**Variational calculation of closed-shell nuclei up to A = 40**

**Objectives**

- Compute ground state properties of closed-shell nuclei up to $A = 40$ with quantum Monte Carlo.
- Analyze the behavior of phenomenological Hamiltonians in medium-heavy nuclei.
- Study the high-momentum components of the nuclear wave function and potential in-medium modifications of the nucleon form factors.

**Impact**

- Observe a change in the behavior of the UIX 3-body force — from attractive to repulsive — already in relatively small nuclear systems, such as $^{16}O$.
- Confirm the universality of the tail of the momentum distribution for a given class of Hamiltonians.
- Show very little A dependence of the Coulomb sum rule for $A \geq 12$: no evidence of in-medium modification of the nucleon form factor.

**Accomplishments**

- Development of a cluster variational Monte Carlo approach (CVMC) to study the properties of medium-heavy nuclei employing realistic nuclear interactions.
- Analysis of binding energies, charge radii, one- and two-body densities, one-body momentum distributions, charge form factors, and Coulomb sum rules for $A = 4, 16, 40$.


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