

Topic Proposal

Due Date: 12 May at 23:59

Team Name: 0812

Team Coordinator: Matt

Ethics of Self-Driving Cars – Safety and Liability

Cars are integral societal infrastructure, and their automation is almost certain.

They offer the opportunity to improve overall road safety, reduce congestion and improve the mobility of non-drivers. But with their adoption come threats to employment and privacy, questions over liability and safety, and their inevitable use as a weapon. Inversely, an overly cautious approach may needlessly forestall benefits we need now.

By exploring this issue before the technology reaches its maturity, we may hope to better answer the question of how to maximise the capacity for positive impacts whilst minimising for negative ones.

Our aim is to focus on the safety and liability of self-driving cars, to examine the potential problems and solutions involved with this topic.

For example, we want to answer the following and similar questions:

If a self-driving car crashes, causing injury, who is responsible?

Who pays for property damage involving a self-driving car?

What is society's acceptable threshold for the safety of self-driving cars?

What harm, if any, could be prevented by adopting self-driving cars at a faster pace than the current roll-out?

Justification

We believe this is a topic worth researching because the choices we make when introducing self-driving cars onto our roads will affect everyone.

For many, these impacts will likely be positive. However, it is unlikely that all consumers and companies involved will have the same intentions for this technology.

We already see legal issues with safety and liability concerning humans, so self-driving cars pose further potential for legal exploitation if not handled correctly.

Understanding and answering such ethical questions will be crucial to adapting our society to this new technology in a manner that is fair and equitable.

Team Members

Thomas R

- Repo and data management
- Web design
- Writing and proofing

Dylan S

- Research
- Writing and proofing

Matt S

- Research
- Web design
- Writing and proofing

Portfolio

<https://github.com/A30812>

https://autuni-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/cgr2690_autuni_ac_nz/Documents/Data/COMP501/Assignments/Assignment%203

TA name: Soheila Mohammadyari

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