

## Challenges to the shell model

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## **Configuration-interaction shell model**



Matrix formalism: expand in some (many-body) basis  $\hat{\mathbf{H}}|\Psi\rangle = E|\Psi\rangle$ 

$$\begin{split} |\Psi\rangle &= \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} |\alpha\rangle \qquad \qquad H_{\alpha\beta} = \langle \alpha | \hat{\mathbf{H}} | \beta \rangle \\ &\sum_{\beta} H_{\alpha\beta} c_{\beta} = E c_{\alpha} \end{split}$$

Disadvantage:

• not size-extensive, basis grow exponentially

Advantages:

- Excited states easy to generate
- Direct access to wave function allows for detailed analysis



## **Outline of talk**

- The rise and fall and rise of the shell model
- The challenge of intruders
- <sup>11</sup>Li & <sup>29</sup>F as case studies

• Possible paths forward

# A brief and incomplete history



1949: Goeppert-Mayer and Axel, Jensen & Suess show spin-orbit splitting explain magic numbers. Single-particle picture describes many measured magnetic moments. (*Non-interacting shell model*)

1956: Edith Halbert and J. B. French perform early configuration-interaction *(interacting shell model)* calculations.

1965: Cohen-Kurath empirical interaction for valence *p*-shell
1977: Whitehead introduces Lanczos method
1984: Wildenthal interaction for valence *sd*-shell
1991: FPD6 interaction for valence *pf* shell

# A brief and incomplete history



*But....* 

1970 Barrett and Kirson, 1972 Schucan and Weidenmuller: intruder states can cause perturbative expansions to ultimately diverge.

This in particular applies to particle-hole states.

This makes expanding beyond the valence space problematic, and **almost** kills the field (except for a stubborn few) for twenty years.



# A brief and incomplete history



# 1991-1993: Barrett and Vary introduce the **no-core shell model**:

Without a core, there is no "particle-hole" expansion.

Around this same time high-precision phase shift data from NN scattering became available.

Fitted to this data, the Argonne potential showed one could reproduce nuclear many-body data.

Then chiral EFT gave a systematic way to characterize nuclear forces

The field lurches back to life!

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No-core shell model: in harmonic oscillator basis, "all" particles active (up to  $N_{max}$  h.o. excitation quanta), with high-precision interaction (e.g. chiral EFT, HOBET, etc.) fit to *few-body* data

e.g. *p*-shell nuclides up to  $N_{max} = 10 \dots 22$ 

(cf talks by Anna McCoy and Mark Caprio)



### Some highlight achievements:

• Can get spectra of light nuclei "from first principles"



PHYSICAL REVIEW C 87, 014327 (2013)

Maris , Vary, Navratil PRC **87**, 014327 (2013)

chiral 2+3 body forces

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### Some highlight achievements:

Can get spectra of light nuclei "from first principles"



Maris *et al* PRC **90**, 014314 (2014)

 $^{12}$ C with chiral 2+3 body forces

Hoyle state

<sup>20</sup>Ne



### <sup>20</sup>Ne



By looking at the grouptheoretical decomposition, we can even show that the valence-space empirical and *ab initio* multi-shell wave functions have similar structure!



<sup>24</sup>Mg







Maris et al PRC 90, 014314 (2014)

<sup>12</sup>C with chiral 2+3 body forces

The Hoyle state in <sup>12</sup>C is a problem!



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DIEGO STATE NIVERSITY Haxton and Johnson, PRL 65, 1325 (1990)

E (MeV)



Haxton and Johnson, PRL **65**, 1325 (1990)







These cluster states are not easy to reproduce in the NCSM. They may require as much as 30ho excitations in a h.o. basis (T. Neff), yet they appear low in the spectrum





#### T. Neff, J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 403 012028 (2012)

Journal of Physics: Conference Series 403 (2012) 012028

doi:10.1088/1742-6596/403/1/012028



**Figure 6.** Decomposition of the <sup>12</sup>C ground state and the Hoyle state into  $N\hbar\Omega$  components for oscillator constants of 20 MeV (left) and 12 MeV (right).

Fermionic molecular dynamics calculation with Argonne V18 potential

T. Neff, J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 403 012028 (2012)





<sup>12</sup>C g.s. (fermionic molecular dynamics FMD calculation)









5

<sup>12</sup>C Hoyle state main FMD configurations.

#### T. Neff, J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 403 012028 (2012)





See also: S. Shen, D. Lee, et al, Nat. Commun. 14 (2023) 2777 (arXiv:2202.13596) for similar results on the lattice









5

<sup>12</sup>C Hoyle state main FMD configurations.



## So basically we have the intruder state problem all over again!







One can phenomenologically reproduce spectra for example, by adjusting single particle energies





# One can phenomenologically reproduce spectra for example, by adjusting single particle energies



B. Dai, CWJ, et al, PRC 103, 064327 (2021)

(adjust s.pe.s to fit levels in <sup>15,17</sup>O relative to <sup>16</sup>O)



One can phenomenologically reproduce spectra or by adjusting the strength of an SU(3) Casimir









Furthermore, the islands of inversions and halo nuclei form a similar **challenge** to standard shell-model pictures







<sup>11</sup>Li makes for an excellent case study:

- Example of "island of inversion"
- Halo or extended state
- Small enough to be tackled numerically
- Testbed for techniques



One proton outside a filled shell + filled neutron shell One proton outside a filled shell + neutron 2p-2h

## "island of inversion"



<sup>11</sup>Li makes for an excellent case study

(The following results are **preliminary**)

3/2- g.s. is a halo state and on an island of inversion



<sup>11</sup>Li makes for an excellent case study

Calculations with Entem-Machleidt N3LO chiral (no 3-body) at  $h\Omega = 20$  MeV.

Also computed with natural orbitals









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TATE Y

Mark Caprio











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Mark Caprio









Grouptheoretical Decomposition

Elliot SU(3)

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CASE STUDY: <sup>11</sup>LI



CASE STUDY: <sup>11</sup>LI



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### CASE STUDY: 29F

#### <sup>29</sup>F is an analog of <sup>11</sup>Li





One proton outside a filled shell + filled neutron shell One proton outside a filled shell + neutron 2p-2h

### "island of inversion"

## CASE STUDY: <sup>29</sup>F



### <sup>29</sup>F is an analog of <sup>11</sup>Li (calculations done this week!)



#### $N_{max}$ = 4, natural orbitals

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 $N_{max}$  = 4, natural orbitals

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CASE STUDY: 29F

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## CASE STUDY: <sup>29</sup>F

# CASE STUDIES: <sup>11</sup>LI, <sup>29</sup>F



I suggest <sup>11</sup>Li, <sup>29</sup>F as case studies for other methods (coupled cluster, IM-SRG, symmetry adapted, lattice, etc.).

# CASE STUDIES: <sup>11</sup>LI, <sup>29</sup>F



I suggest <sup>11</sup>Li, <sup>29</sup>F as case studies for other methods (coupled cluster, IM-SRG, symmetry adapted, lattice, etc.).

We should also look for experimental observables to test our calculations (since the quadrupole moment, in <sup>11</sup>Li at least, does not differentiate between states).



### So what have we learned?

The no-core shell model reproduces some features easily but others are very challenging!





These calculations were performed with an M-scheme (fixed-Jz) on-the-fly code.

Such on-the-fly codes (ANTOINE, BIGSTICK, etc) are extremely efficient (CWJ et al, Comp. Phys.Comm. 184, 2761(2013))

But even those codes have their limits

![](_page_56_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_0.jpeg)

What are possible strategies for extending the reach of the shell model?

![](_page_57_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Strategies for moving forward

![](_page_58_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Many-body bases: algebraic and other cluster bases (see talks by (Caprio?) McCoy, Volya)
- Many-body bases from single-particle: projected Hartree-Fock + GCM (see talk by Nowacki)
- Proton-neutron truncated basis
- Energy-truncation of shell-model basis

# Strategies for moving forward

![](_page_59_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Many-body bases: algebraic and other cluster bases (see talks by McCoy, Volya)
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### Symplectic Sp(3,R) Symmetry

![](_page_60_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Picture_2.jpeg)

(From K. Launey, LSU)

From first principles: light/intermediate-mass nuclei, lowlying states

![](_page_61_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Group theory may be a natural framework for cluster physics

Kravvaris & Volya, PRL **119**, 062501 (2017)

![](_page_62_Figure_3.jpeg)

FIG. 1. Spectrum of RGM Hamiltonian with the SRG softened N3LO interaction ( $\lambda = 1.5 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ ) and  $\hbar\Omega = 25 \text{ MeV}$  for a  $2\alpha$  system. Zero on the energy scale is set by the  $\alpha + \alpha$  breakup threshold of the corresponding model. Levels are marked by spin and parity and by an absolute binding energy in units of MeV. The  $\alpha$  binding energies for the  $\alpha[0]$  and NCSM ( $\alpha[4]$ ) calculations are -26.08 and -28.56 MeV, respectively. The inset shows the relative wave function of the two  $\alpha$  clusters.

# Strategies for moving forward

![](_page_63_Picture_1.jpeg)

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# Strategies for moving forward

![](_page_64_Picture_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_64_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Picture_0.jpeg)

J-scheme matrices are smaller but much denser than M-scheme, and "symmetry-adapted" (i.e. SU(3)) matrices are smaller (and denser) still.

example:  ${}^{12}C N_{max} = 8$ 

scheme basis dim

Μ	6 х	$10^{8}$

- J (J=4) 9 x 10<sup>7</sup>
- SU(3) 9 x 10<sup>6</sup>

(truncated)

From Dytrych, et al, arXiv:1602.02965

![](_page_66_Picture_0.jpeg)

J-scheme matrices are smaller but much denser than M-scheme, and "symmetry-adapted" (i.e. SU(3)) matrices are smaller (and denser) still.

example:  ${}^{12}C N_{max} = 8$ 

scheme basis dim		# of nonzero matrix elements	
Μ	$6 \ge 10^8$	$5 \ge 10^{11}$	
J (J=4)	$9 \ge 10^{7}$	$3 \ge 10^{13}$	
SU(3)	9 x 10 <sup>6</sup>	$2 \ge 10^{12}$	

(truncated)

From Dytrych, et al, arXiv:1602.02965

![](_page_67_Picture_0.jpeg)

J-scheme matrices are smaller but much denser than M-scheme, and "symmetry-adapted" (i.e. SU(3)) matrices are smaller (and denser) still.

example:  ${}^{12}C N_{max} = 8$ 

scheme basis dim # of nonzero matrix elements M  $6 \times 10^8$   $10^7$   $10^$ 

From Dytrych, et al, arXiv:1602.02965

# **Choice of wave function basis**

![](_page_68_Picture_1.jpeg)

One chooses between a *few*, *complicated* states or *many simple states* 

![](_page_68_Figure_3.jpeg)

# **Choice of wave function basis**

![](_page_69_Picture_1.jpeg)

One chooses between a *few*, *complicated* states or *many simple states* 

![](_page_69_Figure_3.jpeg)

# **Choice of wave function basis**

![](_page_70_Picture_1.jpeg)

One chooses between a *few*, *complicated* states or *many simple states* 

![](_page_70_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_71_Picture_0.jpeg)
# **Strategies for moving forward**



• Many-body bases: algebraic and other cluster bases (see talks by McCoy, Volya)

• Many-body bases from single-particle: projected Hartree-Fock + GCM (see talk by Nowacki)

- Proton-neutron truncated basis
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Alternate approach for medium/heavy nuclei: Proton-neutron factorization

$$\left|\Psi\right\rangle = \sum_{\mu\nu} c_{\mu\nu} \left|p_{\mu}\right\rangle \left|n_{\nu}\right\rangle$$

Can we truncate to just a few components?

Gorton and CWJ, J. Phys. G 50, 045110 (2023).



Alternate approach for medium/heavy nuclei: Proton-neutron factorization

$$\left|\Psi\right\rangle = \sum_{\mu\nu} c_{\mu\nu} \left|p_{\mu}\right\rangle \left|n_{\nu}\right\rangle$$

 $(a_1|010110...\rangle + a_2|110010...\rangle + a_3|001011...\rangle + ....)$ 

No longer single "Slater determinants" but linear combinations...



Alternate approach for medium/heavy nuclei:<sup>UNIVERSITY</sup> Proton-neutron factorization

$$\left|\Psi\right\rangle = \sum_{\mu\nu} c_{\mu\nu} \left|p_{\mu}\right\rangle \left|n_{\nu}\right\rangle$$

Can we truncate to just a few components?

Priori work by Papenbrock, Juodagalvis, Dean, Phys. Rev. C **69**, 024312 (2004), **focused on N =Z** 

similar to DMRG (density-matrix renormalization group) (but not exactly)



### Why we think this could work:

Decompose full wfn into proton, neutron components

$$\left|\Psi\right\rangle = \sum_{\mu\nu} c_{\mu\nu} \left|p_{\mu}\right\rangle \left|n_{\nu}\right\rangle$$

$$frac_{\mu} = \sum_{\nu} |c_{\mu\nu}|^2$$

= fraction of full wave function with proton (eigen)state  $\mu$ 

(one can compute this very efficiently with the Lanczos algorithm, using just the **proton part of the full Hamiltonian**)



### decomposition of g.s.



These energies are the eigenenergies of 6 valence protons in the *pf* shell

### pf-shell with GX1A interaction



### decomposition into proton components



Note exponential (Boltzmann) fall-off



Example application:

shells between 50 and 82 ( $0g_{7/2}$  2s1d  $0h_{11/2}$ )

<sup>129</sup>Cs: M-scheme dim 50 billion (haven't tried!)

Proton Slater determinant dimension: 14,677 Neutron Slater determinant dimension: 646,430



### We have written a code (O. Gorton) Proton And Neutron Approximate Shell model: PANASh

We want to find solutions to

$$\hat{H} |\Psi\rangle = E |\Psi\rangle \text{ where } \hat{H} = \hat{H}_{pp} + \hat{H}_{nn} + \hat{H}_{pn}$$
We solve  $\hat{H}_{pp} |\Psi_p\rangle = E_p |\Psi_p\rangle \quad \hat{H}_{nn} |\Psi_n\rangle = E_n |\Psi_n\rangle$ 
and choose certain  $|\Psi_p\rangle |\Psi_n\rangle$  as basis for diagonalization;





Using BIGSTICK we construct many-proton states of good J

$$|\Psi_{p},J_{p}M\rangle = \sum_{\mu} c_{\mu}|p_{\mu},M\rangle$$

and the same for many-**neutron** states; these we **couple** together in a *J*-scheme code with fixed *J* for basis:

Oliver Gorton

$$|\Psi_{J}\rangle = \sum_{ab} c_{ab} \left[ \Psi_{p} a, J_{p} \otimes \Psi_{n} b, J_{n} \right]_{J}$$
 same here,  
only for neutrons

We don't take all possible of these, but choose those lowest in energy when solving the proton-only system



proton+neutron energies and densities









<sup>70</sup>Ge (jun45)





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# We can also compute EM and weak transitions San Diego State





### We can also compute EM and weak transitions



# **Moving forward**



Can we apply to the no-core shell model?



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The configuration-interaction **shell model** remains useful despite its ups and downs.

The no-core shell model can describe **many** features naturally, but some 'intruder' states—such as halos, configuration inversion, the Hoyle state & analogs are a challenge.

While M-scheme, on-the-fly codes are extremely efficient, alternative modalities—algebraic, GCM, proton-neutron may be needed to **correctly** describe these 'intruder' states.

# **Extra slides**



# Strategies for moving forward



- Many-body bases: algebraic and other cluster bases (see talks by McCoy, Volya)
- Many-body bases from single-particle: projected Hartree-Fock + GCM (see talk by Nowacki)
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# "Phenomenological" calculations work in a fixed space, usually with a core





# However even valence space calculations can still become intractable









# This is particularly true in calculations with two major shells, such as the *sd-pf* space

M-scheme dimension

<sup>40</sup>Mg: 286 billion

<sup>40</sup>Ar: 927 trillion!





#### Often we truncate by particle-hole excitations



2 particles, 2 holes



### M-scheme dimensions

- full space 0p-0h 2p-2h 4p-4h <sup>40</sup>Mg: 286 billion 5 million 1.3 billion 28 billion
- $^{40}$ Ar: 927 trillion! 1566 9 million 4.6 billion

But is this strategy optimal?





# 2p, 2h excitations

Not all single-particle energies are the same! (and single-particle energies are not the whole story)



Instead, we truncate based upon shell model `configurations'

In particular, truncate on the configuration centroid (average) (Horoi, Brown, and Zelevinsky, PRC 50, R2274(R) (1994))





A configuration (or partition) is:

the set of all many-body states with a fixed occupation of shell model orbitals, i.e.,

```
(0d_{5/2})^2(1s^{1/2})^1(0d_{3/2})^1
```

 $(0d_{5/2})^3(1s^{1/2})^1(0d_{3/2})^0$ 

etc.



## A configuration (or partition) is:

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 $(0d_{5/2})^2(1s^{1/2})^1(0d_{3/2})^1$ 

 $(0d_{5/2})^3(1s^{1/2})^1(0d_{3/2})^0$ 

The *configuration centroid* is the average energy of all the states in a configuration

Duflo and Zuker, PRC 59, R2347(R) (1999)

etc.



## A configuration (or partition) is:

the set of all many-body states with a fixed occupation of shell model orbitals, i.e.,

The configuration centroids depend only upon the single-particle energies and the monopoles, and can be easily computed *without* constructing the entire Hamiltonian matrix.

The *configuration centroid* is the average energy of all the states in a configuration

Duflo and Zuker, PRC 59, R2347(R) (1999)





One can truncate the model space on the *configuration centroid* 

Horoi, Brown, and Zelevinsky, PRC 50, R2274(R) (1994)



One can truncate the model space on the *configuration centroid* 

Horoi, Brown, and Zelevinsky, PRC 50, R2274(R) (1994)



This is a little nontrivial in **BIGSTICK**.

BIGSTICK is organized around quantum numbers, including a fake integer quantum number, 'w' (or weight), assigned to each orbital. (For the no-core shell model, this is then principal quantum number N).

BIGSTICK truncates by restricting to a maximum total *W*. This is very fast!

But BIGSTICK's truncation is *linear* in the orbitals,

while configuration centroids are *quadratic* 



Nonetheless I had a master's student (A. Keller) write a code using simulated annealing to optimize the single-particle weights, based upon some targeted cutoff in centroids
Nonetheless I had a master's student (A. Keller) write a code using simulated annealing to optimize the SAN single-particle weights.



## de San Diego State University

Nonetheless I had a master's student (A. Keller) write a code using simulated annealing to optimize the SAM single-particle weights.



Si41, negative parity





This is work in progress!

- To reduce spurious center-of-mass motion, can add +  $\lambda$  H<sub>cm</sub> (Lawson method)—reduces to < 1%.
- Still have yet to study convergence with basis dimension