

中国科学院理论物理研究所
Institute of Theoretical Physics, CAS

Lineshape of $a_1(1260)$ from heavy-lepton decay $\tau \rightarrow \nu 3\pi$

Xu Zhang
Institute of Theoretical physics, CAS

Mini-Workshop on light hadrons, IHEP, Sep 30, 2025

Outline

Motivation

- ALEPH and CLEO data on $\tau \rightarrow \nu 3\pi$
- $\tau \rightarrow \nu 3\pi$ offers a clean view of $a_1(1260)$ production
- $a_1(1420)$ triangle singularity in $a_1(1260) \rightarrow \bar{K}K^* \rightarrow f_0\pi \rightarrow 3\pi$

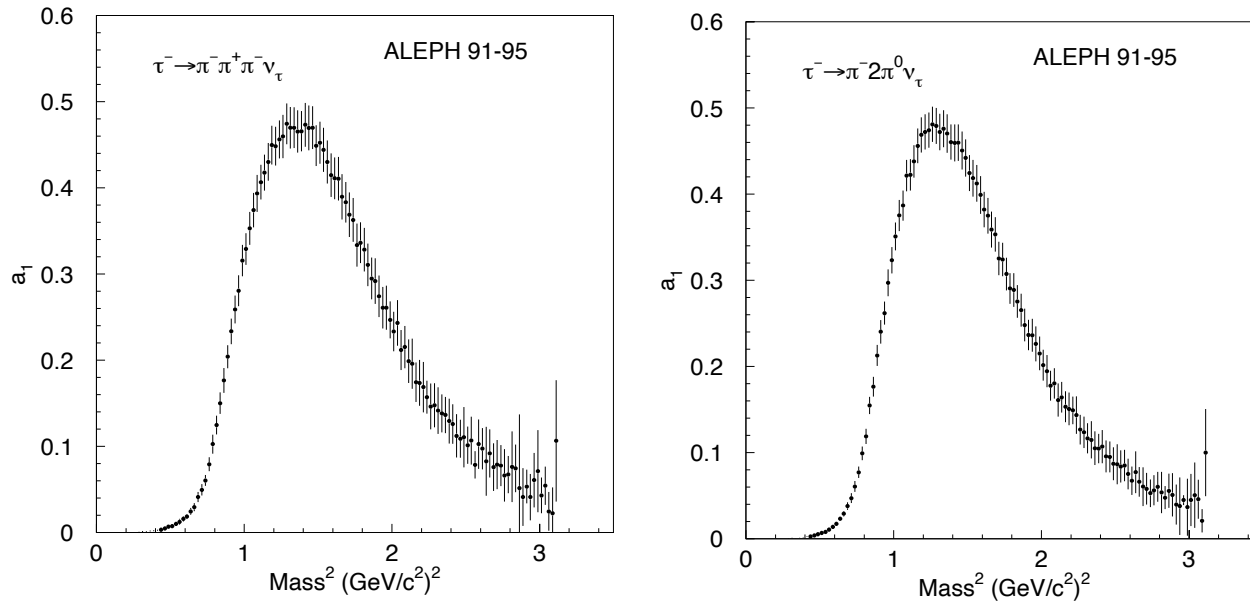
Dispersive framework for three-pion decays

- construction by unitarity and analyticity
- phase-shifts with good accuracy available
- integral equations for $a_1 \rightarrow 3\pi$

Numerical calculation

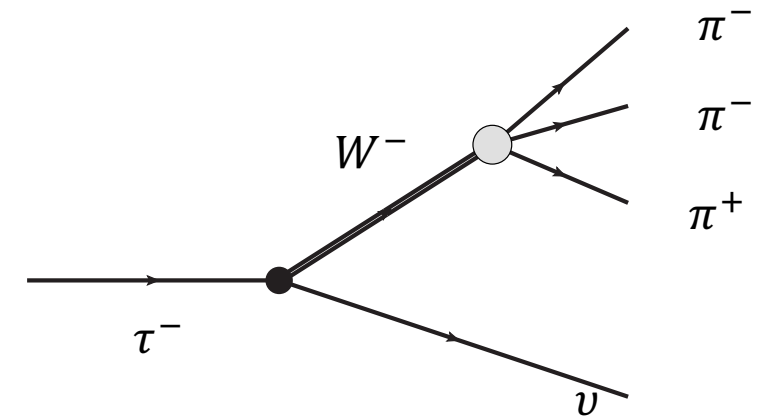
$\tau \rightarrow \nu 3\pi$ decay

ALEPH data on $\tau \rightarrow \nu 3\pi$



The spectral function for the 3π final state

ALEPH Collaboration, Phys. Rept. 421, 191(2005).



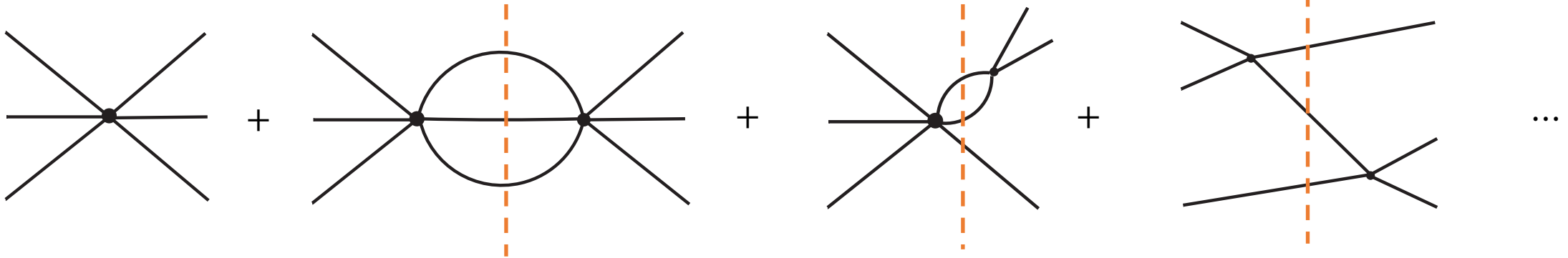
- accurate measurements of the mass distribution
- component $J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$ is suppressed by the PCAC
- the $J^{PC} = 1^{++}$ is dominant

J. H. Kuhn and E. Mirkes, Z. Phys. C 56, 661 (1992)

$\tau \rightarrow \nu 3\pi$ decay

Final-state interactions in hadronic three-body decays play essential role

- **three-body unitary** framework used to describe **3π** interaction



Daniel Sadasivan et al., Phys. Rev. D 105, 054020 (2022)

- **$a_1(1260)$** generated from **3π** interaction

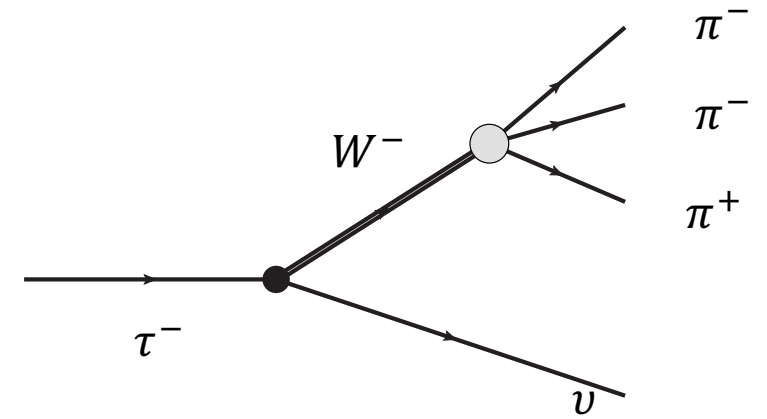
- **approximate three-body unitary**

JPAC Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 98, 096021 (2018)

$\tau \rightarrow \nu 3\pi$ decay

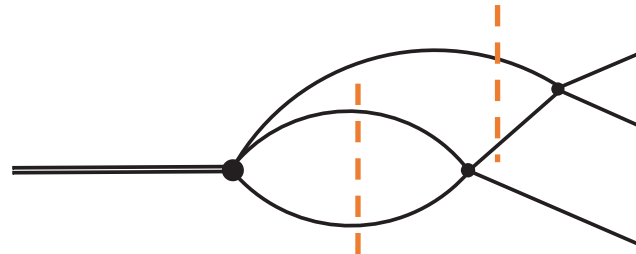
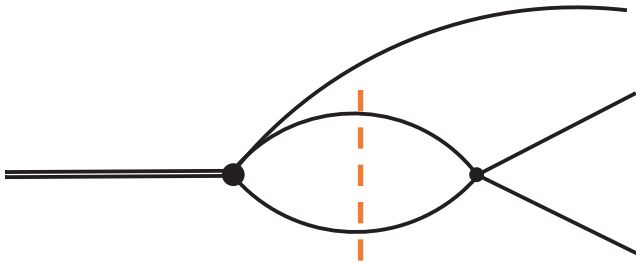
- model of this work $\tau \rightarrow \nu 3\pi$ decay

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dS} = \text{cons.} (m_\tau^2 - S)^2 \sum_\lambda \left| \frac{A_\lambda(S)}{S - m_{a_1}^2 + \Sigma(S)} \right|^2 d\Phi^3$$

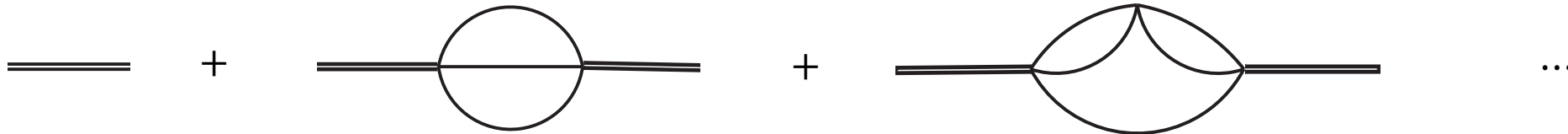


- unitarity relation of $a_1 \rightarrow 3\pi$

N. Khuri, S. Treiman, Phys. Rev. 119, 1115 (1960)

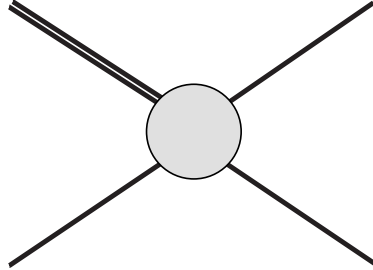


- self-energy $\Sigma(S)$



Three-body decay $a_1 \rightarrow 3\pi$

scattering region



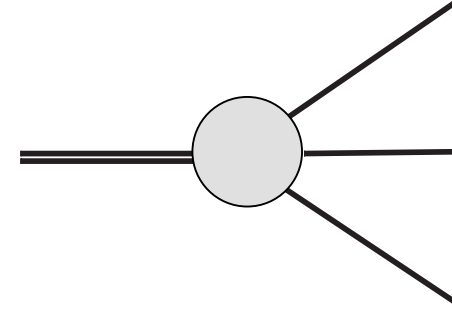
$$M < 3m_\pi$$

$$s \in [(M + m_\pi)^2, \infty]$$

dispersive treatment



continuation in
 M and s

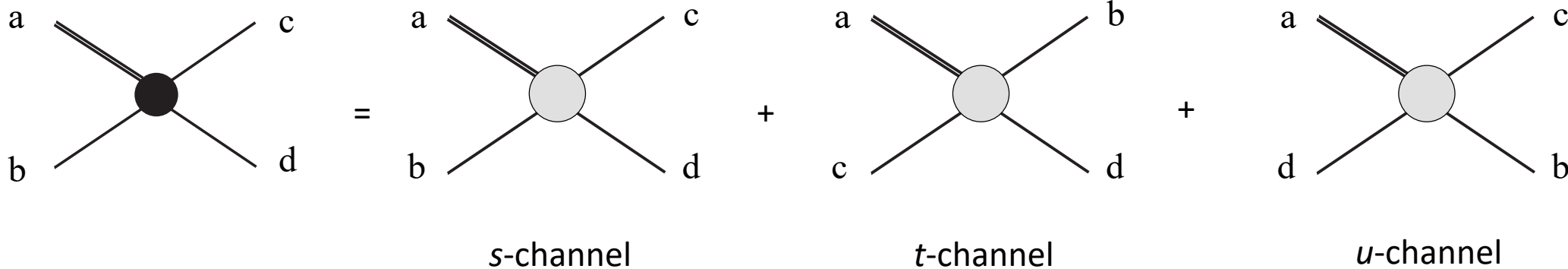


$$M > 3m_\pi$$

$$s \in [4m_\pi^2, (M - m_\pi)^2]$$

decay region

Cartesian isospin indices



amplitude can be decomposed as

$$A_\lambda^{(s)abcd}(s, t, u) = \bar{A}_\lambda^{(s)abcd}(s, t, u) + \sum_{\lambda'} (-1)^{\lambda'} d_{\lambda'\lambda}^J(\omega_t) \bar{A}_\lambda^{(t)acbd}(t, s, u) + \sum_{\lambda'} (-1)^{\lambda'} d_{\lambda'\lambda}^J(\omega_u) \bar{A}_\lambda^{(u)adbc}(u, t, s)$$

From unitarity to integral equations

- unitarity relation

$$\bar{A}_\lambda(s, t, u) = \sum_j (2j+1) d_{\lambda 0}^j(\theta_s) a_{j\lambda}(s)$$

$$A_\lambda^{(I)}(s, t, u) = \frac{1}{(2I+1)} \sum_{a,b,c,d} P_{a,b,c,d}^I A_\lambda^{(s)abcd}(s, t, u)$$

$$T^{(I)}(s, \cos\theta_s) = 32\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (2l+1) P_l(\cos\theta_s) \tau_l^{(I)}(s)$$

$$\text{Disc } A_\lambda^{(I)}(s, t, u) = \frac{\rho(s)}{64\pi^2} \int d\Omega' T^{*(I)}(s, t'', u'') \times A_\lambda^{(I)}(s, t', u')$$



$$\text{Disc } a_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = \rho(s) \tau_j^{(I)}(s) \left\{ \underbrace{a_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s)}_{\text{right-hand cut}} + \underbrace{\bar{\bar{a}}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s)}_{\text{left-hand cut}} \right\}$$

JPAC, Phys. Rev. D 101, 054018 (2020)

right-hand cut

left-hand cut

- kinematic singularities arising from the kinematics (spinor)

kinematic singularities free (KSF) amplitude

Källén or triangle function

$$a_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = \frac{(\lambda_X^{1/2}(s))^{j-1} (\lambda_\pi^{1/2}(s))^j}{s^{|\lambda|/2}} \hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s)$$

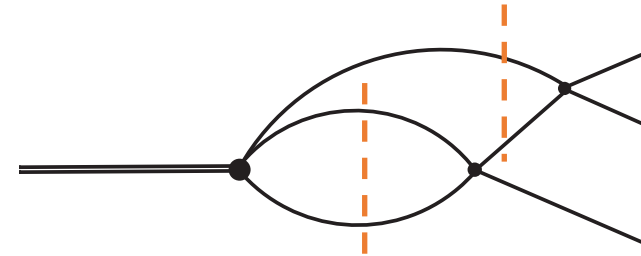
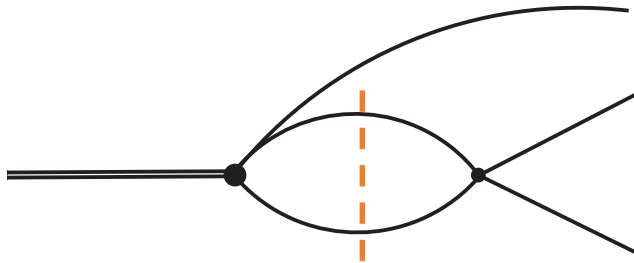
$$\lambda_M^{1/2}(s) = \lambda(s, M^2, m_\pi^2)$$

$$\lambda_\pi^{1/2}(s) = \lambda(s, m_\pi^2, m_\pi^2)$$

From unitarity to integral equations

- unitarity relation

$$\text{Disc } \hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = \rho(s) \tau_j^{(I)}(s) \left\{ \underbrace{\hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s)}_{\text{right-hand cut}} + \underbrace{\tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s)}_{\text{left-hand cut}} \right\}$$



- homogeneity contribution

$$\hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = P(s) \Omega(s) = P(s) \exp \left[\frac{s}{\pi} \int_{4m_\pi^2}^{\infty} \frac{\delta_j^I(s')}{s'(s' - s - i\varepsilon)} ds' \right]$$

R. Omnès, Nuovo Cim. 8, 316 (1958)

Integral equations

A. V. Anisovich and H. Leutwyler, Phys. Lett. B 375, 335 (1996)

- unitarity relation

$$\text{Disc } \hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = \rho(s) \tau_j^{(I)}(s) \left\{ \hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) + \tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) \right\}$$



$$\hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = P(s) + \frac{s^n}{\pi} \int_{4m_\pi^2}^{\infty} \frac{ds'}{s'^n} \frac{\sin \delta_j^I(s') e^{-i\delta_j^I(s')}}{(s' - s - i\varepsilon)} \left\{ \hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s') + \tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s') \right\}$$



$$\hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = \Omega_j^I(s) \left\{ P(s) + \frac{s^n}{\pi} \int_{4m_\pi^2}^{\infty} \frac{ds'}{s'^n} \frac{\sin \delta_j^I(s')}{|\Omega_j^I|(s' - s - i\varepsilon)} \left\{ \hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s') + \tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s') \right\} \right\}$$

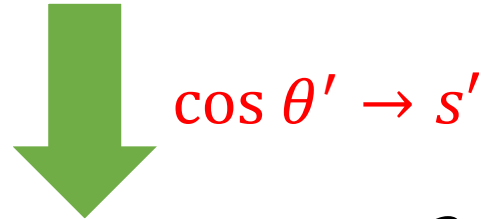
Analytic continuation

- inhomogeneities $\tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s)$

$$C_{II'} = \frac{1}{(2I + 1)} \Sigma_{a,b,c,c} P_{a,b,c,d}^I P_{a,b,c,d}^{I'}$$

$$d_{\lambda 0}^j(\theta) = (\sin \theta)^{|\lambda|} \hat{d}_{\lambda 0}^j(\theta)$$

$$\tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = (-1)^\lambda \sum_{I', \lambda', j'} (2j' + 1) C_{II'} \int d \cos \theta' \hat{C}_{II'}^{jj'}(s, \theta') \hat{d}_{\lambda 0}^j(\theta') \hat{d}_{\lambda' 0}^{j'}(\theta'_t) \hat{a}_{j'\lambda'}^{(I')}(t')$$



$$\tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = (-1)^\lambda \sum_{I', \lambda', j'} (2j' + 1) C_{II'} \underbrace{\frac{2s}{\lambda_M^{n/2}(s) \lambda_\pi^{n/2}(s)}}_{\substack{n=1,3,5 \\ \text{singularities}}} \int d s' K(s, s') \hat{a}_{j'\lambda'}^{(I')}(s')$$

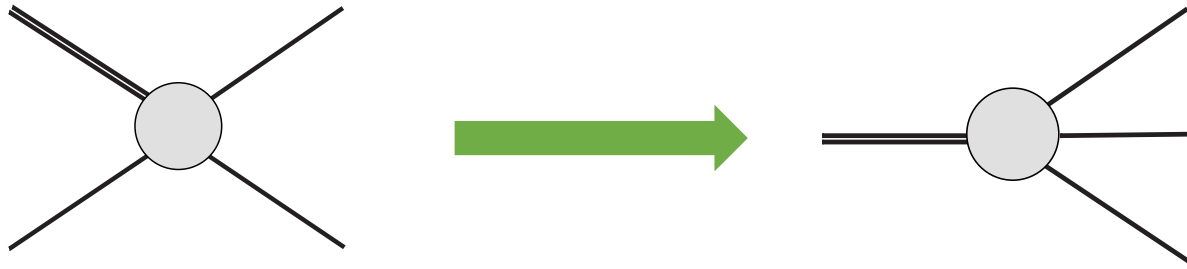
$$\hat{C}_{II'}^{jj'}(s, \theta) = (\sin^2 \theta)^{|\lambda|} K_{j\lambda}^{-1}(s, \theta) d_{\lambda' \lambda}^1(\omega_t(s, \theta)) K_{j'\lambda'}(t(s, \theta), \theta_t(s, \theta))$$

$$K_{j\lambda}(s, \theta) = (s^{-1/2} \sin \theta)^{|\lambda|} (\lambda_X^{1/2}(s))^{|j-1|} (\lambda_\pi^{1/2}(s))^j$$

$$s' = (M^2 + 3m_\pi^2 - s)/2 + \lambda_M^{1/2}(s) \lambda_\pi^{1/2}(s) / (2s) \cos \theta'$$

Analytic continuation

- continuation into the decay region

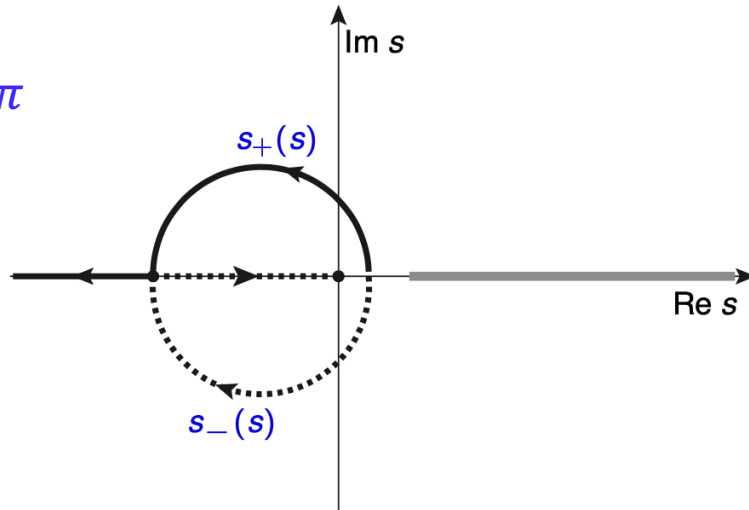


- $M \rightarrow M + i\delta$

J. B. Bronzan and C. Kacser,
Phys. Rev. 132, 2703 (1963)

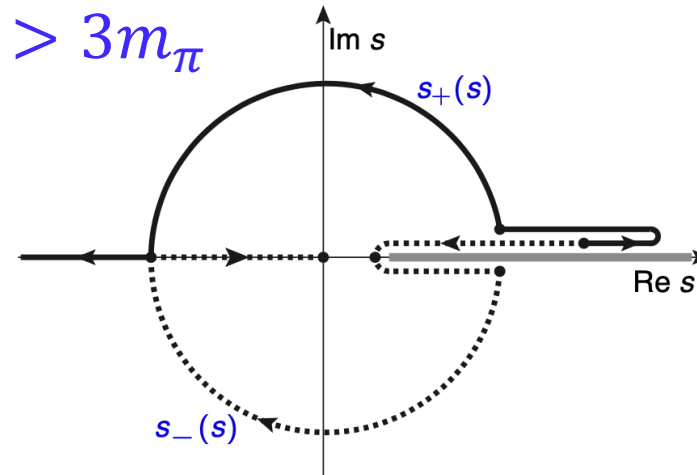
- path deformation needed

$$M < 3m_\pi$$



Integration does **not** run over
the cut

$$M > 3m_\pi$$



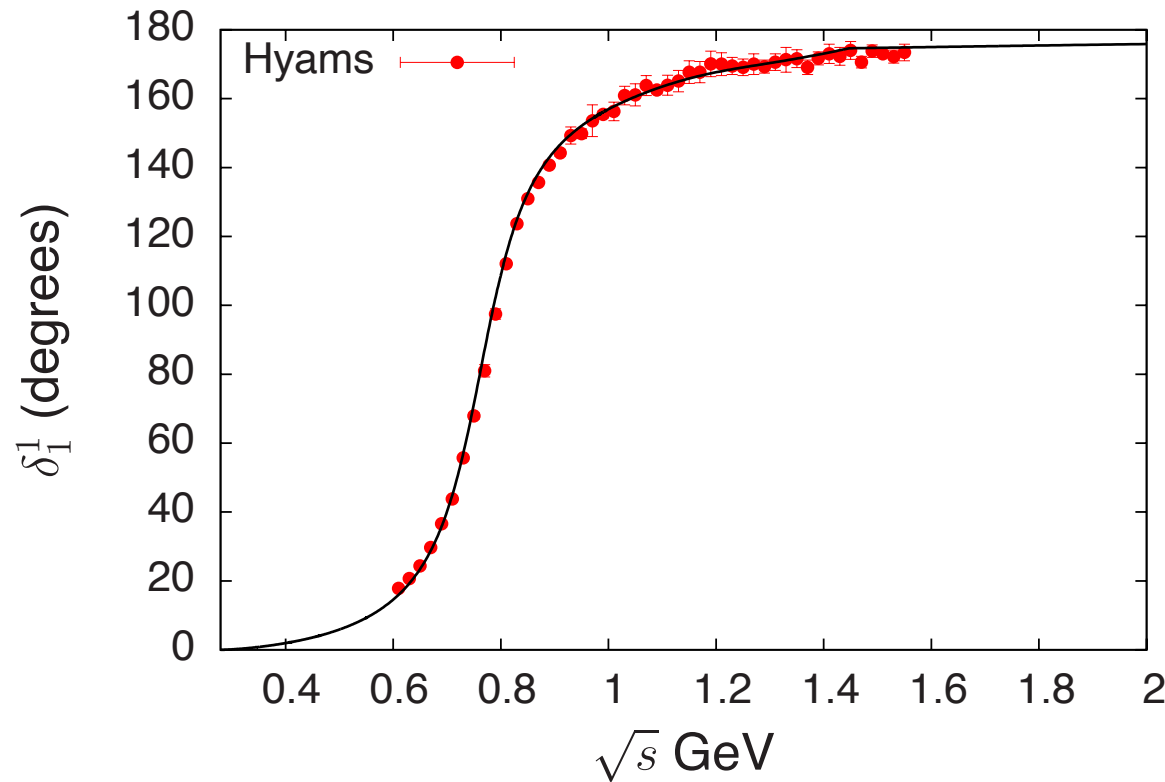
Integration does **run** over the cut

Phase-shift input

- ***P*-wave, $I = 1$**

R. García-Martín et al., Phys. Rev. D 83, 074004 (2011)

$\pi\pi$ scattering constrained by analyticity and unitarity



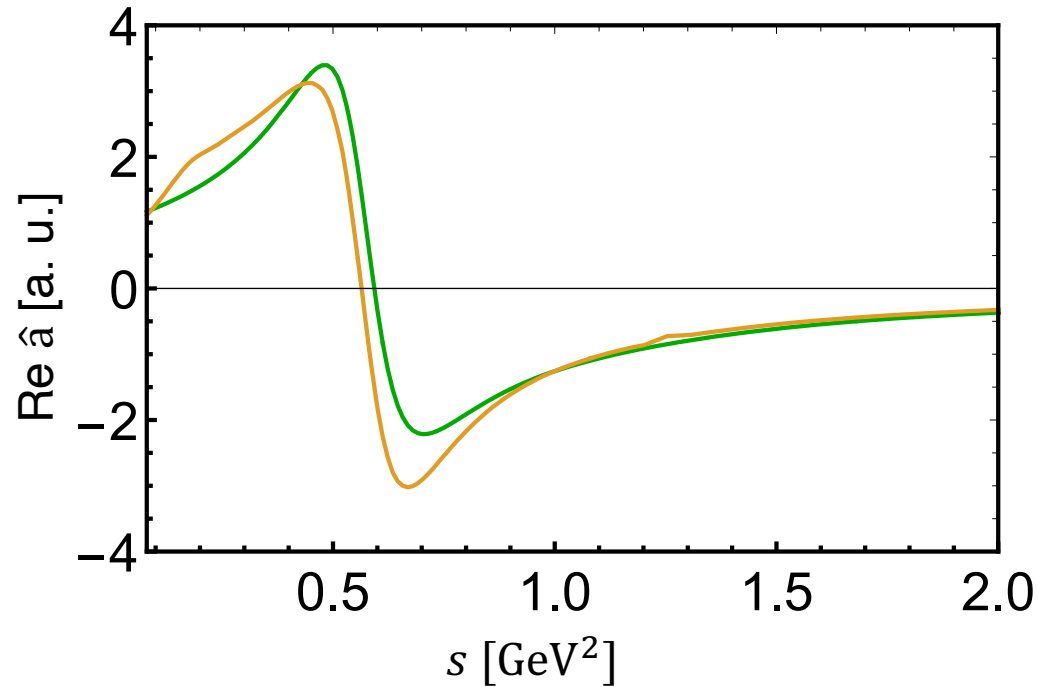
Roy equations = partial-wave dispersion relations + crossing symmetry + unitarity

B. Hyams et al., Nucl.Phys. B64, 134 (1973)

Numerical results

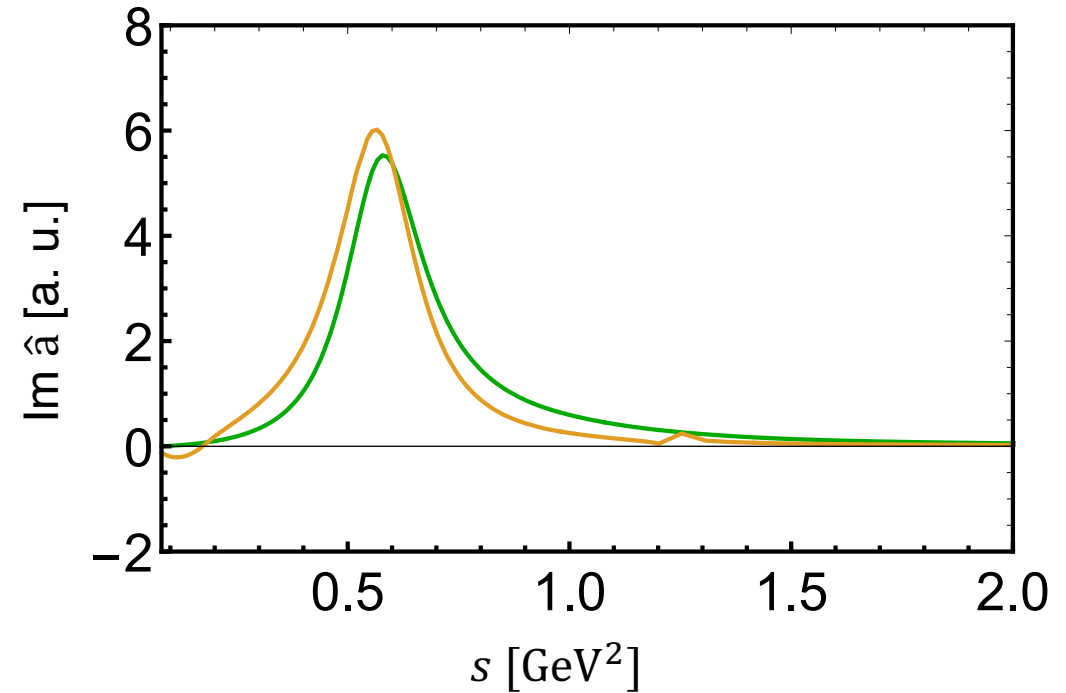
- KSF amplitude $\hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s)$

$$I = 1, j = 1, \lambda = 0$$



Only *P*-wave $\pi\pi$ scattering included

$$M = 1.25 \text{ GeV}$$



- use **Omnès** function as **input**
- **crossed-channel rescattering effects** play a role
- rescattering effects phase-space dependent

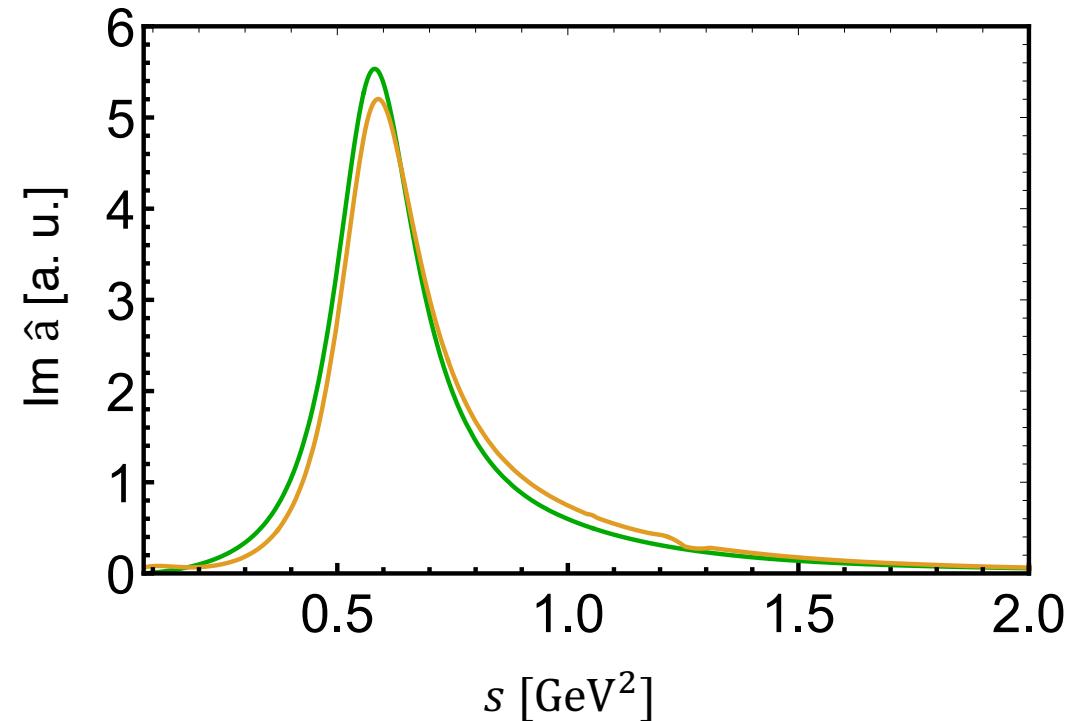
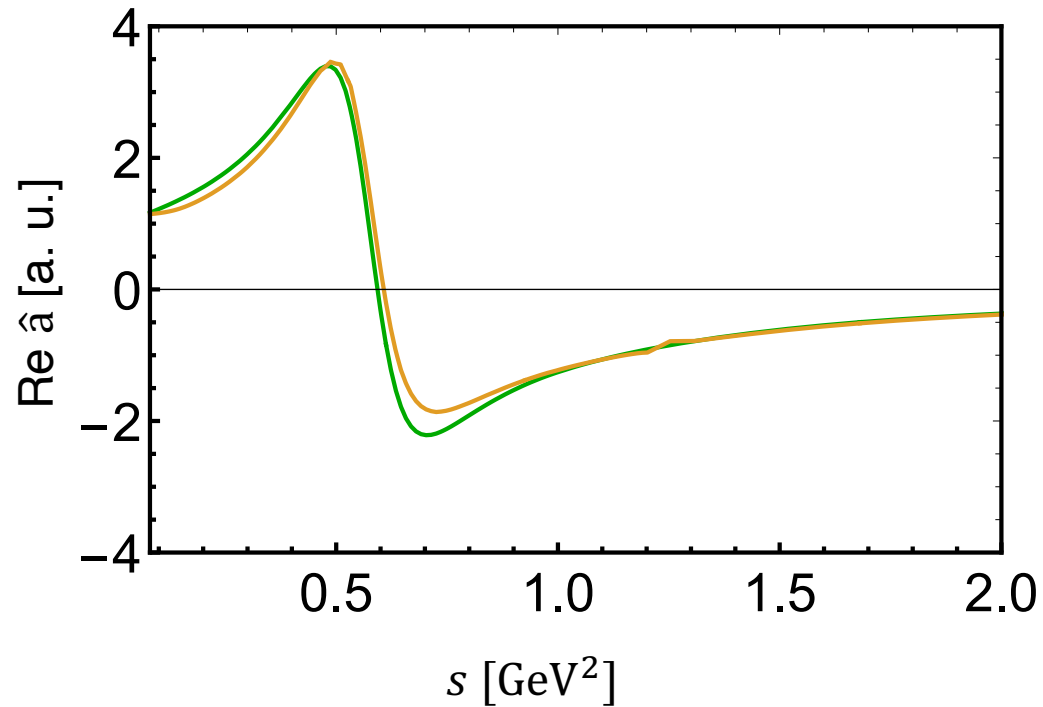
Once-subtracted solution
Green lines : $\tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = 0$
Orange lines : **Full result**

Numerical results

- KSF amplitude $\hat{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s)$

$$I = 1, j = 1, \lambda = +1$$

Only *P*-wave $\pi\pi$ scattering included



$$\frac{2s}{\lambda_{\pi}^{3/2}(s)} \int ds' K(s, s') \hat{a}_{j'\lambda'}^{(I')}(s') \sim a_P + b_P (s_{III} - s)^{\frac{1}{2}} + c_P (s_{III} - s)^{3/2} \dots$$

$$s_{III} = (M - m_{\pi})^2$$

Green lines : $\tilde{a}_{j\lambda}^{(I)}(s) = 0$

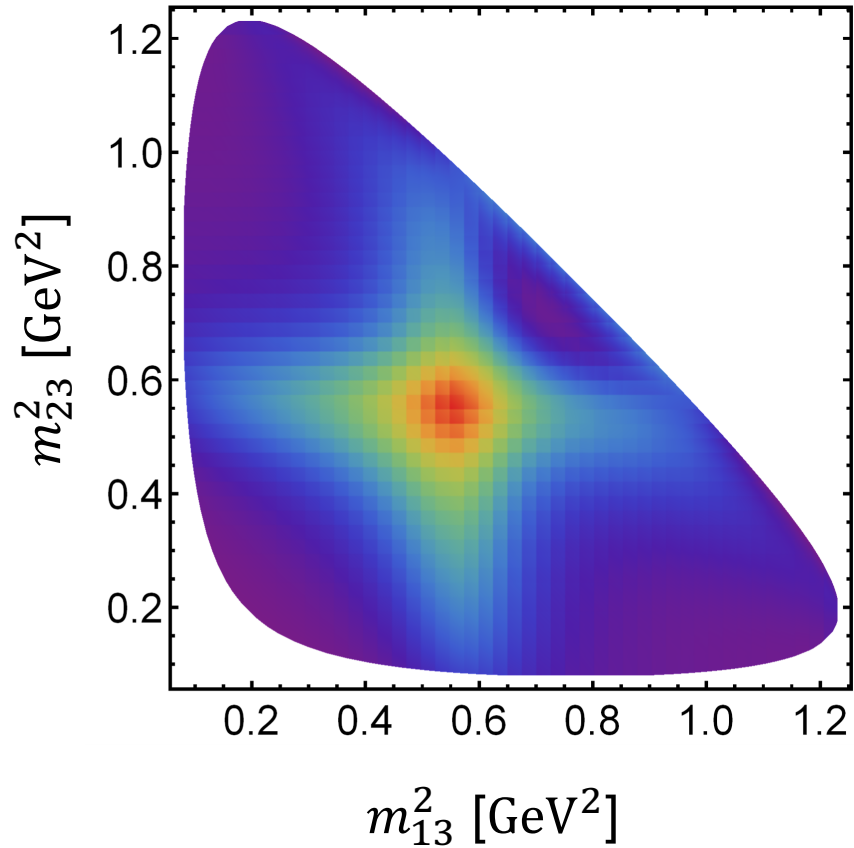
Orange lines : Full result

Improve the stability of numerical integration

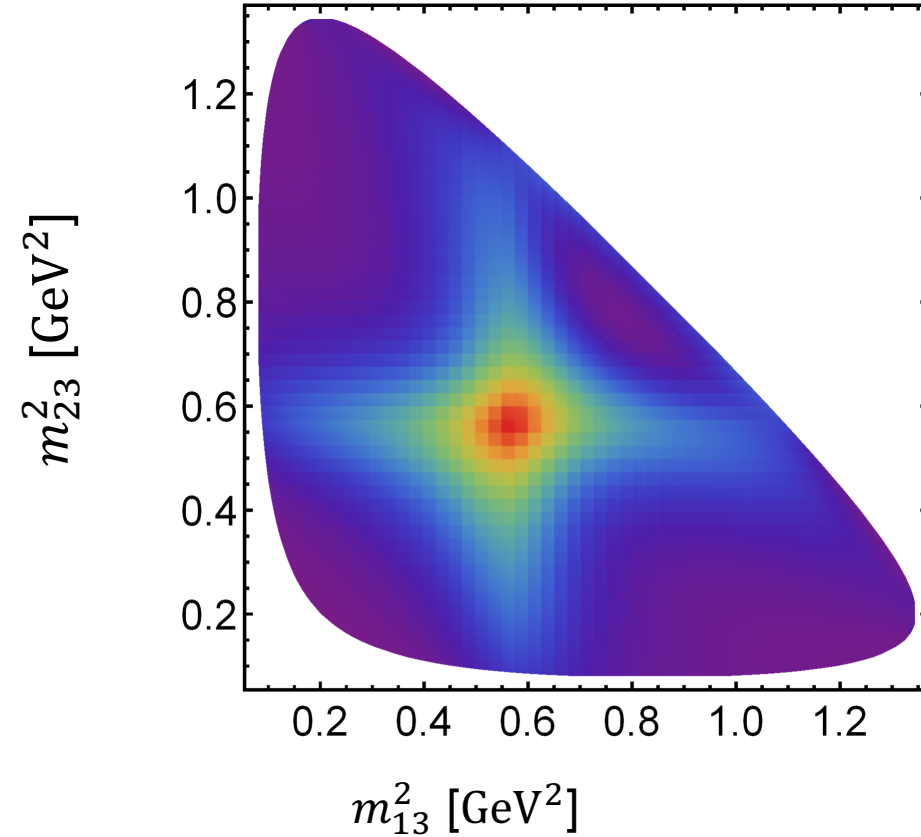
Numerical results

Dalitz plots

- $a_1^- \rightarrow \pi^-(p_1) \pi^-(p_2) \pi^+(p_3)$



$M = 1.25$ GeV



$M = 1.3$ GeV

Dalitz plot shows ρ -resonance bands

Summary

- only P -wave $\pi\pi$ scattering is included
- the 3π mass distribution needs to be fitted
- $a_1(1420)$ triangle singularity in $a_1(1260) \rightarrow \bar{K}K^* \rightarrow f_0\pi \rightarrow 3\pi$ will be studied

Thank you !