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Pairing in nuclear matter

Connection with neutron stars, very briefly... Hints from experimental data What is different in the medium... Cooper problem Gap equation and BCS for nuclear and neutron matter Spectroscopic factors in nuclei --> consequences Inclusion of realistic nucleon propagators Results Brief comparison with other many-body calculations

Pairing in neutron stars...

- 1959 Migdal suggests pairing in neutron stars before they are even observed...
- 1969 Vela and Crab pulsars exhibit sudden spin-ups (glitches)
- Relaxation to constant rate of slowing down too slow to be explained in terms of viscous processes of normal matter --> glitches --> superfluidity (Pines)
- Critical information: pairing gap as a function of temperature
- BCS yields------
- Lots and lots of BCS calculations of neutron matter
- Also calculations of pairing in symmetric matter --> puzzle



Lots of things to consider

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Dany Page UNAM

Reminder

Envelope (100 m): Contains a huge temperature gradient: it determines the relationship between T_{int} and T_e. Extremely important for the

Extremely important for the cooling, strongly affected by magnetic fields and the presence of "polluting" light elements.

Crust (1 km): Little effect on the long term cooling. BUT: may contain heating sources (magnetic/ rotational, pycnonuclear under accretion). Its thermal time is important for very young star and for quasi-persistent accretion



Inner Core (x km ?): The hypothetical region. Possibly only present in massive NSs. May contain Λ , Σ^- , Σ^0 , π or K condensates, or/and deconfined quark matter. Its ε_v dominates the outer core by many orders of magnitude. T_c ?

Neutron superfluid Neutron superfluid Proton superconductor Neutron vortex Neutron vortex Neutron vortex Neutron tretex Neutron vortex Atmosphere (10 cm): Determines the shape of the thermal radiation (the spectrum). Of upmost importance for interpretation of X-ray (and optical) observation. However it as NO effect on the thermal evolution of the star.

Atmosphere Envelope Crust Outer core Inner core

Outer Core (10-x km): Nuclear and supranuclear densities, containing $n, p, e \& \mu$. Provides about 90% of c_v and ε_v unless an inner core is present. Its physics is basically under control except pairing T_c which is essentially unknown.

"Dense Matter in Compact Stars: Theoretical Developments and Observational Constraints", Page D. & Reddy S., 2006ARNPS..56..327P





FIG. 6. ${}^{1}S_{0}$ energy gap in neutron matter with the CD-Bonn, Nijmegen I, and Nijmegen II potentials. In addition, we show the results obtained from phase shifts only, Eqs. (31)–(33), and the effective range approximation of Eq. (35). From Elgarøy and Hjorth-Jensen, 1998.

Pairing in nuclei: like nucleons (but angular momentum)

 "Possible Analogy between the Excitation Spectra of Nuclei and Those of the Superconducting Metallic State", Bohr, Mottelson, Pines, 1958 Phys. Rev. 110, 936

EXCITATION SPECTRA OF NUCLEI

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FIG. 1. Energies of first excited intrinsic states in deformed nuclei, as a function of the mass number. The experimental data may be found in Nuclear Data Cards [National Research Council, Washington, D. C.] and detailed references will be contained in reference 1 above. The solid line gives the energy $\delta/2$ given by Eq. (1), and represents the average distance between intrinsic levels in the odd-A nuclei (see reference 1).

The figure contains all the available data for nuclei with 150<A<190 and 228<A. In these regions the nuclei are known to possess nonspherical equilibrium shapes, as evidenced especially by the occurrence of rotational spectra (see, e.g., reference 2). One other such region has also been identified around A = 25; in this latter region the available data on odd-A nuclei is still represented by Eq. (1), while the intrinsic excitations in the even-even nuclei in this region do not occur below 4 Mev.

We have not included in the figure the low lying K=0 states found in even-even nuclei around Ra and Th. These states appear to represent a collective odd-parity oscillation.





Appearance of bound-pair states

- Reminder of appearance of bound states for free particles
- Write eigenvalue equation in wave vector space $\psi_{n}(\boldsymbol{k}; m_{\alpha}m_{\alpha'}) = \frac{1}{E_{n} - \hbar^{2}\boldsymbol{k}^{2}/m} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m_{\gamma}m_{\gamma'}} \int \frac{d^{3}q}{(2\pi)^{3}} \langle \boldsymbol{k}m_{\alpha}m_{\alpha'} | V | \boldsymbol{q}m_{\gamma}m_{\gamma'} \rangle \psi_{n}(\boldsymbol{q}; m_{\gamma}m_{\gamma'})$
- Two electrons or two ³He atoms with spin $\frac{1}{2}$ have antisymmetry requirement $\ell + S$ even

• For
$$\ell = 0$$
 spin $S = 0$

- + For $\ell = 1$ spin S = 1 and so on
- In this basis $\psi_n(k;\ell S) = \frac{1}{E_n \hbar^2 k^2/m} \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \langle k | V^{\ell S} | q \rangle \psi_n(q;\ell S)$
- Visualize appearance of bound state





Cooper problem

- Interaction $\langle k | V^{\ell S} | q \rangle = \lambda_{\ell} w_{\ell}(k) w_{\ell}^{*}(q)$
- S implied
- Substitute ------> $\psi_C(k;\ell S) = \mathcal{N} \frac{\theta(k-k_F)w_\ell(k)}{E_C 2\varepsilon(k)}$

• with
$$\mathcal{N} = \frac{1}{2}\lambda_\ell \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} w_\ell^*(q)\psi_C(q;\ell S)$$

• Amplitude substituted in eigenvalue equation yields

$$\frac{1}{\lambda_{\ell}} = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\theta(q - k_F) |w_{\ell}(q)|^2}{E_C - 2\varepsilon(q)}$$

- Right side negative definite for energy below pp continuum, diverging to $-\infty$ when approaching this limit
- So always solution for attractive interaction!
- None for repulsive interaction
- Peculiarity: bound state resides in hh continuum...

Inclusion of hh propagation

• Attempt to include hh propagation in eigenvalue equation

$$\psi_C(k;\ell S) = \frac{\theta(k-k_F)}{E_C - 2\varepsilon(k)} \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \langle k | V^{\ell S} | q \rangle \psi_C(q;\ell S)$$
$$- \frac{\theta(k_F - k)}{E_C - 2\varepsilon(k)} \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \langle k | V^{\ell S} | q \rangle \psi_C(q;\ell S)$$

- Visualize unperturbed spectrum
- No "room" for bound states
- Either pp or hh

 $2\epsilon_{\rm F}$

hh continuum pp continuum

Energy (arbitrary units)

- Not possible to have discrete (real) eigenvalues for an attractive interaction
- Instead yields complex eigenvalues signaling instability of starting point (pairing instability)

Bound-pair states

- Consider original propagator equation
- Cannot legitimately eliminate noninteracting propagator
- Unless there is a GAP in the sp spectrum at k_{F}
- Add auxiliary sp potential with a constant shift Δ below k_F
- Implies gap of 2 Δ between pp and hh continuum
- Now a legitimate eigenvalue problem can be obtained
- Use separable interaction to get transition amplitudes

 $\psi_{BP}(k;\ell S) = \mathcal{N}\frac{\theta(k-k_F)w_\ell(k)}{E_{BP}-2\varepsilon(k)} \qquad \psi_{BP}(k;\ell S) = -\mathcal{N}\frac{\theta(k_F-k)w_\ell(k)}{E_{BP}-2\varepsilon(k)}$

and eigenvalue problem

$$\frac{1}{\lambda_{\ell}} = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\theta(q-k_F)|w_{\ell}(q)|^2}{E_{BP} - 2\varepsilon(q)} - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\theta(k_F - q)|w_{\ell}(q)|^2}{E_{BP} - 2\varepsilon(q)}$$

Graphical illustration

- Plot right side of $\frac{1}{\lambda_{\ell}} = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\theta(q-k_F)|w_{\ell}(q)|^2}{E_{BP} - 2\varepsilon(q)} - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\theta(k_F - q)|w_{\ell}(q)|^2}{E_{BP} - 2\varepsilon(q)}$
- as a function of $E_{\mbox{\scriptsize BP}}$ between pp and hh continuum
- Both terms yield negative contributions diverging near respective boundaries
- Only solutions for attraction indicated for one choice by horizontal dashed line
- Even true for very small coupling constant
- Stronger attraction -> complex eigenvalues



Can always get real eigenvalues by increasing gap!

Bound-pair states in nuclear matter N=Z

- Free space interaction generates deuteron bound state
- Scattering phase shifts indicate strong attraction in the medium
- Relevant eigenvalue problem (with gap in sp spectrum)



$$\psi_{BP}(k;(\ell S)JT) = \frac{\theta(k-k_F)}{E_{BS}-2\varepsilon(k)} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell'} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \langle k\ell | V^{JST} | q\ell' \rangle \psi_{BP}(q;(\ell'S)JT) - \frac{\theta(k_F-k)}{E_{BS}-2\varepsilon(k)} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell'} \int \frac{dq \ q^2}{(2\pi)^3} \langle k\ell | V^{JST} | q\ell' \rangle \psi_C(q;(\ell'S)JT)$$

 Gap required to avoid pairing instability sensitive function of density both for ³S₁-³D₁ and ¹S₀

Note zero density limit deuteron channel

Bound-pair eigenvalues

- Gap required to high density
- Deuteron attraction greater than $^1\text{S}_0$
- Maximum sp gap ~ 15 MeV at $k_F=1.2 fm^{-1}$
- Keep this gap for all densities to study eigenvalues
- Similarly for ¹S₀ (> 3MeV gap)
- Also Cooper eigenvalue
- BCS approximately matches these results --> include gap in spectrum self-consistently --> gap equation



Phase space and Pauli principle

- Introduces total wave vector dependence illustrated in figure
- a) total wave vector < 2k_F
- b) >2k_F
- Constraint by step functions
- Outside both spheres: pp
- Inside both: hh
- Most phase space for |K|=0
- Extremely relevant for possible bound states...



Other systems

- Superconductivity in metals
 - resistance to electric current drops below critical temperature
 - current in superconducting ring persists without dissipation
 - 1911 discovery --> 1957 explanation
 - problem: convert repulsive Coulomb --> attractive interaction
 - isotope effect (critical T depends of mass of ions) --> electron-phonon interaction important
 - e-e interaction through exchange of lattice vibrations
 - Fröhlich interaction

$$(\boldsymbol{p}_1\boldsymbol{p}_2|V(E)|\boldsymbol{p}_3\boldsymbol{p}_4) = \delta_{\boldsymbol{p}_1+\boldsymbol{p}_2,\boldsymbol{p}_3+\boldsymbol{p}_4} \frac{1}{V}\gamma^2 \frac{\Omega_{\boldsymbol{Q}}^2}{E^2 - \Omega_{\boldsymbol{Q}}^2} \theta(\Omega_D - \Omega_{\boldsymbol{Q}})$$

- phonon spectrum; electron-phonon coupling; energy transfer; Debye frequency (maximal allowed in discrete lattice)
- $\begin{array}{c} \text{ attractive for } |E| < \Omega_{\boldsymbol{Q}} < \Omega_D \\ \text{ of ~10^{-2} eV around Fermi energy} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{ can overcome screened Coulomb but only in a domain} \\ \text{ of ~10^{-2} eV around Fermi energy} \end{array} \\ \end{array}$

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gaps tiny (example static approximation) ~10⁻⁴ eV



Superfluidity in ³He

- Transition below 3mK
- Pair state with L=1 and S=1
- Anisotropic superfluid (in metals S=0 isotropic)

Neutron stars

- BCS with free NN interaction for neutrons
- low density ¹S₀ pairing perhaps ³P₂-³F₂ at higher density
- also ¹S₀ proton superconductivity (beta-equilibrium)

Some pairing issues in infinite matter

- Gap size in nuclear matter & neutron matter
- Density & temperature range of superfluidity
- Resolution of ${}^{3}S_{1}$ - ${}^{3}D_{1}$ puzzle (size of pn pairing gap)
- Influence of short-range correlations (SRC)
- Influence of polarization contributions
- Relation of infinite matter results & finite nuclei

Review: e.g. Dean & Hjorth-Jensen, RMP75, 607 (2003)

Results from: H. Müther and WHD Pairing properties of nucleonic matter employing dressed nucleons. Phys. Rev. C72, 054313 (2005) 20

Puzzle related to gap size in ${}^{3}S_{1} - {}^{3}D_{1}$ channel



Mean-field particles

Early nineties: BCS gaps ~ 10 MeV

Alm et al. Z.Phys.A337,355 (1990) Vonderfecht et al. PLB253,1 (1991) Baldo et al. PLB283, 8 (1992)

Dressing nucleons is expected to reduce pairing strength as suggested by in-medium scattering

Removal probability for valence protons from NIKHEF data L. Lapikás, Nucl. Phys. A553,297c (1993)

 $S \approx 0.65$ for valence protons Reduction \Rightarrow both SRC and LRC

Weak probe but propagation in the nucleus of removed proton using standard optical potentials to generate distorted waves --> associated uncertainty ~ 5-10%

Why: details of the interior scattering wave function uncertain since non-locality is not constrained (so far)





Green's function and Γ -matrix approach (ladders) Single-particle Green's function $G(k,t_1,t_2) = -i \langle T c_k(t_1) c_k^+(t_2) \rangle$ Dyson equation: $G(k,\omega) = G^{(0)}(k,\omega) + G^{(0)}(k,\omega)\Sigma(k,\omega)G(k,\omega)$ $G(k,\omega) = \frac{1}{\omega - k^2/2m - \Sigma(k,\omega)} \implies S(k,\omega) = -2 \operatorname{Im} G(k,\omega)$ Σ = Γ , Γ -matrix Γ = + Self-energy Pairing instability possible Finite temperature calculation can avoid this Pairing N* 24



Spectral functions

- •Strength above and below the Fermi energy as in BCS
- But broad distribution in energy
- BCS not just a cartoon of SCGF
 but both features must be
 considered in a consistent way
- CDBonn interaction at "T=0"



BCS: a reminder

NN correlations on top of Hartree-Fock: \mathcal{E}_{k} , c_{k}^{+} Bogoliubov transformation $a_{k}^{+} = u_{k}c_{k}^{+} + v_{k}c_{\bar{k}}$ with $u_{k}^{2} = \frac{1}{2}\left[1 \pm \frac{\varepsilon_{k} - \mu}{\sqrt{(\varepsilon_{k} - \mu)^{2} + \Delta(k)^{2}}}\right]$, $E(k) = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_{k} - \mu)^{2} + \Delta(k)^{2}}$ Gap equation Spectral function S(k, ω)

$$\Delta(k) = \int k'^2 dk' < k, \bar{k} | V | k', \bar{k}' > \frac{\Delta(k')}{-2E(k)}$$



Solution of the gap equation

$$\Delta(k) = \sum_{k'} \langle k, \bar{k} | V | k', \bar{k}' \rangle \frac{\Delta(k')}{\omega - 2E(k)} \quad \text{with} \quad E(k) = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_k - \mu)^2 + \Delta(k)^2} \quad \text{and} \; \omega = 0$$
Define:
$$\delta(k) = \frac{\Delta(k)}{\omega - 2E(k)}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2E(k) + \langle k | V | k \rangle, & \dots, & \langle k | V | k' \rangle \\ \vdots & \ddots, & \ddots, & \vdots & \vdots \\ \langle k' | V | k \rangle, & \dots, & 2E(k') + \langle k' | V | k' \rangle \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta(k) \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \delta(k') \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta(k) \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \delta(k') \end{pmatrix} \quad Eigenvalue \; problem \; for \; a \; pair of \; nucleons \; at \; \omega = 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Steps of the calculation:

 \blacktriangleright Assume $\Delta(k)$ and determine E(k)

 \succ Solve eigenvalue equation and evaluate new $\Delta(k)$

•If lowest eigenvalue ω <0 enhance $\Delta(k)$ (resp. $\delta(k)$)

•If lowest eigenvalue ω >0 reduce $\Delta(k)$

➢Repeat until convergence 28

Gaps from BCS for realistic interactions



T = 0 Mean-field particles

- momentum dependence $\Delta(k)$
- different NN interactions
- very similar to pairing gaps in finite nuclei for like particles...!?
- for np pairing no strong empirical evidence...?!
- Early nineties: BCS gaps ~ 10 MeV

Alm et al. Z.Phys.A337,355 (1990) Vonderfecht et al. PLB253,1 (1991) Baldo et al. PLB283, 8 (1992)

Beyond BCS in the framework of SCGF

Generalized Green's functions:

Extend $G(k,t_1,t_2) = -i \langle T c_k(t_1) c_k^+(t_2) \rangle$

Anomalous propagators

$$G(k,t_1,t_2) = \begin{pmatrix} -i\langle Tcc^+ \rangle & -i\langle Tcc \rangle \\ i\langle Tc^+c^+ \rangle & i\langle Tc^+c \rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} G & F \\ F^+ & \overline{G} \end{pmatrix}$$

Generalized Dyson equation: Gorkov equations

$$\begin{pmatrix} \omega - t_k - \Sigma(k,\omega) & -\Delta(k,\omega) \\ -\Delta^+(k,\omega) & \omega + t_k + \Sigma(k,\omega) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G_{pair}(k,\omega) & F(k,\omega) \\ F^+(k,\omega) & \overline{G}_{pair}(k,\omega) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



If we replace $S(k,\omega)$ by "HF" approx. and $S_{pair}(k,\omega)$ by BCS: \Rightarrow Usual Gap equation

If we take $S_{pair}(k,\omega) = S(k,\omega)$:

 \Rightarrow Corresponds to the homogeneous solution of $\Gamma\text{-matrix}$ eq. With $S_{pair}\left(k,\omega\right)$:

⇒ The above and self-consistency

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Consistency of Gap equation (anomalous self-energy) and Ladder diagrams



Iteration of Gorkov equations for anomalous propagator generates



... and all other ladder diagrams at total momentum and energy zero (w.r.t. 2μ) plus anomalous self-energy terms in normal part of propagator

So truly consistent with inclusion of ladder diagrams at other total momenta and energies





Proton-neutron pairing in symmetric nuclear matter ${}^{3}S_{1}-{}^{3}D_{1}$

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Using CDBonn

Dashed lines: quasiparticle poles

Solid lines: dressed nucleons

No pairing at saturation density!!!!

Pairing and spectral functions



Pairing in neutron matter --> ${}^{1}S_{0}$



Possible effect of polarization (higher-order corrections to interaction)



FIG. 14. The ${}^{1}S_{0}$ gap in pure neutron matter predicted in several publications taking account of polarization effects. From Lombardo and Schulze, 2001.

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• However...

Comparison for neutron matter with CBF & Monte Carlo PRL95,192501(2005)





