



Symmetry restoration in the mean-field description of proton-neutron pairing

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Introduction

Motivation

- Proton-neutron (pn) pairing correlations have been largely neglected in most of the calculations in nuclear structure.

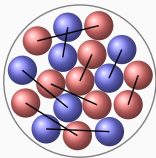
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²Rrapaj, Eral, Macchiavelli A.O., and Gezerlis A. Symmetry restoration in mixed-spin paired heavy nuclei. PRC 99.1 (2019)

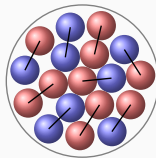
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- Proton-neutron (pn) pairing correlations have been largely neglected in most of the calculations in nuclear structure.
- Coexistence between proton-neutron (isoscalar) and like-particle (isovector) condensates is expected to appear in $N = Z$ nuclei¹.



Isvector condensate



Isoscalar-isovector
coexistence

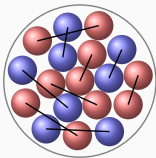
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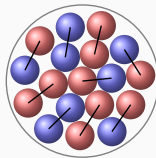
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Isovector condensate



Isoscalar-isovector
coexistence

- The aforementioned coexistence is elusive² and “no symmetry-unrestricted mean-field calculations of pn pairing with an isospin conserving formalism have been carried out”³.

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Pairing Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \overbrace{-g(1-x) \sum_{\nu} \hat{P}_{\nu}^{\dagger} \hat{P}_{\nu}}^{\text{Isovector contribution}} - \underbrace{g(1+x) \sum_{\mu} \hat{D}_{\mu}^{\dagger} \hat{D}_{\mu}}_{\text{Isoscalar contribution}}$$

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$$\hat{P}_{\nu}^{\dagger} = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{2}} \left(a_{l\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger} a_{l\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger} \right)_{\substack{L=0, S=0, T=1 \\ M=0, S_z=0, T_z=\nu}} \quad (1)$$

$$\hat{D}_{\mu}^{\dagger} = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{2}} \left(a_{l\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger} a_{l\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}}^{\dagger} \right)_{\substack{L=0, S=1, T=0 \\ M=0, S_z=\mu, T_z=0}} \quad (2)$$

x : mixing parameter,

g : strength of the interaction.

Mean-field description and beyond

Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov (HFB) formalism

Starting point: HFB calculation, by means of a transformation from the single-particle basis $(\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger)$ to the quasiparticle basis $(\hat{\beta}, \hat{\beta}^\dagger)$

$$\hat{\beta}_i^\dagger = \sum_k u_{ik} \hat{a}_i^\dagger + v_{ik} \hat{a}_i \longrightarrow \hat{\beta} |\Psi\rangle = 0$$

including spin and isospin mixing. By means of the Thouless theorem, we include the contribution from each correlated pair in the wavefunction

$$|\Psi\rangle = \mathcal{N} \exp\left(\hat{Z}^+\right) |0\rangle \quad (3)$$

with

$$\hat{Z}^+ = \sum_{\nu=\pm 1,0} p_\nu \hat{P}_\nu^+ + \sum_{\mu=\pm 1,0} d_\mu \hat{D}_\mu^+ \quad (4)$$

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$$p_0 = \sin(\alpha/2) e^{-i\varphi}, \quad d_0 = \cos(\alpha/2) e^{i\varphi} \quad (5)$$

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The resulting HFB energy being $E = \langle \Psi | \hat{H} | \Psi \rangle$

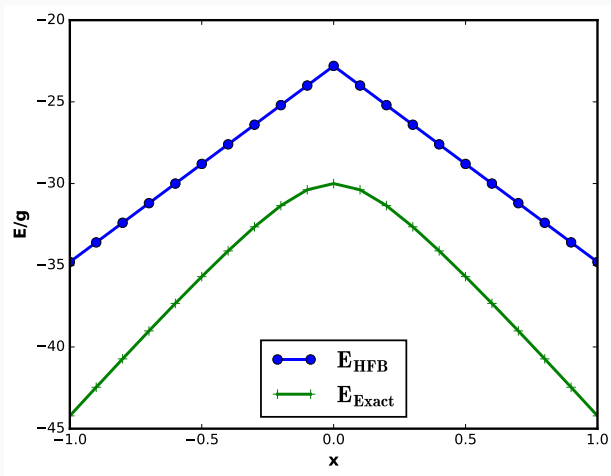


Figure 1: Energy (arbitrary units) as a function of the tuning parameter x for a model-space with $l = 2$, $A = 12$ obtained from the HFB and exact solutions.

⁴A.M. Romero, J. Dobaczewski, A. Pastore. APPB 49.3 2018

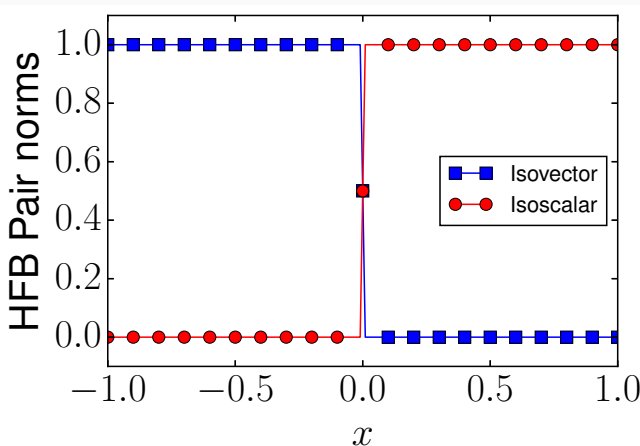


Figure 2: Normalised “number of pairs” as a function of the tuning parameter x computed using the HFB method.

Beyond mean-field: restoration of broken symmetries

The quasiparticle vacuum $|\Psi\rangle$ is a superposition of states with good particle (A), spin (S) and isospin (T) numbers,
 $|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{AST} c_{AST} |AST\rangle$, leading to broken symmetries.

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$$|AST\rangle = \hat{P}^A \hat{P}^S \hat{P}^T |\Psi\rangle,$$

with

$$\hat{P}^A |\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi e^{i\varphi(\hat{A}-A)} |\Psi\rangle \quad (6)$$

$$\hat{P}_{S'_z S_z}^S |\Psi\rangle = \frac{2S+1}{8\pi^2} \int d\Omega_S D_{S'_z S_z}^{S*}(\Omega_S) \hat{R}(\Omega_S) |\Psi\rangle \quad (7)$$

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and the “projected energy” is calculated as

$$E_{\text{proj}} = \frac{\langle \Psi | \hat{H} | AST \rangle}{\langle \Psi | AST \rangle}$$

Choice: variate, then project; or project, then variate?

We find two options to perform beyond mean-field calculations,

- Projection after variation (PAV):

$$\delta \frac{\langle \Psi | \hat{H} | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle} \bigg|_{|\Psi_{\text{PAV}}\rangle} = 0 \longrightarrow E_{\text{proj}}^{\text{PAV}} = \frac{\langle \Psi_{\text{PAV}} | \hat{H} | AST \rangle}{\langle \Psi_{\text{PAV}} | AST \rangle}$$

- Variation after projection (VAP):

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As these methods rely upon the variational principle, the VAP approach should perform better.

Signature of the states

- States of good quantum numbers $|AST\rangle$ are also eigenstates of the signature operators in spin and isospin space

$$\hat{R}_S(\pi) = e^{-i\pi\hat{S}_y} \quad \hat{R}_T(\pi) = e^{-i\pi\hat{T}_y} \quad (9)$$

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$$\hat{R}_S(\pi)\hat{R}_T(\pi)|ST\rangle = (-1)^{S+T}|ST\rangle \quad (10)$$

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- Selection rule for the projected states:

- If $S + T = \text{even} \longrightarrow A/2 = \text{even}$
- If $S + T = \text{odd} \longrightarrow A/2 = \text{odd}$

Results

Results

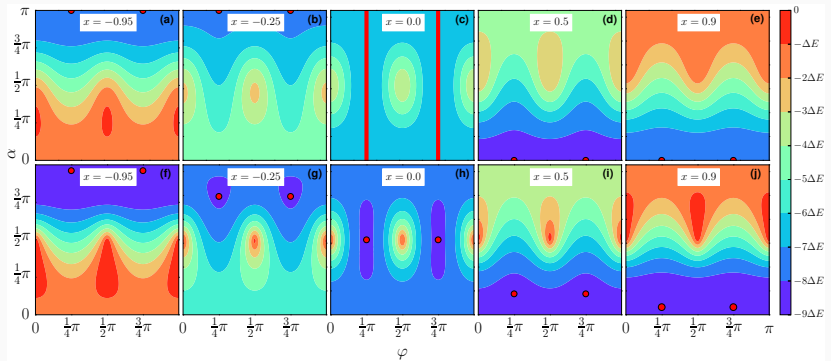


Figure 3: HFB (top) and VAP (bottom) energy (arbitrary units) surface as a function of the parameters α and φ for different values x of the interaction, for $S = T = 0$ and for a model-space with $\Omega = \sum_l (2l + 1) = 12$, $A = 24$. Steps of $\Delta E = 20, 15, 13, 17$ and 20 , respectively.

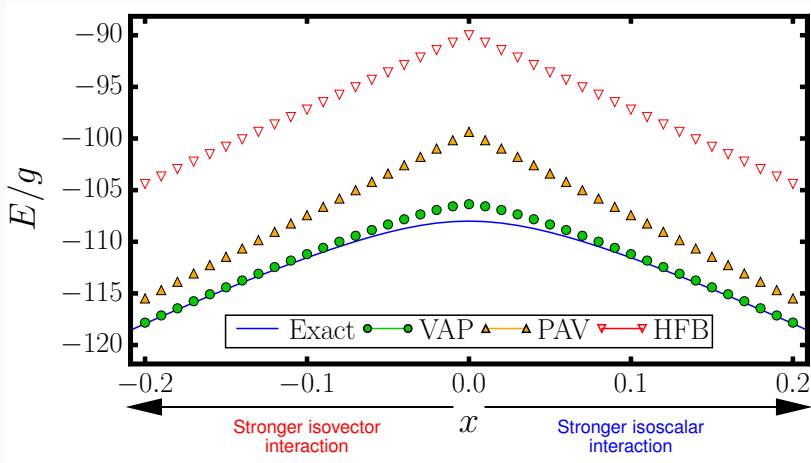
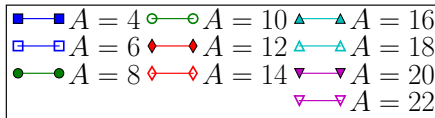
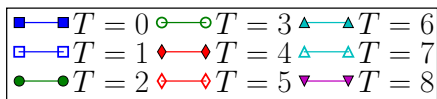
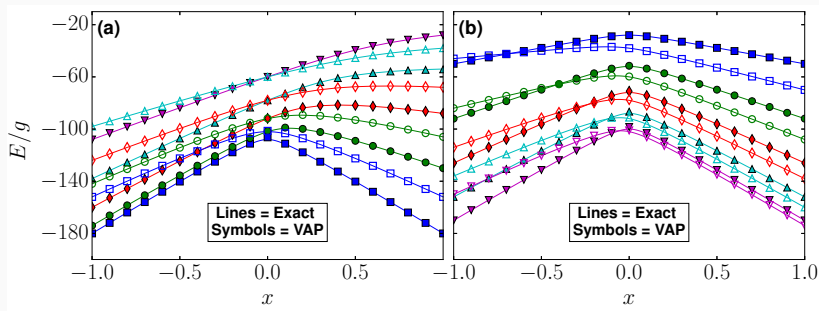
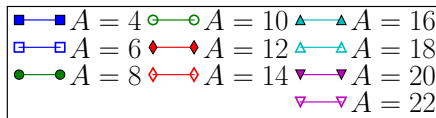
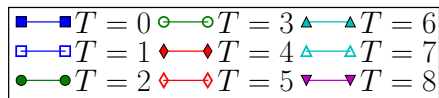
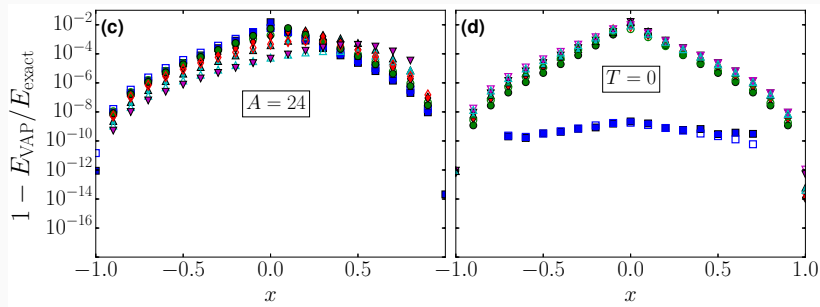


Figure 4: Energy (arbitrary units) as a function of the tuning parameter x for a model space with spatial degeneracy $\Omega = 12$ and $A = 24, S = T = 0$, obtained for HFB, PAV and VAP methods and comparing them to the exact solutions.

Energy: exact and VAP comparison



Differences



Pairing coexistence seen by the VAP approach!

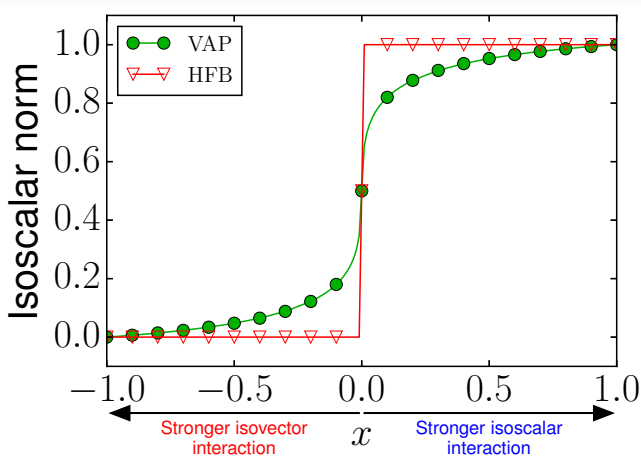
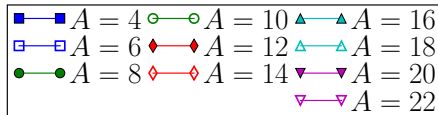
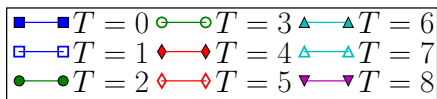
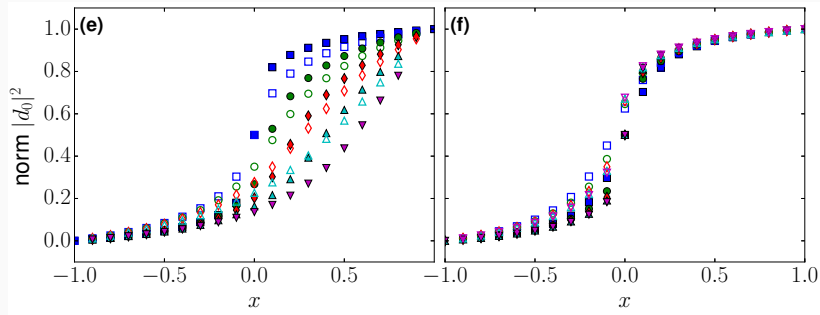
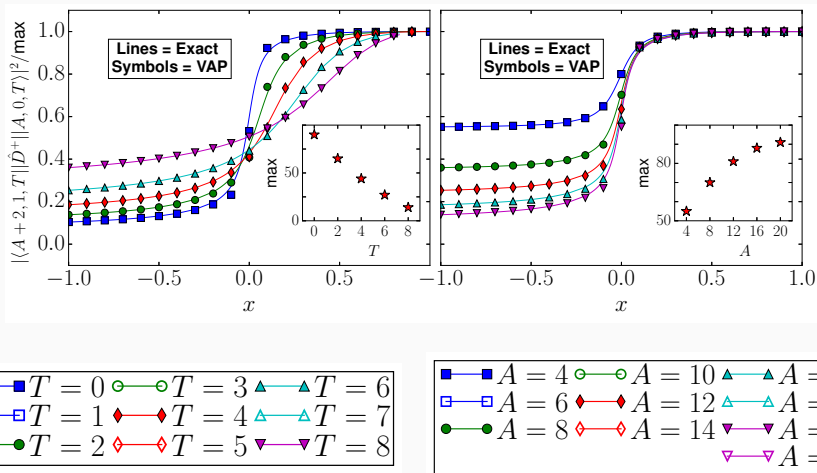


Figure 5: Norm of isoscalar pairs (contribution to the total wavefunction of the nucleus) as a function of the tuning parameter x obtained from VAP and PAV (HFB) methods.

Pairing coexistence for different A , S , T

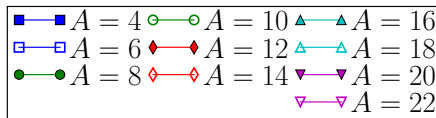
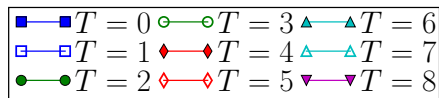
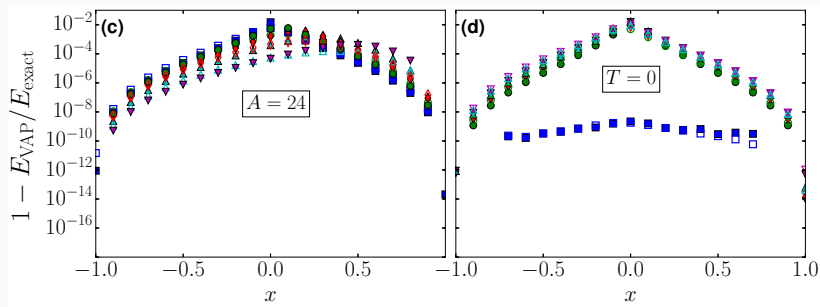


Deuteron transfer, the link between theory and experiment



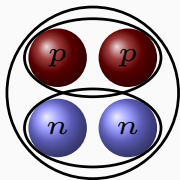
$A = 4$ **and** $A = 6$ **cases**

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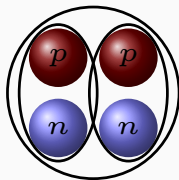


Projection gives exact states!

For $A = 4$, $S = T = 0$, there are only two possible configurations:



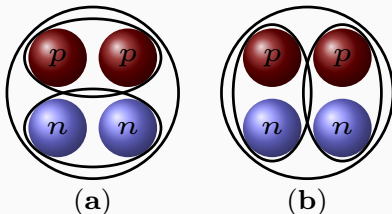
(a)



(b)

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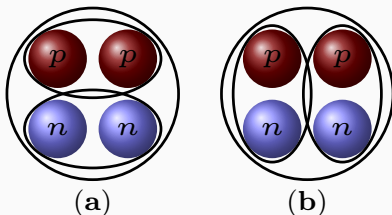
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$$|A = 4, S = T = 0\rangle = \left[\alpha \left(\hat{P}^+ \hat{P}^+ \right)^{S=0, T=0} + \beta \left(\hat{D}^+ \hat{D}^+ \right)^{S=0, T=0} \right] |0\rangle \quad (13)$$

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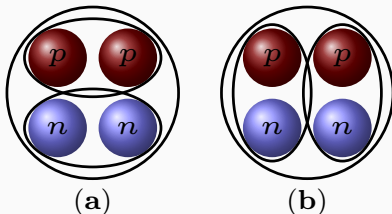
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For $A = 6$,

$$|A = 6, S = 1, T = 0\rangle = \hat{D}_0^+ |A = 4, S = T = 0\rangle \quad (14)$$

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For $A = 6$,

$$|A = 6, S = 1, T = 0\rangle = \hat{D}_0^+ |A = 4, S = T = 0\rangle \quad (14)$$

No longer true for $A > 6$. It is not possible to describe those states entirely with our isoscalar and isovector pairs.

Importance of the separate symmetry restorations

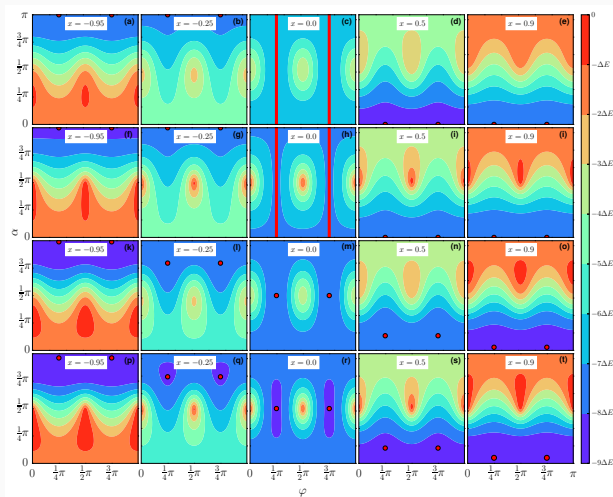


Figure 6: HFB (first row), particle-number restored (second row), spin plus isospin restored (third row) and particle number, spin and isospin restored (fourth row) energy surfaces.

Separable pairing

Realistic separable interaction in the pairing channel

$$\begin{aligned} V(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \mathbf{r}'_1, \mathbf{r}'_2) = & -\delta(X - X')\delta(Y - Y')\delta(Z - Z') \\ & \times P(x)P(y)P(z)P(x')P(y')P(z') \\ & \times [W + BP^\sigma - HP^\tau - MP^\sigma P^\tau] \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where $\mathbf{r}_i = (x_i, y_i, z_i)$, $x = x_1 - x_2$ and $X = \frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2)$. The interaction is modelled by a Gaussian

$$P(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}a} e^{-x^2/(4a^2)} \quad (16)$$

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Benchmarked with the spherical code HOSPHE with D1 parametrization

a (fm)	W (MeV)	B (MeV)	H (MeV)	M (MeV)
0.636	-369	369	0	0

Realistic separable interaction in the pairing channel

$$\begin{aligned} V(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \mathbf{r}'_1, \mathbf{r}'_2) = & -\delta(X - X')\delta(Y - Y')\delta(Z - Z') \\ & \times P(x)P(y)P(z)P(x')P(y')P(z') \\ & \times [W + BP^\sigma - HP^\tau - MP^\sigma P^\tau] \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where $\mathbf{r}_i = (x_i, y_i, z_i)$, $x = x_1 - x_2$ and $X = \frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2)$. The interaction is modelled by a Gaussian

$$P(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}a} e^{-x^2/(4a^2)} \quad (16)$$

Benchmarked with the spherical code HOSPHE with D1 parametrization

a (fm)	W (MeV)	B (MeV)	H (MeV)	M (MeV)
0.636	-369	369	0	0

Followed by implementation of isoscalar pairing and the symmetry-restoration methodology.

Conclusions

- Symmetry-restored mean-field techniques accurately describes the exact solution within a simple $SO(8)$ pairing interaction model and the coexistence of the isoscalar and isovector pair condensates.

Summary and ongoing work

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- Restoration of both angular momentum and isospin seems to be of crucial importance for the description of pairing coexistence.

Summary and ongoing work

- Symmetry-restored mean-field techniques accurately describes the exact solution within a simple $SO(8)$ pairing interaction model and the coexistence of the isoscalar and isovector pair condensates.
- Restoration of both angular momentum and isospin seems to be of crucial importance for the description of pairing coexistence.
- Further studies are to be carried out using realistic interactions and shell structure settings.

Thank you for your attention.



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