## Predicate logic

Dr. Constantinos Constantinides, P.Eng.

Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering Concordia University Montreal, Canada

December 31, 2021

#### Introduction

- Much like propositional logic, predicate logic uses symbols to represent knowledge.
- ▶ Propositional logic does not allow us to say things like "All objects of this class have this particular property", or "Some objects of this class have this property", etc.

## Introduction /cont.

- Let P(x) denote the statement "x is an odd number."
- ► The statement cannot be given a truth value since the value for x is not yet specified. We say that variable x is a free variable and it constitutes the subject of the statement, whereas "is an odd number" refers to a property of the subject and is called the predicate.
- ▶ P(x) is called a *propositional function*, as each choice of x produces a proposition.

## Introduction /cont.

- ▶ **Definition**: A propositional function is a statement containing one or more free variables. The statement becomes a proposition once values are assigned to all its free variables.
- ▶ In P(x): "x is an odd number.", P(5) becomes a proposition by setting x = 5 and its value is true, whereas the proposition P(6) is false.
- Sometimes, the entire P(x) is referred to as a predicate.

# Using predicates to define sets: Untyped set comprehension

- $\{x \mid x < 5\}$  is the set of all values of x for which x < 5.
- ▶ This notation is an example of *untyped set comprehension*.
- ▶ We read "the set of values x such that x < 5."

# Using predicates to define sets: Untyped set comprehension /cont.

▶ A set comprehension can be modeled by a decision procedure where for an input variable it gives a result of true or false, e.g.  $2 \in \{x \mid x < 5\}$  is true.

## Using predicates to define sets: Typed set comprehension

- ▶ A *typed set comprehension* is of the form  $\{x \in X \mid p(x)\}$  where p(x) is a predicate with free variable x.
- ▶ For example,  $\{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x < 5\}$  represents the set of natural numbers less than five.
- ▶ Is  $2.5 \in \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x < 5\}$  true? No, since  $2.5 \notin \mathbb{N}$ .

#### Set replacement

- ► An extension to set comprehension is to follow the declaration and predicate by a formula, e.g.
  - $\{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x < 5 \bullet x^2\}$  refers to a set of numbers which are squares of numbers less than 5, i.e.  $\{0, 1, 4, 9, 16\}$ .
- ▶ Each element in the set  $\{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x < 5\}$  is replaced by its square so that a new set is formed.

#### Quantifiers

- As its name suggests, a *quantifier* is an operator that states that a predicate is true for a given quantity of objects.
- The expression "for all", denoted by the symbol ∀, is called the *universal quantifier*.
- ► The expression "there exists", denoted by the symbol ∃ is called the *existential quantifier*.

## Universal quantification

- ▶ **Definition**: The *universal quantification* of P(x) is the statement "P(x) is true for all values of x." Symbolically this is expressed as  $\forall x P(x)$ .
- ▶ The statement  $\forall x P(x)$  is true when P(x) is true for all x. It is false when there is at least one x for which P(x) is false.
- ▶ Its negation becomes  $\neg \forall x P(x)$  and it is true when there is an x for which P(x) is false, or  $\exists x \neg P(x)$ .

## An initial example of a universal quantification

- In the domain of animals, how do we express "All cats are mammals"?
- We can rephrase the statement as "If x is a cat, then x is a mammal":

$$\forall x (cat(x) \rightarrow mammal(x))$$

## Example: Universal quantification

- ▶ How do we express "Only dogs bark"?
- ► We can rephrase the statement as "It barks only if it is a dog", or "If it barks, then it is a dog":

$$\forall x (barks(x) \rightarrow dog(x))$$

#### Existential quantification

- ▶ **Definition**: The existential quantification of P(x) is the statement "There exists an element x such that P(x) is true." Symbolically this is expressed as  $\exists x P(x)$ .
- ▶ The statement  $\exists x P(x)$  is true when there is at least one x for which P(x) is true.
- ▶ It is false when P(x) is false for all x. Its negation becomes  $\neg \exists x P(x)$  and it is true when for every x, P(x) is false, or  $\forall x \neg P(x)$ .
- ▶ In existential quantification we can make a distinction between "there exists at least one" (as defined above) and "there exists exactly one", symbolically expressed as ∃!.

## Example: Combining quantifiers

- Consider the following statement: "For every integer number x, there is a successor integer number y."
- ▶ We can denote the successor property with the predicate P(x, y) : y = x + 1 and write the statement symbolically as

$$\forall x \exists y P(x, y)$$

#### Bound variables

- ► When we assign a value to a free variable, then the variable becomes a *bound variable*.
- ▶ Another way for a free variable to become bound is when we can apply a quantifier to it, such as "There exists an x such that x > 0."
- We say that the variable x is bound by the quantifier "there exists."

### Precedence rules in the presence of quantifiers

- ▶ Both universal and existential quantifiers have a higher precedence than the rest of the connectives, but they have a lower precedence than the negation operator.
- ► Consider the predicates p(x) = "x is living." and q(x) = "x is dead":
- 1  $\forall x(p(x) \lor q(x))$  is interpreted as everything is either living or dead.
- 2  $\forall xp(x) \lor q(x)$  is interpreted as everything is living or x is dead.

### Negation

► Consider the statement "All birds are white" or

$$\forall x P(x)$$

where the predicate P(x) stands for "bird is white."

► To negate the statement we can say "It is not true (or: not the case) that all birds are white" or "Not all birds are white."

### Negation /cont.

- Note that it would be incorrect to say "All birds are not white" as this would claim that there are no white birds which is clearly false.
- ▶ The negated statement can be written symbolically as

$$\neg [\forall x P(x)]$$

An alternative way to express the negated statement is to say "There is at least one bird that is not white", written symbolically as

$$\exists x [\neg P(x)]$$

## Negation /cont.

 Note that the process of negating the statement corresponds to negating the predicate and changing the quantifier. In other words

$$\neg [\forall x P(x)] \equiv \exists x [\neg P(x)]$$

► Similarly, to negate a predicate with the existential quantifier, we can write

$$\neg [\exists x P(x)] \equiv \forall x [\neg P(x)]$$

## Negation - Summary

Negated statement	Equivalent statement	When is it true?	When is it false?
$\neg [\forall x P(x)]$	$\exists x [\neg P(x)]$	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is false.	P(x) is true for every $x$ .
$\neg[\exists x \ P(x)]$	$\forall x[\neg P(x)]$	For every $x$ , $P(x)$ is false.	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is true.

#### Nested quantifiers

- A quantifier is called *nested* if it occurs within the scope of another. For quantifiers of the same type, the order does not matter.
- ► However, the order in which quantifiers of different types are placed is important.
- ▶  $\forall x \exists y P(x, y)$  reads "For every x there is a y for which P(x, y) is true."
- In other words, no matter which x we choose, there must be a value of y (possibly depending on the choice of x) for which P(x,y) is true.
- ▶  $\exists y \forall x P(x, y)$  reads "There in an y that makes P(x, y) true for every x."

## Example 1: Nested quantifiers

- ▶ Consider the predicate loves(x, y) denoting "x loves y". We can express the following predicates using nested quantifiers:
- ▶  $\forall x \exists y \ loves(x, y)$  reads "Everyone loves someone", i.e. no matter which x we choose, there must always be some y that makes loves(x, y) true.
- ▶  $\exists y \forall x \ loves(x, y)$  reads "There is someone who is loved by everybody", i.e. there is some particular y for which loves(x, y) is true, regardless of the choice of x.

## Example 1: Nested quantifiers /cont.

- ▶ If  $\exists y \forall x P(x, y)$  is true, then  $\forall x \exists y P(x, y)$  is also true, e.g. if "There is someone who is loved by everybody", then we can safely conclude that "Everyone loves someone."
- However, if  $\forall x \exists y P(x, y)$  is true, e.g. "Everyone loves someone", then it is not necessary that  $\exists y \forall x \ loves(x, y)$  is true, e.g. it is not necessary that "There is someone who is loved by everybody."

## Example 1: Nested quantifiers

- We can also translate the following sentences into formal statements:
- ► "Someone loves someone."  $\exists x \exists y \ loves(x, y)$ , or  $\exists y \exists x \ loves(x, y)$
- "Everyone loves someone."  $\forall x \exists y \ loves(x, y)$
- ▶ "Everyone is loved by someone."  $\forall y \exists x \ loves(x, y)$
- ▶ "There is someone who loves everyone."  $\exists x \forall y \ loves(x, y)$
- ► "There is someone who is loved by everybody."  $\exists y \forall x \ loves(x, y)$
- ► "Everyone loves everyone."  $\forall x \forall y \ loves(x, y)$ , or  $\forall y \forall x \ loves(x, y)$

## Example 2: Nested quantifiers

- ▶ Consider the predicate B(p, r) denoting the predicate "Person p has booked room r." and the sentence "No room is booked by more than one person."
- ▶ If no room is booked by more than one person, then the predicates B(p,r) and B(q,r) cannot both be true unless p and q denote the same person.
- Symbolically this can be expressed as

$$\forall p \forall q \forall r [(B(p,r) \land B(q,r)) \rightarrow (p=q)]$$

## Example 3: Nested quantifiers

► Consider the following: "Every airline x flies to exactly one city y." This can be formulated as:

$$\forall x \exists ! y (airline(x) \land city(y) \land flies(x, y))$$

## Example 4: Nested quantifiers

- ► Let sentMessage(x, y) be the statement "x has sent a message to y" where the domain is all students in class. Note that x and y can be the same person.
- ▶  $\exists x \exists y P(x, y)$ : The is some student who has sent a message to some student.
- ▶  $\forall x \forall y P(x, y)$ : Every student in the class has sent a message to every student in the class.

## Example 4: Nested quantifiers /cont.

- ▶  $\exists y \forall x P(x, y)$ : Recall that this reads "There in a y that makes P(x, y) true for every x." There is a student in class who has been sent a message by every student in class.
- ▶  $\exists x \forall y P(x, y)$ : This is similar to the above, only the roles have been changed: There is some student who has sent a message to every student in the class.

## Example 4: Nested quantifiers /cont.

- ▶  $\forall x \exists y P(x, y)$ : Recall that this reads "For every x there is a y for which P(x, y) is true." Every student in class has sent a message to some (at least one) student in class.
- ▶  $\forall y \exists x P(x, y)$ : This is similar to the above, only the roles have been changed: Every student in class has been sent a message from some (at least one) student in class.

## Example 5: Nested quantifiers

- Consider the statement "Everyone has exactly one movie that he or she likes."
- Let us express the statement in formal logic by introducing the predicate likes(x, y) to represent the statement "x likes movie y."
- Let us start with  $\forall x \exists y \ likes(x, y)$  which reads "For every x there is a y for which likes(x, y) is true", or "Everyone likes some movie."
- This does not fully capture the original statement because it does not exclude the possibility that there may be more than one movie that a person likes.

## Example 5: Nested quantifiers /cont.

- ► To complete the statement we need to add that no other movie (i.e. no movie which is not y) is liked by x, or  $\forall z((z \neq y) \rightarrow \neg likes(x, z))$ .
- Putting everything together we have

$$\forall x \exists y (likes(x, y) \land \forall z ((z \neq y) \rightarrow \neg likes(x, z)))$$

## Negating nested quantifiers

The negation of nested quantifiers follows the same rules are with single quantifiers. The statement

$$\forall x \exists y P(x, y)$$

reads "For every x, there is a y for which P(x,y) is true." The negated statement would read "There is an x such that P(x,y) is false for every y", or

$$\exists x \forall y \neg P(x, y)$$

The statement

$$\exists x \forall y P(x, y)$$

reads "There is an x for which P(x,y) is true fo every y." The negated statement would read "For every x there is a y for which P(x,y) is false", or

$$\forall x \exists y \neg P(x, y)$$

## Summary of quantifications of two variables

Statement	When is it true	When is it false
$\forall x \forall y P(x, y) \\ \forall y \forall x P(x, y)$	P(x, y) is true for every pair $(x, y)$ .	There is a pair $(x, y)$ for which $P(x, y)$ is false.
$\forall x \exists y P(x,y)$	For every $x$ there is a $y$ for which $P(x, y)$ is true.	There is an $x$ such that $P(x, y)$ is false for every $y$ .
$\exists x \forall y P(x,y)$	There in an $x$ for which $P(x, y)$ is true for every $y$ .	For every $x$ there is a $y$ for which $P(x, y)$ is false.
$\exists x \exists y P(x, y) \\ \exists y \exists x P(x, y)$	There is a pair $(x, y)$ , for which $P(x, y)$ is true.	P(x,y) is false for every pair $(x,y)$ .

### Equivalences

$$\forall x \forall y \ P(x,y) \equiv \forall y \forall x \ P(x,y)$$

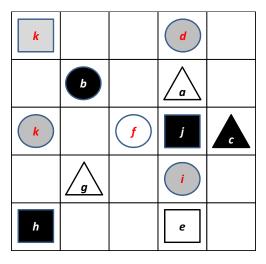
$$\exists x \exists y \ P(x,y) \equiv \exists y \exists x \ P(x,y)$$

$$\exists x \ (P(x) \to Q(x)) \equiv \forall x \ P(x) \to \exists x \ Q(x)$$

$$\exists x \ (P(x) \lor Q(x)) \equiv \exists x \ P(x) \lor \exists x \ Q(x)$$

$$\forall x \ (P(x) \land Q(x))) \equiv \forall x \ P(x) \land \forall x \ Q(x)$$

## Example: Formalizing sentences from a natural language with Tarski's world

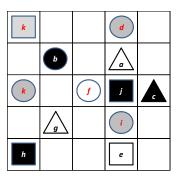


# Example: Formalizing sentences from a natural language with Tarski's world /cont.

#### We adopt the following predicates:

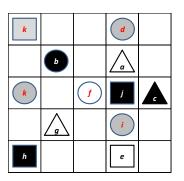
- square (x) indicates that x is a square.
- circle (x) indicates that x is a circle.
- triangle (x) indicates that x is a triangle.
- black (x) indicates that x is a black.
- gray (x) indicates that x is a gray.
- white (x) indicates that x is a white.
- aboveOf (x, y) indicates that x is above y, perhaps in a different column.
- rightOf (x, y) indicates that x is to the right of y, perhaps in a different row.
- ▶ sameColor (x, y) indicates that x and y have the same color.

Example: Formalizing sentences from a natural language with Tarski's world /cont.



- ▶ All squares are black:  $\forall x \ (square(x) \rightarrow black(x))$ . False, since e and k are both squares and non-black. Note that to prove false one counter-example would be enough.
- ▶ Everything white is a triangle.  $\forall x \ (white(x) \rightarrow triangle(x))$ . False, since e and f are both white and not triangles.

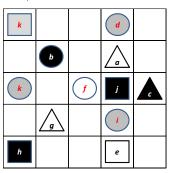
Example: Formalizing sentences from a natural language with Tarski's world /cont.



There is a square that lies to the left of d.  $\exists x \ (square(x) \land rightOf(d, x)).$ True: h and k both lie to the left of d.

▶ There is a black circle.  $\exists x \ (circle(x) \land black(x))$ . True: b.

# Example: Formalizing sentences from a natural language with Tarski's world /cont.



- ▶ All circles are above g.  $\forall x \ (circle(x) \rightarrow aboveOf(x,g))$ . False, since i is a circle and it is not above g.
- ► For every square, there exists a circle of the same color.

$$\forall x \ (square(x) \rightarrow \exists y (circle(y) \land sameColour(x, y)))$$

This is true.

#### Categorical propositions

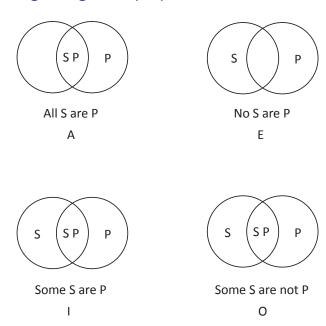
- ▶ A categorical proposition (or categorical statement) is a proposition that asserts or denies that all or some of the members of one category (the subject term) are included in another (the predicate term).
- For example, the categorical proposition "All birds are white" asserts that all members of category birds are included in category being white.
- ▶ The category of the subject (birds) and refers to what the proposition is about, whereas the category of the predicate (being white) refers to what the proposition affirms (or denies) about the subject.

### Standard forms of categorical propositions

- Aristotle identified four primary distinct types of categorical proposition and gave them standard forms (referred to as A, E, I, and O).
- ► For the subject category S, and the predicate category P, the four standard forms are:

- All S are P. (A form)
  No S are P. (E form)
  Some S are P. (I form)
  Some S are not P. (O form)

# Visualizing categorical propositions



### Properties of categorical propositions: Quantity

- Quantity refers to the number of members of the subject class that are used in the proposition.
- ▶ If the proposition refers to all members of the subject class, it is *universal*.
- ▶ If the proposition does not employ all members of the subject class, it is particular.
- Categorical propositions A and E have a universal quantity as they make a claim about all members of the subject class, whereas propositions I and O have a particular quantity as they make a claim about some (at least one) member of the subject class.

# Properties of categorical propositions: Quality

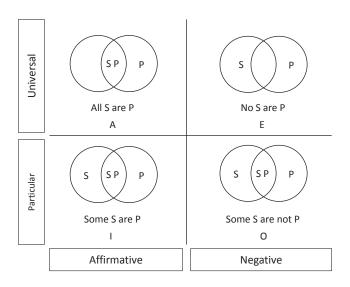
- ► Quality describes whether the proposition affirms or denies the inclusion of a subject within the class of the predicate.
- ► The two possible qualities are called *affirmative* and *negative*.
- Propositions A and I have an affirmative quality as they affirm class membership, whereas propositions E and O have negative quality as they deny class membership.

### Summary of categorical propositions

Letting S and P stand for subject and predicate respectively, we have four forms of categorical propositions as shown below:

NAME	FORM	TITLE	
А	All S are P	Universal affirmative	$\forall x P(x)$
E	No S are P	Universal negative	$\forall x[\neg P(x)]$
I	Some S are P	Particular affirmative	$\exists x P(x)$
О	Some S are not P	Particular negative	$\exists x [\neg P(x)]$

# Visualizing categorical propositions with their properties



# Formalizing sentences from a natural language

- ▶ In the episode "Fidelity" of House M. D., Dr. Gregory House says: "I don't ask why patients lie, I just assume they all do."
- ▶ Consider the following list of categorical propositions where P(x) denotes the subject "x is a patient" and Q(x) denotes the predicate "x lies":
  - ▶ "Every patient lies."  $\forall x \ (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$  (All P are Q: Type A)
  - ▶ "No patient lies."  $\forall x \ (P(x) \rightarrow \neg Q(x))$  (No P are Q: Type E)
  - ▶ "Some patient lies."  $\exists x (P(x) \land Q(x))$  (Some P are Q: Type I)
  - ► "Not all patients lie."  $\exists x \ (P(x) \land \neg Q(x))$  (Some P are not Q: Type O)

# Formalizing sentences from a natural language /cont.

- Consider the statement "All patients are honest." What type is it? Is is A?
- No. Given the subject and predicate, the statement is of type E: "No patient lies."
- Similarly, the statement "No patient is honest" is of type A because, given the subject and predicate it is interpreted as "All patients lie."
- ► To determine the proper type, a statement should be interpreted w.r.t. the subject and predicate.

### Formalizing categorical propositions

- ▶ "Some patient lies."  $\exists x \ (P(x) \land Q(x))$
- "No patient lies."  $\forall x \ (P(x) \rightarrow \neg Q(x))$
- ▶ "All patients lie."  $\forall x \ (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$
- ▶ "Not all patients lie."  $\exists x \ (P(x) \land \neg Q(x))$
- "Every patient lies."  $\forall x \ (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$
- ▶ "There is an honest patient."  $\exists x \ (P(x) \land \neg Q(x))$
- ▶ "No patient is honest."  $\forall x \ (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$
- ▶ "All patients are honest."  $\forall x \ (P(x) \rightarrow \neg Q(x))$

# Formalizing sentences from a natural language /cont.

- We notice that each formalization satisfies one of the following two properties:
- ▶ The universal quantifier  $\forall x$  quantifies an implication.
- ▶ The existential quantifier  $\exists x$  quantifies a conjunction.

# Formalizing sentences from a natural language /cont.

- ▶ Consider the statement "Some patient lies" which was formalized as  $\exists x \ (P(x) \land Q(x))$ .
- ▶ Can we argue that the sentence can also be formalized as  $\exists x \ (P(x) \to Q(x))$ ?
- ▶ This would be equivalent to  $\forall x \ P(x) \to \exists x Q(x)$  which means "If everyone is a patient then someone lies" which does not convey the meaning of the original sentence.

#### Contradictory categorical propositions

▶ **Definition**: A pair of categorical propositions are called *contradictories* if they have opposite truth values: they cannot both be true and cannot both be false.

### Contradictory categorical propositions: Example 1

- Consider the statement "Every person owns a house." Its contradictory statement is "Not every person owns a house."
- Given a subject category "x is a person" and predicate category "x owns a house", then "Every person owns a house" is of type A.
- Its contradictory statement "Not every person owns a house" can be rephrased as "Some people do not own a house" which is of type O.
- Universal affirmations and particular denials are contradictory statements.

#### Contradictory categorical propositions: Example 2

- Consider the statement "No people suffer from hunger." Its contradictory statement is "Some people suffer from hunger."
- Given a subject category "x is a person" and predicate category "x suffers from hunger", then "No people suffer from hunger." is of type E.
- Its contradictory statement "Some people suffer from hunger" is of type I.
- ► Universal denials and particular affirmations are contradictory statements.

### Contradictory categorical propositions: Example 3

- ▶ let P(x) to denote "x is a patient" and Q(x) to denote "x lies"
- ▶ "All patients lie"  $(\forall x \ (P(x) \to Q(x)))$ , and "There is an honest patient" (which can be interpreted as There is some patient who does not lie)  $(\exists x \ (P(x) \land \neg Q(x)))$  is a pair of contradictory propositions.
- ▶ "No patient lies"  $(\forall x \ (P(x) \to \neg Q(x)))$  and "Some patient lies"  $(\exists x \ (P(x) \land Q(x)))$  is a pair of contradictory categorical propositions.

#### Contrary categorical propositions

▶ **Definition**: A pair of categorical propositions are called *contraries* if they cannot both be true, but could both be false.

#### Contrary categorical propositions: Example 1

- ► Consider the statement "All people are rich." Its contrary statement is "No people are rich."
- ► Given a subject category "x is a person" and predicate category "x is rich", then "All people are rich" is of type A and "No people are rich" is of type E.
- ► A pair of universal statements are contraries.

#### Contrary categorical propositions: Example 2

▶ "All patients lie"  $(\forall x \ (P(x) \to Q(x)))$  and "No patient lies"  $(\forall x \ (P(x) \to \neg Q(x)))$  are contrary categorical propositions.

#### Subcontrary categorical propositions

▶ **Definition**: A pair of categorical propositions are called *subcontraries* if they cannot both be false but could both be true.

### Subcontrary categorical propositions: Example

#### I and O

▶ "Some patient lies"  $(\exists x \ (P(x) \land Q(x)))$  and "There is an honest patient" (or There is some patient who does not lie)  $(\exists x \ (P(x) \land \neg Q(x)))$  are subcontrary categorical propositions.

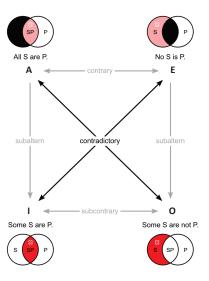
# Subaltern and superaltern categorical propositions

- ➤ **Definition**: Two categorical propositions are called superaltern and subaltern if the subaltern must be true if its superaltern is true (and subsequently the superaltern must be false if the subaltern is false).
- ▶ I is a subaltern of A (Some S are P, if All S are P).
- ▶ O is a subaltern of E (Some S are not P, if No S are P).

# Subaltern and superaltern categorical propositions: Example

- ▶ "Some patient lies"  $(\exists x \ (P(x) \land Q(x)))$  is a subaltern of "All patients lie"  $(\forall x \ (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)))$ .
- ► "There is an honest patient"  $(\exists x \ (P(x) \land \neg Q(x)))$  is a subaltern of "No patient lies"  $(\forall x \ (P(x) \to \neg Q(x)))$ .

# Summary: The square of opposition



#### Categorical syllogisms

- ► Recall from propositional logic that a syllogism is an inference in which one proposition necessarily follows from two others.
- A categorical syllogism consists of three parts (major premise, minor premise, and conclusion) all of which are categorical propositions.

### Categorical syllogisms /cont.

Some valid forms of categorical syllogisms are shown below:

All M are P. All S are M. Therefore, All S are P.

All P are M. Some S are not M. Therefore, Some S are not P.

Some M are not P. All M are S. Therefore, Some S are not P.

All P are M. No M are S. Therefore, No S are P.

All M are P. Some S are M. Therefore, Some S are P.

No M are P. Some S are M. Therefore, Some S are not P.

#### Universal conditional statements

- ▶ A universal conditional statement has the form  $\forall x \text{ if } P(x) \text{ then } Q(x), \text{ or } \forall x (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)).$
- ▶ It can be proven that its negation has the form  $\exists x (P(x) \land \neg Q(x)).$
- ► For the universal conditional statement above,
- its contrapositive statement is

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

its converse statement is

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

and its inverse is

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