χρωστήρας και η-μεσικά άτομα και $U_A(1)$ ανάλυση στο ορίζοντα ρεαλισμού

Hideko Nagahiro,1 Makoto Takizawa,2 and Satoru Hirenzaki3

1Research Center for Nuclear Physics(RCNP), Osaka University, Ibaraki, Osaka, 567-0047, Japan
2Showa Pharmaceutical University, Machida, Tokyo, 194-8543, Japan
3Department of Physics, Nara Women’s University, Nara, 630-8506, Japan

We discuss theoretically the possibility of observing the bound states of the η and η′(958) mesons in nuclei. We apply the NJL model to study the η and η′ meson properties at finite density and calculate the formation cross sections of the η and η′ bound states with the Green function method for $(γ,p)$ reaction. We also discuss the experimental feasibility at photon facilities like SPring-8. The contributions due to the ω meson production are also included to obtain the realistic $(γ,p)$ spectra. We conclude that we can expect to observe resonance peaks in $(γ,p)$ spectra for the formation of meson bound states and we can deduce new information on η and η′ properties at finite density. These observations are believed to be essential to know the possible mass shift of η′ and deduce new information on the effective restoration of the $U_A(1)$ anomaly in the nuclear medium.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Understanding the low-lying hadron structures from the viewpoint of the quark and gluon degrees of freedom is one of the most challenging problems in the quantum chromodynamics (QCD) because of its nonperturbative nature in the low-energy regime.

The lightest excitation on the QCD vacuum is the pion which is considered as a quark and an antiquark bound state in the pseudoscalar channel. Its mass is off-scale light compared with other hadrons. This can be understood by recognizing that the chiral symmetry is spontaneously broken in the QCD vacuum and the pion is the Nambu-Goldstone (NG) boson associated with the dynamical chiral symmetry breaking (DCSB). It is believed to be responsible for a large part of the constituent quark masses, which are introduced in the many constituent quark models. The effects of the explicit breaking of the chiral symmetry on the pion properties have been systematically studied using the effective lagrangian composed of the pion field. This approach is called the chiral perturbation theory (ChPT) [1]. The success of ChPT approach supports the importance of the DCSB in low-energy QCD.

When we start looking at the strange quark sector, we encounter another problem. The ninth heavier pseudoscalar meson is η′ and its mass is much heavier than other octet pseudoscalar mesons. Weinberg showed that the mass of η′ should be less than $\sqrt{3}m_π$ if $U_A(1)$ symmetry were not explicitly broken [2]. Thus the $U_A(1)$ symmetry must be broken. The key step to solve this $U_A(1)$ problem was to realize that $U_A(1)$ symmetry was explicitly broken by the quantum anomaly. In the following year, ’t Hooft pointed out the relation between $U_A(1)$ anomaly and topological gluon configurations of QCD, i.e., instantons and showed that the interaction of light quarks and instantons breaks the $U_A(1)$ symmetry [3]. He also showed that such an interaction can be represented by a local $2N_f$ quark vertex, which is antisymmetric under flavor exchanges, in the dilute instanton gas approximation.

The effects of the $U_A(1)$ anomaly on the low-energy QCD have been extensively studied in the $1/N_c$ expansion approach [4]. In the $N_c \to \infty$ limit, the $U_A(1)$ anomaly is turned off and then the η and η′ mesons become the ideal mixing states. The higher order effects of the $1/N_c$ expansion give rise to the flavor mixing between the η and η′ mesons and push up the η′ mass [5, 6, 7, 8]. They were further discussed in the context of the ChPT [9] and the reasonable description of the nonet pseudoscalar mesons was obtained.

The $U_A(1)$ breaking $2N_f$ quark determinant interaction was introduced to the low-energy effective quark models of QCD. The low-lying meson properties have been studied [10] using the three-flavor version of the Nambu-Jona-Lasinio (NJL) model [17] with the Kobayashi-Maskawa-’t Hooft (KMT) determinant interaction [3, 18]. It is further argued that the $U_A(1)$-breaking interaction gives rise to the spin-spin forces, which are important for light baryons [19, 20, 21].

It was observed by Witten that the instanton contribution scales as $\exp(-N_c)$ which seems to contradict the $1/N_c$ expansion approach, $m_{\pi}\sim O(1/N_c)[22]$. A few years ago, Schäfer showed that the large $N_c$ behavior of the instanton approach is consistent with the $1/N_c$ expansion approach if the instanton ensemble is stabilized by a classical repulsive core [23]. The use of the $U_A(1)$ breaking quark determinant interaction with the low-energy effective quark model of QCD in the mean field approximation seems to mimic the dilute instanton liquid picture, and therefore, we consider this approach is not inconsistent with the $1/N_c$ expansion approach.

The dynamics of instantons in the multi-instanton vacuum has been studied by many authors, either in the models or in the lattice QCD approach, and the widely accepted picture is that the QCD vacuum consists of small instantons of the size about $1/3$ fm with the density of 1 instanton (or anti-instanton) per fm$^4$ [24]. In the instanton liquid model, the instanton plays a crucial role in understanding not only the $U_A(1)$ anomaly but...
also the spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry itself. 

In this paper, we consider the \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \) meson bound states in finite nuclei, i.e., \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \)-mesic nuclei in order to investigate the change of the QCD vacuum structure at finite density through the \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \) meson properties in the nuclear medium. Since the vacuum properties of \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \) are believed to have close relation to the QCD vacuum structure as described above, we can expect to have new information and much deeper insights on the QCD vacuum by knowing the \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \) meson properties at finite density, where the partial restoration of the DCSB is expected.

The \( \eta' \)-mesic nucleus was studied by Haider and Liu \( \text{[27]} \) and Chiang, Oset and Liu \( \text{[28]} \). As for the formation reaction, the attempt to find the bound states by \( (\pi^+, p) \) reaction led to a negative result \( \text{[27]} \). Recently, the \( \eta \) meson and light nuclei systems are studied experimentally \( \text{[28]} \) and also theoretically \( \text{[29]} \). The experimental study in Ref. \( \text{[28]} \) claims the existence of the \( \eta \)-bound state in the light nucleus.

Recently, there are several very important developments in the research of the spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry and its partial restoration at finite density by studying the hadronic systems, such as pionic atoms \( \text{[30, 31, 32]} \), \( \eta \)- and \( \eta' \)-mesic nuclei \( \text{[33, 34, 35, 36]} \), \( \eta' \)-mesonic nuclei \( \text{[37, 38]} \) and \( \omega \)-mesic nuclei \( \text{[39, 40, 41]} \) in both of theoretical and experimental aspects. There is also a theoretical study on \( \sigma \) meson nuclear bound states based on SU(2) linear sigma model \( \text{[42]} \). Especially, after a series of deeply bound pionic atom experiments \( \text{[43, 44]} \), K. Suzuki \( \text{et al.} \) reported the quantitative determination of pion decay constant \( f_\pi \) in-medium \( \text{[43]} \) from the deeply bound pionic states in Sn isotopes \( \text{[43]} \) and stimulated many active researches of the partial restoration of chiral symmetry at finite density \( \text{[30, 32, 44, 47, 48]} \).

However, as for the behavior of the \( U_A(1) \) anomaly in the nuclear medium, the present exploratory level is rather poor. Although some theoretical results have been reported, there exists no experimental information on the possible effective restoration of the \( U_A(1) \) anomaly at finite density. In the context of the instanton dynamics, the mass of the \( \eta' \) at a nonzero baryon chemical potential was studied in the two color QCD \( \text{[49]} \). As for the case of the finite temperature, the temperature dependence of the instanton density was calculated in \( \text{[50, 51, 52, 53, 54]} \). In the low-energy effective model of QCD approach, T. Kunihiro studied the effects of the \( U_A(1) \) anomaly on \( \eta' \) properties at finite temperature using the NJL model with the KMT term and showed the possible character changes of \( \eta' \) at \( T \neq 0 \) \( \text{[55]} \). Theoretical predictions by other authors also supported the possible change of the \( \eta' \) properties at finite density as well as at finite temperature \( \text{[56, 57]} \). Experimental feasibilities to observe the \( \eta' \)-mesic nuclei were also studied in this context in our previous work in Ref. \( \text{[37]} \), where the in-medium \( \eta' \) properties were estimated quite roughly based on the results reported in Refs. \( \text{[53, 54, 55]} \). In Ref. \( \text{[58]} \) further theoretical studies have been performed for \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \)-nucleus systems with paying attention to the QCD axial \( U(1) \) problem.

In this study, we consider the \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \) meson properties in atomic nuclei and the structures of the \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \)-mesic nuclei using the SU(3) \( J \) NJL model in order to get much deeper insights on the \( \eta' \) mass shifts and their relation to \( U_A(1) \) anomaly effects and to get more quantitative results than our previous work \( \text{[37]} \). We also propose the formation reaction of the \( \eta \)- and \( \eta' \)-mesic nuclei and discuss the possibility to produce the \( \eta \)- and \( \eta' \)-nucleus bound states. The \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \) properties in the medium should provide us important information on the QCD vacuum structure, especially on the effective restoration of the \( U_A(1) \) symmetry in the nuclear medium.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec.\( \text{[II]} \) we will obtain the quark masses and the quark condensates in finite density using NJL model, and calculate the meson masses in-medium. In Sec.\( \text{[III]} \) we will discuss the formations of mesic nuclei using the Green function method, and show the numerical results of the missing mass spectra of the \( (\gamma, p) \) reaction. Finally, Sec.\( \text{[IV]} \) is devoted to summary of this paper.

## II. QUARK AND MESON Masses IN NJL Model

We work with the following NJL model lagrangian density extended to three-flavor case:

\[
\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0 + \mathcal{L}_4 + \mathcal{L}_6, \\
\mathcal{L}_0 = \bar{\psi} \left( i\partial_\mu \gamma^\mu - m \right) \psi, \\
\mathcal{L}_4 = \frac{g_S}{2} \sum_{a=0}^8 \left[ (\bar{\psi} \lambda^a \psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi} \lambda^a i\gamma_5 \psi)^2 \right], \\
\mathcal{L}_6 = g_D \left\{ \det \left[ \bar{\psi}_i (1 - \gamma_5) \psi_j \right] + h.c. \right\}.
\]

Here the quark field \( \psi \) is a column vector in color, flavor and Dirac spaces and \( \lambda^a (a = 0 \ldots 8) \) is the Gell-Mann matrices for the flavor \( U(3) \). The free Dirac lagrangian \( \mathcal{L}_0 \) incorporates the current quark mass matrix \( \bar{m} = \text{diag}(m_u, m_d, m_s) \) which breaks the chiral \( U_L(3) \times U_R(3) \) invariance explicitly. \( \mathcal{L}_4 \) is a QCD motivated four-fermion interaction, which is chiral \( U_L(3) \times U_R(3) \) invariant. The Kobayashi-Maskawa-‘t Hooft determinant interaction \( \mathcal{L}_6 \) represents the \( U_A(1) \) anomaly. It is a \( 3 \times 3 \) determinant with respect to flavor with \( i, j = u, d, s \).

Quark condensates \( \langle q\bar{q} \rangle \) and constituent quark masses \( M_q \) are self-consistently determined by the gap equations in the mean field approximation:

\[
M_u = m_u - 2g_S \langle \bar{u}u \rangle - 2g_D \langle \bar{d}d \rangle \langle \bar{s}s \rangle, \\
M_d = m_d - 2g_S \langle \bar{d}d \rangle - 2g_D \langle \bar{s}s \rangle \langle \bar{u}u \rangle, \\
M_s = m_s - 2g_S \langle \bar{s}s \rangle - 2g_D \langle \bar{u}u \rangle \langle \bar{d}d \rangle.
\]
with
\[
\langle \bar{q}q \rangle = -\text{Tr}^{(c,D)}[iS_F^0(x = 0)] = -\int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr}^{(c,D)} \left[ \frac{i}{p_n^\mu - M_q + i\epsilon} \right] = -2N_c\int_\Lambda^\Lambda \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \times \frac{M_q}{E_q} \left(1 - n_p(T, \mu_q) - \bar{n}_p(T, \mu_q)\right).
\]

Here, the ultraviolet cutoff \(\Lambda\) is introduced to regularize the divergent integral and \(\text{Tr}^{(c,D)}\) means trace in color and Dirac spaces. \(E_q = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}_q^2 + M_q}\) is the on-shell energy of the quark and \(n_p\) and \(\bar{n}_p\) are Fermi occupation numbers of quarks and antiquarks, respectively, defined as,
\[
n_p(T, \mu_q) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E_q - \mu_q)/T}},
\]

\[
\bar{n}_p(T, \mu_q) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E_q + \mu_q)/T}}.
\]

where \(T\) represents the temperature of the system and \(\mu_q\) is the quark chemical potential. \(n_p\) and \(\bar{n}_p\) depend on the momentum \(\mathbf{p}_q\) through the energy \(E_q\). For \(T = 0\), we can simply write Eqs. (4) as
\[
n_p(0, \mu_q) = \theta(\mu_q - E_q),
\]

\[
\bar{n}_p(0, \mu_q) = 0,
\]

and by integrating them in momentum space we obtain the quark number density \(\rho_q\) as
\[
\rho_q = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \left(\mu_q^2 - M_q^2\right)^{3/2} \theta(\mu_q - M_q).
\]

To simulate the symmetric nuclear matter, we consider SU(2) symmetric quark matter defined as \(\rho_u = \rho_d, \rho_s = 0\). In this case, the nucleon density \(\rho\) is defined as,
\[
\rho = \frac{1}{3} \rho_u + \rho_d
\]

\[
= \frac{2}{\pi^2} \left(\mu_u^2 - M_u^2\right)^{3/2} \theta(\mu_u - M_u),
\]

where \(\mu_u = \mu_d\) and \(M_u = M_d\). The NJL model at finite temperature and density has been reviewed in [58].

The pseudoscalar channel quark-antiquark scattering amplitudes,
\[
\langle \bar{q}_3q_4; \text{out} | p_1, \bar{p}_2; \text{in} \rangle = (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_1 + p_2 - p_3 - p_4) T_{\bar{q}q_3 q_4} \quad (8)
\]

are then calculated in the ladder approximation. We assume that \(m_u = m_d\) so that the isospin symmetry is exact. In the \(\eta\) and \(\eta'\) channels, the explicit expression of \(T_{\bar{q}q}\) is
\[
T_{\bar{q}q} = -\left( \begin{array}{c} \bar{u}(p_3) \lambda^8 v(p_4) \\ \bar{u}(p_3) \lambda^0 v(p_4) \end{array} \right)^T \left( \begin{array}{cc} A(q^2) & B(q^2) \\ B(q^2) & C(q^2) \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} \tilde{v}(p_2) \lambda^8 u(p_1) \\ \tilde{v}(p_2) \lambda^0 u(p_1) \end{array} \right),
\]

with
\[
A(q^2) = \frac{2}{\det D(q^2)} \left\{ 2 \tilde{G} I^0(q^2) - G_8 \right\}, \quad (10a)
\]

\[
B(q^2) = \frac{2}{\det D(q^2)} \left\{ -2 \tilde{G} I^m(q^2) - G_m \right\}, \quad (10b)
\]

\[
C(q^2) = \frac{2}{\det D(q^2)} \left\{ 2 \tilde{G} I^8(q^2) - G_0 \right\}, \quad (10c)
\]

where \(q = p_1 + p_2\) and \(\tilde{G} = G_0 G_8 - G_m G_m\), and
\[
G_0 = \frac{1}{2} g_s - \frac{1}{3} (2\langle \bar{u}u \rangle + \langle \bar{s}s \rangle) g_D, \quad (11a)
\]

\[
G_8 = \frac{1}{2} g_s - \frac{1}{6} (\langle \bar{s}s \rangle - 4\langle \bar{u}u \rangle) g_D, \quad (11b)
\]

\[
G_m = -\frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} (\langle \bar{s}s \rangle - \langle \bar{u}u \rangle) g_D. \quad (11c)
\]

The quark-antiquark bubble integrals are defined by
\[
I^0(q^2) = i \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \times \text{Tr}^{(c,D)} \left[ S_F(p) \lambda^0 i \gamma_5 S_F(p + q) \lambda^0 i \gamma_5 \right], \quad (12a)
\]

\[
I^8(q^2) = i \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \times \text{Tr}^{(c,D)} \left[ S_F(p) \lambda^8 i \gamma_5 S_F(p + q) \lambda^8 i \gamma_5 \right], \quad (12b)
\]

\[
I^m(q^2) = i \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \times \text{Tr}^{(c,D)} \left[ S_F(p) \lambda^0 i \gamma_5 S_F(p + q) \lambda^0 i \gamma_5 \right]. \quad (12c)
\]

In the calculations of the quark loop integrals, we have applied standard techniques of thermal field theory, i.e., the imaginary-time formalism and we have introduced the same three-momentum cutoff used in the gap equations [59] and [43].

The \(2 \times 2\) matrix \(D\) is given by
\[
D(q^2) = \left( \begin{array}{cc} D_{11}(q^2) & D_{12}(q^2) \\ D_{21}(q^2) & D_{22}(q^2) \end{array} \right), \quad (13)
\]

with
\[
D_{11}(q^2) = 2G_0 I^0(q^2) + 2G_m I^m(q^2) - 1, \quad (14a)
\]

\[
D_{12}(q^2) = 2G_0 I^m(q^2) + 2G_m I^8(q^2) \quad (14b)
\]

\[
D_{21}(q^2) = 2G_0 I^8(q^2) + 2G_m I^0(q^2) \quad (14c)
\]

\[
D_{22}(q^2) = 2G_0 I^8(q^2) + 2G_m I^m(q^2) - 1. \quad (14d)
\]

From the pole positions of the scattering amplitude Eq. (13), the \(\eta\)-meson mass \(m_\eta\) and the \(\eta'\)-meson mass \(m_\eta'\) are determined.
The scattering amplitude Eq. (9) can be diagonalized by the rotation in the flavor space

\[ T_{q\bar{q}} = -\left( \frac{\bar{u}(p_3)\lambda^8 v(p_4)}{\bar{u}(p_3)\lambda^2 v(p_4)} \right)^T \theta^{-1} \mathbf{T}_\theta \left( A(q^2) \begin{pmatrix} B(q^2) \\ C(q^2) \end{pmatrix} \right) \mathbf{T}_\theta \]  

(15)

with \( \lambda^\eta = \cos \theta\lambda^8 - \sin \theta\lambda^0 \), \( \lambda^\eta' = \sin \theta\lambda^8 + \cos \theta\lambda^0 \) and

\[ \mathbf{T}_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}. \]  

(17)

The rotation angle \( \theta \) is determined by

\[ \tan 2\theta = \frac{2B(q^2)}{C(q^2) - A(q^2)} \].  

(18)

Note that \( \theta \) therefore depends on \( q^2 \). At \( q^2 = m_\eta^2 \), \( \theta \) represents the mixing angle of the \( \lambda^8 \) and \( \lambda^0 \) components in the \( \eta \)-meson state. In the usual effective pseudoscalar meson lagrangian approaches, the \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \) mesons are analyzed using the \( q^2 \)-independent \( \eta - \eta' \) mixing angle. Because of the \( q^2 \)-dependence, \( \theta \) cannot be interpreted as the \( \eta - \eta' \) mixing angle. The origin of the \( q^2 \)-dependence is that the \( \eta \) and \( \eta' \) mesons have the internal structures.

We observe the dynamical quark and meson masses in vacuum as compiled in Table I with the input parameters determined in Ref. [52]. In Ref. [52], the 4 model parameters, namely, cutoff \( \Lambda \), 4-quark coupling constant \( g_s \), 6-quark coupling constant \( g_D \) and the current s-quark mass \( m_s \), have been fixed so as to reproduce the observed values of the pion, kaon, \( \eta' \) masses and the pion decay constant, while the current u, d-quark mass has been fixed at 5.5 MeV, which has been taken from the results of the chiral perturbation theory and QCD sum rule approaches. This parameter set gives an \( \eta \) mass of \( m_\eta = 514.8 \) MeV, which is about 6% smaller than the observed value \( m_\eta = 547.75 \) MeV. One is able to fit the mass of \( \eta \) instead of the \( \eta' \). The reason why we have used the present parameter set is just we are more interested in the \( \eta' \)-mesic nucleus than the \( \eta \)-mesic nucleus in this article because we consider that the former is more suitable for observing the finite density effect of the \( U_A(1) \) anomaly.

In this paper, we investigate the finite density effects on the meson mass spectra for the following 3 cases with the different strengths \( g_D \) of the determinant KMT interaction as,

\[ \begin{align*}  
(\text{a}) & \quad g_D(\rho) = g_D \\
(\text{b}) & \quad g_D(\rho) = 0 \\
(\text{c}) & \quad g_D(\rho) = g_D \exp[-(\rho/\rho_0)^2],
\end{align*} \]  

(19)

where \( g_D \) is the vacuum strength of the determinant interaction as shown in Table I. The \( g_D(\rho) \) has no density dependence for cases (a) and (b). In case (a), the meson vacuum properties are well reproduced as shown in Table I while there are no anomaly effects in case (b). For \( g_D = 0 \), we use slightly different parameter set as shown in Table I in Ref. [52] to reproduce the meson masses and the pion decay constant in vacuum without anomaly effect. In case (c), we simply assume the density dependence of \( g_D \) as this form in order to examine the medium effect due to density dependence of \( g_D \) itself on the meson mass spectra in finite density.

Here it may be interesting for our study to notice that there are theoretical suggestions about possible density dependence of \( g_D \) [61, 62]. In Ref. [62], the effective coupling constant of the instanton-induced interaction is suggested to have chemical potential dependence for \( N_f = 2 \) systems. For \( N_f = 3 \) systems, we can expect to have the similar \( \mu \) dependence, though it is not easy to show explicitly. We are interested in studying the effect of such density dependence discussed in Ref. [62] on meson mass spectra as future works.

In Fig. 1, we show the calculated quark condensates as functions of density for three types of \( g_D(\rho) \) defined in Eq. (19). In case (b), we have switched off the effect of the instanton-induced flavor mixing interaction and therefore the s-quark condensate has not changed in the SU(2) symmetric matter. The absolute values of the u,d-quark condensate decreases significantly faster in case (c) than in case (a) when the density goes up. It means that

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
Input parameters & Calculated results [MeV] \\
\hline
\( \Lambda = 602.3 \) [MeV] & \( m_{u,d} = 367.6 \) & \( J_{f} = 92.4 \) \\
\( g_s \Lambda^2 = 3.67 \) & \( M_{f} = 549.5 \) & \( m_{s} = 135.0 \) \\
\( g_D \Lambda^2 = -12.36 \) & \( \langle \bar{u}u \rangle^{1/3} = -241.9 \) & \( m_{n} = 514.8 \) \\
\( m_{u,d} = 5.5 \) [MeV] & \( \langle \bar{s}s \rangle^{1/3} = -257.7 \) & \( m_{\eta} = 957.7 \) \\
\( m_{s} = 140.7 \) [MeV] & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Input parameters determined in Ref. [59] and calculated results in vacuum in three-flavor NJL model.}
\end{table}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{fig1.png}
\caption{Density dependence of the quark condensates in the SU(2) symmetric matter. \( \rho_0 = \rho_s \) and \( \rho_s \) is the normal nuclear density \( \rho_0 = 0.17 \text{ fm}^{-3} \).}
\end{figure}
the contribution of the instanton-induced interaction on the u,d-quark condensate is sizable.

In Fig. 2 we show the calculated density dependence of the meson mass spectra for three cases defined in Eq. (19). In the case of constant $g_{\rho}$ (a), we find that the mass of $\eta'$ decreases rapidly as a function of the density, while the masses of $\pi$ and $\eta$ gradually increase. The instanton-induced interaction is repulsive for the flavor singlet $q\bar{q}$ channel and the effective coupling strength is $g_{\rho}\langle uu \rangle + \langle dd \rangle + \langle ss \rangle / 3$. Since the absolute values of the quark condensates decrease as the density increase, the effective repulsive interaction in the flavor singlet $q\bar{q}$ channel becomes small as the density increases. That is the reason why the $\eta'$ mass decrease. In Fig. 2(b), we find that $\pi$ and $\eta$ are degenerate completely and their masses increase gradually as density, and the mass of $\eta'$ has no density dependence without the $U_A(1)$ anomaly effects. Without the $U_A(1)$ anomaly effects, the $\eta'$ is the ideal mixing state, i.e., the pure $\bar{s}s$, and therefore no density dependence in the SU(2) symmetric matter with $\mu_s = 0$. It should be mentioned that the masses of $\eta$ and $\eta'$ at $\rho = 0$ are not reproduced in this case. As shown in Fig. 2(c), if the $g_{\rho}$ has density dependence as case (c) in Eq. (19), we can expect mass reduction of both $\eta$ and $\eta'$ mesons up to around $\rho = \rho_0$.

It is interesting to compare our results in Fig. 2 with those obtained in Ref. 38, where the Quark-Meson Coupling model (QMC) was used to obtain the mass-shift for given mixing angles. The results in Table 1 of Ref. 38 show that the both masses of $\eta$ and $\eta'$ decrease in medium at normal nuclear density (defined as $\rho_0 = 0.15$ fm$^{-3}$) for all cases considered there. These results are not consistent to our results of case (a) where the $\eta$ mass slightly increases at the normal nuclear density. Our results of case (c) are qualitatively consistent to those in Ref. 38 and predict the mass reduction of $\eta$ and $\eta'$ mesons in medium at normal nuclear density, however, the sizes of the mass shift are significantly different in these results. The origin of the discrepancies in theoretical calculations are not clear, however, we believe that this fact indicates the significant importance of experimental information.

Here, in order to see the effects of the species of the matter to the calculated results, we compare the results in the SU(2) symmetric matter with those in the SU(3) symmetric matter, $\rho_u = \rho_d = \rho_s$, in Fig. 4. In Fig. 4 the strength of the determinant interaction is fixed to be constant as case (a) in Eq. (19). We get same results as those obtained in Ref. 60 in SU(3) case, and find that the differences between the calculated results in SU(2) and that of SU(3) are less than 10% at normal nuclear density $\rho_0$.

III. FORMATION SPECTRA OF MESICNUCLEI

In previous section, we discuss the possible changes of the meson masses due to the medium effects. If such mass changes occur in the nuclear medium, we can translate these effects into the potential forms. We estimate the real parts of the $\eta$- and $\eta'$-nucleus optical potentials based on the calculated their masses at finite density by the NJL model. The optical potential $U(r)$ can be written as,

$$U(r) = V(r) + iW(r),$$

where $V$ and $W$ indicate the real and the imaginary parts of the optical potential, respectively. The mass term in the Klein-Gordon equation for the $\eta$ and $\eta'$ mesons can be rewritten at finite density as:

$$m_0^2 \to m^2(\rho) = (m_0 + \Delta m(\rho))^2 \
\sim m_0^2 + 2m_0\Delta m(\rho),$$

where $m_0$ is the calculated meson mass in vacuum and $m(\rho)$ the meson mass at density $\rho$. The mass shift $\Delta m(\rho)$
is defined as $\Delta m(\rho) = m(\rho) - m_0$ and is $\Delta m(0) = 0$. Thus, we can interpret the $\Delta m(\rho)$ as the strength of the real part of the optical potential, and in this paper we write $V(r)$ as

$$V(r) = \Delta m(\rho_0) \frac{\rho(r)}{\rho_0}, \quad (22)$$

using the meson mass shifts at normal nuclear density $\rho_0$. Here $\rho(r)$ is the nuclear density distribution, which is assumed to be of an empirical Woods-Saxon form as

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{r-R}{a}\right)}, \quad (23)$$

where $R = 1.18A^{\frac{1}{3}} - 0.48$ fm and $a = 0.5$ fm with the nuclear mass number $A$.

From the calculated results shown in Fig. 2, we can deduce the real part of the $\eta$- and $\eta'-$nucleus optical potential as defined in Eq. (22). We show the real parts of the optical potentials in Fig. 4 for all these cases defined in Eq. (19). We find that the sign and strength of the real part of the potential strongly depends on the anomaly effects at finite $\rho$. The potential of $\eta'$ is attractive for cases (a) and (c), and its strength depends on the density dependence of $g_0(\rho)$. As we can see in Fig. 4(b), no real potential is expected for $\eta'$ meson for $\rho_0 = 0$ case. As for $\eta$-nucleus optical potential, even the sign of the real potential is changed by the density dependence of $g_0(\rho)$ as shown in Figs. 4(a) and (c). For no anomaly case (b), $\eta$ meson degenerates with pion and the real potential is slightly repulsive. Thus, we confirm that we can expect to obtain the information on $\eta$ and $\eta'$ meson properties at finite $\rho$.

The strength of the imaginary potential of meson and nucleus is estimated separately since it is extremely difficult to evaluate it using NJL model. For the $\eta$ meson, we estimate the strength of the imaginary potential based on the results obtained in Refs. 35, 37 assuming the $N^*(1535)$ dominance in the $\eta N$ channel, and take as:

$$W(r) = -4\rho \rho_0 [\text{MeV}], \quad (24)$$

As for the $\eta'$ nucleon optical potential, we can estimate $W(r)$ from analysis of $\gamma p \rightarrow \eta' p$ data 68. Since they included only $N^*(1535)$ as a baryon resonance in the analysis of the $\eta'$ formation reaction and determined $\eta'N N^*(1535)$ coupling strength, we can easily calculate the $\eta'$ self-energy in the medium in analogy with the $\Delta$-hole model for the $\pi$-nucleus system as,

$$U_{\eta'} \sim \frac{g^2}{2m_{\eta'}^2} \rho \frac{M_{\eta'} - M_N + i\Gamma_{\eta'}}{2} \rho_0 \text{[MeV]}. \quad (25)$$

We consider the reasonable running range is $-5$ MeV to $-20$ MeV for the strength of the imaginary part of the $\eta'$ nucleus optical potential based on this evaluation in Eq. (23) as in Ref. 37. The $\eta'$-nucleus bound states were calculated theoretically before in Ref. 66, where the widths of the $\eta'$-mesic nuclear states were not evaluated.

We should mention here that the evaluation in Eq. (23) provides the repulsive real part, which is opposite to the evaluation from the $\eta'$ mass shift, since we consider only $N^*(1535)$ resonance with the mass $M_{N^*} < m_{\eta'} + M_N$ as an intermediate states. By the $(\gamma,p)$ experiments proposed in this paper, we can expect to distinguish these potentials and to determine the sign and strength of the $\eta'$-nucleus optical potential.

In order to observe meson-nucleus bound states experimentally, we consider missing mass spectroscopy 65, which was proved to be a powerful tool for the meson bound states formation in the studies of deeply bound pionic states 66. In this spectroscopy, one observes an emitted particle in a final state, and obtains the double differential cross section $d^2\sigma/d\Omega dE$ as a function of the emitted particle energy. As discussed in Refs. 37, 67, 68, 69, we think that the $(\gamma,p)$ reaction with GeV photon beam is one of the appropriate reactions for our purpose and it can be performed in existing facilities like SPring-8. We consider the $(\gamma,p)$ reactions for the $\eta$- and $\eta'$-mesic nuclei formation.

We choose the incident photon energy as $E_\gamma = 2.7$ GeV, which is the beam energy accessible at SPring-8, and choose $^{15}\text{C}$ as a target nucleus as in Ref. 37. We use the Green function method 70 to calculate the formation cross sections as,

$$\left(\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE}\right)_{A(\gamma,p)_{\eta,\eta'}\otimes(A-1)} = \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)^{\text{Lab}}_{p(\gamma,p)_{\eta,\eta'}} \times \sum_f S(E), \quad (26)$$

where $S(E)$ is the nuclear response function and $\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)^{\text{Lab}}_{p(\gamma,p)_{\eta,\eta'}}$ are the elementary cross sections in the laboratory frame for the $\eta$ and $\eta'$ meson production. The elementary cross section for $\eta'$ production is estimated to be $150$ nb/sr using the data of SAPHIR collaboration 71.
FIG. 5: The calculated spectra of the $^{12}\text{C} (\gamma,p)^{11}\text{B} \otimes \eta'$ reaction at $E_\gamma = 2.7$ GeV are shown as functions of the excited energy $E_{ex}$ defined in the text. $E_0$ is the $\eta'$ production threshold energy. The real part of the $\eta'$-nucleus optical potential is evaluated for case (a) in Eq. (19). The imaginary part of the potential is assumed to be $W(r) = -5\rho(r)/\rho_0$ [MeV] (upper panel) and $W(r) = -20\rho(r)/\rho_0$ [MeV] (lower panel). The total spectra are shown by the thick solid line, and the dominant contributions of subcomponents are shown by dotted and dashed lines as indicated in the figures.

FIG. 6: The calculated spectra of the $^{12}\text{C} (\gamma,p)$ reactions for the $\eta$, $\omega$, $\eta'$ mesic nucleus formation at $E_\gamma = 2.7$ GeV are shown as functions of the emitted proton energies in final states. The three cases (a), (b) and (c) for $g_D$ defined in Eq. (19) are considered. The vertical dashed lines indicate the production thresholds of the $\eta$, $\omega$ and $\eta'$ mesons. The contributions from the $\eta$, $\omega$ and $\eta'$-mesic nuclei are shown by dotted, dash-dotted and dashed lines, respectively. The imaginary part of the $\eta'$-nucleus optical potential is $W(r) = -20\rho(r)/\rho_0$ [MeV]. The $\omega$-nucleus optical potential obtained in Ref. [40] is used and is attractive.

FIG. 7: The calculated spectra of the $^{12}\text{C} (\gamma,p)$ reactions for the $\eta$, $\omega$, $\eta'$ mesic nucleus formation at $E_\gamma = 2.7$ GeV are shown as functions of the emitted proton energies in final states. The three cases (a), (b) and (c) for $g_D$ defined in Eq. (19) are considered. The vertical dashed lines indicate the production thresholds of the $\eta$, $\omega$ and $\eta'$ mesons. The contributions from the $\eta$, $\omega$ and $\eta'$-mesic nuclei are shown by dotted, dash-dotted and dashed lines, respectively. The imaginary part of the $\eta'$-nucleus optical potential is $W(r) = -20\rho(r)/\rho_0$ [MeV]. The $\omega$-nucleus optical potential obtained in Ref. [40] is used and is repulsive.
Here, we define using the eikonal approximation as in Ref. [37].

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\text{where } \eta \text{ is the nucleon binding energy and } \omega \text{ is the nucleon separation energy. The } \eta \text{-nucleus potential is small enough and the } \omega \text{-nucleus interaction at threshold in this paper. At this energy, the contributions from higher partial waves of quasi-free } \eta \text{ meson production are so large that those from the bound } \eta \text{ states hardly affect the total spectrum. Furthermore, we should make a comment on the } \eta \text{ mesic nuclei that, in order to see the anomaly effect clearly, we have not considered any contributions from resonances like } N'(1535) \text{ in this paper in the estimation of the real part of the } \eta \text{-nucleus optical potential, whose contribution is known to be important on the } \eta \text{-nucleon system. The detailed discussions of the } \eta \text{-mesic nuclei with the } N'(1535) \text{ resonance are reported in Refs. [43, 64]. The calculated contribution of the } \omega \text{ channel in Fig. 6 is essentially the same as that reported in Ref. [67].}

Similarly, in Fig. 4 we show the spectra with the } \omega \text{ mesic nuclei with the repulsive potential predicted in Ref. [41]. In this case, the contribution of the quasi-free } \omega \text{ formation locates the same energy region with the bound } \eta' \text{ in the cases (a) and, especially (c) in Fig. 4. In Fig. 4(b), we can only see simple three peaks corresponding the quasi-free } \eta, \omega \text{ and } \eta' \text{ mesons in the spectrum.}

As for the background, which is very important to discuss experimental feasibility, is evaluated by using the experimental data taken by LEPS collaboration at SPring-8 recently [73]. That was a test experiment in the preparation stage for the observation of the } \omega \text{ mesic nuclei by the } (\gamma,p) \text{ reaction, which used the same kinematics proposed in this paper and observed the background proton emission rate from Carbon target including energy region for } \omega \text{ meson production} [73]. \text{We can roughly estimate the order of magnitude of the background proton cross section as to be } 10 - 100 \text{ [nb/sr MeV] in the } \eta' \text{ formation region. Thus, we estimate the signal over noise ratio is } S/N \sim 1/10. \text{ We think the absolute magnitude of the attractive potential reported in Ref. [40]. We can see the significant mass reduction of the } \eta' \text{ meson in nuclear medium in Fig. 6(a), while in Fig. 6(b) we only see the simple quasi-free } \eta' \text{ formation spectrum without } U_A(1) \text{ anomaly effect. In the case with the density dependent } g_D \text{ in Fig. 6(c), we can see the mass reduction of both the } \eta \text{ and } \eta' \text{ mesons. Especially, even below the } \omega \text{ production threshold, we can see the finite contributions of the } \eta' \text{-mesic nucleus formation to the spectrum as the consequences of the large } \eta' \text{ mass reduction in the case with the density dependent } g_D \text{ defined as (c) in Eq. (11).}

In Figs. 6 and 7, we show the } (\gamma,p) \text{ spectra for wider energy region including both } \eta \text{ and } \eta' \text{ production to see the anomaly effects in the whole } (\gamma,p) \text{ spectra simultaneously. To provide realistic spectra, we include the contributions due to } \omega \text{ meson production processes, which exist between } \eta \text{ and } \eta' \text{ contributions. As the } \omega \text{-nucleus interaction, we apply the results obtained by two theory groups reported in Refs. [40, 41]. We should mention here that the } \omega \text{-nucleus interaction at threshold in Ref. [40] is attractive, while that in Ref. [41] is repulsive. Hence, we use both interactions to evaluate the contribution of } \omega \text{ meson.}

In Fig. 6 we observe the sharp structures in the spectra due to the formation of the } \omega \text{ mesic nuclei with the attractive potential reported in Ref. [40]. We can see the significant mass reduction of the } \eta' \text{ meson in nuclear medium in Fig. 6(a), while in Fig. 6(b) we only see the simple quasi-free } \eta' \text{ formation spectrum without } U_A(1) \text{ anomaly effect. In the case with the density dependent } g_D \text{ in Fig. 6(c), we can see the mass reduction of both the } \eta \text{ and } \eta' \text{ mesons. Especially, even below the } \omega \text{ production threshold, we can see the finite contributions of the } \eta' \text{-mesic nucleus formation to the spectrum as the consequences of the large } \eta' \text{ mass reduction in the case with the density dependent } g_D \text{ defined as (c) in Eq. (11).}

For the } \eta \text{ mesic nucleus production, it is hardly to see the differences between the cases with (a) the constant } g_D \text{ and (c) the density dependence } g_D, \text{ due to the large momentum transfer for the } \eta \text{ mesic nucleus formation with the incident photon energy } E_\gamma = 2.7 \text{ GeV considered in this paper. At this energy, the contributions from higher partial waves of quasi-free } \eta \text{ meson production are so large that those from the bound } \eta \text{ states hardly affect the total spectrum. Furthermore, we should make a comment on the } \eta \text{ mesic nuclei that, in order to see the anomaly effect clearly, we have not considered any contributions from resonances like } N'(1535) \text{ in this paper in the estimation of the real part of the } \eta \text{-nucleus optical potential, whose contribution is known to be important on the } \eta \text{-nucleon system. The detailed discussions of the } \eta \text{-mesic nuclei with the } N'(1535) \text{ resonance are reported in Refs. [43, 64]. The calculated contribution of the } \omega \text{ channel in Fig. 6 is essentially the same as that reported in Ref. [67].}

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IV. CONCLUSIONS

We have investigated the possible observation of the effective restoration of the $U_A(1)$ anomaly at finite density by formations of the $\eta$- and $\eta'$-mesic nuclei. Especially, since the heavy $\eta'$ meson mass is considered to be generated from the $U_A(1)$ anomaly effect, we can expect to observe clearly the anomaly effect in medium in the $\eta'$ channel.

In order to evaluate more quantitative magnitude of the meson mass changes due to the medium effects and to obtain deeper insights on $U_A(1)$ anomaly effects than Ref. [37], we adopted the Nambu-Jona-Lasinio (NJL) model with the Kobayashi-Maskawa-’t Hooft (KMT) interaction, and calculated the meson masses in finite density with three different coupling strengths of the KMT interaction. We obtained significant $\eta'$ mass changes even at normal nuclear density due to the effective restoration of the $U_A(1)$ anomaly. In the finite density calculations, we have substituted the SU(2) symmetric constituent quark matter for the symmetric nuclear matter. Although the NJL model doesn’t confine quarks, it is a good effective model which can describe the low energy QCD phenomena, i.e., the properties of light pseudoscalar mesons rather well after fixing the model parameters appropriately. Even the NJL model has some shortcomings, we think it is meaningful to apply the model in this exploratory level to clarify the physics of $\eta'(958)$ mesic nuclei and $U_A(1)$ anomaly at finite density.

To investigate the experimental feasibility, we calculated formation cross sections of the $\eta$- and $\eta'$-mesic nuclei with $(\gamma,p)$ reaction. We found that the calculated cross section has reasonably large magnitude, and the $(\gamma,p)$ reaction with GeV photon beam, which can be provided in existing facilities like SPring-8, is an appropriate reaction for our purpose. We conclude that we can expect to observe the $\eta'$ mass reduction clearly in this reaction, and to obtain new information on the $U_A(1)$ anomaly at finite density.

The present evaluation is the first theoretical results for the formation reaction of the $\eta$- and $\eta'$-mesic nuclei based on the NJL model results to know the behavior of $U_A(1)$ anomaly in the medium. We believe that the present theoretical results is much important to stimulate both theoretical and experimental activities to study the $U_A(1)$ anomaly at finite density and to obtain the deeper insights of QCD symmetry breaking pattern and the meson mass spectrum.

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