

# Role of density-dependent magnon hopping and magnon-magnon repulsion in ferrimagnetic spin-(1/2, $S$ ) chains in a magnetic field

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We compare the ground-state features of alternating ferrimagnetic chains ( $1/2, S$ ) with  $S = 1, 3/2, 2, 5/2$  in a magnetic field and the corresponding Holstein-Primakoff bosonic models up to order  $\sqrt{s/S}$ , with  $s = 1/2$ , considering the fully polarized magnetization as the boson vacuum. The single-particle Hamiltonian is a Rice-Mele model with uniform hopping and modified boundaries, while the interactions have a correlated (density-dependent) hopping term and magnon-magnon repulsion. The magnon-magnon repulsion increases the many-magnon energy and the density-dependent hopping decreases the kinetic energy. We use density matrix renormalization group calculations to investigate the effects of these two interaction terms in the bosonic model and display the quantitative agreement between the results from the spin model and the full bosonic approximation. In particular, we verify the good accordance in the behavior of the edge states, associated with the ferrimagnetic plateau, from the spin and from the bosonic models. Furthermore, we show that the boundary magnon density strongly depends on the interactions and particle statistics.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The gapped phases of magnetic insulators are responsible for magnetization ( $m$ ) plateaus in the  $m$  vs magnetic field curves [1]. In one dimension, these incompressible phases satisfy the topological Oshikawa-Yamanaka-Affleck [2] criteria and exhibit associated edge states in open spin chains [3]. The gapped phases are separated by gapless phases that have a low-energy physics described by the Tomonaga-Luttinger-liquid theory [4]. Thus, the magnetic field  $h$  induces quantum phase transitions in the spin chain, with quantum critical points at the plateau extremes [5,6]. In the vicinity of the quantum critical points, the magnons are in a high-dilute regime and can be treated as a gas of hard-core bosons [7,8] or fermions [9]. In this approximation, the energy is comprised only by a *simple hopping term* and the uniform Zeeman term, which plays the role of chemical potential in the effective model. Following this approach, we can show that the  $m(h)$  curve (magnon density) presents a square-root singularity in the gapless side of the transition. The first correction to this law is linear and obtained by taking into account *magnon-magnon interaction* through a phenomenological scattering length [10–14].

Another kind of hopping term is known as *correlated* (or *density-dependent*) *hopping* and is essential in the modeling of a variety of quantum systems [15]. One of these terms, the bond-charge interaction [16], is used to model electrons in strongly correlated materials [17–21] and was particularly investigated in the context of high- $T_c$  superconductivity. Besides, the Hubbard model with this term has an exact solution in a special point of the

parameter space [22–25]. On the other hand, the extended boson Hubbard model with a density-dependent hopping is an effective Hamiltonian for bosonic molecules, typically polar species [26–28], in optical lattices [29–36]. Further, general correlated hopping hard-core bosonic Hamiltonians are investigated to understand the physics of frustrated insulating magnetic materials [29–31,37].

The ground state of ferrimagnetic chains satisfies the Lieb-Mattis theorem [38], exhibits ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic long-range orders [39], and was investigated in the isotropic [40–42] and anisotropic [41,43,44] cases. Ferrimagnetic systems, in particular, the behavior of the edge states associated with the  $1/3$  magnetization plateau of the  $AB_2$  anisotropic chain, were recently investigated [45]. Furthermore, rich phase diagrams are observed through doping [46–50] or adding geometric frustration [51–58] to the ferrimagnetic models. In particular, ferrimagnetic spin-( $1/2, S$ ) chains under an applied magnetic field present magnetization plateaus at  $m = S - 1/2$  (ferrimagnetic plateau) and  $m = S + 1/2$  (saturation plateau), where  $m$  is the magnetization per unit cell [59–64]. On the experimental side, the one-dimensional magnetic phase of a variety of bimetallic compounds was shown to be modeled by spin-( $1/2, S$ ) ferrimagnetic chains [65–70]. Recently, the full magnetization curve of the charge-transfer salt (4-Br-o-MePy-V)FeCl<sub>4</sub> was experimentally investigated [71] and shown to be a spin-( $1/2, 5/2$ ) chain above the three-dimensional ordering temperature.

Since spin-( $s, S$ ) ferrimagnetic chains have a long-ranged ordered ground state, linear and interacting spin-wave theory [72] from the classical *ferrimagnetic state* was used to characterize their low-energy magnetic excitations, mainly

through the Holstein-Primakoff formalism [59,60,73–78]. Furthermore, linear spin-wave theory from the *fully polarized state* [64] gives good results for the gapped and gapless phases of spin-(1/2,  $S$ ) chains in a magnetic field.

Here we show that the Holstein-Primakoff Hamiltonian up to order  $\sqrt{s/S}$  gives almost exactly results to the ground-state phase diagram of ferrimagnetic spin-(1/2,  $S$ ) chains in a magnetic field. We use the density matrix renormalization group (DMRG) [79,80] to obtain the magnetization curves, besides local properties from the Holstein-Primakoff Hamiltonian and the spin Hamiltonian. In addition to the *simple hopping* and the *nearest-neighbor* interacting terms, a *correlated hopping* term is essential to obtain a good accord between the numerical results from the spin and bosonic models. In Sec. II we present the Holstein-Primakoff Hamiltonian and the analytical formulas for the hard-core boson approximation. In Sec. III we compare the DMRG results for the magnetization and local properties from the Holstein-Primakoff Hamiltonian and the spin model. In Sec. IV we present a summary of the main results of the paper.

## II. HOLSTEIN-PRIMAKOFF BOSONIC HAMILTONIAN FROM THE FULLY POLARIZED VACUUM

The alternating mixed-spin ( $s = 1/2, S$ ) chain with  $L$  unit cells has the Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}^{\text{SPIN}} = J \sum_{j=1}^L (\mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_{j-1}) - BS_{\text{tot}}^z, \quad (1)$$

where

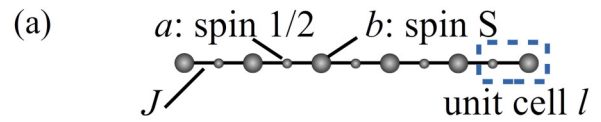
$$S_{\text{tot}}^z = \sum_j (s_j^z + S_j^z) \quad (2)$$

is the  $z$  component of the total spin, and we consider the magnetic field  $B$  in the  $z$  direction, with  $g\mu_B \equiv 1$ , where  $\mu_B$  is the Bohr magneton and  $g$  is the  $g$  factor. The spin-1/2 are attached to  $a$  sites, while spin- $S$  to  $b$  sites along the chain, and we study chains for which  $S = 1, 3/2, 2, 5/2$ , as schematically shown in Fig. 1(a). The ground-state total spin for  $B = 0$  is  $S - s$  and has a copy in each sector in the range  $-(S - s) \leq S_{\text{tot}}^z \leq (S - s)$ , as expected from the Lieb-Mattis theorem [38], with a ferrimagnetic (FRI) long-range ordered state. If a little magnetic field is applied, the ground state with  $S_{\text{tot}}^z = (S - s)$  is chosen. Further, the ground state has a finite gap to spin excitations carrying a spin  $\Delta S^z = +1$ , which induces a magnetization plateau at  $m_{\text{FRI}} = (S - s)$ . Also, a second magnetization plateau is the fully polarized plateau at  $m_{\text{FP}} = S + s$ .

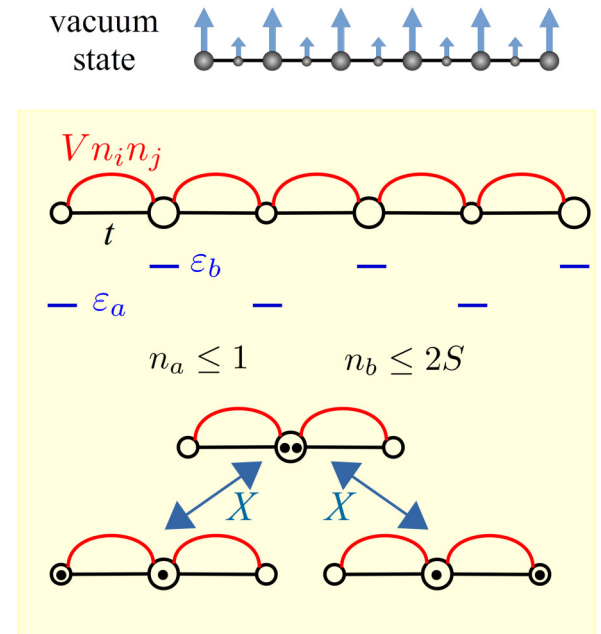
The *fully polarized state* is an exact ground state of the spin Hamiltonian, and we build the spin-wave theory considering it as the magnon vacuum. Making the Holstein-Primakoff mapping on  $a$  sites

$$\begin{aligned} s_j^z &= s - n_j^a, \\ s_j^- &= \sqrt{2sa_j^\dagger} \left(1 - \frac{n_j^a}{2s}\right)^{1/2} \approx \sqrt{2sa_j^\dagger} \left(1 - \frac{n_j^a}{4s}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

and on  $b$  sites:



### (b) Holstein-Primakoff bosonic model



### (c) Approximations

- (t)  $n_a \leq 1, n_b \leq 1$  with  $V = 0$
- (t - V)  $n_a \leq 1, n_b \leq 1$  with  $V = J$
- (t - X - V)  $n_a \leq 1, n_b \leq 2$  with  $V = J$

FIG. 1. (a) Schematic representation of the alternating spin model, with spin-1/2 at  $a$  sites, and spin- $S$  at  $b$  sites, with  $S = 1, 3/2, 2, \text{ and } 5/2$ . The  $z$  direction is the direction of an applied magnetic field  $B$  and the superexchange coupling is  $J$ . (b) Holstein-Primakoff bosonic Hamiltonian up to  $\mathcal{O}(S^{-1/2})$ , with a hopping term  $t = J\sqrt{sS}$ , local potentials  $\epsilon_a = -2SJ$  and  $\epsilon_b = -2sJ$ , nearest-neighbor interaction  $V = J$ , and density dependent correlated hopping process  $X = J\sqrt{s/S}$ . The  $a$  sites have a hard-core constraint,  $n_a \leq 1$ , while the constraint  $n_b \leq 2S$  is imposed on  $b$  sites, with  $n_a$  ( $n_b$ ) as the number of bosons in one  $a$  ( $b$ ) site. The magnetic field  $B$  acts as a chemical potential  $\mu$  in the bosonic model:  $\mu = -B$ . (c) The bosonic approximations investigated:  $t, t-V$ , and  $t-X-V$ . In the  $t$  and  $t-V$  approximations, there is a hard-core constraint on all sites, while in the  $t-X-V$  model, the  $b$  sites can accommodate up to two magnons.

$$\begin{aligned} s_j^z &= S - n_j^b, \\ s_j^- &= \sqrt{2Sb_j^\dagger} \left(1 - \frac{n_j^b}{2S}\right)^{1/2} \approx \sqrt{2Sb_j^\dagger} \left(1 - \frac{n_j^b}{4S}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where  $n_j^a = a_j^\dagger a_j$  and  $n_j^b = b_j^\dagger b_j$ , we arrive in the following spin-wave Hamiltonian

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H}^{\text{SW}} = J \sum_j \left\{ (S - n_j^b)(s - n_j^a) + \sqrt{sS} \left[ \left(1 - \frac{n_j^b}{4S}\right) b_j a_j^\dagger \left(1 - \frac{n_j^a}{4S}\right) \right. \right. \\
 \left. \left. + b_j^\dagger \left(1 - \frac{n_j^b}{4S}\right) \left(1 - \frac{n_j^a}{4S}\right) a_j \right] + \sqrt{sS} \left[ \left(1 - \frac{n_j^a}{4S}\right) a_j b_{j+1}^\dagger \left(1 - \frac{n_{j+1}^b}{4S}\right) \right. \right. \\
 \left. \left. + a_j^\dagger \left(1 - \frac{n_j^a}{4S}\right) \left(1 - \frac{n_{j+1}^b}{4S}\right) b_{j+1} \right] + (s - n_j^a)(S - n_{j+1}^b) \right\} - B \sum_j (S + s - n_j^a - n_j^b) + \mathcal{O}(S^{-1}). \quad (5)
 \end{aligned}$$

Dropping the classical energy of the ferromagnetic state  $E_{\text{class}} = 2JLsS - B(S + s)L$ , the relevant magnon Hamiltonian is:

$$H^{\text{SW}} = H_t + H_X + H_V + \mathcal{O}(S^{-1}), \quad (6)$$

with  $H^{\text{SW}} = \mathcal{H}^{\text{SW}} - E_{\text{class}}$ .

As sketched in Fig. 1(b), the  $H_t$  term comprises a hopping process and distinct local potentials on  $a$  and  $b$  sites:

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_t = t \sum_j (b_j^\dagger a_{j+1} + b_{j+1}^\dagger a_{j+1} + \text{H.c.}) \\
 + \sum_j [(\varepsilon_a - \mu)n_j^a + (\varepsilon_b - \mu)n_j^b] \quad (7)
 \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
 t &= J\sqrt{sS}, & \text{hopping parameter;} \\
 \varepsilon_a &= -2SJ, & \text{local potential on } a \text{ sites;} \\
 \varepsilon_b &= -2sJ, & \text{local potential on } b \text{ sites;} \\
 \mu &= -B. & \quad (8)
 \end{aligned}$$

In an open chain, if  $a$  or  $b$  is a boundary site, the local potential is half of the above value:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varepsilon_a^{(\text{boundary})} &= -SJ \\
 \varepsilon_b^{(\text{boundary})} &= -sJ. \quad (9)
 \end{aligned}$$

Considering the local potentials, we see that the magnon has a higher probability to be found on  $a$  sites, and this probability increases with  $S$ . However, since the hopping parameter  $t$  increases with  $\sqrt{S}$ , quantum fluctuations are relevant for moderate values of  $S$ , and the magnons can overcome the potential barrier between  $a$  and  $b$  sites.

We observe that the bulk Hamiltonian  $H_t$  is a particular case of the Rice-Mele model [81]:

$$\begin{aligned}
 H^{\text{Rice-Mele}} = \sum_j (t_2 b_j^\dagger a_{j+1} + t_1 b_{j+1}^\dagger a_{j+1} + \text{H.c.}) \\
 + \sum_j (\varepsilon_a n_j^a + \varepsilon_b n_j^b), \quad (10)
 \end{aligned}$$

putting  $\mu = 0$  and considering the general case of alternating hopping:  $t_1$  ( $t_2$ ) for intracell (intercell) hopping. The Rice-Mele Hamiltonian was originally proposed to model the physics of electrons in polymers but is a paradigmatic model to the understanding of topological insulators and can be realized by atoms in optical lattices [82]. The model presents the bulk-boundary correspondence [83], and an interacting

version was recently investigated [83] to probe the connection between topology and particle-particle interactions [83]. The Rice-Mele model recovers the bulk Hamiltonian  $H_t$  for  $t_1 = t_2$ . However, for an open chain, the mapping of the spin model requires local potentials on the boundary sites, Eq. (9).

The second term in the bosonic Hamiltonian (6) is a density-dependent or correlated hopping term given by

$$H_X = -X \sum_j [(a_j^\dagger + a_{j+1}^\dagger)n_j^b b_j + \text{H.c.}], \quad (11)$$

with

$$X = \frac{J}{4} \sqrt{\frac{s}{S}}. \quad (12)$$

Since  $s = 1/2$  and  $n_j^a \leq 1$ , a hard-core constraint must be imposed on  $a$  sites for all models considered. Hence, we discard a term similar to the  $X$  term but with  $a$  and  $b$  variables exchanged, with  $X' = \frac{J}{4} \sqrt{S/s}$  as the correlated hopping amplitude. As sketched in Fig. 1(b), the energy of the system is lowered by the hopping of a magnon to a site that is already occupied. In other words, the magnon probability to overcome the potential barrier between  $a$  and  $b$  sites increases if there is one magnon on the  $b$  site. This term becomes relevant for higher magnon densities, since it is an interaction term, and  $X \rightarrow 0$  as  $S$  increases.

The last term in the Hamiltonian (6), see Fig. 1(b), is a repulsive term between magnons in nearest neighbor sites:

$$H_V = V \sum_j n_{j+1}^a (n_j^b + n_{j+1}^b), \quad (13)$$

with  $V = J$ , and increases the energy for higher magnon densities. For one magnon per unit cell, this term favors the magnon localization on alternating  $a$  sites, since the local potentials ( $\varepsilon$ ) favor the occupation of  $a$  sites. Thus,  $\varepsilon$  (any density) and  $V$  (higher densities) favor magnon localization on  $a$  sites, while quantum fluctuations (tunneling between  $a$  and  $b$  sites) are favored by  $t$  (any density) and  $X$  (higher densities).

In this work, we compare data from three approximations of Hamiltonian (6), as summarized in Fig. 1(c), and from the spin Hamiltonian (1). The first, which we identify as the  $t$  approximation, is an analytical solution to the free hard-core model. In this approximation, all sites have a hard-core constraint and can be occupied by only one magnon:  $n_j^a \leq 1$  and  $n_j^b \leq 1$ , for any  $j$ . This constraint implies that there is not an energy contribution from the  $X$  term, and we drop the nearest-neighbor interaction  $V$ . In the second approximation,  $t$ - $V$ , we keep the hard-core constraint but add the  $V$  contribution to  $H_t$ . The last approximation,  $t$ - $X$ - $V$ , has the three terms  $H_t$ ,  $H_X$ ,

and  $H_V$ . We consider a hard-core constraint on  $a$  sites and a constraint  $n_j^b \leq 2$  on  $b$  sites. As we present below, the relaxation of the hard-core constraint on  $b$  sites and the consequent activation of the correlated hopping term implies an excellent agreement between the results of this approximation and the spin model.

### A. Free hard-core magnons ( $t$ approximation): $H_t$ and $L \rightarrow \infty$

The first approximation to the magnetization curve, a many-magnon state, is to consider the magnons as free hard-core bosons or free fermions. This mapping is exact in the high-dilute regime of magnons, near the saturation field. Here, we extend this approach for the full range of the magnetization,  $(S - s) \leq m \leq (S + s)$ , and compare their results to more precise calculations considering the interaction terms.

The single-magnon energies are given by the term  $H_t$ , Eq. (7), in Hamiltonian (6). Using the following Fourier transforms:

$$\begin{aligned} a_j &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_k e^{-ik/4} e^{ikj} a_k; \\ b_j &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_k e^{+ik/4} e^{ikj} b_k, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where a phase  $e^{\pm ik/4}$  is included to ease the calculation,  $H_t$  becomes:

$$H_t = \sum_k \begin{pmatrix} a_k^\dagger & b_k^\dagger \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_a & \gamma_k \\ \gamma_k & \varepsilon_b \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_k \\ b_k \end{pmatrix}, \quad (15)$$

where

$$\gamma_k = 2t \cos(k/2). \quad (16)$$

After diagonalization, the Hamiltonian is written as

$$H_t = \sum_k \omega_k^{(-)} n_k^{(-)} + \omega_k^{(+)} n_k^{(+)}, \quad (17)$$

where the dispersion relations are

$$\omega_k^{(\pm)} = \frac{\varepsilon_a + \varepsilon_b}{2} \pm \omega_k = -J(s + S) \pm \omega_k, \quad (18)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_k &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\varepsilon_b - \varepsilon_a}{2}\right)^2 + \gamma_k^2} \\ &= J\sqrt{(S - s)^2 + 4sS \cos^2(k/2)}, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

and  $n_k^{(\pm)} = \alpha_k^{(\pm)\dagger} \alpha_k^{(\pm)}$ , where

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_k^{(-)} \\ \alpha_k^{(+)} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_k & -\sin \theta_k \\ \sin \theta_k & \cos \theta_k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_k \\ b_k \end{pmatrix}, \quad (20)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \cos^2 \theta_k &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{S - s}{2\omega_k}; \\ \sin^2 \theta_k &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{S - s}{2\omega_k}. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

A magnetic field (or chemical potential) adds a  $+B$  energy term to the two bands.

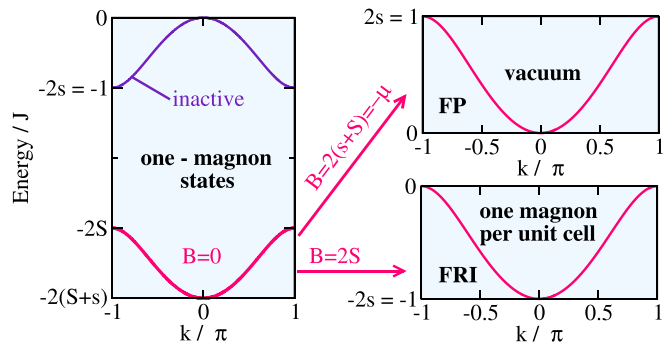


FIG. 2. One-magnon states from the fully polarized (FP) vacuum and  $B = 0$  as a function of lattice wave vector  $k$ . In the  $t$  approximation, the high energy band is inactive. For  $B = 2(s + S) = -\mu$ , the exact ground state is the FP vacuum, while there is one magnon per unit cell in the system for  $B = 2S$ , and the ground state is ferrimagnetic (FRI).

The magnon bands are shown in Fig. 2 for (i)  $B = 0$ ; (ii)  $B = 2(s + S)$ , the saturation field, for which  $m = m_{\text{FP}} = (S + s)$ ; (iii)  $B = 2S$ , the critical field of the ferrimagnetic plateau, for which  $m = m_{\text{FRI}} = (S - s)$ , or 1 magnon per unit cell:  $m_{\text{FP}} - m_{\text{FRI}} = (S + 1/2) - (S - 1/2) = 1$ . As expected from the Lieb-Mattis theorem, the magnetization in the null field is  $S - s$ . In the free hard-core boson or free fermion approximation, we fill the single-particle states following a Fermi distribution up to the effective Fermi wave vector  $k_F$ . As shown in Fig. 2, if we follow this procedure the two bands should be filled for  $B = 0$  (two magnons per unit cell) and the magnetization curves of the spin model would not be reproduced. We have shown in Ref. [64] that this problem can be overcome, even for finite  $T$ , by introducing an effective chemical potential  $\mu$  to the upper band, in a way similar to Takahashi's solution to the ferromagnetic linear chain [84]. In particular,  $\mu \rightarrow -J = -2sJ$  as  $T \rightarrow 0$ , such that the overall effect of  $\mu$  at  $T = 0$  is the suppression of the upper band. Hence, in the free hard-core approximation, we must consider only the lower band in the calculations, as schematically indicated in Fig. 2. Thus, for example, the energy per unit cell in the free hard-core approximation is written as

$$\frac{E}{L} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{k=-k_F}^{k_F} \omega_k^{(-)} \quad (22)$$

for a magnon density per unit cell  $n$ , where

$$k_F = \pi n, \quad (23)$$

and  $n = m_{\text{FP}} - m$ .

#### 1. Average local magnetizations

If the chain has a magnon density per unit cell  $n$  and considering the hard-core approximation, the average magnetizations of  $a$  and  $b$  sites are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S^z \rangle &= s - \frac{1}{L} \sum_{k=-k_F}^{k_F} \langle n_k^a \rangle \quad (a \text{ sites}); \\ \langle S^z \rangle &= s - \frac{1}{L} \sum_{k=-k_F}^{k_F} \langle n_k^b \rangle \quad (b \text{ sites}). \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Using Eqs. (20) and discarding terms involving the upper band, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n_k^a \rangle &= n_k^{(-)} \cos^2 \theta_k; \\ \langle n_k^b \rangle &= n_k^{(-)} \sin^2 \theta_k. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

We thus have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S^z \rangle &= s - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{S-s}{2} \sum_{k=-k_F}^{k_F} \frac{1}{\omega_k}; \\ \langle S^z \rangle &= s - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{S-s}{2} \sum_{k=-k_F}^{k_F} \frac{1}{\omega_k}, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

after the substitution of Eqs. (21) in Eqs. (25) and the results in Eqs. (24).

### III. DMRG RESULTS FOR THE SPIN MODEL AND THE BOSONIC HAMILTONIANS

#### A. Methodology

We use the density matrix renormalization group to obtain the magnetization curves and local properties of the spin,  $t$ - $V$ , and  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  models and also compare this data with the analytical results from the free hard-core model ( $t$  model) in the thermodynamic limit:  $L \rightarrow \infty$ . These approximations are summarized in Fig. 1(c). All DMRG results (boson and spin models) are obtained through the Algorithms and Libraries for Physics Simulations (ALPS) project [85] for chains with  $L = 128$  unit cells, with one  $a$  site at one extreme and a  $b$  site at the other. If the system has an  $a$  site at the left extreme and a  $b$  in the right ( $a$ - $b$  boundaries), the renormalization process for the magnetization step inside the ferrimagnetic plateau becomes trapped in a metastable state for  $S = 3/2, 2,$  and  $5/2$ . In these cases, the global energy minimum is reached by the algorithm if the chains have a  $b$  site at the left extreme and an  $a$  site at the right extreme ( $b$ - $a$  boundaries). In the other magnetizations, this is irrelevant, i.e., the same state is calculated for the  $a$ - $b$  or the  $b$ - $a$  boundaries. We retain a maximum of 243 states per block and the maximum discarded weight less than  $10^{-9}$ .

For the spin model, the magnetization curves are calculated from the lowest energy state for a fixed  $S^z$  and  $B = 0$ :  $E(S^z)$ , since for  $B \neq 0$  we need only to add the Zeeman term, such that  $E_B(S^z) = E(S^z) - BS^z$ . In a gapless (nonplateau) phase, the magnetization curves are made of finite steps in a finite-size system. Defining the extreme points of these finite steps as  $B_-$  and  $B_+$ , we have

$$B_{\pm} = \pm[E(S^z \pm 1) - E(S^z)] \quad (27)$$

for the step at  $S^z$ . In a gapless phase,  $B_- \rightarrow B_+$  as  $L \rightarrow \infty$ , while in a thermodynamic-limit plateau state  $B_- \neq B_+$  for  $L \rightarrow \infty$ . In the last case,  $B_{\pm}$  are quantum critical fields separating the plateau insulating state from a gapless critical Luttinger liquid phase. For the bosonic models, the magnon density per unit cell  $n$  as a function of chemical potential  $\mu$  is obtained with a similar procedure. We calculate the lowest energy state for a fixed number of bosons  $N$ , with  $N = nL$  and  $\mu = 0$ . The value of the chemical potential at the extremes

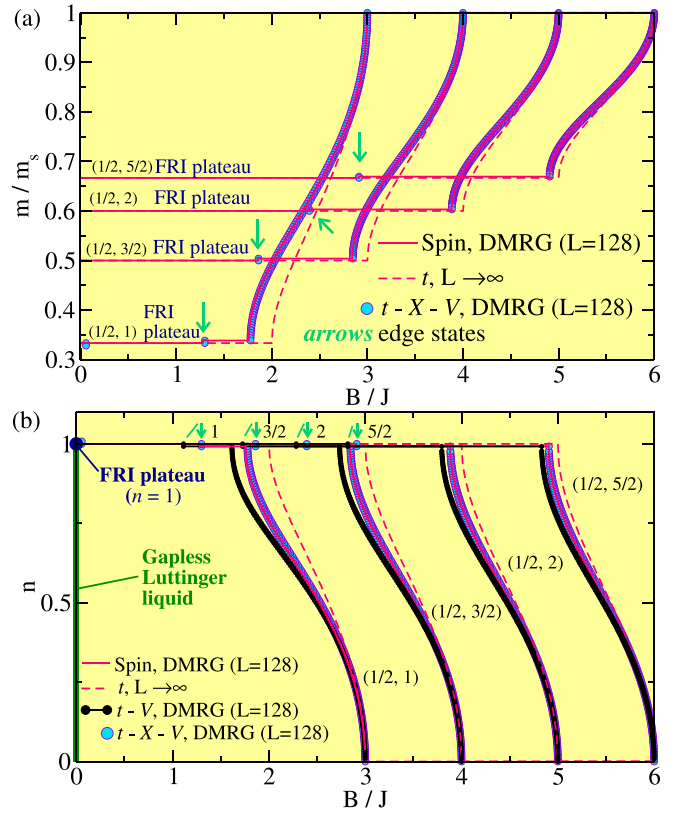


FIG. 3. (a) Magnetization per unit cell ( $m$ ) of  $(1/2, S)$  chains, with  $S = 1, 3/2, 2,$  and  $5/2$ , normalized by its saturation value ( $m_s$ ) and (b) magnon densities per unit cell  $n$  as functions of  $B$  in units of  $J$ . DMRG data for (full lines) the spin model and for (●) the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation. We present in both figures the results for the  $t$  model (dashed lines) and  $L \rightarrow \infty$ . In (b), we also show the magnon density as a function of  $B$  units of  $J$  for (●) the  $t$ - $V$  approximation, calculated with DMRG for a system with  $L = 128$ . In the thermodynamic limit, the ferrimagnetic plateau is observed for  $n = 1$ , while the gapless Luttinger liquid phase for  $0 < n < 1$ . On both figures, we indicate (arrows) the magnetic field at which the edge states are occupied by one magnon.

( $\mu_-$  and  $\mu_+$ ) of the step at  $N$  are given by

$$\mu_{\pm} = \pm[E(N \pm 1) - E(N)]. \quad (28)$$

A gapless phase has  $\mu_+ \rightarrow \mu_-$  as  $L \rightarrow \infty$ , while in a plateau insulating phase  $\mu_+ \neq \mu_-$  in the thermodynamic limit. The transformation from the boson to the spin language is performed through the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} n &= m - m_{\text{FP}}, \text{ and} \\ B &= -\mu. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

#### B. Magnetization curves and local magnetizations

The magnetization curves from the spin model and the boson Hamiltonians are shown in Fig. 3(a). The models present two magnetization plateaus, one at the ferrimagnetic magnetization  $m_{\text{FRI}} = S - 1/2$  and the fully polarized state  $m_{\text{FP}} = S + 1/2$ . The saturation field  $B_{\text{FP}}$ , end point of the FP plateau, is obtained through the closing of the single-particle magnon gap with  $B$ , as sketched in Fig. 2, at  $B = B_{\text{FP}} = 2(S + s)$ .

The saturation field  $B_{\text{FP}}$  from any bosonic approximation is rigorously equal to its exact value since the fully polarized state, an exact eigenstate of the spin model, is the vacuum for the bosonic models.

The Oshikawa-Yamanaka-Affleck topological criteria [2] states that a plateau can appear in the magnetization curve of spin systems if

$$S_u - m = \text{integer}, \quad (30)$$

where  $S_u$  is the maximum spin of a unit cell, unless the ground state spontaneously breaks translation symmetry. This corresponds to a number of magnons per unit cell  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, S_u(S_u - 1/2)$  for integer (half integer)  $S_u$ , from the fully polarized state. Since  $S_u = S + 1/2$  (saturated magnetization) for spin- $(1/2, S)$  chains, plateaus could appear at  $m = S + 1/2, (S - 1/2), \dots, 0(1/2)$ , for half integer (integer)  $S$ . In the spin- $(1/2, S)$  chains, the data shows that there are two magnetization plateaus, one at the fully polarized ( $n = 0$ ) magnetization and the other at one magnon per unit cell ( $n = 1$ ), the ferrimagnetic plateau. The other possible magnetization plateaus are inhibited by the magnon-magnon interaction term  $V$  [Eq. (13)]. The magnetization curves of ferrimagnetic spin chains with  $1/2 < s < S$  can exhibit other plateaus between the ferrimagnetic and the fully polarized ones. This is observed, for example, in spin- $(1, 2)$  and spin- $(1, 3/2)$  chains [86]. For these chains, the ferrimagnetic plateau state has two magnons per unit cell,  $n = 2$ , and the magnetization curves also exhibit a plateau at  $n = 1$ . We also observe the occupancy of the edge states of the ferrimagnetic plateau by one magnon at the indicated magnetic fields. These edge states appear in finite-size open systems associated with topological aspects [3,45] of the ferrimagnetic state.

The noninteracting Rice-Mele model (10) does not present edge states for uniform hopping. However, recently [83], it was shown that an interacting *fermionic system*, with a local Coulomb interaction, presents effective edge states, and that a fraction of the boundary charge is, in fact, related to the bulk properties. Our noninteracting Hamiltonian (7) has the modified local potentials in the boundaries (9), required from the spin mapping, and thus localized edge states. Furthermore, our interacting model is a *bosonic system* having the correlated hopping and nearest-neighbor Coulomb repulsion. In Sec. IV, we study the boundary magnon density and compare it from relevant interacting and noninteracting bosonic models. The gapless phase between the magnetization plateaus is a Luttinger liquid phase with power-law decay of the transverse spin correlation functions [4] and has a dynamical exponent  $z = 1$ .

We notice in Fig. 3(a) that as  $B$  decreases from  $B_{\text{FP}}$ , the magnetization from the free hard-core model,  $t$  approximation, departs from that of the spin model at roughly half filling of the lower magnon band  $\omega^{(-)}$ , Eq. (18). At this filling, the interaction effects start to become relevant. The critical field of the ferrimagnetic plateau from the free hard-core model:  $2S$ , see Fig. 2, becomes more near its value for the spin model as  $S$  increases, as also confirmed in Table I. This effect can be attributed to the local energy of the  $a$  sites that becomes deeper in comparison with the local energy of the  $b$  sites, as can be seen in the energy term (7) and the sketch in Fig. 1. Thus, the magnons become more localized on  $a$  sites as  $S$  increases,

TABLE I. Critical field of the ferrimagnetic plateau in units of  $J$  for the spin- $(1/2, S)$  chains in the free hard-core boson approximation  $t$  approximation and the spin model.

$S$	$t$ approx.: $2S$	spin model: $\beta$	$\frac{2S-\beta}{\beta}$
1	2	1.76	0.13
3/2	3	2.85	0.05
2	4	3.88	0.03
5/2	5	4.91	0.02

and the  $X$  and  $V$  energy terms, Eqs. (11) and (13), respectively, become lesser relevant. The  $X$  term due to the low occupancy probability of one  $b$  site by two magnons and also because  $X \rightarrow 0$  as  $S \rightarrow \infty$ , see Eq. (12). The  $V$  term, on the other hand, because the probability of finding two magnons in nearest neighbor sites is also very low. Further, the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation, which has all energy terms in Hamiltonian (6) active, is in excellent agreement with the results for the spin model. Even the location of the edge states is well reproduced by the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation.

In Fig. 3(b) we show the average magnon density per unit cell  $\langle n \rangle$ . Besides the models presented in (a), we add the  $t$ - $V$  approximation. The presence of the magnon repulsion makes the accordance with the spin model good for  $\langle n \rangle > 1/2$ , while in the  $t$  approximation this agreement is good up to a value of  $\langle n \rangle$  less than  $1/2$ . As  $\langle n \rangle \rightarrow 1$ , reaching the ferrimagnetic plateau, the repulsion  $V$  increases much the energy of the system and thus implies a lower value of the critical magnetic field  $B_{\text{FRI}}$ , compared to the spin model. The location of the edge states in the finite-size system is also different between the spin and the  $t$ - $V$  approximation. Further, the  $X$  term, the density-dependent hopping term, lowers the energy, and the full  $\langle n \rangle$  curve of the spin model is well reproduced by the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation. We notice, however, that only for the finite size spin- $(1/2, 1)$  chain studied, the lower critical field of the ferrimagnetic plateau is  $B \approx 0.06J$ . In Sec. IV, we present the magnon curve for  $N > 128$ .

The average spin and magnon density at  $a$  and  $b$  sites are shown in Fig. 4. Notice that the average spin at  $b$  sites, Fig. 4(b), is normalized by  $S$ . Also shown are the probability of occupancy of  $a$  and  $b$  sites. We use the expressions (26) to obtain the average spins from the  $t$  approximation, while we calculate the average magnon density from the spin model with

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n_a \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L \langle s_l^z \rangle, \\ \langle n_b \rangle &= S - \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L \langle s_l^z \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

for a finite spin chain of size  $L$  and open boundaries. The value of the average spin at  $a$  sites from any of the considered bosonic approximations is in good agreement with its value from the spin model. A relevant departure between the approximations and the spin model occurs in the average spin on  $b$  sites as the ferrimagnetic magnetization plateau is approached. However, even the  $t$  approximation provides

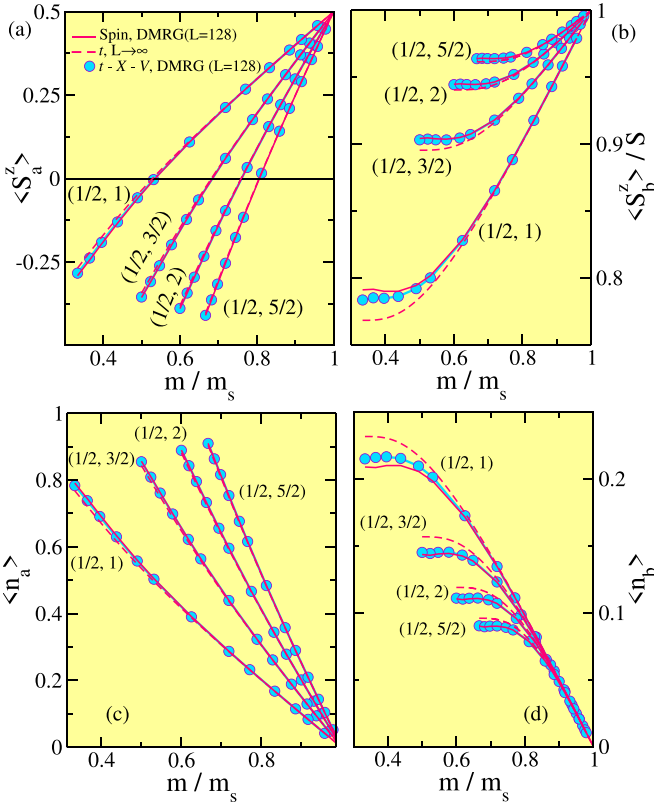


FIG. 4. Average spin at (a)  $a$ ,  $\langle S_a^z \rangle$ , and (b)  $b$ ,  $\langle S_b^z \rangle$ , sites, in this case normalized by  $S$ , for  $(1/2, S)$  chains with  $S = 1, 3/2, 2$ , and  $5/2$ , as a function of the normalized magnetization  $m/m_s$ , where  $m_s$  is the saturation magnetization of each chain. The hard-core boson  $t$  approximation in the thermodynamic limit (dashed lines), DMRG results for the spin model (full lines) and the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation ( $\bullet$ ), both for systems with  $L = 128$ . Average magnon densities at (c)  $a$ ,  $\langle n_a \rangle$ , and (d)  $b$ ,  $\langle n_b \rangle$ , sites as a function of  $m/m_s$  and the same legend of (a) and (b).

good values for the average spins, as shown in Table II for the ferrimagnetic magnetization. Also, the results become indistinguishable, even on  $b$  sites, as  $S$  increases or as the fully polarized plateau is approached. Furthermore, as in the magnetization results, the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  model is an excellent approximation to the spin Hamiltonian. The data in Figs. 4(c) and 4(d) confirm that due to the higher value of the local potential on  $a$  sites, the probability of occupancy of  $a$  sites is higher than that on  $b$  sites, as discussed in the context of the magnetization curves in Fig. 3. In particular, quantum

TABLE II. Average spins at  $a$  ( $\langle S_a^z \rangle$ ) and  $b$  ( $\langle S_b^z \rangle$ ) sites for the spin- $(1/2, S)$  chains in the free hard-core boson approximation  $t$  and the spin model:  $(\langle S_a^z \rangle, \langle S_b^z \rangle)$ , at  $m = S - s$ , the ferrimagnetic magnetization.

$S$	$t$ approx.	Spin model
1	(-0.27, 0.77)	(-0.29, 0.79)
3/2	(-0.34, 1.34)	(-0.36, 1.36)
2	(-0.38, 1.88)	(-0.39, 1.89)
5/2	(-0.40, 2.40)	(-0.41, 2.41)

fluctuations are reduced as  $S$  increases, since  $\langle n_b \rangle \rightarrow 0$  in this limit, as the data in Fig. 4(d) suggests.

In Figs. 5(a) and 5(b) we present the local magnon densities in finite chains with open boundaries for the spin and the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  models. The magnon densities from the spin model are calculated through

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n_l^a \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} - \langle s_l^z \rangle; \\ \langle n_l^b \rangle &= S - \langle S_l^z \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

and  $\langle n_l^{\text{cell}} \rangle = \langle n_l^a \rangle + \langle n_l^b \rangle$ . We show the data for the spin- $(1/2, 1)$  and spin- $(1/2, 5/2)$  chains, for two low magnon densities ( $n = 8/128, n = 16/128$ ), near the fully polarized magnetization plateau, and two high magnon densities, more near the ferrimagnetic magnetization plateau ( $n = 72/128, n = 116/128$ ), in a chain with  $L = 128$  unit cells. For the lower magnon densities (hard-core limit) the results for  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation departs from the spin model data near the boundaries for the spin- $(1/2, 1)$ . However, the accordance between the two models is excellent in the case of the spin- $(1/2, 5/2)$ , even near the boundaries, for the two lower magnon densities shown. For the two higher magnon densities, there is an excellent agreement between the spin model and the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation for the two chains.

In Fig. 5(c), we show the magnon distribution in the edge localized state occupied by one magnon for the four chains studied. To calculate it, we notice that the edge state appears between the two magnetization steps:  $S^z = L(S - s)$  and  $S^z = L(S - s) + 1$ , which will join in the thermodynamic limit, and make the  $S - s$  ferrimagnetic plateau, see Fig. 3(a) and 3(b). Thus, to visualize the spatial extent of the edge state, we consider the magnon distribution change,  $\delta \langle n \rangle_{\text{FRI}+1 \rightarrow \text{FRI}}$ , between a total number of magnons  $N = L - 1$  [ $S^z = L(S - s) + 1$ ] and  $N = L$  [ $S^z = L(S - s)$ ]:

$$\delta \langle n \rangle_{\text{FRI}+1 \rightarrow \text{FRI}, l} = \langle n \rangle_{N=L, l} - \langle n \rangle_{N=L-1, l}. \quad (33)$$

We notice in the data shown in Fig. 5(c) that a tiny discrepancy is observed between the results for the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$ -approximation and the spin model in the case of the  $(1/2, 1)$  chain, while for the other chains the agreement is excellent. The hole added to the many-magnon state at  $N = L$  becomes well localized in the boundary cell, mainly on the boundary  $a$  site, thus implying the presence of this empty orbital in the  $N = L - 1$  [ $S^z = L(S - s)$ ] state. The localization in the boundary increases with  $S$  as expected from the increasing of the bulk gap. In fact, the fluctuations of the magnon density in the boundary become negligible as  $S \rightarrow \infty$ , and the boundary hosts one magnon in this limit. We can attribute this behavior to the increasing potential barrier between bulk and edge, Eqs. (8) and (9), respectively, as  $S \rightarrow \infty$ .

As an example of the data used to make the results shown in Fig. 5(d), we exhibit in Fig. 5(d) the average magnon density along the chain,  $\langle n \rangle$ , for  $a$  and  $b$  sites, in the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation of the  $(1/2, 1)$  chain. We notice that the  $a$  site at the left boundary is almost empty for  $N = L - 1$ , while its  $\approx 0.6$  for  $N = L$ , implying the value shown in (c). We also notice a sizable change in the occupation of the  $b$  site at the left boundary for the two fillings, while  $\langle n \rangle$  does not change at the right boundary. A sketch of the two ground states is shown in Fig. 5(e). For  $N = L - 1$ , we have an insulating state

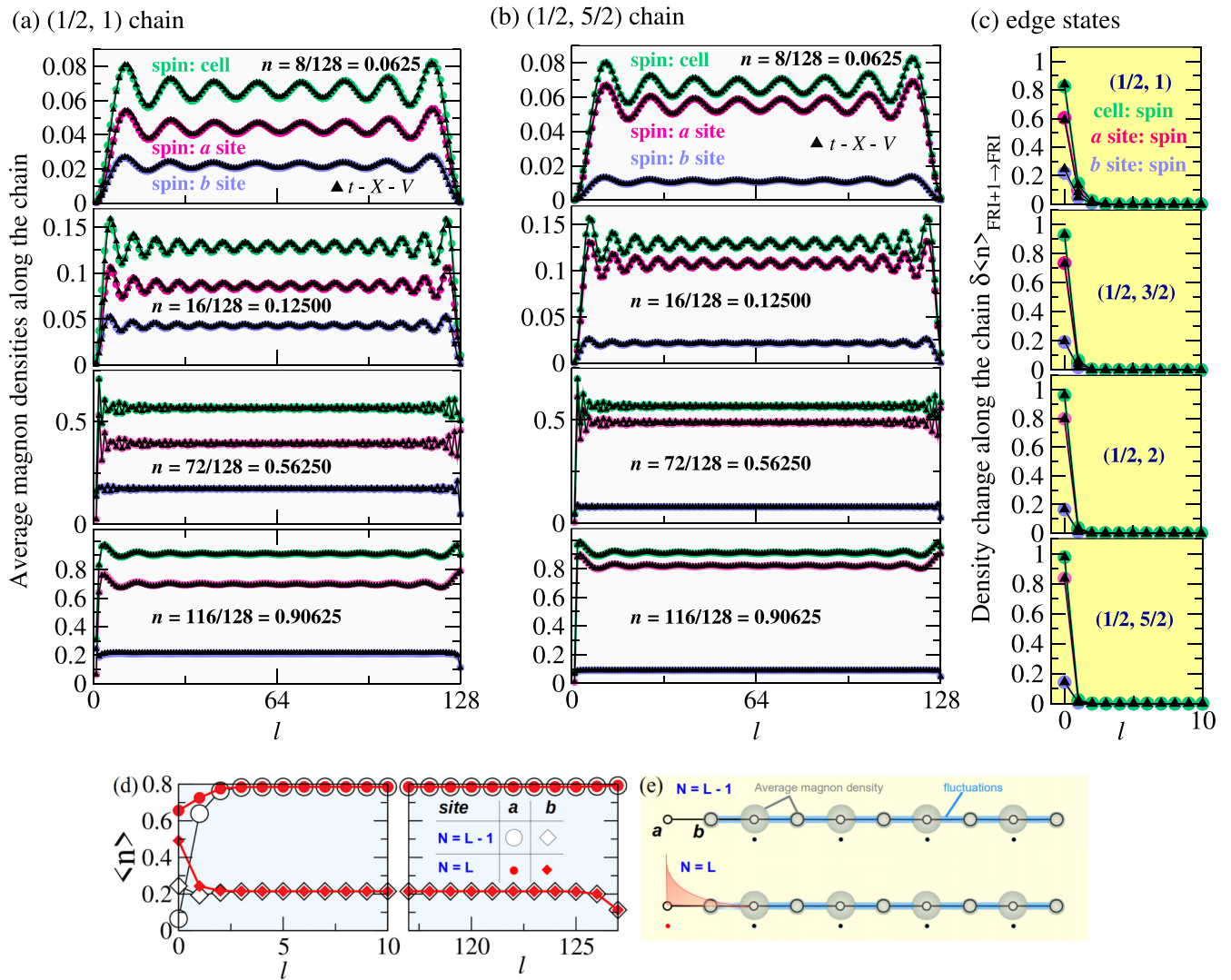


FIG. 5. Average magnon densities along (a) the  $(1/2, S = 1)$  chain and (b) the  $(1/2, S = 5/2)$  with  $L = 128$  unit cells. Magnon densities at (pink  $\bullet$ )  $a$  sites,  $\langle n_{a,l} \rangle$ , at (purple  $\bullet$ )  $b$  sites,  $\langle n_{b,l} \rangle$ , and (green  $\bullet$ ) total magnon density,  $\langle n_{\text{cell},l} \rangle$ , for unit cell  $l$  from the spin model and ( $\blacktriangle$ ) the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation, both calculated with DMRG for systems with  $L = 128$ . The following total average magnon densities are shown:  $n = 8/128, 16/128, 72/128$ , and  $116/128$ , from top to bottom, corresponding to the magnetizations (a)  $m = 184/128, 176/128, 120/128$ , and  $76/128$  and (b)  $m = 376/128, 368/128, 312/128$ , and  $268/128$ . (c) Average magnon distribution change  $\delta \langle n \rangle_{\text{FRI}+1 \rightarrow \text{FRI}} = \langle n \rangle_{N=L,l} - \langle n \rangle_{N=L-1,l}$  along the chain as a function of unit cell  $l$  shows the presence of the edge states for the four chains studied. (d) The average magnon probability density  $\langle n \rangle$  along a chain with  $L = 128$  at (circles)  $a$  and (diamonds)  $b$  sites for (white symbols)  $N = L - 1$  and (red symbols)  $N = L$  bosons from the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation of the  $(1/2, 1)$  chain. (e) Sketch of the ground states for  $N = L - 1$  and  $N = L$  bosons. Average magnon densities are shown as gray circles, fluctuations between  $a$  and  $b$  sites are indicated by a blue stripe, and we use a red filled curve to represent the localized orbital in the boundary unit cell.

with the magnon average higher on  $a$  sites than on  $b$  sites. Quantum fluctuations between  $a$  and  $b$  sites in nearby unit cells are expected, given the excellent accordance between the results from the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation and the spin model in the high-density limit,  $m \rightarrow m_{\text{FRI}}$ . Adding one magnon to the  $(L - 1)$ -magnon state, we obtain the magnetization at  $m = S - s$  in the finite-size system, which is also an insulating state. The added magnon occupies the empty localized orbital state in the unit cell of the boundary  $a$  site. The penetration of this edge state in the gapped bulk is very tiny and decreases with increasing  $S$ , see Fig. 5(c), as can be estimated through the average magnon distribution.

#### IV. THE RELEVANCE OF THE BOUNDARY POTENTIALS AND INTERACTIONS IN THE BOUNDARY MAGNON DENSITY OF THE BOSONIC MODEL

With the help of Fig. 6, we discuss the relevance of the difference between the local potential in the boundaries and the bulk sites on the boundary magnon densities, as well as the importance of interactions in it. We use the parameters of the spin- $(1/2, 1)$  chain but focus on the bosonic Hamiltonian, for three models in finite-size chains: (1) the interacting model considering the mapping to the spin system ( $X \neq 0, V \neq 0$ ), the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  model; (2) the corresponding noninteracting model,



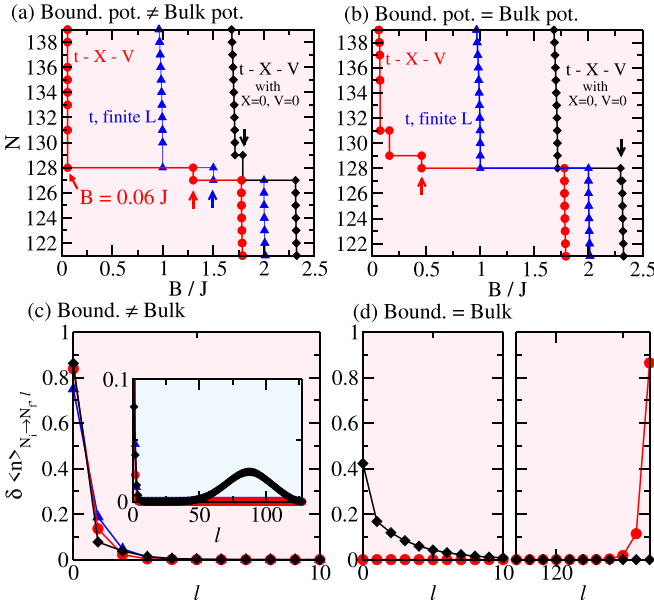


FIG. 6. DMRG results for finite-size modified Rice-Mele models with  $L = 128$ . In (a) and (c), the boundary potentials have the values in Eq. (9), while in (b) and (d), the boundary potentials have the same values of the bulk local potentials on  $a$  and  $b$  sites,  $\varepsilon_a$  and  $\varepsilon_b$  in Eq. (8). Taking the parameters from the spin-(1/2, 1) chain, we show data for the full interacting model,  $t$ - $X$ - $V$ , the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  model with  $X = 0 = V$ , and the hard-core approximation  $t$ . In (a) and (b), we present the number of magnons  $N$  as a function of magnetic field (in units of  $J$ )  $B = -\mu$ , where  $\mu$  is the chemical potential in the bosonic system. In (c) and (d), we show the change in magnon density per unit cell  $\delta \langle n \rangle_{N_i \rightarrow N_f, l} = \langle n \rangle_{N_f, l} - \langle n \rangle_{N_i, l}$  between states  $N = N_i$  and  $N = N_f$  as a function of unit cell  $l$ , where the arrows in (a) and (b) identify  $N_i$  and  $N_f$  for each model.

i.e., the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  model with  $X = 0$  and  $V = 0$ , which has a hard-core constraint on  $a$  sites and the  $b$  sites can host up to two bosons; (3), the  $t$  approximation, which has a hard-core constraint on  $a$  and  $b$  sites. One of the sets, Figs. 6(a) and 6(c), shows data for the boundary potentials distinct from the bulk potentials, with the values in Eqs. (9) and (8), respectively. The other set, Figs. 6(b) and 6(d), takes the value of the boundary potentials equal to the bulk ones, Eq. (8). The arrows in Figs. 6(a) and 6(b) indicate the edge states whose boson density change

$$\delta \langle n \rangle_{N_i \rightarrow N_f, l} = \langle n \rangle_{N_f, l} - \langle n \rangle_{N_i, l} \quad (34)$$

is shown in Figs. 6(c) and 6(d), respectively, where  $N_f$  ( $N_i$ ) is the highest (lowest) value of  $N$  between the two magnon density steps separated by the occupancy of the edge state. For the bulk different from the boundaries, Fig. 6(a), we see that the edge state is very robust, appearing even in the  $t$  approximation. This does not occur for the  $t$  approximation if the boundary is equal to the bulk, Fig. 6(b), which is an expected result for the Rice-Mele model [83]. However, we notice in Fig. 6(a) that in comparison with the spin model, the plateau width is very underestimated in the  $t$  approximation, since we are not discarding the single-particle states in the upper band shown in Fig. 2. We observe that this upper band was discarded for the  $L \rightarrow \infty$  results shown in Figs. 3 and 4,

due to the introduction of the effective chemical potential connected with the Takahashi's constraint [64]. Considering also the spin model, the error in the plateau width for the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  interacting case is very tiny, with a lower critical field  $\approx 0.06J$ . Also in Fig. 6(a), bulk and boundaries distinct, we note that the edge state in the noninteracting  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  model appears only for two bosons over the  $N = 127$  state, Fig. 6(a), with one of the bosons occupying an extended state and the other an edge state, as shown in Fig. 6(c). This shows that the distinction between boundaries and bulk is not sufficient to a good representation of the edge state in the spin mode; the interactions are essential for it. In the case of the  $t$  approximation, the particle statistics provide a change in the single particle quantum states that mimic the effect of the  $X$  and  $V$  interactions in the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  model. In Fig. 6(b), where the boundary is equal to the bulk, we show that edge states appear in the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  model in the interacting and noninteracting cases. As mentioned above, the edge state of the noninteracting case does not appear in the  $t$  approximation. Further, the boundary density, Fig. 6(d), in the interacting  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  case appears in the right extreme and has a value approximately equal to that in Fig. 6(c). From these results, we can assert that the interactions  $X$  and  $V$ , and the particle statistics, are essential to understand the boundary magnon density.

## V. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

We have investigated the Holstein-Primakoff bosonic Hamiltonian, up to order  $\sqrt{s/S}$ , of the alternating spin- $(s = 1/2, S)$  chains in a magnetic field, considering the fully polarized as the vacuum. Three bosonic Hamiltonians were considered: The first has only a hopping term ( $t$  approximation) and distinct local potentials ( $\varepsilon$ ) on the spin-1/2 ( $a$  site) and the spin- $S$  ( $b$  site) sites; this approximation is a Rice-Mele Hamiltonian with boundaries different from the bulk and uniform hopping term. The second one has the terms of the  $t$  approximation plus a magnon-magnon repulsion  $V$  ( $t$ - $V$  approximation), and the last approximation shows the  $t$  and  $V$  terms and a density-dependent correlated hopping term  $X$  ( $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation). In the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation,  $b$  sites can accommodate up to two magnons, while in the others a hard-core constraint is imposed on  $a$  and  $b$  sites. The local potentials, at any density, and  $V$  for higher densities favor magnon localization on the  $a$  sites. On the other hand, quantum fluctuations, magnon tunneling between  $a$  and  $b$  sites, are favored by  $t$ , at any density, and  $X$  for higher densities. We use the density matrix renormalization group to investigate the spin model and the bosonic Hamiltonians  $t$ - $V$  and  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  in finite-size open systems, while for the  $t$  approximation we have considered its analytical solution. We compare the magnetization and magnon densities per unit cell as a function of a magnetic field, average bulk density, and local densities along the chains from the spin model and the bosonic approximations. From the ferrimagnetic plateau (one magnon per unit cell) to saturation (empty chain), the  $t$ - $X$ - $V$  approximation is in excellent agreement with the spin model, while the  $t$  and  $t$ - $V$  results depart from that of the spin model as the magnon density increases. This, thus, shows the relevance of both interaction terms, magnon-magnon repulsion and the correlated hopping term  $X$ , and its associated

particle fluctuations, to describe the many-body system near the ferrimagnetic plateau. The edge state associated with the insulating ferrimagnetic plateau is well reproduced by the bosonic model. In particular, we have shown that the magnon boundary densities are strongly dependent on the interactions and the particle statistics.

The use of the fully polarized state as the vacuum enables a better understanding of the underlying quantum processes in the spin Hamiltonian, compared to a ferrimagnetic vacuum, which is not an exact eigenstate of the spin Hamiltonian. Our results also suggest that, beyond hopping and magnon-magnon interaction, the density-dependent hopping term increases the range of magnetizations for which

effective bosonic models can make a good description of the physical data from general spin systems having ions with spins higher than  $1/2$ .

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