

Use Venn Diagrams to Analyze Deductive Arguments

Basic Process

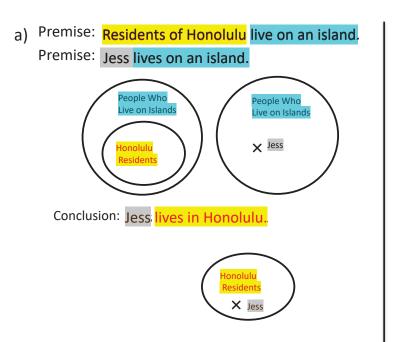
(Variation on Process in the Math 1030 Videos and Textbook)

- 1. Represent the premises AND the conclusion with Venn Diagrams.
- 2. Compare the Venn Diagrams to determine validity
 - The Venn Diagrams agree → valid.
 - The Venn Diagrams do not agree \rightarrow invalid.

3. Determine soundness

- If an argument is valid, consider whether the premises are true (don't need the Venn Diagram for this.)
 - \square Yes \rightarrow the argument is sound
 - \square No \rightarrow the argument is not sound
- If an argument is invalid, it is automatically not sound.

EX 1: Represent the information in the premises and in the conclusion with separate Venn Diagrams. Then determine the validity and soundness of the argument and explain your reasoning.



Analysis and Explanation:

EX 1 (Continued):

b) Premise: All Japanese cities are on islands.

Premise: Tokyo is a city in Japan. Conclusion: Tokyo is on an island.

VD for Premises	VD for Conclusion	Analysis and Explanation

EX 1 (Continued):

c) Premise: Everything in space is a star.

Premise: Pluto is in space. Conclusion: Pluto is a star.

VD for Premises	VD for Conclusion	Analysis and Explanation

EX 2: Statements with negation

Represent the information with Venn Diagrams. Then determine the validity and soundness of the argument and explain your reasoning.

a) Premise: Moths only eat textiles made of natural fibers.

Premise: Polyester is not a natural fiber. Conclusion: Moths will not eat polyester.

VD for Premises	VD for Conclusion	Analysis and Explanation

EX 2: Statements with negation

b) (Example also shown in Video 2B)

Premise: If a figure is a quadrilateral, it has four sides.

Premise: Triangles are not quadrilaterals. Conclusion: Triangles do not have four sides.

VD for Premises	VD for Conclusion	Analysis and Explanation