

# Perspectives on AI from Different Worldviews

*Values of Humans and AI*



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# AI, Humanity, and Values

- All products of humanity reflect the values, experience, and aspirations of people who develop it.
- AI is a product of humanity, and those who design and develop AI systems are very small fraction compared to those who consume it knowingly or unknowingly.
- Although methodological advances may happen throughout the world, the core ideas and principles are still heavily shaped in certain narrow scientific communities.

# The Different Perspectives on AI

- How many world views are there?
- This seminar will be grounded on values and viewpoints that appeal to me personally.
- The main goal of this seminar is to encourage the audience to think of AI critically from their own viewpoint and see how it relates to their personal experience and aspirations. What do you think should be the values of AI?

# The Value of Value Systems

- Having a value system that enhances the common good and adhering to it is an important meta-value.

**धर्म - Dharma      அறம் - Aram**

*Loosely interpreted as the right way to lead life – standard of conduct.*

*There is a bank in a town that lends money to people. The only way in which it will decide if someone will get a loan is based on their income alone because this is the least risky path for the bank. It is not hard to imagine that this bank will contribute to increase in inequality of wealth and put already marginalized people in precarious situation.*

- Can the bank do better in terms of its values?
- Now replace the bank with an AI.

# The Long View

*A parent allows and encourages the child watch TV excessively because the child is gratified momentarily when they do so. As the child grows up, and sees how others have grown up, they start resenting the parent.*

- Taking the long view means prioritizing the long term good over short-term gratification.
- Do AI systems take the long view when it comes to interacting with humans and serving humanity?

# What is the Other Person Thinking?

*Two friends meet up for a coffee after many years staying out of touch. One of the friends keeps talking incessantly about their own experience in the time they were out of touch with no genuine concern for other person's life. Do you think they will meet again?*

- Genuine interest in other's welfare is a key human value that nurtures relationship.
- Do current AI systems take genuine interest in your welfare and care about what you think?

# The Importance of Context

*A wise woman has 3 disciples. Two of them come to her with the same problem and she advises one of them to do something and the other something completely different. She explains to the surprised third disciple the two different contexts and the disciple is satisfied.*

- We are taught to take completely different actions for a similar looking situation based on the underlying contexts.
- Are AI systems context-aware, and able to comprehend the complexities for seemingly similar situations when taking actions?

# Ambiguity

*A fisherman went to catch fish in a lake, but a recent storm had muddied the waters. He went home and returned after a few days so that the mud can settle down and then he caught huge amounts of fish.*

- In many circumstances, we usually wait to gather more facts or until an ambiguous situation changes before taking decisions.
- Can AI systems recognize ambiguous situations and take actions accordingly?

# Criticism

*A ruler has yea-sayers for ministers and nobody to criticize their actions. They are woefully under-prepared for a national emergency and the whole nation suffers due to their reluctance to accept and act on criticism.*

- Being able to accept criticism and modify behavior is considered highly beneficial.
- Are AI systems easily amenable to behavioral changes based on feedback?

# The Different Sides of Truth

*Four people are blindfolded and asked to touch an object and say what it is. One says it is a long tube, one says it is a rope, one says it is a pillar, and one says it is a big leaf. It was an elephant the people had touched it trunk, tail, leg and ear.*

- It is nearly impossible to understand truth by superficial information, and deep analysis is required.
- Are AI systems able to know that it is likely representing one small side of the truth, and capable of deep analysis to widen its comprehension?

# Agency of Individuals and Community

*There are 100 families in a village, each with 2 children. The village's school can only teach 100 children. Is it more fair for 1 child from each family to go to school or is it more fair for both children from half the families to go to school?*

- What is fair and not fair should be decided by the families and the community.
- Are AI systems designed to allow individuals and communities act according to their best interests when making decisions?

# Need for Explanation

*The parents always show a child what the right thing to do is, but one parent explains reasons for their suggestion in a friendly language, whereas the other parent does not. Who is the child more likely to follow?*

- Explanations for decisions helps humans situate the event in the larger context and derive meaning.
- Are AI systems capable of explaining the process or decision in a reliable manner when they make decisions?

# Non-Utilitarian Outlook

*Indian railways has about 1.25 million employees and has a route length of about 68000 km. Many years it has run into losses but has been very restrained about cutting down routes or increasing fares since it is a lifeline for many communities.*

- Sometimes service to community can be more important than profit, particularly when the communities benefit immensely from that service.
- Do AI systems incorporate non-utilitarian objectives while serving the most vulnerable and underprivileged?

# Way Forward for AI

- If we realize that AI is a product of humanity, it gives us the power to shape its development to achieve the larger goals of humanity.
- AI systems should not be just mathematical abstractions if their gains must be realized by people.
- Developers of AI systems must be keenly aware that ultimately, they impact people's lives.
- The audience should embody the values they care about for themselves and their society in AI.

