

# General Unions

(Piece of PIE)

Size of a general union

Principle of Inclusion Exclusion

Multiple sets

Start: Hairy Problem



# Hairy Problem

A friend claims she can determine the size of any set **instantly and exactly**

She can determine the **exact** # of hairs on your head

Can you ask her some questions to be fairly certain if she tells the truth?



**Hint**  
It doesn't just  
work for humans

# Simple Solution

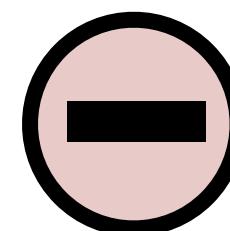
8

Subtraction Rule

Ask her how many hairs you have

Remove a small number of hairs, say 8

Ask her how many hairs you have now



Difference between her answers should be # hairs removed (8)

Can you ask a single question?

Ask just how many hairs you removed

8 hairs

Zero-knowledge proofs

Prove identity without revealing password



# General Unions

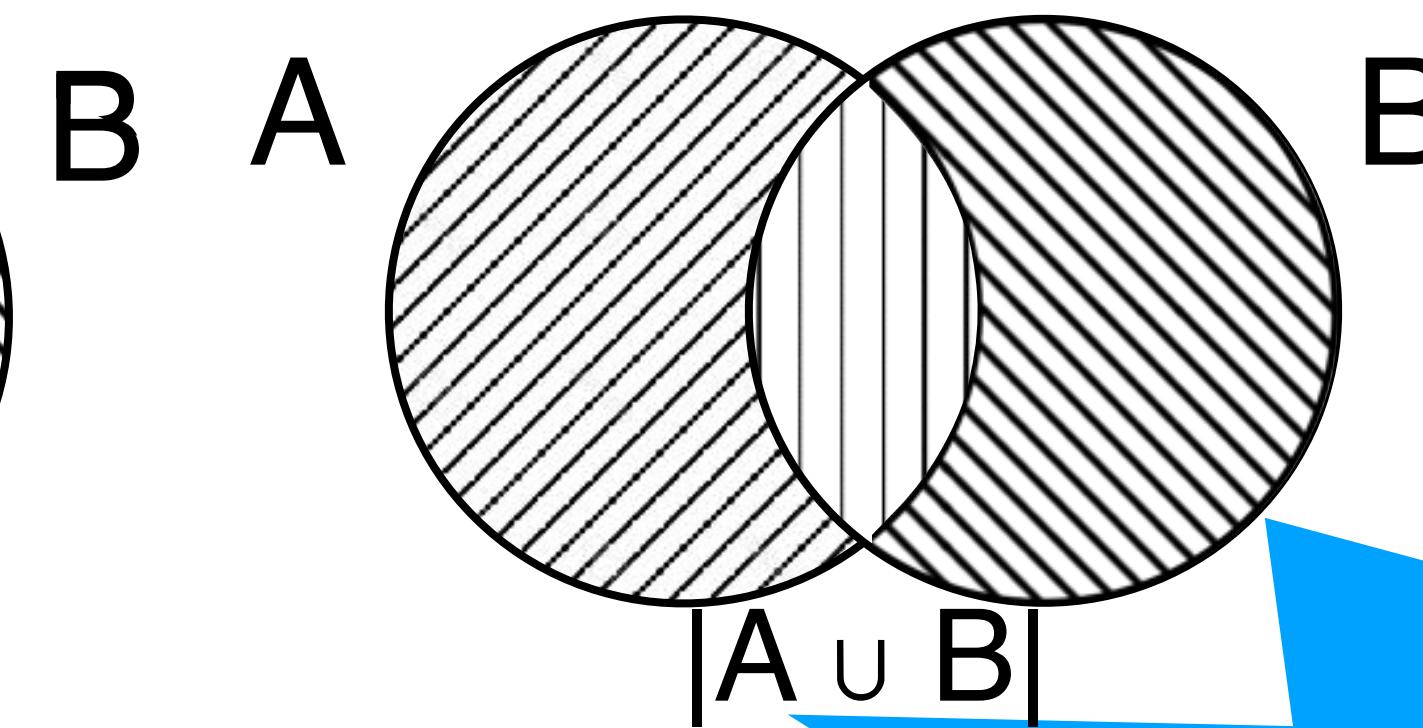
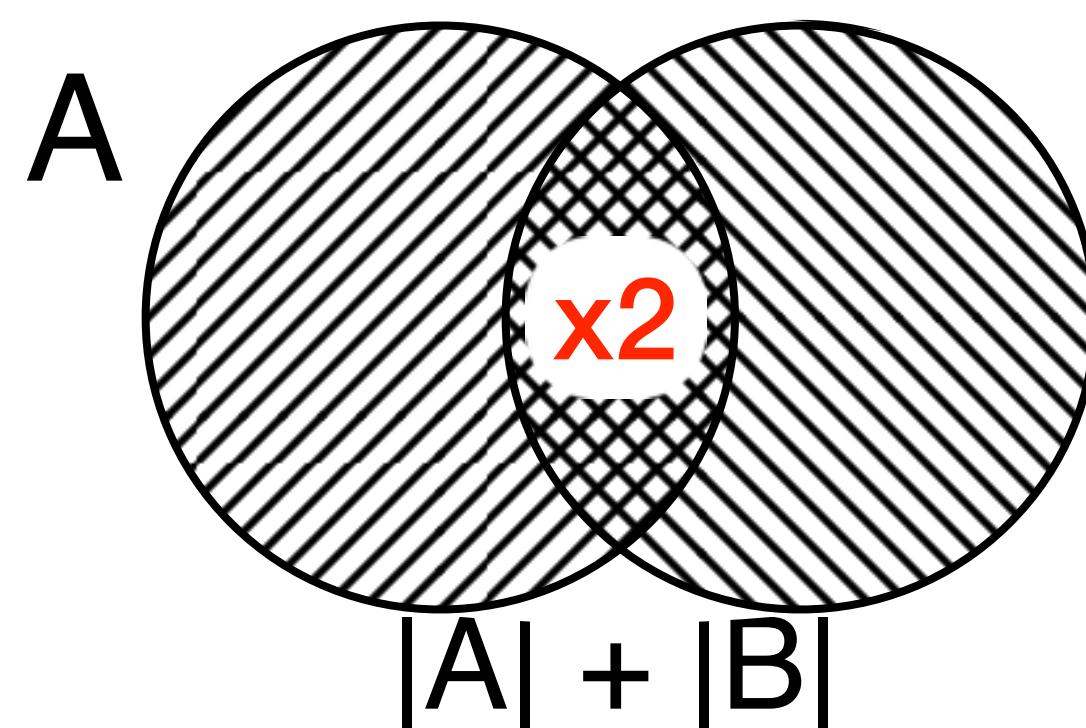
Disjoint A and B:  $|A \cup B| = |A| + |B|$

In general:  $|A \cup B| \neq |A| + |B|$

Size of union = sum of sizes

$\{a\} \cup \{a\} = |\{a\}| = 1 \neq 2 = |\{a\}| + |\{a\}|$

Can we determine  $|A \cup B|$  in general?

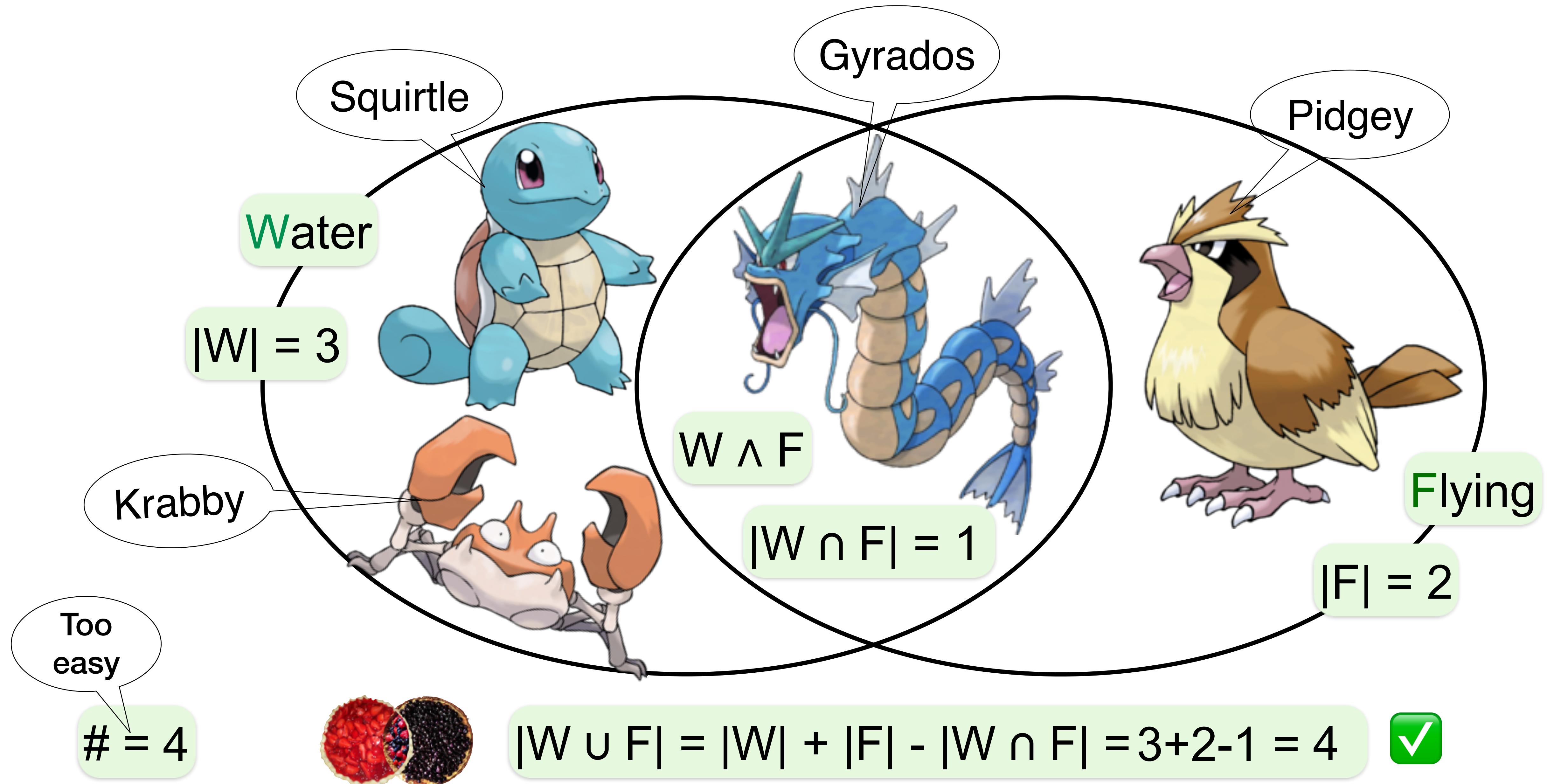


$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$$

Principle of  
Inclusion-Exclusion  
(PIE)



# Pokémons



# Divisibility by 2 Numbers

$$D_{2 \vee 3} = \{ i \in [100] : 2|i \vee 3|i \} = \{2, 3, 4, 6, 8, \dots, 100\}$$

$$|D_{2 \vee 3}| = ?$$

$$|D_2 \cap D_3| = 16$$

$$D_2 = \{ i \in [100] : 2|i \} = \{2, 4, 6, \dots, 100\}$$

$$D_3 = \{ i \in [100] : 3|i \} = \{3, 6, 9, \dots, 99\}$$

$$|D_2| = 50$$

$$|D_3| = 33$$

$$D_{2 \vee 3} = D_2 \cup D_3$$

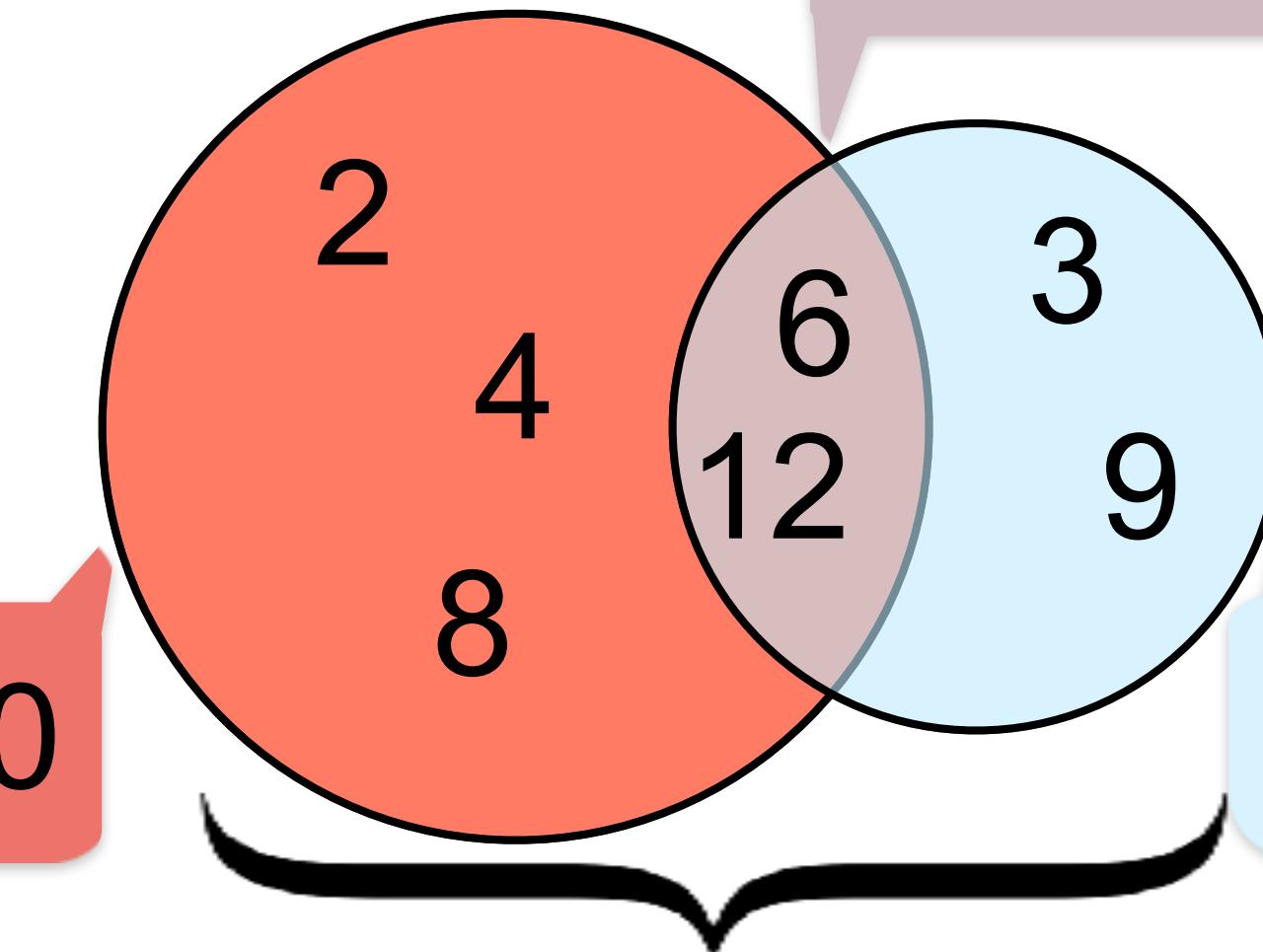


$$|D_2 \cup D_3| = |D_2| + |D_3| - |D_2 \cap D_3|$$

$$|D_{2 \vee 3}| = 67$$

$$D_2 \cap D_3 = \{ i \in [100] : 2|i \wedge 3|i \} = \{ i \in [100] : 6|i \}$$

$$|D_{2 \vee 3}| = |D_2| + |D_3| - |D_2 \cap D_3| = 50 + 33 - 16 = 67$$



# Multiple Sets

Two sets



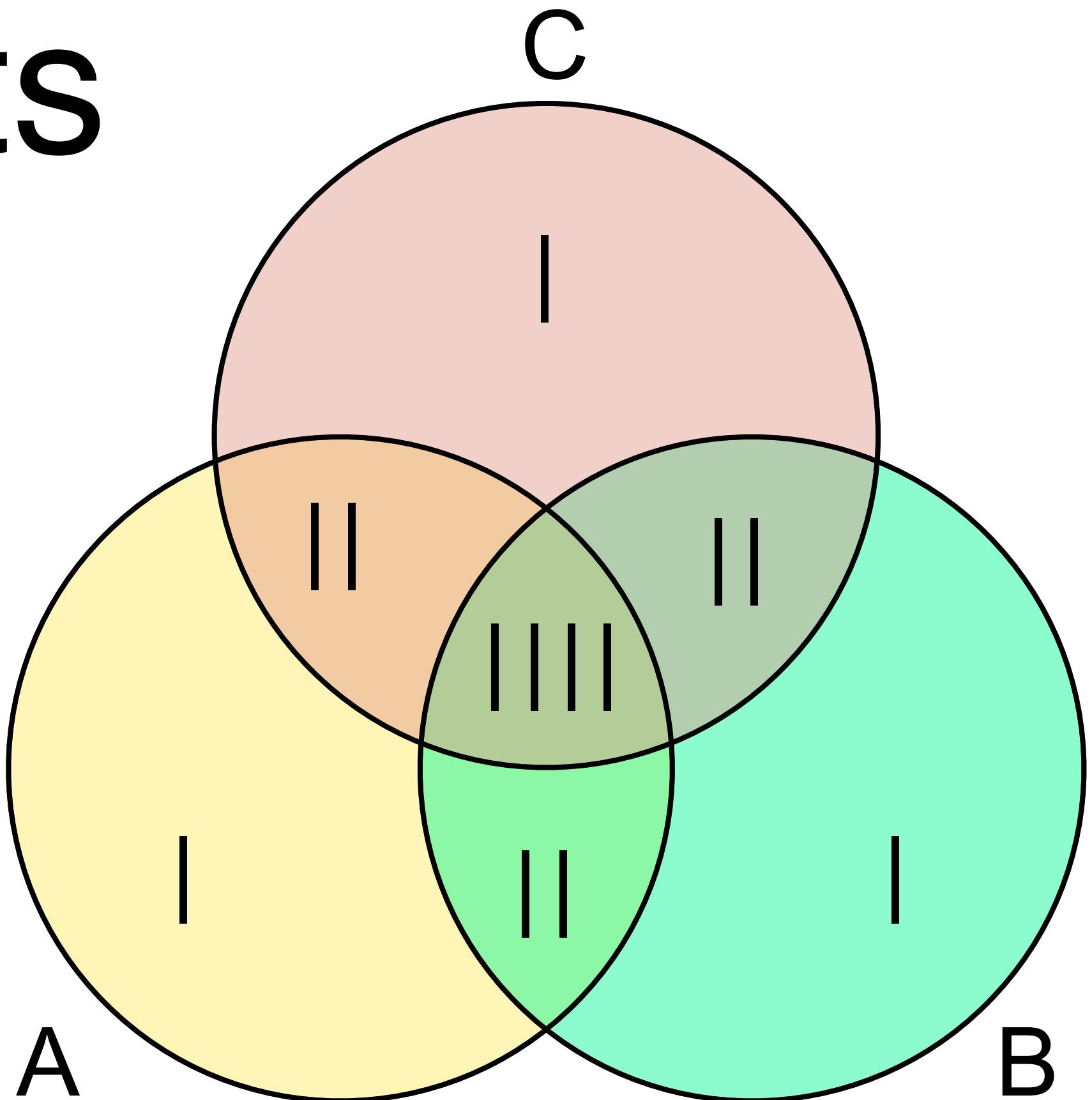
$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$$

Three sets

$$\begin{aligned} |A \cup B \cup C| &= |A| + |B| + |C| \\ &\quad - |A \cap B| - |A \cap C| - |B \cap C| \\ &\quad + |A \cap B \cap C| \end{aligned}$$

n sets

$$\left| \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \right| = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} |A_i| - \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} |A_i \cap A_j| + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} \left| \bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i \right|$$



# Polyglots

8 students in class, each “speaks” **C**, **R**, or **Π**thon

$$|C \cup R \cup \Pi| = 8$$

Each language spoken by 5 students

$$|C| = |R| = |\Pi| = 5$$

Every language *pair* is spoken by 3 students

$$|C \cap R| = |C \cap \Pi| = |R \cap \Pi| = 3$$

How many students speak all 3 languages?

$$|C \cap R \cap \Pi| = ?$$

$$|C \cup R \cup \Pi| = |C| + |R| + |\Pi| - |C \cap R| - |C \cap \Pi| - |R \cap \Pi| + |C \cap R \cap \Pi|$$

$$8 = 5 + 5 + 5 - 3 - 3 - 3 + ?$$

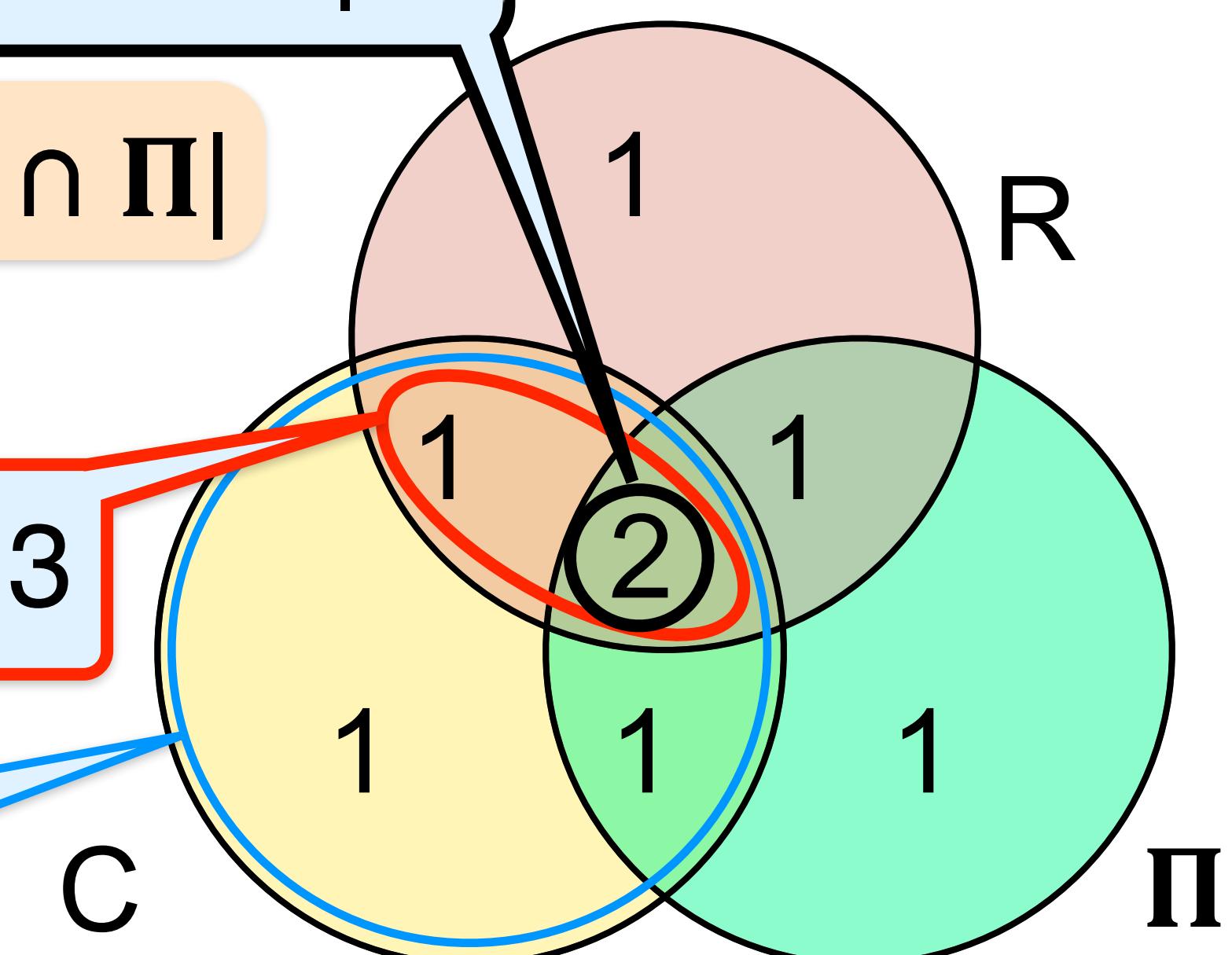
$$? = 8 - 5 - 5 - 5 + 3 + 3 + 3$$

$$= 2$$

With that, can say more

$$|C \cap R| = 3$$

$$|C| = 5$$



# Sanity Checks

Compare  to some expected outcomes

A, B disjoint

$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B| = |A| + |B|$$



0

Equal sets

$$|A \cup A| = |A| + |A| - |A \cap A| = |A|$$



|A|

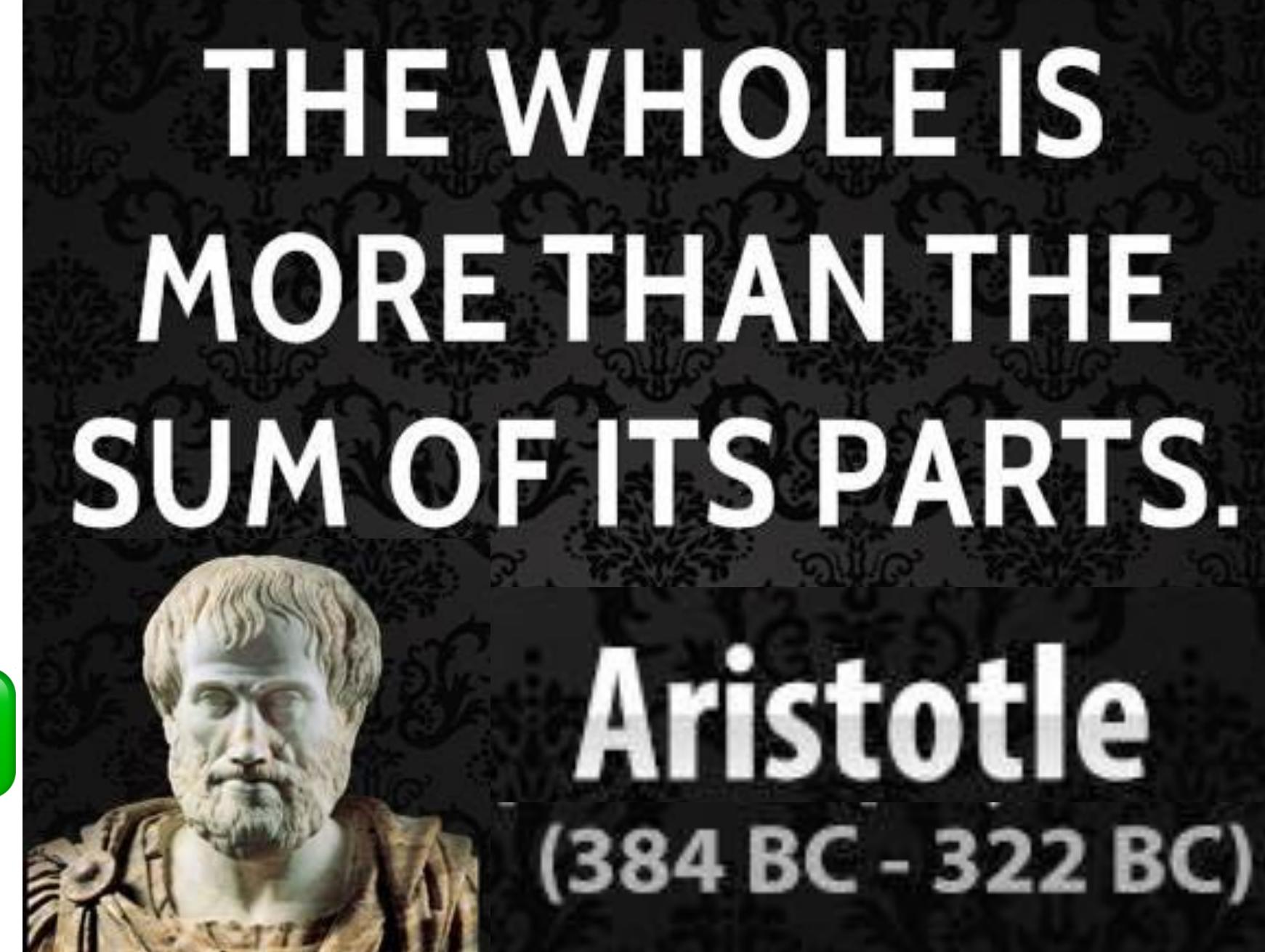
Union  $\leq$  sum  
of its parts

$$\max \{|A|, |B| \} \leq |A \cup B| \leq |A| + |B|$$



= iff  
nested

= iff  
disjoint



# General Unions

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Solution to the Hairy Problem

Size of a general union

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Multiple sets



Cartesian Products

