

# Analyzing “Proofs” of a Logical Implication

## Reference:

Hub, A., & Dawkins, P. C. (2018). On the construction of set-based meanings for the truth of mathematical conditionals. *The Journal of Mathematical Behavior*, 50, 90-102.

Consider the following statement.

*For every integer  $x$ , if  $x$  is a multiple of 6, then  $x$  is a multiple of 3.*

Below, three proofs are given. For each one, decide whether it does or does not prove the statement above. If it does not, what statement *does* it prove?

<p><i>Proof 1.</i> Consider an arbitrary integer <math>x</math> that is a multiple of 6. Then, <math>x = 6k</math> for some integer <math>k</math>. Notice that, <math>x = 6k = 3(2k)</math> where <math>2k</math> is also an integer. Therefore, <math>x</math> is a multiple of 3. <math>\square</math></p>	<p><i>Proof 2.</i> Consider <math>x = 15</math>. Then, <math>15 = 3(5)</math> so <math>x</math> is a multiple of 3. Now suppose that <math>15 = 6k</math> for some integer <math>k</math> (note: <math>k \neq 0</math>). Then, <math>k = 15/6</math>, which is not an integer. Therefore, it is impossible that <math>15 = 6k</math> for some integer <math>k</math>. This means that 15 is not a multiple of 6. <math>\square</math></p>	<p><i>Proof 3.</i> Consider an arbitrary number <math>x</math> that is not a multiple of 3. Suppose that this <math>x</math> is a multiple of 6. Then, <math>x = 6k</math> for some integer <math>k</math>. This implies that <math>x = 3(2k)</math> where <math>2k</math> is an integer, and therefore <math>x</math> is a multiple of 3. Since we assumed <math>x</math> is not a multiple of 3, we may conclude that <math>x</math> cannot be a multiple of 6. <math>\square</math></p>
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