



**The
Alan Turing
Institute**

Onlife and Being Human in a Hyperconnected Era: what utopia?

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UTOPIA 101

3 PROBS. & SOLS.

DIGITAL UTOPIA?

CONCLUSION



UTOPIA 101

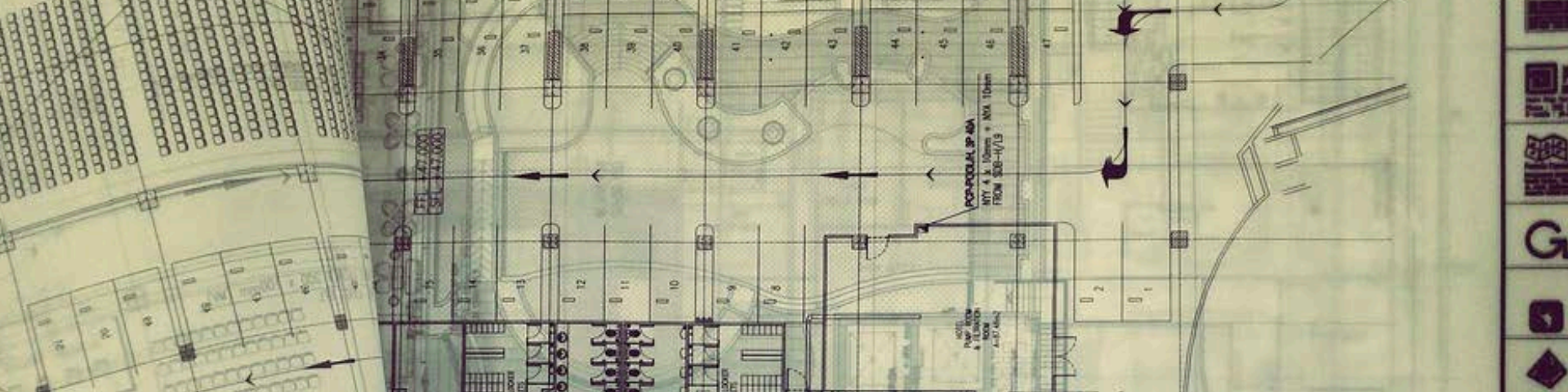
3 PROBS. & SOLS.

DIGITAL UTOPIA?

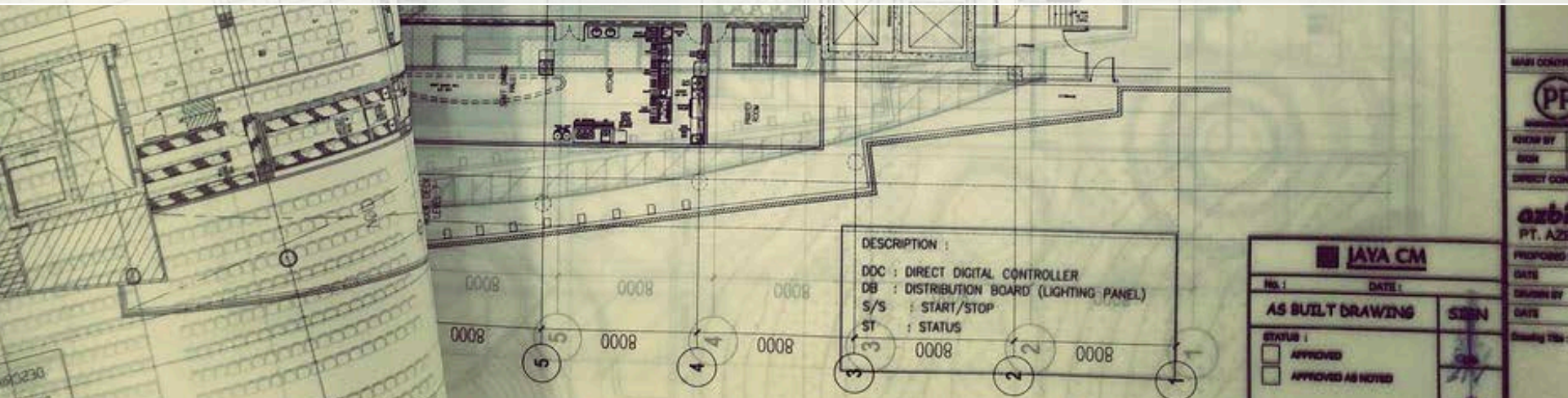
CONCLUSION

The background of the slide features a photograph of neon signs. In the foreground, there are two sets of neon signs: one set on the left spelling 'PERFECT' in blue, and another set in the center spelling 'PERFECT' in yellow. In the background, a larger, out-of-focus neon sign spells 'PERFECT' in blue. A semi-transparent white horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'Utopia as a perfect, social reality'.

Utopia as a perfect, social reality



Two functions: critique and project (Kant)





3 perfections: space | time | people





perfect space: paradise, arcadia





perfect time: golden age



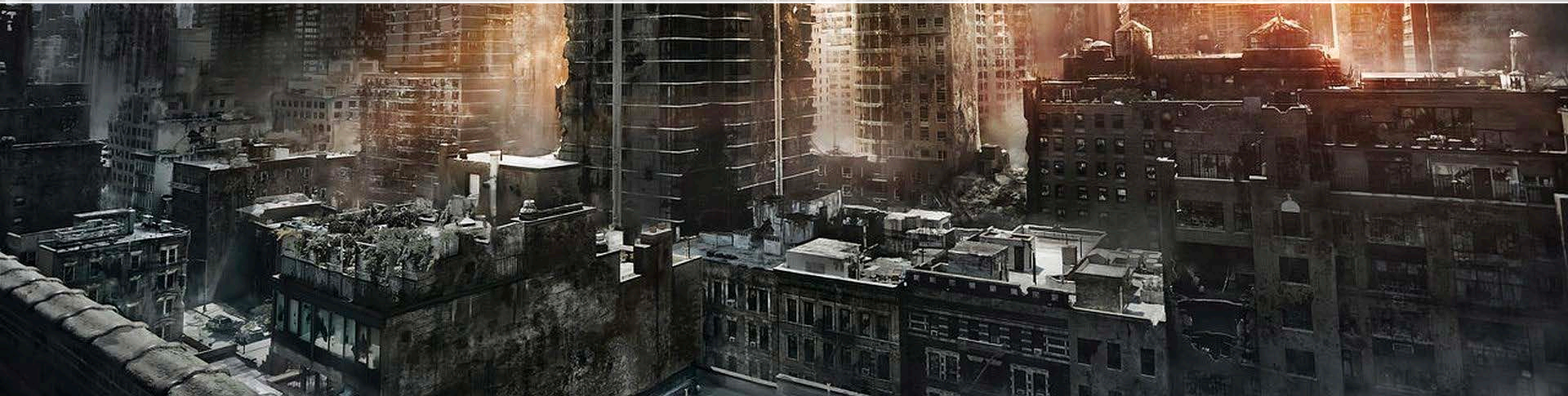


perfect people: Adam and Eve





dystopia = imperfect time rather than space





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The image features a monochromatic blue aesthetic. In the background, a dense city skyline is visible, with various skyscrapers and building silhouettes. The foreground is dominated by a perspective grid of glowing blue lines on a dark surface, creating a sense of depth and digital space. A semi-transparent, light-colored rectangular box is centered horizontally across the middle of the image, containing the text.

Is a specifically-digital utopia thinkable?




Digital technologies' power to

design space (infosphere)

transform time (hyperhistory)

enable/empower people

A large, highly reflective metallic sphere is positioned in the center of the frame, floating in space. The sphere's surface is highly detailed, showing numerous scratches, scuffs, and reflections of the surrounding environment. It is positioned just above a thick layer of white, fluffy clouds that cover the Earth's surface. The horizon of the Earth is visible in the background, showing a thin blue line of the atmosphere against a deep blue, star-filled sky. The sphere's reflection is visible on the clouds below it, creating a symmetrical effect. The overall scene conveys a sense of isolation and perfection in a cosmic setting.

perfect space: **urban** (Plato, Augustine, More)

A vibrant, futuristic cityscape under a bright blue sky. In the foreground, a man in a black tank top and shorts walks a small white dog on a leash along a curved, light-colored path. To the right, a sleek, silver high-speed train is partially submerged in a pool of water. In the background, a large, modern building with a glass facade and a prominent tower with a circular observation deck stands out. The sky is filled with numerous flying cars and drones. The overall scene is a blend of advanced technology and green spaces.

Cyberspace | Smart Cities | Mars

The background is a dark blue field filled with numerous bright blue light streaks and bokeh circles. The streaks are thin, elongated lines of light that appear to be moving or emanating from various points, creating a sense of dynamic energy and depth. The bokeh circles are out-of-focus light sources, ranging in size and brightness, adding to the abstract, ethereal quality of the image. The overall effect is reminiscent of a starry night sky or a high-speed photograph of light trails.

perfect time: techno-escathology



perfect people: humanity 2.0, transhumanism



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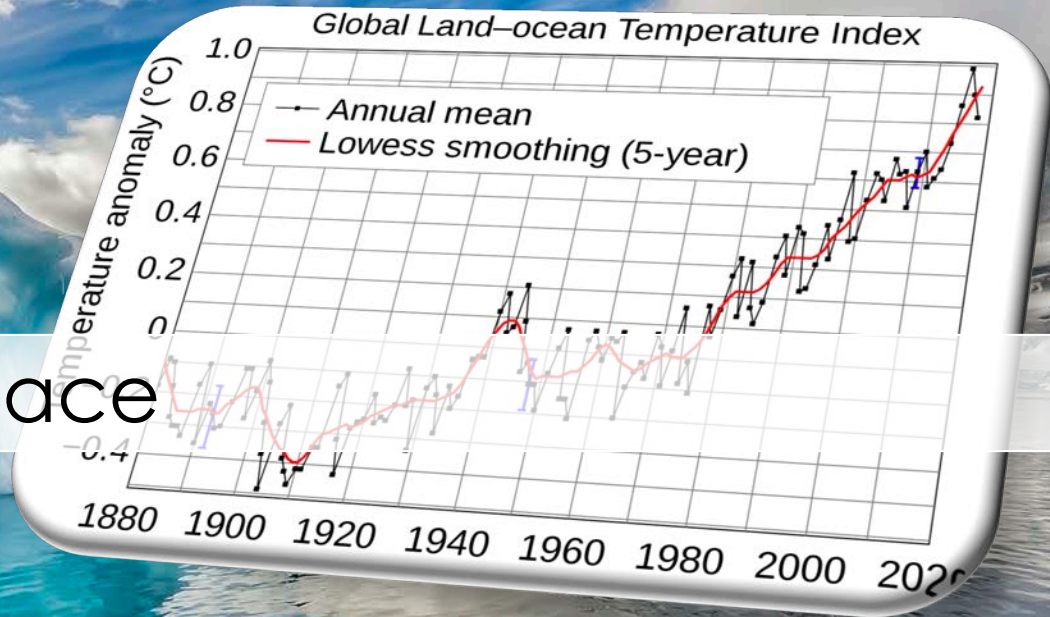
CONCLUSION



Digital utopia's three problems & solutions

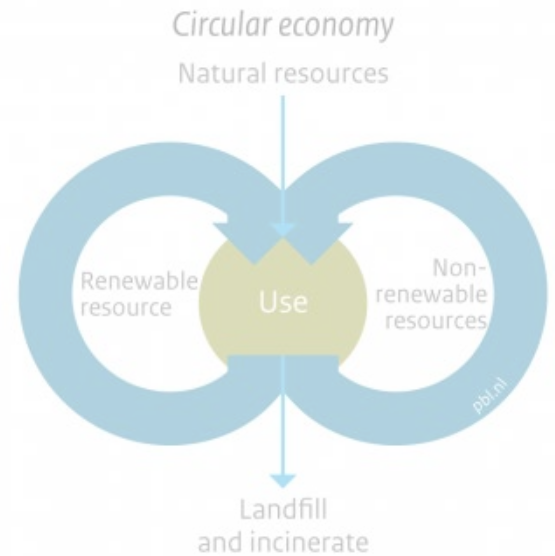
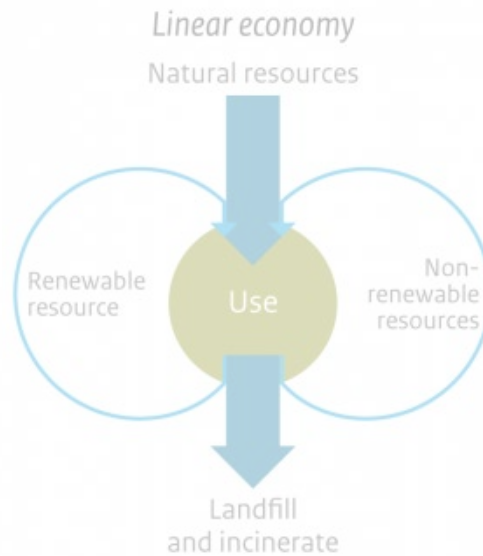
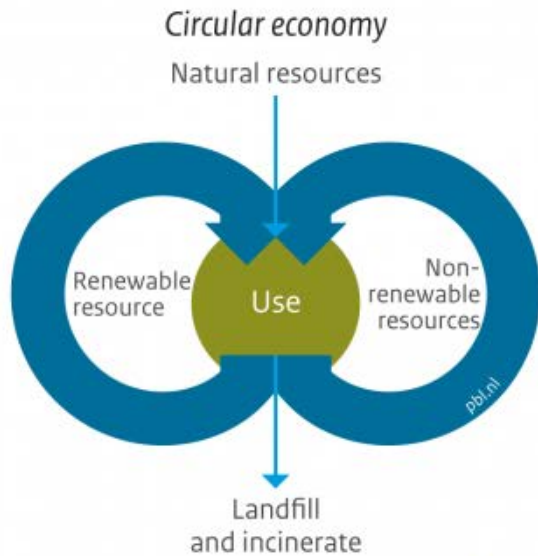


Problem 1: no-space



A photograph of a wind farm with several white wind turbines featuring red and white striped blades. They are situated in a lush green field with a line of trees in the background. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent white banner is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text "Solution 1: the green and the blue".

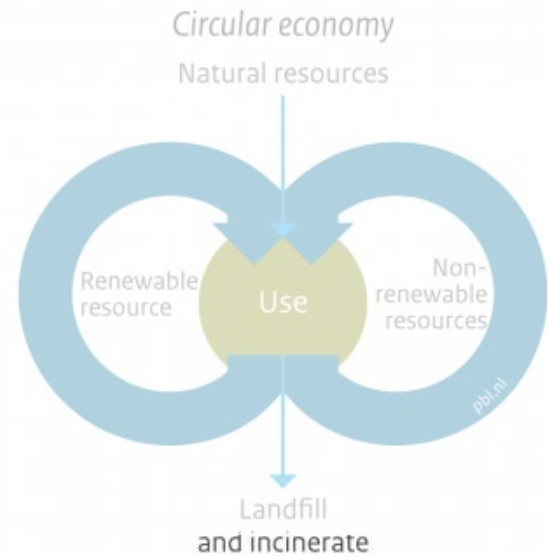
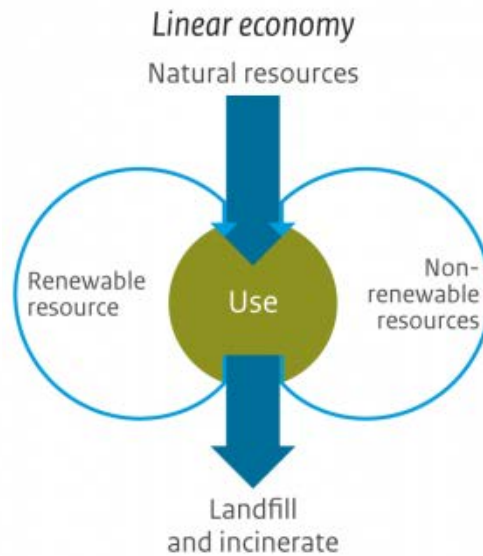
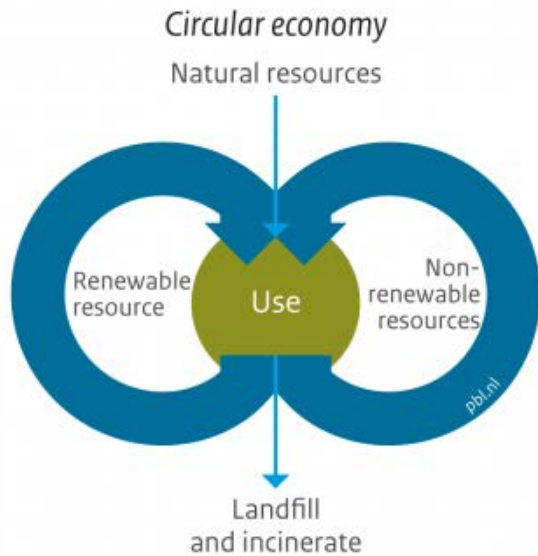
Solution 1: the green and the blue



technology

technology

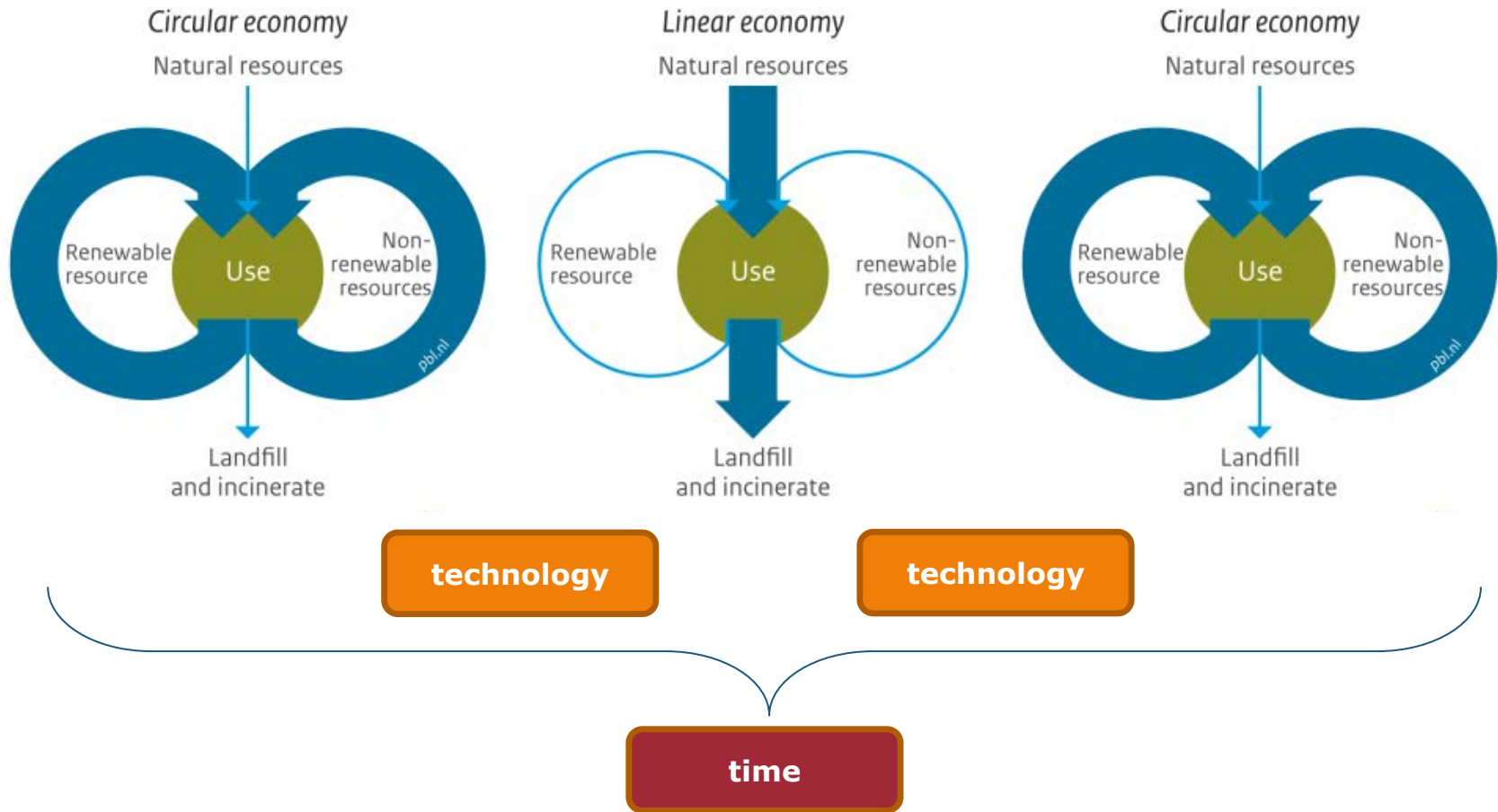
time



technology

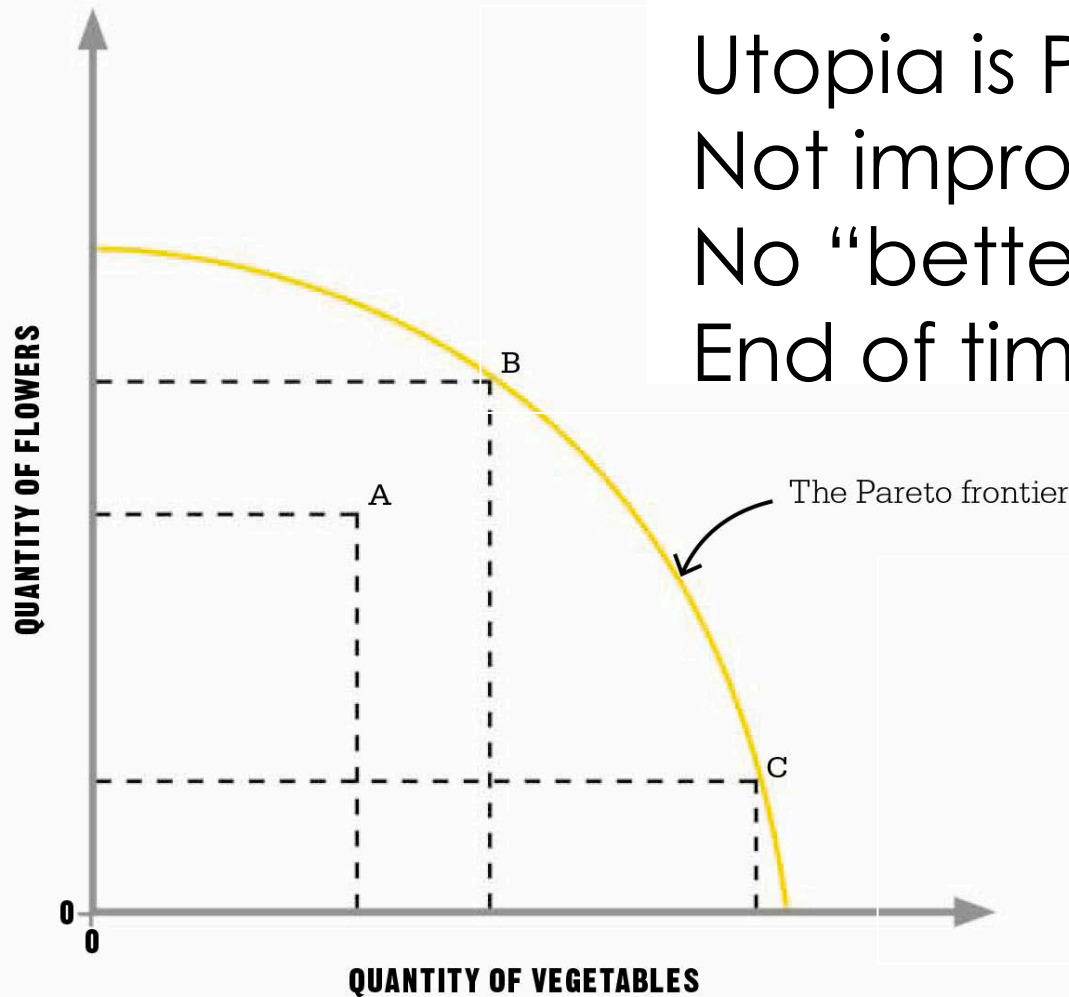
technology

time



Problem 2: anti-time

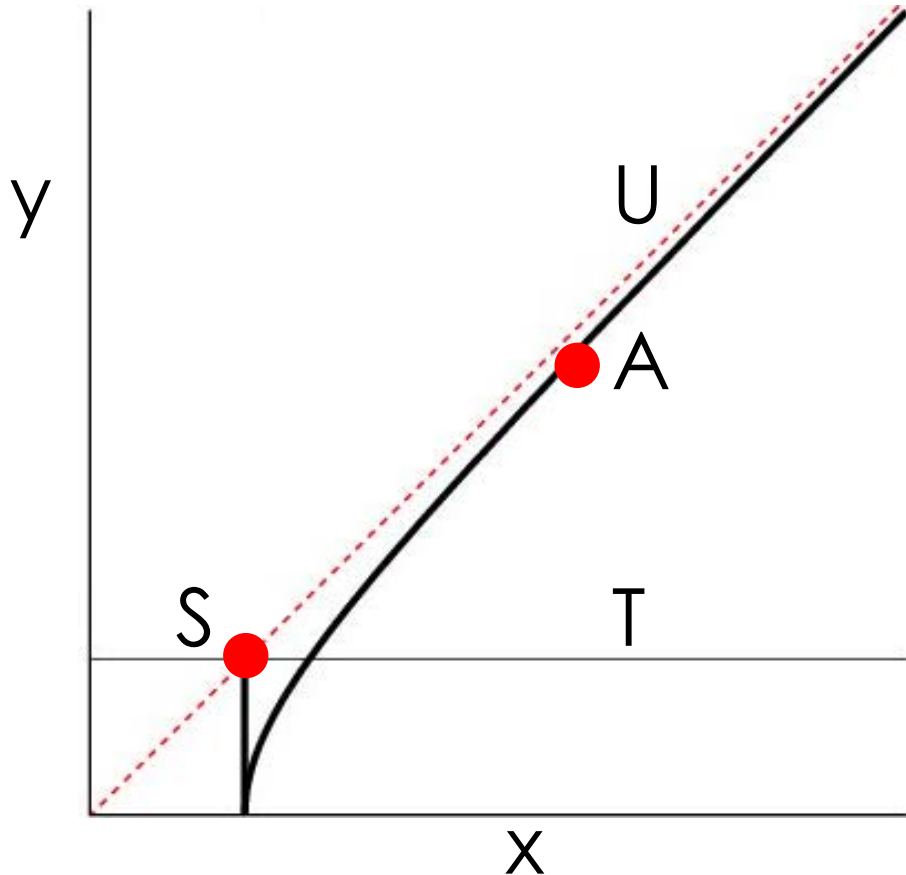




Utopia is Pareto optimal.
Not improvable.
No “better time” in the future.
End of time.

But digital utopia is

- historical
- dynamic
- pro-time.



Asymptopia

(asymptotic utopia)

U = utopia


A = asymptotic society

S = symptotic society

T = time line

x = improvements

y = time



Solution 2: utopising as upgrading (pro-time)

Problem 3: collective happiness




Individual happiness (incremental
fulfilment of hope) not always aggregable.





Social happiness = sum of all individual
happiness \neq collective (together) happiness.



Technologies of hope hijack individual hope,
do not address collective happiness.



Solution 3: collective happiness as mutual donation of sense and purpose (takes two).



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In a digital utopia, we have:

- green and blue
- asymptotic convergence
- incremental fulfilment of individual hopes
- collective donation of sense and purpose

A laptop screen is the central focus, displaying a code editor with a dark theme. The code is written in C++ and includes comments in Chinese. The background is a blurred city skyline at night, with various lights and buildings visible. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white banner at the bottom of the image.

In asymptopia, digital technologies are designed to treat every person not only as an individual but also as a **member**, and every human project not only as personal but also as **collective**.



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Thank you

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