A Critical Examination to the Unitarized $\pi\pi$ Scattering Chiral Amplitudes

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Abstract

We discuss the Padé approximation to the $\pi\pi$ scattering amplitudes in 1–loop chiral perturbation theory. The approximation restores unitarity and can reproduce the correct resonance poles, but the approximation violates crossing symmetry and produces spurious poles on the complex $s$ plane and therefore plagues its predictions on physical quantities at quantitative level. However we find that one virtual state in the $I\!J=20$ channel may have physical relevance.

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The chiral perturbation theory [1] is a powerful tool in studying strong interaction physics at low energies. The principle of chiral perturbation theory is that it incorporates the global symmetry of the QCD Lagrangian – the spontaneously broken chiral symmetry – into the effective Lagrangian, and directly deals with the physical states – the pseudo-Goldstone bosons – as the physical degrees of freedom in the effective Lagrangian. The physical amplitude is calculated by a perturbative expansion in powers of the light quark masses and the external momentum, and unitarity is respected perturbatively. As the external momentum increases, however, the chiral expansion diverges rapidly and the unitarity condition is badly violated. To remedy such a situation, the Padé approximation has been used to improve the behavior of chiral amplitudes at higher energies, which has stimulated revived interests in the recent literature (see for example [2] –[6]). One of the cost in using Padé approximation is the violation of crossing symmetry which has also been discussed in the recent literature (see for example Refs. [7, 8] and [9]).
For the $\pi\pi \rightarrow \pi\pi$ scattering process, the isospin amplitudes in the s channel can be decomposed as [10],

$$
T^{I=0}(s, t, u) = 3A(s, t, u) + A(t, u, s) + A(u, s, t),
$$
$$
T^{I=1}(s, t, u) = A(t, u, s) - A(u, s, t),
$$
$$
T^{I=2}(s, t, u) = A(t, u, s) + A(u, s, t),
$$

as a result of the generalized Bose statistics and crossing symmetry. In $SU(2) \times SU(2)$ chiral perturbation theory (ChPT) to one loop [9] we have,

$$
A(s, t, u) = \frac{s - m_\pi^2}{F_\pi^2} + A_1(s, t, u) + A_2(s, t, u) + O(E^6),
$$
$$
A_1(s, t, u) = \frac{1}{6F_\pi^2} \left\{ 3(s^2 - m_\pi^4)J(s) + \left[ t(t - u) - 2m_\pi^2t + 4m_\pi^2u - 2m_\pi^4 \right] J(t) + \left[ u(u - t) - 2m_\pi^2u + 4m_\pi^2t - 2m_\pi^4 \right] J(u) \right\},
$$
$$
A_2(s, t, u) = \frac{1}{96\pi^2 F_\pi^4} \left\{ 2(\bar{l}_1 - \frac{4}{3})(s - 2m_\pi^2)^2 + (\bar{l}_2 - \frac{5}{6}) \left[ s^2 + (t - u)^2 \right] - 12m_\pi^2s 
+ 15m_\pi^4 + 12m_\pi^2(s - m_\pi^2)\bar{l}_4 - 3m_\pi^4\bar{l}_3 \right\},
$$

where $F_\pi = 93.3\text{MeV}$ is the pion decay constant and the function $\bar{J}(s)$ is defined as

$$
\bar{J}(s) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left[ \rho \ln \left( \frac{\rho - 1}{\rho + 1} \right) + 2 \right],
$$
$$
\rho(s) = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\pi^2}{s}}.
$$

In Ref. [8] the $\bar{l}_i$ parameters are taken to be

$$
\bar{l}_1 = -0.62 \pm 0.94 , \quad \bar{l}_2 = 6.28 \pm 0.48 , \quad \bar{l}_3 = 2.9 \pm 2.4 , \quad \bar{l}_4 = 4.3 \pm 0.9
$$
determined from low energy experiments.

The partial wave expansion of the isospin amplitudes is written as

$$
T^I(s, t, u) = 32\pi \sum_J (2J + 1) P_J(\cos \theta) T^I_J(s),
$$

where, for $\pi\pi$ scatterings, the sum is over even(odd) values of $J$ for even(odd) values of $I$ because of the restriction of Bose statistics. The inverse expression
The partial wave amplitudes in ChPT expanded to $O(p^4)$ are,

$$T^I_J(s) = T^I_{j,2}(s) + T^I_{j,4}(s), \quad (7)$$

where $T^I_{j,2}(s)$ and $T^I_{j,4}(s)$ represent terms of order $O(p^2)$ and $O(p^4)$, respectively. The $T^I_{j,2}(s)$ amplitudes can be rigorously derived from current algebra and are model independent. The $[1,1]$ Padé approximation to the partial wave amplitudes is,

$$T^I_{j}^{[1,1]}(s) = \frac{T^I_{j,2}(s)}{1 - T^I_{j,4}(s)/T^I_{j,2}(s)}. \quad (8)$$

From perturbative unitarity in ChPT we have

$$\text{Im} T^I_{j,4}(s) = \rho |T^I_{j,2}(s)|^2, \quad (4m^2_\pi < s < 16m^2_\pi). \quad (9)$$

With this relation, it is easy to prove that the $[1,1]$ Padé approximants given in Eq. (8) satisfy elastic unitarity:

$$\text{Im} T^I_{j}^{[1,1]}(s) = \rho |T^I_{j}^{[1,1]}(s)|^2, \quad (10)$$

and it is well known that the phase shifts they predict are considerably improved comparing with the perturbation results. However, the total amplitude

$$T(s, t, u) = 32\pi \sum_J (2J + 1) P_J(cos\theta) T^I_J(s), \quad (11)$$

has certain crossing properties which are lost in the amplitude defined by

$$T^P(s, t, u) \equiv 32\pi \sum_J (2J + 1) P_J(cos\theta) T^I_{j}^{[1,1]}(s), \quad (12)$$

by violating the so called Balachandran-Nuyts-Roskies relations, as discussed recently in Refs. [7, 8].
The Padé approximation not only gives an improved prediction to the $\pi\pi$ scattering phases comparing to the perturbative results, but also it predicts the correct physical resonances on a qualitative level. For example in the amplitude $T_0^{[1,1]}(s)$, on the second sheet of the complex $s$ plane one finds the $\sigma$ resonance with $M_{\sigma} = 430\text{MeV}$ and $\Gamma_{\sigma} = 456\text{MeV}$, and the $\rho$ resonance in the IJ=11 channel: $M_{\rho} = 708\text{MeV}$ and $\Gamma_{\rho} = 119\text{MeV}$ which should be compared with the experimental value $M_{\rho} = 769\text{MeV}$ and $\Gamma_{\rho} = 150\text{MeV}$. Actually, the quality of the Padé approximants can be much improved by tuning the $\bar{l}_i$ parameters within reasonable ranges, that is to fit the global phase shifts while the $\bar{l}_i$ parameters are still consistent with the parameters constrained by low energy experiments. This remarkable improvement is possible, as pointed out in Refs. [5, 6]. Inspired by this approach (often called unitarized chiral approach in the literature), we also made a global fit to the experimental phase shifts using the $[1,1]$ Padé amplitudes in Eq. (8). In our fit the experimental data are taken from Refs. [12] – [15], especially we also include the newest E865 Collaboration data from $K_{e4}$ decays [16]. We fit the IJ=11 and 20 data up to $\sqrt{s} = 1\text{GeV}$ and the IJ=00 data up to $\sqrt{s} = 700\text{MeV}$. The fit quality is impressive, as can be seen in Fig. 1. The resulting values of the $\bar{l}_i$ parameters corresponding to the minimized $\chi^2$ are as follows,

$$\bar{l}_1 = -0.485, \quad \bar{l}_2 = 5.696, \quad \bar{l}_3 = 16.136, \quad \bar{l}_4 = 3.650.$$ (13)

Notice that in the above fit the $\bar{l}_3$ parameter is much larger than that in Eq. (11) and the value in Ref. [5]. This is not a serious problem as we found in the fit that though the minimization of the $\chi^2$ prefers a large value of $\bar{l}_3$ but it is not sensitive to $\bar{l}_3$. Another fact which is worth pointing out is that the chiral estimate on $\bar{l}_3$ is crude and is subject to large uncertainties [17]. The physical resonances obtained from our global fit are, $M_{\rho} = 751\text{MeV}$, $\Gamma_{\rho} = 144\text{MeV}$ and $M_{\sigma} = 449\text{MeV}$, $\Gamma_{\sigma} = 482\text{MeV}$. The scattering length parameters in the IJ=00 and 20 channels are found to be $a_0^0 = 0.194$ and $a_0^2 = -0.044$ which are reasonable as comparing with the experimental results.

Though successfully predicting the existence of the $\sigma$ and the $\rho$ resonances qualitatively or even quantitatively for the latter, it is well known that the

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1Using the same set of $\bar{l}_i$ parameters as in Eq. (11) and the method of Ref. [11], a fit to the experimental phase shift in the IJ=00 channel, with the left hand cut (l.h.c.) obtained from Eq. (8), gives instead $M_{\sigma} = 519\text{MeV}$ and $\Gamma_{\sigma} = 579\text{MeV}$.

2The data truncation in the IJ=00 channel is to reduce the coupled channel effects and the pollution from $f_0(980)$.
Figure 1: The global fit in IJ=00, 11 and 20 channels, using the [1,1] Padé approximants and the procedure described in the text.
| Pole status | \( \text{Re}[s_{pole}](\text{MeV}) \) | \( \text{Im}[s_{pole}](\text{MeV}) \) | residue (GeV²) |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| IJ=11       |                 |                 |              |
| \( \rho \) | 708 (M)          | 119 (Γ)         | -0.07+0.15i  |
| IJ=00       |                 |                 |              |
| BS₁         | 0.618\( m_\pi^2 \) | -5 \times 10^{-5} |              |
| VS₁         | 0.621\( m_\pi^2 \) | 6.2 \times 10^{-5} |              |
| PSR         | -81.1\( m_\pi^2 \) | 60.6\( m_\pi^2 \) | -4.76-4.50i  |
| IJ=20       |                 |                 |              |
| BS₁         | 1.97528\( m_\pi^2 \) | 6 \times 10^{-7} |              |
| VS₁         | 1.97525\( m_\pi^2 \) | -6 \times 10^{-7} |              |
| VS₂         | 0.0495\( m_\pi^2 \) | 1.8 \times 10^{-3} |              |
| PSR         | 133.8\( m_\pi^2 \) | 483.4\( m_\pi^2 \) | -26.27+4.09i |

Table 1: Resonances, physical sheet resonances (PSR), bound states (BS) and virtual states (VS) as predicted by Padé approximation on the complex \( s \) plane using the \( \bar{l}_i \) parameters from Ref. [9]. The pole position \( s_{pole} = (M + i\Gamma/2)^2 \). Here the residue of a second sheet pole means the residue of the corresponding pole in \( 1/S \).

Padé approximation encounters severe problems in theory aspects. One of which is the generation of dubious poles on the complex \( s \) plane, as listed in tables 1 and 2, except for those physically accepted. We categorize these dubious poles into 3 classes: the first contains the bound state pole and the accompanying virtual state pole denoted as BS₁ and VS₁ respectively (the latter corresponds to the zero in the physical sheet below threshold) in the IJ=00,20 channels. The positions of the pole and the accompanying zero are very close to each other. The second includes the resonance poles found in the physical sheet (denoted as PSR), and the third class is for the virtual state (denoted as VS₂) near \( s = 0 \) found in the IJ=20 channel.

There are two reasons to ignore the first class poles. The first reason is that they have very tiny residues and can be safely ignored numerically. The second reason is that they can be tuned to disappear totally by varying the \( \bar{l}_i \) parameters in the reasonable range. To see this more clearly we recall that

\(^{3}\)The poles listed in tables 1 and 2 may still be incomplete.
| Pole status | Re[$s_{pole}$] (MeV) | Im[$s_{pole}$] (MeV) | residue (GeV$^2$) |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| IJ=11       | $\rho$             | 751 (M)            | 144 (Γ)         | -0.10+0.19i     |
| IJ=11       | $\sigma$           | 449 (M)            | 482 (Γ)         | -0.16-0.27i     |
| IJ=00       | BS$_1$              | 0.372$m^2_\pi$     | -7 × 10$^{-5}$  |
| IJ=00       | VS$_1$              | 0.376$m^2_\pi$     | 8 × 10$^{-5}$   |
| IJ=00       | PSR                 | $-68.5m^2_\pi$     | 47.1$m^2_\pi$   | -3.50-3.55i     |
| IJ=20       | BS$_1$              | 2.17832$m^2_\pi$   | 3 × 10$^{-5}$   |
| IJ=20       | VS$_1$              | 2.17701$m^2_\pi$   | -3 × 10$^{-5}$  |
| IJ=20       | VS$_2$              | 0.0372$m^2_\pi$    | 1.4 × 10$^{-3}$ |
| IJ=20       | PSR                 | 106.0$m^2_\pi$     | 306.8$m^2_\pi$  | -16.45+2.62i    |

Table 2: Resonances, physical sheet resonances (PSR), bound states (BS) and virtual states (VS) as predicted by Padé approximation on the complex $s$ plane, using the $\tilde{l}_i$ parameters obtained from the global fit to the phases in the IJ=00,20,11 channels as described in the text. The pole position $s_{pole} = (M + iΓ/2)^2$. Here the residue of a second sheet pole means the residue of the corresponding pole in $1/S$.

the $S$ matrix of the [1,1] Padé approximant takes the following form:

$$S^{[1,1]} = \frac{T_2 - T_4^*}{T_2 - T_4} = \frac{T_2 - \text{Re}T_4 + i\rho(T_2)^2}{T_2 - \text{Re}T_4 - i\rho(T_2)^2},$$

where the spin and isospin indices are dropped for simplicity. A virtual state is an $S$ matrix zero located on the real axis below the threshold which requires $T_2 = T_4^*$ whereas the bound state pole requires $T_2 = T_4$. Therefore the bound state pole and the virtual state disappear simultaneously if the following requirements are met,

$$\text{Im}T_4 = 0, \quad \text{Re}T_4 = T_2.$$

Since $\text{Im}T_4 = \rho(T_2)^2$ from perturbative unitarity the first condition in Eq. (15) implies that the bound state pole and the virtual state pole cancel each other when they move towards the Adler zero position for the lowest order partial wave amplitude. As a consequence, the Adler zero of the Padé approximant

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4 In the following all terms should be understood as their proper analytic continuation on the complex $s$ plane. For example, $\text{Im}T_4 = \rho(T_2)^2$ and the r.h.s. is well defined on the complex $s$ plane.
is still there which coincides with the one of the lowest order partial wave amplitude, but the order of the zero decreases from two to one (the second order Adler zero is unnecessary from theoretical point of view). The second condition of Eq. (13), which now reads \( \text{Re} \frac{T_4}{4} = 0 \), affords a constraint that those \( \tilde{l}_i \) parameters have to obey. To cancel the bound state in the IJ=20 channel, we can for example choose the following set of \( \tilde{l}_i \): \( \tilde{l}_1 = -0.5, \tilde{l}_2 = 5.3, \tilde{l}_3 = 3.7, \tilde{l}_4 = 4.0 \), satisfying Eq. (16) numerically which fit the experimental values of \( m_\rho \) and \( \Gamma_\rho \) well. For these \( \tilde{l}_i \) parameters the experimental phase shifts of three channels IJ=00,20 and 11 are also fitted well. Similar situation happens in the IJ=00 channel. But when we try to cancel the bound states both in IJ=00 and IJ=20 channels simultaneously, it is difficult to find a set of \( \tilde{l}_i \) parameters within reasonable ranges to agree well with the experimental phase shifts simultaneously in three channels. We ascribe this difficulty to the non-perfectness of the Padé approximation itself.

The existence of the physical sheet resonances violate causality and must be a false prediction of Padé approximation. One may argue that such kind of false poles locate very far from the physical region and the region where ChPT is valid (inside the circle \( |s| << 1\text{GeV}^2 \)), and therefore the Padé approximation is still acceptable numerically in phenomenology. However a careful analysis just reveals the opposite. As can be seen from tables 1 and 2 the residues of the PSRs are usually very large that in some cases it strongly plagues the prediction of the Padé approximation. To see this more clearly, taking the IJ=20 channel for example, we recall the following dispersion relations [11, 18]:

\[
\cos(2\delta_{\pi 0}^2) = 1 + \frac{(s - 4m_\rho^2)}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{0} \frac{\text{Im}(S(s') + \frac{1}{s(s' - 4m_\rho^2)})}{(s' - s)(s' - 4m_\rho^2)} ds',
\]

\[
\sin(2\delta_{\pi 0}^2) = \rho(s) \left[ 2a_0^2 + \frac{(s - 4m_\rho^2)}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{0} \frac{\text{Im}(\frac{1}{s'}(S(s') - \frac{1}{s(s')})))}{(s' - s)(s' - 4m_\rho^2)} ds' \right].
\]

\[5\text{Explicitly it is}
\]

\[
2(40 + 32\tilde{l}_1 + 32\tilde{l}_2 - 36\tilde{l}_3) + 28\pi - 21\pi^2 = 0 \tag{16}
\]

for IJ=20, and

\[
8141 + 1498\tilde{l}_1 + 2212\tilde{l}_2 - 1260\tilde{l}_3 + 454i\sqrt{7}\ln(\frac{7i + \sqrt{7}}{-7i + \sqrt{7}}) + 1056\ln^2(\frac{7i + \sqrt{7}}{-7i + \sqrt{7}}) = 0 \tag{17}
\]

for IJ=00.
These two equations are obtained by assuming no pole exists on both sheets. But pole contributions from different sheets can be added to the above equations easily. The left hand integrals can be evaluated by using the expressions obtained from the Padé approximant $T_{0}^{2}$. The left hand side of Eqs. (18) and (19) can be directly evaluated from the Padé amplitudes in the physical region. The right hand side of Eqs. (18) and (19) separate different type of contributions, i.e., from cuts, resonances, bound states, virtual states or physical sheet resonances. It is clearly seen in Fig. 2 that the contribution from the left hand integral in Eq. (18) deviates far from the experimental value. Only after adding the physical sheet resonance in Eq. (18) may we reproduce the phase in the physical region. Though in Eq. (19) the left hand integral works rather well numerically, the predictions of Padé approximants on poles and cuts become no longer trustworthy quantitatively, in the situation when there exist physical sheet resonances with large residues.

From the above discussions we realize that the existence of the physical sheet resonance plagues the predictive power of the Padé approximant $T_{0}^{2}$, at quantitative level. Similar things happen also in the IJ=00 channel. Fortunately Padé approximants still work qualitatively in the sense that it correctly predicts the existence of the physical resonances, like $\sigma$ and $\rho$. In here it is worth emphasizing that the virtual state VS$_{2}$ in the IJ=20 channel may be physical. The residue of such pole, though very small, is much larger than the residues of BS$_{1}$ and VS$_{1}$, and it improves the r.h.s. of Eq. (18).

There is a simple reason for the existence of such a pole which does not rely on the detailed form of the Padé approximant $T_{0}^{2}$. To understand this, we recall that around the bound state pole at $s = s_{B}$ the $S$ matrix can be expanded as $r/((s - s_{B}) + C + O((s - s_{B}))$ where $C$ is a constant. The accompanying zero will occur at $s_{0} \simeq s_{B} - r/C$ for any non zero value of $C$. This simple mechanism explains the pair production of BS$_{1}$ and VS$_{1}$. The reason for the generation of VS$_{2}$ is similar. Remember that $S = 1 + 2i\rho T$ and $i\rho$ is purely real and negative when $0 < s < 4m_{2}^{2}$. When $s \to 0$ from positive side $i\rho \to -\infty$ therefore if $T(0_{+})$ is positive then $S(0_{+}) \to -\infty$. But since $S(4m_{2}^{2}) = 1$ therefore the $S$ matrix must go through a zero (at least once) located somewhere between $s = 0+$ and $s = 4m_{2}^{2}$. It happens that the [1,1] Padé approximation gives a negative value to $T_{0}^{1[1,1]}(0_{+})$ and $T_{1}^{1[1,1]}(0_{+})$, but a positive value to $T_{0}^{2[1,1]}(0_{+})$. From this analysis we realize that the existence of the virtual state VS$_{2}$ is a consequence of more general situation ($T(0_{+}) > 0$)

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$^{6}$In the IJ=00 channel the PSR contribution to $\sin(2\delta_{\pi})$ becomes also sizable.
than that of the concrete form of the Padé approximant $T_0^{2[1,1]}$. In here the
signs of the Padé amplitudes $T_0^{0[1,1]}(0_+), T_1^{1[1,1]}(0_+)$ and $T_0^{2[1,1]}(0_+)$ coincide
with the signs of the lowest order amplitudes $T_{0,2}^0(0_+), T_{1,2}^1(0_+)$ and $T_{0,2}^2(0_+)$, respectively, and the lowest order amplitudes are unambiguous predictions
from current algebra. The coincidence of the sign simply reflects the fact
that the lowest order amplitudes dominate at $s \sim 0$, as can be clearly seen
in Fig. 3. Though the virtual state may really exist, its effect may be very
small due to its small coupling, as indicated by tables 1 and 2.

To conclude, the dispersion relations set up in Refs. [11] and [18] en-
able us to examine explicitly contributions from different types of dynamical
singularities – the resonances, the left–hand cuts, and the bound states or
virtual states – to the phase shifts. Hence a critical examination on the Padé
approximation becomes possible. We find that even though the Padé approx-
imation can give a reasonable global fit to the $\pi\pi$ scattering phase shifts, the
contribution to the phase shifts can be largely from disastrous physical sheet
resonances in some situations. In such cases the other predictions of the Padé
amplitudes become unreliable either, at least at quantitative level. However
we argue that in the IJ=20 channel the virtual state close to $s = 0$ as pre-
dicted by the Padé approximation is a consequence of more general conditions
and seems to exist physically.

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Figure 2: Various contributions to $\cos(2\delta_{\epsilon_0}^2)$ and $\sin(2\delta_{\epsilon_0}^2)$ in the IJ=20 channel. Solid lines represent only the left hand integral contributions in Eq. (18) and Eq. (19). In the dashed line the virtual state (VS$_2$) contribution is added; in the dotted line the contributions from both the virtual state and the physical sheet resonance are added. The dotted line numerically coincides with the dot-dashed line as it should be, the latter is obtained by evaluating the Padé amplitude in the physical region, using the $l_i$ parameters from Ref. [9].
Figure 3: $T_{0,2}^2$ and $T_{0,4}^2$ amplitudes using $l_i$ parameters obtained from our global fit to the Padé amplitudes in IJ=00, 20 and 11 channels. The bound state pole locates at the point where the two amplitudes meet.