

A note on one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord

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Abstract One-way quantum deficit and quantum discord are two important measures of quantum correlations. We revisit the relationship between them in two-qubit systems. We investigate the conditions that both one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord have the same optimal measurement ensembles, and demonstrate that one-way quantum deficit can be derived from the quantum discord for a class of *X* states. Moreover, we give an explicit relation between one-way quantum deficit and entanglement of formation. We show that under phase damping channel both one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord evolve exactly in the same way for four parameter *X* states. Some examples are presented in details.

Keywords One-way quantum deficit · Quantum discord · Entanglement of formation

1 Introduction

Quantum entanglement plays important roles in quantum information and quantum computation [\[1\]](#page-9-0). However, some quantum states without quantum entanglement can also perform quantum tasks [\[2](#page-9-1)[,3](#page-9-2)] such as quantum state discrimination [\[4](#page-9-3)[,5](#page-9-4)], remote state preparation [\[6\]](#page-9-5), quantum state merging $[7,8]$ $[7,8]$ $[7,8]$, which have led to new definitions of quantum correlations such as quantum discord $[9,10]$ $[9,10]$, one-way quantum deficit $[11–14]$ $[11–14]$, and various "discord-like" measures $[15]$ $[15]$.

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One-way quantum deficit was first proposed by Oppenheim et al. [\[11](#page-10-4)] for studying thermodynamical systems. They considered the amount of work which could be extracted from a heat bath by local operations. It quantifies the minimum distillable entanglement generated between the whole system and the measurement apparatus in measuring one subsystem of the whole system [\[16\]](#page-10-7). The analytical formulae of oneway quantum deficit are not known even for two-qubit states. With limited analytical results [\[17](#page-10-8)[,18](#page-10-9)], many discussions on quantum deficit only rely on numerical results, since it involves minimization of sum of local and conditional entropies.

Another famous measure of quantum correlations, the quantum discord [\[9,](#page-10-2)[10\]](#page-10-3), is defined to be the difference of two classically equivalent expressions for the mutual information. There have been a lot of results on quantum discord for bipartite as well as multipartite mixed quantum states [\[15](#page-10-6)]. Nevertheless, due to the optimization problem involved, it has been recently shown that calculating quantum discord is an NP complexity problem [\[19](#page-10-10)].

It is meaningful to link directly one-way quantum deficit to quantum discord. The relationship between quantum discord and one-way quantum deficit was first discussed in Ref. [\[14](#page-10-5)]. Horodecki et al. show that the one-way quantum deficit is upper bounded by the quantum discord for any bipartite quantum states. In Ref. [\[20](#page-10-11)], a tradeoff relationship between one-way unlocalizable quantum discord and one-way unlocalizable quantum deficit has been presented. The tradeoff relationship between quantum discord and one-way quantum deficit is obtained [\[21](#page-10-12)].

Anyway, decisive results between quantum discord and one-way quantum deficit are not fully explored even for the two-qubit *X* states yet. Here, we revisit the relationship between one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord. We find that for special two-qubit *X* states the one-way quantum deficit can be derived from quantum discord exactly in some optimal measurement bases. Furthermore, we connect one-way quantum deficit to entanglement of formation directly.

To capture the non-classical correlations in bipartite systems, let us recall the following two popular measures of quantum correlations.

One-way quantum deficit Suppose Alice and Bob are allowed to perform only local operations. Consider a one-way classical communication, say, from Alice to Bob. The amount of information extractable from quantum system ρ^{AB} is given by $\mathcal{I}_e = \log_2 \mathcal{D} - S(\varrho^{AB})$, where $\mathcal D$ is the dimension of the Hilbert space and $S(\varrho) = -\text{Tr}[\varrho \log_2 \varrho]$ is the von Neumann entropy of a quantum state ϱ .

The classical operations to extract the amount of information from the quantum state is $\mathcal{I}_o = \log_2 \mathcal{D} - \min S((\varrho^{AB})')$, where $(\varrho^{AB})' = \sum_k M_k^A \varrho^{AB} M_k^A$ is the quantum state after measurement M_k^A has been performed on A. The one-way quantum deficit $[11–14]$ $[11–14]$ is given by the difference of \mathcal{I}_e and \mathcal{I}_o [\[16](#page-10-7)],

$$
\overrightarrow{\Delta} = \mathcal{I}_e - \mathcal{I}_o
$$

= min $S \left(\sum_k M_k^A \varrho^{AB} M_k^A \right) - S \left(\varrho^{AB} \right)$. (1)

The minimum is taken over all local measurements M_k^A . This quantity is equal to the thermal discord [\[22\]](#page-10-13).

Quantum discord The quantum discord is defined as the minimal difference between quantum mutual information and classical correlation. The quantum mutual information is denoted by $\mathcal{I}(\varrho^{AB}) = S(\varrho^A) + S(\varrho^B) - S(\varrho^{AB})$, which is also identified as the total correlation of the bipartite quantum system ρ^{AB} . The $\rho^{A(B)}$ are the reduced density matrices $Tr_{B(A)Q}^{AB}$, respectively. Let $\{M_k^A\}$ be a measurement on subsystem *A*. Classical correlation is given as $\mathcal{J}(\varrho^{AB}) = S(\varrho^{B}) - \min \sum_{k} p_{k} S(\varrho^{B}_{M_{k}^{A}})$,

where $p_k = \text{Tr}(M_k^A \otimes I_2 \otimes^{AB})$ is the probability of *k*th measurement outcome and $\varrho_{M_k^A}^B = \text{Tr}_A[M_k^A \otimes I_2 \varrho^{AB}]/p_k$ is the post-measurement state.

The quantum discord $[9, 10]$ $[9, 10]$ $[9, 10]$ is defined by

$$
\vec{\delta} = \mathcal{I} \left(\varrho^{AB} \right) - \mathcal{I} \left(\varrho^{AB} \right) \n= S \left(\varrho^A \right) + \min \sum_k p_k S \left(\varrho_{M_k^A}^B \right) - S \left(\varrho^{AB} \right).
$$
\n(2)

The superscript " \rightarrow " stands for that the measurement performed on subsystem *A*. The minimum is taken over all possible measurements $\{M_k^A\}$ on the subsystem *A*.

2 Linking one-way quantum deficit to quantum discord

Let us consider bipartite systems in Hilbert space $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$. Generally, the quantum correlations are invariant under local unitary operations [\[15\]](#page-10-6). Hence, one can write the *X* states [\[23](#page-10-14)] in the form

$$
\varrho^{AB} = \frac{1}{4} \left(I_2 \otimes I_2 + a \sigma_z \otimes I_2 + b I_2 \otimes \sigma_z + \sum_{i \in \{x, y, z\}} c_i \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_i \right), \tag{3}
$$

where σ_i ($i \in \{x, y, z\}$) are Pauli matrices, I_2 is the identity matrix, and the parameters ${a, b, c_x, c_y, c_z}$ ∈ [−1, 1] are real numbers.

The optimal measurement with measurement operators satisfying $M_k^A \geq 0$, $\sum_{k} M_{k}^{A} = I$, is generally positive operator-valued measurement (POVM). For ranktwo two-qubit systems, the optimal measurement is just projective ones $[24]$ $[24]$. It is also sufficient to consider projective measurement for rank three and four [\[25](#page-10-16)].

Let $M_k^A = |k'\rangle \langle k'|$, $k \in \{0, 1\}$, where

$$
|0'\rangle = \cos(\theta/2)|0\rangle - e^{-i\phi}\sin(\theta/2)|1\rangle,
$$
 (4)

$$
|1'\rangle = e^{i\phi}\sin(\theta/2)|0\rangle + \cos(\theta/2)|1\rangle.
$$
 (5)

For the given system [\(3\)](#page-2-0), we obtain $\hat{\delta} = S(\varrho^{A}) + \min \sum_{k} p_{k} S(\varrho_{M_{k}^{A}}^{B}) - S(\varrho^{AB})$, in which

$$
p_{k\in\{0,1\}} = \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm a\cos\theta),\tag{6}
$$

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 $S(\varrho^{A}) = h(\frac{1+a}{2})$ with $h(x) = -x \log_2 x - (1-x) \log_2(1-x)$,

$$
\sum_{k} p_{k} S\left(\varrho_{M_{k}^{A}}^{B}\right) = p_{0} S\left(\varrho_{M_{0}^{A}}^{B}\right) + p_{1} S\left(\varrho_{M_{1}^{A}}^{B}\right)
$$

$$
= - \sum_{k,j \in \{0,1\}} p_{k} w_{kj} \log w_{kj}, \tag{7}
$$

with w_{00} , w_{01} and w_{10} , w_{11} the eigenvalues of $\varrho_{M_0^A}^B$ and $\varrho_{M_1^A}^B$, respectively,

$$
w_{kj\in\{0,1\}} = \left\{1 + (-1)^{k} a \cos \theta + (-1)^{j} \sqrt{\left[c_{x}^{2} \cos^{2} \phi + c_{y}^{2} \sin^{2} \phi\right] \sin^{2} \theta + \left[b + (-1)^{k} c_{z} \cos \theta\right]^{2}}\right\} / (4p_{k}).
$$
\n(8)

The corresponding quantity $S(\sum_{k} M_{k}^{A} \varrho^{AB} M_{k}^{A})$ in the definition of one-way quantum deficit is given by

$$
S\left(\sum_{k} M_{k}^{A} \varrho^{AB} M_{k}^{A}\right) = S\left(M_{0}^{A} \otimes p_{0} \varrho_{M_{0}^{A}}^{B} + M_{1}^{A} \otimes p_{1} \varrho_{M_{1}^{A}}^{B}\right)
$$

= $S\left(p_{0} \varrho_{M_{0}^{A}}^{B}\right) + S\left(p_{1} \varrho_{M_{1}^{A}}^{B}\right)$
= $-\sum_{k,j \in \{0,1\}} p_{k} w_{kj} \log p_{k} w_{kj}$
= $h(p_{0}) - \sum_{k,j \in \{0,1\}} p_{k} w_{kj} \log w_{kj}.$ (9)

Substituting Eq. (7) into above equation, we have

$$
S\left(\sum_{k} M_{k}^{A} \varrho^{AB} M_{k}^{A}\right) = h(p_{0}) + \sum_{k} p_{k} S\left(\varrho_{M_{k}^{A}}^{B}\right),\tag{10}
$$

which is joint entropy theorem [\[26\]](#page-10-17).

Let us set

$$
\mathcal{F} = S(\varrho^{A}) + \sum_{k} p_{k} S\left(\varrho^{B}_{M_{k}^{A}}\right) - S\left(\varrho^{AB}\right), \tag{11}
$$

$$
\mathcal{G} = S\left(\sum_{k} M_{k}^{A} \varrho^{AB} M_{k}^{A}\right) - S\left(\varrho^{AB}\right). \tag{12}
$$

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Inserting Eqs. (7) , (9) into Eqs. (11) , (12) , respectively, we have

$$
\mathcal{F} = S(\varrho^A) - \sum_{k,j \in \{0,1\}} p_k w_{kj} \log w_{kj} - S(\varrho^{AB}), \tag{13}
$$

$$
\mathcal{G} = h(p_0) - \sum_{k,j \in \{0,1\}} p_k w_{kj} \log w_{kj} - S(\varrho^{AB}). \tag{14}
$$

To search for the minimization involved in computing quantum discord and oneway quantum deficit is equivalent to seek for the minimal value of the function *F* and $\mathcal G$ with respect to the two parameters θ and ϕ in the measurement operators. According to the similar technique used in calculating the quantum discord which only need to minimize $\mathcal{F}(\theta, 0)$ [\[27\]](#page-10-18), here to minimize $\mathcal{G}(\theta, \phi)$, we only need to minimize $\mathcal{G}(\theta, 0)$ in calculating the one-way quantum deficit. We denote

$$
G(\theta,\phi) = S\left(\sum_k M_k^A \varrho^{AB} M_k^A\right) = -\sum_{k,j\in\{0,1\}} p_k w_{kj} \log p_k w_{kj} = -\sum_{l=1}^4 \lambda_l \log_2 \lambda_l,
$$

where,

$$
\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{1}{4} \left(p_0 \pm \sqrt{R+T_0} \right), \quad \lambda_{3,4} = \frac{1}{4} \left(p_1 \pm \sqrt{R+T_1} \right),
$$

and $p_0 = 1 + a \cos \theta$, $p_1 = 1 - a \cos \theta$, $R = [c_x^2 \cos^2 \phi + c_y^2 \sin^2 \phi] \sin^2 \theta$, $T_0 =$ $(b + c_z \cos \theta)^2$, $T_1 = (b - c_z \cos \theta)^2$. Since $\lambda_l \ge 0$, one has $p_k \ge \sqrt{R + T_k} \ge 0$.

Noting that $G(\theta, \phi) = G(\pi - \theta, \phi) = G(\theta, 2\pi - \phi)$ and $G(\theta, \phi)$ is symmetric with respect to $\theta = \pi/2$ and $\phi = \pi$, we only need to consider the case of $\theta \in [0, \pi/2]$ and $\phi \in [0, \pi)$. The extreme points of $G(\theta, \phi)$ are determined by the first partial derivatives of *G* with respect to θ and ϕ ,

$$
\frac{\partial G}{\partial \theta} = -\frac{\sin \theta}{4} H_{\theta},\tag{15}
$$

with

$$
H_{\theta} = \frac{R \csc \theta \cot \theta - c_z \sqrt{T_0}}{\sqrt{R + T_0}} \log_2 \frac{p_0 + \sqrt{R + T_0}}{p_0 - \sqrt{R + T_0}} + a \log_2 \frac{p_1^2 - (R + T_1)}{p_0^2 - (R + T_0)} + \frac{R \csc \theta \cot \theta + c_z \sqrt{T_1}}{\sqrt{R + T_1}} \log_2 \frac{p_1 + \sqrt{R + T_1}}{p_1 - \sqrt{R + T_1}},
$$
(16)

and

$$
\frac{\partial G}{\partial \phi} = 2 \, e f \sin^2 \theta \, \sin 2\phi \, H_{\phi},\tag{17}
$$

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with

$$
H_{\phi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{R+T_0}} \log_2 \frac{p_0 + \sqrt{R+T_0}}{p_0 - \sqrt{R+T_0}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{R+T_1}} \log_2 \frac{p_1 + \sqrt{R+T_1}}{p_1 - \sqrt{R+T_1}},
$$
(18)

 $e = \frac{1}{4} |c_x + c_y|$ and $f = \frac{1}{4} |c_x - c_y|$ where the absolute values have been taken since the phase for *X* states can be always removed by local unitary operation [\[15](#page-10-6)].

As H_{ϕ} is always positive, $\frac{\partial G}{\partial \phi} = 0$ implies that either $\phi = 0$, $\pi/2$ for any θ , or $\theta = 0$ for any ϕ which implies that Eq. [\(15\)](#page-4-0) is zero and the minimization is independent on ϕ . If $\theta \neq 0$, one gets the second derivative of *G*,

$$
\left. \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial \phi^2} \right|_{(\theta,0)} = 4ef \sin^2(\theta) H_{\phi=0} > 0,
$$

and

$$
\left. \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial \phi^2} \right|_{(\theta,\pi/2)} = -4ef \sin^2(\theta) H_{\phi=\pi/2} < 0.
$$

Since for any θ the second derivative $\partial^2 G/\partial \phi^2$ is always negative for $\phi = \pi/2$, we only need to deal with the minimization problem for the case of $\phi = 0$. To minimize $G(\theta, \phi)$ becomes to minimize $G(\theta, 0)$. Thus, we need only to find the minimal value of $\mathcal F$ and $\mathcal G$ by varying θ only.

Denote $\mathcal{F}(\theta) = \mathcal{F}|_{\phi=0}$, $\mathcal{G}(\theta) = \mathcal{G}|_{\phi=0}$ and $\mathcal{H}(\theta) = \mathcal{G}(\theta) - \mathcal{F}(\theta)$. The first derivative of $H(\theta)$ with respect to θ is given by

$$
\mathcal{H}(\theta)' = \frac{a}{2}\sin\theta\log_2\frac{1+a\cos\theta}{1-a\cos\theta}.\tag{19}
$$

From $H(\theta) = 0$, we have either $a = 0$ or $\theta = 0, \pi/2$. Since these stationary points make $\mathcal{F}(\theta)' = \mathcal{G}(\theta)'$, they are the sufficient conditions that both $\mathcal{G}(\theta)$ and $\mathcal{F}(\theta)$ reach the minimum with the same optimal measurement ensemble. Here a is a parameter of the *X* states and θ is a parameter related to measurement. Substituting $a = 0$ or $\theta = 0$, $\pi/2$ into $\mathcal{F}(\theta)$ and $\mathcal{G}(\theta)$, we have the following results:

Theorem *For two-qubit X states, if the measurement is performed on the subsystem A* (resp. B), then $\overrightarrow{\Delta} = \overrightarrow{\delta}$ for $a = 0$ (resp. b = 0). Depending on the parameters of *the state, the optimum is either at* $\theta = 0$ *or at* $\theta = \pi/2$ *. If the optimum is at* $\theta = 0$ *,* $\overrightarrow{A} = \overrightarrow{\delta}$. *If the optimum is at* $\theta = \pi/2$, then $\overrightarrow{\Delta} = \overrightarrow{\delta} - S(\varrho^A) + 1$.

Recently, we notice that in Ref. [\[28](#page-10-19)], the authors assumed that the quantum discord and one-way quantum deficit get their minimal values in the same measurement ensemble simultaneously. Thus similar to the quantum discord, the frozen quantum phenomenon under bit flip channels of one-way quantum deficit happens. Here, our *Theorem* gives the explicit conditions that both quantum discord and one-way quantum deficit have the same optimal measurement bases.

Corollary 1 *The one-way quantum deficit is bounded by the quantum discord for two-qubit X states,*

$$
\overrightarrow{\delta} \leqslant \overrightarrow{\Delta} \leqslant S(\rho^A). \tag{20}
$$

Proof Since $0 \le \mathcal{H} \le 1$, we have $\delta \le \Delta \le \delta + 1$. By using the tight bound about one-way quantum deficit $\Delta \leq S(\rho^A)$ in Ref. [\[26](#page-10-17)], we obtain [\(20\)](#page-6-0).

Corollary 2 *One-way quantum deficit and the entanglement of formation satisfy the following relations for two-qubit X states,*

$$
\vec{\Delta} = E_f(\varrho^{BC}) - S(\varrho^{AB}) + \begin{cases} 1, & a = 0 \text{ or } \theta = \pi/2; \\ h(\frac{1-a}{2}), \theta = 0, \end{cases}
$$
(21)

where C is the assisted system to purify the state ϱ^{AB} , and $E_{f}(\varrho^{BC})$ is the entanglement *of formation of* ρ^{BC} , while ρ^{BC} is the reduced state from a pure state $|\psi\rangle_{ABC}$.

Proof From the Koashi–Winter equality [\[29](#page-10-20)]

$$
S(\varrho^B) = \mathcal{J}(\varrho^{AB}) + E_f(\varrho^{BC}),\tag{22}
$$

and $\mathcal{J}(\varrho^{AB}) = S(\varrho^B) - \min \sum_k p_k S(\varrho^B_{M_k^A})$, one has $E_f(\varrho^{BC}) = \min \sum_k p_k S(\varrho^B_{M_k^A})$. Consequently, quantum discord is rewritten as

$$
\vec{\delta} = S(\varrho^A) + E_f(\varrho^{BC}) - S(\varrho^{AB}).
$$
\n(23)

Thus, we have

$$
\vec{\Delta} = \vec{\delta} = h \left(\frac{1 - a}{2} \right) + E_f(\varrho^{BC}) - S(\varrho^{AB}), \tag{24}
$$

where both of the optimal measurement bases are taken at $\theta = 0$. Hence for $a = 0$, we have $\overrightarrow{\Delta} = E_f(\rho^{BC}) - S(\rho^{AB}) + 1$ indeed. For $\theta = \pi/2$, by using the relations in *Theorem* and Eq. [\(23\)](#page-6-1) we also get $\overrightarrow{\Delta} = E_f(\rho^{BC}) - S(\rho^{AB}) + 1$.

Remark Recently, in Ref. [\[21](#page-10-12)] by using measure of relative entropy of coherence,

$$
C_{RE}(e^A) = \min_{\sigma \in \mathcal{I}} S(e^A || \sigma), \tag{25}
$$

where *I* stands for the set of decoherence states $\sigma = \sum_i \mu_i |i\rangle\langle i|$ with $\mu_i \in [0, 1]$ and $\sum_i \mu_i = 1$, and the authors provided a tradeoff relationship between $\overrightarrow{\delta}$ and $\overrightarrow{\Delta}$, i. e., $\overrightarrow{\delta} + C_{RE}(e^A) = \overrightarrow{\Delta}.$

In fact, one-way quantum deficit can be derived from quantum discord directly. We consider the exact relationship between quantum discord and one-way quantum deficit in the following examples.

Example 1 The Bell-diagonal state $\rho_{Bell}^{AB} = \frac{1}{4} (I_2 \otimes I_2 + \sum_{i \in \{x, y, z\}} c_i \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_i)$. In this case $a = 0$ and

$$
\vec{\Delta} = \vec{\delta} = h \left(\frac{1 - c}{2} \right) + \sum_{s \in \{jkl\}} A_s \log_2 A_s, \tag{26}
$$

where *s* is the set $\{ jkl \} = \{111, 100, 010, 001\}, A_{jkl} = \frac{1}{4}(1 + (-1)^j c_x + (-1)^k c_y + (-1)^k c_y\}$ $(-1)^l c_z$), and $c \equiv \max\{|c_x|, |c_y|, |c_z|\}$. Therefore, from *Theorem* we get the analytical expression of one-way quantum deficit from quantum discord given in [\[30\]](#page-10-21).

Example 2 Consider a class of X-state,

$$
\varrho_q^{AB} = q|\psi^-\rangle\langle\psi^-| + (1-q)|00\rangle\langle00|,\tag{27}
$$

where $|\psi^{-}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ $\frac{1}{2}(|01\rangle - |10\rangle).$

For this state, quantum discord is derived at $\theta = \pi/2$ for $q \in [0, 1]$. The optimal basis of one-way quantum deficit for $q \in [0.67, 1]$ is also at $\theta = \pi/2$. The value 0.67 is the solution of $H'_\theta|_{\theta=\pi/2, \phi=0} = 0$ in Eq. [\(16\)](#page-4-1) for the state ϱ_q^{AB} . According to the *Theorem*, we have

$$
\overrightarrow{\Delta} = E_f(\varrho^{BC}) - S(\varrho^{AB}) + 1,\tag{28}
$$

where the entanglement of formation

$$
E_f(\varrho^{BC}) = h\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{1-\mathcal{C}^2}}{2}\right) \tag{29}
$$

with concurrence $C = \sqrt{2q(1-q)}$. So analytical one-way quantum deficit of state ϱ_{q}^{AB} is

$$
\vec{\Delta} = h \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - C^2}}{2} \right) - h(q) + 1 \tag{30}
$$

for $q \in [0.67, 1]$, see Fig. [1.](#page-8-0)

3 Quantum correlations under phase damping channel

A quantum system would be subject to interaction with environments.We consider now the evolution of one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord under noisy channels. Consider a class of initial two-qubit states,

Fig. 1 One-way quantum deficit (*turquoise solid line*) and quantum discord (*blue dashed line*) versus *q*. The interval $q \in [0.67, 1]$ one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord both get their optimum at $\theta = \pi/2$ (Color figure online)

$$
\Omega = \frac{1}{4} \left(I_2 \otimes I_2 + b I_2 \otimes \sigma_z + \sum_{i \in \{x, y, z\}} c_i \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_i \right). \tag{31}
$$

If both two qubits independently go through a channel given by the Kraus operators $\{K_i\}, \sum_i K_i^{\dagger} K_i = I$. The state Ω evolves into

$$
\tilde{\Omega} = \sum_{i,j \in \{1,2\}} K_i^A \otimes K_j^B \cdot \Omega \cdot \left[K_i^A \otimes K_j^B \right]^{\dagger} . \tag{32}
$$

For phase damping channels [\[31\]](#page-10-22), the Kraus operators are given by $K_1^{A(B)} = |0\rangle\langle 0| +$ $\sqrt{1-\gamma}$ |1 \setminus {1|, and $K_2^{A(B)} = \sqrt{\gamma}$ |1 \setminus {1| with the decoherence rate $\gamma \in [0, 1]$. Thus we have

$$
\tilde{\Omega} = \frac{1}{4} \left[I_2 \otimes I_2 + b I_2 \otimes \sigma_z + c_z \sigma_z \otimes \sigma_z + \sum_{i \in \{x, y\}} (1 - \gamma) c_i \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_i \right], \quad (33)
$$

which is a two-qubit *X* state with $a = 0$. From the *Theorem*, we obtain one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord performed on the subsystem *A* evolve coincidentally with each other all the time.

For example, we draw the quantum discord and one-way quantum deficit vs parameter γ in Fig. [2](#page-9-6) for $b = 0.26$, $c_x = 0.13$, $c_z = 0.08$, and $c_y =$ 0.15, 0.25, 0.35, 0.45, 0.55, respectively.

Fig. 2 One-way quantum deficit and quantum discord evolve exactly in the same way under phase damping channel. The *solid lines* from *bottom* to *top* correspond $c_y = 0.15$, 0.25, 0.35, 0.45, 0.55, respectively, for fixed parameters $b = 0.26$, $c_x = 0.13$, and $c_z = 0.08$

4 Conclusions

We have investigated the connections between one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord for two-qubit *X* states. Sufficient conditions are given that the one-way quantum deficit can be derived from quantum discord directly. The explicit relation between one-way quantum deficit and entanglement of formation is also presented. Moreover, we have shown that the one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord of a class of four parameters *X* states evolve coincidentally under phase damping channel. Our results may enlighten the understanding on the relations between one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord. It is also interesting to study the relationship between one-way quantum deficit and quantum discord for higher-dimensional and multipartite systems.

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