

I think not

(formal)



I don't think so

(informal)

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1) a formal way of disagreeing or saying no.

- "Will you be going tonight, James?"
"I think not."
- Are they telling us the truth?- I think not!

2) used to disagree emphatically.

- This could be a coincidence, but I think not.
- Was their meeting a coincidence?
I think not.

1) I think that what has just been said is untrue, but I am not completely sure.

- "Is he coming with us?" "I don't think so."
- 'Haven't we met before?' 'I don't think so.'

2) used to say very strongly that you do not agree with something, or that something is not possible.

- Me? Fail? I don't think so.

3) sarcastic rejection

- Pineapple on a pizza? I don't think so!

I don't think so is more common and shows a little uncertainty.

I think not sounds more formal, dramatic and emphatic.