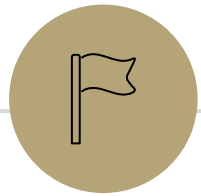


Set Theory Continued

CSE 311 Summer 25
Lecture 11

Announcements

- HW4 is released!
 - Make sure to start this one early. You'll be writing more complex set and number theory proofs.
- HW2 Feedback is out
- HW2 Resubmission is due tonight!

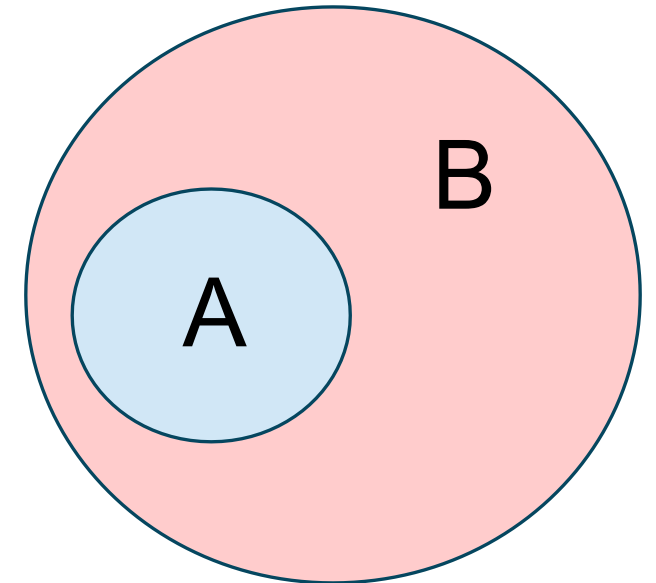


Review

Sets

- A **set** is an unordered collection of distinct objects, called elements.
- The **cardinality** of a set is the number of elements in the set, denote $|S|$ for a set S .
- Sets A and B are **equal** if they have the same elements.
- Set A is a **subset** of B if every element of A is also in B .

A is a subset of **B**



Common Sets

\mathbb{R} is the set of Real Numbers.

E.g. $1, -17, \pi, \sqrt{2}$

\mathbb{Z} is the set of Integers.

$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$

\mathbb{N} is the set of Natural Numbers.

$\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

\mathbb{Q} is the set of Rational Numbers (fractions)

E.g. $\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{11}{3}, 17$

$\emptyset = \{\}$ is the Empty Set

\emptyset has no elements

Sets Builder Notation

Another way to describe a set is using set-builder notation.

$S = \{x : P(x)\}$ means S is the set of all x for which $P(x)$ is true.

For example:

- $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x > 0\}$ is the set of all positive integers.
- $\{x \in \mathbb{N} : x \equiv_3 2\}$ is the set $\{2, 5, 8, 11, 14, \dots\}$.
- $\{\frac{a}{b} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \neq 0\}$ is the set of rational numbers

Set Equality

Sets A and B are equal iff they have the same elements.

In predicate logic, $A = B$ is defined as:

$$\forall x (x \in A \leftrightarrow x \in B)$$

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$B = \{3, 4, 5\}$$

$$C = \{3, 4\}$$

$$D = \{4, 3, 3\}$$

$$E = \{3, 4, 3\}$$

$$F = \{4, \{3\}\}$$

Which sets are equal?

$$C = D = E$$

Subset

Set A is a **subset** of B if every element of A is also in B .

In predicate logic, $A \subseteq B$ is defined as:

$$\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$B = \{3, 4, 5\}$$

$$C = \{3, 4\}$$

$$D = \{4, 3, 3\}$$

$$E = \{3, 4, 3\}$$

$$F = \{4, \{3\}\}$$

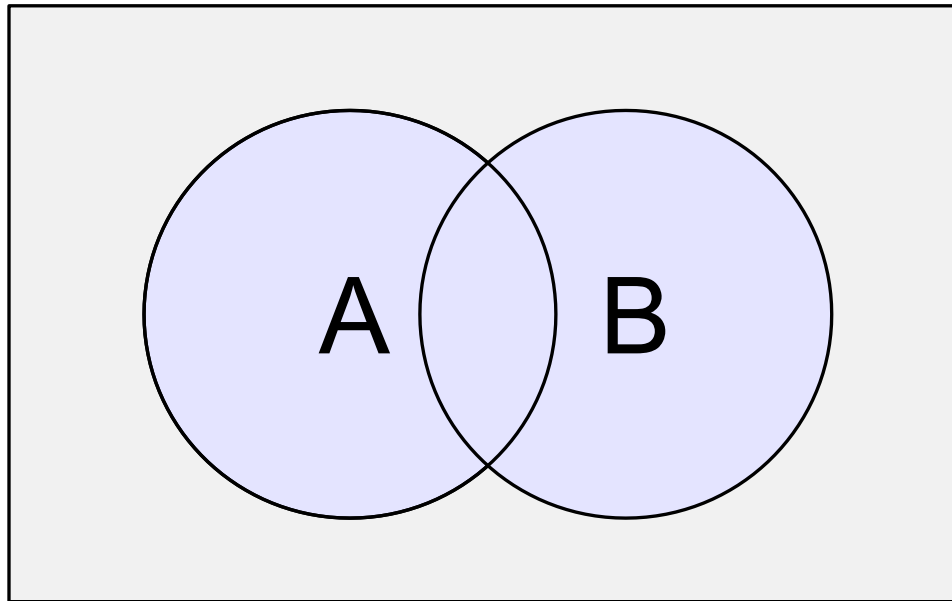
Which sets are subsets?

$$C \subseteq B, D \subseteq E, E \subseteq D, \text{ etc.}$$

Set Operations

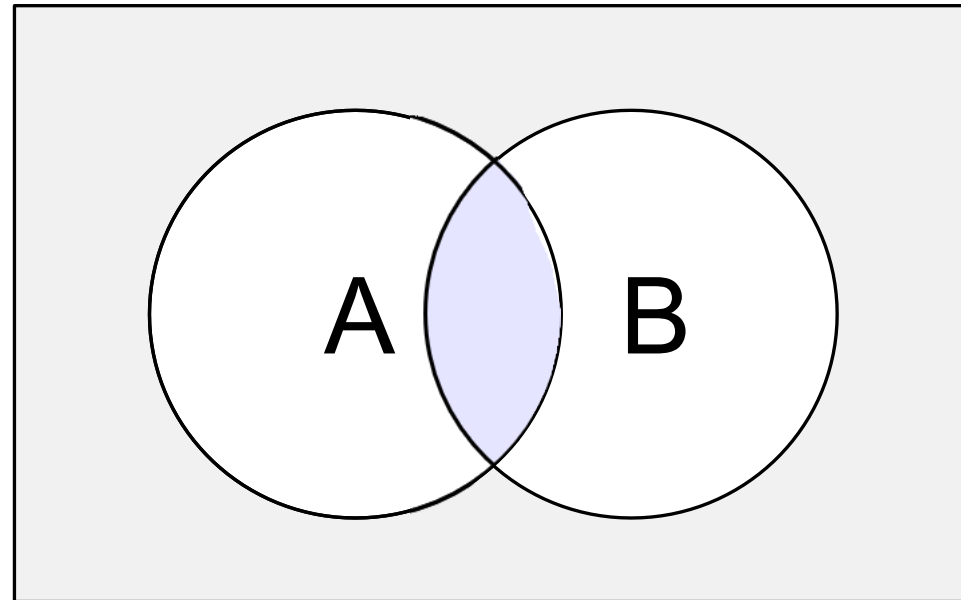
Union: $A \cup B$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$



Intersection: $A \cap B$

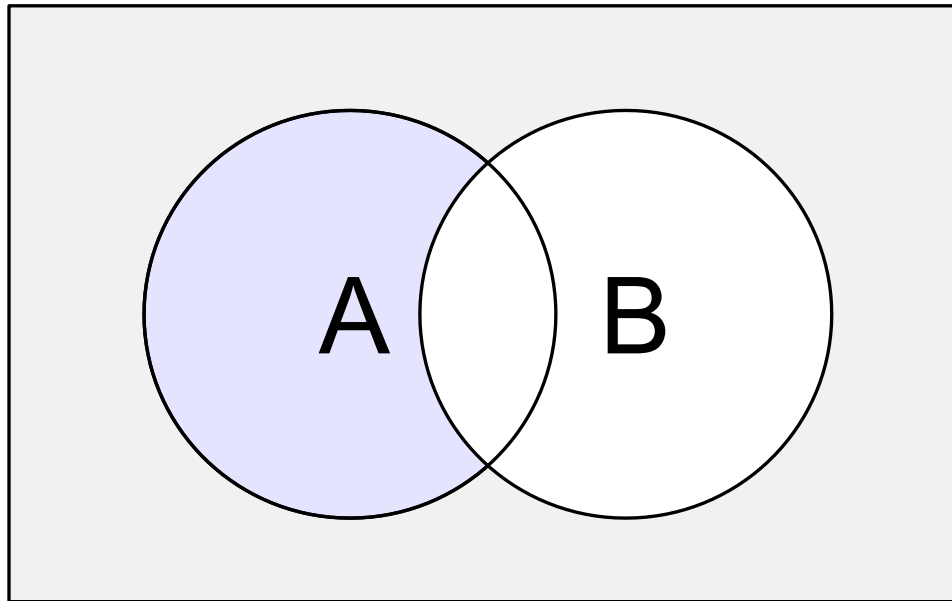
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Set Operations

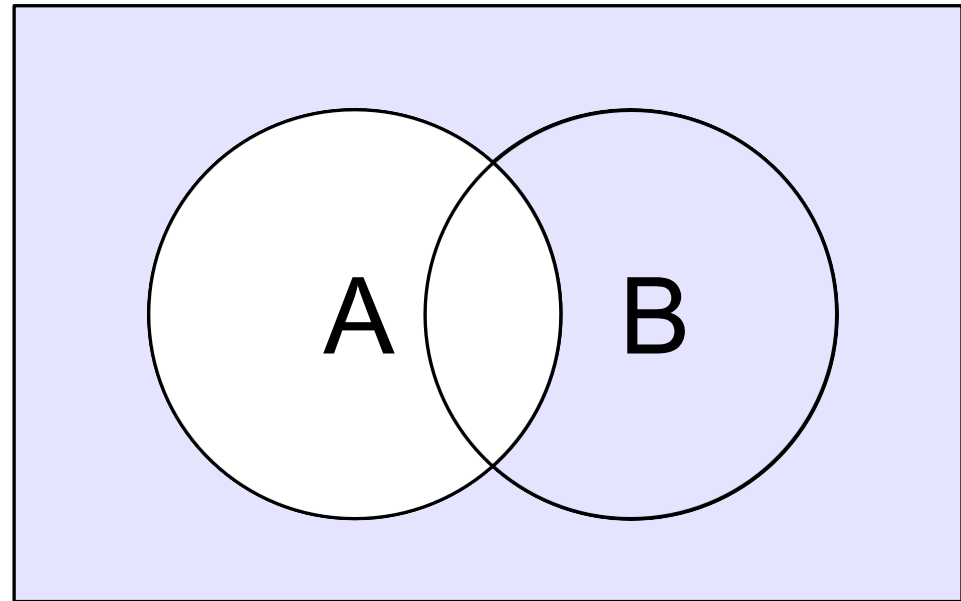
Set Difference: $A \setminus B$

$$A \setminus B = \{x : x \in A \wedge x \notin B\}$$



Set Complement: $\bar{A} = A^c$
(with respect to the universe \mathcal{U})

$$\bar{A} = \{x \in \mathcal{U} : x \notin A\}$$



Set Operations

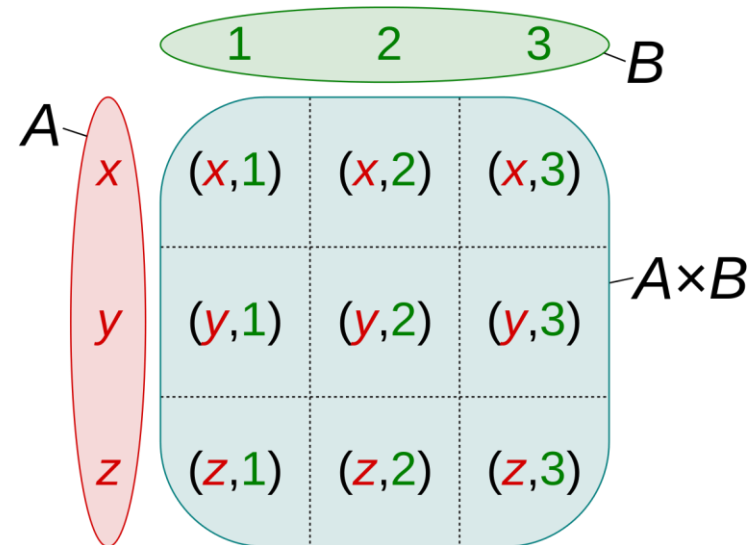
Powerset: $\mathcal{P}(A)$

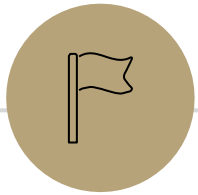
$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B : B \subseteq A\}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(\{1,2,3\}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{\} \\ \{1\} \quad \{2\} \quad \{3\} \\ \{1,2\} \quad \{1,3\} \quad \{2,3\} \\ \{1,2,3\} \end{array} \right\}$$

Cartesian Product: $A \times B$

$$A \times B = \{(a, b) : a \in A, b \in B\}$$





Warm Up: Two Claims



Two Claims

Determine if the following claims are true or false.

Claim 1: For all sets A, B, C , if $A \subseteq (B \cup C)$ then $A \subseteq B$ or $A \subseteq C$.

Claim 2: For all sets A, B, C it holds that $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

Two Claims

Determine if the following claims are true or false.

Claim 1: For all sets A, B, C , if $A \subseteq (B \cup C)$ then $A \subseteq B$ or $A \subseteq C$.

False.

Claim 2: For all sets A, B, C it holds that $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

True.

Claim 1

Claim 1: For all sets A, B, C , if $A \subseteq (B \cup C)$ then $A \subseteq B$ or $A \subseteq C$.

We disprove this claim with a counterexample.

Let $A = \{1,2\}$, let $B = \{1\}$ and $C = \{2\}$. Then $A \subseteq (B \cup C)$, but $A \not\subseteq B$ and $A \not\subseteq C$.

Claim 2

Definition

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B, C it holds that $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

Proof Strategy

- Let A, B, C be arbitrary sets.
- Let $x \in A \cap B \cap C$ be arbitrary.
- Prove that $x \in A \cup B$.

Claim 2

Definition

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B, C it holds that $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

Proof

Let sets A, B, C be arbitrary. Let $x \in A \cap B \cap C$ be an arbitrary element.

So $x \in A \cup B$. Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

Claim 2

Definition

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B, C it holds that $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

Proof

Let sets A, B, C be arbitrary. Let $x \in A \cap B \cap C$ be an arbitrary element.

[Unroll definitions]

[Use facts to move towards goal]

[Reroll definitions]

So $x \in A \cup B$. Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

Claim 2

Definition

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B, C it holds that $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

Proof

Let sets A, B, C be arbitrary. Let $x \in A \cap B \cap C$ be an arbitrary element.

Then by definition of intersection, $x \in A$ and $x \in B$ and $x \in C$.

[Use facts to move towards goal]

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So $x \in A \cup B$. Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

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Then by definition of intersection, $x \in A$ and $x \in B$ and $x \in C$.

Then certainly $x \in A$. So $x \in A$ or $x \in B$.

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So $x \in A \cup B$. Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.

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Proof

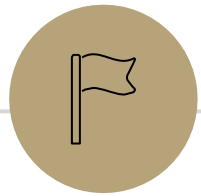
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Then by definition of intersection, $x \in A$ and $x \in B$ and $x \in C$.

Then certainly $x \in A$. So $x \in A$ or $x \in B$.

By definition of union, $x \in A \cup B$.

Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \cap C \subseteq A \cup B$.



Subset Proofs



Claim 1

Definitions

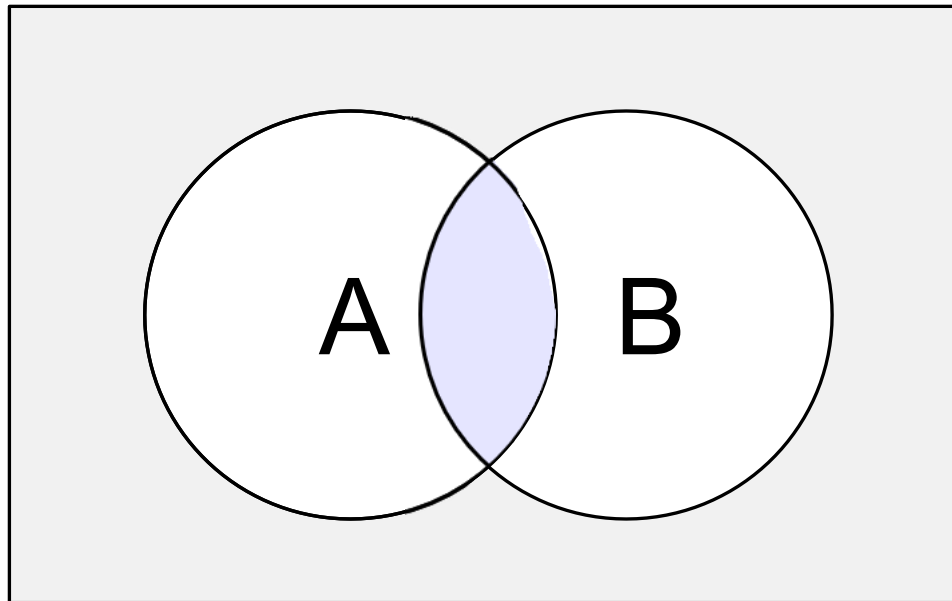
$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

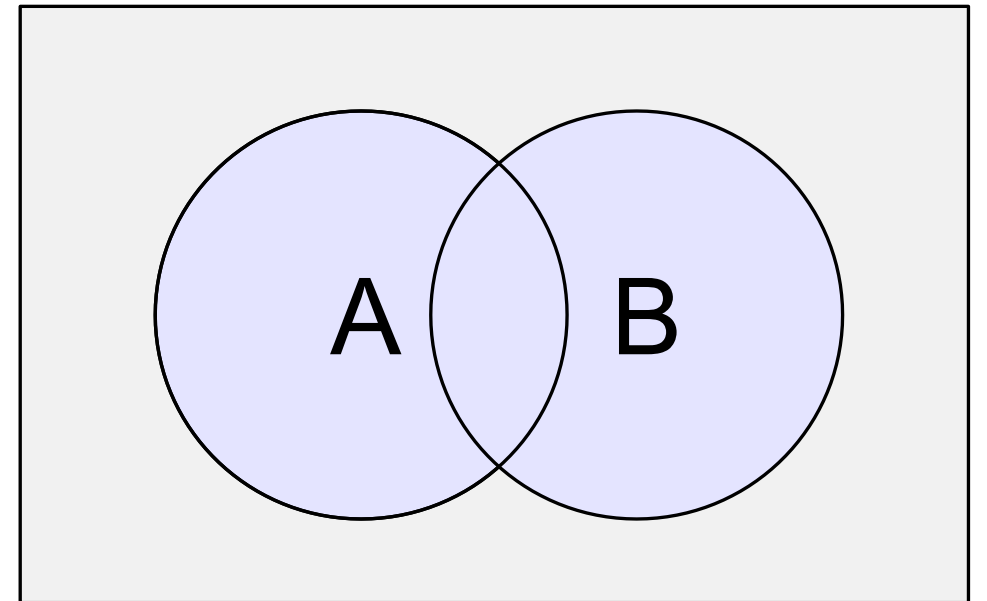
$$A \cap B = \{x : x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$$

Claim 1: For all sets A, B , we have $A \cap B \subseteq A \cup B$.

Intuition (Venn Diagram)



\subseteq



Claim 1

Claim 1: For all sets A, B , we have $A \cap B \subseteq A \cup B$.

Definitions

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

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Claim 1: For all sets A, B , we have $A \cap B \subseteq A \cup B$.

Proof:

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Let $x \in A \cap B$ be arbitrary.

[Unroll definitions]

[Apply facts to move towards our goal]

[Reroll definitions]

Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \subseteq A \cup B$.

Since A, B were arbitrary sets, the claim holds for all sets A, B .

Claim 1

Definitions

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

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Proof:

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Let $x \in A \cap B$ be arbitrary.

Then by definition of intersection, $x \in A$ and $x \in B$.

Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \subseteq A \cup B$.

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Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Let $x \in A \cap B$ be arbitrary.

Then by definition of intersection, $x \in A$ and $x \in B$.

Thus by definition of union, $x \in A \cup B$.

Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \subseteq A \cup B$.

Since A, B were arbitrary sets, the claim holds for all sets A, B .

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Proof:

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Let $x \in A \cap B$ be arbitrary.

Then by definition of intersection, $x \in A$ and $x \in B$.

So certainly $x \in A$ or $x \in B$.

Thus by definition of union, $x \in A \cup B$.

Since x was arbitrary, $A \cap B \subseteq A \cup B$.

Since A, B were arbitrary sets, the claim holds for all sets A, B .

Proving Subsets

To prove that $X \subseteq Y$, we let $x \in X$ be arbitrary and prove that $x \in Y$.

Claim 2

Claim 2: For all sets A, B if $A \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Intuition (Example)

$$A = \{1,2\} \quad B = \{1,2,3\}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{1,2\}\}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(B) = \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1,2\}, \{2,3\}, \{1,3\}\}$$

Claim 2

Definitions

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B : B \subseteq A\}$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B if $A \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Proof

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Suppose $A \subseteq B$. Let $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ be arbitrary.

Thus, $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. Since X was arbitrary, we have shown that $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$

Claim 2

Definitions

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B : B \subseteq A\}$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B if $A \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Proof

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Suppose $A \subseteq B$. Let $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ be arbitrary.

Then by definition of powerset, $X \subseteq A$.

Thus, $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. Since X was arbitrary, we have shown that $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$

Claim 2

Definitions

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Claim 2: For all sets A, B if $A \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Proof

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Suppose $A \subseteq B$. Let $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ be arbitrary.

Then by definition of powerset, $X \subseteq A$.

Starting Point: $X \subseteq A$

Goal: Show $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. i.e. show that $X \subseteq B$

Available Facts: $X \subseteq A$ and $A \subseteq B$

Thus, $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. Since X was arbitrary, we have shown that $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$

Claim 2

Definitions

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B : B \subseteq A\}$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B if $A \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Proof

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Suppose $A \subseteq B$. Let $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ be arbitrary.

Then by definition of powerset, $X \subseteq A$.

Let $x \in X$ be arbitrary. Since $x \in X$ and $X \subseteq A$, then $x \in A$.

Available Facts: $X \subseteq A$ and $A \subseteq B$

Goal: Show $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. . i.e. show that $X \subseteq B$

Thus, $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. Since X was arbitrary, we have shown that $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$

Claim 2

Definitions

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B : B \subseteq A\}$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B if $A \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Proof

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Suppose $A \subseteq B$. Let $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ be arbitrary.

Then by definition of powerset, $X \subseteq A$.

Let $x \in X$ be arbitrary. Since $x \in X$ and $X \subseteq A$, then $x \in A$.

Since $x \in A$ and $A \subseteq B$, then $x \in B$. Since x was arbitrary, $X \subseteq B$.

Available Facts: $X \subseteq A$ and $A \subseteq B$

Goal: Show $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. i.e. show that $X \subseteq B$

Thus, $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. Since X was arbitrary, we have shown that $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$

Claim 2

Definitions

$$A \subseteq B \equiv \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B : B \subseteq A\}$$

Claim 2: For all sets A, B if $A \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Proof

Let A, B be arbitrary sets. Suppose $A \subseteq B$. Let $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ be arbitrary.

Then by definition of powerset, $X \subseteq A$.

Let $x \in X$ be arbitrary. Since $x \in X$ and $X \subseteq A$, then $x \in A$.

Since $x \in A$ and $A \subseteq B$, then $x \in B$. Since x was arbitrary, $X \subseteq B$.

Now since we have that $X \subseteq B$, by definition of powerset, $X \in \mathcal{P}(B)$

Since X was arbitrary, we have shown that $\mathcal{P}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$

Symbols and Sets

Note that when writing set proofs, we follow various conventions.

We DO tend use symbols like \in , \subseteq , \cup , \cap , \times etc. (instead of writing out the symbol in English).

E.g. "Let $x \in A$ be arbitrary"

We DO NOT tend to use symbols like \wedge , \vee , \neg (but rather write them out in English).**

E.g. "Then $x \in A$ and $x \in B$ "

**There are exceptions to this if logical symbols provide clarity when applying equivalence rules (Absorption, DeMorgan's Laws, etc.). The proof of Claim 3 will be an example of that.

Exercises

Which of the following statements are true?

If $x \in A \cap B$ then $(x \in A) \cap (x \in B)$.

If $x \in C \setminus D$ then $x \in C \wedge \neg(x \in D)$.

If $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A)$ then $X \in A$.

If $(a, b) \in E \times F$ then $a \in E$ and $b \in F$.

Exercises

Which of the following statements are true?

If $x \in A \cap B$ then $(x \in A) \cap (x \in B)$.

False. This should be $(x \in A) \wedge (x \in B)$.

If $x \in C \setminus D$ then $x \in C \wedge \neg(x \in D)$.

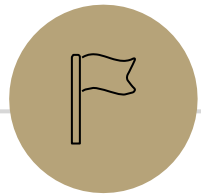
True.

If $X \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A)$ then $X \in A$.

False. This should be if $X \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ then $X \subseteq A$.

If $(a, b) \in E \times F$ then $a \in E$ and $b \in F$.

True.



Set Equality Proofs

Claim 3 (DeMorgan's Law for Sets)

Claim 3: For all sets A, B , $\overline{A \cup B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$

Definitions

$$A = B \equiv A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq A$$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

$$A \cap B = \{x : x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$$

$$\bar{A} = \{x \in \mathcal{U} : x \notin A\}$$

Claim 3 (DeMorgan's Law for Sets)

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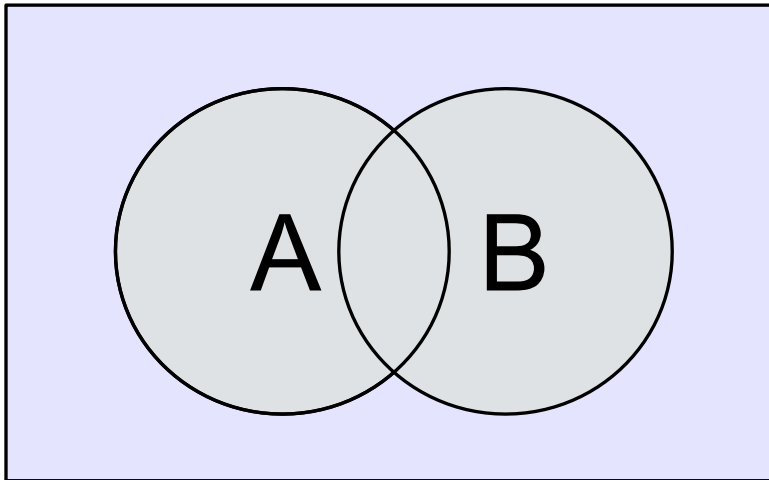
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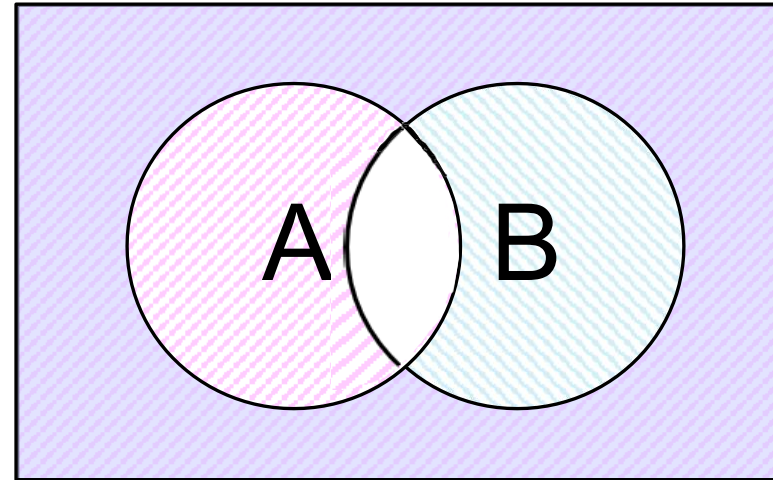
$$\bar{A} = \{x \in \mathcal{U} : x \notin A\}$$

Intuition (Venn Diagram)

$\overline{A \cup B}$



$\bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$



Claim 3 (DeMorgan's Law for Sets)

Claim 3: For all sets A, B , $\overline{A \cup B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$

Proof Strategy

- Let A, B be arbitrary sets.
- Prove that $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$
- Prove that $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$

Definitions

$$A = B \equiv A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq A$$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

$$A \cap B = \{x : x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$$

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Claim 3

Claim 3: For all sets A, B , $\overline{A \cup B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$

Proof (Method 1)

Let A, B be arbitrary sets.

Definitions

$$A = B \equiv A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq A$$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

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Claim 3

Claim 3: For all sets A, B , $\overline{A \cup B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$

Proof (Method 1)

Let A, B be arbitrary sets.

\Rightarrow First we show that $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

Let $x \in \overline{A \cup B}$ be arbitrary.

By definition of intersection, $x \in \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$. Since x was arbitrary, $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

Definitions

$$A = B \equiv A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq A$$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

$$A \cap B = \{x : x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$$

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Proof (Method 1)

Let A, B be arbitrary sets.

\Rightarrow First we show that $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

Let $x \in \overline{A \cup B}$ be arbitrary.

By definition of complement, we have that $\neg(x \in A \cup B)$.

By definition of intersection, $x \in \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$. Since x was arbitrary, $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

Definitions

$$A = B \equiv A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq A$$

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Claim 3

Claim 3: For all sets A, B , $\overline{A \cup B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$

Proof (Method 1)

Let A, B be arbitrary sets.

\Rightarrow First we show that $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

Let $x \in \overline{A \cup B}$ be arbitrary.

By definition of complement, we have that $\neg(x \in A \cup B)$.

Then by definition of union, $\neg(x \in A \vee x \in B)$.

By definition of intersection, $x \in \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$. Since x was arbitrary, $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

Definitions

$$A = B \equiv A \subseteq B \wedge B \subseteq A$$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

$$A \cap B = \{x : x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$$

$$\bar{A} = \{x \in \mathcal{U} : x \notin A\}$$

Claim 3

Claim 3: For all sets A, B , $\overline{A \cup B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$

Proof (Method 1)

Let A, B be arbitrary sets.

\Rightarrow First we show that $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

Let $x \in \overline{A \cup B}$ be arbitrary.

By definition of complement, we have that $\neg(x \in A \cup B)$.

Then by definition of union, $\neg(x \in A \vee x \in B)$.

So by DeMorgan's Law, $x \notin A \wedge x \notin B$.

By definition of intersection, $x \in \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$. Since x was arbitrary, $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

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By definition of complement, $x \notin A$ and $x \notin B$.

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By definition of complement, $x \notin A$ and $x \notin B$.

Applying DeMorgan's Law, we get $\neg(x \in A \vee x \in B)$.

By the definition of union, we get: $\neg(x \in A \cup B)$, so $x \notin A \cup B$.

Since x was arbitrary, $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$.

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By definition of complement, $x \notin A$ and $x \notin B$.

Applying DeMorgan's Law, we get $\neg(x \in A \vee x \in B)$.

By the definition of union, we get: $\neg(x \in A \cup B)$, so $x \notin A \cup B$.

From the definition of complement, we get $x \in \overline{A \cup B}$, as required.

Since x was arbitrary, $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$.

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Since the subset relation holds in both directions, we have $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} = \overline{A \cup B}$.

Proving Set Equality: Method 1

One way to prove that $X = Y$ is to show that $X \subseteq Y$ by one subset proof, and $Y \subseteq X$ by another subset proof.

Proving Set Equality: Method 2

Another way to prove that $X = Y$ is to show that for arbitrary element x , $x \in X \equiv \dots \equiv x \in Y$ by a chain of equivalences.

Claim 4

Definitions

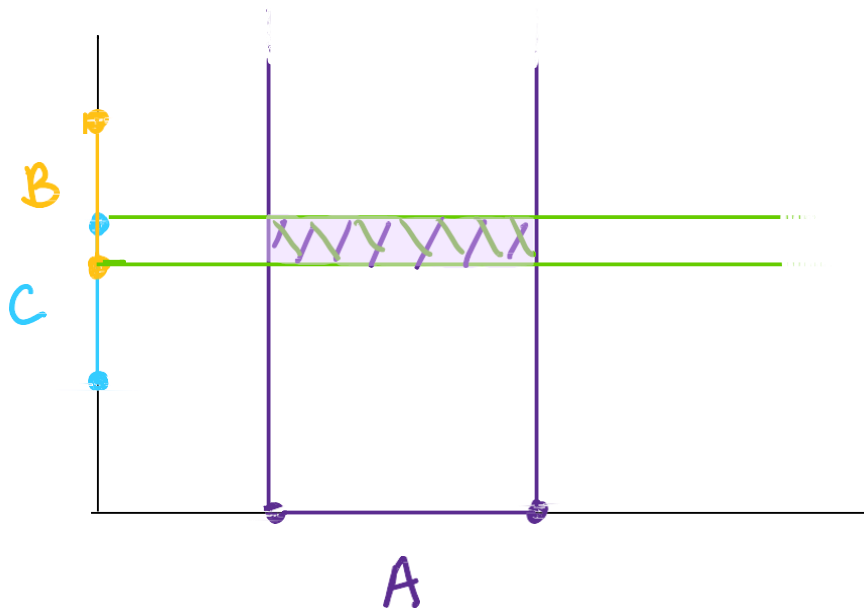
$$A \times B = \{(a, b) : a \in A, b \in B\}$$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

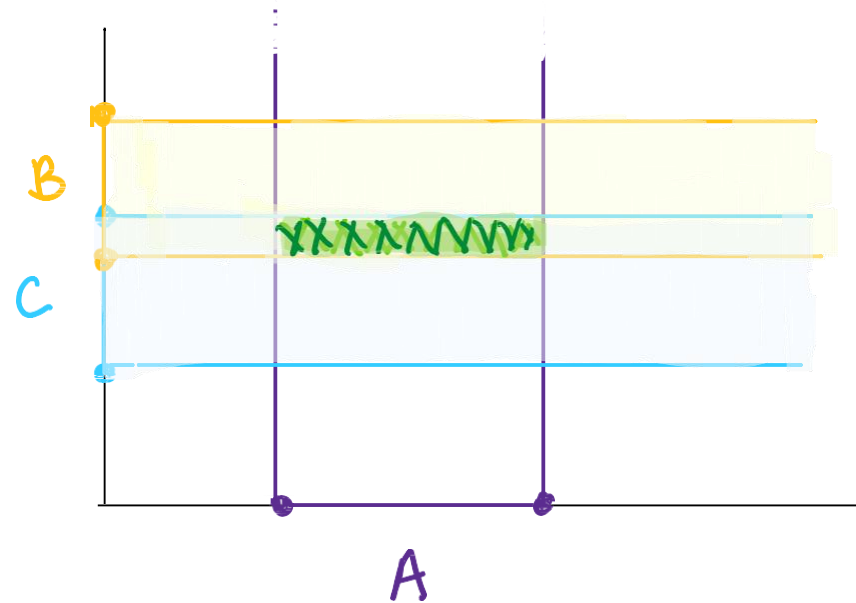
Claim 4: For all sets A, B, C , $A \times (B \cap C) = (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$

Intuition (Diagram)

$A \times (B \cap C)$



$(A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$



Claim 4

Definitions

$$A \times B = \{(a, b) : a \in A, b \in B\}$$

$$A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \vee x \in B\}$$

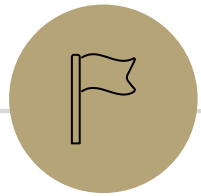
Claim 4: For all sets A, B, C , $A \times (B \cap C) = (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$.

Proof (Method 2)

Let A, B, C be arbitrary sets. Let (y, z) be an arbitrary pair. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} (y, z) \in A \times (B \cap C) &\equiv (y \in A) \wedge (z \in B \cap C) && \text{Def. of } \times \\ &\equiv (y \in A) \wedge ((z \in B) \wedge (z \in C)) && \text{Def. of } \cap \\ &\equiv (y \in A) \wedge (y \in A) \wedge (z \in B) \wedge (z \in C) && \text{Idempotency} \\ &\equiv (y \in A) \wedge (z \in B) \wedge (y \in A) \wedge (z \in C) && \text{Assoc. and Commutativity} \\ &\equiv (y, z) \in A \times B \wedge (y, z) \in A \times C && \text{Def of } \times \\ &\equiv (y, z) \in (A \times B) \cap (A \times C) && \text{Def of } \cap \end{aligned}$$

Since (y, z) was arbitrary, we have shown that $A \times (B \cap C) = (A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$. Since A, B, C were arbitrary sets, the claim holds.



Proof by Contradiction

Proof by Contradiction

Proof by contradiction is a strategy for proving **statements of any form**.

The strategy to prove p is to assume $\neg p$ and derive **False**. (i.e. $(\neg \text{claim}) \rightarrow \text{F}$)

- E.g. the strategy to prove $p \rightarrow q$ is to assume $p \wedge \neg q$ and derive **False**.
- E.g. the strategy to prove $p \vee q$ is to assume $\neg p \wedge \neg q$ and derive **False**.

Why does that work?

Observe from our logical equivalences:

$$\begin{aligned}\neg p \rightarrow F &\equiv \neg \neg p \vee F \\ &\equiv p \vee F \\ &\equiv p\end{aligned}$$

Law of Implication
Double Negation
Identity

Proof by Contradiction Skeleton

Suppose for the sake of contradiction $\neg p$.

...

Then some statement s must hold.

...

And some statement $\neg s$ must hold.

But s and $\neg s$ is a contradiction. So p must be true.

What's the difference?

What's the difference between proof by contrapositive and proof by contradiction?

Show $p \rightarrow q$	Proof by contradiction	Proof by contrapositive
Starting Point	$\neg(p \rightarrow q) \equiv (p \wedge \neg q)$	$\neg q$
Target	Something false	$\neg p$

Show p	Proof by contradiction	Proof by contrapositive
Starting Point	$\neg p$	---
Target	Something false	---

Proof by Contradiction: Remarks

- Unlike other proof techniques, we don't know *where* we're going. We're trying to find any contradiction. That can make it harder.
- Contradiction is a **sledge-hammer**. It can be used to prove many things. But it makes a mess.
- Use contradiction as a last-resort.

**Contradiction is a
sledge-hammer**



Claim: No integer is even and odd.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists an integer x that is both even and odd.

This is a contradiction!

Thus no integer can be even and odd.

Claim: No integer is even and odd.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists an integer x that is both even and odd.

[Show there exists some contradiction if we make this assumption]

This is a contradiction!

Thus no integer can be even and odd.

Claim: No integer is even and odd.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists an integer x that is both even and odd.

Then $x = 2a$ for some integer a , and $x = 2b + 1$ for some integer b .

This is a contradiction!

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Claim: No integer is even and odd.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists an integer x that is both even and odd.

Then $x = 2a$ for some integer a , and $x = 2b + 1$ for some integer b .

Then:

$$2a = 2b + 1$$

$$2a - 2b = 1$$

$$a - b = \frac{1}{2}$$

This is a contradiction!

Thus no integer can be even and odd.

Claim: No integer is even and odd.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists an integer x that is both even and odd.

Then $x = 2a$ for some integer a , and $x = 2b + 1$ for some integer b .

Then:

$$2a = 2b + 1$$

$$2a - 2b = 1$$

$$a - b = \frac{1}{2}$$

Since a, b are integers, $a - b$ is an integer. But $\frac{1}{2}$ is not an integer, so $a - b$ cannot equal $\frac{1}{2}$.

This is a contradiction!

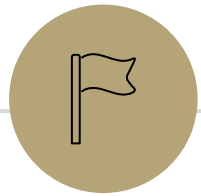
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Proof By Contradiction

How in the world did we know how to do that?

In real life...lots of attempts that didn't work.

Be very careful with proof by contradiction – without a clear target, you can easily end up in a loop of trying random things and getting nowhere.



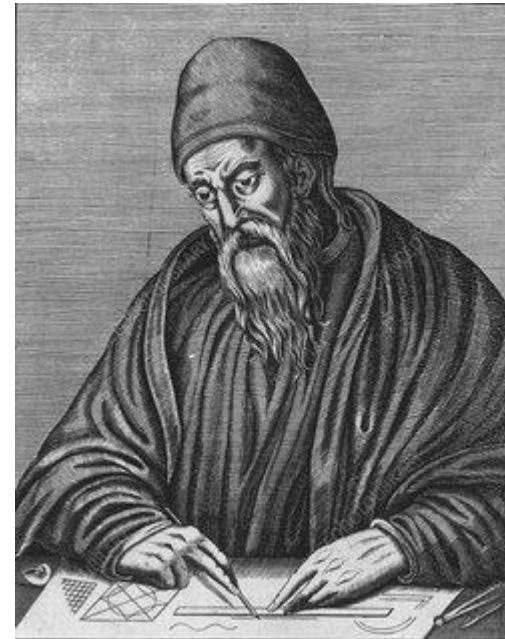
Another Proof by Contradiction

Euclid's Theorem: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, ...



	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



Euclid ~300 BC

Euclid's Theorem: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Assume for the sake of contradiction that there are finitely many prime numbers. Call them p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k .

In either case, we have a contradiction. Thus there must be infinitely many primes.

Euclid's Theorem: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Assume for the sake of contradiction that there are finitely many prime numbers. Call them p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k .

Consider the number $q = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdots p_k + 1$.

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Assume for the sake of contradiction that there are finitely many prime numbers. Call them p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k .

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Case 1: q is prime.

Case 2: q is composite.

In either case, we have a contradiction. Thus there must be infinitely many primes.

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Consider the number $q = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdots p_k + 1$.

Case 1: q is prime. Then q is a prime that is larger than p_i for all $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. But every prime was supposed to be in the list p_1, \dots, p_k . This is a contradiction.

Case 2: q is composite.

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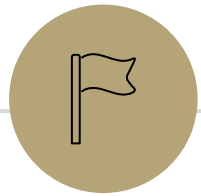
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Case 2: q is composite. Then q must have some prime factor. So there exists some i such that $p_i \mid q$. Then $q \% p_i = 0$. But

$$q \% p_i = (p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdots p_k + 1) \% p_i = 1$$

So we have $q \% p_i = 0$ and $q \% p_i = 1$. This is a contradiction.

In either case, we have a contradiction. Thus there must be infinitely many primes.



Extra Practice: Proof by Contradiction

Just the Skeleton

“For all integers x , if x^2 is even, then x is even.”

Just the Skeleton

“For all integers x , if x^2 is even, then x is even.”

Suppose for the sake of contradiction, there is an integer x , such that x^2 is even and x is odd.

...

[] is a contradiction, so for all integers x , if x^2 is even, then x is even.

Just the Skeleton

“There is not an integer k such that for all integers n , $k \geq n$.”

Just the Skeleton

“There is not an integer k such that for all integers n , $k \geq n$.”

Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that there is an integer k such that for all integers n , $k \geq n$.

...

[] is a contradiction! So there is not an integer k such that for all integers n , $k \geq n$.

Todo

Tonight:

- HW2 Resubmissions due tonight!
- CC 11 is out and due Monday at noon
- Take a look at HW4 today or over the weekend!