Quantum Turing bifurcation: Transition from quantum amplitude death to quantum oscillation death

Biswabibek Bandyopadhyay, Taniya Khatun, and Tanmoy Banerjee 0^{*}

Chaos and Complex Systems Research Laboratory, Department of Physics, University of Burdwan, Burdwan 713 104, West Bengal, India

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An important transition from a homogeneous steady state to an inhomogeneous steady state via the Turing bifurcation in coupled oscillators was reported recently [Phys. Rev. Lett. **111**, 024103 (2013)]. However, the same in the quantum domain is yet to be observed. In this paper, we discover the quantum analog of the Turing bifurcation in coupled quantum oscillators. We show that a homogeneous steady state is transformed into an inhomogeneous steady state through this bifurcation in coupled quantum van der Pol oscillators. We demonstrate our results by a direct simulation of the quantum master equation in the Lindblad form. We further support our observations through an analytical treatment of the noisy classical model. Our study explores the paradigmatic Turing bifurcation at the quantum-classical interface and opens up the door toward its broader understanding.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Turing bifurcation [1] leads to heterogeneity from a homogeneous solution through a spontaneous symmetrybreaking mechanism and has been widely studied in the context of pattern formation in chemistry, biology, and physics [2,3]. Although originally proposed to explain the formation of patterns in the macroscopic world, recent studies found that this idea is very much applicable even in the atomic scale and the microscopic quantum domain where the rules are governed by quantum mechanical constraints. For example, Ardizzone et al. [4] reported the appearance of Turing patterns in a coherent quantum fluid of microcavity polaritons. Fuseva et al. [5] provided an experimental evidence of Turing patterns in the atomic scale (e.g., in the atomic bismuth monolayer). The observation of Turing patterns in quantum systems is a promising topic of research as it leads to a broader understanding of Turing patterns and their possible application potentiality [4].

Koseska et al. [6] discovered the Turing bifurcation in "classical" coupled oscillators that governs a transition from a homogeneous steady state to an inhomogeneous steady state. The homogeneous steady state is widely known as the amplitude death (AD) state [7], and the inhomogeneous one is called the oscillation death (OD) state [8]. Unlike the original spatiotemporal Turing scenario, in the case of coupled oscillators the space is discrete and the oscillator index plays the role of the space variable. Later on, this significant transition was verified experimentally in electronic circuits and chemical oscillators [9]. The Turing transition from AD to OD in classical oscillators is generally believed to be relevant in understanding cellular differentiation and other symmetrybreaking phenomena in biological systems [8]. A recent burst of publications reported this transition in a variety of classical systems under diverse coupling schemes [8,10–16].

Although many important emergent dynamics of coupled oscillators, such as synchronization [17–22] and oscillation suppression [23–26], have been explored in the quantum regime, surprisingly, the quantum analog of the Turing bifurcation route from homogeneous to inhomogeneous steady state has remained been unobserved. Recent studies on Pyragas control [27], coherence resonance [28], and relaxation oscillations [29,30] in quantum systems broadened our understanding of the well-known dynamical behaviors in the quantum world. A continuous pursuit of unravelling the classical dynamics in the quantum regime motivates us to search for the Turing-type bifurcation in coupled quantum oscillators.

The quantum amplitude suppression was reported by Ishibashi and Kanamoto [23]. They found that unlike the classical AD state, in the quantum AD (QAD) state the quantum noise resists the complete cessation of oscillations. In the quantum domain, QAD is manifested in the pronounced reduction in the bosonic excitations (e.g., phonon or photon). Later, Amitai et al. [24] found that a Kerr-type nonlinearity enhances the QAD state. However, earlier studies did not observe the quantum inhomogeneous steady state or the quantum OD (QOD) state. The QOD state has recently been discovered by Bandyopadhyay et al. [25] and appears only in the deep quantum regime. In the deep quantum regime, the notion of QAD is elusive because in this region the number of bosonic excitations is sparse and the inherent quantum noise dominates the dynamics. Although Refs. [25,26] reported OOD in the deep quantum regime, the Turing bifurcation route of QAD-QOD transition was not observed there as in this regime the QAD is indistinguishable from a quantum limit cycle. Since, the QAD and QOD appear in two different regimes of quantum domain (QAD: Weak quantum regime; QOD: Deep quantum regime), the direct transition from QAD to QOD through the Turing bifurcation has remained been unobserved.

In this paper, we discover the quantum analog of the Turing bifurcation that gives a transition from QAD to QOD. We

^{*}tbanerjee@phys.buruniv.ac.in; he/his/him

found both QAD and QOD and their transition in the weak quantum regime in quantum van der Pol oscillators coupled through a conjugate coupling. The conjugate coupling scheme was proposed by Karnatak *et al.* [31] as a general scheme to induce AD. This coupling is relevant in systems where the state of a variable interacts with the outcome of a dissimilar variable; for example, in the case of semiconductor lasers, the photon intensity interacts with the injection current [32]. Here we propose the quantum version of this coupling scheme and apply it to quantum van der Pol oscillators. We constitute the quantum master equation of the coupled system in the Lindblad form. Direct simulation of the master equation gives the evidence of the Turing bifurcation. We further support our results using the analytical treatment of the equivalent noisy classical model.

II. COUPLED VAN DER POL OSCILLATORS

We start with two coupled "classical" van der Pol (vdP) oscillators [33], which are coupled via scalar conjugate coupling. A mathematical model of the coupled system reads

$$\dot{x_i} = \omega y_i + \varepsilon (y_{i'} - x_i), \tag{1a}$$

$$\dot{y_j} = -\omega x_j + (k_1 - 8k_2 x_j^2) y_j,$$
 (1b)

where j = 1, 2, j' = 1, 2, and $j \neq j'$. ω is the intrinsic frequency of each oscillator. Here k_1 is the coefficient of linear pumping, k_2 is the coefficient of nonlinear damping ($k_1, k_2 > 0$), and ε is the coupling strength. For $\varepsilon = 0$, Eq. (1) represents the uncoupled van der Pol oscillators.

Note that (1) has a trivial steady state at the origin, $F_{\text{HSS}} \equiv (0, 0, 0, 0)$, and additionally, it has one nontrivial fixed point, $F_{\text{HSS}} \equiv (x^*, y^*, -x^*, -y^*)$, where $x^* = \frac{\omega - \varepsilon}{\varepsilon} y^*$ and $y^* = \frac{\sqrt{k_1 - \frac{\omega(\omega - \varepsilon)}{\varepsilon}}}{\sqrt{8k_2(1 - \frac{\omega}{\varepsilon})}}$. A bifurcation analysis shows that, with increasing ε oscillations cease through an inverse Hopf bifurcation at $\varepsilon_{\text{HB}} = k_1$ and AD emerges where all the oscillators arrive at the stable homogeneous steady state (HSS). The HSS or the AD state losses its stability through a supercritical pitchfork bifurcation at $\varepsilon_{\text{PB}} = \frac{\omega^2}{\omega + k_1}$ and as a result two inhomogeneous steady states (IHSS) emerge: This is the well known *Turing bifurcation* that gives heterogeneity from a homogeneous solution through a spontaneous symmetry-breaking mechanism. Figure 1 presents the bifurcation diagram (using XPPAUT [34]) with ε/k_1 that clearly shows this scenario (for $\omega = 2, k_1 = 1$, and $k_2 = 0.2$).

We can express Eq. (1) in terms of a complex amplitude $\alpha_j = x_j + iy_j$ and the corresponding amplitude equation is derived using the harmonic approximation [25], which reads

$$\dot{\alpha_j} = -i\omega\alpha_j + \left(\frac{k_1}{2} - k_2|\alpha_j|^2\right)\alpha_j - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}[(\alpha_j + \alpha_j^*) + i(\alpha_{j'} - \alpha_{j'}^*)].$$
(2)

At $\varepsilon = 0$, the uncoupled oscillators show a limit cycle oscillation with an amplitude $\sqrt{\frac{k_1}{2k_2}}$. Note that Eq. (2) (with $\varepsilon = 0$) is nothing but the paradigmatic Stuart-Landau oscillator. In the literature of quantum nonlinear dynamics, it is designated as the vdP oscillator under harmonic approximation [17,18].



FIG. 1. Classical bifurcation diagram of (1). $x_{1,2}$ vs ε/k_1 . It shows a Turing bifurcation route from a homogeneous state (AD) to an inhomogeneous state (OD). HB, Hopf bifurcation; PB, pitchfork bifurcation. Red (gray), stable steady state; black, unstable steady state; green (light gray), stable limit cycle. Other parameters are $\omega = 2$ and $(k_1, k_2) = (1, 0.2)$.

The coupled quantum van der Pol oscillators [Eq. (2)] can be represented by the quantum master equation in the density matrix ρ :

$$\dot{\rho} = -i \bigg[\omega(a_1^{\dagger} a_1 + a_2^{\dagger} a_2) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (a_1^{\dagger} a_2 + a_2^{\dagger} a_1) \\ - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (a_1^{\dagger} a_2^{\dagger} + a_1 a_2) - \frac{i\varepsilon}{4} (a_1^{\dagger^2} + a_2^{\dagger^2} - a_1^2 - a_2^2), \rho \bigg] \\ + k_1 \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathcal{D}[a_j^{\dagger}](\rho) + k_2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathcal{D}[a_j^2](\rho) \\ + \varepsilon \sum_{i=1}^2 \mathcal{D}[a_j](\rho),$$
(3)

where $\mathcal{D}[\hat{L}](\rho)$ is the Lindblad dissipator having the form $\mathcal{D}[\hat{L}](\rho) = \hat{L}\rho\hat{L}^{\dagger} - \frac{1}{2}\{\hat{L}^{\dagger}\hat{L},\rho\}$, where \hat{L} is an operator (without any loss of generality we set $\hbar = 1$). a_j and a_j^{\dagger} are the bosonic annihilation and creation operators of the *j*th oscillator, respectively. The implications of k_1 and k_2 in the quantum regime can be understood from Eq. (3): k_1 is the rate of single photon creation (equivalent to the linear pumping), and k_2 gives the rate of two-photon absorption (equivalent to the nonlinear damping). The last term of (3) gives the coupling-dependent single-photon annihilation whose rate is determined by the coupling strength ε (≥ 0). Intuitively, this last term induces an additional loss of photons that may result in oscillation suppression.

In the semiclassical limit, the linear pumping rate dominates over the nonlinear damping rate, i.e., $k_1 > k_2$, and one may approximate $\langle a \rangle \equiv \alpha$. Under this condition, the quantum master equation (3) is equivalent to the classical amplitude equation (2) by the following relation [25]: $\langle a \rangle = \text{Tr}(\dot{\rho}a)$.

III. RESULTS

A. Simulation of quantum master equation

We numerically solve the master equation (3) using a PYTHON-based quantum simulator package QUTIP [35]. To visualize the dynamics of the coupled system, we compute the



FIG. 2. The Wigner function at (a) $\varepsilon = 0.1$, quantum oscillatory state; (b) $\varepsilon = 1.3$, quantum amplitude death (QAD) state; and (c) $\varepsilon = 1.99$, quantum oscillation death (QOD) state. (d) Quantum Turing bifurcation: The variation of the *y* component of local maximum values of the Wigner function (Δy) plotted with ε/k_1 . Note the transition from QAD to QOD through the quantum Turing bifurcation. Other parameters are $\omega = 2$ and $(k_1, k_2) = (1, 0.2)$.

Wigner function using the steady-state solution of the density matrix [36]. The Wigner function is a quasiprobability distribution function that provides a reliable picture of the quantum dynamics [19]. Moreover, it is also accessible in experimental setups [37]. In the numerical simulations, we choose the following parameters: $\omega = 2$ and $(k_1, k_2) = (1, 0.2)$. Note that $k_1 > k_2$ ensures that the system resides in the weak quantum regime where semiclassical treatments are applicable and the QAD is distinguishable from a quantum limit cycle.

We plot the Wigner function at three exemplary values of ε . At $\varepsilon = 0.1$, Fig. 2(a) demonstrates a quantum limit cycle that is visible from the ring-shaped Wigner function. Figure 2(b) presents the same but at a higher coupling constant $\varepsilon = 1.3$: It depicts a QAD state as now the Wigner function shows the maximum probability at the origin. Note that unlike the classical AD, here the complete cessation of oscillation is prohibited due to the presence of inherent quantum noise. Also, significantly, the QAD state is a squeezed quantum state that has no counterpart in the classical dynamics. At a stronger coupling strength, the QAD state is transformed into a quantum OD (QOD) state, which is depicted by a bimodal Wigner function; see Fig. 2(c) for $\varepsilon = 1.99$. Here the maximum probability is shifted from the origin and two prominent lobs appear, representing two branches of the inhomogeneous steady state. Note that, in spite of the quantum noise which tends to homogenize the inhomogeneous steady states, the lobs are distinguishable.

To show that this transition from QAD to QOD is continuous, we define a variable Δy , which is the distance between the local maxima of the projection of the Wigner function on the y axis [see Fig. 2(c)]. Figure 2(d) demonstrates the varia-



FIG. 3. Mean photon number from the quantum model $(\langle a_1^{\dagger}a_1 \rangle)$ and the averaged amplitude from the noisy classical model $(|\alpha_1|_{nc}^2)$. Insets show the occupation of the Fock levels for quantum limit cycle $\varepsilon = 0.1$, QAD ($\varepsilon = 1.3$) and QOD ($\varepsilon = 1.99$). Other parameters are $\omega = 2$ and $(k_1, k_2) = (1, 0.2)$.

tion of Δy with increasing ε . The oscillatory zone (indicated by Osc) shows a decreasing amplitude with an increasing coupling strength. Beyond a certain ε , the QAD appears, where we have only a single local maxima (i.e., $\Delta y = 0$). Further increase of coupling strength results in a transition from QAD to QOD where the unimodal Wigner function splits into a bimodal shape whose lobs are separated by $\Delta y \neq 0$. Remarkably, the parametric zone of the QAD and QOD qualitatively matches with the corresponding classical counterparts (cf. Fig. 1).

The occurrence of oscillation suppression can be better understood from the mean photon number, $\langle a_1^{\dagger}a_1 \rangle$. This is shown in Fig. 3: It shows a decreasing mean photon number with increasing ε/k_1 , indicating the suppression of oscillation. Due to the quantum noise, $\langle a_1^{\dagger}a_1 \rangle$ does not reach to zero; however, it shows a moderate collapse of the oscillation. The mean photon number attains lower values between ε_{HB} and ε_{PB} (as calculated in Sec. II for the classical case), indicating the onset of QAD. The occupation of the corresponding Fock states for exemplary ε/k_1 values are also shown in the inset. It can be seen that in the quantum oscillatory state ($\varepsilon/k_1 = 0.1$) the higher Fock levels are populated; however, in the QAD ($\varepsilon/k_1 = 1.3$) and QOD states ($\varepsilon/k_1 = 1.99$) only the lowest lying Fock levels are populated.

Therefore, the observed scenario of the transition from QAD to QOD states has a striking one-to-one resemblance with the classical Turing bifurcation and clearly provides evidence for the quantum version of the Turing bifurcation.

B. Noisy classical model: Analysis

To further support the observed quantum Turing bifurcation [Figs. 2(a)-2(d)], we compare the quantum scenarios with the corresponding noisy classical model (or the semiclassical model). It will give a conclusive analytical evidence of the observed behavior in the presence of noise whose intensity is equal to the inherent quantum noise [23]. We evaluate the intensity of quantum noise from the quantum master equation following Ref. [23]. The quantum master equation (3) is represented in the phase space using a partial differential equation of the Wigner distribution function $(W(\alpha))$ [38] that reads

$$\partial_{t}W(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \sum_{j=1}^{2} \left[-\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\alpha_{j}}\mu_{\alpha_{j}} + \text{c.c.}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial\alpha_{j}\partial\alpha_{j}^{*}} D_{\alpha_{j}\alpha_{j}^{*}} + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial\alpha_{j}\partial\alpha_{j'}^{*}} D_{\alpha_{j}\alpha_{j'}^{*}}\right) + \frac{k_{2}}{4} \left(\frac{\partial^{3}}{\partial\alpha_{j}^{*}\partial\alpha_{j}^{2}}\alpha_{j} + \text{c.c.}\right) \right] W(\boldsymbol{\alpha}), \qquad (4)$$

where the elements of the drift vector $(\boldsymbol{\mu})$ are $\mu_{\alpha_j} = [-i\omega + \frac{k_1}{2} - k_2(|\alpha_j|^2 - 1) - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}]\alpha_j - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\alpha_j^* - \frac{i\varepsilon}{2}\alpha_{j'} + \frac{i\varepsilon}{2}\alpha_{j'}^*$, and the elements of the diffusion matrix \boldsymbol{D} are $D_{\alpha_j\alpha_j^*} = k_1 + 2k_2(2|\alpha_j|^2 - 1) + \varepsilon$, $D_{\alpha_j\alpha_{j'}^*} = 0$, with j = 1, 2, j' = 1, 2, and $j \neq j'$. In the weak nonlinear regime $(k_2 \ll k_1)$, the linear pumping dominates over the nonlinear damping. Here, the mean number of bosonic excitations is high enough to treat them semiclassically and we can neglect the term associated with k_2 . Under this condition, Eq. (4) reduces to the Fokker-Planck equation, which is given by

$$\partial_{t}W(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_{j=1}^{2} \left[-\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}}\mu_{x_{j}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{j}}\mu_{y_{j}}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial x_{j}\partial x_{j}}D_{x_{j}x_{j}} + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial y_{j}\partial y_{j}}D_{y_{j}y_{j}} + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial x_{j}\partial x_{j'}}D_{x_{j}x_{j'}} + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial y_{j}\partial y_{j'}}D_{y_{j}y_{j'}}\right) \right] W(\mathbf{X}), \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{X} = (x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2)$. The elements of drift vector are

$$\mu_{x_j} = \omega y_j + \left[\frac{k_1}{2} - k_2 (x_j^2 + y_j^2 - 1) - \varepsilon\right] x_j + \varepsilon y_{j'}, \quad (6a)$$

$$\mu_{y_j} = -\omega x_j + \left[\frac{k_1}{2} - k_2 \left(x_j^2 + y_j^2 - 1\right)\right] y_j.$$
 (6b)

The diffusion matrix has the following form:

$$\boldsymbol{D} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \nu_1 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \nu_2 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \nu_2 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{7}$$

where $v_j = \frac{k_1}{2} + k_2[2(x_j^2 + y_j^2) - 1] + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. From Eq. (5), the following stochastic differential equation can be derived,

$$d\mathbf{X} = \boldsymbol{\mu}dt + \boldsymbol{\sigma}d\mathbf{W}_t,\tag{8}$$

where σ is the noise strength and $d\mathbf{W}_t$ is the Wiener increment. As the diffusion matrix D [given in Eq. (7)] is diagonal, we can analytically derive σ from it as $\sigma = \sqrt{D}$.

By solving the stochastic differential equation [Eq. (8)' (using JiTCSDE module in PYTHON [39]), we compute the behavior of the noisy-classical system starting from random initial conditions (we take 1000 independent run). The average amplitude from the noisy classical model $(|\alpha_1|_{nc}^2)$ with ε/k_1 is demonstrated in Fig. 3. It shows a decreasing amplitude with increasing coupling strength resembling



FIG. 4. Noisy classical case: Phase space plot for (a) $\varepsilon = 0.1$, noisy limit cycle; (b) $\varepsilon = 1.3$, noisy AD; and (c) $\varepsilon = 1.99$, noisy QOD. The corresponding histograms are shown in panels (d)–(f). (g) Bifurcation diagram using the local maxima of the phase trajectories showing a Turing bifurcation route from noisy AD to OD. Note that in the OD state, Δy gives the distance between two local maxima of the histogram. Other parameters are $\omega = 2$ and $(k_1, k_2) = (1, 0.2)$.

the quantum scenario. Note that the mean photon number, $\langle a_1^{\dagger} a_1 \rangle$, of the quantum case always lies below $\overline{|\alpha_1|_{nc}}^2$, which is a general indicator of the quantum oscillation suppression scenario [23,25,26].

Figures 4(a)–4(g) summarize the results of the noisy classical model. The noisy limit cycle is demonstrated in the phase space in Fig. 4(a) at $\varepsilon = 0.1$. A weighted histogram of the same is shown in Fig. 4(d). The scenario at a larger coupling strength, $\varepsilon = 1.3$, is shown in Figs. 4(b) and 4(e). Figure 4(b) demonstrates that in the phase space the phase points are crowded around the origin and Fig. 4(e) presents the corresponding histogram, which obeys a Gaussian distribution. Both of these indicate the occurrence of a noisy AD. Finally, Fig. 4(c) shows the appearance of an inhomogeneous steady state or the noisy OD at a higher coupling strength, $\varepsilon = 1.99$: Two distinct but noisy lobs correspond to two different branches of the OD. The corresponding histogram [Fig. 4(f)] exhibits a two-hump nature, indicating the occurrence of two lobs.

We draw a representative bifurcation diagram in Fig. 4(g) showing the local maxima of the averaged phase trajectories. In the case of a noisy AD state, there is only one local maxima situated at zero. However, in the case of a noisy OD state, two local maxima are separated by a distance Δy ($\neq 0$) in the y axis. They are equivalent to the two lobs or branches of the QOD. Note the striking resemblance of noisy

classical results (Fig. 4) with the quantum results (Fig. 2). Both the quantum and noisy classical results confirm the occurrence of the Turing bifurcation route from homogeneous to inhomogeneous steady states in coupled quantum oscillators.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have reported a transition from a homogeneous steady state (QAD) to an inhomogeneous steady state (QOD) via the quantum Turing bifurcation in coupled quantum oscillators. The direct simulation of the quantum master equation and analytical investigations through the noisy classical model of the coupled system established the appearance of the quantum Turing bifurcation. Unlike earlier studies [25,26], where QOD was found to appear in the deep quantum regime only, here we have observed both OAD and OOD and their transition in the weak quantum regime. This enables us to give conclusive evidence of the Turing bifurcation in the quantum regime as now the notion of both QAD and QOD are unambiguous. Our study reveals that the Turing bifurcation scenario of transition from homogeneous to inhomogeneous steady states as reported in Ref. [6] for classical oscillators is indeed a general phenomenon and occurs even in the quantum regime.

The present study is based on the quantum Stuart-Landau oscillator, also generally known as quantum vdP oscillator

(under harmonic limit). In the classical domain, the paradigmatic Stuart-Landau oscillator has been serving as the test bed for the study of emergent behaviors in coupled oscillators and the results are found to be general. Therefore, we believe that our results of quantum vdP oscillator will be valid for complex quantum oscillators such as relaxation quantum vdP oscillators proposed recently in Refs. [29,30].

Further, we believe that the recent advancement of experimental techniques would enable one to implement our coupled system in experimental setups, such as the trappedion experiment [17,40] and the optomechanical setup [41]. Moreover, the symmetry breaking mechanism studied here can be extended to networks of quantum oscillators to explore the possibility of partial synchronization and chimera death states [16,42–45] in the quantum regime. The present study significantly broadens our understanding of the symmetry-breaking mechanism in the interface of quantum-classical domain. Finally, the quantum Turing mechanism can be explored in the light of its applications in quantum computations and cryptography [4].

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