

Quantum dynamics of the driven and dissipative Rabi model

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The Rabi model considers a two-level system (or spin 1/2) coupled to a quantized harmonic oscillator and describes the simplest interaction between matter and light. The recent experimental progress in solid-state circuit quantum electrodynamics has engendered theoretical efforts to quantitatively describe the mathematical and physical aspects of the light-matter interaction beyond the rotating-wave approximation. We develop a stochastic Schrödinger equation approach which enables us to access the strong-coupling limit of the Rabi model and study the effects of dissipation and ac drive in an exact manner. We include the effect of Ohmic noise on the non-Markovian spin dynamics, resulting in Kondo-type correlations, as well as cavity losses. We compute the time evolution of spin variables in various conditions. As a consideration for future work, we discuss the possibility of reaching a steady state with one polariton in realistic experimental conditions.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Originally, the Rabi model was introduced to describe the effect of a weak and rapidly rotating magnetic field on an atom possessing a nuclear spin [1,2]. Nowadays, this model is applied to a variety of quantum systems, from quantum optics to condensed-matter physics. A few examples include microwave and optical-cavity quantum electrodynamics (QED) [3–5], ion traps [6], quantum dots, and superconducting qubits in circuit QED [7–21]. Recent on-chip experiments, by using artificial two-level systems made of superconducting qubits, allow a high control of the coupling between the system and the light field [9–17]. Effective photon-photon interactions and photon blockade effects may also be engineered [22–27]. Such spin-boson systems are of importance for applications in quantum computing [28–30].

The application of the rotating-wave approximation (RWA) is justified in the weak-coupling limit and results in the Jaynes-Cummings (JC) model [31], which is exactly solvable. Analytical solutions of the quantum Rabi model beyond the RWA have been recently explored based on the underlying discrete \mathbb{Z}_2 (parity) symmetry [32–35]. Moreover, some dynamical properties of the model have been addressed [36] and other theoretical efforts in the strong-coupling limit have been achieved [37–40]. In this article, we study the Rabi model in a wide regime of parameters, from weak to strong coupling, and account for external driving and non-Markovian dissipation effects on the two-level system from the environment. The latter is modeled by a bath of harmonic oscillators [41] and gives rise to Ohmic dissipation on the spin dynamics [42,43]. At low temperatures, this engenders a renormalized (many-body) Rabi frequency for the two-level system and nontrivial damping processes which can be measured in cold-atom, ion-trap, mesoscopic, and photon systems [44–58]. By introducing two stochastic fields, we extend the nonperturbative Schrödinger equation method of Refs. [59–63]. We show the applicability of the stochastic method by focusing on the spin dynamics in various conditions. We complement our results via physical and analytical arguments. We also discuss nontrivial dynamical final states with one polariton achieved by driving the system. By increasing the drive amplitude we decrease the

characteristic time to reach a pure state with one polariton. This may find applications in realizing a driven Mott state of polaritons, i.e., dressed states (eigenstates) of light and matter [64], in the weak-coupling limit between light and matter.

A. Model

The Hamiltonian describing the driven and dissipative quantum Rabi model reads

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \frac{\Delta}{2} \sigma^z + \omega_0 \left(a^\dagger a + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{g}{2} \sigma^x (a + a^\dagger) + V(t)(a + a^\dagger) + \sum_k \left[\omega_k b_k^\dagger b_k + \lambda_k (b_k + b_k^\dagger) \frac{\sigma^x}{2} \right], \quad (1)$$

where a^\dagger and a are creation and annihilation operators for the quantized harmonic oscillator with frequency ω_0 , σ^i ($i = x, y, z$) are the Pauli spin operators for the spin-1/2 system, Δ is the resonant frequency between the two levels, and g denotes the interaction strength (we set $\hbar = 1$). The first line of the Hamiltonian represents the Rabi model. The term containing $V(t) = V_0 \cos(\omega_d t)$ incorporates the effect of the coherent semiclassical external drive on the cavity [65,66]. Dissipation is taken into account via b_k^\dagger and b_k , which are the creation and annihilation operators for the bosonic mode k , with frequency ω_k , and λ_k describes the microscopic interaction of the two-level system with the environment, which we assume to be of Ohmic type. The Jaynes-Cummings weak-coupling limit of the Rabi model is reproduced when counter-rotating terms, $(\sigma^+ a^\dagger + \text{H.c.})$ where $\sigma^\pm = (\sigma^x \pm i\sigma^y)/2$, are neglected, which ensures a continuous U(1) symmetry and an associated conserved quantity, the polariton number $N = a^\dagger a + \sigma^+ \sigma^-$.

The combined effect of the cavity and of the Ohmic bath on the spin is encapsulated through the spectral function [42,43]

$$J(\omega) = \pi g^2 \delta(\omega - \omega_0) + 2\pi \alpha \omega \exp(-\omega/\omega_c). \quad (2)$$

Here, α determines the effective (dimensionless) coupling between the spin and the bath, while ω_c is a high-frequency cutoff, which we take to be the largest energy scale in the system. The quantities α and ω_c are related to the parameters in the Hamiltonian via $\pi \sum_k |\lambda_k|^2 \delta(\omega - \omega_k) = 2\pi\alpha\omega e^{-\omega/\omega_c}$.

A typical example of an experimental setup is a Cooper-pair box system at resonance [67,68] where, within our notations, the operator σ^x represents the presence or absence of excess Cooper pairs in the island. The transverse field σ^z can be realized by coupling the Cooper-pair box to a macroscopic superconductor via the Josephson effect. We assume that the Cooper-pair box is capacitively coupled to the electromagnetic cavity and that Ohmic dissipation embodies resistive effects stemming from the mesoscopic circuit [67–69]. Other superconducting circuits known as flux [70] or phase qubits [71] provide equivalent systems. Superconducting systems [72–74] yield a long decoherence time which corresponds to very small values of α . A similar Hamiltonian could be derived in the case of a dissipative flux qubit [75]. Note that the case of very strong qubit dissipation could also be addressed both theoretically and experimentally [59,76–90].

B. Dissipation effects

In the absence of the cavity ($\omega_0 = g = V = 0$), the physics of the model (2) is already quite rich as it describes, e.g., the Ohmic spin-boson model, Kondo physics, and long-range Ising models [42,43,91,92]. Several methods have been devised to address the spin dynamics for the spin-boson model, such as the noninteracting blip approximation (NIBA) [42,43]. The result for $\mathcal{P}(t) = \langle \sigma^x(t) \rangle$ can be found using Heisenberg equations of motion. It is first convenient to perform a polaronic transformation

$$U = \exp \left[-\sigma^x \sum_k \frac{\lambda_k}{2\omega_k} (b_k^\dagger - b_k) \right], \quad (3)$$

in order to remove the spin-bath coupling term. We can then reach the NIBA equation for the dynamics of $\mathcal{P}(t)$ by averaging in a weak-coupling sense the spin equations of motion, leading to [93]

$$\dot{\mathcal{P}}(t) + \int_{t_0}^t \mathcal{F}(t-t') \mathcal{P}(t') dt' = 0, \quad (4)$$

where $\mathcal{F}(t) = \Delta^2 \cos[Q_1(t)] \exp[-Q_2(t)]$, and

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1(t) &= \int_0^\infty d\omega \frac{J(\omega)}{\omega^2} \sin \omega t, \\ Q_2(t) &= \int_0^\infty d\omega \frac{J(\omega)}{\omega^2} (1 - \cos \omega t) \coth \frac{\beta\omega}{2}. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Equation (4) can be solved using Laplace transform, and for $0 < \alpha < 1/2$ the spin dynamics shows coherent damped oscillations $\mathcal{P}(t) = a \cos(\zeta t + \phi) \exp(-\gamma t)$, with a universal quality factor:

$$\frac{\zeta}{\gamma} = \cot \left(\frac{\pi\alpha}{2(1-\alpha)} \right). \quad (6)$$

In this calculation it appears that the energy splitting Δ between the two levels is dressed by the bosonic modes,

leading to a many-body renormalization to

$$\Delta_r = \Delta (\Delta/\omega_c)^{\alpha/(1-\alpha)}. \quad (7)$$

Dissipative effects may also stem from the photonic part of the system. Photon leakage out of the system can be taken into account by adding an imaginary component Γ to the photon frequency ω_0 . The cavity is indeed exposed to the vacuum noise of the surrounding environment, and energy can leak out into the external bath. This effect can be addressed in a microscopic manner by considering a coupling of the inner photonic modes to an infinite number of external bosonic modes, so that the Hamiltonian becomes (within a rotating-wave approximation) [94]

$$H = H_{\text{sys}} + \sum_q \omega_q l_q^\dagger l_q - i \sum_q [f_q a^\dagger l_q + f_q^* a l_q^\dagger], \quad (8)$$

where l_q^\dagger (l_q) is the creation (annihilation) operator of an external boson of frequency ω_q . The use of the Heisenberg equations of motion in the Markov approximation, which assumes that the coupling strength $f = \sqrt{|f_q|}$ and the density of states $\rho = \sum_q \delta(\omega - \omega_q)$ are constant, allows the effect of the environment to be written as an imaginary component $\Gamma = 2\pi f^2 \rho$ for the photon frequency [94,95].

In the following, we will mainly focus on the high- Q cavity limit where we assume that dissipation effects are more important on the two-level system rather than on the cavity, which corresponds to $\Gamma \ll \gamma$. There exists a variety of other schemes to study the dissipative dynamics [96] of photonic systems, such as phenomenological Linblad [97] or Bloch-Redfield [98,99] master equations derived from the parameters of a microscopic model. The stochastic method under consideration [59–63] allows computation of the out-of-equilibrium non-Markovian spin dynamics by taking into account the effect of the cavity mode, dissipation, and drive in an exact manner. Note that other stochastic approaches have been developed [100–102].

The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we will derive most of the results concerning the stochastic method, based on the Feynman-Vernon influence functional approach [103] and the blip-sojourn approach [42]. In Sec. III, we will show results on the Rabi model including the drive effects. In particular, within our approach we reproduce the Bloch-Siegert shift and the strong-coupling adiabatic limit. In Sec. IV, we shall discuss dissipation, drive, and lattice effects.

II. SPIN DYNAMICS FROM PATH-INTEGRAL APPROACH

We first consider the case $\Gamma = 0$ (ideal cavity) and $V(t) = 0$ and we will reach an effective stochastic Schrödinger equation for the spin-reduced density matrix after a stochastic decoupling. We will then be able to compute the spin variables $\langle \sigma^x(t) \rangle$ and $\langle \sigma^z(t) \rangle$, and various initial conditions for the spin will be considered. We will finally incorporate the effects of external drive on the system.

We assume without lack of generality that the spin and bath are uncoupled at the initial time t_0 when they are brought into contact, and therefore the total density matrix can be factorized [42]: $\rho_{\text{tot}}(t_0) = \rho_B(t_0) \otimes \rho_S(t_0)$. Here, ρ_B and ρ_S are respectively the bosonic and spin-reduced density matrices. In

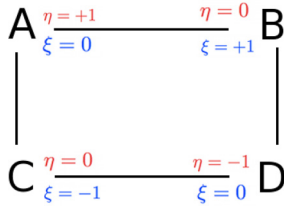


FIG. 1. (Color online) States of the double spin path. Through the Feynman-Vernon formulation, the spin paths and elements of the spin (reduced) density matrix are depicted through the classical variables η and ξ .

the following, we parametrize the spin path according to its value along the x axis (corresponding to the direction of the coupling with the bosonic bath). We therefore choose notations in which the density matrix corresponding to a pure state along the x axis is

$$\rho_{|+x\rangle\langle +x|} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (9)$$

Elements of the reduced density matrix can be expressed as

$$\langle \sigma_f | \rho_S(t) | \sigma'_f \rangle = \sum_{\sigma_0, \sigma'_0} \langle \sigma_0 | \rho_S(t_0) | \sigma'_0 \rangle \int D\sigma D\sigma' \mathcal{A}_\sigma \mathcal{A}_{\sigma'}^* F_{\sigma, \sigma'}. \quad (10)$$

$D\sigma$ and $D\sigma'$ denote integration over all real-time spin paths σ and σ' with fixed initial conditions $|\sigma_0\rangle$ and $|\sigma'_0\rangle$ and final conditions $|\sigma_f\rangle$ and $|\sigma'_f\rangle$. The terms \mathcal{A}_σ and $\mathcal{A}_{\sigma'}$ denote the free amplitude for the spin to follow a given path.

The influence of the bosonic bath (photons and bosonic modes describing the dissipation) is fully contained in the Feynman-Vernon influence functional $F_{\sigma, \sigma'}$ which reads [103]

$$F_{\sigma, \sigma'} = \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{t_0}^t ds \int_{t_0}^s ds' [-iL_1(s-s')\xi(s)\eta(s') + L_2(s-s')\xi(s)\xi(s')] \right\}, \quad (11)$$

where η and ξ are the symmetric and antisymmetric spin paths: $\eta(s) = \frac{1}{2}[\sigma(s) + \sigma'(s)]$, $\xi(s) = \frac{1}{2}[\sigma(s) - \sigma'(s)]$. Here the two functions L_1 and L_2 characterize the interaction with the bath:

$$L_1(t) = \int_0^\infty d\omega J(\omega) \sin \omega t, \quad (12)$$

$$L_2(t) = \int_0^\infty d\omega J(\omega) \cos \omega t \coth \frac{\beta\omega}{2}.$$

In the following we will focus on the quantum problem at zero temperature, when Eqs. (12) become

$$L_1(t) = \pi g^2 \sin \omega_0 t + 4\pi\alpha\omega_c^3 \frac{\omega_c t}{(1 + \omega_c^2 t^2)^2},$$

$$L_2(t) = \pi g^2 \cos \omega_0 t + 2\pi\alpha\omega_c^2 \frac{1 - \omega_c^2 t^2}{(1 + \omega_c^2 t^2)^2}. \quad (13)$$

The double path integral along σ and σ' in Eq. (10) can be viewed as a single path that visits the four states $A = |++\rangle$, $B = |+-\rangle$, $C = |-+\rangle$, and $D = |--\rangle$ (see Fig. 1).

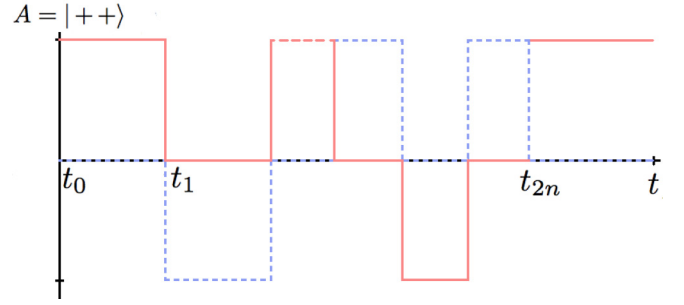


FIG. 2. (Color online) Spin path $\eta(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{2n} \Upsilon_j \theta(t - t_j)$ in red; $\xi(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{2n} \Xi_j \theta(t - t_j)$ in dashed blue. The spin path starts and ends in the state A .

States A and D correspond to the diagonal elements of the density matrix (also named “sojourn” states) whereas B and C correspond to the off-diagonal ones (also called “blip” states) [42,43,62]. More precisely, we have to take into account all possible paths along the edges of the square in Fig. 1. In order to go further, we have to fix the initial and final states of such paths.

We will first focus on the computation of the diagonal elements of the density matrix, $(1 + \langle \sigma^x \rangle)/2$, when the spin is initially in a pure state along the x axis, $\rho_S(t_0) = |+_x\rangle\langle +_x|$. The computation of off-diagonal elements of the density matrix will be addressed in Sec. II B, and the preparation $\rho_S(t_0) = |+_z\rangle\langle +_z|$ in Sec. II C.

A. Diagonal elements of the spin-density matrix

The initial condition is $\rho_S(t_0) = |+_x\rangle\langle +_x|$, so that the double spin path is initially constrained in the diagonal state $A = |++\rangle$. We intend to compute the upper left diagonal element of the density matrix describing the probability of finding the system in the state $|+_x\rangle$ at time t , so that we consider spin paths that end in the sojourn state $A = |++\rangle$. One path of this type makes $2n$ transitions along the way at times t_i , $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$, such that $t_0 < t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_{2n}$. We can write this spin path as $\xi(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{2n} \Xi_j \theta(t - t_j)$ and $\eta(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{2n} \Upsilon_j \theta(t - t_j)$ where the variables Ξ_i and Υ_i take values in $\{-1, 1\}$. Such a path is illustrated in Fig. 2. The variables Ξ (in blue) describe the blip parts, and the variables Υ (in red) on the other hand characterize the sojourn parts.

The diagonal element of the density matrix

$$p(t) = \frac{1 + \langle \sigma^x(t) \rangle}{2} = \frac{1 + \mathcal{P}(t)}{2} \quad (14)$$

is given by a series in the tunneling coupling Δ^2 [42,43,59]:

$$p(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{i\Delta}{2} \right)^{2n} \int_{t_0}^t dt_{2n} \dots \int_{t_0}^{t_2} dt_1 \sum_{\{\Xi_j\}, \{\Upsilon_j\}} \mathcal{F}_n. \quad (15)$$

The prime on $\{\Upsilon_j\}$ in Eq. (15) indicates that the initial and final sojourn states are fixed according to the initial and final

conditions $\Upsilon_0 = \Upsilon_{2n} = 1$. Therefore,

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \mathcal{F}_n[\{\Xi_j\}, \{\Upsilon_j\}, \{t_j\}] \mathcal{Q}_1 \mathcal{Q}_2, \quad (16)$$

$$\mathcal{Q}_1 = \exp \left[\frac{i}{\pi} \sum_{k=0}^{2n-1} \sum_{j=k+1}^{2n} \Xi_j \Upsilon_k \mathcal{Q}_1(t_j - t_k) \right], \quad (17)$$

$$\mathcal{Q}_2 = \exp \left[\frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{2n-1} \sum_{j=k+1}^{2n} \Xi_j \Xi_k \mathcal{Q}_2(t_j - t_k) \right]. \quad (18)$$

The functions \mathcal{Q}_1 and \mathcal{Q}_2 , which describe the feedbacks of the electromagnetic field and of the dissipative environment, are directly obtained from the spectral function $J(\omega)$. At zero temperature, they read

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}_1(t) &= \pi \left[\frac{g^2}{\omega_0^2} \sin \omega_0 t + 2\alpha \tan^{-1}(\omega_c t) \right], \\ \mathcal{Q}_2(t) &= \pi \left[\frac{g^2}{\omega_0^2} (1 - \cos \omega_0 t) + \alpha \ln(1 + \omega_c^2 t^2) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

The \ln function in \mathcal{Q}_2 reflects the non-Markovian features of the Ohmic bath [63]. It is important to notice that blips and sojourns do not have symmetric effects. \mathcal{Q}_1 describes the coupling between the blips and all previous sojourns, and \mathcal{Q}_2 contains the interaction between all blips (including self-interaction). The index for the Υ variables starts at 0 and ends at $2n - 1$, whereas the index for the Ξ variables starts at 1 and ends at $2n$. It is worth noting that the last sojourn does not contribute and the latest coupling period is the blip which lasts from t_{2n-1} to t_{2n} .

Let now h_ξ and h_η be two complex Gaussian random fields which verify

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{h_\xi(t)h_\xi(s)} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \mathcal{Q}_2(t-s) + k_1, \\ \overline{h_\eta(t)h_\eta(s)} &= k_2, \\ \overline{h_\xi(t)h_\eta(s)} &= \frac{i}{\pi} \mathcal{Q}_1(t-s)\theta(t-s) + k_3. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

The overline denotes the statistical average, and k_1 , k_2 , and k_3 are arbitrary complex constants. Making use of the identity $\overline{\exp(X)} = \exp(\overline{X^2}/2)$, Eqs. (16), (17), and (18) can then be reexpressed as

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \prod_{j=1}^{2n} \overline{\exp[h_\xi(t_j)\Xi_j + h_\eta(t_{j-1})\Upsilon_{j-1}]}. \quad (21)$$

The complex constants k_p do not contribute because $\sum_{k=0}^{2n-1} \Upsilon_k = \sum_{j=1}^{2n} \Xi_j = 0$. In practice, fields which verify the correlation relations (20) can be sampled by Fourier series decomposition (see the Appendix for more details).

From Eqs. (15) and (21), the resulting formula for $p(t)$ can be expressed as

$$p(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \int_{t_0}^t dt_{2n} \cdots \int_{t_0}^{t_2} dt_1 \langle \Phi_f | W(t_{2n}) \cdots W(t_1) | \Phi_i \rangle, \quad (22)$$

where the effective Hamiltonian $W(t)$ for the spin in the four-dimensional vector space of states $\{|++\rangle, |+-\rangle, |-+\rangle, |--\rangle\}$ is

$$W(t) = \frac{\Delta}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-h_\xi+h_\eta} & -e^{h_\xi+h_\eta} & 0 \\ e^{h_\xi-h_\eta} & 0 & 0 & -e^{h_\xi+h_\eta} \\ -e^{-h_\xi-h_\eta} & 0 & 0 & e^{-h_\xi+h_\eta} \\ 0 & -e^{-h_\xi-h_\eta} & e^{h_\xi-h_\eta} & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (23)$$

We have $|\Phi_i\rangle = (e^{h_\eta(t_0)}, 0, 0, 0)^T$ and $\langle \Phi_f | = (e^{-h_\eta(t_{2n})}, 0, 0, 0)$: these choices account for the asymmetry between blips and sojourns. The contribution from the first sojourn is encoded in $|\Phi_i\rangle$, and we artificially suppress the contribution of the last sojourn via $\langle \Phi_f |$. This final vector depends on the intermediate time t_{2n} , but we can notice that replacing $(e^{-h_\eta(t_{2n})}, 0, 0, 0)$ by $(e^{-h_\eta(t)}, 0, 0, 0)$ does not add any contribution on average. Then we can write $p(t)$ as a time-ordered product:

$$p(t) = \overline{\langle \Phi_f | \mathcal{T} e^{-i \int_{t_0}^t ds W(s)} | \Phi_i \rangle}, \quad (24)$$

where \mathcal{T} is the time-ordering operator. Resorting to Eq. (2), we rewrite $p(t)$ as a stochastic average $\overline{\langle \Phi_f | \Phi(t) \rangle}$, where $|\Phi(t)\rangle$ is the solution of the Schrödinger equation

$$i \partial_t |\Psi(t)\rangle = W(t) |\Psi(t)\rangle \quad (25)$$

with the initial condition $|\Phi_i\rangle$.

It is actually possible to consider photon leakage out of the cavity when $\Gamma \neq 0$. This change can be treated exactly in the integration and just leads to a change in the coupling functions \mathcal{Q}_1 and \mathcal{Q}_2 . The first terms of the right-hand side of Eq. (19) are multiplied by a damping factor $\exp(-\Gamma t)$.

B. Off-diagonal elements of the spin-density matrix

Following the work by Weiss [43], we compute an off-diagonal term of the density matrix in terms of a series expansion in Δ , considering spin paths that end in a blip state. Such paths make now $2n - 1$ transitions and we have

$$\rho_{+-}(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(i\Delta)^{2n-1}}{2^{2n-1}} \int_{t_0}^t dt_{2n-1} \cdots \int_{t_0}^{t_2} dt_1 \sum_{\{\Xi_j\}\{\Upsilon_j\}} \mathcal{F}_n, \quad (26)$$

where $\rho_{+-}(t) = \langle + | \rho_S(t) | - \rangle$. An example of such a path can be seen in Fig. 3. Here the initial sojourn state is fixed, as well as the final blip state. All blips are coupled to all previous sojourns and blips as can be seen in Eqs. (17) and (18). Paths considered in Sec. II A ended in a sojourn state, and the latest coupling period lasted from t_{2n-1} to t_{2n} . The situation is different here because paths end up in a blip state. For a given path the final coupling period then lasts from t_{2n-1} to the final time t . But providing that we formally set $t_{2n} = t$ and $\Xi_{2n} = -\sum_{j=1}^{2n-1} \Xi_j$, Eqs. (16), (17), and (18) are still valid. Following the same route, we can conclude that $\langle \sigma^z(t) \rangle$ is given by the average $2\text{Re} \langle \Phi'_f | \Phi'(t) \rangle$ where $|\Phi'(t)\rangle$ is the solution of the stochastic Schrödinger equation with the initial condition $|\Phi'_i\rangle = |\Phi_i\rangle$ and $\langle \Phi'_f | = (0, e^{-h_\xi(t)}, 0, 0)$.

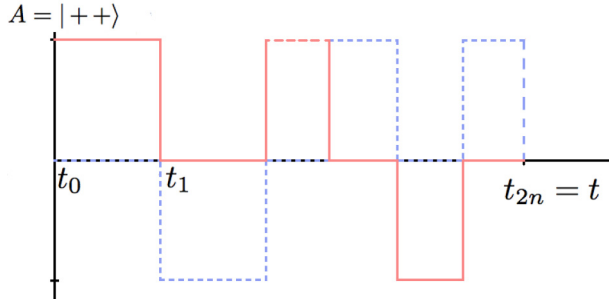


FIG. 3. (Color online) Spin path $\eta(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{2n-1} \Upsilon_j \theta(t - t_j)$ in red; $\xi(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{2n-1} \Xi_j \theta(t - t_j)$ in dashed blue. Here the spin path ends in the blip state $B = |+ - \rangle$. The initial state is still $A = | + + \rangle$.

C. Initial condition

It is also possible to consider a protocol in which the spin is initially prepared in an eigenstate along the z axis: $\rho_S(t_0) = |+_z\rangle\langle+_z|$. Due to the linearity of Eq. (10) we can evolve the four initial components of the density matrix separately. The treatment of the evolution of a diagonal element of the density matrix has already been given in Sec. II A (the case of a path beginning in the $D = | - - \rangle$ state can be deduced by considering $\Upsilon_0 = -1$). We focus then on the evolution of a path which is initially in a blip state. We have

$$\rho_{+-}(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{i\Delta}{2} \right)^{2n} \int_{t_0}^t dt_{2n} \cdots \int_{t_0}^{t_2} dt_1 \sum_{\{\Xi_j\}} \sum_{\{\Upsilon_j\}} \mathcal{F}_n. \quad (27)$$

Here the initial and final blip states are constrained, as shown in Fig. 4. We formally set $t_{2n+1} = t$ and considering for example a path that starts in state B , we find

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \exp \left[\frac{i}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \sum_{j=k+1}^{2n+1} \Xi_j \Upsilon_k Q_1(t_j - t_k) \right] \times \exp \left[\frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{k=0}^{2n} \sum_{j=k+1}^{2n+1} \Xi_j \Xi_k Q_2(t_j - t_k) \right]. \quad (28)$$

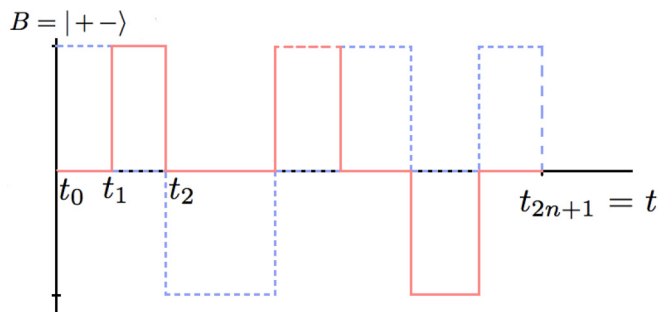


FIG. 4. (Color online) Spin path $\eta(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{2n} \Upsilon_j \theta(t - t_j)$ in red; $\xi(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{2n} \Xi_j \theta(t - t_j)$ in dashed blue. Here the spin path starts and ends in the blip state $B = |+ - \rangle$.

Then the expression of $\langle \sigma^z(t) \rangle$ is given by

$$\langle \sigma^z(t) \rangle = 2\text{Re} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_{t_0}^t dt_{2n} \cdots \int_{t_0}^{t_2} dt_1 \chi(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{2n}), \quad (29)$$

where $\chi(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{2n}) = \overline{\langle \Phi_f'' | W(t_{2n}) \cdots W(t_2) W(t_1) | \Phi_i'' \rangle}$, $|\Phi_i''\rangle = (0, e^{h_\xi(t_0)}, 0, 0)^T$, and $\langle \Phi_f'' | = \langle \Phi_f' |$.

D. External drive

The effect of a coherent semiclassical drive of the form $V(t)(a + a^\dagger)$ can be treated exactly by substituting for $\sigma^x(t)$ with $[\sigma^x(t) + V(t)]$ in the path-integral approach. This is simply reflected in Eq. (11) by the appearance of a new coupling term. Assuming $V(t)$ to be of the form $V_0 \cos \omega_d t$ and beginning the procedure at time t_0 , the functional $F_{\sigma, \sigma'}$ is changed into $F_{\sigma, \sigma'}^d$ which reads, for $t \geq t_0$,

$$F_{\sigma, \sigma'}^d = e^{[2iV_0g \int_{t_0}^t ds \int_{t_0}^s ds' \sin \omega_0(s-s') \xi(s) \cos \omega_d s']} F_{\sigma, \sigma'}. \quad (30)$$

We consider for example a path that starts in a sojourn state and ends in a blip state. The new contribution can be taken into account in one height field. Let us denote by h_ξ^d the stochastic field coupling blips in the presence of the drive. It reads

$$h_\xi^d(t) = h_\xi(t) + \frac{2iV_0g\omega_0}{\omega_d^2 - \omega_0^2} \times \left\{ \frac{\sin[\omega_0 t + (\omega_0 + \omega_d)t_0]}{\omega_0} + \frac{\sin \omega_d t}{\omega_d} \right\}. \quad (31)$$

It is also possible to consider the drive term with a RWA-type approximation $V_0/2(ae^{i\omega_d t} + a^\dagger e^{-i\omega_d t})$, which results only in the replacement of $2V_0g\omega_0/(\omega_d^2 - \omega_0^2)$ by $V_0g/(\omega_d - \omega_0)$ in Eq. (31).

In this section we have considered the effect of an external photonic drive. It is also possible to incorporate the effect of a drive term acting on the qubit $\epsilon(t)\sigma^x$, as in Ref. [60]. The stochastic field then reads

$$h_\xi^d(t) = h_\xi(t) + \int_{t_0}^t ds \epsilon(s). \quad (32)$$

This makes connections with the Landau-Zener-Majorana-Stückelberg oscillations [104,105], which can be studied with this approach.

In this section we have shown that it is possible to compute the dissipative and driven dynamics of the spin in an exact manner by evaluating a stochastic Schrödinger equation for the spin-reduced density matrix, and the effect of the environment is fully encapsulated in the correlations of the random Hamiltonian of the stochastic equation.

III. DYNAMICS OF THE RABI MODEL

In this section, we will focus on the spin dynamics without external drive, and study the free Rabi model and the deviations from the Jaynes-Cummings dynamics.

A. Corrections to the Jaynes-Cummings model

First, we check that the results for the free Rabi model reproduce the dynamics of the JC model in the weak-coupling limit $g/\omega_0 \ll 1$ with weak detuning $\delta/\omega_0 \ll 1$ where

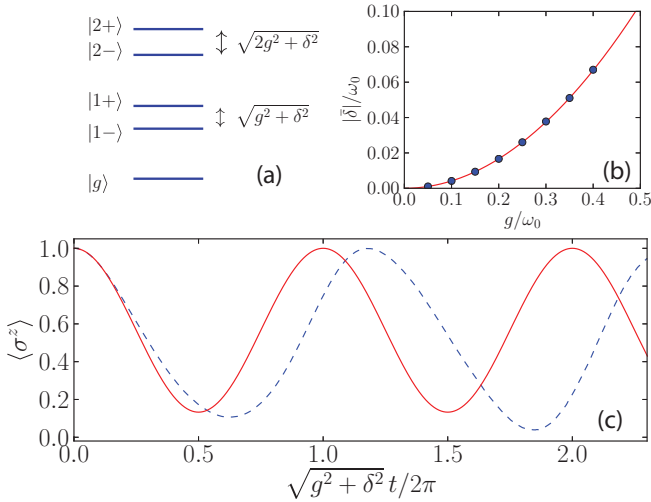


FIG. 5. (Color online) (a) JC ladder of polaritons. (b) Absolute value of the Bloch-Siegert shift $|\bar{\delta}|$ versus g/ω_0 , with perturbation theory in red [106], and results from our method in blue (dots). (c) Example of dynamics of $\langle \sigma^z \rangle$ with the initial condition $|+\rangle_z$, which is a linear superposition of $|1-\rangle$ and $|1+\rangle$, for quite strong couplings. Parameters are set to $g/\omega_0 = 0.7$ and $\Delta/\omega_0 = 0.2$. The Rabi solution from our method is shown in dashed blue; within the RWA; the JC solution would rather read $\langle \sigma^z(t) \rangle = 1 - 2g^2 \sin^2(\sqrt{g^2 + \delta^2}t/2)/(g^2 + \delta^2)$ and is shown in red.

$\delta = \omega_0 - \Delta$. Since the RWA holds we can easily diagonalize the free undamped JC Hamiltonian in the so-called dressed basis. The ground state $|g\rangle$ of the system consists of the two-level system in its lower state and vacuum for the photons, while the excited eigenstates $|n\pm\rangle$ are pairs of combined light-matter excitations (polaritons) described in terms of the polariton number operator $N = a^\dagger a + \sigma^+ \sigma^-$ which commutes with the Hamiltonian, $N|n\pm\rangle = n|n\pm\rangle$. This leads to the well-known structure of the anharmonic JC ladder [Fig. 5(a)]. More precisely, the light-matter eigenstates satisfy (here, $n > 0$)

$$\begin{aligned} |g\rangle &= |-\rangle_z, 0\rangle, \\ |n+\rangle &= \alpha_n |+\rangle_z, n-1\rangle + \beta_n |-\rangle_z, n\rangle, \\ |n-\rangle &= -\beta_n |+\rangle_z, n-1\rangle + \alpha_n |-\rangle_z, n\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

The corresponding energies are

$$\begin{aligned} E_{|g\rangle} &= \frac{\delta}{2}, \\ E_{|n+\rangle} &= n\omega_0 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\delta^2 + ng^2}, \\ E_{|n-\rangle} &= n\omega_0 - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\delta^2 + ng^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

We have $\alpha_n = \sqrt{[A(n) - \delta]/2A(n)}$, $\beta_n = \sqrt{[A(n) + \delta]/2A(n)}$, and $A(n) = \sqrt{ng^2 + \delta^2}$.

If one prepares the two-level system in its upper state $|+\rangle_z$ in vacuum, the dynamics shows coherent oscillations between the two polariton states $|1-\rangle$ and $|1+\rangle$, also known as Rabi oscillations. We obtain consistent results, and the first corrections to the JC limit when the coupling g is increased are in agreement with (second-order) perturbation

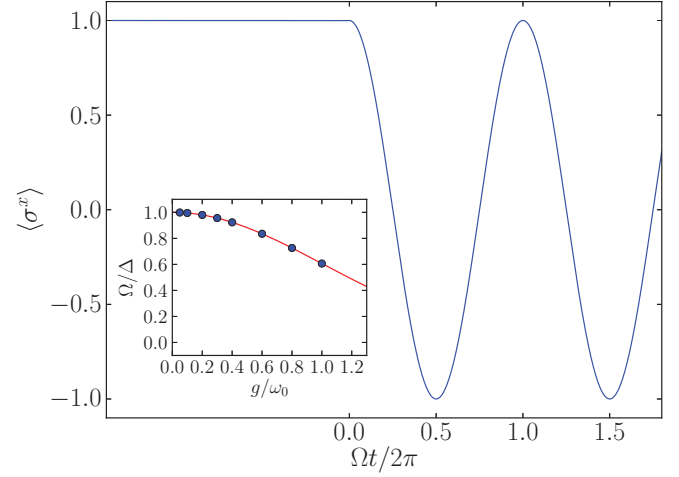


FIG. 6. (Color online) Dynamics of $\langle \sigma^x \rangle$ with the initial condition $|+\rangle_x$, for $\Delta/\omega_0 = 0.1$ and $g/\omega_0 = 0.3$. The analytical solution within the adiabatic approximation is $\langle \sigma^x(t) \rangle = \cos \Omega t$. Inset: $\Omega/\Delta = \exp(-g^2/2\omega_0^2)$ versus g/ω_0 ; the red curve is from the exact result in the adiabatic limit while the dots represent our numerical results.

theory [Fig. 5(b)]. The presence of the counter-rotating terms in the quantum Rabi model gives rise to a shift of the resonance frequency between the atom and photon, leading to an additional negative detuning $\bar{\delta} = -g^2/[2(\omega_0 + \Delta)]$ when $\Delta < \omega_0$. This Bloch-Siegert shift [106] has been observed in circuit QED [14]. Moreover, the dynamics towards the deep strong-coupling regime with $g \approx \omega_0$ certainly goes beyond this perturbative argument [36,107], as shown in Fig. 5(c).

B. Adiabatic limit

The regime of the Rabi model corresponding to a highly detuned system with $\Delta/\omega_0 \ll 1$ is known as the adiabatic limit [108]. One can visualize such a system as a set of two displaced oscillator wells (characterized by the value of σ^x), whose degeneracy is lifted by the field along the z direction. The dynamics of the two-level system, initially prepared in a displaced state of one well, should undergo coherent and complete oscillations between this state and its symmetric counterpart in the other well. Such an initial state can be prepared by applying a strong bias field along the x direction for negative times, letting the system relax towards its shifted equilibrium position before the release of the constraint at time $t = 0$. The frequency of oscillations depends only on the overlap between these two states, and one can show that this frequency is $\Omega = \Delta e^{-g^2/2\omega_0^2}$ [109] (Fig. 6).

The convergence of the numerical evaluation in our procedure is ensured from weak coupling to ratios g/ω_0 of the order of 1, allowing us to reach the ultrastrong-coupling regime.

IV. DISSIPATION, DRIVE, AND LATTICE

In this section, we go one step further and consider dissipation and drive effects nonperturbatively. Lattice effects will then be briefly addressed.

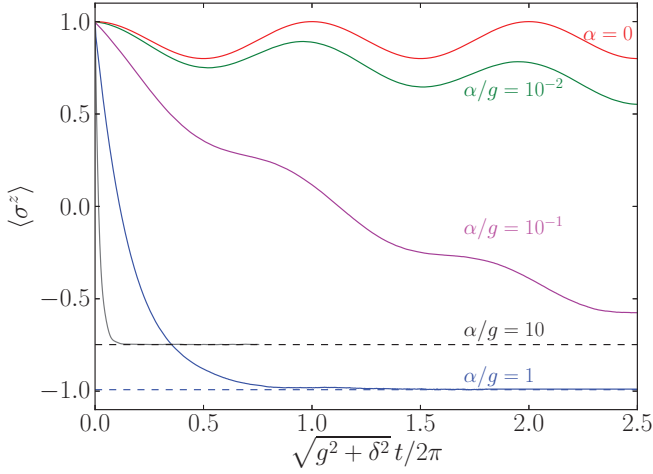


FIG. 7. (Color online) Dynamics of $\langle \sigma^z \rangle$ with the initial condition $|+\rangle_z$ which is a linear superposition of the first two polaritons. We consider $g/\omega_0 = 0.01$, $\Delta/\omega_0 = 0.97$, $\omega_c/\omega_0 = 100$, and several values of α until $\alpha \approx 0.1$. We observe a relaxation towards a nontrivial final state by increasing α and the value of $\langle \sigma^z \rangle$ is in accordance with Bethe ansatz calculations [110–112,120,121].

A. Dissipation effects

Decoherence effects are characterized by a prominent suppression of the off-diagonal elements of the spin-reduced density matrix at equilibrium [110–112] as well as a damping (disappearance) of the Rabi oscillations [42,43,59,113–119] (see Fig. 7). More precisely, the effects of the Ohmic bath at low coupling are both a damping of the Rabi oscillations and a dephasing due to a renormalization of the tunneling element Δ to $\Delta_r = \Delta(\Delta/\omega_c)^{\alpha/1-\alpha}$ [42,43]. The latter phenomenon engenders an effective detuning $\delta_r = \omega_0 - \Delta_r$ between the two-level system and light, which can be seen explicitly via a change in the frequency of Rabi oscillations in the dynamics of $\langle \sigma^z \rangle$ and $\langle \sigma^x \rangle$. The numerical estimation of this effective detuning matches the theoretical expectation δ_r for coupling strengths $\alpha/g \ll 1$.

Note that Δ_r can also be identified as the effective Kondo energy scale in the Ohmic spin-boson model [42,43]. When the dissipation strength increases the net field along the x axis progressively becomes zero, since $\langle a + a^\dagger \rangle \approx 0$ at $g/\alpha \ll 1$. Then the system relaxes to a final state with $\langle \sigma^x \rangle = 0$, and $\langle \sigma^z \rangle$ (within our notations) can be evaluated through Bethe ansatz calculations [110–112,120,121].

We also check that photon losses out of the cavity lead to a simple damping of the Rabi oscillations, and a faster relaxation towards the equilibrium (see Fig. 8).

B. Drive effects

Now we consider the weak-coupling limit $g/\omega_0 \ll 1$ which allows us to realize a pure state with a single polariton. Applying a coherent semiclassical drive to this anharmonic system can account for several nonlinear effects which have been explored recently [65,122]. We focus on the case of a system initially prepared in its ground state and probed via an ac drive with a frequency ω_d .

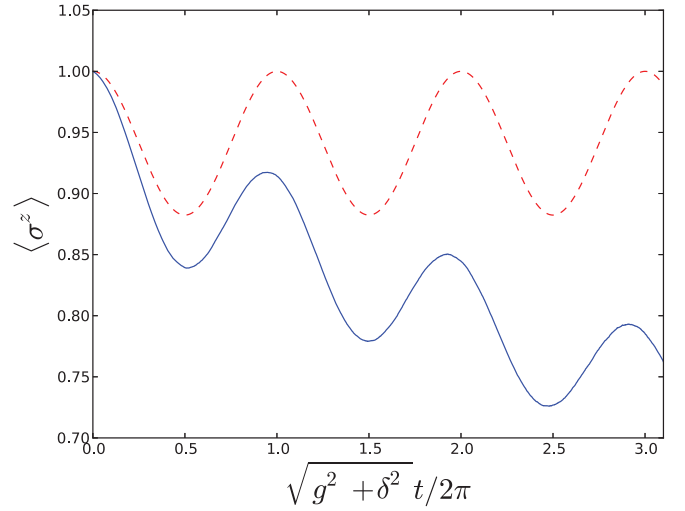


FIG. 8. (Color online) Dynamics of $\langle \sigma^z \rangle$ with the initial condition $|+\rangle_z$. The blue curve shows the damped evolution in the presence of photon leakage out of the cavity whereas the dashed red curve represents the undamped case. Parameters are $g/\omega_0 = 5.0 \times 10^{-2}$, $\Delta/\omega_0 = 0.8$, $\Gamma/\omega_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$, and $\alpha = 0$.

In order to consider the physical effects at stake, we first consider the driven and nondissipative Jaynes-Cummings model (35),

$$H = \frac{\Delta}{2} \sigma^z + \omega_0 a^\dagger a + \frac{g}{2} (\sigma_+ a + \sigma_- a^\dagger) + \frac{V_0}{2} (a e^{i\omega_d t} + a^\dagger e^{-i\omega_d t}). \quad (35)$$

We can get rid of the time-dependent part of the Hamiltonian through a unitary transformation $|\tilde{\psi}\rangle = U(t)|\psi\rangle$ with $U(t) = \exp[i\omega_d(a^\dagger a + \sigma_+ \sigma_-)t]$. The evolution of $|\tilde{\psi}\rangle$ is governed by the time-independent Hamiltonian \tilde{H} :

$$\tilde{H} = \frac{\tilde{\Delta}}{2} \sigma^z + \tilde{\omega}_0 a^\dagger a + \frac{g}{2} (\sigma_+ a + \sigma_- a^\dagger) + \frac{V_0}{2} (a + a^\dagger), \quad (36)$$

where $\tilde{\Delta} = \Delta - \omega_d$ and $\tilde{\omega}_0 = \omega_0 - \omega_d$. \tilde{H} is the sum of a JC Hamiltonian with renormalized energies $\tilde{\Delta}$ and $\tilde{\omega}_0$, and a time-independent driving term. It is convenient to express the last term of Eq. (36) in the dressed basis $\mathcal{B} = \{|g\rangle, |1, -\rangle, |1, +\rangle, |2, -\rangle, |2, +\rangle, \dots\}$ of the coupled system [123]

$$\begin{aligned} a + a^\dagger = & \beta_1 |1, +\rangle \langle g| + \alpha_1 |1, -\rangle \langle g| + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [\sqrt{n+1} \beta_n \beta_{n+1} \\ & + \sqrt{n} \alpha_n \alpha_{n+1}] |n+1, +\rangle \langle n, +| \\ & + [\sqrt{n} \beta_n \beta_{n+1} + \sqrt{n+1} \alpha_n \alpha_{n+1}] |n+1, -\rangle \langle n, -| \\ & + [\sqrt{n+1} \alpha_{n+1} \beta_n - \sqrt{n} \alpha_n \beta_{n+1}] |n+1, -\rangle \langle n, +| \\ & + [\sqrt{n+1} \beta_{n+1} \alpha_n - \sqrt{n} \alpha_{n+1} \beta_n] |n+1, +\rangle \langle n, -| \\ & + \text{H.c.} \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

Driving the cavity induces transition between the dressed states, and changes the number N of excitations by ± 1 . The Jaynes-Cummings ladder is composed of two subladders of “minus” and “plus” polaritons. Equation (37) illustrates the fact that the coupling between states of the same subladder

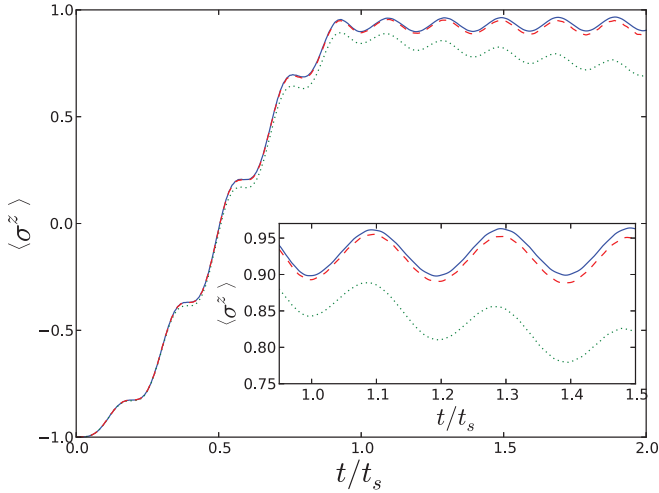


FIG. 9. (Color online) Dynamics of $\langle \sigma^z \rangle$ with the system initially in its ground state; parameters are $g/\omega_0 = 0.02$, $\Delta/\omega_0 = 0.9$, and $V_0/\omega_0 = 0.1$. A driving ac field is applied until the system has reached the first lower polariton; t_s refers to the time at which we switch off the drive. The blue curve is the ideal dissipationless case ($\alpha = 0$) and diagonalization in the dressed-states basis gives the same result with the resolution of the figure. The dashed red curve is for $\alpha = 10^{-5}$ and the dotted green curve for 10^{-4} ; $\omega_c = 100\omega_0$ (see also the inset).

is stronger than the coupling between states which belong to different subladders.

We then set the drive frequency ω_d to match exactly the energy difference between the ground state and the first polariton. In the limit of infinitely small drive $V_0/g \ll 1$, the dynamics shows complete semiclassical Bloch oscillations of frequency $\alpha_1 V_0/2$ between these two levels; $\alpha_1 = [(A - \delta_r)/2A]^{1/2}$ and $A = \sqrt{g^2 + \delta^2}$. However, the switch-off time t_s necessary to bring the system into the state $|1-\rangle$ is typically longer than the decoherence time.

In the general case, we can compute the occupancies of all the levels associated with the JC ladder (see Fig. 5). The price to pay for an increase of the drive strength is the subtle interplay of the upper levels. But the anharmonicity of the JC ladder makes it possible to quantitatively reach the first polariton beyond the linear-response limit. The dynamics of $\langle \sigma^z \rangle$ is shown in Fig. 9, by applying both the stochastic approach and exact diagonalization in the dressed-state basis for $\alpha = 0$. The mean number of photons $\langle a^\dagger a \rangle$ is also evaluated, which enables us to evaluate the mean number of polaritons $\langle N \rangle = \langle a^\dagger a \rangle + (\langle \sigma^z \rangle + 1)/2$ and the standard deviation associated with this observable (see Fig. 10).

The order of magnitude of the time t_s at which we stop the drive (with this drive setup) enables us to minimize the effect of dissipation. At weak dissipation (essentially $\alpha \lesssim 10^{-5}$), we can see that it is possible to realize temporarily an almost pure polaritonic state in one cavity.

C. Lattice effects

This analysis may have further implications in the realization of a driven polariton Mott state in arrays of electromagnetic resonators [64]. Let κ denote the (capacitive) coupling between cavities. The Hamiltonian governing the

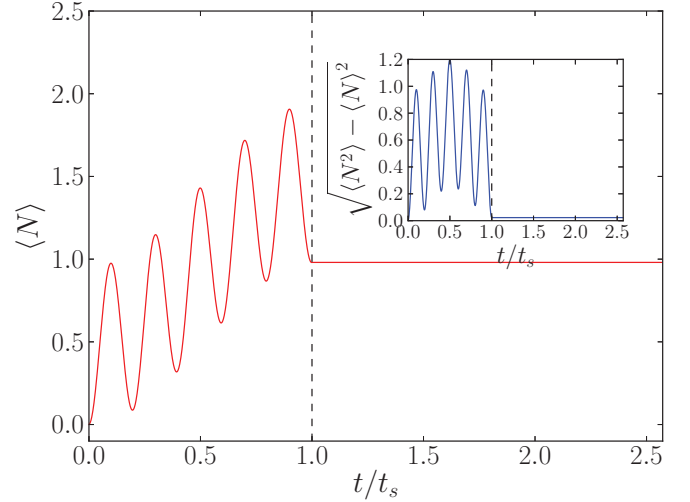


FIG. 10. (Color online) Dynamics of the mean number of polaritons $\langle N(t) \rangle$ in the weak-coupling g limit, and without dissipation. Parameters are $g/\omega_0 = 0.02$, $\Delta/\omega_0 = 0.9$, and $V_0/\omega_0 = 0.1$. From the ground state, the system is brought into a nontrivial polaritonic final state by driving the cavity. The black dashed line refers to the moment when the ac coherent drive is switched off. Inset: Standard deviation with the same parameters.

lattice system reads

$$H = \sum_j H_j + \kappa \sum_{(i,j)} (a_j^\dagger a_i + \text{H.c.}), \quad (38)$$

where H_j is given by Eq. (35) for each site. We then treat the photonic coupling term in a mean-field manner, which results in an additional effective drive term whose strength depends on the mean-field parameter $\langle a(t) \rangle$, which we consider to be independent of the spatial site i . We then propagate the Schrödinger equation with this one-site effective Hamiltonian, and compute the occupancies of all the levels. If the time $t_\kappa \approx 1/\kappa$ is much greater than the switch-off time t_s we can reasonably treat the drive term individually on each site (cavity). This suggests that if the transition from the ground state to the first polariton is performed in a fast manner and if dissipation effects are weak [124] ($\alpha \lesssim 10^{-5}$), this results in a polariton blockade for time scales smaller than t_κ [25]. This regime seems accessible in circuit QED experiments, where the resonator frequency ω_0 ranges between 1 and 15 GHz. Experimental parameters could be tuned in order to have $g/\omega_0 \simeq 10^{-2}$ and $\kappa/\omega_0 < 10^{-3}$ for instance [124], which implies that $t_s \ll t_\kappa$. We note however that when the interaction strength between the cavities becomes more important, this protocol is no longer valid; see Fig. 11.

V. SUMMARY

We have addressed the dynamics of the driven and dissipative quantum Rabi model. We have made quantitative predictions for the spin dynamics which can be tested experimentally. We have also shown the possibility to temporarily reach a single-polariton state at short times, which constitutes a step towards the realization of a driven Mott state of polaritons in realistic conditions [124]. The stochastic approach described

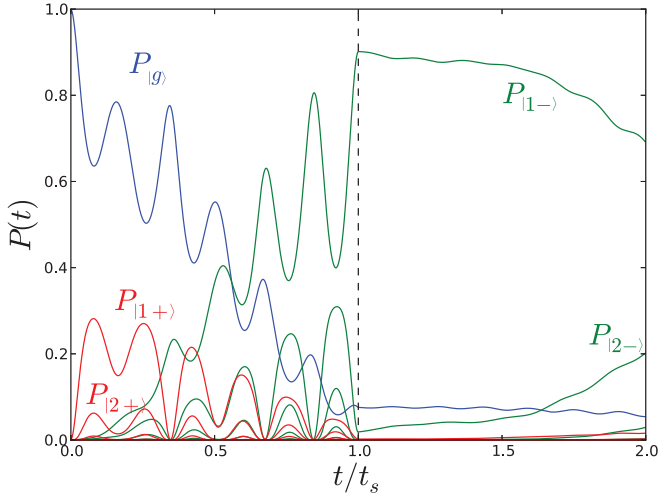


FIG. 11. (Color online) Probabilities of level occupancies for the driven and dissipative case. The probability of finding the system in the ground state is in blue. The probabilities corresponding to the “−” subladder are in green, while the probabilities corresponding to the “+” subladder are in red. The system initially is in its ground state; parameters are $g/\omega_0 = 0.02$, $\Delta/\omega_0 = 0.9$, $V_0/\omega_0 = 0.1$, and $\kappa/\omega_0 = 0.04$. A driving ac field is applied; t_s refers to the time at which we switch off the drive. We remark that the green “plateau” with one polariton $|1-\rangle$ is far from 1 and drops off rapidly. The polaritonic state is not stable.

in the present work could be generalized to (other) hybrid systems [95,125–131], photon lattices [64,132–144] with artificial gauge fields [145–154], and fermion systems subject to time-dependent fields (potentials) [155–173]. Other avenues could be the study of the matter-phonon coupling, dissipative spin, and Kondo models.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX: SAMPLING OF THE FIELDS h_ξ AND h_η

Here, we describe how one can sample the two stochastic variables with the correlation properties given by Eqs. (20). We introduce variables $\tau_k = t_k/t_f$ with t_f being the final time of the experiment or simulation. Hence $Q_2(\tau)$ and $Q_1(\tau)\theta(\tau)$ are defined on $[-1, 1]$. We extend their definitions by making them two-periodic functions and it is then possible to expand them into Fourier series [59].

For the Rabi problem without dissipation, we define

$$h_\xi(t_j) = i \frac{g}{\omega_0} (s_1 \cos \omega_0 t_j + s_2 \sin \omega_0 t_j) + \frac{g}{\sqrt{8\omega_0}} \{v_1 \phi(\tau_j) + i v_2 \phi(\tau_j) + v_3 \phi^*(\tau_j) + i v_4 \phi^*(\tau_j)\} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \phi_m(\tau_j) \left(\frac{i f_m^s}{4}\right)^{1/2} (u_{1,m} + i u_{2,m}) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \phi_m^*(\tau_j) \left(\frac{i f_m^s}{4}\right)^{1/2} (u_{3,m} + i u_{4,m}), \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$h_\eta(t_j) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \phi_m(\tau_j) \left(\frac{i f_m^s}{4}\right)^{1/2} (u_{1,m} - i u_{2,m}) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \phi_m^*(\tau_j) \times \left(\frac{i f_m^s}{4}\right)^{1/2} (u_{3,m} - i u_{4,m}) + \frac{g}{\sqrt{8\omega_0}} \{v_1 \phi^*(\tau_j) - i v_2 \phi^*(\tau_j) - v_3 \phi(\tau_j) + i v_4 \phi(\tau_j)\}, \quad (\text{A2})$$

where $\phi(\tau) = \exp(i\omega_0 \tau t_f)$ and $\phi_m(\tau) = \exp(im\pi\tau)$. The choice of a Fourier basis is particularly well suited for the Rabi model where coupling functions are trigonometric functions. We have an analytical expression for the Fourier coefficients $\{f_m^s = (g^2/\omega_0^2) \int_{-1}^1 d\tau \theta(\tau) \sin \omega_0 t_f \tau \cos m\pi\tau = (g^2 t_f/\omega_0) [1 - (-1)^m \cos \omega_0 t_f] / (\omega_0^2 t_f^2 - m^2 \pi^2)\}$. The convergence is then controlled until ratios g/ω_0 around unity are achieved for experiment and simulation times of the order of $2\pi/\omega_0$.

A slightly different procedure for the Ohmic spin-boson model in the scaling regime ($\Delta/\omega_c \ll 1$ and $0 < \alpha < 1/2$) is used in Ref. [59].

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