

Mass Spectrum of Dirac Equation with Local Parabolic Potential

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Abstract

In this paper, we solve the eigen solutions to the Dirac equation with local parabolic potential which is approximately equal to the short distance potential generated by spinor itself. The energy spectrum is quite different from that with Coulomb potential. The mass spectrum of some baryons is similar to this one. The angular momentum-mass relation is quite similar to the Regge trajectories. The parabolic potential has a structure of asymptotic freedom near the center and confinement at a large distance. So, the results imply that, the local parabolic potential may be more suitable for describing the nuclear potential. The procedure of solving can also be used for some other cases of Dirac equation with complicated potential.

Keywords

Regge Trajectory, Parabolic Potential, Mass Spectrum, Baryon, Short Distance Potential

1. Introduction

For hadrons, the relation between mass m and quantum numbers (n, J) is usually described by the Regge-Chew-Frautschi formula [1] [2],

$$m^2 = an + bJ + m_0 \quad (1.1)$$

where (a, b, m_0) are constants for the excited states of the same kind particle. In many cases, the coefficients satisfy $b \leq a \leq 2b$ [3] [4]. The Regge trajectory is an important tool widely used to analyze the spectroscopy of mesons and baryons. Various theoretical models have been constructed to explain the mass spectra of particles and to derive the Regge trajectories, such as non-relativistic quark models [5]-[13], flux tube model or similar string model [3] [14]-[22], semi-relativistic potential model [23] [24] [25] [26], relativistic potential model [27] [28] [29] [30]

[31], quantum chromodynamics (QCD) sum rule [32] [33] [34], color hyperfine interaction [35] [36] [37] [38], Lattice QCD model [39] [40] [41] [42] [43] and so on. There are also some Regge phenomenology investigations [3] [21] [44]-[48]. By statistical and regressive method to get the relation $m = f(n, J)$.

In many models, the total potential between quarks is given by Cornell potential with some hyperfine terms of correction, and the mass spectrum is solved in relative Jacobi coordinates [8] [10] [13] [30] [31] [35] [49]. In [49], by semi classical approximation and Bohr-Sommerfeld quantization, the Regge-like relation $E \sim L^{2\alpha/(\alpha+2)}$ and $E \sim n^{2\alpha/(\alpha+2)}$ for large (n, L) is derived for power-law confining potentials $V \propto r^\alpha$. By the phenomenological researches, we also find that the Regge-Chew-Frautschi formula (1.1) is only approximately valid, and a little nonlinearity always exists [44] [45] [47]. The specific Regge trajectories depend on concrete confining potential. However, no matter what confining potential is, the analytic relation $m = f(n, J)$ for the excited states always exists.

Recently, a number of experimental data for highly excited resonances were reported [50]-[58]. These data provide opportunity to check the previous calculations and develop more effective models. As pointed out in [58], a better understanding of the nucleon as a bound state of quarks and gluons as well as the spectrum and internal structure of excited baryons remains a fundamental challenge and goal in hadronic physics. In particular, the mapping of the nucleon excitations provides access to strong interactions in the domain of quark confinement. While the peculiar phenomenon of confinement is experimentally well established and believed to be true, it remains analytically unproven and the connection to quantum chromodynamics (QCD)—the fundamental theory of the strong interactions—is only poorly understood. In the early years of the 20th century, the study of the hydrogen spectrum has established without question that the understanding of the structure of a bound state and of its excitation spectrum needs to be addressed simultaneously. The spectroscopy of excited baryon resonances and the study of their properties are thus complementary to understanding the structure of the nucleon in deep inelastic scattering experiments that provide access to the properties of its constituents in the ground state.

The quark models employ multiplets of spinors and nonlinear interactive vectors with gauge symmetries, which are too complicated to get exact solutions and an overview for the properties. In this paper we examine the following simple and closed Dirac equation with short range self-generating vector potential Φ_μ ,

$$\mathcal{L} = \phi^+ \alpha^\mu (i\partial_\mu - s\Phi_\mu) \phi - \mu c \bar{\gamma} + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \Phi_\alpha \partial^\mu \Phi^\alpha - b^2 \Phi_\mu \Phi^\mu), \quad (1.2)$$

in which $\bar{\gamma} = \phi^+ \gamma \phi$. (1.2) has plentiful spectra. By the Regge trajectories we find the excited states may be relevant to some of baryons.

2. Equations and Simplification

At first, we introduce some notations. Denote the Minkowski metric by $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(1, -1, -1, -1)$, Pauli matrices by

$$\vec{\sigma} = (\sigma^j) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}. \quad (2.1)$$

Define 4×4 Hermitian matrices as follows

$$\alpha^\mu = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \vec{\sigma} \\ \vec{\sigma} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \quad \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{pmatrix}, \quad \beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -iI \\ iI & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2)$$

where $\mu \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, $x^0 = ct$ and $\alpha^\mu = \gamma^0 \gamma^\mu$. By variation of (1.2) we get the Dirac equation and dynamics of Φ^μ ,

$$\alpha^\mu (\hbar i \partial_\mu - s \Phi_\mu) \phi = \mu c \gamma \phi. \quad (2.3)$$

$$\partial_\alpha \partial^\alpha \Phi^\mu + b^2 \Phi^\mu = -s \tilde{\alpha}^\mu, \quad \tilde{\alpha}^\mu = \phi^\dagger \alpha^\mu \phi. \quad (2.4)$$

For the eigen states of ϕ , only the magnetic quantum number m_z and the sign s are conserved. So the eigen solution takes the following form

$$\phi = (u_1, u_2 e^{i\theta}, -iv_1, -iv_2 e^{i\theta})^T \exp\left(m_z \varphi i - \frac{mc^2}{\hbar} it\right), \quad (2.5)$$

where the index ‘‘T’’ stands for transpose, $m_z \in \{0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots\}$, and u_k, v_k ($k = 1, 2$) are real functions of r and θ . However, the exact solution of (2.5) does not exist, and we have to solve it by effective algorithm [59] [60]. Since the numerical solutions are also unhelpful to understand the global structure of the mass spectrum, we seek for the approximate analytic solutions in this paper.

Different from the case of an electron, a proton has a hard core with charge distribution, and the radius of the distribution is about 1×10^{-15} m. The following calculation shows the local parabolic potential is approximately equal to Φ_μ near the center, then we have

$$\Phi_0 \doteq \left(\frac{w^2 r^2}{2\rho^2} - 2(1-\eta) \right) \mu c, \quad \vec{\Phi} \doteq 0, \quad (r < 12\rho), \quad (2.6)$$

in which w is the strength factor, η is a parameter to adjust the depth of confinement to fit the true confining potential. $\rho = \frac{\hbar}{\mu c}$ is the theoretical Compton wave length, which is used for nondimensionalization of the Dirac equation.

In order to simplify (1.2), we make transformation [60]

$$g = u_1 + u_2 i, \quad f = v_1 - v_2 i. \quad (2.7)$$

Substituting (2.5), (2.6) and (2.7) into (1.2) we get Lagrangian as

$$\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{L}_0 + \mathcal{L}_f) \mu c, \quad (2.8)$$

in which we defined

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0 \equiv & \Re \left\langle e^{i\theta} \left(-\bar{g} \left(\partial_r + \frac{i}{r} \partial_\theta \right) f + f \left(\partial_r + \frac{i}{r} \partial_\theta \right) \bar{g} \right) \right\rangle \rho \\ & - \frac{i}{r \sin \theta} \left(m_z + \frac{1}{2} \right) (\bar{g} f - g \bar{f}) \rho + \varepsilon (|g|^2 + |f|^2) \\ & + \left(\frac{w^2 r^2}{2\rho^2} - 2(1-\eta) \right) |g|^2 - (2+\kappa) |f|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

where $\Re\langle \rangle$ stands for taking real part, and

$$\mathcal{L}_f \equiv \left(\kappa + \frac{w^2 r^2}{2\rho^2} - 2(1-\eta) \right) |f|^2. \quad (2.10)$$

In (2.9), ε is relative mass defect defined by

$$mc^2 = (1-\varepsilon)\mu c^2, \quad \varepsilon = \frac{\mu - m}{\mu}, \quad (2.11)$$

and ρ is used as length unit, κ is a constant to let $\left| \int_0^\infty \mathcal{L}_f r^2 dr \right| \rightarrow 0$ so that

convergent rate of the procedure is optimized. In the case (2.6), we set $\kappa = (1-\eta)$ which is about the mean value of the potential in the effective domain, and then \mathcal{L}_f can be omitted for the 0th order approximation. For proton we have

$$\rho = \frac{\hbar}{\mu c} = (1-\varepsilon) \frac{\hbar}{m_p c}, \quad \lambda = \frac{\hbar}{m_p c} = 2.1037 \times 10^{-16} \text{ m}. \quad (2.12)$$

In (2.8), \mathcal{L}_0 almost keeps all invariance of relativity and has simple and complete eigensolutions, which can be used as the bases of Hilbert space of representation. \mathcal{L}_f is the trouble terms with small energy, which acts as perturbation in the calculation. If taking $\mu c = 1, \rho = 1$, (2.8) becomes dimensionless.

For (2.9), the rigorous eigen solutions take the following form [60]

$$g = U(r)[P(\theta) + Q(\theta)i], \quad f = V(r)[P(\theta) + Q(\theta)i]e^{-i\theta}. \quad (2.13)$$

By variation of (2.9), we get

$$\partial_\theta P = \cot \theta m_z P + (m_z + K)Q, \quad (2.14)$$

$$\partial_\theta Q = -\cot \theta (m_z + 1)Q + (m_z + 1 - K)P, \quad (2.15)$$

in which $K = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ corresponding to orbital angular momentum, P, Q are associated Legendre functions. The radial functions satisfy

$$\partial_r^2 U + \frac{2}{r} \partial_r U - \left(\frac{K(K-1)}{r^2} - \frac{2\varepsilon}{\rho^2} + \frac{(3-\varepsilon-\eta)w^2 r^2}{2\rho^4} \right) U = 0, \quad (2.16)$$

$$V = \frac{(r \partial_r U - (K-1)U)\rho}{(3-\varepsilon-\eta)r}, \quad (2.17)$$

in which we defined

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{2}(2-\varepsilon-2\eta)(3-\varepsilon-\eta) \quad (2.18)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}((1-2\eta)(2-\eta) + 3(1-\eta)M + M^2), \quad (2.19)$$

Or inversely,

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \left(5 - 3\eta - \sqrt{(1+\eta)^2 + 8\mathcal{E}} \right), \quad (2.20)$$

where $M = \frac{m}{\mu}$ is dimensionless mass. The above equations can be easily solved, and the solutions are all elementary functions. The normalizing conditions are as follows

$$\int_0^\pi (P^2 + Q^2) 2\pi \sin\theta d\theta = 1, \quad \int_0^\infty (U^2 + V^2) r^2 dr = 1. \quad (2.21)$$

3. Eigen Solutions to the Equation

For (2.16), we have the solution

$$U = (C_1 r^{K-1} + C_2 r^{-K}) L_{n-1}^J \left(\frac{2r^2}{r_n^2} \right) \exp \left(-\frac{r^2}{r_n^2} \right), \quad (3.1)$$

$$n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad J = \left| K - \frac{1}{2} \right| = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \dots, \quad (3.2)$$

where L_{n-1}^J is associated Laguerre polynomials, n is radial quantum number, and J is angular momentum quantum number; $C_1 = 0$ corresponds to $K < 0$ and $C_2 = 0$ corresponds to $K > 0$. The energy spectrum and radius parameter is given by

$$Nw = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\sqrt{1+\eta + \sqrt{(1+\eta)^2 + 8\mathcal{E}}}}, \quad N = n + \frac{1}{2}(J-1), \quad (3.3)$$

$$r_n = 2\rho \sqrt{\frac{N}{\mathcal{E}}} = 2M\lambda \sqrt{\frac{N}{\mathcal{E}}}. \quad (3.4)$$

Substituting (2.19) into (3.3) we get Regge-like relation as follows

$$2n + J - 1 = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2w} (1 - 2\eta + M) \sqrt{2 - \eta + M}. \quad (3.5)$$

Or inversely,

$$M = \frac{1}{36} \mathcal{N}^{\frac{2}{3}} + 4(1+\eta)^2 \mathcal{N}^{-\frac{2}{3}} + \frac{1}{3}(5\eta - 4), \quad (3.6)$$

$$\mathcal{N} = 216Nw\sqrt{2} + 24\sqrt{162N^2w^2 - 3(1+\eta)^3}. \quad (3.7)$$

In (3.5), we have 3 constants (w, η, μ) for the same series of particles to be determined by empirical data. Although the form of (3.5) or (3.6) is quite different from (1.1), the following calculation shows that the curves of (3.5) in the effective domain are quite near straight lines (see **Figure 1**).

Substituting (3.1) and (3.3) into (2.17), we can derive V . By calculation we get

$$\int_0^\infty U_{K,n}^2 r^2 dr = \frac{(1+\eta)\sqrt{(1+\eta)^2 + 8\mathcal{E}} + (1+\eta)^2 + 4\mathcal{E}}{(1+\eta)\sqrt{(1+\eta)^2 + 8\mathcal{E}} + (1+\eta)^2 + 6\mathcal{E}}. \quad (3.8)$$

For all meaningful eigen solutions, we have $0.1 < \mathcal{E} < 4$, and then we have $\int_0^\infty U_{K,n}^2 r^2 dr = 0.8 \sim 1$. Therefore, the relative truncation error for the 0th approximation is about 10%.

The ground state corresponds to $n = 1, J = \frac{1}{2}$, and then we have $N = \frac{3}{4}$. Considering energy degeneracy, we only need to calculate the energy spectrums while $K \geq 1$. For the ground state of proton, we have empirical data

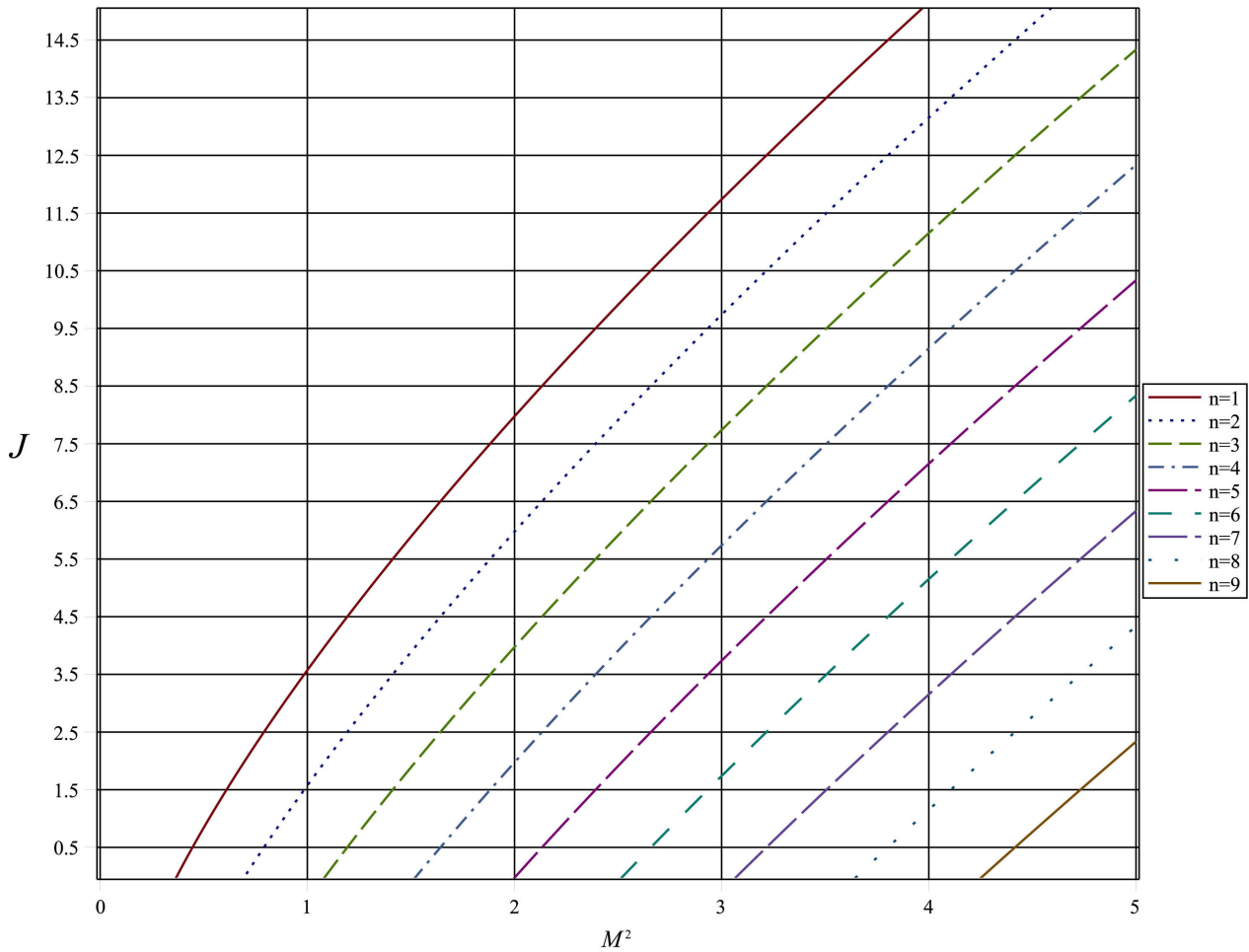


Figure 1. Regge trajectories of (3.5). Each intersection between lines $J = \frac{1}{2} + j$ and curves $J = J(n, M^2)$ corresponds to one or more particles, and we have about 90 intersections in the figure. Considering degenerate states, the figure contains more than 1000 particles with different quantum numbers (n, K, m_z, s) .

$r_n \sim 1 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$ and $m_p = 938.28 \text{ MeV}$. Substituting them and $N = \frac{3}{4}$ into (2.11), (2.12), (2.18) and (3.4), we get constants $(w, \eta, \rho, \mu, \varepsilon_0)$ expressed by ε_0 . If taking $\varepsilon_0 = 0.17618$, we have solution

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &= 0.74238, w = 0.11972, \varepsilon_0 = 0.33220, \\ \rho &= 1.4048 \times 10^{-16} \text{ m}, \mu c^2 = 1.4051 \text{ GeV}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

For a proton, by (3.9) we find $r_n \sim 7\rho$. By (2.11) and ε_0 we find the relative mass defect of strong interaction confinement is about 33%. The observational mass m_p is much less than constant mass μ . This case is quite different from an electron without strong interaction.

Substituting (3.9) and (n, K) into (3.5), (3.6) and (3.7), we find the masses of many baryons are near the spectra, and (3.5) is quite similar to the Regge trajectories of baryons (see **Figure 1**). By (3.3) and (3.4), we find the radius parameter r_n of the excited states even decreases a little when the quantum number N in-

creases. The detailed calculation shows we always have $\bar{r} = (4 \sim 10)\rho$ for all particles. This means a particle with local parabolic potential or short distance potential Φ_α has a very hard core. This phenomenon is quite different from the case of Coulomb potential, where we have $\bar{r} \propto n^2$.

For convenience, we take J as row index and n as column index, then the mass spectrums of the eigen states are listed in **Table 1**.

We find the masses of many baryons are near the spectra. Obviously each excited state should correspond to an observable particle. This means some baryons can be regarded as excited resonances of a proton. How to exactly identify the quantum numbers for each particle observed in experiments is an important but fallible problem.

As the 0th order approximation with only 3 free coefficients, the result is satisfactory. To get more accurate solutions of (1.2), we can expand ϕ as series of the eigen functions of (2.9) and then solve mass spectra of (1.2) [60]. However, in this case, we have only numerical results without an overview on the spectra.

4. Effectiveness of the Parabolic Potential

Now we check the effectiveness of the parabolic potential for nuclear potential. It is well known the global parabolic potential cannot be used as confining potential of Dirac equation. However, the following calculations show the local parabolic potential is effective to describe nuclear potential approximately.

At first, we check all radial functions $(U_{K,n}, V_{K,n})$ and their module $U^2 + V^2$ are almost distributed in the domain $r < 12$, where is also the effective area of the local parabolic potential. The first couple of the radial functions is given by

$$U_{1,1} = 0.29450687e^{-0.05873333r^2}, \quad V_{1,1} = -0.01796750re^{-0.05873333r^2}, \quad (4.1)$$

we find $|V/U|^2 \sim 1\%$. See **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** as follows, where we take $\rho = 1$

Table 1. Mass spectra of Dirac equation with local parabolic potential (MeV).

$m(J, n)$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1/2	938	1249	1535	1801	2052	2291	2520	2740	2953	3159	3359	3554	3744	3930
1 + 1/2	1098	1395	1670	1928	2173	2407	2631	2847	3056	3260	3457	3650	3838	4022
2 + 1/2	1249	1535	1801	2052	2291	2520	2740	2953	3159	3359	3554	3744	3930	4112
3 + 1/2	1395	1670	1928	2173	2407	2631	2847	3056	3260	3457	3650	3838	4022	4202
4 + 1/2	1535	1801	2052	2291	2520	2740	2953	3159	3359	3554	3744	3930	4112	4290
5 + 1/2	1670	1928	2173	2407	2631	2847	3056	3260	3457	3650	3838	4022	4202	4378
6 + 1/2	1801	2052	2291	2520	2740	2953	3159	3359	3554	3744	3930	4112	4290	4465
7 + 1/2	1928	2173	2407	2631	2847	3056	3260	3457	3650	3838	4022	4202	4378	4552
8 + 1/2	2052	2291	2520	2740	2953	3159	3359	3554	3744	3930	4112	4290	4465	4637
9 + 1/2	2173	2407	2631	2847	3056	3260	3457	3650	3838	4022	4202	4378	4552	4722
10 + 1/2	2291	2520	2740	2953	3159	3359	3554	3744	3930	4112	4290	4465	4637	4806
11 + 1/2	2407	2631	2847	3056	3260	3457	3650	3838	4022	4202	4378	4552	4722	4889

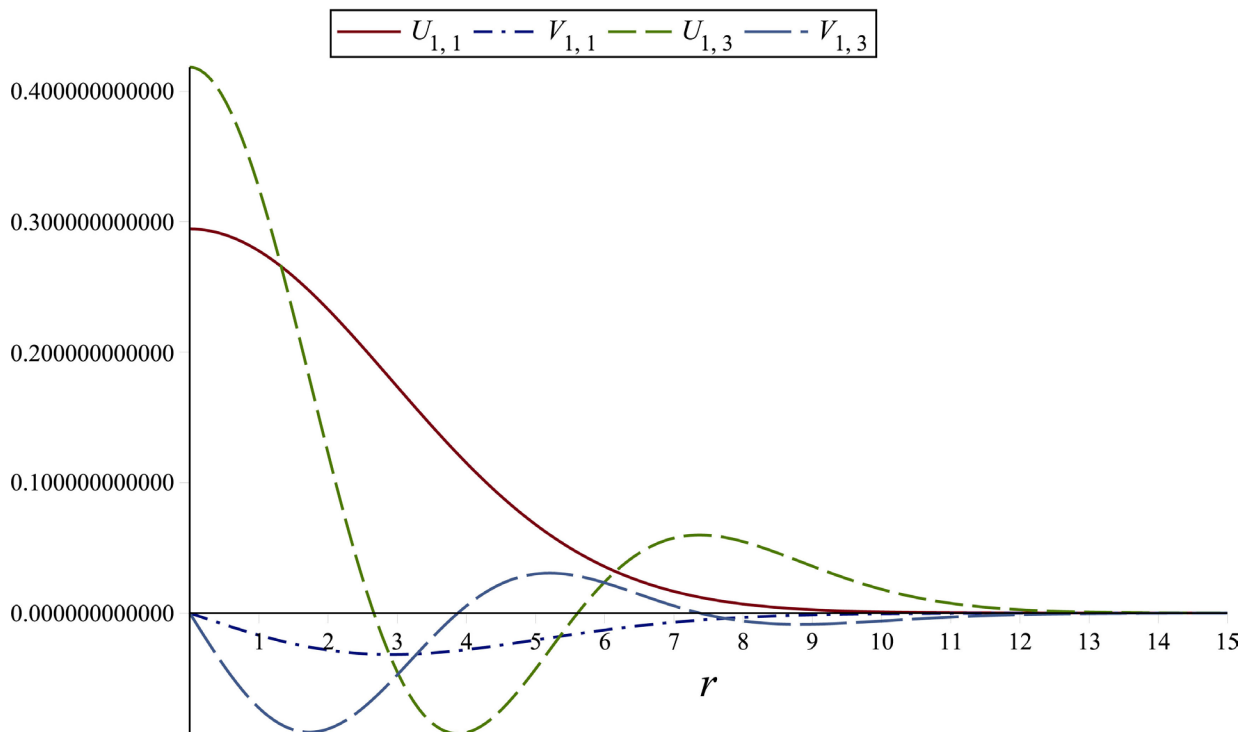


Figure 2. Some radial wave functions of a spinor in local parabolic potential.

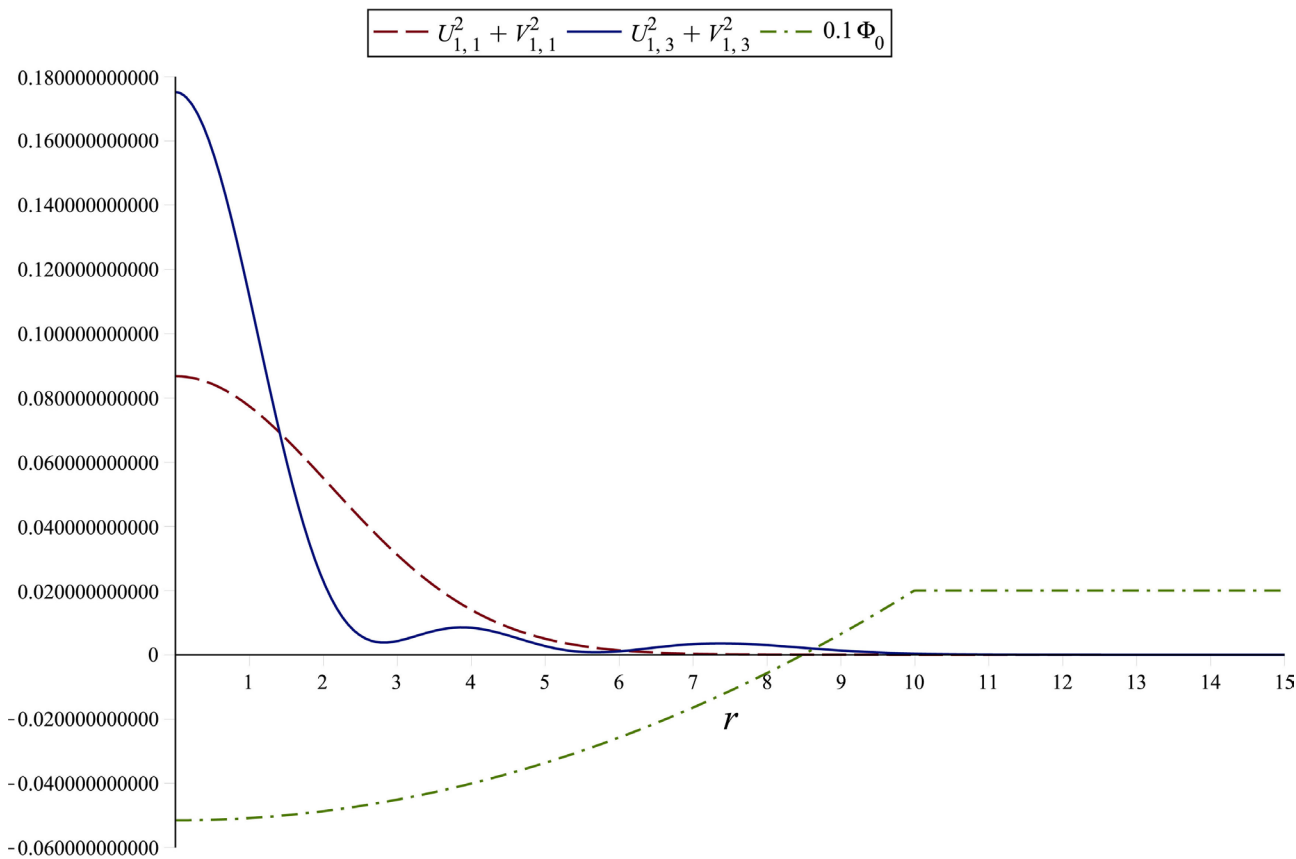


Figure 3. The effective domain of local parabolic potential and modules of radial wave functions. The spinor with short distance potential is mainly concentrated near the center, and it does not diffuse when K or n increases.

as length unit.

Secondly, for the following short-range potential Φ with source $q(r)$,

$$\partial_\alpha \partial^\alpha \Phi + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \Phi = -65 \cdot \frac{4\pi q(r)}{\rho^3}. \tag{4.2}$$

By **Figure 4**, we find the solution Φ is almost parabolic potential Φ_0 in the domain $r < 8$ for the above source, for which the normalizing condition is $4\pi \int q(r)r^2 dr = 1$. This means in the interior of a baryon, the potential of strong interaction may be different from the Cornell potential or potential generated by point source $-\frac{e^{-r}}{r}$ or the MIT bag model. It may be more suitably described by local parabolic potential.

Thirdly, by (3.3) we find that, different from electron in Coulomb potential, in this case, the radius parameter r_n of the wave function even decreases a little as the increasing of quantum number N . So the local parabolic potential is also suitable for the excited states.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

As the 0th order approximation, the above calculation provides some important messages. The Dirac equation with short distance potential has quite different energy spectrum and eigen functions from that with Coulomb potential. Dirac equation is a magic equation with marvellous properties which should be strictly analyzed [61] [62] [63]. The nuclear potential may be more similar to local parabolic potential, rather than the MIT bag model or $-\frac{e^{-r}}{r}$ or $-\frac{\alpha_s}{r} - ar$. Obviously,

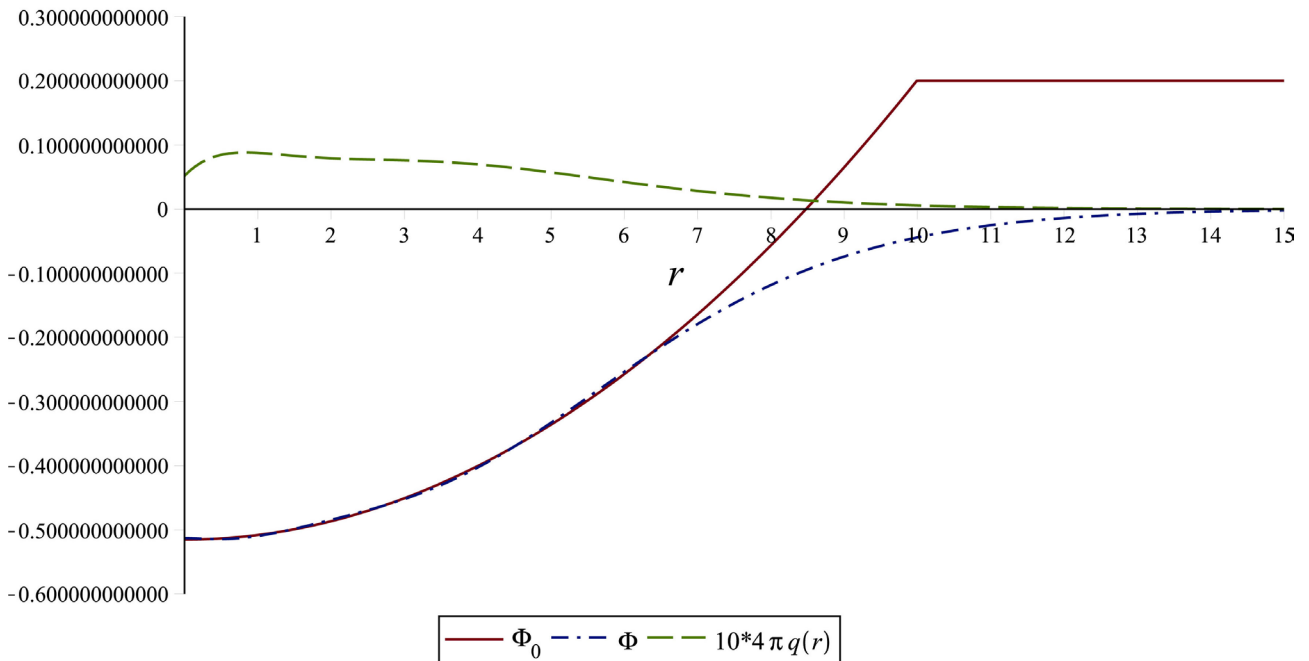


Figure 4. The parabolic potential versus the short range potential generated by $q(r)$.

the spinor in short distance potential (4.2) has the asymptotic freedom near the center and strong confinement near $r \sim 10\rho$ (see **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**).

To get more accurate results, we should directly calculate the coupling system of (2.4) and (2.3), and expand the radial functions (U, V) upon the bases $U_{K,n}, V_{K,n}$ of the representation space [60]. However, in this case, we have not explicit analytic expression (3.3) for mass spectra.

As the alternative models for fundamental particles, some simple and closed systems such as the following one are worth to be carefully studied,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \phi^+ \alpha^\mu (i\partial_\mu - eA_\mu - s\Phi_\mu) \phi - \mu c \tilde{\gamma} + F(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\beta}) \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu A_\alpha \partial^\mu A^\alpha + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \Phi_\alpha \partial^\mu \Phi^\alpha - b^2 \Phi_\mu \Phi^\mu). \end{aligned} \tag{5.1}$$

Some deep secrets may be concealed under the nonlinear potential F and short distance potentials, because the spinor equation is a magic equation.

If we denote $\phi \doteq \psi_{-1} + \psi_0 + \psi_1$, where ψ_k are basis eigenfunctions in the Hilbert space of representation, and ψ_0 is the main component. Substituting them into (5.1) and using the orthogonality of ψ_k , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} \doteq & \sum_{k=-1}^1 (\psi_k^+ \alpha^\mu (i\partial_\mu - eA_\mu - s\Phi_\mu) \psi_k - \mu c \tilde{\gamma}_k + F(\tilde{\gamma}_k, \tilde{\beta}_k)) \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu A_\alpha \partial^\mu A^\alpha + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \Phi_\alpha \partial^\mu \Phi^\alpha - b^2 \Phi_\mu \Phi^\mu) + G(\psi_k, A^\alpha, \Phi^\alpha). \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

In (5.2), $(\psi_{-1}, \psi_0, \psi_1)$ may be easily interpreted as quarks with fraction electric charge and confinement, and the cross terms G may be interpreted as gauge fields. For any complicated mathematical models, a little vigilance should be remained, because Nature only uses simple but best mathematics, and the complicated equations easily lead to inconsistency and singularity.

On the other hand, the regression analysis for empirical data to derive mass function with single integer variable $m = m(N), (N = 1, 2, 3, \dots)$ for similar particles is much important, because like Hydrogen spectra $E_N = \frac{1}{2} \hbar \omega \alpha^2 N^{-2}$, such analytic function certainly exists and is usually very simple, and then to determine the further relation between quantum numbers $N = an + bJ + m_0$ is relatively easy. This procedure needs not to concern the physical meanings of N at first and gets rid of the fallible and misleading task to identify the quantum numbers n and J for each particle at the beginning. If we can arrange the masses of similar particles from small to large at each horizontal integer coordinates N to get smooth curves, the regressive function $m = m(N)$ for all smooth curves can be derived. From the final mass function $m = m(an + bJ + m_0)$ of high precision, we can determine the specific potentials in Dirac equation conversely.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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