

1. Can the following hadrons, in principle, exist within QCD? (a) qq , (b) $qq\bar{q}$, (c) $qq\bar{q}\bar{q}$, (d) gg , (e) qqg , (f) $q\bar{q}g$, (g) $qqq\bar{q}$. **Hint:** Consider $SU(3)_c$ symmetry transformations of observable hadrons. Gluons transform under the adjoint representation of $SU(3)_c$.

Solution: Hadrons within QCD must be color neutral, that is a hadron h must belong to the $\mathbf{1}$ representation of $SU(3)_c$. So, all we need to find is if the given combinations of quarks and gluons admit a singlet representation. Recall that quarks lie in the $\mathbf{3}$ of $SU(3)_c$, antiquarks lie in the $\mathbf{3}^*$ of $SU(3)_c$, and gluons lie in the $\mathbf{8}$ of $SU(3)_c$.

So, for (a)

$$qq \rightarrow \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3} = \mathbf{3}^* + \mathbf{6} \not\supset \mathbf{1},$$

therefore qq is **not** a valid hadron.

For (b), we have (recalling that $\mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3}^* = \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{8}$),

$$qq\bar{q} \rightarrow \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3}^* = \mathbf{3} \times (\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{8}) \not\supset \mathbf{1},$$

since the $\mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{8} = \mathbf{3} + \mathbf{6}^* + \mathbf{15}$ which was found in Problem Set 7. Therefore, $qq\bar{q}$ is **not** a valid hadron.

For (c), $qq\bar{q}\bar{q}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} qq\bar{q}\bar{q} &\rightarrow \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3}^* \times \mathbf{3}^* = (\mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3}^*) \times (\mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3}^*), \\ &= (\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{8}) \times (\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{8}) \supset \mathbf{1}. \end{aligned}$$

So, $qq\bar{q}\bar{q}$ is a valid hadron. These are *tetraquarks*, which candidates have been observed in the heavy quark sector, e.g., the $Z_c(3900)$.

For (d), gg , we need the product $\mathbf{8} \times \mathbf{8}$. From lecture, we worked out this product, and found it contains a singlet representation. Therefore,

$$gg \rightarrow \mathbf{8} \times \mathbf{8} \supset \mathbf{1},$$

and thus is a valid hadron. These are *glueballs*, bound states of gluons. There is suspicion that higher mass states in the $J^{PC} = 0^{++}$ and 2^{++} sectors contain strong mixing into these glueball states.

For (e), qqg , we have $\mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{8} = \mathbf{3}^* + \mathbf{3}^* + \mathbf{6} + \mathbf{6} + \mathbf{15}^* + \mathbf{15}^* + \mathbf{24}$ from Problem Set 7. So,

$$qqg \rightarrow \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{8} \not\supset \mathbf{1},$$

and thus is **not** a valid hadron.

For (f), $q\bar{q}g$, we have from Problem Set 7, $\mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3}^* \times \mathbf{8} = \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{8} + \mathbf{8} + \mathbf{8} + \mathbf{10} + \mathbf{10}^* + \mathbf{27}$. So,

$$q\bar{q}g \rightarrow \mathbf{3} \times \mathbf{3}^* \times \mathbf{8} \supset \mathbf{1}.$$

Therefore, $q\bar{q}g$ is a valid hadron. These are *hybrid* mesons, which had a substantial component from excited glue. The $\pi_1(1600)$ is an observed hybrid candidate.

2. Consider a non-abelian gauge field $A_\mu \equiv A_\mu^j T_j$, where $T_j \in \mathfrak{su}(N)$ are generators satisfying the Lie algebra $[T_j, T_k] = ic_{jkl}T_l$ with c_{jkl} being structure constants and $j, k, l = 1, 2, \dots, N^2 - 1$. Under a local gauge transformation, $U = \exp(i\alpha^j(x)T_j)$ where $\alpha_j(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ for every j , the gauge fields transform as

$$A_\mu \rightarrow UA_\mu U^{-1} + \frac{i}{g} (\partial_\mu U) U^{-1}.$$

Show that under infinitesimal transformations, $\alpha^a(x) \ll 1$, the gauge fields transform as

$$A_\mu^j \rightarrow A_\mu^j - \frac{1}{g} \partial_\mu \alpha^j(x) - c_{jkl} \alpha^k A_\mu^l + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2).$$

Solution: Taking $\alpha^j(x) \ll 1$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, N^2 - 1$, we can Taylor expand the exponential

$$U = \exp(i\alpha^j(x)T_j) = 1 + i\alpha^j(x)T_j + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2).$$

So, the gauge transformation is

$$\begin{aligned} A_\mu^j T_j &\rightarrow UA_\mu^j T_j U^{-1} + \frac{i}{g} (\partial_\mu U) U^{-1}, \\ &= (1 + i\alpha^j T_j + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2)) A_\mu^k T_k (1 - i\alpha^l T_l + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2)) \\ &\quad + \frac{i}{g} \partial_\mu (1 + i\alpha^j T_j + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2)) (1 + i\alpha^k T_k + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2)), \\ &= A_\mu^j T_j + i\alpha^k A_\mu^l (T_k T_l - T_l T_k) - \frac{1}{g} \partial_\mu \alpha^j T_j + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2), \\ &= A_\mu^j T_j + i\alpha^k A_\mu^l (ic_{klj} T_j) - \frac{1}{g} \partial_\mu \alpha^j T_j + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2), \\ &= \left(A_\mu^j - c_{jkl} \alpha^k A_\mu^l - \frac{1}{g} \partial_\mu \alpha^j + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2) \right) T_j. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the infinitesimal transformation gives

$$A_\mu^j \rightarrow A_\mu^j - \frac{1}{g} \partial_\mu \alpha^j - c_{jkl} \alpha^k A_\mu^l + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2).$$

3. The $SU(3)_c$ Yang-Mills Lagrange density for interacting gluon fields is given by $\mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(G_{\mu\nu} G^{\mu\nu})$, where the field-strength tensor is defined as $G_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + ig_s [A_\mu, A_\nu]$ with $A_\mu = A_\mu^a \lambda_a / 2$ are the gluon gauge fields and λ_a are the Gell-Mann matrices. Write the Lagrange density as a free part $\mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}}^{(\text{free})}$ and an interacting part $\mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}}^{(\text{int})}$ which depends on the strong coupling g_s .

Solution: Contracting the field strength tensors,

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu} &= \left(\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + ig_s[A_\mu, A_\nu] \right) \left(\partial^\mu A^\nu - \partial^\nu A^\mu + ig_s[A^\mu, A^\nu] \right), \\ &= (\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu) (\partial^\mu A^\nu - \partial^\nu A^\mu) \\ &\quad + ig_s (\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu) [A^\mu, A^\nu] + ig_s [A_\mu, A_\nu] (\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu) \\ &\quad - g_s^2 [A_\mu, A_\nu] [A^\mu, A^\nu]. \end{aligned}$$

Now, we use that $A_\mu = A_\mu^a T_a$ where $T_a = \lambda_a/2$, so

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu} &= (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) (\partial^\mu A^{\nu b} - \partial^\nu A^{\mu b}) T_a T_b \\ &\quad + ig_s (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) A^{\mu b} A^{\nu c} T_a [T_b, T_c] + ig_s A_\mu^a A_\nu^b (\partial_\mu A^{\nu c} - \partial_\nu A^{\mu c}) [T_a, T_b] T_c \\ &\quad - g_s^2 A_\mu^a A_\nu^b A^{\mu c} A^{\nu d} [T_a, T_b] [T_c, T_d]. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, $[T_a, T_b] = if_{abc}T_c$, so

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu} &= (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) (\partial^\mu A^{\nu b} - \partial^\nu A^{\mu b}) T_a T_b \\ &\quad + ig_s (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) A^{\mu b} A^{\nu c} T_a (if_{bcd}T_d) + ig_s A_\mu^a A_\nu^b (\partial_\mu A^{\nu c} - \partial_\nu A^{\mu c}) (if_{abd}T_d) T_c \\ &\quad - g_s^2 A_\mu^a A_\nu^b A^{\mu c} A^{\nu d} (if_{abe}T_e)(if_{cdf}T_f). \end{aligned}$$

Now, taking the trace, we use $\text{tr}(T_a T_b) = \text{tr}(\lambda_a \lambda_b)/4 = \delta_{ab}/2$, so the Yang-Mills Lagrange density is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}} &= -\frac{1}{4} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) (\partial^\mu A^{\nu a} - \partial^\nu A^{\mu a}) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4} g_s f_{bca} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) A^{\mu b} A^{\nu c} - \frac{1}{4} g_s f_{abc} A_\mu^a A_\nu^b (\partial_\mu A^{\nu c} - \partial_\nu A^{\mu c}) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4} g_s^2 f_{abe} f_{cde} A_\mu^a A_\nu^b A^{\mu c} A^{\nu d}, \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) (\partial^\mu A^{\nu a} - \partial^\nu A^{\mu a}) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} g_s f_{abc} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) A^{\mu b} A^{\nu c} + \frac{1}{4} g_s^2 f_{abe} f_{cde} A_\mu^a A_\nu^b A^{\mu c} A^{\nu d}, \\ &\equiv \mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}}^{(\text{free})} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}}^{(\text{int})}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used $f_{bca} = f_{abc}$ from the antisymmetry properties of the structure constants. So, the free and interacting Lagrange densities are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}}^{(\text{free})} &= -\frac{1}{4} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) (\partial^\mu A^{\nu a} - \partial^\nu A^{\mu a}), \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}}^{(\text{int})} &= -\frac{1}{2} g_s f_{abc} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) A^{\mu b} A^{\nu c} + \frac{1}{4} g_s^2 f_{abe} f_{cde} A_\mu^a A_\nu^b A^{\mu c} A^{\nu d}. \end{aligned}$$

4. Consider a $q\bar{q}$ meson within an exact flavor SU(3) quark model, i.e., $q = u, d, s$. Assume the meson is flavor neutral. A generic wave function for this meson is given by

$$|n^{2S+1}L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}} = \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle Lm_L; Sm_S | Jm_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2}s; \frac{1}{2}\bar{s} | Sm_S \rangle \\ \times \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{Lm_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) |q_s(\mathbf{p})\bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle ,$$

where n is the radial quantum number, S is the total intrinsic spin, L is the orbital angular momentum, J is the total angular momentum, m_J is the total angular momentum projection on some fixed z -axis, m_L is the orbital angular momentum projection, m_S is the total intrinsic spin projection, $\varphi_{n,L}$ is the momentum-space radial wave function, and Y_{Lm_L} are spherical harmonics. The quarks are spin-1/2 fermions with spin s and \bar{s} for the q and \bar{q} , respectively. The two-quark state is defined in the center-of-momentum frame as the usual direct product $|q_s(\mathbf{p})\bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle \equiv |q_s(\mathbf{p})\rangle \otimes |\bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle$.

- (a) Determine the allowed values of S .

Solution: Since we have two spin-1/2 objects, the total spin is either $S = 0$ or 1 . This can be seen from the Clebsch-Gordan decomposition. If $\mathbf{2}$ is the fundamental representation of $\mathfrak{su}(2)$, then $\mathbf{2} \times \mathbf{2} = \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{3}$. Therefore, we have either a singlet ($S = 0$) or a triplet ($S = 1$) state.

- (b) Show that under parity \mathcal{P} , the $q\bar{q}$ meson has an eigenvalue

$$\mathcal{P} |n^{2S+1}L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}} = (-1)^{L+1} |n^{2S+1}L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}} .$$

Hint: Recall that $\mathcal{P} |q_s(\mathbf{p})\rangle = \eta_q |q_s(-\mathbf{p})\rangle$ and $\eta_{\bar{q}} \equiv -\eta_q$.

Solution: By direct evaluation,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{P} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}} &= \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2} s; \frac{1}{2} \bar{s} | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{P} |q_s(\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2} s; \frac{1}{2} \bar{s} | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) \eta_q \eta_{\bar{q}} |q_s(-\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= \eta_q \eta_{\bar{q}} \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2} s; \frac{1}{2} \bar{s} | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(-\hat{\mathbf{p}}) |q_s(\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= \eta_q \eta_{\bar{q}} (-1)^L \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2} s; \frac{1}{2} \bar{s} | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) |q_s(\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= \eta_q \eta_{\bar{q}} (-1)^L |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}},
 \end{aligned}$$

where in the third line we let $\mathbf{p} \rightarrow -\mathbf{p}$ in the integrand, and then in the fourth line we used $Y_{L m_L}(-\hat{\mathbf{p}}) = (-1)^L Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}})$. Therefore, since $\eta_{\bar{q}} = -\eta_q$, the parity of the quark model hadron is

$$\mathcal{P} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}} = (-1)^{L+1} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}},$$

since $\eta_q^2 = 1$.

(c) Show that under charge conjugation \mathcal{C} , the $q\bar{q}$ meson has an eigenvalue

$$\mathcal{C} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}} = (-1)^{L+S} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}}.$$

Hint: Recall that $\mathcal{C} |q_s(\mathbf{p})\rangle = |\bar{q}_s(\mathbf{p})\rangle$, and under interchange $P_{12} |q_1 q_2\rangle = -|q_2 q_1\rangle$.

Solution: By direct evaluation,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{C} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}} &= \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2} s; \frac{1}{2} \bar{s} | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{C} |q_s(\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2} s; \frac{1}{2} \bar{s} | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) |q_s(\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= - \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2} s; \frac{1}{2} \bar{s} | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) |q_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_s(\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= - \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} (-1)^{S+1} \langle \frac{1}{2} \bar{s}; \frac{1}{2} s | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(-\hat{\mathbf{p}}) |q_{\bar{s}}(\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_s(-\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= -(-1)^{S+1} (-1)^L \sum_{m_L, m_S} \langle L m_L; S m_S | J m_J \rangle \sum_{s, \bar{s}} \langle \frac{1}{2} s; \frac{1}{2} \bar{s} | S m_S \rangle \\
 &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \varphi_{n,L}(p) Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) |q_s(\mathbf{p}) \bar{q}_{\bar{s}}(-\mathbf{p})\rangle, \\
 &= (-1)^{L+S} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}},
 \end{aligned}$$

where in the third line we used the antisymmetry properties of fermions, in the fourth line used $\langle j_1 m_1; j_2 m_2 | j m \rangle = (-1)^{j_1+j_2-s} \langle j_2 m_2; j_1 m_1 | j m \rangle$ and the fact that j is integer, and in the fifth line we let $\mathbf{p} \rightarrow -\mathbf{p}$ in the integrand, and then used $Y_{L m_L}(-\hat{\mathbf{p}}) = (-1)^L Y_{L m_L}(\hat{\mathbf{p}})$. Therefore, the C-parity of the quark model hadron is

$$\mathcal{C} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}} = (-1)^{L+S} |n^{2S+1} L_J, m_J\rangle_{q\bar{q}}.$$

- (d) Determine *all* allowed J^{PC} quantum numbers for of the meson for $L \leq 3$. List all J^{PC} that are forbidden for $J \leq 3$ (observed mesons with these quantum numbers are called *exotic*, as they are not allowed in the quark model).

Solution: The angular momentum quantum numbers of the $q\bar{q}$ state are $S = 0$ or 1 , $L = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$, and $|L - S| \leq J \leq L + S$. The parity of a given state is $P = (-1)^{L+1}$, and the C-parity is $C = (-1)^{L+S}$. So, we can make a table of the allowed J^{PC} for all

$L \leq 3$.

Orbital Angular Momentum	Spin	J^{PC}
$L = 0$ (S)	$S = 0$	0^{-+}
	$S = 1$	1^{--}
$L = 1$ (P)	$S = 0$	1^{+-}
	$S = 1$	$(0, 1, 2)^{++}$
$L = 2$ (D)	$S = 0$	2^{-+}
	$S = 1$	$(1, 2, 3)^{--}$
$L = 3$ (F)	$S = 0$	3^{+-}
	$S = 1$	$(2, 3, 4)^{++}$

So, the allowed quantum numbers for a $q\bar{q}$ state in the quark model are

$$J^{PC} = (0, 2, \dots)^{-+}, (1, 3, \dots)^{+-}, (1, 2, 3, \dots)^{--}, (0, 1, 2, \dots)^{++}.$$

Notice that there is a set of states not allowed within this model, called exotic, are

$$J_{\text{exotic}}^{PC} = 0^{--}, (1, 3, \dots)^{-+}, (0, 2, \dots)^{+-}.$$

- (e) List *one* example (if one exist) of an observed unflavored meson for each J^{PC} supermultiplet by searching the Particle Data Group database (<https://pdglive.lbl.gov>) for *light unflavored mesons*. Are there any examples of observed mesons with exotic quantum numbers?

Solution: The following hadrons correspond to the multiplets found in the previous part,

J^{PC}	hadron
$(0, 2)^{-+}$	$(\pi^0, \pi_2(1880))$
$(1, 3)^{+-}$	$(b_1(1235), ???)$
$(1, 2, 3)^{--}$	$(\rho(770), ???, \rho_3(1690))$
$(0, 1, 2, 3, 4)^{++}$	$(f_0(500), a_1(1260), f_2(1270), ???, a_4(1970))$

where the “???” indicate that no unflavored neutral hadron has been observed with these quantum numbers.

There has been some observations of exotic quantum numbers, one example being the $\pi_1(1600)$ which has $J^{PC} = 1^{-+}$.