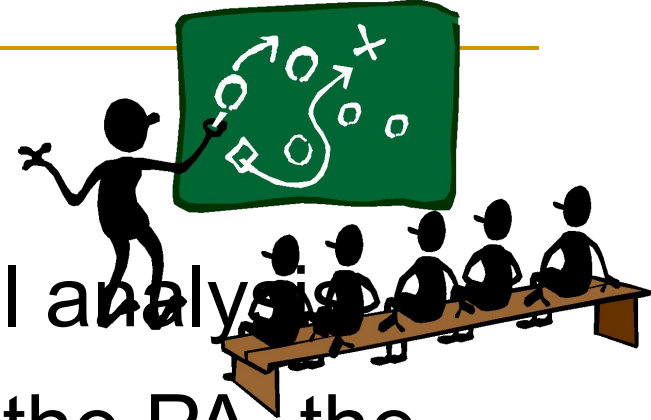
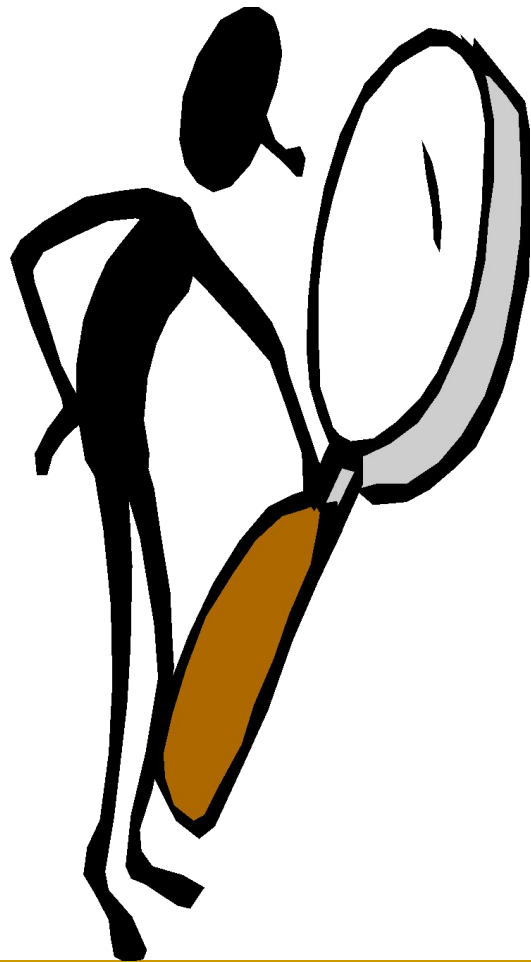

Political Analysis: The Problem of Relation of Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies

Structure:



- 1. Basic measures of political analysis
- 2. General characteristics of the PA, the difference from other social sciences
- 3. Concept of R- and Q- methodologies
- 4. Directions and types of political analysis
- 5. Political decisions as an object of analysis
- 6. Value conflicts

1. Basic measures of political analysis



The concept of “Political Analysis” is used today in three meanings:

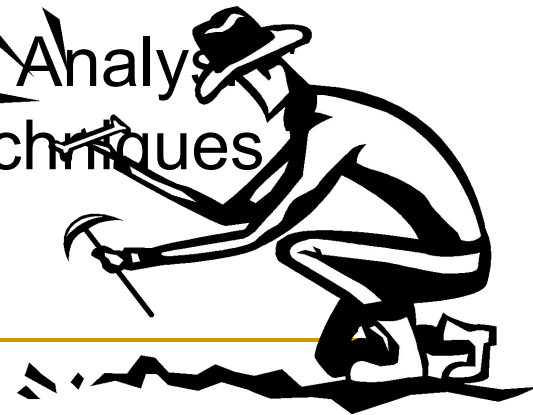
- 1. Theoretical and fundamental
- 2. Instrumental and empirical
- 3. Practical and applied

First, theoretical and fundamental meaning of Political Analysis

- covers basic conceptual studies of political sphere, its structure and dynamics
 - In such interpretation, this concept is almost synonymous with the category of "fundamental (theoretical) political research" in general.
 - "Analysis of Political Structure" of D. Iston [1990]
 - "Modern Political Analysis" of R. Dal' [2003] and others are written such a way.
-

Second, instrumental and empirical meaning of Political Analysis

- Collection and description, classification and processing of primary data.
- This aspect of political analysis has already acquired an institutional character within the political science and is identified as a new discipline
- "Methods and Techniques of Political Research"
- Sometimes it is called "Empirical Political Analysis (EPA) or "Research Methodology and Techniques Political Science."



If in the theoretical direction

- basic analytical unit is the "concept"
 - reflecting causal, functional, and other links "inside" political process,
 - То в инструментальном подходе исходной единицей выступает "данное", т.е. Then in instrumental approach, the original unit is "given", i.e.
 - primary information about a particular event in the political life
-

Third, practical and applied measurement of Political Analysis

- The foreground is not building a harmonious and well-founded theory and
- not collecting data set,
- but ways to estimate and solve social problems for a specific customer
- as a rule, one of political actors



In applied policy analysis (APA)

- often deduction and induction are combined.
 - Although the "grasping the picture immediately" style of thinking dominates,
 - in contrast to "Theorist" constructing abstract models of policy, and
 - "Toolmaker" engaged in operationalization at the level of empirical data,
 - "Applied Researcher" builds a working model of the unique problem situation, borrowing conceptual knowledge from "Theorist", and factual information from "Toolmaker"
-

Therefore, for “Applied Researcher”

- prescriptive function (prescription) prevails
- whereas for “Theorist” explicative function (explanation) prevails
- and for “Toolmaker” - descriptive function (description) prevails



Parameters of	Measurement		
	Fundamental (FPA)	Empirical (EPA)	Applied (APA)
Defining vector	Deduction	Induction	Retroduction
Nature of Knowledge	Abstract and theoretical	Specific and factual	Synthetic and projective
Role of Modeling	Development of conceptual meta models	Use of models' characteristics	Construction of the problem and situation models
Basic Analytical Unit	Concepts	Data	Problems
Dominant Function	Explicative	Descriptive	Prescriptive

Criteria	Fundamental Research	Applied Research
Functions	Cognitive: cognition of relations, mechanisms, regularities	Converter: use of cognized mechanisms
Role of the subject of analysis	Objectified (detached neutral)	Subjectivized (active concerned)
Connection of theory with practice	Indirect	Direct
Phase of cognitive cycle	From the collection of empirical data to abstract theoretical models	From theoretical models to their specific synthesis into practical technologies
Attitude to space and time	"Soft" spatial localization and limited time	"Rigid" spatial localization and strictly limited time

2. General Characteristics of APA, Difference from Other Social Sciences

2.1. Client-orientation problem,

2.2. Heterogeneity of conceptual and
methodological framework

2.3. Instrumental multiplitsizm,

2.4. Combination of empirical and
normative approaches





2.1. Client-orientation problem

- Traditional social sciences - sociology, political science, psychology, economics - have clearly defined subject areas, research facilities and methods of scientific schools and theories.
- In political analysis such "manufactory-guild" specialization is simply impossible , both because of multidimensionality of the researched problems and organization of applied research
 - A customer does not need a multivolume monographic work, and the specific conclusions and practical recommendations.
-

2.2. Heterogeneity of conceptual and methodological framework

- Political analysis is rather "cosmopolitan" in relation to conceptual approaches and principles, borrowing them from a variety of social, human, and even natural sciences
 - For example, to analyze the totality of the consequences of the US military campaign in Iraq in 2003 for the Russian policy
 - one need to involve conceptual knowledge of the theory of international relations, international economics, military science, sociology, history, psychology, statistics, etc.
-

Methodology of Political Analysis consists of

- elements of set of disciplines: political science, sociology, psychology, economics and philosophy.
 - Conceptual apparatus of modern political analysis is the study of “inputs”, “outputs”, "conversion", the content of political course and decision-making process
 - has been formed on the basis of the system theory.
 - Political analysis is indebted to philosophy of the epistemological concept of "problem-solving“,
 - as well as of ethical principles included in the manuals and codes of practice analysts
-

2.3. Instrumental multiplisizm

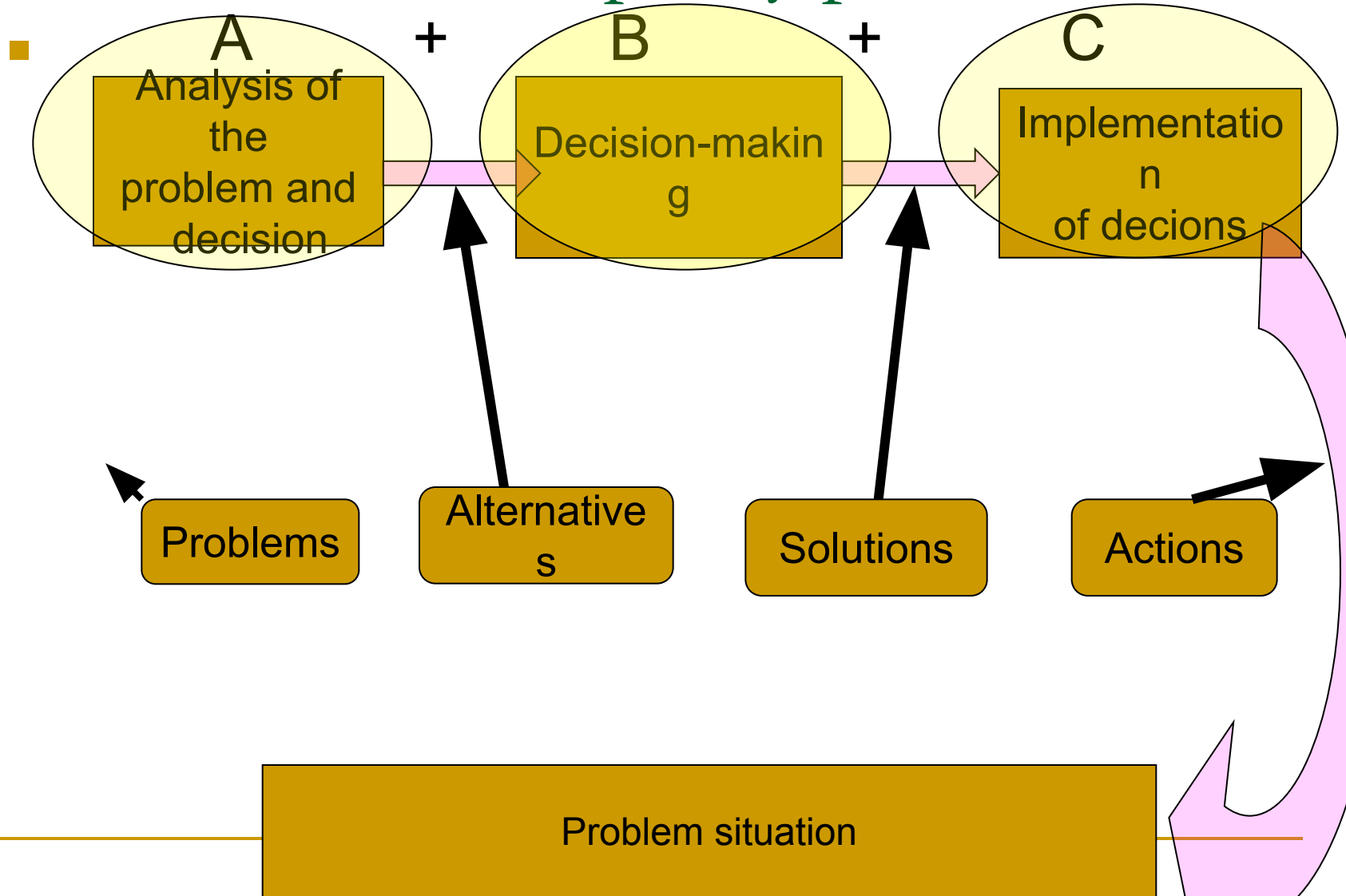


- main methodological setting of critical multiplisizm is the **principle of triangulation**,
- according to which the analysts who seek to deepen politically relevant knowledge should use a variety of measurements, techniques, tools, sources of information and means of communication“ (Dunn 1994).
- Need in multidimensional principles, approaches and tools is due to the increasing complexity of social and political problems,
- as well as the complexity of the decision making process, which now involves both state actors
- and pressure groups, social associations, local communities, etc.

2.4. Combination of empirical and normative approaches

- To prepare recommendations to the client, the analyst must not only describe, explain and predict the political developments,
 - but also to evaluate recommendations based on certain criteria values.
 - Therefore, unlike the basic sciences where these approaches are often separated
 - in APA the empirical approach (to answer the question: what is happening and will happen?)
 - is inevitably combined with standard approach (when answers to the questions: Will it be worse or better? or What to do next? are searched)
-

Place of Political Analysis in the structure of the policy process



3. Concept Q- and R- methodologies



- Today there is a confrontation between
 - adherents of the so-called R-methodology, i.e. the traditional practice of the present political science positivist approach,
 - based on the principle of scientific objectivity and (mostly) accurate, quantitative methods, and
 - adherents post positivist Q -methodology, which is built on the principles of value criticism and involves consideration of subjective factors and active use along with math, qualitative methods.
 - Positivist R-methodology today is still dominant.
-

At the root of the Q-methodology

- was an English mathematician G. Tomson,
 - first pointed to the possibility of "inverted" factor analysis,
 - aimed at identifying the correlation between individuals,
 - but not between their quantitative characteristics.
 - He first proposed the use of the letter Q to indicate the new technique
-

The ancestor of Q-МЕТОДОЛОГИИ

- is considered to be another British scientist - physicist and psychologist V. Stefenson.
 - In 1935 he published in "Nature" magazine a letter where he revealed the mathematical side of the "inverted" factor analysis, and showed how it could be used in research
 - Today V. Stefenson works in psychology, sociology, social psychology, political psychology and political science
-

Correlation of R- и Q- methodologies

- Classic factor analysis is a procedure to establish the relationship between the characteristics of a certain set of objects (R-method).
- Within the R-methodology factorization is happening inside the columns of the table.
- In a first approximation, Q-method can be defined as a matrix factorization of the same data, but in inside its series.

Such a procedure is feasible only

- to the uniformity of units, represented inside the row fixing the following rates: income (in rubles), location (distance from the capital in kilometers), education (number of years spent at the university), etc.
 - "Inverted" factorization is not possible, because you can not say what is more - five years of the university, or a million rubles in annual revenue.
 - However, Stephenson found the way of unification in a row of characteristics, proposing to measure the "weight" of each phenomenon in terms of subjective importance.
 - Each individual must decide what is important - the annual income of one million rubles or the higher education
-

Q- and R-methodologies reflect

- different directions in philosophy of scientific research.
 - The purpose of R-methodology is to give scientists an objective knowledge of the subject, which allows to include it in the scope of the positivist epistemology.
 - Q-methodology is considered to be post positivist, since its use suppose a doubt in the absoluteness of cognitive significance of "objective" technique along with the interest to what is hidden behind the veil of objectivity.
-

In accordance with the Q-approach

- A person is conceived as an integral being, not reduced to the simple sum of his(her) individual characteristics.
 - Researcher here is not an "impartial spectator", but
 - a partner actively "implanted" in the individual world perception (D. V. Goncharov, 2002)
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4. Directions and types of political analysis

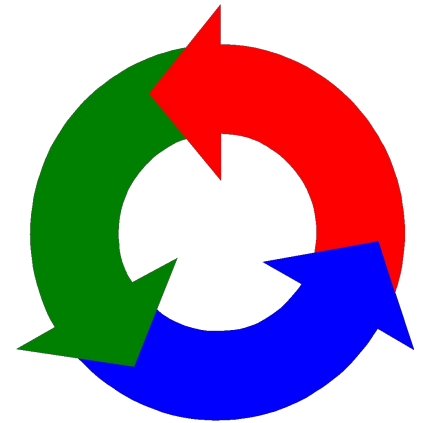
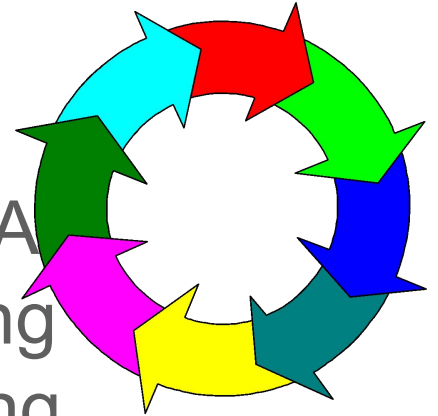
- A. A. Degtyarev allocates 4 approaches to defining areas of APA:
 - Structuring of the APA subject field is being conducted on the following criteria:
 - 4.1. Functional tasks and phases of political and analytical activities;
 - 4.2. In accordance with the scope and objects of political analysis;
 - 4.3. Based on the methodology used by experts and their tools
 - 4.4. In relation to the time factor
-

4.1. Functional tasks and phases of political and analytical activity

- modeling and structuring the problem situation,
 - data collection and its descriptive analysis,
 - situational diagnosis,
 - forecasting trends of political development,
 - development of management recommendations and, finally,
 - evaluation of political activity
-

4.1. Variants of data classification

- Dunn writes about the five types of functional and procedural types of APA (structuring of the problem, forecasting situation, recommendations, monitoring of shares and evaluation of their results) (*Dunn 1994*)
- Hogwood and Gunn write about three (research of "inputs", "content" and "outputs" of the political process) (*Hogwood, Gunn 1984*)



4.1. Separate areas within the *APA*

- policy forecasting
 - decision analysis
 - impact analysis
 - policy planning
-

4.3. Classification on methodology of an expert and his tools

- on the basis of methodological schools, dominant in social and political science:
- system,
- rational choice,
- neoinstitutional,
- bibehavioralist



4.3. Classification based on research methods:

- event analysis,
 - risk analysis,
 - political marketing,
 - evaluation studies, etc.
 - In recent years on the basis of this classification is division into R- and Q-methodologies,
 - especially as it directly affects the ratio in the research of quantitative and qualitative methods.
-

5. Political decisions as an object of analysis

- Political decisions and actions to implement them -
- The main factor, characteristic of relations of political system with the external environment,
- Result of its activity,
- Which is criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the fundamental institutions of power



Development and decision-making



- This is mechanism of the transformation of public requirements
 - into public generally binding regulations,
 - regulatory relationships and determining the distribution of power resources in the society
 - to solve politically significant problems
-

Public nature of the decision is the main feature for separation

- of political and non-political decisions.
 - The publicity is caused by:
 - 1. Large-scale effects and price of errors
 - 2. Resource scarcity and uncertainty when searching for solutions
 - 3. Focus on the problem
-

Sometimes «decision making» and «policy making» concepts are divided

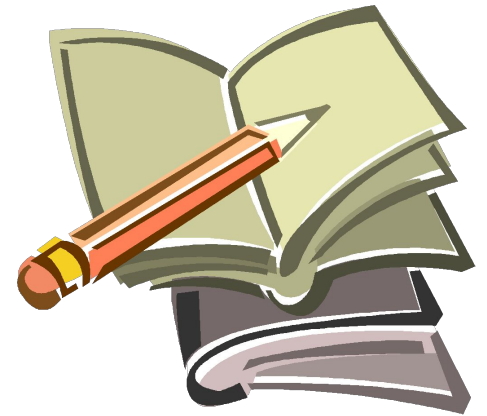
- **“*Decision making*”** - “political decision-making” is choice situation, involving rational action and sanctions
 - **“*Policy making*”** – “forming of policy” is the process of collective, mutually intersecting solutions
 - in the absence of a subject capable to make decisions on behalf (and binding) of the parties involved.
-

Components of information important for policy-making:

- 1. Political problems
 - 2. Policy options
 - 3. Political actions
 - 4. Political results
 - 5. Political restrictions
-

Basic theories of political decision-making

- Rational approach
- Behavioral approach
- Integrated approach.



Rational approach is a classic way of understanding

- Of the political decision-making
 - Based on microeconomic methodology
 - Perceived effectiveness as the highest value
 - The purpose is to maximize the “output” (benefits) for a given level of “input” (costs).
 - Or minimize costs for a given level of benefits
-

The decision-making process is divided into five steps:

- 1. Defining purposes
 - 2. Identification of alternatives
 - 3. Evaluation of the effects
 - 4. Choosing a solution
 - 5. Return to the starting position
-

Problems in the rational approach:



- ***A. The problem of information***
 - Rational approach has high requirements to reliability.
 - Information needs of type rational methods often can not be met by available resources
 - Or exceed the capacity of the limited human rationality
-

B. The problem of values (external constraints)

- Rational approach avoids answering the question - who and how determines the purposes
 - It is assumed that this has already happened at the "superior" level of decision-making
 - In reality, parts and bodies at the "top" differ in the understanding of the stated objectives, but also the subject of the decision-making turns between
 - purposes from interest groups and categories of clients of "below" level
 - The result - often technically correct solutions - are politically "no-go"
-

B. The problem of values (inherent limitations)

- Sample calculation, for example, to transfer benefits and costs in monetary terms
 - or for the weight values of alternatives
 - can hide implicit value priorities behind strict formulas
 - in fact, the method will serve group and individual interests
-

Behavioral approach in response to the shortcomings of rational purpose

- Purposes, considerable at decision-making, never, or almost never can be defined as clearly as rational approach requires.
 - Political purposes "of course, are characterized by the following features:
 - they are multiple, contradictory and ambiguous"
 - A.Vildavski 1973
-

Purposes in a pluralist political system



- are periodically formulated and vary depending on the configuration of the political majority,
 - demographic shifts occur.
 - New knowledge and technologies are changing the very nature of the problems and our ability to solve them
-

Moreover, the main task at political decision-making

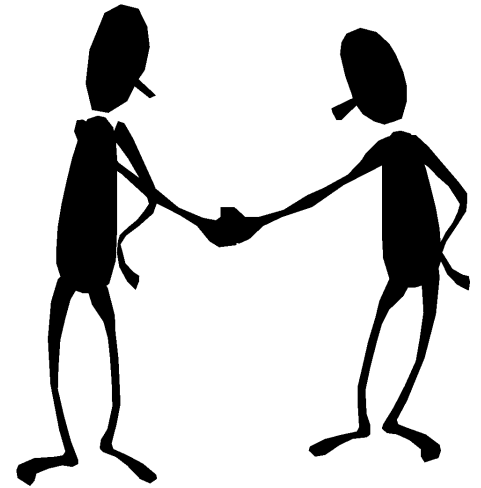
- Is formation of support of the majority.
 - Suppose that vague character of purposes and ambiguities.
 - The criterion of the best solution is
 - practical possibility of reaching agreement on this decision by all stakeholders.
 - "There is no other way to confirm the validity of the policy purposes other than the very existence of public consensus"
 - Charles Lindblom, 1959
-

“Possible to make mistakes and improve them” as an advantage

- Models of the behavioral approach
 - Decision-making mechanisms "should be designed in such a way that errors are visible and correctable, notable and reversible, and therefore cheap and acceptable" (A.Vildavski, 1979)
 - Incremental solutions, allowing the possibility of correction, have a better chance of mobilizing political support
-

Integrated approach

- Suggests that the political decision-making is the result of interaction of
 - A. Political and
 - B. Information and analytical tools



A. Political mechanisms

- Refer to the values and interests,
 - Influenced by political actors who are in a competitive relationship over the distribution of resources
 - They identify ways to harmonize the interests of participants of the political process
 - And also the ways of transformation of values and interests of the participants into the purposes of political organism on the whole
-

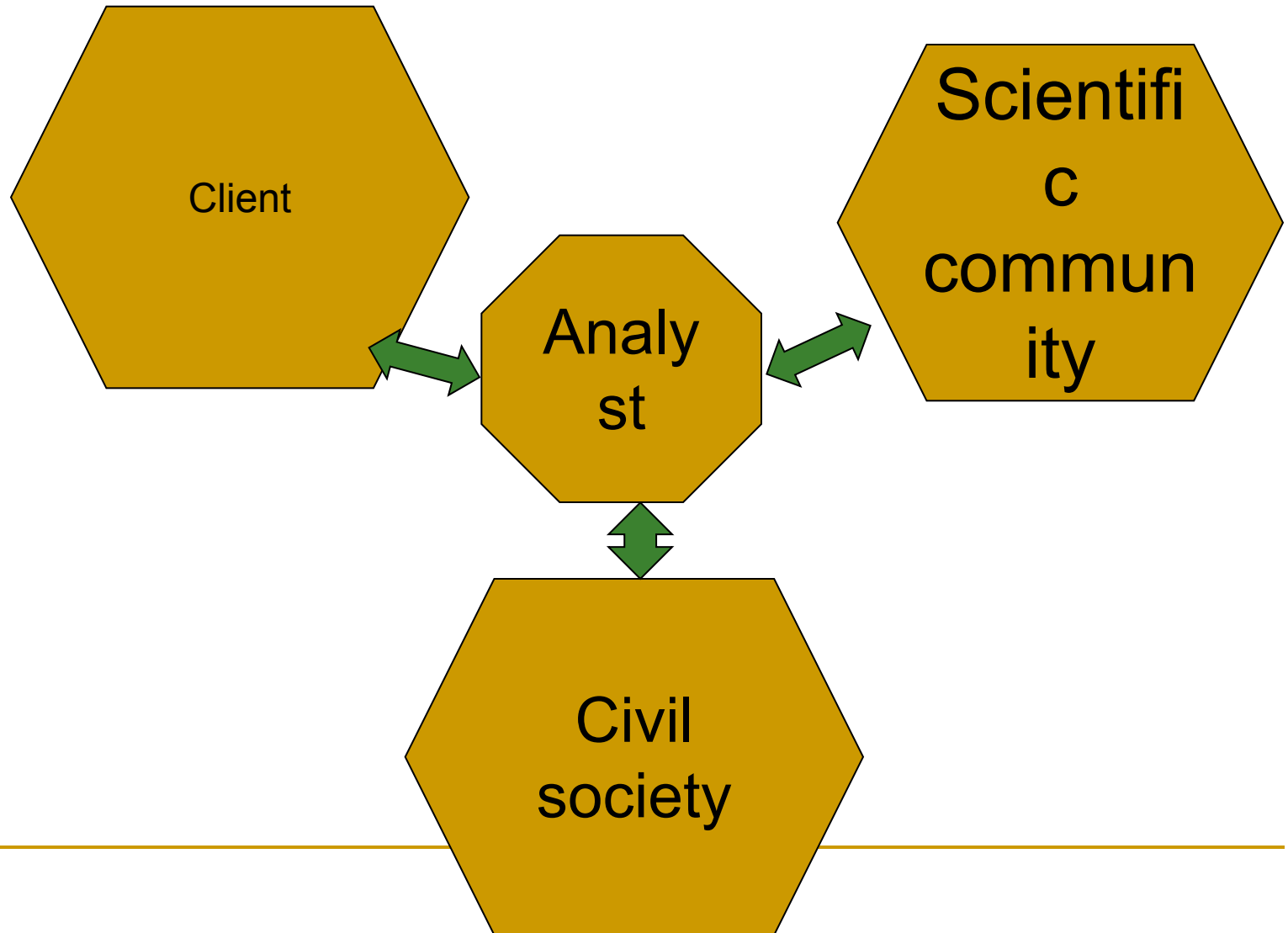
B. Informational and analytical tools

- Application by the actors of their knowledge and experience for research of the spectrum of alternative solutions and actions to solve problems
 - Because of objective constraints, individuals solve problems, can be recognized as just "bounded rational" agents.
 - In reality both types of mechanisms co-exist, information and analytical types are always subordinate to political types
 - support and provide them
-

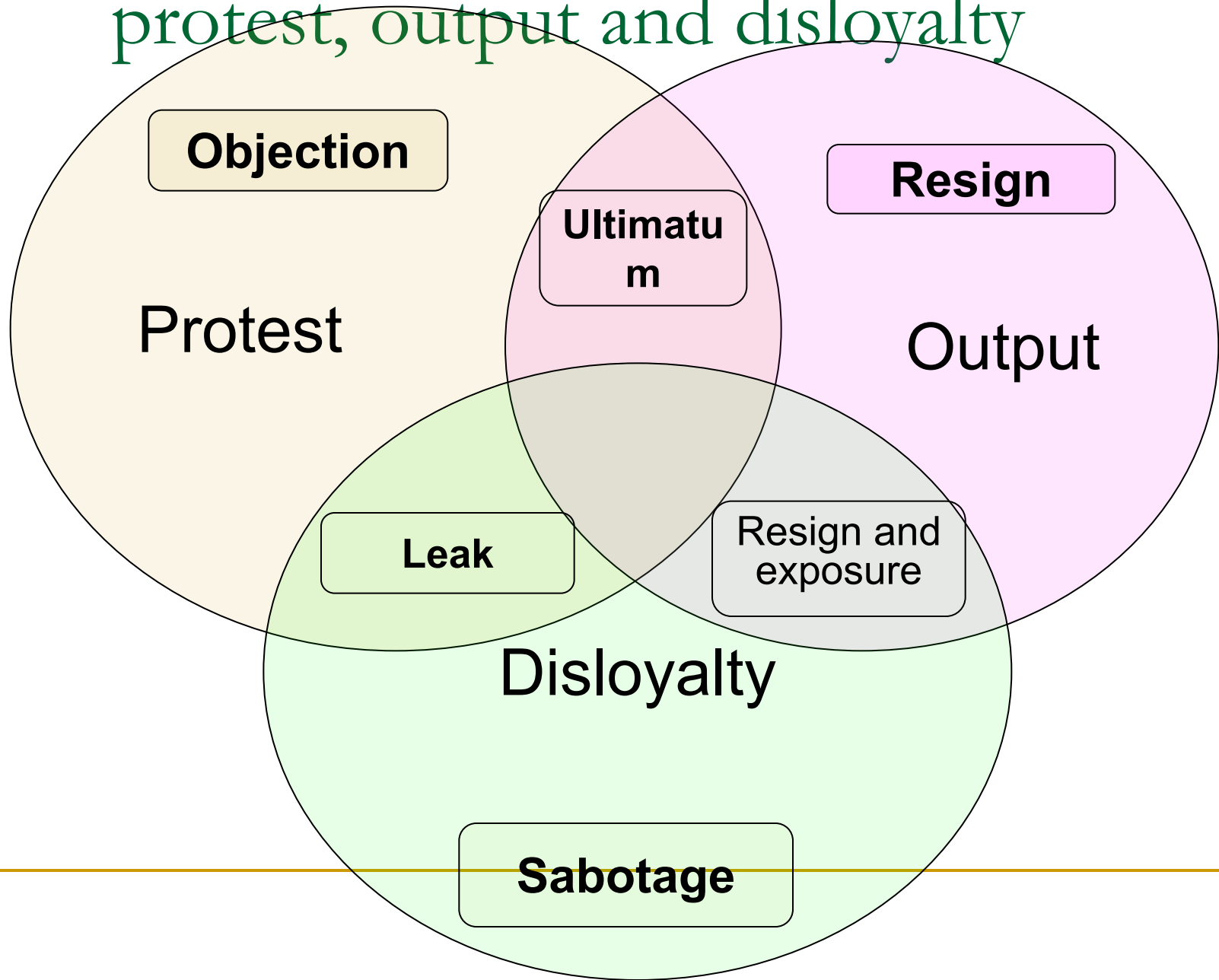
6. Value conflicts

- M.Munger allocates 5 forms of analysts' conflict:
 - The conflict between loyalty to the client and own principles
 - The conflict due the constraints set by the client in respect of the matrix criteria/alternatives
 - The conflict between the need for analytical accuracy and deadlines of works
 - The conflict over the corporate limits of the professional community
 - Conflict due to resource constraints
-

Three types of liability of analyst



Three alternatives of the conflict: protest, output and disloyalty



Terms of moral justification for disloyalty *(Peter French, 1983)*

- All possible means of protest within the organizational structure must be exhausted
 - There should be a conviction in violation of procedural, legal, political or ethical standards
 - And that such violation will have negative consequences for society.
 - We must be prepared to back up all the accusations with unambiguous evidence
-