



# Probing Genuine Multipartite Einstein–Podolsky–Rosen Steering and Entanglement Under an Open Tripartite System

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Einstein–Podolsky–Rosen steering is a peculiar quantum nonlocal correlation and has unique physical characteristics and a wide application prospect. Even more importantly, multipartite steerable states have more vital applications in the future quantum information field. Thus, in this work, we explored the dynamics characteristics of both genuine multipartite steering (GMS) and genuine multipartite entanglement (GME) and the relations of both under an open tripartite system. Specifically, the tripartite decoherence system may be modeled by the three parties of a tripartite state that undergo the noisy channels. The conditions for genuine entangled and steerable states can be acquired for the initial tripartite state. The results showed that decoherence noises can degrade the genuine multipartite entanglement and genuine multipartite steering and even induce its death. Explicitly, GME and GMS disappear with the increase in the decoherence strength under the phase damping channel. However, GME and GMS rapidly decay to death with the increase in the channel-noise factor and then come back to life soon after in the bit flip channel. Additionally, the results indicate that GMS is born of GME, but GME does not imply GMS, which means that the set of genuine multipartite steerable states is a strict subset of the set of genuine multipartite entangled states. These conclusions may be useful for discussing the relationship of quantum nonlocal correlations (GME and GMS) in the decoherence systems.

**Keywords:** open system, genuine multipartite steering, genuine multipartite entanglement, noise channel, uncertainty relation

## INTRODUCTION

EPR steering and entanglement are two fundamental characteristics of quantum mechanics and that are inextricably linked. For the moment, the researchers believe that EPR steering stems from entanglement, but entanglement does not imply EPR steering [1, 2]. EPR entanglement characterizes quantum nonlocal correlations among remote parties that are totally forbidden within the classical regime. Moreover, multipartite entangled states have important applications in the field of quantum information. Utilizing and characterizing such quantum resources stemming from multipartite nonlocal correlations [3] are rather crucial for the applications of the information theory [4–10] and from foundational perspectives. A multipartite state is deemed to be genuinely multipartite entangled

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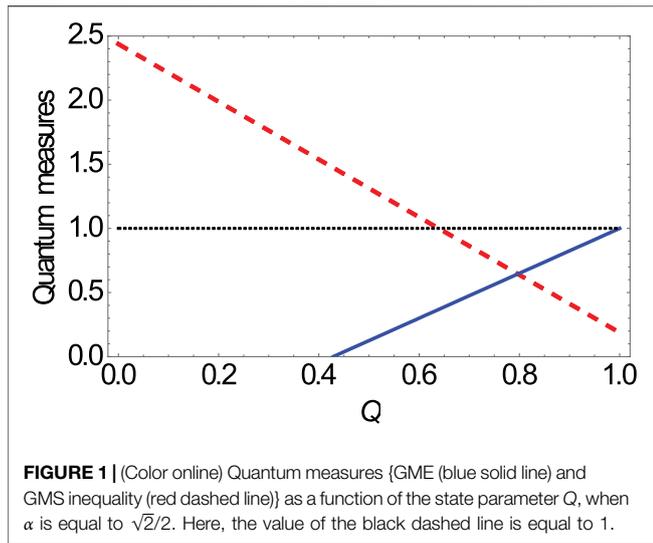
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the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$  into two non-overlapping and non-empty subsets  $\{A_s, B_s\}$ . The set of all such bipartitions is denoted by  $J = \{J_1, J_2, \dots, J_{2^{N-1}-1}\}$ . For example, for a three-qubit state, there are three bipartitions  $\{A_s, B_s\}$  that are  $\{23, 1\}_s$ ,  $\{13, 2\}_s$ , and  $\{12, 3\}_s$ . As a matter of fact, inequalities  $S_I, S_{II}$ , and  $S_{III}$  are implied by bipartitions  $\{23, 1\}_s$ ,  $\{13, 2\}_s$ , and  $\{12, 3\}_s$ , respectively. Consequently, the expression of GMS inequality for the tripartite qubit-state can be written as

$$GMS(\rho) = \{S_I + S_{II} + S_{III} \geq 1\}. \quad (4)$$

If the GMS inequality in Eq. 4 is violated, which is sufficient to show GMS, and the value of GMS inequality is smaller, it means that the steerability is stronger.

### 3 DYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF GMS FOR THE INITIAL TRIPARTITE STATE WITHIN THE TWO KINDS OF THE DIFFERENT NOISES

In this section, we assume that there are three parties and they share an initial three-qubit state in the form of [48, 49].

$$\rho = Q(|cGHZ\rangle\langle cGHZ|) + \frac{1-Q}{8}I_8, \quad 0 \leq Q \leq 1, \quad (5)$$

where  $|cGHZ\rangle = \alpha|000\rangle + \sqrt{1-\alpha^2}|111\rangle$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ , and  $I_8$  is the  $8 \times 8$  identity matrix. Based on Eqs 2, 4, we can obtain the three-qubit states of GME  $2\alpha Q\sqrt{(1-\alpha^2)} - 3/4(1-Q)$  and GMS inequality  $39/16 - 3/2Q(1 + \alpha\sqrt{1-\alpha^2}) \geq 1$ , respectively. In Figure 1, the red dashed line is below the black dashed line, which means the tripartite state is a genuine tripartite steerable state. On the contrary, if the red dashed line is above the black dashed line, which means the tripartite state is not a genuine tripartite steerable state. Thus, when  $\alpha$  is equal to  $\sqrt{2}/2$ , one can obtain that the tripartite state is a

genuine steerable state in the case of  $23/36 < Q \leq 1$ , while it is a genuine unsteerable state for  $0 \leq Q \leq 23/36$  in Figure 1. Moreover, the tripartite state is entangled for  $1 \geq Q > 3/7$  and is separable for  $3/7 \geq Q \geq 0$ . The maximally entangled state ( $Q = 1, \alpha = \sqrt{2}/2$ ) is a maximally genuine tripartite steerable state. Hence, we can draw a conclusion that for the whole set of the three-qubit states, it holds that  $GMS \Rightarrow GME$ , suggesting a hierarchy according to which all GMS's states are genuinely entangled, while GME does not imply GMS, which means that the set of genuine tripartite steerable states is a strict subset of the set of genuine tripartite entangled states.

Next, we considered that the tripartite states each independently and locally interacts with a zero-temperature reservoir. Herein, the two kinds of different noisy channels were considered: the bit flip (BF) channel and phase damping (PD) channel, respectively. In this context, the system–environment interaction via the operator-sum representation formalism is utilized. Following the approach of the Kraus operators, the time-evolution of the initial three-qubit states under the local noisy environment can be expressed by the trace-preserving quantum operation  $\xi(\rho)$ , which is  $\xi(\rho) = \sum_i K_i \rho K_i^\dagger$  with the Kraus operators satisfying the trace-preserving condition  $\sum_i K_i K_i^\dagger = I$ . The influence of the flip noises is to damage the correlations contained in the phase relations without the exchange of energy. The Kraus operators for the BF noise channel can be given by

$$K_0 = \sqrt{d}I, K_1 = \sqrt{1-d}\sigma_x, \quad (6)$$

where one can call that  $d$  is the channel-noise factor and  $0 \leq d \leq 1$ , and  $I$  is the  $2 \times 2$  unit density matrix. The set is interpreted as corresponding to a probability  $d$  of remaining in the same state and a probability  $1-d$  of having an error  $0 \leftrightarrow 1$ . The factor  $K_1$  in Eq. 6 ensures that at  $d = 1/2$  has maximal ignorance about the occurrence of an error and thereby has minimum information about the state [50]. Furthermore, the PD noise channel depicts the losing correlations without the loss of energy. It leads to decoherence without relaxation. The Kraus operators can be given as

$$K_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{1-d} \end{pmatrix}, K_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{d} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (7)$$

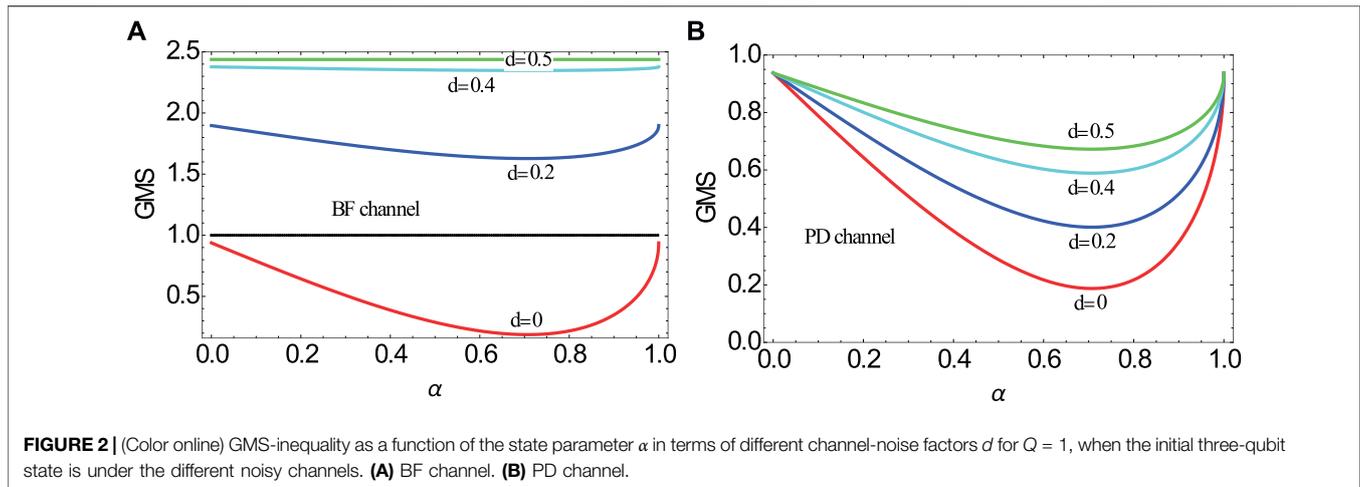
where  $d$  is the decoherence strength, and  $0 \leq d \leq 1$ . For convenience, here, we collectively call that  $d$  is the channel-noise factor in the BF and PD noise channels.

As a consequence, when three parties (all subsystem) of the three-qubit states suffer from the two different noisy environments, we then can obtain the non-zero elements of two kinds of the different final states,  $\rho_{BF}$  and  $\rho_{PD}$ , respectively.

To be precise, as three parties of the three-qubit states undergo the BF channel, the final state can be written as

$$\rho_{BF} = K_0 \otimes K_0 \cdot \rho \cdot (K_0 \otimes K_0)^\dagger + K_1 \otimes K_1 \cdot \rho \cdot (K_1 \otimes K_1)^\dagger + K_0 \otimes K_1 \cdot \rho \cdot (K_0 \otimes K_1)^\dagger + K_1 \otimes K_0 \cdot \rho \cdot (K_1 \otimes K_0)^\dagger, \quad (8)$$

Hence, we can obtain the non-zero elements of the final states  $\rho_{BF}$  as follows:



$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{BF}^{18} &= \rho_{BF}^{81} = \alpha\sqrt{1-\alpha^2}[1+3(d-1)d]Q, \\ \rho_{BF}^{27} &= \rho_{BF}^{72} = \rho_{BF}^{36} = \rho_{BF}^{63} = \rho_{BF}^{45} = \rho_{BF}^{54} = \alpha\sqrt{1-\alpha^2}(1-d)dQ, \\ \rho_{BF}^{11} &= \frac{1}{8}\{1+(2d-1)[2(5-2d)d-7+8\alpha^2(1+(d-1)d)]Q\}, \\ \rho_{BF}^{22} &= \rho_{BF}^{33} = \rho_{BF}^{55} = \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{8}(2d-1)\{-1+2[3+4\alpha^2(d-1)-2d]d\}Q, \\ \rho_{BF}^{44} &= \rho_{BF}^{66} = \rho_{BF}^{77} = \frac{1}{8}\{1+(2d-1)[1+2(1+4\alpha^2(d-1)-2d)d]Q\}, \\ \rho_{BF}^{88} &= \frac{1}{8} + \left\{d^3 - \frac{1}{8} + \alpha^2[1+d((3-2d)d-3)]\right\}Q. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Then, as three parties of the three-qubit states, **Eq. 5** suffers from the PD channel; the final state can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{PD} &= K_2 \otimes K_2 \cdot \rho \cdot (K_2 \otimes K_2)^\dagger + K_3 \otimes K_3 \cdot \rho \cdot (K_3 \otimes K_3)^\dagger \\ &+ K_3 \otimes K_2 \cdot \rho \cdot (K_3 \otimes K_2)^\dagger + K_2 \otimes K_3 \cdot \rho \cdot (K_2 \otimes K_3)^\dagger, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

and the non-zero elements of final states  $\rho_{PD}$  are

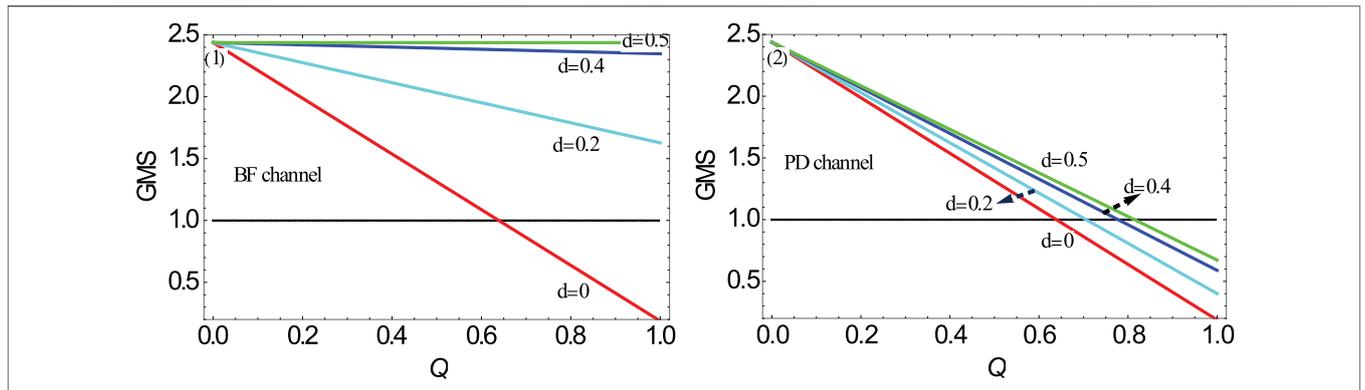
$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{PD}^{11} &= \frac{1}{8} + \left(\alpha^2 - \frac{1}{8}\right)Q, \\ \rho_{PD}^{88} &= \frac{1}{8}[1+(7-8\alpha^2)Q], \\ \rho_{PD}^{18} &= \rho_{PD}^{81} = \alpha\sqrt{1-\alpha^2}(1-d)^{3/2}Q, \\ \rho_{PD}^{27} &= \rho_{PD}^{72} = \rho_{PD}^{36} = \rho_{PD}^{63} = \rho_{PD}^{45} = \rho_{PD}^{54} = 0, \\ \rho_{PD}^{22} &= \rho_{PD}^{33} = \rho_{PD}^{44} = \rho_{PD}^{55} = \rho_{PD}^{66} = \rho_{PD}^{77} = \frac{1-Q}{8}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Herein, by using **Eqs 3, 4**, one can gain an analytical expression of the GMS inequality for the initial state within the two kinds of different noisy channels, respectively. In accordance with the abovementioned analysis, one can draw the GMS inequality of the states  $\rho_{BF}$  and  $\rho_{PD}$  as a function of the state parameters  $\alpha$  in terms of the different channel-noise factor  $d$  for  $Q = 1$  in **Figure 2**. From these figures, one can see that the overall trend of the GMS inequality first decreases and then increases

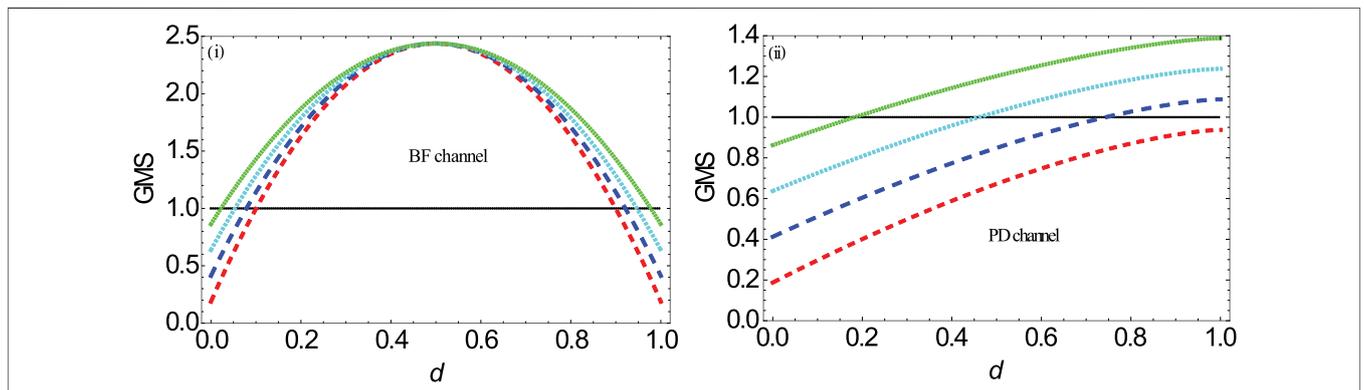
with the increase in the state parameter  $\alpha$  for a fixed  $d$ , whatever the initial state is under the BF channel or PD channel. The value of  $\alpha$  is equal to  $\sqrt{2}/2$ , which corresponds to the position of the maximal genuine steerability for the tripartite state. As the channel-noise factor grows, it does not change. It turns out that the noisy environments cannot destroy the symmetry of GMS for the inertial state. Moreover, we observed that GMS will rapidly disappear with the increasing channel-noise factor  $d$  in the BF channel. However, GMS will not fleetly disappear with the increasing channel-noise factor  $d$  in the PD channel. It means that the BF and PD noises can seriously influence and damage the GMS. However, the impact of the PD noise on GMS is weaker than that of the BF noise.

Then, in order to explore the influence of the state parameters  $Q$  on the GMS inequality in terms of different channel-noise factors  $d$  for  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}/2$ , **Figure 3** is drawn. As shown in **Figure 3**, one can see that GMS inequality rapidly decreases to zero with the increase in the state parameters  $Q$ , when there is no effect of the decoherence noise, namely,  $d = 0$ . This demonstrates that the steerability of the state is stronger. We also found that the GMS occurs only when the state parameters  $Q$  increases to a fixed value. However, the properties of the GMS are different in the BF and PD noises, when the channel-noise factor is nonzero. In the BF channel, when the channel-noise factor is equal to 0.2, 0.4, and 0.5, respectively, GMS disappears whatever the state parameter  $Q$  is. Particularly, for the channel-noise factor  $d = 0.5$ , the tripartite state has minimum information. In addition, GMS can appear with the increase in the state parameter  $Q$ , while the channel-noise factor is equal to 0.2, 0.4, and 0.5 in **Figure 3** (2), respectively.

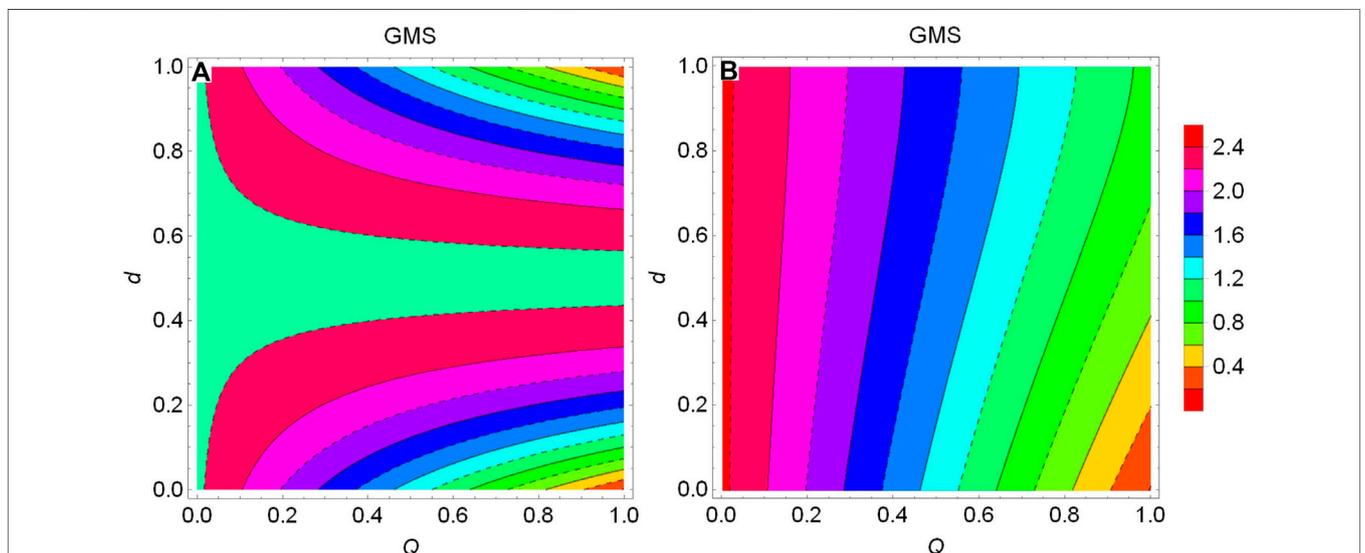
Next, we considered the effects of the state parameters  $Q$  and the channel-noise factor  $d$  on the GMS inequality, for which **Figures 4, 5** were drawn. As shown in **Figures 4, 5**, it can be concluded that the GMS inequality first increases and then decreases with the increase in the channel-noise factor  $d$  within the BF channel, whatever the value of the state parameter  $Q$  is; however, the GMS inequality increases with the increase in the channel-noise factor  $d$  in the PD channel.



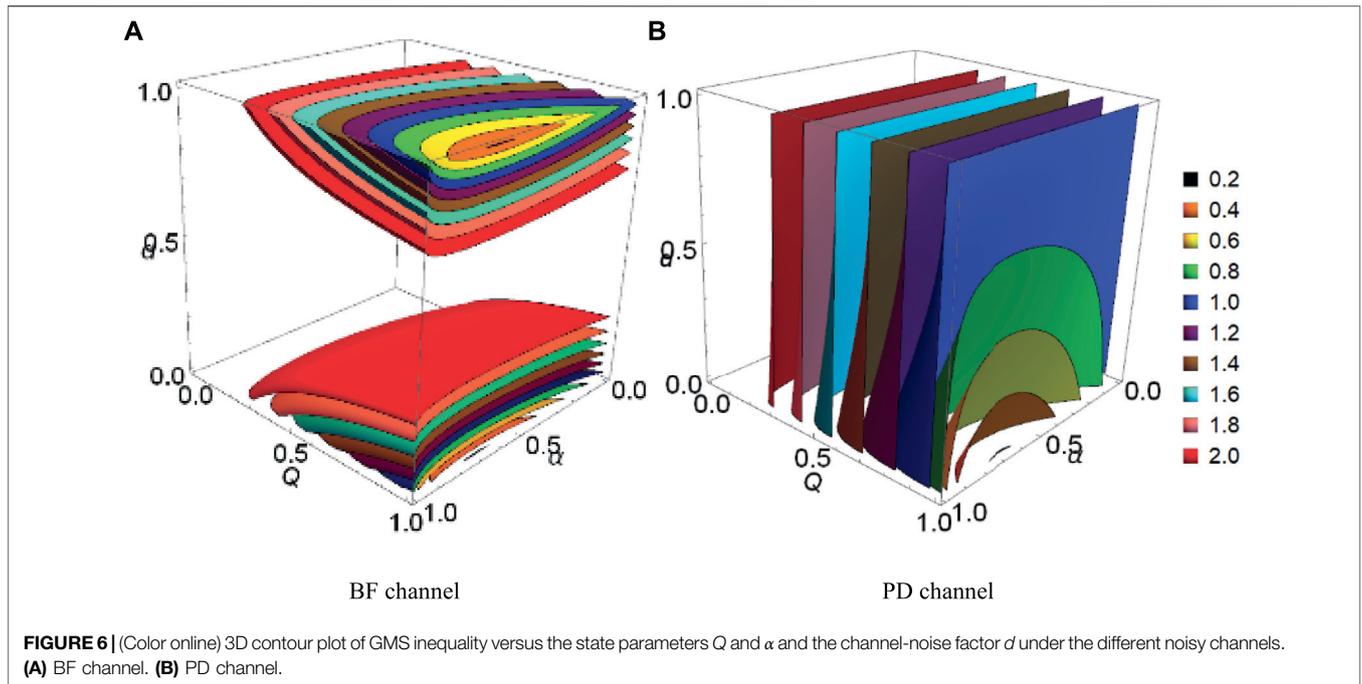
**FIGURE 3 |** (Color online) GMS inequality as a function of the state parameter  $Q$  in terms of different channel-noise factors  $d$  for  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}/2$  in the different noisy channels. **(1)** BF channel. **(2)** PD channel.



**FIGURE 4 |** (Color online) GMS inequality as a function of the channel-noise factor  $d$  in terms of different state parameters  $Q$  for  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}/2$  within the different noisy channels. **(i)** BF channel. **(ii)** PD channel. Here,  $Q = 1$  (red dashed lines),  $Q = 0.9$  (blue dashed lines),  $Q = 0.8$  (cyan dashed lines), and  $Q = 0.7$  (green dashed lines).



**FIGURE 5 |** (Color online) Contour plot of GMS inequality versus the state parameter  $Q$  and the channel-noise factor  $d$  with  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}/2$  under the different noisy channels. **(A)** BF channel. **(B)** PD channel.



We discovered that the GMS can be detected if and only if the channel-noise factor  $d$  is larger than  $(6 - \sqrt{23})/12$  and less than  $(6 + \sqrt{23})/12$  under the BF channel in **Figure 4(i)** and **Figure 5A**. Moreover, when the channel-noise factor  $d$  is equal to 0.5, the values of the GMS inequality are invariable in the BF channel. At the moment, the tripartite state has minimum information and no quantum correlation.

Hence, we can conclude that the decoherence effect can destroy the steerability of quantum states or even completely disable the steerability. In order to more intuitively observe the influence of the three parameters (the channel-noise factor  $d$  and the state parameters  $Q$  and  $\alpha$ ) on GMS, we drew a three-dimensional contour map of the GMS inequality in **Figure 6**. We can draw the same conclusions as mentioned earlier, and we will not go into them here.

#### 4 DYNAMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF GME AND ITS COMPARISON WITH THE GMS UNDER THE TWO KINDS OF THE DIFFERENT NOISES

It is generally acknowledged that quantum steering originates from quantum entanglement; however, entanglement does not imply steering, which means that the set of steerable states is a strict subset of the set of entangled states. In this section, we probed the dynamic characteristics of GME and then discussed the relationship between GMS and the GME under the two kinds of the noisy channels.

By employing **Eq. 2**, we can give the expressions of the GME as

$$GME(BF) = 2 \max \left[ 0, |\rho_{BF18}| - 3\sqrt{\rho_{BF22} \cdot \rho_{BF77}}, \right. \\ \left. |\rho_{BF27}| - (\sqrt{\rho_{BF11} \cdot \rho_{BF88}} + 2\sqrt{\rho_{BF33} \cdot \rho_{BF66}}) \right], \quad (12)$$

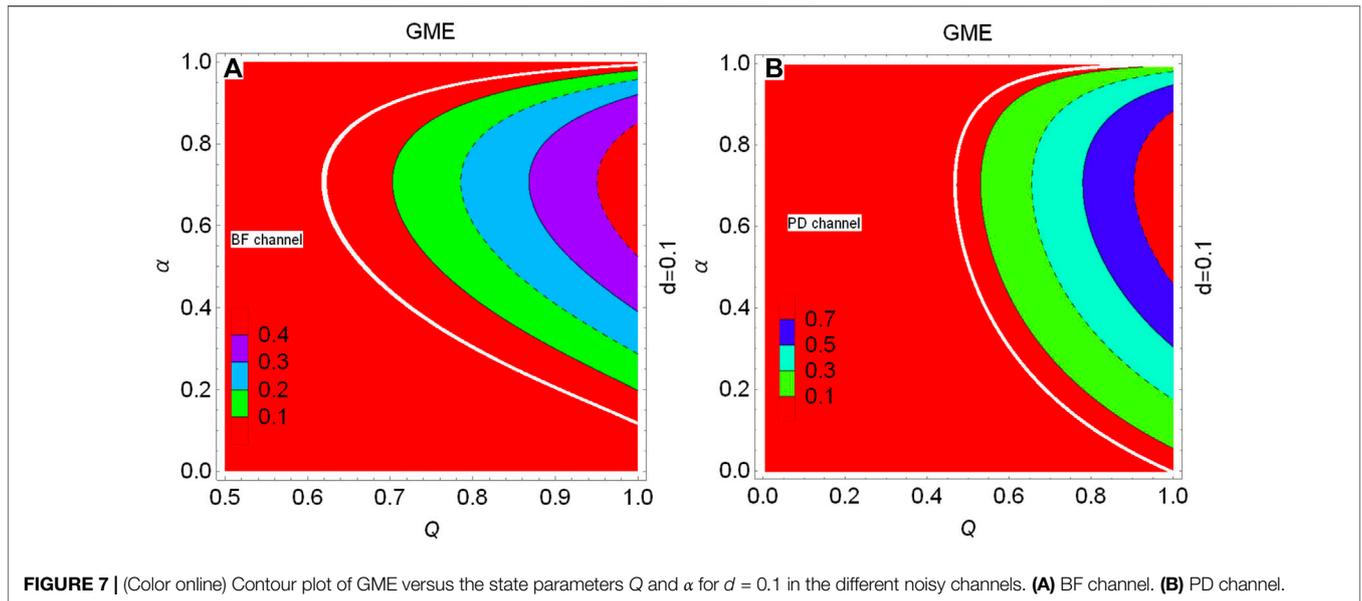
and

$$GME(PD) = 2 \max \left[ 0, \alpha \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2} (1 - d)^{3/2} Q - \frac{3}{8} (1 - Q) \right], \quad (13)$$

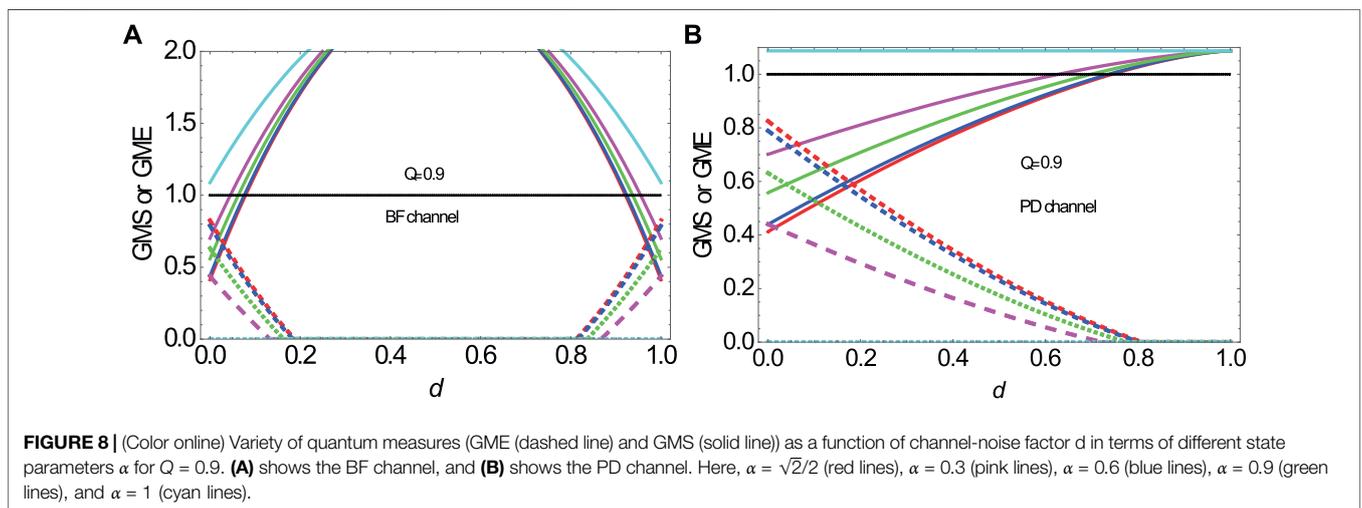
under the BF and PD channels, respectively.

To begin with, we considered the influence of the state parameters  $Q$  and  $\alpha$  on GME, when  $d$  is a constant value. As shown in **Figure 7**, the GME first increases and then reduces with the increasing state parameter  $\alpha$ , as  $Q$  is a constant value. Additionally, the tripartite state is a product state with no GME, when the state parameter  $\alpha$  is equal to zero or one. We also obtained that GME increases with the increase in the state parameter  $Q$ . Thus, we think that  $Q$  is a purity parameter for the tripartite state. The bigger the  $Q$ , the bigger the GME is. The tripartite state is a maximal entangled state, when  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}/2$ ,  $Q = 1$ , and there is no decoherence.

Next, for comparing GME with GMS and the relationship between GMS and GME, we investigated the influence between the state parameters  $\alpha$  and the channel-noise factor  $d$  on the GME and the GMS for  $Q = 0.9$ . In the BF channel, both GME and GMS first rapidly decay to death with the increasing channel-noise factor  $d$  and then come back to life (see **Figure 8A**). However, both GME and GMS tardily decay to death with the increasing channel-noise factor  $d$  within the PD channel. Meanwhile, as shown in **Figure 8B**, when GMS and GME just disappear, the channel-noise factor  $d$  has a critical value, and the critical values are  $d \approx 0.744$  and  $d \approx 0.809$ , respectively. In other words, as the channel-noise factor is approximately smaller than 0.744, the tripartite state is both genuine steerable and entangled. If the channel-noise factor is



**FIGURE 7 |** (Color online) Contour plot of GME versus the state parameters  $Q$  and  $\alpha$  for  $d = 0.1$  in the different noisy channels. **(A)** BF channel. **(B)** PD channel.



**FIGURE 8 |** (Color online) Variety of quantum measures (GME (dashed line) and GMS (solid line)) as a function of channel-noise factor  $d$  in terms of different state parameters  $\alpha$  for  $Q = 0.9$ . **(A)** shows the BF channel, and **(B)** shows the PD channel. Here,  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}/2$  (red lines),  $\alpha = 0.3$  (pink lines),  $\alpha = 0.6$  (blue lines),  $\alpha = 0.9$  (green lines), and  $\alpha = 1$  (cyan lines).

larger than 0.744 but less than 0.809, the tripartite state is unsteerable and only genuinely entangled. The channel-noise factor is larger than 0.809, and the tripartite state is both unsteerable and disentangled. It is indicated that GMS originates from GME, but GME does not imply to GMS, which means that the set of genuine multipartite steerable states is a strict subset of the set of genuine multipartite entangled states. This result is also true in the BF channel (see **Figure 8A**). These conclusions may be useful for analyzing the relationship of quantum nonlocal correlations (GME and GMS) in the decoherence noise.

## 5 CONCLUSION

In this article, we mainly investigated the physical characteristic of GME and GMS within the two kinds of the

different noisy channels. In contrast with our previous work [49], we used different initial states, and this state (see **Eq. 5**) is more general. In addition, here, we utilized different measurement methods for the multipartite quantum nonlocal correlation (GME) in this work. The anti-decoherence ability of GME is stronger than that of GMN. In the next place, a tripartite state is subjected to different decoherence noisy environments, but one is under curved spacetime (non-inertial frame) and one is without (this work). Consequently, in this study, we first discussed that the dynamic properties of GMS and GME for the initial tripartite state and the conditions for entangled and steerable states can be given. Then, the effect of BF and PD noises on the GMS is discussed, respectively. The results indicated that GMS is very flimsy under the influence of the decoherence. Specifically, GMS will perish with the increase in

the channel-noise factor under the PD channel. However, GMS rapidly decays to death with the increase in the channel-noise factor and then come back to life soon in the BF channel. At the end, we studied the dynamic characteristics of GME and discussed the relationship between GME and GMS under decoherence noises. The decoherence noises can also degrade the GME and even induce its death. In addition, we can draw a conclusion that GMS originates from GME, but the GME does not imply GMS, which means that the set of genuine multipartite steerable states is a strict subset of the set of genuine multipartite entangled states. These conclusions may be useful for analyzing the relationship of quantum nonlocal correlations in the decoherence noises.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material; further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

W-YS contributed to the conception and design of the study. W-YS wrote the first draft of the manuscript. A Ding, H-TG, and JH wrote sections of the manuscript. All authors revised, read, and approved the submitted manuscript.

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