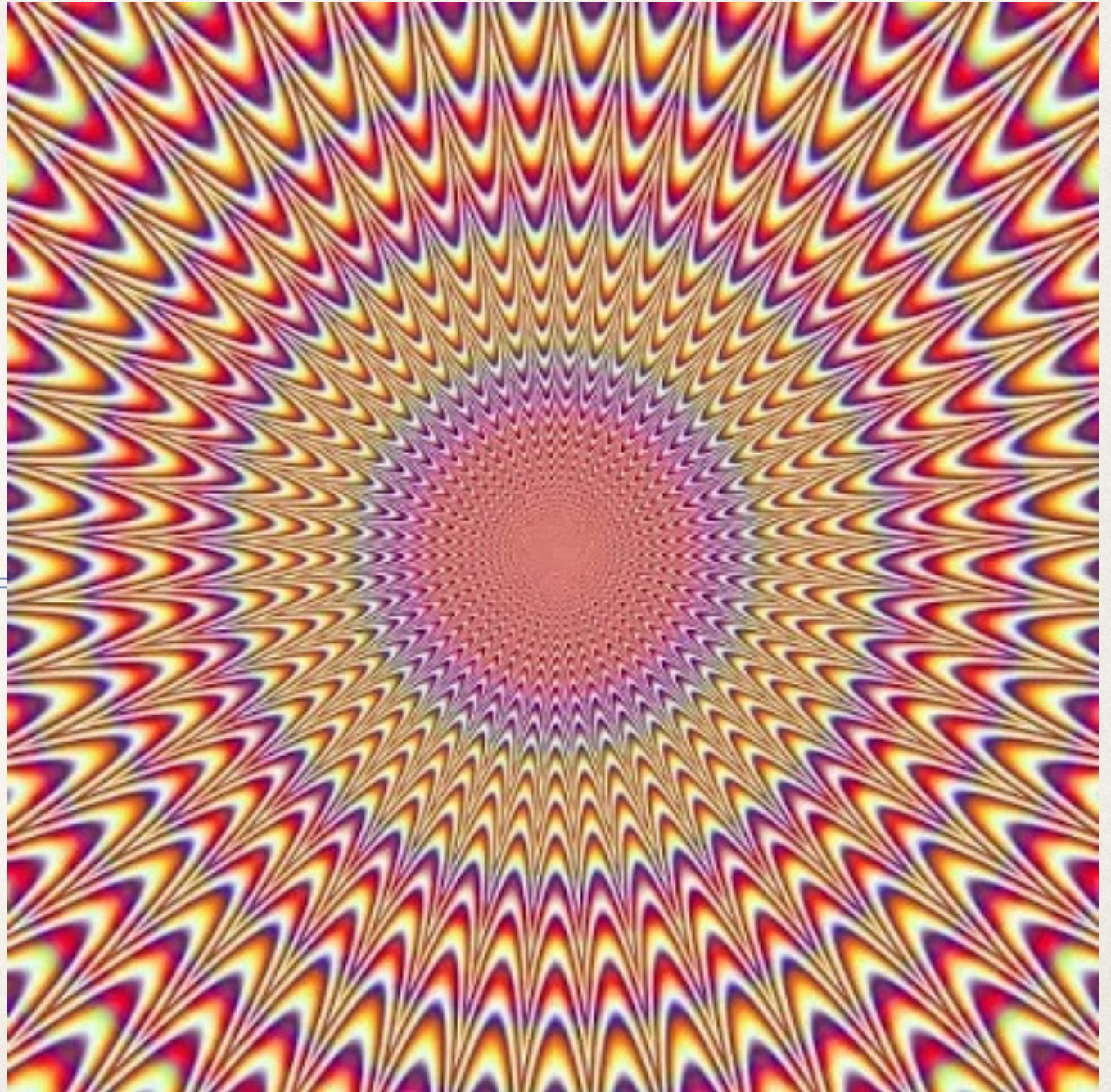


Three Critical Reasoning Skills So Far

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Three Skills You've Learned So Far

1. Reconstructing arguments

- A. Premises and conclusion (also, missing premises)
- B. Structure of the argument (how the premises support the conclusion)
- C. Inductive *versus* deductive arguments
- D. Necessary *versus* sufficient conditions

2. Comparing arguments

3. Asking questions

1. Reconstructing Arguments

As an example, we will
look at arguments for and
against copyrights

For Copyrights

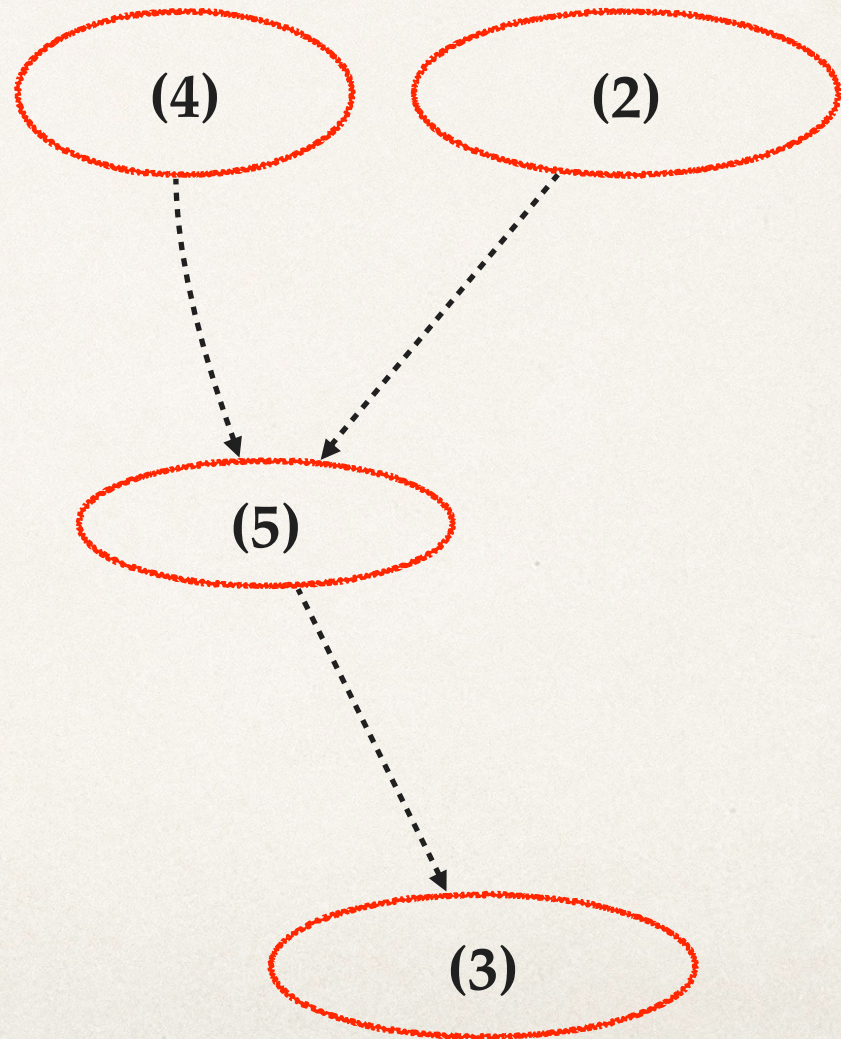
(1) The efforts of an individual (or a company) in discovering something new should be recognized. (2)

Copyrights are a way to recognize the efforts of an individual (or a company) for discovering something new. (3) Copyrights

should not be abolished. (4)

Without recognition, individuals or companies would have no incentive to discover something new. (5)

Without copyrights there would no be new discoveries.



Is This an Ind.\Ded. Valid Argument?

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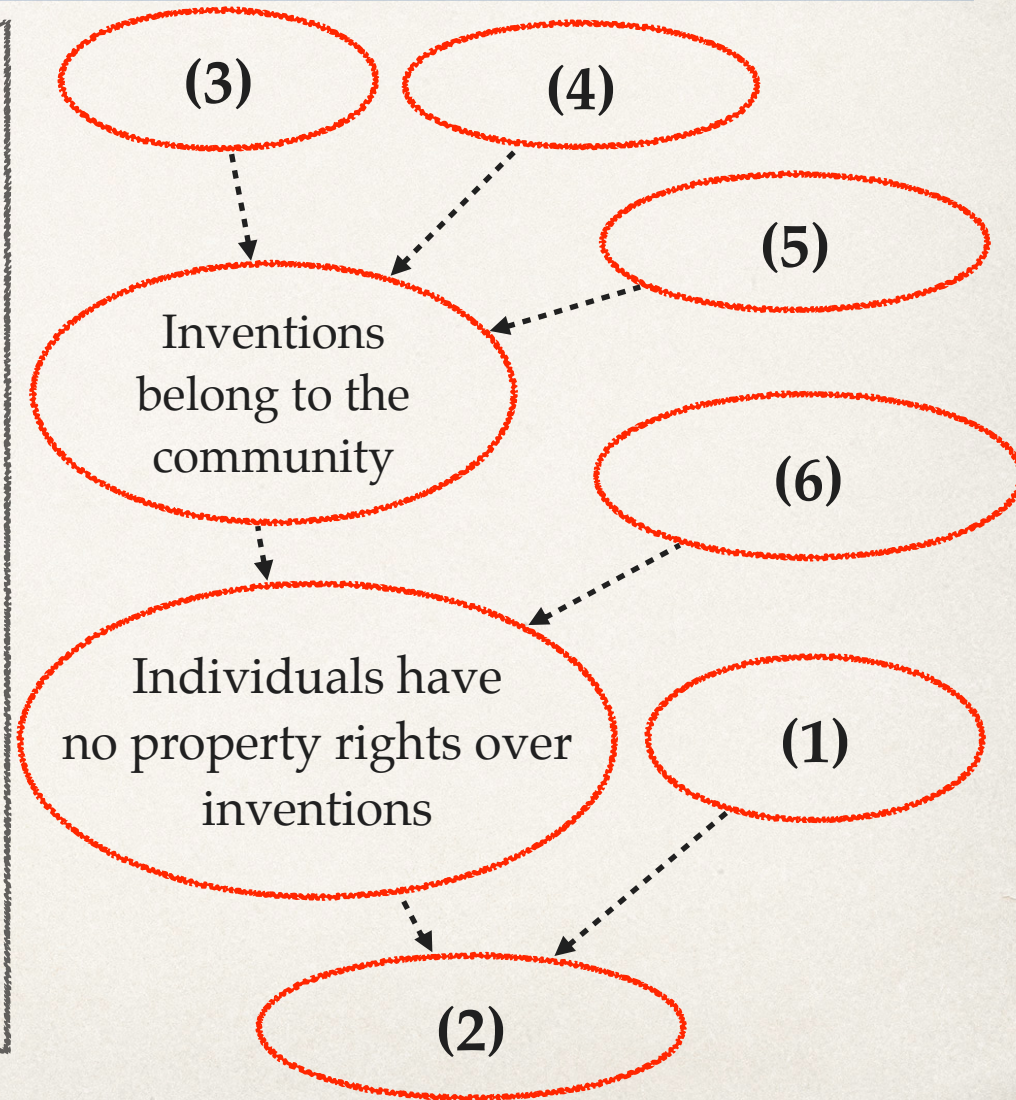
Premise (2) says that copyrights are a way (not the only way) to recognize one's efforts.

So long as there are other ways to recognize one's efforts, copyrights need not be necessary.

So, the argument is not deductively valid.

Against Copyrights

(1) There can be copyrights only if one individual (or one company) has property rights over an invention. (2) Copyrights should be abolished. (3) Inventions are not the result of the efforts of one person (or one company) alone. (4) They are the result of the efforts of a community. (5) If something is the result of the efforts of a community, it should belong to the whole community, not to the individual. (6) What belongs to the whole community cannot be the property of one individual (or one company).



2. Comparing Arguments

The efforts of an individual (or a company) in discovering something new should be recognized.

Copyrights are a way to recognize the efforts of an individual (or a company) for discovering something new. Copyrights should not be abolished. Without recognition, individuals or companies would have no incentive to discover something new. Without copyrights there would be new discoveries.

There can be copyrights only if one individual (or one company) has property rights over an invention.

Copyrights should be abolished.

Inventions are not the result of the efforts of one person (or one company) alone.

They are the result of the efforts of a community. If something is the result of the efforts of a community, it should belong to the whole community, not to the individual. What belongs to the whole community cannot be the property of one individual (or one company).

Weaknesses of Each Argument

- ❖ The argument in favor of copyrights leaves open the possibility that there could be other ways to recognize one's efforts that are not based on copyrights. This makes the argument deductively invalid, though the argument could still be inductively valid.
- ❖ The argument against copyrights rests on the premise that inventions are not the result of one person's or one company's efforts. This might seem implausible, for individual efforts also matter (though not exclusively).

3. Asking Questions

Which questions should we ask if we are considering to abolish copyright? To fix ideas, think of copyrights for the work of artists (singers, movie directors, writers)