

N-body
problem and
auxiliary field

C. Semay

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theorems

Nonrelativistic
two-body
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Semirelativistic
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N-body
systems

Application:
baryons in
large N_c limit

Publications

The quantum N -body problem and the auxiliary field method

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30 years of strong interactions – Spa 2011

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University of Mons

- C. Semay
- F. Buisseret
- F. Brau

LPSC Grenoble

- B. Silvestre-Brac

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The auxiliary field method (AFM):
to obtain **approximate closed-form** solutions for
eigenequations in quantum mechanics

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The Hellmann-Feynman theorem

$H(\lambda)$ is the Hamiltonian and λ is a parameter

$$H(\lambda)|\lambda\rangle = E(\lambda)|\lambda\rangle$$

$E(\lambda)$ is the energy and $|\lambda\rangle$ the normalized bound eigenstate

$$\frac{\partial E(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} = \left\langle \lambda \left| \frac{\partial H(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \right| \lambda \right\rangle$$

Example: $\frac{\partial E}{\partial m_i} < 0$ for a N -body nonrelativistic system with interaction independent of m_i



D. B. Lichtenberg, Phys. Rev. D **40**, 4196 (1989)

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The general virial theorem

H is a two-body Hamiltonian

$$H = T(\mathbf{p}) + V(\mathbf{r}) + K$$

$|\phi\rangle$ is a normalized eigenstate

$$\langle \phi | \mathbf{p} \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} T(\mathbf{p}) | \phi \rangle = \langle \phi | \mathbf{r} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} V(\mathbf{r}) | \phi \rangle$$

Example:

$$H = 2\sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2} + ar \quad \rightarrow \quad \langle \phi | 2\sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2} | \phi \rangle = \langle \phi | ar | \phi \rangle = M/2$$



W. Lucha, Mod. Phys. Lett. A **5**, 2473 (1990)

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The comparison theorem

$$H^{(1)} = T(\mathbf{p}) + V^{(1)}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$H^{(2)} = T(\mathbf{p}) + V^{(2)}(\mathbf{r})$$

We assume that $E_{\{\alpha\}}^{(1)}$ and $E_{\{\alpha\}}^{(2)}$ exist

where $E_{\{\alpha\}}^{(i)}$ is an eigenvalue of $H^{(i)}$ with quantum number $\{\alpha\}$

$$V^{(2)} \geq V^{(1)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad E_{\{\alpha\}}^{(2)} \geq E_{\{\alpha\}}^{(1)}$$

Example:

If $V(\mathbf{r}) = \kappa v(r)$ with $v(r) > 0$, then eigenvalues increase with κ



C. Semay, Phys. Rev. A **83**, 024101 (2011)

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The auxiliary field $\hat{\nu}$

We want to study

$$H = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m} + V(r)$$

Let us consider a new Hamiltonian

$$\tilde{H}(\hat{\nu}) = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m} + \tilde{V}(r, \hat{\nu}) \quad \text{with}$$

$$\tilde{V}(r, x) = x P(r) + V(I(x)) - x P(I(x)),$$

$$I(x) = K^{-1}(x) \quad \text{and} \quad K(x) = \frac{V'(x)}{P'(x)}$$

Variational procedure:

$$\delta_{\hat{\nu}} \tilde{H}(\hat{\nu}) \Big|_{\hat{\nu}=\hat{\nu}_0} = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\nu}_0 = K(r) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{H}(\hat{\nu}_0) = H$$

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The approximation

To replace \hat{v} by a real parameter ν
 $\Rightarrow \tilde{V}(r, \nu)$ is a linear function of $P(r)$

For a good choice of $P(r)$, $\tilde{H}(\nu)$ is solvable and

$$E(\nu) = e(\nu) + V(I(\nu)) - \nu P(I(\nu))$$

where

$$h(\nu) |\psi(\nu)\rangle = e(\nu) |\psi(\nu)\rangle \quad \text{with} \quad h(\nu) = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m} + \nu P(r)$$

Approximate solutions given by $E(\nu_0)$ and $|\psi(\nu_0)\rangle$:

$$\partial_\nu E(\nu)|_{\nu=\nu_0} = 0$$

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Useful formulas

$e(\nu)$ is an eigenvalue of $\mathbf{p}^2/(2m) + \nu P(r)$

Definition of a mean radius $r_0 = I(\nu_0)$

with $I(x) = K^{-1}(x)$ and $K(x) = V'(x)/P'(x)$

$\partial_\nu E(\nu)|_{\nu=\nu_0} = 0$: transcendental equation for $r_0 = r_0(n, l)$

$$P(r_0) = e'(K(r_0)) \quad \text{with} \quad e'(\nu) = \partial_\nu e(\nu)$$

The AFM energy is

$$E_{\text{AFM}} = E(K(r_0)) = \underbrace{e(K(r_0)) - K(r_0) P(r_0)}_{\langle \psi(\nu_0) | \mathbf{p}^2/(2m) | \psi(\nu_0) \rangle} + V(r_0)$$

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Approximate potential

$V(r)$ is approximated by

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{V}(r, \nu_0) &= \nu_0 P(r) + V(I(\nu_0)) - \nu_0 P(I(\nu_0)) \\ &= \frac{V'(r_0)}{P'(r_0)}(P(r) - P(r_0)) + V(r_0)\end{aligned}$$

because $r_0 = I(\nu_0)$ and $K(r_0) = \nu_0$

$\tilde{V}(r, \nu_0)$ is tangent to $V(r)$ at r_0 :

- $\tilde{V}(r_0, \nu_0) = V(r_0)$
- $\tilde{V}'(r_0, \nu_0) = V'(r_0)$

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Upper and lower bounds - 1

Consequence of the comparison theorem:

- $\tilde{V}(r, \nu_0) \geq V(r)$: E_{AFM} is an upper bound
- $\tilde{V}(r, \nu_0) \leq V(r)$: E_{AFM} is a lower bound

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Upper and lower bounds - 2

Let us define $g(x)$ by $V(x) = g(P(x))$:

- $g(x)$ concave: E_{AFM} is an upper bound
- $g(x)$ convex: E_{AFM} is a lower bound

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Power-law potentials

$$V(r) = \text{sgn}(\eta) a r^\eta \quad \text{with} \quad a > 0, \quad -1 \leq \eta \leq 2$$

$$E_{\text{AFM}} = \frac{2 + \eta}{2\eta} (a|\eta|)^{\frac{2}{\eta+2}} \left(\frac{Q(n, l)^2}{m} \right)^{\frac{\eta}{\eta+2}}$$

- $Q(n, l) = 2n + l + 3/2$ for $P(r) = r^2$ (upper bound)
- $Q(n, 0) = 2(-\alpha_n/3)^{3/2}$ for $P(r) = r$
 α_n : zero of the Airy function
- $Q(n, l) = n + l + 1$ for $P(r) = -1/r$ (lower bound)

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Connection with envelope theory

Search for $\tilde{V}(r, \nu_0)$ is the basis of the envelope theory developed by Richard L. Hall (~ 1980)

Novelties in AFM: $\hat{\nu}_0 = K(r)$ and $\nu_0 = K(r_0)$

- $\langle \psi(\nu_0) | P(r) | \psi(\nu_0) \rangle = P(r_0)$
- $\langle \psi(\nu_0) | Z(\hat{\nu}_0) | \psi(\nu_0) \rangle = Z(\nu_0)$ with $Z(x) = P(I(x))$
The method is a kind of mean field approximation
- $\langle \psi(\nu_0) | V(r) | \psi(\nu_0) \rangle = V(r_0) - E_{\text{AFM}} + \langle \psi(\nu_0) | H | \psi(\nu_0) \rangle$
For the ground state:
$$E_{\text{AFM}} - E \geq V(r_0) - \langle \psi(\nu_0) | V(r) | \psi(\nu_0) \rangle$$

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General equations

$$T(x) = \frac{x^2}{2m}$$

$$E_{\text{AFM}} = T(p_0) + V(r_0) \quad (\text{semiclassical energy})$$

$$p_0 = \frac{Q(n, l)}{r_0} \quad (\text{correspondence principle})$$

$$\frac{p_0^2}{m} = r_0 V'(r_0) \quad (\text{virial theorem})$$

$Q(n, l)$ depends on $P(r)$

OK for $V(x) = \alpha x^a + \beta x^b, \ln(\alpha x), -k e^{-x^a}, \sqrt{\alpha x^2 + \beta}, \dots$

Critical k for $V(x) = -k e^{-x^a}, -k \frac{e^{-x}}{x}, \dots$

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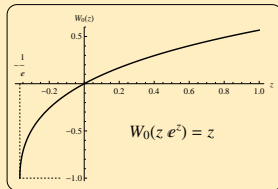
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Exponential potentials

$$h = \mathbf{p}^2 - k e^{-r^\eta} \quad \text{with} \quad k > 0, \eta > 0$$

$$E_{\text{AFM}} = -k \left(\frac{-Y}{W_0(-Y)} \right)^{\frac{\eta+2}{\eta}} \left[1 + \frac{\eta+2}{2} W_0(-Y) \right]$$

$$\text{with } Y = \frac{\eta}{\eta+2} \left(\frac{2Q(n,l)^2}{\eta k} \right)^{\frac{\eta}{\eta+2}} \quad \text{and}$$



$$\text{Critical } k: k_{\eta;nl} = \left(\frac{\eta e}{2} \right)^{\frac{2}{\eta}} Q(n,l)^2$$

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The auxiliary field $\hat{\mu}$ and parameter μ

We want to study ($\sigma = 1$ or 2)

$$H = \sigma \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2} + V(r)$$

Transformation into an equivalent nonrelativistic Hamiltonian

$$\tilde{H}(\mu) = \tilde{T}(\mathbf{p}^2, \mu) + V(r) \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{T}(\mathbf{p}^2, \mu) = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2}{\mu} + \frac{\sigma^2}{4} \mu$$

Extremal eigensolutions of $\tilde{H}(\mu)$:

- $M(\mu_0)$ is an upper bound
- $\mu_0^2 = \langle \psi(\mu_0) | \hat{\mu}^2 | \psi(\mu_0) \rangle$ with $\hat{\mu} = \frac{2}{\sigma} \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2}$

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Two auxiliary parameters

- Auxiliary parameter μ for $\sigma \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2}$
- Auxiliary parameter ν for $V(r)$ with $P(r) = \text{sgn}(\lambda) r^\lambda$

$$\tilde{H}(\mu, \nu) = \tilde{T}(\mathbf{p}^2, \mu) + \tilde{V}(r, \nu)$$

$$\tilde{T}(\mathbf{p}^2, \mu) = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2}{\mu} + \frac{\sigma^2}{4} \mu$$

$$\tilde{V}(r, \nu) = \text{sgn}(\lambda) \nu r^\lambda + V(I(\nu)) - \text{sgn}(\lambda) \nu I(\nu)^\lambda$$

M_{AFM} is given by extremal solutions $M(\mu_0, \nu_0)$ of $\tilde{H}(\mu, \nu)$

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Simplified formulation - 1

μ_0 and ν_0 can be expressed in terms of x_0

$$\mu_0(x_0) = \frac{2}{\sigma} \sqrt{m^2 + Q^{2\lambda/(\lambda+2)} x_0}$$

$$\nu_0(x_0) = K(Q^{2/(\lambda+2)}/\sqrt{x_0})$$

with

$$x_0 = \left(\frac{|\lambda|}{2} \mu_0 \nu_0 \right)^{2/(\lambda+2)}$$

The structure of Q depends on λ

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Simplified formulation - 2

The mean radius is then given by

$$r_0 = \frac{Q^{2/(\lambda+2)}}{\sqrt{x_0}}$$

The unique transcendental equation for r_0 is

$$\sigma Q = r_0^2 V'(r_0) \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{mr_0}{Q}\right)^2}$$

The AFM Mass is then

$$M_{\text{AFM}} = \frac{\sigma Q}{r_0} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{mr_0}{Q}\right)^2} + V(r_0)$$

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$$p_0 = \frac{Q(n, l)}{r_0} \quad (\text{correspondence principle})$$

$$p_0 T'(p_0) = r_0 V'(r_0) \quad (\text{general virial theorem})$$

$Q(n, l)$ depends on $P(r)$

OK for $V(x) = \alpha x^a + \beta x^b, \ln(\alpha x), \sqrt{\alpha x^2 + \beta}, \dots$

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Power-law potentials

$$H = \sigma \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2} + \text{sgn}(\eta) a r^\eta$$

- $m \neq 0$: analytical solutions exist for some η
- $m = 0$: $M_{\text{AFM}} = \frac{\eta+1}{\eta} (a|\eta|)^{\frac{1}{\eta+1}} (\sigma Q)^{\frac{\eta}{\eta+1}} \quad (\eta > 0)$

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- $m \neq 0$: analytical solutions exist for some η
- $m = 0$: $M_{\text{AFM}} = \frac{\eta+1}{\eta} (a|\eta|)^{\frac{1}{\eta+1}} (\sigma Q)^{\frac{\eta}{\eta+1}} \quad (\eta > 0)$

Funnel potential

$$H = \sigma \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2} + a r - \frac{b}{r} \quad (a > 0, b \geq 0)$$

- $m \neq 0$: analytical solution exists
- $m = 0$: $M_{\text{AFM}} = 2\sqrt{a(\sigma Q - b)}$

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Duality relation

$$H_{\text{NR}} = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m} + V(r) \quad \Rightarrow \quad E(m; Q)$$

$$H_{\text{UR}} = \sigma \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2} + W(r) \quad \Rightarrow \quad M(\sigma; Q)$$

$$E(m; Q) = M(\sigma; Q) \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} V(\alpha\sqrt{r}) = W(r) \\ 2\alpha^2 m\sigma = Q \end{cases}$$

- Relations exact for the AFM approximations
- If $V(r) \propto r^2$, errors around 10–35% for exact solutions

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General Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^N \sqrt{\mathbf{p}_i^2 + m_i^2} + \sum_{i=1}^N V_i(|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{R}|) + \sum_{i < j=1}^N \bar{V}_{ij}(|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|)$$

- $\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{0}$
- \mathbf{R} is the (nonrelativistic) cm
- $V_i(x)$: one-body potential
- $\bar{V}_{ij}(x)$: two-body potential

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AFM Hamiltonian

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H} = & \sum_{i=1}^N \left[\frac{\mathbf{p}_i^2 + m_i^2}{2\mu_i} + \frac{\mu_i}{2} \right] \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^N [\nu_i P(r_i) + V_i(l_i(\nu_i)) - \nu_i P(l_i(\nu_i))] \\ & + \sum_{i<j=1}^N [\bar{\nu}_{ij} \bar{P}(r_{ij}) + \bar{V}_{ij}(\bar{l}_{ij}(\bar{\nu}_{ij})) - \bar{\nu}_{ij} \bar{P}(\bar{l}_{ij}(\bar{\nu}_{ij}))] \end{aligned}$$

where $r_i = |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{R}|$, $r_{ij} = |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|$
and $l_i(x) = K_i^{-1}(x)$, $K_i(x) = V_i'(x)/P'(x)$, ...

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N -body harmonic oscillator: $P(x) = \bar{P}(x) = x^2$

$$H_{\text{ho}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\mathbf{p}_i^2}{2m_i} + \sum_{i=1}^N k_i (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{R})^2 + \sum_{i < j=1}^N \bar{k}_{ij} (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)^2$$

Eigenenergies given by

$$E_{\text{ho}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \omega_i (2n_i + l_i + 3/2)$$

ω_i are eigenvalues of an analytical $(N - 1)$ th order matrix

- Analytical expression for $N \leq 5$
- New result: $k_i \neq 0$

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Identical particles

$m_i = m$, $k_i = k$ and $\bar{k}_{ij} = \bar{k}$:

$$E_{\text{ho}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{m}(k + N\bar{k})} Q$$

where Q is the total principal quantum number

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} (2n_i + l_i) + \frac{3}{2}(N - 1)$$

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General Hamiltonian with identical particles

$$m_i = m, V_k(x) = V(x) \text{ and } \bar{V}_{kl}(x) = \bar{V}(x)$$

\mathbf{R} is the cm

For (anti)symmetrical states: $\mu_i = \mu, \nu_i = \nu$ and $\bar{\nu}_{ij} = \bar{\nu}$

$$M_{\text{AFM}} = N\mu_0 + N V(I(\nu_0)) + \frac{N(N-1)}{2} \bar{V}(\bar{I}(\bar{\nu}_0)) \quad \text{with}$$

$$\mu_0 = \frac{m^2}{\mu_0} + \left[\frac{2Q^2(\nu_0 + N\bar{\nu}_0)}{\mu_0 N^2} \right]^{1/2}$$

$$I(\nu_0) = \left[\frac{Q^2}{2N^2\mu_0(\nu_0 + N\bar{\nu}_0)} \right]^{1/4}$$

$$\bar{I}(\bar{\nu}_0) = \left[\frac{2Q^2}{(N-1)^2\mu_0(\nu_0 + N\bar{\nu}_0)} \right]^{1/4}$$

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Simplified formulation

With $X_0 = \sqrt{2\mu_0(\nu_0 + N\bar{\nu}_0)}$,

$$M(X_0) = N \sqrt{m^2 + \frac{Q}{N} X_0} + N V \left(\sqrt{\frac{Q}{N X_0}} \right) \\ + \frac{N(N-1)}{2} \bar{V} \left(\sqrt{\frac{2Q}{(N-1)X_0}} \right)$$

where

$$X_0^2 = 2 \sqrt{m^2 + \frac{Q}{N} X_0} \left[K \left(\sqrt{\frac{Q}{N X_0}} \right) + N \bar{K} \left(\sqrt{\frac{2Q}{(N-1)X_0}} \right) \right]$$

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Upper and lower bounds

$$g(x) = V(\sqrt{x}) \text{ and } \bar{g}(x) = \bar{V}(\sqrt{x})$$

- Nonrelativistic system ($m \rightarrow \infty$)
If $g(x)$ and $\bar{g}(x)$ are concave, $M(X_0)$ is an upper bound
If $g(x)$ and $\bar{g}(x)$ are convex, $M(X_0)$ is a lower bound
- Semirelativistic system ($m \ll M$)
If $g(x)$ and $\bar{g}(x)$ are concave, $M(X_0)$ is an upper bound

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Eigenfunctions

given in Jacobi coordinates as a product of $(N - 1)$ oscillator states with a size depending on X_0

- Good parity
- Possible to fix angular momentum
- Possible to fix a symmetry

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Eigenfunctions

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Observables

- $\left\langle \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{p}_i^2 \right\rangle = Q X_0$
- $\left\langle \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{R})^2 \right\rangle = \frac{Q}{X_0}$
- $\left\langle \sum_{i < j=1}^N (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)^2 \right\rangle = \frac{N Q}{X_0}$

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Duality relation $N \leftrightarrow 2$ bodies with $V(x) = 0$

$$M_{\text{UR}}^{(N)}(Q) = \frac{N(N-1)}{2} M_{\text{UR}}^{(2)} \left(\frac{1}{N-1} \sqrt{\frac{2}{N(N-1)}} Q \right)$$

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Duality relations $N \leftrightarrow 2$ bodies with $V(x) = 0$

$$E_{\text{NR}}^{(N)}(m; Q) = \frac{N(N-1)}{2} E_{\text{NR}}^{(2)} \left(\frac{N(N-1)^2}{2} m; Q \right)$$

- Exact for AFM approximations and $\bar{V}(r) \propto r^2$
- Errors around 5% for $\bar{V}(r) \propto r$ and $N = 3$

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't Hooft limit (1974)

- Quarks are in \square of $SU(N_c)$ with $N_c \rightarrow \infty$
- $\alpha_S N_c \sim O(1)$
- Finite number of flavors
- Suppression of internal quark loops

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Baryon

- N_c quarks in a totally antisymmetric color singlet
- Masses of heavy baryons $\sim O(N_c)$
- Same scaling expected for light baryons

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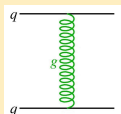
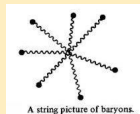
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Light baryon Hamiltonian (Witten, 1979)

$$m_q = 0$$

$$H_B = \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} \sqrt{\mathbf{p}_i^2} + \underbrace{\sigma \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{R}|}_{\text{string picture of baryons}} + \underbrace{\kappa \sum_{i < j=1}^{N_c} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|}}_{\text{gluon exchange}}$$



$$\sigma \sim O(1) \quad \text{fundamental string tension}$$

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{2} \left(C_{\square} - 2C_{\square} \right) \frac{\alpha_0}{N_c} \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha_0 \sim O(1)$$

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Light baryon properties with $N_c \rightarrow \infty$

Band number: $K = \sum_{i=1}^{N_c-1} (2n_i + \ell_i) \sim O(1)$

$$M_B \approx N_c \sqrt{\sigma \left(6 - \frac{\alpha_0}{\sqrt{2}} \right)} \sim O(N_c)$$

Regge trajectories: $M_B^2 \approx \beta K + \gamma$ with N_c fixed

Contribution of $n_s (\ll N_c)$ strange quarks:

$$\Delta M_s \approx n_s \frac{m_s^2}{6\sqrt{\sigma}} \sqrt{6 - \frac{\alpha_0}{\sqrt{2}}} \sim O(1)$$

Mean square radius: $\langle r^2 \rangle \approx \frac{12 - 3\sqrt{2}\alpha_0}{8\sigma} \sim O(1)$

Publications of our team

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