On Moral AIs

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Moral AIs

Artificial morality, moral AIs, moral machines, artificial moral agents, artificial moral advisors, etc.

- Mainly concerned with implicit/explicit ethical agents (Moor, 2006)

One major motivation in machine ethics

- AIs are superior moral reasoners over humans

Today's talk

Moral AI as ideal observer for the purpose of helping people achieve moral enhancement?

I. Moral AI & the **I**deal **O**bserver **T**heory
II. Moral AI as ideal observer?
III. Responding to moral AI

Ideal observer theory (IOT)

Firth (1952)

1. Omniscient: possessing factual knowledge of all non-morally relevant information involved in the procedure of deciding the rightness/wrongness of a particular act
2. Omnipercipient: capable of simultaneously imagining or visualising all alternatives and consequences of any given act
3. Disinterested: completely impartial about reacting (dis)favourably to any person/thing
4. Dispassionate: incapable of any emotional experience at all
5. Consistent: having exactly similar ethically significant reactions to any given act
6. Normal: in other aspects as a human being

Omniscience & omnipercipience

IOT is unattainable

- Humans are epistemically bounded

IOT's circular reasoning

- The view from nowhere (Gebru, 2020)
- The bootstrapping problem (Vallor, 2016)

Human moral fallacies

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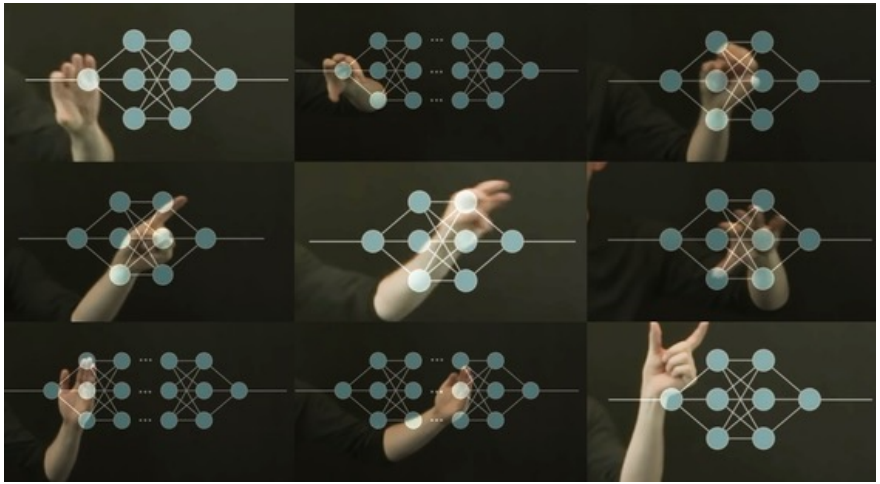
Need for moral machines

Consistency

Consistency reframed as (dis)similar features

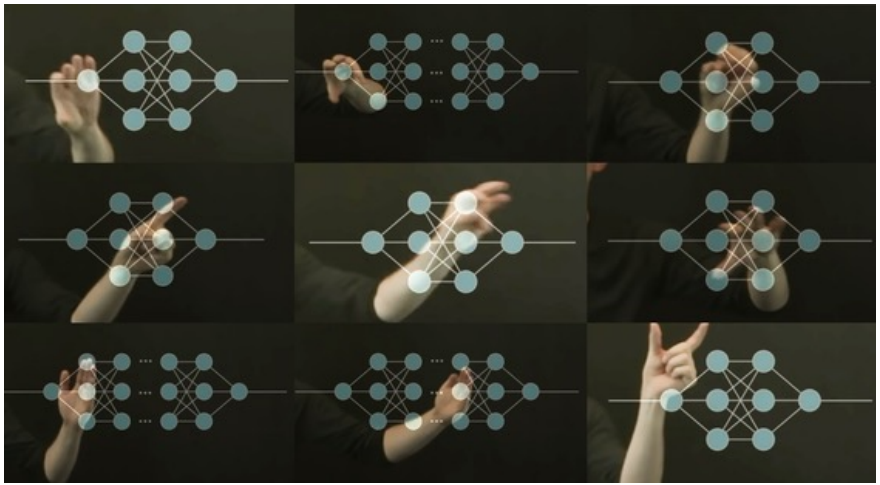
- Two actions, however similar they are, are dissimilar in at least one aspect (Harrison, 1956)



Dispassion

Dispassionate machines ≠ superior reasoners

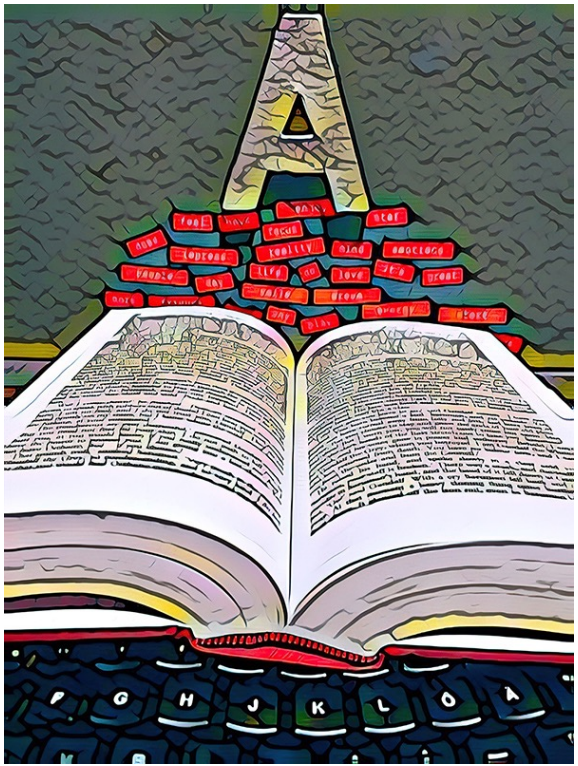
- Bootstrapping again – bias/ prejudice seeping through machines
- Creates/manifests a hierarchy of values – blanket rejection of intuitions



Impartiality

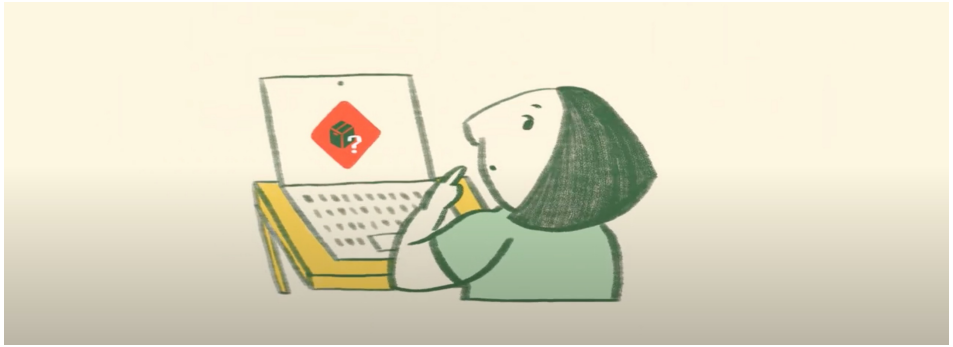
Inherent political properties of moral AIs as a product of intentional human creation (Winner, 1980)

- Political by explicit/implicit design
  - Deliberately/inevitable benefit some and disadvantage others
- Political by necessity
  - Technosolutionist nature of moral machine projects



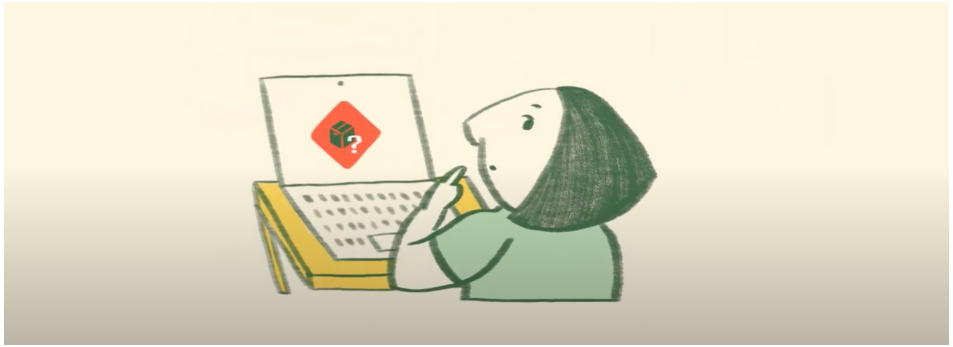
Responding to moral AIs

- Passive acceptance
  - Genuine moral enhancement?
  - Risks of moral deskilling from outsourcing
  - The only option?



Responding to moral AIs

- Passive acceptance is not the only option – inescapability and irreducibility of human decisions
  - Sartre's advice-seeking soldier
  - Prescriptive nature of AI moral advisors
  - Diminishing benefits of moral AIs
  - Possibility of moral degradation from motivated reasoning



Necessity for technomoral wisdom

Moral AI as an ideal observer?

- Bootstrapping problem
- Misconception of appropriate decision making
- Political properties of moral AIs

Moral AI to help humans achieve moral enhancement?

- Inescapability and irreducibility of human moral decisions

Thank you

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