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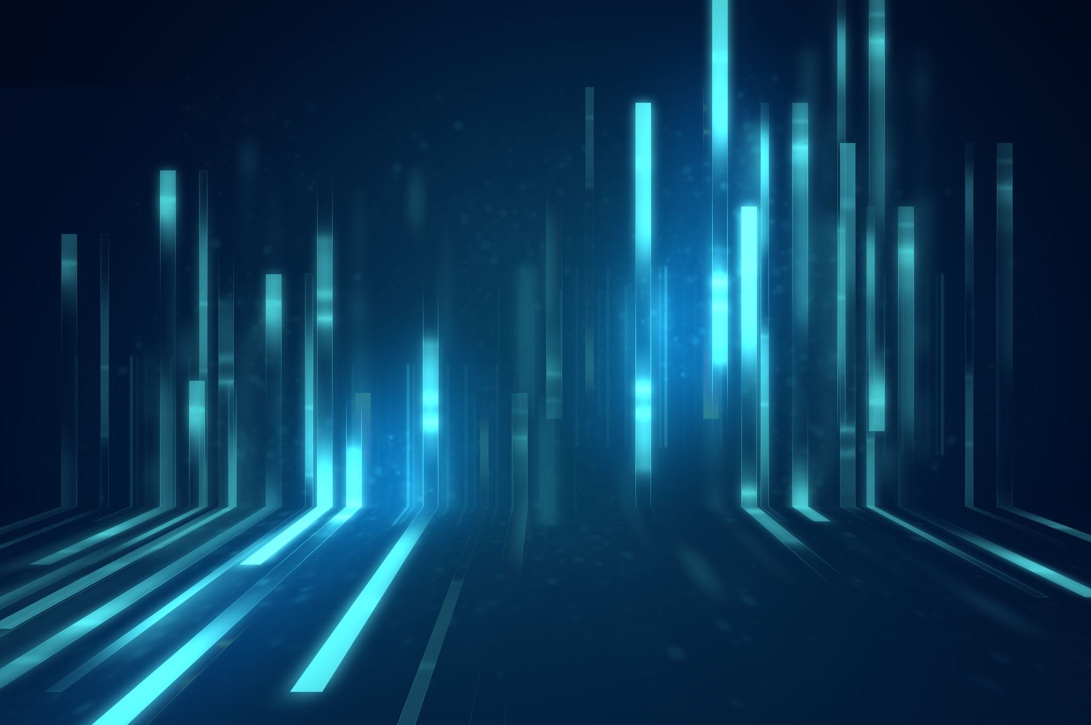
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Transparency

Intermediate

Module 1

**Philosophical Concepts of Transparency**



# Introduction

This module will expand on the intermediate course on fairness. It will further link philosophical concepts of fairness to technical models that can be captured algorithmically.

In this module, we will cover linking philosophical concept of fairness, the different formulations of fairness, understanding the impossibility to include all concepts of fairness in the same algorithmic model and combining philosophical definitions of fairness with domain-specific expectations of fairness.

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# Pre-reading

* Turilli, M., & Floridi, L. (2009). The ethics of information transparency. Ethics and Information Technology, 11(2), 105-112. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10676-009-9187-9>

* Mittelstadt, B. D., Allo, P., Taddeo, M., Wachter, S., & Floridi, L. (2016). The ethics of algorithms: Mapping the debate. Big Data & Society, 3(2), 2053951716679679. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951716679679>

**Course reading**

* Google Duplex

<https://techcrunch.com/2018/05/10/duplex-shows-google-failing-at-ethical-and-creative-ai-design/>

<https://ai.googleblog.com/2018/05/duplex-ai-system-for-natural-conversation.html>

* Algorithmic Transparency Standard <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/algorithmic-transparency-standard>
* Oswald, M., Chambers, L., Goodman, E., Ugwudike, P., & Zilka, M. (2022). The UK Algorithmic Transparency Standard: A Qualitative Analysis of Police Perspectives. SSRN Electronic Journal. https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4155549

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**Self-assessment pass/fail questions**

1. What is applicable to transparency?:

a. Transparency needs to be maximised at all times.

b. Transparency is always valuable.

c. Transparency is ethical neutral.

d. Transparency is one of the most important ethical principles.

2. What is not applicable to transparency?:

a. Transparency is a precondition for some ethical principles.

b. Transparency is important to show how we follow certain principles.

c. Transparency cannot be limited by ethical principles.

d. Transparency needs to be adjusted to the context in which it is required

3. Which statement is true?:

a. Transparency is an instrument to decrease government power

b. Transparency is an instrument for governments to exert political influence

i. A and B can both be correct iii. B is correct

ii. A is correct iv. A and C are both incorrect

4. According to the the High-Level Expert Group on AI ‘Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence’, trustworthy AI requires the following:

a. Lawful, ethical and robust AI

b. Increased legitimacy of public bodies applying AI

c. Increased transparency around AI decision-making

d. A sound technical approach inclusive of its social environment

5. What was one of the main reason behind developing the UK Algorithmic Transparency Standard?

a. Support data protection legislation

b. Increase legitimacy for public bodies

c. Promote algorithmic expertise

d. Educate about the effects of complex machine learning algorithms

6. What is not a condition to determine if the UK Algorithmic Transparency Standard needs to be applied?

a. Affects intellectual property rights

b. Affects substantive or procedural rights

c. Support or replaces human decision-making

d. Contain machine learning algorithms

**Answers**

Qs 1) C, 2) C, 3) B(i), 4) A, 5) B, 6) A Qs

# Reflection Worksheet

1) Why is transparency an instrumental value and why is it important?

2) What do we mean when we say that transparency is contextual?

3) What are three forms of opacity?

# Tasks

Make notes to give a five-minute talk explaining to developers why their AI for policing needs to be transparent. Describe what transparency considerations are important and why.

Read the Google Duplex case study and answer these questions: How did Google approach transparency? How could the backlash have been avoided?

# References

Buijze, A. (2013). The Six Faces of Transparency. Utrecht Law Review, 9, 3. <https://doi.org/10.18352/ulr.233>

Herzog, C. (2019). Technological Opacity of Machine Learning in Healthcare Proceedings of the Weizenbaum Conference 2019 "Challenges of Digital Inequality - Digital Education, Digital Work, Digital Life", Berlin.

Hollyer, J. R., Rosendorff, B. P., & Vreeland, J. R. (2011). Democracy and Transparency. The Journal of Politics, 73(4), 1191-1205. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0022381611000880>

Mittelstadt, B. D., Allo, P., Taddeo, M., Wachter, S., & Floridi, L. (2016). The ethics of algorithms: Mapping the debate. Big Data & Society, 3(2), 2053951716679679. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951716679679>

Oswald, M., Chambers, L., Goodman, E., Ugwudike, P., & Zilka, M. (2022). The UK Algorithmic Transparency Standard: A Qualitative Analysis of Police Perspectives. SSRN Electronic Journal. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4155549>

Turilli, M., & Floridi, L. (2009). The ethics of information transparency. Ethics and Information Technology, 11(2), 105-112. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10676-009-9187-9>

Being transparent

<https://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/glossary/applied-ethics>

Robert Moses and his racist Parkway

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-09/robert-moses-and-his-racist-parkway-explained>

Forbes – what is a trust

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/matthewerskine/2022/08/05/what-is-a-trust>

Misinformation vs Disinformation

<https://www.dictionary.com/e/misinformation-vs-disinformation-get-informed-on-the-difference>