

# Informatics 1 – Introduction to Computation

## Computation and Logic

Julian Bradfield

based on materials by

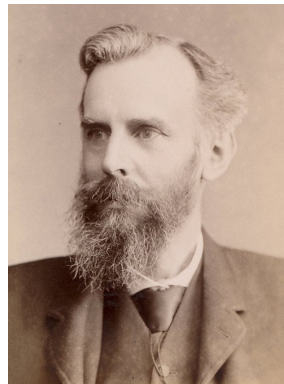
Michael P. Fourman

From Aristotle to Venn:

Aristotelian Syllogisms

and

Venn Diagrams

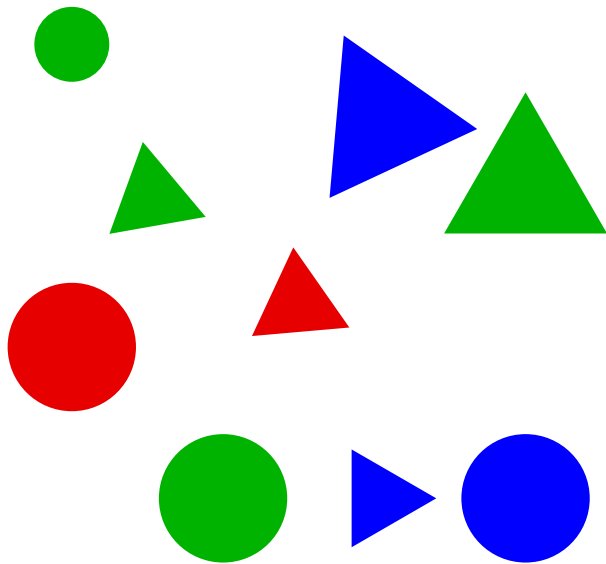


John Venn  
1834–1923

# A Small Universe

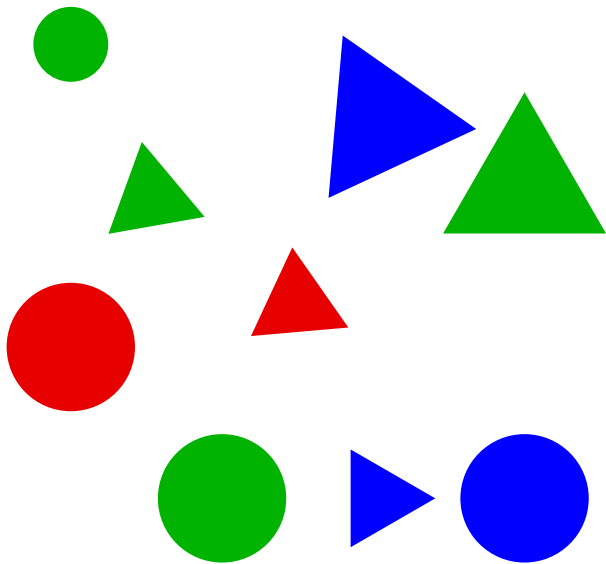
# A universe of coloured shapes

3.1/27



# Some statements about the universe

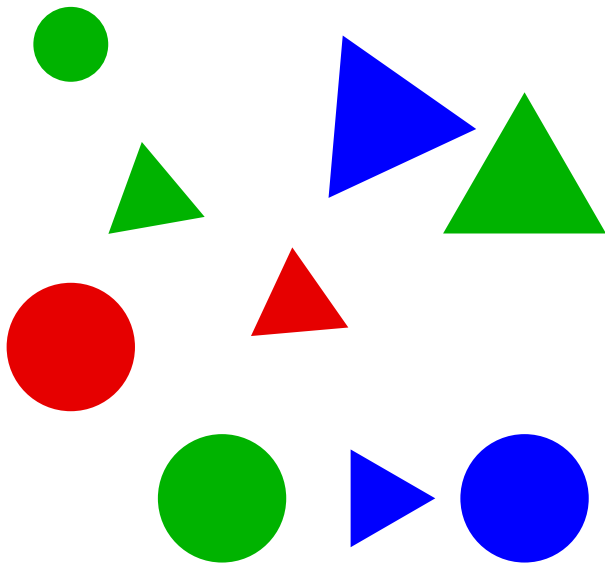
4.1/27



Every red triangle is small  
Every small triangle is red  
Some big triangle is green  
Some small disc is red  
No red thing is blue

# Some statements about the universe

4.2/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

Every small triangle is red

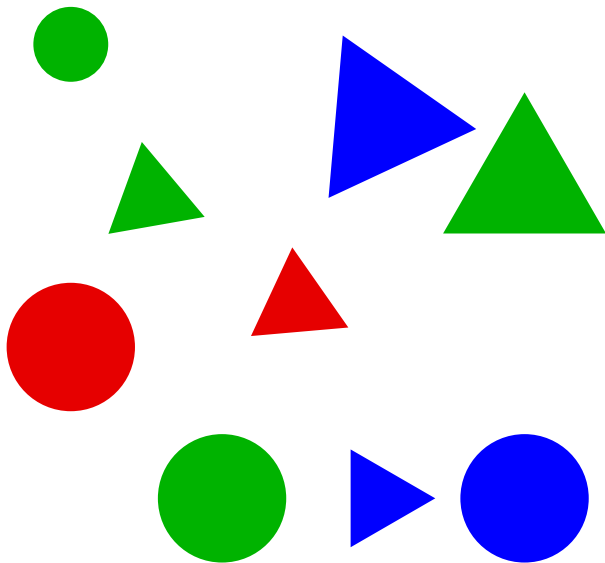
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# Some statements about the universe

4.3/27



Every red triangle is small



Every small triangle is red



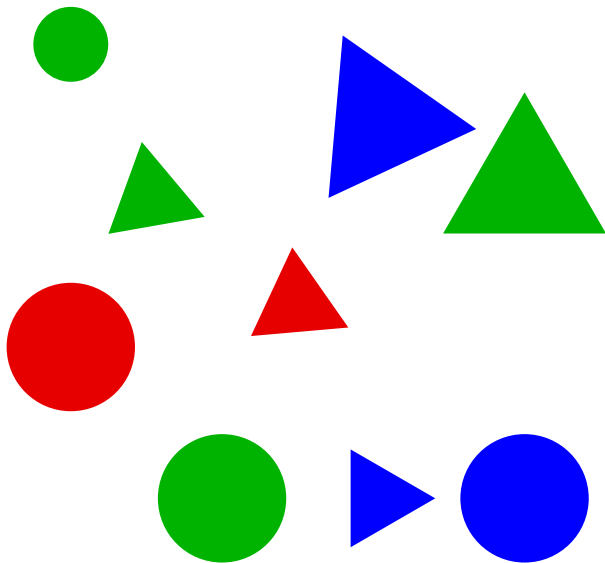
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# Some statements about the universe

4.4/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

Every small triangle is red ✗

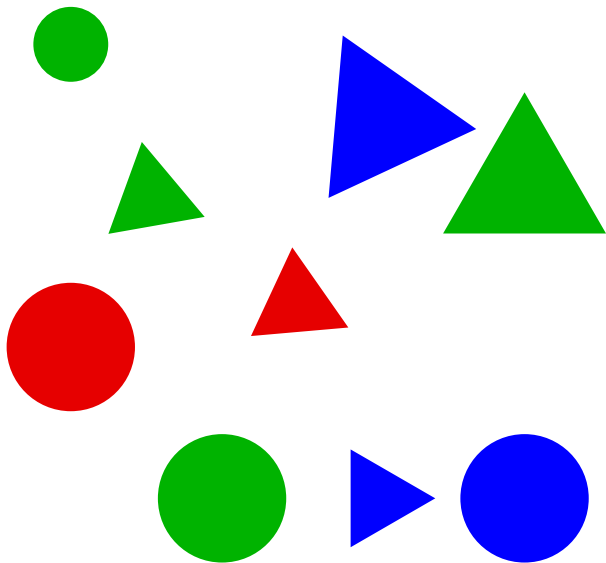
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# Some statements about the universe

4.5/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

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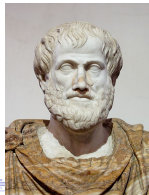
Some big triangle is green ?

Some small disc is red ?

No red thing is blue ?

**Categorical propositions say:**  
(Every/some/no) A is (not) B.

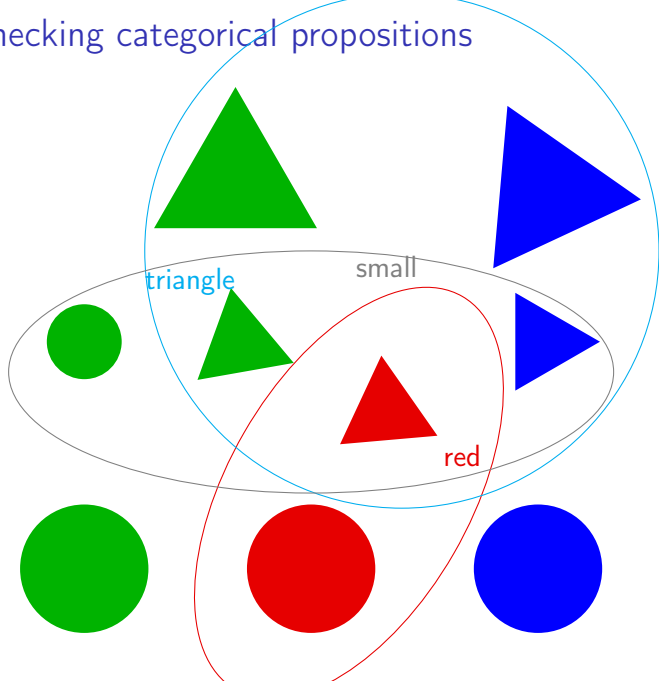
Aristotle  
384–322 B.C.





# Checking categorical propositions

5.1/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

Every small triangle is red ✗

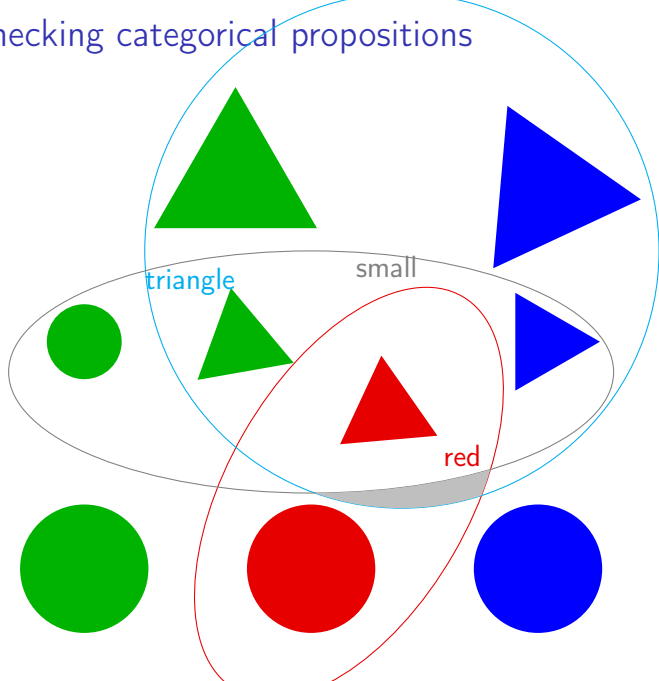
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# Checking categorical propositions

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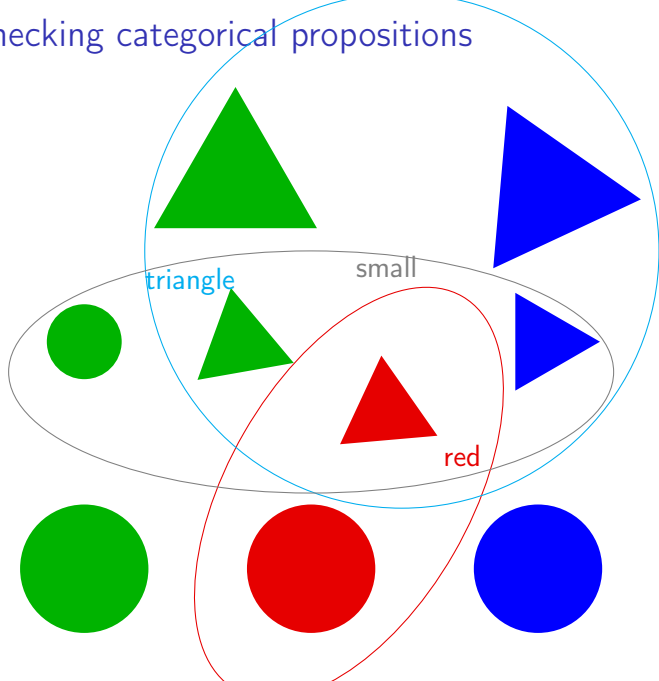
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# Checking categorical propositions

5.3/27



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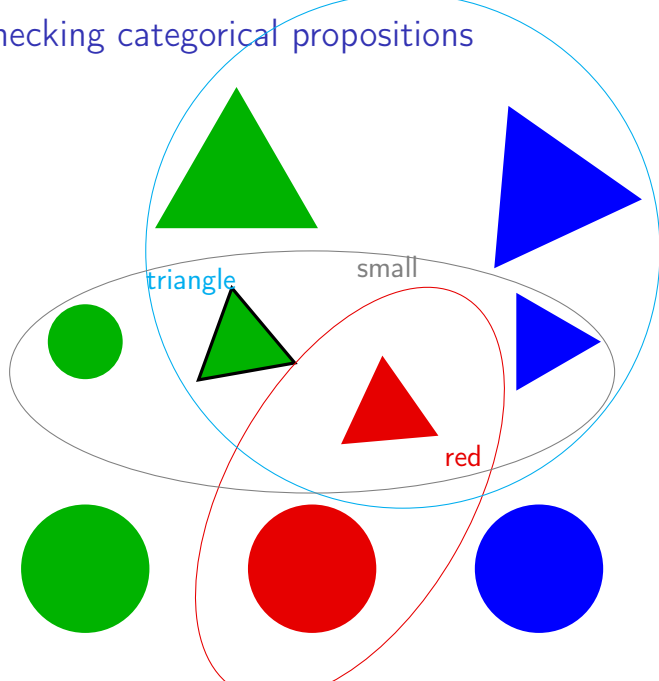
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# Checking categorical propositions

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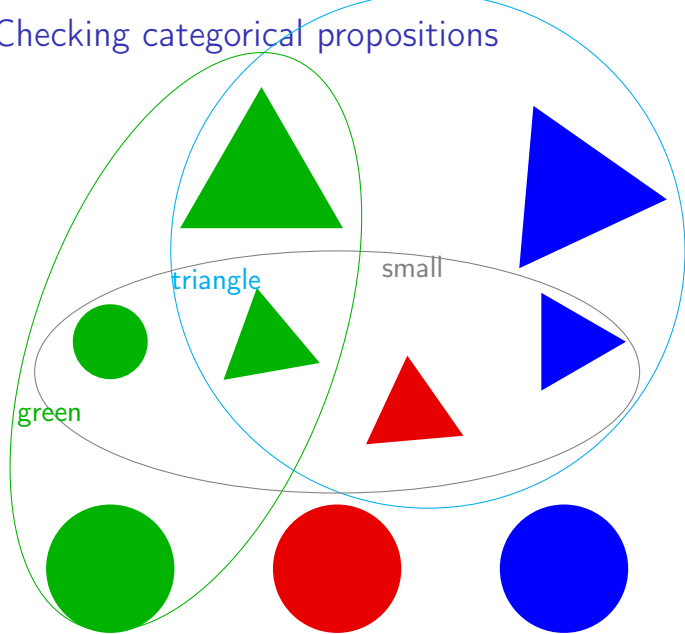
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# Checking categorical propositions

5.5/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

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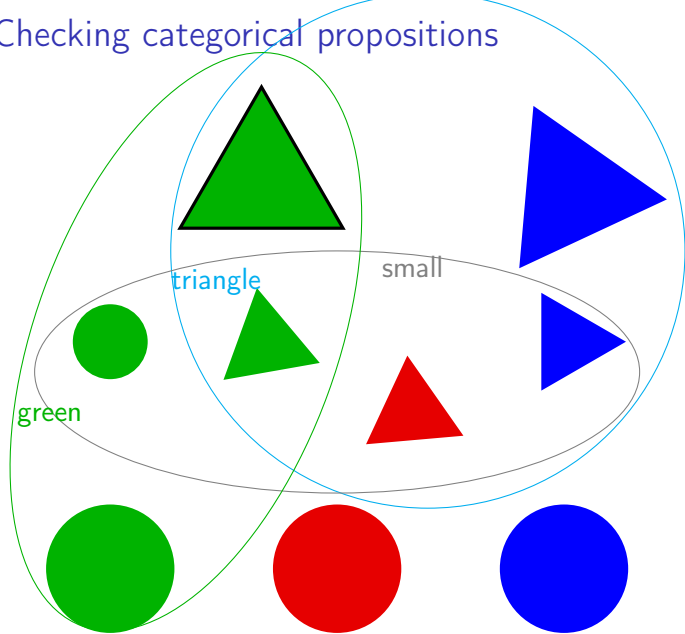
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# Checking categorical propositions

5.6/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

Every small triangle is red ✗

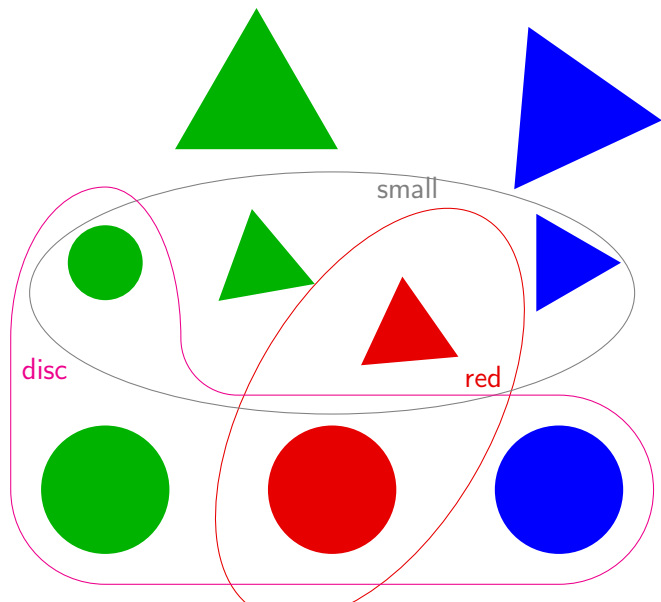
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No red thing is blue ?

# Checking categorical propositions

5.7/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

Every small triangle is red ✗

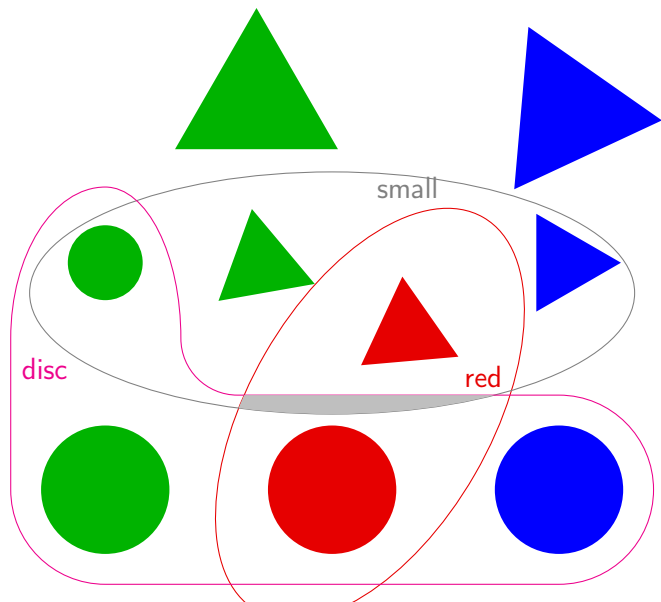
Some big triangle is green ✓

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No red thing is blue ?

# Checking categorical propositions

5.8/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

Every small triangle is red ✗

Some big triangle is green ✓

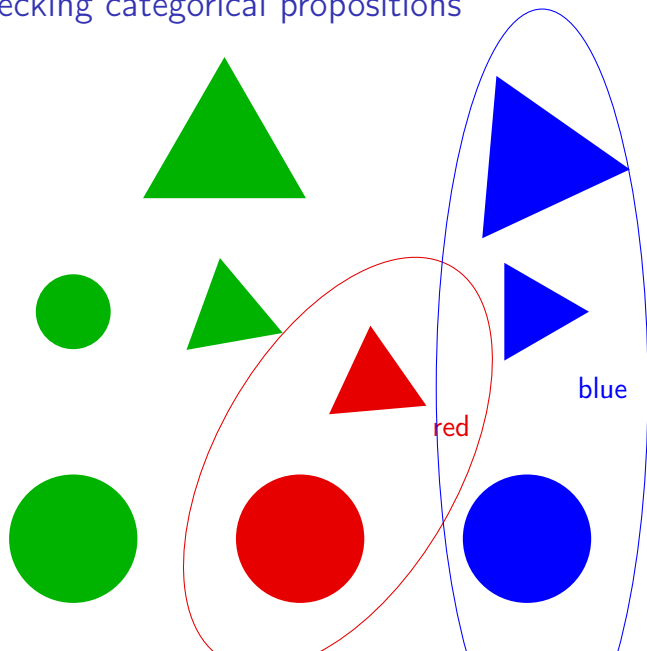
Some small disc is red ✗

No red thing is blue ?



# Checking categorical propositions

5.9/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

Every small triangle is red ✗

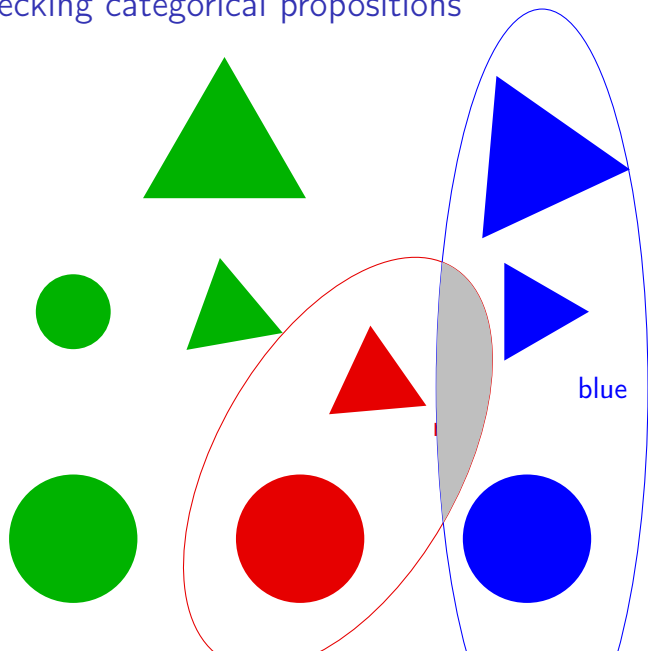
Some big triangle is green ✓

Some small disc is red ✗

No red thing is blue ?

# Checking categorical propositions

5.10/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

Every small triangle is red ✗

Some big triangle is green ✓

Some small disc is red ✗

No red thing is blue ✓

Categorical propositions are a very restricted form of predicate logic:

- ▶ Every red thing is small  
 $\forall x. isRed(x) \rightarrow isSmall(x)$
- ▶ Every small triangle is red  
 $\forall x. (isSmall(x) \wedge isTriangle(x)) \rightarrow isRed(x)$
- ▶ Some small disc is red  
 $\exists x. (isSmall(x) \wedge isDisc(x)) \wedge isRed(x)$

Categorical propositions are a very restricted form of predicate logic:

- ▶ Every red thing is small  
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 $\forall x. (isSmall(x) \wedge isTriangle(x)) \rightarrow isRed(x)$
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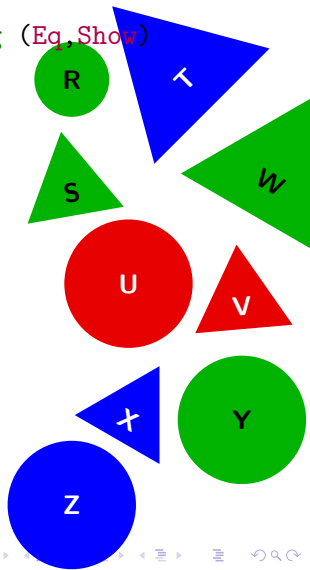
Can you write the general form of a categorical proposition?

# A universe in Haskell (1)

7.1/27

We need names for the *things* in the universe:

```
data Thing = R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z deriving (Eq, Show)
things = [ R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z ]
```



# A universe in Haskell (1)

7.2/27

We need names for the *things* in the universe:

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data Thing = R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z deriving (Eq, Show)
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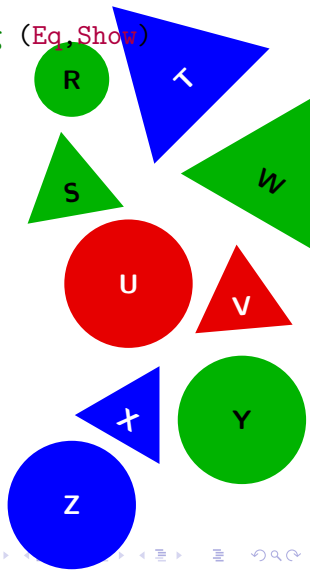
It's tempting to define types for the *features* that things have:

```
data Colour = Red | Blue | Green
data Shape = Disc | Triangle
data Size = Big | Small
```

and then define functions for the features:

```
colour :: Thing -> Colour
shape  :: Thing -> Shape
size   :: Thing -> Size
colour R = Green
```

etc. etc.



# A universe in Haskell (1)

7.3/27

We need names for the *things* in the universe:

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data Thing = R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z deriving (Eq, Show)
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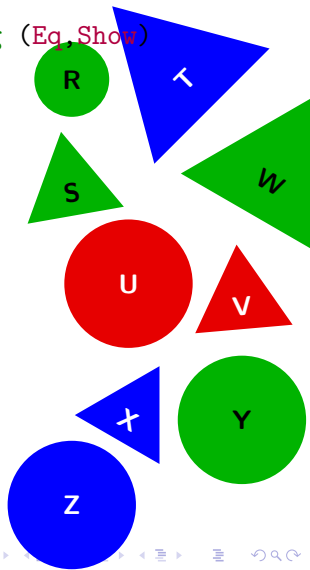
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shape  :: Thing -> Shape
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colour R = Green
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etc. etc.

However, because of all the types, this ends up being hard to work with.

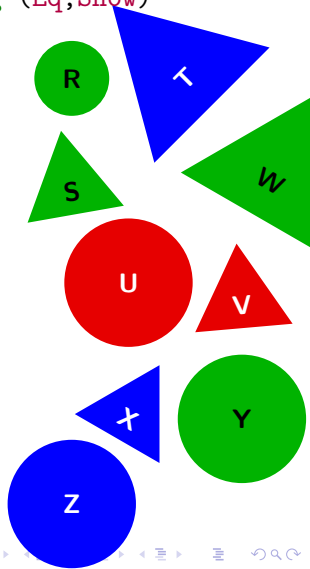


## A universe in Haskell (2)

8.1/27

```
data Thing = R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z deriving (Eq, Show)
things = [ R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z ]
```

Instead of features, we define **predicates**, the basic propositions of logic. Every feature has a predicate, e.g. `isGreen`.





## A universe in Haskell (2)

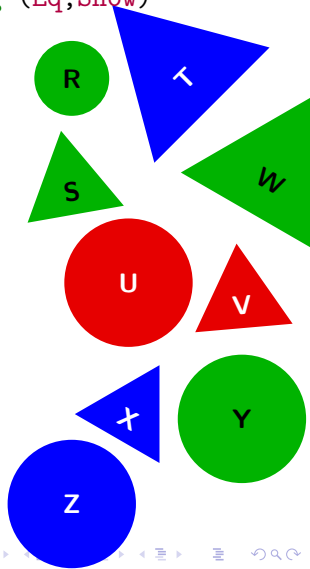
8.2/27

```
data Thing = R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z deriving (Eq, Show)
things = [ R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z ]
```

Instead of features, we define **predicates**, the basic propositions of logic. Every feature has a predicate, e.g. `isGreen`.

We could define the type of predicates on things:

```
type ThingPredicate = Thing -> Bool
isGreen :: ThingPredicate
```



## A universe in Haskell (2)

8.3/27

```
data Thing = R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z deriving (Eq, Show)
things = [ R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z ]
```

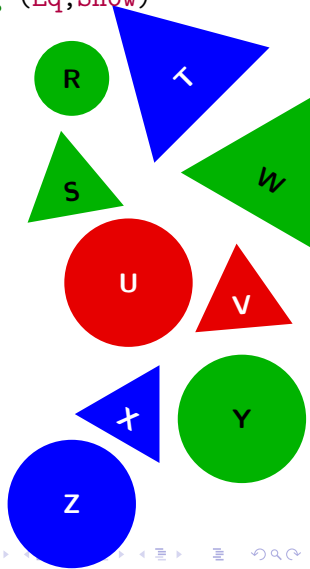
Instead of features, we define **predicates**, the basic propositions of logic. Every feature has a predicate, e.g. `isGreen`.

We could define the type of predicates on things:

```
type ThingPredicate = Thing -> Bool
isGreen :: ThingPredicate
```

but it's more general and convenient to do:

```
type Predicate u = u -> Bool
isGreen :: Predicate Thing
```



# Defining the predicates

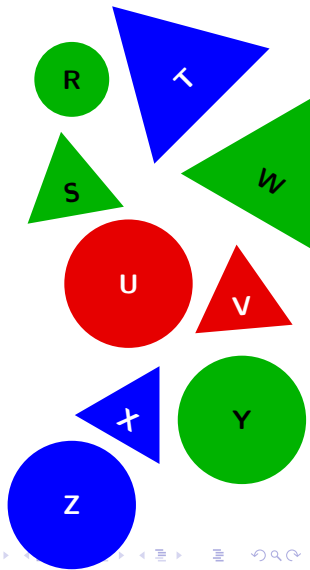
9.1/27

This is the simplest way to establish the predicates:

isGreen R = True

isGreen S = True

isGreen T = False



# Defining the predicates

9.2/27

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```
isGreen R = True
```

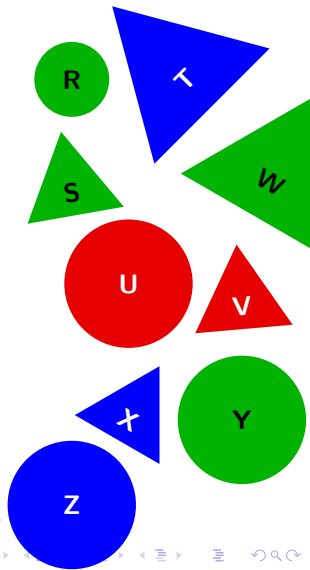
```
isGreen S = True
```

```
isGreen T = False
```

A lazier<sup>1</sup> way is:

```
isGreen x = x `elem` [ R, S, W, Y ]
```

```
isRed x = x `elem` [ U, V ]
```



<sup>1</sup>The three chief virtues of a programmer are laziness, impatience, and hubris  
– Larry Wall

## Defining the predicates

9.3/27

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```
isGreen R = True
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isGreen S = True
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isGreen T = False
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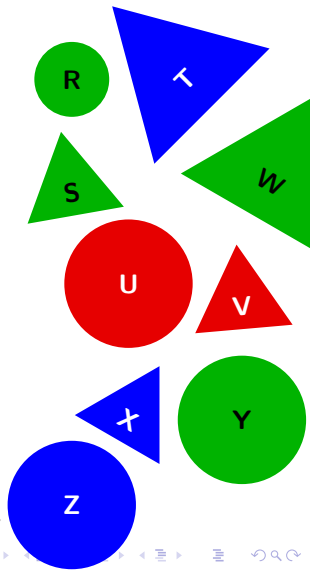
A lazier<sup>1</sup> way is:

```
isGreen x = x `elem` [ R, S, W, Y ]
```

```
isRed x = x `elem` [ U, V ]
```

Is this too lazy? (What happens when we extend the universe?)

```
isBlue x = not (isGreen x || isRed x)
```



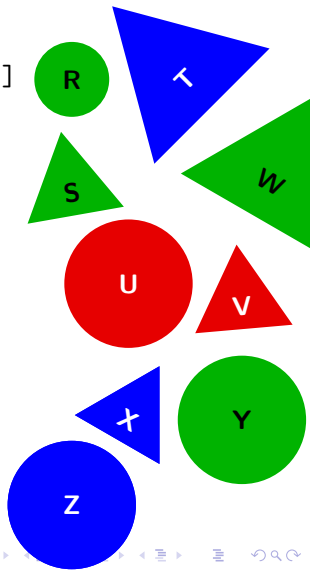
<sup>1</sup>The three chief virtues of a programmer are laziness, impatience, and hubris  
– Larry Wall

# Representing statements with list comprehension

10.1/27

Haskell's *list comprehension* gives a powerful way of representing statements:

```
[ x | x <- things, isBlue x || (isBig x && isDisc x) ]
```



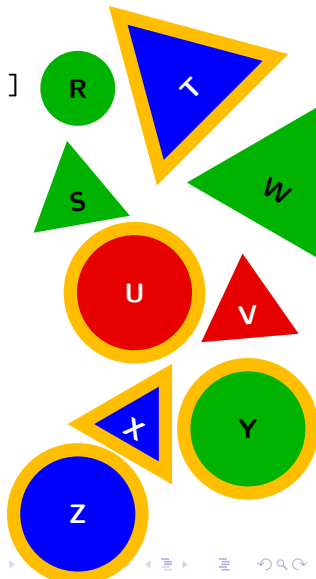
# Representing statements with list comprehension

10.2/27

Haskell's *list comprehension* gives a powerful way of representing statements:

```
[ x | x <- things, isBlue x || (isBig x && isDisc x) ]
```

'the set (list) of things that are either blue or are big discs'

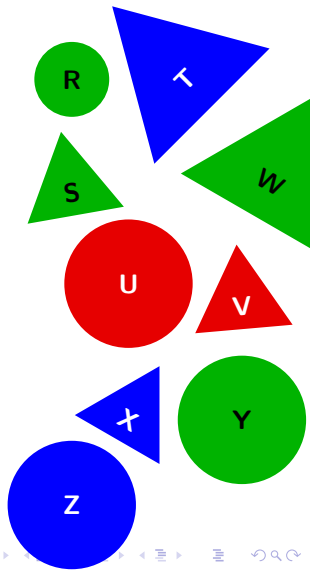


# Categorical statements with Haskell

11.1/27

Combining list comprehension with boolean operators on lists lets us express categorical statements.

Every small triangle is red. ✗



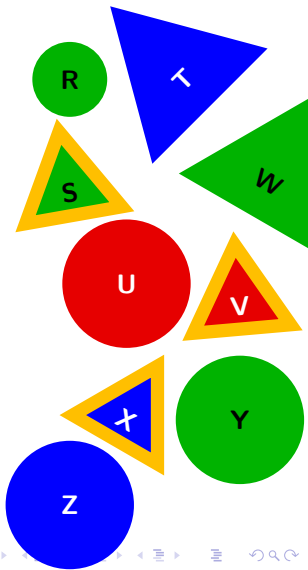


Combining list comprehension with boolean operators on lists lets us express categorical statements.

Every small triangle is red. ~~X~~

```
[ x | x <- things, isTriangle(x) && isSmall(x) ]  
[S,V,X]
```

'The set of things that are small triangles.'



Combining list comprehension with boolean operators on lists lets us express categorical statements.

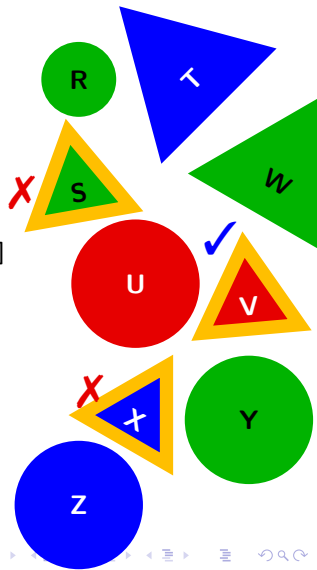
Every small triangle is red. ✗

```
[ x | x <- things, isTriangle(x) && isSmall(x) ]  
[S,V,X]
```

'The set of things that are small triangles.'

```
[ isRed(x) | x <- things, isTriangle(x) && isSmall(x) ]  
[False,True,False]
```

'Whether each small triangle is red.'



Combining list comprehension with boolean operators on lists lets us express categorical statements.

Every small triangle is red. ✗

```
[ x | x <- things, isTriangle(x) && isSmall(x) ]  
[S,V,X]
```

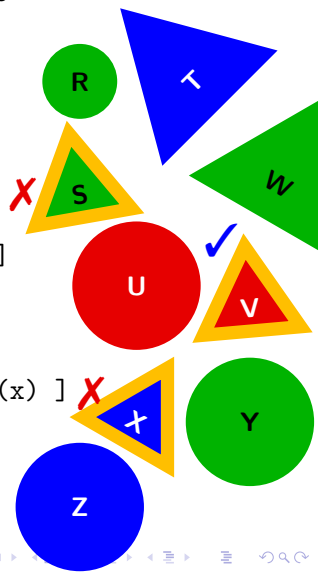
'The set of things that are small triangles.'

```
[ isRed(x) | x <- things, isTriangle(x) && isSmall(x) ]  
[False,True,False]
```

'Whether each small triangle is red.'

```
and [ isRed(x) | x <- things, isTriangle(x) && isSmall(x) ]  
False
```

'Every small triangle is red.'

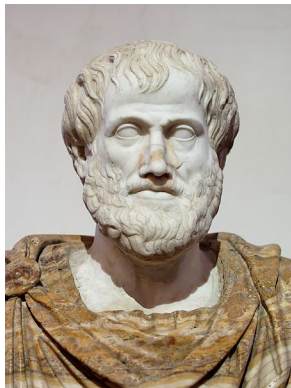


# Aristotle's Syllogistic Reasoning

12.1/27

*A syllogism is discourse (logos) in which, certain things being stated, something other than what is stated follows of necessity from those things.*

- ▶ All Greeks are human
- ▶ All humans are mortal
- ▶  $\therefore$  All Greeks are mortal



Can be expressed in many forms:

- ▶  $\{x \mid \text{isGreek}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isHuman}(x)\}$
- ▶  $\{x \mid \text{isHuman}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isMortal}(x)\}$
- ▶  $\therefore \{x \mid \text{isGreek}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isMortal}(x)\}$

All Greeks are  
human  
All humans are  
mortal  
 $\therefore$  all humans are  
mortal

Can be expressed in many forms:

- ▶  $\{x \mid \text{isGreek}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isHuman}(x)\}$
- ▶  $\{x \mid \text{isHuman}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isMortal}(x)\}$
- ▶  $\therefore \{x \mid \text{isGreek}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isMortal}(x)\}$

In modern logic, we write it as:

$$\frac{\text{isGreek} \models \text{isHuman} \quad \text{isHuman} \models \text{isMortal}}{\text{isGreek} \models \text{isMortal}}$$

All Greeks are  
human  
All humans are  
mortal  
 $\therefore$  all humans are  
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Can be expressed in many forms:

- ▶  $\{x \mid \text{isGreek}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isHuman}(x)\}$
- ▶  $\{x \mid \text{isHuman}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isMortal}(x)\}$
- ▶  $\therefore \{x \mid \text{isGreek}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isMortal}(x)\}$

In modern logic, we write it as:

$$\frac{\text{isGreek} \models \text{isHuman} \quad \text{isHuman} \models \text{isMortal}}{\text{isGreek} \models \text{isMortal}}$$

The general form of this syllogism is

$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

All Greeks are  
human  
All humans are  
mortal  
 $\therefore$  all humans are  
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Can be expressed in many forms:

- ▶  $\{x \mid \text{isGreek}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isHuman}(x)\}$
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- ▶  $\therefore \{x \mid \text{isGreek}(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid \text{isMortal}(x)\}$

In modern logic, we write it as:

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The general form of this syllogism is

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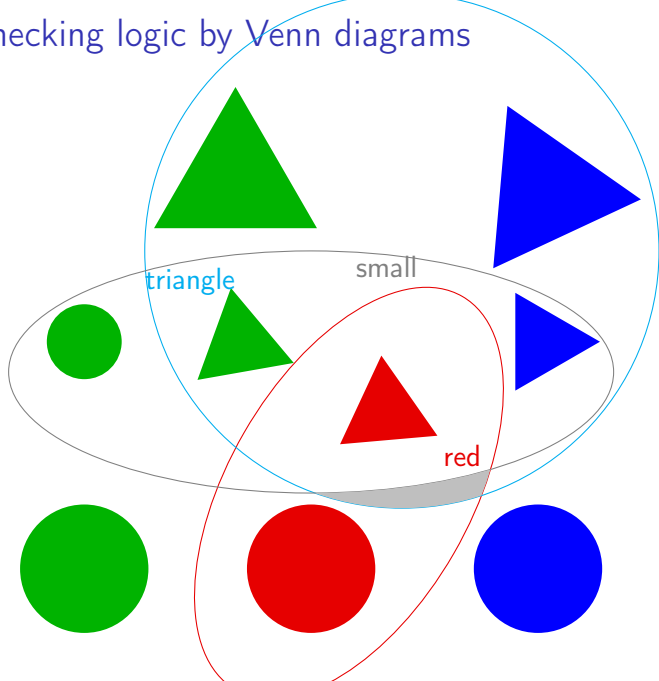
All Greeks are  
human  
All humans are  
mortal  
 $\therefore$  all humans are  
mortal

Is this syllogism **sound**? I.e. valid in *every* universe?



# Checking logic by Venn diagrams

14.1/27



Every red triangle is small ✓

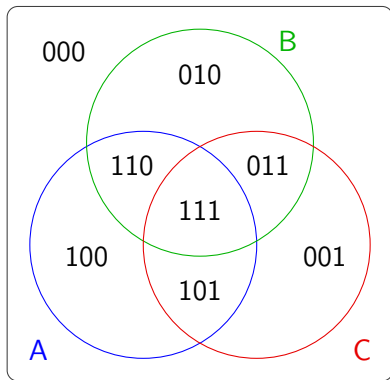
Every small triangle is red ✗

Some big triangle is green ?

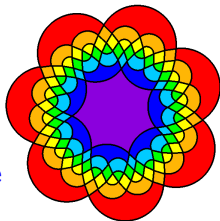
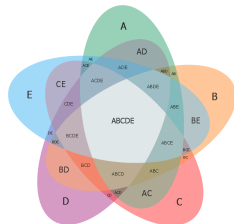
Some small disc is red ?

No red thing is blue ?

Venn diagrams show every possible combination



000	$\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \cap \bar{C}$
001	$\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \cap C$
010	$\bar{A} \cap B \cap \bar{C}$
011	$\bar{A} \cap B \cap C$
100	$A \cap \bar{B} \cap \bar{C}$
101	$A \cap \bar{B} \cap C$
110	$A \cap B \cap \bar{C}$
111	$A \cap B \cap C$

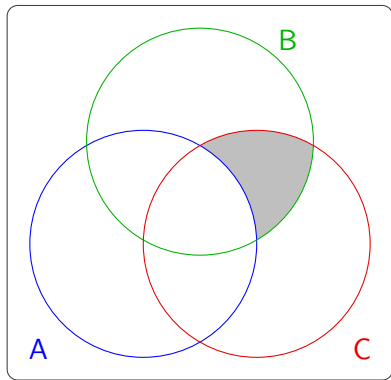


A rotationally symmetric Venn diagram for  $n > 1$  sets exists iff  $n$  is prime

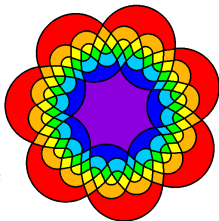
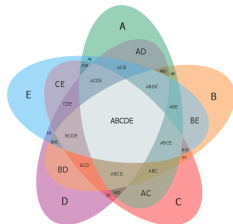
# Venn diagrams

15.2/27

We use light shading to show **emptiness** of a region



$$\bar{A} \cap B \cap C = \emptyset$$

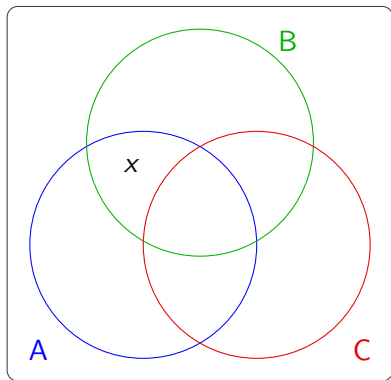


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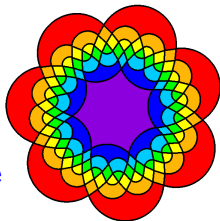
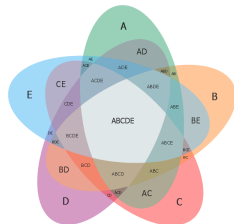
# Venn diagrams

15.3/27

We may write a *variable* to show **non-emptiness** of a region



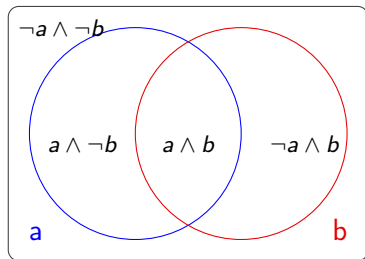
$$x \in A \cap B \cap \bar{C}$$



A rotationally symmetric Venn diagram for  $n > 1$  sets exists iff  $n$  is prime

# Venn interpretation of $a \models b$

16.1/27



$a \models b$  'every  $a$  is  $b$ '

$a \models b$  'no  $a$  is not  $b$ '

$a \models b$  'nothing is  $a$  and not  $b$ '

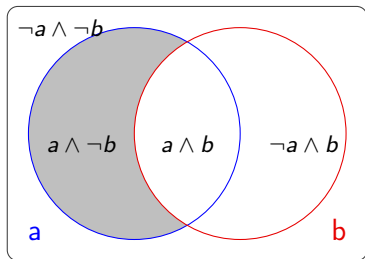
$a \models b$   $a \cap \bar{b} = \emptyset$

$a \models b$   $\neg(a \wedge \neg b)$

$a \models b$   $b \vee \neg a$

# Venn interpretation of $a \models b$

16.2/27



$a \models b$  'every  $a$  is  $b$ '

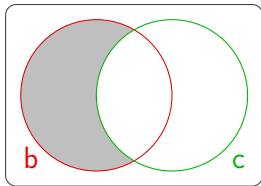
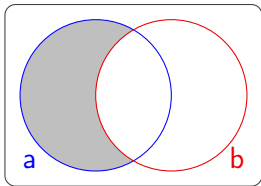
$a \models b$  'no  $a$  is not  $b$ '

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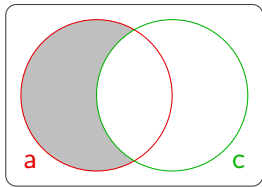
$a \models b$   $\neg(a \wedge \neg b)$

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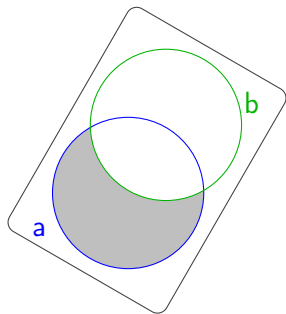
$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

every *a* is *b*    every *b* is *c*  
-----  
every *a* is *c*



# Combining diagrams

18.1/27

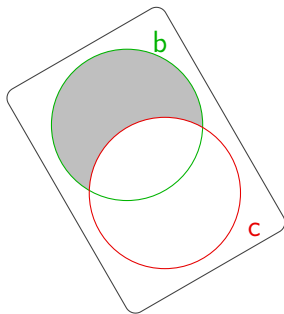
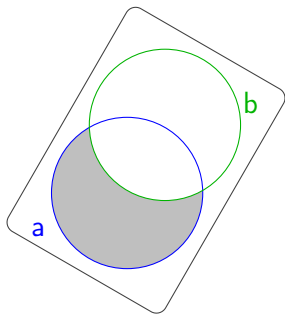


$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$



# Combining diagrams

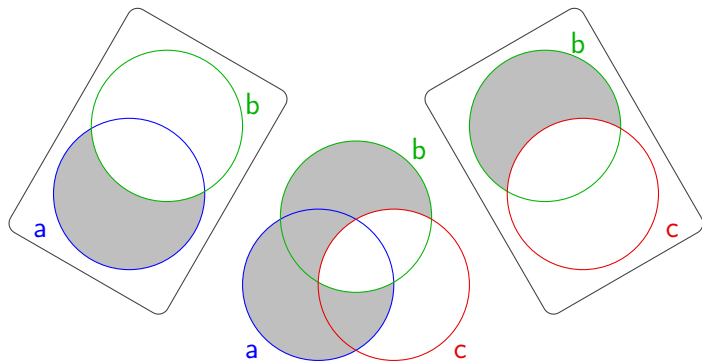
18.2/27



$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

# Combining diagrams

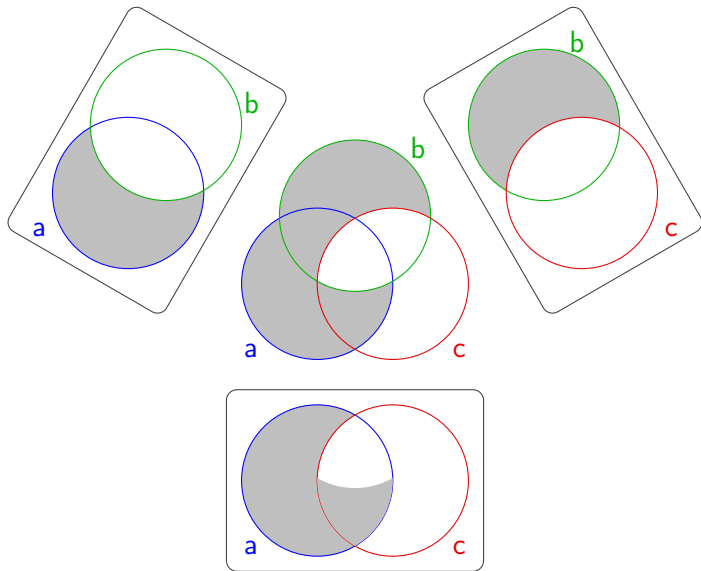
18.3/27



$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

# Combining diagrams

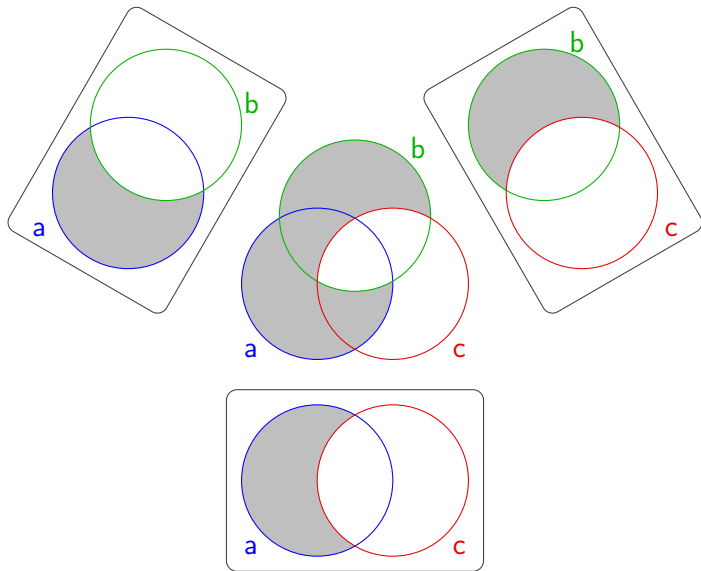
18.4/27



$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

# Combining diagrams

18.5/27



$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

$$\text{barbara} \quad \frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

This rule, as we've seen, is **sound**:  
for *any predicates*  $a, b, c$  in *any universe*, we have:  
**if** the **premises** (above the line) are valid  
**then** the **conclusion** (below the line) is valid.

Mediaeval logicians  
gave mnemonic  
names to syllogisms.  
This one is *barbara*.  
Consult Wikipedia to  
find out what that  
means – but only if  
you don't value your  
sanity!

make statements about *all* of something: 'all  $a$  are  $b$ '.

We can make universal *negative* statements: 'no  $a$  is  $b$ '.

'no  $a$  is  $b$ ' iff 'every  $a$  is  $\neg b$ ' iff  $a \models \neg b$

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'no  $a$  is  $b$ ' iff 'every  $a$  is  $\neg b$ ' iff  $a \models \neg b$

Here is a syllogism involving universal negatives:

$s \models r$	$r \models \neg f$	<i>All snakes are reptiles</i>
<hr/>		<i>No reptile has fur</i>
$s \models \neg f$		$\therefore$ <i>No snake has fur</i>

Is this an instance of *barbara* (and so valid)?

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Is this an instance of *barbara* (and so valid)?

For us modern logicians, it is:  $a \equiv s, b \equiv r, c \equiv \neg f$ .

A negated predicate is also a predicate.

Aristotle differed from us moderns on the relation between 'all' and 'no'. For him, this syllogism contained a universal affirmative and two universal negatives. The mediaeval logicians called it *celarent*.

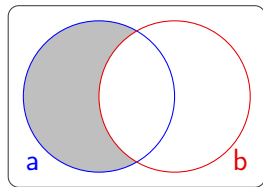
The key difference was the 'existential assumption' – see later.



whether affirmative or negative, say that some region is *empty*:

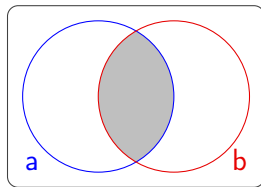
all  $a$  are  $b$

$$a \models b$$



no  $a$  is  $b$

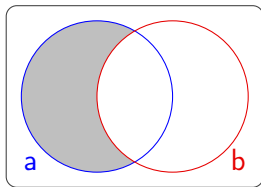
$$a \models \neg b$$



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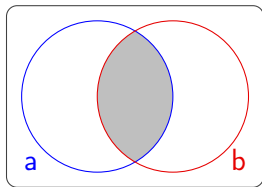
all  $a$  are  $b$

$a \models b$



no  $a$  is  $b$

$a \models \neg b$

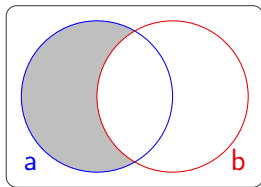


What about  $\neg a \models b$  and  $\neg a \models \neg b$ ?

whether affirmative or negative, say that some region is *empty*:

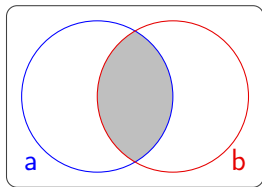
all  $a$  are  $b$

$a \models b$



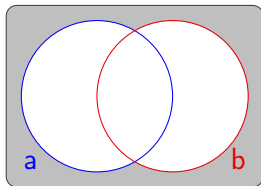
no  $a$  is  $b$

$a \models \neg b$



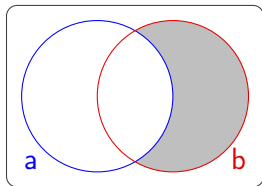
???

$\neg a \models b$



???

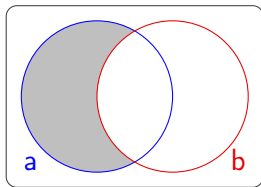
$\neg a \models \neg b$



whether affirmative or negative, say that some region is *empty*:

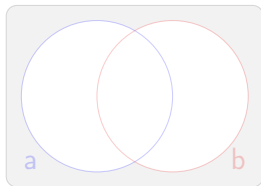
all  $a$  are  $b$

$a \models b$



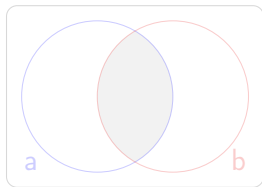
???

$\neg a \models b$



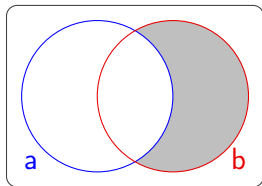
no  $a$  is  $b$

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???

$\neg a \models \neg b$



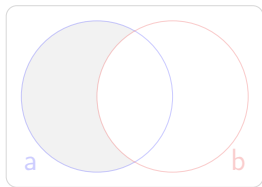
We can observe:

- $a \models b$  and  $\neg a \models \neg b$  are reflections of each other: so  $\neg a \models \neg b$  is the same as  $b \models a$ .  
 $\neg a \models \neg b$  is the **contrapositive** of  $b \models a$ .

whether affirmative or negative, say that some region is *empty*:

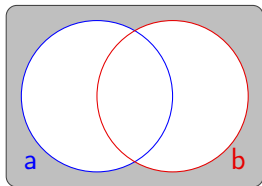
all  $a$  are  $b$

$a \models b$



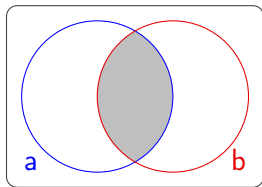
???

$\neg a \models b$



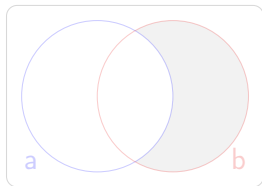
no  $a$  is  $b$

$a \models \neg b$



???

$\neg a \models \neg b$



We can observe:

- ▶  $a \models b$  and  $\neg a \models \neg b$  are reflections of each other: so  $\neg a \models \neg b$  is the same as  $b \models a$ .  
 $\neg a \models \neg b$  is the **contrapositive** of  $b \models a$ .
- ▶  $a \models \neg b$  is symmetrical, so is the same as  $b \models \neg a$  – they are **contrapositives**. Likewise  $\neg a \models b$  and  $\neg b \models a$ .

Negation can be tricky – modern classical logic makes it simple.

Natural languages differ, within and between themselves, on how they treat multiple negatives:  
'I didn't never do nothing to nobody!'.  
How does your native language/dialect treat multiple negatives?

Negation can be tricky – modern classical logic makes it simple.

The law of double negation:  $\neg\neg a = a$  (two negatives make a positive).

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The law of contraposition:  $a \models b$  iff  $\neg b \models \neg a$ .

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The law of double negation:  $\neg\neg a = a$  (two negatives make a positive).

The law of contraposition:  $a \models b$  iff  $\neg b \models \neg a$ .

Thus we get  $a \models b$  iff  $\neg b \models \neg a$  iff  $\neg\neg a \models \neg\neg b$  iff  $a \models b$ .

$$\frac{a \models b}{\neg b \models \neg a}$$

The double line means the rule works both ways.

Natural languages differ, within and between themselves, on how they treat multiple negatives: 'I didn't never do nothing to nobody!'. How does your native language/dialect treat multiple negatives?

So far, we have seen (and hopefully agreed on) these **sound** rules about predicates and  $\models$ :

►  $\neg\neg a = a$  or  $\frac{a}{\neg\neg a}$  (double negation)

►  $\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$  (*barbara*)

►  $\frac{a \models b}{\neg b \models \neg a}$  (contraposition)

So far, we have seen (and hopefully agreed on) these **sound** rules about predicates and  $\models$ :

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►  $\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$  (*barbara*)

►  $\frac{a \models b}{\neg b \models \neg a}$  (contraposition)

We also saw a ‘different’ (for Aristotle) syllogism with negatives got from *barbara* by putting  $\neg c$  for  $c$ :

$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models \neg c}{a \models \neg c}$	<i>All snakes are reptiles</i> <i>No reptile has fur</i> <i>∴ No snake has fur</i>
---	--

By using (un)negated predicates in *barbara*, we get 8 syllogisms:

$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

$$\frac{\neg a \models b \quad b \models c}{\neg a \models c}$$

$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models \neg c}{a \models \neg c}$$

$$\frac{\neg a \models b \quad b \models \neg c}{\neg a \models \neg c}$$

$$\frac{a \models \neg b \quad \neg b \models c}{a \models c}$$

$$\frac{\neg a \models \neg b \quad \neg b \models c}{\neg a \models c}$$

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Aristotle only considered negative predicates on the right of  $\models$  ( $a \models \neg b$  means ‘no  $a$  is  $b$ ’, so he viewed it as a negative statement about positive predicates). This leaves ...

By using (un)negated predicates in *barbara*, we get 8 syllogisms:

$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

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*barbara* and *celarent*

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*Contraposition* lets us generate three more (Aristotelian) syllogisms from *celarent*:

$$\frac{a \models b \quad c \models \neg b}{a \models \neg c}$$

$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models \neg c}{c \models \neg a}$$

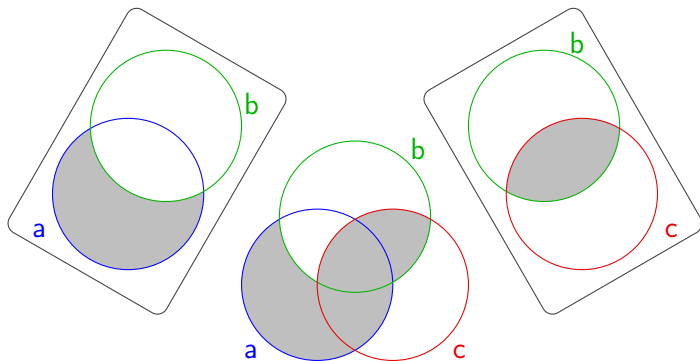
$$\frac{a \models b \quad c \models \neg b}{c \models \neg a}$$

*cesare, camenes,  
camestres*

That brings us to 5 sound universal syllogisms. That's all!

# Unsound syllogisms

26.1/27



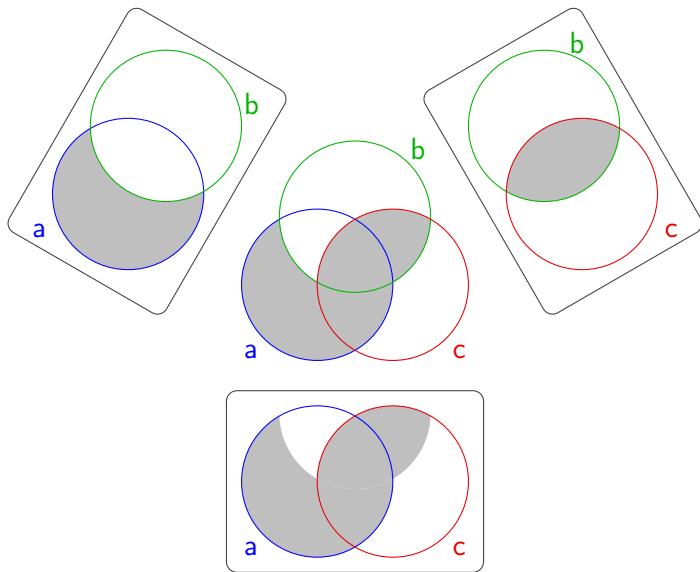
$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models \neg c}{a \models c}$$

*All snakes are reptiles*  
*No reptile has fur*  
 $\therefore$  *All snakes have fur*



# Unsound syllogisms

26.2/27

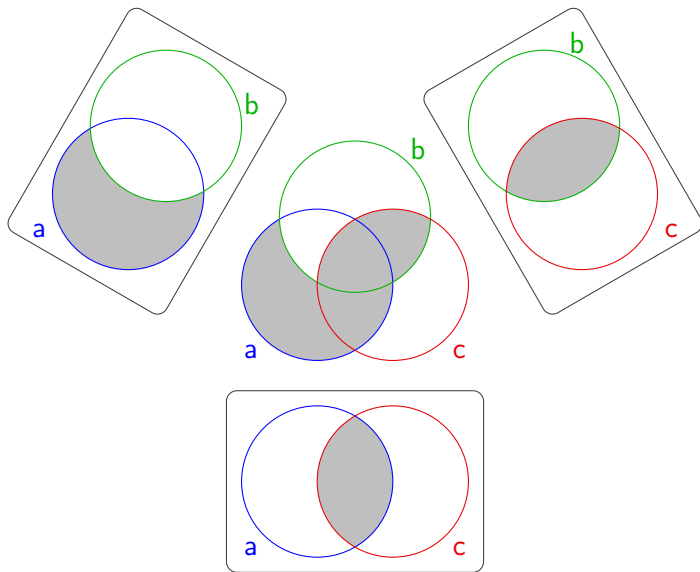


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# Unsound syllogisms

26.3/27

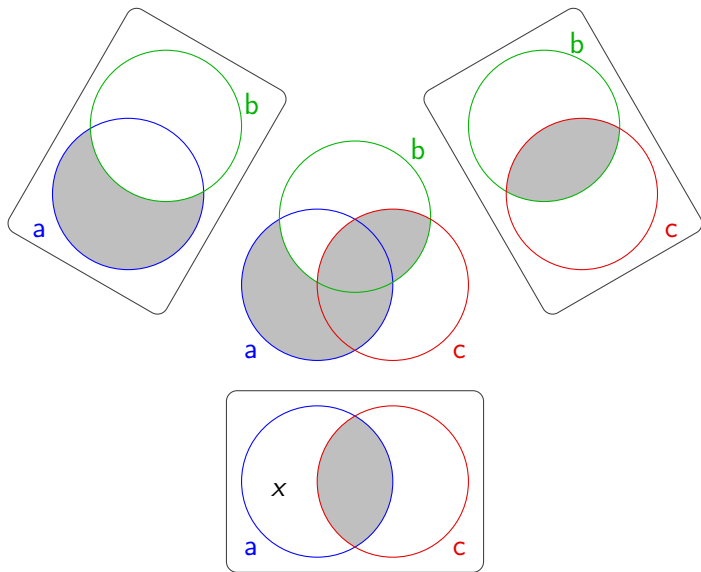


$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models \neg c}{a \models c}$$

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26.4/27

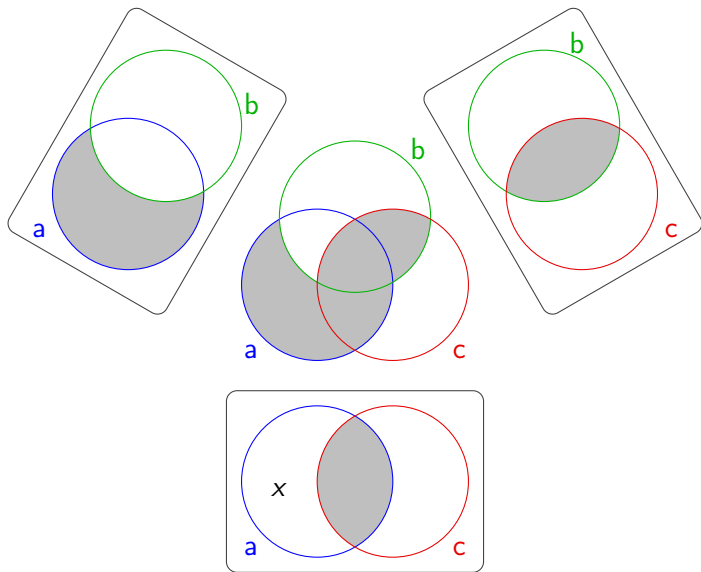


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# Unsound syllogisms

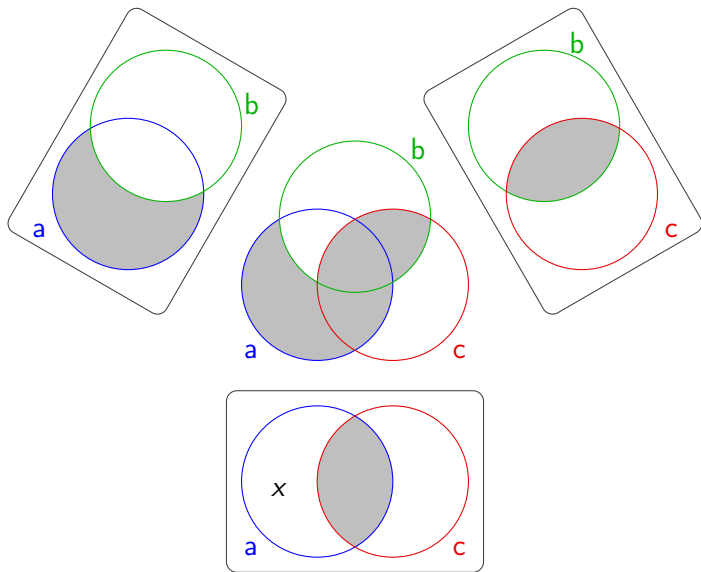
26.5/27



$$\begin{array}{c} a \models b \quad b \models \neg c \\ \hline a \models c \end{array}$$

*All snakes are reptiles*  
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To disprove a syllogism, we need just one universe where it's invalid (e.g. Edinburgh zoo).



$$\begin{array}{c} a \models b \quad b \models \neg c \\ \hline a \models c \end{array}$$

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 $\therefore$  *All snakes have fur*

To disprove a syllogism, we need just one universe where it's invalid (e.g. Edinburgh zoo).

Is there a universe where this syllogism *is* valid?

(Aristotle said 'no'; we moderns differ. Hint: St Patrick.)

From *barbara*, contraposition, and double negation, we have five sound syllogisms about universal statements:

$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models c}{a \models c}$$

$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models \neg c}{a \models \neg c}$$

$$\frac{a \models b \quad c \models \neg b}{a \models \neg c}$$

$$\frac{a \models b \quad b \models \neg c}{c \models \neg a} \quad \text{equivalently} \quad \frac{c \models b \quad b \models \neg a}{a \models \neg c}$$

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Note that the conclusion is negative iff exactly one of the premises is negative – compare the unsound syllogism on the previous slide.