Super quantum discord for two-qubit X-type states

(revised version: August 2015)

by

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Preprint no.: 6 2015
Super quantum discord for X-type states

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Weak measurement is a new way to manipulate and control quantum systems. Different from projection measurement, weak measurement only makes a small change in status. Applying weak measurement to quantum discord, Singh and Pati proposed a new kind of quantum correlations called “super quantum discord (SQD)” [Annals of Physics 343,141(2014)]. Unfortunately, the super quantum discord is also difficult to calculate. There are only few explicit formulae about SQD. We derive the analytical formulae of SQD for general X-type two-qubit states, which surpass the conclusion for Wenner states and Bell-diagonal states. Furthermore, our results reveal more knowledge about the new insight of quantum correlation and give a new way to compare SQD with normal quantum discord. Finally, we analyze its dynamics under nondissipative channels.

I. INTRODUCTION

The quantum entanglement plays important roles in quantum information processing [1]. However, besides quantum entanglement there are other quantum correlations also useful for quantum information processing. It is found that many tasks can be carried out with quantum correlations other than entanglement [2–4]. In particular, the quantum discord [5–19] plays an important role in some quantum information processing like to assist optimal state discrimination, in which only one side discord is required in the optimization process of assisted state discrimination, while another side discord and entanglement is not necessary [20].

Unfortunately, underlying quantum measurements process quantum states are fragile. When we measure a quantum state in some orthogonal basis, since quantum discord is defined by the POVM quantum measurement, the coherence of the state has been loosened. Taking account of quantum states’ potential privacy, it is reasonable to find a solution to deal with this problem. Such a solution was making use of weak measurement which induced by Aharonov-Albert-Vaidman[21]. Applying such a scheme, we can replace the POVM measurement by weak measurement in the definition of quantum discord, which gives rise to so called super quantum discord (SQD) [22].

Super quantum discord sheds a new insight on the nature of quantum correlation. It also has vivid properties, such as the monotony. Super quantum discord not only a new insight in fundamental physics but also useful in applications. Although significant of super quantum discord, it is difficult to calculate. There are only few explicit formulae about SQD. The analytical formulae of Wenner states [22] and Bell-diagonal states [23] are only two results. In order to obtain more useful results, we take a new method to compute more general state—X-type states, which including Wenner states and Bell-diagonal states. Obviously, our results include the results in [22] and [23]. Furthermore, in order to show the potential property of technological implications, we analyze the dynamics of two-qubit X-state under non-dissipative channels and compare super quantum discord with discord by using the explicit formulae. This is exemplified by the fact that the super quantum discord often larger than the normal discord and the capture quantum correlation.
This paper is organized as follows. In section II, we derive analytical formulae of super quantum discord for X-states. In section III we compute the super quantum discord of some concrete examples, and analyze their dynamics under nondissipative channels, we further compare it with discord and present some new property of super quantum discord.

II. SUPER QUANTUM DISCORD FOR TWO-QUBIT X-STATES

Super quantum discord of some special states has been computed recently, the Werner states and the Bell-diagonal states are included. Now, we extend the results about super quantum discord in [22] and [23] to the whole two-qubit, X-states. Let us consider a two-qubit X-state:

$$\rho_X = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & a_{14} \\ 0 & a_{22} & a_{23} & 0 \\ 0 & a_{23} & a_{33} & 0 \\ a_{14} & 0 & 0 & a_{44} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\sum_{i=1}^{4} a_{ii} = 1$, $|a_{23}|^2 \leq a_{22}a_{33}, |a_{14}|^2 \leq a_{11}a_{44}$. The density matrix (1) can be written as [24]:

$$\rho_X = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + d_1 & 0 & 0 & c_1 - c_2 \\ 0 & 1 + d_2 & c_1 + c_2 & 0 \\ 0 & c_1^* + c_2^* & 1 + d_3 & 0 \\ c_1 - c_2^* & 0 & 0 & 1 + d_4 \end{pmatrix},$$

where $c_1$ and $c_2$ are complex, $d_1, d_2, d_3$ and $d_4$ are real, $d_1 = c_1 + a_3 + b_1$, $d_2 = -c_1 + a_3 - b_1$, $d_3 = -c_1 - a_3 + b_1$, $d_4 = c_1 - a_3 - b_1$. These parameters are determined by the entries of the density matrix, $a_{ij} = a_{11} - a_{44} + a_{22} - a_{33}, b_{ij} = a_{11} - a_{44} - a_{22} + a_{33}, c_{ij} = a_{11} + a_{44} - a_{22} - a_{33}, c_1 = 2(a_{23} + a_{14}), c_2 = 2(a_{23} - a_{14})$.

Let $\{\Pi_i\}$, $i = 0, 1$, be the projective measurements. The discord of a bipartite quantum state $\rho_{AB}$ with the measurement $\{\Pi_i\}$ on the subsystem $B$ is the dissimilarity between the mutual information $I(\rho_{AB})$ [25] and the classical correlation $J_B(\rho_{AB})$ [26]:

$$D(\rho_{AB}) = \min_{\{\Pi_i\}} \sum_i p_i S(\rho_{A|i}) + S(\rho_B) - S(\rho_{AB}),$$

where the minimization goes over all projective measurements $\{\Pi_i\}$, $S(\rho) = -\text{tr}(\rho \log_2 \rho)$ is the von Neumann entropy of a quantum state $\rho$, $\rho_B$ is the reduced density matrices of $\rho_{AB}$ and

$$p_i = \text{tr}_{AB}[IA \otimes \Pi_i^B] \rho_{AB}(IA \otimes \Pi_i^B)],$$

$$\rho_{A|i} = \frac{1}{p_i} \text{tr}_{B}[IA \otimes \Pi_i^B] \rho_{AB}(IA \otimes \Pi_i^B)].$$

The weak measurement operators are given by [27],

$$P(+x) = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \tanh x}{2}} \Pi_0 + \sqrt{\frac{1 + \tanh x}{2}} \Pi_1,$$

$$P(-x) = \sqrt{\frac{1 + \tanh x}{2}} \Pi_0 + \sqrt{\frac{1 - \tanh x}{2}} \Pi_1,$$

where $\Pi_0$ and $\Pi_1$ are two orthogonal projectors satisfying $\Pi_0 + \Pi_1 = I$, $x$ is the strength parameter of measurement. The weak measurement operators satisfy: (i) $P^\dagger(+x)P(+x) + P^\dagger(-x)P(-x) = I$, (ii) $\lim_{x \to \infty} P(+x) = \Pi_0$ and $\lim_{x \to \infty} P(-x) = \Pi_1$. 
The super quantum discord is defined by [22]:

\[ D_w(\rho_{AB}) = \min_{\{P^B(x)\}} S_w(A\{P^B(x)\}) + S(\rho_B) - S(\rho_{AB}), \]

where

\[ S_w(A\{P^B(x)\}) = p(x)S(\rho_{A|P^B=+}(x)) + p(-x)S(\rho_{A|P^B=-}(x)), \]

\[ p(\pm x) = \text{tr}_{AB}(I_A \otimes P^B(\pm x)\rho_{AB}(I_A \otimes P^B(\pm x))), \]

\[ \rho_{A|P^B=\pm} = \frac{\text{tr}_{AB}(I_A \otimes P^B(\pm x)\rho_{AB}(I_A \otimes P^B(\pm x)))}{\text{tr}_{AB}(I_A \otimes P^B(\pm x))}, \]

where \( \{P^B(x)\} \) is the weak measurement operators on subsystem \( B \).

The weak measurement operators on subsystem \( B \) can be expressed as

\[ I_A \otimes P^B(\pm x) = \sqrt{\frac{1 \pm \tanh x}{2}} I \otimes \Pi_B V^d + \sqrt{\frac{1 \pm \tanh x}{2}} I \otimes \Pi_B V^d, \]

where \( \Pi_k = |k\rangle\langle k|, k = 0, 1, |k\rangle \) is the computational base, and \( V \) is a \( 2 \times 2 \) unitary transformation. \( V \) can be generally expressed as [14]:

\[ V = tI + iy \cdot \sigma, \]

where \( y = (y_1, y_2, y_3) \) and \( t, y_1, y_2, y_3 \in R^3, t^2 + y_1^2 + y_2^2 + y_3^2 = 1. \)

To evaluate the super quantum discord of \( \rho_X \), let us first express \( \rho_X \) in terms of the bases \( I \otimes I, \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_j, i, j = 0, 1, 2. \)

\[ \rho_X = \frac{1}{4}(I + \sum_i \Re(c_i)\sigma_i \otimes \sigma_i) + \frac{1}{4}((b_3 - a_3)I \otimes \sigma_3 + (\Im(c_3) + \Im(c_2)\sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_2)), \]

where \( \Re(c_i), \Im(c_i) \) are the real and complex parts of \( c_i \). By using the relations

\[ V^d\sigma_1 V = (t^2 + y_1^2 - y_2^2 - y_3^2)\sigma_1 + 2(ty_1 + y_2y_3)\sigma_2 + 2(-ty_2 + y_1y_3)\sigma_3, \]

\[ V^d\sigma_2 V = (t^2 + y_2^2 - y_1^2 - y_3^2)\sigma_2 + 2(ty_1 + y_2y_3)\sigma_3 + 2(-ty_2 + y_1y_3)\sigma_1, \]

\[ V^d\sigma_3 V = (t^2 + y_3^2 - y_1^2 - y_2^2)\sigma_3 + 2(ty_2 + y_1y_3)\sigma_1 + 2(-ty_1 + y_2y_3)\sigma_2, \]

\[ \Pi_0\sigma_3\Pi_0 = \Pi_0, \Pi_1\sigma_3\Pi_1 = -\Pi_1, \Pi_j\sigma_k\Pi_j = 0 \] for \( j = 0, 1, k = 1, 2 \) in [14]. Setting \( a_1 = z_1\Re(c_1) + z_2\Im(c_2), \)
\( a_2 = z_2\Re(c_2) - z_1\Im(c_1) \), with \( z_1 = 2(-ty_2 + y_1y_3), z_2 = 2(ty_1 + y_2y_3), z_3 = t^2 + y_1^2 - y_2^2 - y_3^2 \), we have the ensemble \( \{\rho_{A|P^B=\pm}(x), p(\pm x)\} \) after weak measurement, from Eqs.(4) and (5)

\[ p(+x) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - b_3z_3 \tanh x), \quad \rho_{A|P^B=+}(+x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ I + \frac{\tanh x(-a_1\sigma_1 - a_2\sigma_2 + (a_3 - c_3z_3 \tanh x)\sigma_3)}{1 - b_3z_3 \tanh x} \right], \]

\[ p(-x) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + b_3z_3 \tanh x), \quad \rho_{A|P^B=-}(+x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ I + \frac{\tanh x(a_1\sigma_1 + a_2\sigma_2 + (a_3 + c_3z_3 \tanh x)\sigma_3)}{1 + b_3z_3 \tanh x} \right]. \]

The eigenvalues of \( \rho_{A|P^B=\pm}(+x) \) and \( \rho_{A|P^B=-}(x) \) are given by

\[ \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 \pm \sqrt{(a_3 - c_3z_3 \tanh x)^2 + (a_2^2 + a_1^2) \tanh^2 x} \right], \]

\[ \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 \pm \sqrt{(a_3 + c_3z_3 \tanh x)^2 + (a_2^2 + a_1^2) \tanh^2 x} \right]. \]
Based on formulae of the previous section, we are able to calculate eigenvalues resulting in Refs.[22-23]. The first one is Wenner state [28] which is known to be a special X-state, and the super quantum discord

From the above tables, for a given state \( \rho_X \), one can get the minimum values of \( \lambda_\pm \) and \( \lambda_\pm' \), which give rise to

\[
S_w(\rho_{AP^n(\pm x)}) = -\lambda_+ \log_2 \lambda_+ - \lambda_- \log_2 \lambda_- ,
\]

(15)

\[
S_w(\rho_{AP^n(\mp x)}) = -\lambda'_+ \log_2 \lambda'_+ - \lambda'_- \log_2 \lambda'_- ,
\]

(16)

and the super quantum discord

\[
D_w(\rho_X) = p(+x)S_w(\rho_{AP^n(\pm x)}) + p(-x)S_w(\rho_{AP^n(\mp x)}) + S(\rho_X^B) - S(\rho_X).
\]

(17)

**III. DYNAMICS OF SUPER QUANTUM DISCORD UNDER NONDISSIPATIVE CHANNELS**

In this section, firstly we will verify our formulæ with concrete examples and illustrate that it is an extension of results in Refs.[22-23]. The first one is Wenner state [28] which is known to be a special X-state,

\[
\rho_W = \begin{pmatrix}
\tanh \frac{x}{2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{x}{2} \\
0 & 1 - \tanh \frac{x}{2} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 - \tanh \frac{x}{2} & 0 \\
\frac{x}{2} & 0 & 0 & \tanh \frac{x}{2}
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

Based on formulæ of the previous section, we are able to calculate eigenvalues \( \lambda_{\pm i} = \lambda_{\pm i}' = \frac{1 \pm \tanh \frac{x}{2}}{2} \), \( i = 1, 2, 3, 4 \). As everyone knows, for the Wenner state, all eigenvalues get the same results for any measurement basis. The eigenvalues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>((z_3, z_2, z_1))</th>
<th>(p(+x))</th>
<th>(\lambda_\pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>((1,0,0))</td>
<td>(1-b_1 \tanh x)</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 \pm \frac{n_1-c_2 \tanh x}{1+n_2 \tanh x} \right] )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((0,0,1))</td>
<td>(1/2)</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2} [1\pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((0,1,0))</td>
<td>(1/2)</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 \pm \sqrt{a_1^2 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((0,-1,0))</td>
<td>(1/2)</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 \pm \sqrt{a_1^2 +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table I:** The minimum value of \( S(\rho_{AP^n(\pm x)}) \) and \( p(+x) \)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>((z_3, z_2, z_1))</th>
<th>(p(-x))</th>
<th>(\lambda_\pm')</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>((1,0,0))</td>
<td>(1+b_1 \tanh x)</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 \pm \frac{n_1+c_2 \tanh x}{1+n_2 \tanh x} \right] )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((0,0,1))</td>
<td>(1/2)</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2} [1\pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>(1/2)</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 \pm \sqrt{a_1^2 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((0,-1,0))</td>
<td>(1/2)</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 \pm \sqrt{a_1^2 +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table II:** The minimum value of \( S(\rho_{AP^n(\mp x)}) \) and \( p(-x) \)
of $\rho_W^B$ are $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$, and the eigenvalues of $\rho_W$ are $\frac{1+3\lambda}{4}, \frac{1-\lambda}{4}, \frac{1-\lambda}{4}, \frac{1-\lambda}{4}$. From Eq.(16) the super quantum discord of $\rho_W$ is
\[ D_w = -\frac{1-x}{2} \log_2 \frac{1-x}{2} - \frac{1-x}{2} \log_2 \frac{1+x}{2} + 1 + \frac{3(1-x)}{4} \log_2 \frac{1-x}{4} + \frac{1+3x}{4} \log_2 \frac{1+3x}{4}, \]
which is in coincident with the result in [22].

As another example, we consider the Bell-diagonal states [29]
\[
\rho = \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{1+c_1}{4} & 0 & 0 & \frac{c_1-c_2}{4} \\
0 & \frac{1-c_3}{4} & \frac{c_1+c_2}{4} & 0 \\
0 & \frac{c_1+c_2}{4} & \frac{1-c_3}{4} & 0 \\
\frac{c_1-c_2}{4} & 0 & 0 & \frac{1+c_3}{4}
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

From Eqs.(10)-(13) we get $\lambda_{\pm 1} = \lambda'_{\pm 1} = \frac{1+c_1}{4} \tanh x$, $\lambda_{\pm 2} = \lambda'_{\pm 2} = \frac{1+c_2}{4} \tanh x$, $\lambda_{\pm 3} = \lambda'_{\pm 3} = \frac{1+c_3}{4} \tanh x$, $\lambda_{\pm 4} = \lambda'_{\pm 4} = \frac{1+3c_2}{2} \tanh x$. It is also easy to calculate the eigenvalues of $\rho^B$ are $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$ and the eigenvalues of $\rho$ are $\frac{1-c_1-c_2-c_3}{4}, \frac{1-c_1+c_2+c_3}{4}, \frac{1+c_1-c_2+c_3}{4}, \frac{1+c_1+c_2-c_3}{4}, \frac{1-c_1-c_2-c_3}{4} \log_2 \frac{1-c_1-c_2-c_3}{4} + \frac{1-c_1+c_2+c_3}{4} \log_2 \frac{1+c_1-c_2+c_3}{4} + \frac{1+c_1-c_2+c_3}{4} \log_2 \frac{1+c_1+c_2-c_3}{4} + \frac{1+c_1+c_2-c_3}{4} \log_2 \frac{1+c_1+c_2-c_3}{4} + \frac{1+c_1+c_2-c_3}{4},$ which coincide with the result in [23].

Through above two examples we illustrated how to apply the main result and recover the results in Refs.[22-23] as special cases.

Due to the fundamental significance and potential applications of super quantum discord, the evolution of super quantum discord under bit-flip noise which characterized by Kraus operators have been studied:
\[
E_0 = \sqrt{p} \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 \\
0 & 1
\end{pmatrix}, \quad E_1 = \sqrt{1-p} \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 1 \\
1 & 0
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

We have the channel “local bit-flip($A_{lt}$)”:
\[
A_{lt}(\rho_X) = (I \otimes E_0)\rho_X (I \otimes E_0)^\dagger + (I \otimes E_1)\rho_X (I \otimes E_1)^\dagger.
\]

Under this channel, the entries of the density matrix have the following transformations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>channel</th>
<th>$a_{11}$</th>
<th>$a_{14}$</th>
<th>$a_{22}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>local bit-flip</td>
<td>$a_{22} + pa_{11} - pa_{22}$</td>
<td>$a_{23} + pa_{14} - pa_{23}$</td>
<td>$a_{11} - pa_{11} + pa_{22}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>channel</td>
<td>$a_{23}$</td>
<td>$a_{33}$</td>
<td>$a_{44}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local bit-flip</td>
<td>$a_{14} = pa_{14} + pa_{23}$</td>
<td>$a_{44} + pa_{33} - pa_{44}$</td>
<td>$a_{33} - pa_{33} + pa_{44}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>channel</td>
<td>$a_{23}$</td>
<td>$a_{14}$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local bit-flip</td>
<td>$a_{14} - pa_{14} + pa_{23}$</td>
<td>$a_{23} + pa_{14} - pa_{23}$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As an illustrative example, we choose a subfamily of X-types. Let us consider
\[
\rho_X = \begin{pmatrix}
0.25 & 0 & 0 & 0.0625 \\
0 & 0.25 & 0.125 & 0 \\
0 & 0.125 & 0.25 & 0 \\
0.0625 & 0 & 0 & 0.25
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

Since quantum discord has also been employed in the study of quantum computation as an important resource, we prefer to compare super quantum discord and discord through noisy channels. It can be seen from Fig.1 that the super quantum discord attains the maximum value at $x = 0$, where the weak measurement is the weakest. When $x \to \infty$ the super quantum discord approaches quantum discord.
Interestingly, the above relation motives us to introduce the super quantum discord and discord when the signal through noisy channels. From Eqs.(14)-(16), we get
\[ p(+x) = p(-x) = 0.5, \quad \lambda_+ = \lambda'_+ = \max\{0.5, 0.5 + 0.1875 \cdot \tanh x, 0.5 + 0.0625 \cdot \tanh x\}, \quad \lambda_- = \lambda'_- = \min\{0.5, 0.5 - 0.1875 \cdot \tanh x, 0.5 - 0.0625 \cdot \tanh x\}. \]
Due to the symmetry of \( \tanh x \), we take \( x > 0 \). Namely, \( p(+x) = p(-x) = 0.5, \quad \lambda_+ = \lambda'_+ = 0.5 + 0.1875 \cdot \tanh x, \quad \lambda_- = \lambda'_- = 0.5 - 0.1875 \cdot \tanh x \).

Under the local bit-flip channel, we have
\[ p(+x) = p(-x) = 0.5, \quad \lambda_+ = \lambda'_+ = 0.5 + 0.1875 \cdot \tanh x, \quad \lambda_- = \lambda'_- = 0.5 - 0.1875 \cdot \tanh x. \]
for $p = 0$. On the contrary, for $p = 1$ the state keeps invariant. In this view, the state $\rho_x$ was not taken $|0\rangle$ to $|1\rangle$, the super quantum discord also did not change when $p = 0$ or $p = 1$.

In view of above argument, we then conclude that the super quantum discord will decay after through noisy channels. It means that we will lose information after the signal through noisy, hence have to control the noise probability. Furthermore, the affection of local bit-flip channel for the super quantum discord is symmetric and attains the minimum at $p = 0.5$, so the noise probability plays a symmetric role in this noisy channel. It will disappear when the noise probability attains half of one.

When considering quantum correlations captured by the super quantum discord, it is usually known that the weak measurement captures more information than POVM measurement. However, there are some counterintuitive phenomena in our example when we compare the super quantum discord after noisy channel with discord after noisy channel.

\[ \text{FIG. 3: Quantum discord (red plane) and super quantum discord (blue surface)} \]

On the fig.3 we can see that the red plane through the blue curve, some blue surface above red plane and others under red plane. That means after local bit-flip channel super quantum discord is smaller than the normal quantum discord, and this difference is most obvious when the noise probability $p$ near 0.5. Although the super quantum discord is smaller than the quantum discord only in the region of 0.01 to 0.02, it shows in this example the weak measurement does not capture more information than POVM measurement. Thus, super quantum discord is a different resource than quantum discord.

\section*{IV. CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS}

Super quantum discord is a fundamental resource in quantum information. We have studied it for X-type states which including the Wenner states and Bell-diagonal states. Explicit formulae of super quantum discord for X-type states have been derived. The evolution of these states under local bit-flip channel has been investigated and revealed more different properties between super quantum discord and quantum discord. The relations between the super quantum discord and discord, evolution of super quantum discord and the weak measurement strength have been analyzed.
Acknowledgement The work is supported by NSFC11275131, NSFC11305105 and KZ201410028033.