Aging dynamics in quenched noisy long-range quantum Ising models

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We consider the $d$-dimensional transverse-field Ising model with power-law interactions $J/r^d$ in the presence of a noisy longitudinal field with zero average. We study the longitudinal-magnetization dynamics of an initial paramagnetic state after a sudden switch-on of both the interactions and the noisy field. While the system eventually relaxes to an infinite-temperature state with vanishing magnetization correlations, we find that two-time correlation functions show aging at intermediate times. Moreover, for times shorter than the inverse noise strength $\kappa$ and distances longer than $a(J/\kappa)^{2/\nu}$ with $a$ being the lattice spacing, we find a critical scaling regime of correlation and response functions consistent with the model A dynamical universality class with an initial-slip exponent $\theta = 1$ and dynamical critical exponent $\zeta = \sigma/2$. We obtain our results analytically by deriving an effective action for the magnetization field including the noise in a nonperturbative way. The above scaling regime is governed by a nonequilibrium fixed point dominated by the noise fluctuations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of universality is well established in closed classical and quantum systems in equilibrium [1,2] and has been rigorously formulated through a number of advanced frameworks such as scaling theory [1–3] and the celebrated renormalization group method [4–9]. Moreover, with the great degree of control currently available in ion-trap [10–12] and ultracold-atom setups [13–16], the study of phase transitions and their effects on the nonequilibrium dynamics of closed quantum systems has become experimentally possible.

In recent years, and in no small part due to this experimental advancement, out-of-equilibrium criticality and dynamical phase transitions have become the subject of extensive theoretical [17–20] and experimental [21–25] research. In equilibrium one is able to probe criticality only in the ground state or thermal state of the system, whereas in out-of-equilibrium systems there can be multiple instances of criticality [26]. More recently the attention has shifted to criticality in prethermal states that temporally precede the steady state [27–36] and to the long-time pre-transition invariant steady state itself [36–38]. Even though the latter has been extensively studied and is known to be connected to nonanalyticities in a dynamical analog of the free energy in mean-field models [39,40], the critical exponents involved in classifying the universality of the model are directly those known from equilibrium.

Prethermal criticality, on the other hand, offers the unique possibility of studying truly out-of-equilibrium criticality, because in this case criticality is probed away from the steady state and the dynamics is not time-translation invariant. One of the most fascinating aspects of such prethermal criticality is the phenomenon of aging in systems quenched to a critical point [41]. Aging occurs in the prethermal regime, before the system has relaxed into its steady state, and gives rise to a truly nonequilibrium critical exponent $\theta$ that can be extracted from the intermediate-time dynamics of the order parameter or the two-time $(s,t)$ correlation and response functions thereof. Due to the broken time-translation invariance the latter do not only depend on the time difference $t - s$, even at long times. In fact, the decay as a function of $t - s$ gets slower with larger $s$. In other words, the response of a system becomes slower with its waiting time or age $s$. This is the characteristic aging behavior shown also by structural glass and spin glasses, where even though the slow dynamics after a perturbation such as a quantum or temperature quench may be approaching an asymptotic value in single-time quantities, this does not mean that the system is approaching a stationary state.

Critical dynamics of thermal systems have been shown to exhibit such aging behavior in two-time correlation functions, indicating the absence of equilibration to a time-translation invariant stationary state [42,43]. This type of aging has been observed also in isolated systems described by $O(N)$ models [33–36], where for critical quenches the response and correlation functions at small momenta exhibit time dependence $\propto-\tau(s/\tau)\theta$ and $(st)^{2-\nu}$, respectively, for $t \gg s$.

Recently, the investigation has been extended to open systems. A coupling to (possibly nonthermal) baths might be present, together with other wanted or unwanted sources of environmental noise. As such, a theoretical framework describing how the openness of the system affects the aging behavior is desirable. Moreover, criticality can be fundamentally different between the closed and open system version of the same model, as is for instance the case for driven-dissipative systems even in the steady state [44]. In the context of critical aging dynamics, dissipative systems, like $O(N)$ models in contact with a sub- or super-Ohmic bath [45] or driven and lossy fully connected spin chains [46], as well as noisy models [47,48], have been considered. In particular, aging has been predicted for lattice bosons in the presence of phase noise [48] and
prethermalization for short-range Ising models with a noisy transverse field [47,49].

In this paper, we study the relaxation dynamics after a quench in a noisy spin system. We consider a transverse-field Ising model in $d$ spatial dimensions with power-law interactions $J/rd^{d+α}$ as a function of distance $r$ in the presence of a longitudinal field with zero average and Gaussian Markovian fluctuations of strength $κ$. Starting from an initial paramagnetic state and suddenly switching on both the interactions and the longitudinal noise field, we compute the dynamics of the response and correlation functions of the longitudinal magnetization. The quantum Ising model with power-law interactions is a paradigmatic setup of condensed matter and quantum many-body physics. In addition to its simplicity, it encompasses infinitely many universality classes, including just one dimension depending on the value of $α$, and it has recently been the main protagonist in experiments on dynamical phase transitions [22,23,25]. As shown below, it also provides a quantum mechanical spin model where combined effects of noise and quench dynamics can be studied analytically, allowing our work to provide a formalism suitable for investigating criticality in current open many-body experiments.

A. Summary of the main findings

(i) The two-point correlation functions for any given space-time distance $t−s$ vanish exponentially as a function of the time $(t+s)/2$ elapsed after the quench, consistent with the fact that the system reaches an infinite-temperature state [47]. However, at intermediate times we find that correlation functions computed at two times $s$ and $t > s$ remain dependent on the ratio $s/t$ as is the case for aging systems (see Fig. 5). In particular, for $J ≪ κ$ and times $t,s < 1/κ$ we analytically obtain the response and correlation functions (for $t > s$)

$$\langle M_{p,t}, M_{p,s} \rangle \sim −i \cos(2κp(t−s)) − i\frac{κ}{4κ^2} \sin(2κp(t−s)),$$

$$\langle M_{p,t}, M_{p,s} \rangle \sim \frac{4κ^2}{R_p^2(4κ^2 + κ^2)} \left\{ 2κp(2κp \cos(2κp(t−s)) − κ \sin(2κp(t−s)))e^{-κt} − (4κ^2 + κ^2) \cos(2κp(t−s)) \right\} + κ \left( \frac{κ}{κ^2} \right)^{t,s < \frac{1}{κ}} \left( \frac{1 + s/t}{1 - s/t \left( \frac{1}{κ} \right)} \right),$$

with $R_p = \sqrt{hJ}$, where $h$ is the transverse field strength and $J_p$ is the Fourier transform of the interaction profile $J/rd^{d+α}$. In (1) $\mathcal{M}$ is the longitudinal magnetization field and $\mathcal{M}$ is the longitudinal response field. These two-time functions show the breaking of time-translation invariance.

(ii) For a quench to the closed-system critical point $h = J_0$ and for times $t,s \ll 1/κ$ as well for large distances such that $|p|a(J/κ)^{2/α} ≪ 1$ with $a$ the lattice spacing, the response and correlation functions enter an aging scaling regime consistent with the model A class [26,41]

$$\langle M_{p,t}, M_{p,s} \rangle \sim \frac{κ}{κ^2} \left( \frac{t}{s} \right)^{−1/2} F_G(\left| p \right|t−s^{1/2} \left| p \right|),$$

$$\langle M_{p,t}, M_{p,s} \rangle \sim \left( \frac{t}{s} \right)^{−1/2} F_C(\left| p \right|t−s^{1/2} \left| p \right|),$$

with

$$F_G(x,y) = −i\frac{y}{4\sqrt{c_0c_0}x^{γ/2}} \sin\left(2\sqrt{c_0c_0}x^{γ/2}ight),$$

$$F_C(x,y) = \frac{c_0}{c_0} \left[ \cos\left(2\sqrt{c_0c_0}x^{γ/2} \frac{1 + y}{1 - y} \right) − \cos\left(2\sqrt{c_0c_0}x^{γ/2} \right) \right],$$

where we have expressed time in units of $1/J$ and space in units of $a$, and with $c_{0,γ}$ being pure numbers. We find the following critical exponents

$$z = \frac{σ}{2}, \quad θ = 1, \quad ν = 2 − σ.$$
The starting point for the derivation of the Langevin equation is a Hubbard-Stratonovich (HS) decoupling of the Ising interaction term performed within a path-integral formulation of the quench problem on the closed semi-infinite time contour [52] shown in Fig. 1. The decoupling is performed after mapping the spin-1/2 degrees of freedom to Schwinger bosons. In the absence of the noisy field, the HS decoupling would be equivalent to the usual mean-field decoupling. Here we instead include the noise nonperturbatively by solving the Dyson equation for the two-point bosonic Green’s function (GF) in a self-consistent manner.

In Sec. II A we begin with introducing the quantum spin model used to describe our system and its mapping to Schwinger bosons. In Sec. II B we then describe the path-integral formulation of the problem on a closed semi-infinite time contour. In Sec. II C we finally derive the Langevin equation and its corresponding MSRDJ action.

A. Model and Schwinger-boson mapping

We consider a transverse-field Ising model described by the Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}, \quad (8)$$

$$\hat{H}_0 = -h \sum_i \hat{\sigma}_i^z, \quad (9)$$

$$\hat{V} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i\neq j} J_{ij} \hat{\sigma}_i^z \hat{\sigma}_j^z + \sum_i \eta_i \hat{\sigma}_i^z, \quad (10)$$

with $J_{ij} = J/|i-j|^{d+\sigma}$ the spin-spin coupling profile, $h$ the transverse-field strength, and $\hat{\sigma}_i^z$ the Pauli matrices along the $x$ and $z$ directions, respectively. We add a noisy longitudinal field $\eta_i$ with zero average and Gaussian fluctuations:

$$\langle \eta_i \rangle = 0, \quad (11)$$

$$\langle \eta_i \eta_j \rangle = \frac{\kappa}{2} \delta_{i,j} \delta(t-t'), \quad (12)$$

with $\kappa$ a strength parameter.

We now use the Schwinger-boson representation of the Pauli spin operators,

$$\hat{\sigma}_i^z = \text{sgn} (\alpha) \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}^\dagger \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}, \quad (13)$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_i^x = \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}^\dagger \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}, \quad (14)$$

with implied summation over spin indices, where $\hat{b}_{1a}^{(1)}$ is the Schwinger-boson annihilation (creation) operator on site $i$ for the two spin components $\alpha = \pm 1$ (or, equivalently in our notation, $\alpha = \uparrow \downarrow$) obeying the canonical commutation relations $[\hat{b}_{i,\alpha}, \hat{b}_{j,\beta}^{\dagger}] = \delta_{i,j} \delta_{\alpha,\beta}$ and $[\hat{b}_{i,\alpha}, \hat{b}_{j,\beta}] = 0$. This allows us to express our Hamiltonian in the form

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i\neq j} J_{ij} \text{sgn} (\alpha) \text{sgn} (\beta) \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}^\dagger \hat{b}_{j,\beta}^\dagger \hat{b}_{i,\alpha} \hat{b}_{j,\beta}$$

$$-h \sum_i \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}^\dagger \hat{b}_{i,\alpha} + \sum_i \eta_i \text{sgn} (\alpha) \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}^\dagger \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}$$

$$+ \sum_i \kappa_i \hat{b}_{i,\alpha}^\dagger \hat{b}_{i,\alpha} - 2S, \quad (15)$$

where we have additionally included in the last line a Lagrange multiplier $\kappa_i$ to constrain the number of bosons per site to $2S$ at all times $t$, with $S = 1/2$ the spin length in our model.

B. Nonequilibrium path-integral formulation

We want to describe the dynamics within the following quench protocol. At $t = 0$ we prepare the system in a thermal state $\rho_0 = e^{-\beta \hat{H}_0}/Z$ of the noninteracting, noiseless Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_0$, and then let it subsequently evolve with the full Hamiltonian (8) in the presence of the noise. In order to compute nonequilibrium GFs we adopt a path-integral formulation of the partition function on the closed semi-infinite time contour [52] $C : 0 \to \infty \to 0$ shown in Fig. 1.

After HS decoupling of the interaction term using the auxiliary longitudinal magnetization field $\mathcal{M}$, the noise-averaged partition function reads (see Appendix for more details)

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D} [\hat{\phi}, \phi, \mathcal{M}, \lambda, \eta] e^{S[\hat{\phi}, \phi, \mathcal{M}, \lambda, \eta]}, \quad (16)$$

with the action given by

$$S[\hat{\phi}, \phi, \mathcal{M}, \lambda, \eta] = \int_0^\infty dt \sum_{\chi = \pm} \sum_i \left( \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^\chi \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^{\chi\dagger} + h \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^\chi \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^{\chi\dagger} \right) - \sum_i \text{sgn} (\alpha) \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^\chi \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^{\chi\dagger} - \kappa_i \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^\chi \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^{\chi\dagger} + \frac{1}{\kappa} \int_0^\infty dt \sum_i \eta_i^2, \quad (17)$$

$$+ \int_0^\infty dt \sum_{\chi = \pm} \left( \mathcal{M}_{i,t}^\chi \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^\chi \hat{\phi}_{i,\alpha,t}^{\chi\dagger} - \mathcal{M}_{i,t} \frac{J_{ij}}{2} \mathcal{M}_{j,t}^\chi \right) + \frac{1}{\kappa} \int_0^\infty dt \sum_i \eta_i^2.$$
FIG. 2. Diagrammatic expression of the Gaussian action for the magnetization field \( \mathcal{M} \) (wiggly lines), leading to the Langevin equation (18). The dimensionless noise field \( \eta/\kappa \) is indicated by a dashed line while the Schwinger boson by a solid line. The magnetization couples to the bosons with coupling constant \( J_j \) while the dimensionless noise field with coupling constant \( \kappa \). The nonequilibrium Green’s functions are computed on the semi-infinite real-time closed contour of Fig. 1. Contour indices as well as bosonic spin indices are suppressed. The Gaussian action is defined by diagrams (a) plus (b), whereby the bosonic loops are computed using the Green’s functions dressed by the self-energy insertions (c), (d), and (e).

where \( \chi = \pm \) indicates the forward \((0 \rightarrow \infty)\) or backward \((\infty \rightarrow 0)\) branch of the contour, respectively, \( \phi_{i,\alpha,t}^{\Delta} \) are bosonic fields with \( \phi_{i,\alpha,t}^{\Delta} \) their complex conjugate, and \( \mathcal{M}_{i,t} \) is a real field. The noise field \( \eta_{i,t} \) is a classical field and therefore its value does not depend on the contour branch.

C. Langevin equation and MSRDJ action

In order to obtain the Langevin equation describing the dynamics of the magnetization field \( \mathcal{M}_{i,t} \), we perform a Keldysh rotation in (17), integrate out the bosonic \( \phi_{i,\alpha,t}^{\Delta} \) fields with \( \chi = \pm \) their complex conjugate, and consider

\[
\mathcal{M}_{i,t} = -2i \int_0^\infty dt \left( \sum_j J_{ij} \mathcal{M}_{j,t} - \eta_{i,t} \right)
\]

and correlation functions

\[
\mathcal{G}_{ij,t,t'}^{R(A)} = \frac{\pi}{2} \Theta(\pm(t-t')) \cos[h(t-t')] \delta_{i,j},
\]

where, for simplicity, we consider our initial paramagnetic state to be at zero temperature. As explained in Appendix, the above correlation functions are obtained by solving the Dyson equation with the noise-induced self-energy of Fig. 2(c) in a nonperturbative, self-consistent manner. That is, the bosonic GF appearing in the self-energy is not the bare one. This leads to a first-order linear partial differential equation which is the two-time extension of the Fokker-Planck or master equation employed for the noninteracting fermionic model of Ref. [47].

the saddle-point equation of motion up to linear order in \( \mathcal{M}_{i,t} \) (see Appendix for a detailed derivation), which reads

\[
\mathcal{M}_{i,t} = -2i \int_0^\infty dt \left( \sum_j J_{ij} \mathcal{M}_{j,t} - \eta_{i,t} \right)
\]

with the classical component of the magnetization field \( \mathcal{M}_{i,t} = \mathcal{M}_{i,t}^{(i)} + \mathcal{M}_{i,t}^{(c)} \) and we have assumed our system is in the paramagnetic phase so that \( G^{\uparrow \downarrow} = G^{\downarrow \uparrow} = G^{\uparrow \uparrow} = G^{\downarrow \downarrow} \) with the bosonic GFs defined as \( i \theta G_{R,\alpha\alpha'}^{R,\alpha\alpha'}(t,t') = \theta(t-t')\langle [\hat{b}_{\alpha}(t), \hat{b}_{\alpha'}^\dagger(t')] \rangle \) and \( iG_{K,\alpha\alpha'}^{K,\alpha\alpha'}(t,t') = \langle [\hat{b}_{\alpha}(t), \hat{b}_{\alpha'}^\dagger(t')] \rangle \).

The action corresponding to the above Langevin equation is diagrammatically expressed by the sum of the two self-energies given in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b). In a purely Gaussian approximation the bosonic GFs appearing in (18) would be the bare propagators obtained for \( \kappa = I_{ij} = 0 \). The natural improvement over this crude approximation is the self-consistent Hartree-Fock treatment corresponding to the self-energy corrections expressed diagrammatically in Figs. 2(c)–2(e), whereby the \( \mathcal{M} \) GF in Figs. 2(d) and 2(e) includes the loop corrections from Figs. 2(a) and 2(b).

However, we will restrict here to a weakly interacting case \( J \ll \kappa \) where we can neglect the corrections Figs. 2(d) and 2(e) to the bosonic self-energies, so that the latter are purely determined by the noisy magnetic field. Due to the self-consistent resummation, the diagrams (d) and (e) of Fig. 2 cannot be in general neglected based on the perturbative criterion \( J \ll \kappa \). However, as we shall show in what follows, the presence of the noise limits the growth of the magnetization correlation functions so that no self-consistent enhancement takes place even at the critical point.

Within the above approximation we obtain the following bosonic response (see Appendix for a detailed derivation)

\[
\mathcal{G}_{ij,t,t'}^{(A)} = \frac{\pi}{2} \Theta(\pm(t-t')) \sin[h(t-t')] \delta_{i,j},
\]

while the Schwinger boson by a solid line. The magnetization couples to the bosons with coupling constant \( J_j \) while the dimensionless noise field with coupling constant \( \kappa \). The nonequilibrium Green’s functions are computed on the semi-infinite real-time closed contour of Fig. 1. Contour indices as well as bosonic spin indices are suppressed. The Gaussian action is defined by diagrams (a) plus (b), whereby the bosonic loops are computed using the Green’s functions dressed by the self-energy insertions (c), (d), and (e).

Substituting the GFs (19) and (20) in the Langevin equation (18), taking a \( t \)-derivative twice, and going to Fourier space we obtain the following Langevin equation

\[
\partial_t \mathcal{M}_{p,t} = \mathcal{L}_{pq} \mathcal{M}_{q,t} + \mathcal{E}_{pq} \mathcal{M}_{q,t},
\]

where summation over repeated indices is implied and we defined the vectors \( \mathcal{M}_{p,t} = (\mathcal{M}_{p,t}, \partial_t \mathcal{M}_{p,t}/h)^T \), \( \mathcal{E}_{pq} = (\mathcal{E}_{pq})^T \), and \( \mathcal{L}_{pq} = (\mathcal{L}_{pq})^T \).
(0, η_{p,t}/h)T and the matrices
\[ A_{p,t}^{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -4h - \frac{\xi}{4t} + 4J_{p}e^{-\kappa t} \\
4J_{p}e^{-\kappa t} & -\kappa \end{pmatrix}_{ab}, \]
\[ B_{p,t}^{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{ab}. \] (22)

Here we have introduced the Fourier transform \( J_{p} \) of the interaction matrix \( J_{ij} \).

The Langevin equation with a first-order time derivative has to take a vector form since the original equation (18) for \( \mathcal{M}_{p,t} \) is a second-order differential equation (see Appendix). Note that the vectorial form of the Langevin equation (21) belongs to the model A dynamical universality class, but with the peculiarity that the friction and noise act directly onto the current \( \partial_{t}\mathcal{M} \) and not onto the magnetization \( \mathcal{M} \) itself. Still, there is no conserved quantity here as is the case for the model A class.

In order to compute response and correlation functions of the magnetization from the Langevin equation (21) we adopt the standard MSRDJ method to obtain the following classical action
\[ S_{\text{MSRDJ}}[\bar{\mathcal{M}}, \mathcal{M}] = \sum_{p} \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \left[ \frac{4\kappa}{1+\kappa} \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{p,t}^{a} B_{p,t}^{abc} \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{p,t}^{c} - 2\bar{\mathcal{M}}_{p,t}^{a} (1^{ab} \partial_{t} + A_{p,t}^{ab}) \mathcal{M}_{p,t}^{b} \right], \] (24)
with the response-field vector \( \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{p,t} = (\bar{\mathcal{M}}_{p,t}, \partial_{t}\bar{\mathcal{M}}_{p,t}/h)^{T} \). The above MSRDJ action is quadratic in the magnetization field. However, it does not result from a purely Gaussian approximation since it includes the loop corrections shown in Fig. 2. The longitudinal magnetization response
\[ i[D_{R}^{\mathcal{M}}]^{ab}_{(p,t),(p',t')} = \delta_{p,p'} \langle \mathcal{M}_{p,t}^{a} \mathcal{M}_{p,t}^{b} \rangle \] (25)
and correlation function
\[ i[D_{K}^{\mathcal{M}}]^{ab}_{(p,t),(p',t')} = \delta_{p,-p'} \langle \mathcal{M}_{p,t}^{a} \mathcal{M}_{p,t}^{b} \rangle \] (26)
can be directly computed by inverting the matrix-valued differential operator
\[ D_{R}^{-1} \left[ D_{R}^{-1} \right]^{\mathcal{M}}_{(p,t),(p',t')} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \left[ D_{R}^{-1} \right] \mathcal{R}^{R}_{(p,t),(p',t')} \end{pmatrix}, \]
\[ \left[ D_{R}^{-1} \right]^{\mathcal{M}}_{(p,t),(p',t')} = \delta_{p,p'} \delta(t-t'), \]
\[ \times \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -4h - \frac{\xi}{4t} + 4J_{p}e^{-\kappa t} & -\kappa \end{pmatrix}_{ab}, \] (27)
\[ \left[ D_{K}^{-1} \right]^{\mathcal{M}}_{(p,t),(p',t')} = \delta_{p,-p'} \delta(t-t'), \]
\[ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\
0 & -64i\kappa e^{-2\kappa t} \end{pmatrix}_{ab}. \] (28)

III. RESULTS

Starting from an initial paramagnetic state and suddenly switching on both the interactions and the longitudinal noise field, we want to study the dynamics of two-time response and correlation functions of the longitudinal magnetization. We will first discuss the typical behavior of response and correlation functions both in the vicinity of and away from the critical point. We will subsequently turn to the aging behavior at intermediate times, especially focusing on what happens in the vicinity of the critical point. For simplicity, we have considered in our analysis a zero-temperature paramagnetic initial state, although our formalism can readily account for the finite-temperature case.

A. Relaxation dynamics and aging

By inverting the operator (27) we obtain the four different response (25) and correlation (26) functions. The four components correspond to the magnetization, the current, and the two mixed correlators. In Figs. 3 and 4 we provide an example of the magnetization response and correlation functions. Figure 3 shows results computed far away from the critical point of the closed system, which is defined by \( h = J_{0} \). The response function has the correct causal structure. It is also apparently translation invariant, i.e., it depends only on the time difference \( t-s \). The latter is a property of our approximation which should be valid in the weakly interacting regime \( \kappa \gg J \) (see discussion in Sec. II C). Before decaying exponentially at late times, both the response and correlation functions show an oscillatory behavior with frequency \( 2\mathcal{R} \) bounded from below by the distance \( \mathcal{R} \) to the critical point. When \( \mathcal{R} \) is small for \( p \rightarrow 0 \) and \( h \rightarrow J_{0} \), as is the case in Fig. 4, the oscillations do not have time to develop before the envelope decays exponentially to zero.

The exponential decay of the correlations towards zero for late times is consistent with the expectation that the system

\[ D_{K}^{-1} \left[ D_{K}^{-1} \right]^{\mathcal{M}}_{(p,t),(p',t')} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \left[ D_{K}^{-1} \right] \mathcal{R}^{K}_{(p,t),(p',t')} \end{pmatrix}, \]
\[ \left[ D_{K}^{-1} \right]^{\mathcal{M}}_{(p,t),(p',t')} = \delta_{p,p'} \delta(t-t'), \]
\[ \times \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -4h - \frac{\xi}{4t} + 4J_{p}e^{-\kappa t} & -\kappa \end{pmatrix}_{ab}, \] (29)

FIG. 3. Response and correlation function of the longitudinal magnetization [see (25) and (26)] far away from the critical point.

FIG. 4. Response and correlation functions of the longitudinal magnetization [see (25) and (26)] close to the critical point.
relaxes to an infinite-temperature state due to the presence of noise [47]. However, due to the quench that leads to the breaking of time-translation invariance, two-point functions must still depend on both times \( t, s \) (and not only on their difference) up to a certain equilibration time \( \tau_{eq} \). The latter is set in our case by the exponential decay and is proportional to the inverse noise strength: \( \tau_{eq} \sim \frac{1}{\kappa} \).

For times smaller than \( \frac{1}{\kappa} \) we can analytically compute response and correlation functions as given in (1) and (2) for \( t > s \). They explicitly depend not only on the time difference \( t - s \) but also on their sum or, equivalently, on the ratio \( s/t \). As long as these functions depend on \( s/t \) the system has not relaxed to its equilibrium state, as is the case for systems showing aging. The dependence of the correlation function on \( s/t \) is shown in Fig. 5 for different values of the time difference. After a given time the curves decay to zero and flatten out, indicating relaxation to a time-translation invariant state. On the other hand, for intermediate times there is a strong dependence on \( s/t \) and the correlation function agrees well with the analytic form (2).

### B. Critical scaling behavior

For a quench to the critical point of the noiseless system \( h = J_0 \) and restricting to \( 0 < \sigma < 2 \) as well distances such that \( |p| a \ll 1 \), we have

\[
J_p / J \overset{p \to 0}{\sim} c_0 - c_\sigma |p|^\sigma, \tag{30}
\]

where we have chosen the lattice spacing \( a \) as our unit of length and \( c_0, c_\sigma \) are positive pure numbers depending on the dimension \( d \). In \( d = 1 \) we have for instance \( c_0 = 2 \zeta(1 + \sigma) \), \( c_\sigma = -2 \cos(\pi \sigma/2) / \Gamma[-\sigma] \). At the critical point we have thus

\[
\mathcal{R}_p \simeq J \sqrt{c_0 c_\sigma} |p|^\sigma/2. \tag{31}
\]

For times \( t, s \ll 1/\kappa \) such that we can neglect the exponential term in (2), and for momenta such that \( \kappa \gg \mathcal{R}_p \), i.e., distances much longer than \( a(J/\kappa)^{1/\sigma} \), we can approximate the response and correlation functions of (1) and (2) as

\[
\langle \mathcal{M}_{p,t}\mathcal{M}_{p,s} \rangle \simeq -\frac{i\kappa}{4J \sqrt{c_0 c_\sigma}} |p|^{\sigma/2} \sin[2\sqrt{c_0 c_\sigma} |p|^{\sigma/2} J(t-s)], \tag{32}
\]

\[
\langle \mathcal{M}_{p,t}\mathcal{M}_{-p,s} \rangle \simeq \left\{ \begin{array}{c}
\cos \left[ 2\sqrt{c_0 c_\sigma} |p|^{\sigma/2} J(t-s) \left( \frac{1+s/t}{1-s/t} \right) \right] \\
- \cos \left[ 2\sqrt{c_0 c_\sigma} |p|^{\sigma/2} J(t-s) \right] \frac{4c_0}{c_\sigma |p|^{\sigma}} \end{array} \right. \tag{33}
\]

The above critical response and correlation functions can be brought into the scaling form given in (3) and (4), which is consistent with the scaling form expected for the model A dynamical universality class [26,41] [we recall that our Langevin equation takes the model A form (21) with no conserved quantities]. We thus get the critical exponents given in (7). It is interesting to note that while the dynamical critical...
exponent $z$ agrees with the thermal equilibrium value, the initial-slip exponent $\theta$ deviates from the value expected for the model A class in contact with a thermal bath [41]. This feature might be interpreted as an example of a “hierarchical shell structure of nonequilibrium criticality” as proposed in Ref. [53], whereby the dynamical universality class is further refined by an additional exponent in an open system without detailed balance. In our case the universal exponents are valid in the weakly-interacting regime $\kappa \gg J$, where the critical behavior is governed by a fixed point dominated by the noisy longitudinal field with zero average. Differently from Ref. [53] where a driven-dissipative steady state is considered, in our case detailed balance at early times is broken by the post-quench aging behavior, whereby the additional slip exponent emerges.

IV. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

We considered the long-range transverse-field Ising model with power-law interactions, where we perform a quench on the disordered side of the equilibrium phase diagram in the presence of a noisy longitudinal magnetic field with zero average. We showed that the dynamics exhibits aging at short to intermediate times before the system eventually settles into an infinite-temperature state. At these early times and at long distances we also find a scaling regime governed by a nonequilibrium fixed point dominated by the noise fluctuations. Interestingly, the universal initial-slip exponent $\theta = 1$ that we find deviates from the value expected for the model A dynamical universality class in contact with a thermal bath. This suggests the emergence of a hierarchical shell structure of nonequilibrium criticality in concomitance with aging in open systems. We defer a thorough investigation of this scenario to a future work.

An important feature of the present analysis is that it puts forward an approach for computing two-time response and correlation functions of quantum spin models undergoing dephasing. The method involves the derivation of an effective Langevin equation from which to compute two-point correlators within a self-consistent approximation. Our method can be readily extended to other quantum many-body systems with different symmetries under the influence of dephasing.

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APPENDIX: FURTHER DETAILS ON THE DERIVATION OF THE LANGEVIN EQUATION

1. Effective Keldysh action

In the main text, we presented the partition function

$$Z = \int D[\phi^x, \phi^y, \lambda, \eta] e^{i S[\phi^x, \phi^y, \lambda, \eta]},$$

which one obtains upon averaging over the Gaussian noise, with the action given by

$$S[\phi^x, \phi^y, \lambda, \eta] = \int_0^\infty dt \sum_{\chi=\pm} \chi \left( \sum_i \phi^x_{i,a,t} \partial_t \phi^x_{i,a,t} - H[\phi^x, \phi^y, \lambda, \eta] \right) + \frac{i}{\kappa} \int_0^\infty dt \sum_i \eta_i^2,$$

$$H[\phi^x, \phi^y, \lambda, \eta] = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} J_{ij} \text{sgn}(\alpha) \text{sgn}(\beta) \phi^x_{i,a,t} \phi^x_{j,a,t} \phi^y_{i,b,t} \phi^y_{j,b,t} - h \sum_i \phi^x_{i,a,t} \phi^y_{i,a,t} + \sum_i \eta_i \text{sgn}(\alpha) \phi^x_{i,a,t} \phi^y_{i,a,t} + \sum_i \lambda_i (\phi^x_{i,a,t} \phi^y_{i,a,t} - 2S),$$

and $\chi = \pm$ indicates dynamics along the forward (backward) branch of the contour. We now perform the Hubbard-Stratonovich (HS) transformation by inserting in (A1) the “fat unity”

$$1 = \int D[M^x] e^{i \int_0^\infty dt \sum_{\alpha} M_{i,t}^x J_{i,t} M_{t}^x},$$

where a trivial prefactor has been absorbed into the measure. We shift the HS field $M_{i,t}^x \rightarrow M_{i,t}^x - \text{sgn}(\alpha) \phi_{i,a,t} \phi^y_{i,a,t}$, which brings the Keldysh action in the form (17), and then perform the Keldysh rotation

$$\phi_{i,a,t}^x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_{i,a,t}^x + \chi \phi_{i,a,t}^y),$$

$$M_{i,t}^x = M_{i,t}^x + \chi M_{i,t}^y,$$

where

$$M_{i,t}^x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_{i,a,t}^x + \chi \phi_{i,a,t}^y),$$

$$M_{i,t}^y = M_{i,t}^y + \chi M_{i,t}^x,$$
where “cl” and “q” denote the classical and quantum components of the field. Note that the fields \( \eta_{i,t} \) and \( \lambda_{i,t} \) are classical and, therefore, have no quantum component. (A4) and (A5) put the action (17) in the form

\[
\mathcal{S}[\tilde{\phi}(q), \phi(q), \lambda, \eta, \mathcal{M}(q)] = \int_0^\infty dt \int_0^\infty dt' \sum_{i,j} \Phi_{i,t} [\mathcal{G}_{c,i}(j,t') + V_{c,j}(j,t')] \Phi_{j,t'} + \int_0^\infty dt \left[ \frac{1}{\kappa} \sum_i \eta_{i,t}^2 - \sum_{i \neq j} J_{ij} \left( \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^{cl} \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^{cl} + \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^q \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^q \right) \right],
\]

(A6)

where \( \Phi_{i,t} = (\phi_{i,t,\uparrow}, \phi_{i,t,\downarrow}, \phi_{i,t,\uparrow}, \phi_{i,t,\downarrow})^T \), and we have split the bosonic-field part of the action into a free term described by

\[
\mathcal{G}_{c,i}(j,t') = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{-1} & \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{cl} \\ \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{-1} & \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{cl} & \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^q \\ \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{cl} & \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^q & \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{cl} \end{pmatrix}^R \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{-1} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^K
\]

(A7)

\[
\mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{cl}(j,t') = 2i \int_{t'}^\infty \left( F_{11}^{\uparrow\uparrow}(j,t') + F_{11}^{\uparrow\downarrow}(j,t') \right) \delta_i(j, t' - t)
\]

(A8)

where (A9) serves as a pure regularization term that is necessary for \( \mathcal{G}^{-1} \) to be invertible with \( \epsilon \to 0 \) and \( F^{\alpha\beta}(t', t') \) are (upon Wigner transformation) distribution functions, and into a “source” term described by

\[
V_{c,j}(j,t') = \begin{pmatrix} V_{c,j}^q(j,t') & V_{c,j}^{cl}(j,t') \\ V_{c,j}^{cl}(j,t') & V_{c,j}^q(j,t') \end{pmatrix}
\]

(A10)

\[
V_{c,j}^{cl}(j,t') = \sum_l J_{il} \mathcal{M}_{l,t}^{cl} \delta_{i,j} \delta(t - t')
\]

(A11)

\[
V_{c,j}^q(j,t') = \delta_{i,j} \delta(t - t') \left( \sum_l J_{il} \mathcal{M}_{l,t}^{cl} - \eta_{i,t} \right) \sigma^z - \lambda_{i,t} \sigma^0
\]

(A12)

Inverting (A8) yields the free retarded and advanced propagators

\[
\mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} = \mp i e^{\mp t(t-t')} \Theta(\mp(t - t')) \cos[h(t - t')],
\]

(A13)

\[
\mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} = \pm e^{\mp t(t-t')} \Theta(\mp(t - t')) \sin[h(t - t')],
\]

(A14)

and where due to \( Z_2 \) symmetry we have \( \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} = \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \) and \( \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{A,R} = \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{A,R} \). Integrating out the bosonic degrees of freedom in the partition function

\[
\mathcal{Z} = \int \mathcal{D}[\phi(q), \phi(q), \lambda, \eta, \mathcal{M}(q)] e^{iS[\phi(q), \phi(q), \lambda, \eta, \mathcal{M}(q)]} = \int \mathcal{D}[\lambda, \eta, \mathcal{M}(q)] e^{iS_{eff}[\lambda, \eta, \mathcal{M}]}.
\]

(A15)

leads to the effective Keldysh action

\[
\mathcal{S}_{eff}[\lambda, \eta, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{M}] = i \text{Tr} \ln \mathcal{G}^{-1} + i \text{Tr} \ln (1 + \mathcal{G}) + \int_0^\infty dt \left[ \frac{i}{\kappa} \sum_i \eta_{i,t}^2 - \sum_{i \neq j} J_{ij} \left( \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^{cl} \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^{cl} + \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^q \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^q \right) \right].
\]

(A16)

1 + \mathcal{G} is not diagonal in Keldysh, Nambu, or time space. We therefore Taylor expand its inverse \((1 + \mathcal{G})^{-1}\), which up to second order in \( \mathcal{V} \) leads to the saddle-point solution

\[
\mathcal{M}_{t,t} = -2i \int_0^\infty dt \left( \sum_l J_{il} \mathcal{M}_{l,t} - \eta_{i,t} \right) \left[ \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{R,A} \right],
\]

(A17)

and this entails setting \( \mathcal{M}^q \to 0 \), and we have thus dropped the superscript “cl” from the classical magnetization field \( \mathcal{M}_{t,t} = \mathcal{M}_{t,t}^{cl} \) for notational brevity.

2. Self-energies

In order for \( \mathcal{M}_{t,t} \) to be self-consistent, we must now calculate the self-energies. This is conveniently achieved by calculating the full propagator

\[
\mathcal{G}_{c,i}^{w}(j,t) = -i \left[ \phi_{i,t}^w \left( \phi_{j,t}^w \right)^\dagger \right] = -i \left[ \phi_{i,t}^w \left( \phi_{j,t}^w \right)^\dagger \right].
\]

(A18)
by expanding up to second order in the interaction part of the action (A6)

\[
S_V[\tilde{\phi}, \phi, \lambda, \eta, M, M^i] = \int_0^\infty dt \int_0^\infty dt' \sum_{i,j} \tilde{\Phi}_{i,j} V_{(i,j),i,j} \Phi_{i,j}.
\]

(A19)

The self-energies arising from this expansion by approximating the Dyson equation as

\[
G = G + G \Sigma G \approx G + G \Sigma G,
\]

(A20)

are

\[
\Sigma^{R,A,K}_{(i,j),(j',i')} = \frac{\kappa}{2} \delta_{i,j} \delta(t - t') \sigma^0 + \sum_{i,j'} J_{i,j'}(M_{i,j}, M_{i,j'}) \sigma^z \tilde{G}^{R,A,K}_{(i,j),(j',i')} \sigma^z,
\]

(A21)

where, as mentioned previously, we take \( M^i \to 0 \). Recasting the Dyson equation in the form

\[
I_{4 \times 4} \left( [G^{-1}]^R - \Sigma^R \right) \left( [G^{-1}]^A - \Sigma^A \right) \left( G^K \right)^4 = \left( [G^{-1}]^A - \Sigma^A \right) \left( G^K \right)^4 G^K = \Sigma^K G^K,
\]

(A22)

and taking \( J \ll \kappa \) while considering the dynamics to always be restricted to the disordered phase, the retarded and advanced full propagators can then be calculated to be (19) in the main text.

Also from (A22), upon enforcing self-consistency through replacing \( G^K \) with \( G^K \) in the expression for \( \Sigma^K \) (which for clarity we shall now call \( \Sigma^K \)) we obtain

\[
([G^{-1}]^R - \Sigma^R)G^K = \Sigma^K G^K,
\]

(A23)

from which we calculate the Keldysh full propagator (20) presented in the main text. Replacing \( G^{KR}(R) \) with \( G^{KR}(R) \) in (A17), we arrive at (18) in the main text. Fourier-transforming from position into momentum space, and thereafter carrying out a time derivative twice, we arrive at the second-order differential equation

\[
\left( \partial_t^2 + \kappa \partial_x + 4h^2 + \frac{\kappa^2}{4} - 4h J_p e^{-xt} \right) M_{p,t} = -4he^{-xt} \eta_{p,t},
\]

(A24)

which is then transformed into a first-order Langevin vector equation (21) as illustrated in the main text.

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