

Velleman

Malcolm

Started 6th September 2025

Contents

1	Logic	3
1.0.1	Logic Factsheet	3
1.0.2	Set operation definitions	4
1.0.3	Distributivity of set operations	4
1.0.4	$x \in A \setminus (B \cap C) = x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (A \setminus C)$	5
1.0.5	$x \in (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B) = x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$	5
1.0.6	$(A \cap B) \cap (A \setminus B) = \emptyset$	5
1.0.7	Conditional and Contrapositive laws	6
1.0.8	Biconditional statements	7
1.1	Quantificational logic	8
1.1.1	Quantifier negation laws	8
1.1.2	Notation	8
1.1.3	Negation law for bounded quantifiers	9
1.1.4	Vacuously true	10
1.1.5	Alternate definition for indexed families	11
1.1.6	Power set	12
1.1.7	Intersection and union of a family of sets	12
1.1.8	More on set notation	13
2	Proof Strategies	14
2.0.1	Terminology	14
2.1	To prove a conclusion of the form $P \rightarrow Q$	15
2.1.1	Alternative approach	17
2.2	Proofs involving negations and conditionals	19
2.2.1	Reexpress	19
2.2.2	Proof by contradiction	20
2.2.3	To use a given of the form $\neg P$ in proof by contradiction	22
2.2.4	Given conditionals	25
2.3	Proofs involving quantifiers	28
2.3.1	Goals of form $\forall xP(x)$	28
2.3.2	Goals of form $\exists xP(x)$	31
2.3.3	Givens of the form $\exists xP(x)$ and $\forall xP(x)$	34
2.3.4	Example: For all integers a, b, c , if $a \mid b$ and $b \mid c$ then $a \mid c$	37
2.4	Proofs involving conjunctions and biconditionals	38

2.4.1	Goals and givens of form $P \wedge Q$	38
2.4.2	Goals and givens of the form $P \leftrightarrow Q$ (part 1)	40
2.4.3	Example: Suppose x is an integer. Prove that x is even iff x^2 is even	40
2.4.4	Proving $\forall x \neg P(x) \leftrightarrow \neg \exists x P(x)$	42
2.4.5	Goals and givens of the form $P \leftrightarrow Q$ (part 2)	43
A	Exercises	44
A.1	Ch 3	44
A.1.1	$\exists x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$ is equivalent to $\forall x P(x) \rightarrow \exists x Q(x)$. . .	44
A.1.2	If $\exists x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$, then $\forall x P(x) \rightarrow \exists x Q(x)$	44
A.1.3	45

Chapter 1

Logic

1.0.1 Logic Factsheet

De Morgan's laws

$\neg(P \wedge Q)$ is equivalent to $\neg P \vee \neg Q$

$\neg(P \vee Q)$ is equivalent to $\neg P \wedge \neg Q$

Commutative laws

$P \wedge Q$ is equivalent to $Q \wedge P$

$P \vee Q$ is equivalent to $Q \vee P$

Associative laws

$P \wedge (Q \wedge R)$ is equivalent to $(P \wedge Q) \wedge R$

$P \vee (Q \vee R)$ is equivalent to $(P \vee Q) \vee R$

Idempotent laws

$P \wedge P$ is equivalent to P

$P \vee P$ is equivalent to P

Distributive laws

$P \wedge (Q \vee R)$ is equivalent to $(P \wedge Q) \vee (P \wedge R)$

$P \vee (Q \wedge R)$ is equivalent to $(P \vee Q) \wedge (P \vee R)$

Absorption laws

$P \vee (P \wedge Q)$ is equivalent to P

$P \wedge (P \vee Q)$ is equivalent to P

Double Negation law

$\neg\neg P$ is equivalent to P

1.0.2 Set operation definitions

The *intersection* of two sets A and B is the set $A \cap B$ defined as follows:

$$A \cap B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}$$

The *union* of A and B is the set $A \cup B$ defined as follows:

$$A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$$

The *difference* of A and B is the set $A \setminus B$ defined as follows:

$$A \setminus B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B\}$$

See that

$$x \in A \cap B = x \in \{y \mid y \in A \text{ and } y \in B\}$$

where y is a dummy variable. So we can also write that

$$x \in A \cap B = x \in A \wedge x \in B$$

The same can be shown for the union and difference.

1.0.3 Distributivity of set operations

We show

$$x \in A \cap (B \cup C) \text{ is equivalent to } x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$$

By analysing their logical forms:

$$\begin{aligned} x \in A \cap (B \cup C) \\ &= x \in A \wedge x \in (B \cup C) \\ &= x \in A \wedge (x \in B \vee x \in C) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C) \\ &= x \in (A \cap B) \vee x \in (A \cap C) \\ &= (x \in A \wedge x \in B) \vee (x \in A \wedge x \in C) \\ &= [(x \in A \wedge x \in B) \vee x \in A] \wedge [(x \in A \wedge x \in B) \vee x \in C] \\ &= x \in A \wedge [(x \in A \vee x \in C) \wedge (x \in B \vee x \in C)] \\ &= [x \in A \wedge (x \in A \vee x \in C)] \wedge (x \in B \vee x \in C) \\ &= x \in A \wedge (x \in B \vee x \in C) \end{aligned}$$

We can also show, in a similar manner, that

$$x \in A \cup (B \cap C) \text{ is equivalent to } x \in (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$$

$$\mathbf{1.0.4} \quad x \in A \setminus (B \cap C) = x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (A \setminus C)$$

We can also show

$$x \in A \setminus (B \cap C) = x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (A \setminus C)$$

See that

$$\begin{aligned} x \in A \setminus (B \cap C) & \\ &= x \in A \wedge \neg(x \in B \cap C) && \text{(Definition of } \setminus \text{)} \\ &= x \in A \wedge \neg(x \in B \wedge x \in C) && \text{(Definition of } \cap \text{)} \\ &= x \in A \wedge (x \notin B \vee x \notin C) && \text{(De Morgan's)} \\ &= (x \in A \wedge x \notin B) \vee (x \in A \wedge x \notin C) && \text{(Distributivity)} \\ &= (x \in A \setminus B) \vee (x \in A \setminus C) && \text{(Definition of } \setminus \text{)} \\ &= x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (A \setminus C) && \text{(Definition of } \cup \text{)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{1.0.5} \quad x \in (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B) = x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$$

$$\begin{aligned} x \in (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B) & \\ &= (x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge \neg(x \in A \wedge x \in B) && \text{(By definition)} \\ &= (x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge (x \notin A \vee x \notin B) && \text{(De Morgan's)} \\ &= [(x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge (x \notin A)] && \\ &\quad \vee [(x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge (x \notin B)] && \text{(Distributivity)} \\ &= [(x \notin A \wedge x \in A) \vee (x \notin A \wedge x \in B)] && \\ &\quad \vee [(x \notin B \wedge x \in A) \vee (x \notin B \wedge x \in B)] && \text{(Distributivity)} \\ &= (x \notin A \wedge x \in B) \vee (x \notin B \wedge x \in A) && \\ &= (x \in A \wedge x \notin B) \wedge (x \in B \wedge x \notin A) && \text{(Commutativity)} \\ &= x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) && \text{(By definition)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{1.0.6} \quad (A \cap B) \cap (A \setminus B) = \emptyset$$

See that

$$\begin{aligned} x \in (A \cap B) \cap (A \setminus B) & \\ &= (x \in A \wedge x \in B) \wedge (x \in A \wedge x \notin B) && \text{(Definition)} \\ &= x \in A \wedge \underbrace{(x \in B \wedge x \notin B)}_{\text{Contradiction}} && \text{(Associativity + Commutativity)} \end{aligned}$$

The last statement is a contradiction, so the statement $x \in (A \cap B) \cap (A \setminus B)$ will always be false, no matter what x is. In other words, nothing can be an element of $(A \cap B) \cap (A \setminus B)$, so it must be the case that $(A \cap B) \cap (A \setminus B) = \emptyset$; $A \cap B$ and $A \setminus B$ are disjoint.

1.0.7 Conditional and Contrapositive laws

Conditional Law

$$P \rightarrow Q \text{ is equivalent to } \neg(P \wedge \neg Q)$$

by De Morgan's law we can also say that

$$P \rightarrow Q \text{ is equivalent to } \neg P \vee Q$$

Contrapositive law

$$P \rightarrow Q \text{ is equivalent to } \neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$$

This can be justified using

$$P \rightarrow Q = \neg(P \wedge \neg Q) = \neg(\neg Q \wedge P) = \neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$$

Intuition

Intuitive ways to think of $P \rightarrow Q$ (and equivalently $\neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$) include:

- P implies Q .
- Q , if P .
- P only if Q .
- P is a sufficient condition for Q .
- Q is a necessary condition for P .

1.0.8 Biconditional statements

We write

$$P \leftrightarrow Q = (P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow P)$$

Note that by the contrapositive law, this is also equivalent to

$$(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (\neg P \rightarrow \neg Q)$$

Intuition

$Q \rightarrow P$ can be written as ‘ P if Q ’ and $P \rightarrow Q$ can be written as ‘ P only if Q ’ (since this means $\neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$ which is $P \rightarrow Q$).

Combining the two as $(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow P) = P \leftrightarrow Q$ therefore corresponds to the statement ‘ P if and only if Q ’.

$P \leftrightarrow Q$ means ‘ P iff Q ’, or ‘ P is a necessary and sufficient condition for Q ’.

1.1 Quantificational logic

1.1.1 Quantifier negation laws

We have

$\neg\exists xP(x)$ is equivalent to $\forall x\neg P(x)$

$\neg\forall xP(x)$ is equivalent to $\exists x\neg P(x)$

Intuition

No matter what $P(x)$ stands for, the formula $\neg\exists xP(x)$ means that there is no value of x for which $P(x)$ is true; this is the same as saying that for every value of x in the universe of discourse, $P(x)$ is false—meaning $\forall x\neg P(x)$.

Similarly, to say that $\neg\forall xP(x)$ means that it is not the case that for all values of x , $P(x)$ is true. This is equivalent to saying that there is at least one value of x for which $P(x)$ is false—so $\exists x\neg P(x)$.

1.1.2 Notation

‘Exactly one’ notation

We write

$$\exists!xP(x) = \exists x(P(x) \wedge \neg\exists y(P(y) \wedge y \neq x))$$

As a shorthand way to write ‘there is exactly one value of x such that $P(x)$ is true’, or ‘there is a unique x such that $P(x)$ ’.

Specifying quantifiers

We write

$$\forall x \in A P(x)$$

to mean that *for every value of x in the set A , $P(x)$ is true*. Similarly,

$$\exists x \in A P(x)$$

means *there is at least one value of x in the set A such that $P(x)$ is true*.

Formulas containing bounded quantifiers can also be thought of as abbreviations for more complicated formulas containing only normal, unbounded quantifiers. See that

$$\forall x \in A P(x) = \forall x(x \in A \rightarrow P(x))$$

and

$$\exists x \in A P(x) = \exists x(x \in A \wedge P(x))$$

1.1.3 Negation law for bounded quantifiers

We can show

$$\neg \forall x \in A P(x) = \exists x \in A \neg P(x)$$

See that

$$\begin{aligned} & \neg \forall x \in A P(x) \\ &= \neg \forall x (x \in A \rightarrow P(x)) && \text{(as defined)} \\ &= \exists x \neg (x \in A \rightarrow P(x)) && \text{(negation law)} \\ &= \exists x \neg \neg (x \in A \wedge \neg P(x)) && \text{(conditional law)} \\ &= \exists x (x \in A \wedge \neg P(x)) \\ &= \exists x \in A \neg P(x) && \text{(as defined)} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly we can show

$$\neg \exists x \in A P(x) = \forall x \in A \neg P(x)$$

See that

$$\begin{aligned} & \neg \exists x \in A P(x) \\ &= \neg \exists x (x \in A \wedge P(x)) && \text{(as defined)} \\ &= \forall x \neg (x \in A \wedge P(x)) && \text{(negation law)} \\ &= \forall x (x \in A \rightarrow \neg P(x)) && \text{(conditional law)} \\ &= \forall x \in A \neg P(x) && \text{(as defined)} \end{aligned}$$

1.1.4 Vacuously true

It is clear that if $A = \emptyset$ then $\exists x \in A P(x)$ will be false regardless of $P(x)$, since there is nothing in A that makes $P(x)$ come true (since there is nothing in A to being with).

Now consider $\forall x \in A P(x)$. We can reason that

$$\forall x \in A P(x) = \neg \exists x \in A \neg P(x) \quad (\text{quantifier negation})$$

See that if $A = \emptyset$ then this formula will be true, no matter what $P(x)$ is. In this case we say that the statement is *vacuously true*.

Another way to see this is to rewrite

$$\forall x \in A P(x) = \forall x (x \in A \rightarrow P(x))$$

The only way this can be false is if there is some value of x such that $x \in A$ is true but $P(x)$ false; but there is no such value of x . Intuitively, because the condition cannot be met, it is impossible to provide a counterexample to prove something wrong.

An analogy would be me claiming ‘i’ve never lost a race to Usain Bolt’. This is true, but vacuously so.

1.1.5 Alternate definition for indexed families

Say we are looking for the set $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{100}\}$; another way of describing this set would be to say that it consists of all numbers p_i , for i an element of the set $I = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 100\} = \{i \in \mathbb{N} | 1 \leq i \leq 100\}$. We can write

$$P = \{p_i | i \in I\}$$

Each element p_i in this set is identified by $i \in I$, called the *index* of each element. A set defined this way is called an *indexed family*, and I the *index set*. Although the indices for an indexed family are often numbers, they need not be.

In general, see that any indexed family

$$A = \{x_i | i \in I\}$$

Can also be defined as

$$A = \{x | \exists i \in I (x = x_i)\}$$

It follows that the statement

$$x \in \{x_i | i \in I\}$$

means the same thing as

$$\exists i \in I (x = x_i)$$

1.1.6 Power set

Suppose A is a set. The *power set* of A , denoted $\mathcal{P}(A)$, is the set whose elements are all subsets of A . In other words,

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{x \mid x \subseteq A\}$$

For instance, the set $A = \{7, 12\}$ has four subsets \emptyset , $\{7\}$, $\{12\}$, and $\{7, 12\}$; thus, $\mathcal{P}(A) = \{\emptyset, \{7\}, \{12\}, \{7, 12\}\}$.

1.1.7 Intersection and union of a family of sets

Suppose \mathcal{F} is a family of sets. The *intersection* and *union* of \mathcal{F} are the sets $\bigcap \mathcal{F}$ and $\bigcup \mathcal{F}$ are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\bigcap \mathcal{F} &= \{x \mid \forall A \in \mathcal{F} (x \in A)\} = \{x \mid \forall A (A \in \mathcal{F} \rightarrow x \in A)\} \\ \bigcup \mathcal{F} &= \{x \mid \exists A \in \mathcal{F} (x \in A)\} = \{x \mid \exists A (A \in \mathcal{F} \wedge x \in A)\}\end{aligned}$$

Notice that if A and B are any two sets and $\mathcal{F} = \{A, B\}$, then $\bigcap \mathcal{F} = A \cap B$ and $\bigcup \mathcal{F} = A \cup B$; the definitions of intersection and union of a family of sets are generalisations of our old definitions of the intersection and union of two sets.

Alternative notation

An alternative notation is sometimes used for the union or intersection of an indexed family of sets. Suppose $\mathcal{F} = \{A_i \mid i \in I\}$, where each A_i is a set, then $\bigcap \mathcal{F}$ and $\bigcup \mathcal{F}$ could also be written as $\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i$ and $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$; as such

$$\begin{aligned}\bigcap \mathcal{F} &= \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i = \{x \mid \forall i \in I (x \in A_i)\} \\ \bigcup \mathcal{F} &= \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \{x \mid \exists i \in I (x \in A_i)\}\end{aligned}$$

1.1.8 More on set notation

One generally defines a set using the elementhood test notation

$$\{x|P(x)\}$$

Where the set consists of all x that satisfy the specified condition $P(x)$. Sometimes this notation can be modified to allow the x before the vertical line to be replaced with a more complex expression. For example, suppose we wanted to define S to be the set of all perfect squares, we could write

$$S = \{n^2 | n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

This is the same as

$$S = \{x | \exists n \in \mathbb{N}(x = n^2)\}$$

See therefore that

$$x \in \{n^2 | n \in \mathbb{N}\} = \exists n \in \mathbb{N}(x = n^2)$$

Chapter 2

Proof Strategies

2.0.1 Terminology

We want to state the answer to a mathematical question in the form of a *theorem* that says that if certain assumptions called the *hypotheses* of the theorem are true, then some conclusion must also be true.

An assignment of particular values to these variables is called an *instance* of the theorem, and in order for the theorem to be correct it must be the case that for every instance of the theorem that makes the hypotheses come out true, the conclusion is also true.

If there is even one instance in which the hypotheses are true but the conclusion is false, then the theorem is incorrect; such an instance is called a *counterexample* to the theorem.

As in the next section, we will refer to statements that are known or assumed to be true at some point in the course of figuring out the proof as *givens*, and the statements that remains to be proven at that point as the *goal*.

2.1 To prove a conclusion of the form $P \rightarrow Q$

To prove a conclusion of the form $P \rightarrow Q$, we can *assume P is true and then prove Q* .

Assuming that P is true amounts to adding P to the lists of hypotheses. If the conclusion of the theorem we are trying to prove has the form $P \rightarrow Q$, then we can *transform the problem* by adding P to the list of hypotheses and changing the conclusion form $P \rightarrow Q$ to Q .

How we solve this new problem will now then be guided by the logical form of the new conclusion Q , and perhaps also that of the new hypothesis P .

This strategy is one that proves the *goal* of $P \rightarrow Q$. Even if the conclusion of a theorem is not a conditional statement, if we transform the problem in such a way that the conditional statement becomes the goal, then we can apply this strategy as the next step in figuring out the proof.

Example:

Theorem. Suppose a and b are real numbers. If $0 < a < b$ then $a^2 < b^2$.

Proof. Suppose $0 < a < b$. Multiplying the inequality $a < b$ by the positive number a we can conclude that $a^2 < ab$; similarly multiplying by b we get $ab < b^2$. Therefore $a^2 < ab < b^2$, so $a^2 < b^2$. Thus, if $0 < a < b$ then $a^2 < b^2$. \square

We were given as a hypothesis that a and b are real numbers with a conclusion of the form $P \rightarrow Q$, where P is the statement $0 < a < b$ and Q the statement $a^2 < b^2$. Thus we start with these statements as given and goal:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{Givens} & \text{Goal} \\ \hline a \text{ and } b \text{ are real numbers} & (0 < a < b) \rightarrow (a^2 < b^2) \end{array}$$

As per our strategy, we assume that $0 < a < b$ and try to use this assumption to prove $a^2 < b^2$. In other words we add $0 < a < b$ to the list of givens and make $a^2 < b^2$ our goal:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{Givens} & \text{Goal} \\ \hline a \text{ and } b \text{ are real numbers} & a^2 < b^2 \\ 0 < a < b & \end{array}$$

(next page)

Generalising

Here's a restatement of the proof strategy we discussed, in the form we will be using to present proof strategies from now on.

To prove a goal of the form $P \rightarrow Q$:
Assume P is true and then prove Q .

Scratch work

Before using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
—	$P \rightarrow Q$
—	

After using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
—	Q
—	
P	

Form of final proof:

Suppose P .

[Proof of Q goes here.]

Therefore $P \rightarrow Q$.

(next page)

2.1.1 Alternative approach

Another approach could utilise the contrapositive law, where

$$P \rightarrow Q = \neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$$

In other words:

To prove a goal of the form $P \rightarrow Q$:
Assume Q is false and prove that P is false.

Scratch work

Before using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
— —	$P \rightarrow Q$

After using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
— — $\neg Q$	$\neg P$

Form of final proof:

Suppose Q is false.
[Proof of $\neg P$ goes here.]
Therefore $P \rightarrow Q$.

(next page)

Example

Suppose a, b and c are real numbers and $a > b$. Prove that if $ac \leq bc$ then $c \leq 0$.

Scratch work

Before using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
a, b and c are real numbers $a > b$	$(ac \leq bc) \rightarrow (c \leq 0)$

The contrapositive of the goal is $\neg(c \leq 0) \rightarrow \neg(ac \leq bc)$, or $(c > 0) \rightarrow (ac > bc)$. As per the previous strategy, we can prove this by adding $c > 0$ to the list of givens and making $ac > bc$ our new goal:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
a, b and c are real numbers $a > b$ $c > 0$	$ac > bc$

Form of final proof:

Suppose $c > 0$.

[Proof of $ac > bc$ goes here.]

Therefore, if $ac \leq bc$ then $c \leq 0$.

Solution

Theorem. Suppose a, b and c are real numbers and $a > b$. If $ac \leq bc$ then $c \leq 0$.

Proof. We will prove the contrapositive. Suppose $c > 0$. Then we can multiply both sides of the given inequality $a > b$ by c and conclude that $ac > bc$. Therefore if $ac \leq bc$ then $c \leq 0$. \square

2.2 Proofs involving negations and conditionals

2.2.1 Reexpress

We now consider proofs in which the goal has the form $\neg P$. Usually it's easier to prove a positive statement than a negative statement, so it is often helpful to reexpress the goal before proving it. Thus our first strategy for proving negated statements is:

To prove a goal of the form $\neg P$:
If possible, reexpress the goal in some other form.

Example

Suppose $A \cap C \subseteq B$ and $a \in C$. Prove that $a \notin A \setminus B$.

Scratch Work

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \cap C \subseteq B$ $a \in C$	$a \notin A \setminus B$

We have a negative goal, which we can try to reexpress as a positive statement:

$$\begin{aligned} a \notin A \setminus B &= \neg(a \in A \wedge a \notin B) && \text{(Definition)} \\ &= a \in A \rightarrow a \in B && \text{(Conditional law)} \end{aligned}$$

This gives us

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \cap C \subseteq B$ $a \in C$	$a \in A \rightarrow a \in B$

We can apply the strategy for conditional goals:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \cap C \subseteq B$ $a \in C$ $a \in A$	$a \in B$

See how the proof is now much more straightforward; from the givens $a \in A$ and $a \in C$ we can conclude $a \in A \cap C$. Since $A \cap C \subseteq B$, it follows that $a \in B$.

Solution

Theorem. Suppose $A \cap C \subseteq B$ and $a \in C$. Then $a \notin A \setminus B$.

Proof. Suppose $a \in A$. Then since $a \in C$, $a \in A \cap C$. Since $A \cap C \subseteq B$ it follows that $a \in B$. Thus it cannot be the case that a is an element of A but not B , so $a \notin A \setminus B$. \square

2.2.2 Proof by contradiction

Say a goal of the form $\neg P$ cannot be reexpressed as a positive statement, in this case one could attempt *proof by contradiction*—start by assuming P is true, and try to use this assumption to prove that something one already knows is false.

Often this is done by proving a statement that contradicts one of the givens; because one knows that the statement proven is false, the assumption that P was true must have been incorrect—the only remaining possibility then is that P is false.

To prove a goal of the form $\neg P$:

Assume P is true and try to reach a contradiction. In which case P must be false.

Scratch Work

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
—	$\neg P$
—	

After using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
—	Contradiction
—	
P	

Form of final proof:

Suppose P is true.

[Proof of contradiction goes here.]

Thus, P is false.

(next page)

Example

Prove that if $x^2 + y = 13$ and $y \neq 4$ then $x \neq 3$.

Scratch work

The goal is a conditional statement. We treat the antecedent as a given and make the consequent our new goal:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x^2 + y = 13$ $y \neq 4$	$x \neq 3$

Our current idea of the proof structure looks like

Suppose $x^2 + y^2 = 13$ and $y \neq 4$.
 [Proof of $x \neq 3$ goes here.]
 Thus, if $x^2 + y^2 = 13$ and $y \neq 4$ then $x \neq 3$.

In this sense, each manipulation of our problem dictates the structure of our final proof. At this point the first and last sentences of the final proof have been produced. What remains is to prove $x \neq 3$ given our manipulated problem.

The goal $x \neq 3$ means $\neg(x = 3)$; we try proof by contradiction and transform the problem as follows:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x^2 + y = 13$ $y \neq 4$ $x = 3$	Contradiction

Once again, the proof strategy that suggested this transformation also tells us how to fill in a few more sentences of the final proof:

Suppose $x^2 + y^2 = 13$ and $y \neq 4$.
 Suppose $x = 3$
 [Proof of contradiction goes here.]
 Therefore $x \neq 3$
 Thus, if $x^2 + y^2 = 13$ and $y \neq 4$ then $x \neq 3$.

The first and last lines go together and indicate that we are proving a conditional statement by assuming the antecedent and proving the consequent. Between these lines is a proof of the consequent $x \neq 3$. This inner proof has the form of a proof by contradiction, as indicated by the second first and second last lines; between these lines we still need to fill in a proof of a contradiction.

At this point we don't have a particular statement as a goal; any impossible conclusion will do. We must look closely at the givens to find a contradiction.
 (next page)

Example cont.*Solution***Theorem.** *If $x^2 + y = 13$ and $y \neq 4$ then $x \neq 3$.*

Proof. Suppose $x^2 + y = 13$ and $y \neq 4$. Suppose $x = 3$. Substituting this into the equation $x^2 + y = 13$, we get $9 + y = 13$, so $y = 4$. But this contradicts the fact that $y \neq 4$. Therefore $x \neq 3$. Thus, if $x^2 + y = 13$ and $y \neq 4$ then $x \neq 3$. \square

2.2.3 To use a given of the form $\neg P$ in proof by contradiction

If attempting a proof by contradiction with a given $\neg P$. Here is a useful strategy;

To use a given of the form $\neg P$:

Try making P the goal. If one can prove P , then the proof is complete, since P contradicts the given $\neg P$.

Scratch Work

Before using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\neg P$	Contradiction
—	
—	

After using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\neg P$	P
—	
—	

Form of final proof:

[Proof of P goes here.]

Since we already know $\neg P$, this is a contradiction.

Note that proof by contradiction is not restricted to goals of the form $\neg P$, and can be used for any goal.

(next page)

Example

Suppose A, B and C are sets, $A \setminus B \subseteq C$, and x is anything at all. Prove that if $x \in A \setminus C$ then $x \in B$.

Scratch work

We're given $A \setminus B \subseteq C$ and our goal is $x \in A \setminus C \rightarrow x \in B$. We use the previously discussed strategy for conditionals (assume antecedent and prove consequent):

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \setminus B \subseteq C$ $x \in A \setminus C$	$x \in B$

Our proof currently looks like

Suppose $x \in A \setminus C$.

[Proof of $x \in B$ goes here.]

Thus, if $x \in A \setminus C$ then $x \in B$.

We attempt proof by contradiction:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \setminus B \subseteq C$ $x \in A \setminus C$ $x \notin B$	Contradiction

Now our proof looks like

Suppose $x \in A \setminus C$.

Suppose $x \notin B$

[Proof of contradiction goes here.]

Therefore $x \in B$

Thus, if $x \in A \setminus C$ then $x \in B$.

Because we're doing a proof by contradiction and our last given is now a negated statement, we could try our strategy for using givens of the form $\neg P$. Unfortunately, this strategy suggests making $x \in B$ our goal which just gets us back to where we started. We must look at the other givens to try to find the contradiction.

(next page)

Example cont.

We have

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \setminus B \subseteq C$ $x \in A \setminus C$ $x \notin B$	Contradiction

In this case writing out the definition of the second given is key to the proof. By definition $x \in A \setminus C$ means $x \in A$ and $x \notin C$. Replacing this given by its definition gives us

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \setminus B \subseteq C$ $x \in A$ $x \notin C$ $x \notin B$	Contradiction

Now the third given has the form $\neg P$. We can apply the strategy for using givens of the form $\neg P$ and make $x \in C$ our goal, where showing it would complete the proof by contradicting the given $x \notin C$:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \setminus B \subseteq C$ $x \in A$ $x \notin C$ $x \notin B$	$x \in C$

Once again, we can add a little more to the proof we are gradually forming with each step. We add in the fact that we plan to derive our contradiction by proving $x \in C$; we also add the definition of $x \in A \setminus C$ to the proof.

Suppose $x \in A \setminus C$. This means $x \in A$ and $x \notin C$.

Suppose $x \notin B$

[Proof of $x \in C$ goes here.]

This contradicts the fact that $x \notin C$.

Therefore $x \in B$

Thus, if $x \in A \setminus C$ then $x \in B$.

We have finally reached a point where the goal follows apparently from the givens—from $x \in A$ and $x \notin B$ we conclude that $x \in A \setminus B$. Since $A \setminus B \subseteq C$ it follows that $x \in C$.

(next page)

Example cont.*Solution*

Theorem. Suppose A, B and C are sets, $A \setminus B \subseteq C$, and x is anything at all. If $x \in A \setminus C$ then $x \in B$.

Proof. Suppose $x \in A \setminus C$. This means that $x \in A$ and $x \notin C$. Suppose $x \notin B$. Then $x \in A \setminus B$, so since $A \setminus B \subseteq C$, $x \in C$. But this contradicts the fact that $x \notin C$. Therefore $x \in B$. Thus, if $x \in A \setminus C$ then $x \in B$. \square

2.2.4 Given conditionals

We consider strategies for using givens of the form $P \rightarrow Q$:

To use a given of the form $P \rightarrow Q$:

If also given P , or if one can prove P , then one can use this to conclude Q . Another approach would be to use its equivalence to $\neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$; if one can prove that Q is false, then one can conclude that P is false.

The first rule says that if you know both P and $P \rightarrow Q$ are true, then Q must also be true; this rule is called *modus ponens*. The second rule, called *modus tollens*, says that if you know $P \rightarrow Q$ is true and Q is false, then you can conclude that P must also be false.

Example

Suppose $P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$. Prove that $\neg R \rightarrow (P \rightarrow \neg Q)$.

Scratch work

We start with the following situation:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$	$\neg R \rightarrow (P \rightarrow \neg Q)$

If either P or $\neg(Q \rightarrow R)$ gets added to the givens list, then we should consider using modus ponens or modus tollens. For now we concentrate on the goal; being a conditional statement, we assume the antecedent and set the consequent as the new goal:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$ $\neg R$	$P \rightarrow \neg Q$

Our proof currently looks like:

Suppose $\neg R$.

[Proof of $P \rightarrow \neg Q$ goes here.]

Therefore $\neg R \rightarrow (P \rightarrow \neg Q)$.

(next page)

Example cont.

We had

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$ $\neg R$	$P \rightarrow \neg Q$

The goal is still a conditional. We use the same strategy again:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$ $\neg R$ P	$\neg Q$

Now the proof looks like

Suppose $\neg R$.
 Suppose P .
 [Proof for $\neg Q$ goes here.]
 Therefore $P \rightarrow \neg Q$.
 Therefore $\neg R \rightarrow (P \rightarrow \neg Q)$.

Since we know $P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$ and P , by modus ponens we can infer $Q \rightarrow R$:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$ $\neg R$ P $Q \rightarrow R$	$\neg Q$

We add one more line to our proof:

Suppose $\neg R$.
 Suppose P .
 Since P and $P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$, it follows that $Q \rightarrow R$.
 [Proof of $\neg Q$ goes here.]
 Therefore $P \rightarrow \neg Q$.
 Therefore $\neg R \rightarrow (P \rightarrow \neg Q)$.

Finally, our last step is to use modus tollens. We now know $Q \rightarrow R$ and $\neg R$, so by modus tollens we can conclude $\neg Q$.

(next page)

Example cont.

Solution

Theorem. *Suppose $P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$. Then $\neg R \rightarrow (P \rightarrow \neg Q)$.*

Proof. Suppose $\neg R$. Suppose P . Since P and $P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$, it follows that $Q \rightarrow R$. But then since $\neg R$, we can conclude $\neg Q$. Thus $P \rightarrow \neg Q$. Therefore $\neg R \rightarrow (P \rightarrow \neg Q)$. \square

2.3 Proofs involving quantifiers

2.3.1 Goals of form $\forall xP(x)$

If you can give a proof of the goal $P(x)$ that would work for all x , then you can conclude that $\forall xP(x)$ must be true. Thus it is important to start the proof with no assumptions about x , that is, x must be *arbitrary*; one must not assume that x is already equal to any other object already under discussion in the proof.

If x is already being used in the proof to stand for some particular object, then one cannot use it to stand for an arbitrary object, and must choose a different variable that is not already being used in the proof, say y , and replace $\forall xP(x)$ with the equivalent statement $\forall yP(y)$.

To prove a goal of the form $\forall xP(x)$:

Let x stand for an arbitrary object and prove $P(x)$. The letter x must be a new variable in the proof. If x is already being used to stand for something, then choose an unused variable, say y , to stand for the arbitrary object, and prove $P(y)$.

Scratch work

Before using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
—	$\forall xP(x)$
—	

After using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
—	$P(x)$
—	

Form of final proof:

Let x be arbitrary.

[Proof of $P(x)$ goes here.]

Since x was arbitrary, we can conclude that $\forall xP(x)$.

(next page)

Example

Consider a proof covered earlier, but phrased slightly differently: Suppose A, B , and C are sets, and $A \setminus B \subseteq C$. Prove that $A \setminus C \subseteq B$.

Scratch work

Before using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \setminus B \subseteq C$	$A \setminus C \subseteq B$

As usual we consider the logical form of the goal to plan our strategy. In this case we can write out the definition of \subseteq :

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \setminus B \subseteq C$	$\forall x(x \in A \setminus C \rightarrow x \in B)$

Because the goal has the form $\forall xP(x)$, where $P(x)$ is the statement $x \in A \setminus C \rightarrow x \in B$, we will introduce a new variable x into the proof to stand for an arbitrary object and then try to prove $x \in A \setminus C \rightarrow x \in B$.

Note that x is a new variable in the proof; it appeared in the logical form of the goal as a bound variable, but, being a bound variable, didn't represent anything in particular. We also haven't used it as a free variable in any statement so it doesn't stand for any particular object. To make sure x is arbitrary we must be careful not to add any assumptions about x to the givens column. Our goal becomes

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \setminus B \subseteq C$	$x \in A \setminus C \rightarrow x \in B$

Our proof looks like

Let x be arbitrary.

[Proof of $x \in A \setminus C \rightarrow x \in B$ goes here]

Since x was arbitrary, we can conclude that $\forall x(x \in A \setminus C \rightarrow x \in B)$, so $A \setminus C \subseteq B$.

The problem is now exactly the same as it was in the previous example.

Solution

Theorem. Suppose A, B , and C are sets, and $A \setminus B \subseteq C$. Then $A \setminus C \subseteq B$.

Proof. Let x be arbitrary. Suppose $x \in A \setminus C$. This means that $x \in A$ and $x \notin C$. Suppose $x \notin B$. Then $x \in A \setminus B$, so since $A \setminus B \subseteq C$, $x \in C$. But this contradicts the fact that $x \notin C$. Therefore $x \in B$. Thus, if $x \in A \setminus C$ then $x \in B$. Since x was arbitrary we can conclude that $\forall x(x \in A \setminus C \rightarrow x \in B)$, so $A \setminus C \subseteq B$. \square

(next page)

Another example

Suppose A and B are sets. Prove that if $A \cap B = A$ then $A \subseteq B$.

Scratch work

Our goal is $A \cap B = A \rightarrow A \subseteq B$. We add the antecedent to the givens list and make the consequent the goal. We write out the logical form of this new goal:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \cap B = A$	$\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$

We let x be arbitrary, assume $x \in A$, and probe $x \in B$:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \cap B = A$ $x \in A$	$x \in B$

Our final proof form looks like

Suppose $A \cap B = A$.
 Let x be arbitrary.
 Suppose $x \in A$.
 [Proof of $x \in B$ goes here.]
 Therefore $x \in A \rightarrow x \in B$.
 Since x was arbitrary, we can conclude that $\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B)$,
 so $A \subseteq B$.
 Therefore, if $A \cap B = A$ then $A \subseteq B$.

Since $x \in A$ and $A \cap B = A$, it follows that $x \in A \cap B$, so $x \in B$. (recall $x \in A \cap B$ means $x \in A$ and $x \in B$)

Oftentimes the statement that x is arbitrary is left out—when a new variable x is introduced into a proof it is usually understood that it is arbitrary and no assumptions are being made about x . Many of the proofs written so far end with multiple concluding sentences; oftentimes these are condensed into a single sentence, or skipped entirely.

Solution

Theorem. Suppose A and B are sets. If $A \cap B = A$ then $A \subseteq B$.

Proof. Suppose $A \cap B = A$, and suppose $x \in A$. Then since $A \cap B = A$, $x \in A \cap B$, so $x \in B$. Since x was an arbitrary element of A , we can conclude that $A \subseteq B$. \square

2.3.2 Goals of form $\exists xP(x)$

Proving a goal of the form $\exists xP(x)$ also involves introducing a new variable x into the proof and proving $P(x)$. But in this case x will not be arbitrary; we only need to prove that $P(x)$ is true for *at least one* x . It suffices to assign a particular value to x and prove $P(x)$ for this one value of x .

To prove a goal of the form $\exists xP(x)$:

Try to find a value of x for which $P(x)$ would be true. Start with ‘Let $x =$ (decided value)’ and proceed to prove $P(x)$ for this x . Once again if the variable name x is already being used in the proof for some other purpose then one should choose an unused variable, say y and rewrite the goal in the equivalent form $\exists yP(y)$ and proceed as before.

Scratch work

Before using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
— —	$\exists xP(x)$

After using strategy:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
— — $x =$ (the value you decided on)	$P(x)$

Form of final proof:

Let $x =$ (the value you decided on).

[Proof of $P(x)$ goes here.]

Thus, $\exists xP(x)$.

Note that *the reasoning used for finding a specific x will not appear in the final proof*. To justify the conclusion that $\exists xP(x)$ it is only necessary to verify that $P(x)$ comes out true when x is assigned some particular value. How one thought of that value is not part of the justification of the conclusion (be it by trial and error etc.).

(next page)

Example

Prove that for every real number x , if $x > 0$ then there is a real number y such that $y(y + 1) = x$.

Scratch work

Logically, our goal is $\forall x(x > 0 \rightarrow \exists y[y(y + 1) = x])$, where the variables x and y in this statement are understood to range over \mathbb{R} . We start by letting x be an arbitrary real number, and then assume that $x > 0$ and try to prove that $\exists y[y(y + 1) = x]$:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x > 0$	$\exists y[y(y + 1) = x]$

Because our goal has the form $\exists yP(y)$, where $P(y)$ is the statement $y(y + 1) = x$, according to our strategy we should try to find a value of y for which $P(y)$ is true. In this case we do this by solving the equation $y(y + 1) = x$ for y .

$$y(y + 1) = x \iff y^2 + y - x = 0 \iff y = \frac{-1^2 \pm \sqrt{1 + 4x}}{2}$$

Note that $\sqrt{1 + 4x}$ is defined since we have $x > 0$ as a given. Also see that we have found two solutions for y , but to prove that $\exists y[y(y + 1) = x]$ we only need one valid y , so either of the two solutions could be used.

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x > 0$ $y = (-1 + \sqrt{1 + 4x})/2$	$y(y + 1) = x$

Our final proof looks like

Let x be an arbitrary real number.

Suppose $x > 0$.

Let $y = (-1 + \sqrt{1 + 4x})/2$.

[Proof of $y(y + 1) = x$ goes here.]

Thus, $\exists y[y(y + 1) = x]$.

Therefore $x > 0 \rightarrow \exists y[y(y + 1) = x]$.

Since x was arbitrary, we can conclude that $\forall x(x > 0 \rightarrow \exists y[y(y + 1) = x])$.

(next page)

Example cont.

Solution

Theorem. *For every real number x , if $x > 0$ then there is a real number y such that $y(y + 1) = x$.*

Proof. Let x be an arbitrary real number and suppose $x > 0$. Let

$$y = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + 4x}}{2}$$

which is defined since $x > 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} y(y + 1) &= \left(\frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + 4x}}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + 4x}}{2} + 1 \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{1 + 4x} - 1}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{1 + 4x} + 1}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1 + 4x - 1}{4} = \frac{4x}{4} = x \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

2.3.3 Givens of the form $\exists xP(x)$ and $\forall xP(x)$

Givens of the form $\exists xP(x)$

This given says that an object with a certain property exists. A good approach would be to introduce a new variable, say x_0 , to stand for this object, and add $P(x_0)$ to the givens list.

To use a given of the form $\exists xP(x)$:

Introduce a new variable x_0 into the proof to stand for an object for which $P(x_0)$ is true. This means that one can now assume that $P(x_0)$ is true.

Logicians call this *existential instantiation*. Note that this is very different from our treatment of goals of the same form—we can assume that x_0 stands for some object for which $P(x_0)$ is true, but we can't assume anything else about x_0 .

Givens of the form $\forall xP(x)$

This says that $P(x)$ would be true no matter what value is assigned to x . One can therefore *choose any value* to be plugged in for x and use this to conclude $P(x)$.

To use a given of the form $\forall xP(x)$

Plug in any value, say a , for x and use this given to conclude that $P(a)$ is true.

This is called *universal instantiation*. Usually, if we have a given of the form $\exists xP(x)$, we should apply existential instantiation to it immediately. On the other hand, we won't be able to apply universal instantiation to a given of the form $\forall xP(x)$ unless we had an idea for a particular value a to plug in for x ; we would probably wait until a suitable object a appears in the proof.

(next page)

Example

Suppose \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are families of sets and $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G} \neq \emptyset$. Prove that $\bigcap \mathcal{F} \subseteq \bigcup \mathcal{G}$.

Scratch work

First we analyse the logical form of the goal by writing out the meaning of the subset: $\forall x(x \in \bigcap \mathcal{F} \rightarrow x \in \bigcup \mathcal{G})$. We could go further with the logical forms of the union and intersection, but the analysis done so far is sufficient for us to decide how to get started on the proof; their definitions might be required later, but it is usually best to do only as much of the analysis as is needed to determine the next step of the proof. Going further might introduce unnecessary complication.

We let x be arbitrary, assume $x \in \bigcap \mathcal{F}$, and try to prove $x \in \bigcup \mathcal{G}$.

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G} \neq \emptyset$ $x \in \bigcap \mathcal{F}$	$x \in \bigcup \mathcal{G}$

Now we further analyse the logical forms:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\exists A(A \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G})$ $\forall A \in \mathcal{F}(x \in A)$	$\exists A \in \mathcal{G}(x \in A)$

To prove this new goal means we should try to find a value that would ‘work’ for A . The second given starts with $\forall A$, so we may not be able to use it until a likely value for A pops up during the course of the proof. The first given, however, starts with $\exists A$, so we should use it immediately; by existential instantiation, we introduce a name, say A_0 , for this object, and treat $A_0 \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G}$ as a given from now on. It would be redundant to continue to discuss the given statement $\exists A(A \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G})$ so we will drop it from our list of givens.

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A_0 \in \mathcal{F}$ $A_0 \in \mathcal{G}$ $\forall A \in \mathcal{F}(x \in A)$	$\exists A \in \mathcal{G}(x \in A)$

An element to plug into the third given has now surfaced, plugging A_0 for A we can conclude that $x \in A_0$; we can treat this as a given. See that the goal can now be easily reached.

Although we translated the statements $x \in \bigcap \mathcal{F}$, $x \in \bigcup \mathcal{G}$, and $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G} \neq \emptyset$ into logical symbols in order to figure out how to use them in the proof; these translations are not usually written out in the final proof—left to the reader to work out their logical forms in order to follow the reasoning.

(next page)

Example cont.*Solution*

Theorem. Suppose \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are families of sets, and $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G} \neq \emptyset$. Then $\bigcap \mathcal{F} \subseteq \bigcup \mathcal{G}$.

Proof. Suppose $x \in \bigcap \mathcal{F}$. Since $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G} \neq \emptyset$, we can let A_0 be an element of $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G}$. Thus, $A_0 \in \mathcal{F}$ and $A_0 \in \mathcal{G}$. Since $x \in \bigcap \mathcal{F}$ and $A_0 \in \mathcal{F}$, it follows that $x \in A_0$. But we also know that $A_0 \in \mathcal{G}$, so we can conclude that $x \in \bigcup \mathcal{G}$. \square

Another example

Suppose B is a set and \mathcal{F} is a family of sets. Prove that if $\bigcup \mathcal{F} \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$

Scratch work

We assume $\bigcup \mathcal{F} \subseteq B$ and try to prove $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$, which means $\forall x(x \in \mathcal{F} \rightarrow x \in \mathcal{P}(B))$, we let x be arbitrary, assume $x \in \mathcal{F}$, and set $x \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ as our goal. Note that x in this case is a set:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\bigcup \mathcal{F} \subseteq B$ $x \in \mathcal{F}$	$x \in \mathcal{P}(B)$

To further analyse this goal, we use the definition of the power statement $x \in \mathcal{P}(B) = x \subseteq B$; which further means $\forall y(y \in x \rightarrow y \in B)$. We must therefore introduce another arbitrary object into the proof; we let y be arbitrary, assume $y \in x$, and try to prove $y \in B$.

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\bigcup \mathcal{F} \subseteq B$ $x \in \mathcal{F}$ $y \in x$	$y \in B$

The first given can be written as $\forall z(z \in \bigcup \mathcal{F} \rightarrow z \in B)$, which further means $\forall z(\exists A \in \mathcal{F}(z \in A) \rightarrow z \in B)$

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\forall z(\exists A \in \mathcal{F}(z \in A) \rightarrow z \in B)$ $x \in \mathcal{F}$ $y \in x$	$y \in B$

The conclusion is now easily reachable.
(next page)

Example cont.

Solution

Theorem. Suppose B is a set and \mathcal{F} is a family of sets. If $\bigcup \mathcal{F} \subseteq B$ then $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Proof. Suppose $\bigcup \mathcal{F} \subseteq B$. Let x be an arbitrary element of \mathcal{F} . Let y be an arbitrary element of x . Since $y \in x$ and $x \in \mathcal{F}$, $y \in \bigcup \mathcal{F}$. But since $\bigcup \mathcal{F} \subseteq B$, $y \in B$. Since y was an arbitrary element of x , we can conclude that $x \subseteq B$, so $x \in \mathcal{P}(B)$. But x was an arbitrary element of \mathcal{F} , so $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(B)$, as required. \square

2.3.4 Example: For all integers a, b, c , if $a \mid b$ and $b \mid c$ then $a \mid c$

For this proof, we need the following definition:

Definition. For any integers x and y , we'll say that x *divides* y (or y *is divisible by* x) if $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}(kx = y)$. We use the notation $x \mid y$ to mean ' x divides y ' and $x \nmid y$ to mean ' x does not divide y '.

Theorem. For all integers a, b , and c , if $a \mid b$ and $b \mid c$ then $a \mid c$.

Proof. Let a, b , and c be arbitrary integers and suppose $a \mid b$ and $b \mid c$. Since $a \mid b$, we can choose some integer m such that $ma = b$. Similarly, since $b \mid c$, we can choose an integer n such that $nb = c$. Therefore $c = nb = nma$, so since nm is an integer, $a \mid c$. \square

2.4 Proofs involving conjunctions and biconditionals

2.4.1 Goals and givens of form $P \wedge Q$

This is fairly straightforward:

To prove a goal of the form $P \wedge Q$:

Prove P and Q separately.

In other words, a goal of the form $P \wedge Q$ is treated as two separate goals: P and Q . The same is true of givens of the form $P \wedge Q$:

To use a given of the form $P \wedge Q$:

Treat this given as two separate givens: P and Q .

We've already used these ideas in previous examples.

Example

Suppose $A \subseteq B$, and A and C are disjoint. Prove that $A \subseteq B \setminus C$.

Scratch work

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \subseteq B$	$A \subseteq B \setminus C$
$A \cap C = \emptyset$	

The logical form of the goal has the form $\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B \setminus C)$, so we let x be arbitrary, assume $x \in A$, and try to prove $x \in B \setminus C$, which means $x \in B \wedge x \notin C$. As per our strategy we split this into two goals and prove them separately.

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$A \subseteq B$	$x \in B$
$A \cap C = \emptyset$	$x \notin C$
$x \in A$	

The final proof will have the form

Let x be arbitrary.

Suppose $x \in A$.

[Proof of $x \in B$ goes here.]

[Proof of $x \notin C$ goes here.]

Thus, $x \in B \wedge x \notin C$, so $x \in B \setminus C$.

Therefore $x \in A \rightarrow x \in B \setminus C$.

Since x was arbitrary, $\forall x(x \in A \rightarrow x \in B \setminus C)$, so $A \subseteq B \setminus C$.

(next page)

Example cont.

The first goal, $x \in B$, follows from $x \in A$ and $A \subseteq B$; that much is clear. The second goal, $x \notin C$, follows from $x \in A$ and $A \cap C = \emptyset$; this can be seen from analysing the logical form of $A \cap C = \emptyset$:

$$\begin{aligned} A \cap C = \emptyset \text{ is equivalent to } & \neg \exists y (y \in A \wedge y \in C) && \text{(definition)} \\ & = \forall y \neg (y \in A \wedge y \in C) && \text{(Quantifier negation)} \\ & = \forall y (y \in A \rightarrow y \notin C) && \text{(definition)} \end{aligned}$$

From which we can conclude that $x \in A \rightarrow x \notin C$.

Solution

Theorem. Suppose $A \subseteq B$, and A and C are disjoint. Then $A \subseteq B \setminus C$.

Proof. Suppose $x \in A$. Since $A \subseteq B$, it follows that $x \in B$, and since A and C are disjoint, we must have $x \notin C$. Thus, $x \in B \setminus C$. Since x was an arbitrary element of A , we can conclude that $A \subseteq B \setminus C$. \square

2.4.2 Goals and givens of the form $P \leftrightarrow Q$ (part 1)

$P \leftrightarrow Q$ is equivalent to $(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow P)$; as per the previous strategy, this should be treated as two separate givens or goals: $P \rightarrow Q$ and $Q \rightarrow P$.

To prove a goal of the form $P \leftrightarrow Q$:
Prove $P \rightarrow Q$ and $Q \rightarrow P$ separately.

To use a given of the form $P \leftrightarrow Q$:
Treat this as two separate givens $P \rightarrow Q$ and $Q \rightarrow P$.

2.4.3 Example: Suppose x is an integer. Prove that x is even iff x^2 is even

We use the definition

Definition. An integer x is *even* if $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}(x = 2k)$, and x is *odd* if $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}(x = 2k + 1)$.

We also use the fact that every integer is either even or odd, but not both.

Example

Suppose x is an integer. Prove that x is even iff x^2 is even.

Scratch work

The goal is $(x \text{ is even}) \leftrightarrow (x^2 \text{ is even})$, so we prove the two goals $(x \text{ is even}) \rightarrow (x^2 \text{ is even})$ and $(x^2 \text{ is even}) \rightarrow (x \text{ is even})$ separately. So first:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x \in \mathbb{Z}$ $x \text{ is even}$	$x^2 \text{ is even}$

We reveal the logical forms by writing out the definition of *even*:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x \in \mathbb{Z}$ $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}(x = 2k)$	$\exists j \in \mathbb{Z}(x^2 = 2j)$

The second given starts with $\exists k$, we immediately introduce k_0 to stand for some integer for which the enclosed statement is true: $k_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $x = 2k_0$.

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x \in \mathbb{Z}$ $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}(x = 2k)$ $k_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ $x = 2k_0$	$\exists j \in \mathbb{Z}(x^2 = 2j)$

We need an integer j such that $x^2 = 2j$. Plugging in $2k_0$ for x we get $x^2 = 4k_0^2 = 2(2k_0^2)$. See that $j = 2k_0^2$ is a possible choice.
(next page)

Example cont.

To prove the second goal $(x^2 \text{ is even}) \rightarrow (x \text{ is even})$, we'll prove the contrapositive $(x \text{ is not even}) \rightarrow (x \text{ is not even})$ instead. Since any integer is either even or odd but not both, this is equivalent to $(x \text{ is odd}) \rightarrow (x^2 \text{ is odd})$:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x \in \mathbb{Z}$ $x \text{ is odd}$	$x^2 \text{ is odd}$

Again we write out the definition of *odd* to reveal the logical forms:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x \in \mathbb{Z}$ $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}(x = 2k + 1)$	$\exists j \in \mathbb{Z}(x^2 = 2j + 1)$

Considering the second given, we use existential instantiation:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$x \in \mathbb{Z}$ $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}(x = 2k + 1)$ $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ $x = 2k_0 + 1$	$\exists j \in \mathbb{Z}(x^2 = 2j + 1)$

We must now find an integer j such that $x^2 = 2j + 1$. Plugging in $2k_0 + 1$ for x we get $x^2 = (2k + 1)^2 = 4k^2 + 4k + 1 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1$, so $j = 2k^2 + 2k$ is a possible choice.

The two conditional statements we've proven can be thought of as representing the two directions \rightarrow and \leftarrow . The two parts of the proof are sometimes labelled with the symbols \rightarrow and \leftarrow .

In each part, we prove a statement that asserts the existence of a number with certain properties. We called this number j , but note that j was not mentioned explicitly in the statement of the problem, so we choose not to mention it in the final proof.

Solution

Theorem. *Suppose x is an integer. Then x is even iff x^2 is even.*

Proof. (\rightarrow) Suppose x is even. Then for some integer k_0 , $x = 2k_0$. Therefore $x^2 = 4k^2 = 2(2k^2)$, so since $2k^2$ is an integer, x^2 is even. Thus if x is even then x^2 is even.

(\leftarrow) Suppose x is odd. Then $x = 2k + 1$ for some integer k . Therefore $x^2 = (2k + 1)^2 = 4k^2 + 4k + 1 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1$, so since $(2k^2 + 2k)$ is an integer, x^2 is odd. Thus if x^2 is even then x is even. \square

2.4.4 Proving $\forall x \neg P(x) \leftrightarrow \neg \exists x P(x)$

Scratch work

(\rightarrow) We first prove $\forall x \neg P(x) \rightarrow \neg \exists x P(x)$, so we assume $\forall x \neg P(x)$ and try to prove $\neg \exists x P(x)$. Our goal is a negated statement, and trying to reexpress it would require the use of the very equivalence we are trying to prove. We therefore try proof by contradiction:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\forall x \neg P(x)$ $\exists x P(x)$	Contradiction

The second given starts with an existential quantifier, so we use it immediately and let x_0 stand for some object for which the statement $P(x_0)$ is true. But now plugging x_0 into the first given we get $\neg P(x_0)$, which gives us the contradiction we need.

(\leftarrow) For the other direction we assume $\neg \exists x P(x)$ and try to prove $\forall x \neg P(x)$. We let x be arbitrary and try to prove $\neg P(x)$; once again we have a negated goal that can't be reexpressed, so we use proof by contradiction:

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\neg \exists x P(x)$ $P(x)$	Contradiction

The first line is a negated statement. This suggests that we could get our contradiction by proving $\exists x P(x)$. We therefore set this as our goal

<i>Givens</i>	<i>Goal</i>
$\neg \exists x P(x)$ $P(x)$	$\exists x P(x)$

Our second given $P(x)$ tells us that our arbitrary x is the value we need to show the goal.

Solution

Theorem. $\forall x \neg P(x) \leftrightarrow \neg \exists x P(x)$.

Proof. (\rightarrow) Suppose $\forall x \neg P(x)$, and suppose $\exists x P(x)$. Then we can choose some x_0 such that $P(x_0)$ is true. But since $\forall x \neg P(x)$, we can conclude that $\neg P(x_0)$, which is a contradiction. Therefore $\forall x \neg P(x) \rightarrow \neg \exists x P(x)$.

(\leftarrow) Suppose $\neg \exists x P(x)$. Let x be arbitrary, and suppose $P(x)$. Since we have a specific x for which $P(x)$ is true, it follows that $\exists x P(x)$, which is a contradiction; therefore $\neg P(x)$. Since x was arbitrary, we can conclude that $\forall x \neg P(x)$, so $\neg \exists x P(x) \rightarrow \forall x \neg P(x)$. \square

2.4.5 Goals and givens of the form $P \leftrightarrow Q$ (part 2)

Sometimes in a proof of a goal of the form $P \leftrightarrow Q$ the steps in the proof of $Q \rightarrow P$ are the same as the steps used to prove $P \rightarrow Q$, just in reverse order. In this case one might be able to simplify the proof by writing it as a string of equivalences, starting with P and ending with Q .

For example suppose one could prove $P \rightarrow R \rightarrow Q$ (which is $P \rightarrow R$ and $R \rightarrow Q$), and $Q \rightarrow R \rightarrow P$ (which is $Q \rightarrow R$ and $R \rightarrow P$). This would be the same as asserting that $P \leftrightarrow R \leftrightarrow Q$ ($P \leftrightarrow R$ and $R \leftrightarrow Q$); as such both statements imply the goal $P \leftrightarrow Q$. One would present this kind of proof by simply writing the string of equivalences

$$P \text{ iff } R \text{ iff } Q$$

Since this is just an abbreviation for ‘ P iff R and R iff Q (and therefore P iff Q)’.

Example

Suppose

Appendix A

Exercises

A.1 Ch 3

A.1.1 $\exists x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$ is equivalent to $\forall xP(x) \rightarrow \exists xQ(x)$

Using logical equivalences:

$$\begin{aligned}\exists x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) &= \exists x[\neg(P(x) \wedge \neg Q(x))] && \text{(Definition)} \\ &= \neg \forall x[P(x) \wedge \neg Q(x)] && \text{(Quantifier negation)} \\ &= \neg[\forall xP(x) \wedge \forall x\neg Q(x)] && \text{(Distributivity over conjunction)} \\ &= \neg[\forall xP(x) \wedge \neg \exists xQ(x)] && \text{(Quantifier negation)} \\ &= \forall xP(x) \rightarrow \exists xQ(x) && \text{(Definition)}\end{aligned}$$

A.1.2 If $\exists x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$, then $\forall xP(x) \rightarrow \exists xQ(x)$

Proof. Suppose $\exists x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$. Then we can choose some x_0 such that $P(x_0) \rightarrow Q(x_0)$. Now suppose that $\forall xP(x)$. Then in particular, $P(x_0)$, and since $P(x_0) \rightarrow Q(x_0)$, it follows that $Q(x_0)$. Since we have found a particular value of x for which $Q(x)$ holds, we can conclude that $\exists xQ(x)$. Thus $\forall xP(x) \rightarrow \exists xQ(x)$. \square

A.1.3