# **Two-magnon excitations in resonant inelastic x-ray scattering from quantum Heisenberg antiferromagnets**

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We study two-magnon spectra in resonant inelastic x-ray scattering (RIXS) from Heisenberg antiferromagnets by extending the formula of Nomura and Igarashi [Phys. Rev. B 71, 035110 (2005)]. The core-hole potential in the intermediate state of RIXS gives rise to a change in the exchange coupling between 3*d* electrons, leading to an effective interaction between the core hole and spins of 3*d* electrons. We derive a formula suitable to calculate the two-magnon RIXS intensities, replacing the bare core-hole potential responsible for charge excitations by this effective interaction creating two magnons in our previous formula. It consists of two factors, one of which determines the incident-photon-energy dependence while the other is a two-magnon correlation function. We evaluate the former factor for  $La_2CuO<sub>4</sub>$  in terms of the density of states of the 4*p* states obtained by a band calculation. We also calculate the two-magnon correlation function as a function of energy loss  $\omega$  and momentum transfer **q** of the Heisenberg model on a square lattice, by summing up the ladder diagrams after transforming the magnon-magnon interaction into a separable form. The calculated spectra form a broad peak around  $\omega = 3J$  for  $S = 1/2$  on the magnetic Brillouin zone boundary and vanish at  $\mathbf{q} = (0,0)$  and  $(\pi, \pi)$ . Such momentum dependence of the RIXS spectra could provide an excellent opportunity to study the dynamics in the Heisenberg model.

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# **I. INTRODUCTION**

Resonant inelastic x-ray scattering (RIXS) has recently attracted much interest, since it provides valuable information about charge excitations in solids. $1-7$  Unlike optical measurement, it can probe directly the momentum dependence of the excitations. The *K*-edge resonance in transitionmetal compounds is particularly useful, because the corresponding x-ray wavelengths are of the order of lattice spacing. In this situation, the 1*s* core electron is promoted to an empty 4*p* state by absorbing a photon, then charge excitations are created in order to screen the core-hole potential, and finally the photoexcited 4*p* electron is recombined with the core hole by emitting a photon. In the end, charge excitations are left with energy and momentum transferred from photons.

For analyzing such spectra, Nomura and Igarashi (NI) developed a formalism $8-\overline{10}$  $8-\overline{10}$  $8-\overline{10}$  by adapting the resonant Raman theory of Nozières and Abrahams.<sup>11</sup> According to the formula NI have derived, the RIXS intensity is expressed in terms of the density-density correlation function in the equilibrium system under the Born approximation to the corehole potential. Describing the electronic states in the multiband tight-binding model within the Hartree-Fock approximation, and taking account of the electron correlation within the random phase approximation, NI analyzed the RIXS spectra of undoped cuprates. $8-10$  The calculated spectra reproduced well the experimental ones as a function of energy loss and the dependence on momentum. The use of the Born approximation to the core-hole potential has been examined by evaluating higher-order corrections, and has been partly justified in spite of a strong core-hole potential.<sup>10</sup> In

addition, the RIXS spectra in NiO have recently been analyzed by the same method, in an excellent agreement with the experiment.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, the NI formula seems quite useful to analyze the RIXS spectra. Note that, among several theoretical studies on the momentum dependence of the RIXS spectra, $13-16$  some have been based on the numerical diagonalization method for small clusters, replacing the 4*p* band by a single level. $^{13,14}$  $^{13,14}$  $^{13,14}$  By these numerical methods, it seems almost impossible to analyze the RIXS spectra in three-dimensional systems.

Quite recently, Hill *et al.* have reported that the RIXS intensity has been observed around the energy loss  $300-600$  meV in  $La_2CuO_4$  with improving instrumental resolution.<sup>17</sup> One scenario for the origin of the spectra is that the intensity arises from two-magnon excitations. In this paper, we examine this possibility by developing the NI formalism. $8-10$  As pointed out by van den Brink,  $18$  the presence of the core-hole potential in the intermediate state modifies the exchange process, giving rise to a change in the exchange coupling between the spins of 3*d* electrons at the core-hole site and those at neighboring sites. This leads to an effective interaction which creates two magnons from a core hole. Replacing the bare core-hole potential responsible for charge excitations by the effective interaction in the NI formula, we immediately obtain the formula of the two-magnon RIXS spectra. It consists of two factors, one of which gives the incident-photon-energy dependence while the other is a two-magnon correlation function. The former factor involves the density of states (DOS) of the  $4p$  states and is almost independent of energy loss. We evaluate it for  $La_2CuO_4$ , using the 4*p* DOS given by the local density approximation  $(LDA)$ . A large enhancement is predicted at the  $K$  edge as a

function of incident-photon energy; the enhancement is much larger for the polarization along the *c* axis than for the polarization in the *ab* plane.

Another factor, a two-magnon correlation function, determines the dependence on the energy loss  $\omega$  and the momentum transfer **q**. We employ systematically the 1/*S* expansion (S is the magnitude of spin) of the antiferromagnetic Heisenberg model in a square lattice. We show that matrix elements concerning the excitation of two magnons are quite different from those for light scattering and neutron scattering. Thereby, the RIXS intensity would vanish at  $q = (0,0)$  and  $(\pi, \pi)$ . It is known that the 1/*S* expansion works well at taking account of the quantum fluctuation. The linear-spinwave theory is made up of 1/*S* expansion to leading order,<sup>19[,20](#page-8-12)</sup> and the magnon-magnon interaction, as well as the Oguchi correction to the magnon energy, arise in the first order of 1/*S*. [21,](#page-8-13)[22](#page-8-14) Various physical quantities, such as the spin-wave dispersion, the sublattice magnetization, the perpendicular susceptibility, and the spin-stiffness constant, have been calculated up to the second order in 1/*S* on a square lattice. $23-27$  $23-27$  In this paper, we calculate the correlation function within the first order of 1/*S*, where the ladder diagrams with a magnon-magnon interaction have to be summed up. We carry out the summation exactly by transforming the interaction into a separable form. This approach is different from the decoupling approximation to the equation of motion for the spin Green's function. $28-30$ 

It is found that the spectral shape as a function of energy loss is strongly modified by the interaction. Such an effect is known in light scattering, although the momentum transfer is limited to zero.<sup>28,[29,](#page-8-19)[31](#page-8-20)[–34](#page-8-21)</sup> RIXS could detect the momentum dependence of the spectra. Our results show that the spectra form a broad peak around  $\omega = 3J$  *(J* is the exchange constant) for *S*=1/2 at the magnetic Brillouin zone boundary. Note that the momentum dependence of two-magnon excitations has been studied in the context of the phonon-assisted photon absorption spectra, $35$  and has recently been discussed in light scattering.<sup>36</sup> The latter case may be relevant for nonresonant inelastic x-ray scattering experiments, but the mechanism causing two-magnon excitations is quite different from RIXS because no core hole is involved in the process.

The present paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we formulate the RIXS spectra for Heisenberg antiferromagnets by adapting the NI formalism. In Sec. III, the RIXS formula is expressed with magnon operators. The two-magnon correlation function is calculated within the first order in the 1/*S* expansion. In Sec. IV, numerical results are presented for the RIXS spectra in a two-dimensional Heisenberg model for  $La<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub>$ . Section V is devoted to the concluding remarks. The spectra (at  $q=0$ ) for light scattering are summarized in the Appendix for the square lattice.

#### **II. TWO-MAGNON PROCESS IN RIXS**

At the transition-metal *K* edges, the 1*s* core electron is excited to the 4*p* band in a dipole transition by absorbing a photon. This process may be described by

<span id="page-1-0"></span>

FIG. 1. Schematic representation of the two-magnon process in RIXS, corresponding to the first term of Eq.  $(2.6)$  $(2.6)$  $(2.6)$ ;  $(a)$  the 1*s* electron is excited to the  $4p$  band by absorbing x rays, (b), (c) an exchange process takes place under the influence of the core-hole potential, and (d) the  $4p$  electron is recombined with the 1 $s$  core hole.

$$
H_x = w \sum_{\mathbf{q}\alpha} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\omega_{\mathbf{q}}}} \sum_{j\eta\sigma} e_{\eta}^{(\alpha)} p_{j\eta\sigma}^{\dagger} s_{j\sigma} c_{\mathbf{q}\alpha} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}_j} + \text{H.c.}, \quad (2.1)
$$

where  $e_{\eta}^{(\alpha)}$  represents the  $\eta$ th component  $(\eta=x, y, z)$  of two kinds of polarization vectors  $(\alpha=1,2)$  of photon. The operator  $c_{\mathbf{q}\alpha}$  stands for the annihilation operator of the photon with momentum **q** and polarization  $\alpha$ . Since the 1*s* state is so localized, the  $1s \rightarrow 4p$  transition matrix element is well approximated as a constant *w*. The annihilation operators  $p_{ij}$ and  $s_{j\sigma}$  are for the  $4p_{\eta}$  and 1*s* electrons with spin  $\sigma$ , respectively, at the transition-metal site *j*. The Hamiltonians for the core electron and for the 4*p* electrons are given by

$$
H_{1s} = \epsilon_{1s} \sum_{j\sigma} s_{j\sigma}^{\dagger} s_{j\sigma}, \qquad (2.2)
$$

$$
H_{4p} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}\eta\sigma} \epsilon_{4p}^{\eta}(\mathbf{k}) p_{\mathbf{k}\eta\sigma}^{\dagger} p_{\mathbf{k}\eta\sigma}.
$$
 (2.3)

In the intermediate state, the attractive core-hole potential works on the 3*d* electrons, which may be described by

$$
H_{1s\text{-}3d} = V \sum_{im\sigma\sigma'} d_{im\sigma}^{\dagger} d_{im\sigma} s_{i\sigma'}^{\dagger} s_{i\sigma'}.
$$
 (2.4)

The annihilation operator  $d_{i\sigma}$  is for the 3*d* state with spin  $\sigma$  at site *i*. Finally, for describing the low-energy behavior, we assume a single-band Hubbard model for 3*d* electrons,

$$
H = t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} (d_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} d_{j\sigma} + \text{H.c.}) + U \sum_{i} d_{i\uparrow}^{\dagger} d_{i\downarrow}^{\dagger} d_{i\downarrow} d_{i\uparrow}. \tag{2.5}
$$

Here *U* may be 4–8 eV and is smaller than *V*. This Hubbard model may be mapped from a more precise "*d*-*p*" model for cuprates.

At half filling, a spin singlet pair has energy  $2t^2/U$  lower than that of a spin triplet pair. Therefore, in the low-energy sector, the system may be described by the Heisenberg model with the exchange coupling constant  $J = 4t^2 / U^{37}$  $J = 4t^2 / U^{37}$  $J = 4t^2 / U^{37}$  At the corehole site, this exchange process may be influenced by the core-hole potential, as shown in Fig. [1,](#page-1-0) resulting in a change of the exchange coupling. This has been pointed out by van den Brink[.18](#page-8-10) The energy difference between the spin triplet and singlet of two electrons, one at the core-hole site and the other at a nearest-neighbor site, is estimated as

<span id="page-2-1"></span>

FIG. 2. Diagrams for the RIXS intensity in the Keldysh scheme. The double lines represent the effective interactions between the core hole and spins of 3*d* electrons. The solid lines with 4*p* and 1*s* denote the Green's functions of the 4*p* electron and of the 1*s* core hole, respectively. The bubble with shaded vertices stands for the two-magnon correlation function, which connects the outward time leg on the top half and the backward time leg on the bottom half.

$$
t^{2}\left(\frac{1}{U-V} + \frac{1}{U+V}\right).
$$
 (2.6)

<span id="page-2-0"></span>The first and second terms arise from the process with two electrons on the core-hole site as shown in Fig.  $1(b)$  $1(b)$  $1(b)$  and that with two electrons on the nearest-neighbor sites to the corehole sites, respectively. Taking the difference of the energy from the value without the core hole, we obtain an effective interaction between the core hole at site *n* and spins of 3*d* electrons[,18](#page-8-10)

$$
H_{1s-3d}^{\text{eff}} = J_c \sum_{\sigma,\delta} s_{n\sigma} s_{n\sigma}^{\dagger} \mathbf{S}_n \cdot \mathbf{S}_{n+\delta},
$$
 (2.7)

with

$$
J_c = \frac{4t^2}{U} \frac{V^2}{U^2 - V^2},\tag{2.8}
$$

where  $n + \delta$  represents a nearest-neighbor site to site *n*.

The RIXS intensity is simply given by replacing *H*1*s*-3*<sup>d</sup>* with  $H_{1s-3d}^{\text{eff}}$  in the NI formula.<sup>9</sup> The corresponding diagram in the Keldysh scheme is shown in Fig. [2,](#page-2-1) where the effective interaction  $H_{1s-3d}^{\text{eff}}$  is represented by the double line. The incident photon has momentum  $\mathbf{q}_i$ , energy  $\omega_i$ , and polarization  ${\bf e}^{(\alpha_i)}$ , and the scattered photon has momentum  ${\bf q}_f$ , energy  $\omega_f$ , and polarization  $e^{(\alpha_f)}$ . The momentum and the energy transferred from the photon are given by  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}_i - \mathbf{q}_f$  and  $\omega = \omega_i$  $-\omega_f$ . They are written simply as  $q = (q, \omega)$ . Similarly, we introduce the notations  $q_i = (\mathbf{q}_i, \omega_i)$  and  $q_f = (\mathbf{q}_f, \omega_f)$ .

The upper triangle represents the product of Green's functions of the 4*p* electron and the core hole on the outward time leg, which gives a factor  $\exp\{i[\epsilon_{4p}^{\eta}(\mathbf{p}) - \epsilon_{1s} - i\Gamma_{1s} - \omega_i]t\}$ , with  $\Gamma_{1s}$  being the lifetime broadening width of the 1*s* core hole. The lower triangle represents the product of Green's functions on the backward time leg, which gives a factor  $\exp\{-i[\epsilon_{4p}^{g}(\mathbf{p})-\epsilon_{1s}+i\Gamma_{1s}-\omega_{i}](t'-u')\}$ . Note that the extra time-dependent factors,  $e^{i\omega s}$  on the outward time leg and *e*<sup>−*iωs'*</sup> on the backward time leg, arise from the interaction. Integrating the time factors combined with the above product of Green's functions with respect to *s* and *t* in the region of  $t \leq s \leq 0$ ,  $-\infty \leq t \leq 0$ , we obtain

$$
L_{B}^{\eta}(\omega_{i};\omega) \equiv J_{c} \int_{-\infty}^{0} dt \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \exp\{i[\epsilon_{4p}^{\eta}(\mathbf{p}) - \epsilon_{1s} - i\Gamma_{1s} - \omega_{i}]t\} \int_{t}^{0} ds \, e^{i\omega s} = -J_{c} \int \frac{\rho_{4p}^{\eta}(\epsilon) d\epsilon}{(\omega_{i} + \epsilon_{1s} + i\Gamma_{1s} - \epsilon)(\omega_{i} - \omega + \epsilon_{1s} + i\Gamma_{1s} - \epsilon)}.
$$
\n(2.9)

Here the summation over momentum is replaced by an integration over energy associated with the 4*p* DOS  $\rho_{4p}^{\eta}(\epsilon)$  projected onto the  $\eta$  (=x, *y*, *z*) symmetry. The integration with respect to *s'* and *t'* on the backward time leg gives the com-plex conjugate term to Eq. ([2.9](#page-2-0)). The integration with respect to *u'* gives the energy conservation factor, which guarantees that  $\omega$  in Eq. ([2.9](#page-2-0)) is the energy loss,  $\omega = \omega_i - \omega_f$ . See Ref. [10](#page-8-3) for the detailed derivation of this function. Since the magnon energy is usually of the order of 0.5 eV, which is much smaller than the energy scale of the 4*p* DOS, we can safely put  $\omega = 0$  in Eq. ([2.9](#page-2-0)). The bubble with shaded vertices in Fig. [2](#page-2-1) denotes the two-magnon correlation function  $Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$  defined by

$$
Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \langle M_{\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger}(s')M_{\mathbf{q}}(s)\rangle e^{i\omega(s'-s)}d(s'-s), \tag{2.10}
$$

$$
M_{\mathbf{q}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}} \sum_{n,\delta} \mathbf{S}_n \cdot \mathbf{S}_{n+\delta} e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}_n},
$$
 (2.11)

<span id="page-2-2"></span>where  $\langle \cdots \rangle$  indicates the average over the ground state. Combining all the above factors, we finally obtain the expression for the RIXS intensity as

$$
W(q_i, \alpha_i; q_f, \alpha_f) = \frac{|w|^4}{4\omega_i\omega_f} \frac{N}{2} Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) \left| \sum_{\eta} e_{\eta}^{(\alpha_f)} L_B^{\eta}(\omega_i; \omega) e_{\eta}^{(\alpha_i)} \right|^2.
$$
\n(2.12)

#### **III. THE 1/***S* **EXPANSION**

We carry out systematically the 1/*S* expansion by introducing the Holstein-Primakoff transformation to the spin operators[.38](#page-8-26) Assuming two sublattices in the antiferromag-

with

<span id="page-3-0"></span>netic (AF) ground state, we express spin operators by boson operators as

$$
S_i^z = S - a_i^{\dagger} a_i,\tag{3.1}
$$

$$
S_i^+ = (S_i^-)^{\dagger} = \sqrt{2S} f_i(S) a_i,
$$
 (3.2)

$$
S_j^z = -S + b_j^{\dagger} b_j, \tag{3.3}
$$

$$
S_j^+ = (S_j^-)^{\dagger} = \sqrt{2Sb_j^{\dagger}} f_j(S), \qquad (3.4)
$$

<span id="page-3-1"></span>where  $a_i$  and  $b_j$  are boson annihilation operators, and

$$
f_{\ell}(S) = \left(1 - \frac{n_{\ell}}{2S}\right)^{1/2} = 1 - \frac{1}{2}\frac{n_{\ell}}{2S} - \frac{1}{8}\left(\frac{n_{\ell}}{2S}\right)^{2} + \cdots, (3.5)
$$

with  $n_{\ell} = a_i^{\dagger} a_i$  and  $b_j^{\dagger} b_j$ . Indices *i* and *j* refer to sites on the "up" and "down" sublattices, respectively.

#### **A. Heisenberg Hamiltonian**

<span id="page-3-2"></span>We apply the 1/*S* expansion to the Heisenberg Hamiltonian described by

$$
H = J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j,\tag{3.6}
$$

where  $\langle i, j \rangle$  indicates the sum taken over nearest-neighbor pairs. Substituting Eqs.  $(3.1)$  $(3.1)$  $(3.1)$ – $(3.4)$  $(3.4)$  $(3.4)$  into Eq.  $(3.6)$  $(3.6)$  $(3.6)$ , we expand the Hamiltonian in powers of 1/*S* as

$$
H = -\frac{1}{2}JS^2Nz + H_0 + H_1 + \cdots, \qquad (3.7)
$$

where *N* and *z* are the number of lattice sites and that of nearest-neighbor sites, respectively. The leading term  $H_0$  is expressed as

$$
H_0 = JS \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \left( a_i^{\dagger} a_i + b_j^{\dagger} b_j + a_i b_j + a_i^{\dagger} b_j^{\dagger} \right). \tag{3.8}
$$

Rewriting the boson operators in the momentum space as

$$
a_i = \left(\frac{2}{N}\right)^{1/2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}} \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_i),
$$
 (3.9)

$$
b_j = \left(\frac{2}{N}\right)^{1/2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} b_{\mathbf{k}} \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j),
$$
 (3.10)

we diagonalize  $H_0$  by introducing the Bogoliubov transformation,

$$
a_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} = \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} + m_{\mathbf{k}} \beta_{-\mathbf{k}}, \quad b_{-\mathbf{k}} = m_{\mathbf{k}} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} + \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \beta_{-\mathbf{k}}, \quad (3.11)
$$

<span id="page-3-5"></span>where

$$
\ell_{\mathbf{k}} = \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}}{2\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}}\right)^{1/2}, \quad m_{\mathbf{k}} = -\left(\frac{1 - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}}{2\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}}\right)^{1/2} \equiv -x_{\mathbf{k}}\ell_{\mathbf{k}},
$$
\n(3.12)

$$
\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{1 - \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^2}, \quad \gamma_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{z} \sum_{\delta} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \delta}.
$$
 (3.13)

Here  $\delta$  is the nearest-neighbor vector. The momentum **k** is defined in the first magnetic Brillouin zone (MBZ).

As shown in Ref. [23,](#page-8-15) after the Bogoliubov transformation, the Hamiltonian becomes

$$
H_0 = JSz \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - 1) + JSz \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\alpha_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}} + \beta_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \beta_{\mathbf{k}}),
$$
\n(3.14)

<span id="page-3-3"></span>
$$
H_{1} = \frac{JSz}{2S} A \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\alpha_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}} + \beta_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \beta_{\mathbf{k}}) + \frac{-JSz}{2SN} \sum_{1234} \delta_{\mathbf{G}} (1 + 2 - 3 - 4) \ell_{1} \ell_{2} \ell_{3} \ell_{4} \times [\alpha_{1}^{\dagger} \alpha_{2}^{\dagger} \alpha_{3} \alpha_{4} B_{1234}^{(1)} + \beta_{-3}^{\dagger} \beta_{-4}^{\dagger} \beta_{-1} \beta_{-2} B_{1234}^{(2)} + 4 \alpha_{1}^{\dagger} \beta_{-4}^{\dagger} \beta_{-2} \alpha_{3} B_{1234}^{(3)} + (2 \alpha_{1}^{\dagger} \beta_{-2} \alpha_{3} \alpha_{4} B_{1234}^{(4)} + 2 \beta_{-4}^{\dagger} \beta_{-1} \beta_{-2} \alpha_{3} B_{1234}^{(5)} + \alpha_{1}^{\dagger} \alpha_{2}^{\dagger} \beta_{-3}^{\dagger} \beta_{-4}^{\dagger} B_{1234}^{(6)} + \text{H.c.})],
$$
\n(3.15)

with

$$
A = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (1 - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}).
$$
 (3.16)

The first term in Eq.  $(3.15)$  $(3.15)$  $(3.15)$ , known as the Oguchi correction, $^{21}$  arises from setting the products of four boson operators into normal product forms with respect to magnon operators. For the square lattice, *A*=0.1579. The second term represents the scattering of magnons. The momenta  $\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3, \ldots$  are abbreviated as 1,2,3,.... The Kronecker delta  $\delta_G(1+2-3-4)$  indicates the conservation of momenta within the reciprocal lattice vector **G**. Explicit expressions for the  $B^{(i)}$ 's in a symmetric parametrization are given by Eqs.  $(2.16)$ – $(2.20)$  in Ref. [23.](#page-8-15) Here we only write down the explicit expression for  $B_{1234}^{(3)}$ , which will become necessary in the next section,

$$
B_{1234}^{(3)} = \gamma_{2-4} + \gamma_{1-3}x_1x_2x_3x_4 + \gamma_{1-4}x_1x_2 + \gamma_{2-3}x_3x_4 - \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_2x_4 + \gamma_1x_1x_2x_4 + \gamma_{2-3-4}x_3 + \gamma_{1-3-4}x_1x_2x_3 + \gamma_4x_2 + \gamma_3x_2x_3x_4 + \gamma_{4-2-1}x_1 + \gamma_{3-2-1}x_1x_3x_4.
$$
 (3.17)

#### **B. Two-magnon operator**

Inserting Eqs.  $(3.1)$  $(3.1)$  $(3.1)$ – $(3.4)$  $(3.4)$  $(3.4)$  into Eq.  $(2.11)$  $(2.11)$  $(2.11)$ , we expand  $M<sub>q</sub>$ in terms of boson operators as

<span id="page-3-4"></span>
$$
M_{\mathbf{q}} = S \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}} \sum_{\delta} \left( \sum_{i \in A} (a_i^{\dagger} a_i + b_{i+\delta}^{\dagger} b_{i+\delta} + a_i b_{i+\delta} + a_i^{\dagger} b_{i+\delta}^{\dagger}) e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}_i} + \sum_{j \in B} (b_j^{\dagger} b_j + a_{j+\delta}^{\dagger} a_{j+\delta} + b_j a_{j+\delta} + b_j^{\dagger} a_{j+\delta}^{\dagger}) e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j} \right). \tag{3.18}
$$

Note that the momentum transfer **q** is defined in the first BZ, which is double the first MBZ. When **q** is outside the first MBZ, it can be brought back to the first MBZ by a reciprocal vector  $\mathbf{G}_0$ , that is,  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{G}_0$  with  $\mathbf{q}_0$  being inside the first MBZ. In this situation,  $e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}} = -e^{i\mathbf{q}_0\cdot\mathbf{r}_j}$  in the second term of

with

Eq.  $(3.18)$  $(3.18)$  $(3.18)$ . Noting this fact and substituting Eq.  $(3.11)$  $(3.11)$  $(3.11)$  into Eq. ([3.18](#page-3-4)), we obtain the expression of  $M_{\mathbf{q}}$  as

$$
M_{\mathbf{q}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} N(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}) \alpha_{\left[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}\right]}^{\dagger} \beta_{-\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.} + \cdots , \quad (3.19)
$$

with

$$
N(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}) = Sz \{ (1 \pm \gamma_{\mathbf{q}_0}) \ell_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]} m_{\mathbf{k}} + \text{sgn}(\gamma_{\mathbf{G}}) (\pm 1 + \gamma_{\mathbf{q}_0}) m_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} + [\gamma_{\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}}] \pm \text{sgn}(\gamma_{\mathbf{G}}) \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}] m_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]} m_{\mathbf{k}} + [\gamma_{\mathbf{k}} \pm \text{sgn}(\gamma_{\mathbf{G}}) \gamma_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]}] \ell_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]} \ell_{\mathbf{k}}.
$$
 (3.20)

The sign  $\pm$  corresponds to the case that **q** is inside or outside the first MBZ. The symbol  $[q_0+k]$  stands for  $q_0+k$  reduced in the first MBZ by the reciprocal lattice vector **G**, that is,  $[q_0+k]=q_0+k-G$ , and sgn( $\gamma_G$ ) denotes the sign of  $\gamma_G$ . This result will be used to calculate  $Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$  in the next section. Note that  $N(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}) = 0$  for  $\mathbf{q} = 0$  and  $\mathbf{q} = (\pi, \pi)$  in the square lattice, indicating that no RIXS signal would be generated. In light scattering, the total momentum of two magnons is restricted to be zero. Unlike the RIXS case, finite intensities are expected because of the different matrix elements for the two-magnon process. See the Appendix for details.

#### **C. Two-magnon correlation function**

Defining the two-magnon Green's function as

$$
F(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}') = -i \int e^{i\omega t} dt \langle T[\beta_{-\mathbf{k}}(t)\alpha_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]}(t)\alpha_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}']}^{\dagger}\beta_{-\mathbf{k}'}^{\dagger}]\rangle, \tag{3.21}
$$

where  $T$  is the time-ordering operator. We rewrite the twomagnon correlation function  $Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$  as

<span id="page-4-0"></span>
$$
Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} N(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}) N(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}') (-2) \text{Im } F(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}').
$$
\n(3.22)

The two-magnon Green's function is expanded in terms of the one-magnon Green's functions,

$$
G_{\alpha\alpha}(\mathbf{k},t) = -i\langle T[\alpha_{\mathbf{k}}(t)\alpha_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger}(0)]\rangle, \qquad (3.23)
$$

$$
G_{\beta\beta}(\mathbf{k},t) = -i\langle T[\beta_{\mathbf{k}}(t)\beta_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger}(0)]\rangle.
$$
 (3.24)

The unperturbed ones corresponding to  $H_0$  are given by

$$
G_{\alpha\alpha}^{(0)}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = G_{\beta\beta}^{(0)}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = (\omega - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} + i\,\eta)^{-1}, \quad \eta \to 0^+, \tag{3.25}
$$

where the energy is in units of *JSz*. Hereafter the energy is measured in units of *JSz*.

In the lowest order, the two-magnon Green's function is simply given by

$$
F(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}') = F_0(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}) \delta_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'},
$$
 (3.26)

<span id="page-4-2"></span>

FIG. 3. (a) Ladder diagrams for  $F(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$ . Solid lines represent the single-magnon Green's function with the magnon energy including the Oguchi correction. (b) Magnon-magnon interaction in units of *JSz*.

<span id="page-4-1"></span>
$$
F_0(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}) = i \int G_{\alpha\alpha}^{(0)}([\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}], \omega + k_0) G_{\beta\beta}^{(0)}(-\mathbf{k}, -k_0) \frac{dk_0}{2\pi}
$$

$$
= \frac{1}{\omega - \epsilon_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]} - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} + i\eta}.
$$
(3.27)

Inserting this relation into Eq.  $(3.22)$  $(3.22)$  $(3.22)$ , we obtain the correlation function in the lowest order as

$$
Y^{(0)+-}(\mathbf{q},\omega) = 2\pi \frac{2}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} N(\mathbf{q},\mathbf{k})^2 \delta(\omega - \epsilon_{[\mathbf{q}_0+\mathbf{k}]} - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}).
$$
\n(3.28)

In the first order in  $1/S$ , the magnon energy  $\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}$  is changed to  $(1+A/2S)\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}$  due to the Oguchi correction. Therefore,  $F_0(\mathbf{q}, \omega; \mathbf{k})$  is modified by replacing  $\epsilon_{[\mathbf{q}_0+\mathbf{k}]}$  and  $\epsilon_{[\mathbf{k}]}$  in Eq.  $(3.27)$  $(3.27)$  $(3.27)$  with  $(1+A/2S)\epsilon_{\mathbf{q}_0+\mathbf{k}}$  and  $(1+A/2S)\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}$ , respectively. Let  $\overline{F}_0(\mathbf{q}, \omega; \mathbf{k})$  be the function after this modification. Within the same order, we have to take account of the magnonmagnon interaction. Only the terms with the factor  $B_{1234}^{(3)}$  in Eq.  $(3.15)$  $(3.15)$  $(3.15)$  are relevant to the present calculation. Consider the ladder approximation shown in Fig. [3](#page-4-2) for the twomagnon Green's function. Regarding the dependence on **k** and **k**' in  $F(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$  as a matrix  $\hat{F}(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega)$  with  $N/2$  $X$ *N*/2 dimensions, we notice that the sum of the ladder diagrams is equivalent to the expression

<span id="page-4-3"></span>
$$
\begin{split} \big[\hat{F}(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega)^{-1}\big]_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} &= \bar{F}_0(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k})^{-1} \delta_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} \\ &+ \frac{4}{2SN} \ell_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}']} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]} \ell_{\mathbf{k}'} B^{(3)}_{[\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}'], \mathbf{k}, [\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}], \mathbf{k}'} .\end{split} \tag{3.29}
$$

This is nothing but the eigenvalue equation for two-magnon excitations, indicating that the ladder approximation together with the Oguchi correction to the single-magnon energy constitute the first-order correction in the 1/*S* expansion.

Equation  $(3.29)$  $(3.29)$  $(3.29)$  is not useful for the actual calculation of the two-magnon Green's function, because the matrix with  $N/2 \times N/2$  dimensions has to be inverted in order to get

 $\hat{F}(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega)$ . We sum up the ladder diagrams exactly, transforming the interaction into a separable form with several channels,

<span id="page-5-2"></span>
$$
-\frac{4}{2SN} \ell_1 \ell_2 \ell_3 \ell_4 B_{1234}^{(3)} = \sum_{m,n=1}^{N_c} v_m(2,3) \Gamma_{mn} v_n(4,1).
$$
\n(3.30)

Here  $N_c$  is the channel number. The indices 2 and 3 specify the incoming magnons while 1 and 4 specify the outgoing magnons [Fig.  $3(b)$  $3(b)$ ]. The above transformation is exactly performed by applying the addition theorem of trigonometric functions to factors such as  $\gamma_{2-4}$  in  $B_{1234}^{(3)}$ . Explicit forms of  $v_n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$  and  $\Gamma_{mn}$  are given for the square lattice in the next section. Thereby we obtain the  $T$  matrix  $\Pi$ ,

$$
\Pi(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}') = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{m,n} v_m(\mathbf{k}, [\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}])
$$

$$
\times \Gamma_{mn}^{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega) v_n(\mathbf{k}', [\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}']) , \quad (3.31)
$$

<span id="page-5-0"></span>where

$$
\Gamma_{mn}^{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{q}_0,\omega) = \left[\left[\hat{\mathbf{1}} - \hat{\Gamma}\hat{R}(\mathbf{q}_0,\omega)\right]^{-1}\hat{\Gamma}\right]_{mn},\tag{3.32}
$$

<span id="page-5-3"></span>with

$$
\[\hat{R}(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega)\]_{mn} = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} v_m(\mathbf{k}, [\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}])
$$

$$
\times \overline{F}_0(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}) v_n(\mathbf{k}, [\mathbf{q}_0 + \mathbf{k}]). \tag{3.33}
$$

In Eq. ([3.32](#page-5-0)), the unit matrix  $\hat{\mathbf{1}}$  and  $\hat{R}(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega)$  are in  $N_c \times N_c$ dimensions. We calculate the two-magnon Green's function from the *T* matrix,

$$
F(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}') = \overline{F}_0(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}) [\delta_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'}
$$
  
+  $\Pi(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}') \overline{F}_0(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega; \mathbf{k}')$ ]. (3.34)

Inserting this equation into Eq.  $(3.22)$  $(3.22)$  $(3.22)$ , we obtain  $Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$ , which gives the RIXS intensity as a function of momentum and energy transferred from the photon.

#### **IV. CALCULATED RESULTS**

We apply the formulas in the preceding sections to  $La<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub>$ , which seems to be a typical two-dimensional Heisenberg antiferromagnet. $37$  The ratio of the RIXS intensity in the two-magnon region to that in the charge excitation region is roughly estimated as  $(J_c/V)^2$ . For La<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub>, we have  $(J_c/V)^2$  < 0.01, because  $J_c \sim 0.2 - 0.5$  eV and *V*  $\sim$  5–10 eV.

<span id="page-5-1"></span>

FIG. 4. (a)  $4p$  DOS projected onto the  $p_z$  and  $p_x$   $(p_y)$  symmetries, calculated by the LDA in  $La_2CuO_4$ . The origin of the energy is the bottom of the  $4p$  band. (b) RIXS intensity proportional to  $\sum_{\eta} e_{\eta}^{(\alpha)} L_{B}^{\eta}(\omega_{i}; \omega=0) e_{\eta}^{(\alpha)} |^{2}$ , with  $e^{(\alpha)}$  along the *c* axis and in the *ab* plane. The origin of the energy corresponds to the photon energy for exciting the 1*s* core electron into the bottom of the 4*p* band.

#### **A. Incident-photon-energy dependence**

The incident-photon-energy dependence is governed by the factor  $L_B^{\eta}(\omega_i; \omega)$ . Since it depends not only on  $\omega_i$  but also on  $\omega$ , the enhancement is different for different  $\omega$ 's. In the present case, however, we may safely put  $\omega=0$  in the calculation of  $L^{\eta}_{\mathcal{B}}(\omega_i; \omega)$ , because the energies of two magnons are much smaller than the energy scale of the 4*p* band. This indicates that the RIXS spectra in the two-magnon region are enhanced by the same factor.

For calculating that factor, we first carry out the band calculation for  $La_2CuO_4$  $La_2CuO_4$  within the LDA. Figure  $4(a)$  shows the 4*p* DOS projected onto the  $p_z$  and  $p_x$  ( $p_y$ ) symmetries, which may correspond to the absorption coefficients for the photon polarization along the *c* axis and in the *ab* plane, respectively. Next, using the same DOS, we calculate the enhancement factor  $\sum_{\eta} e_{\eta}^{(\alpha)} L_{B}^{\eta}(\omega_i; \omega=0) e_{\eta}^{(\alpha)}|^2$ , by assuming that the incident and scattered photons have the same polarization. Figure  $4(b)$  $4(b)$  shows the calculated results for the polarization along the *c* axis and in the *ab* plane. We find a strong resonant enhancement as a function of incident photon energy, which is much stronger for polarization along the *c* axis than for that in the *ab* plane. This is quite different from light scattering, where the polarization of light is restricted to the *ab* plane (see the Appendix).<sup>[29](#page-8-19)</sup>

#### **B. Momentum dependence as a function of energy loss**

We consider the Heisenberg model on a square lattice. Inserting  $\gamma_k = (\cos k_x + \cos k_y)/2$  into the magnon-magnon interaction term  $B_{1234}^{(3)}$ , and applying the addition theorem of trigonometric functions to factors such as  $\gamma_{2-4}$  in  $B_{1234}^{(3)}$ , we obtain the explicit expression for Eq.  $(3.30)$  $(3.30)$  $(3.30)$  with



and with the  $v_n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$ 's defined in Table [I.](#page-6-0) The channel number  $N_c = 13$ . With these forms, we evaluate  $\hat{R}(\mathbf{q}_0, \omega)$  in Eq.  $(3.33)$  $(3.33)$  $(3.33)$  by summing over the **k**'s on  $512 \times 512$  meshes in the first MBZ.

Figure [5](#page-6-1) shows the calculated RIXS intensity  $Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$ scaled by  $(Sz)^2$  as a function of energy loss  $\omega$  for several typical values of **q**. The lowest-order value  $Y^{(0)+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)/(S_{Z})^2$  is independent of *S*, corresponding to *S*  $=\infty$ . The effect of the magnon-magnon interaction becomes weaker with increasing *S*, and the spectra approach the lowest-order values. As already pointed out, no RIXS inten-

TABLE I. Definition of the coefficients  $v_n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$ .

<span id="page-6-0"></span>

$\boldsymbol{n}$	$v_n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$	
1		
$\overline{2}$		
3	$\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} x_{\mathbf{k}}$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \cos k_x$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \cos k_y$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \cos k_y$	
$\overline{4}$		
5	$\frac{1}{2} \ell_k \ell_k x_k, \cos(k_x - k'_x)$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_k \ell_k x_k, \cos(k_y - k'_y)$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_k \ell_k x_k x_k, \cos k'_x$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_k \ell_k x_k x_k, \cos k'_y$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_k \ell_k, \sin k_x$	
6		
7		
8		
9		
10	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k'}}$ sin $k_y$	
11	$\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k'}} x_{\mathbf{k'}} \sin(k_x - k'_x)$	
12	$\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k}'} x_{\mathbf{k}'} \sin(k_y - k_y')$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k}'} x_{\mathbf{k}} x_{\mathbf{k}'} \sin k_x'$ $\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k}'} x_{\mathbf{k}} x_{\mathbf{k}'} \sin k_x'$	
13	$\frac{1}{2} \ell_{\mathbf{k}} \ell_{\mathbf{k}'} x_{\mathbf{k}} x_{\mathbf{k}'} \sin k_y'$	

sity comes out at the  $\Gamma$  point and at  $\mathbf{q} = (\pi, \pi)$ . Deviating from these points, RIXS intensities come out with the lower bound of spectra deviating from  $\omega = 0$ . When **q** is close to the  $\Gamma$  point [Fig. [5](#page-6-1)(a)], a sharp peak is found for  $\omega < JS_z$ , which is slightly modified in the presence of the magnon-magnon interaction. When **q** is at the boundary of the first MBZ [Figs.  $5(b)$  $5(b)$  and  $5(c)$ ], a sharp peak found in the lowest-order approximation is smeared out to be a broad peak due to the magnon-magnon interaction. The center of the shape remains nearly the same after taking account of the interaction. In contrast to these cases, when **q** is outside the first MBZ [Fig.  $5(d)$  $5(d)$ ], a sharp peak found in the lowest-order approximation is changed into a broad peak with its center considerably

<span id="page-6-1"></span>

FIG. 5. RIXS intensity  $Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$  scaled by  $(Sz)^2$  as a function of  $\omega / JS_z$  for typical values of **q**. The bold and thin solid lines stand for  $Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)/(S_z)^2$  with  $S=1/2$  and 1, respectively. The broken lines represent  $Y^{(0)+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)/(Sz)^2$ , which correspond to  $S \rightarrow \infty$ .

<span id="page-7-0"></span>

FIG. 6. RIXS intensity  $Y^{+-}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)/(Sz)^2$  along the symmetry lines for **q** within the first order of  $1/S$   $(S=1/2)$ .

shifted to the lower-energy region due to the magnonmagnon interaction.

Figure [6](#page-7-0) shows the RIXS spectra as a function of energy loss with changing momenta along several symmetry lines  $(S=1/2)$ . Along the zone boundary of the first MBZ [Fig.  $6(b)$  $6(b)$ ], the spectra have large widths around  $\omega = 3J$ . The spectra obtained here seem to be different from the results of van den Brink, $18$  who made the moment analysis. We find no long-lived virtual bound state of two magnons, which has been predicted from the phonon-assisted light absorption spectra. $35$  Note that the matrix elements for creating two magnons in RIXS are different from those in light scattering.<sup>36</sup> Since the spectral shape depends strongly on the matrix elements, the direct comparison of the two spectra may be less useful. The present formalism recovers the results of light scattering (at  $q=0$ ) by Canali and Girvin,<sup>33</sup> as shown in the Appendix.

The exchange coupling constant *J* in  $La_2CuO<sub>4</sub>$  is estimated as  $J=135$  meV by comparing the spin-wave velocity calculated in the first order of  $1/S$  with the experiment.<sup>39</sup> Therefore, the broad peaks are located around  $\omega$ =400 meV for **q** at the boundary of the first MBZ. Unfortunately, at present, no experimental data are published on such a lowenergy region in  $La_2CuO_4$ . Our result will provide the guide to forthcoming experiments.

# **V. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

We have formulated the two-magnon spectra of RIXS in antiferromagnets by developing the formalism of Nomura and Igarashi. The 1*s* core-hole potential causes a change in the exchange coupling between 3*d* electrons, resulting in two-magnon excitation. This is analogous to the conventional RIXS process where the charge excitation is created due to the screening of the core-hole potential. The intensity of two-magnon RIXS is estimated to be less than 0.01 of the intensity coming from the charge excitation.

In the present formalism, the factor describing the incident-photon-energy dependence is separated from the factor describing the dependence on the momentum and energy transferred from photon. We have calculated the former factor using the  $4p$  DOS for  $La_2CuO_4$  within the LDA. We have predicted a strong enhancement of the intensity at the *K* edge for the polarization along the *c* axis. The latter factor is given by the two-magnon correlation function. We have calculated the correlation function up to first order of 1/*S* in the square lattice, systematically applying the 1/*S* expansion. We have exactly summed up the ladder diagrams by transforming the magnon-magnon interaction into a separable form with 13 channels. The spectral shape as a function of energy loss is strongly modified by the magnon-magnon interaction. On the boundary of the first MBZ, for example, the sharp peaks found in the lowest-order approximation have been considerably broadened. We hope the spectra obtained in this paper will be compared with experimental data in future.

No AF long-range order could exist at finite temperatures in purely two-dimensional Heisenberg models. In the absence of AF order, however, it is known from a nonlinear  $\sigma$ model analysis<sup>40</sup> that the spin-spin correlation length is rather long, up to  $T \sim J/k_B$ . Spin-wave-like excitations could exist in such a situation. $41-43$  $41-43$  Therefore, the present analysis of the RIXS spectra at zero temperature may have relevance to the spectra at finite temperatures. The analysis of temperature effects is left for future study.

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## **APPENDIX: TWO-MAGNON LIGHT SCATTERING**

We summarize the two-magnon excitation of light scattering to compare the result obtained by the present formalism with previous studies in two dimensions.

Since the wavelength of light is much longer than the lattice spacing, the intensity is independent of the directions of the incident and scattered light. The interaction of light with spins is described by $^{29}$ 

$$
H_R = \sum_{j\delta} \left[ A(\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \delta)(\mathbf{e}_f \cdot \delta) + B(\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}_f) + C e_i^z e_f^z \right] (\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_{j+\delta}),
$$
\n(A1)

where  $\delta$  is a unit vector in the direction joining the nearestneighbor pairs and *A*, *B*, and *C* are real constants. The terms with *B* and *C* cannot cause scattering, since they are proportional to  $\Sigma_i \mathcal{S}_i \cdot \mathcal{S}_{i+\delta}$  and commute with the magnetic Hamiltonian. For the polarization picking up the  $A_{1g}$  mode,  $e_i = (\hat{x})$  $+\hat{\mathbf{y}}/\sqrt{2}$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_f=(\hat{\mathbf{x}}+\hat{\mathbf{y}})/\sqrt{2}$ , there is no intensity for the same reason  $(\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{y}$  are unit vectors pointing to the *x* and *y* axes). For the polarization picking up the  $B_{1g}$  mode,  $\mathbf{e}_i = (\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \hat{\mathbf{y}})/\sqrt{2}$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_f = (\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{y}})/\sqrt{2}$ , we have

TWO-MAGNON EXCITATIONS IN RESONANT INELASTIC...

$$
H_R = A \sum_j (\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_{j+\hat{\mathbf{x}}} - \mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_{j+\hat{\mathbf{y}}}).
$$
 (A2)

Expanding this in terms of magnon operators, we obtain

$$
H_R = ASz \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{\gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^d}{\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}} (\alpha_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \beta_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + \text{H.c.} + \cdots), \tag{A3}
$$

where  $\gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^d = (\cos k_x - \cos k_y)/2$ . The scattering intensity *I*( $\omega$ ) from this interaction is given by

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$$
I(\omega) \propto (ASz)^2 \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k'}} \left( \frac{\gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^d \gamma_{\mathbf{k'}}^d}{\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k'}}} \right) (-2) \text{Im } F(\mathbf{q} = 0, \omega; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k'})
$$
 (A4)

We calculate  $F(\mathbf{q}=0,\omega;\mathbf{k},\mathbf{k}')$  by summing up the ladder diagrams including the Oguchi correction within the present formalism. We obtain a spectrum identical to that of Canali and Girvin, which is formed by a single peak at  $\omega$ =3.38 for  $S=1/2^{33}$  $S=1/2^{33}$  $S=1/2^{33}$ 

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