# 二階投影平面架構能提供最好的群試設計 <br> －－－－－－對七物件及最多兩感染物而論 

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中文摘要

我們證明一個由二階投影典面的關係矩陣，刪去一列所得到大小爲 6 乘以 7 的二元矩陣其分離性爲二。我們同時證明不存在分離性爲二，行數小於七，列數小於六的二元矩陣。

# A projective plane of order 2 offers the best group tests 

-for 7 items and at most 2 defectives

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#### Abstract

We prove that the matrix obtained by deleting a row of the incidence matrix of the projective plane of order 2 is $\overline{2}$-separable. We also prove that there is no $\overline{2}$-separable $s \times t$ matrix with $s<t<7$.


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## 1 Introduction

In combinatorial group testing, a prototype problem called $(\bar{d}, n)$ problem is to assume that there are up to $d$ defectives among $n$ given items, and the problem is to separate the good items from the defective ones by group tests. A group test is administered on an arbitrary subset $S$ of the items with two possible outcomes; a negative outcome means $S$ contains no defectives and a positive outcome means $S$ contains at least one defective, not knowing exactly how many or which ones. A group testing algorithm is nonadaptive if all tests must be specified at once. A nonadaptive algorithm can be represented by a 0-1 matrix where columns are items, rows are tests, and a 1-entry in cell $(i, j)$ means item $j$ is contained in test $i$. Note that a column can be viewed as a subset whose elements are indices of the rows incident to the column. Thus we can talk about the union of columns. S.H.Hung and F.K.Hwang [1] prove that what values of $n$, given $d$, individual testing is optimal on nonadaptive group testing.

Group testing has applications to biological experiments, DNA sequencing, electrical and chemical testing, coding, etc. The binary matrices have three types: $d$-separable, $\bar{d}$-separable and $d$-disjunct which have been found to be major tools in understanding and constructing a nonadaptive group testing. Hong-Bin Chen and Frank K. Hwang [3] proved that $M$ is a $d$ separable matrix and $1 \leq k \leq d-1$, then $M$ is $\overline{k+1}$-separable, if and only if $M$ is $k$-disjunct. We use the property to prove that the matrix obtained by deleting a row of the incidence matrix of a projective plane of order $n$ is $\bar{n}$-separable. In particular, $n=2$, the matrix obtained by deleting a row of the incidence matrix of the projective plane of order 2 is $\overline{2}$-separable. In this
paper, we want to show there is no $\overline{2}$-separable $s \times t$ matrix with $s<t<7$. For example, there is a $\overline{2}$-separable matrix $M_{5 \times 7}$. Now, we get a matrix $M_{5 \times 6}$ by deleting a column from the matrix $M_{5 \times 7}$. Then, the matrix $M_{5 \times 6}$ must be not $\overline{2}$-separable.

## 2 The Matrix Representation

Consider a $s \times t$ 0-1 matrix $M$ where $R_{i}$ and $C_{j}$ denote row $i$ and column $j$, respectively. $M$ is called $d$-separable if the boolean sums of $d$ columns are all distinct. $M$ is called $\bar{d}$-separable if the boolean sums of $\leq d$ columns are all distinct. $M$ is called $d$-disjunct if the boolean sum of any $d$ columns does not contain any other column. It is clear to know that $\bar{d}$-separable implies $d$-separable and $d$-separable implies $k$-separable for every $1 \leq k \leq d$.

Let $B(S)$ denote the boolean sum of a set $S$ of columns.
Lemma 1. [2] If the matrix $M$ is d-disjunct then $M$ is $\bar{d}$-separable.
Proof. Suppose that $M$ is not $\bar{d}$-separable, i.e., there exist a set $K$ of $k$ columns and another set $K^{\prime}$ of $k^{\prime}$ columns, $1 \leq k \leq k^{\prime} \leq d$, such that $B(K)=B\left(K^{\prime}\right)$. Let $C_{j}$ be a column in $K^{\prime} \backslash K$. Then $C_{j} \subseteq B(K)$ and $M$ is not $k$-disjunct, hence not d-disjunct.

Lemma 2. [2] Deleting any row $R_{i}$ from a d-disjunct matrix $M$ yields a $d$-separable matrix $M_{i}$.

Proof. Let $S$ be a set of $d$ columns and $S^{\prime}$ be an another set of $d$ columns. We claim that $B(S)$ and $B\left(S^{\prime}\right)$ must differ in at least 2 rows. Suppose not, $B(S)$ and $B\left(S^{\prime}\right)$ differ in one row. Assume $B(S) \subseteq B\left(S^{\prime}\right)$, then there is a
cloumn $C_{i}$ in $S \backslash S^{\prime}$ such that $C_{i} \subseteq B(S) \subseteq B\left(S^{\prime}\right)$. Since, $M$ is d-disjunct. This is a contradiction. Hence, they are different even after the deletion of a row.

Theorem 3. [3] Let $M$ be a d-separable matrix and $1 \leq k \leq d-1$. Then $M$ is $\overline{k+1}$-separable, if and only if $M$ is $k$-disjunct.

Proof. Sufficiency:
Suppose to the contrary that there exist two distinct sets $S$ and $S^{\prime}$ of columns in $M,|S| \leq k+1,\left|S^{\prime}\right| \leq k+1$, such that $B(S)=B\left(S^{\prime}\right)$. By the $d$-separable property of $M$, we may assume $|S|<\left|S^{\prime}\right| \leq k+1$. Then there exist a column $C \in S^{\prime} \backslash S$. Since $C \subseteq B\left(S^{\prime}\right)$, we obtain $C \subseteq B(S)$, which violates the $k$-disjunct property of $M$.

## Necessity:

Suppose $M$ is not $k$-disjunct, i.e., there exist a column $C$ and a set $S$ of $k$ other columns such that $C \subseteq B(S)$. Then $B(S)=B\left(S^{\prime}\right)$ where $S^{\prime}=S \bigcup\{C\}$ and $|S|,\left|S^{\prime}\right| \leq k+1$. Hence $M$ is not $\overline{k+1}$-separable.

## 3 Basic Definitions of BIBD

Definition 4. A design is a pair $(X, B)$ such that the following properties are satisfied:

1. $X$ is a set of elements called points, and
2. $B$ is a collection of nonempty subsets of $X$ called blocks.

Let $v, k$, and $\lambda$ be positive integers such that $v>k \geq 2$. A $(v, k, \lambda)$ balanced incomplete block design (which we abbreviate to $(v, k, \lambda)$-BIBD) is
a design $(X, B)$ such that the following properties are satisfied:

1. $|X|=v$,
2. each block contains exactly $k$ points, and
3. every pair of distinct points is contained in exactly $\lambda$ blocks.

Example 5. A (7, 3, 1)-BIBD

$$
\begin{aligned}
X & =\{1,2,3,4,5,6,7\} \\
B & =\{123,145,167,246,257,347,356\} .
\end{aligned}
$$



We will use the notation that $b=|B|$ and $r_{x}$ is the number of blocks containing $x$, for all $x \in X$. In a $(v, k, \lambda)$-BIBD, every point has the same number of blocks which pass it. So, we called $r_{x}=r$.

Definition 6. The incidence matrix of $(X, B)$ is the $v \times b 0-1$ matrix $M=$ ( $m_{i, j}$ ) defined by the rule

$$
m_{i, j}= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } x_{i} \in A_{j}, \\ 0 & \text { if } x_{i} \notin A_{j},\end{cases}
$$

where $A_{1}, \cdots, A_{v}$ are blocks. The incidence matrix, $M$ of a $(v, k, \lambda)$-BIBD satisfies the following properties:

1. every column of $M$ contains exactly $k 1$ 's,
2. every row of $M$ contains exactly $r=\frac{\lambda(v-1)}{k-1} 1$ 's,
3. two distinct rows of $M$ both contain 1 in exactly $\lambda$ columns.

An $\left(n^{2}+n+1, n+1,1\right)$-BIBD with $n \geq 2$ is called a projective plane of order $n$ and it is a symmetric $\operatorname{BIBD}(b=v, r=k)$.

Corollary 7. The incidence matrix of a projective plane of order $n$ is $n$ disjunct.

Proof. In the incidence matrix of a projective plane of order $n$, any two columns intersect in exactly 1 point and every column contains exactly $n+1$ 1's. Now, we take a set $S$ of $n$ columns. Suppose there exists another cloumn $C_{j}$ with weight $n+1$ such that $C_{j} \subseteq B(S)$. By Pigeonhole Principle, the column $C_{j}$ and one of columns in $S$ have two 1's in their intersection. This is a contradiction.

Corollary 8. The matrix obtained by deleting a row of the incidence matrix of the projective plane of order $n$ is $\bar{n}$-separable.

Proof. Now, we delete a point from a projective plane, i.e., deleting a row from the incidence matrix $M$. Let it be $M^{\prime}$. By Lemma $2, M^{\prime}$ is $n$-separable. Every column in $M^{\prime}$ contains $n+1$ or $n$ 1's. Now, we claim that $M^{\prime}$ is $(n-1)$ disjunct. We take a set $S$ of $n-1$ columns. Suppose there exists another cloumn $C_{j}$ with weight $n$ such that $C_{j} \subseteq B(S)$. By Pigeonhole Principle, the column $C_{j}$ and one of columns in $S$ have two 1's in their intersection. This is a contradiction. $M^{\prime}$ is $(n-1)$-disjunct. By Theorem $3, M^{\prime}$ is $\bar{n}$ separable.

In particular, when $n=2$, this is a $(7,3,1)$-BIBD, i.e., this is a projective plane of order 2 . The $6 \times 7$ matrix obtained by deleting a row of the incidence matrix of the projective plane of order 2 is $\overline{2}$-separable. Now, we prove that there is no $\overline{2}$-separable $s \times t$ matrix with $s<t<7$.

## 4 The main result

Theorem 9. There is no $\overline{2}$-separable $s \times t$ matrix with $s<t<7$.
Proof. If the $s \times t$ matrix is not $\overline{2}$-separable, the $k \times t$ matrix is not $\overline{2}$-separable for $k<s$, either. So, we just consider the condition $s=t-1$. Suppose to the contrary that there exists a $\overline{2}$-separable matrix $M_{s \times t}=\left[m_{i j}\right]$. So, any two columns in $M_{s \times t}$ are different. Let $(s, t)$ be such a pair of $M_{s \times t}$ that $t$ is smallest.

First, we have two claims:

1. Each column in $M_{s \times t}$ has at least 2 1's

Suppose there is a zero column in $M_{s \times t}$. Any column union with the zero column is still itself. This is a contradiction.

Suppose there is a column with one 1 in $M_{s \times t}$. Then the other elements of the row corresponding to this 1 are all 0 . Otherwise, $M_{s \times t}$ is not a $\overline{2}$-separable matrix. So, $M_{s \times t}$ has the following form.

$$
\left(\begin{array}{ccccccc} 
& & & 0 & & & \\
& \ddots & & \vdots & & & \\
& & & 0 & & & \\
0 & \ldots & 0 & 1 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\
& & & 0 & & & \\
& & & \vdots & & \ddots & \\
& & & 0 & & &
\end{array}\right)
$$

But we can get a $\overline{2}$-separable matrix $M_{s-1 \times t-1}$ by deleting the row and the column corresponding to this 1 . This is a contradiction to $t$ be the smallest.
2. Each column in $M_{s \times t}$ has at most s-2 1's

Suppose there is a column with all 1's in $M_{s \times t}$. Any column union with the this column is this column. This is a contradiction.

Suppose there is a column with s-1 1's in $M_{s \times t}$. Say this is the last
column as follows.

$$
\left(\begin{array}{c}
1 \\
1 \\
\vdots \\
1 \\
1 \\
0
\end{array}\right)
$$

Then $m_{s j}=1$, where $1 \leq j \leq t-1$. Otherwise, if a $m_{s k}=0$ for some $1 \leq k \leq t-1$, the union of column k and column t is identical with


But the union of any column from 1 to $t-1$ and the column t is a column with all 1's. This is a contradiction to $M_{s \times t}$ be $\overline{2}$-separable.

Since $M_{s \times t}$ is $\overline{2}$-separable. The columns which we choosed have

$$
\binom{t}{1}+\binom{t}{2}
$$

conditions. Since each column in $M_{5 \times 6}$ has at least 2 1's, the boolean sum of the columns which we choosed have

$$
\binom{s}{2}+\binom{s}{3}+\cdots+\binom{s}{s}
$$

results. Since the number of results is more than the number of conditions, the $\overline{2}$-separable matrix $M_{s \times t}$ satisfies

$$
\binom{t}{1}+\binom{t}{2} \leq\binom{ s}{2}+\binom{s}{3}+\cdots+\binom{s}{s} .
$$

Now we want to discuss the conditions for $t<7$.

1. When $\mathrm{s}=2, \mathrm{t}=3 ; \mathrm{LHS}=6, \mathrm{RHS}=1$.

This is a contradiction.
2. When $\mathrm{s}=3, \mathrm{t}=4 ; \mathrm{LHS}=10, \mathrm{RHS}=4$.

This is a contradiction.
3. When $\mathrm{s}=4, \mathrm{t}=5$; $\mathrm{LHS}=15, \mathrm{RHS}=11$.

This is a contradiction.
4. When $\mathrm{s}=5, \mathrm{t}=6$; $\mathrm{LHS}=21, \mathrm{RHS}=26$.

This case satisfies the neccessary condition.

Hence, we just consider the matrix $M_{5 \times 6}$.

By two claims, the weight of a column in $M_{5 \times 6}$ is 2 or 3 , so we have 5 conditions.

1. There are at least four columns with weight 3 .
2. There are three columns with weight 3 and three columns with weight 2 in $M_{5 \times 6}$.
3. There are two columns with weight 3 and four columns with weight 2 in $M_{5 \times 6}$.
4. There are only one column with weight 3 in $M_{5 \times 6}$.
5. The weight of every column in $M_{5 \times 6}$ is 2 .

Now we discuss the cases step-by-step.
First, we define $N=\left(n_{1}, n_{2}, n_{3}, n_{4}, n_{5}\right)$ where $n_{i}$ is the number of zeros at the $i$ th row in $M_{5 \times 6}$.

Case 1: There are at least four columns with weight 3.
We just consider the matrix $M_{5 \times 4}$ which consists of four columns with weight 3. In other word, every column in this $M_{5 \times 4}$ has 20 's. So, there are 80 's in this $M_{5 \times 4}$. Now, we want to discuss the conditions of $N$. If $N=(4,4,0,0,0)$, then $M_{5 \times 4}$ as follows.

| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

But there are two columns identical. This is a contradiction. Thus, we find $N$ such that any two columns are different. So, when $N=(4,4,0,0,0),(4,3,1,0,0)$, $(4,2,2,0,0),(4,2,1,1,0),(3,3,2,0,0)$ and $(3,3,1,1,0)$, they do not satisfy the condition. And we find five cases for $N$ which satisfy the condition.

Case 1.1: $N=(4,1,1,1,1)$. W.L.O.G, we take $M_{5 \times 4}$ as follows.

| $A$ | $B$ | $C$ | $D$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

But the unions of any two columns are identical. Hence, $M_{5 \times 4}$ is not $\overline{2}-$ separable. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 1.2: $N=(3,2,2,1,0)$. W.L.O.G, we take $M_{5 \times 4}$ as follows.

| $A$ | $B$ | $C$ | $D$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

But the union of column A and column B is identical with the union of column A and column C. Hence, $M_{5 \times 4}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 1.3: $N=(3,2,1,1,1)$. W.L.O.G, we take $M_{5 \times 4}$ as follows.

| $A$ | $B$ | $C$ | $D$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

But the union of column A and column B is identical with the union of column A and column C. Hence, $M_{5 \times 4}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 1.4: $N=(2,2,2,1,1)$. W.L.O.G, we take $M_{5 \times 4}$ as follows.

| $A$ | $B$ | $C$ | $D$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

But the union of column A and column C is identical with the union of column A and column D. Hence, $M_{5 \times 4}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 1.5: $N=(2,2,2,2,0)$. W.L.O.G, we take $M_{5 \times 4}$ as follows.

| $A$ | $B$ | $C$ | $D$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

But the union of column A and column C is identical with the union of column B and column D. Hence, $M_{5 \times 4}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Note: A column with weight 2 has ten conditions.

| $A$ | $B$ | $C$ | $D$ | $E$ | $F$ | $G$ | $H$ | $I$ | $J$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

In the following cases, we will use it.
Case 2: There are the three columns with weight 3 and three columns with weight 2 in $M_{5 \times 6}$.

First, we take three columns with weight 3 . There are 60 's in these cloumns. Now, we find $N$ such that two columns are different. So, when $N=(3,3,0,0,0)$ and $(3,2,1,0,0)$, they do not satisfy the condition. And we find four cases for $N$ which satisfy the condition.

Case 2.1: $N=(3,1,1,1,0)$. W.L.O.G, we take the three columns as follows.

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 0 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 0 \\
1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}
$$

But the union of any two columns are identical. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$ separable in this case.

Case 2.2: $N=(2,2,1,1,0)$. W.L.O.G, we take the three columns as follows.

| $X$ | $Y$ | $Z$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |

Since $M_{5 \times 6}$ is $\overline{2}$-separable matrix, we can't take columns B, D, F, G, H, I, J. Hence, we have $M_{5 \times 6}$ as follows.

| $X$ | $Y$ | $Z$ | $A$ | $C$ | $E$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

But the union of column X and column A is identical with the union of column Y and column Z. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 2.3: $N=(2,2,2,0,0)$. W.L.O.G, we take the three columns as follows.

| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |

Since $M_{5 \times 6}$ is $\overline{2}$-separable, we can't take columns C, D, F, G, H, I, J. Hence, we have $M_{5 \times 6}$ as follows.

|  |  |  |  | $A$ | $B$ | $E$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |  |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |

But the union of column A and column B is identical with the union of column A and column E. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 2.4: $N=(2,1,1,1,1)$. W.L.O.G, we take the three columns as
follows.

| $X$ | $Y$ | $Z$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |

But the union of column X and column Z is identical with the union of column Y and column Z . Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 3: There are two columns with weight 3 and four columns with weight 2 in $M_{5 \times 6}$.

First, we take two columns with weight 3 . There are 40 's in these cloumns. Now, we find $N$ such that two columns are different. So, when $N=(2,2,0,0,0)$, it do not satisfy the condition. And we find two cases for $N$ which satisfy the condition.

Case 3.1: $N=(1,1,1,1,0)$. W.L.O.G, we take the two columns as follows.

| 0 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 |

Since $M_{5 \times 6}$ is $\overline{2}$-separable, we can't take columns A, D, G, H, I, J. Hence,
we have $M_{5 \times 6}$ as follows.
$\left.\begin{array}{llllll} & & & B & C & E\end{array}\right)$

But the union of column B and column F is identical with the union of column C and column E. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 3.2: $N=(2,1,1,0,0)$. W.L.O.G, we take the two columns as follows.

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 \\
1 & 0 \\
1 & 1 \\
1 & 1
\end{array}
$$

Since $M_{5 \times 6}$ is $\overline{2}$-separable, we can't take columns F, G, H, I, J and we just can take one of columns B, C, D. But we only have five columns. This is a contradiction. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 4: There are only one column with weight 3 in $M_{5 \times 6}$.
First, we take the column with weight 3. W.L.O.G, we take one column
as follow.

```
1
1
1
0
0
```

Since $M_{5 \times 6}$ is $\overline{2}$-separable, we can't take columns A, B, E. And we just can take one of columns C, F, H, we just can take one of columns D, G and we just can take two of columns H, I, J. But we only have five columns. This is a contradiction. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Case 5: The weight of every column in $M_{5 \times 6}$ is 2 .
There are $2 \times 6=12$ 1's in $M_{5 \times 6}$. But there are five rows. By Pigeonhole Principle, there must be a row that contains 3 1's in $M_{5 \times 6}$.


There are $3 \times 3=90$ 's in these columns. It remains four rows. By Pigeonhole

Principle, there must be a row that contains 30 's.

$$
\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
1 & 1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 0 \\
\square & \square & \square \\
\square & \square & \square \\
\square & \square & \square
\end{array}\right)
$$

W.L.O.G, the three columns are

$$
\begin{gathered}
B \\
C
\end{gathered} \quad D
$$

$M_{5 \times 6}$ is $\overline{2}$-separable. But the union of column C and column H is identical with the union of column $B$ and column $H$, the union of column $B$ and column I is identical with the union of column D and column I and the union of column C and column J is identical with the union of column D and column J. So, we can not take cloumns H, I and J. Since the union of column A and column D is identical with the union of column $G$ and column $D$, we just can take one of columns A, G. Since the union of column C and column E is identical with the union of column B and column F , we just can take one of columns E, F. But we only have five columns. This is a contradiction. Thus, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable in this case.

Through above discussion, $M_{5 \times 6}$ is not $\overline{2}$-separable. Thus, there is no $\overline{2}$-separable $s \times t$ matrix with $s<t<7$.

Conjecture 10. There is no $\bar{d}$-separable matrix of size $s \times t$ with $s<t<$ $d^{2}+d+1$.

## 5 References

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