What kind of software is good for producing OCW?

Commercial, pirate, or free software!

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Copyright? No!

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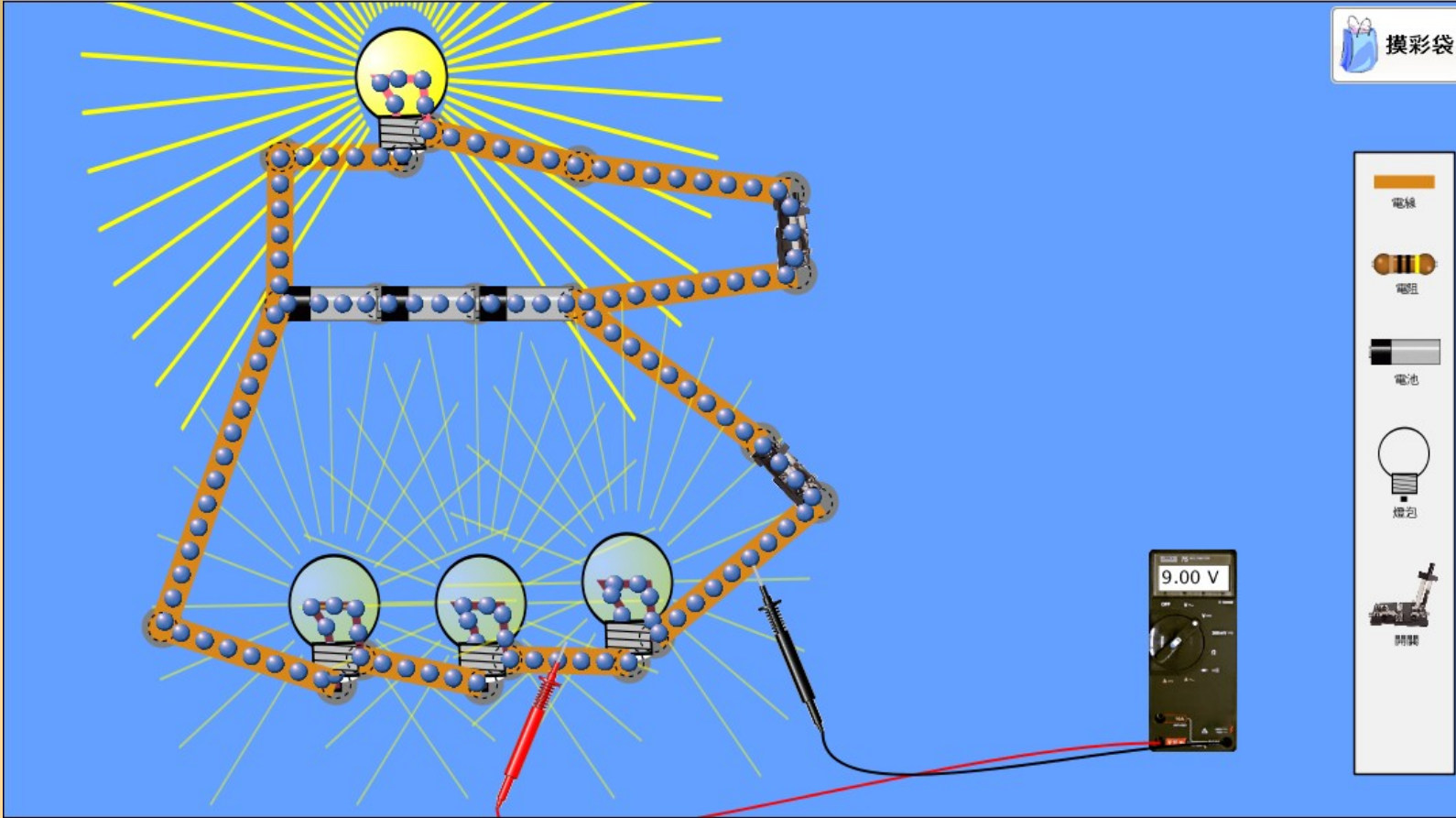
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A. Using proprietary software in OCW may have some defects

1 Pose risks of copyright infringement

- Proprietary software (most are commercial software), is protected by copyright laws.
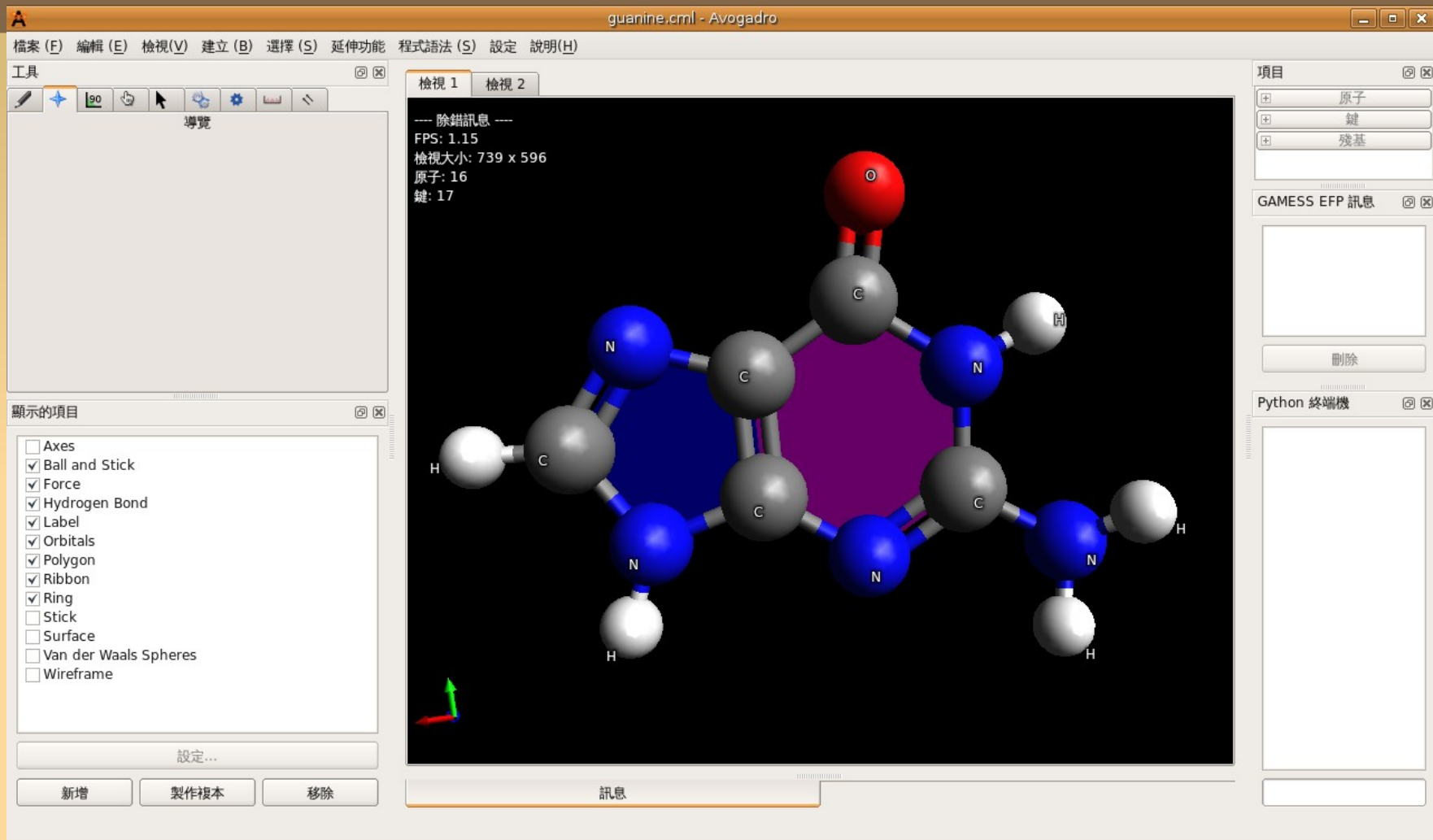
- For example, the screen shots

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- According to copyright laws:

- Distributing OCW documents with screen shots--------- illegal

Use of Copyrighted Content (Link)

You may feel uncomfortable with those rules!

2. Make OCW incomplete, when distributing OCW with commercial software is impossible.

- Students or OCW users may ask:

- "Since the OCW is under Creative Commons license, and can be freely distributed, could I have the chemical drawing software as demonstrated in the OCW? And then I can practice drawing molecules at home!"

- They must be frustrated with such answer:

- "You are right! OCW is free and can be distributed legally, but excluding the software. Sorry, it is copyrighted. You cannot get it from OCW or me!"

- Clearly, no matter plotting software for math, or protein structure demonstrating software for biology, the commercial software cannot be downloaded as OCW itself.

3. Discourage developing countries to develop/modify OCW

- Some frontiers established models for producing OCW. However, using commercial software in OCW do discourage the developing countries to produce OCW. Because budget for purchasing software is always a big trouble for them. Meanwhile it may increase software piracy, if they follow the OCW producing model to use commercial software.

- From another point of view, most OCW allows users to modify its content, which is one of the great features of OCW. However, when getting legal commercial software is a barrier of developing countries, how can they appreciate this feature-- to modify it as you want!

Luckily,

there is a solution

—free software

B. What is free software ?

- Software released under free licenses is called free software

  (also called open source software).

Users own more rights to deal with free software

- Use
- Re-distribute
- Study
- Modify
- Most free of charge

- There some famous licenses such as GPL, BSD, Creative Commons.

C. What are the advantages to apply <u>free software</u> in OCW?

1. Free software can be freely distributed.

No matter science, Office, image processing, video editing software, as long as they are released under free licenses, all can be legally distributed. Thus, software associated with OCW can be distributed with OCW. That is legal!

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2. Most free software is free of charge.

OCW makers save money

Students can freely and legally download software

3. Free Software can be customized.

Pfaffman suggests that open source software has some advantages to be introduced into campus (2008). The feature of customization makes itself flexible for all users.

D. Free software and free-licensed materials for OCW contents

- ## PhET

PhET simulations are under Creative Commons license (CC-BY), no restrictions on commercial uses. Its source codes are under GPL license.

The PhET project was established in 2002 by Carl Wieman who was awarded the Nobel prize of Physic in 2001.

- The PhET Taiwan community have finished the translation in 2009 summer, and introduced it into K-12 science classes in Taiwan. To date, more and more teachers got the information from workshops or websites, and start to use PhET in the class.

- **Education software in KDE project**

Kalzium-- chemistry, periodic table

Kmplot-- math, plotting

Kstar-- astronomy

- ## Educational materials from NOAA

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) release many educational materials.

In May 2010, we have got the permission from NOAA to translate and promote those materials in Taiwan.

Animation: Arctic 2009

- **Openclipart**

All contents are in the public domain. Good material sources for OCW documents

Example: cell, tree, circuit...

- ## LibriVox

LibriVox project can be considered as free audio books.

The contents in LibriVox are suitable in English courses of K-12 and college in Taiwan.

Example: The Fox and The Grapes, Aesop's Fables (audio: librivox) (text: Gutenberg)

- Chemical Structures in Sourceforge project

We have done the translation in early 2009.

- The software above is for teaching/OCW contents

- The following

- **OpenOffice.org**: similar to MS Office, Writer to Word, Calc to Excel, and Impress to PowerPoint.

- **Audacity**: free audio editor and recorder for Linux, Mac, and Windows.

- **Ksnapshot**: screen shot software for Linux and Windows.

- **xvidcap**: for videotaping screen, and files after format conversion can be uploaded to Youtube.

- **Kdenlive**: for video editing

- # Summary

Most OCW producers do not realize the potential risks and inconvenience to use commercial software for making OCW.

Free software and free licensed materials are suitable for teaching and producing OCW.

Free software vs Commercial software

	Free software/ materials	Commercial/ proprietary software
Ricks of copyright infringement	Almost zero	Risky
Been distributed with OCW	Yes	No! It's illegal!
Fee	Most are free	Most are $$$

Free software for teaching

PhET, KDE-edu, materials in NOAA and USGS, and a lot of free software.

LibriVox, openclipart...

Free software for making OCW documents

Ksnapshot, audacity, xvidcap, Kenlive

Just try it!

Thank you for your attention!