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Cooper quartet correlations in infinite symmetric nuclear matter

YG, Tajima, and Liang, Phys. Rev. C 105 (2022) 024317 YG, Tajima, and Liang, Phys. Rev. Res. 4 (2022) 023152

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Nuclear matter is useful for the correct description of neutron stars



Neutron star interior

Rev. Mod. Phys. 88 (2016), 021001



Tamura, JPS Conf. Proc. 1 (2014) 011003

Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory: the Fermi-surface instability.



Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer, Phys. Rev. 108 (1957) 1175

Generalized Cooper problems



Generalized Cooper problems





Nuclear EOS (Relativistic mean-field calculations)

Usually treated as "extra" particles, but microscopically they should be treated as in-medium correlations



Alpha-like particle

Cooper quartet

PRL 80 (1998) 3177 PRC 85 (2012) 061303 PLB 805 (2020) 135462







 $\mathcal{L}_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{2} \left(i D^{\mu}_{\alpha} \phi_{\alpha} \right)^* \left(i D_{\mu \alpha} \phi_{\alpha} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \phi^*_{\alpha} (M^*_{\alpha})^2 \phi_{\alpha}$

PRC 100 (2019) 054304

Alpha-like Cooper quartet correlations



0.25 [fm] $- \circ$ without α correlations 0.20 • with α correlations neutron skin thickness r_{skin} 0.15 0.10 0.05 0.00 -0.05 108 124 128 132 112 120 116 mass number A

Typel, Phys. Rev. C 89 (2014) 064321

Critical temperature in symmetric nuclear matter



G. Röpke, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 80 (1998) 3177

 $r_{\rm skin} = r_{\rm n} - r_{\rm p}$

Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{p,s_{z}} \left(\varepsilon_{\nu,p} v_{p,s_{z}}^{\dagger} v_{p,s_{z}} + \varepsilon_{\pi,p} \pi_{p,s_{z}}^{\dagger} \pi_{p,s_{z}} \right)$$

+ $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{P,q,q'} \sum_{T_{3}=-1}^{+1} P_{1,T_{3}}^{\dagger}(P,q) V_{s}(q,q') P_{1,T_{3}}(P,q')$ Isovector interaction
+ $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{P,q,q'} \sum_{s_{z}=-1}^{+1} D_{1,s_{z}}^{\dagger}(P,q) V_{t}(q,q') D_{1,s_{z}}(P,q')$ Isoscalar interaction
(T=0, S=1)

 $\varepsilon_{\nu(\pi),p} = \frac{p^2}{2M} - \mu_{\nu(\pi)}$: nucleon kinetic energy $\nu_{p,s_z}^{(\dagger)}$: neutron annihilation (creation) operator $\pi_{p,s_z}^{(\dagger)}$: proton annihilation (creation) operator

Interactions

Isovector interaction (*T*=1, *S*=0) $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{P,q,q'} \sum_{T_3=-1}^{+1} P_{1,T_3}^{\dagger}(P,q) V_s(q,q') P_{1,T_3}(P,q')$

$$\frac{\text{Spin-singlet NN pair operator}}{P_{1,+1}(\boldsymbol{P}, \boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left(\nu_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} - \nu_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \right), \\
P_{1,0}(\boldsymbol{P}, \boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\nu_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \pi_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} - \pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \right) \\
+ \pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} - \nu_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \pi_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \right), \\
P_{1,-1}(\boldsymbol{P}, \boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left(\pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \pi_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} - \pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \pi_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

Isoscalar interaction (*T*=0, *S*=1) $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\boldsymbol{P},\boldsymbol{q},\boldsymbol{q}'} \sum_{S_z=-1}^{+1} D^{\dagger}_{1,S_z}(\boldsymbol{P},\boldsymbol{q}) V_t(\boldsymbol{q},\boldsymbol{q}') D_{1,S_z}(\boldsymbol{P},\boldsymbol{q}')$

$$\frac{\text{Spin-1 deuteron operator}}{D_{1,+1}(\boldsymbol{P},\boldsymbol{q})} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left(\nu_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \pi_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} - \pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \right), \\
D_{1,0}(\boldsymbol{P},\boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\nu_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \pi_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} - \pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} - \pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} - \pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},\frac{1}{2}} \right), \\
D_{1,-1}(\boldsymbol{P},\boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left(\nu_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \pi_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} - \pi_{\frac{P}{2}-\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \nu_{\frac{P}{2}+\boldsymbol{q},-\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

P: center-of-mass momentum of pair, q, q': relative momentum



Coherent BCS state (momentum space)

In the case of pairing, we have

$$|\Psi_{\text{coh.}}\rangle = \exp\left(\sum_{q} g_{q} c_{q,1}^{\dagger} c_{-q,2}^{\dagger}\right)|0\rangle$$

$$= \exp\left(g_{q_{1}} c_{q_{1,1}}^{\dagger} c_{-q_{1,2}}^{\dagger} + g_{q_{2}} c_{q_{2,1}}^{\dagger} c_{-q_{2,2}}^{\dagger} + \cdots\right)|0\rangle$$

$$= \left(1 + g_{q_{1}} c_{q_{1,1}}^{\dagger} c_{-q_{1,2}}^{\dagger}\right)\left(1 + g_{q_{2}} c_{q_{2,1}}^{\dagger} c_{-q_{2,2}}^{\dagger}\right) \times (\dots)|0\rangle$$

$$= \prod_{q} \left(1 + g_{q} c_{q,1}^{\dagger} c_{-q,2}^{\dagger}\right)|0\rangle$$

$$= \prod_{q} \left(u_{q} + v_{q} c_{q,1}^{\dagger} c_{-q,2}^{\dagger}\right)|0\rangle$$

BCS ground state

$$q_{1}$$

$$q_{2}$$

$$q_{2}$$

$$q_{2}$$

$$q_{2}$$

$$q_{3}$$

Suparasition of pairs with q

Superposition of pairs with q_i

Pair condensation

Coherent BCS state (momentum space)

Alpha creation operator (S = T = 0, COM momentum of pairs P = 0)

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^{+}(q,q') &= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \left[D_{1,+1}^{+}(0,q) D_{1,-1}^{+}(0,q') + D_{1,-1}^{+}(0,q) D_{1,+1}^{+}(0,q') - D_{1,0}^{+}(0,q) D_{1,0}^{+}(0,q') \right] \\ \\ \Psi_{coh} &= \exp\left(\sum_{q,q'} g_{q,q'} \alpha^{\dagger}(q,q')\right) |0\rangle \\ &= \left(1 + g_{q,q} \alpha^{\dagger}(q_{1},q_{1}) + g_{q,q_{2}} \alpha^{\dagger}(q_{1},q_{2})\right) \\ &\times (1 + g_{q,q} \alpha^{\dagger}(q_{2},q_{1}) + \cdots) |0\rangle \\ &= \prod_{q,q'} \left[1 + g_{q,q'} \alpha^{\dagger}(q,q')\right] |0\rangle \\ &= \prod_{q,q'} \left[1 + g_{q,q'} \alpha^{\dagger}(q,q')\right] |0\rangle, \end{aligned}$$

• Assuming symmetric configuration $(\boldsymbol{q} \simeq \boldsymbol{q}')$

Variational equations

 λ : Lagrange multiplier

Minimize the ground-state energy: $\partial \langle \Phi | H - \lambda | \Phi \rangle = 0$

$$\begin{split} v_{q,+1} &= \frac{u_{q}\Delta_{q,+1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} + w_{q}\Delta_{q,-1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} + w_{q}\Delta_{q,-1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} + w_{q}\Delta_{q,+1}^{(\mathrm{isp})}}{B_{q} + (\varepsilon_{\pi,q} + \varepsilon_{\nu,-q})}, \quad v_{q,-1} &= \frac{u_{q}\Delta_{q,-1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} + w_{q}\Delta_{q,+1}^{(\mathrm{isp})}}{B_{q} + (\varepsilon_{\pi,q} + \varepsilon_{\nu,-q})}, \\ v_{q,0} &= \frac{u_{q}\Delta_{q,0}^{(\mathrm{isp})} - \frac{1}{2}(w_{q} + w_{-q})\Delta_{q,0}^{*(\mathrm{isp})}}{B_{q} + (\varepsilon_{0,q} + \varepsilon_{0,-q})}, \quad x_{q,-1} &= \frac{u_{q}\Delta_{q,-1}^{(\mathrm{isp})}}{B_{q} + (\varepsilon_{\pi,q} + \varepsilon_{\pi,-q})}, \\ x_{q,1} &= \frac{u_{q}\Delta_{q,0}^{(\mathrm{ivp})} + \frac{1}{2}(w_{q} + w_{-q})\Delta_{q,0}^{*(\mathrm{ivp})}}{B_{q} + (\varepsilon_{0,q} + \varepsilon_{0,-q})}, \quad x_{q,-1} &= \frac{u_{q}\Delta_{q,-1}^{(\mathrm{ivp})}}{B_{q} + (\varepsilon_{\pi,q} + \varepsilon_{\pi,-q})}, \\ w_{q} &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}(x_{q,0} + x_{-q,0})\Delta_{q,0}^{(\mathrm{ivp})} + v_{q,-1}\Delta_{q,+1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} + v_{q,+1}\Delta_{q,-1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} - \frac{1}{2}(v_{q,0} + v_{-q,0})\Delta_{q,0}^{(\mathrm{isp})}}{B_{q} + 2(\varepsilon_{\pi,q} + \varepsilon_{\nu,-q})} \quad \textbf{quartet} \\ B_{q} &= \frac{1}{2u_{q}}\sum_{S_{z},T_{z}} \left[v_{q,S_{z}}^{*}\Delta_{q,S_{z}}^{(\mathrm{isp})} + v_{q,S_{z}}\Delta_{q,S_{z}}^{*(\mathrm{isp})} + x_{q,T_{z}}^{*}\Delta_{q,T_{z}}^{(\mathrm{ivp})} + x_{q,T_{z}}\Delta_{q,T_{z}}^{*(\mathrm{ivp})} + \frac{1}{2}\delta_{S_{z},0}(v_{q',-S_{z}}^{*}w_{q'} + v_{q',-S_{z}}^{*}w_{-q'})\right\right] \\ \Delta_{q,S_{z}}^{(\mathrm{isp})} &= -\sum_{q'} V_{t}(q,q') \left[u_{q'}^{*}v_{q',S_{z}} + \delta_{S_{z},+1}v_{q',-S_{z}}^{*}w_{q'} + x_{q',T_{z}}^{*}w_{-q'})\right]. \end{split}$$



Numerical calculations

≻We consider the infinite symmetric nuclear matter.

➢Focus on the isoscalar interaction because isovector interaction is less relevant in the infinite symmetric nuclear matter.



Tajima, Hatsuda, van Wyk, and Ohashi Sci. Rep. 9 (2019), 18477

Numerical calculations

Assumption: $x_q \simeq 0$, $V_t(q, q') \simeq -U$ Input: $\Delta_{q,S_z}^{(isp)} \simeq 5$ MeV, $\mu = (1.16)^{-1} \Delta_{q,S_z}^{(isp)} = 4.31$ MeV $k_F \simeq \sqrt{2M\mu} \simeq 0.457 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ * 1.16 is borrowed from the BCS result at the unitarity limit



Numerical calculations (Variational parameters)

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1. Quartet correlations mainly appear at low relative momentum (q)

2. An interplay between quartets(alpha) and pairs (deuteron) is found

3. A high-momentum tail is dominated by short-range pairs (deuteron)



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$$E = \sqrt{\varepsilon_q^2 + \Delta_q^2 + R_q}$$

$$R_{\boldsymbol{q}} = \frac{w_{\boldsymbol{q}}}{u_{\boldsymbol{q}}} \left[2\Delta_{\boldsymbol{q},+1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} \Delta_{\boldsymbol{q},-1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} - \left| \Delta_{\boldsymbol{q},0}^{(\mathrm{isp})} \right|^2 \right]$$

1. E is enhanced at low relative momentum (q)

2. Excitation gap (minima of *E*) is almost unchanged compared to the usual BCS one

3. Crossover from loosely bound quartets to short-range pairs



 $E = \sqrt{\varepsilon_q^2 + \Delta_q^2 + R_q}$ $R_q = \frac{w_q}{u_q} \left[2\Delta_{q,+1}^{(\text{isp})} \Delta_{q,-1}^{(\text{isp})} - \left| \Delta_{q,0}^{(\text{isp})} \right|^2 \right]$

1. *E* is enhanced at low relative momentum (*q*)

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 $E = \sqrt{\varepsilon_q^2 + \Delta_q^2 + R_q}$ 40 $R_{\boldsymbol{q}} = \frac{w_{\boldsymbol{q}}}{u_{\boldsymbol{q}}} \left[2\Delta_{\boldsymbol{q},+1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} \Delta_{\boldsymbol{q},-1}^{(\mathrm{isp})} - \left| \Delta_{\boldsymbol{q},0}^{(\mathrm{isp})} \right|^2 \right]$ 30 (MeV) 20 1. *E* is enhanced at low relative ш momentum (q)10 2. Excitation gap (minima of *E*) is almost unchanged compared 0.2 0.6 0.0 0.4 to the usual BCS one

3. Crossover from loosely bound quartets to short-range pairs



$$E = \sqrt{\varepsilon_q^2 + \Delta_q^2 + R_q}$$

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- 1. E is enhanced at low relative momentum (q)
- 2. Excitation gap (minima of *E*) is almost unchanged compared to the usual BCS one
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Biexciton-like quartet correlation

Similar formalism can be applied to the electron-hole system



Wigner term arising from quartet-nucleon scattering



YG, Tajima, and Naito, in preparation

Summary

\clubsuit In this work

- ➢ We have investigated Cooper quartet correlations in infinite symmetric nuclear matter at the thermodynamic limit, and discussed how physical properties would be affected.
- ➤ The BCS-type variational function is extended to the systems with the coexistence of pair and quartet correlations at zero temperature (quartet BCS theory).
- The present results may also contribute to the interdisciplinary understanding of fermionic condensations beyond the BCS paradigm.

♦ For the NEXT step

- Improvement of trial wave function (excited pair, Hartree-Fock term for the nonlocal interactions,.....)
- Connection to nuclear experiments
- Calculations of various EOS, finite-temperature effect, transition temperature,.....
- Wigner term arising from quartet-nucleon scattering

Thank you!

