

# A Primary Study of Heavy Baryons $\Lambda_Q$ , $\Sigma_Q$ , $\Xi_Q$ and $\Omega_Q$ \*

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(Received 18 February 2011)

We perform a preliminary study of the  $\frac{1}{2}^+$  and  $\frac{3}{2}^+$  ground-state baryons containing a heavy quark in the framework of the chiral SU(3) quark model. By using the calculus of variations, masses of  $\Lambda_Q$ ,  $\Sigma_Q$ ,  $\Xi_Q$ ,  $\Omega_Q$ ,  $\Sigma_Q^*$ ,  $\Xi_Q^*$  and  $\Omega_Q^*$ , where  $Q$  means  $c$  or  $b$  quark, are calculated. By taking reasonable model parameters, the numerical results of established heavy baryons are generally in agreement with the experimental data available, except that those of  $\Xi_Q$  are somewhat heavier. For  $\Omega_b$  with undetermined experimental mass and unobserved  $\Xi_b^*$ ,  $\Omega_b^*$ , reasonable theoretical predictions are obtained. Interactions inside baryons are also discussed.

PACS: 12.39.-x, 14.20.Lq, 14.20.Mr

DOI:10.1088/0256-307X/28/7/071201

Baryons containing heavy quarks have always been interesting. In the last decade, significant progress was made in the experimental and theoretical studies of heavy hadrons. In particular, the spectroscopy of baryons containing a singly heavy quark has obtained special attention, mainly due to recent experimental discoveries.<sup>[1]</sup> In these baryons, a heavy quark can be used as a ‘flavor tag’ to help us to go further in understanding the non-perturbative QCD rather than focusing on light baryons.<sup>[2]</sup> On the other hand, heavy baryons provide a laboratory to study the dynamics of light quarks in the environment of heavy quarks, such as their chiral symmetry.<sup>[3]</sup>

To date, the  $\frac{1}{2}^+$  antitriplet charmed baryon states ( $\Lambda_c^+$ ,<sup>[4]</sup>  $\Xi_c^+$ ,  $\Xi_c^0$ <sup>[5]</sup>), the  $\frac{1}{2}^+$  and  $\frac{3}{2}^+$  sextet charmed baryon states [ $(\Omega_c$ ,<sup>[6]</sup>  $\Sigma_c$ ,<sup>[7]</sup>  $\Xi_c'$ ,<sup>[8]</sup>) and  $(\Omega_c^*$ ,<sup>[9]</sup>  $\Sigma_c^*$ ,<sup>[10]</sup>  $\Xi_c^*$ ,<sup>[11]</sup>)] have been established, while for  $S$ -wave bottom baryons, only the  $\Lambda_b$ ,<sup>[12]</sup>  $\Sigma_b$ ,  $\Sigma_b^*$ ,<sup>[13]</sup>  $\Xi_b$ <sup>[14]</sup> and  $\Omega_b$ <sup>[15,16]</sup> have been observed.<sup>[17]</sup> Accordingly, a large number of theoretical investigations have been carried out by various kinds of QCD-inspired models or methods to study the masses of the observed and expected heavy baryons, such as various quark models,<sup>[2,18–20]</sup> QCD sum rules,<sup>[21–23]</sup> lattice QCD,<sup>[24,25]</sup> and the bag model.<sup>[26]</sup>

The chiral SU(3) quark model is a useful non-perturbative theoretical tool for studying light hadron physics. It has been quite successful in reproducing the energies of the baryon ground states, the binding energy of the deuteron, the nucleon-nucleon ( $NN$ ), hyperon-nucleon ( $YN$ ), kaon-nucleon ( $KN$ ) and anti-kaon-nucleon ( $\bar{K}N$ ) scattering processes.<sup>[27,28]</sup> Valuable information has also been obtained from much work on strong interactions and multiquark clusters in this model.<sup>[29]</sup> Recently it has been extended to studying the states including heavy quarks,<sup>[30–32]</sup> and has provided interesting results. All of these successes inspire us to investigate the masses of baryons with one heavy quark following the above approaches. First, we briefly introduce the framework of the chiral SU(3) quark model, which includes the Hamiltonian

and model parameters. Then the calculated masses of  $\frac{1}{2}^+$  and  $\frac{3}{2}^+$  ground-state heavy baryons involving a heavy quark are shown and discussed.

The chiral SU(3) quark model has been widely described in the literature<sup>[27–32]</sup> and we recommend the reader to obtain details from those references. Here we just give the salient feature of this model. The total Hamiltonian of the heavy baryon containing one heavy quark ( $Qqq$ ) can be written as

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^3 T_i - T_G + V_{qq} + \sum V_{Qq}, \quad (1)$$

where  $T_i$  is the kinetic energy operator for a single quark, and  $T_G$  is that for the center-of-mass motion.  $V_{qq}$  represents the interaction between two light quarks ( $qq$ ),

$$V_{qq} = V_{qq}^{OGE} + V_{qq}^{conf} + V_{qq}^{ch}, \quad (2)$$

where  $V_{qq}^{OGE}$  is the one-gluon-exchange (OGE) interaction, which governs the short-range perturbative QCD behavior.  $V_{qq}^{conf}$  is the confinement potential, which provides the non-perturbative QCD effect in the long distance, taken as the linear form in this work.  $V_{qq}^{ch}$  represents the chiral fields induced effective quark-quark potential, and describes the non-perturbative QCD effect of the low-momentum medium-distance range. In the chiral SU(3) quark model, it includes the scalar boson and the pseudoscalar boson exchanges,

$$V_{qq}^{ch} = \sum_{a=0}^8 V_{\sigma_a} + \sum_{a=0}^8 V_{\pi_a}. \quad (3)$$

Here  $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_8$  are the scalar nonet fields, and  $\pi_0, \dots, \pi_8$  are the pseudoscalar nonet fields. The detailed expressions of every part can be found in Refs. [27–32].

$V_{Qq}$  in Eq. (1) is the interaction between heavy and light quark pairs ( $Qq$ ),

$$V_{Qq} = V_{Qq}^{OGE} + V_{Qq}^{conf}. \quad (4)$$

\*Supported by the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation Funded Project (20100471491), the Natural Science Foundation of Inner Mongolia (2010MS0101), the Inner Mongolia Educational Foundation (NJzy08006), SPH-IMU (Z20090143), and the Graduate Program of Inner Mongolia University.

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$V_{Qq}^{OGE}$  and  $V_{Qq}^{conf}$  have the same forms as those of light quark pairs. Note that following previous work,<sup>[30–32]</sup> for  $Qq$  pairs, the Goldstone boson exchanges will not be considered in a primary study.

The model parameters for light quarks are taken from the previous work,<sup>[27]</sup> which can give a satisfactory description of the energies of the baryon ground states, the binding energy of the deuteron, the  $NN$  scattering phase shifts, and the  $NY$  cross sections. As shown in Table 1, the up (down) quark mass  $m_{u(d)}$  and the strange quark mass  $m_s$  are taken to be the usual values:  $m_{u(d)} = 313$  MeV and  $m_s = 470$  MeV. The coupling constant for scalar and pseudoscalar chi-

ral field coupling ( $g_{ch}$ ) is determined according to the relation

$$\frac{g_{ch}^2}{4\pi} = \frac{9}{25} \frac{g_{NN\pi}^2}{4\pi} \frac{m_u^2}{M_N^2}, \quad (5)$$

with empirical value  $g_{NN\pi}^2/4\pi = 13.67$ . The masses of mesons are taken to be the experimental values, except for the  $\sigma$  meson. The  $m_\sigma$  is adjusted to fit the binding energy of the deuteron. The cutoff radius  $\Lambda^{-1}$  is taken to be the value close to the chiral symmetry breaking scale.<sup>[33]</sup> The OGE coupling constants  $g_u, g_s$  and the confinement strengths  $a_{qq'}, a_{qq'}^0$  can be derived from the masses of ground state baryons.

Table 1. Model parameters for light quarks. The meson masses and the cutoff masses:  $m_{\sigma'} = 980$  MeV,  $m_\kappa = 980$  MeV,  $m_\epsilon = 980$  MeV,  $m_\pi = 138$  MeV,  $m_K = 495$  MeV,  $m_\eta = 549$  MeV,  $m_{\eta'} = 957$  MeV, and  $\Lambda = 1100$  MeV for all mesons.

| $m_u$<br>(MeV) | $m_s$<br>(MeV) | $m_\sigma$<br>(MeV) | $g_u$ | $g_s$ | $g_{ch}$ | $a_{uu}$<br>(MeV/fm) | $a_{us}$<br>(MeV/fm) | $a_{ss}$<br>(MeV/fm) | $a_{uu}^0$<br>(MeV) | $a_{us}^0$<br>(MeV) | $a_{ss}^0$<br>(MeV) |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|-------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 313            | 470            | 595                 | 0.886 | 0.917 | 2.621    | 90.4                 | 104.2                | 155.3                | -79.6               | -76.1               | -87.6               |

Table 2. Model parameters for heavy quarks.

| $g_c$ | $m_c$<br>(MeV) | $a_{cu}$<br>(MeV/fm) | $a_{cs}$<br>(MeV/fm) | $a_{cu}^0$<br>(MeV) | $a_{cs}^0$<br>(MeV) |
|-------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 0.53  | 1430           | 310.5                | 278.3                | -186.0              | -137.9              |
|       | 1550           | 339.4                | 301.5                | -223.5              | -170.2              |
|       | 1870           | 420.6                | 368.8                | -324.2              | -258.2              |
| 0.58  | 1430           | 276.0                | 240.7                | -163.0              | -114.3              |
|       | 1550           | 303.0                | 262.7                | -200.0              | -146.5              |
|       | 1870           | 376.9                | 325.0                | -298.3              | -233.3              |
| 0.60  | 1430           | 264.5                | 288.0                | -155.0              | -105.9              |
|       | 1550           | 290.8                | 248.9                | -191.8              | -137.7              |
|       | 1870           | 362.2                | 308.5                | -289.2              | -223.7              |
| $g_b$ | $m_b$<br>(MeV) | $a_{bu}$<br>(MeV/fm) | $a_{bs}$<br>(MeV/fm) | $a_{bu}^0$<br>(MeV) | $a_{bs}^0$<br>(MeV) |
| 0.50  | 4720           | 352.6                | 310.5                | -190.0              | -134.0              |
|       | 5100           | 391.2                | 339.9                | -281.0              | -218.0              |
|       | 5259           | 402.4                | 352.0                | -316.4              | -253.0              |
| 0.52  | 4720           | 338.0                | 292.9                | -181.0              | -124.0              |
|       | 5100           | 370.3                | 323.9                | -269.0              | -209.0              |
|       | 5259           | 390.2                | 332.6                | -309.0              | -242.5              |
| 0.60  | 4720           | 286.5                | 236.9                | -148.0              | -90.0               |
|       | 5100           | 313.9                | 260.1                | -234.1              | -172.0              |
|       | 5259           | 325.2                | 273.6                | -270.0              | -208.0              |

Table 3. Masses (MeV) of mesons with a heavy quark. Here  $g_c = 0.58$ ,  $m_c = 1550$  MeV, and  $g_b = 0.52$ ,  $m_b = 5100$  MeV. Experimental data are taken from PDG.<sup>[17]</sup>

|            | $D$    | $D^*$  | $D_s$  | $D_s^*$ | $B$    | $B^*$  | $B_s$  | $B_s^*$ |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Experiment | 1869.6 | 2007.0 | 1968.5 | 2112.3  | 5279.2 | 5325.1 | 5366.3 | 5415.4  |
| Theory     | 1869.8 | 2007.1 | 1968.6 | 2112.3  | 5279.3 | 5325.1 | 5366.0 | 5415.3  |

To investigate the heavy quark mass dependence, the mass of charm quark  $m_c$  is taken as several typical values 1430 MeV,<sup>[30]</sup> 1550 MeV,<sup>[34]</sup> 1870 MeV.<sup>[35]</sup> The mass of bottom quark  $m_b$  is taken as 4720 MeV,<sup>[30]</sup> 5100 MeV,<sup>[36]</sup> 5259 MeV.<sup>[35]</sup>

To test their effects on other parameters and on the spectrum, the OGE coupling constants for heavy quarks are taken as three values in an estimated range,<sup>[30]</sup> i.e.  $g_c = 0.53, 0.58, 0.60$  and  $g_b = 0.50, 0.52, 0.60$ . The confinement strengths including a heavy quark ( $a_{Qq}, a_{Qq}^0$ ) are determined by fitting the masses of heavy mesons  $D, D^*, D_s, D_s^*$  and  $B, B^*, B_s, B_s^*$ , respectively. The parameters of heavy quarks are listed in Table 2. The corresponding numerical masses of heavy mesons are exactly con-

sistent with the experimental values. As an example, the results with  $g_c = 0.58$ ,  $m_c = 1550$  MeV and  $g_b = 0.52$ ,  $m_b = 5100$  MeV are listed in Table 3.

With all of the parameters determined, the masses of the  $\frac{1}{2}^+$  lowest lying ground-state  $\Lambda_Q, \Sigma_Q, \Xi_Q, \Omega_Q$  and  $\frac{3}{2}^+$   $S$ -wave  $\Sigma_Q^*, \Xi_Q^*, \Omega_Q^*$ , where subscript  $Q$  denote  $c$  or  $b$  quark, can be calculated by the calculus of variations. The harmonic-oscillator width  $b_u$  is taken as the variational parameter. Compared with the experimental data, the numerical results can be found in Table 4, and some other theoretical predictions are illustrated as well.

From Table 4, we can see that for  $J^P = \frac{1}{2}^+$ , the numerical values of  $\Lambda_c$  are generally about 20 MeV

higher than the experimental one. For  $\Sigma_c$ , the largest difference is 64 MeV (2518.2–2453.8 MeV), while the closest mass (2452.3 MeV) is obtained with  $g_c = 0.6$  and  $m_c = 1430$ . The results of  $\Xi_c$  are somewhat poor, which are about 62–88 MeV higher. The results of  $\Omega_c$  are at most 16 MeV far from the observed value, but the exact mass (2697.7 MeV) appears when  $g_c = 0.5$  and  $m_c = 1550$ . Predictions of baryons with  $b$  quark are about 25 MeV heavier for  $\Lambda_b$ , and 76  $\sim$  95 MeV higher for  $\Xi_b$ . The nearest value of  $\Sigma_b$  (5815.0 MeV) can be found when  $g_b = 0.6$  and  $m_b = 4720$ , and the others are 29–55 MeV heavier. For  $\Omega_b$  with uncertain experimental data, our average results are compatible with the observed value (6054.4 MeV) from Ref. [16] and the theoretical predic-

tions from Refs. [21, 24]. When  $J^P = \frac{3}{2}^+$ , the situation has been improved. The calculated values, which are consistent with the experimental ones, are obtained by  $g_c = 0.6$  and  $m_c = 1430$  for  $\Sigma_c^*$  (2516.6 MeV),  $g_c = 0.58$  and  $m_c = 1550$  for  $\Xi_c^*$  (2648.6 MeV),  $g_c = 0.6$  and  $m_c = 1550$  for  $\Omega_c^*$  (2769.6 MeV),  $g_b = 0.6$  and  $m_b = 4720$  for  $\Sigma_b^*$  (5838.3 MeV). For unobserved  $\Xi_b^*$  and  $\Omega_b^*$ , our predictions are similar to those from Ref. [19]. It is worth noting that Ref. [32] gave predictions of  $\Lambda_c$  ( $M_{\Lambda_c} = 2269$  MeV) and  $\Sigma_c$  ( $M_{\Sigma_c} = 2436$  MeV) using the same model as ours by taking  $g_c = 0.53$  and  $m_c = 1550$  MeV. While compared with our present results, their corresponding meson masses  $m_D = 1883$  MeV,  $m_{D^*} = 1947$  MeV move far away from the experimental values.

Table 4. Masses (MeV) of baryons with a heavy quark, accompanied by some other theoretical predictions. Experimental data are taken from PDG.[17]

| $g_c$           | $m_c$ | $\Lambda_c$ | $\Sigma_c$ | $\Xi_c$ | $\Omega_c$ | $\Sigma_c^*$ | $\Xi_c^*$ | $\Omega_c^*$ | $g_b$           | $m_b$ | $\Lambda_b$ | $\Sigma_b$ | $\Xi_b$ | $\Omega_b$ | $\Sigma_b^*$ | $\Xi_b^*$ | $\Omega_b^*$ |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|-------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 0.53            | 1430  | 2307.7      | 2473.7     | 2541.9  | 2692.5     | 2536.7       | 2653.3    | 2766.7       | 0.50            | 4720  | 5644.2      | 5843.2     | 5879.7  | 6037.0     | 5865.6       | 5971.8    | 6083.4       |
|                 | 1550  | 2306.9      | 2485.5     | 2546.5  | 2697.7     | 2548.0       | 2662.5    | 2782.2       |                 | 5100  | 5643.8      | 5858.8     | 5885.7  | 6043.6     | 5880.9       | 5984.2    | 6090.7       |
|                 | 1870  | 2305.9      | 2518.2     | 2559.4  | 2713.4     | 2580.1       | 2689.4    | 2799.5       |                 | 5259  | 5643.6      | 5863.2     | 5887.5  | 6046.1     | 5885.2       | 5987.9    | 6093.8       |
| 0.58            | 1430  | 2308.8      | 2457.9     | 2535.9  | 2684.1     | 2521.5       | 2640.1    | 2767.6       | 0.52            | 4720  | 5644.7      | 5837.0     | 5877.2  | 6031.1     | 5859.5       | 5966.4    | 6079.6       |
|                 | 1550  | 2307.9      | 2468.6     | 2539.8  | 2688.5     | 2532.0       | 2648.6    | 2772.5       |                 | 5100  | 5644.1      | 5849.8     | 5882.1  | 6039.7     | 5867.7       | 5975.1    | 6086.8       |
|                 | 1870  | 2306.0      | 2497.8     | 2551.2  | 2702.4     | 2560.6       | 2672.5    | 2787.9       |                 | 5259  | 5643.9      | 5857.7     | 5885.1  | 6041.9     | 5880.0       | 5982.8    | 6088.9       |
| 0.60            | 1430  | 2309.3      | 2452.3     | 2533.8  | 2681.3     | 2516.8       | 2635.8    | 2765.0       | 0.60            | 4720  | 5646.2      | 5815.0     | 5868.8  | 6023.3     | 5838.3       | 5948.5    | 6068.1       |
|                 | 1550  | 2308.4      | 2462.6     | 2537.6  | 2685.6     | 2526.7       | 2643.9    | 2769.6       |                 | 5100  | 5645.4      | 5858.8     | 5872.6  | 6027.4     | 5848.7       | 5956.8    | 6072.8       |
|                 | 1870  | 2306.5      | 2490.8     | 2548.2  | 2698.4     | 2554.2       | 2666.9    | 2783.7       |                 | 5259  | 5645.4      | 5858.8     | 5872.6  | 6030.0     | 5852.9       | 5960.8    | 6075.8       |
| Experiment      |       | 2286.5      | 2453.8     | 2471.0  | 2697.5     | 2518.0       | 2646.6    | 2768.3       |                 |       | 5620.2      | 5807.8     | 5792.4  |            |              | 5829.0    |              |
| Ref. [19]       |       | 2297        | 2439       | 2481    | 2698       | 2518         | 2654      | 2768         |                 |       | 5622        | 5805       | 5812    | 6065       | 5834         | 5963      | 6088         |
| Ref. [21]       |       | 2271        | 2411       | 2432    | 2657       | 2534         | 2634      | 2790         |                 |       | 5637        | 5809       | 5780    | 6036       | 5835         | 5929      | 6063         |
| Ref. [22] (GeV) |       | 2.26        | 2.40       | 2.44    | 2.70       | 2.48         | 2.65      | 2.79         |                 |       | 5.65        | 5.80       | 5.73    | 6.11       | 5.85         | 6.02      | 6.17         |
| Ref. [23] (GeV) |       | 2.31        | 2.40       | 2.48    | 2.62       | 2.56         | 2.64      | 2.74         |                 |       | 5.69        | 5.73       | 5.75    | 5.89       | 5.81         | 5.94      | 6.00         |
| Ref. [24]       |       | 2290        | 2452       | 2473    | 2678       | 2538         | 2680      | 2752         |                 |       | 5672        | 5847       | 5788    | 6040       | 5871         | 5959      | 6060         |
| $\diamond$ 0.58 | 1550  | 2295.1      | 2452.8     | 2525.4  | 2672.8     | 2503.6       | 2629.8    | 2752.5       | $\diamond$ 0.52 | 5100  | 5651.0      | 5806.8     | 5868.3  | 6021.1     | 5823.9       | 5933.1    | 6054.4       |

Note that  $J^P$  of baryons with \* are  $\frac{3}{2}^+$ , and others are  $\frac{1}{2}^+$ . In addition, the last line with  $\diamond$  lists the masses (MeV) of heavy hadrons with  $g_c = 0.58$ ,  $m_c = 1550$  MeV, and  $g_b = 0.52$ ,  $m_b = 5100$  MeV after varying the confinement strengths.

Table 5. Masses (MeV) of heavy mesons after varying confinement strengths with  $g_c = 0.58$ ,  $m_c = 1550$  MeV, and  $g_b = 0.52$ ,  $m_b = 5100$  MeV. The units for  $a_{Qq}$  and  $a_{Q\bar{q}}$  are the same as in Table 2.

| $a_{cu}$ | $a_{cs}$ | $a_{cu}^0$ | $a_{cs}^0$ | $a_{bu}$ | $a_{bs}$ | $a_{bu}^0$ | $a_{bs}^0$ |
|----------|----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| 295.3    | 238.7    | -198.0     | -136.5     | 247.6    | 164.5    | -200.8     | -130.0     |
| $D$      | $D^*$    | $D_s$      | $D_s^*$    | $B$      | $B^*$    | $B_s$      | $B_s^*$    |
| 1859.1   | 1993.7   | 1964.8     | 2098.1     | 5292.1   | 5325.1   | 5386.0     | 5415.3     |

To reduce the calculated values, we vary the confinement parameters in a reasonable range, which means that the masses of heavy mesons are roughly consistent with the experimental data. When the confinement strengths are changed, the results of  $\Sigma_Q$  are in good agreement with the observed ones, and the masses of  $\Xi_Q$  are reduced by 10  $\sim$  20 MeV. Most of the  $\Lambda_c$  masses are also reduced, and the smallest one (2292.6 MeV) is only 6 MeV higher. However, little action is played for the calculation of  $\Lambda_b$ . In general, the numerical values are reduced less than 20 MeV for  $\Omega_Q$ , 60 MeV for  $\Sigma_Q^*$ , 50 MeV for  $\Xi_Q^*$ , and 30 MeV for  $\Omega_Q^*$ , which leads to the predictions of 10–30 MeV lower than the available observed ones. It should be noted that after changing the parameters, compared with the experimental data, the corresponding calculated masses of some heavy mesons are about 1% shifted. This relatively small difference can be acceptable in theory. As an example, with  $g_c = 0.58$ ,  $m_c = 1550$  MeV, and

$g_b = 0.52$ ,  $m_b = 5100$  MeV, the changed confinement parameters and the corresponding masses of mesons are listed in Table 5, and those of baryons are presented in the last line with  $\diamond$  in Table 4.

Table 6. The effects of meson exchanges between light quark pairs.

| $J^P$           | Baryons      | Attractions                                   | Repulsions                | No effects                             |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}^+$ | $\Lambda_Q$  | $\pi, \epsilon, \sigma$                       | $\eta, \eta', \sigma'$    | $K, \kappa$                            |
|                 | $\Sigma_Q$   | $\pi, \eta, \eta', \sigma', \epsilon, \sigma$ |                           | $K, \kappa$                            |
|                 | $\Xi_Q$      | $K, \eta, \sigma$                             | $\eta', \kappa, \epsilon$ | $\pi, \sigma'$                         |
|                 | $\Omega_Q$   | $\epsilon, \sigma$                            |                           | $\pi, K, \eta, \eta', \sigma', \kappa$ |
| $\frac{3}{2}^+$ | $\Sigma_Q^*$ | $\pi, \eta, \eta', \sigma', \epsilon, \sigma$ |                           | $K, \kappa$                            |
|                 | $\Xi_Q^*$    | $K, \eta', \kappa, \sigma$                    | $\eta, \epsilon$          | $\pi, \sigma'$                         |
|                 | $\Omega_Q^*$ | $\eta, \eta', \epsilon, \sigma$               |                           | $\pi, K, \sigma', \kappa$              |

Next, let us turn to interactions in these heavy baryons. The effects of meson exchanges between light quarks are shown in Table 6, which are only related to  $g_{ch}$ , the masses and the cutoff masses of mesons. For all baryons considered here, OGE interactions are attractive, while actions of the confinement potentials depend on the confinement strengths. When we keep  $m_Q$  unchanged, with  $g_Q$  increasing, the OGE attractions will increase, too, and accordingly the confinement attractions decrease (or repulsions increase). This is obvious. Here, unchanged  $m_Q$  indicates that the total force for a heavy baryon is changeless. The attraction of OGE grows, which certainly accompanies

that of confinement reducing with other conditions fixed. On the other hand, when  $g_Q$  does not change, the forces of OGE almost keep invariable. With  $m_Q$  increasing, confinement attractions will increase (or repulsions will decrease). Similarly,  $m_Q$  growing implies that the total force becomes larger for the baryon cluster, and the confinements need to be more attractive when other factors remain unchanged.

In summary, we have performed a primary study of  $\frac{1}{2}^+$  and  $\frac{3}{2}^+$  ground-state baryons with one heavy quark ( $c$  or  $b$ ) in the chiral SU(3) quark model. The calculated masses of established heavy baryons are generally in agreement with the available experimental data, except that those of  $\Xi_Q$  are somewhat heavier. Reasonable theoretical predictions of  $\Omega_b$  with uncertain experimental mass and unobserved  $\Xi_b^*$ ,  $\Omega_b^*$  are presented. Meanwhile, interactions inside baryons are analyzed, too. It is suggested that our predictions could serve as a useful complementary tool for the interpretation of heavy hadron spectra. However, there are several problems in our present study deserving further discussion; for example, the effects of vector meson exchanges. Furthermore, we hope that the same approach is applied to explore more properties of heavy baryons (such as the spectra of baryons with two or three heavy quarks, or strong interactions including heavy baryons), and test the model parameters compared with the experimental data. All of these topics will be researched in future.

The authors would like to thank Professor Zhang Zong-Ye and Post-doctor Wang Wen-Ling for helpful discussions.

## References

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