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Abstract for an Invited Paper for the DAMOP17 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Rigidity, Criticality and Prethermalization of Discrete Time Crystals NORMAN YAO, UC Berkeley

Despite being forbidden in equilibrium, spontaneous breaking of time translation symmetry can occur in periodically driven, Floquet systems with discrete time-translation symmetry. The period of the resulting discrete time crystal (DTC) is quantized to an integer multiple of the drive period, arising from a combination of collective synchronization and many body localization. In this talk, I will describe a simple model for a one dimensional discrete time crystal which explicitly reveals the rigidity of the emergent oscillations as the drive is varied. I will analyze the properties of the dynamical phase transition where the time crystal melts into a trivial Floquet insulator. Effects of long-range interactions and pre-thermalization will be considered in the context of recent DTC realizations in trapped ions and solid-state spins.