

exactly the same. Proof shows that $\angle 2$ and $\angle 4$ are equal. A proposition once proved is called a theorem (although sometimes this word is used interchangeably with proposition).

30. ANGLES MEASURED BY DEGREES

When two lines intersect each other, so the all four angles formed are equal, we say that the lines are perpendicular to each other (the symbol \perp is used to indicate perpendicularity) and the angles are called right angles. An angle smaller than a right angle is said to be acute (sharp), while an obtuse (blunt) angle is one which is greater than one right angle but less than two right angles. For convenience of measuring, we divide the right angle into 90 equal angles, calling each part one degree. An acute angle would, therefore, have fewer than 90 degrees (90°) and an obtuse angle would lie between 90° and 180° . A straight angle, according to this system of measurement, contains 180° .

31. TYPES OF PROOFS

The type of proof given above, which advances directly from hypothesis to conclusion, and is called a synthetic proof. The word "synthesis" implies a building up, putting the elements together to form something more complex. Obviously, complete proofs don't occur to us as soon as the proposition is stated. The demonstration of a geometric principle in its final form is a synthetic proof, but the process which indicated where to start and what steps to take was quite the opposite; it was a breaking down process, or analysis. Briefly, an analytic proof starts with the conclusion and examines the conditions with, if true, will verify that conclusion. Suppose the conclusion is C. We examine it and discover that C is true if B is true, but B is true if A is true and we know A to be true because it depends on an axiom. Then we "synthesize" a proof, beginning with A, advancing through B to C. In cases where even after analysing a problem, it is difficult to arrive at a suitable proof, for a direct proof, that is, one which advances from hypothesis to conclusion in successive steps, we frequently arrive at our conclusion indirectly by listing all possible conclusions in the given case and eliminating all but the desired one by showing that the others lead to contradictions or established principles or of fundamental assumptions. This is the type of reasoning a student uses in