Highly excited states of baryons in large $N_c$ QCD

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May 5, 2014

Abstract

The masses of highly excited negative parity baryons belonging to the $N = 3$ band are calculated in the $1/N_c$ expansion method of QCD. We use a procedure which allows to write the mass formula by using a small number of linearly independent operators. The numerical fit of the dynamical coefficients in the mass formula show that the pure spin and pure flavor terms are dominant in the expansion, like for the $N = 1$ band. We present the trend of some important dynamical coefficients as a function of the band number $N$ or alternatively of the excitation energy.

1 The status of the $1/N_c$ expansion method

The large $N_c$ QCD, or alternatively the $1/N_c$ expansion method, proposed by ’t Hooft [1] in 1974 and implemented by Witten in 1979 [2] became a valuable tool to study baryon properties in terms of the parameter $1/N_c$ where $N_c$ is the number of colors. According to Witten’s intuitive picture, a baryon containing $N_c$ quarks is seen as a bound state in an average self-consistent potential of a Hartree type and the corrections to the Hartree approximation are of order $1/N_c$. These corrections capture the key phenomenological features of the baryon structure.

Ten years after ’t Hooft’s work, Gervais and Sakita [3] and independently Dashen and Manohar in 1993 [4] derived a set of consistency conditions for the pion-baryon coupling constants which imply that the large $N_c$ limit of QCD has an exact contracted SU($2N_f$)$_c$ symmetry when $N_c \to \infty$, $N_f$ being the number of flavors. For ground state baryons the SU($2N_f$) symmetry is broken by corrections proportional to $1/N_c$ [5, 6].

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Analogous to s-wave baryons, consistency conditions which constrain the strong couplings of excited baryons to pions were derived in Ref. [7]. These consistency conditions predict the equality between pion couplings to excited states and pion couplings to s-wave baryons. These predictions are consistent with the nonrelativistic quark model.

A few years later, in the spirit of the Hartree approximation a procedure for constructing large $N_c$ baryon wave functions with mixed symmetric spin-flavor parts has been proposed [8] and an operator analysis was performed for $\ell = 1$ baryons [9]. It was proven that, for such states, the SU(2$N_f$) breaking occurs at order $N_c^0$, instead of $1/N_c$, as it is the case for ground and also for symmetric excited states $[56, \ell^+]$ (for the latter see Refs. [10, 11]). This procedure has been extended to positive parity nonstrange baryons belonging to the $[70, \ell^+]$ multiplets with $\ell = 0$ and 2 [12]. In addition, in Ref. [12], the dependence of the contribution of the linear term in $N_c$, of the spin-orbit and of the spin-spin terms in the mass formula was presented as a function of the excitation energy or alternatively in terms of the band number $N$. Based on this analysis an impressive global compatibility between the $1/N_c$ expansion and the quark model results for $N = 0, 1, 2$ and 4 was found [13] (for a review see Ref. [14]). More recently the $[70, 1^-]$ multiplet was reanalyzed by using an exact wave function, instead of the Hartree-type wave function, which allowed to keep control of the Pauli principle at any stage of the calculations [21]. The novelty was that the isospin term, neglected previously [9] becomes as dominant in $\Delta$ resonances as the spin term in $N^*$ resonances.

The purpose of this work is mainly to complete the analysis of the excited states by including the $N = 3$ band for which results were missing in the systematic analysis of Ref. [12]. An incentive for studying highly excited states with $\ell = 3$ has been given by a recent paper [15] where the compatibility between the two alternative pictures for baryon resonances namely the quark – shell picture and the meson – nucleon scattering picture defined in the framework of chiral soliton models [16, 17] has been proven explicitly. This work was an extension of the analysis made independently by Cohen and Lebed [18, 19] and Pirjol and Schat [20] for low excited states with $\ell = 1$.

As explained below, we shall analyze the resonances thought to belong to the $N = 3$ band by using the procedure we have proposed in Ref. [21] for the $N = 1$ band. Details can be found in Ref. [22].

# Mixed symmetric baryon states

If an excited baryon belongs to a symmetric SU(6) multiplet the $N_c$-quark system can be treated similarly to the ground state in the flavour-spin degrees of freedom, but one has to take into account the presence of an orbital excitation in the space part of the wave function [10, 11]. If the baryon state is described by a mixed symmetric representation of SU(6), the $[70]$ at $N_c = 3$, the treatment becomes more complicated. In particular, the resonances up to about 2 GeV are thought to belong to $[70, 1^-]$, $[70, 0^+]$ or $[70, 2^+]$ multiplets and beyond to 2 GeV to $[70, 3^-]$, $[70, 5^-]$, etc.

There are two ways of studying mixed symmetric multiplets. The standard one is
inspired by the Hartree approximation [8] where an excited baryon is described by a symmetric core plus an excited quark coupled to this core, see e.g. [9, 12, 23, 24]. The core is treated in a way similar to that of the ground state. In this method each SU($2N_f$) × O(3) generator is separated into two parts

\[ S^i = s^i + S^i_c, \quad T^a = t^a + T^a_c; \quad G^{ia} = g^{ia} + G^{ia}_c; \quad \ell^i = \ell^i_q + \ell^i_c, \]

(1)

where $s^i$, $t^a$, $g^{ia}$ and $\ell^i_q$ are the excited quark operators and $S^i_c$, $T^a_c$, $G^{ia}_c$ and $\ell^i_c$ the corresponding core operators.

As an alternative, we have proposed a method where all identical quarks are treated on the same footing and we have an exact wave function in the orbital-flavor-spin space. The procedure has been successfully applied to the $N = 1$ band [21, 25, 26]. In the following we shall adopt this procedure to analyze the $N = 3$ band.

3 The mass operator

When hyperons are included in the analysis, the SU(3) symmetry must be broken and the mass operator takes the following general form [27]

\[ M = \sum_i c_i O_i + \sum_i d_i B_i. \]

(2)

The formula contains two types of operators. The first type are the operators $O_i$, which are invariant under SU($N_f$) and are defined as

\[ O_i = \frac{1}{N_c - 1} O^{(k)}_\ell \cdot O^{(k)}_{SF}, \]

(3)

where $O^{(k)}_\ell$ is a $k$-rank tensor in SO(3) and $O^{(k)}_{SF}$ a $k$-rank tensor in SU(2)-spin. Thus $O_i$ are rotational invariant. For the ground state one has $k = 0$. The excited states also require $k = 1$ and $k = 2$ terms. The rank $k = 2$ tensor operator of SO(3) is

\[ L^{(2)ij} = \frac{1}{2} \{ L^i, L^j \} - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{i,j} \vec{L} \cdot \vec{L}, \]

(4)

which we choose to act on the orbital wave function $|\ell m_\ell\rangle$ of the whole system of $N_c$ quarks (see Ref. [12] for the normalization of $L^{(2)ij}$). The second type are the operators $B_i$ which are SU(3) breaking and are defined to have zero expectation values for non-strange baryons. Due to the scarcity of data in the $N = 3$ band hyperons, here we consider only one four-star hyperon $\Lambda(2100)$ and accordingly include only one of these operators, namely $B_1 = -S$ where $S$ is the strangeness.

The values of the coefficients $c_i$ and $d_i$ which encode the QCD dynamics are determined from numerical fits to data. Table 1 gives the list of $O_i$ and $B_i$ operators together with their coefficients, which we believe to be the most relevant for the present study. The choice is based on our previous experience with the $N = 1$ band [26]. In this table the
been discussed. Interestingly, when $N$ singlets, like for $\ell = 0$, making all the matrix elements of $1/N$ octets and decuplets and of order $\frac{1}{N}$, extended to SU(6). Then, it turns out that the expectation values of $N$ octets and decuplets and of order $\frac{1}{N}$ are positive for flavor singlets and negative and of order $\frac{1}{N}$, as in SU(4), by subtracting $N_c(N_c + 6)/12$. This is understood by using Eq. (30) of Ref. [25] for the matrix elements of $1/N_c(T^aT^a)$ extended to SU(6). Then, it turns out that the expectation values of $O_4$ are positive for octets and decuplets and of order $N_c^{-1}$, as in SU(4), and negative and of order $N_c^{0}$ for flavor singlets.

The operators $O_5$ and $O_6$ are also two-body, which means that they carry a factor $1/N_c$ in the definition. However, as $G^{\alpha\alpha}$ sums coherently, it introduces an extra factor $N_c$ and makes all the matrix elements of $O_6$ of order $N_c^{0}$ [25]. These matrix elements are obtained from the formulas (B2) and (B4) of Ref. [26] where the multiplet $[70, 1^-]$ has been discussed. Interestingly, when $N_c = 3$, the contribution of $O_5$ cancels out for flavor singlets, like for $\ell = 1$ [26]. This property follows from the analytic form of the isoscalar

| Operator | Fit 1 (MeV) | Fit 2 (MeV) | Fit 3 (MeV) | Fit 4 (MeV) |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| $O_1 = N_c \mathbf{1}$ | $c_1 = 672 \pm 8$ | $c_1 = 673 \pm 8$ | $c_1 = 672 \pm 8$ | $c_1 = 673 \pm 7$ |
| $O_2 = \ell s^i$ | $c_2 = 18 \pm 19$ | $c_2 = 17 \pm 18$ | $c_2 = 19 \pm 9$ | $c_2 = 20 \pm 9$ |
| $O_3 = \frac{1}{N_c} S^i S^i$ | $c_3 = 121 \pm 59$ | $c_3 = 115 \pm 46$ | $c_3 = 120 \pm 58$ | $c_3 = 112 \pm 42$ |
| $O_4 = \frac{1}{N_c} [T^a T^a - \frac{1}{2} N_c(N_c + 6)]$ | $c_4 = 202 \pm 41$ | $c_4 = 200 \pm 40$ | $c_4 = 205 \pm 27$ | $c_4 = 205 \pm 27$ |
| $O_5 = \frac{1}{N_c} L^a T^a G^{\alpha\alpha}$ | $c_5 = 1 \pm 13$ | $c_5 = 2 \pm 12$ | $c_6 = 1 \pm 5$ |
| $O_6 = \frac{1}{N_c} L^{(2)}(G^{\alpha\alpha} G^{\alpha\alpha})$ | $c_6 = 1 \pm 6$ |

$B_1 = -S$

$\chi^2_{\text{dof}}$

| | 1.23 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.75 |
The above analysis helps us to complete previous results for $N = 1$, 2 and 4 with the values of $c_i$ obtained for $N = 3$. Therefore we can draw now a complete picture of the dependence of the coefficients $c_1$ and $c_2$ on $N$ in analogy to Ref. [12] where results for $N = 3$ were
missing. The new pictures are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. One can see that the values of \( c_1 \) follow nearly a straight line which can give rise to a Regge trajectory. Remember that \( c_1 \) describes the bulk content of the baryon mass, \( c_1N_c \) being the most dominant mass term. In a quark model language it represents the kinetic plus the confinement energy. As as discussed in Refs. [13, 14] the band number \( N \) also emerges from the spin independent part of a semi-relativistic quark model. If this part contributes to the total mass by a quantity denoted by \( M_0 \), then one can make the identification

\[
\frac{c_2}{c_1} = \frac{M_0^2}{9} \tag{6}
\]

when \( N_c = 3 \). In this way one can compare the Regge trajectory obtainable from the above results with that of a standard constituent quark model. It turns out that they are close to each other [13,14], and the value obtained here for \( c_1 \) at \( N = 3 \), missing in the previous work, is entirely compatible with the previous picture.

The behaviour of \( c_2 \) shows that the spin-orbit operator contributes very little to the mass, at all energies, in agreement to quark models, where it is usually neglected. Note that the behaviour of \( c_2 \) in Fig. 2 is slightly different from that of [12], because we presently take the value of \( c_2 \) at \( N = 1 \) from Ref. [26] (Fit 3 giving the lowest \( \chi^2_{\text{dof}} \)) for consistency with our treatment, instead of that of Ref. [9], based on the ground state core + excited quark, the only available at the time the paper [12] was published.

We refrain ourselves from presenting the global picture of \( c_3 \), the spin term coefficient, because the results for positive parity mixed symmetric states are obtained on the one hand in the core + excited quark approach, where the isospin term is missing and on the other hand, for negative parity states where it is present, our approach is used. This term.
competes with the spin term. We plan to reanalyze the \([70, \ell^+]\) multiplets before drawing a complete picture of \(c_3\).

5 Conclusions

We have used a procedure which allows to write the mass formula by using a small number of linearly independent operators for spin-flavour mixed symmetric states of SU(6). The numerical fits of the dynamical coefficients in the mass formula for \(N = 3\) band resonances show that the pure spin and pure flavor terms are dominant in the \(1/N_c\) expansion, like for \(N = 1\) resonances. This proves that the isospin term cannot be neglected, as it was the case in the ground state + excited quark procedure. We have shown the dependence of the dynamical coefficients \(c_1\) and \(c_2\) as a function of the band number \(N\) or alternatively of the excitation energy for \(N = 1, 2, 3\) and \(4\) bands.

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