Ethics

## Relativism相对主义 & Objectivism客观主义

### Ethical relativism 伦理相对主义

There is no universally accepted ethical standard 没有普遍接受的道德标准

“**Personal ethical relativism**”

“**Social ethical relativism**”

Reasons for ethical relativism

Diversity of moral views

Moral uncertainty

Situation differences

Morality is a set of believe individual or society have, nothing more

### Arguments against ethical relativism (Non-relativism, Objectivism)

A correct moral stand does exist even have disagreement.

No matter under what circumstance, always have general values such as justice, happiness etc.

### Objectivism客观主义

The truth or falsity of typical moral judgments does not depend upon the beliefs or feelings of any person or group of persons.

Moral propositions are analogous to proposition about absolute truth

**Moral realism**: 道德客观事实主义

objective good is a reality independent of who view it, as in natural science.

**Moral pluralism**: 道德多元理论

there may be more than one set of equally valid moral principles, and sometimes one has to choose between them.

## Egoism利己主义 and Altruism利他主义

### Psychological EGOISM 利己主义

Everyone acts only in their own self-interest.

Even actions that appear altruistic are in fact selfish. 利他主义实际是利己主义

### Narrow PSYCHOLOGICAL EGOISM 狭义利己主义

People only act selflessly out of short-term self interest

人们只会出于短期自我利益表现的无私

Problem: people clearly can sometimes act out of their own long-term interest sacrificing short-term happiness

人们有时候会出于长期利益放弃短期利益

### Broad PSYCHOLOGICAL Egoism 广义利己主义

People act out of their own long-term interest

People may appear to act altruistically for their own long-term gain

人们会出自于自己的长期利益表现的无私

Problems:

1. People don’t always act out of their own long-term interest (sometimes they sacrifice a larger long-term good for a smaller short-term gain)

人们有时为短期利益牺牲长期利益

2) People can act altruistically without any seeming gain to themselves

人们有时会无目的性的表现的无私

### ALTRUISM 利他主义

People acting out of genuine concern for other people’s welfare

人们行动出于对别人福利的真正关心

### The Social Contract and Altruism 社会契约和利他主义

## Utilitarianism功利主义

Our action should produce most happiness or reduce suffering or unhappiness.

When there is a conflict of interests, the choice is that which promote the interests of greater number. 得利总数最多的决定是最好的决定

It stresses the goal or consequence of an action (teleological), also called **consequentialist结果论者** moral theory. 功利主义只认结果，不管动机和过程

Wealth, health, education, freedom is just instrument of happiness. They are not intrinsically good. Happiness and pleasure are the only intrinsic goods. And happiness is the only thing people desire. 幸福是根本目的和唯一追求

* Bentham: consider only the **quantity** of pleasure or happiness brought about by various acts. 考虑数量
* Mill: the **quality** of the pleasure should also count 考虑质量
* Mill: intellectual pleasures are better than sensual ones

we should consider the range of types of pleasure in our attempts to decide what the best action is.

utilitarianism considers not only oneself, but all others that might be affected.

考虑所影响到的所有人

Our own happiness does not count more than others. 人人幸福平等

utilitarianism considers sacrifice is a waste if it does not result in increased happiness.

有获得的牺牲才是有意义的

"Act utilitarianism" consider each act separately.

行动功利主义认为行为所带来的最终后果作为行为依据

"Rule utilitarianism" considers consequences of the act performed as a general practice.

规则功利主义认为需要根据统一的道德规范作为行为依据

Amount of happiness is difficult to calculate: difficult to consider all the variables and contributing factors. 幸福量难以衡量

“Ends justify the means”. Is a wrong act justifiable if it produces pleasure to a large number of people?

Utilitarianism might argue that in the long run this is bad.

功利主义认为，即使错误的举动给很多人带来了快乐，也有可能从长远来讲是不好的

Preference utilitarianism 偏好功利主义

Happiness is not the only intrinsic good. Peace, freedom, knowledge, beauty are all intrinsic goods to be maximized.

The best action is the one that would lead to most of the preferred intrinsic goods.

Cost-benefit analysis 成本效益分析

Every affected factor is assigned a money value. The best course or action is the one that cost the least and produces most.

## Deontological Ethics and Kant’s Moral Theory

## 道义伦理学和康德的道德理论

### problems with Utilitarianism

immoral acts can be judged moral.

Consequences are often difficult or impossible to predict.

The morality of an act may depend on chance

### Kant’s Moral Theory

The motive to do what is right is important.

The consequences of an act are not.做好事的动机比结果更为重要

People ought not be used, but should be regarded as having the highest intrinsic value.

### What is the right motive?

Good intention is to do what one believes is the right thing to do, out of concern and respect for moral law. 出于知道是正确的动机的行为是最高的行为

Kant believed that there is a right and a wrong thing to do, whether or not we knew or agree about it. 客观主义论对错，即存在绝对的正确

### Defining duty

Acting from duty = acting according to the Categorical Imperative 出于绝对必要的事情行动

Hypothetical Imperative 有可能必要的事情

“you should do x, if you want y”

* + E.g. “you should get a good job is you want to have a lot of money”

Depends on circumstances

Depends on your goal

根据环境和目标所决定的可能应该去做的事情

Categorical Imperative 绝对必要的事情

“you should do x”

* + E.g. “you should respect people”

Does not depend on circumstances

Does not depend on your goal

不考虑环境和目标都应该去做的事情

### What is the right thing to do?

we must not only act out of a right motivation, but must also do the right thing. Both the motive and the act must be morally relevant. 出于对的动机且做对的事情

## Natural Law & Natural Rights 自然法和自然权利

### Natural Law Theory

### originate from Aristotle

Human has certain characteristics that is distinct from other animals: the “**rational element（理性因素）**”. Our rational element allows us to seek knowledge (the truth) and guide us to make wise choice. We, as prudent being, make prudential choice.

相比于其他动物，人类具有理性因素，使人得以寻求知识并做出明智选择

### originate from Thomas Aquinas(托马斯·阿奎那)

Natural law is part of the divine(神) law or plan (of God) for the universe, and that moral good is from the innate(与生俱来的) tendencies(趋势) of our nature. Unique to human is the specific capacities of knowing and choosing freely. We therefore ought to treat ourselves and others as beings capable of understanding and free choice. (Therefore, education, pursue of the truth, freedom of expression is good. Deceit, and hindrance of free choice is bad).

自然法是上帝法则中的一部分，道德善良则源于人自然的先天倾向。人所独有的是认识自由和选择自由。因此应该就按那个自己和他人视为能够理解和自然选择的人。

### Difference between Natural Law and laws of nature

Natural law should not be confused with “Laws of nature”. The laws of nature describe the physical world, how nature behaves. Natural law, or moral laws, are prescriptive. They tell us how we ought to behave.

自然法不等同于自然法则，自然法则所描述的是物理世界，有关自然是怎么运转的。自然法或称道德法是规定性的，告诉人们应该如何去行动。

### Natural Rights自然权利

Natural rights is an extension of the natural law 自然权利是自然法的延伸

It argues moral law in nature 主张道德律

If we are to function as human, with rational element, with the ability and desire to seek the truth and to make the right choice, we must have certain rights: right of life, liberty, and ability to pursue happiness. (This was part of the US Declaration of Independence)

## Virtue Ethics道德伦理

virtue ethics tells how we ought to be as a person. Virtuous person makes better ethical decisions. 道德伦理指导人们如何为人，有道德的人做出更好的伦理选择

Aristotle’s idea of virtue ethics

1. **Intellectual virtues** encompass excellence of mind, being able to reason and judge well. We learned these from our teachers.

**知识美德：**如卓越的头脑，推理评判的能力

1. **Moral virtues** dispose us to act well (honesty, courage etc.) We acquire these virtues by repeated practice.

**道德美德：**道德上的美德

Aristotle also held that virtue is a mean between two extremes

美德是以上两点的平均