**Self-driving cars**

**Idea/ concept**

Imagine driving on the highway in your car, talking with the other passengers and listening to music. For a brief second you are unaware of what is happening on the road and Suddenly the car in front of you stops, and you are too caught up in a conversation to realise this. Fortunately your car is aware of the situation, it takes control and it safely leads you around the stopped car and no one in your car or in the other cars around you are hurt.

This is not something form the future, this is a self-driving car. These cars are being tested all around the world, and many car companies are investing a lot of money into these self-driving cars because they believe they are the future of driving. But when companies are creating self-driving cars there are a lot of different factors both ethical and technical that they need to have in mind.

For my final paper I would like to write about self-driving cars, and the different factors their need to be taken into consideration when developing them. Since this field is very board I have narrowed it down so that I only will focus on specific elements on the subject.

The elements I have chosen to focus on is: the evolution of cars, the accident of the sel-driving Uber and at last a discussion of the ethical aspects that need to bee considered when designing a self-driving car. So my final statement will be:

-Explain the evolution of cars.

-Analyse the accident of the self-driving Uber with focus on what went wrong in the car.

-Discuss the ethical aspects that need to be taken into consideration when creating a self-driving car.

**The evolution of cars**

In the first part of my paper I will explain the evolution of cars and how they have evolved over time. I will do this by looking at historical texts, and look deeper into some of the most significant factors that have been made to create the car we know today. I Especially find it interesting how autopilot was an invention that had a great impact on the car that we know today, and how much the car industry have evolved science then. By making a specific presentation of cars, it will create a great understanding of how we have gotten to a point where self-driving cars are an option. I find this part very important because it helps create a foundation for the rest of my final paper. Furthermore it helps developing an understanding of cars and how they have evolved throughout history.

**Analysing an accident of self-driving Uber**

For the second part of my paper I will focus on an accident where a self-driving car have been involved. The accident I am going to analyse is the much-published crash of the Uber car that collided with a woman who was crossing the road. There are many things that could be discussed about the accident, but I am going to have some specific elements that I am going to focus on to make the most out of my analysis. Firstly I am going to take a look at what exactly happened in the accident and what went wrong. This part is very technical and it is going to be a more in depth explanation of how a self-driving car work.

For this part I am going to find information on the specific car that was involved in the given accident and what went wrong. I will find my information from different articles and the developer of the self-driving car, which has been involved.

**Discussing the ethics of self-driving cars**

When I have made my analysis of the accident and the car involved I would like to discuss the ethics behind self-driving cars and what need to be considered when developing these cars. I find it very interesting that when companies are creating self-driving cars they not only need to consider the design and the prize of the car. But they also need to consider a lot of different ethical aspects in the development. Companies are forced to think about every possible situation a self-driving car could get into, and then make the car take a decision of what is the right thing to do. My main focus will be on the discussion on what the right thing to do is when people inside a self-driving car and outside of the cars lives are in danger, and how shall a self-driving car chose between these two evils? These are the main aspects I would like to discuss in relation to the crash of the self-driving Uber.

**Sources**

I am still in the stage of finding all of the sources that I would like to include in my final paper. And because the topic that I am writing about is very broad, then there are a lot of different articles and text to go through to find those that fit my paper the best.

I have found two texts that I would like to use in my discussion and reflection of the ethical aspects of self-driving cars. The first text is from a book called: “*Autonomous driving*” by Markus Maurer and Co. This text has a lot of different chapters of the ethical aspects of self-driving cars and they all have great things to say about my topic, but I have chosen this chapter because it fits the elements I would like to reflect and discuss. The other paper is by Jack Stilgoe and is called: “*Machine learning, social learning and the governance of self-driving cars*”. This text also enlightens different aspects and ethical areas of self-driving cars. Furthermore it contains a great definition of the self-driving car and if cars really can be self-driven. These texts are going to help me discuss the difficulties that finds place in developing self-driving cars and what the developers need to have in mind when they want a car to be able to make ethical choices. A Furthermore I have found a test called The Moral Machine that I would like to relate to the accident of the Uber. This test is created to collect data for slef-driving cars so they over time can make ethical choices [[1]](#footnote-1).

**My next steps**

My next step is to find texts from the software studies syllabus that I can use in my final paper. I find this part very challenging because I would like a text that will say something about the ethic of self-driving cars. Therefore I need to look through a lot of the texts to find something I believe can be useful for my paper. Furthermore I am going to find some more historical texts about cars and look into the more specific elements there have transformed cars so it now is possible to create self-driving cars.

1. http://moralmachine.mit.edu/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)