1	Search of islands of stability for hypothetical superheavey nuclei using
2	covariant density functional theory
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7	
8	A systematic search for the location of islands of stability has been performed for
9	the proton number $100 \le Z \le 220$ and the neutron number $Z + 30 \le N \le 2Z + 30$ using the
10	Covariant Density Functional Theory (CDFT), a Relativistic Hartree-Bogoliubov (RHB)
11	formalism with separable pairing, for two different force parameters DD-ME2 and NL3*.
12	Location of the islands of stability are identified by the analysis of the two neutron and the
13	two proton separation energy, two nucleon shell gaps, vanishing neutron and proton pairing
14	gap, energy surface and the single particle states. The results show that beyond ²⁹² 120 only
15	Z = 154 and $N > 220$ can be a center of new island of stability.
16	Keyword : Density functional, superheavy nuclei
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1 **1. Introduction**

Exploring the limit of the nuclear charge and mass is a driving force of research in nuclear structure studies. Thus the nuclear structure studies of heavy and superheavy nuclei can be a starting point to extrapolate into the region far from the island of stability. Current experimental facilities are able to reach Z = 120, but theory should always lead the way for the scientific advancement and to predict new phenomena.

7 The stability of a nucleus with very large proton number ($Z \ge 120$) is mainly 8 characterized by the shell effects. It is important to map the nuclear chart to find regions 9 where the shell effects are strong enough to support the large numbers of protons. Thus one 10 would expect, that the self-consistent mean field methods will be the most successful 11 methods for extrapolating into that region. However, there have been many studies that 12 enriched our knowledge about superheavy nuclei; using different models: Mic-Mac [1, 2] and the covariant density functional [3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. In Ref. [8] the framework of Strutinsky's 13 14 approach is used, and the authors cover a wide range of nuclei going into a region with high number of protons including $72 \le Z \le 282$. Most of these studies focus their attentions on 15 16 spherical shapes, and perform all of the calculations. They make their predictions based on the assumption of spherical symmetry. Only recently, the Ref. [9] reexamined the structure 17 18 of superheavy nuclei, using deformed relativistic Hartree-Bogoliubov (RHB) formalism, 19 where the authors predicted a greater role of the N = 184 neutron gap instead of the N = 17220 neutron gap.

In this work, we explore the unknown territory of the nuclear landscape, characterized by an extreme high Z value, for the search of spherical shell closure that can be the center of an island of stability for the superheavy region. Our region of interest is defined by the proton 1 number $100 \le Z \le 220$ and the neutron number $Z + 30 \le N \le 2Z + 30$. Our choice of this 2 region which include very large proton numbers is similar to the region (but smaller) studied 3 in [8]. We perform both the spherical and deformed calculations to make sure that we 4 indeed get a spherical doubly magic nuclei.

5 The Covariant density functional theory (CDFT) has been successful in describing 6 many nuclear phenomena. It has been very successful in the description of the atomic nuclei 7 behavior in extreme conditions such as high spin and deformation (Super- and hyperdeformation) and it predicted that ¹⁰⁷Cd was the best candidate to observe discrete HD bands 8 9 [10,11,12,13]. It was also used extensively in the description of fission barriers in actinides 10 and superheavy regions of the nuclear chart. The average deviation between the calculated 11 and experimental values of the height of fission barrier in the actinide region was less than 1 12 MeV[14]

The manuscript is organized as follows; section 2 provides a description of the covariant density functional theory in the RHB framework, and the details of calculations. The results of spherical calculations are presented in section 3.1, and deformed results are discussed in section 3.2. A summary of the results and its conclusions are presented in section 4.

18

2. Theoretical formalism and details of calculations

In the covariant density functional theory (CDFT) the nucleus is described as a
system of point-like nucleons, Dirac spinors, coupled to mesons and to the photons [15, 16,
17]. The nucleons interact by the exchange of several mesons, namely a scalar meson σ and

three vector particles ω, ρ and the photon. The starting point of the covariant density
 functional theory (CDFT) is a standard Lagrangian density [18]

3
$$\mathsf{L} = \overline{\psi} \Big(\gamma (i\partial - g_{\omega} \omega - g_{\rho} \vec{\rho} \vec{\tau} - eA) - m - g_{\sigma} \sigma \Big) \psi$$

4
$$+\frac{1}{2}(\partial\sigma)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m_{\sigma}^2\sigma^2 - \frac{1}{4}\Omega_{\mu\nu}\Omega^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{\omega}^2\omega^2$$
 (1)

5
$$-\frac{1}{4}\vec{R}_{\mu\nu}\vec{R}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{\rho}^{2}\vec{\rho}^{2} - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}$$

6 which contains nucleons described by the Dirac spinors ψ with the mass m and several
7 effective mesons characterized by the quantum numbers of spin, parity, and isospin.

8 The Lagrangian (1) contains parameters as the meson masses m_{σ} , m_{ω} , and m_{ρ} and 9 the coupling constants g_{σ} , g_{ω} , and g_{ρ} . *e* is the charge of the protons and it vanishes for 10 neutrons. This model has first been introduced by Walecka [17, 19]. It has turned out that 11 surface properties of finite nuclei cannot be described properly by this model. Therefore, 12 Boguta and Bodmer [20] introduced a density dependence via a non-linear meson coupling 13 replacing the term $\frac{1}{2}m_{\sigma}^2\sigma^2$ in Eq. (1) by

14
$$U(\sigma) = \frac{1}{2}m_{\sigma}^{2}\sigma^{2} + \frac{1}{3}g_{2}\sigma^{3} + \frac{1}{4}g_{3}\sigma^{4}.$$
 (2)

15 The nonlinear meson nucleon coupling is represented by the parameter set NL3* [21] (see 16 Table 1). Apart from the fixed values for the masses m, m_{ω} and m_{ρ} , there are six 17 phenomenological parameters m_{σ} , g_{σ} , g_{ω} , g_{ρ} , g_{2} , and g_{3} .

18 Also one can introduce the density-dependent meson-nucleon coupling model that19 has an explicit density dependence for the meson-nucleon vertices. In this case there are no

nonlinear terms in the σ meson, i.e. $g_2 = g_3 = 0$. The meson-nucleon vertices are defined 1 2 as: $g_i(\rho) = g_i(\rho_{sat}) f_i(x)$ for $i = \sigma, \omega, \rho$ 3 (3) 4 where the density dependence is given by $f_i(x) = a_i \frac{1 + b_i (x + d_i)^2}{1 + c_i (x + d_i)^2}.$ 5 (4) 6 for σ and ω and by $f_{\rho}(x) = \exp(-a_{\rho}(x-1)).$ 7 (5) 8 for the ρ meson. x is defined as the ratio between the baryonic density ρ at a specific location and the baryonic density at saturation ρ_{sat} in the symmetric nuclear matter. The 9 eight parameters in Eq. (4) are not independent, but constrained as follows: $f_i(1) = 1$, 10 $f_{\sigma}^{''}(1) = f_{\omega}^{''}(1)$, and $f_{i}^{''}(0) = 0$. These constrains reduce the number of independent 11 12 parameters for density dependence to three. This model is represented in the present 13 investigations by the parameter set DD-ME2 [22] given in Table 1.

14

15
$$\left\{-\Delta + m_{\sigma}^{2}\right\}\sigma = -g_{\sigma}\rho_{s} - g_{2}\sigma^{2} - g_{3}\sigma^{3}$$
 (6)

16
$$\left\{-\Delta + m_{\omega}^{2}\right\}\omega_{\mu} = g_{\omega}j^{\mu}$$
 (7)

17
$$\left\{-\Delta + m_{\rho}^{2}\right\}\vec{\rho}_{\mu} = g_{\rho}\vec{j}^{\mu}$$
(8)

$$-\Delta A^{\mu} = e j_{p}^{\mu} \tag{9}$$

1
$$\hat{H}(r) = \sum_{i=1}^{A} \psi_i(r)^{\dagger} [\alpha p + \beta m] \psi_i(r)$$

(10)

2
$$+\frac{1}{2}[(\nabla\sigma)^2 + m_{\sigma}^2\sigma^2 + \frac{2}{3}g_2\sigma^3 + \frac{1}{2}g_3\sigma^4]$$

3
$$-\frac{1}{2}[(\nabla \omega)^{2} + m_{\omega}^{2}\omega^{2}] - \frac{1}{2}[(\nabla \rho)^{2} + m_{\rho}^{2}\rho^{2}]$$

4 +[
$$g_{\sigma}\rho_{s}\sigma + g_{\omega}\gamma_{\mu}\omega^{\mu} + g_{\rho}\vec{j}_{\mu}\cdot\vec{\rho}_{\mu} + ej_{p\mu}A^{\mu}]$$

$$5 \qquad -\frac{1}{2}[(\nabla A)^2]$$

In the current investigation, the axially deformed relativistic Hartree-Bogoliubov (RHB) formalism with separable pairing model is used [23, 24]. In the presence of pairing the singleparticle density matrix is generalized to two densities [25]: the normal density $\hat{\rho}$ and the pairing tensor \hat{k} . The RHB model provides a unified description of particle-hole (ph) and particle-particle (pp) correlations on a mean-field level by using two average potentials: the self-consistent mean field that encloses all the long range ph correlations, and a pairing field $\hat{\Delta}$ which sums up the pp-correlations.

3 Parameter NL3* DD-ME2 m 939 939 m_{σ} 502.5742 550.1238 m_{σ} 782.600 783.000 6 m_{ρ} 763.000 763.000 r_{σ} 10.0944 10.5396 g_{σ} g_{σ} 10.0944 10.5396 g_{σ} g_{σ} 12.8065 13.0189 g_{σ} g_{σ} 4.5748 3.6836 g_{σ} 10 g_{2} -10.8093 0.00000 11 g_{3} -30.1486 0.00000 12 a_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 13 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.7057 15 d_{σ} 0.00000 0.4421 16 a_{ω} 0.00000 1.3892 17 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.4620 18 d_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 20 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	2			
m 939 939 m_{σ} 502.5742 550.1238 m_{σ} 782.600 783.000 6 m_{ρ} 763.000 763.000 7 g_{σ} 10.0944 10.5396 8 g_{σ} 12.8065 13.0189 9 g_{ρ} 4.5748 3.6836 10 g_2 -10.8093 0.00000 11 g_3 -30.1486 0.00000 12 a_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 13 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 14 c_{σ} 0.00000 1.3892 15 d_{σ} 0.00000 1.3892 17 b_{ω} 0.00000 0.9240 18 c_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 19 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	3	Parameter	NL3*	DD-ME2
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	4	m	939	939
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	5	m_{σ}	502.5742	550.1238
m_{ρ} 763.000 763.000 g_{σ} 10.0944 10.5396 g_{σ} 12.8065 13.0189 9 g_{ρ} 4.5748 3.6836 10 g_2 -10.8093 0.00000 11 g_3 -30.1486 0.00000 12 a_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 13 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.0943 14 c_{σ} 0.00000 1.7057 15 d_{σ} 0.00000 0.4421 16 a_{ω} 0.00000 0.9240 18 c_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 19 d_{ω} 0.00000 0.5647	S	m _o	782.600	783.000
g_{σ} 10.0944 10.5396 g_{σ} 12.8065 13.0189 g_{σ} 4.5748 3.6836 10 g_{ρ} 4.5748 3.6836 10 g_{2} -10.8093 0.00000 11 g_{3} -30.1486 0.00000 12 a_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 13 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.0943 14 c_{σ} 0.00000 1.7057 15 d_{σ} 0.00000 0.4421 16 a_{ω} 0.00000 1.3892 17 b_{ω} 0.00000 0.9240 18 c_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 19 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	0	$m_{ ho}$	763.000	763.000
8 g_{ω} 12.8065 13.0189 9 g_{ρ} 4.5748 3.6836 10 g_2 -10.8093 0.00000 11 g_3 -30.1486 0.00000 12 a_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 13 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.0943 14 c_{σ} 0.00000 1.7057 15 d_{σ} 0.00000 1.3892 16 a_{ω} 0.00000 1.3892 17 b_{ω} 0.00000 0.9240 18 c_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 19 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	7	g_{σ}	10.0944	10.5396
9 g_{ρ} 4.5748 3.6836 10 g_2 -10.8093 0.00000 11 g_3 -30.1486 0.00000 12 a_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 13 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.0943 14 c_{σ} 0.00000 1.7057 15 d_{σ} 0.00000 0.4421 16 a_{ω} 0.00000 0.3892 17 b_{ω} 0.00000 0.9240 18 c_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 19 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	8	<i>g</i> _{<i>w</i>}	12.8065	13.0189
10 g_2 -10.8093 0.00000 11 g_3 -30.1486 0.00000 12 a_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 13 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.0943 14 c_{σ} 0.00000 1.7057 15 d_{σ} 0.00000 0.4421 16 a_{ω} 0.00000 1.3892 17 b_{ω} 0.00000 0.9240 18 c_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 19 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	9	<i>B</i> _ρ	4.5748	3.6836
11 g_3 -30.14860.0000012 a_{σ} 0.000001.388113 b_{σ} 0.000001.094314 c_{σ} 0.000001.705715 d_{σ} 0.000000.442116 a_{ω} 0.000001.389217 b_{ω} 0.000001.462018 c_{ω} 0.000001.462019 a_{ρ} 0.000000.5647	10	<i>g</i> ₂	-10.8093	0.00000
12 a_{σ} 0.00000 1.3881 13 b_{σ} 0.00000 1.0943 14 c_{σ} 0.00000 1.7057 15 d_{σ} 0.00000 0.4421 16 a_{ω} 0.00000 1.3892 17 b_{ω} 0.00000 0.9240 18 c_{ω} 0.00000 1.4620 19 d_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 20 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	11	<i>g</i> ₃	-30.1486	0.00000
13 b_{σ} 0.000001.094314 c_{σ} 0.000001.705715 d_{σ} 0.000000.442116 a_{ω} 0.000001.389217 b_{ω} 0.000000.924018 c_{ω} 0.000001.462019 d_{ω} 0.000000.477520 a_{ρ} 0.000000.5647	12	a _σ	0.00000	1.3881
14 c_{σ} 0.000001.705715 d_{σ} 0.000000.442116 a_{ω} 0.000001.389217 b_{ω} 0.000000.924018 c_{ω} 0.000001.462019 d_{ω} 0.000000.477520 a_{ρ} 0.000000.5647	13	b_{σ}	0.00000	1.0943
15 d_{σ} 0.000000.442116 a_{ω} 0.000001.389217 b_{ω} 0.000000.924018 c_{ω} 0.000001.462019 d_{ω} 0.000000.477520 a_{ρ} 0.000000.5647	14	c _o	0.00000	1.7057
16 a_{ω} 0.000001.389217 b_{ω} 0.000000.924018 c_{ω} 0.000001.462019 d_{ω} 0.000000.477520 a_{ρ} 0.000000.5647	15	d_{σ}	0.00000	0.4421
b_{ω} 0.00000 0.9240 c_{ω} 0.00000 1.4620 d_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	16	a _w	0.00000	1.3892
c_{ω} 0.00000 1.4620 d_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	17	b_{ω}	0.00000	0.9240
d_{ω} 0.00000 0.4775 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	18	C _w	0.00000	1.4620
20 a_{ρ} 0.00000 0.5647	19	d_{ω}	0.00000	0.4775
	20	a_{ρ}	0.00000	0.5647

Table 1: NL3* and DD-ME2 parameterizations of the RMF Lagrangia

21 The ground state of a nucleus is described by a generalized Slater determinant $|\Phi\rangle$ 22 , that represents the vacuum with respect to independent quasiparticles. The quasiparticle

7

operators are defined by the unitary Bogoliubov transformation of the single-nucleon
 creation and annihilation operators:

3
$$\alpha_k^+ = \sum_n U_{nk} c_n^+ + V_{nk} c_n \tag{11}$$

$$\hat{\rho}_{nn} = \langle \Phi | c_n^+ c_n^- | \Phi \rangle \tag{12}$$

5
$$\hat{k}_{nn} = \langle \Phi | c_n c_n | \Phi \rangle$$
(13)

6 The RHB energy density functional E_{RHB} is given by:

7
$$E_{RHB}[\hat{\rho},\hat{k}] = E_{RMF}[\hat{\rho}] + E_{pair}[\hat{k}]$$
(14)

 $E_{RMF}[\hat{\rho}]$ is given by:

$$E_{RMF}[\psi,\overline{\psi},\sigma,\omega^{\mu},\vec{\rho}^{\mu},A^{\mu}] = \int d^{3}r\hat{H}(r)$$
(15)

10 and the $E_{pair}[\hat{k}]$ is given by:

$$E_{pair}[\hat{k}] =$$
(16)

12
$$= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n_1 n_1} \sum_{n_2 n_2} k^*_{n_1 n_1} < n_1 n_1 | V^{PP} | n_2 n_2 > k_{n_2 n_2}$$

 $< n_1 n_1 | V^{PP} | n_2 n_2 >$ are the matrix elements of the two-body pairing interaction.

14
$$V^{PP}(r_1, r_2, r_1', r_2') = -G\delta(R - R')P(r)P(r')$$
(17)

15
$$R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(r_1 + r_2)$$

16
$$r = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(r_1 - r_2)$$

17
$$P(r) = \frac{1}{(4\pi a^2)^{3/2}} e^{-r^2/2a^2}$$

9

for details of the numerical derivation see Ref. [24].

The CDFT equations are solved in the basis of an isotropic three-dimensional 2 harmonic oscillator in Cartesian coordinates, with oscillator frequency $\hbar \omega_0 = 41 A^{-1/3}$ MeV. 3 4 For details see Refs. [23, 26]. The truncation of basis is performed in such a way that all states belonging to the shells up to fermionic $N_F = 20$ and bosonic $N_B = 20$ are taken into 5 6 account. We consider only spherical symmetry, axial and parity-conserving intrinsic states 7 and solve the RHB-equations in spherical, and axially deformed oscillator basis [18, 27, 24, 8 7]. 9 The calculations are split into two parts: the first is with only spherical shape allowed, 10 this will grant us the possibility of predicting shell closure based on the two proton and the two neutron separation energy and will be done in Sec.3.1; the second part quadrupole 11 12 deformation will be allowed, thus to test the candidates from the first part if they truly have

13 a spherical shape at ground state and will be done in Sec.3.2.

We map the part of the nuclear chart specified with $100 \le Z \le 220$ and $Z+30 \le N \le 2Z+30$. Shell closures are identified with a large two nucleon separation energy, thus as a first indicator of the shell closure we calculate the following quantities:

17
$$S_{2n}(N,Z) = B.E(N,Z) - B.E(N-2,Z)$$
 (18)

18
$$S_{2p}(N,Z) = B.E(N,Z) - B.E(N,Z-2)$$
 (19)

19 The two-nucleon shell gaps are defined as [28, 29]:

20
$$\delta_{2n}(N,Z) = S_{2n}(N+2,Z) - S_{2n}(N,Z)$$
(20)

21
$$\delta_{2p}(N,Z) = S_{2p}(N,Z+2) - S_{2p}(N,Z)$$
(21)

1	L	
-	L	

2 For the deformed calculations, the relativistic Hartree-Bougilov (RHB) framework is 3 used. Binding energy as a function of deformation is studied for the nuclei nominated in the 4 previous section to ensure them being doubly magic spherical nuclei. 5 The calculations are performed by imposing constraints on the axial mass quadrupole 6 moments. The method of quadratic constraints uses a variation of the function $<\hat{H}>+C_{20}(\langle\hat{Q}_{20}\rangle-q_{20})^{2}$ 7 (22)where $\langle \hat{H} \rangle$ is the total energy, and $\langle \hat{Q}_{20} \rangle$ denotes the expectation values of the mass 8 9 quadrupole operators $\hat{Q}_{20} = 2z^2 - x^2 - y^2$ 10 (23) In these equations, q_{20} is the constrained value of the multipole moment, and C_{20} the 11 corresponding stiffness constants [25]. 12 3. Results 13 To completely identify a shell closure for the spherical nuclei, there are three 14 15 conditions must be satisfied [30] and similar to the approach in Ref. [8]: 1. A peak in the two-nucleon shell gaps defined by eqs. (20) and (21) 16 2. It is spherical ground state 17 3. Collapse of pairing at the spherical minimum 18 The first condition will be discussed in Sec.3.1, while the other two will be discussed 19 20 in Sec.3.2 3.1. Spherical calculations 21

1 A systematic calculations of all even-even nuclei in the region defined by 2 $100 \le Z \le 220$ and $Z + 30 \le N \le 2Z + 30$ are preformed. Binding energy for every nuclei is 3 obtained and the two nucleon shell gap is calculated using eqs. (20) and (21). The results are 4 presented in figures (1-8), using two parameterizations NL3* and DD-ME2.

5 The neutron candidates for magic numbers are shown in Fig. 1, these candidates are divided into four categories based on the δ_{2n} values; the first one is N = 184 which has a 6 7 value of 2.4 MeV, the highest among all the neutrons, thus it is the most favorable candidate 8 for a magic number. The second category contains N = 238, 260 which has around 1.5 MeV for δ_{2n} , which is comparable to that of the 172 gap, which is known to be the magic number 9 in the CDFT, thus these numbers are also favorable due to their similarity with N = 172. The 10 third category contains N = 200, 216, 276, 288, 308 and 320, which has a δ_{2n} value of 11 12 around 1.1 MeV. The fourth group contains 378, 406, 422 which are considered local peaks 13 instead of a global ones.

In Fig. 3 one can see a color map of the δ_{2n} value of all the nuclei studied in this investigation and can clearly see that non of these candidates is dominant over the investigated region of the nuclear chart, but they are dominant locally. For example the N = 17 172 gap, is mainly dominant between Z = 110 - 142 for the NL3* parametrization while for 18 the DD-ME2 it is dominant for Z = 114 - 138, the N = 184 gap is dominant between Z = 100 - 128 for NL3* and between Z = 100 - 130 for DD-ME2, and similar behavior can be seen for 20 the other candidates, see Fig. 3.

In a similar fashion, the protons magic number candidates are shown in Fig. 5 and
Fig. 6. The proton candidates can be divided into two categories; the first category contains

1	Z = 154 which has around 3.0 MeV for δ_{2p} , which is comparable to that at Z = 120, which
2	is known to be a magic number in the CDFT. Thus $Z = 154$ is also favorable due to its
3	similarity with $Z = 120$. The second category contains $Z = 132$, 138,186, and 204, which has
4	a δ_{2p} value of around 2.0 MeV. Thus we have a total of six protons candidates for the magic
5	numbers. Contrary to the two-neutrons shell gap the two-protons shell gap has a very strong
6	dominance across the region under considerations. For instance the $Z = 120$ shell gap is well
7	pronounced in almost all of the isotope chain, as can be seen in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8. Other
8	candidates behave similarly, as seen in these figures.
9	The results are almost independent of parameterizations. For neutron subsystem, as
10	seen by comparing Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, that the predicted neutron magic numbers obtained in
11	both parameterizations are identical except for $N = 422$. Also, the region of dominance of
12	each magic number is reproduced in both of them, see Figs. 3 & 4. Similarly, the proton
13	subsystem results are reproduced exactly of same nature using both parameterizations, only
14	one difference is the enhancement of δ_{2p} for Z = 204 in DD-ME2 as compared with NL3*.
15	Our predictions are in partial agreement with the results obtained in Ref. [6], where
16	both of us predict a proton magic number at $Z = 120$, 138 and neutron magic number at $N =$
17	172,184. In our case the nuclei that we nominate to be a doubly magic are as follows:
18	Z = 120 and N = (292,304,320,336,348,358,380)
19	Z = 132 and N = (304,316,332,348,360,370,392,408,420)
20	Z = 138 and N = (310,322,338,354,366,376,398,414,426,446)
21	Z = 154 and N = (354,370,382,392,414,430,442,462,476)
22	Z = 186 and N = (402,414,424,446,462,474,494,508,540,546)

Z = 204 and N = (442,464,480,492,512,526,558,582,610)

2 Z = 216 and N = (454,476,492,504,524,538,570,594,622)

3 These results are also in good agreement with Ref. [8]. It remains that we check that
4 these nuclei indeed have a spherical shape at ground state, which will be investigated in Sec.

5 3.2.

6 **3.2.** Deformed results

7 A spherical doubly magic nuclei, must has a spherical shape at ground state. 8 However, the results in Sec. 3.1 are based on the assumption that the nuclei under 9 consideration are spherical. Thus we shall perform an additional check assuming that these 10 nominated magic nuclei are having axial deformation. We have performed the calculations 11 based on axially deformed basis for all those nuclei nominated in the previous section, using two parameterizations NL3* and DD-ME2. The result we got is the following nuclei ²⁹²120 12 , ³⁰⁴120, ³⁸⁰120, ³⁷⁰154, ⁴⁶²154 and ⁴⁷⁶154 which have a spherical shape minimum. For 13 these nuclei, the binding energy as a function of β_2 deformation is presented in Fig. 9 using 14 both DD-ME2 and NL3* parameterizations. These nuclei belongs to the two isotopic chain, 15 16 Z = 120 and Z = 154.

We can see that, for the Z = 120 isotopes, with DD-ME2 parameterization, the spherical minimum is followed by a barrier of around 10 MeV height, which increases the stability of these minimum. However, as the number of neutrons increases, the spherical minimum becomes a local minimum, and another global minimum starts to form. For example the ³⁰⁴120 nucleus has a superdeformed minimum at $\beta_2 = 0.6$, which is followed by a smaller outer barrier as compared by the first inner barrier. According to the Ref. [31] the second outer barrier in superheavy region of the nuclear chart is lowered by 2-3 MeV when one take into account triaxiality and octupole deformation, while the inner barrier is not affected by either of them. Thus we can safely assume that the spherical minimum is indeed the ground state minimum for these nuclei. The conclusion remains the same with NL3* parameterization except the inner barrier height (6 MeV) here in this case is lower than the DD-ME2 parameterization.

7 The situation is different for the Z = 154 isotopes, there is only one barrier and after 8 the barrier there is a deep valley, which would suggest that once the nucleus reach the top of 9 the barrier it will go into fission. The stability of these nuclei will then be characterized by 10 the hight of the barrier. For ³⁷⁰154 the hight of the barrier is around 6 MeV, in both NL3* and DD-ME2 parameterizations. For ⁴⁷⁶154 the barrier height is around 6 MeV in DD-ME2, 11 12 while 3 MeV in NL3*. Although there is a discrepancy between DD-ME2 and NL3*, but 13 both of them agrees on the spherical minimum and provide some kind of stability of the nucleus. However, the main concern shows up in the calculations of ⁴⁶²154, where in DD-14 15 ME2 the height of the barrier is about 9 MeV while it is around 1.5 MeV in NL3*, thus it is 16 inconclusive to say that this nucleus is doubly magic, since the barrier height is almost nonexisting in NL3*. It is difficult to classify 462 154 as a doubly magic nuclei, while its stability 17 18 against fission is questionable with NL3*. However, for DD-ME2 parameterization, we can still nominate ⁴⁶²154 as a candidate fo the spherical shell closure on the basis of its large 19 20 barrier height and spherical ground state.

Now it remains to check our third condition, that is the collapse of paring does indeed
occur for these candidates. The proton and neutron pairing energy are shown in Fig. 10.

According to the Ref. [30] a closed shell must have a zero pairing energy. Thus we examine 1 2 the pairing energy for our candidates as a function of β_2 deformation. Only two nuclei $^{292}120$ and $^{370}154$ has a collapse of pairing at spherical shape, as can be seen in the Fig. 10. 3 4 Moreover, the density of the single particle states in the vicinity of the fermi-level, plays a major role in determining some properties of the nuclei. As an illustration, one can 5 6 take a look at Fig. 11 and can notice the low density of the neutron single particle states near the fermi level for ²⁹²120. Look at the other nuclei that are candidates of our search, ³⁰⁴120 7 and ³⁸⁰120 as shown in the Fig. 11 The level density increases with the neutron numbers as 8 9 we move along the isotopic chain. Clearly, the nuclei become unbound as the number of 10 neutrons increases beyond N = 160. This can be seen from the change in the location of the fermi-level. It can be noticed that as the number of neutron increases, it reaches higher energy 11 12 toward becoming unbound. Similarly, the single particle states for the proton as shown in Fig. 12 shows low density for the ²⁹²120 in the vicinity of the Fermi level, and that the 13 14 density of the states increases with the neutron numbers as shown in the Fig. 12, but they still 15 remain bound. Thus one can make a connection between the level density of the states with 16 the shell closure of these nuclei. The less the density of the states one can expect the 17 occurrence of shell closure.

18 On can do the similar analysis for other three candidates that belong to the the Z =19 154 isotopic chain, but unfortunately our results indicated that the candidate nucleus ³⁷⁰154 20 is unbound. Thus, none of them is a possible candidate.

The vanishing of the pairing energy can be attributed to the density of the states nearthe fermi level. The pairing energy given by eq. 16, and the two body interaction depends on

1	the creation and annihilation operator, that excite a nucleon into higher levels. The smaller
2	the density of the states, the smaller the probability to contribute to the pairing energy.
3	4. Conclusions
4	We mapped the region located in $100 \le Z \le 220$, $(72 \le Z \le 282$ as in the Ref. [8]),
5	with neutron number $Z + 30 \le N \le 2Z + 30$, using a Relativistic Hartree-Bogoliubov (RHB)
6	formalism with separable pairing for the spherical and the deformed calculations. The force
7	parameter used are the density dependent finite range interaction i.e. DD-ME2 parameter,
8	and nonlinear meson exchange interaction i.e. NL3* parameter. We summarize the procedure
9	and results which are as follows:
10	
11	• The two neutron separation energy, and the two proton separation energy
12	were calculated using spherical basis for all the nuclei in that region.
13	• Proton numbers and neutron numbers corresponding to the peaking of δ_{2p}
14	and δ_{2n} were observed respectively, and are considered as candidates for the
15	center of new islands of stability.
16	• Nuclei that can be formed from proton and neutron numbers obtained using
17	the spherical basis calculations, were studied using the axially deformed basis
18	calculations.
19	• On the basis of the potential energy surface study, those nuclei that were
20	found spherical in ground state, proton and neutron pairing energy were
21	calculated. One expects collapse of the pairing for closed shells.

1	•	Single particle states density is directly connected to both the shell closure
2		and vanishing of the pairing energy.
3	•	We predict that beyond $Z = 120$, it is very difficult to exactly identify a
4		nucleus to be at the center of the new island of stability. However, we can
5		predict that $Z = 154$, is a proton shell closure and one of the isotopes that has
6		N > 220 might be a center of the new island of stability.
7	•	In future studies one has to take triaxiality into account. However, this will
8		make the calculations time consuming, and it will be discussed in a separate
9		manuscript.
10	•	The results are independent of the choice of the parameterizations.
11		
12		



2 Figure 1: Two-neutron shell gap for different isotopic chains 100<Z<220 , using NL3*



Figure 2: Same as Fig1, but using DD-ME2



Figure 3: Two-neutron shell gap for all calculated nuclei using NL3*



Figure 4: Two-neutron shell gap for all calculated nuclei using DD-ME2



Figure 5: Two-proton shell gap using NL3*



Figure 6: Same as Fig 5 but for DD-ME2



Figure 7: Two-proton shell gap for all calculated nuclei using NL3*



Figure 8: Two-proton shell gap for all calculated nuclei using DD-ME2



Figure 9: Binding energy as a function of quadrupole deformation (β₂) for ²⁹²120, ³⁰⁴120
, ³⁸⁰120, ³⁷⁰154, ⁴⁶²154 and ⁴⁷⁶154.and . Using two different parameterizations DD-ME2
and NL3*





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