Quantum simulations of nuclear pasta

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Frustration leads to pasta formation at the base of the inner crust



Outer Crust

Pasta: Ravenhall, Pethick and Wilson Phys. Rev. Lett. 50, 2066, 1983

"... after all, the cooking of spaghetti, while it spoils the perfect straightness of the strands, does not destroy the characteristic short range order"











A wide range of mechanical properties are exhibited (liquid crystal – Pethick, Potehkin, Phys Lett B427, 1998)

See Caplan, Horowitz arxiv: 1606.03646

Modeling pasta

Semi-classical:

Compressible Liquid Drop model (BBP 1971)

Thomas-Fermi (Buchler&Barkat, PRL27, 1971)

Molecular Dynamics (Maruyama+, PRC57, 1998) (400,000+ nucleons, e.g. Schneider+, PRC93, 2016)

Quantum: Hartree-Fock (Negele&Vautherin, NPhysA207, 1973)

5000+ nucleons



Systematic EOS modeling



Use our best calculations of PNM properties to constrain our EOS models.

2 purely isovector parameters in Skyrme and RMF energy density functionals – allows us to take a baseline model and refit those two parameters to PNM "data"

Polytropes above $1.5n_0$ tuned to give desired max mass $2+M_{sun}$



Brown, Schwenk, PRC89, 011307 (2014)

How much pasta is there?



3D Hartree-Fock Simulations of Pasta

Shell structure of unbound neutrons (scattering from Pasta structures) means many low-lying energy minima (Quantum frustration)

Disordered, amorphous

(Magierski & Heenen PRC 045804 2002)

"Fermionic Casimir Effect", effective attraction between certain structures



3D Hartree-Fock Simulations of Pasta

Finite Temperature, $y_p = 0.3$;

Newton+, PhD Thesis, Jphys Conf Series 46, 2006; PRC 055801, 2009







Amphiphilic Bicontinuous Cubic-P Phase

3D Hartree-Fock Simulations of Pasta



0

0.02

0.04

0.06

density p [fm-3]

0.08

0.1

Skyrme and RMF simulations

3D Hartree-Fock Simulations of Pasta



Schuetrumpf+ PRC 025801, 2015; 045806, PRC 2015

3D Hartree-Fock: Boundary Conditions

 $n_b = 0.06 \text{ fm}^{-3}$; A = 500; $y_p = 0.04$



Newton+, PhD Thesis, Jphys Conf Series 46, 2006; PRC 055801, 2009

3D Hartree-Fock: Boundary Conditions



Newton+, PhD Thesis, Jphys Conf Series 46, 2006; PRC 055801, 2009

3D Hartree-Fock: Boundary Conditions – spurious shell effects





Solution: average over Bloch momentum covectors

 $\psi_{k,q}(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{T}) = e^{i\mathbf{K}\cdot\mathbf{T}}\psi_{k,q}(\mathbf{r}),$

Schuetrumpf+ 045806, PRC 2015

Pasta in hot, "proton rich" matter $y_p = 0.3$



Newton, Stone, PRC 055801, 2009; Pais, Newton, PRL 151101, 2012 Pais, Newton, Stone PRC 065802, 2014



T = 2 MeV

Pais+, PRL 151101, 2012



Pais, Newton, Stone, PRC 065802, 2014



Pais, Newton, Stone, PRC 065802, 2014



Pais, Newton, Stone, PRC 065802, 2014

Pasta transitions in the neutron star crust

NRAPR, $y_p = 0.02 - 0.03$; Pasta starts appearing at $n_b \approx 0.04$ fm⁻³



Newton, Stone, Kaltenborn, in prep

Disordered pasta



Disordered pasta



600 6.675 550 6.670 6.665 ઝુ 6.660 (NeV) 6.655 E/N ß 20° 5. 6.650 10° 6.645 \mathfrak{I}_{\circ} 6.640 0 0.Ò0 0.08 0.16 0.24 Newton, Kaltenborn and Stone, in prep

Minima separated by energy barriers <10 keV/particle

As mantle cools below 10⁸⁻⁹K, pasta phases may organize into microscopic domains containing different geometries coexisting at the same density

Highly disordered

SkIUFSU; L = 30 MeV; $n_{\text{sph-pasta}} = 0.045 \text{ fm}^{-3}$; $n_{\text{cc}} = 0.098 \text{ fm}^{-3}$











0.054 fm⁻³













0.07 fm⁻³

0.08 fm⁻³



0.07 fm⁻³

Transition pressures



Fattoyev, Newton, Xu, Li, PRC86, 025804 (2012) Newton & Fattoyev, in prep. Newton, Stone, Kaltenborn, in prep.

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Pasta mass fraction



Pasta mass fraction



Calibrating CLDM using 3DHF

 $y_{\rm p} = 0.02$



NRAPR (L=60 MeV)

Calibrating CLDM using 3DHF

 $y_{\rm p} = 0.02$



SkIUFSU (L=30 MeV)

How well do we know the crust?



Newton, Gearheart, Li, ApJS 204, 2013

How well do we know the crust?



Newton, Gearheart, Li, ApJS 204, 2013

Long range order of pasta



Long range order at pasta "freezing" point



(See Watanabe+, NPhysA 676, 2003)

Conclusions and open questions

Quantum predicts larger region of pasta matter than semi-classical methods (shell effects)

Pasta mass of crust > 50%

Effect of symmetry energy indirect – through equilibrium proton fraction

Magnetic field ordering?

Anisotropic transport properties

Importance of various types of disorder (what happens as pasta cools?

- topological defects
- quantum frustration
- thermodynamic fluctuations