Embedding collective models in the shell model

David J. Rowe, Dept of Physics, University of Toronto

Initial objective:

To give the collective models a microscopic foundation in shell-model terms.

We find that the many nuclear models are associated with shell-model coupling schemes.

New objective (in the light of the Draayer, Lourney, Dytrych, Vary, program):

What does this understanding imply for the construction of optimal choices of effective shell-model spaces.

Major colleagues:

G,T. Rosensteel, C. Bahri, J.P. Draayer, and numerous students and postdocs (many debts to K.T. Hecht) The harmonic oscillator shell model provides the formal framework for the description of nuclear structure.

It is an exceedingly rich algebraic model with a wealth of dynamical subgroups chains and solvable submodels.



The algebraic strategy

Express the model in terms of a unitary irreducible representation of a Lie algebra of observables (i.e., a spectrum generating algebra).

The model can then be embedded as a submodel of the shell model if its SGA is expressible in terms of many-nucleon coordinates (position, momentum, and spin).

E.g. Elliott's SU(3) model is an example of a complete algebraic model and a submodel of the shell model.

What about the Bohr model?

Originally expressed in terms of liquid drop shape coordinates

$$R(\vartheta, \varphi) = R_0 \left[1 + \sum_{\lambda \nu} \alpha_{\lambda \nu} Y^*_{\lambda \nu}(\vartheta, \varphi) \right]$$

It is an algebraic model with many dynamical symmetries (cf. Caprio's talk)

Heisenberg-Weyl algebra:

$$\pi^{\lambda \nu} = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_{\lambda \nu}}$$

$$\left[\alpha_{\lambda\mu},\pi^{\lambda\nu}\right]=i\hbar\delta^{\nu}_{\mu}$$

How do you make α microscopic? Change to quadrupole-moment coordinates

The microscopic collective model



To complete the construction of the CM(3) model one must determine its irreducible unitary representations.

Its algebraic structure is of the same type as the Euclidean and Poincare groups which admit unitary representations with intrinsic spin. – GT Rosensteel and DJ Rowe, Ann. Phys.96, 1 (1976)

CM(3) irreps are characterized by a vorticity quantum number. A zero vorticity irrep is an irrotational flow model (cf. Original Bohr model).

However, the microscopic CM(3) model adds the possibility of vorticity to the vibrational and rotational degrees of freedom of the Bohr model.

Construction of a model Hamiltonian: What to do about the kinetic energy?

A breakthrough came when we realised that the model is easily extended to include the many-nucleon kinetic energy to its Lie algebra.

The extension of CM(3) to Sp3,R)



GT Rosensteel and DJ Rowe, Phys. Rev. Lett. 38, 10 (1977)

Sp(3,R) is semisimple. Its representations sit nicely within the space of the spherical harmonic oscillator shell model. Its matrix elements are easily computed.

Dynamical groups of an LST coupling scheme



Structure of an Sp(3,R) irrep in a U(3) basis



For large N, the monople/quadrupole raising operators contract to s and d boson creation operators.

A single Sp(3,R) irrep plus Giant dipole





Bahri & Rowe Nucl. Phys. A662, 125 (2000).

(λμ)



Implications for an effective shell-model space

In heavy deformed nuclei, an ideal effective shell model would be the span of lowest-weight U(3) irreps for the set of all shell-model Sp(3,R) irreps. (This includes irreps with non-zero intrinsic spins)

Carvalho et al. Nucl. Phys. A452, 240 (1986), Le Blanc et al. Nucl. Phys. A452, 263 (1986).

This space is much to large but we can pick a subset of U(3) irreps. How?

The experimental approach: B(E2) values indicate (approximately) the Sp(3,R) irreps needed to describe given rotational bands.

M. Jarrio et al. Nucl. Phys. A528, 409 (1991)

- Use the asymptotic Nilsson model
- Pick lowest-energy U(3) irreps w.r.t. a Hamiltonian

 $H = N\hbar\omega - \kappa Cas$

Irreps with large deformations lie lower in energy

Ordering Sp(3,R) irreps

List Sp(3,R) irreps by harmonic oscillator energy.

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For each Sp(3,R) evaluate
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 $\left< \phi \right| H \left| \phi \right>$

and reorder by increasing energy.

Results: For each $N\hbar\omega$ the most deformed SU(3) irreps lie lowest.

But irreps from different spherical shells cross.

Ordering of U(3) irreps for ¹⁶O (simple SC approach)





SU(3) mixing with a spin-orbit interaction



The spin-orbit mixed irreps are indistinguishable from pure irreps at the 1% level

Rochford & Rowe Phys. Lett. B210, 5 (1988)

Model of a spherical superconductor to deformed rotor phase transition

Many-fermion model

$$H(\alpha) = (1 - \alpha)V_{\mathrm{SU}(2)} + \alpha V_{\mathrm{SU}(3)}$$

 $H(\alpha\!=\!0)$ has the SU(2) dynamical symmetry of a spherical superconductor

 $H(\alpha=1)$ has the SU(3) dynamical symmetry of a deformed rotor

For $0 < \alpha < 1$, solutions are generally too complicated to solve because there is no simple subgroup that contains both SU(2) and SU(3).

A model problem: suppose SU(2) and SU(3) are non-commuting subgroups of USp(6)

 $H_{\mathrm{SU}(2)} = \chi_1 S_+ S_ H_{\mathrm{SU}(3)} = \chi_2 Q \cdot Q$



Bahri, Rowe and Wijesundera Phys. Rev. C58, 1539 (1998)



Wave functions in an SU(3) > SO(3) basis

Two LS coupling schemes



For the 2s1d shell

Pairing model

 $U(6) \supset O(6) \supset SO(3)$

SU(3)-rotor model

 $U(6) \supset SU(3) \supset SO(3)$

Mixed Q.Q + L=0 pairing



20 Ne pairing plus quadrupole wave functions





Effective shell-model spaces spanned by a finite number of Sp(3,R) irreps

In model calculations for nuclei in which rotational dynamics is dominant states are highly coherent mixtures of relatively few irreps.

Why is this? A similar question: Why are lowlying states of nuclei dominated by quadrupole collective states?

By embedding collective models in the shell model, we can use the information gained from model explanations of the data to design a suitable effective space for a microscopic shell model calculation.

This is not 100% predictive. But I doubt that nuclear physics will ever be 100% predictable. Nuclear physics is rich in emergent phenomena. By using experimental data and model interpretations to guide shell model descriptions, we can build up an understanding and progress towards a more predictive theory.

Note that, for intruder states and for well-deformed nuclei, we need to include Sp(3,R) irreps with lowest- weight SU(3) irreps from higher shells.