

# Unveiling proton-neutron pairing in homogeneous and isotropic nuclear matter

**B. C. Backes<sup>1</sup>, J. Dobaczewski<sup>1,2</sup>, V. Guillon<sup>3</sup>, K. Bennaceur<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of York, York, United Kingdom

<sup>2</sup>University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

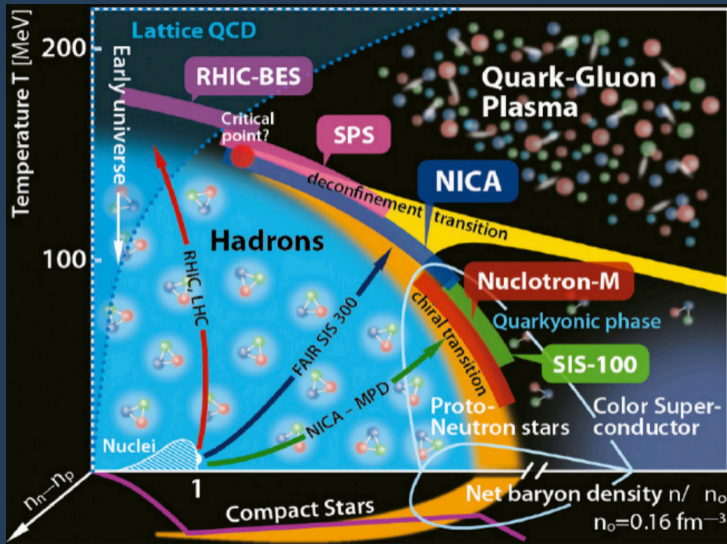
<sup>3</sup>Université Claude Bernard, Lyon, France

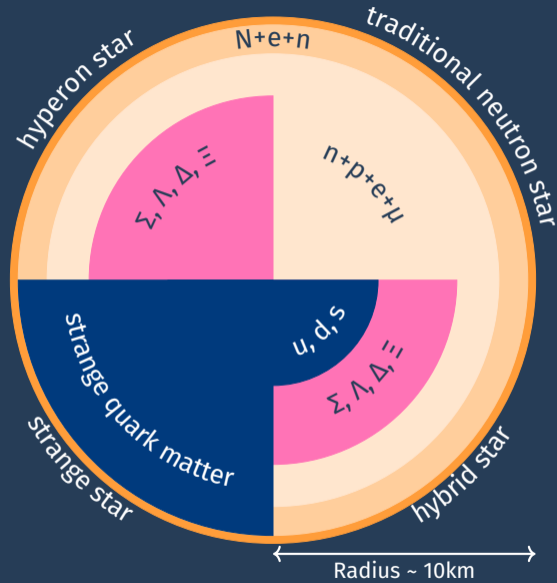


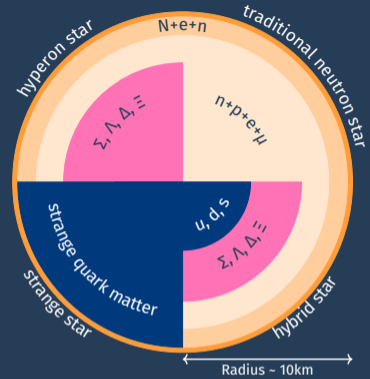
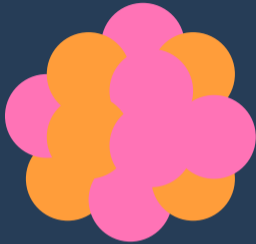
2026 IOP  
Brighton

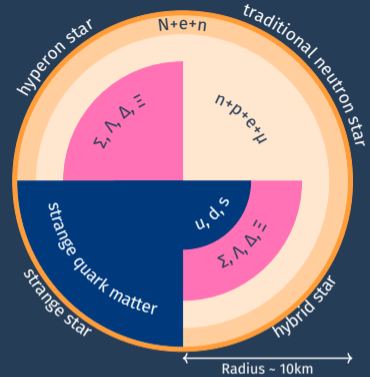
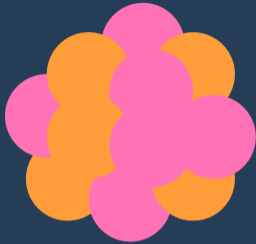


# Unveiling proton-neutron pairing in homogeneous and isotropic nuclear matter









$$E[\rho]$$

a universal Energy Density Functional

# Unveiling proton-neutron pairing in homogeneous and isotropic nuclear matter

Unveiling proton-neutron pairing in  
**homogeneous and isotropic nuclear matter**

$$|Z\rangle = \exp\{\hat{Z}^+\} |0\rangle$$

Thouless wave function

$$\hat{Z}^+ = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu\nu} Z_{\mu\nu}^* a_{\mu}^+ a_{\nu}^+$$

Thouless pair creation operator

$$\hat{Z}^+ = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu\nu} Z_{\mu\nu}^* a_{\mu}^+ a_{\nu}^+$$

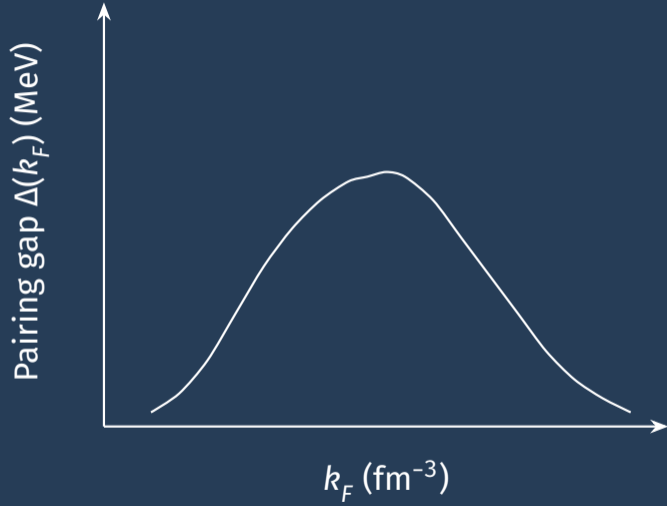
Thouless pair creation operator

$$\hat{Z}^+ = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu\nu} z_{\mu\nu}^* a_{\mu}^+ a_{\nu}^+$$

Thouless pair creation operator

$$\kappa_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\langle Z | a_\nu a_\mu | Z \rangle}{\langle Z | Z \rangle}$$

Pairing tensor



What can we learn  
about INM  
building up from  
the wave functions?

Unveiling proton-neutron pairing in  
**homogeneous and isotropic nuclear matter**

# Unveiling proton-neutron pairing in homogeneous and isotropic nuclear matter

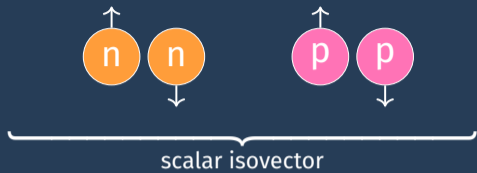
**on which ways can we pair two nucleons?**

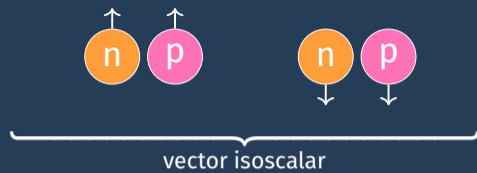
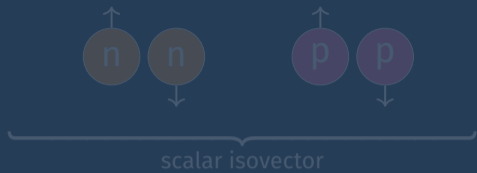
$$|1\rangle \equiv |\uparrow n\rangle$$

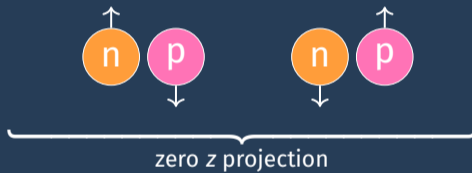
$$|2\rangle \equiv |\downarrow n\rangle$$

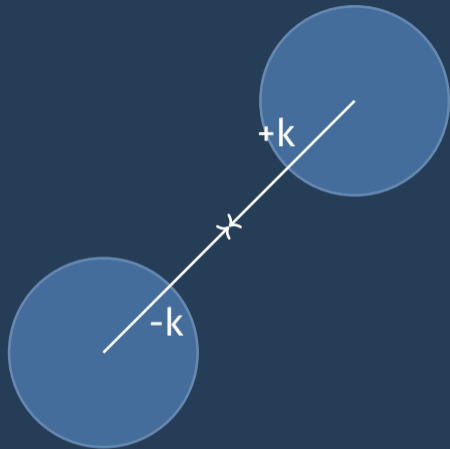
$$|3\rangle \equiv |\uparrow p\rangle$$

$$|4\rangle \equiv |\downarrow p\rangle$$









$$|1\rangle \equiv |\uparrow n\rangle$$

$$|2\rangle \equiv |\downarrow n\rangle$$

$$|3\rangle \equiv |\uparrow p\rangle$$

$$|4\rangle \equiv |\downarrow p\rangle$$

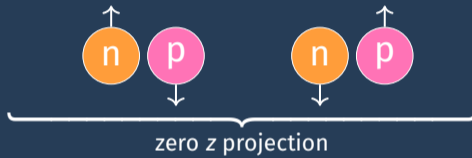
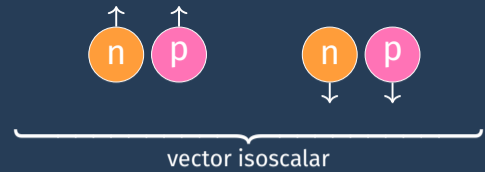
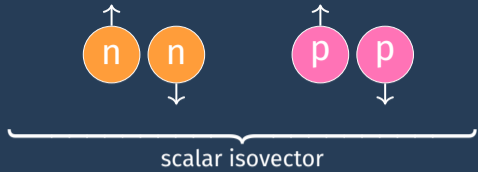
$$|1\rangle \equiv |+\mathbf{k} \uparrow n\rangle, \quad |5\rangle \equiv |-\mathbf{k} \uparrow n\rangle,$$

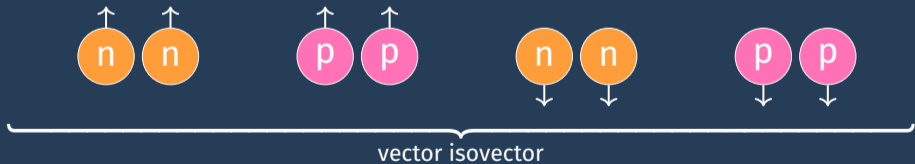
$$|2\rangle \equiv |+\mathbf{k} \downarrow n\rangle, \quad |6\rangle \equiv |-\mathbf{k} \downarrow n\rangle,$$

$$|3\rangle \equiv |+\mathbf{k} \uparrow p\rangle, \quad |7\rangle \equiv |-\mathbf{k} \uparrow p\rangle,$$

$$|4\rangle \equiv |+\mathbf{k} \downarrow p\rangle, \quad |8\rangle \equiv |-\mathbf{k} \downarrow p\rangle$$

$$\tilde{Z}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z^+ \\ -Z^* & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$





$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{Z}^+ = & z_n^* a_{\uparrow n}^+ a_{\downarrow n}^+ + z_p^* a_{\uparrow p}^+ a_{\downarrow p}^+ + z_{\uparrow}^* a_{\uparrow n}^+ a_{\uparrow p}^+ + z_{\downarrow}^* a_{\downarrow n}^+ a_{\downarrow p}^+ \\
& + z_+^* a_{\uparrow n}^+ a_{\downarrow p}^+ + z_-^* a_{\downarrow n}^+ a_{\uparrow p}^+ + z_{\uparrow n}^* a_{\uparrow n}^+ a_{\uparrow n}^+ + z_{\uparrow p}^* a_{\uparrow p}^+ a_{\uparrow p}^+ \\
& + z_{\downarrow p}^* a_{\downarrow p}^+ a_{\downarrow p}^+ + z_{\downarrow n}^* a_{\downarrow n}^+ a_{\downarrow n}^+
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{Z}^+ = & z_n^* a_{\uparrow n}^+ a_{\downarrow n}^+ + z_p^* a_{\uparrow p}^+ a_{\downarrow p}^+ + z_{\uparrow}^* a_{\uparrow n}^+ a_{\uparrow p}^+ + z_{\downarrow}^* a_{\downarrow n}^+ a_{\downarrow p}^+ \\
& + z_+^* a_{\uparrow n}^+ a_{\downarrow p}^+ + z_-^* a_{\downarrow n}^+ a_{\uparrow p}^+ + z_{\uparrow n}^* a_{\uparrow n}^+ a_{\uparrow n}^+ + z_{\uparrow p}^* a_{\uparrow p}^+ a_{\uparrow p}^+ \\
& + z_{\downarrow p}^* a_{\downarrow p}^+ a_{\downarrow p}^+ + z_{\downarrow n}^* a_{\downarrow n}^+ a_{\downarrow n}^+
\end{aligned}$$

$$\langle Z|Z\rangle = \det(1 + ZZ^+)^{1/2}$$

via Onishi theorem

$$\kappa_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{\mu\nu}} \log \langle Z | Z \rangle$$

!

this approach becomes  
too complicated with  
the most general  
proton-neutron pairs

**switch to the  $ST$  basis,  
look at pairs with zero  $z$  projection**

$|SS_z TT_z\rangle$ 

$$|0000\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right)$$

$$|1000\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right)$$

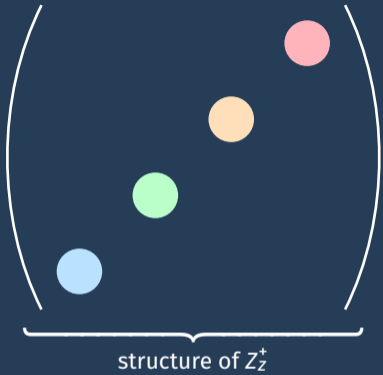
$$|0010\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right)$$

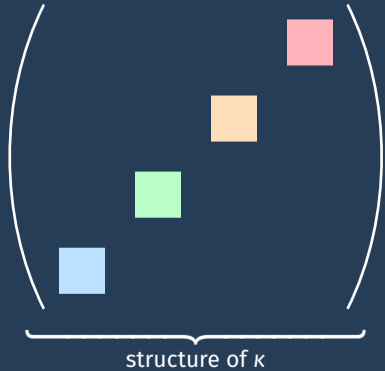
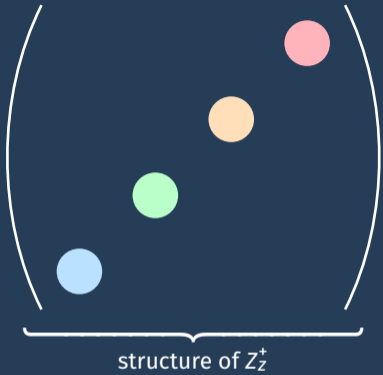
$$|1010\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{n} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{p} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right)$$

$$Z_z^+ = z_{00}^* |0000\rangle + z_{10}^* |1000\rangle + z_{01}^* |0010\rangle + z_{11}^* |1010\rangle$$

$$Z_z^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & z_+^* \\ 0 & 0 & z_-^* & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{z}_-^* & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{z}_+^* & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle Z|Z \rangle = (1 + |z_+|^2)(1 + |z_-|^2)(1 + |\bar{z}_+|^2)(1 + |\bar{z}_+|^2)$$





$$\kappa_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{\mu\nu}} \log \det(1 + ZZ^+)^{1/2}$$

$$\kappa_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{\mu\nu}} \log \underbrace{\det(1 + ZZ^+)^{1/2}}_{\text{invariant under rotations}}$$

$$K_{\mu\nu}^{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{\langle Z_z | Z_z \rangle} \frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{\mu\nu}^{\text{rot}}} \langle Z_z | Z_z \rangle$$

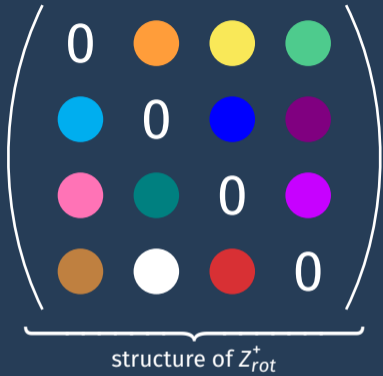
$$K_{\mu\nu}^{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{\langle Z_z | Z_z \rangle} \frac{\partial}{\partial Z_{\mu\nu}^{\text{rot}}} \langle Z_z | Z_z \rangle$$

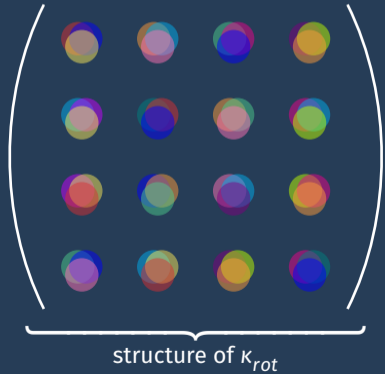
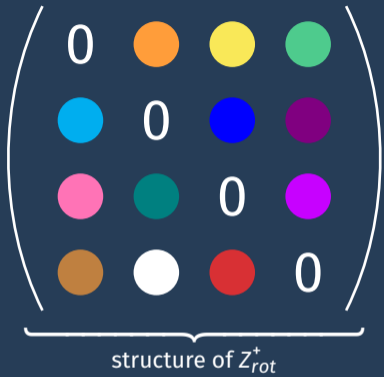
!

much richer structure!

all pairing channels  
are mixed

an example:  $z_{11}^* = 0$  (no  $|1010\rangle$  pairing)







interaction-independent  
analysis of pairing  
in nuclear matter

interaction-independent  
analysis of pairing  
in nuclear matter

derived properties  
of the most general  
paired wave function

interaction-independent  
analysis of pairing  
in nuclear matter

derived properties  
of the most general  
paired wave function

!

pairing channels are  
incredibly mixed in  
nuclear matter

interaction-independent  
analysis of pairing  
in nuclear matter

derived properties  
of the most general  
paired wave function

!

pairing channels are  
incredibly mixed in  
nuclear matter

!

cannot infer a  
structure for  $\kappa$   
from the wave function

# Unveiling proton-neutron pairing in homogeneous and isotropic nuclear matter

Nuclear Physics IOP 2026

**B. C. T. Backes**

J. Dobaczewski

V. Guillon

K. Bennaceur

Contact:

betania.backes@york.ac.uk



## Acknowledgements



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council



**backup slides**

$$(Z_{\text{rot}}^+)_{11} = \frac{z_{11}^*}{2} \sin \beta_T^{-i\alpha_T} \sin \beta_S^{-i\alpha_S}$$

$$z_{11}^* = z_+^* + z_-^* + \bar{z}_+^* + \bar{z}_-^*$$

$$K_{11}^{\text{rot}} = C(\alpha_{S,T}, \beta_{S,T}) \left[ \frac{z_+^*}{1+|z_+|^2} + \frac{\bar{z}_+^*}{1+|\bar{z}_+|^2} + \frac{z_-^*}{1+|z_-|^2} + \frac{\bar{z}_-^*}{1+|\bar{z}_-|^2} \right]$$