Joint annual meeting of Swiss and Austrian Physical Societies 2017



Contribution ID: 302 Type: Talk

[124] Extending Haldane's conjecture to SU(3) spin chain systems

Thursday 24 August 2017 15:00 (15 minutes)

We apply field theory methods to SU(3) symmetric Heisenberg chains in the fully symmetric representation, with p boxes in the Young tableau, mapping them into a SU(3)/(U(1) \times U(1)) non-linear σ -model with a non-trivial topological term and a topological angle $\theta=2\pi p/3$. Based on this mapping we argue that SU(3) spin chains are gapped for p=3m, while gapless for $p=3m\pm 1$ (for integer m). This is confirmed by Monte Carlo calculations on the σ -model. We further discuss the phase diagram and the renormalization flow of the σ -model, and its implications on spin chains.

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Session Classification: Condensed Matter Physics (incl. NESY)

Track Classification: Condensed Matter Physics (incl. NESY)