

**Theorem (2.3.67a).** *Let  $A$ , and  $B$  be sets with universal set  $U$ . Let  $f_{A \cap B}$  be the characteristic function  $f_{A \cap B} : U \Rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ . Let  $f_A$  be the characteristic function  $f_A : U \Rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ . Let  $f_B$  be the characteristic function  $f_B : U \Rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ .  $f_{A \cap B}(x) = f_A(x) \times f_B(x)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x$  be an element in  $A \cap B$ . By the definition for characteristic functions,  $f_{A \cap B}(x) = 1$ . Since the definition for set intersection says that  $(x \in A) \wedge (x \in B)$ , we know by the definition for characteristic functions that  $f_A(x) = f_B(x) = 1$ . Thus, it follows immediately by the multiplicative identity law from the field axioms that  $f_{A \cap B}(x) = f_A(x) \times f_B(x)$ .

Suppose it were not the case that  $x$  were an element in  $A \cap B$ . That is,  $x \notin (A \cap B) \equiv [(x \notin A) \vee (x \notin B)]$ , by DeMorgans law. By the definition for characteristic functions,  $f_{A \cap B}(x) = 0$ . Also, again by the definition for characteristic functions we know that  $(f_A(x) = 0) \vee (f_B(x) = 0)$ . Without loss of generality we can suppose  $f_A(x) = 0$ . It follows immediately from the multiplicative property of zero that  $f_{A \cap B}(x) = 0 \times f_B(x) = 0$ . Thus,  $f_{A \cap B}(x) = f_A(x) \times f_B(x)$ . ■