A Case for AI to Make All of Our Decisions

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're probably not thinking 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 something else. For any good decision, those alternatives have tradeoffs that need to be considered.

If 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 provide two things: (1) strictly defined rules to ensure consistency and (2) ways to evaluate and measure the effectiveness and correctness.

AI Should Make All Our Decisions

Decisions need to be made objectively, otherwise they are hostage to our emotions and biases. Two necessary conditions for an objective decision: the rules and processes that led to the decision need to be (1) explicit and (2) consistent. AI ensures that these rules are met.

The outcome(s) of those decisions should also be measurable.

Two elements in AI called "modeling" (or "learning") and "reinforcement learning" make it so that when we develop the AI, we're required to be explicit in what the positive and negative outcomes are and how we plan to measure them.

Of course, an AI can make wrong decisions. But these rules ensure that when wrong decisions are made, we (and of course, the AI) learns from them and course corrects when it needs to. They also encourage us to have more discussions about fundamental principles, which are less susceptible to our emotional biases.

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.

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.