

CS103  
FALL 2025



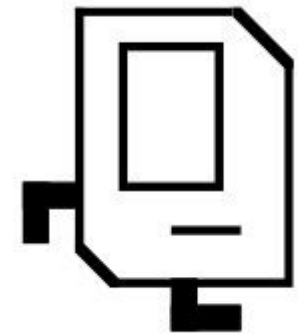
Lecture 08:

# Set Theory Revisited

**Announcements!**

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# CS198 Section Leading



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cs198@cs.stanford.edu

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## Who should section lead?

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For this round of applications, we are looking for applicants who have completed or are currently enrolled in CS106B.

We are looking for section leaders from all backgrounds who can relate to students and clearly explain concepts.

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# What do section leaders do?

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- Teach a weekly 50 minute section
  - Help students in the LalR
  - Grade CS106 assignments
  - Hold IGs with students
  - Grade midterms and finals
  - Get paid \$18.50/hour (more with seniority)
  - Have fun!
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# Time and requirements

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You'll need to:

- Section lead for **two quarters!**
  - Take CS198 for 3-4 units (1st quarter only)
  - Attend staff meetings (Monday, 4:30-5:30PM)
  - Attend Monday workshops (7:30-9pm) for first 4 weeks of first quarter
  - Attend Wednesday workshops (based on availability) for first 4 weeks of first quarter
  - Fulfill all teaching, LaIR, and grading responsibilities
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## Why section lead?

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- “Learn to teach; teach to learn”
  - Work directly with students
  - Participate in fun events
  - Join an amazing group of people
  - Leave your mark on campus
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# Participate in fun events

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- LaIR Formal
- Special D
- BAWK
- Lecturer Hangouts
- New SL Picnic
- Swag
- And more!



# Apply Now

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**Application is open now!**

**Deadlines:**

**Monday, October 13th at 11:59PM PT** for students who  
have already completed CS106B or equivalent

**Monday, October 27th at 11:59PM PT** for current CS106B  
students

Online application: [cs198.stanford.edu](https://cs198.stanford.edu)

Contact us: [cs198@cs.stanford.edu](mailto:cs198@cs.stanford.edu)

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Thank You!

# Problem Set Three

- Problem Set Two was due at 1:00PM today.
  - Need more time? You can use a late day to extend the deadline to 1:00PM Saturday.
- Problem Set Three goes out today. It's due at 1:00PM next Friday.
  - Play around with functions and their properties.
  - Learn to write proofs on first-order definitions.
  - Explore the world of set theory in more detail.
- As usual, get in touch if you need help! Post on EdStem or stop by office hours. That's what we're here for.

# Looking Forward: Midterm 1

- Our first midterm exam is a week from this Monday.
  - Details on Monday of next week.
- We've posted a big collection of practice exams on the course website (***Extra Practice Problems 1***).
- Students who need an alternate exam time: You should have already heard from us with your alternate time / location. If not, contact us **ASAP** (by the end of the day) to let us know.
- Students with OAE accommodations on exam: if we haven't received your OAE letter, send it to us **ASAP** (by the end of the day). OAE requires you to contact us at least ten days before a midterm exam.

On to CS103!

# Outline for Today

- ***Proofs on Sets***
  - Making our intuitions rigorous.
- ***Formal Set Definitions***
  - What do our terms mean?
- ***Appendices: Examples***
  - Sample proofs to help you get the hang of the ideas here.

Recap from Last Time



	If you <i><b>assume</b></i> this is true...	To <i><b>prove</b></i> that this is true...
$\forall x. A$	Initially, <i><b>do nothing</b></i> . Once you find a $z$ through other means, you can state it has property $A$ .	Have the reader pick an arbitrary $x$ . We then prove $A$ is true for that choice of $x$ .
$\exists x. A$	Introduce a variable $x$ into your proof that has property $A$ .	Find an $x$ where $A$ is true. Then prove that $A$ is true for that specific choice of $x$ .
$A \rightarrow B$	Initially, <i><b>do nothing</b></i> . Once you know $A$ is true, you can conclude $B$ is also true.	Assume $A$ is true, then prove $B$ is true.
$A \wedge B$	Assume $A$ . Also assume $B$ .	Prove $A$ . Also prove $B$ .
$A \vee B$	Consider two cases. Case 1: $A$ is true. Case 2: $B$ is true.	Either prove $\neg A \rightarrow B$ or prove $\neg B \rightarrow A$ . <i>(Why does this work?)</i>
$A \leftrightarrow B$	Assume $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$ .	Prove $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow A$ .
$\neg A$	Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.	Simplify the negation, then consult this table on the result.

New Stuff!

# Proving Results from Set Theory

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets where  $A \in B$  and  $B \in C$ , then  $A \in C$ .

**Proof (?):** Assume  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets where  $A \in B$  and  $B \in C$ .

We need to show that  $A \in C$ .

Since  $A \in B$ , we know that  $A$  is contained in  $B$ . Since  $B \in C$ , we know that  $B$  is contained in  $C$ . Therefore, because  $A$  is contained in  $B$  and  $B$  is contained in  $C$ , we know that  $A$  is contained in  $C$ . This means that  $A \in C$ , as required. ■

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets where  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq C$ .

**Proof (?):** Assume  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets where  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ .

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Which (if any) of these claims are true?  
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This claim is not true! For example...

$$\begin{aligned}\emptyset &\in \{\emptyset\} \\ \{\emptyset\} &\in \{\{\emptyset\}\} \\ \emptyset &\notin \{\{\emptyset\}\}\end{aligned}$$

**Lie:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets where  $A \in B$  and  $B \in C$ , then  $A \in C$ .

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We need to show that if  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in C$ .

Since  $A \subseteq B$ , we know that if  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in B$ .

Since  $B \subseteq C$ , we know that if  $x \in B$ , then  $x \in C$ .

Therefore, if  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$ .

This means that  $A \subseteq C$ , as required. ■

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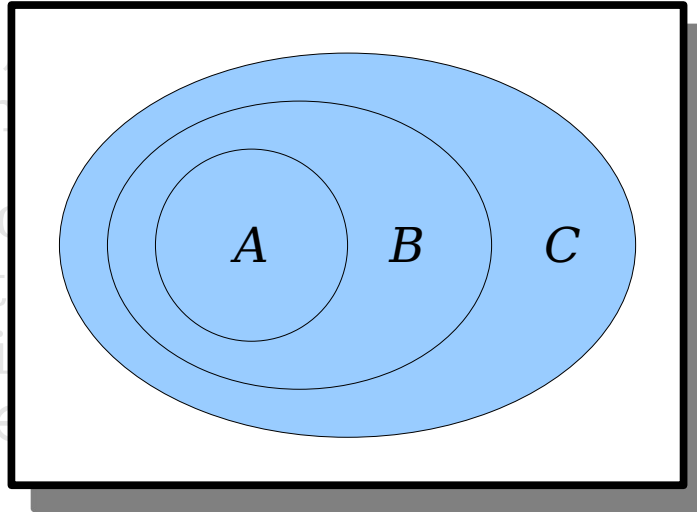
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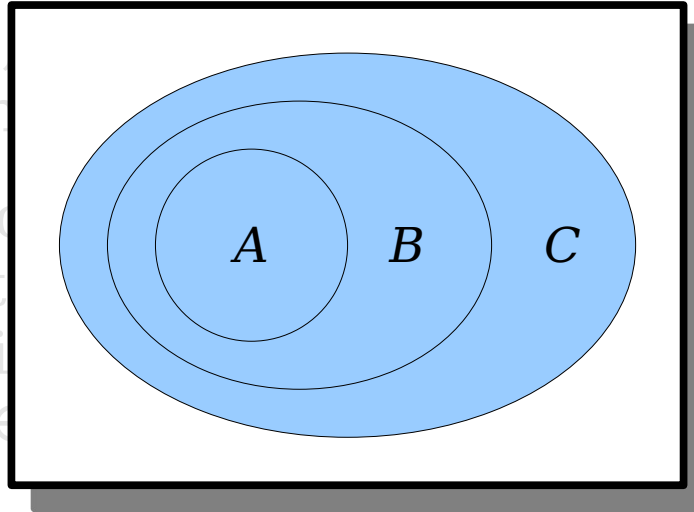


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This can't be a good proof;  
the same basic argument  
proves a false claim!

**Claim:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then we have  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

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**Claim:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subsetneq B$  and  $A \subsetneq C$ , then we have  $A \subsetneq B \cap C$ .

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Which (if any) of these claims are true?  
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This claim is not true! For example...

**Proof (?):** Ass

Since  $A \subseteq B$   
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$$\{137\} \subsetneq \{137, 103\}$$

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are in

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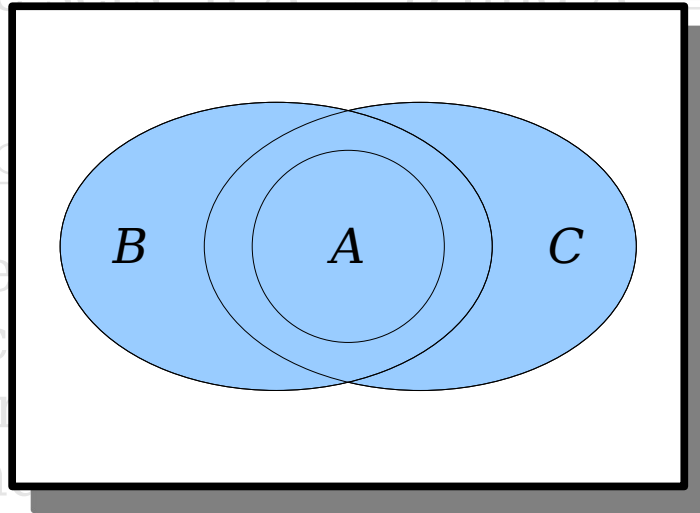
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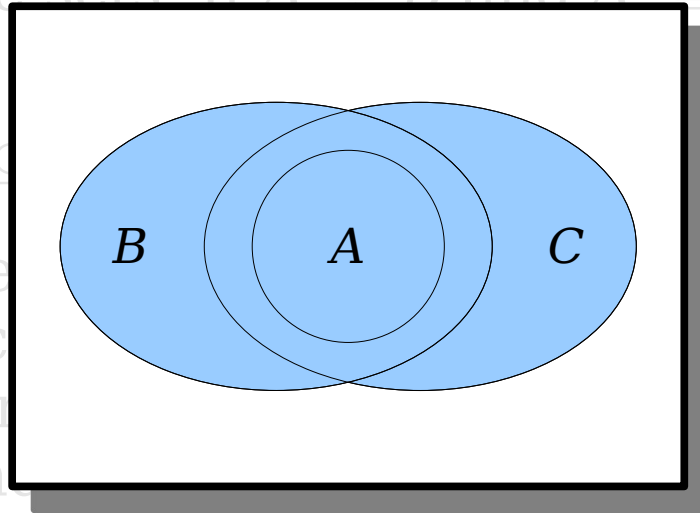
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# What Went Wrong?

- The style of arguments you've just seen are **not** how to prove results on sets.
- As you've seen:
  - The reliance on high-level terms like “contained” is not mathematically precise.
  - A discussion of “all elements” of a set is not how to reason about collections of objects.
- **Question:** How do we write rigorous proofs about sets?

# The Importance of Definitions

- As you've seen this week, formal definitions underpin mathematical proofs.
- The major issue from the previous proofs is that we haven't defined what our terms mean.
  - How do we define what  $A \in B$  means?
  - How do we define what  $A \subseteq B$  means?
  - How do we define what  $A \cap B$  means?
- Think back to our proof triangle: we currently have intuitions for these concepts, but not formal definitions.

	Is defined as...	If you <i><b>assume</b></i> this is true...	To <i><b>prove</b></i> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$			
$S = T$			
$x \in S \cap T$			
$x \in S \cup T$			
$X \in \wp(S)$			
$x \in \{y \mid P(y)\}$			

# Proofs on Subsets



***Theorem:*** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets where  
 $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq C$ .

# Defining Subsets

- Formally speaking, if  $S$  and  $T$  are sets, we say that  $S \subseteq T$  when the following holds:

$$\forall x \in S. x \in T$$

- Now, suppose you're working with a proof where you encounter  $S \subseteq T$ . Think back to the proof table.
  - To **assume** that  $S \subseteq T$ , what should you do?
  - To **prove** that  $S \subseteq T$ , what should you do?

Answer at

<https://cs103.stanford.edu/pollev>

	Is defined as...	If you <i><b>assume</b></i> this is true...	To <i><b>prove</b></i> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i><b>do nothing</b></i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$ .
$S = T$			
$x \in S \cap T$			
$x \in S \cup T$			
$X \in \wp(S)$			
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# A Correct Proof on Sets

***Theorem:*** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets where  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq C$ .

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	Is defined as...	If you <i>assume</i> this is true...	To <b>prove</b> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$

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Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ .

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$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <b>do nothing</b> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$

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$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <b>do nothing</b> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$

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Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Similarly, since  $x \in B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , as required.

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$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <b>do nothing</b> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$

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Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Similarly, since  $x \in B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , as required.

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$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$



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Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Similarly, since  $x \in B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , as required. ■

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**Bad Proof:** Assume  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets where  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ . We need to show that  $A \subseteq C$ .

Since  $A \subseteq B$ , we know that  $A$  is contained in  $B$ . Since  $B \subseteq C$ , we know that  $B$  is contained in  $C$ . Therefore, because  $A$  is contained in  $B$  and  $B$  is contained in  $C$ , we know that  $A$  is contained in  $C$ . This means that  $A \subseteq C$ , as required. ■

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Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Similarly, since  $x \in B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , as required. ■

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Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Similarly, since  $x \in B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , as required. ■

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Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Similarly, since  $x \in B$  and  $B \subseteq C$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , as required. ■

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# Unions and Intersections

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$   
and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .



# Unions and Intersections

- The statement  $x \in S \cap T$  is defined as

$$x \in S \quad \wedge \quad x \in T.$$

- The statement  $x \in S \cup T$  is defined as

$$x \in S \quad \vee \quad x \in T.$$

- These are operational definitions: they show how unions and intersections interact with the  $\in$  relation rather than saying what the union or intersection of two sets “are.”

	Is defined as...	If you <i>assume</i> this is true...	To <i>prove</i> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$ .
$S = T$			
$x \in S \cap T$	$x \in S \wedge x \in T$	Assume $x \in S$ . Then assume $x \in T$ .	Prove $x \in S$ . Also prove $x \in T$ .
$x \in S \cup T$	$x \in S \vee x \in T$	Consider two cases: Case 1: $x \in S$ . Case 2: $x \in T$ .	Either prove $x \in S$ or prove $x \in T$ .
$X \in \wp(S)$			
$x \in \{y \mid P(y)\}$			

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

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***Proof:***

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

***Proof:*** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

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	Is defined as...	If you <i>assume</i> this is true...	To <i>prove</i> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$

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**Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to prove that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . So pick some  $x \in A$ ; we need to show that  $x \in B \cap C$ .

	Is defined as...	If you <i>assume</i> this is true...	To <i>prove</i> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$



**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

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**Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to prove that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . So pick some  $x \in A$ ; we need to show that  $x \in B \cap C$ .

	Is defined as...	If you <i><b>assume</b></i> this is true...	To <i><b>prove</b></i> that this is true...
$x \in S \cap T$	$x \in S \wedge x \in T$	Assume $x \in S$ . Then assume $x \in T$ .	Prove $x \in S$ . Also prove $x \in T$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to prove that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . So pick some  $x \in A$ ; we need to show that  $x \in B \cap C$ .

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**Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to prove that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . So pick some  $x \in A$ ; we need to show that  $x \in B \cap C$ .

Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to prove that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . So pick some  $x \in A$ ; we need to show that  $x \in B \cap C$ .

Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , we know  $x \in C$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to prove that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . So pick some  $x \in A$ ; we need to show that  $x \in B \cap C$ .

Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , we know  $x \in C$ . Therefore, we see that  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$ , so  $x \in B \cap C$ , as required.

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to prove that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . So pick some  $x \in A$ ; we need to show that  $x \in B \cap C$ .

Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , we know  $x \in C$ . Therefore, we see that  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$ , so  $x \in B \cap C$ , as required. ■

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

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Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , we know  $x \in C$ . Therefore, we see that  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$ , so  $x \in B \cap C$ , as required. ■

---

**Bad Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to show  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

Since  $A \subseteq B$ , all elements of  $A$  are in  $B$ . Since  $A \subseteq C$ , all elements of  $A$  are also in  $C$ . Therefore, all elements of  $A$  are in both  $B$  and  $C$ . Therefore, we see that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . ■



**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets. If  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to prove that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . So pick some  $x \in A$ ; we need to show that  $x \in B \cap C$ .

Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq B$ , we know  $x \in B$ . Since  $x \in A$  and  $A \subseteq C$ , we know  $x \in C$ . Therefore, we see that  $x \in B$  and  $x \in C$ , so  $x \in B \cap C$ , as required. ■

---

**Bad Proof:** Assume  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \subseteq C$ . We need to show  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ .

Since  $A \subseteq B$ , all elements of  $A$  are in  $B$ . Since  $A \subseteq C$ , all elements of  $A$  are also in  $C$ . Therefore, all elements of  $A$  are in both  $B$  and  $C$ . Therefore, we see that  $A \subseteq B \cap C$ . ■

# Set Equality

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. Then  $A \subseteq B$  if and only if  $A \cup B = B$ .

	Is defined as...	If you <i>assume</i> this is true...	To <i>prove</i> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$ .
$S = T$	$S \subseteq T \wedge T \subseteq S$	Assume $S \subseteq T$ and $T \subseteq S$ .	Prove $S \subseteq T$ . Also prove $T \subseteq S$ .
$x \in S \cap T$	$x \in S \wedge x \in T$	Assume $x \in S$ . Then assume $x \in T$ .	Prove $x \in S$ . Also prove $x \in T$ .
$x \in S \cup T$	$x \in S \vee x \in T$	Consider two cases: Case 1: $x \in S$ . Case 2: $x \in T$ .	Either prove $x \in S$ or prove $x \in T$ .
$X \in \wp(S)$			
$x \in \{y \mid P(y)\}$			

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. Then  $A \subseteq B$  if and only if  $A \cup B = B$ .

***Proof:*** See appendix!

# Set-Builder Notation

# Set-Builder Notation

- Let  $S$  be the set defined here:

$$S = \{ n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } n \geq 137 \}$$

- Now imagine you have some quantity  $x$ .  
Based on this...
  - ... if you **assume** that  $x \in S$ , what does that tell you about  $x$ ?
  - ... if you need to **prove** that  $x \in S$ , what do you need to prove?

Answer at

<https://cs103.stanford.edu/pollev>

# Set-Builder Notation

- Like unions and intersections, we have an operational definition for set-builder notation. It's the following:

**Let  $S = \{ y \mid P(y) \}$ .  
Then  $x \in S$  when  $P(x)$  is true.**

- So, for example:
  - $x \in \{ n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } n \text{ is even} \}$  means  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x$  is even.
  - $x \in \{ n \mid \exists k \in \mathbb{N}. n = 2k + 1 \}$  means that there is a  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  where  $x = 2k + 1$ . (Equivalently,  $x$  is an odd natural number)
- **Key Point:** The placeholder variable disappears in all these examples. After all, *it's just a placeholder*.



	Is defined as...	If you <i>assume</i> this is true...	To <i>prove</i> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$ .
$S = T$	$S \subseteq T \wedge T \subseteq S$	Assume $S \subseteq T$ and $T \subseteq S$ .	Prove $S \subseteq T$ . Also prove $T \subseteq S$ .
$x \in S \cap T$	$x \in S \wedge x \in T$	Assume $x \in S$ . Then assume $x \in T$ .	Prove $x \in S$ . Also prove $x \in T$ .
$x \in S \cup T$	$x \in S \vee x \in T$	Consider two cases: Case 1: $x \in S$ . Case 2: $x \in T$ .	Either prove $x \in S$ or prove $x \in T$ .
$X \in \wp(S)$			
$x \in \{y \mid P(y)\}$	$P(x)$	Assume $P(x)$ .	Prove $P(x)$ .

# Proofs on Set-Builder Notation

# Some Useful Notation

- If  $n$  is a natural number, we define the set  **$[n]$**  as follows:

$$[n] = \{ k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge k < n \}$$

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  - $[3] =$

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- So, for example:
  - $[3] = \{0, 1, 2\}$
  - $[0] =$

# Some Useful Notation

- If  $n$  is a natural number, we define the set  **$[n]$**  as follows:

$$[n] = \{ k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge k < n \}$$

- So, for example:
  - $[3] = \{0, 1, 2\}$
  - $[0] = \emptyset$
  - $[5] =$

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- If  $n$  is a natural number, we define the set  **$[n]$**  as follows:

$$[n] = \{ k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge k < n \}$$

- So, for example:
  - $[3] = \{0, 1, 2\}$
  - $[0] = \emptyset$
  - $[5] = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$

***Theorem:*** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ ,  
then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$



**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$

*What We're Assuming*

$$m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$m < n$$

$$[z] = \{ k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge k < z \}$$

*What We Need to Prove*

$$[m] \subseteq [n]$$

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$

*What We're Assuming*

$$m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$m < n$$

$$[z] = \{ k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge k < z \}$$

*What We Need to Prove*

$$\cancel{[m] \subseteq [n]}$$

$$\forall x \in [m]. x \in [n]$$

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$

*What We're Assuming*

$$m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$m < n$$

$$[z] = \{ k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge k < z \}$$

$$x \in [m]$$

*What We Need to Prove*

$$\cancel{[m] \subseteq [n]}$$

$$\forall \cancel{x \in [m]}. x \in [n]$$

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$

*What We're Assuming*

$$m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$m < n$$

$$[z] = \{ k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge k < z \}$$

$$x \in [m]$$

$$x \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$x < m$$

*What We Need to Prove*

$$\cancel{[m] \subseteq [n]}$$

$$\forall \cancel{x \in [m]}. x \in [n]$$

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$

*What We're Assuming*

$$m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$m < n$$

$$[z] = \{ k \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge k < z \}$$

$$x \in [m]$$

$$x \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$x < m$$

*What We Need to Prove*

$$\cancel{[m] \subseteq [n]}$$

$$\cancel{\forall x \in [m]. x \in [n]}$$

$$x \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$x < n$$

***Theorem:*** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

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***Proof:***

***Theorem:*** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

***Proof:*** Assume  $m$  and  $n$  are natural numbers where  $m < n$ .



**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $m$  and  $n$  are natural numbers where  $m < n$ .  
We need to show that  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $m$  and  $n$  are natural numbers where  $m < n$ .  
We need to show that  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ . To do so, pick some  $x \in [m]$ .

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

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We need to show that  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ . To do so, pick some  $x \in [m]$ . We'll prove that  $x \in [n]$ .

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

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We need to show that  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ . To do so, pick some  $x \in [m]$ . We'll prove that  $x \in [n]$ .

Since  $x \in [m]$ , we know that  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x < m$ .

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

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Since  $x \in [m]$ , we know that  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x < m$ . Then, because  $x < m$  and  $m < n$ , we know that  $x < n$ .

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $m$  and  $n$  are natural numbers where  $m < n$ . We need to show that  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ . To do so, pick some  $x \in [m]$ . We'll prove that  $x \in [n]$ .

Since  $x \in [m]$ , we know that  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x < m$ . Then, because  $x < m$  and  $m < n$ , we know that  $x < n$ . Collectively this means that  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x < n$ , so  $x \in [n]$ , as required.

**Theorem:** If  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m < n$ , then  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $m$  and  $n$  are natural numbers where  $m < n$ . We need to show that  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ . To do so, pick some  $x \in [m]$ . We'll prove that  $x \in [n]$ .

Since  $x \in [m]$ , we know that  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x < m$ . Then, because  $x < m$  and  $m < n$ , we know that  $x < n$ . Collectively this means that  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x < n$ , so  $x \in [n]$ , as required. ■

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**Proof:** Assume  $m$  and  $n$  are natural numbers where  $m < n$ . We need to show that  $[m] \subseteq [n]$ . To do so, pick some  $x \in [m]$ . We'll prove that  $x \in [n]$ .

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Notice that *there is no set-builder notation in this proof*. We were able to avoid it by using the rules for what  $x \in \{y \mid P(y)\}$  say to do.



	Is defined as...	If you <i>assume</i> this is true...	To <i>prove</i> that this is true...
$S \subseteq T$	$\forall x \in S. x \in T$	Initially, <i>do nothing</i> . Once you find some $z \in S$ , conclude $z \in T$ .	Ask the reader to pick an $x \in S$ . Then prove $x \in T$ .
$S = T$	$S \subseteq T \wedge T \subseteq S$	Assume $S \subseteq T$ and $T \subseteq S$ .	Prove $S \subseteq T$ . Also prove $T \subseteq S$ .
$x \in S \cap T$	$x \in S \wedge x \in T$	Assume $x \in S$ . Then assume $x \in T$ .	Prove $x \in S$ . Also prove $x \in T$ .
$x \in S \cup T$	$x \in S \vee x \in T$	Consider two cases: Case 1: $x \in S$ . Case 2: $x \in T$ .	Either prove $x \in S$ or prove $x \in T$ .
$X \in \wp(S)$	$X \subseteq S$ .	Assume $X \subseteq S$ .	Prove $X \subseteq S$ .
$x \in \{y \mid P(y)\}$	$P(x)$	Assume $P(x)$ .	Prove $P(x)$ .

# Your Action Items

- ***Read “Guide to Proofs on Discrete Structures.”***
  - There’s additional guidance and practice on the assume/prove dichotomy and how it manifests in problem-solving.
- ***Read “Discrete Structures Proofwriting Checklist.”***
  - Keep the items here in mind when writing proofs. We’ll use this when grading your problem set.
- ***Read “Guide to Proofs on Sets.”***
  - There’s some good worked examples in there to supplement today’s lecture, several of which will be relevant for the problem set.
- ***Start Problem Set 3.***
  - Start early and make slow and steady progress.
- ***(Optional) Look over Extra Practice Problems 1***
  - For extra pre-exam review.

# Next Time

- ***Graph Theory***

- A ubiquitous, powerful abstraction with applications throughout computer science.

- ***Vertex Covers***

- Making sure tourists don't get lost.

- ***Independent Sets***

- Helping the recovery of the California Condor.

## ***Appendix:*** More Sample Set Proofs

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  
 $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  
 $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

*What I'm Assuming*

$$A \subseteq C$$

$$\forall z \in A. z \in C$$

$$B \subseteq D$$

$$\forall z \in B. z \in D$$

*What I Need to Show*

$$A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$$

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  
 $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

*What I'm Assuming*

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$$B \subseteq D$$

$$\forall z \in B. z \in D$$

*What I Need to Show*

~~$$A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$$~~

$$\forall x \in A \cup B. x \in C \cup D$$

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  
 $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

*What I'm Assuming*

$$A \subseteq C$$

$$\forall z \in A. z \in C$$

$$B \subseteq D$$

$$\forall z \in B. z \in D$$

$$x \in A \cup B$$

*What I Need to Show*

~~$$A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$$~~

~~$$\forall x \in A \cup B. x \in C \cup D$$~~



**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  
 $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

*What I'm Assuming*

$$A \subseteq C$$

$$\forall z \in A. z \in C$$

$$B \subseteq D$$

$$\forall z \in B. z \in D$$

$$x \in A \cup B$$

*What I Need to Show*

~~$$A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$$~~

~~$$\forall x \in A \cup B. x \in C \cup D$$~~

$$x \in C \text{ or } x \in D$$

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  
 $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

*What I'm Assuming*

$$A \subseteq C$$

$$\forall z \in A. z \in C$$

$$B \subseteq D$$

$$\forall z \in B. z \in D$$

$$x \in A \cup B$$

$$\text{Case 1: } x \in A$$

$$\text{Case 2: } x \in B$$

*What I Need to Show*

~~$$A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$$~~

~~$$\forall x \in A \cup B. x \in C \cup D$$~~

$$x \in C \text{ or } x \in D$$

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

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***Proof:***

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

***Proof:*** Pick some  $x \in A \cup B$ ; we need to show that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

**Proof:** Pick some  $x \in A \cup B$ ; we need to show that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Because  $x \in A \cup B$ , we know that  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

**Proof:** Pick some  $x \in A \cup B$ ; we need to show that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Because  $x \in A \cup B$ , we know that  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ . We consider each case separately.

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

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Because  $x \in A \cup B$ , we know that  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ . We consider each case separately.

*Case 1:*  $x \in A$ .

*Case 2:*  $x \in B$ .



**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

**Proof:** Pick some  $x \in A \cup B$ ; we need to show that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Because  $x \in A \cup B$ , we know that  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ . We consider each case separately.

*Case 1:*  $x \in A$ . Since  $A \subseteq C$  and  $x \in A$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , and therefore that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

*Case 2:*  $x \in B$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

**Proof:** Pick some  $x \in A \cup B$ ; we need to show that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Because  $x \in A \cup B$ , we know that  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ . We consider each case separately.

*Case 1:*  $x \in A$ . Since  $A \subseteq C$  and  $x \in A$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , and therefore that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

*Case 2:*  $x \in B$ . Then because  $B \subseteq D$  and  $x \in B$  we have  $x \in D$ , so  $x \in C \cup D$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

**Proof:** Pick some  $x \in A \cup B$ ; we need to show that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Because  $x \in A \cup B$ , we know that  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ . We consider each case separately.

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*Case 2:*  $x \in B$ . Then because  $B \subseteq D$  and  $x \in B$  we have  $x \in D$ , so  $x \in C \cup D$ .

In either case, we see that  $x \in C \cup D$ , as required.

**Theorem:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  be sets where  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \subseteq D$ . Then  $A \cup B \subseteq C \cup D$ .

**Proof:** Pick some  $x \in A \cup B$ ; we need to show that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

Because  $x \in A \cup B$ , we know that  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ . We consider each case separately.

*Case 1:*  $x \in A$ . Since  $A \subseteq C$  and  $x \in A$ , we see that  $x \in C$ , and therefore that  $x \in C \cup D$ .

*Case 2:*  $x \in B$ . Then because  $B \subseteq D$  and  $x \in B$  we have  $x \in D$ , so  $x \in C \cup D$ .

In either case, we see that  $x \in C \cup D$ , as required. ■

***Theorem:*** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. Then  $A \subseteq B$  if and only if  $A \cup B = B$ .

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***Proof:***

**Theorem:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. Then  $A \subseteq B$  if and only if  $A \cup B = B$ .

**Proof:** We will prove each direction of implication.



**Theorem:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. Then  $A \subseteq B$  if and only if  $A \cup B = B$ .

**Proof:** We will prove each direction of implication.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Assume  $A \subseteq B$ . We need to show that  $A \cup B = B$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $A \cup B = B$ . We need to show that  $A \subseteq B$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets. Then  $A \subseteq B$  if and only if  $A \cup B = B$ .

**Proof:** We will prove each direction of implication.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Assume  $A \subseteq B$ . We need to show that  $A \cup B = B$ . To do so, we need to show that  $A \cup B \subseteq B$  and that  $B \subseteq A \cup B$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $A \cup B = B$ . We need to show that  $A \subseteq B$ .

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