

**Theorem 1.** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets, then  $(A \cap B) \times C = (A \times C) \cap (B \times C)$ .

*Proof.* We show that if  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets, then  $(A \cap B) \times C = (A \times C) \cap (B \times C)$  by showing that each side of the equation describes a subset of the other.

To see that  $(A \cap B) \times C \subseteq (A \times C) \cap (B \times C)$ , suppose that  $u = (x, y)$  is an element of  $(A \cap B) \times C$ . Then from the definition of Cartesian product, we have  $x \in A \cap B$  and  $y \in C$ . Since  $x$  is an element of both  $A$  and  $B$ , the pair  $(x, y)$  is in both  $A \times C$  and  $B \times C$ ; in other words  $u = (x, y) \in (A \times C) \cap (B \times C)$ . We have thus shown that  $(A \cap B) \times C \subseteq (A \times C) \cap (B \times C)$ .

To see that  $(A \times C) \cap (B \times C) \subseteq (A \cap B) \times C$ , suppose that  $v = (x, y)$  is an element of  $(A \times C) \cap (B \times C)$ . This means that  $x \in A$  and  $y \in C$  and  $x \in B$  and  $y \in C$ . Since  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ ,  $x \in A \cap B$ . Then the pair  $v = (x, y) \in (A \cap B) \times C$ , establishing that  $(A \times C) \cap (B \times C) \subseteq (A \cap B) \times C$ .

Since we have now shown that  $(A \cap B) \times C \subseteq (A \times C) \cap (B \times C)$  and  $(A \times C) \cap (B \times C) \subseteq (A \cap B) \times C$ , we have proven that if  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets, then  $(A \cap B) \times C = (A \times C) \cap (B \times C)$ .  $\square$