

Resolving sets for incidence graphs

Robert Bailey
University of Regina

23rd British Combinatorial Conference
Exeter
5th July 2011

Metric dimension

- ▶ Let $\Gamma = (V, E)$ be a graph.

Metric dimension

- ▶ Let $\Gamma = (V, E)$ be a graph.
- ▶ A subset $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} \subseteq V$ is a *resolving set* for Γ if, for every vertex w , the list of distances

$$(d(w, v_1), d(w, v_2), \dots, d(w, v_k))$$

is unique.

Metric dimension

- ▶ Let $\Gamma = (V, E)$ be a graph.
- ▶ A subset $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} \subseteq V$ is a *resolving set* for Γ if, for every vertex w , the list of distances

$$(d(w, v_1), d(w, v_2), \dots, d(w, v_k))$$

is unique.

- ▶ In other words, for all distinct vertices u, w , there exists $v_i \in S$ such that $d(u, v_i) \neq d(w, v_i)$.

Metric dimension

- ▶ Let $\Gamma = (V, E)$ be a graph.
- ▶ A subset $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} \subseteq V$ is a *resolving set* for Γ if, for every vertex w , the list of distances

$$(d(w, v_1), d(w, v_2), \dots, d(w, v_k))$$

is unique.

- ▶ In other words, for all distinct vertices u, w , there exists $v_i \in S$ such that $d(u, v_i) \neq d(w, v_i)$.
- ▶ The *metric dimension* of Γ , denoted $\mu(\Gamma)$, is the smallest size of a resolving set for Γ .

Metric dimension

- ▶ Let $\Gamma = (V, E)$ be a graph.
- ▶ A subset $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} \subseteq V$ is a *resolving set* for Γ if, for every vertex w , the list of distances

$$(d(w, v_1), d(w, v_2), \dots, d(w, v_k))$$

is unique.

- ▶ In other words, for all distinct vertices u, w , there exists $v_i \in S$ such that $d(u, v_i) \neq d(w, v_i)$.
- ▶ The *metric dimension* of Γ , denoted $\mu(\Gamma)$, is the smallest size of a resolving set for Γ .
- ▶ Metric dimension was introduced in the 1970s by Harary and Melter, and (independently) by Slater.

Examples

- ▶ Complete graphs: $\mu(K_n) = n - 1$.

Examples

- ▶ Complete graphs: $\mu(K_n) = n - 1$.
- ▶ Complete bipartite graphs: $\mu(K_{m,n}) = m + n - 2$.

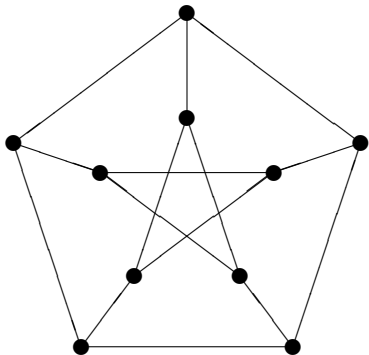
Examples

- ▶ Complete graphs: $\mu(K_n) = n - 1$.
- ▶ Complete bipartite graphs: $\mu(K_{m,n}) = m + n - 2$.
- ▶ Trees: a precise formula due to Slater.

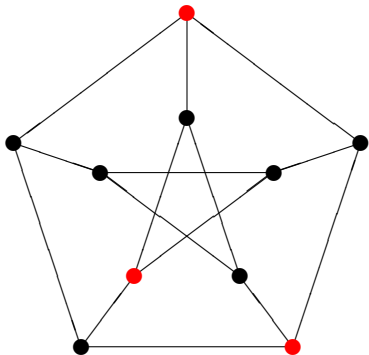
Examples

- ▶ Complete graphs: $\mu(K_n) = n - 1$.
- ▶ Complete bipartite graphs: $\mu(K_{m,n}) = m + n - 2$.
- ▶ Trees: a precise formula due to Slater.
- ▶ Petersen graph: $\mu(P) = 3$.

Example: Petersen graph



Example: Petersen graph



Symmetric designs

- ▶ A *symmetric design* with parameters (v, k, λ) is a pair (X, \mathcal{B}) such that:

Symmetric designs

- ▶ A *symmetric design* with parameters (v, k, λ) is a pair (X, \mathcal{B}) such that:
 - ▶ X is a set of v *points*

Symmetric designs

- ▶ A *symmetric design* with parameters (v, k, λ) is a pair (X, \mathcal{B}) such that:
 - ▶ X is a set of v *points*
 - ▶ \mathcal{B} is a set of k -subsets of X , called *blocks*

Symmetric designs

- ▶ A *symmetric design* with parameters (v, k, λ) is a pair (X, \mathcal{B}) such that:
 - ▶ X is a set of v *points*
 - ▶ \mathcal{B} is a set of k -subsets of X , called *blocks*
 - ▶ any pair of points lie in exactly λ blocks

Symmetric designs

- ▶ A *symmetric design* with parameters (v, k, λ) is a pair (X, \mathcal{B}) such that:
 - ▶ X is a set of v *points*
 - ▶ \mathcal{B} is a set of k -subsets of X , called *blocks*
 - ▶ any pair of points lie in exactly λ blocks
 - ▶ any pair of blocks agree in exactly λ points.

Symmetric designs

- ▶ A *symmetric design* with parameters (v, k, λ) is a pair (X, \mathcal{B}) such that:
 - ▶ X is a set of v *points*
 - ▶ \mathcal{B} is a set of k -subsets of X , called *blocks*
 - ▶ any pair of points lie in exactly λ blocks
 - ▶ any pair of blocks agree in exactly λ points.
- ▶ The last two conditions imply that $|\mathcal{B}| = v$.

Symmetric designs

- ▶ A *symmetric design* with parameters (v, k, λ) is a pair (X, \mathcal{B}) such that:
 - ▶ X is a set of v *points*
 - ▶ \mathcal{B} is a set of k -subsets of X , called *blocks*
 - ▶ any pair of points lie in exactly λ blocks
 - ▶ any pair of blocks agree in exactly λ points.
- ▶ The last two conditions imply that $|\mathcal{B}| = v$.
- ▶ If $\lambda = 1$, we have a *finite projective plane*. (We call the blocks *lines* in that case.)

Symmetric designs: Example

There is a unique symmetric design with parameters $(7, 3, 1)$:

Symmetric designs: Example

There is a unique symmetric design with parameters $(7, 3, 1)$:

1 2 4

2 3 5

3 4 6

4 5 7

5 6 1

6 7 2

7 1 3

Symmetric designs: Example

There is a unique symmetric design with parameters $(7, 3, 1)$:

1 2 4
2 3 5
3 4 6
4 5 7
5 6 1
6 7 2
7 1 3



Incidence graphs

- ▶ From any symmetric design (X, \mathcal{B}) , one can construct a bipartite graph as follows:

Incidence graphs

- ▶ From any symmetric design (X, \mathcal{B}) , one can construct a bipartite graph as follows:
 - ▶ Vertices: $X \cup \mathcal{B}$

Incidence graphs

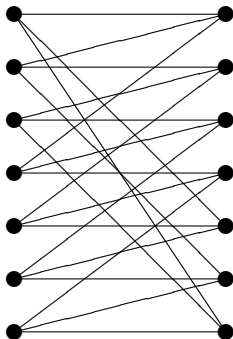
- ▶ From any symmetric design (X, \mathcal{B}) , one can construct a bipartite graph as follows:
 - ▶ Vertices: $X \cup \mathcal{B}$
 - ▶ (p, B) is an edge iff $p \in B$.

Incidence graphs

- ▶ From any symmetric design (X, \mathcal{B}) , one can construct a bipartite graph as follows:
 - ▶ Vertices: $X \cup \mathcal{B}$
 - ▶ (p, B) is an edge iff $p \in B$.
- ▶ This is the *incidence graph* (or *Levi graph*) of the design.

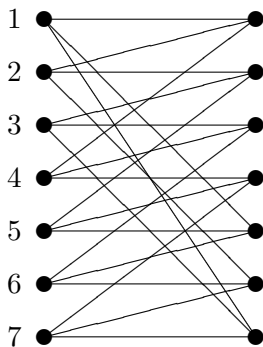
Incidence graphs: Example

The incidence graph of the Fano plane:



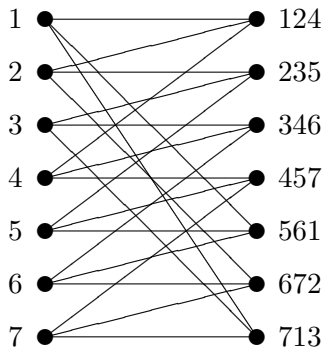
Incidence graphs: Example

The incidence graph of the Fano plane:



Incidence graphs: Example

The incidence graph of the Fano plane:



Distance in incidence graphs

- ▶ The incidence graph of a symmetric design is a bipartite graph of diameter 3:

Distance in incidence graphs

- ▶ The incidence graph of a symmetric design is a bipartite graph of diameter 3:
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 1$ iff (u, v) are an incident point and block (a *flag*)

Distance in incidence graphs

- ▶ The incidence graph of a symmetric design is a bipartite graph of diameter 3:
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 1$ iff (u, v) are an incident point and block (a *flag*)
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 2$ iff (u, v) are two distinct points or two distinct blocks

Distance in incidence graphs

- ▶ The incidence graph of a symmetric design is a bipartite graph of diameter 3:
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 1$ iff (u, v) are an incident point and block (a *flag*)
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 2$ iff (u, v) are two distinct points or two distinct blocks
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 3$ iff (u, v) are a non-incident point and block (an *antiflag*).

Distance in incidence graphs

- ▶ The incidence graph of a symmetric design is a bipartite graph of diameter 3:
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 1$ iff (u, v) are an incident point and block (a *flag*)
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 2$ iff (u, v) are two distinct points or two distinct blocks
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 3$ iff (u, v) are a non-incident point and block (an *antiflag*).
- ▶ So distances in the incidence graph can be entirely described using the structure of the design.

Distance in incidence graphs

- ▶ The incidence graph of a symmetric design is a bipartite graph of diameter 3:
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 1$ iff (u, v) are an incident point and block (a *flag*)
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 2$ iff (u, v) are two distinct points or two distinct blocks
 - ▶ $d(u, v) = 3$ iff (u, v) are a non-incident point and block (an *antiflag*).
- ▶ So distances in the incidence graph can be entirely described using the structure of the design.
- ▶ From now on, we'll restrict ourselves to $\lambda = 1$, i.e. projective planes.

Resolving sets in incidence graphs

- ▶ Let $\Pi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L})$ be a projective plane of order q , and let Γ_{Π} denote its incidence graph.

Resolving sets in incidence graphs

- ▶ Let $\Pi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L})$ be a projective plane of order q , and let Γ_{Π} denote its incidence graph.
- ▶ Recall that there are $q^2 + q + 1$ points and $q^2 + q + 1$ lines, and that each line contains $q + 1$ points.

Resolving sets in incidence graphs

- ▶ Let $\Pi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L})$ be a projective plane of order q , and let Γ_{Π} denote its incidence graph.
- ▶ Recall that there are $q^2 + q + 1$ points and $q^2 + q + 1$ lines, and that each line contains $q + 1$ points.
- ▶ Any resolving set S for Γ_{Π} will have the form $S_{\mathcal{P}} \cup S_{\mathcal{L}}$.

Resolving sets in incidence graphs

- ▶ Let $\Pi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L})$ be a projective plane of order q , and let Γ_{Π} denote its incidence graph.
- ▶ Recall that there are $q^2 + q + 1$ points and $q^2 + q + 1$ lines, and that each line contains $q + 1$ points.
- ▶ Any resolving set S for Γ_{Π} will have the form $S_{\mathcal{P}} \cup S_{\mathcal{L}}$.
- ▶ Note that, since any pair of points are at distance 2, if $S \subseteq \mathcal{P}$, we must take at least $|\mathcal{P}| - 1 = q^2 + q$ points.

Resolving sets in incidence graphs

- ▶ Let $\Pi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L})$ be a projective plane of order q , and let Γ_{Π} denote its incidence graph.
- ▶ Recall that there are $q^2 + q + 1$ points and $q^2 + q + 1$ lines, and that each line contains $q + 1$ points.
- ▶ Any resolving set S for Γ_{Π} will have the form $S_{\mathcal{P}} \cup S_{\mathcal{L}}$.
- ▶ Note that, since any pair of points are at distance 2, if $S \subseteq \mathcal{P}$, we must take at least $|\mathcal{P}| - 1 = q^2 + q$ points.
- ▶ So, for a smaller resolving set, we'll need to use both points and lines.

Split resolving sets in bipartite graphs

- ▶ Suppose $\Gamma = (V, E)$ is a bipartite graph, with bipartition $V = X \dot{\cup} Y$.

Split resolving sets in bipartite graphs

- ▶ Suppose $\Gamma = (V, E)$ is a bipartite graph, with bipartition $V = X \dot{\cup} Y$.
- ▶ A set of vertices

$$S_X \cup S_Y = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_s\}$$

(where $x_i \in X, y_i \in Y$) is called a *split resolving set* if:

- ▶ for all $x \in X, \exists y_i, y_j \in S_Y$ with $d(x, y_i) \neq d(x, y_j)$;
- ▶ for all $y \in Y, \exists x_a, x_b \in S_X$ with $d(y, x_a) \neq d(y, x_b)$.

Split resolving sets in bipartite graphs

- ▶ Suppose $\Gamma = (V, E)$ is a bipartite graph, with bipartition $V = X \dot{\cup} Y$.
- ▶ A set of vertices

$$S_X \cup S_Y = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_s\}$$

(where $x_i \in X, y_i \in Y$) is called a *split resolving set* if:

- ▶ for all $x \in X, \exists y_i, y_j \in S_Y$ with $d(x, y_i) \neq d(x, y_j)$;
 - ▶ for all $y \in Y, \exists x_a, x_b \in S_X$ with $d(y, x_a) \neq d(y, x_b)$.
- ▶ If a split resolving set exists in Γ , we denote the smallest possible size by $\mu^*(\Gamma)$. (Otherwise, set $\mu^*(\Gamma) = \infty$.)

Split resolving sets in bipartite graphs

- ▶ Suppose $\Gamma = (V, E)$ is a bipartite graph, with bipartition $V = X \dot{\cup} Y$.
- ▶ A set of vertices

$$S_X \cup S_Y = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_s\}$$

(where $x_i \in X$, $y_i \in Y$) is called a *split resolving set* if:

- ▶ for all $x \in X$, $\exists y_i, y_j \in S_Y$ with $d(x, y_i) \neq d(x, y_j)$;
 - ▶ for all $y \in Y$, $\exists x_a, x_b \in S_X$ with $d(y, x_a) \neq d(y, x_b)$.
- ▶ If a split resolving set exists in Γ , we denote the smallest possible size by $\mu^*(\Gamma)$. (Otherwise, set $\mu^*(\Gamma) = \infty$.)
 - ▶ Clearly a split resolving set is an (ordinary) resolving set, and so $\mu^*(\Gamma) \geq \mu(\Gamma)$.

Split resolving sets in bipartite graphs

- ▶ Suppose $\Gamma = (V, E)$ is a bipartite graph, with bipartition $V = X \dot{\cup} Y$.
- ▶ A set of vertices

$$S_X \cup S_Y = \{x_1, \dots, x_r\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_s\}$$

(where $x_i \in X$, $y_i \in Y$) is called a *split resolving set* if:

- ▶ for all $x \in X$, $\exists y_i, y_j \in S_Y$ with $d(x, y_i) \neq d(x, y_j)$;
 - ▶ for all $y \in Y$, $\exists x_a, x_b \in S_X$ with $d(y, x_a) \neq d(y, x_b)$.
- ▶ If a split resolving set exists in Γ , we denote the smallest possible size by $\mu^*(\Gamma)$. (Otherwise, set $\mu^*(\Gamma) = \infty$.)
 - ▶ Clearly a split resolving set is an (ordinary) resolving set, and so $\mu^*(\Gamma) \geq \mu(\Gamma)$.
 - ▶ We call the sets S_X and S_Y *semi-resolving sets* for Γ .

Resolving lines with points

- ▶ A set of points $S_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a semi-resolving set for Γ_{Π} if, for any two distinct lines L_1, L_2 , there is a point $p \in S_{\mathcal{P}}$ with $d(p, L_1) \neq d(p, L_2)$.

Resolving lines with points

- ▶ A set of points $S_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a semi-resolving set for Γ_{Π} if, for any two distinct lines L_1, L_2 , there is a point $p \in S_{\mathcal{P}}$ with $d(p, L_1) \neq d(p, L_2)$.
- ▶ There is an equivalent notion for lines.

Resolving lines with points

- ▶ A set of points $S_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a semi-resolving set for Γ_{Π} if, for any two distinct lines L_1, L_2 , there is a point $p \in S_{\mathcal{P}}$ with $d(p, L_1) \neq d(p, L_2)$.
- ▶ There is an equivalent notion for lines.
- ▶ $S_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a semi-resolving set if and only if P lies on *exactly one* of the lines L_1, L_2 .

Resolving lines with points

- ▶ A set of points $S_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a semi-resolving set for Γ_{Π} if, for any two distinct lines L_1, L_2 , there is a point $p \in S_{\mathcal{P}}$ with $d(p, L_1) \neq d(p, L_2)$.
- ▶ There is an equivalent notion for lines.
- ▶ $S_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a semi-resolving set if and only if P lies on *exactly one* of the lines L_1, L_2 .
- ▶ How can we construct such a set?

Blocking sets and double blocking sets

- ▶ A *blocking set* in a projective plane Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least one point.

Blocking sets and double blocking sets

- ▶ A *blocking set* in a projective plane Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least one point.
- ▶ A *t -fold blocking set* in Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least t points.

Blocking sets and double blocking sets

- ▶ A *blocking set* in a projective plane Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least one point.
- ▶ A *t-fold blocking set* in Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least t points.
- ▶ If $t = 2$, we have a *double blocking set*.

Blocking sets and double blocking sets

- ▶ A *blocking set* in a projective plane Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least one point.
- ▶ A *t-fold blocking set* in Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least t points.
- ▶ If $t = 2$, we have a *double blocking set*.
- ▶ **Proposition:** A double blocking set D for Π is a semi-resolving set for Γ_{Π} .

Blocking sets and double blocking sets

- ▶ A *blocking set* in a projective plane Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least one point.
- ▶ A *t-fold blocking set* in Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least t points.
- ▶ If $t = 2$, we have a *double blocking set*.
- ▶ **Proposition:** A double blocking set D for Π is a semi-resolving set for Γ_{Π} .
- ▶ **Proof:**
 - ▶ By the definition of a double blocking set, D contains two points $p, q \in L_1$.

Blocking sets and double blocking sets

- ▶ A *blocking set* in a projective plane Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least one point.
- ▶ A *t-fold blocking set* in Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least t points.
- ▶ If $t = 2$, we have a *double blocking set*.
- ▶ **Proposition:** A double blocking set D for Π is a semi-resolving set for Γ_{Π} .
- ▶ **Proof:**
 - ▶ By the definition of a double blocking set, D contains two points $p, q \in L_1$.
 - ▶ By the definition of a projective plane, at most one of these also lies on L_2 .

Blocking sets and double blocking sets

- ▶ A *blocking set* in a projective plane Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least one point.
- ▶ A *t-fold blocking set* in Π is a collection of points which intersects every line in at least t points.
- ▶ If $t = 2$, we have a *double blocking set*.
- ▶ **Proposition:** A double blocking set D for Π is a semi-resolving set for Γ_{Π} .
- ▶ **Proof:**
 - ▶ By the definition of a double blocking set, D contains two points $p, q \in L_1$.
 - ▶ By the definition of a projective plane, at most one of these also lies on L_2 .
- ▶ In fact, we can delete a point from a double blocking set and still have a semi-resolving set.

Upper bounds on metric dimension

- ▶ It is easy to construct a double blocking set of size $3q$, by taking three non-concurrent lines.

Upper bounds on metric dimension

- ▶ It is easy to construct a double blocking set of size $3q$, by taking three non-concurrent lines.
- ▶ Thus $\mu(\Gamma_{\Pi}) \leq \mu^*(\Gamma_{\Pi}) \leq 6q - 2$.

Upper bounds on metric dimension

- ▶ It is easy to construct a double blocking set of size $3q$, by taking three non-concurrent lines.
- ▶ Thus $\mu(\Gamma_{\Pi}) \leq \mu^*(\Gamma_{\Pi}) \leq 6q - 2$.
- ▶ However, better examples are known: if $q = p^{2e}$ and Π is the Desarguesian plane $\text{PG}(2, q)$, there is a double blocking set of size $2q + 2\sqrt{q} + 2$ (the union of two disjoint *Baer subplanes*).

Upper bounds on metric dimension

- ▶ It is easy to construct a double blocking set of size $3q$, by taking three non-concurrent lines.
- ▶ Thus $\mu(\Gamma_{\Pi}) \leq \mu^*(\Gamma_{\Pi}) \leq 6q - 2$.
- ▶ However, better examples are known: if $q = p^{2e}$ and Π is the Desarguesian plane $\text{PG}(2, q)$, there is a double blocking set of size $2q + 2\sqrt{q} + 2$ (the union of two disjoint *Baer subplanes*).
- ▶ Thus $\mu^*(\Gamma_{\text{PG}(2,q)}) \leq 4q + 4\sqrt{q} + 2$ (if $q = p^{2e}$).

Lower bounds

- ▶ Aart Blokhuis (personal communication) has determined that, in a semi-resolving set $S_{\mathcal{P}}$, we must have $|S_{\mathcal{P}}| \gtrsim 2q + \sqrt{2q}$.

Lower bounds

- ▶ Aart Blokhuis (personal communication) has determined that, in a semi-resolving set $S_{\mathcal{P}}$, we must have $|S_{\mathcal{P}}| \gtrsim 2q + \sqrt{2q}$.
- ▶ Thus the size of a *split* resolving set for Γ_{Π} has size $\gtrsim 4q + 2\sqrt{2q}$.

Lower bounds

- ▶ Aart Blokhuis (personal communication) has determined that, in a semi-resolving set $S_{\mathcal{P}}$, we must have $|S_{\mathcal{P}}| \gtrsim 2q + \sqrt{2q}$.
- ▶ Thus the size of a *split* resolving set for Γ_{Π} has size $\gtrsim 4q + 2\sqrt{2q}$.
- ▶ In particular, in the case of $\text{PG}(2, p^{2e})$, the upper and lower bounds are very similar!

A non-split resolving set

Bill Martin (not-so-personal communication) has come up with a non-split resolving set for Γ_{Π} of size $4q - 1$, consisting of $2q$ lines and $2q - 1$ points:

A non-split resolving set

Bill Martin (not-so-personal communication) has come up with a non-split resolving set for Γ_{Π} of size $4q - 1$, consisting of $2q$ lines and $2q - 1$ points:

ROBERT

Proj. plane Π of order n

Resolving set $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_p \cup \mathcal{S}_\ell$

$|\mathcal{S}_p| = 2n - 1$ $|\mathcal{S}_\ell| = 2n$

$|\mathcal{S}| = 4n - 1$

$\mathcal{S}_p = \{P' : P' \text{ on } \overline{PQ} \text{ or } \overline{PR}\} \setminus \{P, Q\}$

$\mathcal{S}_\ell = \text{all lines through } P \text{ or through } Q, \text{ not both}$

THE END