Pion mean fields and heavy baryons

Ghil-Seok Yang,1 Hyun-Chul Kim,2,3 Maxim V. Polyakov,4,5 and Michal Praszałowičz6

1Department of Physics, Soongsil University, Seoul 06978, Republic of Korea
2Department of Physics, Inha University, Incheon 22213, Republic of Korea
3School of Physics, Korea Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS), Seoul 02455, Republic of Korea
4Institut für Theoretische Physik II, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, D-44780, Bochum, Germany
5Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, St. Petersburg 188 350, Russia
6M. Smoluchowski Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Lojasiewicza 11, 30-348 Kraków, Poland

We show that the masses of the lowest-lying heavy baryons can be very well described in a pion mean-field approach. We consider a heavy baryon as a system consisting of the $N_c-1$ light quarks that induce the pion mean field, and a heavy quark as a static color source under the influence of this mean field. In this approach we derive a number of model-independent relations and calculate the heavy baryon masses using those of the lowest-lying light baryons as input. The results are in remarkable agreement with the experimental data. In addition, the mass of the $\Omega^+_b$ baryon is predicted.

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Heavy baryons and pion mean field.— In a naive quark model a heavy baryon consists of a heavy quark and two light quarks. When the mass of the heavy quark $m_Q \to \infty$, the spin of the heavy quark $S_Q$ is conserved, which indicates that the spin of the light-quark degrees of freedom is also conserved: $S_L = S - S_Q$. Because of this heavy-quark spin symmetry, the total spin of the light quarks can be considered as a good quantum number. This suggests that in the first approximation a heavy baryon can be viewed as a bound state of a heavy quark and a diquark. Thus, the flavor $SU(3)_f$ representations of the lowest-lying heavy baryons are: $3 \otimes 3 = 3 \oplus 6$, of which the anti-triplet has $S_L = 0$ and total $S = 1/2$ and the sextet has $S_L = 1$ with $S = 1/2$ and $S = 3/2$. Since in the limit $m_Q \to \infty$ the heavy quark inside a heavy baryon can be regarded as a static color source, the dynamics of heavy baryons is governed by the light quarks.

It is clear that the complete description of heavy baryons requires more involved treatment of light quarks. In the present Letter we propose to describe the dynamics of the light subsystem in a heavy baryon within a mean-field approach with a hedgehog symmetry, motivated by Ref. [3]. Mean field approximations provide often a simple physical picture, so that they have been widely applied in a variety of fields in physics: Thomas-Fermi approximation in atomic physics, Ginzburg-Landau theory for superconductivity, Bethe method in statistical physics, shell models in nuclear physics, to name a few. In the seminal papers [6] Witten has argued that, to the leading order in $1/N_c$ expansion, the lowest-lying light baryons can be also viewed as bound states of $N_c$ valence quarks in a mean field. In the limit of the large number of colors ($N_c$), the lowest-lying light baryons consist of $N_c$ valence quarks that produce an effective pion mean field, which arises from the vacuum polarization.

The $N_c$ valence quarks are influenced by this pion mean field. The chiral-quark soliton model ($\chi$QSM) is constructed, based on this picture [7, 8]. This mean field and a hedgehog symmetry allow one to derive the effective collective Hamiltonian that includes an explicit breaking of $SU(3)_f$ symmetry. The Hamiltonian involves the dynamical coefficients, which can be computed explicitly within the $\chi$QSM [10] in terms of the relativistic single particle quark states in the soliton background configuration. What will be important in the following is that the quark-soliton configuration has a trivial color structure: it consists of $N_c$ copies of a colorless soliton. This means that in the leading order all dynamical coefficients – so called moments of inertia – of the effective Hamiltonian are proportional to $N_c$. If the mean field is generated - as in the present case - by $N_c-1$, rather than by $N_c$ quarks, these coefficients have to be appropriately rescaled.

In the large $N_c$ limit, heavy baryons consist of a heavy quark and $N_c-1$ light quarks rather than a diquark. In this limit the $N_c-1$ valence quarks produce again the pion mean field and the system can be described as a quark-soliton. In the case of the light baryons the SU(3)$_f$ space of the effective Hamiltonian is a subject to a constraint imposed by the $N_c$ valence quarks: $Y' = N_c/3$ that selects the lowest allowed representations: 8 and 10. In the heavy baryon case the constraint is modified $Y' = (N_c-1)/3$ due to the presence of the $N_c-1$ valence quarks, and the lowest allowed representations are 3 and 6. The model predicts the structure of the symmetry breaking and allows one to compute numerical values of the dynamical coefficients.

In the general framework of this mean-field picture, one can extract the moments of inertia from the experimental data on the masses of the lowest-lying light-quark baryons without relying on any model calculation [11, 12]. Such an analysis has been performed re-
cently in Ref. [13] and the dynamical parameters have been determined with high accuracy. In the present work we shall use these values for the description of heavy baryon masses. Additionally, we shall introduce a spin-spin interaction [14] to remove spin 1/2 and 3/2 degeneracy of the sextet states. The hyperfine coupling – the only parameter undetermined from the light sector – will be fixed from the experimental data.

**Collective Hamiltonian.**– The SU(3) soliton is constructed in terms of a hedgehog Ansatz, which couples three first Gell-Mann matrices with a unit space vector \( \vec{n} \cdot \vec{X} \). It is an extended object and therefore its quantization is similar to the textbook quantization of a rigid body. This requires to identify the zero modes, which in the case of a hedgehog correspond to the space rotations and the rotations in the flavor space. Since the soliton lives in the isospin SU(2) subspace of the SU(3) group, the rotation along the hypercharge axis is not dynamical and the corresponding generalized momentum produces a constraint: the only representations of the SU(3) group that are allowed must contain states with hypercharge \( Y' \) (called right hypercharge) whose actual value depends on the number of valence quarks. Moreover, the isospin of the states with hypercharge equal to \( Y' \) is equal to the soliton spin. Details can be found in Refs. [10, 12]. A general form of the collective rotational Hamiltonian for the light-quark takes therefore a form of the quantized symmetric top rotating in the flavor SU(3) space:

\[
H_{(p, q)}^{\text{rot}} = M_{\text{sol}} + \frac{1}{2I_1} \sum_{i=1}^{3} J_i^2 + \frac{1}{2I_2} \sum_{a=4}^{7} J_a^2,
\]

where \( J_i \) are generators of the SU(3) group, whose first three components correspond to the soliton spin. \( I_{1,2} \) stand for the moments of inertia and \( M_{\text{sol}} \) is a classical soliton mass. Note that \( J_8 \) corresponding to \( Y' \) does not appear in Eq. (1). It is, however, convenient, to add and subtract \( J_8^2 \); then the corresponding eigenvalues of Eq. (1) in the representation \( R = (p, q) \) read:

\[
\epsilon_{(p, q)}^{\text{rot}} = M_{\text{sol}} + \frac{J(J+1)}{2I_1} + \frac{C_2(p, q) - J(J+1) - 3/4 Y'^2}{2I_2},
\]

where \( C_2 \) denotes SU(3) Casimir and \( J \) stands for spin. The baryon collective eigenfunctions are expressed in terms of the SU(3) Wigner D functions (see [10, 13] for details). The right hypercharge imposes a constraint on the quantization of the chiral soliton, which for baryons takes the following form: \( Y' = N_c/3 \). This constraint selects a tower of allowed rotational excitations of the SU(3) hedgehog, which are identical as in the quark model. This has been considered as a success of the collective quantization resulting in a duality between the chiral soliton picture and the constituent quark model.

In the case of heavy baryons, as already mentioned, \( Y' = (N_c - 1)/3 \). Then, the lowest rotational excitations appear to be \( (p, q) = (0, 1) \) (or \( \mathbf{3} \)) with \( S_L = J = 0 \) and \( (2, 0) \) (or \( \mathbf{6} \)) with \( S_L = 1 \).

**Explicit SU(3) symmetry breaking.**–The mass splittings in a heavy baryon multiplet arise from the explicit flavor SU(3) symmetry breaking caused by the strange current quark mass \( m_s \). The collective Hamiltonian of explicit SU(3) 

\[
H_{br} = \alpha D_{8i}^{(8)} + \beta \hat{Y} + \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{3}} \sum_{i=1}^{3} D_{8i}^{(8)} \hat{J}_i,
\]

where \( \alpha, \beta, \) and \( \gamma \) are given in terms of the moments of inertia \( I_{1,2} \) and \( K_{1,2} \), and the pion-nucleon sigma term \( \Sigma_{\pi N} = (m_u + m_d)\langle N|\bar{u}u + dd|N\rangle/2 = (m_u + m_d)\sigma \):

\[
\alpha = \frac{2m_s}{3} \sigma - \beta Y', \quad \beta = -\frac{m_sK_2}{I_2},
\]

\[
\gamma = \frac{2m_sK_1}{I_1} + 2\beta.
\]

In Eq. (4) we have explicitly included \( Y' \), which is equal to 1 for the light baryons.

In Ref. [13] the dynamical parameters \( \alpha, \beta, \) and \( \gamma \) have been determined separately by using the experimental data for the baryon octet masses, the \( \Omega \) mass, and the mass of the putative pentaquark \( \Theta^+ \), taking into account isospin symmetry breaking including the electromagnetic interactions [16]. The values of \( \alpha, \beta, \) and \( \gamma \) that have been obtained by \( \chi^2 \) minimization [13] read as follows:

\[
\alpha = 255.03 \pm 5.82 \text{ MeV},
\]

\[
\beta = -140.04 \pm 3.20 \text{ MeV},
\]

\[
\gamma = -101.08 \pm 2.33 \text{ MeV}, \quad (5)
\]

When we apply the mean-field approach to heavy baryons, \( Y' \) is equal to \( Y' = (N_c - 1)/3 \). Analogously, as explained previously, the expressions for the moments of inertia and \( \Sigma_{\pi N} \) need to be modified by a multiplicative factor of \( (N_c - 1)/N_c \). Thus, the \( m_s \) mass splittings of the heavy baryons should be calculated in terms of \( \beta \) and \( \gamma \) from Eq. (5), while the value of \( \alpha \) should be modified:

\[
\alpha \rightarrow \tilde{\alpha} = \frac{N_c - 1}{N_c} \alpha.
\]

(6)

The masses of the anti-triplet and the sextet baryons (without spin-spin interactions) are then expressed as:

\[
M_{B, R}^Q = M_{R}^Q + \delta R Y
\]

where \( M_{R}^Q = m_Q + \epsilon_{(p, q)}^{\text{rot}} \) is called the center mass of a heavy baryon in representation \( R \). The explicit expressions for \( M_{3}^Q \) and \( M_{6}^Q \) are written respectively as:

\[
M_{3}^Q = m_Q + M_{\text{sol}} + \left( \frac{N_c}{N_c - 1} \right) \frac{1}{2I_2},
\]

\[
M_{6}^Q = M_{3}^Q + \left( \frac{N_c}{N_c - 1} \right) \frac{1}{I_1}.
\]
TABLE I. Expressions for the masses of the heavy baryons

| \( R_Q \) | \( B_Q \) | \( T \) | \( Y \) | \( M_{B_Q} \) |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------------|
| \( 3_{1/2} \) | \( 3 \) | \( 0 \) | \( 0 \) | \( \frac{3}{5} \delta \tau + M_Q \) |
| \( 6_{1/2} \) | \( 6 \) | \( 0 \) | \( 0 \) | \( \frac{6}{5} \delta \tau + M_Q \) |
| \( 6_{3/2} \) | \( 6 \) | \( 0 \) | \( 0 \) | \( \frac{6}{5} \delta \tau + M_Q \) |

where we have modified the moments of inertia \( I_1 \) and \( I_2 \) as explained above. The term proportional to the hypercharge \( Y \) comes from the explicit SU(3)\(_c\) symmetry breaking in Eq. (3). Parameters \( \delta \) and \( \delta_b \) are defined as:

\[
\delta = \frac{3}{8} \alpha + \beta, \quad \delta_b = \frac{3}{20} \alpha + \beta - \frac{3}{10} \gamma.
\]  

In order to remove the degeneracy between sextet spin 1/2 and 3/2 states, we introduce the spin-spin interaction Hamiltonian expressed as:

\[
H_{LQ} = \frac{2}{3} \kappa \frac{M_{sol}}{m_Q} S_L \cdot S_Q = \frac{2}{3} \kappa \frac{M_{sol}}{m_Q} S_L \cdot S_Q
\]

where \( \kappa \) denotes the flavor-independent hyperfine coupling. The operators \( S_L \) and \( S_Q \) represent the spin operators for the soliton and the heavy quark, respectively. \( M_{sol} \) has been incorporated into an unknown coefficient \( \kappa \). The Hamiltonian \( H_{LQ} \) does not affect the \( 3 \) states, since in this case \( S_L = 0 \). In \( 6 \) \( S_L = 1 \), and it couples to \( S_Q \) producing two multiplets \( S = 1/2 \) and \( S = 3/2 \). The respective splittings read as follows:

\[
M_{B,0_{1/2}} = M_{B,0} + \frac{2}{3} \kappa \frac{M_{sol}}{m_Q},
\]

\[
M_{B,0_{3/2}} = M_{B,0} + \frac{1}{3} \kappa \frac{M_{sol}}{m_Q},
\]

giving the 3/2 – 1/2 splitting

\[
M_{B,0_{3/2}} - M_{B,0_{1/2}} = \frac{\kappa}{m_Q}.
\]

That is, \( \kappa \) can be determined by using the center values of the sextet masses. We list the expressions for the heavy baryon masses in Table II.

**Model-independent relations.**—The mass formulae given in Table II imply relations that do not depend upon actual values of the model parameters – so called model-independent relations. An immediate consequence of the mass formulae of Table II is the equal mass splittings separately in the \( 3 \) and \( 6 \). Note that the mass splittings are independent of the spin and of the heavy quark mass. These relations are indeed very well satisfied. For the \( 3 \) we have (in MeV):

\[
-\delta = 182.9 \pm 0.3 |\Xi_0 - \Lambda_0| = 173.6 \pm 0.7 |\Xi_0 - \Lambda_0|,
\]

which is satisfied with 7% accuracy. In the case of the \( 6 \) we have more relations (in MeV):

\[
-\delta = 123.3 \pm 2.1 |\Xi_0 - \Sigma_0| = 118.4 \pm 2.7 |\Xi_0 - \Sigma_0|
\]

\[
= 127.8 \pm 0.8 |\Xi_0 - \Sigma_0| = 120.0 \pm 2.0 |\Xi_0 - \Sigma_0|
\]

\[
= 121.6 \pm 1.3 |\Xi_0 - \Sigma_0| = 113.0 \pm 1.9 |\Xi_0 - \Sigma_0|
\]

\[
= 121.7 \pm 1.3 |\Xi_0 - \Sigma_0|.
\]

We see that the equality of splittings is quite accurate (at the 6% level). From the spread of splittings in Eq. (14), we can make the first prediction of the mass of \( \Omega_c^+ \) that is not yet measured, taking as an input the experimental mass of \( \Xi_0^+ \):

\[
M_{\Omega_c^+} = (6068 - 6083) \text{ MeV}.
\]

Using the mass formulae presented in Table II we are able to determine the centers of the heavy baryon masses:

\[
M_{B,0}^Q = M_{\Sigma_Q} + 2M_{\Xi_Q}, \quad M_{B,0}^Q = M_{\Omega_c^0} + 2M_{\Omega_c^0}
\]

where

\[
M_{B,0_{1/2}} = \frac{3M_{\Sigma_Q} + 2M_{\Xi_Q} + M_{\Omega_c^0}}{6},
\]

\[
M_{B,0_{3/2}} = \frac{3M_{\Sigma_Q} + 2M_{\Xi_Q} + M_{\Omega_c^0}}{6},
\]

with \( M_{B,0_{1/2,3/2}} \) given in Eq. (11). Equation (17) cannot be used in the \( b \) sector, because we do not know \( M_{\Omega_c^+} \). Fortunately, we can determine the centers of the multiplets without invoking \( \Omega_Q \) masses. Defining

\[
S(\Sigma_Q) = \frac{M_{\Sigma_Q} + 2M_{\Xi_Q}}{3} = M_{\bar{b}_0} + \frac{2}{3} \delta_b,
\]

\[
S(\Xi_Q) = \frac{M_{\Xi_Q} + 2M_{\Omega_c^0}}{3} = M_{\bar{b}_0} + \frac{1}{3} \delta_b.
\]

we have

\[
M_{\bar{b}_0} = \frac{S(\Sigma_Q) + 2S(\Xi_Q)}{3}.
\]

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1 The term model-independent relations in the present context has been first used in Ref. [11]. It refers to the fact that the operators that appear e.g. in [6] follow from the hedgehog symmetry, rather than from a specific model.

2 All model independent relations are checked using the data from [11] quoted in Tables II and III. For isospin multiplets an average mass is used.
For the sextet in the \( c \) sector, Eqs. (16, 19) can be regarded as model-independent relation:

\[
M_6^c = 2579.6 \pm 0.4 |_{\text{Eq. (16)}} = 2580.8 \pm 0.5 |_{\text{Eq. (19)}} \quad (20)
\]
in MeV. Relation (20) is fulfilled with unprecedented accuracy. For the \( 3 \) and the \( 6 \) in the \( b \) sector we have:

\[
M_3^b = (24087.4 \pm 0.2) |_{\text{Eq. (16)}} \text{ MeV},
M_6^b = (5735.2 \pm 0.4) |_{\text{Eq. (16)}} \text{ MeV},
M_6^b = (5908.0 \pm 0.3) |_{\text{Eq. (19)}} \text{ MeV}. \quad (21)
\]

Apart from equal splittings in \( 6 \) (14), mass formula of Tab. I admit a sum rule:

\[
M_{\Omega^c} = 2M_\Xi^c + M_\Sigma^c - 2M_\Sigma^Q. \quad (22)
\]

Equation (22) yields \((2764.5 \pm 3.1) \text{ MeV}\) for \( M_{\Omega^c} \), which is 1.4 MeV below the experiment, and predicts

\[
M_{\Omega^c} = (6076.8 \pm 2.25) \text{ MeV}, \quad (23)
\]

which falls in the range of Eq. (15).

Equation (22) provides yet another model independent relation, allowing one to determine the moment of inertia \( I_1 \) either from the \( c \) or from the \( b \) sector:

\[
\frac{1}{I_1} = \frac{2}{3} (M_Q^6 - M_Q^3) = 114.7 |_c = 115.2 |_b \quad (24)
\]
in MeV. The reason for the equality of splittings between the multiplet centers can be traced back to the fact that it comes only from the energy of the rotational excitations, which are flavor-blind in the present approach. Moreover, the effects of the SU(3)\(_f\) symmetry breaking are simply the same both for the charm and bottom baryons, since they are solely due to the presence of the light quarks inside a heavy baryon. The relation of Eq. (24) is indeed very accurate, but it undershoots by 30 \( \% \) the value of \( 1/I_1 \) extracted from the light sector equal to 160 MeV.

Another set of model-independent relations is not directly related to the specifics of the soliton model, but provides a test of our assumption concerning the spin interactions of Eq. (12):

\[
\frac{\kappa}{m_c} = 64.5 \pm 0.8 |_{\text{\Xi}_c} = 69.1 \pm 2.1 |_{\Xi_e} = 70.7 \pm 2.6 |_{\Omega_c}
\]

\[
\frac{\kappa}{m_b} = 20.2 \pm 1.9 |_{\text{\Xi}_b} = 20.3 \pm 0.1 |_{\Omega_b}. \quad (25)
\]

The experimental values of the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) heavy quark masses lead to \( m_c/m_b = 0.305 \) inserted, where both masses \( m_Q \) are evaluated at the renormalization point \( \mu = m_Q \) [17]. Of course heavy quark masses in the effective models, like the one considered in this paper, may differ from the QCD masses. It is therefore encouraging that we get the mass ratio close to the ratio of the QCD masses.

**Masses of heavy baryons.** Having determined \( \kappa/m_Q \), using the numerical values of \( \alpha, \beta, \gamma \) from Eqs. (8) and (6), we can predict the masses of the lowest-lying (\( 3 \) and \( 6 \)) heavy baryons. As we have already mentioned the determination of \( I_1 \) from the heavy quark sector and from the light sector differ by 30 \( \% \). Therefore in the following we shall use the center masses \( M_Q^3 \) and \( M_Q^6 \) as given by Eqs. (20, 21).

As a first check let us compare the values of \( \delta \) parameters determined from the light sector through Eqs. (9):

\[
\delta_3 = -203.8 \pm 3.5 \text{ MeV},
\delta_6 = -135.2 \pm 3.3 \text{ MeV}, \quad (28)
\]

with the values following from the heavy sector given in Eqs. (13, 14). We see that the light sector values (28) underestimate the heavy quark determination (13 and 14) by approximately 13 \( \% \). Interestingly, the ratio \( \delta_3/\delta_6 = 1.5 \) is almost exactly equal to the ratio of the average splittings as given in Eqs. (13, 14). Accuracy of the predictions given in Eq. (28) deserves a comment. Equal splittings in \( 3 \) or \( 6 \) are analogous to the Gell-Mann–Okubo mass formulae for the light baryon decuplet and follow solely from the SU(3)\(_f\) group properties. However, the relation between the splittings in \( 3 \) and \( 6 \) is a complicated dynamical question. The fact that chiral dynamics with an input from the light-baryon sector alone, reproduces \( \delta_3 \) and \( \delta_6 \) with good accuracy is therefore by far not trivial. The fact that the ratio \( \delta_3/\delta_6 \) is even better reproduced suggests a multiplicative modification of these parameters by a common factor, which may be due e.g. to a slight change of \( m_s \) in the heavy baryon environment.

In the following we shall use \( M_6^c = 2580.8 \text{ MeV} \), and Eq. (21) for the multiplet centers, \( \delta \) parameters from Eq. (28), and the average values for the hyperfine splittings: \( \kappa/m_c = (68.1 \pm 1.1) \text{ MeV} \) and \( \kappa/m_b = (20.3 \pm \)

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\(^3\) A similar relation is found in Ref. [18] with a different factor and in a different context.
whereas agreement with the experimental data within 0.4% range. This result lies within the 0.4% range. This result lies within the 0.4% range.

In the last row of Table III, the mass of the $\Omega^*_{b}$ is predicted:

$$M_{\Omega^*_{b}} = (6095.0 \pm 4.4 \pm 24) \text{ MeV}, \quad (29)$$

where ±24 MeV corresponds to the overall accuracy of the model which we assume to be, as for the other bottom states, within the 0.4% range. This result lies slightly above the other predictions obtained in Eqs. (13)-(15) and (20)-(26).

**Summary and Outlook.**—In the present Letter, we have applied a pion mean-field approach with hedgehog symmetry to the description of the heavy baryon masses, which essentially assumes that the heavy quark ($c$ or $b$) is surrounded by a pion mean field or a light-quark soliton produced from the $N_c - 1$ valence quarks. This assumption leads to a number of model-independent predictions: (i) the soliton quantization forces heavy baryons to have the following SU(3)$_f$ structure, $\mathbf{3}$ with spin 1/2, and the $\mathbf{6}$ with spin 1/2 and 3/2 with approximate degeneracy of the sextets, (ii) equal mass splittings within the multiplets given in Eqs. (13)-(15) that do not depend on the heavy quark mass, (iii) equal splittings between $\mathbf{3}$ and $\mathbf{6}$ for the $c$ and $b$ sectors (21), and (iv) the sum rule that allows to calculate the mass of $\Omega^*_Q$ in Eq. (22).

We have completed the model by adding the hyperfine interaction that is inversely proportional to the heavy quark mass in Eq. (10). This assumption proved to very accurate as shown in Eq. (27) and the pertinent coefficient has been determined from the mass splittings in Eq. (25).

Next, we have used the three parameters extracted from the light baryon sector in Eq. (5) to calculate heavy baryon masses. The soliton has been assumed to be exactly the same as in the case of the light baryons with one exception: all moments of inertia have been rescaled by a factor of $(N_c - 1)/N_c$, because there are $N_c - 1$ rather than $N_c$ valence quarks in a heavy baryon. With this modification, the predictions for the heavy baryon masses turned out to be within 0.5% range when compared with the experimental data. Unfortunately, the splitting of the multiplets centers of mass equal to $3/2I$, turned out to be 30% off the light baryon prediction. This result suggests that, apart from the $(N_c - 1)/N_c$ factor, moments of inertia be further modified in the presence of the heavy quark. These modifications to the large extent cancel in the ratios that enter Eq. (41) except for the $\Sigma_{cN}$ term in the definition of $\alpha$. We have checked, however, that varying $\Sigma_{cN}$ by ±30% changes $\delta_3$ by ±8.6 MeV, and $\delta_6$ by ±3.5 MeV. Such a change will not affect the quality of the predictions for the heavy baryon masses presented in this Letter.

Finally, we have presented four different predictions of the $\Omega^*_c$ mass: (i) from the spread of the $m_s$ splittings in $\mathbf{6}$ (15), (ii) from the $\Omega^*_Q$ sum rule (23), (iii) from the hyperfine splittings (26), and finally we have given model prediction in Eq. (29). All these estimates are consistent and point to the value of $M_{\Omega^*_c}$ within the range of Eq. (15). Only the prediction of Eq. (29) based on the parameters of the light-baryons sector was obtained to be slightly higher than the other ones. We anticipate that the mass of $\Omega^*_c$ will soon be measured at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

The present work has clear physical implications. The mean fields of the pion play indeed a crucial role in explaining not only the masses of the lowest-lying baryons in the light-quark sector but also those of the heavy baryons. The feedback of the heavy quark on the light sector may be of order of 30%, but it largely cancels in the heavy-baryon splittings. This aspect of the pion mean field deserves further study.

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*ghsyang@ssu.ac.kr
†hchkim@inha.ac.kr
‡maxim.polyakov@tp2.ruhr-uni-bochum.de
§michal.praszalowicz@uj.edu.pl

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