

# Robots, Ethics, and Robot Ethics

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willie

# Show 'n Tell

Meet Jibo



# Why robots?

Interacting with a real environment

# Ethics in AI

Automation and the workplace

Anthropomorphism

Data Bias, Algorithmic fairness

Explainability and interpretability

Moral responsibility, Blameworthiness

Privacy

Weaponization

Robots rights

Unintended consequences

Robot obedience

# Sensors are everywhere!



A Murder Case Tests Alexa's Devotion to Your Privacy

I'm  
listening!\*

SHARE



SHARE  
1049



TWEET



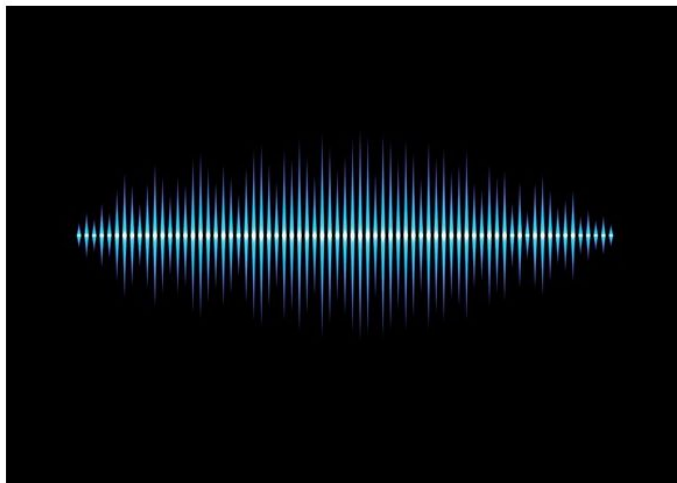
COMMENT



EMAIL

GERALD SAUER OPINION 02.28.17 10:00 AM

## A MURDER CASE TESTS ALEXA'S DEVOTION TO YOUR PRIVACY



<https://www.wired.com/2017/02/murder-case-tests-alexa-s-devotion-privacy/>

\* Sort of. It is always listening for the activation word, but supposedly nothing more.

# Bias 1

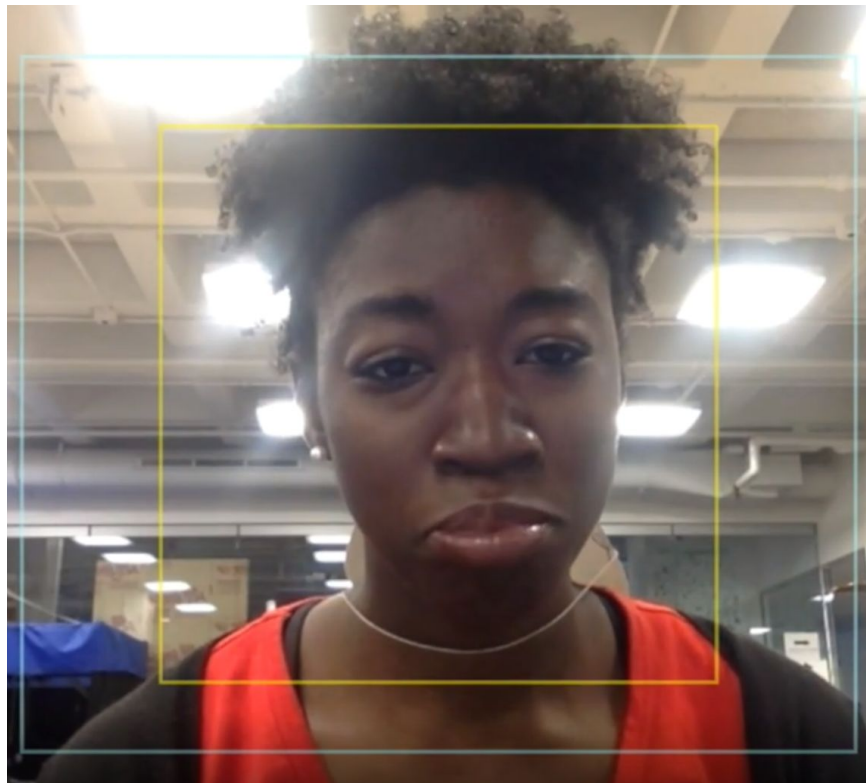
## Algorithmic bias

Commercial face detection from:

- Microsoft
- IBM
- Megvii

## Error rates

- 21-35% dark-skinned women
- Below 1% light-skinned females



# Bias 2

Millennial-minded AI

Casual conversation

Design intent: more it's  
used, the better it gets

Mimicry

What could possibly go  
wrong?



<https://www.geekwire.com/2016/even-robot-teens-impressionable-microsofts-tay-ai-pulled-internet-teaches-racism/>

Warning: includes content that may be highly offensive

# Bias 3

Amazon built a system to more quickly find the top applicants from a pool

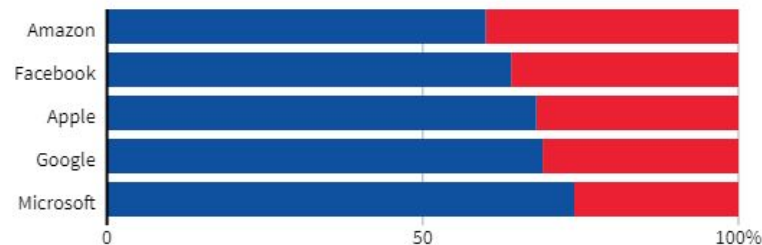
Trained on 10 years of resumes

Penalty for words like “women”,  
as in “women’s chess club”

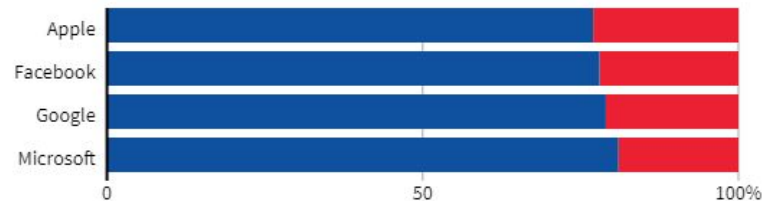
Eventually project was abandoned

GLOBAL HEADCOUNT

■ Male ■ Female



EMPLOYEES IN TECHNICAL ROLES



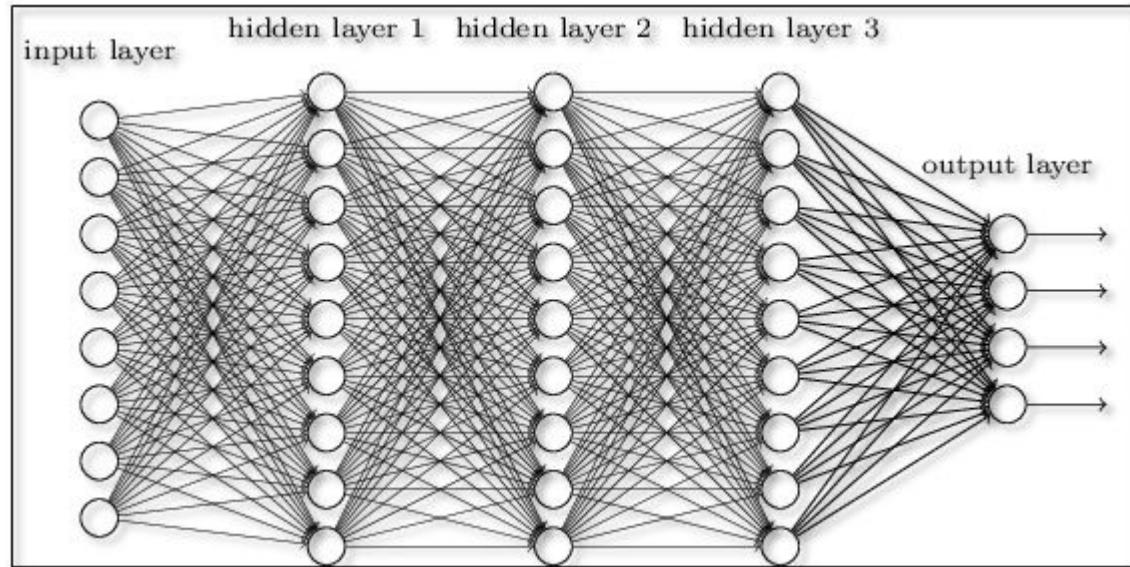
Note: Amazon does not disclose the gender breakdown of its technical workforce.

Source: Latest data available from the companies, since 2017.

By Han Huang | REUTERS GRAPHICS

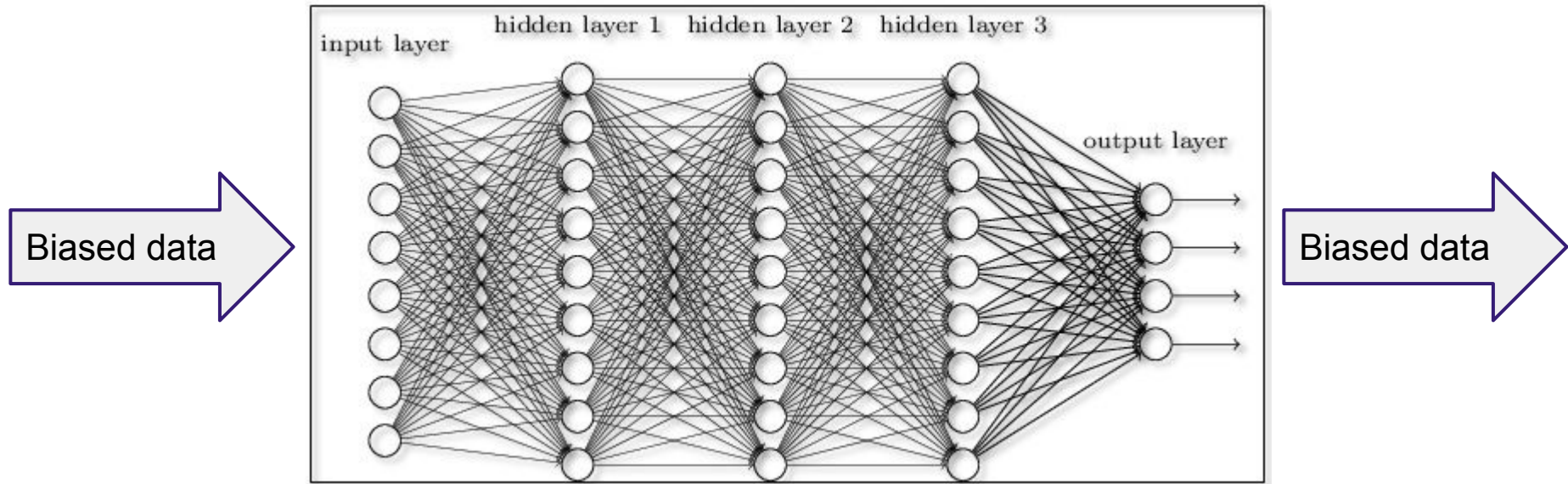


# Black magic



“Dog”

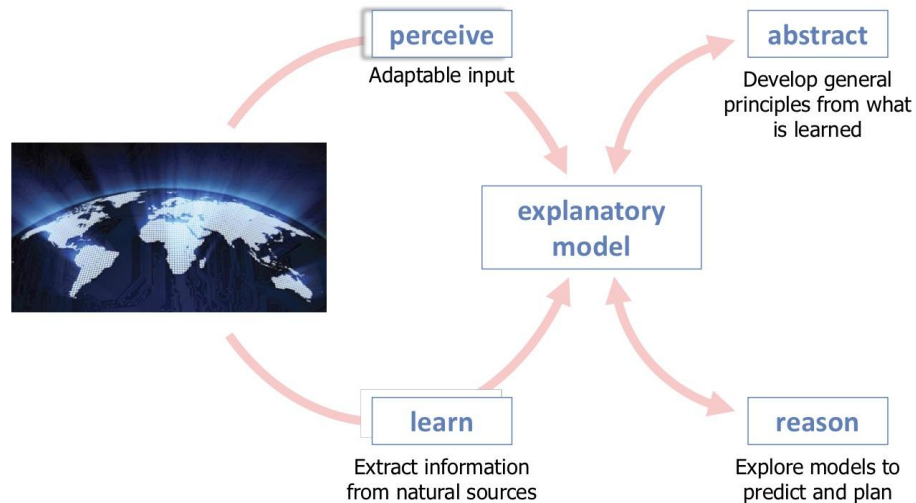
# Black magic



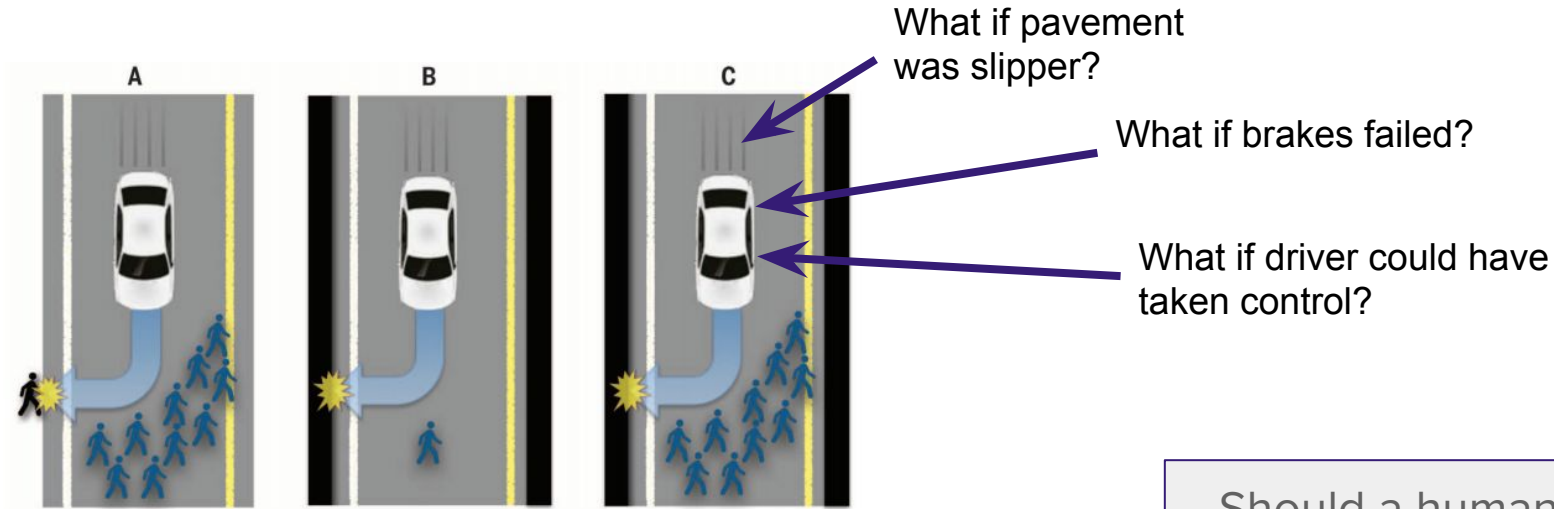
What if we  
could ask,  
“Why?”



## Third wave technology: explanatory models



# Who's to blame?



**Fig. 1. Three traffic situations involving imminent unavoidable harm.** The car must decide between (A) killing several pedestrians or one passerby, (B) killing one pedestrian or its own passenger, and (C) killing several pedestrians or its own passenger.

Bonnefon, J. F., Shariff, A., & Rahwan, I. (2016). The social dilemma of autonomous vehicles. *Science*, 352(6293), 1573-1576.

Should a human driver in the same situation be blamed differently?

# Different moral norms

Repairman vs. Repair robot

4 miners in a train that's lost its breaks

Let the train run into a massive wall?

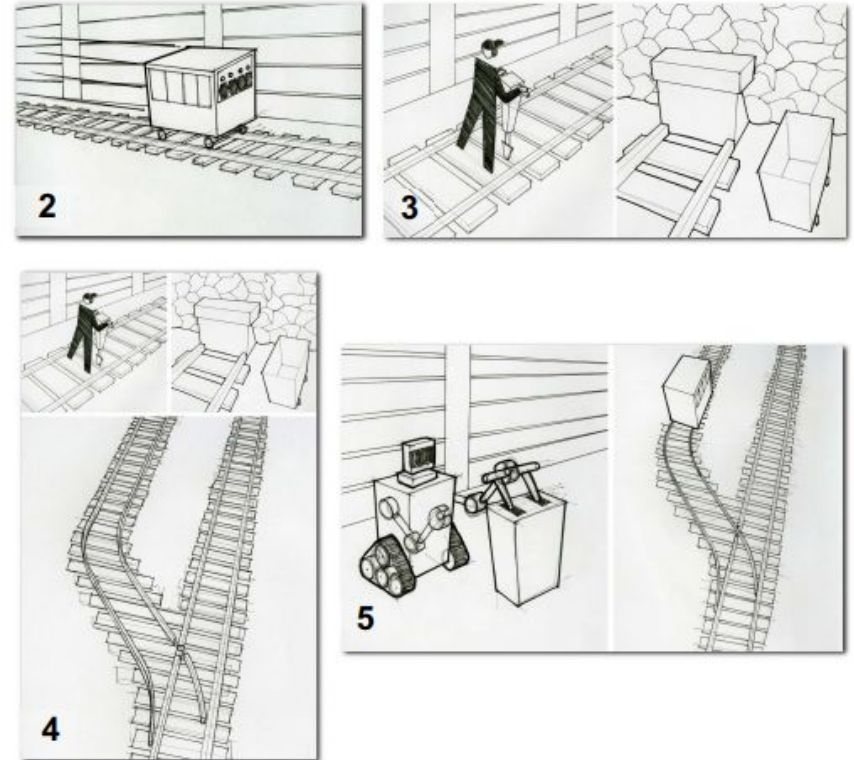
Divert train, killing a single worker?

Is diverting the train permissible?

How much blame to agent flipping switch?

Is the action morally wrong?

Fig. 3. Pictures 2 to 5 in the five-picture array condition. Picture 1 displayed the appropriate agent from Figure 1, and picture 5 showed this same agent again. All drawings ©Justin Finkenaar.



Malle, B. F., Scheutz, M., Arnold, T., Voiklis, J., & Cusimano, C. (2015, March). Sacrifice one for the good of many?: People apply different moral norms to human and robot agents. In *Proceedings of the tenth annual ACM/IEEE international conference on human-robot interaction* (pp. 117-124). ACM.

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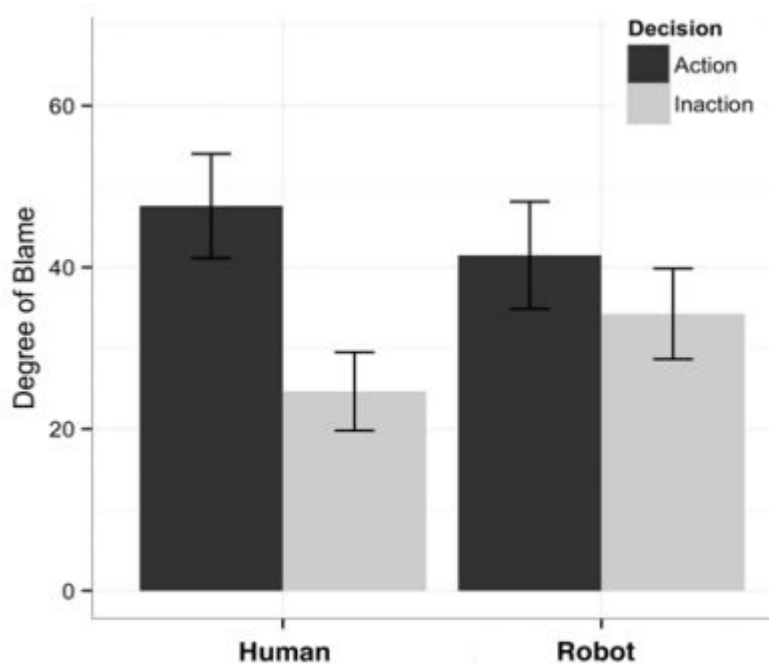
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**Figure 1. Rates of blame in Experiment 1 as a function of agent type and the agent's decision (to divert the train or not)**

Malle, B. F., Scheutz, M., Arnold, T., Voiklis, J., & Cusimano, C. (2015, March). Sacrifice one for the good of many?: People apply different moral norms to human and robot agents. In *Proceedings of the tenth annual ACM/IEEE international conference on human-robot interaction* (pp. 117-124). ACM.



What I didn't do anything?

Can you blame the robot  
for doing nothing?

What if the robot just  
pleaded with you?

Can robots manipulate  
humans?

What if they can?

Save  
me!



# Robot protest

Robot builds a tower

Person tells robot to knock over tower

Robot cries

Tell the robot again?

4 of 10 do not re-issue command



Briggs, G., & Scheutz, M. (2014). How robots can affect human behavior: Investigating the effects of robotic displays of protest and distress. *International Journal of Social Robotics*, 6(3), 343-355.



# Robot says, “No!”

Briggs, G., & Scheutz, M. (2015, September). Sorry, I can't do that": Developing mechanisms to appropriately reject directives in human-robot interactions. In *2015 AAAI Fall Symposium Series*.



<https://qz.com/559432/robots-are-learning-to-say-no-to-human-orders-and-your-life-may-depend-on-it/>

# Midterm

See Melissa Duong (Mudd 3507) to pick up your exam

Stats

Average: 50.176 / 60

SD: 5.68

**Up next**  
**Uncertainty**  
**Chapters 13 & 14**