Threshold states and clustering as the emerging phenomenon in open quantum system Marek Płoszajczak (GANIL)

> ESNT Workshop, Light nuclei between single-particle and clustering features Saclay, 3-6 December, 2024

### Scientific context



### Scientific context



- Nuclear states are *embedded in the scattering continuum*
- Couplings to various particle emission channels are crucial for the properties of near-threshold states
- Unitarity is the fundamental property of QM yet 'mainstream' nuclear theory describes nucleus in *unitarity violating schemes* 
  - ⇒ 'Unitarity crisis' in nuclear theory







Threshold effects in hadrons, hadronic molecules, multiquark systems



Threshold effects can also result in some resonance-like structures in the pertinent invariant mass spectrum that can be confounded with a genuine resonance states, like molecular states, multiquark states, or hybrid.



Gamow shell model

Resonant states in the complex-k plane



G. Gamow (1928)  

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Phi(r,t) = \hat{H} \Phi(r,t) ; \quad \Phi(r,t) = \tau(t) \Psi(r)$$

$$\hat{H} \Psi = \left(e - i\frac{\Gamma}{2}\right) \Psi \longrightarrow \tau(t) = \exp\left(-i\left(e - i\frac{\Gamma}{2}\right)\right)$$

$$\Psi(0,k) = 0 , \quad \begin{cases} \Psi(\vec{r},k) \xrightarrow{\rightarrow} O_l(kr) \\ \Psi(\vec{r},k) \xrightarrow{\rightarrow} I_l(kr) + O_l(kr) \end{cases}$$

Only bound states are integrable!

### Resonant states in the complex-k plane



- Resonant states with Re(E)>0 and small  $\Gamma$  can be associated with *narrow resonances* (nr)
- For antibound (virtual) states Re(E) < 0 and Γ=0
- For subthreshold resonant states Re(E) < 0 and  $\Gamma > 0$
- The antibound and subthreshold resonant states lie on the second Riemann energy sheet
- Low-momentum antibound and threshold resonant states result in the low-energy cross-section enhancement. These poles should be viewed as scattering features rather than physical states of the system.



Efficient discretization of the  $\mathcal{L}^+$  contour with Gauss-Legendre quadrature



- Localized states
- Halo states of complex structure
- Many-body resonances



$$\sum_{n} |u_n\rangle \langle \tilde{u}_n| + \int_{L^+} |u_k\rangle \langle \tilde{u}_k| dk = 1 ; \langle u_i|\tilde{u}_j\rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

T. Berggren, Nucl. Phys. A109, 265 (1968) K. Maurin, Generalized Eigenfunction Expansion, Polish Scientific Publishers, Warsaw (1968) T. Lind, Phys. Rev. C47, 1903 (1993) Gamow shell model (GSM)

$$|SD_i\rangle = |u_{i_1} \dots u_{i_A}\rangle \implies \sum_k |SD_k\rangle \langle SD_k| \cong 1$$
  
N. Michel et al, PRL 89, 042502 (2002)  
N. Michel, et al, J. Phys. G37, 064042 (2010)

- Calculation in the relative coordinates of core cluster SM coordinates Y. Suzuki, K. Ikeda, PRC 38 (1988) 410
- Center-of-mass handled by recoil term:

$$H \rightarrow H + \frac{1}{M_{\text{core}}} \sum_{(i < j) \in \text{val}} \mathbf{p}_i \cdot \mathbf{p}_j$$

in the Hamiltonian

• Unitary formulation of the nuclear Shell Model



$$\sum_{n} |u_{n}\rangle \langle \tilde{u}_{n}| + \int_{L_{+}} |u_{k}\rangle \langle \tilde{u}_{k}| dk = 1 ; \langle u_{i}|\tilde{u}_{j}\rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

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#### Resonant states of the NN system

- np bound state (deuteron): k=+i0.2315 fm<sup>-1</sup> T=0
- np virtual state (deuteron): k=-i0.044 fm<sup>-1</sup> T=1
- nn virtual state: k=-i0.0559(33) fm<sup>-1</sup> T=1 V.A. Babenko, N.M. Petrov, Phys. At. Nucl. 76, 684 (2013)
- pp threshold resonant state: k=(0.0647-i0.0870) fm<sup>-1</sup> T=1 L.P. Kok, Phys. Rev. Lett. 45, 427 (1980)



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- GSM with a core of <sup>14</sup>O
- EFT interaction in psd Berggren basis L. Huth et al., PRC 98, 044301 (2018)
- Carbon isotopes/isotones well bound/unbound

N. Michel et al., PRC 103, 044319 (2021)



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- T=1,  $J^{\pi}=2^{-}$  many-body states; Isospin multiplet in A=4 nuclei
- Broad resonances in T=1 multiplet
- $\bullet$  T=1 in  $^4H$  and  $^4Li$
- T~0.71 in <sup>4</sup>He Isospin symmetry strongly broken

N. Michel et al., PRC 104, 024319 (2021)



$$\sum_{n} |u_n\rangle \langle \tilde{u}_n| + \int_{L^+} |u_k\rangle \langle \tilde{u}_k| dk = 1 ; \langle u_i|\tilde{u}_j\rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

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In the Slater determinant representation of GSM the reaction channels are not identified!

Gamow shell model – Coupled-channel representation



$$\sum_{n} |u_{n}\rangle \langle \tilde{u}_{n}| + \int_{L^{+}} |u_{k}\rangle \langle \tilde{u}_{k}| dk = 1 ; \langle u_{i}|\tilde{u}_{j}\rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

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$$\begin{split} |\Psi_{M}^{J}\rangle &= \sum_{\mathbf{c}} \int_{0}^{+\infty} |(\mathbf{c}, r)_{M}^{J}\rangle \, \frac{u_{\mathbf{c}}^{JM}(r)}{r} r^{2} \, dr \\ \downarrow & |(\mathbf{c}, r)\rangle = \hat{\mathcal{A}}[|\Psi_{\mathbf{T}}^{J_{\mathbf{T}}}; N_{T}, Z_{T}\rangle \otimes |r \ L_{\mathbf{CM}} \ J_{\mathbf{int}} \ J_{\mathbf{P}}; n, z\rangle]_{M}^{J} \\ H |\Psi_{M}^{J}\rangle &= E |\Psi_{M}^{J}\rangle \longrightarrow \sum_{\mathbf{c}} \int_{0}^{\infty} r^{2} \left(H_{\mathbf{cc}'}(r, r') - EN_{\mathbf{cc}'}(r, r')\right) \frac{u_{\mathbf{c}}(r)}{r} = 0 \\ H_{\mathbf{cc}'}(r, r') &= \langle(\mathbf{c}, r)| \ \hat{H} |(\mathbf{c}', r')\rangle \\ N_{\mathbf{cc}'}(r, r') &= \langle(\mathbf{c}, r)|(\mathbf{c}', r')\rangle \end{split}$$

- Entrance and exit reaction channels defined
   Unification of nuclear structure and reactions
- Reaction channels with different (binary) mass partitions
- Core is arbitrary

Y. Jaganathen et al, PRC 88, 044318 (2014) K. Fossez et al., PRC 91, 034609 (2015) A. Mercenne et al., PRC 99, 044606 (2019)

N. Michel, M. P., «Gamow Shell Model: The Unified Theory of Nuclear Structure and Reactions » Lecture Notes in Physics, Vol. 983, (Springer Verlag, 2021 Effective interaction in open quantum system

NN interaction in different regimes of binding



N. Michel, M. P.,

«Gamow Shell Model: The Unified Theory of Nuclear Structure and Reactions » Lecture Notes in Physics, Vol. 983, (Springer Verlag, 2021)

- Similar qualitative dependence of the TBMEs on angle θ<sub>ab</sub> in SM and GSM
- TBMEs are complex in weakly bound/unbound nuclei

### NN interaction in different regimes of binding



N. Michel, M. P.,

«Gamow Shell Model: The Unified Theory of Nuclear Structure and Reactions » Lecture Notes in Physics, Vol. 983, (Springer Verlag, 2021)



Strong reduction of np interaction in weakly bound/unbound nuclei: ~50% reduction in p-shell Dependence of  $V_{nn}/V_{pp}$  on  $S_n - S_p$  asymmetry

$\boldsymbol{\ell}_{j}$	Jπ	S <sub>p</sub> [MeV]	S <sub>n</sub> [MeV]	$V_{nn}/V_{pp}$
P <sub>1/2</sub>	2 <sup>+.</sup>	10	-1	0.39
_, _		1	-1	0.58
$d_{5/2}$	2 <sup>+.</sup>	10	-1	0.83
572		1	-1	0.835
	4+	10	-1	0.75
		1	-1	0.84

- Strong asymmetry of  $V_{nn}$  and  $V_{pp}$  for large  $|S_n-S_p|$  and low  $\boldsymbol{\ell}_j$
- If  $S_n \ll S_p$ , then  $V_{pp} > V_{nn}$ , i.e. protons in the neutron-rich environment interact stronger than neutrons
  - → Proton SF is reduced with respect to neutron SF (and vice versa) if S<sub>p</sub> << S<sub>n</sub> (S<sub>p</sub> >> S<sub>n</sub>)

Origin of clustering in near-threshold states

### Near-threshold states and origin of clustering

**α-clustering** "...α-cluster states can be found in the proximity of α-particle decay threshold..." K. Ikeda, N. Takigawa, H. Horiuchi (1968)

But this is only the tip of the iceberg!



- Other cases: <sup>6</sup>He, <sup>6</sup>Li, <sup>7</sup>Be, <sup>7</sup>Li, <sup>11</sup>O, <sup>11</sup>C, <sup>17</sup>O, <sup>20</sup>Ne, <sup>26</sup>O, <sup>24</sup>Mg,...
- Various clusterings: <sup>2</sup>H, <sup>3</sup>He, <sup>3</sup>H, 2p, 2n
- Astrophysical relevance of near-threshold resonances for  $\alpha$  and proton-capture reactions of nucleosynthesis

## Near-threshold states and origin of clustering

**α-clustering** "...α-cluster states can be found in the proximity of α-particle decay threshold..." K. Ikeda, N. Takigawa, H. Horiuchi (1968)

But this is only the tip of the iceberg! • 'Fortuitous' appearance of correlated states close to open channels?  $\rightarrow$  They cannot result from any particular feature of the NN  $^{11}C + n$  18721 interaction or any dynamical symmetry of the nuclear  ${}^{11}B + p$  15957 many-body problem 300  $^{9}$ Li + 2n E=7654  $\Gamma = 0.0093$ <sup>8</sup>Be +  $\alpha$ 7367 charged particles neutral particles  $3/2^{-}$ E=0 $\Gamma = 0$ <sup>3</sup>H+d <sup>3</sup>He+d <sup>4</sup>He+<sup>4</sup>He  $^{11}Li$ 12C1=2  $1/2^{-1}$ E=3487(40)  $5/2^{+}$ 3357 Γ= 36(15) E=11600(20)  $^{13}N + 2p$ 7(E) <sup>0</sup>B + n **–**11454  $\Gamma_n = 4$  $(1/2^+, 3/2^+)$ <sup>10</sup>Be + p 11228 <sup>8</sup>Be + t 11224 E=11425(20) $\Gamma_{\rm p} = 12(5)$  $^{7}Li + \alpha$  8664 0.8 -0'ī -0.2 0.2 0.4 0.1 0.2 0 0 E (MeV) E.(MeV) E (MeV)  $1/2^{+}$ E=0ħ2/2M.a2 (a)(5) (c)  $\Gamma = 660(20)$ Figure 2. Enhancement factors for channels (a) <sup>3</sup>H +d, (b) <sup>3</sup>He +d, (c) <sup>4</sup>He +<sup>4</sup>He, Figure 1. Enhancement factors for neutron channels with orbital angular momenta l = 0, 1 and 2 and reduced widths  $\gamma_{\lambda c}^2 = \hbar^2/M_c a_c^2$  as functions of channel energy all with l = 0 and with values of  $a_0$  and  $\gamma_{\lambda 0}^2$  given in the text. Full curves give E (in units of  $\hbar^2/2M_{\circ} a_0^2 \simeq 1$  MeV). Full curves give values of q(E), broken curves values of q(E), broken curves values of  $q_1(E)$ . Arrows indicate energies of observed  $^{14}O + p - 1270$  $3/2^{-}$ values of  $q_1(E)$ . levels of 5He, 5Li and 8Be.  $^{15}\mathbf{F}$ F. Barker, Proc. Phys. Soc. 84, 681 (1964)  $^{11}\mathbf{B}$ 

- Other cases: <sup>6</sup>He, <sup>6</sup>Li, <sup>7</sup>Be, <sup>7</sup>Li, <sup>11</sup>O, <sup>11</sup>C, <sup>17</sup>O, <sup>20</sup>Ne, <sup>26</sup>O, <sup>24</sup>Mg,...
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- The appearance of near-threshold resonances can be explained in terms of the increased level density:  $g_{\ell}(E) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{d\delta_{\ell}(E)}{dE}$
- The enhancement of the level density is largest for low-barrier potentials

# Near-threshold states and origin of clustering

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But this is only the tip of the iceberg!

- 'Fortuitous' appearance of correlated states close to open channels?
  - They cannot result from any particular feature of the NN interaction or any dynamical symmetry of the nuclear many-body problem

#### Continuum shell model perspective

J. Okołowicz, M. Ploszajczak, W. Nazarewicz, Prog. Theor. Phys. Suppl. 196, 230 (2012); Fortschr. Phys. 61, 66 (2013)

- The appearance of correlated (cluster) states close to open channels is the generic *open quantum system phenomenon* related to the collective rearrangement of SM wave functions due to the coupling via the continuum
- Specific aspects:
- Energetic order of particle emission thresholds depends on (nuclear) Hamiltonian
- Absence of stable cluster entirely composed of like nucleons
- Other cases: <sup>6</sup>He, <sup>6</sup>Li, <sup>7</sup>Be, <sup>7</sup>Li, <sup>11</sup>O, <sup>11</sup>C, <sup>17</sup>O, <sup>20</sup>Ne, <sup>26</sup>O, <sup>24</sup>Mg,...
- Various clusterings: <sup>2</sup>H, <sup>3</sup>He, <sup>3</sup>H, 2p, 2n
- Astrophysical relevance of near-threshold resonances for  $\alpha$  and proton-capture reactions of nucleosynthesis

Astrophysical relevance for  $\alpha$ - and proton-capture reactions of nucleosynthesis





What is the effect of  $1^+$  resonance at ~10 keV above the proton emission threshold on the S-factor?

Does <sup>19</sup>F(p, $\gamma$ )<sup>20</sup>Ne breakout reaction from the CNO cycle overcomes <sup>19</sup>F(p, $\alpha$ )<sup>16</sup>O back-process reaction cross section becoming a source of the Ca abondance in the first generation stars?

### Astrophysical relevance for $\alpha$ - and proton-capture reactions of nucleosynthesis



What is the effect of  $1^+$  resonance at ~10 keV above the proton emission threshold on the S-factor?

- S(0) astrophysical factor increases by more than 2 orders of magnitude!
- The decay to the 2+ first excited state in <sup>20</sup>Ne dominates

X.B. Wang, G.X. Dong, N. Michel, M. Ploszajczak, arXiv:2411.17243

### Astrophysical relevance for $\alpha$ - and proton-capture reactions of nucleosynthesis



What is the effect of  $1^+$  resonance at ~10 keV above the proton emission threshold on the S-factor?

 $10^{3}$ NACRE deBoer et al. TUNA Williams et al.  $10^{2}$ (p, γ<sub>1</sub>)'.....  $(p, \gamma_1)$ -(p, γ)  $\langle \sigma_V \rangle / \langle \sigma_V \rangle_{\text{NACRE}}$  $10^{1}$  $10^{0}$  $10^{-1}$  $10^{-2}$  $10^{-3}$  $10^{-2}$  $10^{-1}$  $10^{0}$ T<sub>9</sub>

- GSM-CC reaction rates are significantly larger than in NACRE and comparable with JUNA data
- <sup>19</sup>F(p,α)<sup>16</sup>O back-process reaction should be remeasued to verify the hypothesis of breaking from hot-CNO cycle

X.B. Wang, G.X. Dong, N. Michel, M. Ploszajczak, arXiv:2411.17243

Exp: Liyong Zhang et al., Nature 610, 656 (2022)

Mimicry mechanism of clustering

# Ubiquitous process of clustering

**Clustering** is one of the most *mysterious* processes in Physics. It happens at all scales in time, distances and energies: from the micro scales of hadrons and nuclei to the macro scales of living organisms and clusters of galaxies, from the high excitation energies to cold systems



*Generic mechanisms* of the clusterization, independent of individual features of the studied system:

- statistical mechanism rooted in the Central Limit Theorem
  - $\rightarrow$  Random fragmentation or random aggregation?
    - In central HI collisions energies, nuclear fragments are produced in the aggregation process

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R. Botet, M. Ploszajczak and INDRA Coll., Phys. Rev. Lett. 86, 3514 (2001)
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- mimicry mechanism due to the interaction with the environment

- ...

Mimicry mechanism of clusterization





 $^{3}\text{H}$  wave functions calculated using  $N^{3}\text{LO}_{(2\text{-body})}$  interaction

• Channels: <sup>6</sup>Li(K<sup> $\pi$ </sup>): K<sup> $\pi$ </sup>=1<sub>1</sub><sup>+</sup>, 1<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, 3<sub>1</sub><sup>+</sup>, 0<sub>1</sub><sup>+</sup>, 2<sub>1</sub><sup>+</sup>, 2<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> n:  $\ell_j = s_{1/2}, p_{1/2}, p_{3/2}, d_{3/2}, d_{5/2}, f_{5/2}, f_{7/2}$ <sup>3</sup>H(L): L = <sup>2Jint+1</sup>[L<sub>CM</sub>]<sub>JP</sub> = <sup>2</sup>S<sub>1/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>P<sub>1/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>P<sub>3/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>D<sub>3/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>D<sub>5/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>F<sub>5/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>F<sub>7/2</sub>



### Mimicry mechanism of clusterization





 $^{3}$ H wave functions calculated using N $^{3}$ LO<sub>(2-body)</sub> interaction

• Channels: <sup>6</sup>Li(K<sup> $\pi$ </sup>): K<sup> $\pi$ </sup>=1<sub>1</sub><sup>+</sup>, 1<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, 3<sub>1</sub><sup>+</sup>, 0<sub>1</sub><sup>+</sup>, 2<sub>1</sub><sup>+</sup>, 2<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> n:  $\ell_j = s_{1/2}, p_{1/2}, p_{3/2}, d_{3/2}, d_{5/2}, f_{5/2}, f_{7/2}$ <sup>3</sup>H(L): L = <sup>2Jint+1</sup>[L<sub>CM</sub>]<sub>JP</sub> = <sup>2</sup>S<sub>1/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>P<sub>1/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>P<sub>3/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>D<sub>3/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>D<sub>5/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>F<sub>5/2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>F<sub>7/2</sub>



• The resonance (*chameleon*) changes its structure (*skin color*) as a result of the alignment (*mimicry*) with the nearby new reaction channel (*changing environment*)

J.P. Linares Fernandez, et al, Phys. Rev. C 108, 044616 (2023)

Near-threshold clustering in <sup>8</sup>Be



Mass partitions: [ $|^{4}He\rangle \otimes |^{4}He\rangle$ ], [ $|^{7}Li\rangle \otimes |p\rangle$ ], [ $|^{7}Be\rangle \otimes |n\rangle$ ], [ $|^{6}Li\rangle \otimes |d\rangle$ ]





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Near-threshold clustering is the *emergent phenomenon* 

J.P. Linares Fernandez, et al, Phys. Rev. C 108, 044616 (2023)

# Conclusions

- Quantum systems in the vicinity of a particle emission threshold belong to the category of open quantum systems having unique properties which distinguish them from well-bound closed quantum systems
- Proximity of the threshold (branching point) induces the collective mixing of eigenstates resulting in a single *aligned eigenstate* of the open quantum system Hamiltonian (→ *chameleon resonance*)
- Clustering is the *emergent phenomenon* associated with the branch point singularity at the particle emission threshold
- Near-threshold phenomena are *terra incognita* of the nuclear physics:
  - Collectivization of wave functions due to the coupling to decay channel(s)
  - Formation of clusters/correlations: <sup>2</sup>H, <sup>3</sup>H, <sup>3</sup>He, <sup>3</sup>n, <sup>4</sup>n, ... which carry an imprint of nearby decay channel(s)
  - Modification of NN interaction/spectroscopic factors
  - Effects of *coalescing resonances* in nuclear spectroscopy and reactions

- ... ...

Essential role of *unitarity*!

In collaboration with:

NicolasMichelWitekNazarewiczJacekOkołowiczJose PabloLinaresXiaobaoWangGuoxiangDong

IMP/CAS Lanzhou/Beijin, China MSU/FRIB East Lansing, USA GANIL, INP Kraków, Poland LSU Baton Rouge, USA Huzhou University, China Huzhou University, China





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in the Hamiltonian

• Unitary formulation of the nuclear Shell Model

- GSM with a core of <sup>3</sup>H
- FHT and Minnesota interactions in spdf/spd space with Berggren basis
- Two-body interaction from a fit to the He chain
- Large widths for <sup>4,6</sup>H, smaller widths for <sup>5</sup>H (~500 keV) and <sup>7</sup>H (10-250 keV) – to be checked in future experiments