

Update on pion scalar radii with $N_f = 2 + 1$ Clover-improved Wilson fermions

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Introduction

The pion scalar form factor and **scalar radii** with $N_f = 2 + 1$ quark flavors are given by

$$F_S^{\pi,f}(Q^2) = \langle \pi(p_f) | \mathcal{S}^f | \pi(p_i) \rangle, \quad \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^f = \frac{-6}{F_S^{\pi,f}(0)} \cdot \left. \frac{dF_S^{\pi,f}(Q^2)}{dQ^2} \right|_{Q^2=0},$$

where for $f = l, 0, 8$ we have

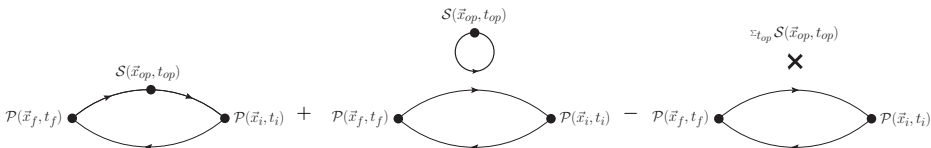
$$\begin{aligned} S_l &= 2m_l \bar{l}l && \rightarrow F_S^{\pi,l}(Q^2) \quad (\text{light}) \\ S_8 &= 2m_l \bar{l}l - 2m_s \bar{s}s && \rightarrow F_S^{\pi,8}(Q^2) \quad (\text{octet}) \\ S_0 &= 2m_l \bar{l}l + m_s \bar{s}s && \rightarrow F_S^{\pi,0}(Q^2) \quad (\text{singlet}) \end{aligned}$$

They provide insight into the low-energy regime of QCD:

- At NLO in $SU(2)$ χ PT $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^l$ is parametrized by a single LEC \bar{l}_4 . [Annals Phys. 158, 142 \(1984\)](#)
- At NLO in $SU(3)$ χ PT $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^{0,8,l}$ give access to f_0 , L_4 and L_5 . [Nucl. Phys. B250 \(1985\) 517-538](#)
- A few (mostly older) lattice calculations exist for $SU(2)$; very little is known for $SU(3)$.
[PRD 80 \(2009\) 034508](#) [PRD 89 \(2014\) 9, 094503](#) [PRD 93 \(2016\) 5, 054503](#) [PRD 105, 054502 \(2022\)](#)
- Arguably no calculation with controlled systematics; e.g. radii from linear slope between two momenta.
- $F_S^{\pi,f}(q^2)$ computationally demanding \rightarrow significant **quark-disconnected contributions**.

Computational setup part I

Contributions from quark-connected and disconnected three-point functions:



- Sequential sink method for three-point functions: $1 \text{ fm} \lesssim t_{\text{sep}} \lesssim 3.5 \text{ fm}$ and $\mathbf{p}_f \in \{(0, 0, 0), (1, 0, 0)\}$.
- Truncated solver method \rightarrow speedup of 2-5. [Phys.Rev. D91 \(2015\) 11, 114511](#)
- Point-to-all forward propagators re-used for two-point functions.
- $\mathcal{O}(500)$ additional two-point functions for 2+1 disconnected diagrams per config.
- **On periodic BC boxes:**
 - Sources randomly distributed; 8 sources for quark-connected three-point functions per config.
- **On open BC boxes:**
 - Source setup symmetric around $T/2 \Rightarrow 4+4$ sources for three-point functions at each t_{sep} .
 - Additional two-point function sources in bulk, i.e. $t_i \in [t_{\text{ex}}^{\text{oBC}}, T - t_{\text{ex}}^{\text{oBC}}]$, $t_{\text{ex}}^{\text{oBC}} = 1.75 \dots 2.5 \text{ fm}$.

Computational setup part II

Quark-disconnected loops (here: $\mathcal{O}_f(\mathbf{x}, t) = S_{l,s}(\mathbf{x}, t)$)

$$L_{\mathcal{O}_f}(\mathbf{p}, t) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \langle \mathcal{O}_f(\mathbf{x}, t) \rangle_F,$$

are computed using **stochastic all-to-all propagators** combining:

- 1 the one-end trick / frequency splitting to compute $L_1 - L_2, \dots, L_{n-1} - L_n$, for $m_1 < m_2 < \dots < m_n$

[EPJ C58, 261 \(2008\)](#)

[EPJ C79, 586 \(2019\)](#)

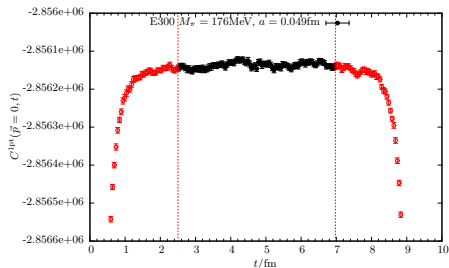
- 2 with the hopping parameter expansion + hierarchical probing for the heaviest quark n .

[PRD 89, 094503 \(2014\)](#)

[arXiv:1302.4018 \[hep-lat\]](#)

- Loops at gauge noise for any $\mathcal{O}_f(\mathbf{x}, t)$
- Statistics for 2+1 diagrams remains limited by two-point functions measurements.
- For periodic BC: forward + backward averaging for all sources used for two-point functions.
- For open BC: **Stay away from boundary!**

⇒ 2+1 statistics may get severely reduced at larger values of t_{sep} , depending on T and $t_{\text{ex}}^{\text{OBC}}$.



Ensembles

ID ^{BC}	Traj.	a/fm	T/a	L/a	M_π /MeV	$M_\pi L$	N_{conf}	$N_{\text{meas}}^{3\text{pt}}$	$N_{\text{meas}}^{(2+1)\text{pt}}$
C101 ^o	tr[M]	0.086	96	48	225	4.68	2000	16000	800000
C102 ^o	m_s^{phys}		96	48	228	4.75	1500	12000	600000
N101 ^o	tr[M]		128	48	283	5.89	1596	12768	893760
H102 ^o	tr[M]		96	32	358	4.97	2037	16296	1140720
D450 ^p	tr[M]	0.076	128	64	219	5.36	1028	12000	526336
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E250 ^p	both	0.064	192	96	132	4.07	1000	8000	512000
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N203 ^o	tr[M]		128	48	349	5.40	1543	12344	864080
E300 ^o	tr[M]	0.049	192	96	176	4.22	1139	9112	485973
J303 ^o	tr[M]		192	64	260	4.17	1073	8584	600880

- $N_f = 2 + 1$ flavors of non-perturbatively improved Wilson clover fermions provided by CLS.

JHEP 1502 (2015) 043 Commun.Math.Phys. 97 (1985) PoS LATTICE2008 (2008) 049

- **Production almost complete**; ensembles only listed if they have reached target statistics.
- 13 Ensembles on $\text{tr}[M] = \text{const}$ trajectory, 3 more on $m_s = m_s^{\text{phys}}$ trajectory.
→ J304 almost done, a few more $m_s = \text{phys}$ ensembles available.

Ensembles

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- Ensembles cover four values of the lattice spacing a
- Pion masses range from $\sim 130\text{MeV}$ to $\sim 350\text{MeV}$
- Many different physical volumes with $L \approx 2.4, \dots, 6.1\text{fm}$, $M_\pi L > 4$.
- Two very large and fine boxes at (near) physical quark mass and high momentum resolution.

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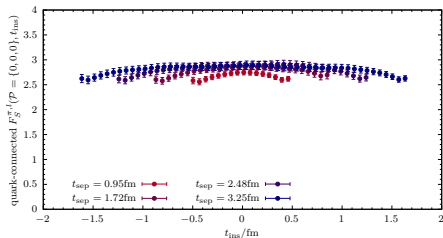
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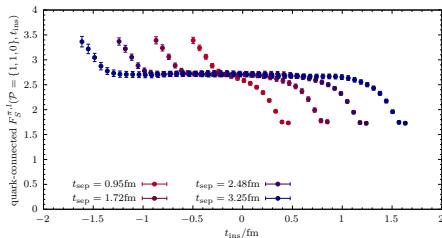
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Ratio method and effective form factor



Light quark-connected form factors on E250 ($M_\pi = 132$ MeV, $a = 0.064$ fm); momentum labels: $\mathcal{P} \equiv (p_f^2, q^2, p_i^2)$



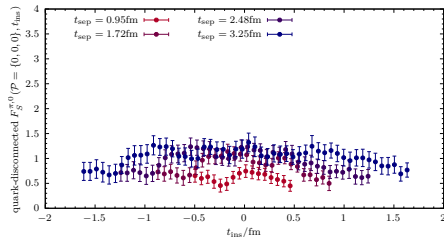
Effective form factors from **ratio method**:

$$R(p_f^2, q^2, p_i^2, t_f - t_i, t_{op} - t_i) = \frac{C_3(p_f^2, q^2, p_i^2, t_f - t_i, t_{op} - t_i)}{C_2(p_f^2, t_f - t_i)} \sqrt{\frac{C_2(p_i^2, t_f - t_{op}) C_2(p_f^2, t_{op} - t_i) C_2(p_f^2, t_f - t_i)}{C_2(p_f^2, t_f - t_{op}) C_2(p_i^2, t_{op} - t_i) C_2(p_i^2, t_f - t_i)}}$$

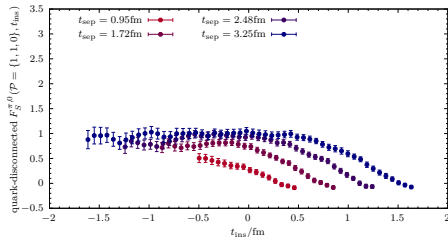
\Rightarrow ground state matrix elements $\langle \pi(p_f^2) | S_f(q^2) | \pi(p_i^2) \rangle \sim F_S^{\pi,f}(Q^2)$ for $t_{op} - t_i \rightarrow \infty$ and $t_f - t_{op} \rightarrow \infty$.

- Quark-connected data very precise at zero- and non-zero Q^2 .

Ratio method and effective form factor



Singlet quark-disconnected form factors on E250 ($M_\pi = 132$ MeV, $a = 0.064$ fm); momentum labels: $\mathcal{P} \equiv (p_f^2, q^2, p_i^2)$



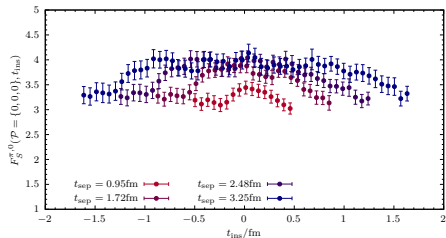
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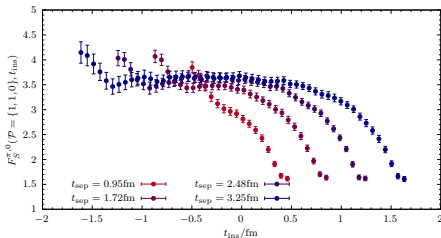
\Rightarrow ground state matrix elements $\langle \pi(p_f^2) | S_f(q^2) | \pi(p_i^2) \rangle \sim F_S^{\pi, f}(Q^2)$ for $t_{op} - t_i \rightarrow \infty$ and $t_f - t_{op} \rightarrow \infty$.

- Quark-connected data very precise at zero- and non-zero Q^2 .
- Quark-disconnected contribution large at small $Q^2 \rightarrow$ **up to $\sim 100\%$ correction on $a = 0.086$ fm.**

Ratio method and effective form factor



Full singlet form factors on E250 ($M_\pi = 132$ MeV, $a = 0.064$ fm); momentum labels: $\mathcal{P} \equiv (p_f^2, q^2, p_i^2)$



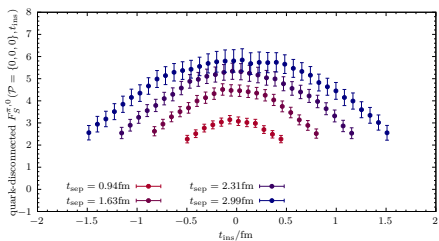
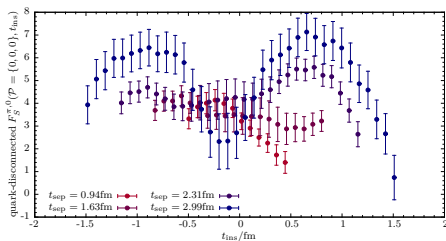
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\Rightarrow ground state matrix elements $\langle \pi(p_f^2) | S_f(q^2) | \pi(p_i^2) \rangle \sim F_S^{\pi,f}(Q^2)$ for $t_{op} - t_i \rightarrow \infty$ and $t_f - t_{op} \rightarrow \infty$.

- Quark-connected data very precise at zero- and non-zero Q^2 .
- Quark-disconnected contribution large at small $Q^2 \rightarrow$ **up to $\sim 100\%$ correction on $a = 0.086$ fm.**
- Error of full form factor dominated by disconnected piece.

Technical aside: Vacuum expectation value (VEV) subtraction



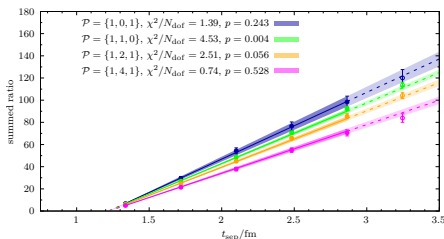
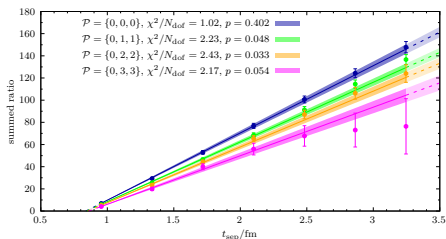
Singlet quark-disconnected contribution at Q^2 on C101 ($M_\pi = 225$ MeV, $a = 0.086$ fm). Left: Standard VEV subtraction. Right: Improved method.

At $Q^2 = 0$ we initially observed large fluctuations in the quark-disconnected signal on **open boundary ensembles**:

- Correlated fluctuations already visible in the gauge average of the loops (one-point functions).
- Two-point function source-positions t_i often restricted to rather small strip.
- Usual method of (global) VEV-subtraction fails.
- Instead subtract VEV **per-timeslice**:

$$\langle C_{\text{disc}}^{3pt}(t_{\text{sep}}, t_{\text{ins}}) \rangle = \frac{1}{N_{t_i}} \sum_{t_i} \left[\langle C^{2pt}(t_f - t_i) C^{1pt}(t_{\text{op}} - t_i) \rangle - \langle C^{2pt}(t_f - t_i) \rangle \cdot \langle C^{1pt}(t_{\text{op}} - t_i) \rangle \right].$$

Summation method



Summation method for $F_S^{\pi,0}(Q^2)$ on E250 ($M_\pi = 132$ MeV, $a = 0.064$ fm); momentum labels: $\mathcal{P} \equiv (p_f^2, q^2, p_i^2)$

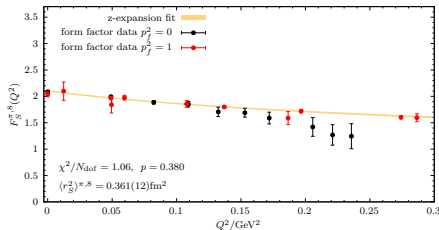
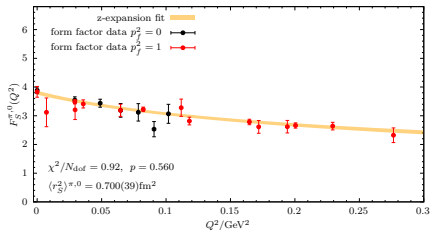
Summation method to extract [groundstate matrix elements](#)

$$\sum_{t_{\text{ins}}=t_{\text{ex}}}^{t_{\text{sep}}-t_{\text{ex}}} R(\mathbf{p}_f^2, \mathbf{q}^2, \mathbf{p}_i^2, t_{\text{sep}}, t_{\text{ins}}) = \text{const} + \langle \pi(p_f^2) | S(Q^2) | \pi(p_i^2) \rangle (t_{\text{sep}} - t_0) + \mathcal{O}(e^{-\Delta t_{\text{sep}}})$$

- Choose $t_{\text{ex}} \leq t_{\text{sep}}^{\text{min}}/2$ to improve signal quality for $Q^2 > 0$.
- Use values of $t_{\text{sep}}^{\text{min}} \in [\sim 1.0, \dots, \sim 1.5]$ fm.
- Combined with any $t_{\text{sep}}^{\text{max}} \in [\sim 2.25, \dots, \sim 3.25]$ fm s.t. $t_{\text{sep}}^{\text{max}} - t_{\text{sep}}^{\text{min}} \geq 1$ fm.

→ Carry out remaining analysis for all variations and include them in final model averages

z-expansion fits



Fits for $Q^2 \leq 0.3 \text{ GeV}^2$, $1.25 \lesssim t_{\text{sep}} \lesssim 3.25 \text{ fm}$. Left: $F_S^{\pi,0}(Q^2)$ on E250 ($M_\pi = 132 \text{ MeV}$, $a = 0.064 \text{ fm}$). Right: $F_S^{\pi,S}(Q^2)$ on E300 ($M_\pi = 172 \text{ MeV}$, $a = 0.049 \text{ fm}$)

Use z-expansion to extract radii from **unrenormalized** form factor:

$$F_S^{\pi,f}(Q^2) = \sum_{n=0}^{N_z} a_n z^n, \quad z = \frac{\sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} + Q^2} - \sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} - t_0}}{\sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} + Q^2} + \sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} - t_0}}, \quad a_1 \sim \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^f = -\frac{6}{F_S^{\pi,f}(0)} \cdot \left. \frac{dF_S^{\pi,f}(Q^2)}{dQ^2} \right|_{Q^2=0}$$

We use $N_z = 1$, $t_{\text{cut}} = 4M_\pi^2$ and $t_0 = t_0^{\text{opt}} = t_{\text{cut}}(1 - \sqrt{1 + Q_{\text{max}}^2/t_{\text{cut}}})$.

PRD 92, 013013 (2015)

- **Unprecedented Q^2 -resolution at (near) physical quark mass.**
- **$p_f = (1, 0, 0)$ data greatly improves signal quality and Q^2 -resolution.**
- **No renormalization needed for radii.**
- Again we apply data cuts, i.e. $Q_{\text{cut}}^2 \in \{0.20, 0.25, 0.30, 0.35, 0.40\} \text{ GeV}^2$.

Physical extrapolation

NLO χ PT fit ansatz with quark mass proxies $m_l \sim M_\pi^2$ and $m_s \sim 2M_K^2 - M_\pi^2$,

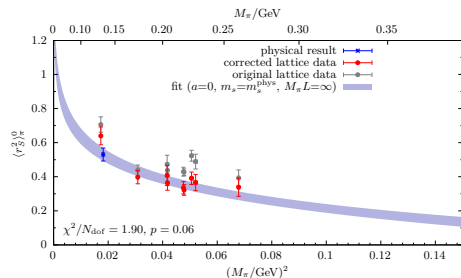
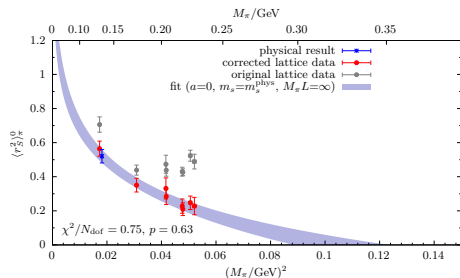
$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0 = \frac{1}{(4\pi f_0)^2} \left[768\pi^2 (3L_4^r + L_5^r) - 19 + \frac{m_l}{m_l + 2m_s} - 12 \log(m_l) - 6 \log\left(\frac{m_l + m_s}{2}\right) \right] + c_0 a^2,$$

$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I = \frac{1}{(4\pi f_0)^2} \left[768\pi^2 (2L_4^r + L_5^r) - 16 + \frac{m_l}{3(m_l + 2m_s)} - 12 \log(m_l) - 3 \log\left(\frac{m_l + m_s}{2}\right) \right] + c_I a^2,$$

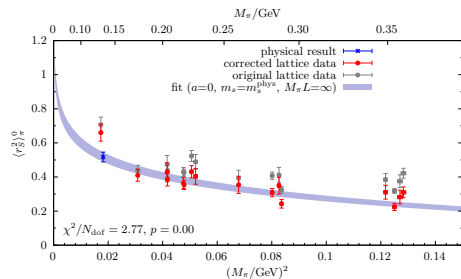
$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8 = \frac{1}{(4\pi f_0)^2} \left[768\pi^2 L_5^r - 10 - \frac{m_l}{m_l + 2m_s} - 12 \log(m_l) + 3 \log\left(\frac{m_l + m_s}{2}\right) \right] + c_8 a^2.$$

- Correlated fits are carried out in units of t_0 with $N_b = 1000$ bootstrap samples.
- Scale setting: $\sqrt{t_0} = 0.14464(87)$ fm. [Eur. Phys. J. C 82 \(2022\) 10, 869 \(FLAG Review 2021\)](#)
- Physical point (isospin limit): $M_\pi^{\text{phys}} = 134.8(3)$ MeV, $M_K^{\text{phys}} = 494.2(3)$ MeV. [Eur. Phys. J. C 77 \(2017\) 2, 112](#)
- Radii are fitted individually to compute $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_{\pi, \text{phys}}^{0,I,8}$.
- LECs f_0 , L_4^r , L_5^r are obtained from fitting the following expressions:
 - f_0 : $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0$, $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I$, $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8$, $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0 - \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I$, $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0 - \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8$, $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I - \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8$,
 - L_4^r : $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0 - \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I$, $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0 - \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8$, $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I - \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8$,
 - L_5^r : $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8$, $3\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I - 2\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0$
- Systematics from (combinations of) data cuts $M_\pi < \{230, 265, 290\}$ MeV, $a < 0.08$ fm and $L > 3.5$ fm.

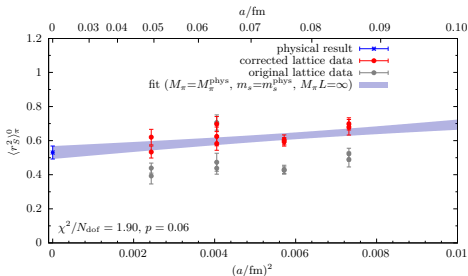
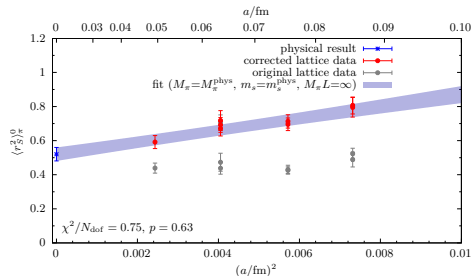
Example: Fit to $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0$ data (from $1.5 \text{ fm} \lesssim t_{\text{sep}} \lesssim 3.25 \text{ fm}$ and $Q^2 \leq 0.3 \text{ fm}$)



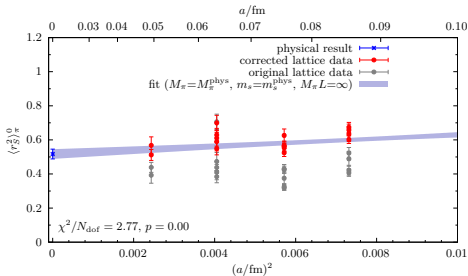
- Data set for $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0$ with $1.5 \text{ fm} \lesssim t_{\text{sep}} \lesssim 3.25 \text{ fm}$ and $Q^2 \leq 0.3 \text{ fm}$.
- Steep slope towards chiral limit (chiral log).
- **Pion mass cuts greatly improve fits.**
- E250 falls on fit curve for $M_\pi^{\text{cut}} = 230 \text{ MeV}$.
- Data receive significant corrections from fit...



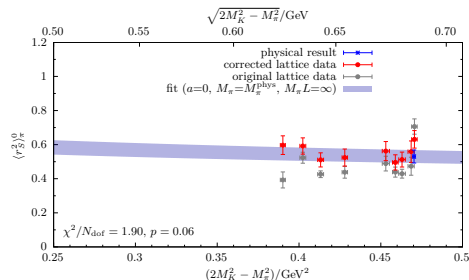
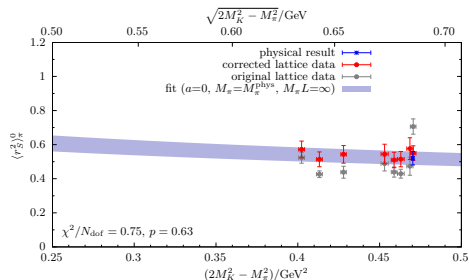
Example: Continuum extrapolation



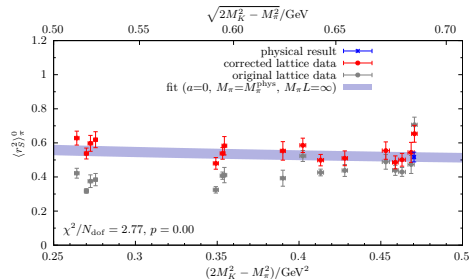
- Corrections dominated by continuum extrapolation.
- (Much) more pronounced for stricter M_π cuts.
→ Higher order corrections?
- Effect from cut $a < 0.08$ fm less severe (not shown).



m_s -dependence



- m_s -dependence very mild.
- Cuts in M_π also remove ensembles further away from m_s^{phys} on $\text{tr}[M] = \text{const}$ trajectory
- Physical point in m_s well determined by E250, E300 and ensembles with $m_s \approx \text{phys}$.
- Quite stable under various data cuts.



Model averages

Assign a weight to each model (fit) *Phys. Rev. D 103,114502 (2021)*

$$w_i \sim \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left[\chi^2 + 2(N_{\text{para}} - N_{\text{prio}}) - 2N_{\text{data}}\right]\right).$$

Central value and total err for an observable y are given by median and 16% and 84% percentiles of the CDF

$$CDF(y, \lambda) = \int_{-\infty}^y d\tilde{y} \sum_i w_i N(\tilde{y}, m_i, \sigma_i \sqrt{\lambda}).$$

Separate statistical (σ_{stat}) and systematic (σ_{sys}) errors from solving

$$\lambda \sigma_{\text{stat}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{sys}}^2 = \left(\frac{y_{\text{hi}} - y_{\text{lo}}}{2}\right)^2 \quad \text{where} \quad CDF(y_{\text{hi}}, \lambda) = 0.84, \quad \text{and} \quad CDF(y_{\text{lo}}, \lambda) = 0.16,$$

where $\lambda = 2.0$ rescales the statistical errors *Nature 593 (2021) 7857, 51-55*

Final set of models:

$$\left\{ (t_{\text{sep}}^{\min}, t_{\text{sep}}^{\max})\text{-pairs} \right\}$$

summation method



$$\left\{ Q^2\text{-cuts} \right\}$$

z-expansion



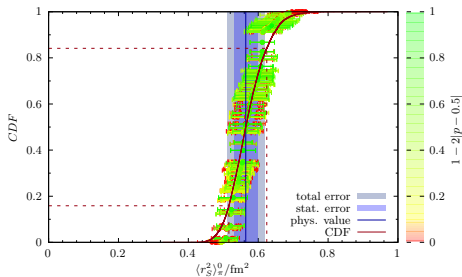
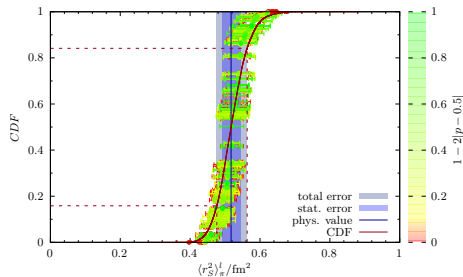
$$\left\{ M_{\pi^-}, a^- \text{ and } L\text{-cuts} \right\}$$

physical extrapolation

\Rightarrow

observable	$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_{\pi, \text{phys}}^{0,1,8}$	f_0	L_4^r	L_5^r
#models	910	5460	2730	1820

Results for radii



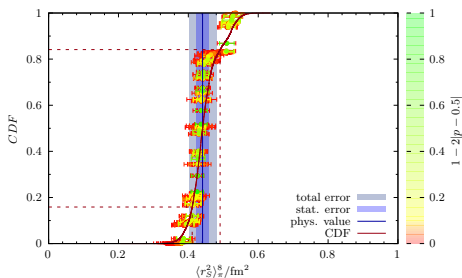
- Results for radii (preliminary):

$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0 = 0.564(34)_{\text{stat}}(42)_{\text{sys}} \text{ fm}^2,$$

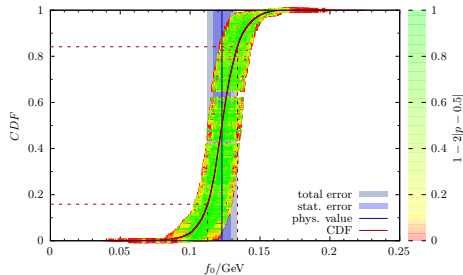
$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I = 0.517(28)_{\text{stat}}(33)_{\text{sys}} \text{ fm}^2,$$

$$\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8 = 0.441(18)_{\text{stat}}(36)_{\text{sys}} \text{ fm}^2.$$

- Error for $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8$ dominated by systematics.
- Expected hierarchy: $\langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^8 < \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^I < \langle r_S^2 \rangle_\pi^0$.
- Compatible with only other lattice calculation by HPQCD. [Phys. Rev. D93, 054503 \(2016\)](#)



Results for LECs



● Results for LECs @ $\mu = 770 \text{ MeV}$ (preliminary):

$$f_0 = 122.7(6.5)_{\text{stat}}(8.5)_{\text{sys}} \text{ MeV}$$

$$L_4^r(\mu) = +0.32(10)_{\text{stat}}(12)_{\text{sys}} \times 10^{-3}$$

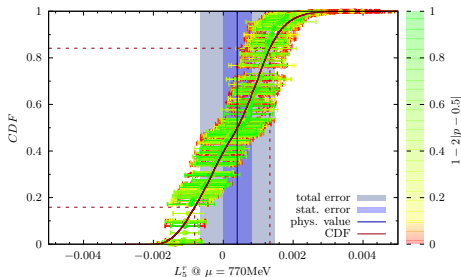
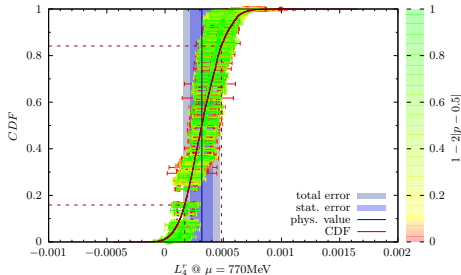
$$L_5^r(\mu) = +0.40(41)_{\text{stat}}(1.00)_{\text{sys}} \times 10^{-3}$$

● FLAG 2021 estimates ($N_f = 2 + 1$):

$$f_0 = 114.0(8.5) \text{ MeV}$$

$$L_4^r(\mu) = -0.02(56) \times 10^{-3}$$

$$L_5^r(\mu) = +0.95(41) \times 10^{-3}$$



Summary and Outlook

- **Study of the pion scalar radii on 16 CLS $N_f = 2 + 1$ ensembles:**
 - Results for radii at the physical point and results for $SU(3)$ χ PT LECs.
 - **First calculation with fully controlled systematics and corresponding error budget, i.e. excited states, momentum dependence and physical extrapolation.**
 - Most precise existing determination of L_4^r .
- **Future plans:**
 - Finish production and carry out final analysis.
 - Dedicated determination of \bar{l}_4 from $SU(2)$ χ PT fit.
 - possibly add a few more ensembles on m_s^{phys} -trajectory.
 - Analyze further form factors, e.g. $F_V^{\pi,K}(Q^2)$.
 - data for all 16 local and one-link displaced operator insertions