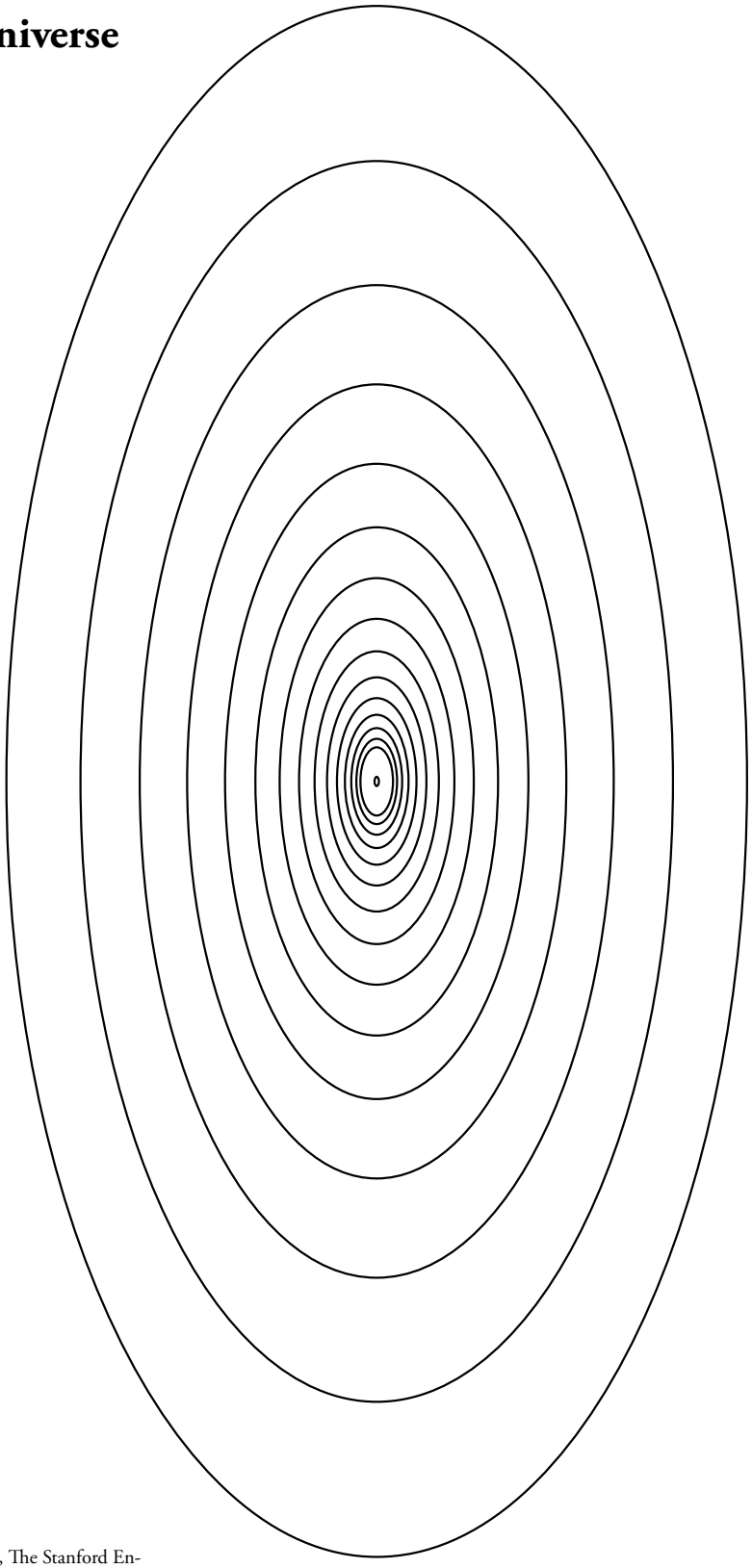
A Systems View of the Universe

Here's your challenge! Can you arrange the following nested systems in order from the largest to the smallest? **Multicellular Organisms** (individuals from species that are often part of the Plant, Fungi, or Animal Kingdoms); **Communities**; **Galaxies**; **Independent Eukaryotic Cells** (single-celled organisms that have a nucleus and are sometimes referred to as protists); **Prokaryotes** (bacterial cells which have no nucleus); **Planet**; **Families** (applicable for many species); **Ecosystems** (The living and non-living things / biotic and abiotic features that surround and include Communities); **Subatomic Particles** (such as electrons, protons, and neutrons); **Molecules**; **Universe**; **Smaller Subatomic Entities** (including electromagnetic radiation such as x-rays, radio waves, and visible light); **the Solar System**; individual **Atoms**. Please note: We've built a few hints into the preceding list. - Good Luck!

For those of you whose religious or spiritual beliefs would make this unacceptable, please feel free to draw beautifully colored swirls (lightly) through the entire image to represent God, the Life Force, Brahman, Chi, Love, Mana, Energy, The Great Mystery, or whichever human word is preferred by your wordview to describe that which creates, acts, and perfuses through all these interconnecting levels of reality. (Looking at this diagram, can you perhaps begin to appreciate an intriguing observation made by Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa in the 1400's? He wrote that it's possible to think of God as an "infinite sphere whose center is everywhere and whose boundary is nowhere....")



Miller, Clyde Lee, "Cusanus, Nicolaus [Nicolas of Cusa]", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2017/entries/cusanus/>.

Edith Pucci Couchman © 2017