

# First-Order Logic

Part One

Recap from Last Time

# Recap So Far

- A ***propositional variable*** is a variable that is either true or false.
- The ***propositional connectives*** are as follows:
  - Negation:  $\neg p$
  - Conjunction:  $p \wedge q$
  - Disjunction:  $p \vee q$
  - Implication:  $p \rightarrow q$
  - Biconditional:  $p \leftrightarrow q$
  - True:  $\top$
  - False:  $\perp$

Take out a sheet of paper!

What's the truth table for the  $\rightarrow$  connective?

What's the negation of  $p \rightarrow q$ ?

New Stuff!

# First-Order Logic



# What is First-Order Logic?

- ***First-order logic*** is a logical system for reasoning about properties of objects.
- Augments the logical connectives from propositional logic with
  - ***predicates*** that describe properties of objects,
  - ***functions*** that map objects to one another, and
  - ***quantifiers*** that allow us to reason about multiple objects.

# Some Examples

*Likes(You, Eggs)  $\wedge$  Likes(You, Tomato)  $\rightarrow$  Likes(You, Shakshuka)*



*Likes(You, Eggs)  $\wedge$  Likes(You, Tomato)  $\rightarrow$  Likes(You, Shakshuka)*

*Learns(You, History)  $\vee$  ForeverRepeats(You, History)*

*In(MyHeart, Havana)  $\wedge$  TookBackTo(Him, Me, EastAtlanta)*

*Likes(You, Eggs)  $\wedge$  Likes(You, Tomato)  $\rightarrow$  Likes(You, Shakshuka)*

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*Likes(You, Eggs) ∧ Likes(You, Tomato) → Likes(You, Shakshuka)*

*Learns(You, History) ∨ ForeverRepeats(You, History)*

*In(MyHeart, Havana) ∧ TookBackTo(Him, Me, EastAtlanta)*

These blue terms are called ***constant symbols***. Unlike propositional variables, they refer to *objects*, not *propositions*.

*Likes(You, Eggs) ∧ Likes(You, Tomato) → Likes(You, Shakshuka)*

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The red things that look like function calls are called **predicates**.  
Predicates take objects as arguments and evaluate to true or false.



*Likes(You, Eggs) ∧ Likes(You, Tomato) → Likes(You, Shakshuka)*

*Learns(You, History) ∨ ForeverRepeats(You, History)*

*In(MyHeart, Havana) ∧ TookBackTo(Him, Me, EastAtlanta)*

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What remains are traditional propositional connectives. Because each predicate evaluates to true or false, we can connect the truth values of predicates using normal propositional connectives.

# Reasoning about Objects

- To reason about objects, first-order logic uses ***predicates***.
- Examples:

*Cute(Quokka)*

*Cool(CS103 students)*

- Applying a predicate to arguments produces a proposition, which is either true or false.
- Typically, when you're working in FOL, you'll have a list of predicates, what they stand for, and how many arguments they take. It'll be given separately from the formulas you write.

# First-Order Sentences

- Sentences in first-order logic can be constructed from predicates applied to objects:

$Cute(a) \rightarrow Dikdik(a) \vee Kitty(a) \vee Puppy(a)$

$Succeeds(You) \leftrightarrow Practices(You)$

$x < 8 \rightarrow x < 137$

The less-than sign is just another predicate. Binary predicates are sometimes written in *infix notation* this way.

Numbers are not “built in” to first-order logic. They’re constant symbols just like “You” and “a” above.

# Equality

- First-order logic is equipped with a special predicate  $=$  that says whether two objects are equal to one another.
- Equality is a part of first-order logic, just as  $\rightarrow$  and  $\neg$  are.
- Examples:
  - MilesMorales = SpiderMan*
  - MorningStar = EveningStar*
- Equality can only be applied to **objects**; to state that two **propositions** are equal, use  $\leftrightarrow$ .

Let's see some more examples.

*FavoriteMovieOf(You) ≠ FavoriteMovieOf(Date) ∧  
StarOf(FavoriteMovieOf(You)) = StarOf(FavoriteMovieOf(Date))*

*FavoriteMovieOf(You) ≠ FavoriteMovieOf(Date) ∧  
StarOf(FavoriteMovieOf(You)) = StarOf(FavoriteMovieOf(Date))*



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These purple terms are **functions**.  
Functions take objects as input and  
produce objects as output.

*FavoriteMovieOf(You) ≠ FavoriteMovieOf(Date) ∧  
StarOf(FavoriteMovieOf(You)) = StarOf(FavoriteMovieOf(Date))*

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StarOf(FavoriteMovieOf(You)) = StarOf(FavoriteMovieOf(Date))*

# Functions

- First-order logic allows **functions** that return objects associated with other objects.
- Examples:

*ColorOf(Money)*

*MedianOf(x, y, z)*

$x + y$

- As with predicates, functions can take in any number of arguments, but always return a single value.
- Functions evaluate to **objects**, not **propositions**.

# Objects and Predicates

- When working in first-order logic, be careful to keep objects (actual things) and propositions (true or false) separate.

- You cannot apply connectives to objects:



*Venus*  $\rightarrow$  *TheSun*



- You cannot apply functions to propositions:



*StarOf(IsRed(Sun)  $\wedge$  IsGreen(Mars))*



- Ever get confused? *Just ask!*



# The Type-Checking Table

	... operate on ...	... and produce
Connectives ( $\leftrightarrow$ , $\wedge$ , etc.) ...	propositions	a proposition
Predicates ( $=$ , etc.) ...	objects	a proposition
Functions ...	objects	an object

One last (and major) change

Some spider is radioactive.

Some spider is radioactive.

$\exists s. (Spider(s) \wedge Radioactive(s))$

Some spider is radioactive.

$\exists s. (Spider(s) \wedge Radioactive(s))$

$\exists$  is the ***existential quantifier***  
and says “for some choice of s, the  
following is true.”

# The Existential Quantifier

- A statement of the form

**$\exists x. \textit{some-formula}$**

is true if there exists a choice of  $x$  where ***some-formula*** is true when that  $x$  is plugged into it.

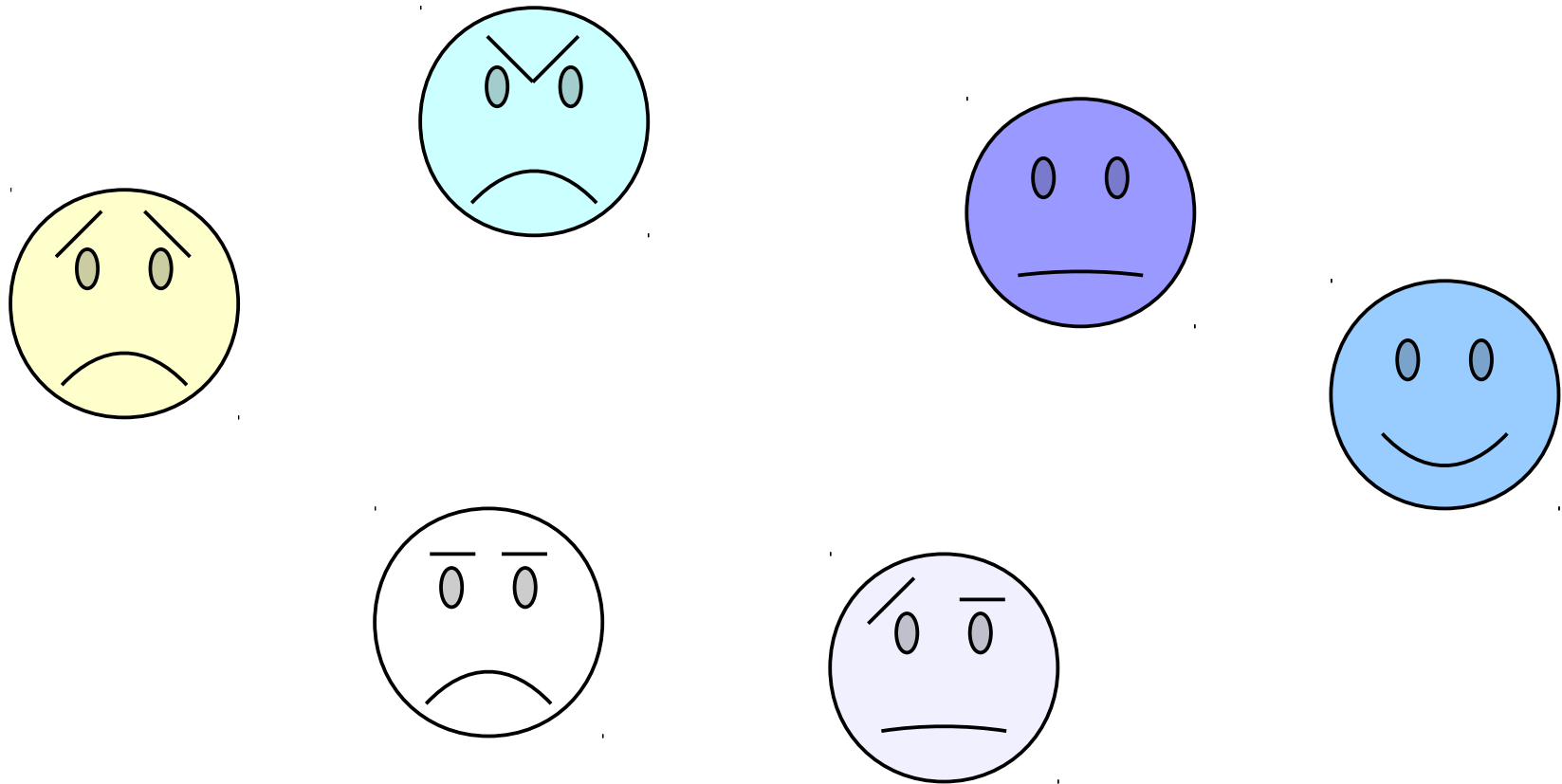
- Examples:

$\exists x. (\textit{Even}(x) \wedge \textit{Prime}(x))$

$\exists x. (\textit{TallerThan}(x, me) \wedge \textit{LighterThan}(x, me))$

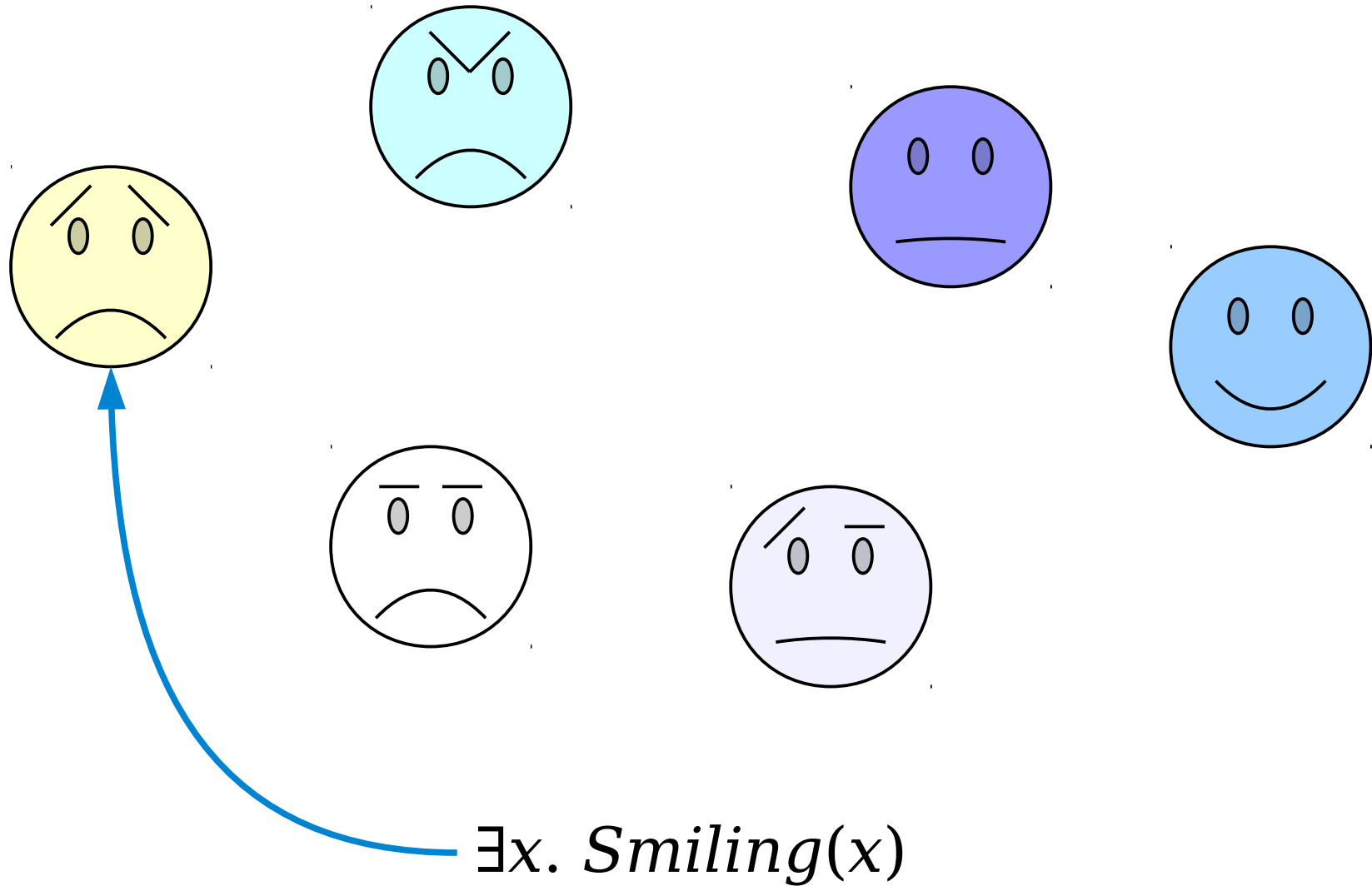
$(\exists w. \textit{Will}(w)) \rightarrow (\exists x. \textit{Way}(x))$

# The Existential Quantifier



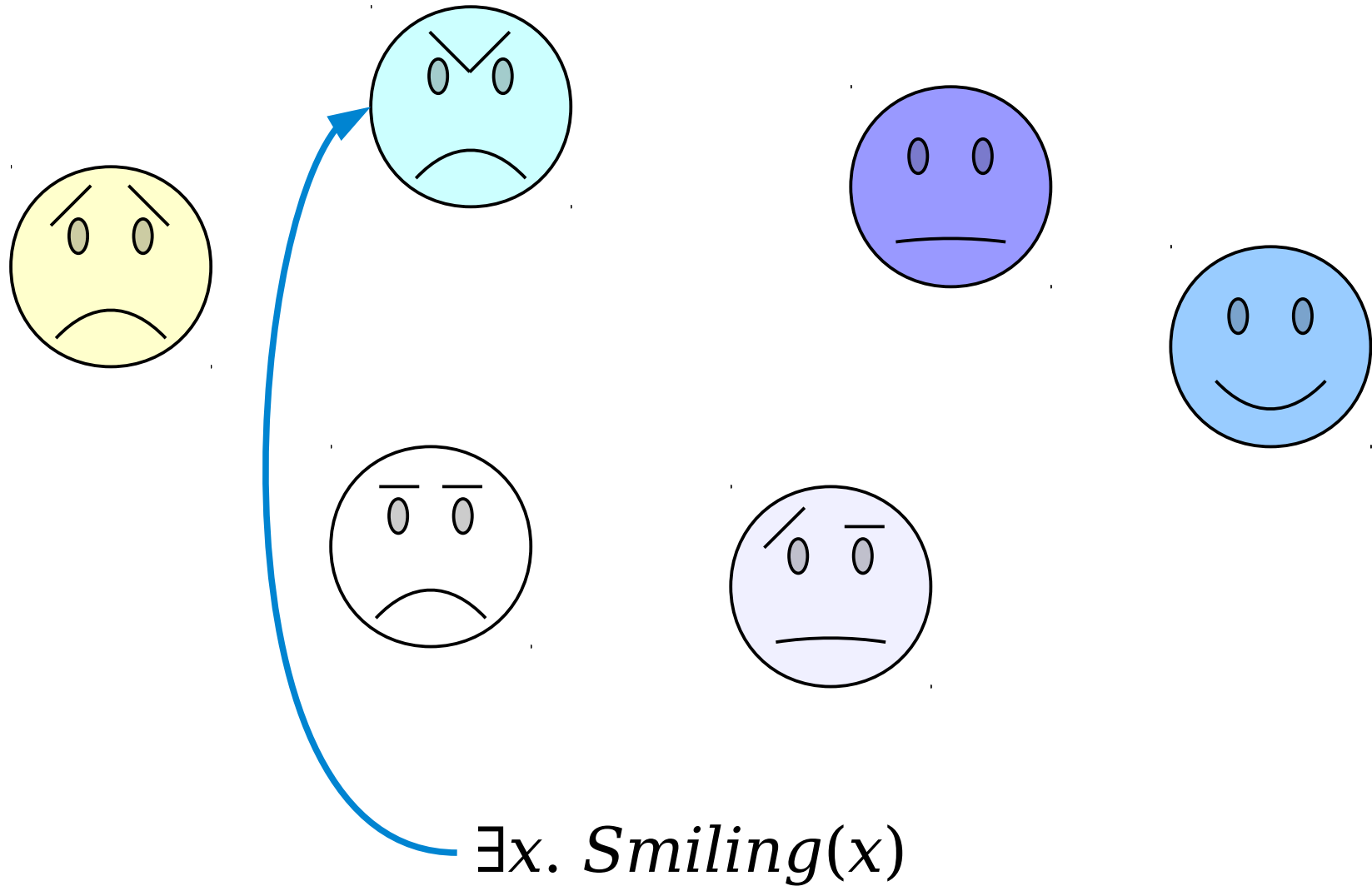
$\exists x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

# The Existential Quantifier

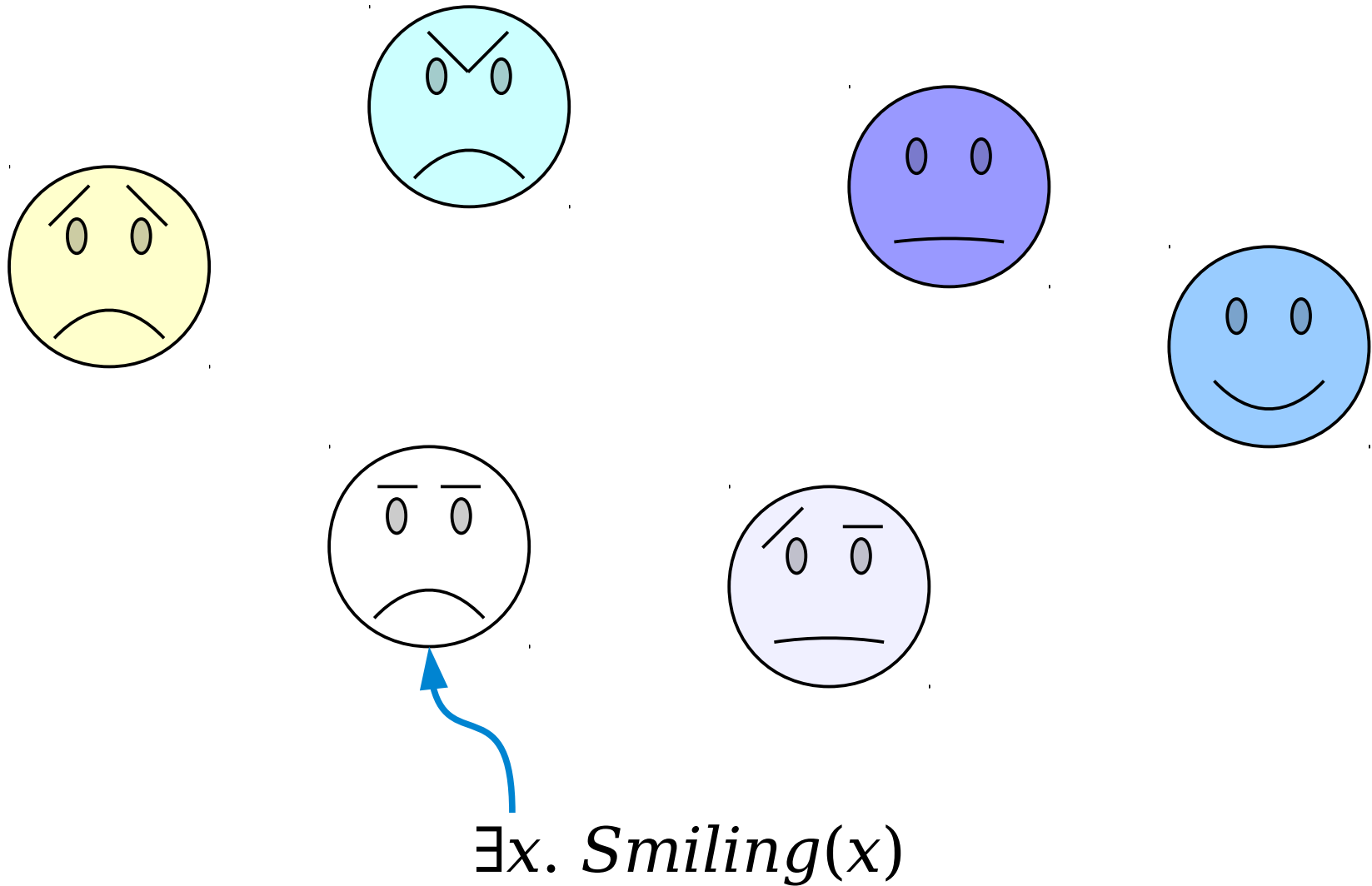




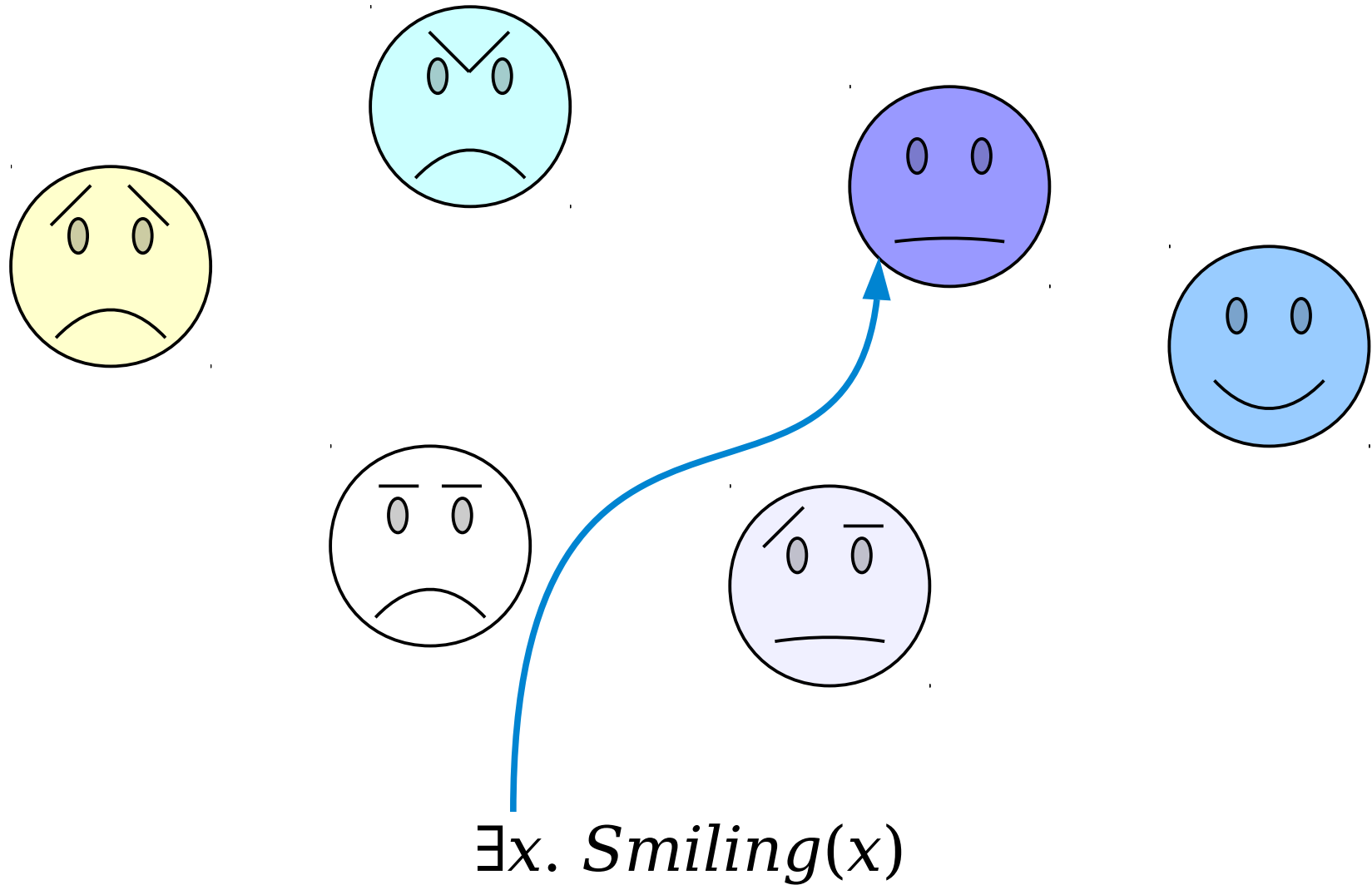
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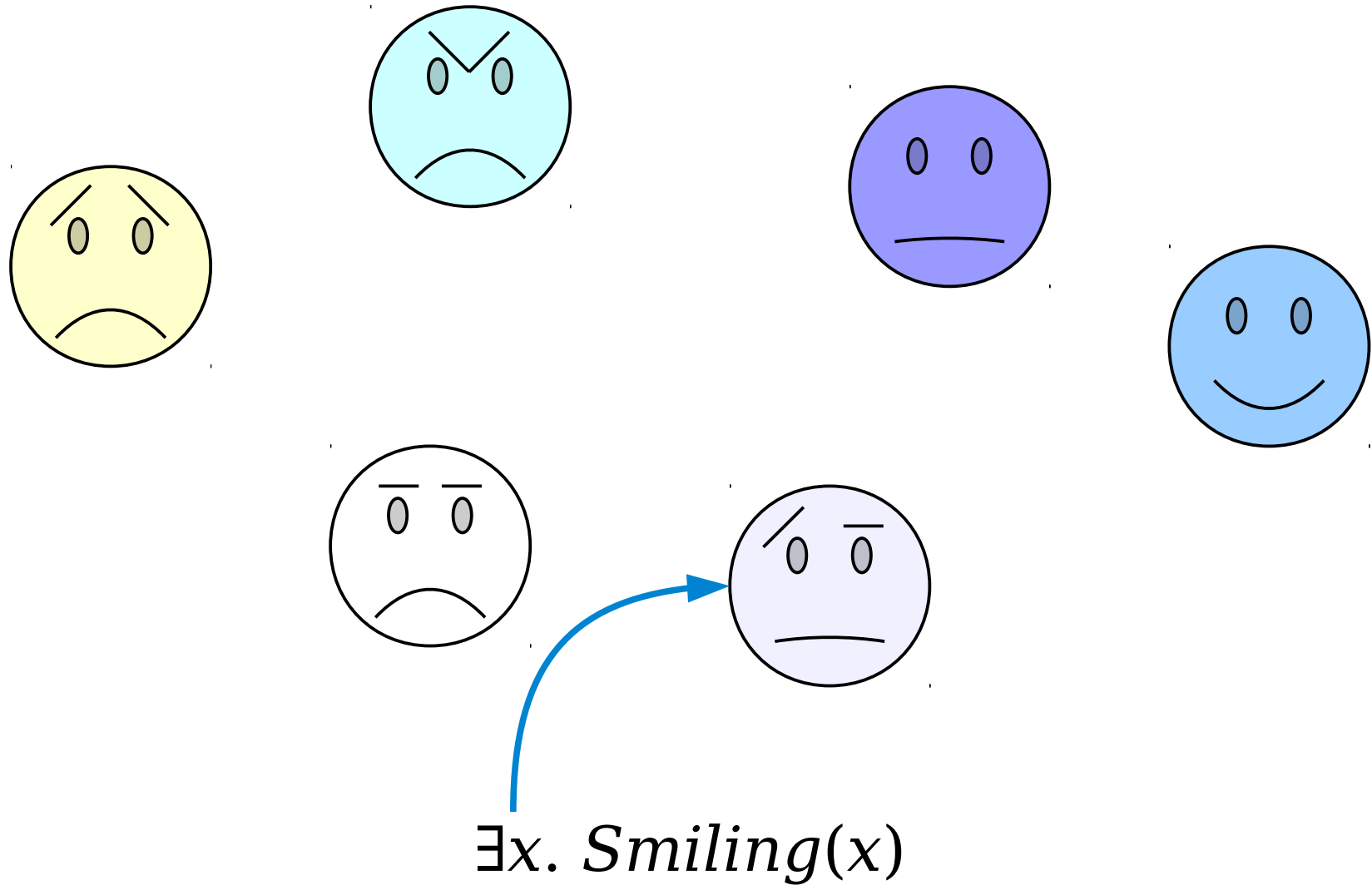
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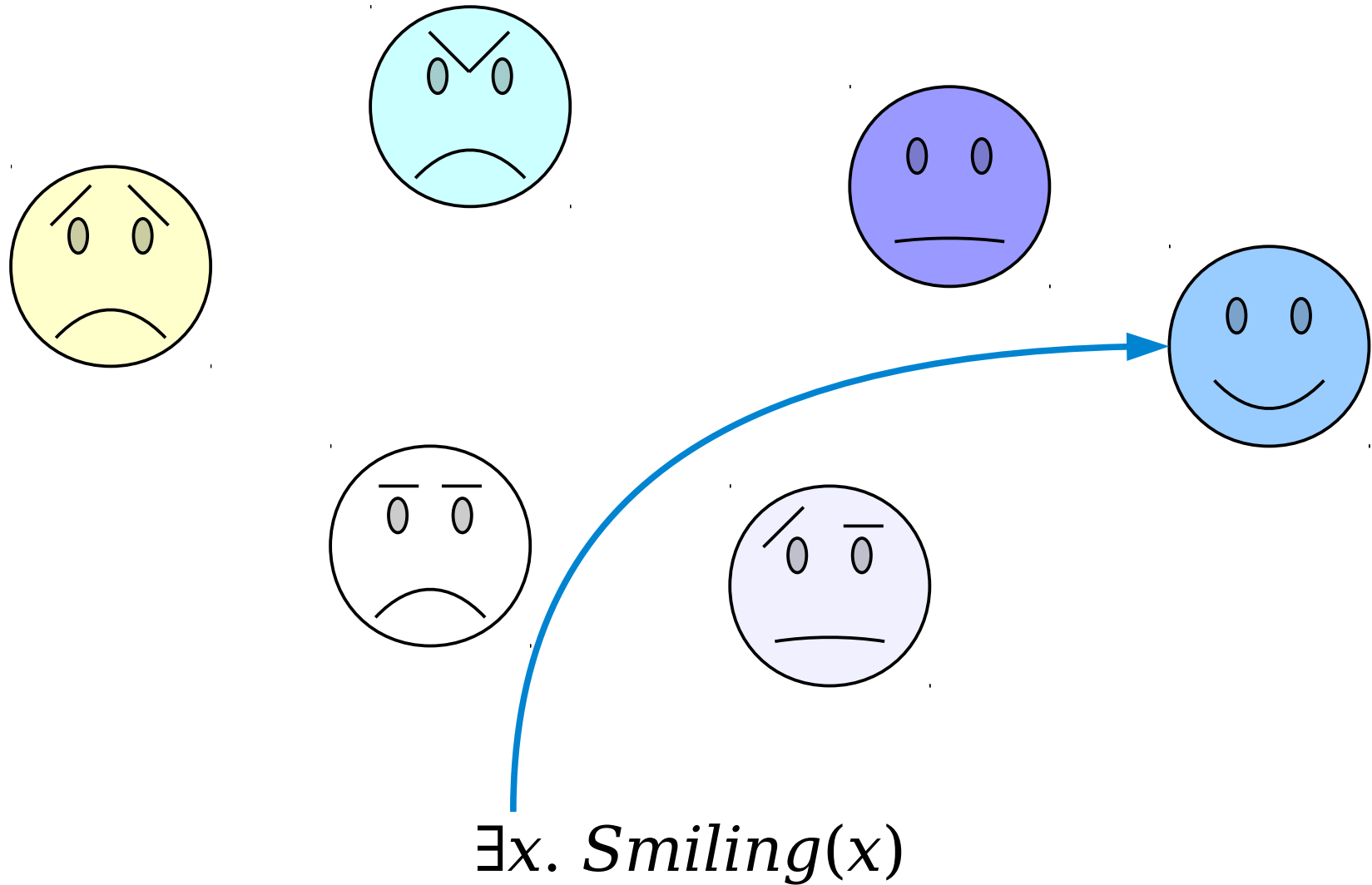
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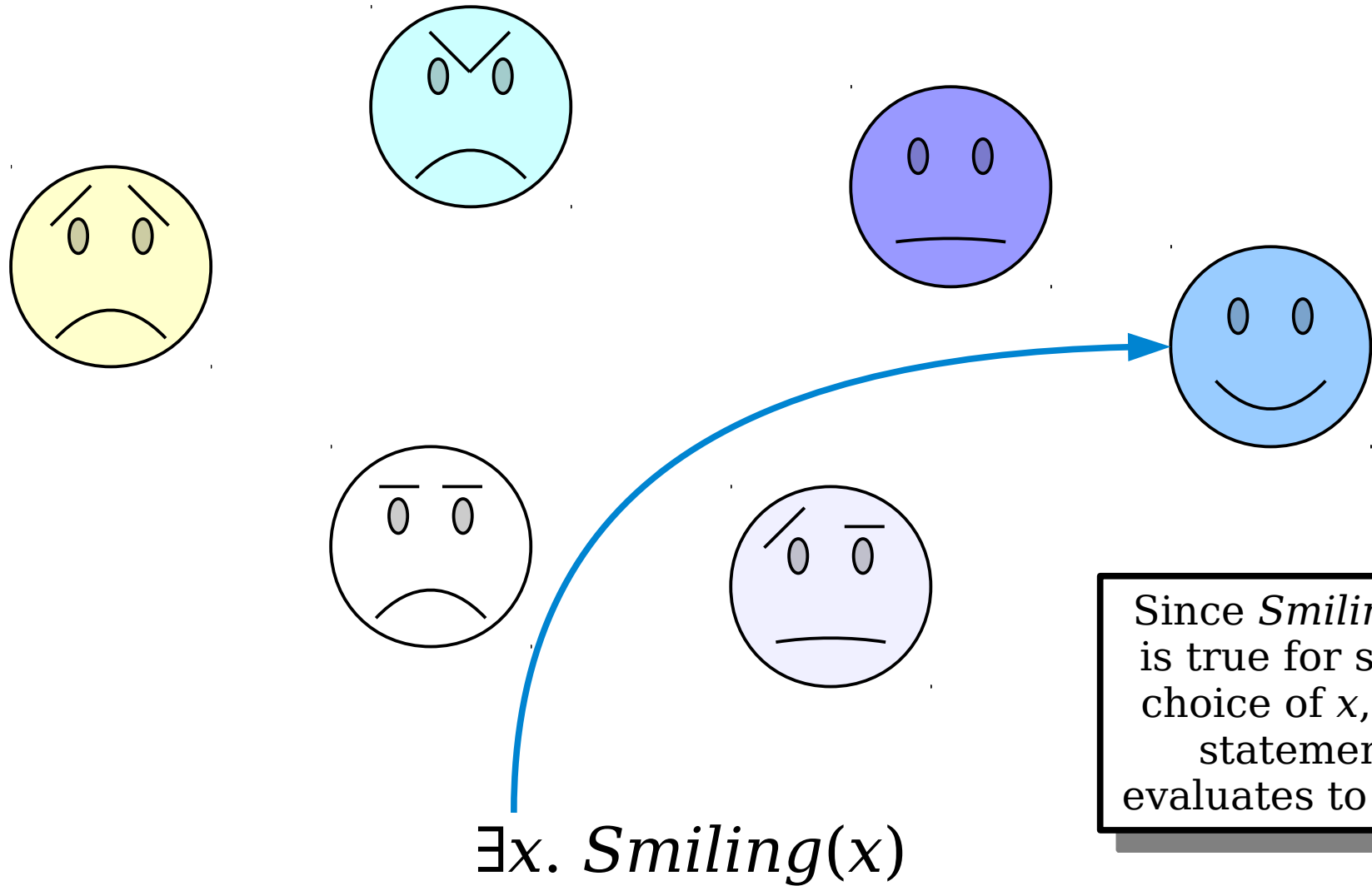
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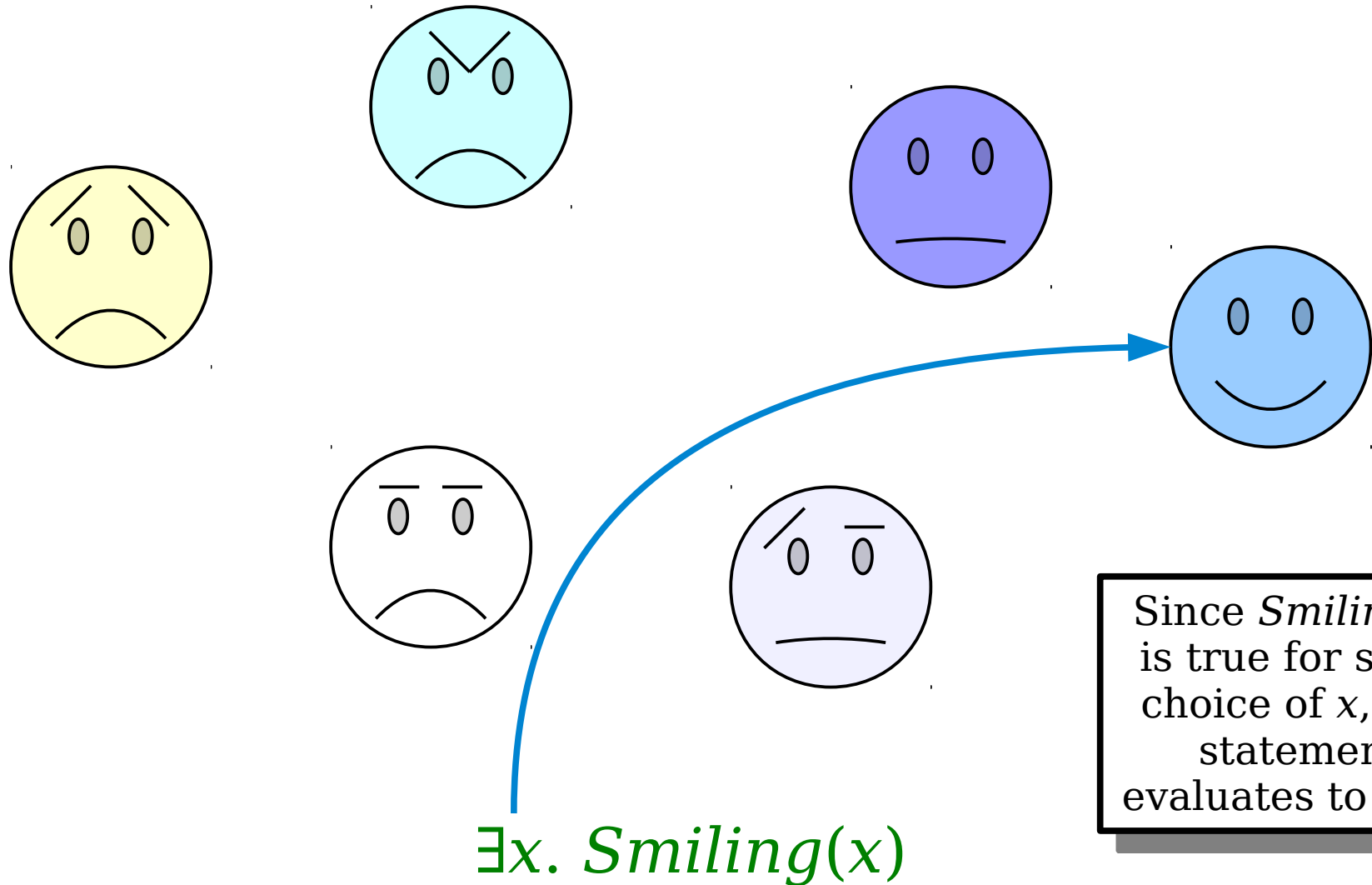
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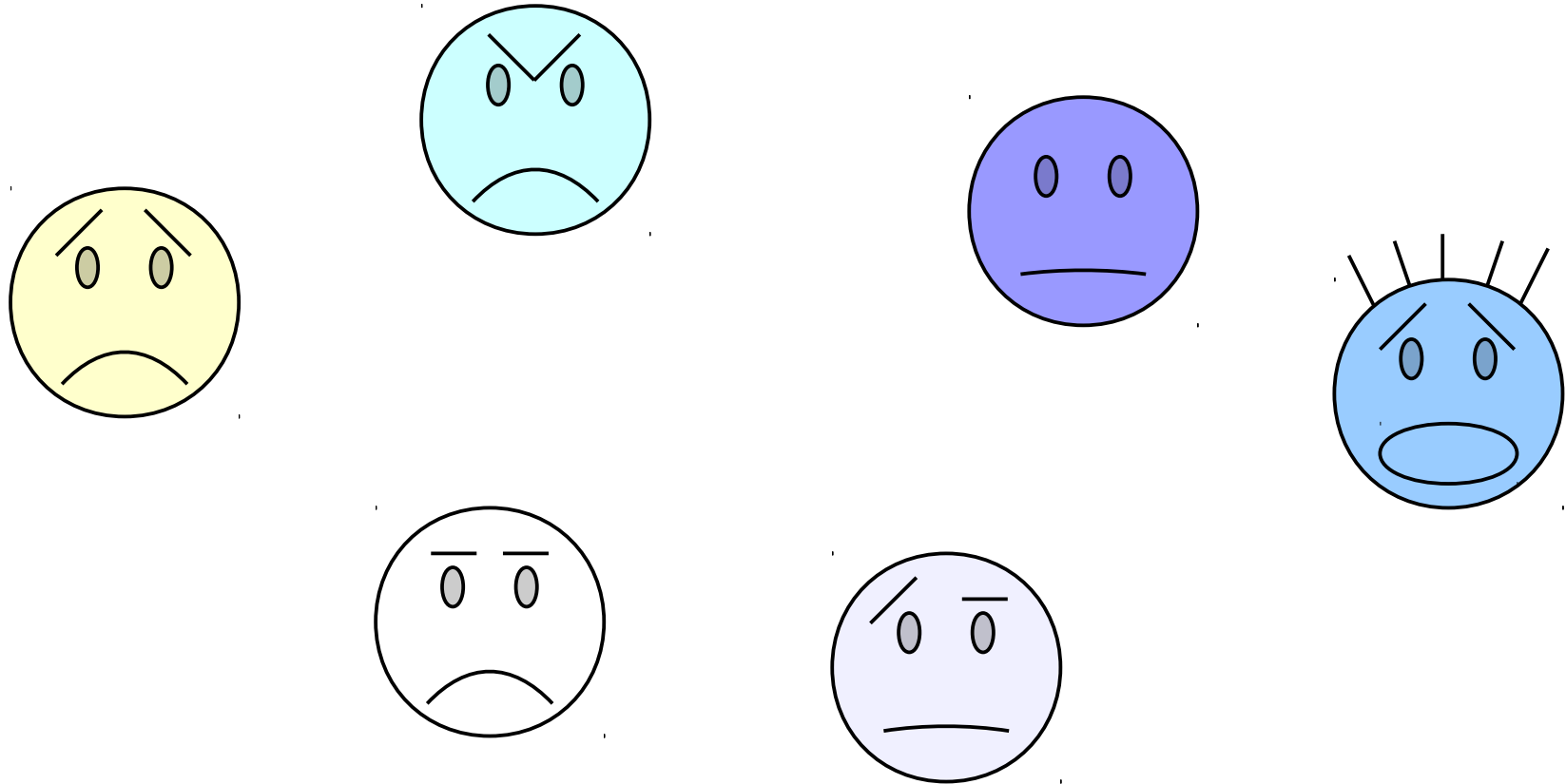
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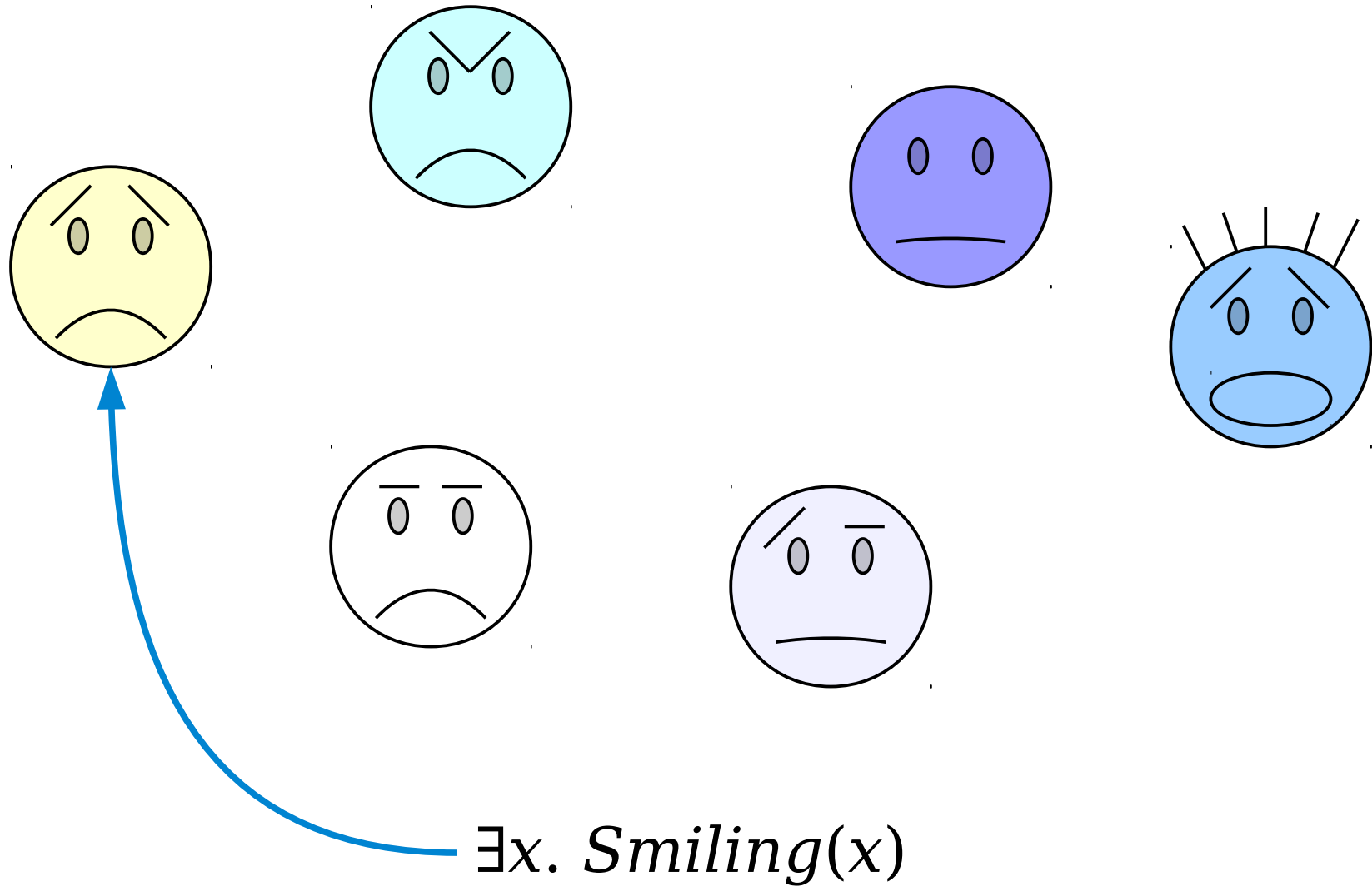
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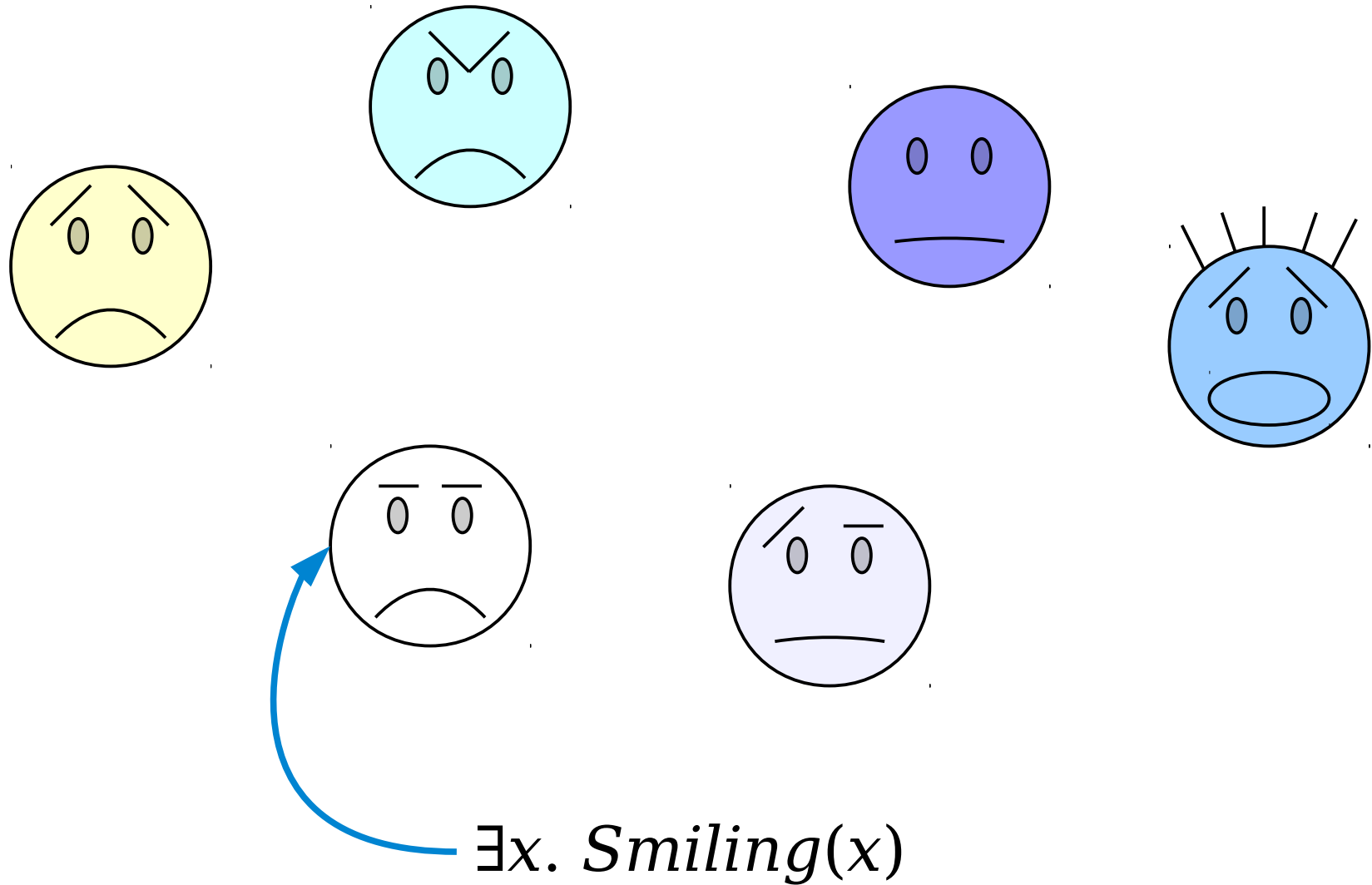
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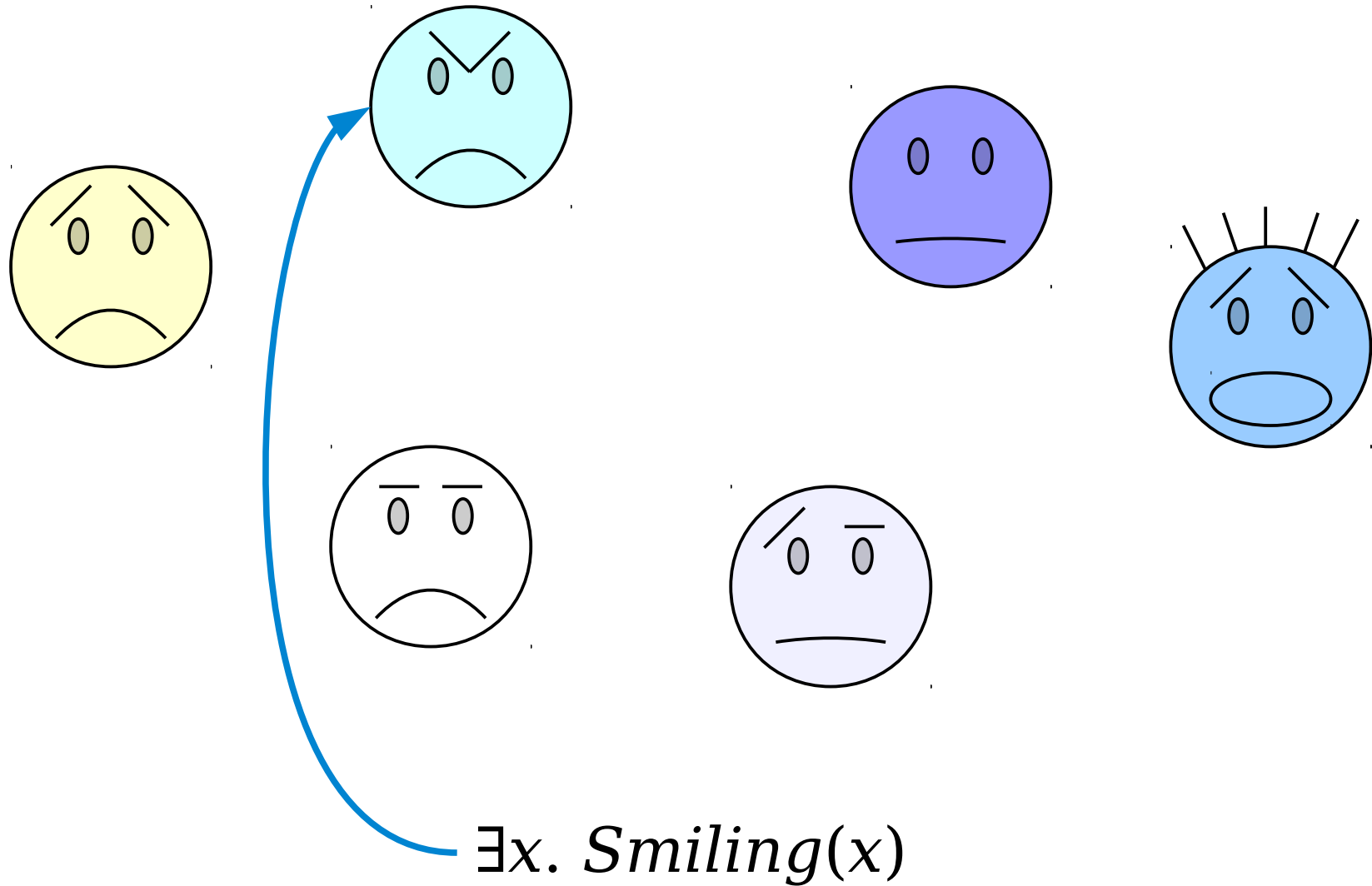
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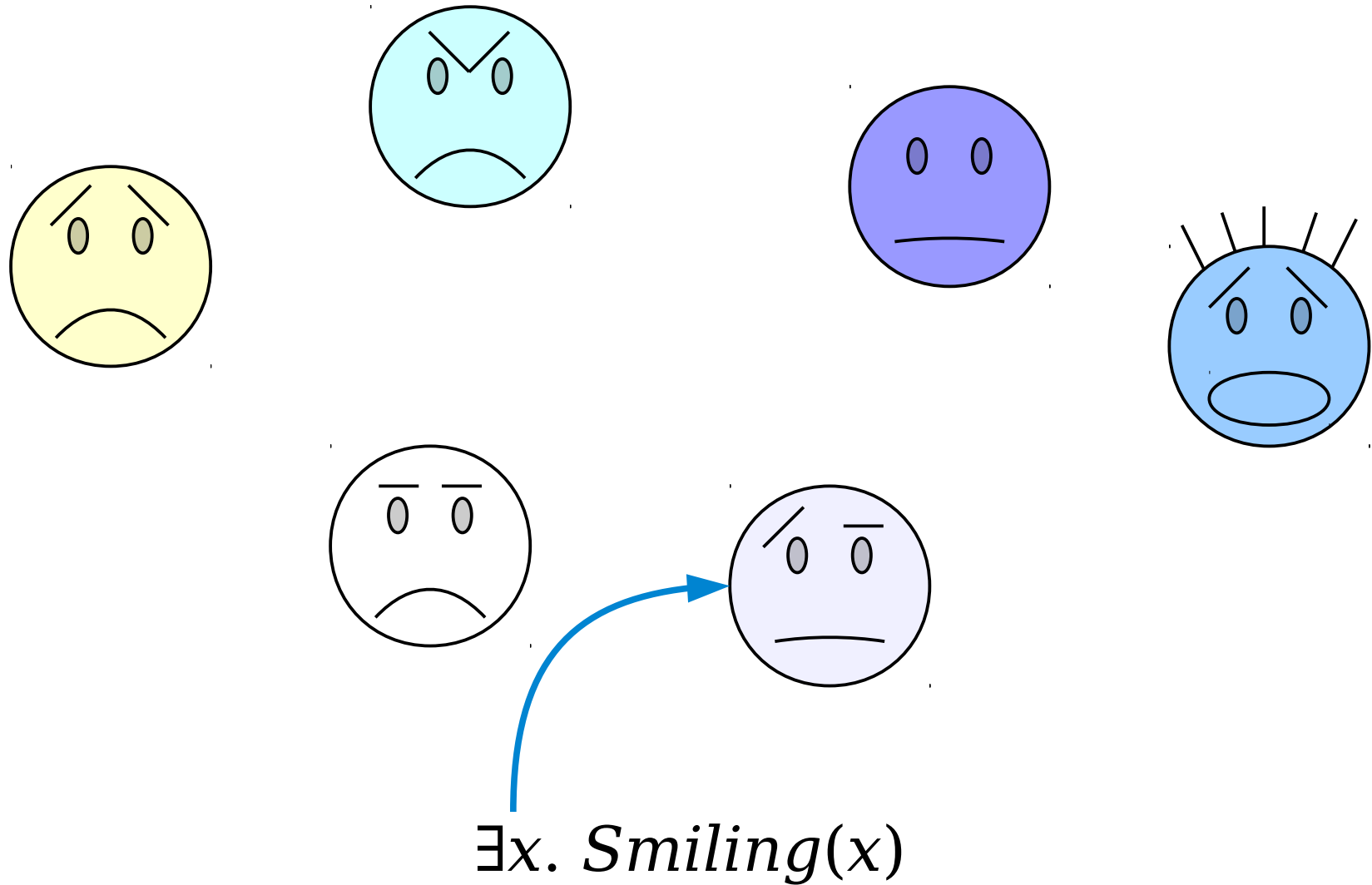
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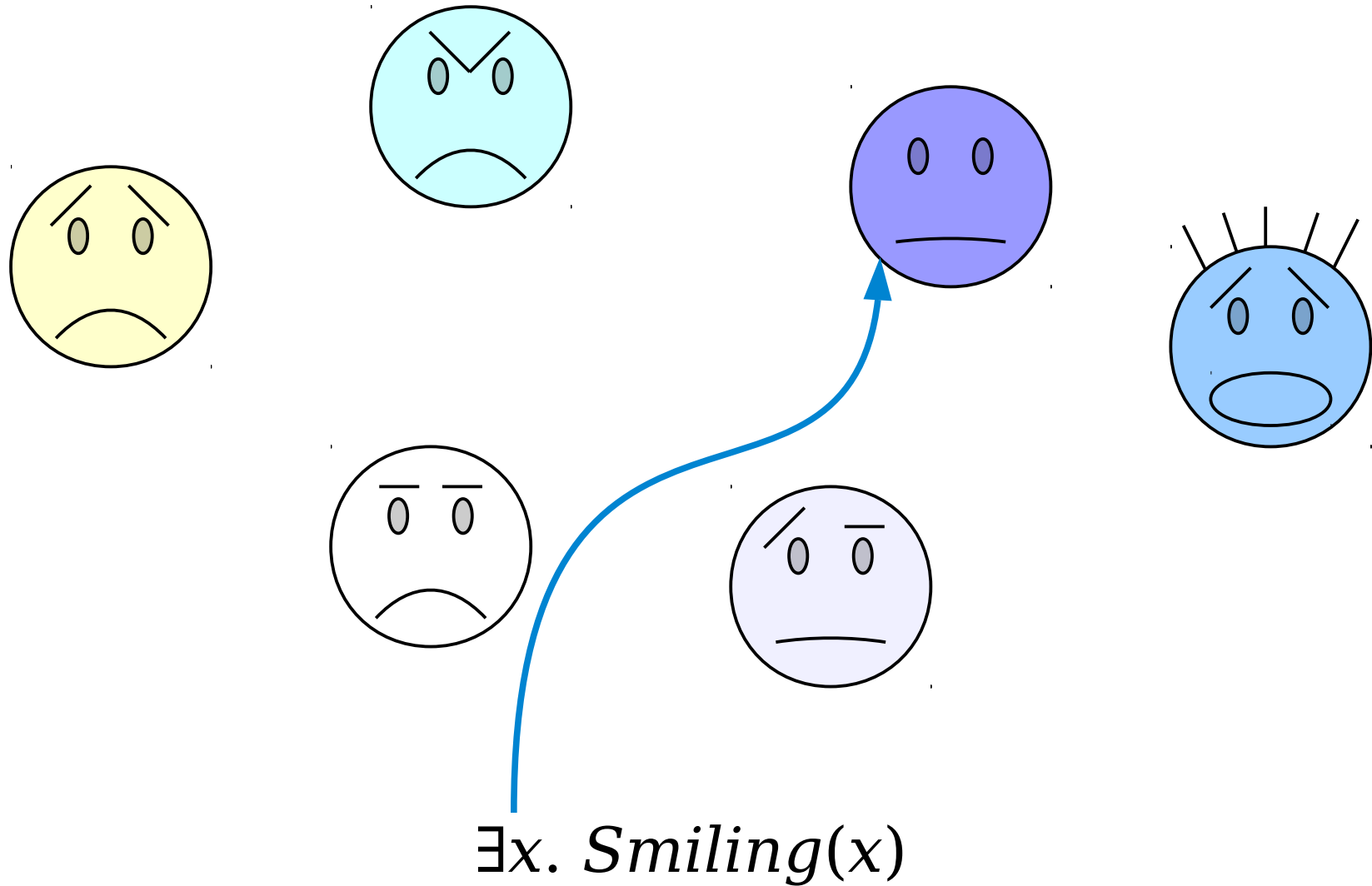
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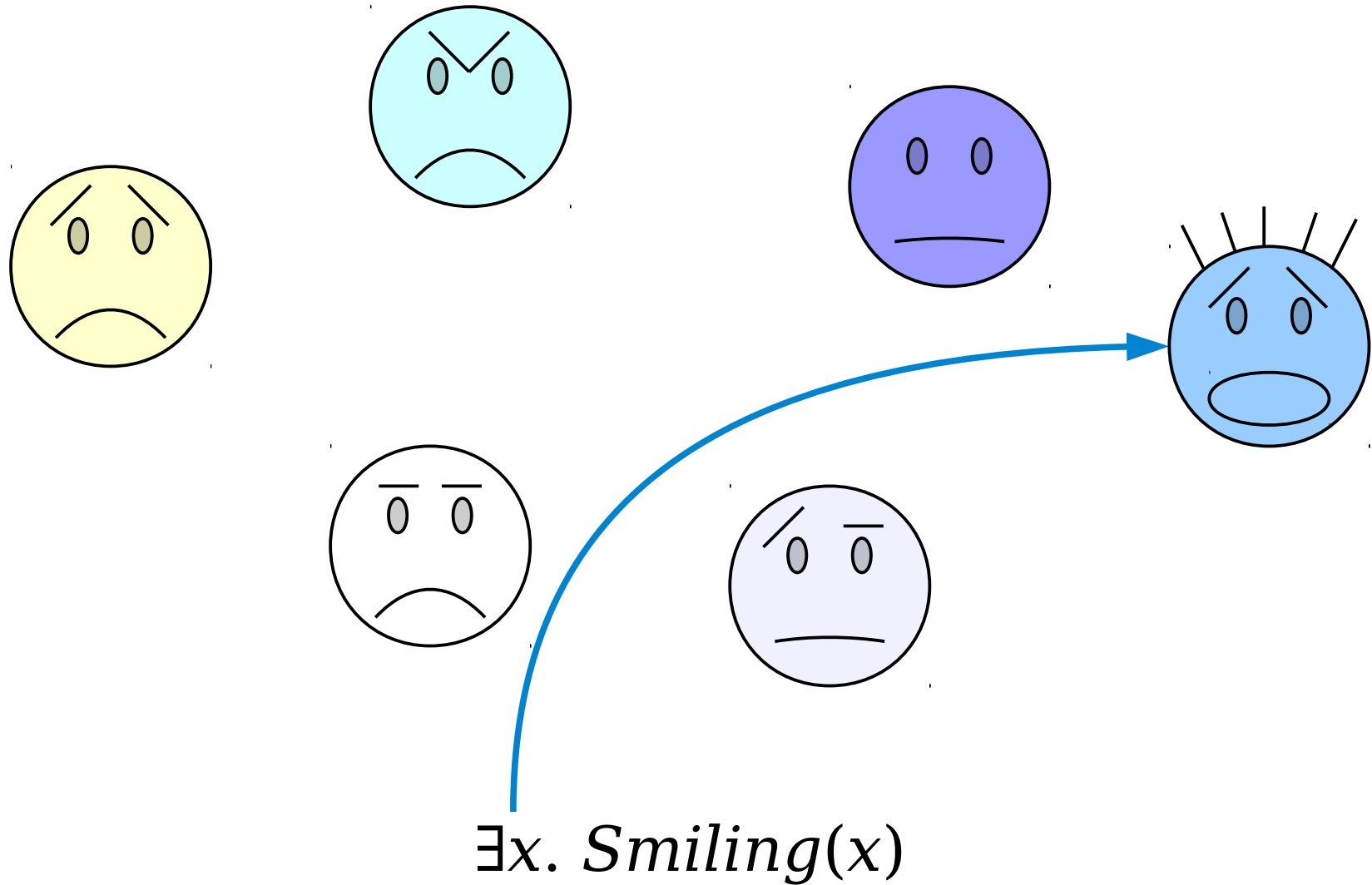
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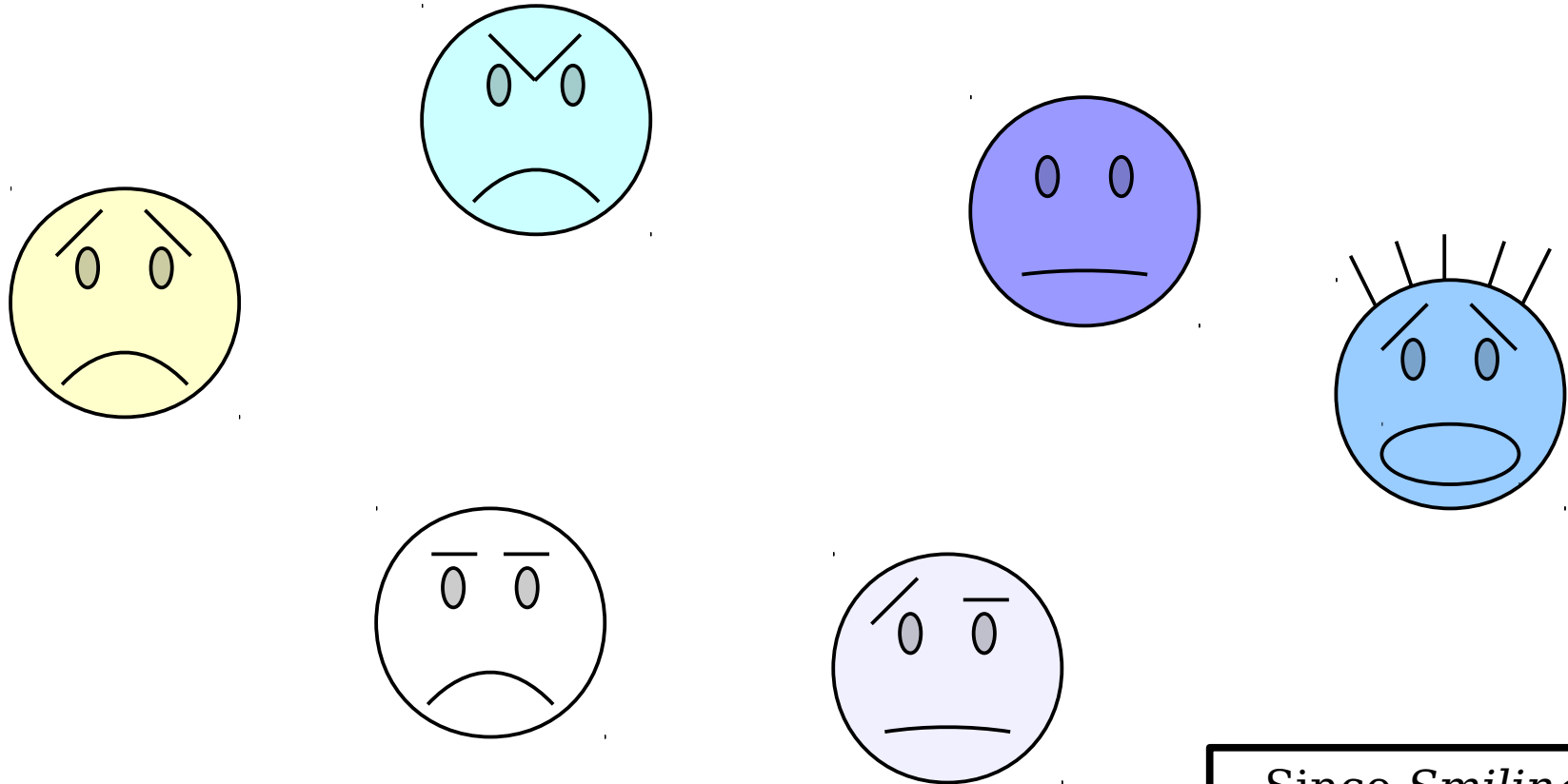
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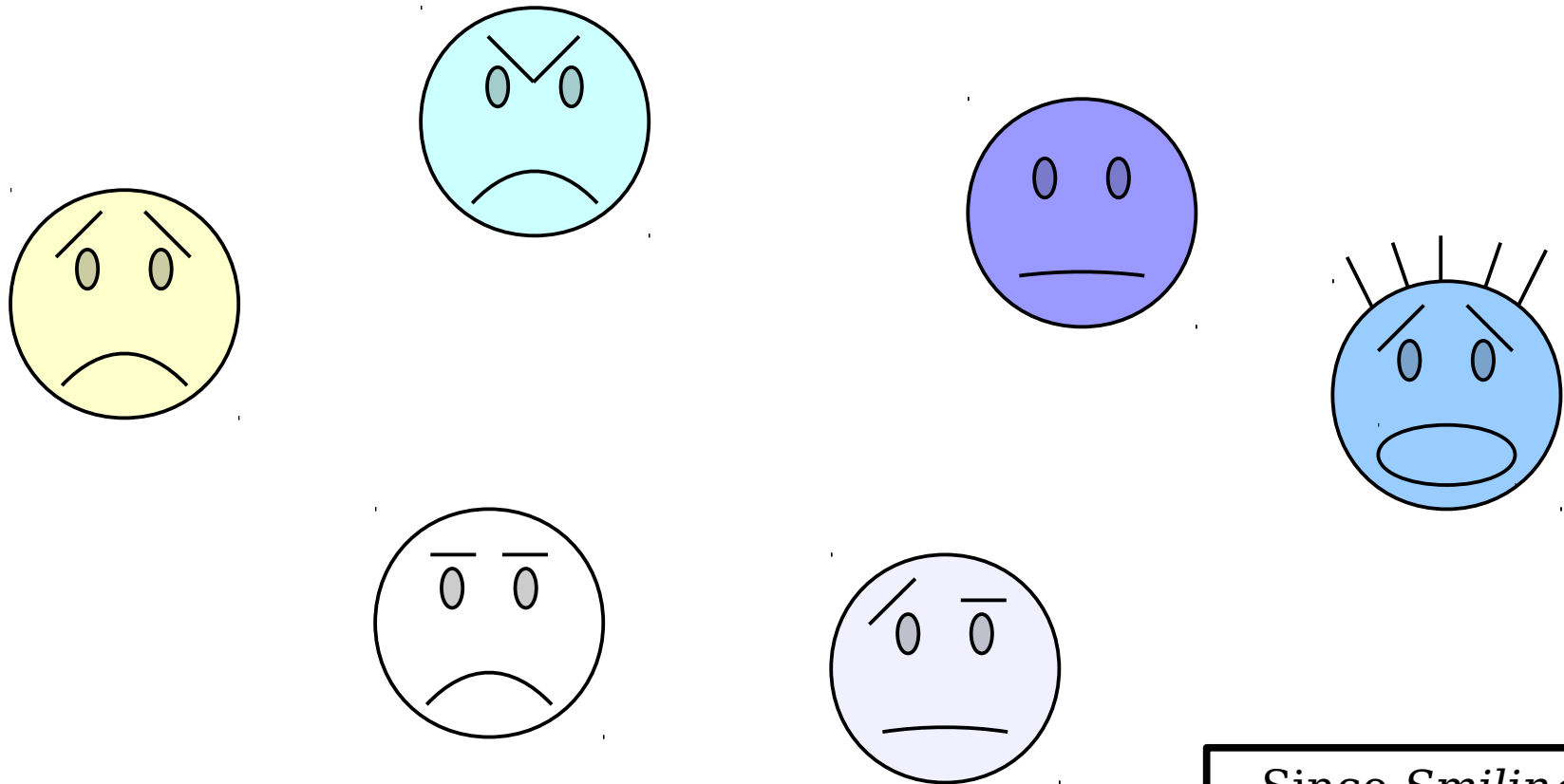
# The Existential Quantifier



$\exists x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

Since *Smiling*( $x$ ) is not true for any choice of  $x$ , this statement evaluates to false.

# The Existential Quantifier



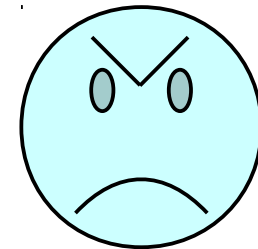
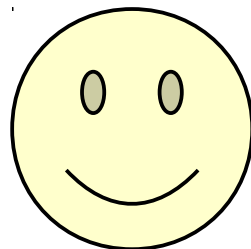
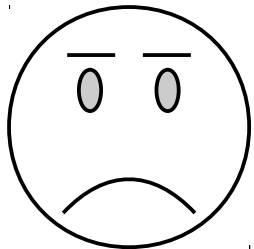
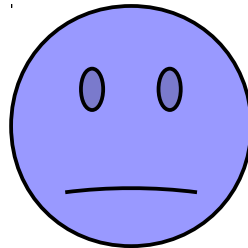
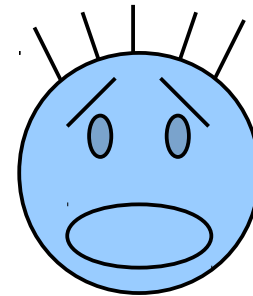
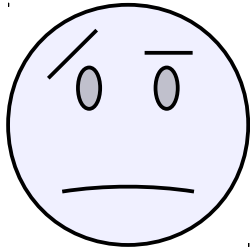
~~$\exists x. Smiling(x)$~~

Since  $Smiling(x)$  is not true for any choice of  $x$ , this statement evaluates to false.



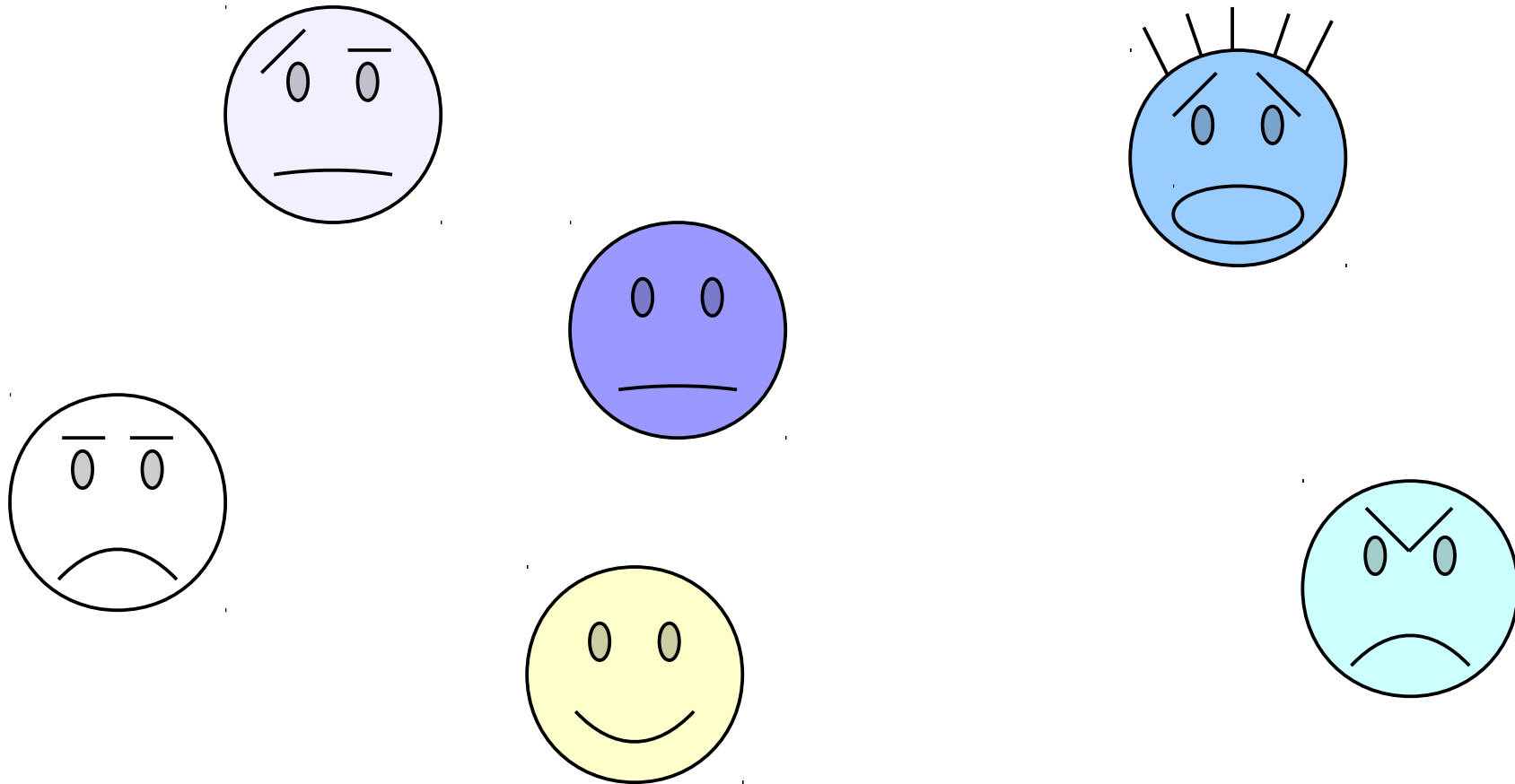
**Question:** In this world, is the first-order logic statement below true or false?

**Respond at [pollev.com/zhenglian740](http://pollev.com/zhenglian740)**



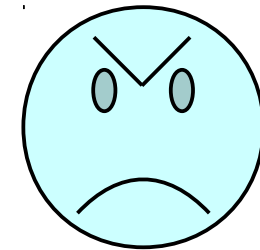
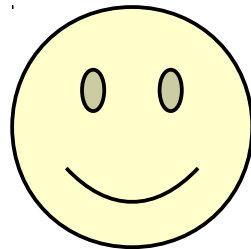
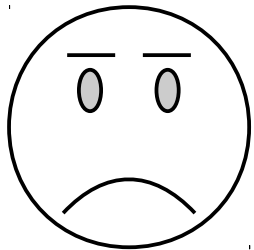
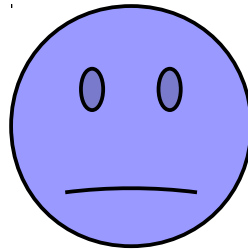
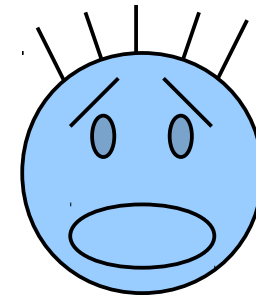
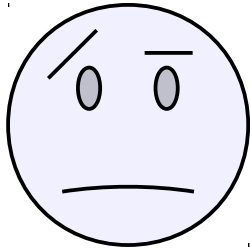
$(\exists x. Smiling(x)) \rightarrow (\exists y. WearingHat(y))$

# The Existential Quantifier



$(\exists x. \textit{Smiling}(x)) \rightarrow (\exists y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$

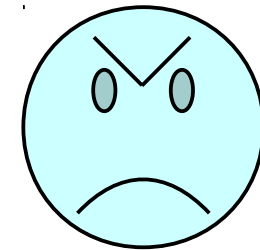
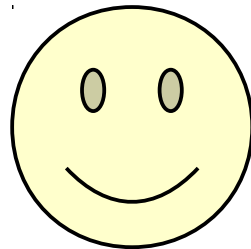
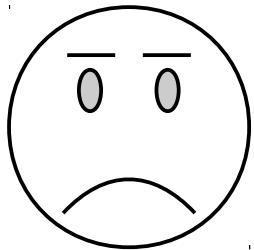
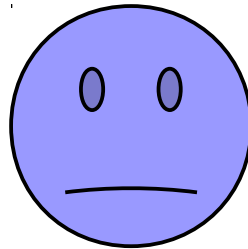
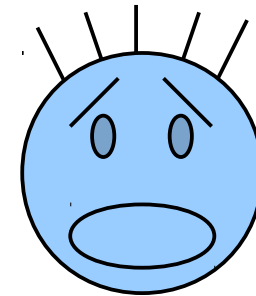
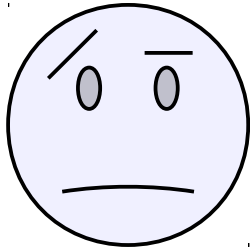
# The Existential Quantifier



Is this part of the statement true or false?

$$(\exists x. \textit{Smiling}(x)) \rightarrow (\exists y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$$

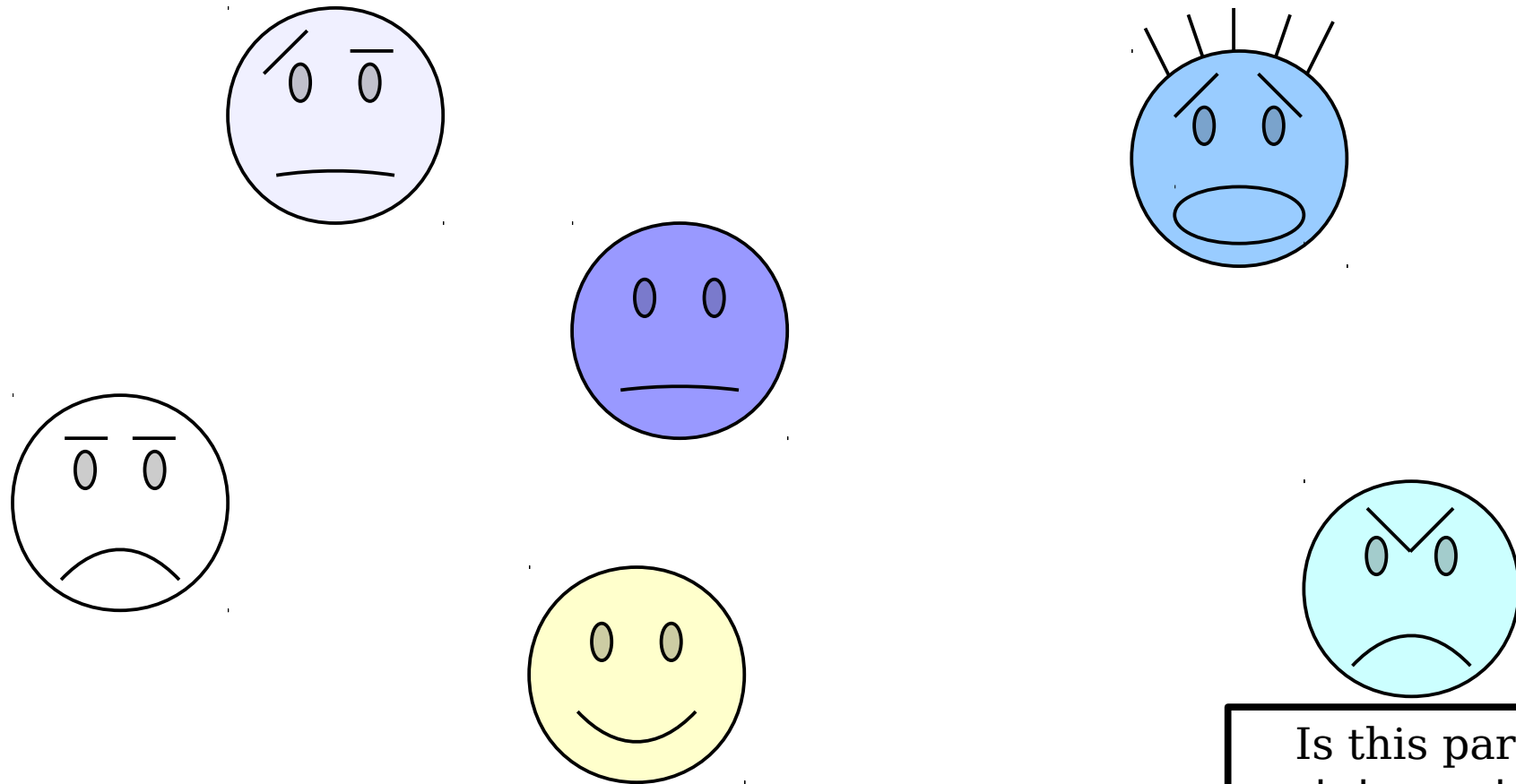
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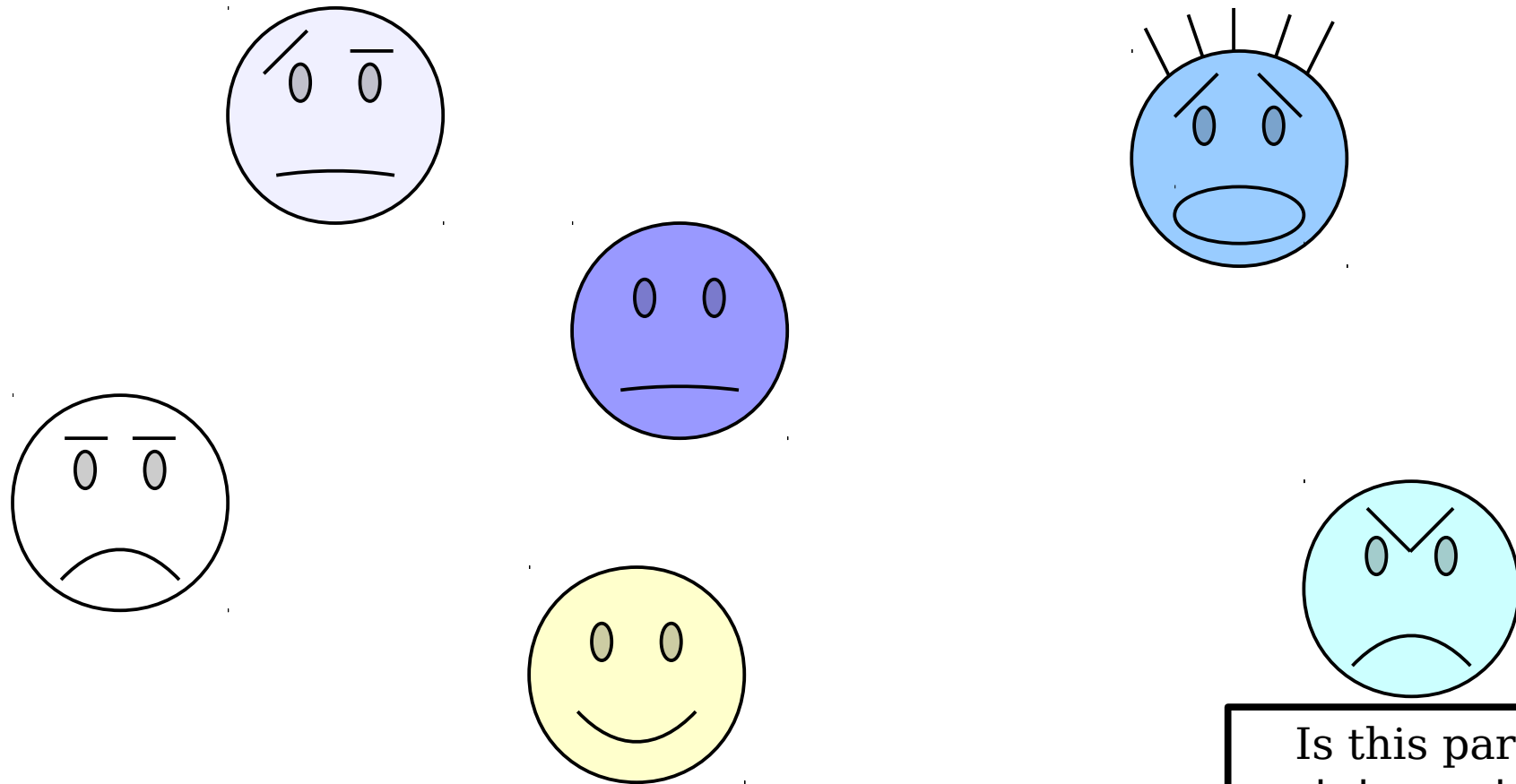
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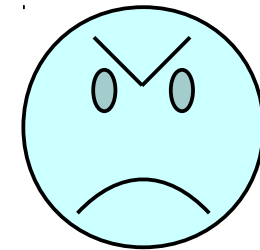
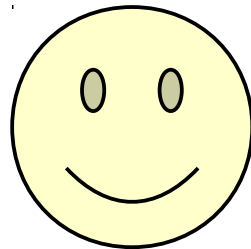
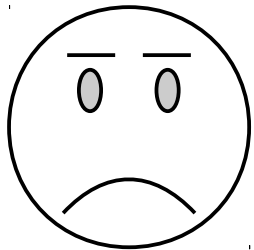
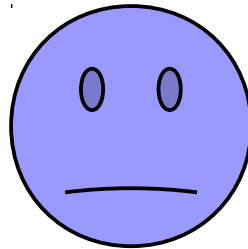
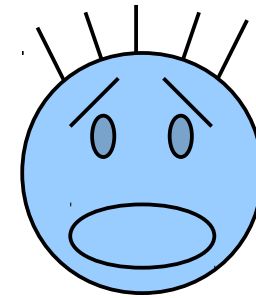
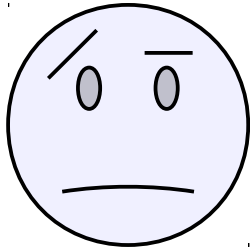
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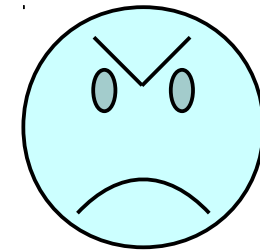
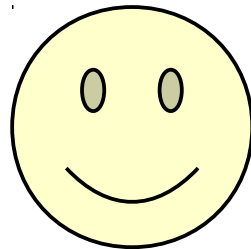
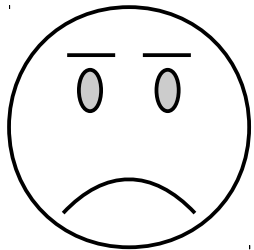
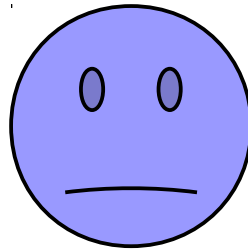
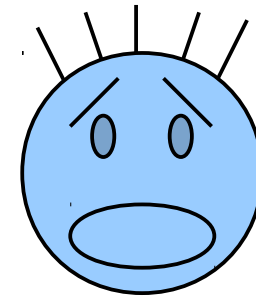
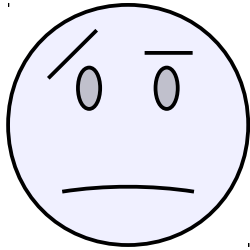
# The Existential Quantifier



Is this overall  
statement true or  
false?

$$(\exists x. \textit{Smiling}(x)) \rightarrow (\exists y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$$

# The Existential Quantifier



Is this overall  
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~~$(\exists x. Smiling(x)) \rightarrow (\exists y. WearingHat(y))$~~



# Fun with Edge Cases

$\exists x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

# Fun with Edge Cases

Existentially-quantified statements are false in an empty world, since nothing exists, period!

~~$\exists x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$~~

# Some Technical Details

# Variables and Quantifiers

- Each quantifier has two parts:
  - the variable that is introduced, and
  - the statement that's being quantified.
- The variable introduced is scoped just to the statement being quantified.

$(\exists x. \text{Loves}(\text{You}, x)) \wedge (\exists y. \text{Loves}(y, \text{You}))$

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The variable **x** just lives here.

The variable **y** just lives here.

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The variable  $x$  just lives here.

A different variable, also named  $x$ , just lives here.



# Operator Precedence (Again)

- When writing out a formula in first-order logic, quantifiers have precedence just below  $\neg$ .
- The statement

$$\exists x. P(x) \wedge R(x) \wedge Q(x)$$

is parsed like this:

$$\triangle (\exists x. P(x)) \wedge (R(x) \wedge Q(x)) \triangle$$

- This is syntactically invalid because the variable  $x$  is out of scope in the back half of the formula.
- To ensure that  $x$  is properly quantified, explicitly put parentheses around the region you want to quantify:

$$\exists x. (P(x) \wedge R(x) \wedge Q(x))$$

“For any natural number  $n$ ,  
 $n$  is even if and only if  $n^2$  is even”

“For any natural number  $n$ ,  
 $n$  is even if and only if  $n^2$  is even”

$\forall n. (n \in \mathbb{N} \rightarrow (Even(n) \leftrightarrow Even(n^2)))$

“For any natural number  $n$ ,  
 $n$  is even if and only if  $n^2$  is even”

$\forall n. (n \in \mathbb{N} \rightarrow (Even(n) \leftrightarrow Even(n^2)))$

$\forall$  is the **universal quantifier** and  
says “for any choice of  $n$ , the following is  
true.”

# The Universal Quantifier

- A statement of the form

**$\forall x.$  *some-formula***

is true if, for every choice of  $x$ , the statement ***some-formula*** is true when  $x$  is plugged into it.

- Examples:

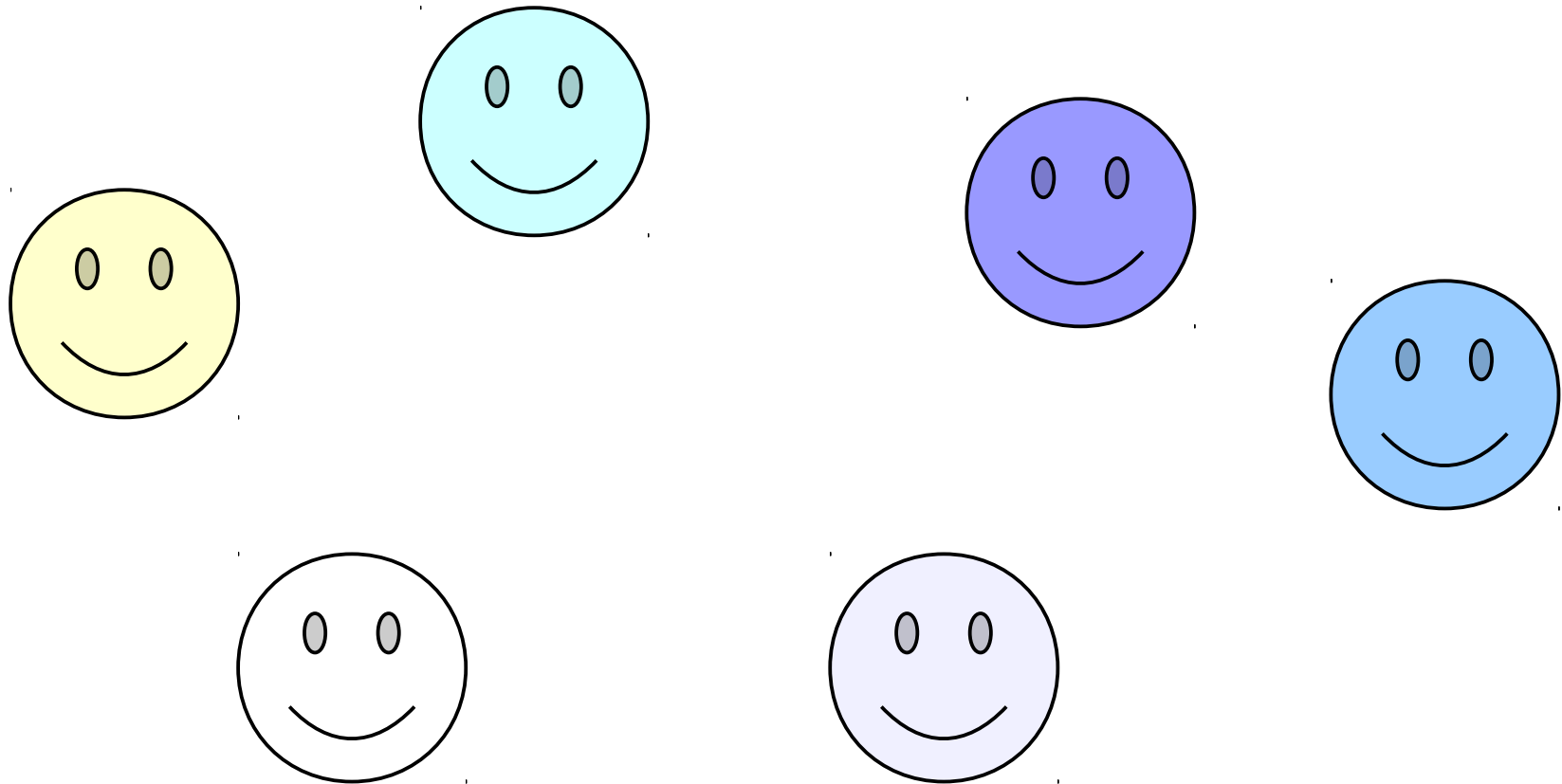
$\forall p. (Puppy(p) \rightarrow Cute(p))$

$\forall a. (EatsPlants(a) \vee EatsAnimals(a))$

$Tallest(SultanKösen) \rightarrow$

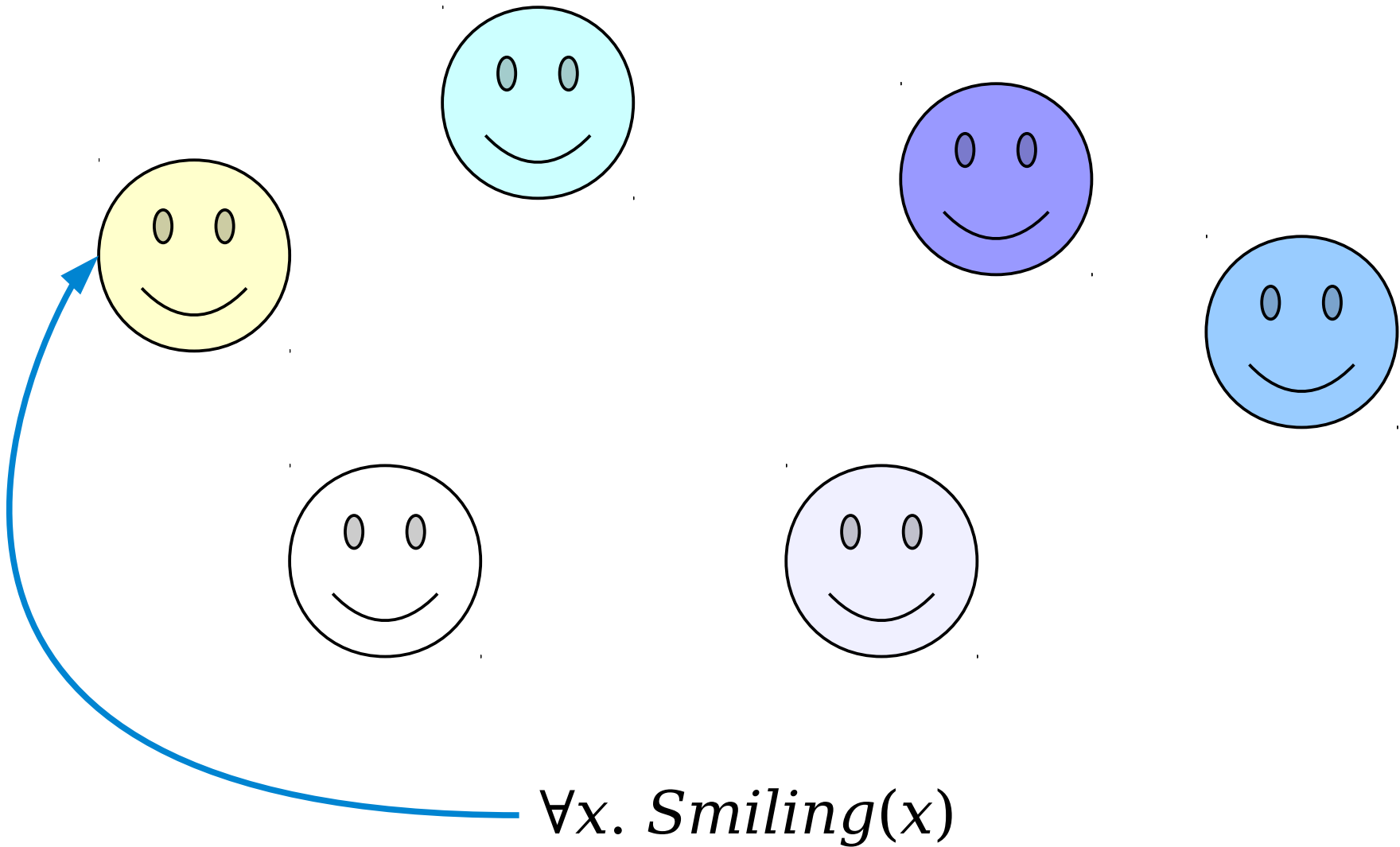
$\forall x. (SultanKösen \neq x \rightarrow ShorterThan(x, SultanKösen))$

# The Universal Quantifier

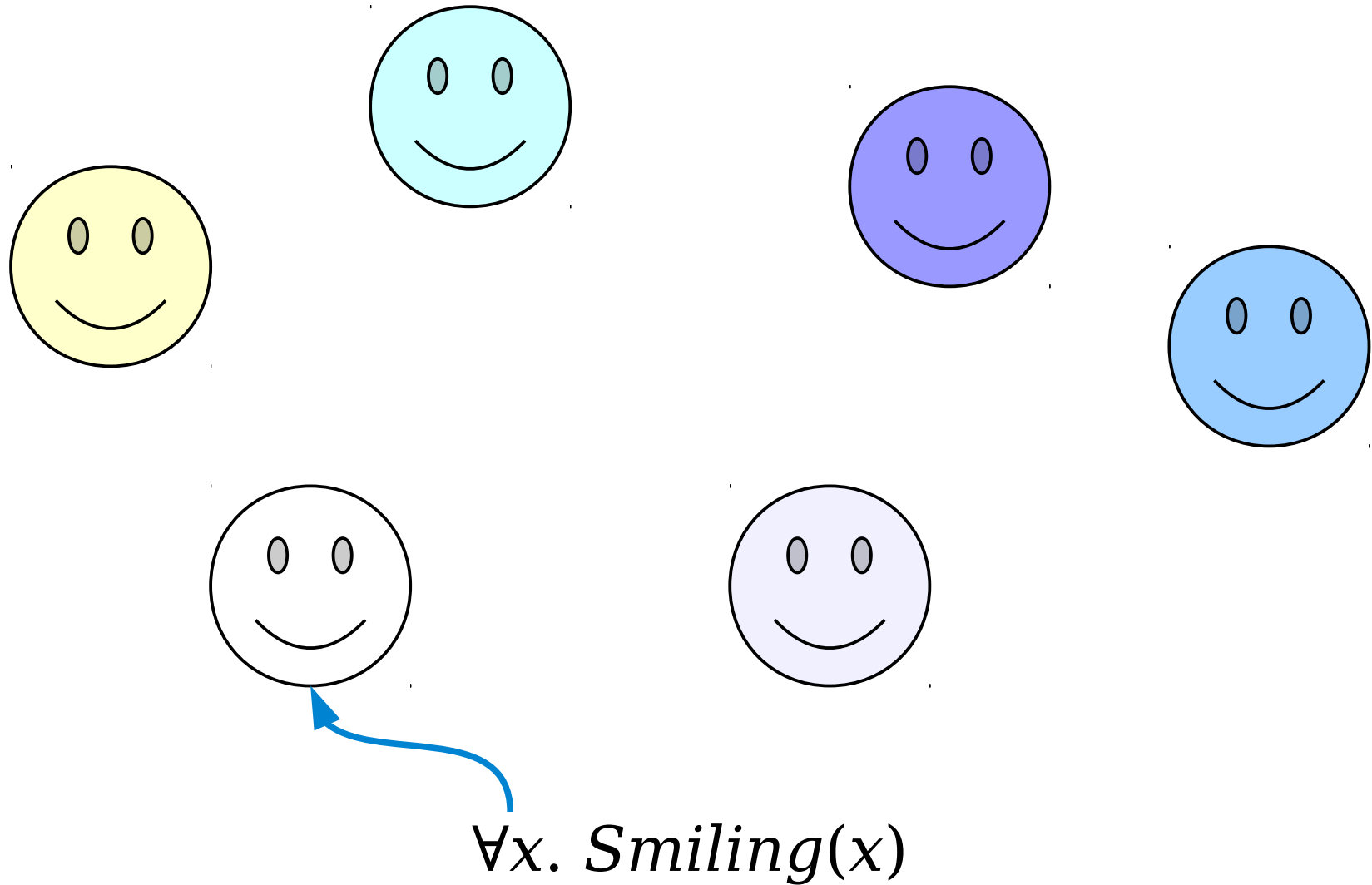


$\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

# The Universal Quantifier

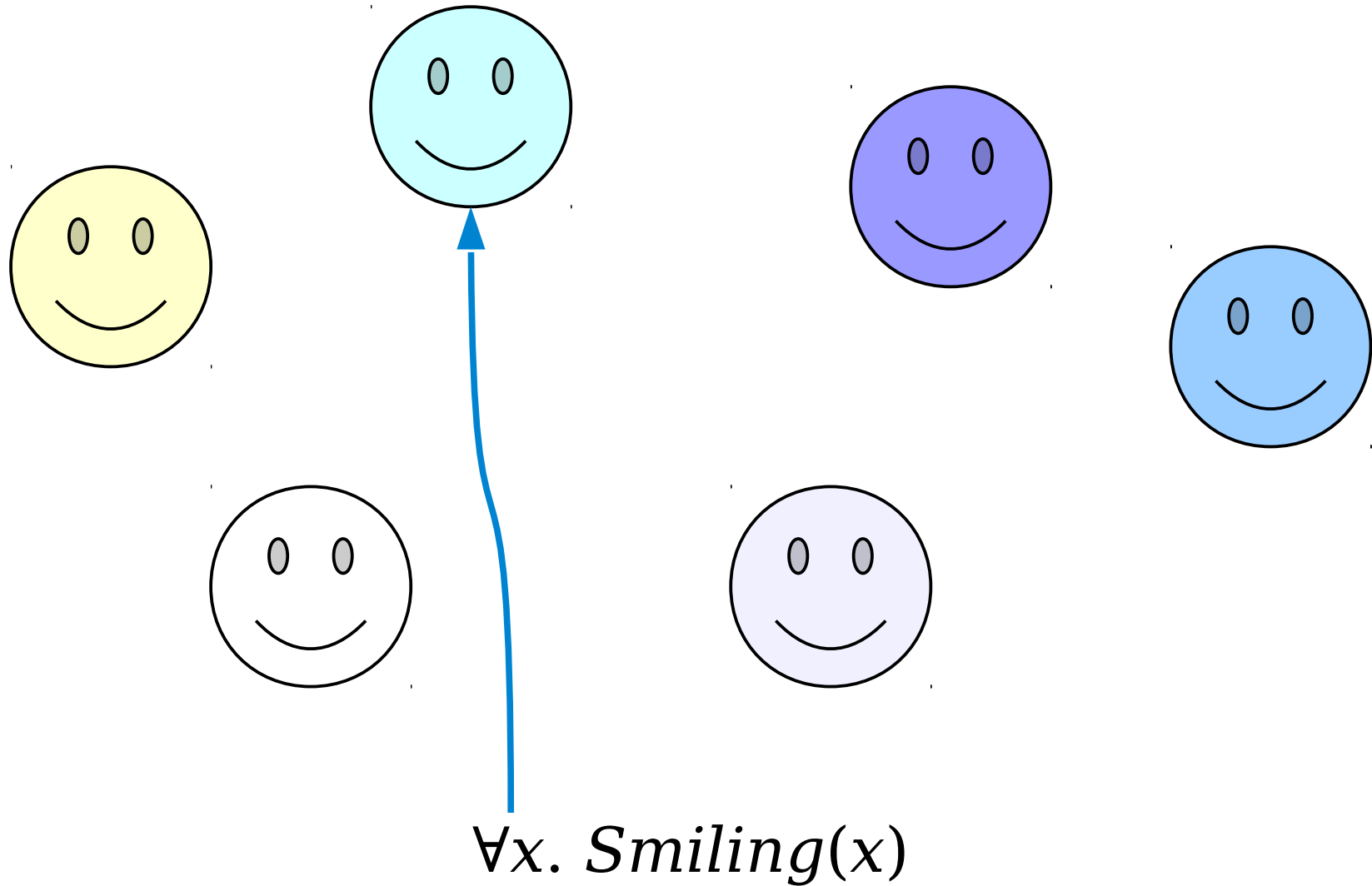


# The Universal Quantifier

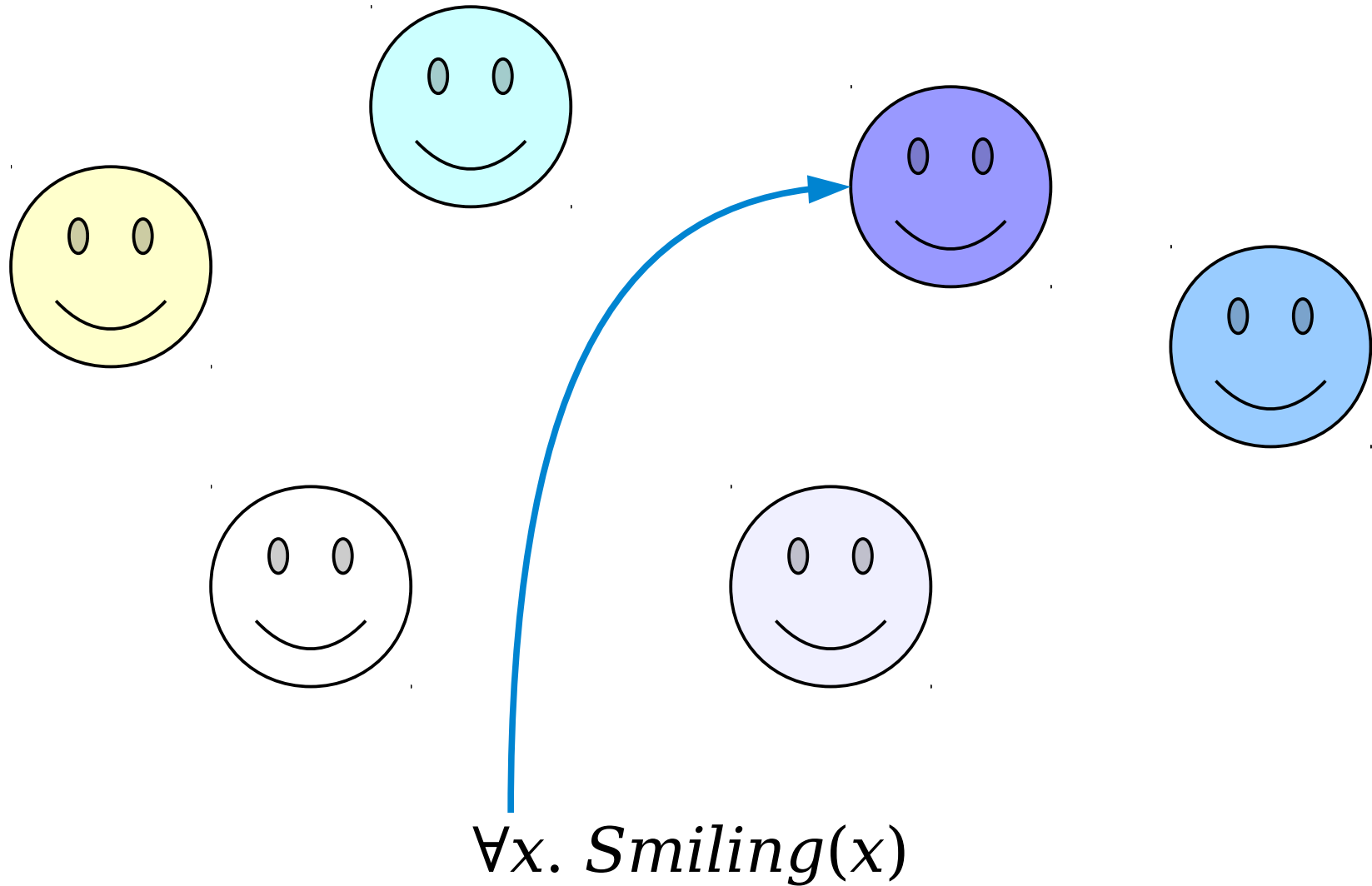




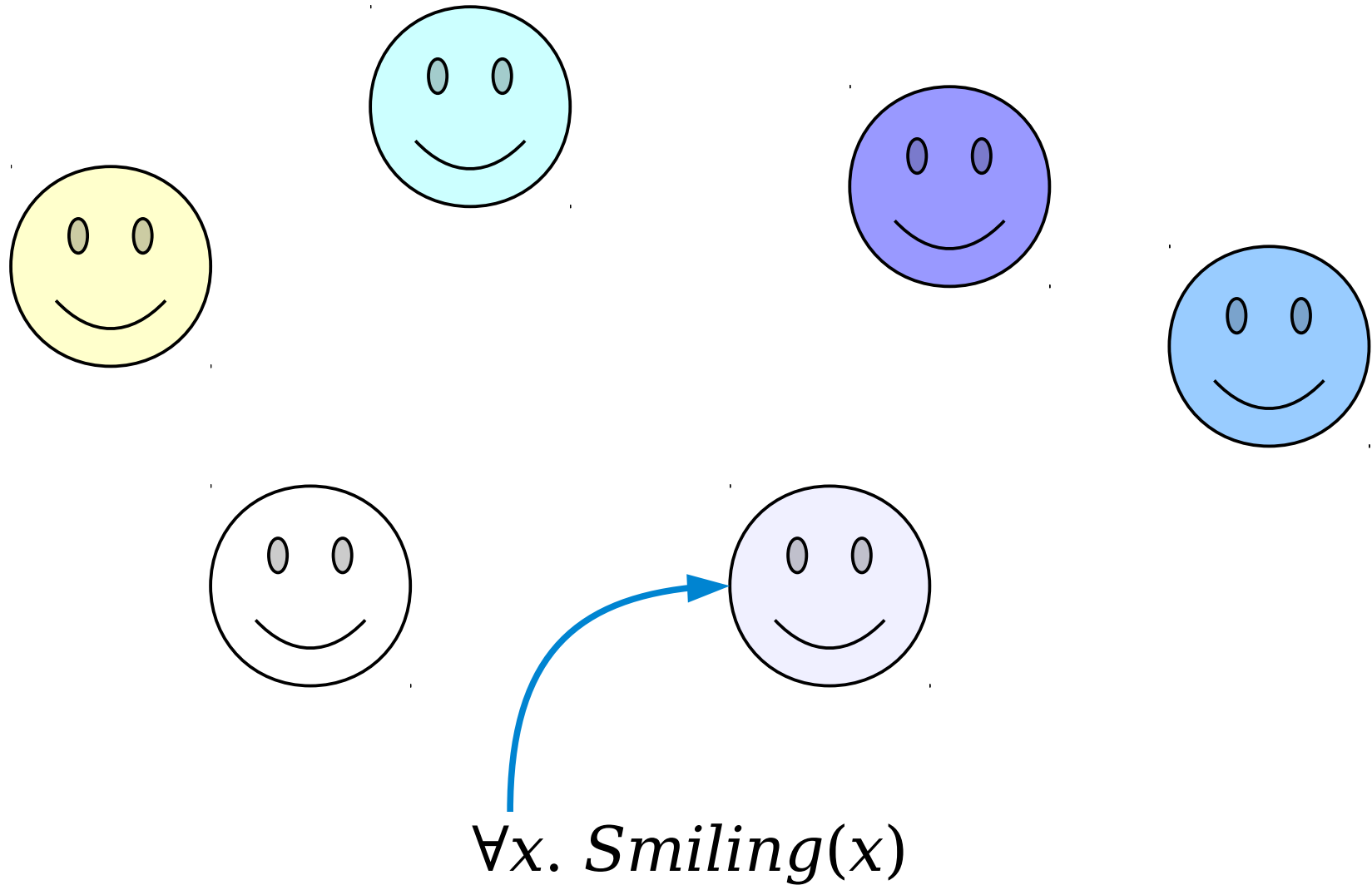
# The Universal Quantifier



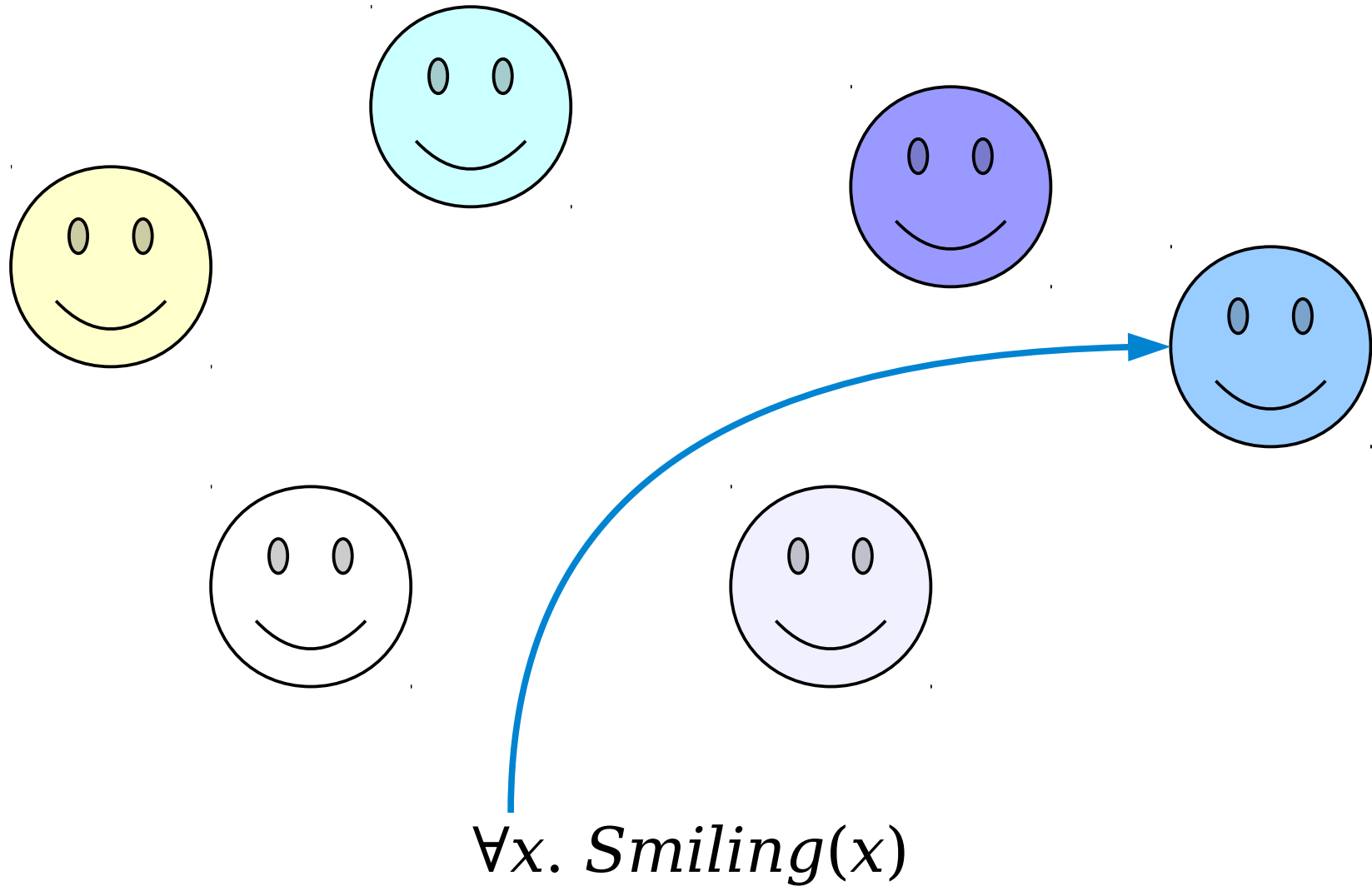
# The Universal Quantifier



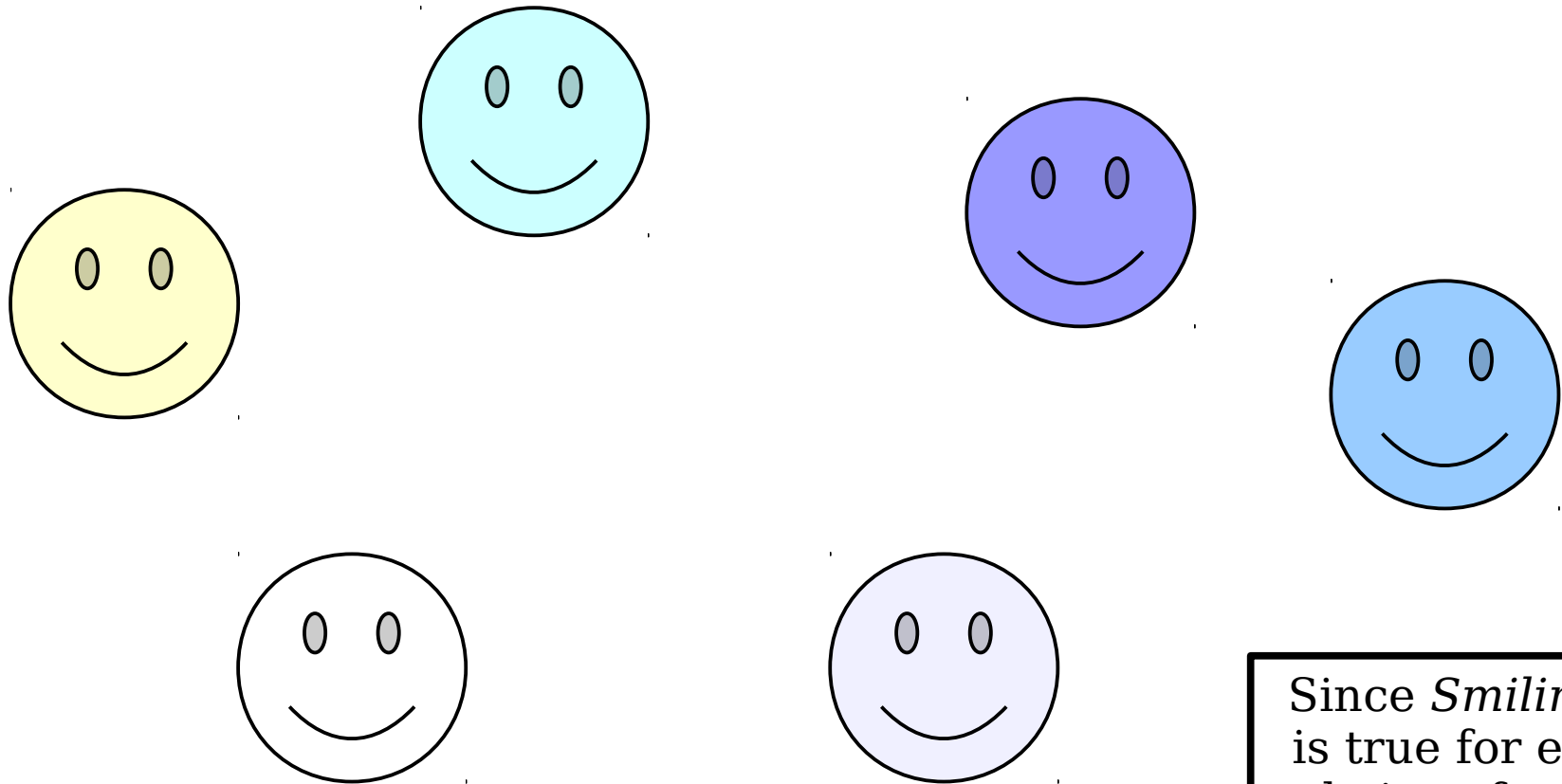
# The Universal Quantifier



# The Universal Quantifier



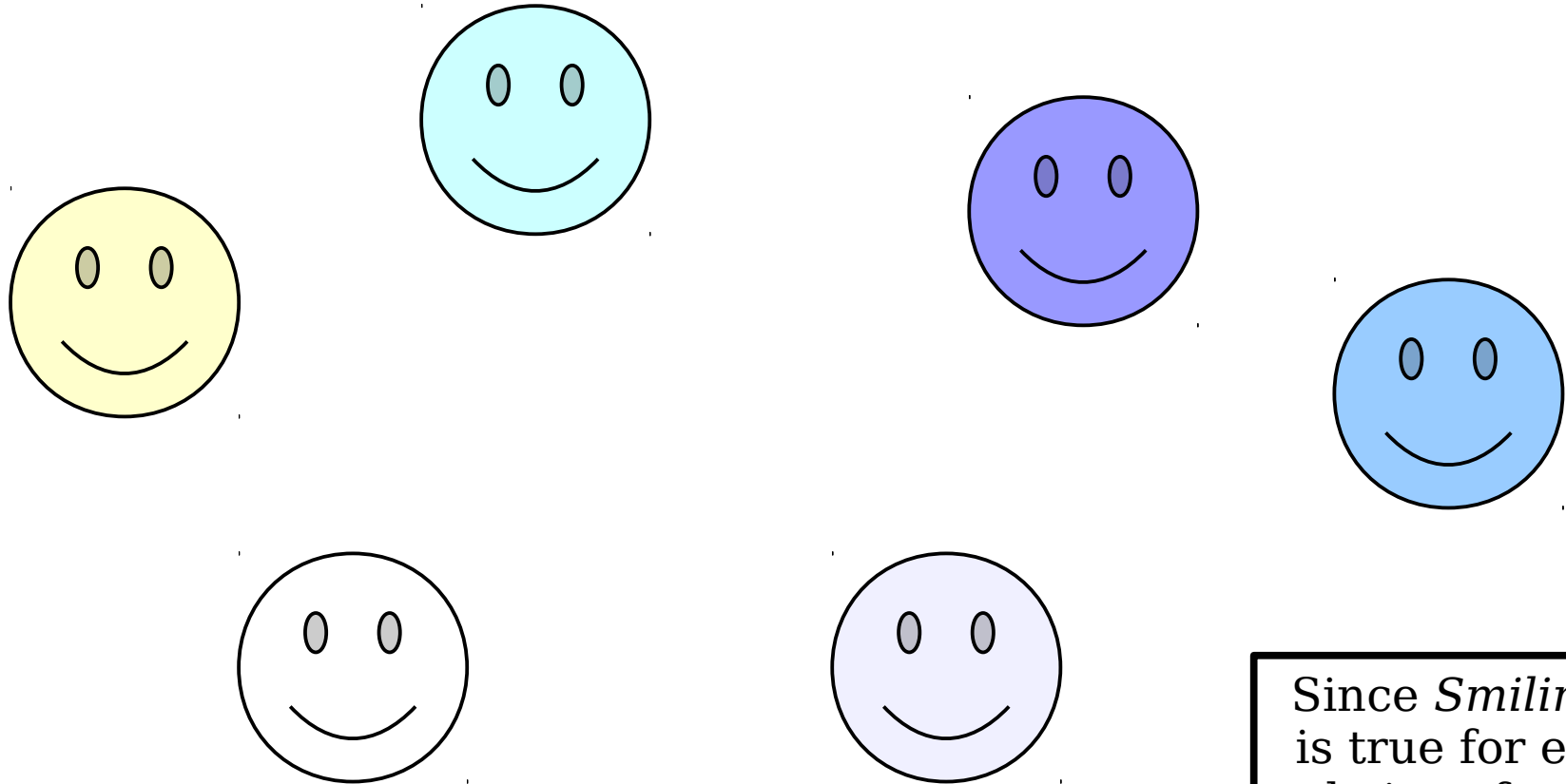
# The Universal Quantifier



$\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

Since *Smiling*(*x*)  
is true for every  
choice of *x*, this  
statement  
evaluates to true.

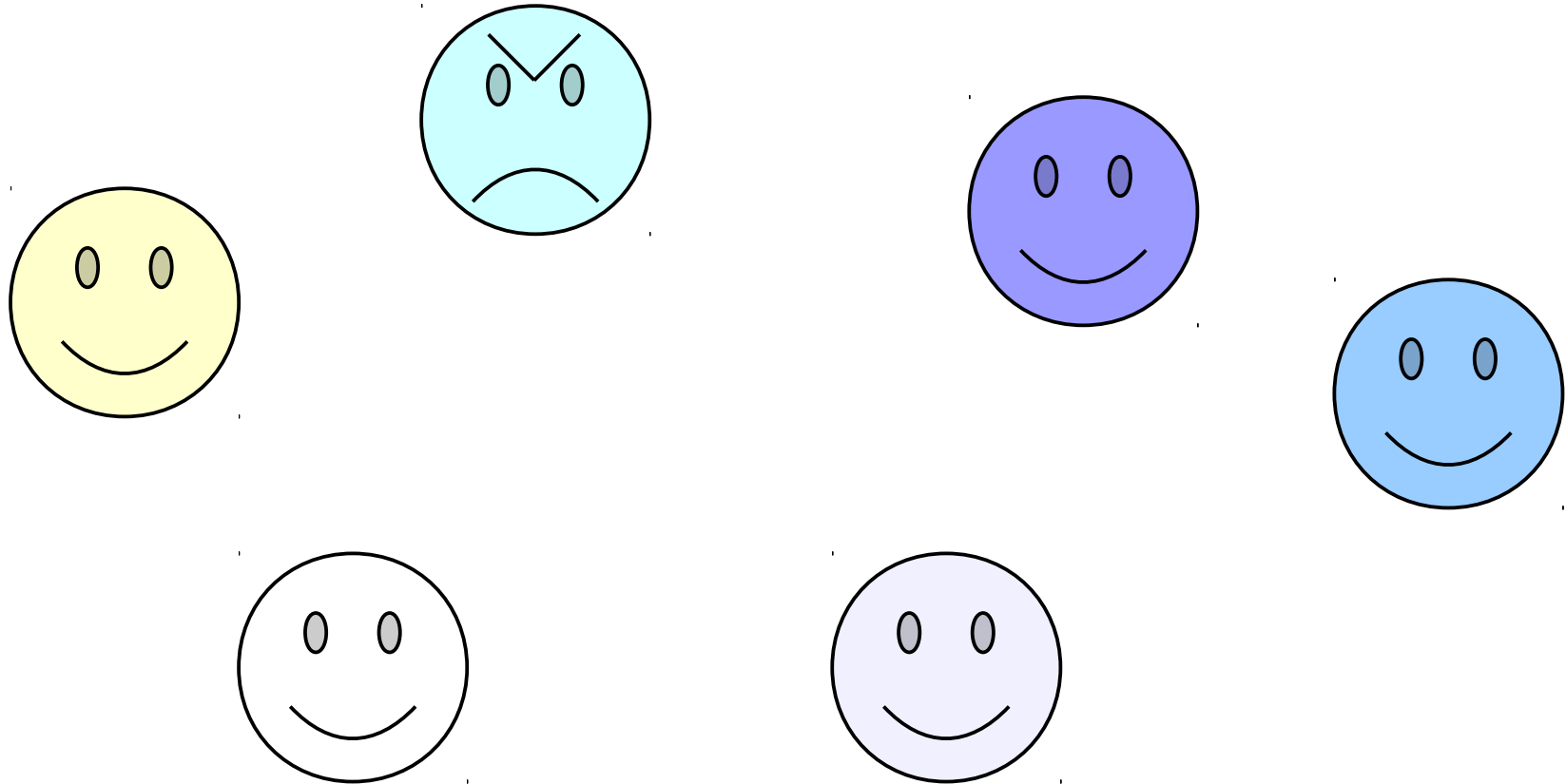
# The Universal Quantifier



$\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

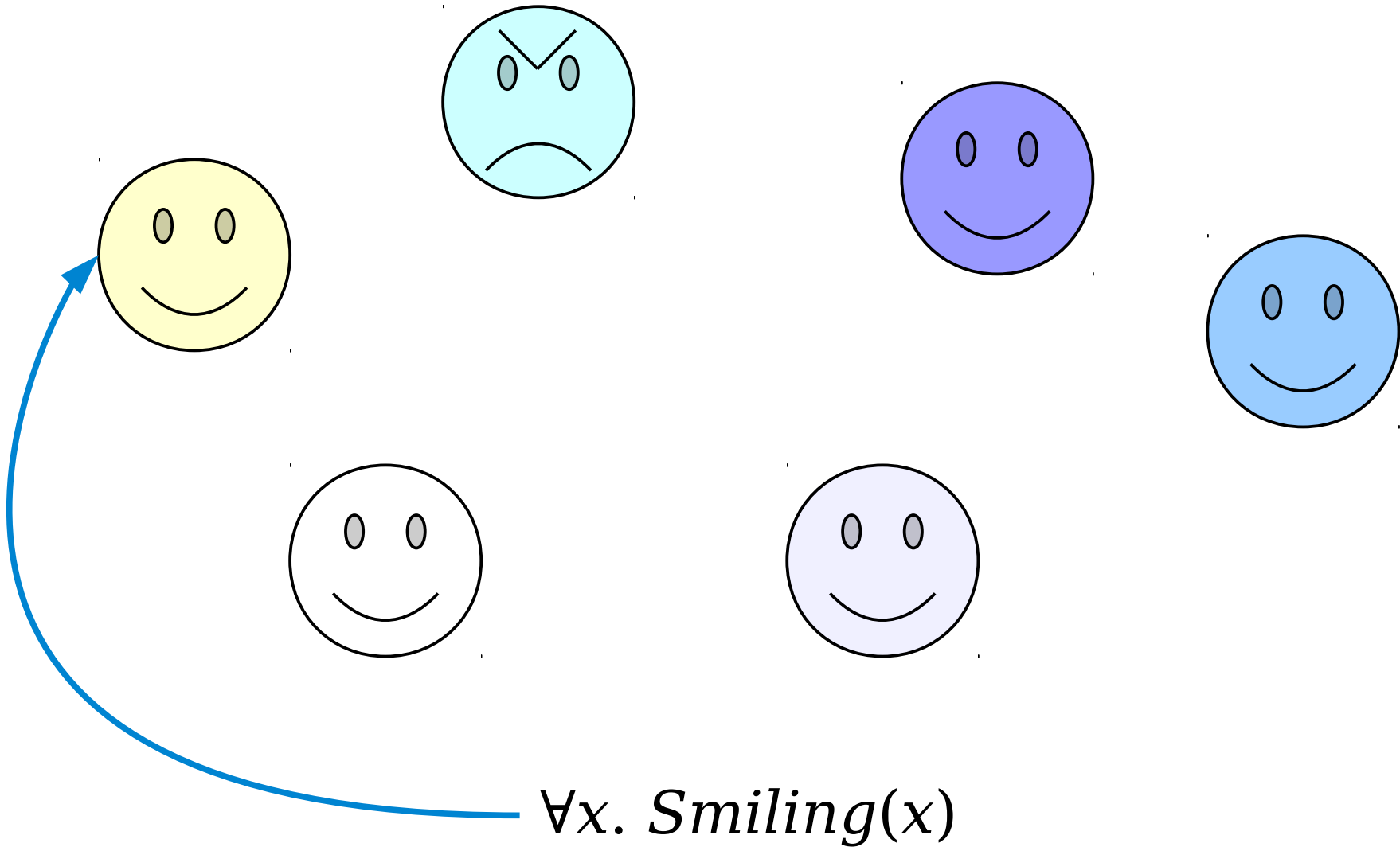
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# The Universal Quantifier



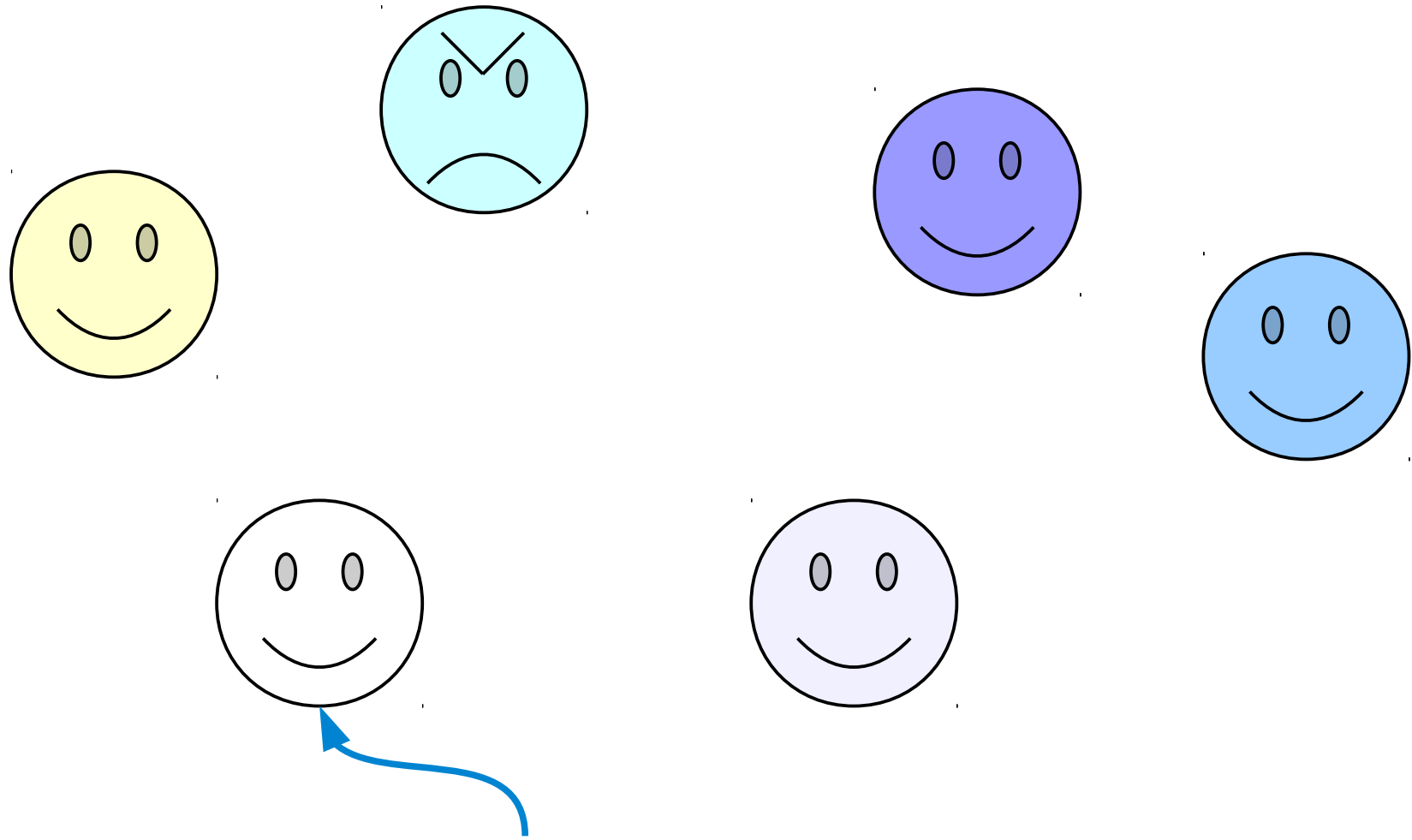
$\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

# The Universal Quantifier



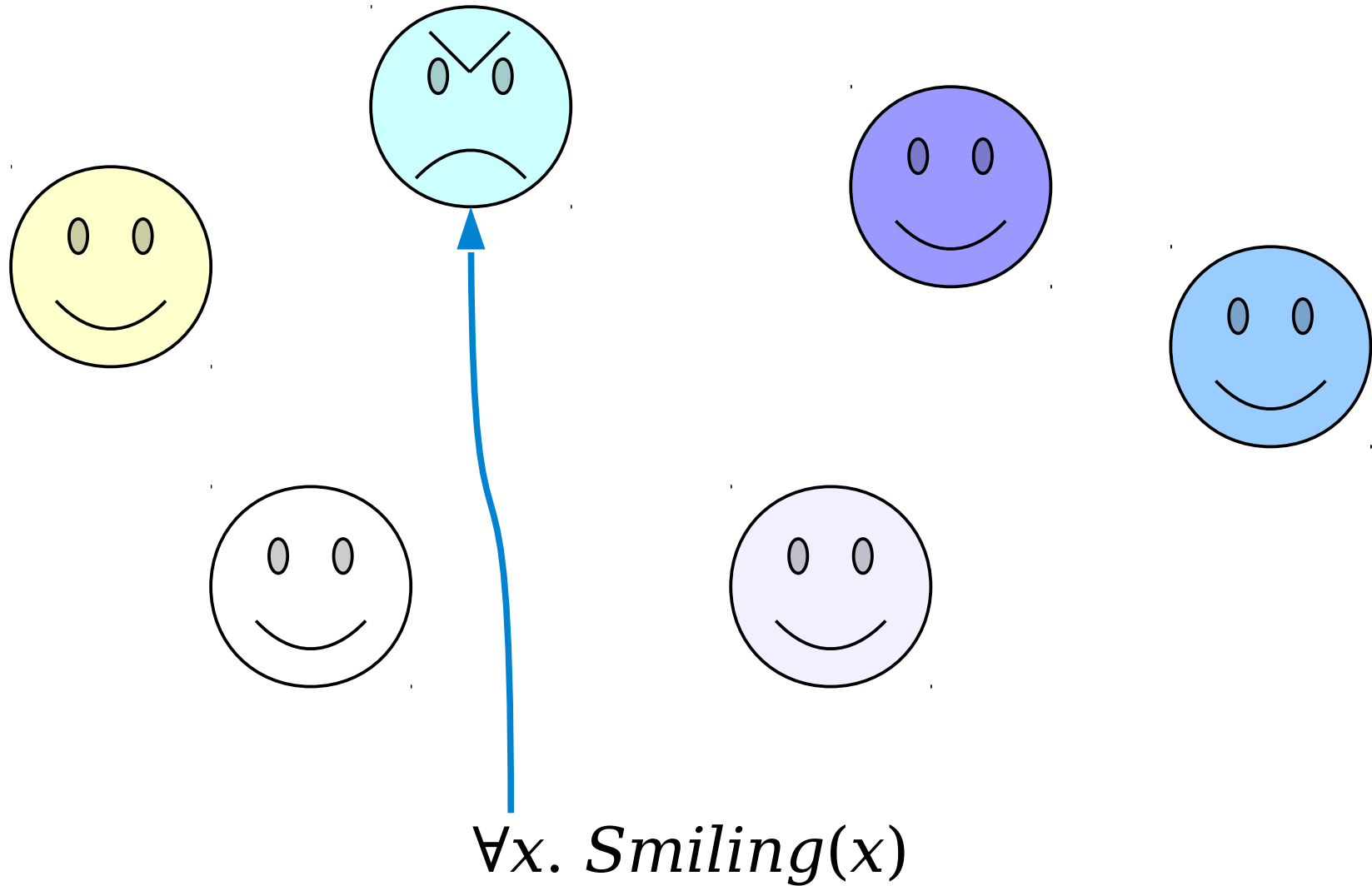


# The Universal Quantifier

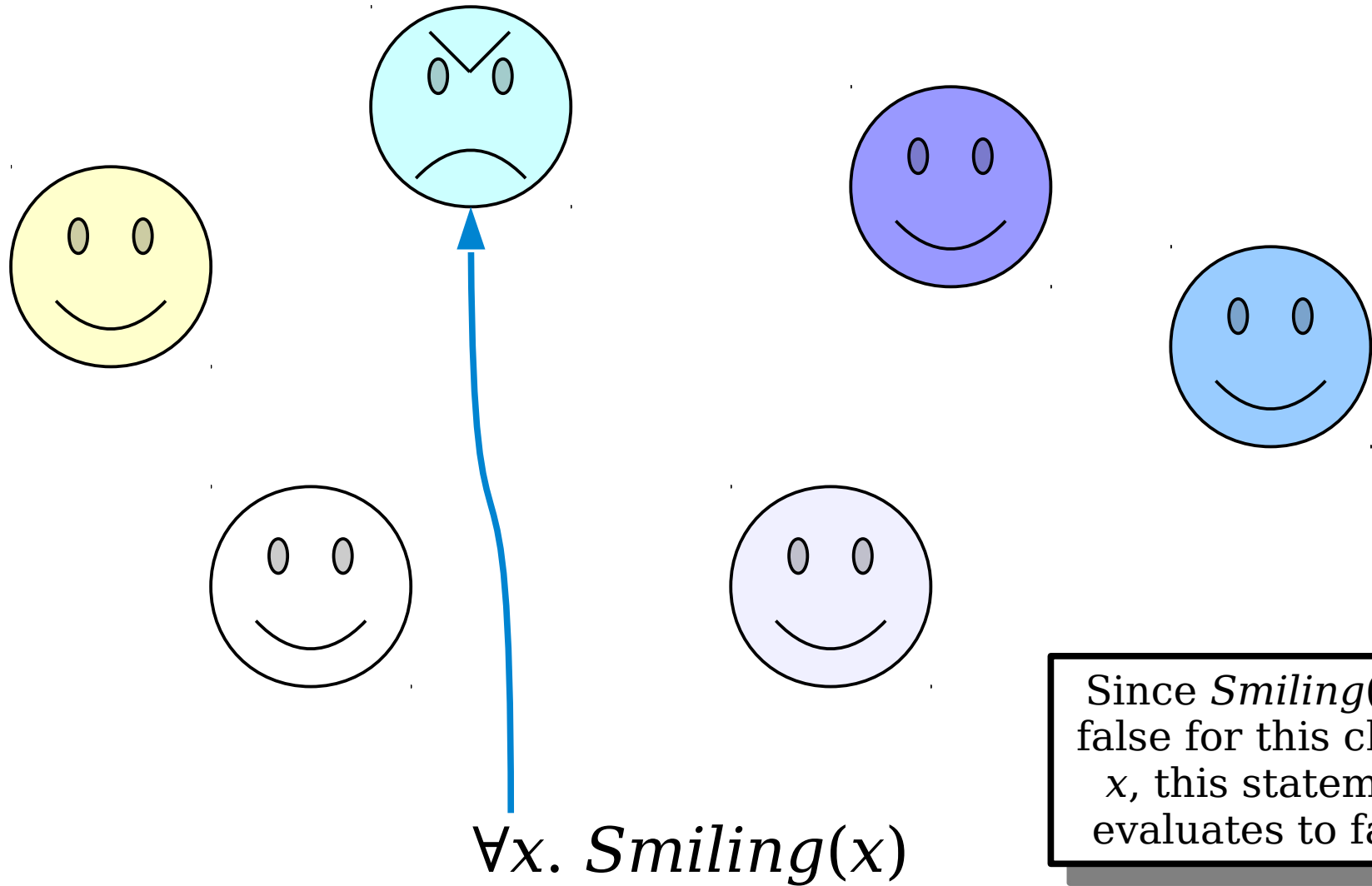


$\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

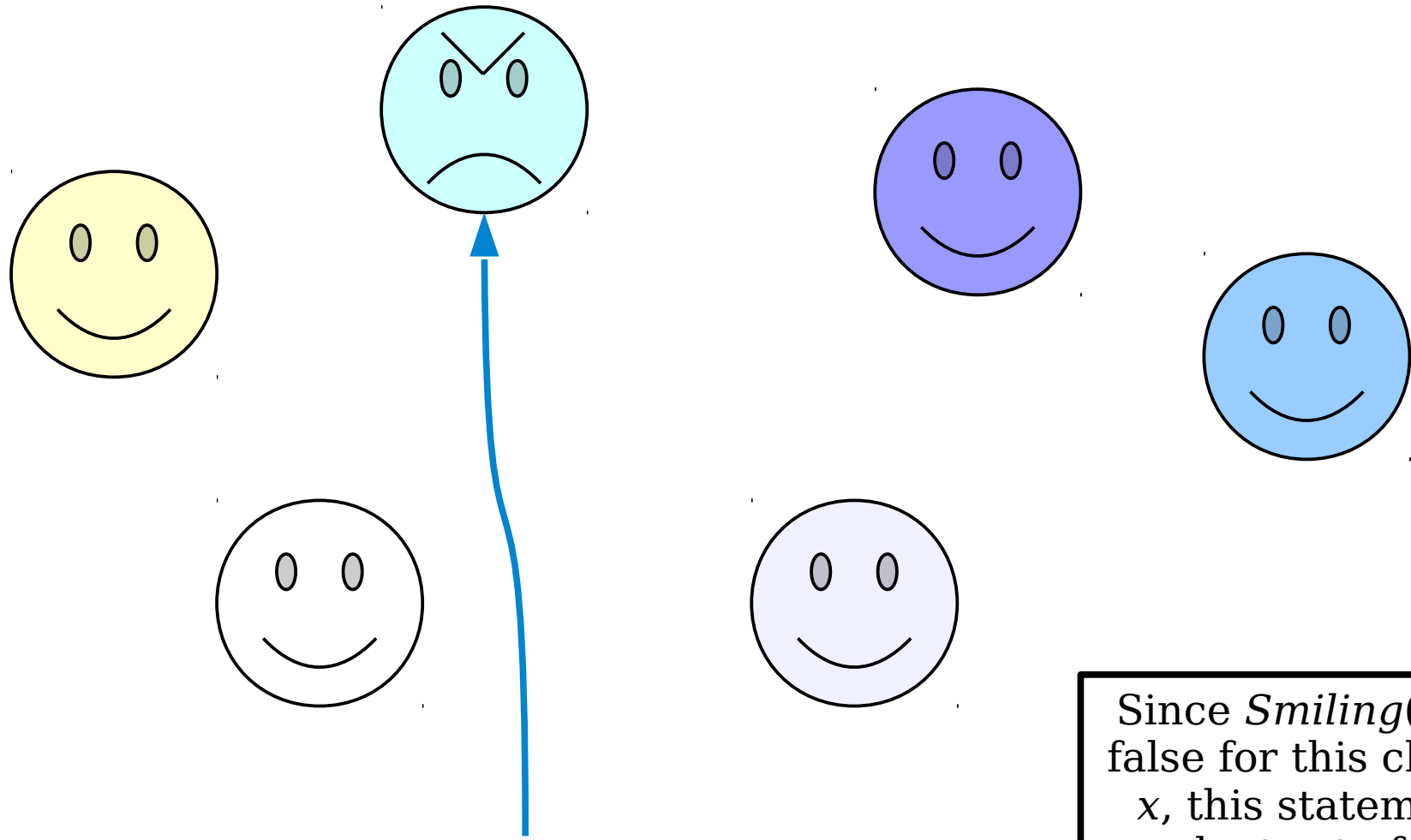
# The Universal Quantifier



# The Universal Quantifier



# The Universal Quantifier

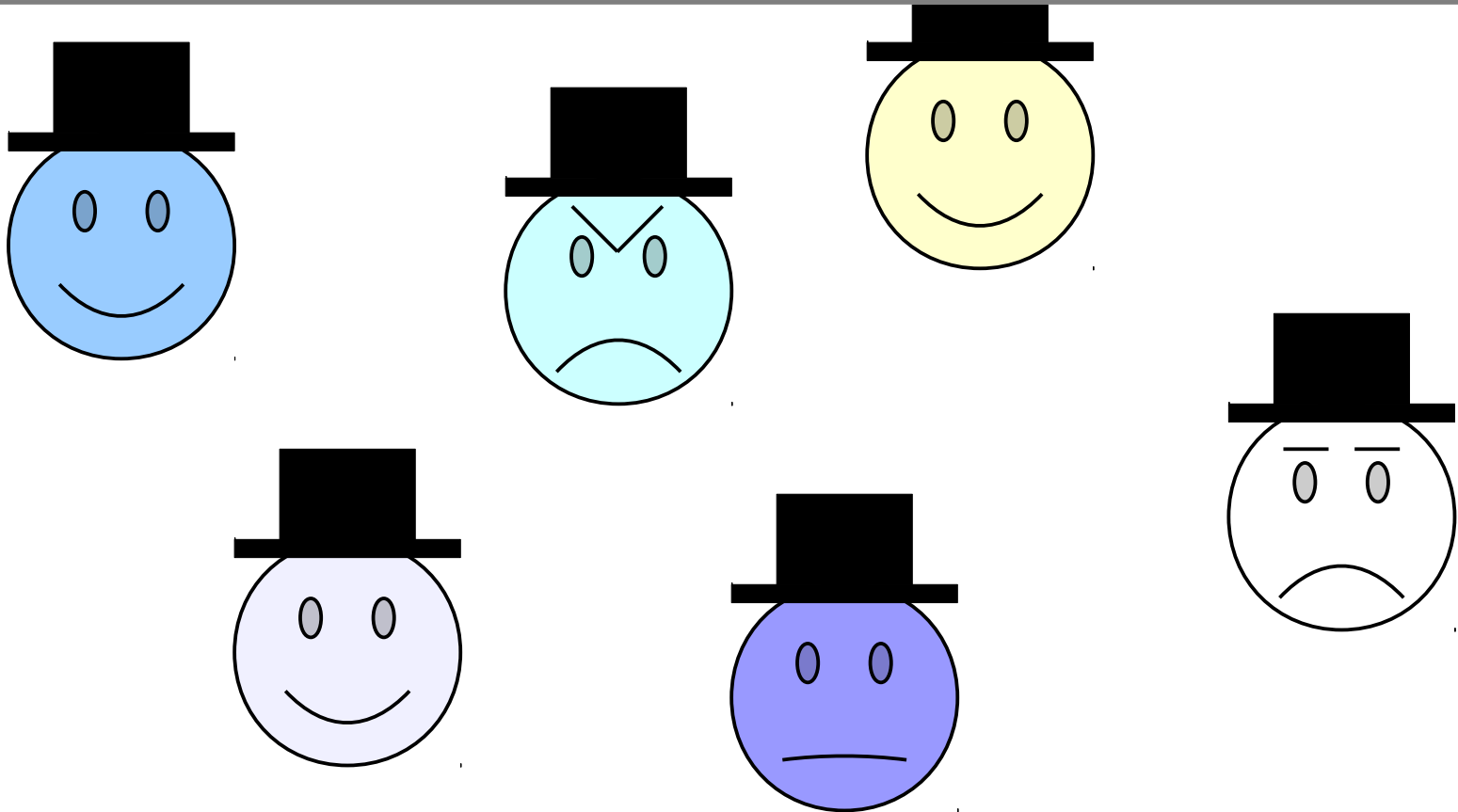


~~$\forall x. \text{Smiling}(x)$~~

Since  $\text{Smiling}(x)$  is false for this choice  $x$ , this statement evaluates to false.

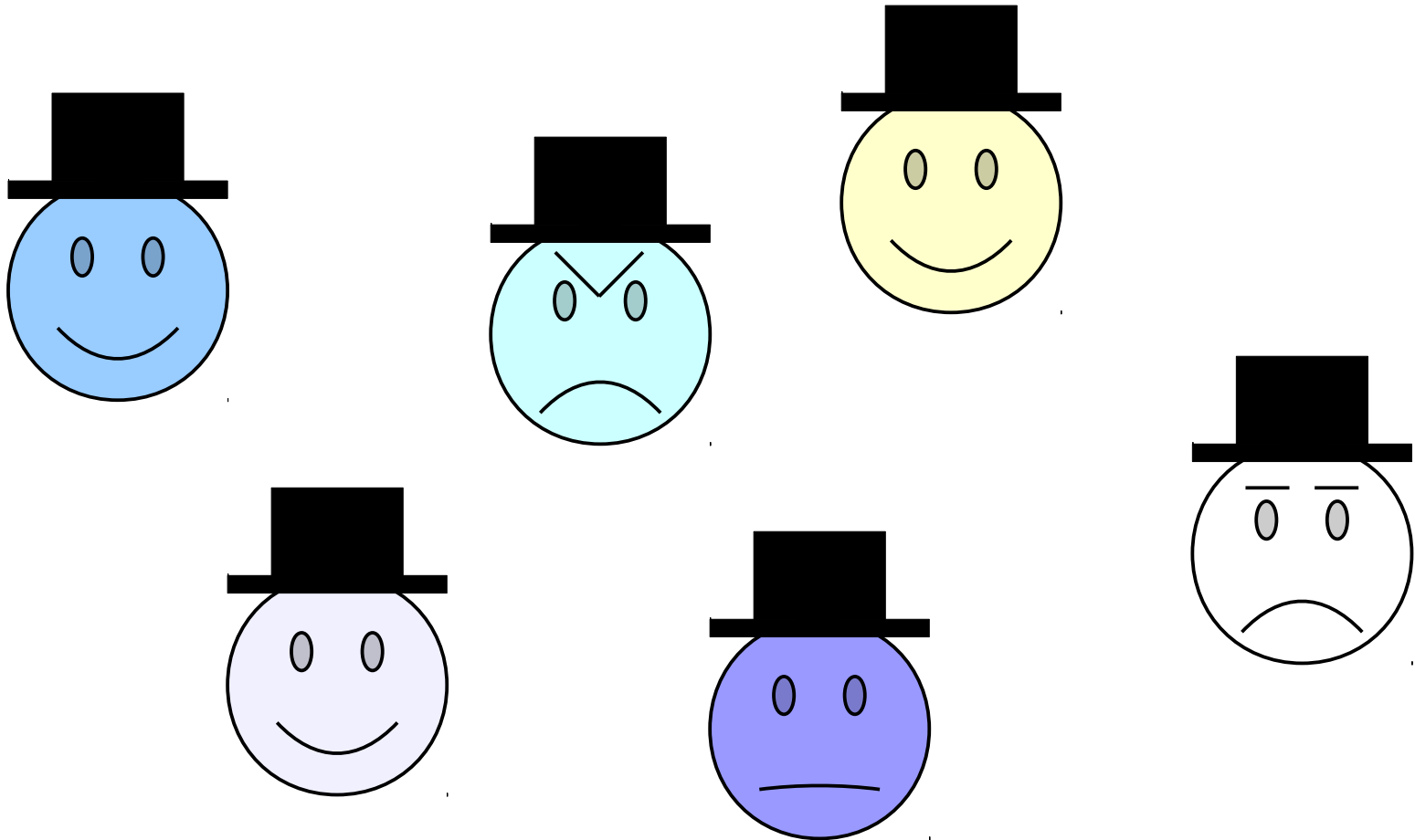
**Question:** In this world, is the first-order logic statement below true or false?

**Respond at [pollev.com/zhenglian740](http://pollev.com/zhenglian740)**



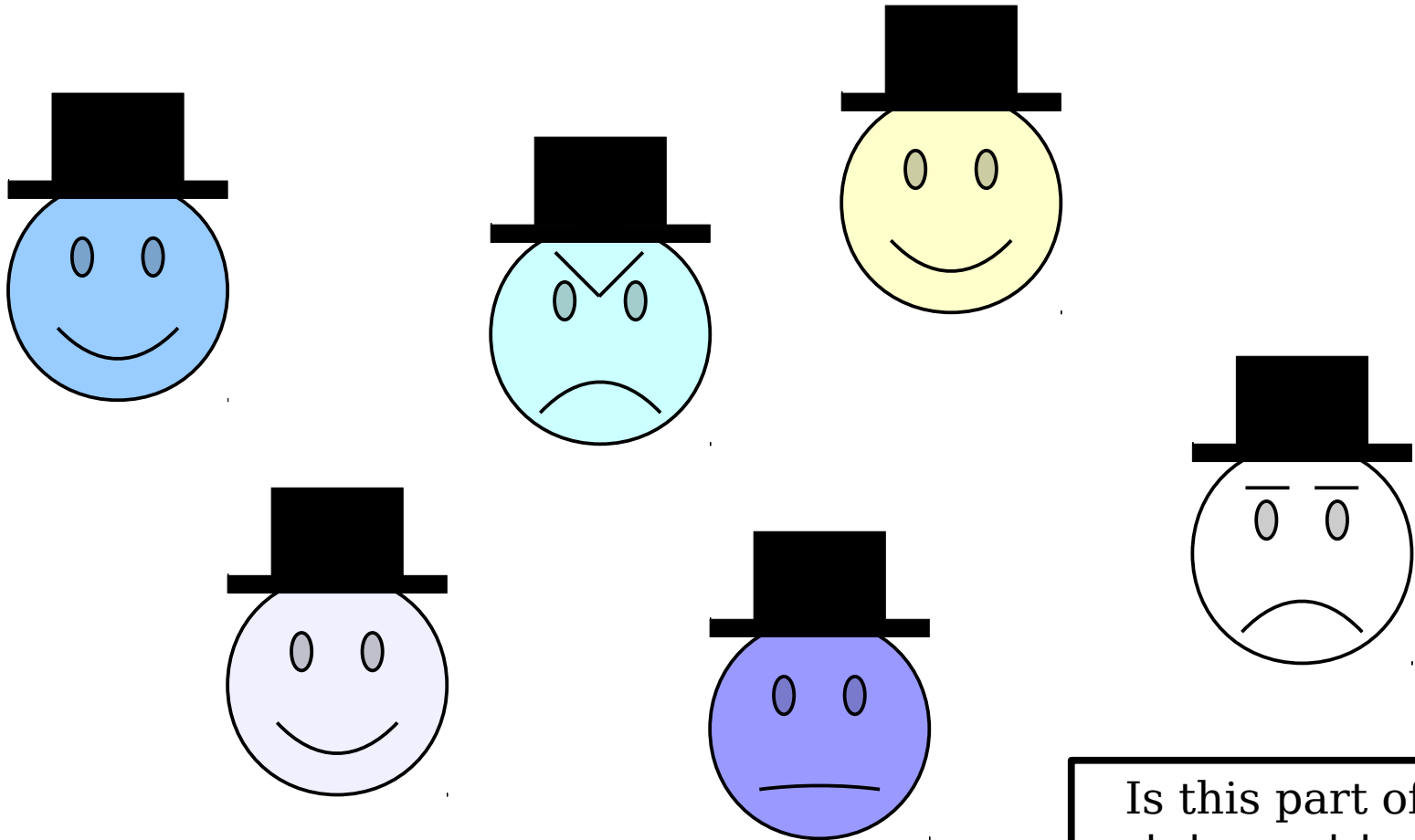
$(\forall x. Smiling(x)) \rightarrow (\forall y. WearingHat(y))$

# The Universal Quantifier



$(\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)) \rightarrow (\forall y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$

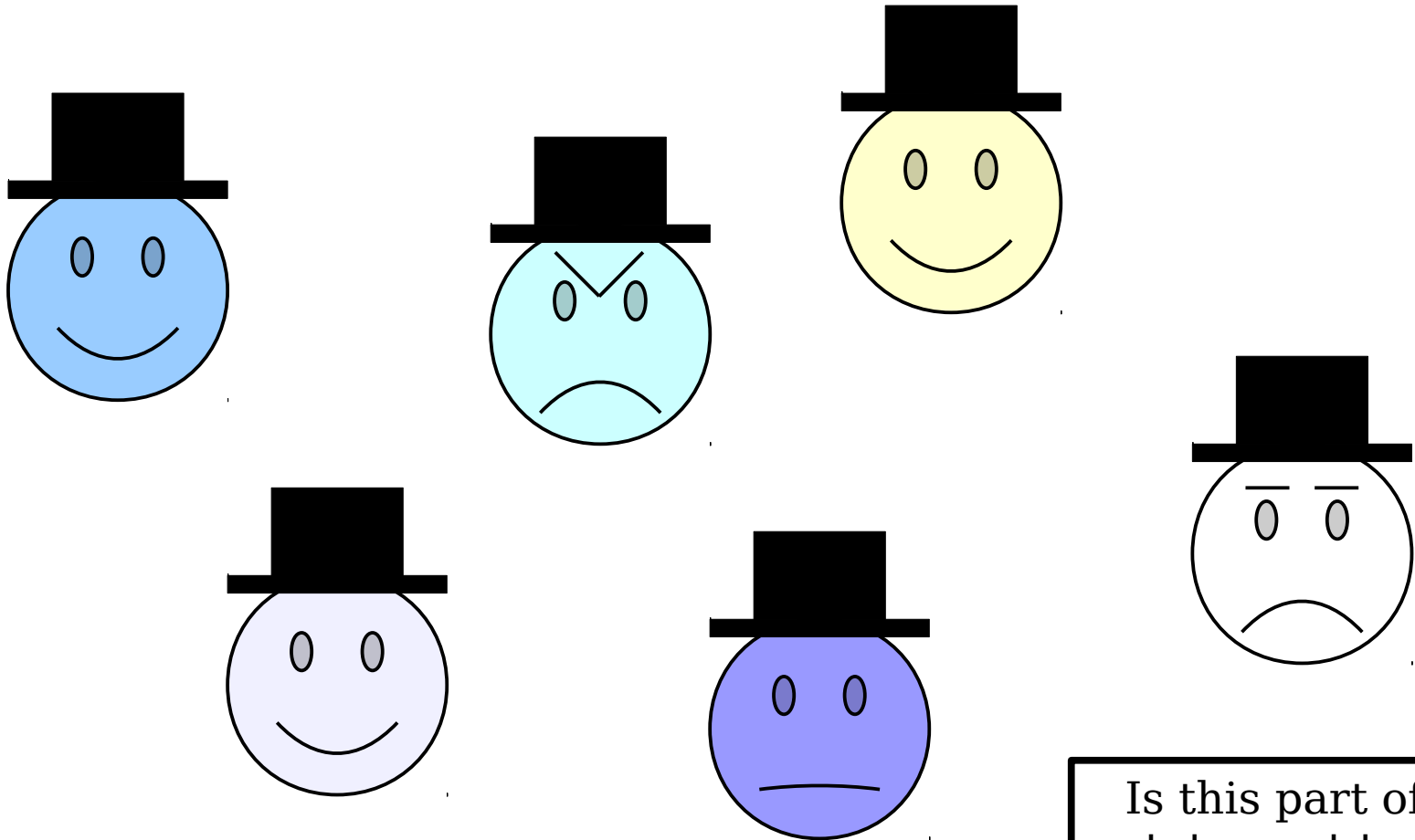
# The Universal Quantifier



Is this part of the statement true or false?

$(\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)) \rightarrow (\forall y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$

# The Universal Quantifier

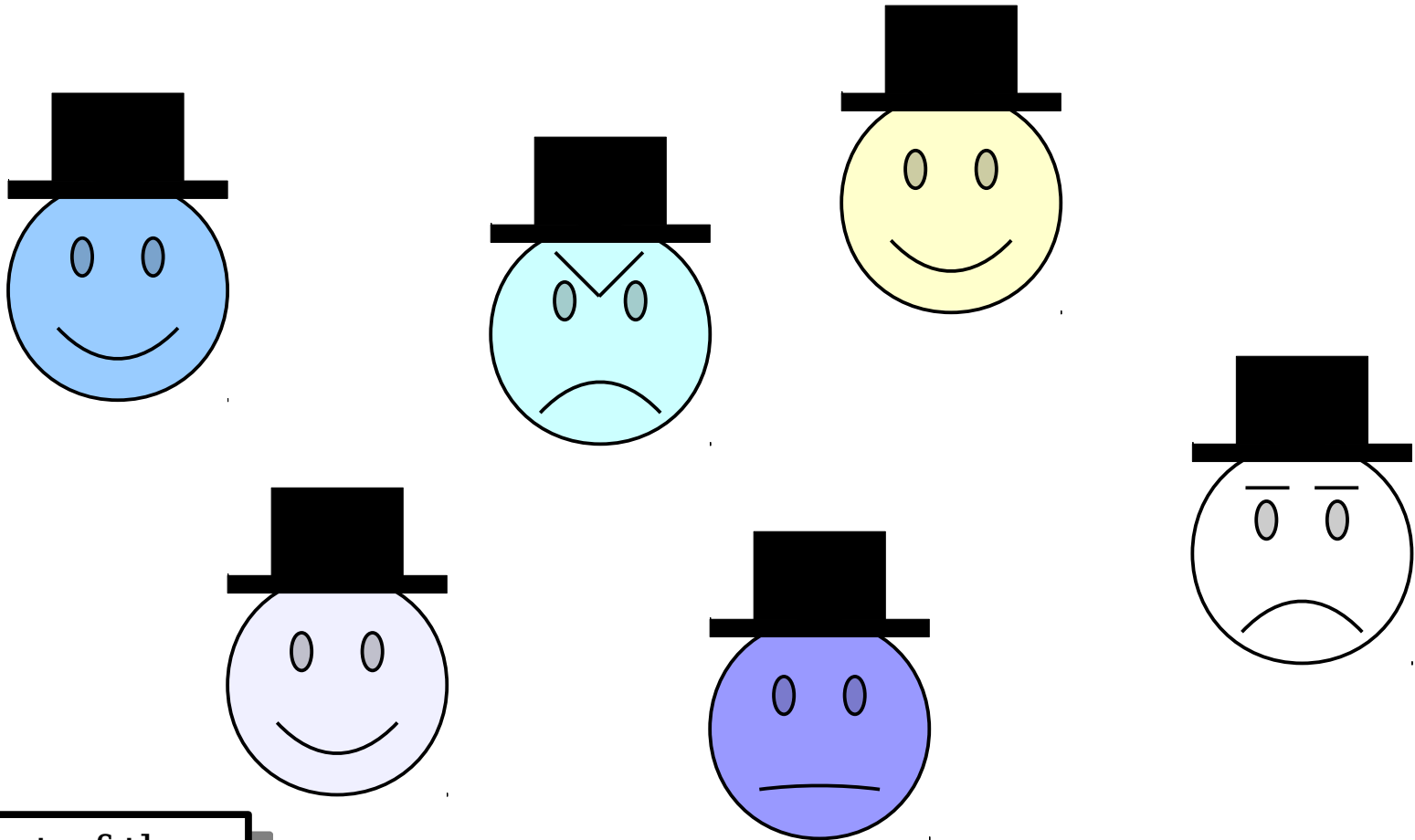


Is this part of the statement true or false?

$(\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)) \rightarrow (\forall y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$



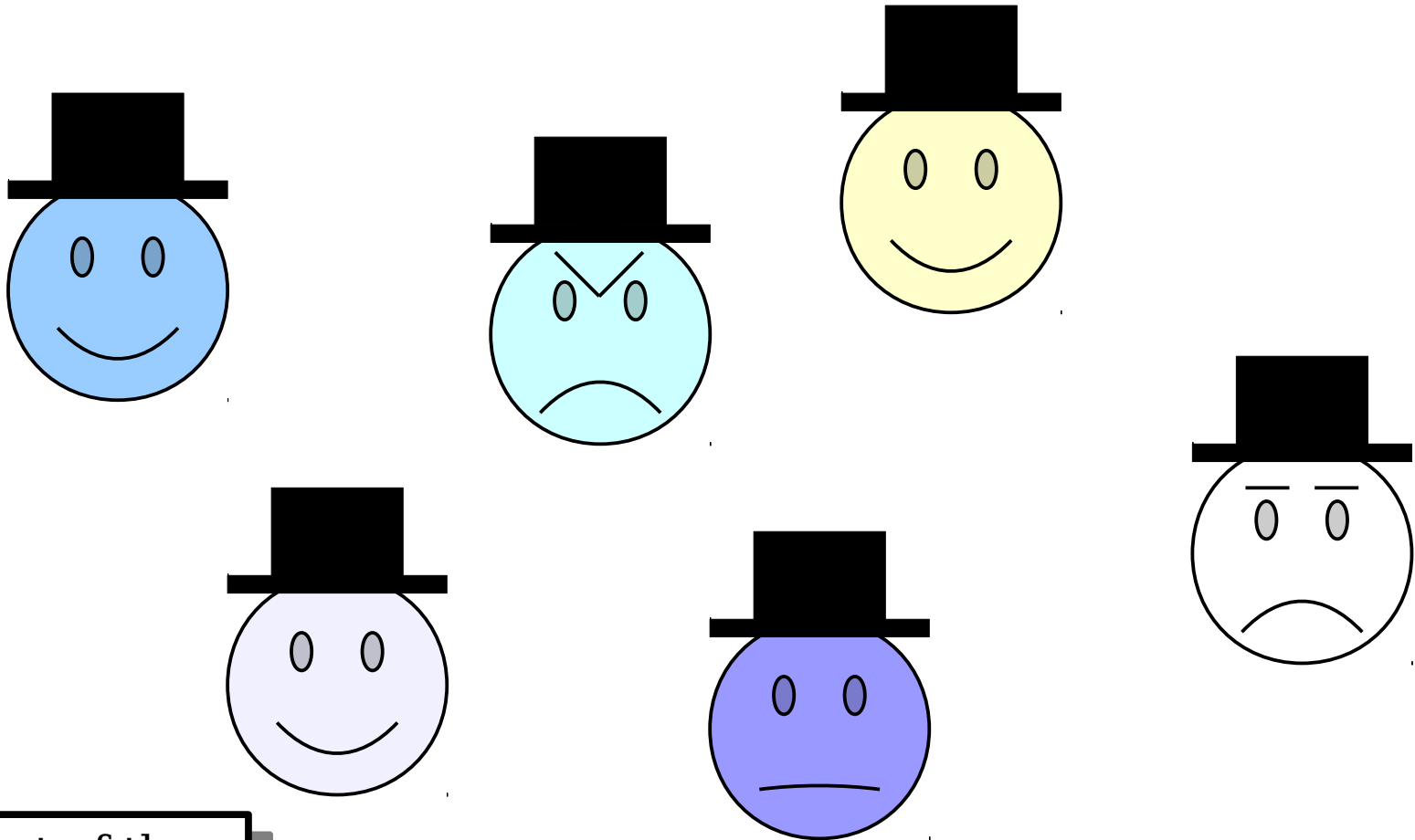
# The Universal Quantifier



Is this part of the statement true or false?

$(\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)) \rightarrow (\forall y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$

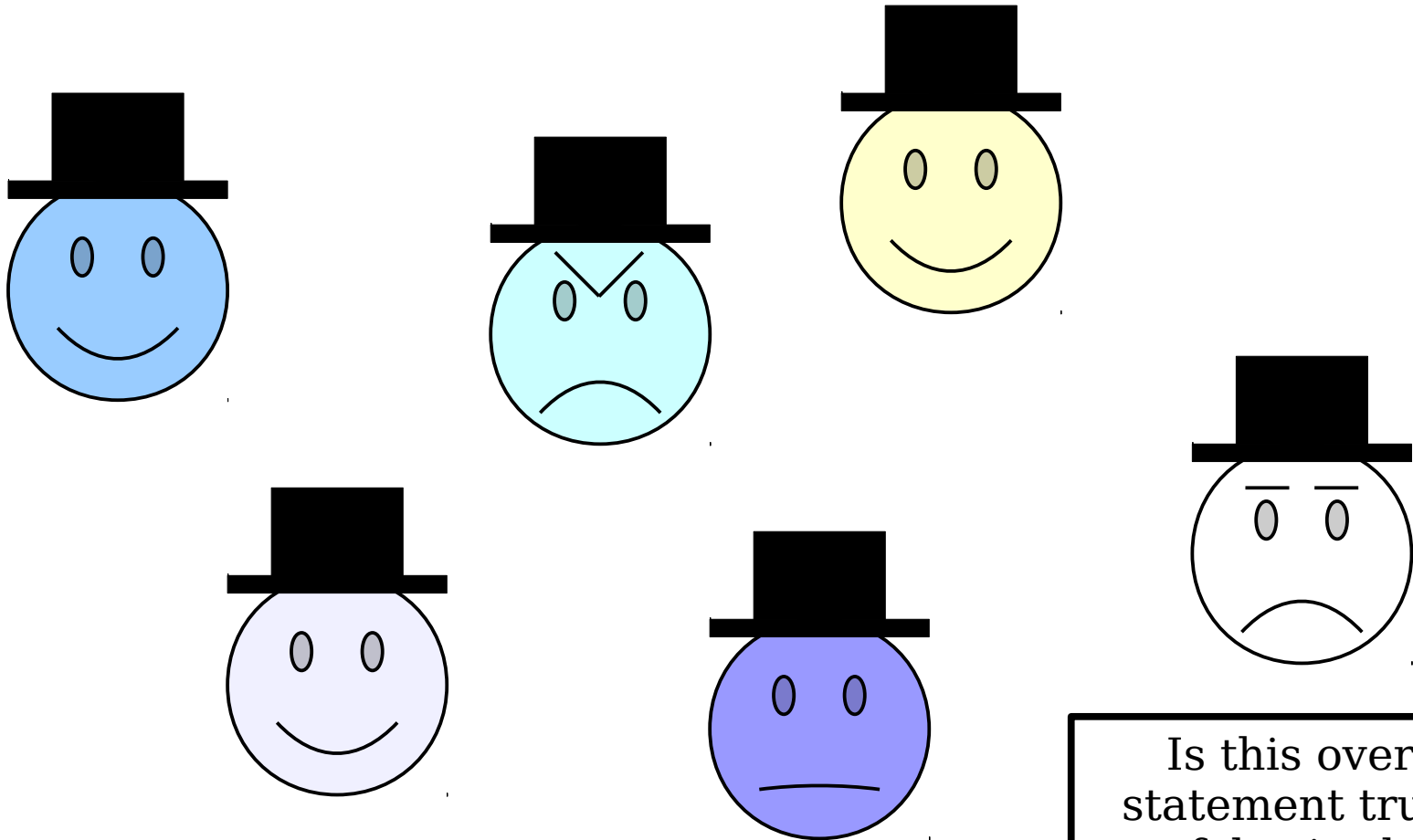
# The Universal Quantifier



Is this part of the statement true or false?

~~$(\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x))$~~   $\rightarrow (\forall y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$

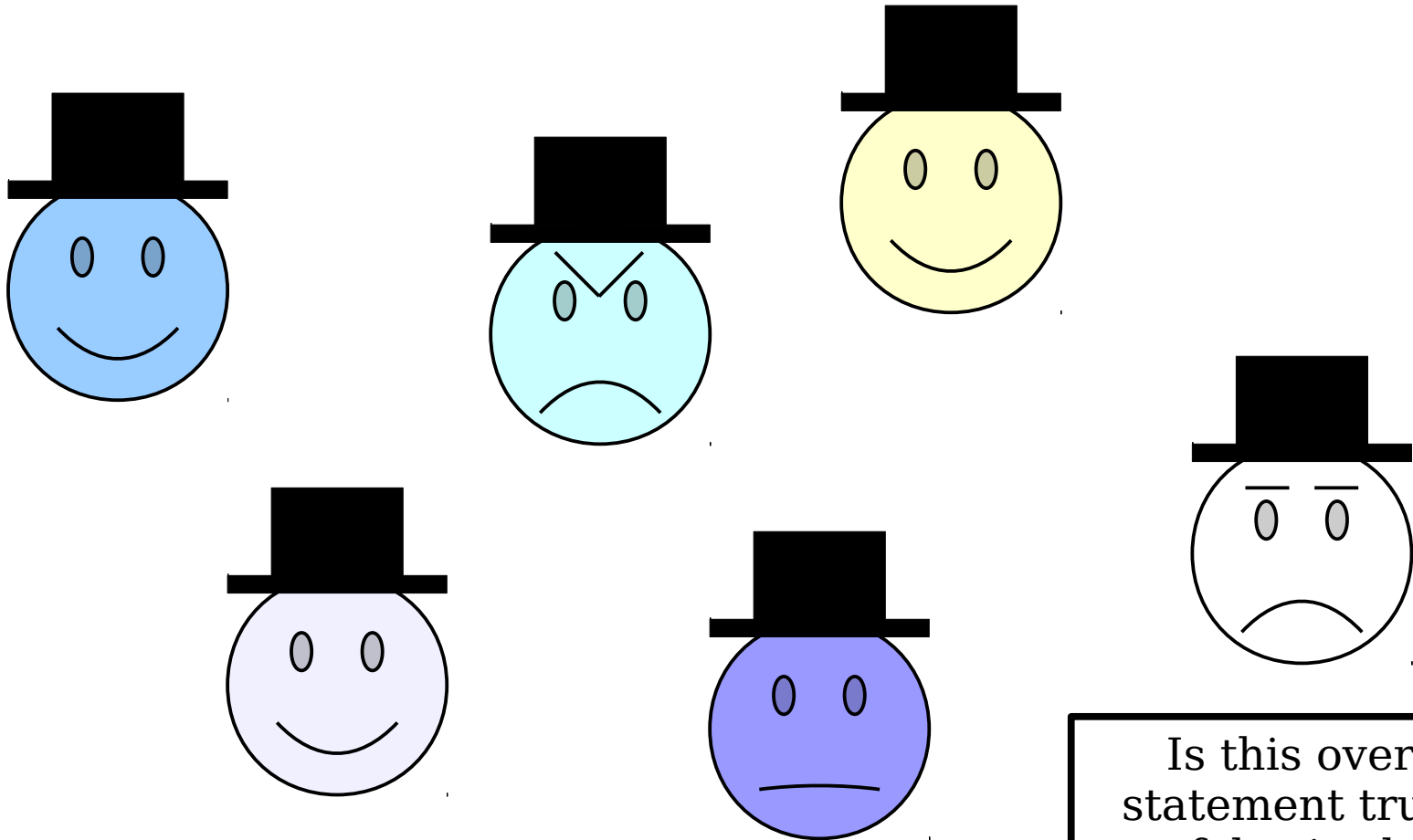
# The Universal Quantifier



Is this overall statement true or false in this scenario?

~~$(\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x))$~~   $\rightarrow (\forall y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$

# The Universal Quantifier



Is this overall statement true or false in this scenario?

$(\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)) \rightarrow (\forall y. \textit{WearingHat}(y))$

# Fun with Edge Cases

$\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

# Fun with Edge Cases

Universally-quantified statements are said to be *vacuously true* in empty worlds.

$\forall x. \textit{Smiling}(x)$

Let's take a quick break!

# Translating into First-Order Logic



# Translating Into Logic

- First-order logic is an excellent tool for manipulating definitions and theorems to learn more about them.
- Need to take a negation? Translate your statement into FOL, negate it, then translate it back.
- Want to prove something by contrapositive? Translate your implication into FOL, take the contrapositive, then translate it back.

# Translating Into Logic

- When translating from English into first-order logic, we recommend that you ***think of first-order logic as a mathematical programming language.***
- Your goal is to learn how to combine basic concepts (quantifiers, connectives, etc.) together in ways that say what you mean.

Using the predicates

- *Smiling*( $x$ ), which states that  $x$  is smiling, and
- *WearingHat*( $x$ ), which states that  $x$  is wearing a hat,

write a sentence in first-order logic that says

***some smiling person wears a hat.***

***Try it yourself:*** Give this your best shot – it's okay if you're not sure!

***Respond at [pollev.com/zhenglian740](https://pollev.com/zhenglian740)***

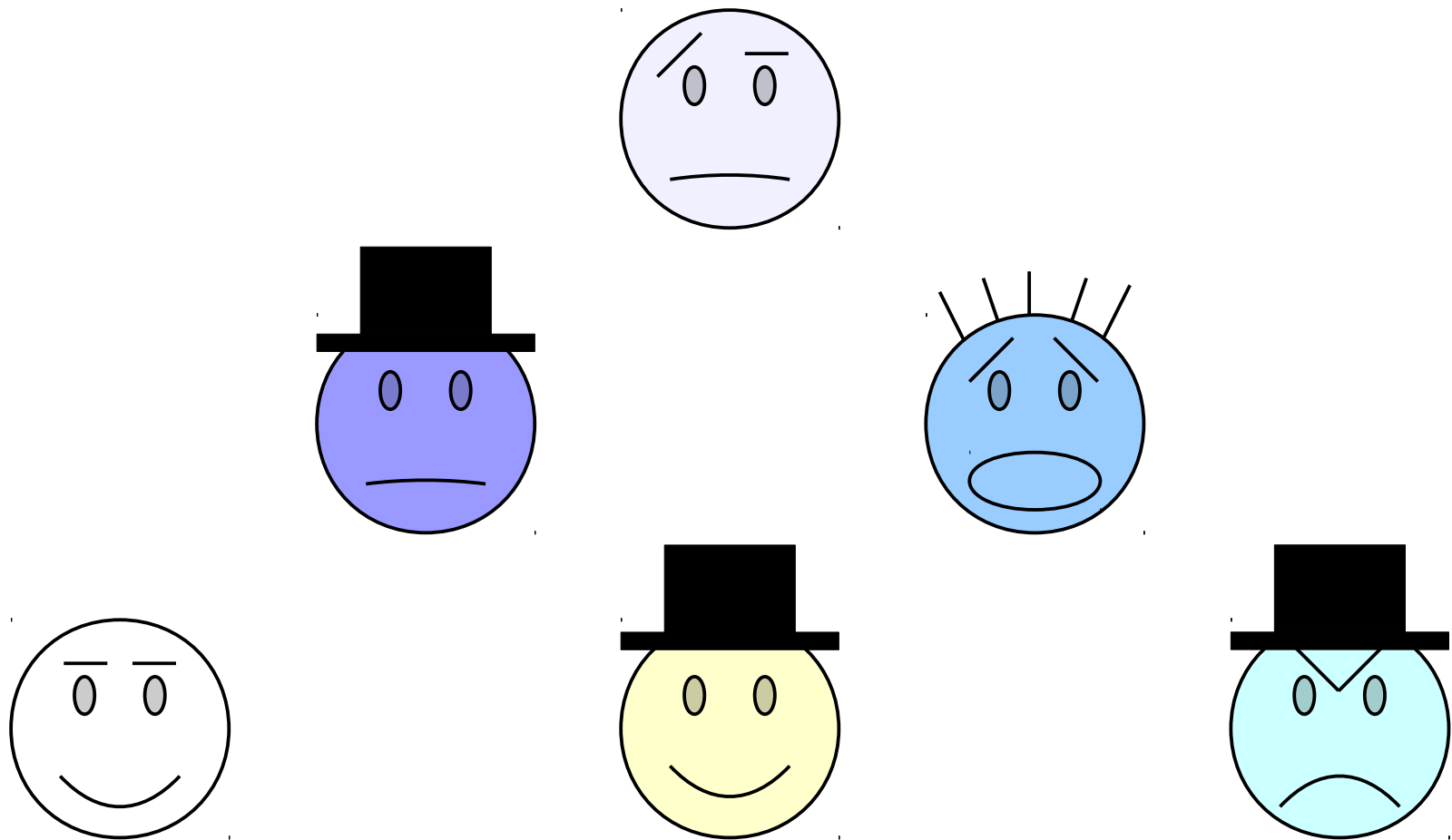
“Some smiling person wears a hat.”

---

$\exists x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \wedge \textit{WearingHat}(x))$

---

$\exists x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \rightarrow \textit{WearingHat}(x))$



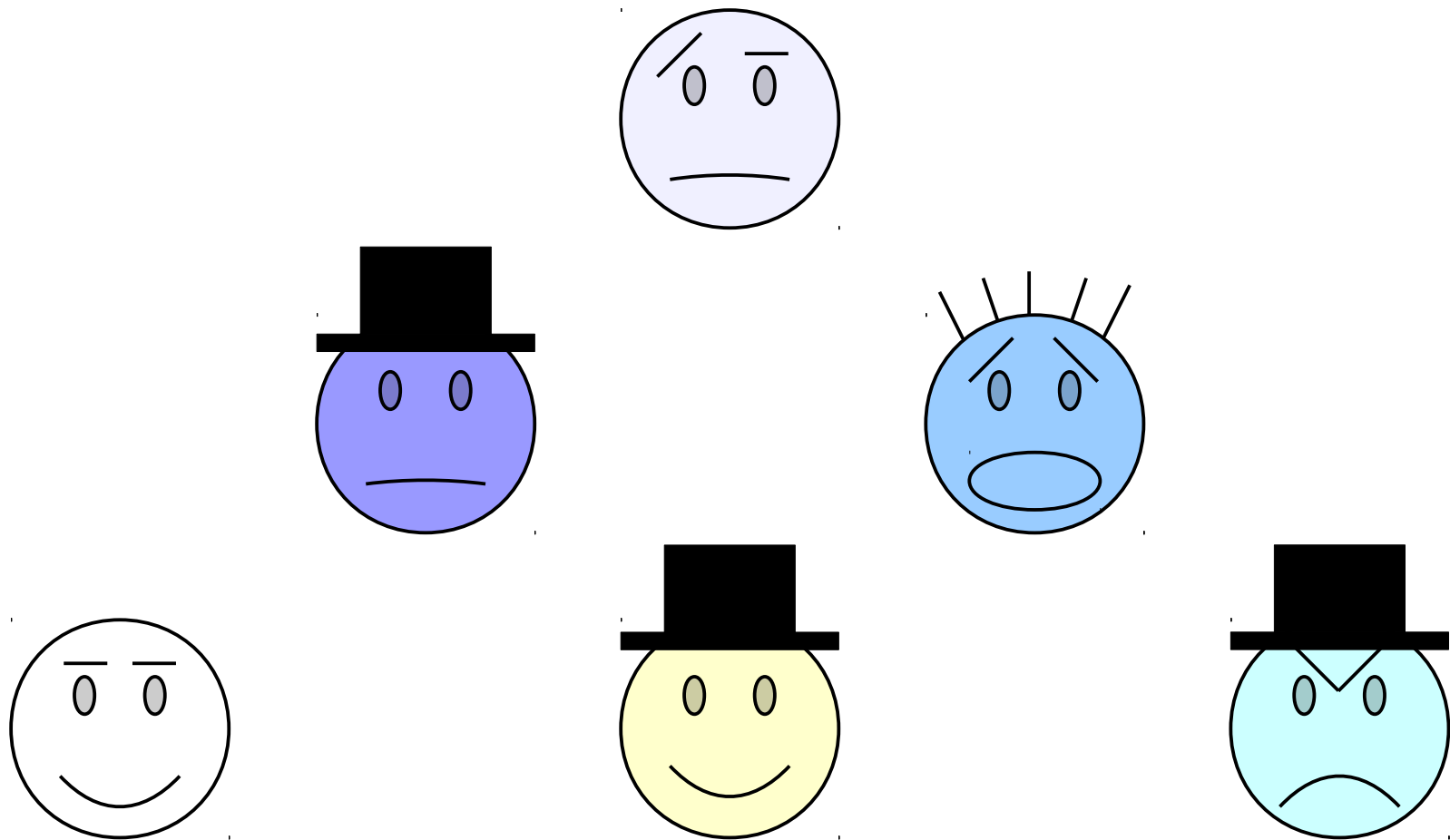
“Some smiling person wears a hat.”

---

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

---

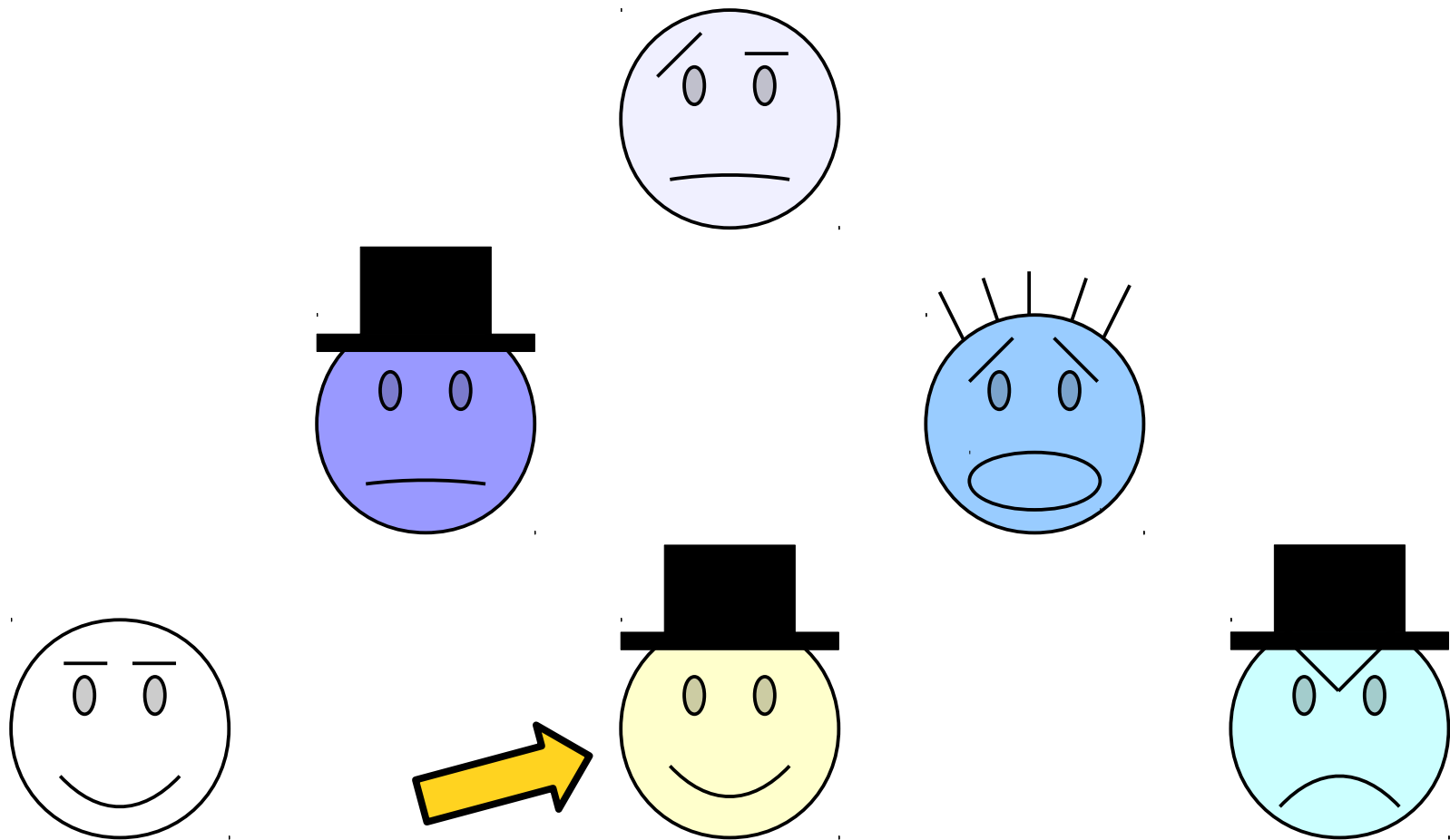
$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$



“Some smiling person wears a hat.”

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

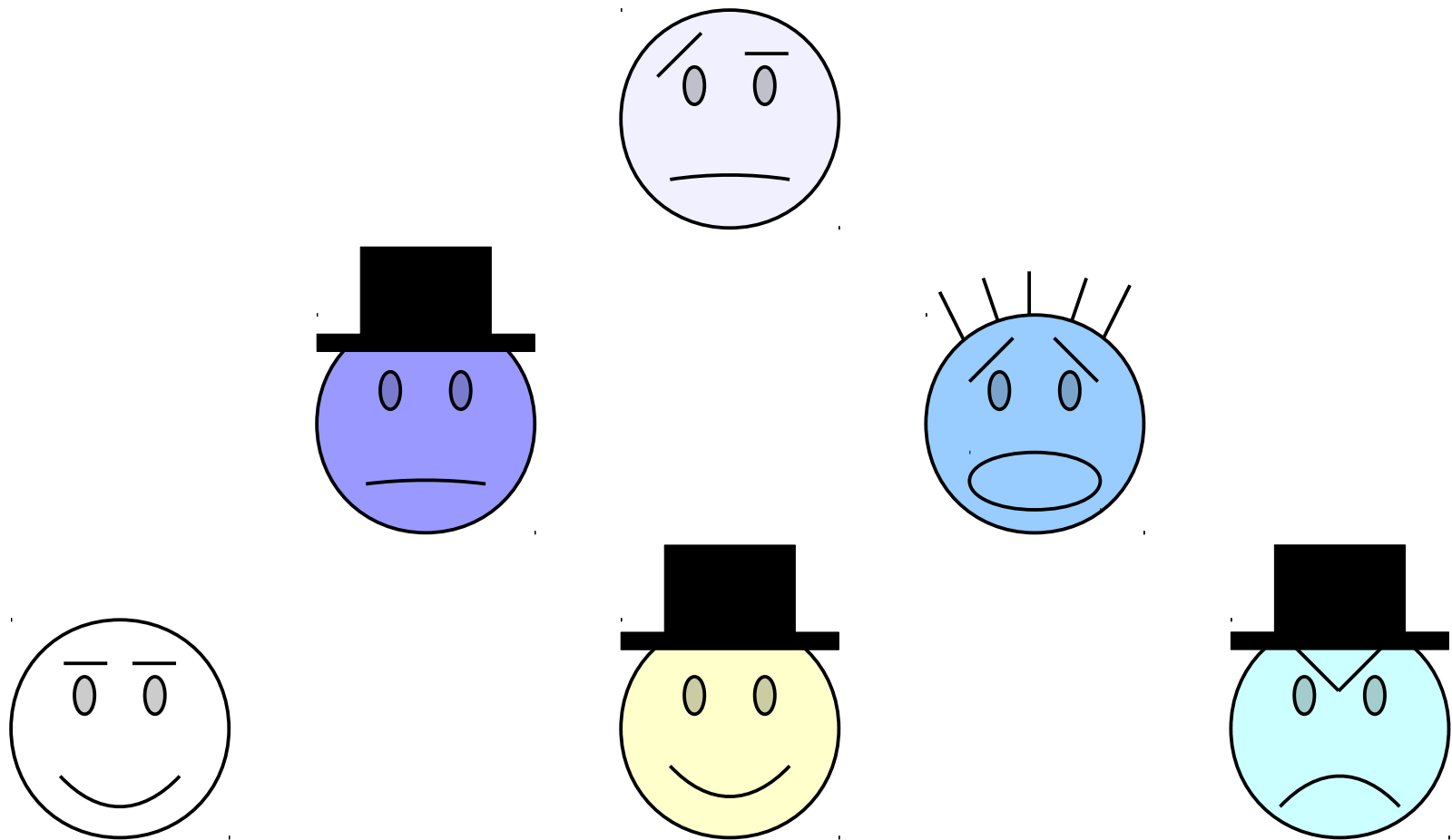
$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$



“Some smiling person wears a hat.” *True*

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$

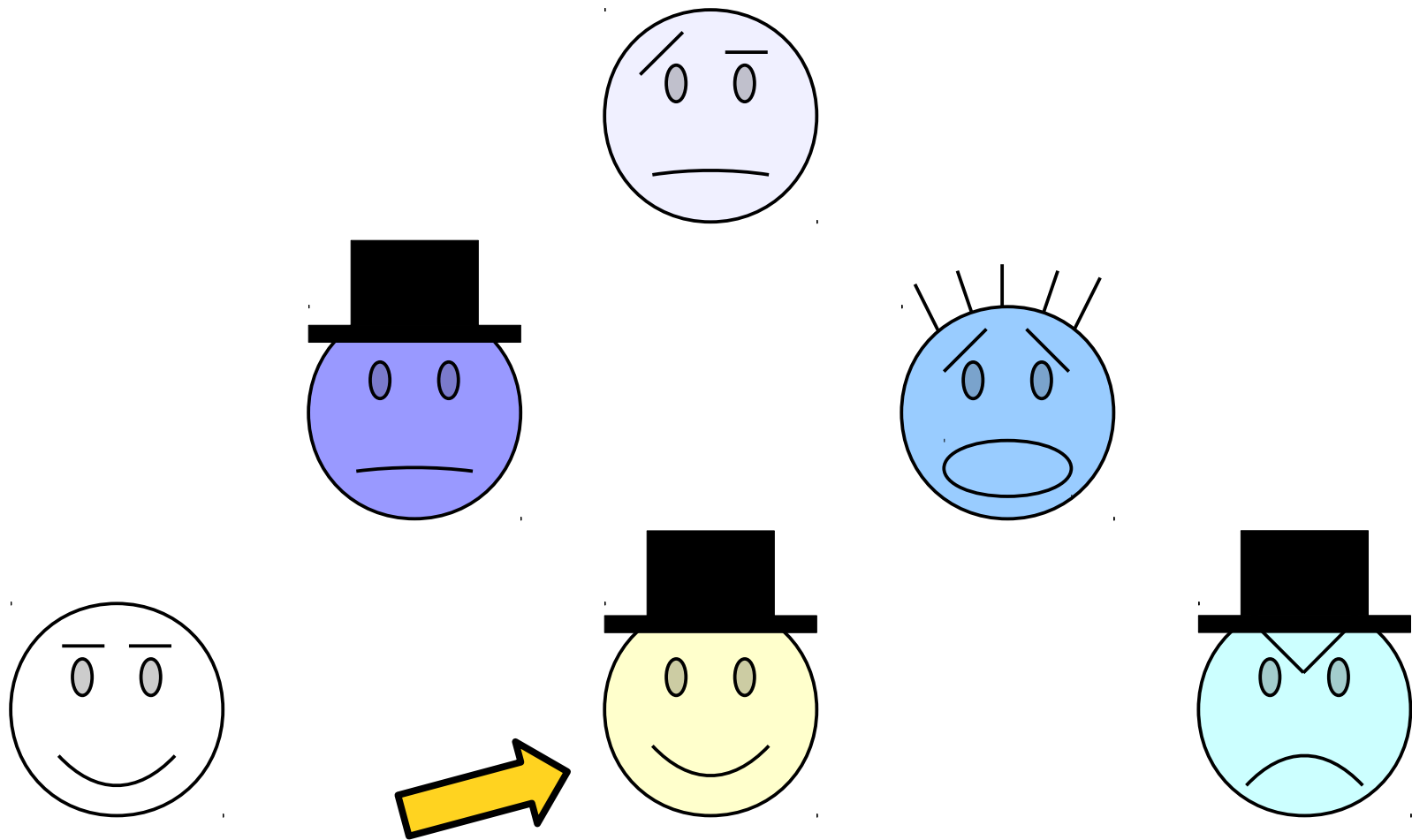


“Some smiling person wears a hat.” *True*

$\exists x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \wedge \textit{WearingHat}(x))$

$\exists x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \rightarrow \textit{WearingHat}(x))$

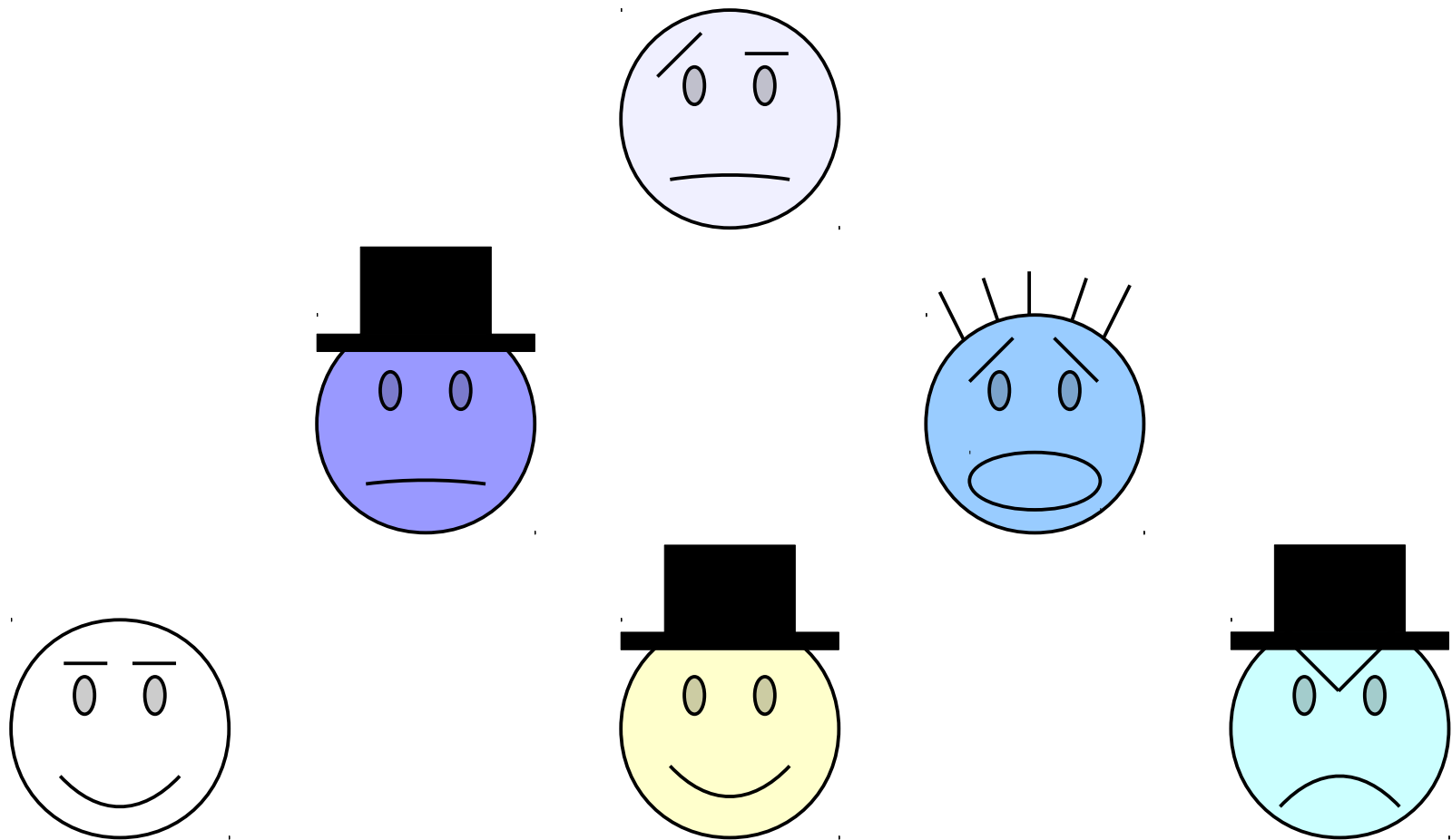




“Some smiling person wears a hat.” **True**

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  **True**

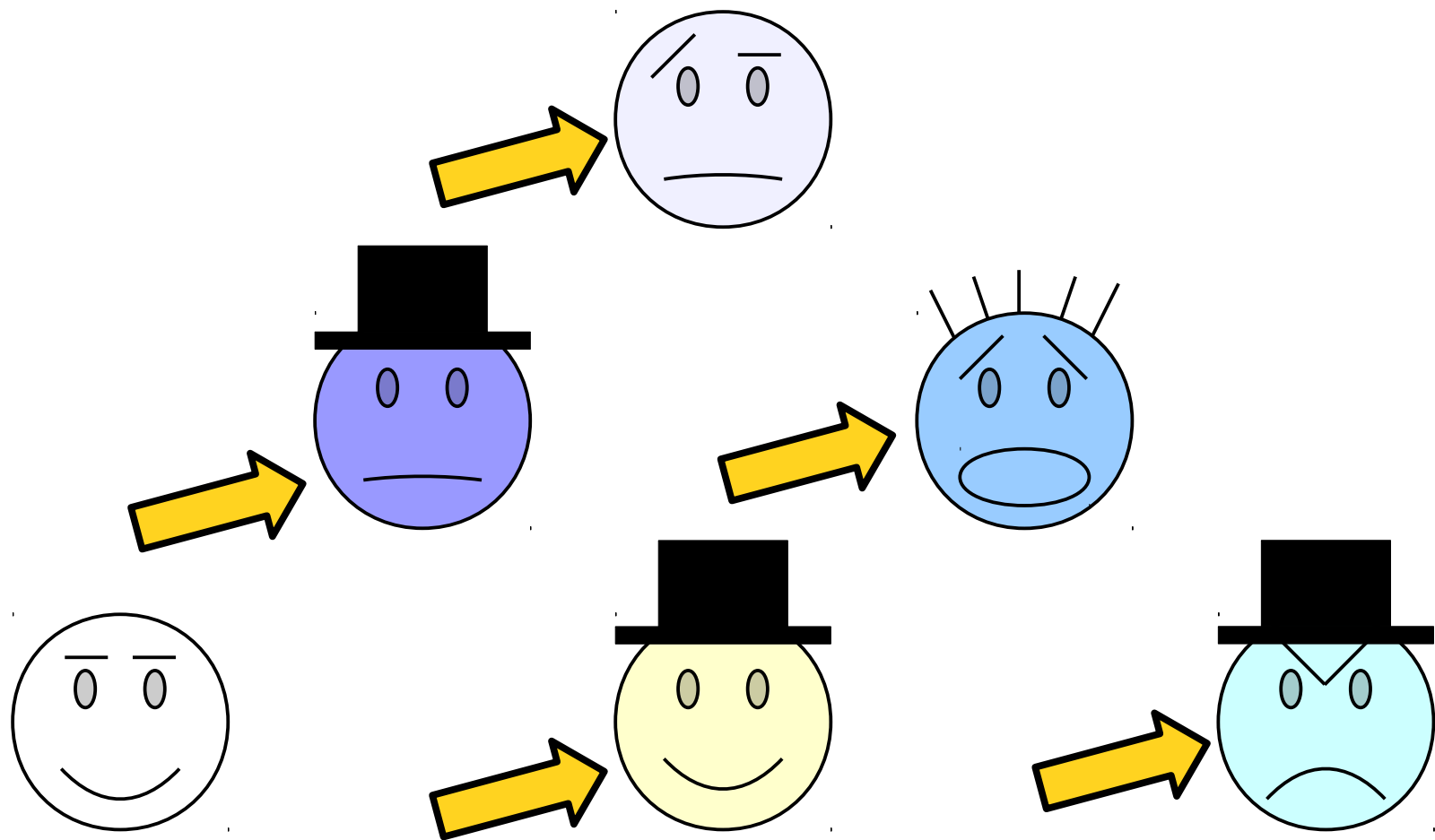
$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$



“Some smiling person wears a hat.” **True**

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  **True**

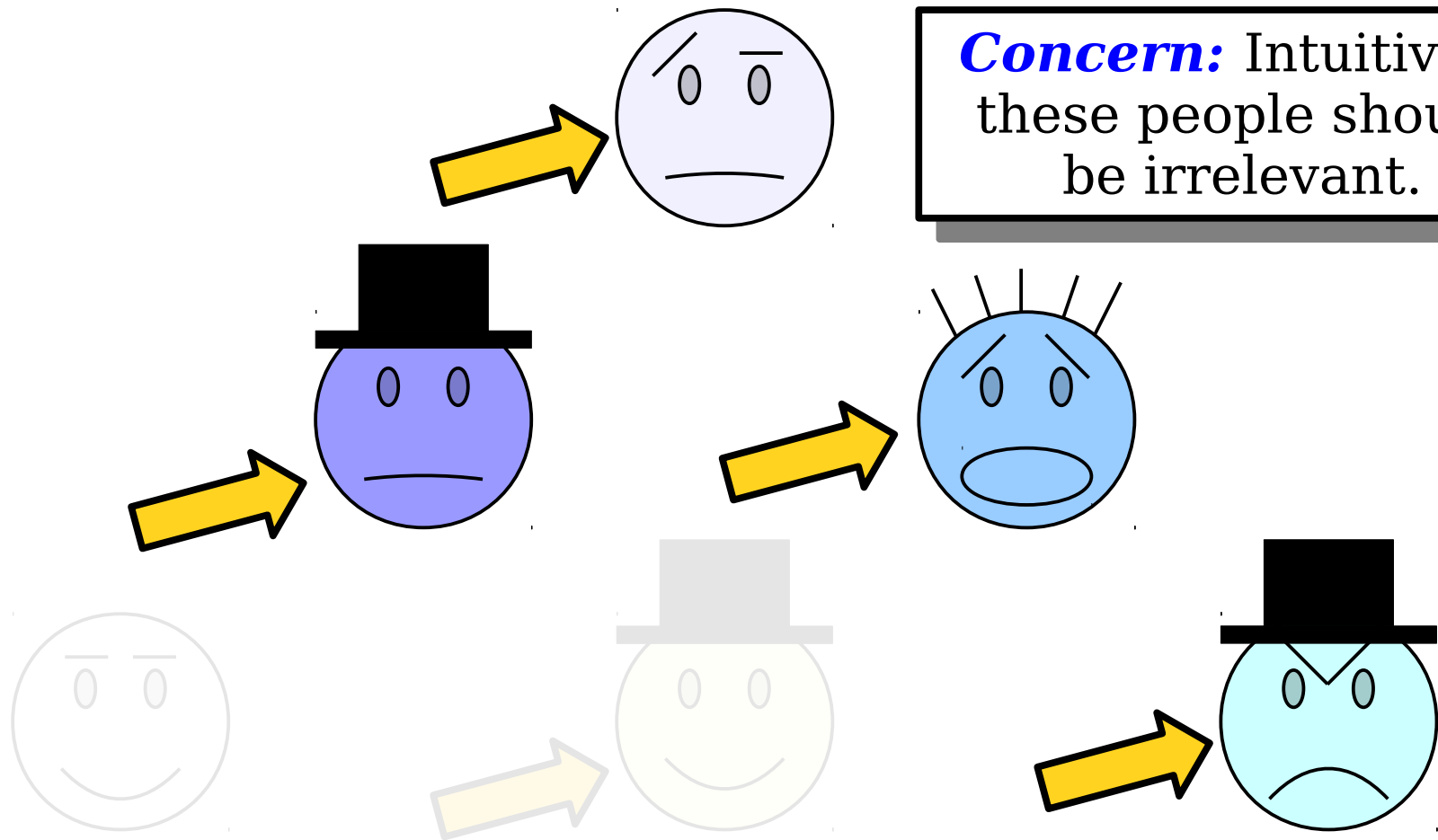
$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$



“Some smiling person wears a hat.” **True**

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  **True**

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$  **True**



**Concern:** Intuitively, these people should be irrelevant.

“Some smiling person wears a hat.” **True**

---

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  **True**

---

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$  **True**

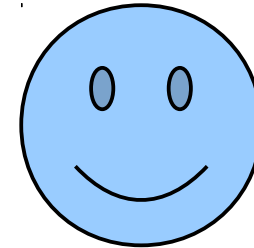
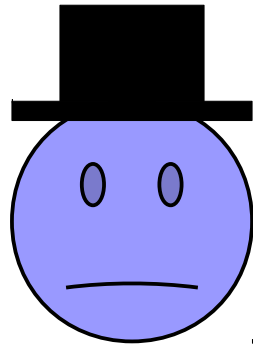
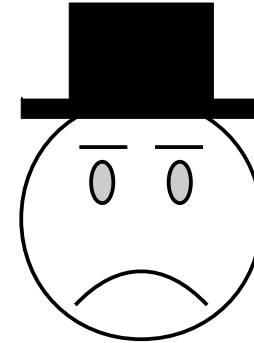
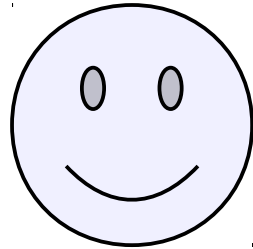
“Some smiling person wears a hat.”

---

$\exists x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \wedge \textit{WearingHat}(x))$

---

$\exists x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \rightarrow \textit{WearingHat}(x))$



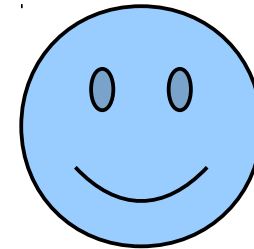
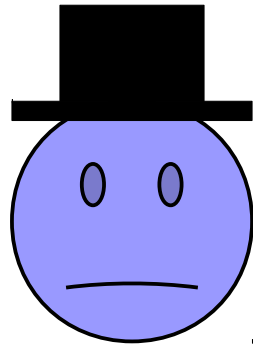
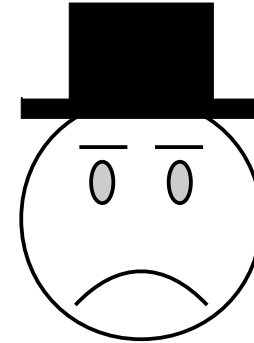
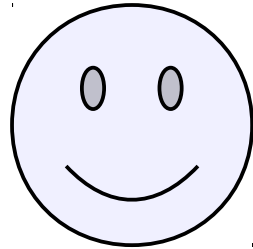
“Some smiling person wears a hat.”

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$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

---

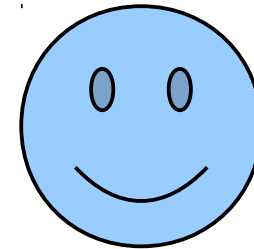
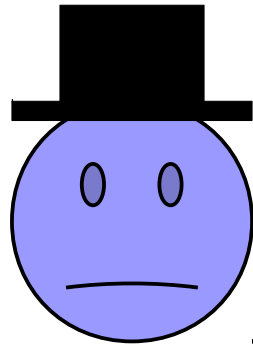
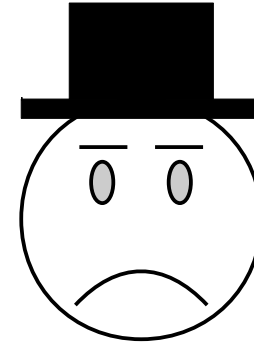
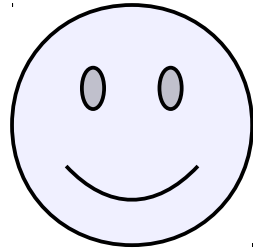
$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$



“Some smiling person wears a hat.”

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$

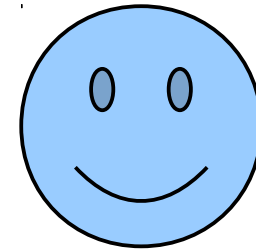
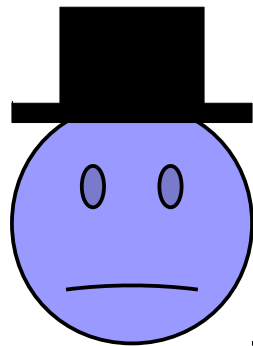
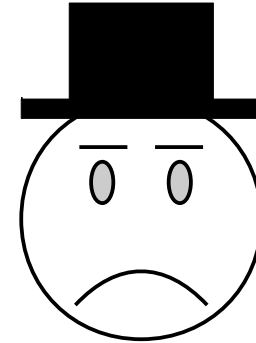
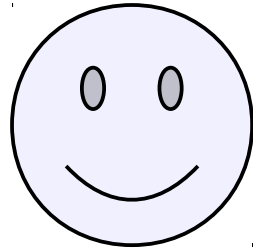


“Some smiling person wears a hat.” *False*

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$

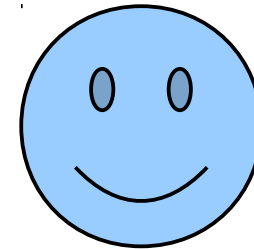
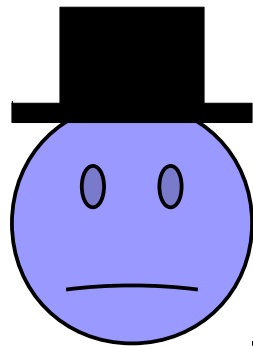
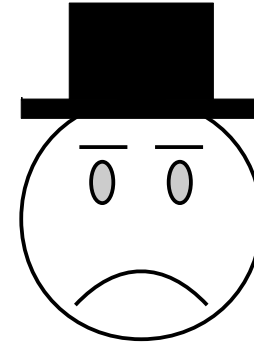
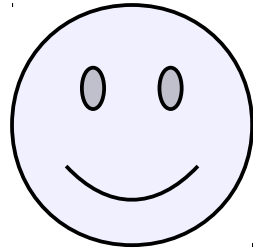




“Some smiling person wears a hat.” *False*

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

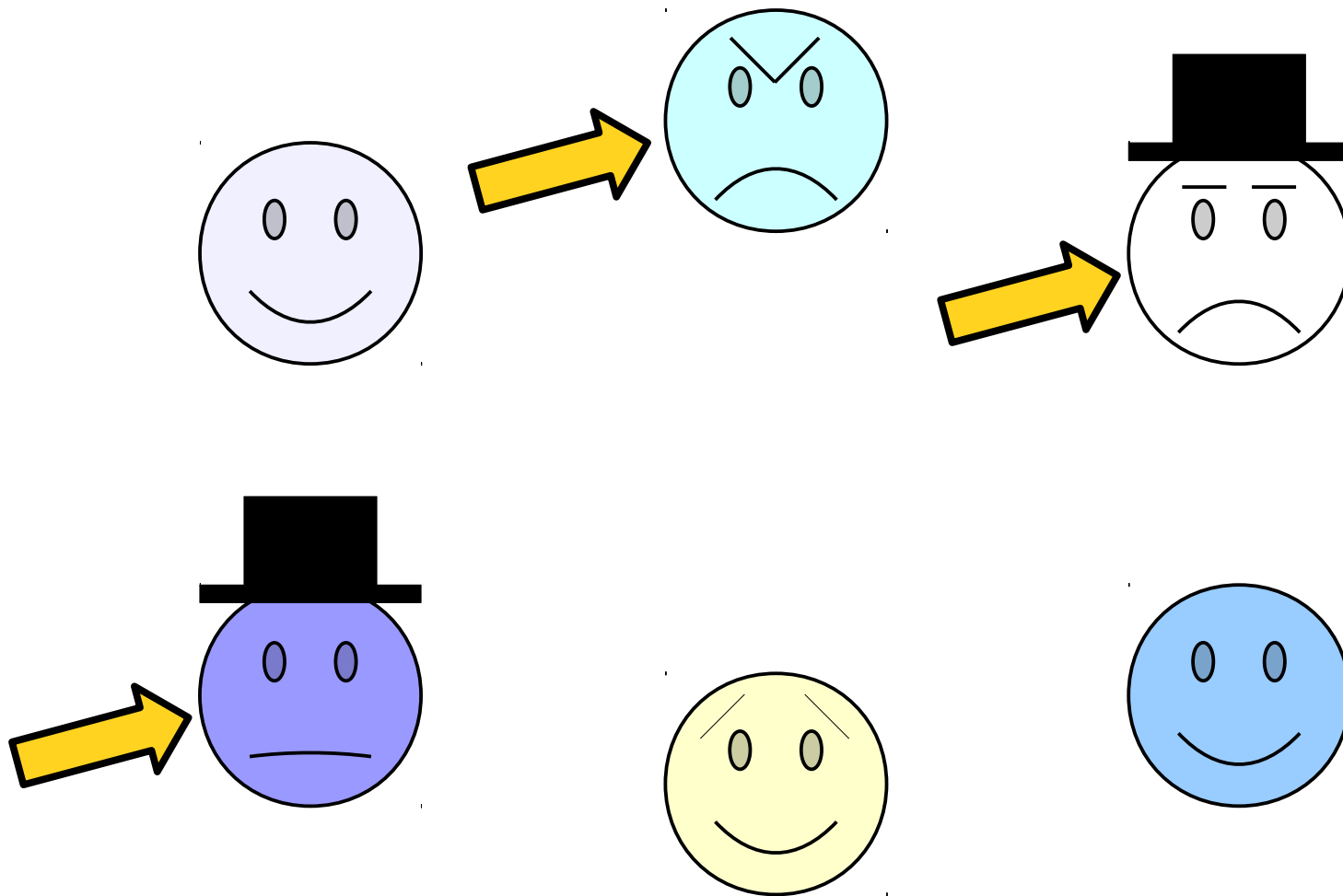
$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$



“Some smiling person wears a hat.” ***False***

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  ***False***

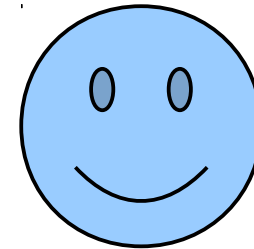
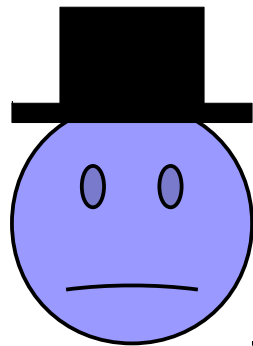
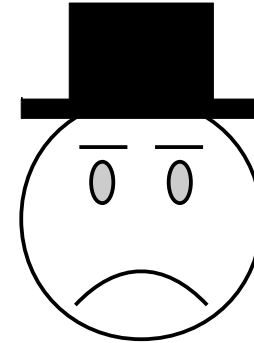
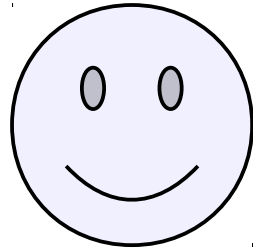
$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$



“Some smiling person wears a hat.” **False**

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  **False**

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$  **True**



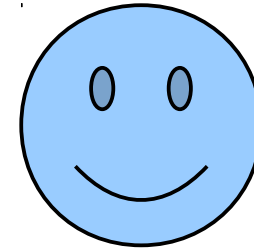
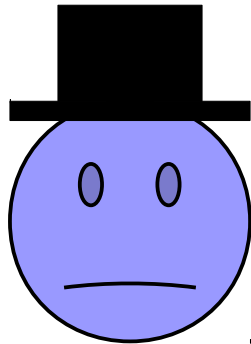
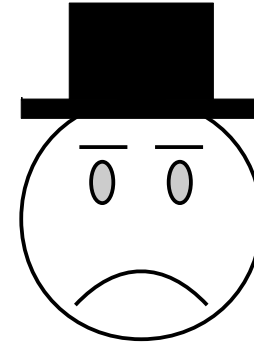
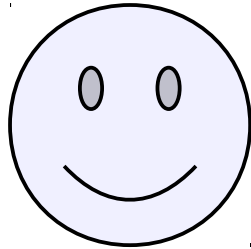
“Some smiling person wears a hat.” ***False***

---

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  ***False***

---

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$  ***True***



“Some smiling person wears a hat.” ***False***

---

$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  ***False***

---

~~$\exists x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$~~  ***True***

**“Some  $P$  is a  $Q$ ”**

translates as

**$\exists x. (P(x) \wedge Q(x))$**

## ***Useful Intuition:***

Existentially-quantified statements are false unless there's a positive example.

$$\exists x. (P(x) \wedge Q(x))$$

If  $x$  is an example, it *must* have property  $P$  on top of property  $Q$ .

Using the predicates

- *Smiling*( $x$ ), which states that  $x$  is smiling, and
- *WearingHat*( $x$ ), which states that  $x$  is wearing a hat,

write a sentence in first-order logic that says

***every smiling person wears a hat.***

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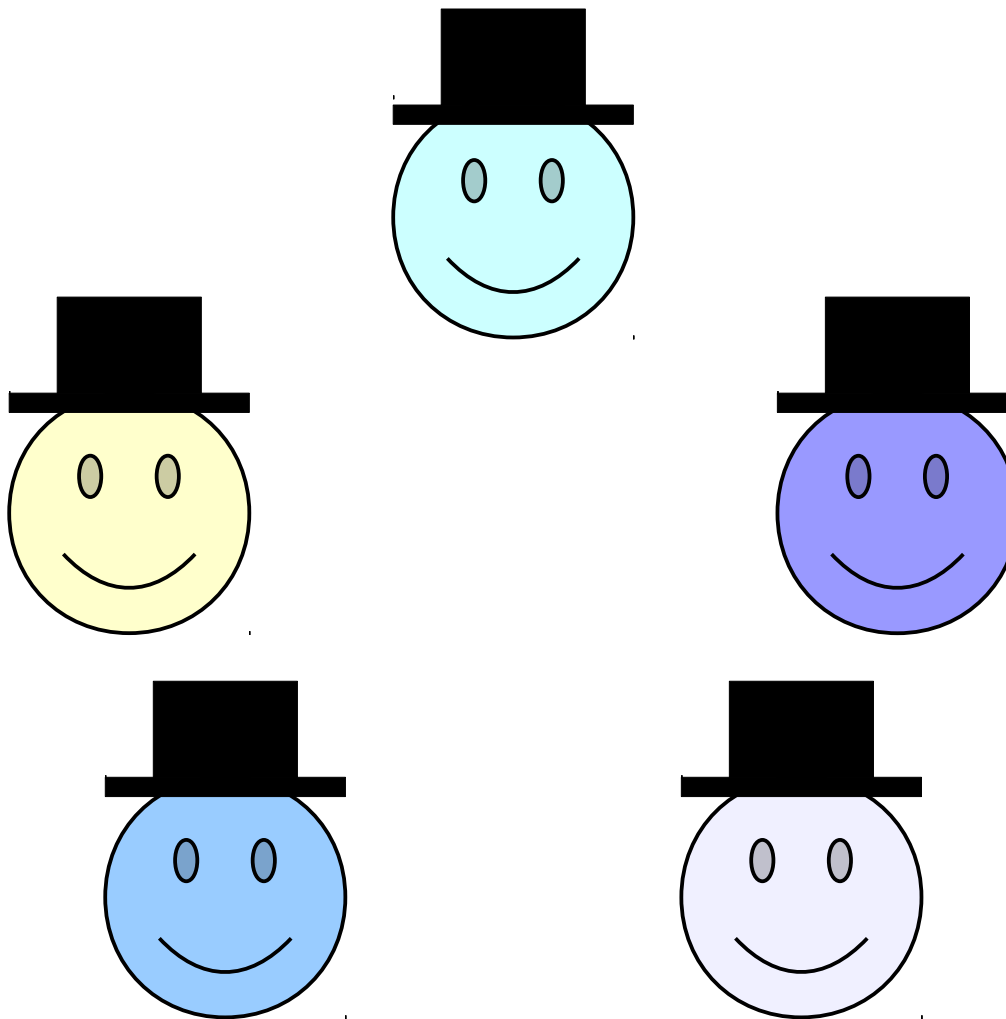
“Every smiling person wears a hat.”

---

$\forall x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \wedge \textit{WearingHat}(x))$

---

$\forall x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \rightarrow \textit{WearingHat}(x))$



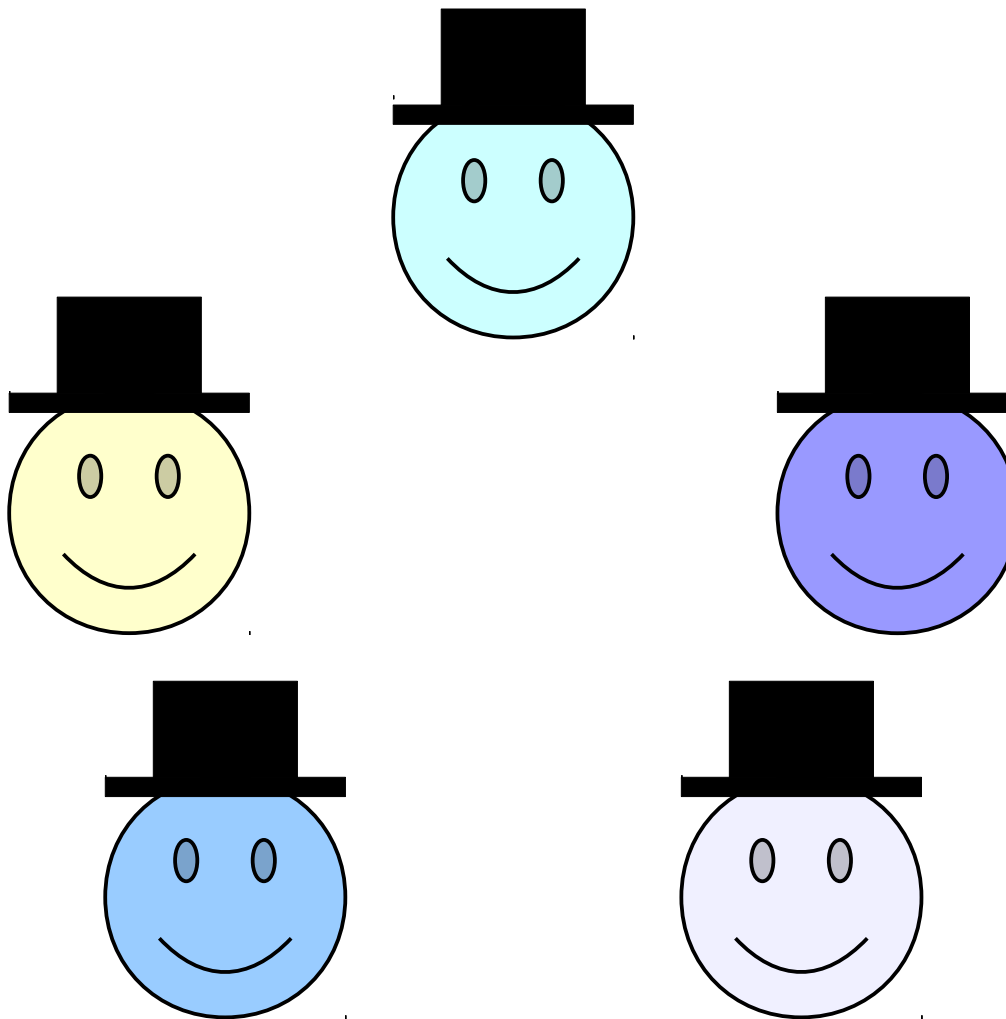
“Every smiling person wears a hat.”

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$\forall x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

---

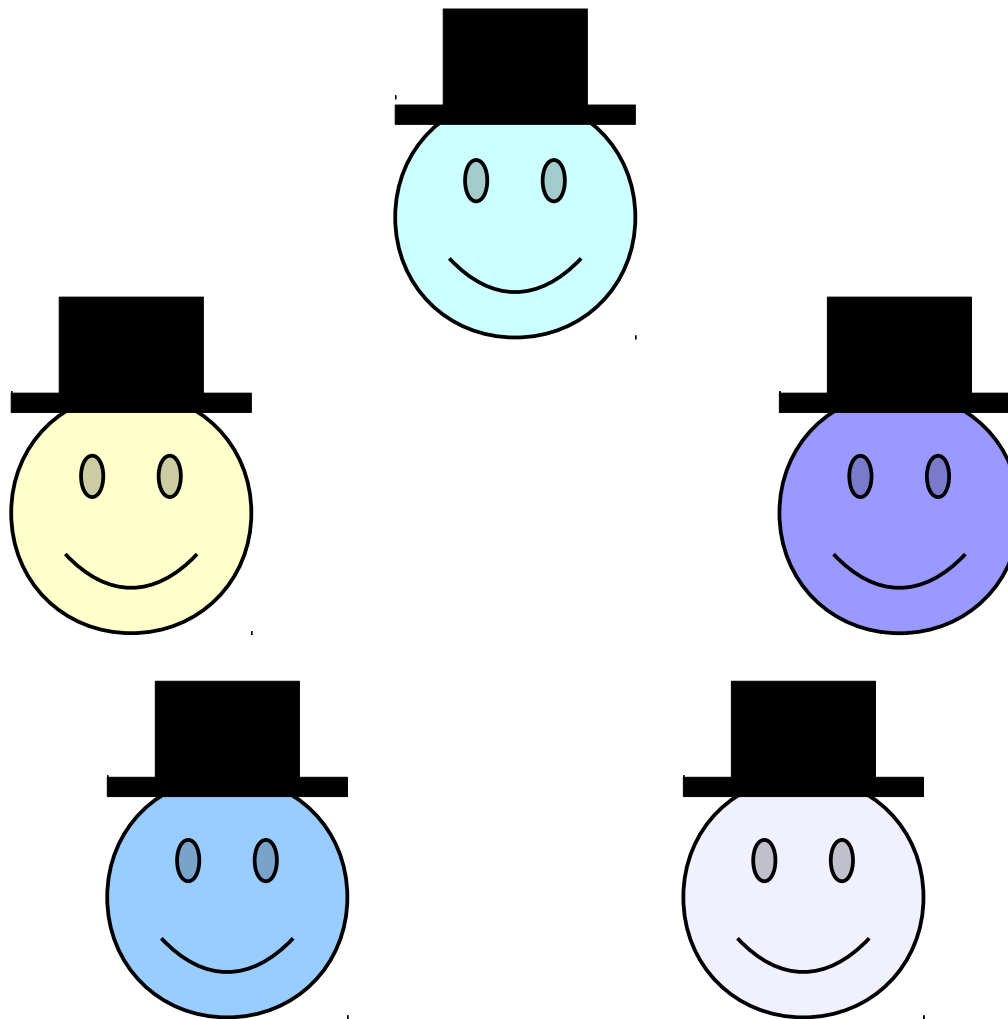
$\forall x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$



“Every smiling person wears a hat.” *True*

$\forall x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

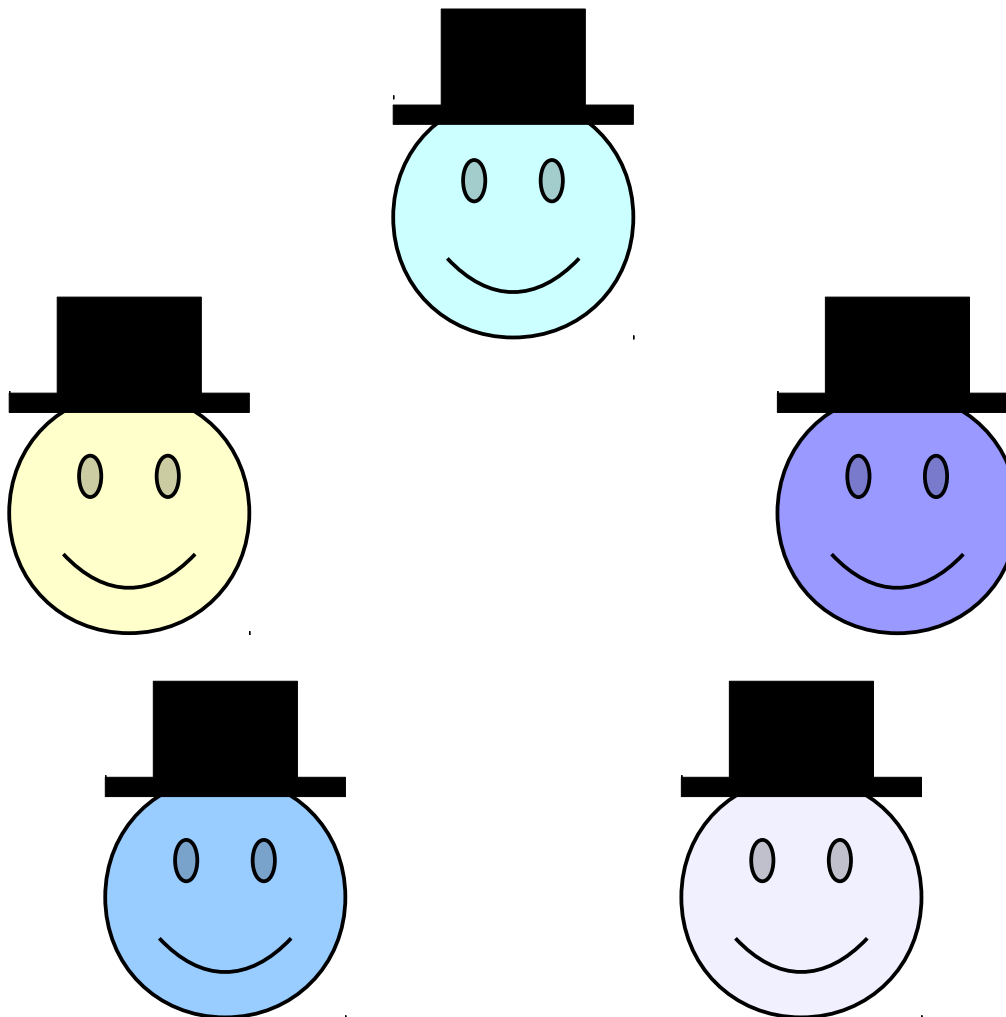
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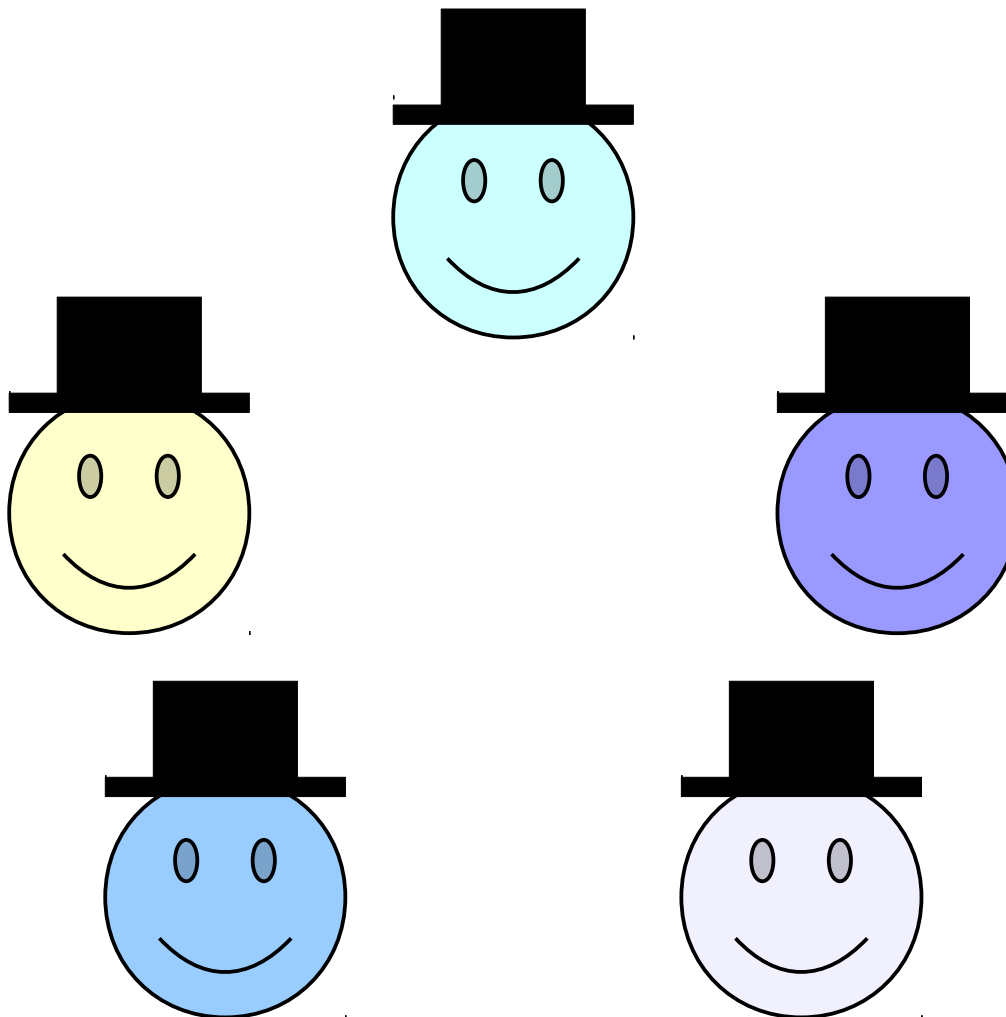
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$\forall x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  ***True***

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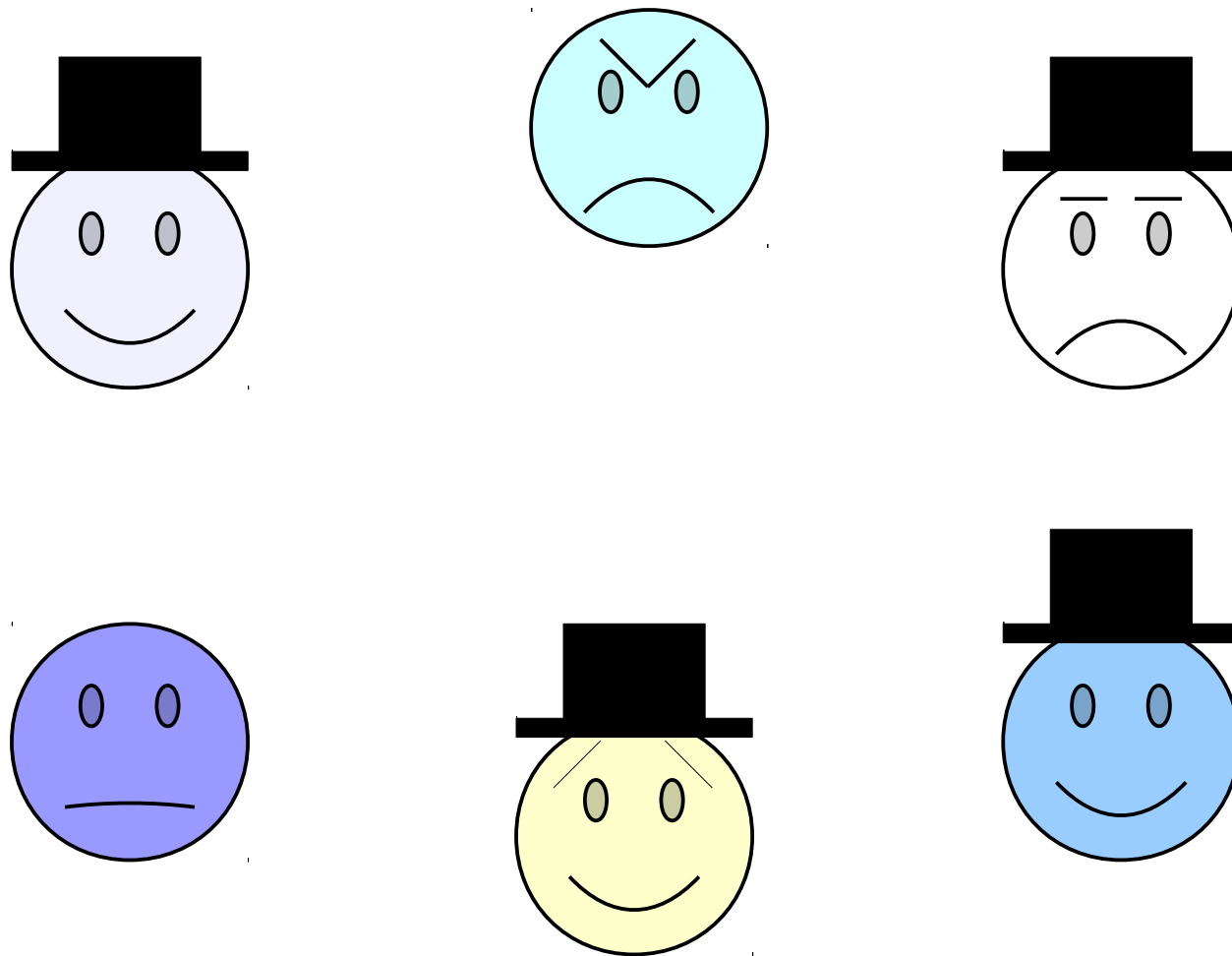
“Every smiling person wears a hat.”

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$\forall x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \wedge \textit{WearingHat}(x))$

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$\forall x. (\textit{Smiling}(x) \rightarrow \textit{WearingHat}(x))$



“Every smiling person wears a hat.”

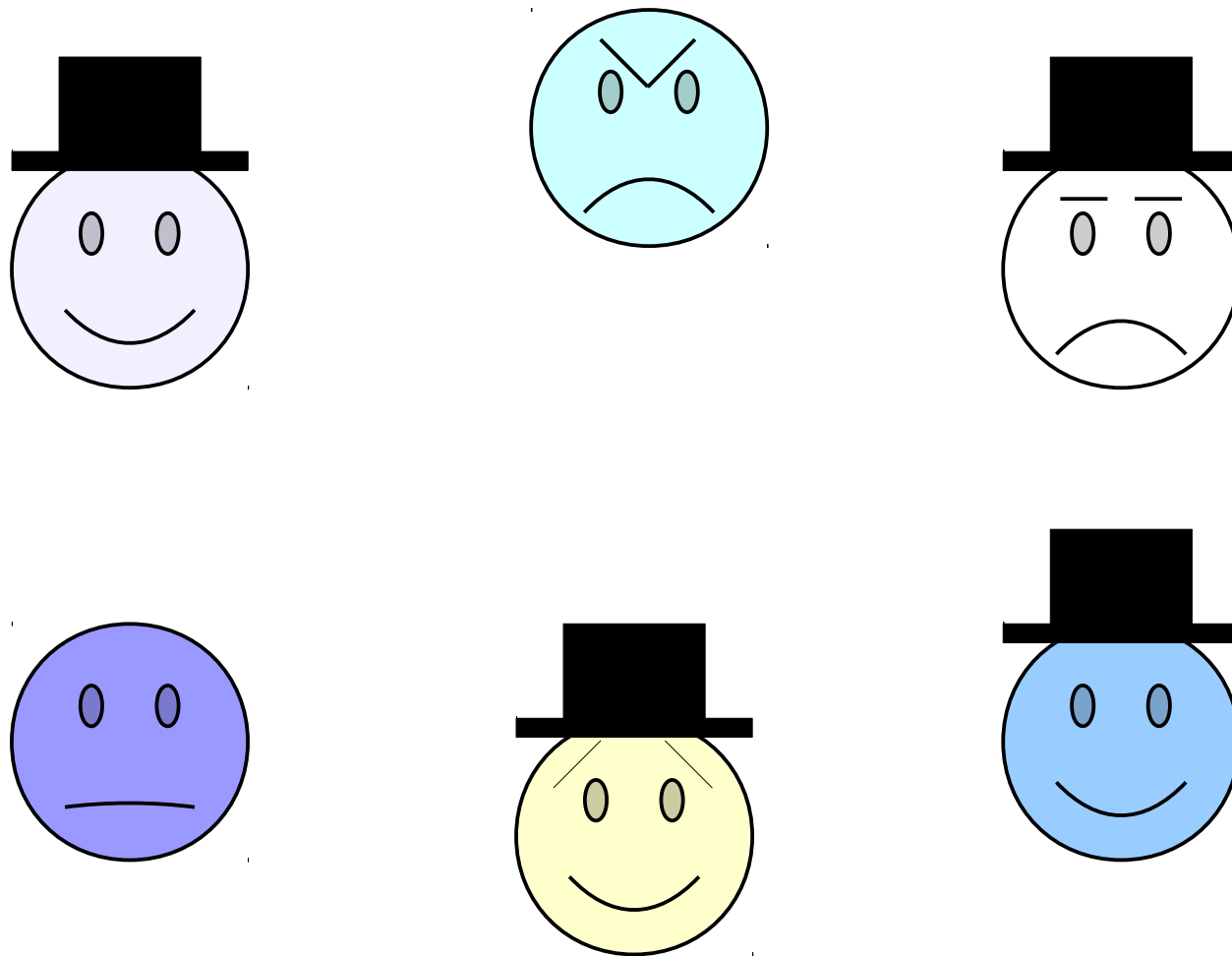
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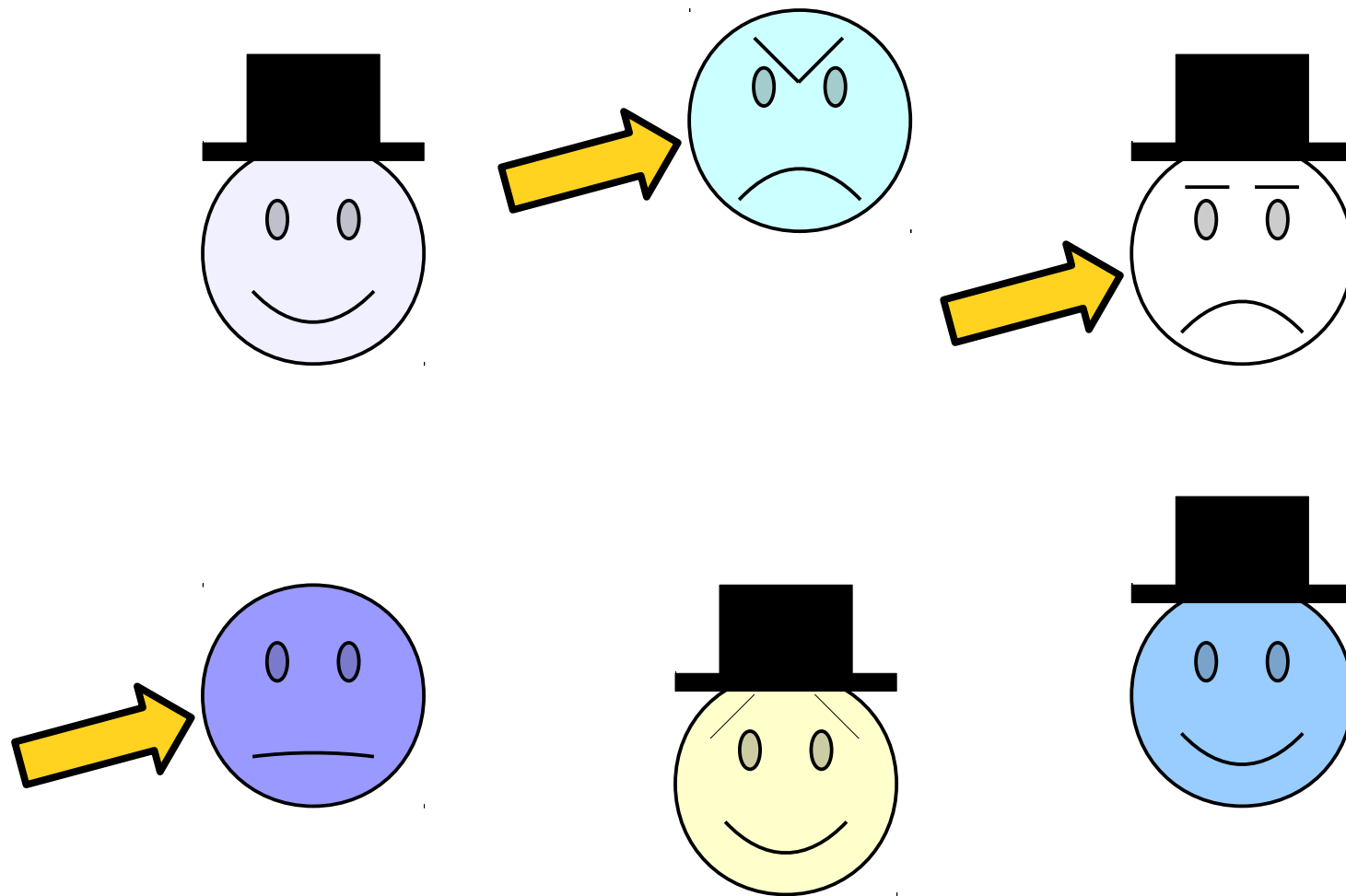




“Every smiling person wears a hat.” *True*

$\forall x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$

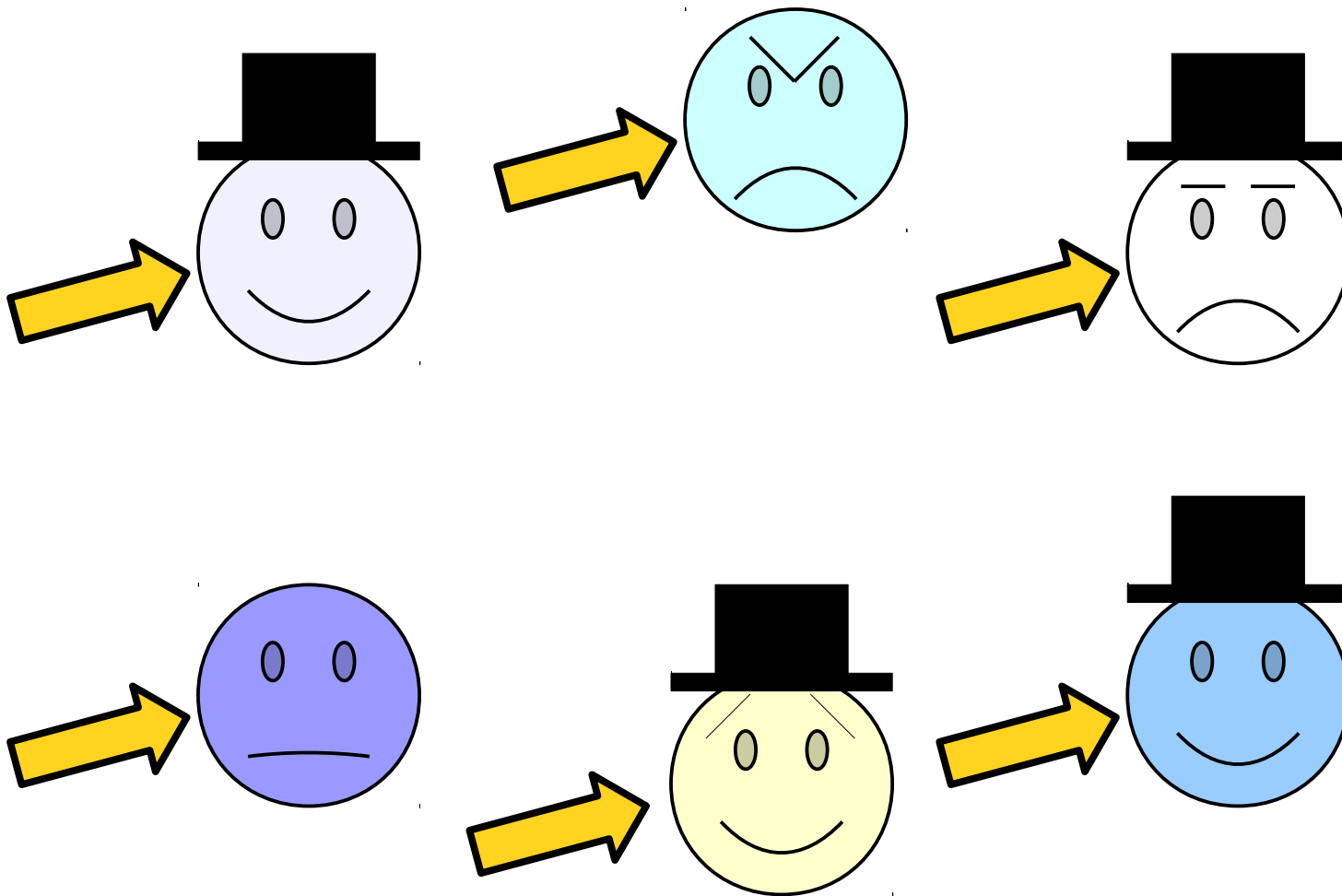
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$\forall x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$  **False**

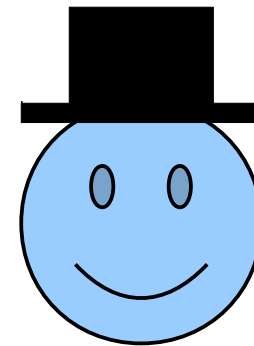
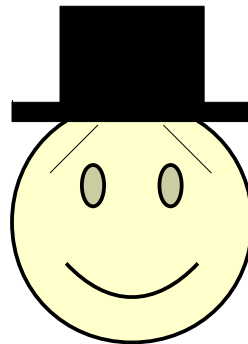
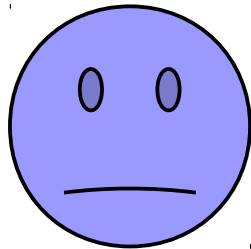
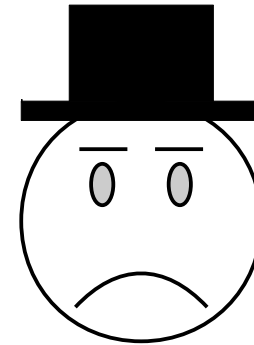
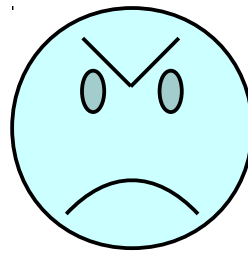
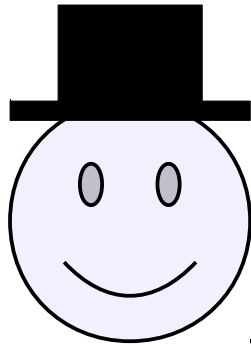
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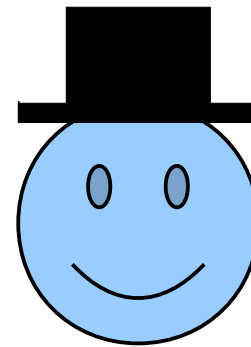
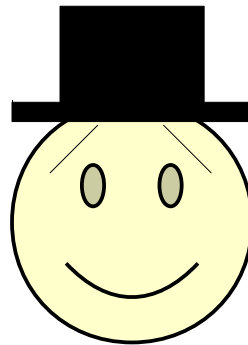
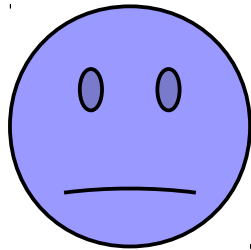
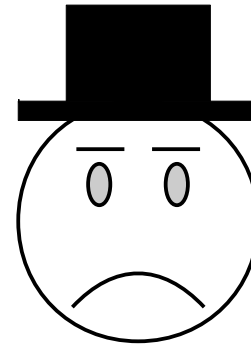
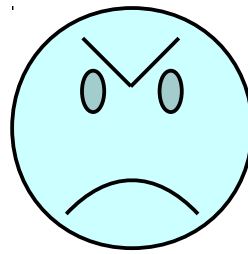
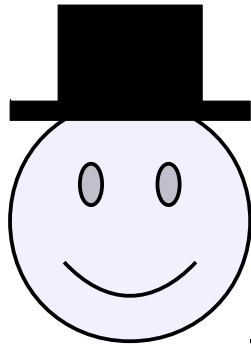
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“Every smiling person wears a hat.” **True**

~~$\forall x. (Smiling(x) \wedge WearingHat(x))$~~  **False**

$\forall x. (Smiling(x) \rightarrow WearingHat(x))$  **True**

**“All  $P$ 's are  $Q$ 's”**

translates as

**$\forall x. (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$**

## ***Useful Intuition:***

Universally-quantified statements are true unless there's a counterexample.

$$\forall x. (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$$

If  $x$  is a counterexample, it *must* have property  $P$  but not have property  $Q$ .

# Good Pairings

- The  $\forall$  quantifier *usually* is paired with  $\rightarrow$ .

$$\forall x. (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$$

- The  $\exists$  quantifier *usually* is paired with  $\wedge$ .

$$\exists x. (P(x) \wedge Q(x))$$

- In the case of  $\forall$ , the  $\rightarrow$  connective prevents the statement from being *false* when speaking about some object you don't care about.
- In the case of  $\exists$ , the  $\wedge$  connective prevents the statement from being *true* when speaking about some object you don't care about.



# Proofwriting Workshop

# An Incorrect Set Theory Proof

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

⚠ **Incorrect!** ⚠ **Proof:** Consider arbitrary sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  where  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ .

This means that every element of  $C$  is in either  $A$  or  $B$ . If all elements of  $C$  are in  $A$ , then  $C \subseteq A$ . Alternately, if everything in  $C$  is in  $B$ , then  $C \subseteq B$ . In either case, everything inside of  $C$  has to be contained in at least one of these sets, so the theorem is true. ■

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

**⚠ Incorrect! ⚠ Proof:** Consider arbitrary sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  where  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ .

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Alternately, if everything in  $C$  is in  $B$ , then  $C \subseteq B$ .

In either case, everything inside of  $C$  has to be contained in at least one of these sets, so the theorem is true. ■

This is just repeating definitions and not making specific claims about specific variables.

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

⚠ **Incorrect!** ⚠ **Proof:** Consider arbitrary sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  where  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ .

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Why is this bad?

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

⚠ **Incorrect!** ⚠ **Proof:** Consider arbitrary sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  where  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ .

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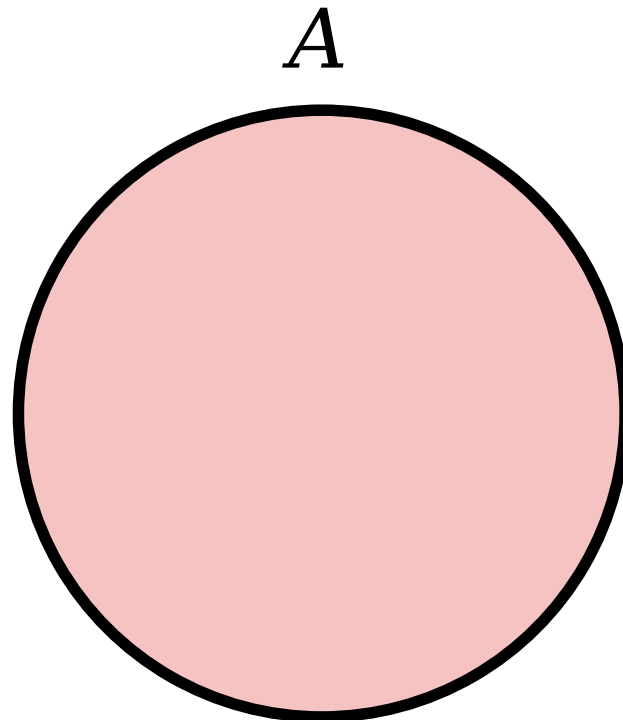
While this claim is true, it does not imply the theorem is true. In fact, this theorem is actually **false**.

# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

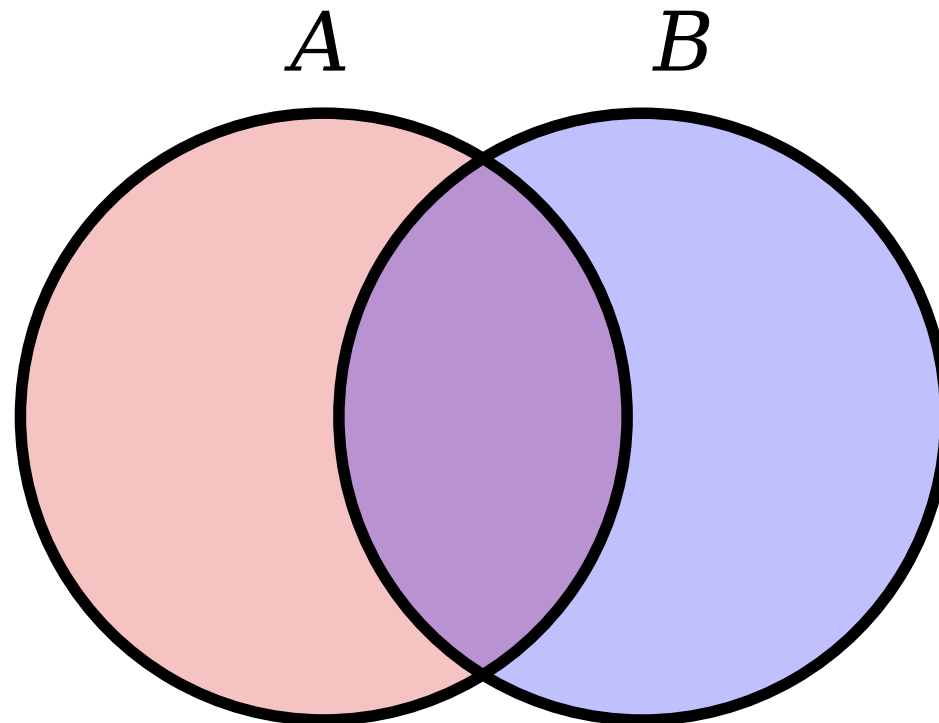
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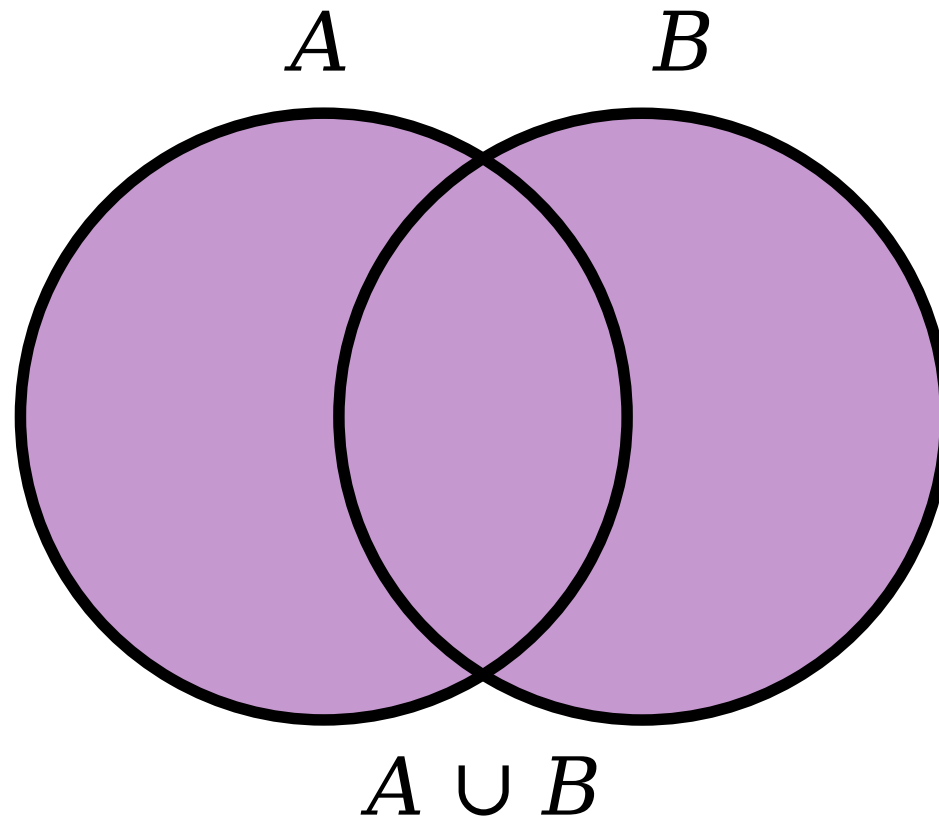
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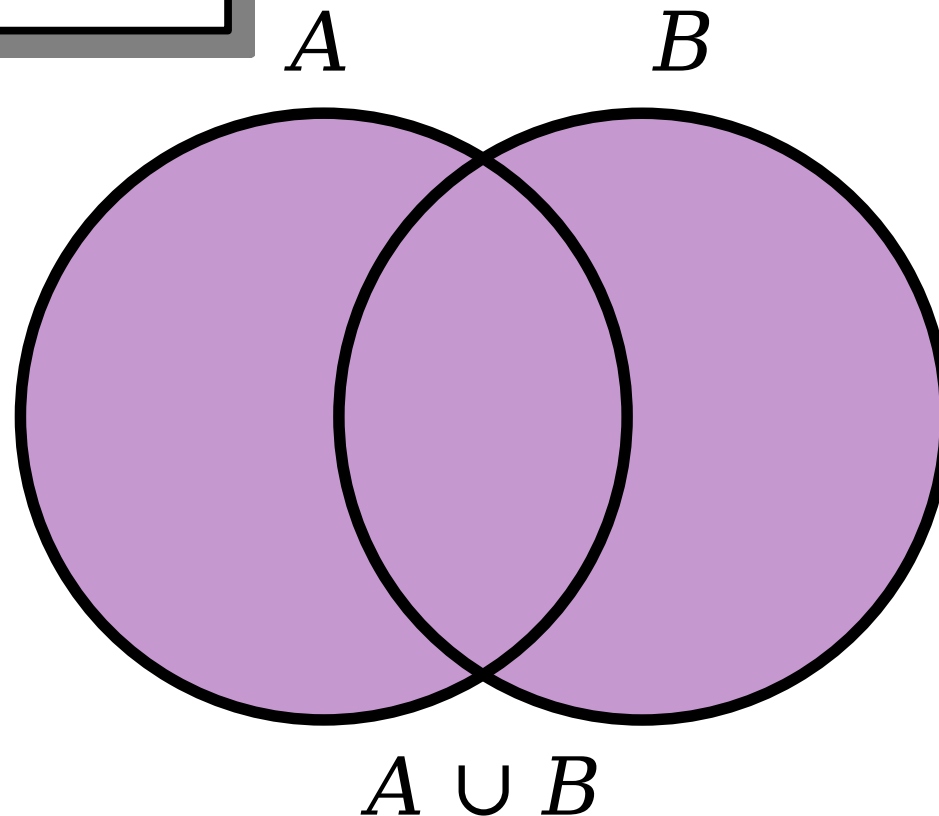
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# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

Recall the intuition of a subset being “something I can circle”

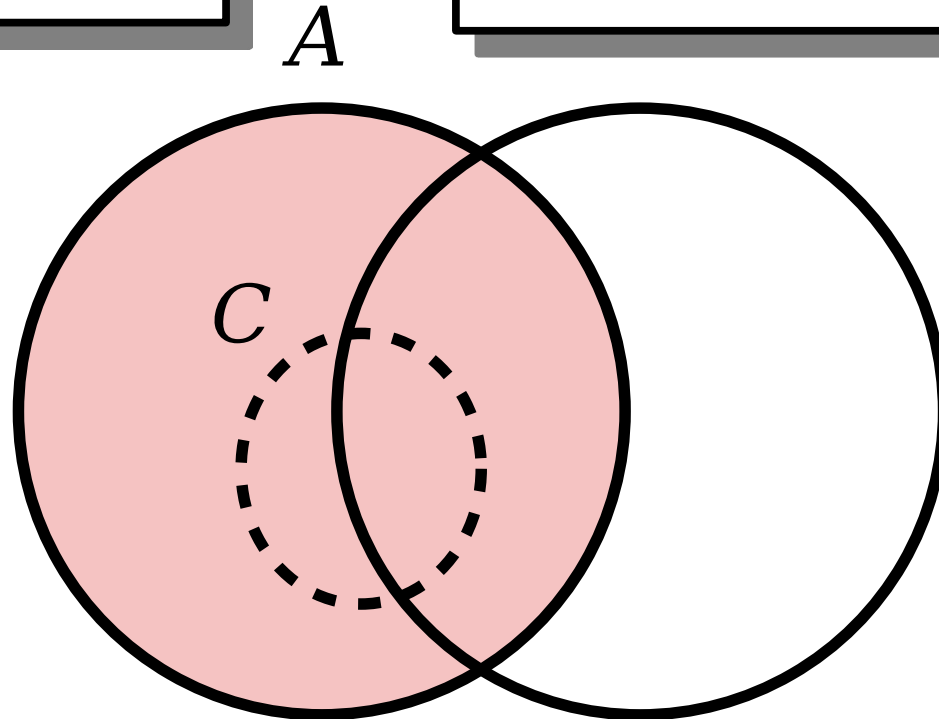


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Recall the intuition of a subset being “something I can circle”

So  $C \subseteq A$  would mean that  $C$  is something I can circle in this region.

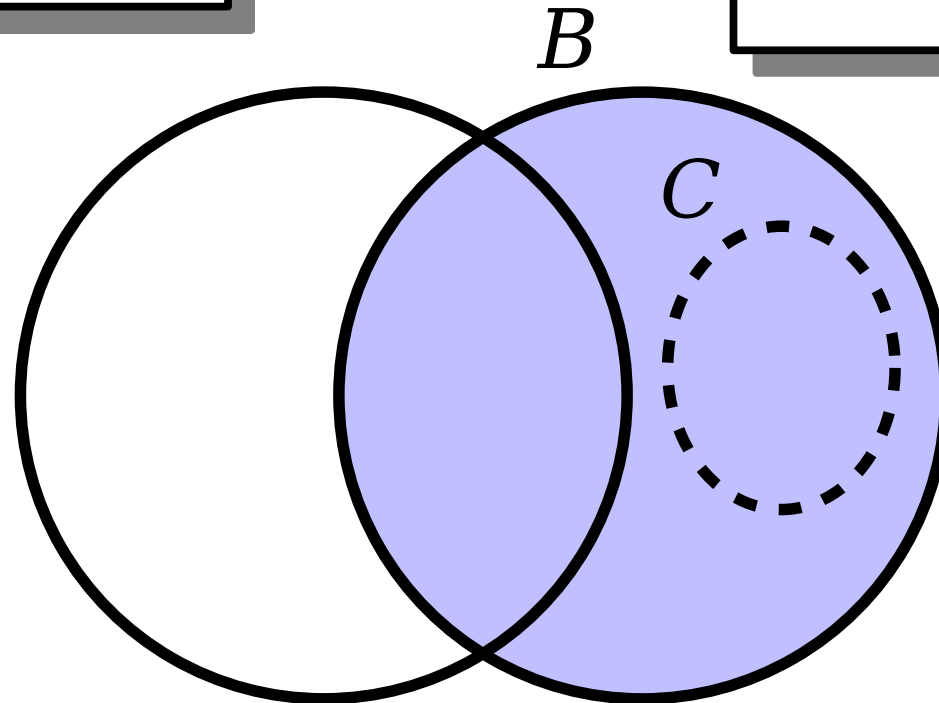


# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

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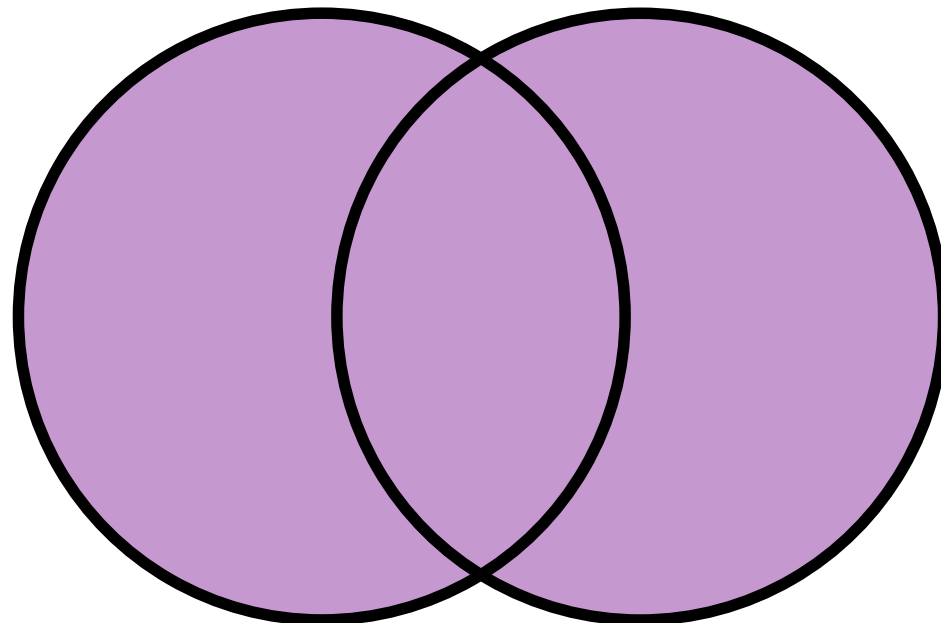
Recall the intuition of a subset being “something I can circle”

**Likewise,  $C \subseteq B$**  would mean that  $C$  is something I can circle in this region.



# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

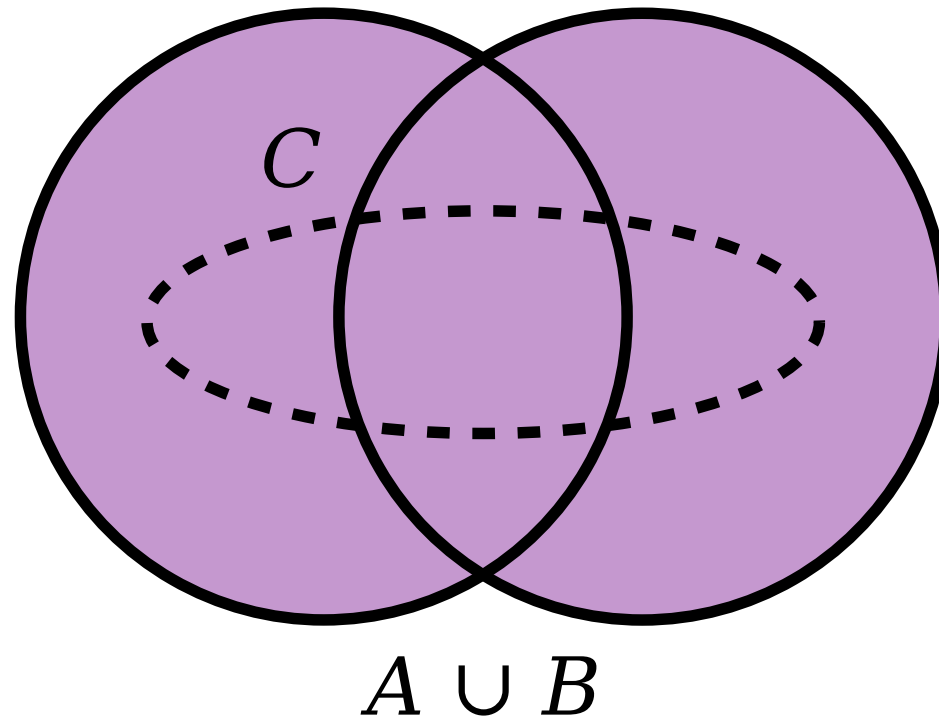


$A \cup B$

# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

But when I look at  $A \cup B$ , I can draw  $C$  as a circle containing elements from both  $A$  and  $B$ !

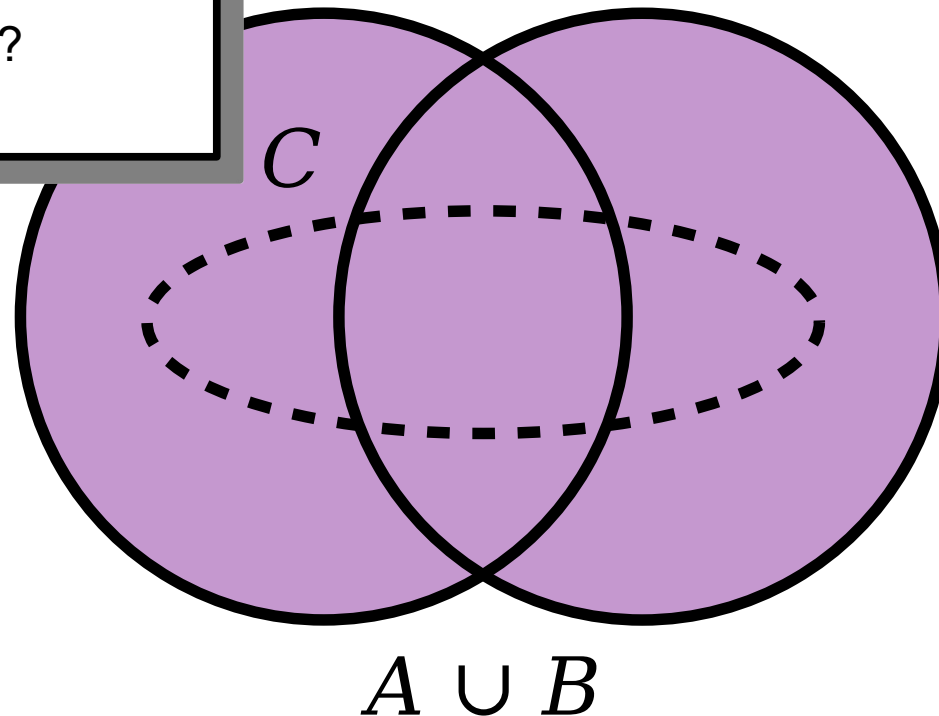


# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

But when I look at  $A \cup B$ , I can draw  $C$  as a circle containing elements from both  $A$  and  $B$ !

Do you see why this circle is in neither  $A$  nor  $B$ ?



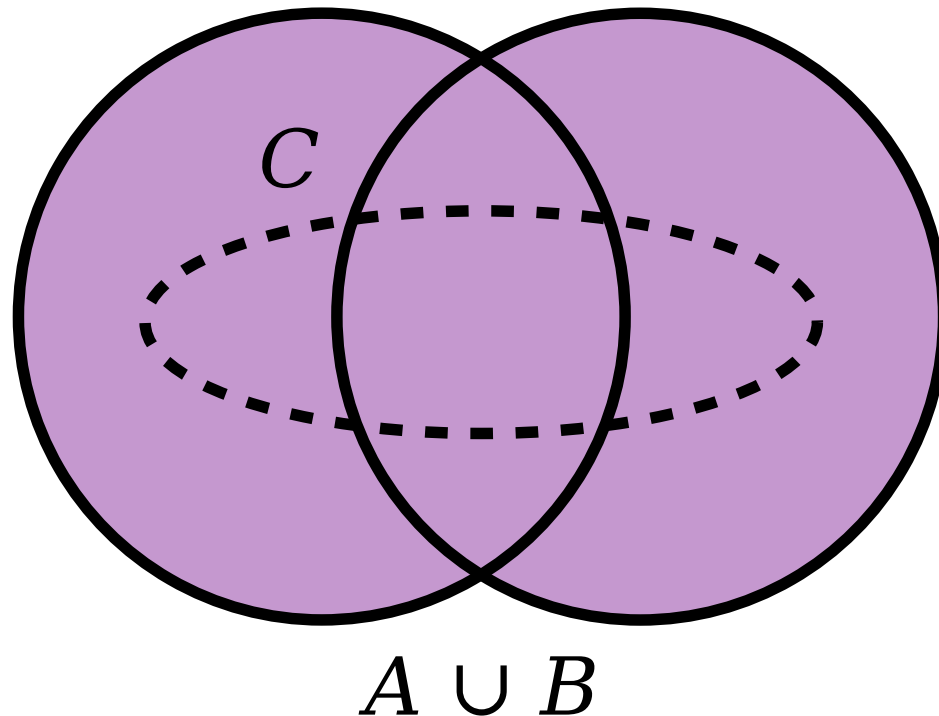


# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

Using this visual intuition, come up with a choice of sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  that show this claim is false.

**Respond at [pollev.com/zhenglian740](https://pollev.com/zhenglian740)**



# Proofs vs. Disproofs

- A ***proof*** is an argument that explains why some ***theorem*** is true.
- A ***disproof*** is an argument that explains why some ***claim*** is false.
- You've seen lots of examples of proofs.  
What does a disproof look like?

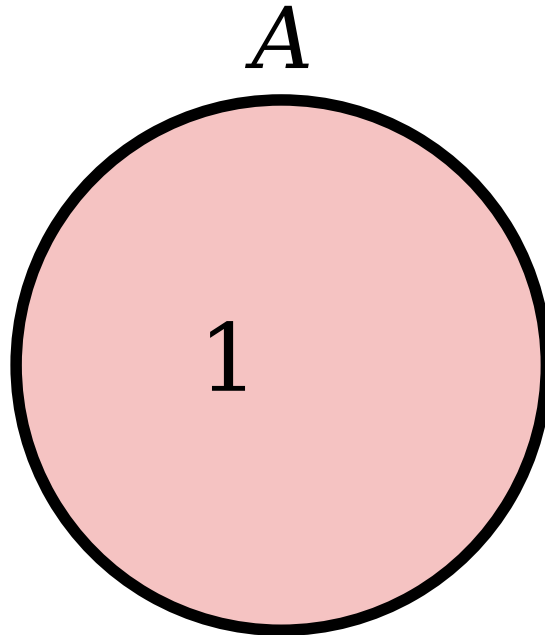
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**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

**Disproof:** We will show that there are sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  where  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , but  $C \not\subseteq A$  and  $C \not\subseteq B$ .

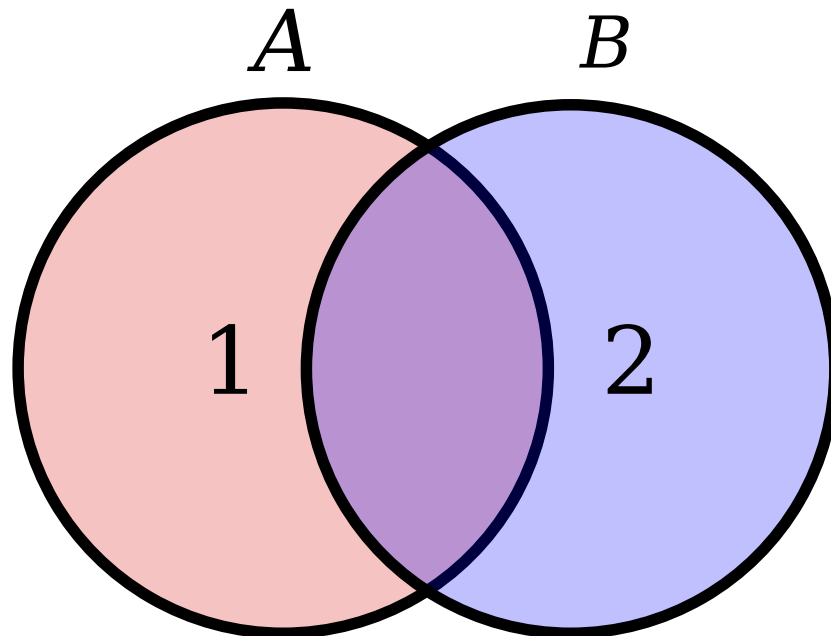
**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

**Disproof:** We will show that there are sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  where  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , but  $C \not\subseteq A$  and  $C \not\subseteq B$ . Consider the sets  $A = \{1\}$



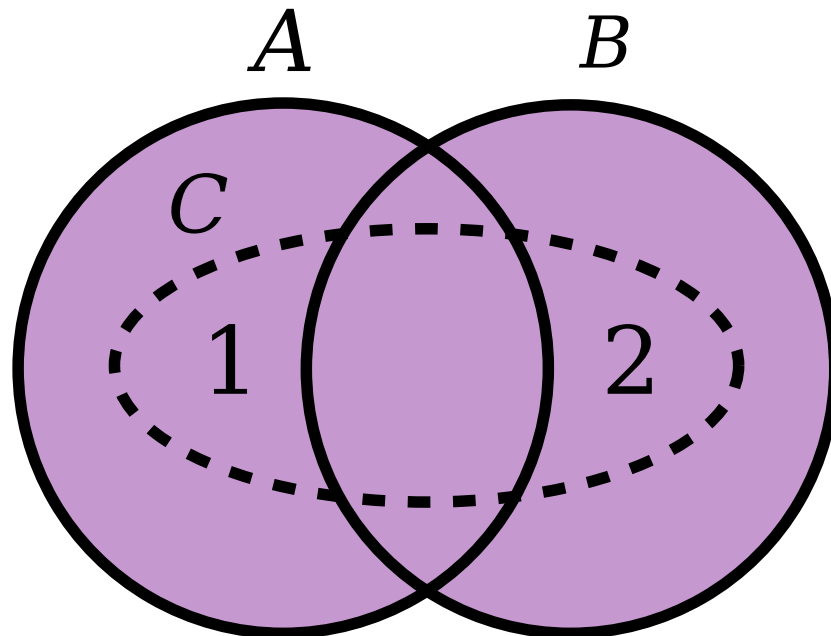
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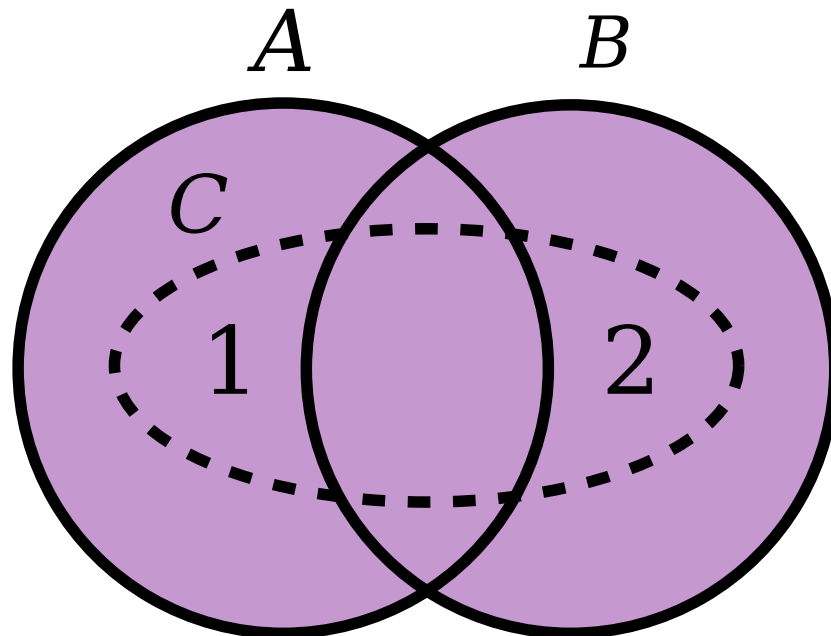
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**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

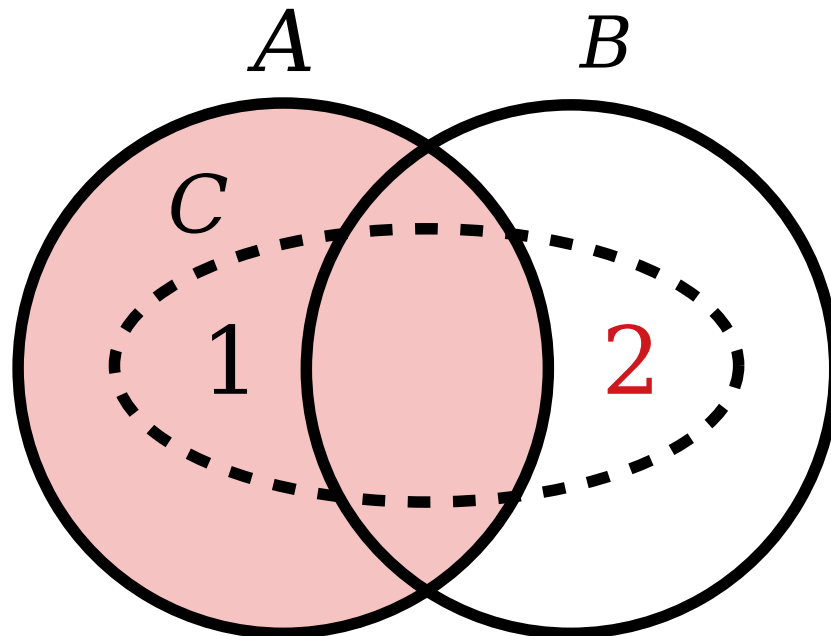
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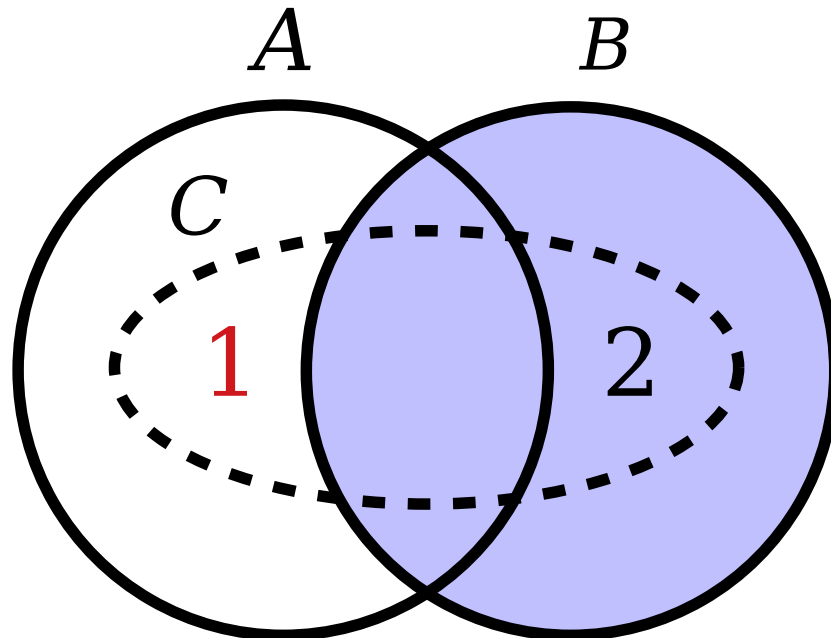
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**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

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**Claim:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  or  $C \subseteq B$ .

**Disproof:** We will show that there are sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  where  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , but  $C \not\subseteq A$  and  $C \not\subseteq B$ . Consider the sets  $A = \{1\}$ ,  $B = \{2\}$ , and  $C = \{1, 2\}$ . Now notice that  $\{1, 2\} \subseteq A \cup B$  so  $C \subseteq A \cup B$ , but  $C \not\subseteq A$  because  $2 \in C$  but  $2 \notin A$ , and  $C \not\subseteq B$  because  $1 \in C$  but  $1 \notin B$ .

Thus we've found a set  $C$  which is a subset of  $A \cup B$  but is not a subset of either  $A$  or  $B$ , which is what we needed to show. ■

# Proofwriting Advice

- Be *very wary* of proofs that speak generally about “all objects” of a particular type.
  - As you’ve just seen, it’s easy to accidentally prove a false statement at this level of detail.
  - Making broad, high-level claims often indicates deeper logic errors or conceptual misunderstanding (like *code smell* but for proofs!)

# Proofwriting Advice

***A Very Good Idea***: After you've written a draft of a proof, run through all of the points on the Proofwriting Checklist.

- This is a *great* exercise that you can do with a partner!

# Proofs on Subsets

***Theorem:*** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

Hold on, isn't this the claim we just disproved?



**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

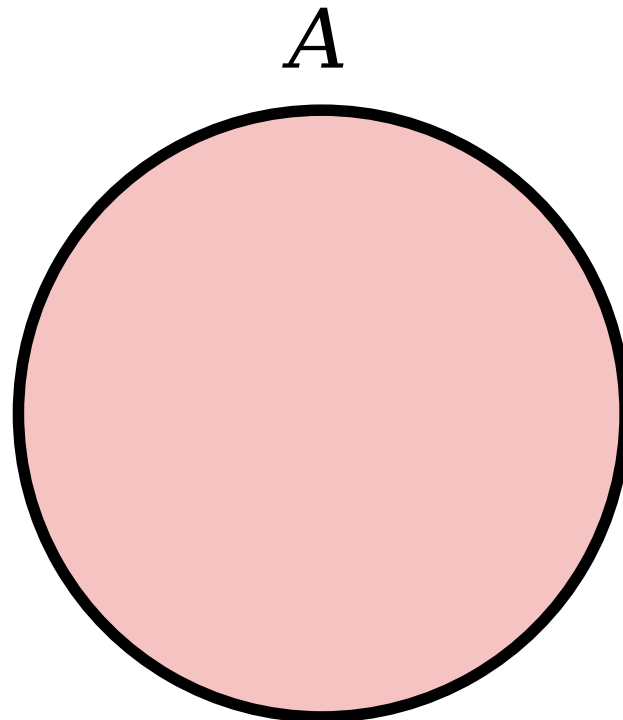
Notice that that's an intersection, not a union! It turns out that this claim is actually true.

# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

***Theorem:*** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

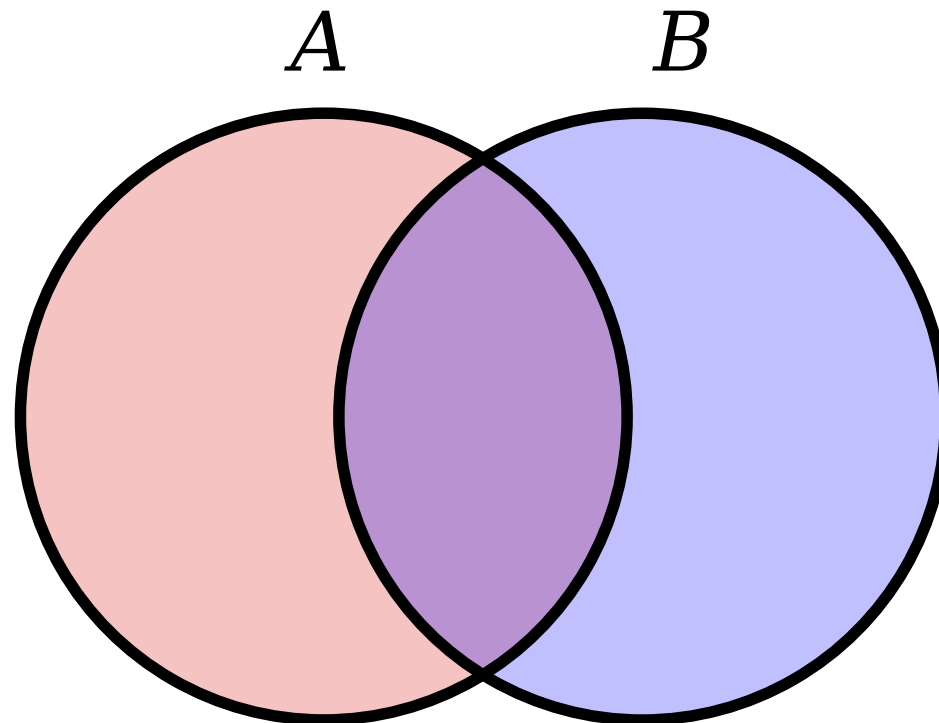
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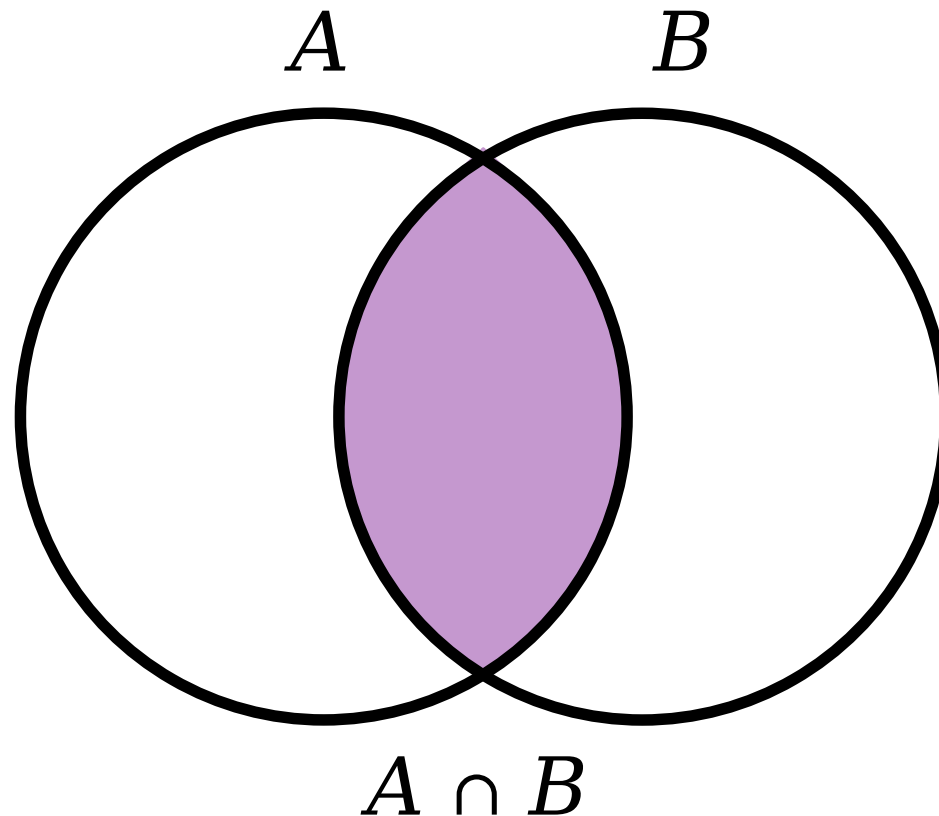
# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .



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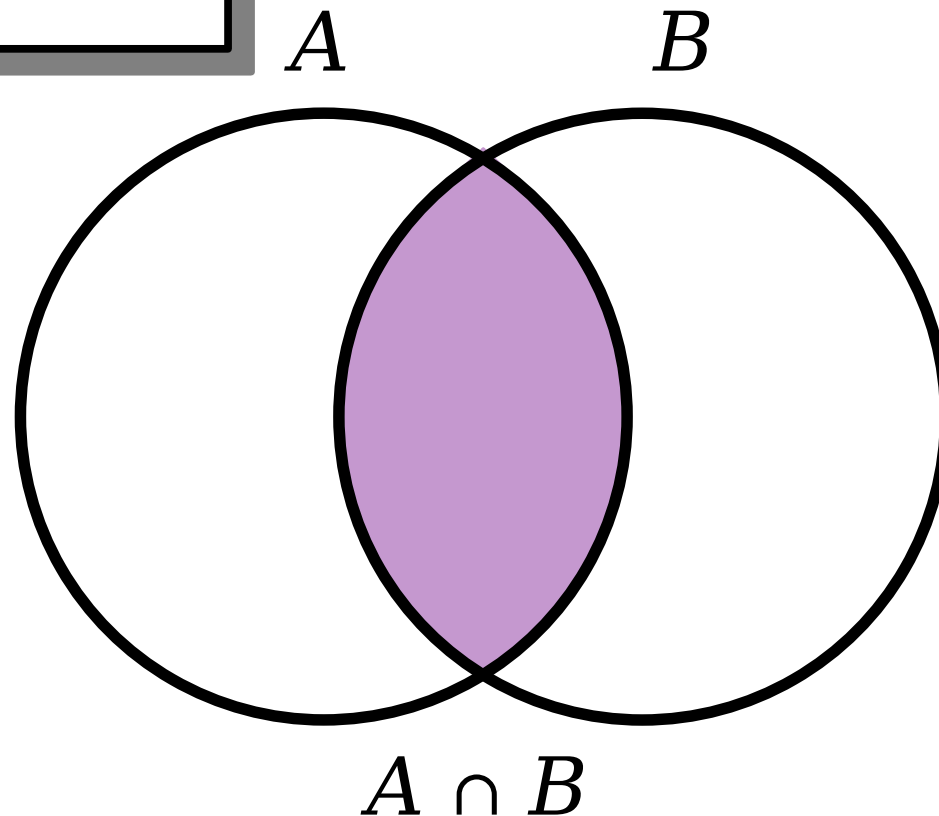
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Recall the intuition of a subset being “something I can circle”

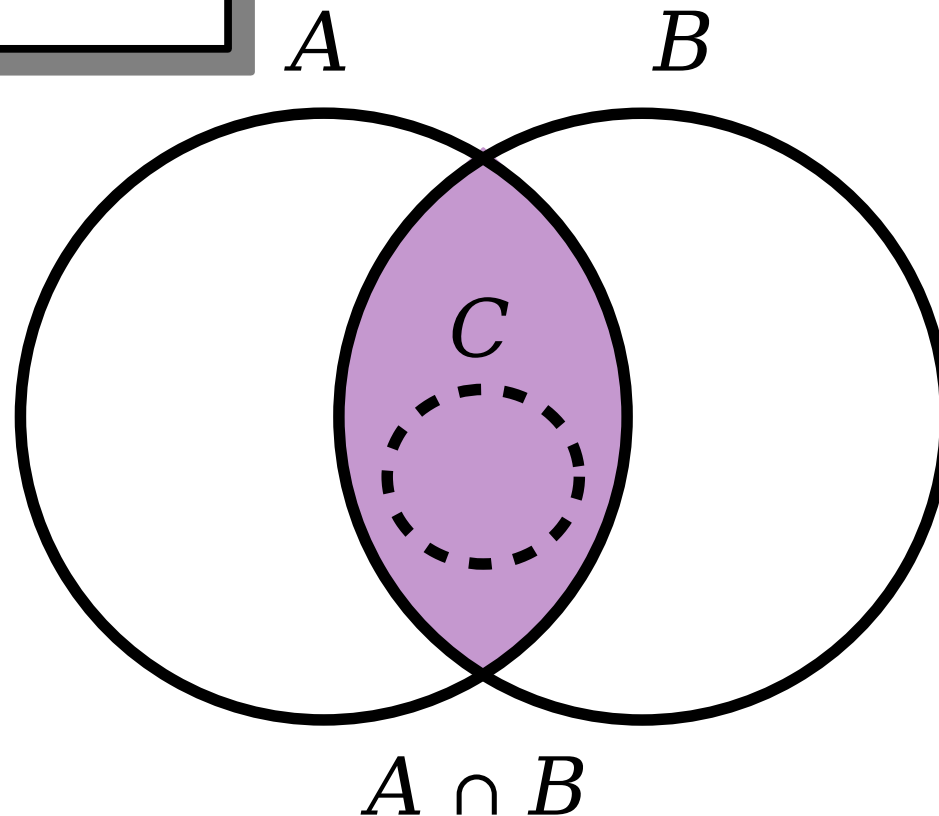


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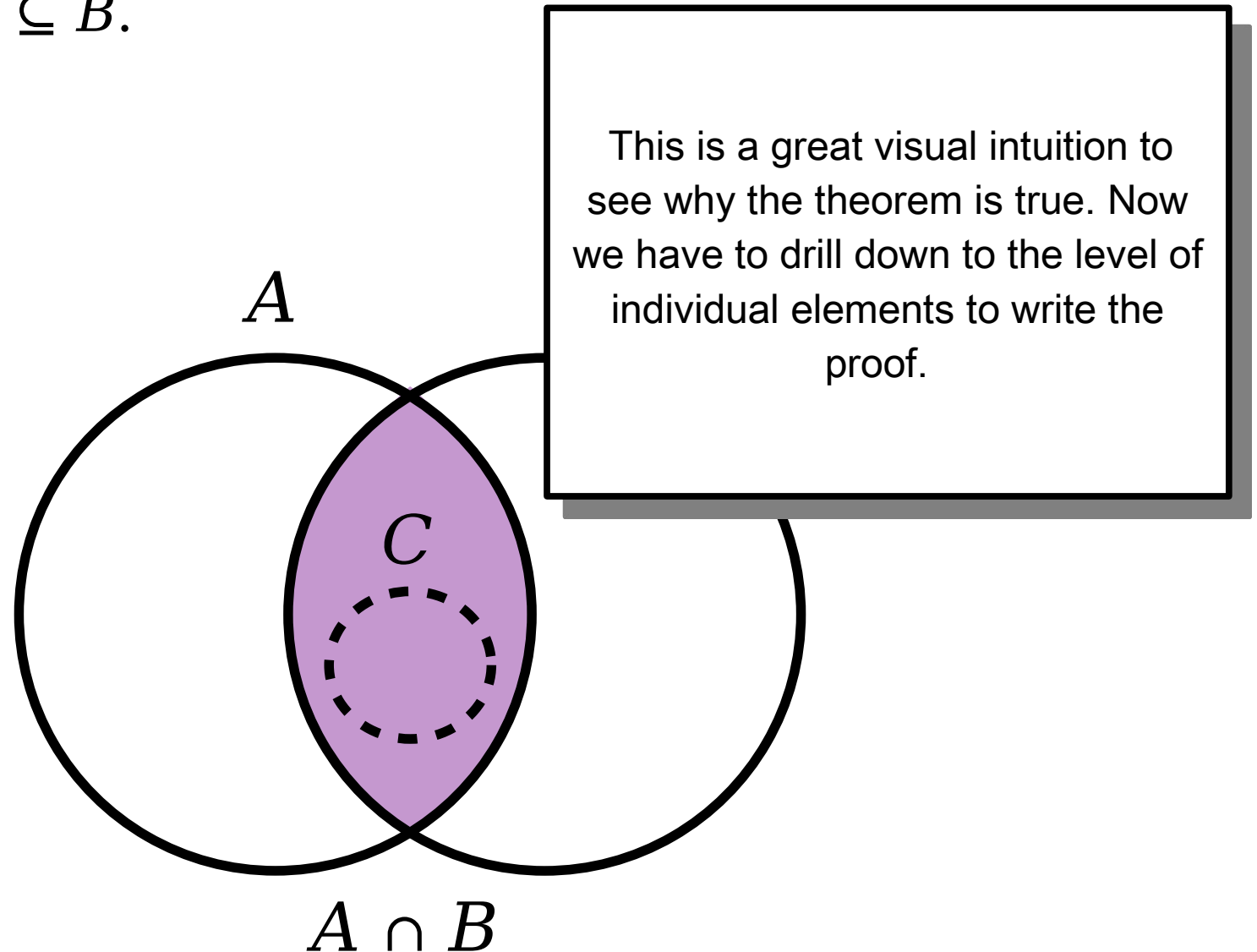
Recall the intuition of a subset being “something I can circle”

When I look at  $A \cap B$ , any circle I can draw in this region can be found in both  $A$  and  $B$ .



# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .





**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*What We're Assuming*

*What We Need To Show*

When confronted with a theorem to prove, the first step is to make sure you understand where you're starting and where you're going.

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*What We're Assuming*

- $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets
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- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$

A great proofwriting strategy is to **write down relevant definitions**.

This gives you a better sense of what you need to prove and what tools you have at hand.

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

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- $C \subseteq A \cap B$

*What We Need To Show*

- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$

Before we start:

- What is the definition of subset?
- How do you prove that one set is a subset of another?
- If you know that one set is a subset of another, what can you conclude?

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

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- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$

**Definition:** If  $S$  and  $T$  are sets, then  $S \subseteq T$  when for every  $x \in S$ , we have  $x \in T$ .

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**To prove that  $S \subseteq T$ :**

Pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , then prove  $x \in T$ .

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- 

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- $C \subseteq A \cap B$

*What We Need To Show*

- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$

*Our Tools*

- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$

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- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$

*What We Need To Show*

- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$

How can we apply this general template to our specific problem?

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*What We're Assuming*

- $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets
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- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$

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- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in A$
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**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

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- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in A$
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in B$

Now we know that ultimately, we're going to have to do these two things. Let's see what tools we have that can get us here!

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*What We're Assuming*

- $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets
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- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$

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**Definition:** If  $S$  and  $T$  are sets, then  $S \subseteq T$  when for every  $x \in S$ , we have  $x \in T$ .

**To prove that  $S \subseteq T$ :**

Pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , then prove  $x \in T$ .

**If you know that  $S \subseteq T$ :**

If you have an  $x \in S$ , you can conclude  $x \in T$ .

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

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- $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets
- $C \subseteq A \cap B$

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- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$

*What We Need To Show*

- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in A$
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in B$

Before we continue:

- What is the definition of set intersection?

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*What We're Assuming*

- $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets
- $C \subseteq A \cap B$

*What We Need To Show*

- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in A$

**Definition:** The set  $S \cap T$  is the set where, for any  $x$ :  
 $x \in S \cap T$  when  $x \in S$  and  $x \in T$



**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*What We're Assuming*

- $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets
- $C \subseteq A \cap B$

*What We Need To Show*

- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in A$

**Definition:** The set  $S \cap T$  is the set where, for any  $x$ :  
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**To prove that  $x \in S \cap T$ :**

Prove both that  $x \in S$  and that  $x \in T$ .

**If you know that  $x \in S \cap T$ :**

You can conclude both that  $x \in S$  and that  $x \in T$ .

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*What We're Assuming*

- $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets
- $C \subseteq A \cap B$

• This is the one we want!

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- $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets
- $C \subseteq A \cap B$

*Our Tools*

- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$ .
- If you know that  $S \subseteq T$  and you have an  $x \in S$ , you can conclude  $x \in T$ .
- If you know that  $x \in S \cap T$ , we can conclude that  $x \in S$  and  $x \in T$ .

*What We Need To Show*

- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in A$
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in B$

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*What We're Assuming*

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- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$ .
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*What We Need To Show*

- $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in A$
  - Pick an  $x \in C$ , show that  $x \in B$

Let's go and try and do the proof with what we've got here!

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$

*Relevant Definitions*

- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$
- If you know that  $S \subseteq T$  and you have an  $x \in S$ , you can conclude  $x \in T$ .
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**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$
- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$
- Conclude  $x \in A$

*Relevant Definitions*

- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$
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**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$
- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$

What goes here?

- Conclude  $x \in A$

*Relevant Definitions*

- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$
- If you know that  $S \subseteq T$  and you have an  $x \in S$ , you can conclude  $x \in T$ .
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**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

### *Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$
- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$
  - $x \in A \cap B$
- Conclude  $x \in A$

### *Relevant Definitions*

- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$
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*Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$
- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$
  - $x \in A \cap B$
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- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$
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### *Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$
- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$
  - $x \in A \cap B$
  - $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$
  - Conclude  $x \in A$

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- In general to show that  $S \subseteq T$ , pick an arbitrary  $x \in S$ , show that  $x \in T$
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*Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$
- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$
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- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
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**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$
- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$
  - $x \in A \cap B$
  - $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$
  - Conclude  $x \in A$

We also need to prove that  $C \subseteq B$ .

Notice that if you take the outline here and literally swap the variable  $A$  for the variable  $B$ , you get a working proof.

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq B \cap A$
- Proving  $C \subseteq B$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$
  - $x \in B \cap A$
  - $x \in B$  and  $x \in A$
  - Conclude  $x \in B$

In a case like this where your proof would have two completely symmetric branches, it's fine to write up just one and say  
“**by symmetry**, [the other branch] is also true.”

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

*Rough Outline*

- Assume  $C \subseteq A \cap B$
- Proving  $C \subseteq A$ 
  - Pick an  $x \in C$
  - $x \in A \cap B$
  - $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$
  - Conclude  $x \in A$

**Try it yourself:** Take a few minutes and write up a proof of the theorem using this outline.

Then share your proof with your neighbors and critique each other!

**Respond at**  
**[pollev.com/zhenglian740](http://pollev.com/zhenglian740)**

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

**Proof:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be arbitrary sets where  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ . We need to show that  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ . Because the roles of  $A$  and  $B$  in this proof are symmetric, we can just prove that  $C \subseteq A$ .

Choose any element  $x \in C$ . Since  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , we know that  $x \in A \cap B$ . This tells us that  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ . In particular, this means that  $x \in A$ , thus completing the proof. ■



**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

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Because the roles of  $A$  and  $B$  in this proof are

Are you clearly stating what you're assuming and what you're trying to prove?

completing the proof. ■

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

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Are you making specific claims about specific variables? Your proof should NOT have statements of the form “every element of  $C$ ”.

**Theorem:** If  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are sets and  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , then  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ .

**Proof:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be arbitrary sets where  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ . We need to show that  $C \subseteq A$  and  $C \subseteq B$ . Because the roles of  $A$  and  $B$  in this proof are symmetric, we can just prove that  $C \subseteq A$ .

Choose any element  $x \in C$ . Since  $C \subseteq A \cap B$ , we know that  $x \in A \cap B$ . This tells us that  $x \in A$  and

Are all variables properly introduced and scoped? You should be able to point at every variable and say that it is either:

- 1) an arbitrarily chosen value – owned by the reader
- 2) an existentially instantiated value – owned by no one
- 3) an explicitly chosen value – owned by you (the proof writer)

# Next Time

- ***First-Order Translations***
  - How do we translate from English into first-order logic?
- ***Quantifier Orderings***
  - How do you select the order of quantifiers in first-order logic formulas?
- ***Negating Formulas***
  - How do you mechanically determine the negation of a first-order formula?
- ***Expressing Uniqueness***
  - How do we say there's just one object of a certain type?