

**Valence parton distribution of the pion from lattice QCD:
Approaching the continuum limit**

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W&M - JLab

Outline of the paper

Valence PDF of $\pi^+(u\bar{d})$

$$f_v^\pi(x) = \underbrace{f_u(x)}_{\text{(sea+valence)}} - \underbrace{f_{\bar{u}}(x)}_{\text{(sea)}} = \underbrace{f_u(x) - f_d(x)}_{\text{(Isospin symmetry)}}, \quad 0 < x < 1$$

Matrix element that is used in the paper: bilocal operator that enters quasi-PDF, pseudo-PDF

$$\langle \pi, P_z | \bar{\psi}(z) W_z(z, 0) \tau_3 \gamma_t \psi(0) | \pi, P_z \rangle = 2E(P_z) \mathcal{M}(zP_z, z^2; p^R)$$

Non-singlet:

a) No gluon mixing;

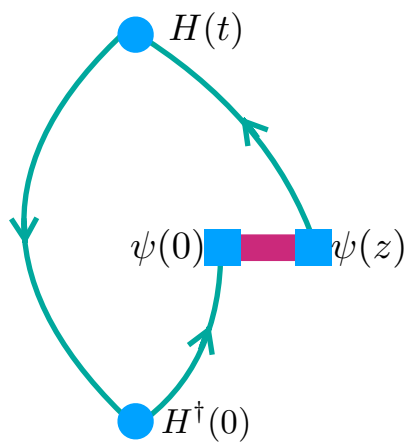
b) No disconnected pieces

No mixing
with scalar

X. Ji, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **110**, 262002 (2013),
[arXiv:1305.1539](https://arxiv.org/abs/1305.1539) [hep-ph].

A. Radyushkin, *Phys. Rev. D* **96**, 034025 (2017),
[arXiv:1705.01488](https://arxiv.org/abs/1705.01488) [hep-ph].

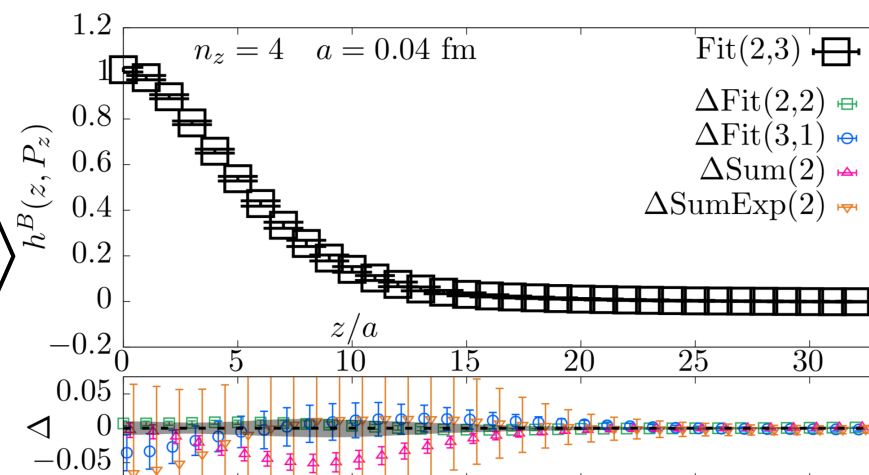
Algorithm



$$\frac{\langle H(t_{\text{sink}}) \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma_t \psi(z) H^\dagger(0) \rangle}{\langle H(t_{\text{sink}}) H^\dagger(0) \rangle}$$

$t_{\text{sink}} \rightarrow \infty$

$$h(z, P_z) = \langle P_z | \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma_t \psi(z) | P_z \rangle_{h^B(z, P_z)}$$



Renormalize

$$\langle x^n \rangle$$

Access moments directly

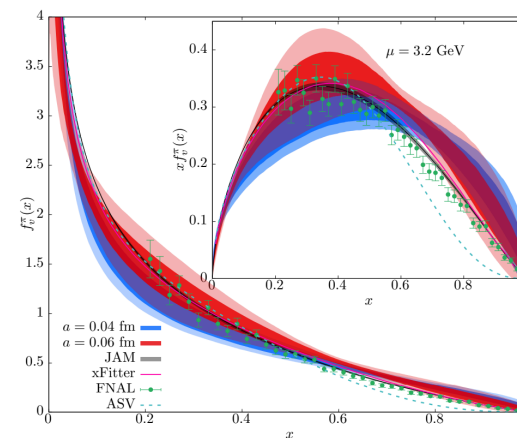
$$\mathcal{M}(zP_z, z^2) = \frac{h(z, P_z)}{h(z, 0)}$$

Twist-2 OPE (LaMET)

$$\sum_n \langle x^n \rangle c_n(\mu^2 z^2) \frac{(-iP_z z)^n}{n!}$$

Fit ansatz

$$f(x, \mu^2)$$



Lattice details

Ensemble details and statistics

Ensemble: 2+1 flavor HISQ \longrightarrow A. Bazavov *et al.* (HotQCD), Phys. Rev. **D90**, 094503 (2014), arXiv:1407.6387 [hep-lat].

Sea quark mass: $m_\pi = 160$ MeV

Valence: tadpole-improved Wilson-Clover fermions coupled to 1-HYP links

Valence quark mass: $m_\pi = 300$ MeV

| ensemble $a, L_t \times L^3$ | $m_q a$ | $m_\pi L_t$ | n_z | z range | #cfgs | (#ex,#sl) |
|------------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| $a = 0.06$ fm, 64×48^3 | -0.0388 | 5.85 | 0,1 | [0,15] | 100 | (1, 32) |
| | | | 2,3,4,5 | [0,8] | 525 | (1, 32) |
| | | | | [9,15] | 416 | (1, 32) |
| | | | | [16,24] | 364 | (1, 32) |
| $a = 0.04$ fm, 64×64^3 | -0.033 | 3.90 | 0,1 | [0,32] | 314 | (3, 96) |
| | | | 2,3 | [0,32] | 314 | (4, 128) |
| | | | 4,5 | [0,32] | 564 | (4, 128) |

\longleftarrow AMA
 Statistics increase \downarrow

Momenta and quark smearing

| n_z | P_z (GeV) | | ζ <small>$= k_z/P_z$</small> |
|-------|---------------|---------------|--|
| | $a = 0.06$ fm | $a = 0.04$ fm | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 0.43 | 0.48 | 0 |
| 2 | 0.86 | 0.97 | 1 |
| 3 | 1.29 | 1.45 | 2/3 |
| 4 | 1.72 | 1.93 | 3/4 |
| 5 | 2.15 | 2.42 | 3/5 |

Momentum smearing:

G. S. Bali, B. Lang, B. U. Musch, and A. Schäfer, *Phys. Rev. D* **93**, 094515 (2016), [arXiv:1602.05525 \[hep-lat\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1602.05525).

Details in prequel:

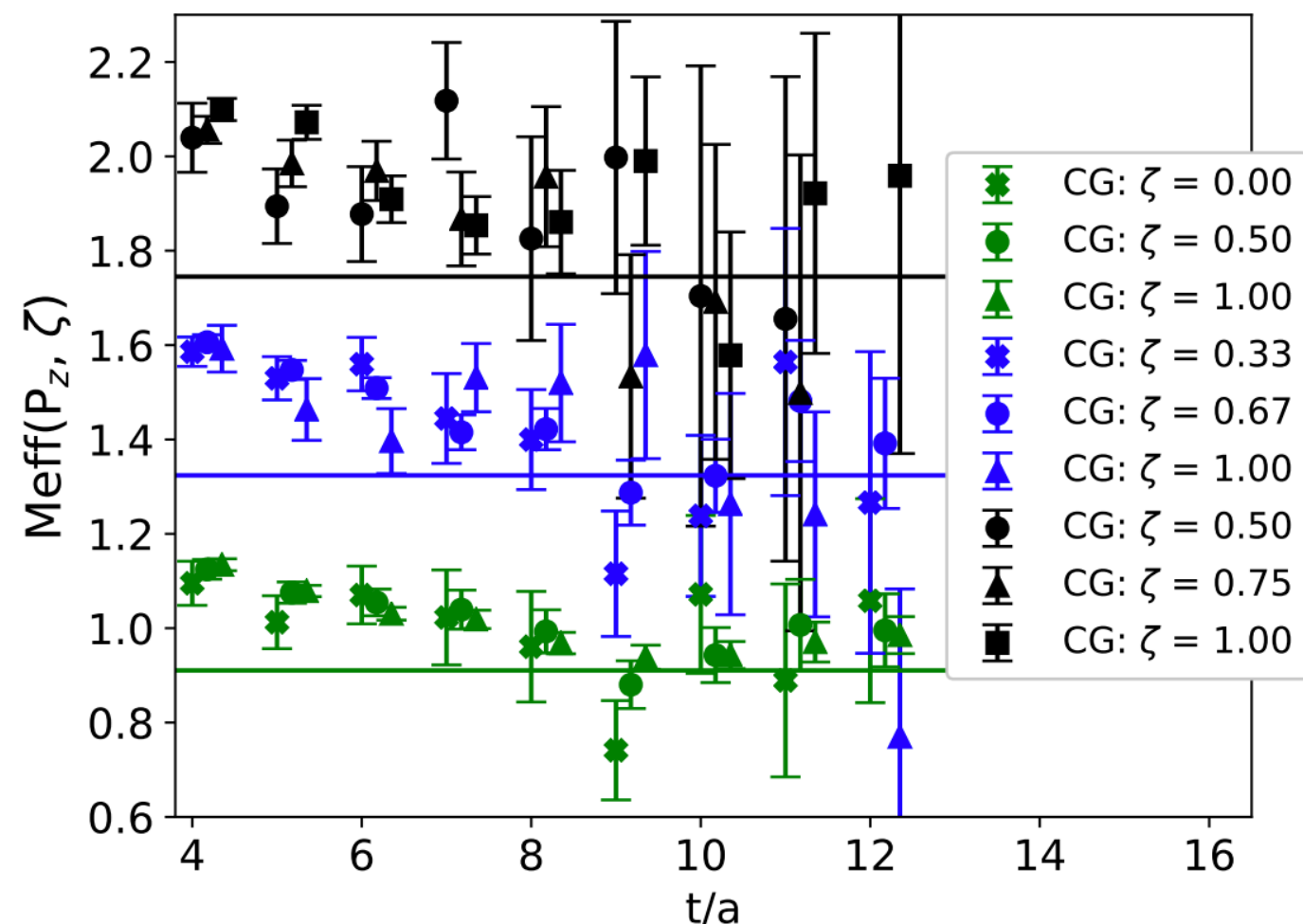
T. Izubuchi, L. Jin, C. Kallidonis, N. Karthik, S. Mukherjee, P. Petreczky, C. Shugert, and S. Syritsyn, *Phys. Rev. D* **100**, 034516 (2019), [arXiv:1905.06349 \[hep-lat\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.06349).

Coulomb gauge-fixed Gaussian smearing

$$\psi_{\text{smear}} = (\mathcal{S}^{(\vec{k})} \psi)_x$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\vec{x}, \vec{y}}^{(\vec{k})} = \sum_{\vec{p}} e^{i\vec{p}(\vec{x}-\vec{y})} e^{-\frac{1}{2} w_{CG}^2 (\vec{p}-\vec{k})^2}$$

(tuning results for Momentum smearing)

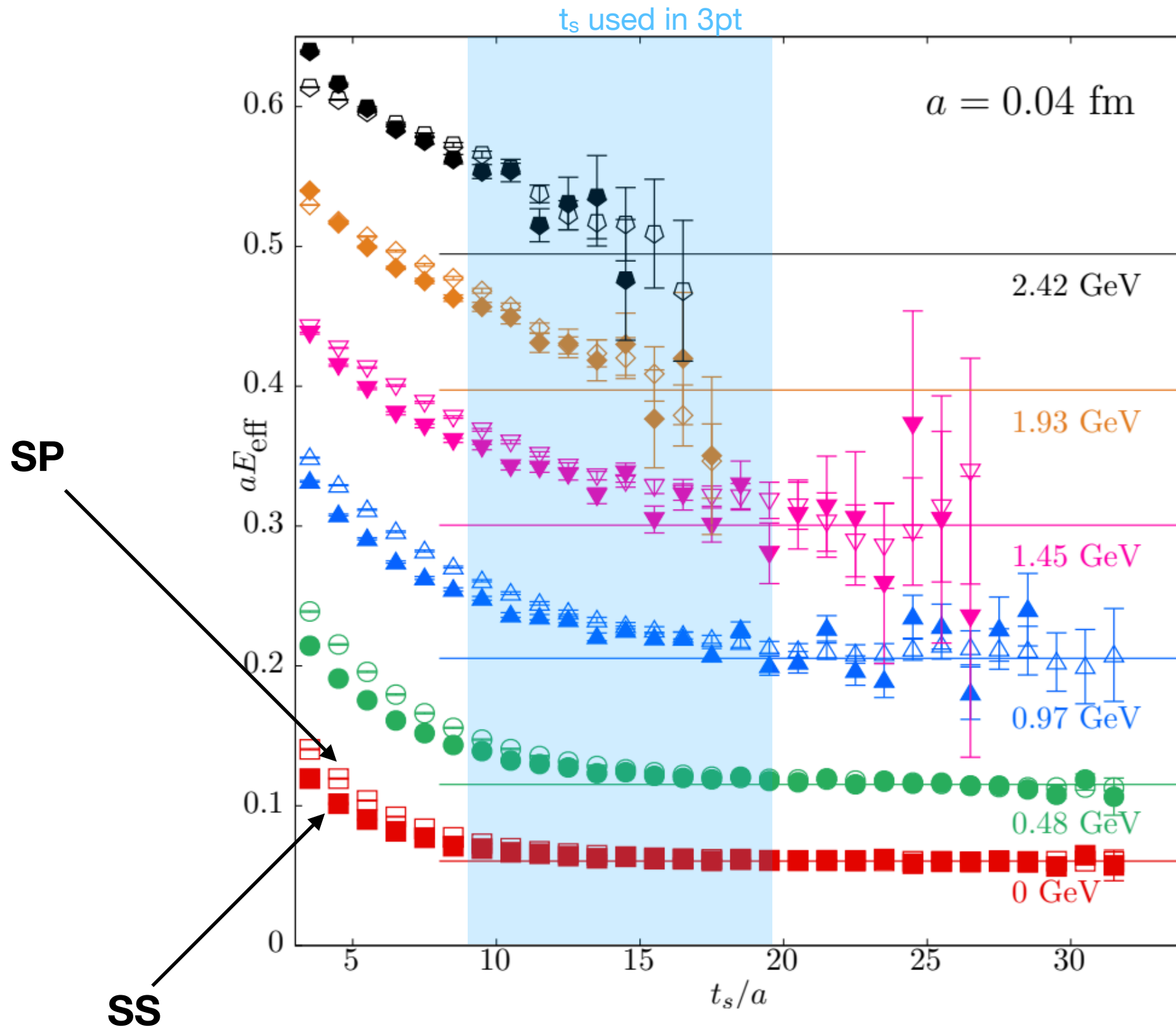


2-pt function analysis:

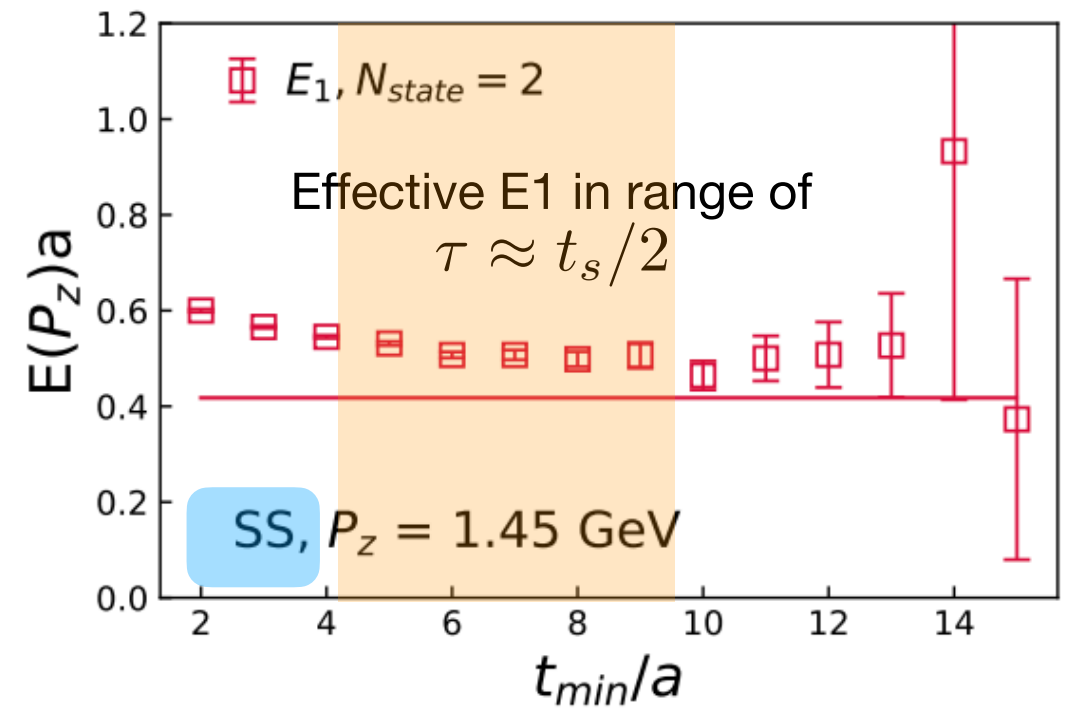
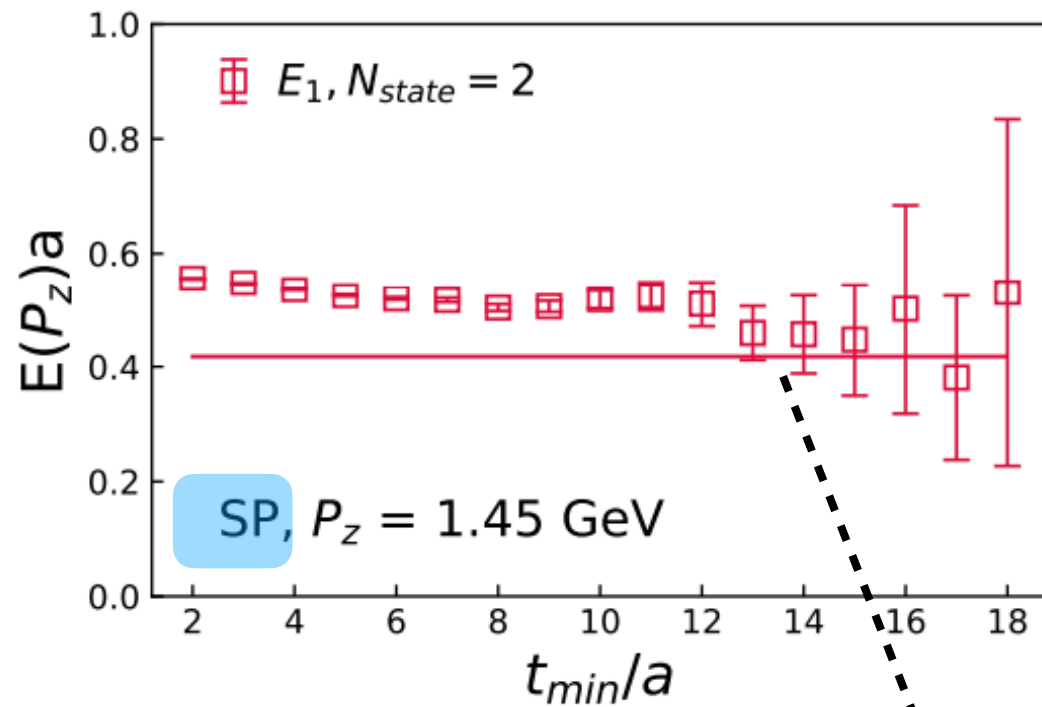
Determine the spectral data to fit the 3pt function

$$C_{2\text{pt}}^{ss'}(t_s; P_z) = \langle \pi_{s'}(\mathbf{P}, t_s) \pi_s^\dagger(\mathbf{P}, 0) \rangle.$$

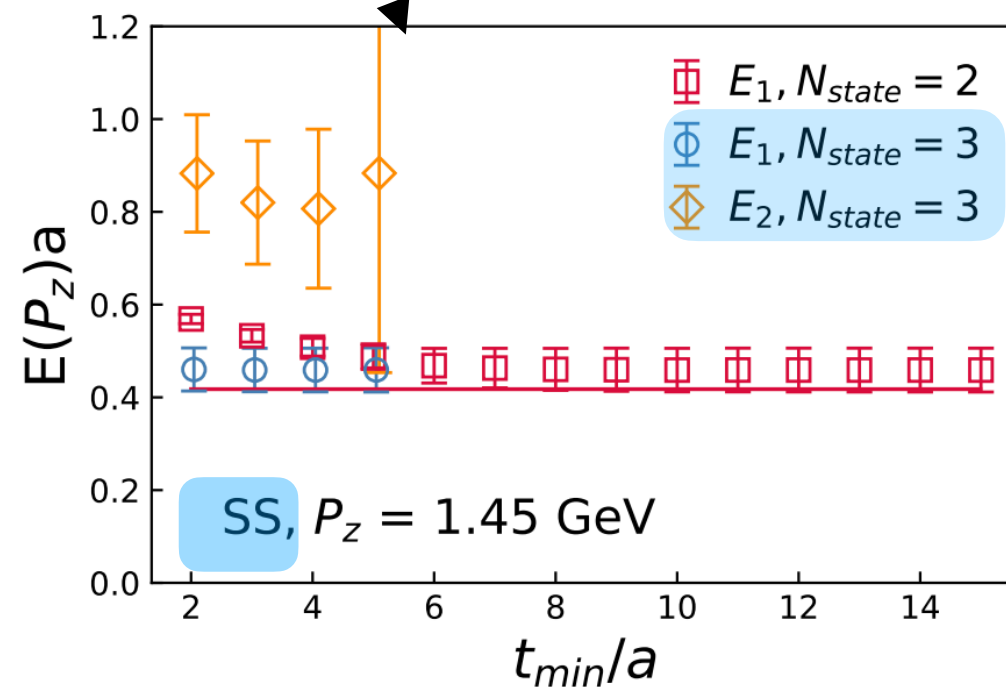
Used *smear*-point (SP) and *smear*-*smear* (SS) correlators



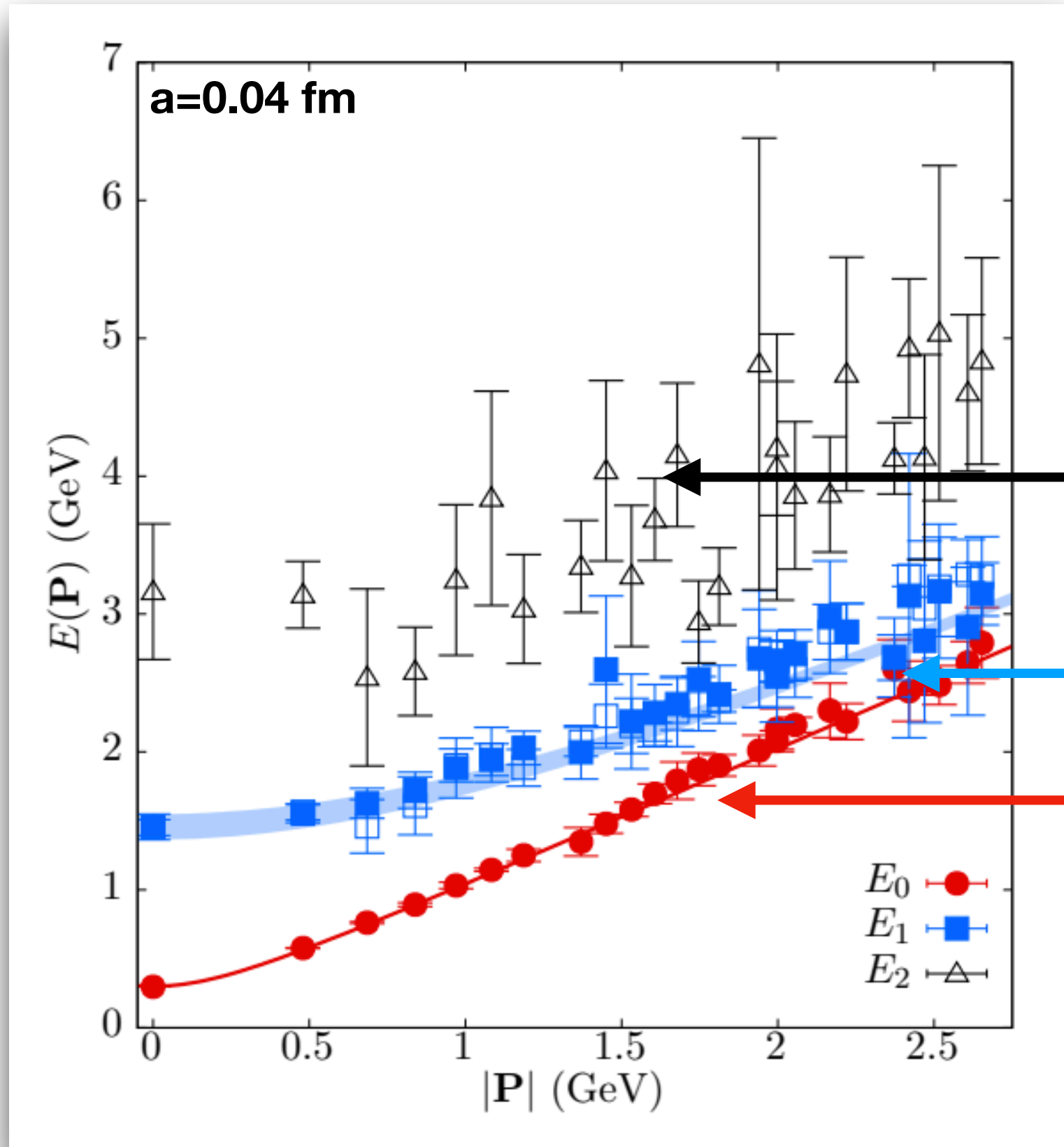
Making use of SP and SS to determine excited states via 2-state and 3-state fits



Prior for E_1 from 2-state SP to 3-state SS
Use dispersion relation for E_0



Two-point function analysis

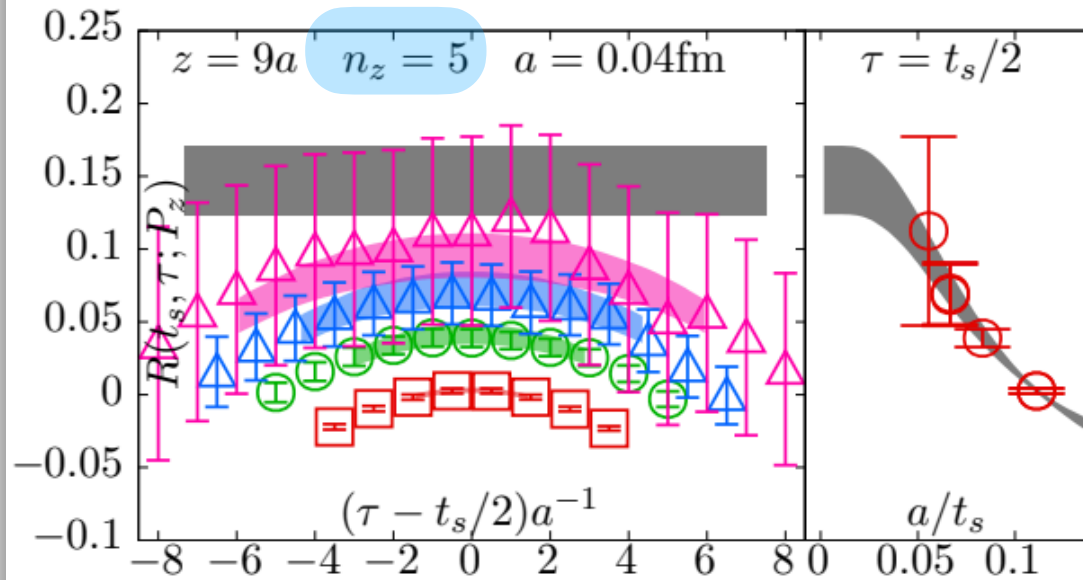
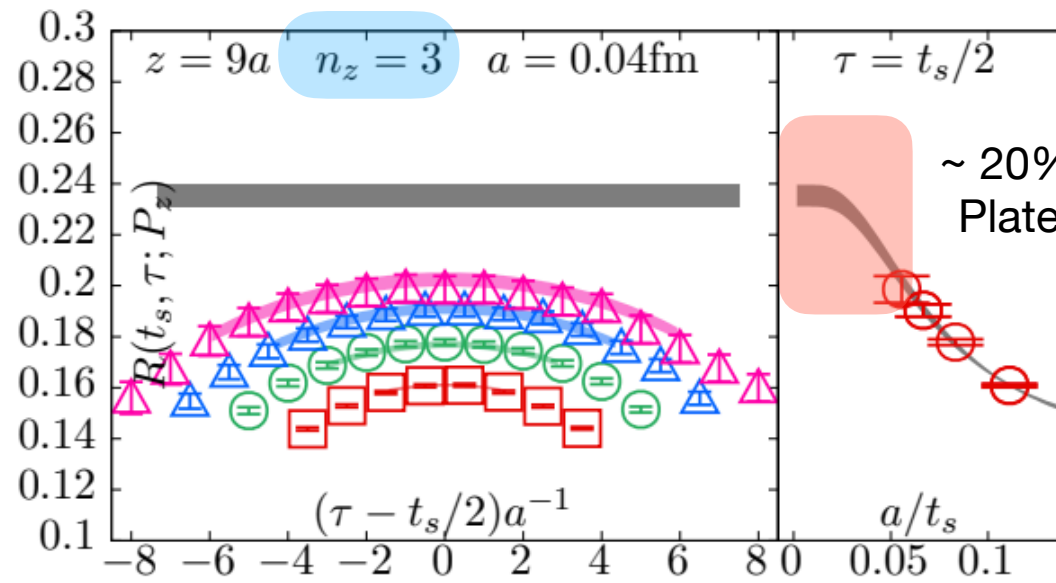
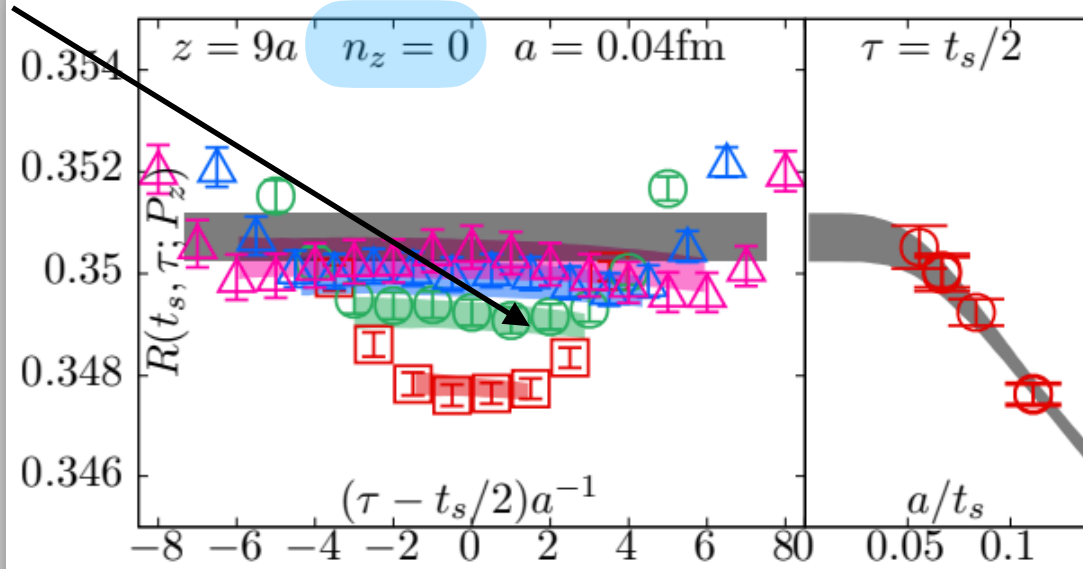


*more momenta added later in PRD03 (2021) 9, 094510

3-pt function analysis:

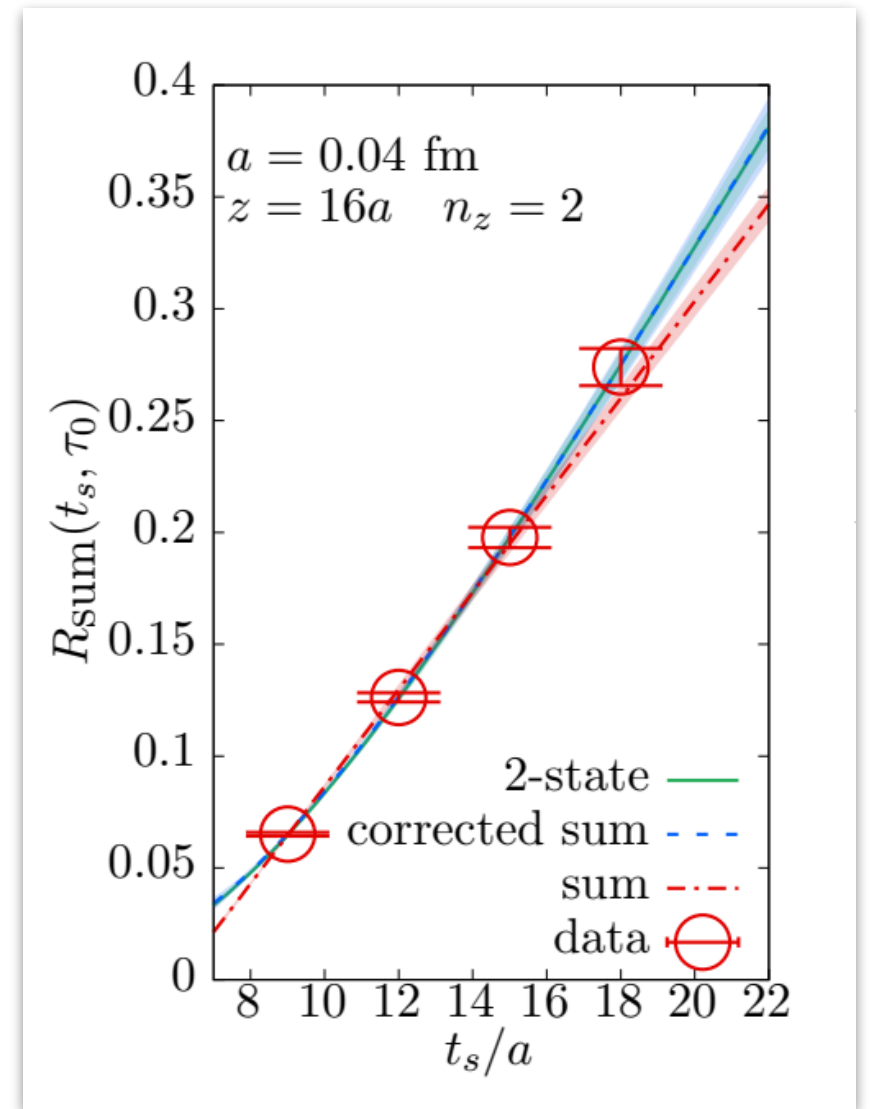
Extrapolate to get bare matrix element

Periodicity effect from 2pt



$$R(t_s, \tau; z, P_z) \equiv \frac{C_{3\text{pt}}(t_s, \tau; z, P_z)}{C_{2\text{pt}}(t_s; P_z)}$$

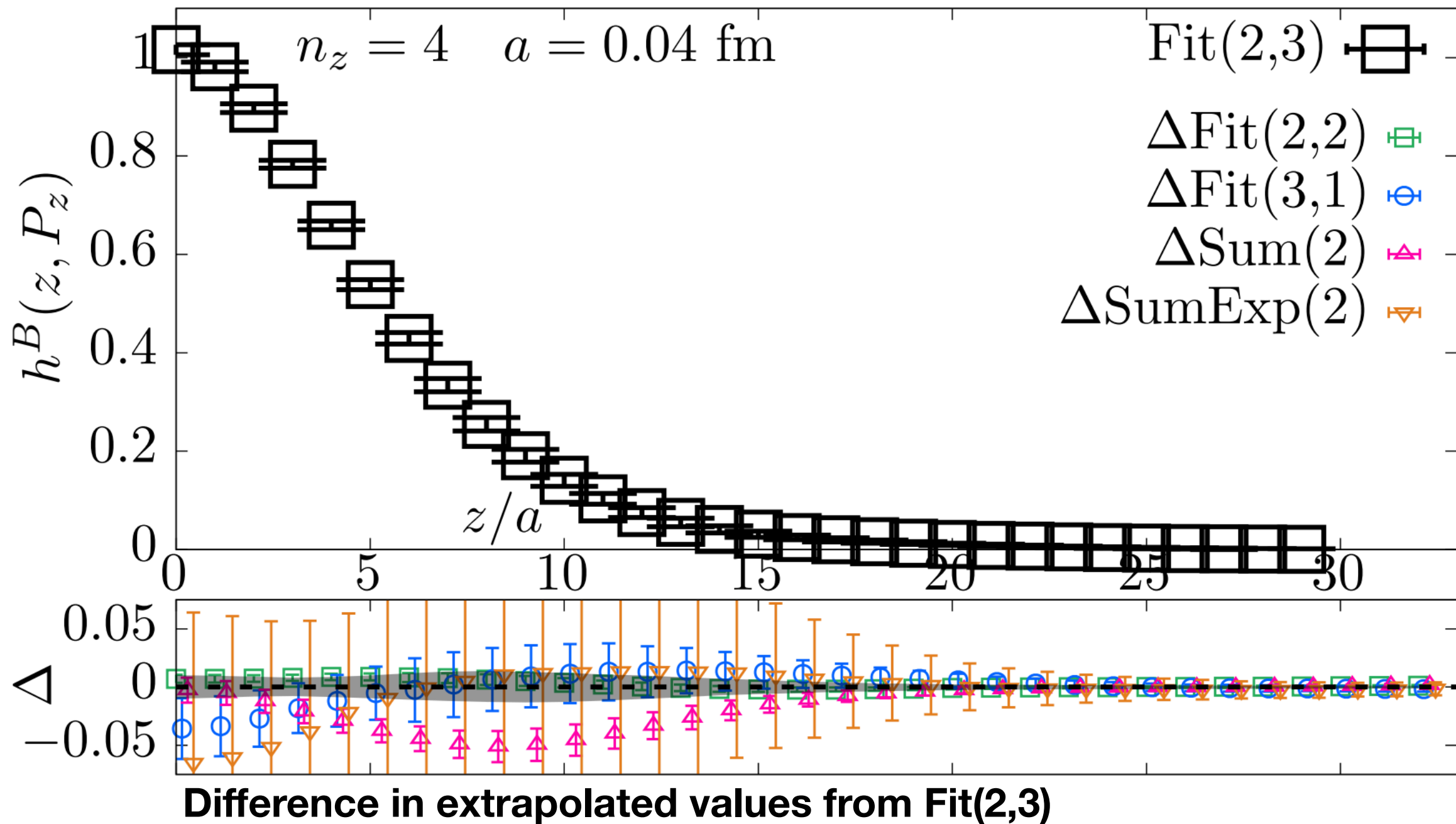
$$R(t_s, \tau) = \frac{\sum_{n, n'}^N A_n A_{n'}^* \langle E_n, P | O_{\gamma t}(z) | E_{n'}, P \rangle e^{-(E_{n'} - E_n)\tau - E_n t_s}}{\sum_m^N |A_m|^2 e^{-E_m t_s}}$$



$$R_{\text{sum}}(t_s) = \sum_{\tau=n_{\text{sk}}a}^{t_s - n_{\text{sk}}a} R(t_s, \tau)$$

$$R_{\text{sum}}(t_s) = (t_s - 2n_{\text{sk}}a)h^B(z, P_z) + B_0 + B_1 e^{-(E_1 - E_0)t_s} \quad (12)$$

Looking for robustness in extrapolations



Renormalization and matching

Renormalization methods used:

***Double ratio:**

make $z=0$ matrix element to be 1 by hand

RI-MOM

J.-W. Chen, T. Ishikawa, L. Jin, H.-W. Lin, Y.-B. Yang,
J.-H. Zhang, and Y. Zhao, *Phys. Rev. D* **97**, 014505
(2018), [arXiv:1706.01295 \[hep-lat\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.01295).

(p-slash, Landau gauge)

$$h_0^R(z, P_z, P^R) = Z_q Z_{\gamma_t \gamma_t}(z, P^R) h^B(z, P_z) \xrightarrow{\text{Double Ratio}} h^R(z, P_z, P^R) \equiv \frac{h_0^R(z, P_z, P^R)}{h_0^R(0, P_z, P^R)}.$$

RGI Ratio and its generalization

K. Orginos, A. Radyushkin, J. Karpie, and
S. Zafeiropoulos, *Phys. Rev. D* **96**, 094503 (2017),
[arXiv:1706.05373 \[hep-ph\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.05373).

$$\mathcal{M}_0(z, P_z, P_z^0) = \frac{h^B(z, P_z)}{h^B(z, P_z^0)} \xrightarrow{\text{Double Ratio}} \mathcal{M}(z, P_z, P_z^0) = \frac{\mathcal{M}_0(z, P_z, P_z^0)}{\mathcal{M}_0(0, P_z, P_z^0)}$$

Why use non-zero P_z^0 ?

- Avoid wrap-around effect
- Make leading-twist dominate both numerator and denominator

Leading-twist OPE expression for ratio

Ratio and its generalization

$$\mathcal{M}_0(z, P_z, P_z^0) = \frac{h^B(z, P_z)}{h^B(z, P_z^0)} \xrightarrow{\text{Double Ratio}} \mathcal{M}(z, P_z, P_z^0) = \frac{\mathcal{M}_0(z, P_z, P_z^0)}{\mathcal{M}_0(0, P_z, P_z^0)}$$

$$\mathcal{M}(z, P_z, P_z^0 = 0) = \sum_n c_n(z^2 \mu^2) \langle x^n \rangle(\mu) \frac{(-i P_z z)^n}{n!}$$



$$\mathcal{M}(z, P_z, P_z^0) = \frac{\sum_n c_n(z^2 \mu^2) \langle x^n \rangle(\mu) \frac{(-i P_z z)^n}{n!}}{\sum_n c_n(z^2 \mu^2) \langle x^n \rangle(\mu) \frac{(-i P_z^0 z)^n}{n!}}$$

T. Izubuchi, X. Ji, L. Jin, I. W. Stewart, and Y. Zhao, *Phys. Rev. D* **98**, 056004 (2018), [arXiv:1801.03917 \[hep-ph\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1801.03917).

Matching @ NLO

Resummation in another paper:

X. Gao, K. Lee, S. Mukherjee, and Y. Zhao, *Phys. Rev. D* **103**, 094504 (2021), [arXiv:2102.01101 \[hep-ph\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.01101).

Note: Matching implemented via leading-twist OPE form throughout.
No complication due to non-factorizability for non-zero P_z^0

Leading-twist OPE expression for RI-MOM

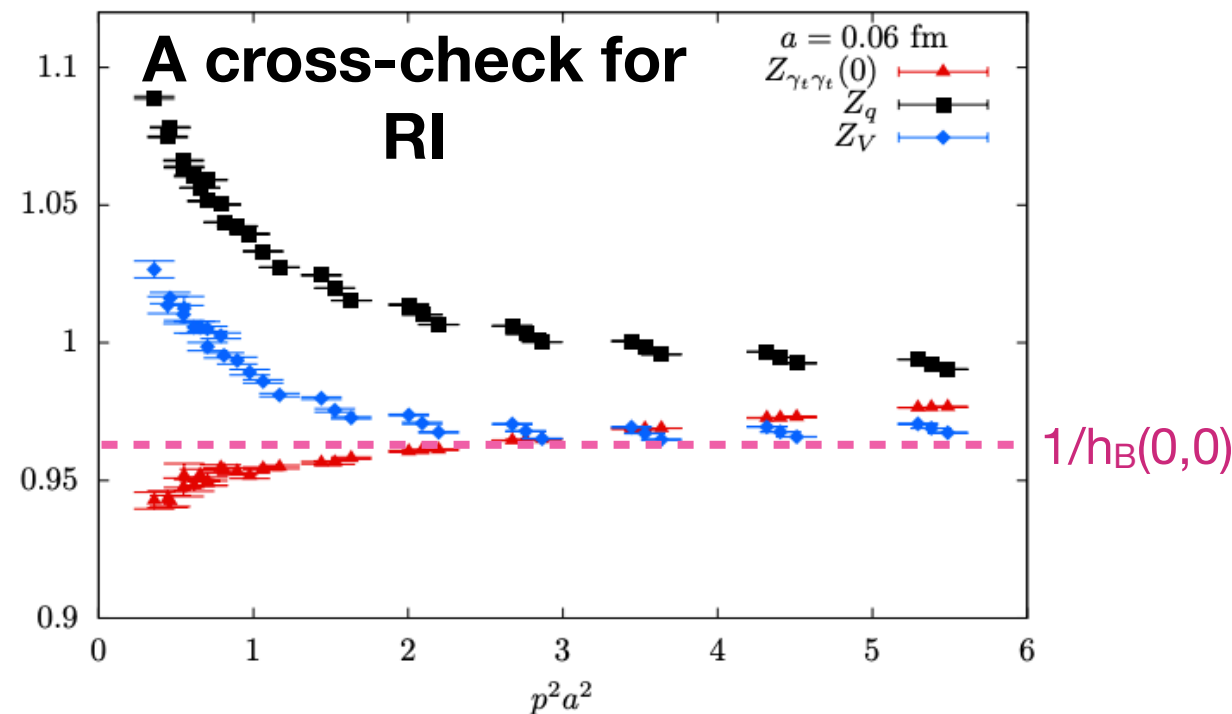
$$h_0^R(z, P_z, P^R) = Z_q Z_{\gamma_t \gamma_t}(z, P^R) h^B(z, P_z) \xrightarrow{\text{Double Ratio}} h^R(z, P_z, P^R) \equiv \frac{h_0^R(z, P_z, P^R)}{h_0^R(0, P_z, P^R)}$$

$$h^R(z, P_z, P^R) = \sum_n c_n^{\text{RI}}(z^2, \mu^2, P^R) \langle x^n \rangle(\mu) \frac{(-i P_z z)^n}{n!}$$

$$c_n^{\text{RI}}(z^2, \mu^2, P^R) = Z_{\text{ratio} \rightarrow \text{RI}}(z, P^R, \mu) c_n(z^2 \mu^2),$$

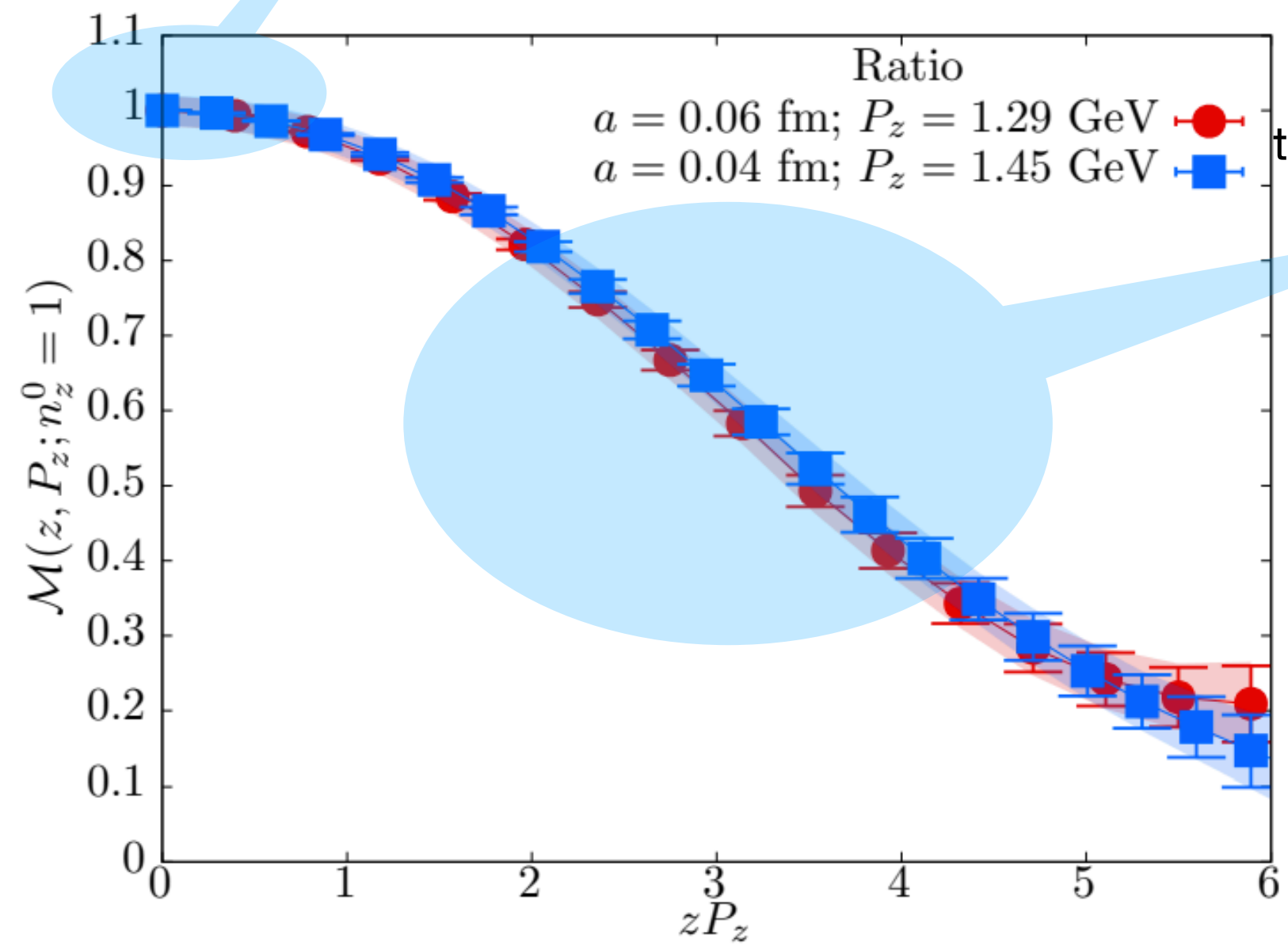
\uparrow
 1-loop
 Conversion factor

\uparrow
 Ratio C_n



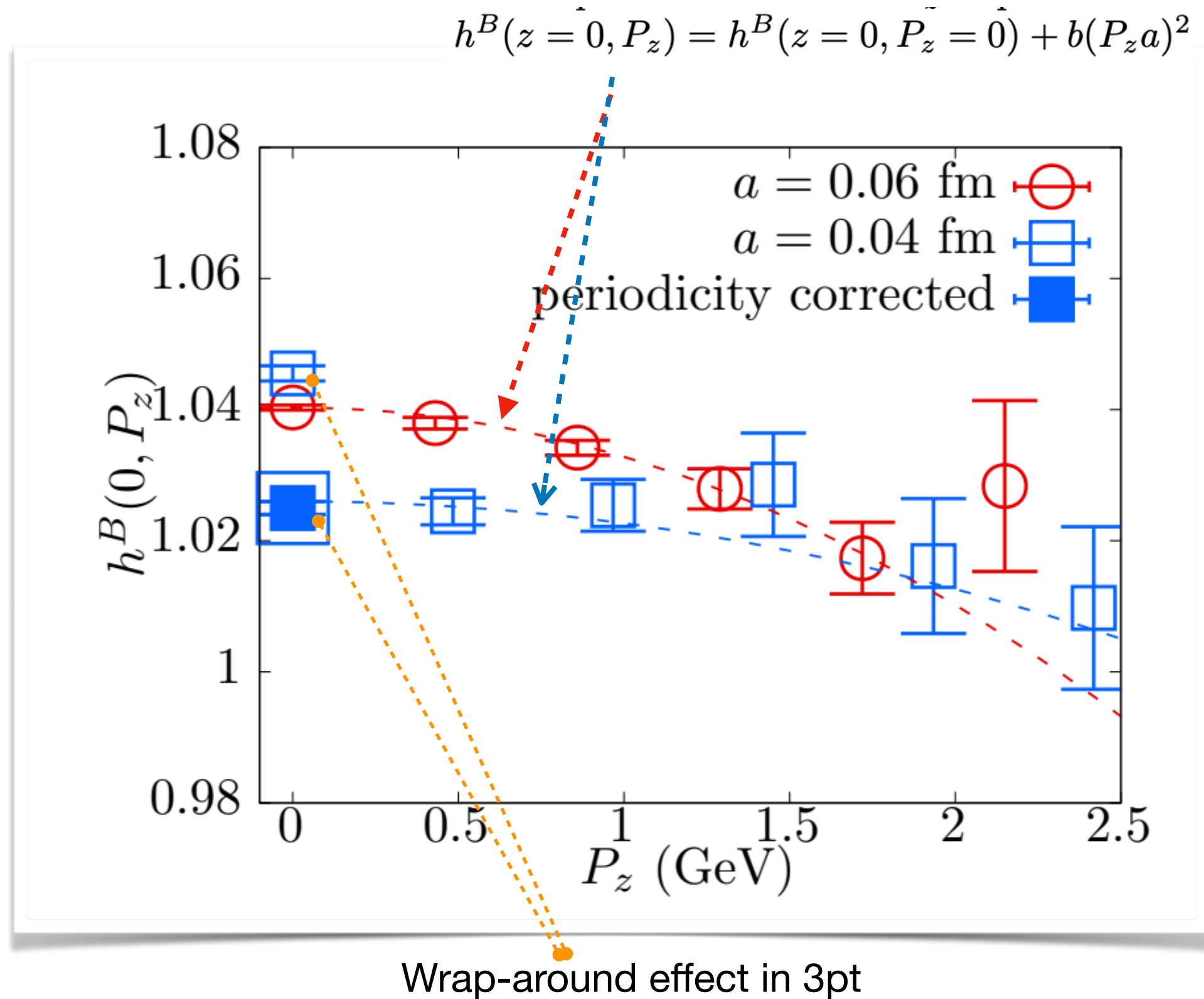
Analysis of lattice artifacts

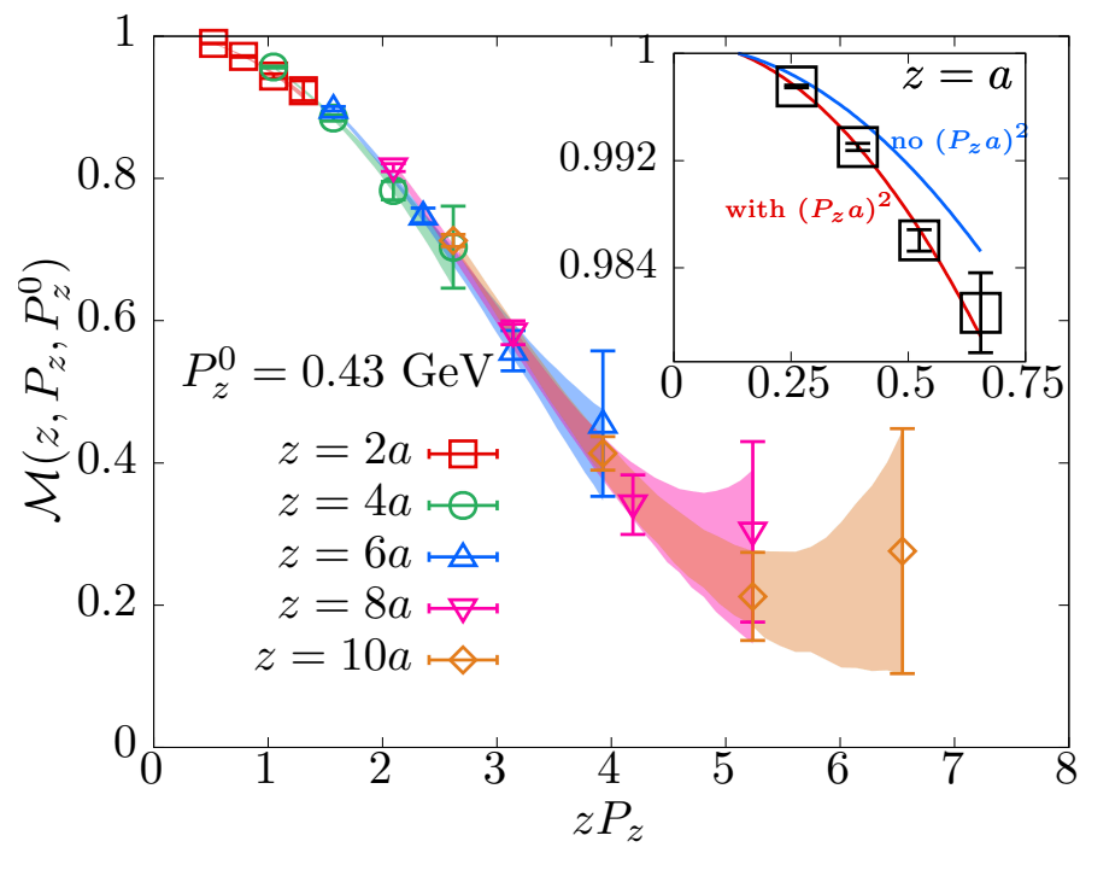
Lattice corrections hidden here;
Important because errors are too tiny after double ratio



Within errors,
the data are consistent
In the intermediate z

Let us look at the bare $z=0$ local current operator matrix element before double ratios

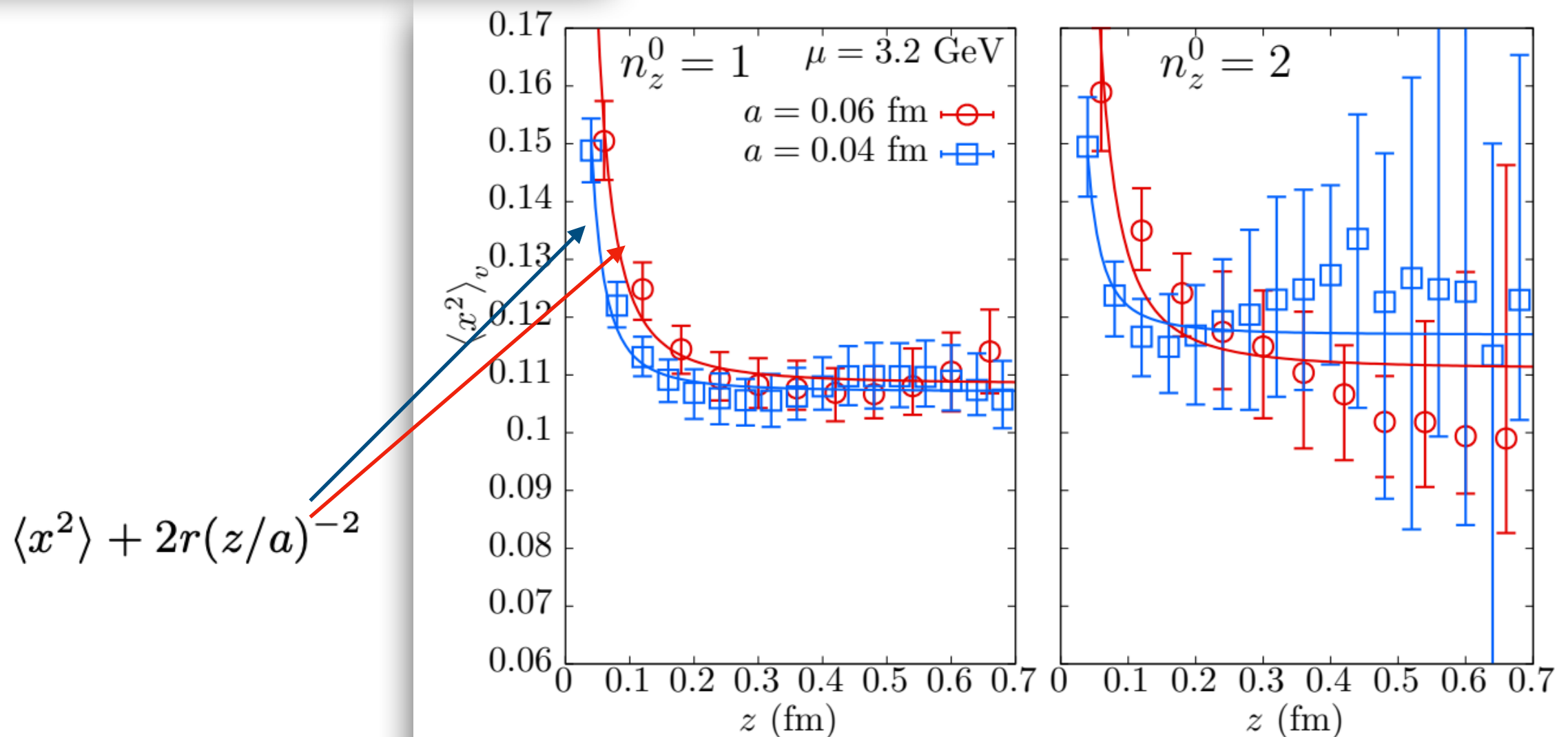




Analysis of lattice artifacts via “OPE without OPE”

Fit $\langle x^n \rangle$ via leading-twist OPE as a function of P_z at fixed z

J. Karpie, K. Orginos, and S. Zafeiropoulos, *JHEP* **11**, 178 (2018), [arXiv:1807.10933 \[hep-lat\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.10933).



Inference:

presence of momentum dependent lattice corrections

$$\mathcal{M}(z, P_z, P_z^0) = \frac{\sum_n c_n(z^2 \mu^2) \langle x^n \rangle(\mu) \frac{(-iP_z z)^n}{n!} + r(aP_z)^2}{\sum_n c_n(z^2 \mu^2) \langle x^n \rangle(\mu) \frac{(-iP_z^0 z)^n}{n!} + r(aP_z^0)^2}$$



$$\langle x^2 \rangle \rightarrow \langle x^2 \rangle - \frac{2r}{c_2(\mu^2 z^2)} \frac{1}{(z/a)^2}$$

cross-check: $r = 0.021$ and 0.022 on the 0.04 fm and 0.06 fm

A similar observation with (a/z) correction in nucleon in a recent paper

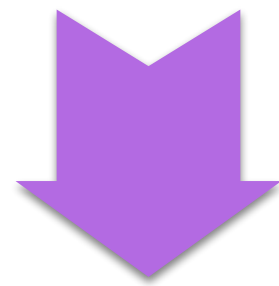
J. Karpie, K. Orginos, A. Radyushkin, and
S. Zafeiropoulos, (2021), [arXiv:2105.13313 \[hep-lat\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.13313).

Analysis of higher-twist corrections

Internal consistency of 1-loop twist-2 framework

RI-MOM

$$O_{\text{RI}}(z) = Z(p^R, z) O_{\text{bare}}(z)$$



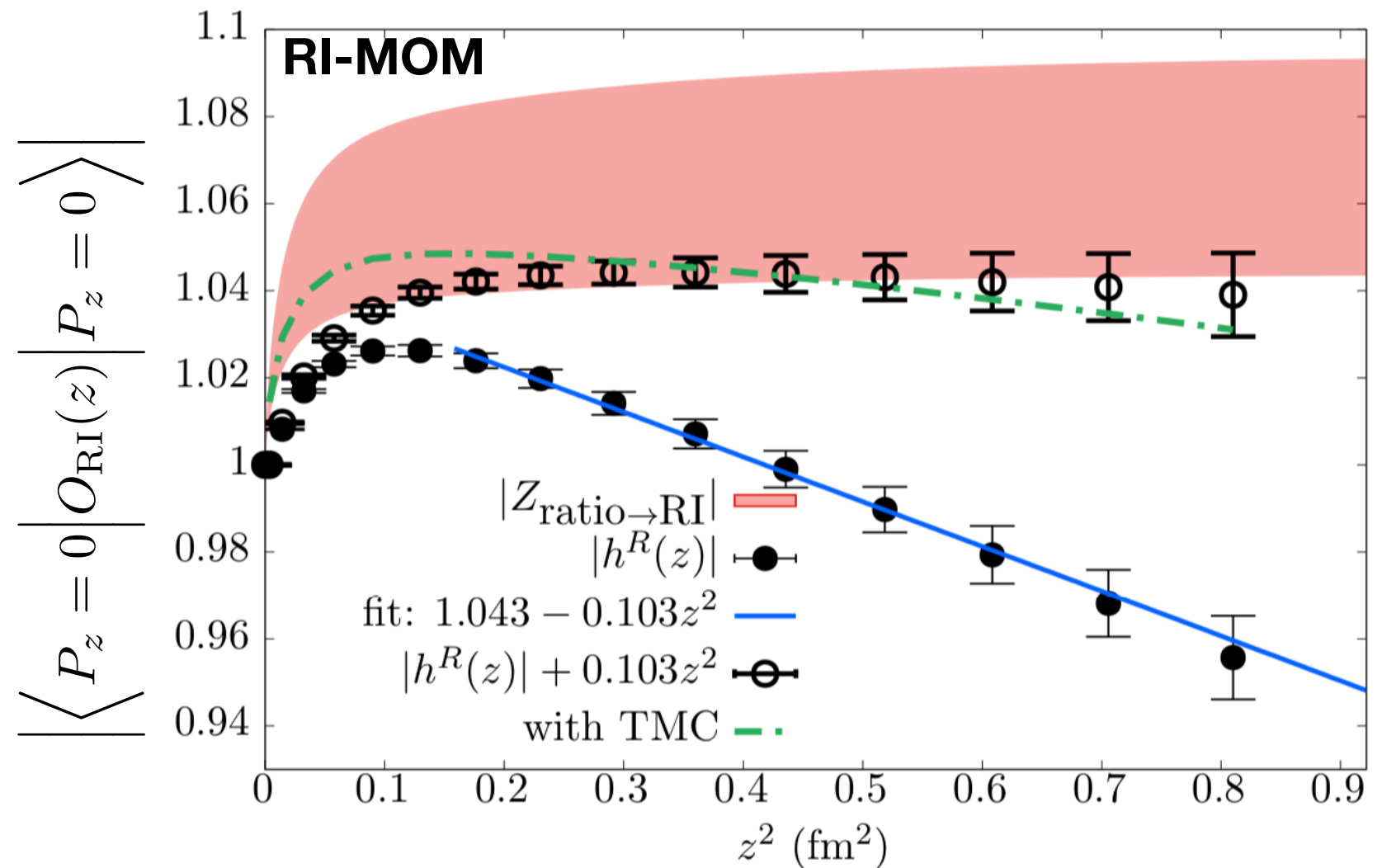
$Z_{\text{conversion}}(z)$

Ratio

$$\frac{\langle P_z | O_{\text{bare}}(z) | P_z \rangle}{\langle P_z^0 | O_{\text{bare}}(z) | P_z^0 \rangle}$$

Internal consistency of 1-loop twist-2 framework

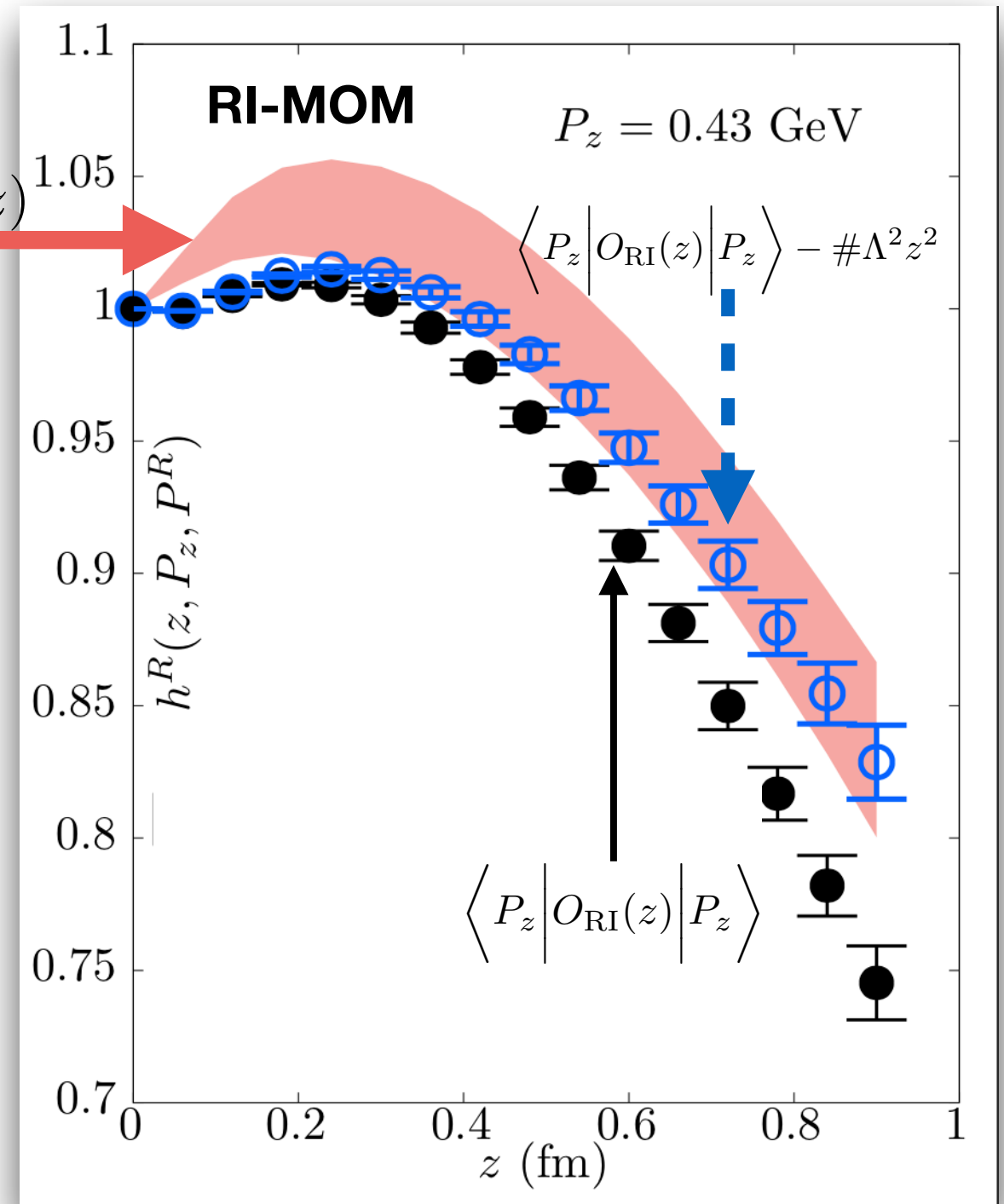
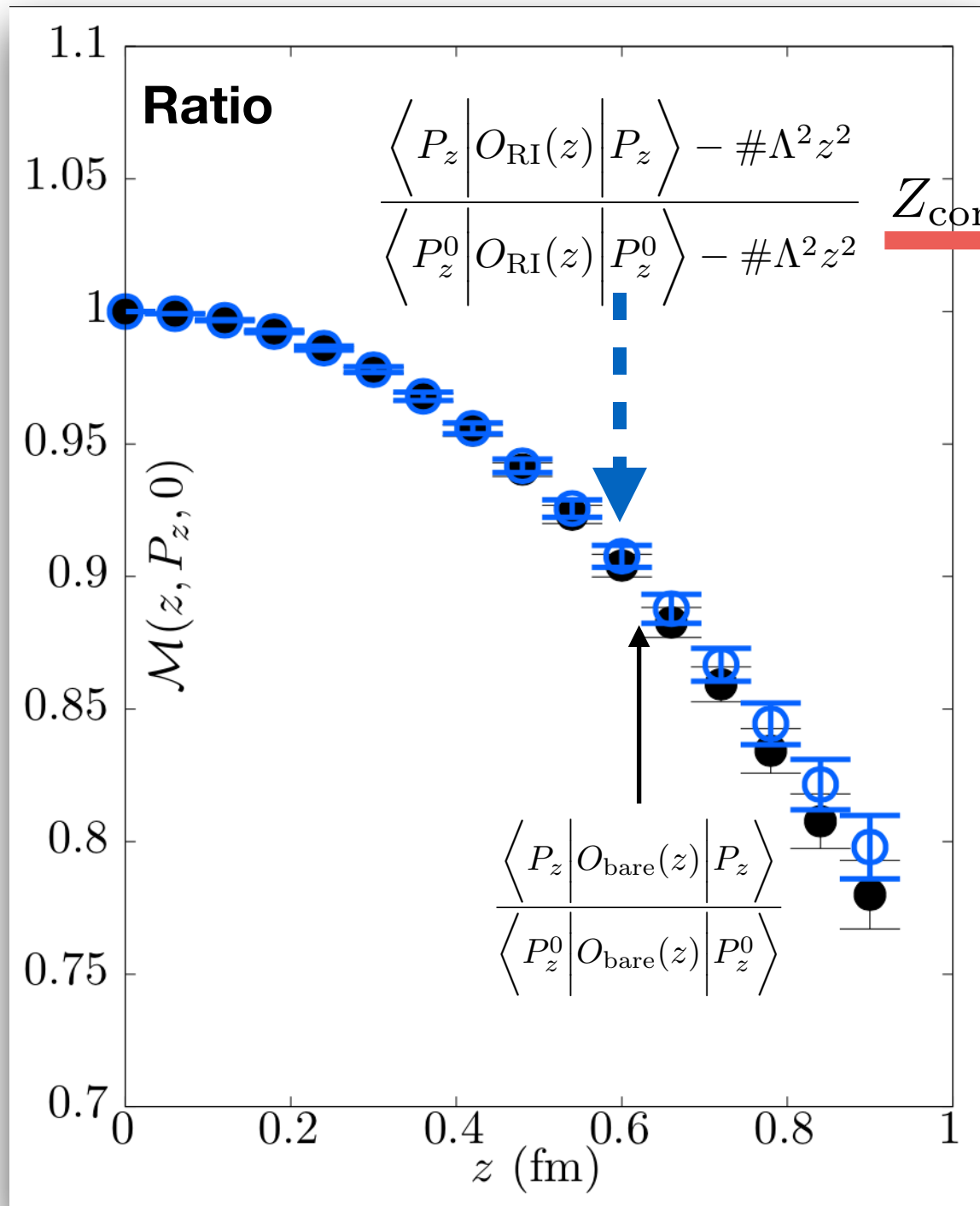
Zero momentum matrix element is a great place to study higher twist effects!



$$\mathcal{M}(z, P_z = 0) = c_0(z^2 \mu^2) + \sum_{n=1} \# (izP_z)^n \langle x^n \rangle + \# z^2 \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 + \dots$$

Internal consistency of 1-loop twist-2 framework

Smallest non-zero P_z



Analysis of moments:

Fit leading-twist OPE with moments as fit parameters

Fit data satisfying $z \in [z_{\min}, z_{\max}]$ and $P_z > P_z^0$ with $\langle x^n \rangle$ as fit parameters

$$\mathcal{M}(z, P_z, P_z^0) = \frac{\sum_n c_n (z^2 \mu^2) \langle x^n \rangle (\mu) \frac{(-i P_z z)^n}{n!} + r (a P_z)^2}{\sum_n c_n (z^2 \mu^2) \langle x^n \rangle (\mu) \frac{(-i P_z^0 z)^n}{n!} + r (a P_z^0)^2}$$

Technical aside:

Positivity of u-d valence PDF

Condition on derivative of $\langle x^n \rangle$ wrt n

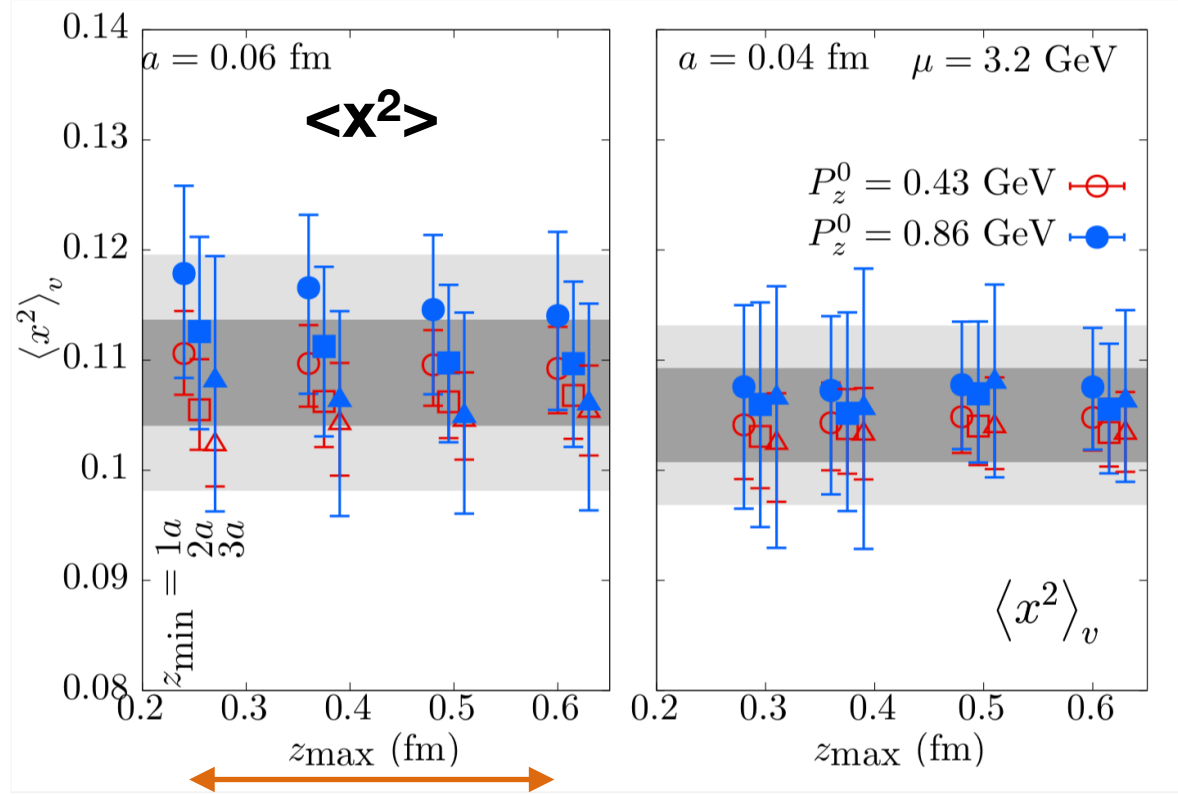
$$\langle x^{n+2} \rangle_{u-d} < \langle x^n \rangle_{u-d} \quad \text{and,}$$

$$\langle x^{n+2} \rangle_{u-d} + \langle x^{n-2} \rangle_{u-d} - 2 \langle x^n \rangle_{u-d} > 0.$$

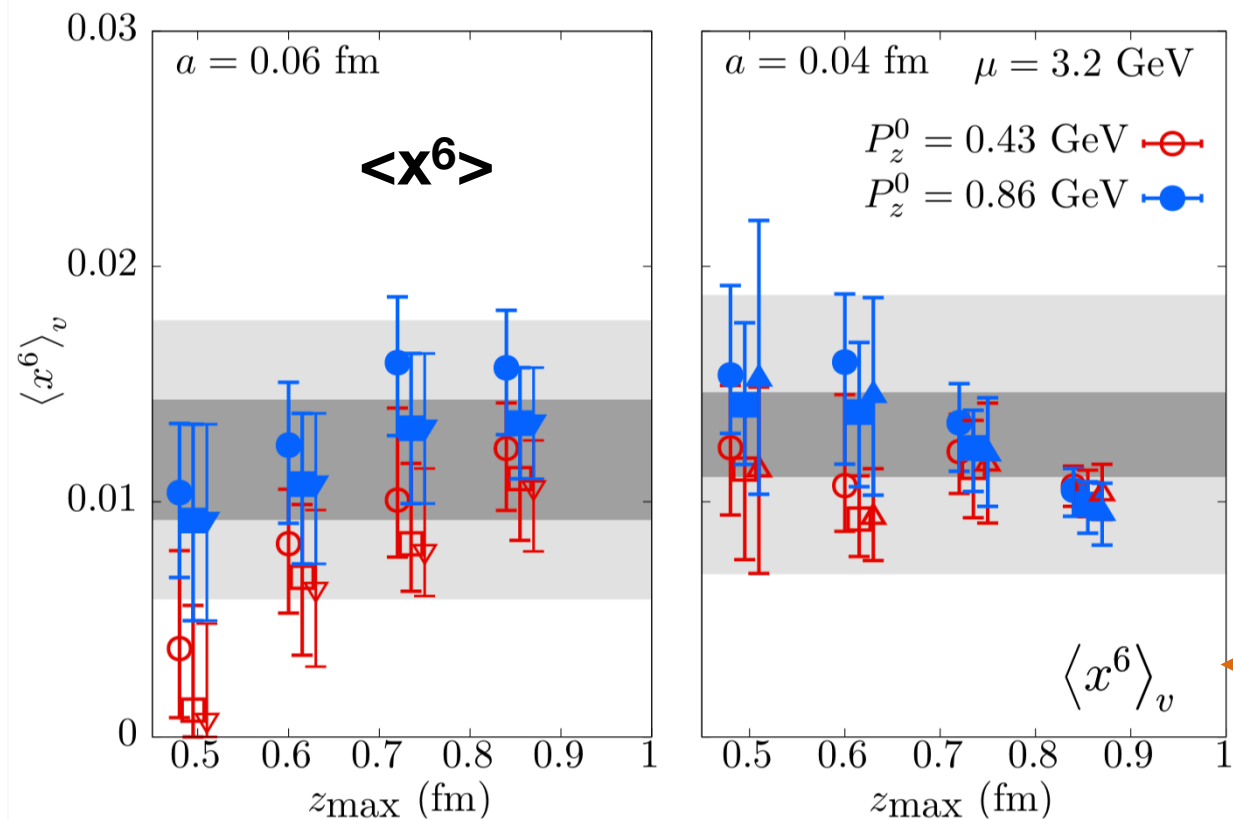
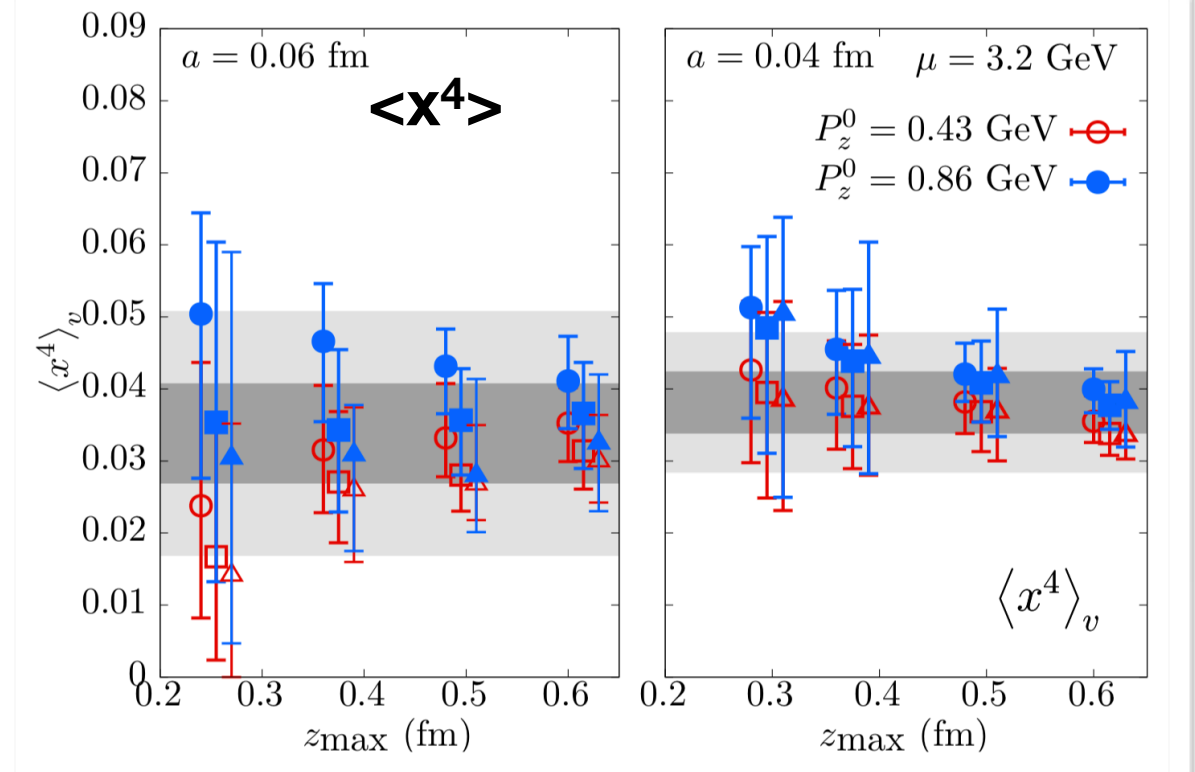
A convenient variable change

$$\langle x^n \rangle_v \equiv \sum_{i=n}^N \sum_{j=i}^N e^{-\lambda_j},$$

Direct computation of even valence moments



Maximal z used in fits to twist-2 OPE



Need larger z for higher moments.
Prior on lower moment helps.

$$\chi^2 = \chi^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{prior}}} \frac{(\langle x^i \rangle_v - \langle x^i \rangle_{\text{prior}})^2}{(\sigma_i^{\text{prior}})^2}$$

Determination of x -dependent PDFs

Fit PDF-Ansatze to lattice matrix elements

Fitting, approximations and their rationale

Minimize chi-square: fit a finite range of z and $z P_z$

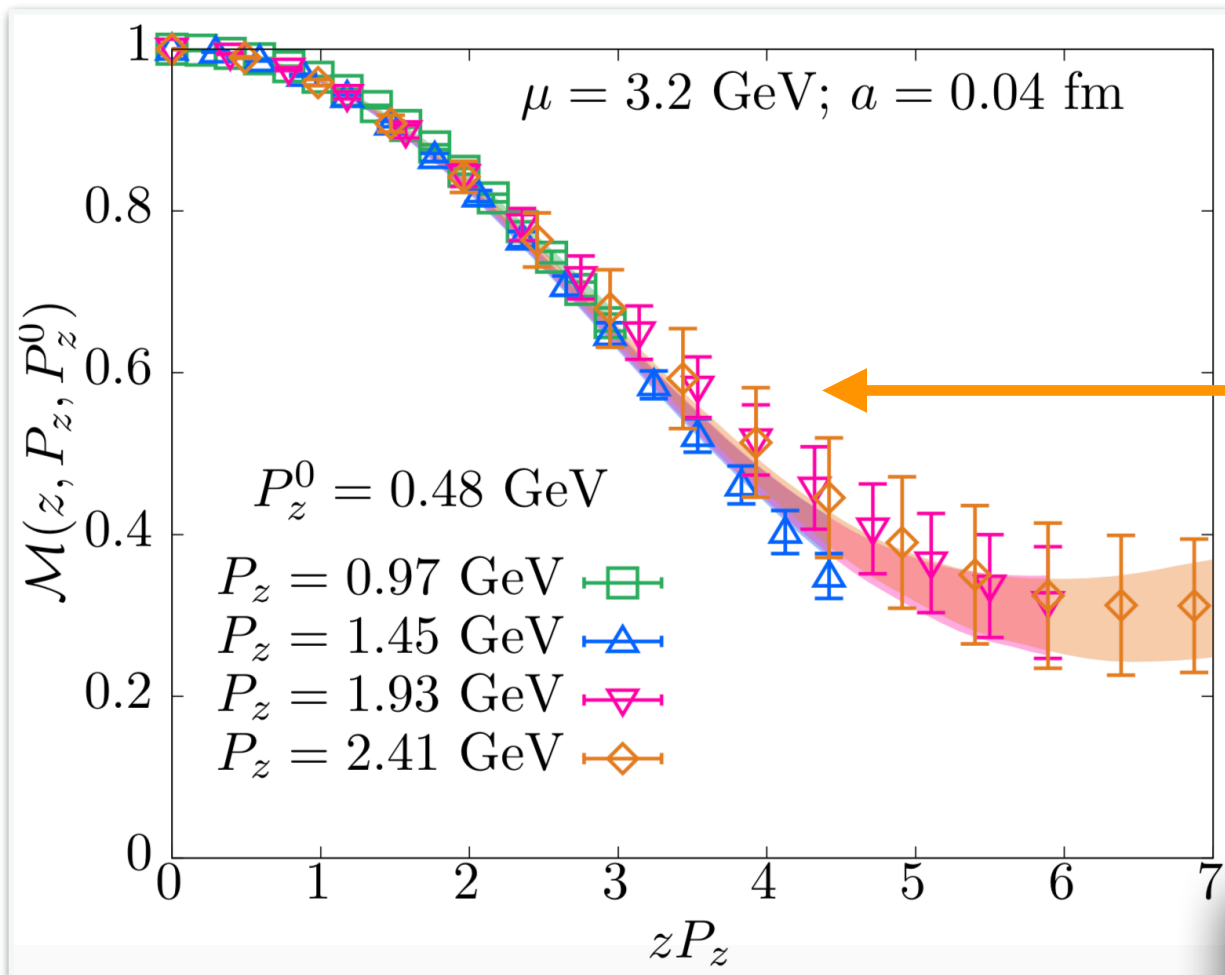
$$\chi^2 \equiv \sum_{P_z > P_z^0}^{P_z^{\max}} \sum_{z=z_1}^{z_2} \frac{(\mathcal{M}(z, P_z, P_z^0) - \mathcal{M}_{\text{model}}(z, P_z, P_z^0; \alpha, \dots))^2}{\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2(z, P_z, P_z^0) + \sigma_{\text{sys}}^2(z, P_z, P_z^0)}$$

Include uncertainty in perturbation theory added in quadrature:

$$\sigma_{\text{sys}}(z, \dots) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathcal{M}_{\text{model}}(z, \dots) |_{\alpha_s(\mu/2)} - \mathcal{M}_{\text{model}}(z, \dots) |_{\alpha_s(2\mu)} \right).$$

Drawback: Correlation very important! One needs to weigh-in two things:

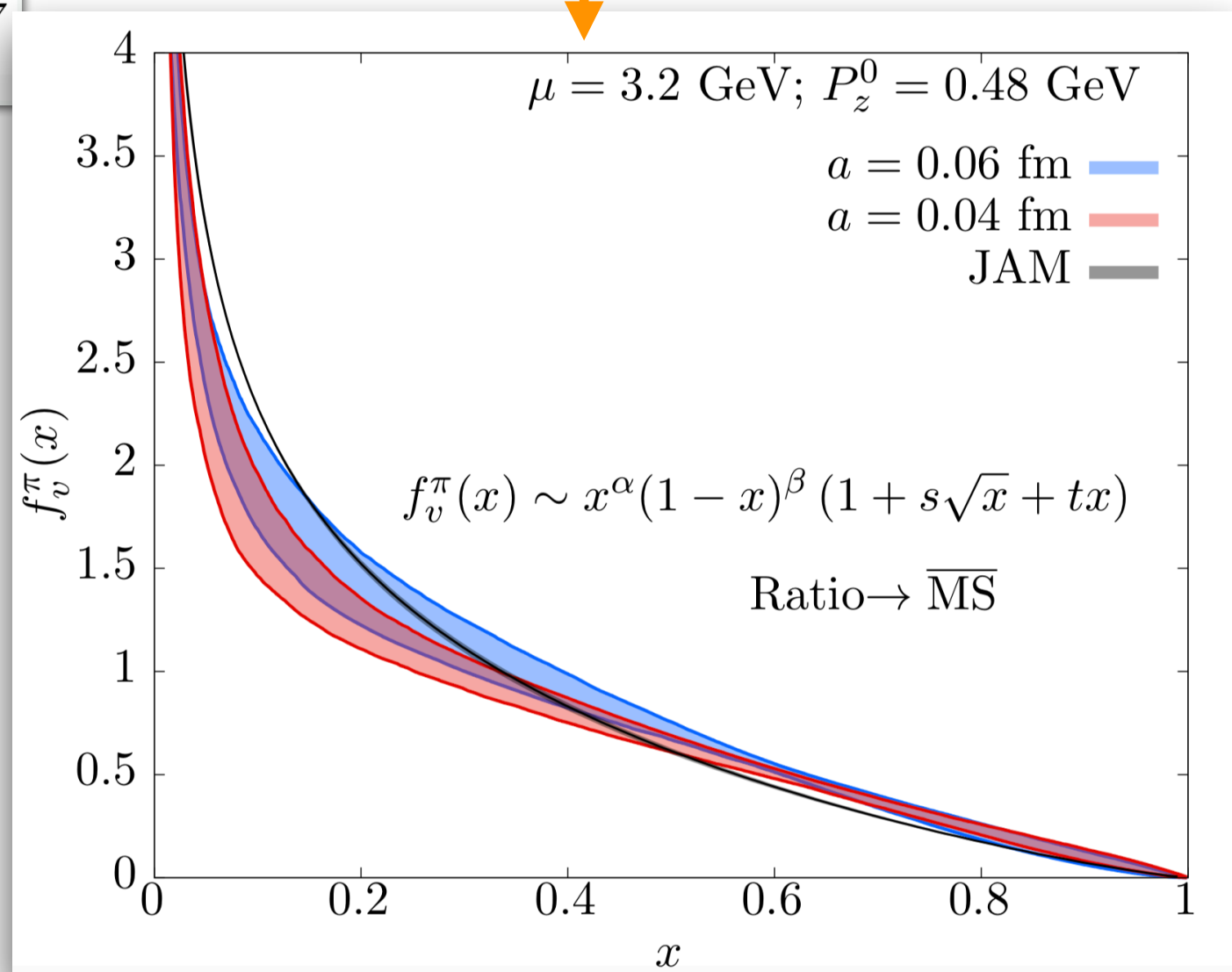
- Scale dependence in matching is comparable to statistical errors. Can't ignore.
- Model selection when underlying theory has larger uncertainty: how to do it?



Fit ITD to model PDFs

$$f_v^\pi(x, \mu) = \mathcal{N} x^\alpha (1-x)^\beta (1 + s\sqrt{x} + tx)$$

Corresponding PDF

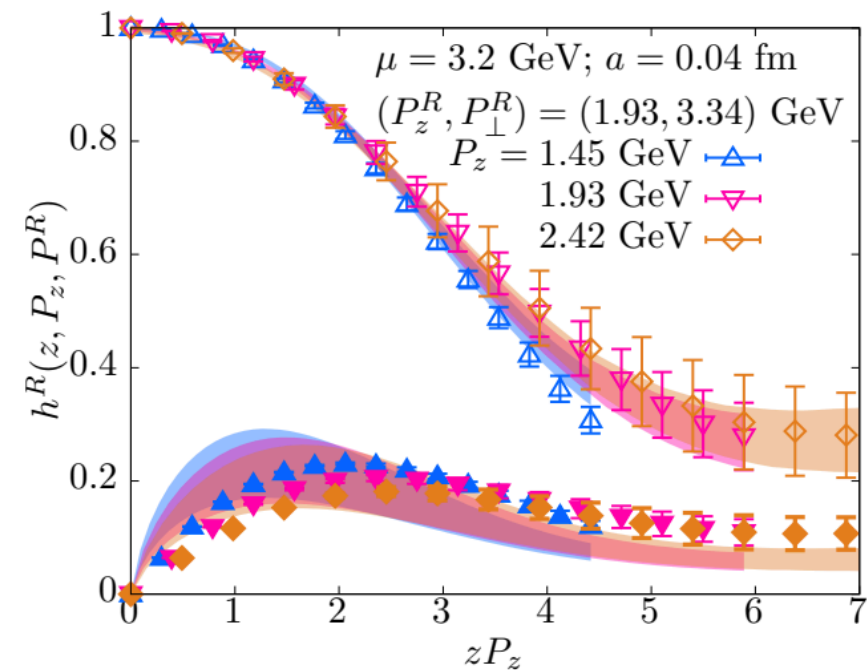
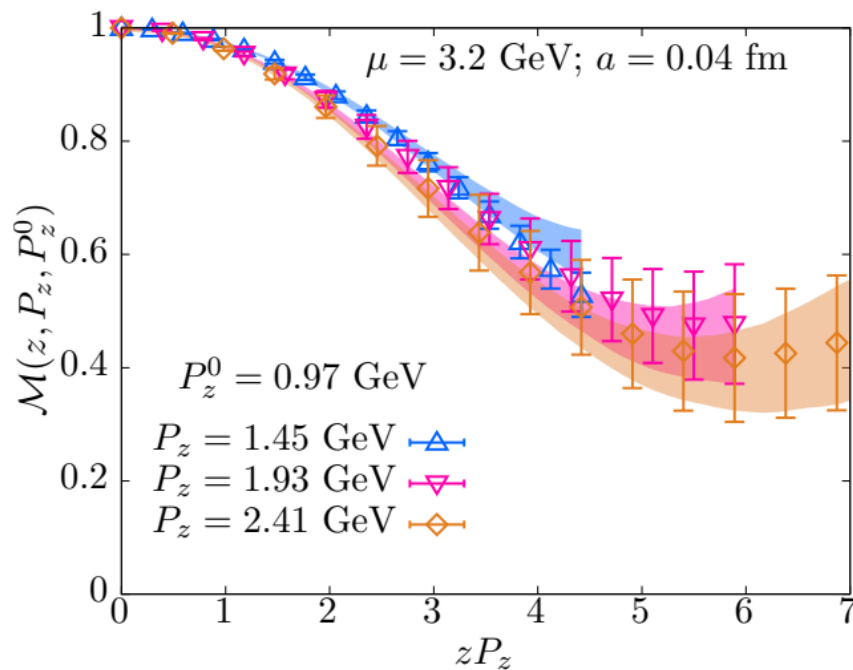
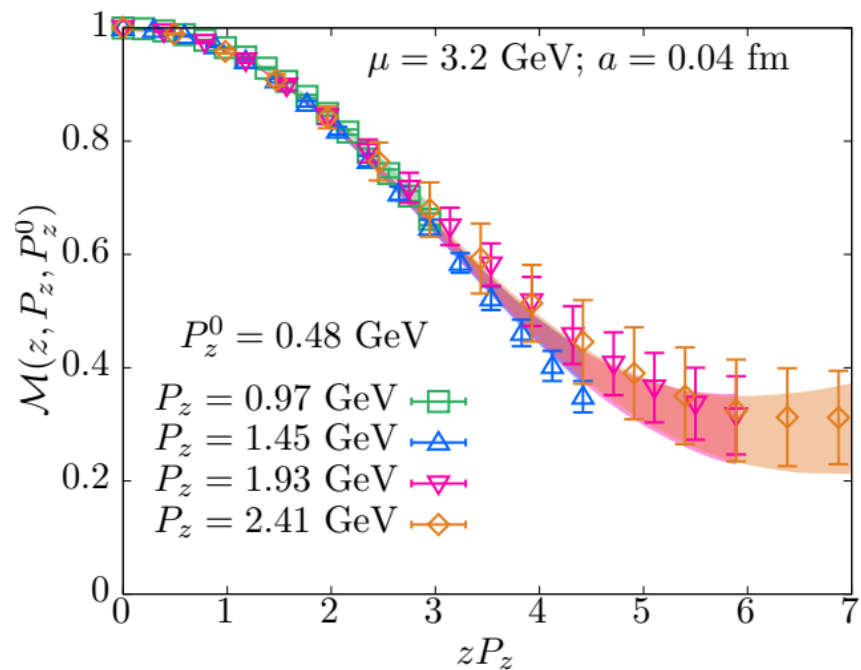


Reconstructing PDFs

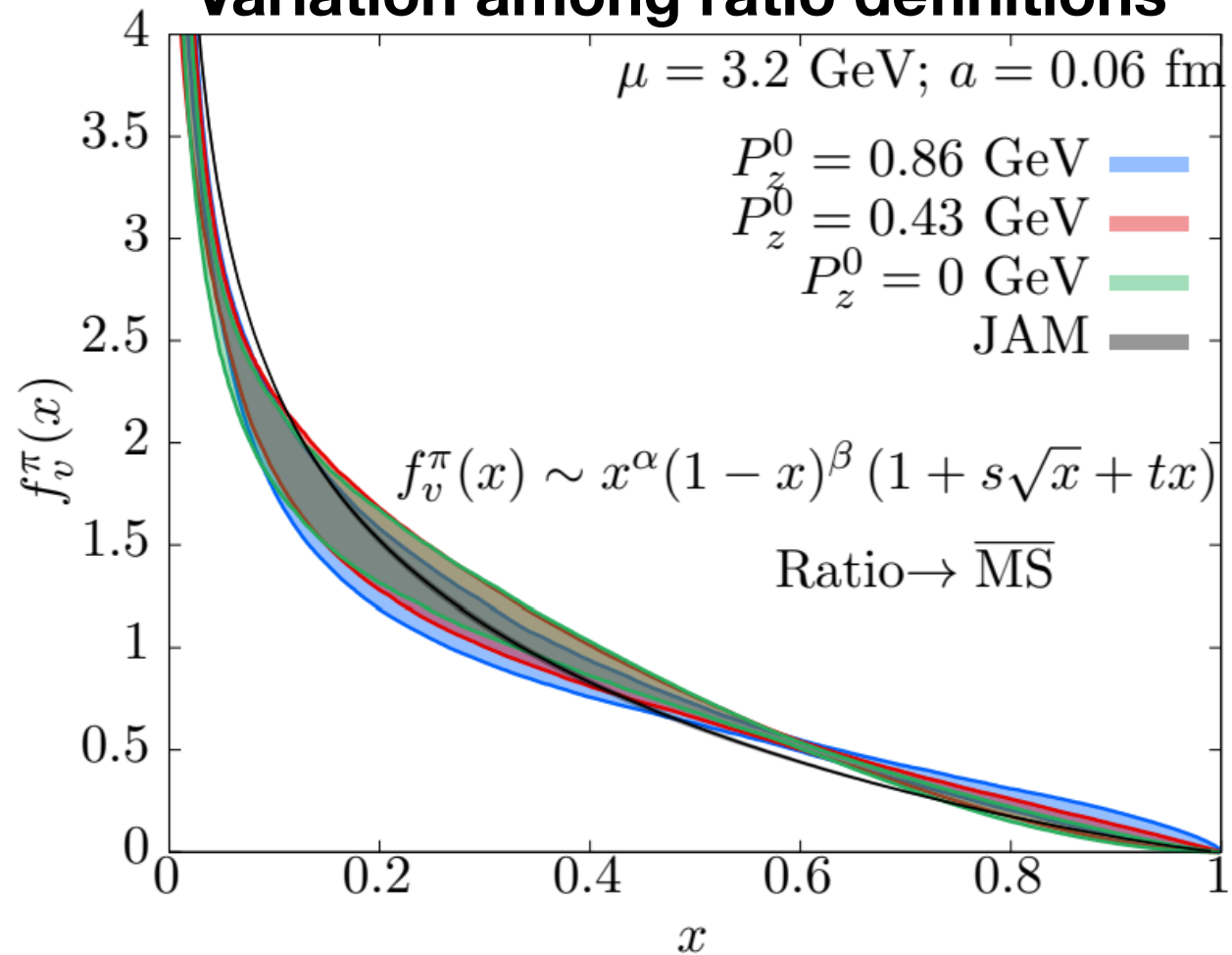
Fit only data points with $z \in [1(\text{ or } 2)a, z_{\text{max}}]$

$0.32 \text{ fm} < Z_{\text{max}} < 0.72 \text{ fm}$

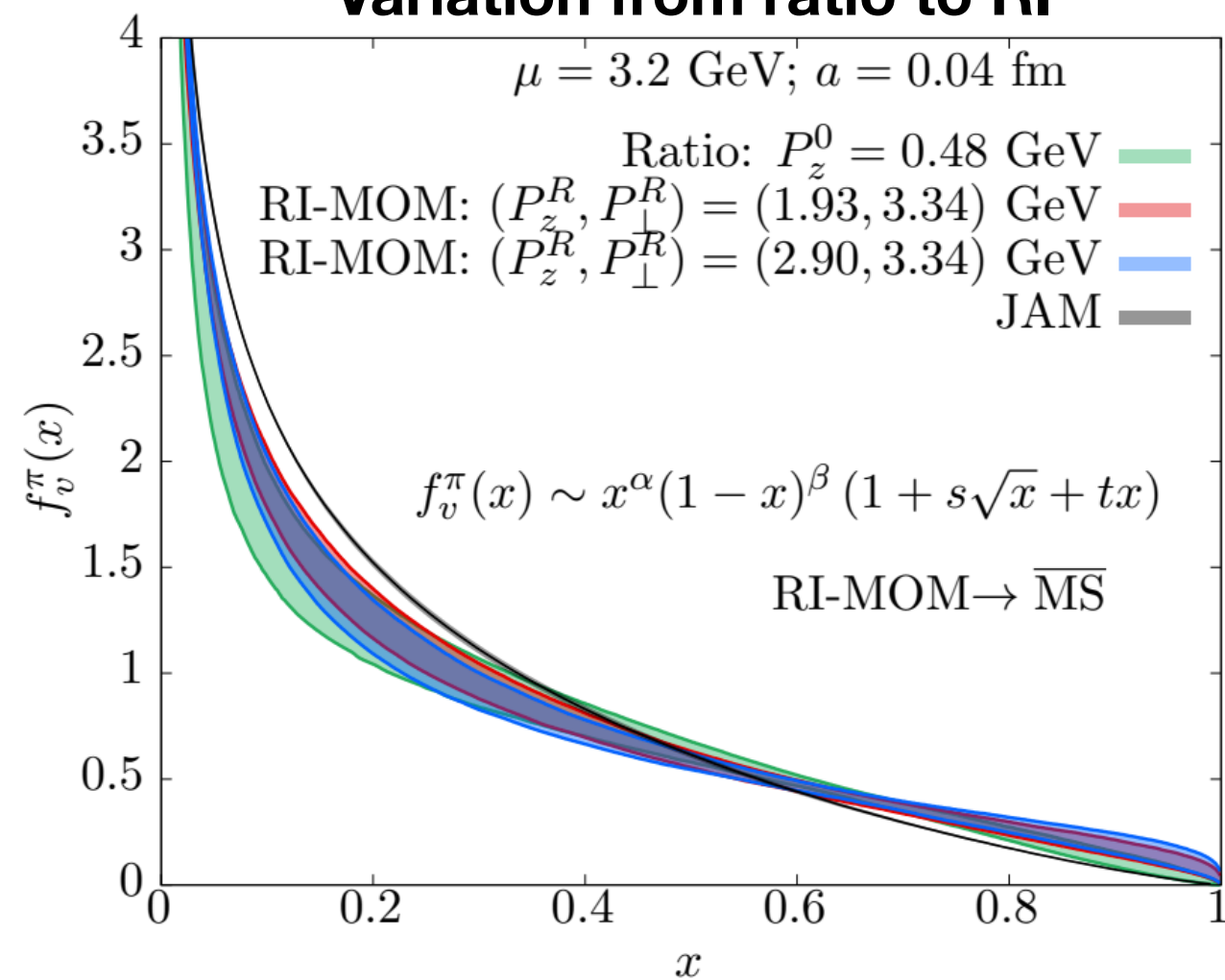
Renormalization scheme dependence?



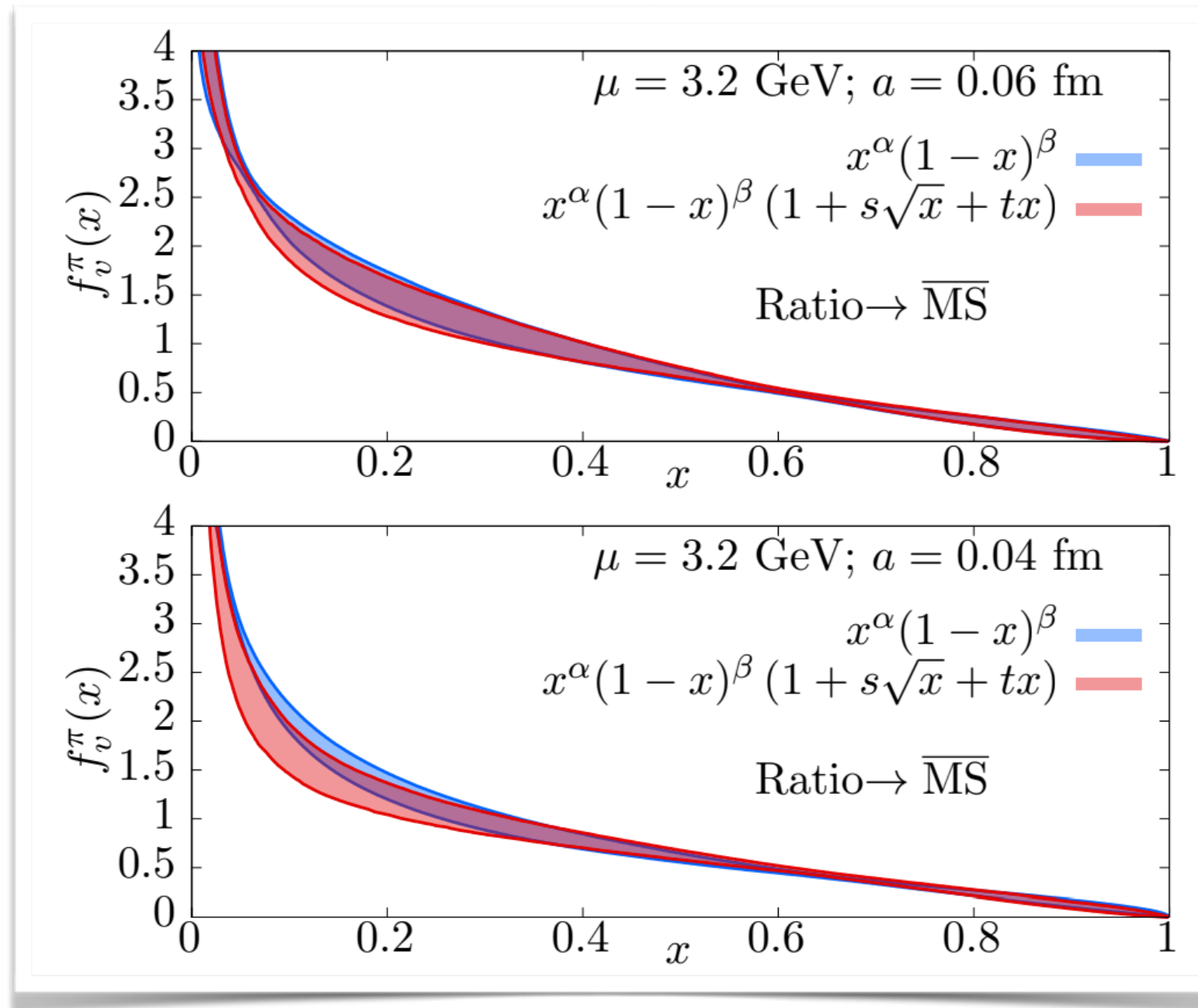
Variation among ratio definitions



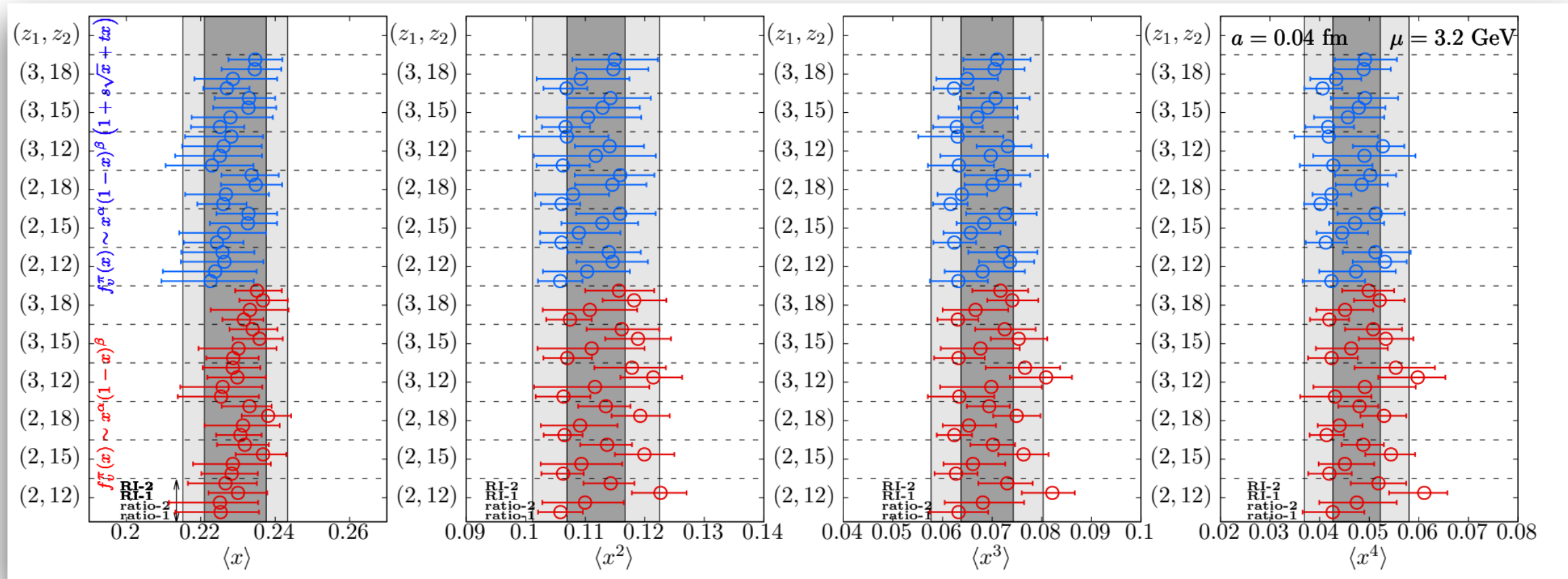
Variation from ratio to RI



Ansatz dependence?



Quantifying the fit systematics



In each bootstrap sample of some quantity “A”:

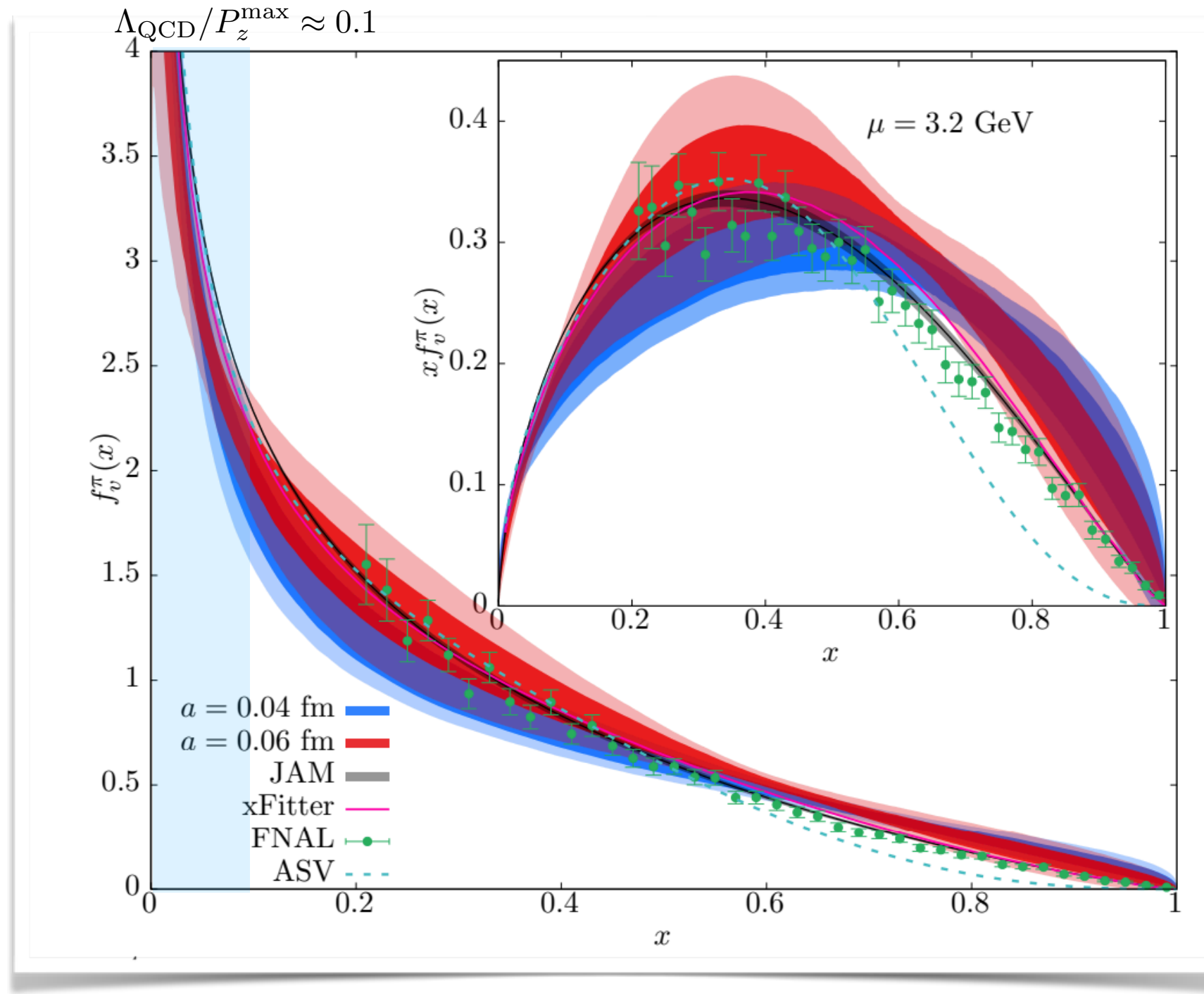
A = Mean[{ set of estimates over choice of z-range, renormalization scheme, ansatz dependence }]

sys-error(A) =

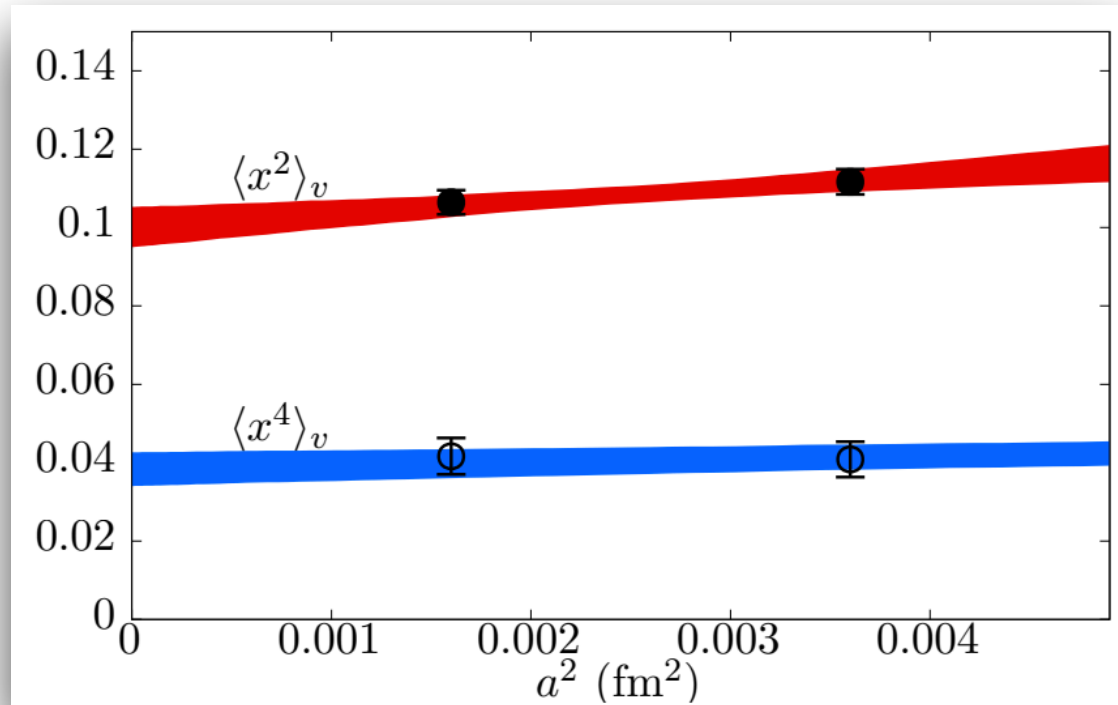
SD[{ set of estimates over choice of z-range, renormalization scheme, ansatz dependence }]

Bootstrap estimate of A : mean and statistical error

PDF estimate with statistical and systematic error included

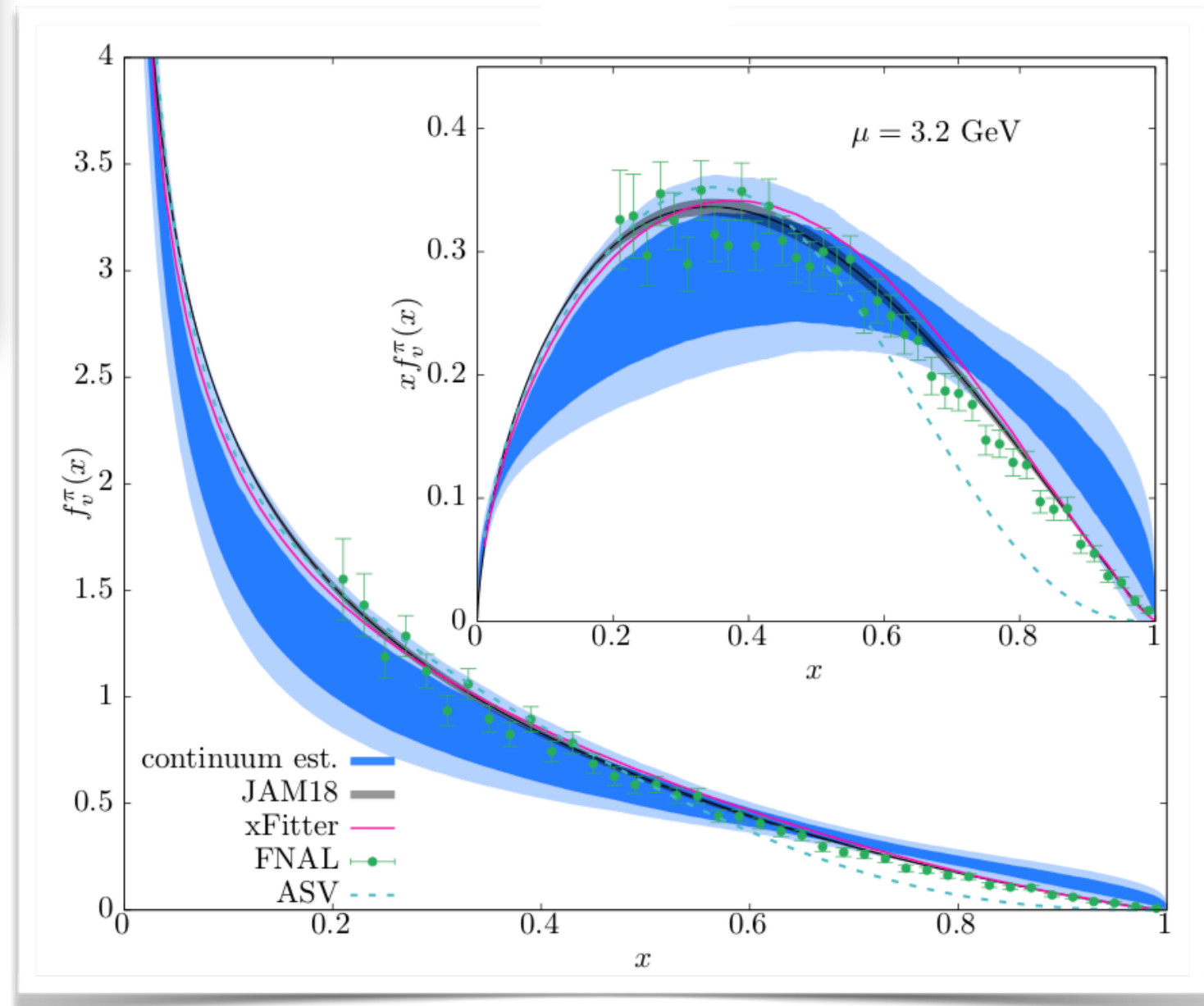


What to expect in continuum limit?



Try fits with twist-2 OPE using a-dependent moments:

$$\langle x^n \rangle_v(a) = \langle x^n \rangle_v + d_n a^2,$$

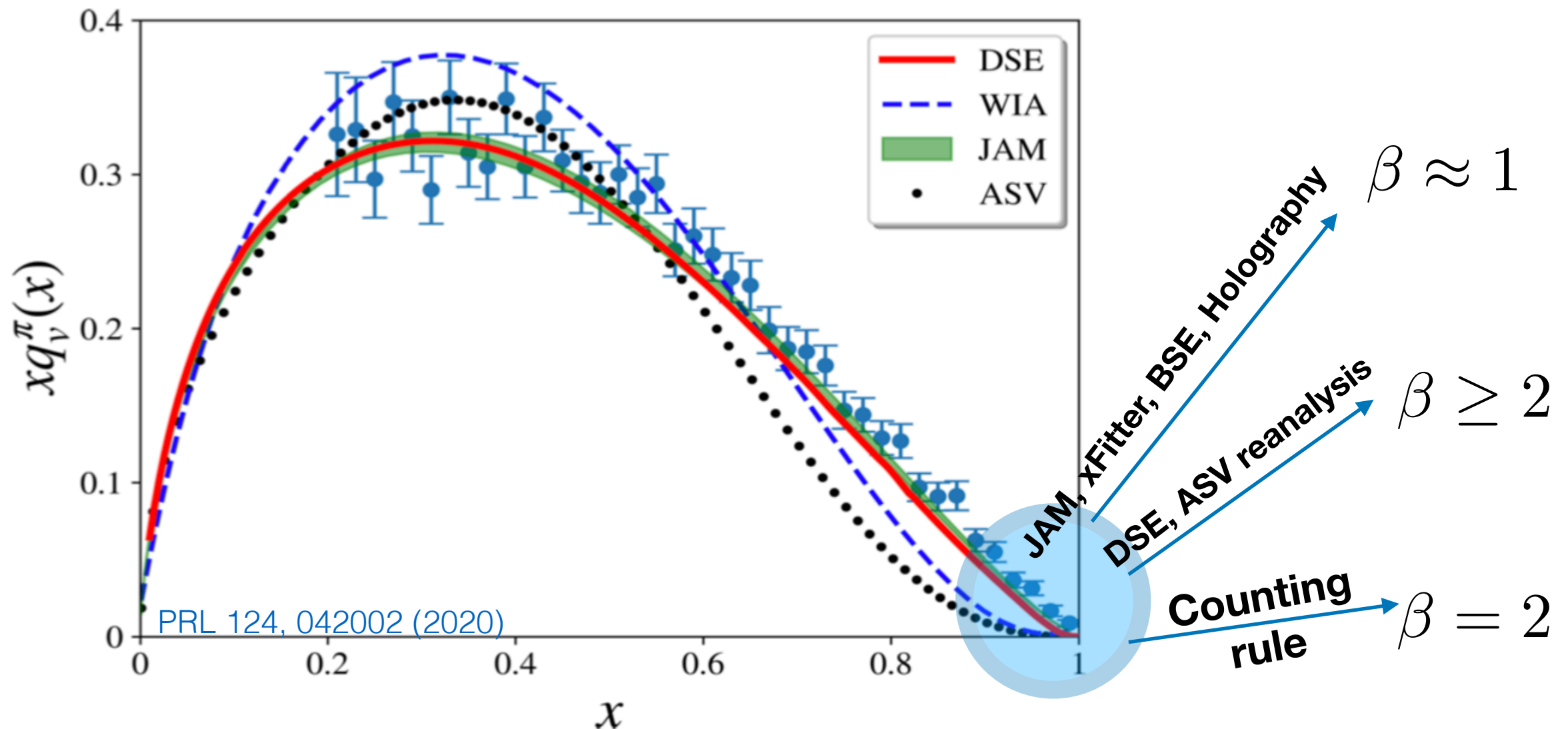


- Two fine lattice spacing with a^2 corrections
- Systematic errors: range of quark-antiquark distance, ren. scheme, PDF ansatz..

Large-x behavior of pion: an unresolved issue

Key physics issue is $x=1$ behavior:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f_v(x) \sim (1-x)^\beta$$



Models of pion PDF respecting NG boson properties predict $\beta > 2$

Review in, C. D. Roberts et al, 2102.01765

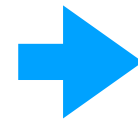
A wide scatter in β \rightarrow First principle calculation essential

Large- x $(1-x)^\beta$ behavior and lattice QCD

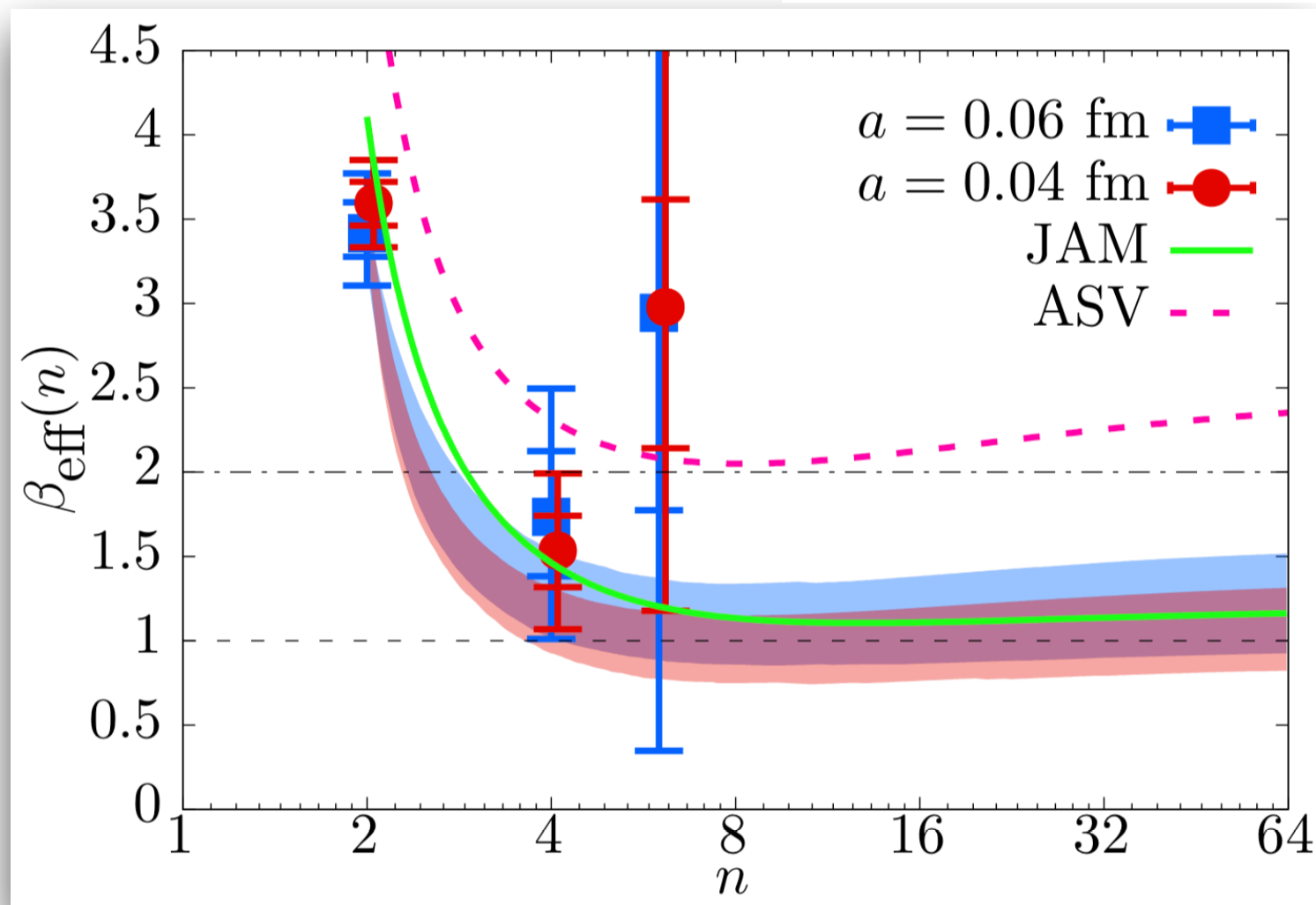
Model independent approach:

★ Note the universal exponent of large moments

$$\langle x^n \rangle \propto n^{-\beta-1} (1 + \mathcal{O}(1/n)).$$



$$\beta_{\text{eff}}(n) \equiv -1 + \frac{\langle x^{n-2} \rangle - \langle x^{n+2} \rangle}{\langle x^n \rangle} \frac{n}{4}.$$



Up-shot: a semi-anstaz dependent OPE fits using $\langle x^n \rangle_v \equiv n^{-\beta} \left(\frac{A_0}{n} + \frac{A_1}{n^2} + \frac{A_2}{n^3} \right)$

To summarize...

| Method | a (fm) | $\langle x \rangle_v$ | $\langle x^2 \rangle_v$ | $\langle x^3 \rangle_v$ | $\langle x^4 \rangle_v$ | α | β | s | t |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| (a) Model independent analysis | 0.06 | | 0.1088(48)(58) | | 0.0346(57)(73) | | | | |
| | 0.04 | | 0.1050(43)(39) | | 0.0382(44)(54) | | | | |
| | $a \rightarrow 0$ | | 0.0993(71)(54) | | 0.0356(39)(60) | | | | |
| (b) 2-parameter | 0.06 | 0.2470(92)(52) | 0.1122(54)(51) | 0.0649(53)(62) | 0.0423(52)(60) | -0.33(15)(11) | 1.02(37)(32) | | |
| | 0.04 | 0.2289(96)(44) | 0.1083(47)(34) | 0.0652(49)(36) | 0.0444(48)(34) | -0.51(10)(05) | 0.66(24)(20) | | |
| | $a \rightarrow 0$ | 0.216(19)(08) | 0.1008(69)(43) | 0.0604(39)(46) | 0.0408(37)(44) | -0.55(15)(08) | 0.66(34)(22) | | |
| (c) 4-parameter | 0.06 | 0.2457(92)(61) | 0.1121(54)(50) | 0.0649(53)(62) | 0.0420(51)(59) | -0.40(16)(14) | 1.11(41)(34) | -0.14(16)(20) | 1.0(1.0)(1.2) |
| | 0.04 | 0.2253(98)(45) | 0.1080(46)(34) | 0.0647(47)(38) | 0.0436(43)(38) | -0.61(13)(06) | 0.86(22)(25) | -0.20(24)(19) | 2.5(1.9)(2.5) |
| | $a \rightarrow 0$ | 0.213(19)(08) | 0.1009(68)(42) | 0.0607(40)(47) | 0.0410(40)(47) | -0.61(16)(08) | 0.77(26)(30) | -0.19(27)(17) | 1.5(2.0)(1.7) |
| (d) large- n asymptotics | 0.06 | | 0.1093(48)(53) | | 0.0365(44)(58) | | 1.40(25)(30) | | |
| | 0.04 | | 0.1050(49)(37) | | 0.0392(38)(43) | | 1.12(24)(20) | | |
| | $a \rightarrow 0$ | | 0.0996(71)(61) | | 0.0386(56)(58) | | 1.15(23)(22) | | |
| (e) Effective β | 0.06 | | | | | | 1.73(39)(37) | | |
| | 0.04 | | | | | | 1.53(21)(25) | | |
| | $a \rightarrow 0$ | | | | | | 1.55(34)(27) | | |