

Trivial and Vacuous Proofs

- Read pages 77 through 80 (section 3.1)
- Some key questions to answer:
 1. What is the difference between *axioms* and *theorems*?
 2. What other terms do we use in place of the word *theorem*? What two factors determine our choice of word?
 3. What is a *corollary*, and what is a *lemma*?
 4. Which quantified statement do we mean when we write: “for $x \in S$, if $P(x)$ then $Q(x)$ ”?
 5. When do we say that our proof of a result “for $x \in S$, if $P(x)$ then $Q(x)$ ” is a *trivial proof*?
 6. Give examples of results with trivial proofs.
 7. When do we say that our proof of a result “for $x \in S$, if $P(x)$ then $Q(x)$ ” is a *vacuous proof*?
 8. Give examples of results with vacuous proofs.
 9. Explain the main difference between trivial proofs and vacuous proofs.
 10. When can a result have both a trivial proof and a vacuous proof?
- Practice problems from section 3.1 (page 93). In each of these problems, make sure you identify whether you used a trivial proof or a vacuous proof: 3.1, 3.3, 3.5