

THEOREM * If P is any point, then there are at least two distinct lines l and m such that P lies on both l and m .

PROOF Let P be a point. [Show that there are at least two distinct lines s.t. P lies on both.]

By IA3, there exists 3 noncollinear points, A, B , and C .

Case 1: Suppose P is one of these 3 points.

WLOG[†], let $P = A$

Then P and B are distinct points, and by IA1, there exists a line l such that P and B lie on l .

Similarly P and C are distinct points and there exists a line m such that P and C lie on m

Therefore P lies on both l and m . [Still need to show that $l \neq m$.]

But $l \neq m$, otherwise $P = A, B$, and C would be collinear.

Therefore, there exists at least 2 distinct lines l and m such that P lies on both l and m .

Case 2: Suppose P is not one of these 3 points.

The $P\&A$, $P\&B$, and $P\&C$ are three pairs of distinct points.

So by IA1, there exist lines $l = \overleftrightarrow{PA}$, $m = \overleftrightarrow{PB}$, and $n = \overleftrightarrow{PC}$.

Hence P is on all three lines. [Still need to show that they are distinct.]

These lines are all distinct, otherwise A, B , and C would be collinear.

Therefore, there exist at least 2 distinct lines such that P lies on both lines.

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Continue working on the homework Section 2.6, p. 34: #4, 5, 6, 7(newly added)

*2.6.4 (Exercise #3) in the book.

[†]“Without Loss of Generality”: You can use this method when the proof doesn’t rely on the specifics of the different cases. For example, suppose $P = B$ instead. We could just relabel the points so that $P = A$. If you are uncertain whether to use WLOG, another method would be to do the proof for $P = A$ and then say a similar proof would hold for the other (sub)cases of $P = B$ and $P = C$.