



# Mathematical Tools for Economists

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*All models are wrong, but some are useful.*

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# Chapter 1 Basic Definitions

## 1.1 Main Methods of Proof

### 1.1.1 Proof by Induction

### 1.1.2 Proof by Deduction

### 1.1.3 Proof by Contradiction

### 1.1.4 Proof by Contraposition

- $\neg P$  ("not  $P$ ") means " $P$  is false".
- $P \wedge Q$  (" $P$  and  $Q$ ") means " $P$  is true and  $Q$  is true."
- $P \vee Q$  (" $P$  or  $Q$ ") means " $P$  is true or  $Q$  is true (or possibly both)."
- $\neg P \wedge Q$  means  $(\neg P) \wedge Q$ ;  $\neg P \vee Q$  means  $(\neg P) \vee Q$ .
- $P \Rightarrow Q$  (" $P$  implies  $Q$ ") means "whenever  $P$  is satisfied,  $Q$  is also satisfied."

**Statement:** Formally,  $P \Rightarrow Q$  is equivalent to  $\neg P \vee Q$ .

#### Definition 1.1 (Contrapositive)

The *contrapositive* of the statement  $P \Rightarrow Q$  is the statement  $\neg Q \Rightarrow \neg P$ .



#### Theorem 1.1 (Prove Contrapositive Instead)

$P \Rightarrow Q$  is true if and only if  $\neg Q \Rightarrow \neg P$  is true.

