

# Necessary condition for existence of conditional SIC-POVM

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## 1 Introduction

This paper is an announcement of our result and the detailed version will be submitted to somewhere. (See [2].)

POVMs (positive operator valued measure) on quantum systems are considered as a measurement in quantum physics. If POVMs have a good condition, then we can determine a state by results of a measurement. In this case, the POVM is called informationally complete and the process is called quantum state tomography.

First, we introduce SIC-POVMs (symmetric informationally complete POVM). SIC-POVMs is generated by vectors in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  whose the absolute values of inner products of each vectors are same. Zauner conjectured that there exist such  $n^2$  vectors in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  for any  $n$ . But the existence is only proved when  $n \leq 15$  and  $n = 19, 24, 35, 48$  [5, 8].

Next, we introduce conditional SIC-POVMs. A state of a quantum system is a density matrix which has several parameters. When a few parameters are known, then SIC-POVM is not the best measurement to determine the state. Hence we need another POVM and it is a conditional SIC-POVM. Conditional SIC-POVMs are also generated by vectors in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . But the existence of conditional SIC-POVMs depends on the system. We will discuss the details in Sect. 4.

## 2 Preliminaries

**Definition 2.1**  $\rho \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  is called a density matrix (or state) if  $\rho \geq 0$  and

$$\text{Tr}(\rho) = 1.$$

For any density matrix  $\rho$ , we can define a state  $\hat{\rho}$  by

$$\hat{\rho}(X) = \text{Tr}(\rho X).$$

Conversely, any state is written by the above form. Therefore, there exists a one-to-one correspondence between density matrices and states.

**Definition 2.2** A set of positive operators  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^k \subset M_n(\mathbb{C})$  is called a positive operator valued measure (POVM) if  $P_i \geq 0$  ( $1 \leq i \leq k$ ) and

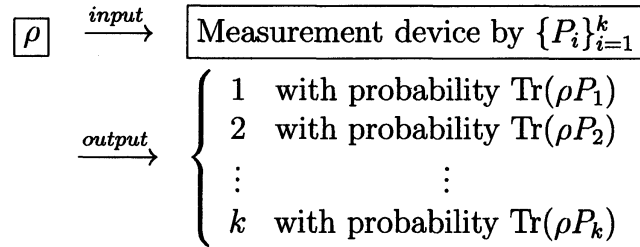
$$\sum_{i=1}^k P_i = I.$$

If  $P_i$  is a projection, then  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^k$  is called a projection valued measure (PVM).

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For a POVM  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^k$ , we can consider a measurement device by using this POVM:



This means that we can know  $\text{Tr}(\rho P_i)$  for all  $(1 \leq i \leq k)$ , if we have many copies of  $\rho$ . Therefore, if a POVM  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^k$  has a good condition, then we can determine the quantum state  $\rho$  by  $\text{Tr}(\rho P_i)$ . This is called **quantum state tomography**.

**Definition 2.3** A POVM  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^k$  is called *informationally complete* if for density matrices  $\rho \neq \sigma$ , there exists  $P_i$  such that

$$\text{Tr}(\rho P_i) \neq \text{Tr}(\sigma P_i).$$

If a POVM  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^k$  is informationally complete, then we can determine the quantum state  $\rho$  by  $\text{Tr}(\rho P_i)$ . If  $\rho$  is a state in  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ , then the following statement holds.

**Theorem 2.4** A POVM  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^k \subset M_n(\mathbb{C})$  is informationally complete if and only if

$$\text{span}\{P_i\}_{i=1}^k = M_n(\mathbb{C}).$$

In particular, we can determine the quantum state  $\rho$  by  $\text{Tr}(\rho P_i)$ .

**Example 2.5** For small  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_1 &= \frac{1}{2+2\varepsilon^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \varepsilon \\ \varepsilon & \varepsilon^2 \end{bmatrix}, P_2 = \frac{1}{2+2\varepsilon^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\varepsilon \\ -\varepsilon & \varepsilon^2 \end{bmatrix}, \\
 P_3 &= \frac{1}{2+2\varepsilon^2} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon^2 & \varepsilon i \\ -\varepsilon i & 1 \end{bmatrix}, P_4 = \frac{1}{2+2\varepsilon^2} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon^2 & -i\varepsilon \\ i\varepsilon & 1 \end{bmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^4$  is an informationally complete POVM. For a state  $\rho$  in  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ , by equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2+2\varepsilon^2)\text{Tr}(\rho P_1) &= \rho_{11} + \varepsilon\rho_{12} + \varepsilon\rho_{21} + \varepsilon^2\rho_{22} \\
 (2+2\varepsilon^2)\text{Tr}(\rho P_2) &= \rho_{11} - \varepsilon\rho_{12} - \varepsilon\rho_{21} + \varepsilon^2\rho_{22} \\
 (2+2\varepsilon^2)\text{Tr}(\rho P_3) &= \varepsilon^2\rho_{11} - i\varepsilon\rho_{12} + i\varepsilon\rho_{21} + \rho_{22} \\
 (2+2\varepsilon^2)\text{Tr}(\rho P_4) &= \varepsilon^2\rho_{11} + i\varepsilon\rho_{12} - i\varepsilon\rho_{21} + \rho_{22},
 \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \rho = & \text{Tr}(\rho P_1) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon^2} & \frac{1}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} \\ \frac{1}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} & \frac{-\varepsilon^2}{1-\varepsilon^2} \end{bmatrix} + \text{Tr}(\rho P_2) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon^2} & \frac{-1}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} \\ \frac{-1}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} & \frac{-\varepsilon^2}{1-\varepsilon^2} \end{bmatrix} \\ & + \text{Tr}(\rho P_3) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-\varepsilon^2}{1-\varepsilon^2} & \frac{i}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} \\ \frac{-i}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} & \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon^2} \end{bmatrix} + \text{Tr}(\rho P_4) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-\varepsilon^2}{1-\varepsilon^2} & \frac{-i}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} \\ \frac{i}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} & \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon^2} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we can determine a state  $\rho$ . But this is not a good POVM to detect  $\rho$ . Since

$$\rho_{12} = \frac{1}{4\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon^2)} (\text{Tr}(P_1\rho) - \text{Tr}(P_2\rho) - i(\text{Tr}(P_3\rho) - \text{Tr}(P_4\rho))),$$

a small error causes a big difference.

If a POVM is informationally complete, then we can determine a state  $\rho$  by  $\{\text{Tr}(\rho P_i)\}_{i=1}^k$ . But by  $\ell$  experiments, we can only obtain approximate values of  $\{\text{Tr}(\rho P_i)\}_{i=1}^k$ . Let the candidate generated by these approximate values be  $\hat{\rho}$ . A POVM is called optimal, if the expected value of

$$\|\rho - \hat{\rho}\|_2$$

is the minimum among all candidates generated by any POVM and  $\ell$  experiments. If a POVM is optimal, then it satisfies the following condition.

**Theorem 2.6** [4] *A POVM in  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  with rank one positive operators  $\{\frac{n}{k}P_i\}_{i=1}^k$  are optimal POVM if and only if*

$$\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{n}{k} |P_i\rangle\langle P_i| = \frac{1}{n+1} (\text{id}_{M_n(\mathbb{C})} + |I\rangle\langle I|),$$

where  $|P_i\rangle\langle P_i|$  is a superoperator  $M_n(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{C})$  with  $A \mapsto \text{Tr}(AP_i)P_i$ .

### 3 SIC-POVM

In this section, we introduce a SIC-POVM (symmetric informationally complete positive operator valued measure) which is an optimal POVM.

**Definition 3.1** *A set of vectors  $\{\xi_i\}_{i=1}^{n^2} \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is called symmetric informationally complete POVM (SIC-POVM) if*

$$|\langle \xi_i, \xi_j \rangle| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}}.$$

A POVM generated by the above vectors

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{n} |\xi_i\rangle\langle\xi_i| \right\}_{i=1}^{n^2}$$

is also called a SIC-POVM, where  $|x\rangle\langle y|z = \langle y, z\rangle x$  for all  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{C}^n$ .

A SIC-POVM is informationally complete. Indeed, if we assume

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n^2} a_i |\xi_i\rangle\langle\xi_i| = 0,$$

then for all  $1 \leq j \leq n^2$  we have

$$0 = \text{Tr} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n^2} a_i |\xi_i\rangle\langle\xi_i| \cdot |\xi_j\rangle\langle\xi_j| \right) = a_j + \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i \neq j} a_i.$$

So it is easy to see that  $\{|\xi_i\rangle\langle\xi_i|\}_{i=1}^{n^2}$  is linearly independent. Moreover, for all  $1 \leq j \leq n^2$ ,

$$\text{Tr} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n^2} \frac{1}{n} |\xi_i\rangle\langle\xi_i| \cdot |\xi_j\rangle\langle\xi_j| \right) = \frac{1}{n} + \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = 1.$$

Hence  $\sum_{i=1}^{n^2} \frac{1}{n} |\xi_i\rangle\langle\xi_i| = I$ .

**Example 3.2** In  $\mathbb{C}^2$ ,

$$\xi_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \xi_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \xi_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \xi_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

is a SIC-POVM, where  $\lambda = e^{2\pi i/3} = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{2}$ .

In  $\mathbb{C}^3$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \xi_2 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{3} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \xi_3 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -\sqrt{3} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \xi_4 &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \\ \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \xi_5 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \\ \sqrt{2}\lambda \end{bmatrix}, \xi_6 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \\ \sqrt{2}\bar{\lambda} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \xi_7 &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \\ \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \xi_8 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \\ \sqrt{2}\lambda \end{bmatrix}, \xi_9 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \\ \sqrt{2}\bar{\lambda} \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

is a SIC-POVM, where  $\lambda = e^{2\pi i/3}$ .

It is known that a SIC-POVM exists if  $n \leq 15$  or  $n = 19, 24, 35, 48$ . Numerical solutions have been found when  $n \leq 67$ . But for other cases, the existence is an open problem. The following is conjectured by G. Zauner in 1999 [7].

Let

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda^2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda^{n-1} \end{bmatrix}, S = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $\lambda = \exp \frac{2\pi i}{n}$ .  $\{W^k S^\ell\}_{k,\ell=1}$  are called generalized Pauli matrices.

**Definition 3.3** A unit vector  $\xi$  is called a fiducial vector if

$$\{W^k S^\ell \xi\}_{k,\ell=1}^n$$

is a SIC-POVM.

**Conjecture** (Zauner's conjecture [7]) A fiducial vector exists in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  for all  $n \geq 2$ . In particular, a SIC-POVM exists in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

## 4 Conditional SIC-POVM

Recently, SIC-POVMs in arbitrary subspace of  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  are also considered. Let  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  be decomposed as

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}I \oplus \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B}$$

and  $\rho \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  be a density matrix. Let  $P_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $P_{\mathcal{B}}$  be projections onto  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ . Assume we know  $P_{\mathcal{A}}\rho$ . Then we want to know an optimal POVM which determines  $\rho$ . Since we already know  $P_{\mathcal{A}}\rho$ , SIC-POVM is not suitable.

Let  $\dim \mathcal{A} = m$  then  $\dim \mathcal{B} = n^2 - m - 1$  and let  $N = n^2 - m$ . For rank one informationally complete POVM  $\{\frac{n}{k}P_i\}_{i=1}^k$ , let

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{n}{k} |P_i\rangle\langle P_i|.$$

Then the following theorem holds.

**Theorem 4.1** [3] Rank one informationally complete POVM  $\{\frac{n}{N}P_i\}_{i=1}^N$  is optimal if and only if

$$\mathcal{F} = |I\rangle\langle I| + \frac{n-1}{N-1}P_{\mathcal{B}}.$$

In this case,

$$\sum_{i=1}^k P_i = \frac{N}{n}I, \quad \text{Tr}(P_i P_j) = \frac{N-n}{n(N-1)}.$$

Such POVM is called a conditional SIC-POVM. Examples of conditional SIC-POVMs are following.

**Example 4.2** If we do not have any information a priory about the state ( $m = 0, N = n^2$ ), then

$$\text{Tr} P_i P_j = \frac{1}{n+1} \quad (i \neq j)$$

so the optimal POVM is the well-known SIC-POVM (if it exists).

**Example 4.3** If we know the off-diagonal elements of the state, and we want to estimate the diagonal entries ( $m = n^2 - n, N = n$ ), then from Theorem 4.1 it follows that the optimal POVM has the properties

$$\text{Tr} P_i P_j = 0 \quad (i \neq j), \quad \sum_{i=1}^n P_i = I, \quad \text{and} \quad P_i \text{ is diagonal.}$$

So the diagonal matrix units form an optimal POVM.

**Example 4.4** If we know the diagonal elements of the state, and we want to estimate the off-diagonal entries ( $m = n - 1, N = n^2 - n + 1$ ), then from Theorem 4.1 it follows that the optimal POVM has the properties

$$\text{Tr} P_i P_j = \frac{n-1}{n^2} \quad (i \neq j), \quad \sum_{i=1}^n P_i = \frac{n^2 - n + 1}{n} I$$

and  $P_i$  has a constant diagonal.

The existence is not clear generally, but if  $n - 1$  is a prime power then it can be constructed. Details are written in [3].

Next, we present a necessary condition for existence of a conditional SIC-POVM.

**Lemma 4.5** Let  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^N$  be a conditional SIC-POVM in  $A \oplus C$  and let

$$Q_i = \sqrt{\frac{n(N-1)}{N(n-1)}} \left( P_i - \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) I \right). \quad (1)$$

Then  $\{Q_i\}_{i=1}^N$  is an orthonormal basis of  $A \oplus C$ .

Proof. For any  $1 \leq i \leq N$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \operatorname{Tr} \left( \left( P_i - \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) I \right)^2 \right) \\
&= \operatorname{Tr} \left( P_i - \frac{2}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) P_i + \frac{1}{n^2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right)^2 I \right) \\
&= 1 - \frac{2}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) + \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} + \frac{n-1}{N-1} \right) \\
&= 1 - \frac{1}{n} + \frac{n-1}{n(N-1)} \\
&= \frac{N(n-1)}{n(N-1)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, for any  $1 \leq i < j \leq N$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \operatorname{Tr} \left( \left( P_i - \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) I \right) \left( P_j - \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) I \right) \right) \\
&= \frac{N-n}{n(N-1)} - \frac{2}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) + \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} + \frac{n-1}{N-1} \right) \\
&= \frac{N-n}{n(N-1)} - \frac{1}{n} + \frac{n-1}{n(N-1)} = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

These equations imply  $\langle Q_i, Q_j \rangle = \operatorname{Tr}(Q_i^* Q_j) = \delta_{ij}$  so that  $\{Q_i\}_{i=1}^N$  is an orthonormal basis of  $A \oplus C$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.6** *If there exists a conditional SIC-POVM in  $A \oplus C$ , then for any  $X \in B$  and any orthonormal basis  $\{R_i\}_{i=1}^m$  of  $B$ ,*

$$\sum_{i=1}^m R_i^* X R_i = \frac{N-n}{n(n-1)} X.$$

Proof. Let  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^N$  be a conditional SIC-POVM in  $A \oplus C$  and define  $\{Q_i\}_{i=1}^N$  by (1). Then from the previous lemma,  $\{Q_1, \dots, Q_N, R_1, \dots, R_m\}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ . It is well known that

$$\sum_{i=1}^N Q_i^* X Q_i + \sum_{i=1}^m R_i^* X R_i = \operatorname{Tr}(X).$$

$B$  is orthogonal to  $A = \mathbb{C}I$  so that  $\operatorname{Tr}(X) = 0$ . Hence we will calculate  $\sum_{i=1}^N Q_i^* X Q_i$ . Since  $P_i$  is a rank one projection,  $P_i X P_i = t P_i$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{C}$ . But  $\operatorname{Tr}(P_i X P_i) =$

$\langle P_i, X \rangle = 0$  implies  $t = 0$ . Therefore  $P_i X P_i = 0$ . From the equation

$$\sum_{i=1}^N P_i = \frac{N}{n} I,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{N(n-1)}{n(N-1)} \sum_{i=1}^N Q_i^* X Q_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left( P_i - \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) \right) X \left( P_i - \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left( P_i X P_i - \frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) (X P_i + P_i X) + \frac{1}{n^2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right)^2 X \right) \\ &= \left( -\frac{1}{n} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) \left( X \sum_{i=1}^N P_i + \sum_{i=1}^N P_i X \right) + \frac{N}{n^2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right)^2 X \right) \\ &= \left( -\frac{2N}{n^2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} \right) + \frac{N}{n^2} \left( 1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{n-1}{N-1}} + \frac{n-1}{N-1} \right) \right) X \\ &= \frac{N}{n^2} \left( -1 + \frac{n-1}{N-1} \right) X = \frac{N(n-N)}{n^2(N-1)} X. \end{aligned}$$

This implies the assertion. □

**Example 4.7** Now we consider  $M_4(\mathbb{C}) = M_2(\mathbb{C}) \otimes M_2(\mathbb{C})$ . A density matrix

$$\rho = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{bmatrix}$$

has reduced densities:

$$\rho_1 = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + a_{22} & a_{13} + a_{24} \\ a_{31} + a_{42} & a_{33} + a_{44} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \rho_2 = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + a_{33} & a_{12} + a_{34} \\ a_{21} + a_{43} & a_{22} + a_{44} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The condition  $\rho_1 = \rho_2$  implies

$$a_{22} = a_{33} \quad \text{and} \quad a_{13} + a_{24} = a_{12} + a_{34}.$$

Let

$$R_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_{22} - e_{33}), \quad R_2 = \frac{1}{2}(e_{12} - e_{13} - e_{24} + e_{34}), \quad R_3 = \frac{1}{2}(e_{21} - e_{31} - e_{42} + e_{43}),$$



and  $B = \text{span}\{R_1, R_2, R_3\}$ , then

$$\rho = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ a_{12}^* & b & a_{23} & c - a_{13} \\ a_{13}^* & a_{23}^* & b & c - a_{12} \\ a_{14}^* & c^* - a_{13}^* & c^* - a_{12}^* & a_{44} \end{bmatrix}$$

is orthogonal to  $B$ . But a conditional SIC-POVM for this  $\rho$  does not exist. Indeed, the equations

$$R_1^* R_1 R_1 = \frac{1}{2} R_1, \quad R_2^* R_1 R_2 = 0, \quad R_3^* R_1 R_3 = 0$$

imply  $\sum_{i=1}^3 R_i^* R_1 R_i = \frac{1}{2} R_1$  and this is in contradict to the condition in Theorem 4.6.

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