

# Six-Meson Scattering and Three Pions on the Lattice

Chiral Dynamics 2024, Bochum

Mattias Sjö, CPT Marseille

(formerly Lund U.)



# The people



Hans Bijnens,  
Lund U.



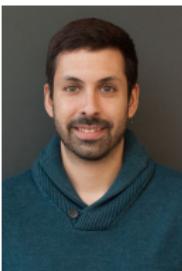
Tomáš Husek,  
Birmingham U.



Mattias Sjö,  
CPT Marseille



Stephen Sharpe,  
U. of Washington



Fernando Romero-López,  
MIT → Bern U.



Jorge Baeza-Ballesteros,  
U. de València

# The papers



Bijnens & Husek, "*Six-pion amplitude*"

*PRD*, 2107.06291[hep-ph]

Bijnens, Husek & **MS** "*Six-meson amplitude in QCD-like theories*"

*PRD*, 2206.14212[hep-ph]

Baeza-Ballesteros, Bijnens, Husek, Romero-López, Sharpe & **MS**

"*The isospin-3 three-particle K-matrix at NLO in ChPT*"

*JHEP*, 2303.13206[hep-ph]

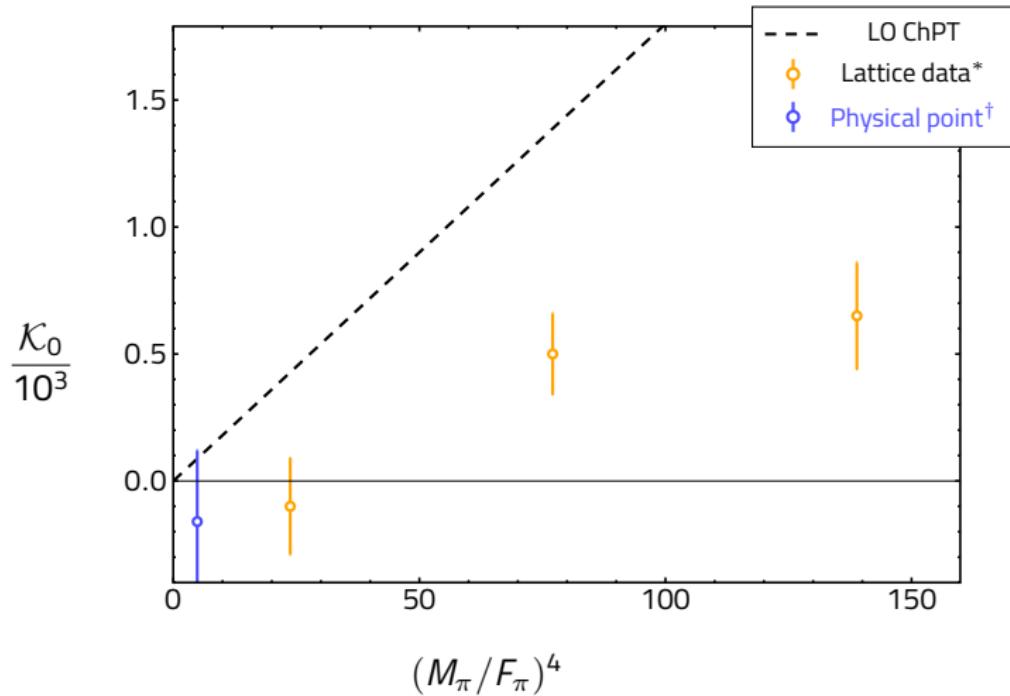
Baeza-Ballesteros, Bijnens, Husek, Romero-López, Sharpe & **MS**

"*The three-pion K-matrix at NLO in ChPT*"

*JHEP*, 2401.14293[hep-ph]

- **Introduction:** Fernando's plenary (this morning)
- **Outlook:** Steve's Fernando's parallel talk (18:00)

# The tension that was



\* Blanton, Hanlon, Hörz, Morningstar, Romero-López & Sharpe,  
"Three-body interactions from the finite-volume QCD spectrum"

† (see Fernando's talk)

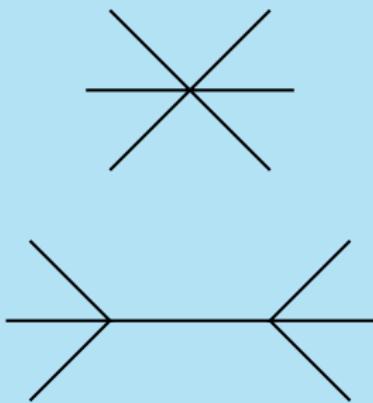
Phys.Rev.D, 2021.06144[hep-lat]

# The amplitude

# Leading order



Ancient current algebra result



Osborn (1969)

Susskind & Frye (1970)

## Vertices

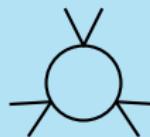
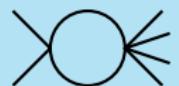
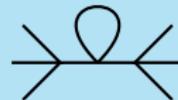
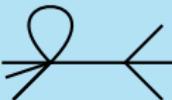
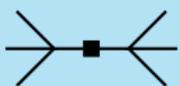
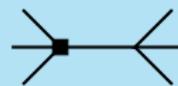
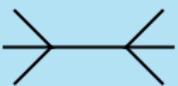


$\times$  = LO vertex



$\times$  = NLO vertex (counterterm)

## All the LO and NLO diagrams



# One-Loop Integrals



One- and two-propagator integrals

$$\text{Diagram: A loop with a self-energy insertion labeled } \ell \text{ on top, connected to a single external line.} \sim \frac{1}{4-d} + (\text{finite})$$

$$\text{Diagram: A loop with a self-energy insertion labeled } \ell \text{ on top, connected to a line labeled } q \text{ entering from the left and a line labeled } (q-\ell) \text{ exiting to the right.} \sim \frac{1}{4-d} + \bar{J}(q^2) + (\text{finite})$$

## Three-propagator integral

$$\text{Diagram: A loop with three external lines.} \sim \int \frac{d^d \ell}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{\{1, \ell^\mu, \ell^\mu \ell^\nu, \ell^\mu \ell^\nu \ell^\rho\}}{(\ell^2 - M^2) [(\ell - q_1)^2 - M^2] [(\ell + q_2)^2 - M^2]}$$

In principle reducible to  $\bar{J}$  — **impractical** — redundant basis instead:

$$\{\bar{J}, C, C_{11}, C_{21}, C_3\}(p_1, \dots, p_6)$$

# Simplifying the amplitude

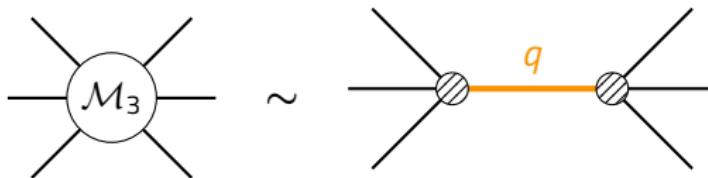


$\mathcal{M}_3^{\text{NLO}}$  is a function of...

- ▶ 6 particle flavors
- ▶ 9 kinematic invariants (8 in  $d = 4$ )
- ▶ 8 free parameters (5 with just pions)
- ▶  $\bar{J}(q_i, q_j)$  and 4  $C_X(p_i, p_j, p_k, p_l, p_m, p_n)$ 's

~ **500 pages** in full → How to simplify?

# Single-particle pole



## Factorization

$$\mathcal{M}_3 = \sum_{\substack{\{ijk\} \\ \{lmn\}}} \frac{\mathcal{M}_2(p_i, p_j, p_k, +q) \times \mathcal{M}_2(p_l, p_m, p_n, -q)}{q^2 - M^2 + i\epsilon} + (\text{non-factorizable})$$

# Stripped amplitudes



The 4-point amplitude

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M}^{abcd}(s, t) = & [\langle \mathbf{abcd} \rangle + \langle dcba \rangle] \mathbf{B}(s, t, u) + \langle \mathbf{ab} \rangle \langle \mathbf{cd} \rangle \mathbf{C}(s, t, u) \\ & + [\langle acdb \rangle + \langle bdca \rangle] B(t, u, s) + \langle ac \rangle \langle bd \rangle C(t, u, s) \\ & + [\langle adbc \rangle + \langle cbda \rangle] B(u, s, t) + \langle ad \rangle \langle bc \rangle C(u, s, t)\end{aligned}$$

The *stripped* 4-point amplitude

$$B = \mathcal{M}_{\{4\}}, \quad C = \mathcal{M}_{\{2,2\}}$$

# Stripped amplitudes



## Flavour structures

$$\mathcal{F}_{\{6\}}(a_1, \dots, a_6) = \langle a_1 \cdots a_6 \rangle$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\{2,4\}}(a_1, \dots, a_6) = \langle a_1 a_2 \rangle \langle a_3 \cdots a_6 \rangle$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\{3,3\}}(a_1, \dots, a_6) = \langle a_1 a_2 a_3 \rangle \langle a_4 a_5 a_6 \rangle$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\{2,2,2\}}(a_1, \dots, a_6) = \langle a_1 a_2 \rangle \langle a_3 a_4 \rangle \langle a_5 a_6 \rangle$$

$$\mathcal{M}(p_1, a_1; p_2, a_2; \dots) = \sum_R \sum_{\sigma} \mathcal{M}_R(\sigma[p_1, \dots]) \mathcal{F}_R(\sigma[a_1, \dots])$$

## Stripping

$\sigma \notin$  symmetries of  $\mathcal{F}_R$   
→ well-known, unique

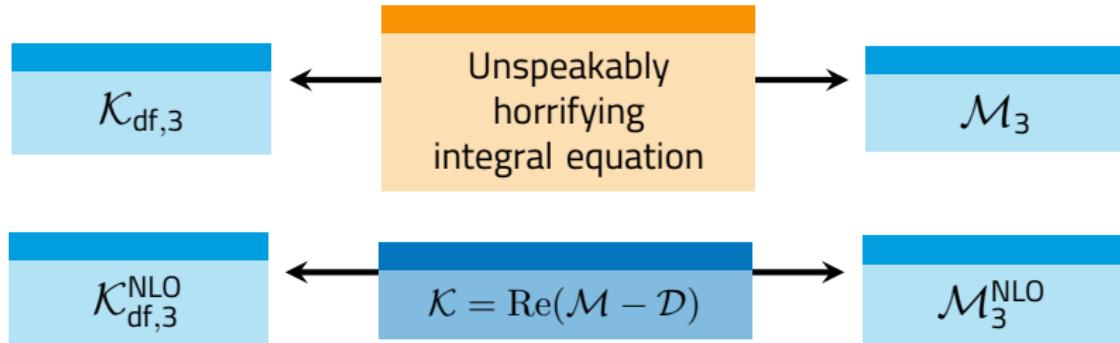
## Deorbiting

$\sigma \in$  symmetries of  $\mathcal{F}_R$   
→ novel, non-unique!

$\mathcal{M}_3^{\text{NLO}}$  still won't fit on a slide, but not far from it!

# The K-matrix

# How to get it

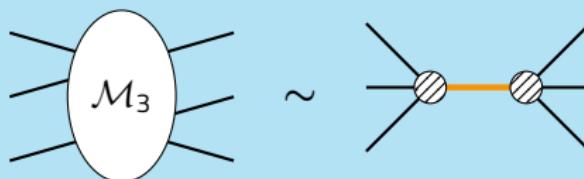


## Guiding properties of $\mathcal{D}$

- ▶ Exactly cancels divergences → **df**
- ▶ All internal lines on-shell

# Subtracting poles

*s*-channel one-particle exchange



- ▶ Only present at **isospin 1**
- ▶ **No subtraction** needed since pole is sub-threshold

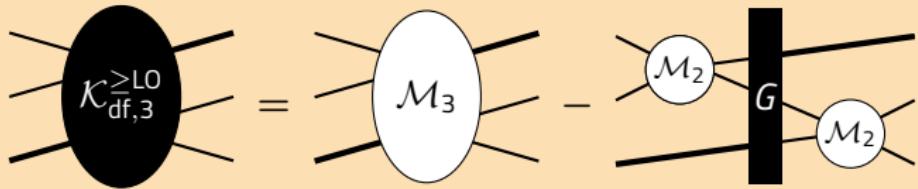
# Subtracting poles



*t*-channel one-particle exchange



OPE subtraction

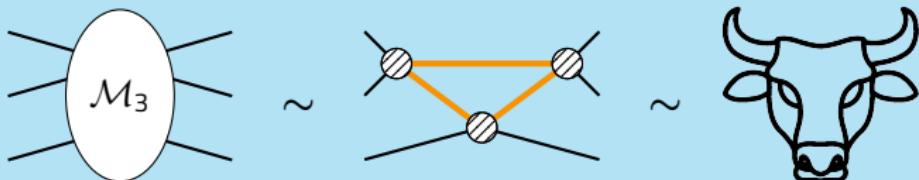


**Note:**  $G$  necessarily contains a cutoff function

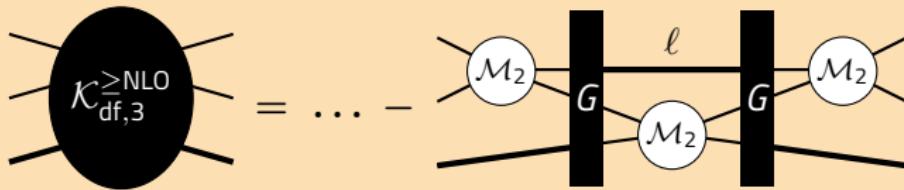
# Subtracting cuts



Bull's head cut



Bull's head subtraction



The bull's head integral is **awful**:

- ▶ Triangle loop  $\Rightarrow$  complicated, pole-ridden integrand
- ▶ On-shell  $\Rightarrow$  no loop momentum shift
- ▶ Non-analytic  $\Rightarrow$  no Wick rotation, dispersion, etc.

## Different approaches

- ▶ Some clever but not very useful ways  
Simple part with poles + complicated part (numerics-friendly)
- ▶ Brute-force numerics  
Because Tomáš is a Mathematica wizard
- ▶ Semi-analytic  
Threshold-expand, then apply deep magic

# Threshold expansion

## Expansion parameters

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta &\propto P^2 - (3M_\pi)^2 && \text{(system above-threshold-ness)} \\ \Delta_i^{(\prime)} &\propto (P - p_i^{(\prime)})^2 - (2M_\pi)^2 && \text{(pair above-threshold-ness)} \\ \tilde{t}_{ij} &\propto (p_i - p_j')^2 && \text{(spectator above-threshold-ness)}\end{aligned}$$

## Compound parameters

$$\Delta_A = \sum (\Delta_i^2 + \Delta_i'^2) - \Delta^2 \quad \Delta_B = \sum \tilde{t}_{ij}^2 - \Delta^2$$

## Maximum isospin threshold expansion

$$\mathcal{K}_{df,3}^{[I=3]} = \mathcal{K}_0 + \mathcal{K}_1 \Delta + \mathcal{K}_2 \Delta^2 + \mathcal{K}_A \Delta_A + \mathcal{K}_B \Delta_B + \mathcal{O}(\Delta^3)$$

# Non-maximal isospin

$I = 3$

Singlet

$I = 2$

Doublet

$I = 1$

Singlet

Doublet

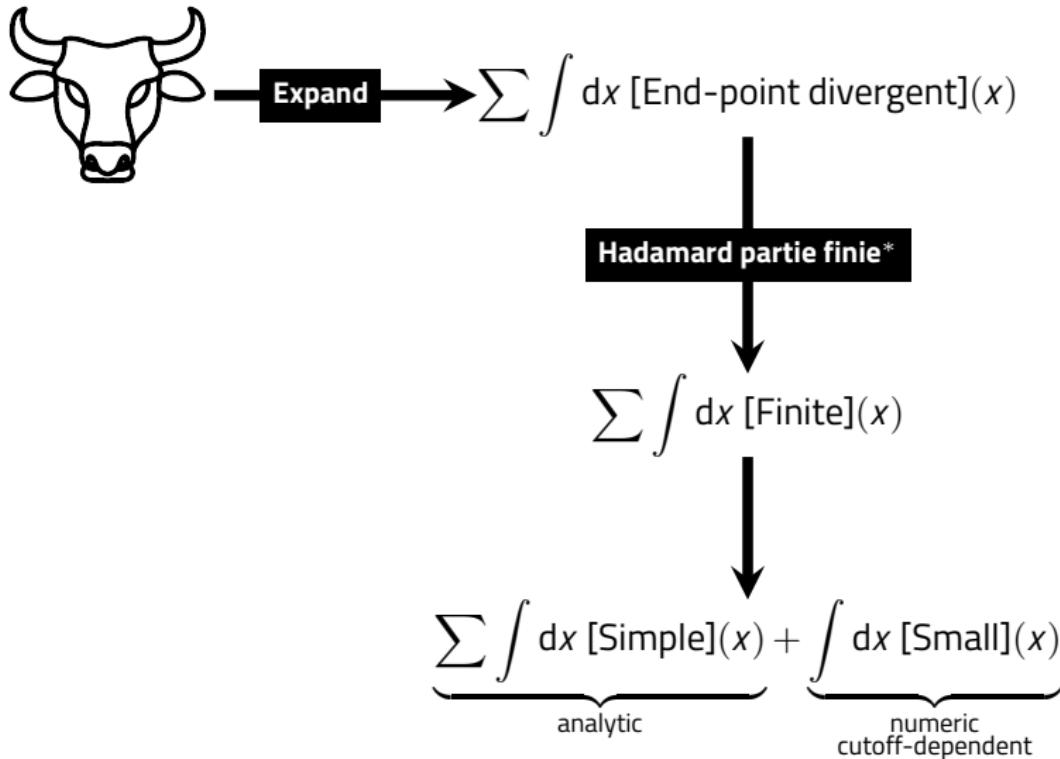
$I = 0$

Antisymmetric singlet

*Minimum isospin threshold expansion*

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{df},3}^{[I=0]} = \mathcal{K}_0^{\text{AS}} \sum \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{lmn} \tilde{t}_{il} \tilde{t}_{jm} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta^3)$$

# Semi-analytic evaluation

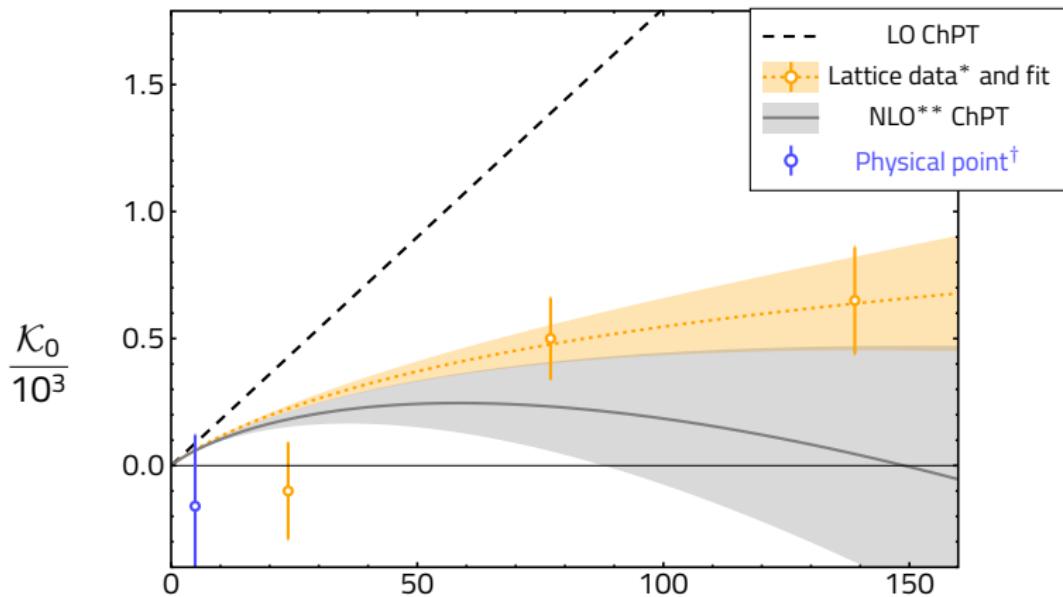


\* Costin & Friedman, "Foundational aspects of singular integrals"

J.Functional Analysis, 1401.7045[math.FA]

# Results

# Maximum isospin, again



$$(M_\pi / F_\pi)^4$$

\* Blanton, Hanlon, Hörz, Morningstar, Romero-López & Sharpe,

"Three-body interactions from the finite-volume QCD spectrum"

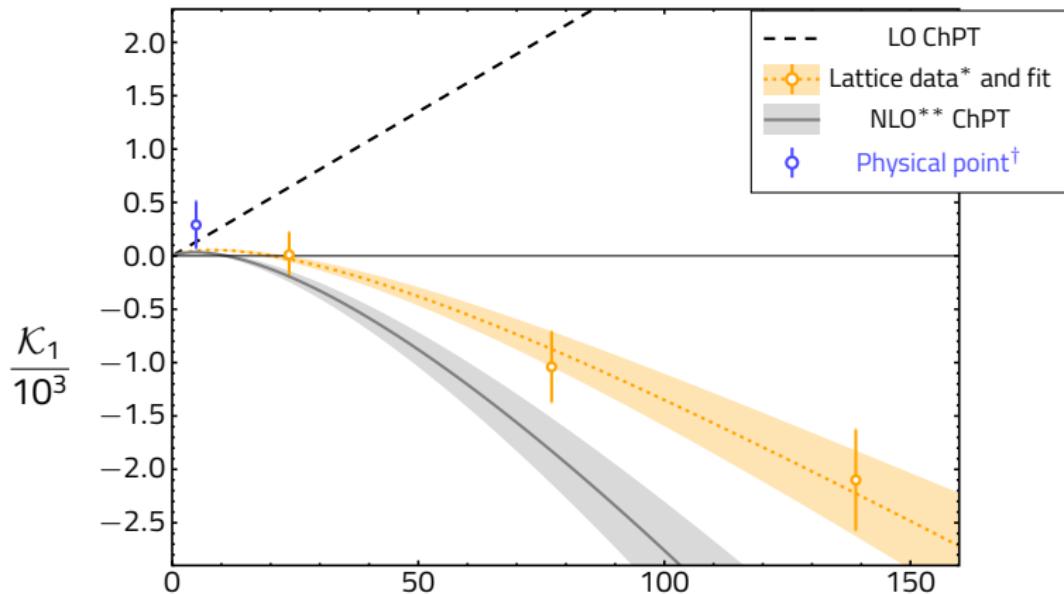
\*\* using LECs from FLAG and Colangelo, Gasser & Leutwyler, " $\pi\pi$  scattering"

† (see Fernando's talk)

Phys.Rev.D, 2021.06144 [hep-lat]

Nucl.Phys.B, hep-ph/0103088

# Subleading order

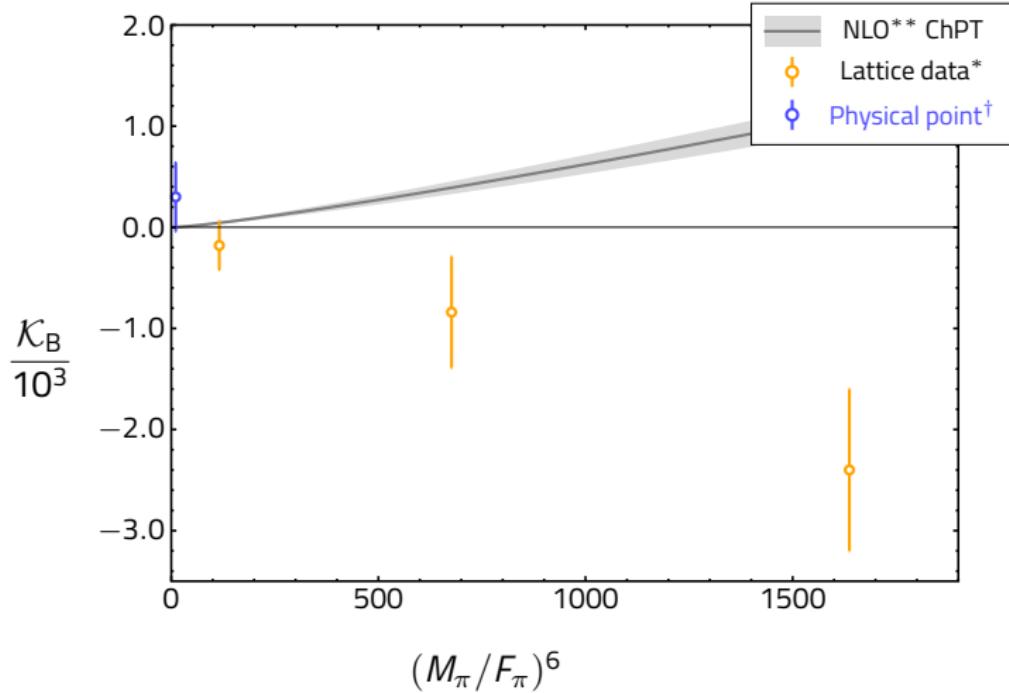


$$(M_\pi / F_\pi)^4$$

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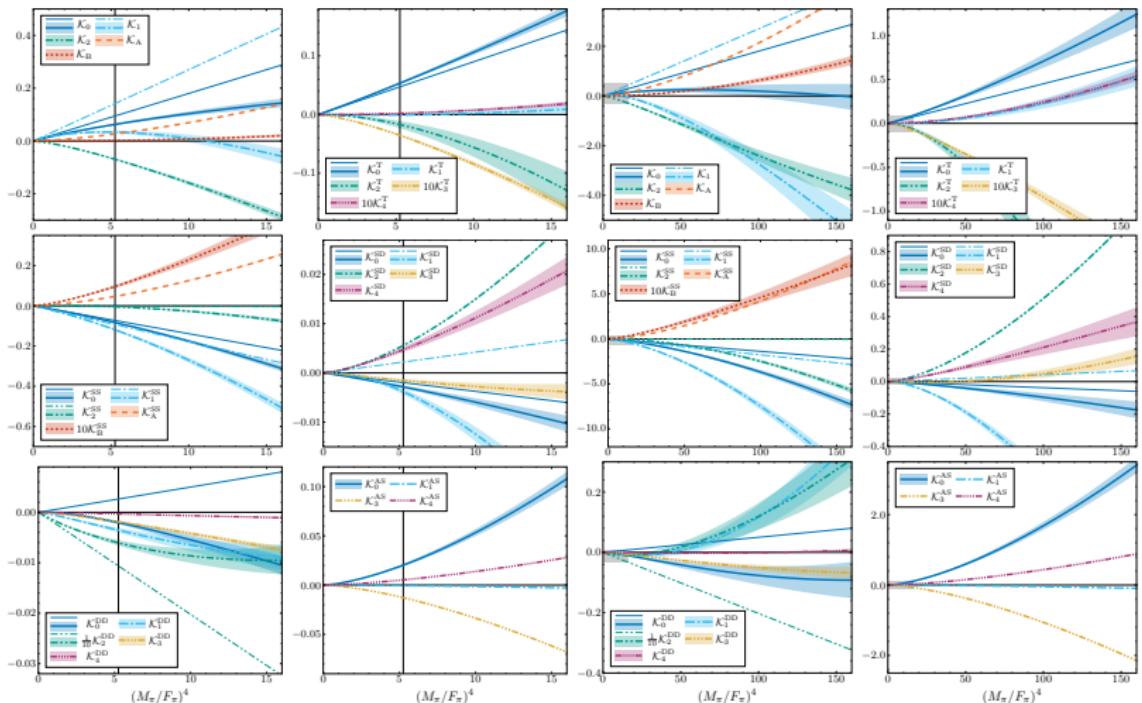
# Sub-subleading order



\* Blanton, Hanlon, Hörz, Morningstar, Romero-López & Sharpe,  
"Three-body interactions from the finite-volume QCD spectrum"  
\*\* using LECs from FLAG and Colangelo, Gasser & Leutwyler, " $\pi\pi$  scattering"  
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Nucl.Phys.B, hep-ph/0103088

# Awaiting more lattice results...



# Summary

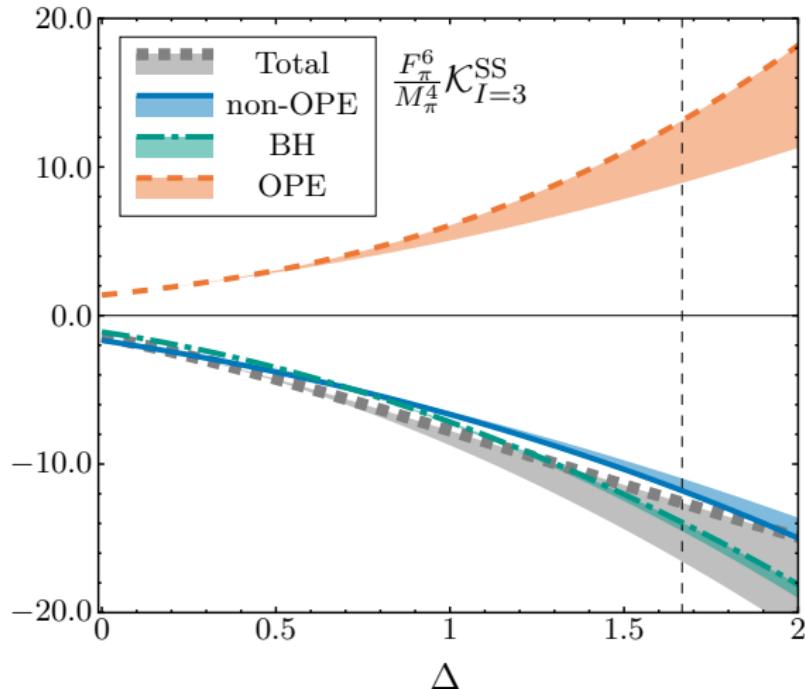
# Summary



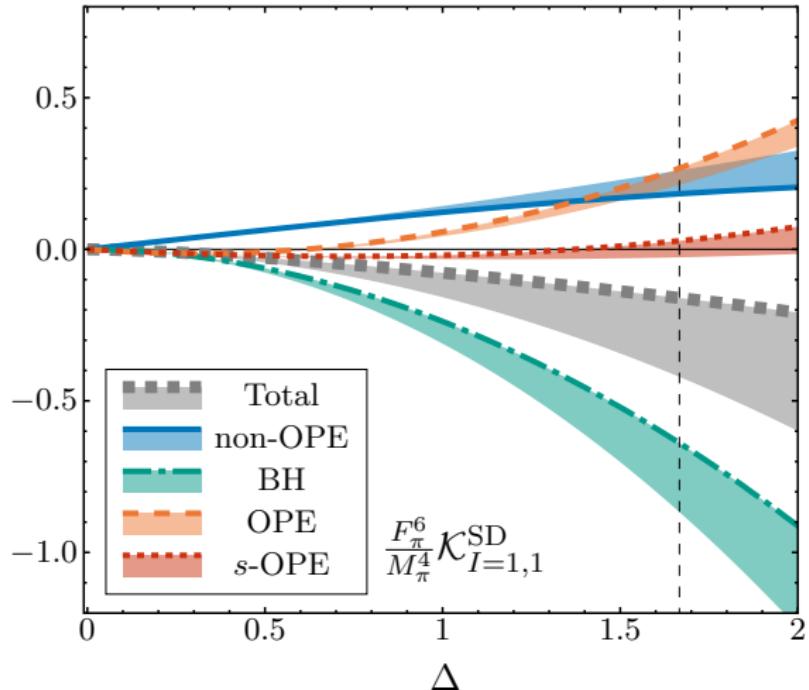
- ▶ All three-pion channels covered
- ▶ Main tension resolved  
(where lattice data are available)
- ▶ Next steps: More flavors, eventually nucleons  
Maybe 2 loops? (if anyone ever needs it)  
Maybe even 4 particles? (if anyone ever needs it)  
See also **Steve's Fernando's parallel talk (18:00)**
- ▶ Pion-kaon case is underway on the amplitude side

# Convergence

# The threshold expansion works



# ...better than it has to



# Does ChPT converge?



- ▶ Large LO-NLO difference is troubling...
- ▶ ...but LO is very constrained
  - ⇒ **qualitative** difference expected
- ▶ Adding NNLO: **extremely difficult**:
  - Two-loop 6-point amplitude
  - Integral relation between  $\mathcal{M}_3$  and  $\mathcal{K}_{\text{df},3}$