

Quartet structure of $N = Z$ nuclei

M. Sambataro

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare - Sezione di Catania, Italy

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Outline

- ▶ An exact treatment of the isovector pairing Hamiltonian: the role of quartets
- ▶ The phenomenon of quartet condensation in the ground and excited states of a proton-neutron pairing Hamiltonian
- ▶ Spectra of $N = Z$ nuclei in a formalism of quartets
- ▶ Future perspectives

in collaboration with N. Sandulescu (NIPNE, Bucharest)

The isovector pairing Hamiltonian

$$H^{(iv)} = \sum_{i=1}^{\Omega} \epsilon_i \mathcal{N}_i - g \sum_{i,i'=1}^{\Omega} \sum_{M_T=-1}^1 P_{iM_T}^\dagger P_{i'M_T}$$

$$\mathcal{N}_i = \sum_{\sigma,\tau} a_{i\sigma\tau}^\dagger a_{i\sigma\tau}, \quad P_{iM_T}^\dagger = [a_{i+}^\dagger a_{i-}^\dagger]_{M_T}^{T=1}, \quad (P_{iM_T}^\dagger)^\dagger = P_{iM_T}$$

$$(P_{iM_T}^\dagger : \quad M_T = -1 \text{ (pp)}, \quad M_T = 0 \text{ (pn)}, \quad M_T = +1 \text{ (nn)})$$

We confine our analysis to $T = 0$ seniority-zero eigenstates.

The Hilbert space of the model is spanned by the states

$$P_{i_1 M_{T_1}}^\dagger P_{i_2 M_{T_2}}^\dagger \cdots P_{i_N M_{T_N}}^\dagger |0\rangle$$

subject to the condition

$$M_{T_1} + M_{T_2} + \cdots + M_{T_N} = 0$$

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First case: 2 protons and 2 neutrons

Building blocks:

$$B_{\nu\tau}^\dagger = \sum_{k=1}^{\Omega} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_k - E_\nu} P_{k\tau}^\dagger \quad (E_\nu \equiv \text{"pair energy"})$$

Ansatz for the eigenstates:

$$|\Psi\rangle = [B_1^\dagger B_2^\dagger]^{T=0} |0\rangle \quad (\Rightarrow \text{quartet})$$

One finds:

$$\begin{aligned} H^{(iv)} |\Psi\rangle &= (E_1 + E_2) |\Psi\rangle \\ &+ \left(1 - g \sum_k \frac{1}{2\epsilon_k - E_1} - \frac{g}{E_2 - E_1} \right) [P^\dagger B_2^\dagger]^{T=0} |0\rangle \\ &+ \left(1 - g \sum_k \frac{1}{2\epsilon_k - E_2} - \frac{g}{E_1 - E_2} \right) [P^\dagger B_1^\dagger]^{T=0} |0\rangle \end{aligned}$$

being $P_\tau^\dagger = \sum_k P_{k,\tau}^\dagger$.

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being $P_\tau^\dagger = \sum_k P_{k,\tau}^\dagger$.

Second case: 4 protons and 4 neutrons

Ansatz:

$$|\Psi\rangle = d_1[B_1^\dagger B_2^\dagger]^0 [B_3^\dagger B_4^\dagger]^0 |0\rangle + d_2[B_1^\dagger B_3^\dagger]^0 [B_2^\dagger B_4^\dagger]^0 |0\rangle + d_3[B_1^\dagger B_4^\dagger]^0 [B_2^\dagger B_3^\dagger]^0 |0\rangle$$

One finds:

$$\begin{aligned} H^{(iv)}|\Psi\rangle &= (E_1 + E_2 + E_3 + E_4)|\Psi\rangle \\ &+ \left(d_1 - \sum_k \frac{g \cdot d_1}{2\epsilon_k - E_1} - \frac{g \cdot d_{123}}{E_2 - E_1} - \frac{g \cdot d_{12}}{E_1 - E_4} - \frac{g \cdot d_{13}}{E_1 - E_3} \right) [P^\dagger B_2^\dagger]^0 [B_3^\dagger B_4^\dagger]^0 |0\rangle \\ &+ \left(d_1 - \sum_k \frac{g \cdot d_1}{2\epsilon_k - E_2} - \frac{g \cdot d_{123}}{E_1 - E_2} - \frac{g \cdot d_{12}}{E_2 - E_3} - \frac{g \cdot d_{13}}{E_2 - E_4} \right) [P^\dagger B_1^\dagger]^0 [B_3^\dagger B_4^\dagger]^0 |0\rangle \\ &+ \left(d_1 - \sum_k \frac{g \cdot d_1}{2\epsilon_k - E_3} - \frac{g \cdot d_{123}}{E_4 - E_3} - \frac{g \cdot d_{12}}{E_3 - E_2} - \frac{g \cdot d_{13}}{E_3 - E_1} \right) [P^\dagger B_4^\dagger]^0 [B_1^\dagger B_2^\dagger]^0 |0\rangle \\ &+ \left(d_1 - \sum_k \frac{g \cdot d_1}{2\epsilon_k - E_4} - \frac{g \cdot d_{123}}{E_3 - E_4} - \frac{g \cdot d_{12}}{E_4 - E_1} - \frac{g \cdot d_{13}}{E_4 - E_2} \right) [P^\dagger B_3^\dagger]^0 [B_1^\dagger B_2^\dagger]^0 |0\rangle \\ &+ \dots \end{aligned}$$

being: $d_{ij} \equiv d_i + d_j$, $d_{123} \equiv d_1 + d_2 + d_3$

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being: $d_{ij} \equiv d_i + d_j$, $d_{123} \equiv d_1 + d_2 + d_3$

The general recipe for an even-even $N = Z$ system

- ▶ Adopt the collective pairs

$$B_{\nu\tau}^\dagger = \sum_{k=1}^{\Omega} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_k - E_\nu} P_{k\tau}^\dagger$$

as building blocks.

- ▶ Construct the states $|s\rangle$, product of B_ν^\dagger 's arranged into $T = 0$ quartets,

$$|s\rangle = \prod_{q=1}^{N_q} [B_{\nu(1,q,s)}^\dagger B_{\nu(2,q,s)}^\dagger]^{T=0} |0\rangle,$$

such that the space $\{|s\rangle\}$ be invariant under the interchange of any two pairs.

- ▶ Expand $|\Psi\rangle$ into this basis: $|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{s=1}^{N_s} d_s |s\rangle$
- ▶ Solve the set of equations

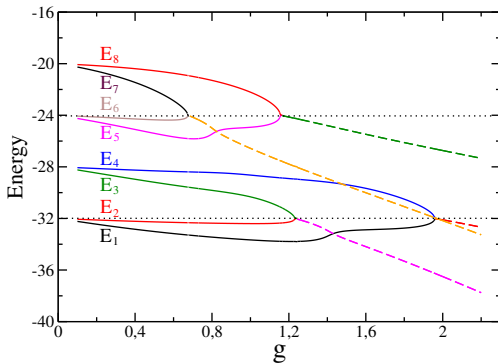
$$\frac{d_s}{g} - \sum_{k=1}^{\Omega} \frac{d_s}{2\epsilon_k - E_\nu} - \sum_{\nu' \neq \nu}^{(1,2N_q)} \frac{S_{\nu'\nu}(s)}{E_{\nu'} - E_\nu} = 0, \quad S_{\nu'\nu}(s) = \sum_t I(t, \nu', \nu, s) d_t$$

This guarantees that

$$H^{(iv)} |\Psi\rangle = \left(\sum_{\nu} E_\nu \right) |\Psi\rangle$$

An example of numerical results

Pair energies for the ground state of a system of 8 protons and 8 neutrons over 8 equispaced levels



M.S. and N. Sandulescu, J. Phys. G: Nucl. Phys. 47 (2020) 045112

Conclusions (1st part)

- ▶ The exact $T = 0$ seniority-zero eigenstates of a constant-strength isovector pairing Hamiltonian are **linear superpositions of products of quartets**.
- ▶ Quartets are the **distinctive features** of these eigenstates.
- ▶ The isovector pairing Hamiltonian favours the formation of α -like structures in $N = Z$ nuclei.

Previous exact treatments of the isovector pairing Hamiltonian

- ▶ R.W. Richardson, Phys. Rev. **144**, 874 (1966)
H.-T. Chen and R.W. Richardson, Phys. Lett. B **34**, 271 (1971)
H.-T. Chen and R.W. Richardson, Nucl. Phys. A **212**, 317 (1973)
- ▶ Feng Pan and J.P. Draayer, Phys. Rev. C **66**, 044314 (2002)
- ▶ J. Links, H.-Q. Zhou, M.D. Gould, and R.H. McKenzie, J. Phys. A **35**, 6459 (2002)
- ▶ J. Dukelsky, V.G. Gueorguiev, P. Van Isacker, S. Dimitrova, B. Errea, and S. Lerma H., Phys. Rev. Lett. **96**, 072503 (2006)

Quartet condensation in $N = Z$ nuclei

The Quartet Condensation Model (QCM) assumes that

$$|\Psi_{gs}\rangle = (Q^+)^{nq} |0\rangle$$

For the isovector pairing Hamiltonian discussed above

$$Q^+ = \sum_{ij} x_{ij} [P_i^\dagger P_j^\dagger]^{T=0}$$

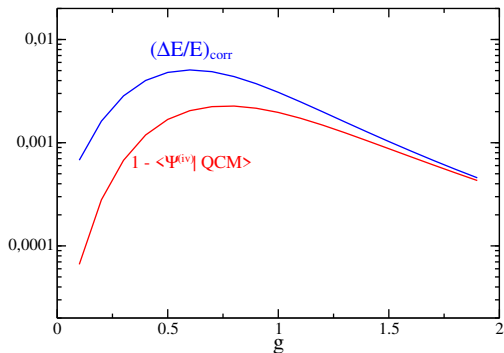
with

$$P_{iM_T}^\dagger = [a_{i+}^\dagger a_{i-}^\dagger]_{M_T}^{T=1}$$

N. Sandulescu et al., PRC 85 (2012) 061303(R)

Validity of the QCM approximation for the IV pairing Hamiltonian

System of 6 protons and 6 neutrons over 6 equispaced levels



M.S. and N. Sandulescu, J. Phys. G: Nucl. Phys. 47 (2020) 115101

QCM based excited states of the IV pairing Hamiltonian: formalism

Excited states of the isovector pairing Hamiltonian are built on the QCM ground state as follows:

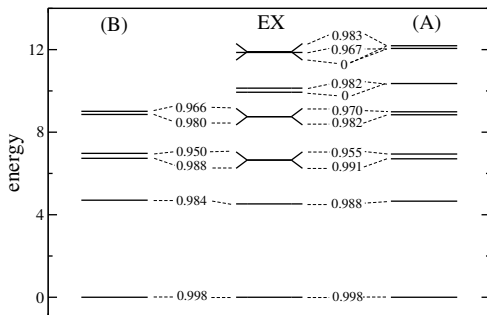
$$|\Phi_\nu\rangle = \tilde{Q}_\nu^+ (Q^+)^{n_q-1} |0\rangle$$

with

$$\tilde{Q}_\nu^+ = \sum_{ij} y_{ij}^{(\nu)} [P_i^+ P_j^+]^{T=0}$$

QCM based excited states of the IV pairing Hamiltonian: application

Spectrum of the isovector pairing Hamiltonian for a system
of 6 protons and 6 neutrons over 6 equispaced levels
($g = 1$)



M.S. and N. Sandulescu, Phys. Lett. B 820 (2021) 136476

The case of a general isovector-isoscalar pairing Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_i \epsilon_i N_i + \sum_{i,j} V_{J=0}^{T=1}(i,j) \sum_{T_z} P_{i,T_z}^+ P_{j,T_z} + \sum_{i \leq j, k \leq l} V_{J=1}^{T=0}(ij,kl) \sum_{J_z} D_{ij,J_z}^+ D_{kl,J_z}$$

$$P_{i,T_z}^+ = \sqrt{\frac{2j_i + 1}{2}} [a_i^+ a_i^+]_{T_z}^{T=1, J=0}, \quad D_{j_1 j_2 J_z}^+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta_{j_1 j_2}}} [a_{j_1}^+ a_{j_2}^+]_{J_z}^{J=1, T=0}$$

- ▶ The QCM ground state:

$$|\Psi_{gs}\rangle = (Q_{ivs}^+)^{n_q} |0\rangle, \quad Q_{ivs}^+ = Q_{iv}^+ + Q_{is}^+$$

$$Q_{iv}^+ = \sum_{ij} x_{ij} [P_i^+ P_j^+]^{T=0}, \quad Q_{is}^+ = \sum_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4} y_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4} [D_{j_1 j_2}^+ D_{j_3 j_4}^+]^{J=0}$$

- ▶ The excited states built on the QCM ground state

$$|\Phi_{\nu, J_z}\rangle = \tilde{Q}_{\nu, J_z}^+ (Q_{ivs}^+)^{n_q - 1} |0\rangle$$

$$\tilde{Q}_{\nu, J_z}^+ = \sum_{T'} \sum_{J_1(i_1 j_1)} \sum_{J_2(i_2 j_2)} Y_{J_z}^{(\nu)}(T', J_1(i_1 j_1), J_2(i_2 j_2)) [P_{J_1, T'}^+(i_1, j_1) P_{J_2, T'}^+(i_2, j_2)]_{J_z}^{J, T=0}$$

The case of a general isovector-isoscalar pairing Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_i \epsilon_i N_i + \sum_{i,j} V_{J=0}^{T=1}(i,j) \sum_{T_z} P_{i,T_z}^+ P_{j,T_z} + \sum_{i \leq j, k \leq l} V_{J=1}^{T=0}(ij,kl) \sum_{J_z} D_{ij,J_z}^+ D_{kl,J_z}$$

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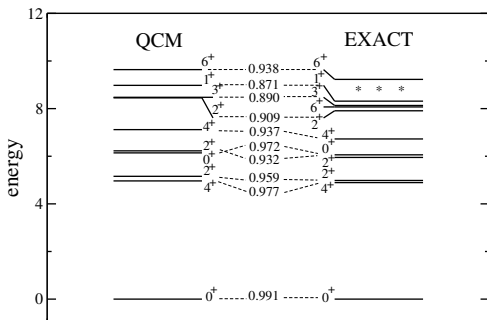
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QCM based approximation for a general IV + IS pairing Hamiltonian

Spectrum of the isovector + isoscalar pairing Hamiltonian
for a system of 6 protons and 6 neutrons with
s.p.e.'s and $V_{J=0}^{T=1}(i,j)$, $V_{J=1}^{T=0}(i,j)$ from USDB



M. S. and N. Sandulescu, PLB 820 (2021) 136476

Conclusions (2nd part)

- ▶ The **ground state** of an isovector plus isoscalar pairing Hamiltonian in $N = Z$ systems can be well described as a **condensate** of a $T = 0, J = 0$ quartet built by isovector plus isoscalar pairs.
- ▶ The low-lying **excited states** of this Hamiltonian can be constructed by promoting one of the quartets of the **condensate** to an excited ($T = 0$) configuration.
- ▶ The proton-neutron pairing favours the formation of α -like quartet condensates in $N = Z$ systems.

Spectra of $N = Z$ nuclei in a formalism of quartets

Three basic problems.

1) How to define the quartets

$$q_{JM}^+ = \sum_{i_1 j_1 J_1} \sum_{i_2 j_2 J_2} \sum_{T'} q_{i_1 j_1 J_1, i_2 j_2 J_2, T'} [[a_{i_1}^+ a_{j_1}^+]^{J_1 T'} [a_{i_2}^+ a_{j_2}^+]^{J_2 T'}]_M^{JT=0}$$

2) How to fix them

- ▶ “statically”: from the nearest $T = 0$ one-quartet system
(M.S. and N.Sandulescu, PRL 115 (2015) 112501, PRC 91 (2015) 064318)
- ▶ “dynamically”: from intrinsic states

3) What to do with them

- ▶ Configuration interaction calculations in the space of quartets
- ▶ Projecting the intrinsic states

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Intrinsic states of deformed $N = Z$ nuclei in a formalism of quartets

- ▶ “ground” intrinsic state

$$|\Theta_g\rangle = \mathcal{N}_g (Q_g^+)^n |0\rangle, \quad Q_g^+ = \sum_J \alpha_{g,J} (q_g^+)_{J0}$$

$$(q_g^+)_{J0} = \sum_{i_1 j_1 J_1} \sum_{i_2 j_2 J_2} \sum_{T'} q_{i_1 j_1 J_1, i_2 j_2 J_2, T'}^{(g)} [[a_{i_1}^+ a_{j_1}^+]^{J_1 T'} [a_{i_2}^+ a_{j_2}^+]^{J_2 T'}]_0^{JT=0}$$

- ▶ “excited” intrinsic states

$$|\Theta_k\rangle = \mathcal{N}_k Q_k^\dagger (Q_g^+)^{(n-1)} |0\rangle, \quad Q_k^\dagger = \sum_J \alpha_{k,J} (q_k^\dagger)_{Jk}$$

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$$k = 0 \rightarrow \text{“}\beta\text{”}, \quad k = 2 \rightarrow \text{“}\gamma\text{”}, \dots$$

Intrinsic states of deformed $N = Z$ nuclei in a formalism of quartets

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Generating spectra of $N = Z$ nuclei

Two ways of proceedings:

- ▶ Via **configuration interaction calculations** in the space of quartets q_{JM}^+

$$|\Psi_M^{(n)}, \{N_{JM}\}\rangle = \prod_{J \in (0, J_{max}); M \in (-J, J)} (q_{JM}^+)^{N_{JM}} |0\rangle$$

$$\sum_{JM} N_{JM} = n, \quad \sum_{JM} MN_{JM} = \bar{M}$$

M. S. and N. Sandulescu, PLB 827 (2022) 136987

- ▶ Via **projection**

- ▶ 1) projecting states of good angular momentum from the intrinsic states:

$$\hat{P}_J |\Theta_g\rangle$$
$$\hat{P}_J |\Theta_k\rangle, \quad k = 0, 2, \dots$$

- ▶ 2) diagonalizing the Hamiltonian in the space of the projected states:

$$\{\hat{P}_J |\Theta_g\rangle, \hat{P}_J |\Theta_k\rangle\}$$

M. S. and N. Sandulescu, EPJA (2023), in press

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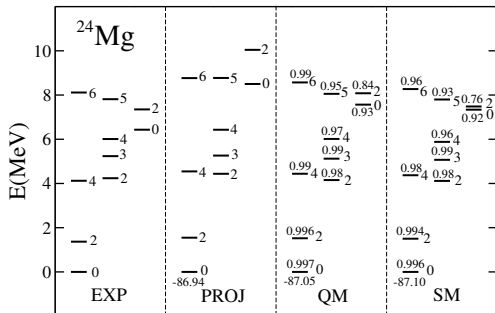
$$\hat{P}_J |\Theta_k\rangle, \quad k = 0, 2, \dots$$

- ▶ 2) diagonalizing the Hamiltonian in the space of the projected states:

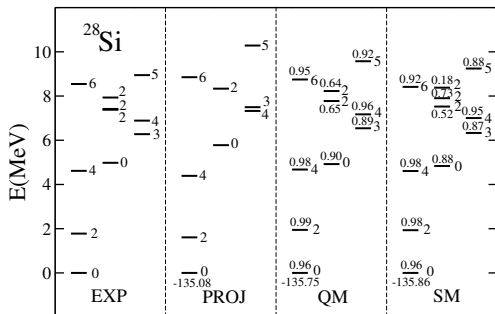
$$\{\hat{P}_J |\Theta_g\rangle, \hat{P}_J |\Theta_k\rangle\}$$

M. S. and N. Sandulescu, EPJA (2023), in press

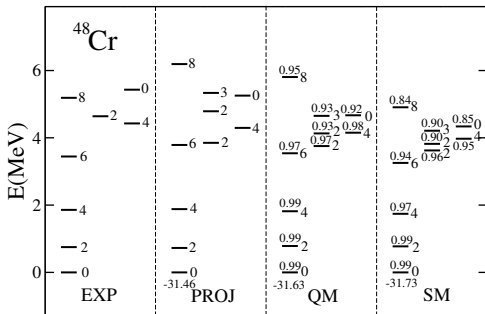
QM vs projection from intrinsic states: ^{24}Mg



QM vs projection from intrinsic states: ^{28}Si



QM vs projection from intrinsic states: ^{48}Cr



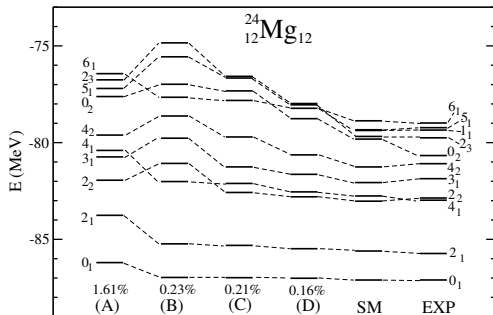
Conclusions (3rd part)

- ▶ Quartet-based intrinsic states provide a framework to understand in a conceptually simple and intuitive manner the emergence of band-like structures in $N = Z$ nuclei.

Future perspectives

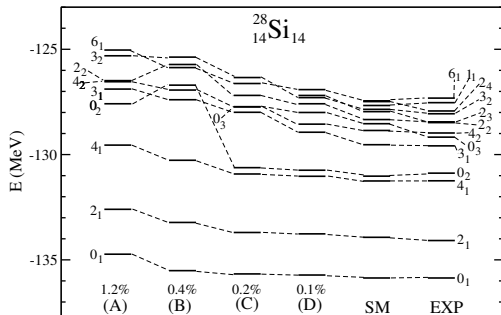
- ▶ anomalous behaviour of elastic α -scattering on $N = Z$ nuclei
- ▶ superallowed α -decay in heavy $N = Z$ nuclei

QM results: ^{24}Mg



(A) \rightarrow *static* : $J = 0, 2, 4$ (B) $\rightarrow |\Theta_g\rangle$: $J = 0, 2, 4$
 (C) $\rightarrow |\Theta_2\rangle$: $J = 2, 3, 4$ (D) $\rightarrow |\Theta_0\rangle$: $J = 0, 2, 4$

QM results: ^{28}Si



(A) \rightarrow *static* : $J = 0, 2, 4$ (B) $\rightarrow |\Theta_g\rangle$: $J = 0, 2, 4$
 (C) $\rightarrow |\Theta_0\rangle$: $J = 0, 2, 4$ (D) $\rightarrow |\Theta_3\rangle$: $J = 3, 4$

QCM results in the sd shell

Using the USDB Hamiltonian:

	$E_{corr}(SM)$	$E_{corr}(QCM)$	$\langle SM QCM\rangle$
^{20}Ne	24.77	24.77 (-)	1
^{24}Mg	55.70	53.04 (4.77%)	0.85
^{28}Si	88.75	86.52 (2.52%)	0.86
^{32}S	122.51	122.02 (0.40%)	0.98

M.S. and N. Sandulescu, EPJA 53, 47 (2017)