

Ethics in Data Science

What is Ethics Anyway?

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Defining Ethics

What is Ethics According to You?

A Formal Definition

ethics

1. moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity.
"medical ethics also enter into the question"

Similar: moral code, morals, morality, moral stand, moral principles, moral values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, creed, credo, ethos, rules of conduct, standards (of behaviour), virtues, dictates of conscience

2. the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles. "neither metaphysics nor ethics is the home of religion"

What is involved in ethics?



Figure 1: Ethics is complex and it depends on your viewframe.

Does it need to be difficult?



Two mokeys are paid an unequal reward - Frans De Waal / TED — [2]

Dilemma 1: Kill the Baby or Old Person?

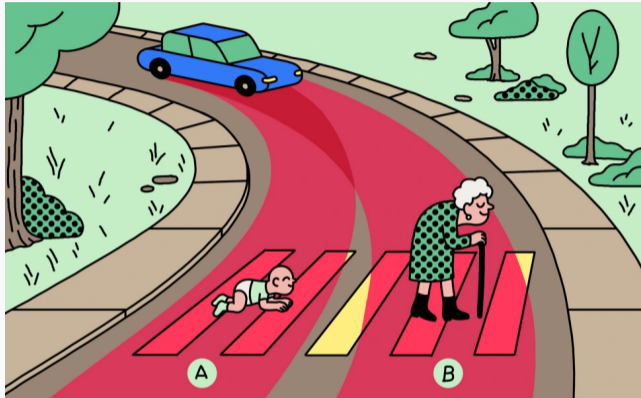


Figure 2: source: MIT Technology Review — [3]

Dilemma 1: Who to Kill - take 2

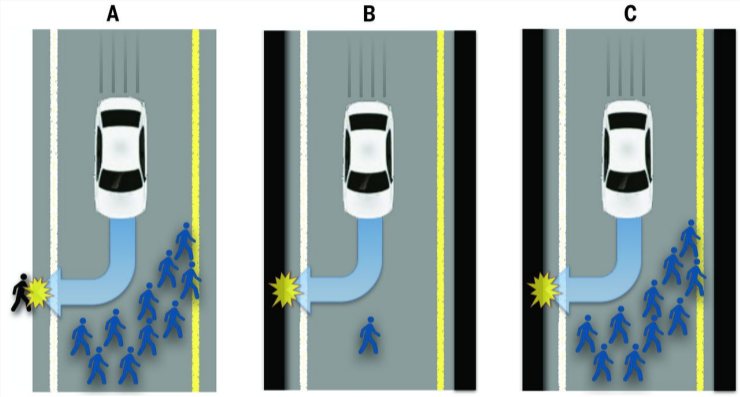


Figure 3: source: Science — [1]

Dilemma 1: Who to Kill - take 2

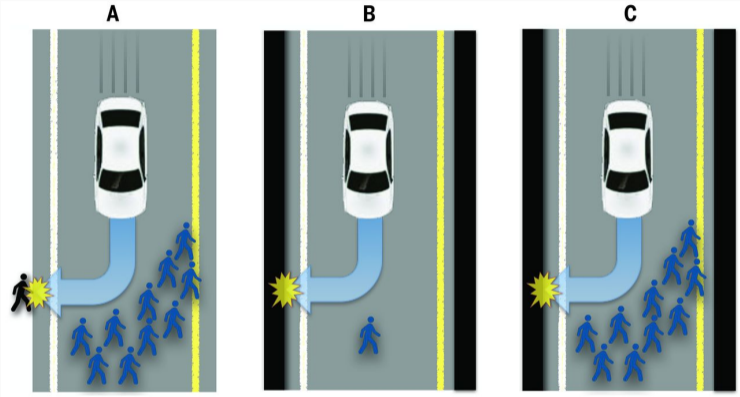


Figure 3: source: Science — [1]

Should we veer and kill the person who is on the pavement?

Dilemma 1: Who to Kill - take 2

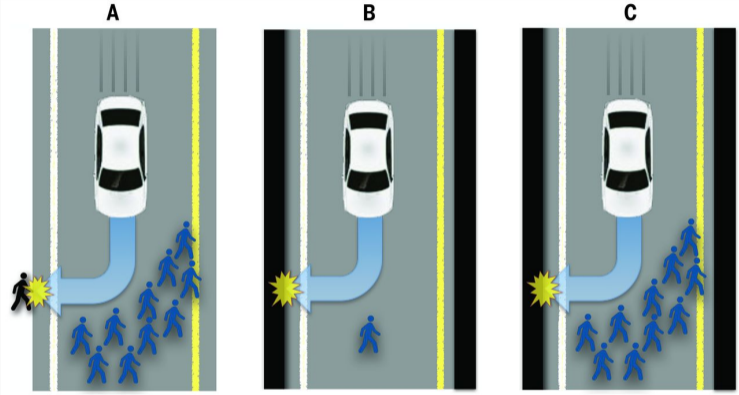


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Should we veer and kill the person who is on the pavement? What if there is only one person on the street?

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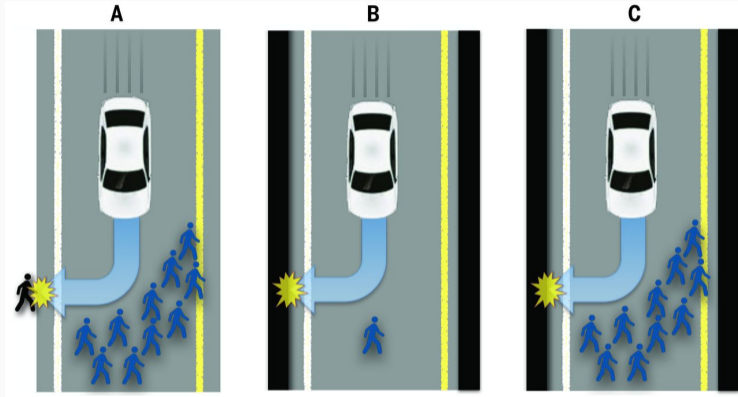


Figure 3: source: Science — [1]

Should we veer and kill the person who is on the pavement? What if there is only one person on the street? How many people to change behaviour?



Figure 4: Ethics is complex and it depends on your point of reference and you frame.

Questions Around AI

A Definition of AI

A cross-disciplinary approach to understanding, modelling, and replicating intelligence and cognitive processes by invoking various computational, mathematical, logical, mechanical, and even biological principles and devices. —[brundage2015taking]

or (Britanica.com) the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings

or (Wikipedia) Artificial intelligence (AI) is intelligence demonstrated by machines, as opposed to the natural intelligence displayed by animals and humans.

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the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills (Oxford Dictionary)
- What is exactly consciousness? the state of being aware of and responsive to one's surroundings - Oxford Dictionary
- What is Self-consciousness? Sentience? Life?

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- Should we manipulate data? (and counter-act bias?)

Ethics in Data Science

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- privacy, data protection

Issues

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- intellectual property rights, data ownership

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Way of working

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- B. General ideas are innate
- C. More complex problems, are not obvious and not everyone agrees. Viewpoint matters.
- D. Therefore morality cannot be reduced to following rules.
- E. Data Science is riddled with ethical issues.

References

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