



Quartetting, clustering and related decay modes

J.-P. Ebran

CEA, DAM, DIF

ESNT

4-8 September 2023

Outline

- **1. Generalities**
- 2. Microscopic description of nuclear clustering
- 3. What are the consequences of the nuclear clustering phenomenon ?





Generalities

Nuclear clustering



• Nuclear clustering = nucleons clumping together into sub-groups within the nucleus



Intrinsic densities computed within cEDF realized at the SR level (DD-ME2 parametrization)

cea



Ebran, Khan, Niksic & Vretenar Nature 2012

Ebran, Khan, Niksic & Vretenar PRC 2013

Strength of correlations

• Strength of correlations measured by dimensionless ratios

$$\sqrt{\Lambda} \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\langle V \rangle}{\langle T \rangle}} \sim \alpha_{loc}$$

• Quantum systems near unitarity



More bodies

- → Bosons saturate
- ---> Multi-component fermions tend to clusterize

U. van Kolck et al

• Richness of correlations in a multi-component fermion system





small

large







• Schematic Hamiltonian $H = H_0 + \mathcal{V}_{res}$

$$H_0 = \int d^3r \sum_{\alpha} \varepsilon_{\alpha} \psi^{\dagger}_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{r}) \psi_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{r})$$

$$\mathcal{V}_{\rm res} \sim V_{\rm pair} = -\int d^3r \left[g^{\rm T=1} \sum_{\nu=\pm 1,0} P_{\nu}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) P_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{r}) + g^{\rm T=0} \sum_{\mu=\pm 1,0} Q_{\mu}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) Q_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{r}) \right]$$

Correlated pair operators

$$P_{\nu}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{r}) \equiv \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{l} \sqrt{2l+1} \left\{ \psi_{l,s=\frac{1}{2},t=\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{r}) \psi_{l,s=\frac{1}{2},t=\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{r}) \right\}_{M_{L}=0,M_{S}=0,M_{T}=\nu}^{(L=0,S=0,T=1)} Q_{\mu}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{r}) \equiv \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{l} \sqrt{2l+1} \left\{ \psi_{l,\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{r}) \psi_{l,\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{r}) \right\}_{M_{L}=0,M_{S}=\mu,M_{T}=0}^{(L=0,S=1,T=0)}$$





• One-to-one correspondence with a system of spin-3/2 fermions with the Hamiltonian

$$H = \int d^3r \left\{ \sum_{\alpha} \varepsilon_{\alpha} \varphi_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) \varphi_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{r}) - g_0 S_{0,0}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) S_{0,0}(\boldsymbol{r}) - \sum_{m=\pm 2,\pm 1,0} g_{2,m} D_{2,m}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) D_{2,m}(\boldsymbol{r}) \right\}$$

Singlet (S=0) pairing operator
$$S_{0,0}^{\dagger} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} \langle \frac{3}{2} \frac{3}{2}; 00 | \frac{3}{2} \frac{3}{2} \alpha \beta \rangle \varphi_{\alpha}^{\dagger} \varphi_{\beta}^{\dagger}$$

Quintet (S=2) pairing operator

$$D_{2,m}^{\dagger} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} \left\langle \frac{3}{2} \frac{3}{2}; 2m | \frac{3}{2} \frac{3}{2} \alpha \beta \right\rangle \varphi_{\alpha}^{\dagger} \varphi_{\beta}^{\dagger}$$

with
$$S_{0,0}^{\dagger} = P_0^{\dagger}, \ D_{2,0}^{\dagger} = Q_0^{\dagger}, \ D_{2,\pm 1}^{\dagger} = P_{\pm 1}^{\dagger} \text{ and } D_{2,\pm 2}^{\dagger} = Q_{\pm 1}^{\dagger}$$



 \odot Sp(4) ~ SO(5) symmetry without fine tuning the coupling constants

 $\textcircled{O} \text{ Generators of } \mathfrak{so}(5) \qquad \Gamma^{ab} \equiv -\frac{i}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma^a, \Gamma^b \end{bmatrix} \quad (1 \le a, b \le 5) \qquad \Gamma^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -iI \\ iI & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Gamma^{2,3,4} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Gamma^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

• Bilinears of fermions can be classified according to their behavior under SO(5)

Particle-hole channel

$$egin{aligned} n(m{r}) &=& \sum_lpha arphi_lpha (m{r}) arphi_lpha (m{r}), \ n_a(m{r}) &=& rac{1}{2} \sum_{lpha eta} arphi_lpha (m{r}) \Gamma^a_{lpha eta} arphi_eta (m{r}), \ L_{ab}(m{r}) &=& -rac{1}{2} \sum_{lpha eta} arphi_lpha (m{r}) \Gamma^{ab}_{lpha eta} arphi_eta (m{r}). \end{aligned}$$

Particle-particle channel

$$\begin{split} \eta^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha\beta} \varphi^{\dagger}_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{r}) C_{\alpha\beta} \varphi^{\dagger}_{\beta}(\boldsymbol{r}), \\ \xi^{\dagger}_{a}(\boldsymbol{r}) &= -\frac{i}{2} \sum_{\alpha\beta} \varphi^{\dagger}_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{r}) \left(\Gamma^{a} C\right)_{\alpha\beta} \varphi^{\dagger}_{\beta}(\boldsymbol{r}), \\ \hat{C} &= \Gamma^{1} \Gamma^{3} \\ S^{\dagger}_{0,0} &= -\frac{\eta^{\dagger}}{\sqrt{2}} \quad D^{\dagger}_{2,0} = -i \frac{\xi^{\dagger}_{4}}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad D^{\dagger}_{2,\pm 1} = -\frac{\xi^{\dagger}_{3} \mp i \xi^{\dagger}_{2}}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad D^{\dagger}_{2,\pm 2} = \frac{\mp \xi^{\dagger}_{1} + i \xi^{\dagger}_{5}}{\sqrt{2}} \end{split}$$

C. Wu PRL 2005

ESNT 2023

J.-P. Ebran

8



$$H = \int d^3r \left\{ \sum_{\alpha} \varepsilon_{\alpha} \varphi_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) \varphi_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{r}) - g_0 S_{0,0}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) S_{0,0}(\boldsymbol{r}) - \sum_{m=\pm 2,\pm 1,0} g_{2,m} D_{2,m}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) D_{2,m}(\boldsymbol{r}) \right\}$$

• If $g_0 = g_2 \equiv g$, singlet and quintet pairing states are degenerate and can be recast into a sextet pairing state \Rightarrow SU(4) symmetry

• 2 different superfluid orders :

i) Sp(4)-singlet BCS pairing phase : $\eta^{\dagger}(r)$

ii) SU(4) molecular superfluid phase formed from bound states of 4 fermions: $A^{\dagger}(r) \equiv \varphi_{\frac{3}{2}}^{\dagger}(r)\varphi_{\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(r)\varphi_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(r)\varphi_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(r)\varphi_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(r)\varphi_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger}(r)$

 \odot Competition manifested by a \mathbb{Z}_2 discrete symmetry (coset between the center of SU(4) and the center of Sp(4)) $\mathcal{U}_n=e^{in_4\pi}$

$$\begin{aligned} \eta^{\dagger} &\mapsto \mathcal{U}_n \eta^{\dagger} \mathcal{U}_n^{-1} = -\eta^{\dagger}, \\ A^{\dagger} &\mapsto \mathcal{U}_n A^{\dagger} \mathcal{U}_n^{-1} = A^{\dagger}. \end{aligned}$$

 \mathbb{Z}_2 needs to be spontaneously broken to stabilize the BCS quasi-long range order.

 \mathbb{Z}_2 remaining unbroken \Rightarrow strong quantum fluctuations in the spin channel suppressing Cooper pairing (2 fermions can't form a \mathbb{Z}_2 singlet) \Rightarrow leading superfluid instability = quartetting



MicroscopicViewpoint



- Ready to be used
- ☑ Lack of control
 - \Rightarrow double counting issues, error compensation, no error assessment



✓ Full control ⇒ systematically improvable, no error compensation, no double counting, possibility of error estimation, ...
 ✓ I Force you to step back and rethink

Nuclear structure from a microscopic viewpoint



- Nucleus: A interacting, structure-less nucleons 1)
- 2) Structure & dynamic encoded in Hamiltonian, Functional, ...
- 3) Solve A-nucleon Schrödinger/Dirac equation to desired accuracy

$$H(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{M}, \dots) | \Psi_{\mu, \sigma} \rangle = E_{\mu \tilde{\sigma}} | \Psi_{\mu, \sigma} \rangle \qquad \underset{\mathsf{N}_{\mathsf{FCI}} \subset {\binom{\mathsf{L}}{\mathsf{A}}}}{\overset{\mathsf{N}_{\mathsf{FCI}} \subset {\binom{\mathsf{L}}{\mathsf{A}}}}$$
Strongly correlated WF
$$\bigvee | \Psi_{\mathsf{gs}} \rangle = \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_{\mathsf{A}}}^{\mathsf{L}} C_{i_1 \cdots i_{\mathsf{A}}} | \phi_{i_1} \cdots \phi_{i_{\mathsf{A}}} \rangle \equiv \sum_{\mathsf{I}}^{\mathsf{N}_{\mathsf{FCI}}} C_{\mathsf{I}} | \Phi_{\mathsf{I}} \rangle$$

Rationale for grasping nucleon correlations







How to account for correlations causing clustering ?

i) Explicitly treat 4-nucleon correlations

$$\psi_T^A = f_J \left[\Phi_{BCS}^{\mathrm{I},\mathrm{II}} \Phi_{BCS}^{\mathrm{III},\mathrm{IV}} + \Phi_{BCS}^{\mathrm{I},\mathrm{III}} \Phi_{BCS}^{\mathrm{II},\mathrm{IV}} + \Phi_{BCS}^{\mathrm{I},\mathrm{IV}} \Phi_{BCS}^{\mathrm{II},\mathrm{III}} \right]$$

$$\psi_T^B = \mathcal{A} \Big[e^{-\beta_0 \sum_{i=1,3,5,7} (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_{CM}^{1,3,5,7})^2} \times e^{-\beta_0 \sum_{j=2,4,6,8} (\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_{CM}^{2,4,6,8})^2} \times e^{-\beta_1 (\mathbf{r}_{CM}^{1,3,5,7} - \mathbf{r}_{CM}^{2,4,6,8})^2} (\mathbf{r}_{CM}^{1,3,5,7} - \mathbf{r}_{CM}^{2,4,6,8})^n \Big]$$

Dawkins et al PRL **124**, 143402 (2020)

$$\psi_T^C = \mathcal{A}[F(\mathbf{r}_{CM}^{1,3,5,7} - \mathbf{r}_{CM}^{2,4,6,8}) \times f_J(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_3, \mathbf{r}_5, \mathbf{r}_7) \times f_J(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_4, \mathbf{r}_6, \mathbf{r}_8) \times \prod_{\substack{n=1,3,5,7\\m=2,4,6,8}} g(r_{nm})]$$

ii) Look for a collective field whose fluctuations cause nucleon to aggregate into α dofs



Dynamical and static correlations





Static correlations & Nuclear clustering



(Mott) transition from delocalized to totally localized nucleons takes the form of a transition from O(3) (or continuous subgroup) to a discrete point-group



15

Deformation & Nuclear clustering



Role of deformation

N-dimensional anisotropic HO with commensurate frequencies enjoys dynamical symmetries involving multiple independent copies of SU(N) irreps

Susceptibility of nucleons in deformed nuclei to arrange into multiple spherical fragments







Deformation = necessary condition, but not a sufficient one

Nazarewicz & Dobaczewski, PRL 1992





Strength of correlations



• Strength of correlations measured by dimensionless ratios

Ebran, Khan, Niksic & Vretenar Nature 2012 Ebran, Khan, Niksic & Vretenar PRC 2013





Strength of correlations



• Strength of correlations measured by dimensionless ratios

Clustering favored ...

→ For light nuclei

→ In regions at low-density

Ebran, Khan, Niksic & Vretenar Nature 2012 Ebran, Khan, Niksic & Vretenar PRC 2013





Strength of correlations



Clustering favored ----> For light nuclei

----> In regions at low-density

• Formation/dissolution of clusters : Mott parameter

▼ Size of the nucleus X

inter-nucleon average distance

$$n_{Mott}^{\alpha} \sim 0.25 \rho_{sat}$$

 $\sim \frac{\rho_{sat}}{3}$

Size of an α in free-space

0.9 size of an α in free-space

Ebran, Girod, Khan, Lasseri, Schuck, PRC 2020 Ebran, Khan, Niksic, Vretenar, PRC 2014





3 « Mean field » approximation













ESNT 2023







ESNT 2023







ESNT 2023



• Isotropically inflate ¹⁶O by constraining its r.m.s. radius while imposing a global quadrupole moment to be zero

ESNT 2023





• mp-mh content of a tetrahedrally-deformed Slater determinant



LCAO-MO

 \odot Borrowing the LCAO-MO language, on can think of the 16O thetrahedrally-deformed SD as a MO built from 4 1s α AOs

• Find the unknowns f in the Hückel approximation :

 $\mathcal{N}_{ij} = 0 \forall i, j$ $\epsilon \equiv \mathcal{H}_{ii}$; $-\mu \equiv \mathcal{H}_{ij}$ for adjacent i,j; $\mathcal{H}_{ij} = 0$ otherwise









« Beyond-Mean field » approximation



RMF+QCM

-2 0 2 4 Distance radiale r (fm)

RMF+QCM

-2 0 2 4Distance radiale r (fm) p (fm -3)

 $|Q(\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{r}_2 = \mathbf{r}_3 = \mathbf{r}_4)| \times 10$

0.5

EDF & Quartet condensation model



Nuclear clustering & PGCM

Orrelated GS





Nuclear clustering & PGCM

Spectroscopy



Frosini, Duguet, Ebran, Somà, EPJA 2022



Nuclear clustering & QRPA

Oluster vibration



Mercier, Bjelčić, Nikšić, Ebran, Khan, Vretenar PRC 2021 Mercier, Ebran, Khan PRC 2022



Decay modes







Thank you for your attention



HFB treatment

--> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



--> SSB : Efficient way for capturing so-called static correlations



HFB treatment

--> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



--> SSB : Efficient way for capturing so-called static correlations







9



HFB treatment

--> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



--> SSB : Efficient way for capturing so-called static correlations





Spatial symmetry-restricted HFB: good description of GS of doubly and singly closed-shell nuclei & neighbors (~300 nuclei)





HFB treatment

--> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



--> SSB : Efficient way for capturing so-called static correlations







- IFB treatment
- --> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



- Post-HFB treatment : PGCM
- --> Symmetry-conserving (non orthogonal) mixture of symmetry-breaking HFB vacua





- IFB treatment
- --> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



- Post-HFB treatment : PGCM
- --> Symmetry-conserving (non orthogonal) mixture of symmetry-breaking HFB vacua





- IFB treatment
- --> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



- Post-HFB treatment : PGCM
- --> Symmetry-conserving (non orthogonal) mixture of symmetry-breaking HFB vacua





- HFB treatment
- --> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



- Post-HFB treatment : PGCM
- --> Symmetry-conserving (non orthogonal) mixture of symmetry-breaking HFB vacua







- HFB treatment
- --> A-nucleon problem \rightarrow A 1-nucleon problems



- Post-HFB treatment : PGCM
- --> Symmetry-conserving (non orthogonal) mixture of symmetry-breaking HFB vacua







Effect of the depth of the confining potential



• Deeper potential yielding the same nuclear radii \Rightarrow more localized single-nucleon orbitals

• When Coulomb effects are not too important and owing to Kramers degeneracy, proton \uparrow , proton \downarrow , neutron \uparrow , neutron \downarrow share the same spatial properties

