

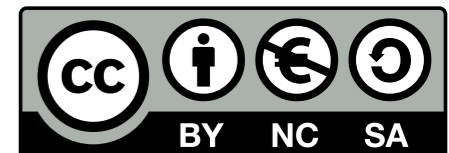
Tor is Peace,
Software Freedom is Slavery,
Wikipedia is Truth

The Political Philosophy of the Internet

on: 30th of December 2010

at: 27C3

by: Adam Obeng (adamobeng.com/27c3)



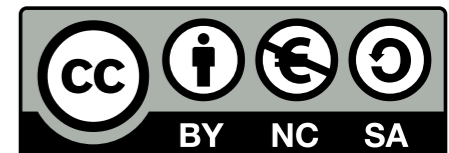
Tor is Peace,
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(some of) the Internet

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Politics: the study of power

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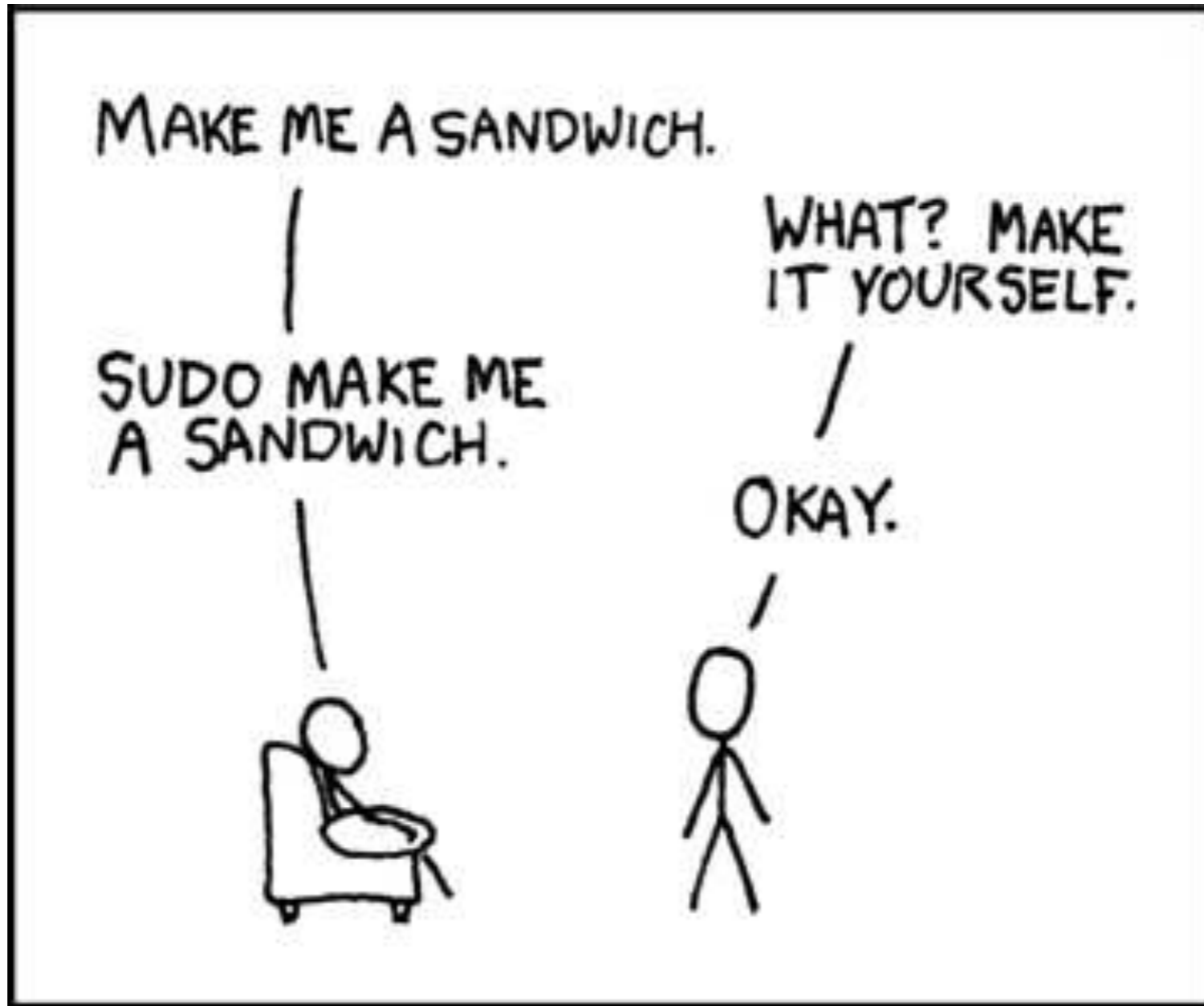
$$\text{Power} = \frac{dW}{dt}$$

$$\text{Power} = \frac{d\text{Work}}{dt}$$

Political power:

make other people do work

Politics happens
wherever there are people



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Unix

The real world



Unix

The real world

```
$ sudo something
```

Unix

The real world

\$ sudo something

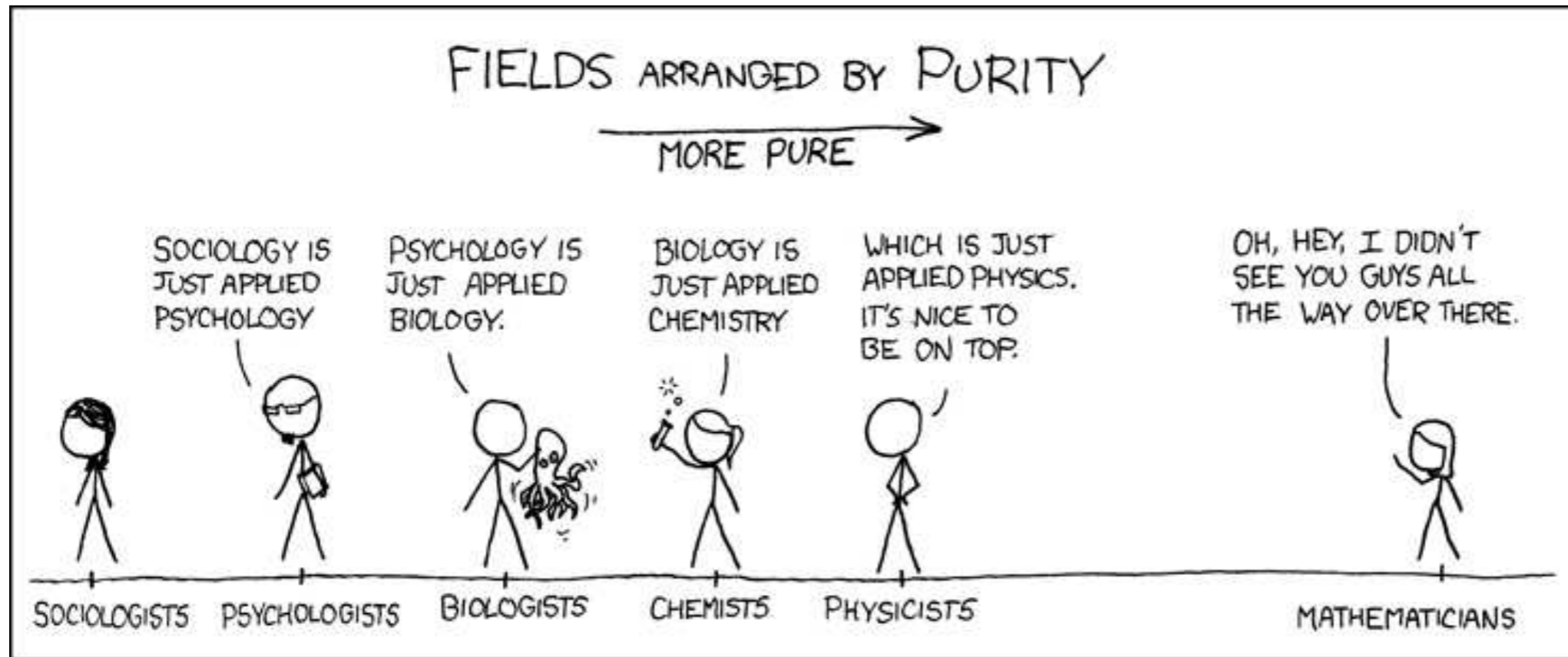


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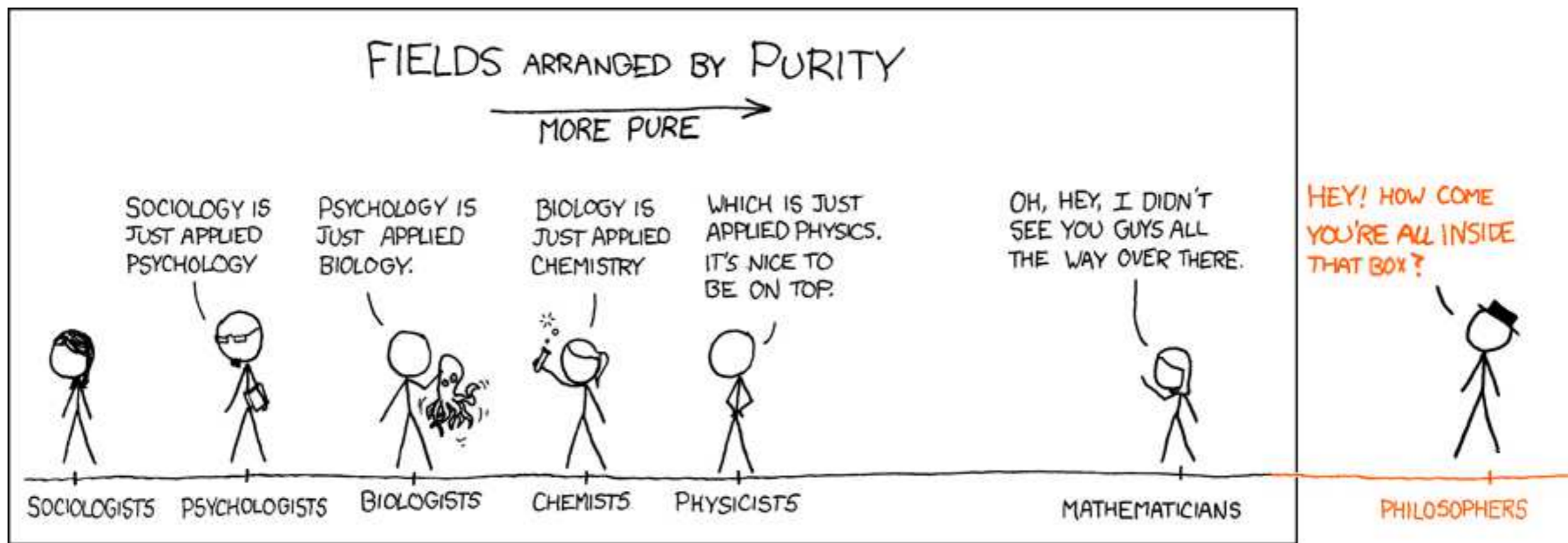
Philosophy:
thinking about stuff

Philosophy:

thinking about stuff really hard

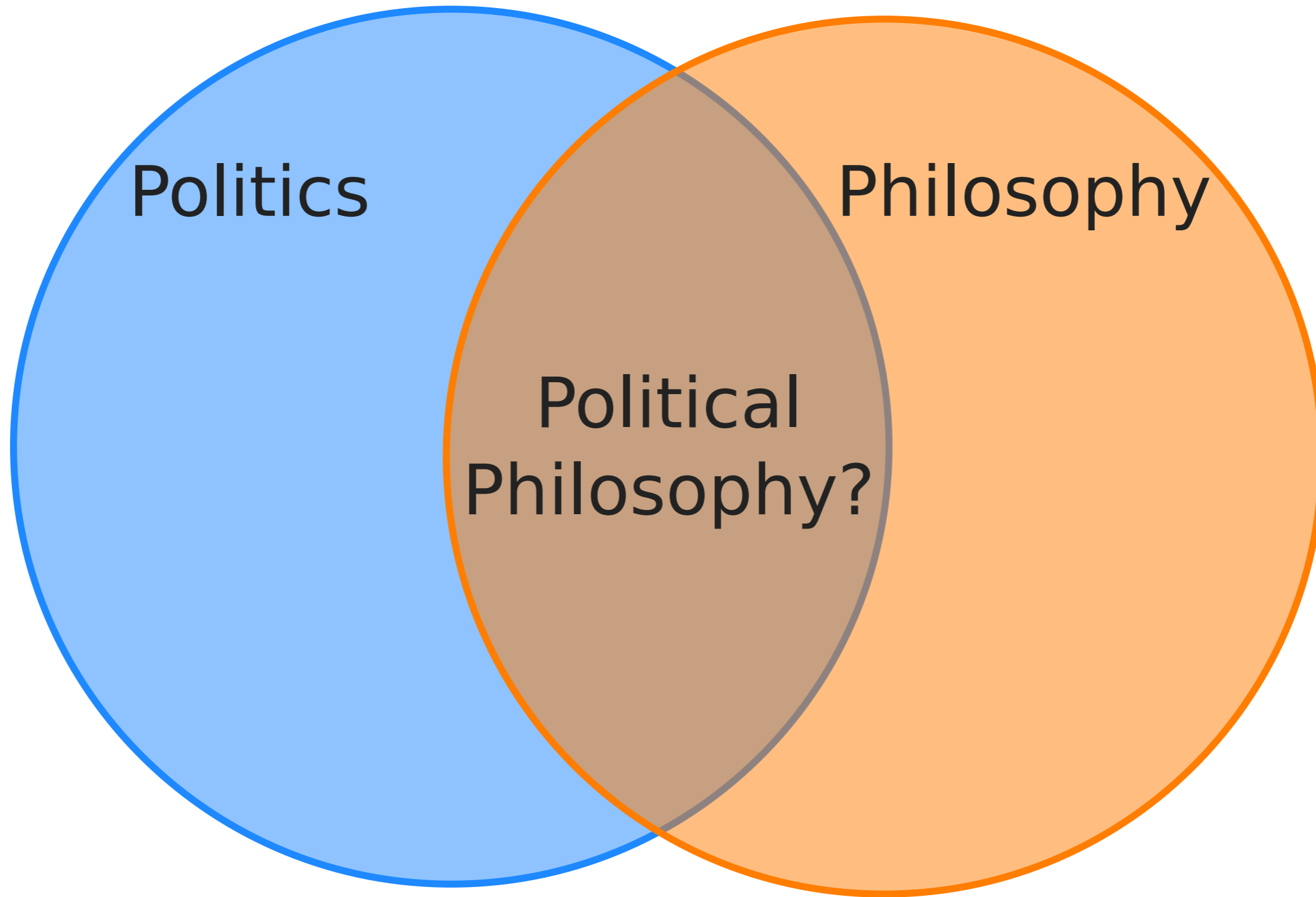


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Philosophy:
critical,
rational,
and systematic



Politics

Philosophy

Political
Philosophy?

Methods of philosophy

+

Subject matter of politics

Why should you care?

there are elaborate arguments, claims rebutted by unlikely counterexamples, surprising theses, puzzles, abstract structural conditions, challenges to find another theory which fits a specified range of cases, startling conclusions, and so on. [...] some may feel that the truth about ethics and political philosophy is too serious and important to be obtained by such "flashy" tools. Nevertheless, it may be that correctness in ethics is not found in what we naturally think

- Robert Nozick

Philosophers are hackers

Philosophers are **hackers**
Politics is **everywhere** people are

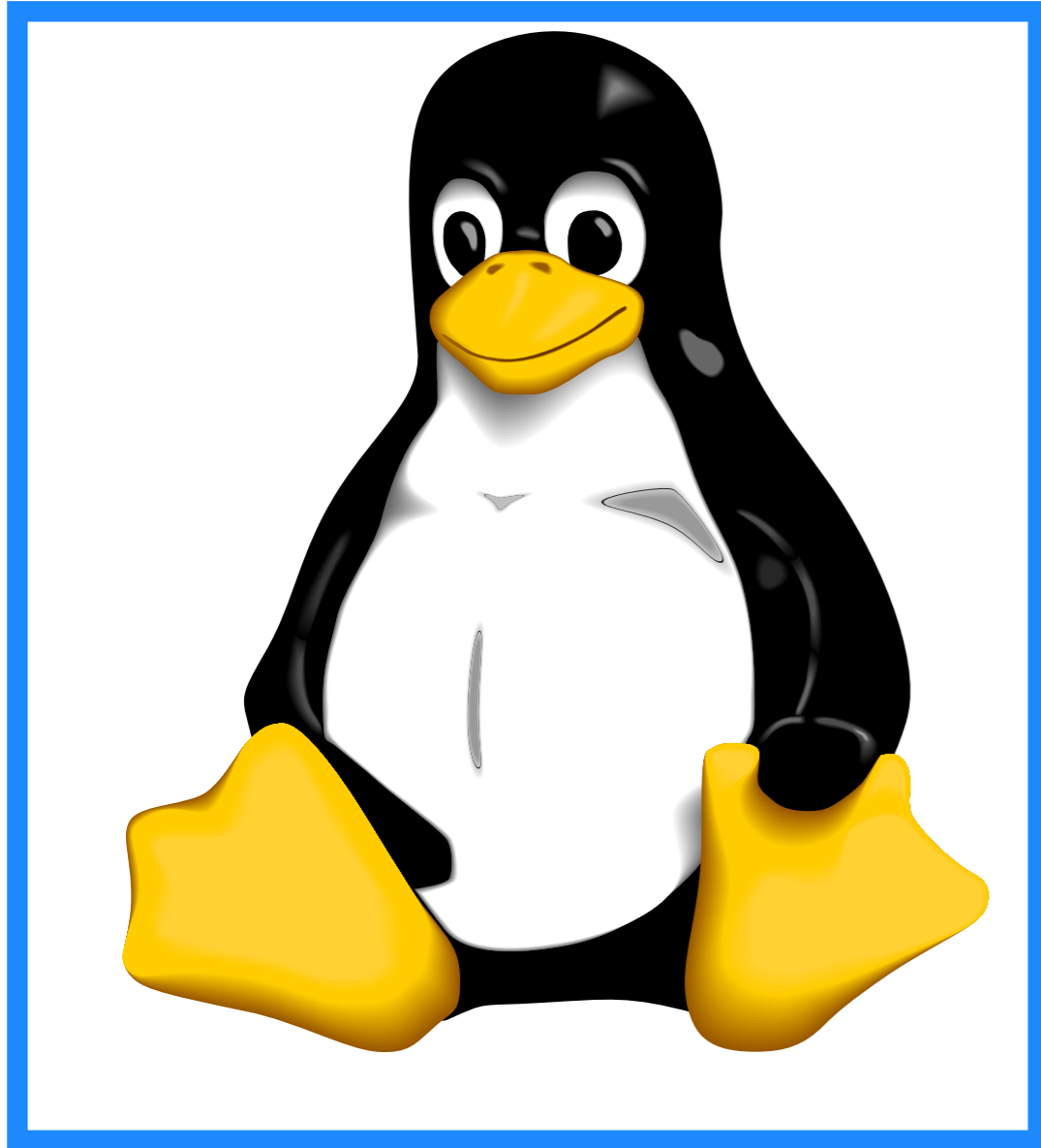
The Internet is
like the real world

The Internet is
unlike the real world

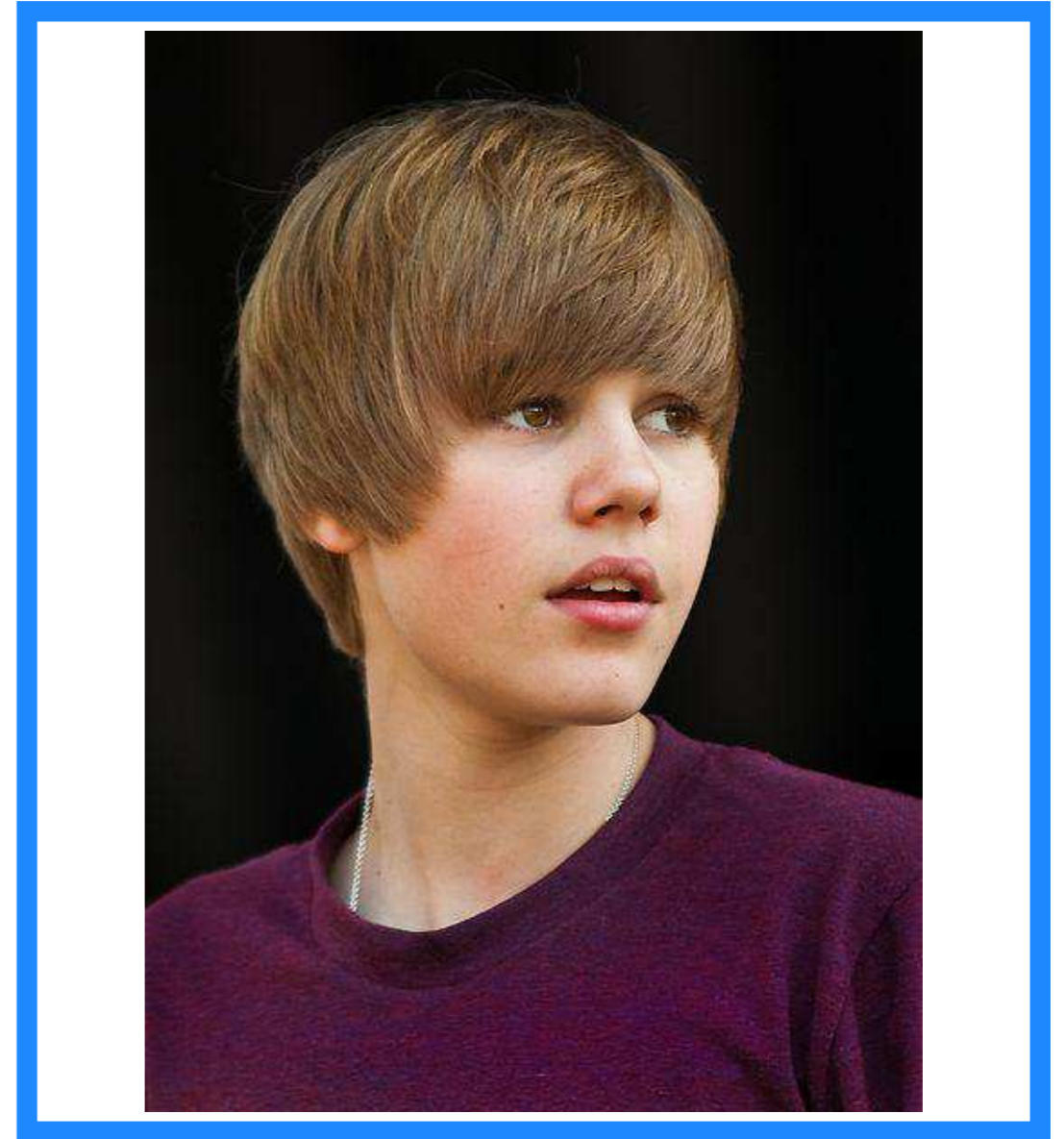
What happens on the Internet...

...stays on the Internet

Compartmentalization



Copyright Larry Ewing, Simon Budig, Anja Gerwinski



Copyright Daniel Ogren Photography, cc by-nc-nd 2.0

Liberty

Liberty

or freedom

Freedom and FLOSS

Freedom and FLOSS

Free/Libre/Open-Source Software

'free' as in speech

vs.

'free' as in beer

'free' as in speech

vs.

'free' as in beer

Different FLOSS groups

Different FLOSS groups

Different licenses

Different FLOSS groups

Different licenses

Different freedoms

Different FLOSS groups

Different licenses

Different freedoms

BSD vs. GPL

The BSD license

The BSD license
is permissive

The BSD license

Redistributions of source code must retain the [...] copyright notice, this list of conditions and the [...] disclaimer.

Redistributions in binary form must reproduce the [...] copyright notice, this list of conditions and the [...] disclaimer in the documentation and/or other materials provided with the distribution.

The GPL
is restrictive

The GPL

Nobody should be restricted by the software they use.
There are four freedoms that every user should have:

the freedom to use the software for any purpose,

the freedom to change the software to suit your needs,

the freedom to share the software with
your friends and neighbors, and

the freedom to share the changes you make.

Copyleft

Copyleft is a general method for making a program (or other work) free, and requiring all modified and extended versions of the program to be free as well.

Copyleft

Copyleft is a general method for making a program (or other work) free, and requiring all modified and extended versions of the program to be free as well.

The First Principle

First: each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive scheme of equal liberties compatible with a similar scheme of liberties for others.

Is Copyleft Less Free?

Is Copyleft Less Free?

Take 1: Steiner and Measuring
Freedom

Measuring freedom:

Freedom \propto things you can do

Restrictions in licenses

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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1. Source Code.

The "source code" for a work means the preferred form of the work for making modifications to it. "Object code" means any non-source form of a work.

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The "Corresponding Source" for a work in object code form means all the source code needed to generate, install, and (for an executable

programs which are used unmodified in performing those activities but which are not part of the work. For example, Corresponding Source includes interface definition files associated with source files for the work, and the source code for shared libraries and dynamically linked subprograms that the work is specifically designed to require, such as by intimate data communication or control flow between those subprograms and other parts of the work.

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6. Conveying Non-Source Forms.

You may convey a covered work in object code form under the terms of sections 4 and 5, provided that you also convey the machine-readable Corresponding Source under the terms of this License, in one of these ways:

a) Convey the object code in, or embodied in, a physical product (including a physical distribution medium), accompanied by the Corresponding Source fixed on a durable physical medium customarily used for software interchange.

b) Convey the object code in, or embodied in, a physical product (including a physical distribution medium), accompanied by a written offer, valid for at least three years and valid for as long as you offer spare parts or customer support for that product model, to give anyone who possesses the object code either (1) a copy of the Corresponding Source for all the software in the product that is covered by this License, on a durable physical medium customarily used for software interchange, for a price no more than your reasonable cost of physically performing this conveying of source, or (2) access to copy the Corresponding Source from a network server at no charge.

c) Convey individual copies of the object code with a copy of the written offer to provide the Corresponding Source. This alternative is allowed only occasionally and noncommercially, and only if you received the object code with such an offer, in accord with subsection 6b.

d) Convey the object code by offering access from a designated place (gratis or for a charge), and offer equivalent access to the Corresponding Source in the same way through the same place at no further charge. You need not require recipients to copy the Corresponding Source along with the object code. If the place to copy the object code is a network server, the Corresponding Source may be on a different server (operated by you or a third party) that supports equivalent copying facilities, provided you maintain clear directions next to the object code saying where to find the Corresponding Source. Regardless of what server hosts the Corresponding Source, you are obligated to ensure that it is available for as long as needed to satisfy these requirements.

e) Convey the object code using peer-to-peer transmission, provided you inform other peers where the object code and Corresponding Source of the work are being offered to the general public at no charge under subsection 6d.

A separable portion of the object code, whose source code is excluded from the Corresponding Source as a System Library, need not be included in conveying the object code work.

Is Copyleft Less Free?

Take 1

Yes:

more restrictions, so less freedom

Is Copyleft Less Free?

Take 2: MacCallum and Tripartite
Freedom

Measuring freedom:

Freedom \propto things you can do

Measuring freedom:

Freedom \propto things **\$you** can do

Measuring freedom:

Freedom \propto things **\$you** can do

Who is 'you'?

MacCallum's Tripartite Freedom

x is free from y to do z

MacCallum's Tripartite Freedom

x is free from y to do z

x = agents

y = conditions

z = actions

BSD license

Redistribution and use in source
and binary forms[...]

BSD license

x is free from y to do z

x = redistributors

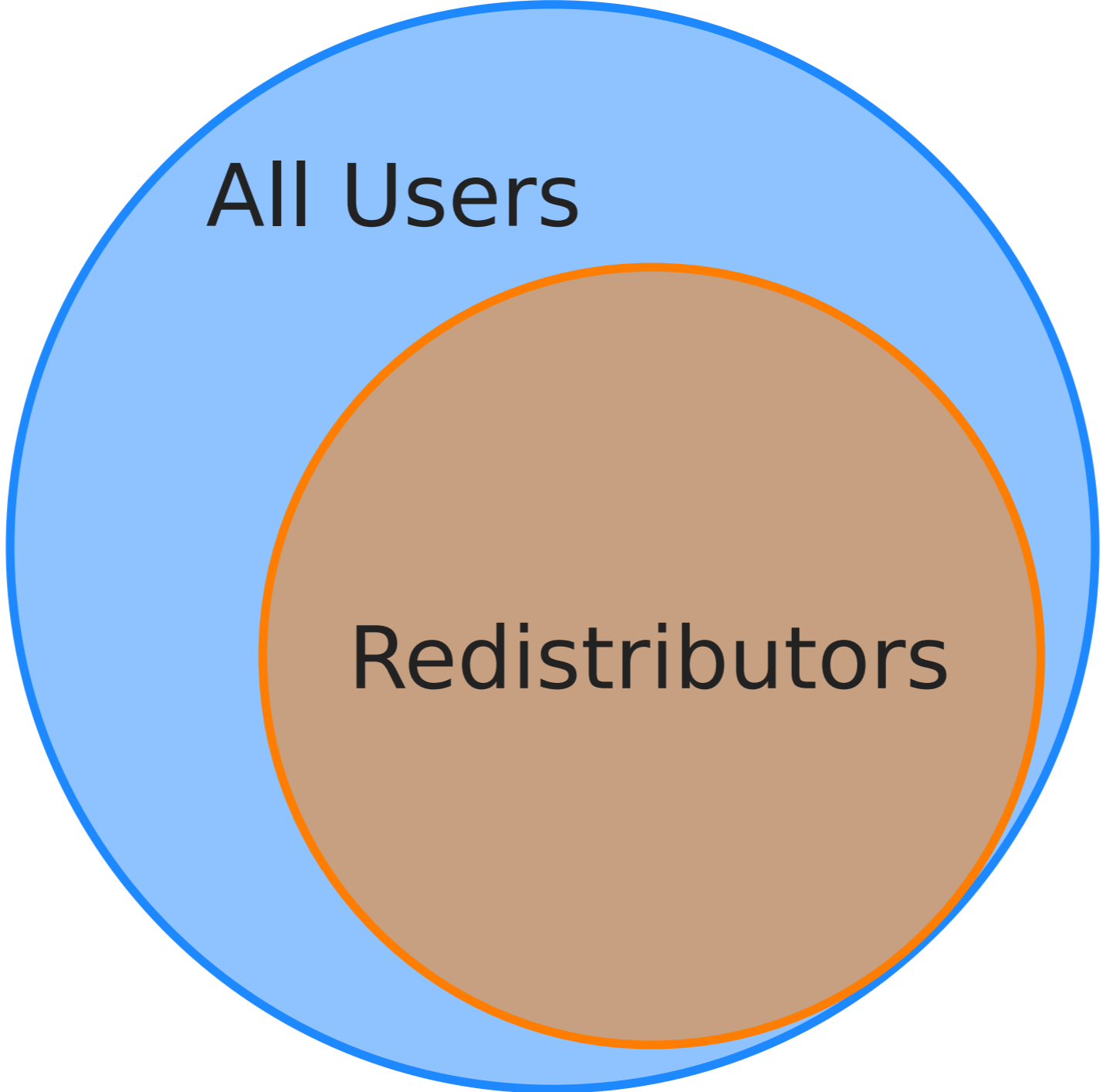
The GPL

"free software for all its users."

The GPL

x is free from y to do z

$x = \text{all users}$



All Users

Redistributors

Is Copyleft Less Free?

Take 2

No:

more freedom for more people

positive and negative freedom

'redistributors' are individuals

'redistributors' are individuals

'all users' is a group

Copyleft is Positive Freedom

The General Slavery License

Each user is required to contribute 4KLOC or 500 man-hours, whichever is higher, to maintaining, updating, or improving the Software

The General Slavery License

Each user is required to contribute 4KLOC or 500 man-hours, whichever is higher, to maintaining, updating, or improving the Software

The group is **more free**

The General Slavery License

Each user is required to contribute 4KLOC or 500 man-hours, whichever is higher, to maintaining, updating, or improving the Software

The group is **more free**

Individuals are **less free**

Arguments **against** Positive Freedom:

If restrictions are part of freedom,
freedom means **being ruled**.

Arguments **against** Positive Freedom:

Different people have different goals,
all restrictions are **not compatible**.

Is Copyleft Less Free?

Take 3

Yes:

freedom is a property of individuals

TL; DL version:

Copyleft reduces freedom...

... unless you misdefine freedom.

Positive freedom **considered harmful.**

Copyleft really does reduce freedom.

Nothing I just said matters

Software freedom
isn't just about freedom

Tor is Peace,
Software Freedom is Slavery,
Wikipedia is Truth

The Political Philosophy of the Internet

Credits and bibliography available at adamobeng.com/27c3/lecture.pdf