

# Three-particle scattering from QCD



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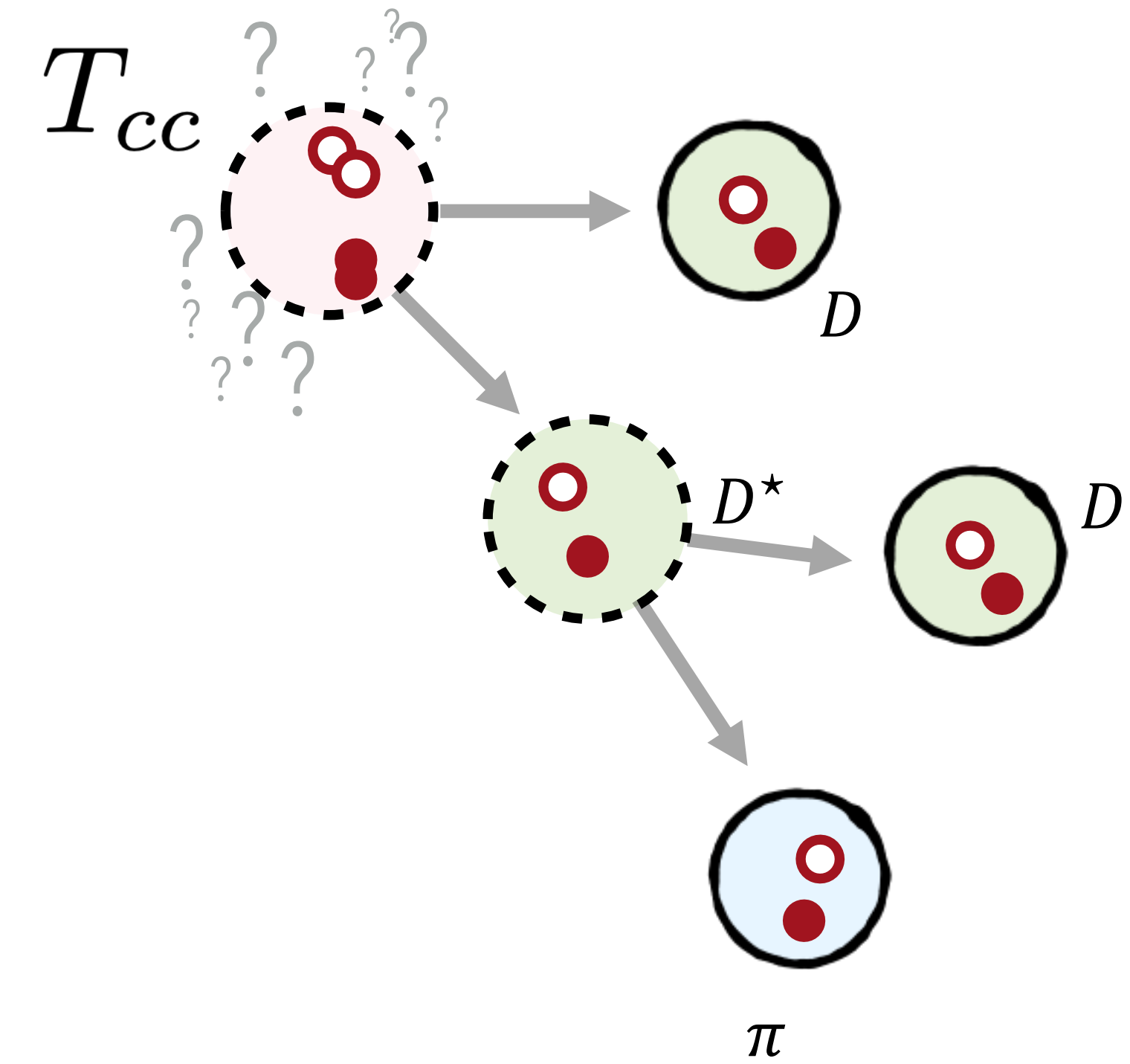
 [rbriceno@berkeley.edu](mailto:rbriceno@berkeley.edu)

 <http://bit.ly/rbricenoPhD>

 @RaulBriceno12

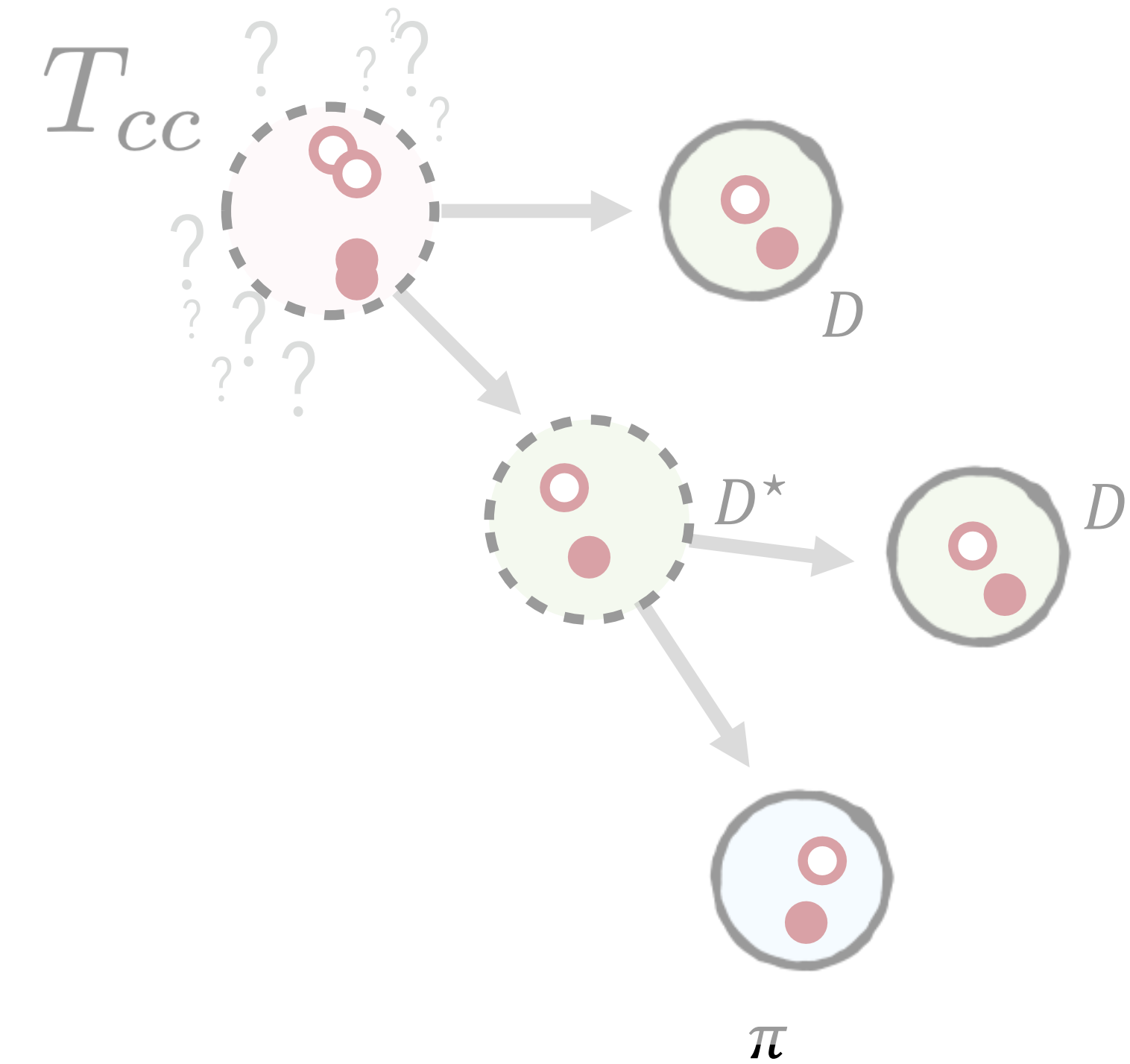
# why three-body systems?

▣ hadron spectroscopy

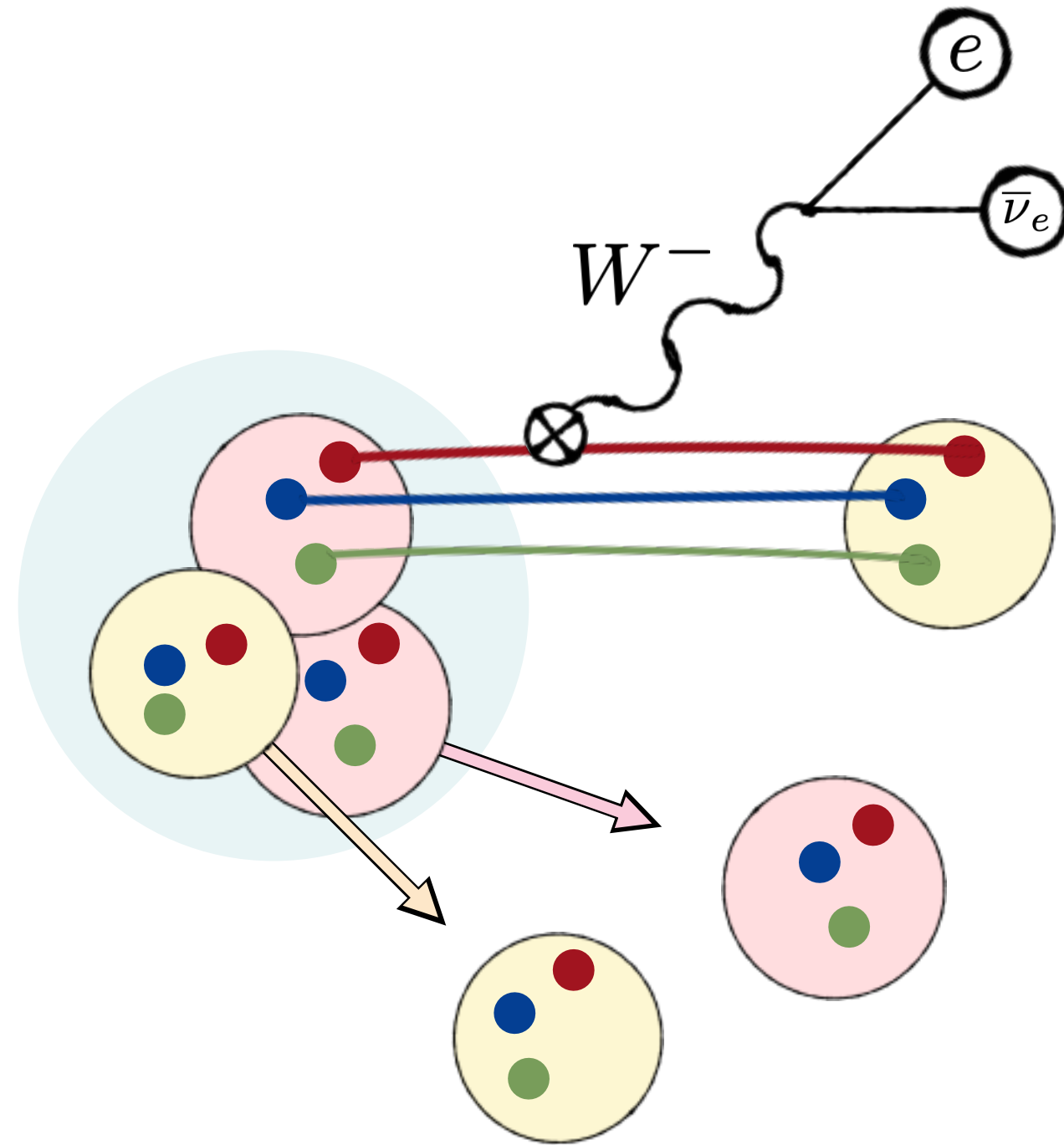


# why three-body systems?

▣ hadron spectroscopy

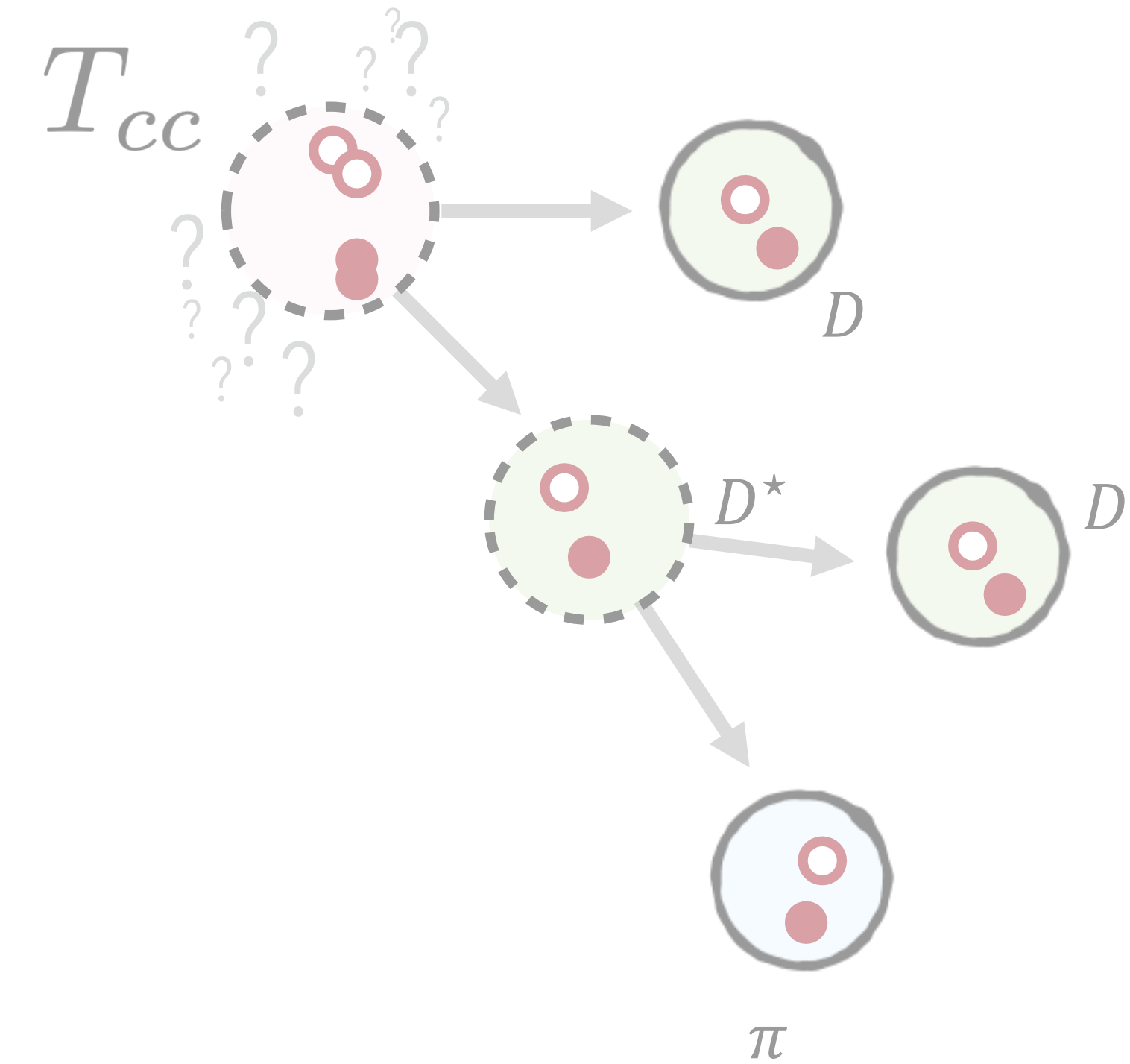


▣ nuclear structure / neutrino physics

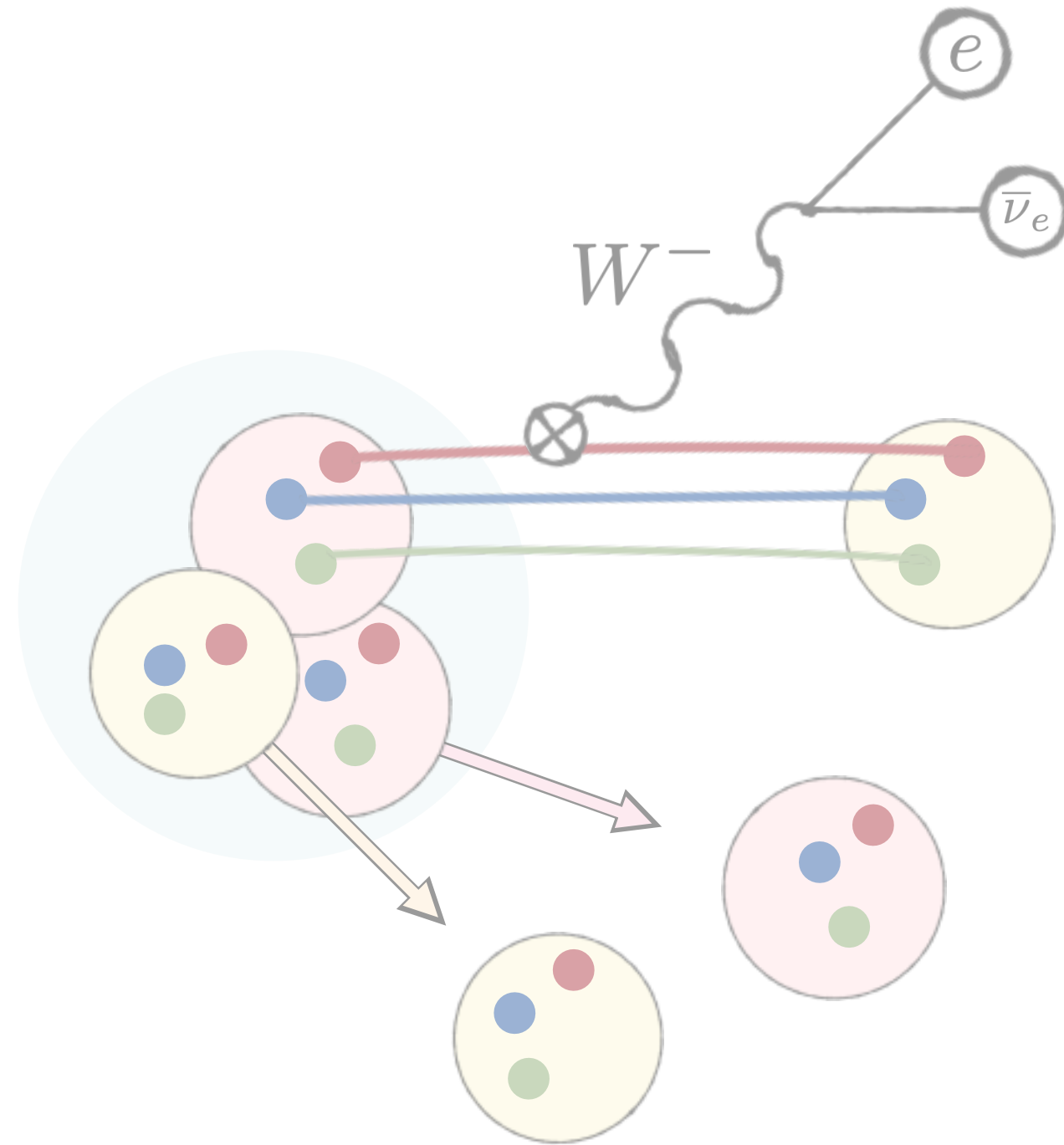


# why three-body systems?

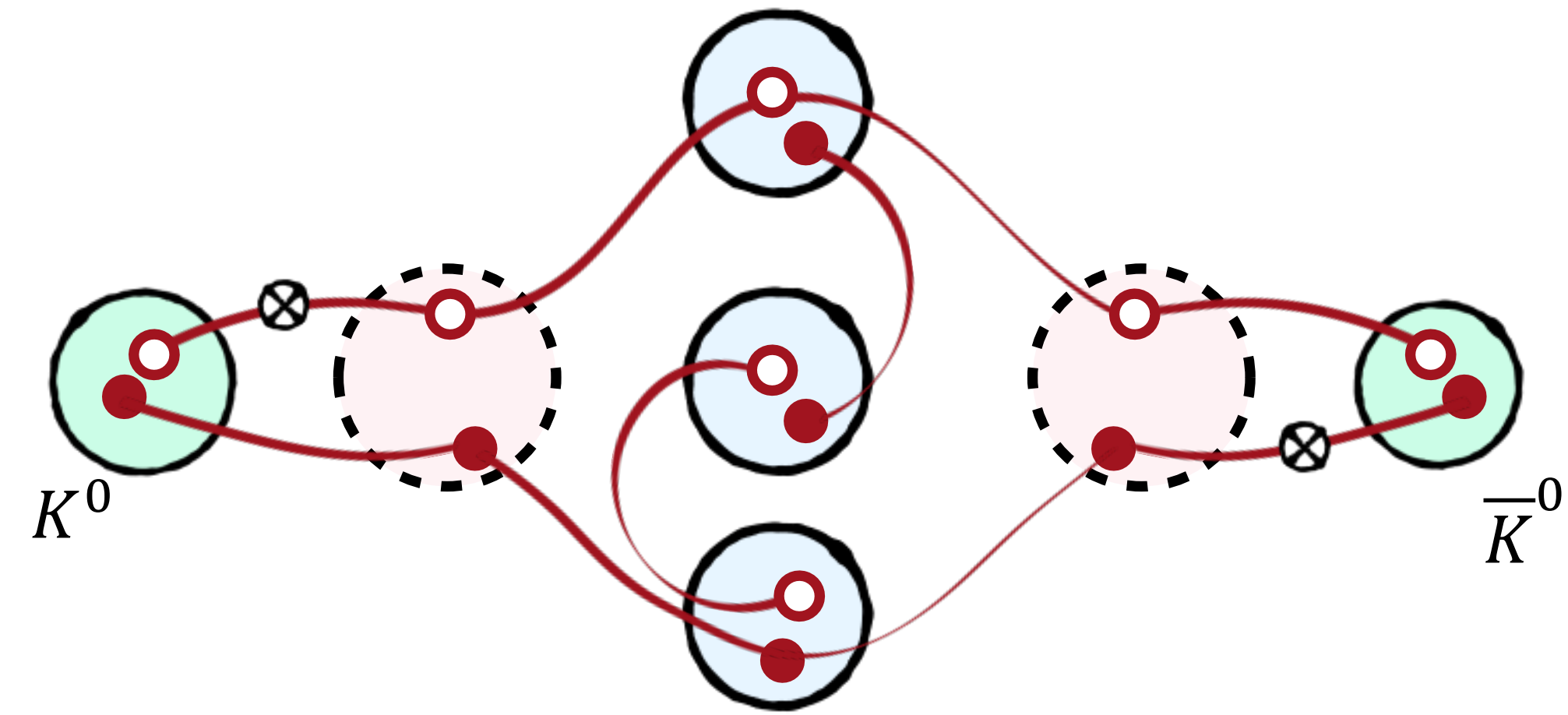
▣ hadron spectroscopy



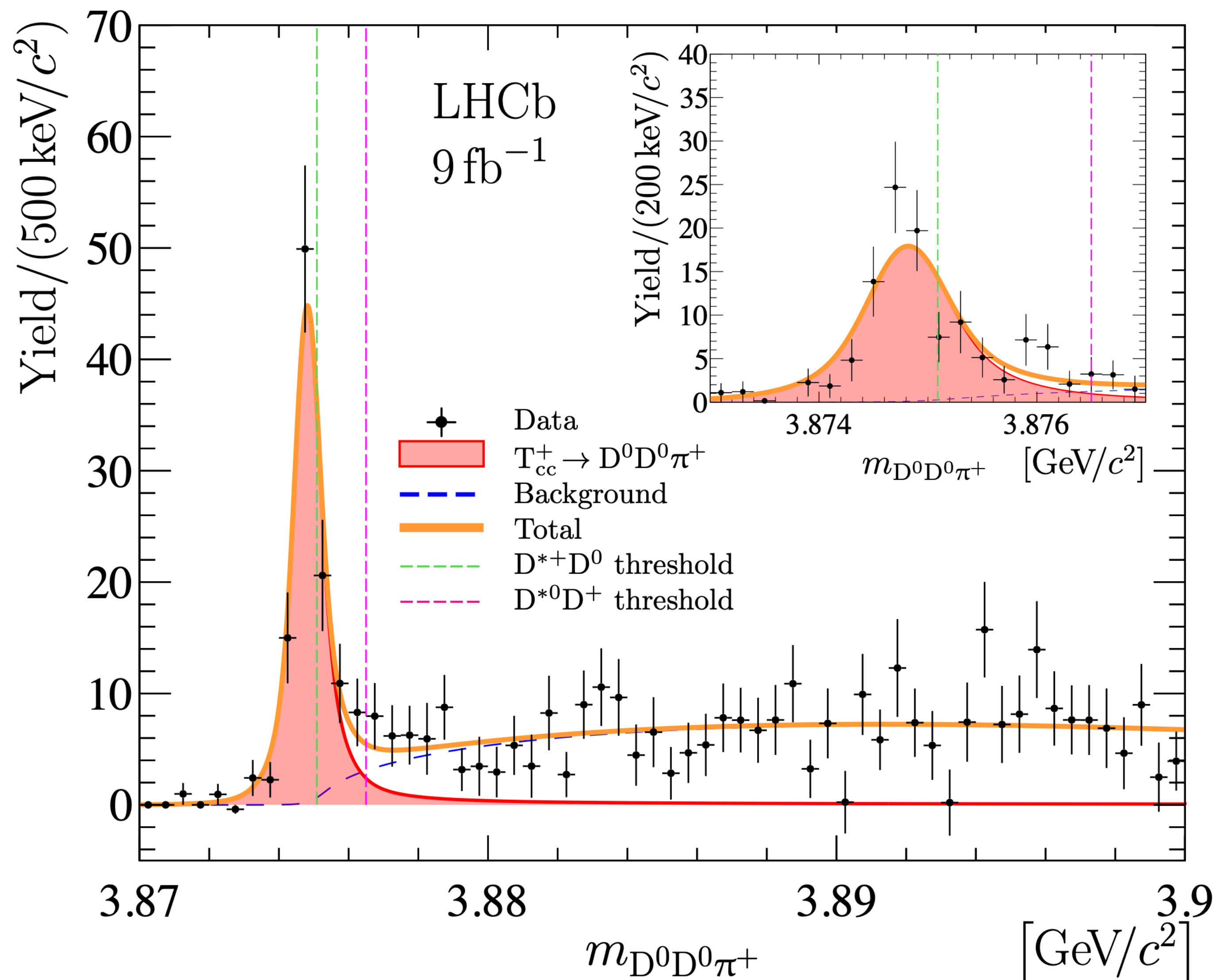
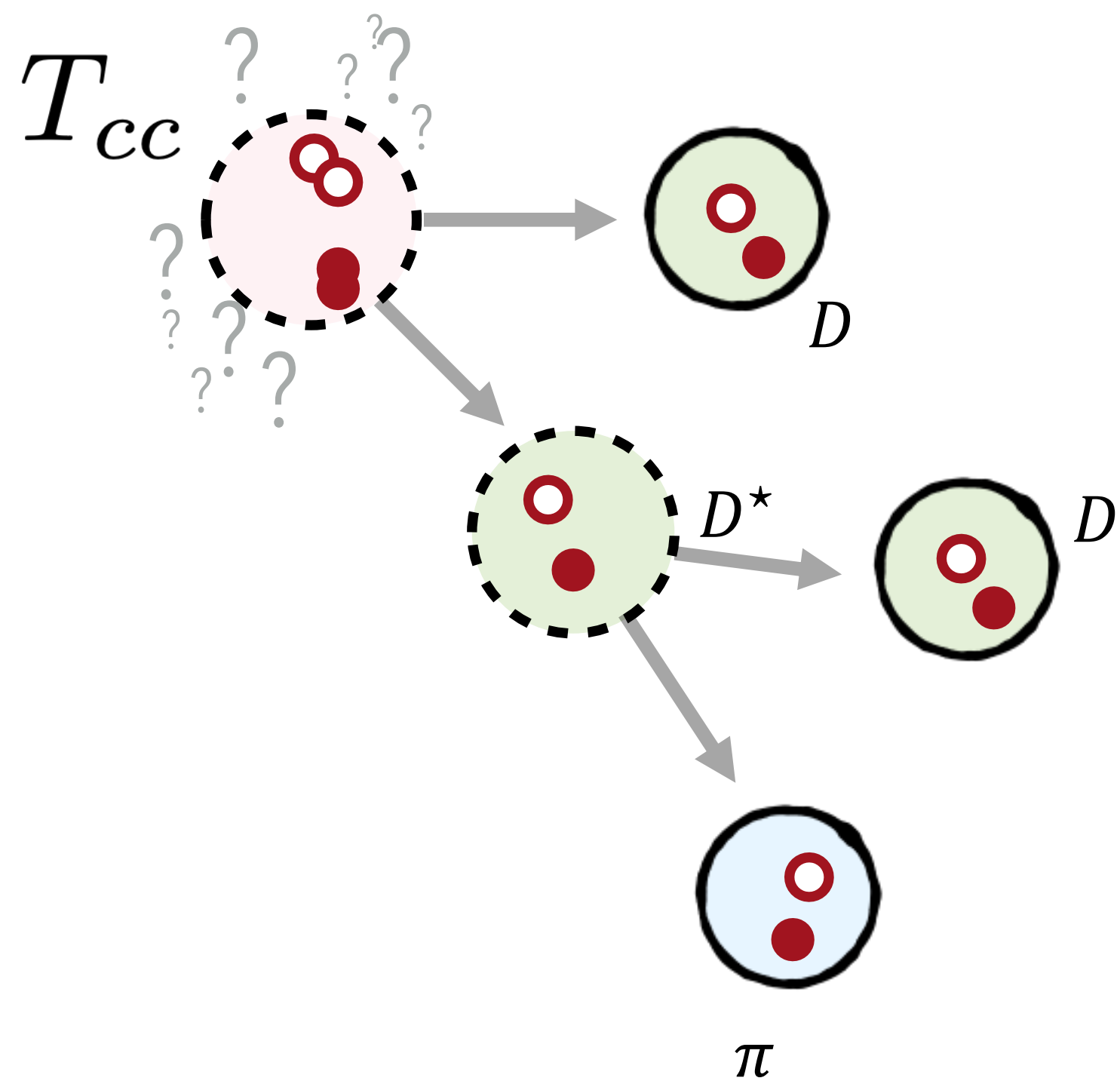
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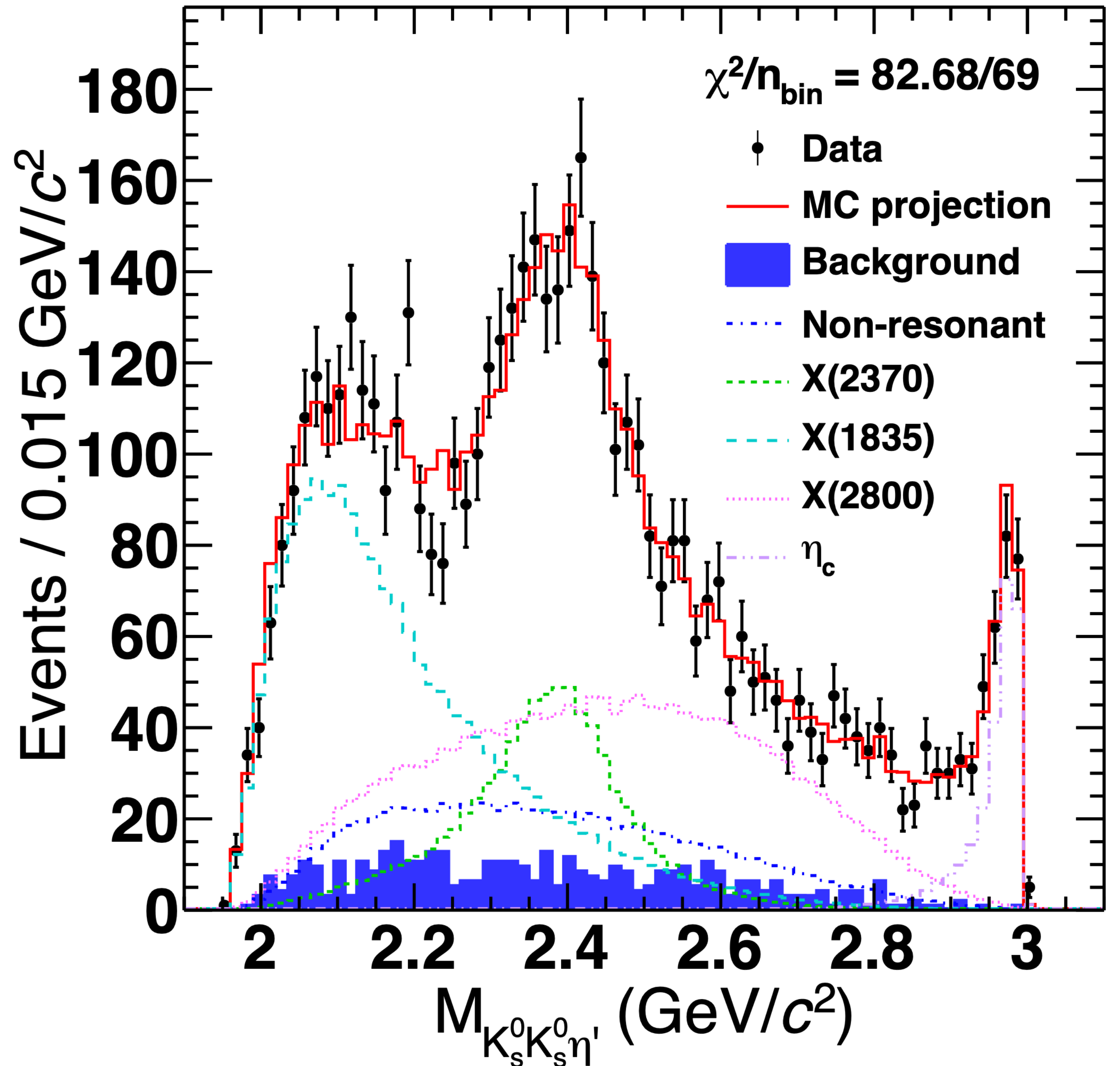
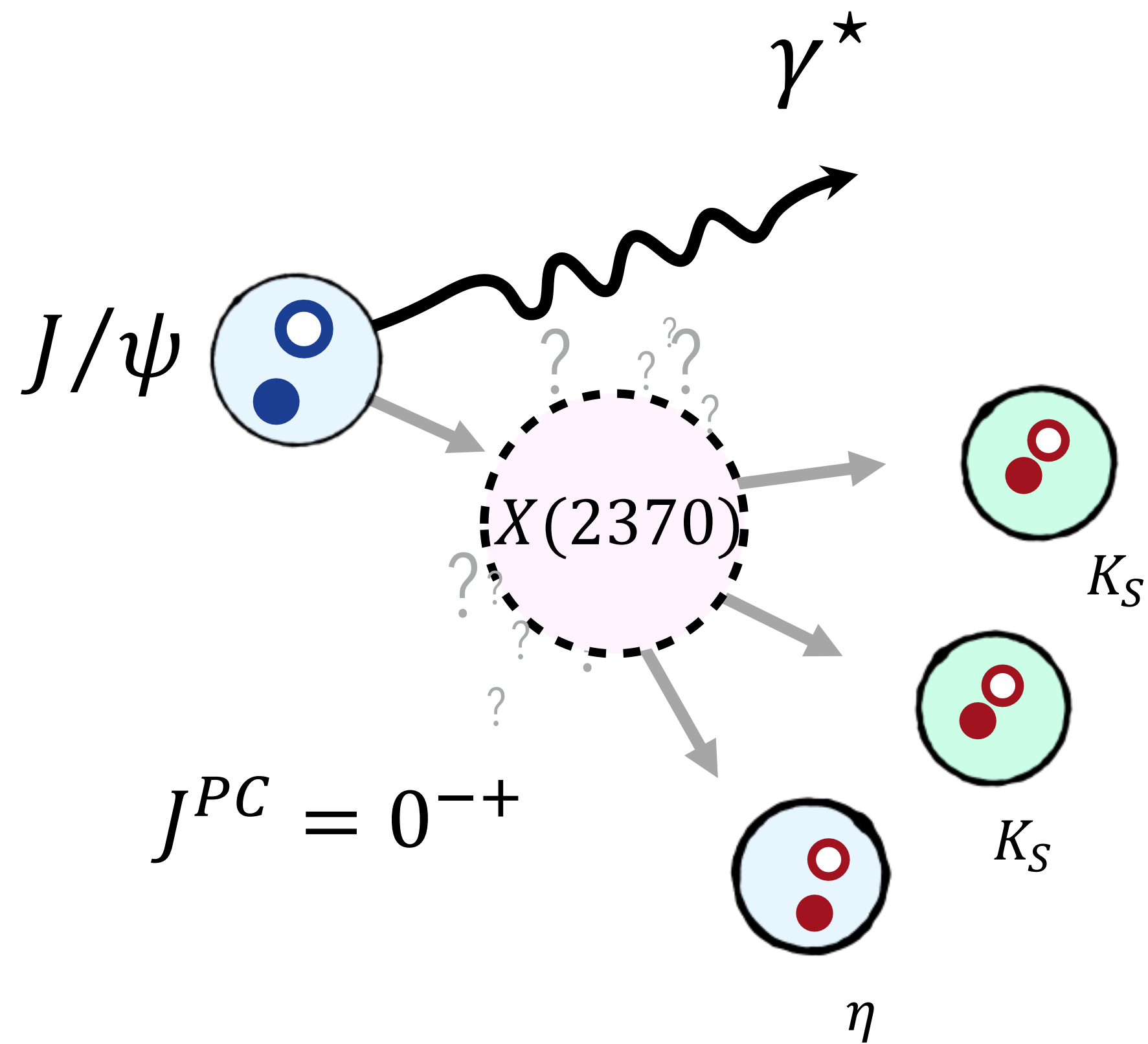
▣ precision tests



# Tetraquarks?

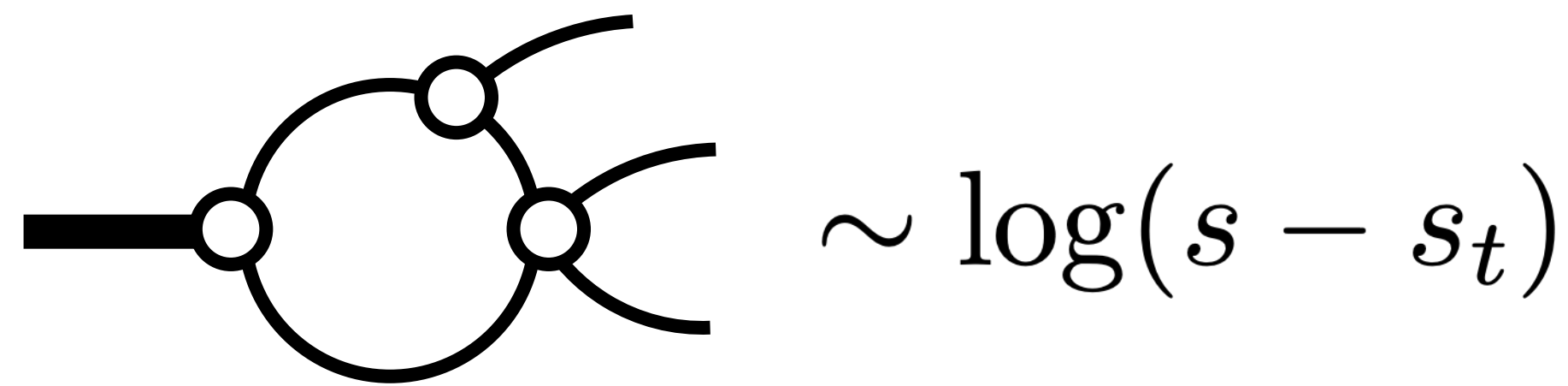


# Glueballs?



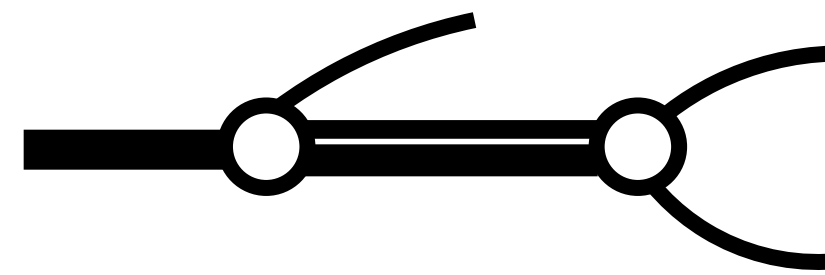
# Key questions to answer

- Which enhancements in cross sections are actual resonances?



$$\sim \log(s - s_t)$$

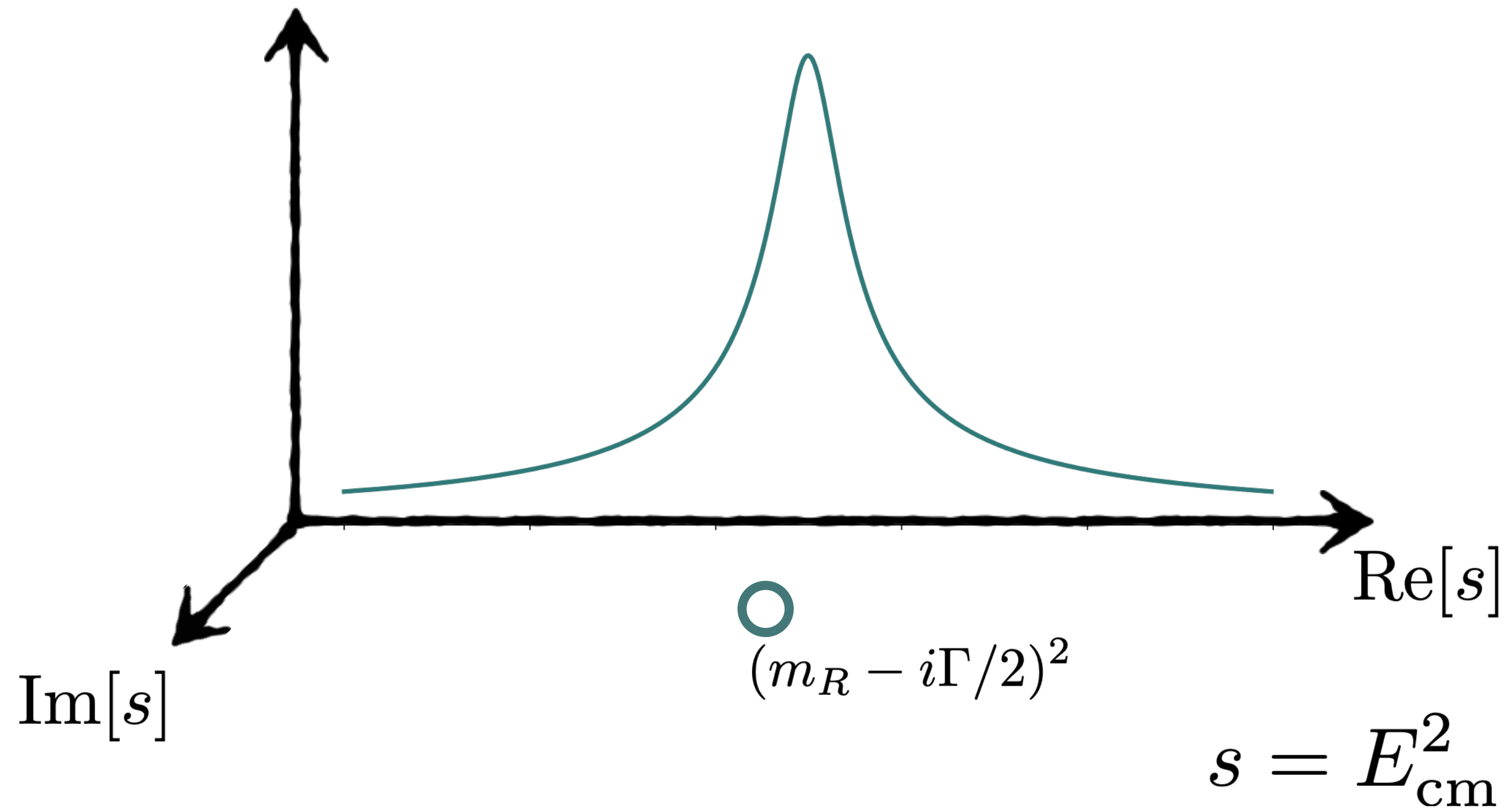
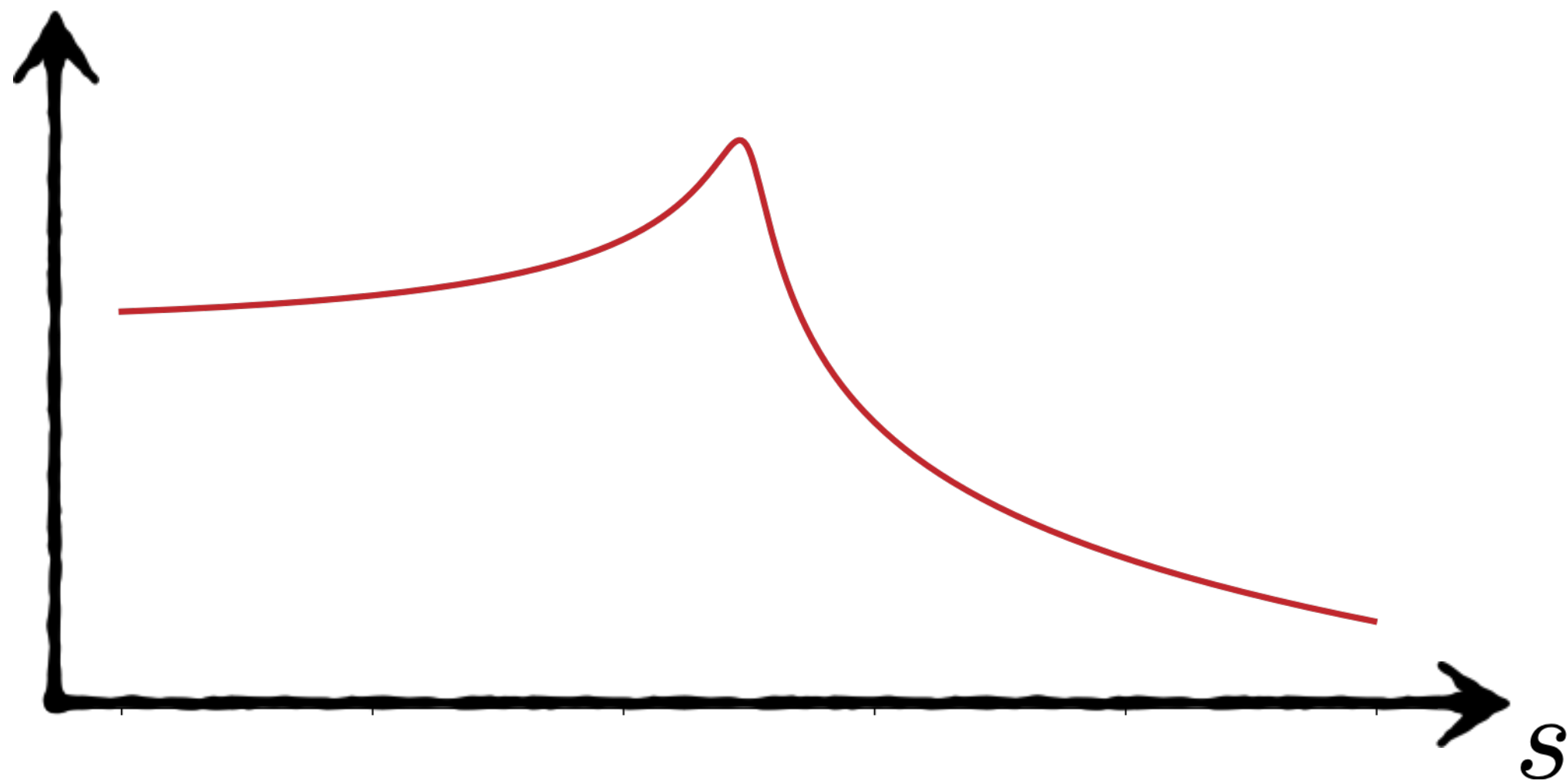
vs.



$$\sim \frac{1}{s - (m_R - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma)^2}$$

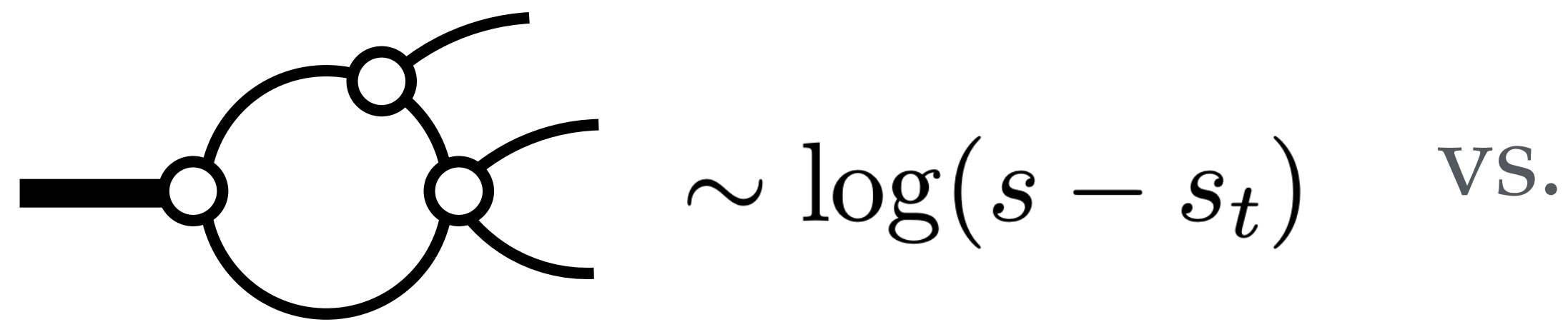
“just a poser”

“the real deal”

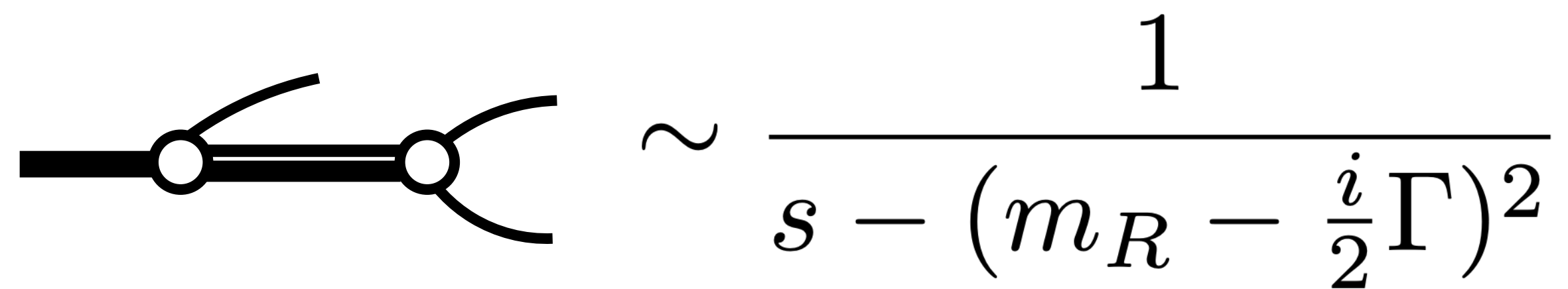


# Key questions to answer

- Which enhancements in cross sections are actual resonances?



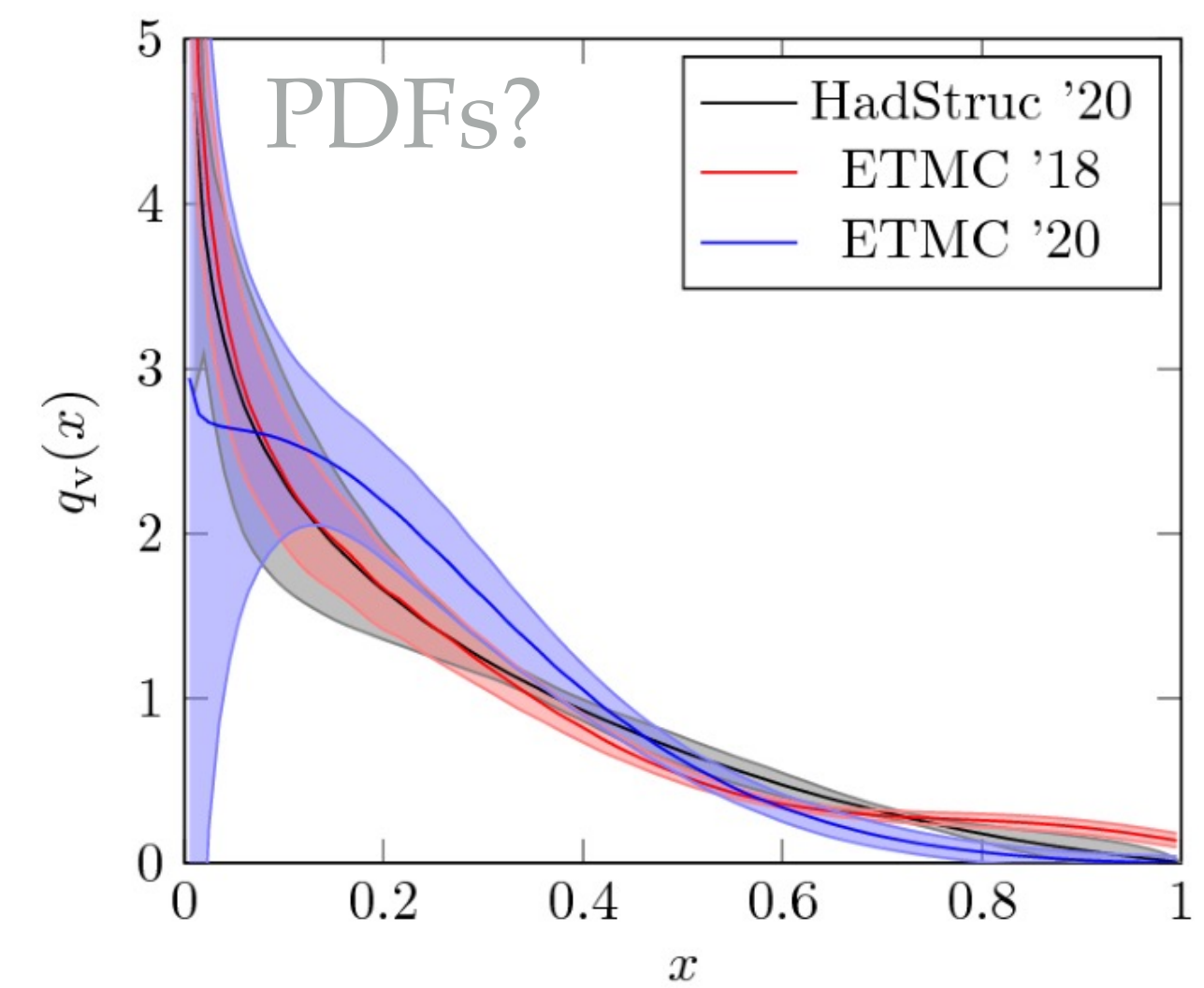
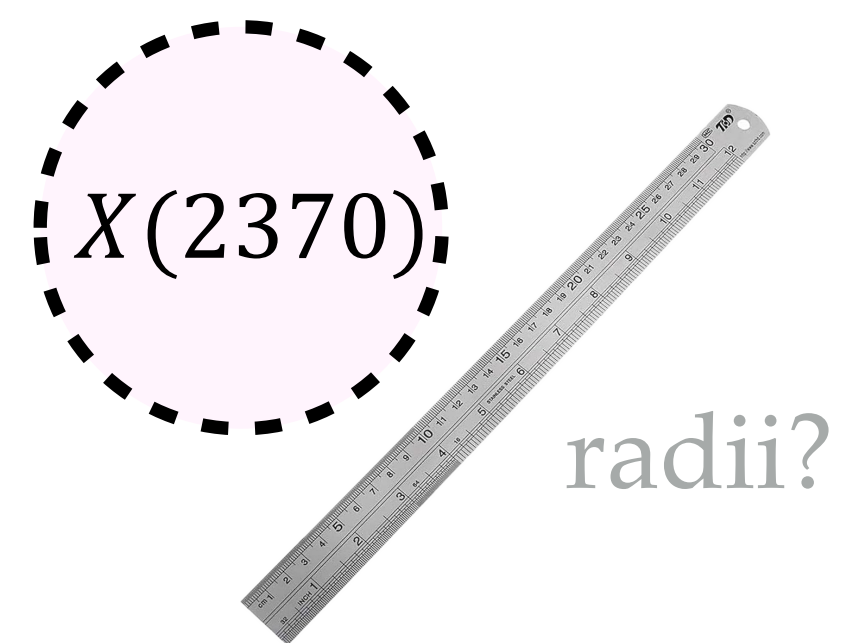
vs.



“just a poser”

“the real deal”

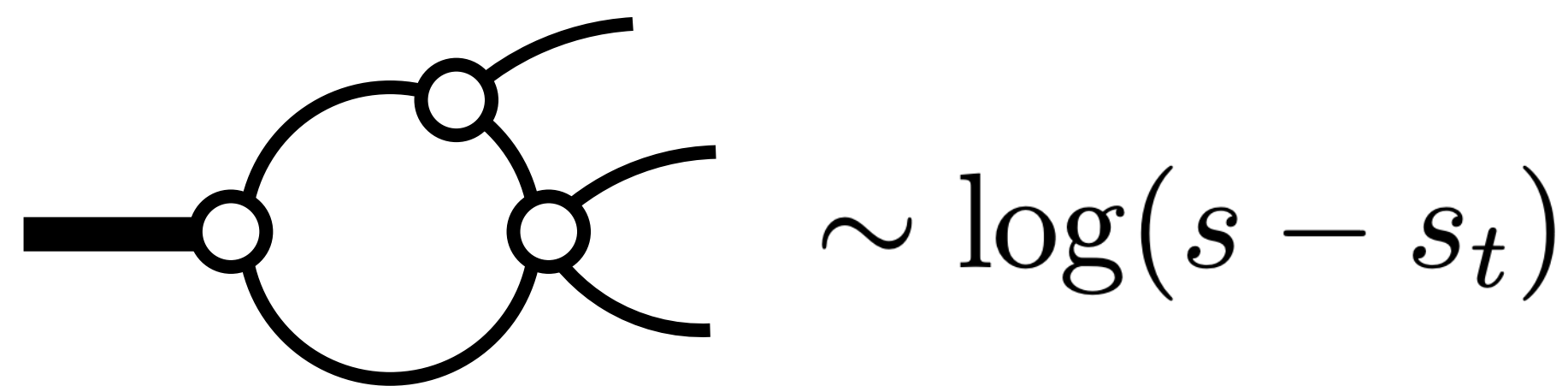
- If real, what is its inner structure?





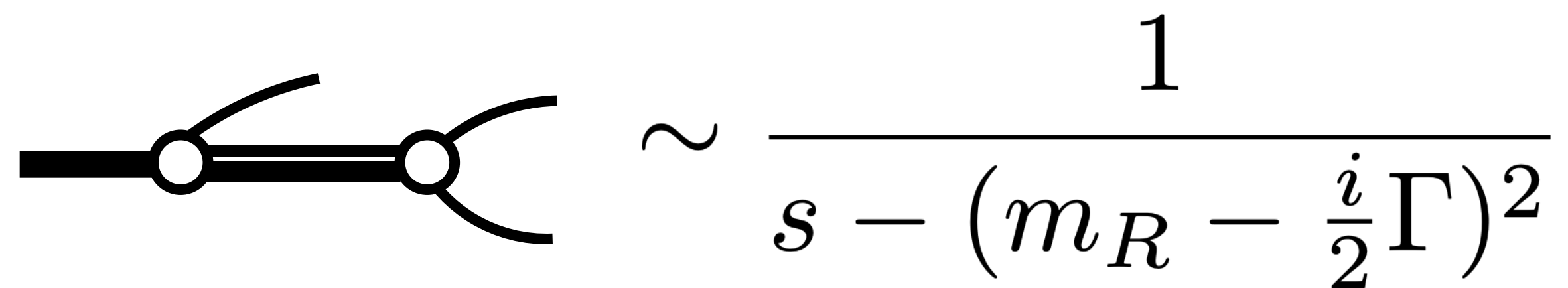
# Key questions to answer

- Which enhancements in cross sections are actual resonances?



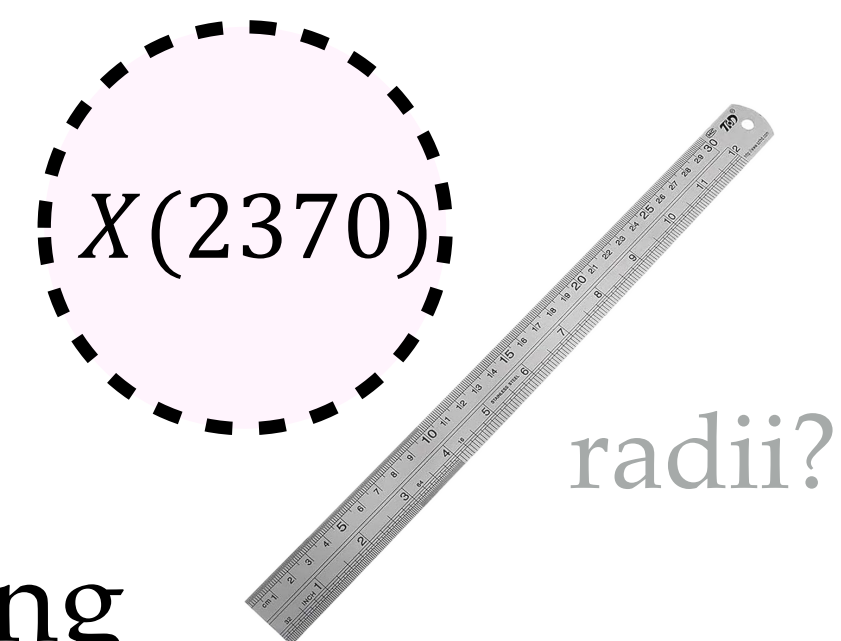
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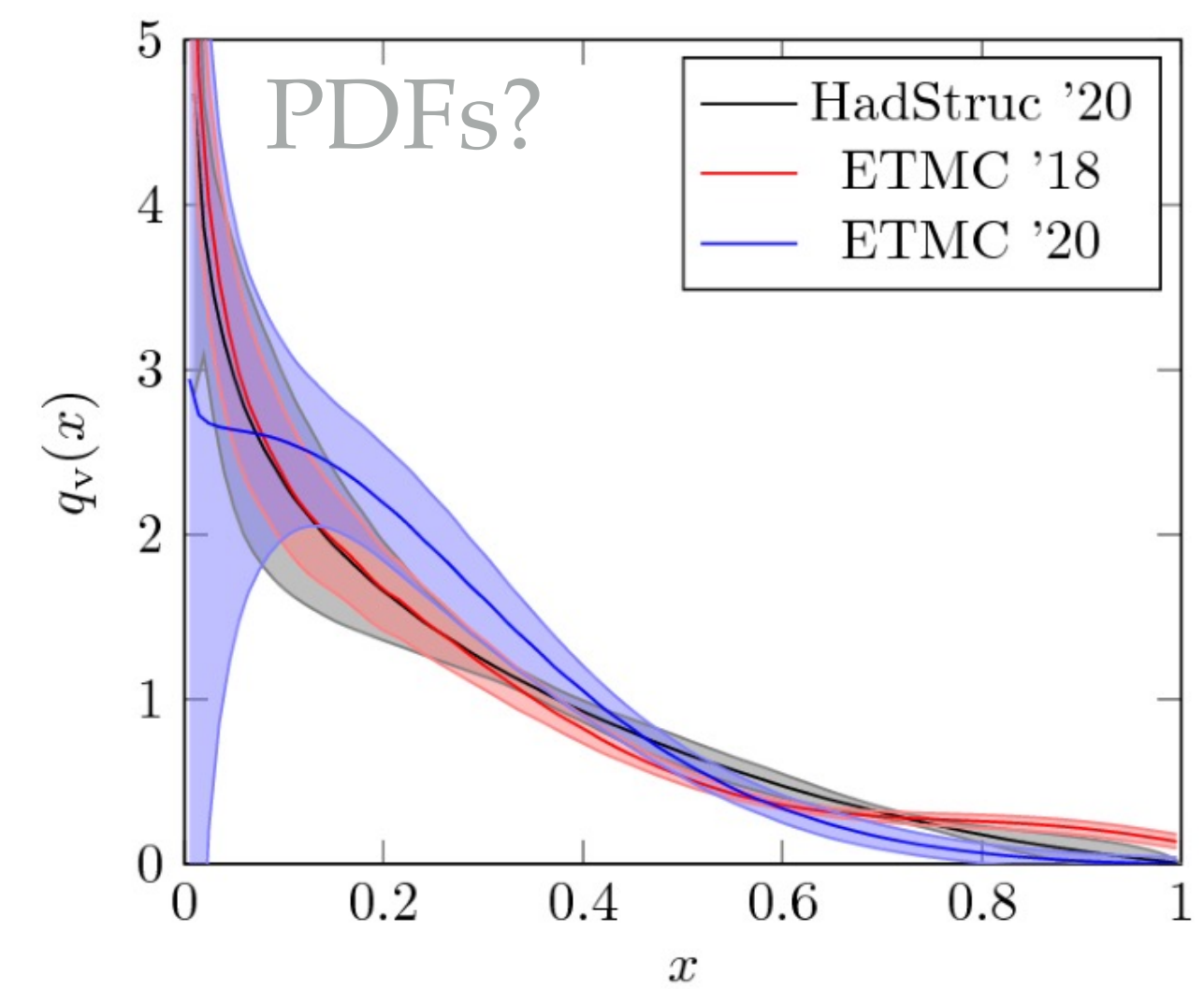
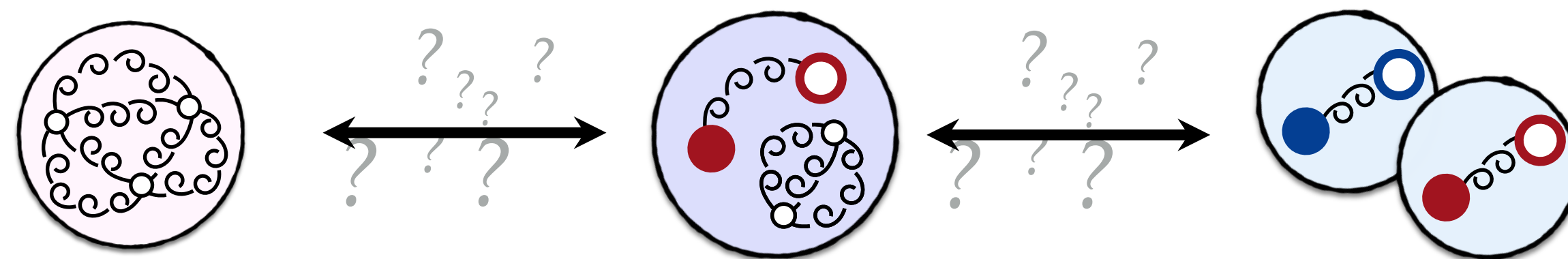


“the real deal”

- If real, what is its inner structure?



- Given structural information, can we say anything about the nature?



- Can we deduce general principles from the QCD spectrum?

# Overarching goal

*non-perturbatively constrain two- and three-hadron scattering amplitudes directly from the standard model (including electroweak & BSM probes)*

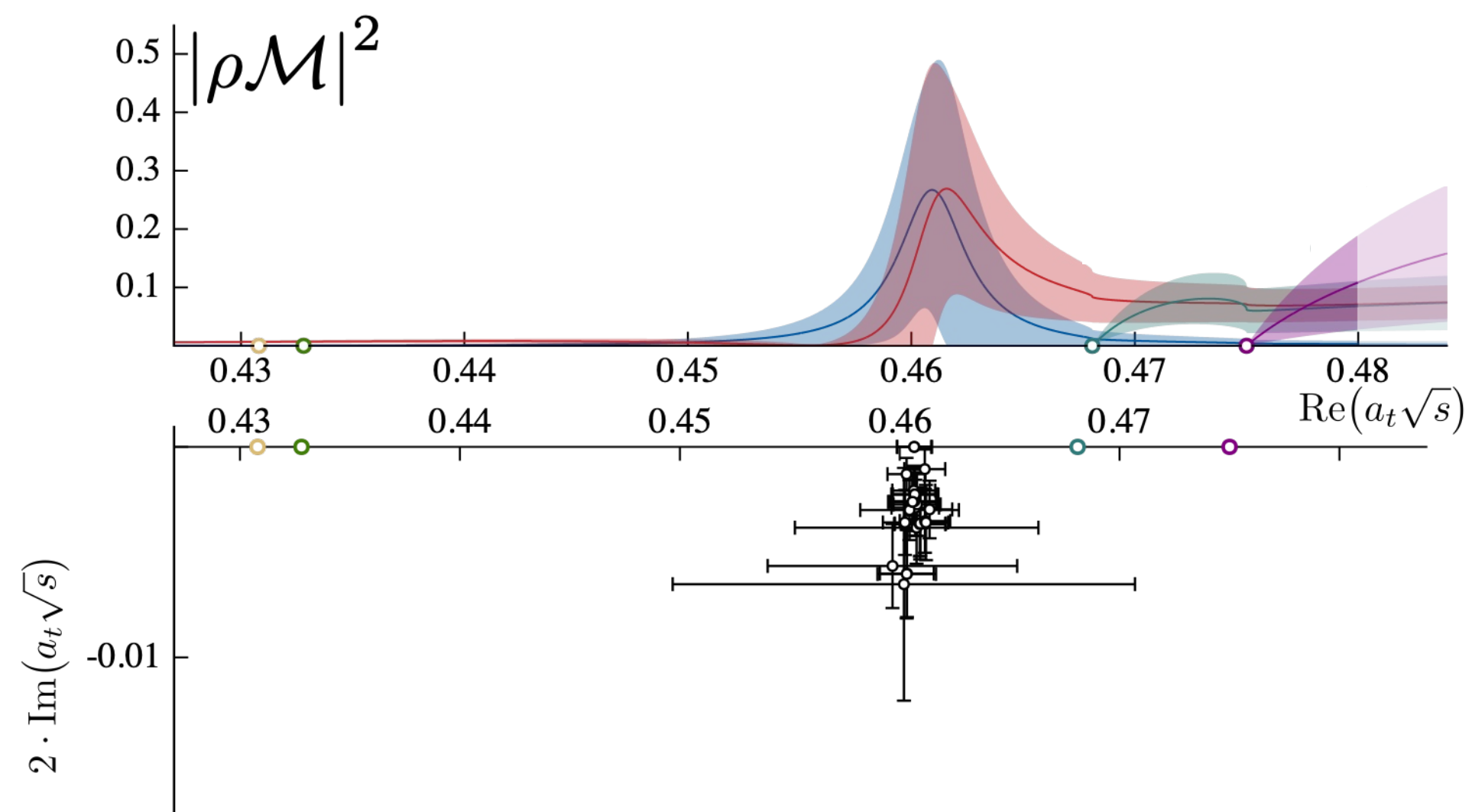
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## Two-body systems

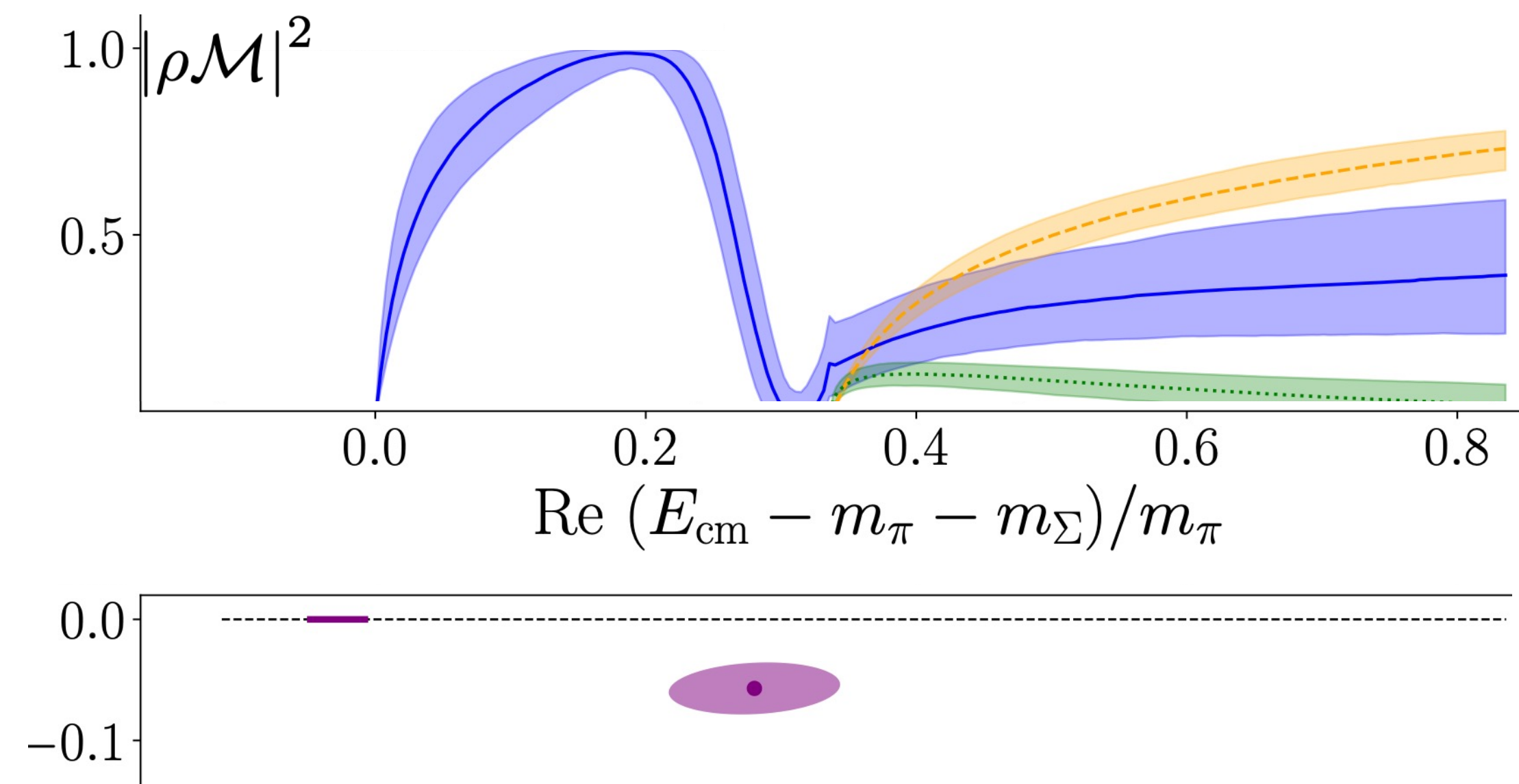
are well studied via lattice QCD

$\pi_1$  channel



Woss, Dudek, Edwards, Thomas, Wilson (2020)

$\Lambda(1405)$  channel



Basc Collaboration (2023)

# Overarching goal

*non-perturbatively constrain two- and three-hadron scattering amplitudes directly from the standard model (including electroweak & BSM probes)*

## three questions to answer

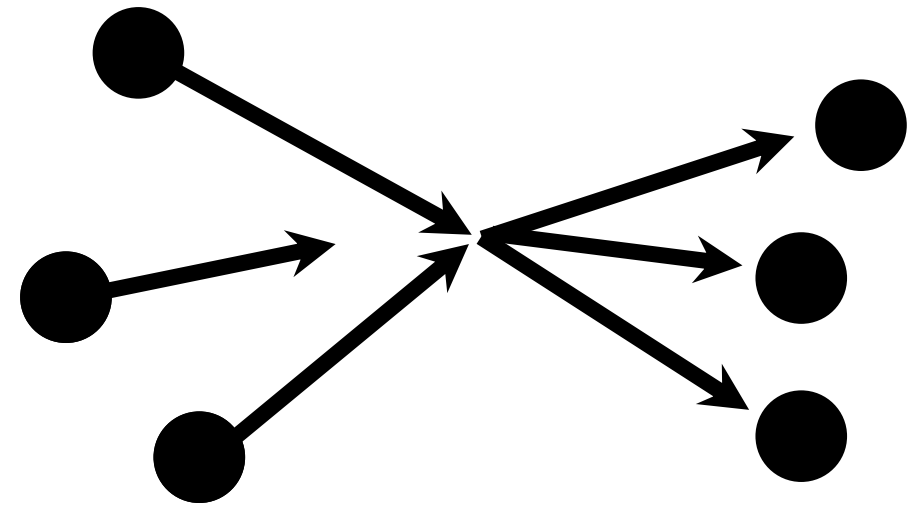
❑ why are three-body so much harder? 🤨

❑ what has been done? 🧐

❑ what can we expect to be done? 🤠

# Arsenal of non-perturbative tools

## Scattering theory

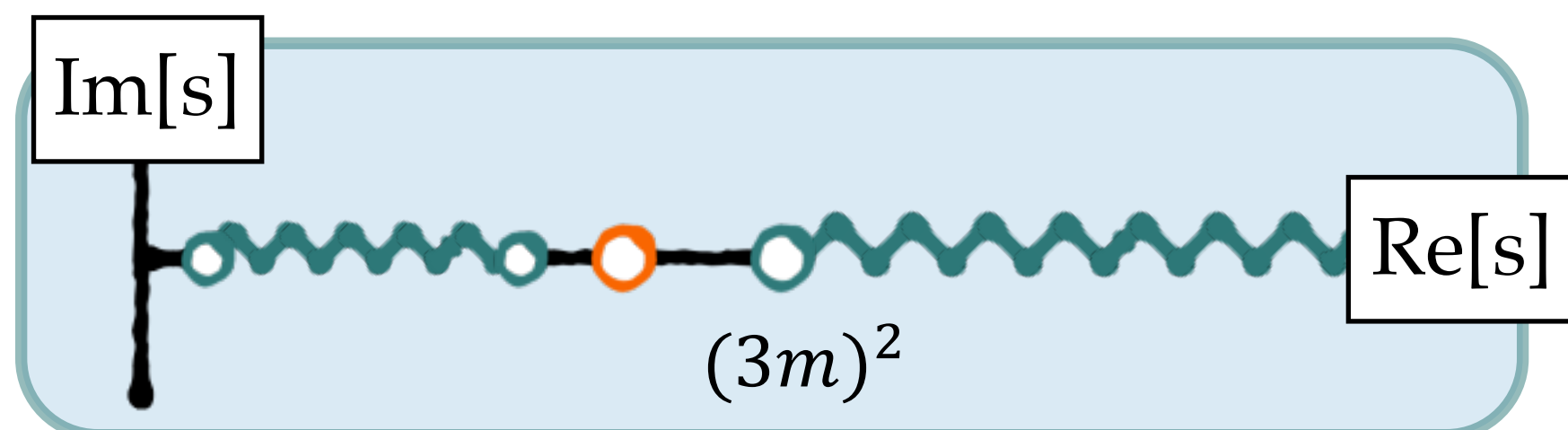


### Benefits

- analytic description,
- correct singular behavior,
- infinite-volume Minkowski observables

### Limitations

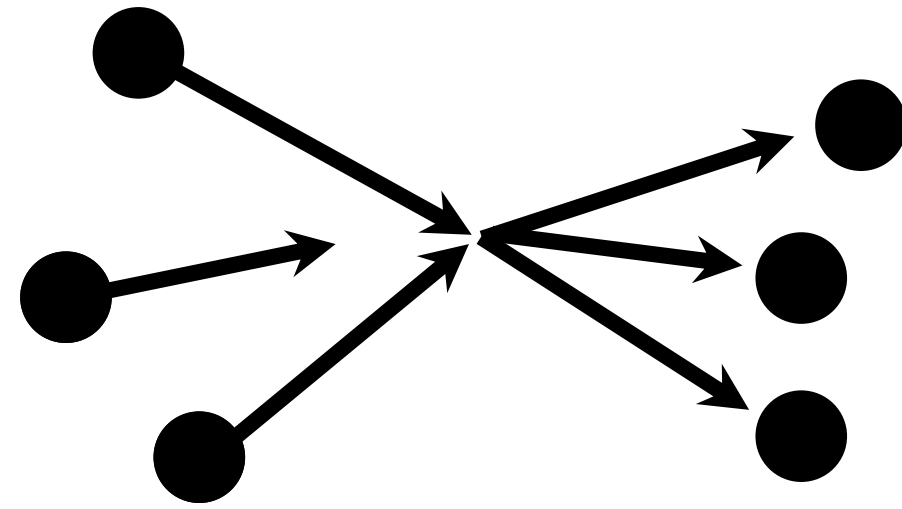
- unknown real functions



*EFTs can be understood as a subset of this*

# Arsenal of non-perturbative tools

## Scattering theory

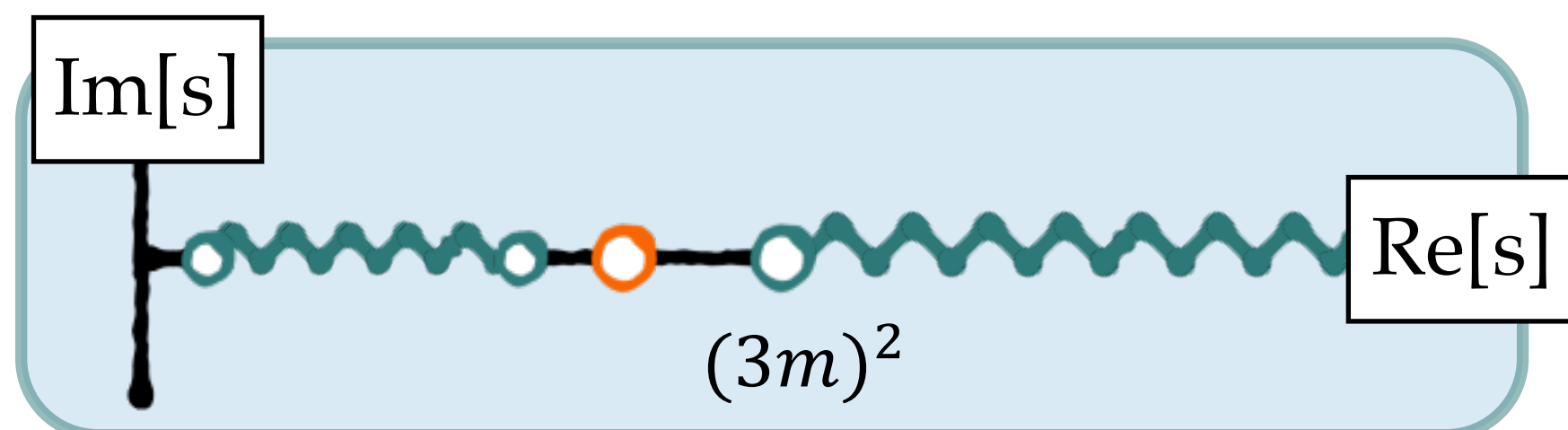


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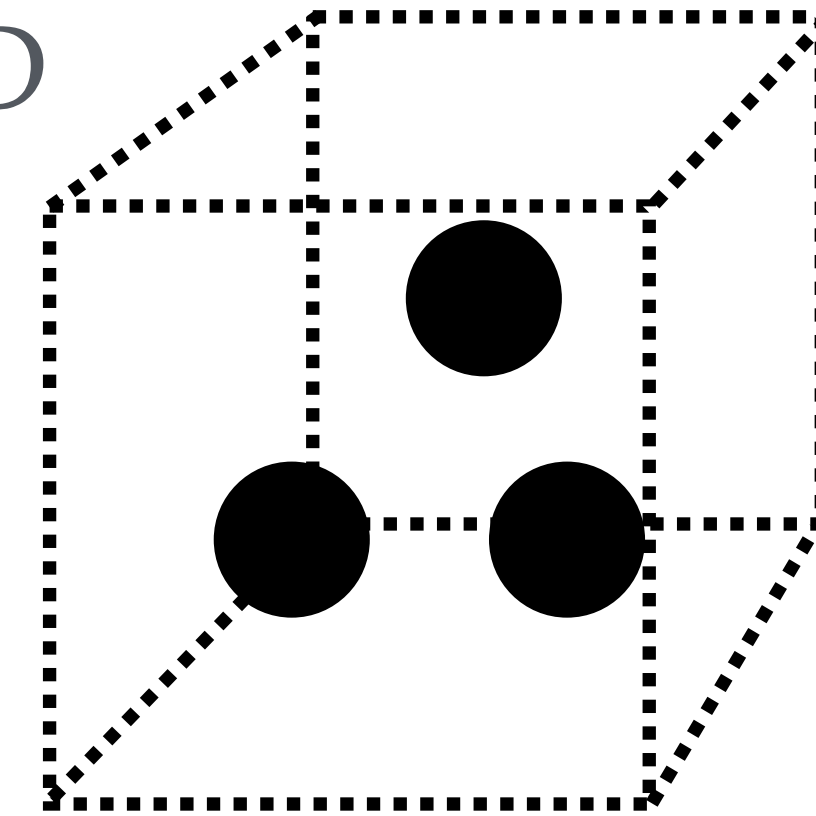
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## Lattice QCD

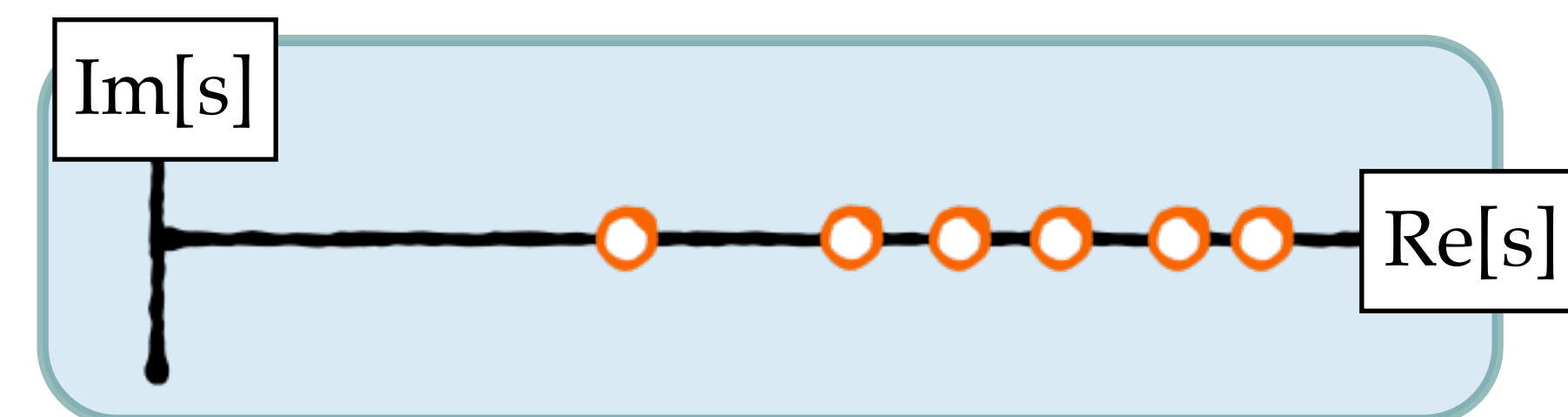


### Benefits

- treats dynamics exactly,

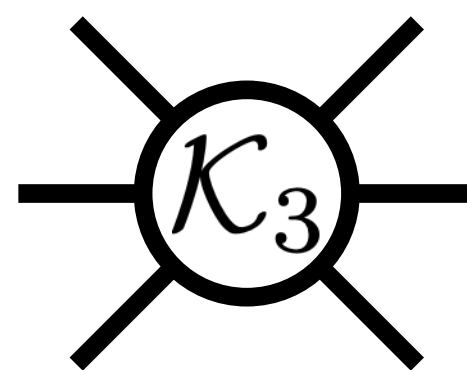
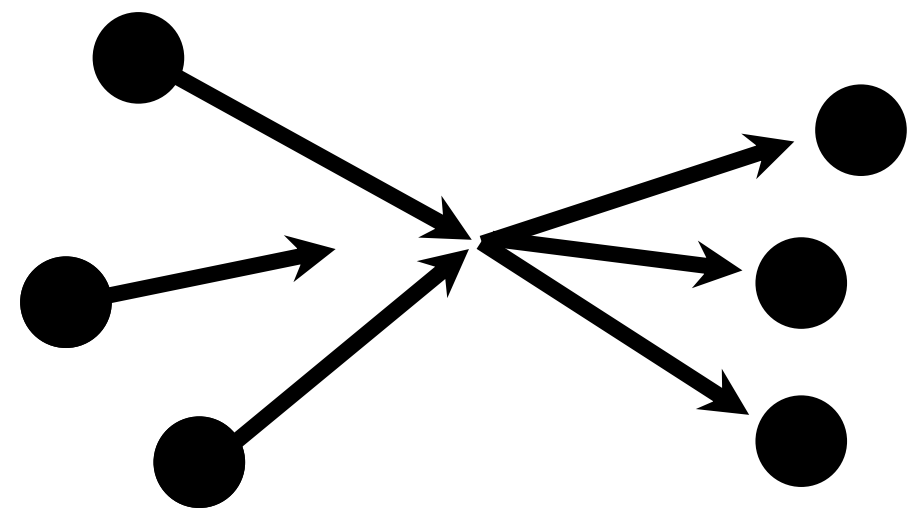
### Limitations

- computationally costly
- finite Euclidean spacetime
- no asymptotic states



# Arsenal of non-perturbative tools

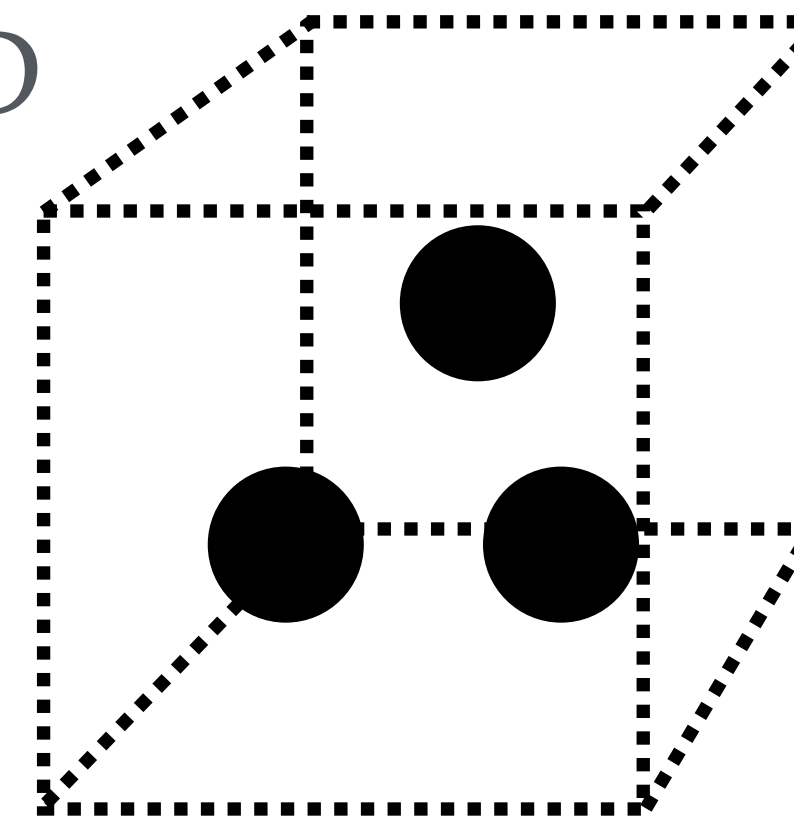
Scattering theory



short-distance dynamics



Lattice QCD



nearly a continuum of references:

Rusetsky & Polejaeva(2012)

RB & Davoudi (2012)

Hansen & Sharpe (2014+)

RB, Hansen, Sharpe, ... ( 2017+)

Mai & Doring (2017)

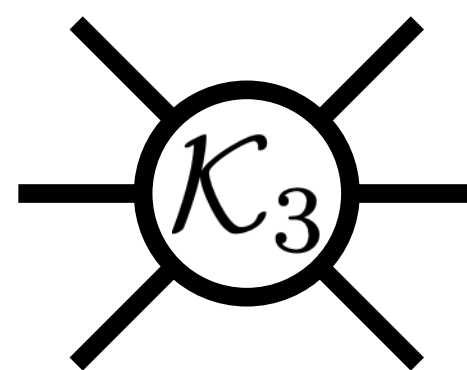
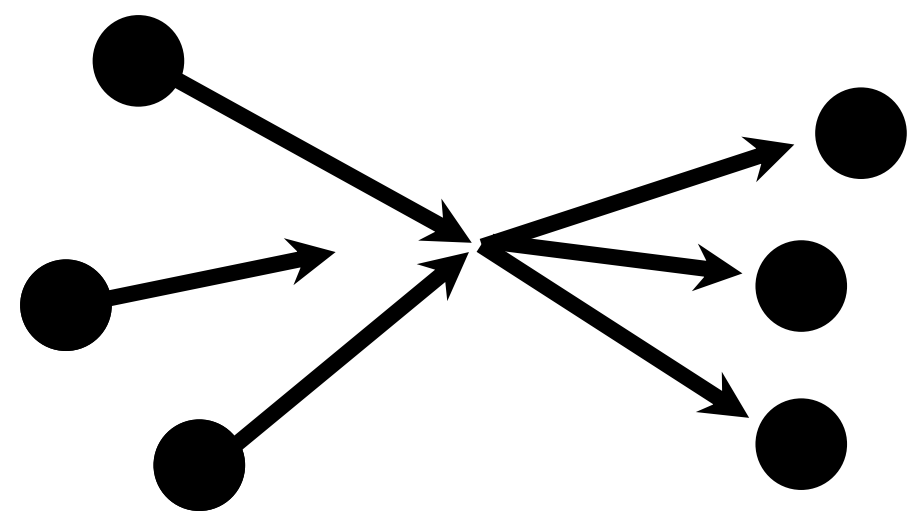
...

Jackura & RB (2023)

RB, Jackura & Costa (to appear)

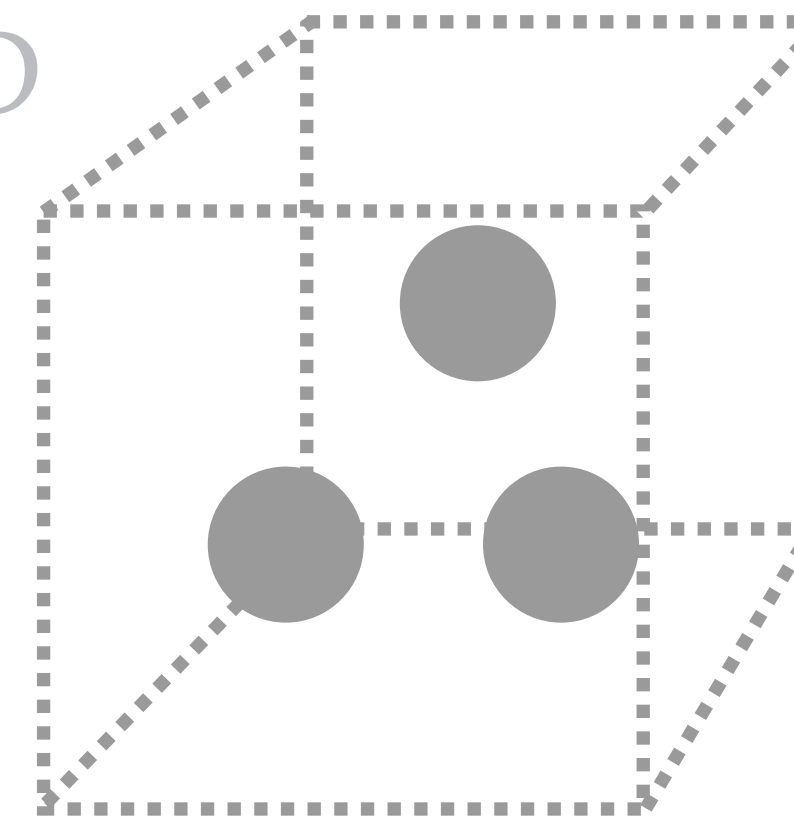
# Arsenal of non-perturbative tools

Scattering theory



short-distance dynamics

Lattice QCD



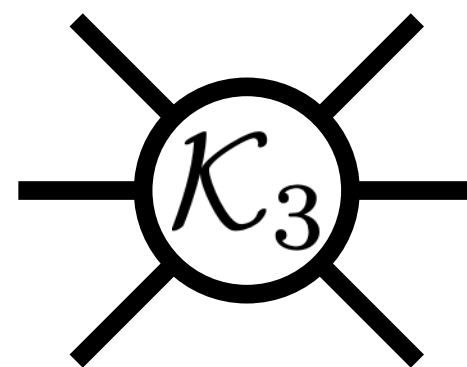
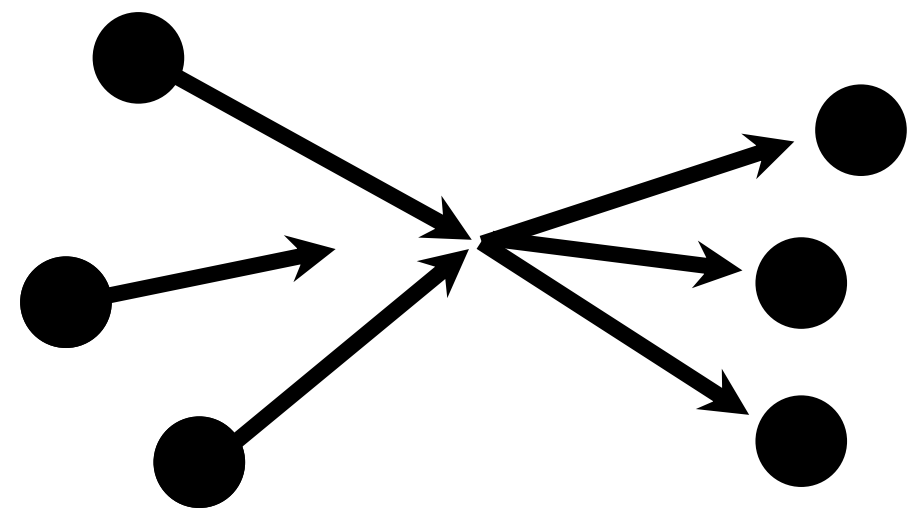
$$i\mathcal{M}_3 = \text{diagram} + \dots$$

$$G \sim \frac{1}{(P - p - k)^2 - m^2}$$



# Arsenal of non-perturbative tools

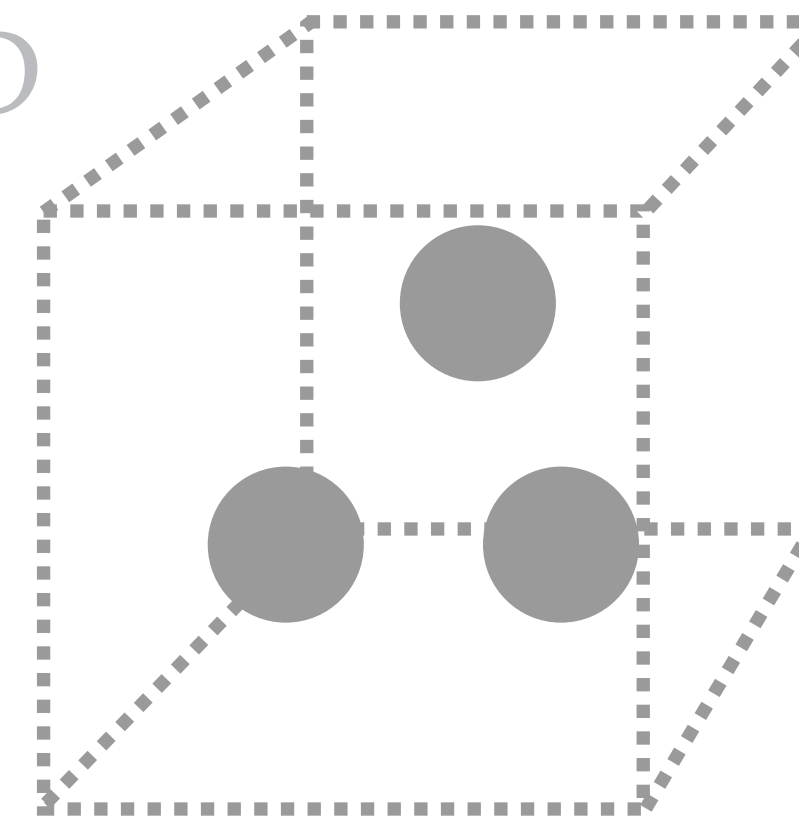
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Lattice QCD



$$i\mathcal{M}_3 = \text{[diagram 1]} + \text{[diagram 2]} + \text{[diagram 3]} + \dots$$

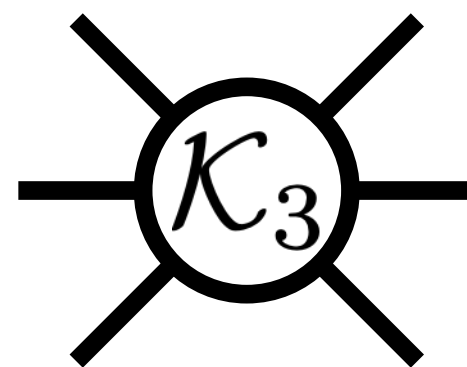
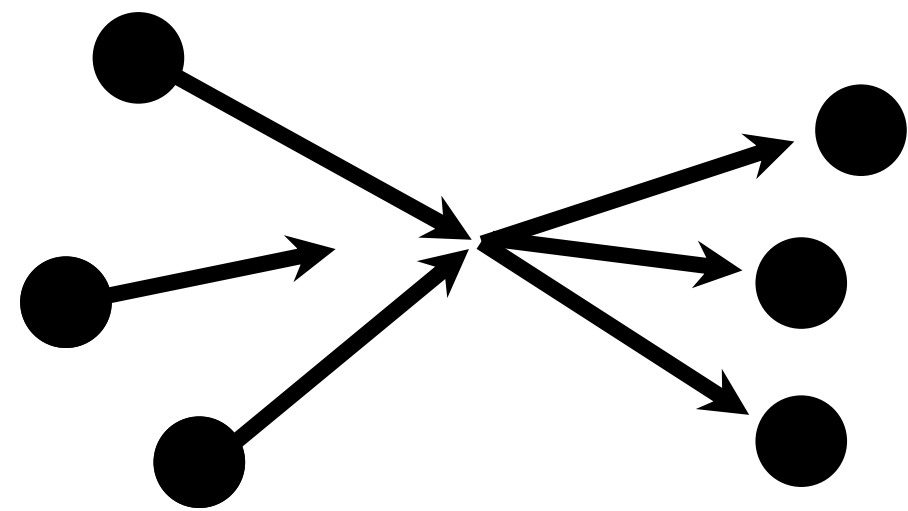
satisfies an integral equation

Where  $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{M}_2 d \mathcal{M}_2$  and

$$d = -G - \int G \mathcal{M}_2 d$$

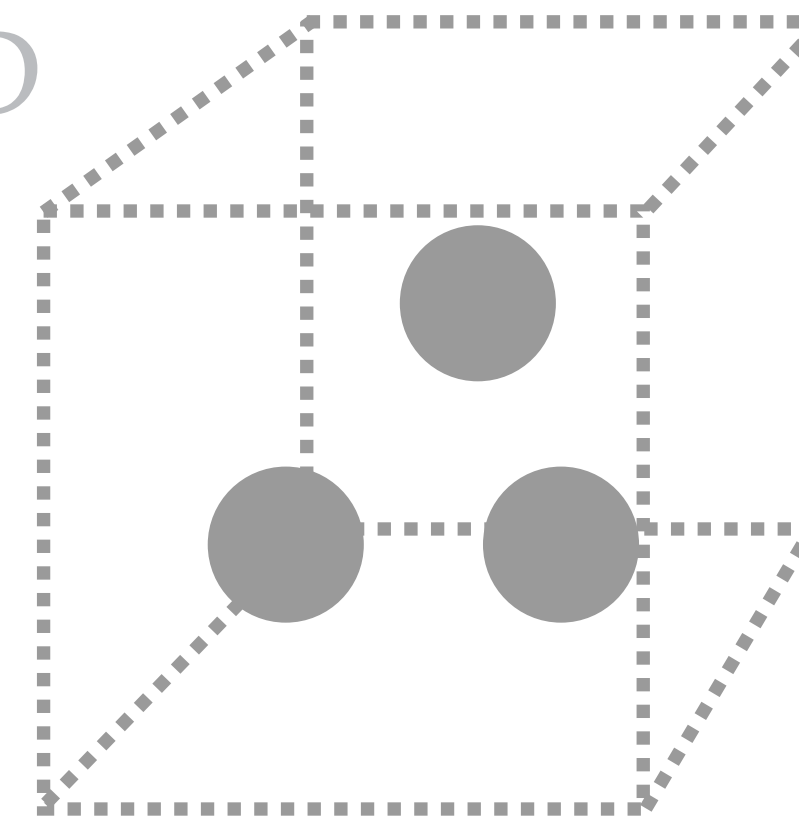
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Scattering theory



short-distance dynamics

Lattice QCD



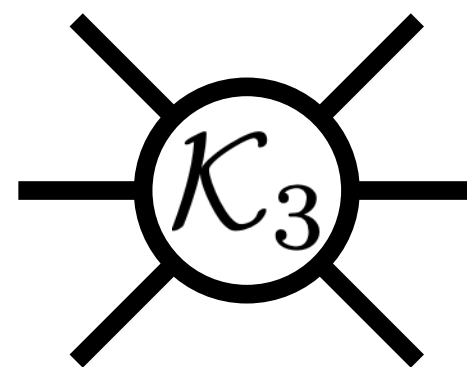
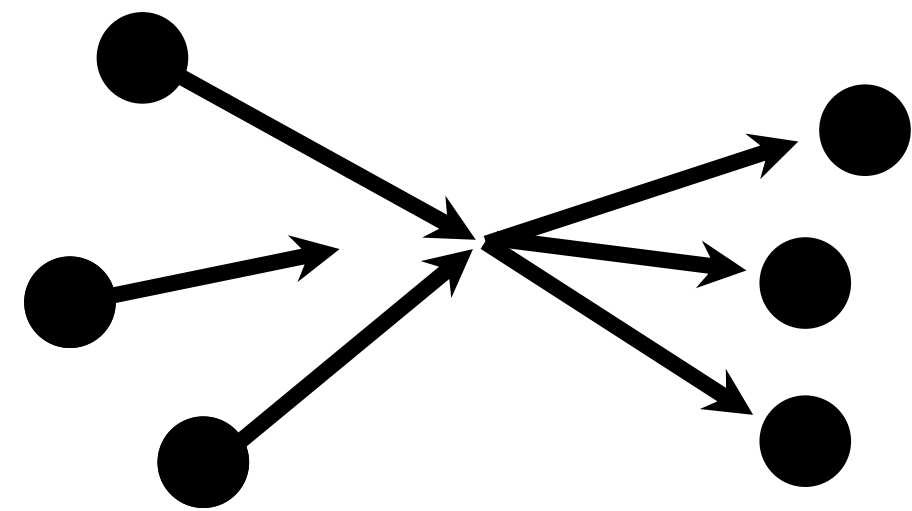
$$i\mathcal{M}_3 = \text{[diagram 1]} + \text{[diagram 2]} + \text{[diagram 3]} + \dots + \text{[diagram 4]} + \dots$$

The equation shows the expansion of the scattering amplitude  $i\mathcal{M}_3$  as a sum of diagrams. The first three diagrams are tree-level diagrams with three external legs and three internal vertices. The fourth diagram is a loop diagram with a white circle containing  $\mathcal{K}_3$  and a loop of two particles. Ellipses indicate higher-order terms in the expansion.

$\mathcal{K}_3$  real and non-singular

# Arsenal of non-perturbative tools

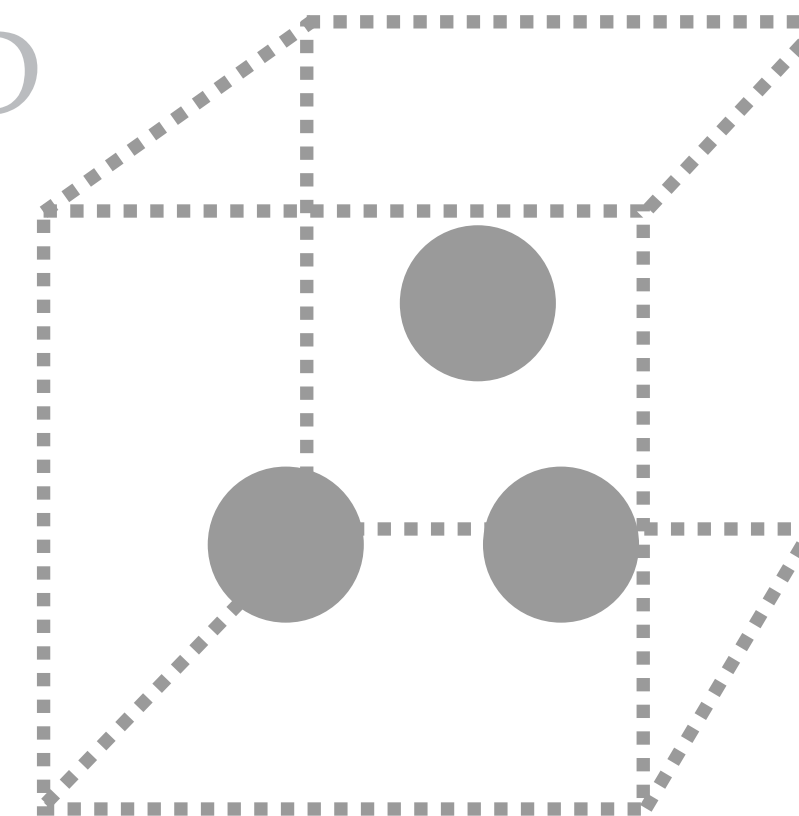
Scattering theory



short-distance dynamics



Lattice QCD



$$i\mathcal{M}_3 = \text{[diagram 1]} + \text{[diagram 2]} + \text{[diagram 3]} + \dots + \text{[diagram 4]} + \dots$$

$$= i\mathcal{D} + i\mathcal{L}[\mathcal{D}] \cdot \mathcal{F}[\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{K}_3] \cdot \mathcal{R}[\mathcal{D}]$$

# Integral equations

We need to solve:

$$d(\mathbf{p}', s, \mathbf{p}) = -G(\mathbf{p}', s, \mathbf{p}) - \int_0^{q_{\max}} \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_q} G(\mathbf{p}', s, \mathbf{q}) \mathcal{M}_2(q, s) d(\mathbf{q}, s, \mathbf{p})$$

**Need to resort to numerical solutions.**

“integration kernel”

# Integral equations

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$$d(\mathbf{p}', s, \mathbf{p}) = -G(\mathbf{p}', s, \mathbf{p}) - \int_0^{q_{\max}} \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_q} G(\mathbf{p}', s, \mathbf{q}) \mathcal{M}_2(q, s) d(\mathbf{q}, s, \mathbf{p})$$

**Need to resort to numerical solutions.**

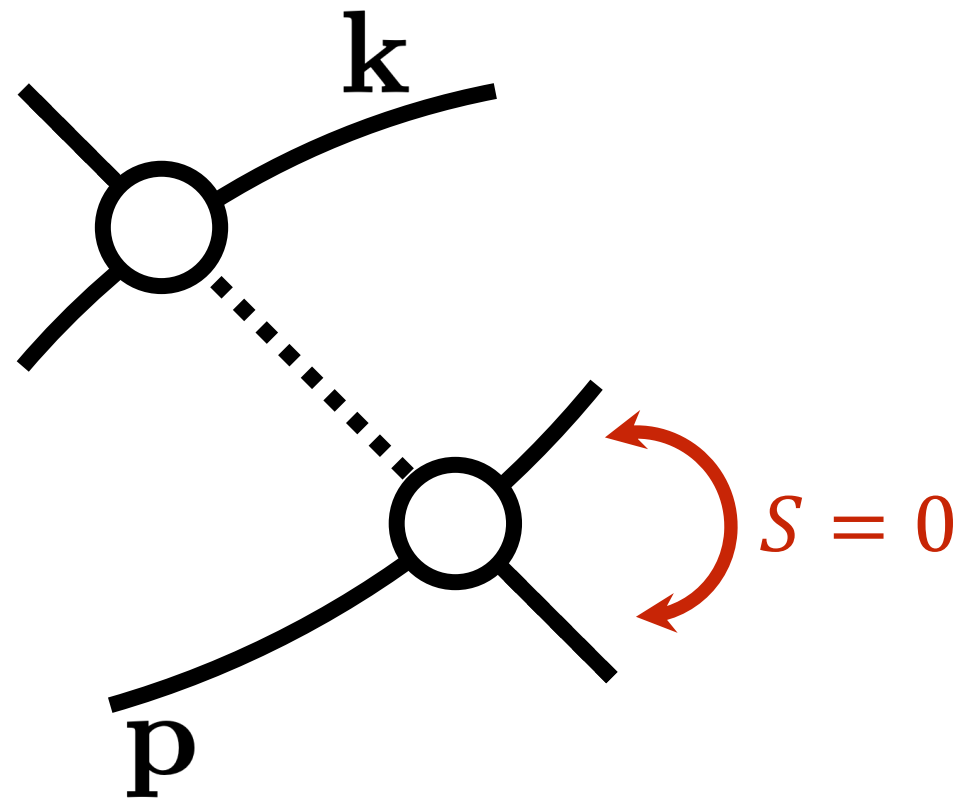
Three correlated challenges:

- ❑ 3D integral equation,
- ❑ need to project to **angular momentum and parity**,
- ❑ integration kernel is generally singular.

# Partial wave projections

The one-particle exchange is one of the main sources of singularities.

Let us consider the case where  $S = 0$ :

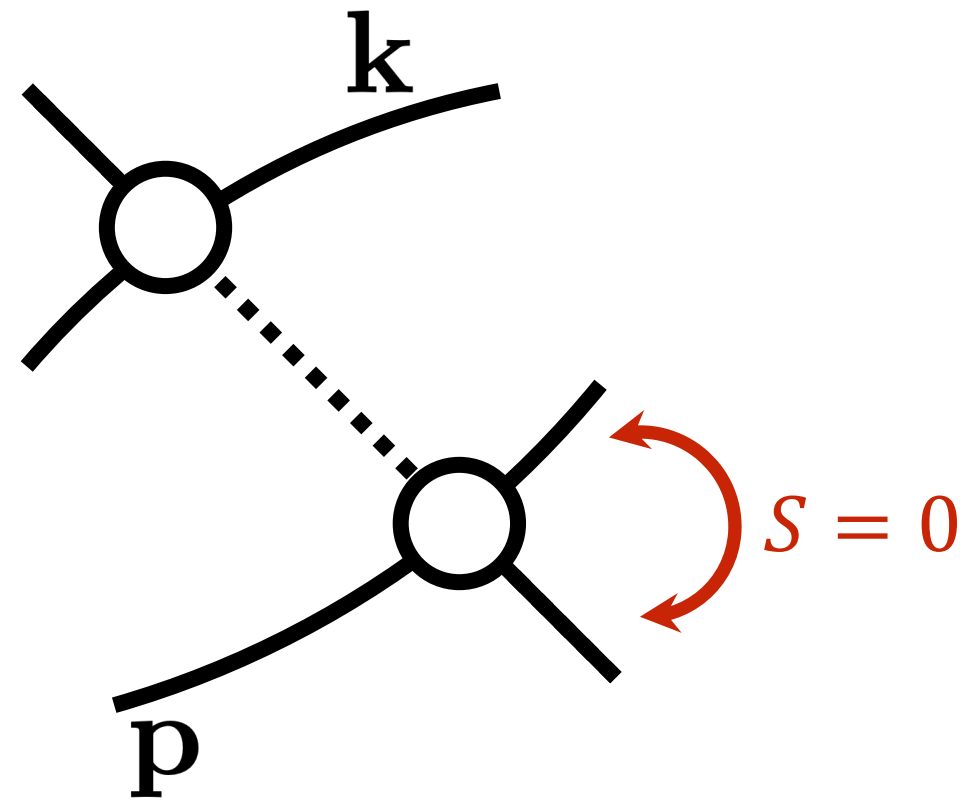


$$\begin{aligned} \sim G(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k}) &= \frac{1}{(E - \omega_k - \omega_p) - (\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{k})^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} \\ &= \frac{1}{(E - \omega_k - \omega_p) - k^2 - p^2 - m^2 - 2pk \cos \theta + i\epsilon} \end{aligned}$$

# Partial wave projections

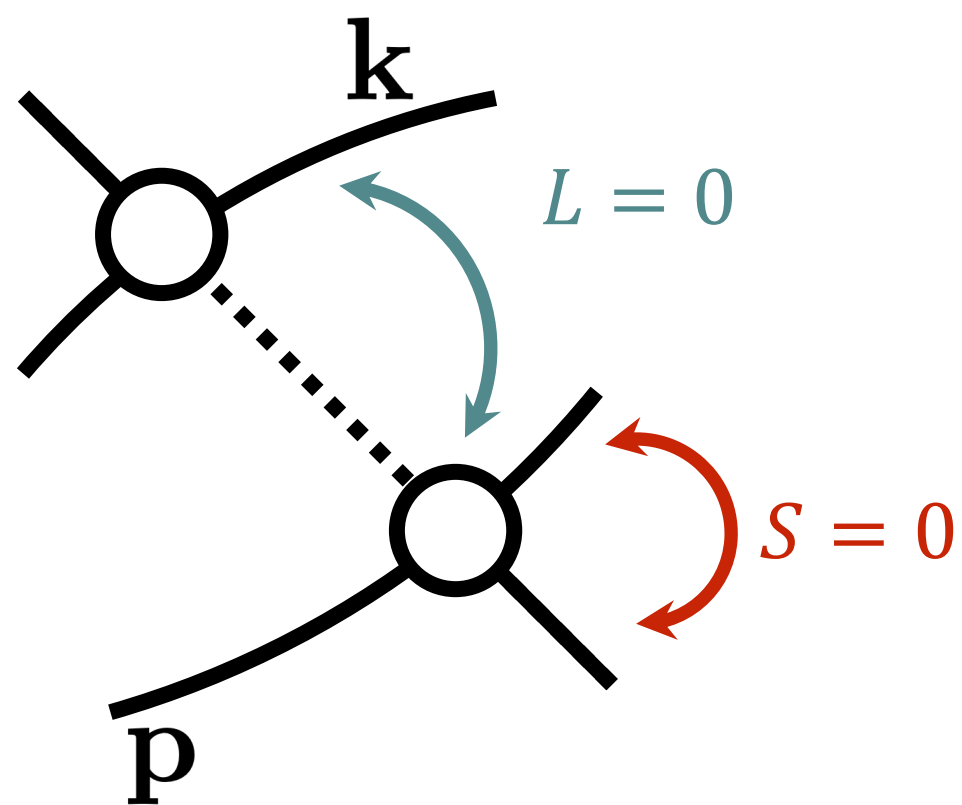
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Projecting to total  $J = 0$  amounts to integrating over all angles:

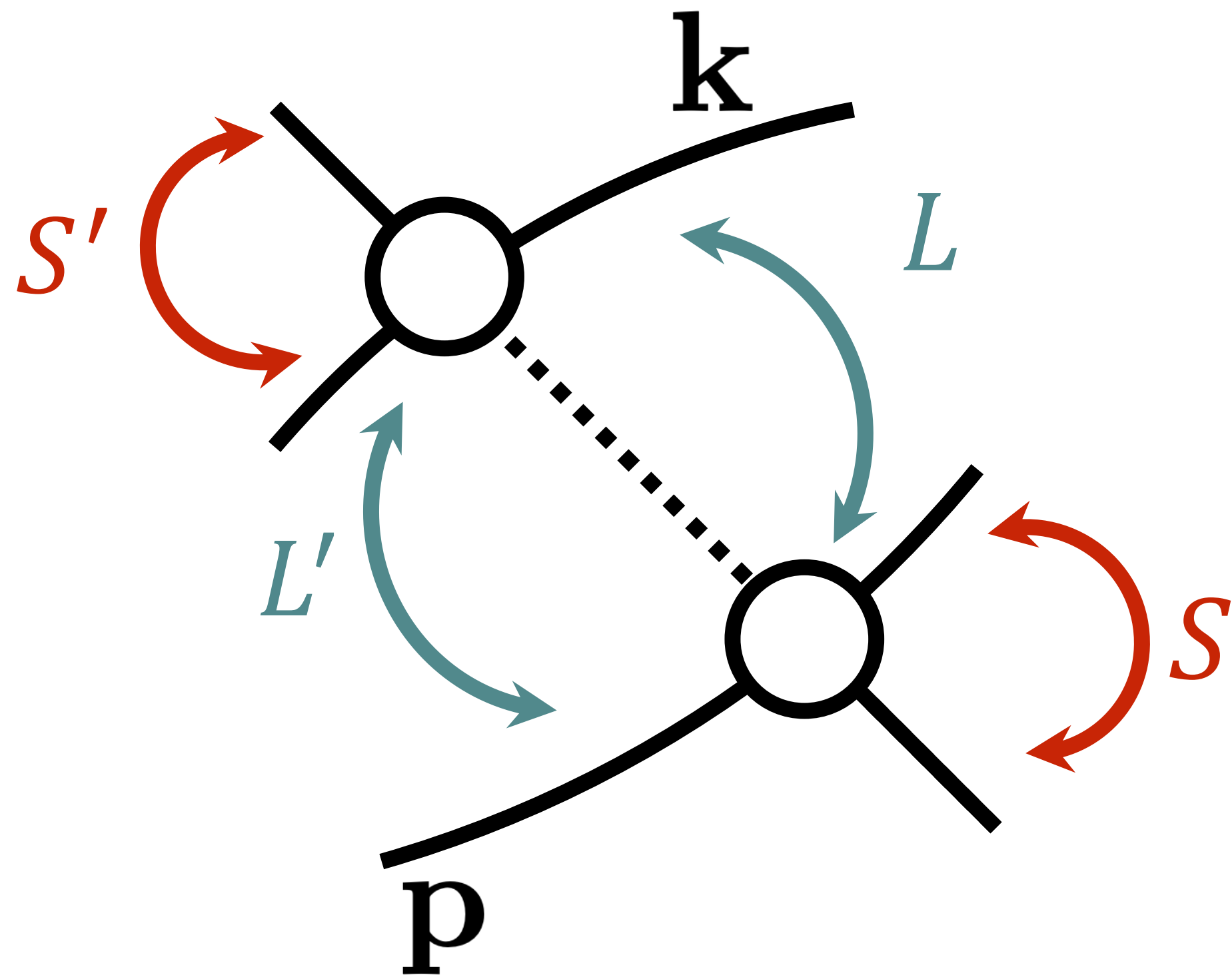


$$\sim G(p, k) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 d \cos \theta G(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k}) = -\frac{1}{4pk} \log \frac{z_{pk} - 1}{z_{pk} + 1}$$

$$z(p, k) = \frac{(E - \omega_k - \omega_p)^2 - k^2 - p^2 - m^2}{2pk}$$

# Partial wave projections

In general...



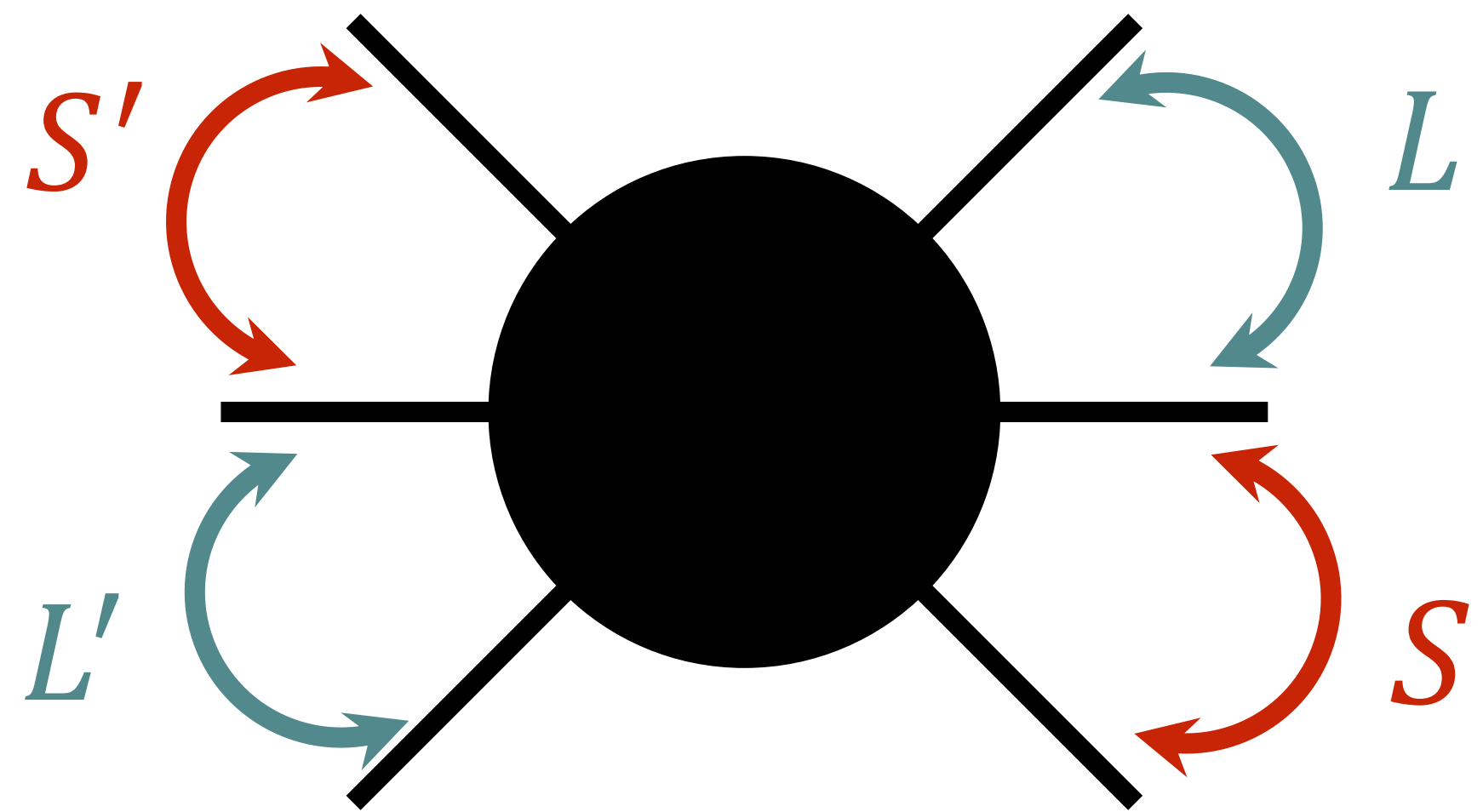
$$\left[ \mathcal{G}^{JP} \right]_{L'S',LS} = \underbrace{\left[ \mathcal{K}_G^{JP} \right]_{L'S',LS}}_{\text{known kinematic functions}} + \underbrace{\left[ \mathcal{T}^{JP} \right]_{L'S',LS}}_{\text{Legendre functions}} \underbrace{Q_0(\zeta_{pk})}_{\text{Legendre functions}}$$

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



# Partial wave projections

In general...


$$= i \left[ \mathcal{M}_3^{J^P} \right]_{L' S', L S}$$

S. R. Costa

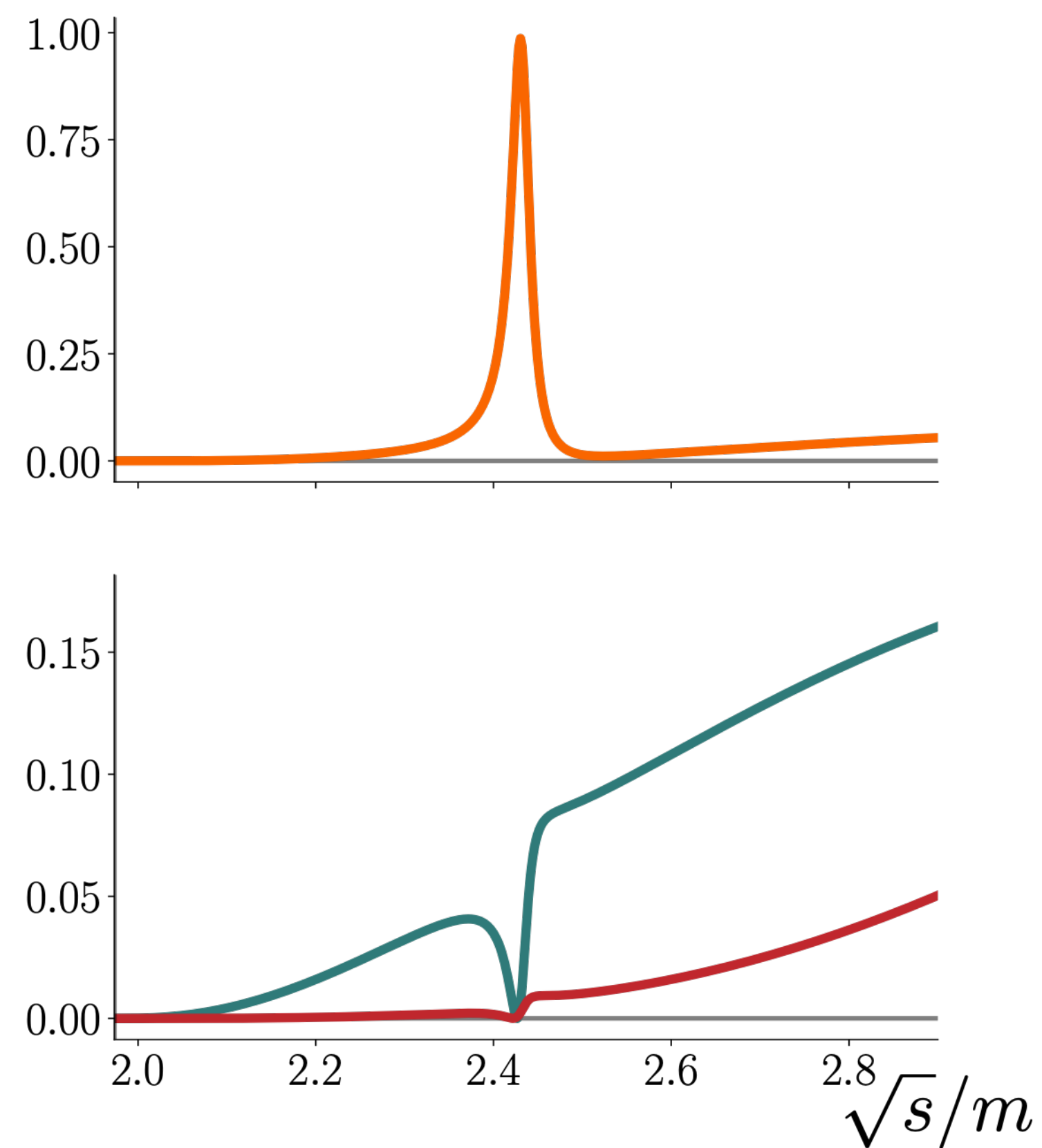


Jackura

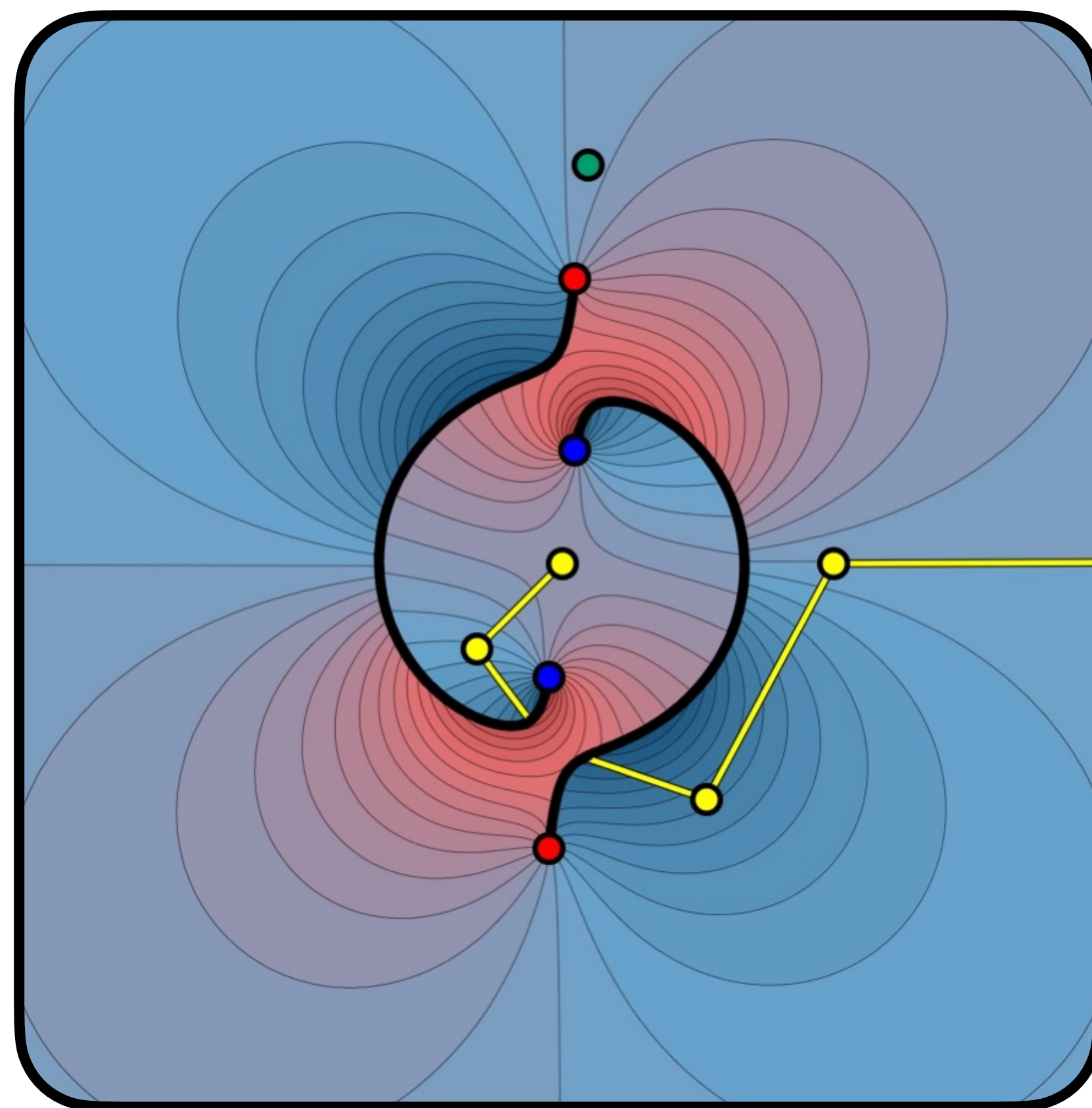


# Numerical tests

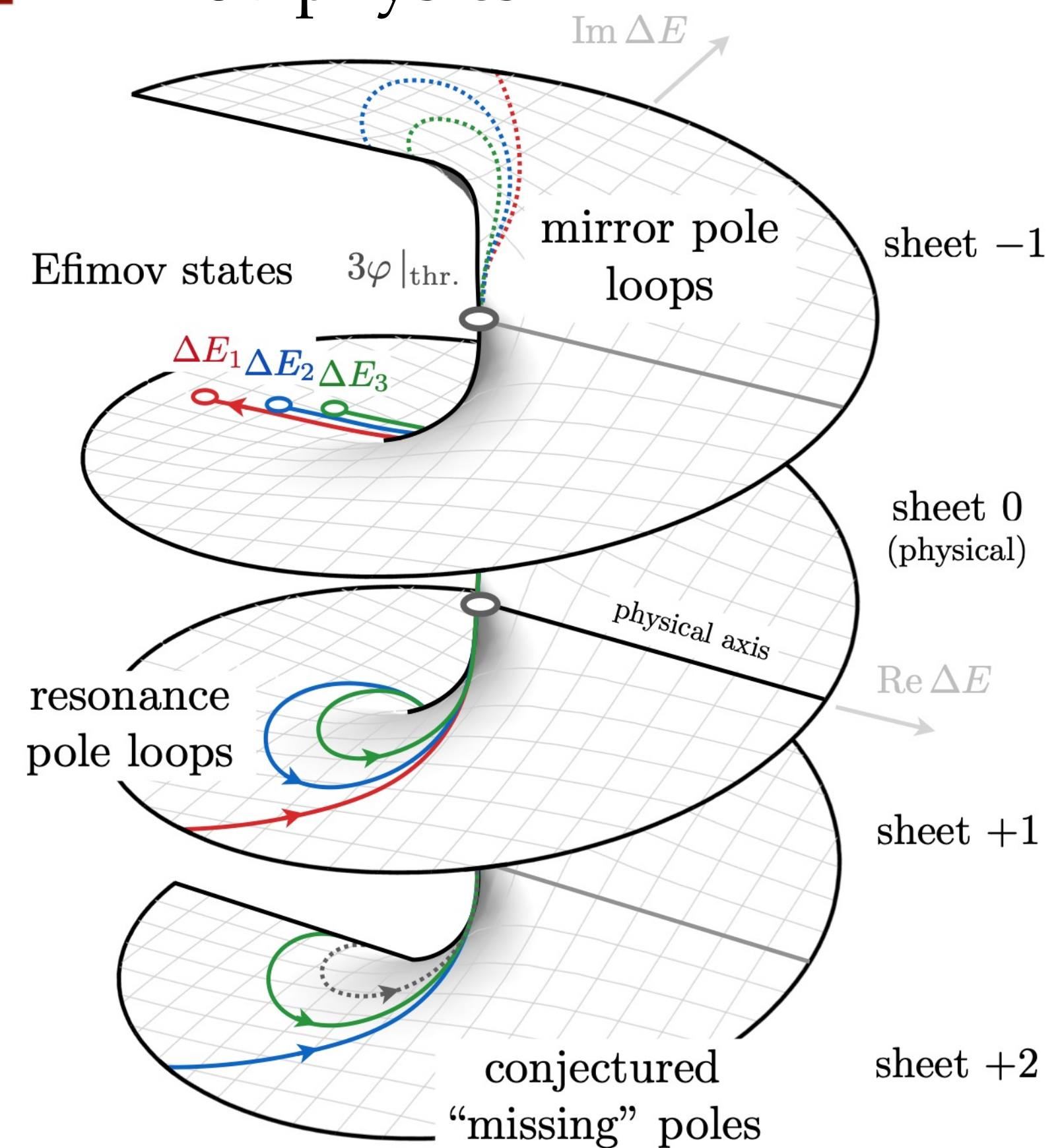
☑ unitarity



☑ analyticity



☑ Efimov physics



S. R. Costa

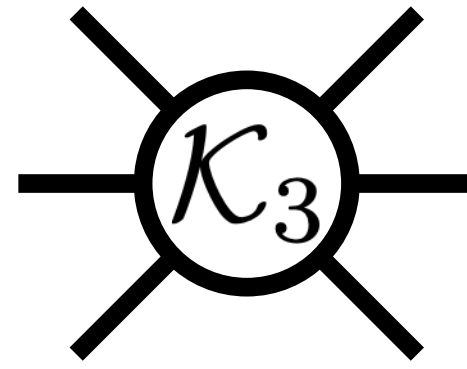
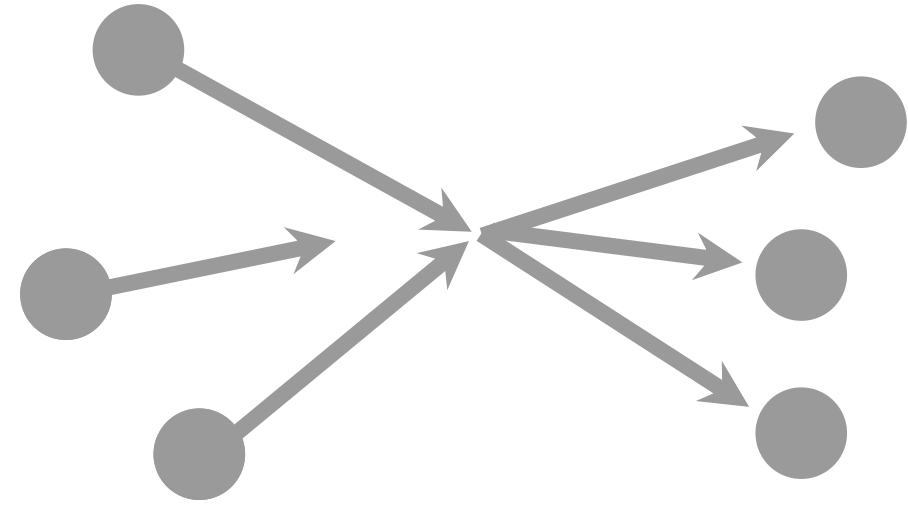
Jackura

Dawid

Islam

# Arsenal of non-perturbative tools

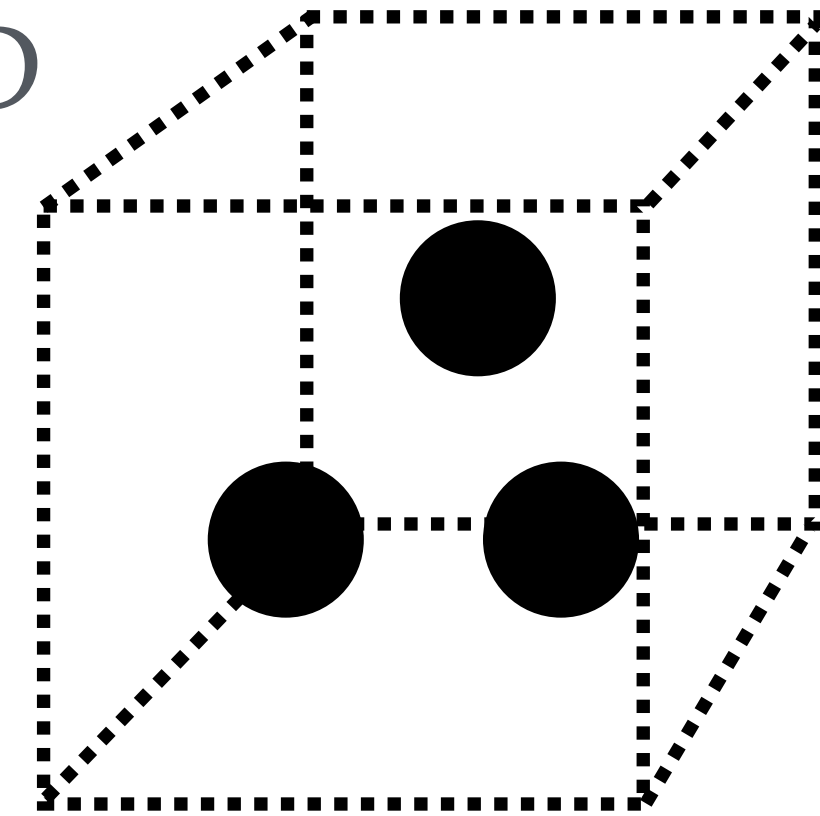
Scattering theory



short-distance dynamics

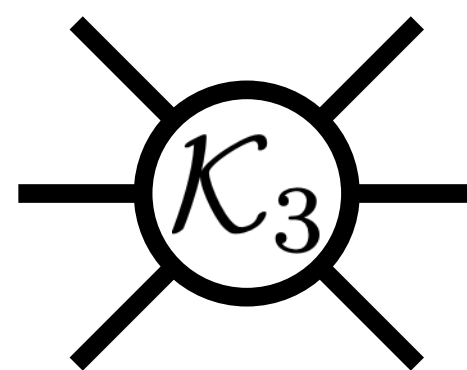
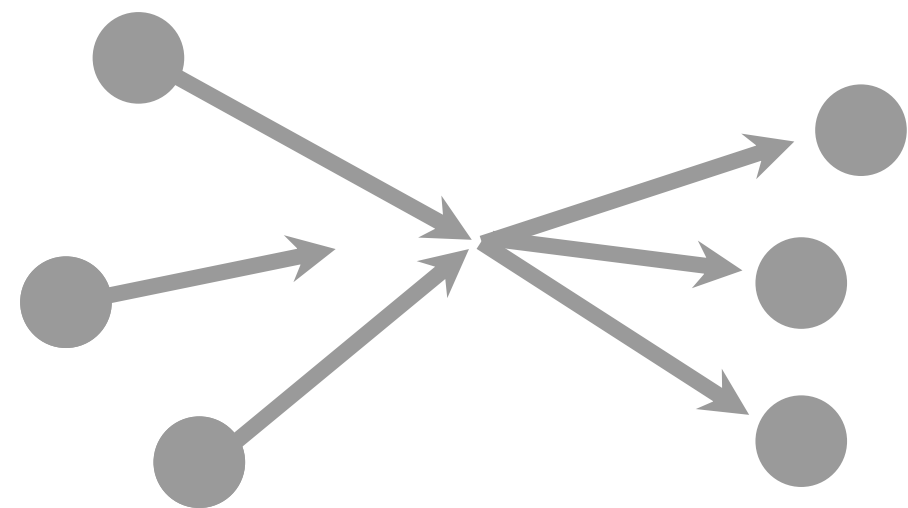


Lattice QCD



# Arsenal of non-perturbative tools

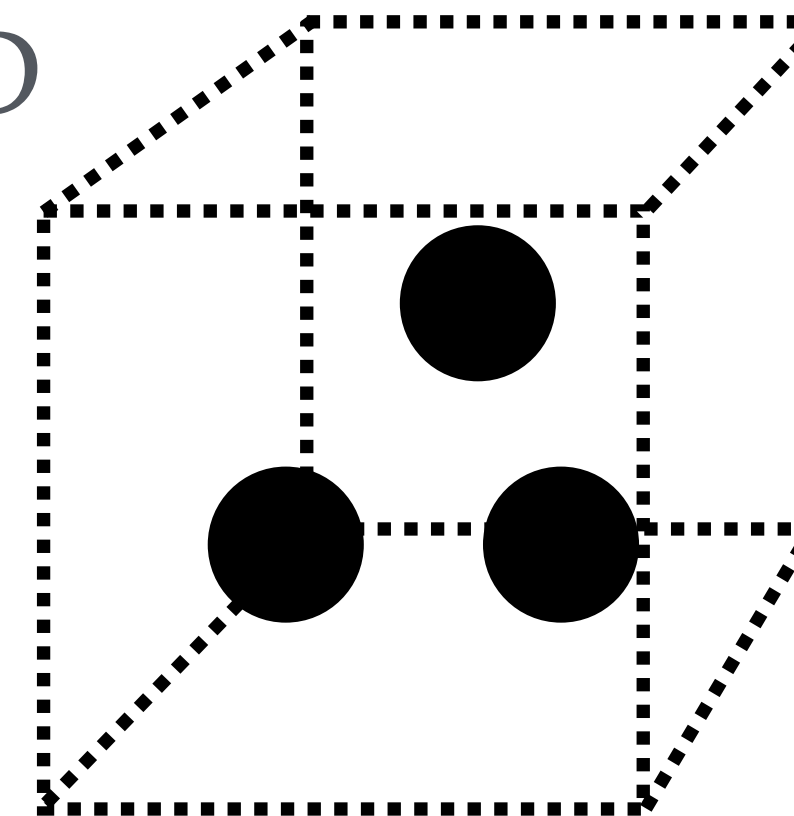
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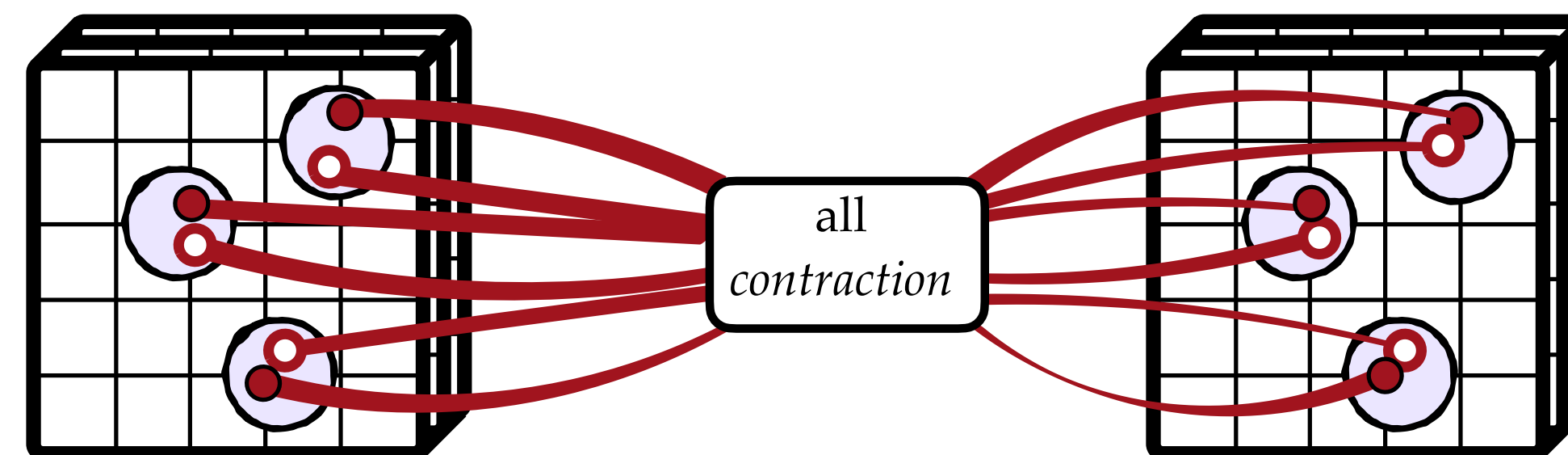


Lattice QCD



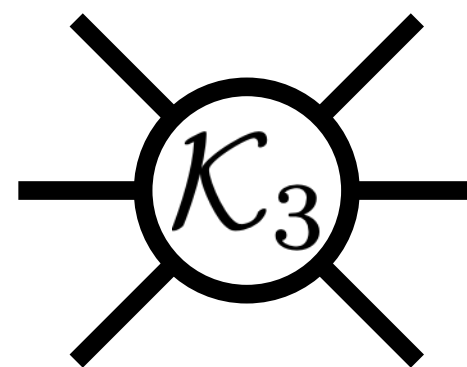
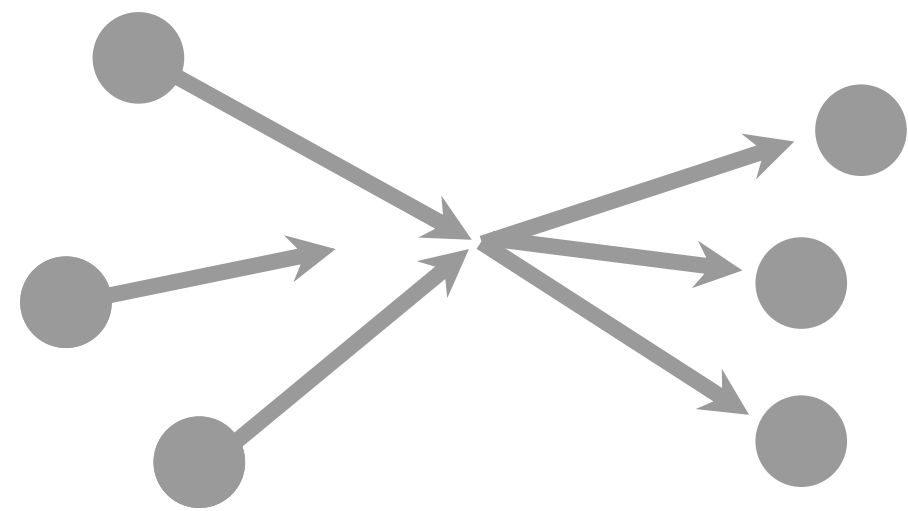
✓ Two point correlation functions:

$$C(t) = \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle = \sum_n c_n e^{-E_n t} =$$



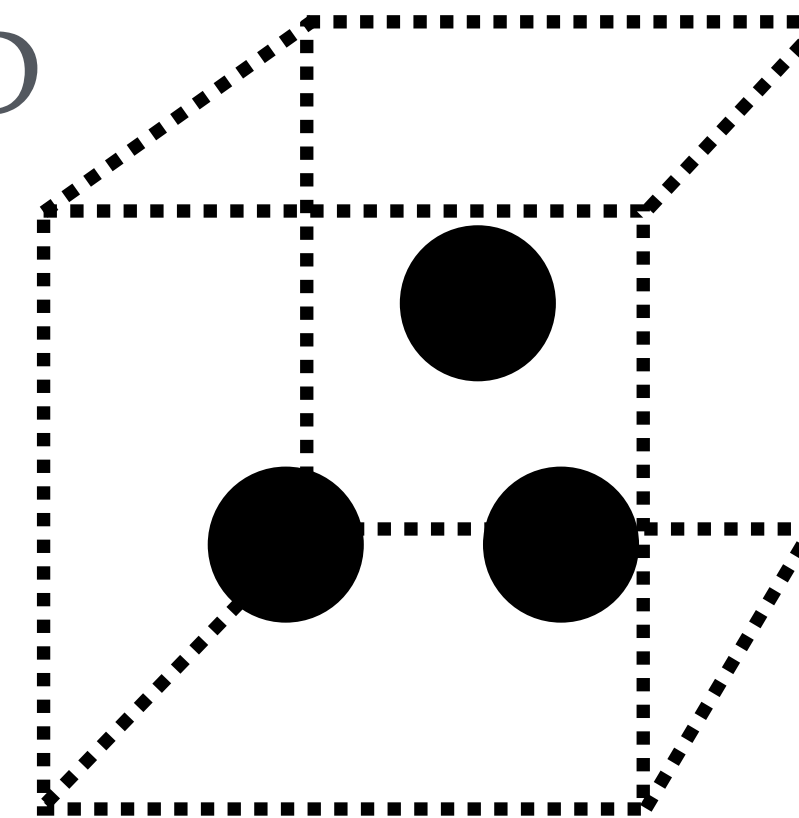
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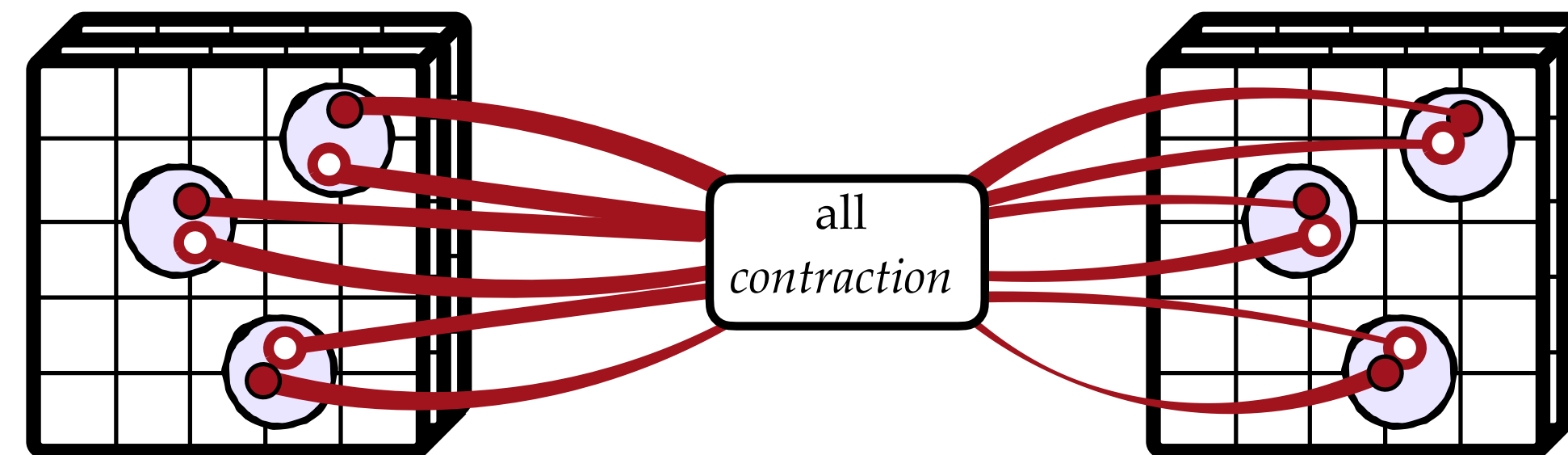
short-distance dynamics

Lattice QCD



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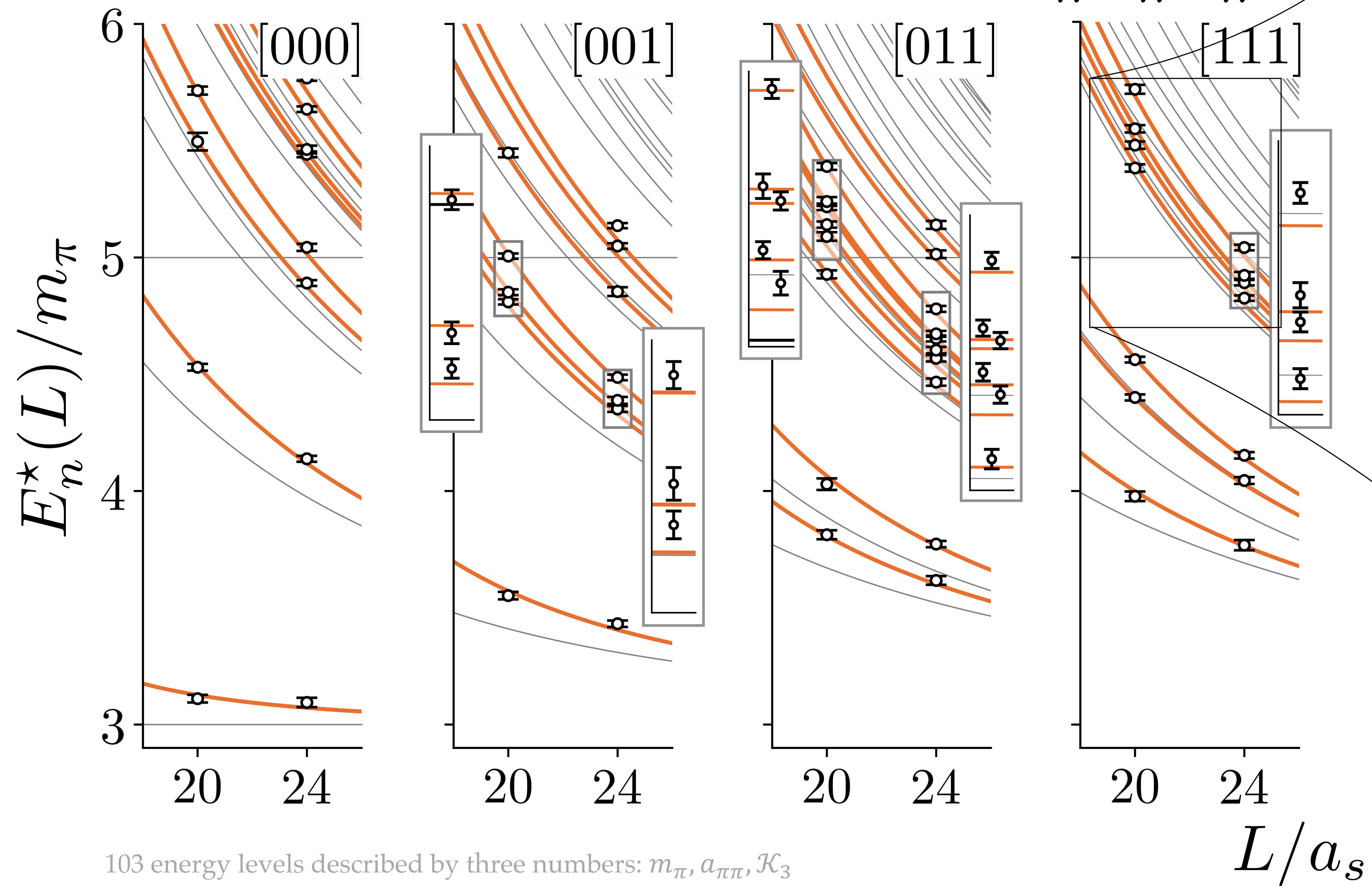
- ✓ The energy of three *identical spinless bosons* in a box satisfies:

$$F_3^{-1}(P_n, L) + \mathcal{K}_3(P_n^2) = 0 + \mathcal{O}(e^{-mL})$$

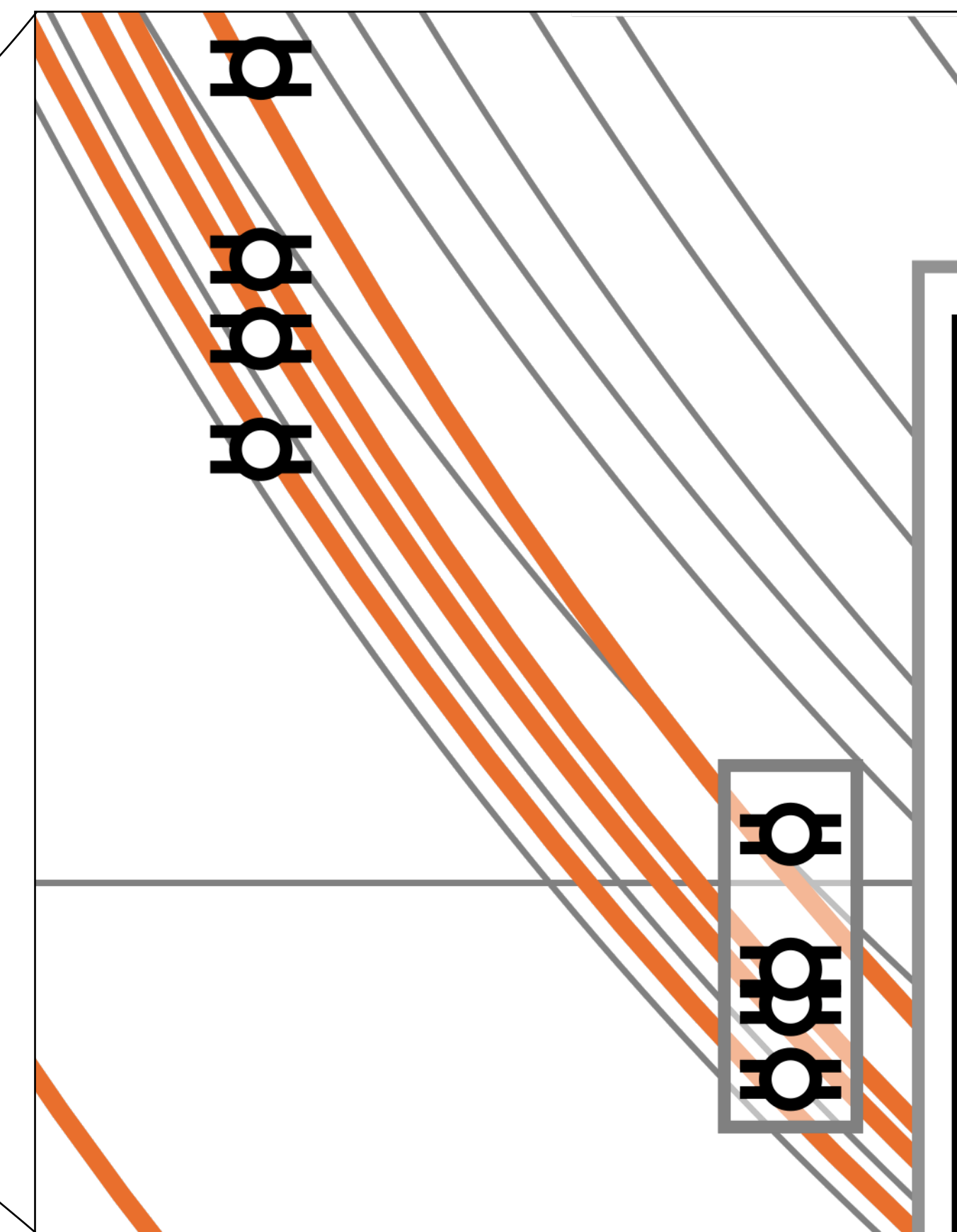
[up to details I won't go into 🤓]

# $\pi\pi\pi$

( $l=3$  channel,  $m_\pi \sim 390\text{MeV}$ )



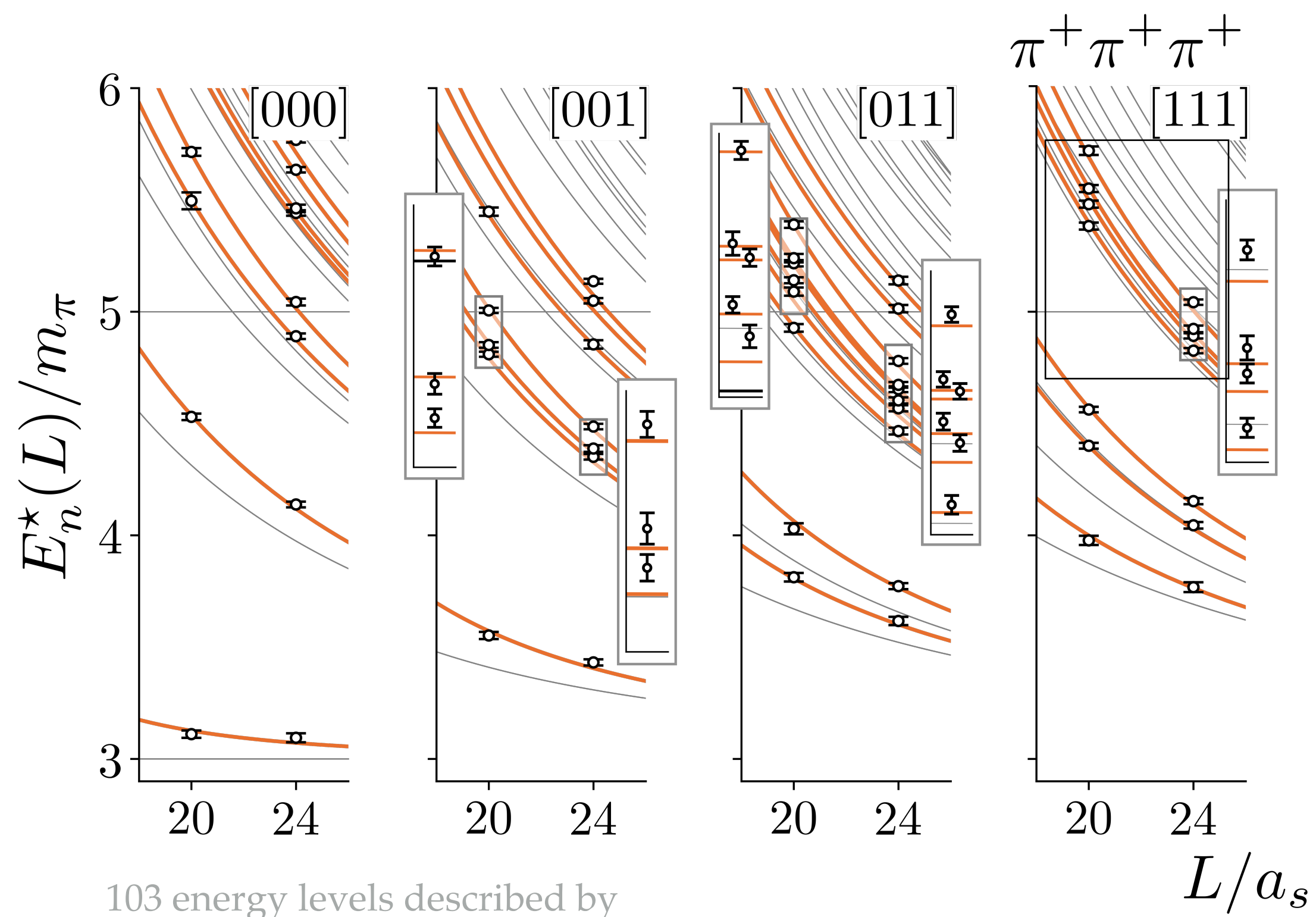
$\pi^+\pi^+\pi^+$



103 energy levels described by three numbers:  $m_\pi, a_{\pi\pi}, \mathcal{K}_3$

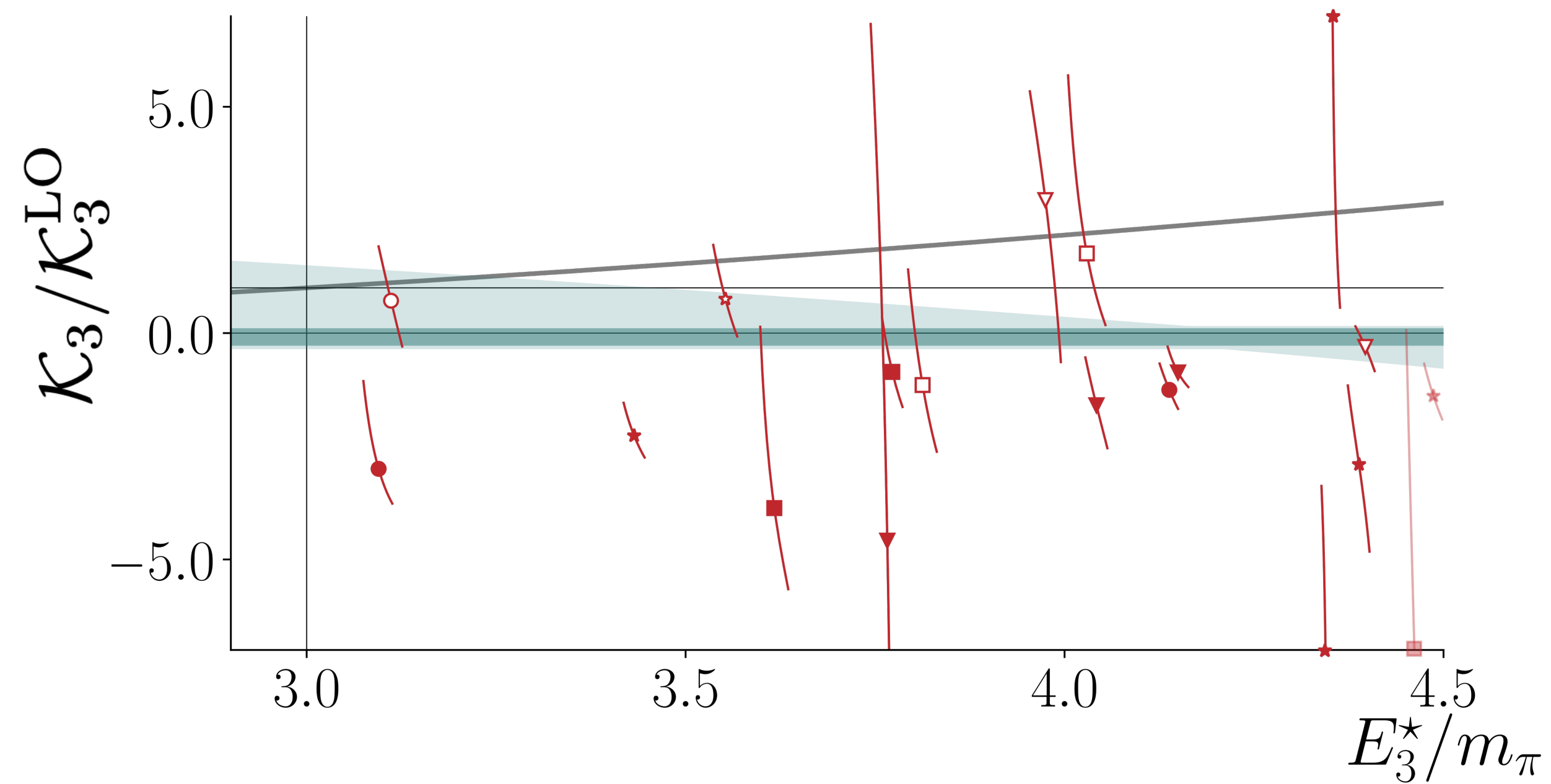
# $\pi\pi\pi$

( $l=3$  channel,  $m_\pi \sim 390\text{MeV}$ )



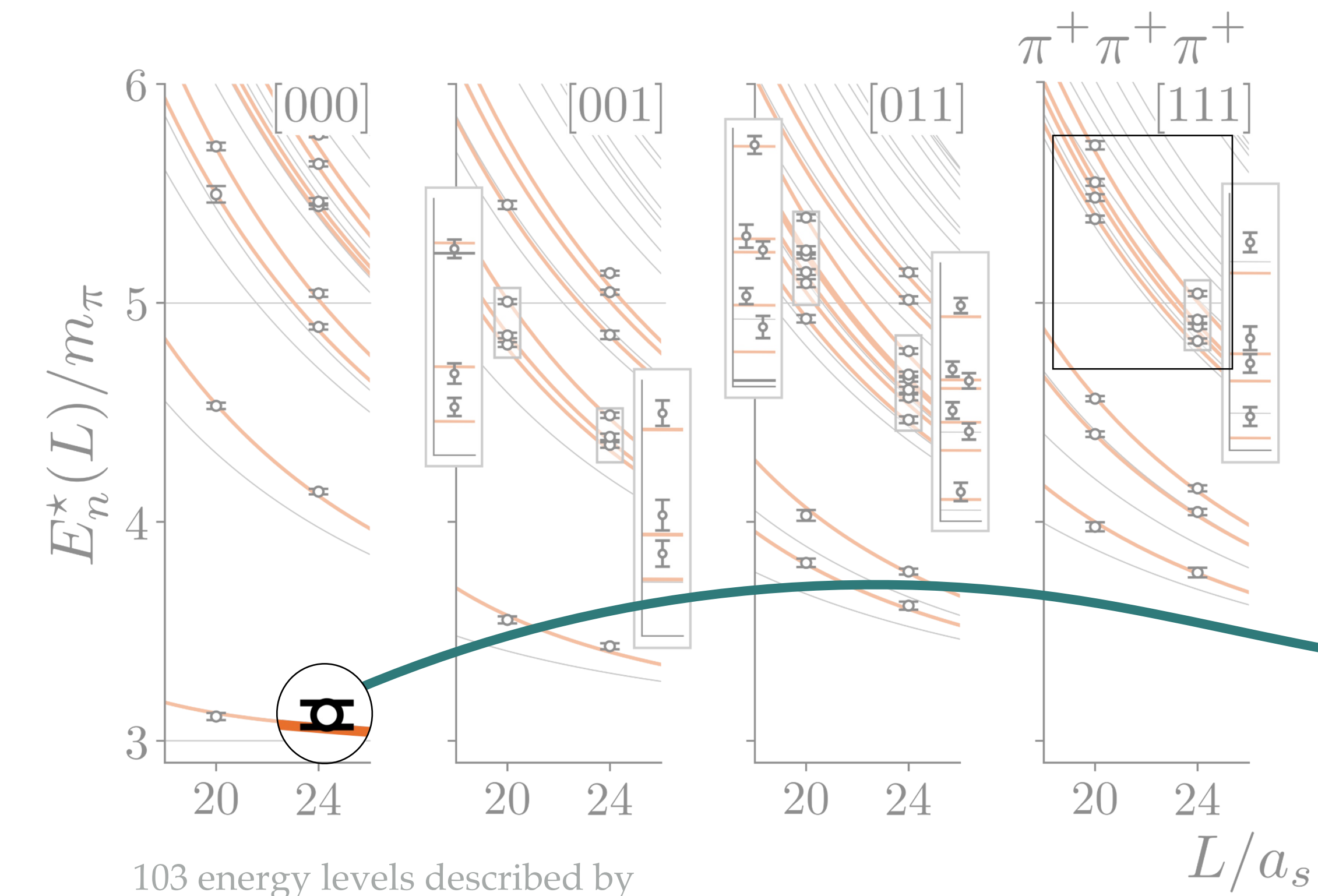
103 energy levels described by  
three numbers:  $m_\pi, a_{\pi\pi}, \mathcal{K}_3$

$$F_3^{-1}(P, L) + \mathcal{K}_3(P^2) = 0$$



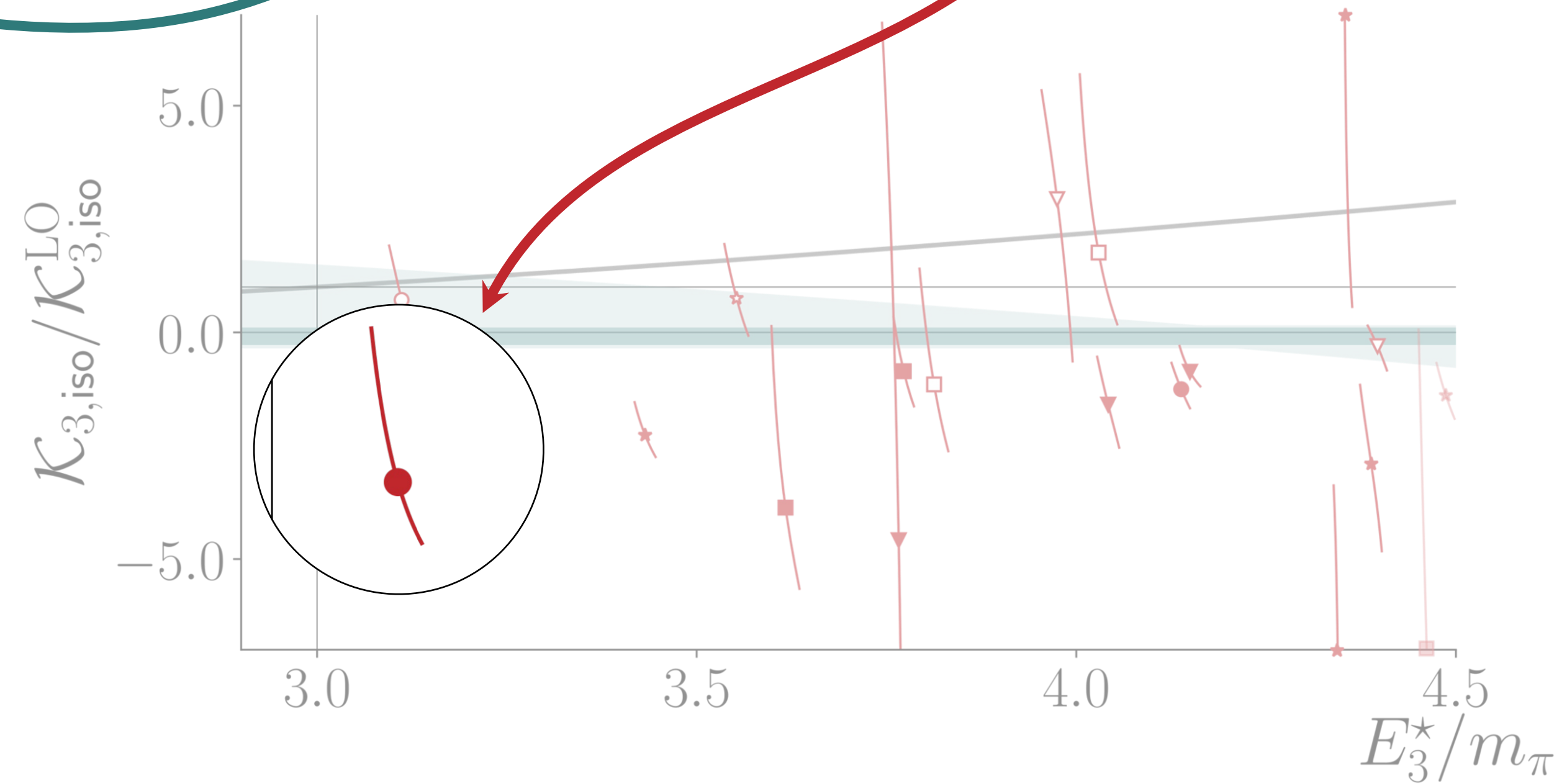
# $\pi\pi\pi$

( $l=3$  channel,  $m_\pi \sim 390\text{MeV}$ )



103 energy levels described by three numbers:  $m_\pi, a_{\pi\pi}, \mathcal{K}_3$

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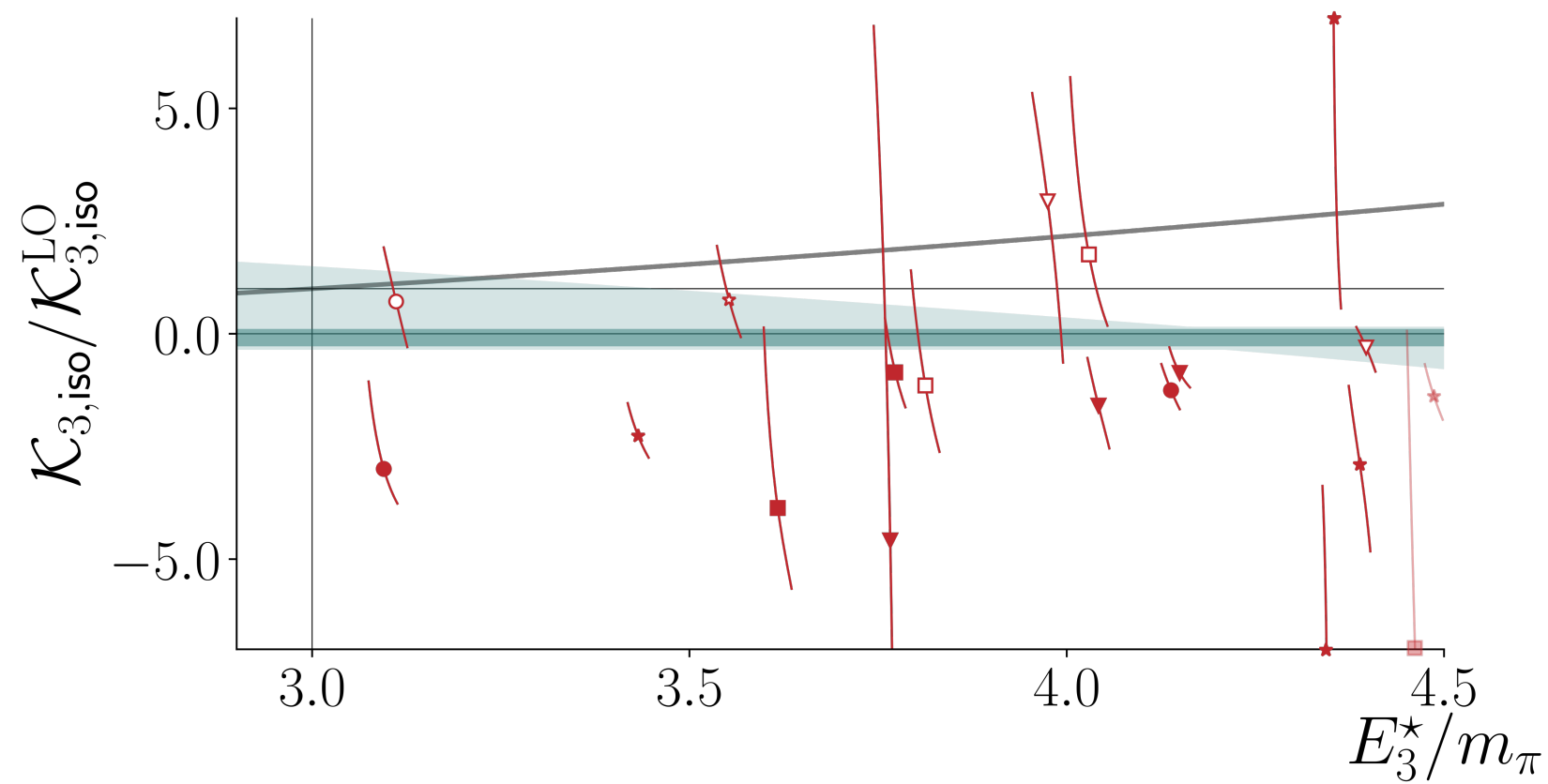




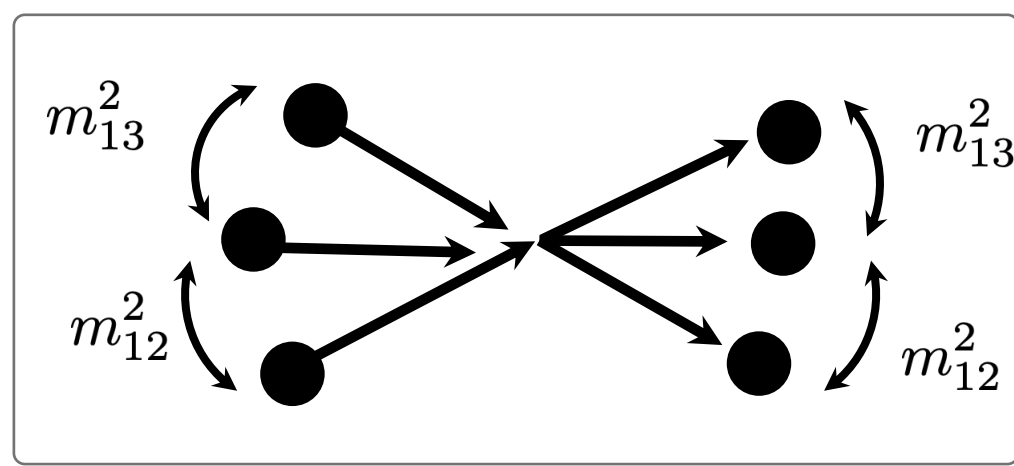
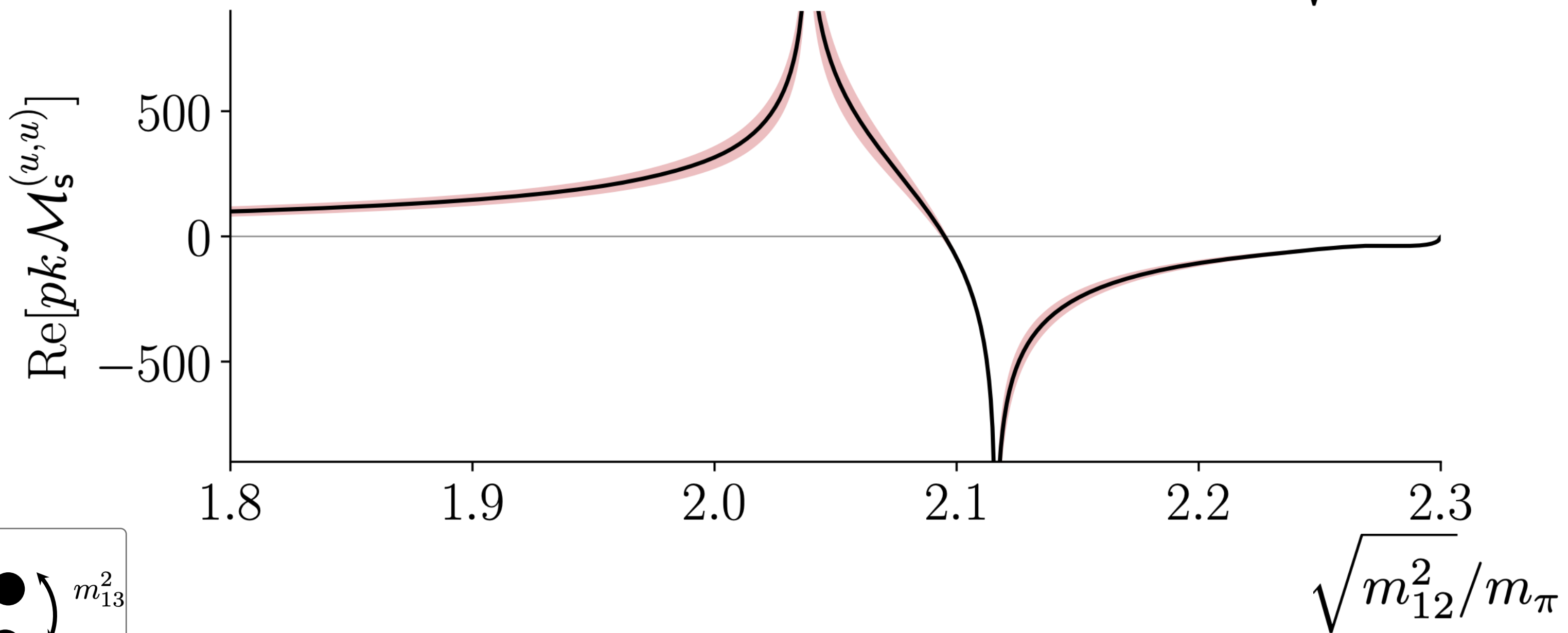
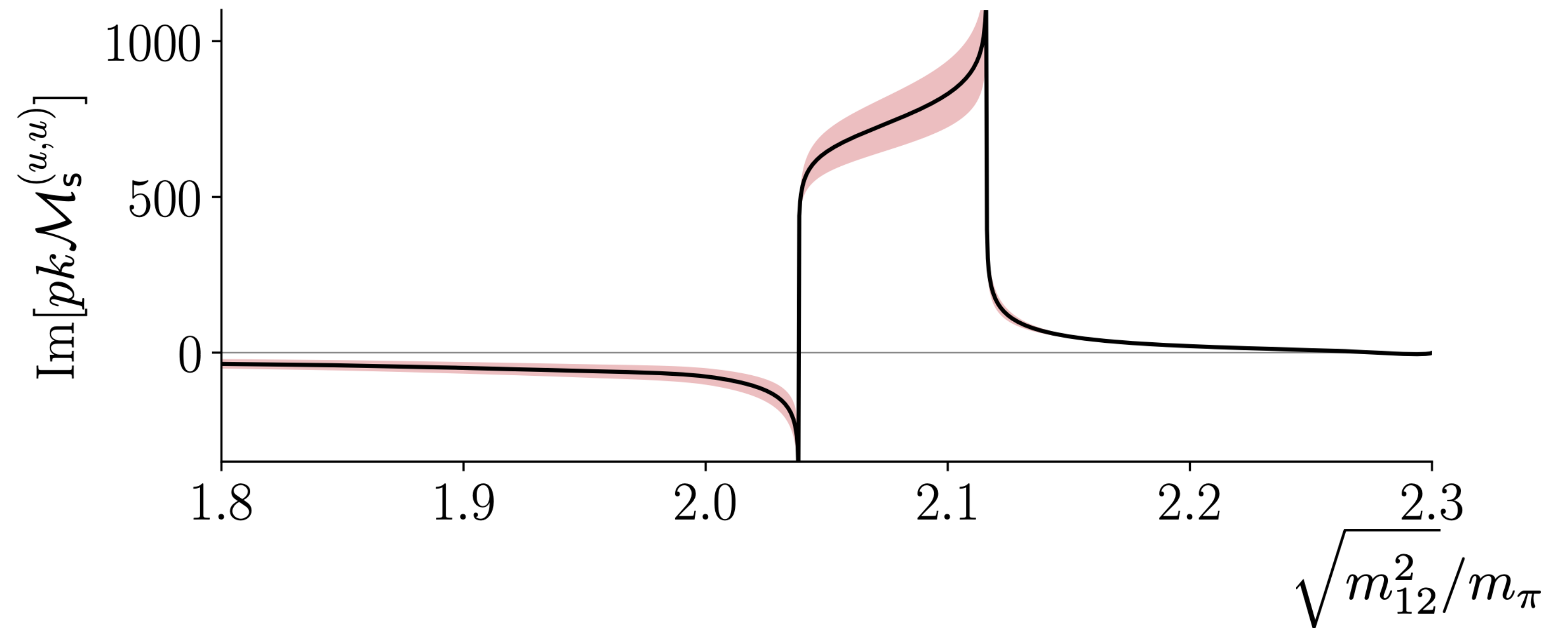
# $\pi\pi\pi$ scattering

( $l=3$  channel,  $m_\pi \sim 390\text{MeV}$ )

first 3body scattering amplitude from the lattice QCD!



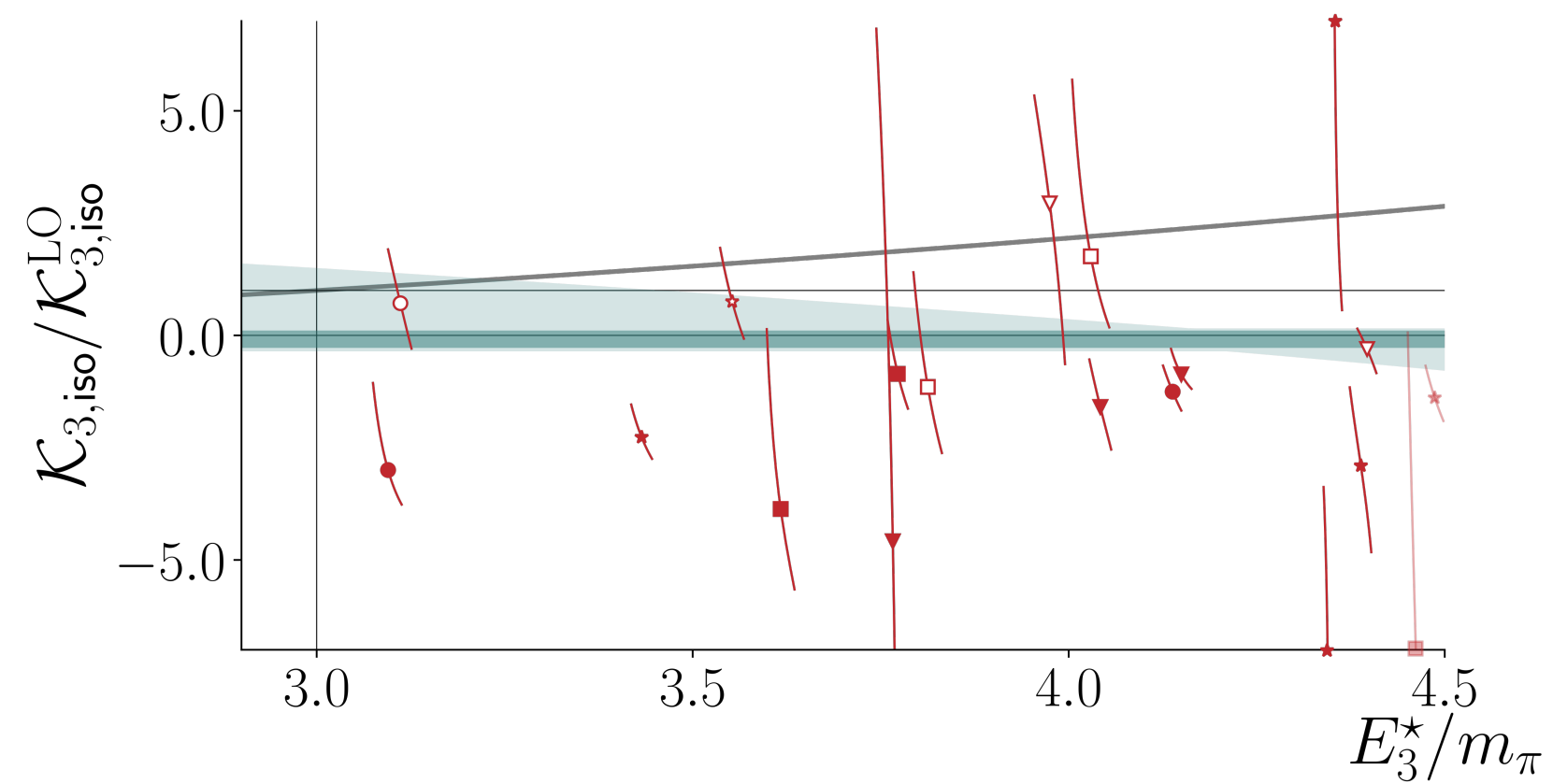
$$i\mathcal{D} + i\mathcal{L}[\mathcal{D}] \cdot \mathcal{F}[\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{K}_3] \cdot \mathcal{R}[\mathcal{D}]$$



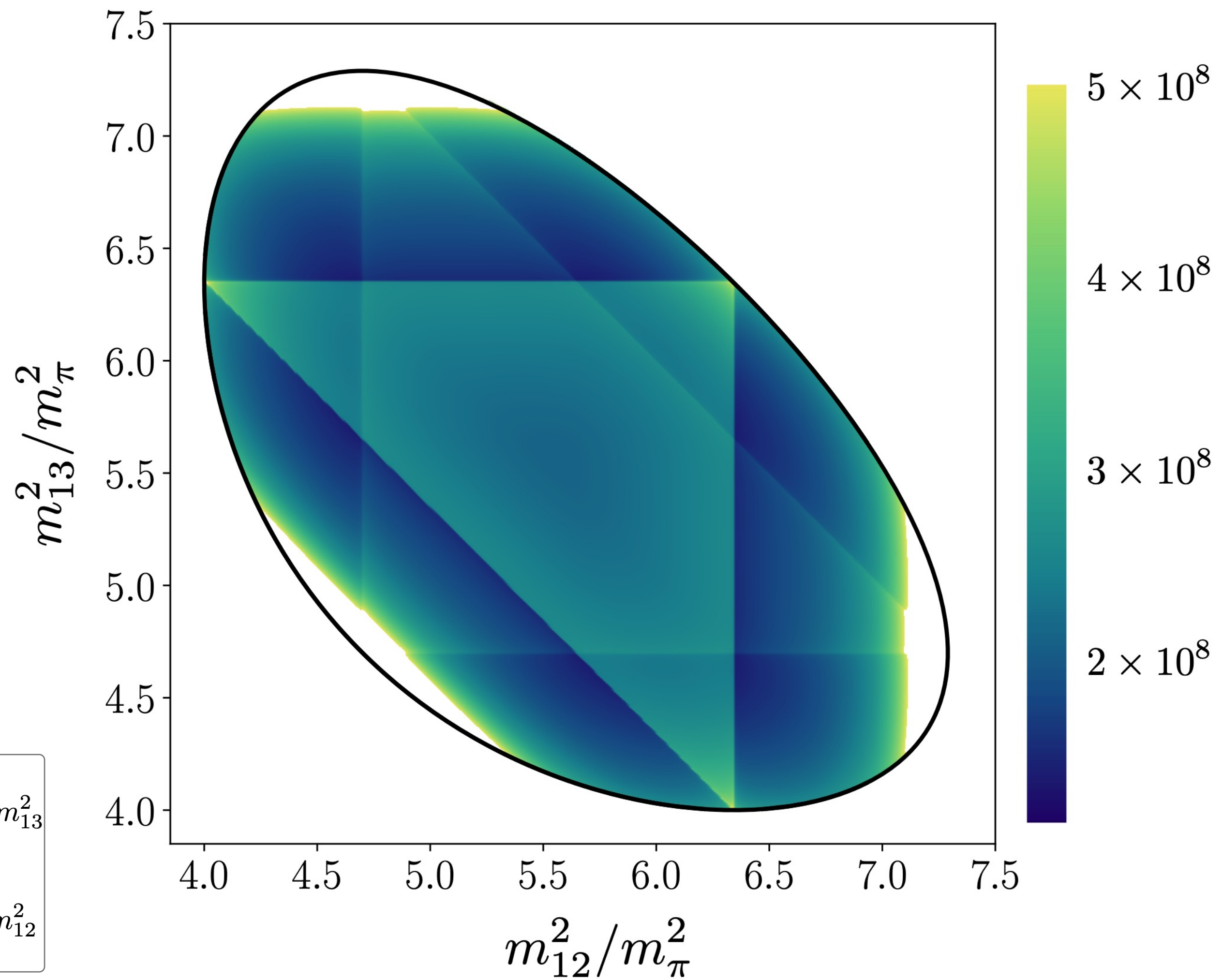
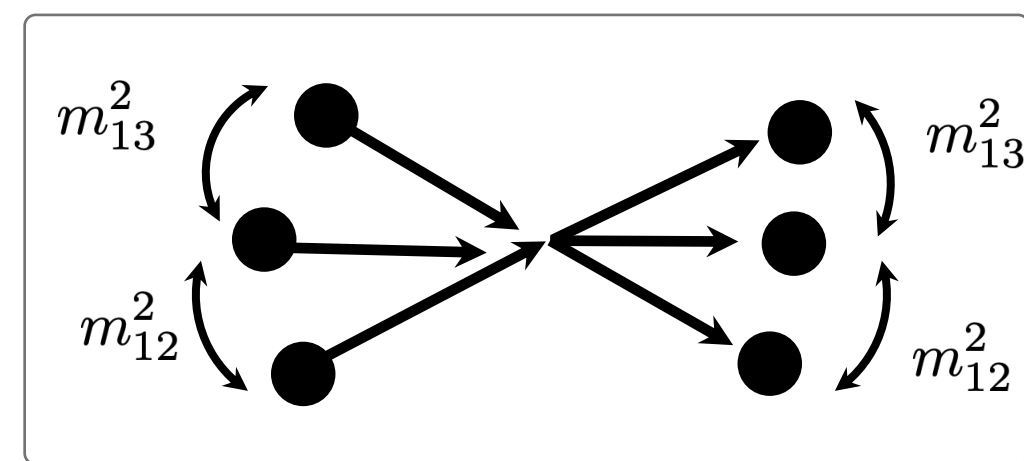
# $\pi\pi\pi$ scattering

( $l=3$  channel,  $m_\pi \sim 390\text{MeV}$ )

first 3body scattering amplitude from the lattice QCD!

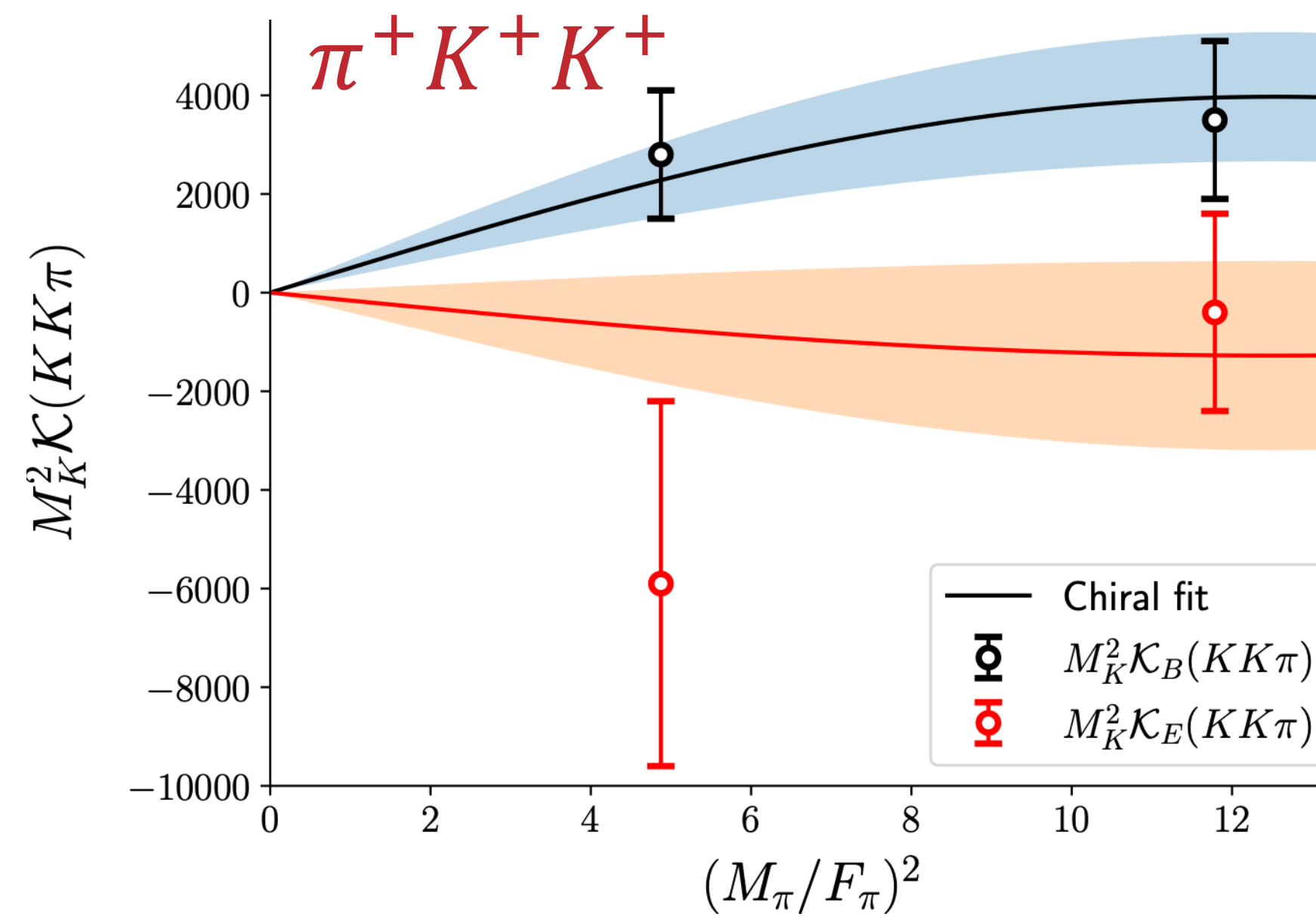
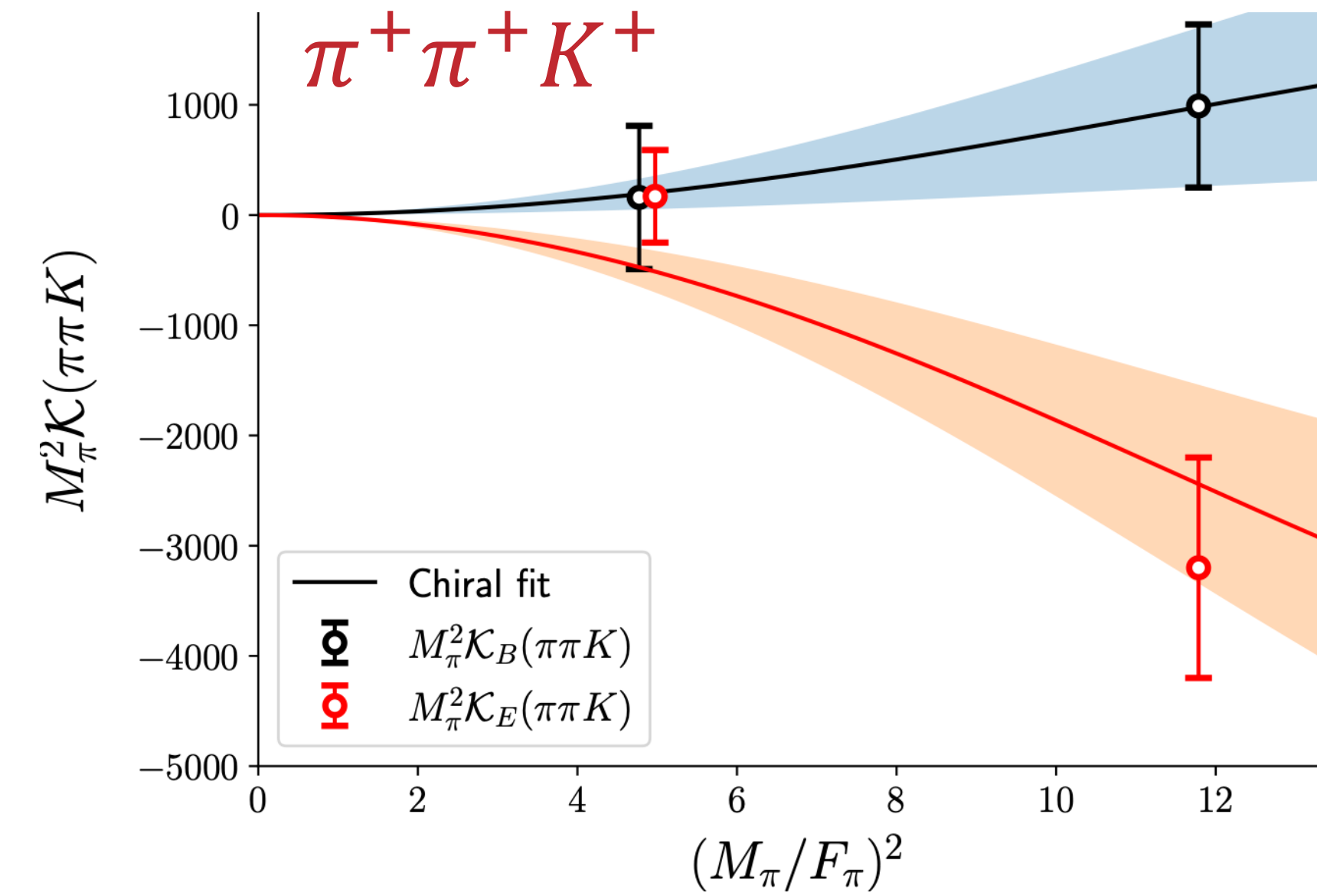
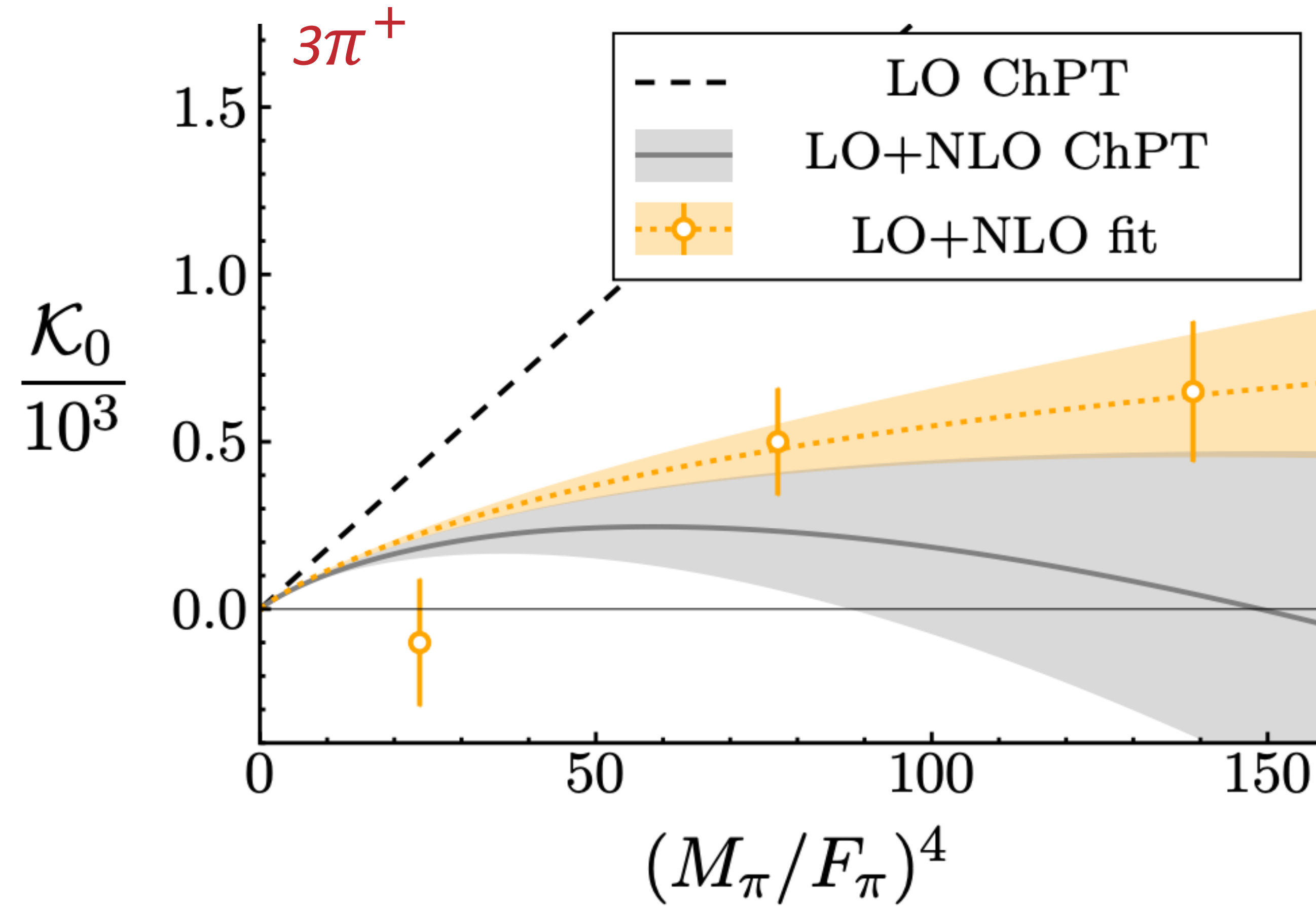


$$i\mathcal{D} + i\mathcal{L}[\mathcal{D}] \cdot \mathcal{F}[\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{K}_3] \cdot \mathcal{R}[\mathcal{D}]$$



# Quark-mass dependence

exploratory studies of the three-body K matrices



# Overarching goal

*non-perturbatively constrain two- and three-hadron scattering amplitudes directly from the standard model (including electroweak & BSM probes)*

## three questions to answer

why are three-body so much harder?



what has been done?



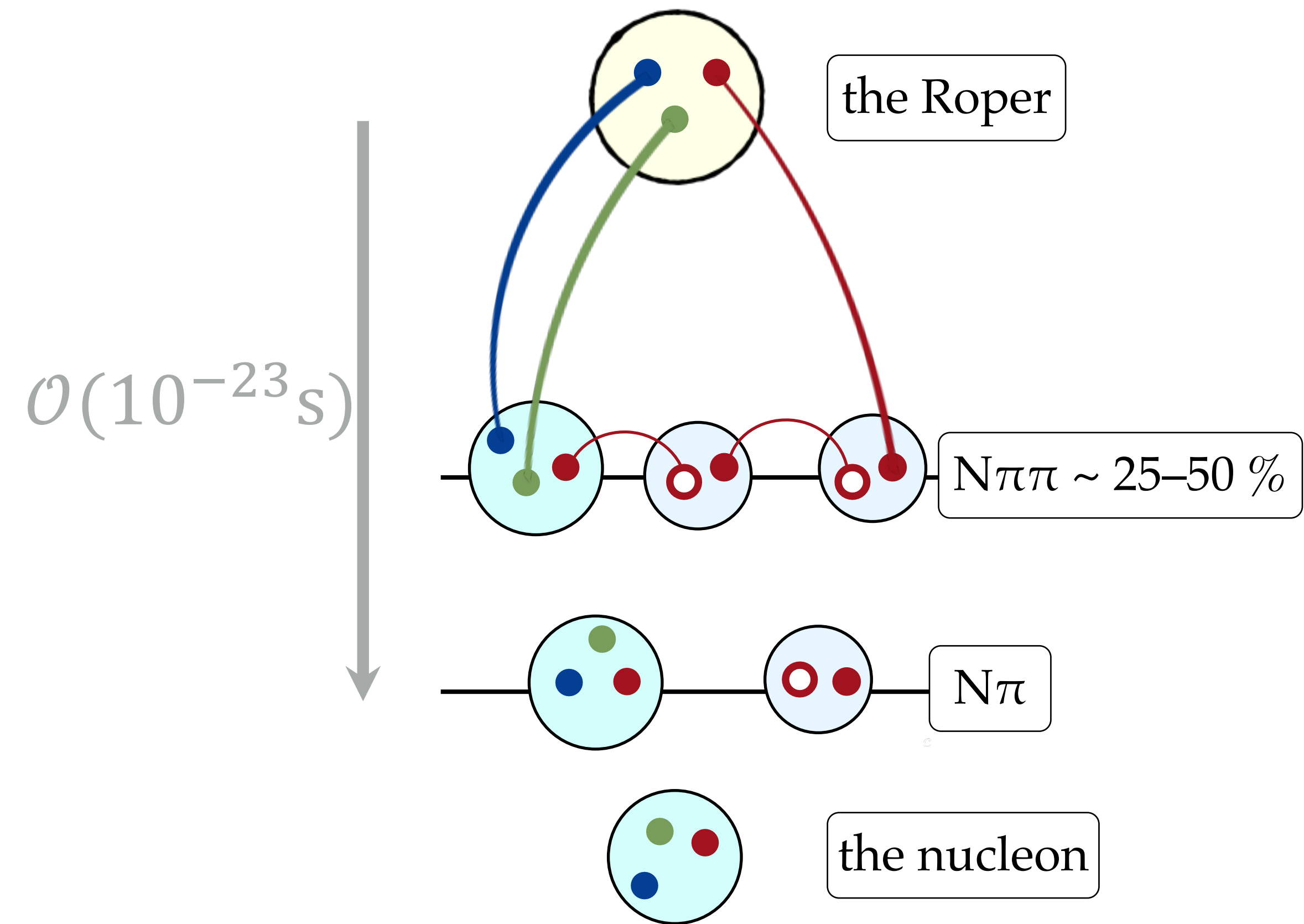
what can we expect to be done?



# what can we expect to be done? in the next 5yrs

## Formal issues:

- coupled 2-3 bodies,
- non-identical particles,
- electroweak production,
- non-zero intrinsic spin,
- electroweak probes,
- ...



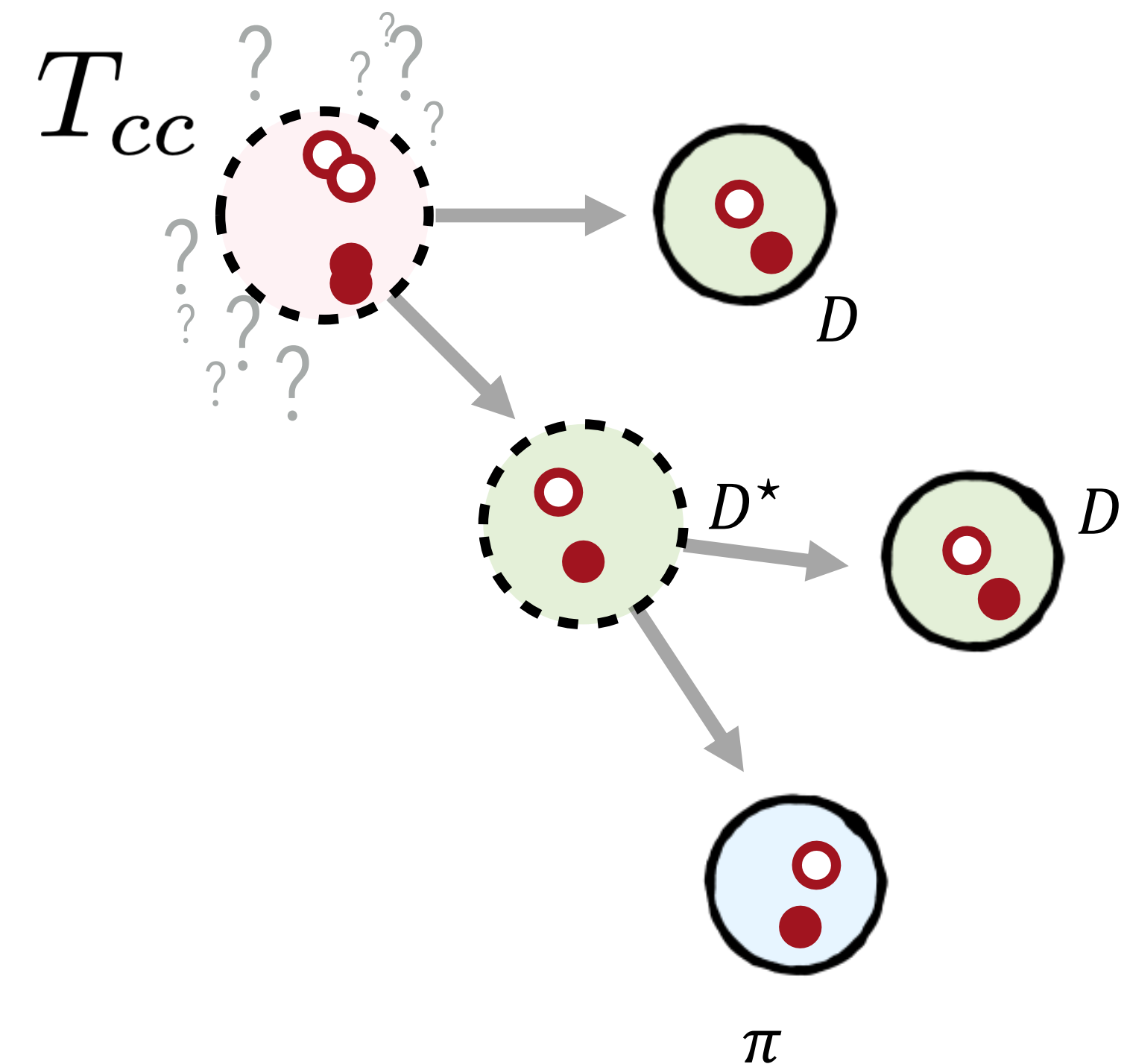
# what can we expect to be done? in the next 5yrs

## Formal issues:

- coupled 2-3 bodies,
- non-identical particles,
- electroweak production,
- non-zero intrinsic spin,
- electroweak probes,
- ...

## Exploratory lattice QCD:

- resonant / strongly interacting mesonic systems
  - $3\pi$  channels
- $T_{cc} \leftrightarrow DD^* \leftrightarrow DD\pi$
- ...  $N\pi - N\pi\pi$  ...?



# Symbiotic byproducts

Formal & numerical tools being developed are universal.

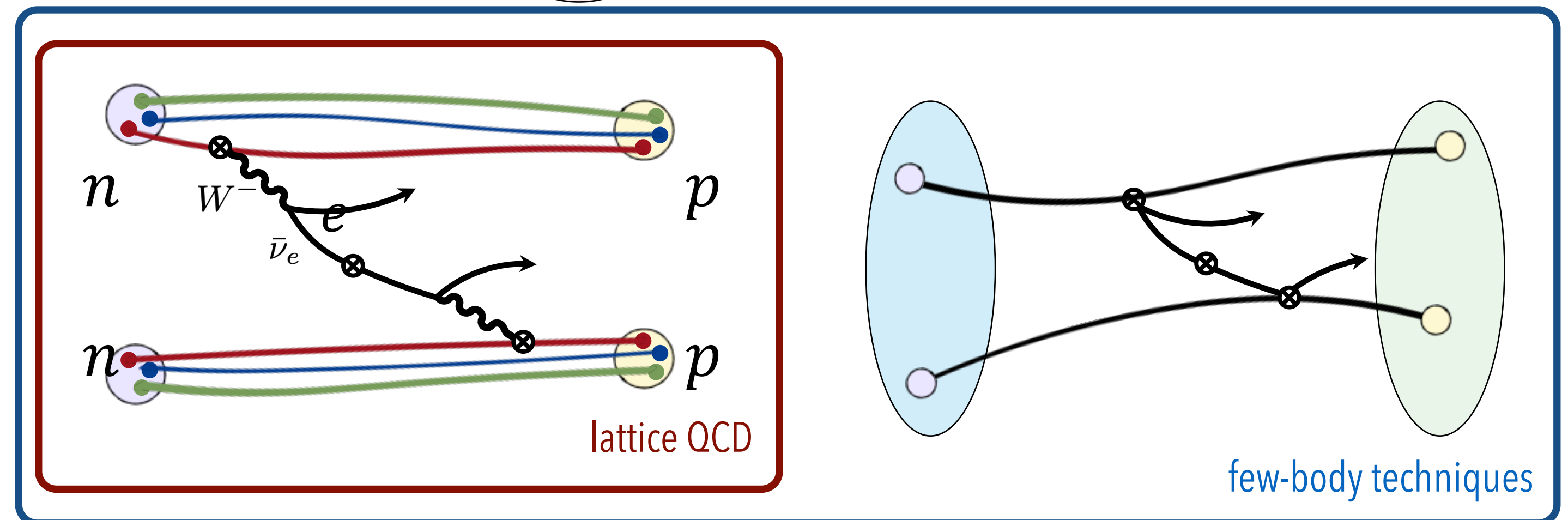
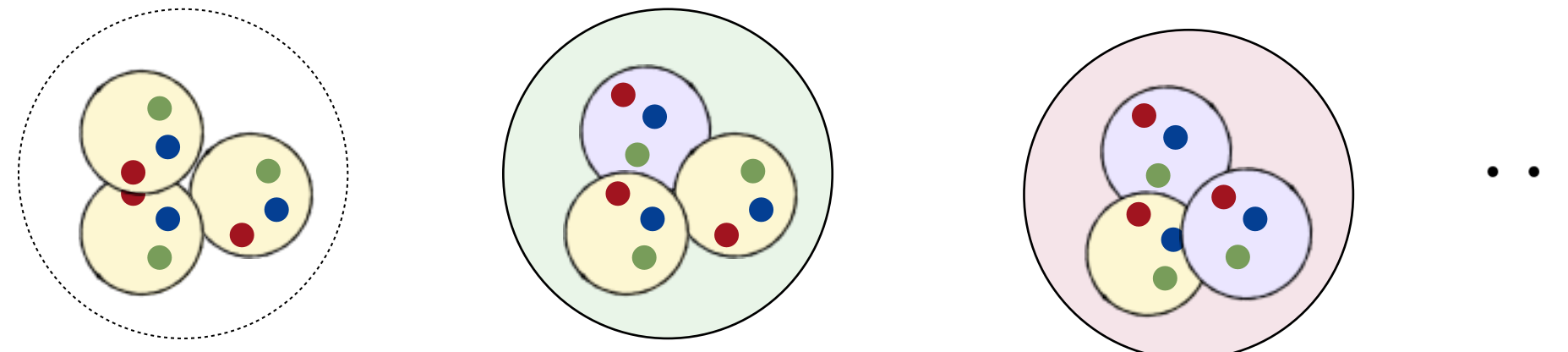
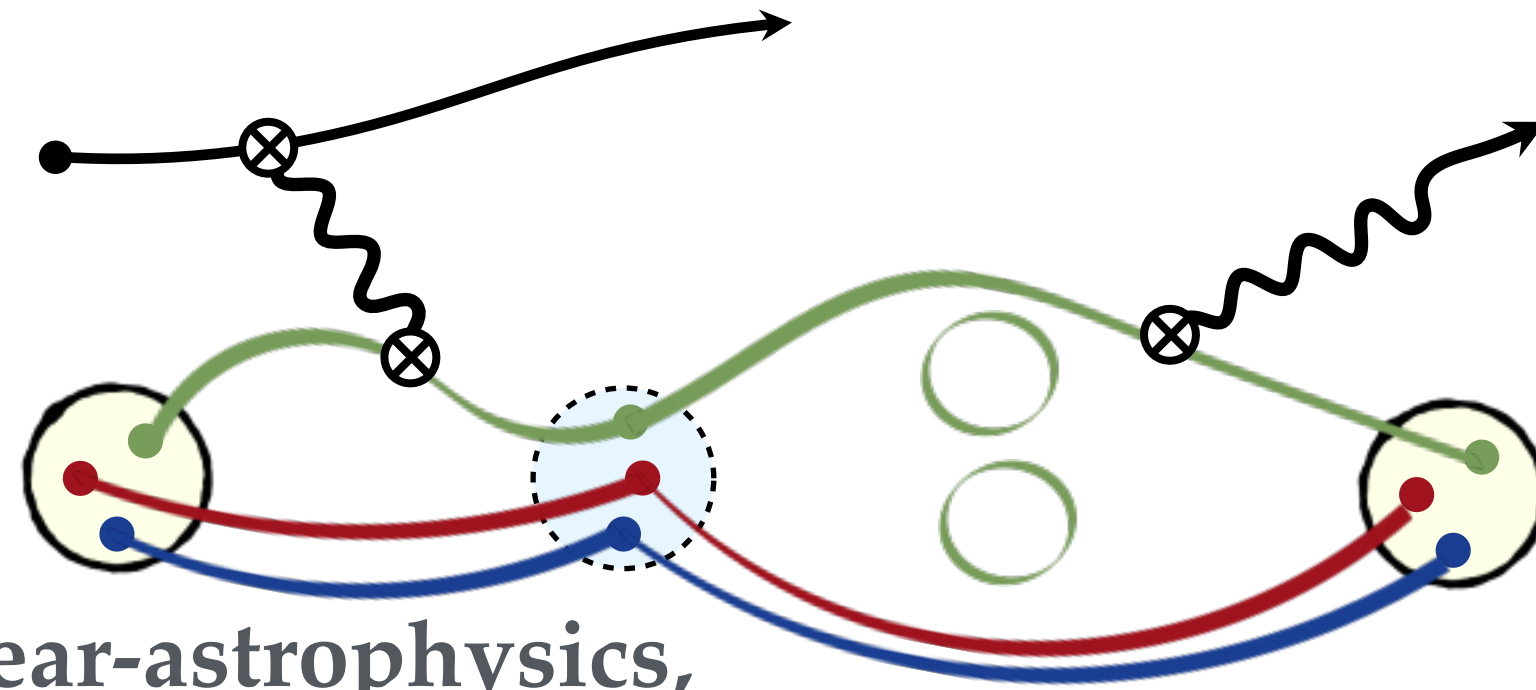
These will impact studies in

hadron structure,

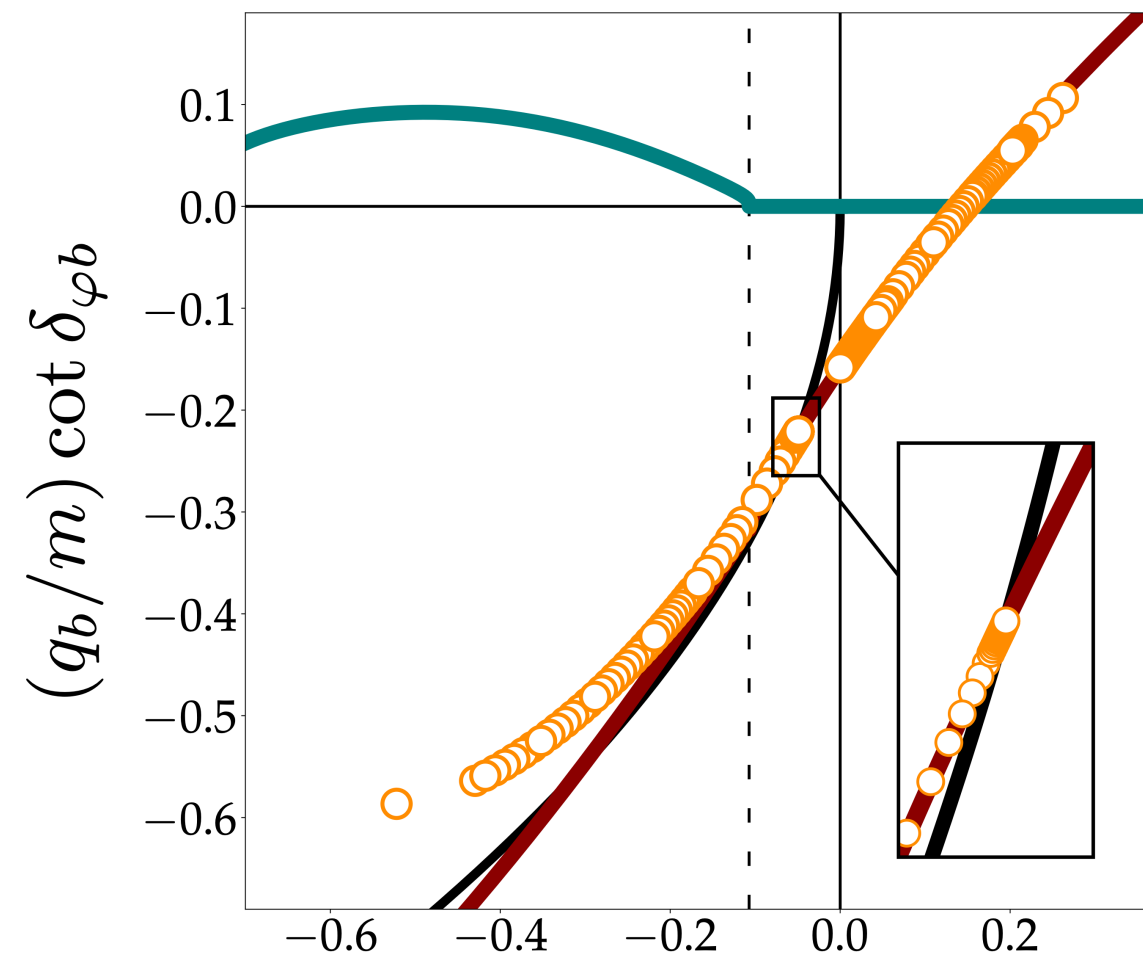
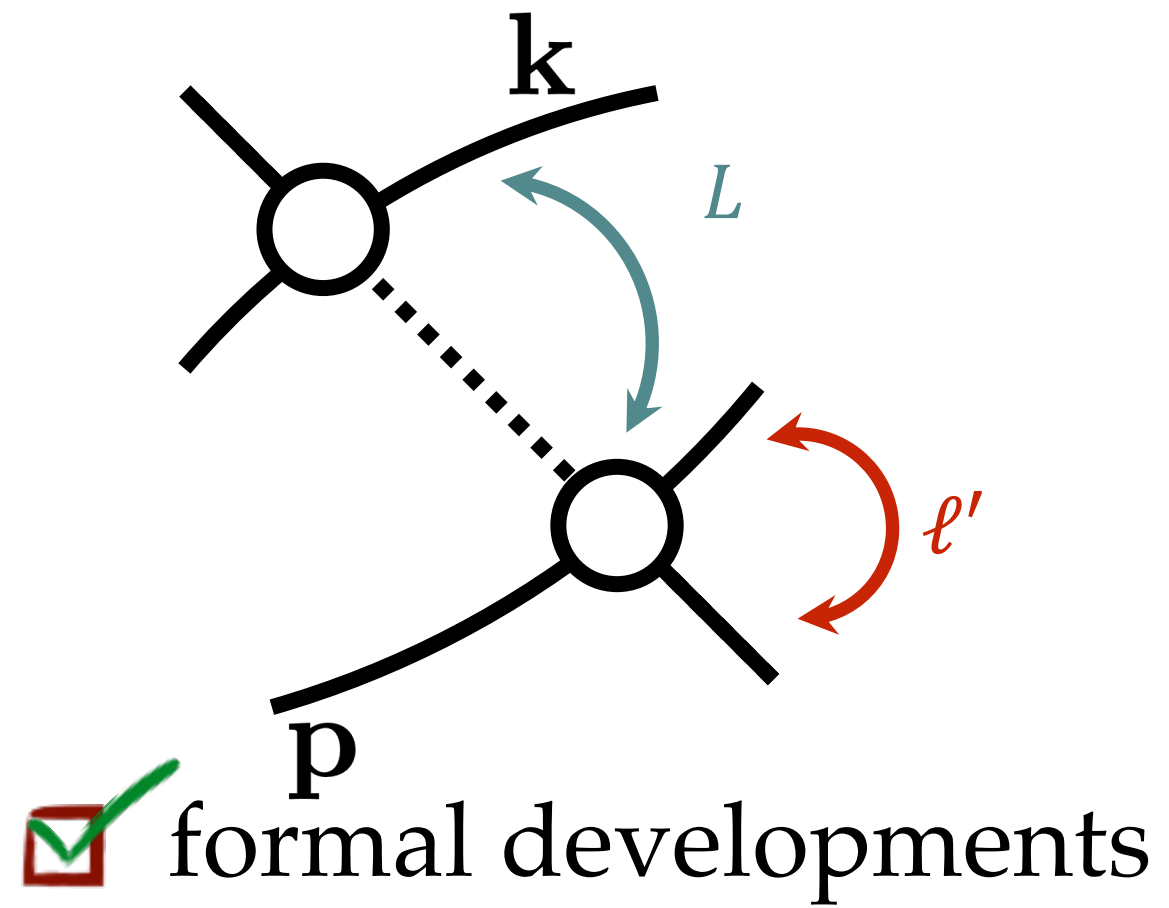
nuclear structure / nuclear-astrophysics,

fundamental symmetries,

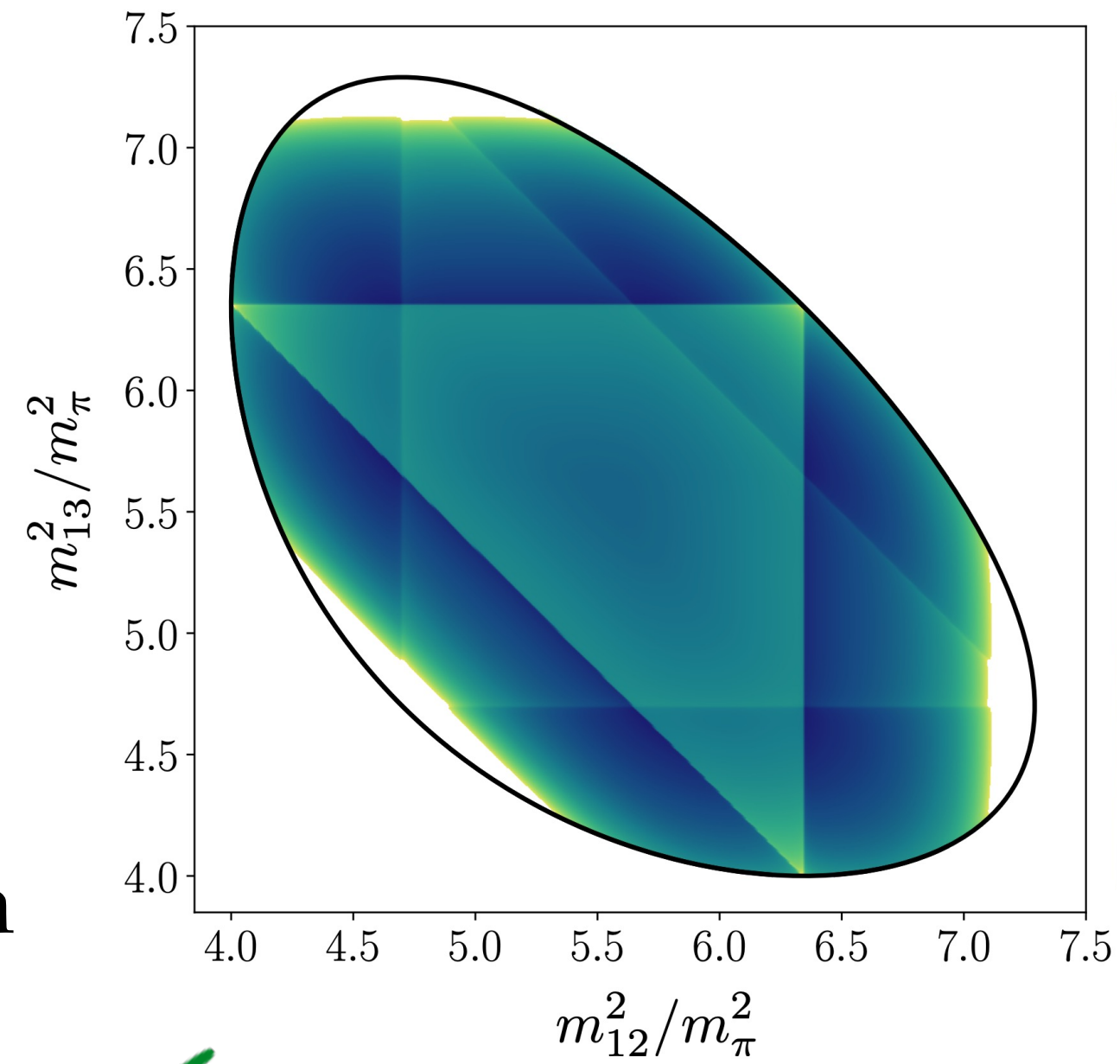
universal phenomena,....



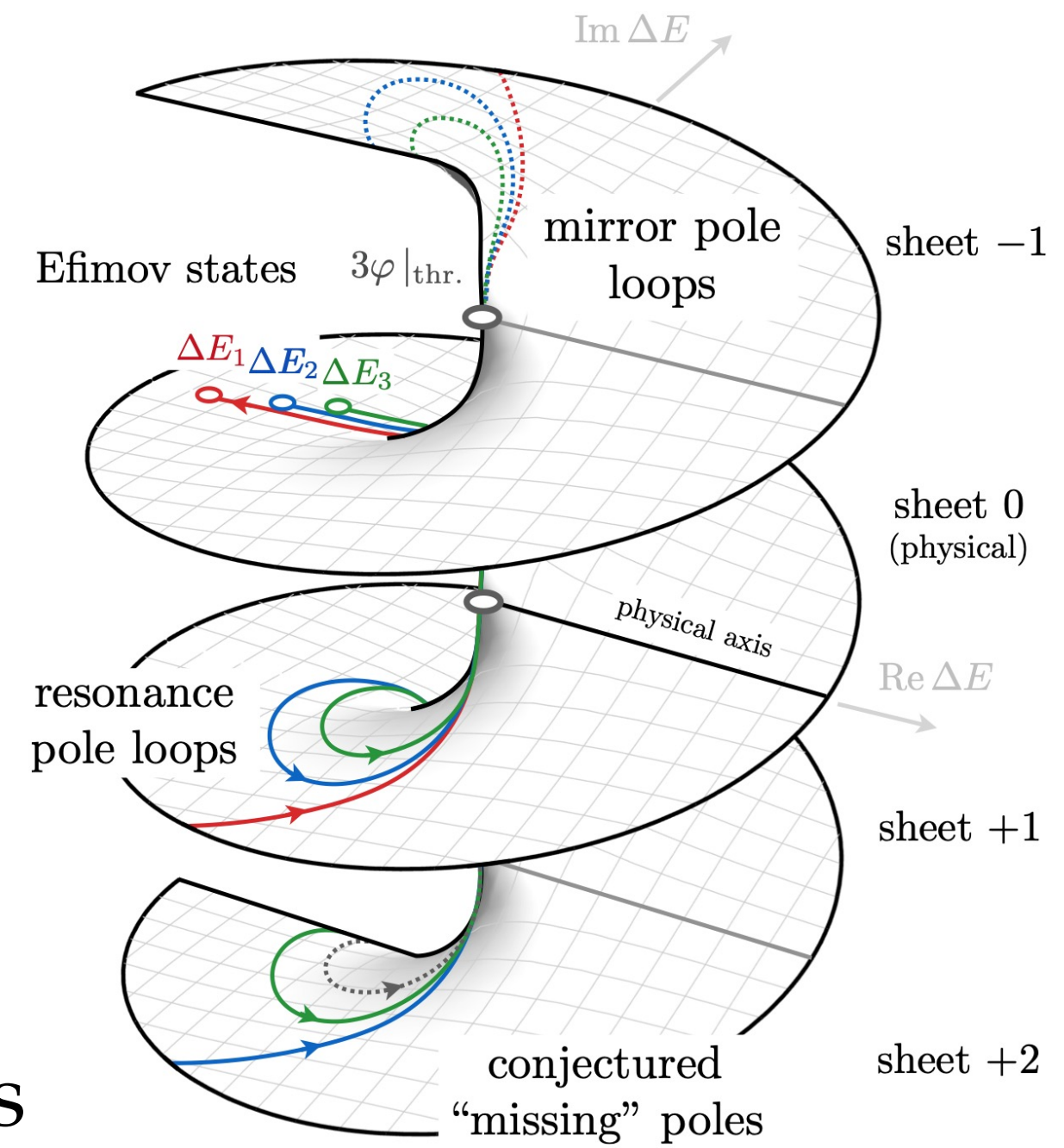
# rapidly developing field!



checks of the formalism



actual lattice calculations



further explorations



# ExoHad/Berkely 2025 School and Workshop









# Two particle in finite volume

Similar story as before...except momenta are discrete  $\vec{k} = 2\pi\vec{n}/L$

$$i\mathcal{M}_L = \text{[square vertex]} = \text{[circle vertex]} + \text{[circle with two dots and square vertex]}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{[circle with two dots and square vertex]} &= [iB]_{\ell'm'} \left( \left[ \frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} - \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \right] \frac{1}{2\omega_k} \frac{i\mathcal{Y}_{\ell'm'}(\hat{k}) \mathcal{Y}_{\ell m}^*(\hat{k})}{(P-k)^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} \right) [i\mathcal{M}_L]_{\ell m} \\ &\equiv [iB] iF [iB] \end{aligned}$$

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_{00;00} & F_{00;11} & F_{00;10} & & \\ F_{11;00} & F_{11;11} & F_{11;10} & & \\ F_{10;00} & F_{10;11} & F_{10;10} & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

*non-diagonal matrix over partial waves...because angular momentum is not a good quantum number*

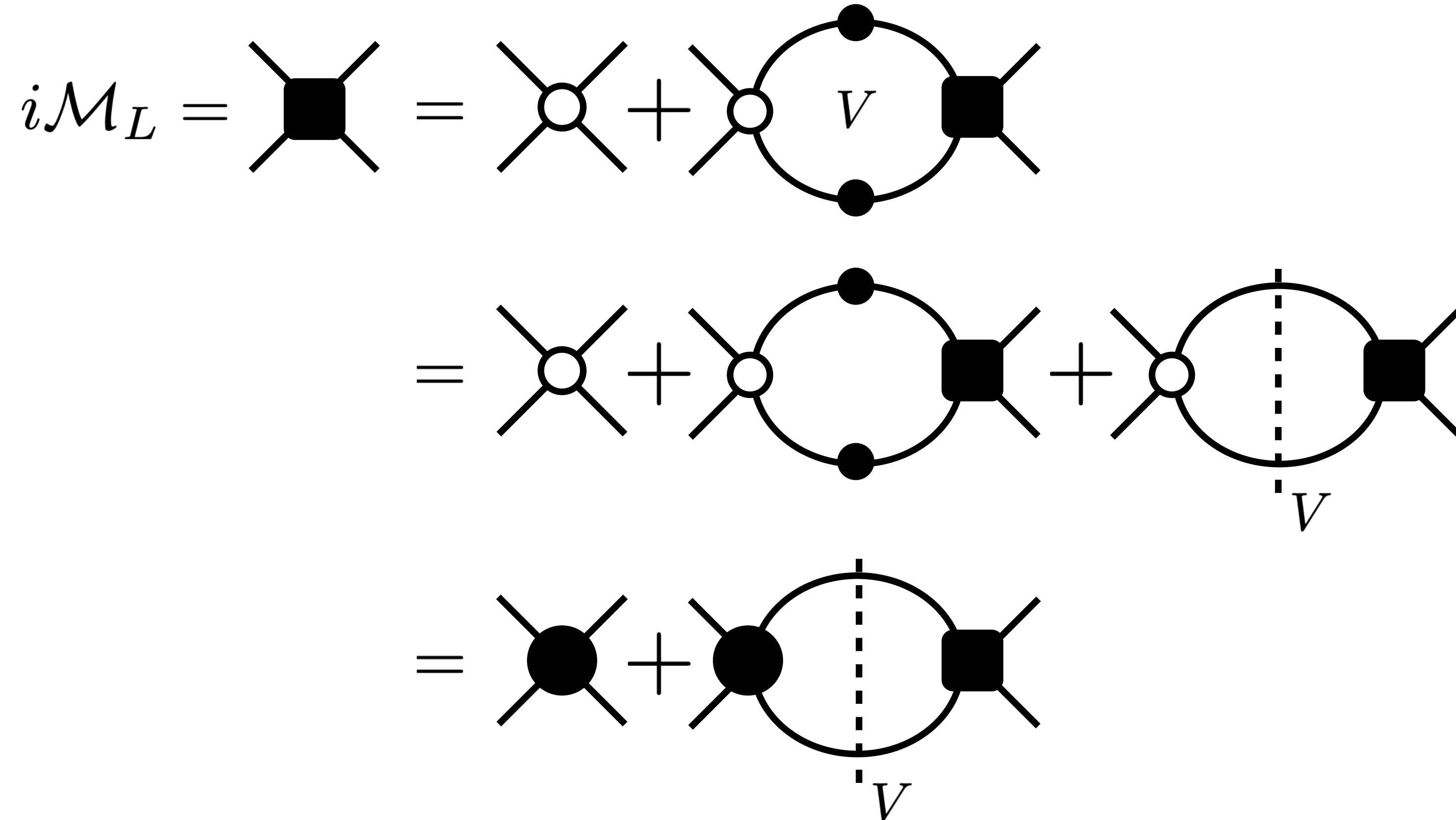
# Two particle in finite volume

Similar story as before...except momenta are discrete  $k = 2\pi n/L$

$$\begin{aligned} i\mathcal{M}_L &= \text{[Square vertex]} = \text{[Circle vertex]} + \text{[Circle with two dots]} \\ &= \text{[Circle vertex]} + \text{[Circle with two dots]} + \text{[Circle with dashed line]} \\ &= \text{[Filled circle vertex]} + \text{[Filled circle with dashed line]} \end{aligned}$$

# Two particle in finite volume

Similar story as before...except momenta are discrete  $k = 2\pi n/L$



*placing all legs on-shell  
& partial-wave projecting*



$$i\mathcal{M} \frac{1}{1 + F \mathcal{M}}$$

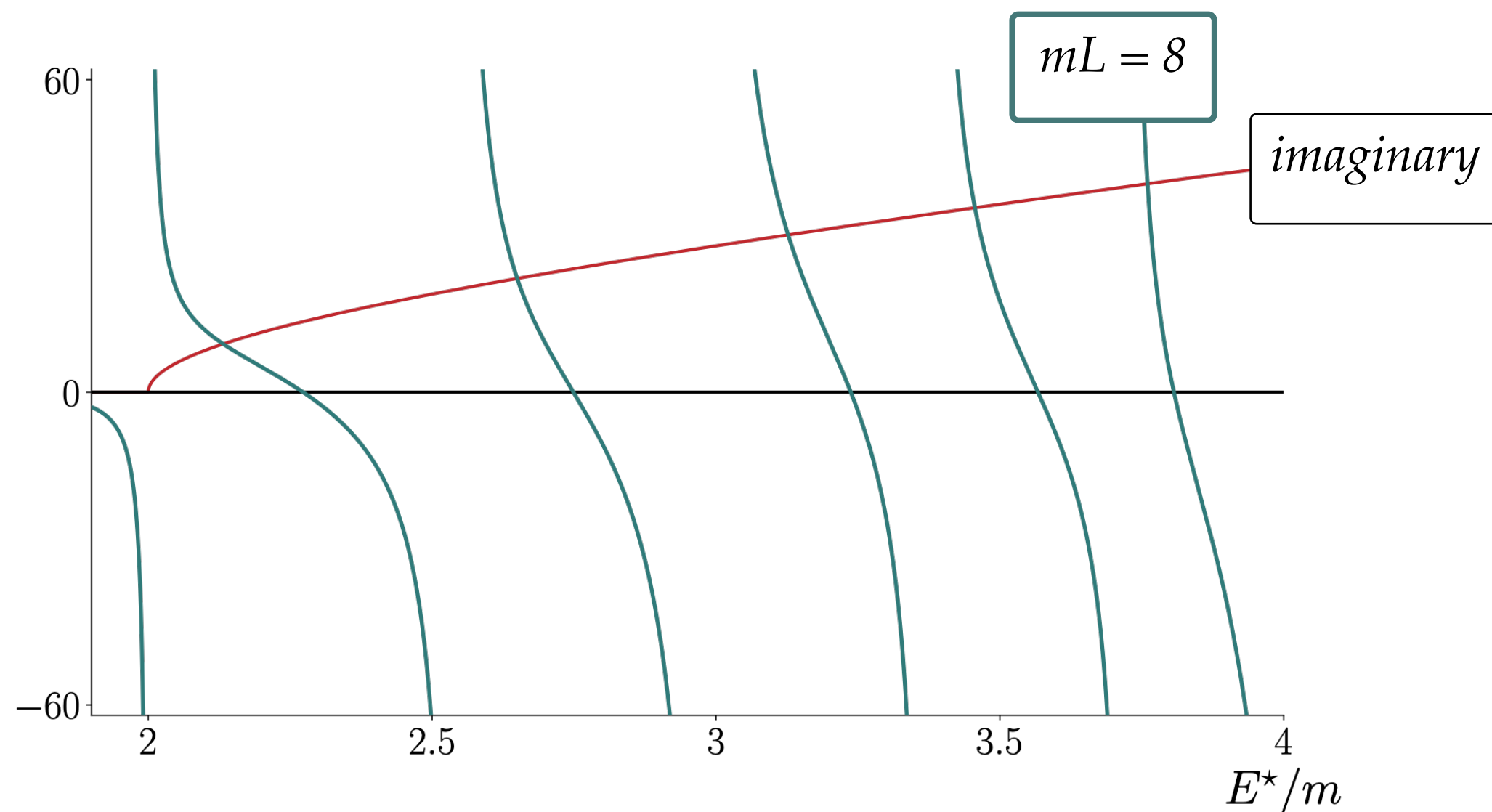
$$\det[F^{-1} + \mathcal{M}] = 0$$

*poles satisfy...*

# Some comments

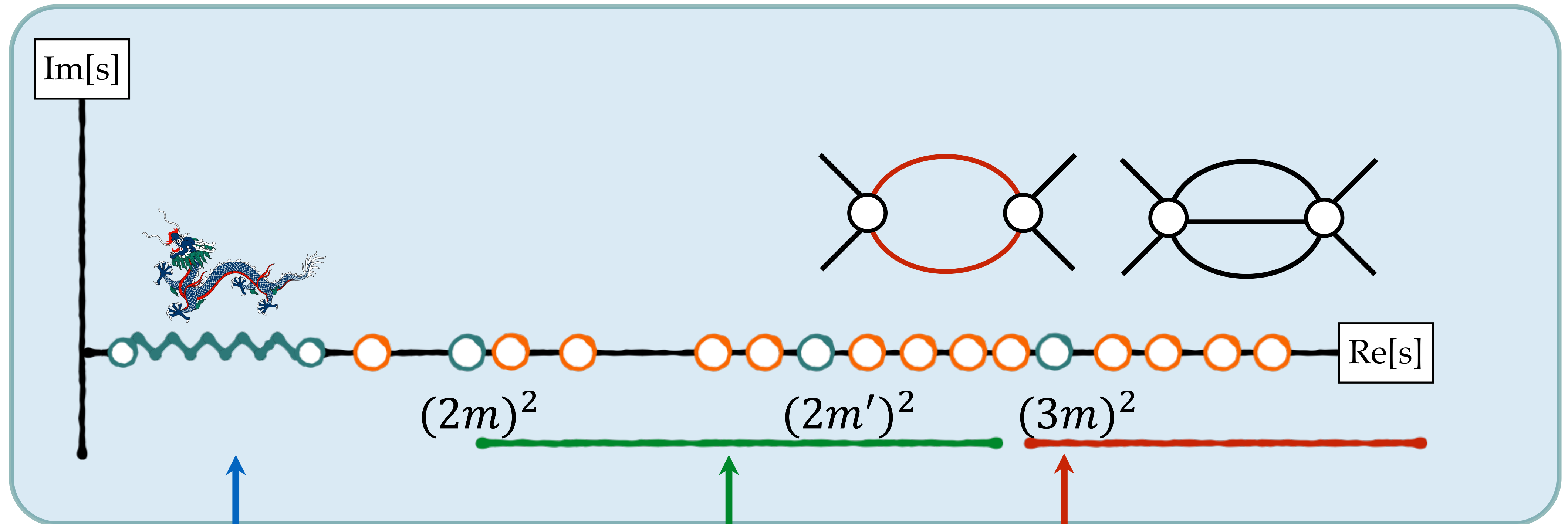
$$\det[F^{-1}(P, L) + \mathcal{M}(P^2)] = 0$$

- ✓ exact up to  $\mathcal{O}(e^{-m_\pi L})$ ,
- ✓ Mapping, not an extrapolation,
- ✓ Not one-to-one [no asymptotic states & angular momentum is not a good quantum number],
- ✓ For moderate energies, low partial waves saturate the amplitude,
- ✓ We know  $F$  arbitrary boost, so we can further constraint the amplitude by considered boosted systems.





# Going to higher energies



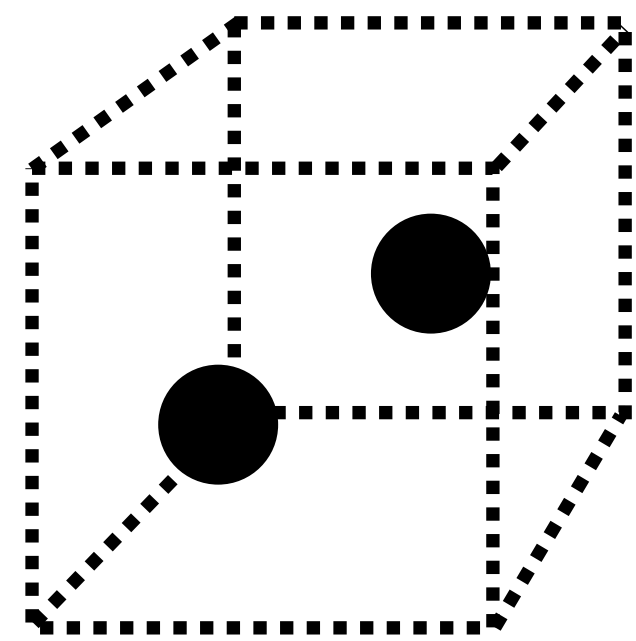
there *also* be dragons!

done!

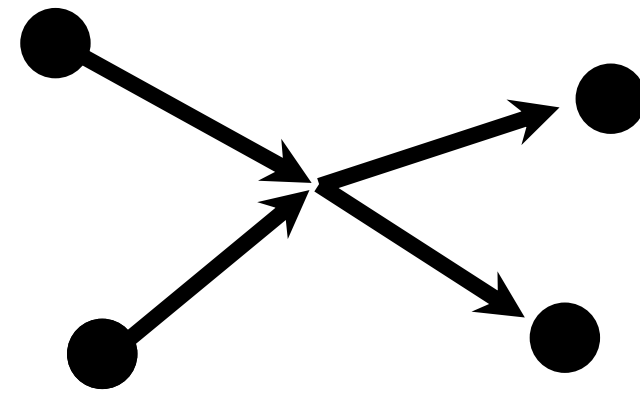
working on it!

# Outline

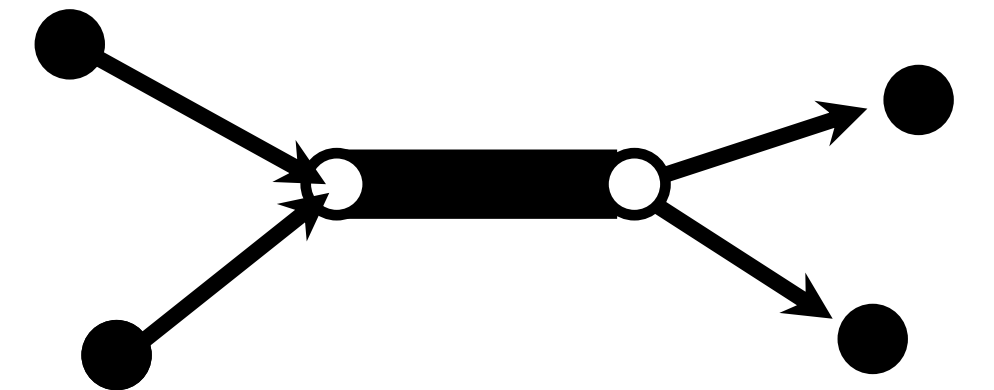
## ☑ Formalism



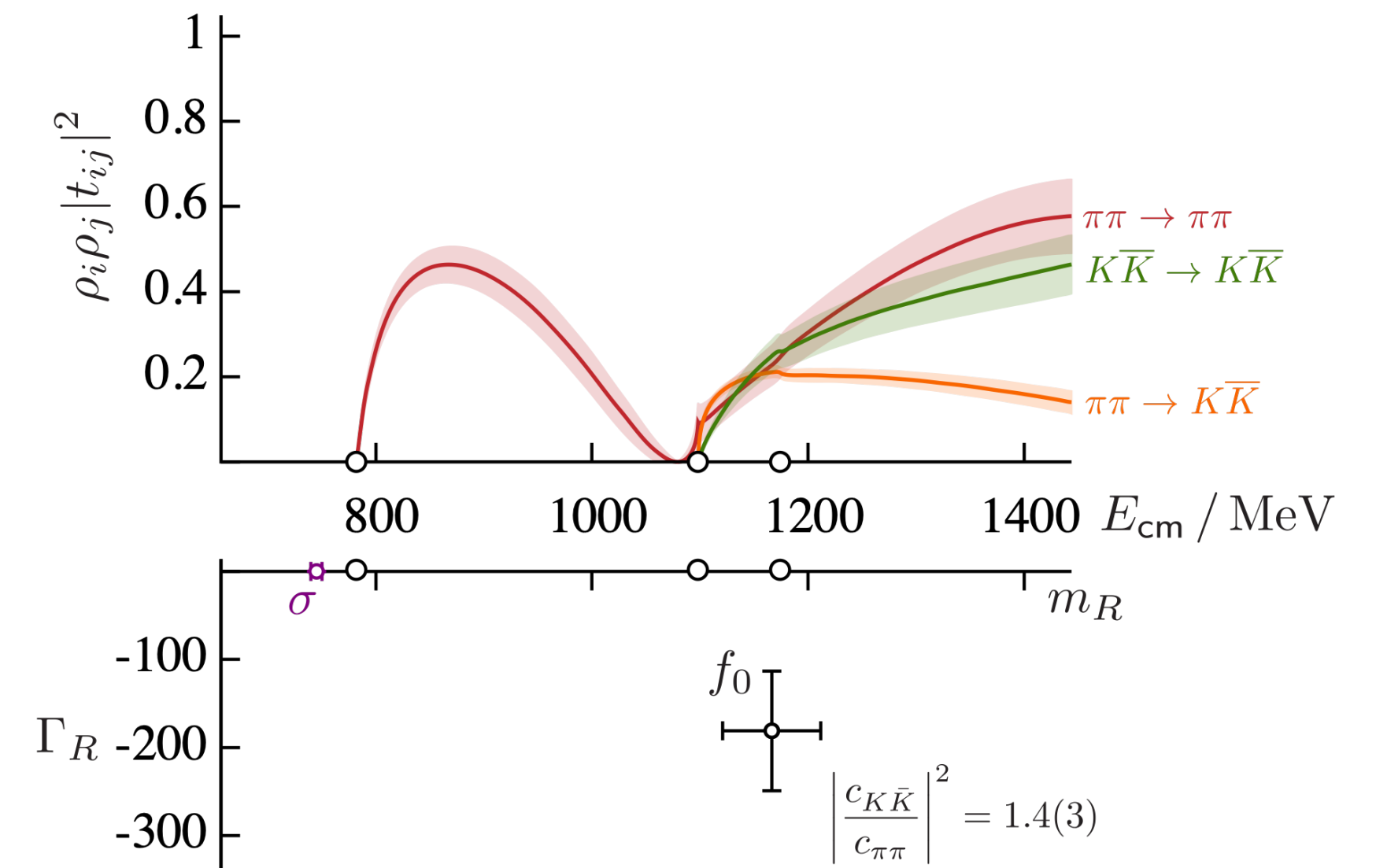
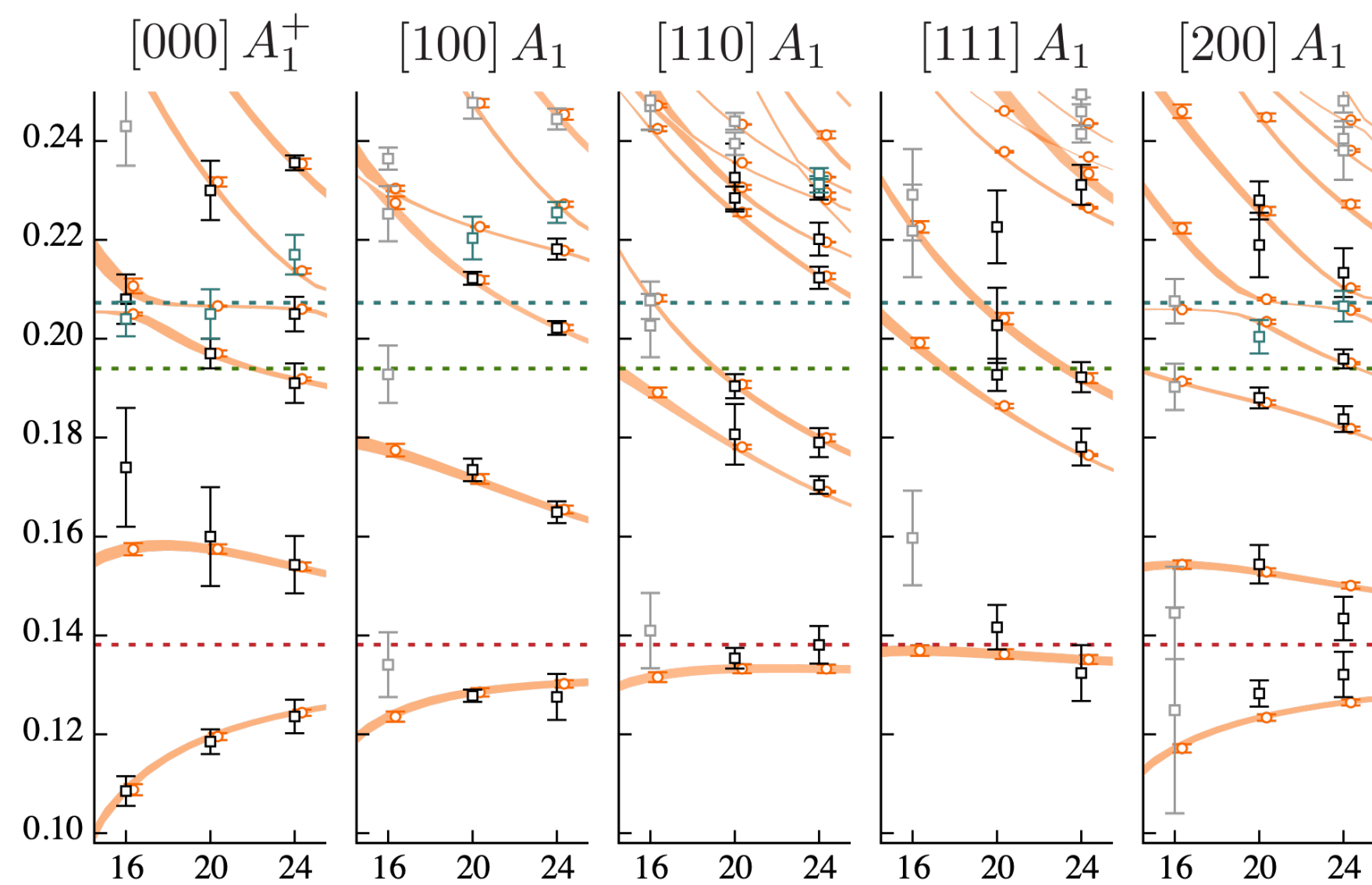
$$\det[F^{-1} + \mathcal{M}] = 0$$



$$\mathcal{M}^{-1} = \mathcal{K}^{-1} - i\rho$$

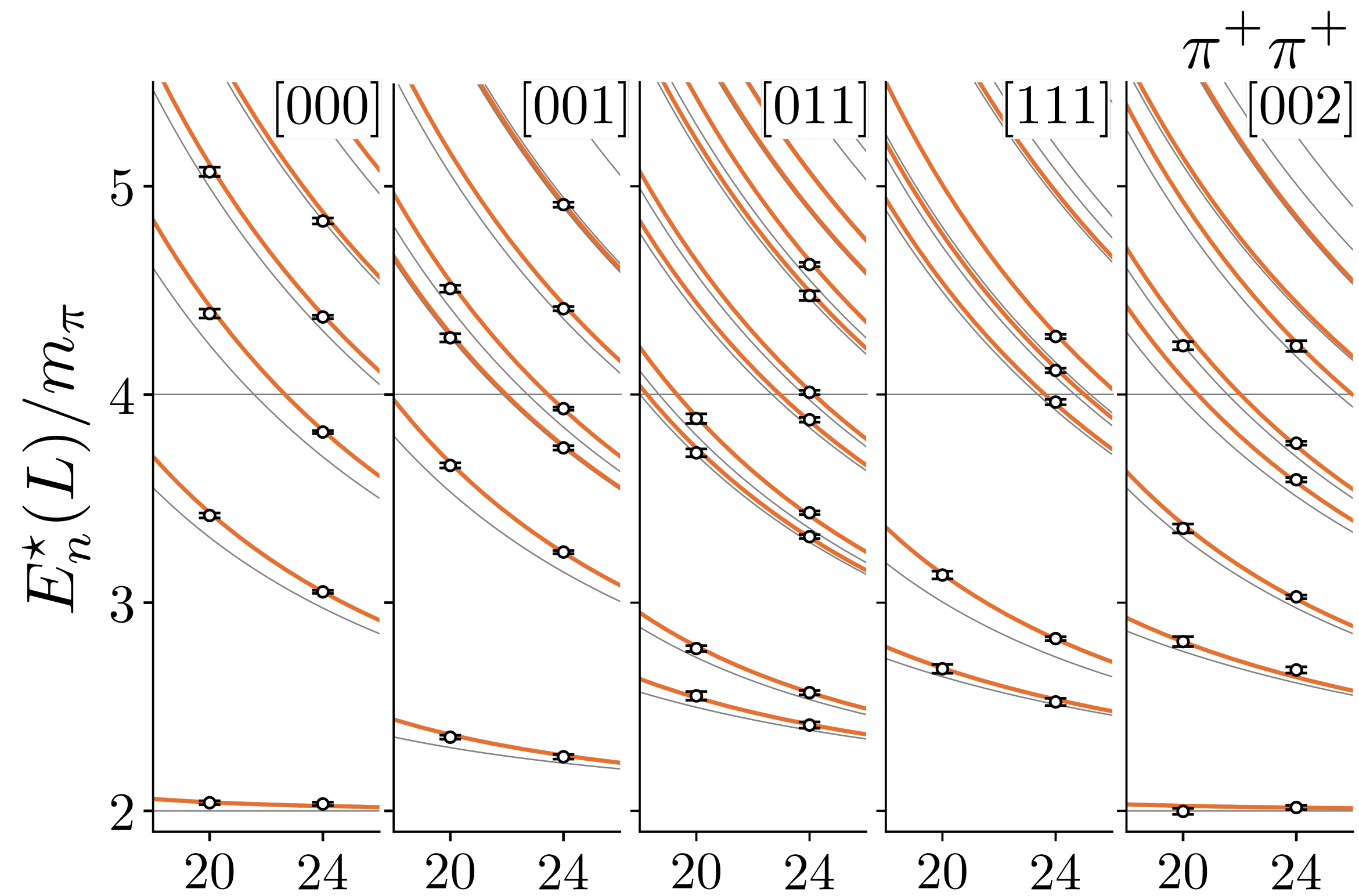


## ☐ Lattice QCD calculations



# $\pi\pi$ scattering

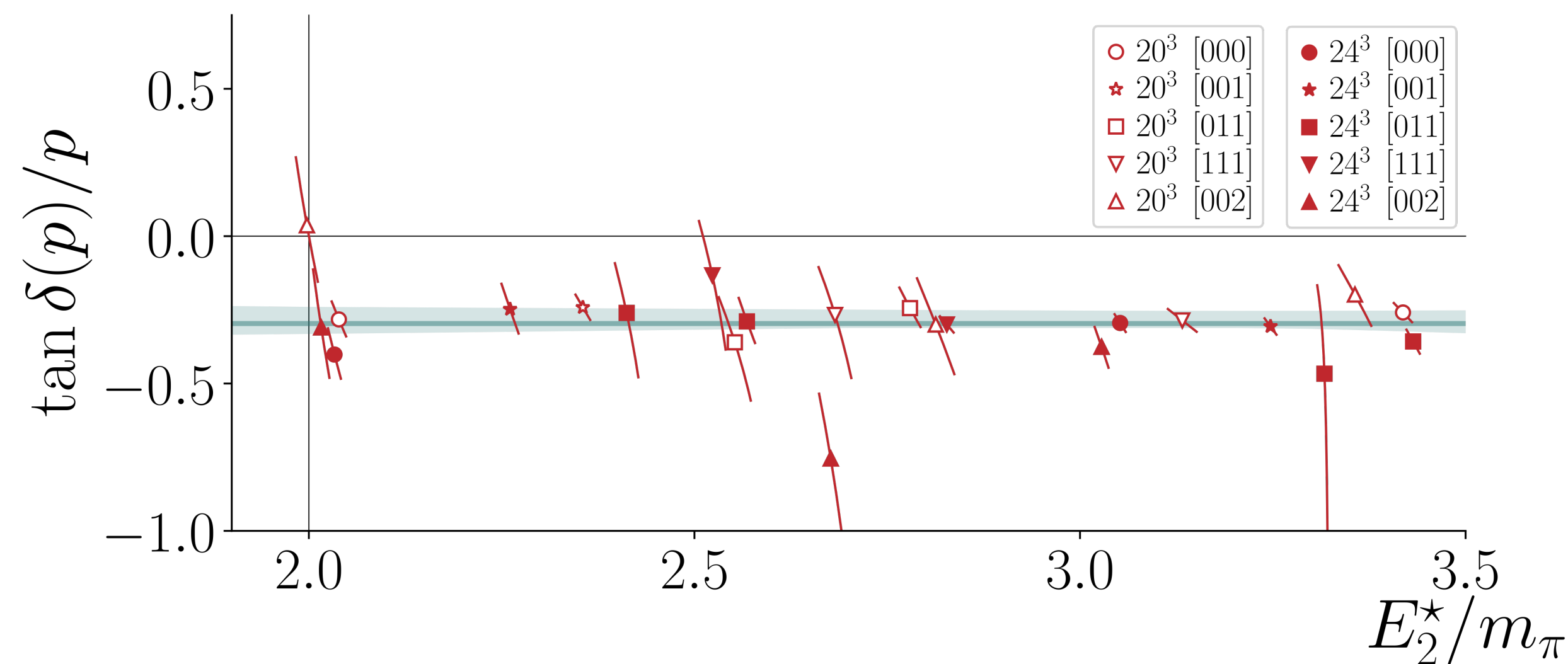
( $l=2$  channel,  $m_\pi \sim 390\text{MeV}$ )



$\pi^+\pi^+$

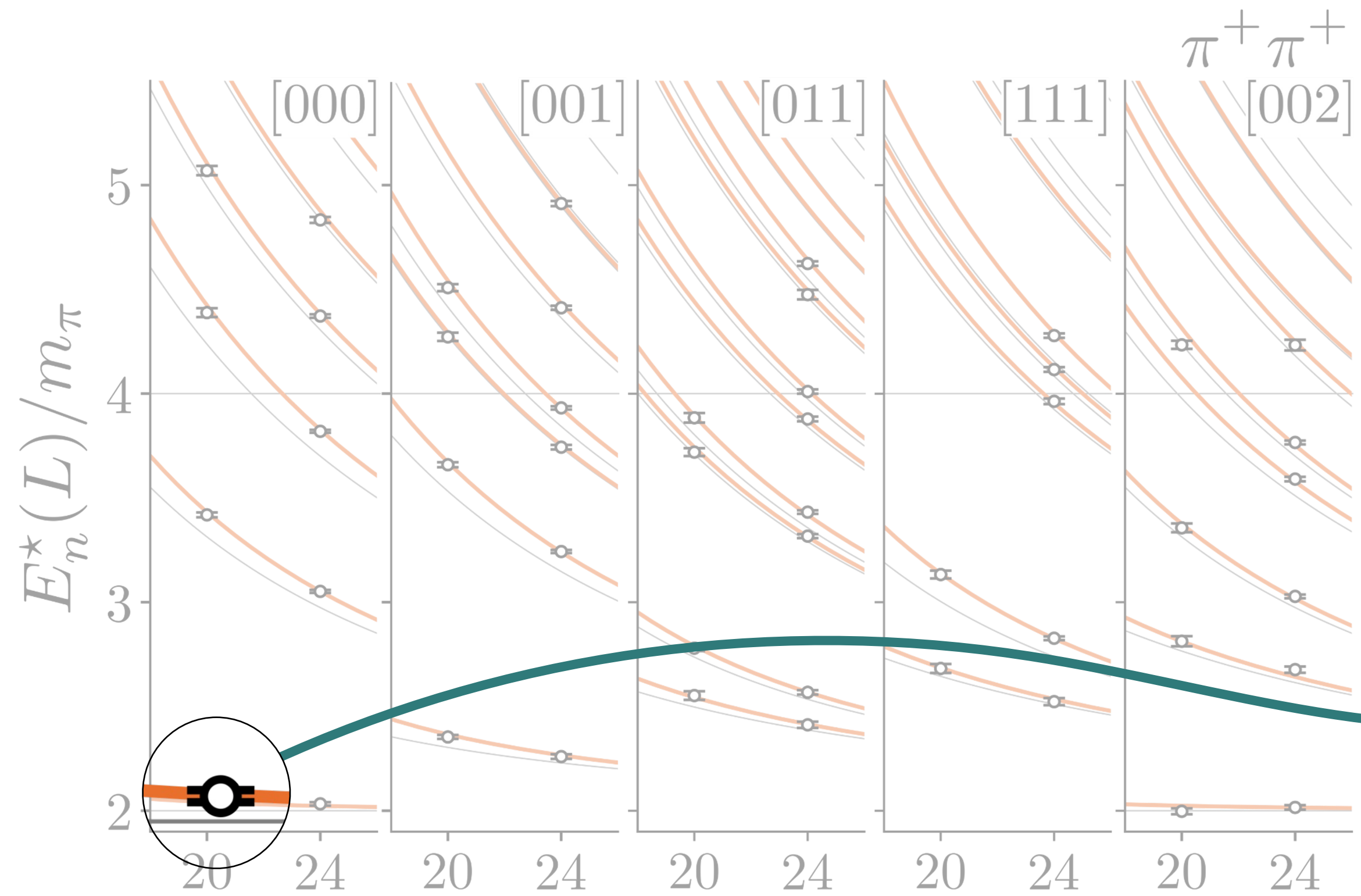
$$\det[F^{-1}(P, L) + \mathcal{M}(P)] = 0$$

$$\mathcal{M} \sim \frac{1}{p \cot \delta - ip}$$



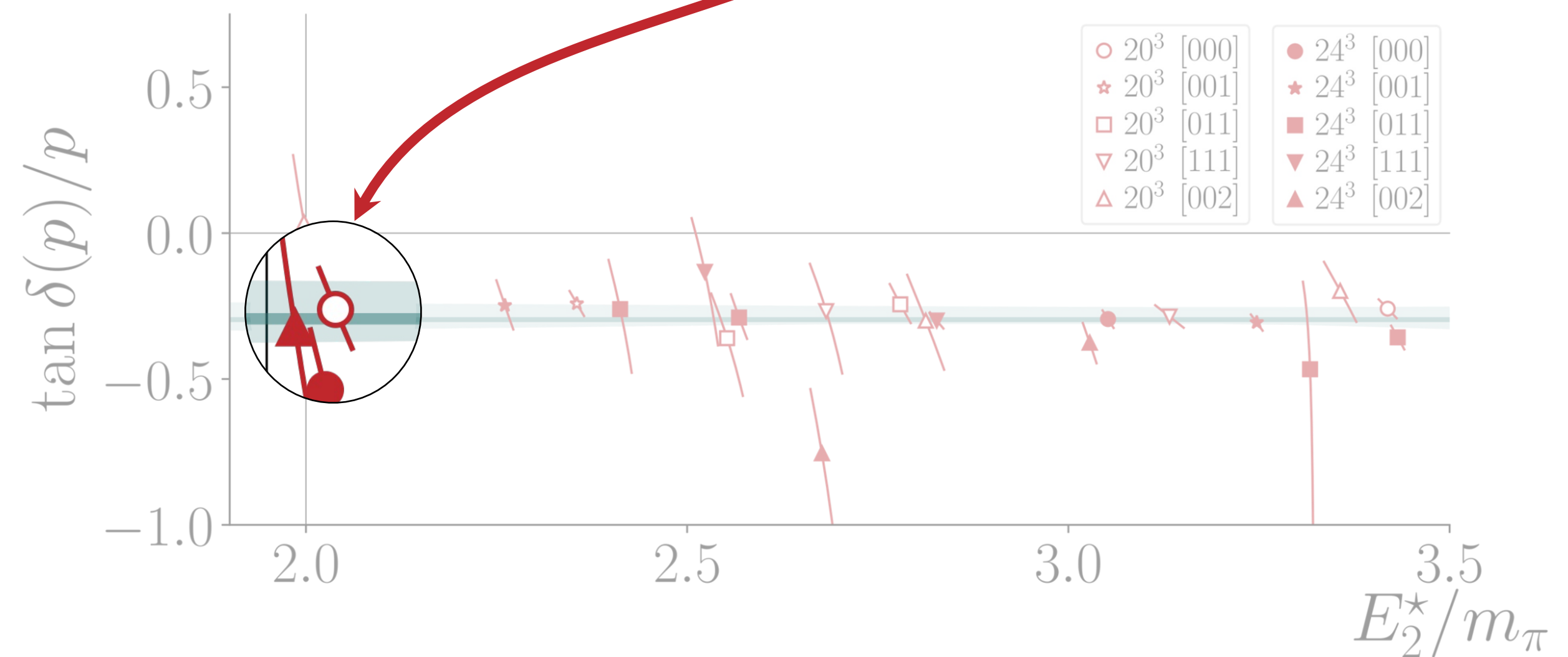
# $\pi\pi$ scattering

( $l=2$  channel,  $m_\pi \sim 390\text{MeV}$ )



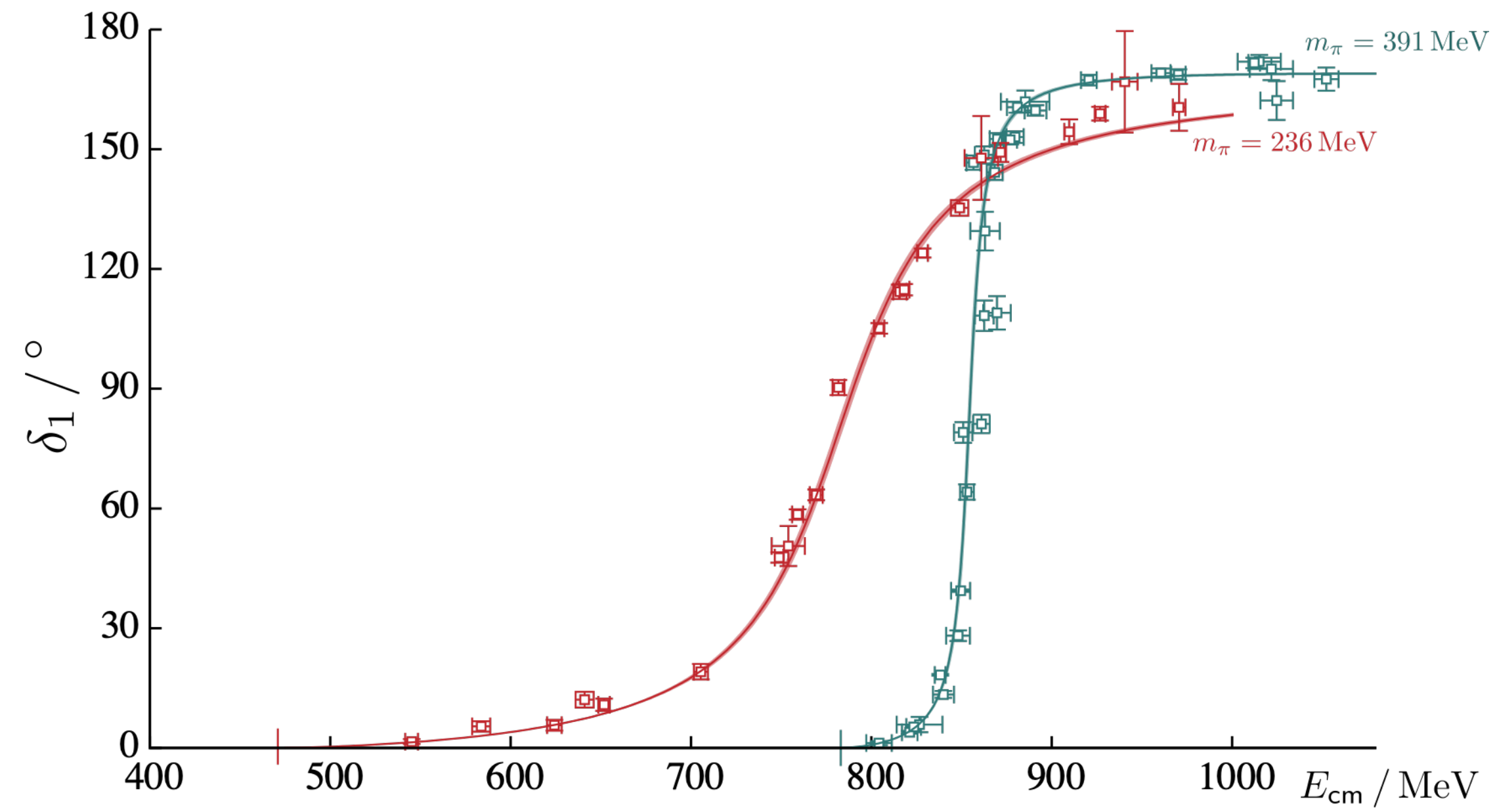
$$\det[F^{-1}(P, L) + \mathcal{M}(P)] = 0$$

$$\mathcal{M} \sim \frac{1}{p \cot \delta - ip}$$

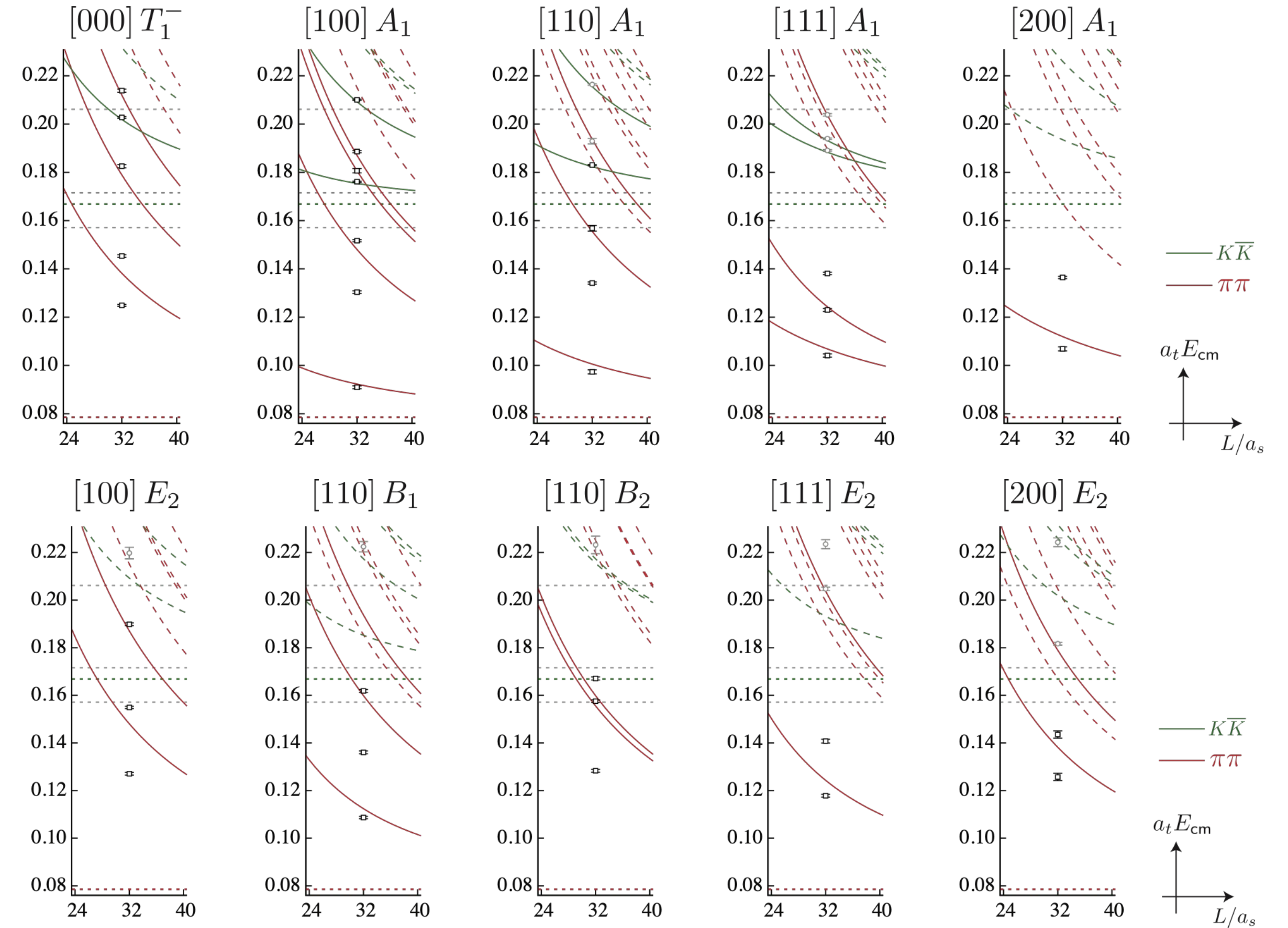


# $\pi\pi$ scattering

( $l=1$  channel)

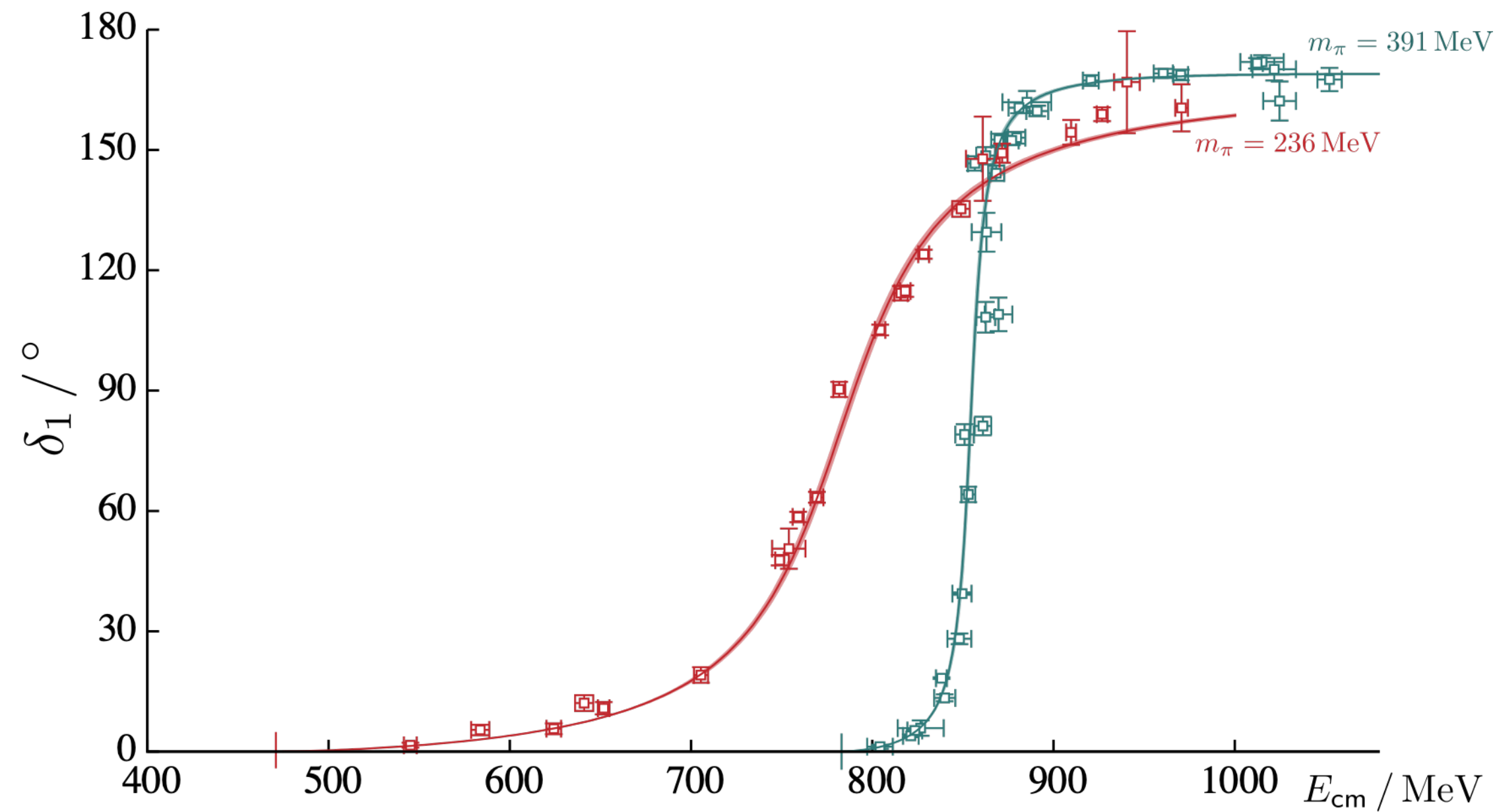


$$\mathcal{M} \sim \frac{1}{p \cot \delta - ip}$$

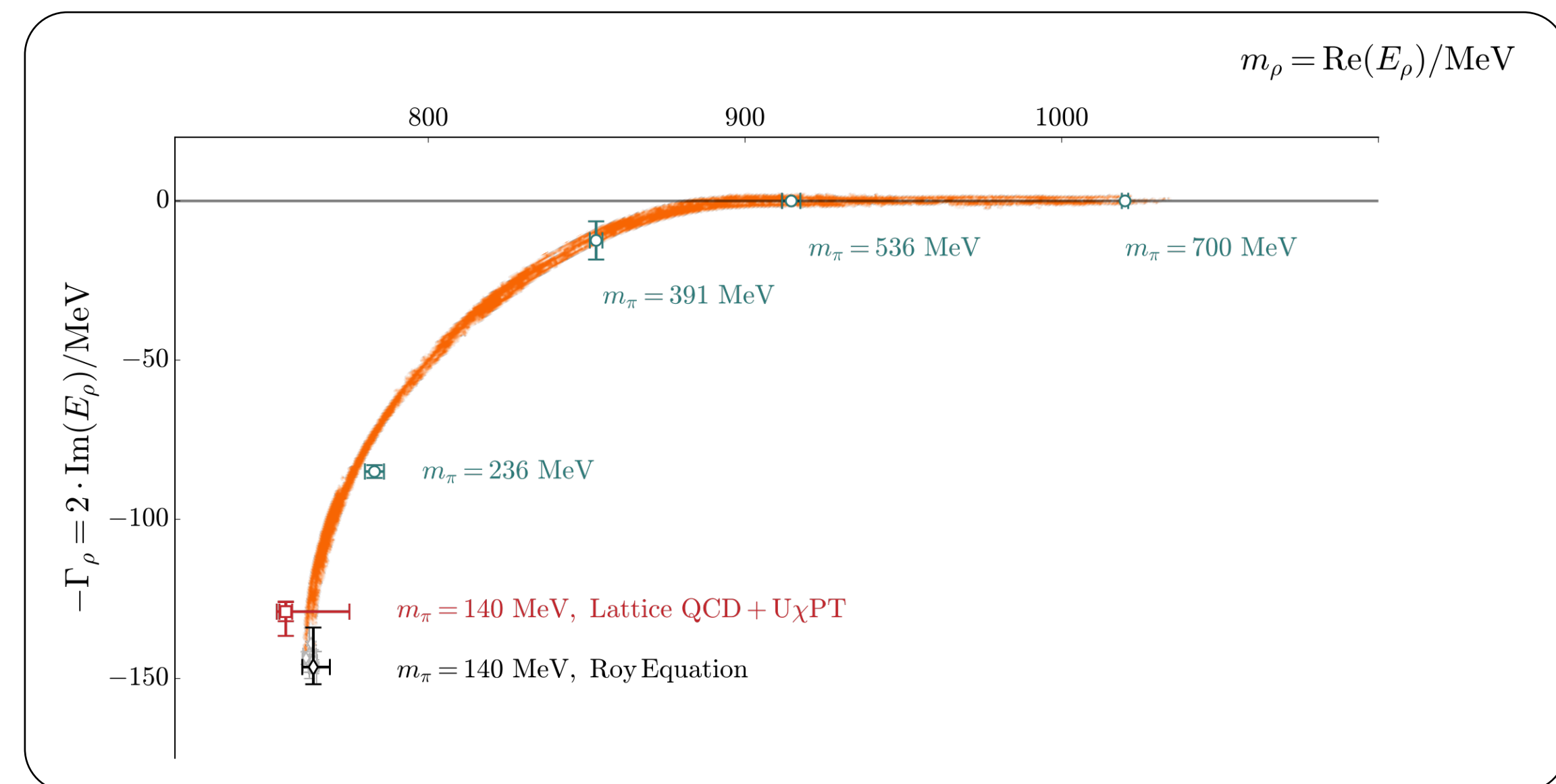
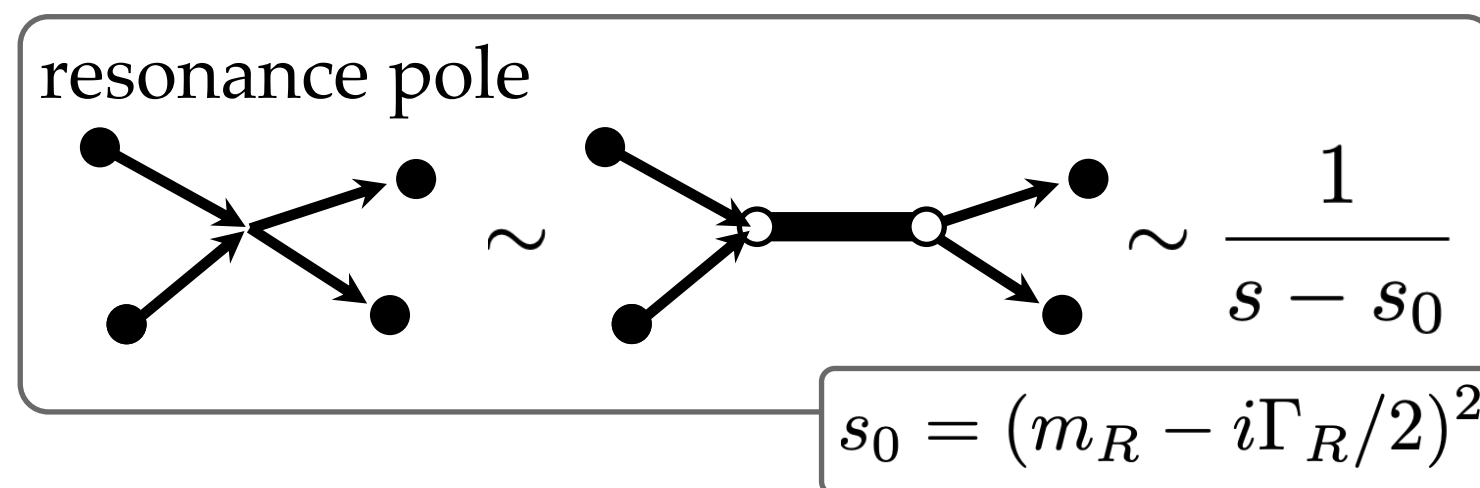


# $\pi\pi$ scattering

( $l=1$  channel)



$$\mathcal{M} \sim \frac{1}{p \cot \delta - ip}$$



Dudek, Edwards, & Thomas (2012)

Wilson, RB, Dudek, Edwards, & Thomas (2015)

# Coupled $\pi\pi$ , $K\bar{K}$ and the $f_0$ 's

- ☑ Above  $K\bar{K}$ -threshold, spectrum satisfies:
- ☑ No one-to-one correspondence,
- ☑ Parameterize amplitude and perform global fit.

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} F_{\pi\pi}^{-1} + \mathcal{M}_{\pi\pi,\pi\pi} & \mathcal{M}_{\pi\pi,K\bar{K}} \\ \mathcal{M}_{\pi\pi,K\bar{K}} & F_{K\bar{K}}^{-1} + \mathcal{M}_{K\bar{K},K\bar{K}} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

