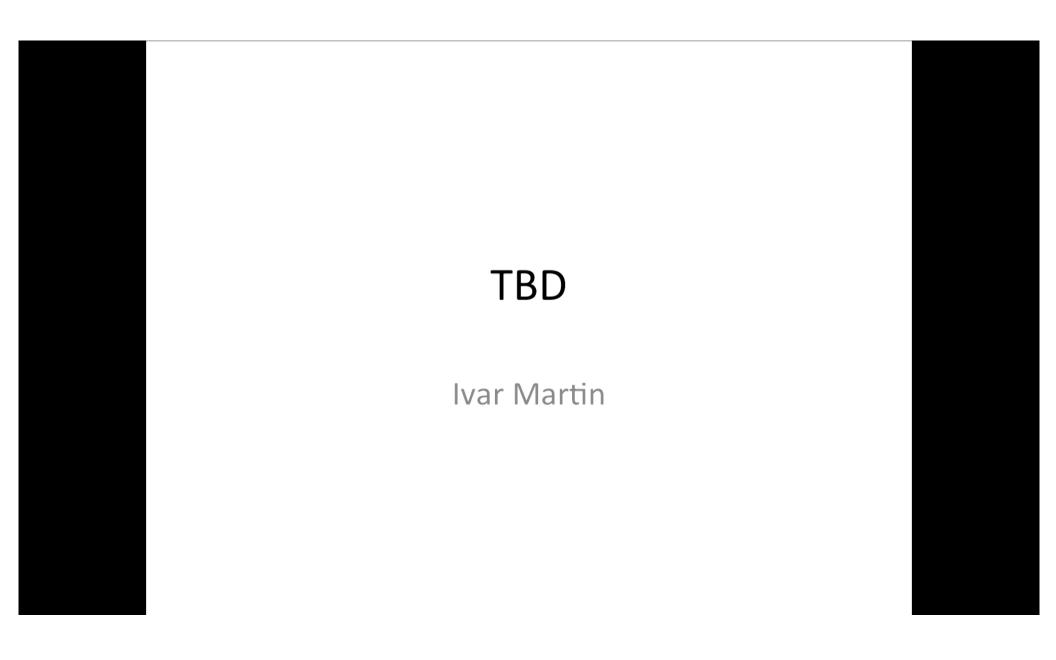
Title: Can science be wikified

Date: Mar 26, 2018 02:45 PM

URL: http://pirsa.org/18030102

Abstract:

Pirsa: 18030102



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# Can science be wikified? (and should it)

Ivar Martin

Knowen.org

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### Outline

• Does wikification makes sense?

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### **Outline**

- Does wikification makes sense?
- How do we get there?

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### Wikipedia

### Everyone can read and edit

- 18B page views and 500M unique visitors/ month (Alexa rank 5)
- Number of articles: 5.5M (English only), 40K "high quality"
- 33M registered editors, 140K active editors
- 50% edits are done by 500 people, 0.7% (2009)

Source: Wikipedia

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# The Future of Science by Michael Nielsen on July 17, 2008



### A failure of science online: Wikipedia

Wikipedia is a second example where scientists have missed an opportunity to innovate online. Wikipedia has a vision statement to warm a scientist's heart: "Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That's our commitment."

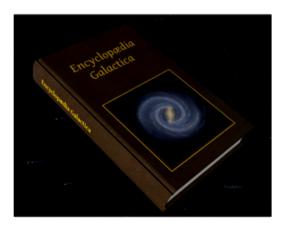
. . .

Nowadays, Wikipedia's success has to some extent legitimized contribution within the scientific community. But how strange that the modern day Library of Alexandria had to come from outside academia.

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### Wikipedia appeal

- Universal central repository
- Generally good high-level articles
- Active participation (billions of users, thousands of contributors)
- As close as can get to



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### If Wikipedia were used for science

- Potential benefits
  - Universal resource, instead of zillions of journals
  - Existing context for new results
  - Fairer attribution
- Potential problems
  - Public quarrels
  - Fractionalized content ("hard forks")

**—** ...

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• Mixed quality of material

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- Mixed quality of material
- No tangible credit to contributor

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- Mixed quality of material
- No tangible credit to contributor
- Not a place for original material

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- Mixed quality of material
- No tangible credit to contributor
- Not a place for original material
- Transience (editing over)

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- Mixed quality of material
- No tangible credit to contributor
- Not a place for original material
- Transience (editing over)
- Consensus: not (always) expertise based

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- Mixed quality of material
- No tangible credit to contributor
- Not a place for original material
- Transience (editing over)
- Consensus: not (always) expertise based
- Content intended for non-experts

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#### Incentives

- Improve visibility of work
- Enhance personal productivity and quality of work
  - Note taking, long-term preservation
- Improve collaborations
- Build reputation
  - Track/value all contributions

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- Incentives
  - Improve visibility of work
  - Enhance personal productivity and quality of work
    - Note taking, long-term preservation
  - Improve collaborations
  - Build reputation
    - Track/value all contributions
- Access control
  - Public or Limited access

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- Incentives
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  - Enhance personal productivity and quality of work
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- Access control
  - Public or Limited access
- Structure
  - Levels of refinement

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- Incentives
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  - Enhance personal productivity and quality of work
    - · Note taking, long-term preservation
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- Access control
  - Public or Limited access
- Structure
  - Levels of refinement
- Al
  - Suggest connections to existing content
  - Analytics tools
    - · performance,
    - trends

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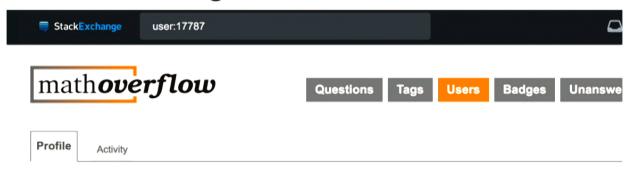
- StackExchange model
  - Reputation, badges, karma

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- StackExchange model
  - Reputation, badges, karma
- Blockchain model
  - Tokens (utility, work), convertible into \$

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StackExchange model





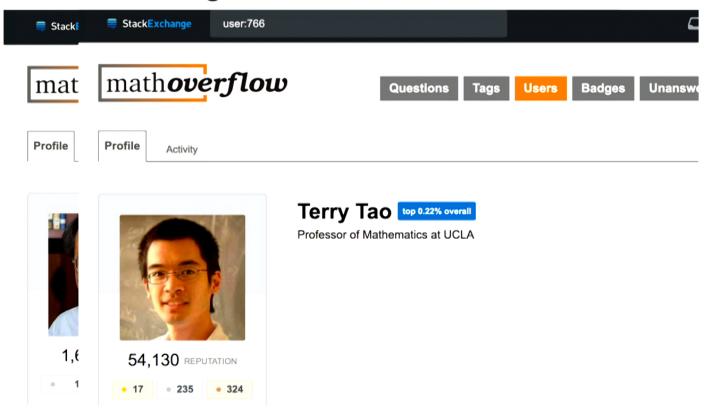
### Xiao-Gang Wen top 20% overall

I am a professor working on condensed matter theory. My current interest is in topological order, which correspond to patterns of long-range entanglement in many-body system.

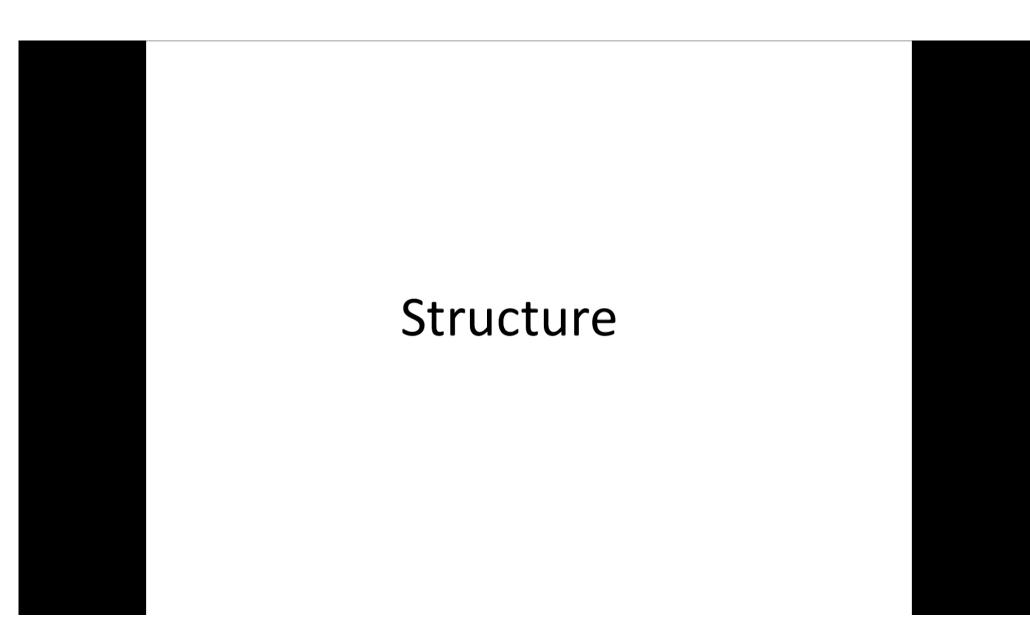
Understanding patterns of many-body entanglement is related to some modern mathematics. For example, the math framework for 2D long-range entanglements happen to be unitary fusion category theory. For higher dimensions, we may need higher categories. The math framework for short-range entanglements with symmetry happen to be group cohomology theory of the symmetry group and cobordism theory.

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StackExchange model



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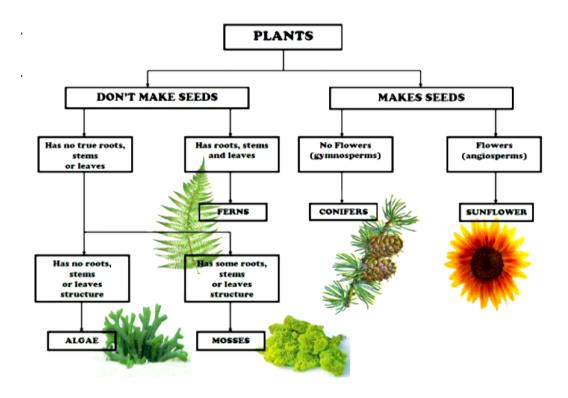
### What is the structure of knowledge?

- Collections of facts -> connection of facts
  - Generalization/refinement
  - Efficient Compression (sparse recovery/ compressed sensing)

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### What is the structure of knowledge?

Collections of facts -> connection of facts



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### Knowledge hierarchies

#### Math

Mathematical Subject Classification - MSC2010: https://zbmath.org/classification/ Wolfram: http://mathworld.wolfram.com/

NLab: https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/mathematics

Enc of Math: https://www.encyclopediaofmath.org/index.php/Talk:EoM:This\_project#Categories

#### Physics:

https://physh.aps.org/about

PhySH: <a href="https://physh.aps.org/browse">https://physh.aps.org/browse</a>
PACS: <a href="https://www.aip.org/publishing/pacs/pacs-2010-regular-edition">https://www.aip.org/publishing/pacs/pacs-2010-regular-edition</a>

NLab: https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/physics

#### Medicine:

https://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/mesh.html

#### Computer science

Computing classification system: <a href="http://dl.acm.org/ccs/ccs.cfm">http://dl.acm.org/ccs/ccs.cfm</a>
 Computing research repository: <a href="http://arxiv.org/corr/subjectclasses">http://arxiv.org/corr/subjectclasses</a>

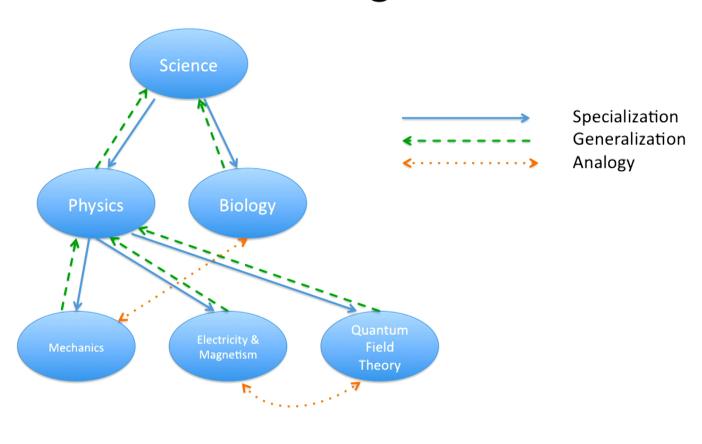
#### **Economics**

Journal of Econ Lit: https://www.aeaweb.org/jel/guide/jel.php

Dewey: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of Dewey Decimal classes Lib of Congress: https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/

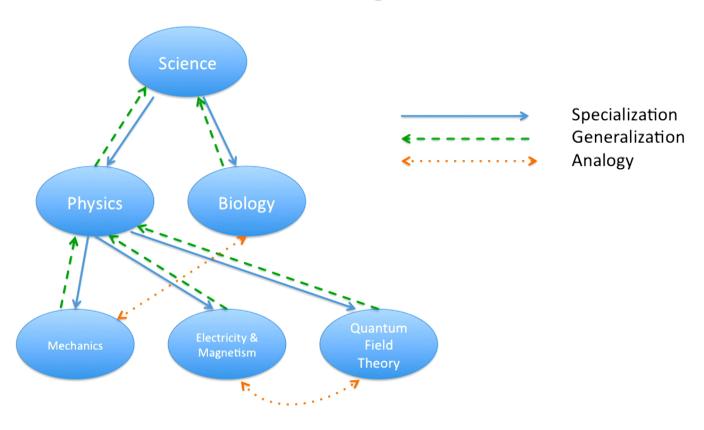
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# Is knowledge a tree?



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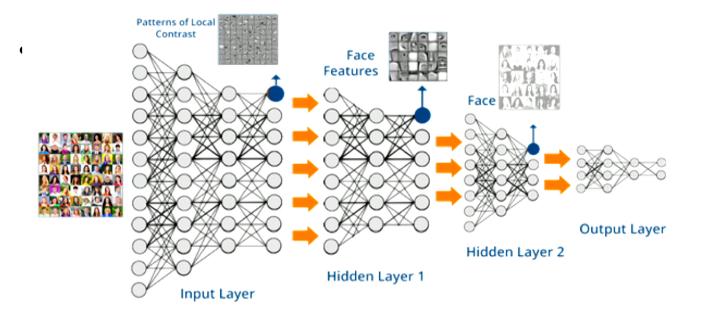
# Is knowledge a tree?



Can it be shaped into a tree?

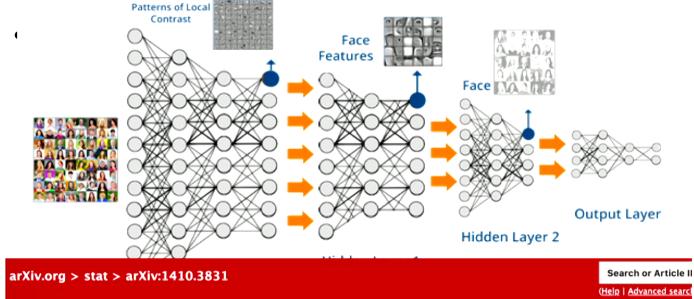
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### Inspiration from RG/Machine learning



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### Inspiration from RG/Machine learning



Statistics > Machine Learning

### An exact mapping between the Variational Renormalization Group and Deep Learning

Pankaj Mehta, David J. Schwab

(Submitted on 14 Oct 2014)

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# Inspiration

### THE ART OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

THIRD EDITION

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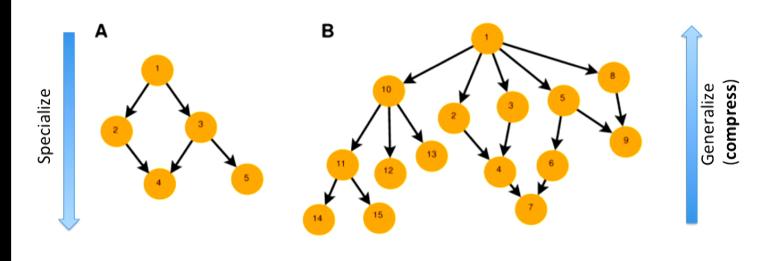
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	.2.2. Numbers, Powers, and Logarithms	
	.2.3. Sums and Products	3
	.2.4. Integer Functions and Elementary Number Theory	
	.2.5. Permutations and Factorials	
	.2.6. Binomial Coefficients	
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	Fundamental Constants (octal)					
2.						

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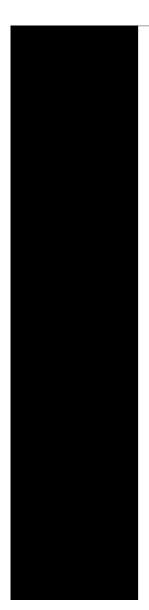
### Why Tree or DAG structure is good

- depth is ~log N
- Easy to navigate
- Easy to learn
- "Plug-and-Play"



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Seed from existing content

Chicken or Egg?

- Wikipedia
- Published articles
- Taxonomies/classification schemes



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Seed from existing content

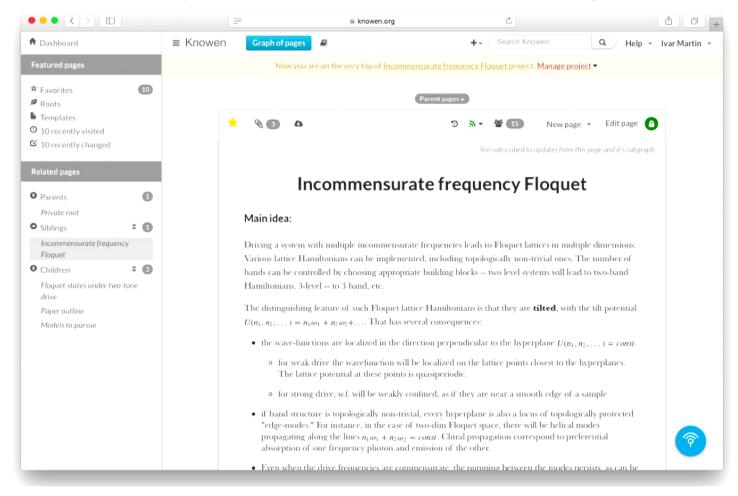
Chicken or Egg?

- Wikipedia
- Published articles
- Taxonomies/classification schemes
- Organically, new collaborative projects
  - Bottom up
  - Knowen



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#### Experiment: knowen.org



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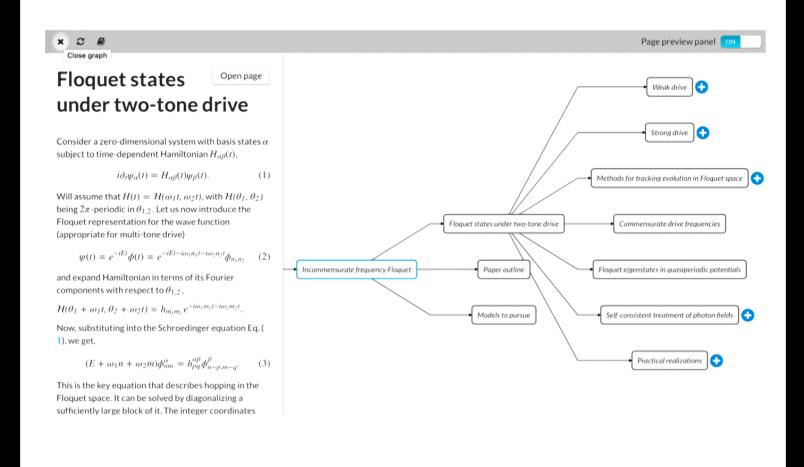
#### Elements

- Nodes: (Text, data, scripts)
- Commits and commenting (cf. github)
- Structure: Tree/Directed acyclic graph (DAG)
- Access: public and private projects
- Reputation tracking

Also: collaborative editing, subscriptions, feedback mechanisms

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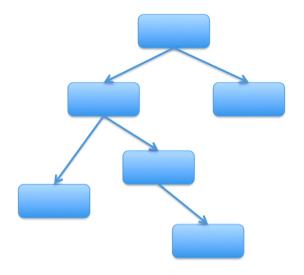
#### Knowen.org



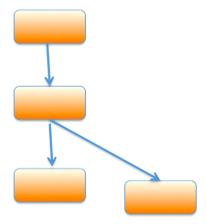
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### **Public-Private Division**

Public



Private



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### Collaboration tool - most projects are

private

#### Workflow:

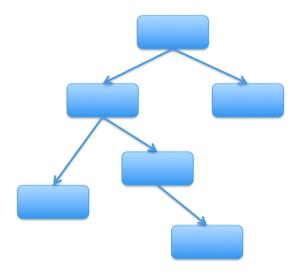
- Formulate Idea create top level node
- Explore sub-branches of idea/ sub-ideas create
   subnodes
- get results/refine idea go back and forth between nodes

#### All along:

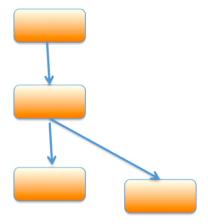
- Invite collaborators
- Track and comment on any changes
- Build reputation

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Public

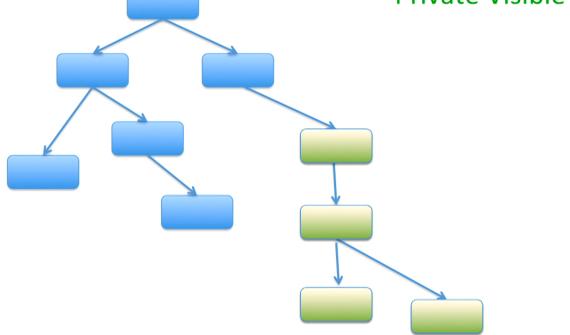


• Private

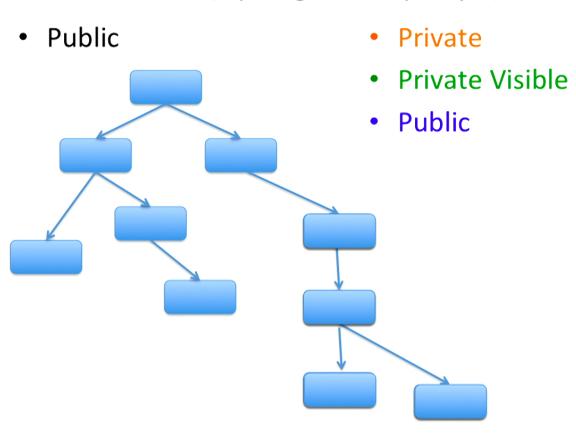


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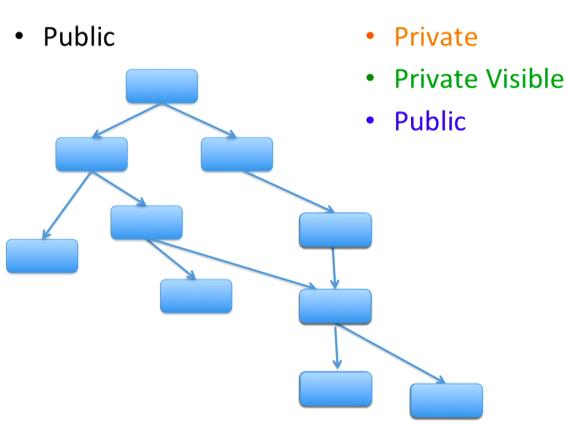
PublicPrivatePrivate Visible



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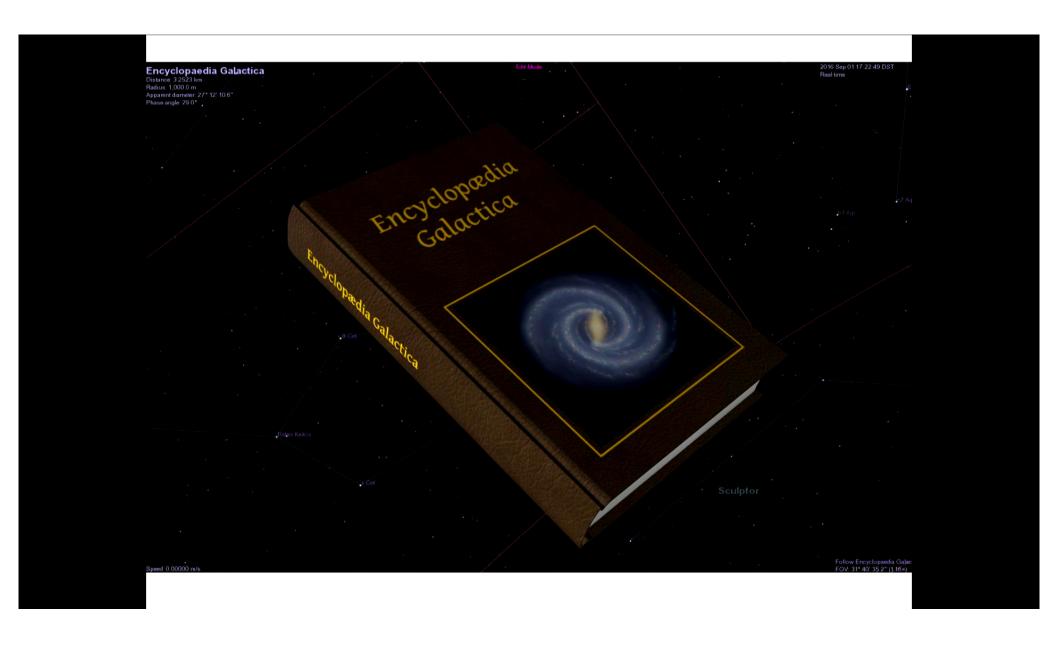
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#### Vision

- Global (decentralized) structured wiki-like science resource (knowen.org is an experimental prototype)
- Uses:
  - Outreach
  - Learning
  - Sharing results/methods/data
  - Raw material for packaging into books and reviews
- Reputation/priority recording
- Intelligent Automatic suggestions for content placement and search

Can exist in parallel with current article/journal infrastructure Sustained by community (cf blockchain), or nonprofits (cf arxiv)

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