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Quantum Physics

Non-adiabatic transitions in a nonsymmetric optical lattice

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We study Landau-Zener interband transitions for a non-symmetric optical lattice in the presence of an external force. We show that gain and losses of the light beam, as well as the relative occupation probabilities of the bands involved in the transitions can be accurately managed upon tuning the amplitude of the non-Hermitian component of the lattice. Exact expressions for the transition and non-transition probabilities for a non-symmetric system obtained within a two-mode approximation are provided. These equations successfully account for the main features of the transitions in the optical lattice. We also interpret the non-conventional Bloch oscillations at criticality studied in Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 123601 (2009) as a series of a Landau-Zener transitions.

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