

# The inclusion-exclusion theorem

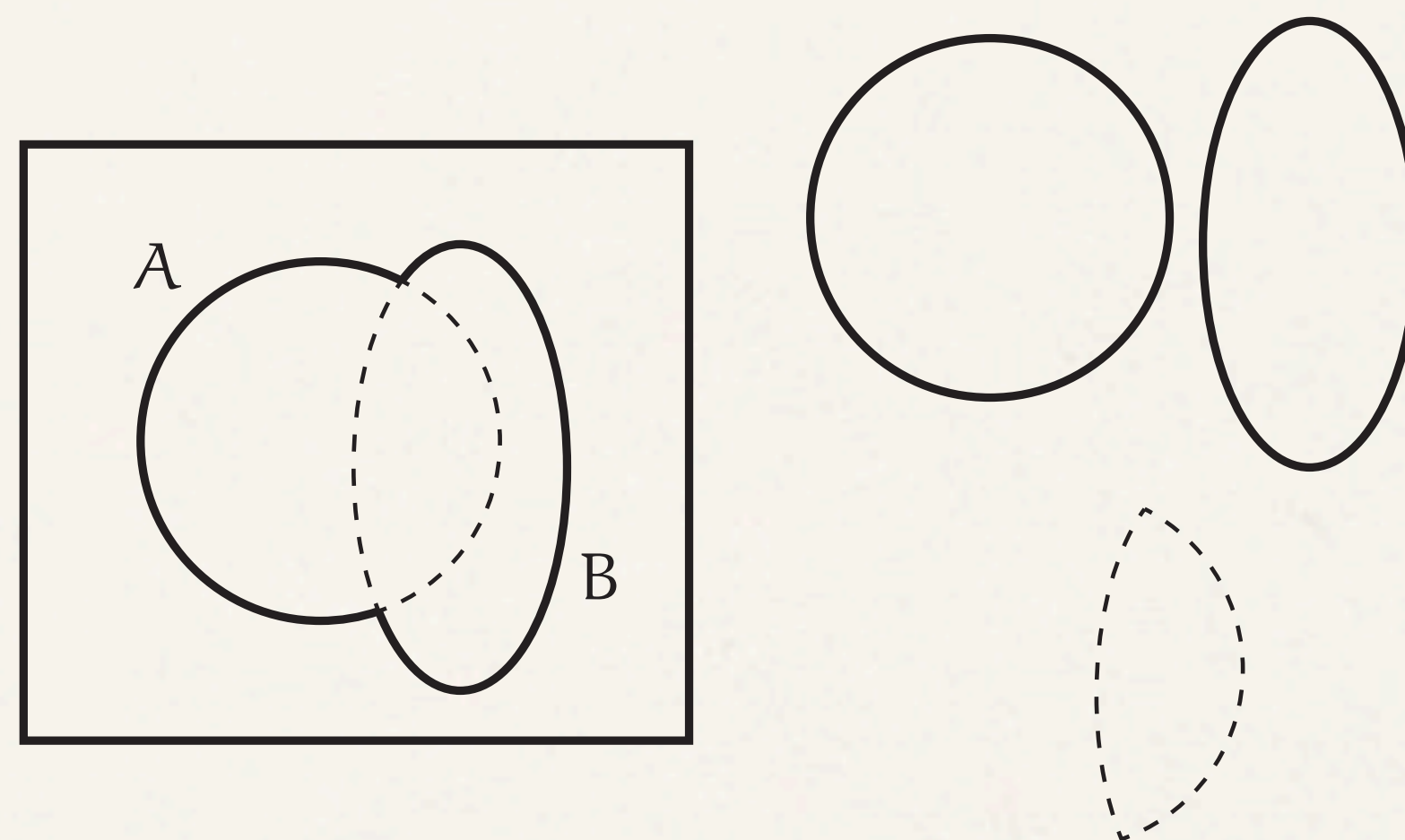
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$$\mathbf{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbf{P}(A) + \mathbf{P}(B) - \mathbf{P}(A \cap B)$$

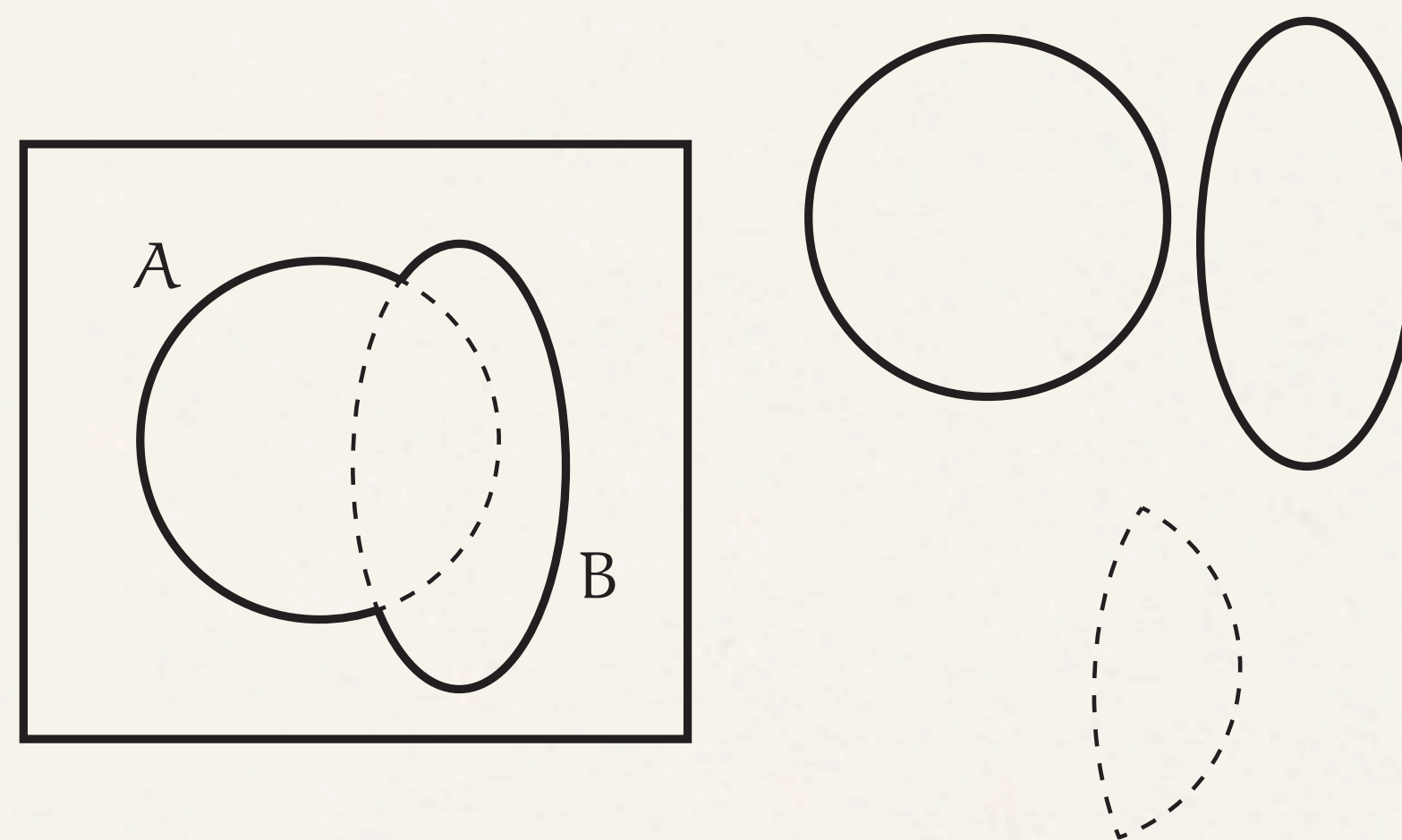




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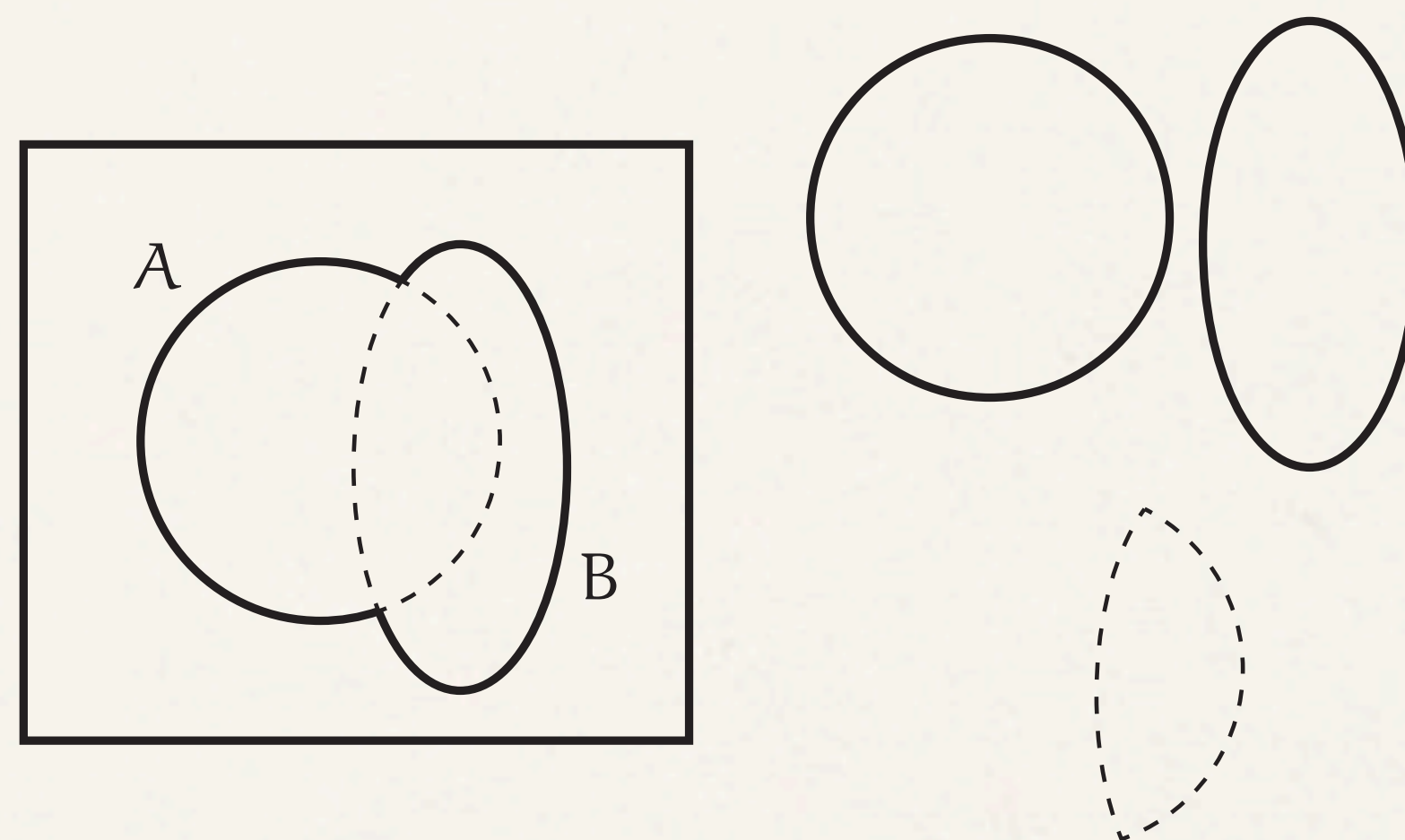
$$\mathbf{P}(A \cup B \cup C) = \mathbf{P}(A) + \mathbf{P}(B) + \mathbf{P}(C) - \mathbf{P}(A \cap B) - \mathbf{P}(A \cap C) - \mathbf{P}(B \cap C) + \mathbf{P}(A \cap B \cap C)$$



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The general principle: add odds, subtract evens.



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The inclusion–exclusion theorem (baby version)

$$\mathbf{P}(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) = S_1 - S_2 + S_3 - \dots + (-1)^{n-1} S_n$$