Many-body correlations in Semiclassical Molecular Dynamics and Skyrme interaction

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Constraint Molecular dynamics CoMD calculations have been performed for asymmetric nuclear matter (NM) by using a simple effective interactions of the Skyrme type. The set of parameter values reproducing common accepted saturation properties of nuclear matter have been obtained for different degree of stiffness characterizing the iso-vectorial potential density dependence. A comparison with results obtained in the limit of the Semi-Classical Mean Field approximation using the same kind of interaction put in evidence the role played by the many-body correlations in to explain the noticeable differences obtained in the parameter values in the two cases. Even if from a numerical point of view the obtained results are strictly valid for the CoMD model, some rather general feature of the discussed correlations can give a wider meaning to the obtained differences being strongly related to the spacial correlations generated in the semiclassical wave packets dynamics.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The description of many-body systems is one of the most difficult problems in nuclear physics due to the complexity of this kind of systems which are quantum objects described by a large number of degrees of freedom. A large variety of theoretical models have been developed using mean-field based and beyond-mean field approaches like Density Functional Theory [1] and Energy Density Function Theory [2, 3]. In these approaches which use the independent particle approximation as a starting point, phenomenological effective interaction like Skyrme and Gogny forces are widely used taking advantage of their simple form [4]. In nuclear structure modeling we can quote the Skyrm-Harthree-Fock (SHF) methods, the relativistic mean-field (RMF) approach (as well as their Bogoliubov extensions), and the Harthree-Fock-Bogoliubov methods with the finite-range Gogny force [5]. As an example we can quote the work of P.-G. Reinhard et al. [6] in which the liquid drop parameters have been obtained starting from microscopic SHF and RMF calculations with a rather wide variety of Skyrme interactions. Each of them produce energy functionals with parameters adjusted to reproduce the basic nuclear bulk properties in the valley of stability.

Complexity still becomes higher when nuclear dynamics, triggered by nuclear collisions, is studied to understand the property of nuclear forces far from the stability. At the Fermi energy and beyond, semiclassical methods become necessary to describe the produced processes in which practically all the degrees of freedom are involved. Many-body correlations are responsible for the reorganization of the hot Nuclear Matter (NM) in to clusters. Two main classes of approaches have been developed to handle this complex scenario. The first one is based on the Boltzman transport equation including two and, at the higher energy, also three body collisions terms [7, 8]. In this case the theoretical approach is able to describe the time evolution of the one-body distribution function in phase-space. Apart from the collision term, the Boltzman equation corresponds to the semi-classical limit of time-dependent Harthere-Fock equations in phase-space. Different models have been implemented on this ground. They essentially differ from each other in the strategy adopted to simulate the collision terms and in the way to represent the phase-space distribution starting from the nucleonic degree of freedom (test particle methods). As in the Harthere-Fock mean field method the main ingredient concerning the interaction is the energy density which for a Skyrme type phenomenological interaction has a rather manageable form. In particular the local part of the interaction produces a simple functional for the potential energy expressed through an algebraic function of the density (see also Sec.II). In the early 90 a further development included stochastic forces (typical of Langevin processes) [10] in the so called Stochastic Mean Field model [11] to produce fluctuations capable of describing associated phenomena like mean-field instabilities leading to the cluster production. The second line of development of theoretical semiclassical approaches to deal the nuclear many-body problem is represented by the so called Molecular Dynamics models. The point of view of these methods is some sense antithetic compared to the ones based on the mean-field concept. However also in these cases, due to their simplicity the same kind of phenomenological effective interactions Skyrme and Gogny are widely used. The starting point of all these models is a fundamental assumption on the wave function describing the single nucleon which is represented through a wave packet well localized in phase-space with uncertainty satisfying the uncertainty principle. The many-body wave function can be expressed through a direct product, leading to the so called Quantum Molecular Dynamics (QMD)-like models [12, 13] or an anti-symmetrized product like in FMD and AMD [14, 15]. Variational principles have been used.

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to obtain the equation of motion for the many-body wave functions. Within their own approximation schemes these models treat the many-body problem without the usage of the mean-field approximation. Many-body correlations are spontaneously produced and are able to describe the main features concerning the multi-breakup processes observed in heavy ion collision at intermediate energy and beyond. Due to these deep conceptual differences between the mean-field based models and the molecular dynamics ones it becomes interesting, and necessary in our opinion, to investigate the differences between the energy-density functionals which are produced with these two classes of approaches when one uses, in both the cases, the same kind of effective elementary interaction between nucleons. The study presented in this work is performed by using the Constraint Molecular Dynamical Model CoMD, and the comparison will concern both the saturation properties of the symmetric NM and the properties of the symmetry energy obtained with a simple Skyrme force. The study is limited to moderate values of the asymmetry parameter as the ones really encountered in nucleus-nucleus collisions. As it will be shown the presence of iso-vectorial forces strongly affects the results of this comparison (see also [19]). The work is organized as follows: in Sec. II we illustrate the choice of the effective interaction and the related total energy functional are introduced. In Sec. III we describe the NM simulations. The results are presented in Sec. IV. Finally Sec. V contains the summary and the concluding remarks.

II. THE EFFECTIVE INTERACTION AND THE TOTAL ENERGY

Before illustrating with some detail the model and the NM simulations, in this section we briefly introduce the effective interaction which we use in our calculations. We also present the way in which the related total energy is obtained in the case of the Semiclassical Mean-Field approximation (Se-MFA) and in the case of the semiclassical-wave packet dynamics.

The elementary interaction between two nucleons with spacial coordinates \( \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}' \) and third isospin component \( \tau, \tau' \) is of the Skyrme type and has the following form:

\[
V(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = V^{(2)}(\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')) = \frac{T_0}{\rho_0} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') + \frac{2T_3}{\rho_0} \sigma^{-1} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') + \frac{T_1}{\rho_0} F'_k (2\delta_{\tau, \tau'} - 1) \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')
\] (1)

The first term of eq.(1) represents the iso-scalar contribution to the two-body interaction, the second one is the usual 3-body effective interaction. For this term the \( \rho \) density dependence is modeled through the parameter \( \sigma \). This term appears to be a generalization of the Brink-Voutherin three-body term corresponding to \( \sigma = 2 \). This generalization is sustained both on the basis of phenomenological parametrization used in mean-field approaches and on more complex microscopic calculations based on G matrix calculations with realistic interactions. The third term represents instead the Iso-Vectorial contribution. The form factors \( F_k \) have the following expression:

\[
F_k = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \quad (k = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4)
\] (2)

\[
F_0 = \frac{2(\rho/\rho_0)}{1 + \rho/\rho_0}
\] (3)

\[
F_2 = 1
\] (4)

\[
F_3 = (\rho/\rho_0)^{-1/2}
\] (5)

\[
F_4 = (\rho/\rho_0)^{1/2}
\] (6)

\( \rho_0 \) is the saturation density value. Also in this case the F form factors are introduced to reproduce the results of more complex microscopic calculations based on realistic interaction concerning the symmetry energy and reflecting effects beyond the two-body interaction [20–24]. These form factors have been widely used in Hartree-Fock calculations, in semiclassical BUU calculations and in several molecular dynamics models. In particular, \( F_4 \) will be used in the limit \( \rho/\rho_0 \sim 1 \) to perform calculations with stiffness parameter \( \gamma \) different from the ones related to the others form factors (in the same limit \( F_1, F_2, F_3 \) correspond to \( \gamma \) values 1.5, 1 and 0.5 respectively). Finally we observe that for simplicity reason we do not add to this interaction non local effects. Regarding this assumption we also note that some of the suggested Skyrme parametrizations have a vanishing or very small terms related to the non locality at the saturation density in the limit of Nuclear Matter (see for example Ref. [23]). Moreover, as it will be shown in the following, in CoMD calculations the effective potential which determines the effective force able to govern the motion of the wave packets centroid is already non-local (sum of Gaussian contributions depending on the intra nucleons distances). It in fact represents the result of the convolution of the well localized wave packets with \( \delta \) function in space.

Even if well-known, we shortly recall in the next section the main ingredients of the Se-MFA. We think this section useful to present in the following the way in which this assumption is instead broken in the semiclassical wave-packets dynamics.

II.1. The Semiclassical Mean Field Approximation

At a fixed time starting from eq.(1) (we are considering here a stationary problem) , in a rather general way, we can obtain the expression for the total energy \( W \) related to the potential interaction by folding the elementary interaction with the two-body density distribution.
in phase-space \( D(r, r', p, p') \). By taking into account the usual truncation condition on \( D \) typical of the mean-field approximation, we can write:

\[
D = D_1(r, p) \cdot D_1(r', p')
\]

where \( D_1 \) is the one-body distribution. Therefore by using eq.(1) for \( W \) we get:

\[
W = \frac{1}{2} \int V(r, r')D(r, r', p, p') d\rho d\rho' dp dp'
\]

Taking in to account that by definition \( \int D_1(r, p)d\rho = \rho(r) \) we obtain:

\[
W = \frac{1}{2} \int V(r, r')D(r, r', p, p') d\rho d\rho' dp dp'
\]

\[
\frac{1}{2}V(r, r')^2\rho^2 \text{ appear to be the energy density associated to the potential energy from which we can obtain the related binding energy per nucleon due to the potential interaction } E_{pot}
\]

\[
E_{pot} = U_{twb} + U_{trb} + U_{asy}
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2}V(r, r')^2\rho = \frac{1}{2} \frac{T_0 \rho}{\rho_0} + \frac{T_3 \rho^3}{(\sigma + 1)\rho_0^3} + \frac{1}{2}T_4 F_k(\rho)\beta^2
\]

\[
\frac{3}{2} \frac{h^2}{2m_0} \frac{3\pi^2 \rho}{2} \rho^2 \left[ 1 + \frac{5}{9} \beta^2 \right]
\]

\[
E_{kin} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{h^2}{2m_0} \frac{3\pi^2 \rho}{2} \rho^2 \left[ 1 + \frac{5}{9} \beta^2 \right]
\]

The common accepted bulk value of \( \epsilon_{sym} \) at the saturation density is about 30 MeV even if relativistic Hartree-Fock models can predict higher values up to about 40 MeV \[26,27\]. However, still under study is the density dependence of this quantity which is able to affect neutron-skin thickness in nuclei and Giant Monopole Resonances \[26,28\]. Finally we note that the structure of the obtained energy-density functional in Se-MFA makes independent the choice of the parameter values describing the symmetry energy from the other ones which instead are fixed from the saturation properties of the symmetric nuclear matter. We will show in the next section that this is no longer true in the CoMD approach.

II.2. The case of the CoMD model

In molecular dynamics approaches a basic assumption is done on the wave functions describing the nucleonic degree of freedom. It is commonly assumed that the wave function is a gaussian wave packet with fixed width \( \sigma_r \) in coordinate space. The centroid in phase-space is indicated with \( r_i, p_i \)

\[
\phi_i = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_r\sigma_p)^{3}} \exp\left[-\frac{(r - r_i)^2}{2\sigma_r^2} - \frac{(p - p_i)^2}{2\sigma_p^2}\right]
\]

\[
f_i = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_r\sigma_p)^{3}} \exp\left[-\frac{(r - r_i)^2}{2\sigma_r^2} - \frac{(p - p_i)^2}{2\sigma_p^2}\right]
\]

The Wigner transform of \( \phi_i \) is

\[
D_i(r, p) = \sum_i f_i(r, p)
\]

\[
D(r, p, r', p') = \sum_{i \neq j=1}^A f_i(r, p)f_j(r', p')
\]

From the above relations we can see that in general \( D \neq D_1(r, p)D_1(r', p') \). In particular, for the case in which these distributions are expressed as a sum of different localized components inside a volume \( V_g \), we can indicate with \( a_g \) the number of components which give non negligible contributions in \( V_g \). The relative difference associated to eq.(18) \( 1 - \frac{D_i(r, p)D_i(r', p')}{D(r, p, r', p')} \) can be estimated to be of the order of \( 1/a_g \) which corresponds to the ratio between diagonal \( (i = j) \) and off-diagonal elements \( (i \neq j) \) within the ensemble of \( a_g(a_g - 1) \) terms. In semiclassical mean-field models \( a_g \) can be enough high to make the difference negligible, in fact the single particle distribution usually spreads over the whole system (test particles methods) and therefore the truncation condition eq.(18) can be retained valid \[26,27\]. On the contrary this is not surely the case for the molecular dynamics approaches for which the typical spreading volume if of the order of 2-10
\[ W_{tbw} = \frac{T_0}{2\rho_0(4\pi\sigma_r^2)^{3/2}} \sum_{i \neq j=1}^{A} \exp\left[-\frac{(r_i - r_j)^2}{4\sigma_r^2}\right] \]  

For the term related to the iso-vectorial interaction and for the most simple case \( F' = 1 \) in the limit \( A, N, Z \gg 1 \) (\( N \) and \( Z \) represents the number of neutron and protons

where \( \tilde{\rho}_{cc'} \) with \( c' \) equal to \( nn, pp \) and \( np \) represents the overlap integral per couple of neutrons, protons and neutron-proton. A more convenient form for the above expression is obtained by introducing the two following quantities:

\[ \alpha = \frac{\tilde{\rho}^{np}}{\tilde{\rho}} \]  

Taking into account that by definition \( N = \frac{(1+\beta)A}{2} \) and \( Z = \frac{(1-\beta)A}{2} \) we get:

\[ W_{isv}^C = \frac{T_4}{2\rho_0} A^2 \tilde{\rho}[(1 + \frac{\alpha}{2})\beta^2 - \frac{\alpha}{2}] \]  

\[ E_{isv}^C = \frac{T_4}{2\rho_0} F_k\bar{S}_v(\tilde{\rho}\beta A)\frac{(1 + \frac{\alpha}{2})\beta^2 - \frac{\alpha}{2}}{\rho_0} \]  

\[ E_{bias} = -\frac{T_4}{4\rho_0} F_k\bar{S}_v(\tilde{\rho}\beta A)\alpha \]  

The expressions in eqs.(32,33) also contain a generalization to the cases in which we use the generic form factors \( F_k \). Here \( F_k \) keep the same functional form in \( \bar{S}_v \) using the formal analogy \( \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \rightarrow \frac{\bar{S}_v}{S_v} \) above discussed.

From eq.(32) we obtain that for \( \alpha \neq 0 \) (as CoMD calculations predicts, see next sections) the iso-vectorial force variables, beyond a modified term for the symmetry energy, also another term (the second term) which we name \( E_{bias} \) (eq.(33)). The effect of this last term is not-negligible if compared to the balance of the different term appearing in the expression of the total energy. The correlation coefficient \( \alpha \) by definition (see eq.(30)) represents the difference in percentage of the overlap between the neutron-proton couples from the one related to the particles formed by homonym nucleons. It also depends on the strength of the iso-vectorial forces (\( T_4 \) parameter).

Finally, according to the general strategy characterizing the CoMD approach \([13,14]\), the kinetic energy contribution \( E_{kin} \) is obtained in a self-consistent way through the numerical constraint. Minimum energy configurations are obtained by applying the cooling-warming procedure coupled with the constraint on the occupation.
In the panel (a) we show the case of Fig.1 we show as required by the Pauli principle. As an example in numbers related to the single particle wave functions (see the text).

In the following section we will try to relate these quantities to more fundamental ones that are the density ρ and the spatial correlation function ν between nucleon pairs.

II.3. Overlap integrals and spatial correlations

In a rather general way and as suggested from CoMD calculations (see Fig.2), for an uniform many-body system at a fixed density we can introduce the probability p to have a particle in the volume dV localized in r and a second one in the volume dV localized in r. Due to the uniformity condition p depend only on r = |r1 − r2|. p can be expressed in the following form:

\[ p = 1 ± k_0 ν(r) \quad ν(0) = 1 \quad k_0 ≥ 0 \]  (34)

Moreover \( \lim_{r→∞} ν(r) = 0 \), that is: no spatial correlations can be expected for very distant particles. Non zero values of ν can be instead expected at relatively small distances due both to the interaction (for an attractive interaction the positive sign must be considered in eq.(35)) and to the symmetry of the many-body wave function for quantal systems of identical particles (in the case of identical Fermions we must consider the sign minus and \( k_0 = 1 \)). For a classical system of non interacting particles we have a vanishing correlation effect \( p = 1 \) (\( k_0 = 0 \)).

For our aims, we need to evaluate a normalized probability \( P = cp \) in such a way:

\[ \int_V PdV = 4πc \int_0^r r^2 dr = A \quad → c = \frac{A}{V−V_c} \]  (35)

\( V_c \) represents the volume in which the well localized correlation function \( ν \) is different from zero.

This volume is always finite and of the order of the \( σ^3 \) in our model calculations. So that in the limit \( V → ∞ \) we get \( c = ρ \) and:

\[ P(r) = ρ(1 ± k_0 ν(r)) \]  (36)

In Fig.2, just as an example, we display results of calculations for a given set of parameters for the Skyrme interaction (see the next section). The calculations show the probability to find two nucleons at a distance r in case of Pauli blocked couples \( P_1 \) (red points, neutron and proton couples with same spins), for the case of un-blocked proton and neutron couples \( P_0 \) (black point) and finally for neutron-proton couples \( P_{np} \) (blue points).

The calculations are referred to a symmetric portion of nuclear matter consisting of a sphere containing 2000 nucleons at a density of about 0.17 fm\(^3\). The calculations include also the iso-vectorial potential energy (\( T_3 = 59 \) MeV in this example). The probability distributions
neutron-proton couples.

Finally, figure $P$ depletion of the with a mass about 98% the total one and light particles for only part of the time, the formation of a big cluster that this enhancement is more pronounced for effect of the two-body interaction. In particular we note attractions an enhancement is produced due to the attractive two identical nucleons at a relative distance $r$. In the same way we can neglect surface effects on this range of density explored no cluster formation has been all the calculations concerning the present work in the

\[
\int P(r) \exp\left[-\frac{r^2}{4\sigma^2}\right] dV = \rho(1 \pm I) \tag{37}
\]

\[
I = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi \sigma^2}} \int_0^\infty r^2 k_0 \exp\left[-\frac{r^2}{4\sigma^2}\right] |\nu(r)| dr \tag{38}
\]

From the above equations we see that even if the overlap integral per nucleon is closely related to the density $\rho$, it admits correction terms related to the spacial correlation through the integral $I$. In general, for function $\nu(r)$ localized within a distance of the order of $l$ the value of $I$ decreases with the ratio $x = \frac{r}{\sigma}$; for example, for an exponential profile $e^{-x^2}$ the correction terms go to zero like $e^{-x^2}$.

In other words, according to what observed in the previous section, when the single particles space distribution is enough large, an averaging of the spacial correlations effect is obtained and the CoMD functional tends to the one represented in eq. (10) which is typical of the semi-classical mean-field approximation in transport theory. On the contrary for well localized wave-packets with $\sigma$, of the order of 1-2 fm, $I$ is different from zero and reflects the behavior of $\nu(r)$ at small distances.

In the case of asymmetric NM we have to generalize the above expressions; to this aim it is useful to start from the total overlap $\overline{S}_v$ already introduced in eq. (21)

\[
\overline{S}_v = S^n_{2,1/2} + S^n_{-2,1/2} + 2 S^n_{1/2,1/2} + 2 S^n_{1/2,-1/2} + S^p_{2,1/2} + S^p_{-2,1/2} + S^p_{1/2,1/2} + S^p_{1/2,-1/2} + S^{np}
\]

In the above expression the different terms indicate the partial contributions to the total overlap for neutron-neutron, proton-proton and neutron-proton couples with different combinations of spins. By assuming equal number of nucleons with third spin component 1/2 and -1/2 and applying the generalization of eq. (37) to the different subsystems we get:

\[
\overline{S}_v = \frac{\rho_n N}{2} (1 - I_{1,-1}) + \frac{\rho_p N}{2} (1 + I_{1,-1}) + \frac{\rho_n Z}{2} (1 - I_{0,1}) + \frac{\rho_p Z}{2} (1 - I_{0,-1}) + (\rho_n Z + \rho_p N) (1 + I^0)
\]

The quantities $I_{s,t}$ indicate the integral containing the related spacial correlation functions given in eq. (37). $s$ corresponds to third component of the total spin for the considered couples ($s = 0$ or 1) and $t$ the related isospin component ($t = 0$ or 1). Finally $I^0 = I_{0,0} + I_{1,0}$.

By expressing the partial density and nucleon numbers as a function of $A$ and $\rho$ we finally obtain for $\overline{S}_v$ the
following expression:

\[
\overline{S_v} = \frac{\rho}{8} [8 + (1 + \beta)^2(I_{0,-1} - I_{1,-1}) \\
+ (1 - \beta)^2(I_{0,1} - I_{1,1}) + 4(1 - \beta^2)I^0]
\]  

(41)

with an analogous procedure for the other main quantities we get:

\[
\rho_A = \frac{\rho}{4} [4 + (1 + 2\beta - 2\beta^3)(I_{0,-1} - I_{1,-1}) \\
+ (1 - 2\beta + 2\beta^3)(I_{0,1} - I_{1,1})]
\]  

(42)

\[
\alpha = \frac{(1 + I^0)}{[1 + b^+(I_{0,-1} - I_{1,-1}) + b^-(I_{0,1} - I_{1,1})]} - 1
\]  

(43)

\[
b^\pm = \frac{(1 \pm \beta)^2}{1 + \beta^2}
\]  

(44)

The above expressions have been obtained by making the following approximation \( \frac{1}{1 + \beta^2} \approx 1 - \beta^2 \). The presence of odd powers in \( \beta \) in eq.(41) does not violate the charge-symmetry of our system in fact all the above expressions are invariant respect to the exchange of neutron with protons and a simultaneous change of sign of the \( \beta \) parameter. The integrals \( I_{s,t} \) can have in general an intrinsic dependence on \( \beta \) and \( \rho \) due to the complex self-consistent dynamics, but the determination of the correlation functions \( \nu(r) \) and of the related integral \( I \) is a problem which can not be solved in a general way. Some special cases are well known. They concern the study of the density fluctuations in the hydrodynamical limit valid for large distances compared to the mean free-path in non-equilibrium cases (see also [10, 11]). However in this limit simultaneous spacial correlations are supposed to be zero at small distances. At short distances, comparable with the range of the effective interaction, as in our case, approximations schemes can be developed actually corresponding to a power decomposition in \( \rho \) (see the next sections).

The above relations (eq.(40-43)) suggest a \( \beta \) dependence of the primary quantities which define the total energy and, in particular, the \( \beta \) dependence of \( \overline{S_v} \) could produce a further coupling between Iso-vectorial and Iso-scalar forces. We note that due to the rather high strength of the iso-scalar forces as compared with the iso-vectorial one, also small changes of the total overlap integral per nucleon as a function of \( \beta \) could affect the density behavior of the symmetry energy. Nevertheless in the present calculations and for the range of asymmetry investigated (\( \beta = 0 - 0.2 \)), the dependence of \( \overline{S_v} \) on \( \beta \) results to be rather small and comparable with the precision of the calculations as shown in Fig.3.

To draw definite conclusions on this delicate aspect, simulations in a wider range of \( \beta \) and with a number of particles several times larger than number of particles used in this work (see the next section) should be performed. The current computers performances make still really difficult this kind of investigations (the cpu time in our model calculations depends on a quadratic way from the number of particles).

Therefore concerning the present study we can assume that, within the precision of our calculation as shown in Fig.3, the explicit dependence of \( \overline{S_v} \) on \( \beta \) is well compensated by the intrinsic \( \beta \) dependence of the \( I_{s,t} \) spatial correlation integrals and therefore in the following we will refer to the average value of \( \overline{S_v} \) respect to \( \beta \) at the different densities.

### III. THE NUCLEAR MATTER SIMULATION

As mentioned in the introduction, the main goal of the present work is the understanding also at a quantitative level and for a given simple form of the effective interaction, of the consequences produced by the correlations above discussed by taking as a reference point the results obtainable in the framework of the Se-MFA approach. The study will be performed in a narrow re-
region of densities around $\rho_0$ and for a limited range of $\beta$ values. To this aim in the following we will try to find the set of parameters for the effective interaction which reproduce in both the cases some of the commonly accepted saturation properties of symmetric nuclear matter. In particular we will refer to $\rho_0=0.165$ fm$^{-3}$, binding energy $E(\rho_0) = -16$ MeV, compressibility modulus for symmetric nuclear matter $K_{N M}(\rho_0) = 220$ MeV and for charge/mass asymmetric NM to a symmetry energy value $\varepsilon_{sym} \approx 28$ MeV at the saturation density. In the case of the Se-MFA, from the functional $F$ reported in eqs(10-12), we can find easily the parameter values satisfying the above conditions by solving the system formed by the following set of equations for symmetric NM:

$$\rho_0 = 0.165$$  
$$E(\rho_0) = -16MeV$$  
$$\frac{dE}{d\rho}(\rho_0) = 0$$  
$$9\rho_0^2 \frac{d^2E}{d\rho^2}(\rho_0) = 220MeV$$  

In concrete cases due to the finite steps with which we perform the variation on the parameters the values of $E(\rho_0)$ and $K_{N M}(\rho_0)$ are obtained within ±0.5%. Within the above specified uncertainty the solution gives the following values for the parameters: $T_0 = -263$ MeV, $T_3 = 208$ MeV and $\sigma = 1.25$. The value of $T_1$ has been fixed to 32 MeV which produce a symmetry energy $\varepsilon_{sym} = 28.6$ MeV according to eq.(14).

### III.1. NM calculations and CoMD model

The evaluation of the total energy per nucleon $E^C$ related to the CoMD calculations requires the solution of the many-body problem using the equation of motion regulating the wave-packet dynamics.

At the different densities changing between 0.7-1.2$\rho_0$ with steps equal to 0.1$\rho_0$, the calculations have been performed by enclosing a relatively large number of particles $A_1 = 1600$ and $A_2 = 3500$ in spherical volumes of radii $R = r_0A^{1/3}$ with $r_0 = (\frac{3}{4\pi\rho_0})^{1/3}$. Particles trying to escape from the spheres have been re-scattered inside through an elastic reflection at the surface. For symmetrical configurations, starting from the parameter values minimizing the functional $E$ in eq.(10-12), we have searched for the stationary minimum energy conditions by applying the cooling-warming procedure coupled with the constraint related to the Pauli principle Ref. [13]. Calculations have been performed for the two systems having number of particles equal to $A_1$ and $A_2$. The value of $T_1$ has been fixed to 32 MeV and the calculations have been performed for different values of the stiffness parameter $\gamma$. From the minimum energy configurations we have evaluated the related intensive quantities $S_v(\rho)$, $\alpha(\rho), \rho_A(\rho)$ and $E_{kin}$. Corrections due to the surface effects, which are necessary to estimate the associate bulk values have been evaluated using the following relation:

$$Q_i = Q_b + Q_s A_{i}^{-1/3} + 0.45 Q_s A_{i}^{-2/3}$$  

$Q_i$ indicates the quantity valued for the system with mass $A_i$ ($i=1,2$). $Q_b$ and $Q_s$ are the bulk and surface coefficient. Effects related to the curvature are represented by the last term of eq.(49). The coefficient 0.45 has been deduced performing a couple of calculations in boxes having the same volume as the considered spheres.

As an example, for $\beta = 0$ and $\gamma = 1$ (form factor $F_2$) in Fig.4 we show as a function of the reduced density the
values of $S_v(\rho)$, $\alpha(\rho)$, $\rho_A(\rho)$ evaluated for the systems
1 (marked points with star), for the system 2 (marked points with square) and the bulk estimated values (dot points). Corrections of the same order are evaluated also for $E_{kin}$ (see Sec. II.2). In the following for simplicity we will refer to the bulk quantities without using the subscript $b$. After this first step, we fit the evaluated bulk quantities with a polynomial function of the reduced density $\rho/\rho_0$. The above quantities show in fact deviations from a simple linear behavior as a function of $\rho$. This can be seen by looking at the red line in the figure ($\rho$ as a function of $\rho/\rho_0$). A second order polynomial reproduces very well the behavior in the range of explored densities. The results of the fit are shown in the figures with lines.

The obtained functions are then substituted in $E_C$ and therefore the total binding energy can be now evaluated with continuity as a function of $\rho$. We can therefore search for the parameter values solving the CoMD functional $E_C$ obtained in Sec. II.2 and satisfying the conditions expressed in eqs.(45-48). We have to note that the numerical solution of this system of coupled equations in general can not be obtained with the same precision as the one involving the functional $E$. In most of the cases, depending on the stiffness parameter $\gamma$ it is possible to obtain solutions reproducing the $E(\rho_0)$ and $\rho_0$ values within 10% while a larger spread is obtained for the $K_{NM}(\rho_0)$. The chosen solutions will be the ones which minimize the total relative difference from the reference values. Having found the best solution for the functional $E_C$, in the sense above specified, with the new set of parameter values for $T_0$, $T_3$ and $\sigma$ we perform another series of microscopic NM simulations on the systems of $A_1,A_2$ particles. After having included the correction for surface effects, we do the polynomial fit. By using the new calculated quantities we solve another time the functional $E_C$ and we obtain a new set of parameter values. This iterative procedure is continued until the values of the parameters differs, in two subsequent steps, by an amount less than $\pm 5\%$. The method rapidly converges after 2-3 iterations.

After having found the set of parameters values reproducing (within the above specified precision) the saturation properties of symmetric NM, for different values of the $\gamma$ parameter, with others numerical simulations we study the system for $\beta \neq 0$, ($\beta$ ranges from 0 to 0.2 with a step 0.05) and we apply the cooling-warming procedure until stationary conditions are reached. Through this last stage, after the usual corrections for surface effects and the polynomial fit as a function of $\rho$, the value of $E_C$ can be computed also for asymmetric NM. This will allows us to evaluate the bulk symmetry energy and the related density dependence as produced by the model.

**IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In this section we illustrate the results obtained from the recursive procedure previously described.

**IV.1. Results on the primary quantities**

As an example in Fig.5 we show the final values of $S_v(\rho)$ as a function of reduced density and for different form factors $F_k$ as indicated in the legend. The black lines are the result of the fit procedure with a second order polynomial of the density. The solid line represents the density $\rho$.

![Figure 5](image)

**FIG. 5.** (Color online) Final values of $S_v(\rho)$ for $\beta = 0.05$ as a function of reduced density and for different form factors $F_k$ as indicated in the legend. The black lines are the result of the fit procedure with a second order polynomial of the density. The solid line represents the density $\rho$.

As can be seen the value of $S_v$ shows deviations from $\rho$ depending also on the used form factor.

Under the same conditions in Fig.6 with black line and points, we show the value of $\alpha$ as a function of the reduced density. The red points represent the results of the fit with a second order polynomial. The red line represents instead the linear relation corresponding to the density $\rho$. As we can see $S_v$ shows deviations from $\rho$ depending also on the used form factor.

**FIG. 6.** (Color online) Final values of $\alpha(\rho)$ as a function of reduced density and for different form factors $F_k$ as indicated in the legend. The black lines are the result of the fit procedure with a second order polynomial of the density. The solid line represents the density $\rho$. As can be seen the value of $\alpha$ decreases with the density and increases with $T_4$. For $T_4 = 0$ finite values of $\alpha$ are essentially due to correlations imposed by the Pauli principle in the system of interacting particles.
FIG. 6. (Color online) Final values of the $\alpha$ correlation coefficient for $\beta = 0$ as a function of reduced density and for different form factors $F_k$ as indicated in the legend. The asterisk and full dot symbols (red and blue online) joined with continuous lines are associated to $T_4$ values 0 and 59 MeV respectively. The other ones are associated to $T_4 = 32$ MeV. The solid lines represent fit results with a second order polynomial of the density.

IV.2. The case of symmetric NM

In Fig. 7, upper panel, we show with a solid line and for $\beta = 0$ the total energy per nucleon $E$ as a function of the reduced density (eqs. (11,12)) satisfying the requested conditions on NM saturation properties. This result represents our reference point.

The curves with broken lines represent the results of our NM simulations with CoMD model at the first step of the iteration for the different indicated form factors $F_k$. In this case the parameter used for the effective interaction are the same like the ones obtained from the minimization of the energy functional related to the Se-MFA. As can be seen the curves in this cases are rather different. In particular for $F_1$ and $F_2$ the minimum energies are shifted to lower values and the compressibility modulus also shows large deviations compared to the chosen reference value. $F_3$ shows instead even a maximum at the saturation density. In the lower panel we show the corresponding values of $E_{bias}$ (see eq. (33)) which are proportional to $\alpha$ and $T_4$. Together with the density dependence of the primary quantities above described, this term is the main co-responsible of the observed deviations. The figure shows that the density dependence of $E_{bias}$ strongly depends at a quantitative and qualitative level on the used form factors $F_k$. In particular we note an increasing slope from positive to negative values with the increasing of the degree of stiffness $\gamma$ characterizing the behavior of the iso-vectorial forces. We can expect therefore that the necessary corrections on the parameter values of the Iso-scalar effective interaction to reproduce the reference properties of the symmetric NM will show a dependence on $\gamma$.

In Fig. 8 we show analogues results after that the self consistent iteration procedure has been completed as described in Sec. III. In the interval $0.85 \lesssim \gamma \lesssim 1.5$ the saturation density and binding energies are reproduced within some percent. The compressibility is instead obtained within about 20%. In the figure we show some example of these solutions with black lines. In general
we note a more pronounced asymmetry of the curves around the saturation density with a reduced slope of the lower density branch and an increased slope for reduced density larger than 1. This behavior is a direct consequence of the density dependence of the average overlap integral (see Fig.5). For stiffness parameter values out of the indicated interval we observe a fast increasing of the compressibility (beyond 400 MeV) and of the corresponding binding energy at the saturation density. In Fig.8 an example showing this trend is represented by colored lines obtained for $\gamma = 0.75$ and $\gamma = 1.75$. All these circumstances shows that, in the frame work of the present molecular dynamics approach the $F_4$ form factor with stiffness parameter changing in the range $\gamma \approx 0.5 - 0.85$ the due to the correlations discussed is not able to reproduce the commonly accepted saturation properties of the symmetric nuclear matter. These results are consistent with recent findings on the study of the $^{40,48}Ca+^{40,48}Ca$ systems at 25 MeV/nucleon. 29, 30 concerning the yield balance between incomplete-fusion and multi-breakup processes. Finally in Fig.9 we show as a function of the $\gamma$ parameter the values of $T_0$, $T_3$ and $\sigma$ as obtained from the iterative procedure described in Sec. III.1. Apart from the extremal plotted values corresponding to high values of the compressibility (see Fig.8), the internal ones correspond to saturation density, binding energies and $K_{NM}$ values within 15% of the value obtained in the case of the Se-MFA. From the figure we observe a dependence of the parameter values describing the iso-scalar forces on the stiffness parameter $\gamma$ associated to the iso-vectorial interaction. In the internal region of the explored interval, even if the dependence is moderate, maximum change of the order of 16% and 20% are obtained for the $T_3$ and $\sigma$ parameters respectively. However, it is remarkable that the average values of the iso-scalar interaction parameters show large differences compared to the reference values obtained in the case of the Se-MFA ($T_0 = -263$ MeV, $T_3 = 208$ MeV and $\sigma = 1.25$, see Sec.III) which are independent on $\gamma$.

IV.3. The symmetry energy

According to what observed in Sec.II.2 and to eq.(14,32), for the range of asymmetries investigated we
can express the symmetry energy at different density as:

\[
E_{\text{sym}}^C(\rho, \beta) = E_{\text{sym}}^C(\rho, 0) + \frac{L}{3} (\rho - \rho_0) + \frac{K_{\text{sym}}}{18} \frac{(\rho - \rho_0)^2}{\rho_0^2} \tag{52}
\]

related to the density dependence. In particular in the case of CoMD calculations around the saturation density, lower values (of about 1 MeV) are obtained as results of the different structure of the iso-vectorial term in eq.(32). To investigate in more details on the density dependence of the symmetry energy coefficient \(e_{\text{sym}}^C\), as traditionally done[26, 27], we perform a Taylor expansion of \(e_{\text{sym}}^C\) around the saturation density up to the second order:

\[
e_{\text{sym}}^C(\rho) = e_{\text{sym}}^C(\rho_0) + \frac{L}{3} (\rho - \rho_0) + \frac{K_{\text{sym}}}{18} \frac{(\rho - \rho_0)^2}{\rho_0^2} \tag{52}
\]

The first two terms in eq.(50) represent the change of the iso-vectorial interaction while the last two are associated with the kinetic energy change. This last variation, after the correction for surface effects, according to the constraint is well described by the one related to the Fermi motion (see Sec. II.2). The iso-vectorial interaction contribution contains the effects related to the discussed correlations. As an example for different densities we plot in Fig.10 the behavior of \(E_{\text{sym}}^C\) as a function of \(\beta\) for the form factor \(F_2\). The \(\beta^2\) dependence well fit the obtained values as shown through the lines.

In Fig.11, we show in the panel (a) the values of \(e_{\text{sym}}^C\) as a function of the density is plotted for the indicated form factors. Panel (b): \(e_{\text{sym}}^C\) in the case of the Se-MFA.

As we can see the largest changes are observed in \(K_{\text{sym}}\). These changes reflect the behavior as a function of density of the primary quantities \(S_v, \rho_A\) and \(\alpha\) appearing

FIG. 10. \(E_{\text{sym}}^C\) as a function of \(\beta\) is shown for the \(F_2\) form factor at different densities. The lines represent the results of fits with a \(\beta^2\) dependence.

FIG. 11. (Color online) Panel (a): \(e_{\text{sym}}^C\) as a function of the density is plotted for the indicated form factors. Panel (b): \(e_{\text{sym}}^C\) in the case of the Se-MFA.
FIG. 12. (Color online) The values of $K_{\text{sym}}$ are plotted versus $L$ for the CoMD results (black line joining full sots) and in the case of the Se-MFA (blue line joining star symbols). The small numbers near the points represent the value of the $\gamma$ parameter. The solid arrows joining the points are plotted only to evidence an approximated trend.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Many-body correlations produced in Molecular Dynamics approach based on the CoMD model have been discussed and their connection with the used effective interaction have been analyzed in the case of asymmetric nuclear matter simulations. This study has been performed by comparing the results obtained for the total energy functional, and the NM main saturation properties with the ones obtainable in the case of a semiclassical mean field approximations (Se-MFA). This comparison has been performed by using the same kind of simple effective Skyrme interaction. While we can expect the two approaches to produce large differences at low density due to the cluster formation process, the following study shows that noticeable differences are obtained also in a narrow range of densities around the saturation one where no cluster production has been observed. The effective Skyrme interaction include two-body and three-body effective iso-scalar interactions plus a two-body iso-vectorial one with form factors commonly used also in Se-MFA. In CoMD calculations the effects related to the spacial correlations produced by the usage of the localized wave-packets and the ones related to the multi-particles correlations produced through the Pauli principle constraint have been expressed through a second order polynomial decomposition of the total energy as a function of the density. The obtained results show that, contrary to the case of the Se-MFA, the discussed correlations produce an interdependence between parameters describing the iso-scalar forces and the ones related to the iso-vectorial interaction. The usage of an iterative procedure tuned to obtain in both the cases (Se-MFA and in CoMD approaches) very similar saturation density, total energy and compressibility for symmetric NM (fixed to commonly accepted values) allowed to extract a "good" set of parameters used for CoMD calculations. The value obtained differs under many aspects from the ones obtained from the Se-MFA: in particular the density dependence of the used form factors describing the iso-vectorial forces can change now in rather more restricted range of stiffness values to reproduce the above NM properties. Moreover, the values of the coefficients describing the iso-scalar interactions are rather different in the two cases. For asymmetric NM, in the range of the investigated asymmetry parameters ($\beta = 0.\,-0.2$), by using the same strength for the iso-vectorial interaction, the values of the obtained symmetry energies around the saturation density are only slightly different, but rather large differences are instead obtained for the slope $L$ and especially for the $K_{\text{sym}}$ curvature parameters. In CoMD calculations $K_{\text{sym}}$ assume in fact $r$ higher values. This result can be attributed to the shape of the single particle wave-packets which determines the behavior of the average overlap per nucleon as a function of the density. Finally we conclude by observing that even if from a numerical point of view the obtained results are strictly valid for the CoMD model, the performed study shows that the observed differences in the parameter values describing the effective interaction can have a more wide meaning. In fact, they are strictly linked to some general properties of the semiclassical wave packets dynamics.
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