



## I. DENSITY MATRIX ELEMENTS OF DIFFERENT DECOHERENCE CHANNELS

Decoherence caused by an unavoidable interaction between a system and environment can be expressed by the corresponding Kraus operations acting on the system state. As mentioned in the main text, given a generalized three-qubit W state  $\rho_{gW}$ , when only Charlie's qubit under a quantum channel with the decoherence strength  $d$ , the state  $\rho_{gW}$  evolves to  $\varepsilon(\rho_{ABC}) = \sum_{m=1}^n (I^A \otimes I^B \otimes K_m^C) \rho_{gW} (I^A \otimes I^B \otimes K_m^C)^\dagger$ . With the corresponding Kraus operators shown in Table I in the main text, the nonzero matrix elements  $\rho_{ij}$  of the evolved state in the ADC becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{11} &= \alpha^2 d, & \rho_{22} &= \alpha^2 (1-d), & \rho_{23} &= \rho_{32} = \alpha \beta \sqrt{1-d}, \\ \rho_{33} &= \beta^2, & \rho_{25} &= \rho_{52} = \alpha \sqrt{1-d} \sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}, \\ \rho_{35} &= \rho_{53} = \beta \sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}, & \rho_{55} &= 1-\alpha^2-\beta^2, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

the nonzero matrix elements  $\rho_{ij}$  of the evolved state in the PDC becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{22} &= \alpha^2, & \rho_{23} &= \rho_{32} = \alpha \beta \sqrt{1-d}, \\ \rho_{33} &= \beta^2, & \rho_{25} &= \rho_{52} = \alpha \sqrt{1-d} \sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}, \\ \rho_{35} &= \rho_{53} = \beta \sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}, & \rho_{55} &= 1-\alpha^2-\beta^2, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

and the nonzero matrix elements  $\rho_{ij}$  of the evolved state in the DC becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{11} &= \alpha^2 d/2, & \rho_{22} &= \alpha^2 (2-d)/2, & \rho_{23} &= \rho_{32} = \alpha \beta (1-d), \\ \rho_{33} &= \beta^2 (2-d)/2, & \rho_{25} &= \rho_{52} = \alpha (1-d) \sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}, \\ \rho_{35} &= \rho_{53} = \beta (2-d) \sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}/2, & \rho_{44} &= \beta^2 d/2, \\ \rho_{46} &= \rho_{64} = \beta d \sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}/2, \\ \rho_{55} &= (2-d) (1-\alpha^2-\beta^2)/2, & \rho_{66} &= d (1-\alpha^2-\beta^2)/2. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

In addition, the reduced state between Alice and Bob, Alice and Charlie, Bob and Charlie can be obtained by taking the partial trace of the density matrix  $\varepsilon(\rho_{ABC})$ , i.e.,  $\varepsilon(\rho_{AB}) = \text{Tr}_C[\varepsilon(\rho_{ABC})]$ ,  $\varepsilon(\rho_{AC}) = \text{Tr}_B[\varepsilon(\rho_{ABC})]$ , and  $\varepsilon(\rho_{BC}) = \text{Tr}_A[\varepsilon(\rho_{ABC})]$ . The nonzero matrix elements  $\rho_{ij}$  of the state  $\varepsilon(\rho_{AB})$  in the PDC becomes

$$\rho_{11} = \alpha^2, \quad \rho_{22} = \beta^2, \quad \rho_{33} = 1-\alpha^2-\beta^2, \quad \rho_{23} = \rho_{32} = \beta \sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}. \quad (4)$$

The nonzero matrix elements  $\rho_{ij}$  of the state  $\varepsilon(\rho_{AC})$  in the PDC becomes

$$\rho_{11} = \beta^2, \quad \rho_{22} = \alpha^2, \quad \rho_{33} = 1 - \alpha^2 - \beta^2, \quad \rho_{23} = \rho_{32} = \alpha\sqrt{1-d}\sqrt{1-\alpha^2-\beta^2}. \quad (5)$$

The nonzero matrix elements  $\rho_{ij}$  of the state  $\varepsilon(\rho_{BC})$  in the PDC becomes

$$\rho_{11} = 1 - \alpha^2 - \beta^2, \quad \rho_{22} = \alpha^2, \quad \rho_{33} = \beta^2, \quad \rho_{23} = \rho_{32} = \alpha\beta\sqrt{1-d}. \quad (6)$$