

# Example of Proof by Contradiction

1. Use proof by contradiction to prove the following statement:

If  $A$  and  $B$  are sets, then  $A \cap (B - A) \equiv \emptyset$

*Proof.* Suppose not.

That is, suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are sets but  $A \cap (B - A) \not\equiv \emptyset$ .

Then there is an element  $e \in A \cap (B - A)$ .

By the definition of Intersection,  $A \cap (B - A) \equiv \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B - A\}$

By the definition of Set Difference,  $B - A \equiv \{x \mid x \in B \text{ and } x \notin A\}$

Combining these two definitions, we have  $A \cap (B - A) \equiv \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B \text{ and } x \notin A\}$

Then  $e \in \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B \text{ and } x \notin A\}$

Which means  $e \in A$  and  $e \notin A$

This is a contradiction.

$\therefore$  If  $A$  and  $B$  are sets, then  $A \cap (B - A) \equiv \emptyset$

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