

Continuum random phase approximation method applied to the inclusive transverse electron scattering response

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A continuum random phase approximation (RPA) method for evaluating the structure function of nuclear matter is developed, where exchange terms for any particle-hole interaction are explicitly included. The method is applied to the inclusive transverse quasielastic electron scattering response at momentum transfer ranging from $q=300$ to 550 MeV/c. The interaction employed is a g' Landau-Migdal constant plus a $(\pi+\rho)$ -meson exchange interaction. A comparison with the standard ring series is made showing that the inclusion of finite range effects in the exchange terms is necessary. [S0556-2813(96)01312-X]

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I. INTRODUCTION

Correlations of the random phase approximation (RPA) type are relevant in many nuclear physics problems, ranging from low to medium energy processes. These correlations are well established at low energy [1]. Going to the continuum, such as in the quasielastic peak region for electron scattering, there are some technical complications. In this region, RPA correlations are important at low momentum transfer but the role played by exchange terms for a general particle-hole (ph) interaction is still not clear.

The more elemental approach to this problem relied on the ring approximation using effective Landau-Migdal parameters to account for the exchange terms in an approximate way. This is equivalent to assuming that the exchange contribution of the ph interaction is of zero range. There are several schemes to calculate the RPA response with a more general interaction in the continuum. One is the doorway state expansion method of Brieva *et al.* [2]. The method was applied to the longitudinal response function and the photoabsorption on ^{12}C . Alternatively, Shigehara *et al.* [3] developed a method based on matrix inversion. Using this formalism they calculated the spin longitudinal, spin transverse, and longitudinal responses which were compared to the ring results. Also Buballa *et al.* [4] developed a formalism based on a Sturmian function expansion for continuum RPA with a general interaction. They applied the formalism to both quasielastic longitudinal and transverse response functions for ^{12}C . Finally, García Recio *et al.* [5] developed a self-consistent RPA with the inclusion of exchange terms but limited to a Skyrme-type interaction. They applied the formalism to nuclear matter and liquid ^3He .

In this paper, we develop a simple method which accounts for RPA correlations in nuclear matter for any interaction including the exchange terms. The method can be used to study both the longitudinal and transverse nuclear responses for inclusive quasielastic electron scattering. However, we will focus on the study of the transverse response using the standard Landau-Migdal parameter g' plus a

$(\pi+\rho)$ -meson exchange as a model interaction. The election of the transverse channel with this interaction is due to two reasons. First, it allows for a comparison with the more complex work of Ref. [4]. Second, even if the method is general, it is particularly suitable for this channel as will be made clear later in this work.

The contribution of direct ph terms to the RPA response for a general interaction can be summed up to infinite order (ring series). Unfortunately, this is not possible for exchange terms. In this work we present a scheme to account for such terms in a simple way and analyze their magnitude. More specifically, we present the formalism in Sec. II, where the residual interaction is divided into a pure contact term and a piece containing a contact term plus a finite range interaction. As will be shown there, the separation is made by demanding that the second piece of the interaction gives rise to a fast convergence of the RPA series, which can then be treated up to second order. The remaining pure contact interaction allows a summation up to infinite order. In Sec. III, we present some numerical results, showing that exchange terms are relevant, and make comparison with other methods. Finally, the main conclusions are summarized in Sec. IV.

II. FORMALISM

Let us first introduce the transverse (T) structure function per unit volume

$$S_T(\mathbf{q}, \hbar\omega) = -\frac{\mathbf{1}}{\pi\Omega} \text{Im}\langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_T^\dagger G(\hbar\omega) \mathcal{O}_T | 0 \rangle, \quad (1)$$

where Ω is the volume. The structure function is related to the response function, $R_T(\mathbf{q}, \hbar\omega)$, through the usual dipole electromagnetic form factor, $G_E(q, \hbar\omega)$. In Eq. (1), $\hbar\omega$ represents the excitation energy and \mathbf{q} the three-momentum transfer. The operator \mathcal{O}_T is the external excitation operator which is given by

$$\mathcal{O}_T = \frac{1}{2mq} \sum_{i=1}^A \left(\frac{1 + \tau_3(i)}{2} [\mathbf{q} \times \{\mathbf{p}'_i, e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i}\}] + i \frac{\mu_s + \mu_v \tau_3(i)}{2} \{\mathbf{q} \times [\boldsymbol{\sigma}(i) \times \mathbf{q}]\} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i} \right), \quad (2)$$

where m is the nucleonic mass and \mathbf{x}_i and \mathbf{p}'_i denote the intrinsic coordinates and momentum operators for individual nucleons. The values of μ_s and μ_v , which are related to the proton and neutron magnetic moments, are $\mu_s = 0.88$ and $\mu_v = 4.70$.

The nuclear ground state is denoted by $|0\rangle$ while the polarization propagator $G(\hbar\omega)$ is given by

$$G(\hbar\omega) = \frac{1}{\hbar\omega - H + i\eta} - \frac{1}{\hbar\omega + H - i\eta}, \quad (3)$$

where H is the nuclear Hamiltonian. As usual, H is separated into a one-body part, H_0 , and a residual interaction, V , given by

$$V(l) = \frac{f_\pi^2}{\mu_\pi^2} \Gamma_\pi^2(l) (g \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}' + \tilde{g}'(l) \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}' \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}' + \tilde{h}'(l) \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}' \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{l}} \boldsymbol{\sigma}' \cdot \mathbf{l}) \quad (4)$$

with

$$\tilde{g}'(l) = g' - \frac{\Gamma_\rho^2(l)}{\Gamma_\pi^2(l)} C_\rho \frac{l^2}{l^2 + \mu_\rho^2}, \quad (5)$$

$$\tilde{h}'(l) = -\frac{l^2}{l^2 + \mu_\pi^2} + \frac{\Gamma_\rho^2(l)}{\Gamma_\pi^2(l)} C_\rho \frac{l^2}{l^2 + \mu_\rho^2}, \quad (6)$$

where $\mu_\pi \hbar c$ ($\mu_\rho \hbar c$) is the pion (rho) rest mass, $C_\rho = 2.18$ and the Landau-Migdal parameters g and g' account for short range correlations. For the form factor of the πNN (ρNN) vertex we have taken

$$\Gamma_{\pi,\rho}(l) = \frac{\Lambda_{\pi,\rho}^2 - (\mu_{\pi,\rho} \hbar c)^2}{\Lambda_{\pi,\rho}^2 + (\hbar cl)^2}, \quad (7)$$

with $\Lambda_\pi = 1.3$ GeV and $\Lambda_\rho = 2$ GeV. The static limit to the $(\pi + \rho)$ -meson exchange interaction has been taken in Eq. (4). An energy dependent interaction makes minor changes in the result.

The Hartree-Fock ground state, $|\text{HF}\rangle$, was adopted as a model for our ground state and the set of intermediate states has been restricted to one-particle-one-hole (1p1h) excitations. Under these assumptions, the structure function $S_T(\mathbf{q}, \hbar\omega)$, can be redrawn as

$$S_T(\mathbf{q}, \hbar\omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi\Omega} \text{Im} \sum_{\substack{1\text{p1h} \\ 1\text{p}'1\text{h}'}} \langle \text{HF} | \mathcal{O}_T^\dagger | 1\text{p1h} \rangle \times \langle 1\text{p1h} | G(\hbar\omega) | 1\text{p}'1\text{h}' \rangle \langle 1\text{p}'1\text{h}' | \mathcal{O}_T | \text{HF} \rangle. \quad (8)$$

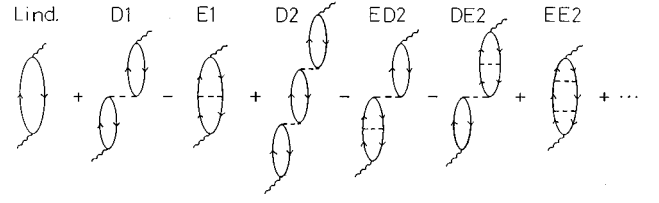


FIG. 1. Goldstone diagrams stemming from the insertion of Eq. (10) into Eq. (8). In every diagram two wavy lines represent the external probe with momentum and energy $(\mathbf{q}, \hbar\omega)$. Only forward-going contributions are shown. Diagram Lind represents the Lindhard function. Diagrams $D1$ and $E1$ are the direct and exchange first order contribution to the RPA response, respectively, while diagrams $D2$, $ED2$, $DE2$, and $EE2$ are the second-order contributions.

The presence of V makes $G(\hbar\omega)$ nondiagonal in the particle-hole basis. To treat this, the standard Dyson equation is employed:

$$G(\hbar\omega) = G^0(\hbar\omega) + G^0(\hbar\omega) V G(\hbar\omega), \quad (9)$$

where $G^0(\hbar\omega)$ results from replacing the total Hamiltonian H in Eq. (3) by the one-body part, H_0 . The matrix elements for the first perturbative terms of Eq. (9) are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 1\text{p1h} | G(\hbar\omega) | 1\text{p}'1\text{h}' \rangle &= \langle 1\text{p1h} | G^0(\hbar\omega) | 1\text{p1h} \rangle \delta_{pp'} \delta_{hh'} \\ &+ \langle 1\text{p1h} | G^0(\hbar\omega) | 1\text{p1h} \rangle \\ &\times \langle 1\text{p1h} | V | 1\text{p}'1\text{h}' \rangle_a \\ &\times \langle 1\text{p}'1\text{h}' | G^0(\hbar\omega) | 1\text{p}'1\text{h}' \rangle \\ &+ \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where $\langle 1\text{p1h} | V | 1\text{p}'1\text{h}' \rangle_a$ stands for antisymmetrized V -matrix elements accounting for both direct and exchange terms. The first forwardgoing terms contributing to the structure function are shown in Fig. 1.

If we neglect the exchange part of all the matrix elements or we consider a pure contact interaction, the terms in Eq. (10) can be easily summed up to infinite order leading to the usual ring approximation. In Fig. 1, this sum is represented by the diagrams labeled Lind, $D1$, $D2$, \dots , where the nuclear interaction is limited to destroy and create a particle-hole pair.

To obtain the antisymmetric structure function in the RPA scheme, one has to evaluate the exchange terms explicitly. In practice, this can be done up to second order. Higher order terms become a prohibitive calculation for finite range interactions. The question then is if the first three terms of Eq. (10) can account for the full sum. To see this, let us compare the infinite ring series (i.e., direct terms) with the sum of direct terms up to second order. For numerical purposes we will restrict ourselves to a g' plus a $(\pi + \rho)$ -meson exchange interaction. In Fig. 2, we make this comparison for two values of g' , where the free structure function S_T^0 (diagram labeled Lind in Fig. 1) was subtracted. We see that for $g' = 0.5$ the accordance is almost exact. This accordance is not good for $g' = 0.95$. While, as shown in the literature [3], a $g' \approx 0.5 - 0.7$ is taken to partially account for the exchange terms, a value $g' \approx 0.7 - 0.95$ should be employed if the ex-

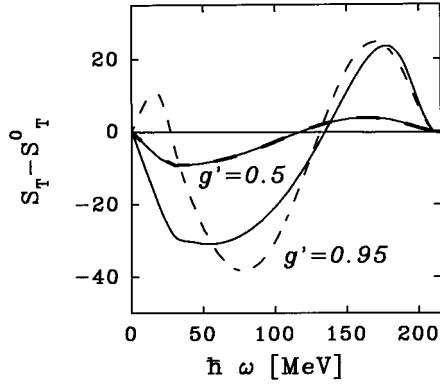


FIG. 2. Comparison between the ring series (full lines) and the sum of terms up to second order (dashed lines) for $g' = 0.5$ and $g' = 0.95$ where the free structure function was subtracted. Graphically both results coincide for the g' value 0.5.

change terms are to be evaluated explicitly. In a separate publication [6], we perform an extensive study of the influence of the exchange terms on the nuclear response, including other types of diagrams than those discussed in this paper. Our study, therefore, requires the use of a $g' \approx 0.7-0.95$, which has been shown in Fig. 2 not to reproduce the ring series when the sum is restricted up to second order. Consequently, there is no reason to believe that an explicit evaluation of the exchange diagrams of ph type up to second order (see diagrams $E1$, $ED2$, $DE2$, and $EE2$ in Fig. 1) would provide, when added to the infinite ring series, a good representation of the antisymmetric RPA response. However, going to infinite order in the exchange terms is a difficult task. Below we present an easy prescription that allows one to obtain a reliable approximation of the exact RPA response without having to calculate exchange diagrams beyond second order in the finite range interaction explicitly.

As we have mentioned above, for a pure contact interaction it is possible to sum the fully antisymmetric series of Eq. (10). Taking this into account, together with the fact that, for some values of g' , the ring (direct) series can be reproduced by its terms up to second order in the residual interaction, we divide the interaction as follows:

$$V = V_1 + V_2, \quad (11)$$

where V_1 is a pure contact interaction ($V_1 = g'_1$) and V_2 contains a contact (g'_2) plus the exchange of the $(\pi + \rho)$ mesons. The V_2 interaction is chosen to ensure a fast convergence of the ring series which, as will be shown later, also implies a fast convergence of Eq. (10), allowing terms of third and higher order in V_2 to be neglected.

The polarization propagator of Eq. (10) can now be drawn as

$$G(\hbar\omega) = G_1(\hbar\omega) + G_2(\hbar\omega) + G_{12}(\hbar\omega), \quad (12)$$

where

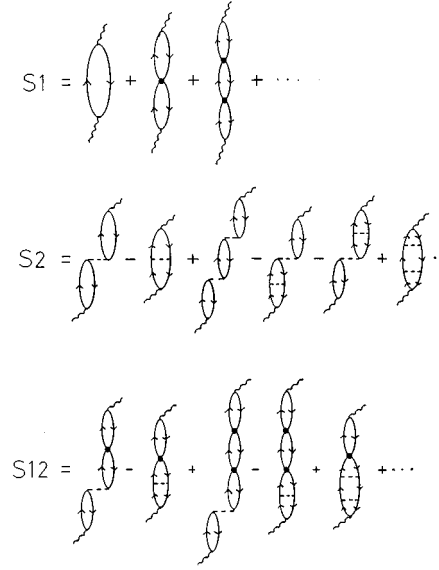


FIG. 3. Goldstone diagrams stemming from Eqs. (13)–(15). In every diagram a dashed line represents the nuclear interaction V_2 which is a general nonlocal interaction, while a dot between particle-hole bubbles represents the pure contact interaction V_1 . Line S_1 is the usual ring series for V_1 . Line S_2 is the sum of first- and second-order RPA-type diagrams for the V_2 interaction, where exchange matrix elements are explicitly included. Finally, line S_{12} displays some interference terms between V_1 and V_2 . In all cases, the V_2 interaction is included up to second order.

$$G_1(\hbar\omega) = G^0(\hbar\omega) + G^0(\hbar\omega)V_1G^0(\hbar\omega) + G^0(\hbar\omega)V_1G^0(\hbar\omega)V_1G^0(\hbar\omega) + \dots, \quad (13)$$

$$G_2(\hbar\omega) = G^0(\hbar\omega)V_2G^0(\hbar\omega) + G^0(\hbar\omega)V_2G^0(\hbar\omega)V_2G^0(\hbar\omega), \quad (14)$$

$$G_{12}(\hbar\omega) = G^0(\hbar\omega)V_1G^0(\hbar\omega)V_2G^0(\hbar\omega) + G^0(\hbar\omega)V_2G^0(\hbar\omega)V_1G^0(\hbar\omega) + G^0(\hbar\omega)V_1G^0(\hbar\omega)V_1G^0(\hbar\omega)V_2G^0(\hbar\omega) + \dots \quad (15)$$

Inserting Eq. (12) into Eq. (8) one can define three different contributions to the structure function, S_1 , S_2 , and S_{12} , associated to G_1 , G_2 , and G_{12} , respectively. In the case of S_1 , since V_1 is a pure contact interaction, the direct and exchange terms are equivalent and they can both be summed up to infinite order by evaluating the ring series of Eq. (13) with redefined values for the Landau-Migdal parameters entering in the interaction. In the case of S_2 , Eq. (14) is only considered up to second order, while for S_{12} , Eq. (15) is also evaluated up to infinite order in the V_1 interaction keeping terms up to first order in V_2 as it will be justified below. In Fig. 3, a graphical representation of this division is shown.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As an application of this method, the structure function of nonrelativistic nuclear matter at a Fermi momentum $k_F = 1.36 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ is analyzed in detail for a momentum transfer

TABLE I. RPA contribution to the structure function in nuclear matter at $k_F=1.36 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ for a momentum transfer $q=410 \text{ MeV}/c$. The energy is given in MeV, while the structure function is in units of $(10^{-5} \text{ MeV}^{-1} \text{ fm}^{-3})$. The notation for S_1 , S_2 , and S_{12} is the same as in Fig. 3, while that for $D1$, $E1$, $D2$, and $E2$ is the same as in Fig. 1, where $E2$ is the sum of all second-order exchange contributions $ED2$, $DE2$, and $EE2$. Note that the free structure is included in S_1 . Column S_T collects the sum of all contributions.

$\hbar\omega$	S_1	S_2				S_{12}	S_T
		$D1$	$E1$	$D2$	$E2$		
40	24.903	-10.396	4.035	1.333	-0.503	-0.374	18.997
80	39.923	-5.466	2.178	-0.295	0.186	0.780	37.308
120	51.820	0.801	0.050	-0.561	0.338	1.065	53.511
160	50.682	3.697	-1.552	0.096	-0.040	-0.826	52.056

$q=410 \text{ MeV}/c$. We have employed a $g'=0.95$, taken from Ref. [3]. The separation of the interaction is performed by considering $g'_1=0.45$ as the only contribution for the contact interaction V_1 , while V_2 contains $g'_2=0.5$ plus the $(\pi+\rho)$ -meson exchange. As V_1 is a pure contact force it can be redefined to account for antisymmetrization. This is shown in full detail in Ref. [3]. For completeness, we outline here the procedure in our particular case. The direct piece of the ph interaction,

$$V_1 = \frac{f_\pi^2}{\mu_\pi^2} g'_1 \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}' \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}', \quad (16)$$

contains only a g'_1 term. The total (direct plus exchange) ph interaction is given by

$$(V_1)_{\text{ant}} = V_1 + (V_1)_{\text{exch}}, \quad (17)$$

where the exchange piece is constructed via the spin-isospin exchange operator $P_\sigma P_\tau$

$$\begin{aligned} (V_1)_{\text{exch}} &= -P_\sigma P_\tau V_1 \\ &= \frac{f_\pi^2}{\mu_\pi^2} (f'_{1,E} + f'_{1,E} \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}' + g'_{1,E} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}' \\ &\quad + g'_{1,E} \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}' \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}'), \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

and contains contributions in all the spin-isospin channels, with $f_{1,E} = -\frac{9}{4}g'_1$, $f'_{1,E} = \frac{3}{4}g'_1$, $g_{1,E} = \frac{3}{4}g'_1$, and $g'_{1,E} = -\frac{1}{4}g'_1$. Only g_1 and g'_1 are relevant in the transverse structure function. Following Eq. (17), their antisymmetrized values are $(g_1)_{\text{ant}} = g_{1,E} = 0.3375$ and $(g'_1)_{\text{ant}} = g'_1 + g'_{1,E} = 0.3375$. Using the redefined interaction $(V_1)_{\text{ant}}$, the ring series accounts for both direct and exchange terms up to infinite order and builds up the S_1 contribution to the structure function.

In Fig. 2 we showed that the sum of direct terms up to second order in V_2 equalled the ring series for that interaction. By restricting the sum of Eq. (14) to the second-order terms, we have implicitly assumed that the convergence is also valid for the exchange terms, a fact which is not evident as the exchange terms have different momentum dependence. The assumption is based on the results shown in

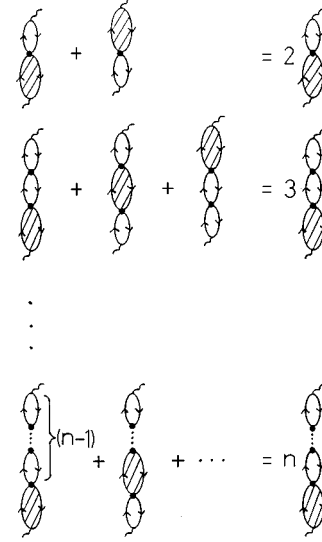


FIG. 4. Goldstone diagrams used to evaluate S_{12} . The shaded bubble represents the sum of direct and exchange contributions of V_2 (see explanation in the text).

Table I, where the different contributions to the total structure function S_T are shown. By comparing columns $E1$ with $D1$ and $E2$ with $D2$, it is observed that exchange terms are smaller than the corresponding direct ones. Since the higher order direct terms will be negligible small, it is plausible to believe that, according to the trend of the results shown in Table I, the same will hold true for the exchange terms.

Explicit expressions for the different diagrams are shown in the Appendix. The multiple integrations have been performed using a Monte Carlo technique. The numerical evaluation of the exchange graph $EE2$ in Fig. 1 is particularly difficult and cannot be given with good accuracy. However, this lack of accuracy does not affect the whole calculation as its value is very small. As a consequence, some higher order contributions, as the one shown at the end of line S_{12} in Fig. 3, can also be neglected. In Fig. 4 we present all diagrams used to evaluate S_{12} , where the shaded bubble represents the sum of direct ($D1$) and exchange ($E1$) contributions of V_2 . The first graph on the top LHS of Fig. 4 is the sum of the first two graphs shown in Fig. 3 for S_{12} . Similarly, the first graph in the second line of Fig. 4 is the sum of the third and fourth graphs of S_{12} in Fig. 3. All the other diagrams on the LHS of Fig. 4 represent additional contributions to S_{12} , present in Eq. (15), which have not been drawn in Fig. 3. These contributions are obtained by allowing the shaded bubble to be located in all different positions in the diagrams. All contributions yield identical results and they can be accounted for by the factor appearing on the RHS of Fig. 4. The resulting S_{12} is the sum of all graphs on the RHS of the equations shown in Fig. 4 with their corresponding factors. All graphs are first order in V_2 . The summation up to infinite order in V_1 gives a modified ring series as can be seen in Eq. (A6) of the Appendix.¹ The possibility of summing this series up to infinite order, together with the fact that the

¹In the Appendix we show the V_2 exchange contribution only. It is straightforward to obtain the direct one.

TABLE II. Comparison between the ring approximation and the total RPA contribution to the structure function of nuclear matter at $k_F = 1.36 \text{ fm}^{-1}$, for three different transferred momenta: $q = 300, 410,$ and $550 \text{ MeV}/c$. Units are the same as in Table I. A g' plus a $(\pi + \rho)$ -meson exchange interaction was used to calculate the ring series, taking $g' = 0.55$ for $\overline{S}^{\text{ring1}}$ and $g' = 0.7$ for $\overline{S}^{\text{ring2}}$. The results of column $\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$ employ a $g' = 0.95$ and include the perturbative exchange graphs up to second order in the interaction. The results of our method are given in column $\overline{S}^{\text{RPA}}$, where the employed value of g'_2 is explicitly shown. The free structure function was subtracted for convenience as indicated in the text.

$q = 300 \text{ MeV}/c$				
$\hbar\omega$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring1}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring2}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{RPA}}(g'_2 = 0.30)$
30	-19.698	-23.434	-36.762	-29.143
60	-13.867	-19.842	-12.322	-22.463
90	4.154	1.549	-6.674	2.295
120	10.442	18.578	25.908	17.711
$q = 410 \text{ MeV}/c$				
$\hbar\omega$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring1}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring2}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{RPA}}(g'_2 = 0.50)$
30	-13.028	-21.063	-29.544	-29.461
60	-11.415	-20.344	-22.089	-27.626
90	-6.571	-13.755	-14.402	-17.378
120	-0.079	-2.533	-5.662	-1.833
150	4.959	8.810	6.617	11.843
180	4.854	10.816	16.724	12.733
$q = 550 \text{ MeV}/c$				
$\hbar\omega$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring1}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring2}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$	$\overline{S}^{\text{RPA}}(g'_2 = 0.85)$
30	4.794	-1.588	-4.523	-5.475
60	7.849	-2.706	-7.463	-9.160
90	8.120	-2.973	-8.086	-9.636
120	6.294	-2.500	-6.917	-7.480
150	3.333	-1.514	-4.384	-3.867
180	0.195	-0.313	-1.138	0.089
210	-2.303	0.772	1.868	3.169
240	-3.563	1.420	3.908	4.324
270	-3.262	1.392	3.995	3.436

second-order contributions in V_2 are negligible for S_{12} , makes the division of the interaction useful for practical purposes.

In Table II, we present the structure function calculated in several approximations for three values of the momentum transfer. The free structure function, S_T^0 , has been subtracted in order to emphasize the differences between the approximations. This is indicated by the notation $S_T = S_T - S_T^0$. The results of our method (last column, labeled $\overline{S}^{\text{RPA}}$) are compared with those obtained summing the direct ring series employing an interaction $V = g' + (\pi + \rho)$ with $g' = 0.55$ ($\overline{S}^{\text{ring1}}$) and $g' = 0.70$ ($\overline{S}^{\text{ring2}}$), as suggested in Ref. [3]. These values of g' result from an average procedure over the exchange matrix elements on the Fermi surface. The first value does not include a screening effect contained in the second one (see Ref. [3]). Note that, in the evaluation of $\overline{S}^{\text{RPA}}$, different values of g'_2 have been employed for different values of the momentum transfer q , according to the prescription of a fast convergence to the ring series. The resulting g'_2 values are 0.3, 0.5, and 0.85 for $q = 300, 410,$ and $550 \text{ MeV}/c$, respectively. In Table II we observe that the

ring approximation underestimates the RPA correlations, especially in the case $\overline{S}^{\text{ring1}}$. This is due to an overestimation of the exchange contribution stemming from the average procedure for g' . However, even if there is a manifest difference between our results and the ring approximation, this difference gets smaller as q tends to zero, that is, when one goes closer to the Landau limit. The reason is that it is precisely in this low momentum transfer region where the effective g' value to account for exchange terms was derived. In the case of $q = 550 \text{ MeV}/c$, the results of the ring approximation with $g' = 0.55$ ($\overline{S}^{\text{ring1}}$) even have a different sign than the RPA results, although it must be noted that RPA correlations are smaller in this region of momentum transfer. The results of Table II show that, in the intermediate momentum transfer region, the average procedure is not adequate, while RPA correlations are still significant. Note that in this region all correlations both in the ground state and in the final state are relevant [7].

Our method must be viewed as a convenient way of adding the RPA series up to infinite order in which only diagrams up to second order in a piece of the interaction [$V_2 = g'_2 + (\pi + \rho)$] need to be explicitly calculated. For the method to be useful, one must therefore check how it compares with the technically similar but conceptually more straightforward alternative procedure consisting in calculating the direct ring series with the complete interaction [$V = g' + (\pi + \rho)$] and the exchange graphs ($E1, ED2, DE2,$ and $EE2$ in Fig. 1) only up to second order in V . Column $\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$ in Table II shows that the convergence of exchange terms in the alternative procedure is not fast in general and depends on the g' value employed. Observe that the discrepancy between the $\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$ value and our result $\overline{S}^{\text{RPA}}$, gets smaller as g_2 approaches to g' , which is when both procedures are equivalent.

We want to stress that the difference between the $\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$ approximation and ours, relies on higher order exchange diagrams which we are including. To clarify this point, let us consider a third-order exchange diagram in the total interaction V . In $\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$ this diagram is not considered at all. However, it is partially included in our scheme in the way we describe in the following. First of all, this diagram is split into several contributions stemming from the division of V into V_1 and V_2 . The contribution which contains only V_1 is part of S_1 ; contributions which only contain V_2 or are second order in V_2 (see the last diagram of line S_{12} in Fig. 3) are neglected. Finally, contributions that are first order in V_2 are included in S_{12} . Note that we have numerically checked that the second order in V_2 exchange diagram (diagram $EE2$ in Fig. 1) gives a small contribution, which suggests that neglecting second- and higher order V_2 diagrams is a reliable assumption as already discussed in relation to Table I.

The total response function, $R_T(\mathbf{q}, \hbar\omega)$, related to S_T through the dipole electromagnetic form factor, is shown in Fig. 5 for several values of momentum transfer. Our results are represented by the full line, the free response by the long dashed line, and $\overline{S}^{\text{ring+ex}}$ by the short dashed line. It is observed that the RPA correlations shift strength from the low to the high energy region, keeping the energy-weighted sum rule unchanged. For $q = 300 \text{ MeV}/c$, we observe a non-

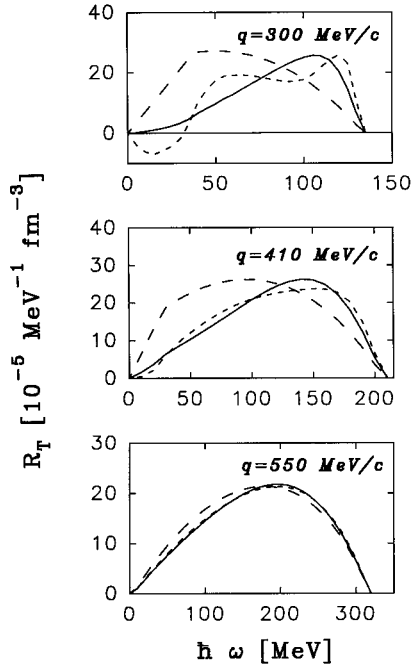


FIG. 5. Transverse response function at several values of the momentum transfer as a function of the energy $\hbar\omega$. The free response function (long-dashed line), the response for $S^{\text{ring+ex}}$ (short-dashed line) and our result (full line) are shown.

physical negative value for $S^{\text{ring+ex}}$ at low energy. This is a simple consequence of having neglected higher order exchange diagrams. Note that this pathology is absent in our method. Our results show a qualitative agreement with those of Fig. 6 in Ref. [4]. The comparison of the effect of the exchange terms cannot be made deeper because the nucleus considered in Ref. [4], ^{12}C , is too light for a nuclear matter description. As other mechanisms beyond RPA correlations, like higher order correlations [7–15] or meson exchange currents (MEC) [16,17], are important in the transverse channel, a comparison with data is not possible. A more complete version, where the exchange contribution for higher order correlations are included, is in progress [6]. However, we have focused on RPA correlations because they deserve special attention.

Finally, it is important to note that our method can be applied to a more general interaction with all the Landau-Migdal terms, as these additional constant terms can be properly antisymmetrized up to infinite order in the ring series. In

particular, the method can be easily applied to the longitudinal channel. In this case, the Landau-Migdal parameters f and f' should be added to the residual interaction as they dominate the direct contribution. Still, it is the g' parameter which should be tuned up to apply the method.

IV. CONCLUSION

We have presented a simple scheme to evaluate the full antisymmetric RPA series contributing to the structure function in nuclear matter. The prescription is based on two ingredients. The first one is the separation of the interaction in a pure contact term plus a contribution which guarantees a fast convergence to the ring series. The second is the fact that for a pure contact interaction it is possible to sum the full antisymmetric RPA series up to infinite order. The result is that explicit evaluation of the exchange contribution is important and cannot be reduced to the evaluation of the ring series with the standard average prescription for g' , especially for intermediate values of the momentum transfer. This stresses also the importance of the inclusion of the pion (in particular its tensor force) which is not present in the ring approximation.

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APPENDIX

In this appendix, we present explicit expressions for the different exchange graphs needed to build up our antisymmetric RPA for nuclear matter. We do not reproduce here the ring series as it can be found in many references (see, for example, Ref. [18]).

Even if in our numerical example we have focused on a g' plus a $(\pi+\rho)$ -meson exchange interaction, we prefer to include also the parameter g of Eq. (4), for completeness.

In the following, we use dimensionless quantities $\mathbf{Q}=\mathbf{q}/k_F$ and $\nu=\hbar\omega/2\varepsilon_F$, where k_F and ε_F are the Fermi momentum and Fermi energy, respectively.

Graph $E1$ of Fig. 1:

$$\begin{aligned}
 [S_{E1}(\mathbf{Q},\nu)]_T = & -\frac{1}{(2\pi)^5} \left(\frac{f_\pi^2}{4\pi\hbar c} \right) \frac{k_F^4}{\hbar c \mu_\pi^2} \int d^3h \int d^3k \theta(1-h) \theta(|\mathbf{h}+\mathbf{Q}|-1) \theta(1-|\mathbf{h}+\mathbf{k}|) \theta(|\mathbf{h}+\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{Q}|-1) \Gamma_\pi^2(k) \\
 & \times \{ [3(g_2 + \tilde{g}'_2) + \tilde{h}'] 4[\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{h}+\mathbf{k}) - (\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{h})\mathbf{Q}\cdot(\mathbf{h}+\mathbf{k})]/Q^2 + (\mu_s^2 + \mu_v^2)Q^2(-g_2) + (-3\mu_s^2 + \mu_v^2) \\
 & \times Q^2[\tilde{g}'_2 + \tilde{h}'(\hat{\mathbf{k}}\cdot\hat{\mathbf{Q}})^2] \left(-\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \right) \left[\left(\frac{1}{2\nu - (Q^2 + 2\mathbf{h}\cdot\mathbf{Q}) + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + (Q^2 + 2\mathbf{h}\cdot\mathbf{Q})} \right) \right. \\
 & \left. \times \left(\frac{1}{2\nu - [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h}+\mathbf{k})\mathbf{Q}] + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h}+\mathbf{k})\mathbf{Q}]} \right) \right], \tag{A1}
 \end{aligned}$$

where we have defined

$$\tilde{g}'_2(k) = g'_2 - \frac{\Gamma_\rho^2(k)}{\Gamma_\pi^2(k)} C_\rho \frac{k^2}{k^2 + \mu_\rho^2}. \quad (\text{A2})$$

Graph *EE2* of Fig. 1:

$$\begin{aligned} [S_{EE2}(\mathbf{Q}, \nu)]_{\Gamma} = & \frac{1}{(2\pi)^7} \left(\frac{f_\pi^2}{4\pi\hbar c} \right)^2 \frac{4mc^2 k_F^5}{(\hbar c \mu_\pi^2)^2} \int d^3h \int d^3k \int d^3k' \theta(|\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{Q}| - 1) \\ & \times \theta(1 - |\mathbf{h}|) \theta(1 - |\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k}|) \theta(|\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{Q}| - 1) \theta(1 - |\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}'|) \theta(|\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}' + \mathbf{Q}| - 1) \Gamma_\pi^2(k) \Gamma_\pi^2(k') \\ & \times \left\{ 5[9(\tilde{g}'_2)^2 + \tilde{h}'^2 + 6\tilde{g}'_2\tilde{h}'] + 9(g_2)^2 + 9g_2\tilde{g}'_2 + 6g_2\tilde{h}' \right\} 8[\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') - (\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{h})\mathbf{Q} \cdot (\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') / Q^2] \\ & + \frac{3\mu_s^2 - \mu_v^2}{2} \{ Q^2(g_2)^2 + g_2\tilde{g}'_2 + g_2\tilde{h}' [(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})^2 + (\mathbf{Q} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}')^2] \} + \frac{\mu_s^2 + \mu_v^2}{2} Q^2(g_2)^2 + \frac{9\mu_s^2 + \mu_v^2}{2} \\ & \times (Q^2\{(\tilde{g}'_2)^2 + \tilde{h}'^2[2(\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}')^2 - 1]\} + \tilde{h}'^2[(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})^2 + (\mathbf{Q} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}')^2 - 2(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}')(\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}')]) \\ & + \tilde{g}'_2\tilde{h}'[(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})^2 + (\mathbf{Q} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}')^2] \left(-\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \right) \left[\left(\frac{1}{2\nu - (Q^2 + 2\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{Q}) + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + [Q^2 + 2\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{Q}]} \right) \right. \\ & \times \left(\frac{1}{2\nu - [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{Q}] + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k})\mathbf{Q}]} \right) \\ & \left. \times \left(\frac{1}{2\nu - [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}')\mathbf{Q}] + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}')\mathbf{Q}]} \right) \right]. \quad (\text{A3}) \end{aligned}$$

Graph *ED2* (*DE2*) of Fig. 1:

$$\begin{aligned} [S_{ED2}(\mathbf{Q}, \nu)]_{\Gamma} = & -\frac{1}{(2\pi)^7} \left(\frac{f_\pi^5}{4\pi\hbar c} \right)^2 k_F^5 \frac{8mc^2}{(\hbar c \mu_\pi^2)^2} Q^2 \left(-\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \right) \left[\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{Q}, \nu) \int d^3h \int d^3k \theta(1 - h) \theta(|\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{Q}| - 1) \theta(1 - |\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k}|) \right. \\ & \times \theta(|\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{Q}| - 1) \Gamma_\pi^2(\mathbf{Q}) \Gamma_\pi^2(\mathbf{k}) \{ 4g_2\mu_s^2 [g_2 - 3\tilde{g}'_2 - 3\tilde{h}'(\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{Q}})^2] + 4g'_2\mu_v^2 [-g_2 + \tilde{g}'_2 + \tilde{h}'(\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{Q}})^2] \} \\ & \times \left(\frac{1}{2\nu - (Q^2 + 2\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{Q}) + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + (Q^2 + 2\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{Q})} \right) \\ & \left. \times \left(\frac{1}{2\nu - [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{Q}] + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{Q}]} \right) \right]. \quad (\text{A4}) \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{Q}, \nu) = \int d^3p \theta(|\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{Q}| - 1) \theta(1 - |\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{Q}|) \left(\frac{1}{2\nu - Q^2 - 2\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{p} + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + Q^2 + 2\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{p}} \right). \quad (\text{A5})$$

Sum of all graphs contributing to G_{12} (see the last line of Fig. 3):

$$\begin{aligned} [S_{C12}(\mathbf{Q}, \nu)]_{\Gamma} = & -\frac{1}{(2\pi)^7} \left(\frac{f_\pi^2}{4\pi\hbar c} \right)^2 k_F^5 \frac{4mc^2}{(\hbar c \mu_\pi^2)^2} Q^2 \left(-\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \right) \left[\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{Q}, \nu) \int d^3h \int d^3k \theta(1 - h) \theta(|\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{Q}| - 1) \right. \\ & \times \theta(1 - |\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k}|) \theta(|\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{Q}| - 1) \Gamma_\pi^2(\mathbf{Q}) \Gamma_\pi^2(\mathbf{k}) \left(4 \frac{g_1[2 - 4g_1 c^{\text{int}}(Q) \mathcal{L}(Q, \nu)]}{[1 - 4g_1 c^{\text{int}}(Q) \mathcal{L}(Q, \nu)]^2} \mu_s^2 [-g_2 - 3\tilde{g}'_2 - 3\tilde{h}'(\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{Q}})^2] \right. \\ & \left. + 4 \frac{\tilde{g}'_1[2 - 4\tilde{g}'_1 c^{\text{int}}(Q) \mathcal{L}(Q, \nu)]}{[1 - 4\tilde{g}'_1 c^{\text{int}}(Q) \mathcal{L}(Q, \nu)]^2} \mu_v^2 [-g_2 + \tilde{g}'_2 + \tilde{h}'(\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{Q}})^2] \right) \\ & \times \left(\frac{1}{2\nu - (Q^2 + 2\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{Q}) + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + (Q^2 + 2\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{Q})} \right) \\ & \left. \times \left(\frac{1}{2\nu - [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{Q}] + i\eta} - \frac{1}{2\nu + [Q^2 + 2(\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{k})\mathbf{Q}]} \right) \right], \quad (\text{A6}) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$c^{\text{int}}(Q) = \left(\frac{f_\pi^2}{4\pi\hbar c} \right) \frac{k_F}{\pi^2} \frac{mc^2}{\hbar c \mu_\pi^2} \Gamma_\pi^2(Q). \quad (\text{A7})$$

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