# Cornering Large-N<sub>c</sub> QCD with Positivity Bounds



#### Alex Pomarol, IFAE & UAB (Barcelona)

based on 2211.12488 [hep-th] with C. Fernandez, F. Riva and F. Sciotti

# **Cornering Large-Nc QCD** with Positivity Bounds

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#### **Mainz Institute for Theoretical Physics**

May 30 – June 10, 2022

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS** 

N

ACTIVITIES

Power Expansions on the Lightcone Yu-tin Huang (National Taiwan Univ.), Ian Low (Northwestern Univ.), From Theory to Phenomenology and Kai Yan (MPI Munich) Amplitudes Meet BSM February 14 – 25, 2022

Hadron Spectrosconv. Th-

The Evaluation of the Leading Hadronic Cont the Muon g-2: Toward the Mar

**TOPICAL WORKSHOPS** 

#### MITP SUMMER SCHOOLS

TALENT School @ MITP Effective Field Theories in Light Nuclei: From Structure to Reactions Sonia Bacca (JGU), Nir Barnea (Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem), Pierre Capel (JGU), Hans-Werner Hammer (TU Darmstadt), Kai Hebeler (TU Darmstadt), Daniel Phillips (Ohio University, Athens July 25 – August 12, 2022

Alex Pomarol (IFAE Barcelona Univ.), Yael Shadmi (Technion)

Joint ICTP-SAIFR / MITP Summer School on Particle Physics Gustavo Burdman (IF-USP), Matthias Neubert (MITP), Rogerio Rosenfeld (IFT-UNESP SAIFR), Felix Yu (MITP) September 12 – 23, 2022

### ol, IFAE & UAB (Barcelona)

2211.12488 [hep-th] with C. Fernandez, F. Riva and F. Sciotti

Diptimoy Ghosh (IISER Pune), Jernej Fesel Kamenik (Univ. Ljubljana), Seung J. Lee (Korea Univ.), Paride Paradisi (Univ. Padua / INFN Padua) October 10 – 21, 2022 PRISMA

JGU

August 22 - September 9, 2022

Flavour of BSM in the LHC Era

July 25 – August 12, 2022

What's the Matter?

mitp.

**Probing New Physics with Gravitational Waves** 

Enrico Morgante (JGU), Lisa Randall (Harvard Univ.), Pedro Schwaller (JGU),

A Cross-Frontier Pursuit of the Origin of Matter Djuna Croon (Durham Univ.), Kaori Fuyuto (UNM Los Alamos), Julia Harz (TUM), Joachim Kopp (CERN / JGU), Brian Shuve (Harvey Mudd College / UC Riverside)

rnia, Riverside), Francesco D'Eramo (Univ. Padua / INFN Padua)



## TH CERN football team ~94







- Understand better **Strongly-coupled theories** as plays an important role in nature, e.g. QCD
- They could also play an **important role BSM:** 
  - Higgs composite
  - Dark Matter
- To understand their physics, **simplifying techniques** are essential

- **Best examples:** Taking  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$  of  $SU(N_c)$  (**large-N**<sub>c</sub> limit)
  - **Holography**:  $CFT_4 \leftrightarrow AdS_5$
- **Positivity bounds** can help to better understand them B



 $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ 

SU(N<sub>c</sub>)

G. 't Hooft, Nucl. Phys. B 72, 461 (1974)E. Witten, Nucl. Phys. B 160, 57 (1979)

# Amplitudes are mediated by weakly-coupled color-less states (mesons)



mesons (qā states), glueballs, baryons (skyrmions)



G. 't Hooft, Nucl. Phys. B 72, 461 (1974)E. Witten, Nucl. Phys. B 160, 57 (1979)

## Powerful simplification but still difficult to get predictions

## Theory of <u>infinite</u> mesons of different spin J, with unknown couplings and masses

$$f_0$$
 (J=0),  $\rho$  (J=1),  $f_2$  (J=2),  $\rho_3$  (J=3), ...  
(as in real QCD)

$$\frac{\Gamma}{m} \sim \frac{1}{3}$$

# **Positivity bounds**

N. Arkani-Hamed, T.-C. Huang, and Y.-T. Huang, arXiv: 2012. 15849
C. de Rham, S. Melville, A. J. Tolley, and S.-Y. Zhou, arXiv: 1702.06134
B. Bellazzini, J. Elias Miro´, R. Rattazzi, M. Riembau, and F. Riva, arXiv: 2011.00037
A.Sinha and A. Zahed, arXiv: 2012.04877
A.J. Tolley, Z.-Y. Wang, and S.-Y. Zhou, arXiv: 2011.02400
S. Caron-Huot and V. Van Duong, arXiv: 2011.02957
S. Caron-Huot, D. Mazac, L. Rastelli, and D. Simmons-Duffin, arXiv: 2102.08951 *and much more...*

#### • Generalizations of the optical theorem

#### forward limit:

$$2\mathrm{Im} \sum_{k_1}^{k_2} \sum_{k_1} = \sum_f \int d\Pi_f \left( \sum_{k_1}^{k_2} \sum_{k_1} f \right) \left( f \sum_{k_1}^{k_2} \sum_{k_1} f \right) \geq 0$$

Peskin & Schroeder

Analytical structure of amplitudes:



Analytical structure of amplitudes:



#### This simple structure allows to get dispersion relations:



#### This simple structure allows to get dispersion relations:



This simple structure allows to get dispersion relations:



residue at the origin + sum of residues at the mass poles = 0

(low-energy EFT parameters related to masses and couplings of mesons)



J. Albert and L. Rastelli, arXiv: 2203.11950

Lets take two flavors: **SU(2)** = Isospin global symmetry



 $\pi^a \in \mathbf{3}$  massless

Extra condition from large-N<sub>c</sub>:



## **Isospin = I = 1/2 \otimes 1/2 = 0,1 no I = 2 states**

Extra condition from large-N<sub>c</sub>:



## **Isospin = I = 1/2 \otimes 1/2 = 0,1** Image: Second states Image: Second states



Extra condition from large-N<sub>c</sub>:



## **Isospin = I = 1/2 \otimes 1/2 = 0,1** Image: Second states Image: Second states



 $\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}$  cannot have poles in t

Working with 
$$\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)$$

(that cannot have poles in the t-channel)



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Working with 
$$\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s,u)$$

(that cannot have poles in the t-channel)



Legendre pol. and derivatives (all positive!)

#### small u expansion:

$$k = 1: \qquad g_{1,0} + g_{2,1}u + g_{3,1}u^2 + \dots = \sum_{i} |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^2} + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^4}u + 2\frac{P_{J_i}''(1)}{m_i^6}u^2 + \dots\right),$$

$$(P_{\pi,i}(1) - P_{\pi,i}''(1) - P_$$

$$k = 2: \qquad g_{2,0} + g_{3,1}u + g_{4,2}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4} + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^6}u + 2\frac{P_{J_i}''(1)}{m_i^8}u^2 + \dots\right),$$

$$k = 3: \qquad g_{3,0} + g_{4,1}u + g_{5,2}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6} + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^8}u + 2\frac{P_{J_i}''(1)}{m_i^{10}}u^2 + \dots\right),$$

• • • Legendre pol. and derivatives (all positive!)

#### small u expansion:

$$k = 1: \qquad g_{1,0} + g_{2,1}u + g_{3,1}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^2} + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^4}u + 2\frac{P_{J_i}''(1)}{m_i^6}u^2 + \dots\right),$$

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$$k = 3: \qquad g_{3,0} + g_{4,1}u + g_{5,2}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6} + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^8}u + 2\frac{P_{J_i}''(1)}{m_i^{10}}u^2 + \dots\right),$$

• •

> all mesons contribute positively!

$$g_{n,0} = \sum_{i} \frac{g_{i\pi\pi}^2}{m_i^{2n}}$$

$$g_{n+1,1} = \sum_{i} \frac{g_{i\pi\pi}^2 J_i (J_i + 1)}{m_i^{2(n+1)}}$$

### small u expansion:

$$\begin{split} k &= 1: \qquad g_{1,0} + g_{2,1}u + g_{3,1}u^2 + \ldots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^2} + 2\frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4}u + 2\frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6}u^2 + \ldots\right), \\ k &= 2: \qquad g_{2,0} + g_{3,1}u + g_{4,2}u^2 + \ldots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4} + 2\frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6}u + 2\frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^8}u^2 + \ldots\right), \\ k &= 3: \qquad g_{3,0} + g_{4,1}u + g_{5,2}u^2 + \ldots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6} + 2\frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^8}u + 2\frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^{10}}u^2 + \ldots\right), \\ & \vdots \end{split}$$

due to crossing, overconstrained system!

#### infinite constraints in the spectrum and couplings

### small u expansion:

$$\begin{split} k &= 1: \qquad g_{1,0} + g_{2,1}u + g_{3,1}u^2 + \ldots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^2} + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^4}u + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^6}u^2 + \ldots\right), \\ k &= 2: \qquad g_{2,0} + g_{3,1}u + g_{4,2}u^2 + \ldots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4} + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^6}u + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^8}u^2 + \ldots\right), \\ k &= 3: \qquad g_{3,0} + g_{4,1}u + g_{5,2}u^2 + \ldots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6} + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^8}u + 2\frac{P_{J_i}'(1)}{m_i^{10}}u^2 + \ldots\right), \\ & \vdots \end{split}$$

due to crossing, overconstrained system!

infinite constraints in the spectrum and couplings

e.g. 
$$\sum_{i} \frac{|g_{\pi\pi\,i}|^2}{m_i^6} J_i (J_i + 1) (J_i - 2) (J_i + 3) = 0$$
  
scalars do not enter

## small u expansion:

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due to crossing, overconstrained system!

infinite constraints in the spectrum and couplings

e.g. 
$$\sum_{i} \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^6} J_i (J_i + 1) (J_i - 2) (J_i + 3) = 0$$

also from dispersion relations at fixed t

## Implications of Positivity bounds for Large N<sub>c</sub> QCD

Lets assume at  $|s| \rightarrow \infty$  & either t or u fixed:

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s,u)}{\underset{k=1}{\overset{S}{\longrightarrow}}} \to 0$$



assumed in the past to explain QCD experimental data

![](_page_26_Figure_0.jpeg)

from other constraints, one can shown that J=2,3,... must also be in the spectrum with couplings to pions that decreases with J

## **Upper bound on couplings**

(normalized to  $m_i^2/F_\pi^2$ )

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

$$\tilde{g}_{2,0} = 4(2L_1 + 3L_2 + L_3)\frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2}$$
,  $\tilde{g}_{2,1} = 16L_2\frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2}$ 

mass of the 1st meson

![](_page_29_Figure_4.jpeg)

 $\mathcal{L} = \frac{F_{\pi}^2}{4} \operatorname{Tr} \left( \partial_{\mu} U^{\dagger} \partial^{\mu} U \right) + L_1 \operatorname{Tr}^2 \left( \partial_{\mu} U^{\dagger} \partial^{\mu} U \right) + L_2 \operatorname{Tr} \left( \partial_{\mu} U^{\dagger} \partial_{\nu} U \right) \operatorname{Tr} \left( \partial^{\mu} U^{\dagger} \partial^{\nu} U \right) + L_3 \operatorname{Tr} \left( \partial_{\mu} U^{\dagger} \partial^{\mu} U \partial_{\nu} U^{\dagger} \partial^{\nu} U \right)$ 

$$\tilde{g}_{2,0} = 4(2L_1 + 3L_2 + L_3)\frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2} \ , \qquad \tilde{g}_{2,1} = 16L_2\frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2} \ , \qquad \tilde{g}_{2,1} = 16L_2\frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2} \ , \qquad mass of the 1st meson$$

![](_page_30_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Explaining the success of holography

#### AdS/QCD:

#### 5D model for QCD mesons (spin=0,1):

 $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$  model:

Erlich+Katz+Son+Stephanov 05 Da Rold+Pomarol 05

 $\mathcal{L}_{5} = \frac{M_{5}}{2} Tr \left[ -L_{MN} L^{MN} - R_{MN} R^{MN} + |D_{M} \Phi|^{2} + 3|\Phi|^{2} \right]$ 

-	Experiment	$\mathrm{AdS}_5$	Deviation
$m_ ho$	775	824	+6%
$m_{a_1}$	1230	1347	+10%
$m_\omega$	782	824	+5%
$F_{ ho}$	153	169	+11%
$F_{\omega}/F_{ ho}$	0.88	0.94	+7%
$F_{\pi}$	87	88	+1%
$g_{ ho\pi\pi}$	6.0	5.4	-10%
$L_9$	$6.9\cdot10^{-3}$	$6.2\cdot10^{-3}$	-10%
$L_{10}$	$-5.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$-6.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-12%
$\Gamma(\omega  o \pi \gamma)$	0.75	0.81	+8%
$\Gamma(\omega \to 3\pi)$	7.5	6.7	-11%
$\Gamma( ho  o \pi \gamma)$	0.068	0.077	+13%
$\Gamma(\omega  o \pi \mu \mu)$	$8.2\cdot10^{-4}$	$7.3 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-10%
$\Gamma(\omega \to \pi e e)$	$6.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$7.3 \cdot 10^{-3}$	+12%

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Erlich+Katz+Son+Stephanov 05 Da Rold+Pomarol 05

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Success can be understood from <u>positivity bounds</u> that restrict J>I mesons to contribute little to low-energy observables

## Similar structure for higher-order Wilson coeff.

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

Composite Higgs models:

Indirect probes:

Direct probes:

![](_page_41_Figure_4.jpeg)

## Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

Composite Higgs models:

Direct probes:

J\*

![](_page_42_Figure_3.jpeg)

## Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

Composite Higgs models:

![](_page_43_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

 Positivity bounds from Crossing + Analyticity + Unitarity shows the "EFT-hedron" structure of the Chiral Lagrangian at large-N<sub>c</sub>

![](_page_44_Picture_2.jpeg)

Allows to get information on possible UV
 completions for a theory of Goldstones!
 e.g. mesons with all J needed

- Higher-spin (J>I) mesons are strongly constrained, giving a possible explanation for VMD & the success of holographic QCD
- Done for pion amplitudes, but "straightforward" generalizations to other amplitudes can allow to access to more information

potential interest to constrain SIMPs

![](_page_45_Picture_0.jpeg)

$$0 = \sum_{i} \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{2n}} \left( \frac{2^{n-1}}{(n-1)!^3} P_{J_i}^{(n-1)}(1) - \mathcal{J}_i^2 \right) \qquad n=2,3,4,\dots$$
$$\mathcal{J}^2 \equiv J(J+1)$$
$$\mathcal{X}_{n,1}$$

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Figure_0.jpeg)

## Lets assume at $s \rightarrow \infty$ and either t or u fixed:

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s,u)}{s^2} \to 0$$

![](_page_49_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### C The *su*-models

Let us consider the most general theory of a degenerate spectrum that contributes to the fourpion amplitude  $\mathcal{M}(s, u)$  [7, 8]. This means that all states have equal mass m, and therefore the denominator of this amplitude is fixed to be  $\mathcal{M}(s, u) \propto 1/((s - m^2)(u - m^2))$ . If we further demand that Eq. (6a) and Eq. (6b) are satisfied for  $k_{\min} = 1$ , we are led to

$$\mathcal{M}(s,u) = \frac{a_1 m^4 + a_2 m^2 (s+u) + a_3 s u}{(s-m^2)(u-m^2)}, \qquad (91)$$

where  $a_i$  are constants. The Adler's zero condition fixes  $a_1 = 0$ . Then, aside from a global multiplicative factor, the amplitude has only one free parameter. We can write it as

$$\mathcal{M}_{1}^{(su)}(s,u) = \frac{m^{2}(s+u) + \lambda su}{(s-m^{2})(u-m^{2})},$$
(92)

where the possible values of  $\lambda$  are determined by unitarity. Indeed, imposing the positivity of the residues of Eq. (92), we obtain

$$-2 \le \lambda \le \frac{2\ln 2 - 1}{1 - \ln 2} \,. \tag{93}$$

In the limiting case  $\lambda = -2$ , the residues of all J > 0 states are zero, and we are left with the scalar amplitude Eq. (22). In the other limit,

$$\lambda = \frac{2\ln 2 - 1}{1 - \ln 2} \simeq 1.26 \,, \tag{94}$$

![](_page_51_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### **D** The Lovelace-Shapiro amplitude

The Lovelace-Shapiro (LS) amplitude for the scattering of four pions is defined as [26, 27]

$$\mathcal{M}^{(\mathrm{LS})}(s,u) = \frac{\Gamma(1-\alpha(s))\Gamma(1-\alpha(u))}{\Gamma(1-\alpha(s)-\alpha(u))} , \qquad (105)$$

where  $\alpha(s) = \alpha_0 + \alpha' s$  is referred as the Regge trajectory. We will fix the values of  $\alpha_0$  and  $\alpha'$  by requiring that Eq. (106) satisfies the Adler zero condition,  $\mathcal{M}^{(\mathrm{LS})}(s, u) \to 0$  for  $s, u \to 0$ , and that the first pole of Eq. (106) occurs for  $s = m_{\rho}^2$ . These two conditions lead to  $\alpha_0 = 1/2$  and  $\alpha' = 1/(2m_{\rho}^2)$  [66] and then we can write

$$\mathcal{M}^{(\mathrm{LS})}(s,u) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{s}{2m_{\rho}^2}\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{u}{2m_{\rho}^2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{t}{2m_{\rho}^2}\right)} .$$
(106)

By looking at the poles of Eq. (106), one can see that the LS amplitude corresponds to a theory of higher-spin states with masses

$$m_n^2 = m_\rho^2(2n+1), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$
 (107)

For a given n, there are at most n+1 states with spin J = 0, 1, ..., n+1. Furthermore, Eq. (106) satisfies the condition Eq. (6a) and Eq. (6b) with  $k_{\min} = 1$ .

#### E The Coon amplitude

The Lovelace-Shapiro amplitude presented in Appendix D can be generalized to a larger class of amplitudes depending on an additional parameter q. This is the so-called Coon amplitude, which was first proposed in [28]<sup>11</sup>:

$$\mathcal{M}_{q}(s,u) = C(\sigma,\tau,q) \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1-q^{n+1}) (\sigma\tau - q^{n+1})}{(\sigma - q^{n+1}) (\tau - q^{n+1})} , \qquad (118)$$

where  $\sigma = 1 + (q-1)(\alpha_0 + \alpha' s)$  and  $\tau = 1 + (q-1)(\alpha_0 + \alpha' u)$ . As explained in Appendix D, we take  $\alpha_0 = 1/2$  and  $\alpha' = 1/(2m_{\rho}^2)$ . The parameter q takes values between 0 and 1, and in the limit  $q \to 1$  we recover the LS amplitude Eq. (106). There is some freedom in the choice of the prefactor C, as long as it satisfies  $\lim_{q\to 1} C(\sigma, \tau, q) = 1$ .

The Coon amplitude has an infinite number of simple poles at

$$s_n = m_{\rho}^2 \frac{1+q-2q^{n+1}}{1-q} , \qquad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots .$$
 (119)