The periodic driving continuously pumps energies into a discrete time crystal (DTC) [1–15] and eventually heats it up to infinite temperature [16–18]. Many schemes have been bations to could stabilize a DTC against weak inhomogeneous pertur-
ations naturally arise: how to access a DTC that could maintain synchronization between remote parts. Fundamental ques-
tions arise: how to access a DTC that could maintain quantum coherence and synchronization regardless of spatial inhomogeneities in the driving field and the environment. Moreover, the sensitivity of this DTC scales with the total particle number to the power of 3/2, realizing a quantum device of measuring the driving frequency or the interaction strength beyond the Heisenberg limit. Our work paves the way for designing nonequilibrium phases with long coherence time to advance quantum metrology.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A periodic driving continuously pumps energies into a discrete time crystal (DTC) [1–15] and eventually heats it up to infinite temperature [16–18]. Many schemes have been proposed to slow down thermalization [5–7,10], including many-body localization (MBL), Floquet prethermalization, and cryptoequilibrium. Compared with other schemes retaining the coherence of DTCs within certain timescales, MBL is of particular interest. Disorder breaks an interacting system into localized l-bits [19], suppressing thermalization up to an arbitrarily long timescale. However, most studies so far have considered homogeneous drivings. In practice, the driving field may vary across a DTC and local perturbations may further amplify spatial inhomogeneities, both preventing constituents of the DTC from synchronization and impeding applying DTCs in quantum technologies. Whereas MBL could stabilize a DTC against weak inhomogeneous perturbations to π rotations [20], it is no longer powerful in the presence of strong inhomogeneities, as exponentially decayed couplings between l-bits in MBL have readily weakened the synchronization between remote parts. Fundamental questions naturally arise: how to access a DTC that could maintain quantum coherence and synchronization in the presence of arbitrarily strong inhomogeneities of driving fields and local perturbations and how to implement such a DTC to promote the precision of quantum metrology.

In this paper we present a type of DTC that has a number of unique features distinct from previously studied ones. Discrete time crystals in the literature survive a small deviation of the driving fields from uniform π pulses. In contrast, our DTC is stable against arbitrarily strong perturbations in both homogeneous and inhomogeneous pulses. It could also start from any initial state, not necessarily a superposition of only two eigenstates of the Floquet operator. Meanwhile, the hypersensitivity of our DTC to interaction strength makes it a promising quantum device to measure interactions beyond the Heisenberg limit, unlike other DTCs not sensitive to interactions within a finite range.

II. MODEL

We consider N spins 1/2 described by a Hamiltonian $H = H_{\text{int}} + \sum_{n} H_{\text{pul}} \delta(t - nT)$, where

$$H_{\text{int}} = 2J \sum_{i<j} S_i^x S_j^x, \quad H_{\text{pul}} = \sum_{i} \theta_i S_i^y.$$  \hfill (1)

As shown in Fig. 1(a), J is the strength of an all-to-all interaction considered in the Lipkin-Meshkov-Glick model [21]. In addition, $\theta_i = \frac{\pi}{2} \delta_i$, where $\delta_i$ are Pauli matrices ($\hbar = 1$), $H_{\text{pul}}$ represents periodic pulses applied on spins, and $\theta_i$ determines the angle rotated by the i-th spin about the y axis. The dependence of $\theta_i$ on i characterizes the spatial inhomogeneity of pulses. In the time evolution, $H_{\text{int}}$ and $H_{\text{pul}}$ control the dynamical phases and the geometric phases, respectively, both of which depend on the numbers of spin excitations. Since $H_{\text{int}}$ and $H_{\text{pul}}$ do not commute, their interplay will lead to a perfect revival of the initial state. Equation (1) can be realized using spins 1/2 coupled to a cavity or a waveguide [22,23] or...
particles with long-range interactions whose ranges are much larger than the system size. The equivalence between spins 1/2 and bosons also provides a natural realization [24].

We prove that, when $JT = \pi$, any initial state returns to itself at $t = 2nT^-$ for any $N \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ and $\theta_i$ as an arbitrary function of $i$. Here $t^-$ ($t^+$) denotes the time right before (after) applying a pulse. This perfect revival delivers an eternal DTC evading thermalization and equipped with a strong synchronization even in a noisy environment. Previous works on normalized all-to-all interactions have considered the small-$J$ limit of Eq. (1) [24], not the optimal choice of $JT$ discussed here.

Consider an initial state with $m$ spins up and $N - m$ spins down $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle = \prod_i |\eta_i\rangle$, where $\eta = \uparrow, \downarrow$. After the first pulse,

$$|\uparrow\rangle_i \rightarrow + \cos \left(\frac{\theta_i}{2}\right)|\uparrow\rangle_i + \sin \left(\frac{\theta_i}{2}\right)|\downarrow\rangle_i,$$

$$|\downarrow\rangle_i \rightarrow - \sin \left(\frac{\theta_i}{2}\right)|\uparrow\rangle_i + \cos \left(\frac{\theta_i}{2}\right)|\downarrow\rangle_i.$$  

Here $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle$ becomes a superposition of $2^N$ states. Each state is obtained from flipping $s$ spins up and $k$ spins down of $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle$, as shown in Fig. 1(b). Each state acquires a dynamical phase $e^{-i\theta_i}$ imposed by $H_{\text{int}}$ from $t = 0^+$ to $t = T^-$. The second pulse flips spins again, followed by $H_{\text{int}}$ imposing another dynamical phase $e^{-i\theta_j}$ from $t = T^-$ to $t = 2T^-$. We define $A = \langle \Psi(0^-) | \Psi(2T^-) \rangle$.

To return to $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle$, the $s$ ($k$) spins up (down) flipped by the first pulse need to flip back to spins up (down) during the second pulse; $2^N$ such pathways allow the system to return to $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle$. The contribution to $A$ from each pathway is $(-1)^{k+s} \prod_{i \in F} \cos^2 \left(\frac{\theta_i}{2}\right) \prod_{j \in F} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\theta_j}{2}\right)$, where $(-1)^{k+s}$ comes from flipping $k$ spins down flipped by the first pulse, leading to geometric phases $(-1)^{s}$ and $(-1)^{T}$, respectively. Triangles on the time axis represent $H_{\text{int}}$. (c) Rotations of a spin $i$ (yellow arrow) on the Bloch sphere. When $JT = \pi$, the nonlinear term $J L^z_i$ leads to an effective $\pi$ rotation about the $z$ axis between $2nT^+$ and $(2n+1)T^-$ such that any initial state returns to itself after $2T$ for any $\theta$.

This discussion applies to any initial product state and any $t \in [2nT^-, (2n+1)T^-]$. Thus, any initial state returns to itself at $t = 2nT^-$. Unlike traditional spin-echo schemes using tailored pulses [25], we implement interactions, one source of the decoherence, to overcome the other, the inhomogeneities, so as to access a perfect dynamical localization, an analogy to the Anderson localization in the Hilbert space [26]. This interaction-induced spin echo applies to a broad class of systems to extend the coherence time.

For spatially uniform pulses, a simpler proof exists. Here $H$ is rewritten as

$$H_{\text{hom}} = JL^z + \theta L^z, \quad \sum_n \delta(t - nT),$$

where $L = \sum_i \bar{S}_i$. Equation (5) is equivalent to the kicked top model for spin $L$ [27], where $L = \frac{\bar{J}}{2}$. The propagator from $t = 2nT^-$ to $t = (2n+1)T^-$ is $U_{JT}(2T) = e^{-i\tilde{U}_L T_{\tilde{L}}^z} e^{-i\theta L^z} e^{-iJT_{\tilde{L}}^z} e^{-i\theta L^z}$. As $e^{-i\bar{L}^z L^z} = e^{i\bar{L}^z L^z}$ applies to any integer $L$ (or even $N$), $U_{\pi}(2T) = e^{-i\bar{L}^z L^z} e^{-i\theta L^z} e^{i\bar{L}^z L^z} e^{-i\theta L^z} = 1$. As shown in Fig. 1(c), any state on the Bloch sphere returns to the original place after $2T$. If $N \in 2\mathbb{Z} + 1$, $e^{-i\bar{L}^z L^z}$ and $e^{-i\theta L^z}$ are no longer identical, and such a DTC with a period of $2T$ does not exist. In contrast, if we consider spin $1$ in Eq. (1), such an even-odd effect is absent, since $L \in \mathbb{Z} \forall N$.

Here $U_{\pi}(2T) = 1$ means that the quasienergy spectrum of $H_{\text{hom}}$, where $U_{JT}(2T) = e^{-i\tilde{U}_L T_{\tilde{L}}^z}$, has $2^N$ degenerate eigenstates. Whereas this looks similar to the noninteracting case when $\theta_i = \pi$, a conceptual difference is that the degeneracy here is stable against any perturbations in $\theta_i$, unlike noninteracting systems, where any infinitesimal deviation from a homogeneous $\pi$ pulse lifts the degeneracy, breaks the integrability, and suppresses DTCs. Similar to other models, the period doubling comes from the spontaneous time-translation symmetry breaking [5,6,20,24]. When $JT = \pi$, the Floquet eigenstates are $|\pm\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\Psi(0^-)\rangle \pm |\Psi(2T^-)\rangle)$, where $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle$ is an arbitrary initial state. Equivalently, every state $|\pm\rangle$ with quasienergy 0 has a partner $|\mp\rangle$ with quasienergy $\pi/T$. Choosing the initial state as $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\rangle \mp |\downarrow\rangle)$, the
Rabi oscillation between the two Floquet eigenstates leads to a period of 2T. Previous works have mainly focused on uniform π pulses, where the Floquet eigenstate $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|\uparrow\uparrow\cdots\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\cdots\rangle$ is a special case of our results. In particular, results here apply to any uniform and nonuniform pulses and thus are far more general.

III. STABILITY AGAINST SPATIAL INHOMOGENEITIES

We compare our model to the power-law interaction $H' = H_{\text{int}} + \sum_n H_{\text{pul}}(t - nT)$, where

$$H_{\text{int}}' = 2J \sum_{i<j} S^i_i S^j_j.$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

Starting from $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle = \prod_i |1\rangle$, we compute

$$P(2nT^-) = |\langle \Psi(0^-) | \Psi(2nT^-) \rangle|^2,$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

$$M_s(2nT^-) = 2\langle \Psi(2nT^-) | M_s | \Psi(2nT^-) \rangle / N,$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)

$$E(2nT^-) = \langle \Psi(2nT^-) | H_{\text{int}} | \Psi(2nT^-) \rangle,$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

$$S(2nT^-) = -\text{Tr}(\rho S \ln \rho).$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

Here $P(2nT^-)$ characterizes the quantum memory of the initial state, $M_s(2nT^-)$ denotes the $z$ component of the total spin, $E(2nT^-)$ or $E'(2nT^-) = \langle \Psi(2nT^-) | H_{\text{int}} | \Psi(2nT^-) \rangle$ captures the absorption of energy, and $S(2nT^-)$ is the half-chain entanglement entropy.

When $\theta_i = \bar{\theta}$, a finite $J$ in Eq. (6) restores the quantum coherence, if $\epsilon = \bar{\theta} - \pi$ is small [7–9]. With increasing $\epsilon$, $P(2nT^-)$ and $M_s(2nT^-)$ get suppressed [Figs. 2(a)–2(d)]. Meanwhile, $Q$ and $S$ grow quickly, where $Q = \frac{E(2nT^-) - E(0)}{E(0) - E(0)}$ characterizes the absorption of the energy. In addition, $E_{\text{sh}} = 2^{-N} \sum_j |\langle H_{\text{int}} | j \rangle|^2$ is the energy at infinite temperature and $\sum_j s_j$ sums over all eigenstates of $H_{\text{int}}$. These results signify the thermalization at large $\epsilon$. Taking into account spatial inhomogeneities, as shown in Figs. 2(e)–2(h), we choose a random $\theta_i$ from $[\bar{\theta} - w_s, \bar{\theta} + w_s]$ with a constant probability. When $w_s$ is finite, the thermalization becomes even faster and $Q$ approaches 1, indicating thermalization to infinite temperature. For power-law interactions, dynamical phases controlled by interactions cannot cancel geometric phases induced by pulses. It is impossible to obtain a constructive interference between all pathways. Whereas on-site disorders are introduced to create MBL to slow down the thermalization [7–9], an intrinsic drawback is that MBL weakens the synchronization when the pulses are nonuniform (Appendix A). In contrast, $P(2nT^-)$ and $M_s(2nT^-)$ of the all-to-all interaction are unaffected by $w_s$, and $Q(2nT^-)$ and $S(2nT^-)$ remain zero, directly reflecting the robustness of this eternal DTC.

IV. APPLICATIONS

The perfect revival at $t = 2nT^-$ comes from the same phase of all $2^N$ pathways of returning to $|\Psi(0)\rangle$ when $JT = \pi$. Once $JT \neq \pi$, the larger $N$ is, the more rapidly the phase varies with changing pathways. In the large-$N$ limit, this DTC becomes supersensitive to $JT$ and serves as a high-precision device to measure either $J$ or $T$.

It is time consuming to solve more than 14 lattice sites using exact diagonalization when inhomogeneities exist. We focus on homogeneous systems. It is expected that the lower bound of the results of an inhomogeneous distribution $\theta_i \in [\bar{\theta} - w_s, \bar{\theta} + w_s]$ could be estimated using homogeneous $\theta_i = \bar{\theta} \pm w_s$. As an example, we consider $\theta_i$ fixed at $\pi/4$. As shown in Fig. 3(a), $P(2nT^-)$ quickly vanishes if $|\delta| > \pi / N^{1/2}$, where $\delta = JT - \pi$. Whereas using highly entangled states in linear interferometry could beat the standard quantum limit $1/\sqrt{N}$ and access the Heisenberg limit $1/N$, nonlinear interferometry using $k$-body interactions could beat the Heisenberg limit and reach the ultimate limit $N^{1/3}$ [28–33]. Our DTC represents a different category of nonlinear metrology using periodic drivings to beat the Heisenberg limit.

The $P(2T)$ captures short-time dynamics. Figure 3(c) shows that the dependence of $P(2T)$ on $JT$ has a narrow peak centered at $\pi$, whose width $\sim 1/N^{1/2}$. Such scaling can be obtained analytically (Appendix C1) and is verified numerically [inset of Fig. 3(c)]. The power spectrum $P(f) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{i2\pi nf} P(nT)$ contains information about both short- and long-time dynamics. Here $P(1/2T)$ characterizes the
response at half of the frequency of the periodic driving. Its dependence on \( JT \) also has a peak around \( \pi \). We define the full width at half maximum as \( \Delta_{JT} \) and find both numerically and analytically that \( \Delta_{JT} \) is proportional to \( 1/N^{3/2} \) (Appendix C1).

We also consider the quantum Fisher information \([34]\)

\[
I_{JT}(2nT) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{4}{\epsilon^2} F_{\epsilon}, \tag{11}
\]

\[
F_{\epsilon} = \left| \langle \Psi(0^-)|U_{JT}(2nT)U_{JT+\epsilon}(-2nT)|\Psi(0^-)\rangle \right|^2,
\]

where \( F_{\epsilon} \) is the Loschmidt echo. The uncertainty of \( JT \) is bounded by \( \sqrt{I_{JT}(2nT)} \), i.e., \( \Delta_{JT} \geq 1/\sqrt{I_{JT}(2nT)} \). We have found analytically that (Appendix D)

\[
I_{x}(2nT) = \frac{n^2}{4} \left[ \sin^2(2\theta)N^3 + 2 \sin^4(\theta)N^2 \right]. \tag{13}
\]

When \( \theta \neq 0, \pm \pi/2, \pi \), \( I_{x}(2nT) \sim n^2N^3 \), provided \( \sin^2(2\theta)N^3 \gg 2 \sin^4(\theta)N^2 \). Thus, \( I_{x}(2nT) \) scales with \( n^2N^3 \) in the large-\( N \) limit, as shown in Figs. 3(g) and 3(h). Correspondingly, \( \Delta_{JT} \geq 1/\sqrt{I_{JT}(2nT)} \sim n^{-1}N^{-3/2} \). This is precisely what we have obtained in Figs. 3(c) and 3(e).

The DTCs discussed in the literature are stable within a finite range of both the interaction strength and a uniform deviation of \( \theta_0 \) from \( \pi \). In contrast, our DTC is stable against any spatial fluctuations in \( \theta_0 \) and while being supersensitive to \( JT \). In practice, it is easier to control \( J \) and \( T \) than the \( N \) local parameters \( \theta_0 \) in a noisy environment, where \( \theta_0 \) may not have any correlations at different locations. Moreover, our DTC could measure \( JT \) with high precision beyond the Heisenberg limit. It mimics a supersensitive clock. If the frequency of the external field \( \omega_0 = 2\pi/T \left( \sin \alpha \right)\) is fixed, \( J \) corresponds to some internal parameter of a clock (for instance, the length of a pendulum clock) and needs to be tuned with a precision of \( 1/N^{3/2} \) to deliver rigid ticks at \( t = 2nT \). Otherwise, as shown in Figs. 3(c) and 3(e), once \( JT \) is beyond the length \( 1/N^{3/2} \) centered at \( JT = \pi \), both \( P(2T) \) and \( \bar{P}(f) \) quickly decrease and the DTC stalls to avoid errors in the timekeeping. From \( JT = \pi \), the precision of \( \Delta_{f}/f \) can be estimated as \( \Delta_{f}/f \approx \Delta_{f}/\omega_0 + N^{-3/2} \), where \( \Delta_{f}/\omega_0 \) characterizes the precision of the driving frequency. When \( N^{-3/2} \gg \Delta_{f}/\omega_0 \), \( \Delta_{f}/f \) scales with \( N^{-3/2} \). When \( N \to (\Delta_{f}/\omega_0)^{-2/3} \), the uncertainty of \( J \) approaches the precision limit of \( \Delta_{f}/\omega_0 \). Whereas the precision of \( \Delta_{f}/\omega_0 \) is up to \( 10^{-19} \) in the terahertz regime [35], typical experiments on ultracold atoms, ion traps, and nitrogen-vacancy centers have interaction strengths \( \sim 10^{-2}–10^{-5} \) Hz. In such a regime, the precision of \( \Delta_{f}/\omega_0 \) could be \( 10^{-6}–10^{-8} \) and higher. Our results thus provide an application of precision timekeeping in many-body physics.

Fixing \( J \), our DTC could also gauge the frequency. Only when \( T \) deviates from \( \pi/J \) within \( 1/N^{3/2} \) could a driving field induce a long-lasting dynamics. Unlike atomic clocks using a narrow linewidth transition, here many-body effects determine the driving frequency. The rotated angle \( \bar{\theta} \) is arbitrary such that this DTC functions in a nonideal environment, unlike previous works requiring precise control of pulses in nonlinear metrology without periodic driving [29,30,36].

We have also found that \( M_{x}(2T^-) \) and \( M_{x}(1/\bar{T}) \) scale with \( 1/N^{1/2} \) and \( 1/N \), as shown in Figs. 3(b), 3(d), and 3(f). Similar scalings are obtained for other uniform rotations. For instance, when \( \theta_0 = \pi/2 \), \( \Delta_{JT} \) of either \( \bar{P}(f) \) or \( M_{x}(1/\bar{T}) \) scales with \( 1/N \) (Appendix C).

Previous conclusions apply to a generic long-range interaction if its range is much larger than the size of the system. For instance, with decreasing \( \alpha \), the range of a power-law potential in Eq. (6) increases. When \( \alpha = 0 \), it is equivalent to the all-to-all interaction. Figure 4 shows results for \( N = 14 \). With decreasing \( \alpha \) down to zero, \( P(2nT) \) and \( M_{x}(2nT) \) increase and approach the result of the all-to-all interaction. A small \( \alpha = 0.04 \) readily provides us with a good approximation of the all-to-all interaction in such a finite system.

Both interactions and external drivings are crucial for DTCs. We hope that our work will stimulate more studies...
of their interplay to access different nonequilibrium quantum states with long coherent times.

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APPENDIX A: ON-SITE DISORDER

The on-site disorder is often considered in a DTC to introduce many-body localization. Since the coupling between $\theta$-bits decays exponentially with increasing their distance, this could slow down the thermalization, provided $\theta_i$ is spatially uniform. However, this mechanism of suppressing the thermalization automatically weakens the synchronization between different spatial parts of the system. Thus, when $\theta_i$ has strong spatial inhomogeneities, the on-site disorder cannot stabilize the DTC. Consider the Hamiltonian

$$H = 2J \sum_{i<j} S_i^+ S_j^- / |i-j| + \sum_n \delta(t-nT) \sum_i \theta_i S_i^z + \frac{2}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta_i S_i^z,$$  \hspace{1cm} (A1)

where $\theta_i$ has a uniform distribution in $[\hat{\theta} - w_i, \hat{\theta} + w_i]$, similar to the main text. The on-site disorder $\Delta_i$ has a uniform distribution in $[0, W]$. As shown in Fig. 5, for a given $W$, with increasing $w_i, P'(2nT)$ and $L_z(2nT)$ are suppressed down to zero. Meanwhile, the entropies $S(2nT)$ and $Q(2nT)$ grow faster, signifying the thermalization of the DTC.

APPENDIX B: INHOMOGENEOUS PULSES WITH $\hat{\theta} \neq \pi$

In Fig. 2 we have shown the results of inhomogeneous pulses with $\hat{\theta} = \pi$. Here we present the results when $\hat{\theta} \neq \pi$. As shown in Figs. 6(a)–6(d), when $\hat{\theta} = 0.9\pi, P$ and $M_z$ are suppressed more quickly and $S$ and $Q$ grow faster than the results for $\hat{\theta} = \pi$. If $\hat{\theta}$ decreases further down to $0.8\pi$, this tendency continues, showing that the power interaction cannot synchronize spins when pulses are not uniform. In contrast, the results of the all-to-all interaction remain unchanged.

APPENDIX C: SCALINGS WITH PARTICLE NUMBERS

1. Scalings at $t = 2T$

We have analytically obtained how the dependence of $P(2T)$ [$M_z(2T)$] on $J T$ scales with the particle number $N$,

$$P' (\delta) \equiv P(2T; J T = \pi + \delta) = \left(1 + \frac{N^2 \delta^4 \sin^4 \theta}{4} \right)^{-1/2} \times \exp \left(-\frac{1}{4N^2 \delta^2 \sin^2 \theta + 16} \sin(2\theta) \delta^2 N^3 \right), \hspace{1cm} (C1)$$

$$M_z' (\delta) \equiv M_z(2T; J T = \pi + \delta) = \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta \cos(\cos \theta N \delta) e^{-\frac{(N/2)^2 \delta^2 \sin^2 \theta}. \hspace{1cm} (C2)$$

When $\theta = \pi/2$, $\sin(2\theta) = 0$. The exponential function in Eq. (C1) becomes an identity and $P'(\delta) = (1 + N^2 \delta^4 \sin^4 \theta)^{-1/2}$. Thus, the peak width shown in Fig. 7 scales with $1/N$. The same scaling applies to $\theta$ near 0 and $\pi$. In contrast, when $\theta$ is away from 0, $\pi/2$, and $\pi$, the exponential function becomes dominant and $P(2T)$ decays faster, as shown in Fig. 3(c). In particular, the peak width of $P(2T)$ in Fig. 3(e) scales with $1/N^{1/2}$. In Eq. (C2) the $N\delta$ term in the cosine function leads to a fast oscillation and the $N\delta^3$ term in the exponential function leads to the $1/N^{1/2}$ scaling of the profile of $M_z(2T)$, regardless of $\theta$, as shown in the insets of Figs. 7(d) and 3(d).

To derive Eqs. (C1) and (C2), we consider an initial state $|\Psi(0^-)\rangle = \prod_i |\uparrow \rangle_i = |\varphi_{\frac{N}{2}}, \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\rangle$, where $L_z(\frac{N}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$.
Whereas they exhibit nonmonotonic behaviors near $JT$ at half maximum) of the peaks with $N$ for any even particle number $N$. We thus obtain
\[
\begin{align*}
\left| \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle \right| &= |\langle \theta, 0 \rangle_c|, \\
\left| e^{i\theta L_\theta} \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle \right| &= (\alpha N/2) \left( \frac{1}{1+\alpha} \right)^N (e^{-i\alpha} + 1)^N,
\end{align*}
\]
Noting that
\[
\begin{align*}
e^{-ibL_\theta} \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle &= |\langle \theta, 0 \rangle_c|, \\
e^{i\theta L_\theta} \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle &= (\alpha N/2) \left( \frac{1}{1+\alpha} \right)^N (e^{-i\alpha} + 1)^N,
\end{align*}
\]
we obtain
\[
I(\theta, k) = (\alpha N/2) \left( \frac{1}{1+\alpha} \right)^N (e^{-i\alpha} + 1)^N,
\]
where $\alpha \equiv \tan^2 \frac{\delta}{2}$ and
\[
|\langle \theta, \phi \rangle_c| = \sum_{l=-N/2}^{N/2} \sqrt{\frac{N!}{(\frac{l}{2} + 1)! (\frac{l}{2} - 1)!}} \times (\cos \theta)^{N/2-l}(\sin \theta)^{N/2-l} |\langle \phi(0^-) \rangle|.
\]

FIG. 6. Results of inhomogeneous pulses for a power-law potential with $\alpha = 3$. The parameters are the same as in Figs. 2(e)–2(h) except here in (a) and (b) $\theta = 0.9\pi$ and in (e)–(h) $\theta = 0.8\pi$.

and $N = L$ is the total angular momentum
\[
P'(\delta) = \left| \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle \right| e^{-i(\pi+\delta)N/2} e^{-ibN} \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle \right|^2 \\
e^{-ibL_\theta} \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle e^{-ibL_\theta} \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle ^2
\]
As discussed in the main text, $e^{-i\pi L_\theta} = e^{-i\pi L_\theta}$ is satisfied for any even particle number $N$. When $\delta$ is small, $e^{-ibL_\theta}$ can be written as
\[
e^{-ibL_\theta} \approx \int_{-N/2}^{N/2} N/2 |d\theta|/4 \sqrt{\pi} \sqrt{-i\delta} e^{-ib\theta}.
\]
We thus obtain
\[
P'(\delta) = \left| \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle e^{-i\pi L_\theta} e^{-ibL_\theta} e^{-i\pi L_\theta} \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle \right|^2.
\]

FIG. 7. Sensitivity of the DTC to $JT$ when $\theta = \pi/2$. Dots are analytical results and curves are the numerical results. Orange, blue, and green colors in (c)–(f) represent $N = 100$, 200, and 400, respectively. (a) $P(2nT)$ and (b) $M(2nT)$ as functions of $n$ for various $JT$. When $|JT - \pi| \gg \pi/N$ (here $N = 200$), both quantities quickly decrease down to zero. (c) $P(2T)$ and (d) $M(2T)$ at a fixed time $t = 2T$ as functions of $JT$. For a fixed $N$, both quantities are featured with narrow peaks centered at $JT = \pi$. Insets show the scalings of the widths $\Delta$ (full width at half maximum) of the peaks with $N$. Power spectra (e) $\tilde{P}(1/2T)$ and (f) $\tilde{M}(1/2T)$ are also featured with narrow peaks around $JT = \pi$. Whereas they exhibit nonmonotonic behaviors near $JT = \pi$, both quantities vanish when $|JT - \pi| \gg \pi/N$. Insets show the scalings of the widths of the peaks with $N$. (g) Quantum Fisher information $I_F(2nT)$ as a function of $n$. (h) $I_F(2nT)$ is proportional to $N^2$. The value $\theta = \pi/2$ is used in all panels.
is a coherent state pointing along $\theta$ and $\phi$. In the large-$N$ limit,

$$I(\theta, k) \approx (-1)^{N/2} \exp \left(-ik N + i \frac{N}{1 + \alpha} k\right)$$

$$\times \exp \left(-\frac{N}{2} \frac{\alpha}{(1 + \alpha)^2} k^2\right).$$

(C11)

which represents a narrow Gaussian centered at $k = 0$. Substituting $I(\theta, k)$ in Eq. (C5) using Eq. (C11), we obtain Eq. (C1).

As for $M(\delta)$, using the time evolution operator $U(T) = e^{-i\frac{1}{2}JT} e^{-iLT}$, we obtain the Heisenberg equations, which provide us with the nonlinear recursion relations as shown in [27],

$$L'_x = U^{-1}(T)L_x U(T) = \frac{1}{2}(L_x \cos \theta + L_z \sin \theta + iL_y)$$

$$\times e^{i\frac{1}{2}JT l_x \cos \theta - L_z \sin \theta + \frac{1}{2}} + H.c.,$$

$$L'_y = U^{-1}(T)L_y U(T) = \frac{1}{2}(L_y \cos \theta + L_z \sin \theta + iL_x)$$

$$\times e^{i\frac{1}{2}JT l_y \cos \theta - L_z \sin \theta + \frac{1}{2}} + H.c.,$$

$$L'_z = U^{-1}(T)L_z U(T) = L_z \cos \theta - L_x \sin \theta.$$

Since

$$M_2(2T) = \frac{2}{N} \langle \Psi(0^+) |U^{-1}(T)$$

$$\times U^{-1}(T)L_z U(T) U(T) |\Psi(0^-) \rangle,$$

(C12)

we obtain

$$M_2(2T) 
= \frac{2}{N} \langle \Psi(0^-) \rangle U^{-1}(T)$$

$$\times U^{-1}(T)L_z U(T) U(T) |\Psi(0^-) \rangle,$$

(C12)

2. Scalings of $\tilde{P}(\frac{1}{2T})$

We have also obtained an analytical form for $\tilde{P}(f)$, the Fourier transform of $P(2nT)$. As shown in Fig. 8, starting from an initial state at the north pole, the state at $t = 2T^-$ covers a finite small region near the north pole if $\delta = JT - \pi$ is small. The length scales of the longitude and latitude directions are proportional to $\delta$ and $\delta^2$, the latter of which can be ignored in the small-$\delta$ limit. Thus, we make use of the following approximation to capture the dynamics in the small-$\delta$ limit:

$$U(2T) = e^{-i\frac{1}{2}JT T} e^{-i2L_x} e^{-iLT} e^{-iLT} e^{-iL_x}$$

$$\approx e^{-i\frac{1}{2}JT T} e^{-i2L_x} e^{-iLT} e^{-iL_x}.$$  (C16)
Here \( P(2nT) \) is written as
\[
P(2nT) = \left| \langle \psi(0^-) | (e^{-iLT^2})^n e^{-iLT^2} | \psi(0^-) \rangle \right|^2. \tag{C17}
\]
Using the identities \( e^{-iLT^2} e^{-iLT^2} e^{-iLT^2} = e^{-iLT^2} \), Eq. (C17) can be written as
\[
P(2nT) = \left| \langle \psi(0^-) | (e^{iLT^2} e^{-iLT^2})^n e^{iLT^2} | \psi(0^-) \rangle \right|^2
= \left| \langle \psi(0^-) | (e^{iLT^2} e^{-iLT^2})^n | \psi(0^-) \rangle \right|^2. \tag{C18}
\]
Applying Eq. (C1), we obtain
\[
P(2nT) = \exp \left( -\frac{n^2 \sin^2(2\theta) \delta^2 N^3}{4N^2 \delta^4 \sin^4 \theta + 16} \right)
	imes \left( 1 + \frac{n^2 \delta^2 \sin^4 \theta}{4} \right)^{-1/2}. \tag{C19}
\]
Equation (C19) recovers Eq. (C1) when \( n = 1 \). As shown in Fig. 7(a), this expression captures well the initial decay of \( P(2nT) \). However, it cannot describe the revival of \( P(2nT) \) at later times for certain \( JT \) due to the approximation made in Eq. (C16).

The power spectrum is therefore written as
\[
\tilde{P}(1/2T) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{n=0}^{M-1} P(nT) e^{i(2\pi/2T)nT}
= \frac{1}{M} \sum_{n=0}^{M-1} P(nT)(-1)^n
\approx \frac{1}{M} \sum_{n=0}^{M/2-1} P(2nT), \tag{C20}
\]
where \( M \) is the cutoff required in numerics. In the last step, we have used the fact that, for small \( n, |\psi(2nT + T)|^2 \) is located at a place on the Bloch sphere away from the north pole, provided \( \theta \) is not small, and thus \( P(2nT + T) = |\langle \psi(0^-) | \psi(2nT + T) \rangle|^2 \approx 0 \).

When \( nN \delta \ll 1 \) and \( \theta \neq 0, \pi/2, \pi \), Eq. (C19) becomes \( P(2nT) = e^{-n^2 \sin^2(2\theta) \delta^2 N^3/16} \) and Eq. (C20) is rewritten as
\[
\tilde{P}(1/2T) \approx \frac{2\sqrt{\pi} \operatorname{erf}(1/8 MN^{3/2} \sin 2\theta)}{200MN^{3/2}}, \tag{C21}
\]
In the limit \( M \to \infty \), \( \tilde{P}(1/2T) \to \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\delta^2 N^3 \delta^2 / 64} \). To compare with numerical result, we choose \( \theta = \pi/4 \) and \( M = 200 \). Equation (C21) becomes
\[
\tilde{P}(1/2T) \approx \frac{2\sqrt{\pi} \operatorname{erf}(25 \delta N^{3/2})}{200 \delta N^{3/2}}, \tag{C22}
\]
which shows the \( 1/N^{3/2} \) scaling. Here erf is the error function. The comparison between this analytical result and the numerical one is shown in Fig. 3(e).

When \( \theta = \pi/2 \), the exponential term in Eq. (C19) becomes an identity. We obtain
\[
\tilde{P}(1/2T) \approx \frac{\arcsin(\delta MN/4)}{\delta MN/2}. \tag{C23}
\]
As mentioned in Fig. 7, when \( \theta = \pi/2 \), the dependence of \( \tilde{P}(1/2T) \) on \( JT \) is not monotonic. With increasing \( \delta \), \( \tilde{P}(1/2T) \) first quickly decreases and then increases before it eventually vanishes when \( \delta > \pi/N \). Equation (C23) captures the narrow peak, whose width is much smaller than \( \pi/N \), near \( \delta = 0 \). The broader peak scales with \( 1/N \) as shown in Fig. 7(f). When \( \theta \) deviates from \( \pi/2 \), the broader peak gets suppressed as shown in Fig. 9. When \( \theta = \pi/4 \), only the central narrow peak is visible, whose width scales with \( 1/N^{3/2} \), as discussed before.

Here \( M_c(2nT) \) and \( M_c(1/2T) \) do not have simple analytical forms. We have numerically evaluated them and the scaling of \( M_c(1/2T) \) with \( N \) is shown in Figs. 7(b) and 7(e).

![Fig. 9](image-url)

**FIG. 9.** Power spectra \( \tilde{P}(1/2T) \) for different pulses for \( N = 100 \) and \( M = 200 \). (a) Identical to the curve for \( N = 100 \) in Fig. 7(e). The central sharp peak at \( JT = \pi \) for the \( \pi/2 \) pulse is well approximated by the analytical result (blue dots) shown in Eq. (C23). (b)–(f) When \( \theta \) decreases, the two broader peaks gradually vanish. When the exponential term in Eq. (C19) dominates, the central peak is described by Eq. (C21) (green dots). Enlarging (f) around \( JT = \pi \) gives rise to Fig. 3(e).
APPENDIX D: QUANTUM FISHER INFORMATION

When $JT = \pi$, the quantum Fisher information is written as

$$ I_\epsilon(2nT) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{4}{\epsilon^2} \frac{1 - F_\epsilon}{F_\epsilon}, \quad (D1) $$

$$ F_\epsilon = |\langle \Psi(0^+) | U_{\epsilon}(2nT) | \Psi(0^-) \rangle|^2. \quad (D2) $$

As $U_{\epsilon}(2nT) | \Psi(0^-) \rangle = | \Psi(0^-) \rangle$, or equivalently $\langle \Psi(0^-) | U_{\epsilon}(2nT) | \Psi(0^+) \rangle = | \Psi(0^-) \rangle$, the Loschmidt echo is identical to the quantum memory of the initial state $F_\epsilon = |\langle \Psi(0^-) | U_{\epsilon+\epsilon}(2nT) | \Psi(0^-) \rangle|^2$. Using Eq. (C19) and replacing $\epsilon$ by $\delta$, we obtain

$$ I_\epsilon(2nT) = \lim_{\delta \to 0} \frac{4}{\delta^2} \frac{1 - P(2nT)}{P(2nT)} $$

$$ = \frac{n^2 N^4 \sin^2(2\delta)}{4} + \frac{n^2 N^4 \sin^4\delta}{2}. \quad (D3) $$

APPENDIX E: NUMERICAL SIMULATION METHODS

In this Appendix we present some details of the numerical simulations used to produce Figs. 2, 3, and 7. We write the time-dependent many-body wave function $|\Psi(t)\rangle$ as a superposition of Fock states, which are eigenstates of $S_z$. In the presence of $H_{\text{int}}$, every Fock state acquires a dynamical phase factor. Then $H_{\text{int}}$ is applied to flip the spins at $t = nT$ to obtain the evolution of the many-body wave function.

The entanglement entropy $S$ in Fig. 2 is calculated by first tracing out half of the system and obtaining a density matrix $\rho_B$ for the other half of the system. We then diagonalize $\rho_B$ and obtain all its eigenvalues $\nu_i$. Then $S$ is calculated by using $S = -\sum_i \nu_i \ln(\nu_i)$.

The power spectra shown in Figs. 3 and 7 are obtained as follows. First $P(t)$ and $M(t)$ are evaluated in the time interval between $t = 0$ and $t = MT$, where $M$ represents the longest time we consider in the simulation. We then use $\tilde{P}(f) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{t=0}^{M-1} e^{2\pi i nt} P(nT)$ to calculate the power spectra.

We use the full width at half maximum to characterize the width of power spectrum. Namely, when the value of $P$ or $M$, is decreased to half of its maximum, we define twice the deviation of $JT$ from $\pi$ as the width.

APPENDIX F: EXPERIMENTAL REALIZATION

In this Appendix we discuss the experimental realization of our model. Whereas we used idealized $\delta$-like kicks in the discussions in the main text, our results can be straightforwardly generalized to pulses with finite widths. If we consider the Hamiltonian

$$ H = \sum_{i<j} F_{ij} S_i^+ S_j^- + \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i^0, \quad (F1) $$

where $\tau$ represents the finite width, we only need to replace $JT = \pi$ by $J(T - \tau) = \pi$ and other results remain unchanged.

In a finite system, as shown in the main text, to qualitatively demonstrate our results for a system consisting of 14 spins, a power-law interaction width $\alpha = 0.04$ readily provides us with a good approximation of the all-to-all interaction. In fact, the only requirement is that the range of interaction is much larger than the size of the system. Meanwhile, the all-to-all interaction can be accessed by using photons in cavities or waveguides to couple atoms at different locations.

We consider the Hamiltonian

$$ H = \hbar \omega b^\dagger b + \Omega (b^\dagger + b) \sum_i (S_i^+ + S_i^-), \quad (F2) $$

where the first term represents a single-photon mode and the second term denotes the interaction between photons and atoms. We have assumed that the local Hamiltonian acting on each spin vanishes. In addition, $S_i^+ = S_i^+ \pm S_i^-$.

Without the second term, the eigenstates are $|n\rangle \prod_j |\eta_i\rangle$, representing $n$ photons and a Fock state of atoms, and $\eta_i = \uparrow, \downarrow$. Consider two specific atoms at sites $i \neq j$; their couplings induced by the photon can be derived using second-order perturbation. For instance, the off-diagonal term is written as

$$ \frac{\Omega^2}{\hbar \omega} \delta_{i,j} \sum_{\langle k, \phi \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle} b_{\phi, i}^\dagger |b\rangle |n+1\rangle |\downarrow_i \downarrow_j\rangle \prod_{\langle k, \phi \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle} b_{\phi, i} |\eta\rangle |n+1\rangle |\downarrow_i \downarrow_j\rangle \prod_{\langle k, \phi \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle} b_{\phi, i}^\dagger |\eta\rangle $$

$$ + \frac{\Omega^2}{\hbar \omega} \delta_{i,j} \sum_{\langle k, \phi \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle} b_{\phi, i}^\dagger |b\rangle |n-1\rangle |\uparrow_i \downarrow_j\rangle \prod_{\langle k, \phi \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle} b_{\phi, i} |\eta\rangle |n-1\rangle |\uparrow_i \downarrow_j\rangle \prod_{\langle k, \phi \rangle, \langle \eta \rangle} b_{\phi, i}^\dagger |\eta\rangle = \frac{\Omega^2}{\hbar \omega}. $$

which can be further simplified as

$$ H_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{2\Omega^2}{\hbar \omega} \left( \sum_i \vec{S}_i \right)^2 + \frac{2\Omega^2}{\hbar \omega} \sum_i (S_i^+)^2 + \frac{4\Omega^2}{\hbar \omega} \sum_{i<j} S_i^+ S_j^- $$

(F4)

Since $\sum_i \vec{S}_i$ is conserved, the first two terms commute with the last term and the last term exactly matches an all-to-all
interaction; we thus created an all-to-all interaction with an equivalent strength $J = \frac{\hbar}{\Omega_1}$. Whereas the above discussion does not require the leakage of photons from the cavity, a “bad” cavity with leaking photons has the unique advantage of suppressing the heating that may be caused by the driving [37]. Thus, our results can be generalized to the full model including both the atoms and photons. Whereas the above scheme is relevant to small systems, in which a fine-tuning of the local effective magnetic field is doable, our model can also be implemented by a two-mode bosonic system, in which the all-to-all interaction naturally exists. For instance, we consider a Bose-Einstein condensate in a double-well potential

$$H = g_1 \frac{n_l(n_l-1) + n_r(n_r-1)}{2} + g_2 n_l n_r + \sum_n (\theta) a_n^\dagger a_n + H.c. \delta(t - nT), \quad (F5)$$

where $g_1$ and $g_2$ represent on-site and intersite interactions, respectively, and $\theta$ denotes the tunneling. If we map the left and the right site to the spin up and the spin down, respectively, $J = g_1 + g_2$ directly corresponds to the all-to-all interaction, and the tunneling term is mapped to $H_{0\text{pol}}$. Such a mapping allows us to implement all results in the spin model to a large bosonic system with $10^4$ particles and more.

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