

SPECTRAL DENSITIES FROM LATTICE EUCLIDEAN CORRELATORS

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MOTIVATIONS

Standard Model of particle physics extremely successful
we know is **incomplete**: neutrino masses, dark matter, etc..

Search for new physics at energy and **intensity frontiers**

muon anomaly: hadronic vacuum polarization and light-by-light

e.g. $\gamma \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$, $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$

flavor physics, e.g. **CP violation** in strange and charm decays

e.g. study ε'/ε from $K \rightarrow \pi\pi$

Study of hadronic amplitudes very important

Reliable non-perturbative predictions from QCD (and SM)

→ **Lattice QCD**

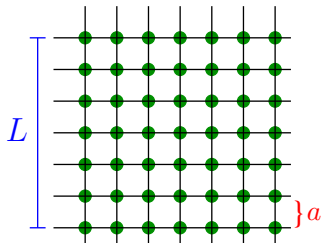
LATTICE FIELD THEORIES

lattice spacing $a \rightarrow$ regulate UV divergences

finite size $L \rightarrow$ infrared regulator

Continuum theory $a \rightarrow 0, L \rightarrow \infty$

Euclidean metric \rightarrow Boltzman interpretation
of path integral



$$\langle O \rangle = Z^{-1} \int [DU] e^{-S[U]} O(U) \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N O[U_i]$$

Very high dimensional integral \rightarrow Monte-Carlo methods

Markov Chain of gauge field configs $U_0 \rightarrow U_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow U_N$

Some examples where hadronic spectral densities are relevant

Hadronic τ decays

Hadronic Vacuum Polarization contribution to $(g - 2)_\mu$

Smeared spectral densities

HADRONIC τ DECAYS

Definitions

Hadronic currents, e.g. vector part of $V - A$ $\mathcal{J}_\mu^- = \bar{u}\gamma_\mu d$

Hadronic phase-space factor, i labels hadrons

$$d\Phi_f(p) \equiv (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p - \sum_i p_i) S_f \prod_i \frac{d^3 p_i}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_i}$$

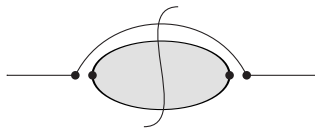
Charged spectral densities

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{\mu\nu}^{\text{W}}(p) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int d^4 x e^{ipx} \langle 0 | \mathcal{J}_\mu^+(x) \mathcal{J}_\nu^-(0) | 0 \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_f \int d\Phi_f(p) \langle 0 | \mathcal{J}_\mu^+(0) | p_1 \cdots, \text{out} \rangle \langle p_1 \cdots, \text{out} | \mathcal{J}_\nu^-(0) | 0 \rangle \\ &= (p^2 g_{\mu\nu} - p_\mu p_\nu) \rho^{\text{W}}(s) \quad [s = p_\mu p^\mu] \end{aligned}$$

HADRONIC τ DECAYS

Fermi theory

$$\mathcal{M}_f(P, q, p_1 \cdots p_{n_f}) = \frac{G_F V_{ud}}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{u}_\nu(-q) \gamma_\mu^L u_\tau(P) \langle \text{out}, p_1 \cdots p_{n_f} | \mathcal{J}_\mu^-(0) | 0 \rangle$$



$$\begin{aligned} d\Gamma &= \frac{1}{4m} d\Phi_q \sum_f d\Phi_f \sum_{\text{spin}} |\mathcal{M}_f|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{4m} d\Phi_q \frac{G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2}{2} \mathcal{L}_{\mu\nu}(P, q) \rho_{\mu\nu}^w(p) \end{aligned}$$

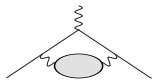
Charged spectral densities isospin limit = $\rho^{w,0}$

$$\left[d\Phi_q = \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_q} \right]$$

$$\frac{d\Gamma(s)}{ds} = G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2 \frac{m^3}{16\pi} \kappa(s) \theta(m_\tau^2 - s) \rho^{w,0}(s)$$

HVP FOR $(g - 2)_\mu$

Dispersive



Hadronic Vacuum Polarization (HVP) contribution to a_μ

Dispersive

$$a_\mu = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int \frac{ds}{s} K(s, m_\mu) \frac{\text{Im}\Pi(s)}{\pi}$$

[Brodsky, de Rafael '68]

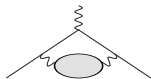
$$\text{Im} \left[\text{Diagram} \right] = \sum_X \left| \text{Diagram} \right|^2$$

The diagram on the left is a photon loop with a shaded circle representing the vacuum polarization insertion. The diagram on the right is a photon decaying into a hadronic state X.

$$\frac{4\pi^2\alpha}{s} \frac{\text{Im}\Pi(s)}{\pi} = \sigma_{e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma^* \rightarrow \text{had}}$$

HVP FOR $(g - 2)_\mu$

Euclidean



Hadronic Vacuum Polarization (HVP) contribution to a_μ

Lattice

Time-momentum representation

[Bernecker, Meyer, '11]

$$G^\gamma(t) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_k \int d\vec{x} \langle j_k^\gamma(x) j_k^\gamma(0) \rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad a_\mu = 4\alpha^2 \int_t w_t G^\gamma(t)$$

SMEARED DENSITIES

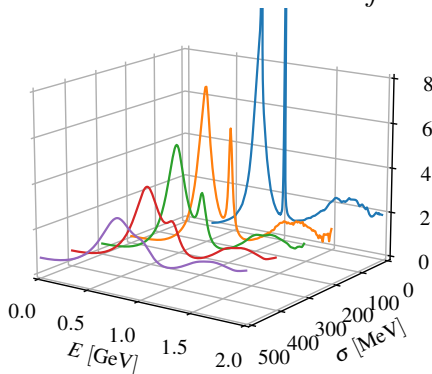
Lorentzian kernel

ρ_σ analytic continuation in complex plane

[Poggio, Quinn, Weinberg '76]

$$\rho_\sigma(\omega) = \int dx \rho(x) \delta_\sigma(x, \omega) = \frac{\sigma}{\pi} \int dx \frac{\rho(x)}{(x - \omega)^2 + \sigma^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}+i\sigma} - \int_{\mathbb{R}-i\sigma} \right] dz \frac{\rho(z)}{z - \omega}$$



R-ratio data [F. Jegelehner]

THE PROBLEM

“IT IS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO IDENTIFY THE
PHYSICAL QUANTITIES, IF ANY, WHICH CAN BE EXTRACTED
DIRECTLY FROM EUCLIDEAN CORRELATION FUNCTIONS,
AVOIDING ANALYTIC CONTINUATION” [MAIANI, TESTA '90]

THE PROBLEM

export NPOINT_CORRELATOR=2 (*)

$\tilde{J}(t)$ current operator projected to zero total momentum

export TEMPERATURE=0 (**)

strict zero temperature limit, and $t > 0$

export STABLE_POLES=0 (*)

spectral density starts w/ branch cut (2 or 3 particles)

(*) Note: extensions to n -point correlators, non-zero momenta straightforward

(**) Note: extension to thermal theory far from trivial

$$C(t) = \langle \tilde{J}(t) \tilde{J}(0) \rangle = \langle 0 | \tilde{J}(0) e^{-tH} \tilde{J}(0) | 0 \rangle = \int d\omega e^{-t\omega} \rho(\omega)$$

INVERSE LAPLACE TRANSFORM

The problem to solve

Lattice correlator

$$\langle \tilde{J}(t) \tilde{J}(0) \rangle = \int d\omega e^{-\omega t} \rho(\omega)$$

Inverse Laplace

$$[e^{-\omega t}] \rightarrow [\kappa(\omega)]$$

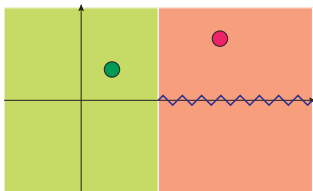
Physical observable

$$\rho_{\kappa} = \int d\omega \kappa(\omega) \rho(\omega)$$

INVERSE LAPLACE TRANSFORM

The problem to solve

Can we find $f(t)$ such that $\rho_\kappa = \int dt f(t) C(t)$?



Example:

ρ has **branch cut** starting at multi-particle thresholds E_{thr}

Kernel κ simple **poles** s_0 in complex plane

if $\text{Re}s_0 \leq E_{\text{thr}}$ $\rightarrow \forall t \exists M > 0 \mid f(t)C(t) < e^{-Mt}$
e.g. HVP contribution to $(g-2)_\mu$ [Blum '02][Bernecker-Meyer '11]

if $\text{Re}s_0 > E_{\text{thr}}$ \rightarrow inverse problem, no “direct” analytic continuation

A LEAST-SQUARE PROBLEM

aka Backus-Gilbert-like methods

Ansatz $\kappa(\omega) \approx \sum_t g_t e^{-\omega t}$ (finite number of terms)

1. minimize L^2 norm $\int d\omega [\sum_t g_t e^{-\omega t} - \kappa(\omega)]^2$

2. define $A(t, t') = \int d\omega e^{-\omega(t+t')} = \frac{1}{t+t'}$, $f(t) = \int d\omega \kappa(\omega) e^{-\omega t}$

3. solution is $g_t = \sum_{t'} [A^{-1}]_{t,t'} f(t')$

[Backus, Gilbert '68][Hansen, Lupo, Tantaló '19]

A is finite matrix, but ill-conditioned \rightarrow regularization

define $W[\lambda] = A(1 - \lambda) + \lambda B$ and evaluate $g_t = \sum_{t'} [W^{-1}]_{t,t'} f(t')$

B chosen to be **covariance matrix**

window in λ where syst. \simeq stat. errors

Alternatives Chebyshev, Bayesian methods.. [Bailas et al '20][Del Debbio et al '24]

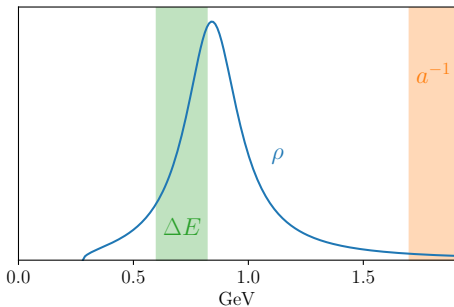
[Barone et al '24]



CHALLENGES ON THE LATTICE

a superficial overview

1. up, down physical masses ✓ ← algorithmic + technological advances
strange quark ✓, sea charm effects if small typically controlled



2. lattice cutoff typically $\in [1.7, 4]$ GeV

3. energy resolution $\frac{2\pi}{L} \approx 200$ MeV

4. stat errs grow exponentially at long distances

What is better (on paper) for Lattice QCD?

smeared $\rho = \int d\omega \rho(\omega) \kappa(\omega)$ w/ broad κ

→ finite-volume errs expected to be exponentially suppressed

PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDIES

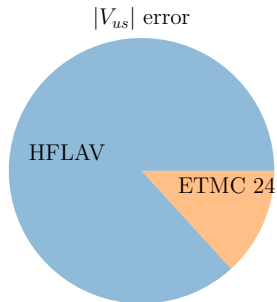
[ETMC '22 '23 '24]

Some recent studies

smearad R-ratio

inclusive τ decays V_{ud}

inclusive τ decays V_{us}



(MY) OBJECTIVES

Similarly to HVP contribution to $(g - 2)_\mu$

1. define the problem in the continuum infinite-volume theory
2. define the problem on an infinite-volume lattice
 - 2.1 study discretization errors w/ Symanzik's EFT
3. define the problem on a continuous torus
 - 3.1 study finite-volume errors a là Lüscher

LAPLACE TRANSFORM

Some properties

[McWhirter, Pike '78][Epstein, Schotland '08]

$$\int_0^{\infty} dx e^{-xy} x^a \rightarrow z = xy \rightarrow \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dz}{y} e^{-z} z^{a+1-1} y^{-a}$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} dx e^{-xy} x^a = \Gamma(a+1) y^{-1-a} \rightarrow \operatorname{Re} a = -1/2$$

Mellin transform is sort of “eigenfunction” of Laplace trafo

$$u_s(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} x^{-1/2+is} = \frac{e^{is \log x}}{\sqrt{2\pi x}}$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} dx e^{-xy} u_s(x) = \lambda_s u_s^*(y) \quad \lambda_s = \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} + is\right)$$

Note: $t \rightarrow Mt$ and $\omega \rightarrow \omega/M$

LAPLACE TRANSFORM

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CARLEMAN-HANKEL OPERATOR

Intermezzo

[Carleman 1923][Groetsch '84][Power '80]

$$\int_t e^{-\omega't} e^{-\omega t} = \frac{1}{\omega' + \omega} = \mathcal{H}(\omega', \omega)$$

1. diagonalize \mathcal{H} w/ "Mellin" basis $\mathcal{H}(\omega, \omega') = \int_s u_s^*(\omega) |\lambda_s|^2 u_s(\omega')$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_\omega \mathcal{H}(\omega', \omega) u_s(\omega) &= \int_\omega \int_t e^{-\omega't} e^{-\omega t} u_s(\omega) = \int_t e^{-\omega't} \lambda_s u_s^*(t) \\ &= |\lambda_s|^2 u_s(\omega') \end{aligned}$$

2. \mathcal{H} ill-conditioned $|\lambda_s|^2 = \frac{\pi}{\cosh(\pi s)} \xrightarrow{s \rightarrow \pm\infty} 0$

3. inverse requires regularization, e.g. a là Tikhonov

$$\mathcal{H}_\alpha^{-1}(\omega, \omega') = \int_s u_s^*(\omega) \frac{1}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha} u_s(\omega')$$

INVERSE LAPLACE TRANSFORM

A solution

[McWhirter, Pike '78][Epstein, Schotland '08][MB, Giusti, Saccardi '24]

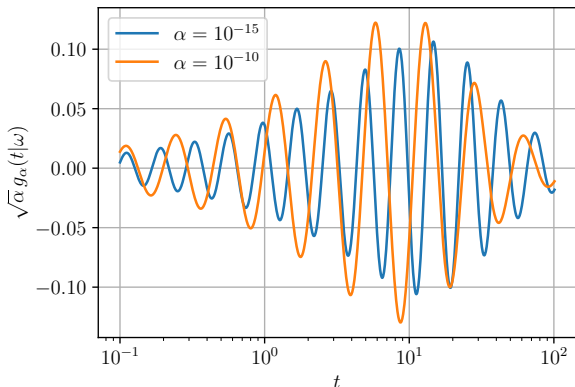
Fredholm integral equation $\int_t e^{-\omega' t} C(t) = \int_\omega \mathcal{H}(\omega', \omega) \rho(\omega)$

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_\alpha(\omega) &\equiv \int_{\omega'} \mathcal{H}_\alpha^{-1}(\omega, \omega') \int_t e^{-\omega' t} C(t) \\ &= \int_s u_s^*(\omega) \frac{\lambda_s}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha} \int_t u_s^*(t) C(t) \\ &= \int_t \left[\int_s u_s^*(\omega) \frac{\lambda_s}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha} u_s^*(t) \right] C(t) = \int_t g_\alpha(t|\omega) C(t) \\ &= \int_{\omega'} \left[\int_s u_s^*(\omega) \frac{|\lambda_s|^2}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha} u_s(\omega) \right] \rho(\omega') = \int_{\omega'} \delta_\alpha(\omega, \omega') \rho(\omega')\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE

In lattice units

Let's consider $a = 0.12 \text{ fm} = [1.7 \text{ GeV}]^{-1}$ $a\omega = 0.5 \simeq 830 \text{ MeV}$



Notice **logarithmic scale** on x-axis and oscillations $t \ll 0.12 \text{ fm}$

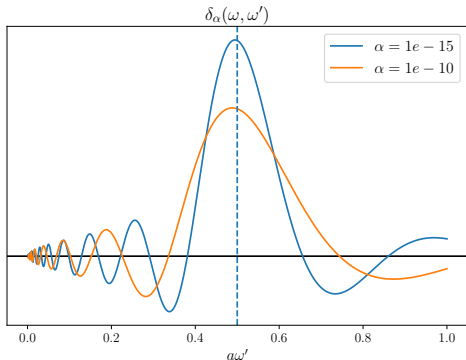
A MINIMAL KERNEL

Smeared densities

$$\rho_\kappa \equiv \int_\omega \rho(\omega) \kappa(\omega) \quad \omega / \text{smearing kernel } \kappa(\omega)$$

$$\rho_{\kappa, \alpha} = \int_{\omega, \omega'} \kappa(\omega') \delta_\alpha(\omega, \omega') \rho(\omega) = \int_t g_\alpha(t | \kappa) C(t)$$

$\delta_\alpha(\omega, \omega')$ “minimal smearing” to solve Inverse Laplace Transform (ILT)



$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \delta_\alpha(\omega, \omega') = \delta(\omega - \omega')$$

δ_α acts on $L^2(0, \infty, d\omega)$

if $\rho \in L^2(0, \infty, d\omega)$ then

$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \rho_\alpha(\omega) = \rho(\omega)$ exists

LEAST-SQUARE PROBLEM

A different perspective

Since $\kappa_\alpha(\omega) = \int_{\omega'} \kappa(\omega') \delta_\alpha(\omega, \omega') = \int_t g_\alpha(t|\kappa) e^{-\omega t}$
coefficients $g_\alpha(t|\kappa)$ minimize the functional

$$\int_{\omega} [\kappa(\omega) - \kappa_\alpha(\omega)]^2 + \alpha \int_t g_\alpha(t|\kappa)^2$$

looks like **continuous version of Backus-Gilbert/HLT**

Expanding ρ or κ on exponential basis are equivalent points of view

In fact $\rho_\alpha(\omega) = \int_t r_\alpha(t) e^{-\omega t}$ (with $r_\alpha(t)$ trivially related to g_α)
coefficients $r_\alpha(t)$ minimize the functional

$$\int_{\omega} [\rho(\omega) - \rho_\alpha(\omega)]^2 + \alpha \int_t r_\alpha(t)^2$$

[MB, Giusti, Saccardi '24]

Hypothesis: $\rho(\omega) \in L^2(0, \infty, d\omega)$ mass gap \rightarrow support over $[\omega_0 > 0, \infty)$ short-distance divergences $\rightarrow \rho \simeq \omega^k \rightarrow$ cannot use $g_\alpha(t|\omega)$

Extension to QFT: change coefficients

$$g_\alpha(t|\omega, p) = \int_s u_s^*(\omega) \frac{\lambda_s}{\lambda_s \lambda_{s,p} + \alpha} u_s^*(t) t^p$$

 p such that $t^{p-1/2}C(t)$ finite as $t \rightarrow 0$ define ρ_α from $g_\alpha(t|\omega, p)$, take $\alpha \rightarrow 0$

Example: R-ratio and vector correlator

$$C(t) = \int_\omega e^{-\omega t} \omega^2 \rho_s(\omega), \quad C(t) \stackrel{t \simeq 0}{\propto} 1/t^3 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_s \stackrel{\omega \gg 0}{\simeq} \text{const}$$

$$p = \frac{5}{2} \quad \rightarrow \quad \rho_s / \sqrt{\omega} \quad \text{or} \quad p = 3 \quad \rightarrow \quad \rho_s / \omega$$

LATTICE, HOW?

A strategy for a lattice calculation

(correlators strictly at zero temperature: keep $e^{-\omega t}$ discard $e^{-\omega(T-t)}$)

1. correlators in the continuum but sampled at discrete $t = a, 2a, 3a \dots$

$$\bar{C}(t, a) = C(t) + O(a^2)$$

2. formulate the problem for an infinite lattice $\sum_{t=a}^{\infty} \dots C(t)$

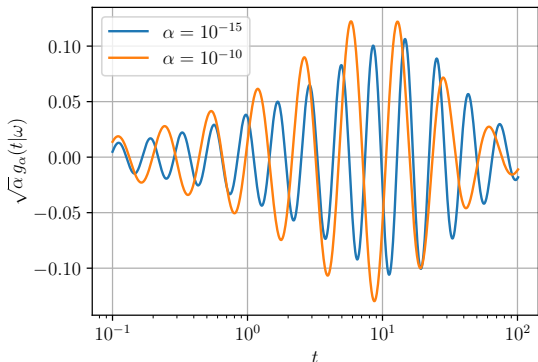
3. truncate solution $\sum_{t=a}^T \dots C(t)$

4. address truncation of temporal cut in continuum
exponential thanks to mass gap

NO FREE LUNCH

As expected ...

Let's consider $a = 0.12 \text{ fm} = [1.7 \text{ GeV}]^{-1}$ $a\omega = 0.5 \simeq 830 \text{ MeV}$



Oscillations at very short
Euclidean times

naive approach

$$\int_t g_\alpha \cdots \rightarrow \sum_t g_\alpha \cdots$$

does not work

need new $\bar{g}_{a,\alpha}$

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \bar{g}_{a,\alpha} = g_\alpha??$$

LATTICE CARLEMAN OPERATOR

$$a \sum_{t=a} e^{-\omega't} e^{-\omega t} = \overline{\mathcal{H}}_a = \frac{ae^{-(\omega+\omega')a}}{1 - e^{-a(\omega+\omega')}} \stackrel{a \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \frac{1}{\omega + \omega'} = \mathcal{H}(\omega, \omega')$$

Diagonalization $\overline{\mathcal{H}}_a$ is possible!!

$$\int_{\omega'} \overline{\mathcal{H}}_a(\omega, \omega') v_s(\omega', a) = |\lambda_s|^2 v_s(\omega, a) \quad s \in \mathbb{R}^+$$
$$v_s(\omega, a) \equiv \sqrt{2\pi a} \frac{u_s(1 - e^{-a\omega})}{|N_s|} e^{-a\omega} |\lambda_s|^2 {}_2F_1 \left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2} + is, \frac{3}{2} + is \\ 2 \end{matrix} \middle| e^{-a\omega} \right)$$

$\overline{\mathcal{H}}_a$ same spectrum as \mathcal{H} and

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow 0} v_s(\omega, a) \propto \operatorname{Re} u_s(a\omega) + O(a^2 \omega^2)$$

LATTICE CARLEMAN OPERATOR

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QUICK RECAP

Continuum vs Lattice

Continuum: energy and time domains both continuous in $[0, \infty)$

$$\rightarrow u_s(\omega), u_s(t)$$

$$g_\alpha(t|\omega) = \int_{s \in \mathbb{R}} u_s^*(\omega) \frac{\lambda_s}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha} u_s^*(t)$$

$$\delta_\alpha(\omega, \omega') = \int_{s \in \mathbb{R}} u_s^*(\omega) \frac{|\lambda_s|^2}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha} u_s(\omega')$$

Regular Lattice: asymmetry between continuous ω and discrete times

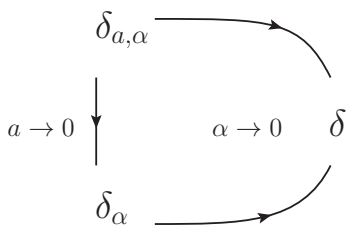
$$\rightarrow v_s(\omega, a), \bar{v}_s(t, a)$$

$$\bar{g}_{a,\alpha}(t|\omega) = \int_{s \in \mathbb{R}^+} v_s(\omega, a) \frac{|\lambda_s|}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha} \bar{v}_s(t - a, a)$$

$$\bar{\delta}_{a,\alpha}(\omega, \omega') = \int_{s \in \mathbb{R}^+} v_s(\omega, a) \frac{|\lambda_s|^2}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha} v_s(\omega', a)$$

QUICK RECAP

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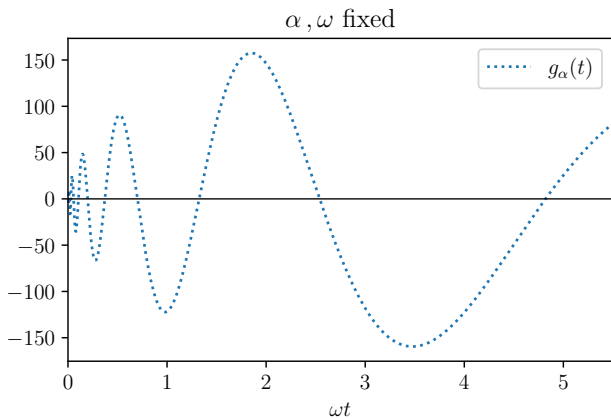


ILT on **infinite regular lattice**
(explicitly) solved

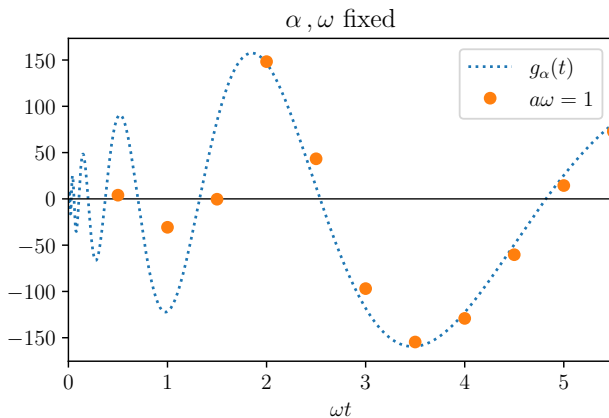
$v_s(\omega, a)$ complete set of orthogonal
functions

no discretization errors from ILT
if $\alpha \sim 0$, only from correlators

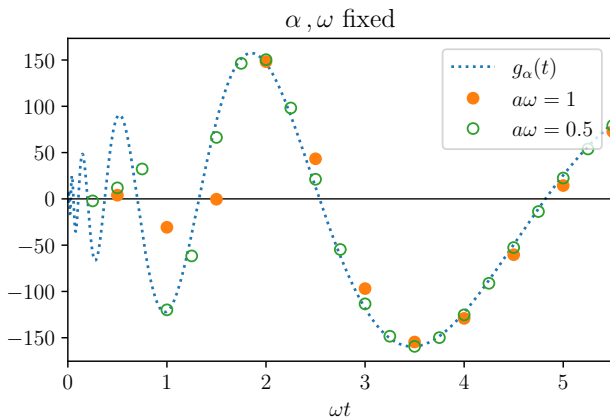
CONTINUUM LIMIT



CONTINUUM LIMIT



CONTINUUM LIMIT



CONTINUUM LIMIT

Thanks to explicit form $\bar{g}_{a,\alpha}(t|\omega) \rightarrow g_\alpha(t|\omega) + O((a\omega)^2)$

Coefficients $\bar{g}_{a,\alpha}(t|\omega)$ vs Backus-Gilbert-like methods (HLT)
depend on Tikhonov not covariance matrix as regulator
correspond to infinite Hilbert matrix
we now know their continuum limit at fixed α
can study e.g. finite-volume errs in continuum

CONCLUSIONS

Explicit formulation of ILT continuum and lattice for $\rho \in L^2$

$\rho \notin L^2$ still missing for lattice

[in progress]

effects of truncation of integral/sums is exponential

bound on $|\rho - \rho_\alpha|$

What's next?

numerical tests and applications

finite-volume effects starting from correlator [Lüscher][Hansen-Patella]

statistical errors and covariances

discretization errors, e.g. [Sommer Lat'22]

Thanks for your attention

SOME REMARKS ON ERRORS

Assuming the case $\rho(\omega) \in L^2(0, \infty, d\omega)$

$$\sigma_{\rho_\kappa}^2 = \int_{t,t'} g_\alpha(t|\kappa) \text{cov}(t, t') g_\alpha(t'|\kappa)$$

if $\text{cov} = \text{const}$ the error diverges in the $\alpha \rightarrow 0$

if $\text{cov} = e^{-m(t+t')}$ the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ is finite

$$\rho_\alpha(\omega) - \rho_{\alpha, t_{\max}}(\omega) \leq \frac{|C(t_{\max})|}{2\pi\sqrt{\omega M}\sqrt{M t_{\max}}} \int_s \frac{|\lambda_s|}{|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha}$$

$$|\rho_\kappa - \rho_{\kappa, \alpha}|^2 \leq \alpha^2 \left[\int_\omega \rho(\omega)^2 \right] \int_{\omega, \omega'} \kappa(\omega) \kappa(\omega') \int_s \frac{u_s^*(\omega) u_s(\omega')}{(|\lambda_s|^2 + \alpha)^2}$$