# A+2n compound nuclei and the unitary limit in nuclear physics

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## Summary of motivation

**Long term goal:** To analyse the symmetries of nuclear structure in terms of the symmetries of fundamental interactions.

<u>Question:</u> Is there an explicit (algebraic) relation between the symmetries manifested in the structure of atomic nuclei and the symmetries that emerge in the classical limit of QCD, that is conformal symmetry?

Introduce the unitary limit in low-lying collective nuclear states

#### A strong coupling problem that manifests conformal symmetry.

M. Randeria, W. Zwerger, M. Zwierlein, BCS to BEC Crossover and the Unitary Fermi Gas, Springer-Verlag, Berlin (2012); D.T. Son, Phys. Rev. D 78 (2008) 046003. In the group theoretical framework of the Interacting Boson Model

F. lachello, A Arima, "The Interacting Boson Model", Cambridge University Press (1987)

# **Unitary limit**

Scattering problem at infinite scattering length that supports a bound state. Manifests Non-Relativistic Conformal symmetry, the BCS-BEC crossover and a quantum critical point.

#### Elaborated in light nuclei in the framework of EFTs:

• T. Mehen, I. W. Stewart and M. B. Wise, "Conformal Invariance in Non-Relativistic Field Theory", Phys. Lett. B, 474, 145 (2000).

• I. Stetcu, J. Rotureau, B.R. Barrett, U. van Kolck, "Two and Three Nucleons in a Trap and the Continuum Limit" Ann. Phys. 325, 1644 (2010).

• S Konig, H. W. Griesshammer, H.-W. Hammer and U.van Kolck "Nuclear Physics around the Unitarity limit", Phys. Rev. Lett. 118, 202501 (2017).

Experimentally, the unitary limit is achieved in systems of trapped cold atoms:

*F* Werner and *Y* Castin, Phys Rev A, 74, 053604 (2006)

### Unitary limit in trapped cold atoms: Symmetry-based approach

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} -\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2M} \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial r_{i}^{2}} + \frac{1}{2} M \omega^{2} R^{2}\right) \psi\left(r_{1}, \dots r_{N}\right) = E\psi\left(r_{1}, \dots r_{N}\right) \qquad \omega = 0$$

$$F \text{ Werner and Y Castin, Phys Rev A, 74, 053604 (2006)}$$

$$E = 0$$

$$E = 0$$

$$Unitary limit: a \rightarrow \infty - Zero \text{ energy state } + boundary condition$$

$$\omega = 0 \qquad E = 0$$

$$\left(\psi_{v}^{0}\right) = R^{v} \Phi(\Omega_{k})$$

Take the "free" Hamiltonian  $H = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{p_i^2}{2M}$ , the potential  $K = \frac{1}{2}M\omega^2 R^2$ , with  $R^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N} r_i^2$ . Define the Operator  $D = R \frac{\partial}{\partial R}$ 

The operators H,K,D close under the one-dimensional conformal group. This is isomorphic to the SO(2,1) group.

V. de Alfaro, S. Fubini, G. Furlan, Nuovo Cim. 34A 569 (1976); L.P. Pitaevskii, A. Rosch, Phys. Rev. A 55 (1997) R853; T. Mehen, Phys. Rev. A 78, 023614 (2008).

## Feshbach resonances in systems of cold atoms



Experimentally the scattering length is tuned by an external magnetic field B:

The unitary limit is achieved by the appropriate Magnetic field:

Intermediate molecular states of the Feshbach Formalism in systems of cold atoms: Manifest the unitary limit.



Internuclear distance

E. Timmermans, P. Tommasini, M. Hussein, A. Kerman, Physics Reports 315 (1999) 230. Unitary limit for low-lying collective nuclear states?

Fig. 1. Schematic representation of the molecular potentials of the incident and intermediate state channels. The energy difference of the continuum levels,  $\Delta$ , is the sum of the binding energy, denoted here by  $E_{\rm b}$ , of the quasi-bound state and the 'detuning'  $\varepsilon$ .

## Interacting Boson Model





$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{\rho^5} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \rho^5 \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\sigma(\sigma+4)}{\rho^2} \right) \Phi(\rho) + \frac{1}{2} M \omega^2 \rho^2 \Phi(\rho) = \left( N_b + \frac{6}{2} \right) \hbar \omega \Phi(\rho)$$

O. Castanos, E. Chacon, A. Frank and M. Moshinsky, J. Math Phys 20, 35 (1979)

P E Georgoudis

O(6) limit of the IBM

*The Schrodinger equation of N=2 trapped cold atoms: Obeys the O(6) symmetry:* 

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2M}\left(\frac{1}{R^5}\frac{\partial}{\partial R}R^5\frac{\partial}{\partial R}-\frac{\lambda(\lambda+4)}{R^2}\right)\psi(R)+\frac{1}{2}M\omega^2R^2\psi(R)=E\psi(R)$$



Make an algebraic comparison of each radial term with the IBM equation in the O(6) limit:

$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{\rho^5} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \rho^5 \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\sigma(\sigma+4)}{\rho^2} \right) \Phi(\rho) + \frac{1}{2} M \omega^2 \rho^2 \Phi(\rho) = E \Phi(\rho)$$

Define the IBM-compound Hamiltonian and its reaction channels:

$$\Psi(r,\rho) = \sum_{n} \Psi_{n}(r) \Phi_{n}(\rho)$$

 $\lambda = 0$ : s wave of the pair of neutrons (2n)

$$H_{c} = H_{2N} + H_{IBM} + H_{2N/IBM}$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$H_{c} = H(R) + H(\rho) + H(R, \rho)$$



P.E. Georgoudis, Nucl. Phys. A, 1015, 122297 (2021)

#### Model the A+2n compound nucleus at low temperature in analogy with cold and dilute atomic gases: (a low-lying resonance)





Write down the pair-collective state scattering length

(6) symmetry:  
e scattering: 
$$R = \sqrt{r_1^2 + r_2^2}, \Omega_5 : (\theta_1, \varphi_1), (\theta_2, \varphi_2), \alpha = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{r_1}{r_2} \right)$$

 $\sigma = \frac{(4\pi)^3}{1/a_r^2(k_r) + k_r^2}, \quad k_r^2 = k_1^2 + k_2^2 \quad \text{Exhausts the unitarity} \\ \text{bound when } \sigma \to \frac{(4\pi)^3}{k^2}$ 

That scattering is characterized by a pair-collective state scattering length:

$$k_r \cot \delta_0 = -\frac{1}{a_r(k_r)}, \quad a_r(k_r) = \frac{1}{a_r} - \frac{1}{2}k_r^2 r^* + \cdots$$

**Resonance condition:**  $\frac{1}{a_r(k_r)} = 0$  $\frac{1}{a_r(k_r)} = 0$ 

*Effective range for the pair-collective state interaction: Measurable via the width of the intermediate state:* 

$$\Gamma_m = \frac{\hbar^2 k_r}{M r^*}$$

#### Classify the channels in terms of the IBM boson number



#### Intermediate states of the IBM-compound Hamiltonian H<sub>c</sub>:



#### Intermediate states of the IBM-compound Hamiltonian H<sub>c</sub>:



#### Crossing conditions between the open and the closed channels



### Tuning of the scattering length via the fluctuation of the cross section

$$\frac{\exp(-ik,r)}{r^{5/2}} - S_0 \frac{\exp(ik,r)}{r^{5/2}}, \quad S_0 = \exp(2i\delta_0) = \exp(-2ik,a_r)$$
Intermediate States of the Feshbach Formalism:  
Application for IBM states in the continuum:  
A+2n Compound nucleus
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Originally introduced in nuclear} \\ \text{Physics end examined thoroughly} \\ \text{in the 70's as bound states in the} \\ \text{Continuum: Doorway states} \\ \text{G.E. Mitchell, A. Richter, H.A. Weidenmuller,} \\ \text{Rev. Mod. Phys. 32 (2010) 2845;} \\ \text{H. Feshbach, Rev. Mod. Phys. 45 (1974) 1} \end{array}$$
Fluctuation
$$S_0 \rightarrow S_0' = \exp(-2ik_ra_r) \left(1 - \frac{i\Gamma_1}{E - E_1 + i\Gamma_1 / 2}\right)$$
Fluctuation:  
Tunes the scattering length
$$\sigma_{ce} = \frac{(4\pi)^3}{k_r^2} \left( \left\langle |S_0'|^2 \right\rangle - |\left\langle S_0' \right\rangle|^2 \right)$$

#### *Connection with the experiment*



*Consequence: Conformal Symmetry in the intermediate states of the A+2n compound nucleus* 

$$L_{\pm} = \pm iD + \frac{1}{\hbar\omega} (H - K): - \begin{bmatrix} L_{\pm} = -(d^{\dagger}d^{\dagger} + s^{\dagger}s^{\dagger}) \\ L_{0} = \frac{1}{2} (d^{\dagger}d + s^{\dagger}s + \frac{6}{2}) \\ L_{-} = -(dd + ss) \end{bmatrix}$$

 $[H,D] = -2iH, [K,D] = 2iK, [K,H] = i\hbar^2\omega^2 D$ 

Conformal group in one dimension.



<u>One expects a regularity pattern of</u> <u>fluctuations of the cross section</u> <u>with determined energies and widths.</u>

A Tower of equally spaced states represents the SO(2,1) group.

T.S

# Conclusions

- In nuclear physics, the tuning of the scattering length is imprinted on the fluctuations of the cross-sections.
- The unitary limit manifests itself in a heavy even-even A+2n compound nucleus when the resonance formed by the incident neutron pair on a heavy even-even target has the energy of one boson more with respect to the energy of the ground state of the target. This energy difference is the two-neutron separation energy.
- For the compound elastic case, the width of the resonance is provided for connection with the experiment.

The unitary limit of the neutron pair with the collective ground state of the even-even target, hosts the representations of the one-dimensional conformal group.

A regularity pattern of the fluctuations of the cross section emerges at the unitary limit of the A+2n compound nucleus in contrast with their usual random appearance in A+1n compound nuclei.

# THE END

# **Backup Slides**

## Analogy of the magnetic field with the boson number:



For the IBM-compound Hamiltonian  $H_c$  solve the coupled channel equations in the Feshbach Formalism:

$$(E - H_{PP})P\Psi(r,\rho) = H_{PQ}Q\Psi(r,\rho)$$
$$(E - H_{QQ})Q\Psi(r,\rho) = H_{QP}P\Psi(r,\rho)$$

H. Feshbach, Ann. Phys. 5 (1958) 357; E. Timmermans, P. Tommasini, M. Husein, A. Kerman, Physics Reports 315, 230 (1999).

*Choose one open channel for the*  
$$P = |\Phi_0(\rho)\rangle \langle \Phi_0(\rho)|$$
 ground state of the target with  $N_b$  bosons

$$Q = \sum_{n>0} |\Phi_n(\rho)\rangle \langle \Phi_n(\rho)| \longrightarrow Closed channels with target states of N_h + 1, N_h + 2 ... bosons$$

$$\Psi(r,\rho) = \sum_{n} \Psi_{n}(r) \Phi_{n}(\rho) \longrightarrow$$
 The channel wavefunction

Pair wavefunction for the open channel:  $P\Psi(\mathbf{r}, \rho) = \Psi_0(\mathbf{r})$ . Switch off the couplings and solve the first equation after the transformation  $\Psi_0(\mathbf{r}) = (\mathbf{r}^{-2})\chi(\mathbf{r})$ :

$$-\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r} - \frac{(\lambda+2)^2}{r^2}\right)\chi(r) = k_r^2\chi(r), k_r^2 = \frac{2ME}{\hbar^2}$$

Solutions: Bessel functions of order  $\lambda$ +2





#### The open channel solution (n=0)



Pair scattering in O(6) symmetry: 6-d geometry for the scattering  $R = \sqrt{r_1^2 + r_2^2}, \Omega_5 : (\theta_1, \varphi_1), (\theta_2, \varphi_2), \alpha = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{r_1}{r_2} \right)$ 

Boundary condition of the pair wavefunction at infinity in **d=6**:

$$\lim_{r \to \infty} \Psi_0(r) = \frac{\exp(-ik_r r)}{r^{5/2}} - S \frac{\exp(ik_r r)}{r^{5/2}}, \quad S = \exp(2i\delta_0) = \exp(-2ik_r a_r)$$

**Boundary condition near the reaction center: Unitary interaction for** the pair-collective state interaction in d=6:

$$\frac{4\pi^3 a_r \hbar^2}{M} \delta(r) \rightarrow \lim_{r \to 0} \Psi_0(r,\rho) = \Phi_0(\rho) \left(\frac{C}{r^4} - \frac{1}{a_r^4}\right)$$

Solution for the s wave  
In terms of Bessel functions 
$$\Psi_0(r) = 8C \left( \frac{N_{0+2}(k_r r)}{r^2} + \frac{\left(e^{2i\delta_0} - 1\right)}{2ik_r} \frac{H_{0+2}^{(1)}(k_r r)}{r^2} \right), \quad C = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2k_r}} e^{i5\pi/4}$$
  
Of order  $\lambda$ +2

**<u>1. The hyperspherical equation of N particles confined in the harmonic Oscillator trap</u></u>** 

$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{R^{3N-1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} R^{3N-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} - \frac{\Lambda}{R^2} \right) \Phi(R) + \frac{1}{2} M \omega^2 R^2 \Phi(R) = E \Phi(R)$$

$$d=6: \quad N = 2, R = \sqrt{r_1^2 + r_2^2}, \Omega_5: (\theta_1, \varphi_1), (\theta_2, \varphi_2), \alpha = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{r_1}{r_2} \right)$$

$$- \frac{\hbar^2}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{R^5} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} R^5 \frac{\partial}{\partial R} - \frac{\lambda(\lambda+4)}{R^2} \right) \Phi(R) + \frac{1}{2} M \omega^2 R^2 \Phi(R) = E \Phi(R)$$

#### Schrodinger Equation of N trapped particles in hyperspherical coordinates

F Werner and Y Castin, Phys Rev A, 74, 053604 (2006); J.L. Bohn, B.D. Esry, C.H. Greene, Phys. Rev. A 58, 584 (1998).



 $\lambda = l_1 + l_2$ : The total angular momentum of the **N=2 particles** - the eigenvalue of the dilatation operator  $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{R} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{R}}$ 

P.E. Georgoudis, Nucl. Phys. A, 1015, 122297 (2021)

O(6) Symmetry in the Hyperspherical Equation

The Schrodinger equation of N=2 trapped cold atoms: Obeys the O(6) symmetry:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2M}\left(\frac{1}{R^5}\frac{\partial}{\partial R}R^5\frac{\partial}{\partial R}-\frac{\lambda(\lambda+4)}{R^2}\right)\psi(R)+\left(\frac{1}{2}M\omega^2R^2\right)\psi(R)=E\psi(R)$$







$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{\rho^5} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \rho^5 \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\sigma(\sigma+4)}{\rho^2} \right) \Phi(\rho) + \frac{1}{2} M \omega^2 \rho^2 \Phi(\rho) = E \Phi(\rho)$$



**1.** Apply the symmetry-based approach to the zero-energy state in the IBM equation :

$$\lambda \to \sigma$$
: the eigenvalue of the dilatation operator  $D = \rho \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho}$ 





 $T_r + \frac{4\pi\hbar^2 a}{M} \delta(r_1 - r_2)$ 

 $\frac{-\hbar^2}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{r^5} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^5 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} - \frac{\lambda(\lambda+4)}{r^2} \right)$ 

The choice of the core's position as the origin is an application of the more general case of the interaction of two similar particles with a fixed potential field represented by a heavy third body

Pair scattering in O(6) symmetry: 6-d geometry for the scattering and the trapped states.

P.M. Morse, H. Feshbach, Methods of Theoretical Physics, McGraw-Hill, Boston, 1999, pp. 1709–1745; U. Fano, Rep. Prog. Phys. 46, 97 (1983)

 $H_c = H(r) + H(\rho) + H(r, \rho)$ 

 $\langle N_{b} | H_{IBM} | N_{b} \rangle$ 

What is this coupling Term? Examine the case That leads to a resonance between the two neutrons and the Collective state: A+2n compound nucleus in the Feshbach formalism

Solve the scattering problem for the neutron pair in terms of partial waves that are characterized by the O(6) angular momentum  $\lambda$ : Solutions in termo of Bessel Functions of order  $\lambda$ +2. Replace the Woods-Saxon term By appropriately defined unitary Interactions between the incident Neutrons and the collective nuclear state

### **Conformal transformation in one dimension:**

Comparison with tower states in elongated Bose-Einstein condensates:



• <u>Consequence:</u> <u>Tower of equally spaced states (T.S) appear as a regularity pattern of a sequence</u> <u>Of fluctuations of the cross section</u>

P.E. Georgoudis, Nucl. Phys. A, 1015, 122297 (2021)

## **Quantum Phase Transitions in the IBM**



*Implies conformal invariance that is manifested at the critical point of a 2<sup>nd</sup> order Phase Transition.* 

P. Cejnar, J. Jolie, R.F. Casten, Rev. Mod. Phys. 82, 2155, (2010) and references therein.

### **An Algebraic Comparison**

**<u>1. The hyperspherical equation of N particles confined in an harmonic Oscillator trap</u></u>** 

$$\frac{-\hbar^{2}}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{R^{3N-1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} R^{3N-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \right) \Phi(R) + \left( \frac{\hbar^{2}\Lambda}{2MR^{2}} + \frac{1}{2}M\omega^{2}R^{2} \right) \Phi(R) = E\Phi(R)$$

$$Schrodinger Equation of N trapped particles: E=0 and \omega=0 Unitarity F Werner and Y Castin, Phys Rev A, 74, 053604 (2006)$$

$$N = 2$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{R^{5}} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} R^{5} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \right) \Phi(R) + \left( \frac{\hbar^{2}}{2M} \frac{\lambda(\lambda+4)}{R^{2}} + \frac{1}{2}M\omega^{2}R^{2} \right) \Phi(R) = E\Phi(R)$$

O(6) Symmetry in the Hyperspherical Equation

The Schrodinger equation of N=2 trapped cold atoms: Obeys the O(6) symmetry:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2M}\left(\frac{1}{R^5}\frac{\partial}{\partial R}R^5\frac{\partial}{\partial R}-\frac{\lambda(\lambda+4)}{R^2}\right)\psi(R)+\left(\frac{1}{2}M\omega^2R^2\right)\psi(R)=E\psi(R)$$

Make an algebraic comparison of each radial term with the IBM equation in the O(6) limit:

$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2M} \left( \frac{1}{\rho^5} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \rho^5 \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\sigma(\sigma+4)}{\rho^2} \right) \Phi(\rho) + \frac{1}{2} M \omega^2 \rho^2 \Phi(\rho) = E \Phi(\rho)$$

 $q_0'$ 

 $\rho(t)$ 

2n

2. Define the reaction channel that consists of two incident neutrons (solution of the hyperspherical equation) and the collective state of the target nucleus (solution of the IBM equation)

 $\lambda = 0$ : An incident s wave of two neutrons (2n) onto the collective nuclear state

(*t*): The boson number radius is the collective coordinate of the target nucleus

P.E. Georgoudis, Nucl. Phys. A, 1015, 122297 (2021)