Ground state inversions in hole nuclei near 132Sn driven by the monopole interaction

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The neutron-rich nuclei to the southwest of 132 Sn are studied comprehensively by large-scale, shell-model calculations with the extended pairing plus multipole-multipole force (EPQQM) model. A regular correlation driven by the monopole interaction between the neutron orbits $h_{11/2}$ and $d_{3/2}$ is found in this nuclear region for different isotonic chains with $N = 79$, 80, 81. The ground-state inversions from ¹³⁰In (¹²⁹Cd) to ¹²⁸In (¹²⁷Cd) seen experimentally are well described for the first time by this regular correlation. The regular correlation in different isotonic chains is also supported by a systematic comparison between the observed spectra of 126 Ag and ¹²⁸In, and further confirmed by the investigation of isomeric states of ¹²⁶Pd, ¹²⁸Cd, and ¹²⁹In the in $N = 80$ isotonic chain. This regular correlation in different isotonic chains should provide useful guidance for further experiments in this region of nuclei.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Many exotic and intriguing phenomena have been reported in neutron-rich nuclei near the doubly magic ¹³²Sn. The second abundance peak at $A \approx 130$ appears through the astrophysical rapid neutron capture process, and the doubly magic nature of ¹³²Sn was explored in experiment and also theory $[1–5]$. Recently, the doubly-magic nucleus 132 Sn was reconfirmed again by the first charge-radius measurement of a neutron-rich Sn isotope beyond $N = 82$ [\[6\]](#page-3-0) and the investigations for nuclei near 132 Sn are important for the *r*-process study around the $A = 130$ abundance peak [\[7\]](#page-3-0). The strong fragmentation of single-hole strength is reported in 131 In from measurements of the spectroscopic factors of proton-hole states [\[8\]](#page-3-0). From mass measurements of the neutron-rich cadmium isotopes, the $N = 82$ shell closure was confirmed below $Z = 50$ and the $h_{11/2}$ neutron orbital near ¹³²Sn was reported to be a key for the evolution of the $N = 82$ shell gap towards $Z = 40$ [\[9\]](#page-3-0). A reduction of the $Z = 40$ subshell gap was suggested in the Ag isotopes approaching $N = 82$ and the tensor force was found to play a crucial role in the proton shell evolution [\[10\]](#page-3-0). The first spectroscopic information on the excited states in 125,127 Pd suggested competition between proton excitations and neutron excitations of hole nuclei in the vicinity of the doubly-magic 132 Sn [\[11\]](#page-3-0) nucleus. The isomeric states in 128Cd have been identified and compared to the results of large-scale shell-model calculations [\[12\]](#page-3-0). A

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microsecond isomer has been identified in 127 Cd, and the experimental data have been investigated by two theoretical shell-model approaches with different model spaces and interactions [\[13\]](#page-3-0).

Note that a new β -decaying high-spin isomer has been discovered in 128 In at 1797.6(20) keV by using Penningtrap techniques [\[14\]](#page-4-0). The isotopes of neutron-rich indium can provide essential data to test the nuclear shell model and to develop the nucleon-nucleon effective interaction. The ground state of 128 In was suggested as $(3)^+$ by Fogelberg and Carl in Ref. [\[15\]](#page-4-0), and the change in position of the 1[−] state from ¹³⁰In to ¹²⁸In was investigated in Ref. [\[16\]](#page-4-0). Such ground-state inversion also exists for 129 Cd to 127 Cd. In 129Cd, the ground state is assigned as 11/2−, while the excited $3/2^+$ level changes into the ground state in 127 Cd. It is very interesting to search for the nuclear structure reason for these ground-state inversions. The isomers of neutron-rich exotic nuclei have been investigated comprehensively, and a γ ray at $E_\gamma = 254.8$ keV was observed in ¹²⁶Ag [\[17\]](#page-4-0). The systematic study assigned 3^+ as the ground state of ^{126}Ag by comparison with states in 128 In, while the ground state of 126 Ag was assigned as 1⁻ using the jj45pna interaction. The two-body effective Hamiltonians have been well established for decades in shell-model calculations, and the monopole interaction is crucial for obtaining agreement with experiment [\[18\]](#page-4-0). Different effects of the monopole-driven shell evolutions are discussed for tensor forces [\[19\]](#page-4-0) and other terms in the nucleon-nucleon interaction [\[20–23\]](#page-4-0). In fact, the monopole corrections are necessary for two-body interactions [\[24\]](#page-4-0), as confirmed by the *ab initio* studies in Ref. [\[25\]](#page-4-0).

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FIG. 1. The EPQQM calculations on ground-state inversions in comparison with experiment and jj45pna results.

In this paper, the neutron-rich hole nuclei of $N =$ 79, 80, 81 are investigated using the extended pairing plus multipole-multipole force (EPQQM model [\[26–29\]](#page-4-0). This model employs monopole correction (Mc) terms that provide an advantage to study monopole effects. With 78 Ni as the frozen core, the present model space includes six proton orbits $(0 f_{5/2}, 1 p_{3/2}, 1 p_{1/2}, 0 g_{9/2}, 0 g_{7/2}, 1 d_{5/2})$ and seven neutron orbits $(0g_{7/2}, 1d_{5/2}, 2s_{1/2}, 0h_{11/2}, 1d_{3/2}, 1f_{7/2}, 2p_{3/2})$. The two orbits above $Z = 50$ ($N = 82$) added for proton (neutron) core excitations are frozen in this work, to make sure of using a uniform model space to study the nuclei a little further from the doubly magic 132 Sn. The single-particle energies and the two-body force strengths employed in the present work are consistent with our previous paper [\[30\]](#page-4-0). There is no truncation in major shell orbits, and the shell-model code NUSHELLX@MSU is used for the calculations $[31]$.

II. THE MONOPOLE CORRECTIONS

In the present interaction, the monopole effects can be investigated using the monopole correction terms

$$
Mc = k(ia, i'c) \sum_{JM} A_{JM}^{\dagger} (ia, i'c) A_{JM} (ia, i'c).
$$
 (1)

Here A_{JM}^{\dagger} (*ia*, *i'c*) and A_{JM} are the pair operators, and k_{mc} is the monopole force strength (*pn* representation). Three monopole terms have already been employed, namely Mc1 \equiv $k_{mc}(vh_{11/2}, vf_{7/2}) = 0.52$ MeV, Mc2 $\equiv k_{mc}(\pi g_{9/2}, vh_{11/2}) =$ -0.4 MeV, and Mc3 $\equiv k_{mc}(\pi g_{9/2}, v g_{7/2}) = -1.0$ MeV. These play crucial roles in explaining the energy spectrum to the southwest of 132 Sn [\[30,32,33\]](#page-4-0). In 128 In, the ground state was suggested as $(3)^+$ by Fogelberg and Carl [\[15\]](#page-4-0), while the (3^+) state becomes an excited level in 130 In with the configuration $\pi g_{9/2}^{-1} v d_{3/2}^{-1}$, and the 1⁽⁻⁾ is suggested as the ground state in ¹³⁰In with the configuration $\pi g_{9/2}^{-1} v h_{11/2}^{-1}$.

III. GROUND STATE INVERSIONS

It is very interesting to see why the ground state is reversed experimentally from 130 In to 128 In. Such a ground-state inversion also exists from 127 Cd to 129 Cd (Fig. 1) with increasing neutron number. The ground state of odd Cd isotopes from

FIG. 2. The monopole effects in 3^+ and 1^- levels in 128 In.

¹²¹Cd to ¹²⁷Cd is $(3/2^+)$, while the excited level 11/2⁻ becomes the ground state in 129 Cd. Note that the $(3)^{+}$ level in ¹²⁸In has a main configuration of $\pi g_{9/2}^{-1} v d_{3/2}^{-1} h_{11/2}^{-2}$, and the 3⁺ level in 128In would be influenced by monopole effects involving the $\pi g_{9/2}$, $\nu d_{3/2}$, and $\nu h_{11/2}$ orbits. So, the monopole terms $Mc(\pi g_{9/2}, \nu d_{3/2})$, $Mc(\pi g_{9/2}, \nu h_{11/2})$, and $Mc(\nu h_{11/2}, \nu d_{3/2})$ are studied as the function of the monopole force strength *k*mc in Fig. 2. The monopole term $Mc(\pi g_{9/2}, \nu d_{3/2})$ shifts the 3⁺ level down about 40 keV as k_{mc} varies from 0.5 to 0 MeV, while there is a slight increase from 0 to -0.5 MeV.

For $Mc(\pi g_{9/2}, v h_{11/2})$, the 3⁺ level keeps linearly decreasing as *k*mc varies from 0.5 to −0.2 MeV, and then is almost stable from -0.3 to -0.5 MeV. As the monopole interaction between neutron orbitals $h_{11/2}$ and $d_{3/2}$, the monopole term $Mc(vh_{11/2}, v_{3/2})$ has been found to provide influence obviously on the 3^+ level and reverses the 3^+ level into the ground state after $k_{\text{mc}} = -0.1$ MeV. With two more neutron holes in 128 In than in 130 In, the additional monopole strength is quantitatively fixed as $Mc4(vd_{3/2}, vh_{11/2}) = -0.4$. With this Mc4 monopole correction, the excited 3^+ level in 128 In reverses into the ground state, and the 1[−] level becomes an excited state closer to the experimental datum 0.248 MeV (Fig. [3\)](#page-2-0). The 16^+ state also has a positive change that shifts it down close to the datum 1.798 MeV.

To validate this regular correlation driven by monopole interactions, the isotone $N = 79$ is studied. In ¹²⁷Cd, the reversal of the excited level $3/2^+$ into the ground state is driven by Mc4 after increasing by 2 the number of neutron holes from 129 Cd. In experiments, the $11/2^-$ level is the ground state in 129 Cd, and the $3/2^+$ level is the excited one. Based on this regular correlation, the $3/2^+$ state is suggested as the ground state of ¹²⁷Cd in theory. As a further test, more $N = 79$ isotones are investigated. In Ref. [\[34\]](#page-4-0), an isomeric state with a half-life of 27(6) μ s is observed in ¹²⁶Ag, and (1^-) and (3^+) are assigned to the 254 keV and the groundstate levels based on the systematics by comparing with the level scheme of 128 In. In Fig. 1, both the present calculations and the jj45pna results reproduce well these reversed ground states of 128 In and 127 Cd in experiments, while the jj45pna

FIG. 3. The theoretical low-lying levels of 128 In in comparison with experimental data. "+Mc4" means considering monopole effects of Mc4 in the calculations (Th.).

interaction gives the 1⁻ level as the ground state of ¹²⁶Ag. As shown in Fig. 4, the 3^+ level in 126 Ag is reversed well into the ground state driven by this new monopole effect of Mc4. In this work, the ground states keep the same parity and *J* value, and they are connected by the same regular correlation driven by the monopole interaction. This systematic study provides evidence for extending the regular correlation from ¹²⁸In to ¹²⁶Ag, which suggests 3^+ as the ground state of ¹²⁶Ag.

In the next $N = 79$ isotone ¹²⁵Pd, the excited state $3/2^+$ is also shifted down as the ground state even in four protonhole configurations such as $\pi g_{9/2}^{-4}$. With increasing number of proton holes from 128 In to 125 Pd, the *p-n* monopole interaction does not have more impact, while the neutron monopole interaction keeps dominating the ground-state inversions in $N = 79$ isotones. Figure [2](#page-1-0) also shows the greater monopole effects of $Mc(vh_{11/2}, v_{3/2})$ between neutrons. The competition between $1 - (11/2⁻)$ and $3⁺ (3/2⁺)$ will be determined by their configurations. As shown in Fig. 5, the 3^+ (or $3/2^+$) states of these $N = 79$ isotones have the main neutron configuration $\nu d_{3/2}^{-1} h_{11/2}^{-2}$, and the 1⁻ (11/2⁻) states have the main neutron configuration $h_{11/2}^{-1}h_{11/2}^{-2}$, as well as $h_{11/2}^{-1}d_{3/2}^{-2}$.

FIG. 4. The comparison of 1^- and 3^+ states in ¹²⁶Ag and ¹²⁸In with monopole effects from Mc4.

FIG. 5. The variation of configurations in the ground states of $N = 79$ isotones with the monopole effects of Mc4.

Considering the attractive monopole correction between *vh*_{11/2} and *vd*_{3/2}, the components of *vd*_{3/2}*h*⁻¹_{11/2} and *vd*_{3/2}*h*_{11/2} increase in these $N = 79$ isotones, while the part of $\nu h_{11/2}^{-1} h_{11/2}^{-2}$ distinctly shrinks, as in the 1⁻ and 11/2⁻ levels (Fig. 5). The configurational competition is the structural reason for the ground-state inversions in $N = 79$ isotones, which are driven by the monopole interaction between $vh_{11/2}$ and ν*d*3/2.

The same regular correlation is also found in $N = 80$ isotones. Three isomeric states, in 129 In, 128 Cd, and 126 Pd especially, shown in Fig. 6, exhibit this regular correlation driven by the monopole interaction. The calculations can reproduce well the experimental data with $Mc4(vd_{3/2}, vh_{11/2}) =$ −0.4 MeV, and the jj45pna results are listed for comparison. In the present work, the 7[−] level in 126Pd has 59% of $\pi g_{9/2}^{-4} v h_{11/2}^{-1} v d_{3/2}^{-1}$ (43% without Mc4), and jj45pna has about 18% of this configuration as the biggest component. For the 5[−] level in 128Cd, the main configuration is 74% of $\pi g_{9/2}^{-2} v h_{11/2}^{-1} v d_{3/2}^{-1}$ (58% without Mc4), while jj45pna has about 11% of $\pi g_{9/2}^{-2} v h_{11/2}^{-1} v d_{3/2}^{-1}$ and 16% of $\pi g_{9/2}^{-2} v h_{11/2}^{-1} v s_{1/2}^{-1}$.

FIG. 6. The Mc4 monopole effects in negative-parity levels of the $N = 80$ isotones. The present results are compared to experimental data and jj45pna calculations.

If we sum up the just the proton configurations in this 5[−] level, the jj45pna model predicts about 33% of $\pi g_{9/2}^{-2}$ and 25% of $\pi g_{9/2}^{-1} p_{1/2}^{-1}$, while 70% of $\pi g_{9/2}^{-1} p_{1/2}^{-1}$ is reported in Ref. [12]. As a further transitional test, the $B(E2, 7^- \rightarrow 5^-)$ in 126 Pd is 2.76 W.u. with Mc4 (almost zero before) compared with 2.13(14) W.u. experimentally [\[35\]](#page-4-0), while jj45pna provides 6.27 W.u. for this transition. In 128 Cd, the value of *B*(*E*2, 7^{-} \rightarrow 5⁻) is 0.89 W.u. with Mc4 (1.08 W.u. before) compared with the datum 1.5(3) W.u. [12]. The value is 2.87 W.u. for the jj45pna interaction. These isomeric states with $B(E2)$ transitions provide more evidence for the regular correlation in this region of hole nuclei.

IV. THEORETICAL PREDICTIONS

In 128 In, the reversed ground state is driven by the monopole correction Mc4 between *νh*_{11/2} and *d*_{3/2}. This regular correlation dominates the ground-state inversions in these $N = 79$ isotones and supports the systematic analogy between 128 In and 126 Ag that assigned the isomeric state (1⁻) and the ground state (3^+) in ¹²⁶Ag experimentally. As a theoretical prediction, the reversed ground state of 126 Ag will change back to (1^-) in ¹²⁸Ag. For odd mass nuclei, with two more neutron holes in 129 Cd (127 Pd), the regular correlation reverses the excited $3/2^+$ level into the ground state in $^{127}Cd(^{125}Pd)$. The ground state of ¹²⁷Cd has already been suggested as $3/2^+$ in Ref. $[36]$, and then the theoretical prediction in 125 Pd will become more reasonable.

V. SUMMARY

The neutron-rich isotones of $N = 79, 80, 81$ are studied comprehensively with large-scale shell model calculations to the southwest of 132 Sn. A regular correlation driven by the monopole interaction between the neutron orbits $h_{11/2}$ and $d_{3/2}$ is found and quantified with the extended pairing plus multipole-multipole force model. The data on the ground-state inversion from 130 In to 128 In can be well described by this regular correlation, as well as the inversion from 129 Cd to 127 Cd. The configurational competition between $1^-(11/2^-)$ and 3^+ $(3/2^{+})$ provides the structural reason for these ground-state inversions in the $N = 79$ isotones. Furthermore, this regular correlation agrees with the fact that 126 Ag and 128 In have the same parity and *J* value in their ground states. The study of isomeric states with $B(E2)$ transitions in the $N = 80$ isotones provides more evidence, and such a regular correlation in different isotonic chains should provide useful guidance for further experiments in this region of nuclei.

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