Meta-Ethics

When we are making an argument in a policy doc., we need to be aware of the following:

(i) Right / wrong — normative ethics

(ii) ~~so~~ applied ethics

implicit — what is ethics?

Is an ethical/moral statement a <u>description of nature?</u> / <u>equivalent of describing reality?</u>
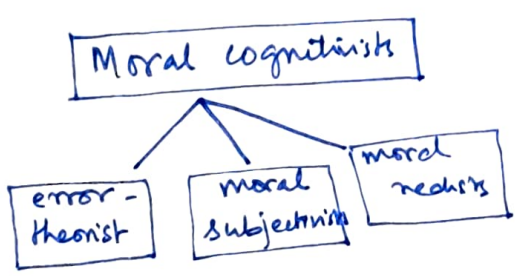
This is <u>contensious</u>

- Some people say <u>yes</u>, moral statements are an attempt to describe reality (can be true or false) → ~~con~~ cognitivists.

- People who believe a moral statement is not an attempt to describe reality & therefore can not ~~have~~ be true or false → non-cognitivist
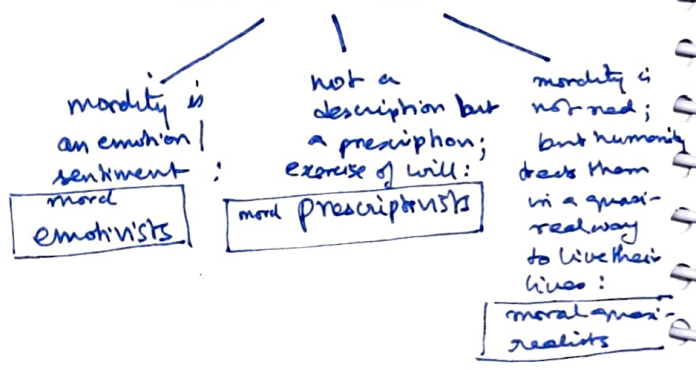
If moral statements can be true or false, is any moral statement true?

People who believe every single moral statement is <u>false</u> → <u>error theorists</u>.

objectively

" " " some moral statements can be true → <u>moral realists</u>

Some believe some moral statements are true in a socio-cultural context

↓

moral subjectivists.

Moral cognitivists

- error-theorist
- moral subjectivism
- moral realists

Moral non-cognitivist

not descriptions hence cannot have a true / false answer

- morality is an emotion/sentiment : moral emotivists

- not a description but a prescription; exercise of will : moral prescriptivists

- morality is not real; but humanity treats them in a quasi-real way to live their lives : moral quasi-realists

Is - ought gap

David Hume: Most moral arguments start w. some logical statement, where does the (ought) come from, i.e., the desire to have some kind of reality come from? Where did the description ~~change~~ change into ~~presup~~ prescription?

How does this translate into the AI world?

In the last 10 years multiple international bodies started thinking about AI ethics.

Companies started future proofing.

The biggest problem w. AI ethics is that it is impossible to enforce.

An error is to think of companies as a monolith.
Everybody in the same company do not have the same motivation.

Project Maven
     └ wanted v.information on every person everywhere.
         comprehensive

       Google employee strike as a result of this
       Project Maven ~~~~ was refused by Google.

Lack of transparency

How ethics get decided is very non transparent.

Beauren of Indian standards — the body works in the international standards ag. to negotiate the standard.
   → members are not elected / selected. These are self replicating bodies.
This is common w. all these bodies. How these bodies are formed is not very transparent.

Issues w. tech ethics:

→ Individualist solutions — one off events are not a solution.

→ Problems are structured in nature.

→ There is a need to create procedures applicable to all, otherwise we will be running after bad usecases.

→ Determinism and solutionism
     ↳ the belief that history is determined by tech.
     there are people who think tech controls how human evolution works.
     If this is the case, then policies would be meaningless.
     This is not true. This is not how it works in history.

Ethics - washing

Deliberate & malicious use of ethical language.

What is a mind?

Dualism: body and mind ~~

   Descartes : Believed that • the mind and the body are separate.

Monism: mind and matter are connected

Idealism:
~~Realism~~ It is not possible to understand the world outside the mind. ⎤ Hegel
      ▪ Reasoning can only happen in the realm of ideas. ⎦ •∵

Materialism: Reality can be known — Marx..

Materialism

→ Behaviourism — Behaviour & the mind are 1:1 connected
      This is a wrong & harmful belief.

→ Physicalism —

→ Token identity theory — Functionalism: black box vs. computer

→ Qualia : subjective conscious experiences
      ↳ internal subjective experiences — no way to know

F/A/T

Debiasing — • At the level of data
           ↓
           the data represents the world in as
           fair a manner as possible.
           Sampling correctly — data should reflect
      • At the model reality.
         level ~~

      • At the output level

Transparency is also called : Why did it gave the result that it gave.
explainability   are
             ~~the attempt~~   Heat maps ∧completely useless to the
                    end user.
~~Procedure~~
    Procedural explanations cannot be conflated w. technical explanation.

↑ Epistemic contestation: Which worldviews should be privileged ?.
↑ Political economic contestation: How money and power is impacted by the technology.