Asteroseismology of the δ Scuti star HD 50844

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Received 27 January 2016 / Accepted 30 June 2016

ABSTRACT

Aims. We aim to probe the internal structure and investigate with asteroseismology for more detailed information on the δ Scuti star HD 50844.

Methods. We analyse the observed frequencies of the δ Scuti star HD 50844 and search for possible multiplets, which are based on the rotational splitting law of g -mode. We tried to disentangle the frequency spectra of HD 50844 only by means of rotational splitting. We then compare these with theoretical pulsation modes, which correspond to stellar evolutionary models with various sets of initial metallicity and stellar mass, to find the best-fitting model.

Results. There are three multiplets, including two complete triplets and one incomplete quintuplet, in which mode identifications for spherical harmonic degree l and azimuthal number m are unique. The corresponding rotational period of HD 50844 is found to be $2.44^{+0.13}_{-0.08}$ days. The physical parameters of HD 50844 are well limited in a small region by three modes that have been identified as nonradial ones (f_{11} , f_{22} , and f_{29}) and by the fundamental radial mode (f_4). Our results show that the three nonradial modes (f_{11} , f_{22} , and f_{29}) are all mixed modes, which mainly represent the property of the helium core. The fundamental radial mode (f_4) mainly represents the property of the stellar envelope. To fit these four pulsation modes, both the helium core and the stellar envelope need to be matched to the actual structure of HD 50844. Finally, the mass of the helium core of HD 50844 is estimated to be $0.173 \pm 0.004 M_{\odot}$ for the first time. The physical parameters of HD 50844 are determined to be $M = 1.81 \pm 0.01 M_{\odot}$, $Z = 0.008 \pm 0.001$, $T_{\text{eff}} = 7508 \pm 125$ K, $\log g = 3.658 \pm 0.004$, $R = 3.300 \pm 0.023 R_{\odot}$, $L = 30.98 \pm 2.39 L_{\odot}$.

Key words. asteroseismology – stars: variables: δ Scuti – stars: individual: HD 50844

1. Introduction

The δ Scuti stars are a class of pulsating stars falling in the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram where the main sequence overlaps the lower extension of the Cepheid instability strip (Breger 2000; Aerts et al. 2010). They are in the core hydrogen-burning or shell-hydrogen-burning stage (Aerts et al. 2010), with masses from $1.5 M_{\odot}$ to $2.5 M_{\odot}$ (Aerts et al. 2010) and pulsation periods from 0.5 to 6 hours (Breger 2000). Their pulsations are driven by the κ mechanism (Baker & Kippenhahn 1962, 1965; Zhevakin 1963; Li & Stix 1994) in the second partial ionization zone of helium. Some of δ Scuti stars show multi-period pulsations, such as 4 Cvn (Breger et al. 1999), FG Vir (Breger et al. 2005), and HD 50870 (Mantegazza et al. 2012), and are therefore good candidates for asteroseismological studies.

HD 50844 was discovered to be a δ Scuti variable star by Poretti et al. (2005) during their preparatory work for the CoRoT mission. The basic physical parameters of HD 50844 were also obtained by Poretti et al. (2005) from Strömgren photometry. They are listed as follows: $T_{\text{eff}} = 7500 \pm 200$ K, $\log g = 3.6 \pm 0.2$, and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.4 \pm 0.2$. High-resolution spectroscopic observations obtained with the FEROS instrument mounted on the 2.2-m ESO/MPI telescope at La Silla resulted in the value of $v \sin i = 58 \pm 2$ km s⁻¹ and the inclination angle $i = 82 \pm 4$ deg (Poretti et al. 2009).

HD 50844 was observed from 2 February 2007 to 31 March 2007 ($\Delta t = 57.61$ d) by CoRoT during the initial run (IR01). Detailed frequency analysis of the observed timeseries by Poretti et al. (2009) revealed very dense frequency signals in the range of 0–30 d⁻¹. In particular, they identified the frequency 6.92 d⁻¹ with the largest amplitude as the fundamental radial mode by combining spectroscopic and photometric data. Meanwhile, very high-degree oscillation modes (up to $l = 14$) were identified by Poretti et al. (2009) with the software FAMIAS (Zima 2008) to fit the line profile variations (Mantegazza 2000). Based on an independent analysis, Balona (2014) arrived at the conclusion that a normal mode density may exist for the CoRoT timeseries of HD 50844. He extracts a total of 59 significant oscillation modes from the CoRoT timeseries.

Asteroseismology is a powerful tool to investigate the internal structure of pulsating stars that show rich pulsation modes in observations, such as 44 Tau (Civelek et al. 2001; Kırbyık et al. 2003; Garrido et al. 2007; Lenz et al. 2008, 2010) and α Oph (Zhao et al. 2009; Deupree et al. 2012). Mode identifications are very important for asteroseismic studies of δ Scuti stars. Any eigenmode of stellar nonradial oscillations can be characterized by its radial order k , spherical harmonic degree l , and azimuthal number m (Christensen-Dalsgaard 2003). For δ Scuti stars, there are usually only a few observed modes to be identified, such as FG Vir (Daszyńska-Daszkiewicz et al. 2005; Zima et al. 2006) and 4 Cvn (Castanheira et al. 2008; Schmid et al. 2014).

Table 1. Independent frequencies of HD 50844 given by Balona (2014).

ID	Freq. (μHz)	Ampl. (mmag)	ID	Freq. (μHz)	Ampl. (mmag)
f_1	75.886	0.82	f_{21}	148.709	3.55
f_2	76.141	0.71	f_{22}	151.178	0.40
f_3	76.719	0.35	f_{23}	153.627	2.87
f_4	80.154	16.73	f_{24}	154.615	2.51
f_5	83.958	0.44	f_{25}	157.046	0.85
f_6	85.704	0.85	f_{26}	160.300	0.59
f_7	88.369	0.66	f_{27}	162.752	0.42
f_8	99.116	0.31	f_{28}	164.751	0.56
f_9	115.193	1.02	f_{29}	165.088	0.46
f_{10}	118.754	0.79	f_{30}	167.039	1.08
f_{11}	123.030	0.43	f_{31}	167.208	3.08
f_{12}	129.823	6.76	f_{32}	167.375	0.68
f_{13}	130.301	4.37	f_{33}	167.570	1.24
f_{14}	131.227	0.48	f_{34}	168.989	0.46
f_{15}	134.761	0.36	f_{35}	176.206	0.39
f_{16}	135.525	0.69	f_{36}	180.189	0.33
f_{17}	136.007	1.58	f_{37}	182.320	0.42
f_{18}	138.700	0.94	f_{38}	216.702	0.45
f_{19}	140.309	0.70	f_{39}	228.592	0.39
f_{20}	141.648	3.53	f_{40}	315.920	0.66

Notes. The columns named by ID show the serial number of observed frequencies. Freq. denotes the observed frequency in units of μHz . Ampl. denotes the amplitude in units of mmag.

Observed frequencies of a pulsating star could be compared with the results of theoretical models only if their values (l, m) have been determined in advance.

For a rotating star, a non-radial oscillation mode will split into $2l + 1$ different components. According to the asymptotic theory of stellar oscillations, the $2l + 1$ components of one mode of (k, l) are separated by almost the same spacing for a slowly rotating star. In our work, we try to identify the observed frequencies obtained by Balona (2014), based on the rotational splitting law of g -mode. Then we compute a grid of theoretical models to examine whether the computed stellar models can provide a reasonable fit to the observed frequencies. In Sect. 2, we analyse the rotational splitting of the observational data. In Sect. 3, we describe our stellar models, including input physics in Sect. 3.1 and details of the grid of stellar models in Sect. 3.2. Our fitting results are analysed in Sect. 4. Finally, we summarize our results in Sect. 5.

2. Analysis of rotational splitting

As already pointed out by Poretti et al. (2005), HD 50844 is in the post-main-sequence evolution stage with a contracting helium core and an expanding envelope. The steep gradient of chemical abundance in the hydrogen-burning shell will result in a large Brunt-Väisälä frequency N there. As a result, there are two propagation zones inside the star: one for g modes in the helium core and the other for p modes in the stellar envelope. As already pointed out by Poretti et al. (2009), most of the observed pulsation modes for HD 50844 should be gravity and mixed modes. The mixed modes are dominated by two characteristics. They have pronounced g -mode character in the helium core and p -mode character in the stellar envelope. In our work, we pay more attention to those modes that have frequencies near or higher than that of the fundamental radial mode ($\nu > 75\mu\text{Hz}$). We list 40 frequencies obtained by Balona (2014) in Table 1.

Errors of the observed frequencies obtained by Balona (2014) are too small, i.e., less than $0.0015\mu\text{Hz}$. These are not listed in Table 1.

The approximate expression for rotational splitting ($\delta\nu_{k,l}$) and rotational period (P_{rot}) for g -mode was derived by Dziembowski & Goode (1992) as

$$\nu_{k,l,m} - \nu_{k,l,0} = m\delta\nu_{k,l} = \frac{m}{P_{\text{rot}}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{L^2} \right) + \frac{m^2}{P_{\text{rot}}^2 \nu_{k,l,0}} \frac{4L^2(2L^2 - 3) - 9}{2L^4(4L^2 - 3)}. \quad (1)$$

In Eq. (1), $L^2 = l(l + 1)$, and m ranges from $-l$ to l , resulting in $2l + 1$ different values. Considering $\nu \sin i = 58 \pm 2\text{ km s}^{-1}$ of HD 50844 (Poretti et al. 2009), the second term on the right-hand side of Eq. (1) is very small (e.g., less than 1.6% of the value of the first term for $\frac{1}{P_{\text{rot}}} = 5\mu\text{Hz}$ and $\nu_{k,l,0} = 100\mu\text{Hz}$). Therefore, only the first-order effect is considered in our work.

According to Eq. (1), modes with $l = 1$ constitute a triplet. Modes with $l = 2$ constitute a quintuplet, and modes with $l = 3$ constitute a septuplet. Meanwhile, the rotational splitting of $l = 1$ modes and those of $l = 2$ modes and $l = 3$ modes are in some certain proportion, i.e., $\delta\nu_{k,l=1} : \delta\nu_{k,l=2} : \delta\nu_{k,l=3} = \frac{3}{5} : 1 : \frac{11}{10}$ (Winget et al. 1991). Furthermore, the values of rotational splitting are very close for modes with $l \geq 3$, e.g., the differences of rotational splittings between modes with $l = 4$ and those with $l = 3$ are about $\frac{0.033}{P_{\text{rot}}}$. If one complete nontuplet is identified, these modes can be identified as modes with $l = 4$. But beyond that, it is difficult to distinguish multiplets of $l = 4$ and higher values from those of $l = 3$. High spherical harmonic degree modes are detected in spectroscopy of several δ Scuti stars, such as HD 101158 (Mantegazza 1997) and BV Cir (Mantegazza et al. 2001). There is no complete nontuplet to be identified for HD 50844, thus modes with $l \geq 4$ are not considered in our work.

Based on the above considerations, there are two properties of the frequency splitting because of rotation. Firstly, the $2l + 1$ splitting frequencies of one mode are separated by a nearly equal split. Secondly, rotational splittings derived from modes with different spherical harmonic degree l are in specific proportion. Frequency differences ranging from $1\mu\text{Hz}$ to $20\mu\text{Hz}$ are searched for the observed frequencies. Possible multiplets due to rotational splitting are listed in Table 2.

In Table 2, we can see that (f_{21}, f_{22}, f_{23}) and (f_{27}, f_{29}, f_{33}) constitute two multiplets with an averaged frequency difference $\delta\nu_1$ of $2.434\mu\text{Hz}$, and (f_9, f_{11}, f_{14}) constitute another multiplet with an averaged frequency difference $\delta\nu_2$ of $8.017\mu\text{Hz}$. It is worth noting that the ratio of $\delta\nu_1$ and $\delta\nu_2/2$ is 0.607, which agrees well with the property of g -mode rotational splitting (Winget et al. 1991). Therefore, (f_{21}, f_{22}, f_{23}) and (f_{27}, f_{29}, f_{33}) are identified as two complete triplets, which are denoted as Multiplet 1 and Multiplet 2 in Table 2. Poretti et al. (2009) performed mode identifications with the FAMIAS method. They identified f_{21} as ($l = 3, m = 3$), f_{23} as ($l = 3, m = 2$), and f_{33} as ($l = 3, m = 1$). Besides, (f_9, f_{11}, f_{14}) is identified as modes with $l = 2$ on the basis of the ratio of $\delta\nu_1$ and $\delta\nu_2/2$. Values of azimuthal number m for f_9, f_{11} , and f_{14} are then identified as being $m = (-2, 0, +2)$. Poretti et al. (2009) identified f_9 as a low l mode. Moreover, the value of $\delta\nu_{k,l=1}$ is estimated to be $2.434\mu\text{Hz}$, $\delta\nu_{k,l=2}$ to be $4.009\mu\text{Hz}$, and $\delta\nu_{k,l=3}$ to be $4.462\mu\text{Hz}$.

Frequencies of f_{24} and f_{25} may constitute Multiplet 3 with a frequency difference of $2.431\mu\text{Hz}$, which is approximate to $\delta\nu_{k,l=1}$. We may identify their spherical harmonic degree as $l = 1$. When identifying their azimuthal number m , there are two possibilities, i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-1, 0)$ or $m = (0, +1)$. Poretti et al. (2009) identified f_{24} as ($l = 5, m = 3$).

Table 2. Possible rotational splittings.

Multiplet	ID	Freq. (μHz)	$\delta\nu$ (μHz)	l	m	Multiplet	ID	Freq. (μHz)	$\delta\nu$ (μHz)	l	m
1	f_{21}	148.709		1	-1	8	f_2	76.141		2	(-2, -1)
	f_{22}	151.178	2.469	1	0		f_7	88.369	12.228	2	(+1, +2)
	f_{23}	153.627	2.449	1	+1	9	f_{12}	129.823		2	(-2, -1)
2	f_{27}	162.752		1	-1		f_{20}	141.648	11.825	2	(+1, +2)
	f_{29}	165.088	2.336	1	0	10	f_{38}	216.702		2	(-2, -1)
	f_{33}	167.570	2.482	1	+1		f_{39}	228.592	11.890	2	(+1, +2)
3	f_{24}	154.615		1	(0 or -1)	11	f_3	76.719		3	(-3, -2)
	f_{25}	157.046	2.431	1	(+1 or 0)		f_6	85.704	8.985	3	(-1, 0)
4	f_9	115.193		2	-2		f_8	99.116	13.412	3	(+2, +3)
	f_{11}	123.030	7.837	2	0	12	f_{10}	118.754		3	(-3, -2)
	f_{14}	131.227	8.197	2	+2		f_{17}	136.007	17.253	3	(+1, +2)
5	f_1	75.886		2	(-2, -1, 0)		f_{19}	140.309	4.302	3	(+2, +3)
	f_5	83.958	8.072	2	(0, +1, +2)	13	f_{26}	160.300		3	(-3, -2)
6	f_{15}	134.761		2	(-2, -1, 0, +1)		f_{28}	164.751	4.451	3	(-2, -1)
	f_{18}	138.700	3.939	2	(-1, 0, +1, +2)		f_{34}	168.989	4.238	3	(-1, 0)
7	f_{35}	176.206		2	(-2, -1, 0, +1)		f_{37}	182.320	13.331	3	(+2, +3)
	f_{36}	180.189	3.983	2	(-1, 0, +1, +2)						

Notes. $\delta\nu$ = frequency spacing in μHz .

Frequencies of f_1 and f_5 may constitute Multiplet 5 with a frequency difference of $8.072 \mu\text{Hz}$, which is about twice that of $\delta\nu_{k,l=2}$. We can identify their spherical harmonic degree as $l = 2$. When identifying their azimuthal number m , there are three possibilities, i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-2, 0)$, $m = (0, +2)$, or $m = (-1, +1)$.

Besides, the frequency difference between f_{15} and f_{18} is $3.939 \mu\text{Hz}$ and the frequency difference between f_{35} and f_{36} is $3.983 \mu\text{Hz}$. Both of them are approximate to $\delta\nu_{k,l=2}$. We may identify their spherical harmonic degree as $l = 2$. There are four possible identifications for their azimuthal number m , i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-2, -1)$, $m = (-1, 0)$, $m = (0, +1)$, or $m = (+1, +2)$. Poretti et al. (2009) identify f_{15} as ($l = 8, m = 5$) and f_{35} as ($l = 12, m = 10$).

In Table 2 we can see that (f_2, f_7), (f_{12}, f_{20}), and (f_{38}, f_{39}) may constitute three independent multiplets. The frequency difference between f_2 and f_7 is $12.228 \mu\text{Hz}$. The frequency difference between f_{12} and f_{20} is $11.825 \mu\text{Hz}$, and the frequency difference between f_{38} and f_{39} is $11.890 \mu\text{Hz}$. All of these frequency differences are about three times that of $\delta\nu_{k,l=2}$. We may identify their spherical harmonic degree as $l = 2$. When identifying

their azimuthal number m , there are two possibilities, i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-2, +1)$ or $m = (-1, +2)$. Poretti et al. (2009) identified f_{12} as ($l = 3, m = 1$), and f_{39} as ($l = 14, m = 12$).

Three frequencies of f_3 , f_6 , and f_8 may constitute Multiplet 11. The frequency difference $8.985 \mu\text{Hz}$ between f_3 and f_6 is about twice that of $\delta\nu_{k,l=3}$, and the frequency difference $13.412 \mu\text{Hz}$ between f_6 and f_8 is about three times that of $\delta\nu_{k,l=3}$. Their spherical harmonic degree l can be determined as being $l = 3$. There are two possible identifications for their azimuthal number m , i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-3, -1, +2)$ or $m = (-2, 0, +3)$.

Another three frequencies of f_{10} , f_{17} , and f_{19} may constitute Multiplet 12. The frequency difference $17.253 \mu\text{Hz}$ between f_{10} and f_{17} is about four times that of $\delta\nu_{k,l=3}$, and the frequency difference $4.302 \mu\text{Hz}$ between f_{17} and f_{19} is approximate to $\delta\nu_{k,l=3}$. We may identify their spherical harmonic degree as $l = 3$. When identifying their azimuthal number m , there are two possibilities, i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-3, +1, +2)$ or $m = (-2, +2, +3)$. Poretti et al. (2009) identify f_{10} as ($l = 5, m = 0$), and f_{17} as ($l = 11, m = 7$).

Four frequencies of f_{26} , f_{28} , f_{34} , and f_{37} may constitute Multiplet 13. It can be noticed in Table 2 that f_{26} , f_{28} and f_{34} have a frequency difference of about $\delta\nu_{k,l=3}$ in either pair. The frequency difference 13.331 μHz between f_{34} and f_{37} is about three times of $\delta\nu_{k,l=3}$. We may identify their spherical harmonic degree as $l = 3$. There are two possible identifications for their azimuthal number m , i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-3, -2, -1, +2)$ or $m = (-2, -1, 0, +3)$.

In Table 2, we can see that there are slight differences for the rotational splittings in different multiplets. This may be because of the deviations from the asymptotic formula (e.g., Multiplet 5 and Multiplet 6). There are also slight differences in the same multiplet (e.g., in Multiplet 2). The present frequency resolution 0.2 μHz may be the main reason for this difference. Besides, there are only two components in Multiplet 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Different physical origins like the large separation led by the so-called island modes (García Hernández et al. 2013; Lignières et al. 2006) are also possible due to the assumptions we adopted in our approach.

There are six unidentified frequencies (f_{13} , f_{16} , f_{30} , f_{31} , f_{32} , and f_{40}) for absence of frequency splitting. It can be noticed in Table 1 that f_{40} is far from other observed frequencies, so that it could not be identified on basis of rotational splitting law. Besides, frequency difference between f_{13} and f_{15} is 4.460 μHz , which agrees with $\delta\nu_{k,l=3}$. In Table 2, we also see that frequency difference between f_{15} and f_{18} is 3.939 μHz , which agrees with $\delta\nu_{k,l=2}$. There are two possible identifications for f_{15} , i.e., as a mode with $l = 3$ or $l = 2$. There are six possibilities for the former case, i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-3, -2), (-2, -1), (-1, 0), (0, +1), (+1, +2)$, or $(+2, +3)$. There are four possibilities for the latter case, as listed in Table 2. The frequency difference between f_{16} and f_{21} is 13.184 μHz , which is about three times that of $\nu_{k,l=3}$. Table 2 shows that f_{21} is identified as one component of a complete triplet (Multiplet 1). In Multiplet 1, the frequency difference between f_{21} and f_{22} agrees well with the difference between f_{22} and f_{23} . Besides, these large differences in amplitude for f_{21} , f_{22} , and f_{23} agree well with the inclination angle $i = 82 \pm 4$ deg (Poretti et al. 2009) according to the relation derived by Gizon & Solanki (2003). Furthermore, spherical harmonic degree l represents the number of nodal lines on the spherical surface. For higher spherical harmonic degree l , the sphere will be divided into more zones. Owing to the geometrical cancellation, modes with low degree l are easier observed. Four frequencies of f_{30} , f_{31} , f_{32} , and f_{33} are too close to each other. In Table 2, we see that f_{33} has already been identified as one component of a triplet (Multiplet 2). Frequency spacing between theoretical pulsation modes with $l = 1$ is very large, thus f_{30} , f_{31} , and f_{32} could not be identified as modes with $l = 1$. Besides, only one component is observed. It is difficult to identify their spherical harmonic degree l . In the following theoretical calculation, we compare them with modes with $l = 0, 2$, and 3.

Based on above analyses, our mode identifications differ from those of Poretti et al. (2009). Poretti et al. (2009) identify the observed frequencies with the FAMIAS method to fit the line profile variations. There is still uncertainty on the uniqueness of the solution for the multiparameter-fitting method of the line profile variations. Our mode identifications are on the basis of the property of g -mode rotational splitting. For the δ Scuti star HD 50844, rotational splittings for modes with $l \geq 3$ are very close according to Eq. (1). Distinguishing multiplets of $l = 4$ or higher spherical harmonic degree l from those of $l = 3$ is very difficult. In spectroscopy, the behaviour of amplitudes and phases across the line profiles supplies information on both the spherical harmonic degree l and azimuthal number m . For

Fig. 1. Evolutionary tracks. The rectangle is the 1σ error box for the observational constraints.

instance phase diagrams of six detected modes of BV Cir clearly show that they are prograde modes with a high azimuthal number $-14 \leq m \leq -12$ (Mantegazza et al. 2001).

3. Stellar models

3.1. Input physics

In this study, we use the so-called package pulse from version 6596 of the Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics (MESA; Paxton et al. 2011, 2013) to compute stellar evolutionary models and to calculate their pulsation frequencies (Christensen-Dalsgaard 2008). Our theoretical models for HD 50844 are constructed from the ZAMS to the post-main-sequence stage, fully covering the observed ranges of gravitational acceleration and effective temperature. The OPAL equation-of-state tables (Rogers & Nayfonov 2002) are used. The OPAL opacity tables from Iglesias & Rogers (1996) are used in the high temperature region and opacity tables from Ferguson et al. (2005) are used in the low temperature region. The $T - \tau$ relation of Eddington grey atmosphere is adopted in the atmosphere integration. The mixing-length theory (Böhm-Vitense 1958) is adopted to treat convection. The effects of convective overshooting and element diffusion are not considered in our calculations.

3.2. Details of model grids

The calibrated value of $\alpha = 1.77$ for the sun is adopted in our stellar evolutionary models. The evolutionary track of a star on the HR diagram is determined by the stellar mass M and the initial chemical composition (X, Y, Z). In our calculations, we set the initial helium fraction $Y = 0.275$ as a constant. Then we choose the range of mass fraction of heavy-elements Z from 0.005 to 0.018, to cover the observational value of $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.40 \pm 0.20$ (Poretti et al. 2005).

A grid of stellar models are computed with MESA, M ranging from 1.5 $M_{\odot}$ to 2.2 $M_{\odot}$ with a step of 0.01 $M_{\odot}$, and Z ranging from 0.005 to 0.018 with a step of 0.001. Figure 1 shows the grid of evolutionary tracks with various sets of M and Z . The error box corresponds to the effective temperature range of 7300 K $< T_{\text{eff}} < 7700$ K and to the gravitational acceleration range of 3.40 $< \log g < 3.80$. For each stellar model falling in the error box, we calculate its frequencies of pulsation modes with $l = 0, 1, 2$, and 3, and fit them to those observational frequencies according to

$$\chi^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum (|\nu_{\text{obs}}^i - \nu_{\text{mod}}^i|^2). \quad (2)$$

Fig. 2. $1/\chi^2$ as a function of the effective temperature T_{eff} . The filled circle denotes the best-fitting model in Sect. 4.1.

Table 3. Fundamental parameters of the δ Scuti star HD 50844.

Parameter	Values
T_{eff} [K]	7508 ± 125
$\log g$	3.658 ± 0.004
$M/M_{\odot}$	1.81 ± 0.01
Z	0.008 ± 0.001
$R/R_{\odot}$	3.300 ± 0.023
$L/L_{\odot}$	30.98 ± 2.39
$M_{\text{He}}/M_{\odot}$	0.173 ± 0.004
$R_{\text{He}}/R_{\odot}$	0.068 ± 0.001

In Eq. (2), ν_{obs}^i is observational frequency, ν_{mod}^i is the calculated pulsation frequency, and N is the total number of observational frequencies. Based on numerical simulations, most of the uncertainties of the calculated pulsation frequencies are less than $0.03 \mu\text{Hz}$, except that a few of them reach up to $0.06 \mu\text{Hz}$.

4. Analysis of results

4.1. Best-fitting model

In Sect. 2, we give our possible mode identifications for the observed frequencies obtained by Balona (2014) based on the rotational splitting law. When doing model fittings, we try to use the calculated frequencies of each model to fit four identified modes, including two modes with $l = 1$ (f_{22} and f_{29}), one mode with $l = 2$ (f_{11}), and the fundamental radial mode (f_4). Poretti et al. (2009) suggest that f_4 might be one mode with $l = 0$, based on the mode identifications with the FAMIAS method. Besides, Poretti et al. (2009) detect f_4 in the variations of equivalent width and radial velocity and identified f_4 as the mode with $l = 0$. Moreover, the photometric identifications made by Poretti et al. (2009) on the basis of the colour information of the multi-colour photometric data show f_4 as the fundamental radial mode. This is in accordance with the property that f_4 has the highest amplitude in the variations of both equivalent width and radial velocity. In our work, we use the identification of f_4 as the fundamental radial mode.

Figure 2 shows the change of $1/\chi^2$ as a function of the effective temperature T_{eff} for all considered models. In Fig. 2, each curve corresponds to one evolutionary track. In Fig. 2, we note that the value of $1/\chi^2$ is very large in a very small parameter space, i.e., $M = 1.80\text{--}1.81 M_{\odot}$ and $Z = 0.008\text{--}0.009$. Their physical parameters are very close. The physical parameters of HD 50844 are obtained based on these models. These are listed in Table 3. We select the theoretical model with the minimum

Fig. 3. Plot of $\beta_{k,l}$ to theoretical frequency ν of our best-fitting model. The filled circles denote modes corresponding to the $m = 0$ mode in Table 5, and the two filled squares denote modes corresponding to the $m = 0$ modes for Multiplet 8.

value of χ^2 corresponding to ($M = 1.81, Z = 0.008$) as our best-fitting model, which is indicated with the filled cycle in Fig. 2.

The theoretical frequencies of our best-fitting model are listed in Table 4, where n_p is the number of radial nodes in the p -mode propagation region, and n_g the number of radial nodes in the g -mode propagation region. In particular, $\beta_{k,l}$ is a parameter measuring the size of rotational splitting for a rigid body in the general formula of rotational splitting derived by Christensen-Dalsgaard (2003):

$$\beta_{k,l} = \frac{\int_0^R (\xi_r^2 + l(l+1)\xi_h^2 - 2\xi_r\xi_h - \xi_h^2)r^2\rho dr}{\int_0^R (\xi_r^2 + l(l+1)\xi_h^2)r^2\rho dr}. \quad (3)$$

In Eq. (3), ξ_r is the radial displacement, ξ_h the horizontal displacement, and ρ the local density. Therefore, the effect of rotation is basically determined by the value of $\beta_{k,l}$. For high-order g modes, the terms containing ξ_r can be neglected, thus:

$$\beta_{k,l} \simeq 1 - \frac{1}{l(l+1)}, \quad (4)$$

which is in agreement with Eq. (1).

Figure 3 shows the plot of $\beta_{k,l}$ versus the theoretical frequency ν for the best-fitting model. It can be seen that most of values of $\beta_{k,l}$ in Fig. 3 agree well with the value of 0.5 for $l = 1$ modes, 0.833 for $l = 2$ modes, or 0.917 for $l = 3$ modes derived from Eq. (1). These results indicate that the corresponding modes have pronounced g -mode characteristics. On the other hand, $\beta_{k,l}$ of several $l = 1$, $l = 2$, and $l = 3$ modes deviate considerably from the values derived from Eq. (1), indicating that they also possess significant p -mode characteristics.

Table 5 lists the results of comparisons of frequencies for those modes in Table 2, where $m \neq 0$ modes in columns named by ν_{mod} are derived from $m = 0$ modes, based on P_{rot} and $\beta_{k,l}$. The filled circles in Fig. 3 denote corresponding $m = 0$ modes in Table 5. It can be seen clearly in Fig. 3 that values of $\beta_{k,l}$ for $m = 0$ modes corresponding to f_{22} , f_{29} , f_{11} , f_1 , f_{15} , and f_{34} agree well with those derived from Eq. (1). In Multiplet 7, 8, 9, 11, and 2, $m = 0$ components are not observed. Values of $\beta_{k,l}$ for corresponding $m = 0$ components in Multiplet 7, 9, 11, and 12 are also in good agreement with those derived from Eq. (1). The mode corresponding to f_{25} in Multiplet 3 and corresponding $m = 0$

Table 4. Theoretical frequencies of the best-fitting model.

$\nu_{\text{mod}}(l, n_p, n_g)$ (μHz)	$\beta_{k,l}$	$\nu_{\text{mod}}(l, n_p, n_g)$ (μHz)	$\beta_{k,l}$	$\nu_{\text{mod}}(l, n_p, n_g)$ (μHz)	$\beta_{k,l}$	$\nu_{\text{mod}}(l, n_p, n_g)$ (μHz)	$\beta_{k,l}$
79.937(0, 0, 0)		74.128(2, 0, -85)	0.833	221.105(2, 6, -27)	0.873	116.235(3, 1, -75)	0.925
103.356(0, 1, 0)		75.014(2, 0, -84)	0.834	225.913(2, 6, -26)	0.888	117.557(3, 2, -75)	0.923
128.796(0, 2, 0)		75.922(2, 0, -83)	0.834	230.117(2, 6, -25)	0.882	119.007(3, 2, -74)	0.920
154.668(0, 3, 0)		76.841(2, 0, -82)	0.836	236.592(2, 6, -24)	0.855	120.572(3, 2, -73)	0.919
179.930(0, 4, 0)		77.728(2, 0, -81)	0.841	245.080(2, 6, -23)	0.845	122.221(3, 2, -72)	0.918
204.942(0, 5, 0)		78.510(2, 0, -80)	0.850	253.222(2, 7, -23)	0.923	123.923(3, 2, -71)	0.918
230.740(0, 6, 0)		79.277(2, 0, -79)	0.848	255.491(2, 7, -22)	0.862	125.593(3, 2, -70)	0.917
257.460(0, 7, 0)		80.189(2, 0, -78)	0.842	265.949(2, 7, -21)	0.838	126.824(3, 2, -69)	0.918
284.964(0, 8, 0)		81.191(2, 0, -77)	0.840	277.822(2, 8, -21)	0.841	127.976(3, 2, -68)	0.919
313.007(0, 9, 0)		82.234(2, 0, -76)	0.840	281.162(2, 8, -20)	0.953	129.714(3, 2, -67)	0.919
341.328(0, 10, 0)		83.301(2, 0, -75)	0.841	291.148(2, 8, -19)	0.837	131.609(3, 2, -66)	0.919
		84.368(2, 0, -74)	0.844	305.609(2, 9, -19)	0.839	133.536(3, 2, -65)	0.921
73.770(1, 0, -49)	0.506	85.377(2, 0, -73)	0.851	309.331(2, 9, -18)	0.962	135.400(3, 2, -64)	0.926
75.163(1, 0, -48)	0.506	86.294(2, 1, -73)	0.851	321.765(2, 9, -17)	0.836	137.101(3, 2, -63)	0.931
76.709(1, 0, -47)	0.507	87.298(2, 1, -72)	0.842	337.707(2, 10, -17)	0.963	138.850(3, 2, -62)	0.926
78.364(1, 0, -46)	0.510	88.458(2, 1, -71)	0.837			140.875(3, 2, -61)	0.922
80.079(1, 0, -45)	0.532	89.711(2, 1, -70)	0.835	73.365(3, 0, -122)	0.915	143.104(3, 2, -60)	0.920
81.427(1, 0, -44)	0.784	91.017(2, 1, -69)	0.834	73.966(3, 0, -121)	0.915	145.460(3, 2, -59)	0.919
82.262(1, 0, -43)	0.605	92.357(2, 1, -68)	0.834	74.573(3, 0, -120)	0.915	147.905(3, 3, -59)	0.919
84.045(1, 1, -43)	0.513	93.700(2, 1, -67)	0.834	75.176(3, 0, -119)	0.914	150.404(3, 3, -58)	0.919
86.042(1, 1, -42)	0.505	94.961(2, 1, -66)	0.834	75.741(3, 0, -118)	0.912	152.752(3, 3, -57)	0.923
88.135(1, 1, -41)	0.504	96.060(2, 1, -65)	0.835	76.259(3, 0, -117)	0.913	154.085(3, 3, -56)	0.927
90.289(1, 1, -40)	0.504	97.268(2, 1, -64)	0.835	76.826(3, 0, -116)	0.915	156.107(3, 3, -55)	0.921
92.440(1, 1, -39)	0.506	98.704(2, 1, -63)	0.835	77.463(3, 0, -115)	0.917	158.756(3, 3, -54)	0.922
94.501(1, 1, -38)	0.510	100.261(2, 1, -62)	0.836	78.126(3, 0, -114)	0.917	161.419(3, 3, -53)	0.926
96.588(1, 1, -37)	0.512	101.882(2, 1, -61)	0.837	78.795(3, 0, -113)	0.918	163.877(3, 3, -52)	0.933
98.956(1, 1, -36)	0.511	103.525(2, 1, -60)	0.841	79.467(3, 0, -112)	0.919	166.324(3, 3, -51)	0.929
101.614(1, 1, -35)	0.515	105.094(2, 1, -59)	0.853	80.136(3, 0, -111)	0.921	169.171(3, 3, -50)	0.923
104.448(1, 1, -34)	0.542	106.458(2, 1, -58)	0.866	80.781(3, 0, -110)	0.923	172.358(3, 3, -49)	0.920
106.628(1, 1, -33)	0.809	107.890(2, 1, -57)	0.853	81.405(3, 0, -109)	0.923	175.756(3, 4, -49)	0.919
108.119(1, 2, -33)	0.584	109.624(2, 1, -56)	0.843	82.070(3, 0, -108)	0.921	179.227(3, 4, -48)	0.921
111.257(1, 2, -32)	0.510	111.535(2, 1, -55)	0.839	82.795(3, 0, -107)	0.920	181.057(3, 4, -47)	0.942
114.802(1, 2, -31)	0.504	113.545(2, 2, -55)	0.838	83.560(3, 0, -106)	0.919	183.359(3, 4, -46)	0.921
118.595(1, 2, -30)	0.504	115.605(2, 2, -54)	0.839	84.349(3, 0, -105)	0.919	187.183(3, 4, -45)	0.920
122.602(1, 2, -29)	0.506	117.600(2, 2, -53)	0.843	85.157(3, 0, -104)	0.918	191.181(3, 4, -44)	0.922
126.726(1, 2, -28)	0.522	119.260(2, 2, -52)	0.846	85.981(3, 0, -103)	0.919	195.152(3, 4, -43)	0.927
130.331(1, 2, -27)	0.673	120.950(2, 2, -51)	0.839	86.813(3, 0, -102)	0.919	198.767(3, 4, -42)	0.935
132.705(1, 2, -26)	0.713	123.113(2, 2, -50)	0.837	87.637(3, 0, -101)	0.920	202.195(3, 5, -42)	0.931
136.429(1, 3, -26)	0.562	125.507(2, 2, -49)	0.837	88.426(3, 0, -100)	0.922	206.064(3, 5, -41)	0.927
140.721(1, 3, -25)	0.528	127.980(2, 2, -48)	0.842	89.186(3, 1, -100)	0.922	208.194(3, 5, -40)	0.951
145.499(1, 3, -24)	0.515	130.328(2, 2, -47)	0.858	89.977(3, 1, -99)	0.921	211.473(3, 5, -39)	0.925
151.060(1, 3, -23)	0.516	132.312(2, 2, -46)	0.871	90.837(3, 1, -98)	0.919	216.489(3, 5, -38)	0.920
157.146(1, 3, -22)	0.586	134.571(2, 2, -45)	0.852	91.753(3, 1, -97)	0.918	221.926(3, 5, -37)	0.919
159.957(1, 3, -21)	0.872	137.350(2, 2, -44)	0.842	92.707(3, 1, -96)	0.918	227.679(3, 6, -37)	0.919
164.999(1, 4, -21)	0.518	140.383(2, 3, -44)	0.840	93.688(3, 1, -95)	0.917	233.424(3, 6, -36)	0.936
172.796(1, 4, -20)	0.506	143.525(2, 3, -43)	0.841	94.688(3, 1, -94)	0.917	234.266(3, 6, -35)	0.944
181.381(1, 4, -19)	0.537	146.442(2, 3, -42)	0.852	95.696(3, 1, -93)	0.917	240.137(3, 6, -34)	0.920
184.971(1, 4, -18)	0.946	148.490(2, 3, -41)	0.857	96.678(3, 1, -92)	0.916	246.672(3, 6, -33)	0.922
191.532(1, 5, -18)	0.513	151.285(2, 3, -40)	0.842	97.559(3, 1, -91)	0.914	253.285(3, 6, -32)	0.924
202.262(1, 5, -17)	0.511	154.841(2, 3, -39)	0.841	98.379(3, 1, -90)	0.913	259.690(3, 7, -32)	0.930
209.971(1, 5, -16)	0.950	158.600(2, 3, -38)	0.847	99.335(3, 1, -89)	0.915	261.738(3, 7, -31)	0.961
214.936(1, 6, -16)	0.534	162.205(2, 3, -37)	0.867	100.404(3, 1, -88)	0.916	266.698(3, 7, -30)	0.926
228.286(1, 6, -15)	0.519	165.256(2, 3, -36)	0.879	101.508(3, 1, -87)	0.917	274.132(3, 7, -29)	0.923
236.146(1, 6, -14)	0.940	168.714(2, 4, -36)	0.853	102.583(3, 1, -86)	0.919	282.527(3, 7, -28)	0.920
244.380(1, 7, -14)	0.531	172.920(2, 4, -35)	0.844	103.550(3, 1, -85)	0.923	289.899(3, 8, -28)	0.969
259.795(1, 7, -13)	0.673	176.887(2, 4, -34)	0.867	104.500(3, 1, -84)	0.923	291.819(3, 8, -27)	0.920
264.796(1, 7, -12)	0.787	179.615(2, 4, -33)	0.876	105.609(3, 1, -83)	0.921	301.852(3, 8, -26)	0.919
281.150(1, 8, -12)	0.564	183.967(2, 4, -32)	0.848	106.840(3, 1, -82)	0.919	312.725(3, 9, -26)	0.918
290.383(1, 8, -11)	0.861	189.361(2, 4, -31)	0.843	108.142(3, 1, -81)	0.919	318.626(3, 9, -25)	0.974
305.164(1, 9, -11)	0.591	195.099(2, 5, -31)	0.846	109.493(3, 1, -80)	0.919	324.479(3, 9, -24)	0.918
316.966(1, 9, -10)	0.810	199.571(2, 5, -30)	0.895	110.875(3, 1, -79)	0.919	337.177(3, 9, -23)	0.918
332.335(1, 10, -10)	0.665	202.435(2, 5, -29)	0.859	112.270(3, 1, -78)	0.920		
		208.527(2, 5, -28)	0.847	113.646(3, 1, -77)	0.922		
73.274(2, 0, -86)	0.833	215.073(2, 5, -27)	0.855	114.966(3, 1, -76)	0.924		

Notes. ν_{mod} represents model frequency in μHz . n_p is the number of radial nodes in propagation cavity of p -mode. n_g is the number of radial nodes in propagation cavity of g -mode. $\beta_{k,l}$ is one parameter weight the size of rotational splitting.

Table 5. Result of comparisons of frequencies for those modes in Table 2.

Multiplet	ID	ν_{obs} (μHz)	ν_{mode} (μHz)	$\Delta\nu$ (μHz)	Multiplet	ID	ν_{obs} (μHz)	ν_{mode} (μHz)	$\Delta\nu$ (μHz)
1	f_{21}	148.709	148.617(1, -1)	0.092	8 ^a	f_2	76.141	76.202(2, -1)	0.061
	f_{22}	151.178	151.060(1, 0)	0.118		f_7	88.369	88.163(2, +2)	0.206
	f_{23}	153.627	153.503(1, +1)	0.124	8 ^b	f_2	76.141	76.375(2, -2)	0.234
2	f_{27}	162.752	162.546(1, -1)	0.206		f_7	88.369	88.364(2, +1)	0.005
	f_{29}	165.088	164.999(1, 0)	0.089	9	f_{12}	129.823	129.376(2, -2)	0.447
	f_{33}	167.570	167.452(1, +1)	0.118		f_{20}	141.648	141.337(2, +1)	0.311
3	f_{24}	154.615	154.371(1, -1)	0.244	10	f_{38}	216.702	216.971(2, -1)	0.269
	f_{25}	157.046	157.146(1, 0)	0.100		f_{39}	228.592	229.372(2, +2)	0.780
4	f_9	115.193	115.187(2, -2)	0.006	11	f_3	76.719	76.894(3, -3)	0.175
	f_{11}	123.030	123.113(2, 0)	0.083		f_6	85.704	85.616(3, -1)	0.088
	f_{14}	131.227	131.039(2, +2)	0.188		f_8	99.116	98.699(3, +2)	0.417
5	f_1	75.886	75.922(2, 0)	0.036	12	f_{10}	118.754	118.555(3, -3)	0.199
	f_5	83.958	83.820(2, +2)	0.138		f_{17}	136.007	135.960(3, +1)	0.047
6	f_{15}	134.761	134.571(2, 0)	0.190	13	f_{19}	140.309	140.312(3, +2)	0.003
	f_{18}	138.700	138.605(2, +2)	0.095		f_{26}	160.300	160.430(3, -2)	0.130
7	f_{35}	176.206	175.936(2, -2)	0.270		f_{28}	164.751	164.801(3, -1)	0.050
	f_{36}	180.189	179.952(2, -1)	0.237		f_{34}	168.989	169.171(3, 0)	0.182
						f_{37}	182.320	182.282(3, +3)	0.038

Notes. ν_{obs} shows observed frequencies in μHz , ν_{mod} shows theoretical frequencies in μHz . $\Delta\nu = |\nu_{\text{obs}} - \nu_{\text{mod}}|$.

component in Multiplet 10 have slightly larger values of $\beta_{k,l}$ than those derived from Eq. (1). It can be noticed in Table 5 that there are two possible identifications for Multiplet 8, i.e., corresponding to modes of $m = (-1, +2)$ derived from $80.189 \mu\text{Hz}$ (2, 0, -78, 0), or $m = (-2, +1)$ from $84.368 \mu\text{Hz}$ (2, 0, -74, 0). The filled squares in Fig. 3 denote these two possible $m = 0$ modes in Multiplet 8. It can be seen in Fig. 3 that the values of $\beta_{k,l}$ for both of the two choices are in good agreement with Eq. (1). These results confirm our approach of using Eq. (1) to search for rotational splitting in Sect. 2.

Based on the best-fitting model, possible identifications for f_{13} , f_{16} , f_{30} , f_{31} , f_{32} , and f_{40} are listed in Table 6. In Table 6, we note that f_{30} , f_{31} , f_{32} , and f_{40} may be identified as four modes with $l = 3$. et al. (2009) identify f_{30} as ($l = 4, m = 2$) and f_{31} as ($l = 4, m = 3$). Considering uncertainties of spectroscopic observations obtained by (Poretti et al. 2009), the spherical harmonic degree l of our suggestions agree with those of Poretti et al. (2009). For f_{16} , there are three possible identifications, i.e., corresponding to modes of (l, m) = (2, -2), (3, +2), or (3, 0).

Besides, there are two possible identifications for f_{15} based on the analyses in Sect. 2. If f_{15} and f_{13} are identified as two components of one incomplete septuplet, (130.081, 134.465) derived from $138.850 \mu\text{Hz}$ (3, 2, -62, 0) or (130.035, 134.392) derived from $143.104 \mu\text{Hz}$ (3, 2, -60, 0) may be two possibilities. If f_{15} and f_{18} are identified as two components of one incomplete quintuplet, the results of comparisons are listed in Table 5. Poretti et al. (2009) identified f_{15} as a mode with ($l = 8, m = 5$). The spherical harmonic degree l for both of the two cases ($l = 3$ or 2) are lower than the value of Poretti et al. (2009).

4.2. Discussions

An important question to address is why physical parameters of HD 50844 are well limited in a small region based on four identified pulsation modes. We have found a possible reason to explain this result.

First of all, we note that the four identified modes consist of two $l = 1$ modes (f_{22} and f_{29}), one $l = 2$ mode (f_{11}), and the

Table 6. Possible mode identifications for the rest of the observed frequencies based on our best-fitting model.

ID	ν_{obs} (μHz)	$\nu_{\text{mod}}(l, n_p, n_g, m)$ (μHz)	$\Delta\nu$ (μHz)
f_4	80.154	79.937(0, 0, 0)	0.217
f_{13}	130.301	130.331(1, 2, -15, 0)	0.030
		130.328(2, 2, -47, 0)	0.027
f_{16}	135.525	135.561(2, 2, -43, -2)	0.036
		135.517(3, 2, -69, +2)	0.008
		135.400(3, 2, -64, 0)	0.125
f_{30}	167.039	167.053(3, 4, -49, -2)	0.014
f_{31}	167.208	167.253(3, 3, -56, +3)	0.045
f_{32}	167.375	167.487(3, 3, -54, +2)	0.112
f_{40}	315.920	315.786(3, 9, -24, -2)	0.134

Notes. $\Delta\nu = |\nu_{\text{obs}} - \nu_{\text{mod}}|$.

Fig. 4. N denotes Brunt–Väisälä frequency and L_l ($l = 1, 2, 3$) denote Lamb frequency. M_* denotes the total mass of the star. The vertical line denotes the boundary of the helium core.

fundamental radial mode (f_4). Table 4 shows that most of the pulsation modes are mixed modes. Figure 4 shows the propagation diagram for the best-fitting model. According to the parameter settings of MESA (Paxton et al. 2011, 2013), the boundary of helium core is set to the position where the hydrogen fraction $X_{cb} = 0.01$. The vertical lines in Figs. 4 and 5 denote the position of the boundary of the helium core. The inner zone is the helium core, the outer zone is the stellar envelope. In Fig. 4, we see that the Brunt–Väisälä frequency N has a peak in the helium core, which corresponds to the hydrogen-burning shell. Figure 5 shows distributions of the radial displacement for the fundamental radial mode and the three nonradial modes that we have considered. In Fig. 5, we clearly see that the fundamental radial mode propagates mainly in the stellar envelope, and represents the property of the stellar envelope. However, the three nonradial modes propagate like g modes in the helium core while like p modes in the stellar envelope. This fact confirms that they are mixed modes and can therefore represent the property of the helium core. To fit those four modes at the same time, both the stellar envelope and the helium core must be matched to the considered star.

Fig. 5. Scaled eigenfunctions of modes corresponding to f_4 , f_{11} , f_{22} , and f_{29} . $X_q = \sqrt{q(1-q)}$ and $q = M_r/M_*$. Panel **a**) is for the fundamental radial mode 79.937 μHz ($l = 0, n_p = 0, n_g = 0$). Panel **b**) is for the mode 151.060 μHz ($l = 1, n_p = 3, n_g = -23$). Panel **c**) is for the mode 164.999 μHz ($l = 1, n_p = 4, n_g = -21$). Panel **d**) is for the mode 123.113 μHz ($l = 2, n_p = 2, n_g = -50$). Vertical line denotes the boundary of the helium core. **Fig. 6.** Plot of sound radius T_h to period spacing Π_0 with the same initial metallicity $Z = 0.008$ and different stellar mass M . The filled circle represents our best-fitting model. The filled triangles represent models that have a minimum value of χ^2 on corresponding evolutionary tracks.

The acoustic radius T_h is defined as $T_h = \int_0^R c_s^{-1} dr$ (Aerts et al. 2010), where c_s is the adiabatic sound speed. Therefore, the acoustic radius T_h is mainly determined by the distribution of c_s inside the star. The sound speed c_s is much smaller in the stellar envelope than in the helium core, thus T_h can be used to reflect the property of the stellar envelope.

According to the asymptotic theory of g modes, there is an equation for the period separation (Unno et al. 1979; Tassoul 1980)

$$\Delta\bar{P}(l) = \frac{\Pi_0}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}} = \frac{2\pi^2 \left(\int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{N}{r} dr \right)^{-1}}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}}, \quad (5)$$

where r_1 is the inner boundary of the region where gravity waves propagate, r_2 is the outer boundary, and N is the Brunt–Väisälä

Fig. 7. Plot of sound radius T_h to period spacing Π_0 with the same stellar mass $M = 1.81$ and different initial metallicity Z . The filled circle represents our best-fitting model. The filled triangles represent models which have a minimum value of χ^2 on corresponding evolutionary tracks.

frequency. In Eq. (5), $\Pi_0 = 2\pi^2 \left(\int_{r_1}^{r_2} N/dr \right)^{-1}$, which is mainly determined by the distribution of Brunt-Väisälä frequency N in the helium core. Therefore, Π_0 can be used to reflect the property of the helium core.

Figure 6 shows the distribution of the period spacing Π_0 versus the acoustic radius T_h for theoretical models with the same initial metallicity Z but different stellar mass M . Figure 7 shows the same plot for theoretical models with the same stellar mass M , but different initial metallicity Z . The filled circle corresponds to our best-fitting model, while the filled triangles correspond to stellar models having minimum values of χ^2 on the corresponding evolutionary tracks, respectively. In Fig. 6, we note that the acoustic radius T_h of the stellar models marked by the filled triangles obviously deviate from the value of our best-fitting model, which indicates that the stellar envelopes of these models cannot match the actual structure of the considered star. In contrast, the period spacing Π_0 of the stellar models indicated by the filled triangles in Fig. 7 obviously deviate from the value of our best-fitting model, which indicates that the helium cores of these models cannot match the actual structure of the considered star. Based on the above arguments, further more the size of the helium core of the δ Scuti star HD 50844 is determined for the first time. The corresponding physical parameters are listed in Table 3.

Gizon & Solanki (2003) investigated in details the relation between the stellar oscillation amplitude and the inclination angle i of stellar rotation axes. In Table 1, we can see that the $m = 0$ component f_{22} of Multiplet 1 has an amplitude that is about nine times smaller than the $m = -1$ components f_{21} and about seven times smaller than the $m = +1$ components f_{23} . Such large differences correspond to an inclination angle $i \approx 76^\circ$ according to the relation given by Gizon & Solanki (2003). This fact is roughly in agreement with the value of 82° (Poretti et al. 2009). The $m = 0$ component in Multiplet 4 has the least amplitude, and the $m = 0$ component in Multiplet 2 also has a smaller amplitude.

The rotational period P_{rot} is determined as being $2.44^{+0.13}_{-0.08}$ days according to Eq. (1). In Table 3, we note that the theoretical radius of HD 50844 is $R = 3.300 \pm 0.023 R_\odot$. As such, the rotational velocity at the equator is derived as $v_{\text{rot}} = 68.33^{+2.34}_{-3.70} \text{ km s}^{-1}$ according to $v_{\text{rot}} = 2\pi R/P_{\text{rot}}$. Assuming the inclination angle $i = 82 \pm 4^\circ$ (Poretti et al. 2009), $v_{\text{rot}} \sin i$ is estimated to be $66.86 \pm 3.64 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, which is higher than the value of $v \sin i = 58 \pm 2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Poretti et al. 2009). In Sect. 4.1, we demonstrated that most of the considered frequencies are mixed

modes. They have pronounced g -mode characteristics. The corresponding rotational velocity derived from rotational splitting of these modes mainly reflects the rotational properties of the helium core. The δ Scuti star HD 50844 is a slightly evolved star. As the star evolves into the post-main-sequence stage, the core shrinks and the envelope expands. Based on the conservation of angular momentum, rotational angular velocity of the core should be larger than that of the envelope. The spectroscopic value of $v \sin i$ (Poretti et al. 2009) mainly reflects the property of the envelope. This may be the reason why our rotational velocity is higher than that of Poretti et al. (2009).

5. Summary

In our work, we have analysed the observed frequencies given by Balona (2014) for possible rotational splitting, and carried out numerical model fittings for the δ Scuti star HD 50844. We summarize our results as follows:

We identify two complete triplets (f_{21}, f_{22}, f_{23}) and (f_{27}, f_{29}, f_{33}) as modes with $l = 1$, and one incomplete quintuplet (f_9, f_{11}, f_{14}) as modes with $l = 2$, as well as one more incomplete triplet (f_{24}, f_{25}) as modes with $l = 1$ and six more incomplete quintuplets (f_1, f_5), (f_{15}, f_{18}), (f_{35}, f_{36}), (f_2, f_7), (f_{12}, f_{20}), and (f_{38}, f_{39}) as modes with $l = 2$. Besides, three incomplete septuplets (f_3, f_6, f_8), (f_{10}, f_{17}, f_{19}), and ($f_{26}, f_{28}, f_{34}, f_{37}$) are identified as modes with $l = 3$. Based on frequency differences of the above multiplets, the corresponding rotational period of HD 50844 is found to be $2.44^{+0.13}_{-0.08}$ days.

Based on our model calculations, we compare theoretical pulsation modes with four identified observational modes, including three nonradial modes (f_{11}, f_{22}, f_{29}) and the fundamental radial mode (f_4). The physical parameters of HD 50844 are well limited in a small region. Based on the fitting results, we suggest the theoretical model with $M = 1.81 M_\odot$, $Z = 0.008$ as the best-fitting model.

Based on our best-fitting model, we find that the values of $\beta_{k,l}$ for most of the calculated modes are in good agreement with the asymptotic values for g -modes. Some modes may have values of $\beta_{k,l}$ that are considerably higher than the asymptotic values. However, the values of $\beta_{k,l}$ for the $m = 0$ modes in those identified triplets, quintuplets, or septuplets are in good agreement with the asymptotic values of g -modes, which confirms that our approach for searching for rotational splitting based on the rule of g -modes is self-consistent.

Based on comparisons of all observed frequencies with their theoretical counterparts, we find that most of the considered frequencies may belong to mixed modes. The radial fundamental mode f_4 reflects the property of the stellar envelope, while the three nonradial modes f_{11}, f_{22} , and f_{29} reflect the property of the helium core. These features require that both the stellar envelope and the helium core must be matched to the actual structure to fit these four oscillation modes. Finally, the mass of helium core of HD 50844 is estimated to be $0.173 \pm 0.004 M_\odot$.

Acknowledgements. We are sincerely grateful to an anonymous referee for instructive advice and productive suggestions that greatly helped us to improve the manuscript. This work is funded by the NSFC of China (Grant No. 11333006, 11521303, and 11403094) and by the foundation of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Grant No. XDB09010202 and Light of West China Program). We gratefully acknowledge the computing time granted by the Yunnan Observatories, and provided on the facilities at the Yunnan Observatories Supercomputing Platform. We are also very grateful to J.-J. Guo, G.-F. Lin, Q.-S. Zhang, Y.-H. Chen, and J. Su for their kind discussions and suggestions.

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