

2. Introduction

Nuclear Structure in a nutshell 24/12/13

①

The low-energy properties of quantal, many-body, Fermi systems ~~displaying a~~ ~~quantality parameter~~ displaying sizable values of zero-point-motion (kinetic energy) of localization compared to the strength of the NN-interaction ^{and} quantified by a quantality parameter $Q \gtrsim 0.15$, are determined by the laws which control independent particle motion close to the Fermi energy ϵ_F (on-the-energy shell), and by the correlations operating among them.

First of all, the Pauli principle, implying orbitals solidly anchored to the single-particle meanfield, as testified by the Hartree-Fock ground state $|HF\rangle = \prod_i a_i^\dagger |0\rangle$, describing a step function separation in the probability of occupied ($\epsilon_i \leq \epsilon_F$) and empty ($\epsilon_k \geq \epsilon_F$) states (box 1).

Pairing acting on fermions moving in time reversal states lying close to ϵ_F alters this picture in a conspicuous way.

In particular, in the case of $S=0$ configurations, in which case the radial component of the pair wavefunction does not display nodes. Within an energy range of the pair correlation energy $E_{\text{corr}} (\approx 2\Delta \text{ within BCS})$ centered around ϵ_F ($E_{\text{corr}}/\epsilon_F \ll 1$), the system is now made out of pairs of fermions which

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flicker in and out of the correlated ($L=0, S=0$) ^② configuration (Cooper pairs ^{box 2}). For temperatures (intrinsic excitation energies) or stress ^{regime} (magnetic field in metals, Coriolis torque in nuclei, etc) smaller than $\approx E_{\text{corr}}/2$, ^(critical value) Cooper pairs are present, in the ground state of the system, with a high probability. Because Cooper pairs respect Bose-Einstein statistics, the single-particle orbits on which they are correlated become dynamically detached from the mean field, leading to a bosonic condensate and, at the same time, reducing in a conspicuous way the inertia of the system (e.g. ^{the} moment of inertia \mathcal{I} of quadrupole rotational bands is much smaller than the rigid moment of inertia ($\mathcal{I} \approx \mathcal{I}_r/3$) expected from independent particle motion). Cooper pairs exist also in situation in which the environmental condition are above critical, e.g. in metals at room temperature or nuclei at high values of the angular momentum, although they break as soon as they are generated (pairing vibrations). While these pair addition and subtraction fluctuations have little effect on condensed systems, they play an important role in mesoscopic systems, in particular in nuclei (box 3).

~~Coming back to below criticality values of the parameter determining Cooper pair condensation in fermionic systems, one can conclude~~

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Within the framework of the above picture, one can introduce at profit a collective coordinate α_0 (order parameter) which measures the number of Cooper pairs participating in the pairing condensate, and define a wavefunction for each pair $(U_v + V_v a_v^\dagger a_v^\dagger) |0\rangle$ (independent pair motion, BCS approximation), adjusting the occupation parameters U_v and V_v (probability amplitudes that the two-fold (Kramer's-) degenerate pair state (v, \bar{v}) is either occupied or empty), so as to minimize the energy of the system

under the condition that the average number of nucleons is equal to N_0 (Coriolis force felt, in the intrinsic system, by the pairs, equal to $-\lambda N_0$). Thus, $|BCS\rangle = \prod_{v>0} (U_v + V_v a_v^\dagger a_v^\dagger) |0\rangle$

provides a valid description of the paired mean field ground state, and of the associated order parameter $\alpha_0 = \langle BCS | P^\dagger | BCS \rangle$, $P^\dagger = \sum_{v>0} a_v^\dagger a_v^\dagger$ being the pair creation operator (box 2).

It is then natural to posit that two-nucleon transfer reactions are specific to probe pairing correlations in many-body fermionic systems. Examples are provided by the Josephson effect in e.g. metallic superconductors, and (p,p) and (p,t) reactions in atomic nuclei.

Because away from the Fermi energy pair independent motion becomes independent particle motion, in particular in the nuclear case $|BCS\rangle \rightarrow |Nilsson\rangle$, one-particle transfer

reactions like e.g. (d,p) and (p,d) can be used together with (t,p) and (p,t) processes, as a valid tool to cross check pair correlation predictions. In particular, to shed light on the origin of pairing in nuclei: in a nutshell, the relative importance of the bare NN-interaction and of the induced pairing interaction (box 4) ④

While the calculation of two-nucleon transfer spectroscopic amplitudes and differential cross sections are, a priori, more involved ^{by} ~~to~~ ^{be} ~~work~~ ^{out} than those associated with one-nucleon transfer reactions, the former are, as a rule, more ^{intrinsically} accurate than the latter ones. This is because in the first case, the actual value of the variety of quantities reflect coherence, and thus the averaging over many contributions which, in spite of the fact that each of them may be somewhat inaccurate, their ^{overall} sum leads to $d\sigma(2n\text{-transfer})/d\Omega \sim |d_0|^2$. On the other hand, $d\sigma(1n\text{-transfer})/d\Omega \sim V^4$ or $\sim V^2$, thus depending on the accuracy with which one is able to calculate the occupancy of a pure configuration (box 4).

The above parlance is reflected ^(25/12/13) (5) in the calculation of the elements resulting from the encounter of structure and reaction, namely one- and two-nucleon modified transfer formfactors. While it is usually considered that these quantities carry all the structure information associated with the calculation of the corresponding cross sections, a consistent NFT calculation of structure and reaction will posit that equally much is contained in the distorted waves describing the relative motion of the colliding systems. This is because the optical potential emerges from the same modified formfactors, eventually including also inelastic processes ^(see comment on the optical potential in a note at the bottom of p. 13). In other words, ^(U+V) which determines these scattering waves,

setting detectors in e.g. a definite two-particle transfer channel like $A+t \rightarrow B(=A+2)+p$, one needs to know what the single-particle states and collective modes of the systems $F(=A+1)$ and A and B are respectively, as well as their interweaving leading to dressed particle states (quasiparticles; fermions) and renormalized normal modes of excitation (bosons) are. But these are essentially all the elements needed to calculate the processes leading to the depopulation of the flux of the incoming channel ($A+t$, in the case under discussion). In particular, and assuming to work with spherical nuclei, so as to avoid strong inelastic processes, one-particle transfer is, as a rule (no particular Q -value closed channels) the main depopulation process, in keeping with the long range ^{tail} of the associated formfactor as compared to other processes,

In keeping with this fact, and because U and W are connected by the Kramers-Krönig generalized dispersion relation (fluctuation-dissipation theorem), it is possible to calculate the nuclear dielectric function (optical potential) needed to describe the $A+t \rightarrow B+p$ process in question.

Concerning the modified formfactor associated with this process, we shall see in the next chapter that it can be written as

$$U_{LSJ}^{J_i J_f}(R) = \sum_{\substack{n_1, l_1, j_1 \\ n_2, l_2, j_2, N}} B(n_1, l_1, j_1, n_2, l_2, j_2; J J_i J_f) \\ \langle SLJ | j_1 j_2 J \rangle \langle n_0, NL, L | n_1, l_1, n_2, l_2; L \rangle \\ \Omega_n R_{NL}(R),$$

where the overlaps

$$B(n_1, l_1, j_1, n_2, l_2, j_2; J J_i J_f) \\ = \langle \psi^{J_f}(\xi_{A+2}) | [\phi^J(n_1, l_1, j_1, n_2, l_2, j_2), \psi^{J_i}(\xi_A)]^{J_f} \rangle$$

and

$$\Omega_n = \langle \phi_{n e m_l}(\vec{r}) | \phi_{000}(\vec{r}) \rangle$$

encodes for the physics of particle-particle (but also ^{too large extent,} particle-hole) correlations in nuclei,

$\langle SLJ | j_1 j_2 J \rangle$ and $\langle n_0, NL, L | n_1, l_1, n_2, l_2; L \rangle$ being LS- jj and Moshinsky transformation brackets, keeping track of symmetry and number of degrees conservation. In fact,

the two-nucleon spectroscopic amplitude (B-coefficient) and the overlap Ω_n reflect the parentage in which the nucleus B can be written in terms of the system A and a Cooper pair,

$$\psi_{\text{exit}} = \psi_{M_f}^{J_f}(\epsilon_{A+2}) \chi_{M_{sf}}^{s_f}(\sigma_p),$$

where

$$\psi_{M_f}^{J_f}(\epsilon_{A+2}) = \sum_{\substack{n_1 l_1 j_1, \\ n_2 l_2 j_2 \\ J, J_i'}} B(n_1 l_1 j_1, n_2 l_2 j_2; J J_i' J_f) \left[\phi^J(n_1 l_1 j_1, n_2 l_2 j_2) \psi_{J_i'}^{J_i'}(\epsilon_A) \right]_{M_f}^{J_f}$$

and

$$\psi_{\text{entrance}} = \psi_{M_i}^{J_i}(\epsilon_A) \phi_t(\vec{r}_{n1}, \vec{r}_{n2}, r_p; \sigma_{n1}, \sigma_{n2}, \sigma_p)$$

with

$$\phi_t = \left[\chi^s(\sigma_{n1}, \sigma_{n2}) \chi^{s_f}(\sigma_p) \right]_{M_{s_i}}^{s_i} \phi_t^{L=0}(\sum_{i,j} |\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j|)$$

(i.e. neglect in the d-component of the corresponding wavefunction)

Assuming for simplicity a symmetric di-neutron radial wavefunction of the triton, for the relative and center of mass wavefunctions $\phi_{\text{mem}}(\vec{r})$ and $\phi_{\text{NAM}}(R)$ ($n=l=m=0, N=A=M=0$), leads to Ω_n , a quantity which reflects both the non-orthogonality existing between the di-neutron wavefunctions into the final

nucleus (Cooper pair) and in the triton. 26/12/13 (8)

Another way to say the same thing, is that deuteron correlations in these two systems are different, a fact which underscores the limitations of light ion reactions to probe specifically pairing correlations in nuclei.

One can then conclude that, provided one makes use of a (reasonable) complete single-particle basis (eventually including also the continuum), one can capture through $U_{LSJ}^{JiJf}(R)$ most of the coherence of Cooper pair transfer, ^{in keeping with the fact that} major aspects of the associated di-neutron non-locality are taken care of by the n -summation weighted by the non-orthogonal overlaps Ω_n . This is in keeping with the fact that, making use of more refined triton wavefunctions ^{than employed above}, the n -p (deuteron-like) correlations of this particle can be described with reasonable accuracy and thus the emergence of successive transfer. On the other hand, being the deuteron a bound system, this effective treatment of the associated resonances is not particularly economic. Furthermore, zero-range approximation ($V(p)\phi_{000}(p) = D_0 \delta(\vec{p})$) blocks such a possibility.

Nonetheless, the fact that one can still work out a detailed and consistent picture of two-nucleon transfer reactions in nuclei in terms of absolute cross sections with the help of a single parameter (D_0) testifies to the fact that the above picture of Cooper pair

$D_0^2 \approx (31.6 \pm 9.3) 10^4 \text{ MeV}^2 \text{ fm}^2$

transfer

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is a powerful picture, as it contains a large fraction of the physics which is at the basis of Cooper pair transfer in nuclei (Broglia et al 1973; Ch. 2). This is the reason why, treating explicitly the intermediate deuteron channel in terms of successive transfer, correcting both this and the simultaneous transfer channel for non-orthogonality contributions, makes the above picture the quantitative probe of Cooper pair correlations in nuclei (Potel et al, 20013; Ch. 4 and 5), as testified by Fig. all ^{ang} _{dist.} and Table all abs. ^{cross} _{sections}.

Within this context, we provide below two

Footnote

^{*)} ~~and which~~, Within the framework of ^(two-nucleon transfer) an almost caricature-like simplification, implies that one knows how to calculate the absolute value of the modified form-factor at around the nuclear radius ^($R_0 \pm a/2$) _{L.S.P.}
($u_{LSJ}^{J_i J_f}(R_0 \pm a/2)$).

Potel, G, ... Review paper 2013

Broglia et al, 1973; Broglia, R.A., Hansen, D. and Riedel, C. (1973) Two-nucleon transfer and the pairing model, Adv. in Nucl. Phys. - - - -

Examples of B-coefficients. For the ^{one} (26/12/13) (10)
 case in which A and B(=A+2) are members
 of a pairing rotational. ^{a second one, in the case in which they are pairing vibrational members of a}
 tional band:

$$B(n_{\pi}, n_{\pi}; 0, 0, 0) = \langle BCS(N+2) | [a_{n_{\pi}}^{\dagger} a_{n_{\pi}}^{\dagger}]_0^0 | BCS(N) \rangle$$

$$= \sqrt{j+1/2} U_{n_{\pi}}(N) V_{n_{\pi}}(N+2)$$

and

$$B(n_{\pi}, n_{\pi}; 0, 0, 0) = \langle N_0 + 2(g_s) | [a_{n_{\pi}}^{\dagger} a_{n_{\pi}}^{\dagger}]_0^0 | N_0(g_s) \rangle$$

$$= \begin{cases} \sqrt{j+1/2} X_a(n_{\pi}, l_{\pi}, j_{\pi}) & (E_{j_{\pi}} > E_F) \\ \sqrt{j+1/2} Y_a(n_{\pi}, l_{\pi}, j_{\pi}) & (E_{j_{\pi}} \leq E_F) \end{cases}$$

For actual numerical values see box 3
 and Tables

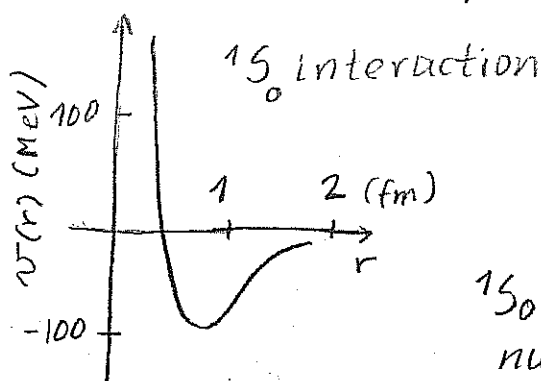
B-coeffs.

Quantality parameter ratio of quantal kinetic energy of localization and potential energy, box 1 App. 2.1A

$$Q = \frac{\hbar^2}{M a^2} \frac{1}{|v_0|}; M_n = 0.939 \text{ GeV}/c^2 \text{ (neutron mass)}$$

$$a \approx 1 \text{ fm (range)}$$

$$v_0 \approx -100 \text{ MeV (depth)}$$



1S_0 : interaction between two nucleons in states of time reversal with $S=L=0$, and thus in a singlet state.

(QM: ZPF ($\Delta p_x \Delta x \geq \hbar$))
 $\frac{\hbar^2}{M a^2}$)

constituents	M/M_n	$a(\text{cm})$	$v_0(\text{eV})$	Q	phase ($T=0$)	T_c
^3He	3	$2.9(-8)$	$8.6(-4)$	0.19	liquid ^{a)}	
^4He	4	$2.9(-8)$	$8.6(-4)$	0.14	liquid ^{a)}	
H_2	2	$3.3(-8)$	$32(-4)$	0.06	solid ^{a)}	
^{20}Ne	20	$3.1(-8)$	$31(-4)$	0.007	solid	
nucleons	1	$9(-14)$	$100(+6)$	$0.5^c)$	liquid ^{a,b)}	

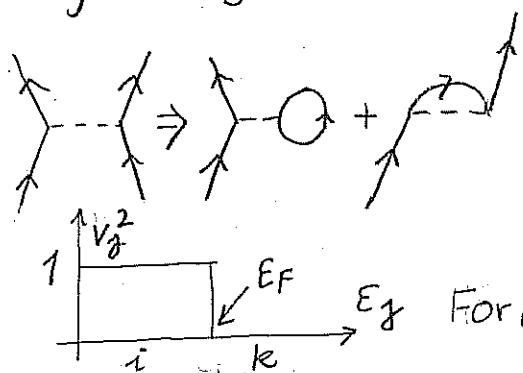
a) liquid (condensed)

b) better, Non-Newtonian solid

c) Nucleus, paradigm of quantal many-body Fermi systems.

(B.R. Mottelson, Elementary features of nuclear structure, Les Houches, Session LXVI, Elsevier (1998))

Fluctuations, quantal or classical, favor symmetry: gases and liquids are homogenous. Potential energy on the other hand prefers special arrangements: atoms like to be at specific distances from each other (spontaneous breaking of symmetry).



$$U(r) = \int d^3r' \rho(r') v(|r-r'|)$$

$$\rho(r) = \sum_i |\psi_i(r)|^2$$

$$U_x = - \sum_i \psi_i^*(r') v(|r-r'|) \psi_i(r)$$

For $Q \gg 0.15$ independent-particle motion.

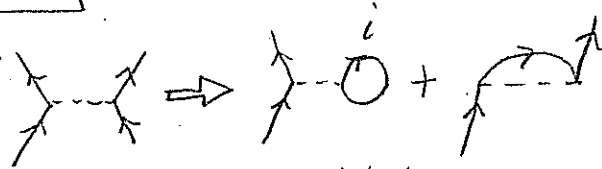
Cooper pairs

box 2
app. 2.3

[HF] $H = \sum_{j_1 j_2} \langle j_1 | T | j_2 \rangle a_{j_1}^\dagger a_{j_2} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\substack{j_1 j_2 \\ j(=j_1, m)}} \langle j_1 j_2 | v | j_3 j_4 \rangle a_{j_2}^\dagger a_{j_1}^\dagger a_{j_3} a_{j_4}$

Independent particle motion ($Q=1/2$), mean field

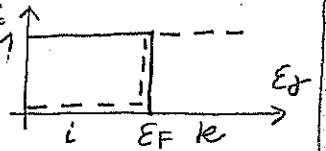
$a_{j_2}^\dagger a_{j_1}^\dagger a_{j_3} a_{j_4} \Rightarrow a_{j_2}^\dagger \langle a_{j_1}^\dagger a_{j_3} \rangle a_{j_4} + \dots$



$U(r) = \int d^3 r' \rho(r') v(|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|)$
 $U_X(r, r') = - \sum_i \varphi_i^*(\vec{r}') v(|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|) \varphi_i(\vec{r})$
 $\rho(r) = \sum_i |\varphi_i(\vec{r})|^2; \int d^3 r \rho(r) = N$

Hartree-Fock, complete separation between occupied ($|i\rangle$) and empty ($|k\rangle$) states

$(U_\nu^\dagger V_\nu^\dagger) \varphi = \bar{a}_\nu^\dagger |0\rangle = (U_\nu + V_\nu a_\nu^\dagger) |0\rangle; V_\nu^\dagger = \begin{cases} 1 & \epsilon_i \leq \epsilon_F \\ 0 & \epsilon_i > \epsilon_F \end{cases}$



$|\text{Nilsson}(\Omega)\rangle_{\mathcal{K}} = \det(\varphi_\nu) = \prod \bar{a}_\nu^\dagger |0\rangle = \prod a_\nu^\dagger |0\rangle = \prod a_\nu^\dagger a_\nu^\dagger |0\rangle$

$|IKM\rangle \sim \int d\Omega \oplus_{MK}^I(\Omega) |\text{Nilsson}(\Omega)\rangle; E_I = (\hbar^2/2\mathcal{J}) I(I+1); \mathcal{J} = \mathcal{J}_{\text{rig}}$

Independent pair motion

constant m.els approx. $\langle j_1 j_2 | v | j_3 j_4 \rangle = -G$

$\sum \langle a_{j_2}^\dagger a_{j_1}^\dagger \rangle a_{j_3} a_{j_4} + \sum a_{j_2}^\dagger a_{j_1}^\dagger \langle a_{j_3} a_{j_4} \rangle; \varphi_j^{\text{COOPER}} = (U_j + V_j a_{j,m}^\dagger a_{j,m}^\dagger) |0\rangle$

$|BCS\rangle = \prod_{j,m>0} (U_j + V_j a_{j,m}^\dagger a_{j,m}^\dagger) |0\rangle; \alpha_0 = \langle BCS | \sum_{j,m>0} a_{j,m}^\dagger a_{j,m}^\dagger | BCS \rangle$

$U_\nu = |U_\nu| = U'_\nu; V_\nu = e^{-2i\phi} V'_\nu (V'_\nu = |V_\nu|) (\nu \equiv j, m)$

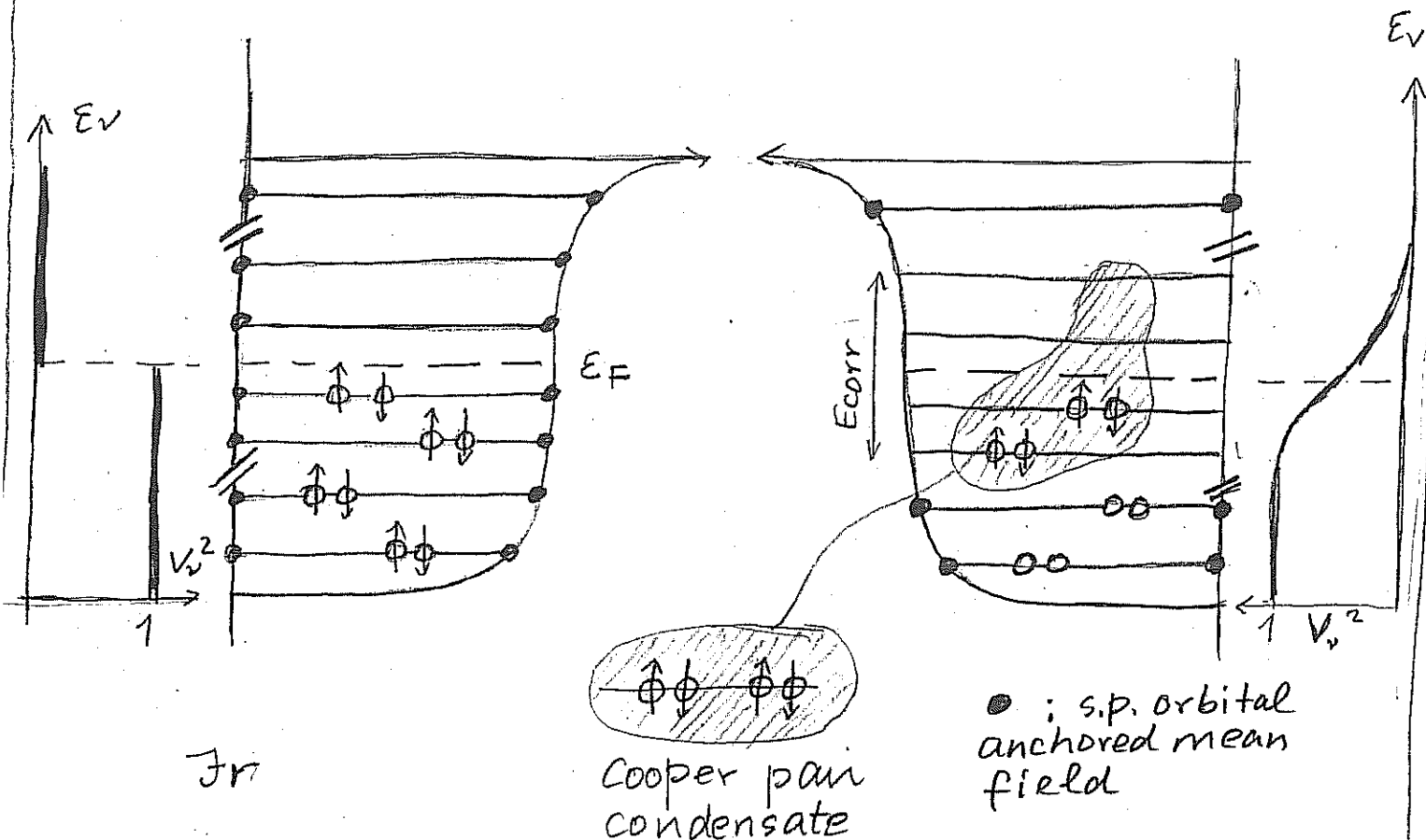
$|BCS(\phi)\rangle_{\mathcal{K}} = \prod_{\nu>0} (U'_\nu + V'_\nu e^{-2i\phi} a_\nu^\dagger a_\nu^\dagger) |0\rangle$ \mathcal{K} : lab. system
 $= \prod_{\nu>0} (U'_\nu + V'_\nu a_\nu^\dagger a_\nu^\dagger) |0\rangle = |BCS(\phi=0)\rangle_{\mathcal{K}'}$ \mathcal{K}' : intr. system

$\alpha_0 = \alpha'_0 e^{-2i\phi}; \alpha'_0 = \sum_{\nu>0} U'_\nu V'_\nu; \left\{ \begin{matrix} V'_\nu \\ U'_\nu \end{matrix} \right\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(1 \mp \frac{1}{E_\nu} \right)^{1/2}$

$\Delta = G \alpha_0; N_0 = 2 \sum_{\nu>0} V_\nu^2; \frac{1}{G} = \sum_{\nu>0} \frac{1}{2E_\nu}$ $E_\nu = ((\epsilon_\nu - \lambda)^2 + \Delta^2)^{1/2}$

$|N_0\rangle \sim \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi |BCS(\phi)\rangle_{\mathcal{K}} \sim \left(\sum_{\nu>0} c_\nu a_\nu^\dagger a_\nu^\dagger \right)^{N_0/2} |0\rangle; E_N = (\hbar^2/2\mathcal{J}) N^2$
 $\mathcal{J} \approx 2\hbar^2/G$

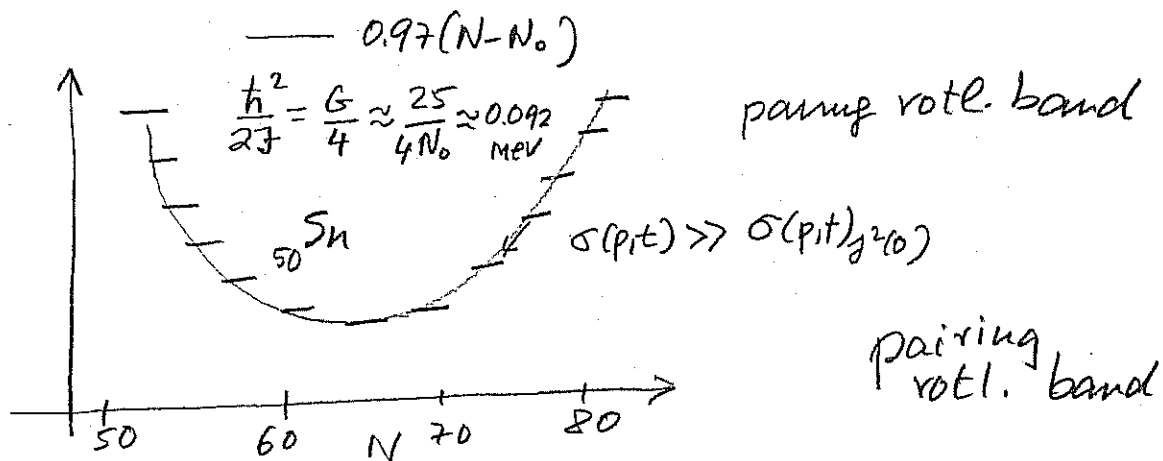
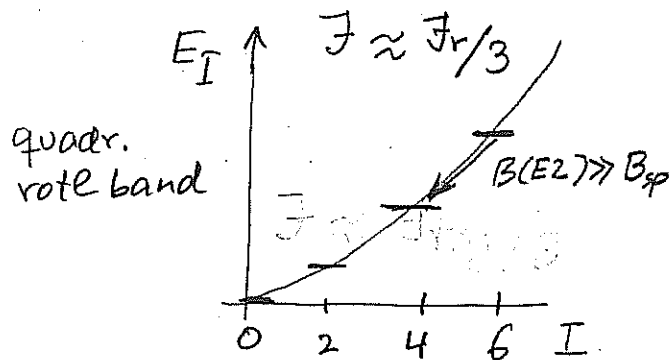
box 2 contin.



J_r

Diagram of a rotator with angular momentum I and energy E_I .

$$E_I = \frac{\hbar^2}{2J} I(I+1)$$



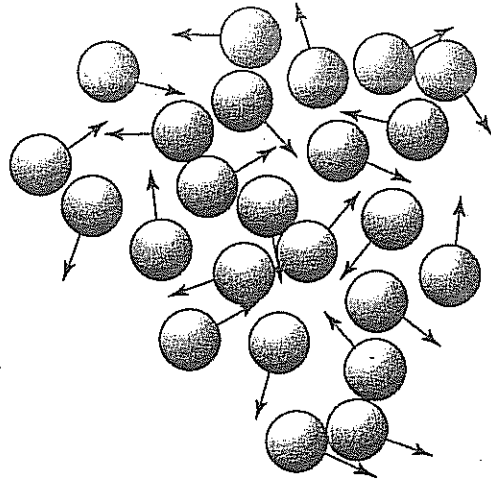


Figure 1.13. A system of independent Cooper pairs (Schafroth pairs). This situation corresponds to the incoherent solution of the many Cooper pair problem, the so called Fock state.

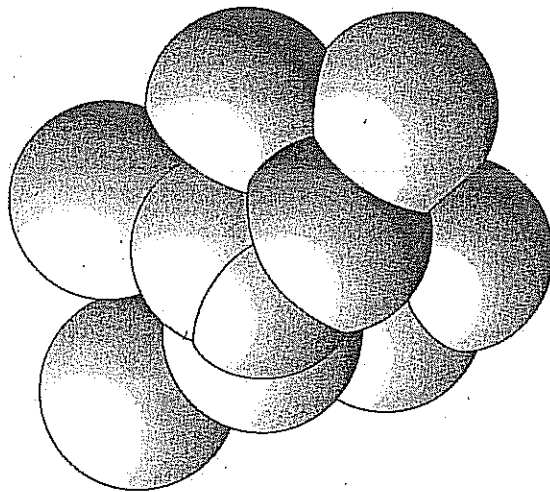


Figure 1.14. There are about 10^{18} Cooper pairs per cm^3 in a superconducting metal. A Cooper pair has a spatial extension of about 10^{-4} cm. Thus a given Cooper pair will overlap with 10^6 other Cooper pairs, leading to strong pair-pair correlation, as schematically shown. This solution corresponds to the coherent solution of the many Cooper pair problem (coherent state).