

# Simple three-pion and kaon systems

from lattice QCD

Michael Doering

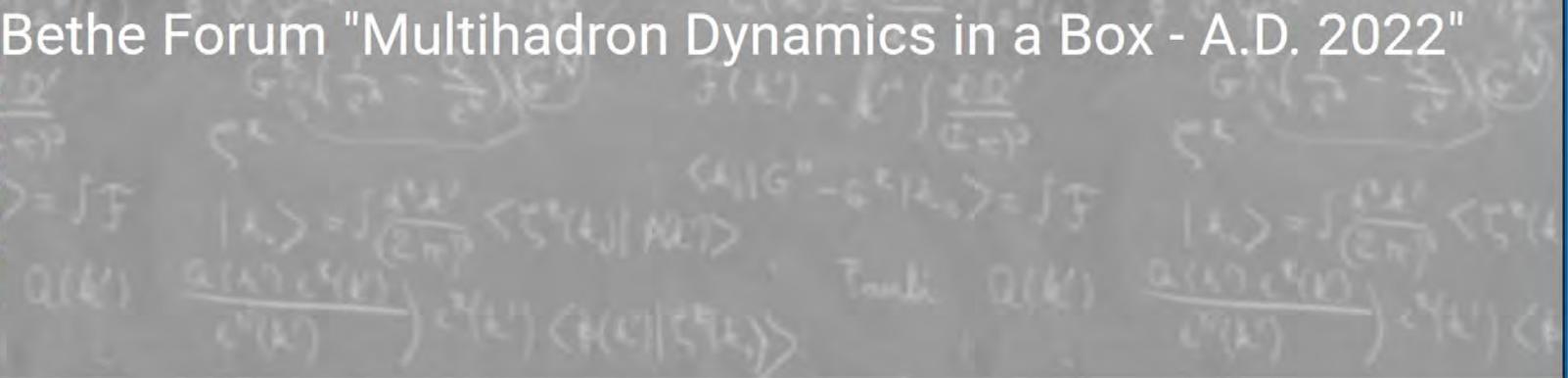
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**Jefferson Lab**  
Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility

# Bethe Forum "Multihadron Dynamics in a Box - A.D. 2022"



Aug 15 – 19, 2022

Bethe Center for Theoretical Physics, Bonn

Europe/Berlin timezone



Review 2B-lattice:

[\[Briceno\]](#)

Reviews 3B-lattice:

[\[Hansen\]](#) [\[Mai\]](#)

Intros to scattering can be found in these summer school lectures:

- [The 2021 School on the Physics of Baryons \(Baryons-21 School\)](#)
- [Lectures on Scattering Resonances \(2021\)](#)

Work supported by:



National Science Foundation  
Grant No. PHY 2012289

# Introduction

- Resonances and the role of three-body channels
- Resonances as poles in the complex plane: analytic continuation
- Example: Chiral trajectory of the  $f_0(500)$  " $\sigma$ "

# Typical Breit-Wigner resonances

$\rho$ -meson  
photoproduction

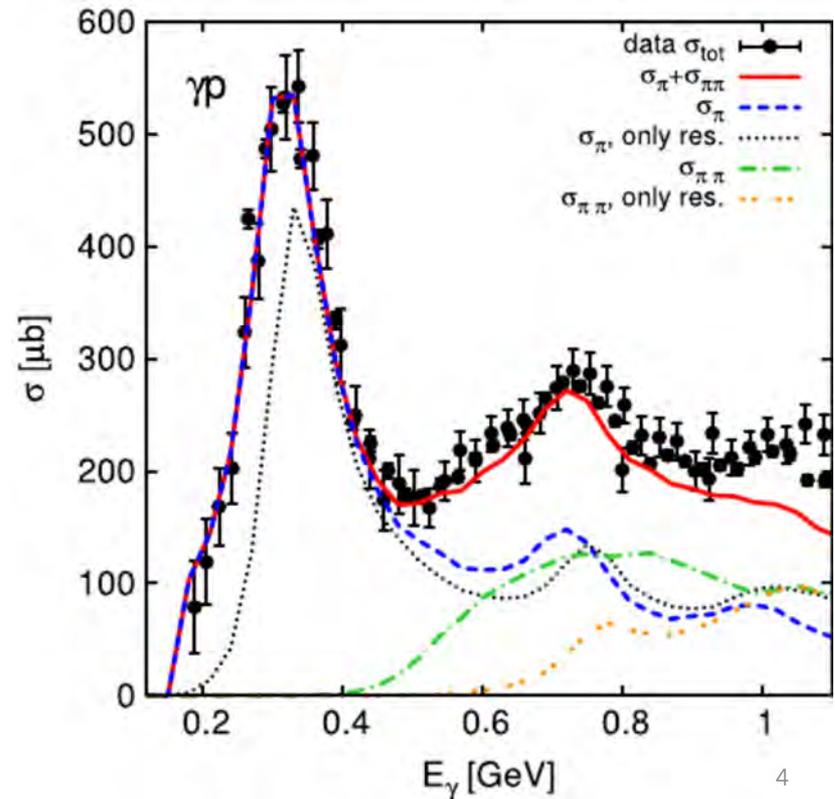
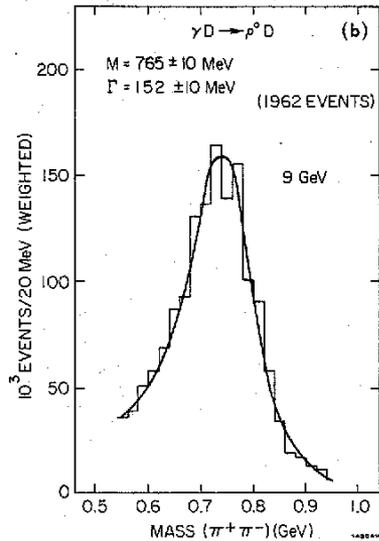
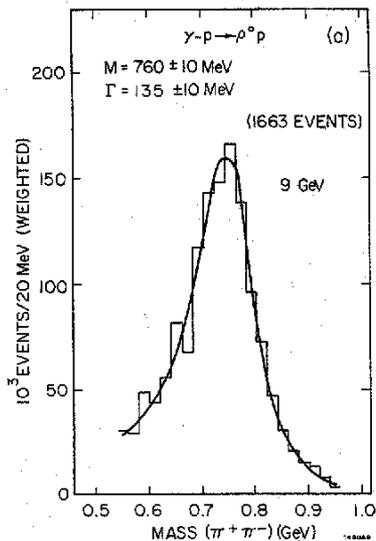
$\Delta$ -baryon  
photoproduction

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= 760 \pm 10 \text{ MeV} \\ \Gamma &= 135 \pm 10 \text{ MeV} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

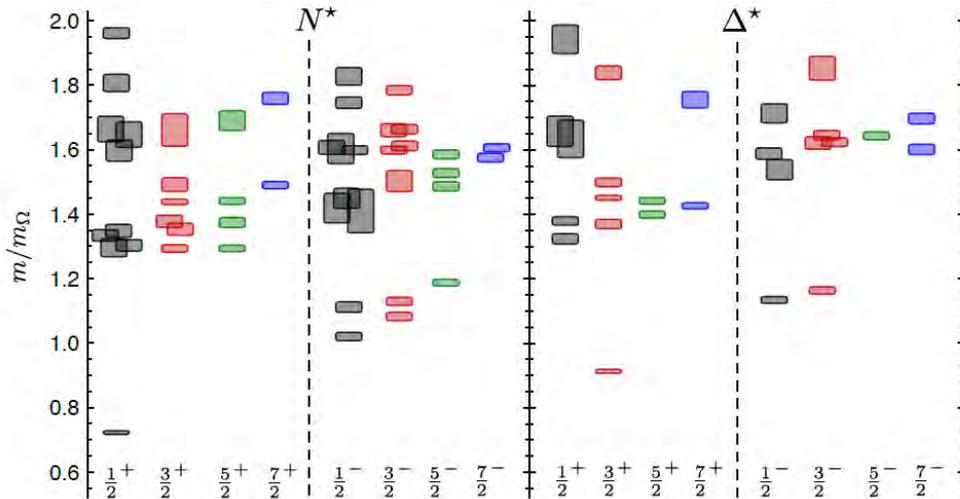
Hydrogen, 9 BeV.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= 765 \pm 10 \\ \Gamma &= 152 \pm 10 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Deuterium, 9 BeV.

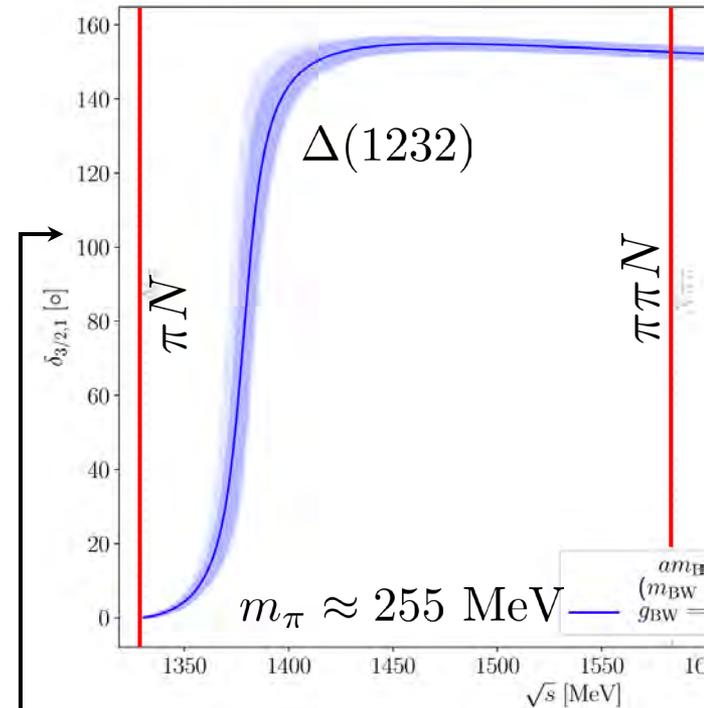


# Lattice QCD for excited baryons



$m_\pi = 396 \text{ MeV}$  [Edwards et al., Phys.Rev. D84 (2011)]

- Pioneering spectroscopic calculations
- Information on existence, width & properties of resonances requires
  - Meson-baryon interpolating operators
  - Detailed finite-volume analysis



[G. Silvi et. al., [arXiv: 2101.00689](https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.00689)]

See also: Bulava et al.,  
[[2208.03867](https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.03867)]

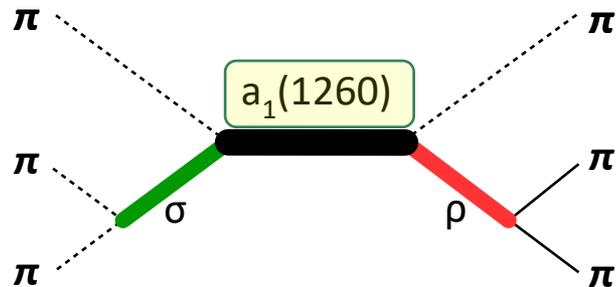
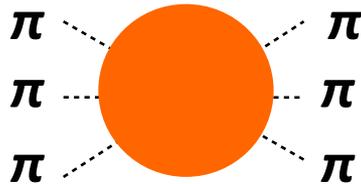
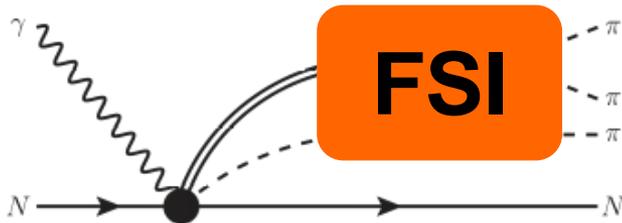
How about  $\pi\pi N$   
Roper  
resonance?

# Three-body aspects: $\pi\pi N$ vs. $\pi\pi\pi$

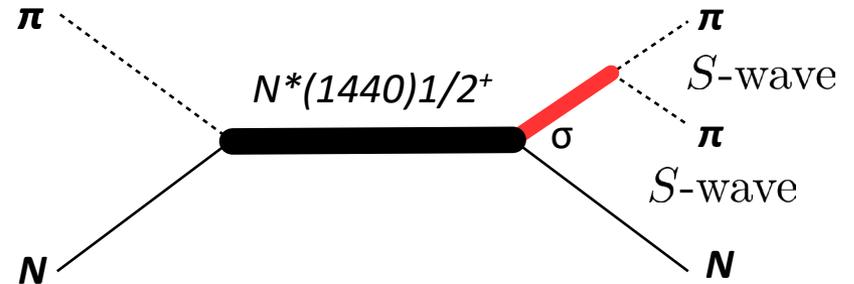
Light mesons



- COMPASS @ CERN:  $\pi_1(1600)$  discovery
- GlueX @ Jlab in search of hybrids and exotics,
- Finite volume spectrum from lattice QCD:
  - Lang (2014), Woss [HadronSpectrum] (2018)
  - Hörz (2019), Culver (2020), Fischer (2020), Hansen (2020),...



Light baryons



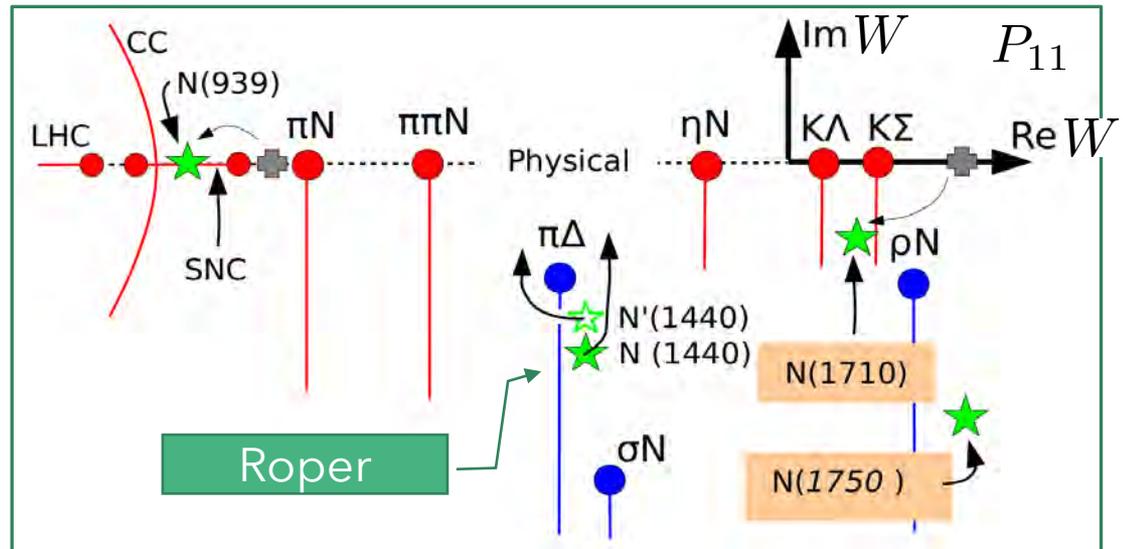
- Roper resonance is debated for ~50 years in experiment. Can only be seen in PWA.
- 1<sup>st</sup> calculation w. meson-baryon operators on the lattice: Lang et al. (2017)

# Hadronic resonances as poles

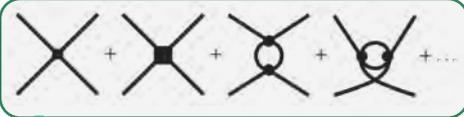
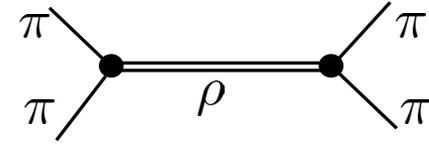
- Defining resonances as poles in amplitudes at complex energies resolves all mentioned problems
  - Real part of pole position  $\longleftrightarrow$  Mass
  - 2x Imaginary part of pole position  $\longleftrightarrow$  Width
  - Pole residue  $\longleftrightarrow$  Branching ratio into different channels because amplitudes factorize at poles

[Doring 2009]

- Next goal: What is this?
  - Red: Real thresholds
  - Blue: resonant sub-channel thres.
  - Double pole Roper
  - Note partial-wave cuts (CC, SNC) that disappear in plane-wave amplitude



# Analytic continuation (2B)



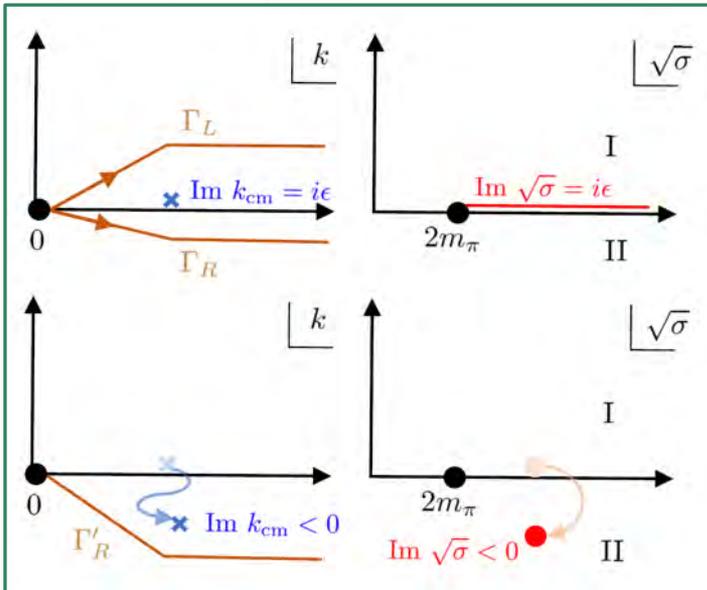
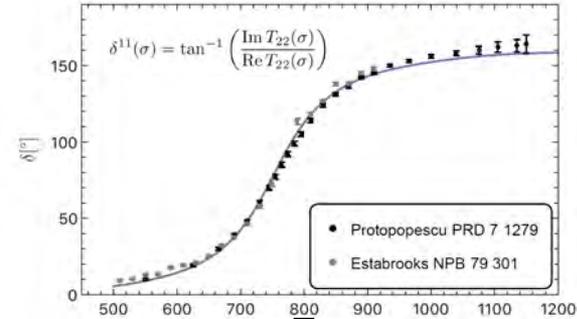
Inverse Amplitude Method [Dobado]

$$T_{22}(\sigma) = \tilde{v}(k_{\text{cm}})\tau(\sigma)\tilde{v}^*(k_{\text{cm}}), \quad k_{\text{cm}} = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{4} - m_\pi^2},$$

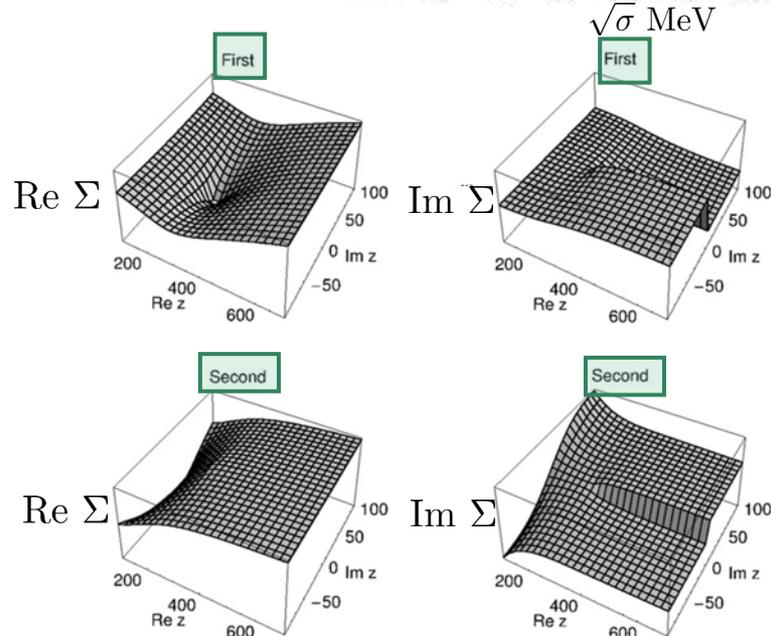
$$\tau^{-1}(\sigma) = \boxed{K^{-1}} - \Sigma,$$

$$\Sigma = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk k^2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_k} \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma'^2} \frac{\tilde{v}(k)^*\tilde{v}(k)}{\sigma - 4E_k^2 + i\epsilon}$$

$$E_k = \sqrt{k^2 + m_\pi^2}$$

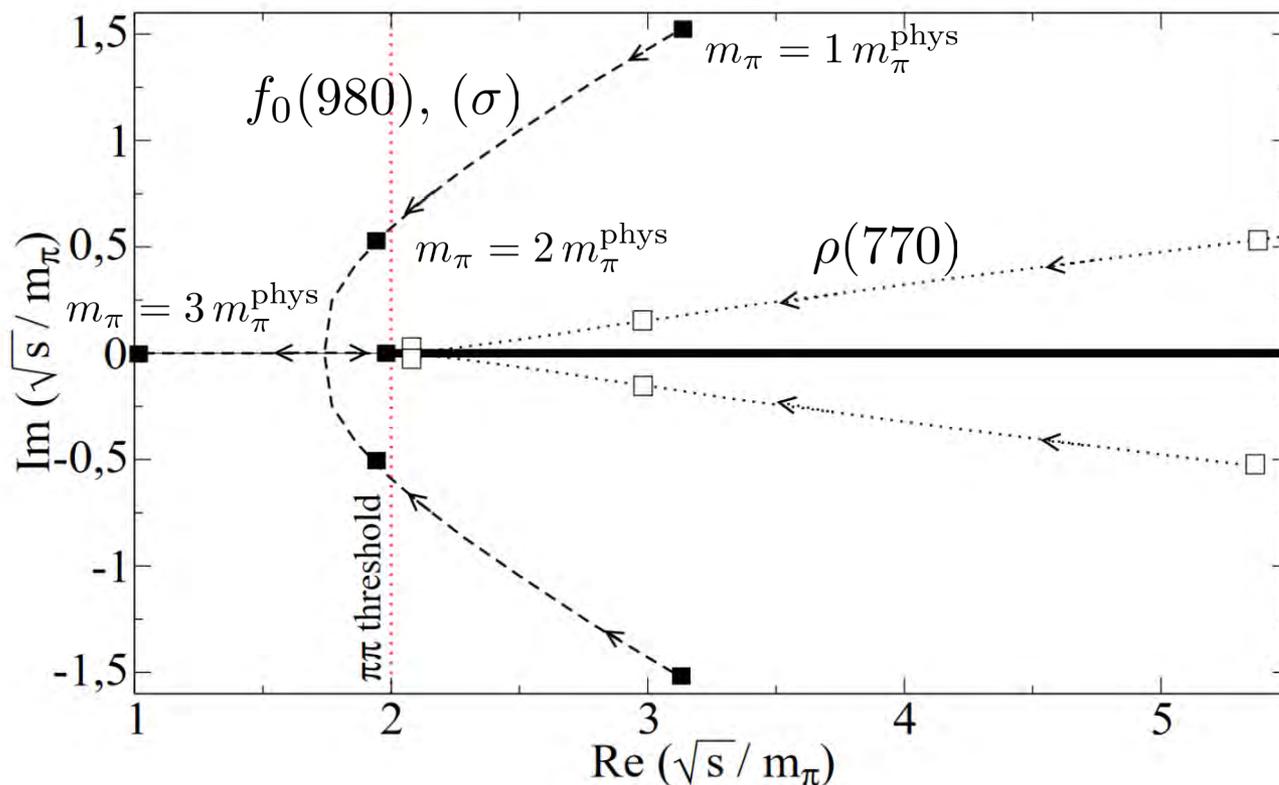


“Adiabatic” contour deformation (remember for 3-body case later!)



# Chiral trajectories of light mesons

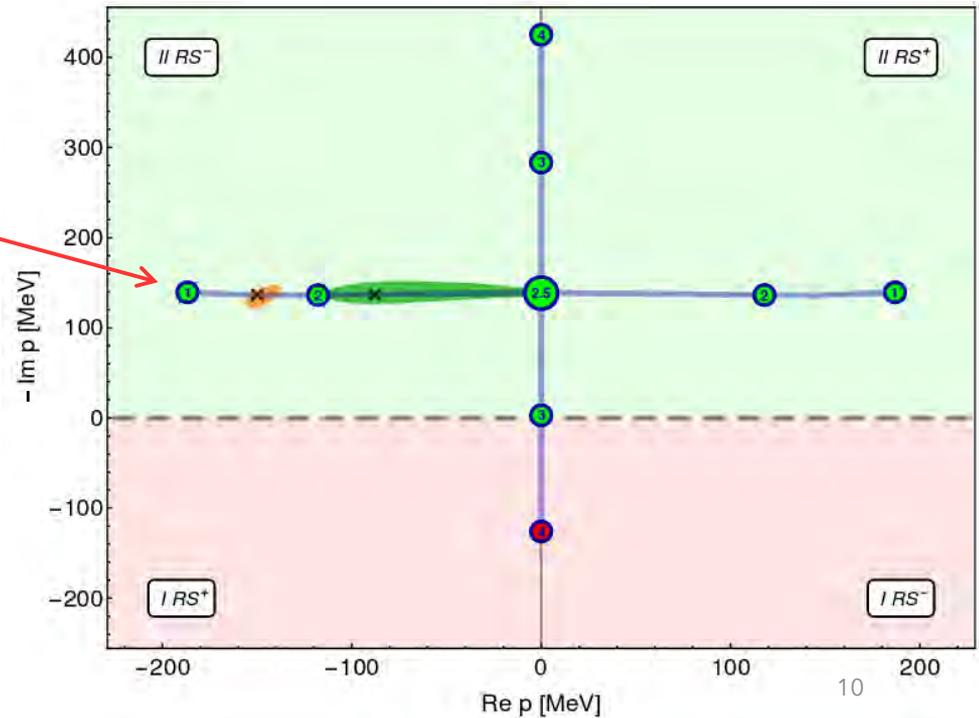
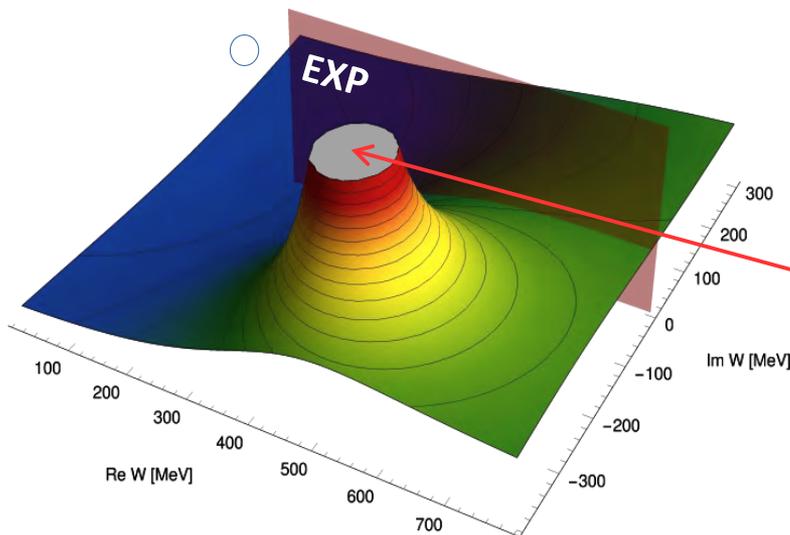
- Quark-mass dependence as predicted from “Inverse amplitude method” with one-loop ChPT
- [Hanhart et al., [0801.2871](#)]



- Axes:  $\sqrt{s}$  vs.  $k$
  - Resonances  $\rightarrow$  Virtual state  $\rightarrow$  bound state
  - But rho-resonance: rather featureless conversion to bound state
  - Wide scalar mesons are not at all conventional Breit-Wigner resonances
  - Prominent molecular component
- [Morgan/Pennington]  
[Baru] [Guo]

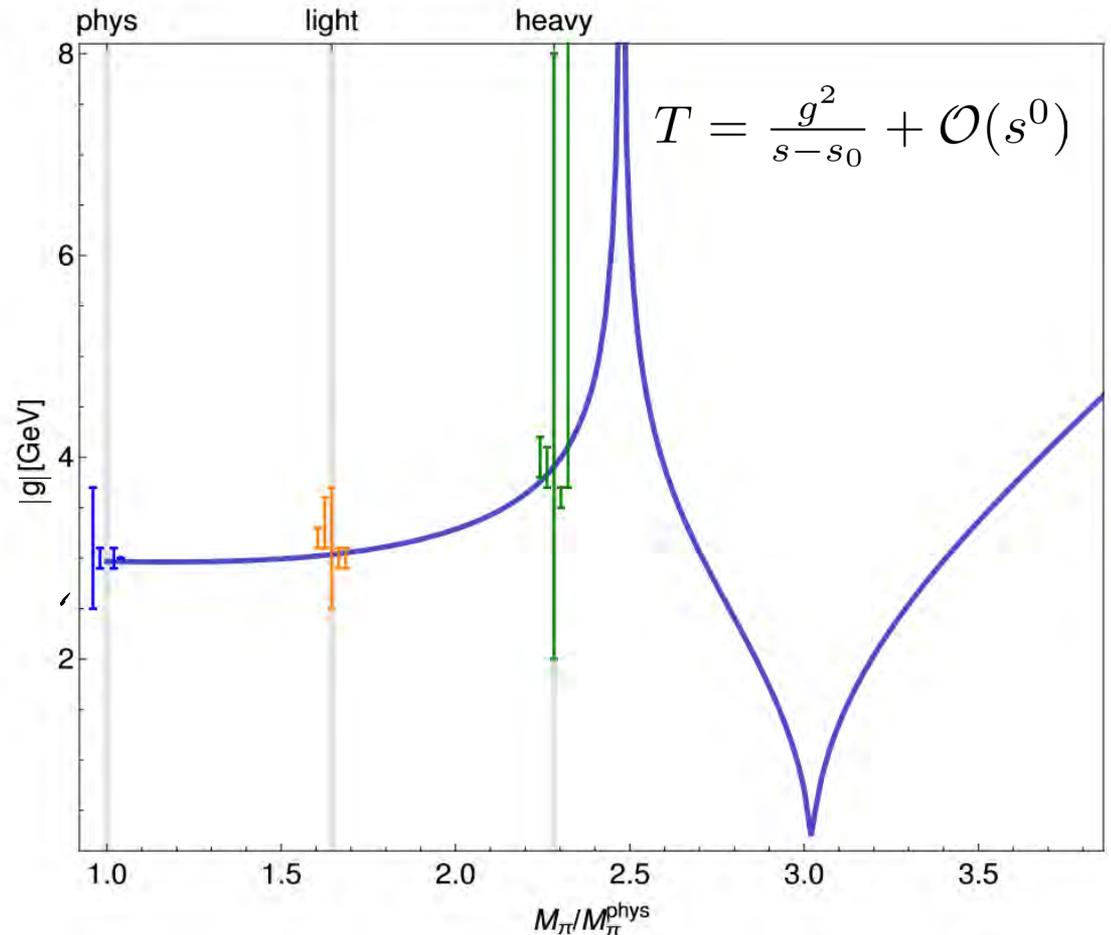
# Chiral trajectories in lattice QCD: $f_0(500)$ " $\sigma$ "

- A lattice calculation at  $M_\pi=227$  MeV and 315 MeV [GWUQCD, [1803.02897](#)]
- $\sigma$  becomes a virtual state @  $M_\pi = (345) 415$  MeV



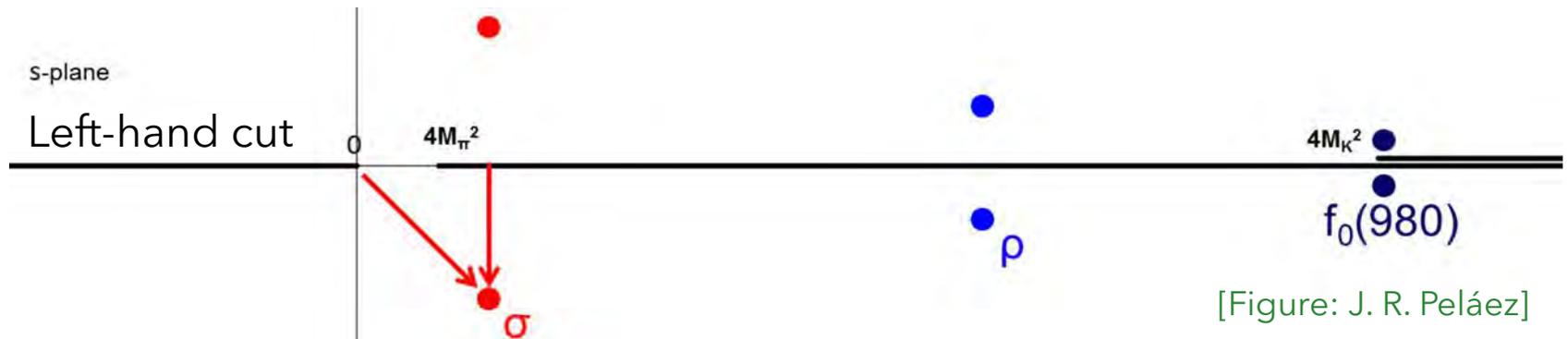
# Resonance coupling $g$ for $f_0(500) \rightarrow \pi\pi$

- The  $f_0(500)$  remains a resonance at available masses
- Onset of virtual state domain visible
- More, heavier pion masses for the virtual state and bound state regimes needed



# Challenge: left-hand cuts

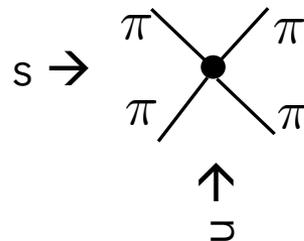
- Pole positions of wide resonances might be distorted if “left-hand cut” is not taken properly into account (and: analyticity in  $s$ , not  $\sqrt{s}$ )



[Figure: J. R. Peláez]

- Build in crossing symmetry manifestly through Roy-(like) equations

[Peláez]



Advantage:  $\pi\pi$  scattering in u-channel is still  $\pi\pi$

Problem: need amplitude for all  $s$

$\pi N$ : [Hoferichter]

# Three-body amplitudes in infinite Vol.

- Three-body unitarity
- The  $a_1(1260)$  resonance in a coupled-channel, three-body unitary framework: lineshape & Dalitz plots
- Analytic continuation for three-body amplitudes: contour deformation and the  $a_1(1260)$  pole

## Three-body unitarity with isobars \*

[Mai 2017]

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | (\hat{T} - \hat{T}^\dagger) | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle &= i \int_P \langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | \hat{T}^\dagger | k_1, k_2, k_3 \rangle \langle k_1, k_2, k_3 | \hat{T} | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle \\ &\times \prod_{\ell=1}^3 \left[ \frac{d^4 k_\ell}{(2\pi)^4} (2\pi) \delta^+(k_\ell^2 - m^2) \right] (2\pi)^4 \delta^4 \left( P - \sum_{\ell=1}^3 k_\ell \right) \end{aligned}$$

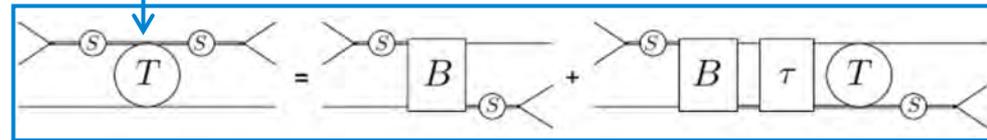
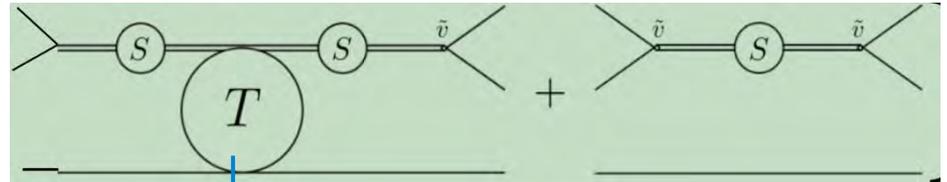
delta function sets all intermediate particles on-shell; no anti-particles!

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\* "Isobar" stands for two-body sub-amplitude which can be resonant or not; can be matched to CHPT expansion to one loop if desired. Isobars are re-parametrization of full 2-body amplitude [Bedaque][Hammer]

# Three-body unitarity

$$\langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | (\hat{T} - \hat{T}^\dagger) | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle = i \int_P \langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | \hat{T}^\dagger | k_1, k_2, k_3 \rangle \langle k_1, k_2, k_3 | \hat{T} | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle$$

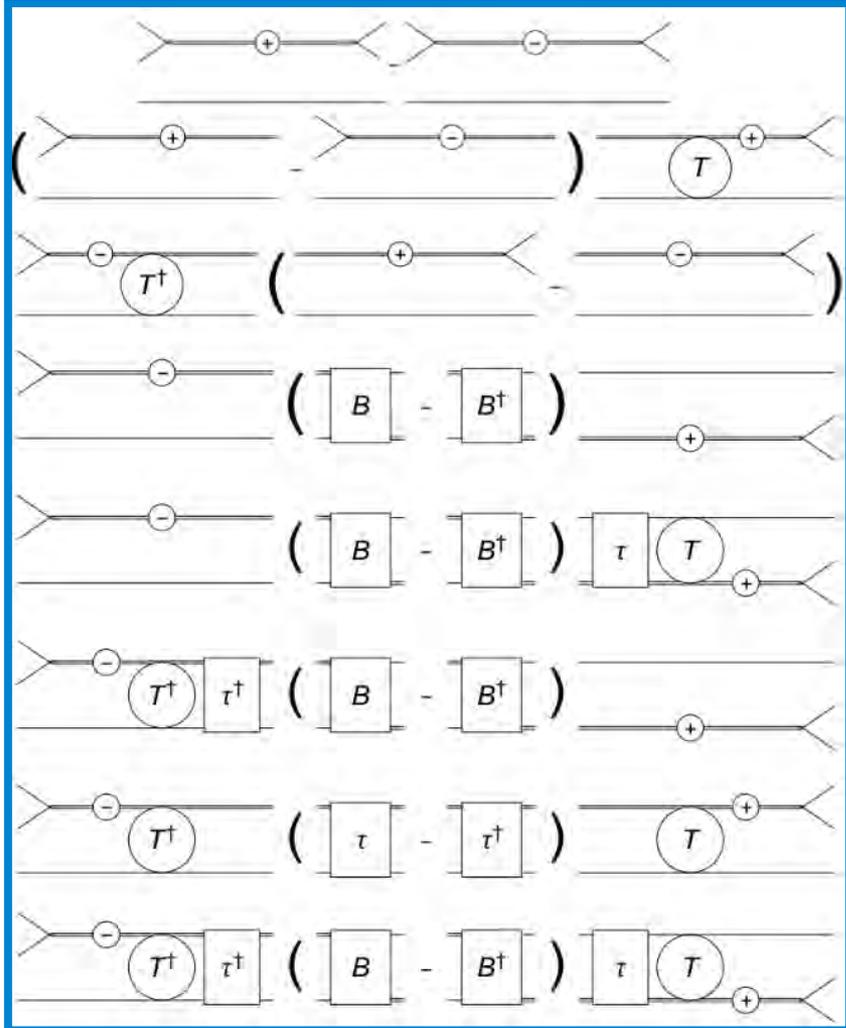


**General Ansatz for the isobar-spectator interaction**

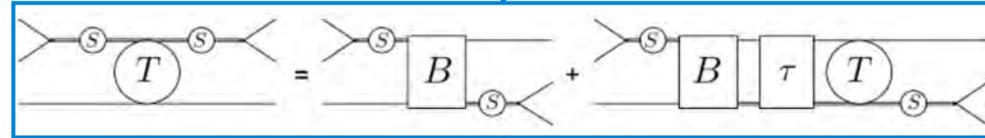
→ **B** &  $\tau$  are **new** unknown functions

# Three-body unitarity

$$\langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | (\hat{T} - \hat{T}^\dagger) | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle = i \int_P \langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | \hat{T}^\dagger | k_1, k_2, k_3 \rangle \langle k_1, k_2, k_3 | \hat{T} | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle$$



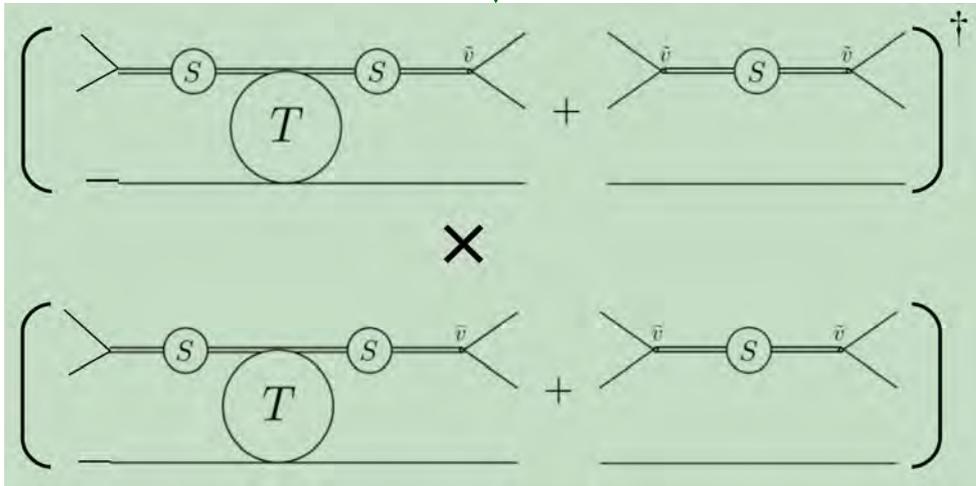
Bethe-Salpeter equation



$$\begin{aligned} \hat{T} - \hat{T}^\dagger &= v(S - S^\dagger)v + vSTSv - vS^\dagger T^\dagger S^\dagger v \\ &= v(S - S^\dagger)v + (vS - vS^\dagger)TSv + vS^\dagger T^\dagger (Sv - S^\dagger v) + vS^\dagger (T - T^\dagger)Sv \end{aligned}$$

# Three-body unitarity

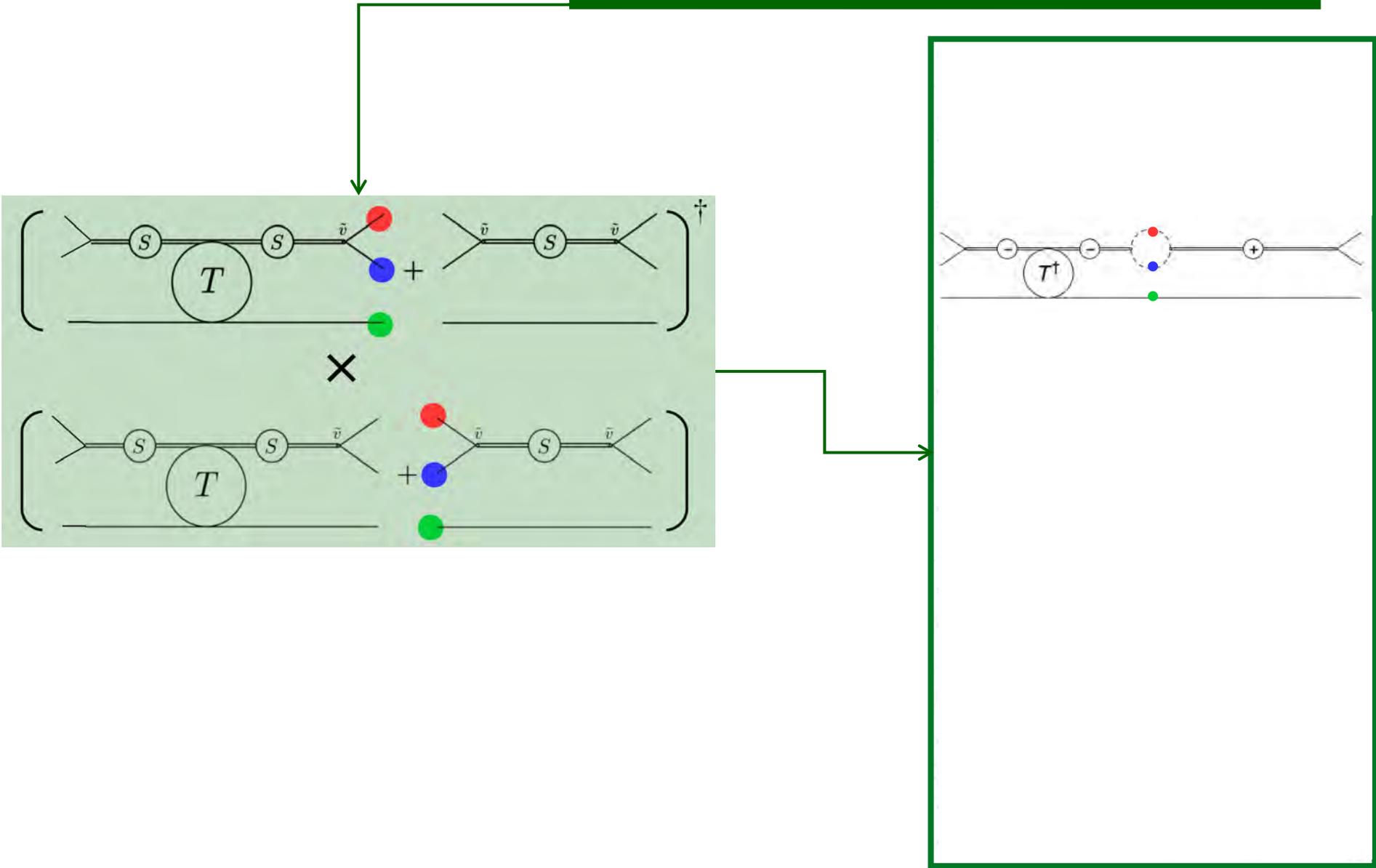
$$\langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | (\hat{T} - \hat{T}^\dagger) | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle = i \int_P \langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | \hat{T}^\dagger | k_1, k_2, k_3 \rangle \langle k_1, k_2, k_3 | \hat{T} | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle$$



General connected-disconnected structure

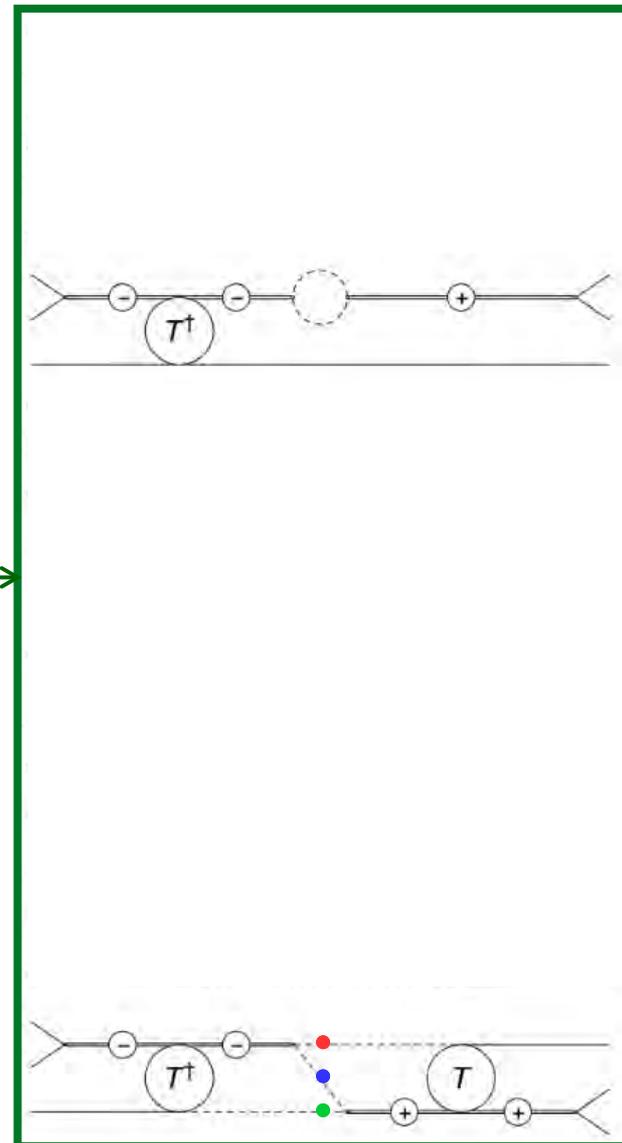
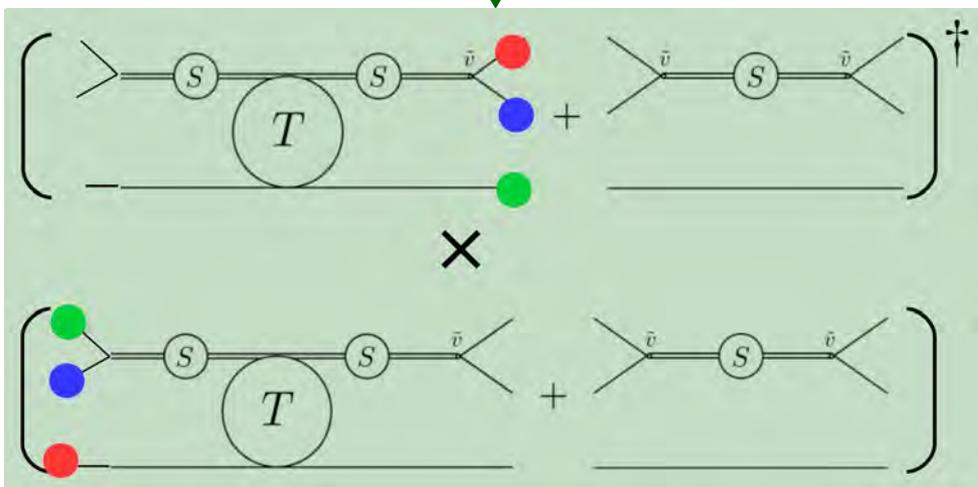
# Three-body unitarity

$$\langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | (\hat{T} - \hat{T}^\dagger) | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle = i \int_P \langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | \hat{T}^\dagger | k_1, k_2, k_3 \rangle \langle k_1, k_2, k_3 | \hat{T} | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle$$



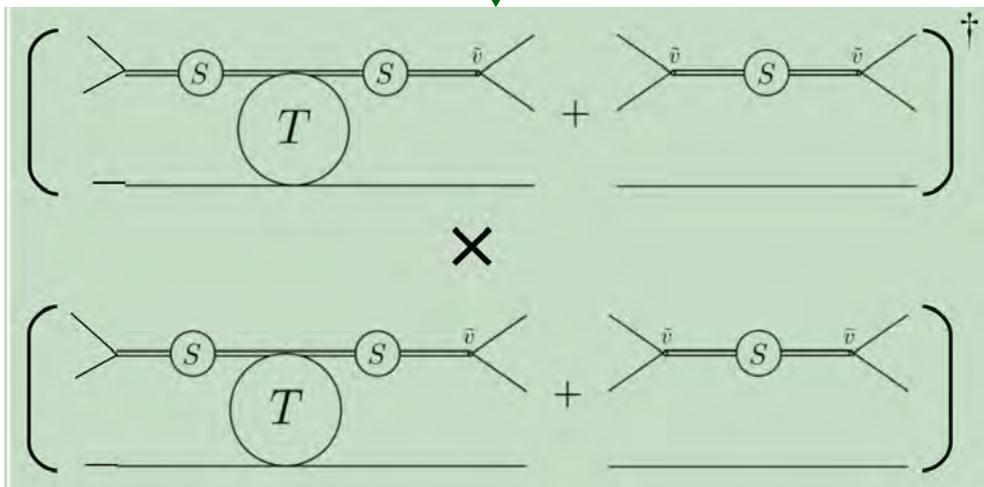
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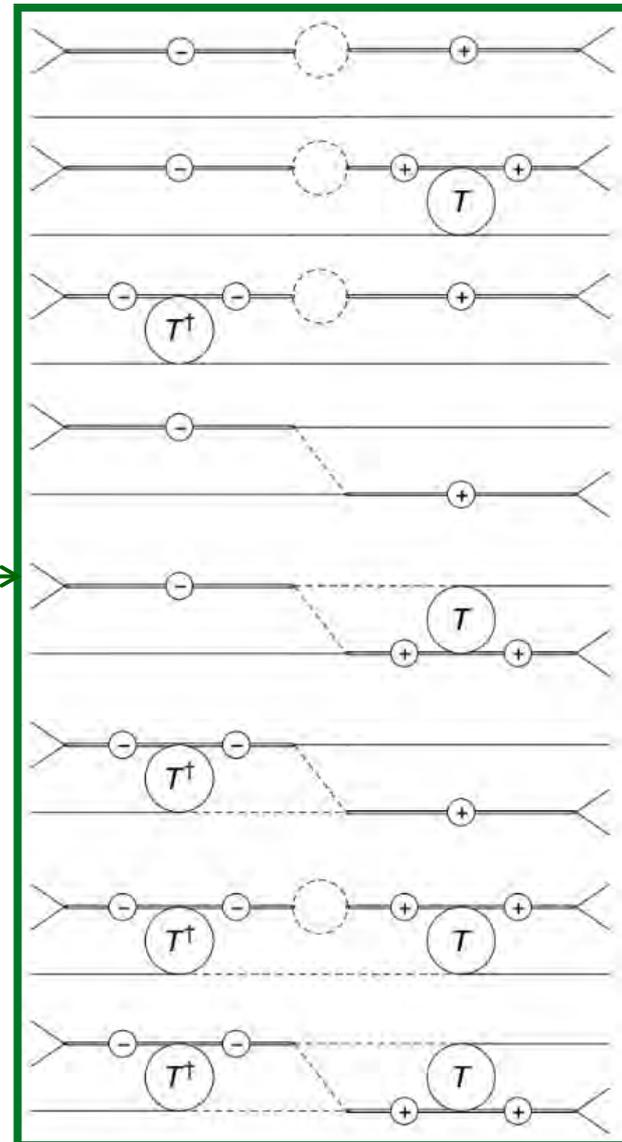


# Three-body unitarity

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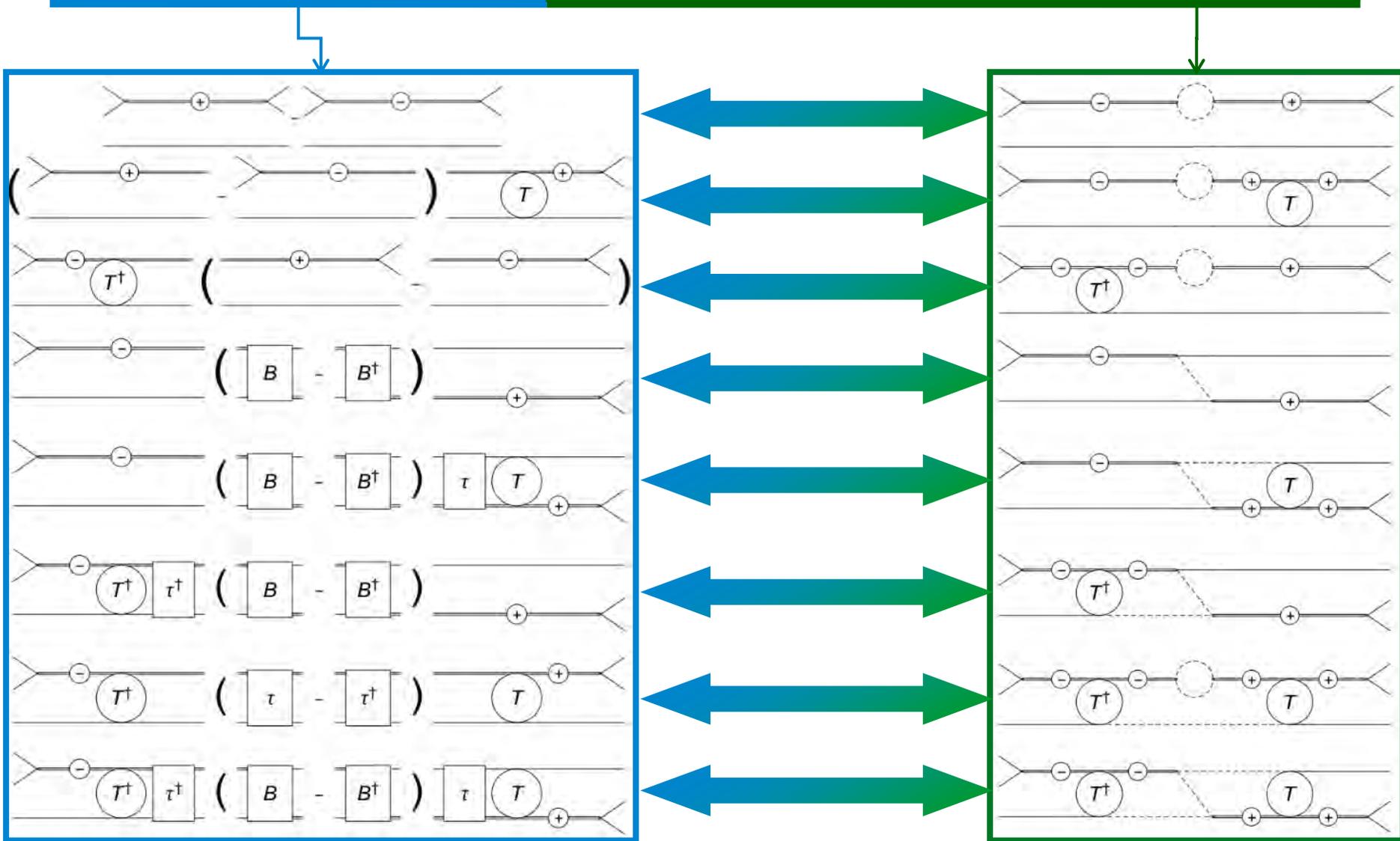


8 topologies



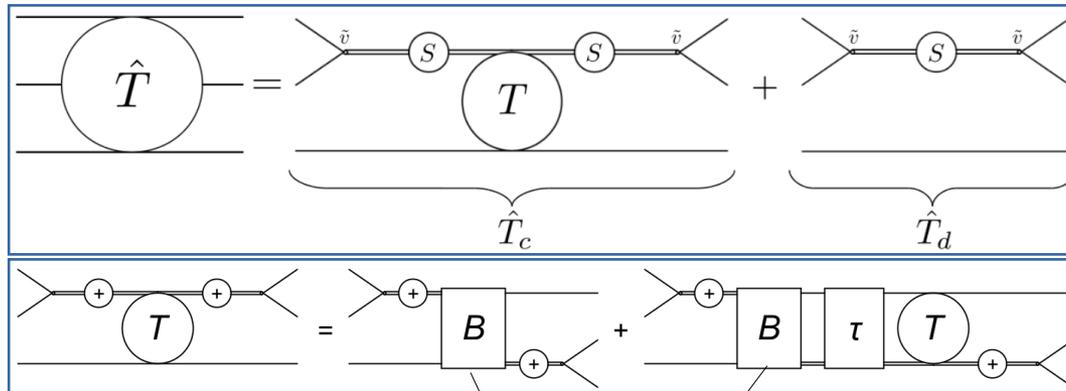
# Three-body unitarity

$$\langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | (\hat{T} - \hat{T}^\dagger) | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle = i \int_P \langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | \hat{T}^\dagger | k_1, k_2, k_3 \rangle \langle k_1, k_2, k_3 | \hat{T} | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle$$



# Scattering amplitude (1)

3 → 3 scattering amplitude is a 3-dimensional integral equation



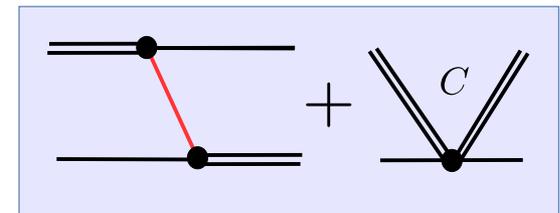
- Imaginary parts of **B, S** are fixed by **unitarity/matching**
- B, S are determined **consistently** through 8 different relations

$$\text{Disc } B(u) = 2\pi i \lambda^2 \frac{\delta(E_Q - \sqrt{m^2 + Q^2})}{2\sqrt{m^2 + Q^2}}$$

- un-subtracted dispersion relation

$$\langle q|B(s)|p\rangle = -\frac{\lambda^2}{2\sqrt{m^2 + Q^2} (E_Q - \sqrt{m^2 + Q^2} + i\epsilon)} + C$$

- one- $\pi$  exchange in TOPT → **RESULT, NOT INPUT!**

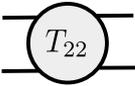
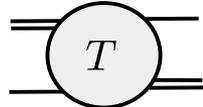
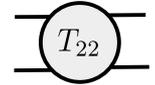


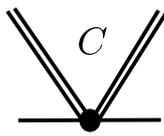
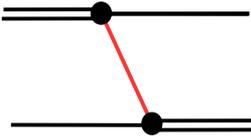
- One can map to field theory but does not have to. Result is a-priori dispersive.

## Scattering amplitude (2)

Here: Version in which isobar rewritten in on-shell 2 → 2 scattering amplitude  $T_{22}$

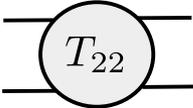
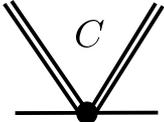
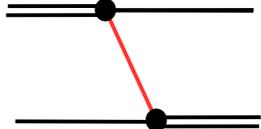
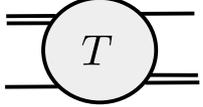
$$\langle q_1, q_2, q_3 | \hat{T}_c(s) | p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{n=1}^3 \sum_{m=1}^3 T_{22}(\sigma(q_n)) \langle q_n | T(s) | p_m \rangle T_{22}(\sigma(p_m))$$

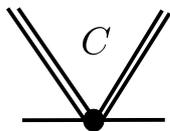



$$\langle q | T(s) | p \rangle = \langle q | C(s) | p \rangle + \frac{1}{m^2 - (P - p - q)^2 - i\epsilon}$$

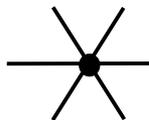
$$- \int \frac{d^3\ell}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_\ell} T_{22}(\sigma(\ell)) \left( \langle p | C(s) | \ell \rangle + \frac{1}{m^2 - (P - p - \ell)^2 - i\epsilon} \right) \langle \ell | T(s) | p \rangle$$

Technical  
Detail:



vs

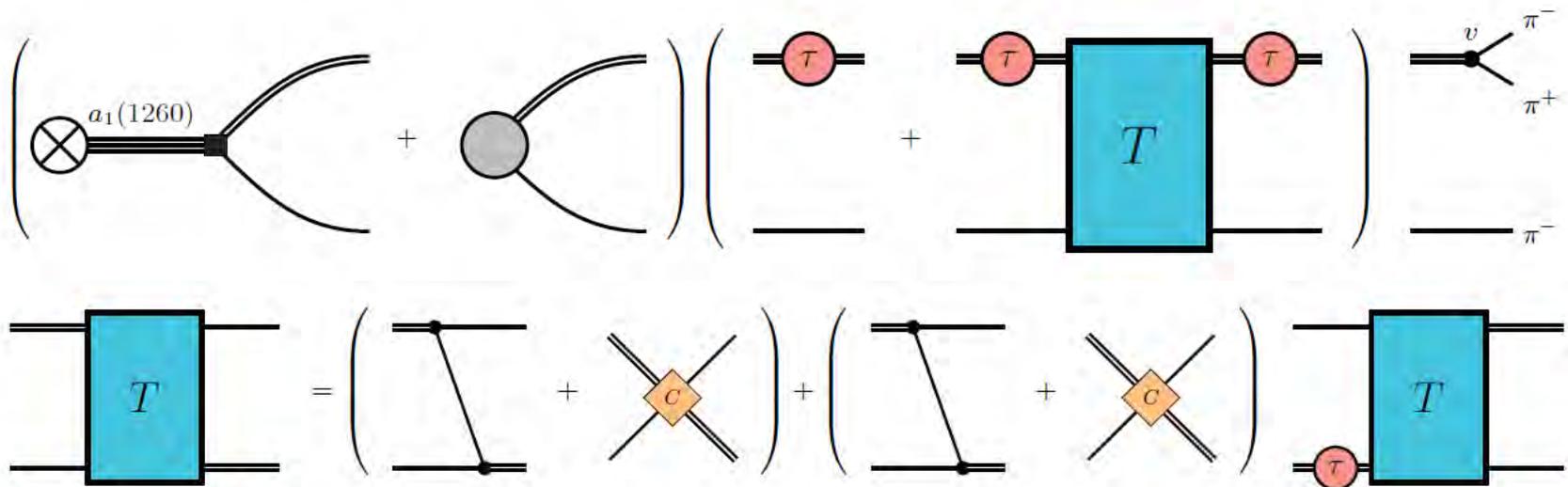


Scheme-dependent 3-body force  
requires a mapping [\[Brett \(2021\)\]](#)

(S-wave)

# The $a_1(1260)$ and its Dalitz plots

- Disconnected and connected decays for three-body unitarity



- New complication: the rho has spin:

$$T_{\lambda'\lambda}(p, q_1) = (B_{\lambda'\lambda}(p, q_1) + C) + \sum_{\lambda''} \int \frac{d^3l}{(2\pi)^3 2E_l} (B_{\lambda'\lambda''}(p, l) + C) \tau(\sigma(l)) T_{\lambda''\lambda}(l, q_1)$$

# Partial-wave decomposition

- Plane-wave basis

$$T_{\lambda'\lambda}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}_1) = (B_{\lambda'\lambda}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}_1) + C) + \sum_{\lambda''} \int \frac{d^3l}{(2\pi)^3 2E_l} (B_{\lambda'\lambda''}(\mathbf{p}, l) + C) \tau(\sigma(l)) T_{\lambda''\lambda}(l, \mathbf{q}_1)$$

$$B_{\lambda\lambda'}^J(q_1, p) = 2\pi \int_{-1}^{+1} dx d_{\lambda\lambda'}^J(x) B_{\lambda\lambda'}(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{p}) \quad B_{LL'}^J(q_1, p) = U_{L\lambda} B_{\lambda\lambda'}^J(q_1, p) U_{\lambda'L'}$$

- JLS basis:

$$T_{LL'}^J(q_1, p) = (B_{LL'}^J(q_1, p) + C_{LL'}(q_1, p)) + \int_0^\Lambda \frac{dl l^2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_l} (B_{LL''}^J(q_1, l) + C_{LL''}(q_1, l)) \tau(\sigma(l)) T_{L''L'}^J(l, p)$$

# Fitting the lineshape & predicting Dalitz plots

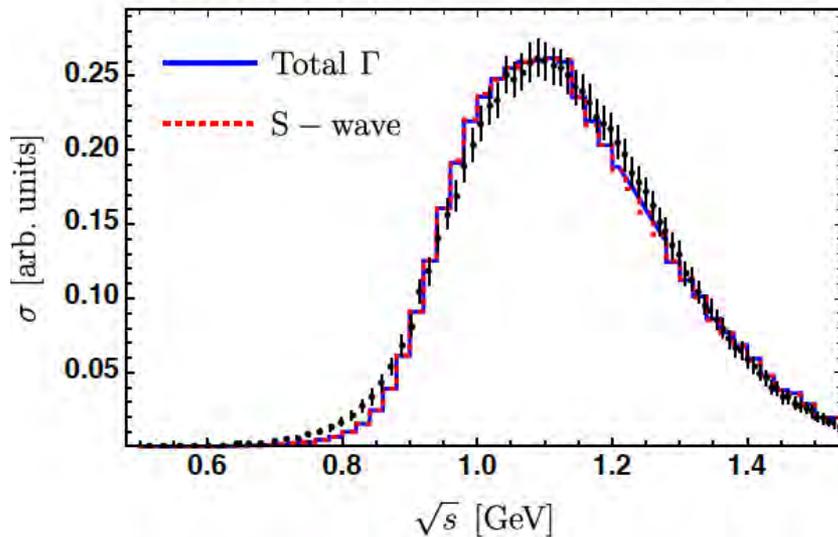
[Sadasivan 2018]

- One can have  $\pi\rho$  in S- and D-wave coupled channels
- “Line shape”: integrate all three final-state momenta,

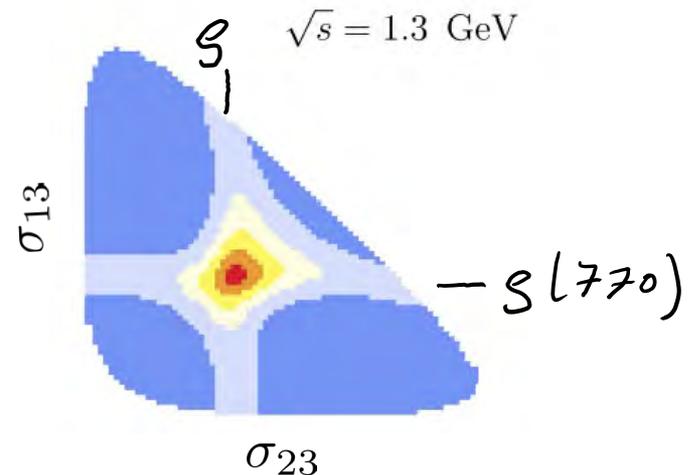
$$\mathcal{L}(\sqrt{s}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} \int \frac{d^3q_1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3q_2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3q_3}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_{q_1}2E_{q_2}2E_{q_3}} \quad (18)$$

$$\times (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(P_3 - q_1 - q_2 - q_3) |\Gamma(q_1, q_2, q_3)|^2.$$

$a_1 \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^- \pi^+$  (symmetrize  $\pi^-$ 's!)



predict  $\rightarrow$



Where is the resonance pole in  $s$ ?

# Analytic cont. 3-body

[Sadasivan (2021)]

[Doering (2009)]

SMC

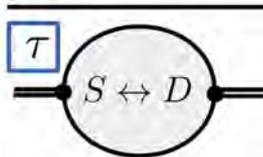
$$T_{LL'}^J(q_1, p) = (B_{LL'}^J(q_1, p) + C_{LL'}(q_1, p)) + \int_0^\Lambda \frac{dl^2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_l} (B_{LL''}^J(q_1, l) + C_{LL''}(q_1, l)) \tau(\sigma(l)) T_{L''L'}^J(l, p)$$

$$\tau^{-1}(\sigma) = K^{-1} - \Sigma,$$

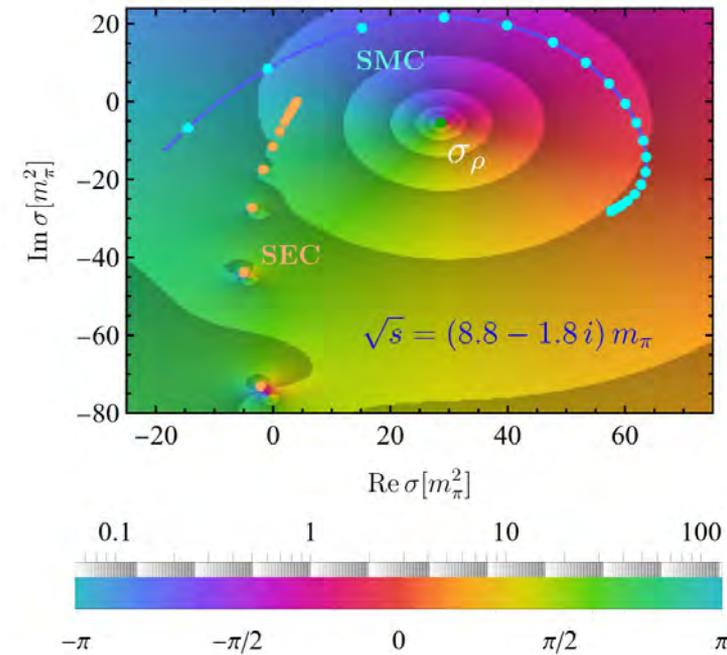
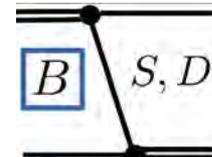
$$\Sigma = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk k^2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_k} \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma'^2} \frac{\tilde{v}(k)^* \tilde{v}(k)}{\sigma - 4E_k^2 + i\epsilon}$$

$$B_{\lambda\lambda'}(p, p') = \frac{v_\lambda^*(P - p - p', p) v_{\lambda'}(P - p - p', p')}{2E_{p'+p}(\sqrt{s} - E_p - E_{p'} - E_{p'+p} + i\epsilon)}$$

SEC



Singularities

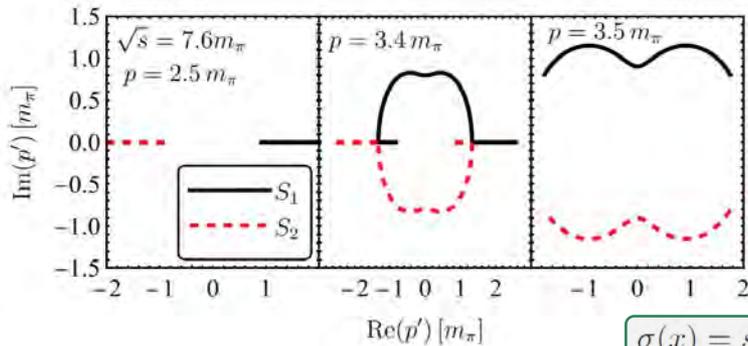


- Two contours (SMC and SEC)
- Deform both “adiabatically” to go to complex s
- Set of rules:
  - Contours cannot intersect with each others
  - Contours cannot intersect with (3-body) cuts
- Passing singularities left or right determines sheet

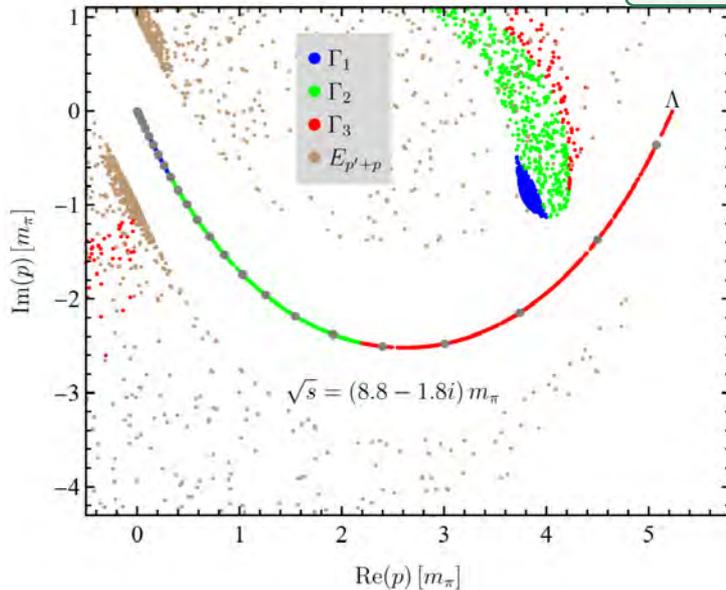
# Analytic continuation 3-body (contd.)

- Three-body cuts

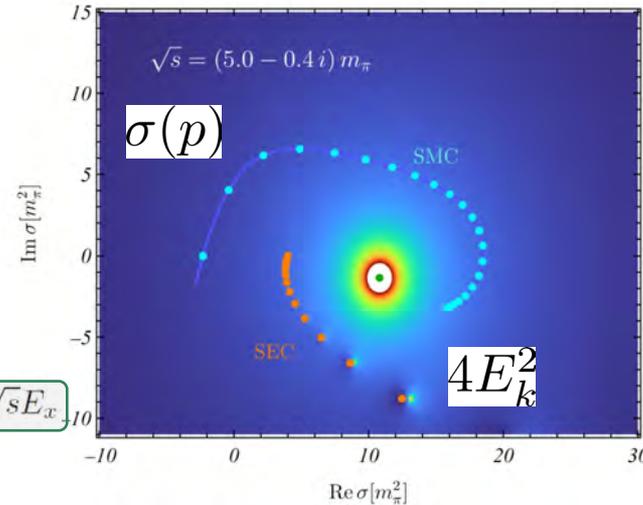
$$\sqrt{s} - E_p - E_{p'} - E_{p+p'} + i\epsilon = 0$$



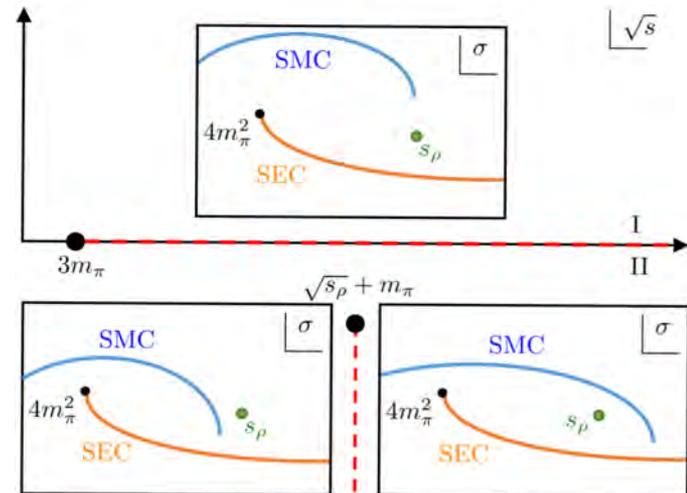
$$\sigma(x) = s + m_\pi^2 - 2\sqrt{s}E_x$$



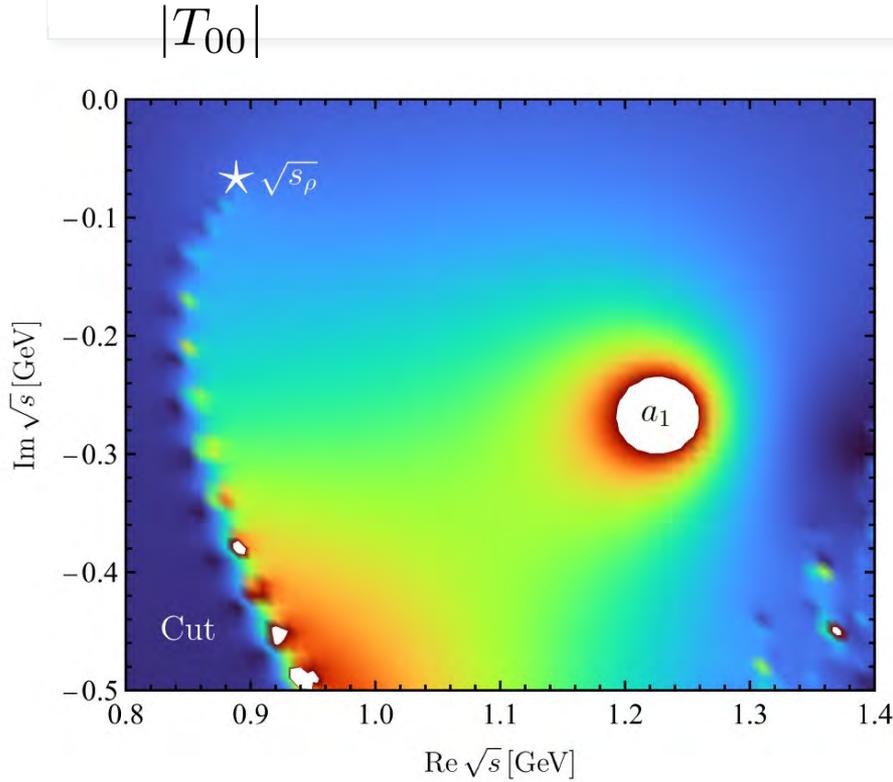
- Complex branch points



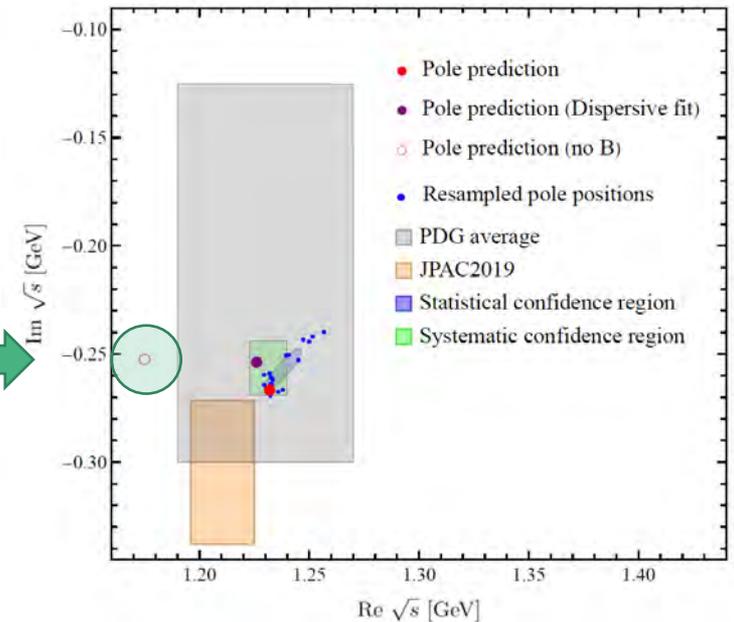
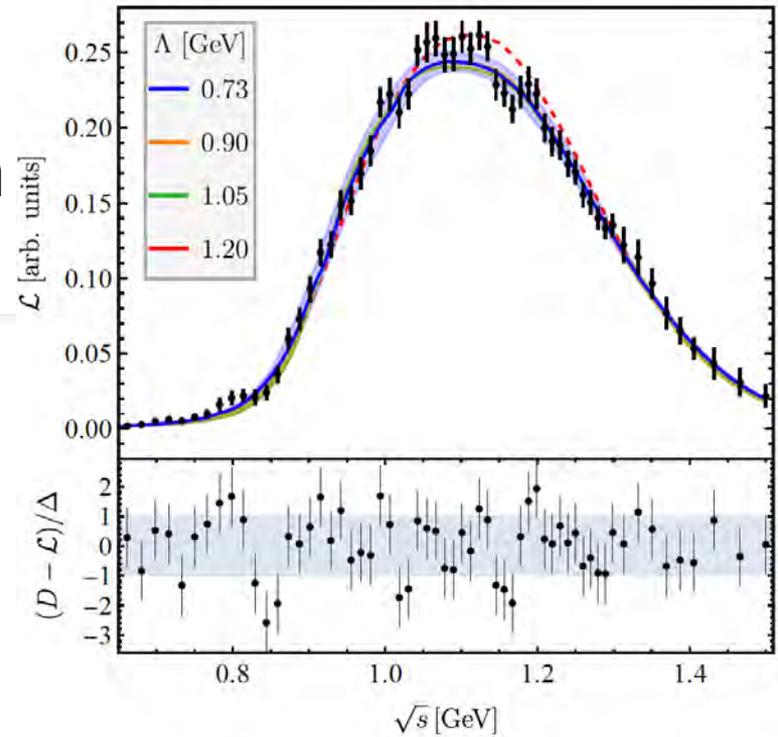
Integration limits at poles induce branch points



# Result: Pole position



If the B-term is neglected + refit (unitarity violated)



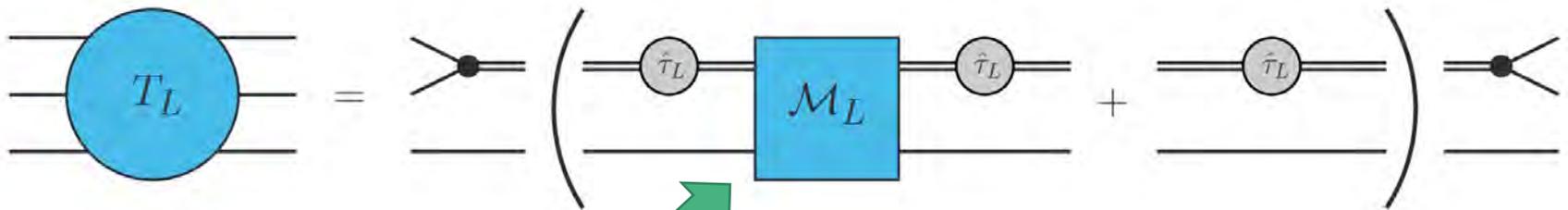
# Finite volume quantization condition

- General procedure:
  - Formulate an amplitude in infinite volume
  - Discretize the momenta
  - Instead of partial-wave projection, as in infinite volume, project to irreps according to the symmetries of the problem
    - Three-body system at rest
    - Three-body system with finite momenta  $P=(1,0,0),\dots$

# Finite-volume quantization

[Doering 2018]

- Connectedness structure



$$f(\mathbf{p}) = \sqrt{4\pi} \sum_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) f_{\ell m}(p)$$

$$f_{\ell m}(p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \int d\Omega Y_{\ell m}^*(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) f(\mathbf{p})$$

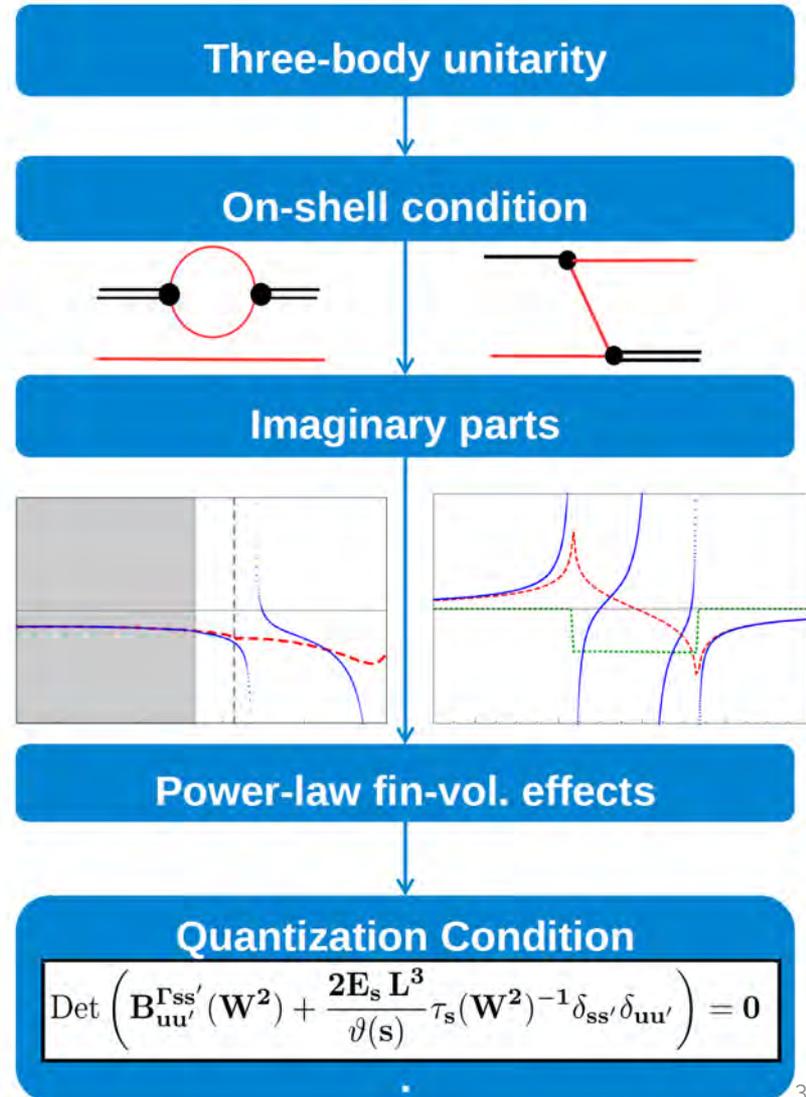
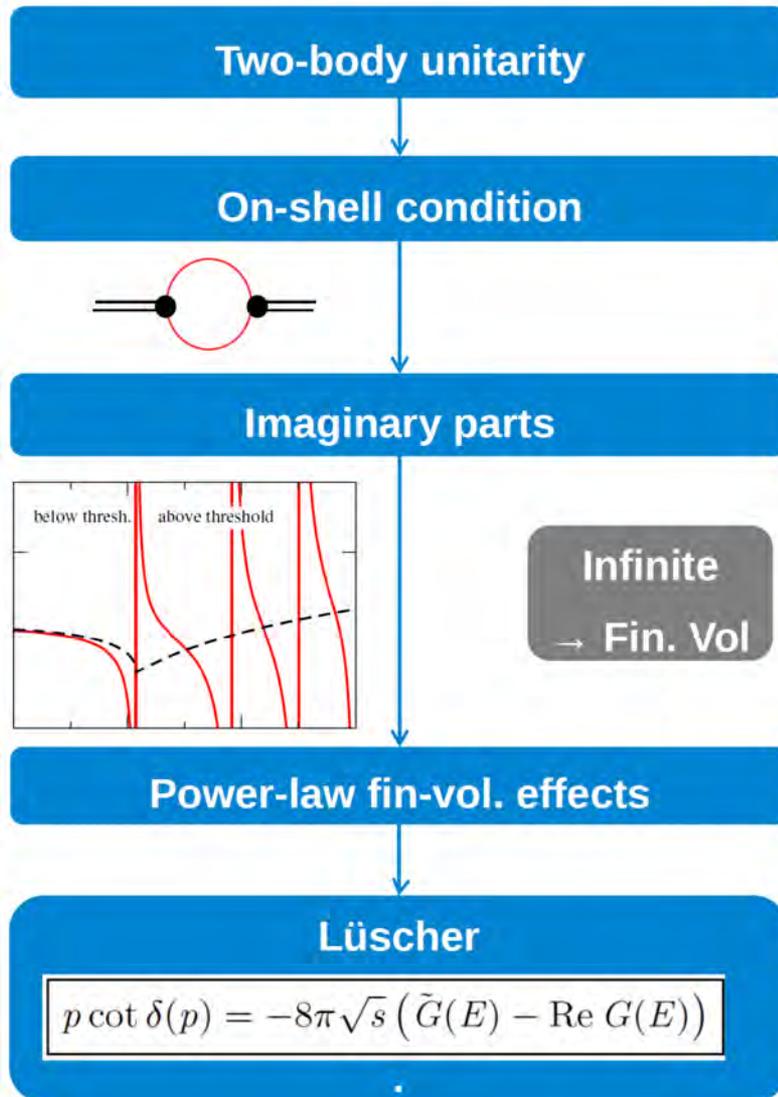
(spinless isobar)

$\chi_u^{\Gamma\alpha s}$  are orthonormal basis functions for irrep  $\Gamma$   
Shell index  $s$ , row  $\alpha$

$$f^s(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_j) = \sqrt{4\pi} \sum_{\Gamma\alpha} \sum_u f_u^{\Gamma\alpha s} \chi_u^{\Gamma\alpha s}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_j),$$

$$f_u^{\Gamma\alpha s} = \frac{\sqrt{4\pi}}{\vartheta(s)} \sum_{j=1}^{\vartheta(s)} f^s(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_j) \chi_u^{\Gamma\alpha s}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_j) \quad \text{for } \chi_u^{\Gamma\alpha s}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) \in U_s,$$

# Three-body quantization condition



# Applications and extensions

- Three pions at maximal isospin (selection)
- Three kaons at maximal isospin
- Isobars with spin: The  $a_1(1260)$  in coupled channels

# Three pions at maximal isospin

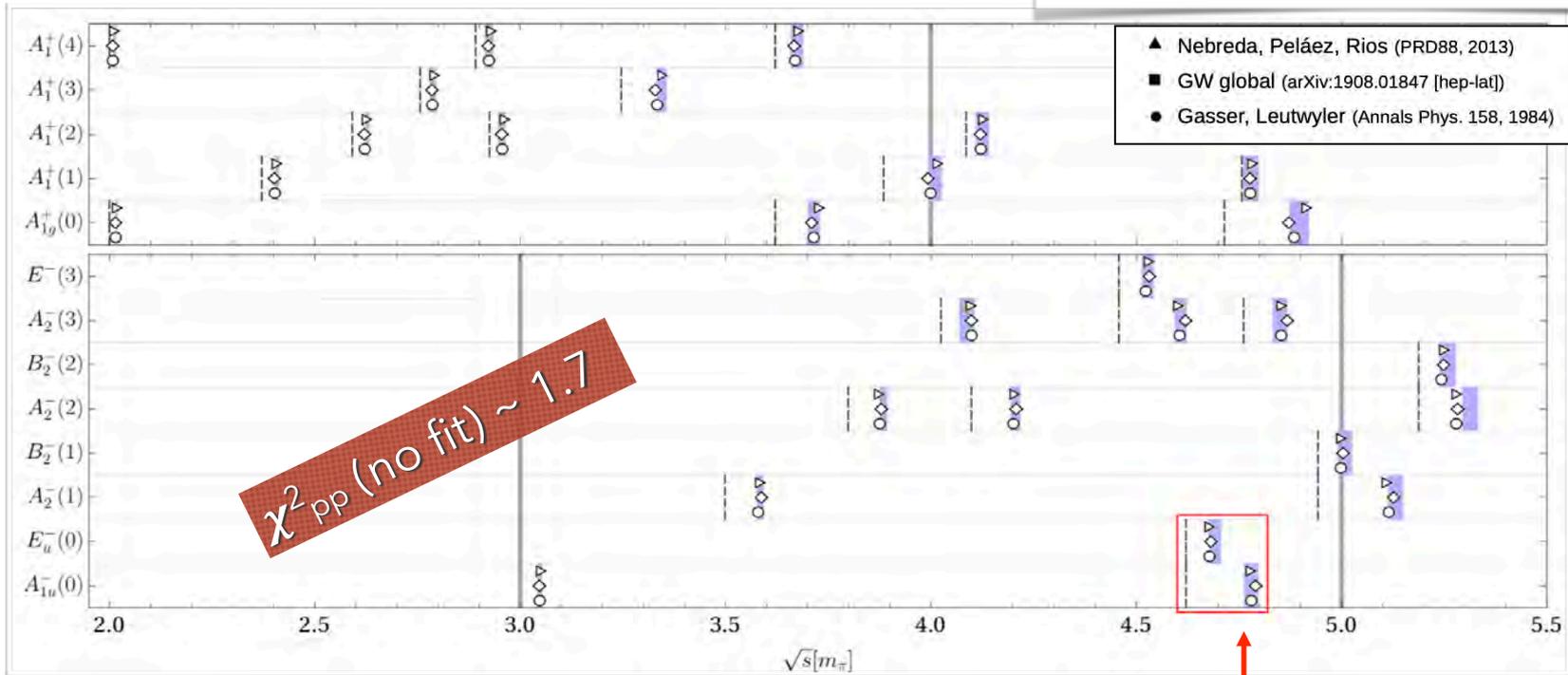
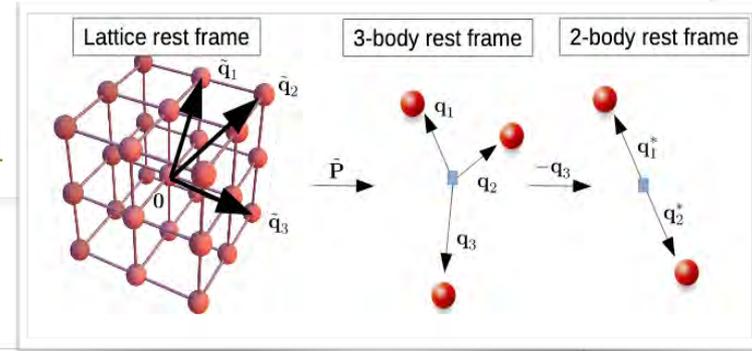
- Highlight qualitative insights
- Determination of scheme-dependent three-body force is possible and might be compared to LO CHPT (not discussed)

[[Blanton PRL 2019](#), [Brett 2021](#), [Fischer 2021](#)]

# Hoerz/Hanlon data

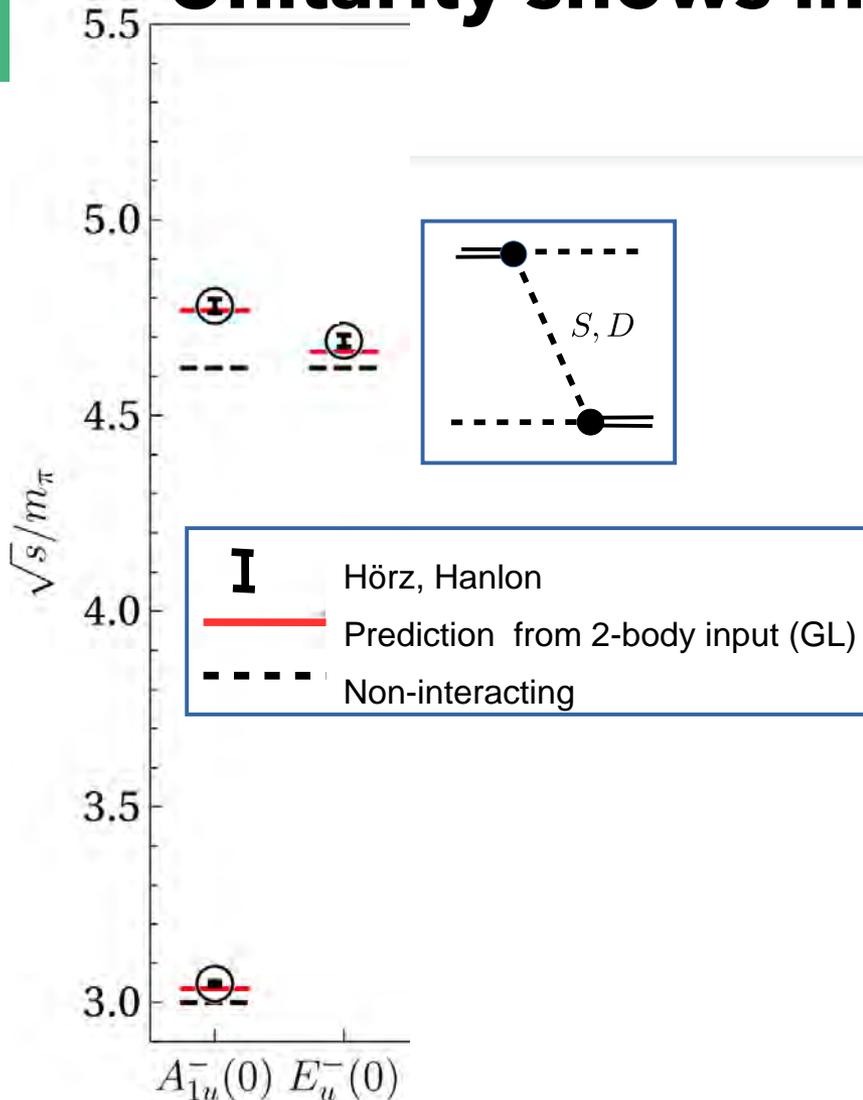
[Hoerz 2019][see also Culver 2019]

- Energy eigenvalues



- *Uncertainties dominated by the 2-body input.  $C \sim 0$*
- *Rel. strength between S/D waves fixed dominantly by 3b unitarity*

# Unitarity shows in FV spectrum



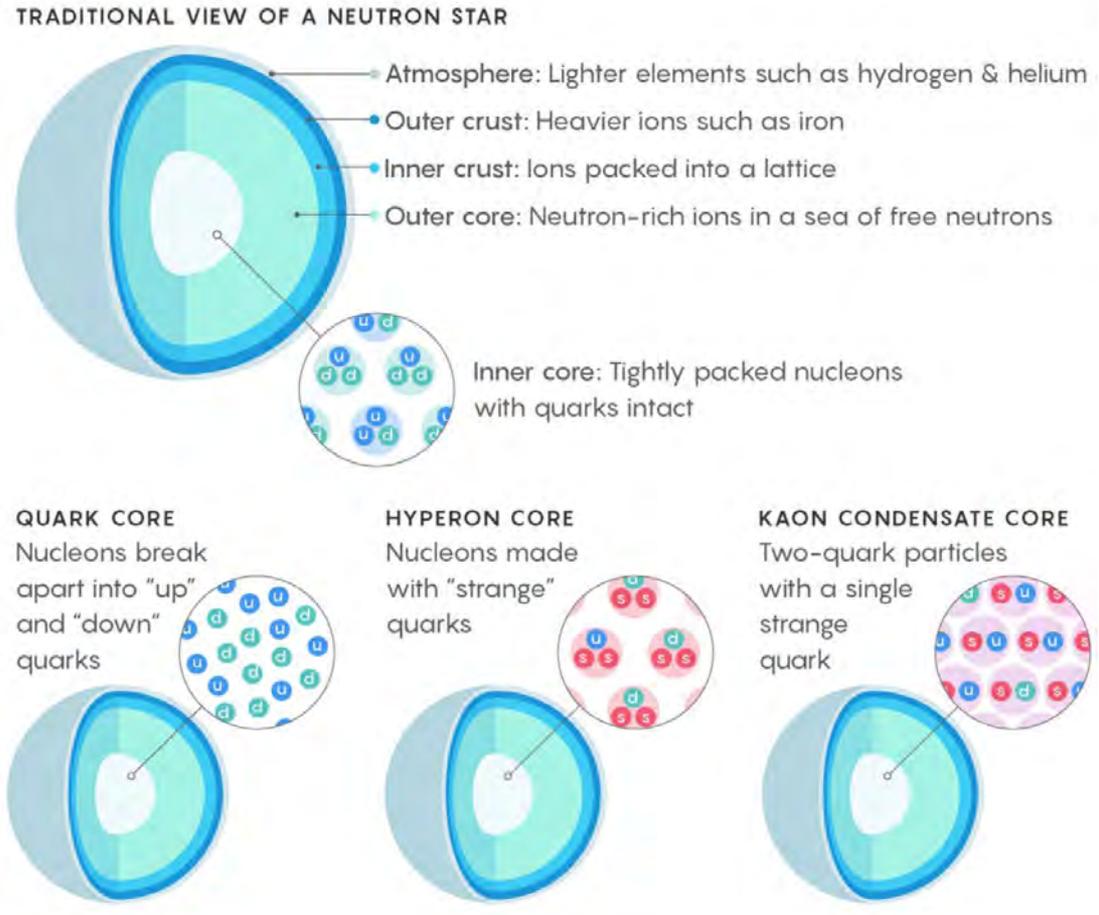
**S**    **D** (lowest participating wave)

- S-wave prediction good at threshold (like for NPLQCD data)
- S-wave prediction good at high energies → **Energy dependence matched**
- 3-body “force” set to zero
- D-wave prediction qualitatively good
  - Relative/absolute strength between S- and D-wave matched
  - Consequence that 3-body interaction dominated by exchange
  - Consequence of 3-body Unitarity

• Three-body unitarity directly visible in the eigenvalue spectrum of lattice QCD

# Multi-kaon systems

- Relevant for heavy-ion collisions (ALICE)
- Matter with strangeness in neutron stars and equation of state:
  - Kaon condensate can soften the equation of state



# Three kaons at maximal isospin

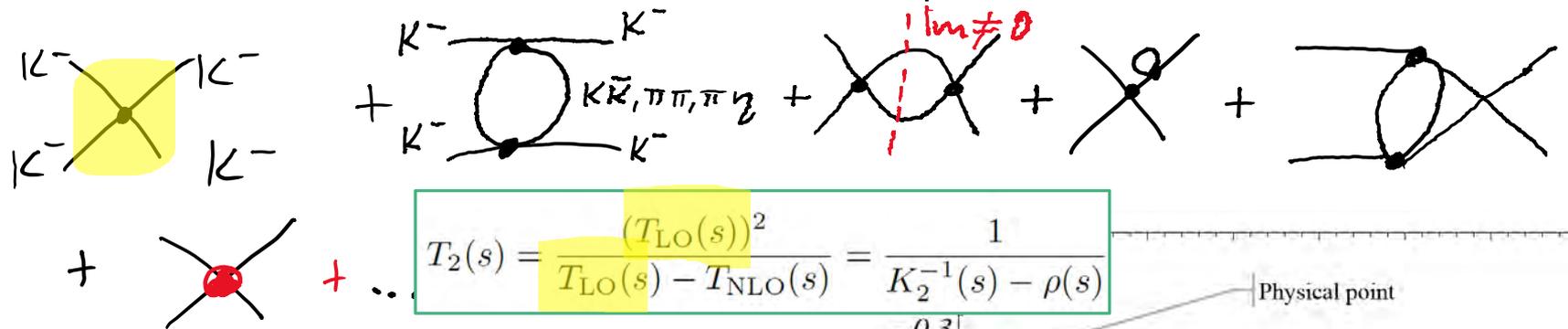
[Alexandru 2020]

- First study of three kaons from lattice QCD with chiral amplitudes
- Other groups have improved on this in the meantime:
  - Max. isospin, non-identical masses ( $\pi^+\pi^+K^+$ ,  $\pi^+K^+K^+$ )  
[Blanton 2021]
  - Pions and kaons at maximal isospin with unprecedented accuracy and no. of levels ( $\pi^+\pi^+\pi^+$ ,  $K^+K^+K^+$ )  
[Blanton 2021]

- Two mass-degenerate light quarks (u,d); valence strange quark
- nHYP-smearred clover action
- quark propagation is treated using the LapH method with optimized inverters
- Lattice spacing determined from Wilson flow parameter  $w_0$

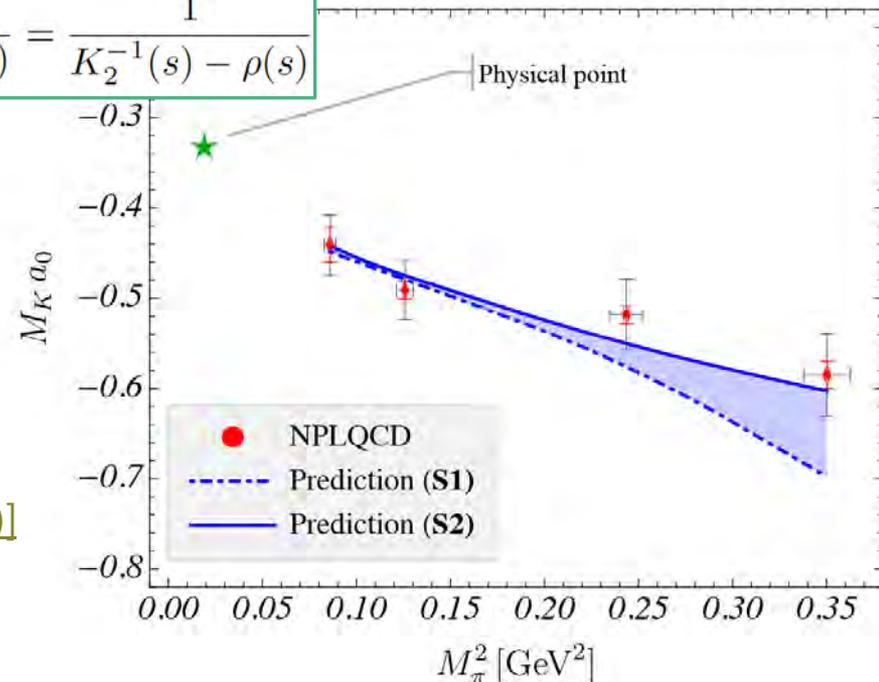
# Two kaons

- Crossing symmetry allows to get the amplitude  $K^- K^- \rightarrow K^- K^-$  from  $K^+ K^- \rightarrow K^+ K^-$
- SU(3) CHPT unitarized with inverse amplitude method



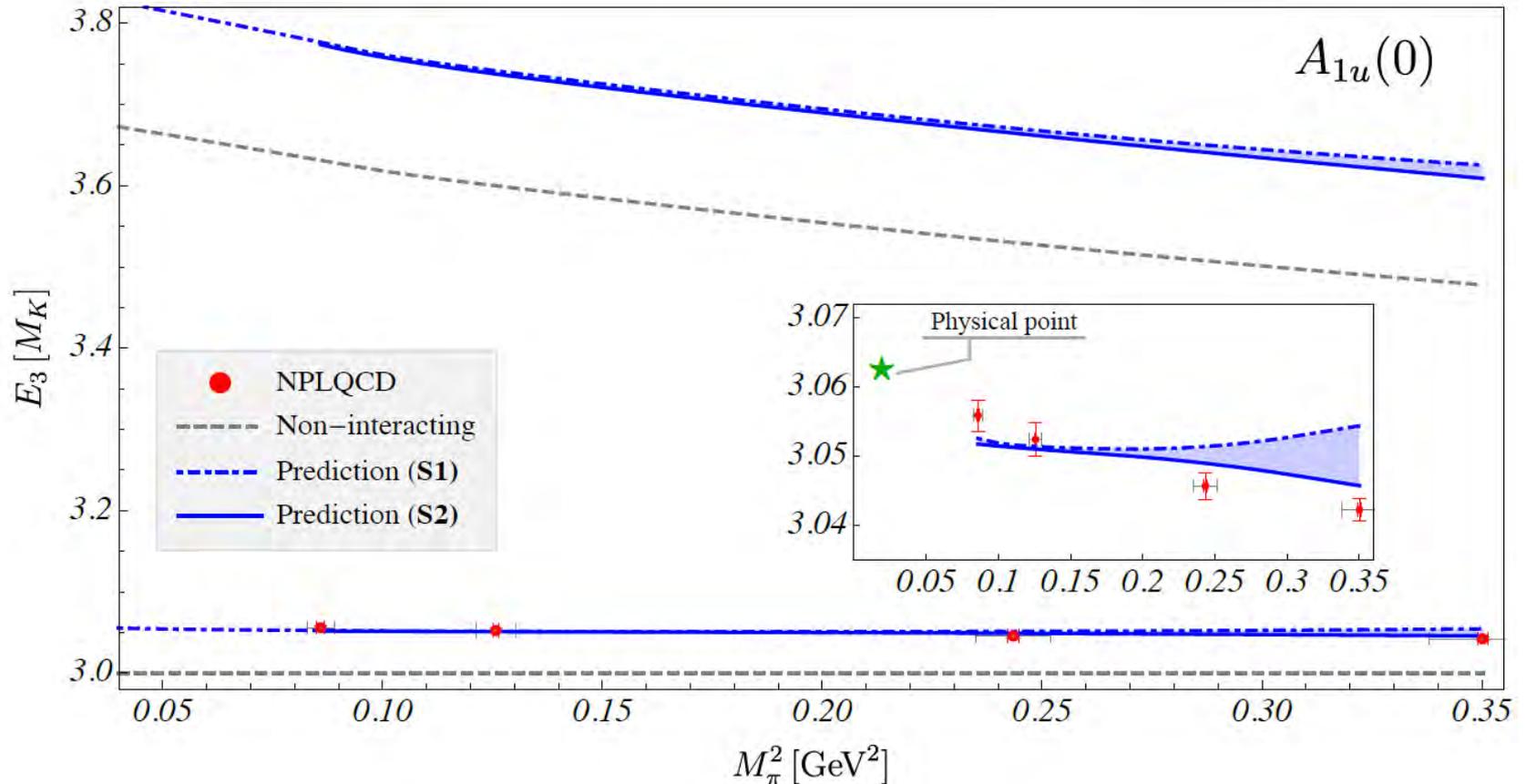
- Prediction of the I=1 KK scattering length: Data: [\[NPLQCD \(2007\)\]](#)

- LECs taken from most recent Global fit to lattice QCD [\[Molina \(2020\)\]](#)



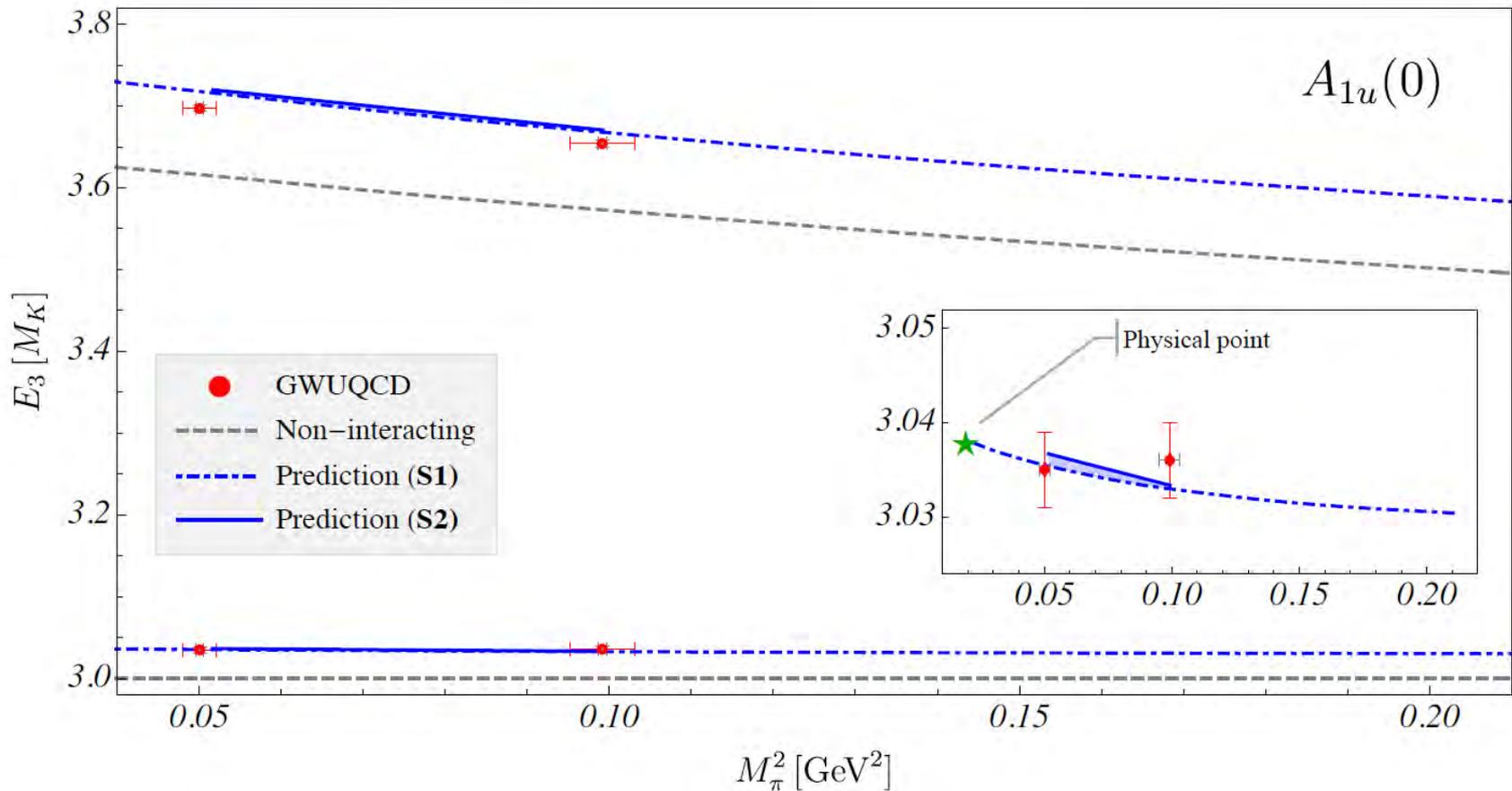
# Three kaons - predictions vs lattice

- NPLQCD data - three-body term set to zero



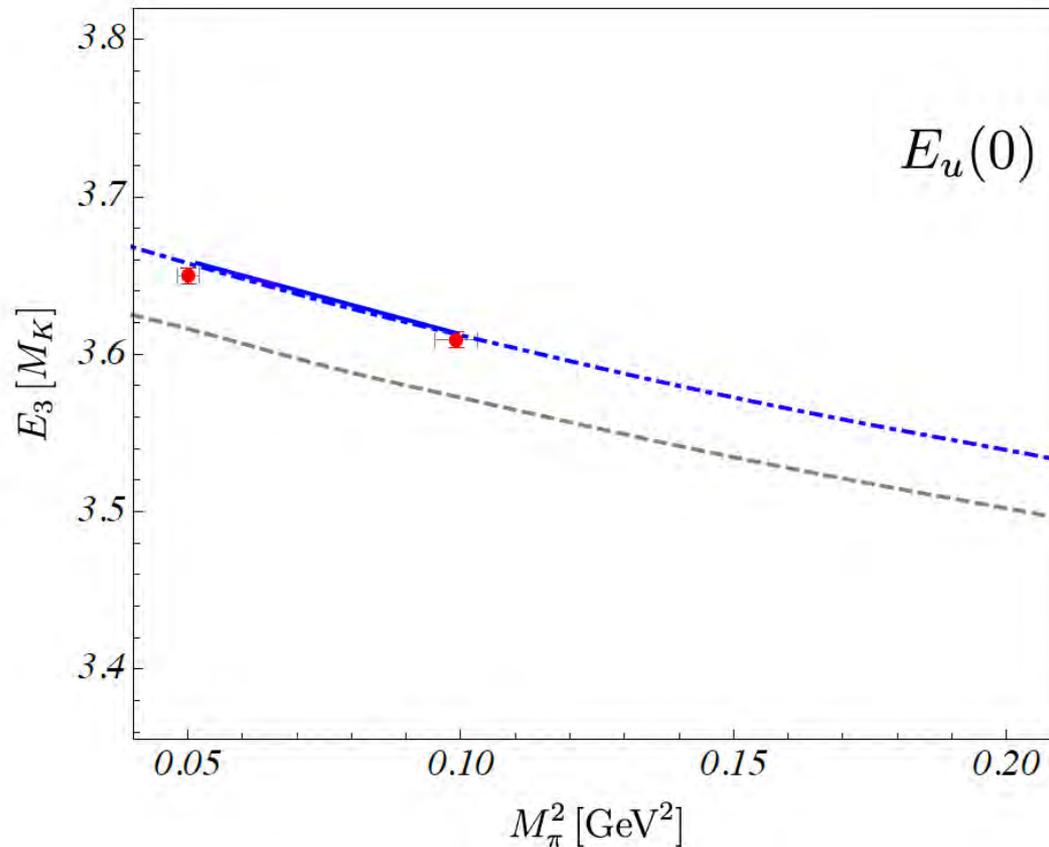
# Three-kaons - predictions vs. lattice

- GWUQCD data - three-body term set to zero



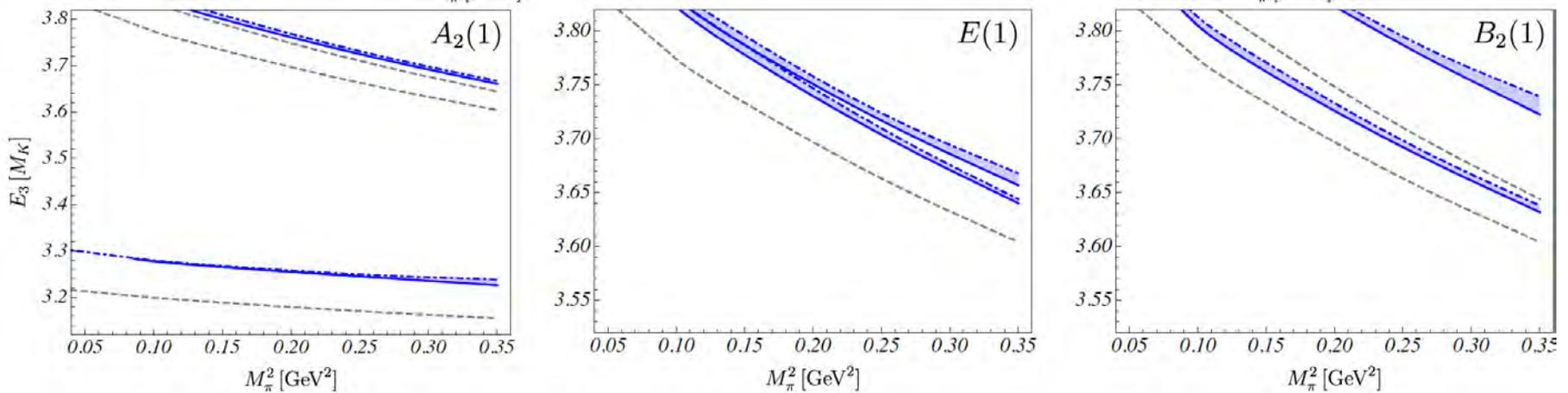
# Predictions vs. lattice contd. (P=0)

- GWUQCD data - three-body term set to zero



# Predictions for 3-body system with momentum $\mathbf{P}=(1,0,0)$

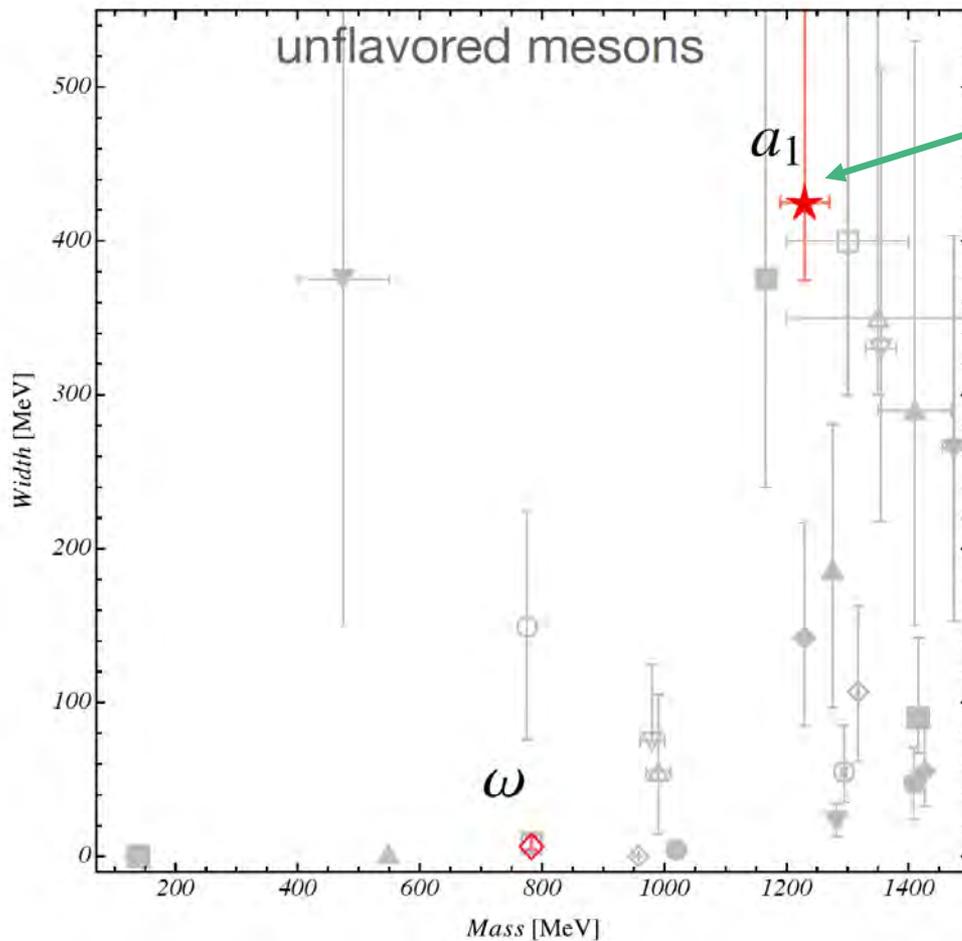
- NPLQCD lattice setup - three-body term set to zero



## • Summary:

- First lattice QCD & chiral calculation of three kaons at maximal isospin
- At different masses, different irreps & different total momenta
- Relativistic 3B quantization condition for strangeness sector,
- IAM to NLO along different trajectories predicts data from two different lattice QCD calculations well (NPLQCD and GWUQCD)

# Light unflavored mesons: the $a_1$

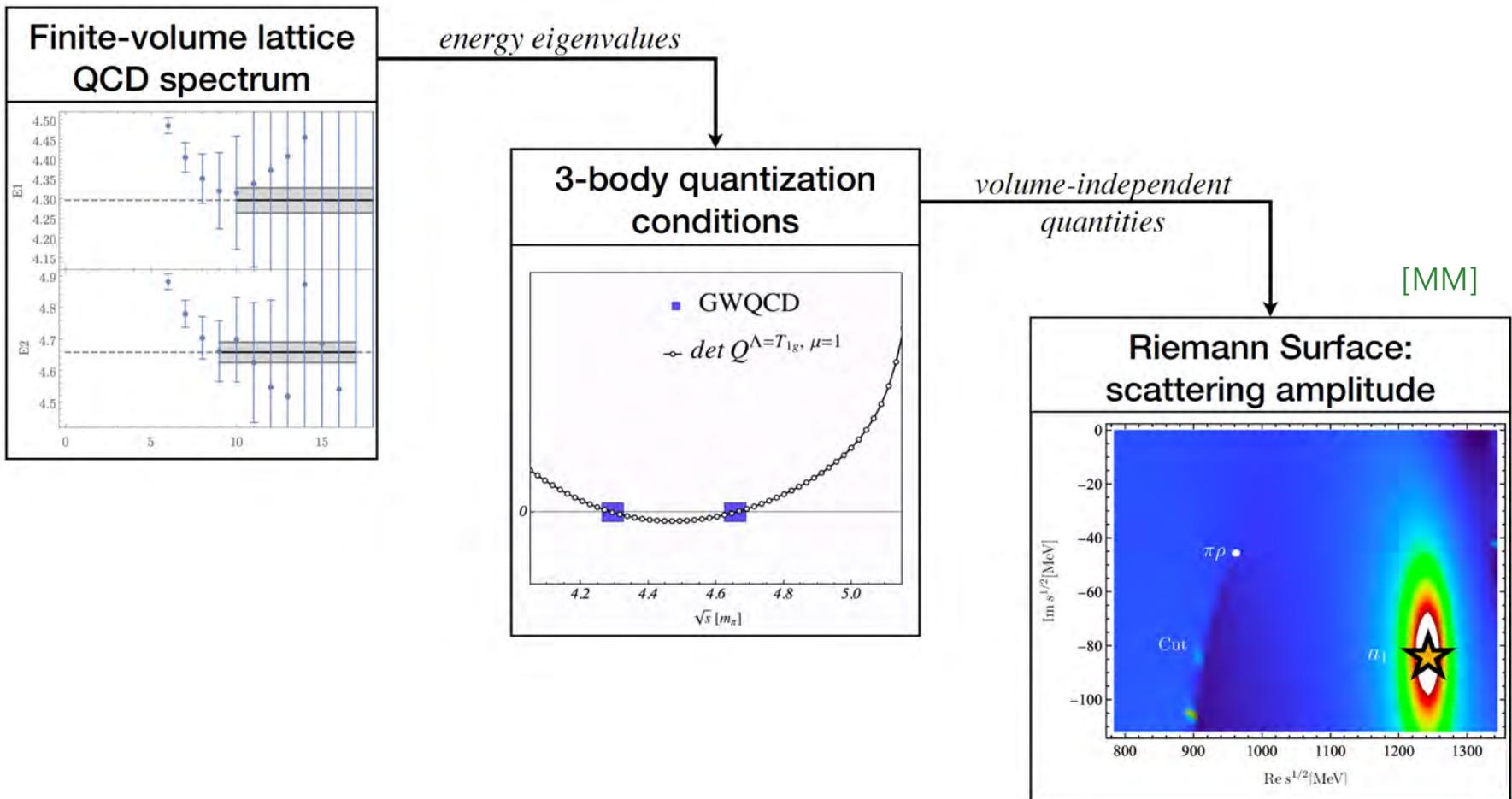


We concentrate on this resonance!  
(because 3-body)

# Extraction of $a_1(1260)$ from IQCD

[Mai/GWQCD]

- First-ever three-body resonance from 1<sup>st</sup> principles (with explicit three-body dynamics).



# Three-particle propagation with helicities

- 2-body unitarity fixes only part of the interaction;

$$\tau_{\lambda'\lambda}^{-1}(\sigma_p) = \delta_{\lambda'\lambda} \tilde{K}_n^{-1}(s, \mathbf{p}) - \Sigma_{n, \lambda'\lambda}(s, \mathbf{p}),$$

$$\tilde{K}_n^{-1}(s, \mathbf{p}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i \sigma_p^i \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma_{n, \lambda'\lambda}(s, \mathbf{p}) =$$

$$\int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\sigma_p^n}{(4E_k^2)^n} \frac{\hat{v}_{\lambda'}^*(P-p-k, k) \hat{v}_\lambda(P-p-k, k)}{2E_k(\sigma_p - 4E_k^2 + i\epsilon)}$$

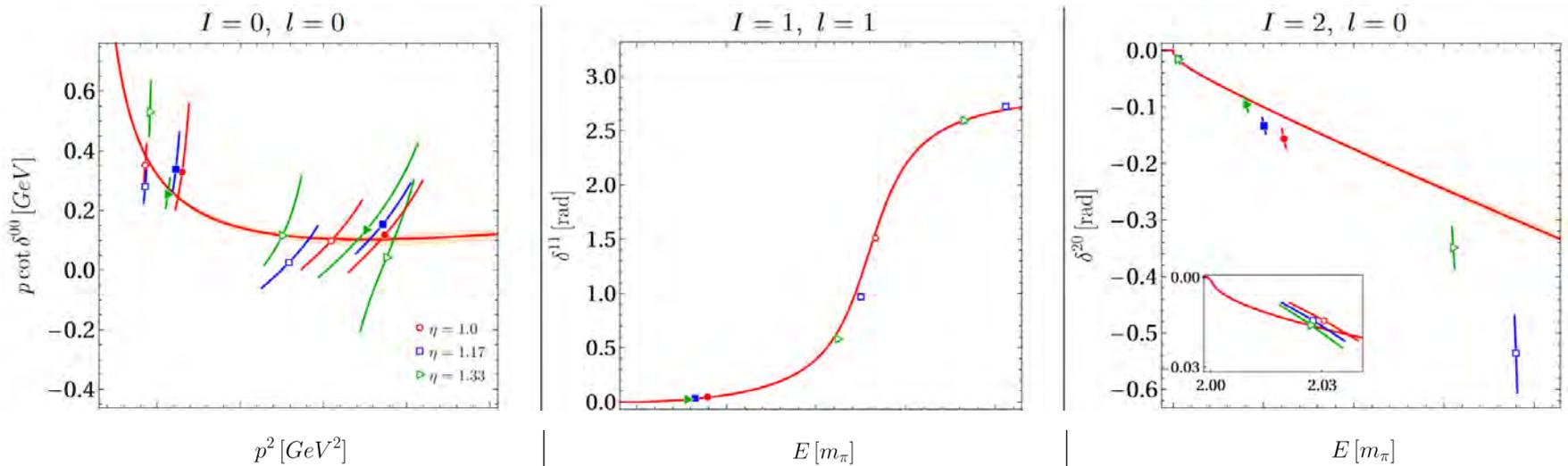
*n*-times subtracted  
for convergence  
(*n*=2)

- The helicity of the  $\rho$  in flight can change!



# 2-body input

- Global fit of 2-body sector across different isospins, including correlations across isospin [\[Mai 2019\]](#)



- Match to twice-subtracted dispersive expression to be used in three-body system

# 4 different fits to 2 energy eigenvalues

- Fitted isobar-spectator interaction (case 1, 2) for  $|\mathbf{p}| \leq 2\pi/L|(1, 1, 0)| \approx 2.69 m_\pi$ .

$$C_{\ell'\ell}(s, \mathbf{p}', \mathbf{p}) = \sum_{i=-1}^{\infty} c_{\ell'\ell}^{(i)}(\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{p})(s - m_{a_1}^2)^i$$

- Case 2:  $a_1$  is generated as pole even though no built-in singularity

Non-zero coefficients	No of fit parameters	$\chi^2$
$c_{00}^0$ (no built-in pole, $m_{a_1}=0$ )	1	9
$c_{00}^0, c_{00}^1$ (no built-in pole, $m_{a_1}=0$ )	2	0.15
$g_0, g_2, m_{a_1}$	3	3.2
$g_0, g_2, m_{a_1}, c$	4	$10^{-7}$

- Case 3, 4:

$$C_{\ell'\ell}(s, \mathbf{p}', \mathbf{p}) = g_{\ell'} \left( \frac{|\mathbf{p}'|}{m_\pi} \right)^{\ell'} \frac{m_\pi^2}{s - m_{a_1}^2} g_\ell \left( \frac{|\mathbf{p}|}{m_\pi} \right)^\ell + c \delta_{\ell'0} \delta_{\ell 0}$$

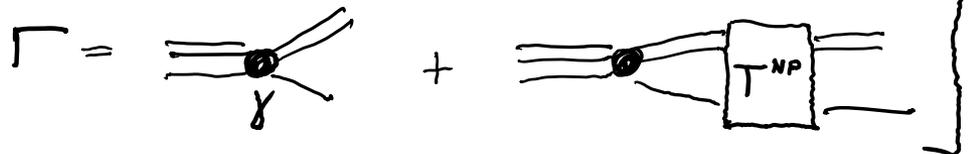
- In these cases, there is a built-in singularity, leading to resonance poles

# Properties of 4-parameter fit

- 4 parameters for 2 energy eigenvalues produce remarkably stable results with resonance poles in a well-defined region and **not** all over the place.
- The D-wave coupling and  $a_1$ -mass are strongly correlated
  - Makes sense because D-wave  $a_1$  self energy is mostly real



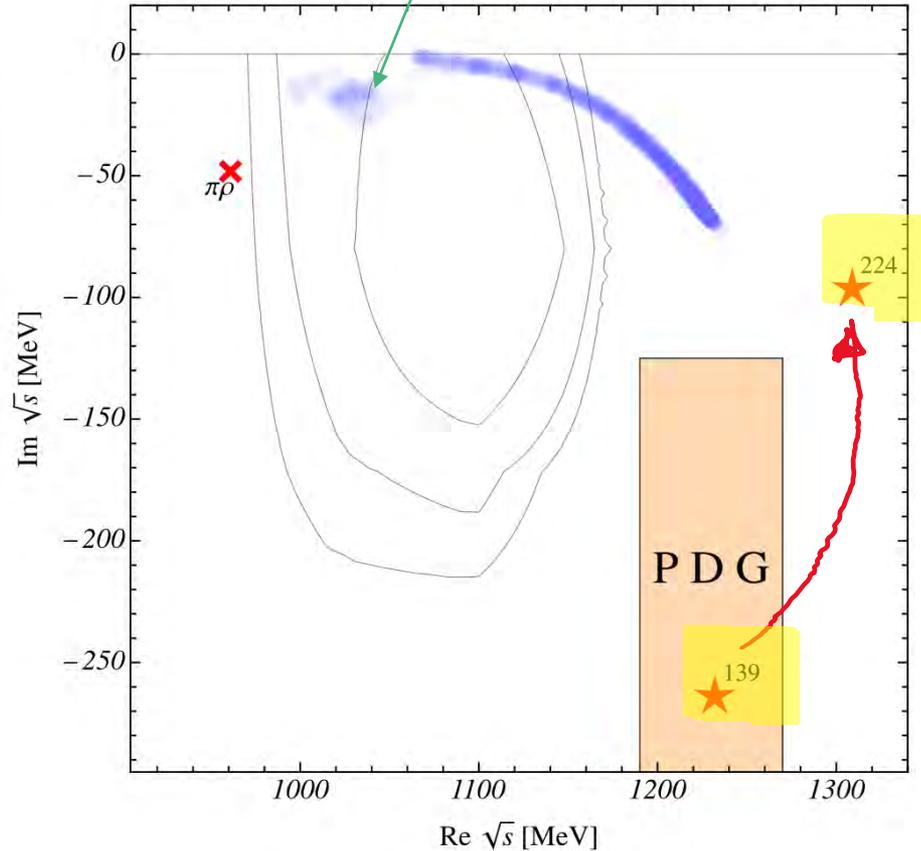
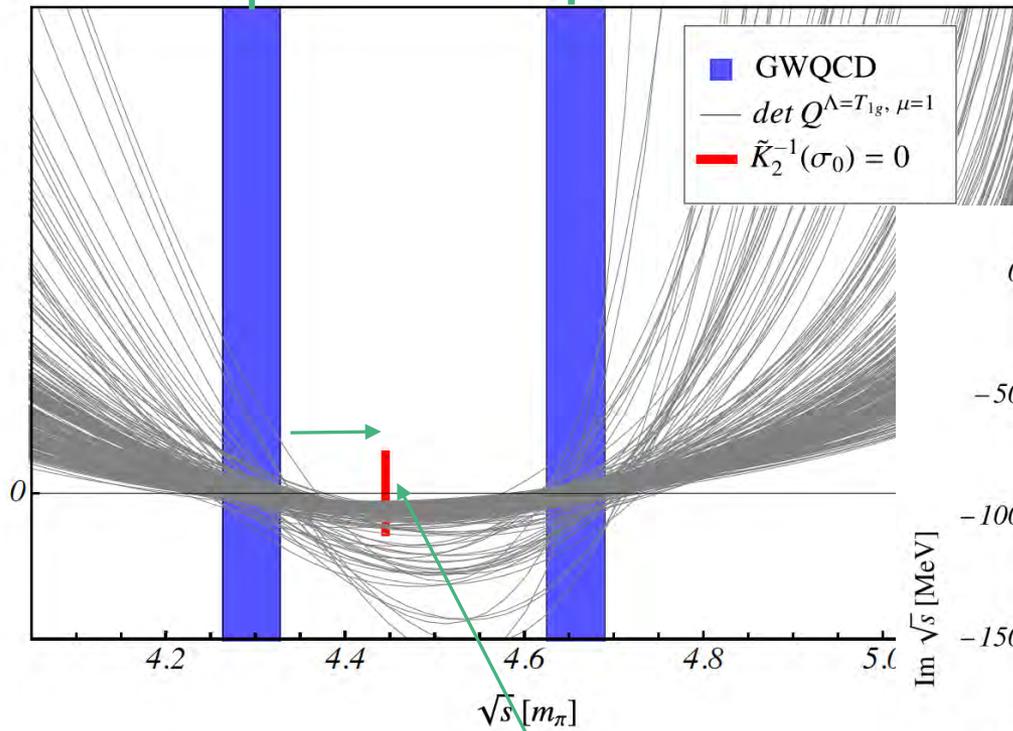
$$\Gamma^{\text{Pole}} = \frac{\Gamma \Gamma^\dagger}{S - m_{a_1}^2 - \Sigma_S - \Sigma_D}$$



"Two-potential formalism"

# Results - overview (4 parms)

Cluster: Large  $c$  and  $g_s$  compensate; disappears with  $c=0$



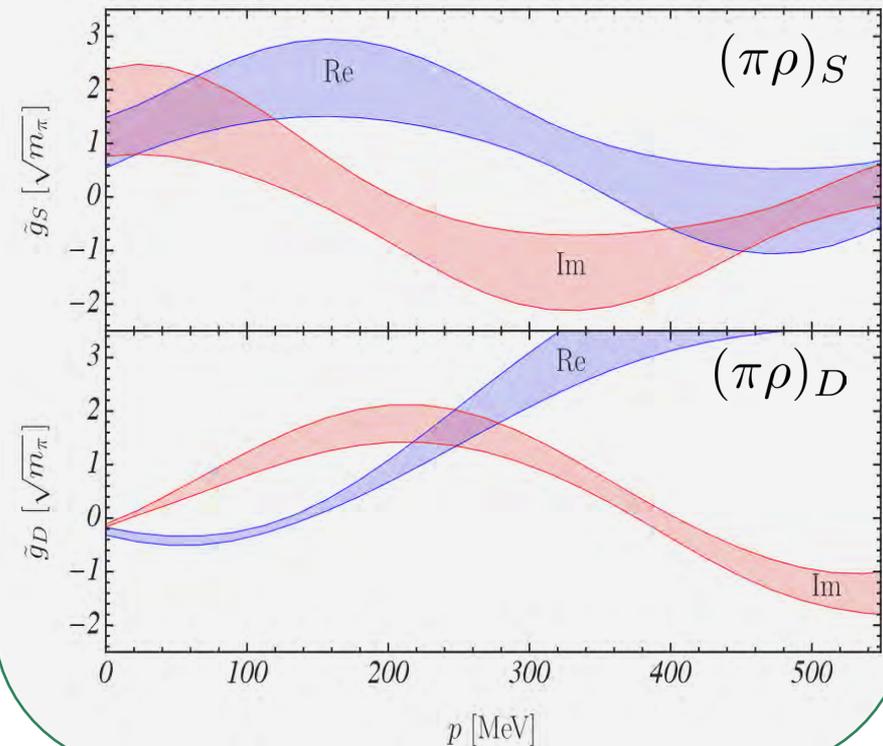
# Branching ratios

- Calculate the residue at the pole:

$$\text{Res}(T_{e'e}^c(\sqrt{s})) = \tilde{g}_{e'}\tilde{g}_e$$

- This result is not as reliable as pole position/existence of  $a_1$
- More energy eigenvalues needed to better pin down the decay channels
- Other isospins needed, e.g.,  $(\pi\sigma)_P$  [\[Molina 2021\]](#)

“**Branching ratios**” in 3B decays are momentum -dependent, complex pole residues



# Summary

- Lattice QCD progress in determining the explicit dynamics of three-body systems:
  - Three pions and kaons at maximal isospin
  - First determination of existence and properties of a three-body resonance -  $a_1(1260)$  - in coupled channels using three-body unitarity
- **Outlook:** More (isospin) channels and more energy eigenvalues to assess uncertainties and put limits on decay properties.
- **Outlook:** Roper resonance as an interesting case of a baryon which has strong 3-body dynamics due to absence of centrifugal barriers ( $P_{11}$  has this special property).