

AI Should Make All Our Decision

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One of areas I'm most interested in is Artificial Intelligence (AI). I believe that AI should make all our decisions—and I think AI can make all our decisions.

Decision Making Process

There's a process to making decision that we just do but probably don't think about.

Should I order pizza or make a salad? Should I go to the gym or start a new season of Peaky Blinders? Do I hire the junior person willing to learn or the experienced person stuck in their ways? Should I move to Austin for the job I really want or stay here for the job I have? And should we invest more in taking care of the sick or in feeding the hungry?

Every time we make a decision to do something, we're also making a decision not to do several other things. Each of those alternatives have tradeoffs that need to be considered. And our choice to go through all those alternatives and tradeoffs is a decision itself.

And you think about it, we're just the consequence of a long sequence of decisions—made by us or other people. Those decisions explain how we got here, who we are, and what our potential is.

Something so important needs a framework (a formula or a model) because frameworks ensure two things: (1) strictly defined rules to ensure consistency in how we make decisions and (2) ways to evaluate and measure the effectiveness and correctness of those decisions.

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Decisions need to be made objectively, otherwise they are hostage to our emotions and biases. For decisions to be made objectively, the rules need to be consistent across the board on every decision.

The outcome of those decisions also needs to be measurable. There are two elements in AI called "modeling" (or "learning") and "reinforcement learning." Learning and reinforcement learning means that we need to have ways to measure the effectiveness and correctness of our decisions.

Of course, an AI can make wrong decisions. But when wrong decisions are always a possibility, what matters is that we can learn from our mistakes and course correct when we need to; AI ensures that.

But when someone casts a vote, how often have you heard them talk about the process that led to their decision? How much transparency is there in the biases and assumptions that went into that decision? And how they plan to measure the effectiveness the decision and the plan to course correct if they decision turned out to be the wrong one.

AI Can Make All Our Decisions

We can develop frameworks to make decisions in every field.

My field, Computer Science, already has these frameworks. We use asymptotic space and time complexity formulas to measure our coding decisions and Service Level Indicators (SLIs), like availability, throughput and response time, to measure our system design decisions.

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I love studying Economics. People think Economics is the study of scarcity but it's really the study of decision making. In a world with scarce (limited) resources (either physical resources or the time we have), what matters is our decisions on what we do with the resources. There are economic models, like the Production Possibilities Frontier Model, that provide an economic value answer to how we should use our time. The Lorenz Curve helps us understand how much of a problem income inequality is so that we can decide how much attention we should spend on the topic. There's a simple economic description of the short- and long-term effects of price controls. Economics, to me, is a discipline entirely focused on finding ways to measure the efficiency of our decisions on resource allocation.

Ethics is why I dove into Philosophy and Value Theory. Did you know philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, and Aquinas actually provided means to measure how ethical ideas are? If we want to decide whether to invest more in taking care of the sick or feeding the hungry purely on an ethical basis, we actually can.

Art used to make so uncomfortable because a framework for deciding what's *good art* and what's *bad art* isn't as obvious. Until I realized that if we decide the purpose of art is to invoke an emotional response, we can measure the emotional response in the ways that it manifests. I think there are objective ways to decide how *good* a piece of art is.