Projection-based adiabatic elimination of bipartite open quantum systems

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Adiabatic elimination methods allow the reduction of the space dimension needed to describe systems whose dynamics exhibit separation of timescale. For open quantum systems, it consists in eliminating the fast part assuming it has almost instantaneously reached its steady state and obtaining an approximation of the evolution of the slow part. These methods can be applied to eliminate a linear subspace within the system Hilbert space or, alternatively, to eliminate a fast subsystem in a bipartite quantum system. In this work, we extend an adiabatic elimination method used for removing fast degrees of freedom within a system [Phys. Rev. A **101**, 042102 (2020)] to eliminate a subsystem from an open bipartite quantum system. As an illustration, we apply our technique to a dispersively coupled two-qubit system and in the case of the open Rabi model.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Adiabatic elimination is a method whereby the fast degrees of freedom of a system are removed while retaining an effective description of the slow degrees of freedom. This simplification can be very useful to obtain tractable and intuitive equations when only a coarse-grained or long times description is desired [1-11], depending on if the target system has a conservative [7,8,12] or a dissipative [13-20] evolution. There are two classes of manifolds on which adiabatic elimination has been applied, (i) those that consist of levels within a subsystem, for example the excited states of an atom, and (ii) those that consist of a separate subsystem, such as ancillary qubits or measuring devices. For slow and fast parts described by Hilbert spaces $\mathcal{H}^{(A)}$ and $\mathcal{H}^{(B)}$, the first case corresponds to the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{(A)} \oplus \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$ (direct sum) while the second case corresponds to the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{(A)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$ (tensor product). Adiabatic elimination is useful in developing protocols for dissipative state preparation in ion traps [21,22], reservoir engineering [23,24], and the description of measurement devices [25]. The simplicity of the resulting equations can also be computationally advantageous in the study of quantum phase transitions where the size of the system is cumbersomly large [26].

There are several approaches to obtain effective operators, ranging from perturbative expansions of the Liouville operator [19,20], the corresponding Kraus maps [13–16,18], the resolvent [27], or using stochastic methods [25]. Eliminating a fast subsystem (that forms a tensor product with the slow subsystem) is typically done with a partial trace over the fast

subsystem. This can result in a set of hierarchical equations that allows error estimation and correcting the approximation as the slow and fast timescales get closer. Importantly, the expansion can be built to preserve the Lindblad structure and as a consequence the physicality of the map [14,28,29]. The procedure for eliminating sublevels within a subsystem (direct sum with the slow subsystem) is best carried out with Feshbach projections [19,27]. However, as the fast-slow separation breaks down, or when incoherent pumping channels exist, the population of the fast subsystem becomes non-negligible (i.e., there can be a finite fraction of population in the excited states). When this happens, the exact time evolution of the slow part becomes non-trace preserving. The loss of trace can be corrected using contour integral methods [27]. It would be however advantageous to have a method that can handle both classes of fast manifolds. This is more important considering that systems from atomic physics are inspiring a number of chemical versions that have much more complicated Hamiltonians and it would be ideal to transform them into effective operators for a direct comparison to the atomic physics counterparts [30-32].

In this work, we extend the methodology developed in Ref. [27] to bipartite open quantum systems whose dynamics are described by a Lindblad operator [33,34]. We use the projection operator method suggested by Knezevic and Berry [35] to derive equations for a slow subsystem A coupled to a fast subsystem B. The paper is organized as follows. We first recall the main results of Ref. [27]. We then apply it to the general bipartite case to obtain a recipe for describing the slow subsystem. Finally, we illustrate the method in the case of a spin dispersively coupled to a second highly dissipative driven spin and to describe the dynamics of the open Rabi model.

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II. THEORY

A. Adiabatic elimination through projectors techniques

Let $\rho(t)$ be the density operator on the Hilbert space \mathcal{H} describing the quantum state of the system at time *t*. We suppose that the evolution of $\rho(t)$ is generated by a Lindblad operator \mathcal{L} : $\dot{\rho}(t) = \mathcal{L}\rho(t)$. We define the Hilbert space \mathcal{H} of operator *O* on \mathcal{H} , equipped with the scalar product tr[$O_1^{\dagger}O_2$]. We first recall the main results presented in Ref [27] related to projector techniques. Let \mathcal{P} be the projector such that $\rho_s(t) = \mathcal{P}\rho(t)$ describes the long time dynamics of the density matrix and write $\mathcal{Q} = \mathbb{1} - \mathcal{P}$, where $\mathbb{1}$ is the identity operator on \mathcal{H} . Let $\mathcal{G}(z) = (z - \mathcal{L})^{-1}$ be the resolvent of the Lindblad operator \mathcal{L} . Operators like $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{L}$, or \mathcal{G} are operators on \mathcal{H} . They are sometimes called super-operators. They are here denoted with calligraphic letter, to distinguish them from operators on \mathcal{H} (belonging to \mathcal{H}), like the density matrix ρ .

We define the effective Lindblad operator $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z)$, such that $\mathcal{PG}(z)\mathcal{P} = [z - \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z)]^{-1}$. The effective Lindblad operator $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z)$ can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z) = \mathcal{PLP} + \mathcal{PLQG}_0(z)\mathcal{QLP}, \tag{1}$$

where

$$\mathcal{QG}_0(z)\mathcal{Q} = (z - \mathcal{QLQ})^{-1}.$$
 (2)

For any $\rho(t = 0)$, such that $Q\rho(t = 0) = 0$, the slow dynamics inside \mathcal{PH} can be obtained with the inverse Laplace transform as

$$\rho_s(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_D dz e^{zt} \mathcal{P}G(z) \mathcal{P}\rho_s(t=0), \tag{3}$$

where $\rho_s(t=0) = \mathcal{P}\rho(t=0)$ and the integral on the complex plane is performed on a straight line $D = \{z \in \mathbb{C}; \Re z = a > 0\}$. At this point no approximation has been made. Equation (3) gives the exact dynamics inside \mathcal{PH} , as long as the initial condition is also inside \mathcal{PH} , that is $\mathcal{Q}\rho(t=0) = 0$. $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z)$ captures the effect of the dynamics in \mathcal{QH} through the solution of a nonlinear eigenvalue problem $[z - \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z)]O = 0$.

The approximation of a slow dynamics of $\mathcal{P}\rho(t)$, with respect to the fast dynamics of $\mathcal{Q}\rho(t)$ is equivalent to considering the dynamics inside \mathcal{PH} in the vicinity of the stationary state reached in the limit $t \to \infty$. In this long time limit only the $z \to 0$ limit will contribute to the inverse Laplace transform of Eq. (3). We thus approximate $\mathcal{L}_{eff}(z)$ to the lowest relevant order:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z) \simeq \mathcal{L}_0 + z\mathcal{L}_1 + \dots + z^n \mathcal{L}_n,$$
 (4)

where $\mathcal{L}_0 = \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z=0)$ and $\mathcal{L}_n = \frac{1}{n!} \frac{d^n}{dz^n} \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z)|_{z=0}$. Using the expression of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(z)$ given by Eq. (1) allows to express \mathcal{L}_0 and \mathcal{L}_n as

$$\mathcal{L}_{0} = \mathcal{PLP} - \mathcal{PLQ}(\mathcal{QLQ})^{-1}\mathcal{QLP},$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{n} = -\mathcal{PLQ}(\mathcal{QLQ})^{-(n+1)}\mathcal{QLP}.$$
 (5)

In this work, we consider the approximation given by Eq. (4) with $n \leq 1$ only, which is a standard approximation for most of the effective operators that are calculated explicitly [14,15,19]; i.e., when the interaction between the fast and slow degrees of freedom remains small with respect to the

fast dynamics and hence the adiabatic approximation is valid. The systematic study of higher order approximations (n > 1) will be considered in a future work. Within the approximation given by Eq. (4), with n = 1, the inverse Laplace transform of Eq. (3) can be computed explicitly. We obtain

$$\rho_s(t) = \exp[(1 - \mathcal{L}_1)^{-1} \mathcal{L}_0 t] (1 - \mathcal{L}_1)^{-1} \rho_s(t = 0).$$
 (6)

The stationary state ρ_f of this dynamics, reached at $t \to +\infty$, is in the kernel of \mathcal{L}_0 . We note that although the dynamics described by Eq. (6) is an approximation, the final reached stationary state ρ_f is the exact one.

To conclude, after the adiabatic elimination of the fast part, the generator of the slow dynamics is approximatively given by $(1 - \mathcal{L}_1)^{-1} \mathcal{L}_0$, $\dot{\rho}(t) = (1 - \mathcal{L}_1)^{-1} \mathcal{L}_0 \rho(t)$, where \mathcal{L}_0 and \mathcal{L}_1 can in principle be computed using Eq. (5). The hard part in these equations is the evaluation of the inverse $(\mathcal{QLQ})^{-1}$, which in the most general case, as we will see later, can be achieved through a perturbative expansion. Exact numerical diagonalizations are also a possibility although can be very costly and at the same time preclude an analytical solution and the consequent intuition it provides. Perturbative expansions are a delicate matter in open quantum systems [36] but they can simplify greatly the calculation of the evolution of the system under the right conditions. In the considered case of adiabatic elimination of bipartite open quantum systems, one is able to reduce the problem of inverting (\mathcal{QLQ}) in the full Hilbert space into inverting a simpler matrix in a dramatically smaller subspace.

Theses results are very general, and require only the definition of a projector \mathcal{P} and that the initial state fulfills the condition $\mathcal{Q}\rho(t=0) = 0$. We note that \mathcal{P} doesn't have to be hermitian, that is the projection does not need to be orthogonal.

In Ref. [27], this formalism was applied to the case where the slow and fast degrees of freedom correspond to a partition of the underlying Hilbert space in two complementary subspaces, that is $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{(A)} \oplus \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$. In the next section we will adapt this general formalism to the bipartite case where $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{(A)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$.

B. Adiabatic elimination in a bipartite system

We suppose that the state of the bipartite system at time *t* is described by a density operator $\rho^{(AB)}(t)$ acting on the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{(A)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$. We consider that the dynamics of subsystem *A* is very slow compared to the dynamics of subsystem *B*. We suppose that the exact stationary state in \mathcal{H} is unique and that it is a product state $\rho_f = \rho_a \otimes \rho_b$, where $\rho_a \in$ $\mathcal{H}^{(A)}$ and $\rho_b \in \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$ with $\mathcal{H}^{(i)}$, i = A, B, the Hilbert space of operators on $\mathcal{H}^{(i)}$. As the dynamics of *B* subsystem is very fast, we suppose that it is a good approximation to consider that at $t = 0, \rho^{(AB)}(t = 0) = \rho_0^{(A)} \otimes \rho_b$. In other word, we consider that *B* reaches its steady state instantaneously in the timescale of the subsystem *A*. We thus define \mathcal{P} as

$$\mathcal{P}\rho^{(AB)}(t) = \operatorname{tr}_{B}[\rho^{(AB)}(t)] \otimes \rho_{b}, \tag{7}$$

where $\operatorname{tr}_{B}[]$ denotes the partial trace over *B*. The reduced density operator $\rho^{(A)}(t)$ in $\mathcal{H}^{(A)}$ can then be obtained as $\rho^{(A)}(t) = \operatorname{tr}_{B}[\mathcal{P}\rho^{(AB)}(t)].$

For the purpose of simplifying some expressions and calculations, it will be useful to use the operator-vector isomorphism [37] which maps each element of \mathcal{H} to a vector in $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$ as follows. An operators such as $|a\rangle\langle b| \in \mathcal{H}$ is mapped to the vector $|\overline{b}\rangle \otimes |a\rangle$ in the $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$ Hilbert space, where $|b\rangle$ is the complex conjugate of $|b\rangle$. Consequently, any $n \times n$ density matrix $\rho \in \mathcal{H}$ is mapped to a column vector $||\rho\rangle\rangle \in \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$, with n^2 elements, by stacking the columns of the ρ matrix. Under this isomorphism, super-operators on \mathcal{H} are mapped to operators on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$. In particular, the superoperator \mathcal{O} performing the operation $\rho \to O_1 \rho O_2^{\dagger}$, with O_1 and O_2 operators in \mathcal{H} , is mapped to $||\rho\rangle\rangle \rightarrow \overline{O_2} \otimes O_1 ||\rho\rangle\rangle$, where \overline{O} denotes the complex conjugate of O; that is $\overline{O} =$ $(O^{\dagger})^{T}$, where O^{\dagger} is the adjoint and O^{T} is the transpose of O. In this way, the scalar product tr[$\rho_1^{\dagger}\rho_2$] between two operators ρ_1 and ρ_2 in \mathcal{H} is equal to the usual scalar product $\langle \langle \rho_1 | \rho_2 \rangle \rangle$ in $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$. Some useful remarks can be made. The identity operator 1 in \mathcal{H} is mapped to the maximally entangled state

$$||1\rangle\rangle = \sum_{k} |k\rangle \otimes |k\rangle \tag{8}$$

in $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$, where $\{|k\rangle\}$ is an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{H} . We also note that the usual density matrix normalization $\operatorname{tr}[\rho] =$ 1 does not correspond to the normalization induced by the scalar product $\operatorname{tr}[\rho^2] = 1$ (except in the case of a pure state). Using the previous remark, we have that $\operatorname{tr}[\rho] = \operatorname{tr}[\mathbb{1}\rho] =$ 1 is mapped to $\langle \langle \mathbb{1} | \rho \rangle \rangle = 1$. For our bipartite case, $\mathcal{H} =$ $\mathcal{H}^{(A)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$. Therefore, an operator in \mathcal{H} as $|a_1\rangle\langle a_2| \otimes$ $|b_1\rangle\langle b_2|$, where $|a_i(b_i)\rangle \in \mathcal{H}^{(A)}(\mathcal{H}^{(B)})(i = 1, 2)$, is mapped to $|\overline{a_2}\rangle \otimes |a_1\rangle \otimes |\overline{b_2}\rangle \otimes |b_1\rangle$. The partial trace over $\mathcal{H}^{(B)}$, $\operatorname{tr}_B[\rho] \in$ $\mathcal{H}^{(A)}$ is mapped to $\langle \langle \mathbb{1}^{(B)} | \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{H}^{(A)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(A)}$, where $|\mathbb{1}^{(B)}\rangle =$ $\sum_k |k\rangle \otimes |k\rangle$ in $\mathcal{H}^{(B)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$, where $\{|k\rangle\}$ is now an orthonormal basis of $\mathcal{H}^{(B)}$.

Consequently, the operator $\mathcal{P}\rho^{(AB)} \in \mathcal{H}$ is mapped to the vector $\langle \langle \mathbb{1}^{(B)} | \rho^{(AB)} \rangle \rangle \otimes || \rho_b \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$. The projector \mathcal{P} acting on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$ can thus be written as

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{P}^{(2B)} \text{ with } \mathcal{P}^{(2B)} = ||\rho_b\rangle\rangle\langle\langle\mathbb{1}^{(B)}||, \qquad (9)$$

where $\mathbb{1}^{(2A)}$ is the identity operator on $\mathcal{H}^{(A)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(A)}$. The operator $\mathcal{Q} = \mathbb{1} - \mathcal{P}$ simply reads

$$\mathcal{Q} = \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{Q}^{(2B)} \text{ with } \mathcal{Q}^{(2B)} = \mathbb{1}^{(2B)} - \mathcal{P}^{(2B)}, \quad (10)$$

where $\mathbb{1}^{(2B)}$ is the identity operator on $\mathcal{H}^{(B)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(B)}$.

In general, the Lindblad operator of the system can be split into three terms as follows:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_A \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(2B)} + \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_B + \mathcal{L}_{AB}, \tag{11}$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{A(B)}$ is a Lindblad operator acting on the A(B) part only. The decomposition of \mathcal{L} with the help of \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} reads

$$\mathcal{PLP} = \mathcal{L}_A \otimes \mathcal{P}_B + \mathcal{PL}_{AB}\mathcal{P}, \tag{12}$$

$$\mathcal{PLQ} = \mathcal{PL}_{(AB)}\mathcal{Q},\tag{13}$$

$$\mathcal{QLP} = \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{Q}_B \mathcal{L}_B \mathcal{P}_B + \mathcal{QL}_{(AB)} \mathcal{P}, \qquad (14)$$

$$\mathcal{QLQ} = \mathcal{L}_A \otimes \mathcal{Q}_B + \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{Q}_B \mathcal{L}_B \mathcal{Q}_B + \mathcal{QL}_{AB} \mathcal{Q}, \quad (15)$$

where we have used the fact that $\langle \langle \mathbb{1}^{(B)} || \mathcal{L}_B = 0$, as \mathcal{L}_B is a trace preserving operator. In the cases where the adiabatic

approximation works, the state of the system *B* remains close to the stationary state of \mathcal{L}_B [14], hence it is also a good approximation to take as ρ_B , a stationary state of \mathcal{L}_B . In that case $\mathcal{L}_B \mathcal{P}_B = 0$ and \mathcal{QLP} in Eq. (14) can be simplified as

$$\mathcal{QLP} = \mathcal{QL}_{(AB)}\mathcal{P}.$$
 (16)

For computing \mathcal{L}_0 using Eq. (6), the main difficulty resides in the inversion of \mathcal{QLQ} . In general this inversion can not be done explicitly, but a perturbative expansion can give a good approximation when the adiabatic approximation is valid. In many cases \mathcal{QLQ} can be divided into two terms, $\mathcal{QLQ} = \mathcal{D} + \mathcal{V}$, where the computation of \mathcal{D}^{-1} is easy, and \mathcal{V} is small compared to \mathcal{D} . In that case we can write

$$(-1)^{n} (\mathcal{QLQ})^{-1} = \mathcal{D}^{-1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{n} (\mathcal{VD}^{-1})^{n}.$$
 (17)

Retaining the terms up to n = 0 or n = 1 in this case is enough to give a good approximation.

In the adiabatic regime, the term $\mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{Q}_B \mathcal{L}_B \mathcal{Q}_B$ in Eq. (15) is dominant over the two other terms. In that case, approximating the inverse of \mathcal{QLQ} by

$$(\mathcal{QLQ})^{-1} \simeq \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes (\mathcal{Q}_B \mathcal{L}_B \mathcal{Q}_B)^{-1}$$
(18)

can be sufficient as we will see in the examples in the next section. So, \mathcal{L}_0 can be approximated by the following expression:

$$\mathcal{L}_{0} = \mathcal{L}_{A} \otimes \mathcal{P}_{B} + \mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}_{AB}\mathcal{P} + \mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}_{(AB)}\mathcal{Q}[\mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes (\mathcal{Q}_{B}\mathcal{L}_{B}\mathcal{Q}_{B})^{-1}] \times (\mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{Q}_{B}\mathcal{L}_{B}\mathcal{P}_{B} + \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}_{(AB)}\mathcal{P}).$$
(19)

This is the main result of this work.

III. EXAMPLES

We apply the formalism of the preceding section to two examples. We first address the case of a strongly dissipative driven qubit B dispersively coupled to a target qubit A. Then, as a second example, we consider the open Rabi model in the regime where the dynamics of the spin is very fast compared to the boson frequency.

A. A two-qubit system

This two-qubit system has been considered previously by Azouit et in Ref. [14] to test another method of bipartite adiabatic elimination (note that in their work, it is the A spin which is the strongly dissipative spin). It consists in a strongly dissipative driven qubit B dispersively coupled to a target qubit A. This model is used in Ref. [17] to describe the continuous measurement of a harmonic oscillator excitation number (corresponding to system A) by a spin (corresponding system B). The Lindblad equation for the bipartite system can be written as

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = u[\sigma_{+}^{B} - \sigma_{-}^{B}, \rho] + \gamma' \left(\sigma_{-}^{B}\rho\sigma_{+}^{B} - \frac{\sigma_{+}^{B}\sigma_{-}^{B}\rho + \rho\sigma_{+}^{B}\sigma_{-}^{B}}{2}\right) - i\chi'[\sigma_{z}^{A} \otimes \sigma_{z}^{B}, \rho], \qquad (20)$$

where $\sigma_+ = |1\rangle\langle 0|$, $\sigma_- = \sigma_+^{\dagger}$ and $|0\rangle$, $|1\rangle$ are the eigenvectors of the Pauli matrix σ_z with eigenvalues -1, 1, respectively. Defining the new parameters $\tau = ut$, $\chi = \frac{\chi'}{u}$, and $\gamma = \frac{\gamma'}{u}$ and using the column-vector isomorphism, we write the superoperator form of the Liouvillian as

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L} &= -i \big[\chi \left(\mathbb{1}^A \otimes \sigma_z^A \otimes \mathbb{1}^B \otimes \sigma_z^B - \sigma_z^A \otimes \mathbb{1}^A \otimes \sigma_z^B \otimes \mathbb{1}^B \right) \\ &- \left(\mathbb{1}^{2A} \otimes \mathbb{1}^B \otimes \sigma_y^B + \mathbb{1}^{2A} \otimes \sigma_y^B \otimes \mathbb{1}^B \right) \big] \\ &+ \gamma \mathbb{1}^{2A} \otimes \sigma_-^B \otimes \sigma_-^B \\ &- \frac{\gamma}{2} \big[\mathbb{1}^{2A} \otimes \sigma_+^B \sigma_-^B \otimes \mathbb{1}^B + \mathbb{1}^{2A} \otimes \mathbb{1}^B \otimes \sigma_+^B \sigma_-^B \big], \end{split}$$

where we have used the relations

$$\bar{\sigma}_y = -\sigma_y, \ \bar{\sigma}_+ = \sigma_+, \ \bar{\sigma}_- = \sigma_-. \tag{21}$$

As the qubit A only comes into play through the Hamiltonian term $-i\chi[\sigma_z^A \otimes \sigma_z^B, \rho]$ [see Eq. (20)], the kernel of the Lindblad operator is two dimensional, according to the two eigenvectors σ_z^A . Hence, the kernel can be considered as the span of $\{\rho_{s0}^{(A)} \otimes \rho_{s0}^{(B)}, \rho_{s1}^{(A)} \otimes \rho_{s1}^{(B)}\}$, where $\rho_{s0}^{(A)} = |0\rangle\langle 0|$, $\rho_{s1}^{(A)} = |1\rangle\langle 1|$ and (see Appendix A for details)

$$\rho_{s_1}^{(B)} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2\gamma}{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8} \sigma_x^{(B)} + \frac{8\chi}{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8} \sigma_y^{(B)} - \frac{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2}{32\chi^2 + 2\gamma^2 + 16} \sigma_z^{(B)}, \qquad (22)$$

$$\rho_{s_0}^{(B)} = \frac{\mathbb{I}}{2} + \frac{2\gamma}{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8} \sigma_x^{(B)} - \frac{8\chi}{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8} \sigma_y^{(B)} - \frac{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2}{32\chi^2 + 2\gamma^2 + 16} \sigma_z^{(B)}.$$
(23)

To avoid any unnecessary complications, we will assume that the qubit *A* has an extremely slow dissipation rate that we will omit from our calculations but will ensure the uniqueness of the steady state. In other words, the steady state of the considered system will be $\rho_{ss} = \rho_{s_0}^{(A)} \otimes \rho_{s_0}^{(B)}$. We thus assume that the initial state is of the form $\rho_0 = \rho_0^{(A)} \otimes \rho_{s_0}^{(B)}$, and we define the projector \mathcal{P} [see Eq. (9)]:

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathbb{1}^{2A} \otimes \left| \left| \rho_{s_0}^{(B)} \right\rangle \right\rangle \!\! \left\langle \left\langle \mathbb{1}^{(B)} \right| \right|, \tag{24}$$

where according to Eq. (8), $||\mathbb{1}^{(B)}\rangle\rangle = |0\rangle \otimes |0\rangle + |1\rangle \otimes |1\rangle$. This ensures that $\mathcal{Q} = \mathbb{1} - \mathcal{P}$ verifies $\mathcal{Q}|\rho_0\rangle = 0$ as it should be. In Appendix A, we calculate in detail all the quantities necessary to compute \mathcal{L}_0 and \mathcal{L}_1 as given by Eq. (5):

$$\mathcal{PLP} = |0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| \otimes \mathcal{A}_{0,1} + |1,0\rangle\langle 1,0| \otimes \mathcal{A}_{1,0}, \qquad (25)$$

$$\mathcal{PLQ} = |0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| \otimes \mathcal{C}_{0,1} + |1,0\rangle\langle 1,0| \otimes \mathcal{C}_{1,0}, \qquad (26)$$

$$\mathcal{QLP} = |0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| \otimes \mathcal{D}_{0,1} + |1,0\rangle\langle 1,0| \otimes \mathcal{D}_{1,0} + |0,0\rangle\langle 0,0| \otimes \mathcal{D}_{0,0} + |1,1\rangle\langle 1,1| \otimes \mathcal{D}_{1,1}, \quad (27)$$

$$\mathcal{QLQ} = |0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| \otimes \mathcal{B}_{0,1} + |1,0\rangle\langle 1,0| \otimes \mathcal{B}_{1,0} + |0,0\rangle\langle 0,0| \otimes \mathcal{B}_{0,0} + |1,1\rangle\langle 1,1| \otimes \mathcal{B}_{1,1}, \quad (28)$$

where $\mathcal{X}_{i,j}$, $\mathcal{X} \in \{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}\}$, and $i, j \in 0, 1$, are operators acting on $\mathcal{H}^{(B)}$ and we have simplified the notation as

 $|i, j\rangle = |i\rangle \otimes |j\rangle \in \mathcal{H}^{(A)} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{(A)}$ (i, j = 0, 1), see Appendix A. From the block diagonal form of Eq. (28), it is relatively easy to invert \mathcal{QLQ} exactly. In addition, we are only interested in quantities of the form $\mathcal{PLQ}(\mathcal{QLQ})^{-n}\mathcal{QLP}$. Hence, from the form of \mathcal{PLQ} in Eqs. (26), we only need to calculate $\mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-1}$ and $\mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-1}$.

Using Eqs. (25)–(28) in Eq. (5), we can write \mathcal{L}_0 and \mathcal{L}_1 as

$$\mathcal{L}_{0} = \mathcal{PLP} - \mathcal{PLQ}(\mathcal{QLQ})^{-1}\mathcal{QLP}$$

$$= |0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| \otimes (\mathcal{A}_{0,1} - \mathcal{C}_{0,1}\mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-1}\mathcal{D}_{0,1}) \qquad (29)$$

$$+ |1,0\rangle\langle 1,0| \otimes (\mathcal{A}_{1,0} - \mathcal{C}_{1,0}\mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-1}\mathcal{D}_{1,0}),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{1} = -\mathcal{PLQ}(\mathcal{QLQ})^{-2}\mathcal{QLP}$$

$$= -|0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| \otimes (\mathcal{C}_{0,1}\mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-2}\mathcal{D}_{0,1}) \qquad (30)$$

$$- |1,0\rangle\langle 1,0| \otimes (\mathcal{C}_{1,0}\mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-2}\mathcal{D}_{1,0}).$$

Since $\mathcal{P}^{(B)}$ is a projector of rank 1, we can write

$$\mathcal{A}_{0,1} - \mathcal{C}_{0,1} \mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-1} \mathcal{D}_{0,1} = \alpha_{0,1} \mathcal{P}^{(B)},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{1,0} - \mathcal{C}_{1,0} \mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-1} \mathcal{D}_{1,0} = \alpha_{1,0} \mathcal{P}^{(B)},$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{0,1} \mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-2} \mathcal{D}_{0,1} = \beta_{0,1} \mathcal{P}^{(B)},$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{1,0} \mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-2} \mathcal{D}_{1,0} = \beta_{1,0} \mathcal{P}^{(B)},$$

(31)

where (see Appendix A)

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_{0,1} &\equiv \alpha = \langle \langle \mathbb{1}^{(B)} || (\mathcal{A}_{0,1} - \mathcal{C}_{0,1} \mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-1} \mathcal{D}_{0,1}) || \mathbb{1}^{(B)} \rangle \rangle, \\
\beta_{0,1} &\equiv \beta = \langle \langle \mathbb{1}^{(B)} || (\mathcal{C}_{0,1} \mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-2} \mathcal{D}_{0,1}) || \mathbb{1}^{(B)} \rangle \rangle, \\
\alpha_{1,0} &= \overline{\alpha}, \ \beta_{1,0} = \overline{\beta},
\end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

and (see Appendix A)

$$\alpha = -\zeta + i\xi. \tag{33}$$

With these variables and truncating Eq. (4) to the zeroth order, the effective Liouville equation can be written in operator space as

$$\frac{d}{d\tau}\rho^A = i\frac{\xi}{2} \left[\sigma_z^A, \rho^A\right] + \frac{\zeta}{2} \left(\sigma_z^A \rho^A \sigma_z^A - \rho^A\right).$$
(34)

Note that approximating the expression of ξ and ζ (given in Appendix A) by their lowest order in χ gives for Eq. (34) the same result as the one obtained by Azouit *et al.* [14] using a completely different method. Finally, it is straightforward to calculate $(1 - \mathcal{L}_1)^{-1}$ exactly, given that \mathcal{L}_1 [Eq. (30)] is block diagonal:

$$(\mathbb{1} - \mathcal{L}_{1})^{-1} = |0, 1\rangle \langle 0, 1| \otimes \left(\frac{1}{1+\beta}\mathcal{P}_{B} + \mathcal{Q}_{B}\right)$$
$$+ |1, 0\rangle \langle 1, 0| \otimes \left(\frac{1}{1+\overline{\beta}}\mathcal{P}_{B} + \mathcal{Q}_{B}\right)$$
$$+ (|0, 0\rangle \langle 0, 0| + |1, 1\rangle \langle 1, 1|) \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(2B)}.$$
$$(35)$$

Let us define the modified initial state of the qubit A as $|\tilde{\rho}_0^{(A)}\rangle = (1 - \mathcal{L}_1)^{-1}\rho_0^{(A)}$:

$$\left|\tilde{\rho}_{0}^{(A)}\right\rangle = \rho_{0,0}|0,0\rangle + \rho_{1,1}|1,1\rangle + \frac{\rho_{0,1}}{1+\beta}|0,1\rangle + \frac{\rho_{1,0}}{1+\overline{\beta}}|1,0\rangle,$$
(36)

where $\rho_{0,0}$, $\rho_{1,1}$ represent population in the state $\rho_0^{(A)}$ while $\rho_{0,1}$, $\rho_{1,0}$ represent initial coherences. The physical meaning of this redefined initial density matrix is the state of qubit *A* immediately after qubit *B* has reached its steady state. In this case this corresponds to a rescaling of the coherences. Using $Q_B \rho_{s_0}^{(B)} = 0$, we can rewrite Eq. (6) to describe the dynamics of the slow qubit as

$$|\rho^{A}(t)\rangle = e^{\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{0}t} \left| \tilde{\rho}_{0}^{A} \right\rangle, \tag{37}$$

where $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_0 = (1-\mathcal{L}_1)^{-1}\mathcal{L}_0 = \frac{\alpha}{1+\beta}|0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| + \frac{\overline{\alpha}}{1+\overline{\beta}}|1,0\rangle\langle 1,0|.$ The evolution operator $U(t) = e^{\tilde{L}_0 t}$ is simple to calculate:

$$U(t) = e^{-\zeta' t + i\xi' t} |0, 1\rangle \langle 0, 1| + e^{-\zeta' t - i\xi' t} |1, 0\rangle \langle 1, 0| + |0, 0\rangle \langle 0, 0| + |1, 1\rangle \langle 1, 1|,$$
(38)

where we have defined

$$\zeta' = -\Re \frac{\alpha}{1+\beta}, \ \xi' = \Im \frac{\alpha}{1+\beta}.$$
 (39)

The evolution of the approximated expectation value of the Pauli matrices for qubit *A* and *B* for $\gamma = 1$ and $\chi = 0.1$ and with the initial state taken as

$$|\phi_{+}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)$$

are compared in Fig. 1 to the ones obtained through an exact full numerical propagation. We see that the adiabatic elimination captures the exact dynamics faithfully and that indeed qubit B reaches its steady state before any appreciable dynamics in A has taken place.

It is worth mentioning that when adiabatic elimination is valid, i.e., $\chi \ll \gamma$, the exact final state of the fast qubit *B* is very close to the steady state of \mathcal{L}_B :

$$\rho_{ss}^{(B)} = \lim_{\chi \to 0} \rho_{s_0}^{(B)}.$$
(40)

Defining the projector $\mathcal{P}_B = ||\rho_{ss}^{(B)}\rangle\rangle\langle\langle \mathbb{1}^{(2B)}||$ leads to considerable simplifications in Eq. (14) where the first term becomes zero. Thus, taking the interaction $\mathcal{QL}_{AB}\mathcal{Q}$ to be small, we only need the term n = 0 in Eq. (17) and taking the zero order only in Eq. (4), one can check that it leads to the same Lindblad operator derived in Ref. [14] which is enough to obtain a very good approximation in the adiabatic limit.

B. Open Rabi model

The open Rabi model has been considered recently by Garbe *et al.* [38] in a quantum metrology context. It consists in a spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ (with frequency Ω) interacting with one bosonic mode (frequency ω_0) of a cavity described by the following Hamiltonian:

$$H_R = \Omega \sigma_z + \omega_0 a^{\dagger} a + \lambda (a + a^{\dagger}) \otimes \sigma_x, \qquad (41)$$

where $a(a^{\dagger})$ is the annihilation (creation) operator of the bosonic mode. The dynamics of the open Rabi model where the relaxation of the spin (at a rate Γ') and the photon losses from the cavity (at a rate κ') are taken into account is generated by the following Lindblad operator:

$$\mathcal{L}(\rho) = -i[H_R, \rho] + \Gamma' \mathcal{D}_{\sigma_-}(\rho) + \kappa' \mathcal{D}_a(\rho), \qquad (42)$$





FIG. 1. Top: Evolution of the expectations values of the Pauli matrices $\langle \sigma_x^A \rangle$ (initial value = 1), $\langle \sigma_y^A \rangle$ (initial value = 0) and $\langle \sigma_z^A \rangle$ (always zero) for the slow spin *A*. Dashed line: Adiabatic elimination, continuous line: exact. Bottom: Evolution of the fast spin B. The initial state has been taken as $|\phi_+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)$.

where we have used the notation

$$\mathcal{D}_X(\rho) = X\rho X^{\dagger} - \frac{1}{2}X^{\dagger}X\rho - \frac{1}{2}\rho X^{\dagger}X.$$

We also assume that $\Gamma' \sim \Omega$ and $\kappa' \sim \omega_0$. If we rescale the time by dividing the above equation by $\sqrt{\Omega\omega_0}$, and define

$$g = \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{\Omega\omega_0}}, \ \eta = \sqrt{\frac{\omega_0}{\Omega}}, \ \kappa = \frac{\kappa'}{\sqrt{\Omega\omega_0}}, \ \Gamma = \frac{\Gamma'}{\sqrt{\Omega\omega_0}}, \ (43)$$

then we rewrite the Lindbladian as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}(\rho) = \mathcal{L}_A(\rho) + \mathcal{L}_{AB}(\rho) + \mathcal{L}_B(\rho), \qquad (44)$$

with

$$\mathcal{L}_{A}(\rho) = -i\eta[a^{\dagger}a,\rho] + \kappa \mathcal{D}_{a}(\rho),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{B}(\rho) = -i\frac{1}{\eta}[\sigma_{z},\rho] + \Gamma \mathcal{D}_{\sigma_{-}}(\rho),$$
(45)

$$\mathcal{L}_{AB}(\rho) = -ig[(a+a) \otimes \sigma_x, \rho].$$

It has been shown that, in the limit where $\omega_0 \ll \Omega$, this model exhibits a quantum phase transition when g increases [38–41]. The critical point corresponding to g = 1 separates a normal phase (g < 1) from a superradiant phase (g > 1). Here we show that our method can be used to obtain an effective Lindblad operator for the boson in the normal phase after the elimination of the fast spin. After rescaling, the adiabatic limit $\omega_0 \ll \Omega$ corresponds to $\eta \rightarrow 0$.

In the normal phase (g < 1), the steady state of the system, which is the kernel of the Lindblad operator given by Eq. (42), is separable and unique [38]. It is straight forward to verify that the steady state of \mathcal{L}_B is

$$||\rho_{ss}^{(B)}\rangle\rangle = |0,0\rangle. \tag{46}$$

Following the same steps of the last example, see Appendix B, we define the projector $\mathcal{P}_B = ||\rho_{ss}^{(B)}\rangle\rangle\langle\langle \mathbb{I}^{(2B)}||$ and we only calculate the term $\mathcal{QL}_B\mathcal{Q}$, the inverse of which corresponds to \mathcal{QLQ}^{-1} up to zeroth order in Eq. (17). Simple and straightforward calculations lead to the following Lindbladian evolution

of the boson:

$$\mathcal{L}_{0}(\rho^{(A)}) = -i \bigg[\eta a^{\dagger} a - \frac{4g^{2}\eta}{\Gamma^{2}\eta^{2} + 16} (a + a^{\dagger})^{2}, \rho^{(A)} \bigg] + \kappa \mathcal{D}_{a}(\rho^{(A)}) + \frac{4g^{2}\eta^{2}\Gamma}{\Gamma^{2}\eta^{2} + 16} \mathcal{D}_{(a+a^{\dagger})}(\rho^{(A)}), \quad (47)$$

which is exactly the formula derived in Ref. [38] using a completely different method, where one should take into consideration that the parameters in Eq. (42) are double those considered in Ref. [38].

IV. CONCLUSION

We have derived a projection-based adiabatic elimination method that works for bipartite systems. This work provides a direct connection to earlier work on adiabatic elimination of a subspace of the system Hilbert space [27] so that in principle now subsystems as well as sublevels can be eliminated at the same time. We have illustrated this with two simple examples of two dispersively coupled spins and the open Rabi model. In both cases, using the lowest-order approximations, we have obtain the same expressions that have been previously obtained by completely different methods. We expect that this work will find applications in the case of molecules in cavities where the cavity and part of the molecular levels could be adiabatically eliminated.

APPENDIX A: DETAILED CALCULATION FOR THE TWO-QUBIT SYSTEM

Here we present in detail all the calculations involved in the example presented in Sec. III A: first we write $||\rho_s^{(B)}\rangle\rangle$ in the standard basis:

$$\left|\left|\rho_{s}^{(B)}\right\rangle\right| = \frac{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8}|0,0\rangle + \frac{4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8}|1,1\rangle + \frac{2\gamma + 8i\chi}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8}|0,1\rangle + \frac{2\gamma - 8i\chi}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8}|1,0\rangle,$$
(A1)

where in this Appendix we use the notation $|i, j\rangle = |i\rangle \otimes |j\rangle$ to alleviate the complexity of mathematical expressions. Then, we define the necessary projectors of the partial trace, namely:

$$\mathcal{P}^{(B)} = \left| \left| \rho_s^{(B)} \right\rangle \! \left| \left\langle \mathbb{1}^{(B)} \right| \right|$$
(A2)

and

$$\mathcal{Q}^{(B)} = \mathbb{1}^{(2B)} - \mathcal{P}^{(B)} \frac{4}{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8} |\Psi_{-}\rangle \langle \Psi_{+}| - |\Psi_{-}\rangle \langle 1, 1| \\ - \frac{8i\chi + 2\gamma}{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8} |0, 1\rangle \langle \Psi_{+}| + |0, 1\rangle \langle 0, 1| + \frac{8i\chi - 2\gamma}{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8} |1, 0\rangle \langle \Psi_{+}| + |1, 0\rangle \langle 1, 0|,$$
(A3)

where we have defined the following vectors:

$$\begin{split} |\Psi_{+}\rangle &= |0,0\rangle + |1,1\rangle, \\ |\Psi_{-}\rangle &= |0,0\rangle - |1,1\rangle. \end{split} \tag{A4}$$

Later on, it will be useful to define

$$\begin{split} |\Phi_{+}\rangle &= |0,1\rangle + |1,0\rangle, \\ |\Phi_{-}\rangle &= |0,1\rangle - |1,0\rangle, \\ |\Theta_{+}\rangle &= \frac{2\gamma + 8i\chi}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |0,1\rangle + \frac{2\gamma - 8i\chi}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |1,0\rangle, \\ |\Theta_{-}\rangle &= \frac{2\gamma + 8i\chi}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |0,1\rangle - \frac{2\gamma - 8i\chi}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |1,0\rangle, \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} |\Omega_{+}\rangle &= \frac{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |0, 0\rangle + \frac{4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |1, 1\rangle, \\ |\Omega_{-}\rangle &= \frac{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |0, 0\rangle - \frac{4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |1, 1\rangle, \\ |\Omega_{+}^{\perp}\rangle &= \frac{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |1, 1\rangle - \frac{4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |0, 0\rangle, \\ |\Omega_{-}^{\perp}\rangle &= \frac{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |1, 1\rangle + \frac{4}{16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8} |0, 0\rangle, \end{split}$$
(A5)

and the unitary matrix,

$$\mathcal{U}_{SWAP} = |0, 0\rangle\langle 0, 0| + |1, 1\rangle\langle 1, 1| + |1, 0\rangle\langle 0, 1| + |0, 1\rangle\langle 1, 0|,$$
(A6)

as well. From Eqs. (48), (21), and (50), we find that

$$\mathcal{PLP} = |0,1\rangle\langle0,1| \otimes \mathcal{A}_{0,1} + |1,0\rangle\langle1,0| \otimes \mathcal{A}_{1,0},$$

$$\mathcal{PLQ} = |0,1\rangle\langle0,1| \otimes \mathcal{C}_{0,1} + |1,0\rangle\langle1,0| \otimes \mathcal{C}_{1,0},$$

$$\mathcal{QLP} = |0,1\rangle\langle0,1| \otimes \mathcal{D}_{0,1} + |1,0\rangle\langle1,0| \otimes \mathcal{D}_{1,0} + |0,0\rangle\langle0,0| \otimes \mathcal{D}_{0,0} + |1,1\rangle\langle1,1| \otimes \mathcal{D}_{1,1},$$

$$\mathcal{QLQ} = |0,1\rangle\langle0,1| \otimes \mathcal{B}_{0,1} + |1,0\rangle\langle1,0| \otimes \mathcal{B}_{1,0} + |0,0\rangle\langle0,0| \otimes \mathcal{B}_{0,0} + |1,1\rangle\langle1,1| \otimes \mathcal{B}_{1,1},$$

(A7)

where we have defined the following matrices on $\mathcal{H}^{(2B)}$:

$$\mathcal{A}_{0,1} = \frac{2i\chi(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2)}{(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)} \mathcal{P}^{(B)}, \ \mathcal{A}_{1,0} = \mathcal{U}_{\text{SWAP}} \overline{\mathcal{A}_{0,1}},$$
(A8)

$$\mathcal{C}_{0,1} = -4i\chi |\rho_s^{(B)}\rangle \langle \Omega_+^{\perp}|, \ \mathcal{C}_{1,0} = \mathcal{U}_{\text{SWAP}}\overline{\mathcal{C}_{0,1}}, \tag{A9}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{0,1} = \frac{16i\chi(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4)}{(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)^2} |\Psi_-\rangle \langle \Psi_+| - \frac{4i\chi(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2)}{(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)} |\Theta_+\rangle \langle \Psi_+| - 2i\chi |\Theta_-\rangle \langle \Psi_+|,$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{1,1} = -4i\chi |\Theta_-\rangle \langle \Psi_+|, \ \mathcal{D}_{1,0} = \mathcal{U}_{\text{SWAP}} \overline{\mathcal{D}_{0,1}}, \ \mathcal{D}_{0,0} = \mathbf{0},$$
 (A10)

$$\mathcal{B}_{0,1} = \frac{2i\chi(16\chi^{2}+\gamma^{2})}{(16\chi^{2}+\gamma^{2}+8)} |\Psi_{-}\rangle \langle \Omega_{+}^{\perp}| + \gamma |\Psi_{-}\rangle \langle 1, 1| - \frac{\gamma}{2} |0, 1\rangle \langle 0, 1| - \frac{\gamma}{2} |1, 0\rangle \langle 1, 0| - |\Psi_{-}\rangle \langle \Phi_{+}| + |\Phi_{+}\rangle \langle \Psi_{-}| \\ + \frac{2i\chi(16\chi^{2}+\gamma^{2}+8)}{(16\chi^{2}+\gamma^{2}+8)} |\Theta_{-}\rangle \langle \Psi_{-}| + \frac{64i\chi(4i\chi-\gamma)}{(16\chi^{2}+\gamma^{2}+8)^{2}} |1, 0\rangle \langle 0, 0| + \frac{16i\chi(4i\chi+\gamma)(16\chi^{2}+\gamma^{2}+4)}{(16\chi^{2}+\gamma^{2}+8)^{2}} |0, 1\rangle \langle 1, 1|, \\ \mathcal{B}_{0,0} = - |\Psi_{-}\rangle \langle \Phi_{+}| + |\Phi_{+}\rangle \langle \Psi_{-}| + \gamma |\Psi_{-}\rangle \langle 1, 1| + \frac{4i\chi-\gamma}{2} |0, 1\rangle \langle 0, 1| - \frac{4i\chi+\gamma}{2} |1, 0\rangle \langle 1, 0|, \\ \mathcal{B}_{1,1} = \mathcal{B}_{0,0} + 4i\chi(|\Theta_{-}\rangle \langle \Psi_{+}| + |1, 0\rangle \langle 1, 0| - |0, 1\rangle \langle 0, 1|), \\ \mathcal{B}_{1,0} = \mathcal{U}_{SWAP} \overline{\mathcal{B}_{0,1}} \mathcal{U}_{SWAP}.$$
(A11)

With this diagonal form of QLQ, it is straightforward to compute $(QLQ)^{-1}$. It consists in computing $\mathcal{B}_{i,j}^{-1}$, i, j = 0, 1, which are 4×4 matrices. Moreover, since we are solely interested in quantities of the form $\mathcal{PLQ}(QLQ)^{-n}QLP$ and \mathcal{PLQ} is of the form of Eq. (26), we only need to compute $\mathcal{B}_{0,1}$.

To simplify this task, we define the unitary matrix

$$\mathcal{U} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |0,0\rangle \langle \Psi_{+}| - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |1,1\rangle \langle \Psi_{-}| + |0,1\rangle \langle 0,1| + |1,0\rangle \langle 1,0|,$$
(A12)

and we compute the pseudoinverse of $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1} = \mathcal{UB}_{0,1}$. Multiplying by \mathcal{U} boils down to replacing the ket $|\Psi_-\rangle$ by $|1,1\rangle$ in Eq. (58), which implies that $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}$ can be represented as a 3 × 4 matrix in the standard basis "simplifying" the task of finding $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1}$. To find the pseudoinverse of $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}$, we simply solve the set of equations corresponding to

$$\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1} = \Pi_{\mathrm{ran}[\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}]} = \mathbb{1}^{(2B)} - |0,0\rangle\langle 0,0|,$$
(A13)

where $\Pi_{\operatorname{ran}[\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}]}$ is the Hermitian projector to the range of $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}$. If we define the following quantities:

$$b_{11} = -\frac{\gamma(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)^2}{\sqrt{2}[2i\chi\gamma(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 - 16) + (\gamma^2 + 8)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)](16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4)},$$
(A14)

$$\sqrt{2}(16\chi^2\chi^2 + 256\chi^2 - 4i\chi\gamma(16\chi^2 + \chi^2) + \chi^4 + 16\chi^2 + 64)$$

$$b_{21} = \frac{\sqrt{2}(16\chi^2\gamma^2 + 256\chi^2 - 4i\chi\gamma(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2) + \gamma^4 + 16\gamma^2 + 64)}{[2i\chi\gamma(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 - 16) + (\gamma^2 + 8)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)](16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4)},$$
(A15)

$$_{1} = \frac{\sqrt{2}[16\chi^{2}\gamma^{2} - 4i\chi\gamma(48\chi^{2} + 3\gamma^{2} + 16) + (32\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8)^{2}]}{[2i\chi\gamma(16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} - 16) + (\gamma^{2} + 8)(16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 8)](16\chi^{2} + \gamma^{2} + 4)},$$
(A16)

$$b_{33} = -\frac{512\chi^4\gamma^2 + 64\chi^2\gamma^4 + 576\chi^2\gamma^2 + 1024\chi^2 + 4i\chi\gamma(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2)^2 + 2\gamma^6 + 36\gamma^4 + 192\gamma^2 + 256}{6\chi^2\gamma^2 + 1024\chi^2 + 4i\chi\gamma(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2)^2 + 2\gamma^6 + 36\gamma^4 + 192\gamma^2 + 256},$$
 (A17)

$$= -\frac{\gamma[2i\chi\gamma(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 - 16) + (\gamma^2 + 8)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)](16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4)}{32\chi[8\chi(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4) - i\chi(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)]},$$
 (A17)

$$b_{22} = b_{33} - \frac{52\chi_1 6\chi_1 6\chi_2 + \gamma^2 + 10}{\gamma [2i\chi\gamma(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 - 16) + (\gamma^2 + 8)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)](16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4)},$$
(A18)

$$b_{12} = b_{13} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\gamma} b_{11}, \ b_{23} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\gamma} b_{21}, \ b_{32} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\gamma} b_{31},$$
 (A19)

and make the identification $|1,1\rangle \rightarrow |1\rangle, |1,0\rangle \rightarrow |2\rangle$, and $|0,1\rangle \rightarrow |3\rangle$, then

$$\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{3} b_{ij} |i\rangle \langle j|.$$
(A20)

We can check that $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1}$ verify all the Moore-Penrose conditions [42]:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1} = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}, \\ \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1} = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1}, \\ \left(\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1}\right)^{\dagger} = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}, \\ \left(\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}\right)^{\dagger} = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}.$$
(A21)

Finally, we can easily see that the pseudoinverse of $\mathcal{B}_{0,1}$ is

 b_3

$$\mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-1} = (\mathcal{U}^{\dagger} \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1})^{-1} = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1} \mathcal{U},$$
(A22)

with that, we have all the necessary ingredients to compute \mathcal{L}_0 and \mathcal{L}_1 . Using Eqs. (54), we find that:

$$\mathcal{L}_{0} = \mathcal{PLP} - \mathcal{PLQ}(\mathcal{QLQ})^{-1}\mathcal{QLP}$$

= $|0,1\rangle\langle0,1|\otimes(\mathcal{A}_{0,1} - \mathcal{C}_{0,1}\mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-1}\mathcal{D}_{0,1}) + |1,0\rangle\langle1,0|\otimes(\mathcal{A}_{1,0} - \mathcal{C}_{1,0}\mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-1}\mathcal{D}_{1,0}),$ (A23)

$$\mathcal{L}_{1} = -\mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}\mathcal{Q})^{-2}\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}\mathcal{P}$$

= -|0, 1\langle (0, 1| \otimes (\mathcal{C}_{0,1}\mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-2}\mathcal{D}_{0,1}) - |1, 0\langle (1, 0| \otimes (\mathcal{C}_{1,0}\mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-2}\mathcal{D}_{1,0}). (A24)

Since $\mathcal{P}^{(B)}$ is a projector of rank 1, we can write

$$\mathcal{A}_{0,1} - \mathcal{C}_{0,1}\mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-1}\mathcal{D}_{0,1} = \alpha_{0,1}\mathcal{P}^{(B)}, \quad \mathcal{A}_{1,0} - \mathcal{C}_{1,0}\mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-1}\mathcal{D}_{1,0} = \alpha_{1,0}\mathcal{P}^{(B)}, \quad \mathcal{C}_{0,1}\mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-2}\mathcal{D}_{0,1} = \beta_{0,1}\mathcal{P}^{(B)}, \quad \mathcal{C}_{1,0}\mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-2}\mathcal{D}_{1,0} = \beta_{1,0}\mathcal{P}^{(B)}.$$
(A25)

Because \mathcal{P}_B is of the form $|\rho_{s_0}^{(B)}\rangle\langle\Psi_+|$, we find that

$$\alpha_{0,1} \equiv \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \langle \Psi_+ | (\mathcal{A}_{0,1} - \mathcal{C}_{0,1} \mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-1} \mathcal{D}_{0,1}) | \Psi_+ \rangle, \quad \beta_{0,1} \equiv \beta = \frac{1}{2} \langle \Psi_+ | (\mathcal{C}_{0,1} \mathcal{B}_{0,1}^{-2} \mathcal{D}_{0,1}) | \Psi_+ \rangle,$$
(A26)

where we have used the fact that $\langle \Psi_+ | \rho_{s_0}^{(B)} \rangle = 1$ and $\langle \Psi_+ | \Psi_+ \rangle = 2$. We also have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{1,0} &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \Psi_{+} | (\mathcal{A}_{1,0} - \mathcal{C}_{1,0} \mathcal{B}_{1,0}^{-1} \mathcal{D}_{1,0}) | \Psi_{+} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle \Psi_{+} | (\mathcal{U}_{SWAP} \overline{\mathcal{A}}_{0,1} - \mathcal{U}_{SWAP} \overline{\mathcal{C}}_{0,1} \mathcal{U}_{SWAP} \overline{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1} \overline{\mathcal{D}}_{0,1}) | \Psi_{+} \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \Psi_{+} | (\overline{\mathcal{A}}_{0,1} - \overline{\mathcal{C}}_{0,1} \overline{\mathcal{B}}_{0,1}^{-1} \overline{\mathcal{D}}_{0,1}) | \Psi_{+} \rangle = \overline{\alpha}, \end{aligned}$$
(A27)

where we have used the fact that $\mathcal{U}_{SWAP}^2 = \mathbb{1}^{(2B)}$, $\overline{\mathcal{C}_{0,1}}\mathcal{U}_{SWAP} = \overline{\mathcal{C}_{0,1}}$, and $\langle \Psi_+ | \mathcal{U}_{SWAP} = \langle \Psi_+ |$. In a similar way, we can also show that

$$\beta_{1,0} = \overline{\beta}.\tag{A28}$$

Let us define $\alpha = -\zeta + i\xi$ where $\zeta \ge 0$. A tedious calculation leads to

$$\zeta = \frac{128\chi^2\gamma(\gamma^2 + 8)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 2)}{4\chi^2\gamma^2(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 - 16)^2 + (\gamma^2 + 8)^2(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)^2},$$

$$\xi = \frac{2\chi(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2)}{16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8} + \frac{256\chi^3\gamma^2(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 - 16)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 2)}{[4\chi^2\gamma^2(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 - 16)^2 + (\gamma^2 + 8)^2(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)^2](16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8)},$$
(A29)

and

$$\beta = \frac{x_1 + iy_1}{x_2 + iy_2}$$

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where

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= \chi^2 (49152\chi^4\gamma^2 - 262144\chi^4 + 6144\chi^2\gamma^4 + 2048\chi^2\gamma^2 - 131072\chi^2 + 192\gamma^6 + 1152\gamma^4 - 5120\gamma^2 - 16384), \\ y_1 &= 256\chi^3\gamma (16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8), \\ x_2 &= (16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4)(-32\chi^3\gamma + 16\chi^2\gamma^2 + 128\chi^2 - 2\chi\gamma^3 + 32\chi\gamma + \gamma^4 + 16\gamma^2 + 64) \\ &\times (32\chi^3\gamma + 16\chi^2\gamma^2 + 128\chi^2 + 2\chi\gamma^3 - 32\chi\gamma + \gamma^4 + 16\gamma^2 + 64), \\ y_2 &= 4\chi\gamma(\gamma^2 + 8)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 - 16)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 4)(16\chi^2 + \gamma^2 + 8). \end{aligned}$$
(A30)

Finally, it is straightforward to calculate $(\mathbb{1} - \mathcal{L}_1)^{-1}$ exactly, given that \mathcal{L}_1 Eq. (71) is block diagonal:

$$(\mathbb{1} - \mathcal{L}_{1})^{-1} = |0, 1\rangle\langle 0, 1| \otimes \left(\frac{1}{1+\beta}\mathcal{P}_{B} + \mathcal{Q}_{B}\right) + |1, 0\rangle\langle 1, 0| \otimes \left(\frac{1}{1+\overline{\beta}}\mathcal{P}_{B} + \mathcal{Q}_{B}\right) + [|0, 0\rangle\langle 0, 0| + |1, 1\rangle\langle 1, 1|] \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(2B)}.$$
(A31)

Taking the fact $Q_B \rho_{s_0}^{(B)} = 0$ into account and defining the modified initial state of the qubit A as

$$\left|\tilde{\rho}_{0}^{(A)}\right\rangle = \rho_{0,0}|0,0\rangle + \rho_{1,1}|1,1\rangle + \frac{\rho_{0,1}}{1+\beta}|0,1\rangle + \frac{\rho_{1,0}}{1+\overline{\beta}}|1,0\rangle, \tag{A32}$$

where $\rho_{0,0}$, $\rho_{1,1}$ represent population in the state $\rho_0^{(A)}$ while $\rho_{0,1}$, $\rho_{1,0}$ represent initial coherences, we can simplify Eq. (6) to describe the dynamics of the slow qubit as

$$|\rho^A(t)\rangle = e^{\tilde{L}_0 t} |\tilde{\rho}_0^A\rangle,\tag{A33}$$

where $\tilde{L}_0 = \frac{\alpha}{1+\beta} |0, 1\rangle \langle 0, 1| + \frac{\overline{\alpha}}{1+\overline{\beta}} |1, 0\rangle \langle 1, 0|$. The evolution operator $U(t) = e^{\tilde{L}_0 t}$ is simple to calculate:

$$U(t) = e^{-\zeta' t + i\xi' t} |0, 1\rangle \langle 0, 1| + e^{-\zeta' t - i\xi' t} |1, 0\rangle \langle 1, 0| + |0, 0\rangle \langle 0, 0| + |1, 1\rangle \langle 1, 1|,$$
(A34)

where we have defined

$$\zeta' = -\Re \frac{\alpha}{1+\beta}, \ \xi' = \Im \frac{\alpha}{1+\beta}.$$
(A35)

APPENDIX B: OPEN RABI MODEL

In this Appendix, we carry out all the calculations needed to adiabatically eliminate a fast qubit interacting with a slow cavity mode according to the open Rabi model:

$$\mathcal{L}(\rho) = -i\frac{1}{\eta}[\sigma_{z},\rho] + \Gamma \mathcal{D}_{\sigma_{-}}(\rho) - i\eta[a^{\dagger}a,\rho] + \kappa \mathcal{D}_{a}(\rho) - ig[(a+a^{\dagger}) \otimes \sigma_{x},\rho].$$
(B1)

The first step is to write \mathcal{L} in the super-operator representation:

$$\mathcal{L} = -i\eta(\mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes a^{\dagger}a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(2B)} - a^{\dagger}a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(2B)}) - \frac{i}{\eta}(\mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(B)} \otimes \sigma_{z} - \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \sigma_{z} \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(B)})$$

$$- ig(\mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes (a + a^{\dagger}) \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(B)} \otimes \sigma_{x} - (a + a^{\dagger}) \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes \sigma_{x} \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(B)})$$

$$+ \Gamma \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \sigma_{-} \otimes \sigma_{-} - \frac{\Gamma}{2}[\mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \sigma_{+}\sigma_{-} \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(B)} + \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(B)} \otimes \sigma_{+}\sigma_{-}]$$

$$+ \kappa a \otimes a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(2B)} - \frac{\kappa}{2}[a^{\dagger}a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(2B)} + \mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes a^{\dagger}a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(2B)}].$$

If we define

$$\mathcal{P}_{B} = ||\rho_{f}^{B}\rangle\langle\langle \mathbb{1}^{(B)}||, \ \mathcal{Q}_{B} = \mathbb{1}^{(2B)} - \mathcal{P}_{B} = |1,1\rangle\langle 1,1| - |0,0\rangle\langle 1,1| + |0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| + |1,0\rangle\langle 1,0|$$
(B2)

and

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{P}_B, \ \mathcal{Q} = \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \mathcal{Q}_B, \tag{B3}$$

then we can compute the needed quantities for \mathcal{L}_0

$$\mathcal{PLP} = [-i\eta(\mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes a^{\dagger}a - a^{\dagger}a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)}) + \kappa a \otimes a - \frac{\kappa}{2} [a^{\dagger}a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)} + \mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes a^{\dagger}a]] \otimes P_{B}$$
$$\mathcal{PLQ} = -ig[\mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes (a + a^{\dagger}) - (a + a^{\dagger}) \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)}] \otimes |0,0\rangle\langle\Phi_{+}|,$$

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$$\mathcal{QLP} = -ig(\mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes (a+a^{\dagger}) \otimes |0,1\rangle \langle \Psi_{+}| - (a+a^{\dagger}) \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes |1,0\rangle \langle \Psi_{+}|),$$

$$\mathcal{QL}_{B}\mathcal{Q} = \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \left[-\Gamma|1,1\rangle \langle 1,1| + \Gamma|0,0\rangle \langle 1,1| - \left(\frac{\Gamma}{2} + \frac{2i}{\eta}\right)|0,1\rangle \langle 0,1| - \left(\frac{\Gamma}{2} - \frac{2i}{\eta}\right)|1,0\rangle \langle 1,0|\right].$$
(B4)

 $\mathcal{QL}_B\mathcal{Q}$ represents the dominant term of \mathcal{QLQ} , which can be inverted quite easily:

$$Q\mathcal{L}_{B}Q^{-1} = \mathbb{1}^{(2A)} \otimes \left[-\frac{1}{2\Gamma} |1,1\rangle\langle 1,1| + \frac{1}{2\Gamma} |1,1\rangle\langle 0,0| - \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\Gamma}{2} + \frac{2i}{\eta}\right)} |0,1\rangle\langle 0,1| - \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\Gamma}{2} - \frac{2i}{\eta}\right)} |1,0\rangle\langle 1,0| \right].$$
(B5)

Hence, we can easily calculate \mathcal{L}_0 to be

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$$\mathcal{L}_{0} = \left[-i\eta (\mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes a^{\dagger}a - a^{\dagger}a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)}) + \kappa a \otimes a - \frac{\kappa}{2} [a^{\dagger}a \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)} + \mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes a^{\dagger}a] - g^{2} \frac{\frac{\Gamma}{2} - \frac{2i}{\eta}}{\frac{\Gamma^{2}}{4} + \frac{4}{\eta^{2}}} [\mathbb{1}^{(A)} \otimes (a + a^{\dagger})^{2} - (a + a^{\dagger}) \otimes (a + a^{\dagger})] - g^{2} \frac{\frac{\Gamma}{2} + \frac{2i}{\eta}}{\frac{\Gamma^{2}}{4} + \frac{4}{\eta^{2}}} [(a + a^{\dagger})^{2} \otimes \mathbb{1}^{(A)} - (a + a^{\dagger}) \otimes (a + a^{\dagger})] \right] \otimes \mathcal{P}_{B}.$$
(B6)

From which we can deduce the reduced dynamics governing the evolution of the slow system to be

$$\mathcal{L}_{0}(\rho^{(A)}) = -i[H^{(A)}, \rho^{(A)}] + \kappa \mathcal{D}_{a}(\rho^{(A)}) + \frac{4g^{2}\eta^{2}\Gamma}{\Gamma^{2}\eta^{2} + 16}\mathcal{D}_{(a+a^{\dagger})}(\rho^{(A)}), \tag{B7}$$

where we have defined

$$H^{(A)} = \eta a^{\dagger} a - \frac{4g^2 \eta}{\Gamma^2 \eta^2 + 16} (a + a^{\dagger})^2.$$
(B8)

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Correction: The name previously presented as the third author was a "collective individual," which is contrary to the policies of the *Physical Review* journals. That name has been removed, along with the associated affiliation.