

Foundations of Computer Science

Lecture 4

Proofs

Proving “IF ... THEN ...” (Implication): Direct proof; Contraposition
Contradiction

Proofs About Sets



- ① How to make precise statements.
- ② Quantifiers which allow us to make statements about many things.

Today: Proofs

1 Proving “IF ..., THEN ...”.

2 Proof Patterns

- Direct Proof
- Contraposition
- Equivalence, ... IF AND ONLY IF ...

3 Contradiction

4 Proofs about sets.

Implications: Reasoning in the Absence of Facts

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IF we can quickly find the largest friend-clique in a friendship network,

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More Mathematical Example: Quadratic formula.

IF $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ and $a \neq 0$, THEN $x = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ or $x = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.

Proving an Implication

IF $\underbrace{x \text{ and } y \text{ are rational}}_p$, THEN $\underbrace{x + y \text{ is rational}}_q$.

$\forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 : \underbrace{x + y \text{ is rational}}_{P(x,y)}$.

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Proof. We must show that the row $p = \text{T}$, $q = \text{F}$ can't happen.

p	q	$p \rightarrow q$
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F	T	T
T	F	F
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That means q is T.

The row $p = \text{T}, q = \text{F}$ *cannot* occur and the implication is proved. ■

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Theorem. If $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$, then $x + y \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Proof. We prove the theorem using a direct proof.

- 1: Assume that $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$, that is x and y are rational.
- 2: Then there are integers a, c and natural numbers b, d such that $x = a/b$ and $y = c/d$ (because this is what it means for x and y to be rational).
- 3: Then $x + y = (ad + bc)/bd$ (high-school algebra).
- 4: Since $ad + bc \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $bd \in \mathbb{N}$, $(ad + bc)/bd$ is rational.
- 5: Thus, we conclude (from steps 3 and 4) that $x + y \in \mathbb{Q}$. ■

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A proof must be well written.

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- ❻ **Read your proof.** Finally, check correctness; edit; simplify.

Example: Direct Proof

Let x be any real number, i.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

IF $\underbrace{4^x - 1 \text{ is divisible by } 3}_p$, THEN $\underbrace{4^{x+1} - 1 \text{ is divisible by } 3}_q$.

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$$4^{x+1} = 4 \cdot (3k + 1) = 12k + 4.$$

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- 5: Therefore, the statement claimed in q is T. ■

Question. Is $4^x - 1$ divisible by 3?

We Made No Assumptions About x

$P(x)$: “IF $4^x - 1$ is divisible by 3, THEN $4^{x+1} - 1$ is divisible by 3”

Since we made no assumptions about x , we proved:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R} : P(x)$$

Exercise. Prove: For all pairs of odd integers m, n , the sum $m + n$ is an even integer.

Practice. Exercise 4.2.

Disproving an Implication

$$\text{IF } \underbrace{x^2 > y^2}_p, \text{ THEN } \underbrace{x > y}_q.$$

FALSE!

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Counter-example: $x = -8, y = -4$.

$$x^2 > y^2 \qquad \text{so, } p = \text{T}$$

$$x < y \qquad \text{so, } q = \text{F}$$

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The row $p = \text{T}, q = \text{F}$ has occurred!

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A single **counter-example** suffices to disprove an implication.

Contraposition

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x is odd, $x = 2k + 1$.

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x is odd, $x = 2k + 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 &= (2k + 1)^2 \\ &= 4k^2 + 4k + 1 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1 \quad \leftarrow \text{odd} \end{aligned}$$

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That means p is F.

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The implication is proved. ■

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Template: Contraposition Proof of an Implication $p \rightarrow q$

Proof. We prove the theorem using contraposition.

- 1: Start by assuming that the statement claimed in q is F.
- 2: Restate your assumption in mathematical terms.
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Theorem. If x^2 is even, then x is even.

Proof. We prove the theorem by contraposition.

- 1: Assume that x is odd.
- 2: Then $x = 2k + 1$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ (that's what it means for x to be odd)
- 3: Then $x^2 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1$ (high-school algebra).
- 4: Which means x^2 is 1 plus a multiple of 2, and hence is odd.
- 5: We have shown that x^2 is odd, concluding the proof. ■

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Proof. We prove the theorem by contraposition.

- 1: Assume that x is odd.
- 2: Then $x = 2k + 1$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ (that's what it means for x to be odd)
- 3: Then $x^2 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1$ (high-school algebra).
- 4: Which means x^2 is 1 plus a multiple of 2, and hence is odd.
- 5: We have shown that x^2 is odd, concluding the proof. ■

Exercise. Prove: IF r is irrational, THEN \sqrt{r} is irrational.

Equivalence: . . . IF AND ONLY IF . . .

p and q are equivalent means they are either both T or both F.

p IF AND ONLY IF q or $p \leftrightarrow q$

p	q	$p \leftrightarrow q$
F	F	T
F	T	F
T	F	F
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To prove $p \leftrightarrow q$ is T, you must prove:

- ① Row $p = T, q = F$ cannot occur: that is $p \rightarrow q$.
- ② Row $p = F, q = T$ cannot occur: that is $q \rightarrow p$.

Integer x is divisible by 3 IF AND ONLY IF x^2 is divisible by 3.

$\underbrace{x \text{ is divisible by 3}}_p$ IF AND ONLY IF $\underbrace{x^2 \text{ is divisible by 3}}_q$.

Proof. The proof has two main steps (one for each implication):

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❶ **Prove $p \rightarrow q$: if x is divisible by 3, then x^2 is divisible by 3.**

❷ **Prove $q \rightarrow p$: if x^2 is divisible by 3, then x is divisible by 3.**

■

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Proof. The proof has two main steps (one for each implication):

❶ **Prove $p \rightarrow q$: if x is divisible by 3, then x^2 is divisible by 3.**

We use a direct proof. Assume x is divisible by 3, so $x = 3k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Then, $x^2 = 9k^2 = 3 \cdot (3k^2)$ is a multiple of 3, and so x^2 is divisible by 3.

❷ **Prove $q \rightarrow p$: if x^2 is divisible by 3, then x is divisible by 3.**

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We use contraposition. Assume x is not divisible by 3. There are two cases for x ,

Case 1: $x = 3k + 1 \rightarrow x^2 = 3k(3k + 2) + 1$ (1 more than a multiple of 3).

Case 2: $x = 3k + 2 \rightarrow x^2 = 3(3k^2 + 4k + 1) + 1$ (1 more than a multiple of 3).

In all cases, x^2 is not divisible by 3, as was to be shown. ■

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- IF AND ONLY IF proof contains the proofs of *two* implications.
- Each implication may be proved differently.

Contradictions

$$1 = 2; \quad n^2 < n \text{ (for integer } n\text{);} \quad |x| < x; \quad p \wedge \neg p.$$

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- 1: **Assume $\sqrt{2}$ is rational.**
- 2: This means $\sqrt{2} = a_*/b_*$; b_* is the smallest denominator (well ordering).
- 3: That is, a_* and b_* cannot have 2 as a common factor.
- 4: We have: $2 = a_*^2/b_*^2 \rightarrow a_*^2 = 2b_*^2$, or a_*^2 is even. Hence, a_* is even, $a_* = 2k$. [we proved this]
- 5: Therefore, $4k^2 = 2b_*^2$ and so $b_*^2 = 2k^2$, or b_*^2 is even. Hence, b_* is even, $b_* = 2\ell$.
- 6: Hence, a_* and b_* are both divisible by 2. **(FISHY)**

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- 6: Hence, a_* and b_* are both divisible by 2. **(FISHY)**

What could possibly be wrong with this derivation? It must be step 1.

Template: Proof by Contradiction that p is T

- You can use contradiction to prove *anything*. Start by assuming it's false.

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DANGER! Be especially careful in contradiction proofs. Any small mistake can easily lead to a contradiction and a false sense that you proved your claim.

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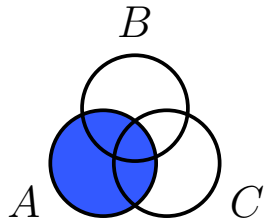
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Exercise. Let a, b be integers. Prove that $a^2 - 4b \neq 2$.

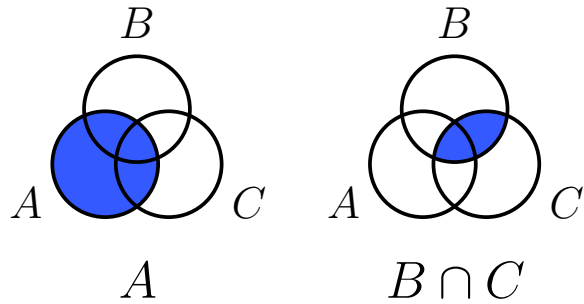
Proofs about Sets

Venn diagram proofs: $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$.



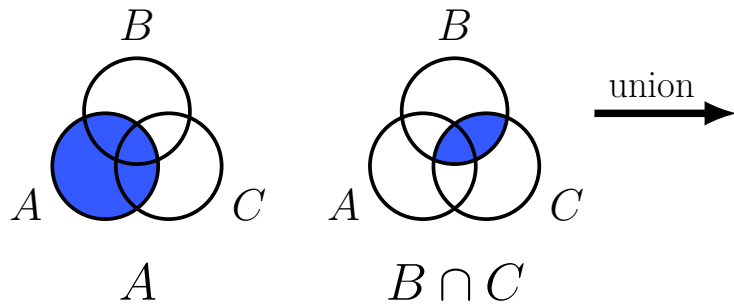
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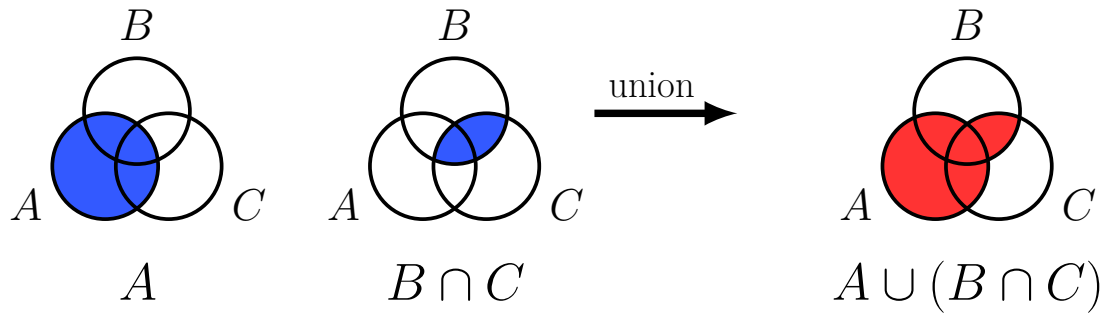
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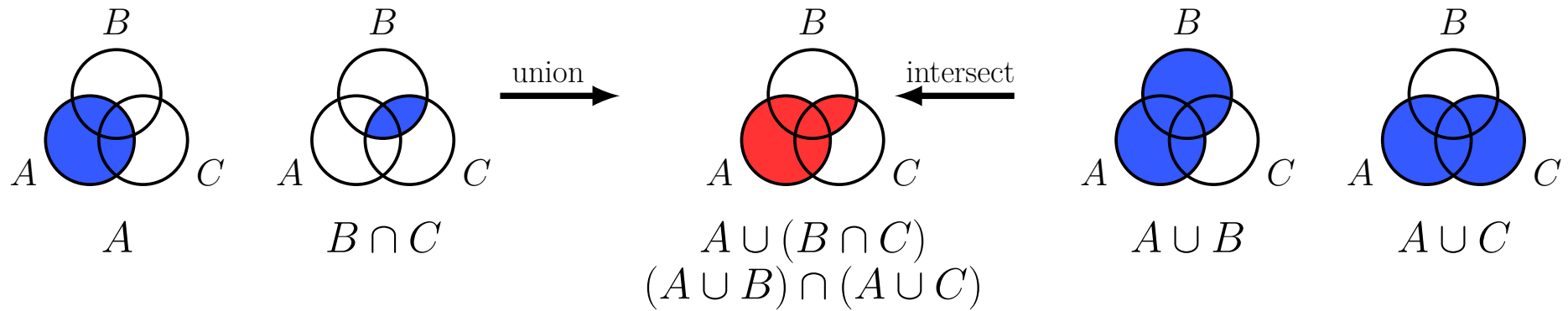
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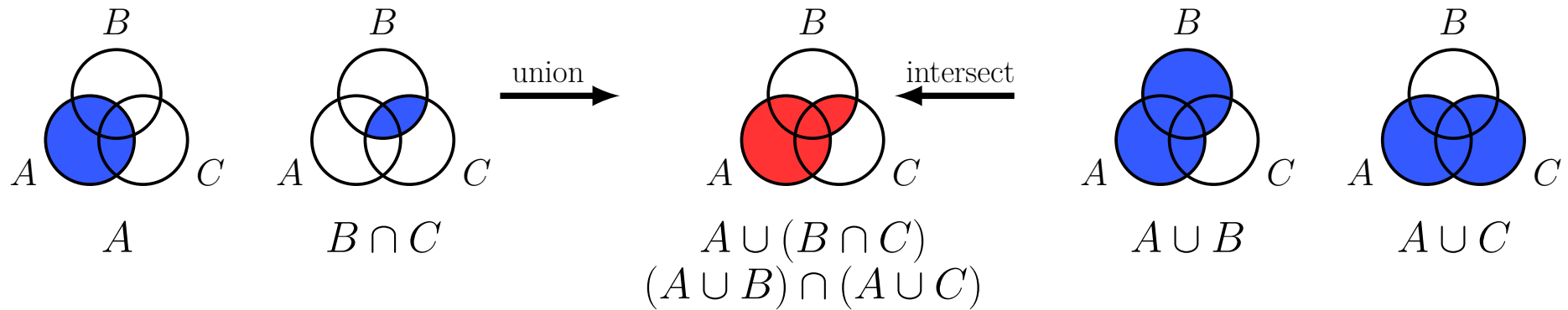
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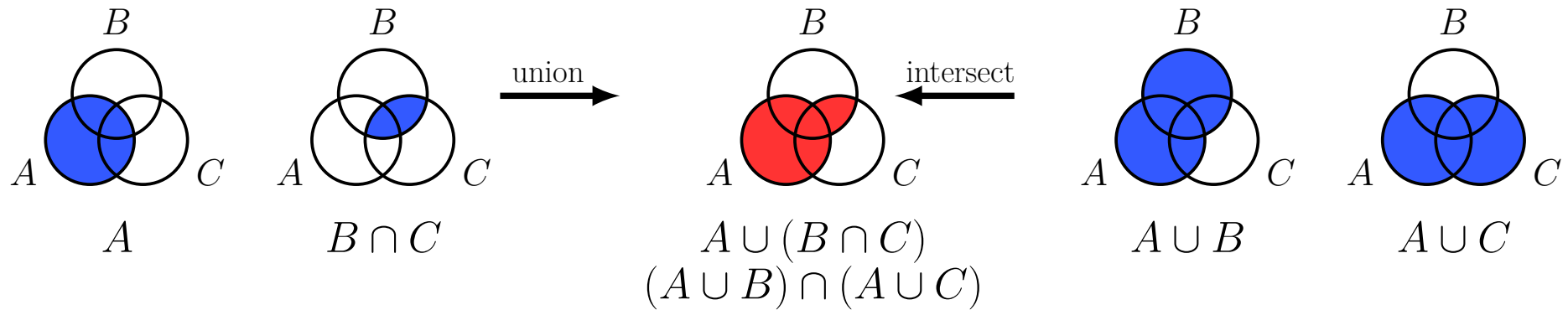


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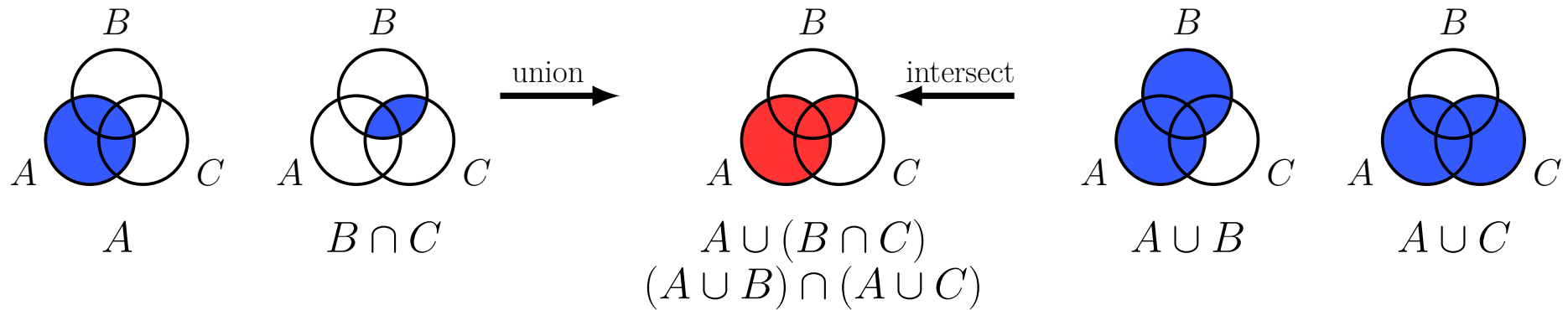
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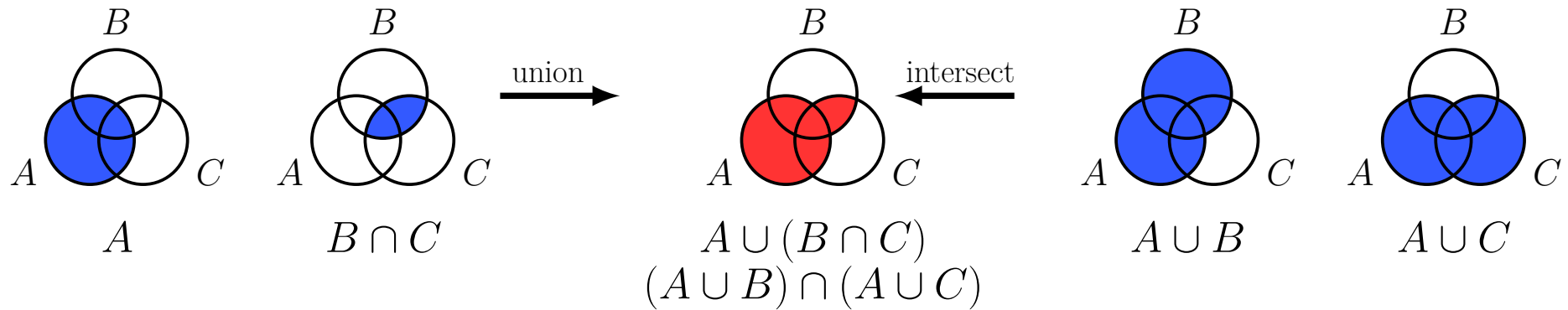
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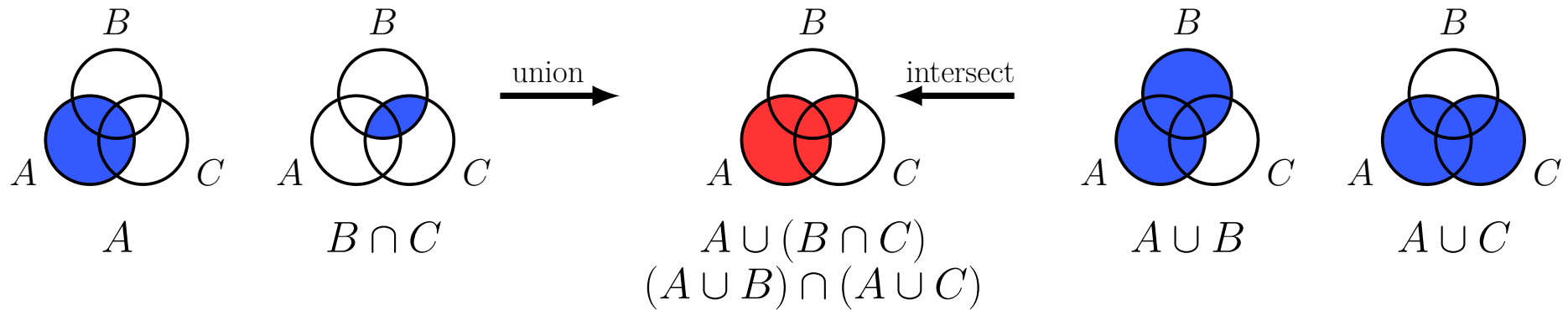
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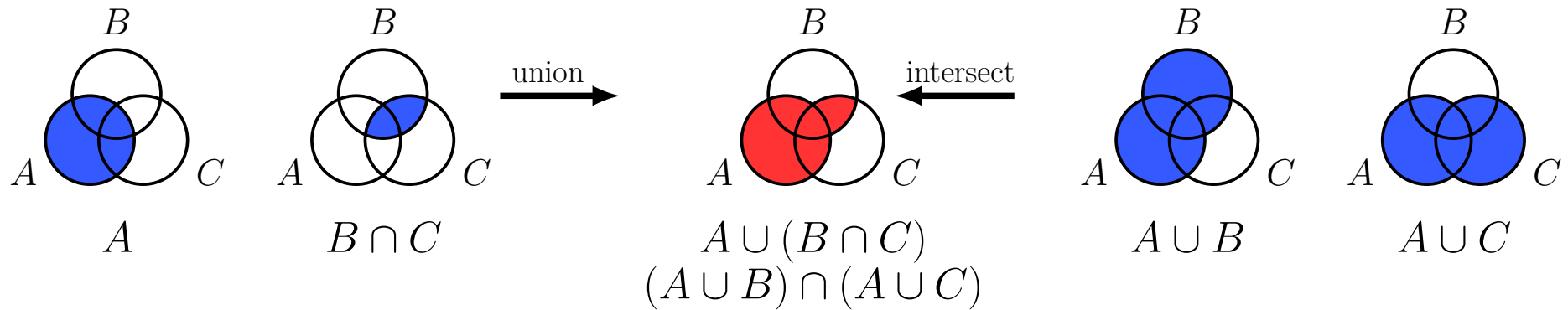
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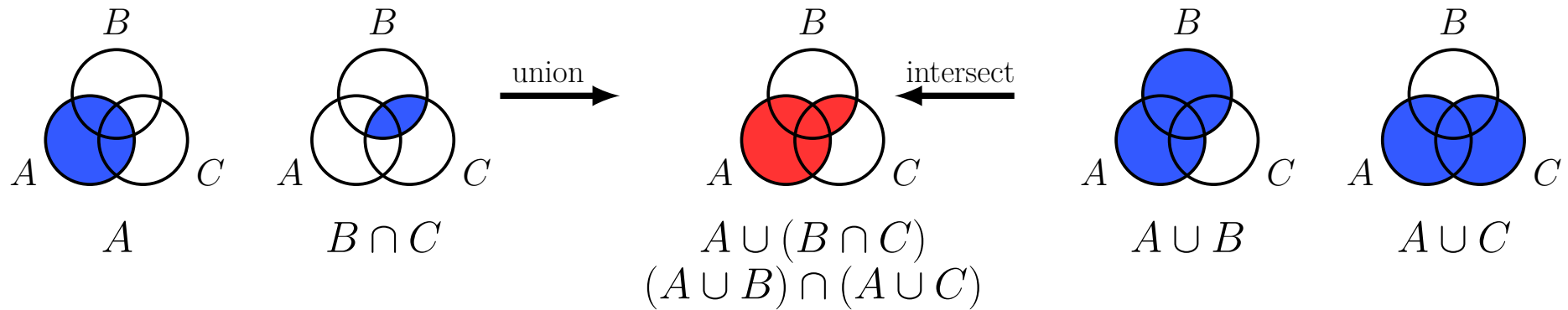
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Exercise. $A = \{\text{multiples of } 2\}$; $B = \{\text{multiples of } 9\}$; $C = \{\text{multiples of } 6\}$. Prove $A \cap B \subseteq C$.

Picking a Proof Template

Situation you are faced with

Suggested proof method



Picking a Proof Template

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Suggested proof method

1. Clear how result follows from assumption

Picking a Proof Template

Situation you are faced with

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1. Clear how result follows from assumption

Direct proof

Picking a Proof Template

Situation you are faced with

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1. Clear how result follows from assumption
2. Clear that if result is false, the assumption is false

Direct proof

Picking a Proof Template

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1. Clear how result follows from assumption

Direct proof

2. Clear that if result is false, the assumption is false

Contraposition

Picking a Proof Template

Situation you are faced with

Suggested proof method

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Clear how result follows from assumption | Direct proof |
| 2. Clear that if result is false, the assumption is false | Contraposition |
| 3. Prove something exists | |

Picking a Proof Template

Situation you are faced with

Suggested proof method

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Clear how result follows from assumption | Direct proof |
| 2. Clear that if result is false, the assumption is false | Contraposition |
| 3. Prove something exists | Show an example |

Picking a Proof Template

Situation you are faced with

Suggested proof method

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Clear how result follows from assumption | Direct proof |
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| 4. Prove something does not exist | |

Picking a Proof Template

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Suggested proof method

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Clear how result follows from assumption | Direct proof |
| 2. Clear that if result is false, the assumption is false | Contraposition |
| 3. Prove something exists | Show an example |
| 4. Prove something does not exist | Contradiction |

Picking a Proof Template

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| 1. Clear how result follows from assumption | Direct proof |
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Picking a Proof Template

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| 4. Prove something does not exist | Contradiction |
| 5. Prove something is unique | Contradiction |
| 6. Prove something is <i>not true</i> for <i>all</i> objects | |

Picking a Proof Template

Situation you are faced with

Suggested proof method

1. Clear how result follows from assumption	Direct proof
2. Clear that if result is false, the assumption is false	Contraposition
3. Prove something exists	Show an example
4. Prove something does not exist	Contradiction
5. Prove something is unique	Contradiction
6. Prove something is <i>not true</i> for <i>all</i> objects	Show a counter-example

Picking a Proof Template

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| 5. Prove something is unique | Contradiction |
| 6. Prove something is <i>not true</i> for <i>all</i> objects | Show a counter-example |
| 7. Show something is <i>true</i> for <i>all</i> objects | |

Picking a Proof Template

Situation you are faced with

Suggested proof method

1. Clear how result follows from assumption	Direct proof
2. Clear that if result is false, the assumption is false	Contraposition
3. Prove something exists	Show an example
4. Prove something does not exist	Contradiction
5. Prove something is unique	Contradiction
6. Prove something is <i>not true</i> for <i>all</i> objects	Show a counter-example
7. Show something is <i>true</i> for <i>all</i> objects	Show for general object

Practice. Exercise 4.8.