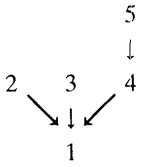
SOLVED PROBLEM

1.14 Diagram the argument below.

①[The Bensons must be home.] ②[Their front door is open.] ③[their car is in the driveway,] and ④[their television is on,] (since) ⑤[I can see its glow through the window.]

Solution



The argument is convergent. Statements 2, 3, and 4 function as independent reasons for the conclusion, statement 1. Each supports statement 1 separately, and must therefore be linked to it by a separate arrow.

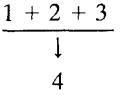
Premises should be linked by plus signs, by contrast, when they do not function independently, i.e., when each requires completion by the others in order for the argument to make good sense.

SOLVED PROBLEM

1.15 Diagram the argument below.

①[Everyone at this party is a biochemist.] and ②[all biochemists are intelligent.] (Therefore,) (since) ③[Sally is at this party,] ④[Sally is intelligent.]

Solution



The argument is not convergent; each of its premises requires completion by the others. Taken by themselves, none of the premises would make good sense as support for statement 4.