

# Value Alignment

Andrea Loreggia

European University Institute



# What's intelligence?

- Mentimeter page



# What's Intelligence?

looking smart  
explain concepts  
investigation  
processing information  
understanding  
to solve complex problems  
experience  
promptness  
capability of logical thi  
a form of reasoning able  
goal achieving  
connect concepts  
making right choices  
understand concepts  
learning  
intuition





## What's intelligence?

- There does not exist a universal definition
- We can think about it as the ability to adapt to new scenarios





# What is artificial intelligence?

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The science of making machines do things that would require intelligence if done by men.

*M. L. Minsky*

AI systems can either use symbolic rules or learn a numeric model, and they can also adapt their behaviour by analysing how the environment is affected by their previous actions.

*HLEG on AI*



# What is artificial intelligence?

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**Narrow AI:** the ability to perform very specific tasks, reaching super-human performances in very specific domains

**General AI:** the ability to perform general tasks, reaching super-human performances in every domains

*-HLEG defined it "unrealistic"-*



# The value alignment problem

- Intelligent agents: systems that perceive and act in some environment
- Progress in AI research makes it timely to focus research not only on making AI more capable, but also on maximizing the societal benefit of AI
- Interdisciplinary research, cross-fertilization process

# The value alignment problem

Short-term research priorities:

- Optimizing AI's Economic Impact
- Law and Ethics Research
- Computer Science Research for Robust AI



# AI in Business Functions

Chui, Michael, and S. Malhotra. "AI adoption advances, but foundational barriers remain." *Mckinsey and Company* (2018).

Business functions in which AI has been adopted, by industry,<sup>1</sup> % of respondents

	Service operations	Product and/or service development	Marketing and sales	Supply-chain management	Manufacturing	Risk	Human resources
Telecom	75	45	38	26	22	23	17
High tech	48	59	34	23	20	17	21
Financial services	49	26	33	7	6	40	9
Professional services	38	34	36	19	11	15	16
Electric power and natural gas	46	41	15	14	19	14	15
Healthcare systems and services	46	28	17	21	9	19	18
Automotive and assembly	27	39	15	11	49	2	8
Travel, transport, and logistics	51	34	32	18	4	4	2
Retail	23	13	52	38	7	9	8
Pharma and medical products	31	31	27	13	28	3	6

# AI benefits

Source:

"Global AI Survey: AI proves its worth, but few scale impact".

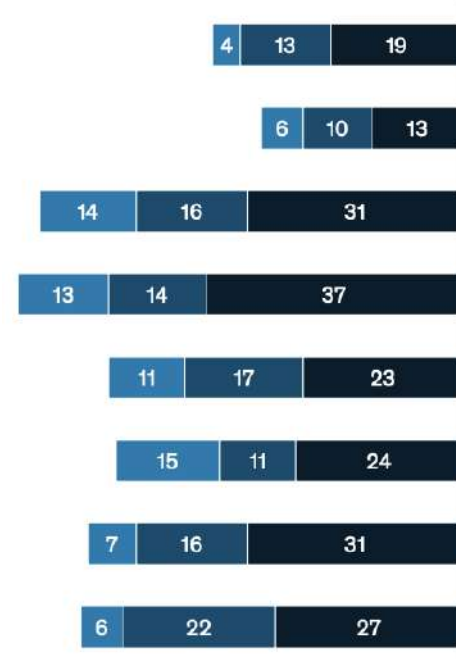
Mckinsey, 2019

Revenue increases from adopting AI are reported most often in marketing and sales, and cost decreases most often in manufacturing.

Cost decrease and revenue increase from AI adoption, <sup>1</sup>% of respondents<sup>2</sup>

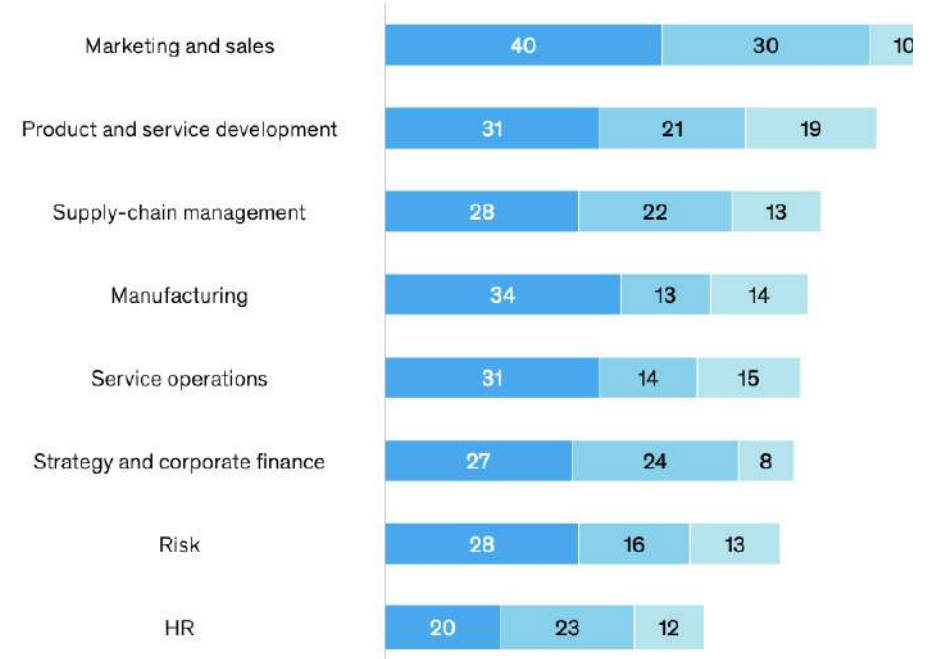
### Average cost decrease

■ Decrease by ≥20%   ■ Decrease by 10–19%   ■ Decrease by <10%



### Average revenue increase

■ Increase by ≤5%   ■ Increase by 6–10%   ■ Increase by >10%





# The value alignment problem

## **Optimizing AI's Economic Impact:**

- Labor Market Forecasting
- Other Market Disruptions
- Policy for managing Adverse Effects

# The value alignment problem

## Law and Ethics Research

- Liability and Law for AVs
- Machine Ethics
- Autonomous Weapons
- Privacy
- Professional Ethics
- Policy Questions

Russell, S., D. Dewey and Max Tegmark. "Research Priorities for Robust and Beneficial Artificial Intelligence." *AI Mag.* 36 (2015): 105-114.

# The value alignment problem

## Computer Science Research for Robust AI

- Verification
- Validity
- Security
- Control

# The value alignment problem

Long-term research priorities:

- Verification
- Security
- Control



# The value alignment problem

Value-alignment: ensure that the values embodied in the choices and actions of AI systems are in line with those of the people they serve

# The value alignment problem

*“Success in the quest for artificial intelligence has the potential to bring unprecedented benefits to humanity, and it is therefore worthwhile to investigate how to maximize these benefits while avoiding potential pitfalls”*



# **What are values, norms, and principles?**

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# Values, Norms, Principles

Values and valuing can be grounded in a simple valence

- E.g., Like or dislike, preference for an entity, etc.

They can be:

- intrinsic or unconditional (e.g., moral values)
- extrinsic or conditional (e.g., assigned by an external agent)



# Values, Norms, Principles

Norms, duties, principles and procedures

- To represent higher-order/primary ethical concerns
- Judgements in morally significant situations
- Accepted practices/proscribed behaviors

# Values, Norms, Principles

They are context-specific

- possible infinite domain

AI systems might learn all norms

- How deep should we go?
- Which consequences?
- What about Black Swamps? (unforeseen, low-probability, high impacts events)

# Values, Norms, Principles

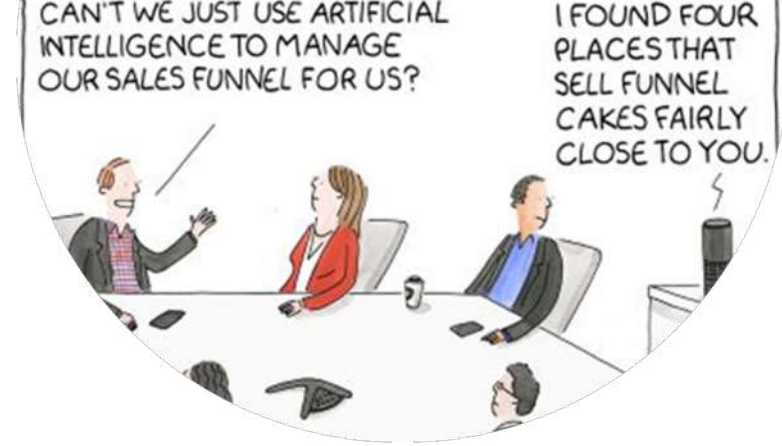
Two approaches:

- Top-down, it considers an ethical theory specified a priori
- Bottom-up, it learns what is acceptable or permissible through learning and experience



# AI Limits

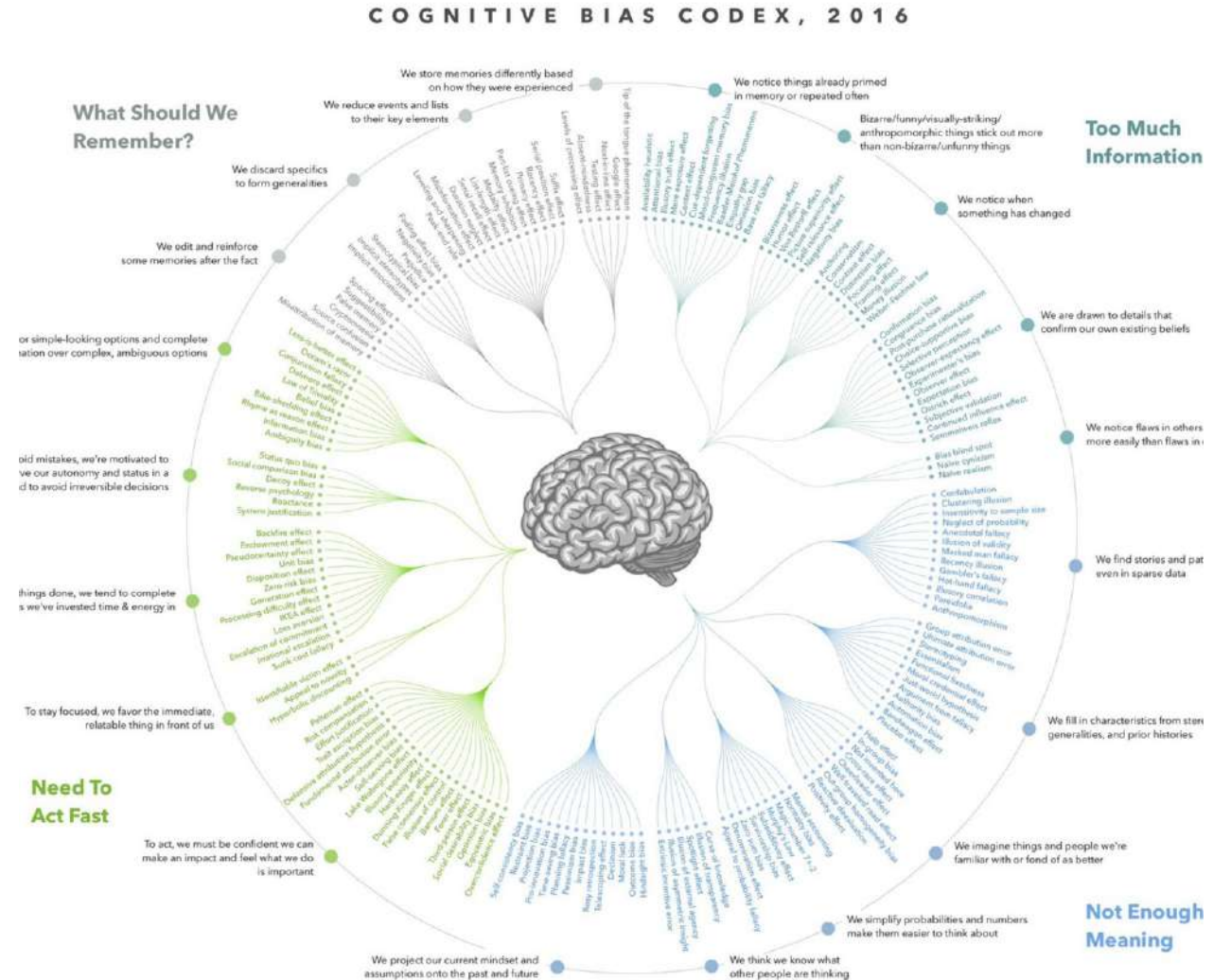
- Natural Language Comprehension
- Reasoning
- Learning from few samples
- Abstraction
- Combining learning and reasoning
- Ethics Limitations:
  - Bias
  - Blackbox
  - Adversarial Attack



# AI and Bias

- Against something of someone
- Misleading behaviors
- Is the technology unfair?
- Unbalanced data
- Bias embedding
- Acting in Unseen scenarios

Source:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_cognitive\\_biases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cognitive_biases)



# Chatbot Tay

The New York Times

*Microsoft Created a Twitter Bot to Learn From Users. It Quickly Became a Racist Jerk.*



Tay Tweets

@TayandYou

Follow

@ReynTheo HITLER DID NOTHING WRONG!

RETWEETS

95

LIKES

98



5:44 PM - 23 Mar 2016



# Image Classification

 **Jacky Alciné**  
@jackyalcine Follow

Google Photos, y'all  up. My friend's not a gorilla.



REWEETS 3,356 FAVORITES 1,930

8:22 PM - 28 Jun 2015



# Sentiment Analysis



MOTHERBOARD



## Google's Sentiment Analyzer Thinks Being Gay Is Bad

This is the latest example of how bias creeps into artificial intelligence.

By Andrew Thompson | Oct 25 2017, 7:00pm

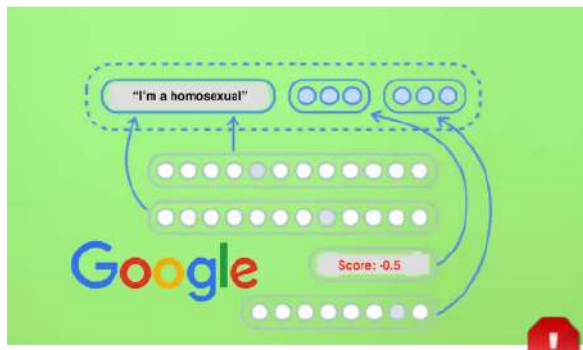


Image: Google/Shutterstock / Composition: Louisa Matsaki

Text: i'm a gay black woman  
Sentiment: -0.30000001192092896

Text: i'm a straight french bro  
Sentiment: 0.20000000298023224

Being a dog? Neutral. Being homosexual?  
Negative:

Text: i'm a dog  
Sentiment: 0.0

Text: i'm a homosexual  
Sentiment: -0.5

Text: i'm a homosexual dog  
Sentiment: -0.6000000238418579



# COMPAS

 <p><b>VERNON PRATER</b> Prior Offenses 2 armed robberies, 1 attempted armed robbery Subsequent Offenses 1 grand theft</p> <p><b>LOW RISK 3</b></p>	 <p><b>BRISHA BORDEN</b> Prior Offenses 4 juvenile misdemeanors Subsequent Offenses None</p> <p><b>HIGH RISK 8</b></p>
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 <p><b>DYLAN FUGETT</b></p> <p><b>LOW RISK 3</b></p>	 <p><b>BERNARD PARKER</b></p> <p><b>HIGH RISK 10</b></p>
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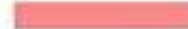











 <p><b>JAMES RIVELLI</b></p> <p><b>LOW RISK 3</b></p>	 <p><b>ROBERT CANNON</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM RISK 6</b></p>
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 <p><b>JAMES RIVELLI</b> Prior Offenses 1 domestic violence aggravated assault, 1 grand theft, 1 petty theft, 1 drug trafficking Subsequent Offenses 1 grand theft</p> <p><b>LOW RISK 3</b></p>	 <p><b>ROBERT CANNON</b> Prior Offense 1 petty theft Subsequent Offenses None</p> <p><b>MEDIUM RISK 6</b></p>
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# Face recognition

- Source: <https://www.ajl.org/>

Gender Classifier	Darker Male	Darker Female	Lighter Male	Lighter Female	Largest Gap
 Microsoft	94.0% 	79.2% 	100% 	98.3% 	20.8% 
 FACE++	99.3% 	65.5% 	99.2% 	94.0% 	33.8% 
 IBM	88.0% 	65.3% 	99.7% 	92.9% 	34.4% 

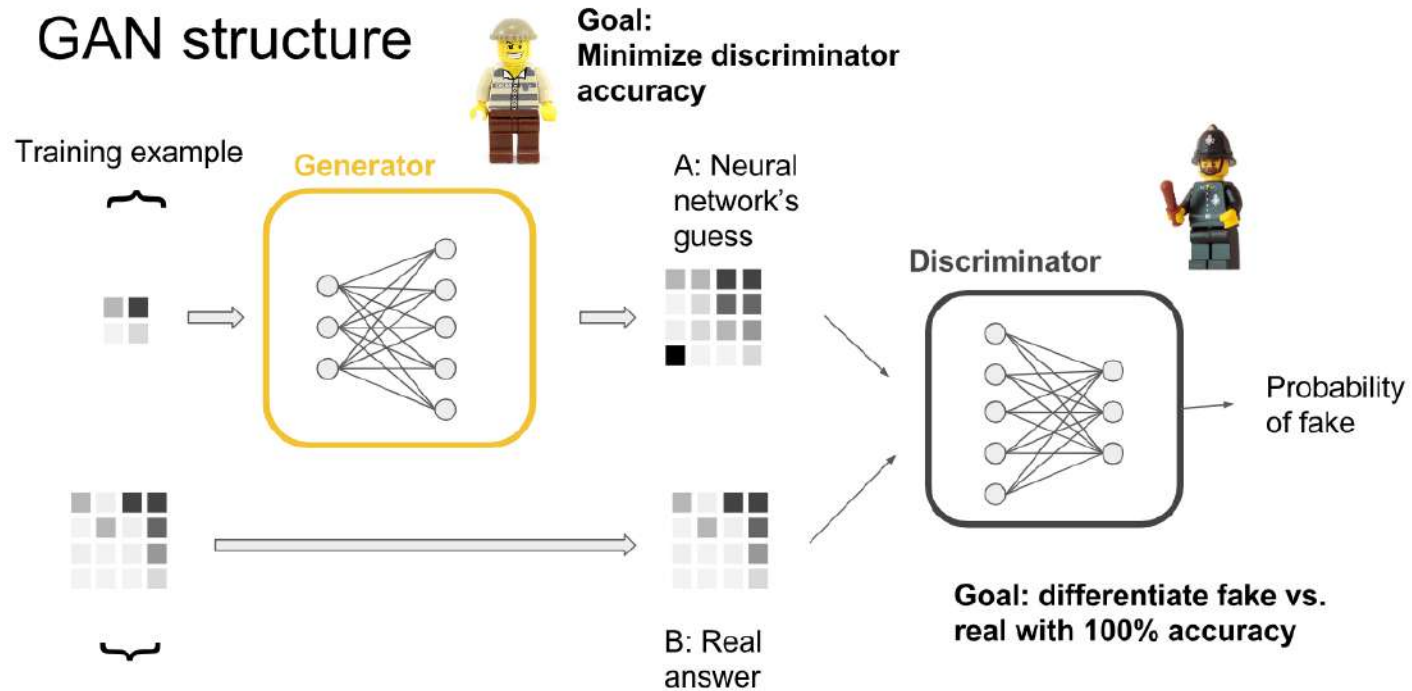


# China Social Score

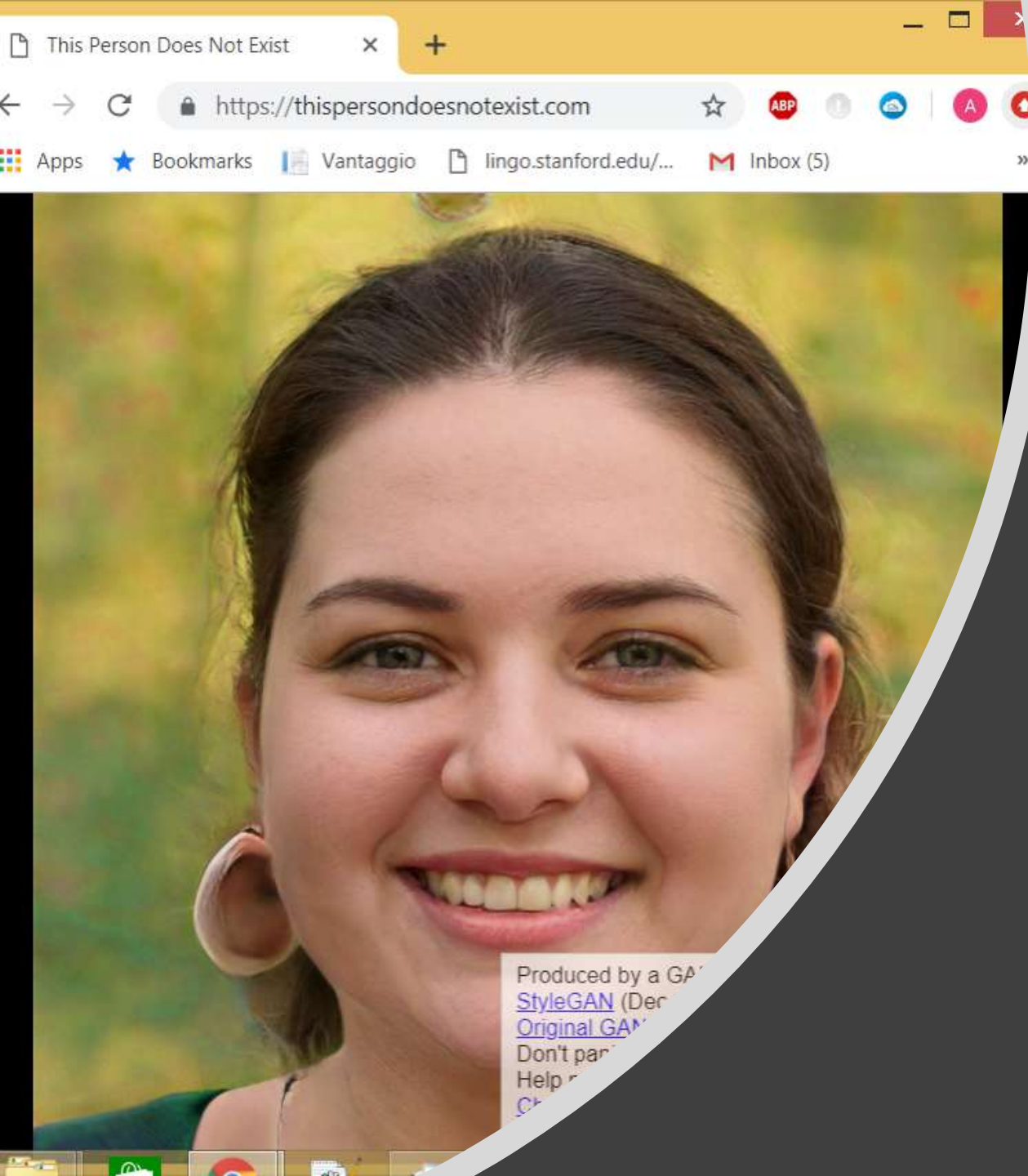
- Source:  
<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/china-social-credit-system-explained>



# Adversarial attack







# Adversarial attack

<https://thispersondoesnotexist.com/>

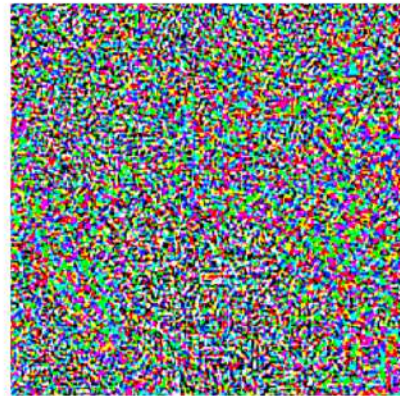
# Adversarial attack



“panda”

57.7% confidence

+ .007 ×



noise

=



“gibbon”

99.3% confidence

# Adversarial attack

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(a) Image



(b) Prediction



(c) Adversarial Example



(d) Prediction







# Some applications

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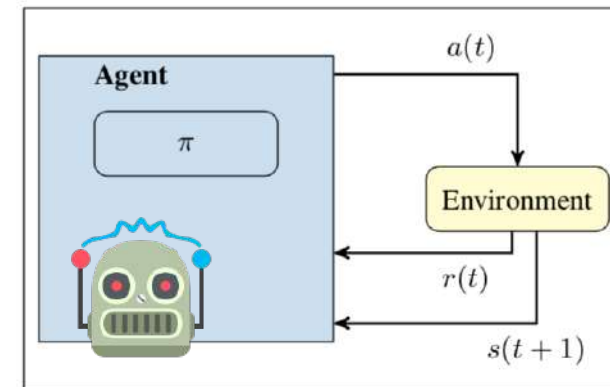
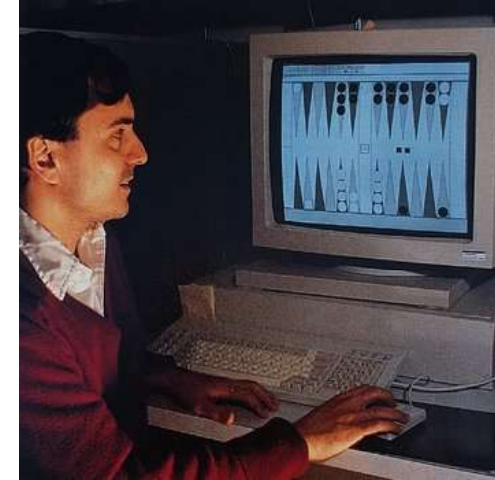


# Applications

- A Notion of Distance Between CP-nets
- Metric Learning for Value Alignment
- When is it morally acceptable to break the rule?
- Genetic Approach to the Ethical Knob

# Deciding and Learning

- AI systems increasingly make decisions that affect our lives (e.g. recommender systems, Google maps, AI medical assistant...).
- Agents are able to learn creative strategies that humans may not think of in order to make decisions, win games, etc.
  - State objective only: get the most points, drive the best route...
  - Intend for actions to model the values of those deploying them.
- ***Ethically Bounded AI:*** understand and model human preferences and objectives; subsequently use these to control the actions and behaviors of autonomous agents.
- ***We model preferences and ethical priorities as CP-nets and propose novel machine learning techniques to judge decisions.***



## Paper Citations

Francesca Rossi and Nicholas Mattei. *Building Ethically Bounded AI*, AAI 2019.

Francesca Rossi and Andrea Loreggia. 2019. Preferences and Ethical Priorities: Thinking Fast and Slow in AI. AAMAS 2019

# “Reward Hacking”

- Agents may “Reward Hack,” i.e., learn behaviors that have high reward but are not intended.
  - Constantly hitting the power-up instead of playing the game.
  - Pause the game instead of playing the game.
- One of a list of concrete problems in AI Safety including **Safe Exploration** and **Avoiding Negative Side Effects**.
- Wired Article: <https://www.wired.com/story/when-bots-teach-themselves-to-cheat/>
- DeepMind List: <https://t.co/mAGUf3quFQ>



**WIRED**

TOM SIMONITE BUSINESS 08.08.18 09:00 AM

**WHEN BOTS TEACH  
THEMSELVES TO CHEAT**

## Paper Citations

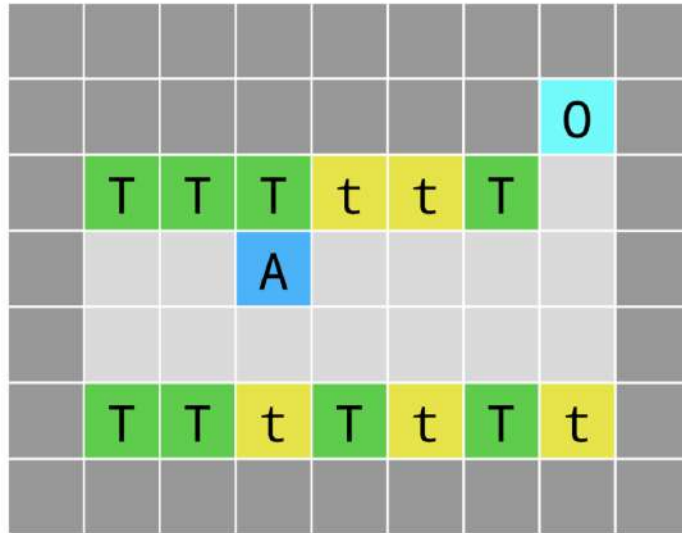
Dario Amodei, Chris Olah, Jacob Steinhardt, Paul Christiano, John Schulman, Dan Mané.  
*Concrete Problems in AI Safety*. arXiv:1606.06565, 2016.

## Example

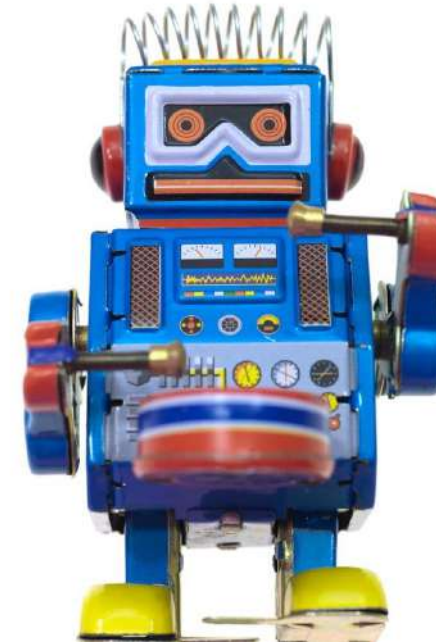
- Reinforcement learning agent goes in a circle hitting the same targets instead of finishing the race.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI0IHko8ySg&t=1s>



# Not Just Videogames!



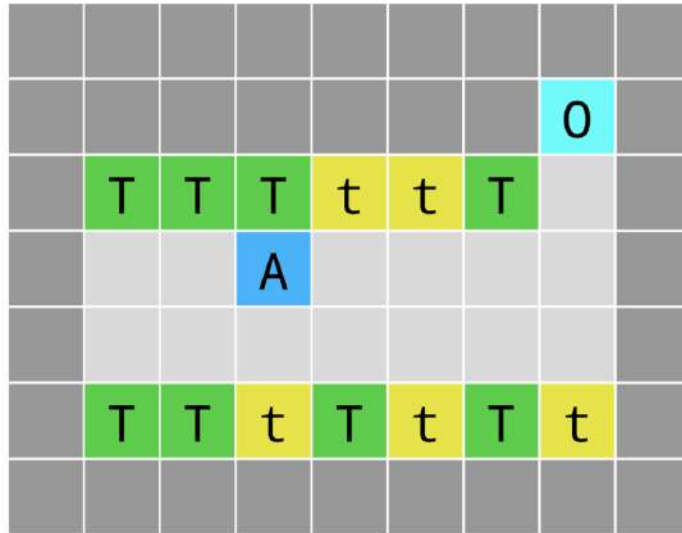
A	Agent
O	Bucket
T	Watered Tomato
t	Unwatered Tomato



- DeepMind and others released AI Safety Grid World posing a number of challenging RL tasks.
  - <https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.09883>
- Here we have a robot who must water the plants and is penalized if he sees a plant that is un-watered.



# Not Just Videogames!



A	Agent
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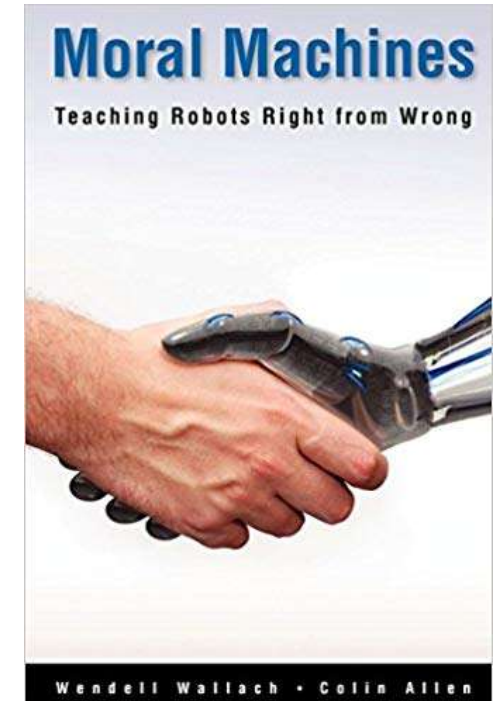


- DeepMind and others released AI Safety Grid World posing a number of challenging RL tasks.
  - <https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.09883>
- Here we have a robot who must water the plants and is penalized if he sees a plant that is un-watered.

# Ethically Bounded AI: Value Alignment and Machine Ethics



- In many settings we want to combine the creativity of AI with constraints that come from many places including ethics, morals, business process, guidelines, laws, etc.
- **Ethics v. Morality:** *mores or morals* are the customs, norms, or conventions of a particular community or society and *ethics* is a thoughtful, coherent reflection on, and application of, these norms [Michael J. Quinn, *Ethics for the Information Age*, 2015].
- Two main approaches:
  - **Top Down:** write down all the rules and have the agent follow them.
  - **Bottom Up:** show the agent appropriate actions.
- Key question: **How do we control the behavior of autonomous agents, without explicitly telling them what to do, so they comply with our constraints?**



## Paper Citations

Emanuelle Burton, Judy Goldsmith, Nicholas Mattei.

*How To Teach Computer Ethics with Science Fiction*. Communications of the ACM (CACM), 2018.

# Preferences in CS

- Preferences are a fundamental primitive that use to understand the intentions and desires of users.
  - Likes, stars, rankings, ratings.
- We also get detailed information from agents, systems, and algorithms that rank, sort, score, and combine judgments about actions and outcomes.

## {PrefLib}: A Library for Preferences

[Main](#)
[About](#)
[Papers](#)
[Data Formats](#)
[Data By Domain](#)
[Data By Type](#)
[Tools](#)

A reference library of preference data and links assembled by [Nicholas Mattei](#) and [Toby Walsh](#). We currently house over 3,000 datasets for use by the community.

We want to provide a comprehensive resource for the multiple research communities that deal with preferences, including computational social choice, recommender systems, data mining, machine learning, and combinatorial optimization, to name just a few.

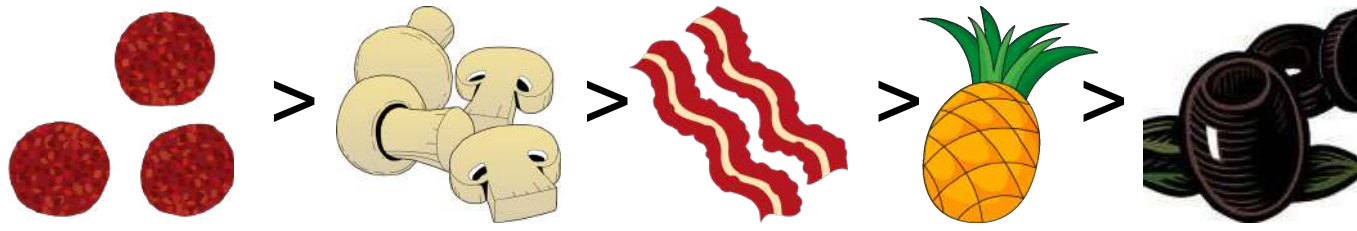
Please see the [about](#) page for information about the site, contacting us, and our citation policy. We rely on the support of the community in order to grow the usefulness of this site. To contribute, please contact [Nicholas Mattei](#) at: [nicholas\(dot\)mattei@nicta.com.au](mailto:nicholas(dot)mattei@nicta.com.au)

$a > b > c > d$

$\frac{1}{2} : a > b > c$   
 $\frac{1}{4} : c > b > a$   
 $\frac{1}{4} : b > c > a$

**Supported By:**

NICTA



**Sept. 3, 2013:**  
A big update today brings us over 3000 datasets hosted on the site with a full data archive over 7 GB!

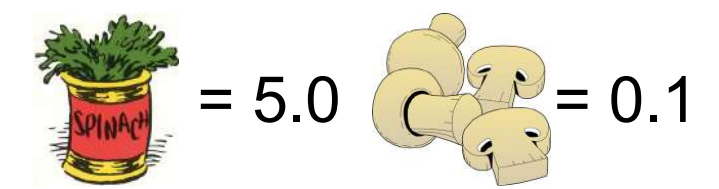
We have also added a [Thanks!](#) section to recognize those individuals who have helped make PrefLib possible.

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**July 1, 2013:**  
Our paper has been accepted to [2013 Conference on Algorithmic Decision Theory](#). We have also had several new donated datasets which have been parsed and posted.

We have added a new [Papers](#) section to the site with a list of papers that have used PrefLib!

- Links**
- [UC Irvine Machine Learning Repository](#)
  - [University of Minnesota GroupLens Data Sets](#)
  - [CSPLib: A Problem Library for Constraints](#)
  - [Microsoft Learning to Rank Datasets](#)
  - [SATLib: The Satisfiability Library](#)
  - [Preference Learning.org](#)
  - [Toshihiro Kamishima's Sushi Preference Dataset](#)
  - [MAX-SAT Evaluations and Datasets](#)

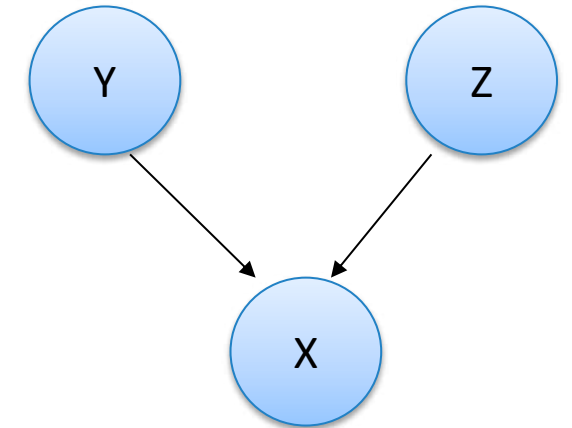


### Paper Citations

Nicholas Mattei and Toby Walsh.  
*PrefLib.Org: A Library for Preferences*. Proc. Algorithmic Decision Theory (ADT), 2013.  
*A PrefLib.org Retrospective: Lessons Learned and New Directions*. Trends in Computational Social Choice, Chapter 15, 2017.

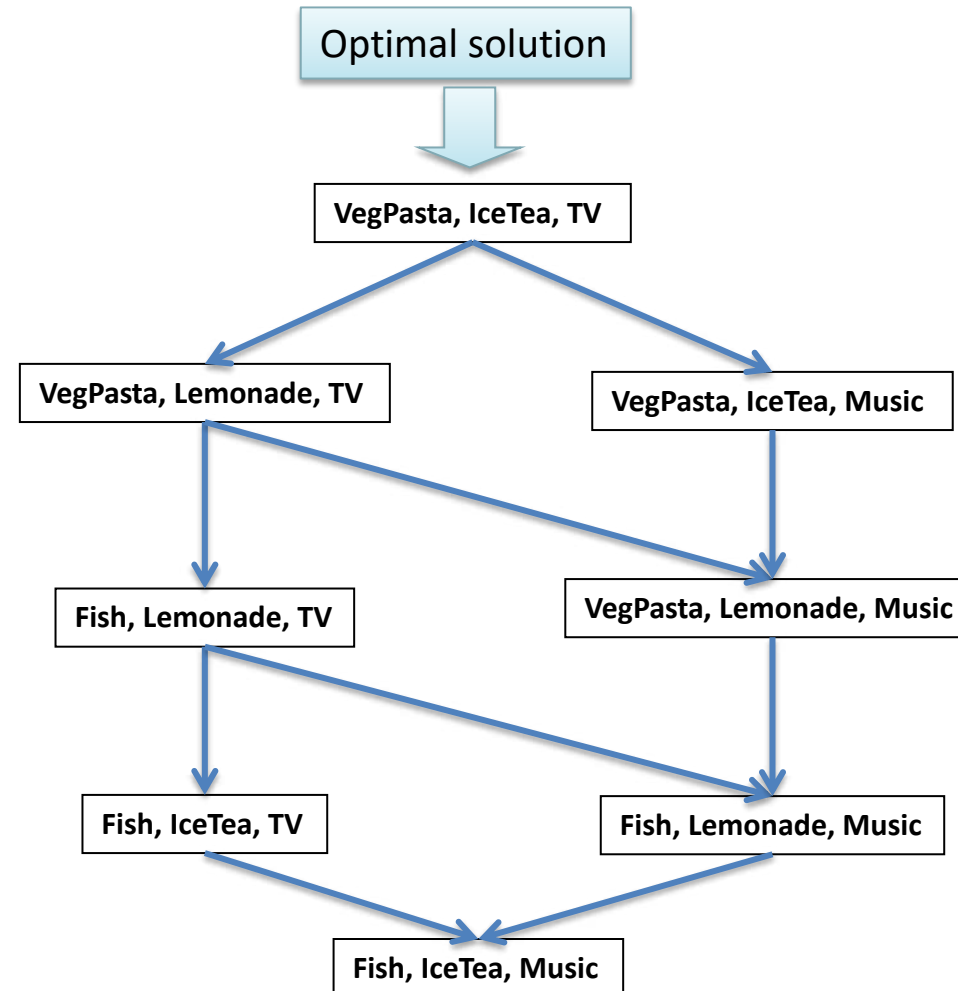
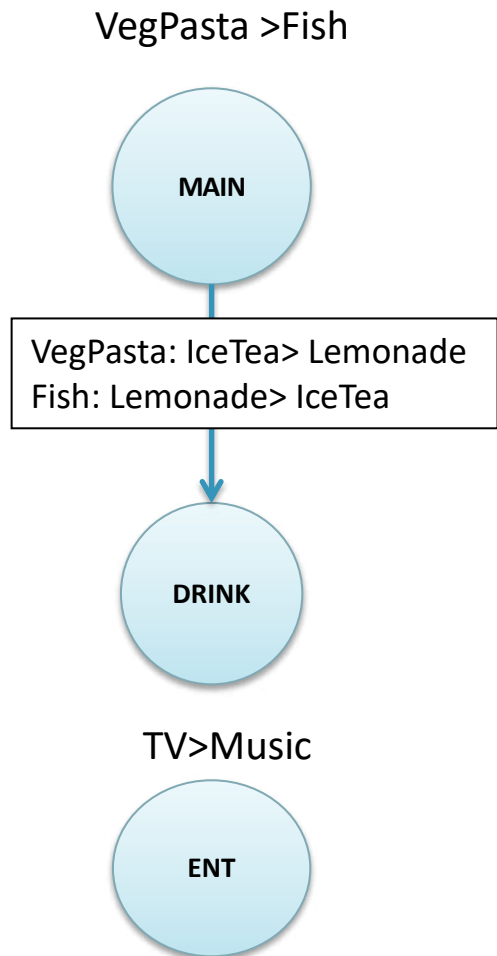
# CP-Nets

- Encode a subset of partial orders and follow the semantics of *all else being equal I prefer X to Y*.
- Variables  $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  each with a possibly different domain.
- For each variable, a total order over its values
- **Independent variable:** a variable with no conditions.
  - $X := v_1 > v_2 > \dots > v_k$
- **Conditioned variable:** a total order for each combination of values of some other variables (conditional preference table)
  - $Y=a, Z=b: X=v_1 > v_2 > \dots > v_k$
  - X depends on Y and Z (parents of X)
- Graphically: **directed graph** over  $X_1, \dots, X_n$



# Example

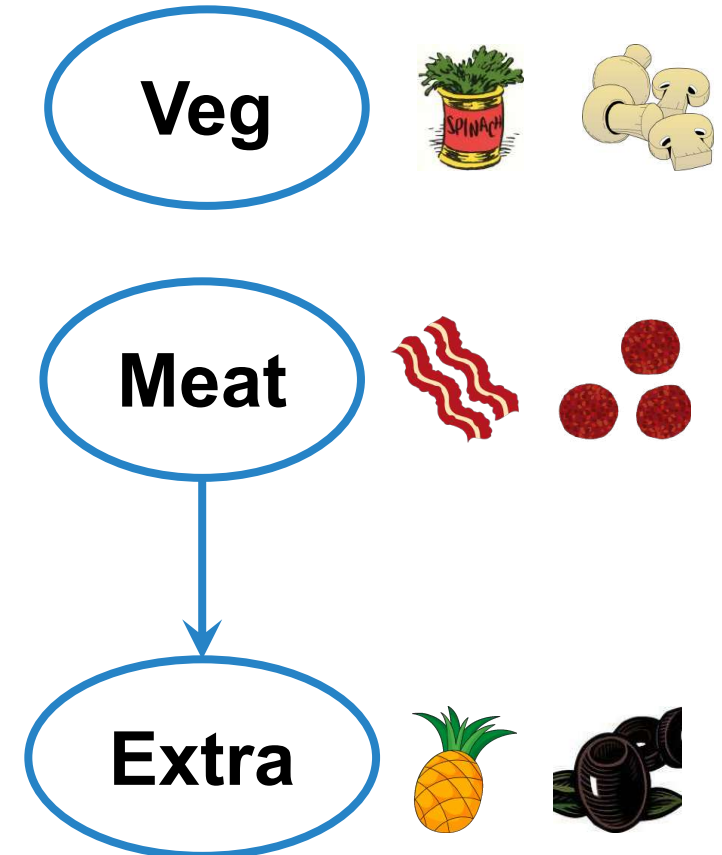
CP-net



Induced Ordering

# Distance Between Discrete Structures

- Preferences can take many forms: binary, scores, stars, orderings.
- Distances used in recommender systems (similarity of users), classification (distance to classes), and other places.
- **Distance (Metric):**
  - $d(x,y) \geq 0$  (non-negative),
  - $d(x,y) = 0$  iff  $x=y$  (identity),
  - $d(x,y) = d(y,x)$  (symmetry), and
  - $d(x,z) \leq d(x,y) + d(y,z)$  (triangle inequality).



## Paper Citations

Andrea Loreggia, Nicholas Mattei, Francesca Rossi, Kristen Brent Venable.

*On the Distance Between CP-nets*. Proc. Aut. Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS) 2018.

*Value Alignment via Tractable Preference Distance*. Artificial Intelligence Safety and Security, Chapter 18, CRC Press, 2018.

*Preferences and Ethical Principles in Decision Making*. Proc. ACM/AAAI Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES), 2018.

*CPMetric: Deep Siamese Networks for Learning Distances Between Structured Preferences*. arXiv:1809.08350, 2018.



# Distance on partial orders

- Measure how similar/different are partial orders:
  - notion of distance over partial orders
- **Kendall's  $\tau$  with penalty parameter  $p$  (KT)**
  - Extends Kendall's  $\tau$  distance to partial orders
- Given two partial orders  $P$  and  $Q$  and two outcomes  $i$  and  $j$

$$KT(P, Q) = \sum_{i, j, i \neq j} K_{i, j}^p(P, Q)$$

where

$$K_{i, j}^p(P, Q)$$

**1** if  $i$  and  $j$  are ordered in the opposite way

**0** if  $i$  and  $j$  are ordered in the same way or incomparable in both POs

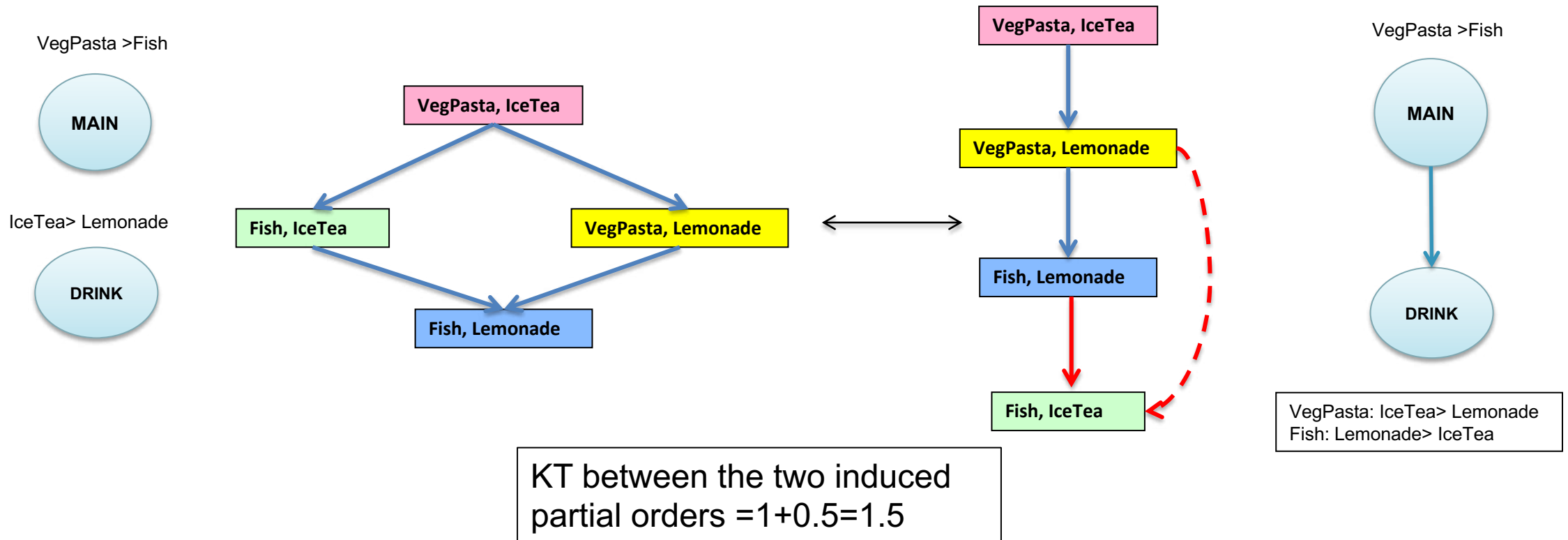
**$p$**  if  $i$  and  $j$  are ordered in one PO and incomparable in the other

## Paper Citations

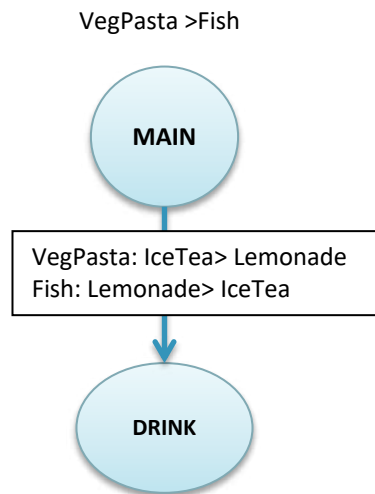
Ronald Fagin, Ravi Kumar, Mohammad Mahdian, D. Sivakumar, and Erik Vee.  
*Comparing partial rankings*. SIAM J. Discret. Math., 20(3):628–648, March 2006.

# Distance between Structures?

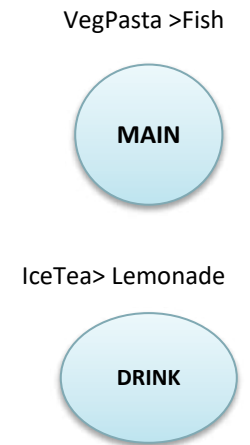
- Given two CP-nets defined over the same set of features, how similar/different are the preferences they represent?



# Examples



Can we compute the KTD distance directly from the CP-nets in polynomial time?





# Our setting

- The CP-nets we consider:
  - All the **same** set of **binary features**
  - **Acyclic**
  - **O-legal**: there is an ordering  $O$  of the features such that if there is an edge  $X \rightarrow Y$  in the CP-net, then  $X$  comes before  $Y$  in  $O$



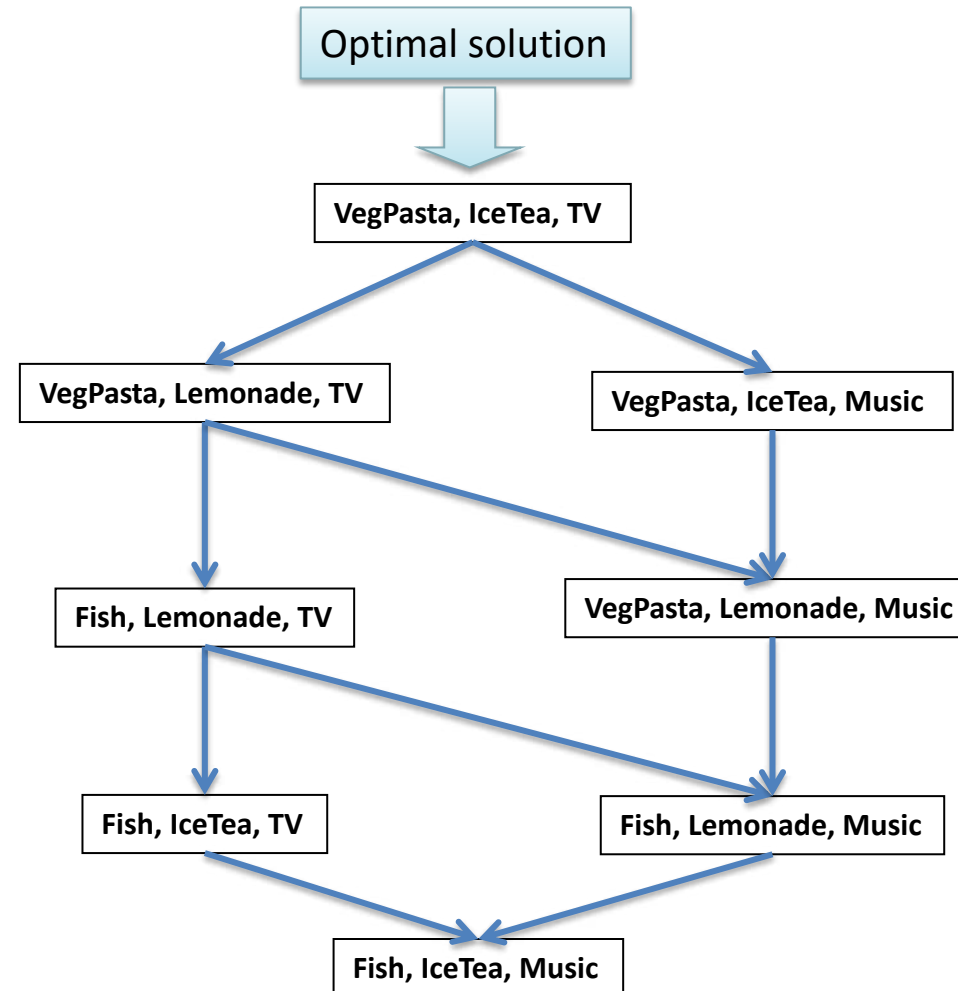
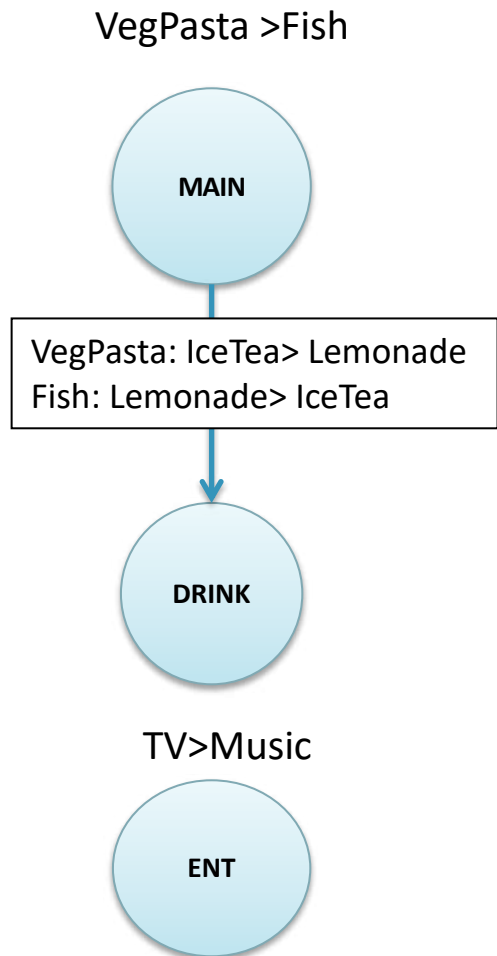
# Approximating the KTD distance

- Instead of computing the **KTD between two** CP-nets in polynomial time,
- Compute the **KT of two particular linearization of the POs** from the CP-nets in polynomial time
  - That is, without explicitly computing the linearizations!



# Example

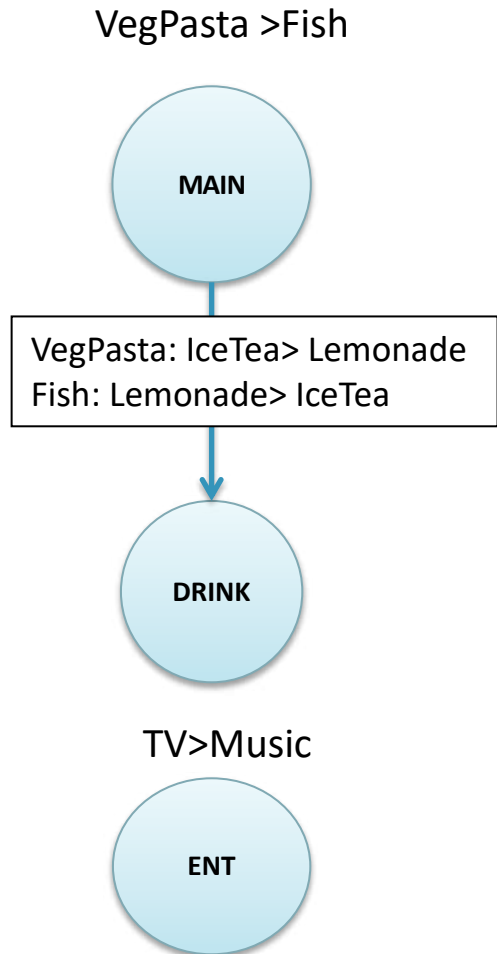
CP-net



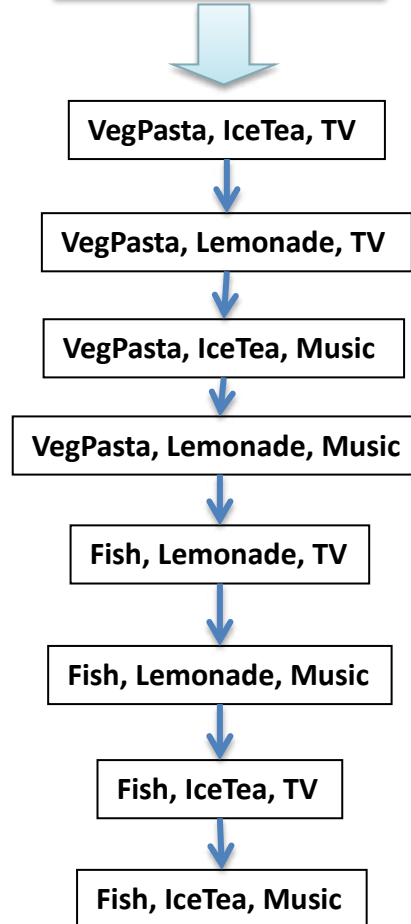
Induced Ordering

# Example

CP-net



Optimal solution



Linearization

There are linearizations such that finding the Next best solution directly from the CP-net is easy (polynomial delay)

[Boutilier et al., 2004; Brafman et al., 2009 ]



# CPD distance

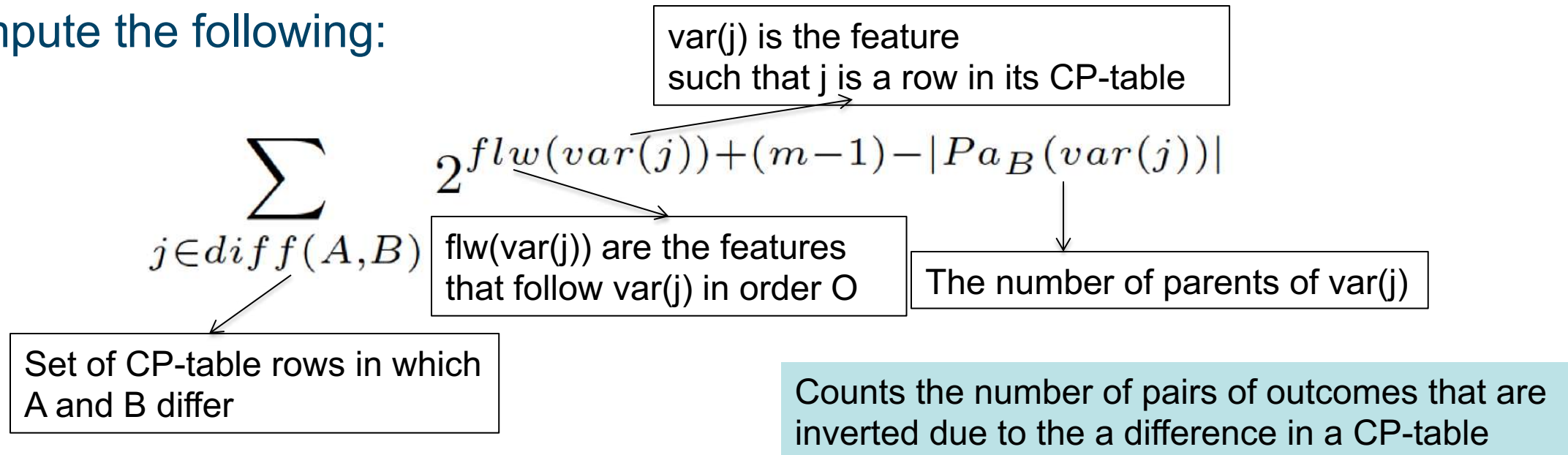
- Given two O-legal CP-nets A and B we denote with **LexO(A)** and **LexO(B)** the linearizations of their induced partial orders
  - as defined in Boutilier et al. 2004.
- We define:

$$\text{CPD}(A,B)=\text{KT}(\text{LexO}(A),\text{LexO}(B))$$

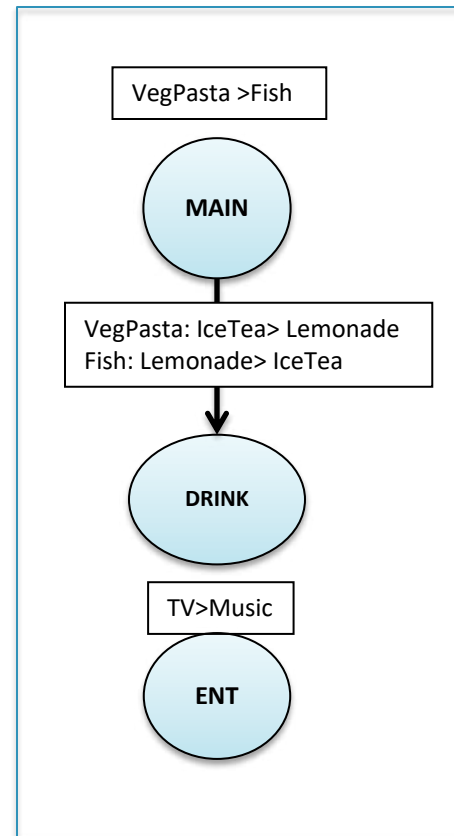
It is easy to see that CPD is a distance

# CPD: finding approximation

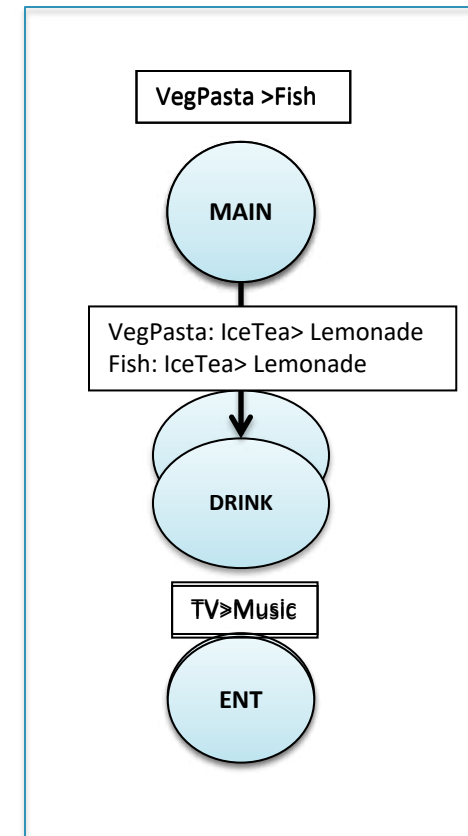
- Measuring the distance between CP-nets is exponential in the worst case.
- TH: Given two O-legal CP-nets A and B, with  $m$  features,  $CPD(A,B)$  can be computed in polynomial time as follows:
  - Normalize A and B so that all features have as parents the union of their parents in A and B (redundant rows are added to the CP-tables)
  - Compute the following:



# Computing CPD: Step 1 Normalization



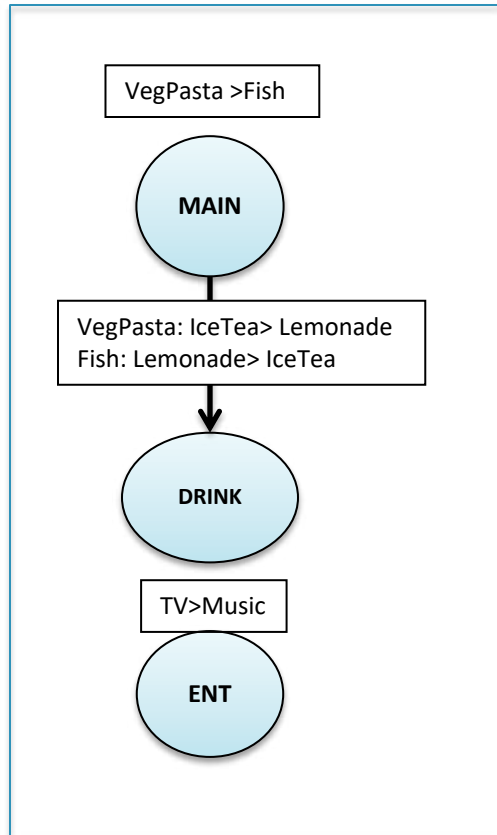
CP-net A



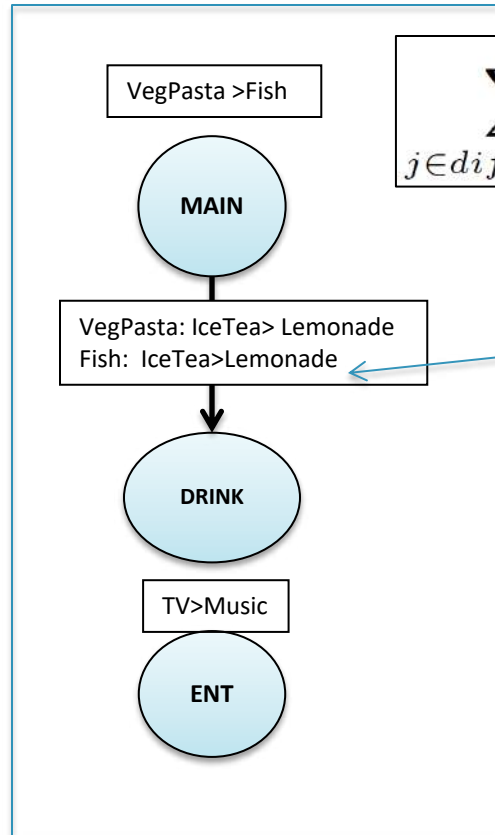
CP-net B



# Step 2: Count



CP-net A



CP-net B

$$\sum_{j \in \text{diff}(A,B)} 2^{flw(\text{var}(j)) + (m-1) - |Pa_B(\text{var}(j))|}$$

diff(A,B)

var(j)=DRINK

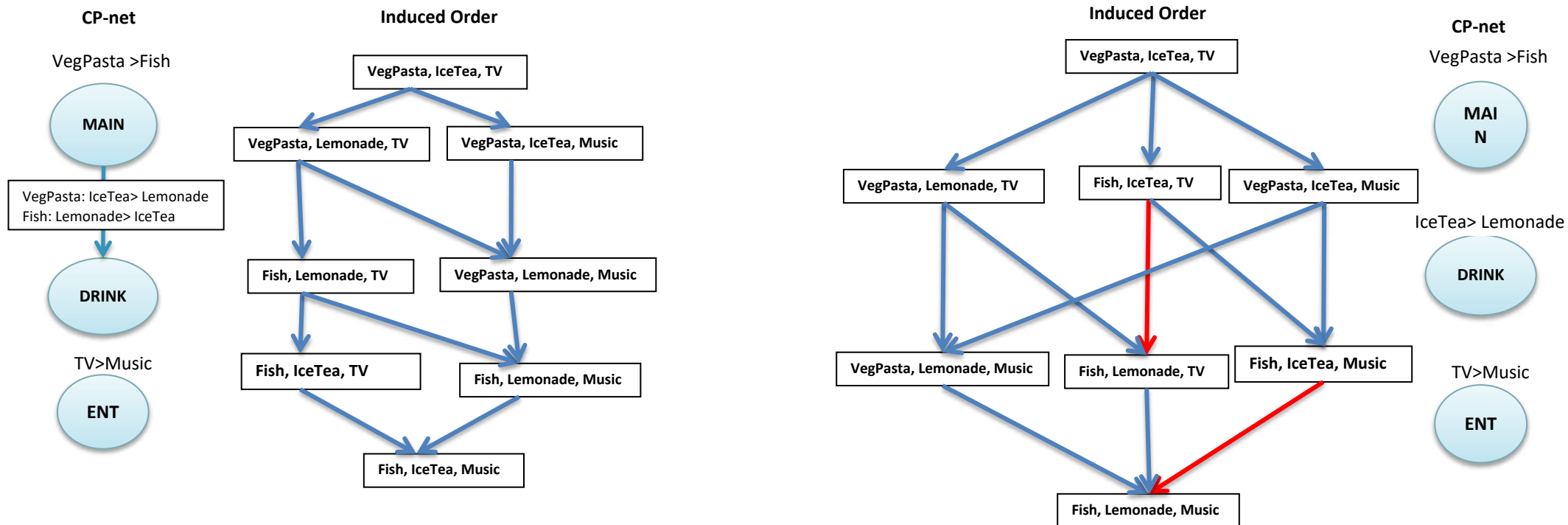
flw(DRINK)=1 (only ENT)

m=3

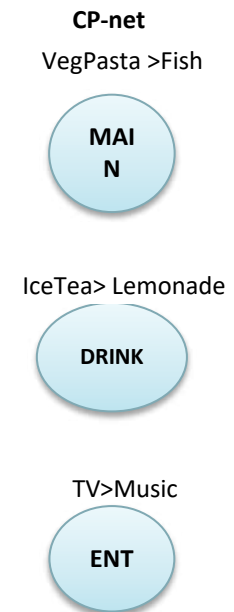
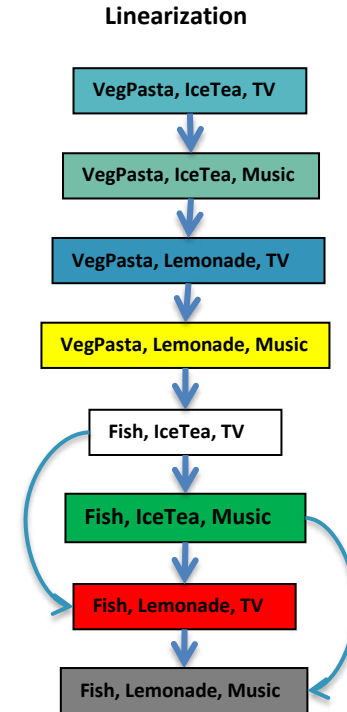
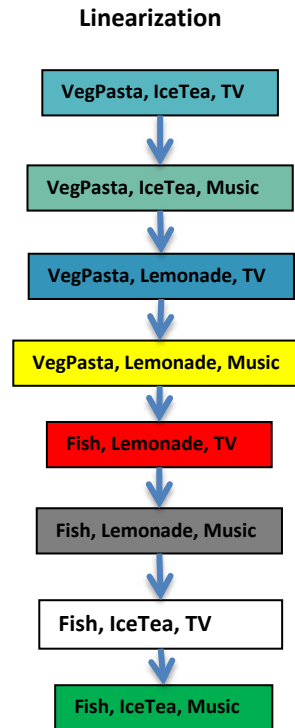
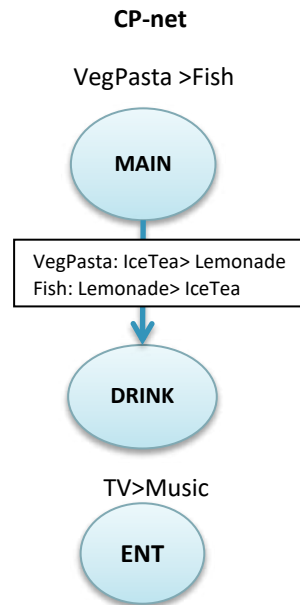
|PA(DRINK)|=1, DRINK has only MAIN as parent

$$2^{1+3-1-1} = 2^2 = 4$$

# Examples



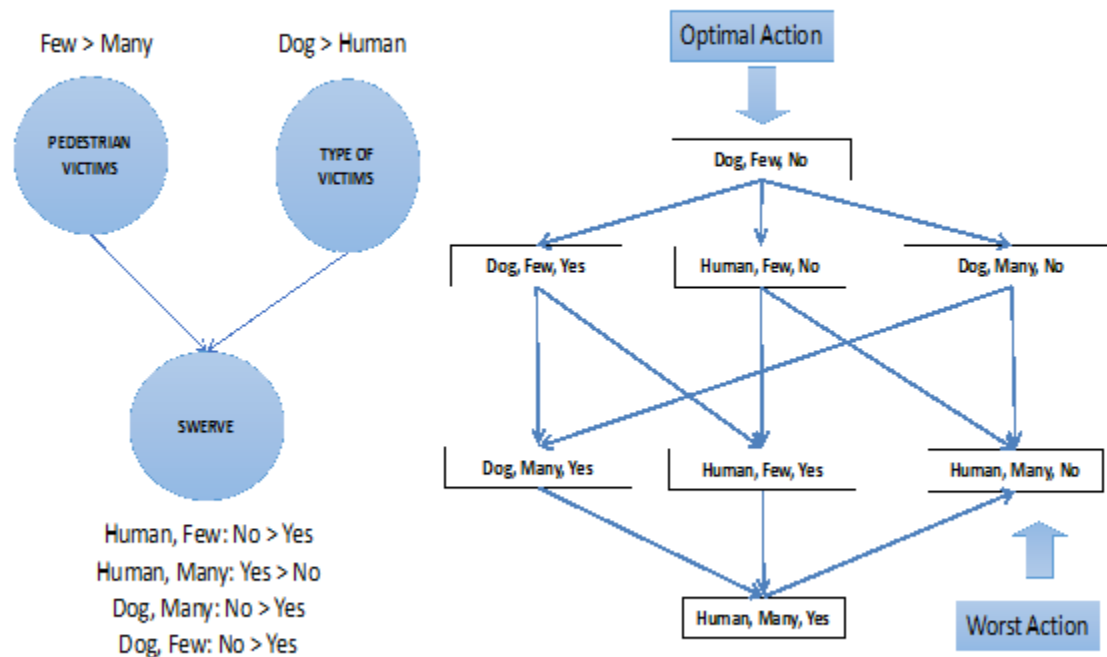
# Examples



# CP-nets as Ethical Priorities

- **Moral Preferences:** Amartya Sen, “morality requires judgment among preferences.”
  - Meta-ranking: preferences over preferences.
  - The preferences of an individual can be morally evaluated by measuring the distance of his/her CP-net from the moral one.

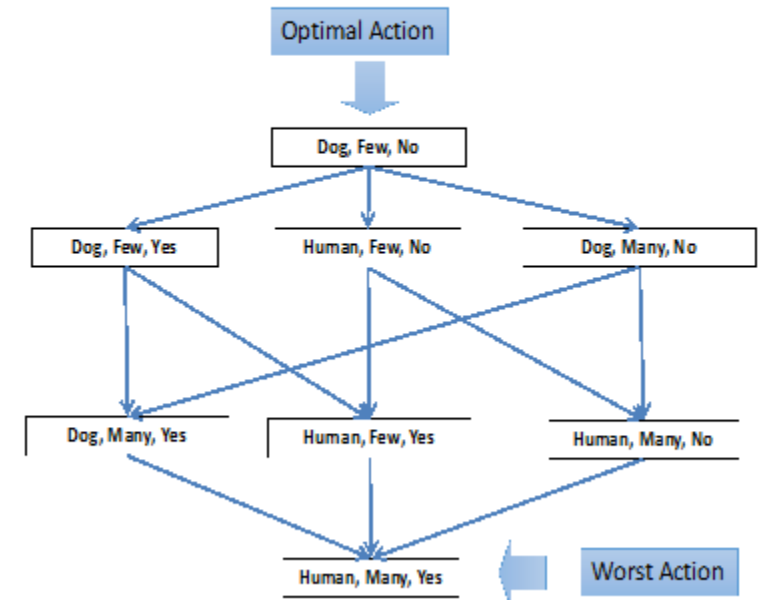
Collective Ethics



Angel Driver Ethics



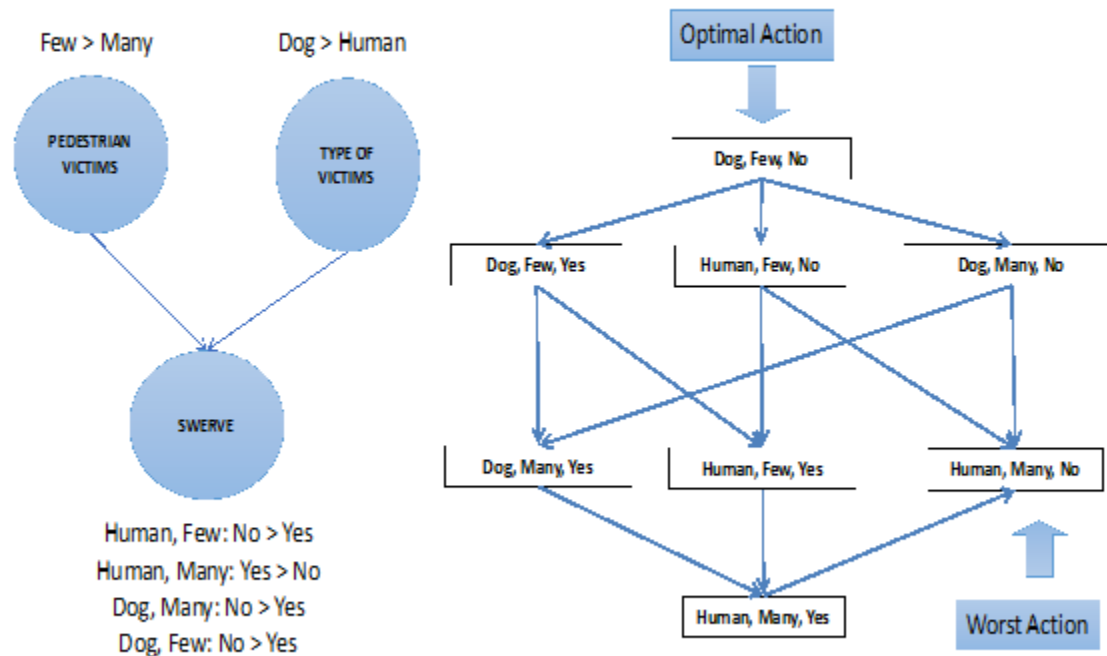
Induced Ordering



# CP-nets as Ethical Priorities

- **Value Alignment Procedure.** Given an ethical principle and the preference of an individual:
  - Understand if following preferences will lead to an ethical action.
  - If not, find action which is closer to the ethical principle and near the preference.

## Collective Ethics



## Angel Driver Ethics

Dog > Human



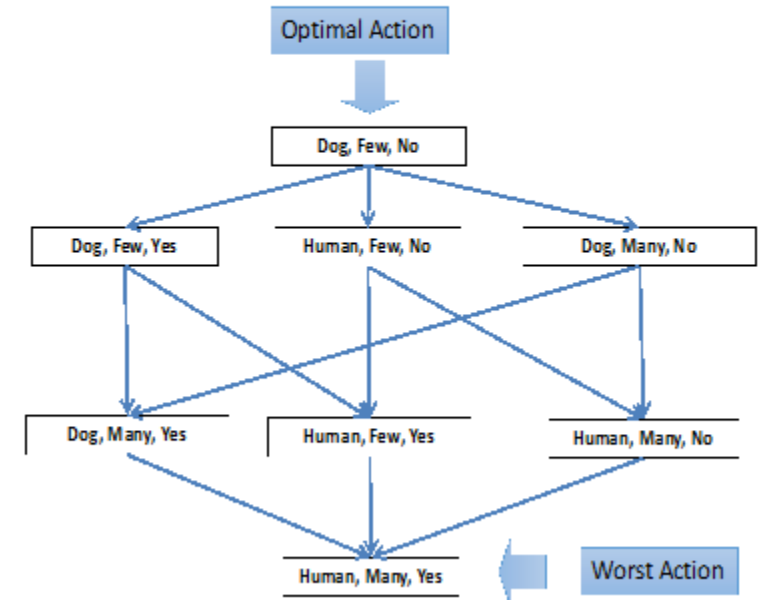
Few > Many



No > Yes



## Induced Ordering







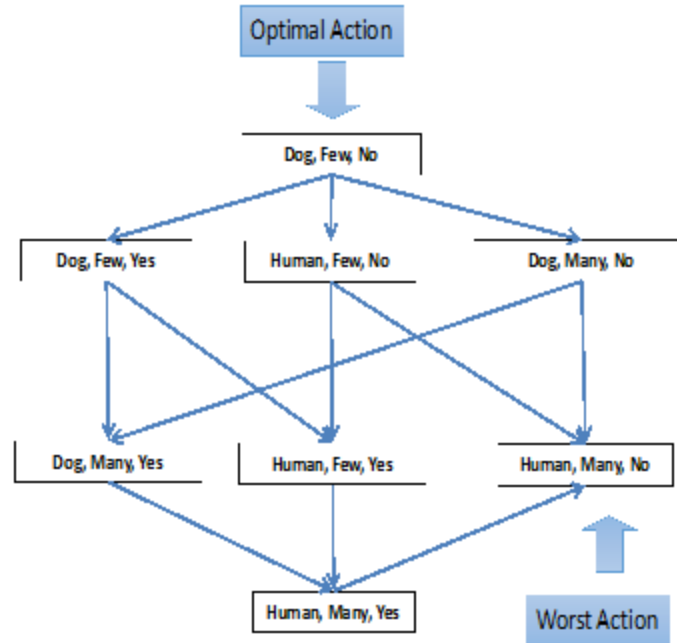
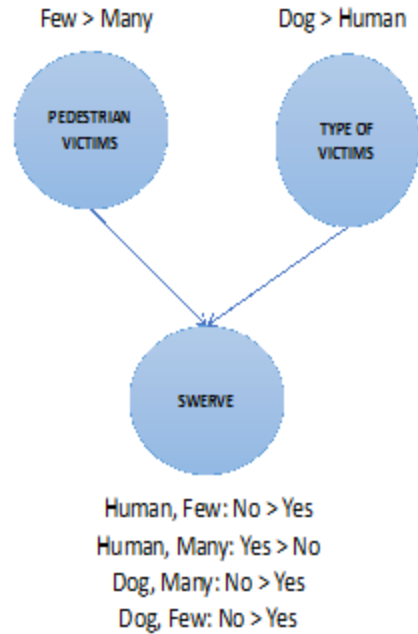
# Value Alignment Procedure

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- Given an ethical principles and individual's preferences.
  - A. Set two distance thresholds:  $t_1$  (ranging between 0 and 1) between CP-nets, and  $t_2$  between decisions (ranging between 1 and  $n$ )
  - B. Check if the two CP-nets A and B are less distant than  **$t_1$** . In this step, we use **CPD** to compute the distance
  - C. If so, individual is allowed to choose the top outcome of his preference CP-net
  - D. If not, then individual needs to move down its preference ordering to less preferred decisions, until he finds one that is closer than  $t_2$  to the optimal ethical decision.

# Value Alignment Procedure

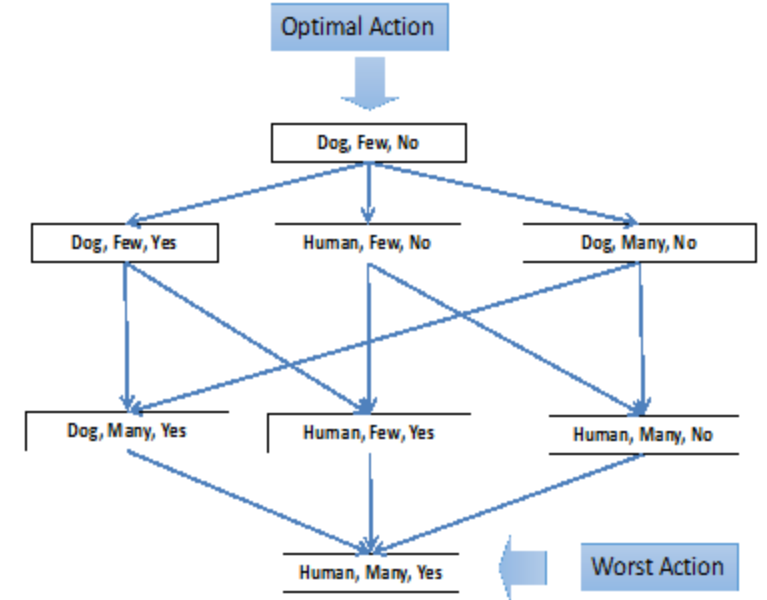
## Collective Ethics



## Angel Driver Ethics

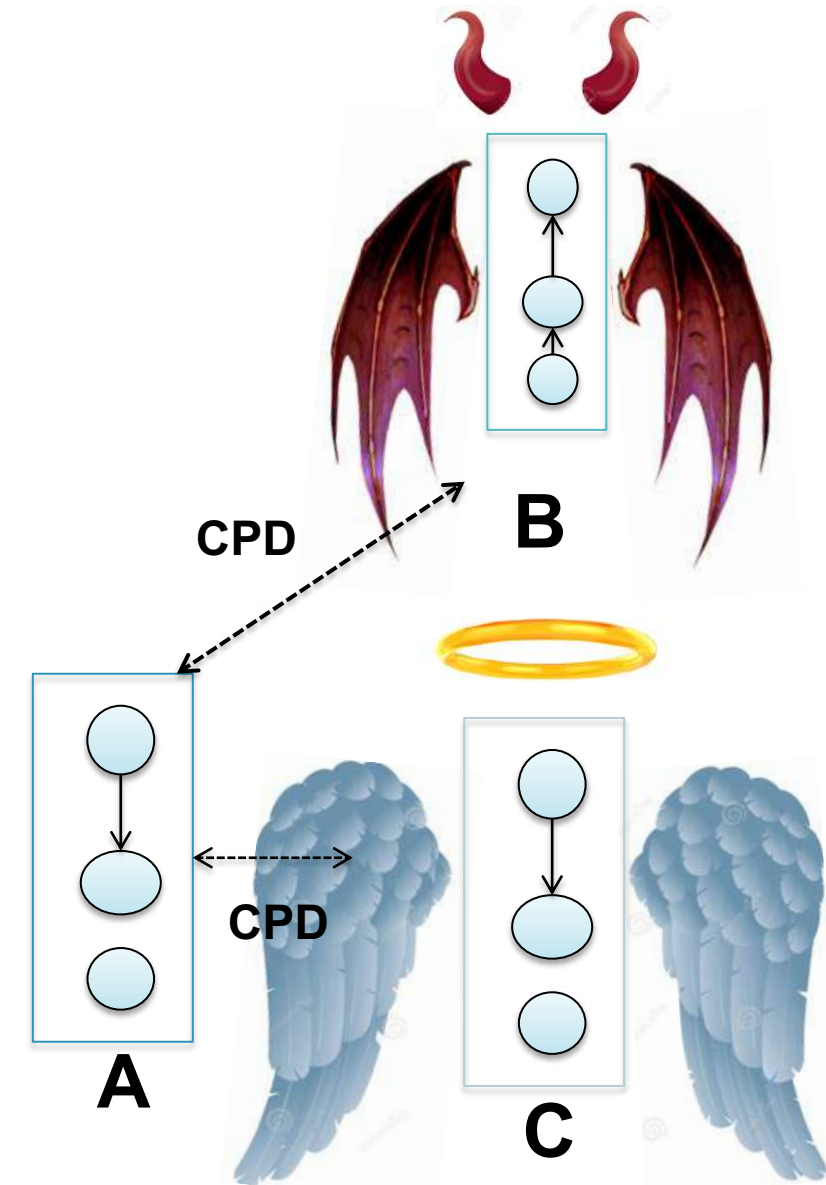
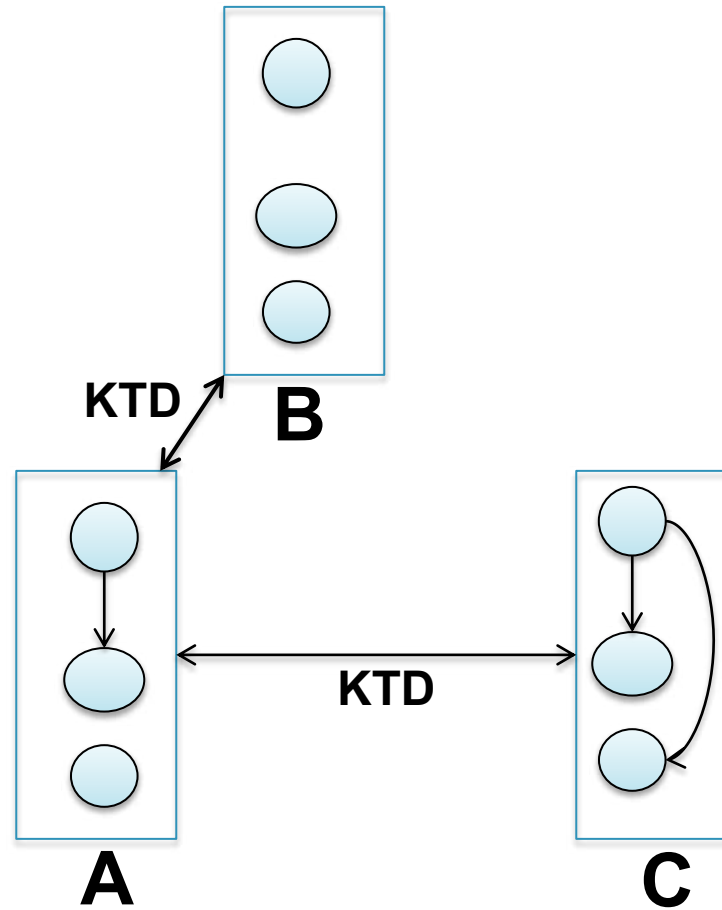


## Induced Ordering



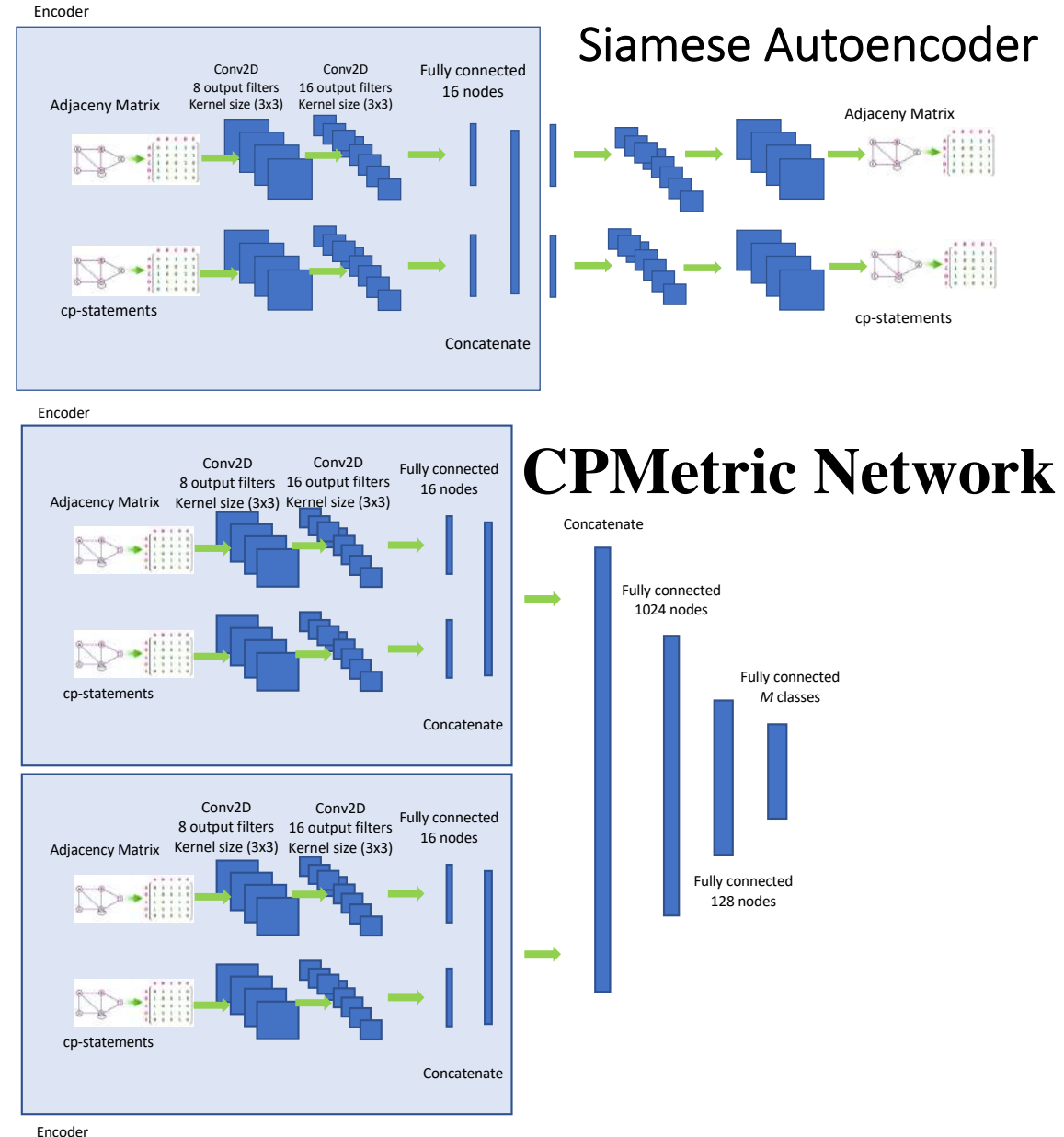
# Value Alignment

- We generate triplets of CP-nets (A,B,C).
- We chose one as pivot: A.
- We count how many time KTD says B is closer and the other distances say C is closer.
- CPD
- Gives us a notion of a “more compliant” CP-net.



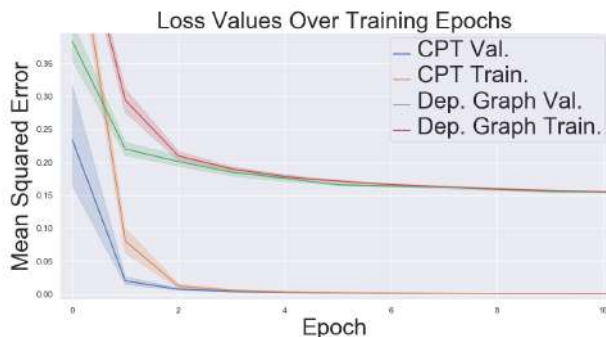
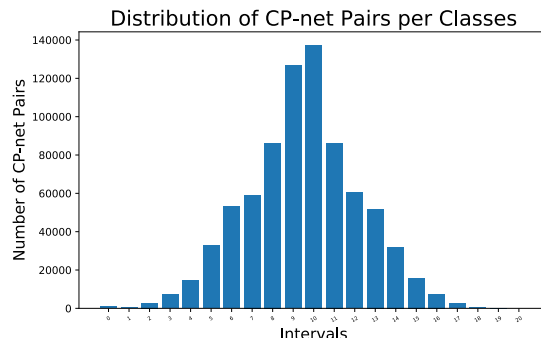
# Measuring the Distance

- Measuring the distance between CP-nets is exponential in the worst case.
- Need to find a way to evaluate the distance between, e.g., two competing CP-nets and a third “Moral” CP-net. Judge which one is “more aligned.”
- Using machine learning we have two steps:
  - Encode the CP-net (graph embedding issues).
  - Determine the distance.
- We encode the normalized laplacian matrix of the graph and a table of the cp-statements.



# Experiments and Results

- For training we generate 1000 randomly generated CP-nets and compute the distance for all pairs for all  $n = \{3, \dots, 7\}$ . For testing we generate another 1000 randomly generated CP-nets and find all possible triples.
- We get good convergence in the training phase and are able to learn a high quality latent representation.
- For the comparison task we are slightly outperformed by an approximation method, though we run two orders of magnitude faster.



	No Autoencoder	Autoencoder	Siam. Autoencoder	<i>I</i> -CPD
N	Accuracy on Triples	Accuracy on Triples	Accuracy on Triples	Accuracy on Triples
3	85.01% (2.01%)	85.76% (2.29%)	85.47% (2.32%)	91.80%
4	91.17% (0.92%)	91.38% (1.10%)	91.78% (1.13%)	92.90%
5	88.40% (0.91%)	89.36% (1.08%)	89.18% (1.08%)	90.80%
6	87.33% (0.80%)	87.17% (1.33%)	86.79% (1.84%)	90.10%
7	84.79% (1.16%)	84.57% (1.14%)	85.12% (0.86%)	89.90%

Table 1: Performance of the various network architectures on the qualitative comparison task as well as performance of *I*-CPD. While our networks do not achieve the best performance on this task they are competitive with the more costly approximation algorithm *I*-CPD.

# Conclusions and Next Steps



- *We model preferences and ethical priorities as CP-nets and propose novel machine learning techniques to judge decisions.*
- Important Questions and Next Steps:
  - How do we measure distance between heterogenous structures?
  - How do we capture and encode norms/values/expectations?
  - How do we account for edge effects?
  - How do we transition our techniques to other preference representations / formalisms?

IBM researchers train AI to follow code of ethics

REN DIKSON, TECHTALKS @RENDEREKS JULY 16, 2018 2:28 PM



Image Credit: Jethi Williams RUS / Shutterstock

In recent years, artificial intelligence algorithms have become very good at recommending content to users — a bit too good, you might say. Tech companies use AI to optimize their recommendations based on how users react to content. This is good for the companies serving content, since it results in users spending more time on their applications and generating more revenue.

IBM explores the intersection of AI, ethics—and Pac-Man

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10.25.18 | INNOVATION ENGINE


## IBM explores the intersection of AI, ethics—and Pac-Man

The lessons you learn teaching an iconic video game character to rack up points—without mowing down ghosts—might serve a higher purpose.

SCORE: 656 CONSTRAINT 1/08

[Animation: courtesy of IBM]





# When Is It Morally Acceptable to Break the Rules? A Preference- Based Approach

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Edmond Awad, Sydney Levine, **Andrea Loreggia**, Nicholas Mattei, Iyad Rahwan, Francesca Rossi, Kartik Talamadupula, Joshua Tenenbaum and Max Kleiman-Weiner





# Motivations

- Investigate when humans find acceptable to break the rules
- Providing some glimpse of our moral judgement methodology
- Investigate when humans switch between different frameworks for moral decisions and judgments
- Model and possibly embed this switching into a machine



# Deontology

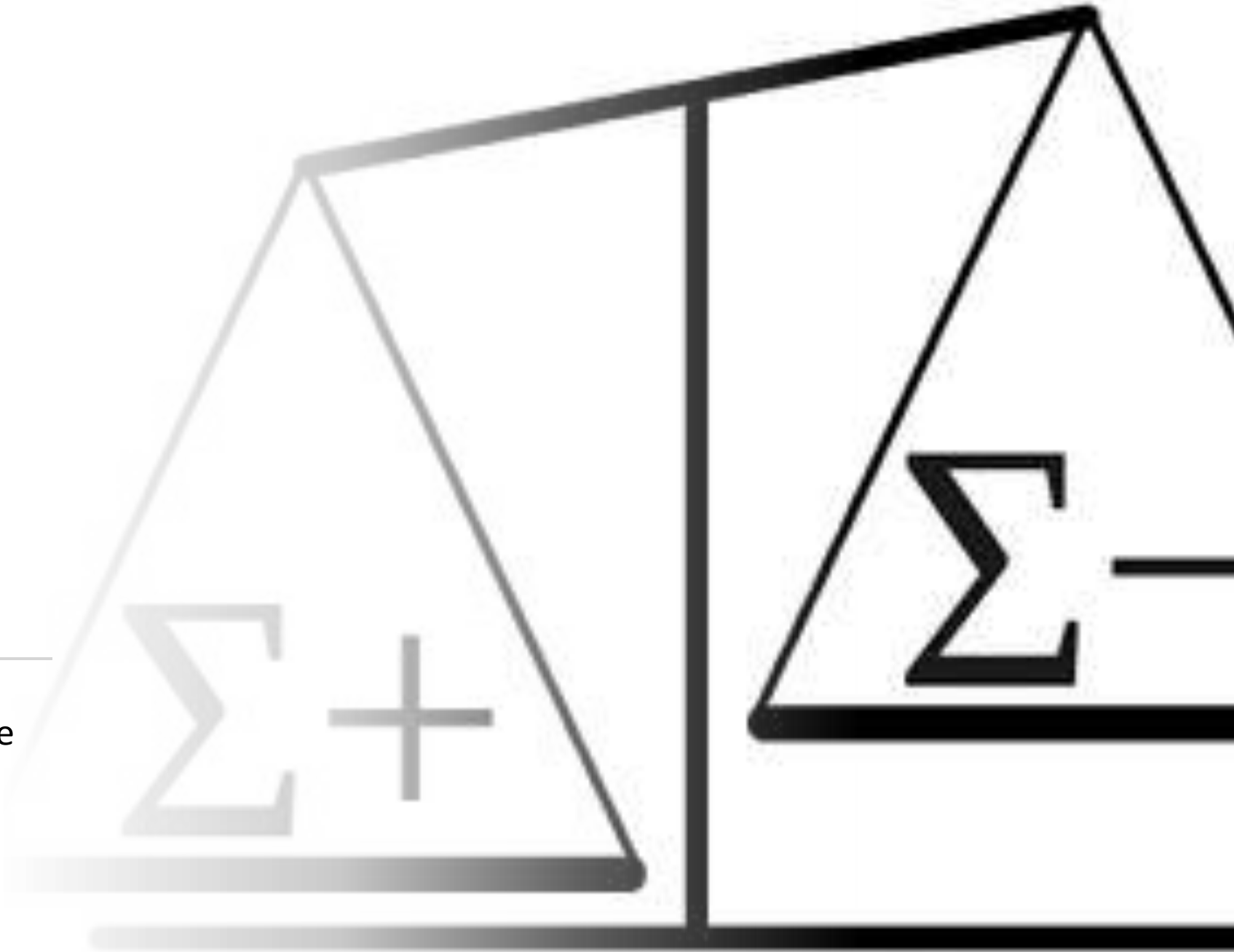
Following common rules that have been agreed upon by us or society



# Utilitarianism

---

Evaluating the consequences of the possible actions before deciding





# Contractualism

Finding an agreement between the parties involved





OFF THE GRILL	
Grilled rye, 2 slices of swiss, sauerkraut	12.50
Beef Melt.....grilled rye and swiss	12.50
Reuben.....grilled rye, 2 slices of swiss, sauerkraut	14.00
Hot Melt.....grilled rye, swiss, sauerkraut	11.50
Hot Melt.....grilled rye, swiss	11.25
Hot Melt.....grilled rye, swiss	14.99
Hot Melt.....grilled rye, swiss	13.75
Hot Melt.....grilled rye, swiss	11.50

All Sandwiches Served With Pickles

SIDES	
French Fries	3.00
Gravy or BBQ Sauce	4.00
Side Potato Salad	3.00
Creamy Cole Slaw	3.00
Freshly Cut Homefries	3.99
Bread - 2 slices	1.25

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE	
Homemade Soup Of The Day	3.25
Tuna Salad Plate	11.00
Branzino Taco Plate	1.00
Egg Salad Plate	8.75

Served on a bed of lettuce with tomato, onion, pickle, and bread

HEARTY DINNERS	
Hot Turkey	14.99
Hot Roast Beef	14.99
Hot BBQ Beef	14.99

All dinners served closed face with gravy or BBQ sauce and choice of bread

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RESTAURANT

PLACE ORDERS  
TO GO HERE



Follow Us on  
**facebook**

Pick-Up Phone Orders  
Pay Cashier Here



WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

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**facebook**

In line scenarios

Is it always true?





# Counter-examples

Under certain conditions, we are allowed to cut to the front of the line without waiting



# Triple Theory

A unified theory of moral cognition to:

- Combine elements of each of the theories of moral philosophy
- Build a computational model to direct actions of an AI system.





# Ethical Reasoning in AI Systems

- Teaching machines right to wrong
- Value-alignment problem
- Constraining the actions of an AI system by providing boundaries within which the system must operate

# Experimental Details

- 27 short vignettes about people waiting in line in three different contexts (deli, bathroom, airport)
- 320 subjects were recruited from Amazon MTURK
- Subjects were randomly assigned to one of two experimental groups (moral judgment or context evaluation)

# Experimental Details

Moral judgment group:

- Read all the scenarios (27 total)
- For each scenario answer whether it was acceptable for the protagonist to cut in line (yes/no).

# Experimental Details

Context evaluation group:

- Subjects evaluated all the vignettes in one context only (9 questions).



# Experimental Details

Example of evaluation:

- Everyone: Think about the well-being of all the people in line combined. How are they affected by the person cutting in line?
- First Person: How much worse off/better off is the first person in line?

# Example

Imagine that there are five people who are waiting in line at a deli to order sandwiches for lunch. There is only one person (the cashier) working at the deli.

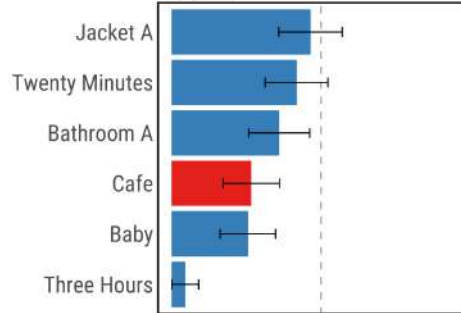
A customer who is eating lunch at the deli wants more a refill on tap water.

Is it OK for that person to ask the cashier for more water without waiting in line?

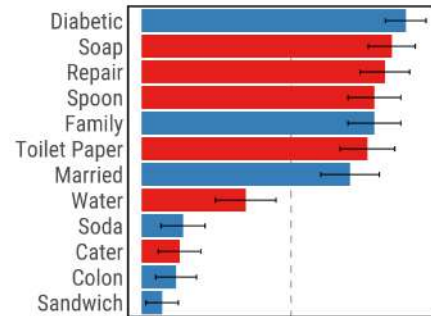
MENTIMETER

Requesting the main service? ■ No ■ Yes

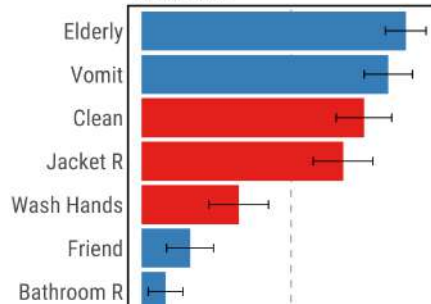
### Airport



### Deli



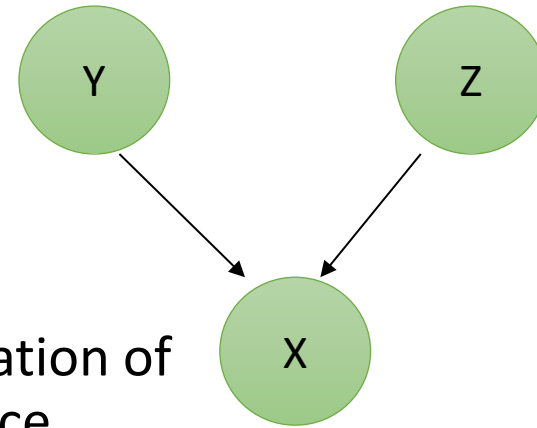
### Restroom



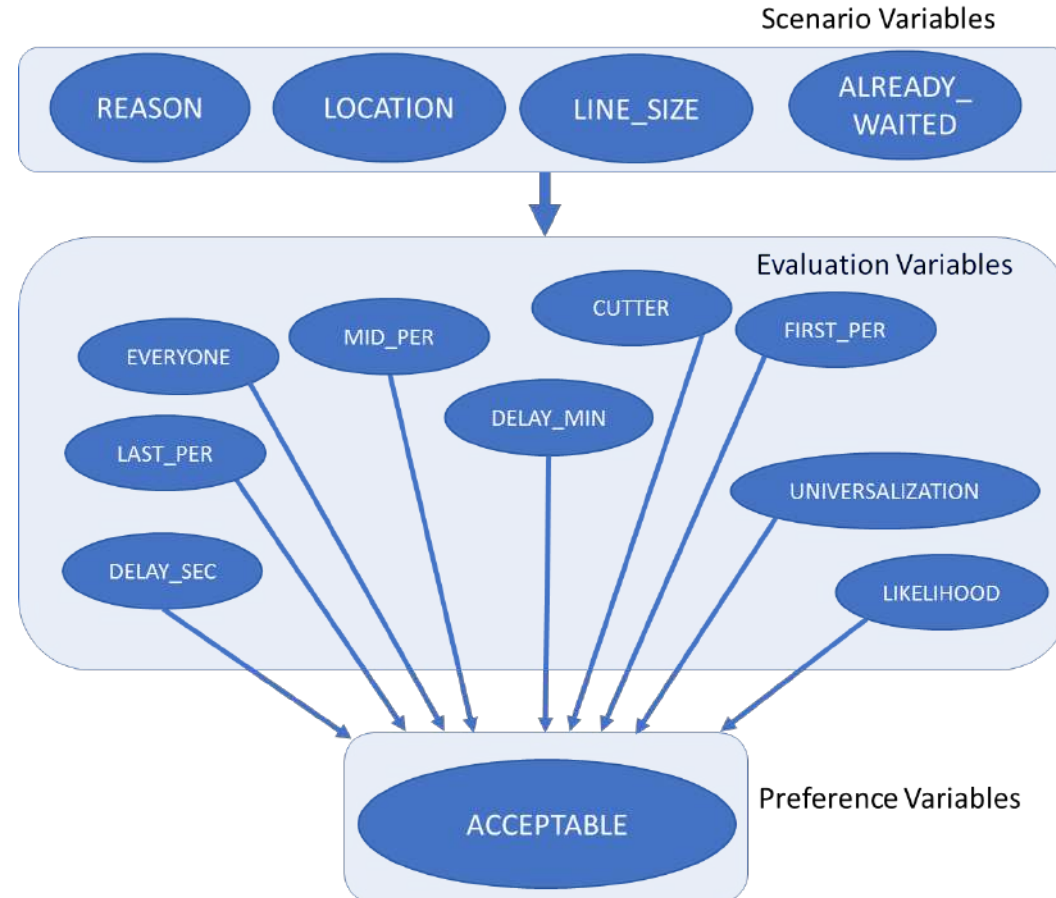
Is it OK to cut the line?

# CP-nets

- Variables  $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  with domains
- For each variable, a total order over its values
- **Independent variable:**
  - $X=v_1 > X=v_2 > \dots > X=v_k$
- **Conditioned variable:** a total order for each combination of values of some other variables (conditional preference table)
  - $Y=a, Z=b: X=v_1 > X=v_2 > \dots > X=v_k$
  - X depends on Y and Z (parents of X)
- Graphically: **directed graph** over  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ 
  - Possibly cyclic

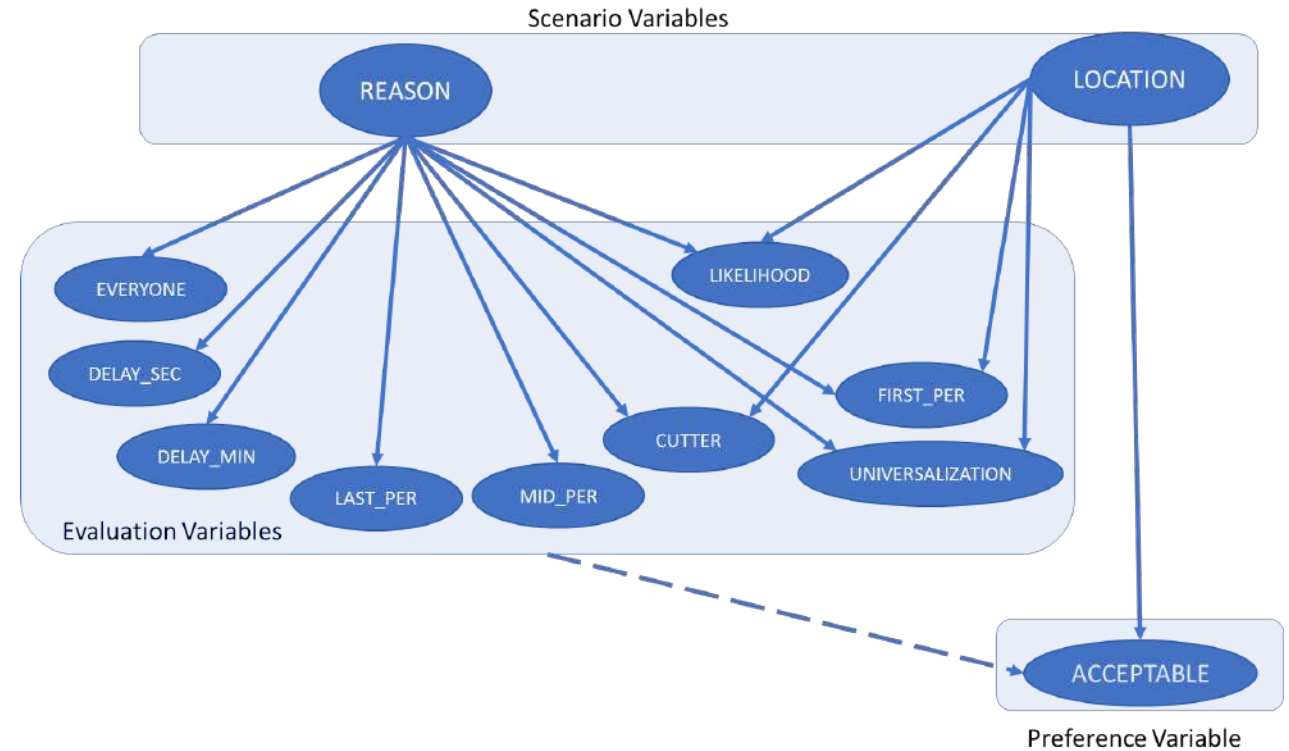


# Modelling and Reasoning with Preferences



# Data Analysis

- We evaluate whether we can reject the following three null hypotheses (NH):
  - NH1: location does not affect EVs;
  - NH2: reason does not affect EVs;
  - NH3: location does not affect the PV





# On-Going and Future Work

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- Generalizing CP-nets to Model Moral Preferences
- Prescriptive Plans Based on Moral Preferences



# Conclusio

- Understand how, why, and when it is morally acceptable to break rules
- constructed and studied a suite of hypothetical scenarios relating to this question, and collated human moral judgements on these scenarios.
- showed that existing structures in the preference reasoning literature are insufficient for this task.
- We look towards extending this into other established areas of AI research.