

Strong coupling from the static energy

Project lead by Viljami Leino

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α_s -2025: Workshop on precision measurements of the QCD
coupling constant, Dec 14–19, 2025

Outline

- Introduction
- Static energy
- Improvements:
 - lattice ensembles
 - rotational symmetry
 - minimal renormalon subtraction scheme
- Some results
- Conclusion

Introduction

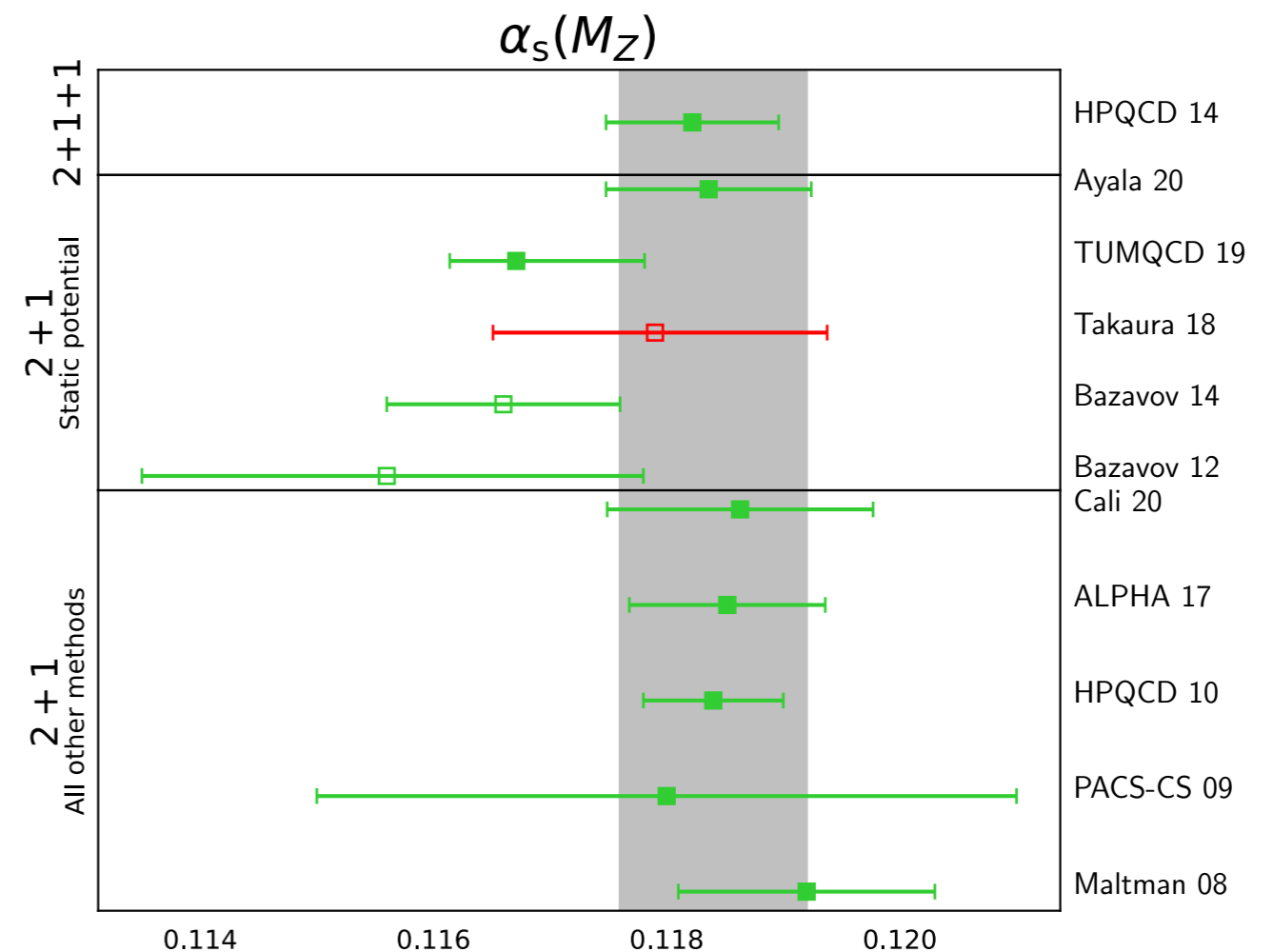
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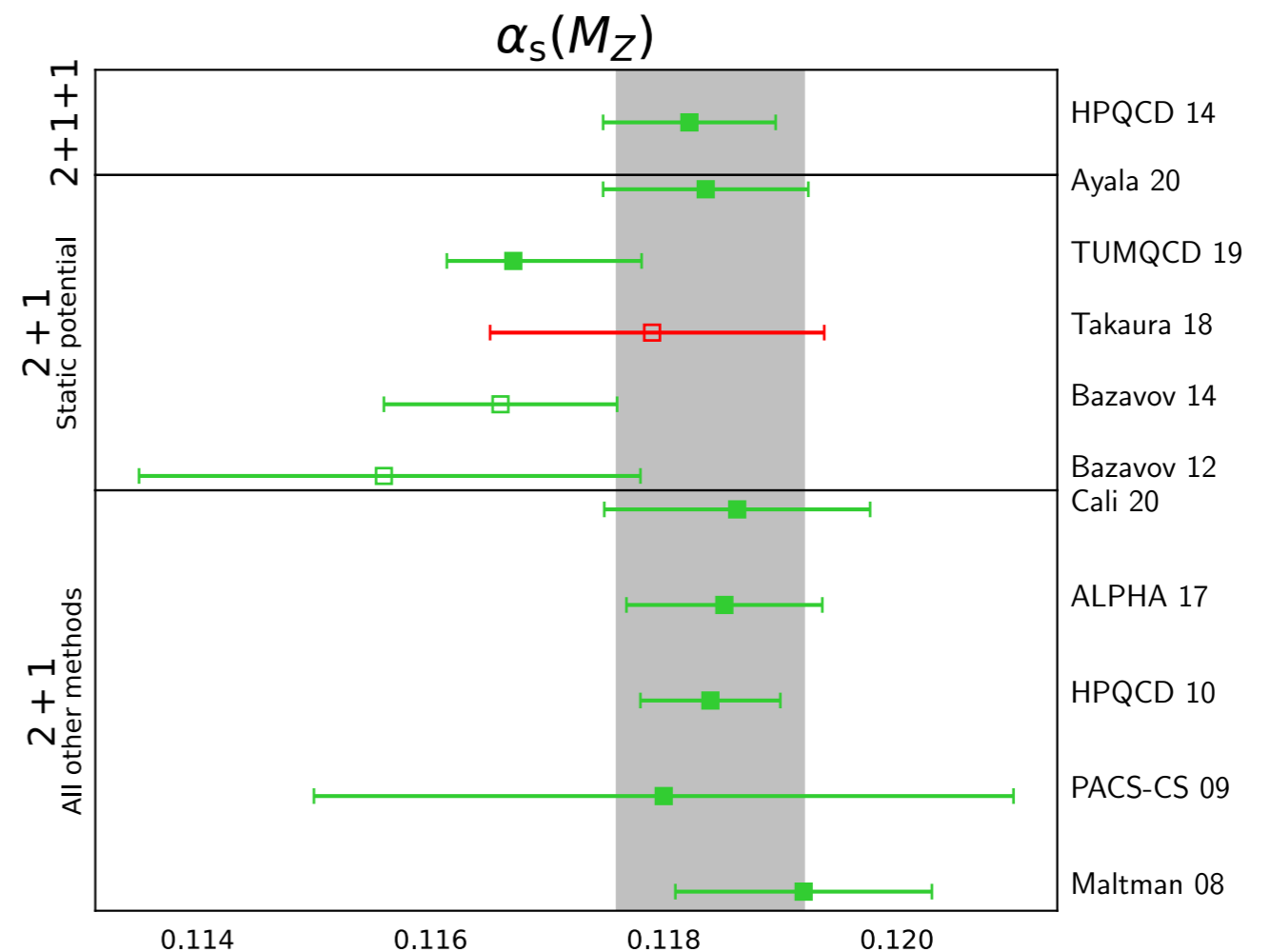


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Work in progress:

- 2+1+1 flavor QCD,
- **One-loop improvement** of the static energy,
- Minimal renormalon subtraction (**MRS**) scheme.



Our computation strategy

- Compute the static energy $E_0(r)$ of quark and antiquark at separation r in lattice QCD from large-time behavior of the Wilson loops:

$$E(r) = - \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln \langle \text{Tr}(W_{r \times T}) \rangle}{T}, \quad W_{r \times T} = P \left\{ \exp \left(i \oint_{r \times T} dz_\mu g A_\mu \right) \right\}.$$

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- Compute $\alpha_s(M_Z)$.

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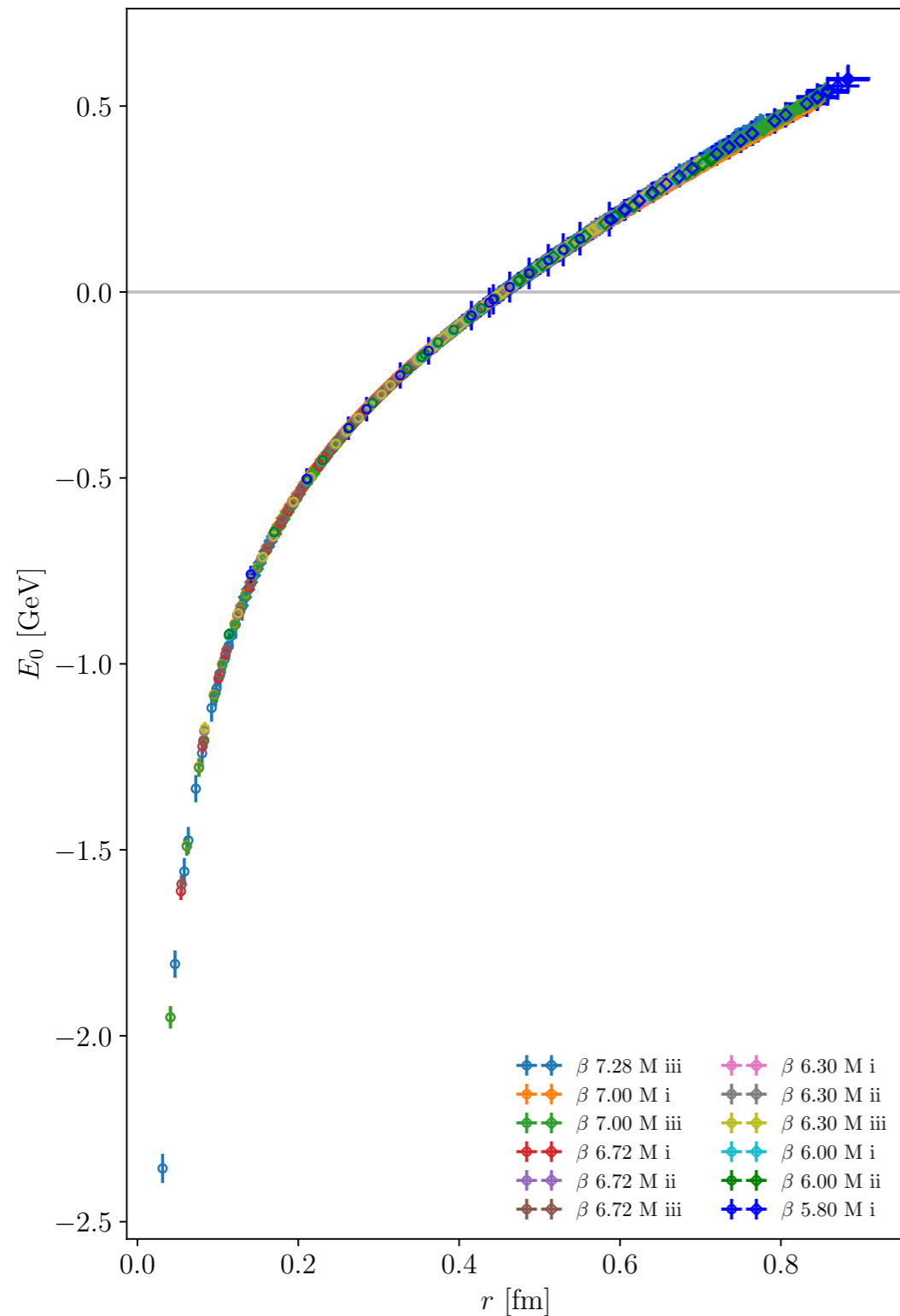
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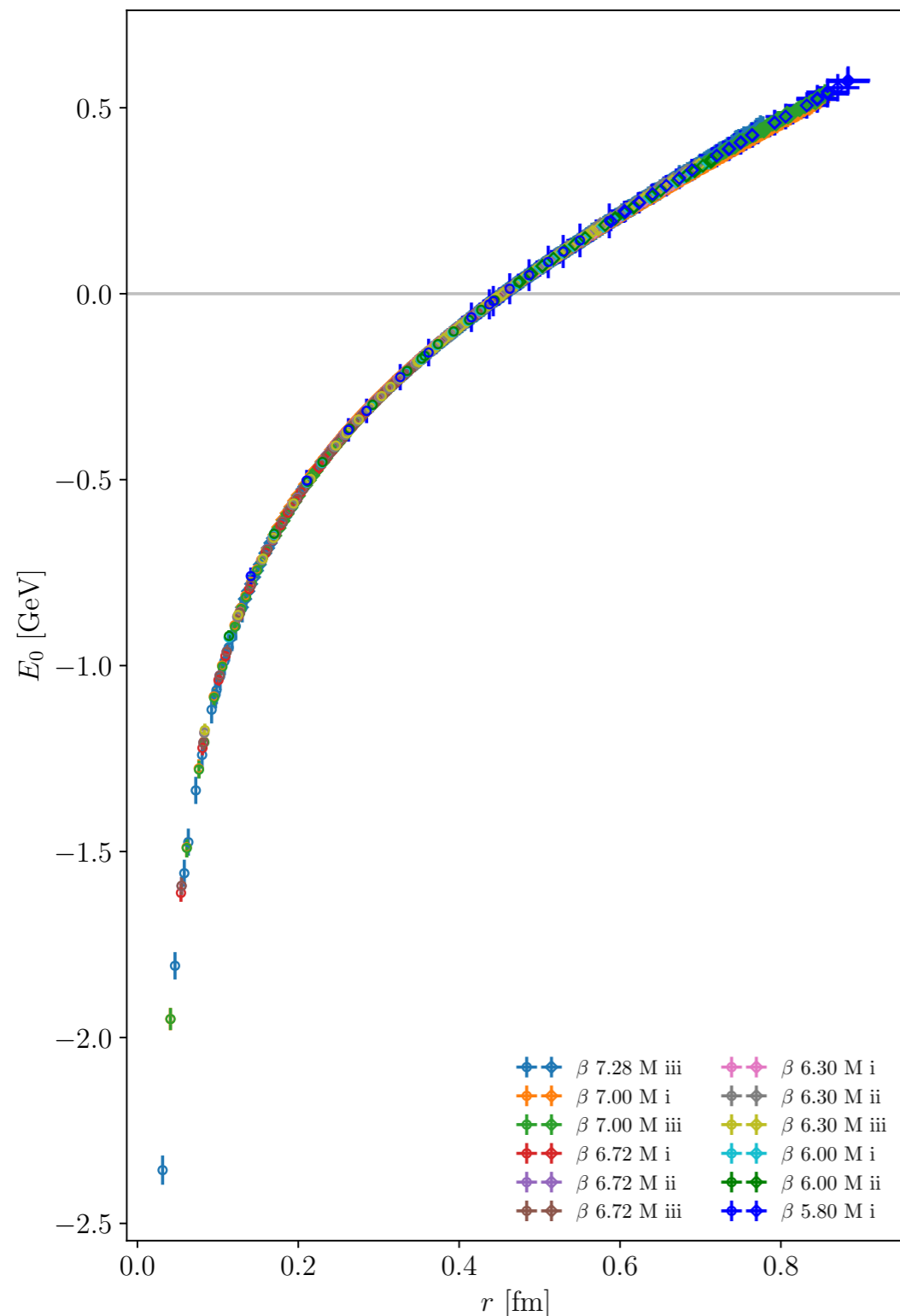
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- Corrections at short distances to improve rotational symmetry.

Static energy on the lattice



- An example in 2+1+1 flavor QCD.
Brambilla et al. (TUMQCD), Phys. Rev. D 107 (2023)

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- Simulations with the one-loop Symanzik-improved gauge action and the Highly Improved Staggered Quarks (HISQ) action.

Lüscher, Weisz, Phys. Lett. B (1985)

Follana et al. (HPQCD), Phys. Rev. D 75 (2007)

Connecting with perturbation theory

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- Minimal renormalon subtraction:

relate the factorial growth of perturbative series to a power correction.

Komijani, JHEP08 (2017)

Brambilla et al., Phys. Rev. D 97 (2018)

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Improvements: ensembles

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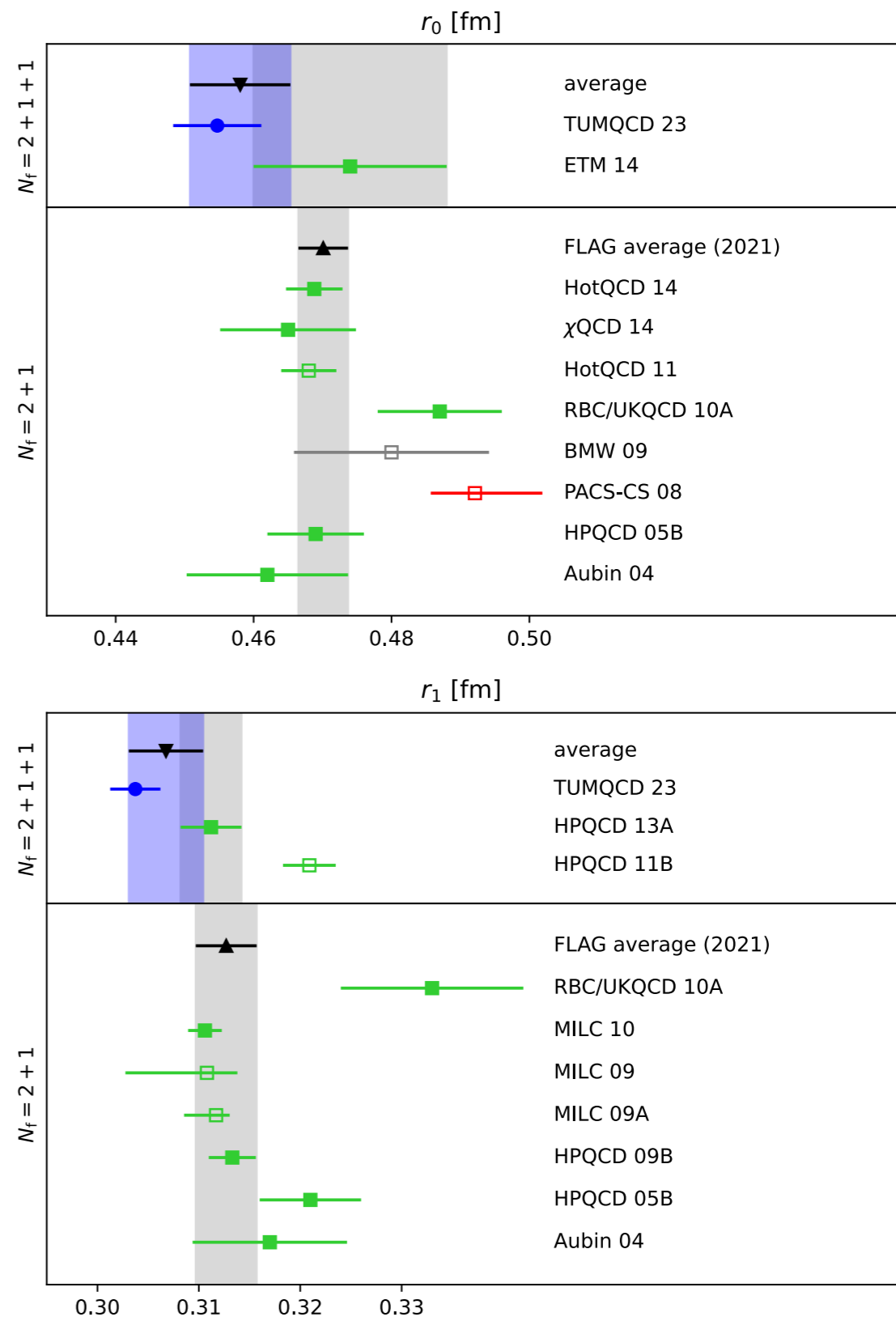
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- Current work:
2+1+1 flavor QCD, i.e. dynamical charm quark, HISQ action.

Improvements: scale setting

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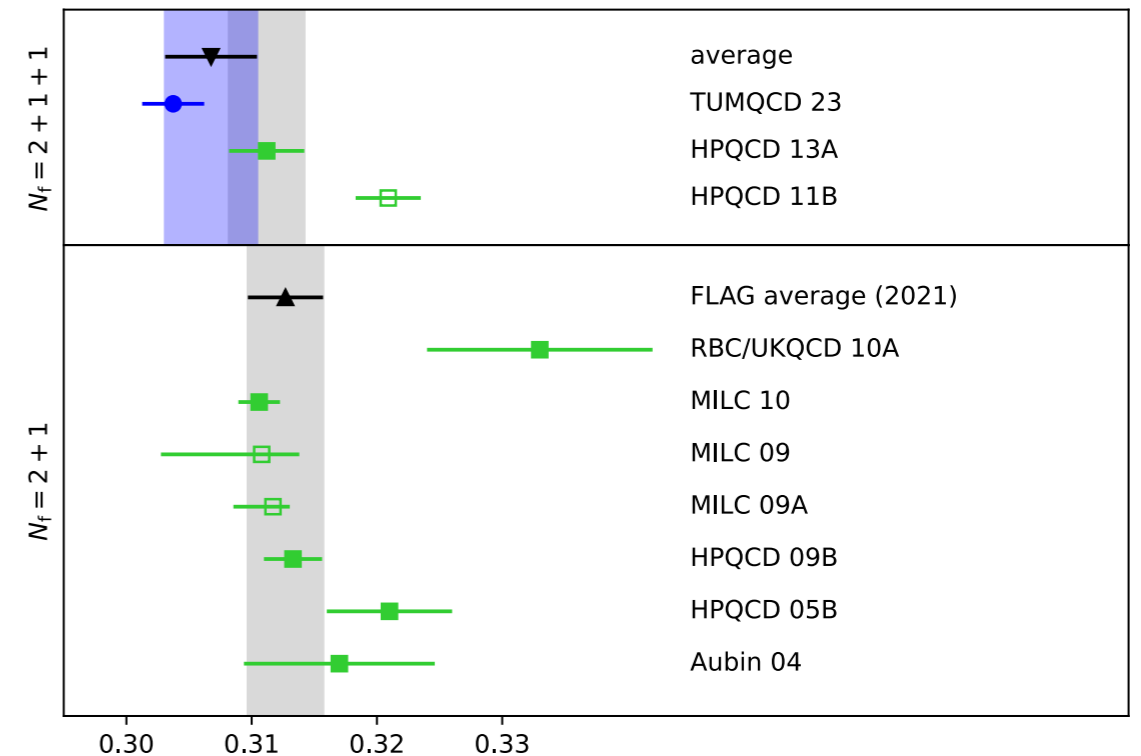
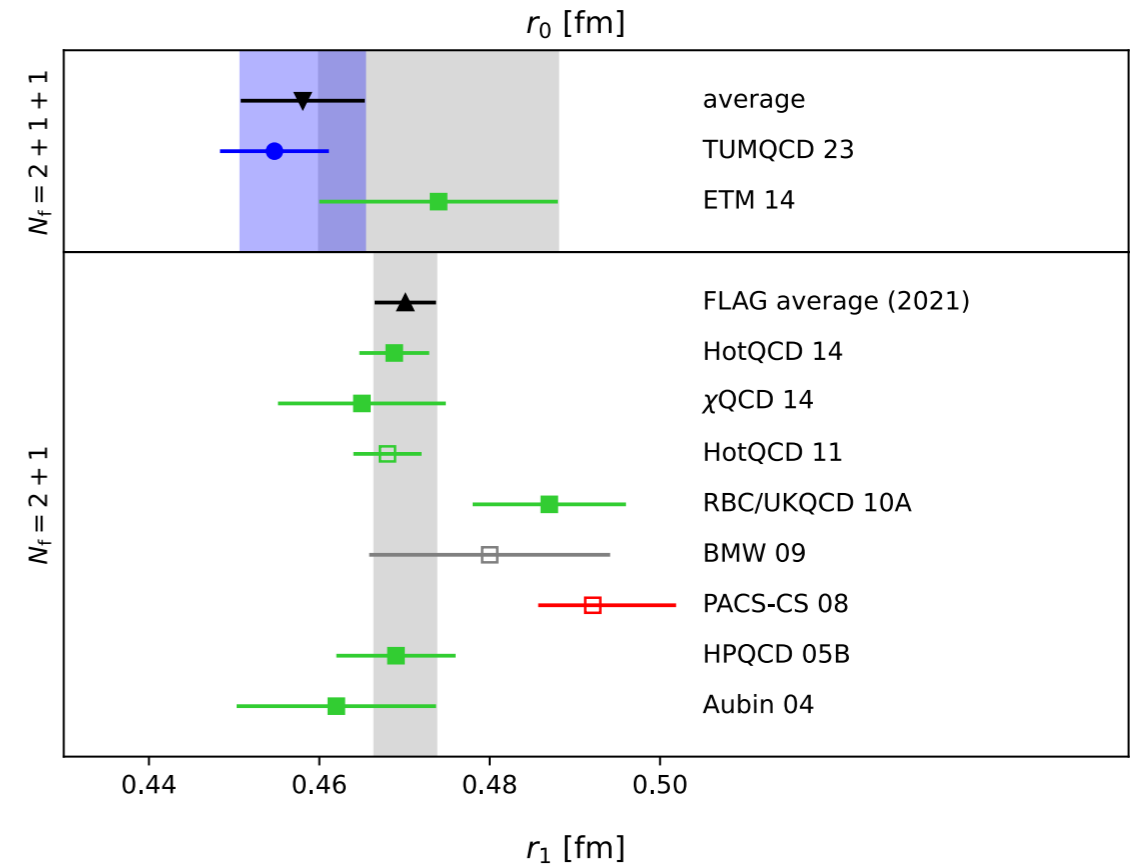
$$r_1 = 0.3072(22) \text{ fm.}$$

Larsen et al., 2502.08061

2+1+1 flavor:

$$r_1 = 0.3037(25) \text{ fm}$$

Brambilla et al. (TUMQCD), Phys. Rev. D 107 (2023)



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$$D_{00}^{-1}(k_0 = 0, \mathbf{k}) = 4 \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\sin^2 \frac{k_i}{2} + c_w \sin^4 \frac{k_i}{2} \right), \quad c_w = 0 \text{ or } 1/3.$$

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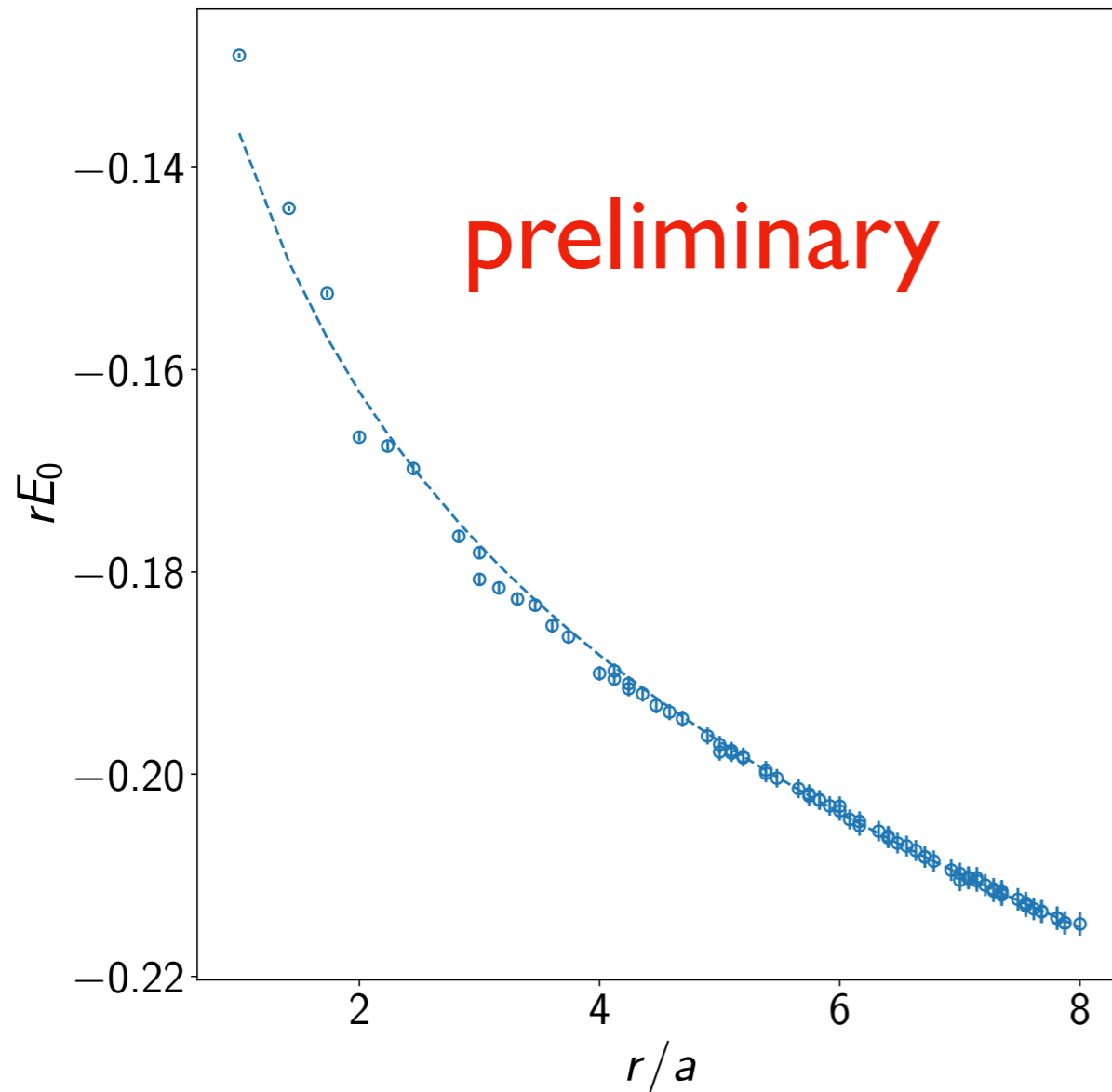
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- One-loop improvement with HISQ has been recently computed by von Hippel, Leino, Steinbasser (in preparation).
- Calculation of one-loop diagrams is done with the HPsrc and HiPPy programs.

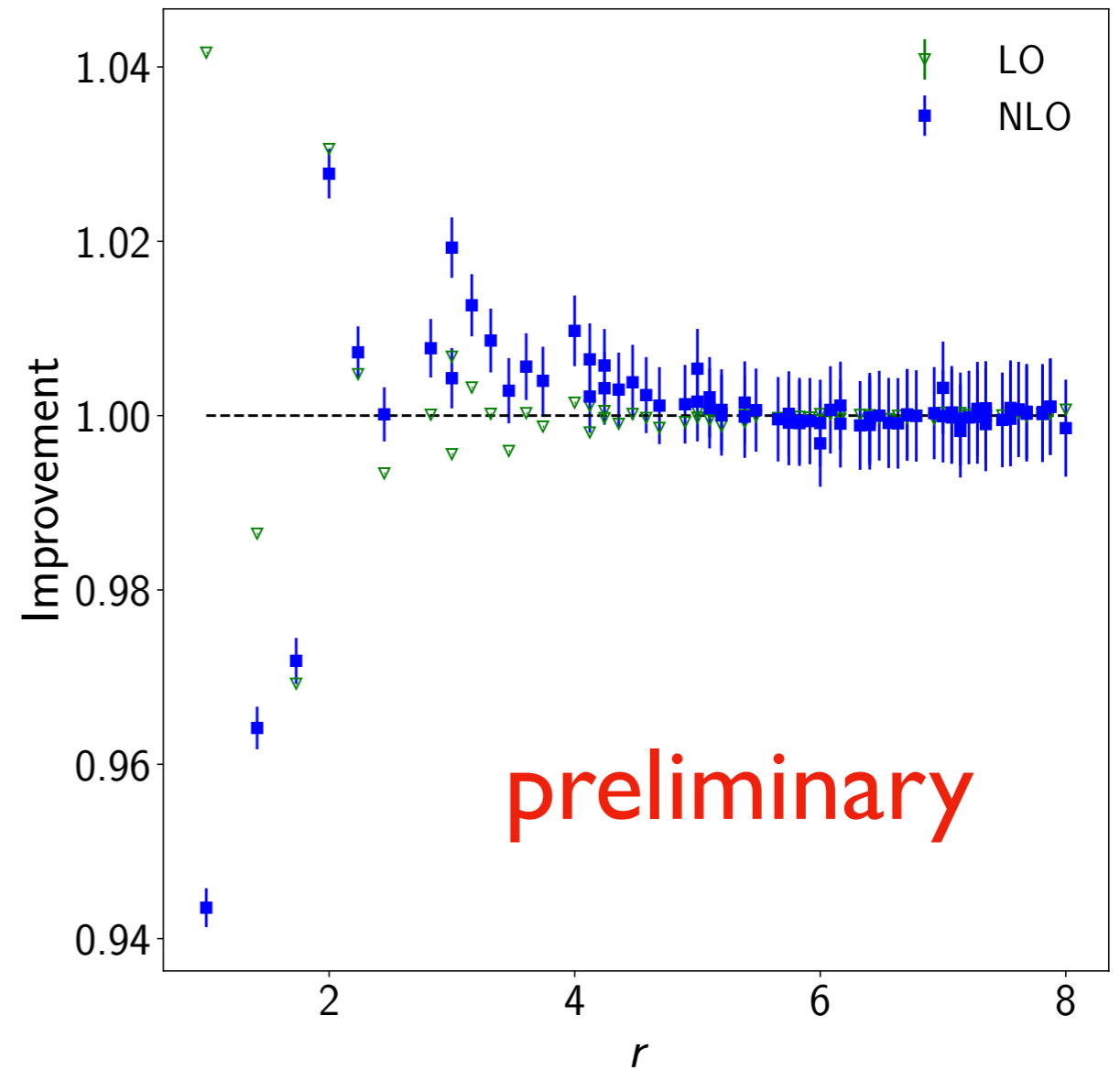
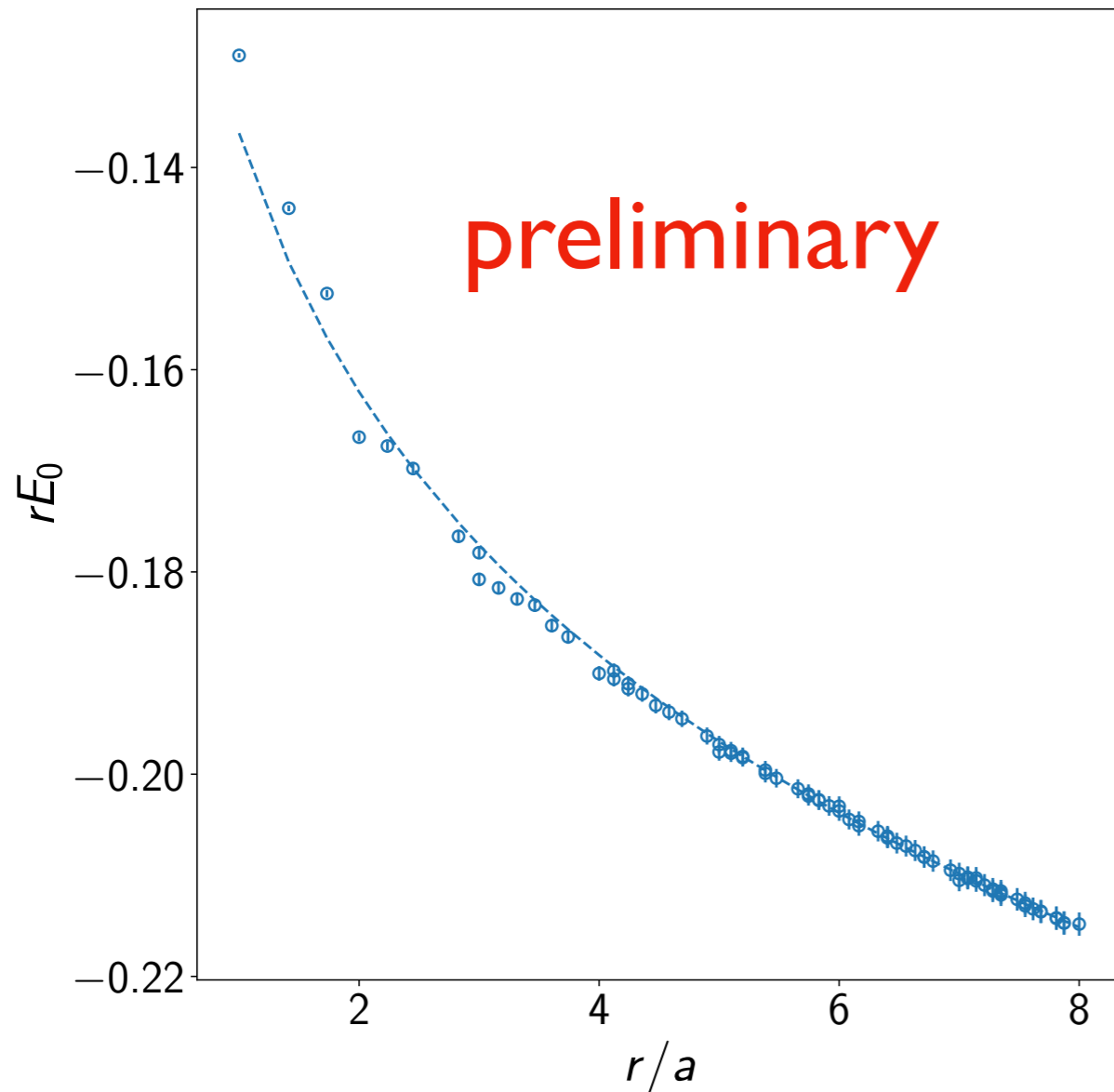
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- Known information is x_0, x_1 (new one-loop) and v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3 ($\overline{\text{MS}}$).

Improvements: MRS scheme

- Static energy in Potential NRQCD:

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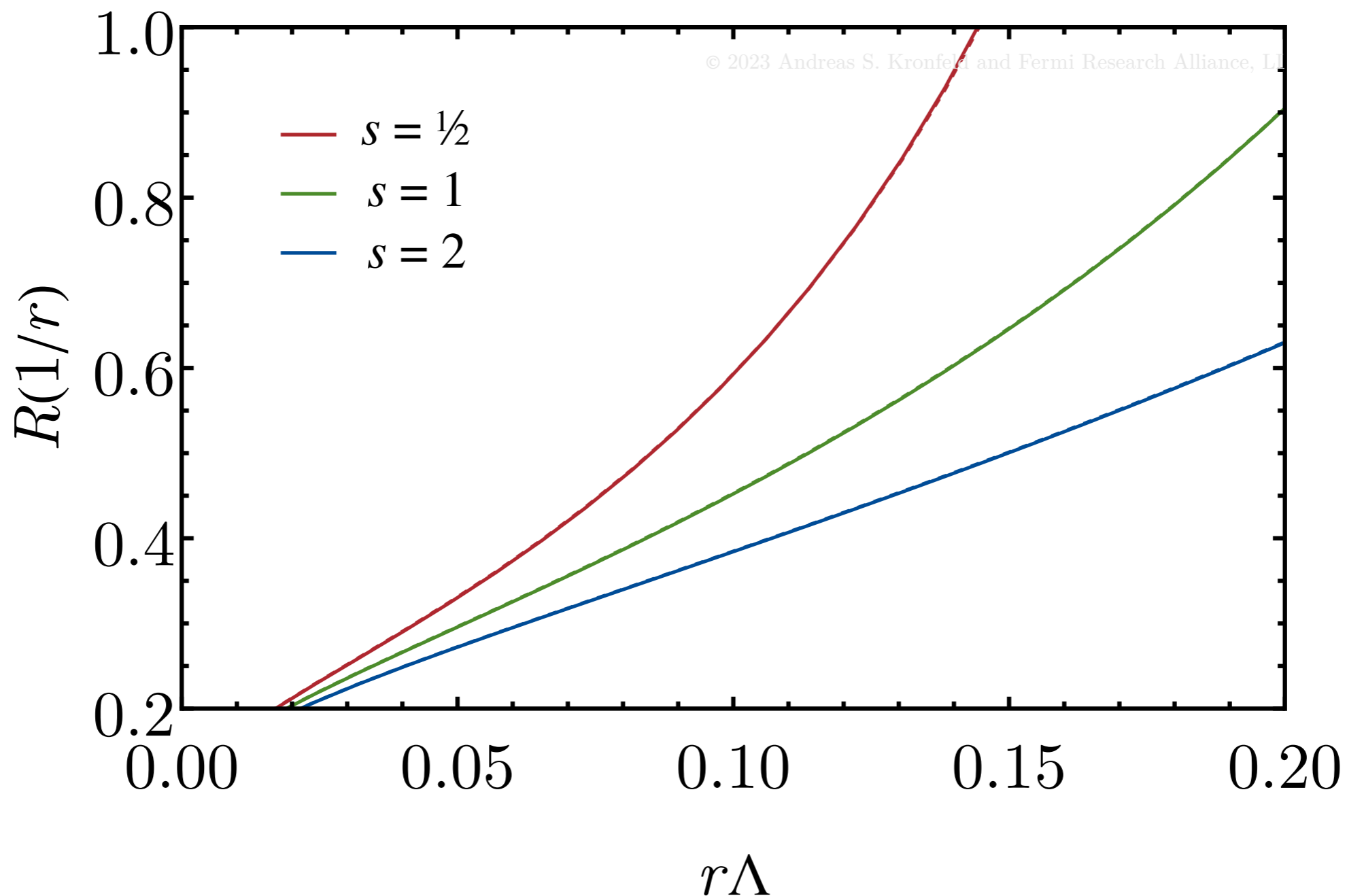
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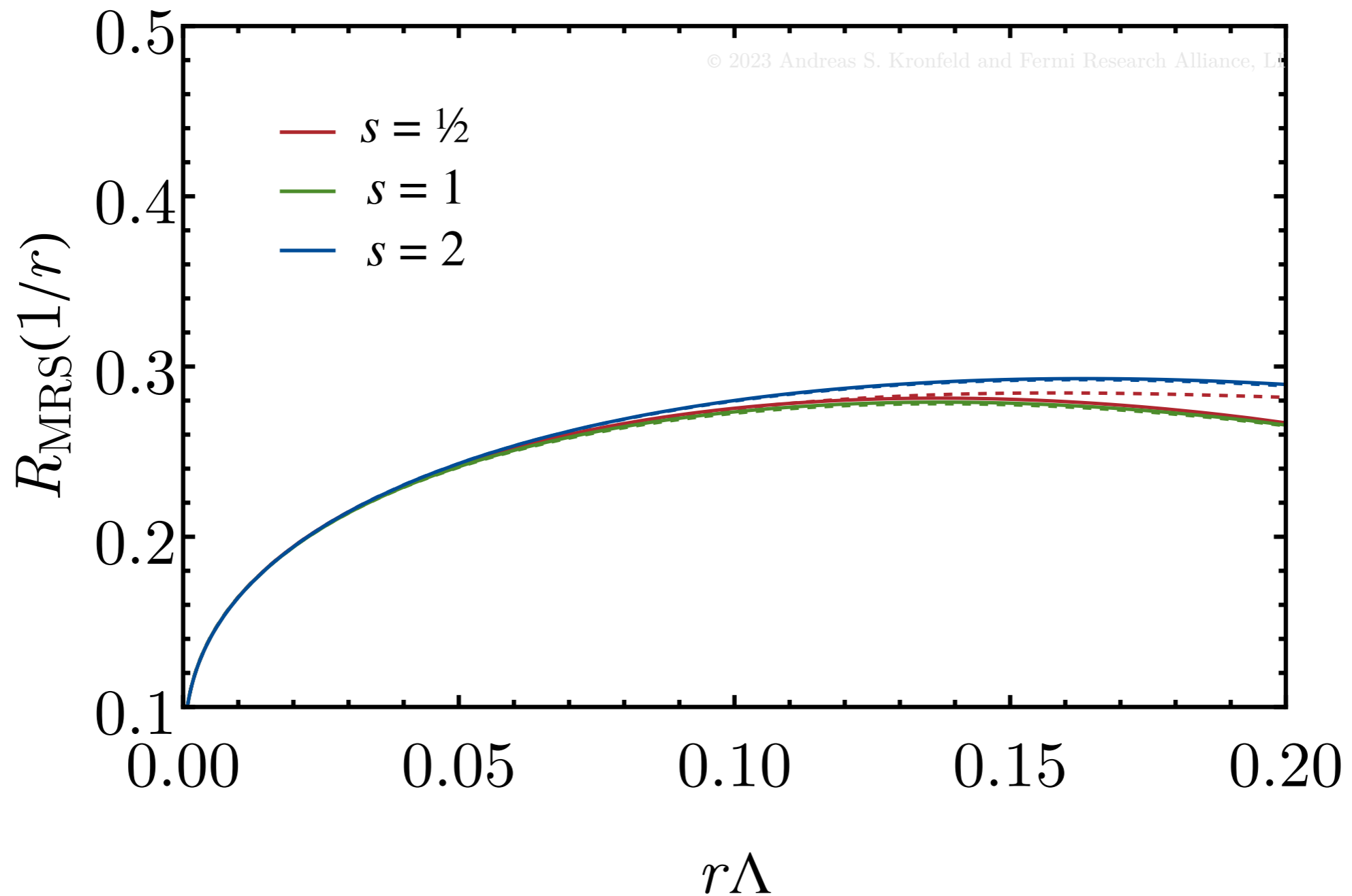
- evaluate $\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} v_l \alpha_s^{l+1}$, i.e., truncate on f_l , not v_l .

Improvements: MRS scheme



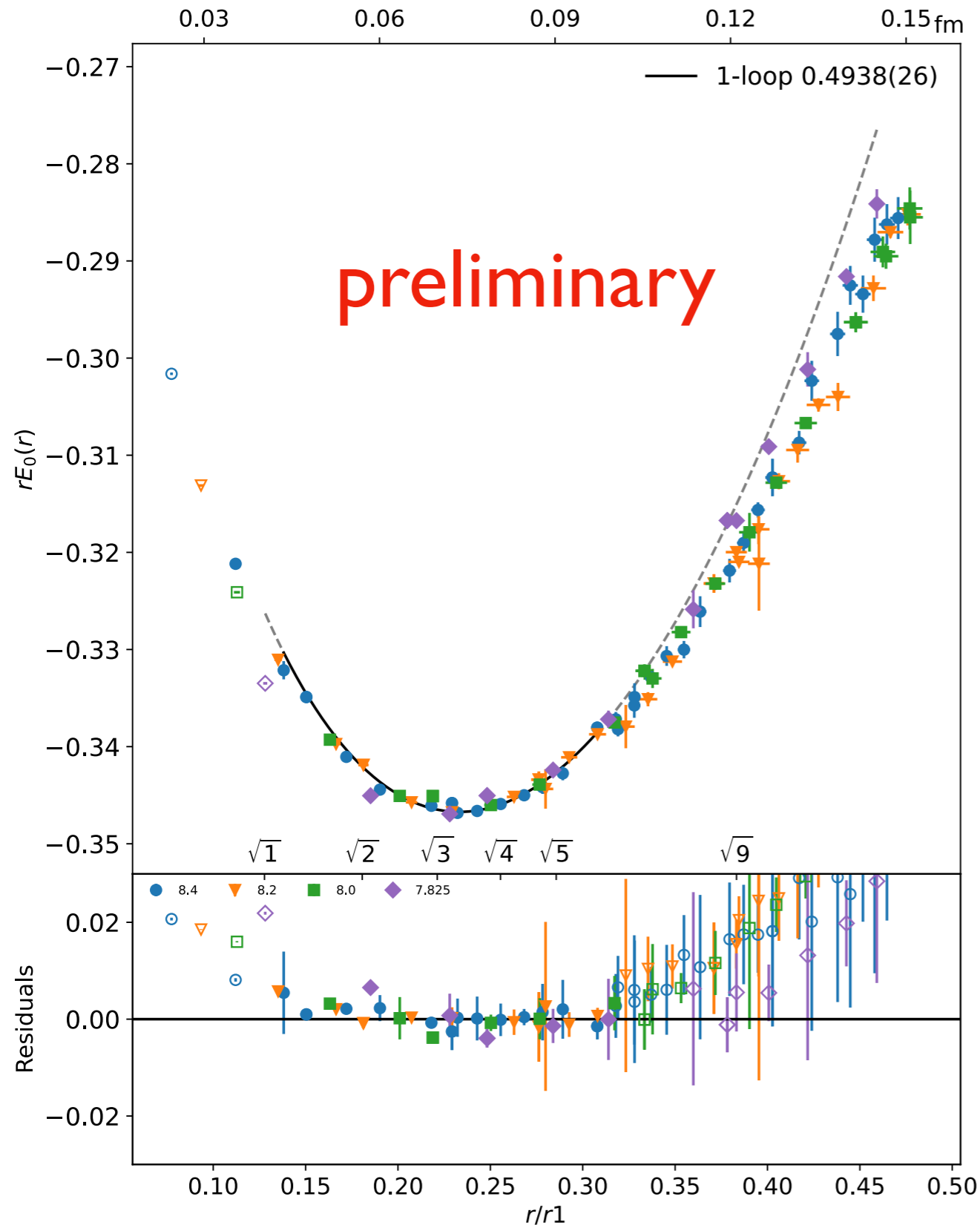
- Fixed-order perturbation theory: $R(1/r) = -rE_0(r)/C_F$, $\mu = s/r$.

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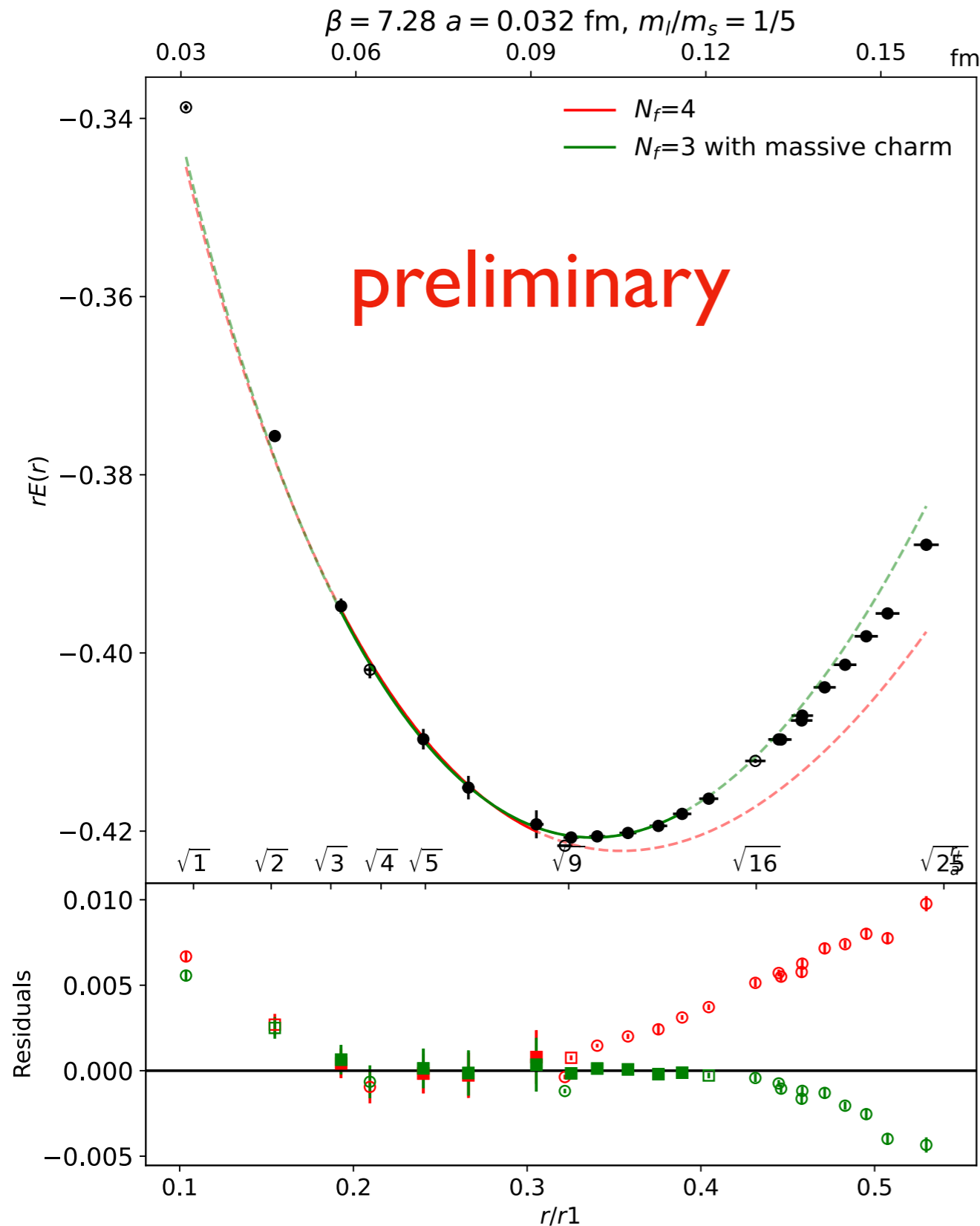
- Factorially resummed with MRS scheme.

Some results



- Revisiting previous work.
- Global fit to 2+1 flavor HISQ data, 4 lattice spacings.
- One-loop improvement.
- MRS scheme.

Some results



- Fit to the finest 2+1+1 flavor HISQ ensemble.
- One-loop improvement.
- MRS scheme.
- Including massive charm vs four massless flavors.

Conclusion

- Previous TUMQCD α_s extraction was done in 2+1 flavor QCD with the integrated force approach.
- The ongoing work focuses on several improvements:
 - 2+1+1 flavor QCD,
 - one-loop improvement of the static energy to better handle the discretization effects,
 - minimal renormalon subtraction (MRS) scheme for the static energy directly, rather than integrated force.
 - revisiting the scale setting for 2+1 and 2+1+1 flavors.