NEXT GENERATION INTERNET

NGI Commons
Digital Commons Task Force (DCTF)

Workshop #1 – 5 June 2024

CNRS Research Methodology

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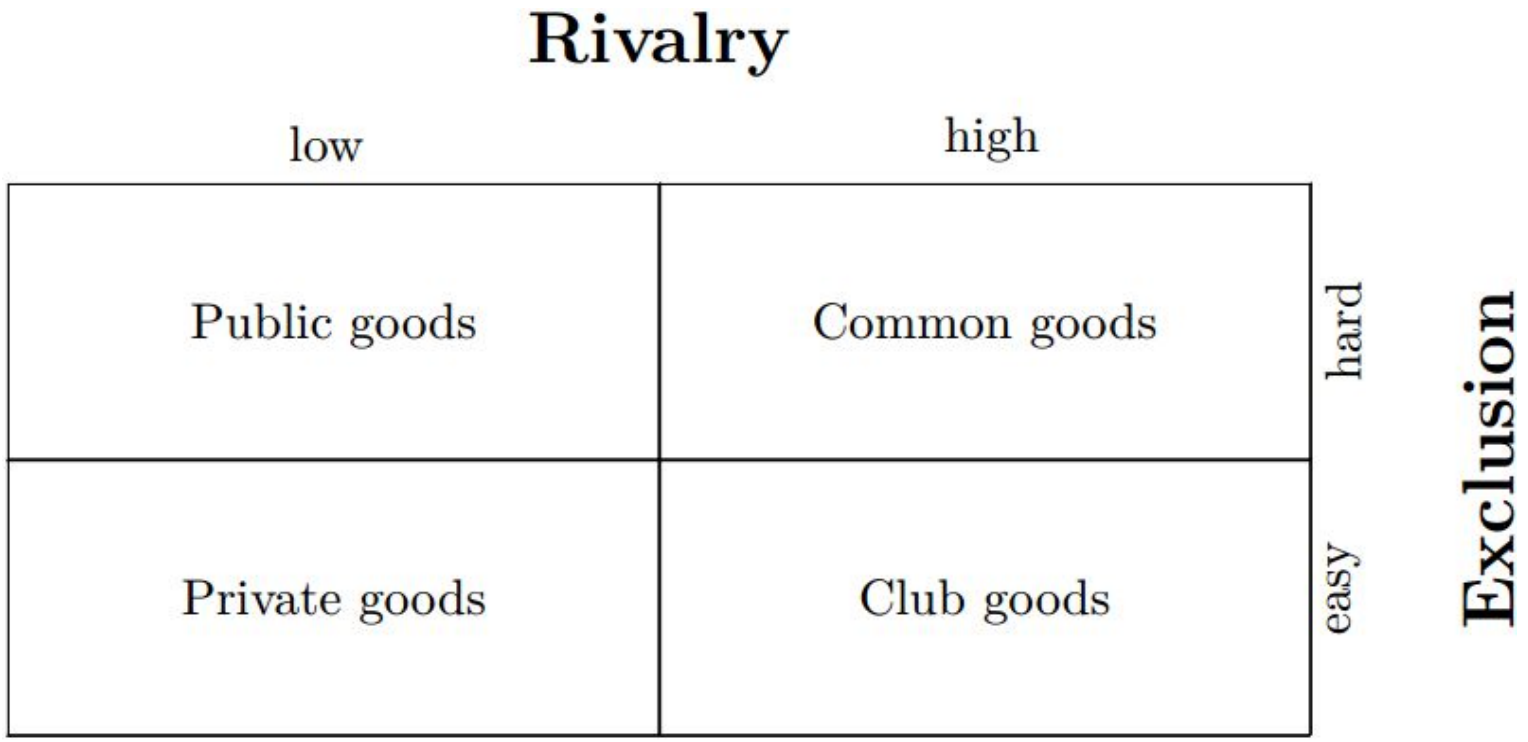
For starters

How would you define Digital Commons ?

Historical commons and the turn to the new commons



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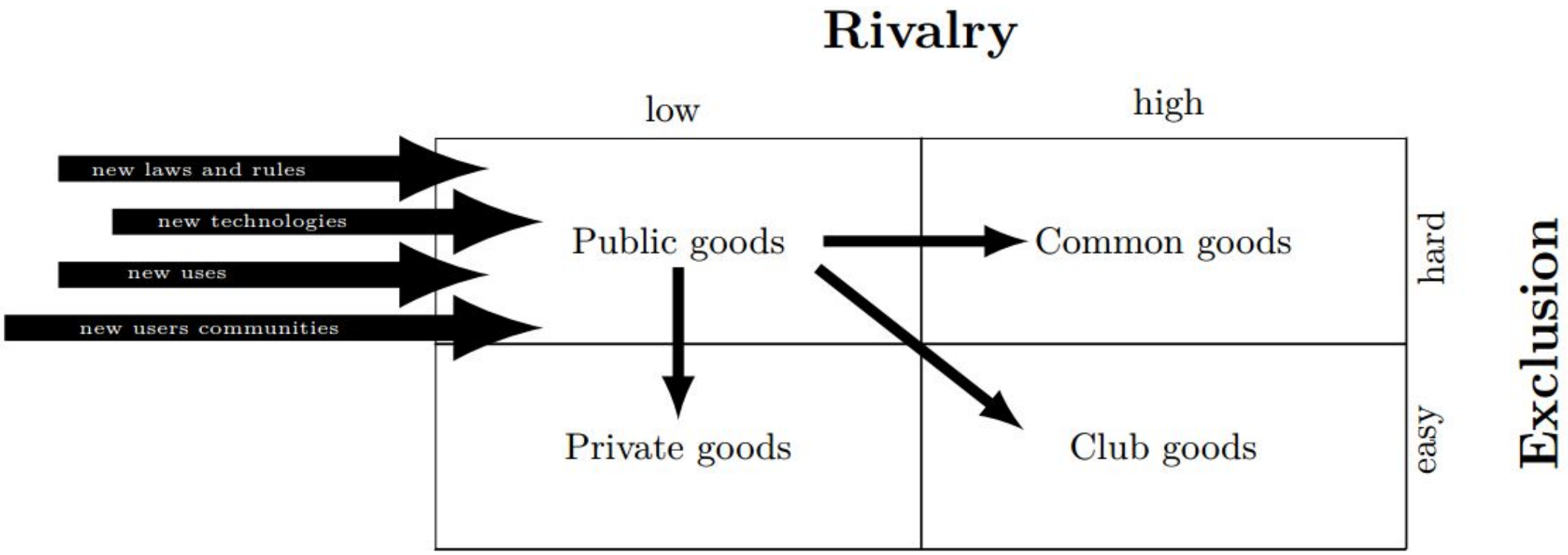

Today's issues with Open

- Appropriation, Commodification, Value sharing
- We need to shift toward (communal!) governance, ownership
- What if we want other values than openness to reflect in digital commons ?

Researching digital commons : definitions

There are a **large array of possible definitions** for Digital and Internet Commons. Similarities in all definitions:

- There is a common resources related to the digital realm, which can be software, data, or any other form of information. Some insist on their “intrinsic” characteristics (non-rival, non-exclusive).
- There are humans producing, benefiting and or managing the resource.
- When mentioned, the governance can be of the resources and/or of the community itself

Researching digital commons : definitions

We can identify some differences and tensions. We find gradients along different axes:

- From fully open access to collective control
- Between a focus on the resource and its “intrinsic” characteristics and a focus on the collective organisation around it
- When the economic aspects are mentioned, their role seem to range from non-commercial alternatives to the basis of all production (physical or digital)
- The risks for digital commons range from underuse to enclosure by way of becoming a commodity
- Digital commons are associated with different values (digital rights, inclusiveness, green transition) which remain unproven

Researching digital commons: approaches

Different approaches to try and diversify the cases to study:

- Resource based approach
- Governance based approach
- Values based approach

Researching digital commons: criteria

Different criteria to try and diversify the cases to study:

- Type of resource(s)
- Degrees of openness
- Umbrella organisations
- Country of origin
- NGI funding

Researching digital commons: research questions

Three research questions we want to consider:

- What are the **values** associated with digital commons?
- How do **imaginaries** about the Internet and free culture influence the possible outcomes within the commons?
- Are there shared forms of **governance** among the different types of digital commons?

Researching digital commons: questionnaire

Five domains we want to explore through the questionnaire

- Work organisation
- Organisation models
- Interconnectedness of the project with other ecosystems
- Funding models and public support
- (How) can/should Digital commons transform society, according to the actors ?

Discussion

What would you like to add or amend:

1. to the definitions?
2. to the research questions?
3. to the three approaches?
4. to the diversity criteria?

Questions and points for discussion?

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