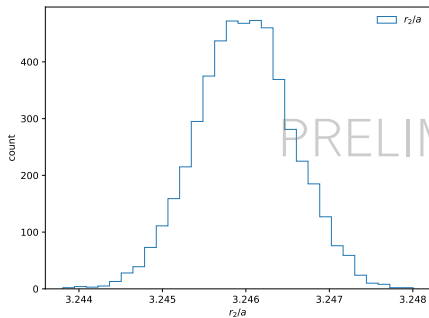
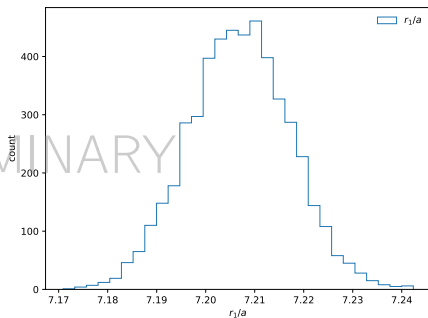
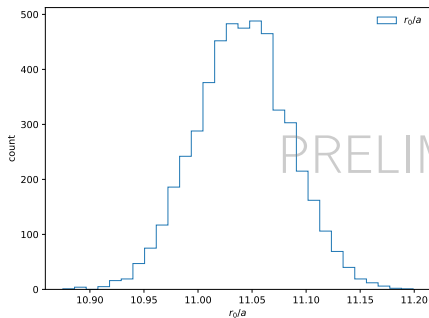


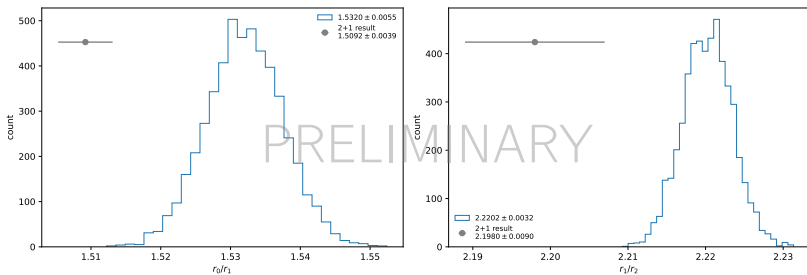
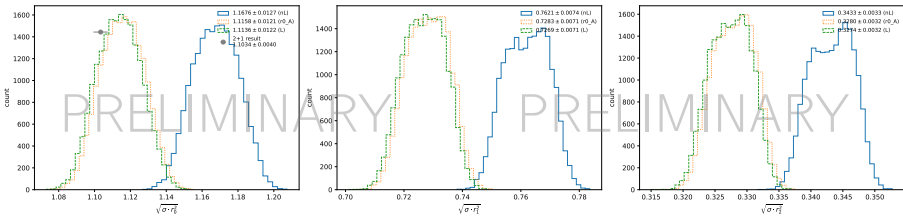
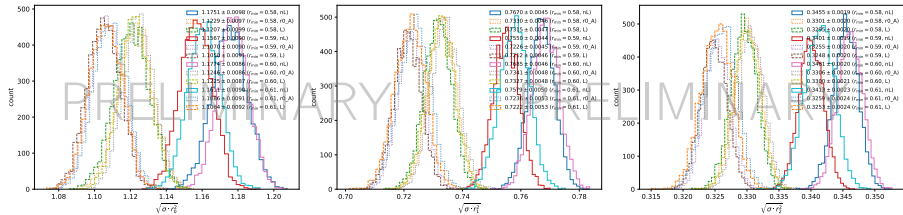
Method 2 ($\beta = 7.0, m_l/m_s = 1/27$)





Smearred method 1 ($\beta = 7.0$, $m_l/m_s = 1/27$)





Smearred method 2 ($\beta = 7.0$, $m_l/m_s = 1/27$)

