

# Higher moments of parton distribution functions using gradient flow

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*In collaboration with:*

Jangho Kim, Andrea Shindler, André Walker-Loud, OpenLat Initiative



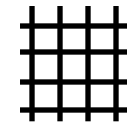
Confinement 2024, Cairns AUS  
August 21<sup>st</sup> 2024

# Introduction

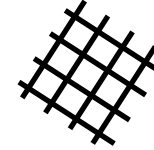
- Motivation: precise knowledge of parton distribution functions (PDFs) from lattice QCD  
 → PDF uncertainties largely affect SM predictions, new physics searches
- $x$ -dependence in lattice QCD:
  - heavy-quark OPEs [Aglietti et al hep-ph/9804416, Detmold Lin hep-lat/0507007] Tuesday plenary by Huey-Wen Lin
  - quasi-PDFs [Ji 1305.1539], → pseudo-PDFs [Radyuskin 1612.05170]
  - OPE-based method [Chambers et al 1703.01153],
  - current-current approach [Ma Qiu 1404.6860], → hadron tensor method [ $\chi$ QCD 1906.05312], ...
- Operator product expansion → Mellin moments of PDFs  $\langle x^{n-1} \rangle = \int_0^1 dx x^{n-1} (q(x) + (-1)^n \bar{q}(x))$   
 e.g., for unpolarized:  $\langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} | h(p) \rangle = 2 \langle x^{n-1} \rangle p^{\mu_1} p^{\mu_2} \dots p^{\mu_n}$  – Traces  
 twist-2  $\mathcal{O}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} = i^{n-1} \bar{\psi} \gamma^{\{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}^{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}^{\mu_n\}} \psi$  – Traces → transform irreducibly under  $O(4)$  group  
 → renormalization does not induce mixing with lower dimensional operators
- One can reconstruct  $q(x)$  from set of moments  
 $x$ -dependence methods have unique challenges → can benefit from complementary  $\langle x^{n-1} \rangle$  information  
 e.g., combined analyses, cross-checks, etc.

# Moments of PDFs on Euclidean lattice

- Discrete lattice: Lorentz symmetry reduces to hypercubic symmetry  
 20 irreducible representations  $\rightarrow$  for  $n > 4$  power divergent  $\propto \frac{1}{a^m}$  mixing with lower dimensional operators



$\neq$



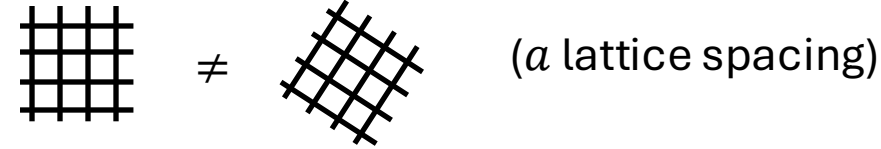
( $a$  lattice spacing)

$$\langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} | h(p) \rangle = 2 \langle x^{n-1} \rangle p^{\mu_1} p^{\mu_2} \dots p^{\mu_n} + \dots$$

Kronfeld Photiadis 1985  
 Mandula Zweig Govaerts 1983  
 Göckeler et al, hep-lat/9602029

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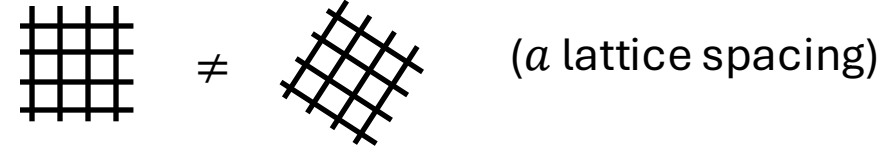


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- $n = 2$  :  $\tau_1^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{44}$  – Traces, ...  
 $\tau_3^{(6)} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\{14\}}$ , ...  $\rightarrow$  requires boost in 1 direction

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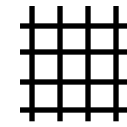
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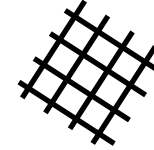
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 $\tau_2^{(4)} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\{412\}}$ , ...  $\rightarrow$  requires boost in 2 directions  
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( $a$  lattice spacing)

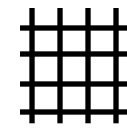
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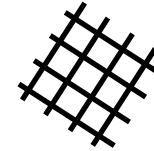
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- $n = 4$  :  $\tau_1^{(1)} \rightarrow \sum_{\mu} \mathcal{O}_{4444}$  – Traces, ...  $\rightarrow \frac{1}{a^3}$  mixing, ...  
 $\tau_2^{(1)} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\{1234\}}$ , ...  $\rightarrow$  requires boost in 3 directions  
 $\tau_1^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{4444}$  – ..., ...  $\rightarrow$  mixes with  $n = 2$ , ...  
 $\tau_3^{(6)} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\{4111\}}$  – Traces, ...  $\rightarrow$  mixes with  $n = 2$ , ...  
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...

- $n > 4$  : no irrep safe from power-divergent mixing

# Gradient flow to the rescue

See Shindler  
2311.18704 for details

- Flowed gauge and quark fields  $A_\mu(t)$ ,  $\psi(t)$  defined by gradient flow equations and unflowed B.C [Lüscher 1006.4518, 1302.5246]
- Breakthrough applications to lattice QCD: e.g., scale setting, renormalization
- Correlators involving twist-2 operators: flow time  $t$  becomes regulator for short-distance singularities
- Take the  $a \rightarrow 0$  limit at finite  $t$ , match to physical  $t = 0$  observable using small flow-time expansion (SFTX)
- $\langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(\mu, \overline{\text{MS}}) | h(p) \rangle = \underline{\underline{c_n(t, \mu)}} \langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(t) | h(p) \rangle$
- Other proposal for restoration of rotational symmetry: Davoudi Savage 1204.4146



# Gradient flow to the rescue

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- $\langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(\mu, \overline{MS}) | h(p) \rangle = c_n(t, \mu) \langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(t) | h(p) \rangle$

twist-2 anomalous  
dimension  
Gross Wilczek 1973

$\psi(z)$  digamma function

- $c_n^{(1)}(t, \mu) = C_F(\gamma_n \log(8\pi t \mu^2) + B_n,$

$$\gamma_n = 1 + 4 \sum_{j=2}^n \frac{1}{j} - \frac{2}{n(n+1)}$$

$$\varphi(z, s, a) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{(k+a)^s}$$

$c_2^{(1)}(t, \mu)$  agrees with

Makino Suzuki 1403.4772

$$B_n = \frac{4}{n(n+1)} + 4 \frac{n-1}{n} \log 2 + \frac{2-4n^2}{n(n+1)} \gamma_E$$

$$- \frac{2}{n(n+1)} \psi(n+2) + \frac{4}{n} \psi(n+1) - 4\psi(2)$$

$$- 4 \sum_{j=2}^n \frac{1}{j(j-1)} \frac{1}{2^j} \varphi\left(\frac{1}{2,1}, j\right) - \log(432)$$

- The above holds for “ringed” quark fields, and requires the renormalization of the flowed fermion fields
  - cancels for ratios of matrix elements of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}$  with the same quark content
  - $\mathcal{O}(a^2)$  discretization artifacts for ratios ( $\mathcal{O}(am)$   $n$ -independent cancel)

can also consider  
different hadron in  
num/denom

$$\left\{ \frac{\langle x^{n-1} \rangle(\mu)}{\langle x^{m-1} \rangle(\mu)} = \frac{c_m(t, \mu) \langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(t) | h(p) \rangle}{c_n(t, \mu) \langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_m}(t) | h(p) \rangle} \right\}$$

normalize using  $\langle x \rangle$  from  
global analyses, lattice  
QCD, ...

# Flowed moments

Shindler 2311.18704

$$\frac{\langle x^{n-1} \rangle(\mu)}{\langle x^{m-1} \rangle(\mu)} = \frac{c_m(t, \mu) \langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(t) | h(p) \rangle}{c_n(t, \mu) \langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_m}(t) | h(p) \rangle}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(t) = \bar{\psi}(t) \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\{\mu_2\}}(t) \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\{\mu_n\}}(t) \psi(t) - \text{Traces}$$

Obtain  $\langle h(p) | \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(t) | h(p) \rangle$  on the lattice

Choose  $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \dots = \mu_n = 4$  and  $p = 0$  for best STN properties

$$n = 2: \quad \bar{\psi} \gamma_4 \overleftrightarrow{D}_4 \psi - \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^3 \bar{\psi} \gamma_i \overleftrightarrow{D}_i \psi$$

$$n = 3: \quad \bar{\psi} \gamma_4 \overleftrightarrow{D}_4 \overleftrightarrow{D}_4 \psi - \frac{1}{12} \sum_{i=1}^3 (\bar{\psi} \gamma_4 \overleftrightarrow{D}_i \overleftrightarrow{D}_i \psi + \bar{\psi} \gamma_i \overleftrightarrow{D}_4 \overleftrightarrow{D}_i \psi + \bar{\psi} \gamma_i \overleftrightarrow{D}_i \overleftrightarrow{D}_4 \psi)$$

...

$n$	# of unique ops
2	4
3	10
4	40
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# $\frac{\langle x^{n-1} \rangle(\mu)}{\langle x^{m-1} \rangle(\mu)}$ from lattice QCD

- 3-point correlation function projected to zero momentum

$$C_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \dots \mu_n}^{3pt}(t_s, \tau, t) = \sum_{x, y} \langle \eta(x, t_s) \bar{\psi}(y, \tau, t) \gamma_{\mu_1} \vec{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \vec{D}_{\mu_n}(y, \tau, t) \psi(y, \tau, t) \bar{\eta}(0) \rangle$$

$t$ : flow time  
 $t_s$ : sink time  
 $\tau$ : operator insertion time

$\eta(x)$ : interpolator  
 overlapping with hadron state

$$\sim S^{seq}(t_s, \tau, t) \gamma_{\mu_1} \vec{D}_{\mu_2}(\tau, t) \dots \vec{D}_{\mu_n}(\tau, t) S(\tau, t)$$

sequential propagator

quark propagator

spectral decomposition:

$$C_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \dots \mu_n}^{3pt}(t_s, \tau) = \sum_{n, m} \langle \Omega | \eta | n \rangle \langle m | \bar{\eta} | \Omega \rangle e^{-E_n t_s - E_m (t_s - \tau)} \langle n | \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} | m \rangle \quad \text{for } \tau \gg 0, t_s - \tau \gg 0$$

$$\frac{C_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \dots \mu_n}^{3pt}(t_s, \tau, t)}{C_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \dots \mu_m}^{3pt}(t_s, \tau, t)} \propto \frac{\langle h | \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(t) | h \rangle}{\langle h | \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_m}(t) | h \rangle} \xrightarrow{\text{matching factor}} (\text{mass})^{m-n} \frac{\langle x^{n-1} \rangle(\mu)}{\langle x^{m-1} \rangle(\mu)} \quad \text{for } \sqrt{8t} \ll t_s$$

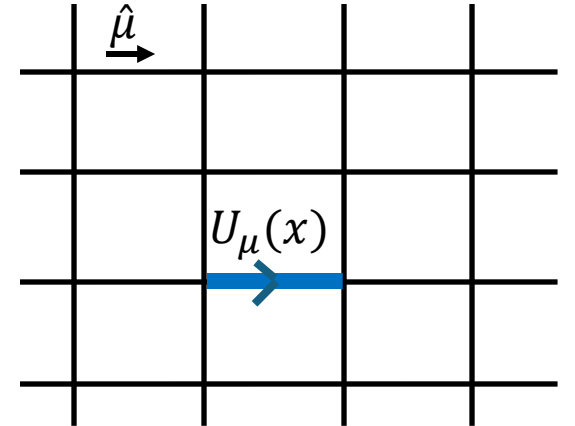
# Compute $\mathcal{S}^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_n} \mathcal{S}$ : technical challenges

$$\overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu} = (\overrightarrow{D}_{\mu} - \overleftarrow{D}_{\mu})/2$$

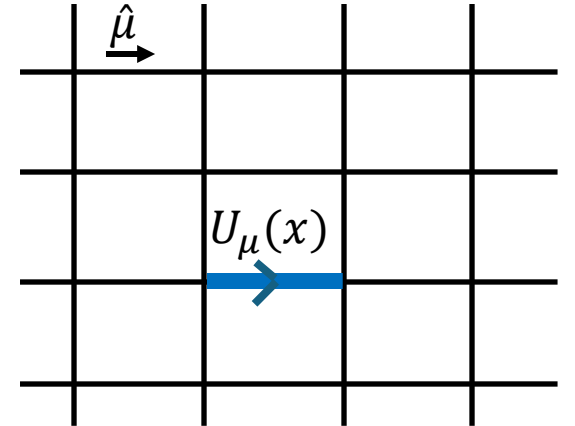
$$\mathcal{S}^{\text{seq}}(x) \overrightarrow{D}_{\mu}(x) \mathcal{S}(x) = \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{S}^{\text{seq}}(x) U_{\mu}(x) \mathcal{S}(x + \hat{\mu}) - \mathcal{S}^{\text{seq}}(x) U_{\mu}^{\dagger}(x - \hat{\mu}) \mathcal{S}(x - \hat{\mu}))$$

$$-\mathcal{S}^{\text{seq}}(x) \overleftarrow{D}_{\mu}(x) \mathcal{S}(x) = \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{S}^{\text{seq}}(x - \hat{\mu}) U_{\mu}(x - \hat{\mu}) \mathcal{S}(x) - \mathcal{S}^{\text{seq}}(x + \hat{\mu}) U_{\mu}^{\dagger}(x) \mathcal{S}(x))$$

$\mathcal{S}^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_n} \mathcal{S}$  : naively compute  $4^{n-1}$  terms



# Compute $S^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_n} S$ : technical challenges



$$\overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu} = (\overrightarrow{D}_{\mu} - \overleftarrow{D}_{\mu})/2$$

$$S^{\text{seq}}(x) \overrightarrow{D}_{\mu}(x) S(x) = \frac{1}{2} (S^{\text{seq}}(x) U_{\mu}(x) S(x + \hat{\mu}) - S^{\text{seq}}(x) U_{\mu}^{\dagger}(x - \hat{\mu}) S(x - \hat{\mu}))$$

$$\downarrow \boxed{x \rightarrow x - \hat{\mu}}$$

$$\downarrow \boxed{x \rightarrow x + \hat{\mu}}$$

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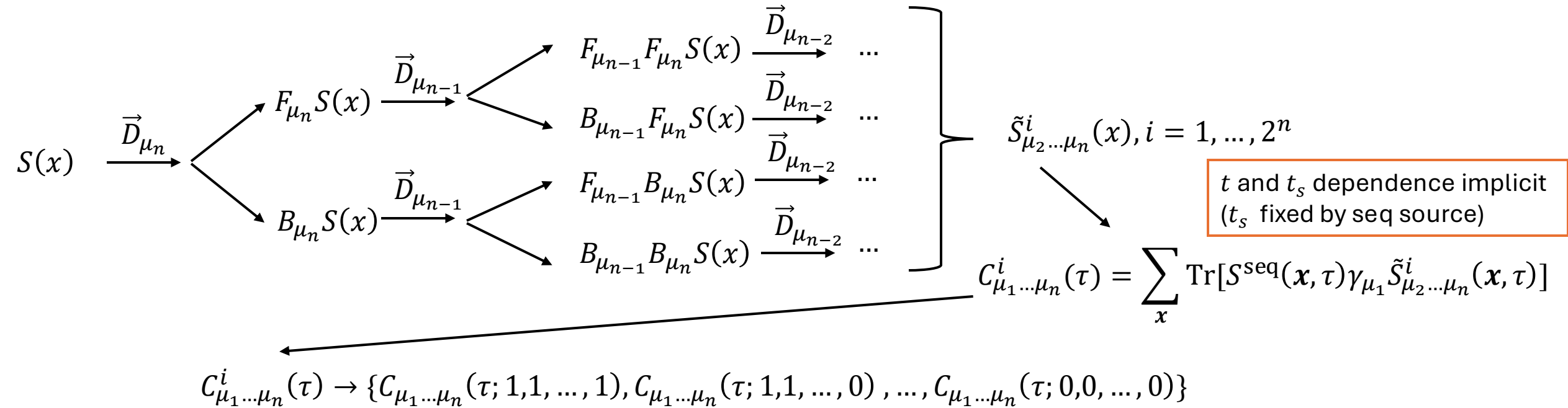
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→ compute only  $2^{n-1}$  terms (those in  $S^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_n} S$ )  
and generate the rest by linear combinations and time shifts

# Compute $S^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \vec{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \vec{D}_{\mu_n} S$ : pipeline

$$F_{\mu} S(x) = U_{\mu}(x) S(x + \hat{\mu})$$

$$B_{\mu} S(x) = -U_{\mu}^{\dagger}(x - \hat{\mu}) S(x - \hat{\mu})$$

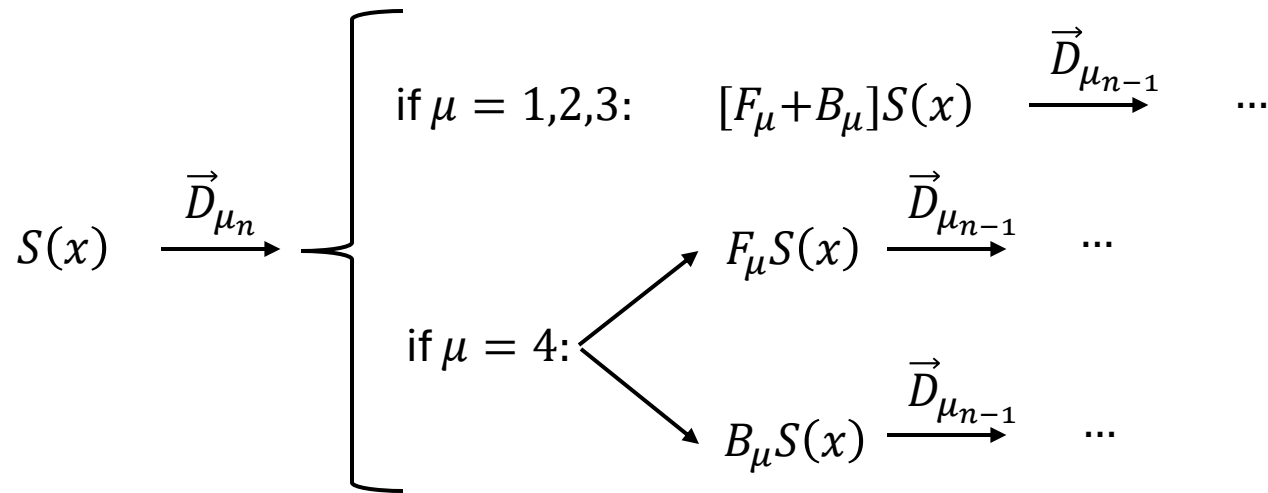


$$\rightarrow S^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \vec{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \vec{D}_{\mu_n} S = \sum_{\ell_i \in \{0,1\}} \frac{1}{2^{n+n_t-1}} \sum_{k=0}^{n_t} \binom{n_t}{k} C_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(t - \Delta t(\mu_2, \dots, \mu_n; \ell_2, \ell_3, \dots, \ell_n) + k; \ell_2, \ell_3, \dots, \ell_n)$$

$$\Delta t(\mu_2, \dots, \mu_n; \ell_2, \ell_3, \dots, \ell_n) = \sum_{i \text{ with } \mu_i=4} \ell_i$$

# Compute $S^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_n} S$ : pipeline

$S^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_i S = S^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_i S$ , for  $i = \{1,2,3\}$   
 → further reduces total #



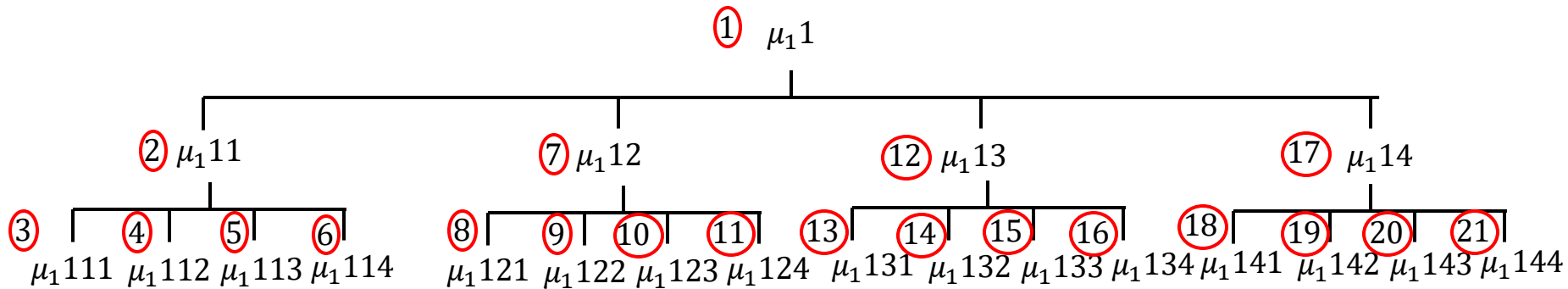
# Compute $S^{\text{seq}} \gamma_{\mu_1} \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_2} \dots \overleftrightarrow{D}_{\mu_n} S$ : pipeline

→ If ordered in a tree-search manner, the shifted propagators  $\tilde{S}_{\mu_2 \dots \mu_n}^i$  can be reused instead of computed for each unique op starting from  $S$

e.g. for  $n = \{2,3,4\}$ :

$\mu_1$ :  $\gamma$ -index

$n$	# of unique ops
2	4
3	10
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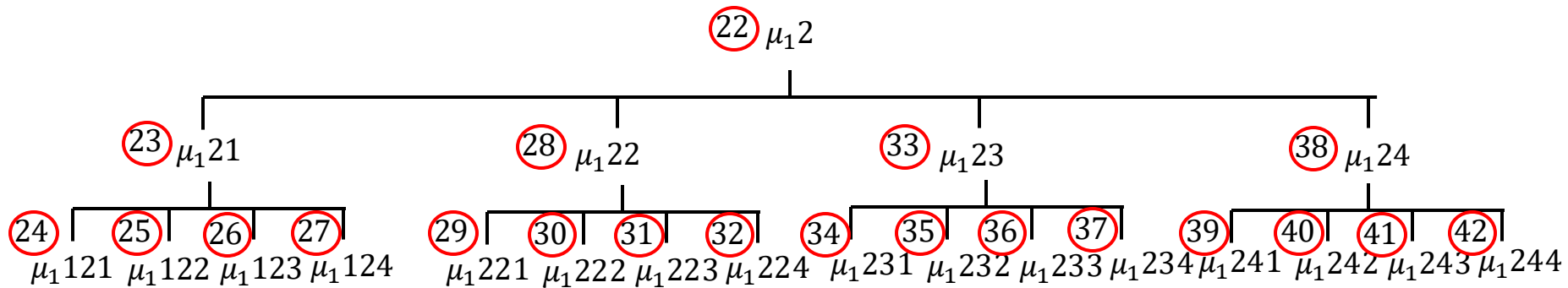
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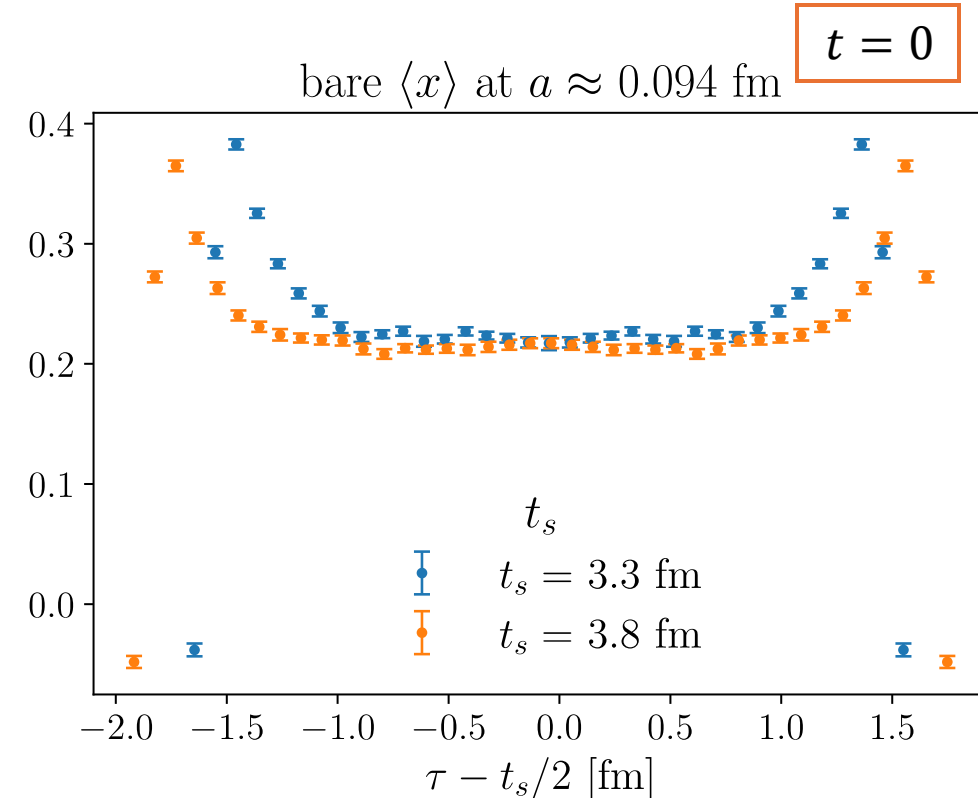
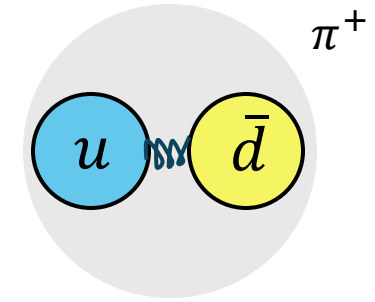
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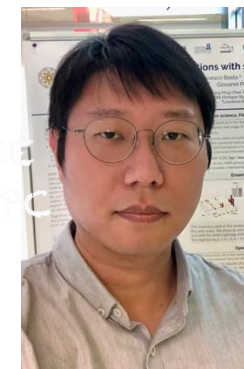
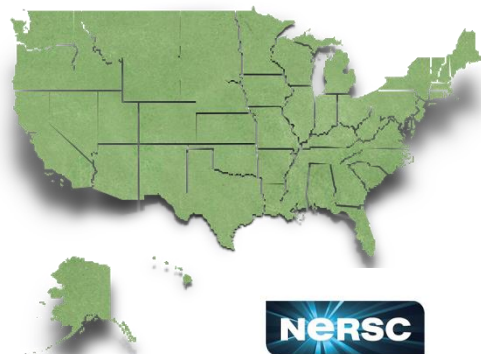
# Test case: Pion at SU(3)

- Consider purely connected light-quark contribution  $u^+$   
 $\rightarrow$  if  $m_u = m_d = m_s$ , corresponds to non-singlet  $\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d - 2\bar{s}s$
- $m_\pi \approx 410$  MeV,  $m_u = m_d = m_s$   
 $a \approx 0.12$  fm, 0.094 fm, 0.077 fm, 0.064 fm
- One stochastic point-source per configuration  
 $a \approx 0.12$  fm:  $N_{cfg} = 119$ ,  $t_s/a \in \{25,30,35,40\}$   
 $a \approx 0.094$  fm:  $N_{cfg} = 210$ ,  $\frac{t_s}{a} \in \{35,40\}$   
 $a \approx 0.077$  fm:  $N_{cfg} = 20$ ,  $\frac{t_s}{a} \in \{40\}$   
 $a \approx 0.064$  fm:  $N_{cfg} = 80$ ,  $t_s/a \in \{40\}$
- Flow integration step 0.01  
 Measurements equally spaced in  $t$  up to flow radius  
 $\sqrt{8t} \approx 0.6$  fm,  $t/t_0 \approx 2.5$
- Stabilized Wilson fermion (SWF) ensembles generated by OpenLat

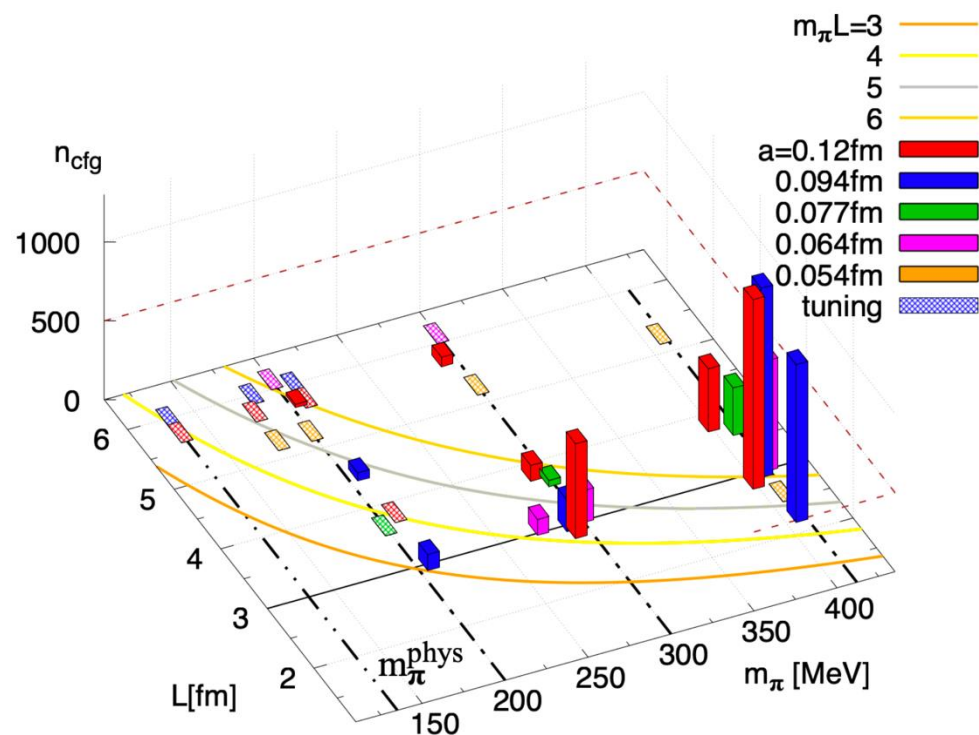


# OpenLat Initiative

OpenLat: open science initiative.  
Gauges with SWF open to the whole community



Jangho Kim



Francesca Cuteri



Anthony Francis



Patrick Fritsch



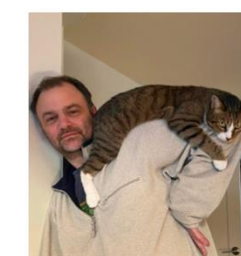
Giovanni Pederiva



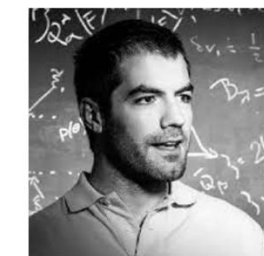
Antonio Rago



Andrea Shindler

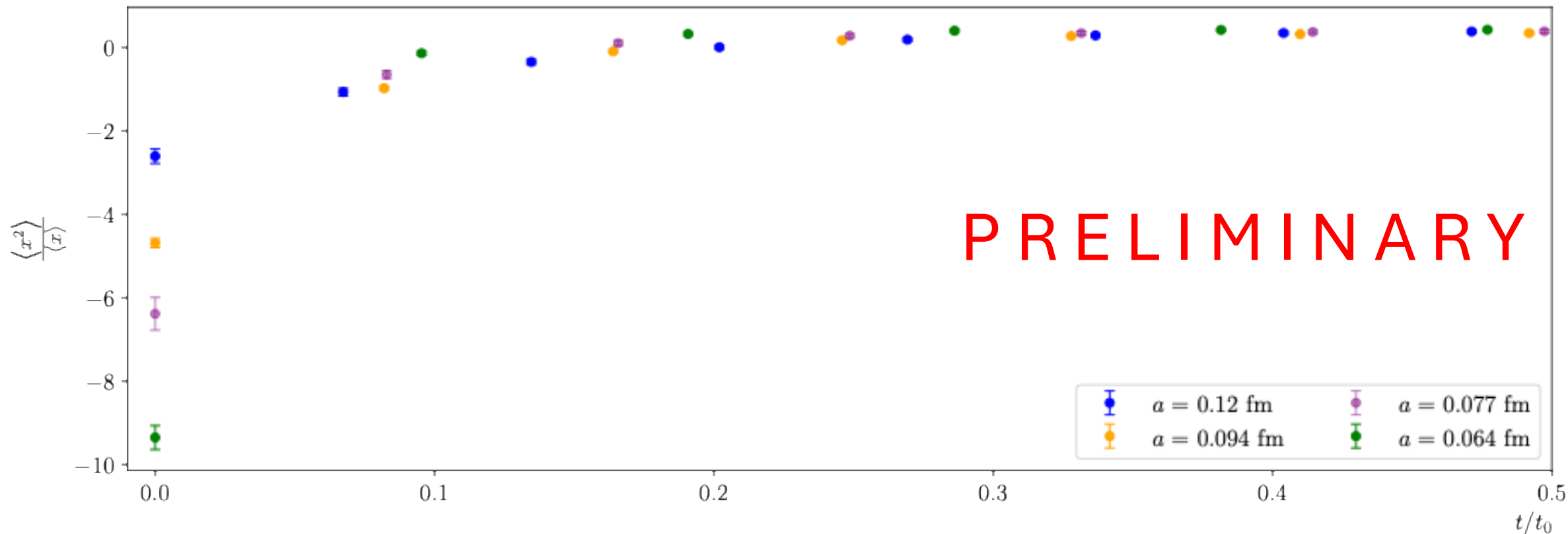


André Walker-Loud

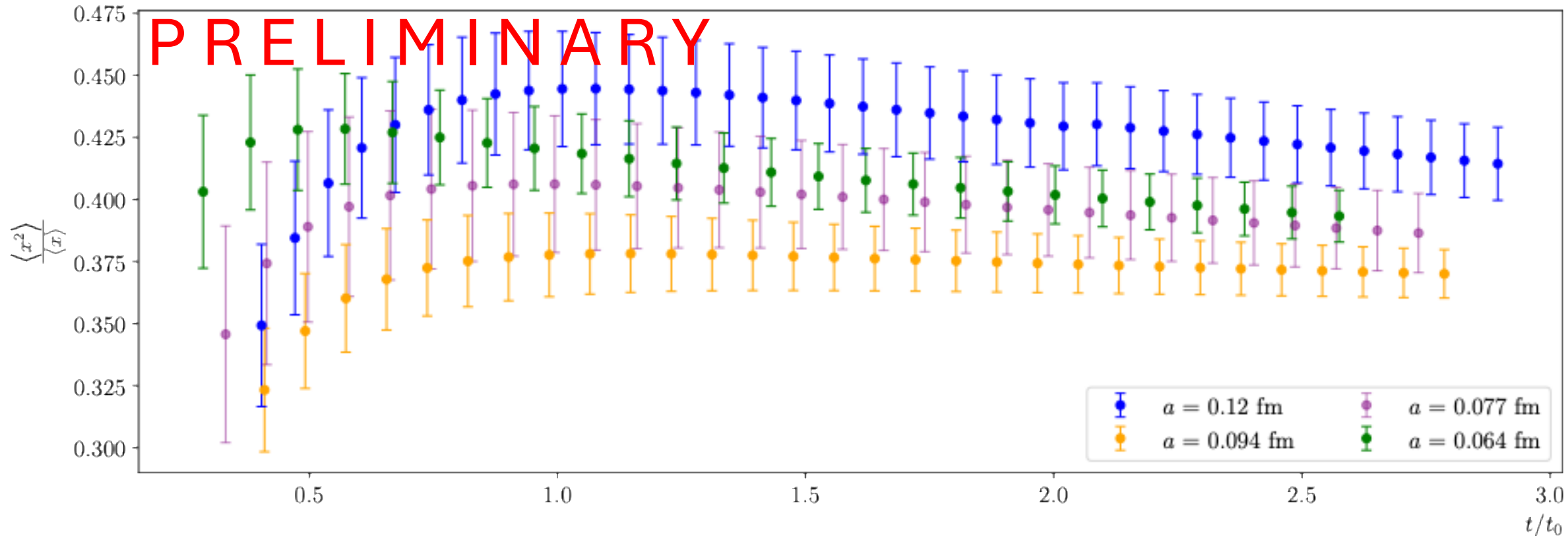


Savvas Zafeiropoulos

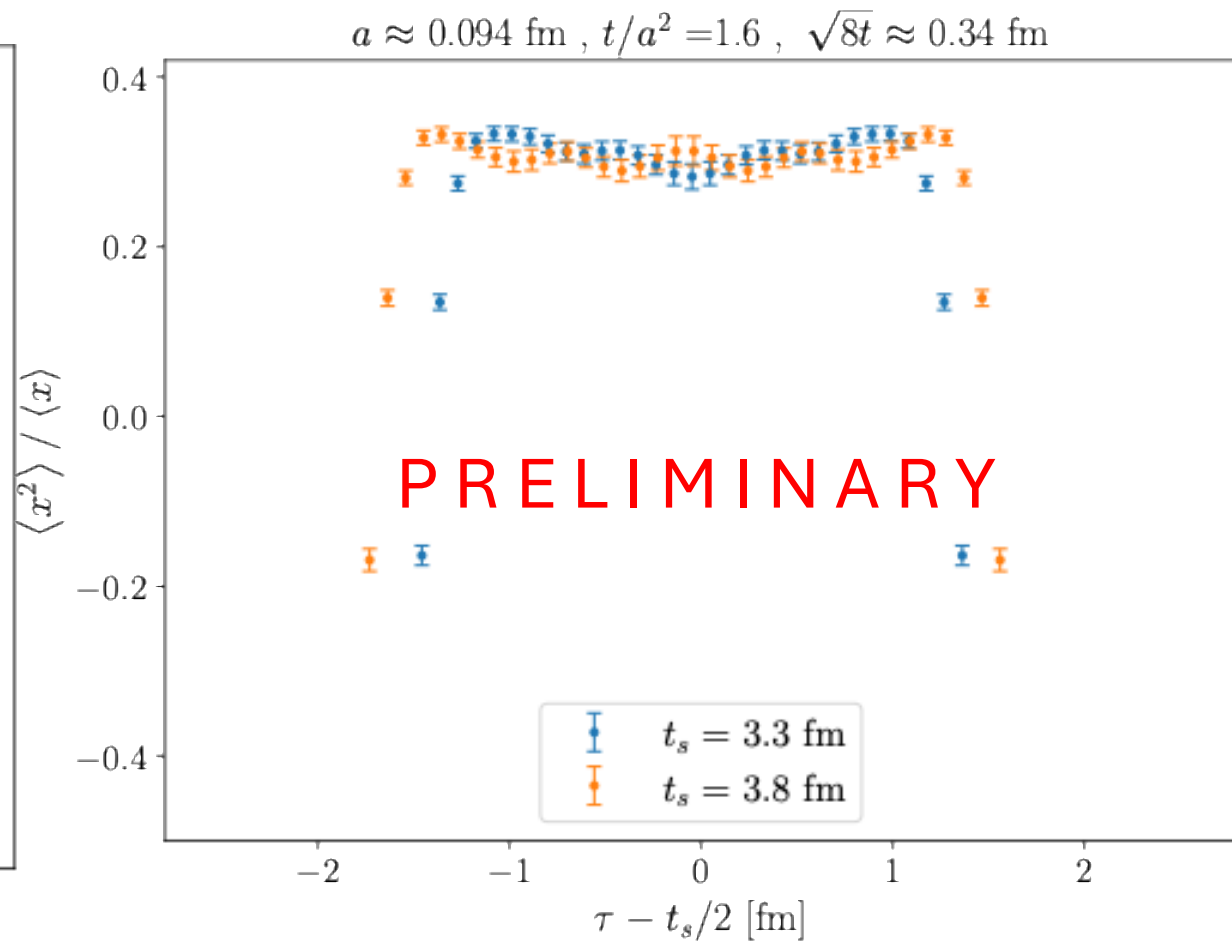
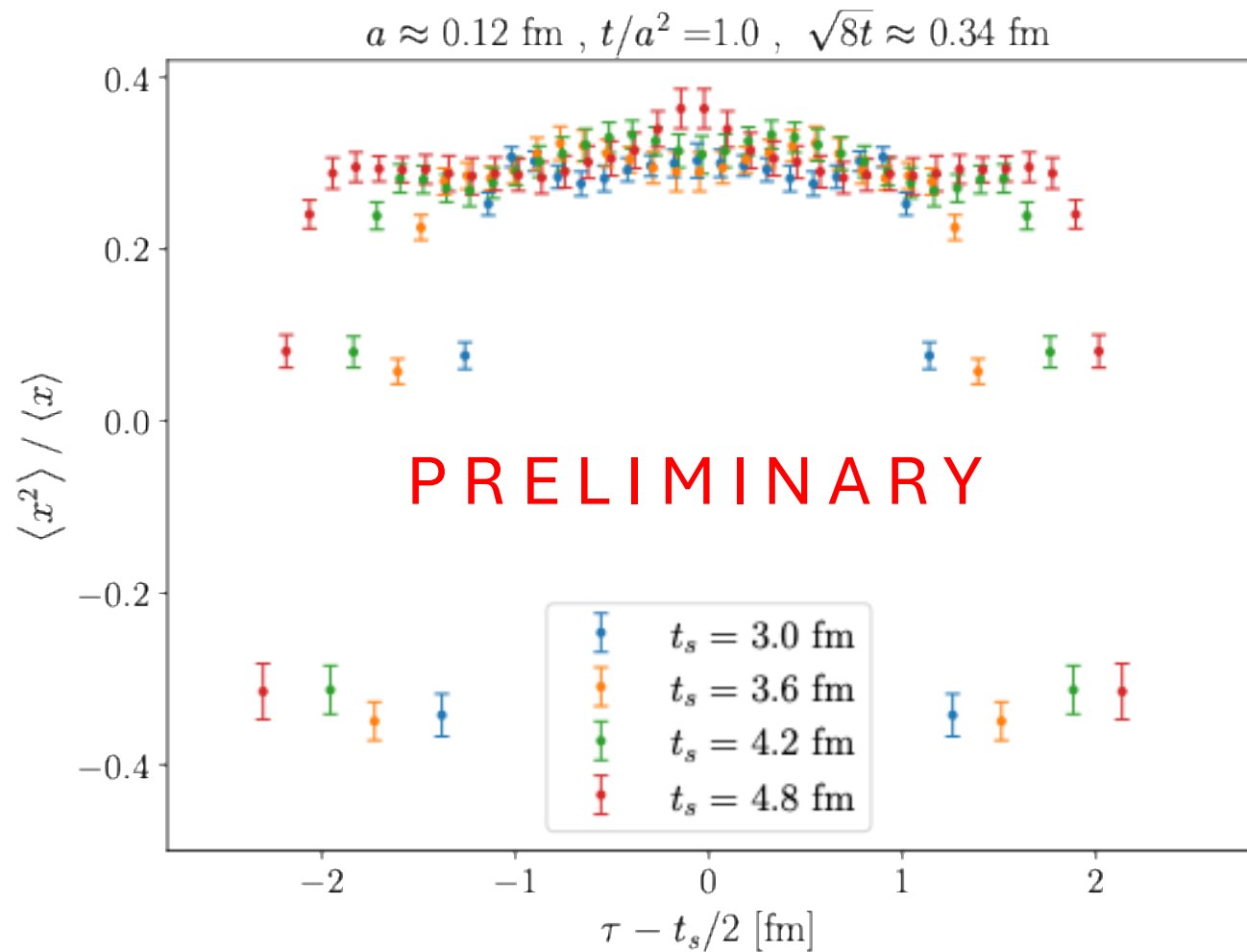
$$\frac{\langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}) \text{ at } t_s = 40a, \tau = 20a$$



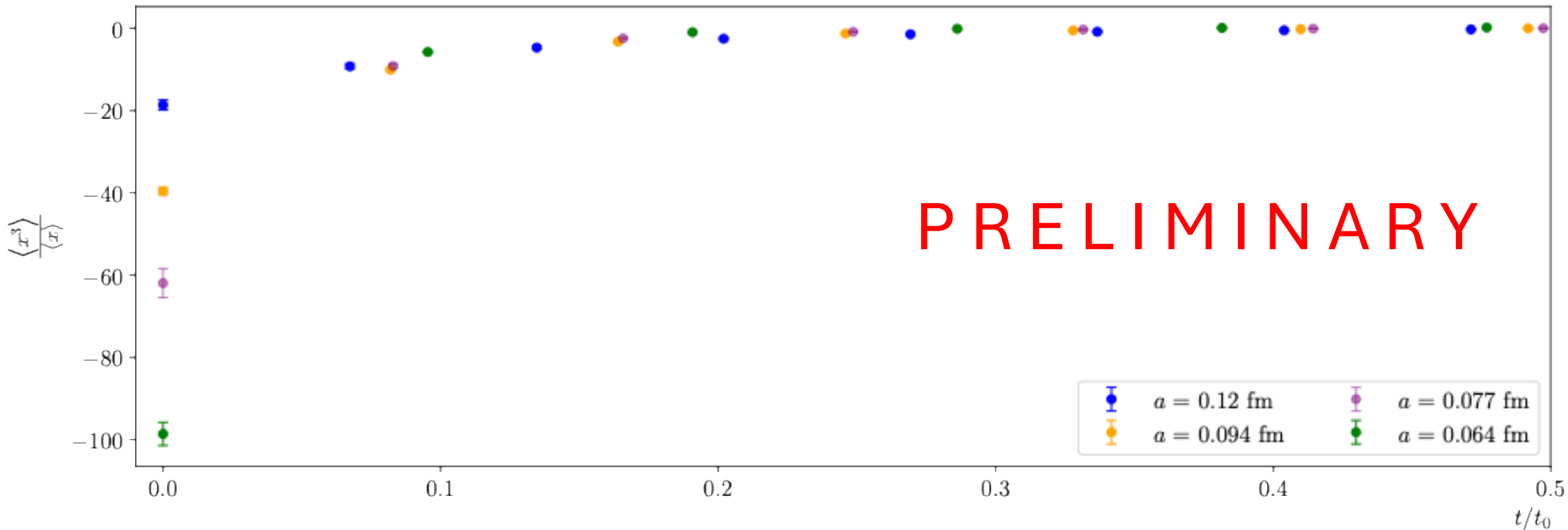
$$\frac{\langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}) \text{ at } t_s = 40a, \tau = 20a$$



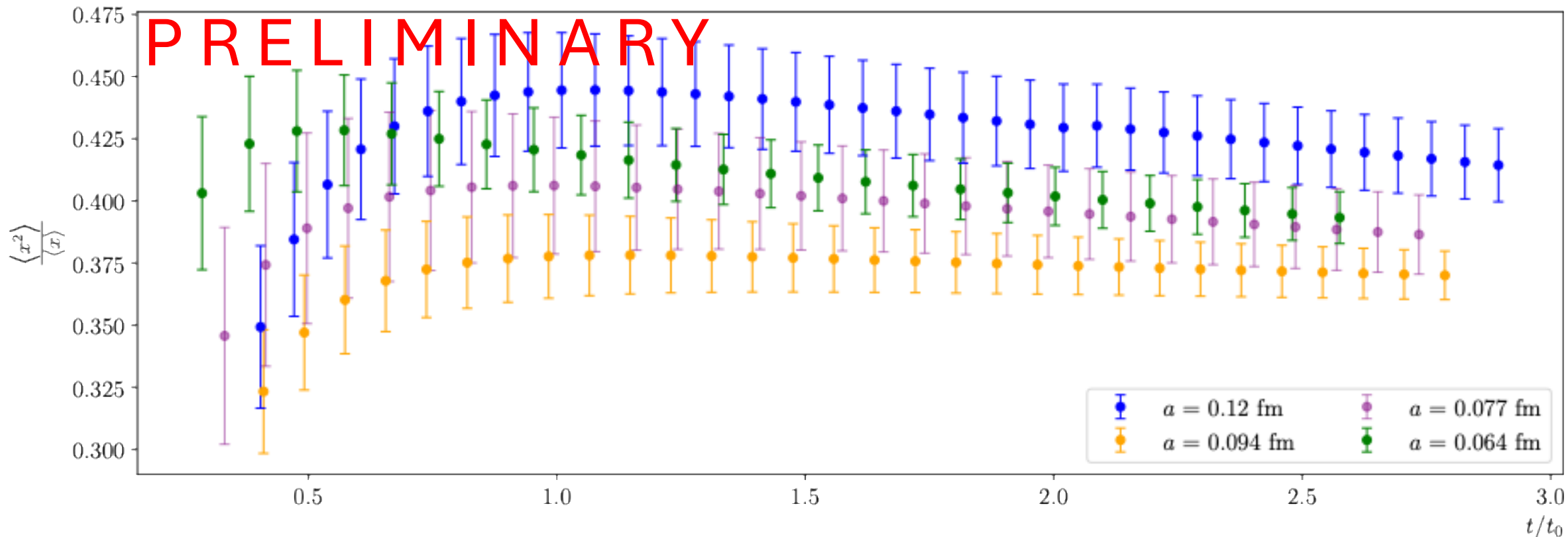
$\langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} / \langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV})$  at fixed  $\sqrt{8t} \approx 0.34 \text{ fm}$



$$\frac{\langle x^3 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}) \text{ at } t_s = 40a, \tau = 20a$$

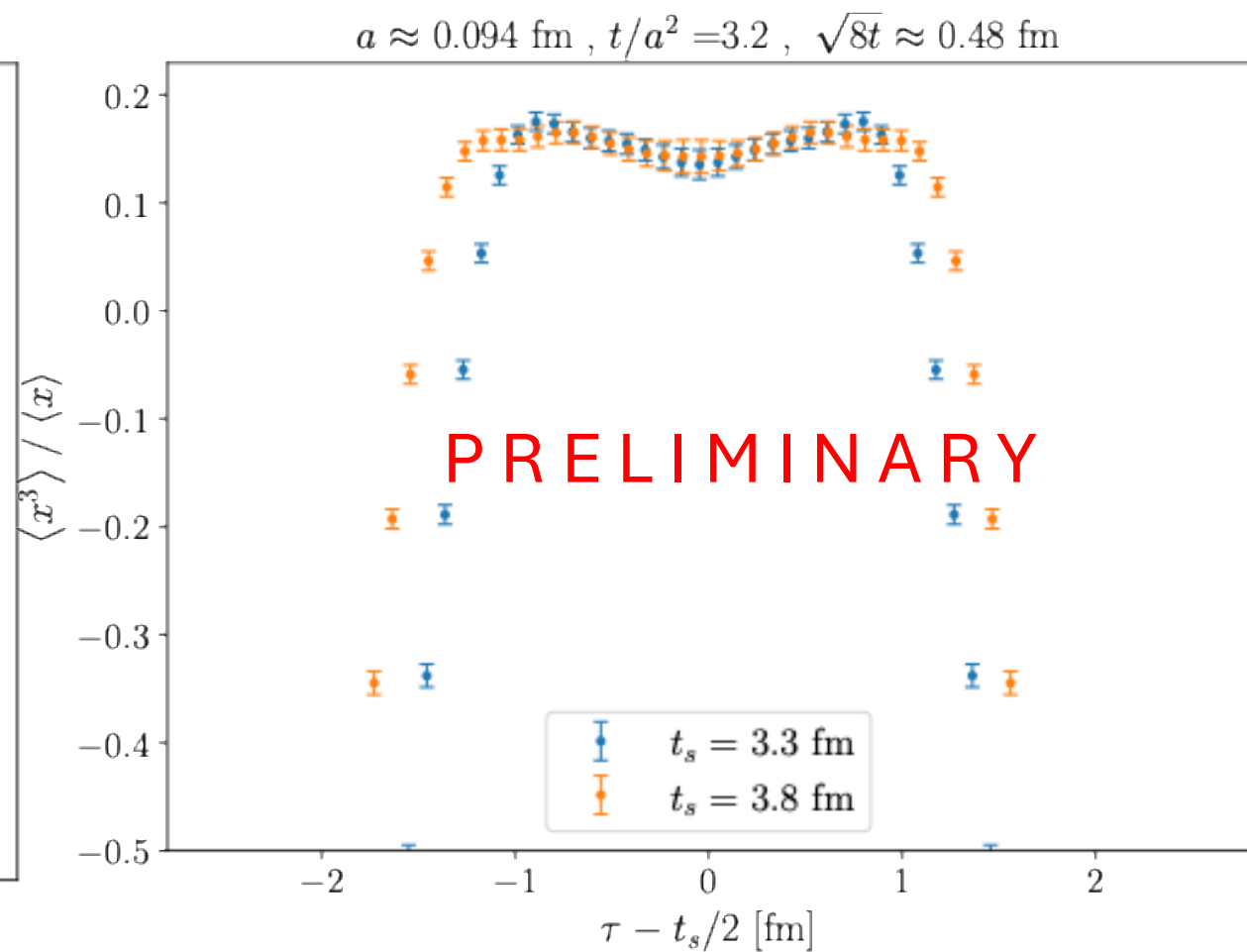
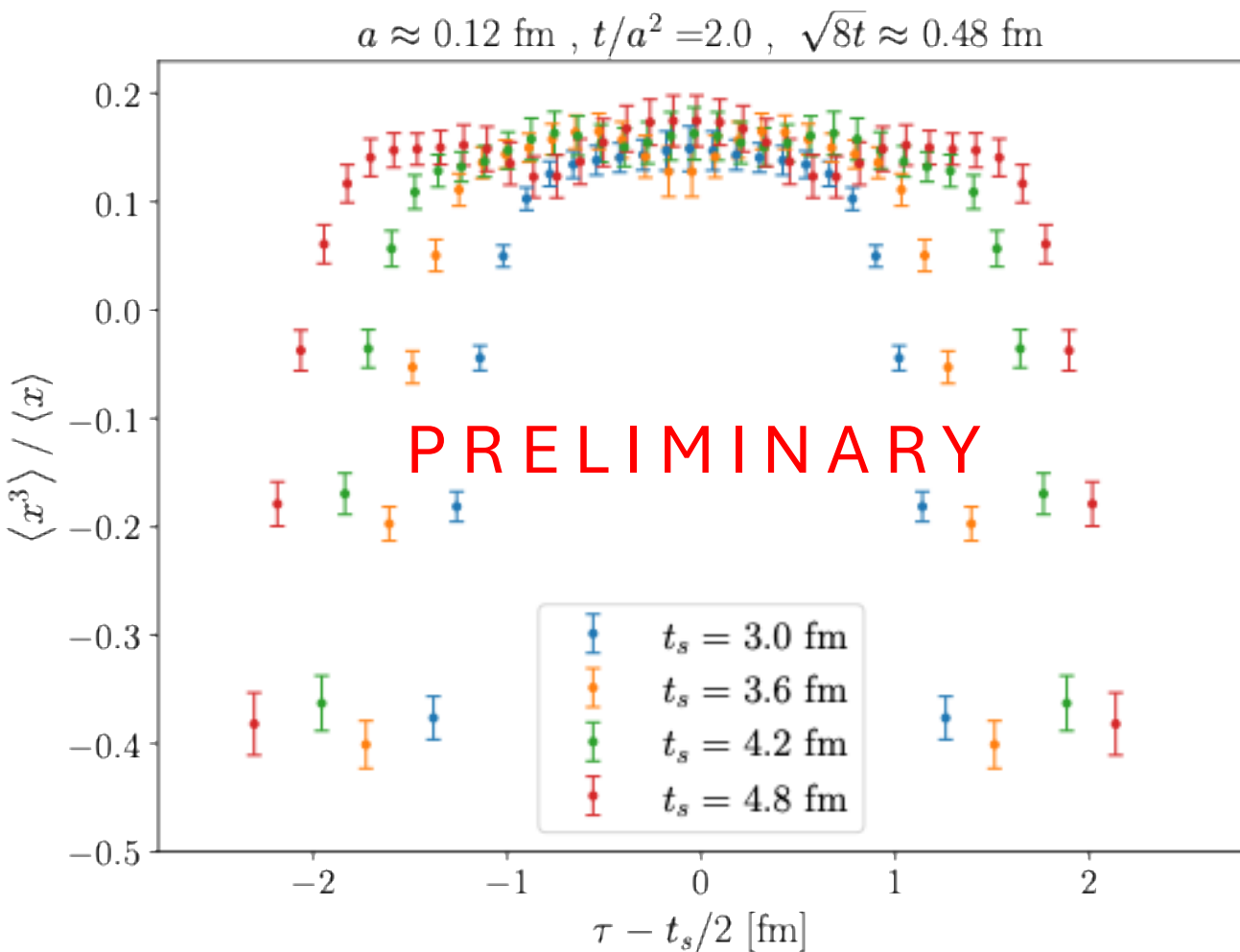


$$\frac{\langle x^3 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}) \text{ at } t_s = 40a, \tau = 20a$$

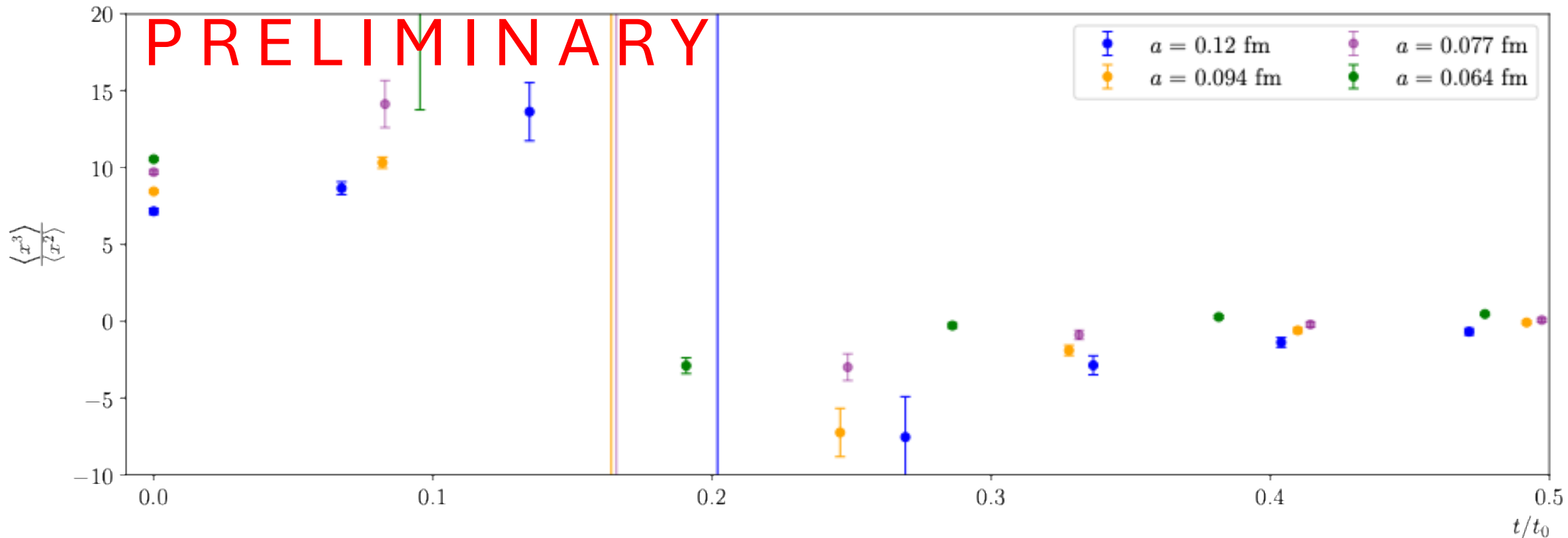




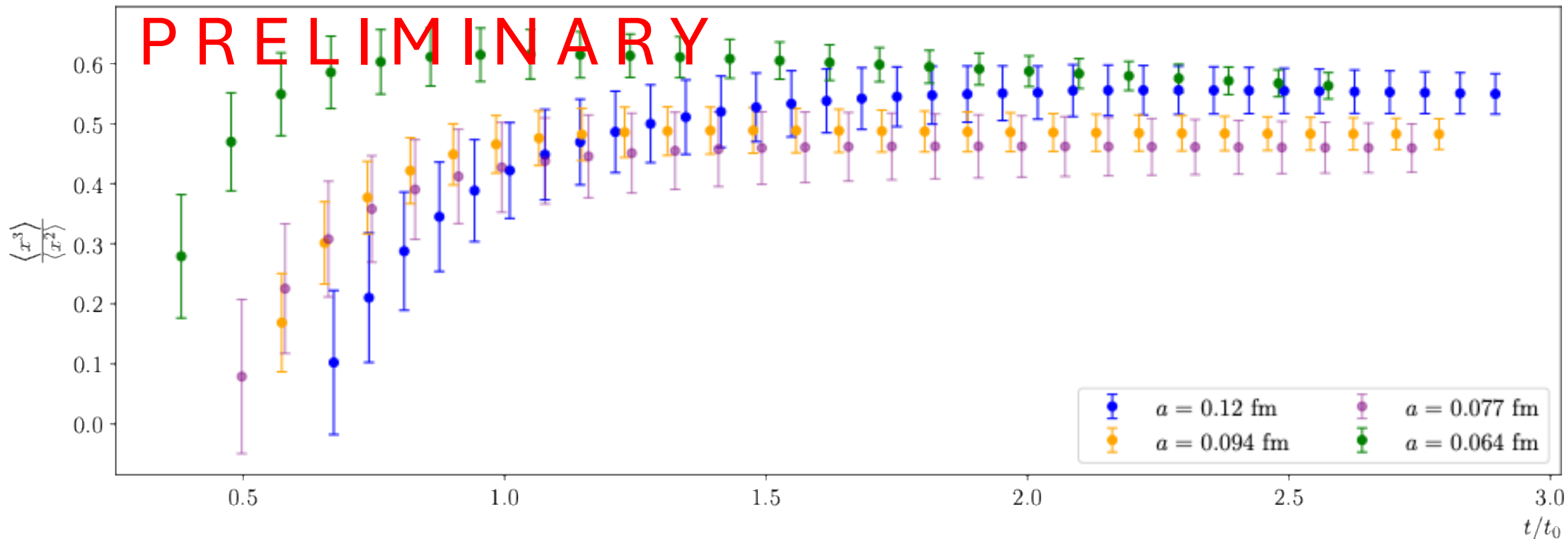
$\langle x^3 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} / \langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV})$  at fixed  $\sqrt{8t} \approx 0.48 \text{ fm}$



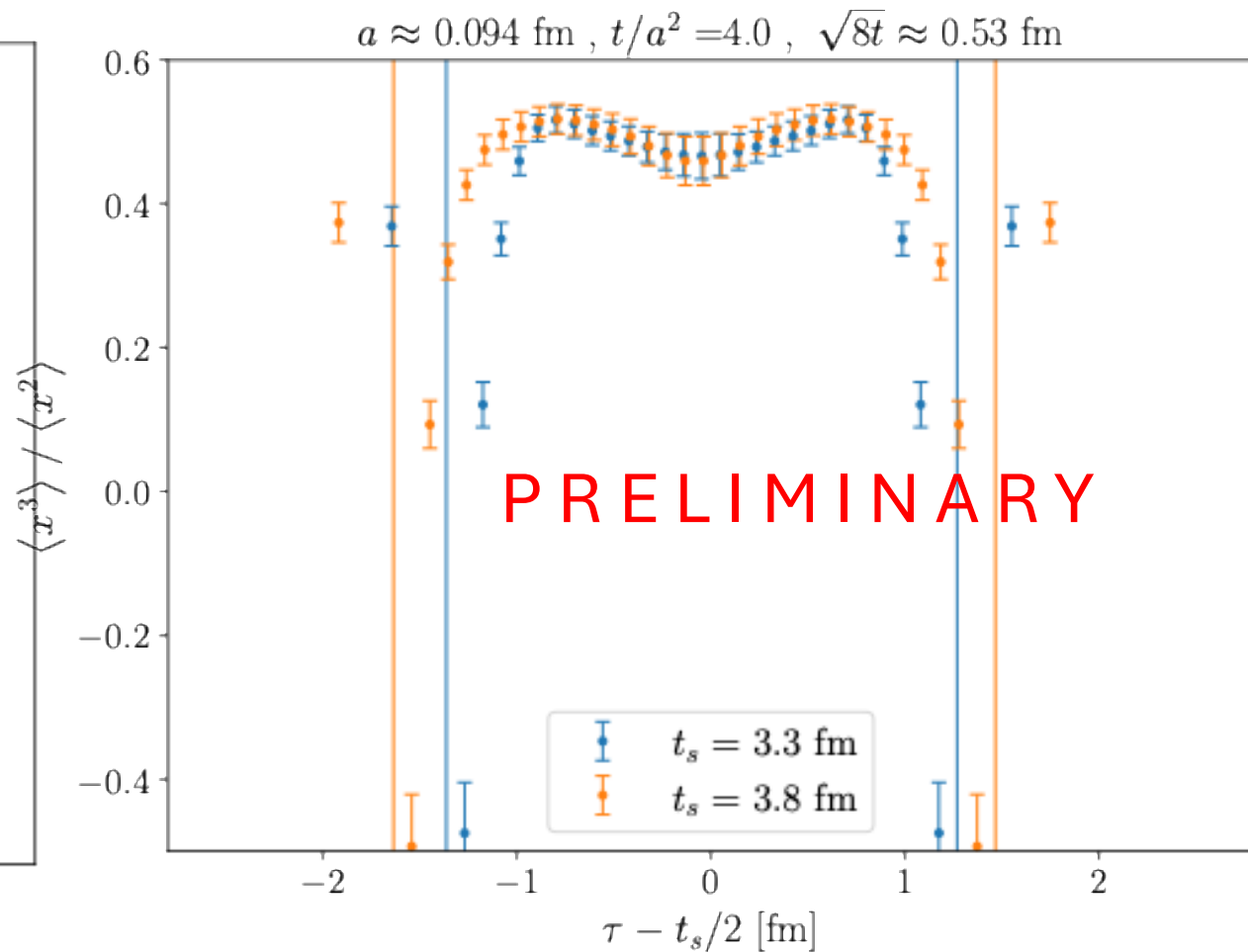
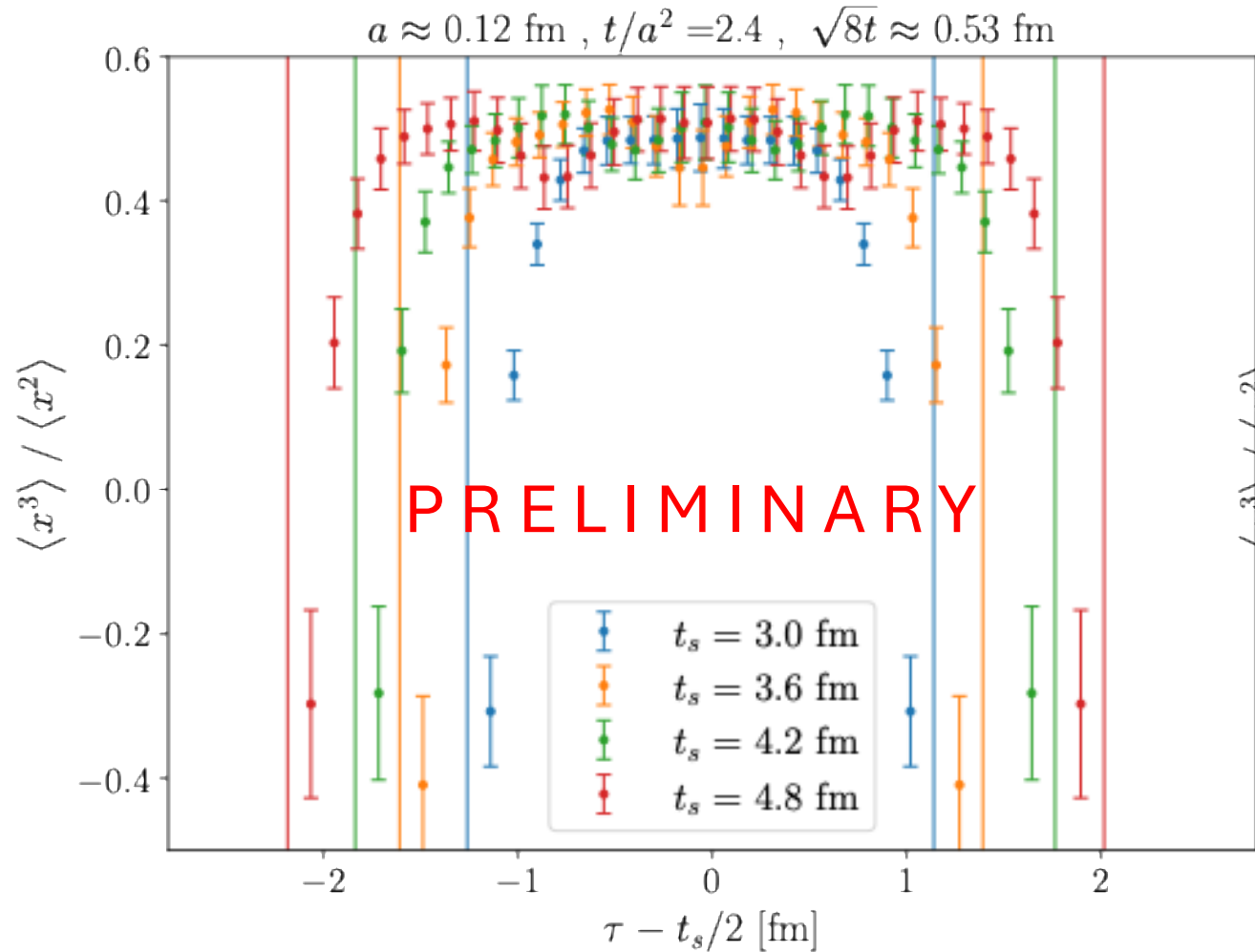
$$\frac{\langle x^3 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}) \text{ at } t_s = 40a, \tau = 20a$$



$$\frac{\langle x^3 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}) \text{ at } t_s = 40a, \tau = 20a$$



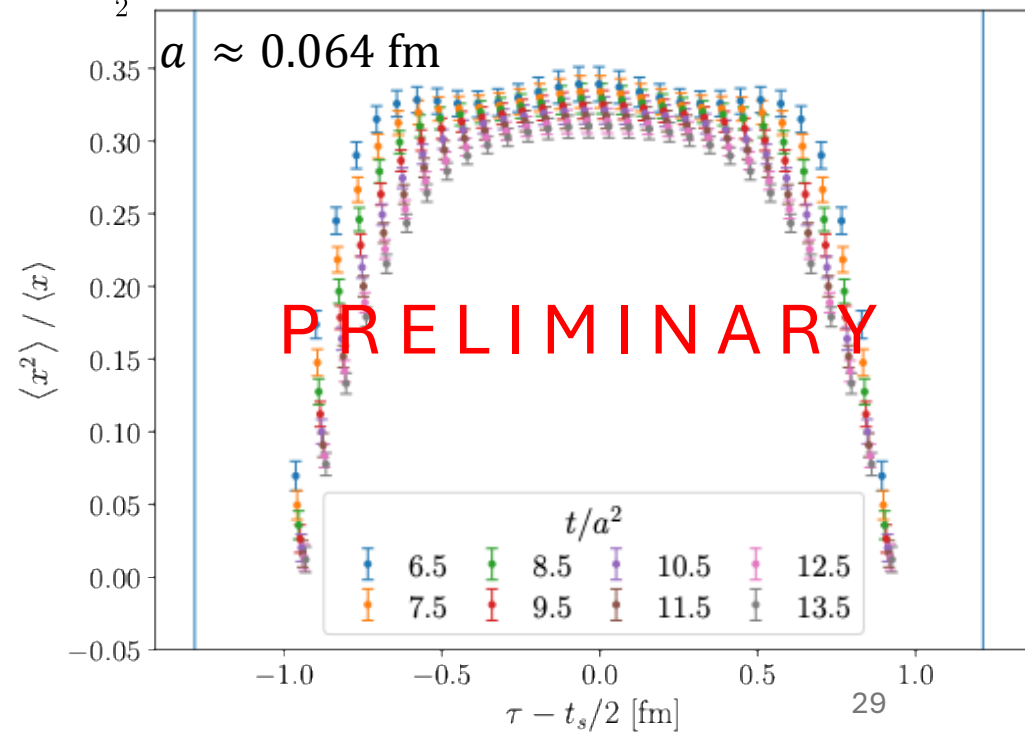
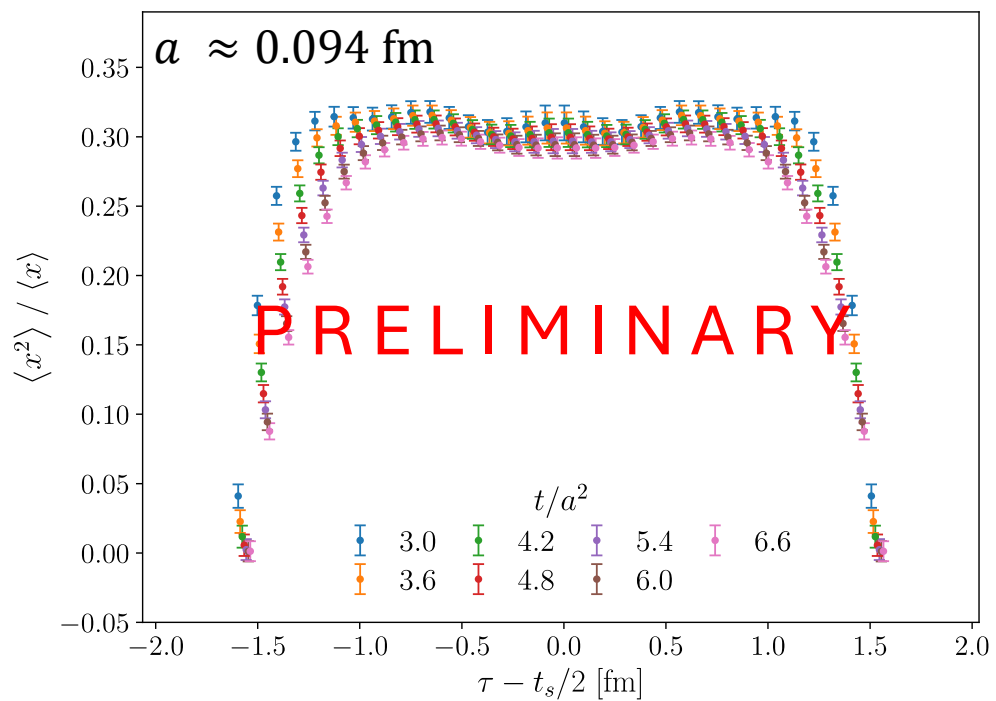
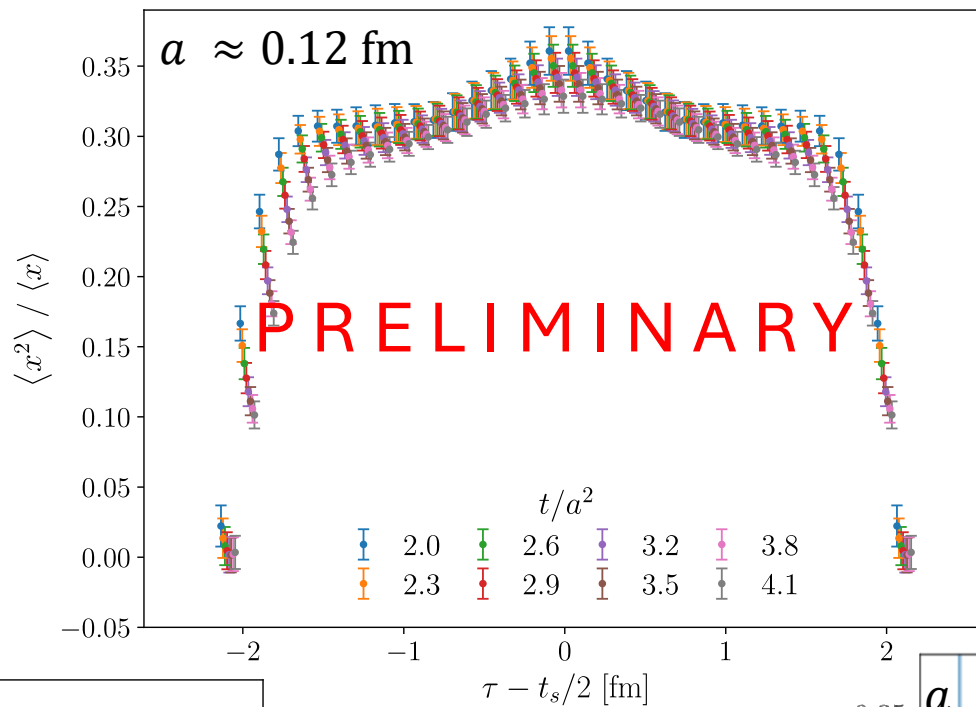
$\langle x^3 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} / \langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV})$  at fixed  $\sqrt{8t} \approx 0.53 \text{ fm}$



flow-dependent plateaus

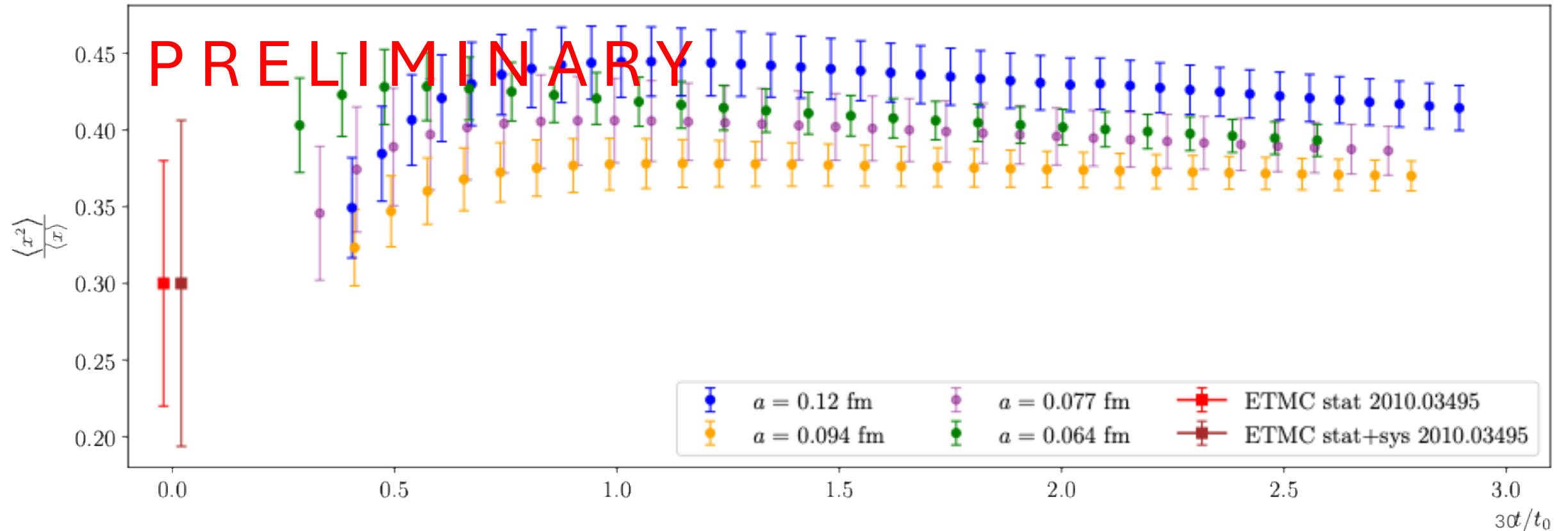
$$\langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} / \langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV})$$

at fixed  $t_s \approx 40a$



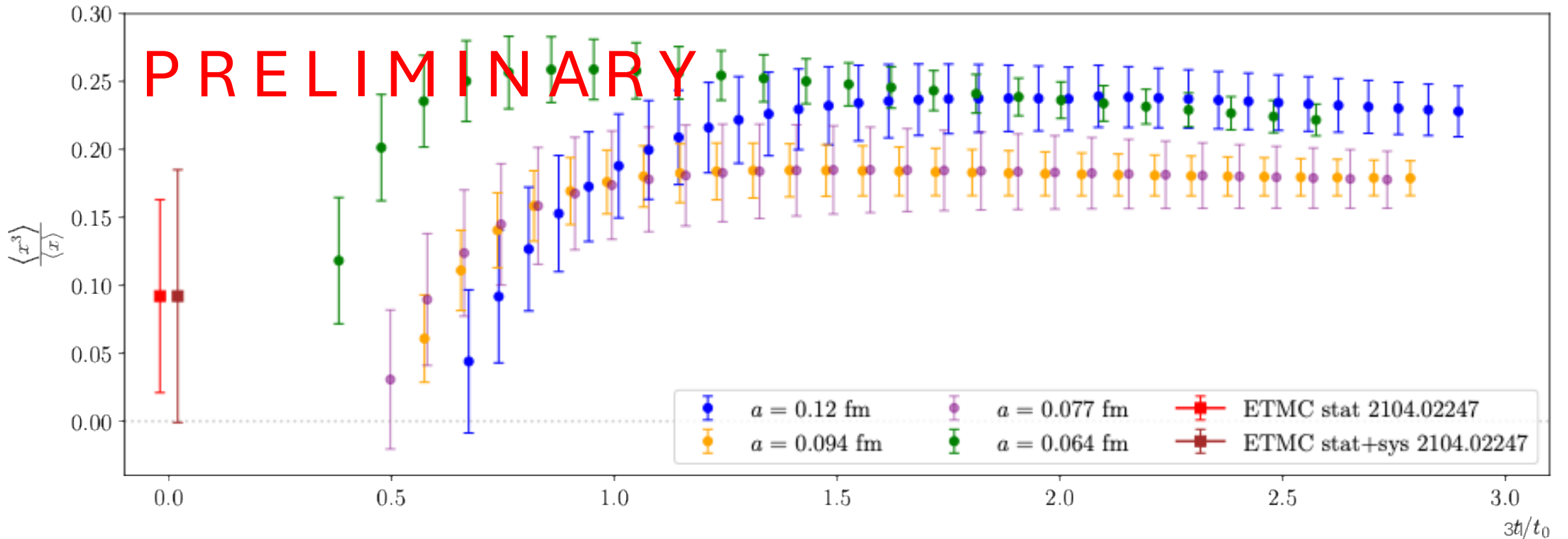
# $\frac{\langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV})$ comparison with ETMC

- 2010.03495:  $N_{\text{cfgs}} \times N_{\text{source}} = 3904$  versus 20-210



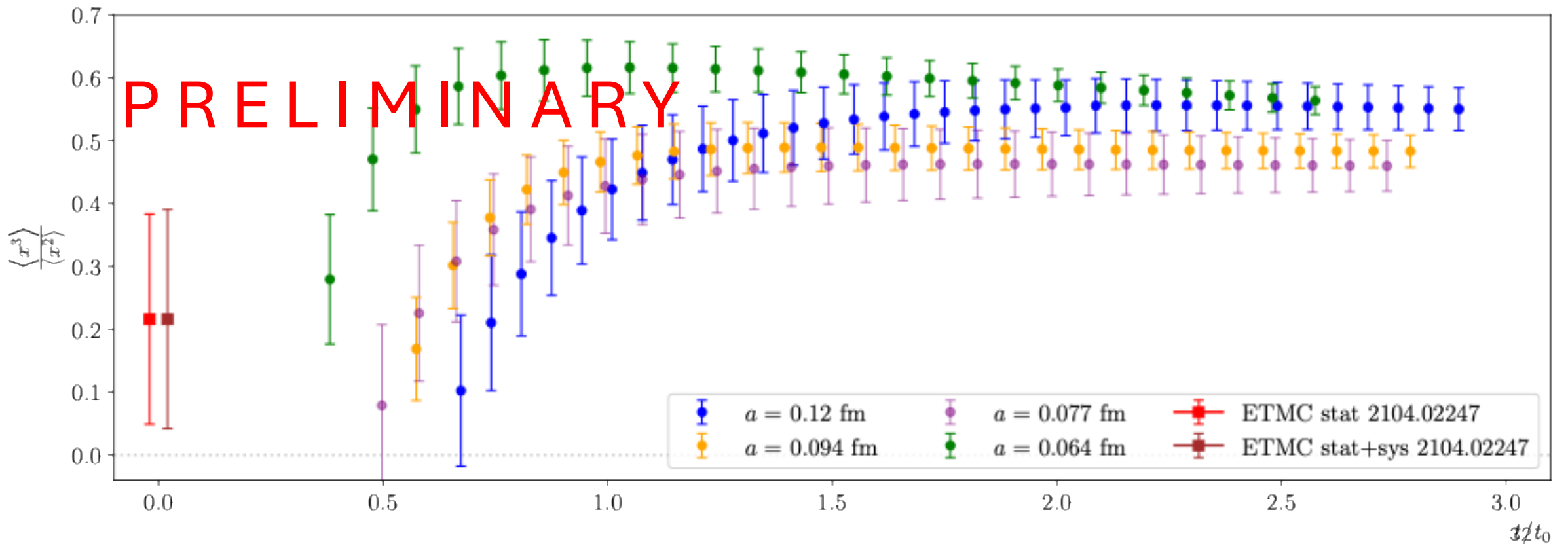
# $\frac{\langle x^3 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}$ ( $\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}$ ) comparison with ETMC

- 2104.02247:  $N_{\text{cfgs}} \times N_{\text{source}} \times N_{\text{boost}} \sim 15\text{k}-70\text{k}$  versus 20-210



# $\frac{\langle x^3 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\langle x^2 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV})$ comparison with ETMC

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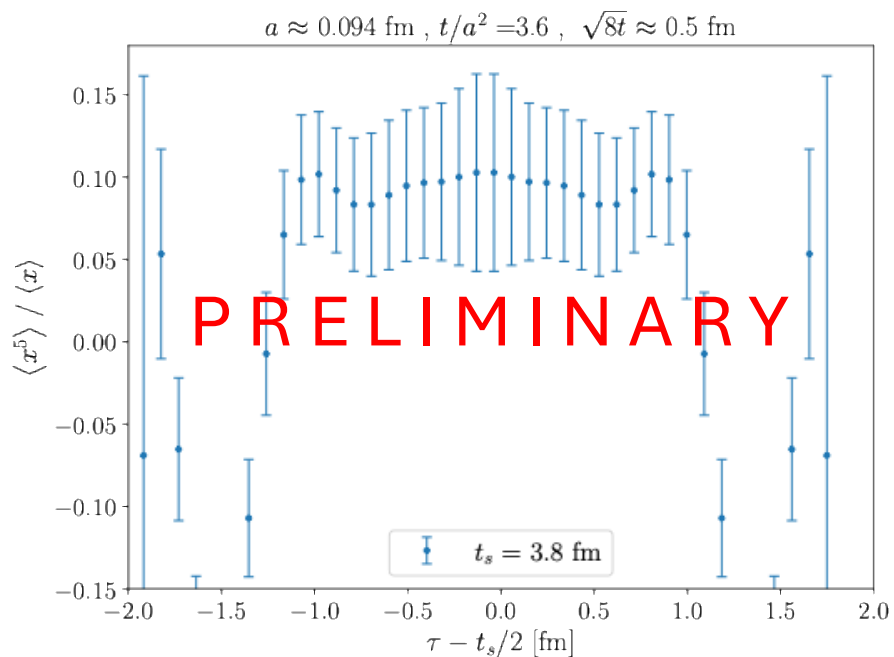




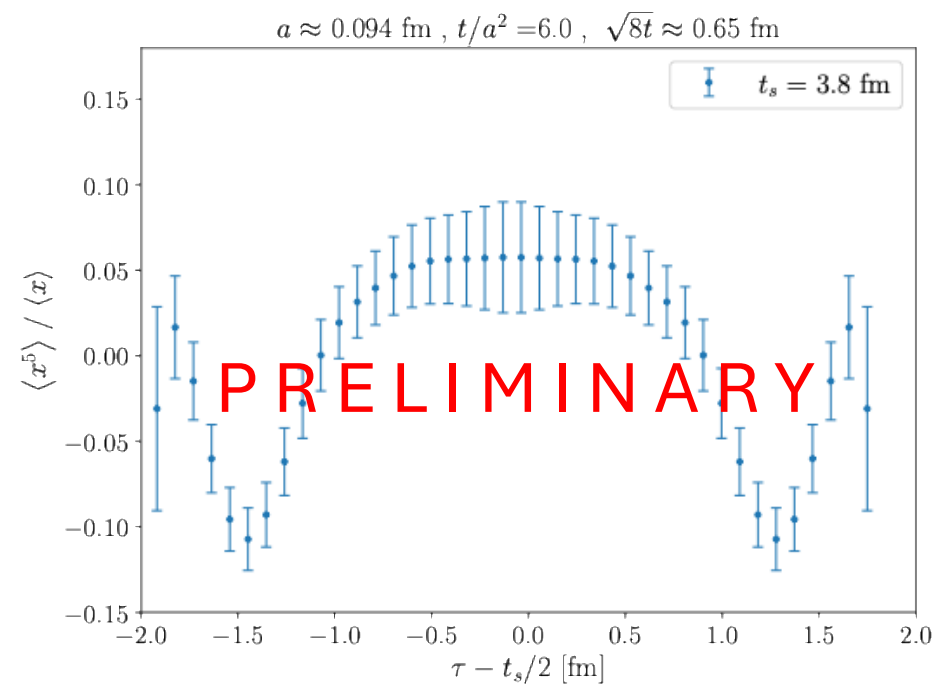
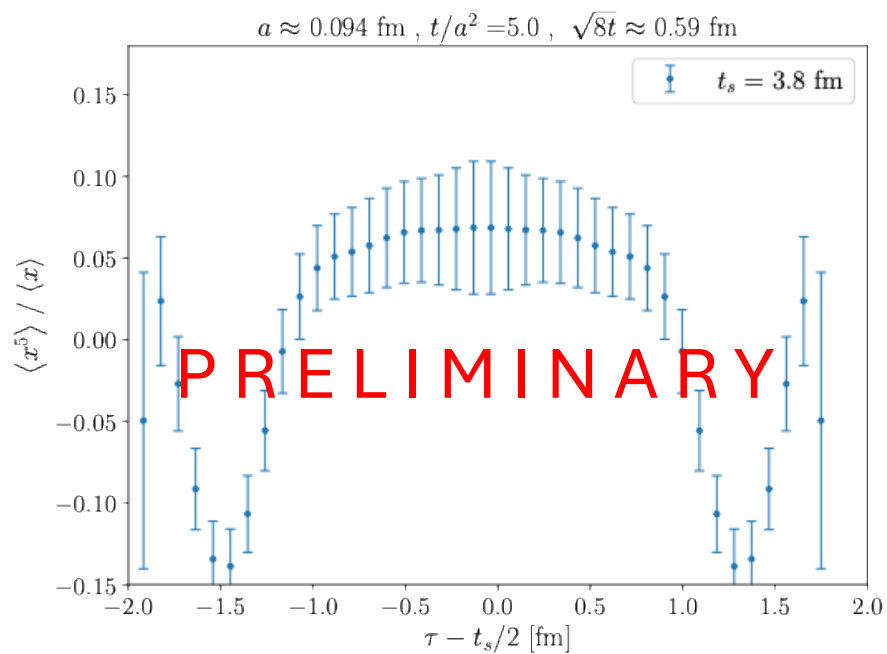
higher moments?

$$\langle x^5 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} / \langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV})$$

at  $a \approx 0.094 \text{ fm}$ , vary  $t$



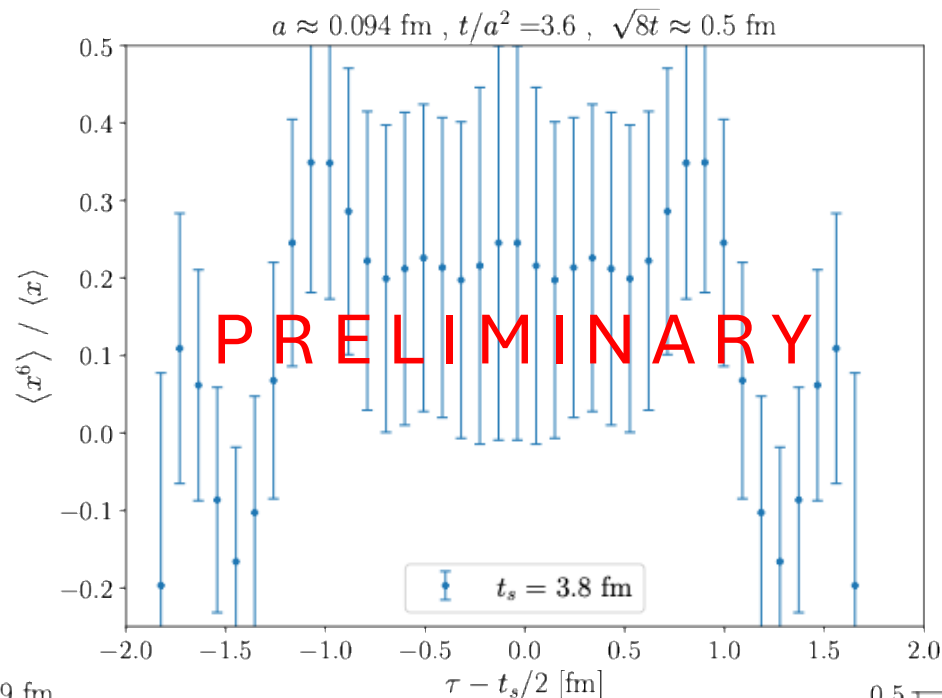
$n$	# of unique ops
2	4
3	10
4	40
5	136
<b>6</b>	<b>544</b>
7	2080



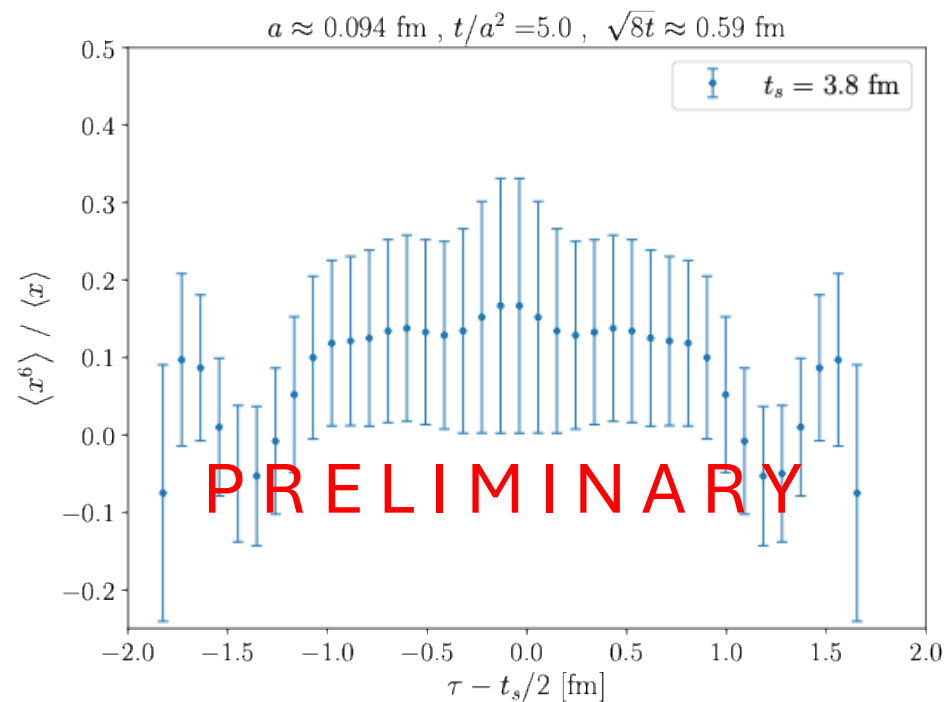
higher moments?

$$\langle x^6 \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} / \langle x \rangle_{\overline{\text{MS}}} (\mu = 2 \text{ GeV})$$

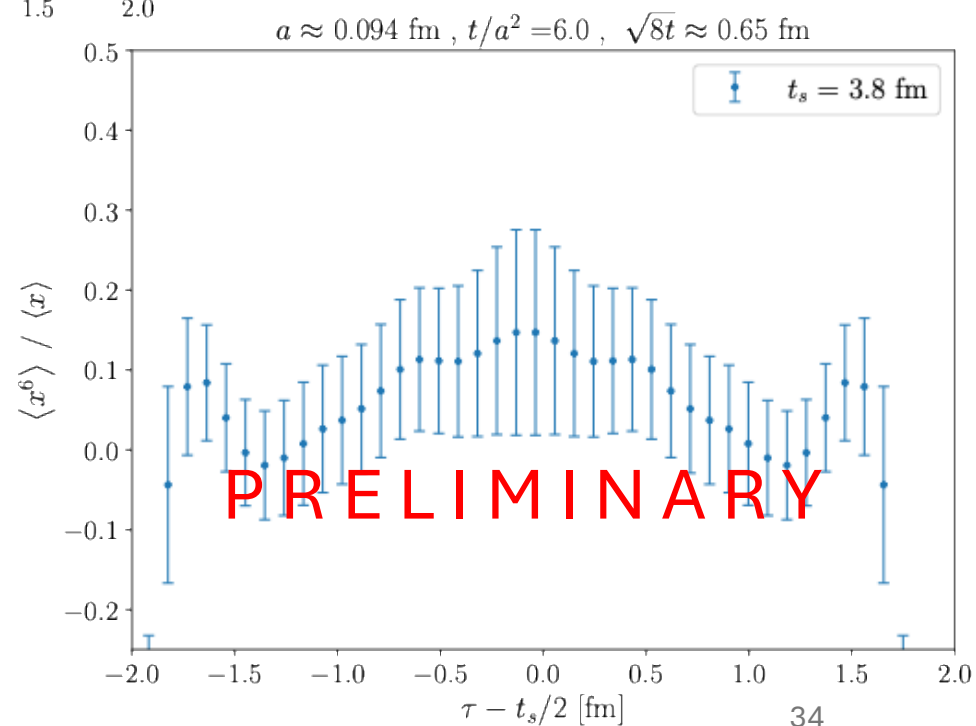
at  $a \approx 0.094 \text{ fm}$ , vary  $t$



$n$	# of unique ops
2	4
3	10
4	40
5	136
6	544
7	2080



message: obtainable to resolve up to  $\langle x^6 \rangle$  with a moderate increase in statistics



# Summary and conclusion

- Preliminary investigation of proposal to use the gradient flow for obtaining precise, higher moments of PDFs
- Promising results for the pion flavor non-singlet moments using four SWF ensembles generated by OpenLat at  $m_\pi \approx 410$  MeV and  $a \approx 0.064, 0.077, 0.094, 0.12$  fm
- This work: increase of statistics to resolve up to  $n = 6$  or  $7$ , careful investigation of systematics
- Future: nucleon
  - flavor singlet (gluon)
  - off-forward: generalized form factors– moments of GPDs

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Thank you!