# Restoring coherence via aperiodic drives in a many-body quantum system

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We study the unitary dynamics of randomly or quasiperiodically driven tilted Bose-Hubbard (tBH) model in one dimension deep inside its Mott phase starting from a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  symmetry-broken state. The randomness is implemented via a telegraph noise protocol in the drive period while the quasiperiodic drive is chosen to correspond to a Thue-Morse sequence. The periodically driven tBH model (with a square pulse protocol characterized by a time period T) is known to exhibit transitions from dynamical regimes with long-time coherent oscillations to those with rapid thermalization. Here we show that starting from a regime where the periodic drive leads to rapid thermalization, a random drive, which consists of a random sequence of square pulses with period  $T + \alpha dT$ , where  $\alpha = \pm 1$  is a random number and dT is the amplitude of the noise, restores long-time coherent oscillations for special values of dT. A similar phenomenon can be seen for a quasiperiodic drive following a Thue-Morse sequence where such coherent behavior is shown to occur for a larger number of points in the (T, dT) plane due to the additional structure of the drive protocol. We chart out the dynamics of the system in the presence of such aperiodic drives, provide a qualitative analytical understanding of this phenomenon, point out the role of quantum scars behind it, and discuss experiments which can test our theory.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that the bulk energy spectrum of any nonintegrable many-body quantum system satisfies the eigenstate thermalization hypothesis (ETH) [1–4]. ETH provides a natural explanation of eventual thermalization starting from a generic nonequilibrium many-body quantum state. One of the consequences of ETH is the decay of coherent quantum oscillations in the expectation value of a generic local operator during its evolution as the system reaches a steady state [5,6]; such a decay is characterized by a system-dependent timescale,  $\tau_{th}$ , which is identified as the thermalization time. The divergence of the thermalization time leading to failure of ETH is seen in many-body localized systems where strong disorder leads to nonergodicity [7]. Another weaker violation of ETH occurs in certain disorder-free systems due to the presence of special energy eigenstates, dubbed as many-body quantum scars, in the spectrum of the bulk eigenstates of these systems [8-11]. The consequence of the presence of such states in the eigenstates of the Hamiltonian describing a Rydberg chain was experimentally verified via the observation of long-time coherence oscillation of Rydberg excitations [9]. It was noted that such long-time oscillations, which occur only if the starting state is  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$  (a state with one Rydberg excitation on every alternate site), could not be explained within the framework of ETH [10,11]. Instead, their presence occurs due to the existence of quantum scars which are states with finite energy density but subthermal half-chain entanglement:  $S_{L/2} \sim \ln L$  where L refers to the total number of sites in the chain. These states have a large and finite overlap with  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$  and form an almost closed subspace in the system's

Hilbert space. The evolution of the system, starting from the  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$  state, therefore occurs within this almost closed subspace leading to the breakdown of ergodicity and failure of ETH.

More recently, the fate of such scar-induced coherent oscillations were studied in the context of a periodically driven Rydberg chain [12]. It was shown that for high drive frequencies where the properties of the system can be understood in terms of a Floquet Hamiltonian  $H_F$  [13] computed using Magnus expansion [14], the bulk eigenstates of  $H_F$  host scars whose presence lead to long-time coherent oscillations in the density-density correlation function of the Rydberg atoms. In contrast, at low frequencies,  $H_F$  do not host scars and the correlation function shows expected thermalization consistent with ETH prediction. In between, at intermediate drive frequencies, the system undergoes several reentrant transitions between thermal and coherent regimes. The reason for such a transition could be analytically, albeit qualitatively, understood by noting that a special class of local terms in  $H_F$ , which are responsible for hosting scars in its eigenspectrum, have vanishing amplitude at special drive frequencies. Near these drive frequencies, the system crosses over from coherent to thermal behavior. The density-density correlator displays increasingly shorter  $\tau_{th}$  as these special frequencies are approached. The fastest thermalization occurs in the vicinity of these special frequencies where coherent oscillations are almost absent [12].

In this work, we study the driven tilted Bose-Hubbard model (tBH) in the presence of random and quasiperiodic drives. The model Hamiltonian we use for such a study involves a representation of this model in terms of Ising spins [12,15] and is given by

$$H_0 = \sum_j \left( -w \tilde{\sigma}_j^x + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sigma_j^z \right), \tag{1}$$

where  $\sigma_j^{\alpha}$  for  $\alpha = x, y, z$  denote Pauli spin matrices on site *j* of the chain,  $\tilde{\sigma}_j^{\alpha} = P_{j-1}\sigma_j^{\alpha}P_{j+1}, P_j = (1 - \sigma_j^z)/2$  is a projection operator which projects to the  $|\downarrow\rangle$  state, and *w* and  $\lambda$  denote strength of the effective transverse and longitudinal field terms of the spin model. Furthermore, there is an additional constraint that the spins on any two neighboring sites cannot simultaneously be  $|\uparrow,\uparrow\rangle$ .

In what follows, we shall always be in the regime  $w/|\lambda| \ll 1$  and drive  $\lambda$  according to some given protocol keeping w fixed. More specifically, in this work, we shall be studying two drive protocols. The first involves a random sequence of square pulses with period  $T_{\pm} = T + \alpha dT$ , where  $\alpha = \pm 1$  is a random number and dT is the strength of the noise. We note that such noisy drives were studied in other contexts in Refs. [16,17]. The second protocol involves a quasiperiodic drive which follows the Thue-Morse sequence [16,18] (other aperiodic drive protocols such as the Fibonacci sequence were studied earlier in different contexts [19,20]) for which the sequence of numbers { $\alpha_i$ }, rather than being random, satisfies

$$\{\alpha_{2n}\} = \{\alpha_n\}, \quad \{\alpha_{2n+1}\} = -\{\alpha_n\},$$
 (2)

with  $\alpha_0 = -1$ . The drive period for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  square pulse following the Thue-Morse protocol is then given by  $T_n = T + \alpha_n dT$ .

The central results that we obtain from such a study are as follows. First, starting from the initial state  $|\psi_0\rangle =$  $(|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle + |\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$  (where  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$  is the time-reversed counterpart of  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$  and  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle = |\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\cdots\rangle$ ), for the case of random protocol, we show that the presence of the telegraphic noise with specific noise strength dT may restore coherent oscillations of the spin correlation functions even when such correlators shows ETH predicted thermalization in the absence of noise. We demonstrate this by exact numerics on finite-sized Rydberg chains with length  $L \leq 26$ . Second, using the fact that  $w/|\lambda(t)| \ll 1$  at all times, we provide an analytic explanation of this phenomenon. Our results allow us to provide a phase diagram as a function of dT and T which indicates the specific values of dT and T at which we expect such coherent behavior; these results agree qualitatively with the prediction of exact numerics. Moreover, our analysis elucidate the role of quantum scars behind this phenomenon. Third, we demonstrate the presence of coherence restoration for dynamics using the Thue-Morse sequence at specific values of dTand provide a semi-analytic explanation for their occurrence. Finally, we discuss experiments involving ultracold Rydberg chain which can test our theory.

The plan of the paper is as follows. In Sec. II, we discuss the model Hamiltonian and its relation to the Hamiltonian governing the dynamics of one-dimensional (1D) Rydberg atoms. This is followed by Secs. III and IV where we present our results on random and quasiperiodic drive protocols. Finally, we chart out our main results, discuss experiments which can be used to verify them, and conclude in Sec. V. A few details regarding dynamics of the correlation function are presented in the Appendix.

#### **II. MODELS**

In this section, we chart out the model used in the present study and its relation to the Hamiltonian describing atoms in an ultracold Rydberg chain. We start with the tilted Bose-Hubbard model given by

$$H = -w_0 \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (b_i^{\dagger} b_j + \text{H.c.}) - \sum_i (\mu_0 + E_1 i) n_i^b + \sum_i \frac{U}{2} n_i^b (n_i^b - 1), \qquad (3)$$

where  $b_i(b_i^{\dagger})$  denotes the boson annihilation (creation) operator on site *i* of a 1D chain,  $n_i^b = b_i^{\dagger} b_i$  is the number operator for bosons,  $E_1$  denotes the effective electric field for the bosons which controls the magnitude of the tilt,  $\mu_0$  is the boson chemical potential,  $w_0$  is the amplitude for nearest-neighbor hopping, and U is the on-site interaction strength.

It is well known that the effective low-energy description of these models can be achieved in terms of dipoles living on a link  $\ell$  between two consecutive lattice sites j and j'. The creation operator for these dipoles can be written as  $d_{\ell}^{\dagger} = b_{j}^{\dagger}b_{j-1}/\sqrt{n_{0}(n_{0}+1)}$ , where  $n_{0}$  is the ground-state occupation of the parent Mott state without the tilt. In terms of these dipoles the effective low-energy Hamiltonian can be written as [15]

$$H_d = \sum_{\ell} \left[ -w(d_{\ell} + d_{\ell}^{\dagger}) + \lambda n_{\ell}^d \right], \tag{4}$$

where  $w = w_0 \sqrt{n_0(n_0 + 1)}$  is the amplitude for spontaneous creation and annihilation of dipoles,  $\lambda = (U - E_1)$  is the dipole chemical potential, and  $n_{\ell}^d = d_{\ell}^{\dagger} d_{\ell}$  is the dipole number operator. The Hamiltonian  $H_d$  is to be supplemented by two constraint conditions that make it nonintegrable:  $n_{\ell}^d \leq 1$  and  $n_{\ell}^{d} n_{\ell+1}^{d} = 0$ . The first ensures that the maximum number of dipoles on any link is unity and the second guarantees that there are no states with two dipoles on neighboring links. For large positive  $\lambda/w$ , the ground state of the model consists of a dipole vacuum while for large negative  $\lambda/w$ , it is a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetry-broken state with the maximal number of dipoles which we denote as  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$ . These two states are separated by a quantum phase transition at  $\lambda/w = -1.31\sqrt{n_0(n_0+1)}$  which belongs to the Ising universality class. The nonequilibrium dynamics of the model, starting from the dipole vacuum or  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$  has been studied for quench, ramp, and periodic protocols [21]. The model has also been experimentally realized using ultracold boson chains [22].

In what follows, we shall use a spin representation of this dipole model which allows us to implement the constraint in an easier manner. To this end, we use the transformation  $\sigma_{\ell}^{x[y]} = [i](d_{\ell} + [-]d_{\ell}^{\dagger})$  and  $\sigma_{\ell}^{z} = 2n_{\ell}^{d} - 1$ . In terms of the spin variables, one obtains

$$H_s = \sum_{\ell} \left( -w\sigma_{\ell}^x + \lambda \sigma_{\ell}^z/2 \right), \tag{5}$$

with the constraint  $(1 + \sigma_{\ell}^z)(1 + \sigma_{\ell+1}^z) = 0$ . It was noted in Ref. [11] that this constraint condition could be implemented by a local projection operator  $P_{\ell} = (1 - \sigma_{\ell}^z)/2$  which enables one to equate  $H_s$  to  $H_0$ . For  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $H_0$  only contains a single

term and has been referred to as the PXP model [10,11,23]. It is well known that for  $\lambda = 0$ , the eigenspectrum of  $H_0$  hosts quantum scars and leads to the long-time coherent oscillation of  $O_{\ell_1\ell_2} = \langle \sigma_{\ell_1}^z \sigma_{\ell_1+\ell_2}^z \rangle$  [9].

Such a long-time coherent oscillatory behavior of the spin correlator was experimentally verified in a Rydberg chain. The effective low-energy Hamiltonian for these Rydberg atoms can be written as [9]

$$H_{\text{Ryd}} = \sum_{i} \left( \Omega \sigma_i^x + \Delta n_i \right) + \sum_{ij} V_{ij} n_i n_j, \qquad (6)$$

where  $n_i \leq 1$  is the number of Rydberg atoms on site *i*,  $\Delta$  denotes the detuning parameter used to facilitate a Rydberg excitation,  $V_{ij} \sim 1/|i - j|^3$  is the interaction between them,  $\sigma_x^i = |R_i\rangle\langle G_i| + \text{H.c.}$  describes the coupling between atoms in the Rydberg excited  $(|R_i\rangle)$  and ground  $(|G_i\rangle)$  states. We note that experiments on these system can tune  $V_{ij}$  such that  $V_{ii+1} \gg \Delta, \Omega \gg V_{ii+2}$  [9]; in this case, the interaction acts as a constraint of not having two Rydberg excitations on neighboring sites. In this regime  $H_{\text{RYD}}$  can be directly mapped to  $H_0$  with  $\Omega \rightarrow -w$ ,  $n_i \rightarrow (1 + \sigma_\ell^2)/2$ , and  $\Delta \rightarrow \lambda$ .

Before ending this section, we note that the periodic dynamics of  $H_0$  was also studied recently using a square pulse protocol which drives  $\lambda(t)$  between  $\lambda$  and  $-\lambda$  in the regime  $w/\lambda \ll 1$  [12]. In particular, the stroboscopic evolution of  $O_{22}$  as a function of the drive cycle *n* for several frequencies starting from the  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$  state has been shown to display longterm coherent oscillations in the high drive frequency regime. This behavior has been tied to the presence of scars in the Floquet Hamiltonian of the driven system. At low frequencies, scars were absent and the system displayed thermalization consistent with ETH. In between, at moderate drive frequencies,  $O_{22}$  shows several reentrant transitions between thermal and coherent behavior. In what follows, we are going to perform a similar study for  $H_0$  in the presence of random and quasiperiodic drive protocols.

#### **III. RANDOM DRIVE PROTOCOL**

In this section, we shall address the dynamics of the system described by  $H_s$  [Eq. (5)] in the presence of a random sequence of square pulses which makes the parameter  $\lambda$  time dependent. In this work, we shall be interested in the regime where  $w \ll |\lambda(t)|$  throughout the drive cycle. The randomness corresponds to a telegraphic noise in the drive protocol leading to a time period of  $T_{\pm} = T + \alpha dT$ , where  $\alpha = \pm 1$  is a random number and dT denotes the strength of the noise. Under such a drive  $\lambda(t) = +(-)\lambda$  for  $t > (\leq)T_{\pm}/2$ .

To understand the effect of such a random drive, we first note that, in the absence of randomness (dT = 0), the dynamics of  $H_s$ , for  $w \ll \lambda$ , was studied in Ref. [12]. It was found that to  $O(w/\lambda)$ , the Floquet Hamiltonian of the system is given by

$$H_F = -w \frac{\sin(\gamma)}{\gamma} \sum_{j} \left[ \cos(\gamma) \tilde{\sigma}_j^x + \sin(\gamma) \tilde{\sigma}_j^y \right] + \cdots, \quad (7)$$

where  $\gamma = \lambda T/4$ , the ellipsis corresponds to O( $w^3$ ) and higher-order terms whose analytical form is unknown,  $\hbar$  is set to unity here, and in the rest of this work, and  $T = 2\pi/\omega_D$  is the drive period. The corresponding unitary evolution operator is given by  $U = \exp[-iH_FT]$ . It was found that the O(w)term constitutes a renormalized PXP Hamiltonian [12] which vanishes for  $\gamma = n\pi$ . At these points, the Floquet Hamiltonian consists of  $O(w^3)$  (and higher powers of w) terms which have a different structure compared to the PXP Hamiltonian. For  $\gamma \neq n\pi$ , the O(w) term has the most dominant contribution in  $H_F$ . Moreover, the form of these O(w) terms ensures that when they are dominant, the Floquet spectrum hosts scars which lead to long-time coherent dynamics. In contrast, for  $\gamma = n\pi$ , eigenstates of the Floquet Hamiltonian do not host scars and the system exhibits thermalization consistent with ETH.

For random drives it is easy to see that for  $T = T_{\pm}$ , the unitary evolution operators controlling the evolution are given by

$$U_{\pm} = e^{-iH_F^{\pm}T_{\pm}}, \quad H_F^{\pm} = H_F(\gamma \to \gamma_{\pm}), \tag{8}$$

where  $\gamma_{\pm} = \lambda T_{\pm}/4 = \gamma \pm d\gamma$ , and  $d\gamma = \lambda dT/4$ . Thus for a random protocol, the wave function after *n* cycles of the drive would be

$$|\psi_n\rangle = U_- U_- U_+ \cdots U_+ |\psi_0\rangle = \mathcal{U}|\psi_0\rangle, \qquad (9)$$

where  $|\psi_n\rangle$  denotes the wave function after *n* drive cycles starting from the initial state  $|\psi_0\rangle$ , and  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  occur randomly with equal probability in the string of evolution operators represented by  $\mathcal{U}$  in Eq. (9).

In the presence of such a drive, the effect of randomness manifests itself through the action of the commutator  $[U_+, U_-]$  on the state. This can be easily seen by noting that the Floquet eigenvectors corresponding to  $U_{\pm}$  changes only when it is operated on by a subsequent  $U_{\mp}$  in the random string in Eq. (9). This change occurs since eigenvectors of  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  are different; it vanishes if  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  commute. Such a commutation of  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  clearly occurs for dT = 0since it amounts to the absence of randomness. However, in the  $w \ll |\lambda(t)|$  limit, the leading terms of these commutators also vanish at special values of dT/T. To see this we compute  $C = [U_+, U_-]$ . Using Eqs. (7) and (8) we find

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_0 + \dots = \left(\frac{4w}{\lambda}\right)^2 \sin(2d\gamma)\sin(\gamma + d\gamma)\sin(\gamma - d\gamma)$$
$$\times \sum_{j,j'} \left[\tilde{\sigma}_j^y, \tilde{\sigma}_{j'}^x\right] + \dots, \tag{10}$$

where the expression is valid for  $w/\lambda \ll 1$ , and the ellipsis beyond  $C_0$  indicate higher-order terms in  $w/\lambda$ . We note that if the norm of the commutator vanishes, it is possible to rearrange  $U_-$  and  $U_+$  in Eq. (9) in pairs. Since, in the random string of evolution operators in Eq. (9), the occurrence of  $U_+$ and  $U_-$  are equally likely, for large-enough *n*, the dynamics could have been described by an average Floquet Hamiltonian:  $|\psi(t)\rangle \simeq \exp[-iH_{e}^{x}nT]|\psi_0\rangle$ , where

$$H_F^{\mathrm{av}} = (H_+T_+ + H_-T_-)/(2T) + \cdots$$
  
$$= \frac{w}{\gamma} \sum_j \left[ c_1(T) \tilde{\sigma}_j^x + c_2(T) \tilde{\sigma}_j^y \right] + \cdots,$$
  
$$c_1(T) = \sin(2[\gamma + d\gamma]) + \sin(2[\gamma - d\gamma]),$$
  
$$c_2(T) = 2 - \cos(2[\gamma + d\gamma]) - \cos(2[\gamma - d\gamma]), \quad (11)$$



FIG. 1. Left panel: Plot of  $||C_0||(\lambda/4w)^2$  as a function of  $\gamma$  and dT/T showing dips at  $dT/T = k\pi/2$  and  $k\pi + \gamma$ . Right: Plot of  $||H_F^{av}||/w$  as a function of  $\gamma$  and dT/T.

where ellipsis indicate terms  $O(w^m)$  for  $m \ge 3$  which do not support scars [12].

Using Eqs. (10) and (11), we can now chart out analytical conditions for having long-time coherent oscillations in the presence of the random drive. The first condition for such an oscillation is the sufficiently weak randomization of Floquet eigenstates which occurs when the leading term in the norm of the commutator  $||C_0|| = (4w/\lambda)^2 \sin(2d\gamma) \sin(\gamma + d\gamma) \sin(\gamma - d\gamma)$  vanishes. This leads to the condition

$$d\gamma = k\frac{\pi}{2}$$
 or  $d\gamma = k\pi \pm \gamma$ , (12)

where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We note that Eq. (12) constitutes a necessary but not sufficient condition for coherent oscillations. For such oscillations, in addition to weak-enough randomization of Floquet eigenvectors, one also needs to ensure that  $H_F^{av}$ which controls the dynamics when  $||C_0|| = 0$  hosts scars. This requires an additional constraint that the leading term in the norm of  $H_F^{av}$ ,  $||H_F^{av}|| = w\sqrt{c_1(T)^2 + c_2(T)^2}$ , does not vanish [i.e.,  $c_1(T)$  and  $c_2(T)$  do not vanish simultaneously]. This leads to the condition

$$d\gamma \neq k'\pi \quad \text{if} \quad \gamma = k\pi,$$
 (13)

where  $k, k' \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We note that the conditions given by Eqs. (12) and (13) ensure that the effect of the telegraphic noise is minimal and that the dynamics is controlled by scars in the eigenspectrum of  $H_F^{av}$ . Thus these points in the parameter space of the system are likely to host coherent oscillations. These conditions are represented in Fig. 1. The left panel shows the regions in the  $dT/T - \gamma$  plane where  $||C_0|| = 0$ , while the right panel indicates regions where  $||H_F^{av}||$  remains finite. The common points between these two regions that satisfy both these criteria are the ones where one expects restoration of coherence in the presence of noise.

To verify the restoration of coherence, we numerically compute  $O_{\ell 2}$ . To this end, we note that both  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  can be expressed in terms of the eigenvalues  $\epsilon_p^{(1)[(2)]}$  and eigenvectors  $|p^{(1),[(2)]}\rangle$  of  $H_s^{1[2]} = H_F(+[-]\lambda)$  as

$$U_{\pm} = \sum_{p,q} e^{-i(\epsilon_q^{(1)} + \epsilon_p^{(2)})T_{\pm}/2} \mu_{pq}^{12} |p^{(2)}\rangle \langle q^{(1)}|, \qquad (14)$$

where  $\mu_{pq}^{12} = \langle p^{(2)} | q^{(1)} \rangle$ . These eigenvalues and eigenvectors are computed numerically using exact diagonalization for a finite-size system with  $L \leq 26$ . Using this, one can numeri-



FIG. 2. Plot of  $O_{22}$  as a function of the number of drive cycle n for L = 26,  $\omega_D = 7.75$ , and  $\lambda = 15$  for (a) dT/T = 0, (b) 0.1, (c) 0.3, (d) 0.5, (e) 0.9, and (f) 1. The plot indicates clear return of coherent oscillation for dT/T = 0.5. All energies (frequencies) are scaled in units of  $w/\sqrt{2} [w/(\hbar\sqrt{2})]$  and  $\hbar$  is set to unity. The blue dashed line in all panels corresponds to the infinite temperature ensemble value of  $O_{22}$ .

cally compute  $O_{\ell 2}$  as

$$O_{\ell 2} = \langle \psi_0 | \mathcal{U}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\ell}^z \sigma_{\ell+2}^z \mathcal{U} | \psi_0 \rangle.$$
(15)

We note that translational symmetry ensures that  $O_{\ell 2}$  is independent of  $\ell$ ; in what follows we shall therefore concentrate on  $O_{22}$ .

The numerical plot of  $O_{22}$ , shown in Figs. 2 and 3, supports the expectation obtained from the analytical consideration charted out earlier in the section. In Fig. 2, we plot  $O_{22}$  as a function of the number of drive cycles *n*, for  $\omega_D = 7.75$ (which corresponds to  $\gamma \simeq 2$ ) and for several representative values of dT/T. We note that for these systems, for dT = 0, the system shows rapid thermalization consistent with ETH as pointed out in Ref. [12]. Here we find that coherent oscillations pick up as we tune towards dT/T = 0.5, where  $||C_0|| = 0$  and  $||H_F^{av}|| \neq 0$ . At dT/T = 0.5, the system



FIG. 3. Plot of  $O_{22}$  as a function of *n* for L = 26,  $\omega_D = 3.9$ , and  $\lambda = 15$  (a) dT/T = 0, (b) 0.25, (c) 0.5, and (d) 0.75. The coherent oscillatory behavior exhibits a much slower decay time for dT/T = 0.25 than for dT/T = 0.75. All units and the definition of the blue dashed line are same as in Fig. 2.



FIG. 4. Plot of ||C||(black solid line) and ||C'|| (red solid line) (both normalized by the square of the Hilbert space dimension)for L = 26 and  $\omega_D = 7.75$  as a function of dT/T showing clear dip of ||C|| at dT/T = 1/2. All units are same as in Fig. 2.

exhibits long-time coherent oscillations and constitutes an example of coherence restoration by temporal disorder. To check that this is indeed the case, we plot  $||C|| = ||[U_+, U_-]||$  and  $||C'|| = ||U_+U_-||$  (normalized by the square of the Hilbert space dimension) for  $\omega_D = 7.75$  as a function of dT/T. The plot, shown in Fig. 4, indicates a clear dip of ||C|| at dT/T = 0.5 where ||C'|| remain finite. This corroborates our expectation from the earlier discussion based on analysis of  $||C_0||$  and  $||H_F^{av}||$ .

A similar noise-induced restoration of coherence is seen in Fig. 3 for  $\omega_D = 3.9 \ (\gamma \simeq 4)$  where long-time coherent oscillations of  $O_{22}$  returns at dT/T = 1/4, 3/4. This is in accordance with prediction of Eqs. (12) and (13). Note that in this case  $||\mathcal{C}_0|| = 0$  at dT/T = 0.5; however,  $||H_F^{av}||$  also vanishes at this point and O22 does not exhibit long-time oscillations. The analytical prediction is further verified by numerical plot of ||C|| and ||C'|| at  $\omega_D = 3.9$  as a function of dT/T as shown in Fig. 5. We find a clear dip in ||C||at dT/T = 1/4, 1/2, 3/4. However, at dT/T = 1/2, ||C'||also vanishes leading to the absence of long-term coherent oscillations as discussed. Finally, we note that the restoration of coherence is more robust at dT/T = 1/4 compared to dT/T = 3/4. This feature can be qualitatively understood as follows. We first note that the thermalization in these systems leading to destruction of coherence occurs due to action of C; thus ||C|| is an indicator of the strength of this term. Next, we note that such terms lead to finite matrix elements between states within the scar subspace and states within the ETH band. This can be checked by noting that  $C_0$  [the first term in Eq. (10)] indeed leads to such matrix elements. Thus it is expected that the thermalization time of  $O_{22}$ ,  $\tau_{th}$ , would depend on ||C||. The expression of  $\tau_{th}$  can be estimated using Fermi's golden rule and assuming a constant density of state  $\rho_0$  for states in the thermal band to be  $\tau_{\rm th}^{-1} \simeq 2\pi \rho_0 ||\mathcal{C}||^2 \sim ||\mathcal{C}||^2$ . Thus a larger ||C|| is expected to lead to shorter thermalization time and faster loss of coherence. This feature is manifested in the relatively shorter thermalization time of oscillations for dT/T = 0.75 in Fig. 3 compared to those for dT/T = 0.25. Although  $||C_0||$  vanishes in both cases, the remaining terms



FIG. 5. Plot of ||C||(black solid line) and ||C'|| (red solid line) (both normalized by the square of the Hilbert space dimension) for L = 26 and  $\omega_D = 3.9$  as a function of dT/T showing clear dip of ||C|| at dT/T = 1/4, 1/2, and 3/4. Note that ||C'|| also vanishes around dT/T = 1/2 whereas it remains finite for dT/T = 1/4 and 3/4. All units are the same as in Fig. 2.

lead to a larger ||C|| and hence shorter thermalization time for dT/T = 0.75.

### **IV. QUASIPERIODIC DRIVE PROTOCOL**

In this section, we will study the dynamics of the system when it is driven by a Thue-Morse sequence (TMS) generated by the two evolution operators  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  given in Eq. (8). The motivation for this is that a TMS generated by two noncommuting operators is known to generate unusual longtime behaviors which are quite different from those generated by a random sequence [16]. The TMS is generated as follows [16]. Defining  $A_0 = U_+$  and  $B_0 = U_-$ , we recursively define

$$A_{m+1} = B_m A_m, \quad B_{m+1} = A_m B_m,$$
 (16)

for all  $m \ge 0$ . The wave function after  $2^n$  drives is then given by

$$\psi_{2^n}\rangle = A_n |\psi_0\rangle. \tag{17}$$

For instance, the wave function after  $2^3 = 8$  drives is

$$|\psi_8\rangle = A_3|\psi_0\rangle = U_-U_+U_+U_-U_+U_-U_+|\psi_0\rangle.$$
 (18)

It is clear that one can use the recursion relations in Eq. (16) to generate a sequence of  $2^n$  drives by performing only 2n matrix multiplications. This enables us to study relatively easily what happens after an exponentially large number of drives.

We will now study the conditions under which the dynamics generated by Eqs. (16) and (17) gives long-time coherent oscillations. As discussed in Sec. III, this will happen if the evolution operators  $A_0$  and  $B_0$  commute, but  $A_1 = B_0A_0$  is not equal to the identity operator and it has scar states as its eigenstates. However, the recursive form of Eq. (16) implies that even if  $A_0$  and  $B_0$  do not commute, we can still obtain long-time coherent oscillations if  $A_1$  and  $B_1$  commute (since the unitary dynamics after an even number of drives can be written solely in terms of  $A_1$  and  $B_1$ ), but  $A_2 = B_1A_1$  is not equal to the identity and it hosts scar states. Clearly, this



FIG. 6. Plots of  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(0)}||$  (black line),  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(1)}||$  (red line) and  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(2)}||$  (green line) versus dT/T, for  $\omega_D = 7.5$ , and  $\lambda = 15$ . All units are the same as in Fig. 2.

idea can work at higher and higher levels. We thus obtain a hierarchy of possibilities for getting coherent oscillations, given by the condition that although  $A_{n-1}$  and  $B_{n-1}$  do not commute,  $A_n$  and  $B_n$  commute, and  $A_{n+1} = B_n A_n$  is not equal to the identity and it hosts scars. We define the norm of the level *n* commutator as  $||\mathcal{C}^{(n)}|| \equiv ||[A_n, B_n]||$ . To demonstrate this point, we consider the O(w) approximation to  $H_F$  and write  $U_{\pm} = \exp[-iH_F^{\pm}T]$ , where  $H_F^{\pm}$  is given by Eq. (7) with  $\gamma \rightarrow \gamma_{\pm}$ . Using these we construct the matrices  $A_1 = U_+ U_$ and  $B_1 = U_- U_+$  and compute  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(1)}||$ . A similar procedure leads to  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(2)}||$ . Here, the subscript 0 in  $\mathcal{C}_0^{(n)}$  refers to the fact that only the O(w) approximation to  $H_F$  was used for the computations. Figure 6 shows plots of  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(n)}||$  versus dT/T for n = 0, 1 and 2, when  $\omega = 7.5, w = \sqrt{2}$ , and  $\lambda = 15$ . These norms are seen to approach zero for a range  $dT/T \leq 0.2$ and  $dT/T \ge 0.8$  implying that coherent oscillations can be expected to occur around such values. We note, however, that these expectations from a O(w) theory is qualitative; clearly higher-order terms are expected to reduce this range to (possibly) discrete points. A more precise investigation of this behavior requires exact numerics which we now carry out.

The plot of the correlation function  $O_{22}$  as a function of *n* for  $\omega_D = 7.5$ ,  $w = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $\lambda = 15$  and several representative values of dT/T is shown in Fig. 7. The left panel shows results for the random protocol while the right panel shows that for TMS. We note that similar to the random sequence discussed in Sec. III, the TMS also leads to quick thermalization when  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(0)}|| \neq 0$ , and to coherent oscillation when  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(0)}|| = 0$  but the leading term in  $||H_F^{av}||/w$  is nonzero. This can be from Figs. 7(e) and 7(f) where both the random [Fig. 7(e)] and TMS [Fig. 7(f)] at dT/T = 0.5 display coherent oscillations. However, as shown in the top panel (dT/T = 0.1) of Fig. 7, TMS may lead to oscillatory behavior at special values of dT/T[Fig. 7(b)] even when random protocol leads to thermalization [Fig. 7(c)]. In the middle panel of Fig. 7, a comparison between the behavior of  $O_{22}$  driven by random [Fig. 7(c)] and TMS [Fig. 7(d)] also indicates a much longer thermalization time for the latter. This can be understood to be a precursor to the oscillatory behavior of  $O_{22}$  for TMS at dT/T = 0.3, analogous to that found for dT/T = 0.1.



FIG. 7. Comparison of  $O_{22}$  as a function of *n* for random (left column) and TMS (right column) at some special points, with L = 26,  $\omega_D = 7.5$ , and  $\lambda = 15$ . (a), (b) dT/T = 0.1, (c), (d) dT/T = 0.25, and (e), (f) dT/T = 0.5. The periodically driven system at these parameters (dT = 0) shows ETH predicted thermalization. All units and the definition of the blue dashed line are the same as in Fig. 2.

It turns out there are several such special points in the (T, dT) parameter space where the random and TMS show drastically different behaviors, namely, rapid thermalization for the random sequence but coherent oscillations for the TMS. We demonstrate four other such point in Fig. 8. For all such points, the random drive leads to rapid thermalization. The coherent behavior of  $O_{22}$  thus reflects the quasiperiodic nature of the TMS which is distinct from a totally random sequence. At these parameter values, the special form of the noise correlation in the TMS (i.e., the particular form of the sequence of  $U_+$ 's and  $U_-$ 's), although not comparable to a perfectly periodic sequence, is sufficient to preserve the memory of the initial  $|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$  state for a long time.



FIG. 8. Plot of  $O_{22}$  as a function of *n* for the TMS showing oscillatory behavior for (a) dT/T = 0.1,  $\omega_D = 6.75$  (b) dT/T = 0.1,  $\omega_D = 8.25$ , (c) dT/T = 0.3,  $\omega_D = 2.5$ , and (d) dT/T = 0.3,  $\omega_D = 5$ . For all these parameter values, the random protocol shows rapid thermalization. The periodically driven system (dT/T = 0) shows coherent oscillations for parameters in (a), (b), and (d) and ETH predicted thermalization for (c). All units and the definition of the blue dashed line are the same as in Fig. 2.



FIG. 9. Motion of  $\psi_n$  on Bloch sphere for  $\lambda = 15$ , and  $(\omega_D, dT/T) = (a) (7.5, 0.3)$ , (b) (7.5, 0.5), (c) (7.5, 0.1), (d) (5.0, 0.3), (e) (2.5, 0.3). In (c)-(e) the yellow (blue) circles are for odd (even) values of *n*. See text for details. All units are same as in Fig. 2.

Due to the aperiodic nature of the TMS, it seems difficult to describe the special points based on an effective many-body Floquet Hamiltonian. However, we find that it is possible to find the positions of these special points without studying the exact many-body dynamics (which is numerically difficult). We demonstrate this by studying the dynamics of a two-level system governed by the following Hamiltonian:

$$H_{2\times 2} = -w \, \frac{\sin \gamma}{\gamma} (\cos \gamma \, \sigma^x + \sin \gamma \, \sigma^y). \tag{19}$$

This is basically the O(w) Hamiltonian in Eq. (7) but with only one site. We now calculate  $U_{\pm}$  using this Hamiltonian and the driven wave function by acting with  $U_{+}$  and  $U_{-}$  on the initial state  $[\psi_0 = (1, 0)^T]$  for a total of  $n_{\text{tot}}$  times following the TMS (we choose  $n_{\text{tot}} = 1000$ ). The two-component driven wave function  $\psi_n$  can be mapped to the Bloch sphere  $[\theta(n), \phi(n)]$  using the parametrization

$$\psi(n) = [\cos(\theta/2)e^{i\phi/2}, \sin(\theta/2)e^{-i\phi/2}]^T.$$
 (20)

We find a completely chaotic motion of  $\psi_n$  on the Bloch sphere for parameters which show quick thermalization to the infinite temperature ensemble in the exact many-body dynamics [see Fig. 9(a)]. On the other hand,  $\psi_n$  follows a regular trajectory on the Bloch sphere when we have coherent oscillations in the exact many-body dynamics. We find that this coherent behavior can be further categorized into at least three classes. For parameter values where  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(0)}|| = 0$  but the leading term in  $||H_F^{av}||/w$  is nonzero, the trajectory is just a single circle [see Fig. 9(b)], whereas at the special points, we see either three circles [see Figs. 9(c) to 9(e) or Fig. 10(c)] or a closed curve made of intertwined ellipses [see Figs. 10(b) and 10(d)]. In fact, both the later cases are encountered when (for example) dT/T is kept fixed at 0.1 and  $\omega_D$  is varied [see Fig. 10(a)]. In the three circle case, we further see that  $\psi_n$ for even values of n are concentrated on one circle, while  $\psi_n$ for odd values of *n* are concentrated on the other two circles. The one circle and the three circle cases can be understood using the recursive structure for the TMS. When  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(0)}|| = 0$ ,  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  commute with each other; this implies that these can be written as

$$U_{+} = e^{i\alpha_{+}\hat{n}_{+}\cdot\vec{\sigma}}, \quad U_{-} = e^{i\alpha_{-}\hat{n}_{-}\cdot\vec{\sigma}}, \quad (21)$$

where the unit vectors  $\hat{n}_+$  and  $\hat{n}_-$  are identical, and  $\alpha_{\pm}$  are nonzero. Hence every term in the TMS sequence has the form given by  $\exp(if_n\hat{n}_+\cdot\vec{\sigma})$ , where  $f_n$  is a number which depends on the number of  $U_+$ 's and  $U_-$ 's which appear in the *n*th term of the TMS. The trajectory of  $|\psi_n\rangle$  therefore lies on a single circle on the Bloch sphere. At other special points

like in Figs. 9(c) to 9(e) and Fig. 10(c),  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  do not commute with each other, but  $U_+U_-$  and  $U_-U_+$  approximately commute with each other, namely,  $||C_0^{(0)}|| \neq 0$  but  $||C_0^{(1)}|| \simeq 0$ . This implies that  $U_+U_-$  and  $U_-U_+$  can be written in forms similar to Eq. (21), with identical unit vectors. Hence after any even number of drives (which are given by products of a certain number of  $U_+U_-$  and  $U_-U_+$ ), we will get points which lie on a single circle on the Bloch sphere. But after an odd number of drives, we will get a point which corresponds to the single circle mentioned above multiplied by either  $U_+$  or  $U_$ depending on which of the two appears at the last drive; these will give two different circles as  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  do not commute. Then, there are other special points where the trajectory on the Bloch sphere is not composed of a single or a three circle but a more complicated closed curve [Figs. 10(b) and 10(d)].

A single quantity as a function of  $\omega_D$  would be useful to see the rarity of the special points where coherent oscillations occur. We note that a regular trajectory means that the fluctuation  $\Delta_{\cos(\phi)}$  in  $\cos \phi(n)$  [where  $\phi(n)$  denotes the value of azimuthal



FIG. 10. (a) Plots of  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(0)}||$  (black line),  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(1)}||$  (red line), and  $||\mathcal{C}_0^{(2)}||$  (green line) versus  $\omega_D$  for a fixed dT/T = 0.1, and  $\lambda = 15$ . Motion of  $\psi_n$  on Bloch sphere for  $\lambda = 15$ , dT/T = 0.1 and  $\omega_D$  equal to (b) 6.75, (c) 7.5, and (d) 8.25. All units are the same as in Fig. 2.



FIG. 11. Plot of  $\Delta_{\cos(\phi)}$  vs  $\omega_D$  for  $\lambda = 15$ , dT/T = (a) 0.1 and (b) 0.3. Black dashed (red solid) lines denotes the graph for random (TM) sequences. Violet circles denote the special points. All units are the same as in Fig. 2.

angle  $\phi$  after *n* drive cycles] will be small. We define

$$\Delta_{\cos(\phi)} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{n=1}^{n_{\text{tot}}} [\cos \phi(n) - \cos \phi_{av}]^2}{n_{\text{tot}}}}, \qquad (22)$$

where  $\cos \phi_{av} = \left[\sum_{n=1}^{n_{\text{tot}}} \cos \phi(n)\right]/n_{\text{tot}}$ . We plot  $\Delta_{\cos(\phi)}$  versus  $\omega_D$  (for both random and TMS) and mark the special points (characterized by prominent dips for only the TMS) by the violet circles in Fig. 11.

The above observations suggest that the coherent oscillations at the special points can be qualitatively understood based on a single site problem; hence they are only due to the interplay between the drive parameters (T, dT) and the drive sequence (TMS in this case). Many-body effects hardly change the positions of these special points.

## **V. DISCUSSION**

In this work, we studied the driven tilted Bose-Hubbard model for aperiodic drive protocols. Our results indicate that for both random and quasiperiodic drives, the presence of aperiodicity can lead to coherent behavior even when the system thermalizes in their absence. We presented an analytical, albeit qualitative, explanation for this phenomenon and pointed out the role of quantum scars behind it.

For random drive protocols, we find that there are specific points in the (T, dT) plane, where the commutator of the evolution operators  $U_+ \equiv U(T + dT)$  and  $U_- \equiv U(T - dT)$ vanish to  $O(w^2/\lambda^2)$ . This means the norm of such commutators become extremely small at these points leading to minimal decoherence due to noise. If at such points  $U_{\pm}$ supports scars in their Floquet Hamiltonian  $H_F^{\pm}$  (note that while one cannot define the Floquet Hamiltonian for the entire random string of  $U_+$  and  $U_-$ , each individual  $U_+$  and  $U_-$  have a well-defined  $H_F$ ), one sees coherent oscillations of correlation functions. We charted out the phase diagram in the (T, dT) plane showing the existence and location of such points showing that random drives can be instrumental



FIG. 12. (a) Plot of  $O_{22}(nT)$  as a function of the number of drive cycles *n* for dT/T = 0.5 and (b) plot of  $O_{22}(\omega)$  as a function of  $\omega$ . All units are the same as in Fig. 2 of the main text.

in restoring coherence in an otherwise thermalizing system which hosts quantum scars in its Floquet spectrum.

For the quasiperiodic drive protocol, we chose the Thue-Morse sequence. We showed that the inherent structure of such a drive protocol leads to several additional coherence restoring points in the (T, dT) plane where the random protocol leads to thermalizing behavior. We plotted an approximate phase-space trajectory for such drives on the local Bloch sphere using a simplified  $2 \times 2$  local Hamiltonian. This analysis leads to four distinct class of trajectories. Three of them, namely, chaotic, single circle, and three circles have a simple explanation as discussed here. However, the intertwined elliptic trajectories does not seem to yield to a simple qualitative explanation. We note here that similar complicated dynamical behavior was studied for a single spin-1/2 subjected to a Fibonacci drive sequence in Ref. [24]. The generalization of this work to the Thue-Morse sequence is left for future work.

The fluctuations of the azimuthal angle of these trajectories are shown to provide a signature for coherent behavior of the many-body system. It will be useful to understand why the points at which coherence is restored in the full manybody driven problem shifts so little from the results of this simplified analysis. Furthermore, the mechanism and phase diagram of possible coherence revivals using other forms of quasiperiodic drive sequences, like the Fibonacci sequence [19], should also be explored. We leave these issues as problems to be explored in future works.

The model we studied is known to provide a low-energy effective description for ultracold Rydberg atoms on which quench experiments were already performed [9]. Moreover, it also serves as the low-energy model on the titled Bose-Hubbard model which was experimentally realized in Refs. [22]. Our theory can, in principle, be verified using any of these experimental platforms. Here we suggest a drive protocol where the detuning parameter (for the platform using Rydberg atoms) or the electric field (for the platform using tilted Bose-Hubbard model) is varied randomly with periodicity T + dT or T - dT. Our prediction, for example, is that for starting from the regime  $\Delta = 15$  (in units of  $\sqrt{2\Omega}$ ) and  $\omega_D = 7.75$  (in units  $\sqrt{2\Omega/\hbar}$ ) where all values dT < 0.5



FIG. 13. (a) Plot of  $O_{22}$  as a function of the number of drive cycles *n* for random drive protocol with dT/T = 0.25 and  $\omega_D = 3.9$  providing a closer look at Fig. 3(b). (b) Same for Fig. 3(d) where dT/T = 0.75 with random drive protocol and  $\omega_D = 3.9$ . (c) Same for Fig. 7(e) where  $\omega_D = 7.75$  and dT/T = 0.5 with random drive protocol corresponding to Fig. 7(f). All units are the same as in corresponding figures of the main text.

leads to rapid thermalization, the Rydberg excitation (or dipole excitation) density and density-density correlation function will display long-time coherent oscillatory behavior for dT/T = 0.5. Richer, albeit similar, effects for coherence restoration shall also be present for a quasiperiodic (Thue-Morse) drive sequence as has been discussed here. In this context, we note that in realistic experiments the constraint is implemented by increasing certain parameters of the model. For the Rydberg platform  $V_{i,i+1}$  is set to a large value while for bosons in a tilted lattice U and E is kept large while maintaining  $|U - E| \ll U, E$ . This indicates that the behavior of the experimental system would deviate from that obtained using model Hamiltonian (spin or dipole models) at sufficiently long timescales; in particular, the scar-induced oscillations are expected to decay over such timescales. However, it was noted in Ref. [9] that these oscillations persist beyond the thermalization time of the experimental system making it possible to distinguish between persistent oscillations and ETH predicted thermalization.

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In conclusion, we studied the driven titled Bose-Hubbard model with aperiodic drive. We showed that the presence of randomness or quasiperiodicity in the drive protocol may restore coherence in such a driven system. We provided an analytic explanation of our results, pointed out the role of quantum scars behind such coherent behavior, and discussed the possibility of its experimental signature in a driven ultracold Rydberg chain or a tilted optical lattice of 1D ultracold bosons.

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## APPENDIX: OSCILLATIONS OF SPIN CORRELATION FUNCTIONS

In the Appendix, we present a closer look at the oscillations of the spin correlation functions  $O_{22}$  for cases where the corresponding plots in the main text, presented over a large number of drive cycles *n*, do not provide the details of such oscillations.

To this end, we first show the plot of  $O_{22}$  for the random drive protocol with dT/T = 0.5 and  $\omega_D/(w/\sqrt{2}) = 2\pi/T =$ 7.75 as shown in Fig. 12(a). The plot shows clear oscillatory behavior; the plot of its Fourier transform  $O_{22}(\omega)$ , which depicts a clear peak at  $\omega_0/(w/\sqrt{2}) \simeq 1.2$ , is shown in Fig. 12(b). We note that this frequency is controlled by energy spacing of scar states in Floquet spectrum of  $H_F^{av}$  [12] and is clearly different from either of the drive frequencies  $\omega_D^{\pm} = 2\pi/(T \pm dT)$ .

Finally, we show similar oscillations for other figures in the main text in Fig. 13 for both random and TMS protocols. These correspond to Figs. 3(b), 3(d), 7(e), and 7(f) of the main text as mentioned in the caption of Fig. 13. In all cases, for both random and TMS protocols, we find clear signature of oscillations analogous to Fig. 12.

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