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An a_0 resonance in strongly coupled $\pi\eta$, $K\bar{K}$ scattering from lattice QCD

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We present the first calculation of coupled-channel meson-meson scattering in the isospin = 1, G -parity negative sector, with channels $\pi\eta$, $K\bar{K}$ and $\pi\eta'$, in a first-principles approach to QCD. From the discrete spectrum of eigenstates in three volumes extracted from lattice QCD correlation functions we determine the energy dependence of the S -matrix, and find that the S -wave features a prominent cusp-like structure in $\pi\eta \rightarrow \pi\eta$ close to $K\bar{K}$ threshold coupled with a rapid turn on of amplitudes leading to the $K\bar{K}$ final-state. This behavior is traced to an $a_0(980)$ -like resonance, strongly coupled to both $\pi\eta$ and $K\bar{K}$, which is identified with a pole in the complex energy plane, appearing on only a single unphysical Riemann sheet. Consideration of D -wave scattering suggests a narrow tensor resonance at higher energy.

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