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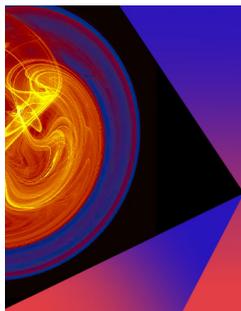


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## ABSTRACT

By continuously varying certain geometric parameters  $\gamma$  of the totally desymmetrized quantum Sinai billiard, we study the formation of the so-called soliton-like structures in the spectra of the resulting family of systems. We present a detailed characterization of the eigenstate  $\psi_n$  morphologies along such structures. Usually, scarring and bouncing ball mode states are expected to fully explain the solitons. However, we show that they do not exhaust all the possibilities. States with strong resemblance to very particular solutions of the associated integrable case ( $45^\circ$ – $45^\circ$  right triangle) also account for the  $\psi_n$ 's. We argue that for the emergence of the solitons, in fact, there must be an interplay between the spatial localization properties of the soliton-related  $\psi_n$ 's and the rescaling properties of the billiards with  $\gamma$ . This is illustrated, e.g., by comparing the behavior of the eigenwavelengths along the solitons and the billiard size dependence on  $\gamma$ . Considerations on how these findings could extend to other type of billiards are also briefly addressed.

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An important class of problems for the general understanding of deterministic chaos is formed by the so called billiard tables: a particle confined in a free region delimited by a closed hard boundary. In the broad context of quantum chaology, by solving the Schrödinger equation and then analyzing statistical properties of the eigenenergies  $\{E_n\}$  and special features of the eigenstates  $\psi_n$ 's, one can establish the system's regular or chaotic character. Although less explored, it is also possible to investigate a whole family of models by changing a certain associated parameter  $\gamma$  (e.g., an angle or a side length of a billiard border). Then, one might infer chaotic properties from correlations between groups of  $E_n$ 's and specific patterns for subsets of  $\psi_n$ 's as a function of  $\gamma$ . We conduct this latter type of study for the paradigmatic chaotic Sinai billiard in its fully desymmetrized version: a right triangle with one acute angle substituted by a concave arc of circle. As  $\gamma$  varies, we find structures for the billiards known in the literature as spectra solitons. Through comprehensive analysis, we show how these solitons are associated with the morphologies, "shapes," of special eigenstates of the related (and not chaotic) right triangles. We explain such emergence based on simple geometric arguments and the localization behavior of the involved

$\psi_n$ 's. The mechanisms generating the present phenomenology conceivably could also result in similar effects in other chaotic systems.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Deterministic chaos<sup>1</sup> (hereafter just chaos), both in classical and quantum physics,<sup>2</sup> is a rather fundamental area in the broad realm of dynamical systems,<sup>3,4</sup> e.g., essentially encompassing the whole of chaotic Hamiltonian evolution.<sup>5,6</sup> The number of distinct problems displaying chaos is overwhelming.<sup>7</sup> Particularly, billiard systems<sup>8–13</sup> are of paramount importance to unveil fundamental aspects of chaotic behavior. In its simplest 2D formulation, one considers a point-like particle of mass  $\mu$  confined in a planar finite region  $\Omega$  for which the potential  $V(\mathbf{r} \in \Omega) = 0$ . The region  $\Omega$  is delimited by hard wall borders  $\partial\Omega$ . Classically, given the energy  $E$ , we shall determine the global properties of the particle possible Newtonian trajectories in the phase space, supposing specular reflections from  $\partial\Omega$ . Quantically, we shall obtain the eigenfunctions and eigenvalues of the Helmholtz equation  $(\nabla^2 + k^2)\psi(\mathbf{r}, k) = 0$

in  $\Omega$  (for  $k^2 = 2\mu E/\hbar^2$ ), assuming Dirichlet boundary conditions, namely,  $\psi(\mathbf{r} \in \partial\Omega) = 0$ .

Because of the relative structural simplicity of billiards—if compared to more involving systems<sup>14</sup> or (e.g., in the quantum case) if within  $\Omega$ , either there is more than one particle<sup>15</sup> or deformation or elastic potentials are present<sup>16–18</sup>—the emergence or not of chaotic behavior is fully dictated by the geometric features of  $\partial\Omega$ .<sup>10,13</sup> For instance, in the classical context, elements of hard chaos (e.g., ergodicity, positive Kolmogorov–Sinai entropy, mixing, etc.<sup>19</sup>) arise from boundaries  $\partial\Omega$ , which are everywhere dispersing.<sup>20</sup> Also, the unfolding of chaos due to defocusing effects is a direct consequence of certain particularities of  $\partial\Omega$ .<sup>21</sup> In fact, dispersing and defocusing have been proposed to exhaust all the mechanisms creating chaotic dynamics in classical billiards.<sup>22</sup>

On the other hand, in quantum chaos<sup>23</sup> or quantum wave chaos,<sup>24</sup> the signatures<sup>25</sup> of “quantum chaos” are associated with the spectrum  $\{E_n\}$  statistical features and morphological aspects of the eigenstates  $\psi_n$ .<sup>2,5,24,26</sup> However, the situation is not different regarding the fundamental importance of the billiard shapes:  $\partial\Omega$  fully establishes the specificities of the Helmholtz operator eigenfunctions.<sup>24,27</sup> Therefore, the peculiarities of such eigenfunctions<sup>28</sup> are expected to be qualitatively distinct if the corresponding classical billiards are or are not chaotic.<sup>29</sup>

The above broad (thus, not limited to billiard models) interplay between classical and quantum chaos is manifested in distinct measures associated with the spectrum statistical properties of the latter. We just mention the distribution of nearest-neighbor “unfolded”<sup>2,30</sup> distances  $s$  between successive levels,  $P(s)$ . For the quantum counterpart of classically regular systems, the Berry–Tabor considerations<sup>31</sup> predict the Poisson distribution  $P(s) = \exp[-s]$ , which for some examples can be put in very rigorous grounds.<sup>32</sup> Conversely, for the chaotic case, the Bohigas–Giannoni–Schmit conjecture<sup>33</sup> points to universal features for the spectrum correlations, provided generic symmetries are preserved; exactly those considered in random matrix theory (RMT).<sup>34</sup> In particular, for problems with time-reversal invariance  $P(s) = (\pi/2) s \exp[-\pi s^2/4]$ , which is the Wigner–Dyson expression for the RMT Gaussian orthogonal ensemble (GOE) (see also Sec. IV). Such conjecture has a sound semiclassical justification.<sup>35</sup>

Individual  $\psi_n$ 's can also display distinguished morphologies for chaotic problems.<sup>2,6,24,26,36</sup> A remarkable proposal by Berry<sup>37</sup> is that high energy eigenfunctions of chaotic systems may exhibit certain aspects similar to those of a linear combination of random plane waves. By the same token, the distribution of wave function nodal domain<sup>38–40</sup> should discriminate between regular and chaotic quantum dynamics. We also mention Heller's scarred eigenstates,<sup>41</sup> namely, certain  $\psi_n$ 's concentrated on the loci of the underlying classical system unstable periodic orbits.<sup>42</sup> This has been detected in many distinct billiards<sup>43–47</sup> as well as in other problems.<sup>28,48–50</sup>

The above summarizes the identification of quantum chaos in terms of either global statistical trends of the spectrum or characteristic attributes of the eigenstates. Less common, however, are investigations trying to link certain sets of eigenvalues with special features of groups of eigenstates (notwithstanding, for interesting works in this direction, see, e.g., Refs. 51–55). Yet, this should not be a surprise: for an arbitrary chaotic system, one could not expect

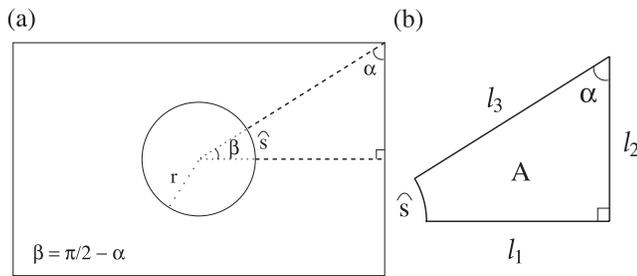
recurrent appearance<sup>56,57</sup> of general relations between subsets of  $\{E_n\}$  and specific spatial pattern properties carrying over collections of  $\psi_n$ 's.<sup>58–60</sup>

The situation may be different if instead of just one, we address a full family of systems. In fact, suppose a quantum problem depending on a parameter  $\gamma$ . In this case, the dynamics of the “trajectories”  $E_n(\gamma)$ 's [or  $k_n(\gamma)$ ] as a function of  $\gamma$  can display a rich phenomenology—e.g., resembling the many-body classical evolution of repulsively interacting particles confined to a box—especially when distinct  $\gamma$ 's lead to chaotic behavior.<sup>61–64</sup> Such a picture of  $k_n \times \gamma$  as paths in the parameter space was originally devised<sup>61,62</sup> for Hamiltonians in the form  $H = H_0 + \gamma V$ . Nonetheless, it works also well for  $\gamma$  simply being a geometric parameter of a billiard.<sup>65,66</sup> Under the above framework, distinct properties can be addressed. An example is the distribution of curvatures  $\mathcal{P}(|K|)$ ,<sup>67</sup> with  $K$  representing the degree of sinuosity of the trajectories  $\{k_n(\gamma)\}$ . For irregular spectra, one finds an ubiquitous power-law  $\mathcal{P}(|K|) \sim |K|^{-\mu}$  for large  $|K|$ . The precise constant value of the exponent  $\mu$  depends on the system general class of symmetry [one of the three, orthogonal ( $\mu = 3$ ), unitary ( $\mu = 4$ ), and symplectic ( $\mu = 6$ ), of the RMT].<sup>65,67</sup> The trajectories with lower  $|K|$ 's (i.e., more rectilinear-like paths) tend to yield a non-universal behavior for  $\mathcal{P}(|K|)$ .

Actually, the trajectories of smaller curvature are often associated with the appearance of soliton-like structures in  $\{k_n(\gamma)\}$ ,<sup>65,68</sup> which by their turn are related to certain characteristics of the corresponding eigenfunctions<sup>69,70</sup> (in particular for those in the vicinity of the levels avoided crossing,<sup>71</sup> details in Sec. III). It has been reported that typical  $\psi_n$ 's accounting for the solitons are the already mentioned scar states as well as the well known bouncing ball modes.<sup>72–75</sup> Moreover, the non-universality of  $\mathcal{P}(|K|)$  for  $|K|$  small might be due to the various levels of scarring<sup>69</sup> taking place in quantum chaotic systems.<sup>66,70</sup> For billiards, spectra solitons have been observed, e.g., for the Bunimovich stadium,<sup>65,70</sup> pseudointegrable right-angle polygonal shapes, and the quarter-Sinai.<sup>66</sup>

From the previous considerations, it becomes clear that the full assortment of solitons in the  $k_n \times \gamma$  space should not display statistical hallmarks common to broad families of systems. Still, we may speculate whether or not (i) the undulatory-geometric mechanisms originating these structures, (ii) the reason for their connection with special eigenstates, (iii) the necessary features of such eigenstates (e.g., can they be only scars and bouncing ball modes?), and (iv) the conditions determining the soliton proliferation; do constitute fairly general processes, at least in quantum billiards.

To shed some light on these issues, we discuss the Sinai billiard in its totally desymmetrized version (Fig. 1). For a fixed area  $A$ , the system geometry allows one to control two distinct geometric parameters  $\gamma$ , the (arc of circle) radius  $r$ , and the (opposite corner) angle  $\alpha$ . By investigating representative energy intervals and ranges for  $\alpha$  and  $r$ , we identify various soliton-like structures. We perform a detailed characterization of the associated set of eigenstates  $\{\psi_n\}$  as, for instance, their spatial pattern changes in the neighborhood of avoided crossings. Besides scars, we also have as such  $\psi_n$ 's “memory” states, i.e.,  $\psi_n$ 's maintaining the shape of particular solutions of the integrable case ( $r = 0$  and  $\alpha = 45^\circ$ ). We discuss aspects related to (i)–(iv) above, focusing on which features should account for the formation of the soliton-like structures. We finally



**FIG. 1.** (a) The usual Sinai billiard, whose domain  $\Omega$  corresponds to the region inside the rectangle but outside the disk (of radius  $r$ ). (b) Its complete desymmetrized version, having area  $A$  and sides  $l_1$ ,  $l_2$ ,  $l_3$ , and  $\hat{s}$ , this latter actually an arc of circle.

briefly comment on how these findings would potentially extend to other billiards. Once the necessary numerical accuracy is assured, the specific protocol used for the computations is not really essential. Nonetheless, for all the calculations, we employ the boundary wall method (BWM)<sup>76,77</sup> since it is particularly suitable for this type of study,<sup>78</sup> namely, to obtain billiards eigenvalues when geometric parameters are varied.

This paper is organized as follows: In Sec. II, we present the system. A comprehensive set of results is given in Sec. III. Based on these results, in Sec. IV, we address the phenomenology underlying the emergence of the soliton-like structures. Finally, a few remarks and conclusion are drawn in Sec. V.

## II. THE QUANTUM DESYMMETRIZED SINAI BILLIARD

We consider the paradigmatic Sinai billiard<sup>20</sup> whose quantum case has been first investigated in Ref. 79. Assume a disk of radius  $r$  centered within a rectangle of sides greater than  $2r$  [Fig. 1(a)]. For the usual Sinai billiard,  $\Omega$  corresponds to the intersection between the disk exterior and the rectangle interior regions. Our goal is to discuss the behavior of the wavenumber spectrum  $\{k_n\}$  (for  $k_n^2 = E_n$  since we set  $2\mu/\hbar^2 = 1$ ) as well as of the associated eigenfunctions  $\{\psi_n\}$  resulting solely from specific changes in the system geometric parameters  $\gamma$ . We shall avoid eventual eigenvalue degeneracies due to distinct symmetry families for the  $\psi_n$ 's, e.g., the wavefunctions being even or odd about the parallel and perpendicular axes passing through the billiard center. Therefore, we restrict our analysis to the desymmetrized Sinai billiard depicted in Fig. 1(b). Essentially, it corresponds to a right triangle billiard with one vertex substituted by a concave arc of circle ( $\hat{s}$  in Fig. 1) of angular aperture  $\beta = \pi/2 - \alpha$  and radius  $r$ . Our parameters  $\gamma$  will then be  $\alpha$  and  $r$ .

To characterize the  $k_n(\gamma)$ 's for distinct  $n$ 's, we should maintain the billiard density of states  $\rho(k)$  as invariant as possible while varying  $\gamma$ . This allows, for each quantum level  $n$ , one to interpret  $k_n(\gamma)$  as a continuous “path” in the parameter space. From the Weyl formula—see, for instance, Ref. 80—the first (second) most important term determining  $\rho$  is the billiard area  $A$  (perimeter  $P$ ). Therefore,

we fix  $A$  and write the billiard sides as (see Fig. 1)

$$\begin{aligned} l_1 &= \sqrt{(2A + (\pi/2 - \alpha)r^2) \tan[\alpha]} - r, \\ l_2 &= \sqrt{\frac{2A + (\pi/2 - \alpha)r^2}{\tan[\alpha]}}, \\ l_3 &= \sqrt{\frac{2A + (\pi/2 - \alpha)r^2}{\cos[\alpha] \sin[\alpha]}} - r. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Note that  $(l_1 + r)^2 + l_2^2 = (l_3 + r)^2$  and that the quantity  $((l_1 + r) \times l_2)/2 - (\pi/2 - \alpha)/2 \times r^2$ —the expression for the billiard area—properly gives  $A$ . The perimeter reads  $P = l_1 + l_2 + l_3 + (\pi/2 - \alpha)r$ . For the aspects we are going to analyze, in the calculations, it is enough to set  $A = 1/2$  and take  $\alpha$  and  $r$  in the intervals  $40^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 50^\circ$  and  $0 \leq r \leq 0.5$ . Considering all these parameter combinations, the maximum possible  $P$  is just 8.9% greater than the minimum possible value. Thus,  $\rho(k)$  remains fairly invariant.<sup>81</sup>

Finally, for later convenience, we mention that in the limit of  $r = 0$  and  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  our billiard becomes the  $45^\circ$ – $45^\circ$  right triangle of sides  $l_1 = l_2 = 1$ , whose exact eigenfunctions and eigenwavenumbers are given by<sup>82</sup> (with  $l \neq m$  positive integers)

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{lm}(x, y) &= \sin[l\pi x] \sin[m\pi y] - \sin[m\pi x] \sin[l\pi y], \\ k_{lm} &= \pi \sqrt{l^2 + m^2}. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Note that the above  $\psi_{lm}$  is an antisymmetric superposition of the square billiard solutions.

## III. RESULTS

To explore how the  $k_n$ 's vary with the geometric parameters of a billiard (here  $\alpha$  and  $r$ ), the procedure is direct. We fix one of the two parameters and set different values for the other, generically  $\gamma$ . For each  $\gamma$ , we obtain the corresponding eigenvalues, say, ranging from the  $n_i$ -th to the  $n_f$ -th level. In this way, for all  $n_i \leq n \leq n_f$ , we generate graphs (or “paths”) representing the variation of  $k_n$  with  $\gamma$ . For some particular cases of interest, we also calculate and plot  $|\psi_n(\mathbf{r})|^2$ . As mentioned in Sec. I, these steps are relatively straightforward to implement using the BWM (for a full detailed description, see Ref. 78). Regarding numerical accuracy, the BWM has already been applied with other purposes to the quantum Sinai billiard in Ref. 77, yielding  $k_n$ 's with typical error estimations around 0.04%—checked through distinct approaches. Once we use the same protocol, the numerical discretization method, and matrix sizes of Ref. 77, for the wavenumber intervals analyzed our results here have similar precision [e.g., one of our tests have been to compare the present simulations for the eigenwavenumbers and eigenstates of  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  and  $r = 0$  with the exact expressions in Eq. (2), finding remarkable agreement for the eigenstates and a difference of 0.04% and even less for the correct  $k_n$ 's, Secs. III B and IV and Appendix B]. We finally mention that the accuracy of the BWM depends, as in any approach, on the discretization (number of points) taken on the billiard boundaries. Therefore, further details on such a procedure and how it relates to the obtained numerical precision are addressed in Appendix A.

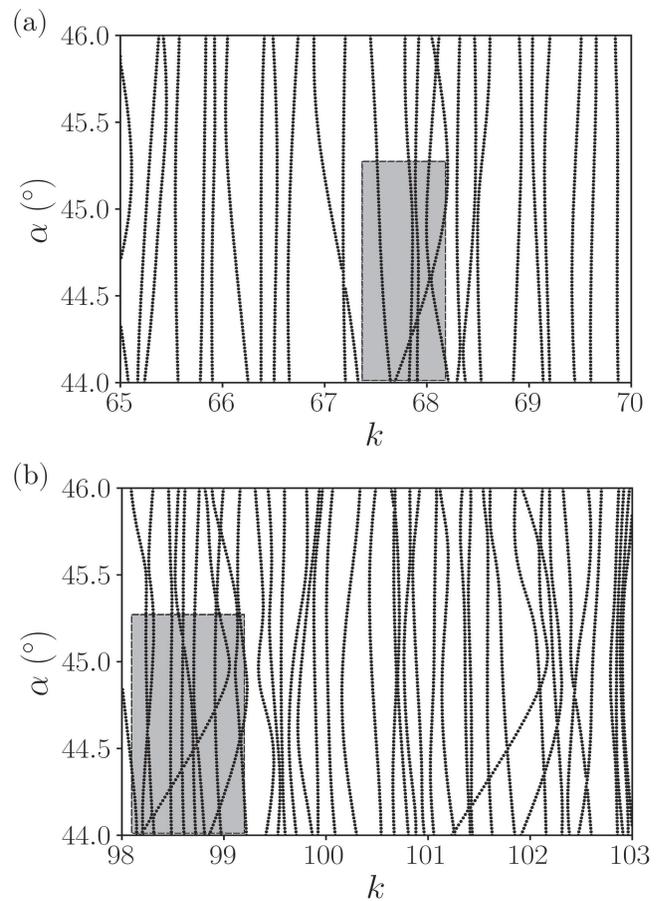
We also observe that since we are discussing a totally desymmetrized Sinai billiard (when  $r \neq 0$ ), the system should not present degeneracies unless for accidental ones.<sup>33,34</sup> Thus, the paths  $k_n(\gamma)$  in most cases do not cross each other (but see an exception in Sec. III B). We further remark that the emergence of degeneracies as we change either  $\alpha$  or  $r$  does not violate the von Neumann–Wigner theorem (refer to Refs. 71 and 85) because by varying just one of these parameters, we are in fact changing all the billiard sides [cf. Eq. (1)].

### A. General trends when varying $\alpha$

For  $r = 0.2$  and  $44^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 46^\circ$ , a set of paths  $k_n(\alpha)$ 's are shown in Fig. 2. For  $\alpha = 44^\circ$ , we have  $n_i = 152$  and  $n_f = 177$  in Fig. 2(a) and  $n_i = 357$  and  $n_f = 397$  in Fig. 2(b). As it should be,  $\Delta n / \Delta k$  increases with  $k_n$ . Indeed, compare the number of eigenwavenumbers in the  $k$  numerical interval 98–103, Fig. 2(b), with that for  $k$  in 65–70, Fig. 2(a). Notice also that for the present range for  $\alpha$ , most of the  $k_n$ 's do not suffer important deflections [the curves  $k_n \times \alpha$  are fairly vertical lines, especially in Fig. 2(a)]. However, some  $k_n$ 's in specific  $\alpha$  regions go through considerable changes. Two examples of such regions are indicated by gray rectangles in Fig. 2 and are detailed in Figs. 3 and 4. In special, neighbor trajectories,  $k_n(\alpha)$  and  $k_{n+1}(\alpha)$ , tend to repel each other if very close together, a behavior known as avoided crossing (AC). For instance, in Fig. 3, as  $\alpha$  increases, we observe an initial approximation until a minimal separation and then a rapid splitting between paths d–e and g–h and paths h–i and k–l.

In Fig. 3, we show the gray region depicted in Fig. 2(a) and a few representative density plots of the eigenstates corresponding to the indicated  $(k_n, \alpha)$  pair values. In all the density plots in this work, darker spots indicate higher values of  $|\psi_n|^2$ . For the sake of nomenclature, hereafter, we shall call a *branch* the segment of a given trajectory  $k_n(\gamma)$ , which is delimited by two successive ACs. Thus, the five paths (from left to right) seen in the first panel of Fig. 3 have, respectively, 1, 2, 3, 3, and 2 branches for  $44^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 45.2^\circ$ . As previously mentioned, there are levels that are not “perturbed” by the nearby states. An example is the path a–b–c in Fig. 3. In this case, the morphology of eigenfunctions (a)–(c) is very similar since the wavenumber variation is minimal and  $\Delta\alpha$  is just  $1.2^\circ$ . Moreover, they did not display any particular pattern or spacial characteristic: the  $|\psi_n|^2$  are uniformly and fairly randomly distributed (in terms of peaks and nodal lines) in accordance with Berry’s conjecture.<sup>31</sup>

This behavior of a–b–c contrasts with the somehow correlated dynamics of d–e–f with g–h–i–j, g–h–i–j with k–l–m, and k–l–m with n–o. For instance, consider the paths d–e–f (representing level  $n$ ) and g–h–i–j (level  $n + 1$ ). Leaving from  $\alpha = 44^\circ$ , they evolve toward each other until  $\alpha \approx 44.26^\circ$ , then going through a strong repulsion due to an AC. The morphology of the eigenfunctions at d of level  $n$  and g of level  $n + 1$  (both before the AC) is quite distinct. However, d (before the AC) and h of  $n + 1$  (after the AC)—as well as l of  $n + 2$ —are akin. Likewise, for the shapes of the states, g and e (this latter belonging to the level  $n$ , located after the AC) display a reasonable resemblance. Finally, compare the states k and i with h and l, also l and o with n and m. In all these cases, succession of branches (say, labeled x, y, and z) of distinct paths form more or less straight line structures (denoted as xyz) along a certain

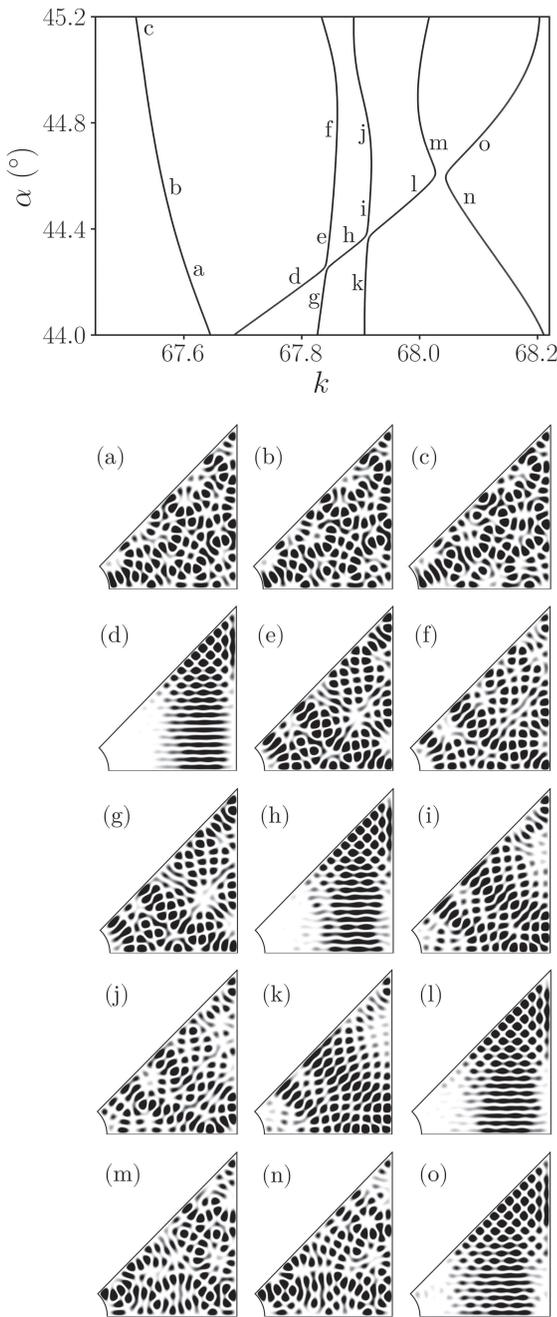


**FIG. 2.** For  $r = 0.2$  and  $\alpha$  varying from  $44.0^\circ$  to  $46.0^\circ$ , the corresponding  $k_n(\alpha)$  for  $n_i \leq n \leq n_f$  with (a)  $n_i = 152$ ,  $n_f = 177$  and (b)  $n_i = 357$ ,  $n_f = 397$  (in both cases, the values of  $n_i$  and  $n_f$  are relative to  $\alpha = 44.0^\circ$ ). The gray regions are shown in detail, respectively, in Figs. 3 and 4.

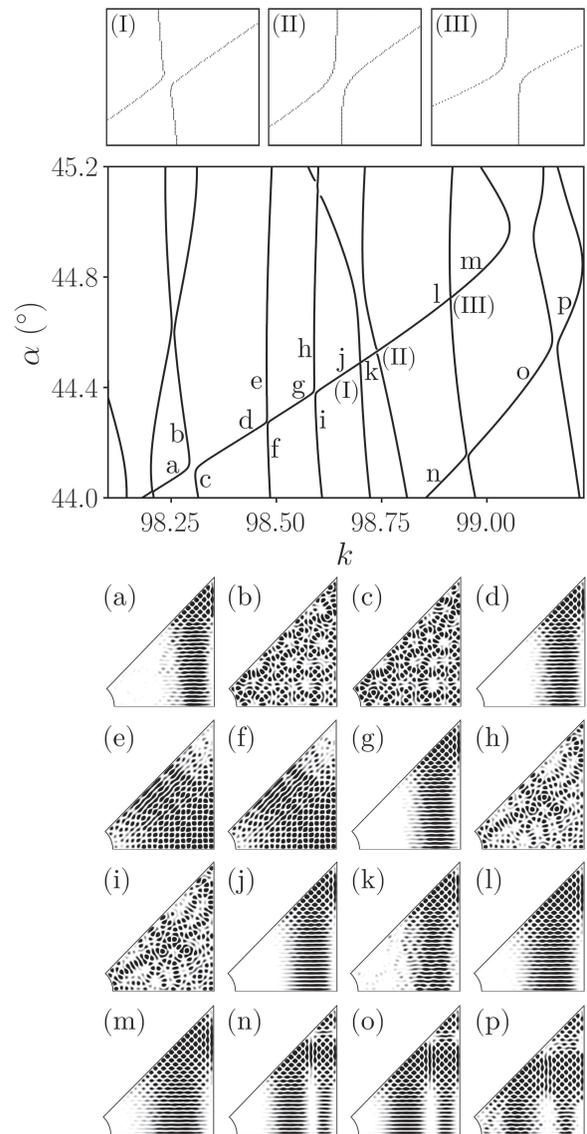
extension of the  $k \times \alpha$  space. In Fig. 3, they can be identified as dhlo (with the state o representing the end of the structure; after this, the corresponding branch starts to curve), gef and kij.

The above phenomenology is also present in Fig. 4. However, in this higher  $k$  region of the spectrum, we have a greater number of ACs. Thus, the straight line-like structures tend to be composed of a larger number of branches. An example is adgklm, whose eigenstates morphology are very similar. However, short line structures are also possible, such as nop (with the state p marking its end). Equally here, a kind of state morphology switching is observed along the trajectories  $k_n(\alpha)$  and  $k_{n+1}(\alpha)$  in the neighborhood of ACs. Indeed, compare in Fig. 4 the density plots (a) with (d) and (b) with (c); (d) with (g) and (e) with (f); and (g) with (j) and (i) with (h). The blowups in Fig. 4 illustrate detailed shapes of some ACs.

At this point, we shall summarize the results so far, putting them in a common framework (refer also to some extra material, complementing the present analysis, in Appendix B). Thus, suppose the paths  $n$  and  $n + 1$  displaying an AC at  $\alpha_1$ , the paths  $n + 1$  and



**FIG. 3.** The  $k_n \times \alpha$  corresponding to the gray region in Fig. 2(a) as well as the  $|\psi_n|^2$  for particular parameters values indicated as a, b, c, ..., along the paths or trajectories  $k_n(\alpha)$ . Concretely: (a)  $k = 67.5999, \alpha = 44.20^\circ$ ; (b)  $k = 67.5594, \alpha = 44.50^\circ$ ; (c)  $k = 67.5129, \alpha = 45.10^\circ$ ; (d)  $k = 67.7735, \alpha = 44.15^\circ$ ; (e)  $k = 67.8448, \alpha = 44.32^\circ$ ; (f)  $k = 67.8528, \alpha = 44.70^\circ$ ; (g)  $k = 67.8305, \alpha = 44.15^\circ$ ; (h)  $k = 67.8648, \alpha = 44.30^\circ$ ; (i)  $k = 67.9130, \alpha = 44.42^\circ$ ; (j)  $k = 67.9106, \alpha = 44.70^\circ$ ; (k)  $k = 67.9017, \alpha = 44.15^\circ$ ; (l)  $k = 67.9767, \alpha = 44.50^\circ$ ; (m)  $k = 68.0546, \alpha = 44.55^\circ$ ; (n)  $k = 68.1603, \alpha = 44.15^\circ$ ; and (o)  $k = 68.0772, \alpha = 44.70^\circ$ .



**FIG. 4.** The same as in Fig. 3, but for the gray region of Fig. 2(b). The blowups evidence very sharp avoided crossings. Parameters values: (a)  $k = 98.2296, \alpha = 44.05^\circ$ ; (b)  $k = 98.2946, \alpha = 44.16^\circ$ ; (c)  $k = 98.3127, \alpha = 44.04^\circ$ ; (d)  $k = 98.4477, \alpha = 44.25^\circ$ ; (e)  $k = 98.4778, \alpha = 44.35^\circ$ ; (f)  $k = 98.4803, \alpha = 44.20^\circ$ ; (g)  $k = 98.5315, \alpha = 44.33^\circ$ ; (h)  $k = 98.5919, \alpha = 44.50^\circ$ ; (i)  $k = 98.5961, \alpha = 44.30^\circ$ ; (j)  $k = 98.6547, \alpha = 44.45^\circ$ ; (k)  $k = 98.7041, \alpha = 44.50^\circ$ ; (l)  $k = 98.8878, \alpha = 44.70^\circ$ ; (m)  $k = 98.9670, \alpha = 44.80^\circ$ ; (n)  $k = 98.8820, \alpha = 44.05^\circ$ ; (o)  $k = 99.0753, \alpha = 44.38^\circ$ ; and (p)  $k = 99.2017, \alpha = 44.70^\circ$ .

$n + 2$  an AC at  $\alpha_2$ ,  $n + 2$  and  $n + 3$  at  $\alpha_3$ , etc., with  $\alpha_{i+1} > \alpha_i$ . Furthermore, let us label as branch  $i$  that is associated with the path  $n + i$  between  $\alpha_i$  and  $\alpha_{i+1}$ . If all these branches  $i$  interpolate a rather smooth curve (in the previous examples, straight lines; however, see Sec. III B), the eigenstates of the resulting formations do exhibit a

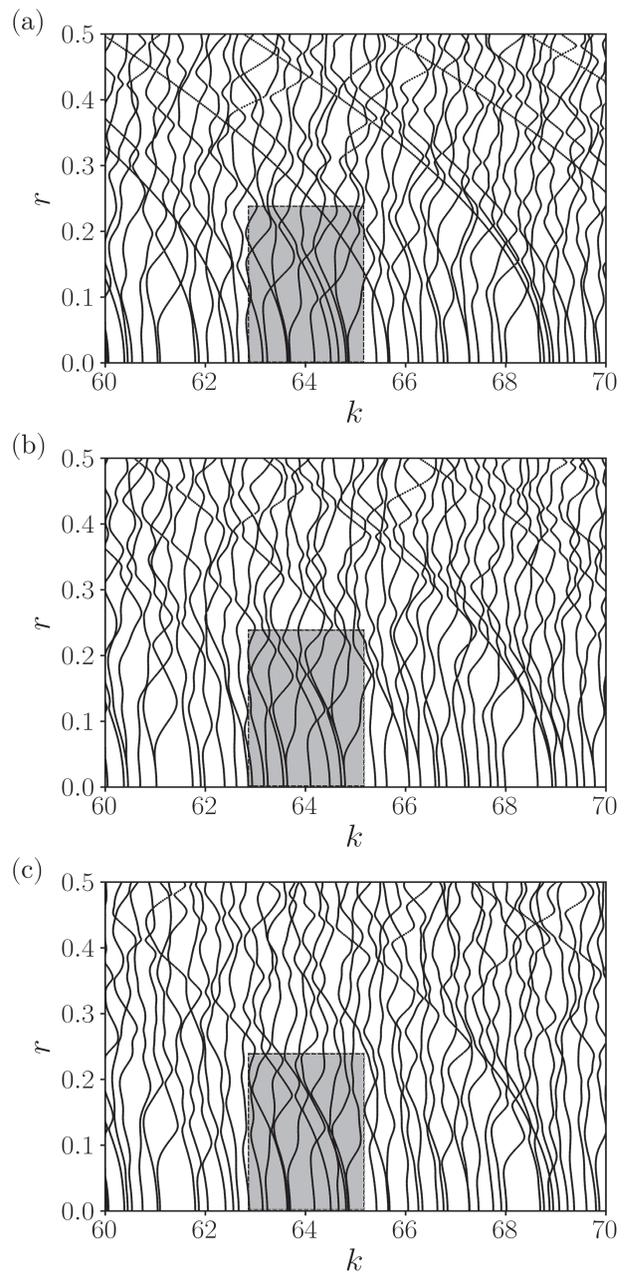
same characteristic morphology. This is analogous to a soliton propagating in a given medium (in our case, the  $k \times \gamma$  space) without any shape deformation. Moreover, such dynamics in the system geometric parameter space tends to induce an exchange between the eigenstate morphologies of neighbor paths (for the nature of such morphologies, see Sec. IV). In other words, along the aforementioned soliton-like structures, the typical pattern of  $\psi_n$  immediately after an AC becomes that of  $\psi_{n+1}$  immediately before this same AC and vice versa. As pointed out in Sec. I, solitons in the spectrum of quantum chaotic systems have been observed in the literature under different contexts.<sup>61–65,68,71</sup> As nicely outlined in Ref. 86, there are a few potential mechanisms justifying their existence.<sup>65,66,69,70</sup> We propose in Sec. IV that in our problem, very basic undulatory-geometric factors can explain these present findings.

### B. General trends when varying $r$

In this section, we consider some specific values for the angle  $\alpha$  and vary the radius  $r$ , investigating the resulting spectra soliton profiles.

In Fig. 5, we show the  $k \times r$  families for  $60 \leq k \leq 70$ ,  $0 \leq r \leq 0.5$  and  $\alpha$  is equal to (a)  $44^\circ$ , (b)  $45^\circ$ , and (c)  $46^\circ$ . First, from a direct visual inspection, it becomes clear that the solitons—recalling, branches interpolating smooth curves—no longer correspond only to straight lines (the explanation for so is left to Sec. IV). Second, there are considerably longer soliton-like structures than in Sec. III A. To understand this latter fact, recall that in Sec. III A, we have considered  $40^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 50^\circ$ , so just about 11% of the full range  $0^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 90^\circ$ . On the other hand, for  $A = 1/2$ , the side  $l_1$  (Fig. 1) can vary from 1 to 0 for  $r$  between 0 and  $1/\sqrt{1 - (\pi/2 - \alpha) \tan[\alpha]}$  [Eq. (1)]. Thus, for  $44^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 46^\circ$ ,  $0 \leq r \leq 0.5$  represents approximately 23% of the maximum possible variation of  $r$ . Moreover, for  $\alpha > 45^\circ$ , the soliton-like structures in the  $k \times \alpha$  space tend to be destroyed as  $r$  increases (e.g., compare the three graphs in Fig. 12 of Appendix B). Also, we have numerically checked that the same is true when  $\alpha < 30^\circ$ . Then, for  $r = 0$ , a “contiguous”  $k \times \alpha$  soliton is restricted to  $45^\circ$ – $60^\circ$  (having a specular image in the region  $30^\circ$ – $45^\circ$ ). The angles of  $60^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$ , therefore, act as separatrices or borders for the solitons since they correspond to integrable billiards (the rich soliton patterns for right triangle billiards will be explored in a dedicated future contribution).

A relevant dynamics perceived from Fig. 5 is how the families of states of the desymmetrized Sinai billiard ( $r \neq 0$ ) emerge from the right triangle billiard ( $r = 0$ ) states. For the considered interval for  $k$ , we have  $0.089 < \lambda < 0.105$ . Then, for  $r < 0.044$  ( $\approx \bar{\lambda}/2$ ), the families are fairly vertical lines, indicating that up to such a radius value and a wavelength range, the Sinai  $\psi_n$ 's are basically weak perturbations of the triangle ones. In other words, the desymmetrized Sinai states can be considered, in a first approximation, deformations of the right triangle states for  $r$  is small. We also see that there are no new quantum levels arising in the  $k$  vs  $r > 0$  regions; only certain replicated trajectories [i.e., coinciding  $k_n(r)$ 's] at  $r = 0$  get separated after some  $r > 0$ . In fact, this should be expected from the restrictions imposed on the billiards, i.e., fixed area  $A = 1/2$  and just a small change in the perimeter  $P$ . For instance, from Fig. 5(b) (for the  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  case), as we increase  $r$ , we notice



**FIG. 5.** Similar to Fig. 2, but for three fixed values of  $\alpha$ : (a)  $\alpha = 44.0^\circ$ , (b)  $\alpha = 45.0^\circ$ , (c)  $\alpha = 46.0^\circ$ , and  $r$  varying from 0 to 0.5. Here, the levels range from  $n_l = 129$  to  $n_f = 177$  (for  $r = 0$ ). The gray regions are shown in detail in Figs. 6–8.

splittings of double and triple degeneracies remnant (“memory”) of the  $90^\circ$ – $45^\circ$ – $45^\circ$  triangular billiard.

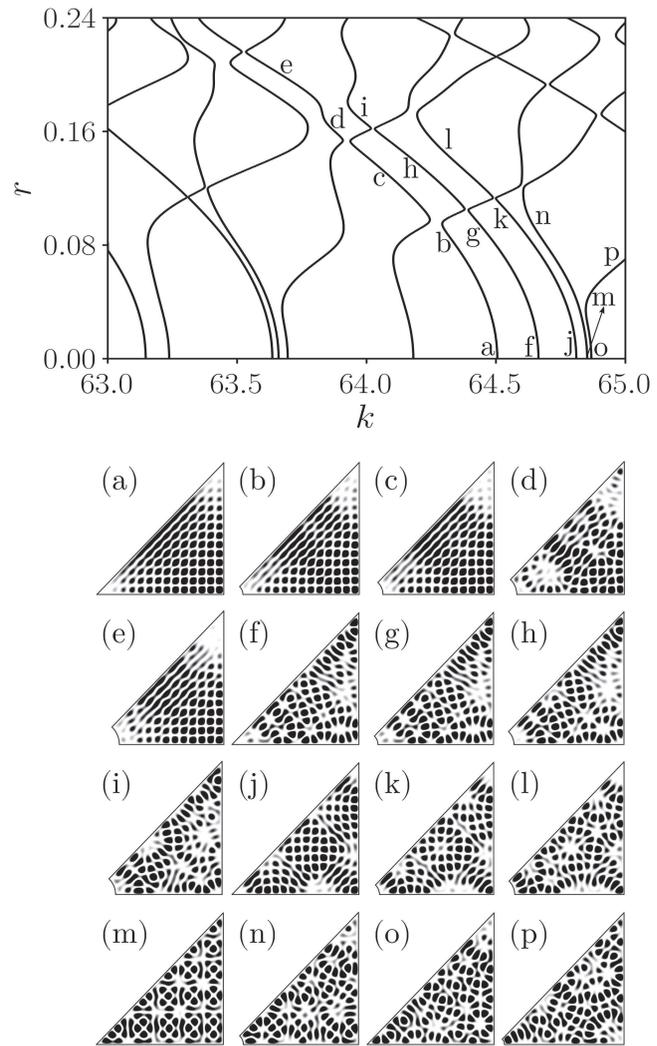
Specific regions of Figs. 5(a)–5(c) (corresponding to more rounded parts of the soliton-like structures) are shown in detail,

respectively, in Figs. 6–8. As in Sec. III A, the solitons also have distinct lengths (although, as previously discussed, usually longer than those from  $\{k_n(\alpha)\}$ ). For example, in Fig. 6, if we overlook the step-like segment from d to e, the “single” soliton abcde is longer than fghi and jkl. The state morphologies along a–e, including e, are all similar with the exception of d [compare the plots (a)–(e) in Fig. 6]. Actually, the state at d seems to be disturbed by the nearby trajectory c–i. However, once c–i runs away from d–e as  $r$  increases, the morphology of the states at the end of the soliton abcde, like e, becomes again similar to those at its initial part, stretch abc. Conversely, when contrasted to (f), (g), and (h), the state (i) in Fig. 6—terminating the soliton fghi—presents a distorted pattern due to its proximity to the path d–e. Last, for jkl, the state in l displays some deviation from j and k [see (j)–(l) in Fig. 6] since l is located at the soliton ending.

The breakdown of degeneracies is very apparent in Fig. 7 for  $\alpha = 45^\circ$ . For instance, for  $r = 0$ , we have three degenerated states in j, whose numerically obtained  $|\psi_n|^{2\prime}$ s are shown in  $(j_1)$ ,  $(j_2)$ , and  $(j_3)$ . They correspond, respectively, to the following quantum numbers  $l, m$  in Eq. (2): 5, 20; 8, 19, and 13, 16, as one can easily check by plotting the associated  $\psi_m$ 's. The exact wavenumber is  $k_{l,m} = 64.76559\dots$ , thence with a difference of only 0.03% for  $k = 64.7857$  in j. As  $r$  raises, one of these three states splits (around  $r \approx 0.044$ ) giving place to the path j–m. As the billiard radius  $r$  further increases, the other two states, about  $r \approx 0.09$ , also separate, leading to the trajectories j–l and j–k. In particular, observe that the morphologies of the states at k, l, and m (for  $r \neq 0$ ) are very distinct from those at j (for  $r = 0$ ), Figs. 7  $(j_1)$ ,  $(j_2)$ ,  $(j_3)$ , (k), (l), and (m). For this  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  family of billiards, we again observe both long, abcde, and very short soliton-like structures, e.g., kn and hi.

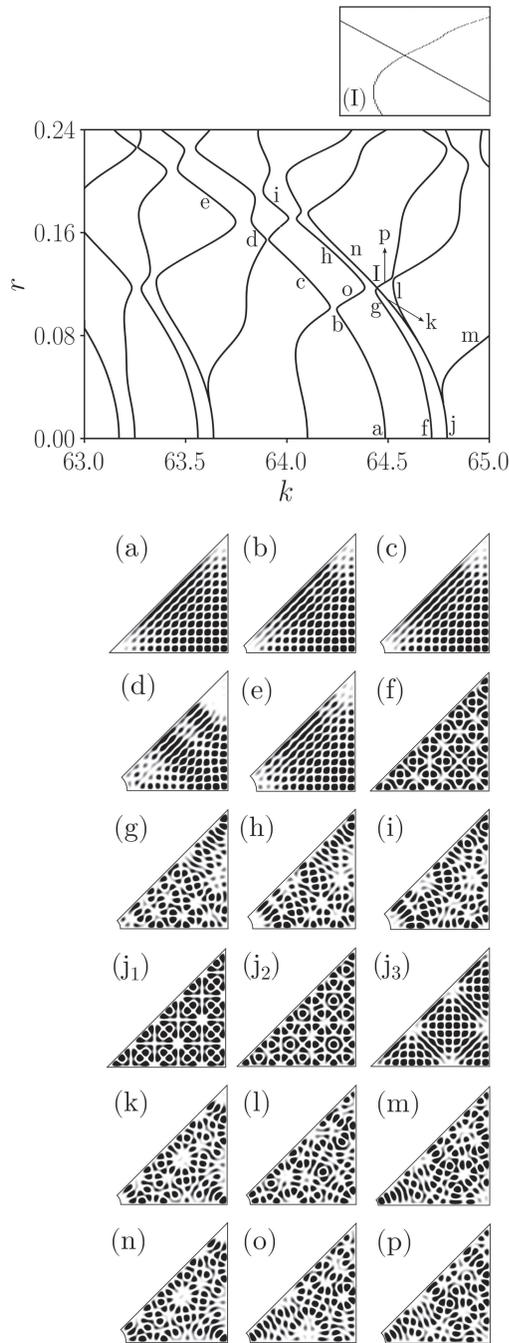
In our desymmetrized Sinai billiard, even for the  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  case, there are no (apparent) specific symmetries for the system. Therefore, eventual degeneracies should be accidental.<sup>83–85</sup> In this regard, we mention that such kind of degeneracy has already been observed for two coupled Sinai billiards<sup>87</sup> as well as for the bound states in the continuum of an open Sinai billiard.<sup>88</sup> Moreover, we recall from the discussion just before Sec. III A that in the present case, we have a finite probability of (accidental) degeneracies since by varying  $\gamma$  (here  $r$ ), in fact, we are also changing the billiard sides (to keep the area constant); consequently, we are adjusting more than one shape parameter. In Fig. 7, the detail indicates that the region marked as I is indeed a crossing, yielding a twofold degeneracy. The analysis of the  $k \times r$  space in terms of trajectories allows a simple heuristic explanation for it. Nearby region I, there are two strong ACs and four very close trajectories, a–b–o–h, f–g–p, j–k–n, and j–l, the latter two consequence of the threefold degeneracy eigenstates at j, which are broken as  $r$  increases. Hence, there is not enough room for the middle paths to evolve without at least one collision between them: a–b–o–h repels f–g–p toward j–k–n, which by its turn is repelled away from j–l against f–g–p, making the crossing unavoidable. Certainly, this is just a qualitative argument, and further quantitative investigation might be in order. However, this already could point that in some instances, accidental degeneracy can be due to the inevitability of colliding trajectories in the energy  $\times$  parameters space.

A mixing of the behavior in Figs. 6 ( $\alpha = 44^\circ$ ) and 7 ( $\alpha = 45^\circ$ ) is replicated in Fig. 8 ( $\alpha = 46^\circ$ ). For instance, as in Fig. 6, there are no degeneracies for  $r = 0$  in Fig. 8. On the other hand, similarly to

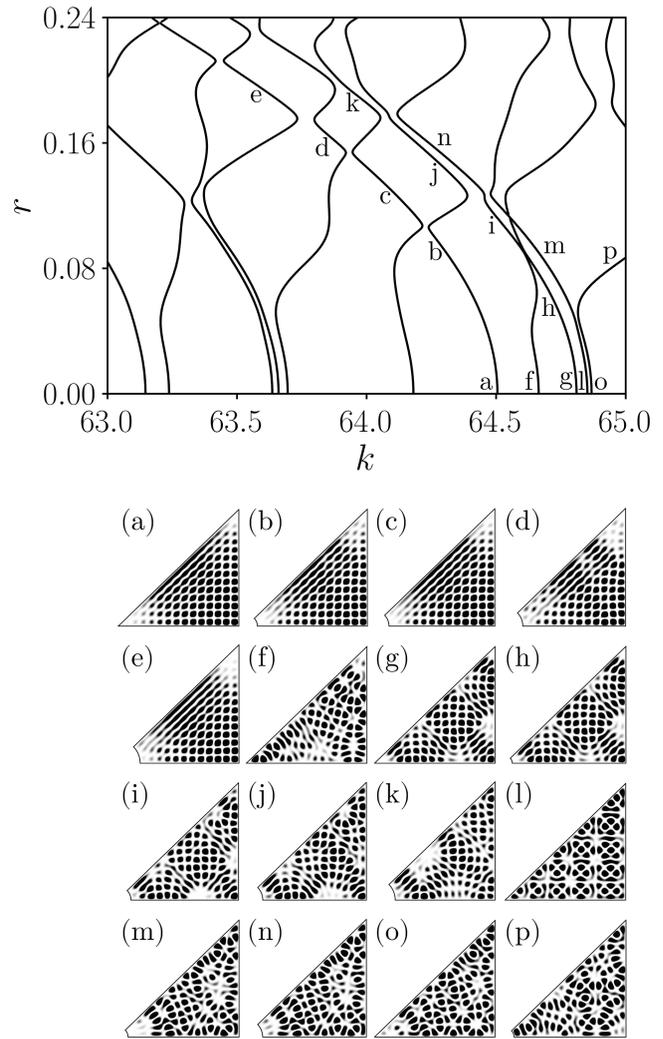


**FIG. 6.** Details of the gray region of Fig. 5(a), where  $\alpha = 44.0^\circ$ . The parameter values are (a)  $k = 64.5051, r = 0.0$ ; (b)  $k = 64.3278, r = 0.084$ ; (c)  $k = 64.0864, r = 0.129$ ; (d)  $k = 63.8769, r = 0.16$ ; (e)  $k = 63.6349, r = 0.187$ ; (f)  $k = 64.6642, r = 0.0$ ; (g)  $k = 64.4572, r = 0.09$ ; (h)  $k = 64.1936, r = 0.138$ ; (i)  $k = 63.9751, r = 0.169$ ; (j)  $k = 64.8100, r = 0.0$ ; (k)  $k = 64.5515, r = 0.102$ ; (l)  $k = 64.4546, r = 0.12$ ; (m)  $k = 64.8520, r = 0.0$ ; (n)  $k = 64.7634, r = 0.06$ ; (o)  $k = 64.8683, r = 0.0$ ; and (p)  $k = 64.9230, r = 0.058$ .

some paths in Fig. 7, as  $r$  increases from zero, the paths in Fig. 8 originated from f, g, l, and o develop intricate interactions when close together. In fact, there is an extremely narrow AC between f–i and g–h, whereas the trajectories l–m and g–h do cross (details are not shown), leading to a degeneracy at  $k \approx 64.546$  and  $r \approx 0.113$ . Finally, for the features of the soliton abcde of Fig. 8 along its straight line path, see Appendix C.



**FIG. 7.** Details of the gray region of Fig. 5(b), where  $\alpha = 45.0^\circ$ . The parameter values are (a)  $k = 64.4804$ ,  $r = 0.0$ ; (b)  $k = 64.3089$ ,  $r = 0.083$ ; (c)  $k = 64.0927$ ,  $r = 0.125$ ; (d)  $k = 63.8601$ ,  $r = 0.16$ ; (e)  $k = 63.6719$ ,  $r = 0.181$ ; (f)  $k = 64.7097$ ,  $r = 0.0$ ; (g)  $k = 64.5019$ ,  $r = 0.097$ ; (h)  $k = 64.2425$ ,  $r = 0.142$ ; (i)  $k = 63.9308$ ,  $r = 0.182$ ; (j)  $k = 64.7857$ ,  $r = 0.0$ ; (k)  $k = 64.4911$ ,  $r = 0.108$ ; (l)  $k = 64.5263$ ,  $r = 0.111$ ; (m)  $k = 64.8407$ ,  $r = 0.061$ ; (n)  $k = 64.2125$ ,  $r = 0.153$ ; (o)  $k = 64.3304$ ,  $r = 0.11$ ; and (p)  $k = 64.4965$ ,  $r = 0.1224$ .

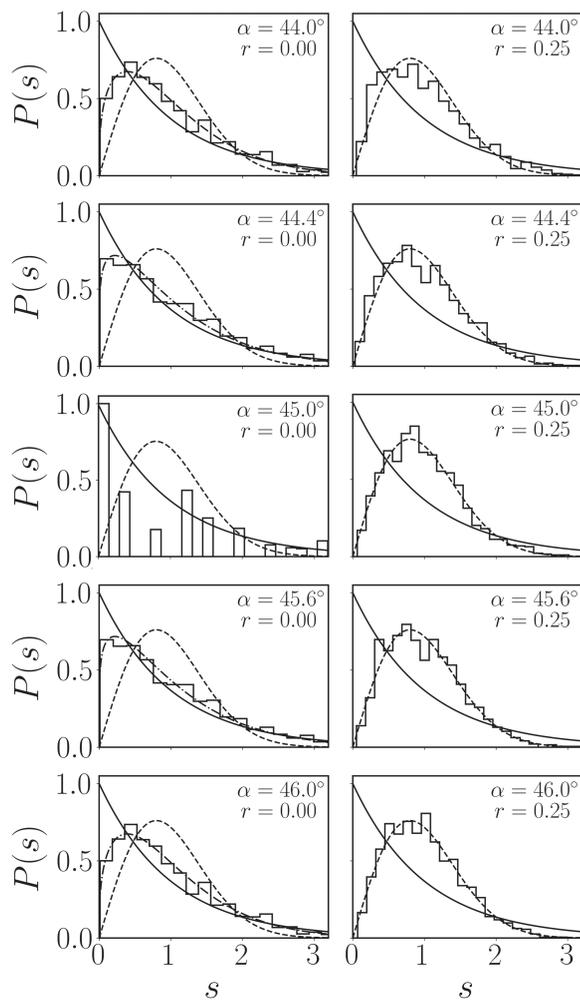


**FIG. 8.** Details of the gray region of Fig. 5(c), where  $\alpha = 46.0^\circ$ . The parameter values are (a)  $k = 64.5049$ ,  $r = 0.0$ ; (b)  $k = 64.2943$ ,  $r = 0.093$ ; (c)  $k = 64.0881$ ,  $r = 0.131$ ; (d)  $k = 63.8871$ ,  $r = 0.16$ ; (e)  $k = 63.5579$ ,  $r = 0.199$ ; (f)  $k = 64.6642$ ,  $r = 0.0$ ; (g)  $k = 64.8100$ ,  $r = 0.0$ ; (h)  $k = 64.7206$ ,  $r = 0.06$ ; (i)  $k = 64.4905$ ,  $r = 0.115$ ; (j)  $k = 64.2475$ ,  $r = 0.152$ ; (k)  $k = 63.9808$ ,  $r = 0.188$ ; (l)  $k = 64.8519$ ,  $r = 0.0$ ; (m)  $k = 64.6945$ ,  $r = 0.083$ ; (n)  $k = 64.3062$ ,  $r = 0.151$ ; (o)  $k = 64.8683$ ,  $r = 0.0$ ; and (p)  $k = 64.9034$ ,  $r = 0.075$ .

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Before finally addressing the mechanisms underlying the observed families of solitons, we shall consider two relevant aspects of the problem.

The first is to illustrate our billiards dynamical character through the nearest-neighbor  $P(s)$  statistics.<sup>2</sup> Given that classically, the Sinai billiard is hyperbolic<sup>20,22,89</sup> for any  $r \neq 0$ , in the quantum case,  $P(s)$  should be given by the Wigner–Dyson distribution.<sup>33,79</sup> However, as discussed in Sec. III A, for  $r = 0$ , we have right triangle billiards, and thus, in principle,  $P(s)$  must interpolate between the

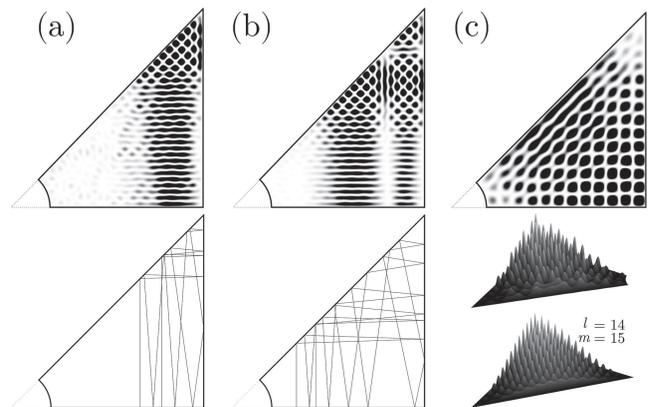


**FIG. 9.** The numerical nearest-neighbor level spacing statistics  $P(s)$  (staircase plots) for  $r = 0.0$  and  $r = 0.25$  and different values of  $\alpha$ , considering  $10^4$  levels for  $\alpha = 45.0^\circ$  and 1530 levels otherwise. The Poisson, Wigner–Dyson, and Brody [Eq. (3)] distributions are represented, respectively, by continuous, dashed, and dotted–dashed curves. The Brody fittings for  $r = 0.0$  are obtained from  $q = 0.339\,07$  ( $\alpha = 44.0^\circ$ ),  $q = 0.182\,65$  ( $\alpha = 44.4^\circ$ ),  $q = 0.182\,65$  ( $\alpha = 45.6^\circ$ ), and  $q = 0.339\,07$  ( $\alpha = 46.0^\circ$ ).

Poisson and Wigner–Dyson functional forms (with the exception of our integrable  $45^\circ$ – $45^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$ – $60^\circ$  cases). Therefore, for  $r = 0$ , we use as a fitting model the Brody distribution<sup>91</sup> (with  $\Gamma[\cdot]$  the Gamma function)

$$P(s) = \frac{q+1}{s} \left( \Gamma \left[ \frac{q+2}{q+1} \right] s \right)^{q+1} \exp \left[ - \left( \Gamma \left[ \frac{q+2}{q+1} \right] s \right)^{q+1} \right], \tag{3}$$

leading to the Poisson (Wigner–Dyson) expression when  $q = 0$  ( $q = 1$ ). For  $r = 0$  and  $r = 0.25$ , results for some  $\alpha$ 's are depicted in Fig. 9. As expected, for  $r = 0.25$ , the Wigner–Dyson distribution describes very well the calculated  $P(s)$ . On the other hand, for  $r = 0$ ,

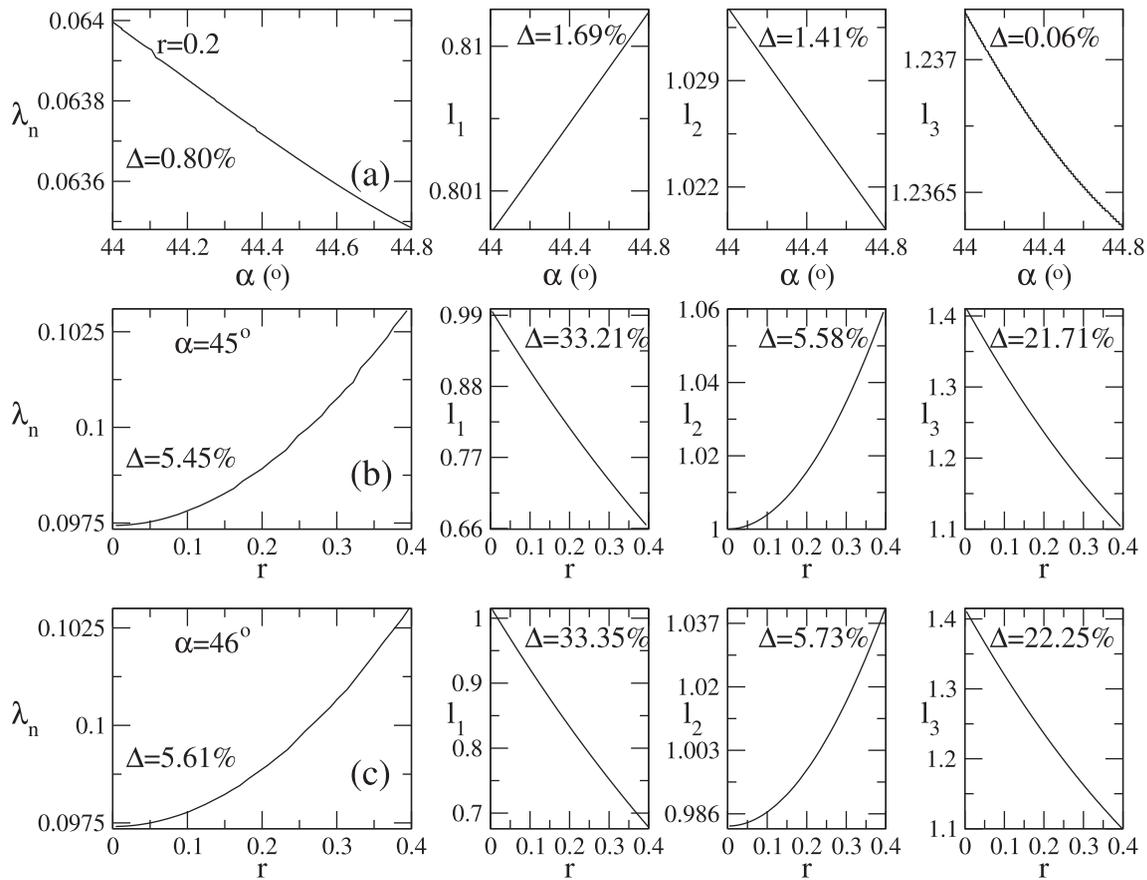


**FIG. 10.** The upper row displays the density plots for (a) the state (a) in Fig. 4 (corresponding to  $r = 0.2$  and  $\alpha = 44.05^\circ$ ), (b) the state (n) in Fig. 4 (also corresponding to  $r = 0.2$  and  $\alpha = 44.05^\circ$ ), and (c) the state (e) in Fig. 7 ( $r = 0.181$  and  $\alpha = 45.0^\circ$ ). For this latter, a 3D graph is also presented, whose shape pattern is very similar to  $|\psi_{14\,15}|^2$  of Eq. (2), bottom of column (c). The states in (a) and (b) are the scarred eigenstates of the two shown classical orbits.

the Brody distribution with different values of  $q$  yields good fittings for the distinct  $\alpha$ 's. The exception is the integrable  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  billiard, whose  $P(s)$  agrees with that in Ref. 82.

The second is to outline important facts about classical periodic orbits in arbitrary right triangle billiards (aRTB). We recall that in billiards possessing parallel borders, the standard definition of (marginally stable) bouncing ball BB orbits is back and forth collisions—always at an incidence of  $90^\circ$ —between two parallel sides of the billiard, e.g., between the up and down sides of the rectangular part of the stadium.<sup>74</sup> Of course, from such a definition, we cannot have BB for right triangles since they have no parallel sides. However, in the particular case of a  $45^\circ$ – $45^\circ$  right triangle, somewhat similar to a BB is a periodic orbit in which a particle leaving normally from one cathetus hits the hypotenuse and then goes immediately toward the second cathetus also at a right angle. Furthermore, for aRTB, almost all orbits that start perpendicular to one cathetus will be periodic,<sup>92</sup> although the periods may be very long. We are not aware of related theorems for trajectories leaving perpendicularly to the hypotenuse. In fact, we have performed various numerical simulations, and for arbitrary  $\alpha$ , this does not seem to be usually the case (nonetheless, long periodic orbits do arise for very fine tuning starting positions on the hypotenuse). However, when departing normally from the hypotenuse hitting one cathetus, if the subsequent collision is with the other cathetus, then necessarily such a path will be periodic (of period 6). Last, a rigorous proof shows<sup>93</sup> that any periodic orbit for aRTB is unstable. This is exactly the kind of orbit associated with quantum scars.

From the results in Sec. III, we can identify certain recurrent behavior for the soliton-like structures in the desymmetrized Sinai billiard. Some of these trends have already been observed in the literature for distinct systems—see Sec. I—and are indicated below as (A), (B), and (E1). The others, (C), (D), and (E2), although corresponding to known properties, to the best of our knowledge, have not been fully explored in the present spectra



**FIG. 11.** In each row, the eigenstate wavelength  $\lambda_n$  and the corresponding Sinai billiard sides  $l_1, l_2$ , and  $l_3$  as a function of the geometric parameter  $\gamma$  (either  $\alpha$  or  $r$ ) along the soliton structures: (a) adgklm of Fig. 4, (b) abcde . . . of Fig. 7 (see also Fig. 5), and (c) abcdeqr of Fig. 14 in Appendix C. Overall,  $\lambda_n(\gamma)$  tends to follow the same behavior of the billiard side  $l_2(\gamma)$ . The parameter  $\Delta$  represents the % difference between the highest and lowest ordinate values in each plot.

soliton context. If viewed as effective “single” structures (or curves), (A) the solitons are much less sinuous than the individual trajectories  $k_n(\gamma)$ 's, consequently reducing the overall path curvatures. (B) For a given geometric parameter variation  $\Delta\gamma$ , the change  $\Delta k$  is higher along a soliton than along each  $k_n(\gamma)$ 's. (C1) Regarding the  $\psi_n$ 's, those associated with a given soliton have very similar morphologies. (C2) Moreover, they can be more (e.g., Figs. 3 d–h–l–o, 4 a–d–g–j–k–l–m, and 4 n–o–p) or less [e.g., Fig. 8 a–b–c–d–e] spatially localized. Nonetheless, they tend to present low amplitudes in the neighborhood of the billiard arc of a circle corner. (D) There is a sort of morphology switching between states of neighbor paths across the ACs of a soliton. For instance, observe the correspondences d~h and g~e along the trajectories d–e and g–h in Fig. 3 and i~h and g~j along g–h and i–j in Fig. 4. It is exactly such type of dynamics that seems to prompt (C1). Finally, the soliton states are either (E1) associated with akin scars of the RTB unstable periodic orbits or (E2) correspond to *memory* states, i.e.,  $\psi_n$ 's, which maintain the basic shape pattern of a suitable state of the RTB as  $\gamma$  varies. In both instances, the  $\psi_n$ 's morphologies are preserved as the

billiard geometry changes by means of the corresponding rescaling of  $k_n$  or equivalently of  $\lambda_n$  (see below).

To clarify (E) above, we display in Fig. 10 the density plots of  $|\psi_n|^2$ 's for representative states of the solitons adgklm and nop of Fig. 4 and abcde of Fig. 7. Regarding (E1), the states (a) and (b) in Fig. 10 are clearly much more concentrated in the right portion of the billiard, closer to the vertical side  $l_2$ . Therefore, intuitively speaking, these states would not “feel” the (wave) dispersing influence of the arc of the circle corner of the Sinai billiard.<sup>22</sup> So, being scarred states of orbits that do not visit the region near  $\hat{s}$ , Fig. 1, or indistinguishable the same orbits for the related ( $r = 0$ ) RTB. Actually, the shown classical periodic orbits for the  $\alpha = 44.05^\circ$ , cathetus lengths  $l_1 + r, l_2$ , and hypotenuse  $l_3 + r$  RTB corroborate such a picture. We observe that the two periodic orbits in Fig. 10 correspond to the situation in which some collisions are normal<sup>22</sup> to the horizontal cathetus.

The previous argument, however, does not hold for the state (c) in Fig. 10 [which is (e) in Fig. 7]. Note that the family abcde starts at the state (a) in Fig. 7, which is an eigenstate of the

integrable  $45^\circ$ – $45^\circ$  RTB. For this case, our calculated  $k = 64.4804$  differs only by 0.032% of  $k_{1415} = 64.4601$ . A 3D plot of the exact  $|\psi_{1415}|^2$  in Eq. (2) is depicted in Fig. 10 (although not shown, the numerically obtained wavefunction (a) in Fig. 7 matches almost perfectly  $\psi_{1415}$ ). The emerging interference pattern of this  $l = 14$ ,  $m = 15$  mode makes  $|\psi_{1415}|^2$  to be very small in a considerable region around the two acute angles. This key characteristic as well as the overall morphology of the states along the soliton abcde are very similar to  $|\psi_{1415}|^2$ , as we clearly see from the 3D plots in Fig. 10 and also from Fig. 7. Away from the acute angle regions, the plots evidence a well distributed pattern for the  $\psi$ 's, but for local maxima of different heights, with higher (lower) peaks closer to the  $90^\circ$  angle (hypotenuse). This is not a typical conformation of scarred states, especially considering that one of these  $\psi_n$ 's (at a) corresponds to an integrable billiard.

The above features are not just due to a particularity of the  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  billiard. The same qualitative characteristics are likewise found for  $\alpha = 46^\circ$  in Fig. 8 and in Fig. 14 of Appendix C (particularly, see the long soliton abcdeqrs), as well as for  $\alpha = 44^\circ$  in Fig. 6. For example, we have checked that a 3D plot of the state (a) in Fig. 8 has a good resemblance to the 3D plot of  $|\psi_{1415}|^2$  in Fig. 10 (note also that they have very close  $k$  values). Therefore, across the soliton-like structures,  $\psi_n$ 's retain memory of the “initial”  $\psi_n|_{r=0}$  morphology—in our studies corresponding to integrable or pseudointegrable (for the  $46^\circ$ – $44^\circ$  case, the genus<sup>10</sup> is 22) RTBs. Furthermore, typically, a  $\psi_n|_{r=0}$  originating a soliton vanishes around the RTB  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  angles [or at least around  $\beta$ , e.g., (f) in Fig. 6 and the soliton fghi]. This guarantees that  $\psi_n$ 's of a similar shape can be accommodated into the desymmetrized Sinai billiard without a strong perturbation caused by  $r > 0$ .

As a last analysis, in all the examples considered (both for scarred and memory states), as we change a geometric parameter  $\gamma$ , the  $\psi_n$ 's along the soliton-like structures preserve their general morphologies through a simple spatial rescaling within the modified billiards. In principle, it should create a correlation between the eigenstate wavelengths  $\lambda_n = 2\pi/k_n$  and the billiard spatial dimensions. To verify this, we consider the  $\lambda_n$ 's along the solitons adgklm of Fig. 4, abcde . . . of Fig. 7 (cf. Fig. 5) and abcdeqrs of Fig. 14. Such  $\lambda_n$ 's and sides  $l_1$ ,  $l_2$ , and  $l_3$  of the associated Sinai billiards are shown in Fig. 11. We observe a good agreement between the variation of  $\lambda_n$  and the length  $l_2$  of the vertical cathetus as  $\gamma$  (either  $\alpha$  or  $r$ ) varies. A certain discrepancy for the parameter  $\Delta$  (see its definition in the caption of Fig. 11) is found for the soliton adgklm of Fig. 4. In this case,  $\Delta\lambda_n = 0.80\% < \Delta l_2 = 1.41\%$  for  $\alpha$  ranging from  $44^\circ$  to  $44.8^\circ$ . Nonetheless, this is easily accounted for by noticing from the corresponding plots in Fig. 4 that the  $\psi_n$ 's along the adgklm structure also suffer a small broadening in the horizontal direction as  $\alpha$  increases.

We end this section by comment on a remark made by one of the anonymous referees. Some of the examples in this contribution are bordering on the diffractive limit (the full limit would be achieved for  $\lambda = 2\pi/k$  large compared to  $r$ ). One possible illustration is (p) in Fig. 6, however, which is not associated with a soliton-like structure. Actually, the particular soliton states that we have examined more carefully here tend to display small amplitudes in the region very close to Sinai's arc of circle. Thus, somehow, they are not influenced by the billiards' circular boundary. To investigate parameter values for which diffraction effects become important for

the present family of systems is certainly an interesting topic for further work. Nonetheless, if related to solitons, the  $\psi_n$ 's resulting from diffraction most likely would be scarring states.

## V. FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION

In the present contribution, we have discussed a relevant quantum chaotic problem, the desymmetrized Sinai table. We have considered geometric parameters  $\gamma$ , determining the exact form of the billiard and whose change generates a whole family of systems. As pointed out in Sec. I, many interesting works in the literature examine universal features in the spectra of chaotic billiards as these  $\gamma$  vary. However, here, we have struck in a different direction, studying the particularities of soliton-like structures in the spectra of our billiards. These structures tend to result in non-general properties once their proliferation, exact shapes, lengths, etc., are often system-dependent. However, interestingly, the associated  $\{\psi_n\}$  and  $\{k_n\}$  along a given soliton share common characteristics, creating a kind of interrelationship among a fraction of the full set of eigenstates and eigenwavenumbers (or eigenenergies) of the full family.

More concretely, we have performed a detailed analysis of the mentioned  $\{\psi_n\}$  and  $\{k_n\}$  vs  $\gamma$ , unveiling (1) the states morphologic characteristics as well as (2) the geometric features of the billiard borders, which allow the solitons emergence. Regarding (1), perhaps it is a bit surprising that not only BB modes and scarred wavefunctions contribute to  $\{\psi_n\}$ . Indeed, eigenstates that we have called “memory” states, i.e.,  $\psi_n$ 's maintaining the localized shape patterns of particular solutions of integrable or pseudointegrable billiards (the case when  $\gamma$  assumes some special value, say  $\gamma_0$ ), can also account for the soliton structures.

Given the previous observations, a natural question is whether or not our findings for the Sinai could extend to other billiards. Obviously, a definitive answer should demand the survey of an extensive number of distinct systems. Nevertheless, some general considerations can be put forward. For the sake of argument, suppose the billiard domain is written as  $\Omega = \Omega_I \cup \Omega_{II}$ , with  $\Omega_I$  and  $\Omega_{II}$  adjacent regions separated by the surface  $\mathcal{S}$ . Moreover, assume  $\Omega_X$  ( $X = I, II$ ) delimited by  $\mathcal{S} \cup \partial_X\Omega$ , where  $\partial\Omega = \partial_I\Omega \cup \partial_{II}\Omega$ .

A first key factor is the existence of eigenstates whose specific morphologies are easily adaptable to the billiard contour  $\partial\Omega$  for a continuous variation of  $\gamma$ . The change of  $\gamma$  might cause considerable modifications in  $\partial_I\Omega$ , but only a smooth adjustment of  $\partial_{II}\Omega$ , e.g., leading to a simple rescaling of a characteristic length size  $l$  of  $\Omega_{II}$  such that  $l(\gamma)$  is a well-behaved function. In this case, an eigenstate  $\psi_n$  localized in the region  $\Omega_{II}$  would survive to the billiard deformation by just changing  $\lambda_n$  accordingly, i.e., for  $\lambda_n(\gamma) \sim l(\lambda)$ . This is analogous to what takes place in a quantum adiabatic process.

The second key factor is the existence of such proper localized  $\psi_n$ 's for some particular billiard in the family, namely, when  $\gamma = \gamma_0$ . If for this  $\gamma_0$  the billiard is already chaotic, the clear candidates are mostly BB modes and in a lesser degree scarred states (for very elucidating analysis in the quantum chaotic case, see, e.g., Refs. 65–70). However, we have shown for the desymmetrized Sinai that if for  $\gamma_0$  the billiard is integrable or pseudointegrable, some of its specific  $\psi_n$ 's with the right morphologies—and not related to BBs or scarring—can likewise contribute to the formation of the solitons. Conceivably, this also could take place for other tables, such

as for polygon billiards with pockets (i.e., some corners substituted by small circles).<sup>94</sup>

Finally, it may be a great challenge to foresee the above phenomenology in a specific problem without exploring its energy spectrum for diverse  $\gamma$ 's. However, if the above framework of setting  $\Omega = \Omega_I \cup \Omega_{II}$  is possible, conditions for the occurrence of soliton-like structures eventually could be established from Bogomolny's quantum surface section method<sup>95–98</sup> e.g., considering  $\mathcal{S}$ . For sure, this is a compelling research agenda for future works focusing solitons in the spectrum of quantum chaotic billiards.

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**AUTHOR DECLARATIONS**

**Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

**Author Contributions**

M.R.S. and A.L.A. contributed equally to this work.

**APPENDIX A: DETAILS ON THE BILLIARD BOUNDARY NUMERICAL DISCRETIZATION**

We start observing that a great advantage of the present family of systems is that we can benchmark the discretization procedure by “probing” the integrable case, namely, the right  $45^\circ$ – $45^\circ$  triangle. Thus, for  $k$  around 105 (the maximum value in this work), we have computed the numerical eigenvalues for distinct discretizations and compared with the analytic ones, Eq. (2), until getting satisfactory results. Then, for the other cases, we have employed the same settings, i.e., the same number of points by a perimeter length unit along the billiard boundaries.

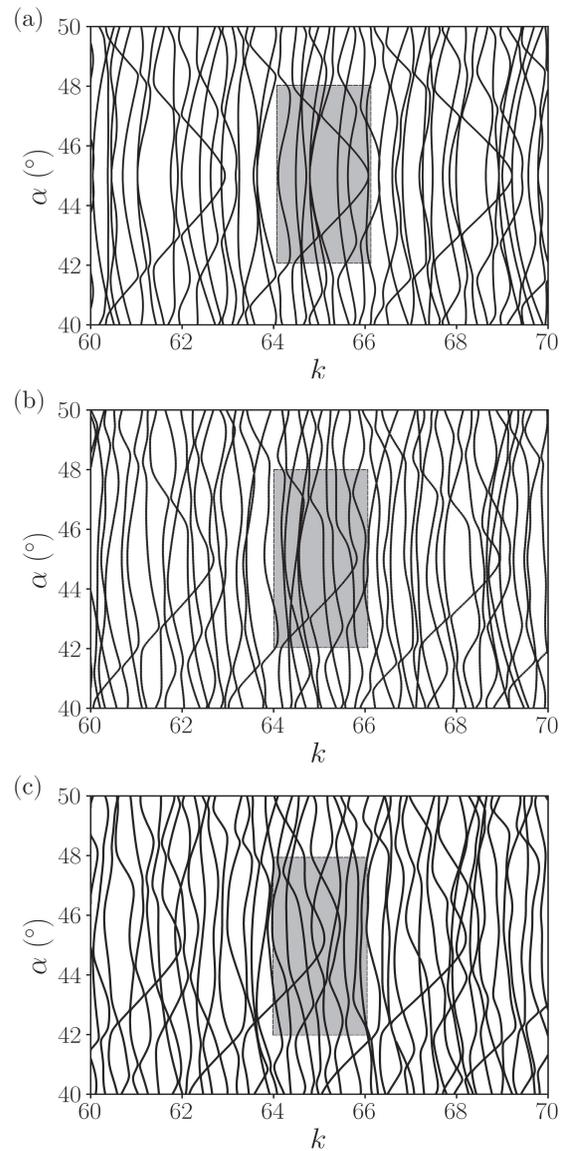
Our protocol was to consider  $\Delta/\lambda = b$ , where  $\Delta$  is the perimeter length along the billiard border between two successive discrete points,  $\lambda = 2\pi/k$ , and  $b$  the parameter to control the method precision. The numerically determined good compromise values for  $b = \bar{b}$  were  $\bar{b}_s = 0.05$  and  $\bar{b}_c = 0.025$ , respectively, in the straight and circular parts of the billiards. For representative avoided crossings—such as (I)–(III) in Fig. 4—we repeated the calculations using  $\bar{b}/2$  so as to double check their correct separations. Furthermore, for some extreme situations, as the crossing (I) in Fig. 7, we have used the somehow computationally expensive value of  $\bar{b}/3$ , confirming the qualitative results obtained with  $\bar{b}$ .

As a final extra test, which of course does not show if individual eigenstates present good numerical precision, but at least indicates whether or not one is missing a reasonable number of very closed  $k_n$ 's, for non-integrable billiards and  $\bar{b}$ , we have confronted

the number of  $k_n$ 's up to a certain  $k$  with the usual Weyl formula. In all the wavenumber intervals examined, the agreement has been rather satisfactory. All these analyses have shown that for the phenomenology studied here, the BWM numerical accuracy was enough for our purposes.

**APPENDIX B: SOME EXTRA RESULTS BY VARYING  $\alpha$**

Figure 12 shows  $k_n \times \alpha$  in the range  $40^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 50^\circ$  and  $60 \leq k \leq 70$  for three different values of the radius  $r$ : (a)  $r = 0$ , (b)



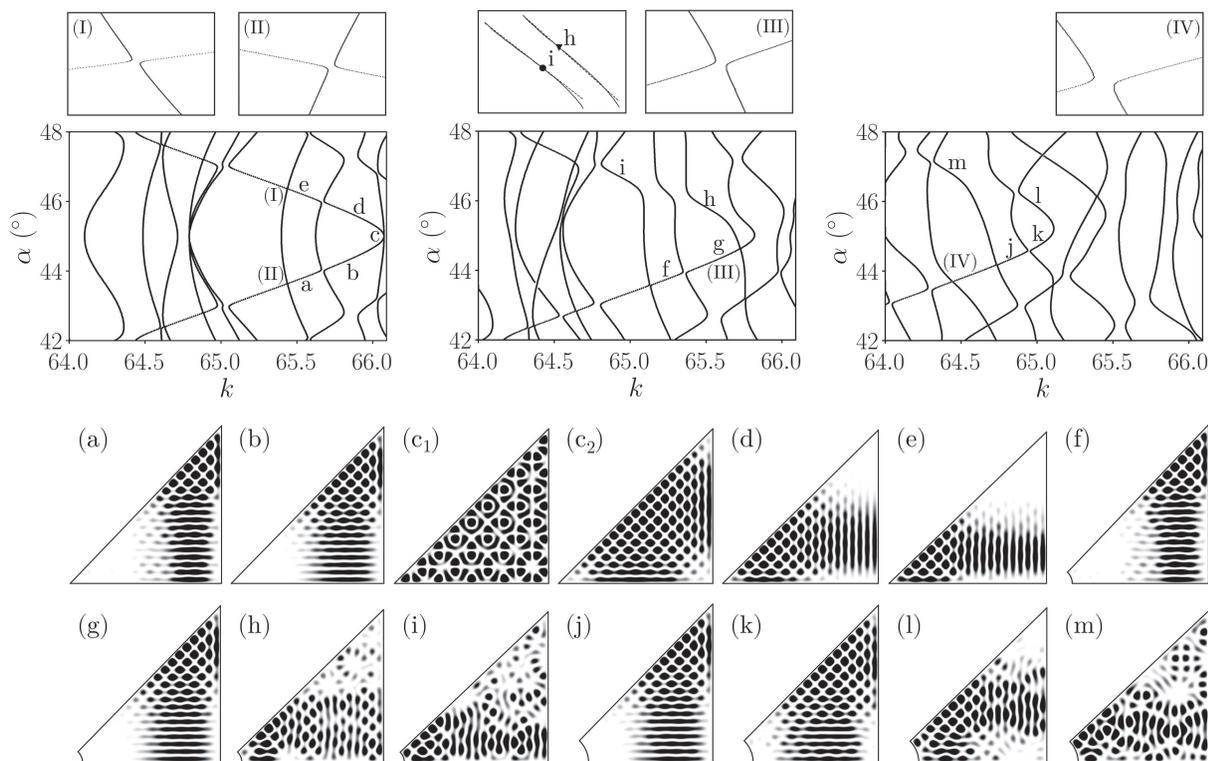
**FIG. 12.** Similar to Fig. 2, but for (a)  $r = 0.0$  and  $n_i = 128$ ,  $n_f = 177$ , (b)  $r = 0.1$  and  $n_i = 128$ ,  $n_f = 177$ , (c)  $r = 0.2$  and  $n_i = 129$ ,  $n_f = 177$ ; all  $n$ 's are taken as reference  $\alpha = 40.0^\circ$ . The gray regions are shown in detail in Fig. 13.

$r = 0.1$ , and (c)  $r = 0.2$  (the latter value is the same as in Fig. 2). Note that for  $r = 0$ , one has a perfect specular symmetry of the trajectories  $k_n(\alpha)$  about the angle  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  since it corresponds to the right triangle billiard and there is a trivial equivalence of triangles for  $\alpha \leftrightarrow \beta = \pi/2 - \alpha$  (Fig. 1). This symmetry is naturally broken if  $r \neq 0$ . Also, for the case of  $r = 0$ , if  $\alpha = 45^\circ$ , the billiard is regular [with the exact solutions given by Eq. (2)], presenting degenerate levels and thus actual crossings of some  $k_n$ 's. In Fig. 12, the soliton-like structures, composed of a large number of branches (especially when  $r = 0$ ), are once more observed in the spectra. Nevertheless, they start to disappear for  $\alpha > 45^\circ$  as  $r$  increases.

In Fig. 13, we have the three spectra regions indicated in gray in Fig. 12. The behavior discerned in Figs. 3 and 4 is again seen in Fig. 13. However, some extra features can also be detected. We begin considering the case of  $r = 0$  and two soliton-like structures, ab and de. The point c (corresponding to an integrable billiard since  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  and  $r = 0$ ) is a sort of end point, at which these two solitons terminate. However, the eigenstate morphologies, similar in a and b and in d and e, are different from those in c [see  $|\psi_n|^2$  in Figs. 6(a), 6(b), 6(c<sub>1</sub>), 6(c<sub>2</sub>), 6(d), and 6(e)]. Also, given the already mentioned symmetry about  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  of the  $r = 0$  right triangle billiard, as it should be, the state (a) is a simple  $90^\circ$  rotation of the

state (e), likewise for (b) and (d). At c, we have a real crossing with two degenerated states. The solutions  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  have been calculated numerically from the BWM. They are exactly the same than those from Eq. (2), respectively, by setting  $l = 9, m = 19$  and  $l = 1, m = 21$  (we have compared the numerical and analytic solutions, and by direct eye inspection, one cannot tell the difference between the plots). Moreover, from the BWM, we have found  $k = 66.0740$ , whereas the exact value is  $k = 66.0482\dots$ , thus a difference of only 0.04% (this exemplifies the good numerical precision of the BWM). With the exception of  $\alpha = 60^\circ$  (and equivalently  $\alpha = 30^\circ$ ), classical right triangular billiards of arbitrary  $\alpha \neq 45^\circ$  are non-integrable, being either pseudointegrable<sup>99</sup> or weakly chaotic depending if  $\alpha/\pi$  is rational or irrational.<sup>93,100–103</sup> Quantically, this rational/irrational interplay arbitrates between intermediate or semi-Poisson to GOE statistics for the level separation;<sup>82,104–106</sup> see Sec. IV. Hence, although c is the ending point of two soliton-like structures, the states  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  morphologies cannot be those along ab and de.

For  $r = 0.1$ , the soliton-like line fg—say, corresponding to branches  $i$  and  $i + 1$ —follows the previously mentioned trends. Actually, we notice that fg is not a so short soliton since the states (not shown) in the branch  $i - 1$ , just before branch  $i$  of f, are very alike the  $\psi_n$ 's in (f) and (g) of Fig. 13. Also instructive is to



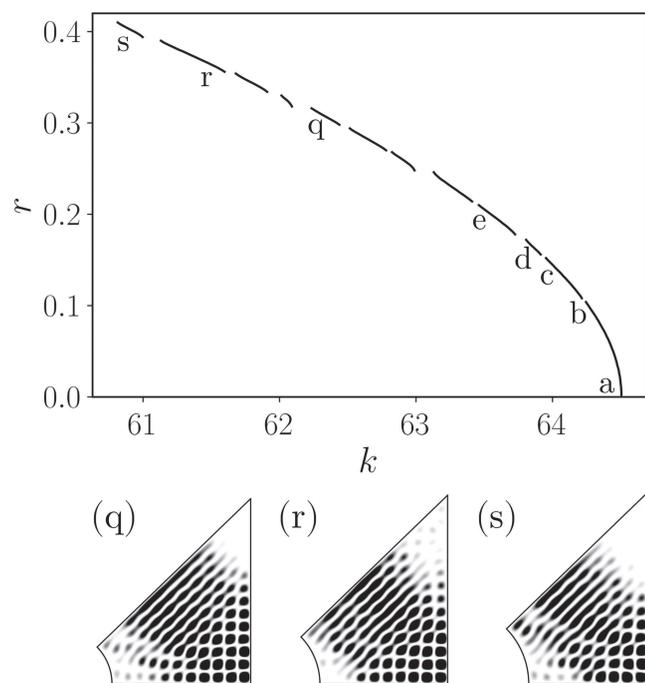
**FIG. 13.** The same than in Fig. 3, but for the gray regions of Figs. 12(a)–12(c), respectively corresponding to the left ( $r = 0.0$ ), center ( $r = 0.1$ ) and right ( $r = 0.2$ ), panels. The blowups evidence the avoided crossings. Also, the branches of the states  $i$  and  $h$  ( $r = 0.1$ ) are displayed side by side for comparison, see main text. The dashed lines are the tangents through the points corresponding to  $h$  (slop  $-2.76$ ) and  $i$  (slop  $-2.40$ ). The parameters values are: (a)  $k = 65.5931, \alpha = 43.9^\circ$ ; (b)  $k = 65.8763, \alpha = 44.4^\circ$ ; (c)  $k = 66.0740, \alpha = 45^\circ$ ; (d)  $k = 65.9246, \alpha = 45.5^\circ$ ; (e)  $k = 65.5340, \alpha = 46.2^\circ$ ; (f)  $k = 65.2702, \alpha = 43.8^\circ$ ; (g)  $k = 65.6166, \alpha = 44.4^\circ$ ; (h)  $k = 65.4992, \alpha = 45.8^\circ$ ; (i)  $k = 64.9623, \alpha = 46.6^\circ$ ; (j)  $k = 64.8522, \alpha = 44.4^\circ$ ; (k)  $k = 65.0315, \alpha = 44.8^\circ$ ; (l)  $k = 65.0060, \alpha = 45.8^\circ$ ; (m)  $k = 64.4268, \alpha = 46.8^\circ$ .

contrast the eigenstates (h) (for  $\alpha = 45.8^\circ$ ) and (i) (for  $\alpha = 45.6^\circ$ ) in Fig. 13. They present a somewhat close morphology, even though the two ACs separating the associated branches are very wide compared with those of other soliton-like structures. Indeed, observe the blowups of some much more sharper and narrower ACs in Fig. 13. The key point is that the branches of i and h are segments with similar inclinations (see the details in Fig. 13). Thus, they might be viewed as interpolating a single smooth curve, a requirement for the emergence of soliton-like structures in the  $k \times \alpha$  space of our billiard systems.

Finally, for  $r = 0.2$ , the eigenstates (j) and (k), although much more akin to each other than, e.g., states (l) and (m), do not exhibit a perfect matching: (k) is broader in the horizontal direction. Note that k is in the beginning of the strong bending of its associated branch, making the trajectory k-l to completely change the direction in the  $k \times \alpha$  space. This illustrates that an abrupt curvature in a branch tends to terminate a soliton.

### APPENDIX C: ANALYSIS OF THE STRAIGHT LINE PORTION OF A SOLITON-LIKE STRUCTURE GENERATED BY VARYING $r$

In Figs. 6–8, we have highlighted the more rounded stretches of some solitons of Fig. 5. Along them, the associated eigenstates display akin morphologies. However, also important is to verify if in



**FIG. 14.** Details of the soliton-like structure abcde... of Fig. 8 and three extra eigenstates located at branches where the soliton tends to resemble a straight line. The parameter values are (q)  $k = 62.5559$ ,  $r = 0.29$ ; (r)  $k = 61.4129$ ,  $r = 0.37$ ; and (s)  $k = 60.3720$ ,  $r = 0.434$ .

the straight line portions of such solitons the  $\psi_n$ 's patterns are still similar. In Fig. 14, we have plotted the full extension of the soliton abcde of Fig. 8 [refer, in Fig. 5(c), to the continuation of the abcde soliton outside the gray region]. We note that the state morphology general trends remain the same [compare (q), (r), and (s) in Fig. 14 with (a)–(e) in Fig. 8]. Particularly, observe (1) the same  $|\psi_n|^{2s}$  structures of maxima and minima parallel to the billiard hypotenuse and toward the right angle corner and (2) the systematic steady growth, as  $r$  increases, of the region around the  $\alpha$  angle corner for which the amplitude probability is very small. Actually, we have surveyed many other analogous cases, always finding a good similarity of the states along the entire solitons.

### DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study are available within the article.

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