Ethical models

For this assignment I will be comparing two models, which will be compared to find differences and similarities. Furthermore, I will elaborate on which model I prefer and why. This assignment will be completed by focusing on which model I think suits data ethics best.

# Models

I started researching ethical models and rather quickly I leaned that there are roughly five to seven models, often referred to as approaches or lenses (Santa Clara University, z.d.). For simplicity, I will stick to these five:

* Utilitarian Approach
* **Rights Approach**
* Fairness/Justice Approach
* Common Good Approach
* **Virtue Approach**

After diving a bit deeper into these approaches, I decided to focus on Rights and Virtue. The rights approach is focused on what is right and wrong which is the same for everyone in terms of dignity and freedom of an individual. Virtue on the other hand takes into account the characteristics of an individual, by assessing his or her traits such as honesty and compassion. From researching these approaches, I would interpret it as such that the rights approach is an overhauling ethical layer for which there is less debate, as it accounts for human rights which in the basics are the same for every individual. Whereas, virtue feels like a deeper layer within the rights approach that enables us to look further than the black and white perspective the rights approach might encompass (Pettigrove et al., 2022). To virtue approach provides an additional view into an individual which can justify someone’s action due to their characteristic, whilst it may violate human rights (A Virtue Approach Instead of a Kantian Approach as a Solution to Major Dilemmas in Meta-ethics? A Criticism of David Carr, 1998).

As a more sensitive/ emphatic person, I therefore lean more to preferring the virtue approach to better understand someone’s motives before judging. On the other hand, I think that the rights approach is better suited for data ethics. Data usually comes in large amounts to which it becomes increasingly difficult to carefully consider the virtue side for each individual data point. To benefit the majority, it would maybe suit better to draw a stricter line into deciding which action is better.