

Odd systems in deformed relativistic Hartree Bogoliubov theory in continuum

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In order to describe the exotic nuclear structure in unstable odd- A or odd-odd nuclei, the deformed relativistic Hartree Bogoliubov theory in continuum has been extended to incorporate the blocking effect due to the odd nucleon. For a microscopic and self-consistent description of pairing correlations, continuum, deformation, blocking effects, and the extended spatial density distribution in exotic nuclei, the deformed relativistic Hartree Bogoliubov equations are solved in a Woods-Saxon basis in which the radial wave functions have a proper asymptotic behavior at large r . The formalism and numerical details are provided. The code is checked by comparing the results with those of spherical relativistic continuum Hartree Bogoliubov theory in the nucleus ^{19}O . The prolate deformed nucleus ^{15}C is studied by examining the neutron levels and density distributions.

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As one of the most fascinating phenomena found in exotic nuclei, the nuclear halo contains many new and interesting features, such as a largely extended spatial density distribution, dilute and pure neutron matter, the Borromean property, and the coupling between bound states and the continuum [1]. In the past, several relativistic Hartree Bogoliubov theories with or without the Fock term have been developed for a self-consistent description of spherical halo nuclei [2–6]. In order to investigate halo phenomena in deformed nuclei in a microscopic and self-consistent way, a deformed relativistic Hartree Bogoliubov (RHB) theory in continuum has been developed for even-even nuclei [7–9]. Within this model a decoupling in shape between the core and the halo has been predicted in some deformed nuclei close to the neutron drip line, e.g. in $^{42,44}\text{Mg}$ [8, 9].

In order to describe the exotic nuclear structure in unstable odd- A or odd-odd nuclei, the blocking effect of one or several nucleons has to be taken into account. In the present Letter, the deformed relativistic Hartree Bogoliubov theory in continuum [7–9] is extended to incorporate the blocking effect due to an odd nucleon. In such a way, pairing correlations, continuum, deformation, blocking effects, and extended spatial density distributions in exotic, odd- A or odd-odd nuclei can be taken into account microscopically and self-consistently.

In order to treat pairing correlations, the quasi-particle concept is adopted and the ground state of an even-even nucleus $|\Phi\rangle$ is represented as a vacuum with respect to quasi-particles [10],

$$\beta_k|\Phi_0\rangle = 0, \quad \text{for all } k = 1, \dots, N, \quad (1)$$

where N is the dimension of the quasi-particle space and the quasi-particle operators β_k^\dagger, β_k are obtained by the Bogoliubov transformation from the particle operators c_l^\dagger, c_l ,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \beta \\ \beta^\dagger \end{pmatrix} = W^\dagger \begin{pmatrix} c \\ c^\dagger \end{pmatrix}, \quad W = \begin{pmatrix} U & V^* \\ V & U^* \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

The matrix W of the coefficients U and V is unitary which guarantees that the quasi-particle operators satisfy the same anti-commutation rules as the particle operators [10]. Starting from the bare vacuum $|0\rangle$, the ground state of a system with an even number of particles $|\Phi_0\rangle$ can be constructed as,

$$|\Phi_0\rangle = \prod_k \beta_k |0\rangle, \quad (3)$$

where $k = 1, \dots, N$. For an odd system, in practice, the corresponding ground state can be constructed as one quasi-particle state $|\Phi_1\rangle$,

$$|\Phi_1\rangle = \beta_1^\dagger |\Phi_0\rangle = \beta_1^\dagger \prod_k \beta_k |0\rangle, \quad (4)$$

where β_1^\dagger corresponds to the quasi-particle state with the lowest quasi-particle energy. In other words, the one quasi-particle state $|\Phi_1\rangle$ is the vacuum with respect to the set of quasi-particle operators $(\beta'_1, \dots, \beta'_N)$ with

$$\beta'_1 = \beta_1^\dagger, \beta'_2 = \beta_2, \dots, \beta'_N = \beta_N, \quad (5)$$

and the exchange of the operators $\beta_1^\dagger \leftrightarrow \beta_1$ forms a new set of quasi-particle operators $(\beta'_1, \dots, \beta'_N, \beta_1^\dagger, \dots, \beta_1^\dagger)$, which corresponds to the exchange of the columns $(U_{i1}, V_{i1}) \longleftrightarrow (V_{i1}^*, U_{i1}^*)$ in the matrix W . That is, the

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blocking effect in the odd system can be realized by exchanging the creator β_1^\dagger with the corresponding annihilator β_1 in the quasi-particle space. Accordingly, the blocking effect in a multi-quasi-particle configurations can be treated.

The covariant density functional theory has been applied to describe successfully nuclear structure over the entire periodic table [11–15]. The relativistic Hartree Bogoliubov equations [13–15] for the nucleons read,

$$\int d^3\mathbf{r}' \begin{pmatrix} h_D - \lambda & \Delta \\ -\Delta^* & -h_D + \lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U_k \\ V_k \end{pmatrix} = E_k \begin{pmatrix} U_k \\ V_k \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

where E_k is the quasiparticle energy, λ is the chemical potential which guarantees the proper average particle number and h_D is the Dirac Hamiltonian,

$$h_D(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{p} + V(\mathbf{r}) + \beta(M + S(\mathbf{r})). \quad (7)$$

The scalar and vector potentials

$$S(\mathbf{r}) = g_\sigma \sigma(\mathbf{r}), \quad (8)$$

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = g_\omega \omega^0(\mathbf{r}) + g_\rho \tau_3 \rho^0(\mathbf{r}) + e \frac{1 - \tau_3}{2} A^0(\mathbf{r}), \quad (9)$$

depend on the scalar field σ as well as the time-like components ω^0 , ρ^0 , and A^0 of the iso-scalar vector field ω , the 3-component of iso-vector vector field ρ and the photon field A .

For a fully paired and axially symmetric deformed system with the time reversal symmetry, the projection of the total angular momentum on the symmetry axis Ω is conserved and each single particle state has a degeneracy of two. The RHB equation (7) can be reduced to half dimension $M = N/2$ and can be decomposed into degenerate blocks with quantum numbers $+\Omega$ or $-\Omega$. The corresponding density and abnormal density matrix have dimension M and read

$$\rho_{M \times M} = V^* V^T, \quad (10)$$

$$\kappa_{M \times M} = V^* U^T, \quad (11)$$

where V and U are the coefficients in the corresponding subspace.

For an odd system with the k_b -th level blocked in the $+\Omega$ subspace, the time reversal symmetry is violated and there appear currents in the system. These currents show an axial symmetry, i.e., Ω remains a good quantum number, but the quasi-particle energies are no longer degenerate for the two subspaces, because the subspace with $+\Omega$ contains the odd particle and the corresponding subspace with $-\Omega$ contains an empty level. Therefore, in principle, we have to diagonalize the RHB equation twice, one for the subspace with $+\Omega$ and the other for the subspace with $-\Omega$. Using the equal filling approximation which is usually made [16, 17], we neglect currents and average in a statistical manner over the two configurations of a particle in the $+\Omega$ space and a particle in the $-\Omega$ space. The corresponding currents cancel each other and in this way we obtain in each step of the iteration fields with

TABLE I. Ground state properties of ^{19}O from deformed RHB and RCHB calculations. R_n , R_p and R_t refer to neutron, proton and total root mean square radii in unit of “fm”. E_{part} , E_σ , E_σ^{non} , E_ω , E_ω^{non} , E_ρ , E_{coul} , E_{pair} and E_{tot} refer to energies of particle, σ field, non-linear term of σ field, ω field, non-linear term of ω field, ρ field, Coulomb field, pairing energy and total binding energy in unit of “MeV”.

| | deformed RHB | RCHB |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------|
| R_n | 2.83 | 2.83 |
| R_p | 2.57 | 2.57 |
| R_t | 2.72 | 2.72 |
| E_{part} | -445.60 | -445.73 |
| E_σ | 2259.26 | 2260.18 |
| E_σ^{non} | -77.14 | -77.18 |
| E_ω | -1880.10 | -1880.83 |
| E_ω^{non} | 32.76 | 32.77 |
| E_ρ | -3.15 | -3.16 |
| E_{coul} | -17.10 | -17.10 |
| E_{pair} | -3.82 | -3.82 |
| E_{tot} | -144.80 | -144.78 |

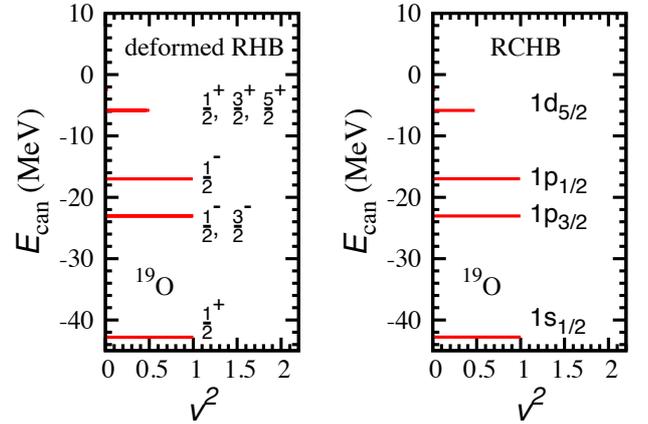


FIG. 1. (Color online) Neutron single particle levels in the canonical basis and their occupation probability v^2 for ^{19}O from the deformed RHB and RCHB calculations.

the time reversal symmetry. In practice we average the density matrix ρ and symmetrize the abnormal density κ in two subspaces and replace the two densities by

$$\rho' = \rho_{M \times M} + \frac{1}{2} (U_{k_b} U_{k_b}^{*T} - V_{k_b}^* V_{k_b}^T), \quad (12)$$

$$\kappa' = \kappa_{M \times M} - \frac{1}{2} (U_{k_b} V_{k_b}^{*T} + V_{k_b}^* U_{k_b}^T), \quad (13)$$

where V_{k_b} and U_{k_b} are column vectors in the matrices V and U corresponding to the blocked level. Note that Eqs. (12) and (13) are the same as those given in Refs. [16, 17] if one considers the time reversal symmetry and that the dimension of the densities here is $M = N/2$.

In the following applications we use the density functional PK1 [18] and a zero range density dependent pairing force [4, 9]. The deformed RHB equations are solved in a spherical Dirac Woods-Saxon basis [19] and the de-

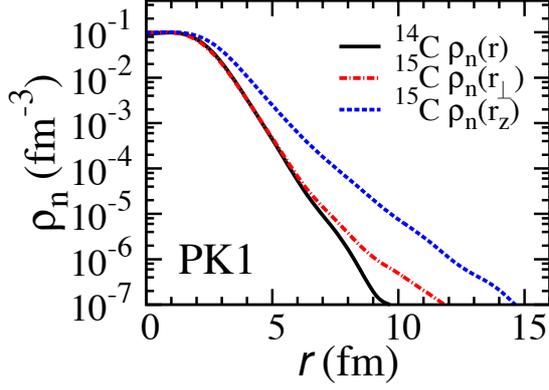


FIG. 2. (Color online) Neutron density profiles of ^{14}C and ^{15}C in deformed RHB calculations with the parameter set PK1.

formed potentials and densities are expanded in terms of the Legendre polynomials $P_\lambda(\cos\theta)$ (for details see Refs. [7–9]). In order to check the accuracy of the deformed code with the blocking effect we investigate the spherical nucleus ^{19}O and compare the results of the deformed RHB code allowing only the spherical components of the fields, i.e., $\lambda = 0$, with those obtained in the spherical relativistic continuum Hartree Bogoliubov (RCHB) theory [4]. The ground state properties from the deformed RHB and the RCHB calculations are given in Table I. It is clearly seen that both calculations agree well with each other. For example, the difference between the total binding energies is about 0.02 MeV, which corresponds to an accuracy of about 0.01%.

In order to check the details of the deformed RHB calculation, we show in Fig. 1 the neutron single particle levels in the canonical basis for ^{19}O in comparison with the spherical RCHB results. The length of each level is proportional to the occupation probability. In the spherical RCHB calculation, the blocked orbital is $1d_{5/2}$. In the deformed RHB code, a spherical solution is enforced by allowing only $\lambda = 0$ component in the Legendre expansion mentioned earlier and therefore the three sublevels of the $1d_{5/2}$ orbital with $\Omega^\pi = 1/2^+$, $3/2^+$, and $5/2^+$ are degenerate. The present results in Fig. 1 are obtained with the level $\Omega^\pi = 1/2^+$ blocked in the deformed RHB code, but blocking any of these three levels gives the same results. From Fig. 1 one finds a good agreement between the results from the deformed RHB and RCHB calculations.

After checking the code in the spherical case we now turn to an application of the deformed RHB theory for an exotic and deformed nucleus with an odd number of particles. The deformed halo candidate nucleus ^{15}C [20] is studied with the parameter set PK1 [18]. In contrary to the spherical even-even nucleus ^{14}C , the deformed RHB theory predicts a deformation $\beta = 0.25$ for the odd- A nucleus ^{15}C . The neutron root mean square radii of ^{14}C and ^{15}C are 2.56 fm and 2.79 fm respectively.

The deformed RHB calculations lead for ^{15}C to a de-

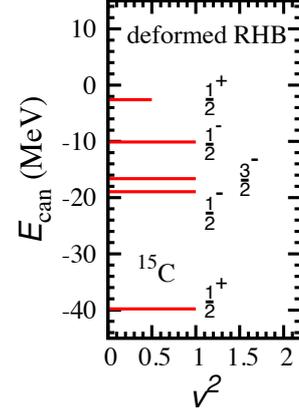


FIG. 3. (Color online) Neutron single particle levels in the canonical basis and their occupation probability v^2 for ^{15}C in the deformed RHB calculation.

formed density distributions with an axial symmetry. In Fig. 2 the neutron densities along the symmetry axis $\rho_n(r_z, r_\perp = 0)$ and perpendicular to the symmetry axis $\rho_n(r_z = 0, r_\perp)$ are plotted as dashed and dashed-dotted lines. We also include the spherical density for ^{14}C as a reference by a solid line. It is interesting to see that, in the direction perpendicular to the symmetry axis, the neutron densities are almost the same for ^{14}C and ^{15}C at least when $r_\perp < 6$ fm. Along the symmetry axis the neutron density of ^{15}C extends much further than that of ^{14}C . This is partly due to that ^{15}C is prolate and the weakly bound $1/2^+$ level is occupied.

The single particle levels of ^{15}C in the canonical basis are plotted in Fig. 3. Since it is a deformed nucleus, the $1p_{3/2}$ orbit is split into two levels with $\Omega^\pi = 1/2^-$ and $\Omega^\pi = 3/2^-$ respectively. There is one neutron occupying in $\Omega^\pi = 1/2^+$ level near the threshold. The occupation probability $v^2 = 0.5$, indicating that it is averaged over the two configurations with $\Omega^\pi = \pm 1/2^+$. Because of the deformation, this level is a mixture of the spherical orbits $1d_{5/2}$ (62%) and $2s_{1/2}$ (36%). The weakly-bound feature and the relatively large s-wave component of this level results in that the neutron density of ^{15}C extends further along the symmetry axis.

In summary, the blocking effect due to an odd nucleon is incorporated in a deformed relativistic Hartree Bogoliubov (RHB) theory in continuum in order to describe odd- A or odd-odd exotic nuclei. The formalism is briefly presented and the numerical checks are carried out by comparing the results of the deformed RHB code for the spherical nucleus ^{19}O with those obtained from the spherical RCHB code. As a first application, the deformed nucleus ^{15}C is studied by examining the neutron levels, deformation as well as density distributions along and perpendicular to the symmetry axis. Along the symmetry axis the neutron density of ^{15}C extends much further because ^{15}C is prolate and the weakly bound valence level with $\Omega^\pi = 1/2^+$ has a relatively large s-wave component.

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