

Measurement-Altered Ising Quantum Criticality

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Quantum critical systems constitute appealing platforms for exploring novel measurement-induced phenomena due to their innate sensitivity to perturbations. We study the impact of measurements on paradigmatic Ising quantum-critical chains using an explicit protocol, whereby correlated ancillae are entangled with the critical chain and then projectively measured. Using a perturbative analytic framework supported by extensive numerical simulations, we demonstrate that measurements can qualitatively alter critical correlations in a manner dependent on the choice of entangling gate, ancilla measurement basis, measurement outcome, and nature of ancilla correlations. We further show that measurement-altered Ising criticality can be pursued surprisingly efficiently in experiments featuring of order 100 qubits by postselecting for high-probability measurement outcomes or, in certain cases, by averaging observables separately over measurement outcomes residing in distinct symmetry sectors. Our framework naturally adapts to more exotic quantum-critical points and highlights opportunities for realization in noisy intermediate-scale quantum hardware and in Rydberg arrays.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Measurements are increasingly viewed as not only a means of probing quantum matter, but also as a resource for generating novel quantum phenomena that may be difficult or impossible to realize solely with unitary evolution. For instance, local measurements that tend to suppress entanglement can compete with entanglement-promoting dynamics—leading to entanglement transitions when these effects compete to a draw [1–3]. Well-studied examples include the volume-to-area-law entanglement transition in random Clifford circuits [4–7] and the transition from a critical phase with logarithmic scaling to an area-law phase, e.g., in monitored free fermions [8–10] (see also Refs. [11–31]). Measurements additionally provide shortcuts to preparing certain long-range entangled quantum states [32] including wave functions associated with topological order [33–37] and quantum criticality [38,39], and can also induce

spontaneous symmetry breaking via quantum monitoring of a system [40]. With the advent of analog quantum simulators and noisy intermediate-scale quantum (NISQ) hardware, these directions are becoming increasingly experimentally relevant. Indeed, recent experiments have reported signatures of measurement-induced entanglement transitions [41,42] as well as measurement-assisted preparation of the toric code with a finite-depth quantum circuit [43].

Despite the impressive progress in this arena, dealing with inherent randomness associated with quantum measurements poses a nontrivial ongoing challenge. Measurement-induced quantum phenomena of interest commonly occur within particular measurement-outcome sectors. Moreover, applying conventional averages of observables over measurement outcomes tends to erase measurement effects altogether. Verification is therefore subtle and can proceed along several possible avenues, e.g., brute-force postselection [42], decoding to “undo” randomness injected by measurement using classical postprocessing [39,44], machine learning [45,46], or active feedback, and conditional control [5,41,43], considering nonunitary circuits that are space-time duals to unitary evolution [47–49], or via cross-entropy benchmarking [50].

Quantum critical systems offer promising venues for exploring nontrivial measurement-induced behavior. First,

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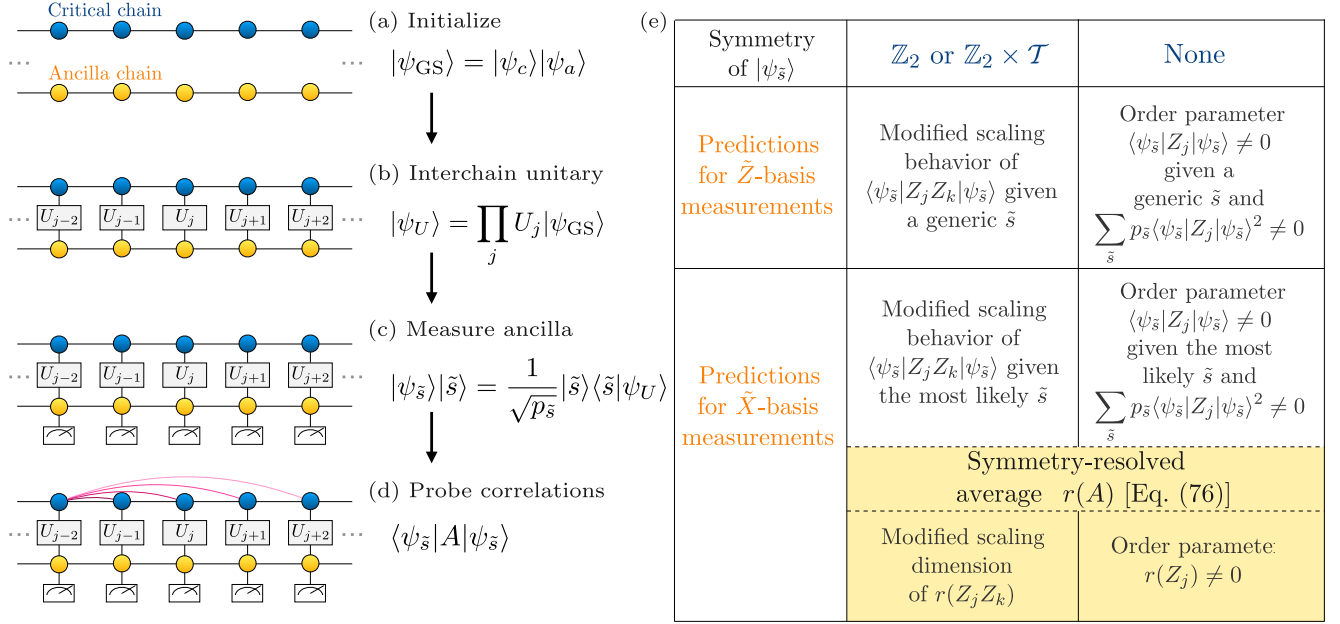


FIG. 1. Protocol used to explore measurement-altered Ising criticality (left) and summary of the main results (right). (a) The upper chain is always prepared in the ground state $|\psi_c\rangle$ of the critical transverse-field Ising model. The ancilla chain is initialized into the ground state $|\psi_a\rangle$ of the Ising model either in the paramagnetic phase or at criticality. (b) After a unitary that entangles the two chains followed by (c) ancilla measurements, the ancilla chain enters a product state $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ while the upper chain enters a state $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$ dependent on the measurement outcome \tilde{s} . (d) Physical operators A for the top chain are then probed in the state $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$. The table (e) summarizes our predictions for the four cases that we explore, distinguished by the ancilla measurement basis and symmetry of the postmeasurement wave function $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$.

gaplessness renders such systems inherently sensitive to small perturbations, suggesting that even weak disturbances generated by measurements can yield profound consequences. Second, quantum criticality traditionally manifests in long-distance correlations among *local* observables; one might then anticipate that developing verification protocols here poses a gentler challenge relative to, say, identifying more nuanced entanglement modifications. The pioneering work by Garratt *et al.* [51] demonstrated that even arbitrarily weak measurements can indeed qualitatively impact long-distance correlations in a one-dimensional gapless Luttinger liquid, opening up a new frontier of “measurement-altered quantum criticality.”

More precisely, Ref. [51] showed that, in close analogy with the classic Kane-Fisher impurity problem [52], measurement effects can be turned “on” or “off” by varying the Luttinger parameter that characterizes the interaction strength. Reference [51] additionally proposed detection protocols both for postselected and (unconventionally) measurement-averaged correlators. Earlier works [53–55] also showed that measurements can nontrivially impact entanglement in quantum-critical states, albeit with quite different protocols. Subsequently, Ref. [56] associated certain effects of measurement on Luttinger liquids with an entanglement transition. Measurements have since been further investigated in the context of $(2+1)$ -dimensional quantum-critical points [57]; see also Refs. [58–60].

In this paper, we develop a theory of measurement-altered criticality in paradigmatic one-dimensional Ising quantum critical chains. Ising quantum-critical points arise in myriad physical contexts—ranging from Mott insulating spin systems to Rydberg atom arrays—and can also arise in noninteracting model Hamiltonians, thus greatly facilitating analytical and numerical progress. We consider the explicit protocol summarized in Fig. 1; to retain nontrivial correlations in the critical chain’s wave function, the protocol entangles the critical degrees of freedom with a second chain of correlated ancillae and then projectively measures the latter. Our use of ancillae not only provides a practical tool for weakly measuring the critical chain, but further opens a large phase space in which to explore measurement effects. Numerous questions naturally arise here: How are critical correlations modified in specific postselected measurement outcomes? How do such modifications depend on the choice of entangling gate and ancilla measurement basis used in the protocol? What role do correlations among the ancillae play? And how can one extract nontrivial effects of measurement in practice?

On a technical level, the Ising conformal field theory governing the quantum-critical chains we study does not admit any marginal operators that can serve to tune the impact of measurements, unlike the Luttinger-liquid setting [51], naively suggesting mundane behavior. On the contrary, we find that measurements can wield exceptionally

rich and experimentally accessible consequences on Ising quantum-critical spin correlations: (i) Scaling dimensions that are otherwise “non-negotiable” in the pristine Ising conformal field theory can become continuously variable in translationally invariant measurement postselection sectors. (ii) For certain unitary entangling gates in our protocol, coarse-grained spin-spin correlations can be formally obtained from a perturbed Ising conformal field theory for arbitrary measurement outcomes. (iii) Measurements can catalyze order-parameter condensation with a spatial profile dependent on the measurement outcome. Averaging the *square* of the order parameter over measurement outcomes returns a nontrivial result that appears to survive in the thermodynamic limit. (iv) When the ancillae are also initialized into a critical state, we argue that measurements can alter power-law spin-spin correlations in a manner qualitatively different from modifications generated with paramagnetic ancillae. (v) For certain ancilla measurement bases, measurement outcomes can be partitioned into distinct symmetry sectors. We show that correlations averaged over *particular* symmetry sectors retain nontrivial signatures of measurements. Interestingly, appropriately normalized differences in such symmetry-resolved averages closely mimic correlations evaluated with postselected uniform measurement outcomes, yet as we show can generically be extracted more efficiently compared to postselection when the ancillae entangle sufficiently weakly with the critical chain. (vi) By assessing the order of magnitude of the experimental trials required to probe measurement-altered criticality via symmetry-resolved averages and postselection, we identify complementary regimes in which each technique remains viable even for large systems containing $O(100)$ spins.

Figure 1 summarizes our main findings, all of which we substantiate using a perturbative analytic framework supplemented by extensive numerical simulations. Our results collectively shed new light on the interplay between measurements and quantum criticality, and can be potentially tested experimentally in Rydberg arrays [61,62] and presently available NISQ devices. In the latter realm, a hybrid of classical algorithms for representing correlated quantum states, and physical qubits that can exploit these algorithms, was recently used to create the ground state of the critical transverse-field Ising chain and measure order-parameter power-law correlations [63]. Such experimental developments bode well for future realization of measurement-altered Ising quantum criticality.

We proceed in Sec. II by first reviewing the microscopic model and continuum theory used throughout, and then detailing our protocol. Section III derives an effective action formalism that incorporates measurement effects into a perturbation to the Ising conformal field action. We critically assess the conditions under which our perturbative action formalism is expected to be valid in Sec. IV. Sections V and VI then examine consequences of our

protocol with different ancilla measurement bases. In Sec. VII we develop the formalism of symmetry-resolved measurement averages for detecting measurement-altered Ising criticality and critically compare with post-selection-based schemes. Finally, Sec. VIII provides a summary and outlook.

II. SETUP AND PROTOCOL

A. Review of Ising criticality

Throughout this paper, we explore the effect of measurements on an Ising quantum-critical point realized microscopically in the canonical transverse-field Ising model,

$$H = \sum_j (-JZ_j Z_{j+1} - hX_j). \quad (1)$$

Here, Z_j and X_j are Pauli operators acting on site j of a chain with periodic boundary conditions (unless specified otherwise). Additionally, we assume ferromagnetic interactions $J > 0$ and a positive transverse field $h > 0$. Equation (1) preserves both time-reversal symmetry \mathcal{T} —which leaves X_j and Z_j invariant but enacts complex conjugation—and global \mathbb{Z}_2 spin-flip symmetry generated by $G = \prod_j X_j$. At $h > J$, the system realizes a symmetry-preserving paramagnetic phase. For $h < J$, a ferromagnetic phase emerges, characterized by a non-zero-order parameter $\langle Z_j \rangle \neq 0$ that indicates spontaneously broken \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry. The paramagnetic and ferromagnetic phases are related under a duality transformation that interchanges $J \leftrightarrow h$.

Ising criticality appears at the self-dual point $J = h$ —to which we specialize hereafter. The low-energy critical theory is most easily accessed via a Jordan-Wigner transformation to Majorana fermion operators

$$\gamma_{Aj} = \left(\prod_{k<j} X_k \right) Z_j, \quad \gamma_{Bj} = \left(\prod_{k<j} X_j \right) iX_j Z_j. \quad (2)$$

In this basis, the $J = h$ Hamiltonian becomes

$$H_c = iJ \sum_j (\gamma_{Aj+1} - \gamma_{Aj}) \gamma_{Bj}. \quad (3)$$

Focusing on long-wavelength Fourier components of γ_{Aj} and γ_{Bj} , which comprise the important degrees of freedom at criticality, yields the continuum Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}_c = iv \int_x (\partial_x \gamma_A) \gamma_B$ with $v \propto J$. Upon changing basis to $\gamma_A = \gamma_R + \gamma_L$ and $\gamma_B = \gamma_R - \gamma_L$, we arrive at

$$\mathcal{H}_c = -iv \int_x (\gamma_R \partial_x \gamma_R - \gamma_L \partial_x \gamma_L), \quad (4)$$

which describes kinetic energy for right- and left-moving Majorana fermions γ_R and γ_L .

Equation (4) corresponds to an Ising conformal field theory (CFT) with central charge $c = 1/2$ [64]. The Ising CFT exhibits three primary fields: the identity $\mathbb{1}$, the ‘‘spin field’’ σ (scaling dimension $\Delta_\sigma = 1/8$), and the ‘‘energy field’’ ε (dimension $\Delta_\varepsilon = 1$). The spin field is odd under \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry and represents the continuum limit of the ferromagnetic order parameter. Consequently, only correlators containing an even number of spin fields can be nonzero at criticality. For instance, one- and two-point spin-field correlators read

$$\langle \sigma(x) \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \sigma(x)\sigma(x') \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|x - x'|^{1/4}}. \quad (5)$$

The energy field is a composite of right- and left-movers, $\varepsilon = i\gamma_R\gamma_L$; this field is odd under duality and hence represents a perturbation that moves the system off of criticality. The operator product expansion for two fields at different points determine the following fusion rules:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma \times \sigma &= \mathbb{1} + \varepsilon, \\ \varepsilon \times \varepsilon &= \mathbb{1}, \\ \sigma \times \varepsilon &= \sigma. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Local microscopic spin operators admit straightforward expansions in terms of the above CFT fields and their descendants. In particular, we have

$$Z_j \sim \sigma + \dots, \quad (7)$$

$$X_j - \langle X \rangle \sim \varepsilon + \dots, \quad (8)$$

where the ellipses denote fields with subleading scaling dimension. Equation (7) follows from \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry together with translation invariance of the ferromagnetic phase [for the antiferromagnetic case $J < 0$, an additional $(-1)^j$ factor would appear on the right side]. In Eq. (8), $\langle X \rangle$ denotes the (position-independent) ground-state expectation value of X_j , which is generically nonzero due to the transverse field. In the thermodynamic limit at criticality, one finds $\langle X \rangle = 2/\pi$. Subtracting off this expectation value from the left-hand side removes terms proportional to the identity field on the right-hand side. One can understand the appearance of ε in Eq. (8) by noting that perturbing the microscopic Hamiltonian with a term $\propto \sum_j X_j$ moves the system off of criticality, corresponding to the generation of the energy field in the continuum theory. (The same conclusion follows by expressing X_j in terms of Majorana fermions and taking the continuum limit [65].)

With the aid of relations like Eqs. (7) and (8), standard techniques relate ground-state expectation values of

microscopic operators to averages of CFT fields expressed in path-integral language. We illustrate the approach in a way that will be useful for exploring the influence of measurements in Sec. III B. The ground-state expectation value of a microscopic operator A in the critical chain’s ground state $|\psi_c\rangle$,

$$\langle A \rangle = \langle \psi_c | A | \psi_c \rangle, \quad (9)$$

can always be expressed as

$$\langle A \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} \{ e^{-\beta H_c/2} A e^{-\beta H_c/2} \}. \quad (10)$$

The $e^{-\beta H_c/2}$ factors in the numerator project away excited-state components from the bra and ket in each element of the trace, and the partition function $Z = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} \{ e^{-\beta H_c} \}$ in the denominator ensures proper normalization. Next, we take the continuum limit of both sides:

$$\langle A \rangle \sim \langle \mathcal{A} \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} \{ e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}_c/2} \mathcal{A} e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}_c/2} \}. \quad (11)$$

Calligraphic fonts indicate low-energy expansions of the corresponding quantities in Eq. (10). For instance, if $A = Z_j Z_{j'}$ then Eq. (7) gives $\mathcal{A} = \sigma(x_j)\sigma(x_{j'})$ for x_i a continuum coordinate corresponding to site i . Finally, Trotterizing the exponentials and inserting resolutions of identity in the fermionic coherent-state basis yields

$$\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}\gamma_R \mathcal{D}\gamma_L e^{-S_c} \mathcal{A}(\tau = 0) \quad (12)$$

with the Euclidean Ising CFT action

$$S_c = \int_x \int_{-\beta/2}^{\beta/2} d\tau [\gamma_R(\partial_\tau - iv\partial_x)\gamma_R + \gamma_L(\partial_\tau + iv\partial_x)\gamma_L]. \quad (13)$$

Note that in our convention, imaginary time τ runs from $-\beta/2$ to $+\beta/2$ with $\beta \rightarrow \infty$; the operator ordering in Eq. (11) then naturally gives \mathcal{A} evaluated at $\tau = 0$ in Eq. (12).

B. Protocol

Performing local projective measurements to all sites of the critical chain reviewed above would simply collapse the corresponding wave function into a trivial product state, thereby destroying all existent correlations. Hence, we introduce a second, ancillary transverse-field Ising chain that enables us to enact different types of generalized measurements on the critical Ising chain and characterize their nontrivial effect on its entanglement structure. Specifically, the ancilla Hamiltonian is

$$H_{\text{anc}} = \sum_j (-J_{\text{anc}} \tilde{Z}_j \tilde{Z}_{j+1} - h_{\text{anc}} \tilde{X}_j), \quad (14)$$

where \tilde{Z}_j and \tilde{X}_j are Pauli operators for the ancilla spins, and we assume $J_{\text{anc}}, h_{\text{anc}} > 0$. Throughout we work in the regime $h_{\text{anc}} \geq J_{\text{anc}}$; i.e., the ancillae are either critical or realize the gapped paramagnetic phase, so that the spin-flip symmetry generated by $\tilde{G} = \prod_j \tilde{X}_j$ is always preserved in the ground state.

Inspired by Ref. [51], we consider the following protocol (see Fig. 1 for a summary):

- (a) Initialize the system into the wave function

$$|\psi_{\text{GS}}\rangle = |\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle, \quad (15)$$

where $|\psi_c\rangle$ is the ground state of the top (critical) chain, and $|\psi_a\rangle$ is the ground state of the bottom (ancilla) chain.

- (b) Apply a unitary gate U_j to each pair of adjacent sites from the critical and ancilla chains, sending

$$|\psi_{\text{GS}}\rangle \rightarrow |\psi_U\rangle = \left(\prod_j U_j \right) |\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle. \quad (16)$$

The unitaries we apply generally consist of single-spin ancilla rotations followed by a two-spin entangling gate, and are always implemented in a translationally invariant manner.

- (c) Projectively measure all ancilla spins in some fixed basis, e.g., \tilde{Z} or \tilde{X} , yielding measurement outcome

$$\tilde{s} \equiv \{\tilde{s}_j\} \quad (17)$$

with $\tilde{s}_j \in \pm 1$. The wave function correspondingly collapses to $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle|\tilde{s}\rangle$; here, $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$ denotes the postmeasurement state for the top chain, which depends on the outcome \tilde{s} . More precisely, this step sends

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi_U\rangle &\xrightarrow{\text{measure}} |\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle|\tilde{s}\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{p_{\tilde{s}}}} \left(\prod_j |\tilde{s}_j\rangle\langle\tilde{s}_j| U_j \right) |\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where the normalization

$$p_{\tilde{s}} = \langle\psi_a|\langle\psi_c| \left(\prod_j U_j^\dagger |\tilde{s}_j\rangle\langle\tilde{s}_j| U_j \right) |\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle \quad (19)$$

specifies the probability for obtaining measurement outcome \tilde{s} .

- (d) Probe correlations on the top chain for the postmeasurement state $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$.

Inspection of Eq. (18) reveals that the ancilla measurements can nontrivially impact correlations in the critical chain only if the measurement basis and unitaries are

chosen such that $[\tilde{s}_j]\langle\tilde{s}_j|, U_j \neq 0$ [66]. Even in this case, however, extracting measurement-induced changes in correlations poses a subtle problem. For an arbitrary critical-chain observable A , performing a standard average of $\langle\psi_{\tilde{s}}|A|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$ over ancilla measurement outcomes simply recovers the expectation value $\langle\psi_U|A|\psi_U\rangle$ taken in the premeasurement state. Indeed, using Eqs. (16) and (18) yields

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{\tilde{s}} p_{\tilde{s}} \langle\psi_{\tilde{s}}|A|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle \\ &= \sum_{\tilde{s}} \langle\psi_U| \left(\prod_j |\tilde{s}_j\rangle\langle\tilde{s}_j| \right) A \left(\prod_j |\tilde{s}_j\rangle\langle\tilde{s}_j| \right) |\psi_U\rangle \\ &= \sum_{\tilde{s}} \langle\psi_U| \left(\prod_j |\tilde{s}_j\rangle\langle\tilde{s}_j| \right) A |\psi_U\rangle = \langle\psi_U|A|\psi_U\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

The second equality follows from the fact that the projectors $|\tilde{s}_j\rangle\langle\tilde{s}_j|$ commute with A (because they act on different chains) and square to themselves, while the third follows upon removing a resolution of the identity for the ancilla chain.

Our protocol performs a particular physical implementation of generalized measurements that combines additional degrees of freedom provided by the ancilla chain, a unitary entangling transformation, and projective measurements (see, e.g., Ref. [67]). More importantly, it allows us to assess how quantum correlations among the ancillae, tunable via the ratio $h_{\text{anc}}/J_{\text{anc}}$, impact the measurement-induced changes in the critical chain's properties. Let us make this connection more explicit. The postmeasured state $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$ given in Eq. (18) can be written as

$$|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{p_{\tilde{s}}}} M_{\tilde{s}} |\psi_c\rangle, \quad (21)$$

where, given measurement outcome \tilde{s} , $M_{\tilde{s}} \equiv \langle\tilde{s}| \prod_j U_j |\psi_a\rangle$ denotes the measurement operator acting on the critical chain. The full set of measurement operators satisfy the completeness relation $\sum_{\tilde{s}} M_{\tilde{s}}^\dagger M_{\tilde{s}} = \mathbb{1}_c$. If $|\psi_a\rangle$ was a product state, then we could factorize $M_{\tilde{s}} = \prod_j M_{\tilde{s}_j}$ in terms of on-site measurement operators M_{s_j} . However, for nontrivially entangled $|\psi_a\rangle$, which we always consider below, this exact factorization no longer holds, though an approximate factorization can nevertheless suffice to capture the essential influence of measurement, depending on the precise form of $M_{\tilde{s}}$ and the range of ancilla correlations. We return to this point in Sec. VIII.

Subsequent sections investigate the protocol with different classes of unitaries and measurement bases using a combination of field-theoretic and numerical tools. The techniques combine covariant-matrix techniques for Gaussian states (explained in Appendix B) when characterizing a single chain, exact diagonalization to exactly

evaluate averages over measurement outcomes, and tensor network methods [68] using the density-matrix renormalization-group (DMRG) method [69] and its infinite variant (iDMRG) [70] to evaluate correlations on specific measurement outcomes. As a prerequisite, next we develop a perturbative formalism that we use extensively to distill measurement effects into a perturbation to the Ising CFT action.

III. EFFECTIVE ACTION FORMALISM

Table I lists the four classes of unitaries U_j that we examine, together with the corresponding ancilla measurement basis taken for each case. In the second column, $\langle X \rangle = \langle \psi_c | X_j | \psi_c \rangle$ as defined previously, C is a constant, and u characterizes the strength of the unitary, i.e., how far U_j is from the identity. As we see later, the symmetry of U_j depends on whether $C = 0$ or $C \neq 0$ in a manner that qualitatively affects critical-chain correlations after measurement. Throughout our analytical treatment, we assume small $u \ll 1$ that does not scale with system size. Our goal in Sec. III A is to recast the postmeasurement state in the form

$$|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mathcal{N}}} U' e^{-H_m/2} |\psi_c\rangle. \quad (22)$$

Here U' is a unitary operator acting solely on the critical chain, while H_m is a Hermitian operator organized systematically in powers of u that encodes the nonunitary change in $|\psi_U\rangle$ imposed by the measurement. One can view this representation of $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$ as arising from a polar decomposition of the measurement operator $M_{\tilde{s}}$ in Eq. (21), up to an overall constant (dependent on \tilde{s}) that is absorbed into the normalization factor \mathcal{N} . Section III B uses the form in Eq. (22) to develop a continuum-limit CFT framework for characterizing observables given a fixed ancilla measurement outcome.

A. Perturbative framework

All four unitaries in Table I take the form

$$U_j = e^{iu(O_j - \theta)\tilde{O}_j}. \quad (23)$$

TABLE I. Four classes of unitaries used in our protocols, along with the corresponding ancilla measurement basis. In cases II and IV, C is a constant that controls whether or not the postmeasurement state $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$ preserves global spin-flip symmetry for the critical chain.

Case	Unitary U_j	Ancilla measurement basis
I	$\exp[iu(X_j - \langle X \rangle)\tilde{X}_j]$	\tilde{Z}
II	$\exp[iu(Z_j - C)\tilde{X}_j]$	\tilde{Z}
III	$\exp[iu(X_j - \langle X \rangle)\tilde{Z}_j]$	\tilde{X}
IV	$\exp[iu(Z_j - C)\tilde{Z}_j]$	\tilde{X}

The constant θ is either $\langle X \rangle$ (cases I, III) or C (cases II, IV), while O_j and \tilde{O}_j denote Pauli matrices that, respectively, act on the critical chain and ancilla. We refer to Appendix A for a detailed derivation of the postmeasurement state, providing here the final expression of U' and H_m appearing in Eq. (22). Defining $U' = e^{iH'}$, we obtain to $O(u^2)$,

$$H' = u \sum_j a(j)(O_j - \langle O \rangle), \quad (24)$$

$$H_m = u^2 \sum_j m_j (O_j - \langle O \rangle) + u^2 \sum_{j \neq k} V_{jk} (O_j - \langle O \rangle)(O_k - \langle O \rangle). \quad (25)$$

For later convenience, we organize the contributions in terms of $O_j - \langle O \rangle$, where $\langle O \rangle = \langle \psi_c | O_j | \psi_c \rangle$ is the expectation value of O_j in the initialized state, prior to applying the unitary and measuring. Equation (25) contains coefficients

$$V_{jk} = a(j, k) - a(j)a(k), \quad (26)$$

$$m_j = -2\theta[1 - a(j)^2] + 2(\langle O \rangle - \theta) \sum_{k \neq j} V_{jk}, \quad (27)$$

where

$$a(j) = \frac{\langle \tilde{s} | \tilde{O}_j | \psi_a \rangle}{\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle}, \quad a(j, k) = \frac{\langle \tilde{s} | \tilde{O}_j \tilde{O}_k | \psi_a \rangle}{\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle}. \quad (28)$$

We stress that $U' = e^{iH'}$ factorizes into a product of operators acting on a single site j —i.e., one can always decompose $U' = \prod_j U'_j$ at order $O(u^2)$ —whereas $e^{-H_m/2}$ admits no such factorization due to the V_{jk} term. The leading corrections to H' and H_m arise at $O(u^3)$ and $O(u^4)$, respectively.

The derivation of the postmeasurement state assumed $\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle \neq 0$, which holds provided measurement outcome \tilde{s} can arise even at $u = 0$, where the unitary applied in our protocol reduces to the identity. As we see below, however, symmetry can constrain $\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle = 0$ for a class of \tilde{X} -basis measurement outcomes. In the latter case, our expansion for H_m and H' breaks down [as evidenced by the vanishing denominator in $a(i_1, \dots, i_{N_j})$ from Eq. (A7)]. Nevertheless, even without an action-based framework, in Sec. VII we use a nonperturbative technique to constrain correlations resulting from such measurement outcomes. For now, we neglect this case and continue to assume $\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle \neq 0$ in the remainder of this section.

B. Continuum limit

Using Eq. (22), the expectation value of a general critical-chain observable A in the state $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$ associated with measurement outcome \tilde{s} reads

$$\langle A \rangle_{\tilde{s}} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} \langle \psi_c | e^{-H_m/2} A_{U'} e^{-H_m/2} | \psi_c \rangle, \quad (29)$$

where $A_{U'} = U'^{\dagger} A U'$. The numerator on the right-hand side of Eq. (29) has the same form as the right side of Eq. (9), but with $A \rightarrow e^{-H_m/2} A_{U'} e^{-H_m/2}$ as a consequence of the unitary and measurement applied in our protocol. Furthermore, the normalization constant $\mathcal{N} = \langle \psi_c | e^{-H_m} | \psi_c \rangle$ also has the form of Eq. (9) with $A \rightarrow e^{-H_m}$. Following exactly the logic below Eq. (9) for both the numerator and denominator leads to the continuum expansion

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A \rangle_{\tilde{s}} &\sim \langle \mathcal{A} \rangle_{\tilde{s}} \\ &= \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}'} \int \mathcal{D}\gamma_R \mathcal{D}\gamma_L e^{-(S_c + S_m)} \mathcal{A}_{U'}(\tau = 0) \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

that generalizes Eq. (12). The new partition function is

$$\mathcal{Z}' = \int \mathcal{D}\gamma_R \mathcal{D}\gamma_L e^{-(S_c + S_m)}. \quad (31)$$

Most crucially, the Ising CFT action \mathcal{S}_c from Eq. (13) has been appended with a “defect line” acting at all positions x but only at imaginary time $\tau = 0$, encoded through

$$\mathcal{S}_m = \int_x \mathcal{H}_m(\tau = 0) \quad (32)$$

with \mathcal{H}_m the continuum expansion of H_m . The explicit form of the defect-line action \mathcal{S}_m depends on the unitary U and measurement basis, and is explored in depth in Secs. V and VI for cases I–IV in Table I. Specifically, we seek to understand its impact on observables $\mathcal{A}_{U'}$, which are also evaluated at $\tau = 0$ in the path-integral description, thereby potentially altering critical properties of the original Ising CFT in a dramatic manner. (Technically, $\mathcal{A}_{U'}$ is sandwiched between two factors of $e^{-S_m/2}$ evaluated at slightly different imaginary times. We approximate this combination as $\mathcal{A}_{U'} e^{-S_m}$ since the leading scaling behavior is unchanged by this rewriting.) It is important, however, to first understand the conditions under which the perturbative expansion developed above is expected to be controlled. To this end we now study the properties of the V_{jk} and m_j couplings in Eq. (25).

IV. PROPERTIES OF V_{jk} AND m_j COUPLINGS

In general, both V_{jk} and m_j vary nontrivially with the site indices in a manner dependent on the measurement

outcome. The couplings V_{jk} control the interaction range in H_m and exhibit a structure reminiscent of a connected correlator. That is, V_{jk} specifies how the overlap between the initial ancilla wave function and the measured state changes under a *correlated* flip of spins at sites j, k . It is thus natural to expect that V_{jk} statistically averaged over measurement outcomes, denoted \bar{V}_{jk} , decays with $|j - k|$ —either exponentially if the ancillae are initialized into the ground state of the gapped paramagnetic phase or as a power law if the ancillae are critical. We confirm this expectation below. The statistically averaged m_j coefficients denoted \bar{m}_j would then not suffer from a divergence in the presence of the $\sum_{k \neq j} V_{jk}$ term in Eq. (27), so long as \bar{V}_{jk} decays faster than $1/|j - k|$ (which does not always hold as we see later).

For a *particular* measurement outcome \tilde{s} , control of the expansion leading to H_m in the previous subsection requires, at a minimum, that V_{jk} and m_j for this outcome are similarly well behaved. For example, if the amplitude of m_j for a particular \tilde{s} grows with system size N , then $u \ll 1$ does not suffice to control the expansion (assuming that u does not also scale with system size). Additionally, if V_{jk} for a given \tilde{s} does not decay to zero with $|j - k|$, then the correspondingly infinite-range interaction in Eq. (25) makes the expansion suspect. Thus, it is crucial to quantify not only the mean but also the variances $\text{Var}(V_{jk})$ and $\text{Var}(m_j)$ of the couplings in H_m , which will inform which set of measurement outcomes we analyze later on. Next, we address this problem for the four classes of unitaries and ancilla measurement bases listed in Table I.

In all four cases, we statistically average using the $u = 0$ distribution for the ancilla measurement outcomes,

$$p_{\tilde{s}} = \langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle^2 \langle \psi_c | e^{-H_m} | \psi_c \rangle \sim \langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle^2 \equiv p_{\tilde{s}}^{(0)}, \quad (33)$$

since m_j and V_{jk} already come with u^2 prefactors. In Eq. (33) and many places below, we take advantage of the fact that the overlaps $\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle$ are non-negative, which follows because the transverse-field Ising model [Eq. (14)] is *stoquastic* [71]. That is, on a given computational basis state $|v\rangle$ —in this case, the \tilde{Z} or \tilde{X} local basis— $\langle v | H_{\text{anc}} | w \rangle \leq 0$ for $v \neq w$, from which it follows that $\langle v | \psi_a \rangle \geq 0$ for arbitrary basis states v . Hence, all elements $a(i_1, \dots, i_{N_F})$ from Eq. (A7) are also non-negative. Finally, since the fermionized H_{anc} is quadratic in Majorana fermion fields, we exploit the Gaussianity of both $|\psi_a\rangle$ and $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ to evaluate the elements $a(i_1, \dots, i_{N_F})$ using covariance-matrix techniques; see Appendix B. These tools, along with standard results for transverse-field Ising chain correlators, allow us to compute the probabilities $p_{\tilde{s}}^{(0)}$ as well as the mean and variance of m_j and V_{jk} below.

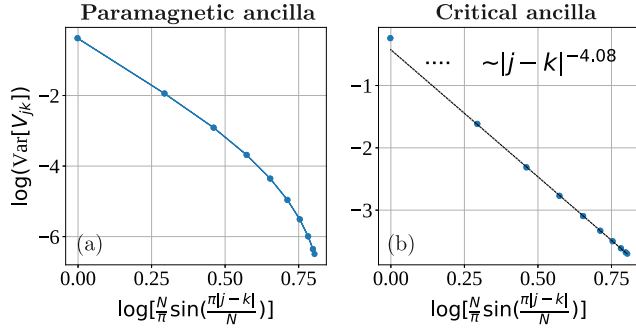


FIG. 2. Variance of V_{jk} for \tilde{Z} -basis measurements. Panels (a) and (b), respectively, correspond to paramagnetic and critical ancillae. The variance decays exponentially with $|j - k|$ in the former but decays approximately as $|j - k|^{-4}$ in the latter. Data are obtained using the methods in Appendix B with a system size $N = 20$.

A. \tilde{Z} -measurement basis

When the ancillae are measured in the \tilde{Z} basis, the mean and variance of V_{jk} evaluate to

$$\bar{V}_{jk} = \sum_{\bar{s}} p_{\bar{s}}^{(0)} V_{jk} = 0, \quad (34)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(V_{jk}) &= \sum_{\bar{s}} p_{\bar{s}}^{(0)} V_{jk}^2 - (\bar{V}_{jk})^2 \\ &= 1 + \sum_{\bar{s}} p_{\bar{s}}^{(0)} a(j)a(k)[a(j)a(k) - 2a(j,k)]. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Figure 2 illustrates $\text{Var}(V_{jk})$ versus $|j - k|$ determined numerically at $N = 20$, for both Fig. 2(a) paramagnetic ancillae and Fig. 2(b) critical ancillae ($h_{\text{anc}}/J_{\text{anc}} = 1$). In Fig. 2(a) and all subsequent simulations that use paramagnetic ancillae, we take $h_{\text{anc}}/J_{\text{anc}} = 1.5$. Additionally, when using periodic boundary conditions we present numerical results for correlations as a function of $(N/\pi) \sin(\pi|j - k|/N)$ to reduce finite-size effects [61]. The variances in Fig. 2 clearly tend to zero at large $|j - k|$, exponentially with paramagnetic ancillae and as a power law (with decay exponent approximately equal to 4) for critical ancillae. This decay suggests that typical \tilde{Z} -basis measurement outcomes yield well-behaved, decaying interactions in the second line of Eq. (25).

Because of the dependence on θ and $\langle O \rangle$ in Eq. (27), the mean and variance of m_j depend on the unitary applied in the protocol. For case I in Table I we have $\theta = \langle O \rangle = \langle X \rangle = 2/\pi$, while case II corresponds to $\theta = C$, $\langle O \rangle = 0$. For these cases, we find

$$\bar{m}_j^{\text{I}} = \bar{m}_j^{\text{II}} = 0, \quad (36)$$

$$\text{Var}(m_j^{\text{I}}) = 4\langle X \rangle^2 \left[-1 + \sum_{\bar{s}} p_{\bar{s}}^{(0)} a(j)^4 \right], \quad (37)$$

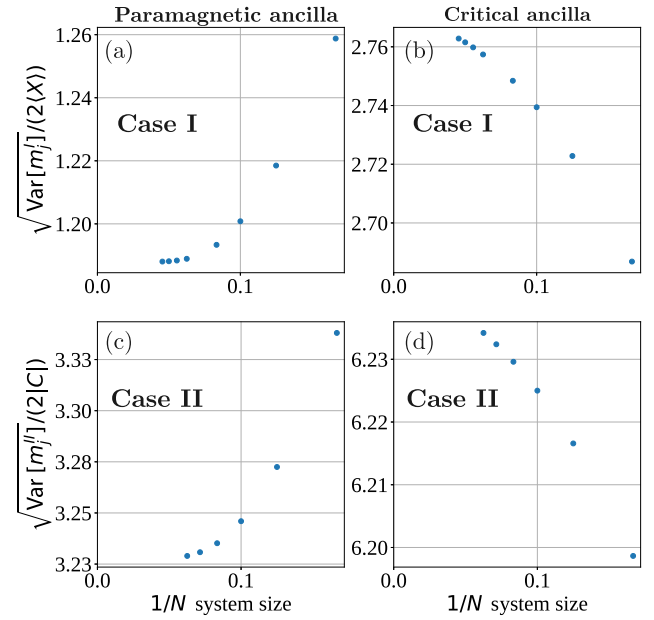


FIG. 3. Standard deviation of m_j for \tilde{Z} -basis measurements. For paramagnetic ancillae [panels (a) and (c)], in either case I or case II, the standard deviation decreases with N , with the trend suggesting saturation to a finite value in the thermodynamic limit. With critical ancillae [panels (b) and (d)], the standard deviation increases extremely slowly with N in both cases but remains comparable to the values with paramagnetic ancillae. Data are obtained using results from Appendix B.

$$\text{Var}(m_j^{\text{II}}) = 4C^2 \left\{ -1 + \sum_{\bar{s}} p_{\bar{s}}^{(0)} \left[a(j)^2 - \sum_{k \neq j} V_{jk} \right]^2 \right\}. \quad (38)$$

Figure 3 illustrates the numerically evaluated standard deviation $\sqrt{\text{Var}(m_j^{\text{I,II}})}$ versus inverse system size $1/N$, again for both paramagnetic and critical ancillae. (For case II, we assume $C \neq 0$ here, since otherwise m_j simply vanishes.) With paramagnetic ancillae, the standard deviation clearly converges at large N to a finite value for both case I and case II. With critical ancillae, in both cases the standard deviation is modestly larger for the system sizes shown, albeit showing *very* slow, potentially saturating, growth with N . Although here we cannot ascertain the trend for the thermodynamic limit, we expect that for experimentally relevant N values the variance of m_j remains of the same order of magnitude as for the paramagnetic case.

The behavior of the variances discussed above suggests that, at least for paramagnetic ancillae, any typical string outcome yields a well-behaved defect-line action amenable to our perturbative formalism. To support this expectation, we illustrate V_{jk} and m_j for select measurement outcomes. First, Fig. 4 displays V_{jk} for a uniform measurement outcome with $|\bar{s}\rangle = |\cdots \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \cdots\rangle$, which, along with its

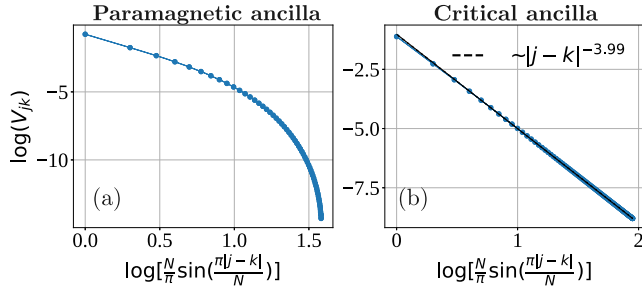


FIG. 4. V_{jk} profiles for a uniform measurement outcome in case I of Table I. Translation invariance of the uniform string outcome implies that V_{jk} depends only on $|j - k|$. Decay in V_{jk} is exponential with paramagnetic ancillae [panel (a)] but power law ($\sim |j - k|^{-4}$) with critical ancillae [panel (b)]. The data are obtained for $N = 280$ for critical ancillae using results from Appendix B.

all-down partner, occurs with highest probability $p_{\tilde{s}}^{(0)}$ (as confirmed numerically for systems as large as $N = 26$). Figures 4(a) and 4(b) correspond to paramagnetic and critical ancillae, respectively. In the former, V_{jk} decays exponentially with $|j - k|$, while in the latter it decays as $|j - k|^{-4}$. In both cases m_j is translational invariant, as dictated by uniformity of the measurement outcome. Moreover, we numerically verify that m_j saturates to a constant value with increasing system size in the paramagnetic case, whereas it slowly grows (at the level of the third decimal digit) for critical ancillae. The V_{jk} and m_j values discussed here can be combined to infer the (also uniform) m_j profile for case II, which at $N \rightarrow \infty$ will simply differ from m_j for case I by a finite value given the “fast” decay in V_{jk} .

The next-most-probable set of measurement outcomes correspond to configurations with isolated spin flips introduced into the uniform \tilde{s} string considered above. Rather than consider such outcomes, we next examine a lower-probability configuration with two maximally separated domain walls: $|\tilde{s}\rangle = |\cdots \uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\cdots\rangle$. (Because of periodic boundary conditions considered here, domain walls come in pairs.) Figure 5 displays both V_{jk} and m_j for this measurement outcome with domain walls at $j = 0, 100$ for a system with $N = 200$ assuming case I. Since V_{jk} now depends on j and k due to nonuniformity of the measurement outcome, in Figs. 5(a) and 5(b) we show V_{jk} versus k for three different j values. Overall decay with $|j - k|$ similar to that for the uniform measurement outcome persists here. For fixed j , a relative bump appears when k sits close to a domain wall, but the height of the bump is nonetheless orders of magnitude smaller than when k is close to j (see insets). In Figs. 5(c) and 5(d), the m_j profiles resemble those for the uniform case, but with dips that tend to zero from below in the thermodynamic limit for j 's on either end of a given domain wall. We also verify that

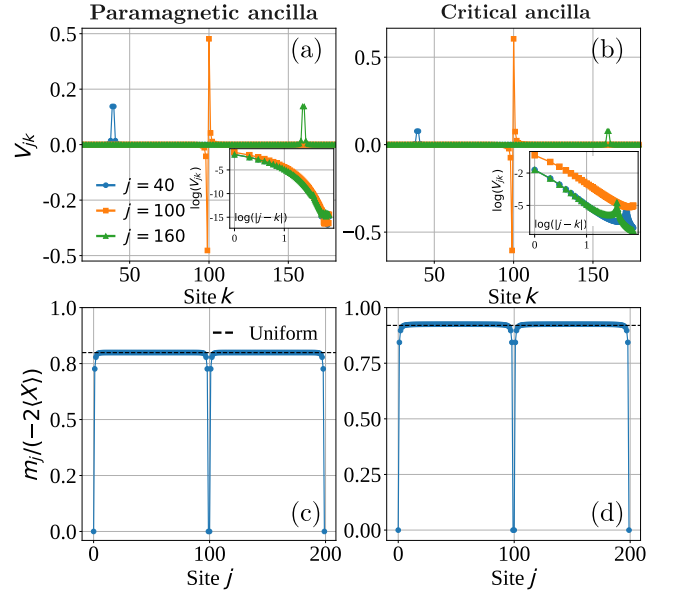


FIG. 5. V_{jk} and m_j profiles for a two-domain-wall measurement outcome in case I of Table I. Domain walls reside near sites 0 and 100 in a system with $N = 200$. Left and right columns show data for paramagnetic and critical ancillae, respectively. Because of loss of translation symmetry, we show V_{jk} versus k for several j values. As shown in the insets, V_{jk} decays with the distance $|j - k|$, although we find a relative bump close to the domain walls. The corresponding m_j profiles [panels (c) and (d)] exhibit dips near zero in the immediate vicinity of the domain walls, but are otherwise roughly uniform matching the values obtained for a uniform string outcome (black dashed lines). Data obtained using results from Appendix B.

still-lower-probability random \tilde{s} strings also yield well-behaved V_{jk} and m_j couplings.

B. \tilde{X} -measurement basis

Switching the ancilla measurement basis from \tilde{Z} to \tilde{X} qualitatively changes the statistical properties of m_j and V_{jk} . By construction, the initialized ancilla wave function $|\psi_a\rangle$ is an eigenstate of the \mathbb{Z}_2 -symmetry generator $\tilde{G} = \prod_j \tilde{X}_j$ with eigenvalue $+1$. For \tilde{X} -basis measurements, a given ancilla state $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ obtained after a measurement can also be classified by its \tilde{G} eigenvalue; we refer to measurement outcomes with $\tilde{G}|\tilde{s}\rangle = +|\tilde{s}\rangle$ as “even strings” and outcomes with $\tilde{G}|\tilde{s}\rangle = -|\tilde{s}\rangle$ as “odd strings.” (Because of the form of the unitary U applied prior to measurement in this case, both sectors can still arise despite the initialization.) Consider now an even-string measurement outcome with $\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle \neq 0$, as assumed in the perturbative expansion developed in Sec. III A. Crucially, due to mismatch in \tilde{G} eigenvalues, $\langle \tilde{s} | i_1 \dots i_{N_f} \rangle | \psi_a \rangle$ then vanishes for any odd number of flipped spins N_f . It follows that $a(j) = 0$ in Eqs. (26) and (27), leaving

$$V_{jk} = a(j, k), \quad m_j = -2\theta + 2(\langle O \rangle - \theta) \sum_{k \neq j} V_{jk}. \quad (39)$$

Notice that V_{jk} here is always non-negative [recall the discussion below Eq. (33)].

The mean and variance of V_{jk} then reduce to simple ground-state ancilla correlation functions:

$$\bar{V}_{jk} = \langle \psi_a | \tilde{Z}_j \tilde{Z}_k | \psi_a \rangle, \quad \text{Var}(V_{jk}) = 1 - \langle \psi_a | \tilde{Z}_j \tilde{Z}_k | \psi_a \rangle^2. \quad (40)$$

At large $|j - k|$, the mean always decays to zero: For ancillae initialized in the paramagnetic phase with correlation length ξ we have $\bar{V}_{jk} \sim e^{-|j-k|/\xi}$, while if the ancillae are critical $\bar{V}_{jk} \sim 1/|j - k|^{1/4}$. The variance of V_{jk} , by contrast, grows toward unity at large $|j - k|$. Correspondingly, the V_{jk} 's for particular measurement outcomes can differ wildly from the mean, and in particular need not decay with $|j - k|$.

Remarkably, for case III in Table I m_j takes on the same j -independent value for *any* even-sector measurement outcome:

$$m_j^{\text{III}} = -2\langle X \rangle. \quad (41)$$

For case IV, however, m_j depends nontrivially on V_{jk} and hence, the measurement outcome; here we find

$$\bar{m}_j^{\text{IV}} = -2C \left(1 + \sum_{k \neq j} \bar{V}_{jk} \right), \quad (42)$$

$$\text{Var}(m_j^{\text{IV}}) = (2C)^2 \sum_{k, k' \neq j} (\bar{V}_{kk'} - \bar{V}_{jk} \bar{V}_{jk'}) \quad (43)$$

with \bar{V}_{jk} given in Eq. (40). Suppose that the ancillae are paramagnetic. Exponential decay of \bar{V}_{jk} with $|j - k|$ yields a finite mean \bar{m}_j^{IV} , though the variance diverges linearly with system size $\text{Var}(m_j^{\text{IV}}) \sim N$ due to contributions from the $\bar{V}_{kk'}$ term with k' near k . With critical ancillae, power-law decay of \bar{V}_{jk} generates divergent mean and variance: $\bar{m}_j^{\text{IV}} \sim N^{3/4}$ and $\text{Var}(m_j^{\text{IV}}) \sim N^{7/4}$. In both scenarios, the fluctuations of m_j increase with system size faster than the average value.

We therefore can apply only the perturbative formulation developed in Sec. III A to a restricted set of \tilde{X} -basis measurement outcomes that lead to a well-behaved, decaying interaction term in H_m , and correspondingly well-behaved m_j couplings. Fortunately, the most probable measurement outcomes do indeed satisfy these criteria.

Figure 6 plots V_{jk} for the highest-probability outcome corresponding to the uniform string $|\tilde{s}\rangle = |\cdots \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \cdots\rangle$ [72]. For Fig. 6(a), paramagnetic ancillae V_{jk} decays to zero with $|j - k|$ exponentially, while for Fig. 6(b), the

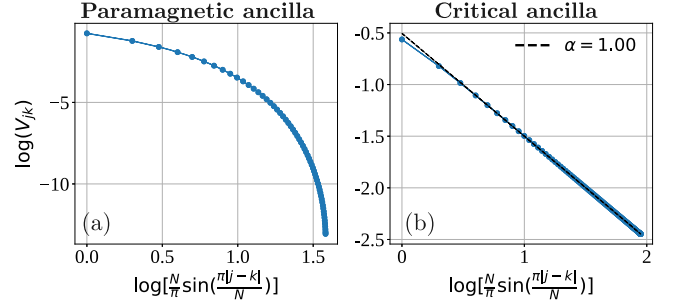


FIG. 6. V_{jk} profile for a uniform \tilde{X} -basis measurement outcome. Decay of V_{jk} is exponential with paramagnetic ancillae and power law (approximately $|j - k|^{-1}$) with critical ancillae. In the critical case, note the significantly smaller exponent compared to Fig. 4. Data obtained using results from Appendix B with system size $N = 280$ for critical ancillae.

critical ancillae decays as approximately $|j - k|^{-1}$. In case IV with $C \neq 0$, Eq. (39) implies that the associated m_j converges to a finite value as N increases for paramagnetic ancillae, but it diverges as $\ln N$ with critical ancillae. (For $C = 0$, m_j again simply vanishes.) Therefore, modulo this possible logarithmic factor, the uniform string presents a “good” \tilde{X} -basis measurement outcome.

As an example of a “bad” measurement outcome, consider next the domain-wall configuration $|\tilde{s}\rangle = |\cdots \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \leftarrow \leftarrow \leftarrow \cdots\rangle$. Figure 7 shows that here V_{jk} becomes highly nonlocal. More precisely, V_{jk} takes on sizable values whenever both j and k reside in the “ \leftarrow ” domain, regardless of their separation. One can gain intuition for this observation by considering the ancilla ground state deep in the paramagnetic regime. Here the ground state takes the form $|\psi_a\rangle = |\rightarrow \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow\rangle + \cdots$, where the ellipsis denotes perturbative corrections induced by small $J_{\text{anc}}/h_{\text{anc}}$. To leading order, these corrections involve spin flips on nearest-neighbor sites induced by J_{anc} , i.e., admixture of $|\cdots \rightarrow \rightarrow \leftarrow \leftarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \cdots\rangle$ components into the wave function.

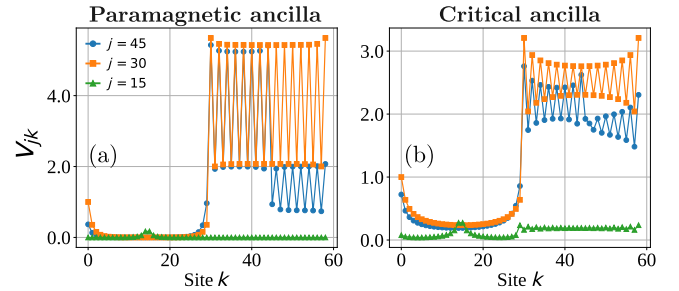


FIG. 7. V_{jk} profile for a two-domain-wall \tilde{X} -basis measurement outcome. The first 30 sites point in the energetically favorable \rightarrow direction, while the remaining 30 sites point in the unfavorable \leftarrow direction. Nondecaying behavior of V_{jk} occurs when j, k both reside in the unfavorable domain. Data obtained using results from Appendix B for system size $N = 60$.

Now consider the domain-wall outcome $|\tilde{s}\rangle$. Flipping two spins at sites j, k in the energetically unfavorable \leftarrow domain tends to increase the overlap with the ground state, naturally leading to $V_{jk} = (\langle \tilde{s}(j, k) | \psi_a \rangle / \langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle)$ that can exceed unity even for distant j, k as seen in our simulations. Flipping one spin within each of the two domains takes the energetically favorable “ \rightarrow ” domain and introduces a *single* \leftarrow spin. That domain then no longer resembles the ground state, which always harbors an even number of flipped spins. The coupling V_{jk} is therefore generically small with j and k in opposite domains, also as borne out in our numerics. Finally, flipping two spins in the \rightarrow domain again decreases the resemblance with the ground state—more so as the separation between the flipped sites j and k increases. The corresponding V_{jk} diminishes with $|j - k|$ in line with simulations yet again.

More generally, “good” measurement outcomes are those for which flipping two faraway spins invariably decreases overlap with the ground state such that $V_{jk} \rightarrow 0$ as $|j - k|$ increases. In addition to the highest-probability uniform string, the next-highest-probability set of strings, which contain dilute sets of nearest-neighbor flipped spins relative to the uniform background, also satisfy this property. Indeed, starting from such configurations, flipping spins at well-separated sites always locally produces regions with an odd number of flipped spins in a background of energetically favorable \rightarrow spins, thereby obliterating the overlap with the ancilla ground state and hence, V_{jk} .

V. PROTOCOL WITH \tilde{Z} -BASIS MEASUREMENTS

We now use our perturbative formalism to examine how correlations in the critical chain are modified by particular outcomes of \tilde{Z} -basis ancilla measurements in our protocol. In Sec. IV, we see that for this measurement basis both the mean and variance of V_{jk} vanish as $|j - k| \rightarrow \infty$, suggesting that generic measurement outcomes yield well-behaved decaying interactions in H_m [Eq. (25)]. Moreover, with paramagnetic ancillae the variance of m_j trended to a finite value at large system sizes, suggesting that the single-body piece in H_m is also well behaved for generic measurement outcomes. Thus, for paramagnetic ancillae, below we proceed with confidence considering unrestricted measurement outcomes from the lens of the continuum defect-line action obtained in Sec. III B. For critical ancillae, we see that the variance of m_j grows slowly with system size, warranting more caution in this scenario.

Let us illustrate an example for case I where $m_j \propto 1 - a(j)^2$ with $a(j) = (\langle \tilde{s}(j) | \psi_a \rangle / \langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle)$. After the uniform strings, the next most likely measurement outcomes are those containing a single spin flip. Consider one such state $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ with a single flipped spin at site j_{flip} . Subsequently flipping the spin at j_{flip} converts $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ back into the most probable, uniform string. We thereby obtain $a(j_{\text{flip}}) > 1$ and hence $m_{j_{\text{flip}}} < 0$ for this measurement outcome. With

paramagnetic ancillae, this negative $m_{j_{\text{flip}}}$ value saturates to a small constant as the system size increases. With critical ancillae, by contrast, we find that the magnitude of this negative value continues to increase over accessible system sizes, but *very* slowly similar to the standard deviation shown in the right panels of Fig. 3. We thus expect our formalism to apply also to general \tilde{Z} -basis measurement outcomes even for critical ancillae, at least over system sizes relevant for experiments.

We now consider the unitaries in cases I and II from Table I in turn.

A. Case I

We start with case I where the unitary reads $U_j = e^{iu(X_j - \langle X \rangle)\tilde{X}_j}$. This form of U_j preserves the \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetries G and \tilde{G} for the critical and ancilla chains, but does not preserve time-reversal symmetry \mathcal{T} (which sends $U_j \rightarrow U_j^\dagger$). Thus, although the \tilde{Z} -basis measurements break \tilde{G} symmetry, the postmeasurement state $|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle$ remains invariant under G . These considerations tell us that, for case I, $U' = e^{iH'}$ in Eq. (22) is generically nontrivial [as one can indeed see from Eq. (24)], while H_m and hence \mathcal{S}_m must preserve G symmetry. Indeed, Eq. (25) now takes the manifestly G -invariant form

$$H_m = u^2 \sum_j m_j (X_j - \langle X \rangle) + u^2 \sum_{j \neq k} V_{jk} (X_j - \langle X \rangle)(X_k - \langle X \rangle) \quad (44)$$

with

$$m_j = -2\langle X \rangle [1 - a(j)^2], \quad (45)$$

and V_{jk} given (as for all cases) by Eq. (26). The defect-line action using the low-energy expansion from Eq. (8) then reads

$$\mathcal{S}_m = u^2 \int_x m(x) \varepsilon(x, \tau = 0) + u^2 \int_{x,y} V(x, y) \varepsilon(x, \tau = 0) \varepsilon(y, \tau = 0). \quad (46)$$

Here, $m(x)$ and $V(x, y)$ represent the coarse-grained, continuum-limit counterparts of m_j and V_{jk} .

Provided $V(x, y)$ scales to zero faster than $1/|x - y|$, which is indeed generally the case both for paramagnetic and critical ancillae, we can approximate the second line of Eq. (46) as a local interaction obtained upon fusing the two ε fields according to the fusion rules summarized in Eq. (6). The leading nontrivial fusion product is $-i\gamma_R \partial_x \gamma_R + i\gamma_L \partial_x \gamma_L$, which is a descendent of the identity that, crucially, has a larger scaling dimension

compared to the ε field appearing in the first line of Eq. (46) [64]. It follows that for capturing long-distance physics we can neglect the $V(x, y)$ term altogether and simply take

$$\mathcal{S}_m \approx u^2 \int_x m(x) \varepsilon(x, \tau = 0). \quad (47)$$

We are primarily interested in computing the two-point correlator

$$\langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle_{\bar{s}} \sim \langle \sigma(x_j) \sigma(x_{j'}) \rangle_{\bar{s}} \quad (48)$$

in the presence of Eq. (47). Technically, according to Eq. (29) we need to conjugate the Z_j operators with the unitary U^l , which in case I rotates Z about the X direction. Such a rotation mixes only in operators in the low-energy theory with (much) larger scaling dimension compared to σ [73]. Hence, Eq. (48), which is the same as what one would obtain by ignoring U^l altogether, continues to provide the leading decomposition for the correlator.

When $m(x)$ is independent of x , as arises for uniform measurement outcomes, the above defect-line action is marginal, though for general measurement outcomes, $m(x)$ retains nontrivial x dependence. References [75–77] employed nonperturbative field-theory methods to study the effects of this type of defect line on spin-spin correlation functions in the two-dimensional Ising model. In particular, Ref. [77] derived the spin-spin correlation function for an ε line defect whose coupling is an arbitrary function of position. We report here their main result:

$$\langle \sigma(x) \sigma(x') \rangle_{\bar{s}} \sim |x - x'|^{-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\kappa u^2}{8} [m(x) + m(x')]} e^{\frac{\kappa u^2}{16} \mathcal{F}(x, x')}, \quad (49)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(x, x') &= \int_x^{x'} dy m(y) \frac{d}{dy} \ln \frac{[(y - x')^2 + a^2]^{1 + \kappa u^2 m(x')}}{[(y - x)^2 + a^2]^{1 + \kappa u^2 m(x)}} \\ &\quad - \int_x^{x'} dy dy' [1 + \kappa u^2 m(y')] \left[\frac{d}{dy} m(y) \right] \\ &\quad \times \frac{d}{dy'} \ln [(y - y')^2 + a^2]. \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

Above, a is a short-distance cutoff, and κ is a dimensionless parameter that captures an overall constant neglected on the right side of Eq. (8) as well as difference in normalization conventions between our work and Ref. [77]. We simply view κ as a fitting parameter in our analysis. Since $\mathcal{F}(x, x')$ in Eq. (49) already contains an $O(u^2)$ prefactor, to the order we are working it suffices to simply set $u = 0$ in Eq. (50). Some algebra then gives the far simpler expression

$$\langle \sigma(x) \sigma(x') \rangle_{\bar{s}} \sim |x - x'|^{-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\kappa u^2}{4} [m(x) + m(x')]} e^{\frac{\kappa u^2}{8} f(x, x')} \quad (51)$$

with

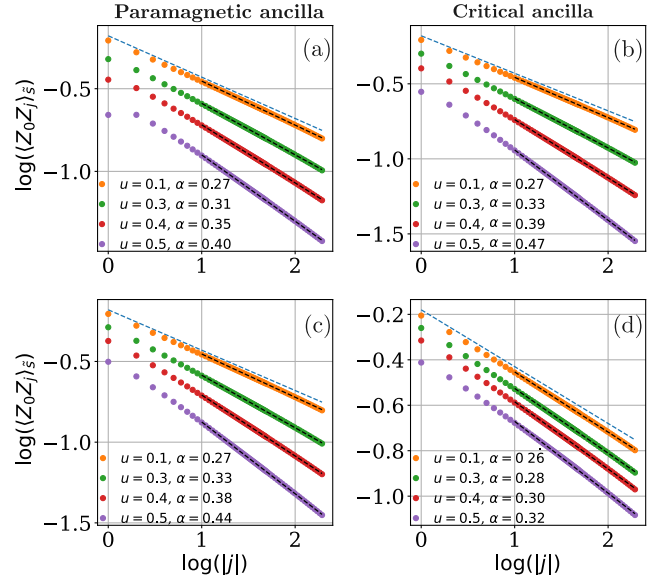


FIG. 8. Correlation function $\langle Z_0 Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ for uniform measurement outcomes. The first row corresponds to case I from Table I, while the second corresponds to case III. At $u = 0$, the curves exhibit an exponent $1/4$ that follows from the pristine Ising CFT. Turning on $u \neq 0$ yields a measurement-induced *increase* in the scaling dimension in all panels, as predicted by Eq. (54) for case I and Eq. (68) for case III. Data are obtained using infinite DMRG with bond dimension 1000 for paramagnetic ancillae and 2000 for critical.

$$f(x, x') = \int_x^{x'} dy \ln \left[\frac{(y - x)^2 + a^2}{(y - x')^2 + a^2} \right] \frac{d}{dy} m(y). \quad (52)$$

Equations (51) and (52) capture coarse-grained spin-spin correlations for general measurement outcomes, though for deeper insight, we now explicitly examine some special cases.

For a uniform measurement outcome (e.g., $s_j = +1$ for all j) giving constant $m(x) \equiv m_{\text{const}}$, Eq. (51) simplifies to

$$\langle \sigma(x) \sigma(x') \rangle_{\bar{s}} \sim \frac{1}{|x - x'|^{2\Delta_\sigma(u)}} \quad (\text{uniform } \bar{s}), \quad (53)$$

$$\Delta_\sigma(u) = \frac{1}{8} (1 + 2\kappa u^2 m_{\text{const}}) \quad (54)$$

consistent with the result found in Refs. [75,76] in the limit $|x - x'| \gg a$ and to $O(u^2)$. Remarkably, the defect line in this postselection sector yields an $O(u^2)$ change in the scaling dimension of the σ field compared to the canonical result in Eq. (5). We confirm this change using infinite DMRG simulation reported in Figs. 8(a) and 8(b): With both paramagnetic and critical ancillae, the scaling dimension of the σ field $\Delta_\sigma(u)$ exceeds $1/8$ when $u \neq 0$, as is particularly clear at $u \geq 0.3$. The fact that the scaling dimension increases (rather than decreases) with u is

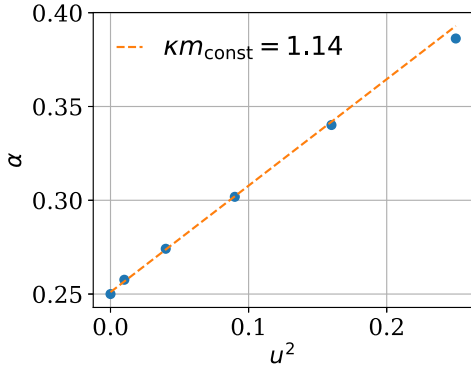


FIG. 9. Scaling of the power-law exponent for $\langle Z_0 Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ with a uniform measurement outcome. Data correspond to case I in Table I assuming paramagnetic ancillae and are obtained using iDMRG. The numerically extracted exponent α scales approximately linearly with u^2 at small u , in quantitative agreement with $2\Delta_\sigma(u)$ predicted by Eq. (54). A linear fit to Eq. (54) yields $\kappa m_{\text{const}} = 1.14$.

consistent with the fact that in this case the $e^{-H_m/2}$ nonunitary implements weak measurement in the X basis, thereby naturally suppressing Z correlations. The scaling-dimension enhancement is quite similar for the paramagnetic and critical cases, as expected given that m_j is only slightly larger in the latter [see black dashed line in Figs. 5(c) and 5(d)]. Figure 9 shows the dependence of the numerically extracted power-law exponent α as a function of u^2 , revealing a linear dependence in agreement with Eq. (54). The linear fit also allows us to extract a value $\kappa = -1.12$; note that $\kappa m_{\text{const}} > 0$, ensuring that $\Delta_\sigma(u)$ increases with u in the presence of the defect line as observed in our numerical simulations.

Next we examine a measurement outcome $|\tilde{s}\rangle = |\cdots \uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\cdots\rangle$ with a domain wall. This outcome yields nearly uniform m_j [see black dashed lines in Figs. 5(c) and 5(d)] except for a window around the domain wall where it approximately vanishes. We model the associated continuum $m(x)$ profile as

$$m(x) = m_{\text{const}} \{ \Theta[(x_0 - d) - x] + \Theta[x - (x_0 + d)] \}, \quad (55)$$

where x_0 is the domain-wall location, d is the spatial extent of suppressed $m(x)$ region on either side, and Θ is the Heaviside function. Adequately capturing detailed behavior near the domain wall likely requires incorporating short-distance physics, though we expect that our low-energy framework can describe correlations among operators sufficiently far from x_0 . With this restriction in mind, we consider the two-point correlator $\langle \sigma(x)\sigma(x') \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ with x far to the left of the domain wall ($x \ll x_0$) and $x' > x$. If x' also sits to the left of the domain wall, then $f(x, x') = 0$ and the correlator retains—within our approximation—exactly the same form as in Eq. (53). If, however, x' sits to the right of the domain wall with $x' \gg x_0$, then we obtain

$$f(x, x') \approx 4dm_{\text{const}} \left(\frac{1}{x_0 - x} + \frac{1}{x' - x_0} \right), \quad (56)$$

resulting in a modest enhancement of the correlator amplitude compared to the domain-wall-free case. Summarizing, for the single-domain-wall measurement outcome, we get

$$\langle \sigma(x)\sigma(x') \rangle_{\tilde{s}} \sim \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|x-x'|^{2\Delta_\sigma(u)}}, & x' \ll x_0, \\ e^{\frac{1}{2}\kappa u^2 dm_{\text{const}} \left(\frac{1}{x_0-x} + \frac{1}{x'-x_0} \right)} \frac{1}{|x-x'|^{2\Delta_\sigma(u)}}, & x' \gg x_0. \end{cases} \quad (57)$$

To test Eq. (57), we perform DMRG simulations for a system of size $N = 256$ with open boundary conditions so that we can accommodate a single-domain-wall measurement outcome. Figure 10 plots the numerically determined function

$$\delta \langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle \equiv \frac{\langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle_{\tilde{s}, \text{DW}} - \langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle_{\tilde{s}, \text{unif}}}{\langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle_{\tilde{s}, \text{unif}}}, \quad (58)$$

i.e., the difference in the microscopic two-point correlator with and without a domain wall, normalized by the

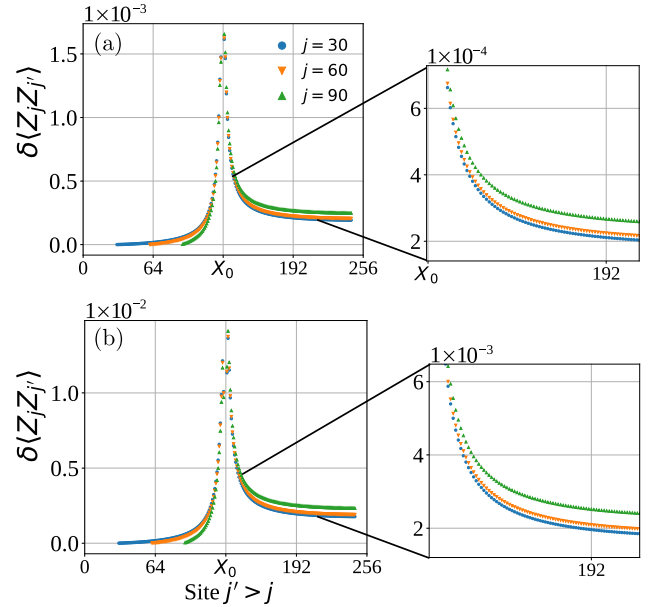


FIG. 10. Relative correlation function $\delta \langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle$ [Eq. (58)] for a domain-wall measurement outcome in case I from Table I. Main panels illustrate the relative change in the two-point function resulting from insertion of a domain wall. Panel (a) corresponds to $u = 0.1$ and panel (b) to $u = 0.3$. The domain wall resides near site $x_0 = 128$ in an $N = 256$ system with open boundary conditions. When j and j' both sit on one side of the domain wall, the change in correlations is negligible. When they sit on opposite sides, however, the correlations *increase* relative to the uniform measurement outcome. As we discuss in the main text, the behavior captured here reproduces the main qualitative features of the analytical prediction in Eq. (57). Data are obtained using DMRG with paramagnetic ancillae.

correlator for the uniform measurement outcome. Quite remarkably, the figure reveals the main qualitative features predicted by our result in Eq. (57): When both j and j' sit to the left of the domain wall, the difference in correlators approaches zero, while the correlator in the presence of a domain wall exhibits a small enhancement when j and j' sit on opposite sides of the domain wall. Moreover, the enhancement factor modestly increases as j approaches the domain wall, also in harmony with Eq. (57). The agreement between numerics and analytics here provides a very nontrivial check on our formalism.

In the presence of multiple well-separated dilute domain walls, the behavior of the correlator $\langle \sigma(x)\sigma(x') \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ follows from a straightforward generalization of Eq. (57). For x and x' within the same domain, the correlator again reproduces that in a uniform measurement outcome, whereas moving x' rightward leads to a relative uptick in the correlator upon passing successive domain walls. For dense domain walls, the m_j pattern changes significantly, necessitating a separate analysis.

B. Case II

The unitary in case II $U_j = e^{iu(Z_j - C)\bar{X}_j}$ is invariant under \bar{G} but preserves neither G nor T . Thus, the postmeasurement state generically breaks all microscopic symmetries. A special case arises, however, when $C = 0$: Here, U_j and hence the postmeasurement state preserve the composite operation GT . In line with these symmetry considerations, case II yields

$$H_m = u^2 \sum_j m_j Z_j + u^2 \sum_{j \neq k} V_{jk} Z_j Z_k \quad (59)$$

with

$$m_j = -2C \left[1 - a(j)^2 + \sum_{k \neq j} V_{jk} \right]. \quad (60)$$

Indeed, the m_j term, which is odd under G , appears as long as $C \neq 0$. The unitary $U' = e^{iH'}$, by contrast, is generically nontrivial even for $C = 0$ and always preserves GT : H' in Eq. (24) is odd under G in case II, but in U' the minus sign is undone by $i \rightarrow -i$ from time reversal. Nevertheless, we consider only Z_j correlators below, which here are invariant under conjugation by U' .

The associated continuum defect-line action, now using Eq. (7), is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_m &= u^2 \int_x m(x) \sigma(x, \tau = 0) \\ &+ u^2 \int_{x,y} V(x,y) \sigma(x, \tau = 0) \sigma(y, \tau = 0). \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

As in case I, $V(x,y)$ decays fast enough that we can approximate the second line with a local interaction

obtained here by fusing the pair of σ fields. The leading nontrivial fusion product is ε [see Eq. (6)]. For $C = 0$, where the $m(x)$ term drops out by symmetry, Eq. (61) then reduces to the form

$$\mathcal{S}_m = u^2 \int_x M(x) \varepsilon(x, \tau = 0), \quad (C = 0) \quad (62)$$

studied in the previous subsection with $M(x) = \int_y V(x,y)$. One-point correlators $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ vanish by symmetry (to all orders in u due to preservation of GT symmetry), while two-point correlators $\langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ can be computed using the methods deployed above. For the remainder of this subsection, we therefore take $C \neq 0$. In this regime the σ field arising from the first line of Eq. (61) has a smaller scaling dimension compared to the ε field emerging from the second line. We can therefore neglect the latter term, yielding

$$\mathcal{S}_m \approx u^2 \int_x m(x) \sigma(x, \tau = 0), \quad (C \neq 0). \quad (63)$$

Physically, $m(x)$ plays the role of a longitudinal magnetic field that acts only at $\tau = 0$.

For uniform strings where $m(x) = m_{\text{const}}$, the defect-line action in Eq. (63) constitutes a strongly relevant perturbation. Clearly then, $\sigma(x, \tau = 0)$ and hence Z_j take on uniform, nonzero expectation values in this postselection sector:

$$\langle Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}} \sim \langle \sigma(x_j) \rangle_{\bar{s}} = g(u) \quad (\text{uniform } \bar{s}), \quad (64)$$

where the function $g(u)$ vanishes as $u \rightarrow 0$ but tends to a nonzero constant at $u \neq 0$ in the thermodynamic limit. In sharp contrast, prior to measurements we have $\langle \psi_U | Z_j | \psi_U \rangle = 0$ for all u . Infinite DMRG results for $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ presented in Fig. 11 confirm the qualitative behavior predicted by Eq. (64).

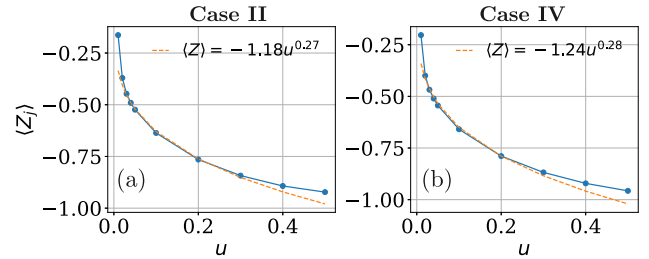


FIG. 11. One-point function $\langle Z_j \rangle$ with a uniform measurement outcome. Panels (a) and (b), respectively, correspond to cases II and IV from Table I. Results are obtained using infinite DMRG with $C = -1$, assuming paramagnetic ancillae. The nonzero value generated by measurement at $u \neq 0$ validates analytic predictions, e.g., Eq. (64). Moreover, the fits shown by the dashed lines exhibit excellent agreement with the u dependence extracted using renormalization-group arguments.

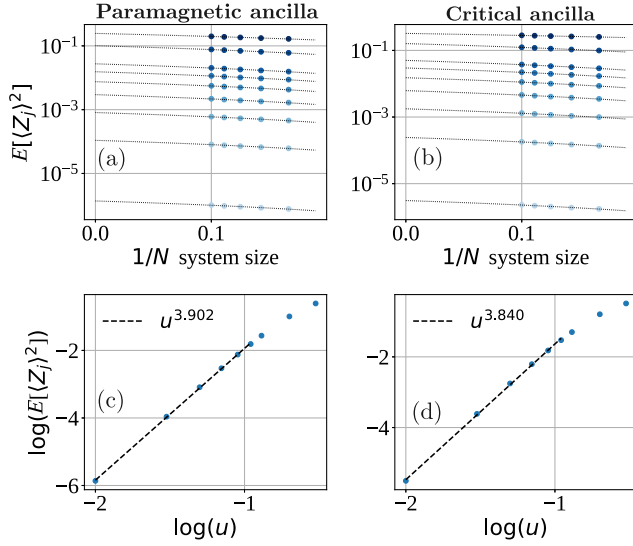


FIG. 12. Average of $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}^2$ over measurement outcomes in case II of Table I. Data are obtained using exact diagonalization for two chains of length $N = 6, 7, 8, 9, 10$ with $C = -1$. Panels (a) and (b) reveal well-behaved scaling with system size; larger values of u correspond to darker blue, with the darkest color corresponding to $u = 0.13$. Panels (c) and (d) show the extrapolated dependence of $E(\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}^2)$ with u . For small u , we find approximately u^4 scaling, consistent with the crude expectation that $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}} \sim u^2 m_j$ for a particular measurement outcome.

For a more quantitative treatment, we apply the renormalization-group (RG) technique to obtain the dependence of $\langle \sigma(x_j) \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ on u . Rescaling the spatial coordinate x by a factor b and defining $x' = x/b$, the σ field transforms as $\sigma(x) = b^{-1/8} \sigma'(x')$. The defect-line action $S_m = u^2 m_{\text{const}} \int dx \sigma(x)$ is then rewritten as $S_m = u^2 m_{\text{const}} b^{1-1/8} \int dx' \sigma'(x')$ and in particular exhibits a renormalized coupling strength $u^2 b^{7/8}$. Suppose now that at some coupling strength u_{ref}^2 , the magnetization is a fixed constant $\langle \sigma'(0) \rangle_{\tilde{s}} = M_{\text{ref}}$. We can back out the observables at arbitrary u by finding the RG map that takes $u \rightarrow u_{\text{ref}}$. First, choose the scaling parameter b such that $u^2 b^{7/8} = u_{\text{ref}}^2$, i.e., $b = (u/u_{\text{ref}})^{-16/7}$. We then obtain $\langle \sigma(0) \rangle_{\tilde{s}} = b^{-1/8} M_{\text{ref}} \propto u^{2/7}$. Despite the simplicity of this argument, a fit of $\langle Z_j \rangle$ in Fig. 11 yields a scaling of approximately $u^{0.27}$ with an exponent that agrees well with our prediction of $2/7 \approx 0.29$. It is also interesting to ask about two-point connected spin correlations in the presence of the uniform relevant defect-line action from Eq. (63). In Ref. [78] we explain that, for arbitrary u , power-law correlations persist with rigid exponents that are distinct from those of the pristine Ising theory.

We are not aware of works that compute the one-point function in the presence of arbitrary position-dependent $m(x)$'s that arise with generic measurement outcomes. Nevertheless, we expect that, at least for smoothly varying $m(x)$ profiles, $\langle \sigma(x) \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ polarizes for each x with an

orientation determined by the sign of $m(x)$. Since m_j averages to zero as shown in Sec. IV, averaging $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ over measurement outcomes then naturally erases the effects of measurements as must be the case on general grounds. In contrast, such a cancellation need not arise when averaging $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}^2$ over measurement outcomes. We thus anticipate that

$$\sum_{\tilde{s}} p_{\tilde{s}} \langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}^2 \neq 0. \quad (65)$$

Very crudely, if for a random measurement outcome $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}} \sim u^2 m_j$, then the nonlinear average above would be proportional to $u^4 \text{Var}(m_j)$. Our exact diagonalization results presented in Fig. 12 support these predictions. The top panels show $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}^2$ averaged over all \tilde{Z} -basis measurement outcomes versus $1/N$ for several values of u . For both paramagnetic and critical ancillae, extrapolation to $N \rightarrow \infty$ yields nonzero values for all $u \neq 0$ cases; additionally, the lower panels show that the extrapolated values indeed scale very nearly as u^4 for small u .

VI. PROTOCOL WITH \tilde{X} -BASIS MEASUREMENTS

Recall that for \tilde{X} -basis measurements, our perturbative formalism applies only to the highest-probability subset of even-string ($\tilde{G}|\tilde{s}\rangle = +|\tilde{s}\rangle$) measurement outcomes. These outcomes, on which we exclusively focus in this section, include the uniform state with $\tilde{s}_j = +1$ on every site and descendant states containing a dilute set of adjacent spin flips. Interestingly, even in this restricted space of measurement outcomes, we encounter qualitative differences between paramagnetic versus critical ancillae in our protocol.

For both cases III and IV, the unitary $U' = e^{iH'}$ is trivial in the even-string measurement sector. This result immediately follows from Eq. (24) using the fact that $a(j) = 0$ for any even-string \tilde{s} . Hence, in the ensuing analysis we need consider only H_m and the associated defect-line action S_m . Note also that the U_j unitaries for cases III and IV explicitly violate \tilde{G} symmetry; nevertheless, ancilla measurements project onto an even-string \tilde{s} (by assumption) so that both the initial and postmeasurement states are \tilde{G} eigenstates with eigenvalue $+1$. The situation is reversed compared to the protocol with \tilde{Z} -basis measurements, where the U_j unitaries preserve \tilde{G} while measurements produce a wave function that is not a \tilde{G} eigenstate.

A. Case III

The case III unitary $U_j = e^{iu(X_j - \langle X \rangle) \tilde{Z}_j}$ yields a defect-line action

$$S_m = u^2 m \int_x \varepsilon(x, \tau = 0) + u^2 \int_{x,y} V(x, y) \varepsilon(x, \tau = 0) \varepsilon(y, \tau = 0). \quad (66)$$

Equation (66) has the same form as Eq. (46) from case I— with the crucial difference that here $m(x)$ is replaced with a *constant* $m = -2\langle X \rangle$ that is the same for all of the (restricted) strings that we consider. For paramagnetic ancillae, results from Sec. IV imply that $V(x, y)$ decays exponentially with $|x - y|$, allowing us to once again fuse the ε 's in the second line into a subleading term compared to the first. More care is needed for critical ancillae, since for the uniform string outcome $V(x, y)$ decays like $1/|x - y|$. The second line then represents an inherently long-range, power-law-decaying interaction. Such a term is, however, still less relevant by power counting compared to the first line. Thus, similar to case I, we can approximate the defect-line action as simply

$$\mathcal{S}_m \approx u^2 m \int_x \varepsilon(x, \tau = 0). \quad (67)$$

In this case, one-point $\langle Z_j \rangle$ correlators again vanish by symmetry, while two-point correlators correspondingly behave as

$$\langle \sigma(x) \sigma(x') \rangle_{\bar{s}} \sim \frac{1}{|x - x'|^{2\Delta_\sigma(u)}}, \quad \Delta_\sigma(u) = \frac{1}{8}(1 + 2\kappa u^2 m). \quad (68)$$

At least within the approximations used here, a pristine power law with $O(u^2)$ -enhanced scaling dimension occurs for any even-string measurement outcome conforming to our perturbative formalism, even if the outcome is not translationally invariant. Surely, additional ingredients beyond those considered here would restore dependence on the measurement outcome; such terms, however, reflect subleading contributions, e.g., the neglected $V(x, y)$ term above. By contrast, for case I the dependence on measurement outcome is already encoded in the leading $m(x)\varepsilon$ term in the defect-line action.

The lower panels of Fig. 8 confirm the modified power-law behavior for the uniform measurement outcome, which again is especially clear at $u \geq 0.3$. Notice that for $u = 0.1$, the fitted scaling dimension is nearly the same for cases I and III, and for both paramagnetic and critical ancillae. This similarity is expected from our perturbative framework given that the leading defect-line actions [Eqs. (47) and (67)] take the same form with similar coupling strengths in the uniform measurement-outcome sector. At the larger value of $u = 0.3$, the extracted scaling dimensions in case III differ for paramagnetic and critical ancillae, even though our $O(u^2)$ theory predicts precisely the same exponent in both scenarios. Such a correction is not surprising, given that at higher orders in u , even the leading term in the defect-line action can discriminate between paramagnetic and critical ancillae. Indeed, we have checked that in the paramagnetic case, $\Delta_\sigma(u)$ scales like u^2 over a wider range of u compared to the case with critical ancillae.

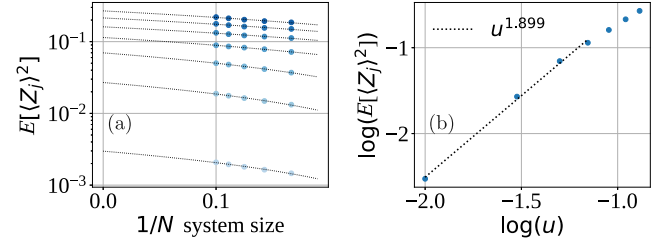


FIG. 13. Average of $\langle Z_i \rangle_{\bar{s}}^2$ over measurement outcomes in case IV of Table I. All parameters are the same as in Fig. 12, except here we consider only paramagnetic ancillae. The scaling of $E(\langle Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}^2)$ with u in panel (b) is much steeper (approximately u^2) compared to the scaling found in Fig. 12.

B. Case IV

For case IV, with unitary $U_j = e^{iu(Z-C)\bar{Z}}$, the defect-line action reads

$$\mathcal{S}_m = u^2 \int_x m(x) \sigma(x, \tau = 0) + u^2 \int_{x,y} V(x, y) \sigma(x, \tau = 0) \sigma(y, \tau = 0), \quad (69)$$

which has identical structure to that of case II but with modified couplings $m(x)$ and $V(x, y)$ due to the shift in the ancilla measurement basis. As in case II, the special limit $C = 0$ still yields $m(x) = 0$, as required by symmetry.

Let us first take $C \neq 0$. Following the logic used for case III above, the second line is always subleading compared to the first, independent of whether the ancillae are paramagnetic or critical. [Technically, however, $m(x)$ diverges logarithmically with system size when the ancillae are critical, so extra care is warranted when applying our perturbative formalism in this scenario.] For the uniform or nearly uniform measurement outcomes that we can treat here, the strongly relevant $m(x)\sigma$ perturbation leads once again to a nonzero one-point function $\langle \sigma \rangle_{\bar{s}} \neq 0$ that scales as $u^{2/7}$, as reproduced in DMRG simulations [Fig. 11(b)]. Similar to our previous discussion in case II, we numerically find that $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}^2$ averaged over all measurement outcomes also appears to yield a nonzero value at large N (at least for paramagnetic ancillae), even though our perturbative formulation now applies only to a restricted set of measurement outcomes. See Fig. 13 and notice the rather different scaling with u compared to Fig. 12. The results for critical ancillae, however, do not show an obvious trend and so we do not report them.

When $C = 0$, the approximation invoked above no longer applies, and the defect-line action instead becomes

$$\mathcal{S}_m = u^2 \int_{x,y} V(x, y) \sigma(x, \tau = 0) \sigma(y, \tau = 0) \quad (C = 0). \quad (70)$$

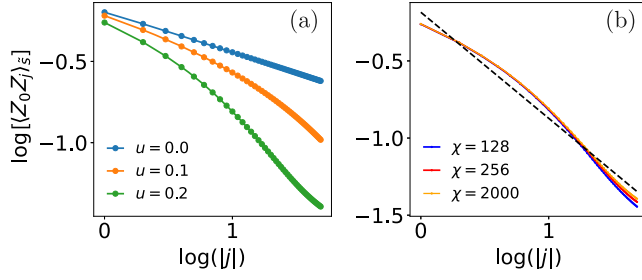


FIG. 14. Correlation function $\langle Z_0 Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ for case IV in Table I with $C = 0$ and critical ancillae. (a) At $u > 0$ the correlator appears to decay faster than a power law for $|j|$ less than $O(10)$ in response to the measurement-induced long-range interaction in Eq. (70). Data are obtained using iDMRG with bond dimension 2000. (b) Two-point correlator at $u = 0.2$ for a range of bond dimensions χ . Over the separations shown in (a), the data are well converged. For larger separations, however, the data continue to evolve with bond dimension.

Here the nature of the initial ancilla state becomes pivotal. For gapped ancillae, exponential decay in $V(x, y)$ enables fusing the σ fields into a single ε field. One then obtains the form in Eq. (62) that, for uniform or nearly uniform measurement outcomes, modifies the power-law correlations in $\langle \sigma(x)\sigma(x') \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ as described previously. For critical ancillae, this prescription breaks down since $V(x, y)$ scales like $1/|x - y|$. The resulting power-law-decaying interaction between σ 's in Eq. (70) is strongly relevant by power counting; the system's fate then depends on whether the power-law interaction is ferromagnetic or antiferromagnetic. On one hand, ferromagnetic $\sigma(x, \tau = 0)\sigma(y, \tau = 0)$ interaction would promote order-parameter correlations at $\tau = 0$ —possibly replacing power-law decay in the spin-spin correlation function with true long-range order, i.e., turning the critical chain into a cat state [79]. On the other hand, antiferromagnetic interaction would produce frustration, leading to a subtle interplay with ferromagnetic order-parameter correlations built into the premeasurement critical theory.

Since $V(x, y)$ is always non-negative in case IV, \mathcal{S}_m in Eq. (70) realizes the antiferromagnetic scenario. Figure 14 presents infinite DMRG simulations of $\langle Z_0 Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ for this case [80]. For separations $|j|$ smaller than $O(10)$, we find signatures of faster-than-power-law decay induced by measurements. For larger separations, however, we find a possible revival of correlations (though in this regime the DMRG data continue to evolve over the bond dimensions simulated). While correlations might exhibit exponential decay at short distances, we expect algebraic decay to take over at long distances, which may be related to physics of antiferromagnetic long-range Ising chains analyzed in Refs. [81,82]. This expectation is consistent with the fact that, as we show in an upcoming work [78], when a short-range-correlated system entangles with critical ancillae, measuring the critical system imprints long-range

correlations into the former. Hence, it is natural to anticipate that tuning the short-range-correlated system to criticality further enhances only its long-range correlations.

With critical ancilla, the full two-chain system prior to measurement corresponds to a free-fermion problem with total central charge $c = 1/2 + 1/2$. Thus, here the setup resembles a single-channel Luttinger liquid in the special case with Luttinger parameter $K = 1$. For the Luttinger-liquid measurement protocol considered in Ref. [51], uniform measurement outcomes were shown to produce a marginal defect-line action. Our protocol, by contrast, yields a *relevant* defect-line action both for $C = 0$ and $C \neq 0$ in case IV, thereby qualitatively modifying correlations as discussed above. Interestingly, it follows that the total central charge alone does not dictate the impact of measurements on long-distance correlations. Additional factors including the allowed physical operators and details of the measurement protocol also play a role. For example, the protocol from Ref. [51] used an uncorrelated ancilla chain to mediate measurements on the Luttinger liquid, whereas in our effective $c = 1/2 + 1/2$ setup, measurements are enacted “internally” without invoking an additional auxiliary chain.

VII. EXACT AVERAGING OVER EVEN OR ODD STRINGS IN \tilde{X} -MEASUREMENT PROTOCOL

A. Symmetry-resolved averages

With \tilde{X} -basis measurements, outcomes \tilde{s} can be divided into sectors according to whether $\tilde{G}|\tilde{s}\rangle = +|\tilde{s}\rangle$ or $-|\tilde{s}\rangle$. Here we exploit this neat even- and odd-string dichotomy to obtain illuminating, exact expressions for the average of critical-chain observables A over measurement outcomes confined to a particular $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ parity sector. Using Eqs. (18) and (19), the average in sector ε reads

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A \rangle_{\varepsilon} &= \sum_{\tilde{s} \in \varepsilon} p_{\tilde{s}} \langle \psi_{\tilde{s}} | A | \psi_{\tilde{s}} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{\tilde{s} \in \varepsilon} \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^\dagger \left(\prod_j |\tilde{s}_j\rangle \langle \tilde{s}_j| \right) U A U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle \\ &= \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^\dagger \tilde{P}_\varepsilon U A U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (71)$$

where $U = \prod_j U_j$ represents the unitary applied prior to measurement and $A_U = U^\dagger A U$. In the last line,

$$\tilde{P}_\varepsilon = \sum_{\tilde{s} \in \varepsilon} |\tilde{s}\rangle \langle \tilde{s}| = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \varepsilon \tilde{G}) \quad (72)$$

projects onto the measurement-outcome sector with parity ε . For the unitaries in either case III or IV from Table I, the anticommutation relation $\{\tilde{Z}_j, \tilde{G}\} = 0$ implies that $U^\dagger \tilde{G} = \tilde{G} U$. We can therefore express Eq. (71), after also using $\tilde{G}|\psi_a\rangle = |\psi_a\rangle$, as

$$\langle A \rangle_\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | A_U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^2 A_U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle. \quad (73)$$

Notice that the second term is real for any Hermitian operator A , since any imaginary part vanishes by parity constraints. Summing over the even and odd sectors yields $\langle A \rangle_+ + \langle A \rangle_- = \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | A_U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle$, which, in agreement with Eq. (20), is simply the result one would obtain without performing any measurements. The difference between the even- and odd-sector correlators, by contrast, isolates the second term in Eq. (73),

$$\langle A \rangle_+ - \langle A \rangle_- = \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^2 A_U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle, \quad (74)$$

and *does* retain nontrivial imprints of the measurements enacted in our protocol. Equation (74) is equivalent to the expectation value of the *nonlocal* operator $A\tilde{G}$ taken in the premeasurement state $U|\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle$; crucially, measuring the ancilla in the \tilde{X} basis provides access to such nonlocal information.

There is, however, no free lunch here: On general grounds, the right side of Eq. (74) should decay to zero with system size N for any fixed $u \neq 0$. To see why, let $p_\epsilon = \sum_{\tilde{s} \in \epsilon} p_{\tilde{s}}$ denote the probability for obtaining parity sector ϵ after a measurement, and consider the difference

$$\Delta p \equiv p_+ - p_- = \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^2 | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle. \quad (75)$$

Equation (75) simply corresponds to Eq. (74) with A being the identity. At $u = 0$, where U also reduces to the identity, we obtain $\Delta p = 1$, reflecting the fact that the initial ancilla state $|\psi_a\rangle$ resides in the even-parity sector by construction. Turning on $u \ll 1$, the state $U^2|\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle = \prod_j U_j^2|\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle$ exhibits a small $O(u^2)$ probability for flipping a particular \tilde{X} -basis ancilla spin. Yet the net effect over a macroscopic number of sites N inevitably translates into a “large” change in the probability for remaining in the even-parity sector. In terms of Eq. (75), this logic implies that $U^2|\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle$ becomes orthogonal to $|\psi_c\rangle|\psi_a\rangle$ at fixed $u \neq 0$ with $N \rightarrow \infty$, leading to $\Delta p \approx 0$. The insertion of A_U in Eq. (74), assuming it represents physically relevant combinations of local operators, cannot change this conclusion, implying that $\langle A \rangle_+ - \langle A \rangle_-$ vanishes with N as well. In Appendix D, we numerically show that, with paramagnetic ancillae, these quantities decay exponentially with system size.

We propose the ratio

$$r(A) \equiv \frac{\langle A \rangle_+ - \langle A \rangle_-}{\Delta p} = \frac{\langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^2 A_U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle}{\langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^2 | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle} \quad (76)$$

as an appealing diagnostic of \tilde{X} -basis measurement effects on Ising criticality. Equation (76) need not vanish in the

thermodynamic limit. Moreover, both the numerator and denominator comprise linear averages over experimentally accessible quantities. (But again, there is no free lunch; the individually small numerator and denominator would need to be obtained with sufficient accuracy to yield a meaningful ratio as we quantify further below.)

The formalism developed in Sec. III A and Appendix A allows us to rewrite $r(A)$ in a more illuminating form that directly connects with the results from Sec. VI. For simplicity, we focus for now on observables A that commute with U so that $U^2 A_U = A U^2$ (see below for a comment on the generic case). As detailed in Appendix C, we can express the ratio in Eq. (76) as

$$r(A) = \frac{\langle \psi_c | A e^{-H_m^r} | \psi_c \rangle}{\langle \psi_c | e^{-H_m^r} | \psi_c \rangle}, \quad (77)$$

where through our perturbative formalism we obtain at $O(u^2)$,

$$H_m^r = u^2 \sum_j m^r (O_j - \langle O \rangle) + u^2 \sum_{j \neq k} V_{jk}^r (O_j - \langle O \rangle)(O_k - \langle O \rangle). \quad (78)$$

Equation (78) is analogous to Eq. (25) but involves distinct couplings

$$V_{jk}^r = 2 \langle \psi_a | \tilde{Z}_j \tilde{Z}_k | \psi_a \rangle, \quad (79)$$

$$m^r = -4\theta + 2(\langle O \rangle - \theta) \sum_{k \neq 0} V_{0k}^r. \quad (80)$$

Most notably, compared to the V_{jk} and m_j couplings from cases III and IV of Table I, V_{jk}^r here depends only on $|j - k|$ and follows from the expectation value of $\tilde{Z}_j \tilde{Z}_k$ in the initial ancilla ground state (rather than depending on some particular measurement outcome). For similar reasons, m^r does not depend on position. If $[A, U] \neq 0$, then Eq. (77) holds together with an additional subleading term resulting from the commutator. For example, if we are interested in $A = Z_j Z_j$ in case III from Table I, then $[Z_j, U] = -2i Y_j \sin(u) [\text{icos}(u\theta) \tilde{Z}_j + \sin(u\theta)] \prod_{k \neq j} e^{iu(O_k - \theta) \tilde{Z}_k}$. Given that Y_j maps to a CFT operator with larger scaling dimension than that for Z_j , we can already deduce that the additional term coming from the commutator involves subleading contributions that we can safely neglect. For further analysis, see Appendix C.

Taking the continuum limit, the ratio in Eq. (77) can be recast in terms of a path integral perturbed by a defect-line action akin to Eq. (32); recall the steps below Eq. (29). Let us now specialize to paramagnetic ancillae, where V_{jk}^r decays exponentially leading to a purely local action and finite m^r . We can then immediately import results from

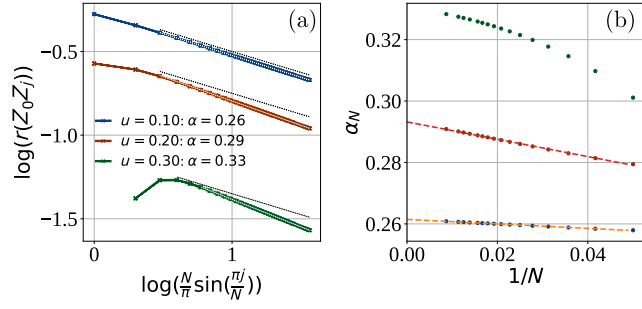


FIG. 15. Ratio $r(Z_0 Z_j)$ in Eq. (76) involving symmetry-resolved measurement averages. The data correspond to case III from Table I with paramagnetic ancillae, and different system sizes between $N = 20$ [light colors in (a)] and $N = 115$ [dark colors in (a)]. At $u > 0$, the curves exhibit power-law decay with exponent exceeding $1/4$ in agreement with Eq. (81). The shift in scaling dimension becomes particularly clear for larger values of u when compared with the black dotted lines corresponding to a power-law-decay exponent 0.25. The tendency continues upon extrapolating to the thermodynamic limit, as shown in (b). The power-law exponents α displayed in panel (a) are obtained from fitting the data with the largest system size available. Data are obtained using finite DMRG with periodic boundary conditions and bond dimension 1000.

Sec. VI to obtain $r(A)$ for spin correlators of interest. For case III, we find

$$r(Z_j Z_k) \sim |j - k|^{-2\Delta_\sigma^r(u)} \quad (\text{case III}) \quad (81)$$

with nontrivially modified scaling dimension

$$\Delta_\sigma^r(u) = \frac{1}{8}(1 + 2\kappa u^2 m^r), \quad (82)$$

where $m^r = -4\langle X \rangle$. This result is, remarkably, nearly identical to the prediction for postselected uniform measurement outcomes in case III; comparing with Eq. (68), the sole difference is that m^r is twice as large as m , leading to a more pronounced upward shift in scaling dimension. For case IV with $C \neq 0$, we similarly find that

$$r(Z_j) \sim u^{2/7} \quad (\text{case IV, } C \neq 0), \quad (83)$$

which also emulates predictions for the corresponding postselected uniform measurement outcome.

We perform a numerical experiment of Eqs. (81) and (83) using DMRG, focusing again on paramagnetic ancilla. Figure 15 presents the results for $r(Z_0 Z_j)$ in case III, which indeed reveals power-law decay with scaling dimension exceeding $1/8$ at $u > 0$. In Fig. 16, we further contrast the data with the power-law exponents obtained for $\langle Z_0 Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ with a uniform measurement outcome in case III. There we use finite DMRG for a system size of $N = 88$ to treat both quantities with a common numerical method. Our perturbative formalism predicts that, at small u , the

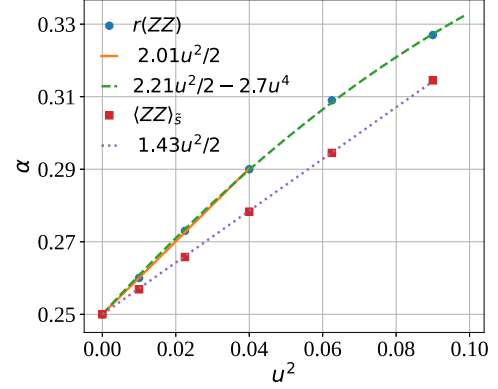


FIG. 16. Comparison between power laws for the $r(Z_0 Z_j)$ ratio and $\langle Z_0 Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ correlator with a uniform measurement outcome in case III. The measurement-induced shift in power-law exponent for $r(Z_0 Z_j)$ exceeds that of $\langle Z_0 Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$, in qualitative agreement with perturbative analytical predictions (though the enhancement is smaller than the predicted factor of 2). The green dashed line represents a quartic fit ($1/4 + \kappa m_{\text{const}} u^2/2 + bu^4$) in u of the exponent for the r ratio, while the orange and purple lines are the result of a quadratic fit ($1/4 + \kappa m_{\text{const}} u^2/2$). Data correspond to paramagnetic ancillae and are obtained with finite DMRG for a system of size $N = 88$ with periodic boundary conditions and bond dimensions 800 and 1000.

measurement-induced change in the power law for $r(Z_0 Z_j)$ should exceed that for $\langle Z_0 Z_j \rangle_{\bar{s}}$ by a factor of 2. We indeed recover a more pronounced enhancement for the former, albeit by a factor smaller than 2. Note also that the $r(Z_0 Z_j)$ power-law exponent clearly exhibits more dramatic higher-order-in- u corrections that are beyond our leading perturbative treatment. Figure 17 reports the results for $r(Z_j)$ in case IV with nonzero C . Just as in Fig. 11 taken for uniform measurement outcomes in cases II and IV, we obtain good

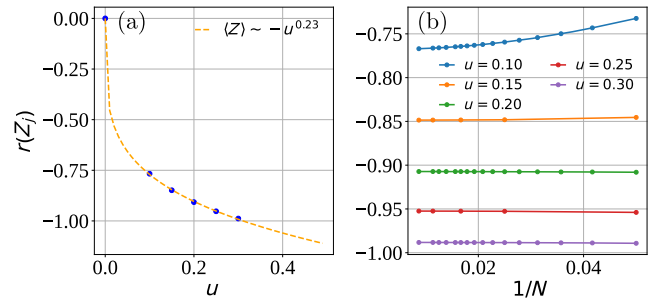


FIG. 17. Ratio $r(Z_j)$ in Eq. (76) involving symmetry-resolved measurement averages. The data correspond to case IV from Table I with paramagnetic ancilla $C = -1$ and system sizes between $N = 20$ [light colors in (a)] and $N = 115$ [dark colors in (a)]. Panel (a) shows that the small- u data are well fit by an approximate $u^{0.23}$ scaling form consistent with the prediction from Eq. (83). As shown in (b), increasing u suppresses the dependence on system size such that $r(Z_j)$ quickly saturates to a finite value. Data are obtained using finite DMRG with periodic boundary conditions and bond dimension 1000.

quantitative agreement with the prediction in Eq. (83). Moreover, panel 17(b) shows that the $r(Z_j)$ values quickly saturate as N increases, at least for $u \geq 0.2$.

Despite the striking resemblance discussed above between $r(A)$ and correlators in postselected uniform measurement outcomes, we stress that these quantities are not quite identical. The distinction becomes particularly apparent with critical ancillae for which V_{jk}^r encodes a power-law interaction in the associated defect-line action with much slower decay (exponent 1/4) compared to the decay found in cases III and IV (exponent 1). In case IV with $C = 0$, the inherently long-range $\sigma\sigma$ interaction mediated by V_{jk}^r is much more strongly relevant compared to the (also strongly relevant) interaction encountered in Eq. (70). Moreover, in case IV with $C \neq 0$, m^r correspondingly diverges rapidly with system size, signaling a clear breakdown of the perturbative expansion used above. By contrast, in Sec. VI B we see that critical ancillae yield only a mild logarithmic divergence in m_j . We leave a detailed investigation of the properties of $r(A)$ with critical ancillae for future work.

B. Comparison with postselection

We now critically assess the experimental feasibility of probing measurement-altered criticality via symmetry-resolved averages and contrast with the alternative strategy of postselection of an *a priori* specified measurement outcome [83]. For the technique, we focus in particular on postselecting the uniform ancilla measurement string \tilde{s}_{uni} , which as we saw previously is the most likely measurement outcome and leads to clear measurement-induced changes of correlators that closely resemble symmetry-resolved averages. Quite different challenges accompany these two approaches. For the experimental extraction of symmetry-resolved averages, every protocol iteration—regardless of the specific ancilla measurement outcome—can in principle nontrivially inform evaluation of the ratio $r(A)$ in Eq. (76). As stressed above, however, the numerator and denominator both decay exponentially with system size, suggesting that obtaining sufficient statistics to reliably measure $r(A)$ requires a correspondingly large number of experimental trials. With postselection, nearly all protocol iterations yield outcomes which differ from the target ancilla measurement outcome \tilde{s}_{uni} . But within the rare instances in which the target outcome emerges, evaluating $\langle \psi_{\tilde{s}_{\text{uni}}} | A | \psi_{\tilde{s}_{\text{uni}}} \rangle$ becomes relatively straightforward for two reasons. First, this expectation value generally does not decay exponentially with system size [contrary to Eq. (74)]. Second, due to translation invariance of $|\psi_{\tilde{s}_{\text{uni}}}\rangle$, one can interrogate all system spins in the postmeasurement state to reduce the number of recurrences of \tilde{s}_{uni} needed to resolve correlations to a desired accuracy; even a single successful trial suffices to approximate the expectation value of both one- and two-point

correlations with an error scaling as $1/\sqrt{N}$, with N the system size. In what follows, we quantify the number of trials required for both approaches.

Let us first assess symmetry-resolved averages and, respectively, write the numerator and denominator of $r(A)$ as

$$\mathcal{N} = \sum_{\tilde{s}} p_{\tilde{s}} \epsilon_{\tilde{s}} A_{\tilde{s}}, \quad \Delta p = \sum_{\tilde{s}} p_{\tilde{s}} \epsilon_{\tilde{s}}, \quad (84)$$

where $A_{\tilde{s}} = \langle \psi_{\tilde{s}} | A | \psi_{\tilde{s}} \rangle$, and $\epsilon_{\tilde{s}}$ denotes the parity for measurement outcome \tilde{s} . Both quantities decay exponentially with system size as

$$\mathcal{N}, \Delta p \sim e^{-\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u)N}. \quad (85)$$

The function $\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u)$ vanishes as $u \rightarrow 0$, reflecting the fact that, in the $u = 0$ limit, we obtain $\Delta p = 1$ exactly while \mathcal{N} reduces to the critical correlator $\langle \psi_c | A | \psi_c \rangle$ that (at least for the few-body operators A of interest) does not decay exponentially with system size. For simplicity, we assume that in a given protocol iteration yielding a particular \tilde{s} , one can determine both $\epsilon_{\tilde{s}}$ and $A_{\tilde{s}}$ in a single shot. (In practice, each iteration would yield an eigenvalue of A , and determining $A_{\tilde{s}}$ would require multiple iterations yielding the same outcome \tilde{s} . Our assumption mods out these standard repetitions. Moreover, since averaging over measurement outcomes restores translation invariance, here too one can probe all system spins to reduce the required number of repetitions, similar to the situation noted above for postselection.) After M experimental protocol iterations yielding a set of outcomes $\tilde{s}_{i=1, \dots, M}$ and associated parities $\epsilon_{\tilde{s}_i}$ and observables $A_{\tilde{s}_i}$, the quantities in Eq. (84) can be estimated by

$$\mathcal{N}_M = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \epsilon_{\tilde{s}_i} A_{\tilde{s}_i}, \quad \Delta p_M = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \epsilon_{\tilde{s}_i}. \quad (86)$$

In the limit $M \rightarrow \infty$, one obtains the exact results $\mathcal{N}_M \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ and $\Delta p_M \rightarrow \Delta p$.

It is crucial to now understand the variance of the sampling distribution that quantifies the quality of these estimations at finite M . Given an estimator θ_M , the sample variance is

$$\text{Var}_M(\theta) = \frac{\text{Var}(\theta)}{M}, \quad (87)$$

i.e., the population variance $\text{Var}(\theta) = \sum_{\tilde{s}} p_{\tilde{s}} \theta_{\tilde{s}}^2 - \langle \theta \rangle^2$ divided by the sample size M . Intuitively, this quantity implies that the larger the sample size M , the smaller the variance of the sampling distribution of θ_M . For the \mathcal{N} and Δp estimators, we have

$$\text{Var}_M(\mathcal{N}) = \frac{1}{M} \left(\sum_{\tilde{s}} p_{\tilde{s}} A_{\tilde{s}}^2 - \mathcal{N}^2 \right) \approx \frac{1}{M} \sum_{\tilde{s}} p_{\tilde{s}} A_{\tilde{s}}^2, \quad (88)$$

$$\text{Var}_M(\Delta p) = \frac{1}{M} (1 - \Delta p^2) \approx \frac{1}{M}, \quad (89)$$

where on the rightmost sides, we use the fact that both \mathcal{N} and Δp decay exponentially with system size. Comparing to Eq. (85), we see here that accurately determining both the numerator and denominator of $r(A)$ requires a number of trials M that grows exponentially with N . The relative error $\sqrt{\text{Var}_M(\Delta p)}/\Delta p$ in determining Δp , for instance, becomes smaller than 1 for $M \gtrsim e^{2\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u)N}$; similar reasoning applies to \mathcal{N} .

We are primarily interested in the number of trials required to reliably estimate $r(A)$ itself. The corresponding ratio estimator reads

$$r_M(A) = \frac{\mathcal{N}_M}{\Delta p_M}, \quad (90)$$

while to $O(M^{-1})$, its variance is [84]

$$\text{Var}_M[r(A)] \approx \frac{1}{\Delta p^2} [\text{Var}_M(\mathcal{N}) + r(A)^2 \text{Var}_M(\Delta p) - 2r(A) \text{Cov}_M(\mathcal{N}, \Delta p)]. \quad (91)$$

Evaluating the terms in brackets and neglecting contributions that are exponentially small in system size yields

$$\text{Var}_M[r(A)] \approx \frac{1}{M\Delta p^2} \{ \text{Var}(A) + [r(A) - \langle A \rangle]^2 \}. \quad (92)$$

The dominant remaining system-size dependence appears through Δp in the denominator. Consequently, accurate extraction of the symmetry-resolved average ratio $r(A)$ requires a number of trials satisfying [85]

$$M_{\text{SRA}} \gtrsim \frac{1}{\Delta p^2} \sim e^{2\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u)N} \quad (93)$$

(which is the same criterion for separately determining the numerator and denominator).

To diagnose a potential advantage of this approach with respect to postselection, we next estimate the minimum sample size required to obtain the target measurement outcome \tilde{s}_{uni} with high likelihood. The probability to measure this string

$$p_{\text{uni}} = \langle \Psi_U | \tilde{s}_{\text{uni}} \rangle \langle \tilde{s}_{\text{uni}} | \Psi_U \rangle \sim e^{-\eta_{\text{uni}}(u)N} \quad (94)$$

also decreases exponentially with system size, as expected from the fact that it arises from the overlap of two very different many-body wave functions. Importantly, the function $\eta_{\text{uni}}(u)$, unlike $\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u)$, generically does *not* vanish as

$u \rightarrow 0$: At $u = 0$, exponential decay with N persists due to nontrivial overlap between $|\tilde{s}_{\text{uni}}\rangle$ and the initial ancilla wave function, except in the extreme limit $h_{\text{anc}}/J_{\text{anc}} \rightarrow \infty$. Since the probability of not measuring \tilde{s}_{uni} after M trials is $(1 - p_{\text{uni}})^M$, the probability of finding this measurement outcome at least once is $p_{\text{success}} = 1 - (1 - p_{\text{uni}})^M$. The number of trials required for postselecting the uniform measurement outcome with high success probability $p_{\text{success}} = 1 - \varepsilon$ (ideally 1) accordingly satisfies

$$M_{\text{uni}} = \frac{\log(\varepsilon)}{\log(1 - p_{\text{uni}})} \sim \frac{1}{p_{\text{uni}}} \sim e^{\eta_{\text{uni}}(u)N}. \quad (95)$$

Both the symmetry-resolved average and brute-force postselection approaches thus require an exponentially large (in system size) number of measurements specified by Eqs. (93) and (95), respectively. It is crucial to observe, however, that the scaling with N is tunable via the choice of entangling gate and ancilla initialization in a manner that differs for the two methods. On very general grounds, since $\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u = 0)$ vanishes whereas $\eta_{\text{uni}}(u = 0)$ is positive, there always exists a window of sufficiently small u for which symmetry-resolved averages can be probed more efficiently compared to postselection. To be more quantitative, Appendix D provides numerical evidence that for small u these functions typically behave as

$$\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u) \approx c_{\text{SRA}} u^\zeta, \quad \eta_{\text{uni}}(u) \approx \Upsilon + c_{\text{uni}} u^\zeta. \quad (96)$$

Here $c_{\text{SRA}}, c_{\text{uni}}$ are positive constants, ζ is a case-dependent exponent that we extract (see Fig. 22), and Υ determines the probability of finding the uniform measurement outcome at $u = 0$ (see Appendix B and Fig. 20). Equation (96) implies that when $2c_{\text{SRA}} > c_{\text{uni}}$, which we find holds in practice, M_{SRA} grows with system size exponentially but with a slower rate compared to M_{uni} for u between 0 and $u_* \equiv (\Upsilon/2c_{\text{SRA}} - c_{\text{uni}})^{1/\zeta}$. When u increases just beyond u_* , postselection begins to become more efficient than symmetry-resolved averages. Intuitively, as the ancilla correlation length increases, the probability for obtaining the uniform measurement outcome decreases, thereby enhancing u_* and broadening the window in which symmetry-resolved averages are advantageous. In case IV with critical ancillae, we find that Δp does not decay monotonically to zero with N , but rather changes sign along the way. Equation (96) does not capture such nonmonotonic behavior; similar conclusions nevertheless hold also in that case as we will see.

We validate the preceding picture by numerically analyzing the ratio $M_{\text{uni}}/M_{\text{SRA}} \sim \Delta p^2/p_{\text{uni}}$, in particular, by simulating the system-size dependence of $\Delta p^2/p_{\text{uni}}$ for different u values in cases III and IV. (When $uN \ll 1$, the unitary entangling gates are sufficiently close to the identity that they do not induce appreciable decay of either Δp or p_{uni} ; hence, we restrict the range of u such that the N values

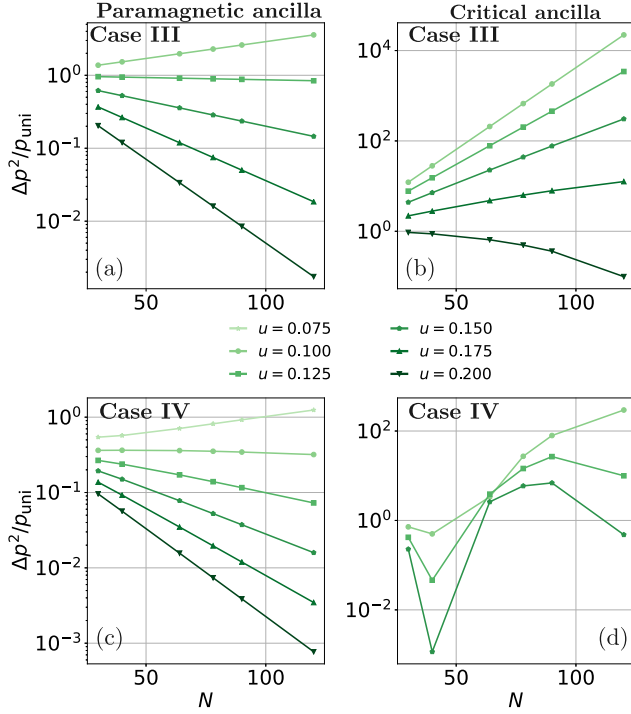


FIG. 18. Comparison between symmetry-resolved averages and postselection. The vertical axis captures the ratio $M_{\text{uni}}/M_{\text{SRA}} \sim \Delta p^2/p_{\text{uni}}$, where M_{uni} characterizes the number of trials needed for postselection that targets the uniform measurement outcome, and M_{SRA} characterizes the number of trials required for evaluation of symmetry-resolved averages with order-one variance. All panels are consistent with symmetry-resolved averages providing more favorable scaling with system size N over a window of small u , as argued on general grounds in the main text. Data are obtained using finite DMRG with bond dimension $\chi = 800$ and periodic boundary conditions; case IV results use $C = -1$.

accessible in our simulations include regimes with $uN \gtrsim 1$. With this constraint, we also avoid possible artificial phenomena appearing as a result of scaling u with system size.) Growth of $\Delta p^2/p_{\text{uni}}$ with N indicates more favorable scaling for symmetry-resolved averages, while decay with N indicates an advantage for postselection. Figure 18 presents our results. For paramagnetic ancilla (left panels), data for cases III and IV are consistent with postselection becoming favorable for $u \gtrsim 0.1$. For critical ancilla (right panels), the data show that symmetry-resolved averages can remain advantageous out to larger values of u , consistent with the intuition above, especially in case III. Nonmonotonic behavior evident in Fig. 18(d) arises because of the aforementioned sign changes in Δp arising in case IV with critical ancillae.

Assessing practicality of either scheme also requires quantifying the separate values M_{SRA} and M_{uni} (as opposed to just their ratio) for experimentally reasonable system sizes. Relevant N values will certainly be platform dependent, as will the number of trials that one can feasibly

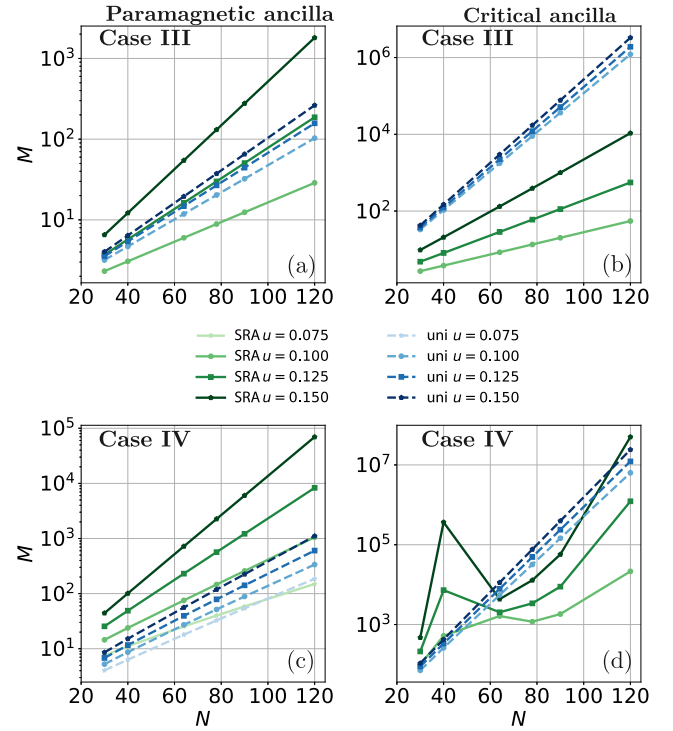


FIG. 19. Scaling of M_{uni} and M_{SRA} with system size N . The number of trials needed for postselection of the uniform measurement outcome and to extract symmetry-resolved averages are here estimated by $M_{\text{uni}} = 1/p_{\text{uni}}$ and $M_{\text{SRA}} = 1/(\Delta p)^2$, respectively. Both approaches offer complementary regimes of experimental viability even at large systems with $N \sim O(100)$, as evidenced by a number of required trials of $O(10^3)$ or smaller. Data are obtained identically as in Fig. 18.

conduct on laboratory timescales. For concreteness, we focus on $N \sim O(100)$, which is relevant for present-day hardware, and postulate that trials up to $O(10^3)$ are accessible. Furthermore, we simply take $M_{\text{SRA}} = 1/(\Delta p)^2$ and $M_{\text{uni}} = 1/p_{\text{uni}}$ to roughly evaluate the trials required for symmetry-resolved averages and for postselection, respectively; Fig. 19 displays the N dependence of these quantities for select u values. Remarkably, all four panels explored in the figure reveal regimes for which symmetry-resolved averages satisfy the experimental plausibility criteria laid out above. With paramagnetic ancillae, postselection also enjoys regimes that require a surprisingly moderate number of trials even out to fairly large system sizes, ultimately because ancilla measurement outcomes obey a highly biased, controllable distribution. For reference, had all measurement outcomes been equally likely, one would obtain $M_{\text{uni}} = 2^N - 10^{24}$ in an $N = 80$ system. Figure 19 additionally reveals that M_{uni} increases relatively slowly with u (compared to M_{SRA}), extending the experimentally plausible regime for postselection to larger u 's that display correspondingly stronger signatures of measurement-altered criticality.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND OUTLOOK

We analyze the initialize-entangle-measure-probe protocol summarized in Fig. 1 to investigate how measurements impact correlations in 1D Ising quantum critical points. Specifically, we develop a perturbative formalism that allows us to analytically study the outcome of our protocol applied with the four classes of unitaries and projective ancilla measurements listed in Table I. Within this approach, long-distance correlations of microscopic spin operators are related to correlations of low-energy fields evaluated with respect to the usual Ising CFT action perturbed by a defect line. The detailed structure of the defect line depends on the choice of entangling unitary, the initial ancilla state, and the outcome of ancilla measurements. We argue that, with \tilde{Z} -basis ancilla measurements, this formalism applies to general measurement outcomes; with \tilde{X} -basis ancilla measurements, however, well-behaved defect-line actions emerge only for a restricted set of (high-probability) measurement outcomes. In the latter context, we hope that future work can develop a more complete analytic theory capable of treating arbitrary measurement outcomes and assessing their probabilities for general ancilla initializations.

Various predictions follow from this framework, most of which we support with numerical simulations. We recapitulate our main findings here [see also Fig. 1(e)].

Case I: unitary $U_j = e^{iu(X_j - \langle X \rangle)\tilde{X}_j}$, \tilde{Z} -basis measurements. Nonperturbative CFT results [77] allow one to formally compute the coarse-grained two-point spin correlation function $\langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ for general measurement outcomes \tilde{s} . For a uniform measurement outcome, which occurs with highest probability, the two-point function exhibits power-law decay with a measurement-induced change in the scaling dimension. Our formulation also captures subtle changes in correlations that arise with measurement outcomes featuring a domain wall. The agreement we find between analytical and numerical results here represents a highly nontrivial check for the validity of our approach.

Case II: unitary $U_j = e^{iu(Z_j - C)\tilde{X}_j}$, \tilde{Z} -basis measurements. With $C \neq 0$, the defect-line action includes a longitudinal-field term that explicitly breaks the \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry enjoyed by the critical chain prior to measurement. Correspondingly, the one-point function $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ becomes nonzero, with a spatial profile dependent on the measurement outcome. Averaging $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ over measurement outcomes yields a vanishing one-point function as required on general grounds. By contrast, averaging $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}^2$ retains memory of the measurements and yields a nonzero result that, based on our exact diagonalization results, appears to survive in the thermodynamic limit.

Case III: unitary $U_j = e^{iu(X_j - \langle X \rangle)\tilde{Z}_j}$, \tilde{X} -basis measurements. Just as for case I, the uniform string measurement outcome occurs with highest probability and yields a two-point function $\langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ with modified scaling dimension.

Case IV: unitary $U_j = e^{iu(Z_j - C)\tilde{Z}_j}$, \tilde{X} -basis measurements. As for case II, explicit breaking of \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry induced by $C \neq 0$ yields a nonzero one-point function $\langle Z_j \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ for the nearly uniform measurement outcomes amenable to our perturbative formalism. Taking $C = 0$ restores \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry for the critical chain. Here, when the ancillae are *also* critical, the defect-line action hosts a long-range power-law-decaying interaction among CFT spin fields that, based on iDMRG simulations, appears to qualitatively alter $\langle Z_j Z_{j'} \rangle_{\tilde{s}}$ correlations (for uniform or nearly uniform measurement outcomes). That is, on short distances the correlations decay faster than power law, though we argue that on longer distances power-law correlations are likely to reemerge. Further substantiating this scenario, possibly drawing connections with previous work on long-range-interacting Ising chains [81,82], raises an interesting open problem.

In the cases with \tilde{X} -basis ancilla measurements, we further propose a new method for detecting nontrivial effects of measurements on Ising quantum criticality. Here we exploit the fact that \tilde{X} -basis measurement outcomes factorize into two symmetry sectors depending on the value of the generator $\tilde{G} = \prod_j \tilde{X}_j \in \pm 1$ of the global \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry for the ancilla. Although \tilde{G} is a nonlocal operator, its eigenvalue for any outcome $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ follows trivially given measurements of \tilde{X}_j for each ancilla site; one can, in turn, average critical-chain observables over measurement outcomes separately within each symmetry sector. We find analytically that the *difference* in averages between the two sectors (normalized by the difference in probability for accessing the sectors) encodes measurement effects on Ising criticality that survive in the thermodynamic limit. Strikingly, such ratios evaluated for one- and two-point spin correlations mimic the behavior predicted for uniform postselection outcomes by our perturbative defect-line framework, as recovered also in our simulations. The practical catch is that the ratio involves a numerator and denominator that individually decay to zero as the system size increases.

To address feasibility given this catch, we quantify the number of trials needed to meaningfully extract symmetry-resolved averages and contrast with the alternative technique of postselecting for the uniform measurement outcome. We establish very generally that symmetry-resolved averages require exponentially fewer trials—although still exponentially many—compared to postselection over a window of small-entangling-gate strength u that widens as the ancillae become more correlated. Moreover, within this window, symmetry-resolved averages necessitate a strikingly modest number of protocol runs estimated to be on the scale of 10^2 to 10^3 for critical chains composed of $O(100)$ spins. Another important message of this work, however, is that postselection poses a far less daunting challenge compared to the situation where all measurement outcomes are equally

likely. With paramagnetic ancillae in particular, we find that in larger- u regimes where postselection outperforms symmetry-resolved averages, the uniform measurement outcome can emerge with high probability after a similarly modest number of protocol runs in systems with as large as $O(100)$ spins. Apparent viability of postselection here originates from the fact that measurement outcomes are far from random, but rather follow a highly biased distribution that one can control via u and the initial ancilla configuration. It would be valuable to understand the effects of measurement errors and decoherence on both symmetry-resolved averages and postselection to further address their suitability for experimental application. More broadly, might factorization into symmetry sectors as exploited for symmetry-resolved averages prove fruitful for detecting measurement-induced phenomena in other contexts?

In much of this work, correlations in the initialized ancilla state play an important role. Cases I and II, for instance, become completely trivial if the ancillae are initialized into the (product-state) ground state of Eq. (14) at $h_{\text{anc}}/J_{\text{anc}} \rightarrow \infty$. In this extreme case, $|\psi_a\rangle$ is an eigenstate of the U_j 's used in our protocol for cases I and II. Hence, those unitaries do not actually entangle the critical chain with the ancilla, and measurements of the system do not affect the former. Case IV highlights a more striking example, where once again critical ancillae can produce a defect-line action exhibiting inherently long-range interaction among CFT fields, mediating physics qualitatively different from what we find with paramagnetic ancillae.

Outside of this last example, we invariably conclude that the defect-line action could be approximated by a single term linear in either the σ or ε field (depending on the protocol details under consideration). Microscopically, we show that for the postmeasurement state $|\psi_{\bar{s}}\rangle = (1/\sqrt{\mathcal{N}})U'e^{-H_m/2}|\psi_c\rangle$ [Eq. (22)], the important nonunitary $e^{-H_m/2}$ part generically does not factorize into a product of operators acting at individual sites j due to the V_{jk} term in Eq. (25). An approximate factorized form

$$|\psi_{\bar{s}}\rangle \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{P_{\bar{s}}}} \prod_j M_j |\psi_c\rangle \quad (97)$$

nevertheless captures the leading defect-line action linear in σ or ε that we typically obtain. When m_j is nonzero, the factorized measurement operators M_j follow by simply setting $V_{jk} = 0$ in H_m ; with $m_j = 0$, one instead modifies the V_{jk} term by “fusing” the constituent microscopic operators (mimicking the CFT-field fusion rules) to arrive at a factorizable form. Intuitively, the more highly entangled the ancillae are, the worse this approximation becomes, culminating in its complete breakdown in case IV with $C = 0$ when the ancillae are critical. The breakdown is anticipated to be especially stark in the case of

symmetry-resolved averages due to the very slowly decaying longer-range interaction generated by measurement. It would be interesting to quantify the accuracy of Eq. (97) from a microscopic viewpoint, e.g., by studying the operator space entanglement of $M_{\bar{s}}$ as a function of the ancilla wave function.

Chains of laser-excited Rydberg atoms trapped in optical tweezer arrays comprise a promising experimental platform for measurement-altered Ising criticality. A single Rydberg chain effectively realizes an antiferromagnetic spin model with power-law-decaying Ising interactions supplemented by both transverse *and* longitudinal fields—though the latter can be tuned to zero by choosing an appropriate detuning from resonance. The phase diagram hosts a readily accessible Ising quantum phase transition (among other more exotic critical points) [86] that is well-understood also at the lattice level in this setting [61]. Moreover, a second Rydberg chain could furnish the ancilla degrees of freedom in our protocol. Devising concrete implementations of the requisite unitaries and ancilla measurements in this venue poses a nontrivial problem for future work. Additionally, the pursuit of measurement-altered criticality in Rydberg arrays highlights several fundamental open questions, including the impact of antiferromagnetic Ising interactions, a nonzero longitudinal field, integrability-breaking perturbations, etc. Erasure conversion developed for Rydberg arrays in Ref. [62] is a promising tool for probing measurement-altered quantum criticality in this arena. Recent work in a quite different setting has also shown the possibility of creating the ground state of a critical transverse-field Ising chain using a quantum computer [63], highlighting tantalizing prospects for realization also in digital quantum hardware.

Finally, many other variations on the present work would be interesting to explore. Extension to strongly interacting CFTs, e.g., tricritical Ising, parafermionic, etc., is particularly intriguing given their rich field content and correspondingly rich set of possible measurement-induced defect-line actions. Measurements could also be performed in various alternative ways that add a new twist to the problem; for instance, one could contemplate joint measurements of operators on the critical and ancilla chains, or measure different quantities in different regions of space. We hope that the approach used here will prove useful for addressing such problems in the future.

Note added.— Recently, we became aware of Refs. [87,88], which examined the effects of measurement on Ising criticality from a perspective largely complementary to ours.

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APPENDIX A: POSTMEASUREMENT WAVE FUNCTION

Here we provide technical details leading to the post-measurement state specified in Eqs. (22), (24), and (25). We start by observing that the ancilla measurement basis is always orthogonal to \tilde{O}_j ; hence, if measurement projects ancilla site j to $|\tilde{s}_j\rangle$, then \tilde{O}_j simply flips that measured spin: $\tilde{O}_j|\tilde{s}_j\rangle = |-\tilde{s}_j\rangle$. For the unitary in Eq. (23), we can then use properties of Pauli operators to express the postmeasurement state defined in Eq. (18) as

$$|\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{P_{\tilde{s}}}} \left\{ \left[\prod_j (C_j |\tilde{s}_j\rangle + S_j |-\tilde{s}_j\rangle) \right] |\psi_a\rangle \right\} |\psi_c\rangle. \quad (\text{A1})$$

Equation (A1) uses the shorthand notation

$$C_j = \cos[u(O_j - \theta)], \quad S_j = i \sin[u(O_j - \theta)], \quad (\text{A2})$$

which satisfy standard trigonometric identities even including the Pauli operators in the arguments.

Observe that multiplying all elements in the product from Eq. (A1) yields a sum of terms with anywhere from $N_f = 0$ to N flipped ancilla spins (N is the total number of ancilla sites), and that these flipped spins can occur at arbitrary sites $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{N_f}$. Let $|\tilde{s}(i_1, \dots, i_{N_f})\rangle$ be the state with N_f flipped ancilla spins at these sites, and let $F(i_1, \dots, i_{N_f})$ denote a product of C_j 's for the unflipped sites and S_j 's for the flipped sites. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{s}(i_1, i_2)\rangle &= \tilde{O}_{i_1} \tilde{O}_{i_2} |\tilde{s}\rangle, \\ F(i_1, i_2) &= C_1, \dots, C_{i_1-1} S_{i_1} C_{i_1+1}, \dots, C_{i_2-1} S_{i_2} C_{i_2+1}, \dots \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A3})$$

We can then explicitly write

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{P_{\tilde{s}}}} \sum_{N_f=0}^N \sum_{i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{N_f}} \langle \tilde{s}(i_1, \dots, i_{N_f}) | \psi_a \rangle \\ &\quad \times F(i_1, \dots, i_{N_f}) |\psi_c\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A4})$$

which, en route to the form in Eq. (22), can be trivially reexpressed as

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{P_{\tilde{s}}}} \exp \left\{ \ln \left[\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle F_0 + \sum_i \langle \tilde{s}(i) | \psi_a \rangle F(i) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \sum_{i_1 < i_2} \langle \tilde{s}(i_1, i_2) | \psi_a \rangle F(i_1, i_2) + \dots \right] \right\} |\psi_c\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A5})$$

with $F_0 \equiv C_1, \dots, C_N$.

Suppose now that $\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle$ is nonzero. In this case, we can factor out the first term in the log from Eq. (A5) to obtain, after some manipulation and absorbing an \tilde{s} -dependent constant into a new normalization factor \mathcal{N} ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi_{\tilde{s}}\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mathcal{N}}} e^{-H_{\text{temp}}/2} |\psi_c\rangle, \\ H_{\text{temp}} &= -2 \ln \left[1 + \sum_i a(i) T_i + \sum_{i_1 < i_2} a(i_1, i_2) T_{i_1} T_{i_2} + \dots \right] \\ &\quad - 2 \sum_i \ln(C_i). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A6})$$

In the second and third lines we introduce the quantities

$$a(i_1, \dots, i_{N_f}) = \frac{\langle \tilde{s}(i_1, \dots, i_{N_f}) | \psi_a \rangle}{\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle}, \quad T_i = C_i^{-1} S_i, \quad (\text{A7})$$

which are a generalization of Eq. (28) of the main text. At this point, one can expand H_{temp} to the desired order in $u \ll 1$. To proceed, it is convenient to decompose H_{temp} via

$$H_{\text{temp}} = -2iH' + H_m, \quad (\text{A8})$$

where H', H_m are commuting Hermitian operators; $U' = e^{iH'}$ is the unitary transformation from Eq. (22) while H_m contains the crucial nonunitary effects from measurement. Upon absorbing constants into the normalization \mathcal{N} , to $O(u^2)$ one obtains Eqs. (24) and (25) in the main text.

APPENDIX B: GAUSSIAN OVERLAPS

Throughout the manuscript, we are interested in the evaluation of correlation functions like the ones appearing in Eq. (A7). To establish the main ideas, consider the case in which the unitary involves \tilde{X} , we measure in the \tilde{Z} basis, and we want to evaluate

$$a(i_1, \dots, i_{N_f}) = \frac{\langle \tilde{s} | \prod_{j=1}^{N_f} \tilde{X}_{i_j} | \psi_a \rangle}{\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle}. \quad (\text{B1})$$

Here, \tilde{s} is an arbitrary string outcome, and N_f denotes the number of flipped spins generated by \tilde{X}_i operators in the

product above. The ket $|\psi_a\rangle$ is the ground state of the transverse-field Ising model in Eq. (14) or, equivalently, of its fermionic representation obtained via the Jordan-Wigner transformation. We can collect the Majorana operators appearing in the latter form of the Hamiltonian into a vector $\vec{\gamma}$ defined by

$$\vec{\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{A,1} \\ \gamma_{A,2} \\ \vdots \\ \gamma_{A,N} \\ \gamma_{B,1} \\ \vdots \\ \gamma_{B,N} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B2})$$

where N is the system size and $\{\vec{\gamma}_i, \vec{\gamma}_j\} = 2\delta_{ij}$. To simplify notation, in this appendix we suppress tildes on the Majorana fermion operators for the ancilla, and also replace $h_{\text{anc}} \rightarrow h$ and $J_{\text{anc}} \rightarrow 1$. The Hamiltonian is quadratic in the fermionic operators, and any fermionic Gaussian state can be described through the covariance matrix

$$\Gamma_{jk} = \frac{i}{2} \langle [\gamma_j, \gamma_k] \rangle, \quad (\text{B3})$$

with $[\gamma_j, \gamma_k]$ the commutator of the two Majorana operators γ_j and γ_k . From the definition, we observe that Γ is a real and skew-symmetric matrix. For the transverse-field Ising chain, the covariance matrix is known analytically [89]. In particular, it has a Toeplitz structure given by

$$\Gamma_{jk} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k \in \Omega_{\text{GS}}} e^{-\frac{2\pi i k}{N}(j-k)} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{h - \cos(\frac{2\pi k}{N}) - i \sin(\frac{2\pi k}{N})}{\sqrt{[h - \cos(\frac{2\pi k}{N})]^2 + \sin(\frac{2\pi k}{N})^2}} \\ -\frac{h - \cos(\frac{2\pi k}{N}) + i \sin(\frac{2\pi k}{N})}{\sqrt{[h - \cos(\frac{2\pi k}{N})]^2 + \sin(\frac{2\pi k}{N})^2}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B4})$$

where Ω_{GA} is the set of occupied momenta in the ground state. In the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$, the equation above simplifies as

$$\Gamma_{jk} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi e^{-i\phi(j-k)} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{h - \cos(\phi) - i \sin(\phi)}{\sqrt{[h - \cos(\phi)]^2 + \sin(\phi)^2}} \\ -\frac{h - \cos(\phi) + i \sin(\phi)}{\sqrt{[h - \cos(\phi)]^2 + \sin(\phi)^2}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B5})$$

We can also use an alternative approach to determine the covariance matrix. First, rewrite Eq. (3) as $H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j,k} h_{jk} \gamma_j \gamma_k$ with h a matrix encoding the free-fermion Hamiltonian. We proceed by finding the fermionic transformation U that diagonalizes h ; in this diagonal basis, the correlation matrix associated with the ground state Γ_{diag} is simply obtained by substituting -1 ($+1$) for any positive (negative) eigenvalue [90]. To obtain Γ , we just need to move back to the original basis, i.e., $\Gamma = U^\dagger \Gamma_{\text{diag}} U$.

When we measure in the \tilde{Z} basis, $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ is not a Gaussian state, but noticing that $\langle \tilde{s} | \tilde{X}_j | \psi_a \rangle = \langle \tilde{s} | \tilde{X}_j \tilde{G} | \psi_a \rangle = \langle -\tilde{s} | \tilde{X}_j | \psi_a \rangle$, we find

$$\langle \tilde{s} | \tilde{X}_j | \psi_a \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_+ | \tilde{X}_j | \psi_a \rangle, \quad |\psi_+\rangle = \frac{|\tilde{s}\rangle + |-\tilde{s}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (\text{B6})$$

The advantage of using the cat state $|\psi_+\rangle$ is that now it is Gaussian and corresponds to the ground state of a quadratic Hamiltonian

$$H_{\tilde{s}} = -\sum_j \tilde{s}_j \tilde{s}_{j+1} \tilde{Z}_j \tilde{Z}_{j+1} \quad (\text{B7})$$

that, after a Jordan-Wigner transformation, reads

$$H_{\tilde{s}} = i \sum_j \tilde{s}_j \tilde{s}_{j+1} \gamma_{A,j+1} \gamma_{B,j} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \sum_{jk} h_{jk}^{\tilde{s}} \gamma_j \gamma_k. \quad (\text{B8})$$

By applying the procedure described above, we can find the covariance matrix $\Gamma_{\tilde{s}}$ describing the Gaussian ground state of Eq. (B8). Once we know the covariance matrix both for the ground state of the ancilla and for the Hamiltonian $H_{\tilde{s}}$, we can apply a result found in Ref. [71]: The absolute value of the inner product $\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle$ is

$$|\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle| = \sqrt{2^{-N-1} Pf(\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}})}, \quad (\text{B9})$$

where Pf is the Pfaffian of $\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}}$.

Evaluation of Eq. (B1) follows straightforwardly from the above results since we know explicitly the action of $\prod_j \tilde{X}_j$ on $|\tilde{s}\rangle$. For instance, if $N_F = 1$, $\tilde{X}_j|\tilde{s}\rangle = |\tilde{s}(j)\rangle$; i.e., the action of \tilde{X}_j simply flips the spin at site j . We therefore have to also compute the covariance matrix for the Hamiltonian associated with the outcome $\tilde{s}(j)$, and then extract the corresponding overlap with the ancilla ground state using Eq. (B9) with $\tilde{s} \rightarrow \tilde{s}(j)$. This procedure yields

$$a(j) = \sqrt{\frac{Pf(\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}(j)})}{Pf(\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}})}}, \quad a(j, k) = \sqrt{\frac{Pf(\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}(j,k)})}{Pf(\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}})}}; \quad (\text{B10})$$

other $a(i_1, \dots, i_{N_F})$ coefficients from Eq. (B1) follow similarly. Importantly, the absolute value in Eq. (B9) is superfluous for the model we consider in this manuscript due to the stoquasticity of the transverse-field Ising model.

When we measure in the \tilde{X} basis, $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ is automatically a Gaussian state corresponding to the ground state of the quadratic Hamiltonian

$$H_{\tilde{s}} = -\sum_j \tilde{s}_j \tilde{X}_j = -i \sum_j \tilde{s}_j \gamma_{A,j} \gamma_{B,j}. \quad (\text{B11})$$

Therefore, computing the corresponding covariance matrix, we can again apply Eq. (B9) to evaluate

$$(\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}})_{jk} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi e^{-i\phi(j-k)} \mathcal{G}(\phi, h), \quad \mathcal{G}(\phi, h) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{h - \cos(\phi) - i \sin(\phi)}{\sqrt{[h - \cos(\phi)]^2 + \sin(\phi)^2}} + 1 \\ -\frac{h - \cos(\phi) + i \sin(\phi)}{\sqrt{[h - \cos(\phi)]^2 + \sin(\phi)^2}} - 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{B13})$$

In order to evaluate $p_{\tilde{s}}^{(0)}$ in Eq. (33) for a uniform measurement outcome, we need to evaluate the Pfaffian (therefore, the determinant) of $\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}}$ using Eq. (B12). One of the main results of the theory of block-Toeplitz determinants is the Widom-Szegö theorem [91]. According to it, the determinant of a block-Toeplitz matrix, like $\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}}$, with symbol $\mathcal{G}(\phi, h)$, behaves for large N as

$$\log \det[\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}}] \sim N \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\phi}{2\pi} \log \det \mathcal{G}(\phi, h) = N \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\phi}{\pi} \log \left[\frac{\sqrt{h^2 - 2h \cos(\phi) + 1} + h - \cos(\phi)}{\sqrt{h^2 - 2h \cos(\phi) + 1}} \right]. \quad (\text{B14})$$

This result allows us to compute explicitly the probability $p_{\text{uni}}^{(0)}$ for finding the uniform measurement outcome at $u = 0$:

$$p_{\text{uni}}^{(0)} \sim e^{-\Upsilon N}, \quad \Upsilon = \log 2 - \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\phi}{2\pi} \log \left[\frac{\sqrt{h^2 - 2h \cos(\phi) + 1} + h - \cos(\phi)}{\sqrt{h^2 - 2h \cos(\phi) + 1}} \right]. \quad (\text{B15})$$

In particular, the integral above can be explicitly solved for $h = 1$, i.e., when the ancilla chain becomes critical, and we obtain

$$\Upsilon = \log 2 - 2\text{Catalan}/\pi, \quad (\text{B16})$$

where Catalan's constant is $\simeq 0.92$. As Fig. 20 shows, Υ monotonically decreases to zero for $h \geq 1$.

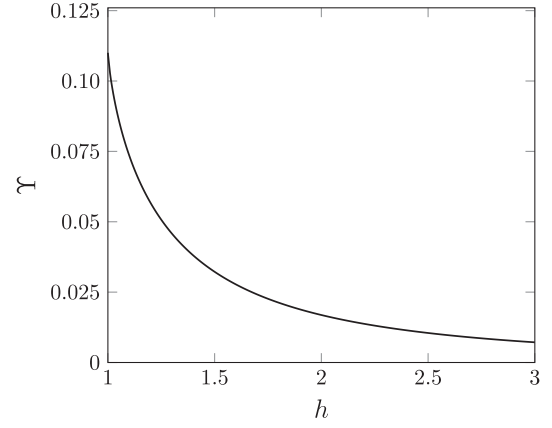


FIG. 20. Coefficient Υ in Eq. (B15). The plot shows the behavior of the coefficient describing the exponential growth with system size of the probability $p_{\text{uni}}^{(0)}$ for obtaining the uniform measurement outcome at $u = 0$.

$$\langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle = \sqrt{2^{-N} Pf(\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}})}, \quad (\text{B12})$$

as well as correlation functions like $\langle \tilde{s} | \prod_{j=1}^{N_F} \tilde{Z}_{i_j} | \psi_a \rangle / \langle \tilde{s} | \psi_a \rangle$. We remark here that if $|\tilde{s}\rangle$ is the uniform measurement outcome, $\Gamma + \Gamma_{\tilde{s}}$ is still a block-Toeplitz matrix because the system preserves its translational invariance. Indeed, for large N , it can be written as

APPENDIX C: EFFECTIVE ACTION FORMALISM FOR RATIO $r(A)$

In this appendix, we show how the formalism developed in Sec. III A and Appendix A allows us to rewrite $r(A)$ from Eq. (76) in a more illuminating form that immediately allows us to take advantage of the effective action formalism exploited throughout this paper. Let us start from the case where $[A, U] = 0$. The numerator of Eq. (76) can be rewritten as

$$\langle \psi_c | A \langle \psi_a | \prod_j [C_j^r + S_j^r \tilde{Z}_j] | \psi_a \rangle | \psi_c \rangle, \quad (\text{C1})$$

where

$$C_j^r = \cos[2u(O_j - \theta)], \quad S_j^r = i \sin[2u(O_j - \theta)]. \quad (\text{C2})$$

Notice the extra factor of 2 in front of u compared to Eq. (A2). The form of Eq. (C1) resembles Eq. (A1) and is therefore amenable to similar manipulations that led to Eqs. (A6) and (A8). Following these steps, we reexpress the ratio in Eq. (76) as in Eq. (77), where now

$$H_m^r = -\ln \left[1 + \sum_{i_1 < i_2} \langle \psi_a | \tilde{Z}_{i_1} \tilde{Z}_{i_2} | \psi_a \rangle T_{i_1}^r T_{i_2}^r + \dots \right] - \sum_i \ln(C_i^r), \quad (\text{C3})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^2 A_U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle &= \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | A U^2 | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle - 2i \sin(u) \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | Y_j Z_{j'} [i \cos(u \langle X \rangle) \tilde{Z}_j + \sin(u \langle X \rangle)] U_{\neq j} U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle \\ &\quad - 2i \sin(u) \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | Z_j Y_{j'} [i \cos(u \langle X \rangle) \tilde{Z}_{j'} + \sin(u \langle X \rangle)] U_{\neq j'} U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle \\ &\quad + 4 \sin(u)^2 \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | Y_j Y_{j'} [i \cos(u \langle X \rangle) \tilde{Z}_j + \sin(u \langle X \rangle)] [i \cos(u \langle X \rangle) \tilde{Z}_{j'} + \sin(u \langle X \rangle)] U_{\neq j, j'} U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C5})$$

Let us focus on the second term on the right side, which can be recast into the form of Eqs. (C1) but with $C_k^r = \sin(2u \langle X \rangle - u X_j)$, $S_k^r = i \cos(2u \langle X \rangle - u X_j)$ when $k = j$, and given by Eq. (C2) otherwise. Hence, one recovers the Hamiltonian H_m^r in Eq. (C3), although with local modifications for terms involving the j th site. We denote the resulting Hamiltonian as $H_m^{(j)}$. All together, this procedure allows the second term on the right side to be compactly expressed as [up to constants that cancel when normalized by the denominator in $r(A)$]

$$-2i \sin(u) \langle \psi_c | Y_j Z_{j'} e^{-H_m^{(j)}} | \psi_c \rangle. \quad (\text{C6})$$

Compared to H_m^r in Eq. (78), $H_m^{(j)}$ and $H_m^{(j')}$ are very similar and differ only by some corrections involving sites j or j' . Importantly, both $\langle \psi_c | Y_j Z_{j'} e^{-H_m^{(j)}} | \psi_c \rangle$ and

with $T_i^r = (C_i^r)^{-1} S_i^r$. Compared to Eq. (A8), the argument of the log contains only terms with an even number of T_i^r operators. This difference results from the fact that $\tilde{G} | \psi_a \rangle = | \psi_a \rangle$, implying that only multipoint ancilla correlators with an even number of \tilde{Z} operators give nontrivial contributions. It turns out, $\langle \psi_c | A e^{-H_m^r} | \psi_c \rangle$ does not contain a unitary contribution, even though $\langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | A U^2 | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle$ naively does. This conclusion can be understood by noticing that $\langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | A U^2 | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle = \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | A \text{Re}(U^2) | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle$ with $\text{Re}(U^2)$ a nonunitary operator. Upon expanding H_m^r to $O(u^2)$ and simplifying all constant terms between the numerator and denominator, we obtain Eq. (78) in the main text.

So far, we derived Eq. (77) assuming that $[A, U] = 0$. When $[A, U] \neq 0$, we obtain a modified form of H_m as follows. Consider case III from Table I and suppose that we are interested in observables $A = Z_j Z_{j'}$ with $j \neq j'$. We start by noticing that $U^2 A_U = A U^2 + [U, A] U$ which leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | U^2 A_U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle &= \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | A U^2 | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle + \langle \psi_a | \langle \psi_c | [U, Z_j Z_{j'}] U | \psi_c \rangle | \psi_a \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C4})$$

Computing the commutator explicitly and using the notation $U_{\neq j} \equiv \prod_{k \neq j} e^{iu(X_k - \langle X \rangle) \tilde{Z}_k}$ then yields

$\langle \psi_c | Z_j Y_{j'} e^{-H_m^{(j')}} | \psi_c \rangle$ contain Y operators, which map to a CFT operator with larger scaling dimension than that for Z . One can find an effective action also for the fourth term in Eq. (C5), but since it contains operators $Y_j Y_{j'}$, its contribution will be even more subleading with respect to the previous ones. Therefore, as already mentioned in Sec. VII, we can neglect their subleading contributions at large distances.

APPENDIX D: DEPENDENCE OF $r(A)$ ON SYSTEM SIZE AND SCALING FORM OF $\Delta p, p_{\text{uni}}$

In Sec. VII A, we argued that the symmetry-resolved differences $\langle A \rangle_+ - \langle A \rangle_- = \langle \psi_c | \langle \psi_a | U^2 A_U | \psi_a \rangle | \psi_c \rangle$, with A corresponding to correlators of local operators, vanish in the thermodynamic limit $N \rightarrow \infty$. Figure 21 numerically shows that with paramagnetic ancilla these quantities decay exponentially with system size for the values of u

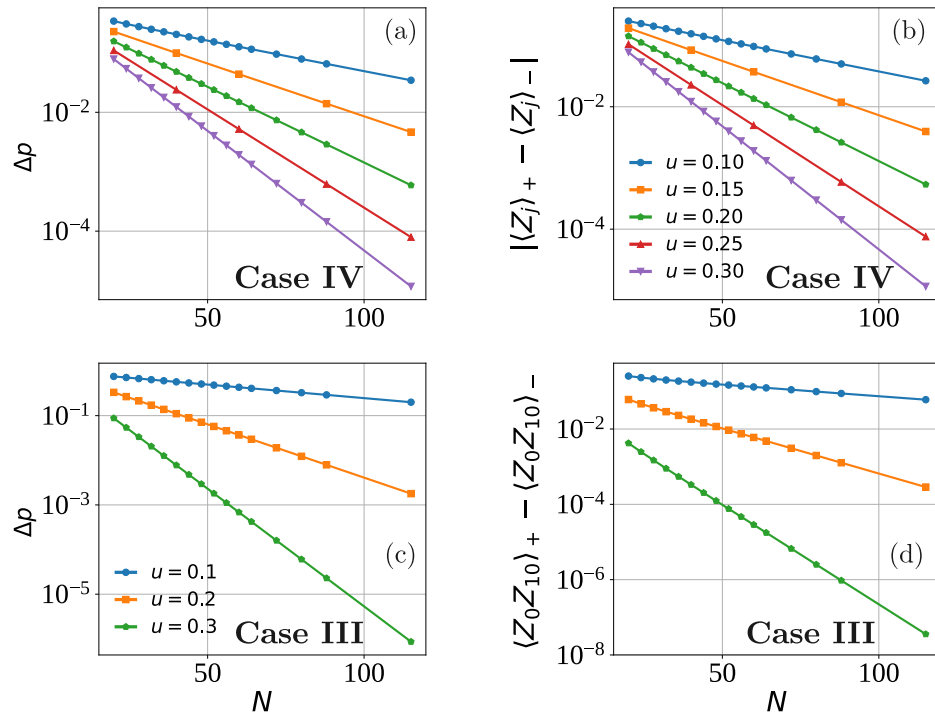


FIG. 21. Exponential decay of symmetry-resolved differences $\langle A \rangle_+ - \langle A \rangle_-$ with system size. (a) Probability difference Δp corresponding to $A = \mathbb{1}$. (b) One-point expectation value corresponding to $A = Z_j$. The result does not depend on the evaluated site j due to translation invariance. (c) Two-point correlator $A = Z_0 Z_{10}$ evaluated at a distance 10 from the reference site. Data are obtained using (finite) DMRG with periodic boundary conditions for case IV (with $C = -1$) in panels (a) and (b), and case III in panels (c) and (d) assuming paramagnetic ancilla.

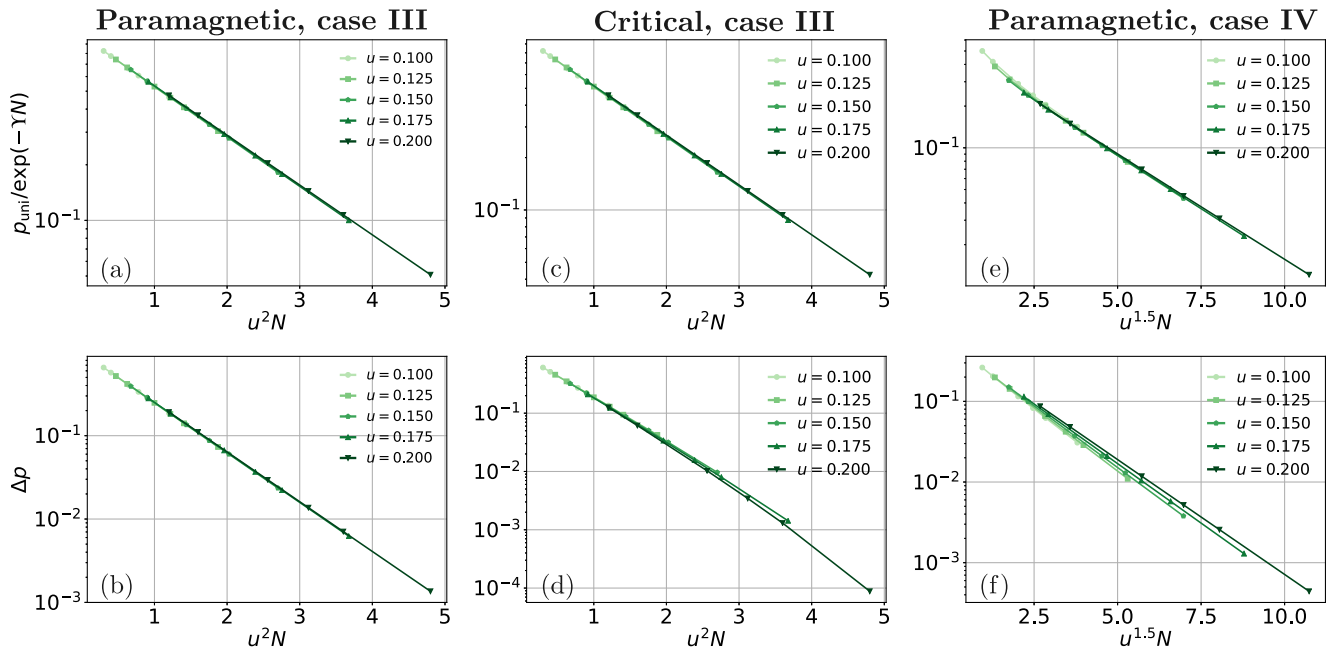


FIG. 22. Scaling of Δp and p_{uni} . Upper panels show that the ratio $p_{\text{uni}}/p_{\text{uni}}^{(0)}$ exhibits excellent data collapse when plotted versus $u^\zeta N$, with ζ exponents specified in the horizontal axes. Lower panels show similar data collapse for Δp . These results are consistent with scaling behavior $\Delta p \sim e^{-c_{\text{SR}} u^\zeta N}$ and $p_{\text{uni}}/p_{\text{uni}}^{(0)} \sim e^{-c_{\text{uni}} u^\zeta N}$. Data are obtained using finite DMRG with bond dimension $\chi = 800$ and periodic boundary conditions. Panels (e) and (f) for case IV correspond to $C = -1$.

considered in the main text. In particular, panels Figs. 21(a) and 21(b), respectively, show numerical results for case IV (at $C = -1$) with $A = \mathbb{1}$, i.e., the probability difference $\Delta p = p_+ - p_-$, and $A = Z_j$. Figures 21(c) and 21(d), respectively, show results in case III for Δp and $A = Z_0 Z_{10}$.

In Sec. VII B, when comparing symmetry-resolved averages and postselection, we use the scaling forms $\Delta p \sim e^{-\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u)N}$ and $p_{\text{uni}} \sim e^{-\eta_{\text{uni}}(u)N}$. Here we numerically establish that, for small u , these quantities in most cases conform well to the more precise scaling behavior $\Delta p \sim e^{-c_{\text{SRA}}u^\zeta N}$ and $p_{\text{uni}}/p_{\text{uni}}^{(0)} \sim e^{-c_{\text{uni}}u^\zeta N}$ with $c_{\text{SRA}}, c_{\text{uni}}$ constants, ζ an exponent that depends on the entangling gate U and on the initial ancilla wave function, and $p_{\text{uni}}^{(0)} \sim e^{-\Upsilon N}$ given in Eq. (B15). Equivalently, the prefactors determining the scaling with N obey $\eta_{\text{SRA}}(u) \approx c_{\text{SRA}}u^\zeta$ and $\eta_{\text{uni}}(u) \approx \Upsilon + c_{\text{uni}}u^\zeta$ at small u .

In agreement with the expressions above, Fig. 22 illustrates data collapse of both $p_{\text{uni}}/e^{-\Upsilon N}$ (upper row) and Δp (lower row) when plotted versus $u^\zeta N$, with exponents ζ indicated on the horizontal axes. The range of u and N considered here are the same as those examined in the figures of Sec. VII B. Figures 22(a) and 22(b) and 22(c) and 22(d) correspond to case III of Table I with paramagnetic ancilla and critical ancilla, respectively. Figures 22(e) and 22(f) correspond to case IV with $C = -1$ and paramagnetic ancillae. The nonideal data collapse in Fig. 22(f) possibly originates from neglected subleading corrections in u (but in any event does not matter for the conclusions drawn in Sec. VII B). In case IV with critical ancillae, we find good data collapse for $p_{\text{uni}}/e^{-\Upsilon N}$ with $\zeta = 0.25$ (data not shown); data collapse with our ansatz does not arise for Δp , however. The reason is that Δp undergoes sign changes in this case as a function of N for fixed u , thus no longer displaying monotonic behavior.

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