

## Spectroscopic properties of $\Delta$ baryons

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**Abstract:** The resonance state of the  $\Delta$  baryon, which exists in four isospin ( $I = 3/2$ ) states, has been studied using the hypercentral constituent quark model (hCQM) with a simple linear potential with added first order correction. The calculated data ranges for  $1S$ - $5S$ ,  $1P$ - $5P$ ,  $1D$ - $4D$  and  $1F$ - $2F$  are given, with possible spin-parity assignments for all the states. The magnetic moments have also been obtained for all four configurations. The  $N\pi$  decay channel width has been calculated for a few states. The linear nature of the data has been verified through Regge trajectories.

**Keywords:** mass spectra, light baryon, magnetic moment, Regge trajectory

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Hadron spectroscopy is a tool to reveal the dynamics of the quark interactions within composite systems like baryons, mesons, and exotics. The phenomenological approach of hadron spectroscopy uses potentials to establish the resonance masses of higher radial and orbital states of hadrons. The various possible decays of a resonance state also help in identifying short-lived hadrons and even missing excited states. A number of resonance states of light and heavy hadrons have been provided by the Particle Data Group [1].

The specific target here is the study of the  $\Delta$  baryon, a member of the baryon decuplet ( $J^P = 3/2^+$ ) which is composed of light  $u$  and  $d$  quarks. Despite having the same nucleon composition, the four possible combinations of the symmetric wave function gives four  $\Delta$  particles with isospin  $I = 3/2$ :  $\Delta^{++}$  ( $uuu$ ,  $I_3 = 3/2$ ),  $\Delta^+$  ( $uud$ ,  $I_3 = 1/2$ ),  $\Delta^0$  ( $udd$ ,  $I_3 = -1/2$ ) and  $\Delta^-$  ( $ddd$ ,  $I_3 = -3/2$ ). The present work is motivated by the fact that heavy quark systems decay into light quark systems through various decay channels, and most matter is composed of these light quark systems.  $\Delta(1232)$  has been observed experimentally in pion-nucleon decays for quite a long time [2, 3], recent studies at HADES-GSI have continued to explore new properties [4].  $\Delta$ s, likely an excited state of a nucleon (N) with ground state 939 MeV, have been extensively studied through photoproduction decays at ELSA [5]. However, the symmetric flavour wavefunction of  $\Delta$  differs from the mixed symmetry wavefunction of nucleons. Thus, revealing every known and unknown property of  $\Delta$  baryons has always been a

matter of interest, as discussed in many review articles [6-9]. The  $\Delta$  resonances shall also be the focus of upcoming experimental facilities at PANDA-GSI [10, 11].

Phenomenological and theoretical models for light baryon studies have been developed and modified over time. The light baryon resonances have been explored through the well-known Isgur-Karl model basically applied for  $P$ -wave states [12] as well as modified with a relativised approach [13], the Goldstone-boson exchange model due to spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking [14, 15], a quark-diquark system with Gursey-Radicati exchange interaction [16, 17], and a semi-relativistic model with  $SU(6)$ -invariant and  $SU(6)$ -violating terms [18]. Lately, various approaches have been used, including QCD sum rules [19], the basic light-front model [20] and relativistic light-front model [21], lattice QCD [22], the covariant Faddeev approach [23], and others based on  $n$  and  $J^P$  values and the respective trajectories against square of mass of a given state [24, 25]. The spectrum of octet and decuplet light baryons has also been studied in a relativistic approach using instanton induced quark forces [26].

In this paper, a non-relativistic hypercentral constituent quark model (hCQM) has been employed to obtain the resonance masses of radial and orbital states of the  $\Delta$  baryon [27-29]. The potential term consists of two parts: a Coulomb-like term and a confinement term. A similar method has been employed for heavy baryons using different potentials, including a screened potential [30], linear potential [31, 32], and so on.

The paper is organized as follows. After this introduction, the theoretical framework is discussed. The third

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section incorporates the results and discussion of the mass spectra. Sections four, five and six deal with the baryon magnetic moment, Regge trajectory and decay widths respectively. Finally, conclusions are drawn in the last section.

## II. HYPERCENTRAL CONSTITUENT QUARK MODEL (hCQM)

Hadron spectroscopy is useful for better understanding of hadrons as bound states of quarks and gluons, as well as the spectrum and internal structure of excited baryons. This is a key to strong interactions in the region of quark confinement. The system becomes complex and difficult to deal with when all the quark-quark, quark-gluon and gluon-gluon interactions are considered. This is the reason for using the constituent quark mass, incorporating all the other effects in the form of some parameters.

A constituent quark model is a modelization of a baryon as a system of three quarks or anti-quarks bound by some kind of confining interaction. An effective way to study three body systems is through consideration of Jacobi coordinates as

$$\rho = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2), \quad (1a)$$

$$\lambda = \frac{(m_1 \mathbf{r}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{r}_2 - (m_1 + m_2) \mathbf{r}_3)}{\sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + (m_1 + m_2)^2}}, \quad (1b)$$

$$x = \sqrt{\rho^2 + \lambda^2}; \quad \xi = \arctan\left(\frac{\rho}{\lambda}\right), \quad (2)$$

where  $x$  is the hyperradius and  $\xi$  is the hyperangle.

The Hamiltonian of the system is expressed as

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V^0(x) + \frac{1}{m_x} V^1(x) + V_{SD}(x), \quad (3)$$

where  $m = \frac{2m_\rho m_\lambda}{m_\rho + m_\lambda}$  is the reduced mass.

The dynamics are considered in the wave-function  $\psi(x)$ , which is the solution of the hyperradial equation

$$\left[ \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{5}{x} \frac{d}{dx} - \frac{\gamma(\gamma+4)}{x^2} \right] \psi(x) = -2m[E - V(x)]\psi(x). \quad (4)$$

The potential incorporated solely depends on the hyperradius  $x$  of the system and not on the hyperangle [33].

$$V^0(x) = -\frac{\tau}{x} + \alpha x^\nu, \quad (5)$$

$V(x)$  consists of a Coulomb-like term and a confining term, which is taken to be linear with power index  $\nu = 1$ . Another part of the potential form is the first order correction term with  $\frac{1}{m_x} = \left( \frac{1}{m_\rho} - \frac{1}{m_\lambda} \right)$ .

$$V^1(x) = -C_F C_A \frac{\alpha_s^2}{4x^2}, \quad (6)$$

where  $C_F$  and  $C_A$  are the Casimir elements of fundamental and adjoint representation.  $\alpha_s$  is the running coupling constant.

Along with the zeroth and first order correction terms in the hypercentral approximation, a spin-dependent term  $V_{SD}(x)$  is also incorporated to sharply distinguish the degenerate states [34].

$$V_{SD}(x) = V_{SS}(x)(\mathbf{S}_\rho \cdot \mathbf{S}_\lambda) + V_{\gamma S}(x)(\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{S}) + V_T \times \left[ S^2 - \frac{3(\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{x})(\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{x})}{x^2} \right], \quad (7)$$

where  $V_{SS}(x)$ ,  $V_{\gamma S}(x)$  and  $V_T(x)$  are spin-spin, spin-orbit and tensor terms respectively.

The quark masses are taken as  $m_u = m_d = 0.290$  GeV. The numerical solution of the six-dimensional Schrödinger equation was performed using Mathematica Notebook [35].

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the model and potential terms discussed in the above section, the resonance masses from  $1S$ - $5S$ ,  $1P$ - $5P$ ,  $1D$ - $4D$  and  $1F$ - $2F$  with allowed spin-parity assignments have been computed as shown in Table 1. In addition, the present results are compared with previous results calculated using different models, for available states.

The four-star status assigned by the Particle Data Group (PDG) indicates the certainty of its existence with known properties. The radial states comprise of  $J^P = 3/2^+$ , the  $2S(1600)$  mass predicted as 1611 MeV differs by 11 MeV from Ref. [24], 14 MeV from Ref. [25] and nearly 47 MeV from Refs. [15, 18]. Similarly the  $3S(1920)$  mass of 1934 MeV falls within the PDG range and differs only by 1-14 MeV from some references.

The first orbital excited state  $1P(1620)$  with  $1/2^-$  is well within the range of PDG and differs by 36 MeV from Ref. [25]. However, the  $1P(1700)$  state predicted with mass 1593 MeV ( $3/2^-$ ) is under-predicted by 97 MeV from the lower range of experimental data. The three-star states of  $2P$  with spin-parity assignment  $1/2^-$  and  $5/2^-$  are over- and under-predicted respectively compared to the PDG ranges.

The four-star designated second orbital state  $1D$  with  $1/2^+$  is obtained as 1905 MeV differs by 5 MeV from

**Table 1.** Resonance masses of  $\Delta$  baryons (in MeV).

State	$J^P$	Present model	PDG[1]	Status	[15]	[16]	[17]	[18]	[27]	[25]	[12]	[13]	[24]
1S	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	1232	1230-1234	****	1232	1235	1247	1231	1232	1232	1232	1230	1232
2S	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	1611	1500-1640	****	1659.1	1714	1689	1658	1727	1625			1600
3S	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	1934	1870-1970	***	2090.2			1914	1921				1920
4S	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	2256	–	–									
5S	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	2579	–	–									
1P	$\frac{1}{2}^-$	<b>1609</b>	1590-1630	****	1667.2	1673	1830	1737	1573	1645	1685	1555	
1P	$\frac{3}{2}^-$	1593	1690-1730	****	1667.2	1673	1830	1737	1573	1720	1685	1620	
1P	$\frac{5}{2}^-$	1550	–	–									
2P	$\frac{1}{2}^-$	1956	1840-1920	***		2003	1910		1910	1900			
2P	$\frac{3}{2}^-$	1919	1940-2060	**			1910			1940			
2P	$\frac{5}{2}^-$	1871	1900-2000	***		2003	1910	1908		1945			
3P	$\frac{1}{2}^-$	2280	–	*						2150			
3P	$\frac{3}{2}^-$	2242	–	–									
3P	$\frac{5}{2}^-$	2193	–	–									
4P	$\frac{1}{2}^-$	2602	–	–									
4P	$\frac{3}{2}^-$	2565	–	–									
4P	$\frac{5}{2}^-$	2515	–	–									
5P	$\frac{1}{2}^-$	2926	–	–									
5P	$\frac{3}{2}^-$	2888	–	–									
5P	$\frac{5}{2}^-$	2836	–	–									
1D	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	1905	1850-1950	****	1873.5	1930	1827	1891	1953	1895			1910
1D	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	1868	1870-1970	***		1930	2042			1935			1920
1D	$\frac{5}{2}^+$	1818	1855-1910	****	1873.5	1930	2042	1891	1901	1895			1905
1D	$\frac{7}{2}^+$	1756	1915-1950	****	1873.5	1930	2042	1891	1955	1950			1950
2D	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	2227	–	–									
2D	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	2190	–	–									
2D	$\frac{5}{2}^+$	2140	–	**						2200			
2D	$\frac{7}{2}^+$	2078	–	–									
3D	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	2556	–	–									
3D	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	2516	–	–									

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Table 1-continued from previous page

State	$J^P$	Present model	PDG[1]	Status	[15]	[16]	[17]	[18]	[27]	[25]	[12]	[13]	[24]
3D	$\frac{5}{2}^+$	2463	–	–									
3D	$\frac{7}{2}^+$	2397	–	–									
4D	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	2874	–	–									
4D	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	2835	–	–									
4D	$\frac{5}{2}^+$	2784	–	–									
4D	$\frac{7}{2}^+$	2720	–	–									
1F	$\frac{3}{2}^-$	2165	–	–									
1F	$\frac{5}{2}^-$	2108	–	–									
1F	$\frac{7}{2}^-$	2037	2150-2250	***						2200			
1F	$\frac{9}{2}^-$	1952	–	–									
2F	$\frac{3}{2}^-$	2486	–	–									
2F	$\frac{5}{2}^-$	2430	–	*						2350			
2F	$\frac{7}{2}^-$	2359	–	–									
2F	$\frac{9}{2}^-$	2274	–	**						2400			

Ref. [24] and by 25 MeV from Ref. [16]. The two states with  $(5/2^+, 7/2^+)$  have been predicted to be quite low compared to known data as well as other references. Based on the current results, the  $\Delta(1920)$  state from the PDG might be assigned to  $1D(3/2^+)$  or  $3S(3/2^+)$  based on the comparison shown in the table.

The predicted 1F  $7/2^-$  mass of 2037 MeV is 113 MeV less than the lower limit of the PDG range. However, the present study has attempted to predict many unknown states too, which are the least explored by other models and experiments.

#### IV. BARYON MAGNETIC MOMENT

The baryon magnetic moment plays a crucial role in providing information regarding the structures and shapes of baryons [36]. The magnetic moment of  $\Delta^{++}$  has been precisely measured through pion bremsstrahlung analysis [37]. Theoretically, the magnetic moments of  $J^P = 3/2^+$  decuplet baryons have been calculated through different approaches, including the quark model with QCD sum rules [38], chiral quark model [39, 40], and the color dielectric model [41]. However, none of the calculations account for complicated effects due to valence quarks, pion clouds, exchange currents, constituent quark mass, etc, and are thus neglected. In the present study, the effective

quark mass has been considered to obtain the magnetic moments of all four  $\Delta$  isospin states. The baryon magnetic moment is expressed as [42]

$$\mu_B = \sum_q \langle \phi_{sf} | \mu_{qz} | \phi_{sf} \rangle, \quad (8)$$

where  $\phi_{sf}$  is the spin-flavour wave function.

$$\mu_{qz} = \frac{e_q}{2m_q^{\text{eff}}} \sigma_{qz}. \quad (9)$$

The effective quark mass  $m_q^{\text{eff}}$  is different from the model-based mass, as within the baryon, the mass may vary due to interactions among quarks.

$$m_q^{\text{eff}} = m_q \left( 1 + \frac{\langle H \rangle}{\sum_q m_q} \right), \quad (10)$$

where  $\langle H \rangle = E + \langle V_{\text{spin}} \rangle$  [42]. A similar study for  $N^*$  has been done by Zalak Shah *et al.* [33].

The result in Table 2 shows that the  $\Delta$  magnetic moments obtained from the present work are in accordance with experimental results. Reference [39] has compared magnetic moments using different sets of data; so based

**Table 2.** Magnetic moments of  $\Delta(1232)$  isospin states.

State	Wave-function	$\mu$	exp(PDG) [37]
$\Delta^{++}$	$3 \mu_u$	$4.568 \mu_N$	$4.52 \mu_N$
$\Delta^+$	$2 \mu_u + \mu_d$	$2.28 \mu_N$	$2.7 \mu_N$
$\Delta^0$	$2 \mu_d + \mu_u$	0	–
$\Delta^-$	$3 \mu_d$	$-2.28 \mu_N$	–

on that non-relativistic quark model, the  $\Delta^{++}$  magnetic moment is  $5.43 \mu_N$ , differing by  $0.86 \mu_N$ . The magnetic moments for  $\Delta^+$  and  $\Delta^-$  are  $2.72 \mu_N$  and  $-2.72 \mu_N$  respectively, which differs by  $0.48 \mu_N$ .

## V. REGGE TRAJECTORY

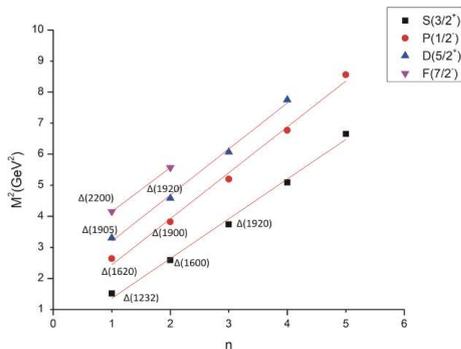
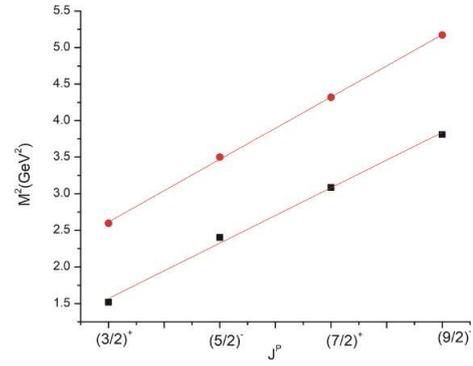
An important property concluded from the baryon spectrum is the plot of  $J$ , total angular momentum against  $M^2$ , as well as the principal quantum number  $n$  against  $M^2$ . These lines are so far observed to be linear and non-intersecting for the light baryon spectrum [43]. These plots provide a confirmation between the experimental and theoretical predicted masses of excited states with their respective quantum numbers [44]. This holds true for positive and negative parity states as well. Regge trajectories have been widely employed in heavy hadron studies too [45, 46]. The equations are as follows

$$J = \alpha M^2 + \alpha_0, \quad (11a)$$

$$n = \beta M^2 + \beta_1. \quad (11b)$$

The trajectory in Fig. 1, based on Eq. (11b), shows that the calculated data are in good agreement with the nature of the experimental data, as all the calculated resonance squared masses fall on the linear curve. Also, a few individual experimental points marked in the graph agree with the total angular momentum and spin configuration assigned in the calculated data.

The plot of total angular momentum quantum number  $J$  with natural parity  $P$  against the squared mass is shown in Fig. 2, and also follows a linear curve.

**Fig. 1.** (color online)  $(n, M^2)$  Regge trajectory for  $\Delta$  states.**Fig. 2.** (color online)  $(J, M^2)$  Regge trajectory for  $\Delta$  states.

## VI. DECAY WIDTHS

The observations of decays of baryon resonances afford valuable guidance in assigning the resonances their correct places in various symmetry schemes. The correct isotopic spin assignment is likely to be implied by the experimental branching ratio into different charge states of particles produced by the decay, while experimental decay widths provide a means of extracting phenomenological coupling constants.

The chiral quark model, in which constituent quarks couple directly to mesons, is known to describe the properties of the ground state octet and decuplet baryons quite well [47].

The prominent decay channel for nucleons, including  $\Delta$ , has been observed to be  $N^*$  and pion, depending on the charge of the respective parent [48]. The transition couplings of vector mesons have been obtained along with other constants by Riska *et al.* [49]. In the present work, the constants and decay widths provided by Particle Data Group have been employed to establish the decay widths of some well-established resonance masses. For the  $\Delta(1600)$  decay to  $N\pi$ ,

$$\Gamma = \frac{1}{3} \frac{f^2}{4\pi} \frac{E' + m_N}{m^*} \frac{k^3}{m_\pi^2}, \quad (12)$$

where  $E'$  is the energy of the final nucleon and  $k$  is the pion momentum.

$$E' = \frac{m^{*2} - m_\pi^2 + m_N^2}{2m^*}, \quad (13)$$

$$k = \frac{\sqrt{[m^{*2} - (m_N + m_\pi)^2][m^{*2} - (m_N - m_\pi)^2]}}{2m^*}. \quad (14)$$

Here  $m^*$  is the resonance mass calculated using the above model,  $m_N$  is the nucleon mass 939 MeV and  $m_\pi$  is the pion mass 139 MeV. Using  $m^* = 1611$  and  $f = 0.51$ ,  $\Gamma = 24.8\%$ , which is well within the PDG range of 8%-24%.

For  $\Delta(1620)$  decaying to  $N\pi$ ,

$$\Gamma = \frac{f^2}{4\pi} \frac{E' + m_N}{m^*} \frac{k}{m_\pi^2} (m^* - m_N)^2, \quad (15)$$

$m^* = 1609$ ,  $f = 0.34$ , and  $\Gamma = 92\%$ , whereas the PDG range is 25%-35%.

For  $\Delta(1700)$  decaying to  $N\pi$ ,

$$\Gamma = \frac{1}{3} \frac{f^2}{4\pi} \frac{E' - m_N}{m^*} \frac{k^3}{m_\pi^2}, \quad (16)$$

$m^* = 1593$ ,  $f = 1.31$ , and  $\Gamma = 14.83\%$ , whereas the PDG range is 10%-20%.

## VII. CONCLUSION

In the present work,  $\Delta$  resonance masses have been calculated using the hypercentral constituent quark model employed with a linear potential. The first order corrections have also been included. All the masses up to the  $2F$  states have been compared with available experimental data as well as different theoretical and phenomenological models in Table 1. Therein  $\Delta(1232)$ ,  $\Delta(1600)$ ,  $\Delta(1620)$ ,  $\Delta(1700)$ ,  $\Delta(1905)$ ,  $\Delta(1910)$  and  $\Delta(1950)$  as well as the three-star states  $\Delta(1900)$ ,  $\Delta(1920)$ ,  $\Delta(1930)$  and  $\Delta(2200)$ , and other fairly established states, have been predicted.

It is evident that the radial excited states as well as orbital excited states with lower spin state agree to a considerable level with the PDG range and a few of the models discussed in Section III. However, the higher spin states of orbital excited states are mostly under-predicted compared to the experimental range.

The Regge trajectories have been plotted with principal quantum number  $n$  and angular momentum  $J$  against the square of the resonance mass. Figure 1 shows that the Regge trajectories are linear but not exactly parallel. However, the experimental points are not very far from the respective lines. Figure 2 resolves that the spin-parity assignment for orbital excited states also follows a linear relation.

The baryon magnetic moment has been calculated for all four isospin states of  $\Delta$  as described in Table 2. However, the values of two isospin states have not been obtained experimentally so far. The  $\Delta^{++}$  magnetic moment is close to the PDG value and the  $\Delta^+$  magnetic moment differs by  $0.58\mu_N$  from that of the PDG.

Finally, decay widths have been obtained for strong decays through the  $N\pi$  channel for the three states  $\Delta(1600)$ ,  $\Delta(1620)$  and  $\Delta(1700)$ , using the nucleon to vector meson transition couplings. For  $\Delta(1600)$  and  $\Delta(1700)$  the decay widths are well within the range but the  $\Delta(1620)$  decay width predicted is higher than the experimental range.

Thus, the present work has effectively explored the known and unknown properties of the  $\Delta$  baryon in a similar approach to that of earlier  $N^*$  spectroscopy [33]. The accomplishments and shortcomings from this study are expected to inspire improvements and further exploration of other light baryons, including at experimental facilities such as PANDA-GSI [10, 11].

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