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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

***SO*(5) structure of p-wave superconductivity for the spin–dipole interaction model**Hong-Biao Zhang<sup>1,2</sup>, Mo-Lin Ge<sup>2</sup> and Kang-Xue<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup> Department of Physics, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, Jilin 130024, People's Republic of China<sup>2</sup> Theoretical Physics Division, Nankai Institute of Mathematics, Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, People's Republic of China

E-mail: hbzhang@eyou.com

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Online at [stacks.iop.org/JPhysA/35/L7](http://stacks.iop.org/JPhysA/35/L7)**Abstract**

A closed *SO*(5) algebraic structure in the pure p-wave superconductivity is found. It can help to diagonalize the the mean-field form of the Hamiltonian by making use of the Bogoliubov rotation instead of the Balian–Werthamer approach. We point out that the eigenstate is nothing but an *SO*(5)-coherent state with fermionic realization. By applying the approach to the Hamiltonian with Leggett dipole interaction the consistency between the diagonalization and gap equation is proved through the double-time Green function. The relationship between the s- and p-wave superconductivities turns out to be realized through Yangian algebra, a new type of infinite-dimensional algebra.

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The p-wave superconductivity theories and their applications to liquid <sup>3</sup>H<sub>e</sub> have intensively been studied in many early publications, for example, in [1–5]. As was pointed out by Anderson and Brinkman [1] the Balian–Werthamer (BW) formalism [6] underlies all the following models in the field. The Hamiltonian takes the Anderson reduced form  $H = H_0 + V$

$$H_0 = \sum_{k,\alpha} \epsilon_k n_{k\alpha} \quad V = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k,k',\alpha,\beta} V_{kk'} a_{k'\alpha}^+ a_{-k'\beta}^+ a_{-k\beta} a_{k\alpha} \quad (1)$$

where  $\epsilon_k = \frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu$ ,  $\alpha, \beta = \uparrow, \downarrow$ , and for the p-wave  $V_{kk'} = -3V_1(k, k') \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{n}'$  ( $\mathbf{n} = \frac{\mathbf{k}}{k}$ ). To explain the p-pair interaction Leggett [2] introduced a useful algebra, which is not closed. Meanwhile, a dipole type of interaction was proposed that naturally distinguishes the energy difference for the ABM and BW phases [2–4] and gives the correct spin dynamics. All the theories appear to work perfectly, but with growing interest in the applications of the current algebraic method it is still desirable to gain greater understanding. In this paper we would like to show the following results. (a) The sets obeying  $S_i(\mathbf{k}) = a_{k\alpha}^+ (\sigma_i)_{\alpha\beta} a_{k\beta}$



where  $\xi_k = r_k e^{i\lambda_k}$ ,  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{n}) = (\sin \Theta_k \cos \Phi_k, \sin \Theta_k \sin \Phi_k, \cos \Theta_k)$ ,  $\Theta_k$  and  $\Phi_k$  are angulars in spin space for a given momentum  $\mathbf{k}$ .  $\lambda_k$  is a parameter to be determined using the gap equation. Taking the commutation relations for  $SO(5)$  into account after lengthy but elementary calculations we derive

$$W(\xi_k)^{-1} H(\mathbf{k}) W(\xi_k) = -E_k Q(\mathbf{k}) \quad E_k = \sqrt{\epsilon_k^2 + |\Delta(\mathbf{k})|^2} \quad (7)$$

where

$$\tan 2r_k = \frac{|\Delta(\mathbf{k})|}{\epsilon_k} \quad \Delta(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k'} V_{k'k} \langle T(\mathbf{k}) \rangle = -\frac{1}{2} |\Delta(\mathbf{k})| e^{i\lambda_k} \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{n}). \quad (8)$$

The eigenstate is given by

$$|\xi\rangle = \otimes_k |\xi_k\rangle \quad |\xi_k\rangle = W(\xi_k) |\text{vac}\rangle. \quad (9)$$

At temperature  $T = 0$ , the vacuum state is  $|\text{vac}\rangle = |0, 0\rangle_k \equiv |n_{k\alpha} = 0, n_{-k\alpha} = 0\rangle$ . The expectation value  $\langle T(\mathbf{k}) \rangle = \langle \xi_k | T(\mathbf{k}) | \xi_k \rangle = \sin 2r_k e^{i\lambda_k} \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{n})$  yields the well known gap equation at  $T = 0$ :

$$\Delta(\mathbf{k}) = - \sum_{k'} V_{k'k} \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{k}')}{2E_{k'}}. \quad (10)$$

To satisfy equation (10) we simply choose  $\lambda_k = \lambda = \text{constant}$  henceforth, for finite temperature, making use of the double-time Green function we obtain  $\langle n_{k\alpha} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} [1 - \frac{\epsilon_k}{E_k} \tanh(\frac{1}{2} \beta E_k)]$  and  $\langle T(\mathbf{k}) \rangle = \langle \xi_k | T(\mathbf{k}) | \xi_k \rangle = \sin 2r_k e^{i\lambda} \tanh(\frac{1}{2} \beta E_k) \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{n})$  where  $\beta = \frac{1}{kT}$  and  $k$  is the Boltzmann constant. Therefore the gap equation reads

$$\Delta(\mathbf{k}) = - \sum_{k'} V_{k'k} \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{k}')}{2E_{k'}} \tanh\left(\frac{1}{2} \beta E_{k'}\right). \quad (11)$$

The  $SO(5)$  coherent state  $|\xi_k\rangle$  equation (9) gives

$$\begin{aligned} |\xi_k\rangle &= W(\xi_k) |0, 0\rangle = \cos^2 r_k |0, 0\rangle - e^{i2\lambda} \sin^2 r_k | \uparrow \downarrow, \uparrow \downarrow \rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{i}{2} e^{i\lambda} \sin 2r_k \{ \cos \Theta_k (| \uparrow, \downarrow \rangle + | \downarrow, \uparrow \rangle) \\ &\quad - \sin \Theta_k e^{-i\Phi_k} | \uparrow, \uparrow \rangle + \sin \Theta_k e^{i\Phi_k} | \downarrow, \downarrow \rangle \}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Let us distinguish two cases: in the BW phase, to satisfy the gap equation it holds  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{n}) = \mathbf{n}$ ,  $\Theta_k = \theta_k$  and  $\Phi_k = \psi_k$  that correspond intuitively to a Cooper pair with total angular momentum  $J = 0$  and has an isotropic gap,  $|\Delta(\mathbf{k})| e^{i\lambda} = c\text{-number}$ . The wavefunction of the BW solution in conventional notation reads

$$\begin{aligned} |\xi_k\rangle &= \frac{E_k + \epsilon_k}{2E_k} |0, 0\rangle - e^{i2\lambda} \frac{E_k - \epsilon_k}{2E_k} | \uparrow \downarrow, \uparrow \downarrow \rangle \\ &\quad - e^{i\lambda} \frac{i|\Delta(\mathbf{k})|}{2E_k} \sqrt{\frac{8\pi}{3}} \{ Y_{11} | \downarrow, \downarrow \rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} Y_{10} (| \uparrow, \downarrow \rangle + | \downarrow, \uparrow \rangle) + Y_{1-1} | \uparrow, \uparrow \rangle \}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

In the AM case, there is another solution of the gap equation obtained by taking  $|\Delta(\mathbf{k})| e^{i(\lambda + \frac{\pi}{2})} = Y_{11}$  and  $\sin \Theta_k = 0$ , it is the non-ESP state

$$|\xi_k\rangle = \frac{E_k + \epsilon_k}{2E_k} |0, 0\rangle + e^{i2\lambda} \frac{E_k - \epsilon_k}{2E_k} | \uparrow \downarrow, \uparrow \downarrow \rangle + \frac{Y_{11}}{2E_k} (| \uparrow, \downarrow \rangle + | \downarrow, \uparrow \rangle). \quad (14)$$

However, the solution for  $\cos \Theta_k = 0$  appears only under an applied magnetic field. For instance, when  $\mathbf{B} = \mu B e_z$ , the Hamiltonian becomes

$$H_B = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} H(\mathbf{k}) - \mu B \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}\uparrow}^+ a_{\mathbf{k}\uparrow} - a_{\mathbf{k}\downarrow}^+ a_{\mathbf{k}\downarrow})$$

and

$$W^\dagger H_B W = \frac{1}{2} E_k \left( 1 + \frac{\mu B}{\epsilon_k} \right) (n_{k\downarrow} + n_{-k\downarrow}) + \frac{1}{2} E_k \left( 1 - \frac{\mu B}{\epsilon_k} \right) (n_{k\uparrow} + n_{-k\uparrow}) - E_k.$$

Through the double-time Green function we may calculate that the non-vanishing components of  $\Delta(\mathbf{k})$  are

$$\Delta_{\uparrow\uparrow}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k'} V_{kk'} \frac{|\Delta(\mathbf{k}')|}{2E_{k'}} e^{i\lambda} e^{i\Phi_{k'}} \tanh \left[ \frac{1}{2} \beta E_{k'} \left( 1 - \frac{\mu B}{\epsilon_{k'}} \right) \right]$$

and

$$\Delta_{\downarrow\downarrow}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k'} V_{kk'} \frac{|\Delta(\mathbf{k}')|}{2E_{k'}} e^{i\lambda} e^{-i\Phi_{k'}} \tanh \left[ \frac{1}{2} \beta E_{k'} \left( 1 + \frac{\mu B}{\epsilon_{k'}} \right) \right].$$

The eigenstate is  $\sim Y_{11} (|\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - |\downarrow\downarrow\rangle)$ . If we study s-superconductivity by AAM, then coherence comes from the  $SU(2)$  coherent operators in [7]. The AAM is exactly the usual Bogoliubov transformation.

(2) The dipole interaction was proposed to describe the spin dynamics for liquid  $^3\text{He}$ . The computation in [2] is based on  $\langle T(\mathbf{k}) \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^3 T_i^\alpha n_i$ . However, in the microscopic-form of the dipole interaction Hamiltonian

$$H_D = \frac{2\pi\gamma^2}{3} \sum_{kk'} V_{kk'} (T^\dagger(\mathbf{k}) \cdot T(\mathbf{k}') - 3\hat{\mathbf{q}} \cdot T^\dagger(\mathbf{k}) \hat{\mathbf{q}} \cdot T(\mathbf{k}')) \quad (15)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{q}}$  is a unit vector along  $\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{n}'$ . The average formula shown in [2] can no longer be used, since the operator cannot be expanded by  $n_i$ . However, the  $SO(5)$  AAM procedure works for equation (15) with the redefinition  $\Delta_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 (\delta_{ij} - 3\hat{q}_i \hat{q}_j) \langle T_j \rangle$ . Repeating the process in (1) we find that  $\Delta(\mathbf{k})$  satisfies the same gap equation (11) and the eigenstates take the same form for given  $\Delta(\mathbf{k})$  satisfying equation (11), i.e. equation (15) can be diagonalized with the following relation instead of equation (8):

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta_{\uparrow\uparrow}(\mathbf{k}) \\ \sqrt{2} \Delta_{\uparrow\downarrow}(\mathbf{k}) \\ \Delta_{\downarrow\downarrow}(\mathbf{k}) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{4\pi\gamma^2}{3} \sum_{k'} V_{k'k} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} I + \frac{3}{2} D^{j=1}(\alpha = \psi_{kk'}, \beta = 2\omega_{kk'}, \gamma = \pi - \psi_{kk'}) \right\} \\ \times \begin{pmatrix} \langle \frac{1}{2} T_-(\mathbf{k}') \rangle \\ \langle \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} T_z(\mathbf{k}') \rangle \\ \langle \frac{1}{2} T_+(\mathbf{k}') \rangle \end{pmatrix} \quad (16)$$

where the  $D^{j=1}(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  is the Wigner rotation function with the Euler angles  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\gamma$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{q}} = q(\sin \omega_{kk'} \cos \psi_{kk'}, \sin \omega_{kk'} \sin \psi_{kk'}, \cos \omega_{kk'})$ . The relations for  $\omega_{kk'}$ ,  $\psi_{kk'}$  and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  have been indicated in equation (16). The  $H_D$  works well in spin dynamics, but the consistency condition for the diagonalization of  $H_D$  and the gap equation, to our knowledge, have not been proved before. Now equation (8) is replaced by (16) for the Hamiltonian equation (15). This means that all the discussion in (1) can be transplanted literally for  $\Delta(\mathbf{k})$ .

(3) It seems that  $T_\pm$  (or  $\sim \pi_\pm$  in [8, 9]) in  $SO(5)$  may give rise to the transition between superconductivity and the AF state based on the argument given in [8, 9]. However, it is not the case in the present model. This is not only because there is no  $SO(5)$  invariance for  $H$  or  $H_D$ , but also for deeper reasons. Observing the gap equation for  $V_{kk'} \sim P_0$  (constant) and  $V_{kk'} \sim P_1 \sim \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{n}'$ , the corresponding wavefunction  $\Psi_0 \sim Y_{00} \chi_{00}$  and  $\Psi_1 \sim$  equation (13) where  $\chi_{00}$  is spin singlet. In our case, the generators of  $SO(5)$  work only within p-superconductivity, i.e. not with s-superconductivity. If we assume there is a

transition between  $\Psi_0$  and  $\Psi_1$ , i.e. the form of the gap equation is preserved, but with different potentials  $\sim P_0$  and  $P_1$ , their corresponding wavefunctions are written as follows:

$$\Psi_0 \sim \frac{Y_{00}}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \Psi_1 \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} Y_{1-1} & \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} Y_{10} \\ \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} Y_{10} & Y_{11} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi}} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{k}_- & -\hat{k}_z \\ -\hat{k}_z & -\hat{k}_+ \end{pmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

The connection should be beyond Lie algebra. We find that such a ‘transition’ may be performed through Yangian theory [11–13]. Actually,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{k}_\pm J_\mp \Psi_0 &= \left( \mu_2 - \mu_1 + \frac{h}{2} \right) Y_{1\pm 1} \chi_{1\mp 1} \\ \hat{k}_z J_z \Psi_0 &= -\frac{1}{2} \left( \mu_2 - \mu_1 + \frac{h}{2} \right) Y_{10} \chi_{10} \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where  $J_\alpha = \mu_1 S_\alpha \otimes 1 + \mu_2 1 \otimes S_\alpha - \frac{i\hbar}{4} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta\gamma} (S_\beta \otimes S_\gamma - S_\gamma \otimes S_\beta)$  ( $\alpha, \beta, \gamma = 1, 2, 3$ ) and  $S_\alpha$  are the spin operators.  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  are arbitrary constants allowed by Yangian representation theory and play the crucial role in the Yangian [14] representation.  $[S_\alpha, J_\beta] = i\epsilon_{\alpha\beta\gamma} J_\gamma$  and  $J_\gamma$  obey the nonlinear commutation relations [11–15]. The set  $\{S_\alpha, J_\beta\}$  forms the Yangian associated with  $SU(2)$  denoted by  $Y(SU(2))$ . Note that  $J_\alpha$  act on the quantum tensor space only. If the set  $\{S, J\}$  satisfies the Yangian, so does  $J + \eta S$ , where  $\eta$  is an arbitrary constant that is called the translation of the Yangian. By taking an appropriate translation constant we have

$$(\hat{k} \cdot J) \Psi_0 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left( \mu_2 - \mu_1 + \frac{h}{2} \right) \Psi_1 \quad (\hat{k} \cdot J) \Psi_1 = 0. \quad (19)$$

Yangian algebra is an infinite algebra. Therefore any attempt to unify the superconductivity with different  $l$ -waves should be through infinite algebra. For a simply physical realization of  $Y(SU(2))$ , see [15].

(4) In conclusion we believe that the AAM provides a useful approach to discuss physics concerning pair-particles, especially for the nature of coherence and consistency between the diagonalization of the given Hamiltonian and gap equation through the double-time Green function. Further, this algebraic method may be extended to Yangian algebra that is natural to describe the transition between different condensates.

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