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Quench dynamics in strongly correlated Bose-Hubbard chains

Ultracold atoms are an ideal setting to study non-equilibrium quantum many-body dynamics in a very controlled way. I will present a series of experiments in the context of strongly correlated atomic bosons in one-dimensional geometry. Specifically, we study the dynamics of one-dimensional chains after a sudden quench of the system's Hamiltonian, for which we independently control J , the (coherent) tunneling rate, U , the strength of the interaction, and E , a tilt along the longitudinal direction of the chains. For a quench to $U \approx E$ we couple to nearest neighbors collectively and observe characteristic oscillations in the number of double occupancies that we analyze in the many-body context [1]. For $U/2 \approx E$, $U/3 \approx E$ etc. we observe collective long-range tunneling to next-nearest neighbors and beyond. In particular, for $U/3 \approx E$ we observe dynamics due to the higher-order super-exchange interaction scaling as J^3/U^2 [2]. For $J \approx U \ll E$ we observe interaction-induced quantum phase revivals, and for $J \approx U \approx E$ we find evidence for the transition to the quantum chaotic regime [3].

[1] Many-body quantum quench in an atomic one-dimensional Ising chain, F. Meinert et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 111, 053003 (2013)

[2] Observation of many-body long-range tunneling after a quantum quench, F. Meinert et al., submitted, preprint at arXiv:1312.2758 (2013).

[3] Interaction-induced quantum phase revivals and evidence for the transition to the quantum chaotic regime in 1D atomic Bloch oscillations, F. Meinert et al., submitted, preprint at arXiv:1309.4045 (2013).

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