

Syllogisms Using "Few", "Many", and "Most"

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In this paper I show that it is possible to expand syllogistic logic to include the intermediate quantifiers "few", "many", and "most".

1 A five-quantifier square of opposition The relations which hold between statements on a square of opposition will depend upon whether the square expresses the Aristotelian Framework or the Boolean Framework. Copi [3] and others explain the difference between the Boolean and the Aristotelian Frameworks by saying that in the Aristotelian Frameworks both universal and particular statements are understood to be making, assuming, presupposing, or implying an existential claim, while in Boolean Framework only particular statements are so understood. That is, in the Aristotelian Framework, any statement of the form "All *S* are *P*" may be taken as asserting the existence of members in both the *S* class and the *P* class, while in the Boolean Framework a universal statement makes neither claim.

My recommendation is that universal and particular statements do *not* make existential claims, nor do they assume, presuppose, or imply such a claim. It seems to me that it makes perfect sense, when talking of unicorns, to assert "Some are male and some are female," since unicorns are fictionally conceived to be capable of sexual reproduction. Yet, the speaker clearly would not wish to be understood as asserting the existence of unicorns. This understanding of particular statements, in my opinion, rescues the Aristotelian Framework from many of the paradoxes with which it might otherwise be saddled.¹ I shall also

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