On quarks and the origin of QCD: Partons and baryons from intrinsic states

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Abstract – We create quarks from baryons in stead of constituting baryons from quarks. The quantum fields of QCD are generated via the exterior derivative (momentum form) of baryon wave functions on an intrinsic configuration space, the Lie group $U(3)$. Local gauge transformations correspond to coordinate translations in the intrinsic space. A proton spin structure function and a proton magnetic moment are derived. We show how the spectrum of unflavoured baryons, the $N$ and Delta resonances, can be understood from a mass Hamiltonian on the intrinsic space and note how our model resolves the problem of colour confinement. We calculate an approximate value for the relative neutron-to-proton mass shift and give an exact value for the neutron mass. We predict neutral charge singlets that may be interpreted as neutral pentaquarks at LHCb.

Introduction. – Nature, at the present level of our understanding, exhibits degrees of freedom that we call quarks. Quarks are described as fractionally charged spin-one-half particles of different kinds, labelled by flavour and colour. The constituent quark model for baryons like the proton and the neutron carries with it for many years a missing resonance problem [1,2]: many more resonances are predicted than observed\(^1\). Quantum chromodynamics [1] carries with it a confinement problem: colour degrees of freedom are confined. Confinement has not yet been shown to follow from the QCD Lagrangian density. In the present work we try to solve these two seemingly independent problems by a common idea: we consider colour to live in a compact, intrinsic space, the Lie group $U(3)$. This space contains all three gauge groups of the standard model as subspaces which is a first motivation to choose it as a configuration space for baryons. It is compact and has nine generators equivalent to the nine kinematic generators in the laboratory space: momentum, angular momentum and Laplace-Runge-Lenz generators [5] which could explain its origin. Baryons feel both the strong interactions with $SU(3)$ symmetry and electroweak interactions with $U(1) \times SU(2)$ symmetry. We show that coordinate translations in the intrinsic space equate local gauge transformations in the laboratory space. We also show that the fundamental fields of quantum chromodynamics, quarks and gluons, are generated by the exterior derivative, the momentum form, on the intrinsic wave function. To give an intuitive picture, imagine playing “ducks and drakes” where a stone thrown at a small glancing angle scatters on a water surface and creates ripples on the surface where it hits. The

\(^1\)The constituent quark model was successful in predicting, e.g., the Omega minus baryon at 1685 MeV [3]. Today however, the multiplet idea is mostly used post festum to label resonances when they are already discovered. The present model uses a compact configuration space which gives a periodic potential that lifts higher lying levels out of the “resonance domain".
ripple patterns are quantised to fit the compact intrinsic space for mass eigenstates. The three Abelian momentum generators excite toroidal orbits which we interpret as colour degrees of freedom. The off-toroidal generators excite non-commuting degrees of freedom taking care of spin and flavour via off-toroidal derivatives in the Laplacian on \( U(3) \).

The quarks in the present model are not fundamental [6] but share gauge groups with standard model quarks.

The quarks are intrinsic orbits in the baryon excited in scattering by flavour generators which use quantum numbers for quark charge and baryon hypercharge as coefficients on their colour generators. The quark masses may be related to the curvature of such orbits when embedded in laboratory space, see footnote 3.

The creation of unit electric charge, e.g., in the \( n \rightarrow p \) decay is interpreted topologically to originate in period doublings in the intrinsic nuclear wave function. The decay relates the strong and electroweak sectors to yield equations for the electroweak energy scale and the Higgs mass in closed forms [7] and relates the electroweak mixing angle \( \theta_W \) and the Cabibbo angle \( \theta_C \) via quark flavour generators \( T_u, T_d \) and \( T_s \) to have \( \sin^2 \theta_W \approx 1 - \text{Tr} T_u^2 T_d = 2/9, |\sin \theta_C| \approx |\text{Tr} T_u^2 T_s| = 2/9 \) [8].

The quarks in the present model are not fundamental [6] but share gauge groups with standard model quarks.

We imagine the mapping in (8) to take place in scattering experiments where the intrinsic degrees of freedom are periodic in the eigenangles and depends only on these [17]

\[
\frac{1}{2} \langle \partial\!^2 e, u \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \chi^2 = \sum_{j=1}^{3} w(\theta_j), \quad u = e^{i\chi},
\]

where the generator

\[
\chi = \theta_j T_j + (\alpha_j S_j + \beta_j M_j)/\hbar, \quad iT_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j}, \quad \alpha_j, \beta_j \in \mathbb{R}
\]

and (see fig. 1)

\[
w(\theta) = \frac{1}{2}(\theta - n \cdot 2\pi)^2, \quad \theta \in [(2n-1)\pi, (2n+1)\pi), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.
\]

The periodicity of the potential reflects the compactness of the configuration space. We see that (1) with (2) inserted is analogous to solving the hydrogen atom [18]. Now however, there are three “radial” degrees of freedom, the three eigenangles \( \theta_j \) that span the Abelian (maximal) torus (7) of \( U(3) \). The independence of the potential upon the remaining six dynamical variables \( \alpha_j, \beta_j \) follows from the invariance of the trace on similarity operations \( u \rightarrow v^{-1}uv, \quad v \in U(3) \), in particular the ones that diagonalise \( u \), thus

\[
u \sim v^{-1}uv = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta_1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\theta_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\theta_3} \end{pmatrix}.
\]

The length scale \( a \) in (1) can be used to map from the laboratory space to the intrinsic space by the identification, see fig. 1,

\[
\theta_j = x_j/a.
\]

We imagine the mapping in (8) to take place in scattering experiments where the intrinsic degrees of freedom are excited by the nine kinematic generators from laboratory space, namely momentum

\[
p_j = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} = \hbar T_j,
\]

angular momentum, e.g.,

\[
S_1 = a\theta_2 p_3 - a\theta_3 p_2 = \hbar \lambda_7,
\]
and Laplace-Runge-Lenz operators, e.g.,

\[
M_1/h = \theta_2 \theta_3 + \frac{a^2}{\hbar^2} p_2 p_3 = \lambda_6. \tag{11}
\]

Here, the lambdas are the Gell-Mann generators [5].

The quantisation inherent in (9) generalises to all of the configuration space by the global concepts of left (or right) invariant coordinate fields \( \partial_j \) and corresponding coordinate forms \( d\theta_j \) [20]

\[
\partial_j \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} u e^{i\theta_j T_j} |_{\theta = 0} = uiT_j, \tag{12}
\]

\[
\left[ \theta_i, \partial_j \right] = \delta_{ij} \rightarrow d\theta_i(\partial_j) = \delta_{ij}.
\]

This generalises the well-known commutation relations

\[
[a\theta_i, p_j] = -i\hbar \delta_{ij}. \tag{13}
\]

From the coordinate representations [5] in (10) and (11)

\[
[M_1, M_j] = [S_1, S_j] = -i\hbar \varepsilon_{ijk} S_k. \tag{14}
\]

Note the minus sign for the spin commutators as in body fixed intrinsic coordinate systems in nuclear physics [21].

**Quarks and gluons as scattering states.** — In solving (1) we introduce the measure-scaled wave function [9]

\[
\Phi(u) \equiv J\Psi(u) \equiv R(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3) Y(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3). \tag{15}
\]

The two functions \( R \) and \( T \) are analogues of the radial wave function and the spherical harmonics used in describing the Euclidean three-dimensional case of the hydrogen atom [18].

We consider quarks and gluons as scattering states on baryons. We create their corresponding fields \( \psi_j \) and \( G^{(k)} \) via the momentum forms \( dR \) and \( d\Phi \) acting on the toroidal generators \( iT_j \) and the basis \( i\lambda_k \) of the adjoint representation of the \( su(3) \) algebra, respectively,

\[
\psi_j(u) = dR_u(\partial_j), \quad G^{(k)}(u) = d\Phi_u(\partial_k). \tag{16}
\]

Here

\[
\partial_k = uiT_k, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots 8 \quad \tag{17}
\]

are left invariant coordinate fields corresponding to the gluon field generators \( t_k = \lambda_k/2 \) [1], six of which are proportional to \( S_j \) and \( M_j \) and the remaining two are diagonal linear combinations of the \( T_j \)'s. The momentum form becomes “operational” by derivation of \( \Phi \) along the direction given by the generator. For a generator \( Z \) we have the general definition of a derivation as

\[
Z[\Phi](u) \equiv d\Phi_u(Z) = \frac{d}{dt} \Phi(ue^{tZ})|_{t = 0}, \quad Z \in u(3), \tag{18}
\]

where \( u(3) \) is the algebra of \( U(3) \).

From (16) applied to the ground state of (1) we have derived exemplar parton distribution functions for the valence \( u \) and \( d \) quarks of the proton [9] and we have recently derived exemplar energy-momentum tensor components of the proton too [22]. We add here as a further motivation a proton spin structure function and the proton magnetic moment. For an approximate calculation we use a Slater determinant \( R \) with period doubling in the eigenvalues interpreted as a topological origin of the proton’s electric charge [9]

\[
R = \frac{1}{N} \begin{vmatrix}
\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_1 & \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_2 & \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_3 \\
\cos \theta_1 & \cos \theta_2 & \cos \theta_3
\end{vmatrix}. \tag{19}
\]

Here \( N \) with \( N^2 = \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 - \frac{1}{3} \pi \) normalises \( R \) on \( \theta_j \in [0, \pi] \).

The quark distribution functions derived in [9] are obtained along one-parameter curves generated by the momentum form \( dR \) applied to flavour generators \( T_q \) (23) while summing over colours and squaring to get probability distributions for the parton momentum fraction \( x \in [0, 1] \)

\[
f_q(x)dx = \left( \sum_{j=1}^{4} dR_u = \exp(\theta \xi T_j) (iT_j) \right)^2 d\theta. \tag{20}
\]

Here \( \theta = \pi \xi \) and the boost variable \( \xi \) is [9]

\[
\xi \equiv \frac{E - E_0}{E} = \frac{2 - 2x}{2 - x}, \quad E_0 = mc^2, \tag{21}
\]

from impacting a massless energy momentum \( q = (E - E_0, \mathbf{q}) \) on a parton \( xP \) acquiring mass \( xE \) in a proton at rest \( (E_0, \mathbf{0}) \), i.e.,

\[
(xP_\mu + q_\mu)(xP_\mu + q_\mu) = x^2 E^2. \tag{22}
\]

For \( u, d, s \) quarks we use, respectively,

\[
T_u = \frac{2}{3} T_1 - T_3, \quad T_d = -\frac{1}{3} T_1 - T_3, \quad T_s = -\frac{1}{3} T_1, \quad \tag{23}
\]

to get the unpolarised proton spin structure function averaging over three colours [19] \( f_s(x) \equiv 0 \) for \( R \) in (19)

\[
g_1^u(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ c_s^2 \frac{4}{3} f_s(x) + c_s^2 \frac{1}{3} f_s(x) \right]. \tag{24}
\]
This represents rather well the experimentally extracted values [12] in fig. 2 without fitting parameters.

From the constituent quark model, we have an expression for the proton magnetic moment [23]

\[\mu_p = \frac{4}{3}\mu_u - \frac{1}{3}\mu_d, \quad \mu_q = \frac{e_q\hbar}{2}\]  

(25)

We use [19]

\[m_p = 2m_u + m_d, \quad \frac{m_u}{m_d} = \frac{\int x f_u(x)dx}{\int x f_d(x)dx} = 0.2722, \quad \frac{m_d}{m_u} = 0.1432\]  

(26)

and get \(m_u c^2 = 371\) MeV, \(m_d c^2 = 195\) MeV from which

\[\mu_p = 2.779 \ldots \mu_N, \quad \mu_N = \frac{e\hbar}{2\pi\varepsilon_0 m_p}\]  

(27)

to compare with experiment 2.7928473446(8)\(\mu_N\) [1].

**Basic building blocks for QCD construction.**

We require local gauge invariance of a field Hamiltonian [24] constructed from the colour quark fields generated in (16)

\[H = \int \bar{\psi} \left(-i\hbar c \alpha \cdot \nabla + \beta mc^2\right) \psi dx^3, \quad \bar{\psi} = (\psi_1^*, \psi_2^*, \psi_3^*)\]  

(28)

Here we suppressed spinor indices which are mixed by the 4 \(\times\) 4 Dirac matrices \(\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)\) and \(\beta\). The spinor indices commute with the colour indices. Using left invariance of the coordinate fields \(\partial_{\mu} u = uiT_j = u\partial_{\mu} e\) from (12)

we get in the mass term of (28)\(^3\)

\[\psi (u)\bar{\psi} (u') = (u' iT_j [R]) (u' iT_j [R]) = (iT_j [\bar{R}]) (u')\bar{u}' (iT_j [R]) = \psi (u)\bar{\psi} (u),\]  

(29)

provided the configuration variables \(u', u\) are unitary, i.e., \((u')^\dagger u' = u\bar{u} = 1\). Next we impose the local gauge transformation

\[\psi \to \psi' = g(x)\psi, \quad g(x) \in SU(3), \quad \partial_{\mu} \to D_\mu = \partial_{\mu} + \phi',\]  

(30)

with colour gauge field, \(G = ig_sG_{ik}\) [1] containing a strong coupling \(g_s\)

\[G_{ik} = ig_sG^{ik}, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, 8, \quad G^{ik} \sim \phi_s(e) = d\phi_s(i\tau_k)\]  

(31)

and transforming (when \(e \to g(x)\) in \(G^{ik}\)) like in [27]

\[G_{ik}' = g(x)G_{ik} g(x)^{-1} - \partial_{\mu}(g(x))g(x)^{-1} \to (D_\mu \psi')^2 = (D_\mu \psi)^2\]  

(32)

We thus have the basic ingredient colour fields for setting up QCD. Spin degrees of freedom enter from (10) and flavours enter from (11) and are extracted by (23).

Choosing \(u = g(x)\) in (30) and in (12) equates local gauge transformation in laboratory space to left translation of the intrinsic coordinate fields

\[\psi_j (u) = \partial_{\mu} [u \Phi] = u \partial_{\mu} [\Phi] = u \psi_j (e).\]  

(33)

**Unflavoured baryons: \(N\) and \(\Delta\) states.** In (1) we multiply by \(J\) and integrate over the off-toroidal degrees of freedom to get [9]

\[\left[ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{3} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta_j^2} + W(\theta) \right] R(\theta) = ER(\theta), \quad \theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3),\]  

(34)

for the dimensionless eigenvalues \(E = \varepsilon_0/\Lambda\). The total potential

\[W(\theta) = -1 + \frac{4/3}{16\sin^2 \frac{1}{2}(\theta_i - \theta_j)} + \sum_{j=1}^{3} w(\theta_j)\]  

(35)

is periodic with \(w\) from (4). The constant term \(-1\) follows from differentiating through \(J\) in the Laplacian (2) [15]; Dowker calls it the constant global curvature potential [28]. The centrifugal term has the numerator \(4/3\) from the minimum value \((S^2 + M^2)/4 = 4\) [19] common for \(N\) and \(\Delta\) in integrating the second term in (2) over the six off-toroidal degrees of freedom contained in \(T\) from (15). Here the arbitrary labelling of the three eigenangles is exploited to make an average over the non-commuting components of \(S\) and \(M\) in (2). For a Wilson

\[\ldots\]
Table 1: 1D eigenvalues (37) to construct the approximate baryon spectrum in fig. 3 from (36). The eigenvalues are calculated with 1500 collocation points (sm1). The lowest eigenvalues, as expected, are close to those of the ordinary harmonic oscillator. Moving up to higher levels, the eigenvalues increase quadratically as indicated in fig. 4. Table extract from [19].

| i | Level | $e_i$ | $e_i'$ | $e_i''$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Eigenvalue | Diminished | Augmented |
| 2 | 0.499804708 | 0.5001727904 |
| 3 | 1.502989868 | 1.496433950 |
| 4 | 2.471377779 | 2.522629649 |
| 5 | 3.600509000 | 3.377326032 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... |

The eigenvalues of this Hamiltonian are closer to those involving the full potential (35) than one might expect. This is because the total curvature term and the centrifugal terms have opposite signs and more or less cancel each other when integrated [31].

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Fig. 3: Unflavoured baryon spectra. The dashed lines are singlet states. The red lines mark states with augmented contribution in level 3. All lines are approximate predictions based on (39). The boxes represent baryons observed with certainty [1]. The box widths represent the uncertainty in the mass pole peaks, not resonance widths, which are much larger. Figure updated from [31].

Table 2: Scarce singlet states. Eigenvalues based on Slater determinants (43) of three cosines up to order 20 (see SM5). The first column shows eigenvalues from the approximate Hamiltonian (39) and the third column shows eigenvalues of the exact equation (34). The rest masses are predicted from a common fit of the neutron state 939.57 MeV to the ground state 4.382 of (34) with no period doublings. The four resonances marked by an asterix (*) lie within the observational window in $\Lambda_0$-decays (44) at LHCb. Table updated from [31].

| Singlet approximate (39) | Toroidal label | Singlet exact (34) | Rest mass MeV/$c^2$ |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 7.1895                   | 1 3 5          | 7.1217            | 1527               |
| ...                      | ...            | ...               | ...               |
| 18.9214                  | 1 5 11         | 19.7327           | 4231               |
| 20.3774                  | 5 7 9          | 20.9940           | 4501*              |
| 20.8910                  | 3 5 11         | 21.7110           | 4655*              |
| 21.0766                  | 1 7 11         | 22.0409           | 4726*              |
| 23.0609                  | 3 7 11         | 23.7887           | 5101*              |
| 24.4575                  | 1 9 11         | 23.9981           | 5146               |
| ...                      | ...            | ...               | ...               |

Fig. 4: Left and right: reduced zone schemes, cf. [30], for Bloch wave numbers for the neutron state (left) and the proton state (right). Middle: Higgs potential (solid, blue) matching the Manton-inspired potential [14] (dashed, red) and the Wilson-inspired potential [29] (dotted, green). The Manton and Wilson inspired potentials yield the same value for the Higgs mass and the electroweak energy scale [19] whereas only the Manton inspired potential (6) gives a satisfactory reproduction of the baryon spectrum seen in fig. 3. Figure adapted from [34].

Like for the neutral states $R_n$ in (41) also the Hamiltonian in (1) for (43) can be diagonalized with a Rayleigh-Ritz method [19,32] where the integrals needed for the Hamiltonian matrix elements can be found analytically and the eigenvalues therefore be found with high accuracy. The eigenvalues for these cases are given in table 2 (see Supplementary Material Supp5-3Dsinglets-Mathcad.mcd and Supp5a-3Dsinglets-Mathcad.pdf (SM5)).

We have previously suggested to look for neutral charge resonances in [31] and had the opportunity to discuss the possibilities at LHCb with Sheldon S. Stone at the EPS-HEP 2015 after Marta Calvi had been so kind as to forward our request. Sheldon Stone suggested the following channel (when enough data are acquired) [36]:

$$\Lambda_0^0 \to K^0 + P_c^0 \to \bar{K}^0 + J/\Psi + \Delta^0 \to K^0 + J/\psi + p + \pi^-. \quad (44)$$

Figure 5 shows a quark structure interpretation for $P_c^0$ production in $\Lambda_0^0$ decay which can be reached at LHCb. Other channels could be narrow resonances in photoproduction on neutrons, in $\pi^- p$ scattering and in invariant mass spectra of $\Sigma^+_c$ (2455)$D^-$ from decays.

**Conclusion.** We derived quark and gluon fields for QCD from baryonic states on an intrinsic $U(3)$ Lie group configuration space with a mass Hamiltonian. We have shown in general that the intrinsic variable must be unitary for the mass term of the field Hamiltonian to be
invariant under translations in the intrinsic space and that local gauge transformations in laboratory space correspond to left translations in configuration space. As applications of the momentum form, we derived a proton spin structure function and a proton magnetic moment. We used the conjugacy of coordinate fields and coordinate forms as a generalisation of action-angle quantisation in ordinary quantum mechanics. We hinted at a topological origin of quark masses which should be better understood.

We have shown how to derive unflavoured baryon spectra without explicit introduction of quarks and gluons. Colour degrees of freedom are carried by the toroidal degrees of freedom and spin and flavour by off-toroidal derivatives in the Laplacian on \( U(3) \). The unflavoured spectrum from approximate calculations compares well with observed four star resonances. We have given an approximate value for the relative neutron to proton mass shift and an accurate value for the neutron mass. We predict unflavoured neutral charge singlets that might be interpreted as neutral pentaquarks.

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