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I. Bentley, Y. Colón Rodríguez, S. Cunningham, and A. Aprahamian Phys. Rev. C **93**, 044337 — Published 27 April 2016 DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevC.93.044337

Shell structure from nuclear observables

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The appearance and disappearance of shells and sub-shells are determined using a previously introduced method of structural analysis. This work extends the approach and applies it to protons, in addition to neutrons, in an attempt to provide a more complete understanding of shell structure in nuclei. Experimental observables including the mean square charge radius, as well as other spectroscopic and mass related quantities are analyzed for extrema. This analysis also uses differential observables among adjacent even-even nuclei to serve as the derivatives for these quantities of interest. Local extrema in these quantities indicate shell structure and the lack of local extrema indicate missing shell closures. The shell structure of low mass nuclei is inconsistent likely as a consequence of the single particle structure. Additionally, multiple shell features occurring in mid-shell regions are determined by combining information from two or more observables. Our results near stability complement previous observations further out.

PACS numbers: 21.60.Cs,21.10.Dr,23.20.Lv

I. INTRODUCTION

The appearance and disappearance of nuclear shells and sub-shells has been at the forefront of recent nuclear theory and experimental efforts, see e.g. [1]-[7]. Additionally, the occurrence of astrophysical events, such as the r-process see e.g. [8], depend on nuclear shell structure to determine the location of waiting points. Observations of shell structure near stability guide our intuition far from stability. The goal of this work is to make use of experimental observations of shell structure near stability to improve the predictive power further out.

New measurements at the frontiers of the nuclear landscape indicate a scene with evolving shells beyond the canonical magic numbers [2, 8, 20, 28, 50, 82, 126] for neutrons (N) and protons (Z) [9]. Various approaches using nucleon-nucleon interactions [10], three nucleon interactions [11], tensor forces [12], super deformations [13] and other exotic shapes, e.g. tetrahedral deformations [14], are capable of providing explanations of the emerging structure and new magic numbers that have been observed experimentally.

One of the most straight-forward measures of a shell closure comes from the first excited state in even-even nuclei. The first excited state is typically high in energy for a nuclide with a magic number. Additionally, the transition probability is typically low at and near the magic numbers. Magic numbers are also associated with enhanced stability, therefore, corresponding nuclides have more binding energy and there is a corresponding "kink" in the two particle separation energy. All of these features are consequences of substantial shell gaps as discussed in Ref. [15].

Using these metrics, new neutron shell closures such as those which occur at N = 14, 16 in ²²O and ²⁴O have been observed [16], [17] and a possible closure at N = 34in ⁵⁴Ca [18] has been proposed. Additionally, several shell features are known to be diminished or missing for nuclei with a canonical magic number, e.g. at N = 28

the ⁴²Si nucleus has a particularly low first excited state at 770 keV [15], [19].

In the work by Cakirli, Casten and Blaum, five observables and their derivatives are used to indicate neutron shell closures in regions of interest [20]. The feature indicative of a shell closure for the mean square charge radius, $\langle r^2 \rangle$, is a flattening of values before a shell closure and a sharp rise after. In the energies of the 2^+_1 state a local maximum indicates a shell closure. For the energy ratio 4^+_1 over 2^+_1 and B(E2) values a local minimum indicates a shell closure. Finite differences of adjacent data points were used to approximate the derivative of each of these quantities which further verify the critical points. The use of derivatives is essential when determining shell structure from two neutron separation energies, S_{2n} , because they exhibit a rapid decline after crossing a shell closure. Therefore, a minimum in the derivative of the two neutron separation energy is the characteristic feature of a neutron shell closure.

The work discussed in this manuscript utilizes a derivatives technique similar to Ref. [20] and extends the approach. Our goal is to extend the range and scope of the shell structure determinations and to provide new metrics for further shell structure determinations. For simplicity, we define the derivative in the same way for each observable. In this investigation, experimental data are examined for extrema in order to determine both proton and neutron shell closures across the entire chart of the nuclides. We have also tested the approach with a number of new observables. Our investigations involve determining extrema in mass related quantities: S_{2n} , two proton separation energies (S_{2p}) , and binding energy (B) minus a smooth liquid drop energy (B_{LD}) . Additionally, the ground-state band energies of even-even nuclei from $E(2_1^+)$ up to $E(10_1^+)$, $B(E2:2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+)$ and $\langle r^2 \rangle$ values are discussed. Other quantities such as one neutron and one proton separation energies, three point pairing gap formulas, $E(0_2^+)$, $E(2_2^+)$, $E(3_1^+)$ and various ratios of energies were also investigated, but are not included in this manuscript due to the paucity of data and redundancy in the results.

A discussion of the methodology has been included in Section II. Section III demonstrates how mass related quantities, specifically, two particle separation energies and binding energies can be used to determine the location of shell features. Section IV includes the results determined from using the low lying excited states in the ground state band of even-even nuclei. Section V contains a discussion of the results from examining B(E2)and charge radii. Section VI discusses the overall results with special emphasis placed on the observations of proton shells. Overall, we find that some shell features occur in unexpected locations and that multiple low to mid-mass nuclei which one might expect to exhibit shell closure features simply do not. Finally, Section VII contains a summary of the technique and the scope of its application.

II. DETERMINING SHELL FEATURES

Extrema are used to define primary and secondary signatures of shell features for various observables. Each experimental dataset was analyzed for extrema among groups of three consecutive even-even nuclides along isotopic and isotonic chains in order to identify neutron and proton shells features. Additionally, the differences in adjacent data points were used to determine differential observables using the following definitions:

$$\delta_p O(N, Z) = O(N, Z+1) - O(N, Z-1), \qquad (1)$$

and

$$\delta_n O(N, Z) = O(N+1, Z) - O(N-1, Z), \qquad (2)$$

with O(N, Z) representing an experimental observable, such as $E(2_1^+)$, B(E2) and so on, for the nuclide with the corresponding number of neutrons and protons.

The resulting $\delta_n O(N, Z)$ and $\delta_p O(N, Z)$ values are also analyzed for extrema among three consecutive points. In the case of the S_{2n} and S_{2p} , the primary shell feature comes from the differences using Eqns. (1) and (2) and there is no secondary feature. For all other observables, extrema in the observable itself will determine the primary shell feature signature and the derivatives before and after constitute the secondary feature. Our procedure required that O(N, Z) be known for five consecutive nuclei so that extrema in the observable and its derivatives can be determined before and after the point of interest.

Fig. 1a) contains the energies of the first 2^+ state for isotopes ranging from tin to samarium in which the N = 82 shell closure can be seen as a local maximum. The $E(2_1^+)$ for all tin isotopes are higher than the other chains shown as a result of the proton shell closure at Z = 50. Fig. 1b) contains the corresponding differential observables where the shell closure corresponds to a large positive slope before and a large negative slope afterward. In the case of doubly magic ¹³²Sn, the derivatives at the neutron shell closure are considerably larger than the singly magic neighbors. The shell closure at N = 82, can be seen in both the maximum of the energies as well as the maximum in $\delta_n E(2_1^+)$ one step before and minimum one step afterward.

In Fig. 1a) the primary shell signature of a maximum at N = 62 for tellurium is far less pronounced than the N = 82 closure. Additionally, for this chain the secondary feature of a drop in $\delta_n E(2_1^+)$ at N = 62 can be seen in the inset of Fig. 1b), but it doesn't consist of the signature maximum followed by a minimum. In cases like these the extrema in the primary feature will be noted in spite of lack of supporting evidence in the secondary feature. This means that some unrealistic shell features may appear in the results discussed below. Consequently, the results from multiple observables will be compared to verify that each shell feature observed actually corresponds to a robustly reoccurring shell or sub-shell closure. Furthermore, the results are inconclusive when either there are insufficient adjacent data points before or after the point of interest or if the experimental uncertainties overlap of adjacent extrema.

III. SHELLS BASED ON NUCLEAR MASSES

The experimentally measured binding energies, $\delta_n S_{2n}$ and $\delta_p S_{2p}$ were taken from and calculated using data in the 2012 Atomic Mass Evaluation (AME) [21]. Extrapolated masses were not included in the comparisons and the electron binding energy contribution was removed from all observables using Eqn. (A4) from Ref. [22].

The $\delta_n S_{2n}$ and $\delta_p S_{2p}$ are used to indicate the neutron and proton shells, respectively. As a result of the definitions provided by Eqs. (1) and (2), the minimum in the differential observable of S_{2p} and S_{2n} will occur just after a shell closure. This occurs because the valence nucleons occupy less bound orbits in a newly open shell and the separation energy drops as a consequence.

Additionally, binding energies with a liquid drop component removed can also be used to indicate shell closures, as has been known for many years, see e.g. [23]. Peaks occur at magic numbers in this second comparison because magic nuclei are more tightly bound than those which are mid-shell. The smooth liquid drop binding energy (B_{LD}) that will be removed from the experimental binding energy is of the form:

$$B_{LD} = (a_v A + a_s A^{2/3})(1 + \kappa T_Z (T_Z + 1)A^{-2}) + (a_c Z (Z - 1) + \Delta)A^{-1/3},$$
(3)

where A = N + Z and $T_Z = (N - Z)/2$. The coefficients corresponding to a best fit are $a_v = 15.79$ MeV, $a_s =$ -18.12 MeV, $\kappa =$ -7.18, $a_c =$ -0.7147 MeV, and $\Delta =$ +5.49 MeV (for even-even nuclei). This fit corresponds to a root mean squared standard deviation of $\sigma =$ 2.65 MeV for 2353 nuclides with N, Z >8 in the 2012 AME [21].



FIG. 1. (Color on-line) a) The first 2^+ energy state of even-even nuclei from [19] and b) its derivative using Eqn. (2) as a function of neutron number for five isotopes at $A \sim 130$.

Fig. 2 contains mass related shell features around N = 50 that correspond to extrema in the derivative of the two neutron separation energy and the binding energy minus liquid drop. Figs. 2a) and 2b) illustrate the sharp decline in two neutron separation energies and the corresponding minimum in $\delta_n S_{2n}$ after N = 50 and to a lesser extent after N = 56 for strontium and zirconium. These N = 56 primary features are not seen in the binding energy minus liquid drop, but a secondary feature of a maximum followed by a minimum does occur in its derivative.

Overall, the primary signature results generated using separation energies and binding energies were largely consistent with each other though more extrema were found using the derivatives of the separation energies. Combining the results from both of these mass related observables yields some observations of new shell features at multiple locations as can be seen in Tables I-IV. Furthermore, the primary shell closure features are missing from both quantities for neutrons in ¹²Be, ¹⁴C, ³²Mg, ³⁴Si and ³⁸Ar and for protons in ¹⁸O and ⁴²Ca.

A local maximum in neutrons is observed in the binding energy minus liquid drop for N = Z nuclei, namely, ¹²C, ¹⁶O, ²⁸Si, ³²S, ³⁶Ar, and ⁴⁰Ca and for protons in ²⁸Si. Similarly, a minimum in $\delta_n S_{2n}$ along an isotopic chain can also be seen for all even-even N = Z nuclei from ¹²C to ⁴⁴Ti. These results are in agreement with the findings from [20] that N = Z nuclei exhibit neutron shell features in S_{2n} in the $A \sim 35$ region. Additionally, every even-even nuclide from ¹²C to ³⁶Ar was found to have a minimum in $\delta_p S_{2p}$ at N = Z. The enhanced binding energy and drop in separation energy at N = Zis likely due to enhanced proton-neutron pairing as discussed in Refs. [24]-[28] and shouldn't be considered true shell features if it doesn't persist in the other observables.

IV. SHELLS FROM THE LOW LYING SPECTRA OF EVEN-EVEN NUCLEI

Energy ratios such as $R_{4/2} = E(4_1^+)/E(2_1^+)$ can be used to investigate shell closures. However, as opposed to using ratios, the experimental energies for the 2_1^+ , 4_1^+ , 6_1^+ , 8_1^+ and 10_1^+ have been analyzed individually in order to provide a more complete picture of the evolving nature of shell structure in the ground-state band of even-even nuclei. In each case, a local maximum is the feature corresponding to a shell closure.

Local maxima in $E(2_1^+)$ provide a list of shell closures that are similar to those determined using mass related quantities with the exception of the N = Z nuclides which often don't contain extrema in $E(2_1^+)$. Some neutron shell closures not based on the canonical magic numbers have been found to occur in ¹⁴C, ²⁶Mg, ²⁶Ne, ⁶²Fe, ⁷⁰Se, ⁶⁸Zn, ⁷⁰Ge, ⁶⁸Ni, ⁹⁴Sr, ⁹⁶Zr, ¹¹⁰Cd, ¹¹⁴Te, ¹¹⁴Sn, ¹⁹⁴Hg, and ¹⁹⁸Pb. In the case of ¹¹⁰Cd, for example, it is believed that shape coexistence with a deformed 2p-4h proton excitation forms an intruder band consisting of slightly deformed states cause shell closure-like features [29]. Many of the closures listed above, such as in ⁶⁸Ni at N = 40 correspond to known, see Refs. [9] and [30], localized sub-shell closures based on experimental data. Additionally, the local maxima in $E(2_1^+)$ indicates proton shell closures at ¹⁴C, ³⁰Si, ³⁴Si, ⁴²Ar, ⁵²Ti, ⁸⁰Kr, ⁸⁴Sr, ⁸⁶Sr, ¹⁴⁶Gd, and ¹⁵⁰Gd have also been found.

Proton shell closures near Z = 20, 40 and 64 will be discussed in further detail in Section VI, though it is worth stating that the sub-shell closure at Z = 40 is robust, existing in five zirconium isotopes, specifically, those are 90,92,94,96,98 Zr. The average 2^+_1 energy of these five isotopes is more than three and a half times larger than the average known energy of all other zirconium isotopes [19].

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FIG. 2. (Color on-line) a) Two neutron separation energy and b) its derivative from [21] for $A \sim 90$. c) Binding energy minus liquid drop using Eq. (3) and d) its derivative.

The majority of the shell closures indicated using $E(2_1^+)$ are also found in $E(4_1^+)$, though the data set in the latter is smaller. Figs. 3a) and 3b) demonstrate the peak in these energies which occur at the N = 82 shell closure. In the higher spin data, shell closures sometimes occur at a slightly smaller proton or neutron number than before. For example, in $E(6_1^+)$ the N = 82 shell closure feature has in most cases moved to N = 78 or N = 80. Additionally, there is an overall flattening of the peak near N = 82 as the spin increases, as can be seen in Fig. 3.

The apparent breakdown of the N = 82 shell at higher spin states shown in Figs. 3c) and 3d) is another good example of where the origin of a shell feature signature is probably caused by something other than an actual shell closure. At N = 82, higher spin states like the 6⁺ can be made by exciting nucleons into the higher spin neutron orbits, specifically the $f_{7/2}$ or $h_{9/2}$ orbitals. Below N = 82, the 6⁺ state can't be made in the same way because only low spin neutron orbits are available. Higher orbits can be reached above the shell gap at the cost of requiring more energy. In contrast, the lower spin states 2^+ and 4^+ can easily be made by the available orbits [31]. Therefore, the primary shell features for $E(6_1^+)$ and above should considered with caution and the observations of features in $E(6_1^+)$ and above have been omitted from further discussion in the results section.

V. SHELLS IN OTHER OBSERVABLES

The small deformations associated with a shell closure often occur gradually. Consequently, the $B(E2:0^+_1 \rightarrow 2^+_1)$ values are typically low for several nuclei near the shell closure and a local minimum corresponding to a magic



FIG. 3. (Color on-line) Energies of the a) 2_1^+ , b) 4_1^+ , c) 6_1^+ , and d) 8_1^+ states from [19] for $A \sim 140$.

number doesn't always stand out. Additionally, the data for B(E2) values found in Ref. [32] are somewhat sparse compared to the previously used observables. For these reasons, only 11 shell closure features were identified and three shell closure features were determined to be missing. The only nuclides missing any evidence of an expected closure in this observable and its derivative occur for ¹⁴C at N = 8, ¹⁶O at Z = 8, and ⁶²Ni at Z = 28. Seemingly unexpected neutron closures found are ⁶⁸Ge, ⁶⁸Zn, and ¹⁷²Hf at N = 36, N = 38 and N = 100, respectively.

Though there is some additional evidence for the neutron shell closures in 68 Ge, 68 Zn, the closure in 172 Hf is not justified elsewhere. The B(E2) values used in this analysis were the most recent measurements at the time of the analysis from Refs. [33]-[37]. An investigating of B(E2) values was performed for 172 Hf and neighboring nuclides based on prior data from Refs. [38]-[45] and newer measurements from Refs. [46]-[47]. Subsequently, the most of the measurements, including the most recent of the B(E2:2⁺₁ \rightarrow 0⁺₁) values for ^{172,174,176}Hf indicate that there is not a substantial low point at N = 100[47] and therefore there is really no shell closure feature at that location. In cases where the B(E2) value is the lone observable indicating a shell closure then the result should be considered with caution and in the case of ¹⁷²Hf the shell closure simply does not exist in the newest measurements.

The mean square charge radii, $\langle r^2 \rangle$, values from Ref. [48] are also used, though this data set is even more sparse. A shell closure in $\langle r^2 \rangle$ corresponds to a local minimum and a sharp rise afterward. These minima are often very shallow and after accounting for the experimental uncertainties possible peaks seen using $\delta_n \langle r^2 \rangle$ and $\delta_p \langle r^2 \rangle$ are common place. As a result, no nuclides conclusively indicate a proton shell feature and only four nuclides contain neutron shell closure features using the minimum of $\langle r^2 \rangle$ itself. Those are ²⁴Ne and ²⁶Mg at N = 14, and ⁸⁶Kr and ⁸⁸Sr at N = 50. Shell closures are distinctly missing for a few high mass nuclei including ¹³⁶Xe at N = 82, ²⁰⁸Pb at N = 126, ¹¹⁴Sn at Z = 50 and ^{198,200,202}Pb at Z = 82, but the previously discussed evidence indicates that these shells are present. Therefore, these discrepancies from the expected shell closures may indicate that our local extrema determination method is not well suited for use with $\langle r^2 \rangle$ values.

VI. RESULTS

Extrema in experimental observables and the corresponding differential observables were determined by comparing groups of adjacent even-even nuclei along isotopic and isotonic chains. The extrema indicative of neutron and proton shell structure were then used to identify nuclides of interest. Figs. 4-6 illustrate how these shell closure features occur among the six preferred observables near shell and sub-shell closures at Z = 20, Z = 40



FIG. 4. (Color on-line) a) Derivative in the two proton separation energy and b) binding energy minus liquid drop from [21] for $A \sim 50$. Energies of the first excited c) 2^+ and d) 4^+ from [19]. e) Mean squared charge radius from [48] and f) B(E2) values from [32].



FIG. 5. (Color on-line) a) Derivative in the two proton separation energy and b) binding energy minus liquid drop from [21] for $A \sim 90$. Energies of the first excited c) 2^+ and d) 4^+ from [19]. e) Mean squared charge radius from [48] and f) B(E2) values from [32].



FIG. 6. (Color on-line) a) Derivative in the two proton separation energy and b) binding energy minus liquid drop from [21] for $A \sim 150$. Energies of the first excited c) 2^+ and d) 4^+ from [19]. e) Mean squared charge radius from [48] and f) B(E2) values from [32].

and Z = 64, respectively.

Figs. 4a) and 4b) can be used to examine the Z = 20shell closure in some of the isotones shown, as well as features associated with enhanced pairing at N = Z. In Fig. 4a) the rapid decrease in $\delta_p S_{2p}$ can be seen for the N = Z which is similar to observations made along isotopic chains in Ref. [20]. Fig. 4b) illustrates that the closure at Z = 20 is only clearly present in the N = 20 chain. Figs. 4c) and 4d) contain many expected and unexpected local extrema, though the scale varies greatly among them. Fig. 4c) in particular illustrates the enhancement of sub-shell features at Z = 14 and Z = 16 when the companion particle is closed shell for the N = 20 chain. In Fig. 4e) the sharp rise in $\langle r^2 \rangle$ values after ⁵⁰Ca provides part of the required shell feature but the flattening of values before is missing. In Fig. 4f) the Z = 20 shell closure can be clearly seen in some nuclei though it often appears to be less distinct than the next shell closure at Z = 28. Additionally, in the N = 20 isotones the B(E2) values are consistently small from Z = 14 through Z = 20 indicating that these nuclides are all spherical. The proton shell closure is distinctly missing for ⁴⁴Ca across all observables. Overall, the Z = 20 shell is a mixture of some features associated with shell closures and some features which are missing. This closure is believed to evolve as a result of tensor forces between the respective protons and neutrons [17].

Fig. 5a) illustrates some unexpected features at Z =38, as well as expected sub-shell features at Z = 40 and shell features at Z = 50. The sharp distinct drop in two proton separation energies can be seen at either Z =38 or Z = 40 in the N = 48 through N = 56 chains depending on the isotone. Fig. 5b) only indicates the Z = 50 closure. It should be noted that in for both the N = 50 and N = 56 chains the 2⁺ energies shown in Fig. 5c) are higher at the sub-shell closure Z = 40 than at the shell closure Z = 50, though the shell closure at Z = 50 is more persistent. In Figs.5c) and 5d) the peak in the N =50 chain shifts from Z = 40 in $E(2^+_1)$ to Z = 38 in $E(4^+_1)$. The sharp rise in charge radius values at Z = 36 in Fig. 5e) for the N = 60 chain and others, are inconclusive because of the lack of data at lower neutron numbers. Similarly, the flattening out and then increase as seen in the N = 60 chain near Z = 40 is inconclusive as a result of the considerable experimental uncertainties. Fig. 5f) shows that many of the B(E2) values in the Z = 30 -40 region are small. Figs. 5c)-5f) also demonstrate the consequences for various observables as the deformation decreases along the N = 60 chain.

A distinct drop in two proton separation energies can be seen in Fig. 6a) at Z = 64 for 146,148,150 Gd. The isotones shown in Fig. 6b) only indicate the shell closure at Z = 50. Figs. 6c) and 6d), show peaks at Z = 50for two of the chains. Additionally, 146 Gd contains a distinct peak for both $E(2^+_1)$ and $E(4^+_1)$, while the peaks in these two quantities at 150 Gd are more modest. Fig. 6e) includes a slight upward kink at Z = 64 for the chains shown, though the flattening feature before was missing. For these isotones the B(E2) data is sparse. However, the low values near Z = 64 among the N = 82, 84 and 86 chains, resulting from the N = 82 shell closure, reinforce the notion of a sub-shell closure corresponding to a small deformation as can be seen in Fig. 6f).

In summary, the proton sub-shell closures at Z = 40are in agreement with calculations by Otsuka et al., which indicate that the substantial gap between the $p_{1/2}$ and $g_{9/2}$ proton orbitals is caused by tensor forces [49]. This shell closure and another at Z = 64 are both detected using signatures in extrema as it is indicated by $\delta_p S_{2p}$, and across the low lying spectra. Additionally, a neutron sub-shell closure at N = 56 for 94 Sr, 96 Zr and 98 Mo is similarly indicated by $\delta_n S_{2n}$ and spectra.

Interestingly, all of these more persistent sub-shell cases occur at or near nuclides with a shell closure in the companion particle, N = 50, N = 82, or the sub-shell closure at Z = 40, respectively. These observations indicate that the two critical criteria needed for the creation of a sub-shell structure are: 1) a shell closure in the companion particle and 2) a change in spin and parity. Take for example, the proton sub-shell closure at Z = 64 observed in ¹⁴⁶Gd and ¹⁵⁰Gd. The companion neutrons are at or near closed shells with N = 82and N = 86, respectively, and the odd-proton spin parity changed in the neighboring europium and terbium isotones from $5/2^+$ to $1/2^+$. Though the change about Z = 64 in spin and parity is not as drastic as the more prototypical change about Z = 40, from $1/2^-$ to $9/2^+$ for $^{88-98}$ Zr, it appears to have had a sufficient effect.

One can think of the first criterion as being conducive for enhancing features because a nearby shell closure in the companion particles often results in small deformations, causing large gaps in the single particle spectra, which enhance stability and cause the ground state band to be higher in energy. A prescription based on these observations can be used to predict new sub-shell features in emerging data further from stability. But it appears that the rules for both shells and sub-shells may be more stringent further from stability, where for example, doubly magic ¹³²Sn doesn't exhibit neutron shell quenching but neighboring nuclei do [50].

A handful of nuclides with a magic neutron number are missing shell features across multiple observables including ¹⁴C and ³²Mg. Nucleon-nucleon interactions may be responsible for the disappearance of shells and the emergence of others in ¹⁴C and other low mass nuclides [10]. For ³²Mg, a two particle-two hole configuration occurs eliminating the N = 20 shell as discussed in Refs. [2], [3] and references therein. As a consequence, the deformed ground-state of this nuclide results in a comparatively low 2_1^+ state.

Tables I-IV summarize all nuclei where the primary signature of a shell closure, i.e. a maximum or minimum, has been identified across the nine observables used. It should be noted that the features included have not been separated by their relative magnitude. Instead the table simply indicates that the extremum of interest has been identified.

Tables V-VI contain the list of all nuclides with canonical magic numbers that contain neither primary nor secondary shell features. Nuclides have not been included in any of the tables if a secondary feature has been found even when the primary feature is missing and they have not been included if there was insufficient data. For example, if an extrema is indicated in the derivative but not the $E(2_1^+)$ itself, then it will not be labeled as found. Similarly, the extrema are not labeled if the experimental uncertainties at that point and an adjacent point overlap.

Many of the new shell features are distinctly different than the canonical shells. These features often occur in just a few observables and often last for just a few nuclides. Occasionally, the new shells migrate to a new location such as the N = 14 and N = 16 sub-shells seen in oxygen as discussed in Ref. [51] and citations therein.

Fig. 7 summarizes the shell features results based on the combined information from all of the observables discussed in this text excluding the ground-state band energies above 4_1^+ . Fig. 7a) includes the neutron shell features detected while Fig. 7b) indicates the same for protons. The solid filled diamonds, circles, hexagons and stars denote all nuclides with two or more shell features that are found and/or missing.

In Fig. 7b) the Z = 8 shell is less obvious when examining the amalgamated data than Z = 20. The only observation indicating a shell closure at Z = 8 came in ¹⁶O as a slight kink in the S_{2p} . In general, missing shell features in low to mid-mass nuclei may all result from the underlying single particle structure. The expected shell closures become more consistent at and above the N = 28 and Z = 28 shell closures and many interesting shell features occur in mid-shell regions.

Many of the "new" features occur in at most a few adjacent nuclides. The neutron closures at N = 36, 38, 40and N = 62, 64 are similar in that they occur at a slightly different location for the "doubly magic" nuclides than they do for the surrounding nuclides. This may be the result of the difference in tensor force interactions of completely closed shells and nearly closed shells. The multiple N = Z nuclides which have indicated neutron shell closures below N = 20 should be interpreted with caution as they only occur in the mass related quantities and likely solely a result of enhanced pairing. Back-toback shell closures were found at N = 14 and N = 16 in ^{26}Mg and ^{28}Mg , and at Z = 38 and Z = 40 in ^{90}Sr and ^{92}Zr , which both resulted from two or more shell features detected in different groups of observables.

The new and missing shell determinations from many complementary works [1]-[5], [52]-[57] which were often beyond the scope of our analysis, have been included Fig. 7. These are denoted by open symbols. In some cases closures weren't found in our examination even though the nuclide was within the range of nuclides examined. One such case is the Z = 16 closure in ³⁶S that wasn't detected because the Z = 14 closure in ³⁴Si was slightly more pronounced and was detected instead. By combining these results, shell structure for protons and neutrons has been evaluated across the chart of the nuclides.

The spin and parity in odd-A systems can also be indicative of shell structure. Fig. 8 has been included to allow for comparison of shell features with the ground-state spin and parities of the adjacent odd-A nuclides. Take for example the before mentioned Z = 40 sub-shell closure, which corresponds to the transition from a $1/2^-$ state to a $9/2^+$ state in the adjacent nuclides as can be seen in Fig. 8b). Similarly, the transition between the $5/2^+$ and $1/2^+$ of the nuclides near 96 Zr correlate with the sub-shell closure at N = 56 as can be seen in Fig. 8b).

The ground-state spin and parity in odd-A nuclides do not always provide sufficient information to allow one to consistently predict where a shell closure will occur. For example, the exact same spin and parity transition that is seen at the Z = 40 shell closure also occurs for several nuclides at Z = 48. In the latter case, only some the high spin states show any indication of a shell closure at Z = 48 because the Z = 50 shell closure is dominant.

VII. SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

This work consists of an analysis of existing information such as $E(2_1^+)$, and S_{2n} , to make robust predictions on the appearance and disappearance of nuclear shells. The disappearance of a shell can be produced by particle-hole excitations within the shell model and through the restoration of broken symmetries in meanfield approaches [17]. Additionally, alternative magic numbers can be produced in a variety of ways. For example, highly deformed nuclei and super deformed nuclei result in a different set of magic numbers than the canonical ones [58]. Although the corresponding nuclides are nominally magic, with enhanced stability caused by considerable gaps in the single particle spectrum, they will, by definition, not be spherical and will likely miss some spectral features, such as a high $E(2_1^+)$ and low B(E2) value that are expected and looked for in this work. Alternative approaches such as those involving nucleonnucleon and three nucleon interactions can explain the emergence and disappearance of some shell features for spherical nuclei.

In principle, every shell closure should contain measurable features, but this does not mean that every feature detected, substantial or minor, corresponds with a shell closure. We have used a differential observable approach similar to Ref. [20] to determine the location of shell closure features at a greater scale than was previously achieved. Among the observables used to determine shell closures the $E(2_1^+)$ and the $\delta_n S_{2n}$ or $\delta_p S_{2p}$ are among the most straightforward indicators. Results from the binding energy minus liquid drop supplement those from separation energies and both detect the consequences of enhanced pairing of N = Z nuclei. The energies of higher spin states can also be used, and we



FIG. 7. (Color on-line) a) Neutron and b) proton shell features from S_{2n} or S_{2p} , $B_{Exp.} - B_{LD}$, $E(2_1^+)$, $E(4_1^+)$, B(E2) and $\langle r^2 \rangle$ values. Black diamonds indicate unexpected and blue circles indicate expected shell features found in at least two of the observables. Magenta hexagons indicate two or more expected shell features that are missing, and cyan stars indicate a combination of both found and missing shell features. Symbols with a hollow center represent additional determinations of shell structure for ²²O from [52], ²⁴O from [53], ⁵⁴Ca from [5], ¹³⁰Cd from [54], ¹²O from [55], ³⁶S from [56], ¹⁸⁶⁻¹⁸⁸Pb from [57], and otherwise from [1]-[4]. For reference, dark gray squares indicate stable nuclides with half-lives greater than 10^{24} years based on data from Ref. [19] and the light gray squares indicate all nuclides included in the 2012 AME [21].



FIG. 8. (Color on-line) Odd-A ground-state spin and parity indicated by color and symbol for a) odd neutron and b) odd proton nuclides with data from [19].

show that by 6_1^+ or higher, the peaks begin to move away from established magic numbers, especially in the case of N = 82. Other observables such as the mean square charge radii and B(E2) values can also be powerful indicators of shell structure, but the indicative features are often not "sharp" enough to register as an extrema when using local comparisons.

Our local extrema determination approach is somewhat limited due to the fact that it requires an observable to be measured in multiple adjacent nuclides. Many results, such as missing neutron closures in 42 Si [59] and new neutron closures in 54 Ca [5], do not appear in Tables I-VI as a result of the lack of data in the neighboring nuclides away from stability. In spite of the paucity of data, we show a number of regions where new shell features are identified based on two or more experimental observations. Additionally in this work, we establish two criteria (closure in the companion particle and change in spin and parity) by which sub-shell features appear.

As experimental results continue to come in from around the world, this approach can be repeated so that shell evolution in nuclear matter further from stability toward the extremes of the chart of the nuclides can be better understood. In the meantime, our approach, used in conjunction with other observations, provides the most complete picture yet of shell structure across the entire chart of the nuclides.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express our gratitude to R. Casten for helpful discussions. This work was supported by the National Science Foundation under grants PHY1419765 and PHY0822648.

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N	δSo	B-Brb	$E(2^{+})$	$E(4^+)$	$E(6^{+})$	$E(8^{+})$	$E(10^{+})$	$\langle r^2 \rangle$	B(E2)
6	12C	12C	$L(z_1)$			L(0 ₁)	L(10 ₁)		
8	16O	16O	¹⁴ C						
10	²⁰ No	0	0						
$\frac{10}{12}$	²⁴ Mg								
$\frac{12}{14}$	²⁸ Si	²⁸ Si	²⁶ Mg	²⁶ Mg				²⁴ No ²⁶ Mg	
16	²⁸ Mg ³² S	$^{28}M\sigma^{32}S$	26 Ne	wig				ive, ivig	
18	$^{32}Si^{36}Ar$	36 Ar	110						
$\frac{10}{20}$	$^{36}S^{40}Ca$	40Ca	$^{34}Si^{36}S$	³⁶ S					³⁶ S ³⁸ Ar
	5, 04	Qu	³⁸ Ar. ⁴⁰ Ca						5, 111
22	⁴⁴ Ti								
${24}$	⁴⁴ Ca								
28	48 Ca. 50 Ti.	⁵⁰ Ti. ⁵² Cr.	48 Ca. 50 Ti.	⁵⁰ Ti. ⁵⁴ Fe		⁵⁰ Ti. ⁵⁴ Fe			54 Fe
	^{52}Cr	54 Fe	⁵² Cr, ⁵⁴ Fe,	, -		, .			
			⁵⁶ Ni						
32				⁵⁶ Cr	58 Fe		58 Fe		
34						⁶⁴ Zn			
36			62 Fe, 70 Se	62 Fe, 66 Zn,	66 Zn, 68 Ge				68 Ge
				68 Ge					
38			68 Zn, 70 Ge	⁶⁶ Ni					⁶⁸ Zn
40	⁶⁸ Ni		⁶⁸ Ni						
44	$^{76}\mathrm{Ge}$								
46	⁷⁶ Zn								
48					90 Mo, 92 Ru				
50	84 Se, 86 Kr,	82 Ge, 84 Se,	⁸⁶ Kr, ⁸⁸ Sr,	⁸⁸ Sr, ⁹⁰ Zr,	90 Zr		$^{90}\mathrm{Zr}, ^{92}\mathrm{Mo}$	$^{86}\mathrm{Kr}, ^{88}\mathrm{Sr}$	
	$^{88}{ m Sr}, ^{90}{ m Zr},$	⁸⁶ Kr, ⁸⁸ Sr,	$^{90}{ m Zr}, ^{92}{ m Mo},$	⁹² Mo, ⁹⁴ Ru,					
	92 Mo, 94 Ru	90 Zr, 92 Mo,	94 Ru, 96 Pd	⁹⁶ Pd					
		94 Ru, 96 Pd							
54	⁹⁰ Kr, ¹⁰² Cd					⁹⁸ Ru			
56	⁹⁴ Sr, ⁹⁶ Zr,		$ m ^{94}Sr, m ^{96}Zr$	94 Sr, 96 Zr	96 Zr	⁹⁶ Zr, ⁹⁸ Mo	⁹⁶ Zr, ¹⁰⁰ Ru		
	⁹⁸ Mo				104	104	104 100		
58					¹⁰⁴ Pd	¹⁰⁴ Pd	¹⁰⁴ Pd, ¹⁰⁶ Cd		
60			110 114	110 114	¹⁰⁸ Cd, ¹¹² Te	¹¹² Te	Tre		
62	106 108-		¹¹⁰ Cd, ¹¹⁴ Te	¹¹⁰ Cd, ¹¹⁴ Te	114 -:	¹¹⁰ Cd, ¹¹² Sn			
64	¹⁰⁰ Mo, ¹⁰⁸ Ru,		¹¹⁴ Sn		¹¹⁴ Sn				
	¹¹⁴ Sn			1160					
66	1125			¹¹⁰ Sn			1180		
68	¹¹ ″Ru					120 0 1	126 yr		
72						126m	130 D		
74	136					Te	¹⁰⁰ Ba		
76	128 c				130m 134m				
18	Sn			132m. 134 v	134 v 138 <i>C</i>				
80				le, ~~ Xe	140 Nd 142 c				
					ina,Sm				

TABLE I. Nuclides with identified signature neutron shell closure features.

Ν	$\delta_n S_{2n}$	$B-B_{LD}$	$E(2_{1}^{+})$	$E(4_{1}^{+})$	$E(6_{1}^{+})$	$E(8_{1}^{+})$	$E(10_{1}^{+})$	$< r^2 >$	B(E2)
82	134 Te, 136 Xe,	132 Sn, 134 Te,	134 Te, 136 Xe,	138 Ba, 140 Ce,	$^{146}\mathrm{Gd}$	134 Te, 140 Ce,	136 Xe, 142 Nd,		$^{138}\mathrm{Ba}$
	138 Ba, 140 Ce,	136 Xe, 138 Ba,	138 Ba, 140 Ce,	¹⁴² Nd , ¹⁴⁴ Sm,		$^{142}\mathrm{Nd}$	$^{146}\mathrm{Gd}$		
	¹⁴² Nd, ¹⁴⁴ Sm,	140 Ce, 142 Nd,	¹⁴² Nd, ¹⁴⁴ Sm,	146 Gd 148 Dy					
	146 Gd, 148 Dy,	144 Sm, 146 Gd,	¹⁴⁶ Gd, ¹⁴⁸ Dy						
	¹⁵⁰ Er	¹⁴⁸ Dy, ¹⁵⁰ Er,							
		152 Yb							
86	140 Xe, 144 Ce,								
	¹⁴⁶ Nd								
88	¹⁴⁴ Ba								
90						^{166}Os			
92	¹⁶⁶ W								
94	156 Sm, 160 Dy,								
	¹⁶² Er								
98	¹⁶⁴ Dy, ¹⁶⁸ Yb								
100	$^{168}{ m Er}, ^{182}{ m Pb}$								
102	¹⁸⁰ Pt								
104	¹⁷⁴ Yb, ¹⁷⁶ Hf			¹⁸⁰ Os	$^{180}\mathrm{Os}$				
106	¹⁸⁴ Pt								
108	¹⁸⁰ Hf, ¹⁸² W,	¹⁸⁰ Hf					¹⁹⁰ Pb		
	¹⁸⁴ Os, ¹⁹² Po								
110						190 Hg	¹⁹⁰ Hg		
112	¹⁹⁰ Pt				$^{192}\mathrm{Hg}$	¹⁹⁶ Po	¹⁹⁰ Pt		
114			¹⁹⁴ Hg	$^{194}\text{Hg}, ^{196}\text{Pb}$					
116			¹⁹⁸ Pb	²⁰⁰ Po	²⁰⁰ Po	202 Rn			
118	¹⁹⁶ Pt				204 Rn				
120	²⁰⁰ Hg								
126	²⁰⁸ Pb, ²¹⁰ Po,	²⁰⁸ Pb, ²¹⁰ Po,	²⁰⁶ Hg, ²⁰⁸ Pb,	²⁰⁸ Pb, ²¹⁰ Po,	$^{208}\mathrm{Pb}$				
	$ ^{212}$ Rn, 214 Ra,	$ ^{212}$ Rn, 214 Ra,	²¹⁰ Po, ²¹² Rn	212 Rn					
	²¹⁶ Th	216 Th							
130	²¹⁴ Po								
132	²¹⁸ Rn								
134	²²⁴ Th								
138	²²⁶ Ra, ²²⁸ Th,								
	²³⁰ U								
142	232 Th, 234 U	²³⁴ U, ²³⁶ Pu							
144	²⁴⁰ Cm	$^{240}\mathrm{Cm}$							
152	²⁵⁰ Cf, ²⁵² Fm	252 Fm							

TABLE II. Nuclides with identified signature neutron shell closure features (Continued).

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_	1							0	
Z	$\delta_p S_{2p}$	$B-B_{LD}$	$E(2_{1}^{+})$	$E(4_1^+)$	$E(6_{1}^{+})$	$E(8_1^+)$	$E(10^+_1)$	$< r^{2} >$	B(E2)
6	$^{12}\mathrm{C}$		^{14}C						
8	¹⁶ O								
10	²⁰ Ne								
12	^{24}Mg								
14	$^{28}{ m Si}, ^{32}{ m Si},$	²⁸ Si	$^{30}\mathrm{Si}, ^{34}\mathrm{Si}$						
	^{34}Si								
16	$^{32}{ m S}, ^{40}{ m S}$								
18	³⁶ Ar		⁴² Ar	$^{40}\mathrm{Ar}$					
20	46 Ca, 48 Ca		$^{42}Ca, ^{46}Ca,$						46 Ca, 48 Ca
	,		48 Ca						,
22			⁵² Ti						
24					⁴⁸ Cr				
26									
28	⁶⁰ Ni, ⁶² Ni,	⁶⁰ Ni. ⁶² Ni.	⁶⁰ Ni. ⁶² Ni.	⁶² Ni. ⁶⁴ Ni.	⁶² Ni, ⁶⁴ Ni	⁶² Ni, ⁶⁴ Ni			⁶⁴ Ni, ⁶⁶ Ni,
	⁶⁴ Ni. ⁶⁶ Ni	⁶⁴ Ni. ⁶⁶ Ni	⁶⁴ Ni. ⁶⁶ Ni.	⁶⁶ Ni. ⁶⁸ Ni	,				⁶⁸ Ni
	1.1, 1.1	1.1, 1.1	⁶⁸ Ni	1.1, 1.1					
32	⁷² Ge					⁷⁴ Ge			
34						⁸² Se			
36			⁸⁰ Kr	⁸² Kr	⁸² Kr. ⁸⁴ Kr				
38	⁸⁶ Sr ⁸⁸ Sr		⁸⁴ Sr ⁸⁶ Sr	⁸⁶ Sr ⁸⁸ Sr					
	90 Sr. 92 Sr		,	⁹⁰ Sr					
40	96 Zr 98 Zr		90 Zr 92 Zr	⁹⁶ Zr ⁹⁸ Zr					92 Zr 96 Zr
10			94 Zr 96 Zr						21, 21
			98 Zr						
44	⁹⁶ Bu ¹⁰² Bu								
	^{104}Bu								
46	¹⁰⁰ Pd ¹⁰² Pd								
48	14, 14				¹⁰⁴ Cd ¹⁰⁶ Cd		¹⁰⁶ Cd		
10					108Cd		Cu		
50	106 Sn 108 Sn	106 Sn 108 Sn	¹⁰⁶ Sn ¹¹⁰ Sn	¹⁰⁶ Sn ¹¹⁰ Sn	¹¹² Sn ¹¹⁴ Sn	¹¹⁰ Sn ¹¹² Sn	¹¹⁰ Sn ¹¹² Sn		¹¹² Sn ¹¹⁶ Sn
00	110 Sn, 112 Sn, 112 Sn	110 Sn, 112 Sn, 112 Sn	112 Sn, 114 Sn	112 Sn, 114 Sn	116 Sn, 118 Sn, 118 Sn	114 Sn, 118 Sn, 118 Sn	114 Sn, 118 Sn, 118 Sn		118 Sn 120 Sn
	114 Sn, 116 Sn	114 Sn, 116 Sn, 116 Sn	116 Sn 118 Sn	116_{Sn} 118_{Sn}	120 Sn, 122 Sn	120 Sn, 132 Sn, 132 Sn			511, 511
	118 Sn, 120 Sn, 118 Sn, 120 Sn	118 Sn, 120 Sn, 118 Sn 120 Sn	120 Sn, 122 Sn	120 Sn 122 Sn	124 Sn, 132 Sn, 132 Sn				
	122 Sn, 124 Sn, 124 Sn	122 Sn, 124 Sn, 124 Sn	124 Sn, 126 Sn, 126 Sn	124_{Sn} 126_{Sn}					
	126Sn	126Sn	128 Sn, 130 Sn, 130 Sn	128 Sn 130 Sn					
	511	511	132Sn	132Sn					
52			511	511			¹²² To		
54	$122 \mathbf{v}_{0} \ 124 \mathbf{v}_{0}$						126 V o		
94	126_{X0} 128_{X0}						Ae		
	130 Xo 132 Yo								
	134 Yo								
56	144 _{Pa}			136 P.o.			130 P.o.		
58	Da			Da	136 Co	134Co	Da		
60	152 N.J				148 N.J	Ue	136 NJ 138 NJ		
00	ING				ING		l na, na		

TABLE III. Nuclides with identified signature proton shell closure features.

Z	$\delta_p S_{2p}$	$B-B_{LD}$	$E(2_{1}^{+})$	$E(4_{1}^{+})$	$E(6_{1}^{+})$	$E(8_{1}^{+})$	$E(10_{1}^{+})$	$< r^2 >$	B(E2)
62				150 Sm		140 Sm, 146 Sm	142 Sm, 146 Sm		
64	146 Gd, 148 Gd,		146 Gd, 150 Gd	$^{150}\mathrm{Gd}$	^{146}Gd	^{150}Gd			
	$^{150}\mathrm{Gd}$								
66	¹⁶² Dy, ¹⁶⁴ Dy	¹⁶⁴ Dy			¹⁵² Dy				
68	¹⁵⁶ Er								
70	172 Yb								
72	162 Hf								
74	$^{168}W, ^{170}W,$								
	^{182}W								
76	178 Os, 180 Os,								
	186 Os, 188 Os,								
	¹⁹⁰ Os								
80						190 Hg, 192 Hg	$^{190}\mathrm{Hg}$		
82	190 Pb, 192 Pb,	$^{190}{\rm Pb}, ^{192}{\rm Pb},$	¹⁹⁴ Pb, ¹⁹⁶ Pb,	194 Pb, 196 Pb,	194 Pb, 196 Pb,	¹⁹⁶ Pb, ²⁰² Pb	¹⁹⁸ Pb		
	¹⁹⁴ Pb, ¹⁹⁶ Pb,	$^{194}{\rm Pb}, ^{196}{\rm Pb},$	¹⁹⁸ Pb, ²⁰⁰ Pb,	¹⁹⁸ Pb , ²⁰⁰ Pb,	¹⁹⁸ Pb, ²⁰² Pb				
	¹⁹⁸ Pb, ²⁰⁰ Pb,	¹⁹⁸ Pb, ²⁰⁰ Pb,	202 Pb, 204 Pb,	202 Pb , 204 Pb,					
	202 Pb, 204 Pb,	202 Pb, 204 Pb,	²⁰⁶ Pb, ²⁰⁸ Pb	$^{206}\mathrm{Pb}$					
	²⁰⁶ Pb	206 Pb							
86	²¹⁶ Rn								
88	²²⁰ Ra, ²²² Ra,								
	²²⁴ Ra, ²²⁶ Ra								
92	²³⁰ U, ²³² U,								
	$^{234}U,^{236}U$								
98	²⁴⁸ Cf								
100	252 Fm, 254 Fm								

TABLE IV. Nuclides with identified signature proton shell closure features (Continued).

TABLE V. Nuclides in which experimental data shows no indication of a neutron shell feature.

N	$\delta_n \mathbf{S}_{2n}$	$B-B_{LD}$	$E(2_{1}^{+})$	$E(4_{1}^{+})$	$E(6_{1}^{+})$	$E(8_{1}^{+})$	$E(10_{1}^{+})$	$< r^{2} >$	B(E2)
8	$^{12}\text{Be}, ^{14}\text{C}$	$^{12}\mathrm{Be}, ^{14}\mathrm{C}$							¹⁴ C
20	$^{32}Mg, ^{34}Si,$	$^{32}Mg, ^{34}Si,$							
	$^{38}\mathrm{Ar}$	$^{38}\mathrm{Ar}$							
28	54 Fe				$^{50}\mathrm{Ti}, ^{54}\mathrm{Fe}$		$^{54}\mathrm{Fe}$		
50					92 Mo, 94 Ru	92 Mo, 94 Ru			
82				$^{134}\text{Te}, ^{136}\text{Xe}$	134 Te, 136 Xe,			136 Xe	
					$^{138}\text{Ba}, ^{140}\text{Ce},$				
					$^{142}\rm{Nd}, ^{144}\rm{Sm}$				
126					212 Rn			208 Pb	

\mathbf{Z}	$\delta_p \mathbf{S}_{2p}$	$B-B_{LD}$	$E(2_{1}^{+})$	$E(4_1^+)$	$E(6_{1}^{+})$	$E(8_{1}^{+})$	$E(10_{1}^{+})$	$< r^{2} >$	B(E2)
8	¹⁸ O	$^{16}O, ^{18}O,$							¹⁶ O
		^{20}O							
20	42 Ca	42 Ca, 44 Ca,	44 Ca, 50 Ca	$ ^{42}$ Ca, 44 Ca	⁴² Ca				
		46 Ca							
28									⁶² Ni
50					$^{106}{ m Sn}, ^{110}{ m Sn}$	122 Sn, 124 Sn	¹²⁰ Sn	114 Sn	
82						¹⁹⁴ Pb	¹⁹⁴ Pb	198 Pb, 200 Pb,	
								$^{202}\mathrm{Pb}$	

TABLE VI. Nuclides in which experimental data shows no indication of a proton shell feature.