

**Theorem (2.2.15).** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.  $\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x$  be an element in  $\overline{A \cup B}$ . By the definition of set complementation we have  $\neg[x \in (A \cup B)]$ . By the definition of set union,  $\neg[(x \in A) \vee (x \in B)]$ . Applying DeMorgans law (from logic) to the logical operations we get  $\neg(x \in A) \wedge \neg(x \in B) \equiv (x \in \overline{A}) \wedge (x \in \overline{B})$ . This is the definition of  $x \in (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})$ . Therefore  $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})$ .

Now suppose  $x$  were an element in  $\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$ . Then by definition  $(x \in \overline{A}) \wedge (x \in \overline{B}) \equiv \neg(x \in A) \wedge \neg(x \in B)$ . By DeMorgans law (from logic) we have  $\neg[(x \in A) \vee (x \in B)]$ . Since this is the definition for set union it follows that  $\neg[x \in (A \cup B)]$ . Finally, applying the definition of set complementation we arrive at  $x \in \overline{A \cup B}$ . Therefore  $(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}) \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$ .

Because  $\overline{A \cup B} \subseteq (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})$  and  $(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}) \subseteq \overline{A \cup B}$  the sets are equivalent by definition. That is,  $\overline{A \cup B} = (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})$ . Thereby proving DeMorgans law for sets, that the complement of the union of two sets is equivalent to the intersection of those set complements. ■