# Spectral-function determination of complex electroweak amplitudes with lattice QCD

Giuseppe Gagliardi, INFN Sezione di Roma Tre

R. Frezzotti, V. Lubicz, F. Sanfilippo, S. Simula, N. Tantalo [Based on PRD 108 (2023)]

Seminar series "Field Theory on the Lattice", Desy Zeuthen + Humboldt University, 15 January 2024.



#### Outline of the talk

#### Introduction

- Sketch of the problem of the analytic continuation for hadronic amplitudes above kinematical thresholds.
- Smeared hadronic amplitudes as a way-out to the problem.

The HLT method to evaluate smeared hadronic amplitudes

- The noise problem.
- Brief description of the HLT method.

Testing the method in a physical QCD example

• Smeared amplitudes for  $D_s \rightarrow \bar{l'} l' l \nu_l$  decays

Conclusions and future perspectives

• The rare kaon decay  $K \rightarrow \bar{l}' l' l \nu_l$ .

# Introduction

#### General statement of the problem (I)

An hadronic amplitude H(E) can be safely extracted on the lattice only if energy E smaller than the energies of all the intermediate states contributing to H(E).

E.g. consider an hadronic amplitude of the form

$$H(E) = i \int_0^\infty dt \, e^{iEt} \, C(t), \quad C(t) \equiv \left< 0 \right| T \left\{ J_A(t) J_B(0) \right\} \left| P \right>^{t \ge 0} \sum_{n=0}^\infty C_n \, e^{-iE_n t}$$

with  $J_A, J_B$  arbitrary currents and  $|P\rangle$  an hadronic state.

If  $E < E_n$  safe analytic continuation from Minkowskian to Euclidean space

#### General statement of the problem (II)

On a finite lattice, where non-analiticities are absent, we can access  $C_E(t) \equiv C(-it) \text{ for } 0 \le t \le T.$ 

$$H^{T}(E) = \int_{0}^{T} dt \, e^{Et} \, C_{E}(t) = \int_{0}^{T} dt \, e^{Et} \, \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_{n} e^{-E_{n}t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_{n} \, \frac{1 - e^{-(E_{n} - E)T}}{E_{n} - E}$$

- For E<sub>0</sub> < E dominant T−divergent part of H<sup>T</sup>(E) must be subtracted
   ⇒ difficult in presence of statistical errors, problem worsens when many states E<sub>n</sub> below energy E.
- Above threshold hadronic amplitudes become complex (for E = E<sub>n</sub>).
   How do we get imaginary parts?

#### Phenomenological relevance of the problem

Many phenomenologically relevant hadronic observables are affected by problems of analytic continuation, which hinder their lattice determination.

- Electromagnetic pion form factor  $F_\pi(q^2)$  in the time-like region  $q^2>(2m_\pi)^2$  [Maiani & Testa, 1990].
- ... and generally hadronic scattering amplitudes above thresholds.

# Many strategies have been put forward to circumvent the problem of analytic continuation

[Barata and Fredenhagen, 1991], [Bulava and Hansen, 2019], [Bruno and Hansen, 2020]

In this seminar I will discuss the strategy proposed in [Frezzotti et. al, 2023] to tackle the problem of analytic continuation for observables which involve an hadron-to-vacuum QCD matrix element of the product of two currents.

Many interesting observables fall in this category, e.g. the  $P_{l_4}$  decays:

 $P \rightarrow \bar{l}' l' \bar{l} \nu_l$  , P = flavoured and charged pseudoscalar meson.

### Hadronic amplitudes via the spectral representation (I)

The spectral density  $\rho(E')$  of the correlator C(t > 0) is defined as

$$\rho(E') = 2\pi \left\langle 0 \left| J_A(0) \,\delta(\mathbb{H} - E') \, J_B(0) \right| P \right\rangle$$

- $\mathbb{H}$  is the QCD Hamiltonian.
- In  $\rho(E')$  the delta function restrict the propagation to those states having energy E'.
- Its relation to the Minkowskian (C(t)) and Euclidean  $(C_E(t))$  correlators can be easily worked out

$$C(t) \stackrel{t \ge 0}{=} \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \,\rho(E') \, e^{-iE't}, \qquad C_E(t) \stackrel{t \ge 0}{=} \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \,\rho(E') \, e^{-E't}$$

Spectral density  $\rho(E')$  related to  $C_E(t)$  through an inverse Laplace transform.

#### Hadronic amplitudes via the spectral representation (II)

• The hadronic amplitude H(E) can be computed as

$$H(E) = \int_0^\infty dt \, e^{iEt} \, C(t) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0^+} \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \, \rho(E') \int_0^\infty dt \, e^{-i(E'-E)t} f(\epsilon, t)$$

- $f(\epsilon, t)$  is any regulator for the time integral, with f(0, t) = 1.
- E.g.  $f(\epsilon, t) = \exp(-\epsilon t)$ ,  $\exp(-\epsilon^2 t^2/2)$ . Using standard  $\epsilon$ -prescription:

$$H(E) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0^+} \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \frac{\rho(E')}{E' - E - i\epsilon}$$

Note: the lower-end of integration is actually always positive since the support of the spectral density is  $[E_0, \infty]$ , with  $E_0 > 0$ .

$$\int_0^\infty dE' \to \int_{E_0}^\infty dE$$

#### Hadronic amplitudes via the spectral representation (III)

From the knowledge of  $\rho(E'),$  the real and imaginary part of H(E) can be computed:

$$\operatorname{Re} \left[H(E)\right] = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0^+} \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \,\rho(E') \,\frac{E' - E}{(E - E')^2 + \epsilon^2} = \operatorname{P.V.} \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \,\frac{\rho(E')}{E' - E}$$
$$\operatorname{Im} \left[H(E)\right] = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0^+} \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \,\rho(E') \,\frac{\epsilon}{(E - E')^2 + \epsilon^2} = \frac{\rho(E)}{2}$$

For  $E < E_0$ , since  $\rho(E) = 0$ , Im [H(E)] = 0 and the P.V. can be dropped:

Re 
$$[H(E)] = \int_{E_0}^{\infty} \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \rho(E') \underbrace{\int_0^{\infty} dt \, e^{-(E'-E)t}}_{=(E'-E)^{-1} \text{ if } E' < E} = \int_0^{\infty} dt \, e^{Et} \, C_E(t)$$

For  $E > E_0$ ,  $\lim \epsilon \to 0^+$  can be taken only after evaluating the energy integral.

#### The smeared amplitude $H(E, \varepsilon)$

We propose to employ for  $E > E_0$  the previous representation, evaluate the smeared amplitude  $H(E, \epsilon)$  at finite  $\epsilon$ , and then take  $\lim \epsilon \to 0^+$ .

$$H(E,\varepsilon) \equiv \int_{E_0}^{\infty} \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \rho(E') K(E'-E,\varepsilon) , \qquad K(E'-E,\varepsilon) \equiv \frac{1}{E'-E-i\varepsilon}$$

• Does the smeared  $H(E, \varepsilon)$  have a physical interpretation? By using

$$\lim_{\eta \to 0^+} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\omega \, \frac{\varepsilon}{(E-\omega)^2 + \varepsilon^2} \, \frac{1}{E' - \omega - i\eta} \, = \, \frac{1}{E' - E - i\varepsilon}$$

It follows that  
$$H(E,\varepsilon) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\omega \ \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\varepsilon}{(E-\omega)^2 + \varepsilon^2} \ H(\omega)$$

The smeared amplitude represents, in fact, an energy-smearing of size  $\varepsilon$  of the physical amplitude H(E).

#### The smeared amplitude in a simple model

It is useful to look at the smeared amplitude in a simple one-resonance model for the spectral density  $\rho(E')$ 

$$\rho(E') = \frac{A\,\Gamma}{(E-M)^2 + (\frac{\Gamma}{2})^2}\,\theta(E) \implies H(E) \simeq \frac{A}{M-E-i\,\frac{\Gamma}{2}}$$

The effect of the smearing is to simply shift  $\Gamma \to \Gamma + 2\varepsilon$ 

$$H(E,\varepsilon) \simeq \frac{A}{M - E - i\left(\frac{\Gamma}{2} + \varepsilon\right)}$$



#### The vanishing $\varepsilon$ extrapolation (I)

As we will see later,  $H(E, \varepsilon)$  can be computed from  $C_E(t)$  only. The smallest  $\varepsilon$  that can be actually determined depends mainly on the stat. errors of  $C_E(t)$ .

Starting from  $H(E,\varepsilon)$  at finite  $\varepsilon$  can we make contact with H(E)?

It can be shown that in general

 $\operatorname{Re}[H(E,\varepsilon)] = \operatorname{Re}[H(E)] + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) , \qquad \operatorname{Im}[H(E,\varepsilon)] = \operatorname{Im}[H(E)] + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$ 

- For which values of  $\varepsilon$  does the linear regime set in? Answer strongly depends on  $\rho(E')$  structure.
- · Let's employ again the one-resonance model to get some understanding

$$H(E,\varepsilon) \simeq \frac{A}{M - E - i\left(\frac{\Gamma}{2} + \varepsilon\right)} \implies \frac{H(E,\varepsilon)}{H(E)} = \left[1 + \frac{i\varepsilon}{\Delta(E)}e^{-i\phi(E)}\right]^{-1}$$

$$\Delta(E) = \sqrt{(E - M)^2 + (\Gamma/2)^2}$$
,  $\tan \phi(E) = \frac{\Gamma/2}{E - M}$ 

The Breit-Wigner model shows that the condition for onset of linear regime is

$$\varepsilon \ll \Delta(E) = \sqrt{(E-M)^2 + (\Gamma/2)^2}$$

• For general H(E),  $\varepsilon$  should be smaller than the typical size  $\Delta(E)$  of the interval around E over which H(E) is significantly varying

$$\frac{1}{\Delta(E)} \equiv \left| \frac{1}{H(E)} \frac{\partial H(E)}{\partial E} \right|$$

- In  $E \pm \Delta(E)$ , H(E) varies by  $\mathcal{O}(100\%)$ .
- If E is close to a narrow-resonance peak, very small values of  $\varepsilon$  are needed to observe the onset of linear regime!.
- However, at the price of introducing some model dependence, useful information can be extracted also in this region. We will come back to this point later.

#### Finite volume effects

Lattice calculations are always performed in a finite volume  $V = L^3$ .

- Spectrum of the finite-volume Hamiltonian  $\mathbb{H}_L$  is discrete.
- Finite-volume  $\rho(E',L)$  is always a sum of isolated  $\delta$ -peaks

$$\rho(E',L) = \sum_{n} c_n(L) \,\delta(E' - E_n(L))$$



- $\rho(E',L)$  cannot be directly associated to any infinite-volume quantity.
- The  $\varepsilon$ -smeared amplitude  $H(E, \varepsilon)$  has instead a well-defined infinite-volume limit...

#### One-resonance model in finite volume

- In the finite volume, multi-particles part of the spectrum is always discrete.
- Multi-particles decays of a resonance, e.g.  $\phi \to K^+K^-(k_n)$  allowed only if relative momentum  $k_n$  satisfies quantization conditions.
- Let's take a look to  $\rho(E',L)$  for a 2-particle resonance decay:



• The smeared amplitude has instead small FVEs if  $\varepsilon L \gg 1$  [Bulava et al, 2021].





13

#### Summary of the theoretical part

- We have seen that to overcome the problem of analytic continuation, the smeared amplitude  $H(E, \varepsilon)$  must be introduced.
- $H(E,\varepsilon)$  admits a polynomial expansion of the form

$$H(E,\varepsilon) = H(E) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\Delta(E)}\right)^n$$

- The condition for the onset of linear regime is  $\varepsilon \ll \Delta(E)$ .
- To evaluate  ${\cal H}(E)$  from finite-volume simulations the correct double-limit to be taken is

$$H(E) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0^+} \lim_{L \to \infty} H(E, \varepsilon, L)$$

- Finite- $\varepsilon$  and finite-volume effects small if

$$1/L \ll \varepsilon \ll \Delta(E)$$

# The HLT method to reconstruct smeared hadronic amplitudes

### Evaluating $H(E,\varepsilon)$ from our lattice input, $C_E(t)$

- Let us try to evaluate H(E, ε) from the knowledge of C<sub>E</sub>(t) at a discrete set of time t = a,..., Na.
- To do so, it is sufficient to find an approximation of the kernel functions of the type (I = {Re, Im})

$$K_{\mathrm{I}}(E'-E,\varepsilon) \simeq \sum_{n=1}^{N} g_{n}^{\mathrm{I}}(E) e^{-aE'n}$$

• Indeed, from the knowledge of  $g_n^{\rm I}(E)$  one gets:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} g_n^{\text{Re}}(E) C_E(na) = \int_0^\infty \frac{\mathrm{d}E'}{2\pi} \left( \sum_{n=1}^{N} g_n^{\text{Re}}(E) e^{-naE'} \right) \rho(E') \simeq \text{Re}[H(E,\varepsilon)]$$
$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} g_n^{\text{Im}}(E) C_E(na) = \int_0^\infty \frac{\mathrm{d}E'}{2\pi} \left( \sum_{n=1}^{N} g_n^{\text{Im}}(E) e^{-naE'} \right) \rho(E') \simeq \text{Im}[H(E,\varepsilon)]$$

#### Finding the coefficients $g_n^{\mathrm{I}}$

To obtain the coefficients  $g_n^{\rm I}(E)$  we can minimize the  ${\rm L}^2\text{-distance}$  between target and reconstructed function

$$A^{\mathrm{I}}[g] \equiv \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}E'}{2\pi} \left| K_{\mathrm{I}}(E' - E, \varepsilon) - \sum_{n=1}^{N} g_{n} e^{-naE'} \right|^{2}$$

- Minimization of  $A^{\mathrm{I}}[g]$  gives the coefficients  $g^{\mathrm{I}}_n(E)$  as

$$g_n^{\rm I}(E) = \sum_{m=1}^N \left(H_N^{-1}\right)_{nm} f_m^{\rm I}, \qquad f_n^{\rm I} \equiv \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}E' \, K_{\rm I}(E'-E,\varepsilon) \, e^{-naE'}$$

•  $H_N$  is the  $N \times N$  Hilbert matrix, textbook example of ill-conditioned matrix

$$(H_N)_{nm} = \frac{1}{n+m-1}, \qquad \det H_N \approx N^{-1/4} (2\pi)^N 4^{-N^2}$$

• E.g. det  $H_{10} \simeq \mathcal{O}(10^{-53})$ , det  $H_{20} \simeq \mathcal{O}(10^{-226})$ . Let's take a look at some results...

#### The reconstruction at work in a toy-model without errors

Two-resonances model:

$$\rho(E) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{n=1,2} \frac{\Gamma_n/2}{(E - E_n)^2 + (\Gamma_n/2)^2}, \qquad E_1 = 0.10, \ \Gamma_1 = 10^{-2}$$
$$E_2 = 0.15, \ \Gamma_2 = 2 \cdot 10^{-2}$$

- We computed  $C_E(t)$  with extended machine precision for t = 1, ..., 200.
- $H(E,\epsilon)$  reconstructed from  $C_E(t)$  using A[g]-minimization method.



17

## The coefficients $g_n^{\mathrm{I}}$

While the A[g]-minimization leads to a perfect reconstruction of  $H(E, \varepsilon)$ , the resulting coefficients  $g_n^{I}$  are strongly oscillating



• If  $C_E(t)$  is known with some uncertainty  $\delta C_E(t)$ , the resulting error on the smeared hadronic amplitude BLOWS UP!!

$$\Delta H(E,\varepsilon) = \sqrt{\sum_{n} \left[g_n^{\text{Re}}(E)\,\delta C_E(na)\right]^2} + i\sqrt{\sum_{n} \left[g_n^{\text{Im}}(E)\,\delta C_E(na)\right]^2}$$

#### The smeared amplitude from a Backus-Gilbert-like approach

We need a regularization mechanism to tame the oscillations of the  $g^{I}$  coefficients.

The Hansen-Lupo-Tantalo (HLT) method provides the coefficients  $g^{I}(E)$  minimizing a functional  $W^{I}[g]$  which balances syst. and stat. errors of reconstructed  $H(E, \varepsilon)$ 

$$W^{\mathrm{I}}[\boldsymbol{g}] = \frac{A^{\mathrm{I}}[\boldsymbol{g}]}{A^{\mathrm{I}}[\boldsymbol{0}]} + \lambda B[\boldsymbol{g}] , \qquad \frac{\partial W^{\mathrm{I}}[\boldsymbol{g}]}{\partial \boldsymbol{g}} \Big|_{\boldsymbol{g} = \boldsymbol{g}^{\mathrm{I}}} = 0$$

$$A^{\mathrm{I}}[\boldsymbol{g}] = \int_{E_{\mathrm{min}}}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}E'}{2\pi} \left| K_{\mathrm{I}}(E' - E, \varepsilon) - \sum_{n=1}^{N} g_{n} e^{-naE'} \right|^{2} \iff (\mathrm{syst.})^{2} \text{ error due to reconstruction}$$

$$B[\boldsymbol{g}] \propto \sum_{n_1, n_2=1}^{N} g_{n_1} g_{n_2} \operatorname{Cov} \left( C_E(an_1), C_E(an_2) \right) \iff (\operatorname{stat.})^2 \text{ error of reconstructed } H(E, \varepsilon)$$

- $\lambda$  is trade-off parameter  $\implies$  tuned for optimal balance of syst. and stat. errors.
- $E_{\min}$  should only satisfy the condition  $E_{\min} < E_0$ .

Testing the spectral reconstruction method in a physical QCD case: the  $D_s \rightarrow \bar{l'} l' l \nu_l$  decay

## The $P \rightarrow \bar{l}' l' l \nu_l$ decay

To test the effectiveness of the smeared-amplitude method, we considered a phenomenological interesting electroweak amplitude which features the problem of the analytic continuation.

- This is the electroweak decay of a flavoured and charged pseudoscalar meson P into a dilepton (*l*<sup>'</sup>l') and a lepton pair (*l*ν<sub>l</sub>).
- It proceeds via

$$P \rightarrow \gamma^* l\nu_l \rightarrow \overline{l}' l' l\nu_l$$

- The intermediate virtual photon  $\gamma^*$  can be either emitted from the final-state lepton l (so-called Bremsstrahlung contribution) or from a quark (so-called structure-dependent contribution).
- They are rare decays with decay rates of order  $\mathcal{O}(G_F^2 \alpha_{em}^2)$ , which can thus be interesting probe of NP beyond the SM.

#### Relevant Feynman diagrams for the process

To lowest-order in  $\alpha_{em}$  and  $G_F$  the relevant Feynman diagrams are



- Diagram (b) is perturbative, only QCD input is decay constant f<sub>P</sub>.
- Diagram (a) is non-perturbative. Virtual photon γ\* emitted from one of the two valence quarks.

Non-perturbative QCD contribution encoded in the hadronic tensor

$$H_W^{\mu\nu}(k,\boldsymbol{p}) = i \int dt \, e^{iEt} \,\mathrm{T} \left\langle 0 \left| J_{\mathrm{em}}^{\mu}(t,\boldsymbol{k}) J_W^{\nu}(0) \right| P(\boldsymbol{p}) \right\rangle, \quad W = V, A$$

k = (E, k) is photon 4-momentum, p is P-meson 3-momentum (from now on we set p = 0).

#### First and second time-ordering contributions

To understand why/where there are problems of analytic continuation let us consider the two time-orderings separately  

$$H_{W}^{\mu\nu}(k,\mathbf{0}) = i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \, e^{iEt} \, \mathrm{T} \left\langle 0 \left| J_{\mathrm{em}}^{\mu}(t,k) J_{W}^{\nu}(0) \right| P(\mathbf{0}) \right\rangle = \\ = i \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{0} dt \, e^{iEt} \left\langle 0 \left| J_{W}^{\nu}(0) J_{\mathrm{em}}^{\mu}(t,k) \right| P(\mathbf{0}) \right\rangle}_{H_{W,1}^{\mu\nu}(k)} + \underbrace{\int_{0}^{\infty} dt \, e^{iEt} \left\langle 0 \left| J_{\mathrm{em}}^{\mu}(t,k) J_{W}^{\nu}(0) \right| P(\mathbf{0}) \right\rangle}_{H_{W,2}^{\mu\nu}(k)}$$
We now make use of  

$$J_{\mathrm{em}}^{\mu}(t,k) = e^{i(\mathbb{H} - i\varepsilon)t} J_{\mathrm{em}}^{\mu}(0,k) \, e^{-i(\mathbb{H} - i\varepsilon)t}$$
and performing the time-integral one gets  

$$H_{W,1}^{\mu\nu}(k) = \langle 0 | J_{W}^{\nu}(0) \frac{1}{\mathbb{H} + E - M_{P} - i\varepsilon} J_{\mathrm{em}}^{\mu}(0,k) | P(\mathbf{0}) \rangle$$

 $H_{W,2}^{\mu\nu}(k) = \langle 0 | J_{\text{em}}^{\mu}(0, \mathbf{k}) \frac{1}{\mathbb{H} - E - i\varepsilon} J_{W}^{\nu}(0) | P(\mathbf{0}) \rangle$ 

22

#### Threshold problems at large virtualities $k^2$

We now insert a complete set of states between the two currents:

$$\begin{split} H^{\mu\nu}_{W,1}(k) &= \sum_{r} \frac{\langle 0|J^{\nu}_{W}(0)|r\rangle \langle r|J^{\mu}_{\rm em}(0,\boldsymbol{k})|P(\boldsymbol{0})\rangle}{E_{r}+E-M_{P}-i\epsilon}, \quad \boldsymbol{p}_{r}=-\boldsymbol{k} \ ,\\ H^{\mu\nu}_{W,2}(k) &= \sum_{n} \frac{\langle 0|J^{\mu}_{\rm em}(0,\boldsymbol{k})|n\rangle \langle n|J^{\nu}_{W}(0)|P(\boldsymbol{0})\rangle}{E_{n}-E-i\epsilon}, \quad \boldsymbol{p}_{n}=+\boldsymbol{k} \ , \end{split}$$

•  $|r\rangle$  states have same flavour content as P meson. Their masses  $(M_r)$  are larger than  $M_P$  which implies

$$E_r = \sqrt{M_r^2 + |\boldsymbol{k}|^2} > M_P - E \qquad \checkmark$$

•  $|n\rangle$  states are unflavoured and have  $J^P=1^-.$  Threshold at

$$E_n = \sqrt{M_n^2 + |\mathbf{k}|^2} = E \implies \sqrt{k^2} \equiv \sqrt{E^2 - |\mathbf{k}|^2} = M_n$$

• In the second TO we have problems of analytic continuation! For  $P = D_s$  this occurs at  $\sqrt{k_{\rm th}^2} = M_{\phi}$ .

#### Lattice calculation for $P = D_s$

We compute on the lattice the Euclidean correlation function  $C_W^{\mu\nu}(t,\boldsymbol{k})\equiv T\langle 0|J_{\rm em}^\mu(t,\boldsymbol{k})\,J_W^\nu(0)|D_s(\boldsymbol{0})\rangle~,$ 

- For this proof-of-principle calculation we used a single  $N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$ Wilson-clover twisted-mass ETMC gauge ensemble at the physical point

Ensemble	$a \; [fm]$	L/a	T/a	$N_{\rm confs}$	$N_{\rm sources}$
cB211.072.64	0.079	64	128	302	4

- Calculation restricted to a single momentum k along z-axis, with  $x_{\gamma}=2|k|/M_{D_s}=0.2.$
- Since problem of an. cont. occurs only in 2nd TO and for emission of  $\gamma^*$  from a strange quark, we concentrate only on this contribution.
- We show results for W = V and from now on set  $C_E(t) = C_V^{12}(t, \mathbf{k})$ .

$$H(E,\varepsilon) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} \,\rho(E') \,K(E'-E,\varepsilon) \,, \quad C_E(t) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dE'}{2\pi} e^{-E't} \,\rho(E')$$

#### Stability analysis

To evaluate the smeared amplitude  $H(E,\varepsilon)$  via the HLT method we perform the so-called stability analysis



- We monitor the evolution of H(E, ε) as a function of the trade-off parameter λ (results plotted in terms of corresponding A[g]/A[0]).
- When  $\lambda$  sufficiently small,  $H(E,\varepsilon)$  is stable under variations of  $\lambda$ .
- In this region, where syst.err. < stat.err, we can determine  $H(E, \varepsilon)$ .

#### The smeared amplitude $H(E,\varepsilon)$



 $\varepsilon \in [100 - 600]$  MeV. For  $E > E_{\phi} = \sqrt{M_{\phi}^2 + |k|^2}$  errors increase by decreasing  $\varepsilon$ . 26

#### Extrapolation of the results to vanishing $\varepsilon$

The condition for the onset of the linear regime and for small FVEs is

 $1/L \ll \varepsilon \ll \Delta(E)$ 

We distinguish three energy regions:

•  $E < E_{\phi}$ : no problems of analytic continuation, we could directly set  $\varepsilon = 0$  and evaluate H(E) (which is purely real) as

$$H(E) = \int_0^\infty dt \, e^{Et} \, C_E(t) \qquad [1]$$

we however evaluate also  $H(E,\varepsilon)$  to check that  $\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} H(E,\varepsilon)$  reproduces [1].

E ~ E<sub>φ</sub>: Δ(E) very small due to narrow φ-resonance. Large FVEs expected, on currently available L, φ → K<sup>+</sup>K<sup>-</sup> is forbidden (Γ<sub>φ</sub> = 0). Not everything is lost, we employ in this region a Breit-Wigner model for φ-resonance contribution (Γ<sub>φ</sub> from PDG, A is a fit parameter)

$$\rho_{\phi}(E') = \frac{A\Gamma_{\phi}}{(E_{\phi} - E')^2 + (\frac{\Gamma_{\phi}}{2})^2} \implies H_{\phi}(E, \varepsilon) = \frac{A}{E_{\phi} - E - i(\frac{\Gamma_{\phi}}{2} + \varepsilon)}$$

E ≫ E<sub>φ</sub>: Δ(E) is larger, and in this region we attempt a polynomial extrapolation in ε. Noise of the data however increases (smallest ε for which errors are still under control, increases with E).

27

#### Extrapolation to vanishing $\varepsilon$ for $E < E_{\phi}$



 As expected, through a polynomial extrapolation in ε we are able to recover in this energy region the results of the "standard approach"

$$H(E) = \int_0^\infty dt \, e^{Et} \, C_E(t)$$

•  $\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0^+} \operatorname{Im}[H(E,\varepsilon)] = 0.$ 

#### Extrapolation to vanishing $\varepsilon$ for $E \sim E_{\phi}$ and $E \gg E_{\phi}$



 $\exists e \; [H(E;\epsilon)]$ 

•  $E \sim E_{\phi}$ : extrapolation employing the BW model  $H_{\phi}(E, \varepsilon)$ .

$$\begin{split} & E \gg E_\phi: \text{ Smooth} \\ & \varepsilon\text{-dependence observed.} \\ & \text{constant and linear} \\ & \varepsilon\text{-extrapolation in the} \\ & \text{region } \varepsilon < \Delta_\phi(E) \equiv \\ & \sqrt{(E-E_\phi)^2 + (\Gamma_\phi/2)^2}. \end{split}$$

#### The amplitude H(E)

Combining the  $\varepsilon \to 0^+$  extrapolations at the different values of E we get



- Orange band represents the area around  $E_{\phi}$  where the  $\varepsilon \to 0^+$  extrapolation has been carried using  $H_{\phi}(E, \varepsilon)$ .
- Data obtained through model-independent polynomial extrapolation are smoothly connected with the ones obtained using  $H_{\phi}(E, \varepsilon)$ .

#### Conclusions

- We propose a new method to extract complex electroweak amplitudes involving two EW-currents and an hadronic state or the vacuum in the external states.
- In our approach, the problem of analytic continuation which is present above hadronic threshold is bypassed by evaluating, via spectral reconstruction, hadronic amplitudes  $H(E,\epsilon)$  smeared over a finite-energy interval  $\epsilon$  around E, and then taking  $\lim \epsilon \to 0^+$ .
- We performed a pilot-study on a single ETMC ensemble, computing the hadronic amplitude relative to D<sub>s</sub> → *l*<sup>˜</sup>l' lν<sub>l</sub> decays (below and above threshold(s)) for ε ∈ [100 - 600] MeV, using the HLT method.
- Vanishing- $\varepsilon$  extrapolation performed through a polynomial fit of  $H(E, \varepsilon)$ , except for the energy region  $E \sim E_{\phi}$ , where H(E) is non-smooth due to the narrow  $\phi$ -resonance. In this energy-region we employed a Breit-Wigner model to describe the  $\varepsilon$ -dependence of the lattice data.

# Work in progress

- Full calculation for  $K \to \bar{l'} l' l \nu_{\ell}$ , where no narrow resonances are present.
- Application of the method to FCNC processes where similar problems arise, e.g.  $B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^- \gamma.$

# Thank you for your attention!