

Nuclear stability and ratio of kinetic to potential energy*

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Abstract: The Skyrme energy density functional was used to systematically analyze the ratio of repulsive kinetic to attractive potential energy (T/U) for even-even nuclei in their ground states. Notably, the nuclei with maximal value of T/U are generally stable for a certain isobaric chain with $Z \leq 82$. However, the known magic numbers can be more clearly observed from the T/U ratio than from nuclear binding energy, particularly for the isobaric chains with semi-magic nuclei. Combining the predicted binding energies and the T/U ratios from the Skyrme Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov (HFB) code transformed harmonic oscillator (HFBTHO) with the parameter set based on the Universal Nuclear Energy Density Functional (UNEDF0), the possible magic numbers in super-heavy mass region were simultaneously studied. The neutron magic number $N = 184$ can be clearly observed from the calculated values of T/U and the extracted microscopic energies of the nuclei.

Keywords: nuclear stability, energy density functional, ratio of kinetic to potential energy, super-heavy nuclei

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I. INTRODUCTION

Nuclear stability is a cornerstone research theme in nuclear physics, governed by nucleon-nucleon interactions and manifested through critical observables including binding energy systematics, magic number configurations, decay modes, and half-life patterns. This fundamental property not only dictates the synthesis pathways of new isotopes and superheavy elements (SHEs) but also serves as a stringent testbed for nuclear models. The nuclear shell model initially proposed in the 1960s predicted post-²⁰⁸Pb magic numbers at $Z = 114$ and $N = 184$ [1–3], suggesting an "island of stability" centered at ($Z = 114$, $N = 184$) where superheavy nuclei might exhibit enhanced stability. However, modern self-consistent mean-field calculations reveal competing predictions, proton shell closures at $Z = 120$ or 126 and neutron shell closures spanning $N = 172 - 184$ [4, 5]. These theoretical divergences highlight the critical role of SHE stability studies in validating nuclear many-body approaches. Through fusion-evaporation reactions, superheavy nuclei with $104 \leq Z \leq 118$ have already been successfully synthesized in experiments [6–12]. The heaviest nucleus ²⁹⁴Og that has been synthesized so far has a half-life on the order of milliseconds and is neutron-deficient due to the limitations in available projectile-target combinations and

experimental facilities. The determination of nuclear stability exhibits mass-dependent characteristics. For light and medium nuclei ($A < 150$), β -decay predominance makes binding energy minimization along isobaric chains the key stability indicator. For heavy and super-heavy nuclei ($A > 200$), multi-mode decay competition disrupts simple energy-based predictions. For example, although the ground state energy of ²¹⁴Po is smaller than that of ²¹⁴Pb by 2.7 MeV, the half-life of ²¹⁴Pb is much larger than that of ²¹⁴Po, due to the different decay modes: ²¹⁴Pb via β -decay in contrast to ²¹⁴Po via α -decay. Therefore, new stability metrics beyond traditional binding energy considerations should be developed, particularly for SHEs. The enduring mystery surrounding the existence and location of the "island of stability" continues to drive interdisciplinary efforts combining nuclear experiments, astrophysical observations, and exascale computational modeling.

The binding energy of atomic nuclei predominantly arises from the dynamic equilibrium between the nuclear strong force and Coulomb repulsion [13], which governs their β -decay stability. Quantitatively, a net energy difference is manifested between the absolute values of the attractive nuclear potential energy U and the repulsive kinetic energy T . Notably, the T/U ratio constitutes a fundamental parameter in nuclear astrophysics [14, 15], as it

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correlates with two critical phenomena: nuclear matter compressibility and stability mechanisms. The ratio T/U provides insights into the stiffness of nuclear matter, a key determinant of neutron star interior structure and equation of state. In neutron stars, gravitational binding stability requires the dominance of gravitational potential energy U_{grav} over rotational kinetic energy T_{rot} . A significant imbalance ($|U_{\text{grav}}| \gg T_{\text{rot}}$) may trigger catastrophic collapse into black holes. For atomic nuclei, the T/U ratio reflects the interplay between nucleon-nucleon interaction strength (governed by nuclear force saturation) and nucleon motion intensity (driven by Fermi energy). Higher T/U values typically indicate reduced binding coherence, thereby influencing fission barriers and decay modes. This intrinsic connection between the T/U ratio and multi-scale stability (from femtometer-scale nuclei to kilometer-scale neutron stars) underscores its significance in unified nuclear many-body theories. Systematic investigations of this ratio across nuclear chart regions can unveil universal constraints on hadronic matter under extreme conditions.

The Skyrme Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov (HFB) model is a versatile microscopic theoretical framework widely used in nuclear physics research, allowing the nuclear structure at ground state such as binding energies, charge radii, deformation and shape coexistence to be investigated self-consistently [16–20]. In this study, we performed systematic calculations for 2318 even-even nuclei using the Skyrme HFB model to analyze nuclear stability and the energy components of nuclei.

II. FRAMEWORK OF THE MODEL

In HFB calculations, the Hamiltonian of a system with interacting fermions is written in terms of the annihilation and creation operators ($c, c^\dagger$) as [16, 17]:

$$H = \sum_{\mu\mu'} T_{\mu\mu'} c_\mu^\dagger c_{\mu'} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\mu\nu\mu'\nu'} \tilde{V}_{\mu\nu\mu'\nu'} c_\mu^\dagger c_\nu^\dagger c_{\nu'} c_{\mu'}, \quad (1)$$

in which $T_{\mu\mu'} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \langle \mu | \nabla^2 | \mu' \rangle$ and $\tilde{V}_{\mu\nu\mu'\nu'} = \langle \mu\nu | V(r_{12}) | \mu'\nu' - \nu'\mu' \rangle$ are the single-particle kinetic energy matrix elements and anti-symmetrized two-body interaction matrix elements, respectively. In the HFB model, the particle operators are transformed into quasiparticle operators through the Bogoliubov transformation to handle the pairing correlation

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_\mu &= \sum_\nu (U_{\nu\mu}^* c_\nu + V_{\nu\mu}^* c_\nu^\dagger), \\ \alpha_\mu^\dagger &= \sum_\nu (V_{\nu\mu} c_\nu + U_{\nu\mu} c_\nu^\dagger), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where U and V are the transformation matrices. The quasiparticle vacuum state is defined as the HFB ground state $|\Phi\rangle$, satisfying the condition $\alpha_\mu |\Phi\rangle = 0$. By applying Wick's theorem, the expectation value of the Hamiltonian H can be expressed as a function of the Hermitian density matrix ρ and pairing tensor κ [16]

$$E[\rho, \kappa] = \langle \Phi | H | \Phi \rangle, \quad (3)$$

where $\rho_{\mu\mu'} = \langle \Phi | c_\mu^\dagger c_{\mu'} | \Phi \rangle$ and $\kappa_{\mu\mu'} = \langle \Phi | c_\mu c_{\mu'} | \Phi \rangle$.

In coordinate space, the operators $c_{r\sigma q}$ and $c_{r\sigma q}^\dagger$ refer to annihilation and creation of nucleons, respectively, at point $\mathbf{r}$ with spin $\sigma = \pm 1/2$ and isospin $q = \pm 1/2$, which using the quasiparticle operators are expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} c_{r\sigma q} &= \sum_\nu [U_\nu(\mathbf{r}, \sigma, q) \alpha_\nu + V_\nu(\mathbf{r}, \sigma, q) \alpha_\nu^\dagger], \\ c_{r\sigma q}^\dagger &= \sum_\nu [V_\nu^*(\mathbf{r}, \sigma, q) \alpha_\nu + U_\nu^*(\mathbf{r}, \sigma, q) \alpha_\nu^\dagger]. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The density matrix and the pairing tensor are expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\mathbf{r}\sigma q, \mathbf{r}'\sigma' q') &= \langle \Phi | c_{r'\sigma'q'}^\dagger c_{r\sigma q} | \Phi \rangle \\ &= \sum_\nu V_\nu^*(\mathbf{r}, \sigma, q) V_\nu(\mathbf{r}', \sigma', q'), \\ \kappa(\mathbf{r}\sigma q, \mathbf{r}'\sigma' q') &= \langle \Phi | c_{r'\sigma'q'} c_{r\sigma q} | \Phi \rangle \\ &= \sum_\nu V_\nu^*(\mathbf{r}, \sigma, q) U_\nu(\mathbf{r}', \sigma', q'). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where κ can be replaced by the pairing density matrix via $\tilde{\rho}(\mathbf{r}\sigma q, \mathbf{r}'\sigma' q') = -2\sigma' \kappa(\mathbf{r}\sigma q, \mathbf{r}' - \sigma' q')$ for convenience to describe time-even quasiparticle states when both ρ and $\tilde{\rho}$ are Hermitian and time-even [16].

With the Skyrme force characterized by zero-range and non-local interaction, the HFB energy in Eq. (3) can be expressed as the volume integral of the energy density

$$E[\rho, \tilde{\rho}] = \int d^3\mathbf{r} \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{r}), \quad (6)$$

$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathcal{H}_S(\mathbf{r}) + \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_P(\mathbf{r}) + \mathcal{H}_C(\mathbf{r})$ includes the energy densities of Skyrme interaction $\mathcal{H}_S(\mathbf{r})$, pairing $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_P(\mathbf{r})$, and Coulomb interaction $\mathcal{H}_C(\mathbf{r})$ for protons. The mean field with Skyrme force $\mathcal{H}_S(\mathbf{r})$ is a functional of the particle density $\rho = \sum_q \rho_q$, kinetic-energy density $\tau = \sum_q \tau_q$, and spin-current tensor $\mathbf{J}_{ij} = \sum_q \mathbf{J}_{q,ij}$, with index $q = p, n$ corresponding to proton and neutron, respectively:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{H}_s(\mathbf{r}) = & \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \tau + \frac{1}{2} t_0 \left[\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} x_0\right) \rho^2 - \left(\frac{1}{2} + x_0\right) \sum_q \rho_q^2 \right] + \frac{1}{2} t_1 \left[\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} x_1\right) \rho \left(\tau - \frac{3}{4} \Delta \rho\right) - \left(\frac{1}{2} + x_1\right) \sum_q \rho_q \left(\tau_q - \frac{3}{4} \Delta \rho_q\right) \right] \\
& + \frac{1}{2} t_2 \left[\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} x_2\right) \rho \left(\tau + \frac{1}{4} \Delta \rho\right) - \left(\frac{1}{2} + x_2\right) \sum_q \rho_q \left(\tau_q + \frac{1}{4} \Delta \rho_q\right) \right] + \frac{1}{12} t_3 \rho^\alpha \left[\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} x_3\right) \rho^2 - \left(x_3 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \sum_q \rho_q^2 \right] \\
& - \frac{1}{8} (t_1 x_1 + t_2 x_2) \sum_{ij} J_{ij}^2 + \frac{1}{8} (t_1 - t_2) \sum_{q,ij} J_{q,ij}^2 - \frac{1}{2} W_0 \sum_{ijk} \varepsilon_{ijk} \left[\rho \nabla_k J_{ij} + \sum_q \rho_q \nabla_k J_{q,ij} \right], \quad (7)
\end{aligned}$$

where ε_{ijk} is the Levi-Civita symbol with $i, j, k = (1, 2, 3)$, and $(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, t_0, t_1, t_2, t_3, W_0, \alpha)$ are the parameters of the Skyrme force. The pairing energy density is expressed as

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_p(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2} V_0 \left[1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right] \sum_q \tilde{\rho}_q^2 \quad (8)$$

with V_0 the pairing strength and ρ_0 the saturation density determined by the Skyrme parameters. The Coulomb interaction should be included into the energy densities for the case of proton

$$\mathcal{H}_c(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{e^2}{2} \rho_p \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' \frac{\rho_p(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} - \frac{3}{4} e^2 \left(\frac{3}{\pi} \right)^{1/3} \rho_p^{4/3}. \quad (9)$$

The Skyrme HFB equations can be obtained by varying the HFB energy in Eq. (6) with respect to ρ and $\tilde{\rho}$. Detailed expressions are available in the literature [16–18]. After obtaining self-consistent solutions to the ground-state density matrix ρ and pairing density matrix $\tilde{\rho}$ using the Skyrme HFB equations, the kinetic energy can be expressed as:

$$T = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int \tau d^3 \mathbf{r} \quad (10)$$

and total energy E_{tot} in the ground state can be obtained. The contribution of the non-local term of the Skyrme interaction to the kinetic energy is incorporated via solving the density matrix under single-particle potential. The potential energy U is calculated by subtracting the kinetic energy from the total energy

$$U = E_{\text{tot}} - T, \quad (11)$$

which includes contributions from the mean field, pairing energy, and Coulomb energy. Based on the predicted kinetic and potential energies for a nucleus, the ratio T/U for the nucleus in its ground state can be obtained.

The axially deformed solution of the Skyrme HFB equations can be obtained by using the transformed harmonic oscillator basis [16–18, 21–23], and the corresponding code HFBTHO (v2.00d) was used in the calculations.

A series of Universal Nuclear Energy Density Functionals (UNEDFs) [24] are proposed to provide a more accurate description of the properties of the ground state nuclei. The HFBTHO (v2.00d) also implements HFB calculations adopting the UNEDF functional. In this work, the UNEDF0 functional and standard Skyrme functionals SLy4 [25], SkM* [26] and SIII [27] were adopted. The number of oscillator shells was set as $N_{\text{max}}^{\text{shells}} = 20$ and the total number of states in the basis was $N_{\text{states}} = 1771$. The default value $b_0 = -1.0$ fm was used for the oscillator length, which means that the code automatically sets $b_0 = \sqrt{\hbar/m\omega}$ with $\hbar\omega = 1.2 \times 41/A^{1/3}$ [17]. The pairing force was assumed to be $V_{\text{pair}}^{n,p} = V_0^{n,p} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\rho(\vec{r})}{\rho_0} \right) \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}')$ with $\rho_0 = 0.16 \text{ fm}^{-3}$, and a pre-defined pairing strength $V_0^{n,p}$ was used for each Skyrme force for simplicity. The default value adopted for the quasi-particle cutoff energy was $E_{\text{cut}} = 60.0$ MeV.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the Skyrme HFB code HFBTHO (v2.00d) [17], we systematically investigated the ground state properties of even-even nuclei with $8 \leq Z \leq 130$. First, we checked the calculated binding energies by adopting different Skyrme parameter sets. In Fig. 1, we show the calculated ground state energies E_{tot} for the isobaric chains with $A = 40, 100, 150, 208, 228$, and 256 using UNEDF0, SLy4, SkM* and SIII. The experimental data from AME2020 [28] are also presented for comparison. The data are reasonably well reproduced for medium mass nuclei with all four Skyrme forces. For heavy nuclei with $A > 200$, the uncertainties of the predictions from these Skyrme forces significantly increase, especially for neutron rich nuclei. Note that the calculated results with UNEDF0 are the best for nuclei shown in Fig. 1. UNEDF0 demonstrates better predictive capabilities in the region of heavy nuclei, possibly due to its refined treatment of isospin dependence. We therefore adopted UNEDF0 for the following analysis of the total energies and kinetic to potential energy T/U ratios.

The nucleus with the minimal energy for certain light and medium isobars can be considered as the most stable nuclide on this isobaric chain as mentioned previously. According to the available data [28], in Fig. 1, the corres-

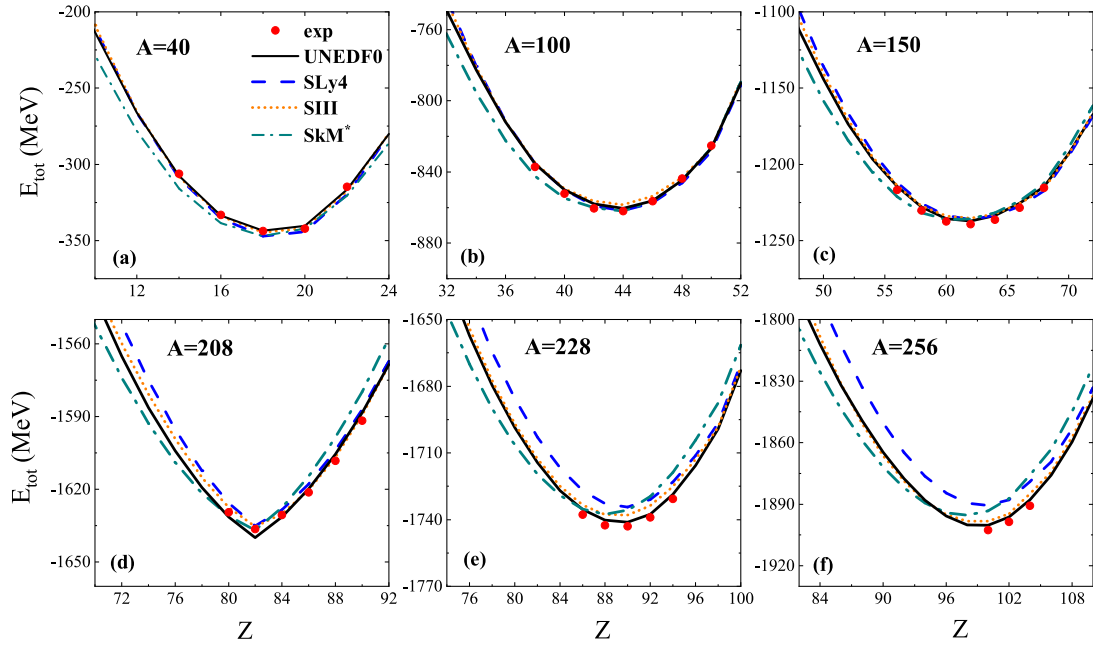


Fig. 1. (color online) Nuclear ground state energies E_{tot} for nuclei with $A = 40, 100, 150, 208, 228, 256$. The curves denote the calculated results with UNEDF0, SLy4, SIII, and SkM*. The red circles denote the experimental data [28].

ponding known stable nuclei (*e.g.* ^{40}Ar , ^{40}Ca , ^{100}Ru , ^{100}Mo , ^{150}Nd , ^{150}Sm and ^{208}Pb) are located around the valleys of the ground state energies for the isobaric chains with $Z \leq 82$. In addition to the nuclear ground state energy E_{tot} , we concurrently investigated the corresponding ratio T/U . Fig. 2 shows the ground state energy E_{tot} and T/U ratio for isobaric chains with $A = 40, 48, 208, 298, 90$, and 120 . The nuclei with minimal energies are generally those with maximal values of T/U , which indicates that the ratio T/U also has a close relationship with nuclear stability in addition to nuclear binding energy. The values of T/U essentially show the relationship between the average kinetic and potential energies per nucleon, reflecting the relevance of nuclear force strength to the intensity of nucleonic motion. A larger average kinetic energy per nucleon T/A may indicate a more vigorous nucleon motion. Similarly, a larger absolute value of the average potential energy per nucleon $|U|/A$ indicates a stronger attractive potential acting on the nucleon. Nuclear stability is therefore significantly influenced by the balance of T and U .

In Fig. 2, notably the isobars with $A = 40$ and 48 and maximal values of T/U are located at the double magic nuclei ^{40}Ca and ^{48}Ca , respectively, whereas the corresponding values of minimal E_{tot} are found at nuclides ^{40}Ar and ^{48}Ti . To investigate the influence of shell closure on E_{tot} and T/U , we further analyzed the T/U and E_{tot} for nuclei around ^{208}Pb . The predicted ground state energy E_{tot} and corresponding T/U ratio for isobaric chains with $A = 202, 204, 206$, and 210 are shown in Fig. 3. The peaks of T/U for these isobars are all located at proton magic number $Z = 82$. For ^{210}Pb with proton shell closure

and ^{210}Po with neutron shell closure, the predicted values of T/U are very close to each other. Apparently, the known magic numbers can be more clearly observed from the ratio T/U , which can be helpful for exploring the magic numbers in the super-heavy region.

To further analyze the difference between E_{tot} and T/U , we systematically investigated the T/U ratios for even-even nuclei with $8 \leq Z \leq 130$. Fig. 4 shows the nuclei with maximal T/U on a given isobaric chain predicted by the HFBTHO calculations with UNEDF0. The solid curve denotes the predicted β -stability line according to Green's formula [29], $Z = A/2[1 - 0.4A/(A + 200)]$. In the regions with known stable nuclei, the predicted nuclei with maximal T/U are generally located around the β -stability line. In addition, the calculated nuclei with minimal total energy E_{tot} are also presented for comparison. In the super-heavy mass region, the number of nuclei obtained from T/U is much more than that from E_{tot} at $N = 184$. Note that the nuclei with $Z = 108$ and $Z = 118$ obtained from T/U are far more numerous than the neighboring nuclei.

Notably, the central position of the "island of stability" is closely related to the microscopic shell correction energies of nuclei which are usually estimated by subtracting the smooth macroscopic part from E_{tot} . In this work, we studied the corresponding microscopic energies of nuclei by combining the modified Bethe-Weizsäcker mass formula [30, 31]

$$E_{\text{LD}}(A, Z) = a_v A + a_s A^{2/3} + a_c \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{1/3}} (1 - Z^{-2/3}) + a_{\text{sym}} I^2 A. \quad (12)$$

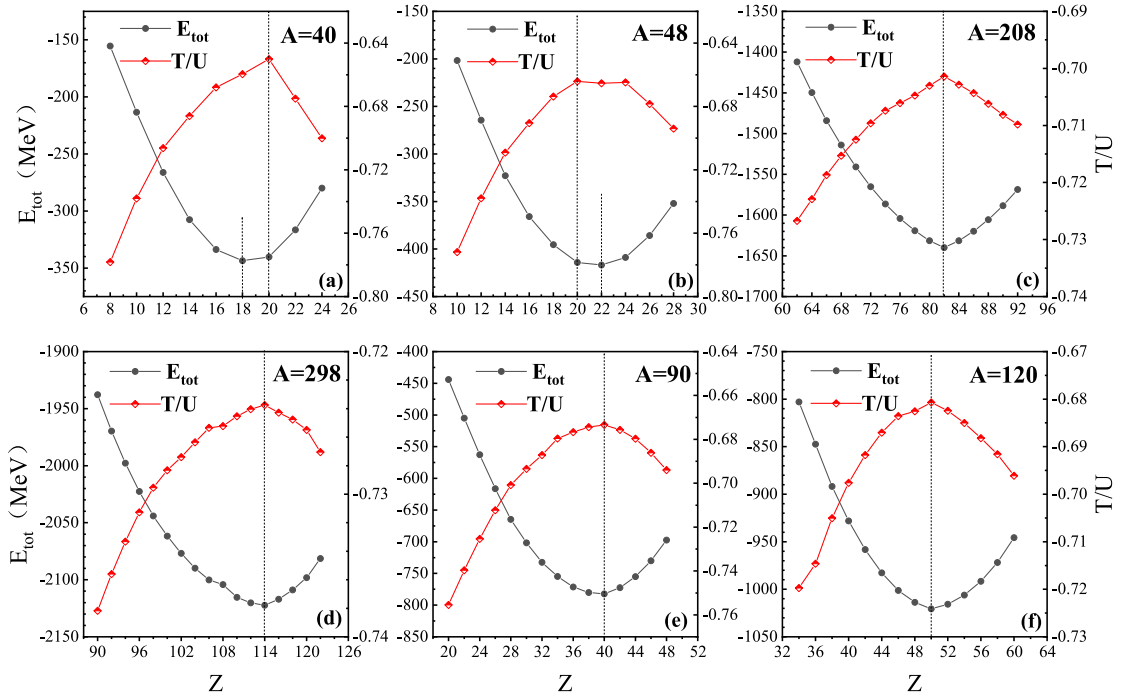


Fig. 2. (color online) Comparison of the ground state energy E_{tot} and the ratio T/U for isobaric chains with $A = 40, 48, 208, 298, 90,$ and 120 . The dashed lines serve as a guide.

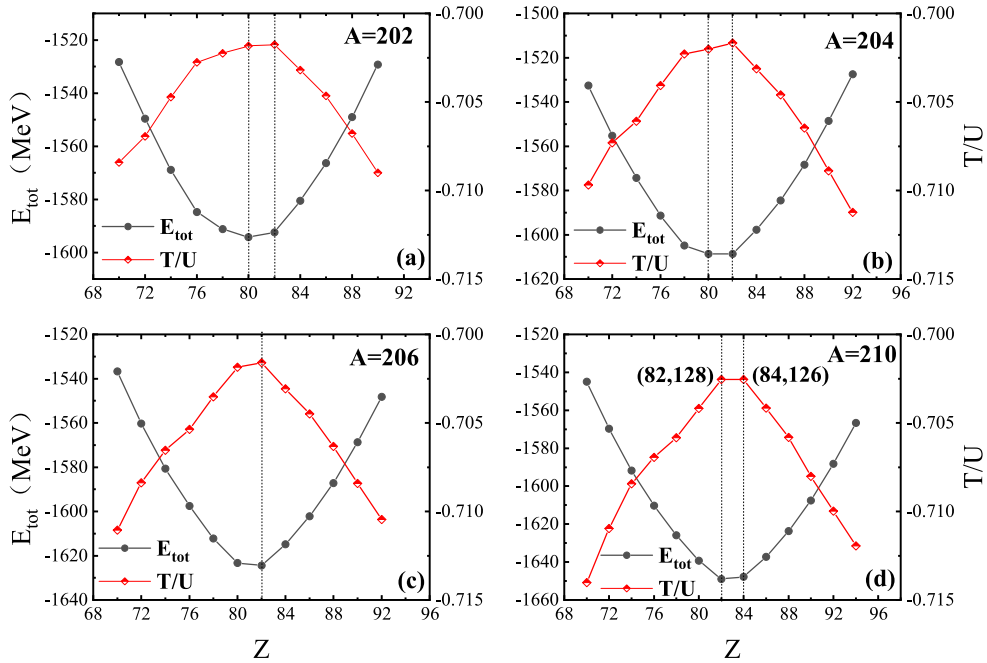


Fig. 3. (color online) The same as Fig. 2 but for isobaric chains with $A = 202, 204, 206,$ and 210 .

Here, the parameters in Eq. (12) are determined by fitting the calculated ground-state energies of 2138 even-even nuclei with UNEDF0. In Fig. 5, we show the contour plots of the calculated microscopic energies $E_{\text{tot}} - E_{\text{LD}}$ for nuclei with $Z \geq 90$. In the region $N > 126$, one can see two islands: one located around $N = 152$ –

162, $Z = 102$ –108 and the other located around $N = 184$, which is consistent with the predicted T/U ratios. The predicted microscopic energy for the super-heavy nucleus ($Z = 120, N = 184$) is approximately 7 MeV, which is comparable with the results of macroscopic-microscopic mass models [32, 33].

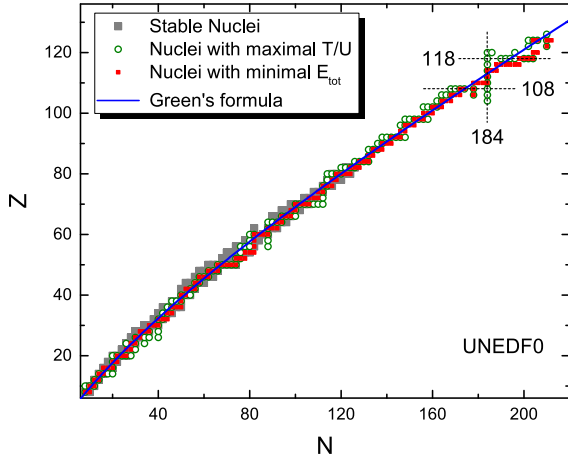


Fig. 4. (color online) Nuclear β -stability line. The gray squares denote the known even-even stable nuclei. The circles and red squares denote the calculated even-even nuclei with maximal T/U and those with minimal E_{tot} , respectively. The solid curve denotes the results of Green's formula.

In Fig. 6(a), the peak values of T/U are displayed for each isobaric chain as a function of mass number A . For heavy nuclei, the maximum of T/U in general decreases linearly with A . The oscillations in the HFBTHO+UNEDF0 results are mainly due to the microscopic shell effects. For light stable nuclei with $A < 50$, the contribution of nuclear surface energy is evident from Eq. (12), and the average kinetic energy per nucleon is relatively low, which results in a larger T/U ratio compared with those of the heavy nuclei. In Fig. 6(b), the average kinetic energy per nucleon significantly increases with mass number A in the region $A < 150$. In the heavy and superheavy mass region ($A > 150$), the average kinetic energy per nucleon generally approaches a constant due to nuclear density saturation. Coulomb energy is known to significantly increase with charge number Z in the heavy mass region, which results in a reduction of the total potential energy in absolute value. For stable nuclei in the medium-heavy mass region, the nearly linear dependence of T/U on mass number A is clearly observed in Fig. 6(a), which is mainly due to the competition between the significant increase in Coulomb energy and saturation behavior of the nuclear force.

The virial theorem states that for an inverse square force field (such as Coulomb potential), the ratio of kinetic to potential energy is $T/|U| = 0.5$. According to the HFBTHO calculations, the absolute values of T/U for bound nuclei are approximately $0.65 \sim 0.75$, which implies that the short-range characteristic and complexity of the nuclear force may lead to a different virial theorem. The linear dependence of T/U on mass number A for heavy nuclei can be helpful in further exploring the virial theorem of nuclear forces and equation of state for neutron stars.

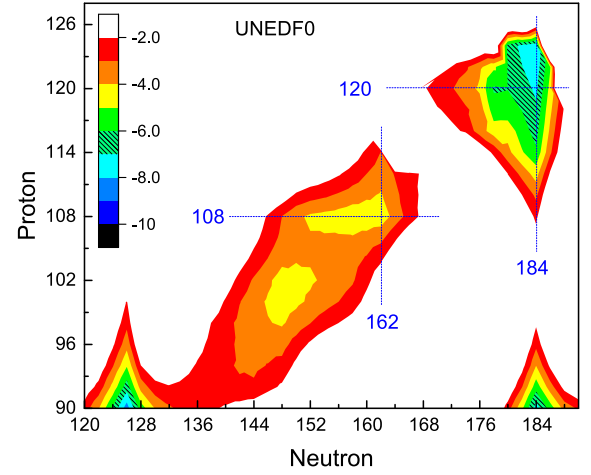


Fig. 5. (color online) Microscopic energy (in MeV) $E_{\text{tot}} - E_{\text{LD}}$ based on the ground state energy from UNEDF0 and smoothed liquid-drop energy E_{LD} from the modified Bethe-Weizsäcker mass formula. The dashed lines serve as a guide.

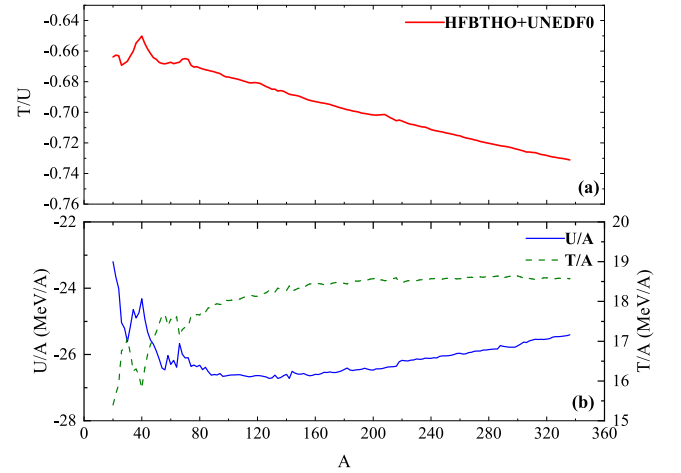


Fig. 6. (color online) (a) Maximum of the ratio T/U for each isobaric chain as a function of mass number A . (b) The corresponding average kinetic energy per nucleon T/A (dashed curve) and average potential energy per nucleon U/A (solid curve).

IV. SUMMARY

In this study, we investigated the nuclear ground state energies and the ratios of kinetic energy T to potential energy U using HFBTHO. Based on the Skyrme energy density functional UNEDF0, the ratios T/U for 2318 even-even nuclei were systematically calculated. We note that the nuclei with maximal value of T/U for a certain isobaric chain are generally stable or long-lived. Also note that the known magic numbers can be more clearly observed from the ratio T/U than from nuclear binding energy, particularly for isobaric chains with semi-magic nuclei (with magic numbers for either proton or neutron).

Combining nuclear binding energies with the values of T/U from the Skyrme HFB calculations, the magic numbers in super-heavy mass region were studied. In the super-heavy mass region, the neutron magic number $N = 184$ was clearly observed from the obtained T/U ratios and extracted microscopic energy of nuclei using UNEDF0. We also found that the nuclei with $Z = 108$ and $Z = 118$ obtained from T/U are much more numerous than the neighboring nuclei, which is helpful for exploring the shell structure of superheavy nuclei. For super-heavy nuclei with $Z = 118$ and $N = 178 - 196$, the calculated deformations of the nuclei were spherical or oblate in shape, whereas the predicted $^{292-300}\text{Fl}$ were all spheric-

al in shape. Therefore, further investigations into the influence of nuclear oblate deformations on the stability of super-heavy nuclei are required in the future. The T/U peak value can be used as a supplementary indicator in selecting potential long-lived superheavy nuclei. In addition, we note that the obtained T/U ratios decreased almost linearly with mass number A for heavy nuclei around the β -stability line due to the competition between strong Coulomb repulsion and the saturation property of the nuclear force, which implies that the short-range characteristic and complexity of the nuclear force may lead to a different virial theorem.

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