

Two proofs that

$(A \Rightarrow B)$ if and only if $(\neg B \Rightarrow \neg A)$

Direct proof

We can construct a "truth table" that maps the situation for all possible values of **A** and **B**:

A	B	$A \Rightarrow B$	$\neg B$	$\neg A$	$\neg B \Rightarrow \neg A$
T	T	T	F	F	T
T	F	F	T	F	F
F	T	T	F	T	T
F	F	T	T	T	T

The values in the column of **$A \Rightarrow B$** and **$\neg B \Rightarrow \neg A$** are the same, so they are equivalent: that is an ***if and only if***.

Proof by contradiction (*reductio ad absurdum*)

We suppose that the hypothesis is true but the thesis is false, we reach a contradiction.

We first suppose that

(A \Rightarrow B) is true but **(\neg B \Rightarrow \neg A)** is not true

If this were so, then we could have

(A \Rightarrow B) true

\neg B true and \neg A false (because **(\neg B \Rightarrow \neg A)** is not true)

That is, we could have

(A \Rightarrow B) true

\neg B true

A true (because we supposed \neg A false)

But then

A true and **(A \Rightarrow B)** true imply that **B** is true

while we also supposed that \neg B true

This leads to a contradiction: both **B** and $\neg\mathbf{B}$ should be true.

Therefore we must have that

If $(\mathbf{A} \Rightarrow \mathbf{B})$ then $(\neg\mathbf{B} \Rightarrow \neg\mathbf{A})$

The vice versa, that is

If $(\neg\mathbf{B} \Rightarrow \neg\mathbf{A})$ then $(\mathbf{A} \Rightarrow \mathbf{B})$ is proven in the same way: just

substitute **A** for $\neg\mathbf{B}$ and

substitute **B** for $\neg\mathbf{A}$.

After all, **A**'s and **B**'s are just placeholders - meaningless marks on paper...