

Utilitarianism

Theorem 0.1

In utilitarianism, an action is good if the benefits exceed its harms, and an action is bad if its harms exceed its benefits

Definition 0.1

Act Utilitarianism is the ethical theory that an action is good if the net effect (over anyone and everyone who is affected) is to produce more happiness than unhappiness

Case For:

- It focuses on happiness
- It is practical
- It is generally comprehensive

Case Against:

- Where to draw line in calculations? How bad is too bad if the end justifies the means?
- Takes a lot of time for each moral calculation
- Ignores innate sense of

Definition 0.2

Rule Utilitarianism is the ethical theory that holds that we ought to adopt those moral rules that, if followed by everyone, lead to the greatest increase in total happiness over all affected parties

A rule utilitarian chooses to follow a moral rule because its universal adoption would result in the greatest net increase in happiness. This differs from kantianism because a rule utilitarian is still concerned with the consequences and not the motive.

Case For:

- Not every moral decision requires performing utilitarian calculus
- Exceptional situations don't overthrow moral rules
- Reduces problem of **bias**(?)
 - idk what this means

Case Against:

- It forces us to use a single scale or measure to evaluate completely different kinds of consequences
- It ignores the problem of an unjust distribution of good consequences