Tetraquark bound states and resonances in the unitary and microscopic triple string flip-flop quark model, the light-light-antiheavy-antiheavy $qq\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ case study

P. Bicudo* and M. Cardoso†
CFTP, Dep. Física, Instituto Superior Técnico,
Universidade de Lisboa, Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal

We address $qq\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ exotic tetraquark bound states and resonances with a fully unitarized and microscopic quark model. We propose a triple string flip-flop potential, inspired in lattice QCD tetraquarks static potentials and fluxtubes, combining meson-meson and tetraquark potentials. Our potential goes up to the color excited potential, but neglects spin-tensor potentials. To search for bound states and resonances, we first solve the two-body mesonic problem. Then we develop fully unitary techniques to address the four-body tetraquark problem. We fold the four-body Schrödinger equation with the mesonic wavefunctions, transforming it into a two-body meson-meson problem with non-local potentials. We find bound states for some quark masses numbers, including the one reported in lattice QCD. Moreover, we also find resonances and calculate their masses and widths, by computing the T matrix and finding it’s pole positions in the complex energy plane, for some quantum numbers.

However a detailed analysis of the quantum numbers where binding exists shows a discrepancy with recent lattice QCD results for the $ll\bar{b}\bar{b}$ tetraquark bound states. We conclude that the string flip-flop models need further improvement.

I. INTRODUCTION

A long standing problem of QCD is the search for localized exotic states [1] and the corresponding decay to the hadron-hadron continuum. There is no QCD theorem preventing the existence of exotic hadrons, say two-gluon glueballs, hybrids, tetraquarks, pentaquarks, three-gluon glueballs, hexaquarks, etc, and the scientific community continues to search for clear exotic candidates. However, this problem turned out to be much harder than expected.

In this work, we develop fully unitary techniques to solve some of the theoretical problems of multiquarks, and predict multiquark bound states and resonances. We continue a previous unitary study of tetraquarks with a simplified two-variable toy model [2], now fully solving the tetraquark problem, of the Schrödinger equation for two quarks and two antiquarks. We specialize in systems which are clearly exotic tetraquarks, who cannot have a significant mesonic quark-antiquark component, i.e. where the quantum numbers, or the S-matrix pole and decay amplitudes clearly show it is a tetraquark.

In particular, as a benchmark, we study in detail the light-light-antiheavy-antistatic tetraquark [15].

We leave the brief review of the tetraquarks in the literature for Section II, including the searches for tetraquarks in experiments, in dynamical lattice QCD and in quark models. We also discuss searches combining semi-dynamical lattice QCD with quantum mechanical techniques. In Section III we describe our triple string flip-flop potential, where our system is open to the continuum in the inter meson-meson directions, and is confined in the tetraquark direction. Our string flip-flop potential also includes the first color excitation. In Section IV, we address the meson-meson scattering problem, occurring when we solve the Schrödinger equation. We detail our numerical techniques, utilized to solve both our bound state and scattering problems. In Section V we show our results with the state of the art triple string flip-flop potential, exhibiting tetraquark bound states, and resonances. For the resonances, with our fully unitarized

---

* bicudo@tecnico.ulisboa.pt
† mjldcc@fct.ist.utl.pt
computation, we calculate the pole position and thus finding their decay widths. We also consider, to compare with our full computation, simplified potentials. In Section VI we compare our results to the existing lattice QCD results for the light-light-antihadron system and conclude. We find excessive binding, concluding the flip-flop potentials need further improvement. Nevertheless our technique can be applied to other potentials who may be developed in the future.

II. BRIEF REVIEW OF TETRAQUARKS

A. The experimental search for tetraquarks

This is a very difficult problem experimentally, since exotic candidates are resonances immersed in the excited hadron spectra, and moreover they usually decay to several hadrons.

Recently an experimental article [16] was published indicating that the $\pi(1600)$ observation of a resonance with mass $M = 1660(74)$ MeV, and width $\Gamma = 269(85)$ MeV, in diffractive dissociation of 190 GeV/c $\pi^-$ into $\pi^-\pi^-\pi^+$, has exotic $J^{PC} = 1^{-+}$ quantum numbers, consistent with an hybrid meson or a tetraquark.

Moreover, the existence of tetraquarks has been advanced by the experimental collaborations at the charm and bottom factories to interpret the new $X, Y, Z$ hidden charm or bottom mesons [17]. Their mass and decay products mark them as charmonia-like resonances but their masses do not fit into the quark model spectrum of quark-antiquark mesons [18]. This class of tetraquarks is related to the double-heavy tetraquarks we address here.

In particular, the charged $Z^\pm_c$ and $Z^\pm_b$ are cryptoeotic, but technically they can be regarded as essentially exotic tetraquarks if we neglect $cc\bar{b}\bar{b}$ annihilation. There are two $Z^\pm_c$ observed only by the collaboration BELLE at KEK [19], slightly above $B B^*$ and $B^* B^*$ thresholds, the $Z_c(10610)^+$ and $Z_c(10650)^+$. Their nature is possibly different from the two $Z_c(3940)^+$ and $Z_c(4430)^+$, whose mass is well above $DD$ threshold [20]. The $Z^\pm_c$ has received a series of experimental observations by the BELLE collaboration [21, 22], the Cleo-C collaboration [23], the BESIII collaboration [24–28] and the LHCb collaboration [29]. This family is possibly related to the closed-charm pentaquark recently observed at LHCb [30].

However, to establish a new resonance it is necessary to study with an accurate level of confidence all its properties, including its mass and width as determined by its S-matrix pole and all relevant partial decay widths. Possibly we need more data and more extensive data analysis to be able to absolutely confirm exotic candidates [31, 32].

Notice, using very approximate Resonant Group Method calculations, in 2008, we predicted [33] a partial decay width to $\pi J/\psi$ of the $Z_c(4430)\gamma$ consistent with the experimental value. But we opt to leave the detailed study of this second class of double-heavy tetraquarks, with closed charm or closed bottom tetraquarks, for future studies. We first want to address more constrained systems with identical fermions, where the Pauli symmetry applies.

B. The lattice QCD search for tetraquarks

In lattice QCD, the study of exotics is presently even harder than in the laboratory, since the techniques and computer facilities necessary to study of resonances with many decay channels remain under development.

Thus lattice QCD started by searching for the expected boundstate in light-light-antihadron, for example [36, 37]. Using dynamical quarks, the only heavy quark presently accessible to Lattice QCD simulations is the charm quark. No evidence for boundstates in this family of tetraquarks, say for a $ud\bar{b}\bar{b}$ was found.

Lattice QCD also searched for evidence of a large tetraquark component in closed bottom the $Z_c(3940)^-$ candidate [38, 39]. The difficulty of the study of the $Z^-_c$, a resonance well above threshold, is due to its many two-meson coupled channels. The authors considered 22 two-meson channels, corresponding to lattice QCD interpolators $O^M_1 M_2$. In addition they considered 4 tetraquarks channels, corresponding to diquark-antidiquark interpolators with flavour and color $[\bar{c}u]_3 [cd]_3$. An evidence for the tetraquark resonance candidate was investigated in the full coupled correlator matrix of hadron operators.

Finally, after switching on and off the 4 tetraquark-like channels, the authors [38, 39] found no significant deviation in the 13 lowest channels, who span the energy range from the lowest threshold to the $Z_c(3940)^-$ candidate. Thus, the authors concluded there is no robust evidence of a $Z^\pm_c$ tetraquark resonance.

However, the direct proof for, or against, a tetraquark resonance in lattice QCD would require the study of the S-matrix. The technique to perform phase shift analysis...
C. Quark model approaches to exotic tetraquarks

A detailed theoretical understanding of the properties of exotic hadrons is important to support the experimental and lattice QCD searches of exotics. Several theoretical problems need to be solved before addressing exotics hadrons.

1. Early quark models

Already at the onset of QCD, the bag model predicted many tetraquarks [1]. However, as soon as lattice QCD was able to compute static quark potentials and color electromagnetic fields, it was realized that quark confinement was not bag-like, but string-like, due to color flux tubes.

Inspired in lattice QCD linear confining potentials, the relativized quark model potential was developed [18, 44], after the authors fitted the spectra of all known hadrons in the 80’s. Notice that a correctly calibrated quark model needs many terms and many parameters, say of the order of ~ 20 parameters.

Nevertheless the relativized quark model still lacks two crucial effects, leading with up to 400 MeV deviations, chiral symmetry breaking, which has already been for instance in the Dyson-Schwinger approach [45–47], and coupled channels/unquenching which has already been include for instance in effective meson or baryon models [48].

2. Extra binding with four-body flux tube potentials

Moreover, since tetraquarks are always open to decays into a meson-meson pair, tetraquark resonances or bound states may only exist if a mechanism exists to provide binding specific to tetraquarks. Here we explore a mechanism observed in lattice QCD static potentials: the confining four body potential [49, 50], produced by double Y or butterfly shaped flux tubes or strings [34, 35, 51], depicted in Fig. 2. This mechanism is related to the Jaffe-Wilczek model [52–54] who proposed the tetraquark would form a diquark-antidiquark system.

We acknowledge other mechanisms may exist to support binding, however they are complex to implement and it is not clear, from lattice QCD, how they work quantitatively. For instance attraction may also be due to quark-antiquark annihilation, however it turned out to be insufficient to bind a proposed pentaquark [55, 56].

Another mechanism is the hyperfine spin-dependent potential utilized in the original bag model [1], however the spin-tensor potentials have only been computed in lattice QCD for mesons. For baryons they are model dependent, while for in multiquarks the details of the spin-tensor potentials remain speculative. Moreover both quark-antiquark annihilation and the hyperfine potential are also important for chiral symmetry breaking. To avoid the complexity of quark-antiquark annihilation, spin tensor quark-quark interactions and chiral symmetry breaking, we specialize in a family of tetraquarks where they can be neglected.

Here we consider purely exotic tetraquarks only. In contradistinction to crypto-exotics, in pure exotics quark-antiquark annihilation does not occur directly. Crypto-exotic tetraquarks are also less clear in the sense they always have a mesonic component, they are never a pure exotic. Thus we consider only tetraquarks with exotic flavour. Moreover, as a first study, we neglect spin-tensor
interactions and chiral symmetry breaking effects.

3. Solving the Van der Waals force problem with string flip-flop potentials

Clearly, tetraquarks are always coupled to meson-meson systems, and we must be able to address correctly the meson-meson interactions.

Notice confining two-body potentials with the SU(3) color Casimir invariant $\vec{\lambda}_i \cdot \vec{\lambda}_j$ suggested by the One-Gluon-Exchange potential, and possibly compatible with lattice QCD, lead to a Van der Waals potential,

$$V_{\text{Van der Waals}} = \frac{V'(r)}{r} \times T.$$  \hfill (1)

where $T$ is a polarization tensor. This would lead to an extremely large Van der Waals force between mesons, or baryons which clearly is not observed experimentally. Thus two-body confinement dominance is ruled out for multiquark systems.

The string flip-flop potential for the meson-meson interaction was developed [52, 63–66], to solve the problem of the Van der Waals forces produced by the two-body confining potentials.

Traditionally, the string flip-flop potential considers that the potential is the one that minimizes the energy of the possible two different meson-meson configurations, say $M_{13} M_{24}$ or $M_{14} M_{23}$. This removes the inter-meson potential, and thus solves the problem of the Van der Waals force.

Here we upgrade the string flip-flop potential, considering a third possible configuration, the tetraquark one, say $T_{12, 34}$, where the four constituents are linked by a connected string [13, 67]. We study whether the tetraquark attractive flux tube may induce further binding of tetraquarks.

The three configurations differ in the strings linking the quarks and antiquarks, this is illustrated in Fig. 3. When the diquarks $qq$ and $\bar{q}\bar{q}$ have small distances, the tetraquark configuration minimizes the string energy.

With a triple string flip-flop potential, bound states below the threshold for hadronic coupled channels have been found [13, 67–69].

On the other hand, the string flip-flip potentials allow fully unitarized studies of resonances [65, 66, 70]. Utilizing analytical calculations with a double flip-flop harmonic oscillator potential [70], and using the resonating group method again with a double flip-flop confining harmonic oscillator potential [65, 66], resonances and bound states have already been predicted.

Moreover, using the perturbative approximation of the resonating group method, a preliminary estimation of the partial decay width of the $Z(4430)^-$ resonance was similar to the one measured by LHCb [33].

These studies suggest tetraquark bound states or resonances are plausible. Fully unitarized techniques adapted to state of the art potentials, remain to be applied in order to achieve a quantitative theoretical study of tetraquark resonances and bound states.

4. Previous quark model results with string flip-flop potentials

Tetraquark resonances are quite subtle, since the Fock space of tetraquarks is the same of its decay channels, the meson-meson channels, and moreover a potential barrier is absent. A priori it is not intuitive whether this system may produce resonances or not.

Nevertheless, there is an argument [52] suggesting multiquarks with angular excitations may gain a centrifugal barrier, leading to narrower decay widths.

4. Recent lattice QCD results for the potentials in the light-light-antistatic-antistatic system.

The difficulties of both lattice QCD and quark models can be both relaxed when one uses a hybrid approach with both numerical and model techniques.

Recently, the light-antistatic light-antistatic potentials have been computed in lattice QCD [72, 73], as shown in Fig. 5. A static antiquark constitutes a good approximation to a spin-averaged $\bar{b}$ bottom antiquark. The light-antistatic light-antistatic potential can then be used, with the Born-Oppenheimer approximation [14], as the $B - B$ potential, where we the higher order $1/m_b$ terms including the spin-tensor terms are neglected. According to the quantum numbers of the two dynamical
light quarks, either attraction or repulsion is found. The attraction/repulsion can be understood with the screening mechanism illustrated in Fig. 1, and the antistatic-antistatic potential is well fitted by the screened Coulomb ansatz [15],

$$V(r) = -\frac{\alpha}{r} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{r}{d}\right)^p\right). \quad (2)$$

Utilizing the potential of the channel with larger attraction, occurring in the Isospin=0 and Spin=0 quark-quark system, together with the Born-Oppenheimer approximation [14] to derive the Schrödinger equation, the possible bound states of the heavy antiquarks are then investigated with quantum mechanics techniques. Recently, this approach indeed found evidence for a tetraquark \(ud\bar{b}\bar{b}\) bound state [15, 74], while no boundstates have been found for states where the heavy quarks are \(\bar{c}\bar{c}\), or \(\bar{s}\bar{s}\) (consistent with full lattice QCD computations [36, 37]) or where the light quarks are \(\bar{c}\bar{c}\) [71]. The \(\bar{b}\bar{b}\) probability density in the only binding channel is shown in Fig. 6.

Moreover, lattice QCD finds attraction or repulsion, consistently with the screening model.

- In some channels we find attraction, in others we find repulsion.
- Phenomenologically, due to the short range one-gluon exchange proportional to the Gell-Mann \(\lambda^i \cdot \lambda^j\) Casimir operator, the \(b\) and \(\bar{b}\) are expected to bind only if they are in a triplet 3, not a sextet 6,
- thus the light quarks \(qq\) should be in a color antitriplet \(\bar{3}\), as illustrated in Fig. 4,
- due to the Pauli principle and to the quark model phenomenology this is indeed consistent with an s-wave, \(I=0\) and \(S=0\) diquark.

These results for repulsion, attraction or binding are very important, the quark models should comply with them.

### III. POTENTIAL

#### A. Groundstate string flip-flop potential

We know from lattice computations for static quarks [34, 35, 49, 50] that the ground state potential for a system composed of two quarks and two antiquarks, is well fitted by a string flip-flop potential,

$$V_{FF}^0 = \min(V_{MM}, V_{MM'}, V_T), \quad (3)$$

were, for simplicity, we neglect possible mixings at the transition regions. In Eq. (3), \(V_{MM}\) and \(V_{MM'}\) are two possible potentials of a pair of mesons, given by the sum of the intra-meson potentials \(V_{MM}(x_i) = V_M(|x_i - x_3|) + V_M(|x_2 - x_4|)\) and \(V_{MM'}(x_i) = V_M(|x_i - x_4|) + V_{MM}(|x_2 - x_3|)\). The intra-meson potential is well described by the funnel potential,

$$V_M(r_{ij}) = K - \frac{\gamma}{r_{ij}} + \sigma r_{ij}, \quad (4)$$

where \(r_{ij} = |x_i - x_j|\) and which includes a constant term \(K\), the short range Coulomb potential \(-\frac{\gamma}{r}\) and the long range confining potential \(\sigma r\). Here we use the indices 1 and 2, to refer to the quarks while 3 and 4, refer to the antiquarks. \(x_i\) are the positions of the quarks/antiquarks.
Moreover the tetraquark function $V_T$ is,

$$V_T(x_i) = 2K - \sum_{1<i<j}^4 C_{ij} \frac{\gamma}{r_{ij}} + \sigma L_{min}(x_i),$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)$$

where $C_{ij} = 1/2$ for quark-quark and antiquark-antiquark and $C_{ij} = 1/4$ for quark-antiquark interactions. $L_{min}$ is the minimal distance linking the four particles,

$$L_{min}(x_i) = r_{15} + r_{25} + r_{56} + r_{36} + r_{46},$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)$$

where 5 and 6 are the indices of the two Fermat-Torricelli-Steiner points [13, 67, 75] of the tetraquark. We compute the position of these two points with the numerical technique of Ref. [75]. This potential generalizes the earlier
string flip-flop potential models by introducing a third possible branch in the potential where the four particles are all linked by a confining string.

Our main approximation consists in neglecting the spin tensor potentials, say the hyperfine, spin-orbit and tensor potentials. These potentials have only been studied in detail in the two-body mesonic quark-antiquark system, including in lattice QCD computations [76]. In the three quark baryonic system, the spin tensor potentials have been applied in models, however they remain to be computed in lattice QCD. In four-body tetraquarks systems, we still ignore the spin-tensor potentials. Moreover, the study of tetraquarks with a four-body confining potential remains an open problem, and our present aim is to solve it before addressing quark spin interactions. Thus our tetraquark masses or poles should be seen as spin-averaged results.

B. Color states

However, this potential is not yet sufficiently defined to completely address tetraquarks. It has been pointed out [77–81] that we also need a potential for color excited states, otherwise there would be solutions which wouldn’t be color singlets.

With two quarks and two antiquarks, two different linearly independent color singlets can be constructed. Physically, rather than choosing a basis composed by singlet-singlet and octet-octet, or including the triplet-antitriplet, it is more convenient to have a color basis corresponding to the two possible asymptotic meson-meson systems $MM$ and $MM’$. In the color system denoted with $I$ the pairs $Q_1Q_3$ and $Q_2Q_4$ form color singlets, and in the color system denoted with $II$, the pairs $Q_1Q_4$ and $Q_2Q_3$ are color singlets. These two color states are given by:

$$|C_I⟩ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \delta_{e_1 e_4} \delta_{e_2 e_3} |c_1 e_2 \bar{e}_3 c_4⟩$$

$$|C_{II}⟩ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \delta_{e_1 e_4} \delta_{e_2 e_3} |c_1 e_2 \bar{e}_3 c_4⟩$$

However, these two states are not orthogonal, $⟨C_I|C_{II}⟩ = \frac{1}{3}$. For instance an orthogonal basis could be constructed by considering the antisymmetric $A$ and symmetric $S$ color combinations of these two states,

$$|A⟩ = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} (|C_I⟩ − |C_{II}⟩)$$

$$|S⟩ = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}} (|C_I⟩ + |C_{II}⟩)$$

and inversely,

$$|C_I⟩ = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} |S⟩ + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |A⟩$$

$$|C_{II}⟩ = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} |S⟩ − \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |A⟩$$

It is useful to introduce the contravariant basis to $|C_I⟩$ and $|C_{II}⟩$. The color space metric matrix in this basis is,

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and it’s inverse

$$g^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 9/8 & -3/8 \\ -3/8 & 9/8 \end{pmatrix}$$

Notice that $g$ is covariant while $g^{-1}$ is contravariant. Using the metric matrices, we define the contravariant basis $|C^A⟩ = g^{AB} |C_B⟩$, with the property $⟨C^A|C_B⟩ = δ^{A}_B$. These contravariant basis is explicitly defined by

$$|C^I⟩ = \frac{9}{8} |C_I⟩ - \frac{3}{8} |C_{II}⟩ ,$$

$$|C^{II}⟩ = -\frac{3}{8} |C_I⟩ + \frac{9}{8} |C_{II}⟩ .$$

C. Completing the potential

Since we have two independent color singlets, the potential must be given by a $2 \times 2$ matrix. The lowest eigenvalue of the matrix should correspond to $V_{FF}$.

The corresponding eigenvectors $|u_0⟩$ are the following,

- when $V_{FF} = V_{MM}$, the corresponding eigenvector is $|u_0⟩ = |C_I⟩ ,$
- $V_{FF} = V_{MM}$ the corresponding eigenvector is $|u_0⟩ = |C_{II}⟩ ,$
- when $V_{FF} = V_T$, we have $|u_0⟩ = |A⟩$.

The eigenvectors for the highest eigenvalue $|u_1⟩$ must be orthogonal to $|u_0⟩$ so that the potential matrix is hermitian. So, in the three cases, we have the following eigenvectors,

- when $V_{FF} = V_{MM}$, $|u_1⟩ = |\bar{C}_I⟩ = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |S⟩ + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} |A⟩$
- when $V_{FF} = V_{MM’}$, $|u_1⟩ = |\bar{C}_{II}⟩ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |S⟩ + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} |A⟩$
- when $V_{FF} = V_T$, $|u_1⟩ = |S⟩$

To construct the potential matrix, we only need to know the highest eigenvalue. In Refs. [35, 80], in the transition region, there seems to be an exchange between the ground and the first excited states. Namely, in region $A$ (where $V_A$ is the ground state) close to the transition to region $B$ (where $V_B$ is the ground state), the ground state’s potential is $v_0 = V_A$ and the first excited state $v_1 = V_B$. When we enter region $B$, then we have $v_0 = V_B$ and $v_1 = V_A$. This way, the first excited state should be the second lowest of the three potentials close to the transitions. We assume, that this result is valid in general, i.e.

$$V_{FF}^I = \min \{ \max (V_{MM}, V_{MM’}), \max (V_{MM}, V_T), \max (V_{MM’}, V_T) \} .$$
D. Other Models

For comparison, we also use two other models. One of them is similar to this color structure dependent triple flip-flop model, but with the tetraquark sector removed from the potential. So, the ground state’s potential is just

\[ v_0 = \min(V_I, V_{II}) , \]

and the excited state is,

\[ v_1 = \max(V_I, V_{II}) , \]

with the corresponding eigenvectors, being constructed the same way as before. This potential is given in the matrix form on the non-orthogonal basis formed by |C_I\rangle and |C_{II}\rangle by

\[ V = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{8}{3} V_I + \frac{1}{3} \min(V_I, V_{II}) & \frac{1}{3} \min(V_I, V_{II}) \\ \frac{1}{3} \min(V_I, V_{II}) & \frac{8}{3} V_{II} + \frac{1}{3} \min(V_I, V_{II}) \end{pmatrix} . \]

A third model we also compare with, is the colorless double Flip-flop. In this model, the potential is simply given by

\[ V = \min(V_I, V_{II}) . \]

This potential does not depend of the color degrees of freedom of the system and so is a non-physical one. However, this model and it’s extension to include the tetraquark sector have been used by several authors [65, 66, 70]. It can be interpreted as the limit of a color structure dependent model, when the two eigenstates of the potential are degenerate (\( v_0 = v_1 \)).

IV. OUR UNITARY TECHNIQUE TO SOLVE THE MESON-MESON SCATTERING AND FIND TETRAQUARK BOUND-STATES AND RESONANCES

A. Meson-meson scattering equation

Let us start with the microscopic Hamiltonian,

\[ \hat{H} = T_Q + \hat{V}_Q , \]

where the Q subscript means that we are dealing with the kinetic and potential energy of the quarks and not of the mesons. Folding the operators in the color states |C_I\rangle and |C_{II}\rangle, we get the Schrödinger equation:

\[ (g_{AB} T_Q + V_{AB}') \Psi_B = E g_{AB} \Psi_B . \]

We now need to opt for a decomposition of the potential and kinetic energies in the Hamiltonian.

However, due to the non-orthogonality of our color basis, it is not trivial to conveniently decompose the Hamiltonian. A first guess would be to consider the meson potential energy as,

\[ V_{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} V_{II} & V_{II} \\ V_{II} & \frac{1}{3} V_{II} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \left( \begin{pmatrix} V_{MM} & 0 \\ 0 & V_{MM'} \end{pmatrix} \right) \]

\[ = \begin{pmatrix} V_{II} - V_{MM} & V_{II} - \frac{3}{4} V_{MM'} \\ V_{II} - \frac{3}{4} V_{MM} & V_{II} - V_{MM'} \end{pmatrix} , \]

however this turns out to be a non-Hermitian operator, and clearly this is not a good decomposition of the Hamiltonian. Another possible decomposition would be to add the potentials \( V_{MM} \) and \( V_{MM'} \) not to \( T_Q \) but to \( gT_Q \),

\[ T_M' = \begin{pmatrix} T_Q + V_{MM} & T_Q + \frac{1}{3} T_Q \\ \frac{1}{3} T_Q & T_Q + V_{MM'} \end{pmatrix} , \]

however we do not want \( T_Q \) to appear in the equation. We could as well define \( T_Q = T^3 - V^3_M \) which is convenient since in one case the operator is applied to the two components of the wave-function. However, numerically it could be difficult to verify the equality \( T_M' - V'_M = T'_Q - V'_Q \). Moreover, a simple reduced mass correction or the use of a relativistic quark energy destroys this equality.

After considering several decompositions and testing them, we finally solve all these problems by considering the decomposition,

\[ \hat{T}_S = \begin{pmatrix} T_M & \frac{T_{MM} + T_{MM'}}{6} \\ \frac{T_{MM} + T_{MM'}}{6} & T_{MM'} \end{pmatrix} , \]

and

\[ \hat{\psi}_S = \begin{pmatrix} V_{II} & V_{II} \\ V_{II} & \frac{1}{6} \frac{V_{MM} + V_{MM'}}{V_{MM} + V_{MM'}} \end{pmatrix} \]

Notice, both operators are now Hermitian. We have the Schrödinger equation,

\[ T_{AB} \Psi_B + V_{AB} \Psi_B = E g_{AB} \Psi_B . \]

The components \( \Psi_A \) are expanded as,

\[ \Psi' = \sum_i \Phi'_i (\rho_{13}, \rho_{24}) \psi'_i (r_{1324}) , \]

\[ \Psi'' = \sum_i \Phi''_i (\rho_{14}, \rho_{23}) \psi''_i (r_{1423}) , \]

where we define the Jacobi coordinates,

\[ \rho_{13} = x_1 - x_3 , \]

\[ \rho_{24} = x_2 - x_4 , \]

\[ r_{1324} = \frac{m_1 x_1 + m_3 x_3}{m_1 + m_3} - \frac{m_2 x_2 + m_4 x_4}{m_2 + m_4} , \]

\[ \rho_{14} = x_1 - x_4 , \]

\[ \rho_{23} = x_2 - x_3 , \]

\[ r_{1423} = \frac{m_1 x_1 + m_4 x_4}{m_1 + m_4} - \frac{m_2 x_2 + m_3 x_3}{m_2 + m_3} . \]
The functions $\Phi_i^A$ are eigenfunctions of Hamiltonian of the two non-interacting mesons,

$$ (T_A + V_A)\Phi_i^A = E_0\Phi_i^A . \quad (26) $$

They have the property,

$$ \lim_{\rho_1 \to \infty} \Phi_i^A(\rho_1, \rho_2) = \lim_{\rho_2 \to \infty} \Phi_i^A(\rho_1, \rho_2) = 0 , \quad (27) $$

because the quarks in each meson are confined.

Substituting Eq. (24) into Eq. (23) and integrating the confined degrees of freedom, (i.e. the $\rho_i$ coordinates), we obtain the multichannel equation,

$$ \hat{T}_{\alpha\beta}\psi^{\beta} + \hat{V}_{\alpha\beta}\psi^{\beta} = E\hat{g}_{\alpha\beta}\psi^{\beta} . \quad (28) $$

Here, we employ Greek indices to denote both the color structure and internal quantum numbers.

The operators $\hat{T}_{\alpha\beta}$, $\hat{V}_{\alpha\beta}$ and $\hat{g}_{\alpha\beta}$ are local between states with the same color structure but are non-local between states with different color structures. Let us now analyze in detail the non-local operators. Consider the non-diagonal term of the $g$ matrix, folding it with $\Psi^I$ and $\Psi^{II}$,

$$ \langle \Psi^{I*} | g_{II} | \Psi^{II*} \rangle = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{ij} \int d^3\rho_{13} d^3\rho_{24} d^3r_{1234} \rho_{13} \rho_{24} \Phi_i^I(\rho_{13}, \rho_{24})^* \Phi_j^{II}(\rho_{14}, \rho_{23})^* \Phi_i^{II}(\rho_{14}, \rho_{23}) \Phi_j^I(\rho_{13}, \rho_{24}) . \quad (29) $$

Changing the integration variables to $r_{1324}$, $r_{1423}$ and

$$ r_{1234} = \frac{m_1 x_1 + m_2 x_2 - m_3 x_3 + m_4 x_4}{m_1 + m_2 - m_3 + m_4} , \quad (30) $$

in order to isolate functions of $r_{1324}$ and $r_{1423}$, the integral becomes

$$ \frac{1}{3} \int d^3r_{1324} d^3r_{1423} \Phi_i^I(\rho_{13}, \rho_{24})^* \gamma_{ij}(r_{1324}, r_{1423}) \Phi_j^{II}(r_{1423}) . \quad (31) $$

The function $\gamma_{ij}(r_{1324}, r_{1423})$ is given by,

$$ \gamma_{ij} = \Delta \int d^3r_{1234} \Phi_i^I(\rho_{13}, \rho_{24})^* \Phi_j^{II}(\rho_{14}, \rho_{23}) , \quad (32) $$

where

$$ \Delta = \left( \frac{M_{12} M_{34} M_{13} M_{24} M_{14} M_{23}}{2 m_1 m_2 m_3 m_4 M^2} \right)^3 , \quad (33) $$

with $M_{ij} = m_i + m_j$ and $M = \sum_i m_i$. In this way, knowing that $\hat{g}$ acts on a function as,

$$ \hat{g}_{\alpha\beta}\psi^{\beta} = \int d^3r_{\beta} g_{\alpha\beta}(r_{\alpha}, r_{\beta}) \psi^{\beta}(r_{\beta}) , \quad (34) $$

we have,

$$ g_{Ii,Ij}(r_{1324}, r'_{1324}) = \delta_{ij} \delta^3(r_{1324} - r'_{1324}) , $$

$$ g_{II,II}(r_{1324}, r'_{1423}) = \frac{1}{3} \gamma_{ij}(r_{1324}, r'_{1423}) , $$

$$ g_{III,II}(r_{1423}, r'_{1423}) = \frac{1}{3} \gamma_{ij}(r_{1324}, r'_{1423})^* , $$

$$ g_{III,III}(r_{1324}, r'_{1423}) = \delta_{ij} \delta^3(r_{1423} - r'_{1423}) . \quad (35) $$

The potential $\hat{V}$ has a similar structure,

$$ V_{Ii,A,j}(r_{A}, r'_{A}) = V_{Ii,A}^{AA}(r_{A}) \delta^3(r_{A} - r'_{A}) , $$

$$ V_{II,II}(r_{1324}, r'_{1423}) = v_{ij}(r_{1324}, r'_{1423}) , $$

$$ V_{III,III}(r_{1324}, r'_{1423}) = v_{ij}^*(r_{1324}, r'_{1423}) , \quad (36) $$

Note that, because of Eq. (27), both $\gamma_{ij}$ and $v_{ij}$ have the property

$$ \lim_{r_1 \to \infty} \gamma_{ij}(r_1, r_2) = \lim_{r_2 \to \infty} \gamma_{ij}(r_1, r_2) = 0 \quad (37) $$

The color structure preserving elements of $\hat{T}$ are just common kinetic energy operators,

$$ \hat{T}_{A_i,A_j} = \delta_{ij}(E_{A_i} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_i} \nabla_{A_i}^2) , \quad (38) $$

while the elements between states with different color structures are given by

$$ \hat{T}_{II,IJ} = \frac{1}{6} \gamma_{ij}(r_{1324}, r_{1423})(E_{II} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu_{II}} \nabla_{1324}^2) $$

$$ + \frac{1}{6}(E_{II} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu_{II}} \nabla_{1324}^2) \gamma_{ij}(r_{1324}, r_{1423}) . \quad (39) $$

**B. Flux conservation**

Since $\hat{T}$, $\hat{V}$ and $\hat{g}$ are hermitian, we have the continuity equation (for stationary states),

$$ \Im[\psi^{*\alpha}\hat{T}_{\alpha\beta}\psi^{\beta}] = 0 , \quad (40) $$

or, in integral form,

$$ \sum_{\alpha} \Phi_{\alpha} = 0 , \quad (41) $$

where

$$ \Phi_{\alpha} = \sum_{\beta} \int d^3r_{\alpha} 2\Im[\psi^{\alpha}\hat{T}_{\alpha\beta}\psi^{\beta}] , \quad (42) $$

and the 2 factor is just our convention.

Using the structure of $\hat{T}$ and the asymptotic behavior of $\gamma_{ij}$ given by Eqs. (38), (39) and (37) we can easily
prove that non-diagonal terms on Eq. (40) do not contribute to the fluxes \( \Phi_\alpha \). In his way, we get,

\[
\Phi_\alpha = \int dS n_\alpha \cdot \frac{\hbar}{2i \mu_\alpha} (\psi^* \nabla_\alpha \psi - \psi \nabla_\alpha \psi^*) .
\] (43)

Expanding each component \( \psi^\alpha \) as,

\[
\psi^\alpha(r) = \frac{u^\alpha(r)}{r} Y_{\ell m}(\theta_\alpha, \varphi_\alpha) ,
\] (44)

and taking the \( r \to \infty \) limit we obtain,

\[
\Phi_\alpha = \lim_{r \to \infty} \frac{\hbar}{3 \mu_\alpha} |u^\alpha| \frac{du^\alpha}{dr} .
\] (45)

Asymptotically \( u^\alpha(r) \) behaves as,

\[
u^\alpha(r) \to A^\alpha \sqrt{\frac{\mu_\alpha}{k_\alpha}} \sin(k_\alpha r - \frac{l_\alpha \pi}{2} + \varphi_\alpha) + f_\alpha e^{i(k_\alpha r - \frac{l_\alpha \pi}{2})} .
\] (46)

The term \( \varphi_\alpha \) appears because \( \tilde{T} \) mixes the different channels. Replacing Eq. 46 on Eq. 45, one gets,

\[
\sum_\alpha \sqrt{\frac{k_\alpha}{\mu_\alpha}} \tilde{A} \alpha f_\alpha e^{-i\varphi_\alpha} = \sum_\alpha \frac{k_\alpha}{\mu_\alpha} |f_\alpha|^2 .
\] (47)

This is the optical theorem for our system. Considering for instance the case of one channel it reads,

\[
\text{Im} \ T = |t|^2
\] (48)

with

\[
t = \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}} e^{-i\varphi}
\] (49)

### C. T matrix

To generalize this result, we first note that the wavefunction can be expanded as,

\[
u^\alpha(r) = \sum_i c_i u^\alpha_i(r) ,
\] (50)

with,

\[
u^\alpha_i(r) \to A_{i\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{\mu_\alpha}{k_\alpha}} \sin(k_\alpha r - \frac{l_\alpha \pi}{2} + \varphi_{i\alpha}) + f_\alpha e^{i(k_\alpha r - \frac{l_\alpha \pi}{2})} .
\] (51)

Each \( u^\alpha_i(r) \) can be decomposed in two parts,

\[
u^\alpha_i(r) = u^\alpha_{i0}(r) + v^\alpha_i(r) ,
\] (52)

where the function \( u^\alpha_{i0}(r) \) comes from the eigenfunction \( \psi^\alpha_0 \) of \( \tilde{T} \), and has the asymptotic limit,

\[
u^\alpha_{i0}(r) \to A_{i\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{\mu_\alpha}{k_\alpha}} \sin(k_\alpha r - \frac{l_\alpha \pi}{2} + \varphi_{i\alpha}) ,
\] (53)

The \( u^\alpha_{i0} \) can be chosen to form an orthonormal basis,

\[
\langle u^\alpha_{i0} | u^\alpha_{j0} \rangle = \frac{\pi}{2} \delta(E_i - E_j) \delta_{ij} ,
\] (54)

which imposes that the parameters \( A_{i\alpha} \) and \( \varphi_{i\alpha} \) must comply with the relation,

\[
\sum_\alpha A_{i\alpha} A_{j\alpha} \cos(\varphi_{i\alpha} - \varphi_{j\alpha}) = \delta_{ij} .
\] (55)

Replacing Eqs. (50) and (51) in Eq. (45), we are led to a generalization of Eq. (47),

\[
\sum_\alpha \sqrt{\frac{k_\alpha}{\mu_\alpha}} A_{i\alpha} e^{-i\varphi_{i\alpha}} f_{j\alpha} - A_{j\alpha} e^{-i\varphi_{j\alpha}} f_{i\alpha} = \sum_\alpha \frac{k_\alpha}{\mu_\alpha} f^*_{i\alpha} f_{j\alpha} .
\] (56)

We note that the left side of this equation has the form,

\[
\frac{T_{ij} - T^*_{ji}}{2i} = (T - T^\dagger)_{ij} ,
\] (57)

which suggests the definition of the T matrix,

\[
T_{ij} = \sum_\alpha \sqrt{\frac{k_\alpha}{\mu_\alpha}} A_{i\alpha} e^{-i\varphi_{i\alpha}} f_{j\alpha} .
\] (58)

To verify Eq. (58), we use the relation,

\[
\sum_k A_{k\alpha} A_{k\beta} e^{i(\varphi_{k\beta} - \varphi_{k\alpha})} = \delta_{\alpha\beta} ,
\] (59)

which can be proved from the completeness relation,

\[
\sum_n |\psi_n\rangle \langle \psi_n| = \hat{1} ,
\] (60)

of the eigenvectors of the kinetic energy \( \tilde{T} \) operator. With Eq. (59), we calculate \( T^\dagger T \), and indeed we prove that it is equal to the right side of Eq. (56),

\[
T^\dagger T = \sum_\alpha \frac{k_\alpha}{\mu_\alpha} f^*_{i\alpha} f_{j\alpha} .
\] (61)

Therefore, by the definition of \( T \) and the previous relation, we can write relation 56 as

\[
\text{Im} \ T = T^\dagger T
\] (62)

which proves the unitarity of the S matrix defined by \( S = 1 + 2iT \).

### D. Identical quarks and identical antiquarks

So far, our framework is general for four-quark systems. We now specialize our study to a system of two identical quarks and two identical antiquarks,
The total wavefunction must be antisymmetric under the quark-exchange $P_{12}$ and antiquark exchange $P_{34}$,

$$P_{12}\Psi = -\Psi, \quad P_{34}\Psi = -\Psi, \quad (63)$$

Given a generic wavefunction $\Psi$ we construct a completely antisymmetric on $\Psi_A$, by applying a projection operator

$$\Psi_A = \mathcal{N}(1 - P_{12} - P_{34} + P_{12}P_{34})\Psi \quad (64)$$

In this work, our Hamiltonian is spin-independent, and so we ignore spin effects in the dynamics of the system. With this approximation, the spin part of the wavefunction factorizes, and we can neglect it's existence for everything except for the symmetry of the wavefunction. Now, consider the function,

$$\Psi = \phi_\alpha(\rho_{13})\phi_\beta(\rho_{24})\psi(r_{1324})C_l\Sigma \quad (65)$$

where $\Sigma$ is the spin part of the wavefunction and $\psi$ has parity

$$\psi(-r) = (-1)^{L_r}\psi(r) \quad (66)$$

We can make this function anti-symmetric by using Eq. (64). In this case, we obtain the function,

$$\Psi_A = \mathcal{N} \left[ \phi_\alpha(\rho_{13})\phi_\beta(\rho_{24})\psi(r_{1324})C_l 
- (-1)^{L_r + S_{12}}\phi_\alpha(\rho_{13})\phi_\beta(\rho_{14})\psi(r_{1423})C_{II} 
- (-1)^{L_r + S_{34}}\phi_\alpha(\rho_{14})\phi_\beta(\rho_{23})\psi(r_{1423})C_{II} 
+ (-1)^{S_{12} + S_{34} + L_r}\phi_\alpha(\rho_{14})\phi_\beta(\rho_{13})\psi(r_{1324})C_l \right] \Sigma. \quad (67)$$

We assume that $\Sigma$ is an eigenfunction of both $S_{12}$ and $S_{34}$. This is consistent with our approximation of neglecting all spin related interactions, which implies that all spin operators commute trivially with the Hamiltonian. Defining,

$$s \equiv (-1)^{S_{12} + S_{34} + L_r}, \quad \xi \equiv (-1)^{S_{34}}, \quad (68)$$

where $S_{12}$ and $S_{34}$ are respectively the spins of the 12 and 34 diquarks, we are led to a simpler expression for $\Psi_A$,

$$\Psi_A = \mathcal{N} \left[ \Phi(\rho_{13}, \rho_{24})\psi(r_{1324})C_l + \xi\Phi(\rho_{14}, \rho_{23})\psi(r_{1423})C_{II} \right] \Sigma, \quad (69)$$

with function $\Phi$ defined as,

$$\Phi(x, y) = \phi_\alpha(x)\phi_\beta(y) + s\phi_\alpha(y)\phi_\beta(x), \quad (70)$$

and having the property,

$$\Phi(y, x) = s\Phi(x, y). \quad (71)$$

### Table I: Quantum numbers of the $qq\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ system

| $S_{12}$ | $S_{34}$ | $\xi$ | $s(-1)^{L_r}$ | $J$ |
|---------|---------|------|-------------|-----|
| 0       | 0       | 1    | +1          | L  |
| 0       | 1       | -1   | -1          | $|L-1|$ to $L+1$ |
| 1       | 0       | +1   | -1          | $|L-1|$ to $L+1$ |
| 1       | 1       | -1   | +1          | $|L-2|$ to $L+2$ |

### Table II: Scattering channels used for the $qq\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ system.

Since both $S_{12}$ and $S_{34}$ are conserved in the non-dynamic spin approximation, we can diagonalize our Hamiltonian by blocks with fixed values of these two operators. This is done by replacing Eq. (67) on Eq. (28).

For this system, we obtain the scattering equation,

$$\hat{T}_{\alpha\beta}(r) + V_{\alpha\beta}(r)\psi_\beta(r) + \xi \int d^3r' v_{\alpha\beta}(r, r')\psi_\beta(r') = E(\psi_\alpha + \xi \int d^3r' \gamma_{\alpha\beta}(r, r')\psi_\beta(r')) \quad (72)$$

Moreover since the total orbital angular momentum $L$ and parity are also conserved we can determine the possible "real" quantum numbers of our system.

For instance for $S_{12} = S_{34} = 0$, we only have $J = L$ states. In this case, $\xi = 1$ and $s = (-1)^{L_r}$.

For $S_{12} = S_{34} = 1$, we have $\xi = -1$ and still $s = (-1)^{L_r}$. The total angular momentum $J$ can range from $|L - 2|$ to $L + 2$, as shown in Table I.

### E. Numerical technique

We consider the intra-meson potential to be of the funnel type, with no other corrections. Moreover, we use a relativistic kinetic energy for the quarks in a meson,

$$\hat{T}_q = \sqrt{m_{1q}^2 + p_1^2} + \sqrt{m_{2q}^2 + p_2^2}. \quad (73)$$

As for the scattering problem, the kinetic energy of the mesons is considered to be non-relativistic, but with the reduced mass obtained from the meson masses and not from the quark and antiquark masses,

$$\mu_\alpha = \frac{M_1^\alpha M_2^\alpha}{M_1^\alpha + M_2^\alpha}, \quad (74)$$

with $M_1^\alpha$ being the mass of the mesons.

Moreover, we neglect all other relativistic effects on our model, such as quark-antiquark annihilation, spin-spin and spin-orbit interactions. Besides this, we assume
that we are well below the threshold for decay into a baryon-antibaryon system. In this way we can neglected all the baryon-antibaryon channels, and consider just the meson-meson ones.

1. Computation of meson-meson interaction

To calculate the wave-functions of the mesons we use an harmonic oscillator variational basis, where each function is given by,

\[ \phi_{mnl}^{\beta}(r, \theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{2n!\beta^3}{\Gamma(n+l+\frac{3}{2})}} \left( \beta r \right)^l L_n^{l+1/2}(\beta^2 r^2) e^{-\frac{1}{2}\beta^2 r^2} Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi). \]  

(75)

The Meson Hamiltonian matrix elements are calculated in this basis and the matrix is diagonalized. With the resulting eigenfunctions, we calculate the local \( V_{ij} \) and non-local \( \gamma_{ij} \) parts of the meson-meson potential, defined by Eq. (36) and the non-local parts of the metric matrix \( \gamma_{ij} \) defined by Eq. (31). These 7 (non-local) or 8 (local) dimensional integrals are calculated using Lebedev Quadrature in the angular coordinates and the Gauss-Laguerre Quadrature for the radial coordinates. We compute these multidimensional integrals using GPUs and the CUDA language. The resulting functions depend on one radial coordinate in the local case and on two radial coordinates on the non-local case. So, in both cases, the functions are evaluated on a 9-dimensional space.

2. Meson-meson scattering

We must solve Eq. 28, to obtain the asymptotic behavior of the wavefunction and compute the \( T \) matrix. This is done by discretizing the radial scattering coordinates on a finite box.

We first solve the "free" equation

\[ \hat{T}\Psi_0 = E_{\beta}\Psi_0. \]

(76)

This is not as simple to solve as it may seem, since we cannot solve this equation separately for each channel, given the form of \( T \) and \( g \) matrices, which link all the channels. This is more cumbersome than what would happen in systems were there is only one type of quark combinations in mesons [2], i.e. always \((q_1 \bar{q}_3)(q_2 \bar{q}_4)\) and never \((q_1 \bar{q}_4)(q_2 \bar{q}_3)\).

For each energy, we generate different wavefunctions by varying the boundary conditions of the open channels. The generated solutions are not orthogonal, however, and must be orthogonalized. Special care must be taken when doing this, since, what we want is the asymptotic behavior of the functions. We can’t consider the internal product of two wavefunctions to be just given by the values on the finite box used for numerics,

\[ \langle u|v \rangle = \sum_i u_i^* v_i, \]

because, although the two functions \( u \) and \( v \) are orthogonal in the box, the continuations of them beyond the box \( \tilde{u} \) and \( \tilde{v} \) aren’t necessarily orthogonal,

\[ \langle \tilde{u}|\tilde{v} \rangle \neq 0. \]

Instead, we must utilize an inner product that takes into account the behavior of the wavefunction continued outside the box. To achieve this, we consider the inner product of two functions to be given by

\[ \langle u_i|u_j \rangle = \sum_\alpha A_{i\alpha} A_{j\alpha} \cos(\varphi_{i\alpha} - \varphi_{j\alpha}) \]

(79)

in accordance with Eq. (55). The parameters \( A_{i\alpha} \) and \( \varphi_{i\alpha} \) are given by Eq. (46) and are computed from the value of the wavefunction components at the boundary of the box.

Having generated our basis of \( N_{\text{open}} \) (the number of open channels) eigenfunctions of \( T \) for a given energy, we orthogonalize the basis with the Gram-Schmidt procedure, applied with the inner product of Eq. 79.

Then, for each function of the orthogonalized basis, we solve the scattering Eq. (28) considering \( \Psi_i = \Psi_{0i} + \chi_i \). In this way the equation becomes

\[ (\hat{T} + \hat{V})\chi_i = E_{\beta}\chi_i - V\Psi_{0i}. \]

(80)

We solve this equation by discretizing it, using suitable boundary conditions for \( \chi_i \). The values of \( f_{i\alpha} \) are then calculated, from the behavior of \( \chi_{i\alpha} \) at the boundary of the box. The \( T \) matrix is evaluated utilizing Eq. (58).

3. Finding bound states

To find the bound states, of our system we don’t need to calculate the \( T \) matrix. We can directly solve Eq. (28) and search for states with energy smaller than the first threshold.

The simplest method consists in discretizing Eq. (28) and solving it with Dirichlet boundary conditions. However, this procedure only works as long as the spatial extent of the bound state is much smaller than the box on which we are solving the equation. When this doesn’t happen, the wavefunction can become highly distorted by the forced boundary conditions and the energy can even be moved above the threshold, hiding the nature of the state. In this work, as will be seen next, we can have bound states with a very small binding energy. For this states we would have to use a very large box to obtain the energy and wavefunctions accurately. However,
this is not convenient. Thus, instead of using Dirichlet boundary conditions, we consider boundary conditions that depend on the energy and match the expected behavior of the wavefunctions at large distances.

With this method, we have to solve the matrix equation,

$$[H + F(E)] u = Eg u ,$$

(81)

where $F(E)$ is a matrix that fixes the boundary conditions. This is not a simple eigenvalue problem as the matrix depends on the eigenvalue itself.

To solve this equation, we consider it as a root finding problem $\det [H + F(E) - Eg] = 0$ and use the Newton’s method,

$$x^{(n+1)} = x^{(n)} - \frac{f(x^{(n)})}{f'(x^{(n)})} ,$$

(82)

to solve it.

Applying this method to Eq. (81), we obtain the iteration procedure

$$E^{(n+1)} = E^{(n)} - \frac{1}{\text{Tr}[(H + B(E) - Eg)^{-1}(B'(E) - g)]} ,$$

(83)

and we use it to calculate the bound-state energy. The wavefunction can then be calculated by solving Eq. (81) as a simple linear system.

With this method, we find the bound states for the $x\bar{x}b\bar{b}$ detailed in Section V.

4. Finding Resonances

To find our resonance, we extend the T matrix to the complex energy plane. Resonances correspond to complex poles of the S (or T) matrix. So, to find resonances, we search for zeroes of the quantity

$$y(E) = \frac{1}{\text{Tr}[T]} .$$

(84)

Note that, on a pole, the T matrix is divergent and so is its trace, therefore $y(E) = 0$. Thus, to find a pole we just apply the Newton’s method to Eq. (84).

V. RESULTS

A. Bound states

We apply the described method to find bound states in the $qq\bar{c}\bar{c}$ system. We study different values of the light quark mass, for angular momentum $L = 0$ and we are able to find bound states for quark masses ranging from $m_q = 0.4$ to $m_q = 1.3$ GeV. We are able to find bound states with $s(-1)^{Lr} = +1$, $\xi = +1$, listed in Table III. The boundstate is barely bound for $m_q = 1.3$ GeV, the Charm mass, and becomes more strongly bound as $m_q$ decreases. Wavefunctions for the first (see Table II) dominant channel are given on Fig. 9.

Now, comparing Table I, these boundstates correspond to having $S_{12} = S_{04} = 0$, and hence to $L = 0$ and $J = 0$. If the lightest quarks are $u$ and $d$ quarks, we also have to consider the isospin symmetry, contributing an additional $(-1)^{I_{12}+1}$ factor for the $P_{12}$ symmetry of the wavefunction. In this way, the previous results are unchanged if $I_{12} = 1$. However if $J = 0$, the flavor wavefunction is anti-symmetric and so the spin wavefunction has to change its symmetry in order for the total wavefunction to be completely anti-symmetric. So, for $I_{12} = 0$, we have also $S_{12} = 1$, and hence $S = 1$ and $J = 1$.

To summarize, we obtain tetraquark bound states on the $qq\bar{c}\bar{c}$ system, with quantum numbers $0^+$ for $s$, $c$ or $b$ quarks, or light quarks with $I_{12} = 1$. For light quarks with $I_{12} = 0$, we obtain bound states with quantum numbers $1^+$.

We also tried to find bound states for the $qq\bar{c}\bar{c}$ system, but we were unable to find them when the lightest quarks have constituent masses equal or larger than the ones of light quarks $m_q \geq 400$ MeV.

Table III: Bound states in the system $qq\bar{b}\bar{b}$ with $L = 0$ and $P = +$. We use $m_b = 4.7$ GeV.

| $m_q$(GeV) | $B$(MeV) | $R = \frac{1}{2m}$(fm) |
|-----------|---------|----------------------|
| 1.3       | -0.92   | 18.8                 |
| 1.0       | -0.95   | 2.60                 |
| 0.70      | -7.91   | 0.92                 |
| 0.40      | -48.54  | 0.38                 |
With the effective meson-meson potential, we moreover compute the T Matrix and search for poles in the S matrix, for the $q\bar{q}b\bar{b}$ system.

Searching for poles of the S matrix in the complex energy plane for the $c\bar{c}b\bar{b}$ system with $L = 0$, $P = +$ and $\xi = +1$, we find several resonances between all the four thresholds considered, as listed in Table IV and showed in Fig. 11. The pole positions correspond to the two narrowest resonances of each threshold interval. The narrowest of all resonances appear between the opening of second and third channels (that $N_{\text{open}} = 2$ open channels). Of the two narrowest resonances we find in this interval, one has a width of 16 MeV and the other 36 MeV. For the resonances found on the other two intervals, the narrowest of them all has a width of 140 MeV, much larger than the ones found for $N_{\text{open}} = 2$. We remember that the second channel is the only of the four considered ones that has an orbital angular momentum between the final state mesons. It is possible that the centrifugal barrier between the mesons is what is slowing the decay of these tetraquark resonances, as discussed in Ref. [2].

In Table V, we list the two narrowest resonances between the second and third threshold, for different $m_q$ in the $0^+ c\bar{c}b\bar{b}$ system. For all values of $m_q$, the narrowest of the two resonances has also the smallest $\text{Re} E$. It is interesting to note that, the width of these two resonances are inversely related. When one becomes larger the other decreases, with varying $m_q$. Depending on the mass of the lightest quark, the width of these resonances can be smaller than 1 MeV or larger than 200 MeV. Both extreme cases happen for an unphysical mass $m_q = 700$ MeV.

Broader resonances are also be found. In Fig. 11 we show a plot of the phase of $\text{Tr} \, T$ for complex energies with real parts between the second and third thresholds and negative imaginary parts. Four resonances are there observed, all of them with widths smaller than 120 MeV. It is interesting to note the position of the four resonances in the complex plane forming a straight line.

Doing the same study for $\xi = -1$, we also find several resonances. In Table VI, we compare these resonances for the ones with $\xi = +1$ for $N_{\text{open}} = 2$ and $m_q = m_c$. There, we can see that, in contrast to what happens for the bound states, not only resonances exist for $\xi = -1$, but also have a behavior similar to that of $\xi = +1$. The real parts of the pole positions are very close and the imaginary parts are of the same order of magnitude. This result can be understood if we note that, what makes the results differ for the two values of $\xi$ is the presence of the non-local potential. When we are above the threshold, the wave-function becomes oscillatory and the convolution of the wave-function with the non-local potential, vanishes if the potential varies slowly. In this way, only the local potential becomes important well above the threshold and, consequently, the behavior of two resonances becomes similar.

For the $qq\bar{c}\bar{c}$ we are also able to find some resonances. The narrowest of them were between the opening of the second and third channels, similarly to what happens on the $q\bar{q}b\bar{b}$ system. A study of these resonances for $N_{\text{open}} = 2$ and varying $m_q$ is presented on Table VII. We find that the most stable of the two resonances has a width that does not vary much with $m_q$, having always a value in the range of 35–41 MeV. The width of the second in contrast

| $N_{\text{open}}$ | $E$(GeV) | $E_n$ | $E_{n+1}$ |
|------------------|---------|-------|--------|
| 1                | 12.6195 – 0.1248i | 12.5856 | 12.974 |
| 2                | 12.6797 – 0.1606i | 12.974 | 13.110 |
| 3                | 12.9824 – 0.0078i | 12.9983 – 0.0179i | 13.110 |

| $m_q$(GeV) | $E$(GeV) | $E_2$ | $E_3$ |
|------------|---------|-------|-------|
| 1.30       | 12.9824 – 0.0078i | 12.974 | 13.110 |
| 1.00       | 12.9983 – 0.0179i | 12.4849 | 12.6241 |
| 0.70       | 12.0329 – 2 × 10^{-5}i | 12.0348 | 12.1762 |
| 0.40       | 11.6163 – 0.0007i | 11.655 | 11.796 |
| 0.0329     | 10.0171i | 10.0348i | 10.1762 |

Table IV: Resonances in the $0^+ c\bar{c}b\bar{b}$ system, with $\xi = +1$, for different numbers of open channels $N_{\text{open}}$. $E_n$ and $E_{n+1}$ are the energies of the two thresholds.

Table V: Resonances in the $0^+ qq\bar{c}\bar{c}$ system, with $\xi = +1$, with varying quark mass $m_q$. $E_2$ and $E_3$ are the energy of the thresholds of the second and third channels.

Figure 10: Plot of $\text{Tr} \, T$, between the second and third thresholds ($N_{\text{open}} = 2$), for the $c\bar{c}b\bar{b}$ system with $L = 0$, $P = +$ and $\xi = +1$. Note the existence of four resonances with $\Gamma/2 < 60$ MeV.
increases monotonically from 76 MeV to 108 MeV as the mass $m_q$ decreases from 1.3 GeV to 0.4 GeV.

### C. Comparison with other models

We compare our model (C) with other two models for this system, defined in Section IIID, namely one similar to our triple string flip-flop potential, but without a tetraquark sector in the potential (B) and the simple colorless flip-flop model (A). The results of these three models are compared in Table VIII. As one sees there, when we remove the tetraquark sector from our model, we still have bound states, for sufficiently small quark masses. For the color independent simple flip-flop model, the binding is even bigger than in our model, even though the tetraquark sector is not present at all.

Therefore, we see that the presence of a tetraquark sector in the potential is not necessary for the existence of bound states in the exotic tetraquark sector. This result has been observed by other authors, namely [65, 66, 70] where bound states are found for a string-flip-flop potential without any tetraquark configuration considered.

All these bound state results are for $s(-1)^I = +1$ and $\xi = +1$ (see Table I), which correspond to $S_{12} = S_{34} = 0$, and so $J^P = 0^+$ for $s$, $c$ or $b$ quarks or, if $I_{12} = 1$, $S_{12} = 1$ and $S_{34} = 0$. However, if $I_{12} = 0$, exchange symmetry imposes $S_{12} = 1$, which gives quantum numbers $1^+$. Thus, the tetraquark sector in the potential is not necessary for the existence of bound states in the exotic tetraquark sector.

VI. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In this work we briefly review recent experimental and lattice QCD results on tetraquarks. We extend the existing techniques to solve tetraquarks in quark models, fully unitarizing for the first time the triple string flip-flop potential to study bound states and resonances in light-light-antiheavy-antiheavy systems $qq\bar{Q}Q$. Consistently with the previous computations with simpler flip-flop potentials, we find several tetraquark bound states and resonances [65, 66, 70].

Comparing with recent lattice QCD results, [15, 71, 82, 83], which find bound states but are not yet able to address resonances, we find a qualitative dynamical agreement in the sense that biding is favored when the light quark $q$ gets lighter and the heavy antiquark $\bar{Q}$ gets heavier.

However, concerning the symmetry and quantum numbers, our results contradict the very recent lattice QCD results in Refs. [15, 71, 82, 83]. In lattice QCD, attraction is only found in scalar isosinglet and vector isosinglet channels, while here we only find bound states (and hence the maximum attraction) $S_{12} = 0$ and $I = 1$ (scalar isosinglet) and $S_{12} = 1$ and thus to $I = 0$ (vector isosinglet) channels. Also note that the lattice results are consistent with the theoretical predictions of bound $qq\bar{Q}Q$...
systems with \(\bar{Q}\) heavy enough \([3–13]\), who imply the heavy anti-diquark \(\bar{Q}Q\) color wavefunction is a triplet 3.

Notice we verified that the presence of the tetraquark sector in the flip-flop potential is not required for our tetraquark bound states. Indeed, we note that the solutions with \(\xi = +1\) are mostly color symmetric, while those with \(\xi = -1\) is mostly color anti-symmetric. This means our bound states are mostly color symmetric, contrarily to what one would expect, but consistent with the fact that removing the tetraquark sector from the potential does not destroy all the bound states. As for the lattice results, they are indeed color anti-symmetric as one would expect. The attractive channels have the same symmetry for spin and isospin as they are either \(\bar{Q}Q\) system, if we consider only two channels (related by quark and antiquark exchange), the scattering equation becomes

\[
\hat{T}\psi(r) + V^D(r)\psi(r) + \xi \int d^3r' v(r,r')\psi(r') = E\psi(r) + \xi \int d^3r'\rho(r,r')\psi(r') ,
\]

(85) calculated from Eq. 36. We see that it depends on \(V_{I,II} - \frac{V_I + V_{II}}{6}\). When the ground state is \(v_0 = V_I\), we have \(V_{I,II} = \frac{1}{2}V_I\) and so, this becomes \(\overline{\frac{V_I - V_{II}}{6}}\). Since \(V_I\) is the ground state, we have \(V_I < V_{II}\) and, therefore

\[
\frac{V_I - V_{II}}{6} < 0 \quad (86)
\]

Since the function \(\Phi\) in the integrand is node-less (because it is the ground state),

\[
\Phi(\rho_{13}, \rho_{24})\Phi(\rho_{14}, \rho_{23}) > 0 . \quad (87)
\]

Therefore, in this limit we have

\[
v(r, r') < 0 \quad (88)
\]

for \(r' \to \infty\) and fixed \(r\). The same result occurs if we exchange \(r\) and \(r'\). Then, in Eq. (85) the non-local potential will be mostly attractive for \(\xi = +1\) and mostly repulsive for \(\xi = -1\). This confirms our results.

To conclude we develop fully unitarized techniques to study tetraquarks with quark models, and to search for boundstates and resonances. Asymptotically, the four quark system with a string flip-flop potential reduces to coupled two-body meson-meson systems, with non-local potentials that vanish at long distances, thus solving the Van der Waals problem. However, we find that the string flip-flop potential still remains attractive enough to produce \(qq\bar{Q}\bar{Q}\) boundstates with quantum numbers not observed in recent lattice QCD computations.

It should be noted that different solutions to remove the excessive attraction exist \([84]\). For instance, attraction may change if the non-local potentials change sign in the region where \(r_1 \sim r_2\), and the presence of the \(g_{a\beta}\) operator cancels in part this effect. We expect that our results will motivate future studies of different solutions to this excessive attraction.

Marco Cardoso is supported by FCT under the contract SFRH/BPD/73140/2010.

---

[1] R. L. Jaffe, Phys.Rev. D15, 267 (1977).
[2] P. Bicudo and M. Cardoso, Phys.Rev. D83, 094010 (2011), arXiv:1010.0281 [hep-ph].
[3] J. P. Ader, J. M. Richard, and P. Taxil, Phys. Rev. D25, 2370 (1982).
[4] J. l. Ballot and J. M. Richard, Phys. Lett. B123, 449 (1983).
[5] L. Heller and J. A. Tjon, Phys. Rev. D35, 969 (1987).
[6] J. Carlson, L. Heller, and J. A. Tjon, Phys. Rev. D37, 744 (1988).
[7] H. J. Lipkin, Phys. Lett. B172, 242 (1986).
[8] D. M. Brink and F. Stancu, Phys. Rev. D57, 6778 (1998).
[9] B. A. Gelman and S. Nussinov, Phys. Lett. B551, 296 (2003), arXiv:hep-ph/0209095 [hep-ph].
[10] J. Vijande, F. Fernandez, A. Valcarce, and B. Silvestre-Brac, Eur. Phys. J. A19, 383 (2004), arXiv:hep-ph/0310007 [hep-ph].
[11] D. Janc and M. Rosina, Few Body Syst. 35, 175 (2004), arXiv:hep-ph/0405208 [hep-ph].
[12] T. D. Cohen and P. M. Hohler, Phys. Rev. D74, 094003 (2006), arXiv:hep-ph/0606084 [hep-ph].
[13] J. Vijande, A. Valcarce, and J.-M. Richard, Phys.Rev. D76, 114013 (2007), arXiv:0707.3996 [hep-ph].
[14] M. Born and R. Oppenheimer, Annalen der Physik 389, 457 (1927).
[15] P. Bicudo and M. Wagner, Phys.Rev. D87, 114511 (2013), arXiv:1209.6274 [hep-ph].
[16] M. Alekseev et al. (COMPASS Collaboration), Phys.Rev.Lett. 104, 241803 (2010), arXiv:0910.5842 [hep-ex].
[17] S. Godfrey and S. L. Olsen, Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 58, 51 (2008), arXiv:0801.3867 [hep-ph].
[18] S. Godfrey and N. Isgur, Phys.Rev. D32, 189 (1985).
[19] A. Bondar et al. (Belle), Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 122001 (2012), arXiv:1110.2251 [hep-ex].
[20] S. Choi et al. (BELLE Collaboration), Phys.Rev.Lett. 100, 142001 (2008), arXiv:0708.1790 [hep-ex].
[21] Z. Q. Liu et al. (Belle), Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 252002 (2013), arXiv:1304.0121 [hep-ex].
[22] K. Chilikin et al. (Belle), Phys. Rev. D90, 112009 (2014).
[83] J. Scheunert, P. Bicudo, A. Uenver, and M. Wagner, *Proceedings, Excited QCD 2015*, Acta Phys. Polon. Supp. 8, 363 (2015), arXiv:1505.03496 [hep-ph].

[84] G. A. Miller, Phys. Rev. D37, 2431 (1988).