

# Three-Hadron Systems from Lattice QCD

**Andrew W. Jackura**

William & Mary

Department of Physics

**International Workshop on Partial Wave Analyses  
and Advanced Tools for Hadron Spectroscopy (PWA13/ATHOS8)**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



[awjackura@wm.edu](mailto:awjackura@wm.edu)



[ajackura.github.io](https://github.com/ajackura)



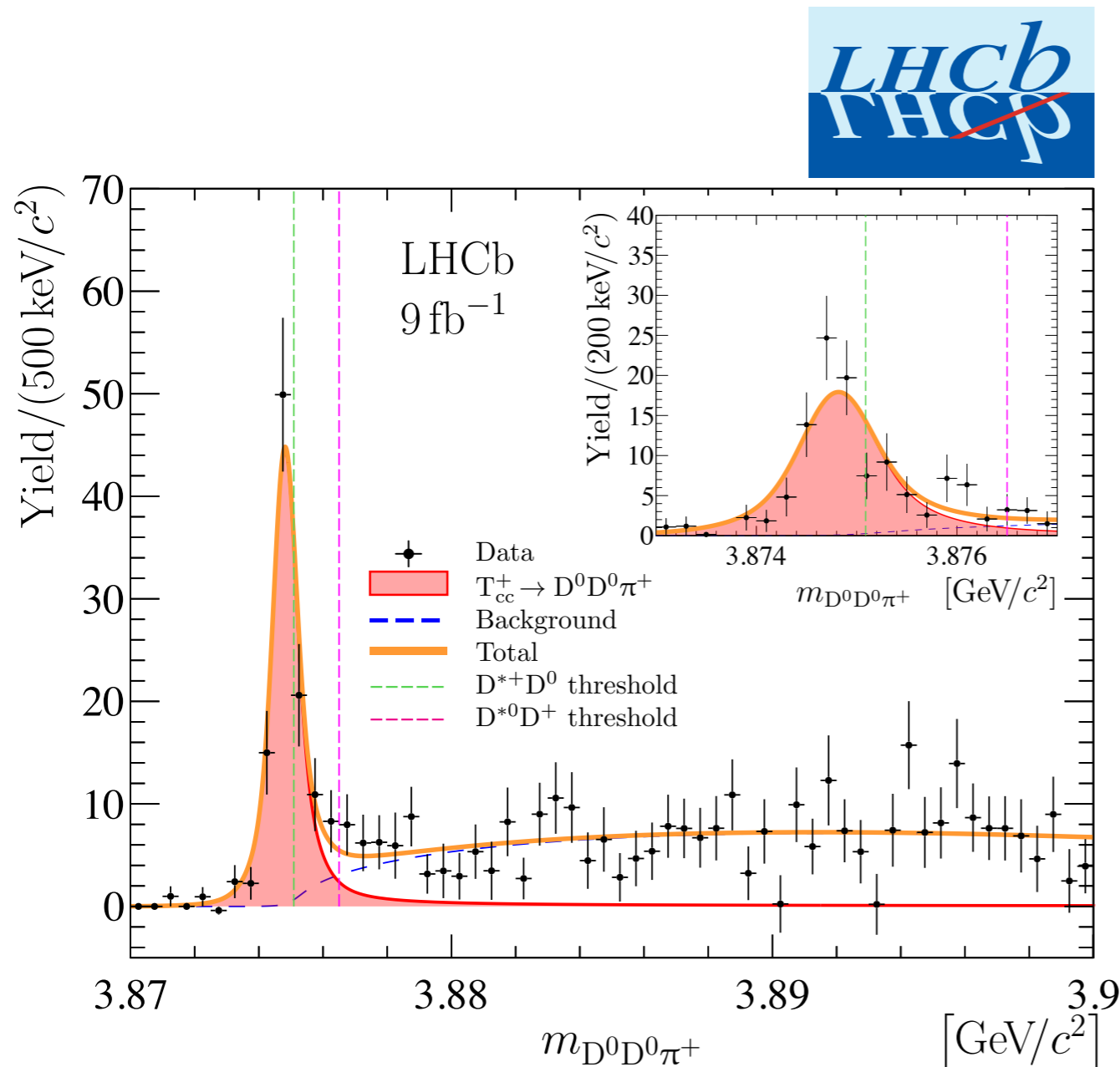
**WILLIAM & MARY**

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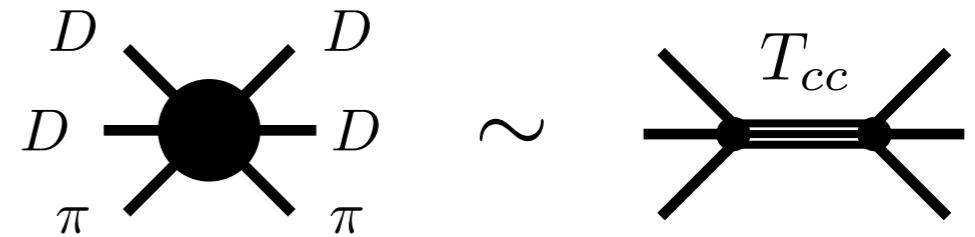
# Three-Hadron Spectroscopy

Many hadrons in the excited QCD spectrum decay into three (or more) particles

- e.g., the very exciting  $T_{cc}$  tetraquark candidate



R. Aaij et al., [LHCb Collaboration]  
Nature Physics **18**, 751–754 (2022)



$$\mathcal{M}_{DD\pi \rightarrow DD\pi} \sim -\frac{g_{T_{cc}}^2}{s - s_{T_{cc}}}$$

$$\sqrt{s_{T_{cc}}} = M_{T_{cc}} - i\Gamma_{T_{cc}}/2$$

See talk by S. Dawid today

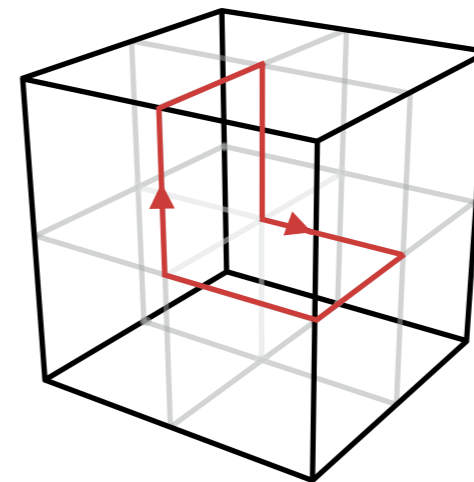
# Hadron Spectroscopy & Lattice QCD

Lattice QCD is a numerical tool to estimate low-energy QCD observables

- Formulated on **finite**, discretized, *Euclidean* spacetime
- Extract finite-volume energy levels from correlation functions

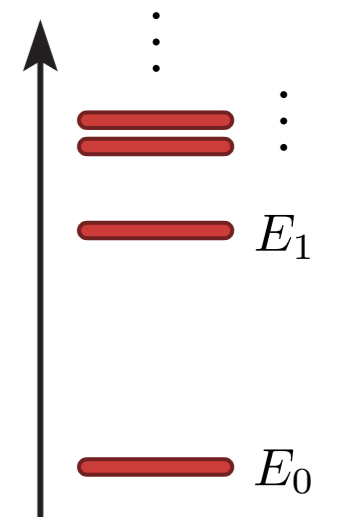
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_L^{(E)}(\tau) &= \langle \mathcal{O}(\tau) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) \rangle_L \\ &= \int \mathcal{D}\psi \int \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \int \mathcal{D}\mathbf{U} e^{-S_{\text{QCD}}^{(E)}} \mathcal{O}(\tau) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{n}} Z_{\mathbf{n}} Z_{\mathbf{n}}^\dagger e^{-E_{\mathbf{n}} \tau} \end{aligned}$$

*hadron / multi-hadron operators*



*QCD gauge configurations*

*finite volume spectrum*

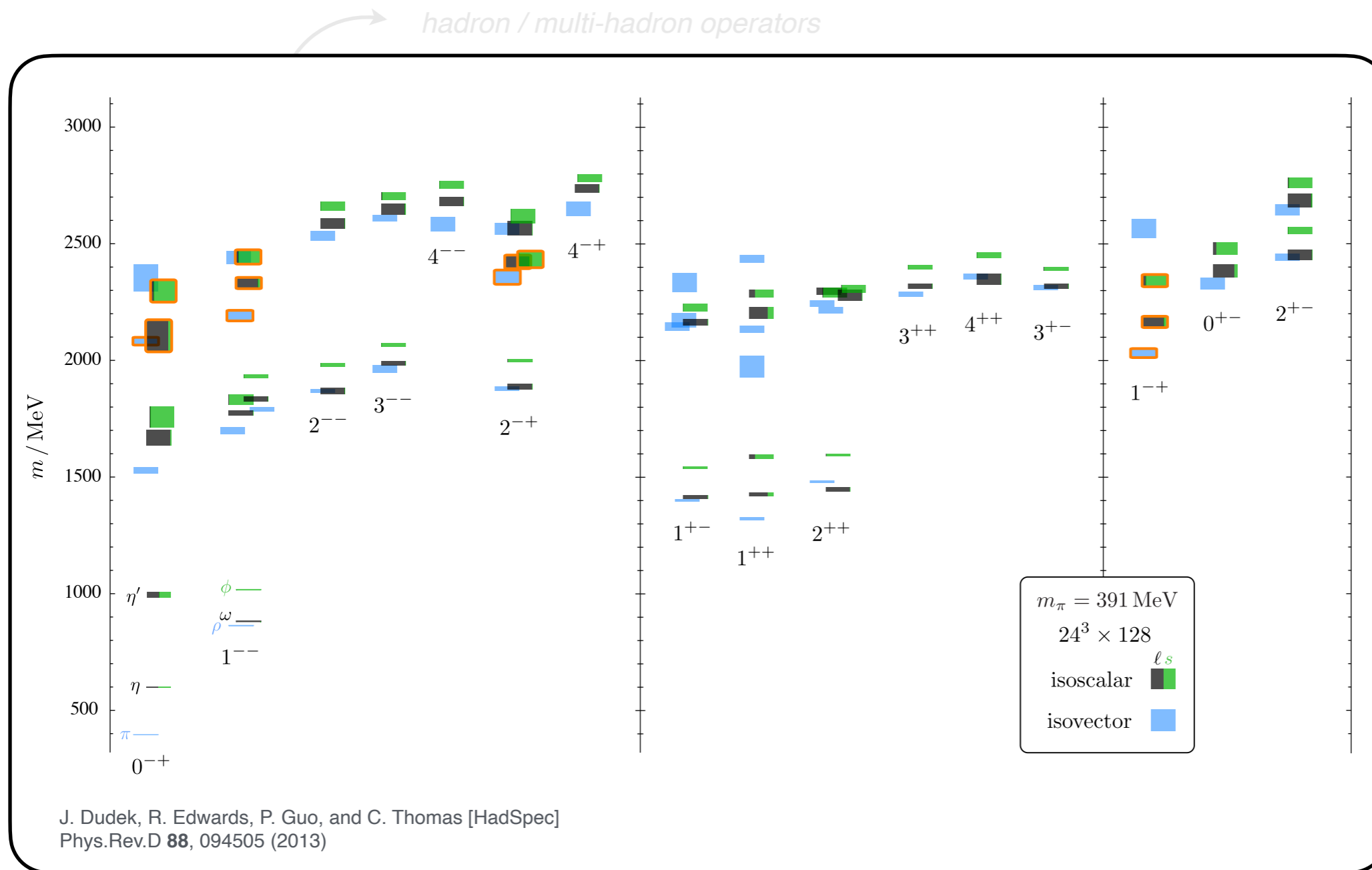


*Very hard problem!  
(No time to discuss)*

# Hadron Spectroscopy & Lattice QCD

Lattice QCD is a numerical tool to estimate low-energy QCD observables

- Formulated on **finite**, discretized, *Euclidean* spacetime
- Extract finite-volume energy levels from correlation functions



*finite volume spectrum*

*...misses multi-hadron couplings (i.e., amplitudes)...*

*...an incomplete picture...*

# Hadron Spectroscopy & Lattice QCD

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Lattice QCD is a numerical tool to estimate low-energy QCD observables

- Formulated on **finite**, discretized, *Euclidean* spacetime
- Extract finite-volume energy levels from correlation functions

However, can extract amplitudes from lattice QCD

- Key — Map finite-volume energies to infinite-volume objects (via Lüscher)
- A path toward model independent resonance parameters from QCD

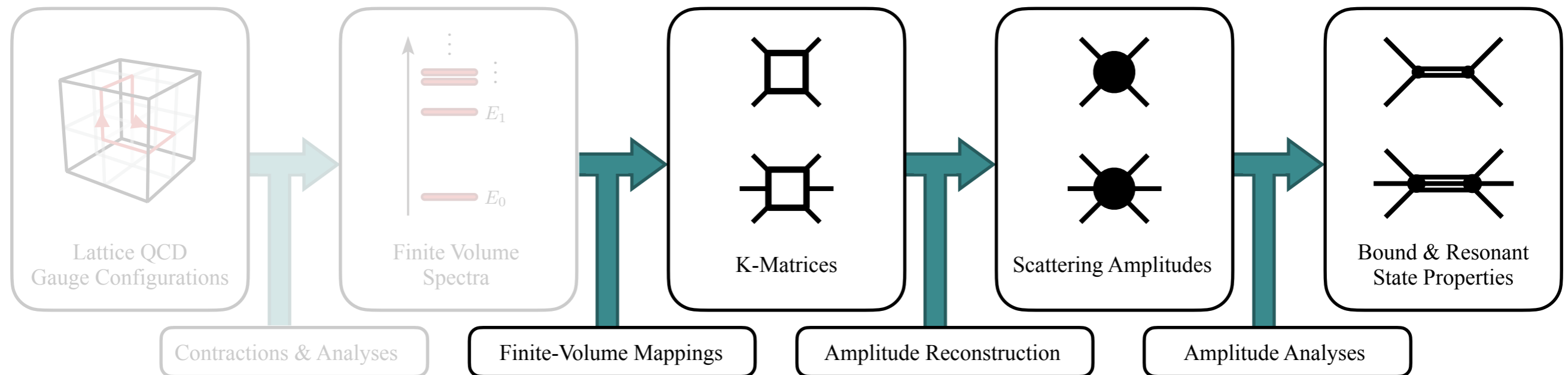
# Hadron Spectroscopy & Lattice QCD

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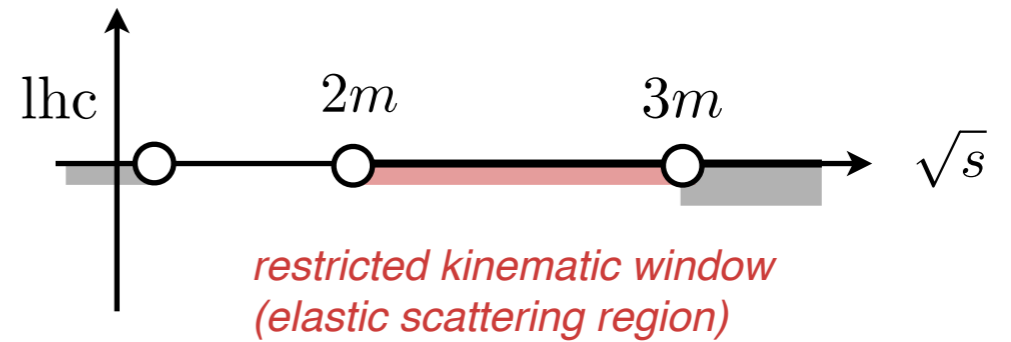


*...focus on this part of process*

# Two-Hadron Systems

Let's review the *two-hadron case* as a template for three-hadron systems

- e.g., elastic scattering of spinless particles, *with* restricted energy region



$$i\mathcal{M}_2 = \text{[solid black circle]} = \text{[circle with cross]} + \text{[circle with loop]} + \text{[circle with two loops]} + \dots$$

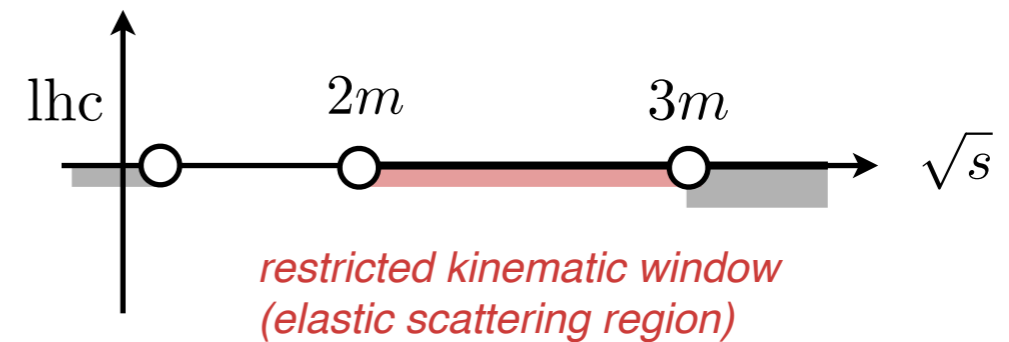
↙

$$\text{[Y-shaped diagram]} + \text{[circle with cross]} + \text{[diagram with two circles]} + \dots$$

# Two-Hadron Systems

Let's review the *two-hadron case* as a template for three-hadron systems

- e.g., elastic scattering of spinless particles, *with* restricted energy region



$$i\mathcal{M}_2 = \text{[solid black circle with four external lines]} = \text{[white circle with four external lines]} + \text{[white circle with two internal loops and four external lines]} + \text{[white circle with three internal loops and four external lines]} + \dots$$

= isolate singular behavior, re-sum short-distance 'stuff' into new real function

$$\text{[white circle with two internal loops and four external lines]} \sim \text{real function} - i\rho$$

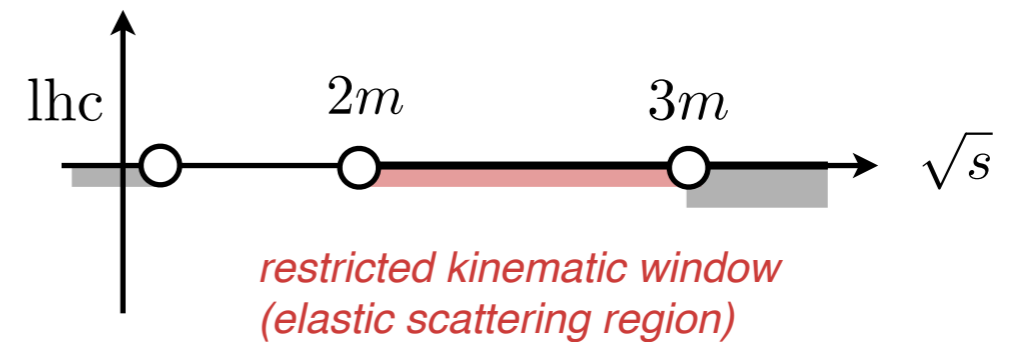
*two-body phase space*

$$\rho \sim \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m^2}{s}}$$

# Two-Hadron Systems

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$$\begin{aligned}
 i\mathcal{M}_2 &= \text{[solid black circle]} = \text{[circle with cross]} + \text{[circle with loop]} + \text{[circle with two loops]} + \dots \\
 &= \text{[square with cross]} + \text{[square with loop and vertical line } \rho] + \text{[square with two loops and two vertical lines } \rho] + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

$i\mathcal{K}_2$



## ***K*-Matrix**

- short-distance dynamics
- constrained from data (exp. or th.)

# Two-Hadron Systems

Let's review the *two-hadron case* as a template for three-hadron systems

- e.g., elastic scattering of spinless particles, *with* restricted energy region

***K* matrix is unphysical ...**

**... choose convenient parameterizations (must preserve unitarity)**

**elastic scattering** ( $\mathcal{K}_2^{-1} \sim q \cot \delta$ )

$$\mathcal{K}_2^{-1} \sim -\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{2}rq^2 + \dots$$

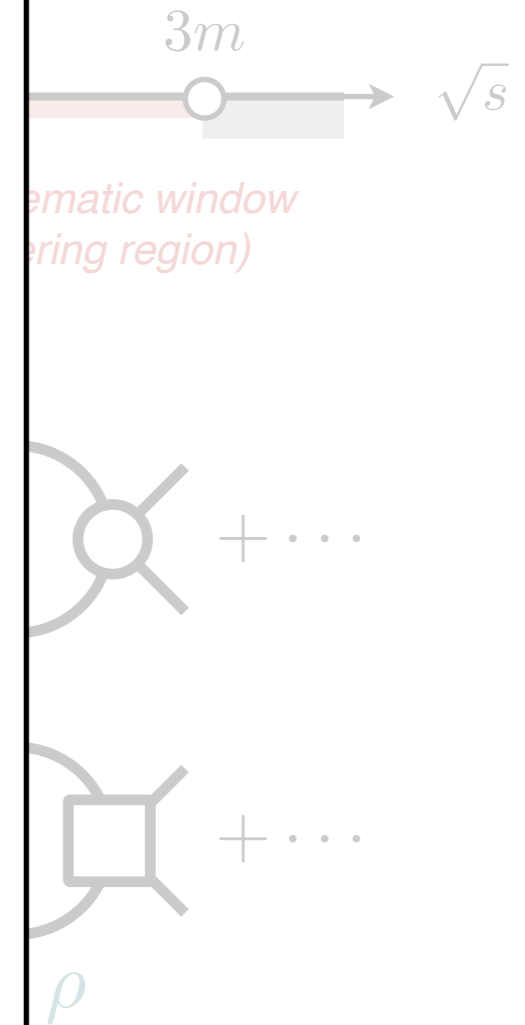
near threshold scattering (effective range)

$$\mathcal{K}_2^{-1} \sim \frac{m_0^2 - s}{\sqrt{s} \Gamma}$$

Isolated narrow resonance (Breit-Wigner)

**generically — polynomials and poles**

$$\mathcal{K}_2 \sim \sum_j \frac{g_j^2}{m_j^2 - s} + \sum_j \gamma_j s^j$$



***K*-Matrix**

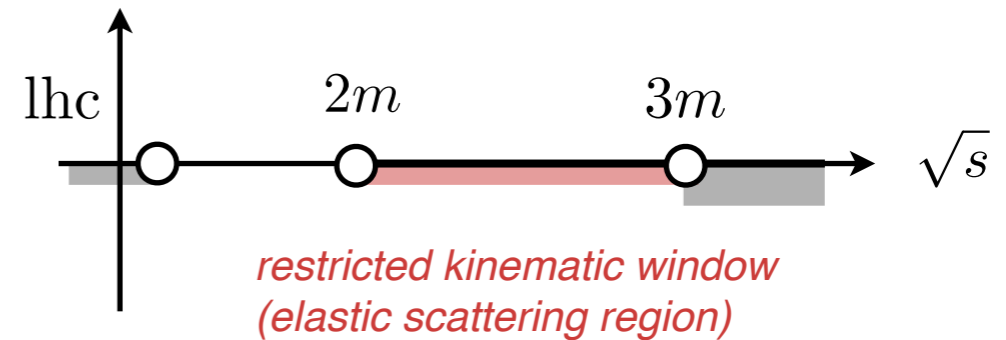
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# Two-Hadron Systems

Let's review the *two-hadron case* as a template for three-hadron systems

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$$\begin{aligned}
 i\mathcal{M}_2 &= \text{[solid black circle]} = \text{[circle with cross]} + \text{[two circles with cross]} + \text{[three circles with cross]} + \dots \\
 &= \text{[square with cross]} + \text{[square with cross and one vertical line]} + \text{[square with cross and two vertical lines]} + \dots \\
 &= i\mathcal{K}_2 \frac{1}{1 - i\rho\mathcal{K}_2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$\rho$        $\rho$        $\rho$

*S matrix unitarity*


$$\text{Im } \mathcal{M}_2 = \rho |\mathcal{M}_2|^2$$

# Two-Hadron Systems

Let's review the *two-hadron case* as a template for three-hadron systems

- e.g., elastic scattering of spinless particles, *with* restricted energy region
- Connect K matrix to finite-volume through correlation function

$$\mathcal{C}_L^{(M)}(E) = i \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \frac{Z_{\mathbf{n}} Z_{\mathbf{n}}^\dagger}{E - E_{\mathbf{n}}}$$



$$\mathbf{p} = \frac{2\pi}{L} \mathbf{n}$$
$$= \text{[Diagram 1]} + \text{[Diagram 2]} + \text{[Diagram 3]} + \dots$$

The diagrams represent a series expansion of the correlation function. Each diagram consists of two small white circles (representing external hadrons) connected by a chain of larger circles (representing internal hadrons). The first diagram has one internal circle labeled  $V$ . The second diagram has two internal circles, both labeled  $V$ . The third diagram has three internal circles, all labeled  $V$ . The chain of circles is connected by arcs, and the entire series is summed.

# Two-Hadron Systems

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- e.g., elastic scattering of spinless particles, *with* restricted energy region
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$$\mathcal{C}_L^{(M)}(E) = i \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \frac{Z_{\mathbf{n}} Z_{\mathbf{n}}^\dagger}{E - E_{\mathbf{n}}}$$

$$= \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} + \text{Diagram 3} + \dots$$

The diagrams represent a series of bubble diagrams. The first diagram is a single bubble with two external legs, labeled  $V$ . The second diagram is a chain of two such bubbles. The third diagram is a chain of three such bubbles. The series continues with an ellipsis.

= Follow similar procedure as before ...

... additional correction for finite-volume effects

$$\text{Diagram 1} \sim \text{Diagram 2} + F_{2,L}$$

The diagram on the left is the same as the first diagram in the previous series (a bubble with two external legs labeled  $V$ ). The diagram on the right is the same as the first diagram in the previous series (a bubble with two external legs). The symbol  $\sim$  indicates an equivalence or approximation. The term  $F_{2,L}$  is added to the right.

*as before*

*Finite-volume correction (known)*

# Two-Hadron Systems

Let's review the *two-hadron case* as a template for three-hadron systems

- e.g., elastic scattering of spinless particles, *with* restricted energy region
- Connect K matrix to finite-volume through correlation function

$$\mathcal{C}_L^{(M)}(E) = i \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \frac{Z_{\mathbf{n}} Z_{\mathbf{n}}^\dagger}{E - E_{\mathbf{n}}} \quad \text{what we compute via lattice QCD}$$

$$= \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} + \text{diagram 3} + \dots$$

The diagrams represent a series of bubble diagrams. Each diagram consists of two external lines (small circles) connected by a chain of internal loops (large circles). The first diagram has one internal loop labeled  $V$ . The second diagram has two internal loops, each labeled  $V$ . The third diagram has three internal loops, each labeled  $V$ . The series continues with an ellipsis.

$$\longrightarrow \frac{i\mathcal{R}_L}{1 + \mathcal{K}_2 \cdot F_{2,L}}$$

what we want

# Two-Hadron Systems

Let's review the *two-hadron case* as a template for three-hadron systems

- e.g., elastic scattering of spinless particles, *with* restricted energy region
- Connect K matrix to finite-volume through correlation function

$$C_L^{(M)}(E) = i \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \frac{Z_{\mathbf{n}} Z_{\mathbf{n}}^\dagger}{E - E_{\mathbf{n}}}$$

*what we compute via lattice QCD*

$$= \text{[Diagram: a circle with two external lines and a vertex labeled V]} + \text{[Diagram: two circles with two external lines and two vertices labeled V]} + \text{[Diagram: three circles with two external lines and three vertices labeled V]} + \dots$$

*Spectrum satisfies*

$$\det[1 + \mathcal{K}_2 \cdot F_{2,L}] \Big|_{E=E_{\mathbf{n}}} = 0$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{i\mathcal{R}_L}{1 + \mathcal{K}_2 \cdot F_{2,L}}$$

*what we want*

**See talks by J. Dudek (Tue.), F. Ortega-Gama (Wed.), A. Rodas (Fri.)**

# Three-Hadron Systems

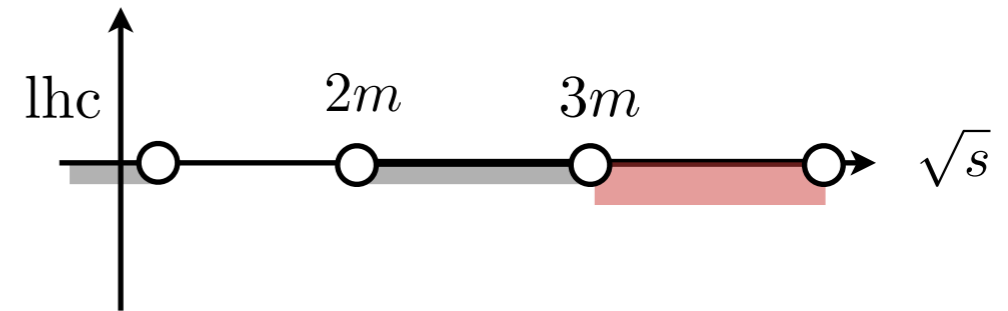
Follow recipe for three-hadron scattering

- Find three-body quantization condition (consider elastic 3-body scattering, no 2-3 coupling)

$$\det [1 + \mathcal{K}_3 \cdot F_{3,L}] \Big|_{E=E_n} = 0$$

*parameterize & constrain*

*known finite-volume effects*



*Equivalence proofs*

AJ et al. [JPAC]  
Phys. Rev. D **100**, 034508 (2019)

T. Blanton and S. Sharpe  
Phys. Rev. D **102**, 054515 (2020)

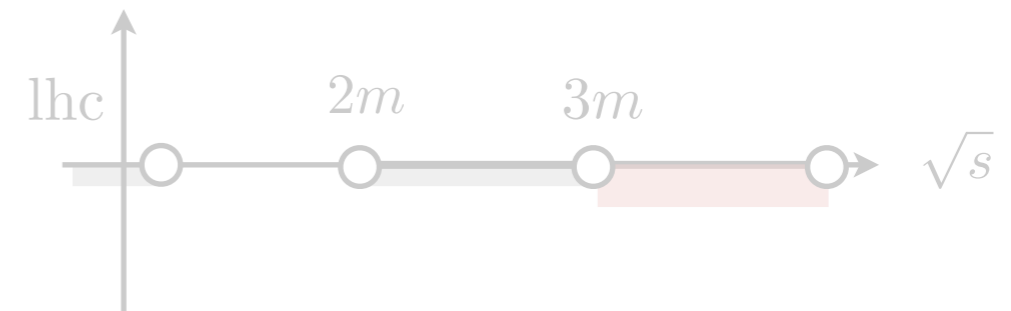
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# Three-Hadron Systems

Follow recipe for three-hadron scattering

- Find three-body quantization condition (consider elastic 3-body scattering, no 2-3 coupling)

$$\det [1 + \mathcal{K}_3 \cdot F_{3,L}] \Big|_{E=E_n} = 0$$



*parameterize & constrain*

*known finite-volume effects*

**Given a three-body  $K$  matrix, e.g., for three pions ...**

**... we need to reconstruct the three hadron scattering amplitude ...**

**... more challenging than 2-body case ...**

**N.B. constraining the  $K$  matrix via lattice QCD is *hard*, but I will assume it can be done**

*equivalence proofs*

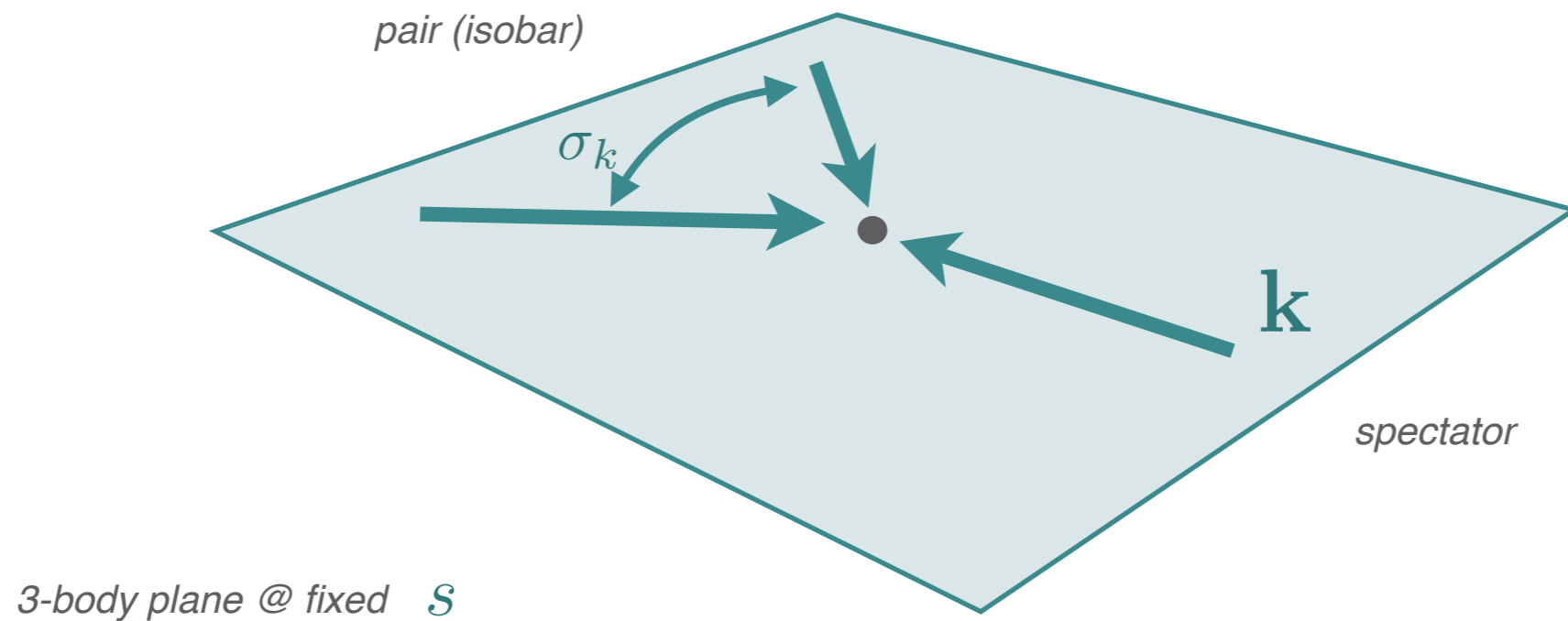
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# Challenges in the three-hadron scattering

Increased number of degrees of freedom



$\sqrt{\sigma_k}$  isobar 'mass'

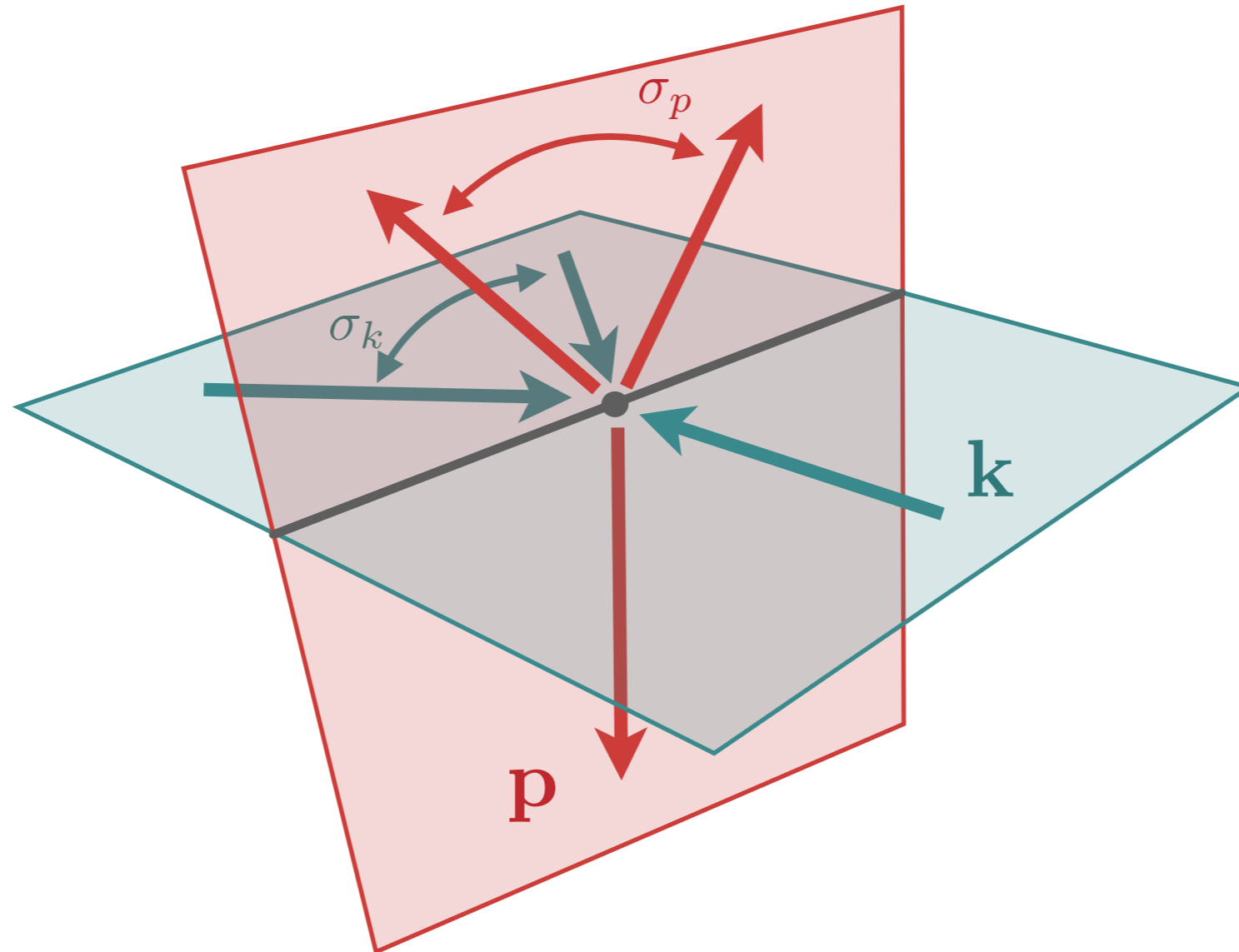
$$3m \leq \sqrt{s} < \infty$$

$$2m \leq \sqrt{\sigma_k} < \sqrt{s} - m$$

# Challenges in the three-hadron scattering

Increased number of degrees of freedom

- 8 kinematic variables — after partial wave projection, 3 variables  $(s, \sigma_k, \sigma_p)$  or  $(s, k, p)$



$$3m \leq \sqrt{s} < \infty$$

$$2m \leq \sqrt{\sigma_k} < \sqrt{s} - m$$

# Challenges in the three-hadron scattering

---

Increased number of degrees of freedom

- 8 kinematic variables — after partial wave projection, 3 variables  $(s, \sigma_k, \sigma_p)$  or  $(s, k, p)$
- Scattering equations are integral equations

$$\mathcal{M}_3 = \mathcal{D} + \int \int \mathcal{L} \cdot \mathcal{T} \cdot \mathcal{R}$$

*integrals in  $k, p$*

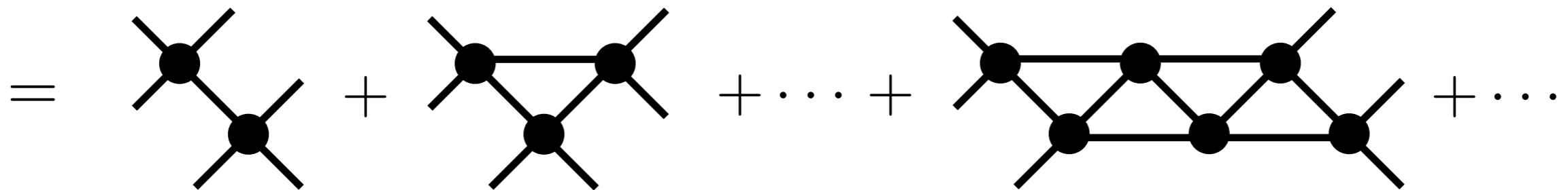
# Challenges in the three-hadron scattering

Increased number of degrees of freedom

- 8 kinematic variables — after partial wave projection, 3 variables  $(s, \sigma_k, \sigma_p)$  or  $(s, k, p)$
- Scattering equations are integral equations

$$\mathcal{M}_3 = \mathcal{D} + \iint \mathcal{L} \cdot \mathcal{T} \cdot \mathcal{R}$$

$$\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{M}_2 \mathcal{G} \mathcal{M}_2 + \mathcal{M}_2 \int \mathcal{G} \mathcal{D}$$



*no 3-body  $K$  matrix*

# Challenges in the three-hadron scattering

Increased number of degrees of freedom

- 8 kinematic variables — after partial wave projection, 3 variables  $(s, \sigma_k, \sigma_p)$  or  $(s, k, p)$
- Scattering equations are integral equations

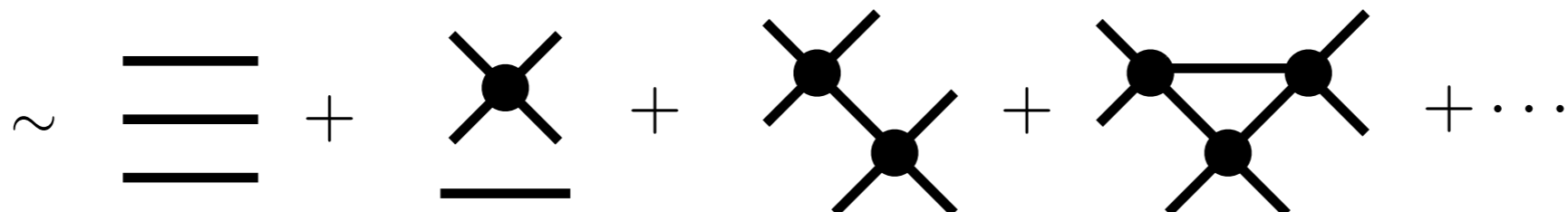
$$\mathcal{M}_3 = \mathcal{D} + \iint \mathcal{L} \cdot \mathcal{T} \cdot \mathcal{R}$$



$$\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{K}_3 + \iint \mathcal{K}_3 \cdot \mathcal{C} \cdot \mathcal{T}$$

*rescattering functions*

$$\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{C} \sim 1 + \mathcal{M}_2 + \mathcal{D}$$

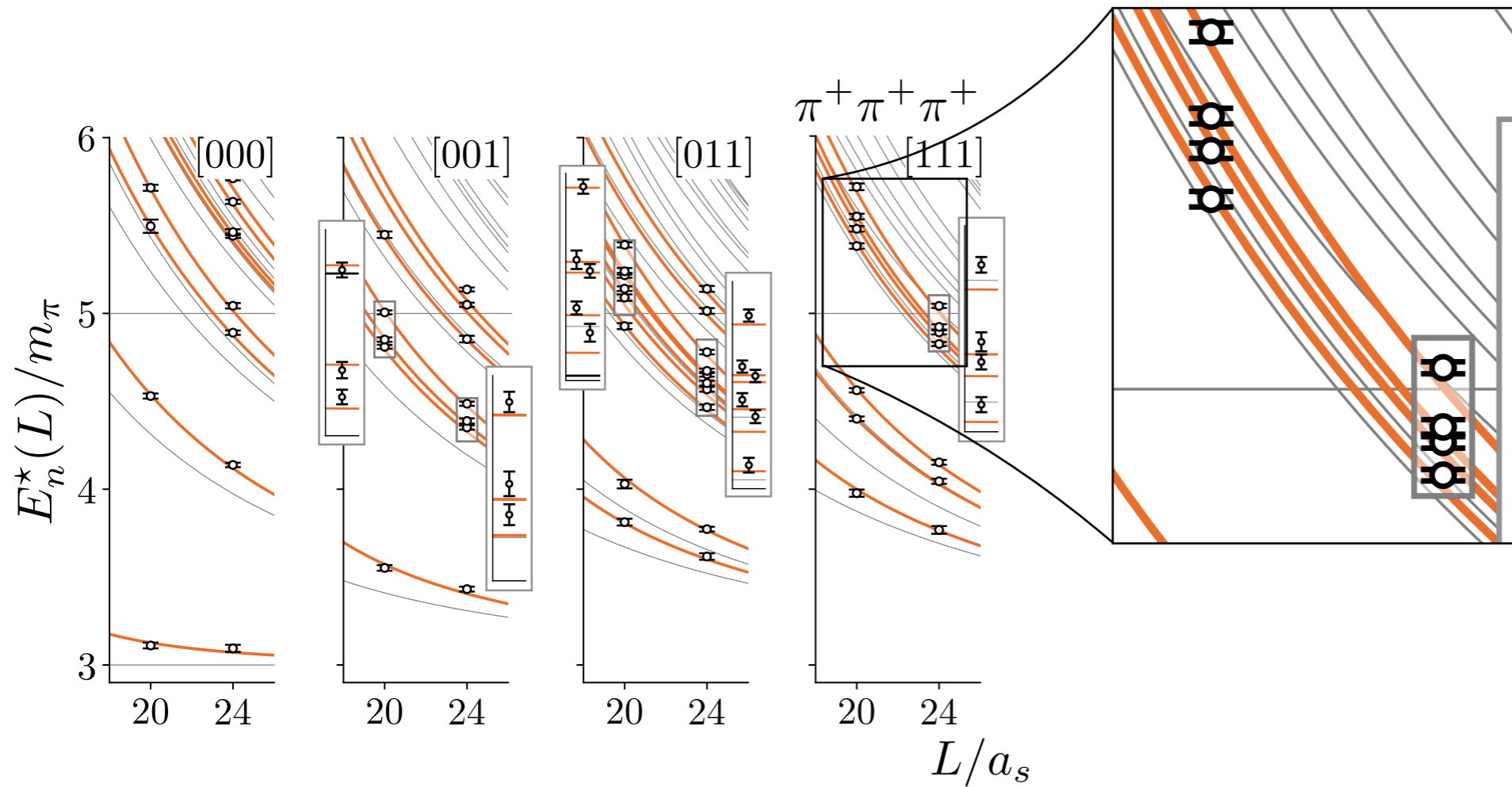


# Three-Hadron Systems from Lattice QCD

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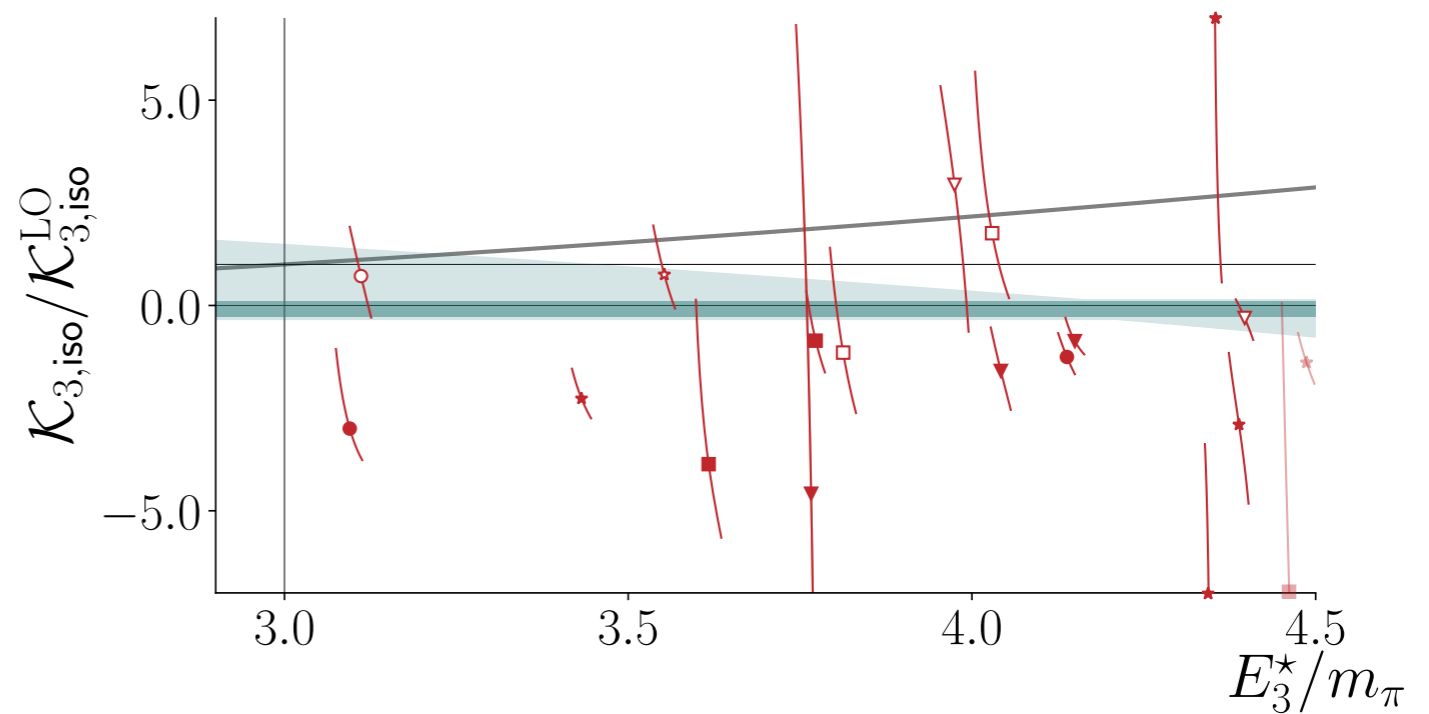
Follow recipe for three-hadron scattering

- Compute finite-volume spectrum
- Constrain K matrix with three-body quantization condition
- Reconstruct scattering amplitude via integral equations
- Analytically continue to complex energy plane to search for poles

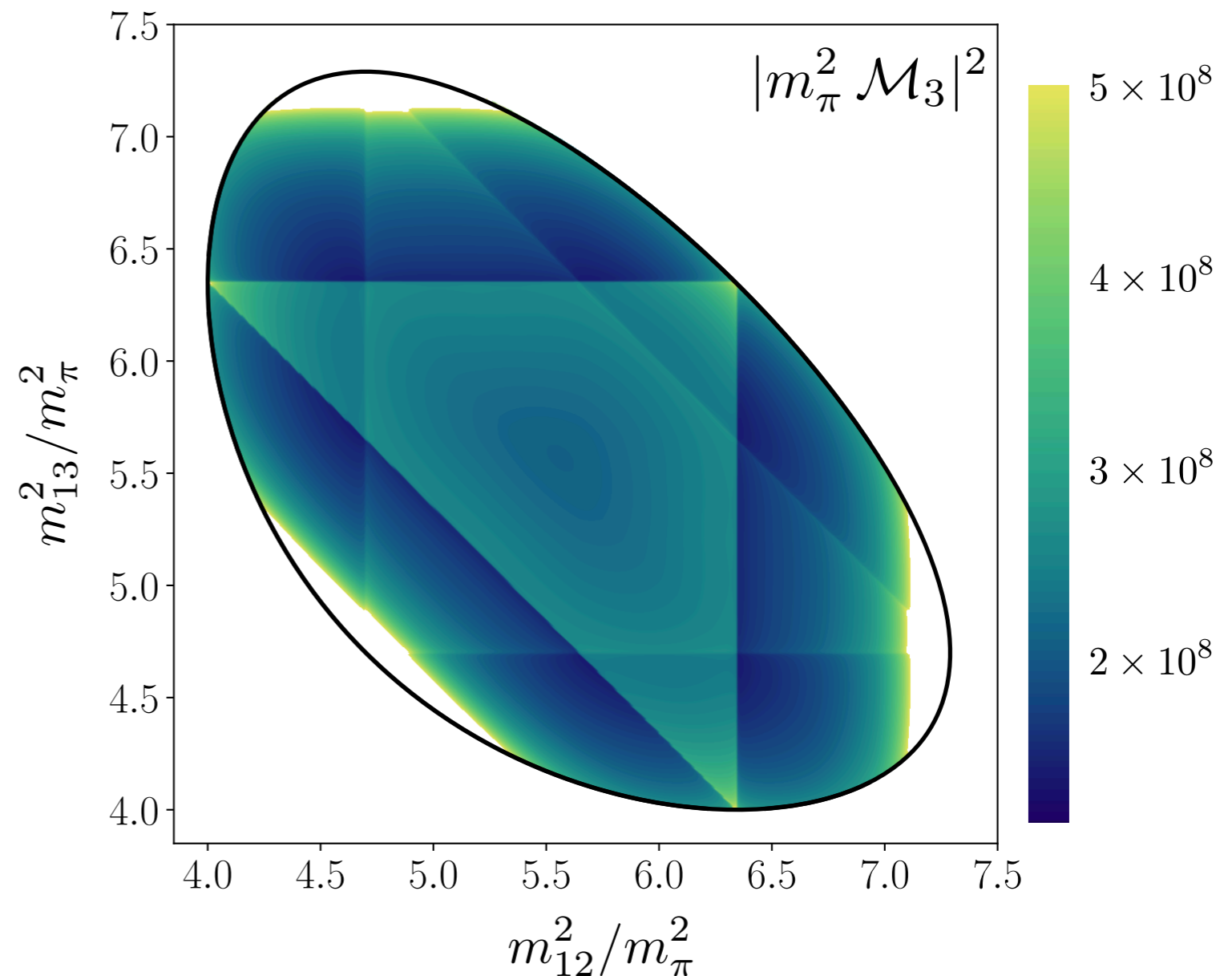
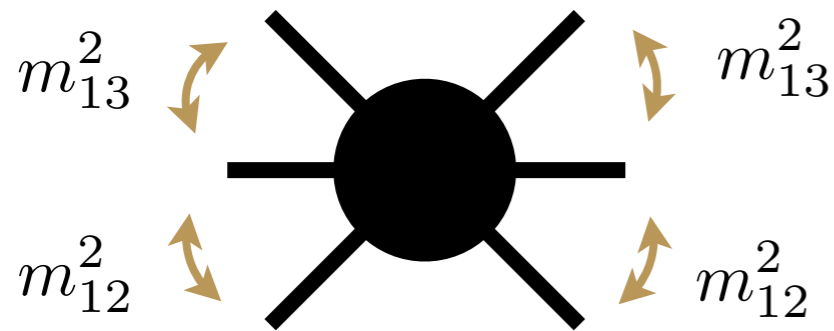
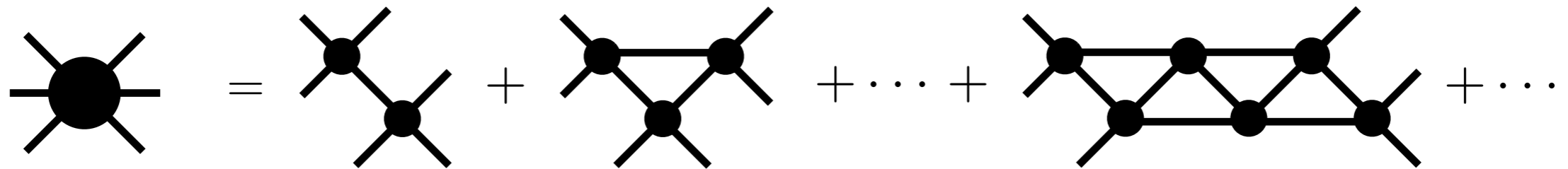


103 energy levels described by three numbers

$m_\pi, a_{\pi\pi}^{I=2}, \mathcal{K}_{3,\text{iso}}^{I=3}$



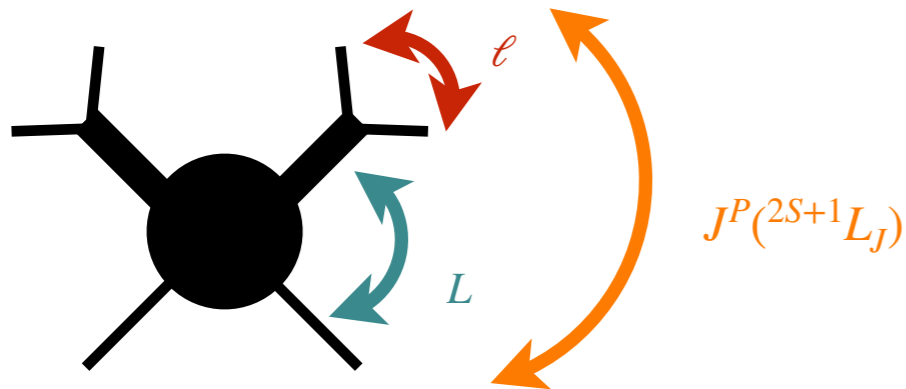
Amplitude reconstruction — since  $\mathcal{K}_{3,\text{iso}} \approx 0$ , amplitude dominated by one-particle exchanges



# Going Further

Most\* work so far has revolved around three-body system in total  $S$  wave

- Interesting systems usually have non-zero partial waves
- Need to project integral equations to definite  $J^P$  amplitudes



$I_{3\pi}^G$	$J^{PC}$	$([\pi\pi]_{\ell}^I \pi)_L$
	$0^{-+}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^2 \pi)_S$
$3^{-}$	$1^{-+}$	none
	$1^{++}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^2 \pi)_P$
$2^{-}$	$0^{--}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^2 \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{--}$	$([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{+-}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^2 \pi)_P, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_D$
$1^{-}$	$0^{-+}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^{0,2} \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{-+}$	$([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{++}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^{0,2} \pi)_P, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_D$
$0^{-}$	$0^{--}$	$([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{--}$	$([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{+-}$	$([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_D$

# Partial Wave Amplitudes

Follow usual procedure to construct partial wave amplitudes

- Couple to definite parity (LS basis) since interested in spectroscopy

$$\mathcal{M}_3 = \sum_{J^P} \mathcal{M}_3^{J^P} \mathcal{R}_{J^P}$$

## **Rotational Dependence**

- Clebsch-Gordan coefficients
- Wigner D matrix elements
- associated factors

## **Partial Wave Amplitudes**

- depends on 'energy' variables only
- Matrix in LS-space for given  $J^P$

$$\mathcal{R}_{J^P} \sim \sum_{m_J} Z_{L'S'}^{Jm_J*}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) Z_{LS}^{Jm_J}(\hat{\mathbf{k}})$$

$$Z_{LS}^{Jm_J}(\hat{\mathbf{k}}) = \sqrt{4\pi(2L+1)} \sum_{\lambda} \langle J\lambda | L0, S\lambda \rangle D_{m_J\lambda}^{(J)}(\hat{\mathbf{k}}) Y_{S\lambda}^*(\hat{\mathbf{a}})$$

# Partial Wave Amplitudes

Projection of one-particle exchange

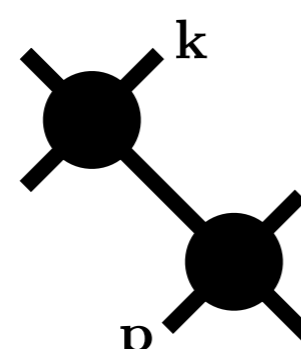
- Most convenient to start in helicity basis (simple Lorentz boosting), then recouple to  $LS$  basis

$$\mathcal{G}_{\lambda'\lambda}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\mathcal{H}_{\lambda'\lambda}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k})}{u - m^2 + i\epsilon}$$

*depends on spins of isobars and their decay angles*

*exchange propagator*

$=$



# Partial Wave Amplitudes

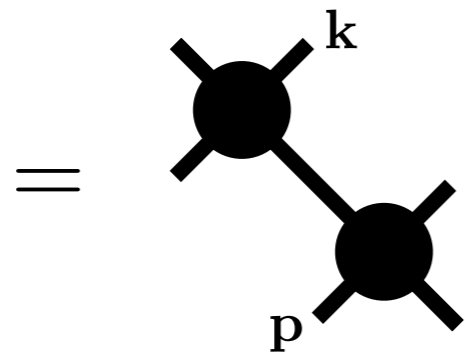
## Projection of one-particle exchange

- Most convenient to start in helicity basis (simple Lorentz boosting), then recouple to  $LS$  basis

$$\mathcal{G}_{\lambda'\lambda}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\mathcal{H}_{\lambda'\lambda}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k})}{u - m^2 + i\epsilon}$$

*depends on spins of isobars and their decay angles*

*exchange propagator*



$$= \sum_{JP} \mathcal{G}^{JP} \mathcal{R}_{JP}$$

*Known coefficients for particular scattering channel*  
 — could contain spurious singular behavior  
 — must be compensated by three-body  $K$  matrix

$\Rightarrow$


$$\mathcal{G}^{JP} = \mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{G}}^{JP} + \mathcal{T}^{JP} Q_0(\zeta)$$

$$Q_0(\zeta) = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{\zeta + 1}{\zeta - 1} \right)$$

# Partial Wave Amplitudes

Projection of one-particle exchange

- Most convenient to start in helicity basis (simple Lorentz boosting), then recouple to  $LS$  basis
- Compare to what is usually done in phenomenological studies

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{G}(z) &= \frac{\mathcal{N}(z)}{\zeta - z} \\ &= \frac{\mathcal{N}(\zeta)}{\zeta - z} + \frac{\mathcal{N}(z) - \mathcal{N}(\zeta)}{\zeta - z} \end{aligned} \quad O((\zeta - z)^0)$$


**Ignore**

— parameterizing  $K$  matrices anyway, why bother with some *regular* piece?

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{G}^{JP} &\rightarrow \int dz \mathcal{R}_{JP}(z) \mathcal{G}(z) \\ &= \mathcal{N}(\zeta) \int dz \frac{\mathcal{R}_{JP}(z)}{\zeta - z} \\ &\sim e^J(\zeta)\end{aligned}$$

## Lattice FV framework

- quantization conditions rely on systematically controlling finite-volume correction
- $K$  matrix in QC must be consistently defined with scattering equations
- Cannot ignore pieces of the OPE!

# Partial Wave Amplitudes

Look at lowest lying waves, e.g.,  $J^P = 0^-$

$I_{3\pi}^G$	$J^{PC}$	$([\pi\pi]_\ell^I \pi)_L$
$2^-$	$0^{--}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^2 \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{--}$	$([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{+-}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^2 \pi)_P, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_D$

$$\mathcal{G}^{J^P=0^-} = -\frac{1}{2pk} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{q_p^*} \gamma_p k \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{q_k^*} \gamma_k p & \frac{3}{q_k^* q_p^*} pk g_{pk} \end{pmatrix}^{1S_0} + \frac{1}{2pk} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{q_p^*} k f_{pk} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{q_k^*} p f_{kp} & \frac{3}{q_k^* q_p^*} pk f_{pk} f_{kp} \end{pmatrix}^{3P_0} Q_0(\zeta_{pk})$$

$$f_{pk} = \gamma_p \left( \frac{\beta_p \omega_k}{k} + \zeta_{pk} \right)$$

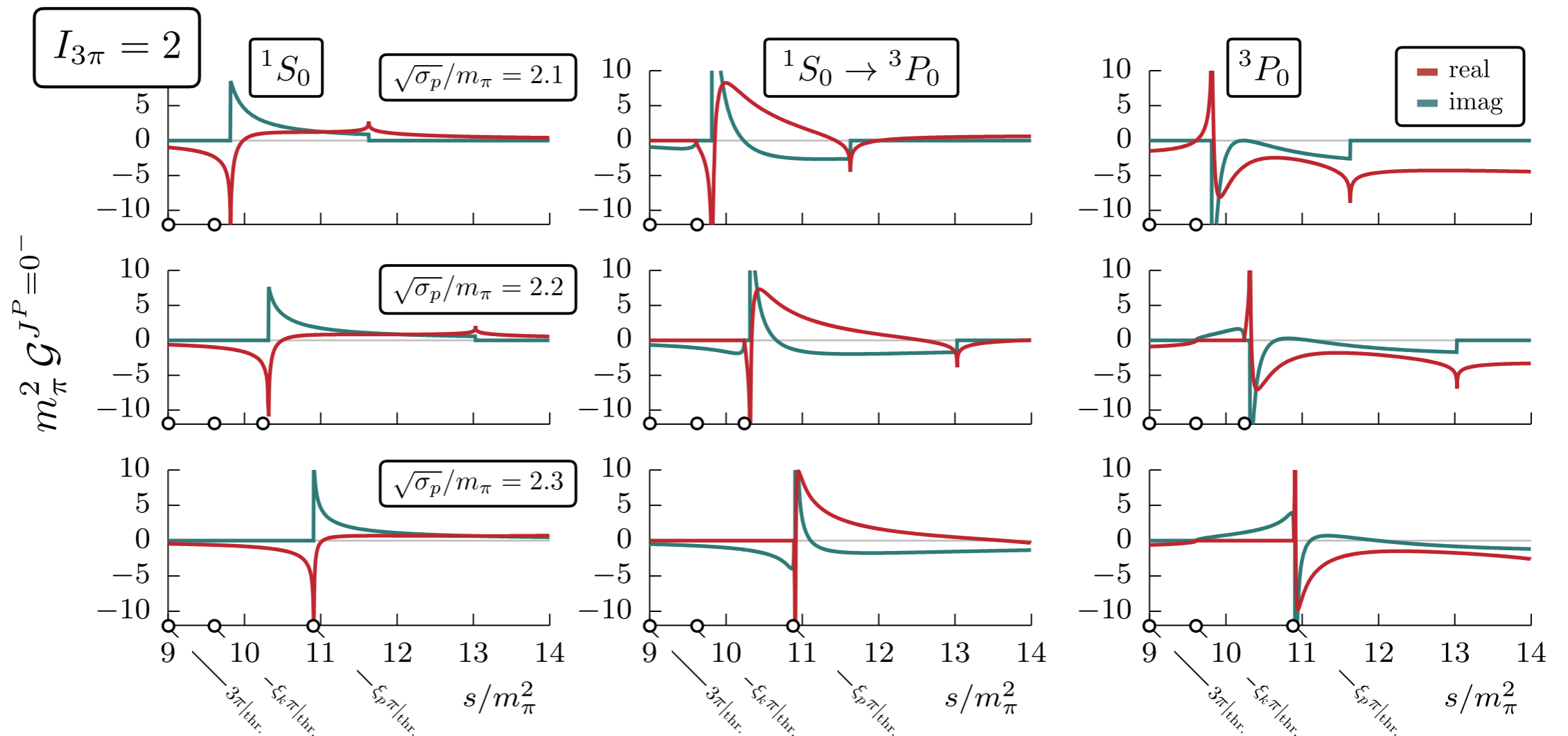
$$g_{pk} = \gamma_p \gamma_k \left( \frac{\beta_p \omega_k}{k} + \frac{\beta_k \omega_p}{p} + \zeta_{pk} \right)$$

$$f_{kp} = f_{pk}(k \leftrightarrow p)$$

# Partial Wave Amplitudes

Look at lowest lying waves, e.g.,  $J^P = 0^-$

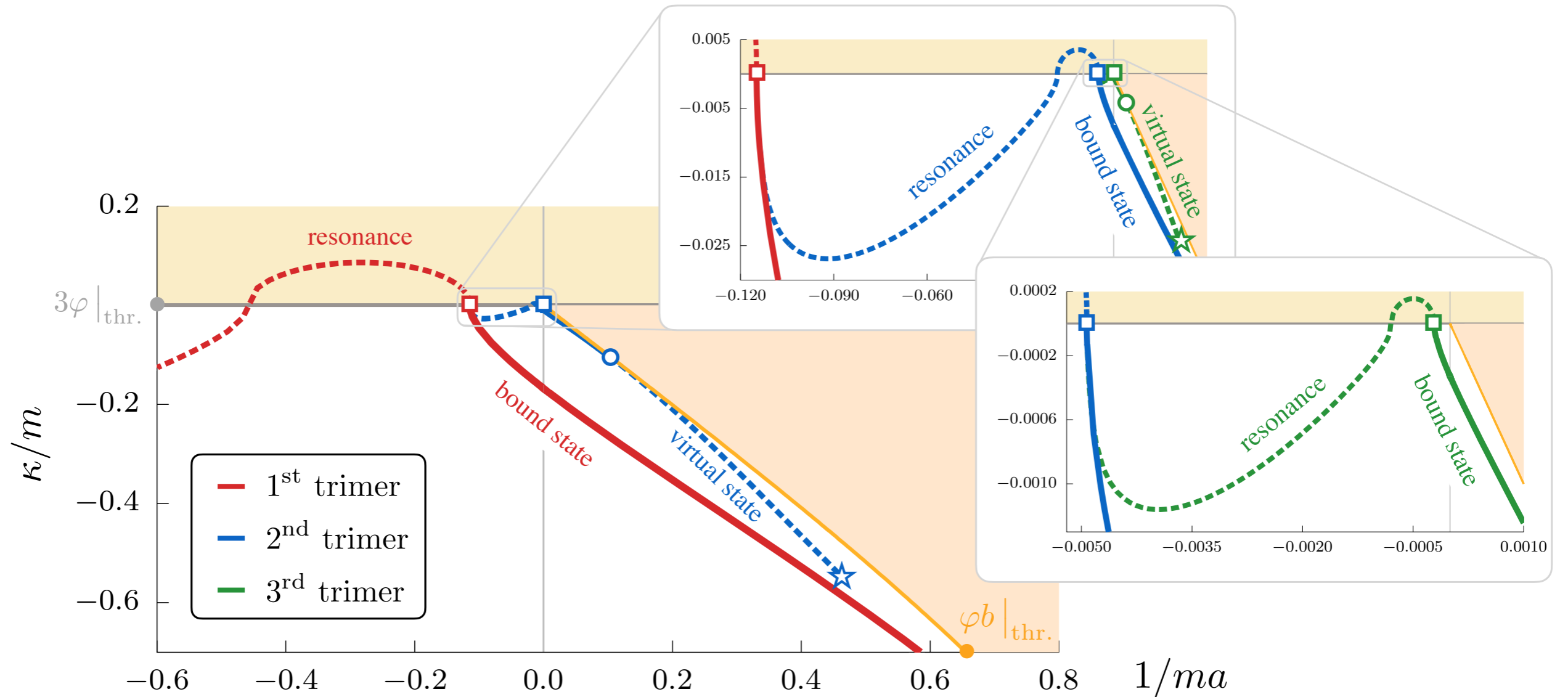
$I_{3\pi}^G$	$J^{PC}$	$([\pi\pi]_\ell^I \pi)_L$
$2^-$	$0^{--}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^2 \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{--}$	$([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_P$
	$1^{+-}$	$([\pi\pi]_S^2 \pi)_P, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_S, ([\pi\pi]_P^1 \pi)_D$



# Exploring Analytic Continuations

Spectral analyses require continuing to pole positions

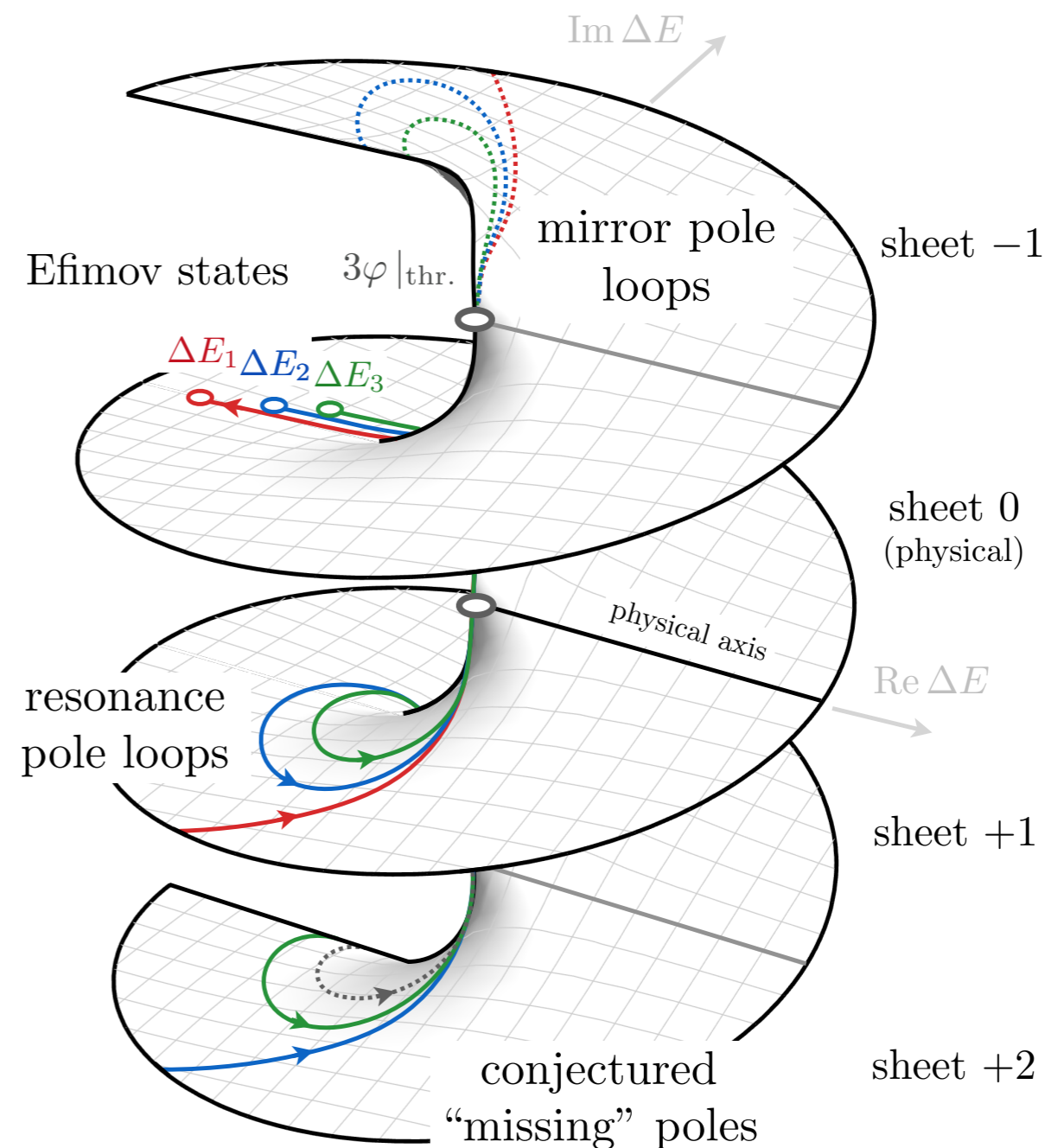
- Community is building confidence in robust solution strategies
- e.g., exploring Efimov physics with relativistic three-body framework



# Exploring Analytic Continuations

Spectral analyses require continuing to pole positions

- Community is building confidence in robust solution strategies
- e.g., exploring Efimov physics with relativistic three-body framework
- Gain deeper understanding on analytic structure

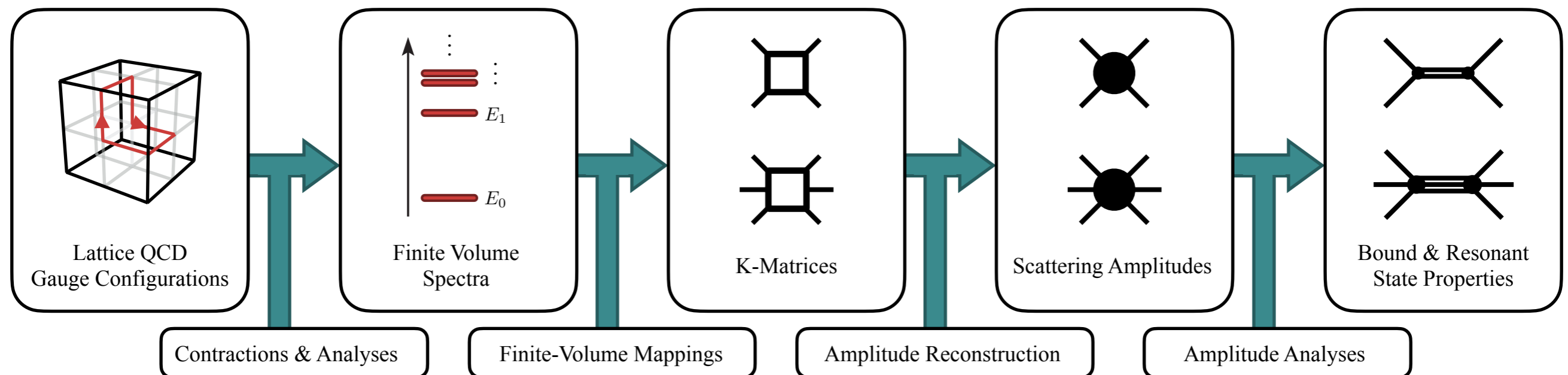


# Summary

Lots of progress on 3-body spectroscopy from QCD

- Finite-volume framework has been in place for a while, now going through use cases
- Applications of numerical solutions for the on-shell integral equations
- Formal/numerical extensions to non-zero partial waves
- Gaining insight into analytic continuation of amplitudes

*More results on the horizon!*





# K Matrix Parameterizations

To constrain  $K$  matrix, parameterize partial wave components

- Saturate sum to include enough freedom for FV irrep

$$\mathcal{K}_3 = \sum_{J^P} \mathcal{K}_3^{J^P} \mathcal{R}_{J^P}$$

**Energy-dependent parameterizations**

- polynomials & rational functions
- fit parameters for Quantization Condition

$$\mathcal{K}_3^{J^P} = \mathcal{B}_{LL'} \left( \mathcal{P}_\gamma(E) + \frac{\mathcal{P}_\alpha(E)}{\mathcal{P}_\beta(E)} \right)$$

**Angular momentum barrier factors**

$$\det [1 + \mathcal{K}_3 \cdot F_{3,L}] \Big|_{E=E_n} = 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{M}_3^{J^P} = \mathcal{M}_3^{J^P} \left[ \mathcal{K}_2, \mathcal{K}_3^{J^P}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{G}^{J^P} \right]$$