

On the Mathematical Boundaries of Communication with Zero-Capacity Quantum Channels

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Abstract

In the first decade of the 21st century, many revolutionary properties of quantum channels were discovered. These phenomena are purely quantum mechanical and completely unimaginable in classical systems. Recently, the most important discovery in Quantum Information Theory was the possibility of transmitting quantum information over zero-capacity quantum channels. In this work we prove that the possibility of superactivation of quantum channel capacities is determined by the mathematical properties of the quantum relative entropy function.

1 Introduction

The superactivation of quantum channels is an extreme violation of the additivity of quantum channels (Hastings, 2009). This effect makes possible the communication over zero-capacity quantum channels. The superactivation effect was discovered by Smith and Yard in 2008 (Smith and Yard, 2008), who demonstrated that this effect works for the quantum capacity (Smith et al., 2011). Later, these results were extended to the classical zero-error capacity (Cubitt and Smith 2009), (Cubitt et al., 2009) and to the quantum zero-error capacity (Duan, 2009). An algorithmic solution to the problem was developed in (Gyongyosi and Imre, 2012). Currently, we have no theoretical background for describing all possible combinations of superactive zero-capacity channels; hence, there may be many other possible combinations (Gyongyosi and Imre, 2012), (Gyongyosi and Imre, 2012a), (Brandao and Oppenheim, 2010), (Brandao et al, 2011).

In this paper we prove that the problem of superactivation is rooted in information geometric issues and there is a strict connection between the mathematical properties of the quantum relative entropy function and the possibility of superactivation. As we have discovered, the set of superactive channel combinations is limited and determined by the quantum relative entropy function. Before our work this fundamental and purely mathematical connection between the quantum relative entropy function and the superactivation effect was completely unrevealed. We demonstrate the results for the quantum capacity; however the proposed theorems and connections hold for all other channel capacities of quantum channels for which the superactivation is possible (Imre and Gyongyosi, 2012), (Imre and Balazs, 2005).

2 The Quantum Capacity of a Quantum Channel

In this paper, the results are illustrated with the $Q(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$ quantum capacity of the joint structure, $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$. The proposed theorems hold for all channel capacities of the joint channel $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ for which the superactivation is possible. These capacities are the $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$, $Q(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$, the zero-error classical capacities $C_0^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$, $C_0(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$ and the zero-error quantum capacities $Q_0^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$, $Q_0(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$.

The *classical* and the *quantum* capacities of quantum channels are described by the Holevo-Schumacher-Westmoreland (HSW) (Holevo, 1998), (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 1997) and the Lloyd-Shor-Devetak (LSD) (Lloyd, 2009), (Shor, 2002), (Devetak, 2005) theorems (Gyongyosi and Imre, 2011), (Gyongyosi and Imre, 2012), (Imre and Gyongyosi, 2012a). In case of the quantum capacity $Q(\mathcal{N})$, the correlation measure is the *quantum coherent information* function. The single-use quantum capacity of quantum channel \mathcal{N} is the maximization of the I_{coh} quantum coherent information:

$$Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}) = \max_{\text{all } \rho_A} I_{coh} \quad (1)$$

The $I_{coh}(\rho_A : \mathcal{N}(\rho_A))$ quantum coherent information can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} I_{coh}(\rho_A : \mathcal{N}(\rho_A)) &= S(\mathcal{N}(\rho_A)) - S_E(\rho_A : \mathcal{N}(\rho_A)) \\ &= S(\rho_B) - S(\rho_E), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where $S(\rho) = -\text{Tr}(\rho \log(\rho))$ is the von Neumann entropy and $S_E(\rho_A : \mathcal{N}(\rho_A))$ is the entropy exchange. In the proof we exploit a *connection*¹ between the Holevo information and the quantum coherent information. As it has been shown by Schumacher and Westmoreland (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 2000), the quantum coherent information also can be expressed with the help of Holevo information, as follows

$$I_{coh}(\rho_A : \mathcal{N}(\rho_A)) = (\mathcal{X}_{AB} - \mathcal{X}_{AE}), \quad (3)$$

where

$$\mathcal{X}_{AB} = S(\mathcal{N}_{AB}(\rho_{AB})) - \sum_i p_i S(\mathcal{N}_{AB}(\rho_i)) \quad (4)$$

and

$$\mathcal{X}_{AE} = S(\mathcal{N}_{AE}(\rho_{AE})) - \sum_i p_i S(\mathcal{N}_{AE}(\rho_i)) \quad (5)$$

measure the Holevo quantities between Alice and Bob, and between Alice and environment E , where $\rho_{AB} = \sum_i p_i \rho_i$ and $\rho_{AE} = \sum_i p_i \rho_i$ are the average states. As follows, the *single-use* quantum capacity

$Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N})$ can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}) &= \max_{\text{all } \rho_A} (\mathcal{X}_{AB} - \mathcal{X}_{AE}) \\ &= \max_{\text{all } \rho_A} \left[S\left(\mathcal{N}_{AB}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i(\rho_i)\right)\right) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i S(\mathcal{N}_{AB}(\rho_i)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - S\left(\mathcal{N}_{AE}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i(\rho_i)\right)\right) + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i S(\mathcal{N}_{AE}(\rho_i)) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

¹ This connection is a rather surprising but not well known result in Quantum Information Theory, for the details see the proof of Eq. 70 in (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 2000).

where $\mathcal{N}(\rho_i)$ represents the i -th output density matrix obtained from the quantum channel input density matrix ρ_i . The *asymptotic* quantum capacity $Q(\mathcal{N})$ can be expressed by

$$\begin{aligned} Q(\mathcal{N}) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}^{\otimes n}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \max_{\text{all } \rho_i, \rho_i} I_{\text{coh}}(\rho_A : \mathcal{N}^{\otimes n}(\rho_A)) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \max_{\text{all } \rho_i, \rho_i} (\mathcal{X}_{AB} - \mathcal{X}_{AE})^{\otimes n}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

As summarize, the quantum capacity $Q(\mathcal{N})$ of a quantum channel \mathcal{N} can be defined by \mathcal{X}_{AB} , the *Holevo quantity* of Bob's output and by \mathcal{X}_{AE} , the information leaked to the environment during the transmission. The quantum relative entropic distance between quantum states ρ and σ is defined by the *quantum relative entropy* function $D(\|\cdot\|)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} D(\rho \|\sigma) &= \text{Tr}(\rho \log(\rho)) - \text{Tr}(\rho \log(\sigma)) \\ &= \text{Tr}[\rho(\log(\rho) - \log(\sigma))]. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The Holevo quantity can be expressed by the quantum relative entropy function as (Cortese, 2002), (Cortese, 2003), (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 1999), (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 2000), (Petz and Sudar, 1996), (Petz, 2007), (Petz, 2008),

$$\chi = D(\rho_k \|\sigma), \quad (9)$$

where ρ_k denotes an *optimal* (for which the Holevo quantity will be maximal) channel *output state* and $\sigma = \sum p_k \rho_k$ is the mixture of the optimal output states (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 1999). The Holevo information χ can be derived in terms of the quantum relative entropy in the following way (Cortese, 2002), (Cortese, 2003), (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 1999), (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 2000),

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_k p_k D(\rho_k \|\sigma) &= \sum_k (p_k \text{Tr}(\rho_k \log(\rho_k)) - p_k \text{Tr}(\rho_k \log(\sigma))) \\ &= \sum_k (p_k \text{Tr}(\rho_k \log(\rho_k))) - \text{Tr}\left(\sum_k (p_k \rho_k \log(\sigma))\right) \\ &= \sum_k (p_k \text{Tr}(\rho_k \log(\rho_k))) - \text{Tr}(\sigma \log(\sigma)) \\ &= S(\sigma) - \sum_k p_k S(\rho_k) = \chi. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

We express the Holevo information between Alice and Bob as

$$\mathcal{X}_{AB} = S\left(\mathcal{N}_{AB}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \rho_i\right)\right) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i S(\mathcal{N}_{AB}(\rho_i)) = D(\rho_k^{AB} \|\sigma^{AB}). \quad (11)$$

The second quantity measures the Holevo information which is leaked to the environment during the transmission as

$$\mathcal{X}_{AE} = S\left(\mathcal{N}_{AE}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \rho_i\right)\right) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i S(\mathcal{N}_{AE}(\rho_i)) = D(\rho_k^{AE} \|\sigma^{AE}). \quad (12)$$

2.1 Quantum Relative Entropic Expression

Using the resulting quantum relative entropy function and the Lloyd-Shor-Devetak (LSD) theorem (Lloyd, 2009), (Shor, 2002), (Devetak, 2005), the asymptotic LSD capacity $Q(\mathcal{N})$ can be expressed with as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
Q(\mathcal{N}) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}^{\otimes n}) \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \max_{p_1, \dots, p_n, \rho_1, \dots, \rho_n} I_{coh}(\rho_A : \mathcal{N}^{\otimes n}(\rho_A)) \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \max_{p_1, \dots, p_n, \rho_1, \dots, \rho_n} (\mathcal{X}_{AB} - \mathcal{X}_{AE})^{\otimes n} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \max_{p_1, \dots, p_n, \rho_1, \dots, \rho_n} \left(\mathcal{S}\left(\mathcal{N}_{AB}^{\otimes n}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \rho_i\right)\right) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{N}_{AB}^{\otimes n}(\rho_i)) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \mathcal{S}\left(\mathcal{N}_{AE}^{\otimes n}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \rho_i\right)\right) + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{N}_{AE}^{\otimes n}(\rho_i)) \right) \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_n \left(\min_{\sigma_{1..n}} \max_{\rho_{1..n}} D(\rho_k^{AB} \| \sigma^{AB}) - \min_{\sigma_{1..n}} \max_{\rho_{1..n}} D(\rho_k^{AE} \| \sigma^{AE}) \right) \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_n \left(\min_{\sigma_{1..n}} \max_{\rho_{1..n}} D(\rho_k^{AB-AE} \| \sigma^{AB-AE}) \right),
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

where \mathcal{X}_{AB} is the *Holevo quantity* of Bob's output, \mathcal{X}_{AE} is the information leaked to the environment during the transmission, ρ_k^{AB} is Bob's optimal output state, ρ_k^{AE} is the environment's optimal state, σ^{AB} is Bob's optimal output average state, σ^{AE} is the environment's average state, while ρ_k^{AB-AE} is the final optimal output channel state and σ^{AB-AE} is the final output average state. The term $AB-AE$ denotes the information which is transmitted from Alice to Bob minus the information which is leaked to the environment during the transmission. For joint structure $\mathcal{N}_{12} = \mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ the single-use joint quantum capacity can be expressed by the $D(\cdot \| \cdot)$ quantum relative entropy function as

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2) \\
&= \min_{\sigma} \max_{\rho} \left(D(\rho_{12}^{AB} \| \sigma_{12}^{AB}) - D(\rho_{12}^{AE} \| \sigma_{12}^{AE}) \right) \\
&= \min_{\sigma} \max_{\rho} D(\rho_{12}^{AB-AE} \| \sigma_{12}^{AB-AE}),
\end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

where ρ_{12}^{AB} is the optimal output state of joint channel \mathcal{N}_{12} , and σ_{12}^{AB} is the average state of joint channel \mathcal{N}_{12} between Alice and Bob. The term E denotes the environment, and AE is the channel between Alice and the environment with the optimal state ρ_{12}^{AE} , and average state σ_{12}^{AE} . The final optimal output channel state is depicted by ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} , while σ_{12}^{AB-AE} is the final output average state of the channel between Alice and the environment. $\mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_{12}) > 0$ only if the $\mathcal{N}_{12} = \mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ joint structure is superactive, otherwise $\mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1) = \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_2) = \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_{12}) = 0$. The fact that the superactivated quantum capacity can be described by the joint output states of $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ is summarized in Theorem 1.

3 Results

Theorem 1. The superactivation of joint structure $\mathcal{N}_{12} = \mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ can be analyzed by the joint average σ_{12}^{AB-AE} and joint optimal states ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} .

Proof. Here, we show that the difference of the quantum relative entropic quantities in (14) can be positive if and only if the channels in $\mathcal{N}_{12} = \mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ can activate each other, i.e., the joint channel structure is superactive. According to (14), the quantum relative entropic distance between the σ_{12}^{AB-AE} joint average and the optimal joint state ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} is equal to the $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$ joint single-use quantum capacity of $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$. $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$ will not be superactivated if the average output joint state σ_{12}^{AB-AE} can be given as a product state $\sigma_{12}^{AB-AE} = \sigma_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \sigma_2^{AB-AE}$. It also must find the optimal output state ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} , which can be given as a product state $\rho_{12}^{AB-AE} = \rho_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \rho_2^{AB-AE}$, the $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$. In other words, if σ_{12}^{AB-AE} and ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} can be given in a product state formula (i.e., these states are decomposable), and $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$ will be zero and the joint structure $\mathcal{N}_{12} = \mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ will not be superactive. If these two states cannot be given in tensor product representations, then strict additivity of individual quantum capacities $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1)$ and $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_2)$ will fail and the channel construction $\mathcal{N}_{12} = \mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ will be superactive, which leads to $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2) > 0$. If the joint states σ_{12}^{AB-AE} and ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} are product states, then $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1) = Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_2) = Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2) = 0$, which concludes the proof of Theorem 1. ■

These results from the superactivation of the joint structure $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ are extended to the properties of the joint optimal and average states in Theorem 2.

Theorem 2. The quantum channels \mathcal{N}_1 and \mathcal{N}_2 of the joint structure \mathcal{N}_{12} are superactive if and only if the σ_{12}^{AB-AE} joint average state and the ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} joint optimal output state of the joint channel structure are entangled states.

Proof. Using the results derived by Cortese (Cortese, 2002), (Cortese, 2003), and Petz et al. (Petz and Sudar, 1996), (Petz, 2007), (Petz, 2008) and Schumacher and Westmoreland (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 1999), (Schumacher and Westmoreland, 2000) the following statements can be made. The ‘‘product state formula’’ form expresses that the channels \mathcal{N}_1 and \mathcal{N}_2 of the joint structure \mathcal{N}_{12} cannot activate each other. We use the *minimax* criterion for the joint states ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} and σ_{12}^{AB-AE} along with (14). If the joint average state and the joint optimal output state are entangled states, then the joint channel structure \mathcal{N}_{12} is superactive and the quantum relative entropic distance between the joint states ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} and σ_{12}^{AB-AE} is greater than zero. If the quantum channels \mathcal{N}_1 and \mathcal{N}_2 of the joint structure \mathcal{N}_{12} can activate each other, then the informational distance of ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} and σ_{12}^{AB-AE} cannot be decomposed in the expression of the quantum relative entropy function (Cortese, 2002), (Cortese, 2003), see (14). We will use again that quantum capacity can be expressed from the Holevo information. If joint states ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} and σ_{12}^{AB-AE} of the joint channel $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ are *product* states, i.e., $\rho_{12}^{AB-AE} = \rho_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \rho_2^{AB-AE}$ and $\sigma_{12}^{AB-AE} = \sigma_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \sigma_2^{AB-AE}$, then the $Q^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$ joint capacity will be zero, since the quantum relative entropy function $D(\cdot\|\cdot)$ in (14) can be factorized as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2) = \min_{\sigma_{12}} \max_{\rho_{12}} D(\rho_{12}^{AB} \| \sigma_{12}^{AB}) - \min_{\sigma_{12}} \max_{\rho_{12}} D(\rho_{12}^{AE} \| \sigma_{12}^{AE}) = \\
&= \min_{\sigma_{12}^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_{12}^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_{12}^{AB-AE} \| \sigma_{12}^{AB-AE}) \\
&= \min_{\sigma_{12}^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_{12}^{AB-AE}} Tr_{12} \left((\rho_{12}^{AB-AE}) \log(\rho_{12}^{AB-AE}) - (\rho_{12}^{AB-AE}) \log(\sigma_{12}^{AB-AE}) \right) \\
&= \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} Tr_{12} \left(\begin{aligned} &(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \rho_2^{AB-AE}) \log((\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \otimes (\rho_2^{AB-AE})) \\ &- ((\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \otimes (\rho_2^{AB-AE})) \log(\sigma_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \sigma_2^{AB-AE}) \end{aligned} \right) \\
&= \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} Tr_{12} \left(\begin{aligned} &(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \rho_2^{AB-AE}) (\log(\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \otimes I_2) + \\ &(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \rho_2^{AB-AE}) (I_1 \otimes \log(\rho_2^{AB-AE})) \end{aligned} \right) \\
&\quad - \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} Tr_{12} \left(\begin{aligned} &(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \rho_2^{AB-AE}) (\log(\sigma_1^{AB-AE}) \otimes I_2) + \\ &(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \otimes \rho_2^{AB-AE}) (I_1 \otimes \log(\sigma_2^{AB-AE})) \end{aligned} \right) \\
&= \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} Tr_1 \left((\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \log(\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \right) Tr_2 \left((\rho_2^{AB-AE}) I_2 \right) \\
&\quad + \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} Tr_1 \left((\rho_1^{AB-AE}) I_1 \right) Tr_2 \left((\rho_2^{AB-AE}) \log(\rho_2^{AB-AE}) \right) \\
&\quad - \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} Tr_1 \left((\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \log(\sigma_1^{AB-AE}) \right) Tr_2 \left((\rho_2^{AB-AE}) I_2 \right) \\
&\quad - \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} Tr_1 \left((\rho_1^{AB-AE}) I_1 \right) Tr_2 \left((\rho_2^{AB-AE}) \log(\sigma_2^{AB-AE}) \right) \\
&= \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} \left(Tr_1 \left((\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \log(\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \right) - Tr_1 \left((\rho_1^{AB-AE}) \log(\sigma_1^{AB-AE}) \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} \left(Tr_2 \left((\rho_2^{AB-AE}) \log(\rho_2^{AB-AE}) \right) - Tr_2 \left((\rho_2^{AB-AE}) \log(\sigma_2^{AB-AE}) \right) \right) \\
&= \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} \left(D(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \| \sigma_1^{AB-AE}) + D(\rho_2^{AB-AE} \| \sigma_2^{AB-AE}) \right) \tag{15} \\
&= \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \| \sigma_1^{AB-AE}) + \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_2^{AB-AE} \| \sigma_2^{AB-AE}) \\
&= \min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \| \sigma_1^{AB-AE}) + \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_2^{AB-AE} \| \sigma_2^{AB-AE}) \\
&= \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2) = \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1) + \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_2) = 0,
\end{aligned}$$

where I_1 and I_2 are the d dimensional identity matrices ($d=2$ for the qubit case), ρ_{12}^{AB} is the optimal output state of the joint channel \mathcal{N}_{12} between Alice and Bob, and $\sigma_{12}^{AB} = \sum_i p_i \rho_{12}^{AB(i)}$ is the average state of the joint channel \mathcal{N}_{12} between Alice and Bob. The term E denotes the environment, ρ_{12}^{AE} is the optimal state of the channel between Alice and the environment, $\sigma_{12}^{AE} = \sum_i p_i \rho_{12}^{AE(i)}$ is the average state of the channel between Alice and the environment, ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} is the final optimal output channel state, and σ_{12}^{AB-AE} is the final output average state of the joint channel $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$. The factorization of (14) implies that the single-use joint quantum capacity $\mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2)$ can be derived from the strict sum of independent channel quantum capacities $\mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1)$ and $\mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_2)$, thus $\mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_1) = \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_2) = \mathcal{Q}^{(1)}(\mathcal{N}_{12}) = 0$. If the quantum relative entropic distance of the σ_{12}^{AB-AE} joint average and ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} joint optimal states of

$\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ can be factorized, then the joint states σ_{12} and ρ_{12} of the joint channel \mathcal{N}_{12} cannot be entangled states; the superactivation of the joint channel structure \mathcal{N}_{12} is possible if and only if the joint states ρ_{12}^{AB-AE} and σ_{12}^{AB-AE} of the joint channel \mathcal{N}_{12} are entangled states. The result on the asymptotic quantum capacity of the joint channel $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ is

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2) \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_n \left(\min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \parallel \sigma_1^{AB-AE}) \right) \\
&\quad + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_n \left(\min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_2^{AB-AE} \parallel \sigma_2^{AB-AE}) \right) \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_n \left(\min_{\sigma_1^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_1^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_1^{AB-AE} \parallel \sigma_1^{AB-AE}) \right) \\
&\quad + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_n \left(\min_{\sigma_2^{AB-AE}} \max_{\rho_2^{AB-AE}} D(\rho_2^{AB-AE} \parallel \sigma_2^{AB-AE}) \right) \\
&= \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2) = \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{N}_1) + \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{N}_2) = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

These results conclude the proof of Theorem 2. ■

From Theorem 2 also follows that possible set of superactive quantum channels $\mathcal{N}_1 \otimes \mathcal{N}_2$ is also limited by the mathematical properties of the quantum relative entropy function.

4 Conclusions

In this paper we proved that the properties of the quantum relative function also determine the superactivation of quantum channels. Our purely mathematical results have demonstrated that the effect of superactivation also depends not only on the channel maps and the properties of the quantum channels of the joint structure as was known before, but on the basic properties of the quantum relative entropy function. Before our work this connection was completely unrevealed in Quantum Information Theory.

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