



Low-lying doubly heavy baryons: Regge relation and mass scaling

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Received: 19 October 2022 / Accepted: 13 December 2022
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Abstract In framework of heavy-diquark–light-quark endowed with heavy-pair binding, we explore excited baryons $QQ'q$ containing two heavy quarks ($QQ' = cc, bb, bc$) by combining the method of Regge trajectory with the perturbative correction due to the heavy-pair interaction in baryons. Two Regge relations, one linear and the other nonlinear, are constructed semi-classically in the QCD string picture, and a mass scaling relation based on the heavy diquark–heavy antiquark symmetry are employed between the doubly heavy baryons and heavy mesons. We employ the ground-state mass estimates compatible with the observed doubly charmed baryon Ξ_{cc} and spectra of the heavy quarkonia to determine the trajectory parameters and the binding energies of the heavy pair, and thereby compute the low-lying masses of the excited baryons $\Xi_{QQ'}$ and $\Omega_{QQ'}$ up to 2S and 1P excitations of the light quark and heavy diquark. The level spacings of heavy diquark excitations are found to be smaller generally than that of the light-quark excitations, in according with the nature of adiabatic expansion between the heavy and light-quark dynamics.

1 Introduction

Being systems analogous to hydrogen-like atoms with notable level splitting, by which QED interaction is tested in minute detail, the doubly heavy (DH) baryon provides a unique opportunity to probe the fundamental theory of the strong interaction, quantum chromodynamics (QCD) and models inspired by it [1–4]. It is expected that the excited DH baryons can form a set of nontrivial levels with various mass splitting and confront the QCD interaction with the experiments in a straightforward way.

In 2017, the LHCb Collaboration at CERN discovered the doubly charmed baryon Ξ_{cc}^{++} in the $\Lambda_c^+ K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$ mass

spectrum [5] and reconfirms it in the decay channel of $\Xi_c^+ \pi^+$ [6], with the measured mass $3621.55 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.30$ MeV [7]. This observation sets up, for the first time, a strength scale of interaction between two heavy quarks and is of help to understand the strong interaction among heavy quarks [2,4,8]. For instance, the mass of the Ξ_{cc}^{++} helps to “calibrate” the binding energy between a pair of heavy quark governed by short-distance interaction. Further more, very recent observation of the doubly charmed tetraquark [9] is timely to examine the assumed interquark (QQ) interaction in hadrons and invite conversely systematic study of the DH baryons. DH baryons have been studied over the years using various theoretical methods such as the nonrelativistic (NR) [4,10–12] as well as relativistic [3] quark models, heavy-quark effective theory [13], QCD sum rules [14–16], the Feynman–Hellmann theorem [17], mass formula [18], the Skyrme model [19], the lattice QCD [1,20–25] and the effective field theory [8,26,27]. Till now, the features (masses, spin-parity and decay widths) of the DH baryons in their excited states remain to be explored.

In this work, we introduce an energy term of heavy-pair binding due to the perturbative dynamics into the Regge relations of heavy hadrons to explore excited doubly heavy baryons with the help of the observed data of the light and heavy mesons, and of the Ξ_{cc}^{++} as well as the ground-state masses of the DH baryons compatible with the measured data. A nonlinear Regge relation for the heavy diquark excitations in DH baryons, endowed with heavy-pair binding is constructed and applied to compute low-lying mass spectra of the excited DH baryons $\Xi_{QQ'}$ and $\Omega_{QQ'}$ ($QQ' = cc, bb, bc$), combining with the mass scaling that is tested successfully for the experimentally available mass splittings of the heavy baryons. An agreement with other calculations is achieved and a discussion is given for the excitation modes of the DH baryons in the QCD string picture.

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We illustrate that the QCD string picture [28], when endowed with the two-body binding energy of the heavy quarks, gives an unified description of the DH baryons in which both aspects of the long-distance confinement and perturbative QCD are included, similar to that of the effective QCD string (EFT) in Ref. [8]. While our approach is semiclassical in nature, it treats quark (diquark) and string dynamically and full relativistically, in contrast with the static(nondynamic) approximation of the heavy quarks in DH baryons in Ref. [8] and of the lattice QCD simulation [1].

This paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, we apply linear and nonlinear Regge relation to formulate and estimate the spin-independent masses of the excited DH baryons in the 1S1p, 2S1s and 1P1s waves. In Sect. 3, we formulate the spin-dependent forces and the ensuing mass splitting of the low-lying excited DH baryons in the scheme of the jj coupling. In Sect. 4, we estimate the spin coupling parameters via the method of mass scaling these parameters and compute the excited spectra of the DH baryons. We end with summary and remarks in Sect. 5.

2 Spin-independent mass of excited DH baryons

We use heavy-diquark–light-quark picture for the DH baryons $qQQ'(q = u, d \text{ and } s)$ with heavy quarks $QQ' = cc, bb$ or bc , in which the heavy pair QQ' can be scalar(spin zero) diquark denoted by $[QQ']$ or axial-vector(spin-1) diquark denoted by $\{QQ'\}$. The charm diquark cc and the bottom diquark bb can only form axial-vector diquark, $\{cc\}$ or $\{bb\}$, while the bottom-charm diquark bc can form both, $\{bc\}$ or $[bc]$. We use the notations $N_DL_Dn_l$ to label the quantum numbers of the DH baryons, with the value of principal quantum number(N_D) of diquark, its orbital momentum(L_D) denoted by a capital letter and the principal quantum number(n) for the excitations of light quark and its orbital momentum(l) by a lowercase letter.

The mass of a DH baryon qQQ' consists of the sum of two parts: $M = \bar{M} + \Delta M$, where \bar{M} is the spin-independent mass and ΔM is the mass splitting due to the spin-dependent interaction. As the diquark QQ' is heavy, compared to the light quark q , the heavy-light limit applies to the DH baryons qQQ' .

2.1 Low-lying DH baryons with ground-state diquark

For a DH baryon with heavy diquark QQ' in internal S wave, we employ, by analogy with Ref. [29], a linear Regge relation derived from the QCD string model (Appendix A). Basic idea of this derivation is to view the baryon to be a $q - QQ'$ system of a massive QCD string with diquark QQ' at one end and q at the other. Denoting by \bar{M}_l the mass of a DH baryon

with orbital angular momentum l of light quark, the Regge relation takes form [29] (Appendix A)

$$(\bar{M}_l - M_{QQ'})^2 = \pi al + \left[m_q + M_{QQ'} - \frac{m_{\text{bare } QQ'}^2}{M_{QQ'}} \right]^2, \quad (1)$$

where $M_{QQ'}$ is the effective mass of the S-wave heavy diquark, m_q the effective mass of the light quark q , a stands for the tension of the QCD string [28]. Here, $m_{\text{bare } QQ'}$ is the bare mass of QQ' , given approximately by sum of the bare masses of each heavy quark: $m_{\text{bare } QQ'} = m_{\text{bare } Q} + m_{\text{bare } Q'}$. Using the bare data $m_{\text{bare},c} = 1.275 \text{ GeV}$, $m_{\text{bare},b} = 4.18 \text{ GeV}$, one has numerically,

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\text{bare } cc} &= 2.55 \text{ GeV}, & m_{\text{bare } bb} &= 8.36 \text{ GeV}, \\ m_{\text{bare } bc} &= 5.455 \text{ GeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

We set the values of m_q in Eq. (1) to be that in Table 1, which was previously determined in Ref. [29] via matching the measured mass spectra of the excited singly heavy baryons and mesons.

To determine $M_{QQ'}$ in Eq. (1), we apply Eq. (1) to the ground state ($l = 0$) to find [29]

$$\bar{M}(1S1s) = M_{QQ'} + m_q + \frac{k_{QQ'}^2}{M_{QQ'}}, \quad (3)$$

$$k_{QQ'} \equiv M_{QQ'} v_{QQ'} = M_{QQ'} \left(1 - \frac{m_{\text{bare } QQ'}^2}{M_{QQ'}^2} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (4)$$

which agrees with the mass formula given by heavy quark symmetry [30]. As the experimental data are still lacking except for the doubly charmed baryon Ξ_{cc}^{++} , we adopt the masses (Table 2) of DH baryons computed by Ref. [3], which successfully predicts $M(\Xi_{cc}, 1/2^+) = 3620 \text{ MeV}$, very close to the measured data 3621.55 MeV of the doubly charmed baryon Ξ_{cc}^{++} [5,7].

With the mass parameters $m_{q=n}$ ($n = u, d$) in Table 1 and the average masses $\bar{M}(1S1s)$ in Table 2, one can solve Eq. (3) to extract the heavy-diquark mass, with the results

$$M_{cc} = 2865.5 \text{ MeV}, M_{bb} = 8916.7 \text{ MeV}, \quad (5)$$

$$M_{[bc]} = 5891.8 \text{ MeV}, M_{\{bc\}} = 5892.3 \text{ MeV}, \quad (6)$$

where the subscript $cc(bb)$ stands for the vector diquark $\{cc\}$ ($\{bb\}$) for short. The mean mass of the diquark bc is $\bar{M}_{bc} = 5892.3 \text{ MeV}$.

It is examined in Refs. [29,31] for the singly heavy (SH) baryon families(the Λ_c/Σ_c , the Ξ_c/Ξ'_c , the Λ_b/Σ_b and the Ξ_b/Ξ'_b) that the Regge slope of the baryons are almost same for identical flavor constituents, independent of the light-diquark spin($= 0$ or 1). The trajectory slope is found to rely

Table 1 The effective masses (in GeV) of the quark masses and the string tensions a (in GeV^2) of the D/D_s and B/B_s mesons in Ref. [29]

Parameters	M_c	M_b	m_n	m_s	$a(c\bar{n})$	$a(b\bar{n})$	$a(c\bar{s})$	$a(b\bar{s})$
Input	1.44	4.48	0.23	0.328	0.223	0.275	0.249	0.313

Table 2 Ground state masses (GeV) and their spin averages $\bar{M}_{l=0}$ of the doubly heavy baryons in Ref. [3]

State	J^P	Baryons	Content	Mass	$\bar{M}_{l=0}$
$1^2S_{1/2}$	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	Ξ_{cc}	$n\{cc\}$	3.620	3.6913
$1^4S_{1/2}$	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	Ξ_{cc}^*	$n\{cc\}$	3.727	
$1^2S_{1/2}$	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	Ξ_{bb}	$n\{bb\}$	10.202	10.2253
$1^4S_{1/2}$	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	Ξ_{bb}^*	$n\{bb\}$	10.237	
$1^2S_{1/2}$	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	Ξ_{bc}	$n\{bc\}$	6.933	6.9643
$1^4S_{1/2}$	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	Ξ_{bc}^*	$n\{bc\}$	6.980	
$1^2S_{1/2}$	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	Ξ'_{bc}	$n[bc]$	6.963	6.963

crucially on the heavy quark mass M_Q , but has little dependence on the diquark spin of qq' .

Let us consider first the string tensions of the nonstrange DH baryons $\Xi_{QQ'} = nQQ'$. Natively, the string tension a are same for all heavy-light systems, namely, the ratio $a_D/a_B = 1 = a_D/a_{QQ}$ as gluon dynamics is flavor-independent, as implied by heavy quark symmetry and heavy quark-diquark (HQD) symmetry at the leading order [32]. In the real world, the breaking of the HQD symmetry and heavy quark symmetry yields that the ratios a_D/a_B and a_D/a_{QQ} are not unity but depend upon the respective masses (M_c, M_b) and (M_c, M_{QQ}). The requirement that they tend to unity suggests that this dimensionless ratio depends on some functional of the respective dimensionless ratio M_c/M_b and M_c/M_{QQ} . For simplicity, we use a power-law of the mass scaling between the string tensions of the hadrons D/B and $\Xi_{QQ'}$:

$$\frac{a_D}{a_B} = \left(\frac{M_c}{M_b} \right)^P, \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{a_D}{a_{\Xi_{QQ'}}} = \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{QQ'}} \right)^P. \quad (8)$$

Here, the parameters ($a_D = a_{c\bar{n}}, a_B = a_{b\bar{n}}, M_c$ and M_b) are previously evaluated in Ref. [29] and listed in Table 1. Putting the tensions and heavy-quark masses in Table 1 into Eq. (7) gives $P = 0.185$ and thereby predicts, by Eq. (8)

$$a_{\Xi_{cc}} = 0.2532 \text{ GeV}^2, \quad a_{\Xi_{bb}} = 0.3123 \text{ GeV}^2, \quad (9)$$

$$a_{\Xi_{bc}} = 0.2893 \text{ GeV}^2 = a_{\Xi'_{bc}}, \quad (10)$$

combining with Eqs. (5) and (6).

Given the tensions in Eqs. (9) and Eq. (10), and the diquark masses in Eqs. (5) and (6) and the light quark mass in Table 1,

one can use Eq. (1) to obtain the spin-averaged masses of the baryon system $\Xi_{QQ'}$ in p-wave ($l = 1$). The results are

$$\left. \begin{cases} \bar{M}(\Xi_{cc}, 1p) = 4.0813 \text{ GeV}, \bar{M}(\Xi_{bb}, 1p) = 10.5577 \text{ GeV}, \\ \bar{M}(\Xi'_{bc}, 1p) = 7.3258 \text{ GeV}, \bar{M}(\Xi_{bc}, 1p) = 7.3269 \text{ GeV}, \end{cases} \right\} \quad (11)$$

where $\Xi'_{bc} = n[bc]$ and $\Xi_{bc} = n\{bc\}$ stand for the bottom-charmed baryons with diquark spin 0 and 1, respectively.

The same procedure applies to the strange DH baryons, the $\Omega_{QQ'} = sQQ'$, and the associated $D_s/B_s (= c\bar{s}/b\bar{s})$ mesons, for which the mass scaling, corresponding to Eqs. (7) and (8), has the same form

$$\frac{a_{D_s}}{a_{B_s}} = \left(\frac{M_c}{M_b} \right)^P \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{a_{D_s}}{a_{\Omega_{QQ'}}} = \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{QQ'}} \right)^P. \quad (13)$$

Putting the tensions for the strange heavy mesons and the heavy-quark masses in Table 1 to Eq. (12) gives $P = 0.202$. One can then use Eq. (13) and the heavy-diquark masses in Eqs. (5) as well as (6) to predict

$$a_{\Omega_{cc}} = 0.2860 \text{ GeV}^2, \quad a_{\Omega_{bb}} = 0.3596 \text{ GeV}^2, \quad (14)$$

$$a_{\Omega_{bc}} = 0.3308 \text{ GeV}^2 = a_{\Omega'_{bc}}, \quad (15)$$

where Ω'_{bc} and Ω_{bc} stand for the DH Ω baryons with bc -diquark spin 0 and 1, respectively.

Given the tensions (including $a_{\Xi_{QQ'}} = a_{nQQ'}$) in Eqs. (14) and (15), and the heavy-diquark masses in Eqs. (5) and (6) as well as the strange quark mass $m_s = 0.328 \text{ GeV}$ in Table 1, one can use Eq. (1) to find the mean (spin-averaged) masses of the baryon system $\Omega_{QQ'}$ in p-waves ($l = 1$). The results are

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{M}(\Omega_{cc}, 1p) = 4.1895 \text{ GeV}, \bar{M}(\Omega_{bb}, 1p) = 10.6795 \text{ GeV}, \\ \bar{M}(\Omega'_{bc}, 1p) = 7.4430 \text{ GeV}, \bar{M}(\Omega_{bc}, 1p) = 7.4441 \text{ GeV}, \end{array} \right\} \quad (16)$$

where $\Omega'_{bc} = s[bc]$ stands for the strange baryons Ω_{bc} with scalar diquark $[bc]$ and $\Omega_{bc} = s\{bc\}$ for the Ω_{bc} with axial vector diquark $\{bc\}$.

To extend the above analysis to radially excited states, one needs a Regge relation to include the radial excitations. For the heavy mesons, this type of Regge relation is proposed in Ref. [33] in consideration that the trajectory slope ratio between the radial and angular excitations is $\pi : 2$ for the heavy mesons $\bar{q}Q$ in the heavy quark limit. Extending this ratio to the heavy diquark-quark picture of the DH system $q - Q\bar{Q}'$ can be done by viewing the system a QCD string tied to the diquark $Q\bar{Q}'$ as one end and to the light quark q at the other. Then, a Regge relation for the radially and angular excitations follows, via utilizing HQD symmetry to replace heavy quark Q there by the diquark $\bar{Q}\bar{Q}'$ and $\pi a l$ in Eq. (1) by $\pi a (l + \frac{\pi}{2}n)$, giving rise to [33]

$$\begin{aligned} (\bar{M} - M_{Q\bar{Q}'})^2 &= \pi a \left(l + \frac{\pi}{2}n \right) \\ &+ \left(m_q + M_{Q\bar{Q}'} - \frac{m_{\text{bare}}^2 Q\bar{Q}'}{M_{Q\bar{Q}'}} \right)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

This gives a linear Regge relation applicable to the DH antibaryons $\bar{q}\bar{Q}\bar{Q}'$, or the DH baryons $qQ\bar{Q}'$. With the masses of m_q in Table 1 and the inputs in Eqs. (2), (5), (6), (9), (10), (14) and (15), one obtains, by Eq. (17), the mean(spin-averaged) masses of the low-lying DH baryons with 1S2s wave. The results are listed in Table 3.

2.2 The DH baryons with 1P and 2S waves diquark

Consider excited DH baryons $qQ\bar{Q}'$ with diquark $Q\bar{Q}'$ in the internal 1P and 2S waves. The diquark cc or bb has to be in spin singlet (asymmetry) in the internal 1P wave or spin triplet in the internal 2S wave, while bc can be either in the internal 1P or in 2S waves. As treated before, one can decompose the excited baryon mass as $M = \bar{M}_{N,L} + (\Delta M)_{N,L}$, where $\bar{M}_{N,L}$ is the spin-independent mass and $(\Delta M)_{N,L}$ is mass shift(splitting) due to the spin interactions in DH baryons $qQ\bar{Q}'$.

First of all, we consider excited heavy mesons in 1P and 2S waves in QCD string picture. For an excited heavy quarkonia $Q\bar{Q}$, a rotating-string picture [34] in which a heavy quark at one end and an antiquark at the other with relative orbital momentum L , infers a nonlinear Regge relation ($\bar{M}^{3/2} \sim L$), akin to Eq. (1),

$$\bar{M} = 2M_Q + 3 \left(\frac{T^2 L^2}{4M_Q} \right)^{1/3}. \quad (18)$$

On the other hand, a semiclassical WKB analysis of a system of heavy quarkonia $Q\bar{Q}$ in a linear confining potential $T|r|$ leads to a quantization condition for its radial excitations (labeled by N , Appendix B):

$$[\bar{M} - 2M_Q]^{3/2} = \frac{3\pi T}{4\sqrt{M_Q}} (N + 2c_0), \quad (19)$$

with the constant $2c_0$ the quantum defect. Comparing the radial and angular slopes (linear coefficients in N and L , respectively, which is $\pi : \sqrt{12}$) of the trajectory in RHS of Eq. (19) and in that of Eq. (18), one can combine two trajectories into (Appendix B)

$$\begin{aligned} &[\bar{M}_{N,L} - 2M_Q - B(Q\bar{Q})_{N,L}]^{3/2} \\ &= \frac{3\sqrt{3}T}{2\sqrt{M_Q}} \left(L + \frac{\pi N}{\sqrt{12}} + 2c_0 \right), \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where a term of extra energy $B(Q\bar{Q})_{N,L}$, named heavy-pair binding energy, enters to represent a corrections to the picture of Regge spectra due to the short-distance interquark forces [35] when two heavy quarks (Q and \bar{Q}) come close each other. Such a term is ignored in the semiclassical picture of massive QCD string as well as in the WKB analysis (Appendix B). For the ground-state DH hadrons, a similar binding between two heavy quarks in them was considered in Refs. [4,36].

For applications in this work, we rewrite Eq. (20) and extend it to a general form in which $Q\bar{Q}'$ can be $b\bar{c}$ in flavor (by heavy quark symmetry),

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{M}(Q\bar{Q}')_{N,L} &= M_Q + M_{Q'} + B(Q\bar{Q}')_{N,L} \\ &+ 3 \frac{\left[T \left(L + \pi N/\sqrt{12} + 2c_0 \right) \right]^{2/3}}{[2(M_Q + M_{Q'})]^{1/3}}. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Setting $N = 0 = L$ in Eq. (21) gives

$$\begin{aligned} T c_0(Q\bar{Q}') &= \frac{\sqrt{2(M_Q + M_{Q'})}}{6\sqrt{3}} \\ &\times [\bar{M}(Q\bar{Q})_{1S} - M_Q - M_{Q'} - B(Q\bar{Q}')_{1S}]^{3/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Substitution of the quark masses ($M_c = 1.44$ GeV, $M_b = 4.48$ GeV) into Eq. (22) gives (in GeV^2),

$$\begin{aligned} T c_0(c\bar{c}) &= 0.0689 \text{ GeV}^2, \quad T c_0(b\bar{b}) = 0.4363 \text{ GeV}^2, \\ T c_0(b\bar{c}) &= 0.2136 \text{ GeV}^2, \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

in which we have used the observed data, $\bar{M}(c\bar{c})_{1S} = 3.06865$ GeV, $\bar{M}(b\bar{b})_{1S} = 9.4449$ GeV, $\bar{M}(b\bar{c})_{1S} = 6.32025$ GeV for the ground-state heavy quarkonia and B_c meson in Table 8, and the corresponding binding energies for 1S wave in Table 9,

$$\begin{aligned} B(c\bar{c})_{1S} &= 0.25783 \text{ GeV}^2, \quad B(b\bar{b})_{1S} = 0.56192 \text{ GeV}^2, \\ B(b\bar{c})_{1S} &= 0.3464 \text{ GeV}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Table 3 Spin-averaged (mean) masses of the excited DH baryons $\Xi_{QQ'}$ and $\Omega_{QQ'}$ predicted by Eqs. (17), (27), (28), with the masses in Eqs. (11), (16). All masses in GeV

Baryons	$\bar{M}(1S2s)$	$\bar{M}(1S1p)$	$\bar{M}(2S1s)$	$\bar{M}(1P1s)$
Ξ_{cc}	4.255	4.081	4.085	4.123
Ξ_{bb}	10.722	10.558	10.572	10.630
Ξ_{bc}	7.498	7.327	7.330	7.377
Ω_{cc}	4.370	4.190	4.234	4.272
Ω_{bb}	10.854	10.680	10.726	10.783
Ω_{bc}	7.625	7.444	7.482	7.528

Now, we consider the DH baryons qQQ' with excited diquark. In the string picture, one can view the baryon as a Y-shaped string system $[Q - Q'] - q$ in which a subsystem of massive (rotating or vibrating) string $[Q - Q']$ (tied to one heavy quark Q at each end) is connected via a static string to a light quark q at third end. For 1S or 1P wave diquark in a DH baryon labelled by the quantum numbers N and L , respectively, the Regge relation similar to Eq. (21) takes the form (Appendix C),

$$\bar{M}(QQ')_{N,L} = M_Q + M_{Q'} + \Delta B(QQ')_{N,L} + 3 \frac{\left[T_{QQ'} \left((L + \pi N/\sqrt{12})/2 + T c_0 \right) \right]^{2/3}}{[2(M_Q + M_{Q'})]^{1/3}} + c_1, \quad (25)$$

with $T_{QQ'}$ the tension of string of the subsystem $[Q - Q']$ and c_0 given by Eq. (22). Here, c_1 is an additive constant, defined up to the ground state of the whole DH system.

Since the inverse Regge slope $(1/\alpha')$ is derived to scale like $\sqrt{C\alpha_s}$ in Ref. [37], where C is the Casimir operator and equals to $2/3$ in a color antitriplet $\bar{3}_c$ of the pair QQ' , and $4/3$ in a color singlet (1_c) of the pair $Q\bar{Q}'$, one can write (by $1/\alpha' \sim T$)

$$T_{QQ'}[\bar{3}_c] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} T_{Q\bar{Q}'}[1_c], \quad (26)$$

for the heavy pairs with color configuration indicated. So, $\sqrt{2}T_{QQ'}c_0 = T_{Q\bar{Q}'}c_0$. Accounting the excitation energy of the baryons, $(\Delta\bar{M}^{(*)})_{N,L} = \bar{M}_{N,L}^{(*)} - \bar{M}_{0,0}$, for the energy shift of the subsystem $[Q - Q']$ relative to its ground state, one can write this excitation energy due to diquark excitation ($T_{Q\bar{Q}'} = T$ given in Eq. (22)) as

$$\bar{M}_{N,L}^{(*)} - \bar{M}_{0,0} = \Delta B(QQ')_{N,L} + 3\sqrt{2} \frac{\left[T(L + \pi N/\sqrt{12})/2 + T c_0 \right]^{2/3}}{[2(M_Q + M_{Q'})]^{1/3}} + C_1, \quad (27)$$

where C_1 is a constant related to c_1 and determined by (setting $N = 0 = L$),

$$C_1[QQQ'] = -3\sqrt{2} \left[\frac{(T c_0)^2}{2(M_Q + M_{Q'})} \right]^{1/3},$$

with $\Delta B(QQ')_{0,0} = 0$. From Eq. (27) it follows that the baryon mass shift due to diquark excitations becomes

$$(\Delta\bar{M}^{(*)})_{N,L} = \Delta B(QQ')_{N,L} + 3\sqrt{2} \frac{\left[T(L + \pi N/\sqrt{12})/2 + T c_0 \right]^{2/3} - (T c_0)^{2/3}}{[2(M_Q + M_{Q'})]^{1/3}}, \quad (28)$$

with $T c_0$ given by Eq. (23).

Given the parameters in Eqs. (23), (64) and Tables 1, 2, 9 and the mean masses of the ground-state baryons Ω_{cc} , Ω_{bb} and Ω_{bc} in Ref. [3], one can apply Eqs. (27) and (28) to find the mean masses of all DH baryons (Ξ_{cc} , Ξ_{bb} , Ξ_{bc} , Ω_{cc} , Ω_{bb} , Ω_{bc}) with diquark excited radially and angularly. Here, three values ($T_{c\bar{c}}$, $T_{b\bar{b}}$, $T_{b\bar{c}}$) of the tension T in Eq. (28) are obtained in Eq. (64) in Sect. 4 via matching Eq. (21) to the mean-mass spectra and binding energies of the heavy quarkonia and $b\bar{c}$ systems. The results for the mean masses of all DH baryons are shown in Table 3.

3 Spin-dependent interactions in jj coupling

In heavy-diquark quark picture of DH baryon in the ground state (1S1s), two heavy quarks form a S-wave color antitriplet ($\bar{3}_c$) diquark (QQ'), having spin zero ($S_{QQ'} = 0$) when $QQ' = bc$, or spin one ($S_{QQ'} = 1$) when $QQ' = cc$, bc and bb . When $Q = Q'$ the diquark QQ must have spin one due to full antisymmetry under exchange of two quarks. The spin $S_{QQ'}$ can couple with the spin $S_q = 1/2$ of the light quark q ($= u, d$ and s) to form total spin $S_{tot} = 1 \pm 1/2 = 1/2, 3/2$ if $S_{QQ'} = 1$ or $S_{tot} = 1/2$ if $S_{QQ'} = 0$.

For the internal ground state of diquark (S-wave), the spin-dependent interaction between light quark and heavy diquark

can generally be given by [38,39]

$$H^{SD} = a_1 \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q + a_2 \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} + b S_{12} + c \mathbf{S}_q \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'},$$

$$S_{12} = 3 \mathbf{S}_q \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} - \mathbf{S}_q \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'}, \quad (29)$$

where the first two terms are spin-orbit forces of the quark q with \mathbf{S}_q and the diquark QQ' with spin $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'}$, the third is a tensor force, and the last describes hyperfine splitting. Here, l stands for the relative orbital angular momentum of q with respect to QQ' , $\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{r}/r$ is the unity vector of position pointing from the center of mass (CM) of the diquark to the light quark q .

For the 1S_{1/2} waves of the DH baryons ($\mathbf{l} = 0$), only the last term survives in Eq. (29), in which $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ has the eigenvalues $\{-1, 1/2\}$ when $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'} = 1$. The mass splitting for the systems $q\{QQ'\}$ becomes ($J = 1/2, 3/2$),

$$\Delta M(q\{QQ'\}) = c(q\{QQ'\}) \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (30)$$

For the 1S_{1/2} waves of the bottom charmed baryons Ξ_{bc} and Ω_{bc} with zero diquark spin $S_{bc} = 0$, the spin interaction (29) yields the mass splitting ($J = 1/2, 3/2$),

$$\Delta M(q[QQ']) = a_1(q[QQ']) \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (31)$$

For the case of excited(2S or 1P wave) diquark QQ' , a correction to Eq. (29) emerges due to the interaction between the diquark and light quark, given by

$$H^{dSD} = c^*(\mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}_{QQ'}) \cdot \mathbf{S}_q, \quad (32)$$

where the diquark spin $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'} = 1$ (S wave of diquark) or 0 (P wave) when $QQ' = cc$ or bb . This correction stems from the interaction of the effective magnetic moments $e_{QQ'}(\mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}_{QQ'})/(2M_{QQ'})$ of the excited diquark and the spin magnetic moment $e_q \mathbf{S}_q/m_q$ of the light quark q . Here, \mathbf{L} is the internal orbital angular momentum of the diquark, $e_{QQ'}$ and e_q stand for the respective charges of diquark and light quark.

For the bc -diquark for which $QQ' = [bc]$ or $\{bc\}$, the spin $\mathbf{S}_{[bc]} = 0$ in internal S wave and $\mathbf{S}_{[bc]} = 1$ in internal P wave by the symmetry of the baryon states $q[bc]$ and $q\{bc\}$. Also, $\mathbf{S}_{[bc]} = 1$ in internal S wave and $\mathbf{S}_{[bc]} = 0$ in internal P wave. For the baryon $q[bc]$, $\mathbf{J}_d = \mathbf{L} \oplus \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} = \{0\}$ in S wave of diquark or $\{0, 1, 2\}$ in P wave of diquark, while for the baryon $q\{bc\}$, $\mathbf{J}_d = \mathbf{L} \oplus \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} = \{1\}$ in the 2S and 1P wave of the diquark.

3.1 The 1p wave DH baryons with S wave diquark

Consider now the excited (1p) DH baryon in which light quark is excited to 1p wave ($l = 1$) relative to QQ' . Note that coupling $S_{tot} = 1/2$ to $l = 1$ gives the states with the total angular momentums $J = 1/2, 3/2$, while coupling $S_{tot} = 3/2$ to $l = 1$ leads to the states with

$J = 1/2, 3/2$ and $5/2$. We use then the LS basis ${}^{2S_{tot}+1}P_J = \{{}^2P_{1/2}, {}^2P_{3/2}, {}^4P_{1/2}, {}^4P_{3/2}, {}^4P_{5/2}\}$ to label these multiplets in p-wave ($J = 1/2, 1/2', 3/2, 3/2'$ and $5/2$). The two $J = 1/2$ states are the respective eigenstates of a 2×2 matrices \mathcal{M}_J representing H^{SD} for $J = 1/2$ and $3/2$. In terms of the basis $[{}^2P_J, {}^4P_J]$, they can be given by the matrix [40,41] (see Appendix D also)

$$\mathcal{M}_{J=1/2} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3}(a_1 - 4a_2) & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}(a_1 - a_2) \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}(a_1 - a_2) & -\frac{5}{3}(a_2 + \frac{1}{2}a_1) \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & -1 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (33)$$

in the $J = 1/2$ subspace,

$$\mathcal{M}_{J=3/2} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{2}{3}(\frac{1}{4}a_1 - a_2) & \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}(a_1 - a_2) \\ \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}(a_1 - a_2) & -\frac{2}{3}(\frac{1}{2}a_1 + a_2) \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{10} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{10} & \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (34)$$

in the $J = 3/2$ subspace, and by

$$\mathcal{M}_{J=5/2} = \frac{1}{2}a_1 + a_2 - \frac{b}{5} + \frac{c}{2}, \quad (35)$$

for the $J = 5/2$. One can verify that the spin-weighted sum of the eigenvalues of these matrices over $J = 1/2, 3/2$ and $5/2$ is zero:

$$\sum_J (2J+1) \mathcal{M}_J = 0, \quad (36)$$

as it should be for the spin-dependent interaction H^{SD} .

In the heavy quark limit ($M_Q \rightarrow \infty$), all terms except for the first ($= a_1 \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$) in Eq. (29) behave as $1/M_{QQ'}$ and are suppressed. Due to heavy quark spin symmetry ($\mathbf{S}_{QQ'}$ conserved), the total angular momentum of the light quark $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{l} + \mathbf{S}_q = \mathbf{J} - \mathbf{S}_{QQ'}$ is conserved and forms a set of the conserved operators $\{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{j}\}$, where \mathbf{J} is the total angular momentum of the DH hadrons. We use then the jj coupling scheme to label the spin multiplets of the DH baryons, denoted by the basis $|J, j\rangle$ (Appendix D), in which the spin of diquark QQ' decouples and $\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ becomes diagonal. As such, the formula for mass splitting ΔM can be obtained by diagonalizing $a_1 \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ and treating other interactions in Eq. (29) perturbatively.

The eigenvalues (two diagonal elements) of $\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ can be obtained to be

$$\langle \mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q \rangle = \frac{1}{2} [j(j+1) - l(l+1) - S_q(S_q+1)] = -1 (j = 1/2) \text{ or } 1/2 (j = 3/2). \quad (37)$$

Table 4 The matrix elements of the mass splitting operators in the p-wave doubly heavy baryons states in the jj coupling

(J, j)	$\langle \mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \rangle$	$\langle \mathbf{S}_{12} \rangle$	$\langle \mathbf{S}_q \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \rangle$
$(1/2, 1/2)$	$-4/3$	$-4/3$	$1/3$
$(1/2, 3/2)$	$-5/3$	$1/3$	$-5/6$
$(3/2, 1/2)$	$2/3$	$2/3$	$-5/6$
$(3/2, 3/2)$	$-2/3$	$2/15$	$-1/3$
$(5/2, 3/2)$	1	$-1/5$	$1/2$

Thus, one can compute mass splitting $\Delta M(J, j) = \langle J, j | H^{SD} | J, j \rangle$ in the jj coupling via three steps: Firstly, one solves the eigenfunctions (the LS bases) $|S_{QQ'}3, S_{q3}, l_3\rangle$ of the $\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ for its eigenvalues $j = 1/2$ and $3/2$ in the LS coupling; Secondly, one transforms the obtained LS bases into $|J, j\rangle$ in the jj coupling (Appendix D); Finally, one evaluates the diagonal elements of the spin-interaction in Eq. (29) in the new bases $|J, j\rangle$. The results for $\Delta M(J, j)$ are listed in Table 4.

Given Table 3, one can use the lowest perturbation theory to find

$$\Delta M(1/2, 1/2) = -a_1 - \frac{4}{3}a_2 - \frac{4}{3}b + \frac{1}{3}c, \quad (38)$$

$$\Delta M(1/2, 3/2) = \frac{1}{2}a_1 - \frac{5}{3}a_2 + \frac{1}{3}b - \frac{5}{6}c, \quad (39)$$

$$\Delta M(3/2, 1/2) = -a_1 + \frac{2}{3}a_2 + \frac{2}{3}b - \frac{1}{6}c, \quad (40)$$

$$\Delta M(3/2, 3/2) = \frac{1}{2}a_1 - \frac{2}{3}a_2 + \frac{2}{15}b - \frac{1}{3}c, \quad (41)$$

$$\Delta M(5/2, 3/2) = \frac{1}{2}a_1 + a_2 - \frac{1}{5}b + \frac{1}{2}c, \quad (42)$$

which express the baryon mass splitting in p wave in terms of four parameters (a_1, a_2, b, c) . The mass formula for the $1S1p$ states is then $M(J, j) = \bar{M}(1S1p) + \Delta M(J, j)$, with $\bar{M}(1S1p)$ the spin-independent masses given in Eqs. (11) and (16) in Sect. 2.

3.2 The DH baryons with 2S and 1P wave diquark

In the heavy diquark-quark picture in this work, diquark QQ is fundamentally two body system connected by string and can be excited internally. In this subsection, we consider the spin interaction due to the 2S and 1P wave excitations of diquark in DH baryons.

(1) The $2S1s$ states. In this state, $\mathbf{L} = 0$ and the spin-interaction (32) reduces to $H^{SD}(2S) = c^* \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$, in which $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ has the eigenvalues $\{-1, 1/2\}$ for the spin of total system $J = 1/2$ or $3/2$, respectively. Note that we occasionally use 2S to stand for $2S1s$ for short. Here, the excited baryon energy stems from the spin interaction $H^{SD}(2S)$ as well as the string energy shift $(\Delta \bar{M}^{(*)})_{2S}$ given in Eq. (28).

Thus, the mass splitting for the $2S1s$ wave baryons $q\{QQ'\}$ becomes ($J = 1/2, 3/2$),

$$\Delta M(q\{QQ'\})_{2S} = (\Delta \bar{M}^{(*)})_{2S} + c^*(q\{QQ'\}) \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (43)$$

In the case of $2S1s$ wave DH system $q[bc]$, no mass splitting happens since $\mathbf{L} = 0 = \mathbf{S}_{[bc]}$, namely, the baryon mass is simply $\bar{M}(q[bc])_{NS}$.

(2) The $1P1s$ states. For the systems $q\{cc\}$, $q\{bb\}$ and $q[bc]$, $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'} = 0$ and the system spin $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L} \oplus 1/2$ takes values $J = 1/2$ and $3/2$. The spin interaction becomes $c^* \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$, which equals to $c^* \text{diag}[-1, 1/2]$. So, the baryon mass splitting is ($J = 1/2, 3/2$),

$$\Delta M(q\{QQ'\})_{1P} = (\Delta \bar{M}^{(*)})_{1P} + c^* \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (44)$$

For the systems $q[bc]$, $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'} = 1$, and $\mathbf{J}_d = \mathbf{L} \oplus \mathbf{S}_{QQ'}$ can take values $J_d = 0, 1$ or 2 so that $J = 1/2, 1/2', 3/2, 3/2', 5/2$. Labelling the DH baryon systems by $|J, J_d\rangle$, the relation $\mathbf{J}_d \cdot \mathbf{S}_q = [J(J+1) - J_d(J_d+1) - 3/4]/2$ yields the mass splitting matrix for the P wave multiplets,

$$\Delta M(q[bc])_{1P} = (\Delta \bar{M}^{(*)})_{1P} + c^* \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} 0, -1, \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}, 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (45)$$

in the subspace of $\{|J, J_d\rangle\} = \{|1/2, 0\rangle, |1/2, 1\rangle, |3/2, 1\rangle, |3/2, 2\rangle, |5/2, 2\rangle\}$.

4 Spin couplings of the DH baryons via mass scaling

To evaluate spin coupling parameters in Eq. (38) through Eq. (45) for the excited DH baryons, we utilize, in this section, the relations of mass scaling, which apply successfully to the SH hadrons [29,38]. For this, we list, in Table 5, the experimentally matched values of the spin couplings (data before parentheses) for the existing heavy-light systems, such as the D_s in Refs. [29,38] and the SH baryons (the $\Sigma_Q/\Xi'_Q/\Omega_Q$, with $Q = c, b$) in Ref. [31].

4.1 The 1p wave baryons with 1S wave diquark

Before considering DH baryons, let us first examine the mass scaling of the spin couplings between heavy baryons Qqq' and heavy mesons (e.g., the $D_s = c\bar{s}$). In Refs. [29,38], a relation of mass scaling is explored based on Breit-Fermi like interaction [42,43], and is given by [29] (see Eqs. (22–24))

$$\mathbf{l}_{qq'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{qq'} : a_1 [Qqq'] = \frac{M_c}{M_Q} \cdot \frac{m_s}{m_{qq'}} \cdot a_1 (D_s), \quad (46)$$

Table 5 Effective masses (in GeV) of light diquarks in the singly heavy baryons shown. Data are from the Refs. [29, 31]

Hadrons	Σ_c	Σ_b	Ξ'_c	Ξ'_b	Ω_c	Ω_b
m_{qq}	0.745	0.745	0.872	0.872	0.991	0.991

Table 6 Spin-coupling parameters (in MeV) of the heavy meson D_s and the SH baryons Σ_Q , Ξ'_Q and Ω_Q ($Q = c, b$). The data before parentheses are the parameters matched to the measured spectra of the SH baryons shown and the data in parentheses are that computed by the mass scaling Eqs. (46), (47) and (48)

Hadrons	a_1	a_2	b
D_s	89.36	40.7	65.6
Σ_c	39.96(39.34)	21.75(26.82)	20.70(20.05)
Σ_b	12.99(12.65)	6.42(8.62)	6.45(6.45)
Ξ'_c	32.89(33.62)	20.16(25.35)	16.50(17.93)
Ξ'_b	9.37(10.81)	6.29(8.15)	5.76(5.76)
Ω_c	26.96(29.59)	25.76(24.11)	13.51(16.31)
Ω_b	8.98(9.51)	4.11(7.75)	7.61(5.24)

$$\mathbf{l}_{qq'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_Q : a_2 [Qqq'] = \frac{M_c}{M_Q} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + m_{qq'}/M_c} \cdot a_2 (D_s), \quad (47)$$

$$S_{12} : b [Qqq'] = \frac{M_c}{M_Q} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + m_{qq'}/m_s} \cdot b (D_s), \quad (48)$$

where $\mathbf{l}_{qq'}$ and $\mathbf{S}_{qq'}$ denote the orbital angular momentum of light diquark qq' relative to the heavy quark Q and the spin of the light diquark, respectively, $m_{qq'}$ is the diquark mass and M_Q the heavy-quark mass in the SH hadrons. The factor M_c/M_Q enters to account for the heavy quark dependence. In Eq. (48), the extra recoil factor $1/(1 + m_{qq'}/m_s)$ enters to take into account the correction due to comparable heaviness between the diquark qq' and the strange quark. Note that a similar (recoil) factor, $1/(1 + m_{qq'}/M_c)$, entering Eq. (47), has been confirmed for the charmed and bottom baryons in P-wave and D-wave [29]. For instance, Eq. (47) in Ref. [29] (Eq. (60)) well reproduces the measured masses 6146.2 MeV and 6152.5 MeV of the Λ_b (6146) and the Λ_b (6152) observed by LHCb [44]. Similar verifications were demonstrated in Ref. [31] for the excited Ω_c discovered by LHCb [45], for which the ss -diquark is comparable with the charm quark in heaviness.

Putting the parameters in Table 1 and the light diquarks in Table 5 to Eqs. (46)–(48), one can estimate the parameters a_1 , a_2 and b for the heavy baryons Σ_Q , the Ξ'_Q and the Ω_c . In Table 6, we list the obtained results within parentheses so that they are comparable with that (data before parentheses) matched to the measured data in Ref. [31]. Evidently, the mismatch shown is small: $\Delta a_1 \leq 2.63$ MeV, $\Delta a_2 \leq 5.19$ MeV and $\Delta b \leq 2.80$ MeV, and agreement is noticeable.

Consider the DH baryons with S-wave diquark now. Regarding mass scaling between the DH baryons (QQq) and

the heavy mesons ($Q\bar{q}$), the heavy diquark-antiquark(HDA) duality or symmetry ($QQ \leftrightarrow \bar{Q}\bar{Q}$) in Refs. [32, 46, 47] suggests that two hadrons share the same chromodynamics in the heavy quark limit ($M_Q \rightarrow \infty$) up to a color factor. In the real world where M_Q is finite, this symmetry(duality) breaks and the dynamics degenerates to a similar dynamics which mainly depends on the similarity(asymmetric) parameter $M_Q/M_{QQ'}$. As two heavy quarks in diquark QQ' moves in relatively smaller region ($\propto 1/M_Q$), compared to the DH baryon ($\propto 1/m_q$), the string structure of the $q - QQ'$ resembles that of the heavy meson D_s , one naturally expects that similar relations of mass scaling apply to the coupling parameters in Eq. (29) for the DH baryons.

Replacing M_Q in Eqs. (46)–(48) by the diquark mass $M_{QQ'}$, and the mass of the light diquark mass $m_{qq'}$ by that of the light quark, one obtains

$$a_1[QQ'q] = \frac{M_c}{M_{QQ'}} \cdot \frac{m_s}{m_q} \cdot a_1 (D_s), \quad (49)$$

$$a_2[QQ'q] = \frac{M_c}{M_{QQ'}} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + m_q/M_c} \cdot a_2 (D_s), \quad (50)$$

$$b[QQ'q] = \frac{M_c}{M_{QQ'}} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + m_q/m_s} \cdot b (D_s). \quad (51)$$

Since the hyperfine parameter $c \propto |\psi_B(0)|^2/(M_{QQ'}m_q)$, scales as hadron wavefunction $|\psi_B(0)|^2$ near the origin, it should be small in p-wave. One can write a relation of mass scaling relative to the singly charmed baryon $\Omega_c = css$ as below:

$$c[QQ'q] = \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{QQ'}} \right) \left(\frac{m_{ss}}{m_q} \right) c (\Omega_c). \quad (52)$$

Experimentally, there exists five excited Ω_c 's discovered by LHCb [45], with the masses 3000.4 MeV, 3050.2 MeV, 3065.6 MeV, 3095.2 MeV and 3119.2 MeV. Assigning the five states to be in p-wave and matching the jj mass formula to the five measured masses lead to [31, 40]

$$c (\Omega_c) = 4.07 \text{ MeV}, \quad m_{ss} = 991 \text{ MeV}. \quad (53)$$

Now, one can employ Eqs. (49)–(52) to estimate the four parameters of spin couplings of the DH baryons using the parameters in Table 1 and the diquark masses in Eqs. (5), (6) and that in Eq. (53). The results are listed collectively in Table 7. As seen in table, the parameter a_2 are smaller (three times roughly) but comparable to a_1 . The magnitudes of b is as large as a_2 roughly while c is the smallest. This

Table 7 Spin-coupling parameters (in MeV) in the spin interaction (29) of the DH baryons $\Xi_{QQ'}$ and $\Omega_{QQ'}(Q, Q' = c, b)$ in p wave

DH baryons	a_1	a_2	b	c
Ξ_{cc}	64.05	17.64	19.38	8.81
Ξ_{bb}	20.58	5.67	6.23	2.83
$\Xi_{\{bc\}}$	31.14	8.58	9.42	4.29
Ω_{cc}	44.91	16.66	16.48	6.18
Ω_{bb}	14.43	5.35	5.30	1.99
$\Omega_{\{bc\}}$	21.84	8.10	8.01	3.01

agrees qualitatively with the parameter hierarchy of the spin-couplings [29, 31] implied by heavy quark symmetry.

With $a_1(D_s) = 89.4$ MeV in Table VI [38], one can employ the relations of mass scaling (49) relative to the D_s to give

$$\begin{aligned} a_1(\Xi_{bc}) &= \left(\frac{1.440 \text{ GeV}}{5.8918 \text{ GeV}} \right) \left(\frac{0.328 \text{ GeV}}{0.230 \text{ GeV}} \right) a_1(D_s) \\ &= 31.14 \text{ MeV}, \\ a_1(\Omega_{bc}) &= \left(\frac{1.440 \text{ GeV}}{5.8918 \text{ GeV}} \right) a_1(D_s) \\ &= 21.84 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

where $M_{[bc]} = 5.8918$ GeV and other mass parameters are from Table 1. Putting above parameters into Eq. (31), and adding $\bar{M}_L(\Xi_{bc}, \Omega_{bc})$ in Eqs. (11) and (16), one obtains the P-wave masses $\bar{M}_L(\Xi_{bc}, \Omega_{bc}) + \Delta M(\Xi_{bc}, \Omega_{bc})$ for the baryons Ξ_{bc} and Ω_{bc} (with scalar diquark bc and $J^P = 1/2^-, 3/2^-$) to be

$$\begin{aligned} M(\Xi_{bc}, 1/2^-) &= 7294.7 \text{ MeV}, M(\Xi_{bc}, 3/2^-) \\ &= 7341.4 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

$$\begin{aligned} M(\Omega_{bc}, 1/2^-) &= 7421.2 \text{ MeV}, M(\Omega_{bc}, 3/2^-) \\ &= 7453.9 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

We list all masses of the DH baryons in their 1S1p-wave in Tables 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, with comparison with other predictions cited. These masses are also shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 for the respective states of the DH baryons. Our computation suggests that the 1S1p states of the DH baryons have increasing masses with baryon spin J rising from the lowest $1/2^-$ to highest $5/2^-$.

4.2 The 2s and 1s wave baryons with 1S wave diquark

We consider first the DH baryons qQQ' with excited diquark QQ' in internal 2S waves and then examine the DH baryons in ground state. As two spin-states of the D mesons are estab-

lished in 1s and 2s waves experimentally, we shall use the mass scaling relative to the D mesons.

In 2s wave ($n = 1$), two D mesons are the $D_0(2550)^0$ with mass 2549 ± 19 MeV and the $D_1^*(2600)^{\pm 0}$ with mass 2627 ± 10 MeV [48]. The mass scaling relative to the D mesons, inspired by Breit–Fermi like interaction [42, 43], can be given by

$$c(QQQ'u)_{2s} = \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{QQ'}} \right) c(D)_{2s}. \quad (57)$$

It follows $(c(D)_{2s}) =$ mass splitting of the heavy mesons) that

$$c(\Xi_{bb}(bbu))$$

$$= \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{bb}} \right) [M(D(2s), 1^-) - M(D(2s), 0^-)] \\ = 12.6 \text{ MeV},$$

$$c(\Omega_{bb}(bbs))$$

$$= \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{bb}} \right) \left(\frac{m_u}{m_s} \right) [M(D(2s), 1^-) - M(D(2s), 0^-)] \\ = 8.8 \text{ MeV}.$$

Further application of mass scaling between the DH baryons,

$$\begin{aligned} c(\Xi_{cc})_{2s} &= c(\Xi_{bb}) \left(\frac{M_{bb}}{M_{cc}} \right), c(\Xi_{bc})_{2s} \\ &= c(\Xi_{bb}) \left(\frac{M_{bb}}{M_{bc}} \right), \\ c(\Omega_{cc})_{2s} &= c(\Omega_{bb}) \left(\frac{M_{bb}}{M_{cc}} \right), c(\Omega_{bc})_{2s} \\ &= c(\Omega_{bb}) \left(\frac{M_{bb}}{M_{bc}} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

leads to the following parameter c for the 2s-wave baryons Ξ_{cc} , Ξ_{bc} , Ω_{cc} and Ω_{bc} ,

$$\begin{aligned} c(\Xi_{cc})_{2s} &= 39.2 \text{ MeV}, c(\Xi_{bc})_{2s} \\ &= 19.1 \text{ MeV}, \\ c(\Omega_{cc})_{2s} &= 27.4 \text{ MeV}, c(\Omega_{bc})_{2s} \\ &= 13.3 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

With the mean(2s) masses in Table 3, one can employ Eq. (30) to compute the 2s-wave (namely, the 1S2s-wave) masses of the DH baryons. The results are listed in Table 10 through Table 16, with comparison with other calculations, and also shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

It is of interest to apply the same strategy to the ground states to check if one can reproduce the masses in Table 2. For the 1s wave Ξ_{cc} firstly, the c value can be scaled to that of the ground state D mesons with mass difference

$m(D^*(2010)^+) - m(D^+) = 140.6$ MeV [48] via mass scaling:

$$\begin{aligned} c(\Xi_{cc})_{1s} &= c(D)_{1s} \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{cc}} \right) \\ &= (140.6 \text{ MeV}) \left(\frac{1.44}{2.8655} \right) \\ &= 70.7 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned}$$

For the Ω_{cc} , the relevant meson for scaling is the ground-state D_s meson with mass difference $m(D_s^{*\pm}) - m(D_s^\pm) = 143.8$ MeV [48], and the c value is then

$$\begin{aligned} c(\Omega_{cc})_{1s} &= c(D_s)_{1s} \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{cc}} \right) \\ &= (143.8 \text{ MeV}) \left(\frac{1.44}{2.8655} \right) \\ &= 72.3 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned}$$

Using $\bar{M}(qQQ')_{1s} = M_{QQ'} + m_q + M_{QQ'} v_{QQ'}^2$ given by Eq. (3) with $v_{QQ'}^2 \equiv 1 - m_{\text{bare}QQ'}^2/M_{QQ'}^2$ and Eq. (30), one can use the c values above to give

$$\begin{aligned} (1/2, 3/2)^+ : M(\Xi_{cc})_{1s} &= 3691.7 + 70.66 \{-1, 1/2\} \\ &= \{3620.8, 3726.8\} \text{ MeV}, \\ (1/2, 3/2)^+ : M(\Omega_{cc})_{1s} &= 3789.5 + 72.3 \{-1, 1/2\} \\ &= \{3717.2, 3825.7\} \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned}$$

where the mean mass (3691 MeV and 3789.5 MeV) in the 1s wave ($v_{cc}^2 = 0.208$) are obtained for the systems $q\{cc\}$ and the two numbers in curly braces correspond to the respective states with $J^P = 1/2^+$ and $3/2^+$.

Further, similar calculation applying to the 1s wave Ξ_{bb} and Ω_{bb} gives

$$\begin{aligned} c(\Xi_{bb})_{1s} &= c(D)_{1s} \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{bb}} \right) \\ &= (140.6 \text{ MeV}) \left(\frac{1.44}{8.9167} \right) \\ &= 22.7 \text{ MeV}, \\ c(\Omega_{bb})_{1s} &= c(D_s)_{1s} \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{bb}} \right) \\ &= (143.8 \text{ MeV}) \left(\frac{1.44}{8.9167} \right) \\ &= 23.2 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned}$$

and the ground state masses (with $v_{bb}^2 = 0.121$)

$$\begin{aligned} (1/2, 3/2)^+ : M(\Xi_{bb})_{1s} &= 10226 + 22.7 \{-1, 1/2\} \\ &= \{10203.3, 10237.4\} \text{ MeV}, \\ (1/2, 3/2)^+ : M(\Omega_{bb})_{1s} &= 10324 + 23.2 \{-1, 1/2\} \\ &= \{10301.8, 10335.6\} \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\bar{M}(q\{bb\})_{1s} = M_{bb} + m_q + M_{bb} v_{bb}^2 = 10226.0$ (10324.0) MeV have been used for $q = n(\text{or } s)$.

Finally, for the DH systems $q(bc)$, there are three ground states, $\Xi_{bc} = n\{bc\}$ with $J^P = 1/2^+$ and $3/2^+$, $\Xi'_{bc} = n[bc]$ with $J^P = 1/2^+$, and three ground states $\Omega_{bc} = s\{bc\}$ with $J^P = 1/2^+$ and $3/2^+$, $\Omega'_{bc} = s[bc]$ with $J^P = 1/2^+$. Notice that $v_{bc}^2 = 0.1428(0.1429)$ for the diquark $\{bc\}([bc])$, one finds, by Eq. (3), the mean masses for them to be

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{M}(n\{bc\})_{1s} &= M_{\{bc\}} + m_n + M_{\{bc\}} v_{bc}^2 \\ &= 6964.3 \text{ MeV}, \\ \bar{M}(s\{bc\})_{1s} &= M_{\{bc\}} + m_s + M_{\{bc\}} v_{bc}^2 \\ &= 7062.3 \text{ MeV}, \\ \bar{M}(n[bc])_{1s} &= 6963.0 \text{ MeV}, \bar{M}(s[bc])_{1s} \\ &= 7061.0 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned}$$

and the c parameter to be

$$\begin{aligned} c(\Xi_{bc})_{1s} &= c(D)_{1s} \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{\{bc\}}} \right) \\ &= (140.6 \text{ MeV}) \left(\frac{1.44}{5.9823} \right) \\ &= 33.8 \text{ MeV}, \\ c(\Omega_{bc})_{1s} &= c(D_s)_{1s} \left(\frac{M_c}{M_{\{bc\}}} \right) \\ &= (143.8 \text{ MeV}) \left(\frac{1.44}{5.9823} \right) \\ &= 34.6 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned}$$

The ground state masses of the baryons Ξ_{bc} and Ω_{bc} are then

$$\begin{aligned} (1/2, 3/2)^+ : M(\Xi_{bc})_{1s} &= 6964.3 + 33.8 \{-1, 1/2\} \\ &= \{6930.5, 6981.2\} \text{ MeV}, \\ (1/2, 3/2)^+ : M(\Omega_{bc})_{1s} &= 7062.3 + 34.6 \{-1, 1/2\} \\ &= \{7027.7, 7079.6\} \text{ MeV}, \\ 1/2^+ : M(\Xi'_{bc})_{1s} &= 6963.0 \text{ MeV}, M(\Omega'_{bc})_{1s} \\ &= 7061.0 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned}$$

with the two numbers in curly braces corresponding to $J^P = 1/2^+$ and $3/2^+$, respectively. Our predictions for the ground-state masses of the most DH baryons ($\Omega_{Q\bar{Q}'}$) are in consistent with that by Ref. [3].

4.3 Heavy pair binding and effective masses of excited diquarks

We first explore and extract binding energies of heavy pairs in DH baryons and then compute the effective masses of heavy

diquarks in its excited states. The later is done via estimating the energy shifts due to diquark excitations.

In QCD string picture, one simple and direct way to extract heavy pair binding is to use the “half” rule for the short-distance interaction of the $Q\bar{Q}'$ systems and to subtract from the hadron masses of the $Q\bar{Q}'$ systems (short string plus binding energy plus $2M_Q$) all involved (heavy and light) masses and string energies of mesons, leaving only the binding energy between Q and \bar{Q}' . The relation for the $Q\bar{Q}'$ systems is

$$B(Q\bar{Q}')_{N,L} = \bar{M}(Q\bar{Q}') - \bar{M}(Q\bar{n}) - \bar{M}(Q\bar{n}') + \bar{M}(n\bar{n}'), \quad (60)$$

in which \bar{M} represents the mean(spin-averaged) masses of the respective mesons formed by the quark pairs $Q\bar{Q}'$, $Q\bar{n}$ and $n\bar{n}'(n = u, d)$. The experimental mean-mass data [48] for these mesons are shown collectively in Table 8, where the mean (1S) masses of the $c\bar{c}$ system, for instance, are $\bar{M}(c\bar{c})_{1S} = [3M(J/\psi) + M(\eta_c)]/4 = 3068.65$ MeV, $\bar{M}(c\bar{n})_{1S} = [3M(D^*) + M(D)]/4 = 1973.23$ MeV, $\bar{M}(n\bar{n}')_{1S} = [3M(\rho) + 154]/4 = 619.98$ MeV.

Given the data in Table 8, the binding energy of the heavy quark-antiquark is calculable by Eq. (60). In the case of $Q\bar{Q}' = c\bar{c}$, Eq. (60) gives

$$\begin{aligned} B(c\bar{c})_{1S} &= \bar{M}(c\bar{c})_{1S} - 2\bar{M}(c\bar{n})_{1S} + \bar{M}(n\bar{n}')_{1S}, \\ &= 3068.65 - 2(1973.23) + 619.98, \\ &= -257.83 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

where we have used the computed 1S-wave mass 154.0 MeV of the pion in Ref. [49], instead of the observed (very light) mass of the physical pion, for which an extra suppression mechanism (Nambu–Goldstone mechanism) enters due to the breaking of chiral symmetry. Note that the Nambu–Goldstone mechanism for the heavy quarkonia is ignorable and not comparable with that of the physical pion. With the 1S wave data of the respective bottomonium, the B meson and $\bar{M}(n\bar{n}')_{1S} = 619.98$ MeV in Table 8, one can similarly estimate $B(b\bar{b})$ via Eq. (60). The results are listed in Table 9.

For the pair $b\bar{c}$, only the 1S and 2S wave mesons (the B_c) are available for $\bar{M}(b\bar{c})$ experimentally, and they give, by Eq. (60),

$$\begin{aligned} B(b\bar{c})_{1S} &= \bar{M}(b\bar{c})_{1S} - \bar{M}(b\bar{n})_{1S} - \bar{M}(\bar{c}n)_{1S} + \bar{M}(n\bar{n})_{1S}, \\ &= 6320.3 - 5313.4 - 1973.2 + 619.98, \\ &= -346.4 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned}$$

in which $\bar{M}(b\bar{c})_{1S}$ is estimated by the mean mass of the measured $M(B_c, 0^-)_{1S} = 6274.5$ MeV and the predicted mass splitting $\Delta M(B_c)_{1S} = 61$ MeV between the 1^- and 0^- states

by Ref. [50]:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{M}(b\bar{c})_{1S} &= \frac{1}{4}[6274.5 + 3 \times (6274.5 + \Delta M(B_c)_{1S})] \\ &= 6320.3 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned}$$

For 2S wave $b\bar{c}$, one can use the measured 2S-wave mass $M(B_c, 0^-)_{2S} = 6871.2$ MeV of the B_c meson and the predicted mass splitting $\Delta M(B_c)_{2S} = 40$ MeV by Ref. [50] to get

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{M}(b\bar{c})_{2S} &= \frac{1}{4}[6871.2 + 3 \times (6871.2 + \Delta M(B_c)_{2S})] \\ &= 6901.2 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned}$$

and thereby to find

$$\begin{aligned} B(b\bar{c})_{2S} &= 6901.2 - 5917.0 - 2607.5 + 1423.7 \\ &= -199.6 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\bar{M}(c\bar{n})_{2S} = 2607.5$ MeV [48], and $\bar{M}(b\bar{n})_{2S} = 5917.0$ MeV, taken from the predicted mean mass [33] of the B mesons in 2S-wave. Similarly, one can find $B(c\bar{c})_{2S} = -117.3$ MeV and $B(b\bar{b})_{2S} = -392.98$ MeV, as shown in Table 9.

For the B_c meson, no data in P wave is available. We estimate it via interpolating the P wave masses of the $c\bar{c}$ and $b\bar{b}$ systems which are known experimentally. Inspired by atomic spectra in a purely Coulombic potential, we write the binding energy $B(Q\bar{Q}')$ as a power form of the reduced pair mass $\mu_{QQ'} = M_Q M_{Q'}/(M_Q + M_{Q'})$ [36, 51],

$$B(Q\bar{Q}') - B_0 = k[\mu_{QQ'}]^P = k \left(\frac{M_Q M_{Q'}}{M_Q + M_{Q'}} \right)^P, \quad (62)$$

where B_0 are a constant while the parameters $k = k_{N,L}$ and $P = P_{N,L}$ depend on the radial and angular quantum numbers of the excited $Q\bar{Q}'$. In the ground(1S1s) state, the binding $B(c\bar{c}) = -257.83$ MeV, $B(b\bar{b}) = -561.92$ MeV and $B(b\bar{c}) = -346.40$ MeV in Table 9 correspond, by Eq. (62), to the parameters $\{B_0 = 62.066$ MeV, $P_{0,0} = 0.58805$, $k_{0,0} = -388.342\}$.

When $Q\bar{Q}'$ excited to the 1P wave, substitution of the measured mean masses of the charmonium and bottomonium in Table 8 into Eq. (60) leads to,

$$\begin{aligned} B(c\bar{c})_{1P} &= -100.38 \text{ MeV}, B(b\bar{b})_{1P} \\ &= -328.81 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned}$$

One can then interpolate these two binding energies via Eq. (62) to predict (for the $b\bar{c}$ system) $P_{0,1} = 0.77365$, $k_{0,1} = -0.209448$, and further gives, by Eq. (62),

$$\begin{aligned} B(b\bar{c})_{1P} &= B_0 + \frac{B(c\bar{c})_{1P} - B_0}{[(1 + 1.44/4.48)/2]^{P_{0,1}}}, \\ &= 62.066 + \frac{-100.377 - (62.066)}{[(1 + 1.44/4.48)/2]^{0.77365}} \end{aligned}$$

Table 8 Means masses (MeV) of heavy quarkonia, B_c mesons, the B mesons, D mesons and the light unflavored mesons. The data comes from the spin-averaging of the measured masses for these mesons [48]

Mesons	$c\bar{c}$	$b\bar{b}$	$b\bar{c}$	$c\bar{n}$	$b\bar{n}$	$n\bar{n}$
$\bar{M}(1S)$	3068.65	9444.9	6320.25	1973.23	5313.40	619.98
$\bar{M}(2S)$	3627.50	10017.3	6901.20	2627.00	5917.00	1423.75
$\bar{M}(1P)$	3525.26	9899.7	6765.32	2435.72	5737.17	1245.79

Table 9 The binding energy $B(Q\bar{Q}')$, $B(QQ')$ and their shift ΔB relative to the ground state, computed from Eqs. (60), (65) and (66), respectively. All items are in MeV

Binding energy	$1S$	$2S$	$1P$	$\Delta B(2S)$	$\Delta B(1P)$
$B(c\bar{c})$	−257.83	−117.30	−100.38	140.53	157.45
$B(b\bar{b})$	−561.92	−392.98	−328.81	168.94	233.11
$B(b\bar{c})$	−346.40	−199.55	−161.78	146.85	184.32
$B(cc)$	−128.92	−58.65	−50.19	70.27	78.73
$B(bb)$	−280.96	−196.49	−164.41	84.47	116.55
$B(bc)$	−173.20	−99.78	−80.89	73.43	92.32

$$= -161.78 \text{ MeV}, \quad (63)$$

as shown in Table 9.

For the heavy quark–antiquark pairs $\{c\bar{c}, b\bar{b}, b\bar{c}\}$, three values of string tension T that reproduce, by Eq. (21), the mean masses in Table 8 and the binding energies in Table 9, are given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \{T(c\bar{c}), T(b\bar{b}), T(b\bar{c})\} \\ & = \{0.21891, 0.43367, 0.34278\} \text{ GeV}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

Next, we consider binding energy $B(QQ')$ of heavy quark pair QQ' in the color antitriplet($\bar{3}_c$). In a baryon qQQ' , such a binding enters as a correction to energy of the QCD string connecting Q and Q' in short-distance, as indicated by heavy-quarkonia spectra [48]. By color- $SU(3)$ argument and by lattice simulations in Ref. [52], the QQ' interaction strength in a color triplet is half of that of the $Q\bar{Q}'$ in a color singlet when the interquark(QQ) distance is small. One can then write, as in Ref. [4],

$$B(QQ') = \frac{1}{2} B(Q\bar{Q}'), \quad (65)$$

with $Q\bar{Q}'$ in color singlet(1_c). Relative to the ground states($1S1s$), the shift $\Delta B_{N,L} \equiv B(QQ')_{N,L} - B(QQ')_{0,0}$ of the binding energy are, by Eq. (65),

$$\Delta B(QQ')_{N,L} = \frac{1}{2} [B(Q\bar{Q}')_{N,L} - B(Q\bar{Q}')_{0,0}]. \quad (66)$$

Using the binding data for the $Q\bar{Q}'$ in Table 9, Eqs. (65) and (66) give all binding shifts $\Delta B(Q\bar{Q}')$ for the $2S$ and $1P$ states, and all binding shifts $\Delta B(QQ')$ for the $2S$ and $1P$ states, as listed collectively in Table 9.

With the binding data in Table 9, and the values of T in Eq. (64), Eq. (28) gives rise to the mean-mass shifts of the DH baryons due to the $(2S$ and $1P$) diquark excitations relative to their ground states($1S1s$),

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\Delta \bar{M}^{(*)}(\Xi_{cc}), \Delta \bar{M}^{(*)}(\Xi_{bb}), \Delta \bar{M}^{(*)}(\Xi_{bc})\}_{2S} \\ & = \{393.56, 347.02, 365.97\} \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned} \quad (67)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\Delta \bar{M}^{(*)}(\Xi_{cc}), \Delta \bar{M}^{(*)}(\Xi_{bb}), \Delta \bar{M}^{(*)}(\Xi_{bc})\}_{1P} \\ & = \{430.87, 404.39, 412.27\} \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned} \quad (68)$$

and the same values for the $\Omega_{cc'}$, $\Omega_{bb'}$ and $\Omega_{bc'}$. This enables us to define effective masses $E_{QQ'}$ of heavy-diquark in its excited state via the energy shift due to diquark excitations:

$$(E_{QQ'})_{N,L} = M_{QQ'} + (\Delta \bar{M}^{(*)})_{N,L},$$

which gives explicitly, with the usage of Eqs. (5), (6), (67) and (68),

$$(E_{cc}, E_{bb}, E_{bc})_{2S} = \{3.2591, 9.2637, 6.2583\} \text{ GeV}, \quad (69)$$

$$(E_{cc}, E_{bb}, E_{bc})_{1P} = \{3.2964, 9.3211, 6.3046\} \text{ GeV}. \quad (70)$$

4.4 Spin couplings due to diquark excitations

Let us consider the $2S1s$ and $1P1s$ states of the DH baryons. For the spin couplings of the baryon multiplets, we utilize the mass scaling relative to the ground state D mesons (the D^\pm with mass 1869.66 ± 0.05 MeV and the $D^*(2010)^\pm$ with mass 2010.26 ± 0.05 MeV [48]),

$$c^*(\Xi_{bb}(bbq))_{2S,1P} = \left(\frac{M_c}{(E_{bb})_{2S,1P}} \right) \left(\frac{m_n}{m_q} \right) c(D)_{1S}, \quad (71)$$

in which $c(D)_{1S} = M(D^{*\pm}) - M(D^\pm) = 140.6$ MeV (that corresponds to the contact-term) for the D mesons, as Ref. [29].

(1) The $2S1s$ states. Using data in Eqs. (67) and (68), Eq. (71) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} c^*(\Xi_{bb}(bbn))_{2S} &= \left(\frac{M_c}{E_{bb}}\right)(140.6 \text{ MeV}) \\ &= 21.86 \text{ MeV}, \\ c^*(\Omega_{bb}(bbs))_{2S} &= \left(\frac{M_c}{E_{bb}}\right)\left(\frac{m_n}{m_s}\right)(140.6 \text{ MeV}) \\ &= 15.33 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned} \quad (72)$$

where $(E_{bb})_{2S} = 9.2637$ GeV. Further application of the following scaling relations between the doubly charmed and bottom baryons

$$\begin{aligned} c^*(\Xi_{cc})_{2S} &= c^*(\Xi_{bb})\left(\frac{E_{bb}}{E_{cc}}\right), \\ c^*(\Xi_{bc})_{2S} &= c^*(\Xi_{bb})\left(\frac{E_{bb}}{E_{bc}}\right), \\ c^*(\Omega_{cc})_{2S} &= c^*(\Omega_{bb})\left(\frac{E_{bb}}{E_{cc}}\right), \\ c^*(\Omega_{bc})_{2S} &= c^*(\Omega_{bb})\left(\frac{E_{bb}}{E_{bc}}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (73)$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned} c^*(\Xi_{cc})_{2S} &= 62.12 \text{ MeV}, c^*(\Xi_{bc})_{2S} \\ &= 32.35 \text{ MeV}, \\ c^*(\Omega_{cc})_{2S} &= 43.56 \text{ MeV}, c^*(\Omega_{bc})_{2S} \\ &= 22.69 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (74)$$

Given the masses in Table 2 and the mean masses of the ground-state baryons Ω_{cc} , Ω_{bb} and Ω_{bc} in Ref. [3], $\Delta\bar{M}^{(*)}$ in Eq. (67) and the values of c^* in Eqs. (72) and (73), one gets, by Eq. (43), the multiplet masses of the DH baryons $\Xi_{QQ'}$ and $\Omega_{QQ'}$ in the $2S1s$ state, listed in Table 10 through 16, and shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

(2) The $1P1s$ states. Application of the mass scaling Eq. (71) leads to ($E_{bb} = 9.3211$ GeV)

$$\begin{aligned} c^*(\Xi_{bb})_{1P} &= \left(\frac{M_c}{E_{bb}}\right)(140.6 \text{ MeV}) \\ &= 21.72 \text{ MeV}, \\ c^*(\Omega_{bb})_{1P} &= \left(\frac{M_c}{E_{bb}}\right)\left(\frac{m_n}{m_s}\right)(140.6 \text{ MeV}) \\ &= 15.23 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} c^*(\Xi_{cc})_{1P} &= c^*(\Xi_{bb})_{1P}\left(\frac{9.3211}{3.2964}\right) \\ &= 61.42 \text{ MeV}, \\ c^*(\Xi_{bc})_{1P} &= c^*(\Xi_{bb})_{1P}\left(\frac{9.3211}{6.3046}\right) \\ &= 32.31 \text{ MeV}, \\ c^*(\Omega_{cc})_{1P} &= c^*(\Omega_{bb})_{1P}\left(\frac{9.3211}{3.2964}\right) \\ &= 43.07 \text{ MeV}, \\ c^*(\Omega_{bc})_{1P} &= c^*(\Omega_{bb})_{1P}\left(\frac{9.3211}{6.3046}\right) \\ &= 22.66 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

Given the masses in Table 2 and the mean masses of the ground-state baryons Ω_{cc} , Ω_{bb} and Ω_{bc} in Ref. [3], $\Delta\bar{M}^{(*)}$ in Eq. (68) and the c^* values in Eqs. (75) and (76), one can apply Eqs. (44) and (45) to obtain the mean mass $\bar{M}_{1P} + (\Delta\bar{M}^{(*)})_{1P}$ and the multiplet masses of the $1P1s$ -wave DH baryons. The results are listed in Table 10 through 16 and shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively, for the $2S1s$ and $1P1s$ states of the DH baryons.

We collect all obtained masses of the DH baryons, which are computed via summing of the spin averaged masses (\bar{M}) in Sect. 3 and the mass splitting ΔM in Sect. 4, in Tables 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. The ground state masses obtained in Sect. 4 are also listed there.

5 Summary and remarks

In this work, we combine methods of Regge trajectory for spin independent mass and mass scaling for the spin-dependent interaction, which is based on chromodynamics similarity among heavy hadrons, to explore excited doubly heavy baryons $\Xi_{QQ'}$ and $\Omega_{QQ'}$ in the picture of heavy-diquark-light-quark. The low-lying masses of the excited doubly-heavy baryons are computed up to $2S$ and $1P$ waves of the light quark and heavy diquark internally, and compared to other calculations. Two Regge trajectories, one linear and the other nonlinear and endowed with an extra binding of heavy quark pair, are employed to describe the respective excitations of the light quark and diquark, which are derived semi-classically from the QCD string model and tested successfully against the observed heavy baryons and mesons. The heavy-pair binding are extracted from the excitation energies of heavy diquarks phenomenologically and incorporated into Regge relation, by which effective masses of excited diquarks are estimated and mass scaling is constructed.

Table 10 Mass spectra of the baryon Ξ_{cc} (in MeV). Our results are obtained by the respective sum of the mean mass of the Ξ_{cc} in Table 3, the binding energy shift (vanishes in 1S1s wave) in Table 9 and its splittings in Sect. 3 with the couplings given in Sect. 4

$(NLn_q l) J^P$	This work	[3]	[53]	[10]	[8]	[55]	[1]	[57]	[12]
$(1S1p)1/2^-$	3970.3	4053	3998	3927	4030	3947	4064	4081	3910
$(1S1p)1/2'^-$	4082.5	4136	3985	4052	4070	4135	4174	4073	4074
$(1S1p)3/2^-$	4039.9	4101	4014	4039	4080	3949	4075	4077	3921
$(1S1p)3/2'^-$	4100.6	4196	4025	4034	4120	4137	4164	4079	4078
$(1S1p)5/2^-$	4130.9	4155	4050	4047	4075	4163	4194	4089	4092
$(1S2s)1/2^+$	4216.3	—	4172	—	4370	4159	4304	4311	—
$(1S2s)3/2^+$	4275.1	—	4193	—	4330	4131	4264	4368	—
$(2S1s)1/2^+$	4023.1	3910	4004	3812	4270	4079	4314	4030	4029
$(2S1s)3/2^+$	4116.3	4027	4036	3944	4290	4114	4315	4078	4042
$(1P1s)1/2^-$	4061.1	3838	3873	3702	4530	4149	4024	3911	—
$(1P1s)3/2^-$	4153.3	3959	3916	3834	4560	4159	4194	3917	—

Table 11 Mass spectra of Ξ_{bb} baryons (in MeV). Our results are obtained by the respective sum of the mean mass of the Ξ_{bb} in Table 3, the binding energy shift (vanishes in 1S1s wave) in Table 9 and its splittings in Sect. 3 with the couplings given in Sect. 4

$(NLn_q l) J^P$	This work	[3]	[53]	[10]	[8]	[55]	[56]	[57]	[12]
$(1S1p)1/2^-$	10523.1	10632	10525	10541	10380	10476	10511	10694	10493
$(1S1p)1/2'^-$	10559.0	10675	10504	10578	10520	—	10514	10691	—
$(1S1p)3/2^-$	10545.3	10647	10526	10567	10410	10476	10506	10691	10495
$(1S1p)3/2'^-$	10564.8	10694	10528	10581	10530	—	10509	10692	—
$(1S1p)5/2^-$	10574.5	10661	10547	10580	10510	10759	10518	10695	10713
$(1S2s)1/2^+$	10707.9	10832	10662	—	10580	10612	10609	10940	—
$(1S2s)3/2^+$	10726.8	10860	10675	—	10570	10593	10617	10972	—
$(2S1s)1/2^+$	10550.5	10441	10464	10373	10530	10571	—	10551	10571
$(2S1s)3/2^+$	10583.2	10482	10480	10413	10550	10592	—	10574	10592
$(1P1s)1/2^-$	10608.0	10368	10364	10310	10720	10740	—	10470	—
$(1P1s)3/2^-$	10640.6	10408	10387	10343	10740	10742	—	10470	—

Table 12 Mass spectra (MeV) of Ξ_{bc} baryons. Our results are obtained by the respective sum of the mean mass of the Ξ_{bc} in Table 3, the binding energy shift (vanishes in 1S1s wave) in Table 9 and its splittings in Sect. 3 with the couplings given in Sect. 4

State $(NLn_q l) J^P$	This work	[54]	[56]	[57]	[58]	[12]
$(1S1p)1/2^-$	7273.2	—	7156	7397	6842	7206
$(1S1p)1/2'^-$	7327.7	—	7161	7390	6847	7231
$(1S1p)3/2^-$	7307.0	—	7144	7392	6831	7208
$(1S1p)3/2'^-$	7336.6	—	7150	7394	6837	7229
$(1S1p)5/2^-$	7351.3	—	7171	7399	6856	7272
$(1S2s)1/2^+$	7478.6	7478	7240	7634	6919	—
$(1S2s)3/2^+$	7507.2	7495	7263	7676	6939	—
$(2S1s)1/2^+$	7297.9	—	—	7321	—	7044
$(2S1s)3/2^+$	7346.4	—	—	7353	—	7386
$(1P1s)1/2^-$	7344.3	—	—	7212	—	—
$(1P1s)3/2^-$	7392.7	—	—	7214	—	—

Table 13 Mass spectra of Ω_{cc} baryons (in MeV). Our results are obtained by the respective sum of the mean mass of the Ω_{cc} in Table 3, the binding energy shift (vanishes in 1S1s wave) in Table 9 and its splittings in Sect. 3 with the couplings given in Sect. 4

$(N_d L n_q l) J^P$	This work	[3]	[53]	[1]	[55]	[12]	[59]	[60]	[11]
(1S1p)1/2 ⁻	4102.0	4208	4087	4084	4086	4046	3989	3965	4050
(1S1p)1/2' ⁻	4184.1	4271	4081	4194	4199	4135	3998	3987	4145
(1S1p)3/2 ⁻	4165.2	4252	4107	4114	4086	4052	3972	3956	4176
(1S1p)3/2' ⁻	4200.6	4325	4114	4164	4201	4140	3981	3978	4102
(1S1p)5/2 ⁻	4227.1	4330	4134	4264	4220	4152	3958	3926	4134
(1S2s)1/2 ⁺	4343.2	—	4270	4364	4295	4180	4041	3964	—
(1S2s)3/2 ⁺	4384.4	—	4288	4354	4265	4188	4096	3979	—
(2S1s)1/2 ⁺	4190.7	4075	4118	4314	4227	—	—	—	3925
(2S1s)3/2 ⁺	4256.1	4174	4142	4334	4263	—	—	—	4064
(1P1s)1/2 ⁻	4228.5	4002	3986	4074	4210	—	—	—	3812
(1P1s)3/2 ⁻	4293.1	4102	4020	4204	4218	—	—	—	3949

Table 14 Mass spectra of Ω_{bb} baryons (in MeV). Our results are obtained by the respective sum of the mean mass of the Ω_{bb} in Table 3, the binding energy shift (vanishes in 1S1s wave) in Table 9 and its splittings in Sect. 3 with the couplings given in Sect. 4

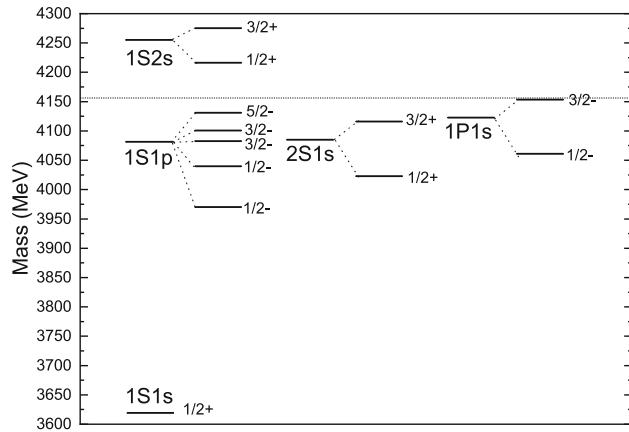
$(N_d L n_q l) J^P$	This work	[3]	[53]	[54]	[55]	[12]	[59]	[60]	[11]
(1S1p)1/2 ⁻	10651.8	10771	10605	—	10607	10616	10646	10968	10651
(1S1p)1/2' ⁻	10678.2	10804	10591	—	10796	10763	10648	10976	10700
(1S1p)3/2 ⁻	10672.1	10785	10610	—	10608	10619	10641	10957	10661
(1S1p)3/2' ⁻	10683.5	10802	10611	—	10797	10765	10643	10963	10720
(1S1p)5/2 ⁻	10692.3	10798	10625	—	10808	10766	10637	10956	10670
(1S2s)1/2 ⁺	10845.2	10970	10751	10830	10744	10693	10736	10969	—
(1S2s)3/2 ⁺	10858.4	10992	10763	10839	10730	10721	10617	10964	—
(2S1s)1/2 ⁺	10710.7	10610	10566	—	10707	—	—	—	10493
(2S1s)3/2 ⁺	10733.7	10645	10579	—	10723	—	—	—	10540
(1P1s)1/2 ⁻	10768.2	10532	10464	—	10803	—	—	—	10416
(1P1s)3/2 ⁻	10791.0	10566	10482	—	10805	—	—	—	10462

Table 15 Mass spectra of Ω_{bc} baryons (in MeV). Our results are obtained by the respective sum of the mean mass of the Ω_{bc} in Table 3, the binding energy shift (vanishes in 1S1s wave) in Table 9 and its splittings in Sect. 3 with the couplings given in Sect. 4

$(N_d L n_q l) J^P$	This work	[54]	[12]	[59]	[60]
(1S1p)1/2 ⁻	7401.8	—	7335	7386	7476
(1S1p)1/2' ⁻	7441.7	—	7346	7392	7490
(1S1p)3/2 ⁻	7432.5	—	7334	7373	7470
(1S1p)3/2' ⁻	7449.7	—	7349	7379	7486
(1S1p)5/2 ⁻	7463.0	—	7362	7363	7451
(1S2s)1/2 ⁺	7611.5	7559	—	7480	7475
(1S2s)3/2 ⁺	7631.7	7571	—	7497	7485
(2S1s)1/2 ⁺	7459.3	—	—	—	—
(2S1s)3/2 ⁺	7493.3	—	—	—	—
(1P1s)1/2 ⁻	7505.6	—	—	—	—
(1P1s)3/2 ⁻	7539.8	—	—	—	—

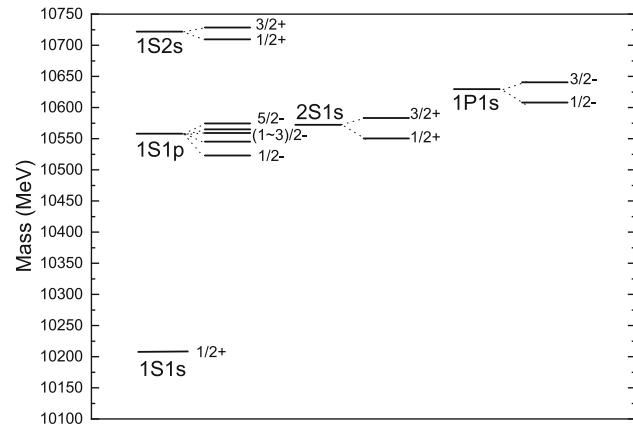
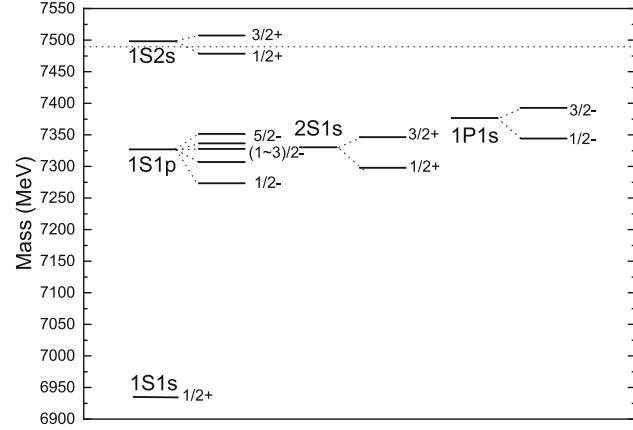
Table 16 Mass spectra of Ξ'_{bc}/Ω'_{bc} baryons (in MeV). Our results are obtained by the respective sum of the mean mass of the Ξ'_{bc}/Ω'_{bc} in Table 3, the binding energy shift (vanishes in 1S1s wave) in Table 9 and its splittings in Sect. 3 with the couplings given in Sect. 4

$(N_d L n_q l) J^P$	This work(Ξ'_{bc})	[57]	This work(Ω'_{bc})
(1S1p)1/2 ⁻	7294.7	7388	7421.2
(1S1p)3/2 ⁻	7341.4	7390	7453.9
(1S2s)1/2 ⁺	7497.0	7645	7624.2
(2S1s)1/2 ⁺	7329.0	7333	7528.3
(1P1s)1/2 ⁻	7375.3	7230	7528.3
(1P1s)1/2 ^{'-}	7343.0	7199	7505.6
(1P1s)3/2 ⁻	7391.4	7228	7539.6
(1P1s)3/2 ^{'-}	7326.8	7201	7494.3
(1P1s)5/2 ⁻	7407.6	7265	7550.9

**Fig. 1** Mass spectrum (in MeV) of the Ξ_{cc} baryons, corresponding to the Table 10. The horizontal dashed line shows the $\Lambda_c D$ threshold

Our mass analysis suggests (see Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) that the mean mass-level spacings $\Delta \bar{M}$ of heavy diquark excitations are generally narrower than that of light-quark excitations. This is due to the scale separation of excitations stemming from the adiabatic expansion between the heavy and light-quark dynamics: $\Delta \bar{M} \sim 1/\sqrt{m_q}$ is larger than $\Delta \bar{M} \sim 1/\sqrt{\text{Mass}(QQ)}$. Meanwhile, it seems (see Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) that the mass splitting of spin multiplets of the excited DH baryons are wider for the diquark excitations than for the excitation of light quarks, which remain to be explained in the further explorations. We hope the oncoming experiments like LHCb and Belle to examine our predictions for the excited DH resonances addressed.

The binding function Eq. (62), inspired by atomic spectra, mimic the nonrelativistic spectra of a system of heavy quark and antiquark bounded by the Coulomb-like force of single gluon exchange. In a purely Coulombic potential $V(r) = -(4/3)\alpha_s/r$, the energy levels $E_n = -[(4/3)\alpha_s]^2 \mu/(2n^2)$ ($n = n_r + L + 1$) depends linearly on the reduced mass μ of system. In a quarkonia or the heavy meson B_c , Eq. (62) holds qualitatively as B_0 may also depend weakly on the

**Fig. 2** Mass spectrum (in MeV) of the Ξ_{bb} baryons, corresponding to the Table 11**Fig. 3** Mass spectrum (in MeV) of the Ξ_{bc} baryons, corresponding to the Table 12. The horizontal dashed line shows the $\Lambda_b D$ threshold

quantum numbers (N, L) and upon the effective mass of the quarks [35, 36, 51]. So, the prediction in Eq. (63) for the 1P-wave binding $B(b\bar{c})$ and ensuing 1P-wave mass calculations of the baryon Ξ_{bc} and Ω_{bc} are of approximated (uncertain within 10 MeV roughly).

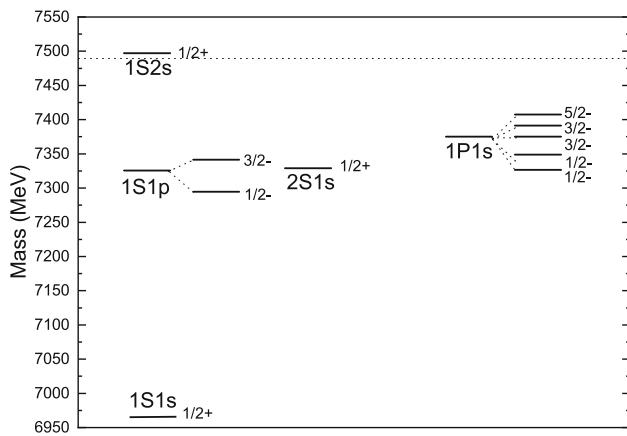


Fig. 4 Mass spectrum (in GeV) of the Ξ'_{bc} baryons, corresponding to the Table 16. The horizontal dashed line shows the $\Lambda_b D$ threshold

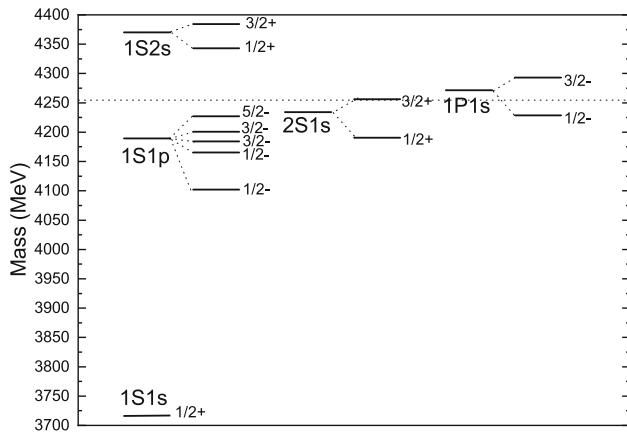


Fig. 5 Mass spectrum (in MeV) of the Ω_{cc} baryons, corresponding to the Table 13. The horizontal dashed line shows the $\Lambda_c D_s$ threshold

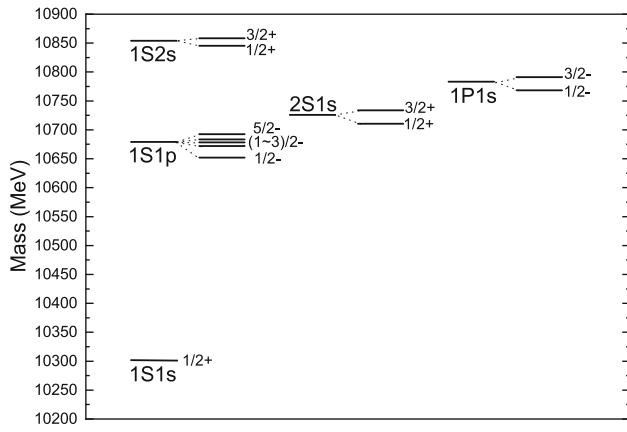


Fig. 6 Mass spectrum (in MeV) of the Ω_{bb} baryons, corresponding to the Table 14

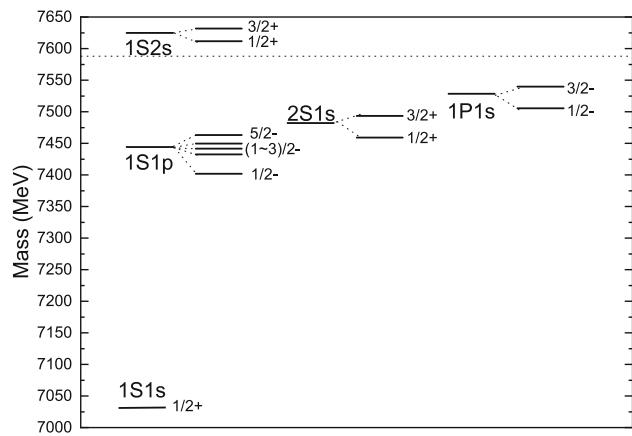


Fig. 7 Mass spectrum (in MeV) of the Ω_{bc} baryons, corresponding to the Table 15. The horizontal dashed line shows the $\Lambda_b D_s$ threshold

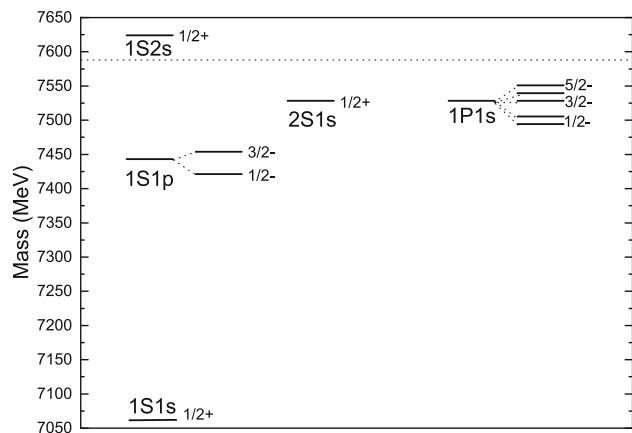


Fig. 8 Mass spectrum (in MeV) of Ω'_{bc} baryons, corresponding to the Table 16. The horizontal dashed line shows the $\Lambda_b D_s$ threshold

Low-energy QCD interaction is known to be involved in many aspects, especially in excited hadrons, and there exist various approaches exploring the excited doubly heavy baryons [3, 10, 12, 53–57]. The relations of Regge trajectory employed in this work are established phenomenologically and rooted in the underlying interaction of QCD. Some remarks and discussions are in order:

- For the DH baryons with 1S-wave diquark, the Regge trajectory stems from excitation of the light quark q which moves relativistically and is away from the heavy mass-center of diquark most of time. The short-distance interaction and binding energy between the heavy diquark and the light quark q is small and ignorable, especially for excited states. In this case, the linear Regge relation applies as in Eq. (1), without including binding term.
- When diquark of DH baryons excited, an improved (nonlinear) Regge relation entails a correction due to extra heavy-pair binding, as in Eqs. (21) and (25), since the heavy-pairs in hadrons are deep in attractive

Coulomb-like potential. This is supported by the energy drop(roughly half or 1/3) of the extracted binding of the 2S and 1P wave baryons relative to the ground state, as indicated by Table 9 phenomenologically.

(iii) While the mass predictions for excited DH baryons in this work is by no means rigorous, our estimation of the baryon spin-multiplet splitting is general in that mass scaling employed is based on chromodynamics similarity between heavy baryons and heavy mesons. The parameterized spin-dependent interactions Eqs. (29) and (32) is built generally according to Lorentz structure and tensor nature of interaction [41,42].

Producing and measuring the DH baryons in the e^+e^- , $p\bar{p}$, or pp collisions require simultaneous production of two heavy quark–antiquark pairs and subsequent searches among the final states to which DH baryons decay. A heavy quark Q from one pair needs to coalesce with a heavy quark Q' from the other pair, forming together a color antitriplet heavy diquark QQ' . The heavy diquark QQ' then needs to pick up a light quark q to finally hadronize as a DH baryon $QQ'q$. To search experimental signals of the DH baryons, it is useful to check the baryon’s decay modes which are easier to detect. One way is to examine the strong decay processes like $\Xi_{QQ'} \rightarrow \Xi_{Q}\pi$ and $\Xi_{QQ'} \rightarrow \Xi_{Q}\rho(\rho \rightarrow \pi\pi)$, which are explored in [61,62]. The other way is to check the decay modes with two-lepton in their final states, e.g., the semi-leptonic decays. We list the estimated lifetimes (except for Ξ_{cc}^{++} and Ξ_{cc}^+ for which we use the experimental values) of the DH baryons and some notable branching fractions (Br , all from most recent computation [62]) in the channel of semi-leptonic decay:

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi_{cc}^{++} &= ccu: \tau = 256 \pm 27 \text{ fs} [48], Br(\Xi_{cc}^{++} \rightarrow \Xi_c^+ l \nu_l) = 4.99\%, Br(\Xi_{cc}^{++} \rightarrow \Xi_c^0 l \nu_l) = 5.98\%; \\ \Xi_{cc}^+ &= ccd: \tau < 33 \text{ fs} [48], Br(\Xi_{cc}^+ \rightarrow \Xi_c^0 l \nu_l) = 1.65\%, Br(\Xi_{cc}^+ \rightarrow \Xi_c^0 l \nu_l) = 1.98\%; \\ \Xi_{bc}^+ &= bcu: \tau = 244 \text{ fs} [4], Br(\Xi_{bc}^+ \rightarrow \Xi_b^0 l \nu_l) = 2.3\%, Br(\Xi_{bc}^+ \rightarrow \Xi_c^+ l \nu_l) = 1.58\%; \\ \Xi_{bc}^0 &= bcu: \tau = 93 \text{ fs} [4], Br(\Xi_{bc}^0 \rightarrow \Xi_b^- l \nu_l) = 0.868\%, Br(\Xi_{bc}^0 \rightarrow \Xi_{bc}^+ l \nu_l) = 0.603\%; \\ \Xi_{bb}^0 &= bbu: \tau = 370 \text{ fs} [4], Br(\Xi_{bb}^0 \rightarrow \Xi_{bc}^+ l \nu_l) = 2.59\%, Br(\Xi_{bb}^0 \rightarrow \Xi_c^+ l \nu_l) = 1.15\%; \\ \Xi_{bb}^- &= bbd: \tau = 370 \text{ fs} [4], Br(\Xi_{bb}^- \rightarrow \Xi_{bc}^0 l \nu_l) = 2.62\%; \\ \Omega_{bc}^0 &= bcs: \tau = 220 \text{ fs} [61], Br(\Omega_{bc}^- \rightarrow \Omega_b^- l \nu_l) = 6.03\%; \\ \Omega_{bb}^- &= bbs: \tau = 800 \text{ fs} [61], Br(\Omega_{bb}^- \rightarrow \Omega_{bc}^0 l \nu_l) = 4.81\%. \end{aligned}$$

The more details of branching fractions in other channels can be found in Refs. [62,63] and reference therein. We hope the upcoming experiments (and data analysis) at LHC,

Belle II and CEPC can test our mass computation of the DH baryons in this work.

Acknowledgements Y. S thanks W-N Liu for useful discussions. D. J thanks Xiang Liu and Xiong-Fei Wang for useful discussions. This work is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant no. 12165017.

Data Availability Statement This manuscript has associated data in a data repository. [Authors’ comment: All data included in this manuscript are available up request by contacting the corresponding authors, group (e.g., PDG group) of collaboration or looking into the cited references.]

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Funded by SCOAP³. SCOAP³ supports the goals of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development.

Appendix A

For the orbitally excitations of a DH baryon $q(QQ')$ with S-wave diquark QQ' , the classical energy and orbital angular momentum for the rotating QCD string read

$$E = \sum_{i=QQ',q'} \left[\frac{m_{\text{bare}i}}{\sqrt{1 - (\omega r_i)^2}} + \frac{a}{\omega} \int_0^{\omega r_i} \frac{du}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}} \right], \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$l = \sum_{i=QQ',q'} \left[\frac{m_i \omega r_i^2}{\sqrt{1 - (\omega r_i)^2}} + \frac{a}{\omega^2} \int_0^{\omega r_i} \frac{u^2 du}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}} \right], \quad (\text{A2})$$

where $m_{\text{bare}QQ'}$ and $m_{\text{bare}q}$ are the respective bare masses of the heavy diquarks QQ' and light quark q , and $\omega r_i = v_i$ are the velocity of the string end tied to the quark $i = QQ', q$, a stands for the tension of the QCD string. We define the effective (dynamical) masses of the heavy diquarks and the light quark in the CM frame of the baryon by

$$M_{QQ'} = \frac{m_{\text{bare}QQ'}}{\sqrt{1 - v_{QQ'}^2}}, \quad m_q = \frac{m_{\text{bare}q}}{\sqrt{1 - v_q^2}}. \quad (\text{A3})$$

Integrating Eqs. (A1) and (A2) gives

$$\begin{aligned} E &= M_{QQ'} + m_q \\ &\quad + \frac{a}{\omega} [\arcsin(v_{QQ'}) + \arcsin(v_q)], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A4})$$

$$l = \frac{1}{\omega} (M_{QQ'} v_{QQ'}^2 + m_q v_q^2)$$

$$+ \sum_{i=QQ',q} \left[\arcsin(v_i) - v_i \sqrt{1 - v_i^2} \right]. \quad (\text{A5})$$

The boundary condition of string at ends linked to heavy quark gives

$$\frac{a}{\omega} = \frac{(m_{\text{bare}QQ'})v_{QQ'}}{1 - v_{QQ'}^2} = \frac{M_{QQ}v_{QQ'}}{\sqrt{1 - v_{QQ'}^2}}. \quad (\text{A6})$$

As the diquark QQ' is very heavy and moves nonrelativistically in hadrons, $v_{QQ'}$ is small in the limit of heavy quark ($m_{\text{bare}QQ'} \rightarrow 0$). A series expansion of Eq. (A6) upon $v_{QQ'}$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a}{\omega} &\simeq M_{QQ}v_{QQ'} + \frac{1}{2}M_{QQ}v_{QQ'}^3 \\ &= P_{QQ'} + \frac{P_{QQ'}^3}{2M_{QQ'}^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A7})$$

From Eq. (A3) one has $v_q = \sqrt{1 - (m_{\text{bare}q}/m_q)^2}$.

Assuming q to move relativistically ($v_q \rightarrow 1$), or, $m_{\text{bare}q}/m_q \ll 1$, one finds

$$\begin{aligned} \arcsin(v_q) &= \arcsin \left(\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{m_{\text{bare}q}}{m_q} \right)^2} \right) \\ &\simeq \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{m_{\text{bare}q}}{m_q}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A8})$$

$$\arcsin(v_{QQ'}) = v_{QQ'} + \frac{1}{6}v_{QQ'}^3 + \mathcal{O}(v_{QQ'}^5), \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$v_{QQ'}\sqrt{1 - v_{QQ'}^2} = v_{QQ'} - \frac{1}{2}v_{QQ'}^3 + \mathcal{O}(v_{QQ'}^5). \quad (\text{A10})$$

Substitute the above relations into Eqs. (A4) and (A5) yields

$$\begin{aligned} E &\simeq M_{QQ'} + m_q \\ &+ \frac{a}{\omega} \left[\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{m_{\text{bare}q}}{m_q} + v_{QQ'} + \frac{1}{6}v_{QQ'}^3 \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A11})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega l &\simeq M_{QQ'}v_{QQ'}^2 + m_q \\ &+ \frac{a}{\omega} \left[\frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{m_{\text{bare}q}}{m_q} \right] + \frac{\alpha}{3\omega}v_{QQ'}^3. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A12})$$

Using Eq. (A7) and eliminating ω , Eqs. (A11) and (A12) combines to give, when ignoring the tiny term $m_{\text{bare}q}/m_q$,

$$(E - M_{QQ'})^2 = \pi al + \left(m_q + \frac{P_{QQ'}^2}{M_{QQ'}} \right)^2 - 2m_{\text{bare}q}P_{QQ'}, \quad (\text{A13})$$

where $P_{QQ'} \equiv M_{QQ'}v_{QQ'} \simeq M_{QQ'} \left(1 - m_{\text{bare}QQ'}/M_{QQ'}^2 \right)^{1/2}$. Taking the small bare-mass limit ($m_{\text{bare}q} \rightarrow 0$), Eq. (A13) leads to Eq. (1), where $P_{QQ'}^2/M_{QQ'} = M_{QQ'} - m_{\text{bare}QQ'}/M_{QQ'}$.

Appendix B

(1) Quantization condition for heavy quarkonia $Q\bar{Q}$

Consider a heavy quarkonia $Q\bar{Q}$ (at a distance of r) in a linear confining potential $T|r|$ for which the system Hamiltonian is $H^{Q\bar{Q}} = 2\sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + M_Q^2} + T|r|$. Here, we have ignored the short-distance interaction. In the frame of center-of-mass, the heavy quark Q moves equivalently in a confining potential Tx , with $x = r/2$, and then the Hamiltonian for Q as a half system of the quarkonia $Q\bar{Q}$, becomes

$$H^Q = \frac{1}{2}H^{Q\bar{Q}} = \sqrt{p_x^2 + l_q^2/x^2 + M_Q^2} + T|x|. \quad (\text{B1})$$

Using the semiclassical WKB analysis upon Eq. (B1) for the radial excitations ($l_q = 0$), one has a WKB quantization condition [64],¹

$$2 \int_{x_-}^{x_+} p_x(x) dx = 2\pi(N + c_0), \quad (\text{B2})$$

with $p_x(x) = |\mathbf{p}_x| = \sqrt{[(E(Q) - T|x|)^2 - M_Q^2]}$, $x_+ = (E(Q) - M_Q)/T = -x_-$ the classical “turning points”, N the radial quantum number, c_0 a constant. Here, $E(Q)$ is the semiclassical value of H^Q , and the factor 2 before the integral in Eq. (B2) arises from underlying spinor nature of a quark whose wave function returns to original value after double cycle of journey in the position space [33]. Assuming Q to be in S wave (moving radially), integration of Eq. (B2) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(N + c_0) &= \frac{E(Q)^2}{T} \\ &\times \left[\sqrt{1 - B^2} + B^2 \ln \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - B^2}}{B} \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B3})$$

with $B \equiv M_Q/E(Q)$.

Above result is only for the half system. Transforming to the whole system of quarkonia by mapping $E(Q) \rightarrow E/2$ and $N \rightarrow N/2$ [64], Eq. (B3) gives ($B \rightarrow \tilde{B} = 2M_Q/E$)

$$\begin{aligned} 2\pi T(N + 2c_0) &= E^2 \left[\sqrt{1 - \tilde{B}^2} + \tilde{B}^2 \ln \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - \tilde{B}^2}}{\tilde{B}} \right) \right] \\ &\simeq E^{1/2} \left[\frac{4\sqrt{2}}{3} E^{3/2} \epsilon^{3/2} - \frac{7\sqrt{2}}{15} E^{3/2} \epsilon^{5/2} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{7/2}) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B4})$$

where $\epsilon \equiv 1 - \tilde{B} = 1 - 2M_Q/E$, which is small in heavy quark limit and $E = 2M_Q/(1 - \epsilon) \simeq 2M_Q$. Thus, Eq. (B4)

¹ It is written as $\int_{x_-}^{x_+} p(x) dx = \pi N$ in the cited literature.

leads to, to the leading order of ϵ ,

$$3\pi T(N + 2c_0) = 4\sqrt{M_Q}(E - 2M_Q)^{3/2},$$

which gives Eq. (19).

(2) Improved(nonlinear) Regge relation

Rewriting in a typical form of standard trajectory, $(\bar{M} - \text{const.})^{3/2} \sim \text{quantum numbers}$, for the heavy quarkonia system, the Regge relation Eq. (18) in Ref. [34] becomes

$$(\bar{M} - 2M_Q)^{3/2} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{M_Q}} TL. \quad (\text{B5})$$

Comparing the radial and angular slopes(linear coefficients in N and L) in RHS of Eqs. (19) and (B5), which is $\pi : \sqrt{12}$, one can combine two equations into one unified form:

$$[\bar{M}_{N,L} - 2M_Q]^{3/2} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}T}{2\sqrt{M_Q}} \left(L + \frac{\pi N}{\sqrt{12}} + 2c_0 \right). \quad (\text{B6})$$

In the derivation [34] of Eq. (18) and that of Eq. (19) shown in Appendix Eq. (B1), the linear confining interaction between Q and \bar{Q} is assumed, with the short-distance force between them ignored. As the short-distance force is required for low-lying quarkonia system and violates the typical linear trajectory in Eq. (B6), one way out is to assume that the short-distance attractive force between Q and \bar{Q} in the color-singlet(1_c) would provide an extra(negative) energy $B(Q\bar{Q})_{N,L}$ to the spectra of the $Q\bar{Q}$ system and to deduct $B(Q\bar{Q})_{N,L}$ (named the binding energy) from the hadron mass $\bar{M}_{N,L}$ in Eq. (B6) so that the LHS of Eq. (B6) becomes the remaining string energy solely: $(\bar{M}_{N,L} - 2M_Q)^{3/2} \rightarrow (\bar{M}_{N,L} - B(Q\bar{Q})_{N,L} - 2M_Q)^{3/2}$. In doing so, the arguments by the classical string picture [34] and that in Eq. (1) given above remain valid and the formula Eq. (B6) remains intact formally up to a replacement $\bar{M}_{N,L} \rightarrow \bar{M}_{N,L} - B(Q\bar{Q})_{N,L}$. This gives rise to Eq. (20).

The binding energy $B(Q\bar{Q})_{N,L}$ (in the excited states $|N, L\rangle$ of system) depends on the quantum numbers(N, L) of the system considered [36] and thereby violates the linearity of the Regge relations Eqs. (B5) and (19). Normally, such a term is negative since when two quarks(Q and \bar{Q}) are heavy enough to stay close each other, they both experiences an attractive Coulomb-like force of single gluon exchange, as the observed heavy-quarkonia spectra [48] of the cascade type indicated.

Appendix C

In the QCD string picture, one can view a DH baryons qQQ' , with excited diquark QQ' , as a string system $[Q - Q]q$, consisting of a (heavy) subsystem of massive string $[Q - Q]$ (each Q at one of ends) and a light subsystem of a light-quark q and the string connected to it.

In the semiclassical approximation, one can assume the light subsystem of q and attached string to it to be in stationary state while the heavy subsystem $[Q - Q]$ is excited to the excited state(denoted by $|N, L\rangle$, say). As such, the excitation of the heavy subsystem $[Q - Q]$ in color antitriplet($\bar{3}_c$) with string tension T_{QQ} resembles the excitation of a heavy quarkonia $Q\bar{Q}$ in color singlet(1_c) with string tension T up to a color(strength) factor of string interaction which is taken to be half commonly. Based on this similarity, one can write the excitation energy of the heavy system, by analogy with Eq. (21),

$$\bar{M}(QQ)_{N,L} - 2M_Q = \Delta B(QQ)_{N,L} + 3 \frac{\left[T_{QQ} \left((L + \pi N/\sqrt{12}) + 2c_0 \right) \right]^{2/3}}{[4M_Q]^{1/3}} + c_1, \quad (\text{C1})$$

in which the first term $\Delta B(QQ)_{N,L} = B(QQ)_{N,L} - B(QQ)_{0,0}$ in the RSH accounts for the short-distance contribution due to heavy-quark binding and the second term for the excited string energy of the heavy subsystem in the $|N, L\rangle$ state, c_0 is given by Eq. (22). We add an additive constant c_1 since $\bar{M}(QQ)$ is defined up to the ground state of the whole DH system containing QQ .

Extending Eq. (C1) to the diquark case of $QQ = bc$, one gets Eq. (25) generally, by heavy quark symmetry.

Appendix D

Given the eigenvalues $j = 1/2$ and $3/2$, one solves the bases(eigenfunctions) $|S_{QQ'3}, S_{q3}, l_3\rangle$ of the $\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ in the LS coupling. The mass formula $\Delta M = \langle H^{SD} \rangle$ for a DH baryon qQQ' with S-wave diquark QQ' can be obtained by diagonalizing the dominate interaction $a_1 \mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ and adding the diagonal elements of other perturbative spin-interactions in Eq. (29). This can be done by evaluating the matrix elements of H^{SD} in the LS coupling and then changing the bases $|S_{QQ'3}, S_{q3}, l_3\rangle$ to the new bases $|J, j\rangle$ in the jj coupling to find the mass formula $\Delta M = \langle H^{SD} \rangle$.

For each interaction terms of Eq. (29), one can evaluate its matrix elements by explicit construction of states with a given J_3 as linear combinations of the baryon states $|S_{QQ'3}, S_{q3}, l_3\rangle$ in the LS coupling where $S_{q3} + S_{QQ'3} + l_3 = J_3$. Due to the rotation invariance of the matrix elements, it suffices to use a single J_3 for each term. Then, one can use

$$\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_i = \frac{1}{2} [l_+ S_{i-} + l_- S_{i+}] + l_3 S_{i3}, \quad (\text{D1})$$

to find their elements by applying $\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{S}_i$ ($i = q, Q\bar{Q}'$) on the third components of angular momenta. For projected states of baryon with given J_3 , they can be expressed, in the LS

coupling, as

$$\begin{aligned} \left| {}^2 P_{J=1/2}, J_3 = \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle \\ = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} \left| 1, -\frac{1}{2}, 0 \right\rangle - \frac{1}{3} \left| 0, \frac{1}{2}, 0 \right\rangle \\ - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} \left| 0, -\frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle + \frac{2}{3} \left| -1, \frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (D2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left| {}^4 P_{J=1/2}, J_3 = \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle \\ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left| 1, \frac{1}{2}, -1 \right\rangle - \frac{1}{3} \left| 1, -\frac{1}{2}, 0 \right\rangle \\ - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} \left| 0, \frac{1}{2}, 0 \right\rangle + \frac{1}{3} \left| 0, -\frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle + \frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} \left| -1, \frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (D3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left| {}^2 P_{J=3/2}, J_3 = \frac{3}{2} \right\rangle \\ = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| 1, -\frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \left| 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle, \\ \left| {}^4 P_{J=3/2}, J_3 = \frac{3}{2} \right\rangle \\ = \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \left| 1, \frac{1}{2}, 0 \right\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{2}{15}} \left| 1, -\frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle \\ - \frac{2}{\sqrt{15}} \left| 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle, \\ \left| {}^4 P_{J=5/2}, J_3 = \frac{5}{2} \right\rangle = \left| 1, \frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (D4)$$

and use them to compute the matrix elements of $\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_i$, $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ and $S_{12}/2$ in the basis $[{}^2 P_J, {}^4 P_J]$. With some algebra, one can find

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \rangle_{J=1/2} &= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{4}{3} & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & -\frac{5}{3} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \langle \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q \rangle_{J=1/2} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & -\frac{5}{6} \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned} \quad (D5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \rangle_{J=3/2} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} & -\frac{2}{3} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \langle \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q \rangle_{J=3/2} &= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{6} & \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} \\ \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned} \quad (D6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q \rangle_{J=1/2} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \langle \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q \rangle_{J=3/2} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned} \quad (D7)$$

$$\langle S_{12} \rangle_{J=1/2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\langle S_{12} \rangle_{J=3/2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{10} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{10} & \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (D8)$$

In the subspace of $J = 5/2$, one finds

$$\langle \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \rangle_{J=5/2} = 1, \quad \langle \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q \rangle_{J=5/2} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad (D9)$$

$$\langle \mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q \rangle_{J=5/2} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \langle S_{12} \rangle_{J=5/2} = -\frac{1}{5}. \quad (D10)$$

Given the above matrices, one can solve each eigenvalue λ of $\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ and the corresponding eigenvectors for a given J , and for that J one can write the baryon states $|J, j\rangle$ in the jj coupling. They are linear combinations of the LS bases $|{}^{2S+1}P_J\rangle$ with definite coefficients specified by the respective eigenvector solved for J :

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda = -1 : & \left| J = \frac{1}{2}, j = \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle \\ = \frac{1}{3} & \left| {}^2 P_{1/2} \right\rangle - \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3} \left| {}^4 P_{1/2} \right\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (D11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda = +\frac{1}{2} : & \left| J = \frac{1}{2}, j = \frac{3}{2} \right\rangle \\ = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3} & \left| {}^2 P_{1/2} \right\rangle + \frac{1}{3} \left| {}^4 P_{1/2} \right\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (D12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda = -1 : & \left| J = \frac{3}{2}, j = \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle \\ = \frac{2}{3} & \left| {}^2 P_{3/2} \right\rangle - \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} \left| {}^4 P_{3/2} \right\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (D13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda = +\frac{1}{2} : & \left| J = \frac{3}{2}, j = \frac{3}{2} \right\rangle \\ = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} & \left| {}^2 P_{3/2} \right\rangle + \frac{2}{3} \left| {}^4 P_{3/2} \right\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (D14)$$

$$\lambda = +\frac{1}{2} : \left| J = \frac{5}{2}, j = \frac{3}{2} \right\rangle = \left| {}^4 P_{5/2} \right\rangle. \quad (D15)$$

This gives the required baryon states in the heavy diquark limit, by which the diagonal matrix elements of $\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{QQ'}$, $S_{12}/2$ and $\mathbf{S}_{QQ'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_q$ can be obtained. The detailed results are collected in Table 4.

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