

# 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 (“not”):  $\neg p$
  - Conjunction (“and”):  $p \wedge q$
  - Disjunction (“or”):  $p \vee q$
  - Truth (“true”):  $\top$
  - Falsity (“false”):  $\perp$
  - Implication (“implies”):  $p \rightarrow q$
  - Biconditional (“if and only if”):  $p \leftrightarrow q$

$p$	$q$	$p \rightarrow q$
F	F	—
F	T	—
T	F	—
T	T	—

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

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

# Operator Precedence

- How do we parse this statement?

$$\neg x \rightarrow y \vee z \rightarrow x \vee y \wedge z$$

- Operator precedence for propositional logic:

$\neg$

$\wedge$

$\vee$

$\rightarrow$

$\leftrightarrow$

- All operators are right-associative.
- We can use parentheses to disambiguate.

# Operator Precedence

- The main points to remember:
  - $\neg$  binds to whatever immediately follows it.
  - $\wedge$  and  $\vee$  bind more tightly than  $\rightarrow$ .
- We will commonly write expressions like  $p \wedge q \rightarrow r$  without adding parentheses.
- For more complex expressions, we'll try to add parentheses.
- Confused? ***Please ask!***

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)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

*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)*

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

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

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

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)*

*ArgueIncessantly(Democrats, Republicans)*

- 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 than the formulas you write.

# First-Order Formulas

- Formulas 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

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))*

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))*

# 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 Propositions

- 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.

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

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

# The Existential Quantifier

- A statement of the form

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

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

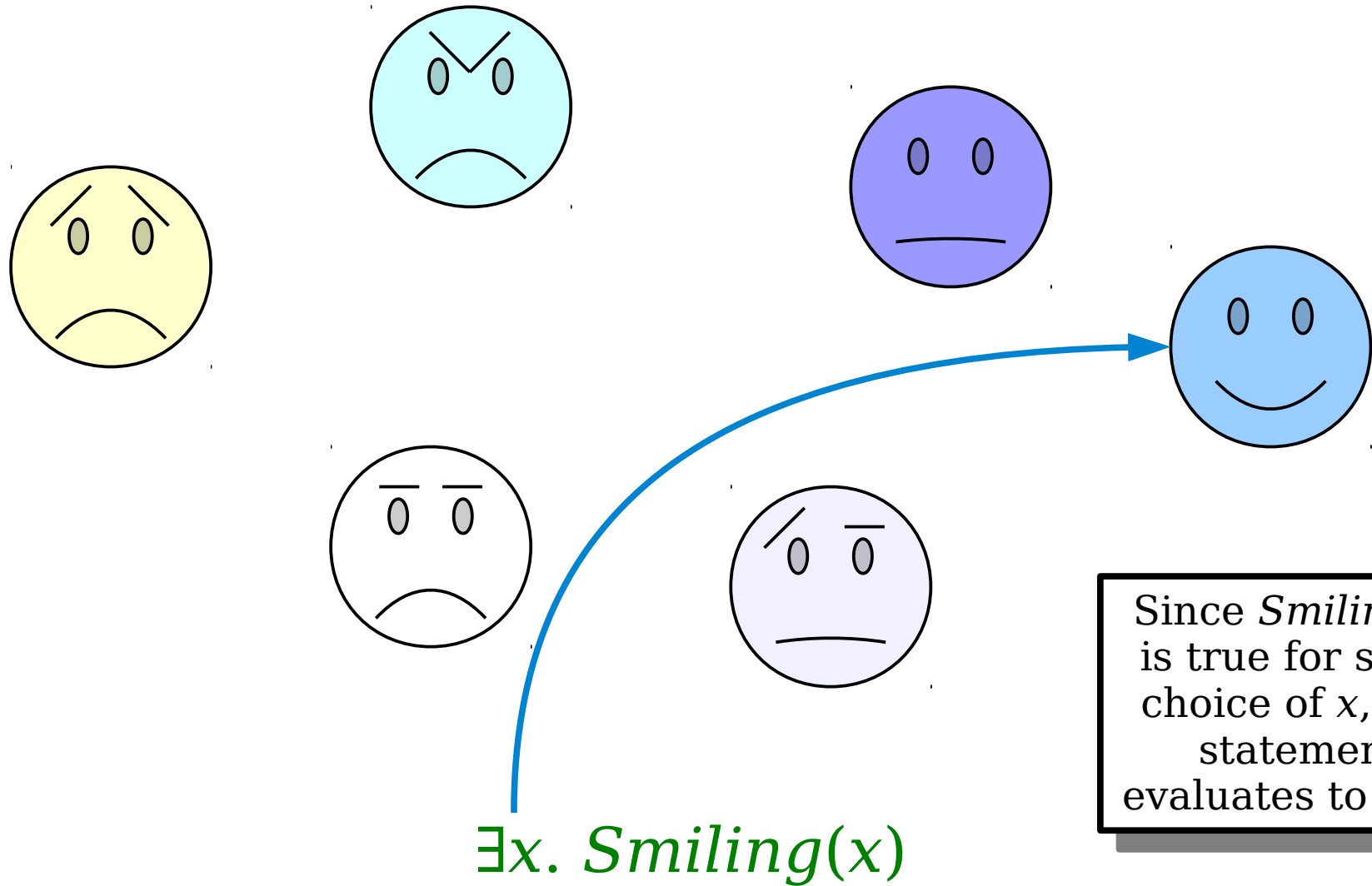
- Examples:

$\exists x. (Even(x) \wedge Prime(x))$

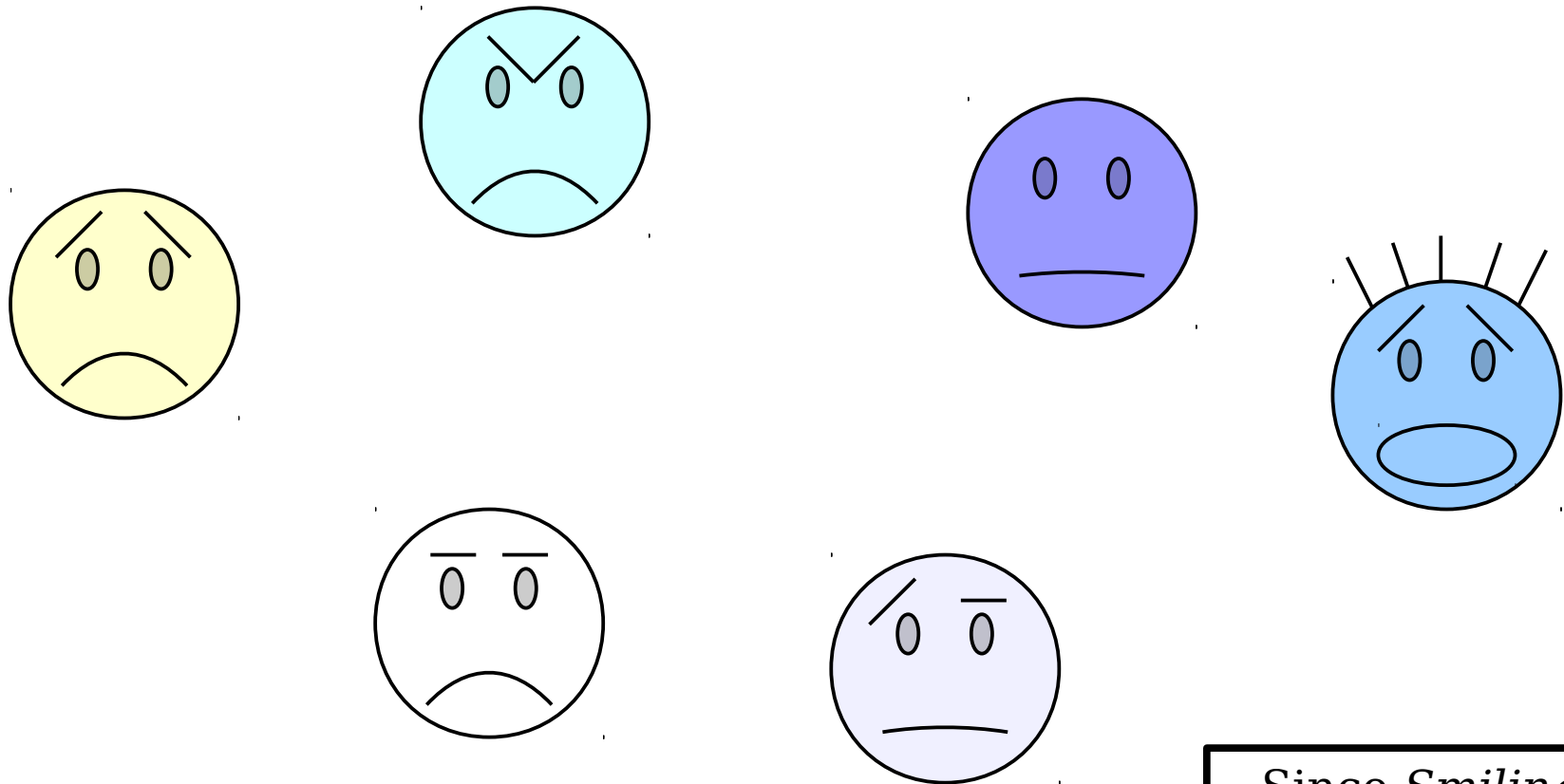
$\exists x. (TallerThan(x, me) \wedge WeighsLessThan(x, me))$

$(\exists w. Will(w)) \rightarrow (\exists x. Way(x))$

# The Existential Quantifier



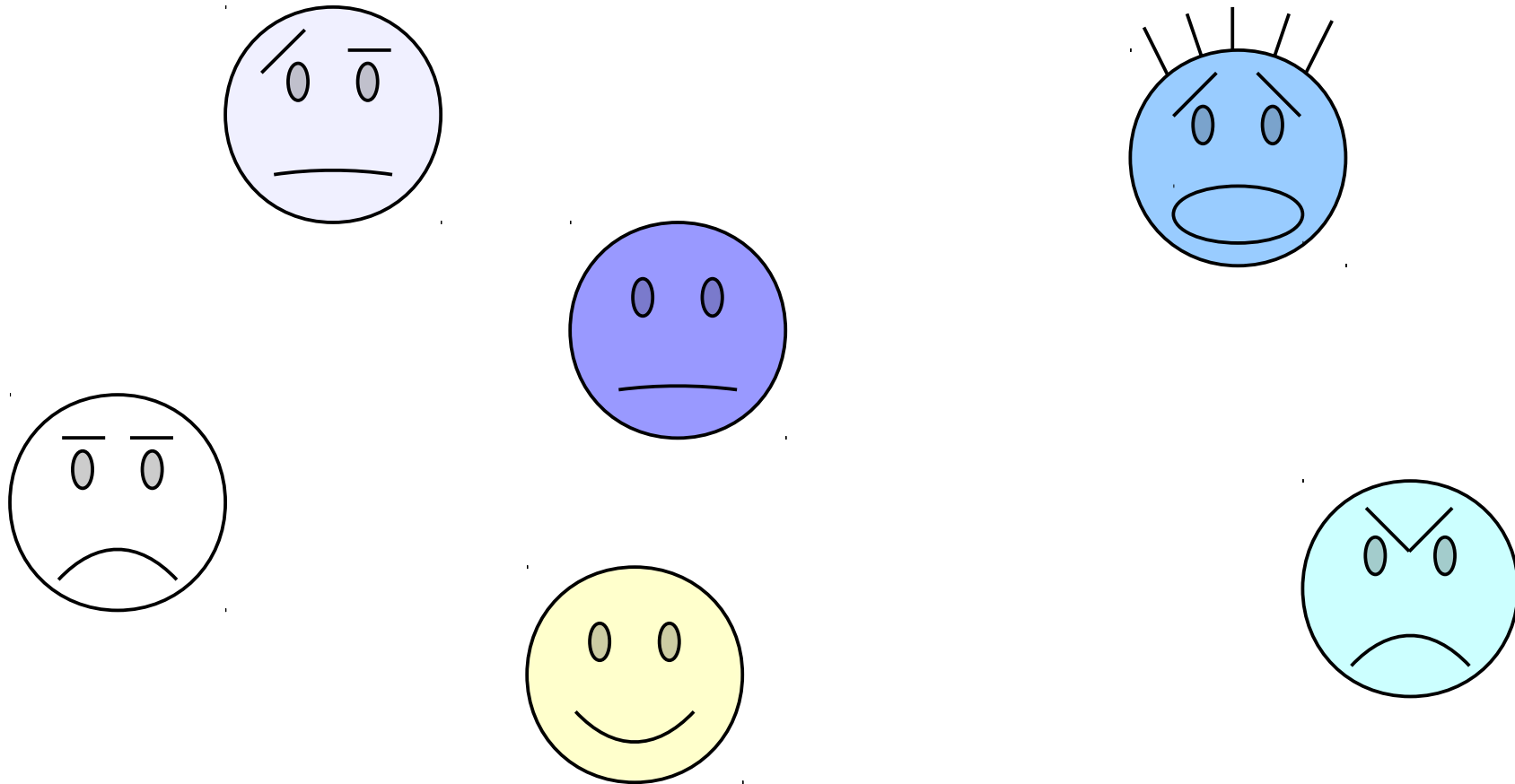
# The Existential Quantifier



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

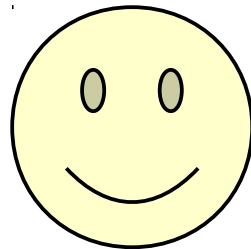
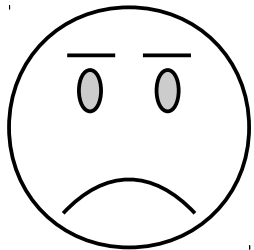
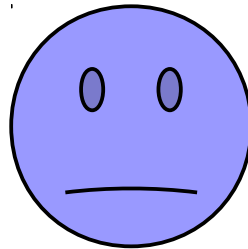
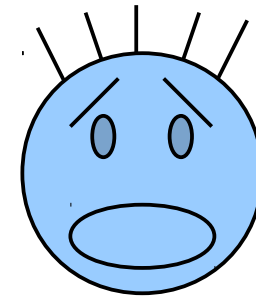
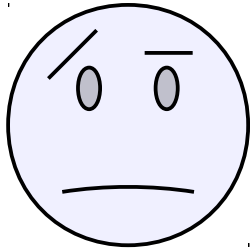
Since *Smiling*(*x*) is not true for any choice of *x*, this statement evaluates to false.

# The Existential Quantifier



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

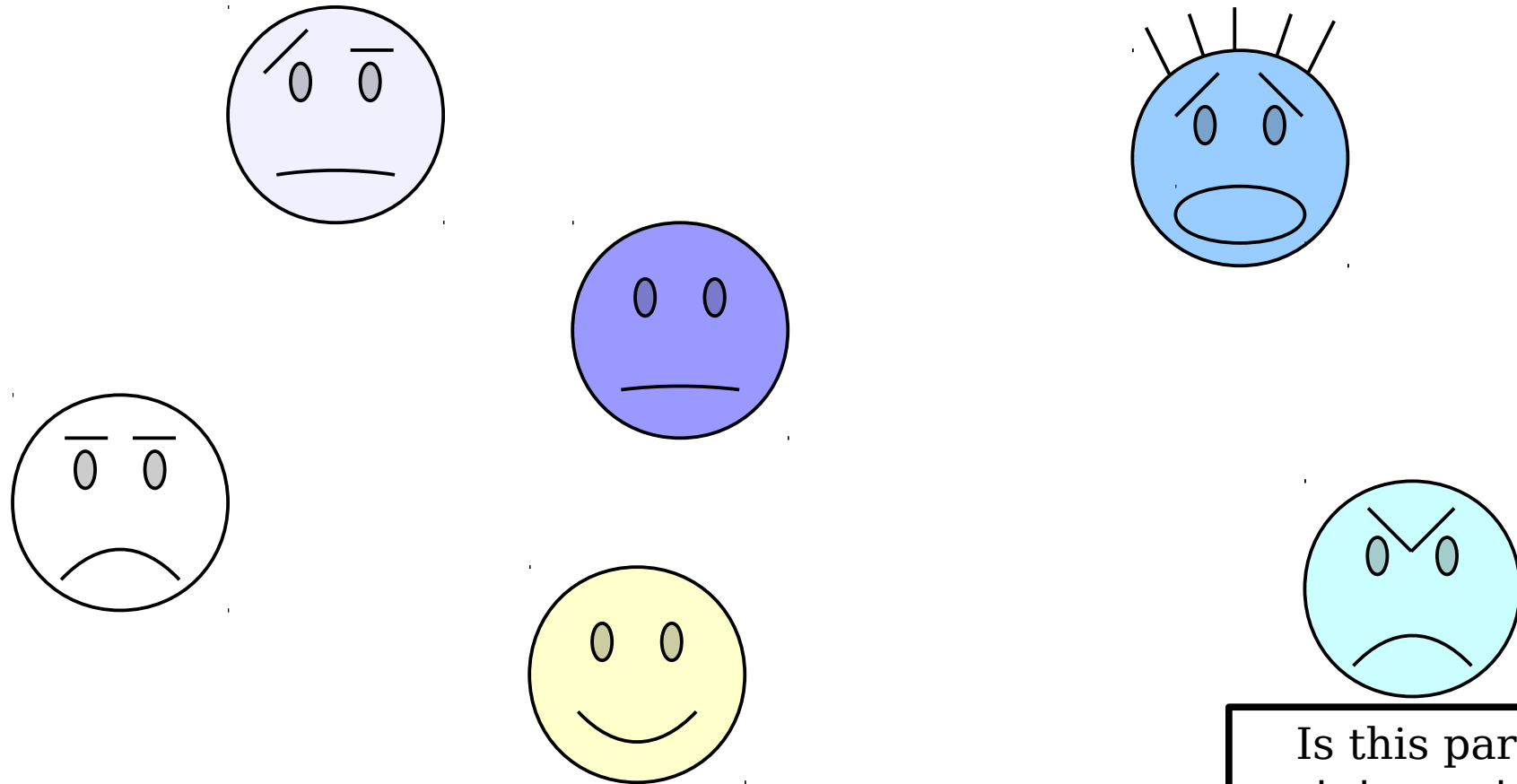
# The Existential Quantifier



Is this part of the statement true or false?

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

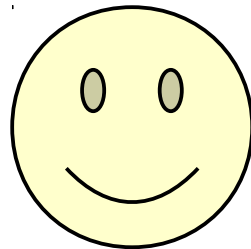
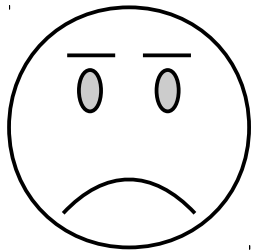
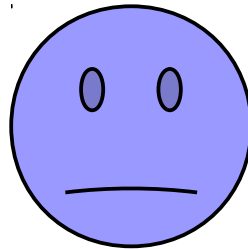
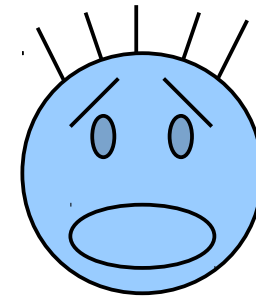
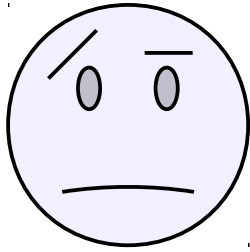
# The Existential Quantifier



Is this part of the statement true or false?

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

# The Existential Quantifier



Is this overall  
statement true or  
false?

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

# 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.

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

The variable  $x$   
just lives  
here.

The variable  $y$   
just lives  
here.

# 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.

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

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:

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

**Time-Out for Announcements!**

# Problem Set One

- Problem Set One was due today at 4:00PM.
  - You can extend the deadline to 4:00PM Saturday using one of your late days. As usual, no late submissions will be accepted beyond 4:00PM Saturday without prior approval.

# Gradescope Tagging

- When you upload a PDF to Gradescope, please make sure to tag the pages that have your problem answers on them.
- The **altruistic** reason: if you don't do this, the TAs have to do it for you, and across 200+ submissions that adds up to hours of extra work.
- The **selfish** reason: if you don't tag the page containing a problem, Gradescope marks it as though you didn't submit it, and the TAs might give you no points because they thought you didn't submit anything.
- You can tag pages after you submit, so if you submit and then realize you forgot to tag things you can always go back and fix it.

# Problem Set Two

- Problem Set Two goes out today. It's due next Friday at 4:00PM.
  - Explore first-order logic!
  - Expand your proofwriting toolkit!
- We have some online readings for this problem set.
  - Check out the ***Guide to Logic Translations*** for more on how to convert from English to FOL.
  - Check out the ***Guide to Negations*** for information about how to negate formulas.
  - Check out the ***First-Order Translation Checklist*** for details on how to check your work.

# Problem Set Two

- A few of the questions on PS2 require topics we haven't covered yet. They're explicitly marked as such.
- Want to start early? The Guide to Negations and Guide to First-Order Translations cover everything you need.

Back to CS103!

“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:

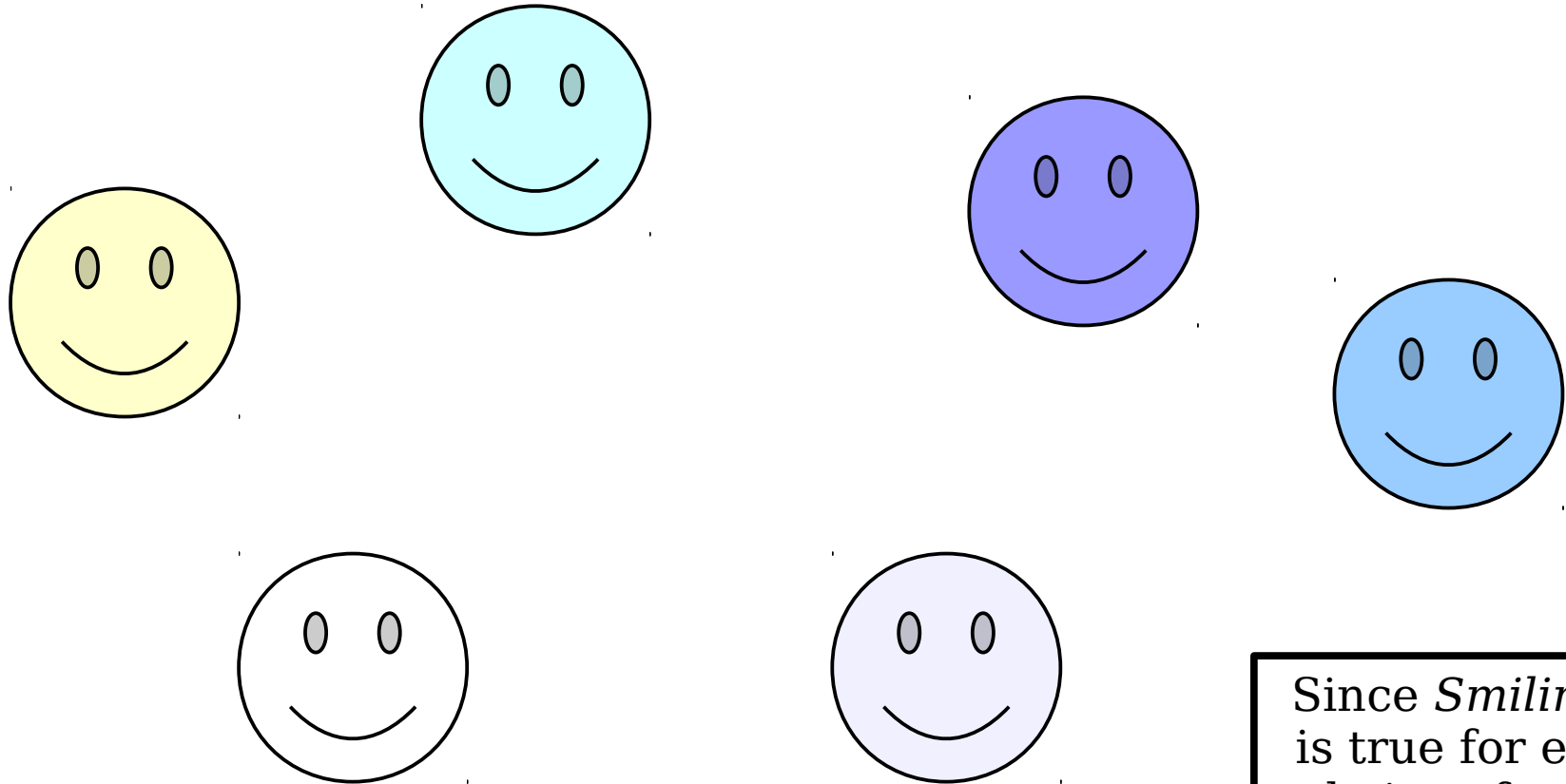
$\forall p. (Puppy(p) \rightarrow Cute(p))$

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

$Tallest(SultanKösen) \rightarrow$

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

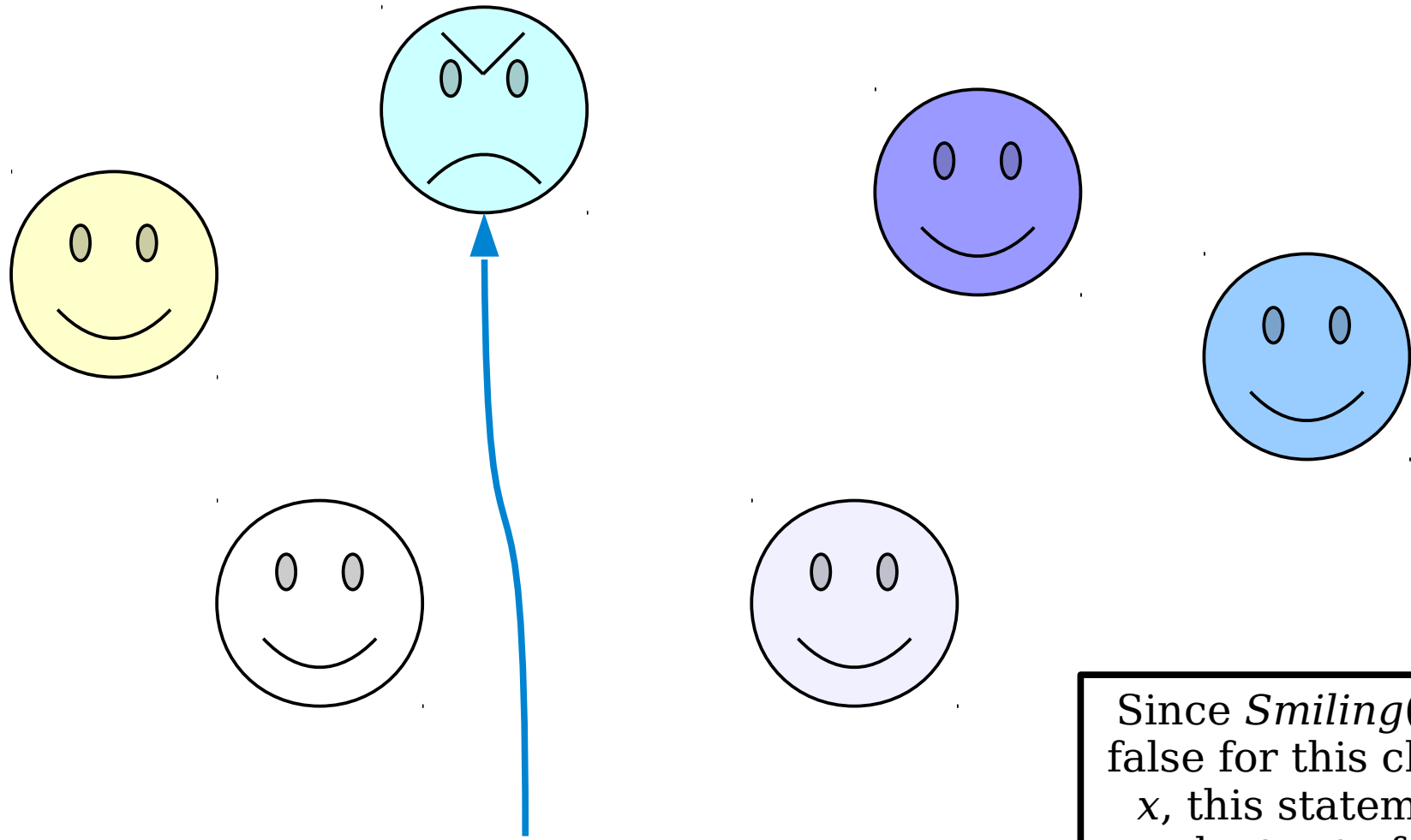
# The Universal Quantifier



$\forall x. Smiling(x)$

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

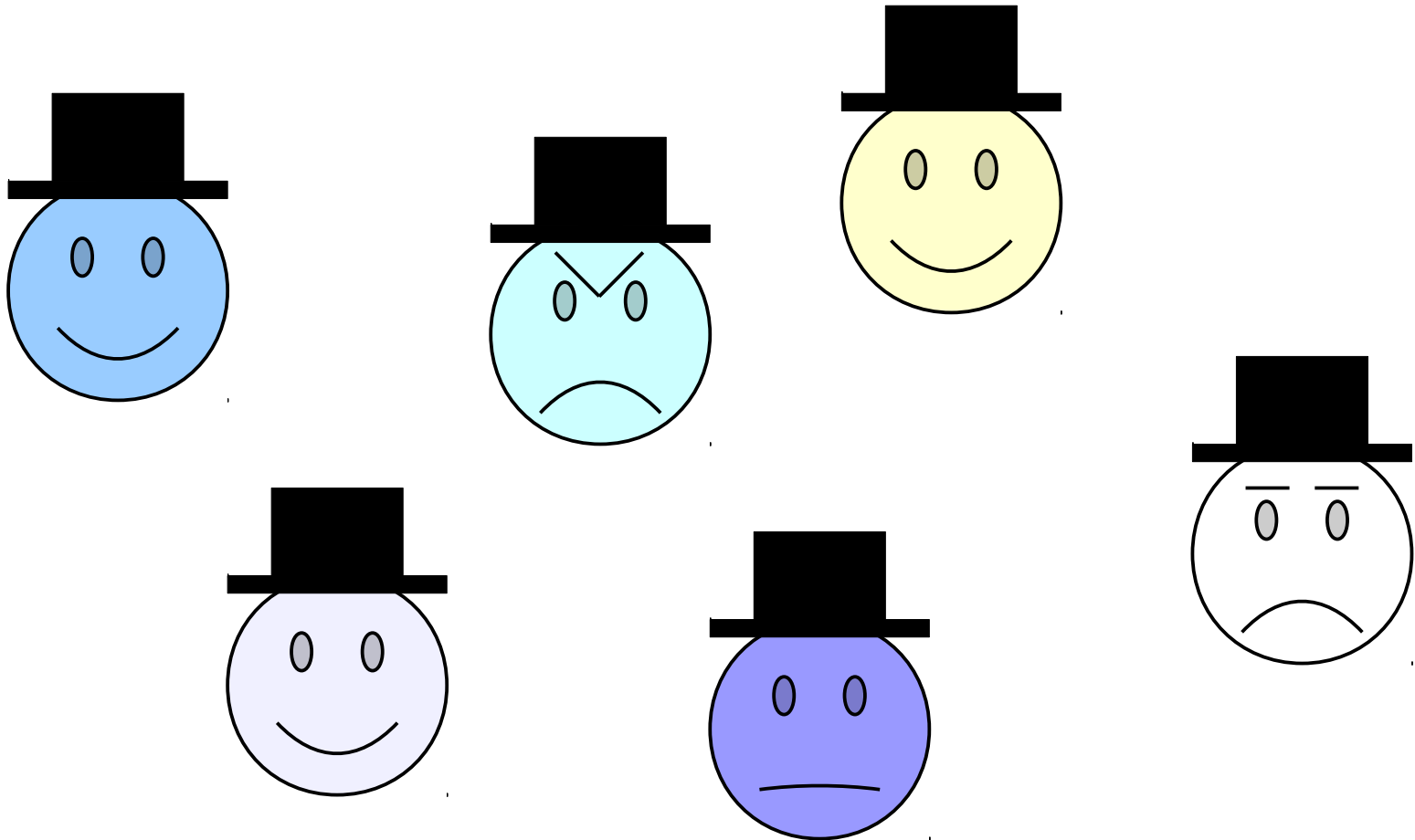
# The Universal Quantifier



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

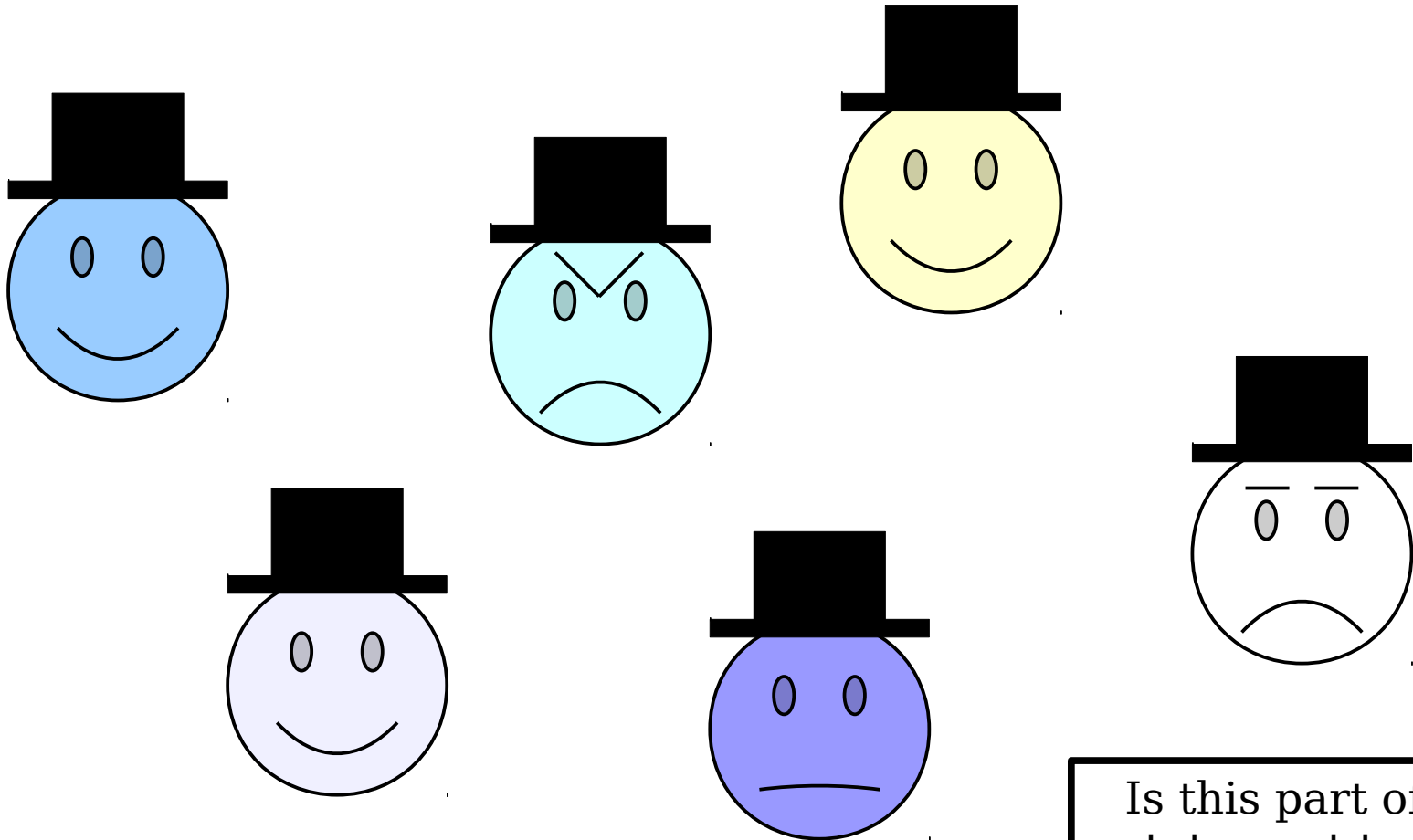
Since  $\text{Smiling}(x)$  is false for this choice  $x$ , this statement evaluates to false.

# The Universal Quantifier



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

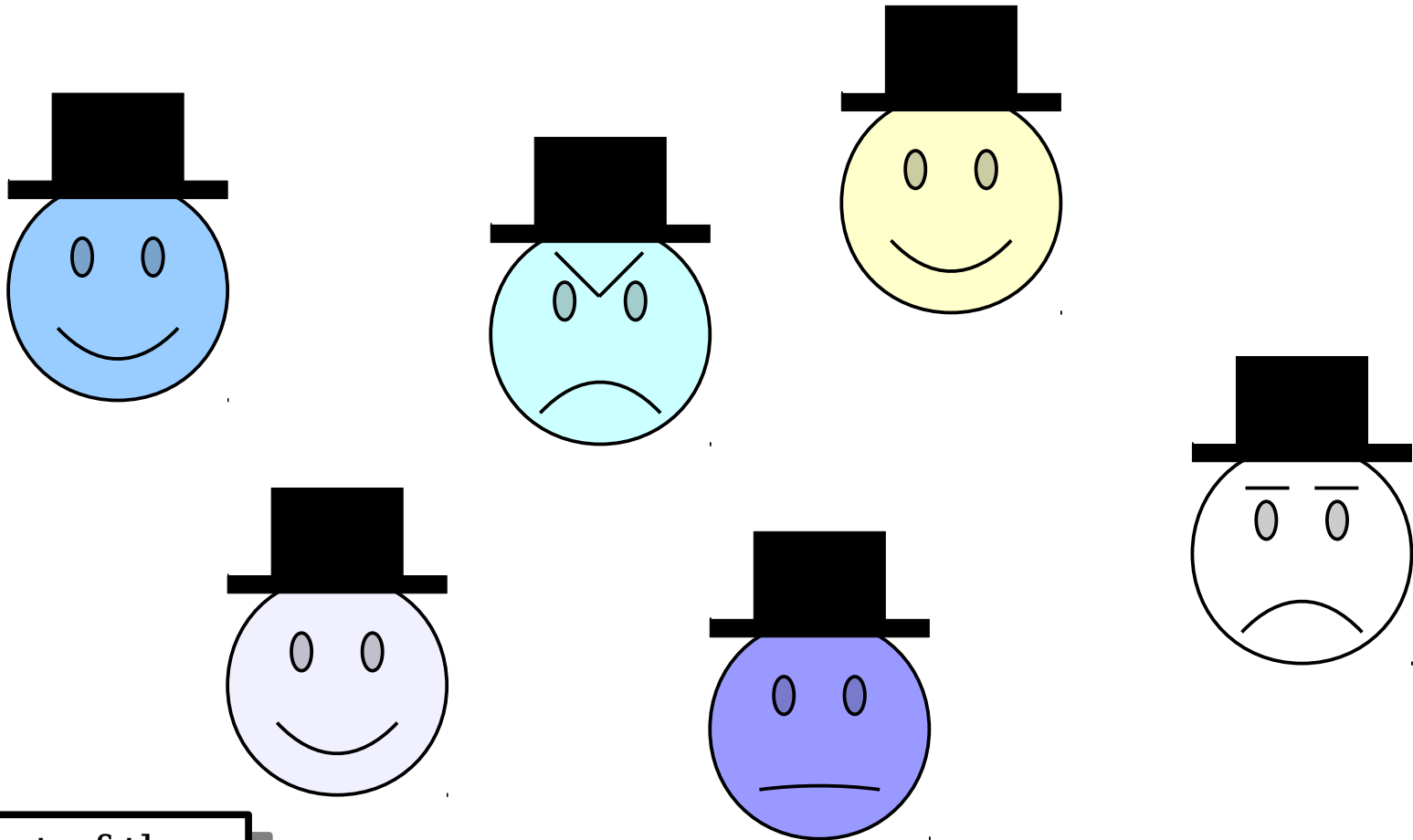
# The Universal Quantifier



Is this part of the statement true or false?

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

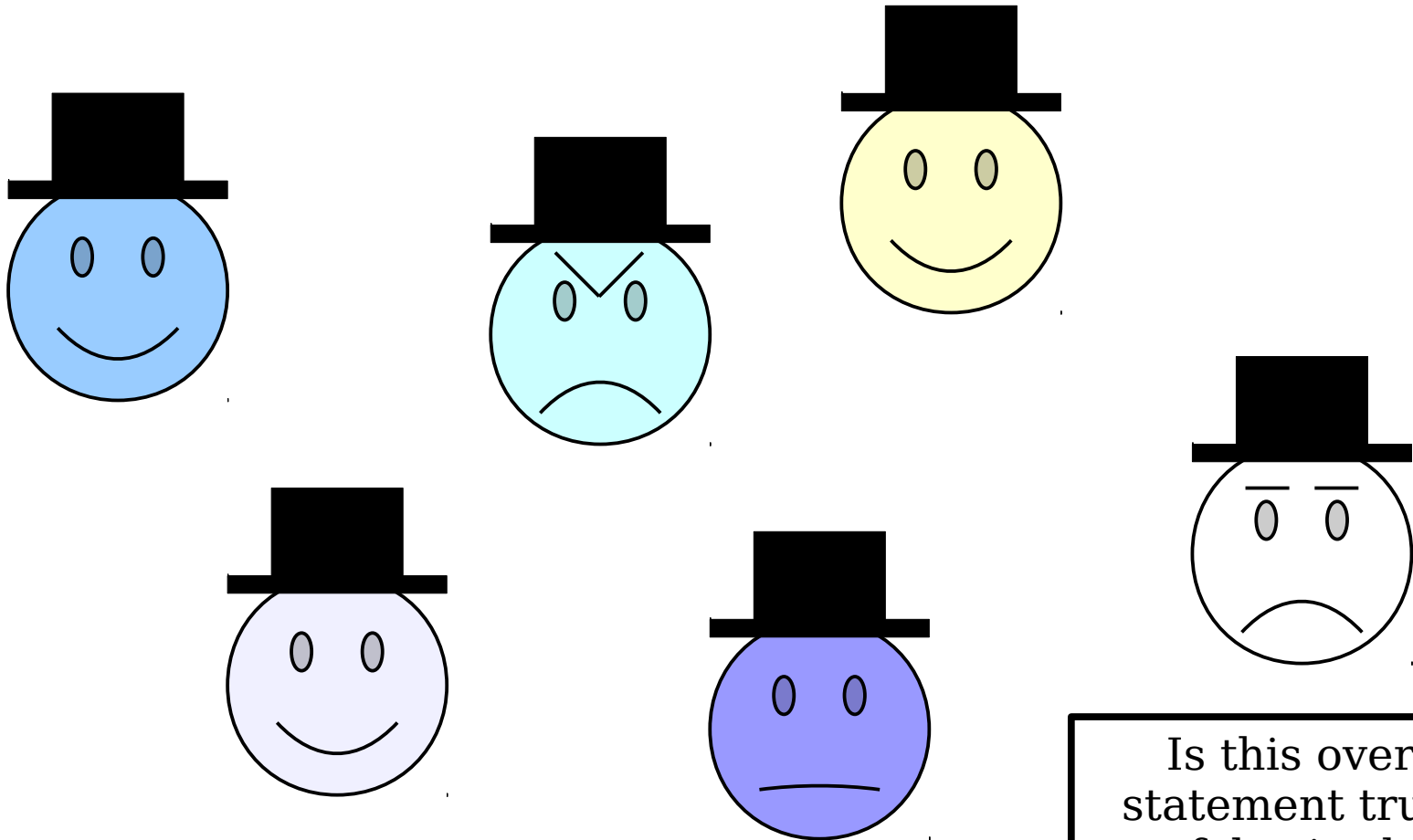
# The Universal Quantifier



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 overall statement true or false in this scenario?

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

# Fun with Edge Cases

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

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

# 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

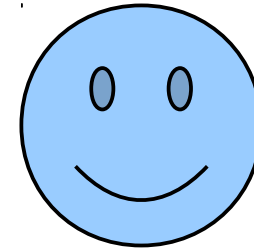
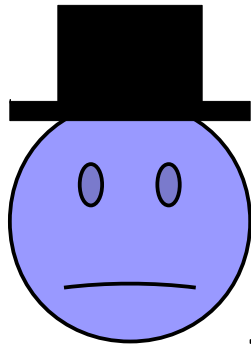
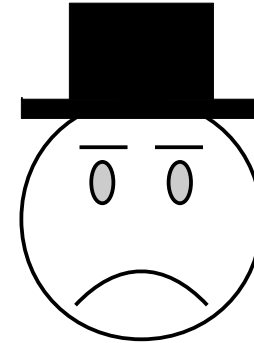
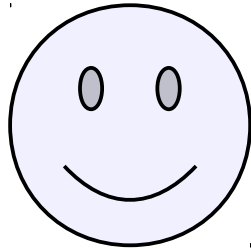
- When translating from English into first-order logic, we recommend that you ***think of first-order logic as a mathematical programming language.***
- Your goal is to learn how to combine basic concepts (quantifiers, connectives, etc.) together in ways that say what you mean.

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.***



“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.

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

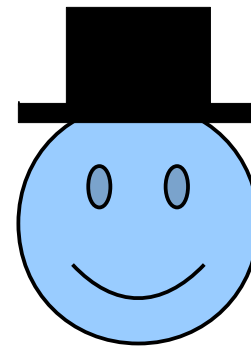
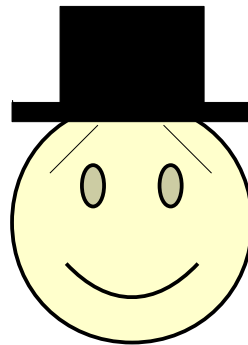
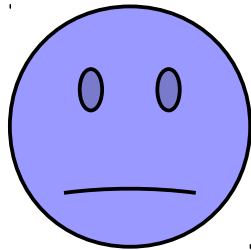
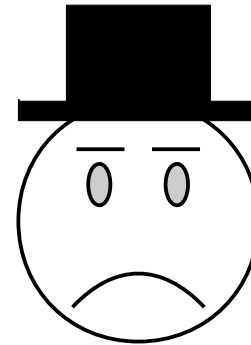
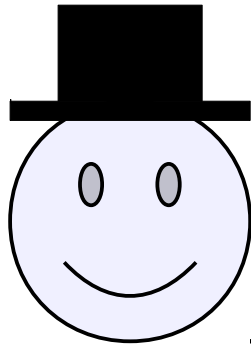
If  $x$  is an example, it must have property  $P$  on top of property  $Q$ .

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.***



“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.

# 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?