

Periodically and quasiperiodically driven anisotropic Dicke model

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We analyze the anisotropic Dicke model in the presence of a periodic drive and under a quasiperiodic drive. The study of drive-induced phenomena in this experimentally accessible model is important since, although it is simpler than full-fledged many-body quantum systems, it is still rich enough to exhibit many interesting features. We show that under a quasiperiodic Fibonacci (Thue-Morse) drive, the system features a prethermal plateau that increases as an exponential (stretched exponential) with the driving frequency before heating to an infinite-temperature state. In contrast, when the model is periodically driven, the dynamics reaches a plateau that is not followed by heating. In either case, the plateau value depends on the energy of the initial state and on the parameters of the undriven Hamiltonian. Surprisingly, this value does not always approach the infinite-temperature state monotonically as the frequency of the periodic drive decreases. We also show how the drive modifies the quantum critical point and discuss open questions associated with the analysis of level statistics at intermediate frequencies.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The idea of modifying the properties of a system with an external drive has a long history with early examples including the spin echo [1] and the Kapitza pendulum [2]. The drive can induce chaos in systems with one degree of freedom, where chaos is otherwise inaccessible, as in the kicked rotor [3] and the Duffing oscillator [4]. It can lead to the emergence of double wells [5,6], which have application to the generation of Schrödinger cat states [7], and it can affect the critical point of quantum phase transitions (QPTs) and excited-state quantum phase transitions (ESQPTs) [8,9], as verified for the Lipkin-Meshkov-Glick model [10,11].

In the case of quantum systems with many degrees of freedom, there have been significant efforts in exploring the use of external drives to achieve new phases of matter and new physics phenomena not found at equilibrium. This interest is in part due to experimental advances that have allowed, for example, the observation of a discrete-time crystal [12], Floquet prethermalization in dipolar spin chains [13] and in Bose-Hubbard models [14], and Floquet topological insulators [15]. A problem faced by the use

suggest regularity even when the undriven system is chaotic. In contrast, the evolution of the average boson number [33] and of the entanglement entropy [37,64] indicate a degree of spreading in the Hilbert space that is at least equivalent to that reached by the undriven system, which implies that the results for level statistics may be an artifact. An intriguing element to this picture is that for high-energy initial states, there is a narrow range of intermediate frequencies for which the saturation value of the average boson number becomes larger than the infinite-temperature result. We believe that this is caused by a lack of full ergodicity and that near equipartition only happens for small driving frequencies.

The core of this paper is the comparison of the dynamics of the anisotropic Dicke model under periodic and quasiperiodic drives, which show distinct behaviors. When periodically driven, the average boson number and the entanglement entropy saturate to a plateau that is not followed by heating to the infinite-temperature state. The saturation value depends on the frequency of the drive, the energy of the initial state, and whether the undriven system is in the regular or chaotic regime. The spreading of low-energy initial states at intermediate to high frequencies is very restrained. In contrast, under a quasiperiodic drive modeled by the Thue-Morse [65–70] (Fibonacci [70–73]) sequence, the model presents a prethermal plateau that grows as a stretched exponential (exponential) with the driving frequency and is later followed by heating. This is similar to what was found for many-body spin models, where the heating time was shown to grow exponentially with the driving frequency for the Fibonacci drive protocol [71]. In contrast, under the Thue-Morse protocol, it was found [69] that the heating time is shorter than exponential and longer than algebraic in the driving frequency.

The presence (absence) of the heating process for quasiperiodic (periodic) drives is aligned with the discussion in [74], where complete Hilbert-space ergodicity was proven for systems under nonperiodic drives but discarded for time-independent or time-periodic Hamiltonian dynamics. Paradoxically, there are results that indicate prethermalization followed by heating in periodically driven many-body spin systems with short- and long-range interactions [75] and in periodically driven arrays of coupled kicked rotors [76], although it might be that these systems do not reach full ergodicity in the sense presented in [74].

II. MODEL HAMILTONIAN

The Hamiltonian of the generalized Dicke model with time-dependent couplings is given by

$$\mathcal{H}(t) = \omega a^\dagger a + \omega_0 J_z + \frac{\tilde{g}_1(t)}{\sqrt{2j}} (a^\dagger J_- + a J_+) + \frac{\tilde{g}_2(t)}{\sqrt{2j}} (a^\dagger J_+ + a J_-), \quad (1)$$

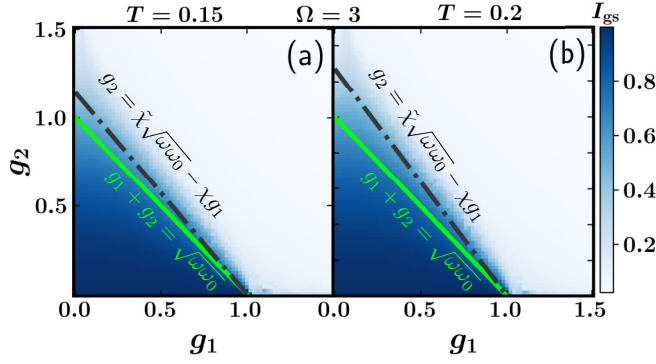


FIG. 1. Inverse participation ratio of the ground state of the effective Hamiltonian in Eq. (5) as a function of the coupling parameters g_1 and g_2 ; $\Omega = 3$ and T is indicated. The green solid line represents the critical line for the QPT of the undriven case and the black dash-dotted line is the modified critical line for the periodically driven system; $N = 10$, $n_{\max} = 199$, and $\omega = \omega_0 = 1$.

and H_F is the time-independent Floquet Hamiltonian. The unitary operator can be decomposed as $U(T) = \sum_v e^{-i\phi_v} |\varphi_v\rangle\langle\varphi_v|$, where ϕ_v are the Floquet phases, $\epsilon_v = \text{mod}(\phi_v, 2\pi)/T$ are the quasienergies, and $|\varphi_v\rangle$ are the corresponding Floquet modes [77].

A. Quantum phase transition

We start our analysis with a discussion of how the quantum critical point depends on the drive. The critical point for the undriven system is given by $g_1 + g_2 = \sqrt{\omega\omega_0}$ [35] and is marked with a green solid line in Fig. 1. To see how this gets modified by the periodic drive, we perform the Magnus expansion and obtain an effective Hamiltonian H_{eff} up to second order in ω_d (see details in Appendix A 1):

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{\text{eff}} = & \omega a^\dagger a + \omega_0 J_z + \frac{g_1}{\sqrt{2J}} (a^\dagger J_- + a J_+) \\
 & + \frac{g_2}{\sqrt{2J}}$$

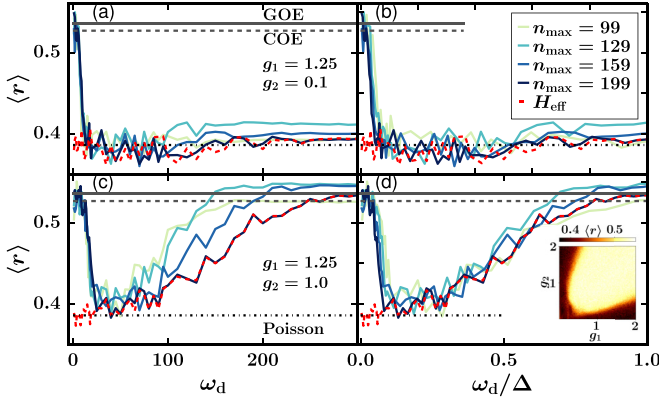


FIG. 2. Average consecutive level spacing ratio $\langle r \rangle$ of the anisotropic Dicke model as a function of (a) and (c) the driving frequency and (b) and (d) the driving frequency rescaled by the energy bandwidth of the undriven system for (a) and (b) $g_2 = 0.1$ and (c) and (d) $g_2 = 1.0$. We set $g_1 = 1.25$, $\Omega = 1$, and atom number $N = 10$. Different bosonic cutoffs are used as indicated in the legend. The inset in (d) shows $\langle r \rangle$ as a function of g_1 and g_2 for the undriven model. We have set $\omega = \omega_0 = 1$ for the data shown in all the panels.

the analysis of level statistics [45]. We use this figure as a reference for our choices of g_1 and g_2 in the driven scenario. The main panels in Fig. 2 display the average level spacing ratio for the driven system using different values of the bosonic cutoff $n_{\max}$. The results are shown as a function of the driving frequency in Figs. 2(a) and 2(c) and as a function of the driving frequency rescaled by the energy bandwidth of the undriven system in Figs. 2(b) and 2(d). The purpose of the rescaling is to check the convergence of the results. The solid lines for the different values of $n_{\max}$ in Figs. 2(b) and 2(d) are indeed close and, for large frequencies, they nearly coincide with the curve for the effective Hamiltonian from

and the von Neumann entanglement entropy between the spins and bosons

$$S(t) = -\text{Tr}\{\rho_{\text{spins}}(t) \ln[\rho_{\text{spins}}(t)]\}, \quad (8)$$

where $\rho_{\text{spins}}(t) = \text{Tr}_{\text{bosons}}[\rho(t)]$ is the reduced density matrix of the spins obtained by tracing over the bosonic degrees of freedom. One expects generic driven systems to heat up and reach an infinite-temperature-like state with $\rho^\infty = \mathcal{I}/\mathcal{N}$, where $\mathcal{I}$ is the identity matrix and $\mathcal{N}$ is the Hilbert-space dimension. The infinite-temperature value of the average boson number for the Dicke model corresponds to

$$N_{\text{av}}^\infty = \text{Tr}(\rho_{\text{bosons}}^\infty a^\dagger a) = n_{\text{max}}/2,$$

where $\rho_{\text{bosons}}^\infty = \text{Tr}_{\text{spins}}(\rho^\infty)$, and the entanglement entropy saturates to the Page value [80], given by

$$S_{\text{Page}} = \ln(N+1) - \frac{N+1}{2(n_{\text{max}}+1)}.$$

The Page value is derived for bounded systems, while the Hilbert space of the bosonic subspace of the Dicke model is unbounded. However, the truncation to n_{max} still provides a meaningful result for the converged states. In what follows, we set the atom number to $N = 10$ and the bosonic mode cut-off at $n_{\text{max}} = 199$, which gives $N_{\text{av}}^\infty \approx 100$ and $S_{\text{Page}} \approx 2.37$. Our initial states are eigenstates of the decoupled Hamiltonian [$\tilde{g}(t) = 0$]. We average the data over 50 initial states.

In Fig. 3 we select coupling parameters corresponding to the chaotic undriven model and analyze the evolution of $N_{\text{av}}(t)$ [Figs. 3(a) and 3(b)] and $S(t)$

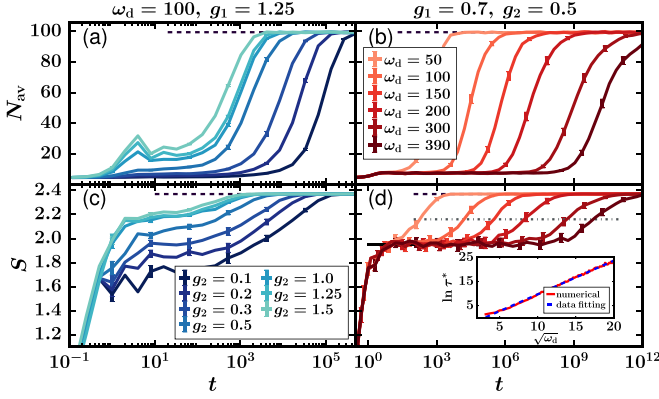


FIG. 4. (a) and (b) Average boson number $N_{av}(t)$ and (c) and (d) von Neumann entanglement entropy $S(t)$ as a function of time $t_n = 2^n T$ for the anisotropic Dicke model under the Thue-Morse quasiperiodic drive. The initial states have low energies, so $\langle E_{in} \rangle = 3.48$. (a) and (c) Intermediate driving frequency $\omega_d = 100$, $g_1 = 1.25$, and various values of g_2 . (b) and (d) Parameters $g_1 = 0.7$ and $g_2 = 0.5$ (which are parameters that ensure chaos for the undriven system) and various values of ω_d . The inset in (d) shows the scaling of the heating time τ^* with ω_d ; numerical data are in blue and the best fitting, given by $\log \tau^* = 1.4\sqrt{\omega_d} - 4.24$, is in red. In all panels, the driving amplitude is $\Omega = 1.0$, $N = 10$, $n_{max} = 199$, and $\omega = \omega_0 = 1$. The time t is in units of ω_0^{-1} . The dashed line represents the Page value, the black solid line is for the prethermal value, and the dash-dotted line represents the value when the entanglement entropy reaches the halfway mark between its prethermal plateau and the Page value.

associated with the chaotic undriven model and various values of ω_d [Figs. 4(b) and 4(d)]. All panels exhibit a prethermal plateau followed by a saturation to the infinite-temperature state, which contrasts with the results in Figs. 3(a) and 3(c). The quasiperiodic drive breaks regularity and induces ergodicity. It causes all cases considered with intermediate frequency and coupling parameters from the regular to the chaotic regime to heat up to an infinite temperature.

The prethermal plateau gets longer in time if one increases the driving frequency or brings the coupling parameters closer to the regular regime.

are required. Therefore, the nonmonotonic behavior of the saturation values of the average boson number observed for intermediate driving frequencies imply that these frequencies are still not small enough to ensure equipartition.

(iv) For the quasiperiodic drives, prethermalization is followed by heating, ensuring full ergodicity. The heating time τ^* for the Fibonacci protocol grows exponentially with the driving frequency ($\tau^* \propto e^{\omega_d}$), while for the Thue-Morse protocol the growth follows a stretched exponential ($\tau^* \propto e^{\sqrt{\omega_d}}$). In both cases, the heating time decreases as the energy of the initial state increases.

Overall, our work shows that the (anisotropic) Dicke model exhibits properties of genuinely many-body quantum systems that could be experimentally explored. The absence of heating for the periodic drive and the long prethermal plateaus for the quasiperiodic drives, for example, provide scenarios under which nonequilibrium phases of matter could be hosted.

An interesting question opened up by our results is how a finite prethermal plateau followed by heating emerges as the drive goes from periodic to quasiperiodic. To answer this question, one would need to design a driving protocol that interpolates between the two kinds of drives. A continuous drive of the form $f(t) = \beta \cos(\omega_d t) + (1 - \beta) \cos(\alpha \omega_d t)$ with irrational α could help to address this question. It would then also be interesting to see how the heating time depends on the parameter β . We look forward to exploring this question.

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APPENDIX A: PERIODIC DRIVE

2. Critical line of the quantum phase transition of the driven system

To find the critical line, we first apply the Holstein-Primakoff transformation [33] to the effective Hamiltonian in Eq. (A10),

$$J_+ = b^\dagger \sqrt{2j - b^\dagger b}, \quad J_- = \sqrt{2j - b^\dagger b} b, \quad J_z = b^\dagger b - j. \quad (\text{A11})$$

In the thermodynamic limit (when the atom number $N \rightarrow \infty$), we have

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\text{eff}} = & \omega a^\dagger a + \omega_0 b^\dagger b + g_1(a^\dagger b + ab^\dagger) + g_2(a^\dagger b^\dagger + ab) \\ & + \frac{T^2 \omega \Omega^2}{12} [(b^\dagger)^2 + b^2] + \frac{T^2 \omega \Omega^2}{6} b^\dagger b \\ & + \frac{T^2 \omega_0 \Omega^2}{6N} \frac{N}{2} [(a^\dagger)^2 + a^2 + 2a^\dagger a + 1] \\ & - \frac{T^2 \omega_0 \Omega^2}{6N} [(a^\dagger)^2 + a^2] (b^\dagger b) - \frac{T^2 \omega_0 A^2}{6N} 2(a^\dagger a)(b^\dagger b) \\ & - \frac{T^2 \omega_0 \Omega^2}{6N} b^\dagger b + \frac{T^2 \Delta g \Omega^2}{3N} \frac{N}{2} (a + a^\dagger)(b + b^\dagger) \\ & - \frac{T^2 \Delta g \Omega^2}{3N} (a + a^\dagger)(b + b^\dagger) b^\dagger b. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A12})$$

We now consider only up to second-order terms in the bosonic operators, which means that we neglect the last term of the Hamiltonian in Eq. (A10). Introducing the position and momentum operators for the two bosonic modes as

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\omega}} (a^\dagger + a), \quad p_x = i\sqrt{\frac{\omega}{2}} (a^\dagger - a), \\ y &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\omega_0}} (b^\dagger + b), \quad p_y = i\sqrt{\frac{\omega_0}{2}} (b^\dagger - b), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A13})</$$

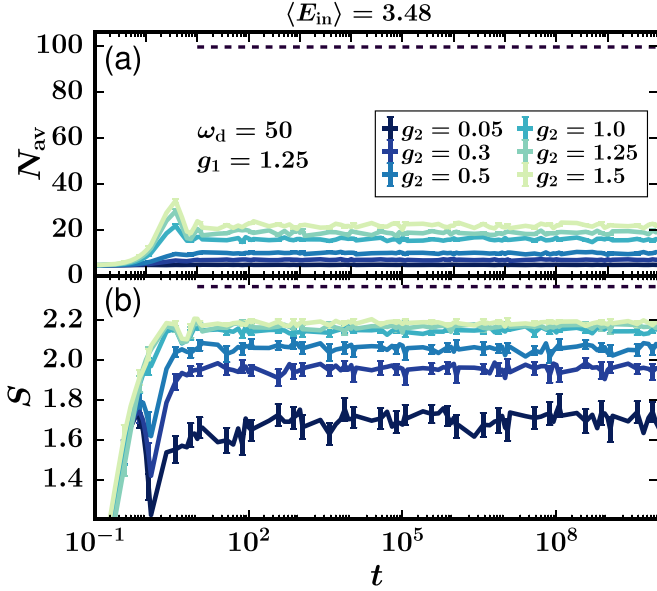


FIG. 6. (a) Average boson number $N_{\text{av}}(t)$ and (b) von Neumann entanglement entropy $S(t)$ as a function of the stroboscopic time $t_n = nT$ for the periodically driven anisotropic Dicke model. The initial states have low energies, so $\langle E_{\text{in}} \rangle = 3.48$, as in Figs. 3(a) and 3(b). The driving frequency is fixed at an intermediate value $\omega_d = 50$ and various values of g_2 are considered, as indicated. The black dashed line indicates the results for the infinite-temperature state. For both panels, $g_1 = 1.25$, the driving amplitude is $\Omega = 1.0$, $N = 10$, $n_{\text{max}} = 199$, and $\omega = \omega_0 = 1$. The time t is in units of ω_0^{-1} .

APPENDIX B: PERIODIC DRIVE

This Appendix extends the results presented in Fig. 3 of the main text.

1. Dependence on the coupling parameters

To complement Figs. 3(a) and 3(c) of the main text and support the discussion made there about the dependence of the saturation values of $N_{\text{av}}(t)$ and $S(t)$ on the coupling parameters, we show in Fig. 6 the evolution of the average boson number [Fig. 6(a)] and the entang

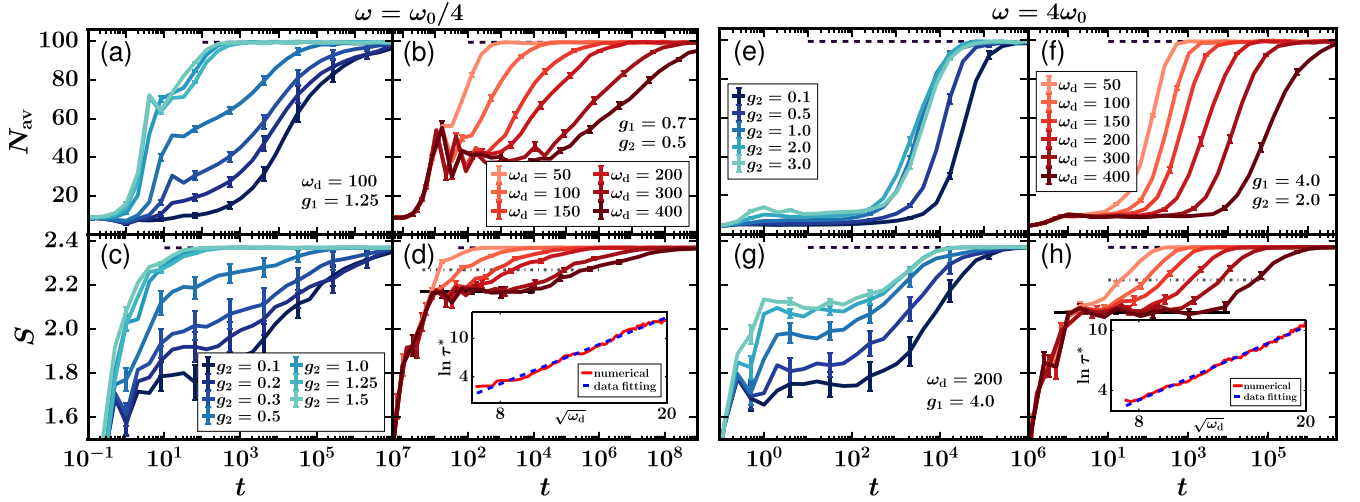


FIG. 10. Off-resonance case for (a)–(d) $\omega_0 = 1$ and $\omega = \frac{\omega_0}{4}$ and (e)–(h) $\omega_0 = 1$ and $\omega = 4\omega_0$. (a), (b), (e), and (f) Average boson number $N_{av}(t)$ and (c), (d), (g), and (h) von Neumann entanglement entropy $S(t)$ as a function of time $t_n = 2^n T$ for the anisotropic Dicke model under the Thue-Morse quasiperiodic drive, for $N = 10$ and $n_{\max} = 199$. The initial states in all panels have low energies, so $\langle E_{in} \rangle = 3.48$, and the driving amplitude is $\Omega = 1.0$. The values of ω_d , g_1 , and g_2 are indicated in the panels. (a), (c), (e), and (g) have intermediate driving frequencies and (b), (d), (f), and (h) have parameters that ensure chaos for the undriven system. The insets in (d) and (h) show the scaling of the heating time τ^* with ω_d ; numerical data are in blue and the best fitting, given by $\log \tau^* = 0.86\sqrt{\omega_d} - 3.97$, with $\log \tau^* = 0.61\sqrt{\omega_d} - 1.83$, is in red. The time t is in units of ω_0^{-1} .

In Figs. 9(a) and 9(b) we compare the evolution of the entanglement entropy for two different initial states energies $\langle E_{\text{in}} \rangle = 3.48$ and 22.2 , respectively. As the energy increases, the prethermal plateau happens at higher values and the heating time decreases. To check the energy dependence on the heating time, we plot τ^* as a function of $\langle E_{\text{in}} \rangle$ in Fig. 9(c) and we verify that τ^* decays as $E_{\text{in}}^{-4.03}$.

APPENDIX D: OFF-RESONANCE CASE ($\omega \neq \omega_0$) AND FINITE-SIZE ANALYSIS

To complement the results presented in the main text for $\omega = \omega_0$ in Fig. 4 and to show that they are general, we consider here the off-resonance case $\omega \neq \omega_0$. We see that our additional numerical results for the Thue-Morse sequence

using $\omega = \omega_0/4$ in Figs. 10(a)–10(d) and using $\omega = 4\omega_0$ in Figs. 10(e)–10(h) are similar to the results for the resonant case in Fig. 4. For all three cases, we observe a prethermal plateau that gets longer in time as the driving frequency increases and that is followed by saturation to the infinite-temperature state.

In this Appendix we also show results for different values of the atom number N . In the main text, we set $N = 10$ and varied the bosonic cutoff n_{max} . Taking a larger value of the atom number requires a larger bosonic cutoff n_{max} to ensure convergence. In Fig. 11 we set $n_{\text{max}} = 399$ and increase N to show the dynamics of the von Neumann entanglement entropy under the Thue-Morse sequence. The behavior is analogous to that shown in Fig. 4(d), now for different Hilbert-space sizes.

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