

# Exercise 5: Tree width and Hypertree width

Database Theory

2020-05-11

Maximilian Marx, David Carral

## Exercise 1

**Exercise.** Construct the query hypergraph and the primal graph for the following queries:

1.  $\exists x, y, z, u, v. (r(x, y, z, u) \wedge s(z, u, v))$
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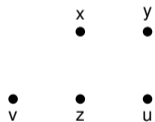
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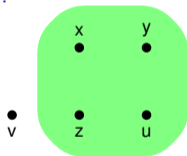
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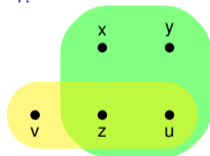
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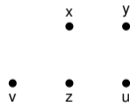
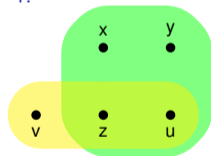
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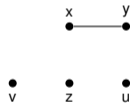
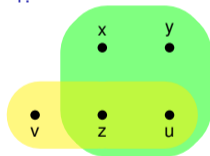
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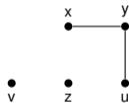
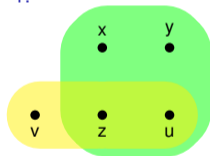
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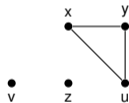
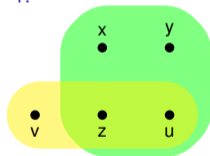
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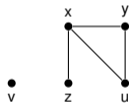
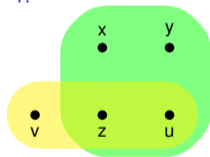
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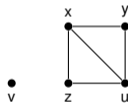
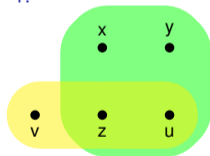
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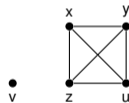
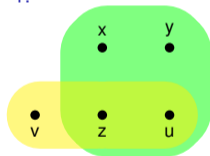
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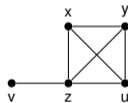
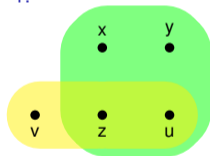
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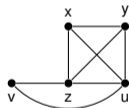
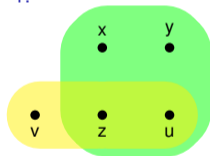
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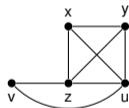
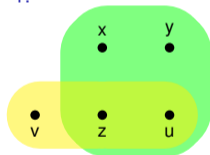
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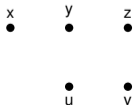
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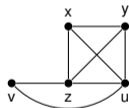
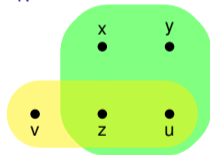
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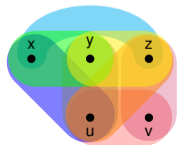
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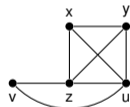
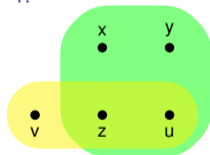
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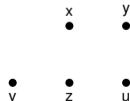
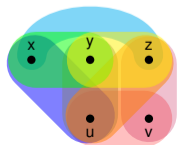
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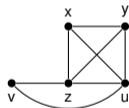
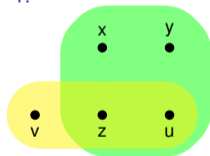
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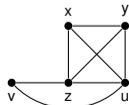
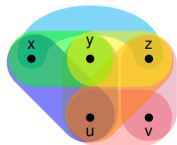
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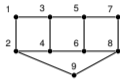
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**Exercise.** Determine the tree width of each of the following graphs and provide a suitable tree decomposition. Argue why there cannot be a tree decomposition of smaller width.

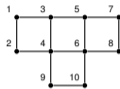
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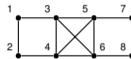
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4.



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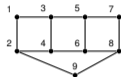
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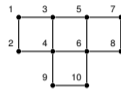


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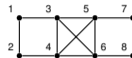
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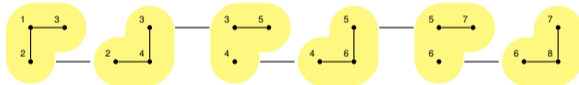
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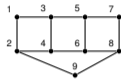


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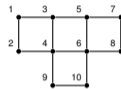
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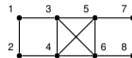
2.



3.



4.



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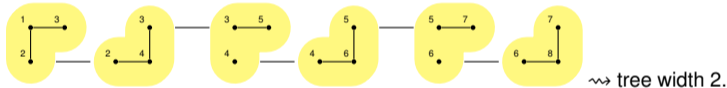
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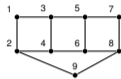


**Solution.**

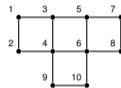
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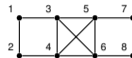
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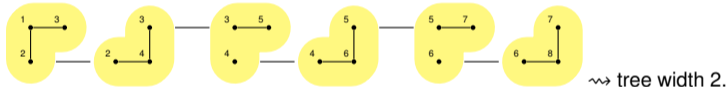
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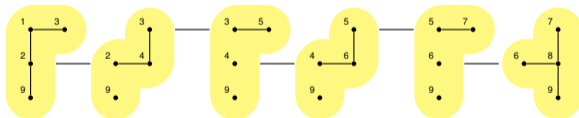


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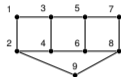
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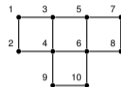
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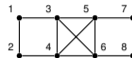
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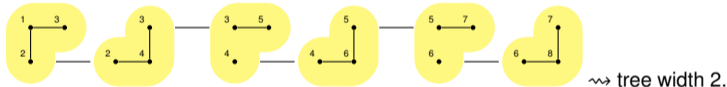
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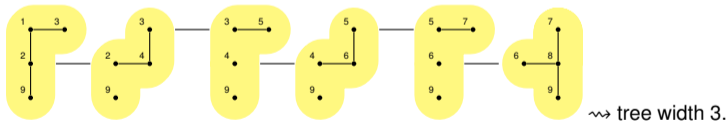


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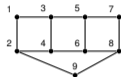
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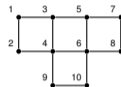
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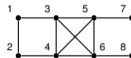
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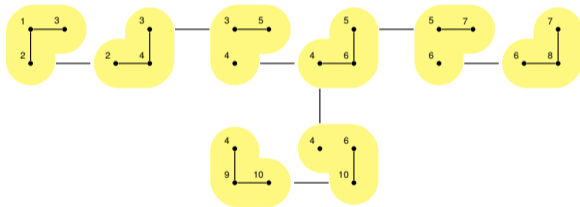
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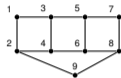


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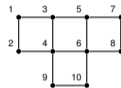
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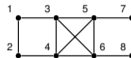
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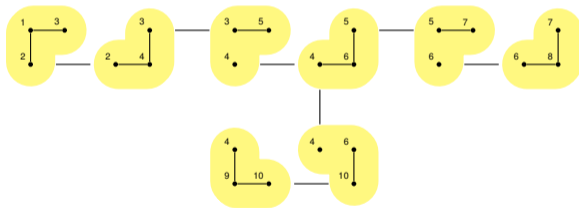
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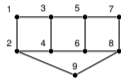
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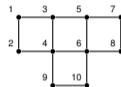


$\rightsquigarrow$  tree width 2.

2.



3.



4.



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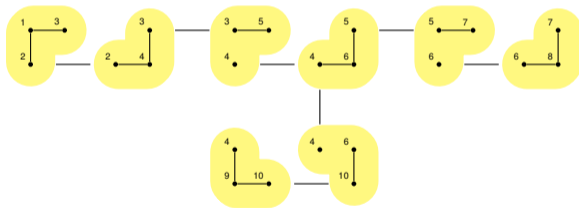
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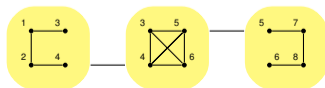
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3.

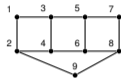


≈ tree width 2.

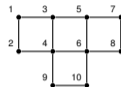
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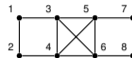
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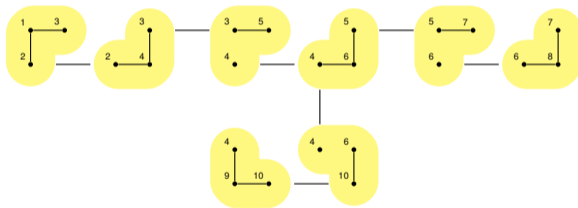
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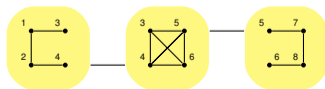
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3.



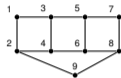
≈ tree width 2.

4.

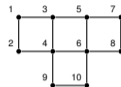


≈ tree width 3.

2.



3.

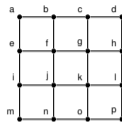


4.



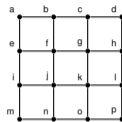
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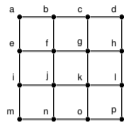


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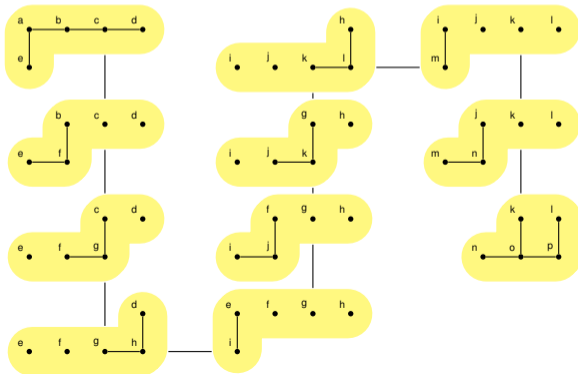


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- ▶ Hence the  $n$ -clique cannot have tree width  $\leq n - 2$ .

## Exercise 5

**Exercise.** Recall that a graph is 3-colourable if one can assign three colours to its vertices in such a way that neighbouring vertices never share the same colour. Let  $C_3$  be the set of all 3-colourable graphs. Are the graphs in  $C_3$  of bounded or unbounded tree width? Explain your answer.

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- ▶ Any  $n \times n$  grid is 2-colourable.

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- ▶ Grids have unbounded tree width.
- ▶ Thus,  $C_3$  contains graphs of unbounded tree width.

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1. Deleting an edge from a graph may make the tree width smaller but never larger.
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**Solution.**

1. True: cops don't walk along edges, so deleting edges does not invalidate winning strategies.
2. True: analogous.
3. False: Consider a hypergraph that has a hyperedge containing all vertices. Then the hypergraph is acyclic (i.e., has hypertree width 1), but removing the hyperedge may result in a cyclic hypergraph (i.e., hypertree width  $> 1$ ).

## Exercise 6

**Exercise.** Decide whether the following claims are true or false. Explain your answer.

1. Deleting an edge from a graph may make the tree width smaller but never larger.
2. Deleting a vertex from a graph (and removing all of its edges) may make the tree width smaller but never larger.
3. Deleting a hyperedge from a hypergraph may make the hypertree width smaller but never larger.
4. Deleting a vertex from a hypergraph (and removing empty edges) may make the hypertree width smaller but never larger.

### Theorem (Seymour and Thomas; Lecture 7, Slide 15)

*A graph  $G$  is of tree width  $\leq k - 1$  iff  $k$  cops have a winning strategy in the cops & robber game on  $G$ .*

### Theorem (Lecture 8, Slide 17)

*A hypergraph  $H$  is of hypertree width  $\leq k$  iff  $k$  marshals have a winning strategy in the marshals & robber game on  $H$ .*

**Solution.**

1. True: cops don't walk along edges, so deleting edges does not invalidate winning strategies.
2. True: analogous.
3. False: Consider a hypergraph that has a hyperedge containing all vertices. Then the hypergraph is acyclic (i.e., has hypertree width 1), but removing the hyperedge may result in a cyclic hypergraph (i.e., hypertree width  $> 1$ ).
4. True: marshals don't occupy vertices, but hyperedges, so deleting vertices does not invalidate winning strategies.

## Exercise 7

**Exercise.** The following BCQ corresponds to graph (a) in Exercise 2:

$$\exists x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8. r(x_1, x_2) \wedge r(x_1, x_3) \wedge r(x_2, x_4) \wedge r(x_3, x_4) \wedge r(x_3, x_5) \wedge \\ r(x_4, x_6) \wedge r(x_5, x_6) \wedge r(x_5, x_7) \wedge r(x_6, x_8) \wedge r(x_7, x_8)$$

According to the logical characterisation from the lecture, this query can be expressed in the  $\exists\text{-}\wedge$ -fragment of FO using only tree width+1 variables. Find such a formula.

## Exercise 7

**Exercise.** The following BCQ corresponds to graph (a) in Exercise 2:

$$\exists x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8. r(x_1, x_2) \wedge r(x_1, x_3) \wedge r(x_2, x_4) \wedge r(x_3, x_4) \wedge r(x_3, x_5) \wedge \\ r(x_4, x_6) \wedge r(x_5, x_6) \wedge r(x_5, x_7) \wedge r(x_6, x_8) \wedge r(x_7, x_8)$$

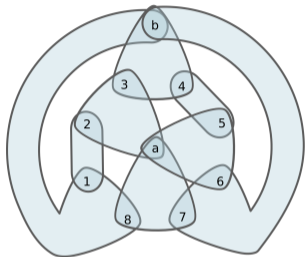
According to the logical characterisation from the lecture, this query can be expressed in the  $\exists$ - $\wedge$ -fragment of FO using only tree width+1 variables. Find such a formula.

**Solution.**

$$\exists x, y, z. r(x, y) \wedge r(x, z) \wedge \\ (\exists x. r(y, x) \wedge r(z, x) \wedge \\ (\exists y. r(z, y) \wedge \\ (\exists z. r(x, z) \wedge r(y, z) \wedge \\ (\exists x. r(y, x) \wedge \\ (\exists y. r(x, y) \wedge r(z, y))))))))$$

## Exercise 8

**Exercise.** Consider *Adler's Hypergraph*:

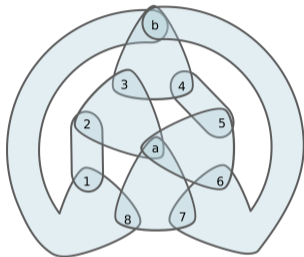


Play the marshals & robber game on this graph.

1. Can one marshal catch the robber?
  2. Can two marshals catch the robber?
  3. Can three marshals catch the robber?
  4. Adler et al. [Eur. J. Comb., 2007] proposed this graph as an example where fewer marshals can win if they are allowed to play non-monotonically, that is, if they are not required to shrink the remaining space in each turn. Can you confirm her findings?
- (\*) Can you explain why non-monotone play is unavoidable in one of the above cases if the marshals want to win?

## Exercise 8

**Exercise.** Consider *Adler's Hypergraph*:



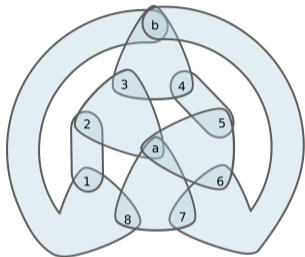
**Solution.**

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## Exercise 8

**Exercise.** Consider *Adler's Hypergraph*:



**Solution.**

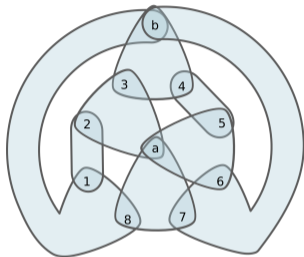
1. No.

Play the marshals & robber game on this graph.

1. Can one marshal catch the robber?
  2. Can two marshals catch the robber?
  3. Can three marshals catch the robber?
  4. Adler et al. [Eur. J. Comb., 2007] proposed this graph as an example where fewer marshals can win if they are allowed to play non-monotonically, that is, if they are not required to shrink the remaining space in each turn. Can you confirm her findings?
- (\*) Can you explain why non-monotone play is unavoidable in one of the above cases if the marshals want to win?

## Exercise 8

**Exercise.** Consider *Adler's Hypergraph*:



**Solution.**

1. No.
2. Yes, but only non-monotonically.

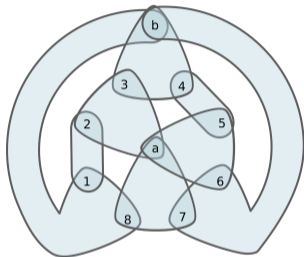
Play the marshals & robber game on this graph.

1. Can one marshal catch the robber?
  2. Can two marshals catch the robber?
  3. Can three marshals catch the robber?
  4. Adler et al. [Eur. J. Comb., 2007] proposed this graph as an example where fewer marshals can win if they are allowed to play non-monotonically, that is, if they are not required to shrink the remaining space in each turn. Can you confirm her findings?
- (\*) Can you explain why non-monotone play is unavoidable in one of the above cases if the marshals want to win?



## Exercise 8

**Exercise.** Consider *Adler's Hypergraph*:



**Solution.**

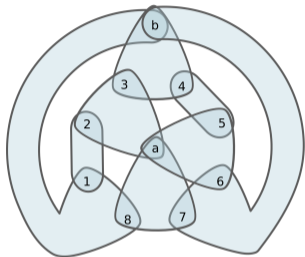
1. No.
2. Yes, but only non-monotonically.
3. Yes, even when playing monotonically.

Play the marshals & robber game on this graph.

1. Can one marshal catch the robber?
  2. Can two marshals catch the robber?
  3. Can three marshals catch the robber?
  4. Adler et al. [Eur. J. Comb., 2007] proposed this graph as an example where fewer marshals can win if they are allowed to play non-monotonically, that is, if they are not required to shrink the remaining space in each turn. Can you confirm her findings?
- (\*) Can you explain why non-monotone play is unavoidable in one of the above cases if the marshals want to win?

## Exercise 8

**Exercise.** Consider *Adler's Hypergraph*:



**Solution.**

1. No.
2. Yes, but only non-monotonically.
3. Yes, even when playing monotonically.
- (\*) The graph has hypertree width 3, but generalised hypertree width 2.

Play the marshals & robber game on this graph.

1. Can one marshal catch the robber?
2. Can two marshals catch the robber?
3. Can three marshals catch the robber?
4. Adler et al. [Eur. J. Comb., 2007] proposed this graph as an example where fewer marshals can win if they are allowed to play non-monotonically, that is, if they are not required to shrink the remaining space in each turn. Can you confirm her findings?
- (\*) Can you explain why non-monotone play is unavoidable in one of the above cases if the marshals want to win?