

# Scalar self-force for generic bound orbits on a Kerr background

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THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

<sup>1</sup>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; <sup>2</sup>Oxford College at Emory University

# Motivation

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- Focus: Self-force calculations on Kerr
- Difficulties:
  - ❖ Loss of symmetry compared to Schwarzschild
  - ❖ Current computational methods inefficient (algebraic-convergence, precision loss, cancellation errors)
- Goal: Use a developmental model to improve self-force calculations
- Approach: Build scalar self-force for generic bound orbits on Kerr
  - ❖ See Peter Diener's talk on Tuesday for other approaches/uses of scalar self-force code



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# Scalar self-force (SSF) literature

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- **SSF on Schwarzschild**
  - ❖ Circular geodesics
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    - Diaz-Rivera et al. (2004) **PRD** **70**
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    - Vega et al. (2009) **PRD** **80**
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  - ❖ Eccentric geodesics
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  - ❖ Generic geodesic
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# Scalar self-force (SSF) problem

## Gravitational self-force (GSF)

- Equations of motion

$$\mu u^\beta \nabla_\beta u^\alpha = F_{\text{GSF}}^\alpha \sim \mathcal{O}(\mu^2/M^2)$$

- GSF equations

$$F_{\text{GSF}}^\alpha = \mu P^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \nabla_\beta h_{\gamma\delta}^R$$

- Field equations

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} {}_2\mathcal{O}\psi_0 = 4\pi\Sigma\hat{T}_0 \\ {}_{-2}\mathcal{O}\rho^{-4}\psi_4 = 4\pi\Sigma\hat{T}_4 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow h_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{ret}}$$

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# My SSF code

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- Written in MATHEMATICA using FD approach
- Performed w/ arbitrary numerical precision
- Computational time of generic orbit
  - ❖ ~ 10,000 CPU hours\*
- Some modules inherited
  - ❖ Credit: Charles R. Evans, Thomas Osburn, Erik Forseth, & Seth Hopper
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# Building a generic SSF code

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- Construct scalar field

$$\square_g \Phi^{\text{ret}} = -4\pi\rho \quad \rho = q \int \delta^{(4)}(x^\mu, z^\mu(\tau)) d\tau$$

- Separable in FD ( $\omega_{mkn} = m\Omega_\varphi + k\Omega_\theta + n\Omega_r$ )

$$\Phi^{\text{ret}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2}} \sum_{\hat{l}mkn} X_{\hat{l}mkn}(r) S_{\hat{l}mkn}(\theta) e^{im\varphi} e^{i\omega_{mkn}t}$$

- Decouples into ODEs

- ❖ Solve for  $S_{\hat{l}mkn} \rightarrow Y_{lm}$  expansion
- ❖ Solve for  $X_{\hat{l}mkn} \rightarrow$  variation of parameters + MST

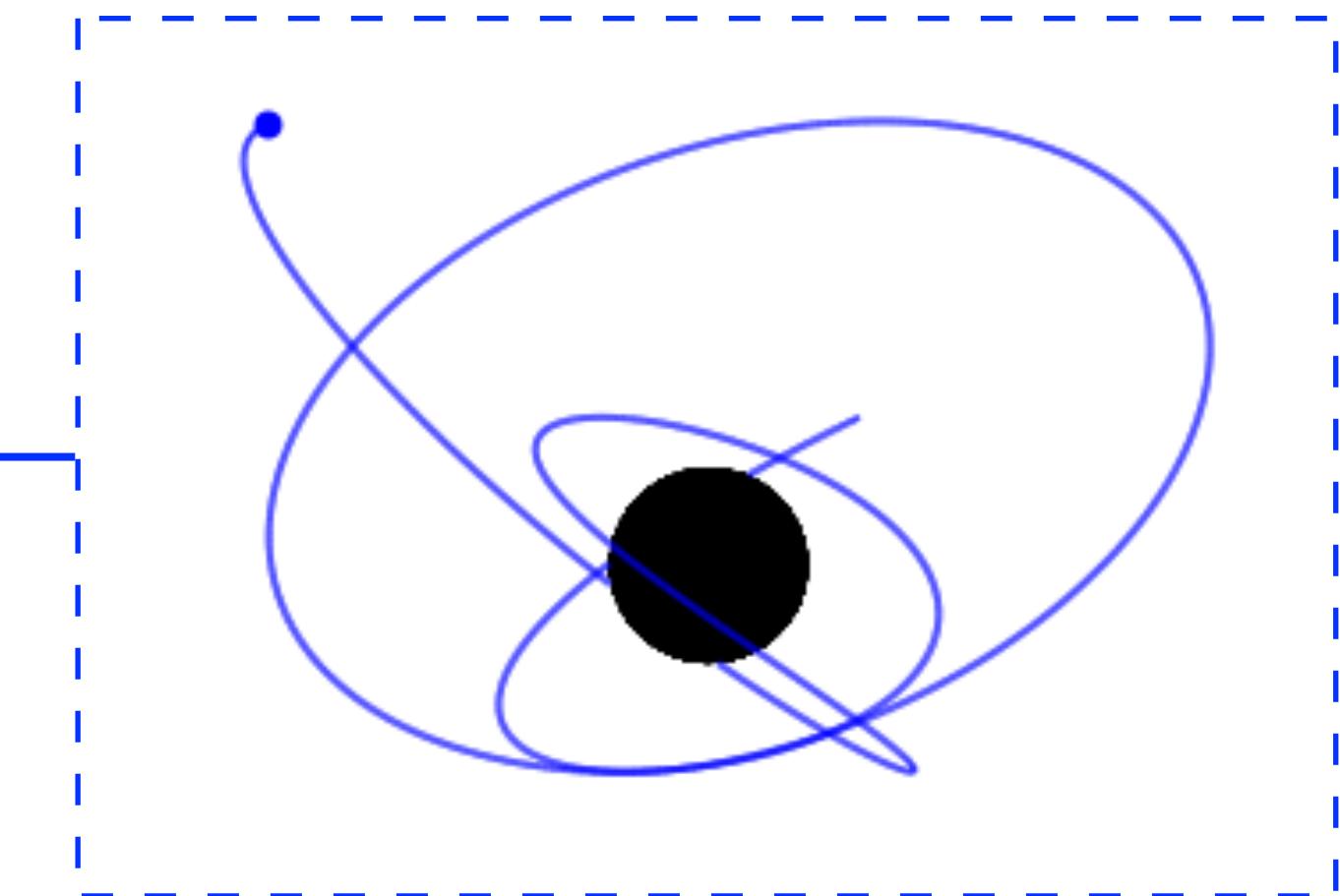


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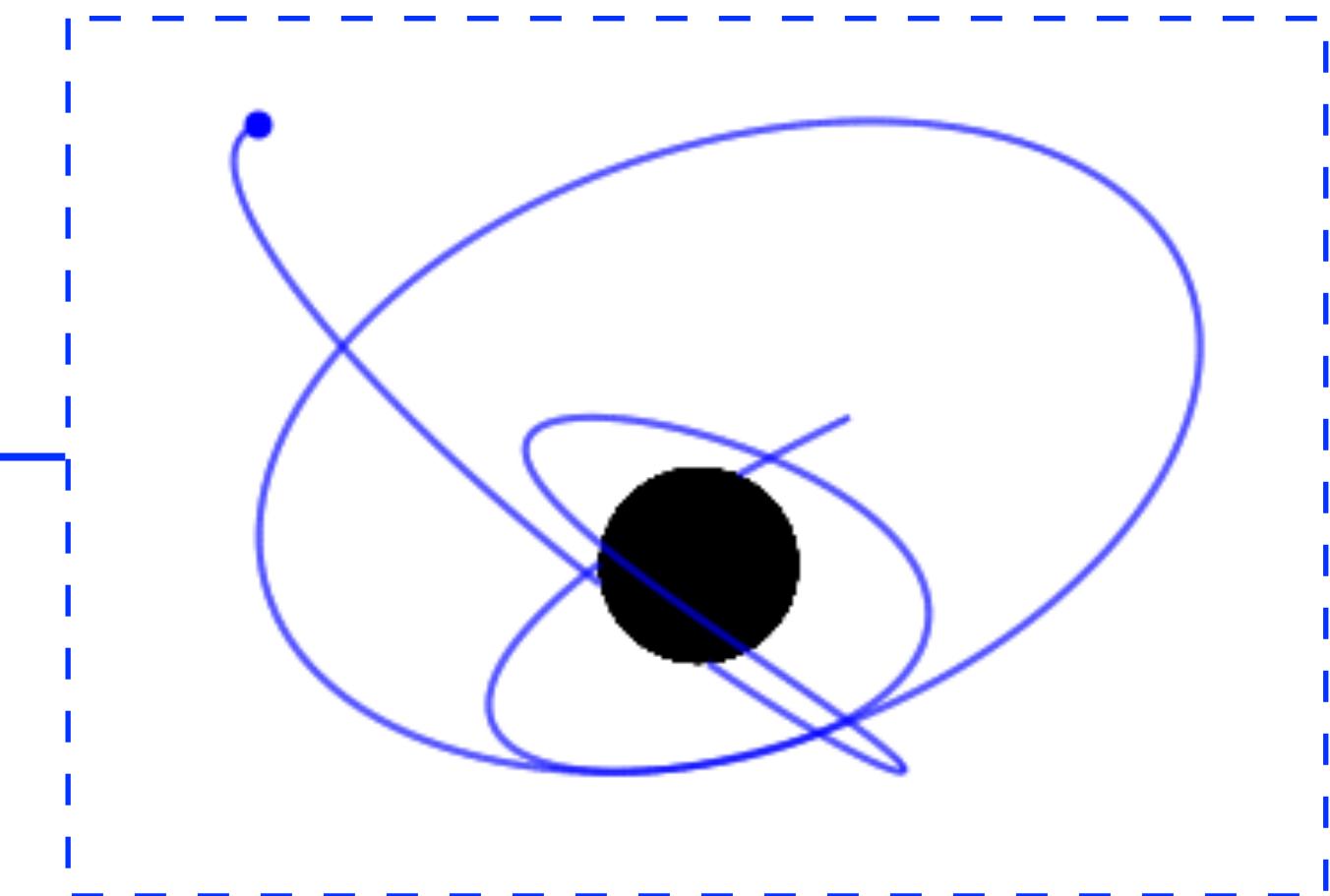


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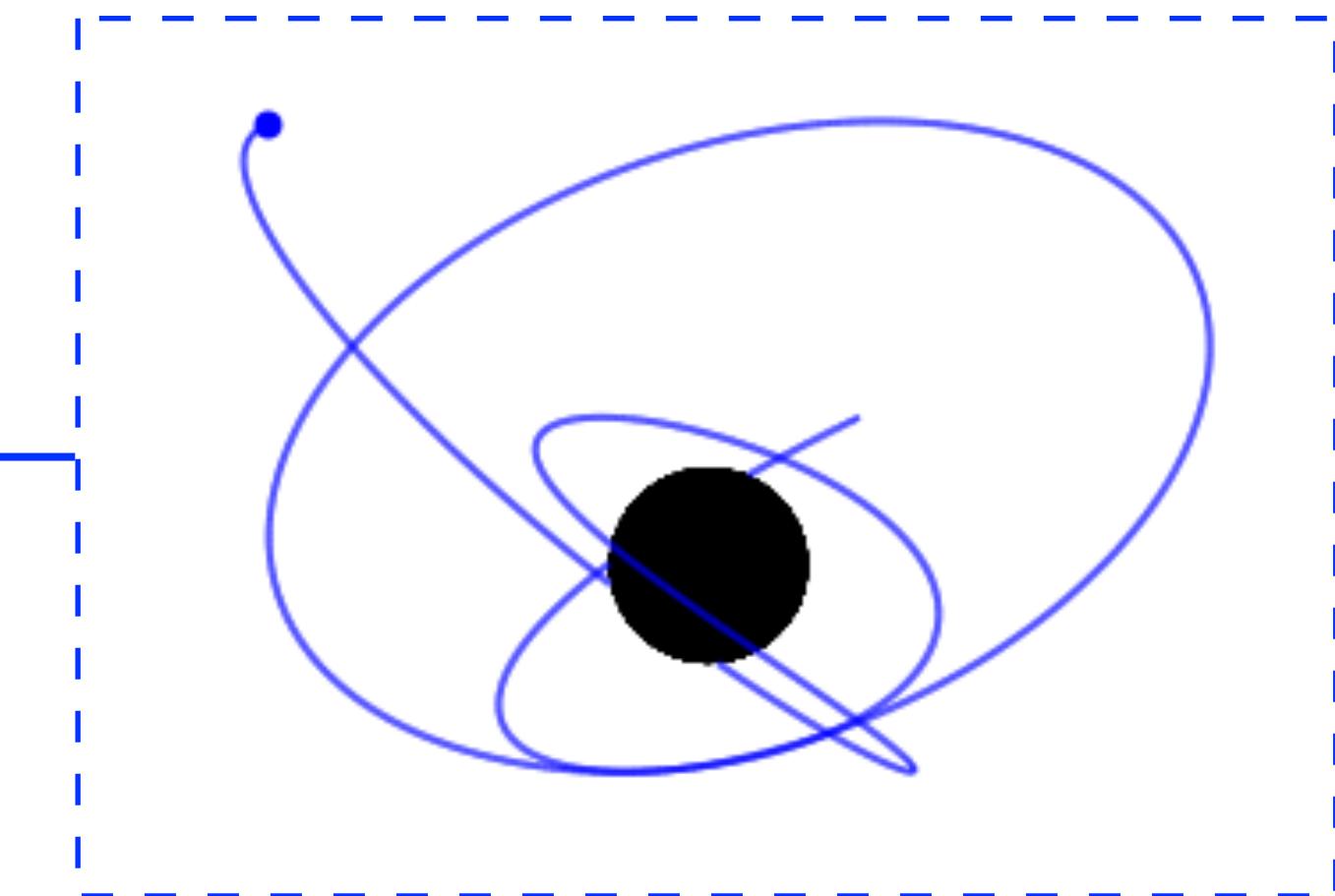
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**Spheroidal  
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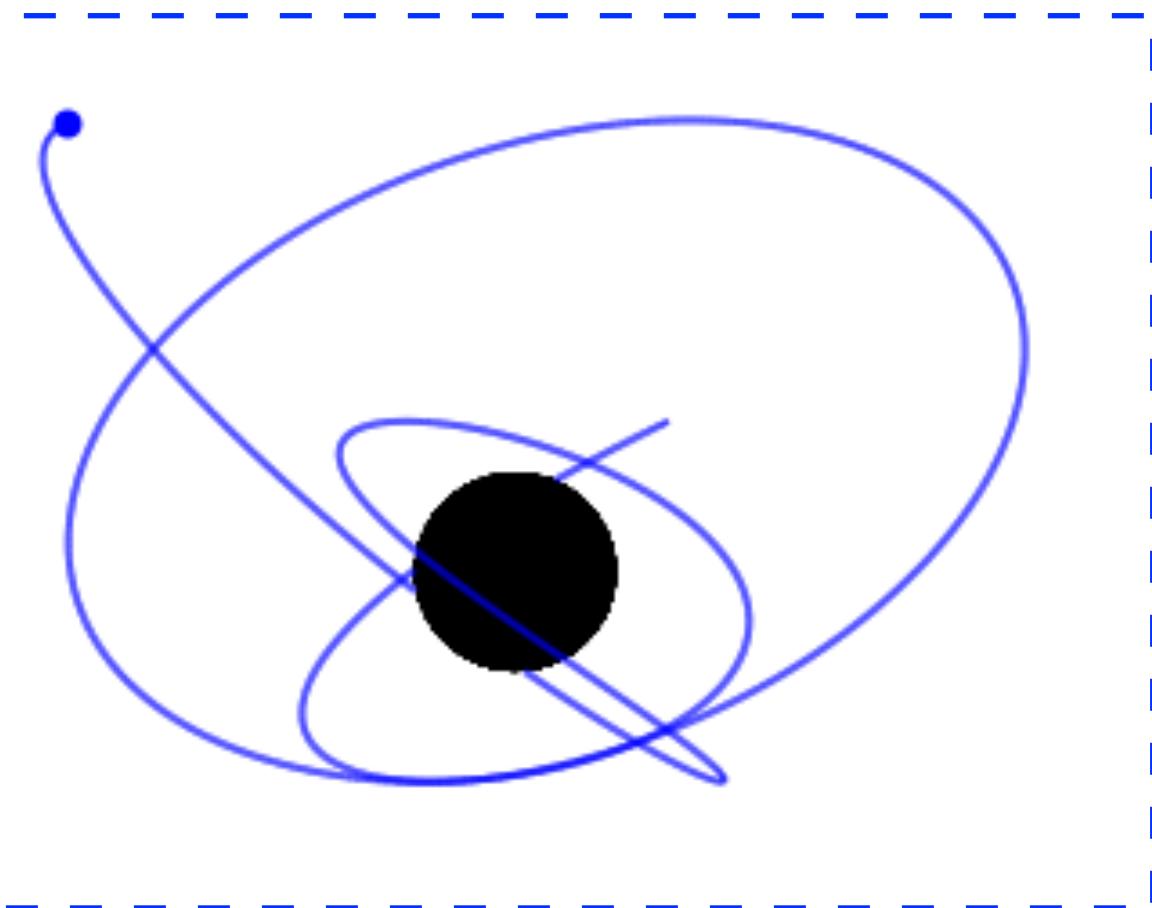
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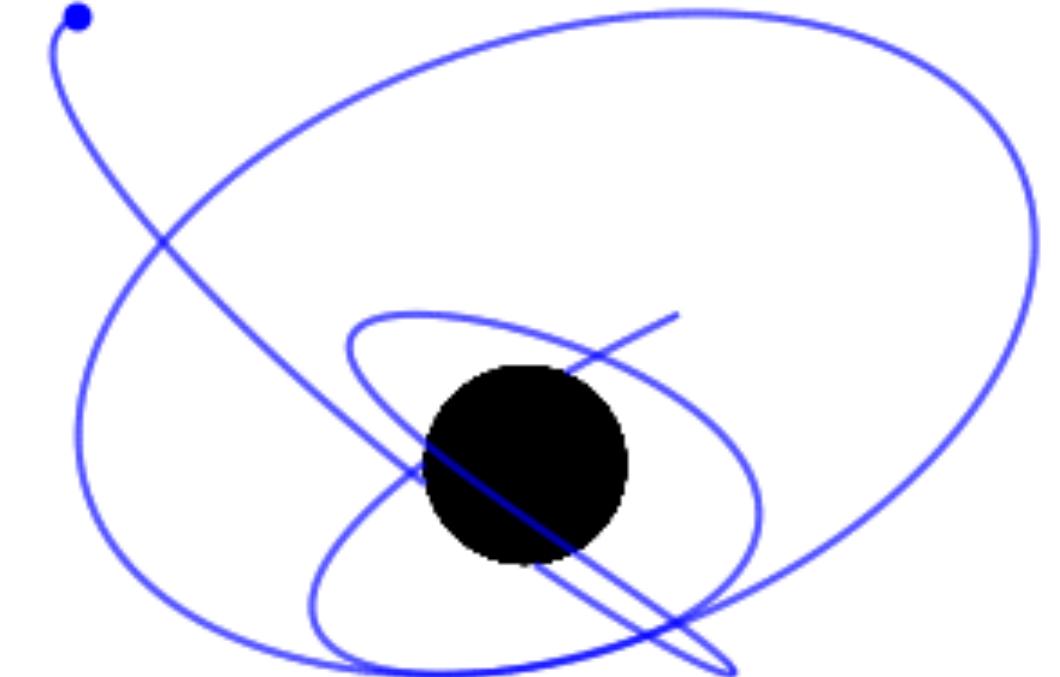
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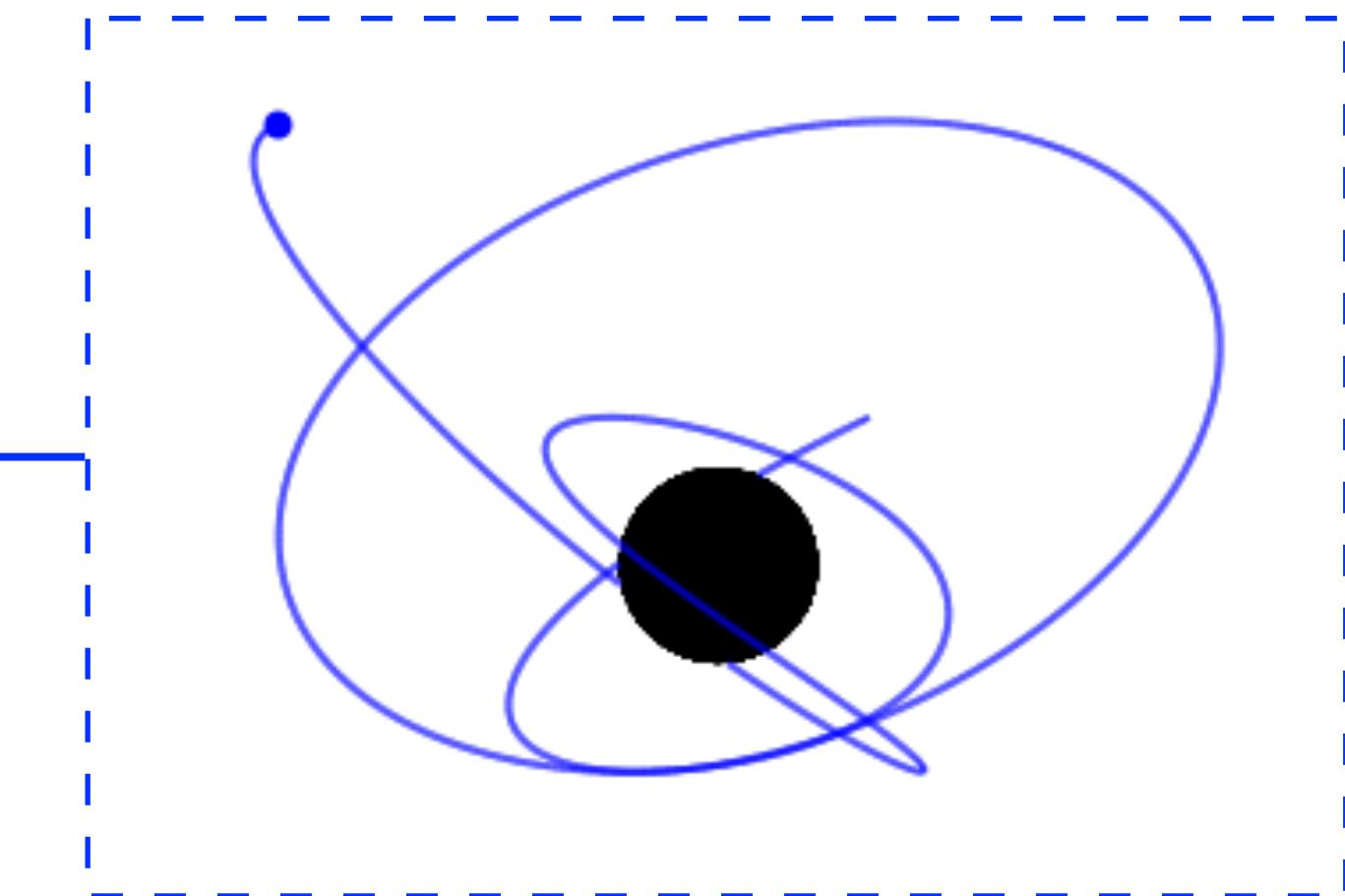


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- Solving the radial ODEs

$$\frac{dr_*}{dr} = \frac{r^2 + a^2}{r^2 - 2Mr + a^2}$$

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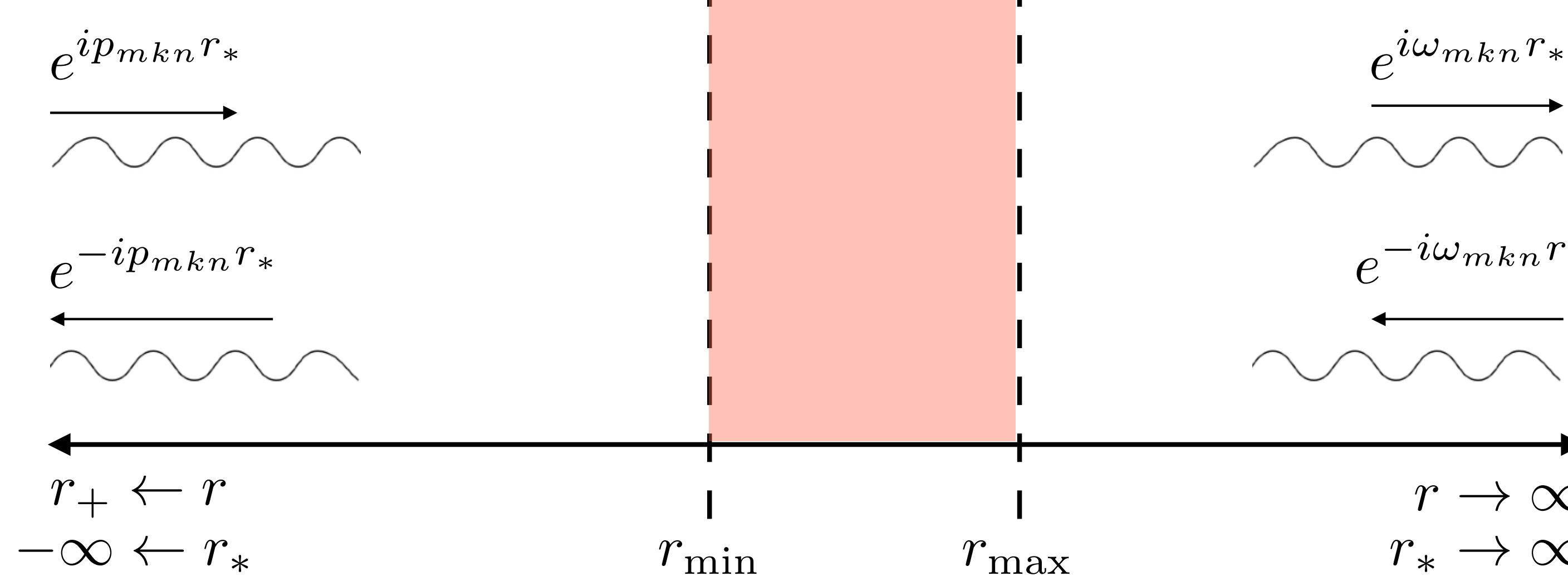
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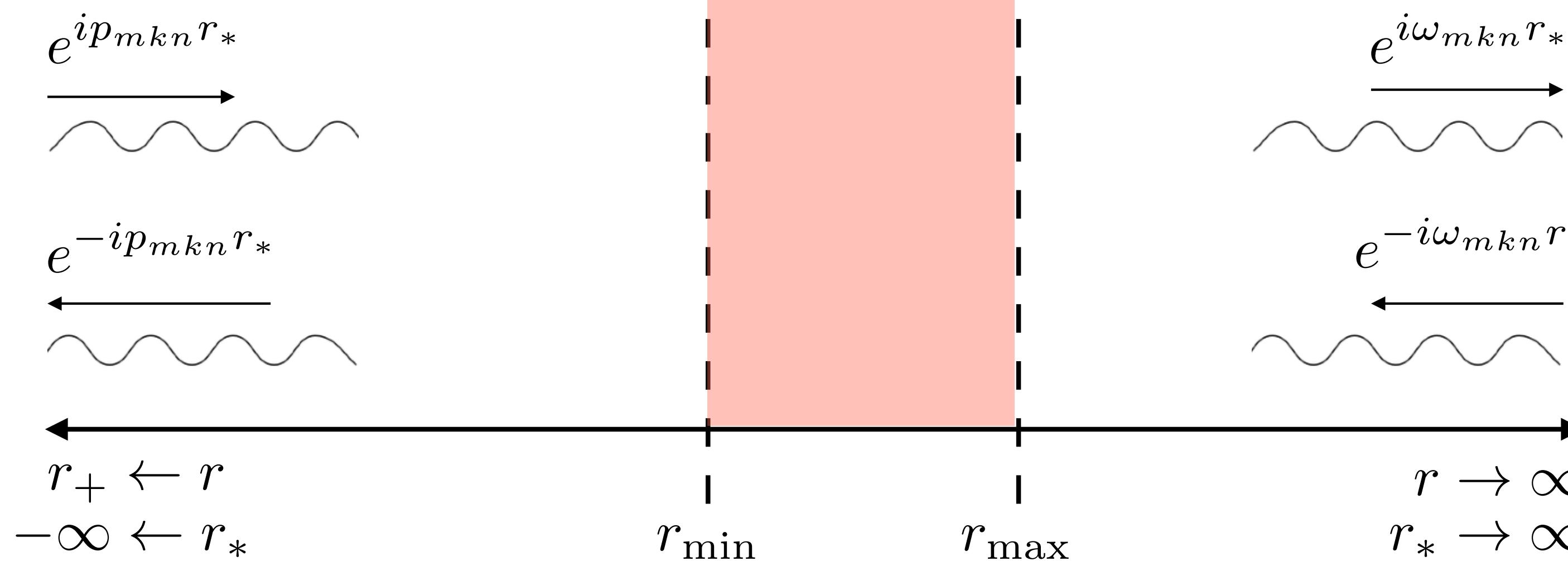
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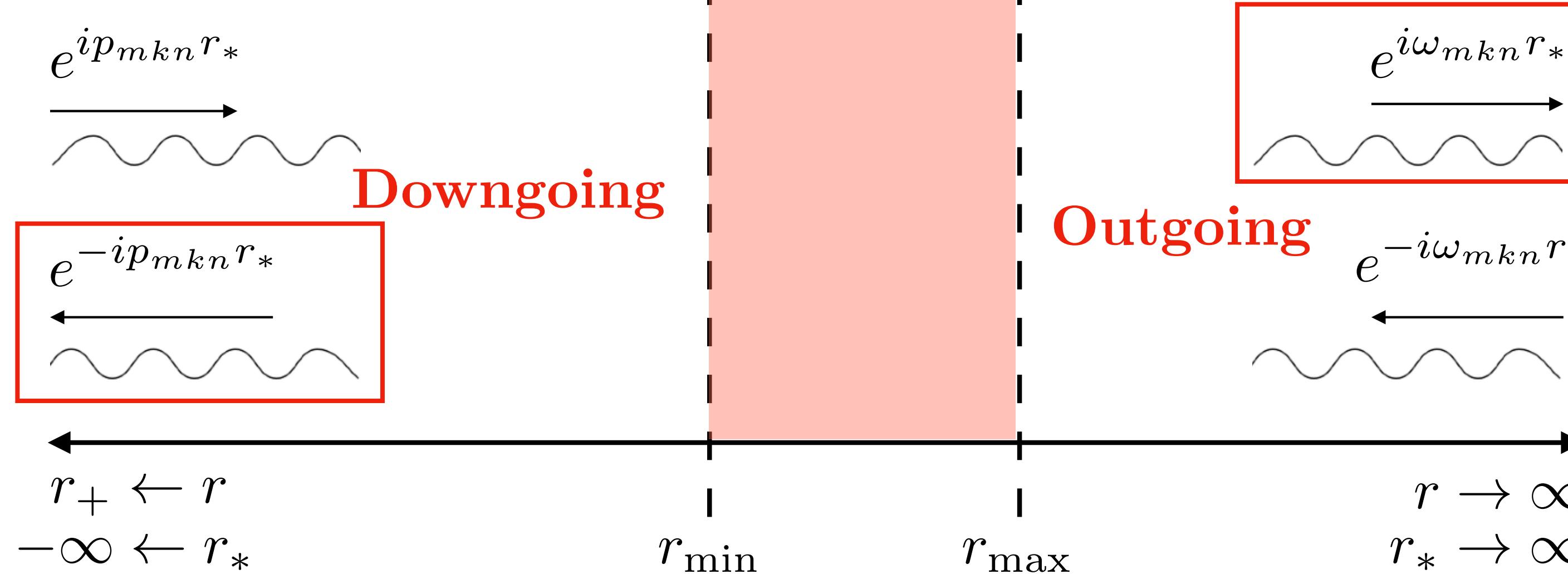
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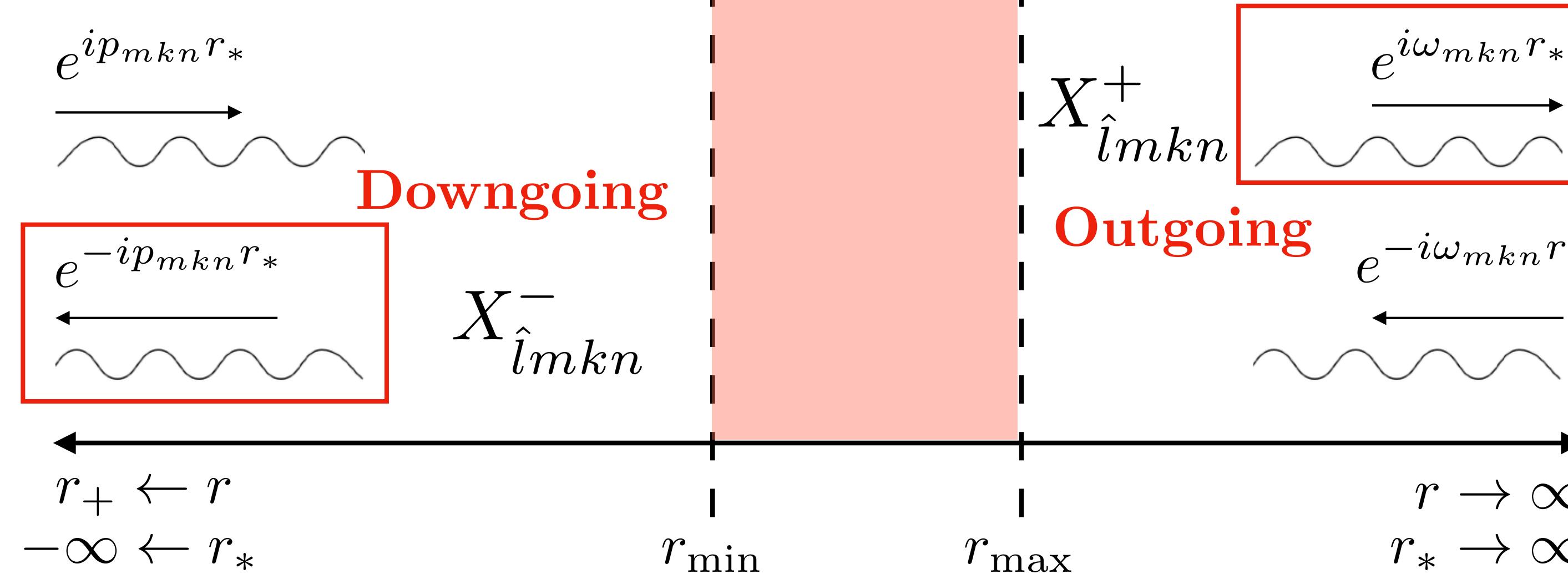
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- Finding homogeneous solutions
  - ❖ Mano-Suzuki-Takasugi (MST) function expansion formalism
    - ▶ Series solution w/ introduction of free parameter  $\nu$

$$R_{\hat{l}mkn}^-(r) \rightarrow R_{\hat{l}m}^-(\omega, r) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} f^\nu(\omega, x) a_n^\nu F(c_{n,1}^\nu, c_{n,2}^\nu; c_{n,3}^\nu; x)$$

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# Building a generic SSF code

- Finding homogeneous solutions
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Sasaki & Tagoshi  
(2003) LRR 6

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Hypergeometric  
function

Irregular confluent  
hypergeometric  
function

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$\nu$  Renormalized  
angular momentum



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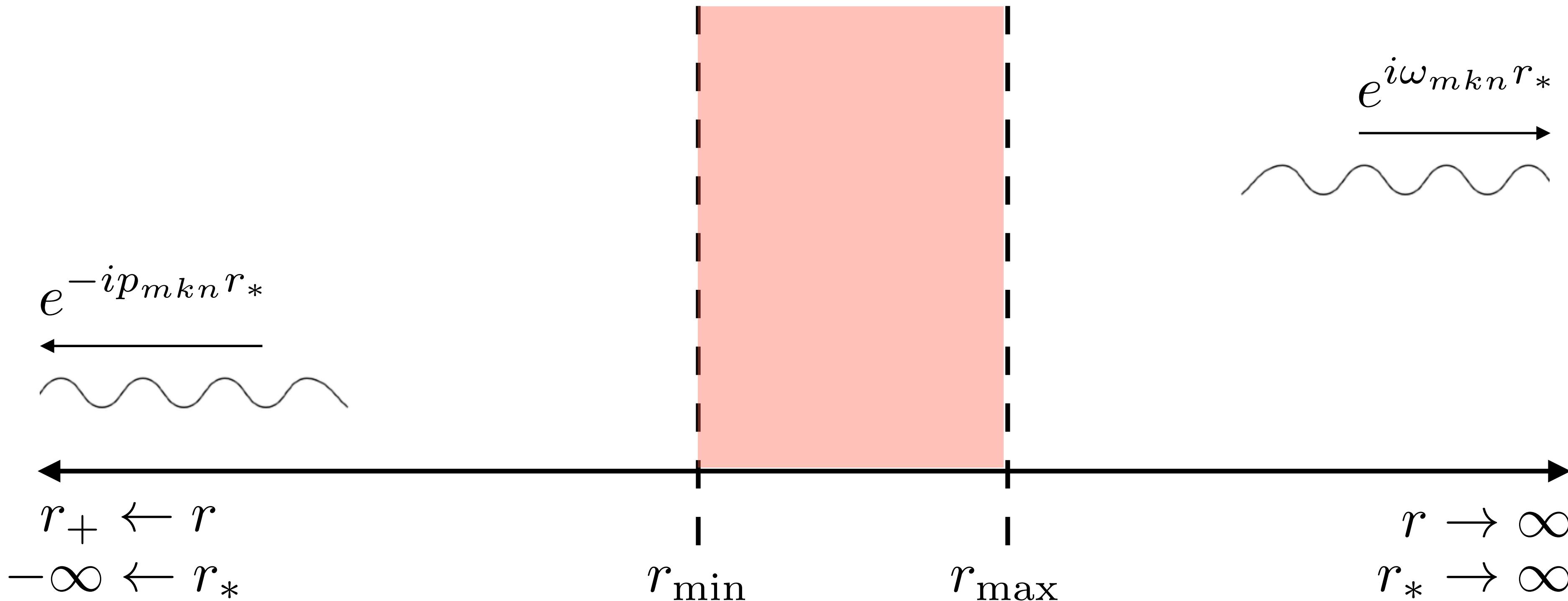
Black hole  
monodromy



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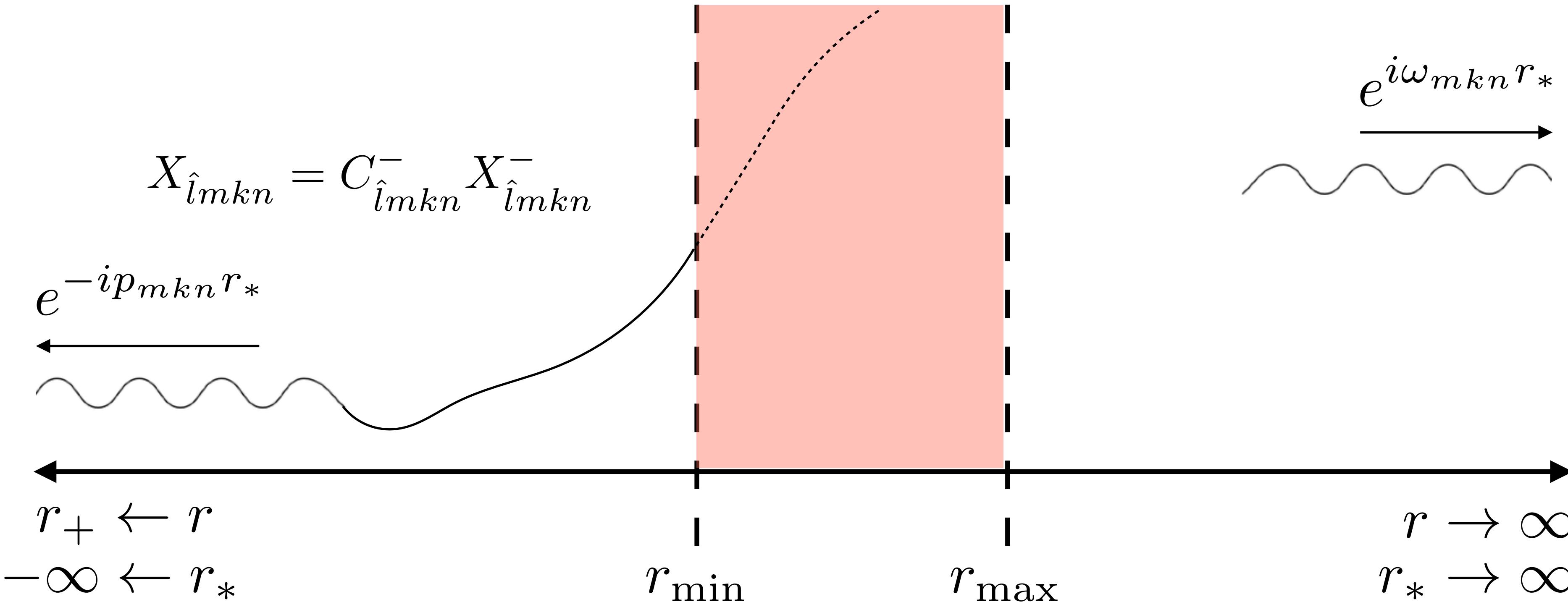
# Building a generic SSF code

- Source integration & TD reconstruction



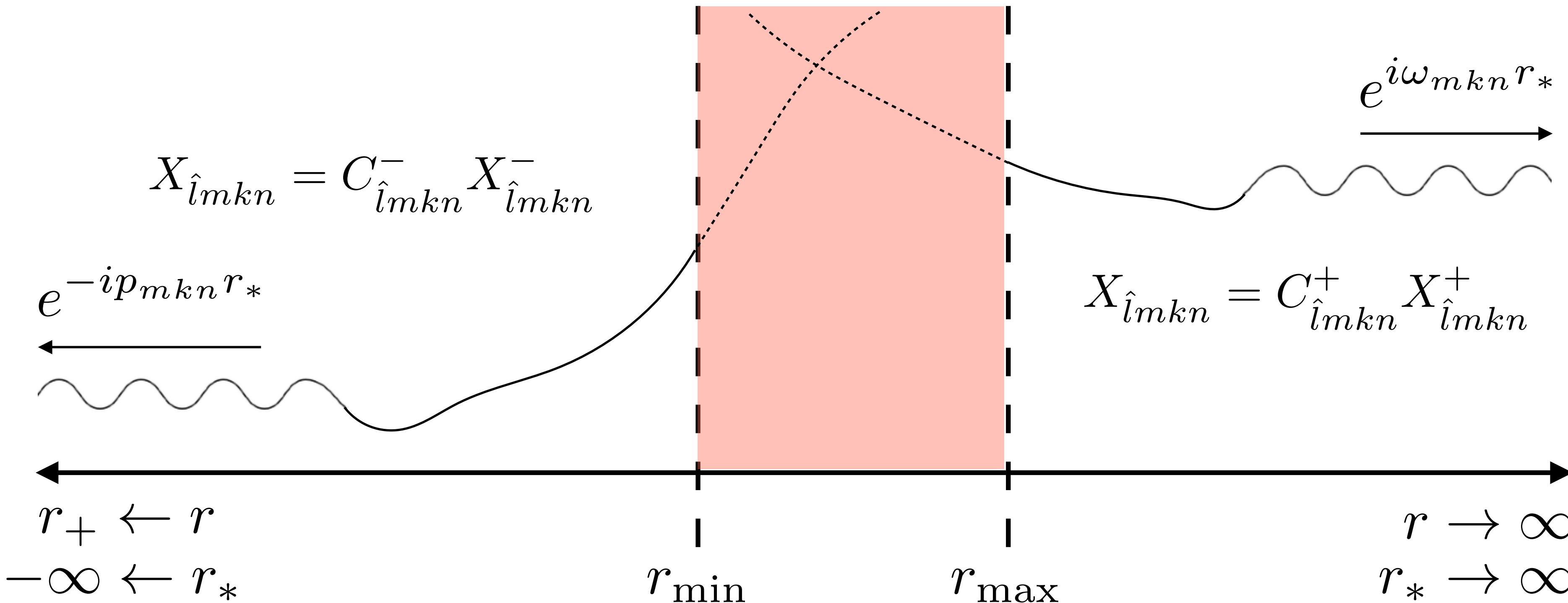
# Building a generic SSF code

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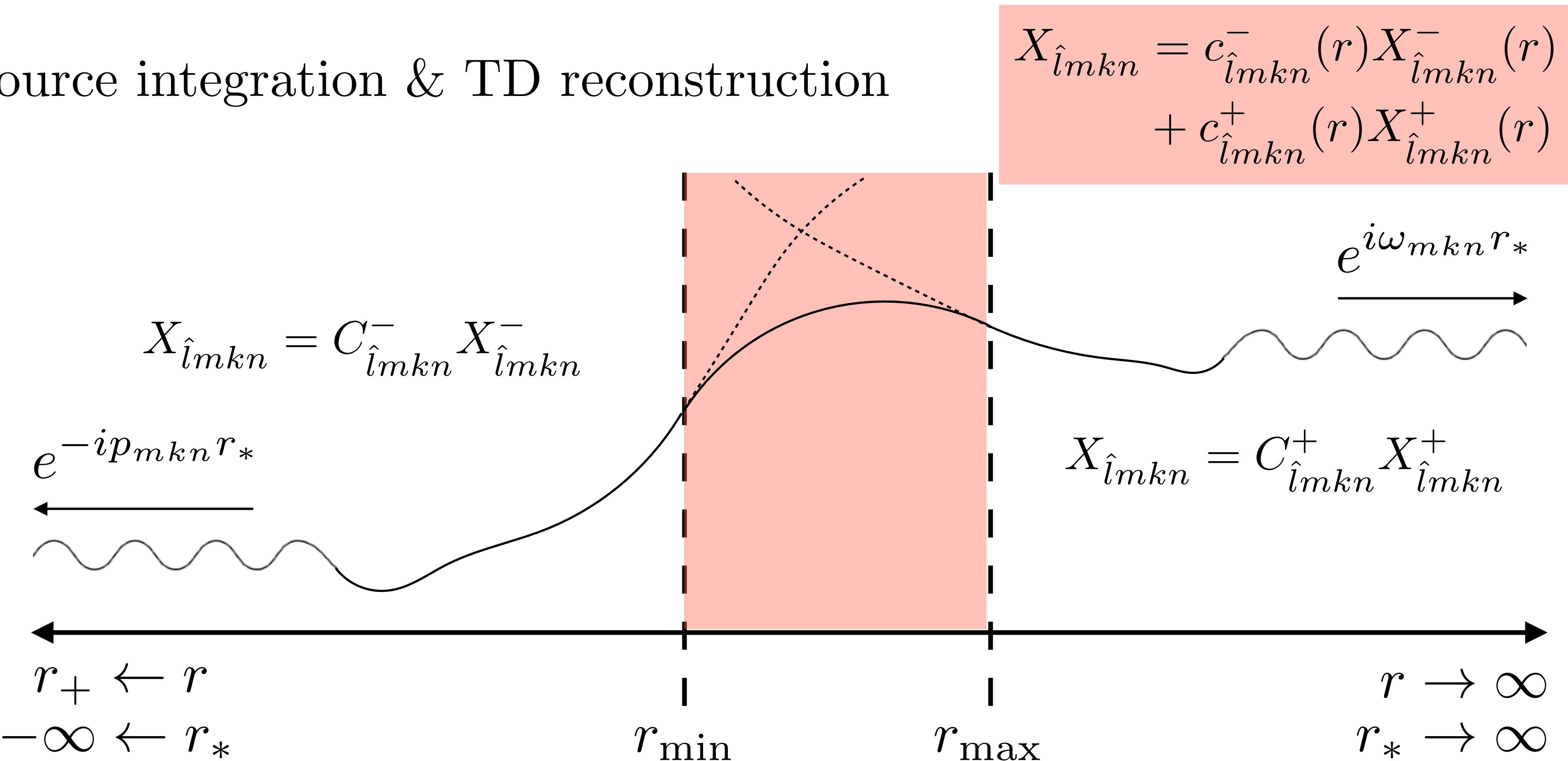
# Building a generic SSF code

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# Building a generic SSF code

- Source integration & TD reconstruction



$$X_{\hat{l}mkn} = c_{\hat{l}mkn}^-(r) X_{\hat{l}mkn}^-(r) + c_{\hat{l}mkn}^+(r) X_{\hat{l}mkn}^+(r)$$

$$e^{i\omega_{mkn}r_*}$$

$$X_{\hat{l}mkn} = C_{\hat{l}mkn}^+ X_{\hat{l}mkn}^+$$

$$r \rightarrow \infty$$
  
$$r_* \rightarrow \infty$$



# Building a generic SSF code

- Source integration & TD reconstruction

2D integral

$\rightarrow$  4 1D

Fourier sums

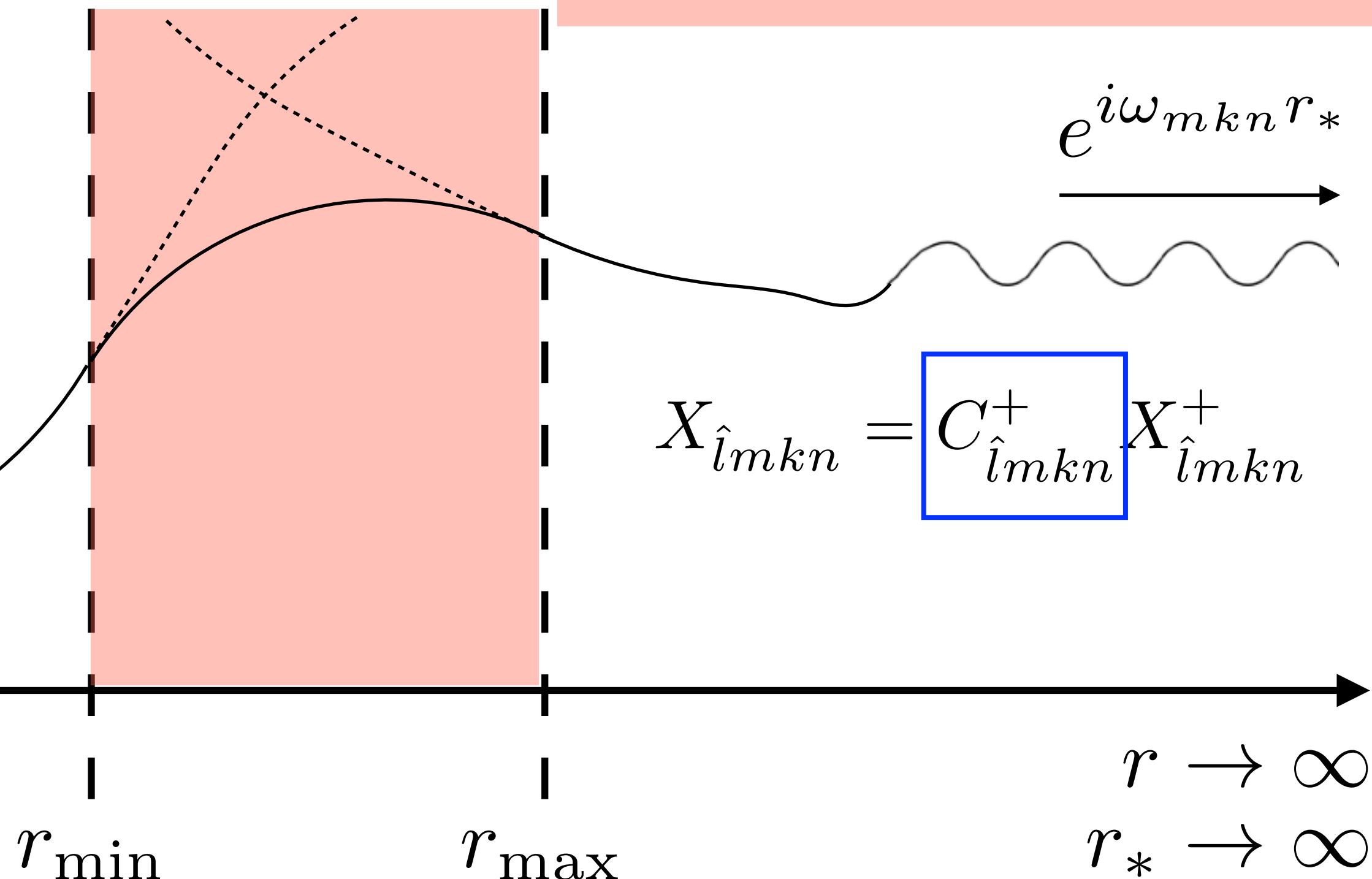
$$X_{\hat{l}mkn} = \boxed{C_{\hat{l}mkn}^-} X_{\hat{l}mkn}^-$$

$$e^{-ip_{mkn}r_*}$$



$$r_+ \leftarrow r$$

$$-\infty \leftarrow r_*$$



# Building a generic SSF code

- Source integration & TD reconstruction

2D integral  
→ 4 1D  
Fourier sums

Method of extended  
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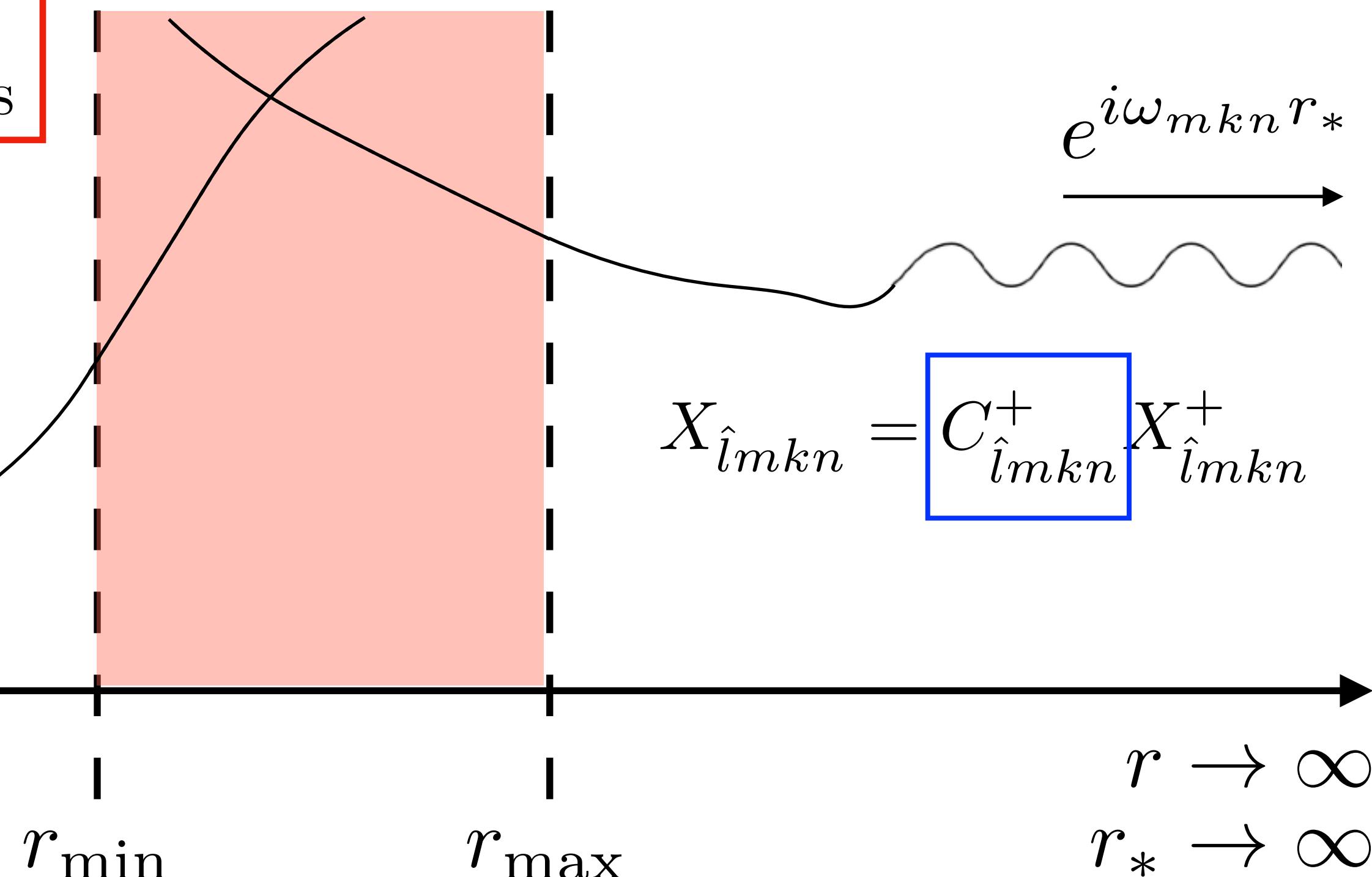
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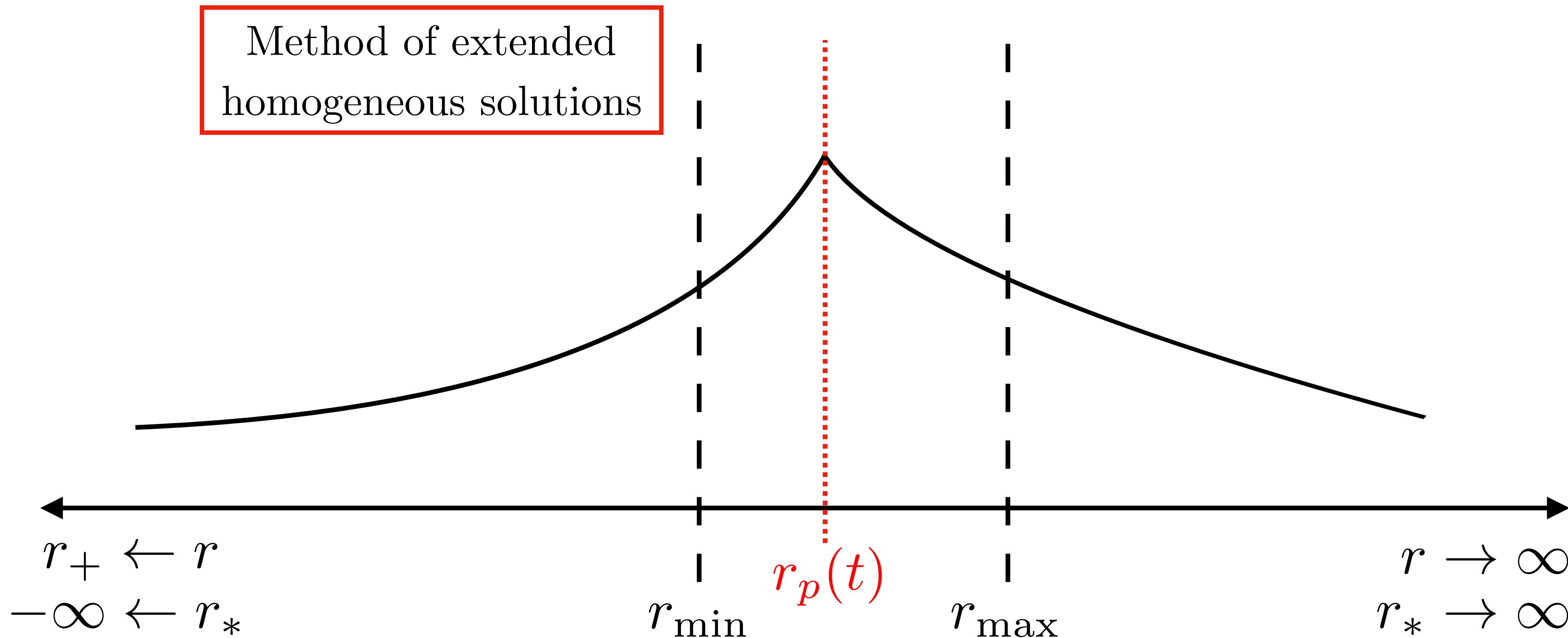
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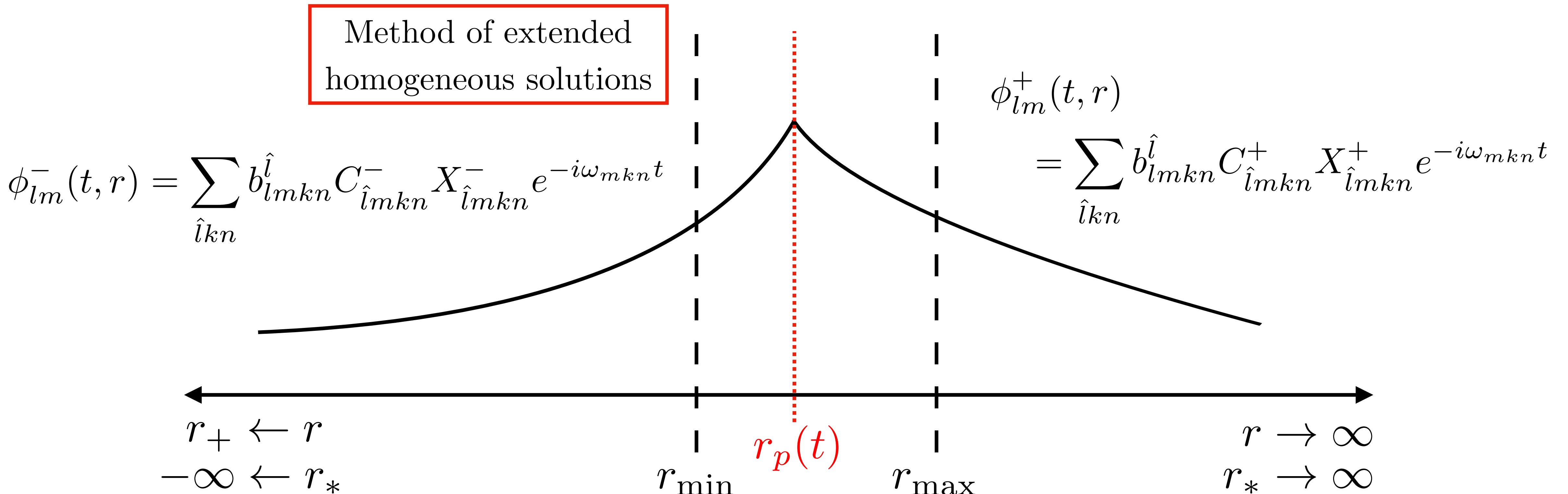
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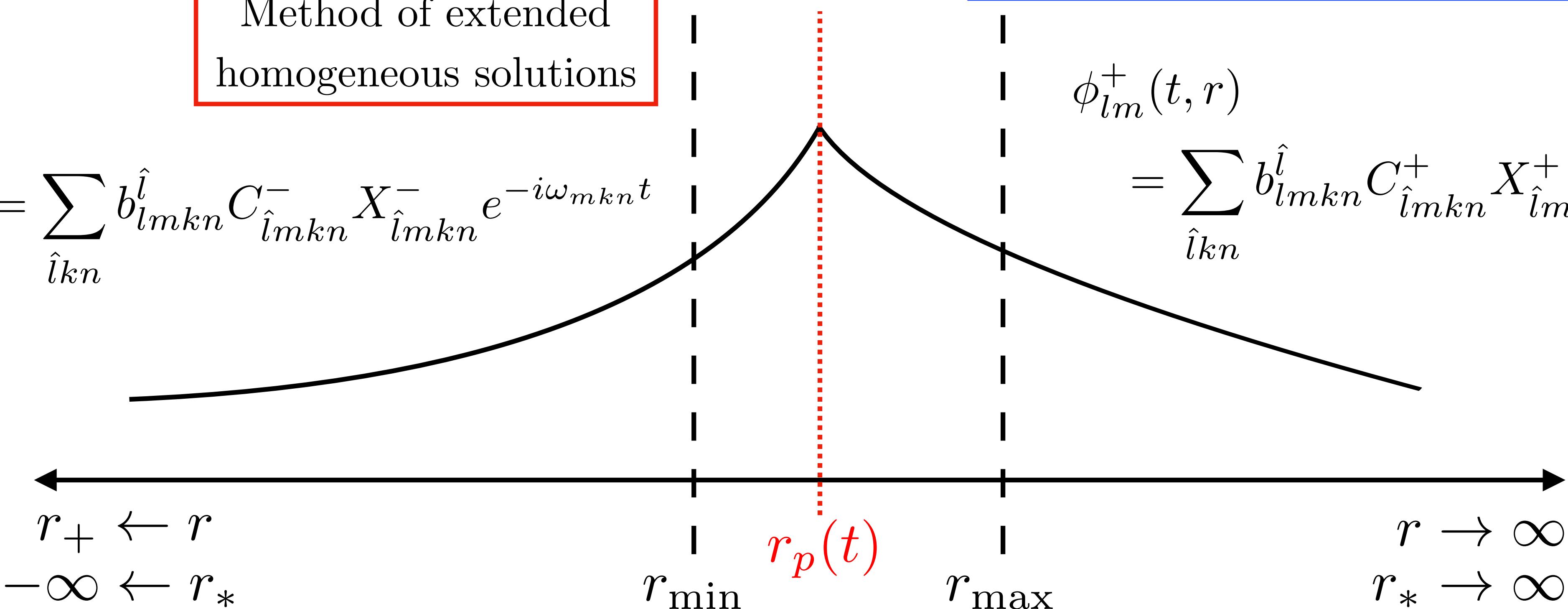


# Building a generic SSF code

- Source integration & TD reconstruction

Method of extended  
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$$\phi_{lm}^-(t, r) = \sum_{\hat{l}kn} b_{lmkn}^{\hat{l}} C_{\hat{l}mkn}^- X_{\hat{l}mkn}^- e^{-i\omega_{mkn} t}$$



$$\Phi^{\text{ret}} = \sum_{lm} \phi_{lm}^\pm(t, r) Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\phi_{lm}^+(t, r)$$

$$= \sum_{\hat{l}kn} b_{lmkn}^{\hat{l}} C_{\hat{l}mkn}^+ X_{\hat{l}mkn}^+ e^{-i\omega_{mkn} t}$$



# Building a generic SSF code

---

- Mode-sum regularization

$$F_\mu = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (F_\mu^{\text{ret},l} - F_\mu^{\text{S},l})$$

$$F_\mu^{\text{S},l} = A_\mu(l + 1/2) + B_\mu$$
$$+ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} D_\mu^{2n} \left[ \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (2l - 2k + 1)(2l + 2k + 1) \right]^{-1}$$

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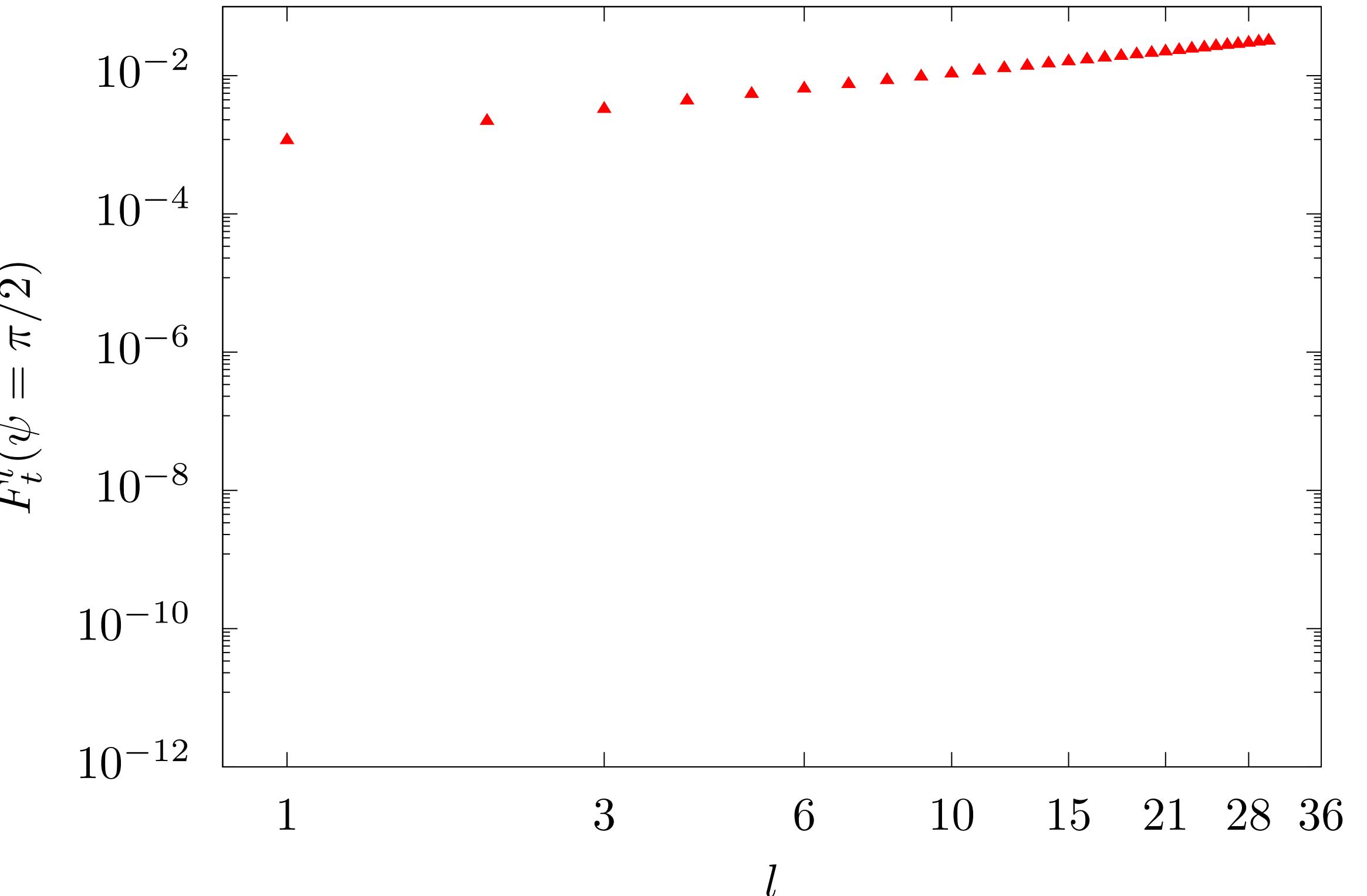
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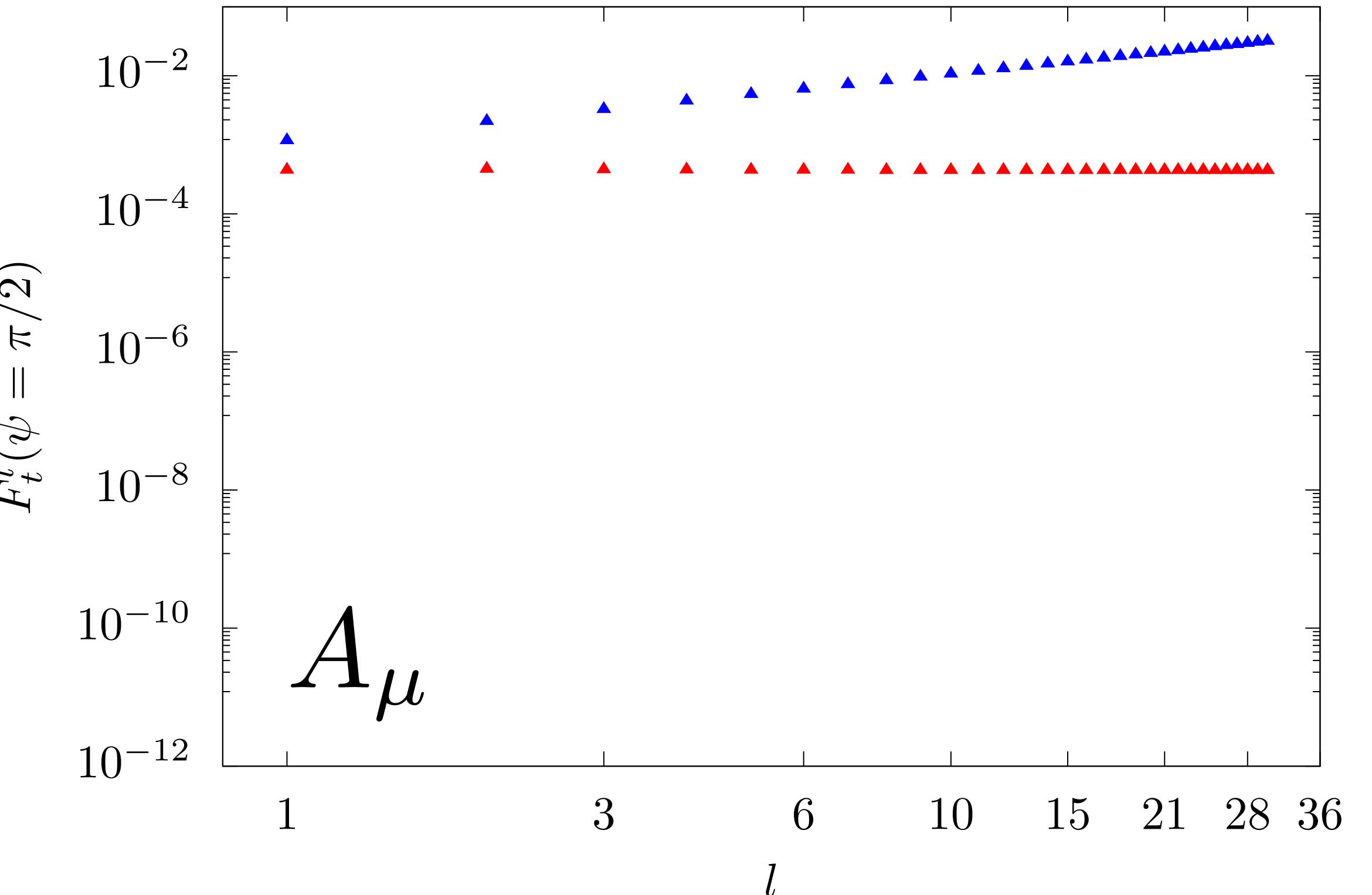
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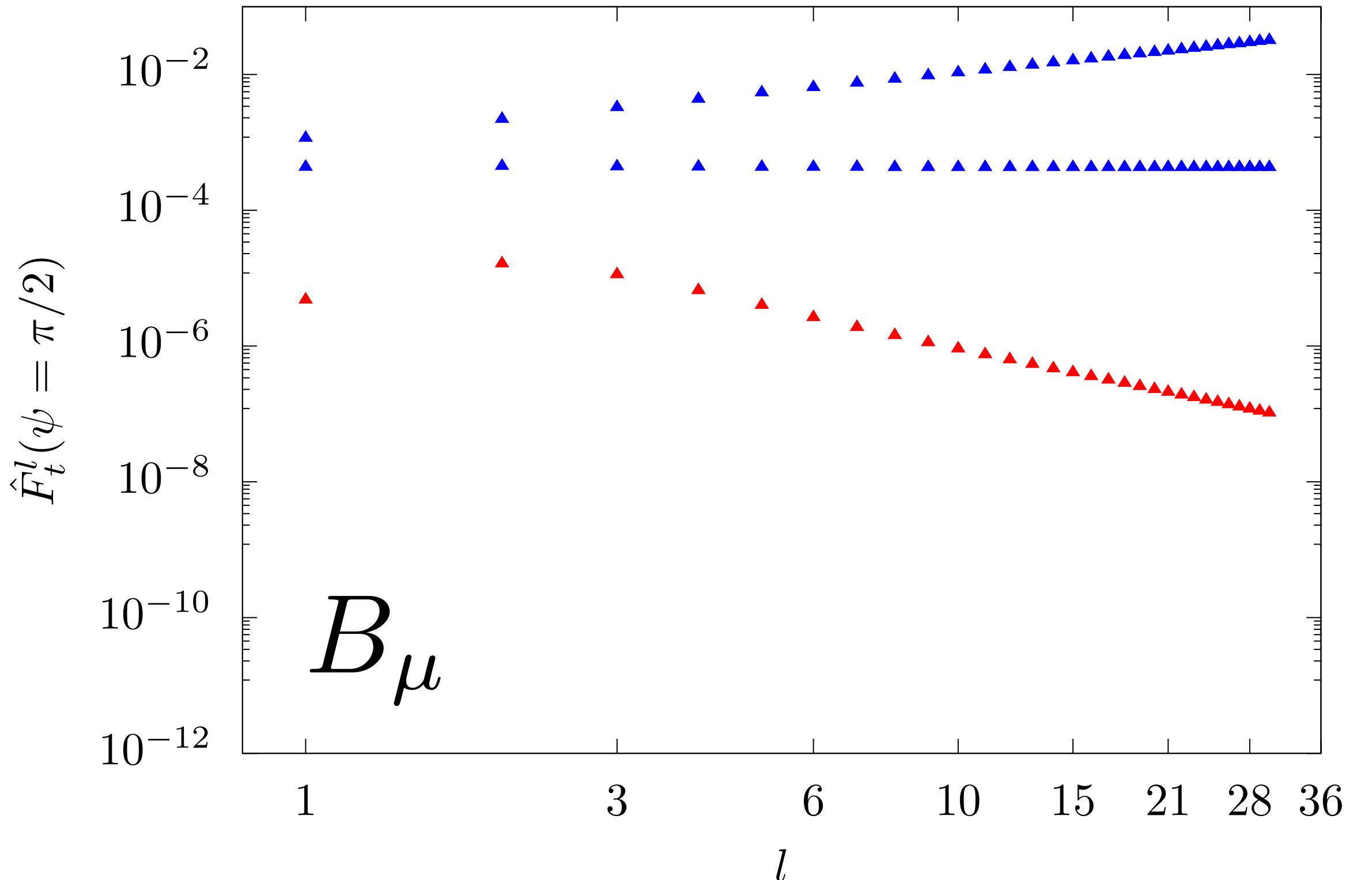
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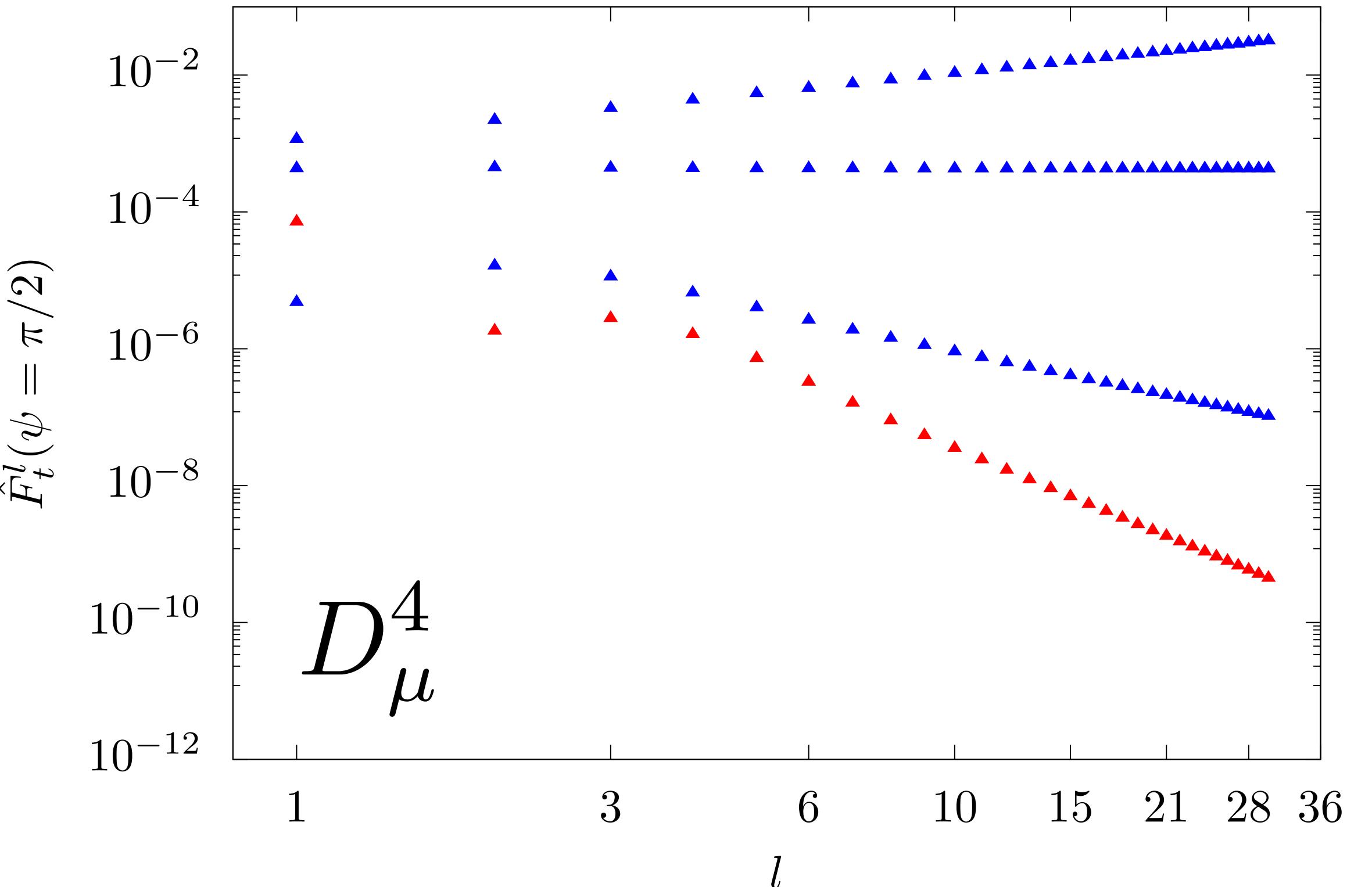
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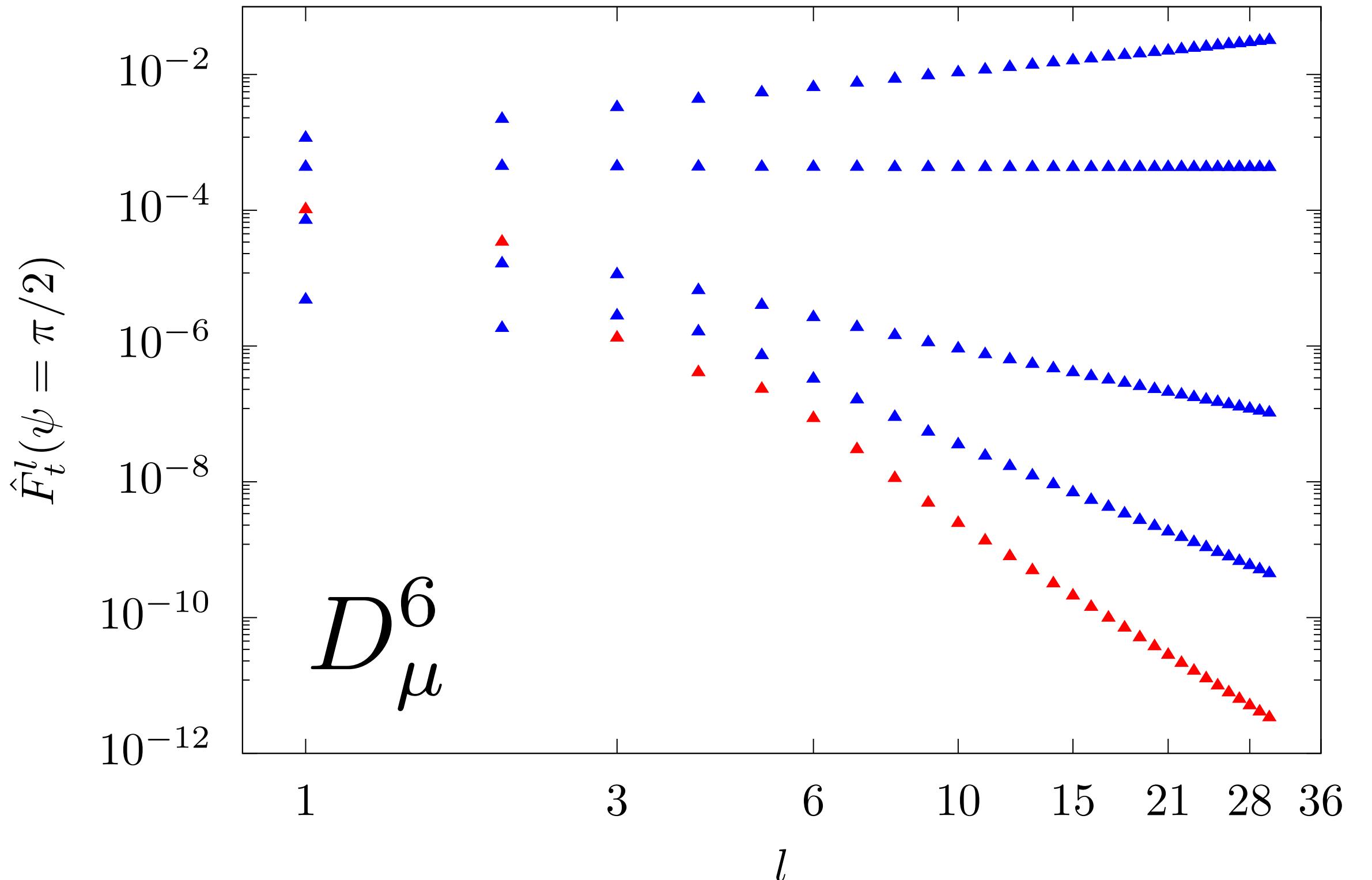
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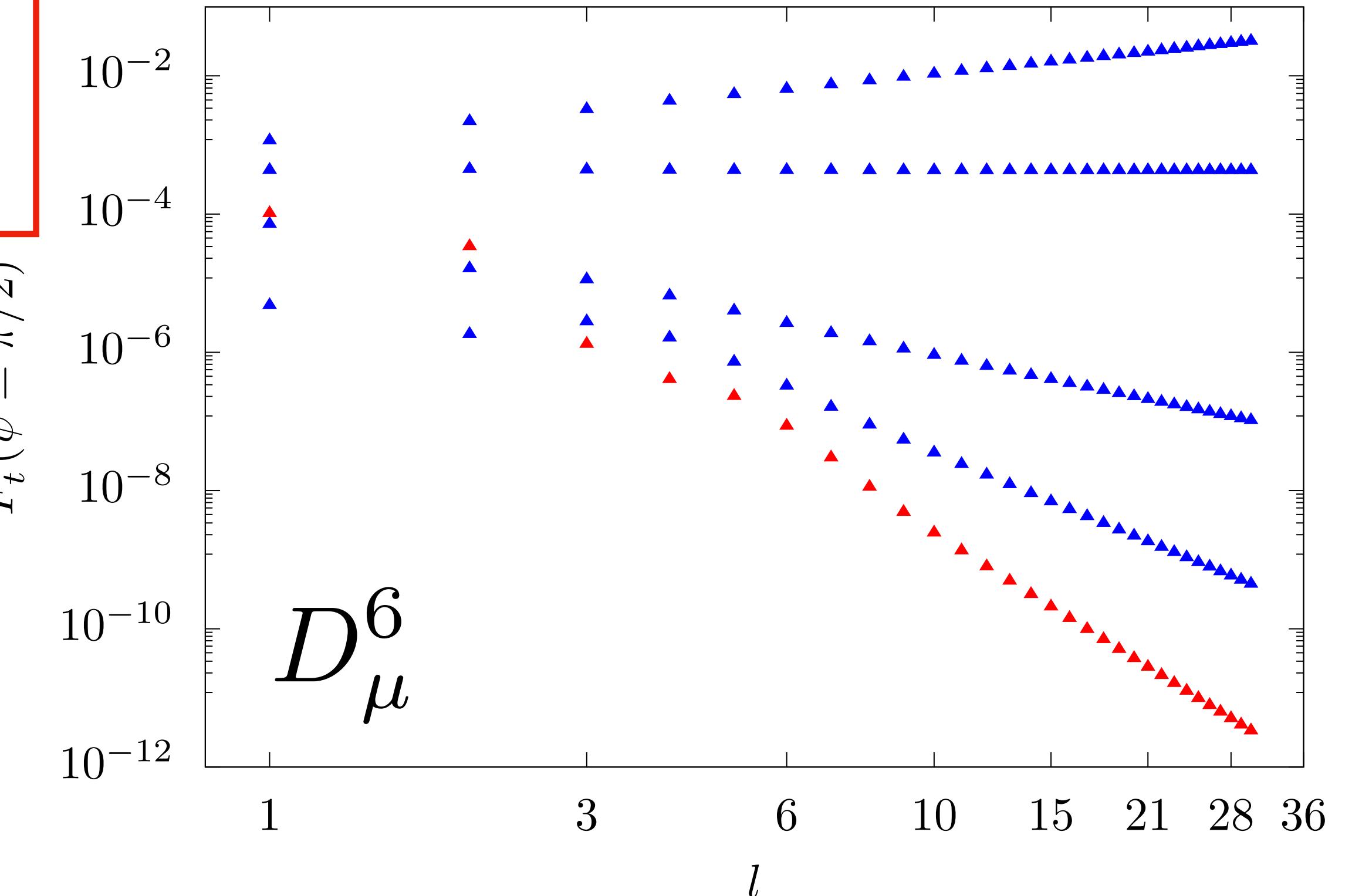
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Higher-order RPs  
known for equatorial  
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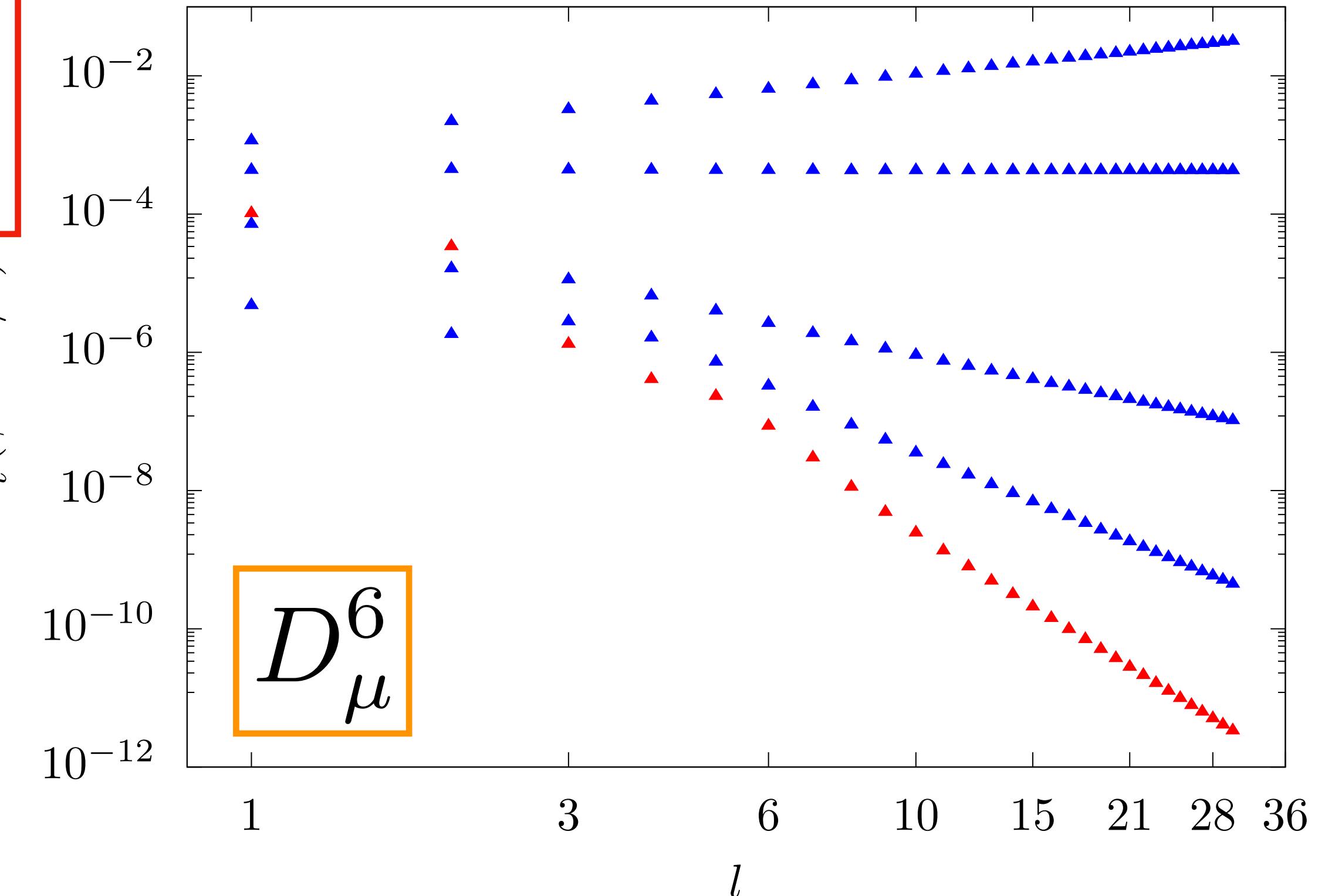
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Higher-order parameters for generic orbits?  
See Anna Heffernan's talk Tuesday



# Schwarzschild test

---

- **Equatorial v. Inclined**

$p = 10, e = 0.5, \iota = 0, a = 0$



$p = 10, e = 0.5, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0$



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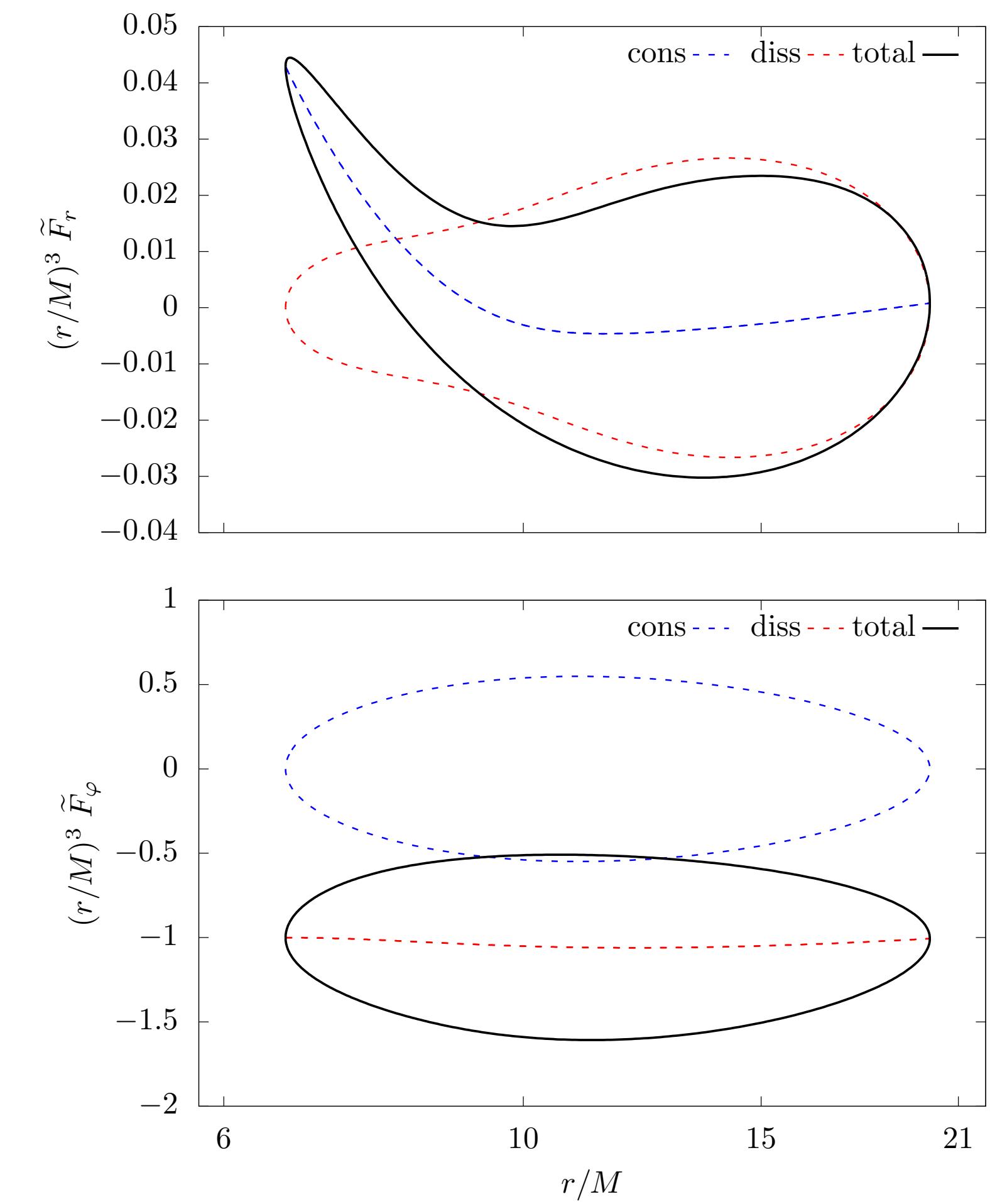
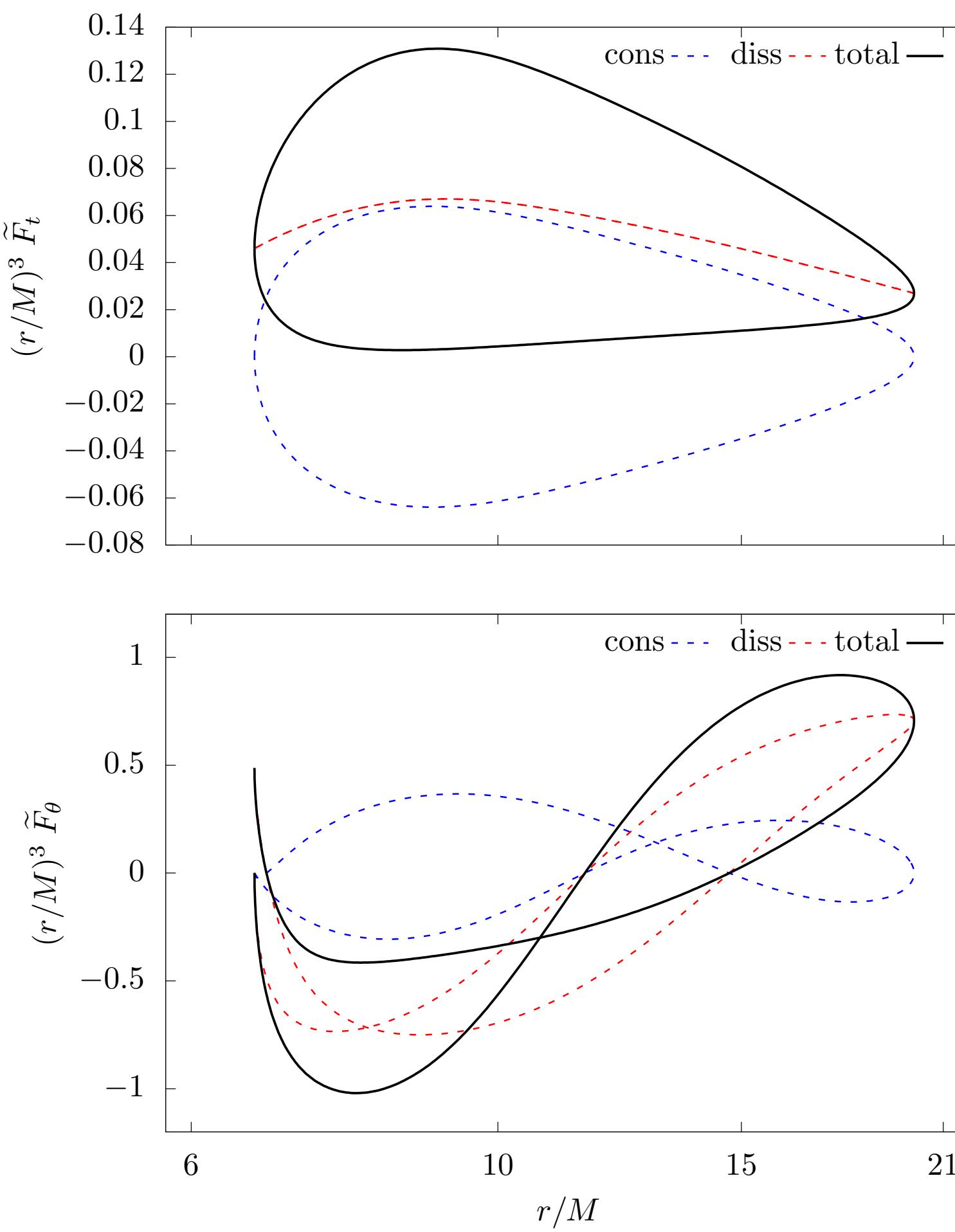
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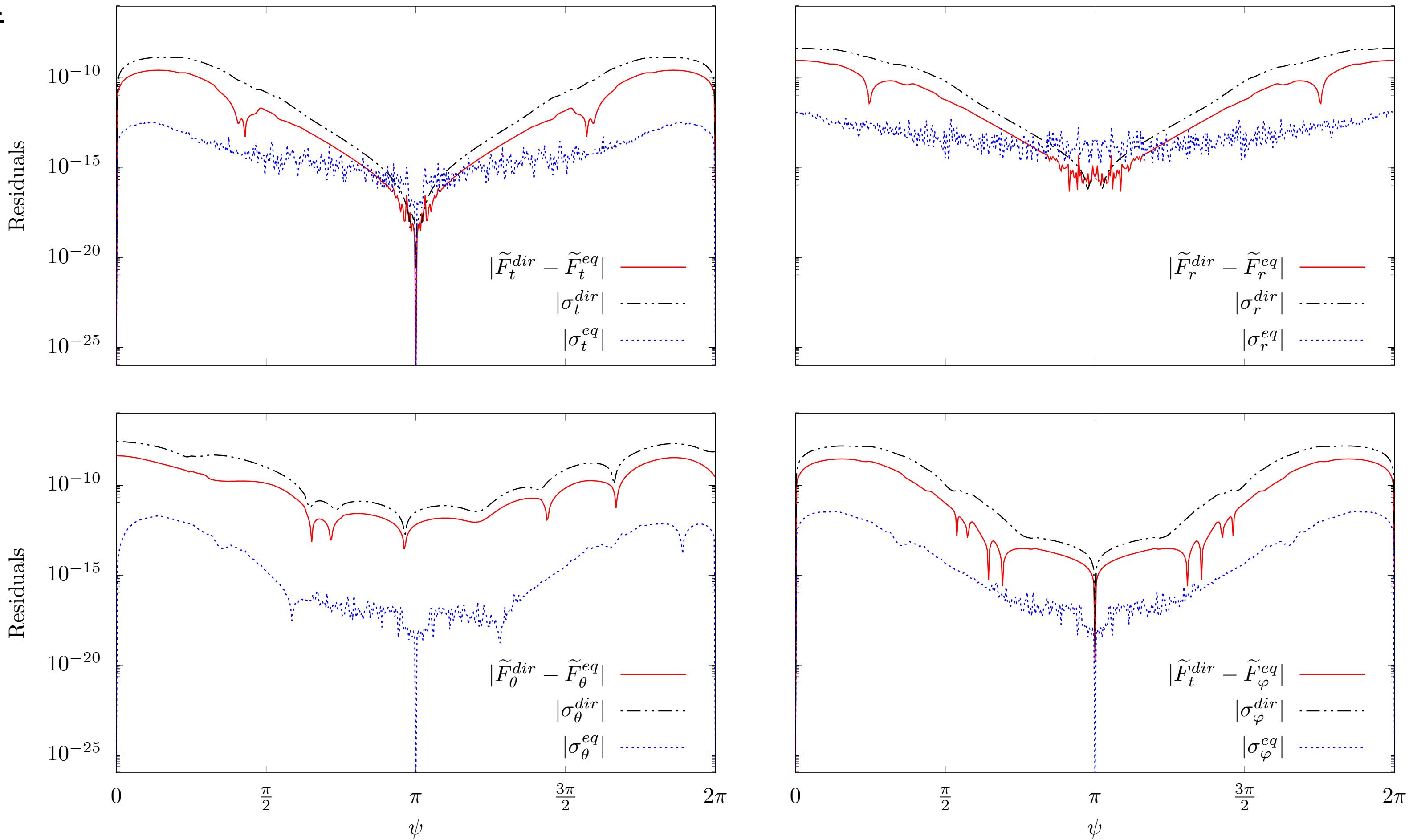
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# Orbits analyzed by my SSF code



Schw Circular



Kerr Eccentric, Inclined



Kerr Eccentric, Equatorial



Kerr Resonant



Schw Eccentric



Kerr Circular, Inclined



Kerr Retrograde Eccentric, Equatorial



# Orbits analyzed by my SSF code



Schw Circular



Kerr Eccentric, Inclined



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Kerr Circular, Inclined



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# Highly eccentric orbit

$p = 8, e = 0.8, \iota = 0, a = 0.99M$



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[1610.09319]

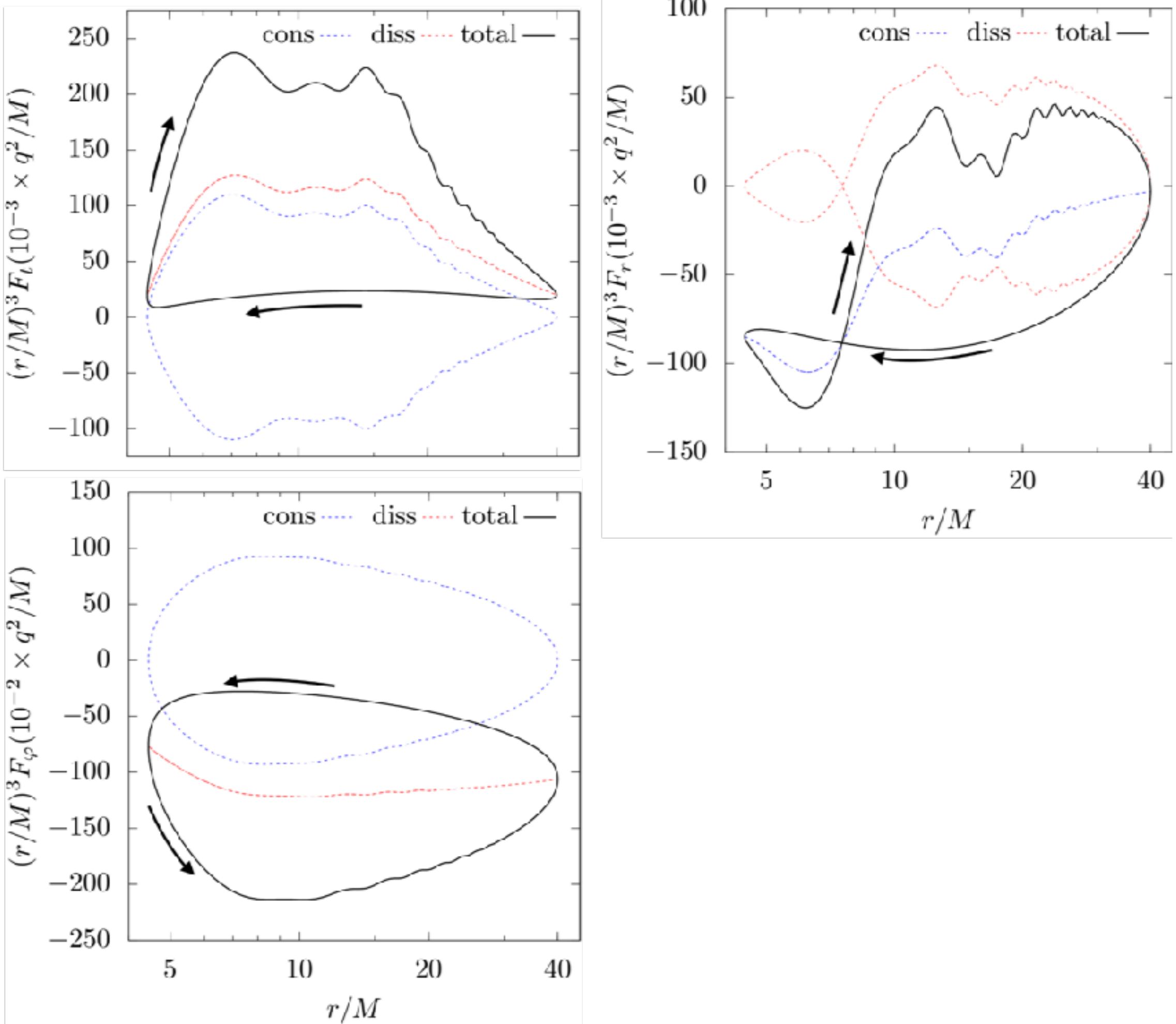
- Inspired by Thornburg & Wardell (2017):  
Time-domain, equatorial Kerr SSF code

• •



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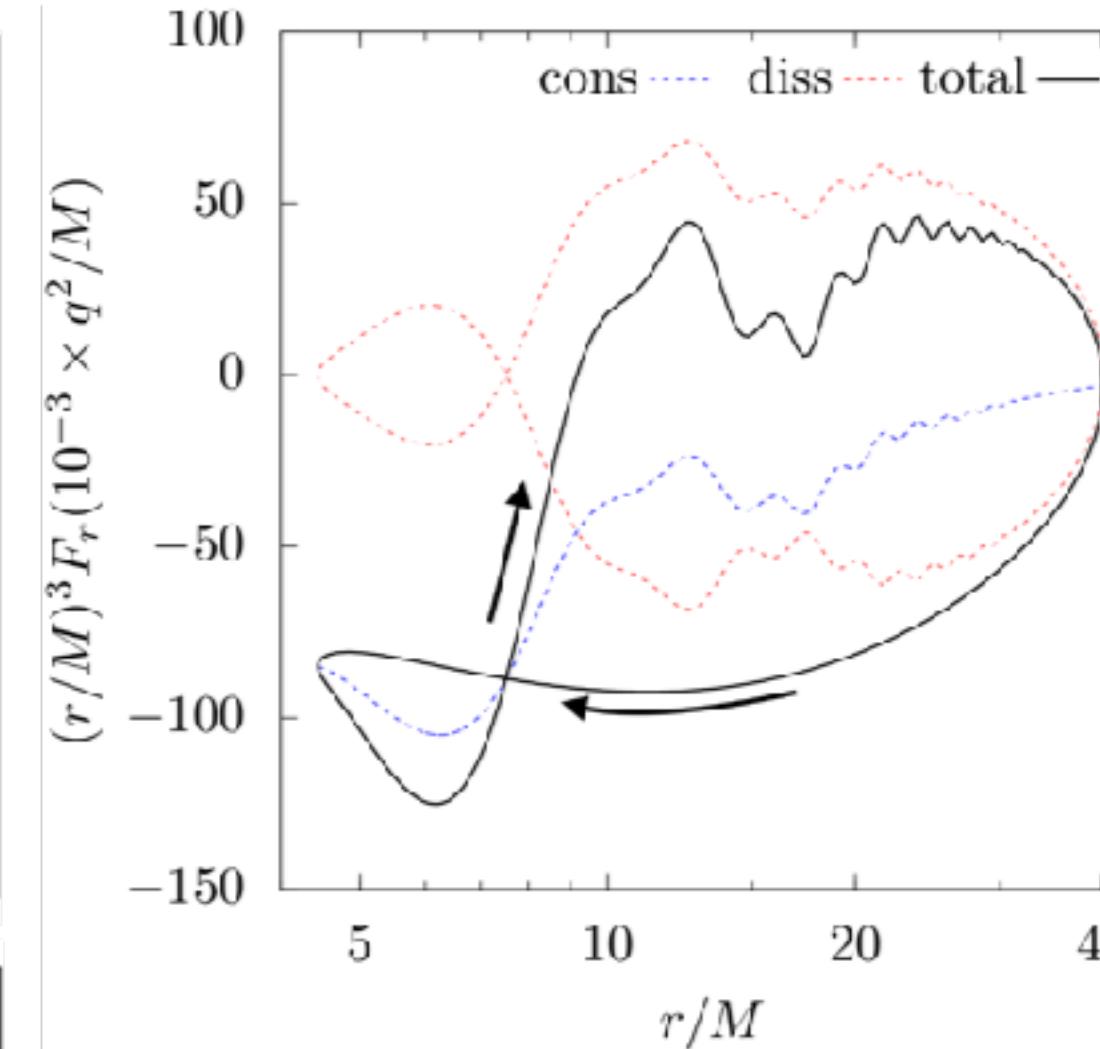
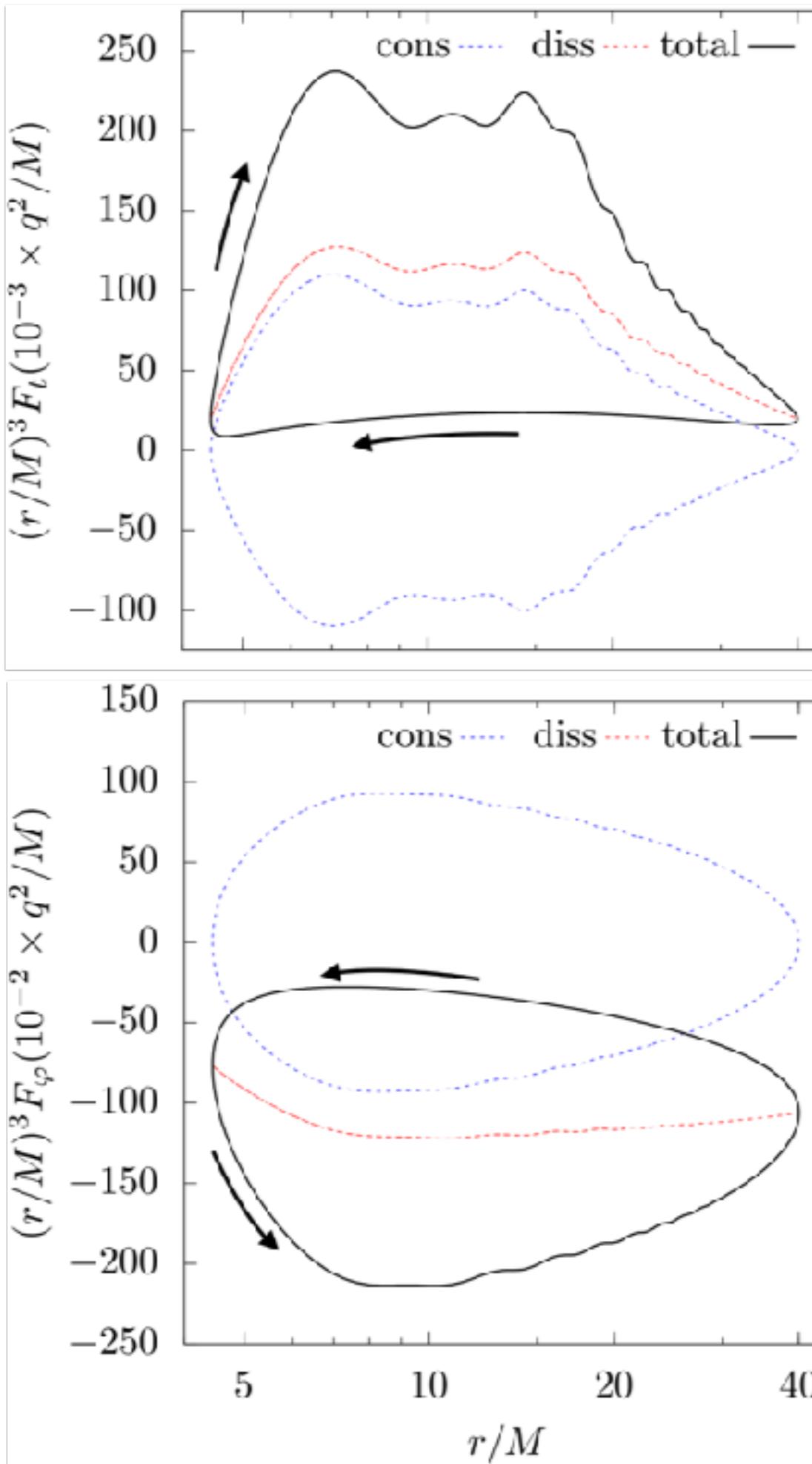
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# Highly eccentric orbit

$$p = 8, e = 0.8, \iota = 0, a = 0.99M$$



“Wiggles”:  
Excited  
quasi-normal  
modes

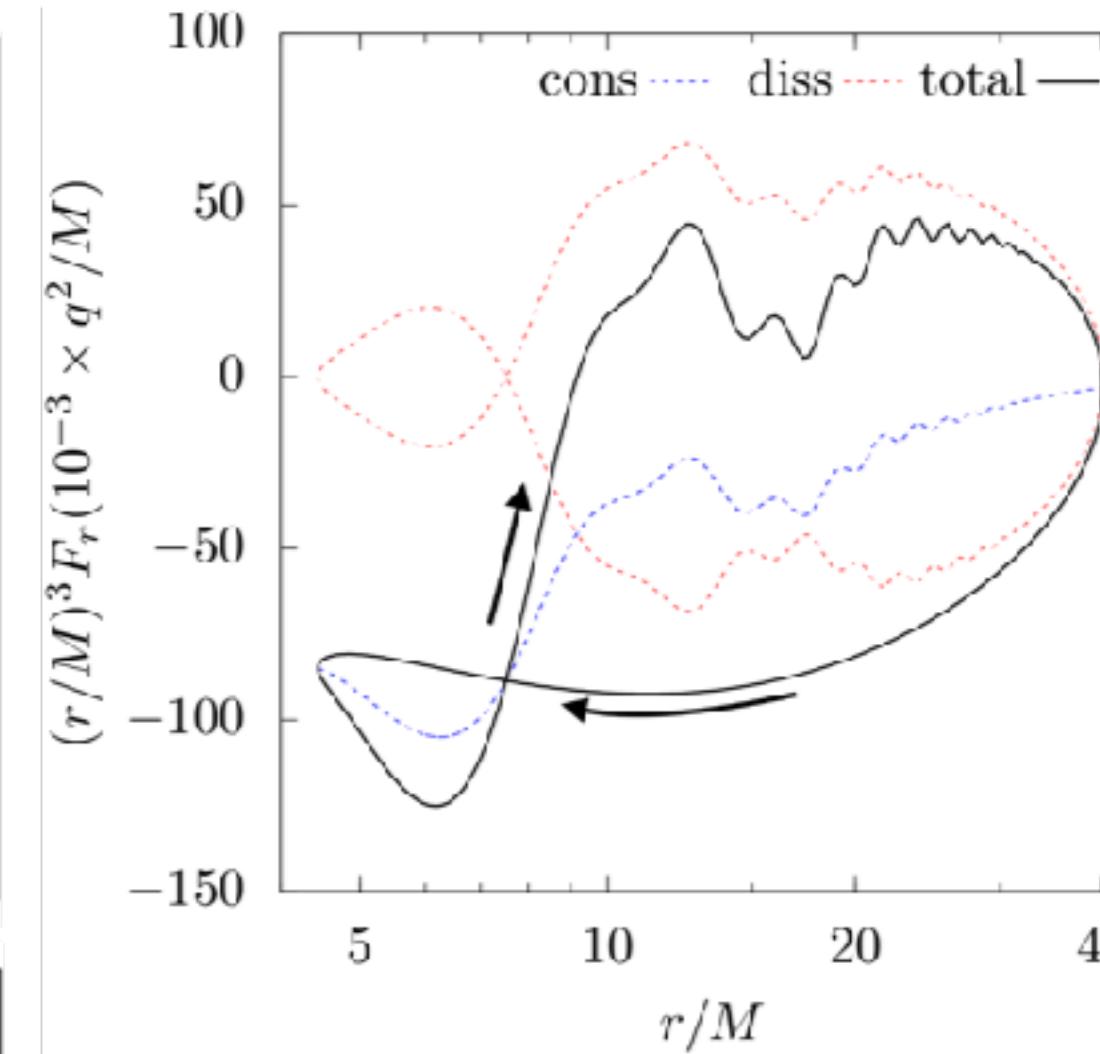
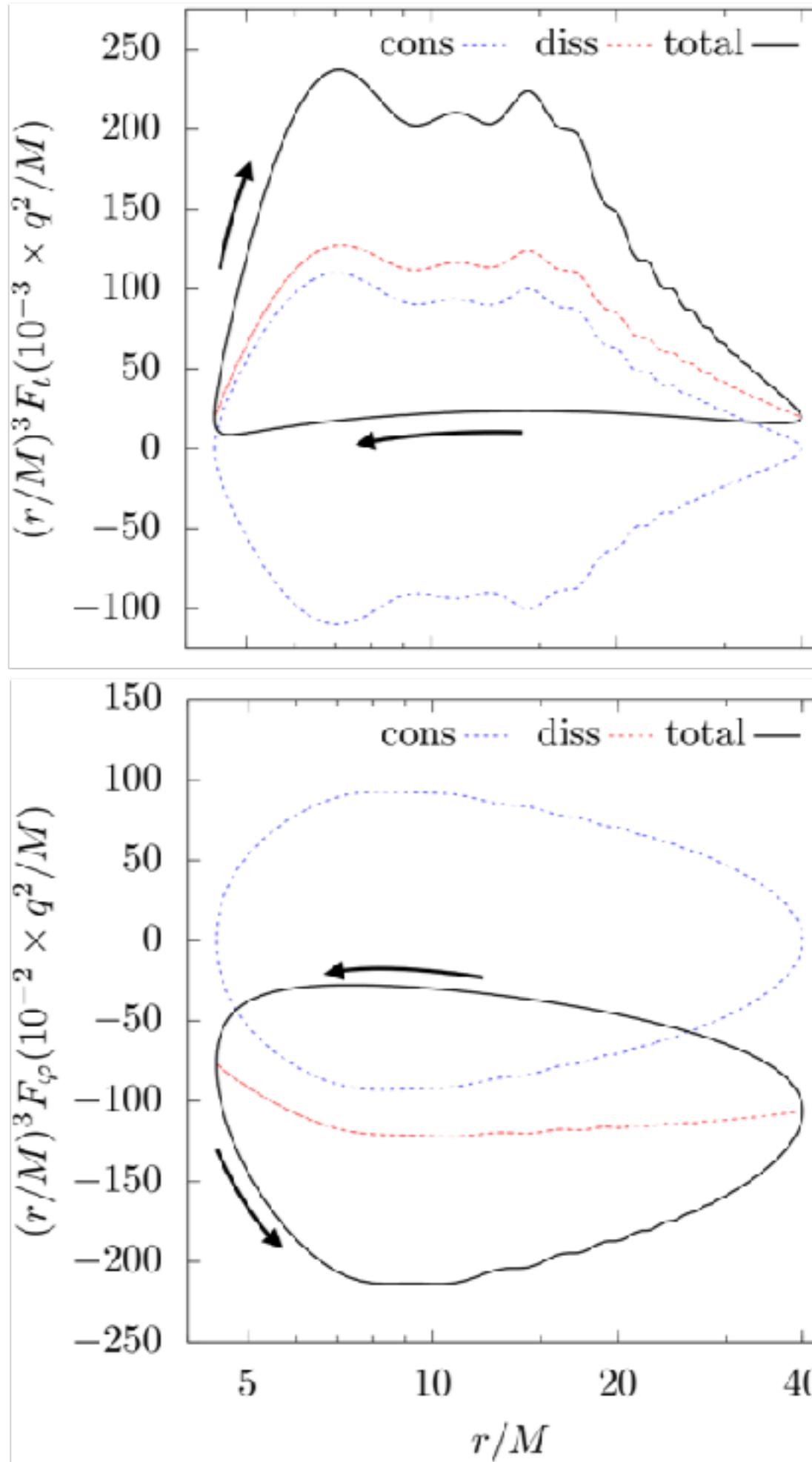
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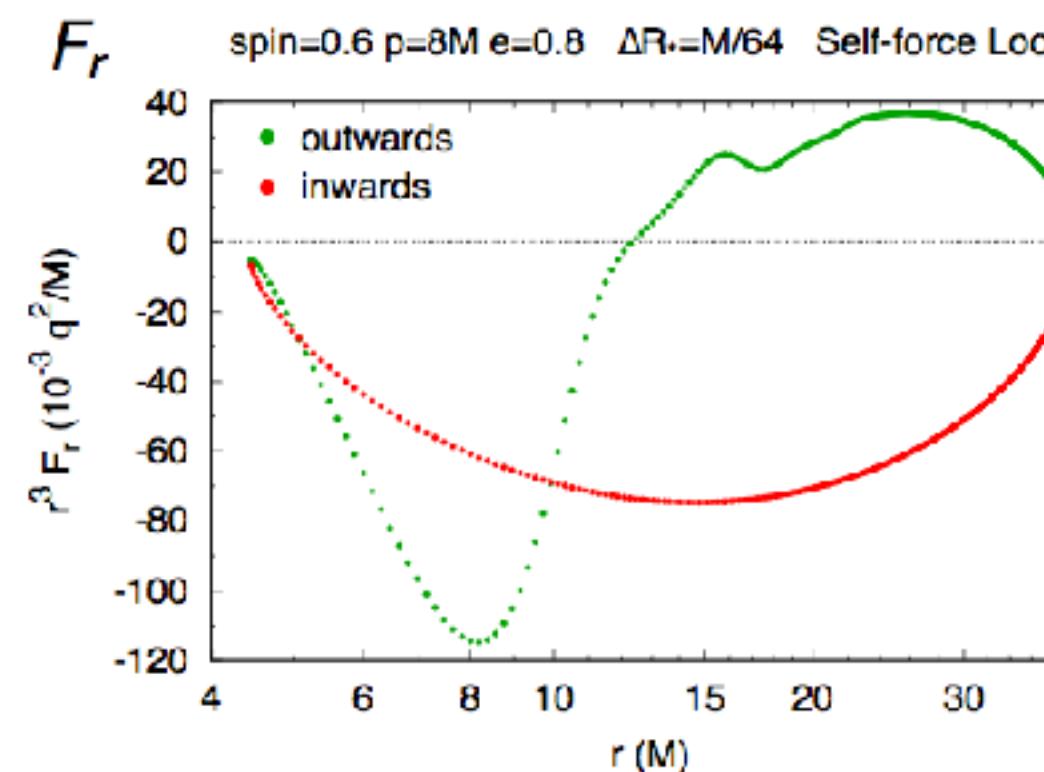
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“Wiggles”:  
Excited  
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- Inspired by Thornburg & Wardell (2017):  
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$$p = 8, e = 0.8, \iota = 0, \\ a = 0.6M$$



[1610.09319]

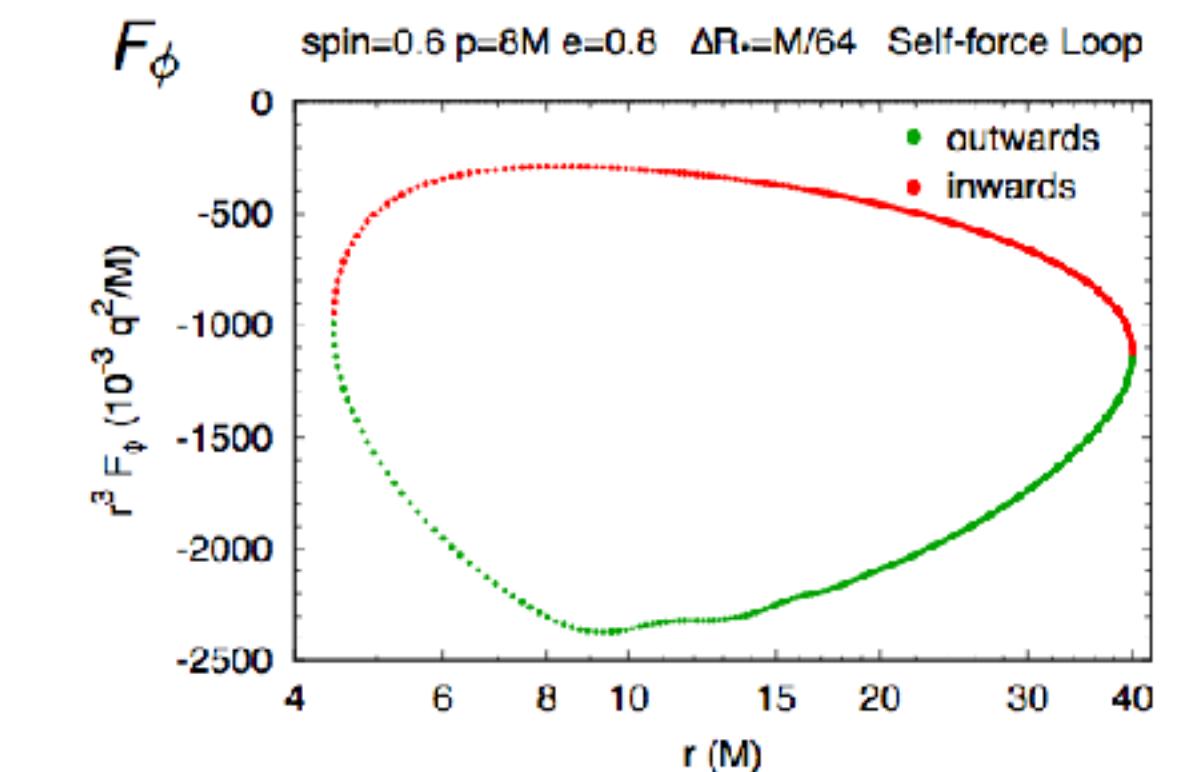
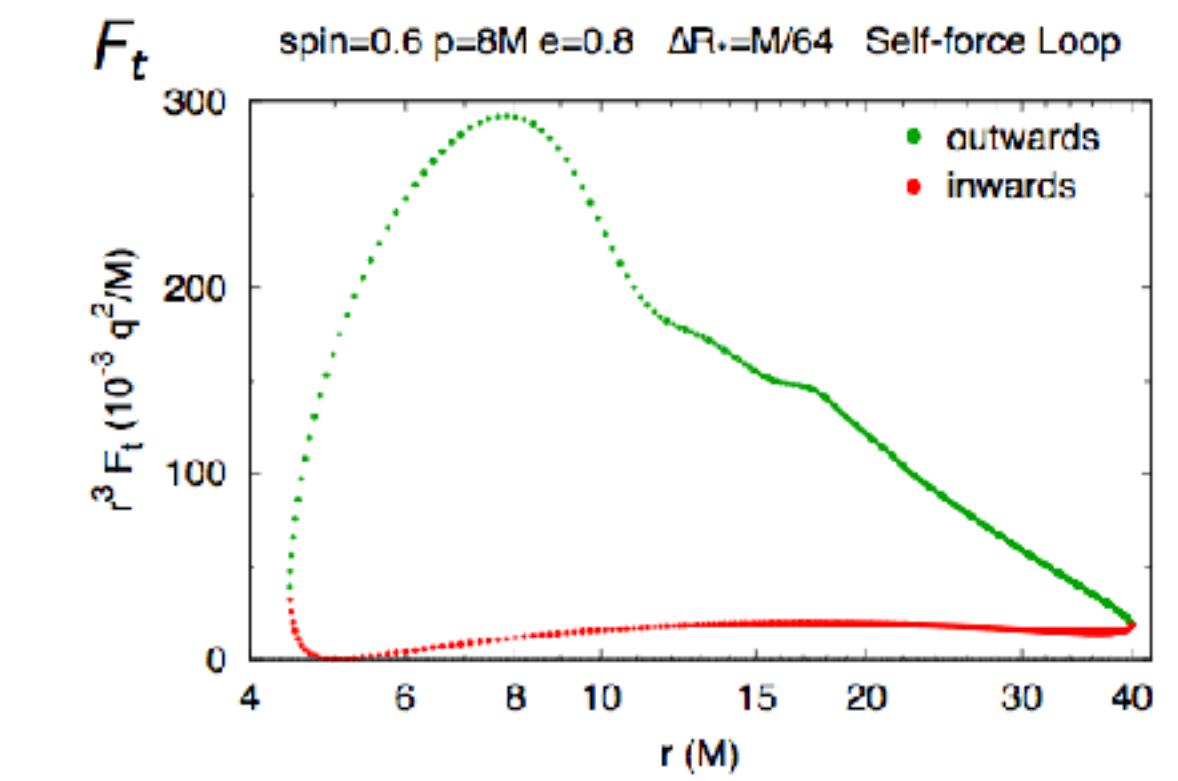


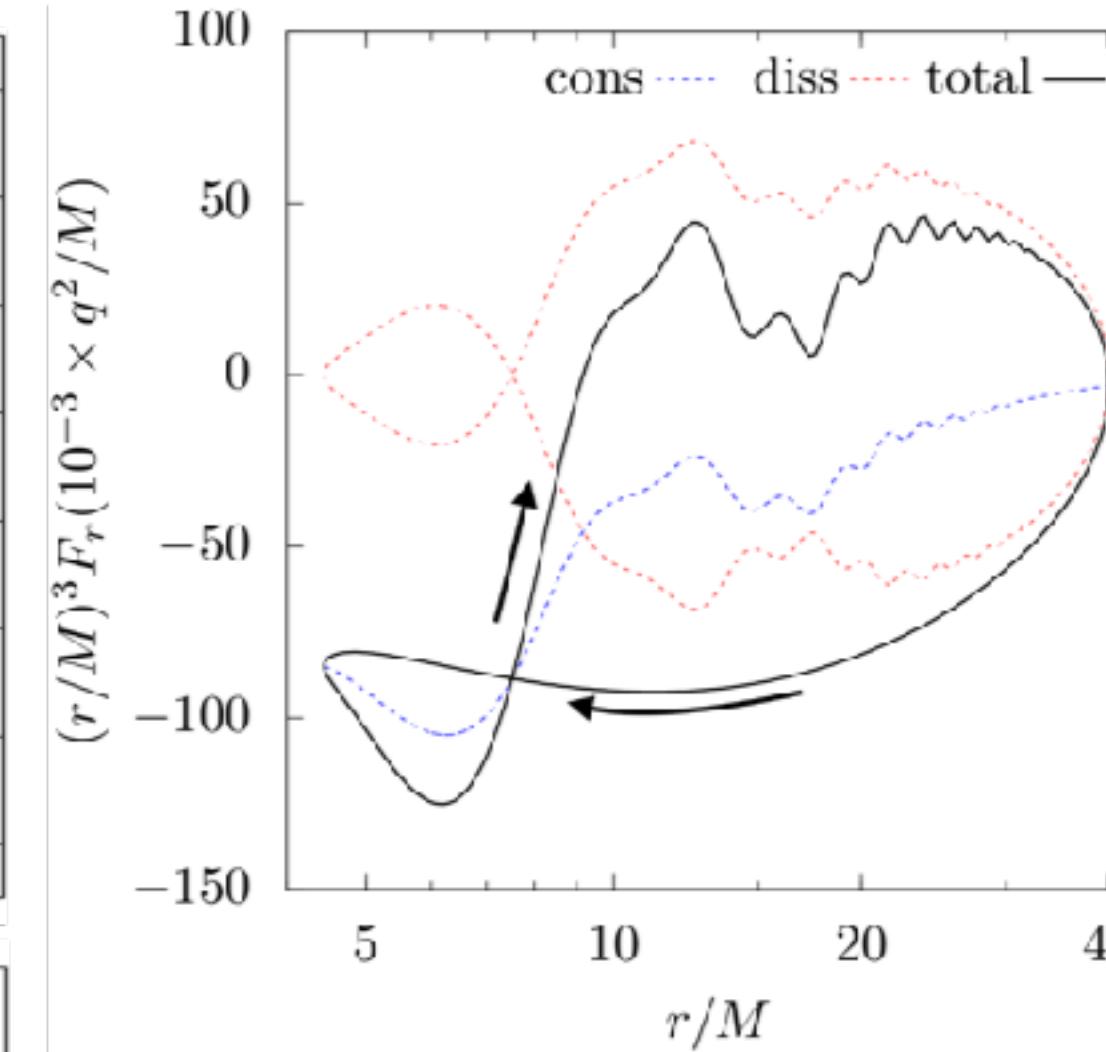
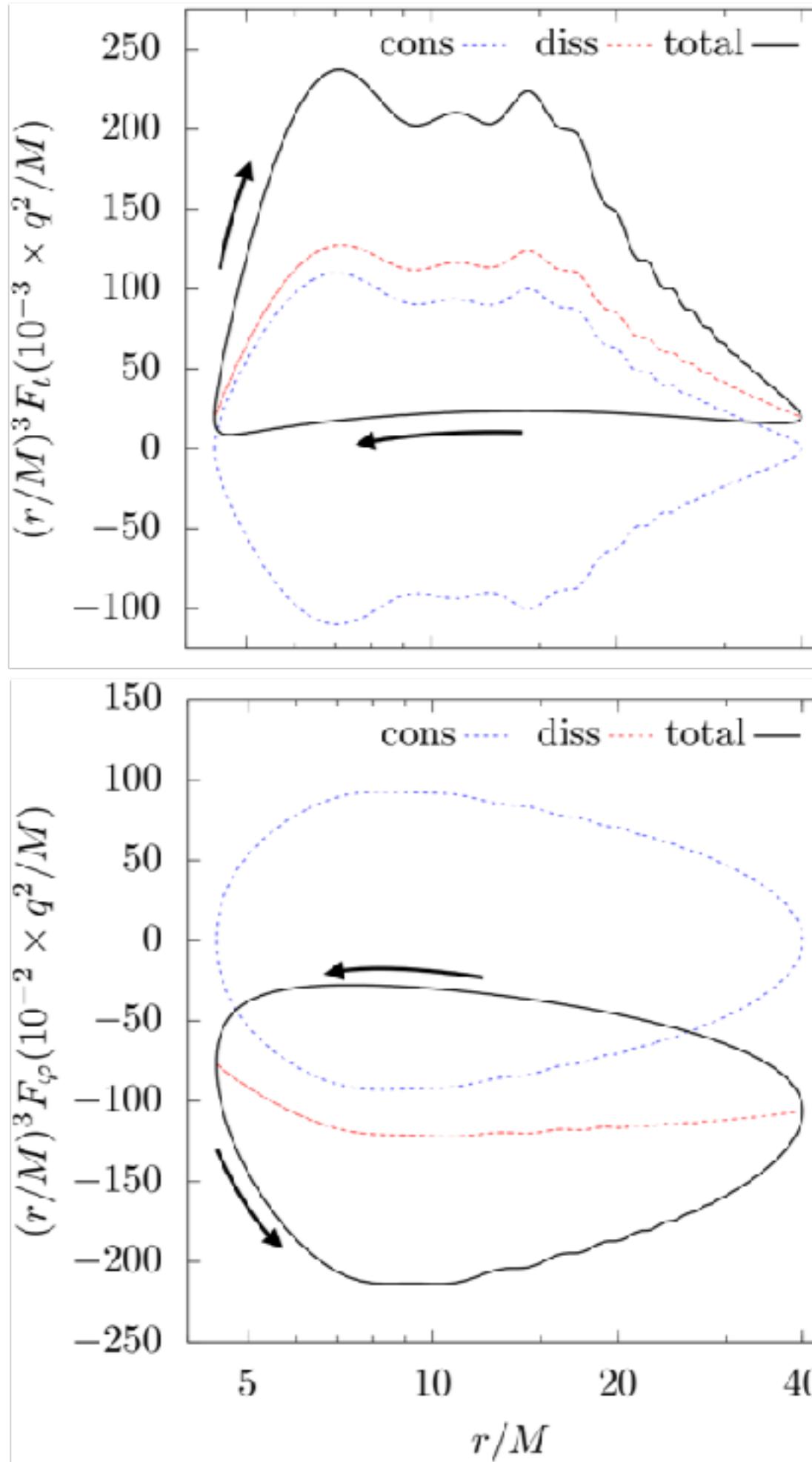
Image Credit: Thornburg 20th Capra



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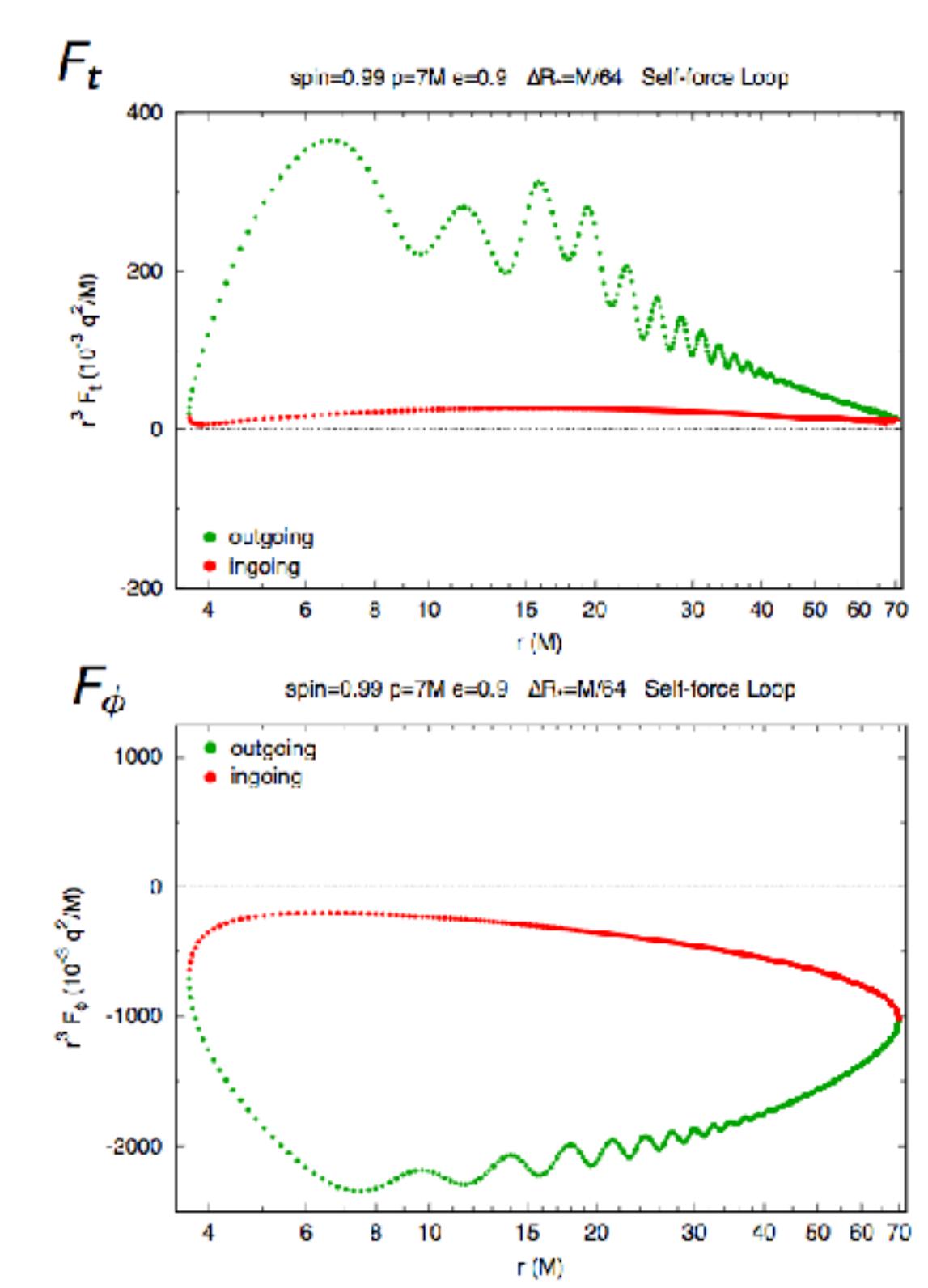
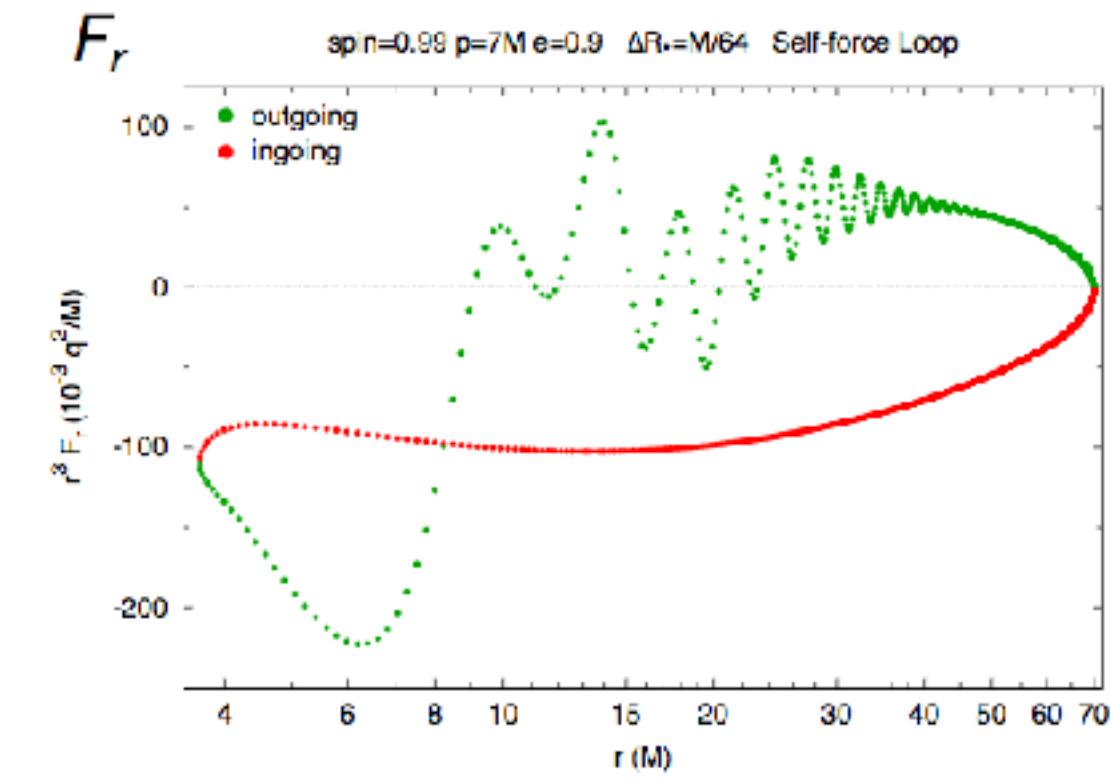
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modes

$$p = 7, e = 0.9, \iota = 0, \\ a = 0.99M$$



[1610.09319]

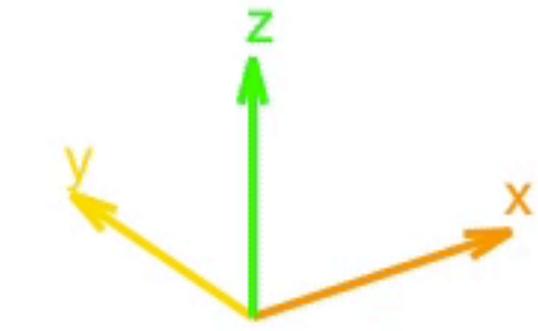
- Inspired by Thornburg & Wardell (2017):  
Time-domain, equatorial Kerr SSF code



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# Generic orbit

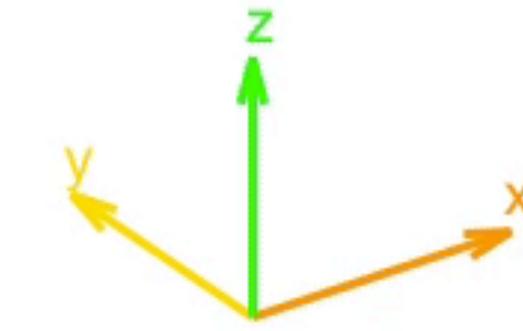
$$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.5M$$



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# Generic orbit

$$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.5M$$



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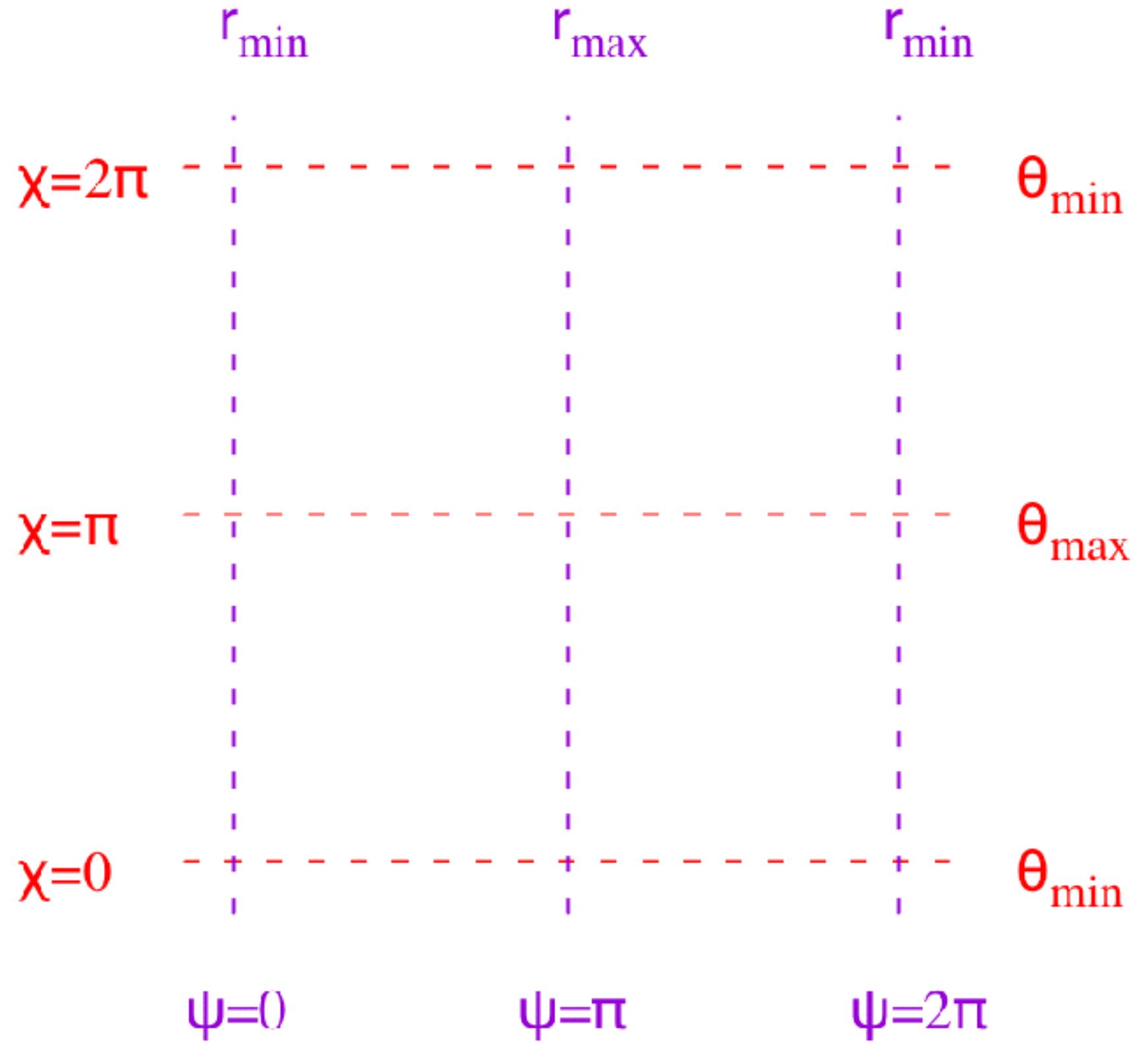
$$r_p(\psi) = \frac{pM}{1 + e \cos \psi} \quad \cos \theta_p(\chi) = \cos \theta_{\min} \cos \chi$$



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# Generic orbit

$$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.5M$$



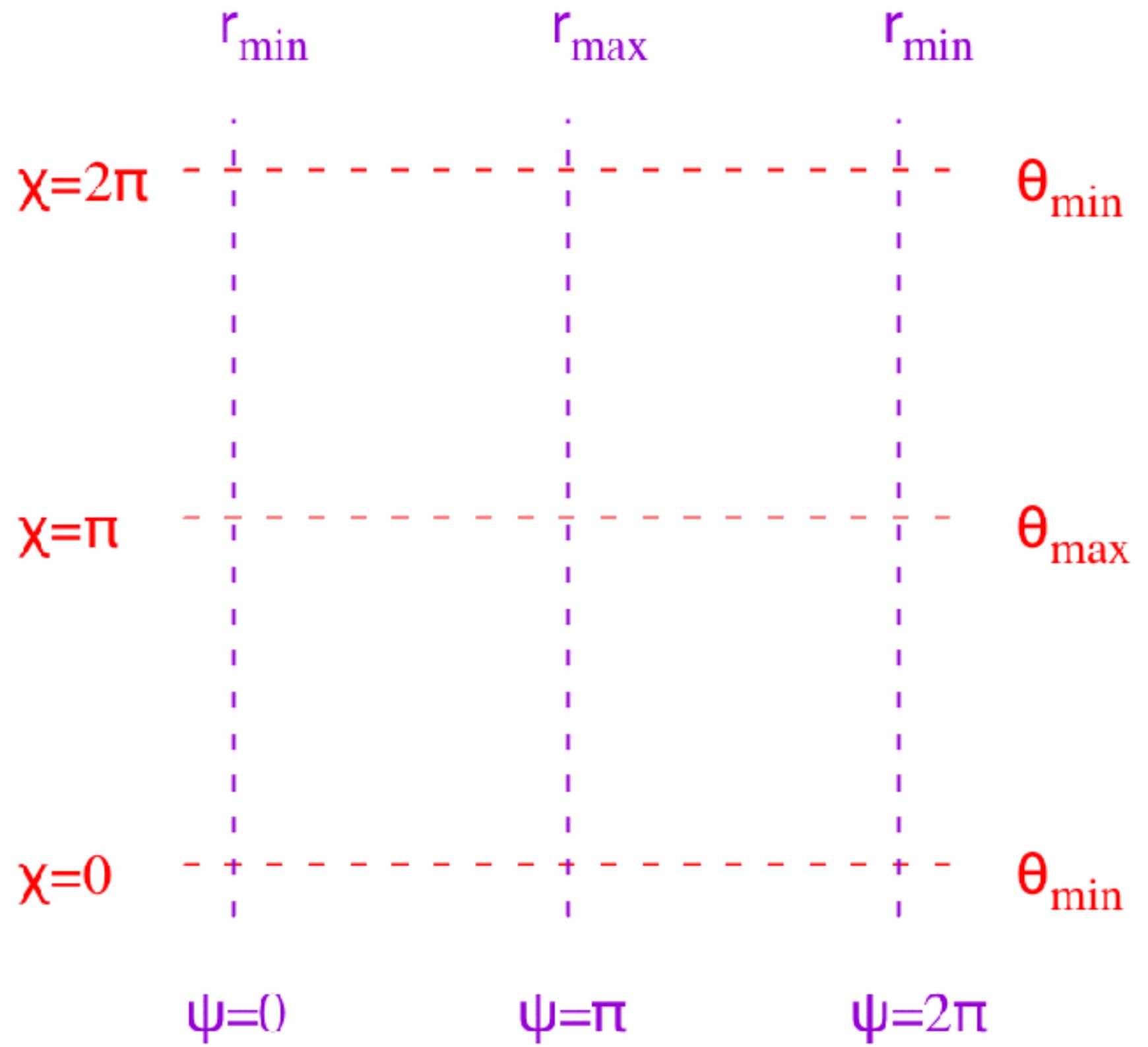
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# Generic orbit

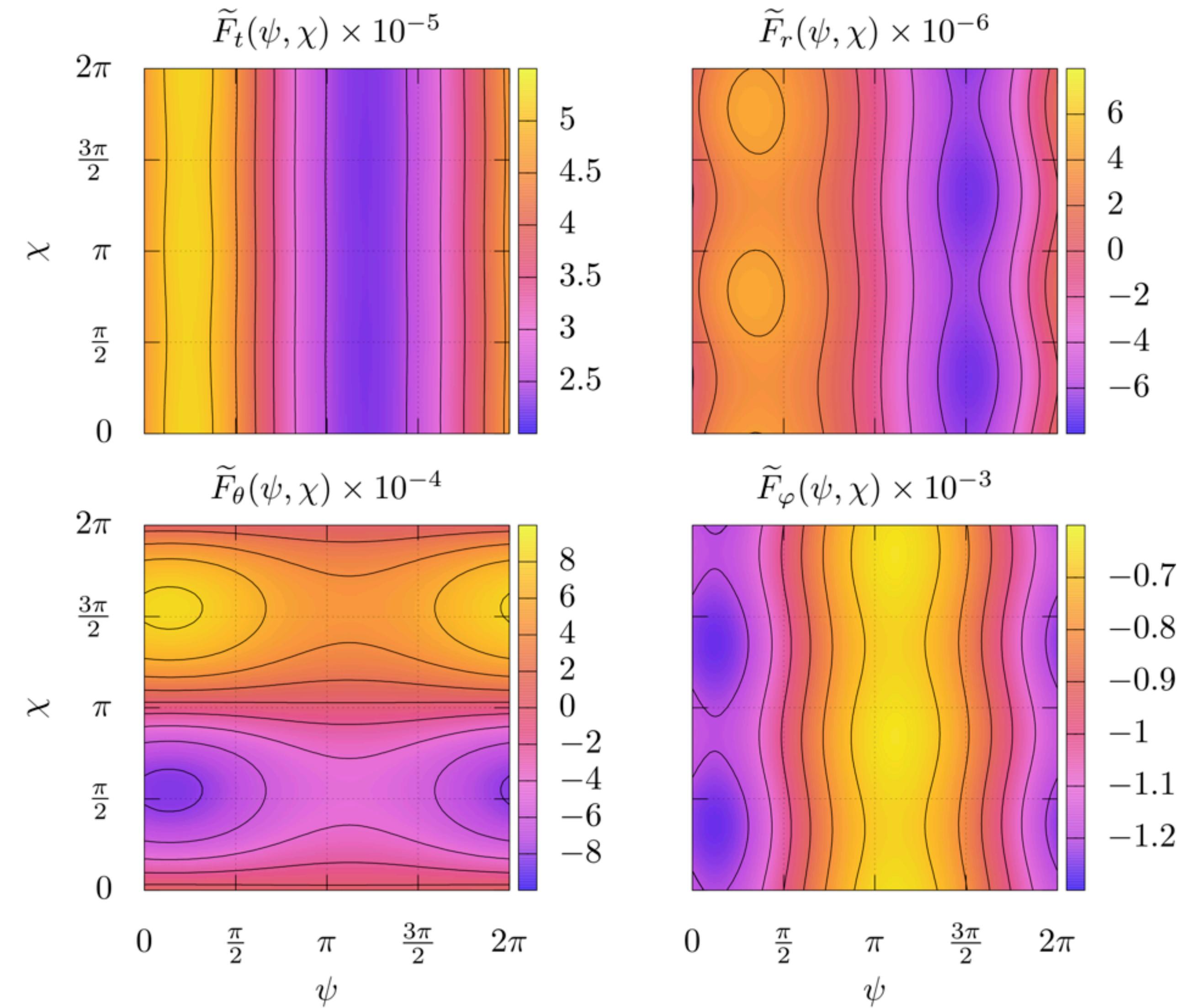
$$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.5M$$



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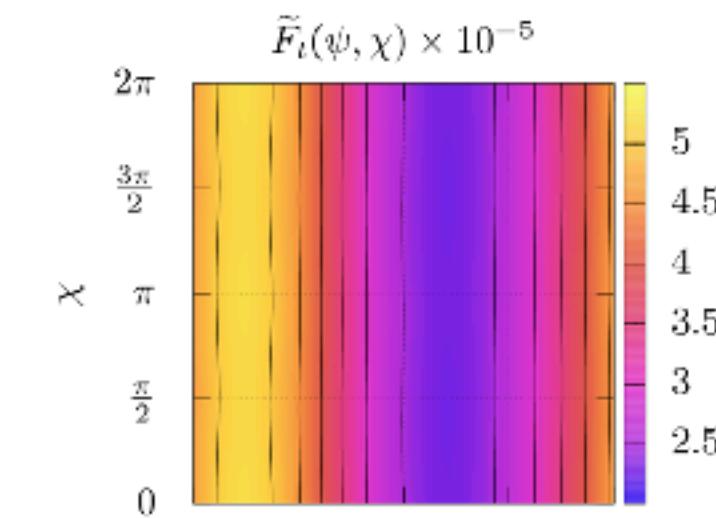
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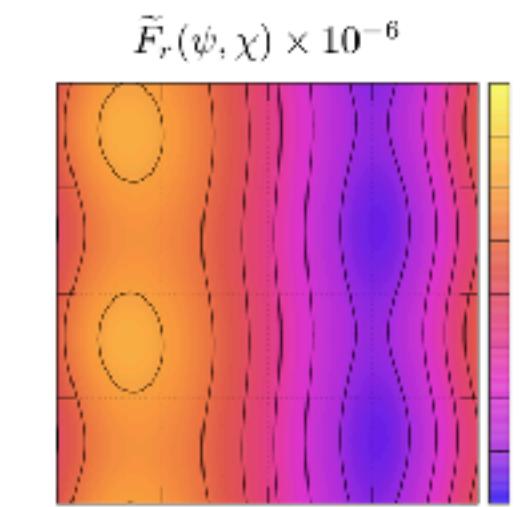
# Generic orbit comparison

$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.5M$

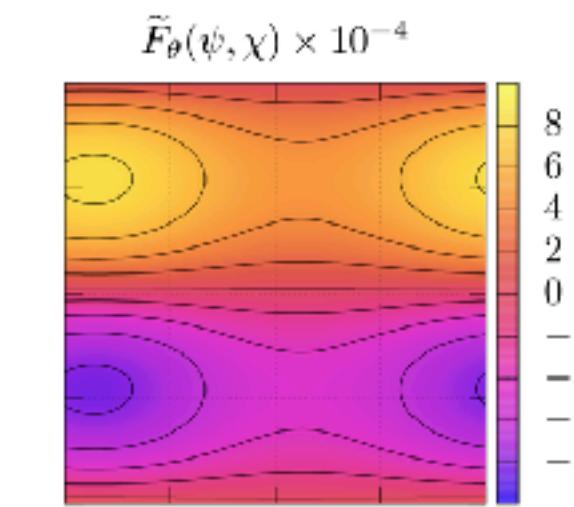
$F_t$



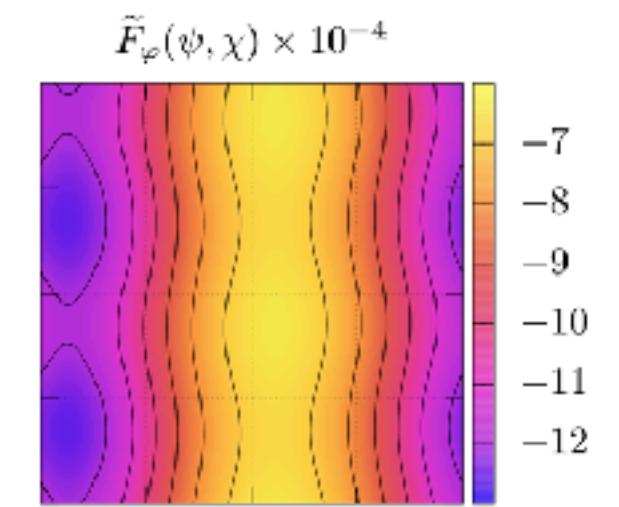
$F_r$



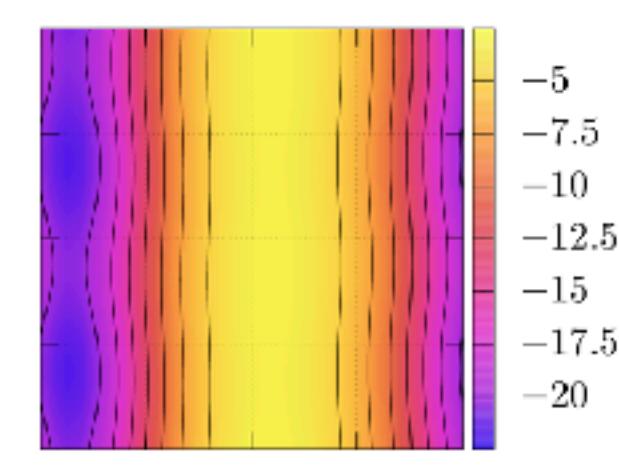
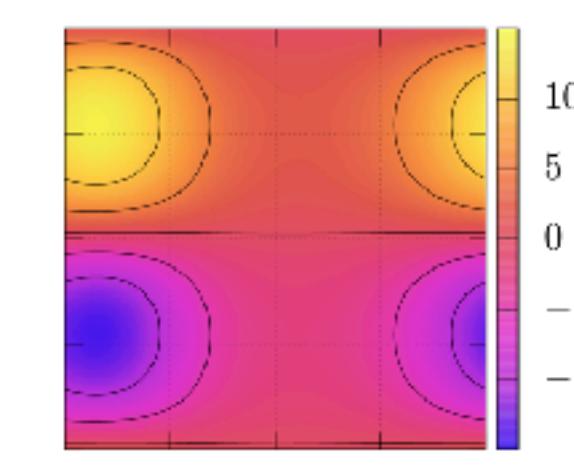
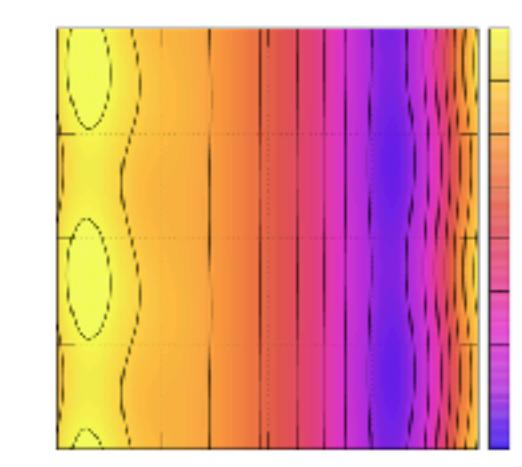
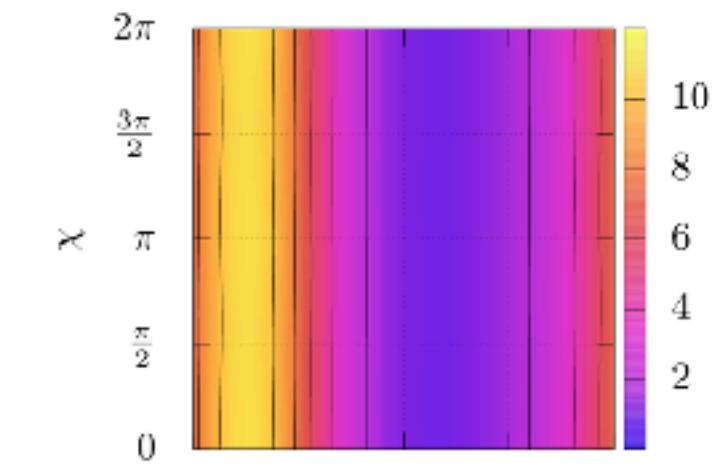
$F_\theta$



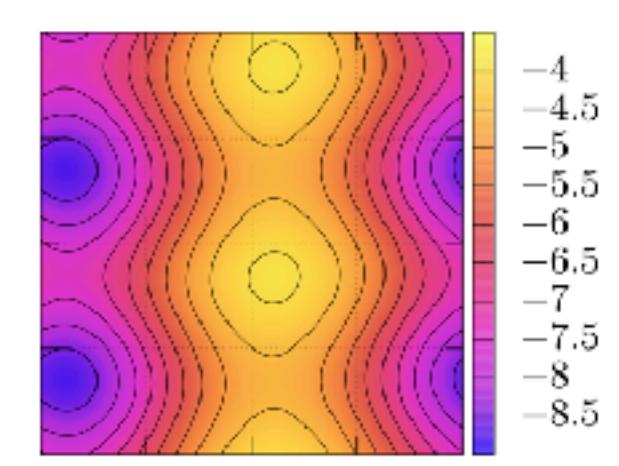
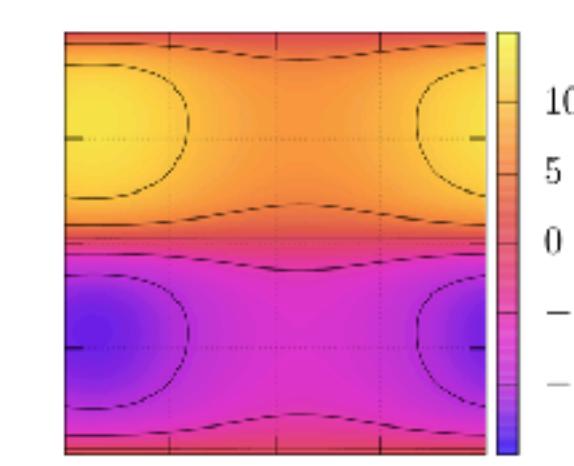
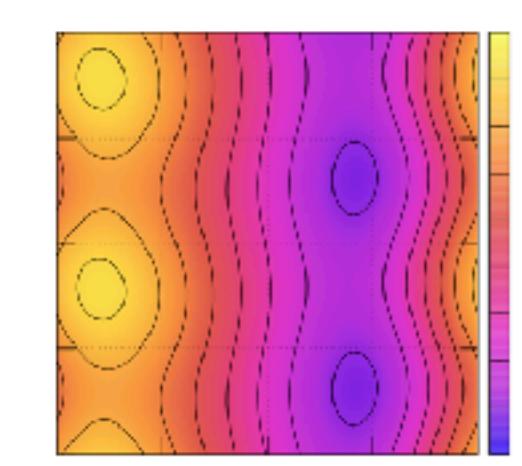
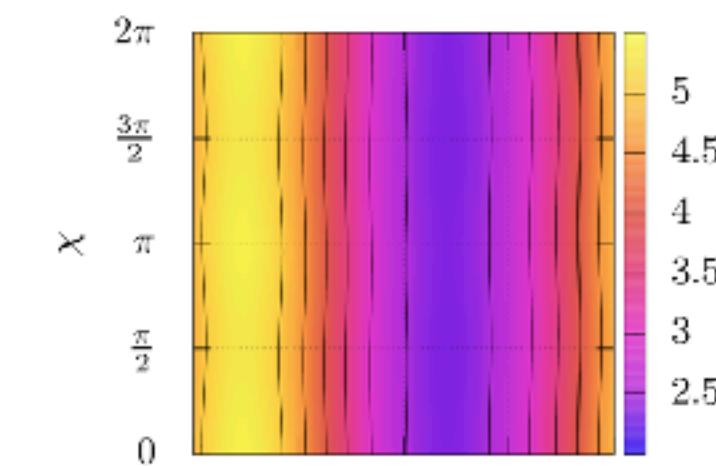
$F_\varphi$



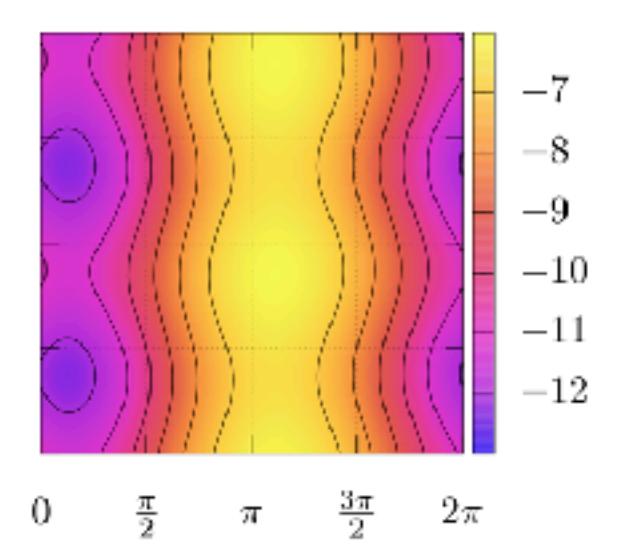
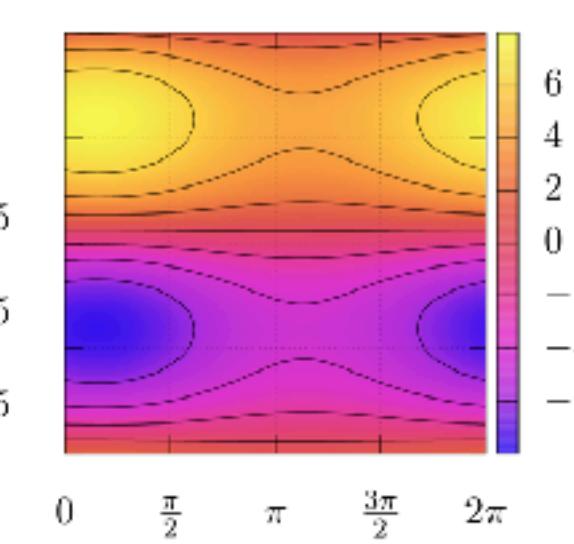
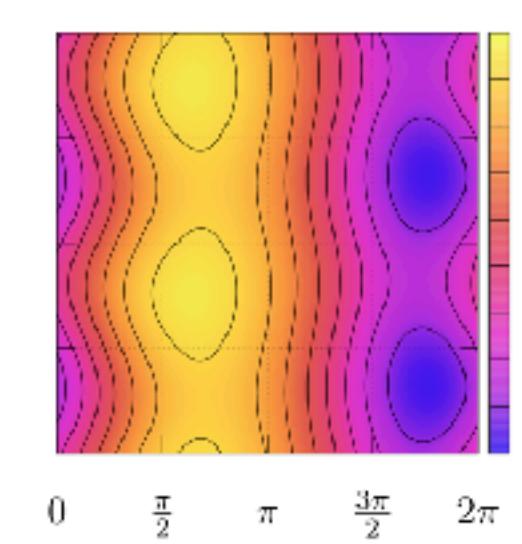
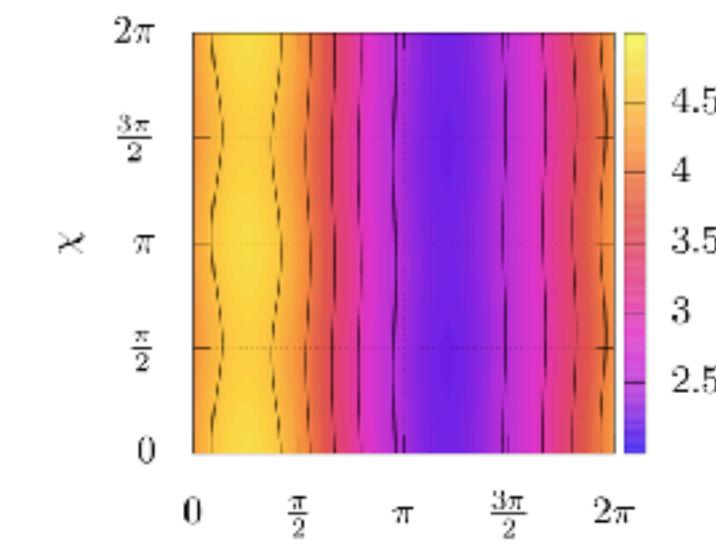
$p = 10, e = 0.3, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.5M$



$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/3, a = 0.5M$



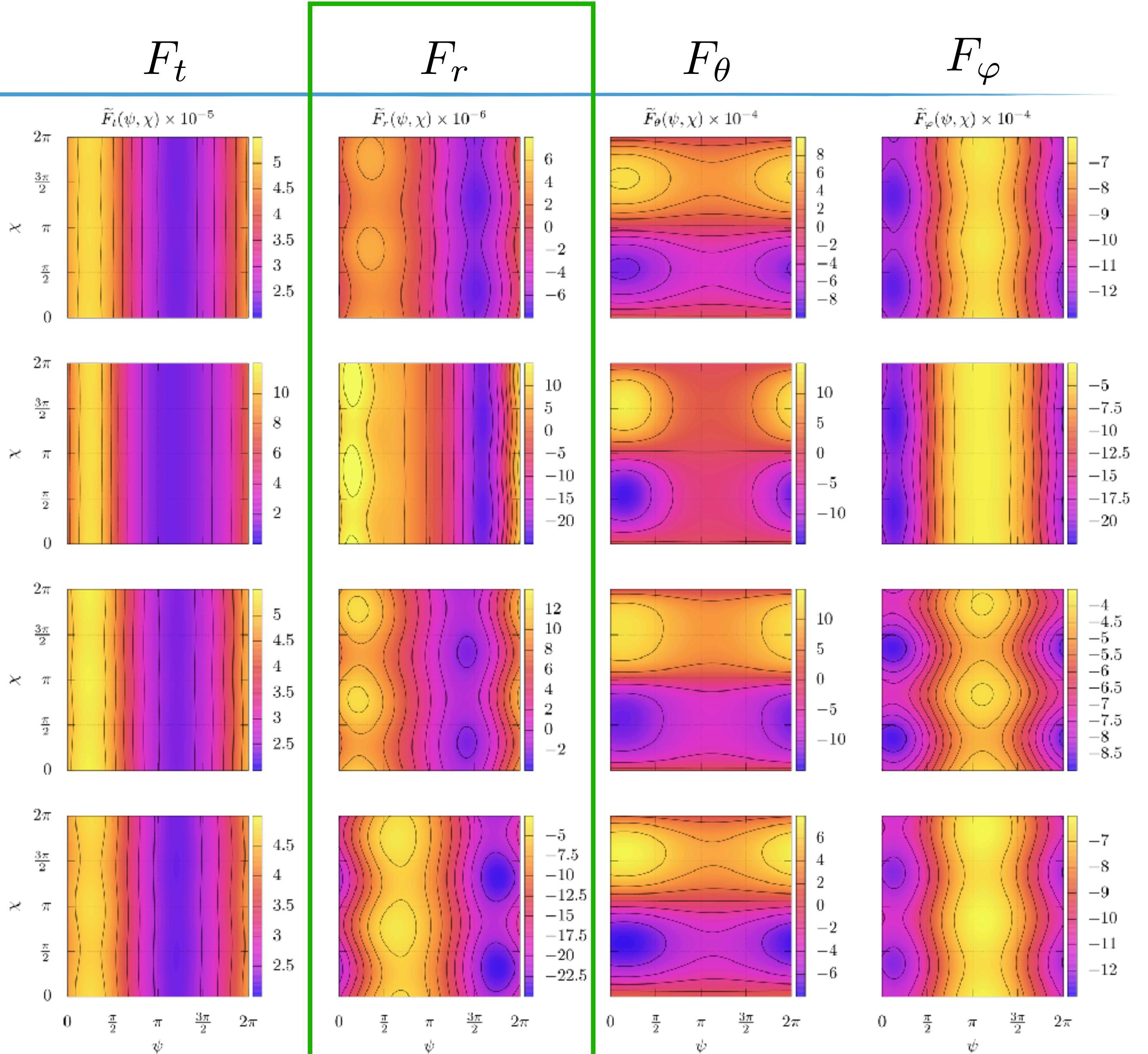
$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.9M$



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# Generic orbit comparison

$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.5M$



# Generic orbit comparison

- Radial-component  $F_r$

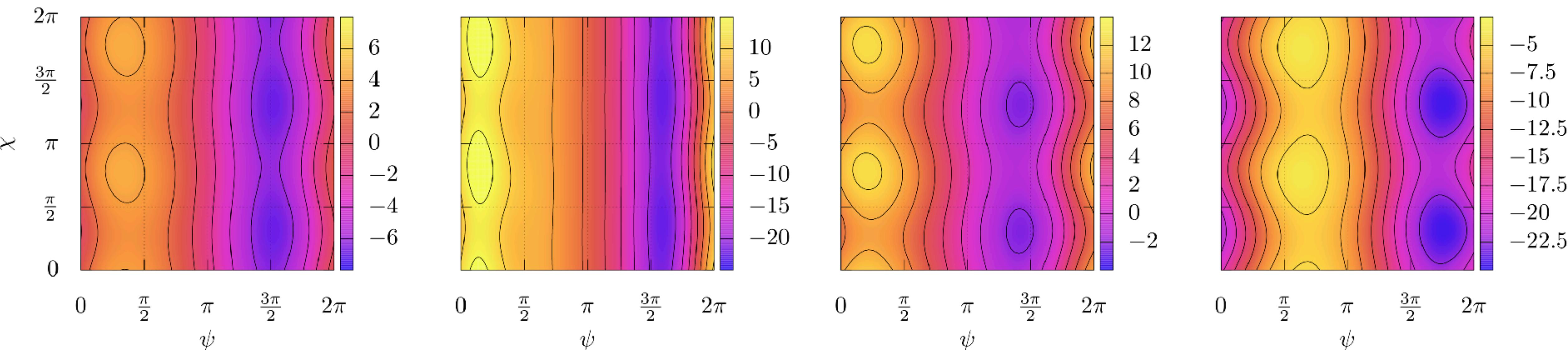
$$p = 10, e = 0.1, \iota = \pi/5, a = 0.5M$$

Baseline

$$e = 0.3$$

$$\iota = \pi/3$$

$$a = 0.9M$$



# Validation tests - fluxes

---

- **Flux balance**

$$\left\langle \dot{E}^{\mathcal{H}} \right\rangle + \left\langle \dot{E}^{\infty} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \frac{F_t}{u^t} dt$$

Radiated energy = Local work



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Radiated energy	Fractional Error
$2.917529922 \times 10^{-5}$	$5 \times 10^{-14}$
$2.9610263 \times 10^{-5}$	$9 \times 10^{-14}$
$2.994475370 \times 10^{-5}$	$0 \times 10^{-11}$
$2.745901231 \times 10^{-5}$	$7 \times 10^{-12}$



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$$\langle \dot{L}_z^{\mathcal{H}} \rangle + \langle \dot{L}_z^{\infty} \rangle = -\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \frac{F_{\varphi}}{u^t} dt$$

Radiated angular momentum = Local torque

Radiated energy	Fractional Error
$2.917529922 \times 10^{-5}$	$5 \times 10^{-14}$
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Angular momentum	Fraction Error
$7.56756034 \times 10^{-4}$	$6 \times 10^{-15}$
$4.93896206 \times 10^{-4}$	$4 \times 10^{-14}$
$6.9840212 \times 10^{-4}$	$0 \times 10^{-12}$
$7.281232718 \times 10^{-4}$	$0 \times 10^{-11}$



# Validation tests

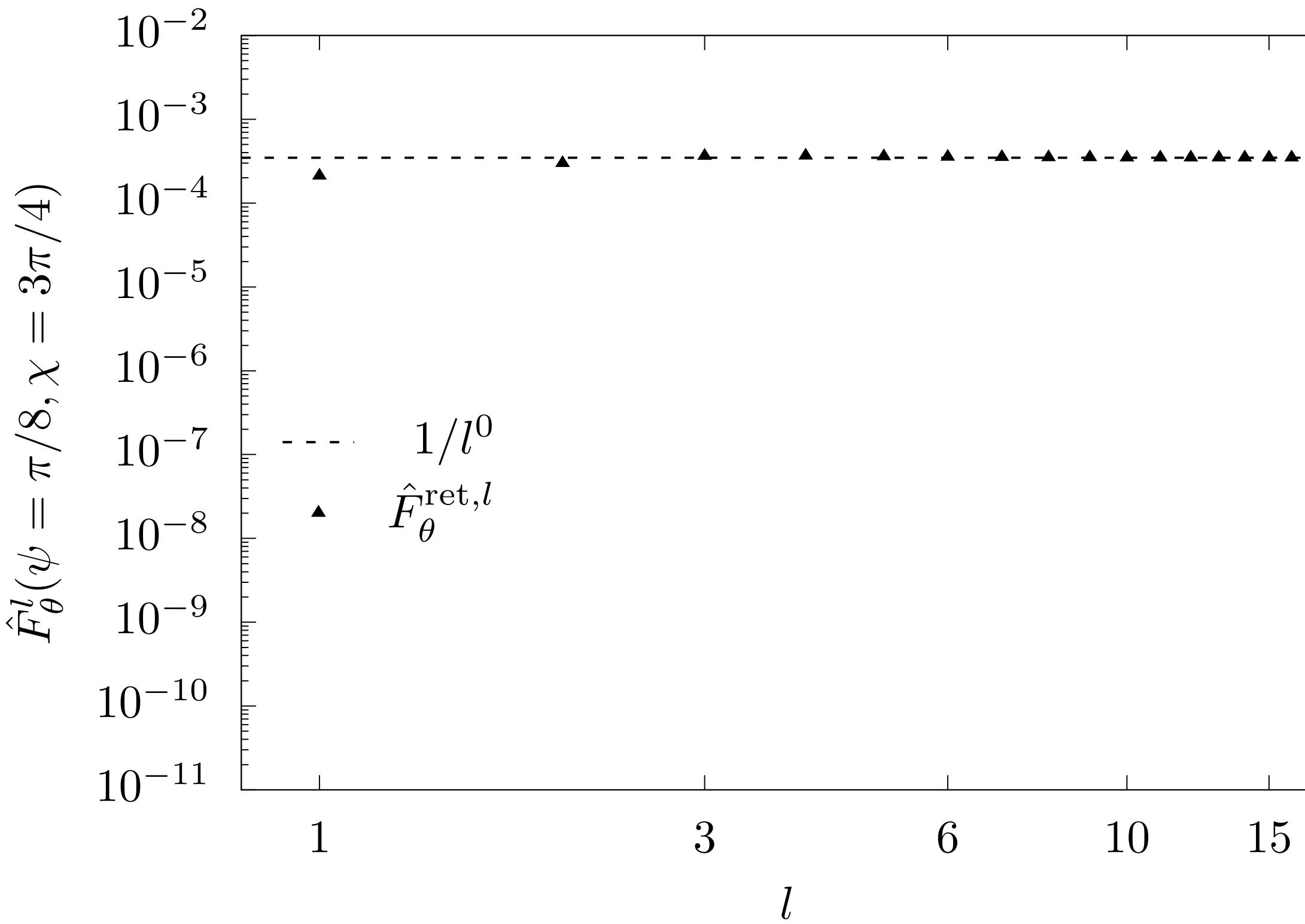
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- Regularization



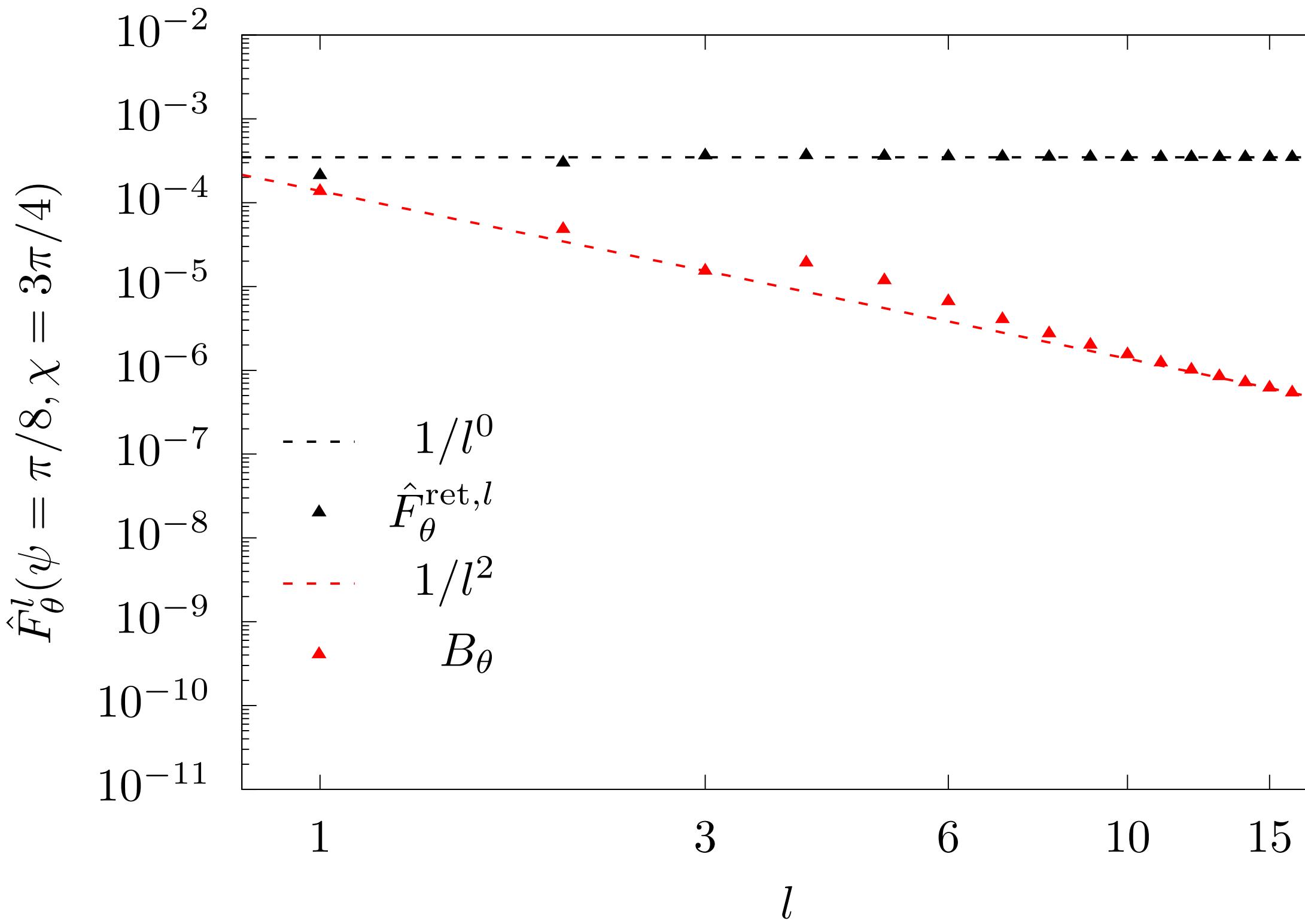
# Validation tests

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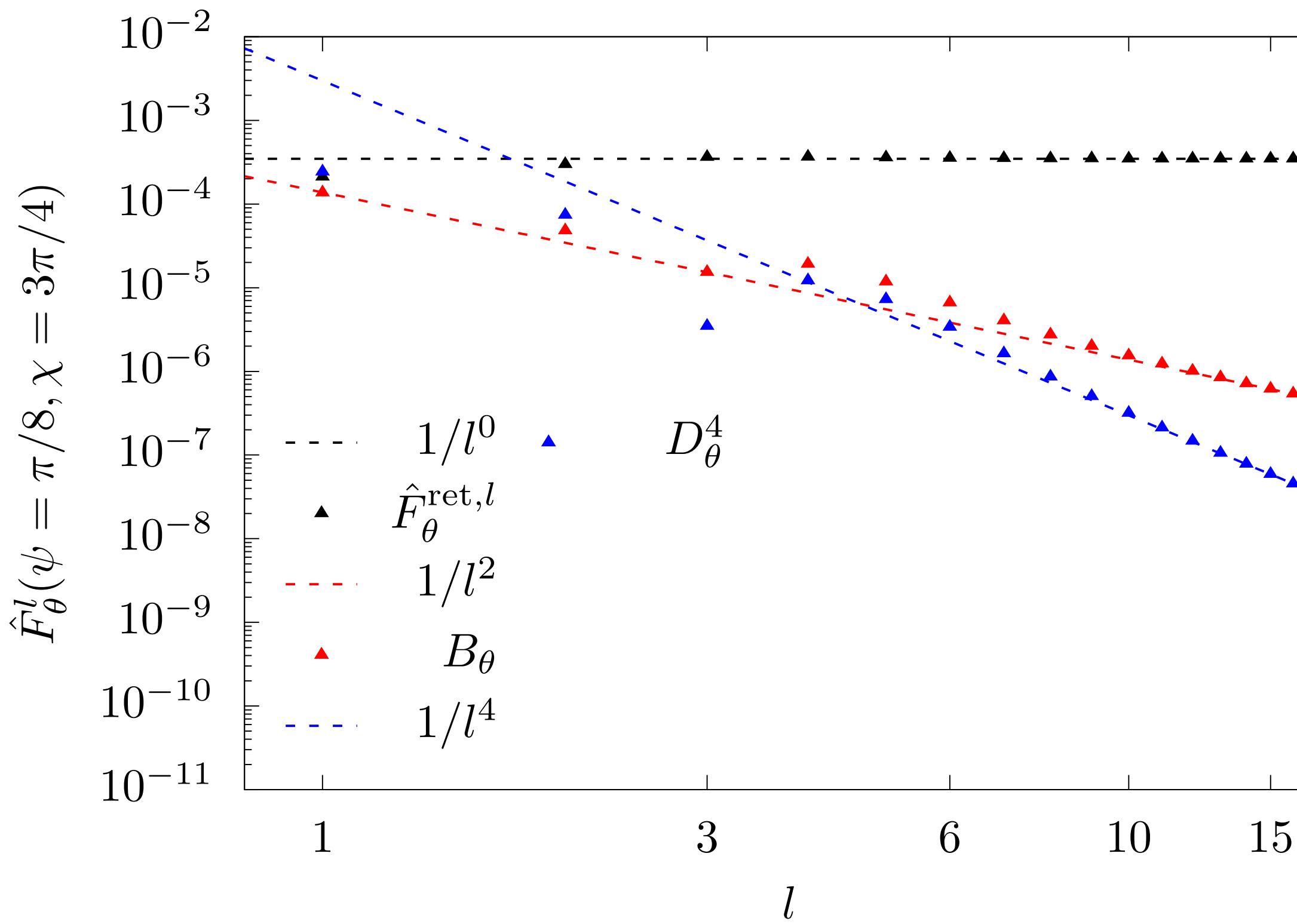
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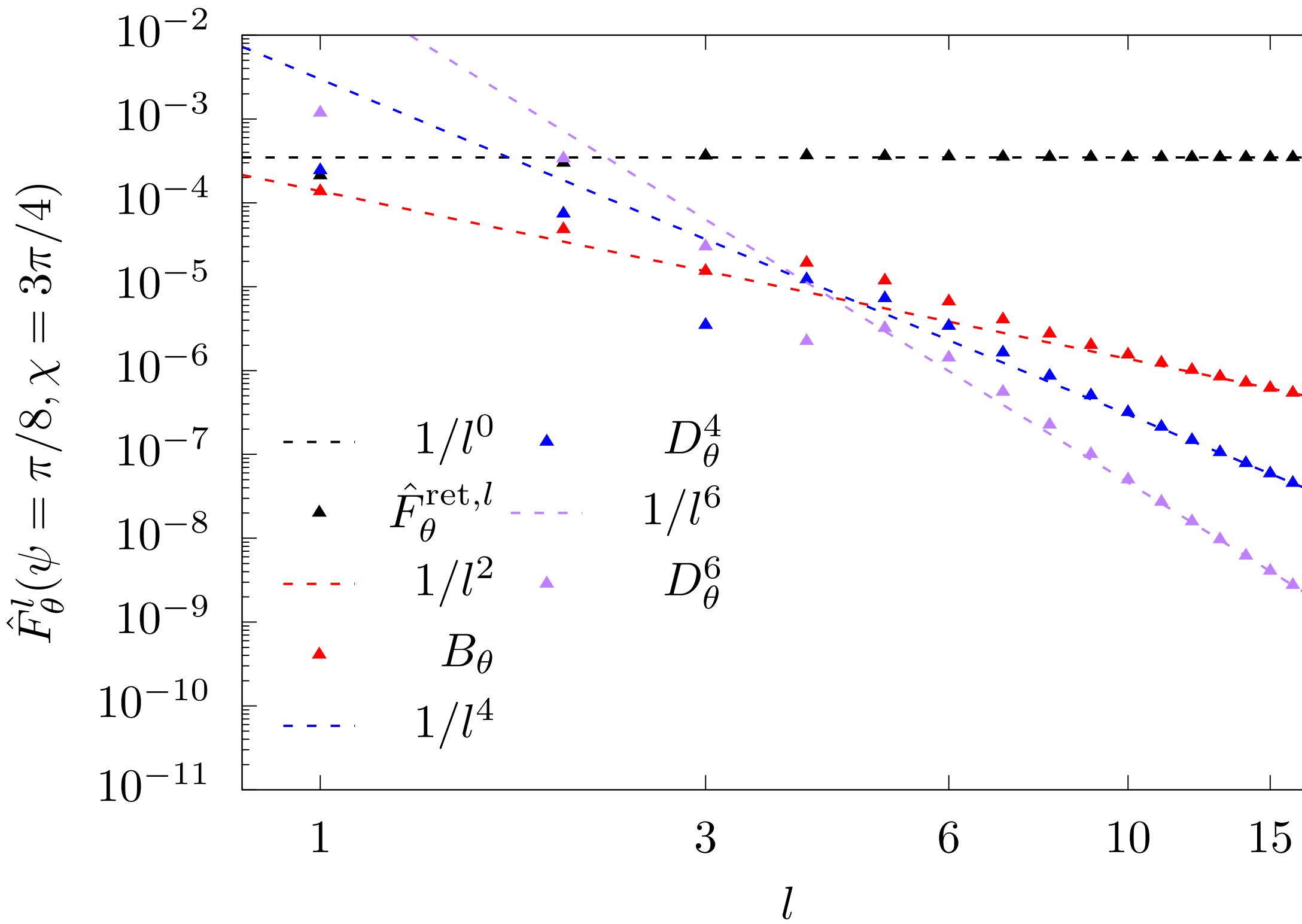
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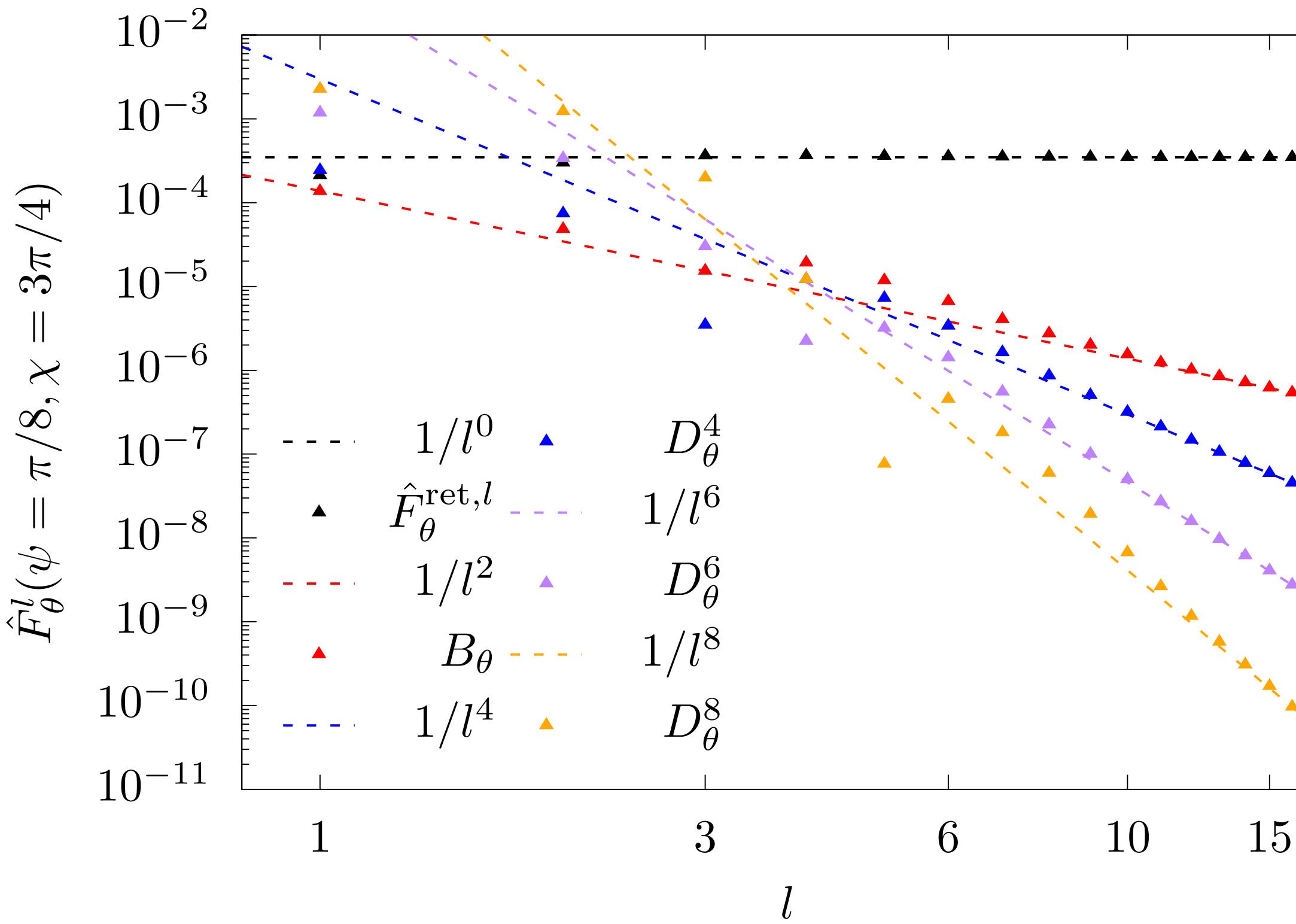
# Validation tests

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# Validation tests

- Regularization



# Conclusions

---

- Built functioning scalar self-force (SSF) code in MATHEMATICA
- Passed latest round of validation tests
  - ❖ Successful comparison w/ other results in literature
- Calculations still computationally expensive, but easier to implement than full GSF calculation
- Possibilities moving forward:
  - ❖ Perform calculations of & around resonant orbits
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# Acknowledgements

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- Dr. Charles R. Evans
- Dr. Thomas Osburn
- Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit ([bhptoolkit.org](http://bhptoolkit.org))
- National Science Foundation (PHY-1506182)
- North Carolina Space Grant Consortium



**Questions?**

2:1 resonant orbit ( $\Omega_\theta/\Omega_r = 2$ )

$p \approx 4.6, e = 0.5, \iota \approx 0.79, a = 0.9M$



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Slide 23

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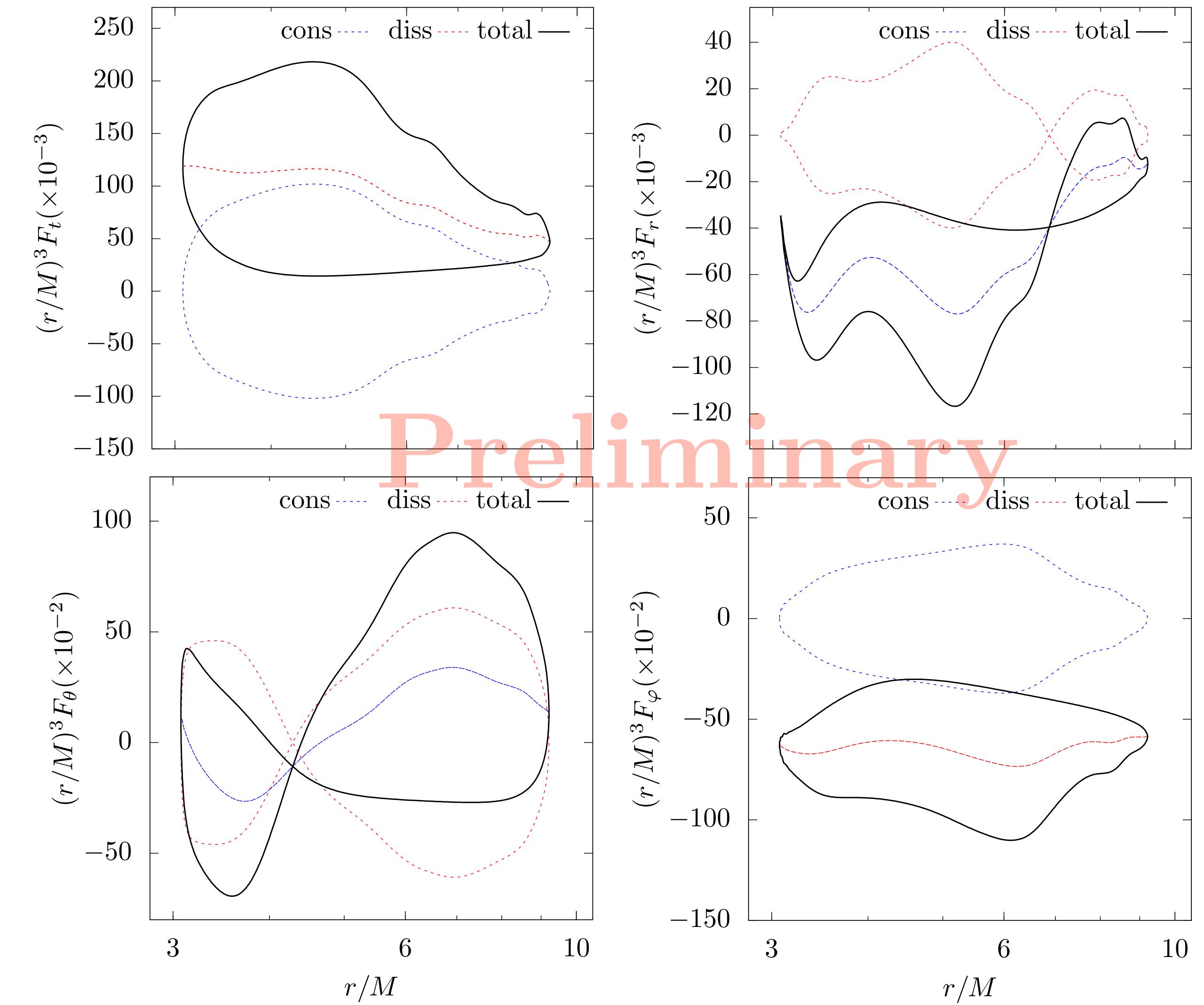
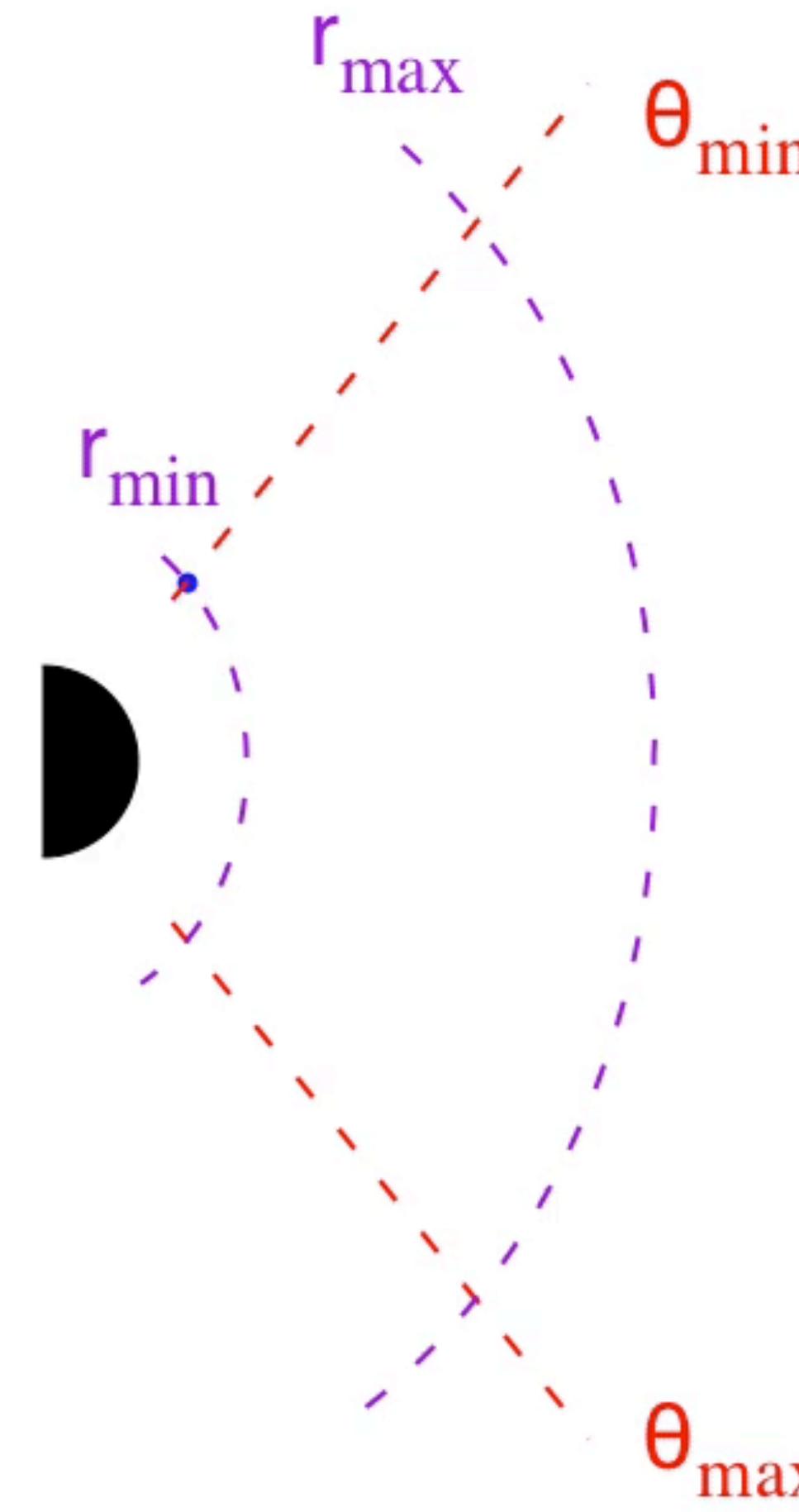
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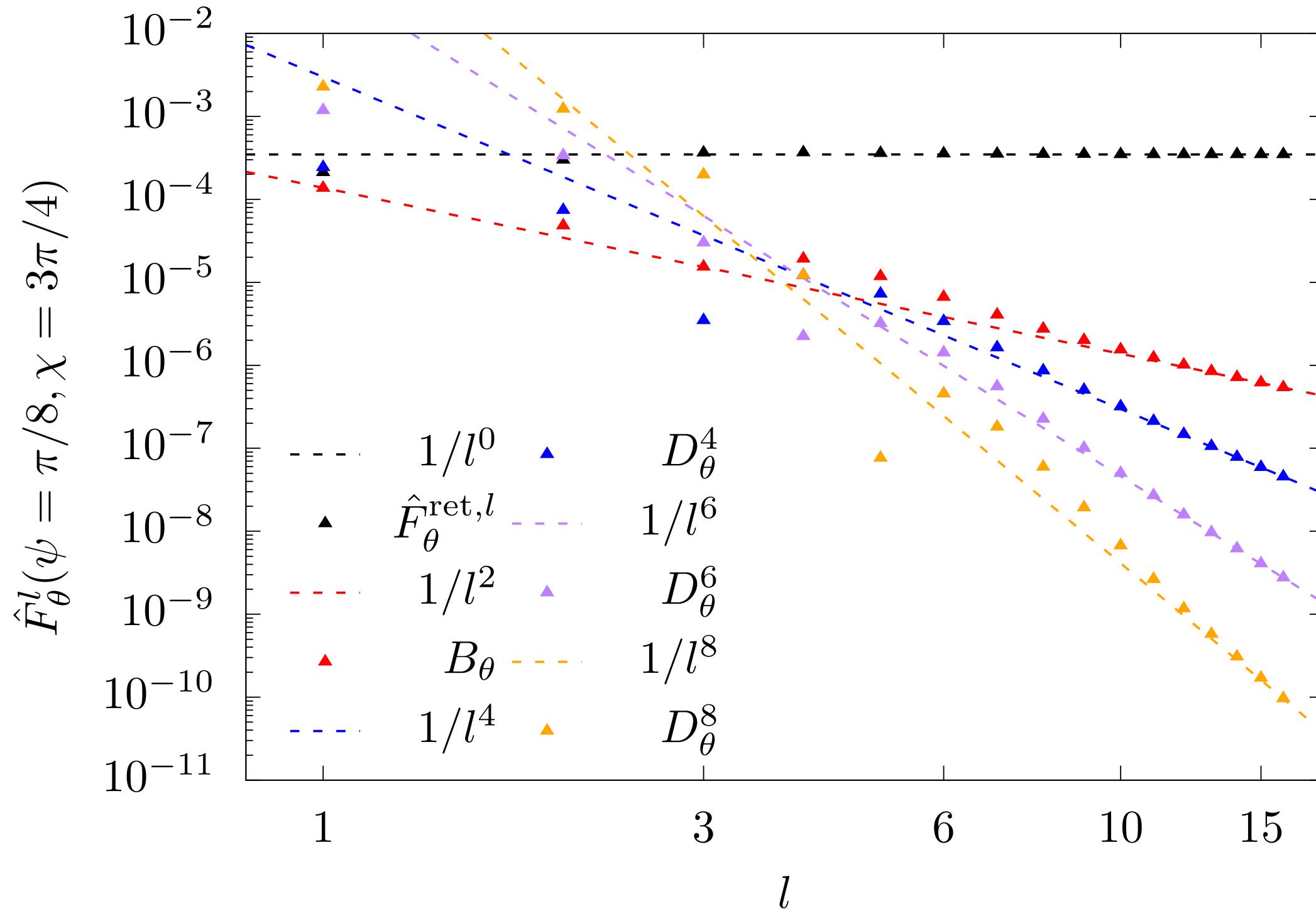
Slide 23

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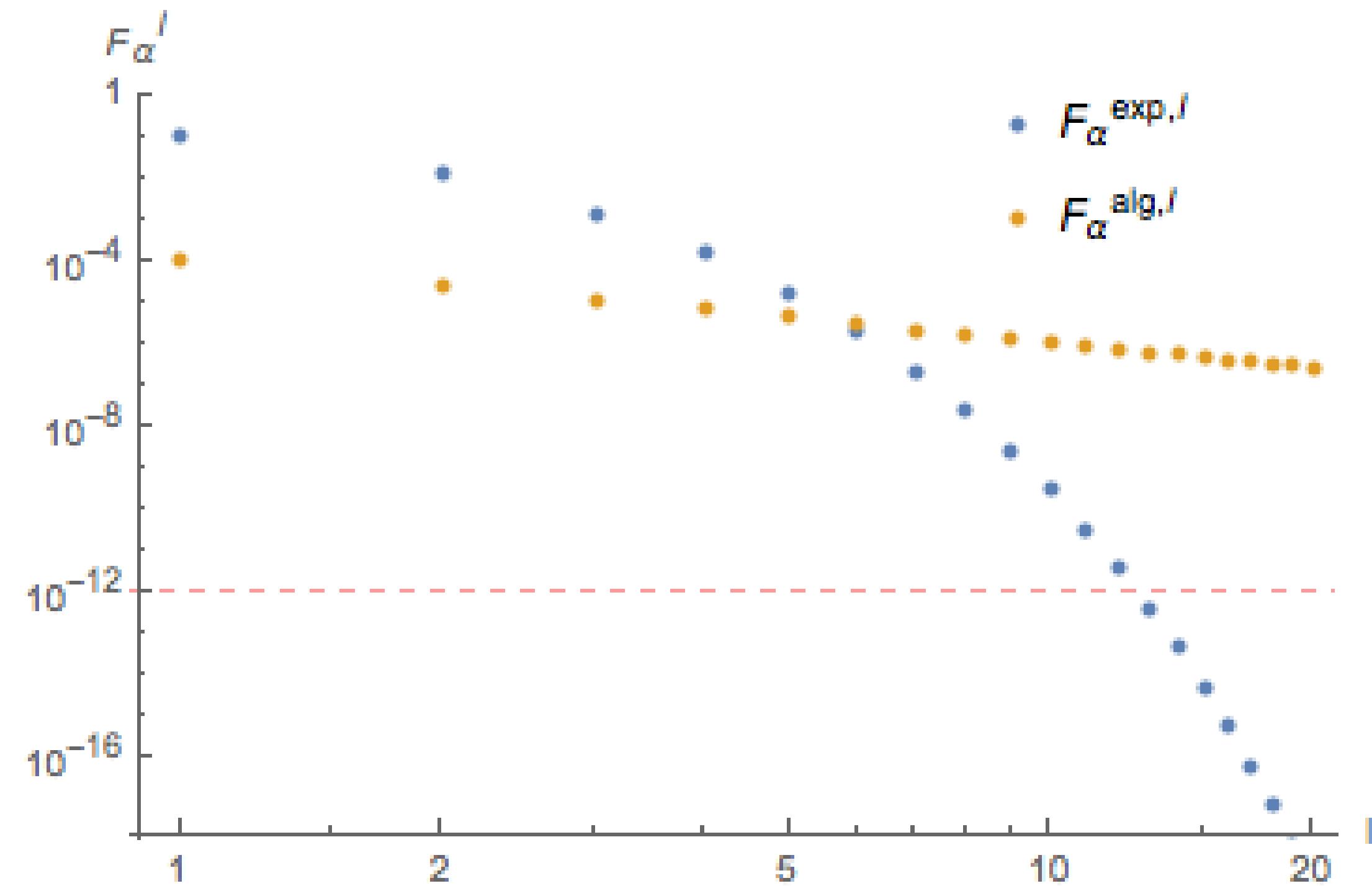
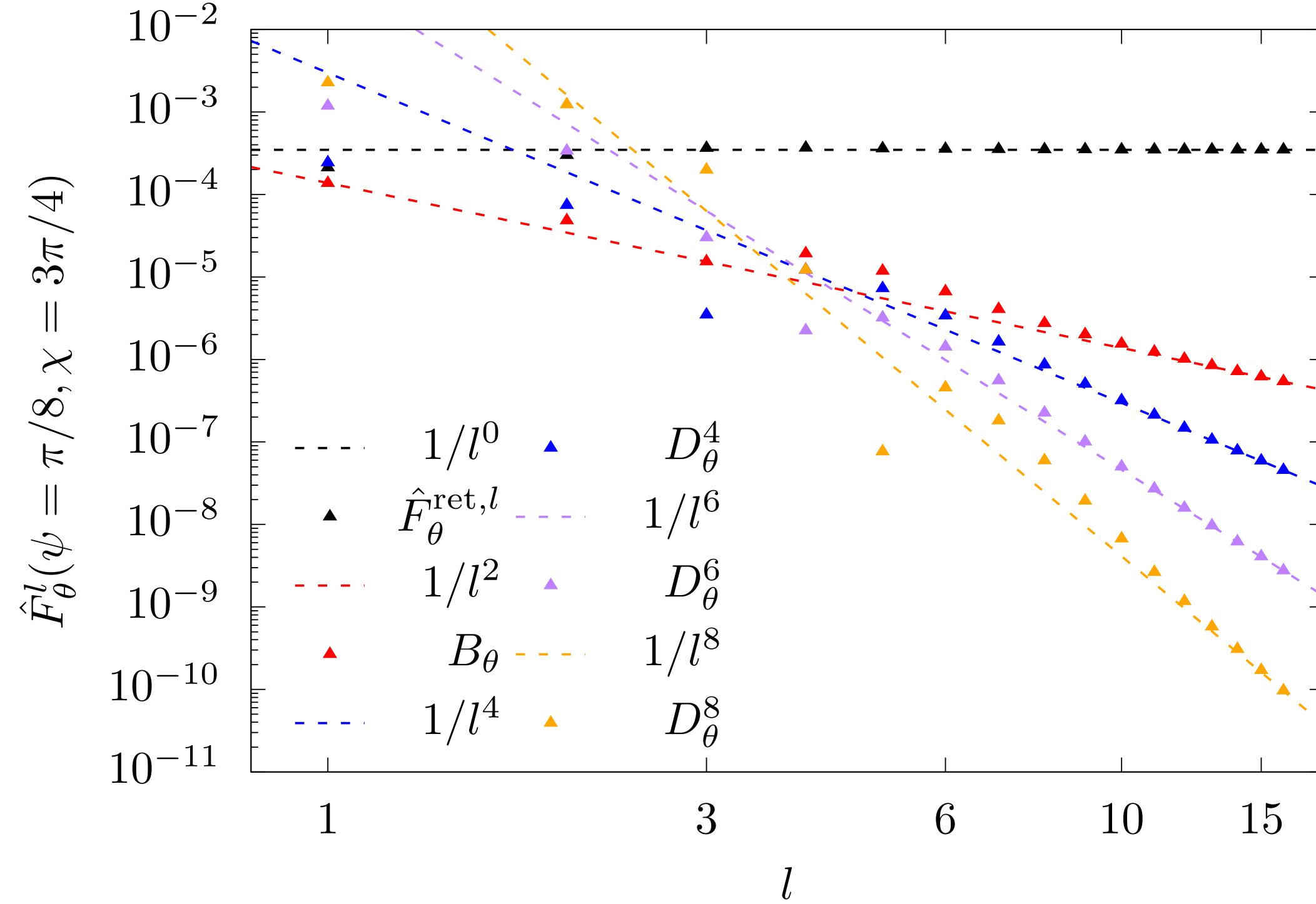
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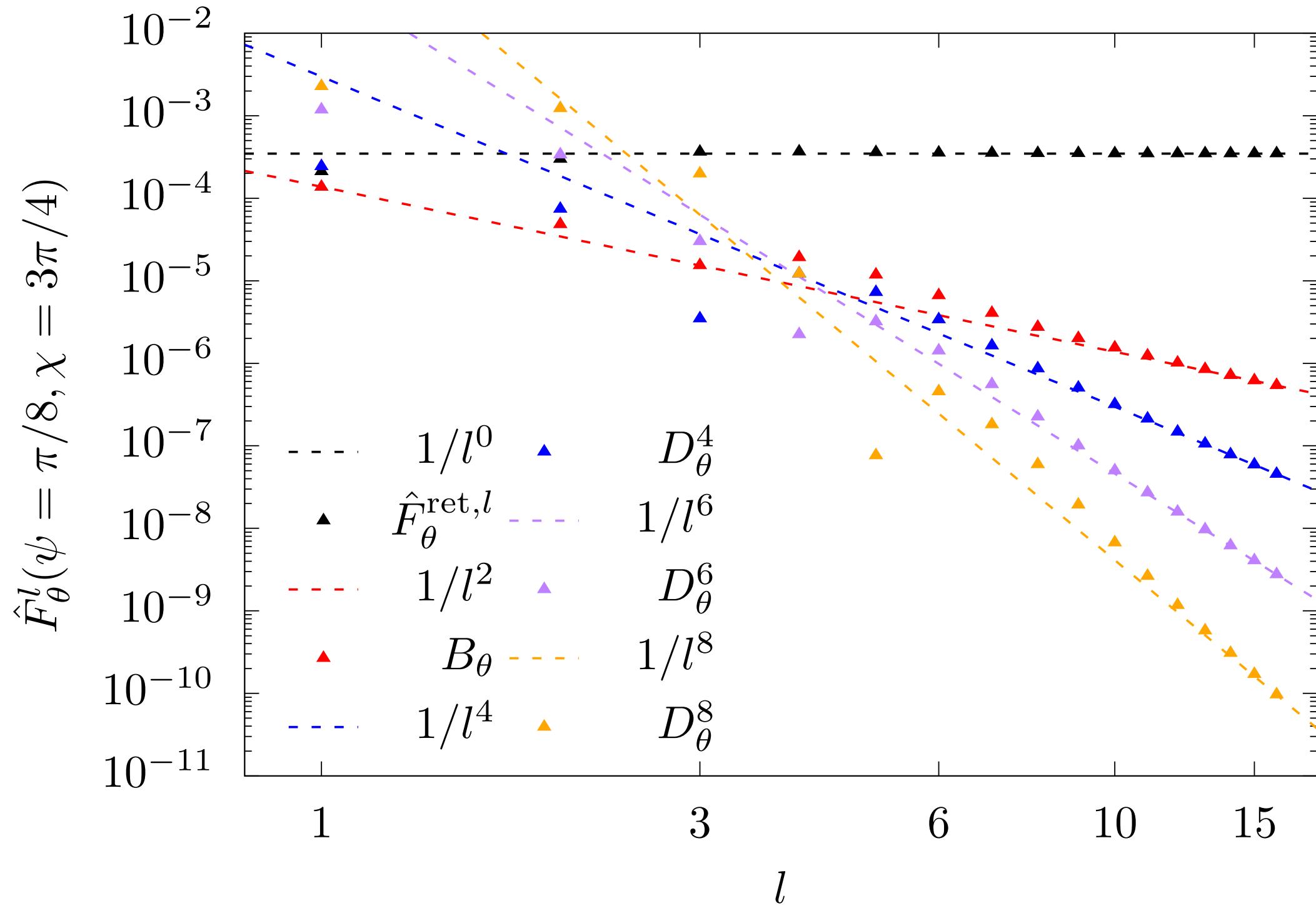
# Regularization scheme



# Regularization scheme



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