Revisiting O(N) σ model at unphysical pion masses and high temperatures

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Roy-equation analyses on lattice data of $\pi\pi$ scattering phase shifts at $m\pi = 391$ MeV reveals that the lowest f0 meson becomes a bound state under this condition. In addition, there is a pair of complex poles below threshold generated by crossing symmetry [1]. We use the N/D method to partially recover crossing symmetry of the O(N) σ model amplitude at leading order of 1/N expansion, and qualitatively reproduce the pole structure and pole trajectories with varying pion masses as revealed by Roy-equation analyses. The σ pole trajectory with varying temperature is also discussed and found to be similar to its properties when varying $m\pi$. As the temperature increases, the complex σ poles firstly move from the second Riemann sheet to the real axis becoming two virtual state poles, and then one virtual state pole moves to the first sheet turning into a bound state pole and finally tends to the pion pole position at high temperature which is as expected from the chiral symmetry restoration. Our results provide further evidences that the lowest f0 state extracted from experiments and lattice data plays the role of σ meson in the spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry. Finally, we also briefly discuss the problems of the effective potential in the situation when $m\pi$ and temperature get large.

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