

J. Corcoran, Aristotle's many-sorted logic *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*.14 (2008) 155–6.

John Corcoran, *Aristotle's Many-sorted Logic*.

Philosophy,

University at Buffalo,

Buffalo, NY 14260-4150

E-mail: [corcoran@buffalo.edu](mailto:corcoran@buffalo.edu)

As noted in 1962 by Timothy Smiley, if Aristotle's logic is faithfully translated into modern symbolic logic, the fit is exact. If categorical sentences are translated into many-sorted logic *MSL* according to Smiley's method or the two other methods presented here, an argument with arbitrarily many premises is valid according to Aristotle's system if and only if its translation is valid according to modern standard many-sorted logic. As William Parry observed in 1973, this result can be proved using my 1972 proof of the completeness of Aristotle's syllogistic.

#### *MSL Using Sortal Variables*

The ranges of the sortal variables are all non-empty. In the examples, *ess* ranges over spheres, *pee* over polygons.

Every sphere is a polygon.  $\forall s \exists p s = p$

Some sphere is a polygon.  $\exists s \exists p s = p$

No sphere is a polygon.  $\forall s \forall p s \neq p$

Some sphere isn't a polygon.  $\exists s \forall p s \neq p$

#### *MSL Using Range-Indicators with General (Non-Sortal) Variables*

Each initial variable occurrence follows an occurrence of a quantified range-indicator or "common noun" that determines the range of the variable in each of its occurrences in the quantifier's scope. To each range-indicator, a non-empty set is assigned as its "extension". In the example, the extension of *ess* is the spheres, *pee* the polygons.

For every sphere *x*, there exists a polygon *y* such that  $x = y$ .  $\forall Sx \exists Py x = y$

For some sphere *x*, there exists a polygon *y* such that  $x = y$ .  $\exists Sx \exists Py x = y$

For every sphere *x*, for every polygon *y*, *x* isn't *p*.  $\forall Sx \forall Py x \neq y$

There exists a sphere *x* such that, for every polygon *y*, *x* isn't *y*.  $\exists Sx \forall Py x \neq y$

Many-sorted logic with range-indicators and non-sortal variables was pioneered by Anil Gupta in his 1980 book. Also see my "Logical form of quantifier phrases: quantifier-sortal-variable" this *BULLETIN* 5 (1999) pp.418-419.