

## How does philosophy differ from science?

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### 1. Definition of Philosophy and Science

The Oxford Dictionary defines “Philosophy and Science” as follows,

Philosophy<sup>1</sup>: The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.

Science<sup>2</sup>: The intellectual and practical activity encompassing the **systematic** study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world **through observation and experiment**.

The biggest difference between philosophy and science is that philosophy can study more freely such as thought experiments and science needs observation and experiment according.

In other words, philosophy is an a priori exercise based on logic and reason, before experience and science is a posteriori exercise based on what we can experience.

In my understanding, philosophy uses the deductive method and synthesize things while science uses the inductive method and analyze things.

### 2. Scope of Philosophy and Science

Philosophy and science have the same objectives to understand reality, not simply to make predictions<sup>3</sup>. I think that Science is a subset of Philosophy

In Aristotle's era, philosophy included theology, mathematics, politics, physics, poetics, and so on and represents the whole of the academic study and general intellectual life as

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/philosophy>

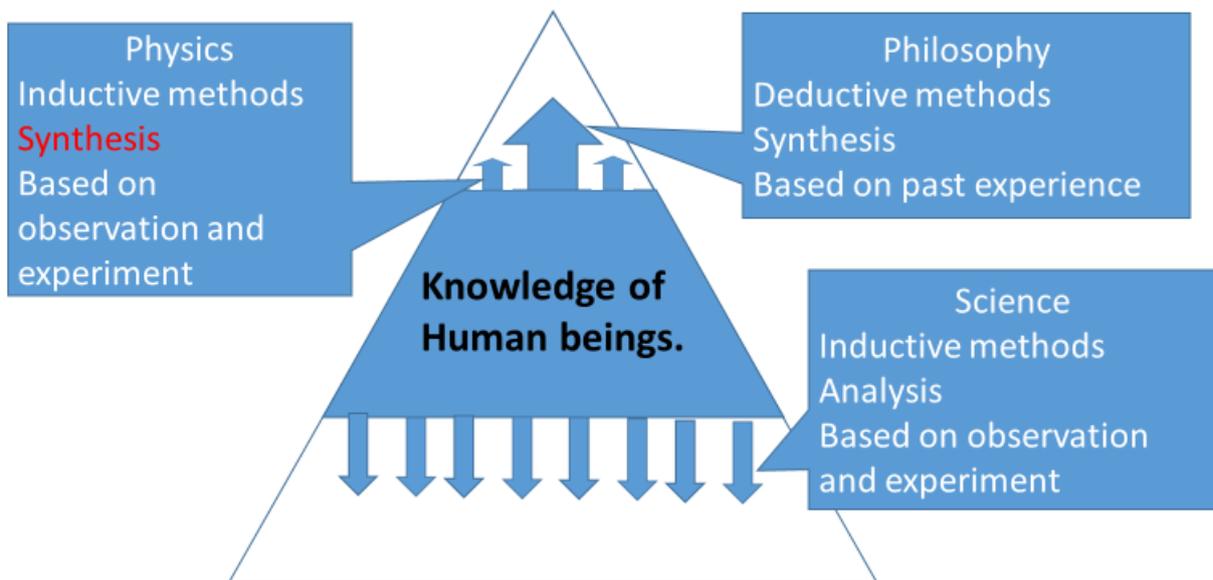
<sup>2</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/science>

<sup>3</sup> Russell was a believer in the scientific method, that science reaches only tentative answers, that scientific progress is piecemeal, and attempts to find organic unities were largely futile. He believed the same was true of philosophy. Russell held that the ultimate objective of both science and philosophy was to understand reality, not simply to make predictions. <http://sailom.blogspot.jp/2006/05/russels-logical-atomism.html>

“Philosophy: love of wisdom”. However, later, a variety of science such as mathematics, physics, astronomy and biology separated and became independent from philosophy. At present, philosophy comes to the narrow scope such as metaphysics, epistemology and ethics and the definition of philosophy in the Oxford Dictionary becomes not enough to defining the present philosophy, in my opinion.

Science is advancing at multiply accelerated pace. Physics can reach to complete the grand unification theory that can explain all existence, energy, time and space and is being studied by metaphysics. Information science and brain science will be able to create a machine (AI) that can do the same or greater behavior of human brain. Bioscience may lead to immortality of human beings. If physics elucidates the rules of the universe, the scope of metaphysics must be reduced. With development of information and brain science, problems of epistemology must be reduced. That is, science will be developed and the scope of philosophy becomes lesser.

## Philosophy and Science



### 3. Philosophy will focus on Synthesis and Longer-term Problems

However, science is and will be more and more fragmented, the subjects of each science

## Assignment 1 of Philosophy of Mind

researches are going to be limited and narrowed. Scientists can study subdivided and defined fields. For example, biological scientists are studying the deciphering of DNA but philosophers must deal with deeper level and more basic proposition than scientists. How to stop wars? How to co-exist with natures? What is death? What is meaning of life? What is happiness? The basic propositions, which should be asked for human-beings and the world, are numerous.

In addition, such basic propositions of philosophy should be comprehensive problems of the whole human beings. In particular, how do human beings to co-exist with others and nature? This is the very important proposition. We should transform individual values and our social systems. If not, it is impossible for us to continue to live in the ecosystem and material systems of the limited Earth under the rapid population increases<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> The population of the world, 3 billion in 1959, 5 billion in 1986, 7.2 billion in 2010, 9.7 billion in 2050, WHO.