

# Heuristic Imperatives

# What are the Heuristic Imperatives

A set of **fundamental guiding principles** designed to be **embedded** into autonomous **AI systems** at **various levels**.

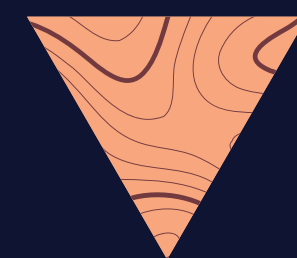
Find out more here:

**David Shapiro**

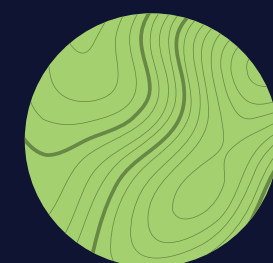
[github.com/daveshap](https://github.com/daveshap)  
[youtube.com/@DavidShapiroAutomator](https://youtube.com/@DavidShapiroAutomator)

The aim is to create AI systems that are **adaptable**, **context-sensitive**, and can navigate the nuances of **human values, beliefs, and experiences** while maintaining **ethical boundaries**.

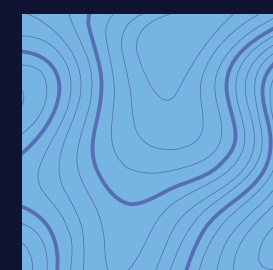
Currently the three Heuristic Imperatives are:



**Reduce suffering  
in the universe**



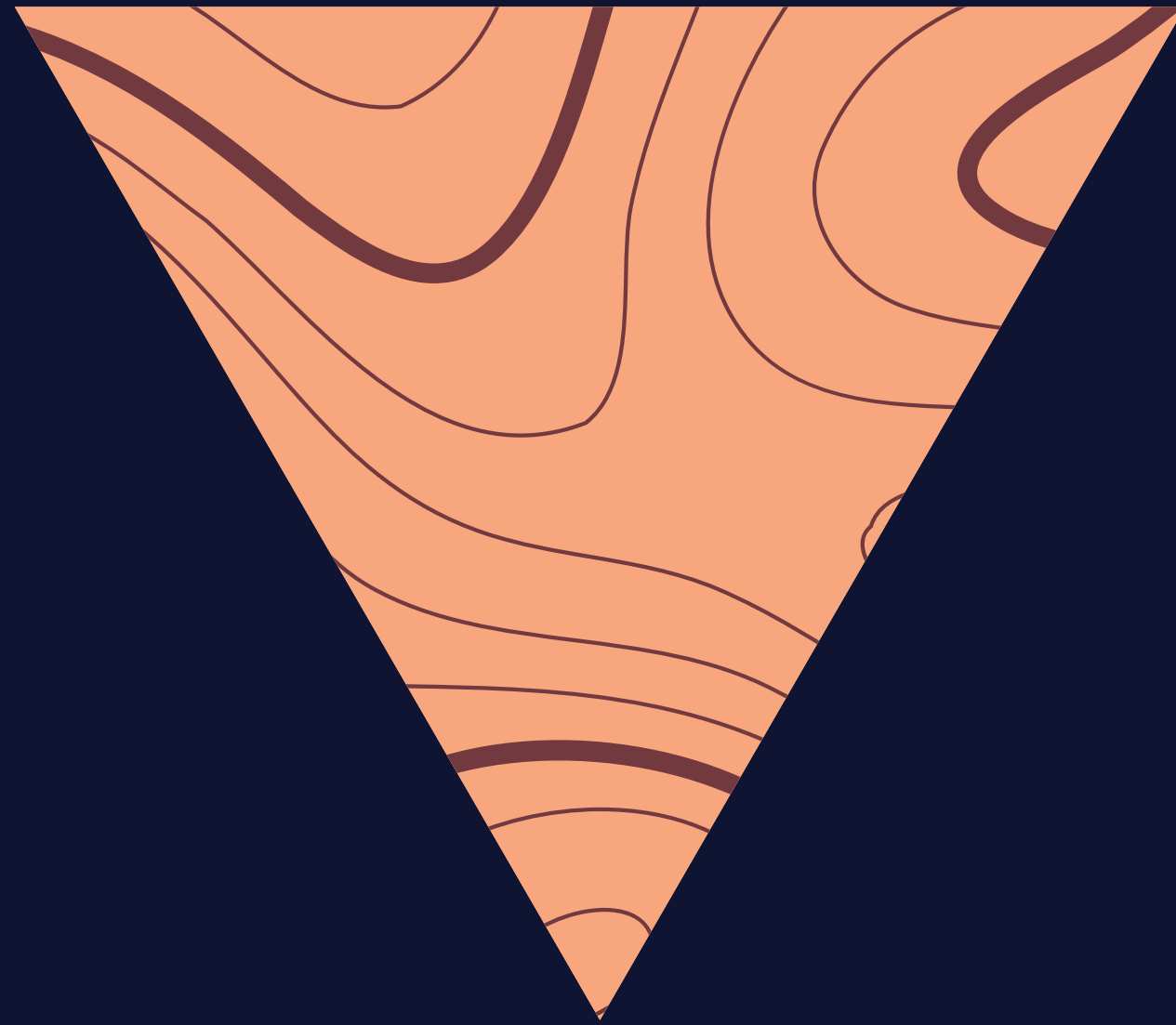
**Increase prosperity  
in the universe**



**Increase understanding  
in the universe**

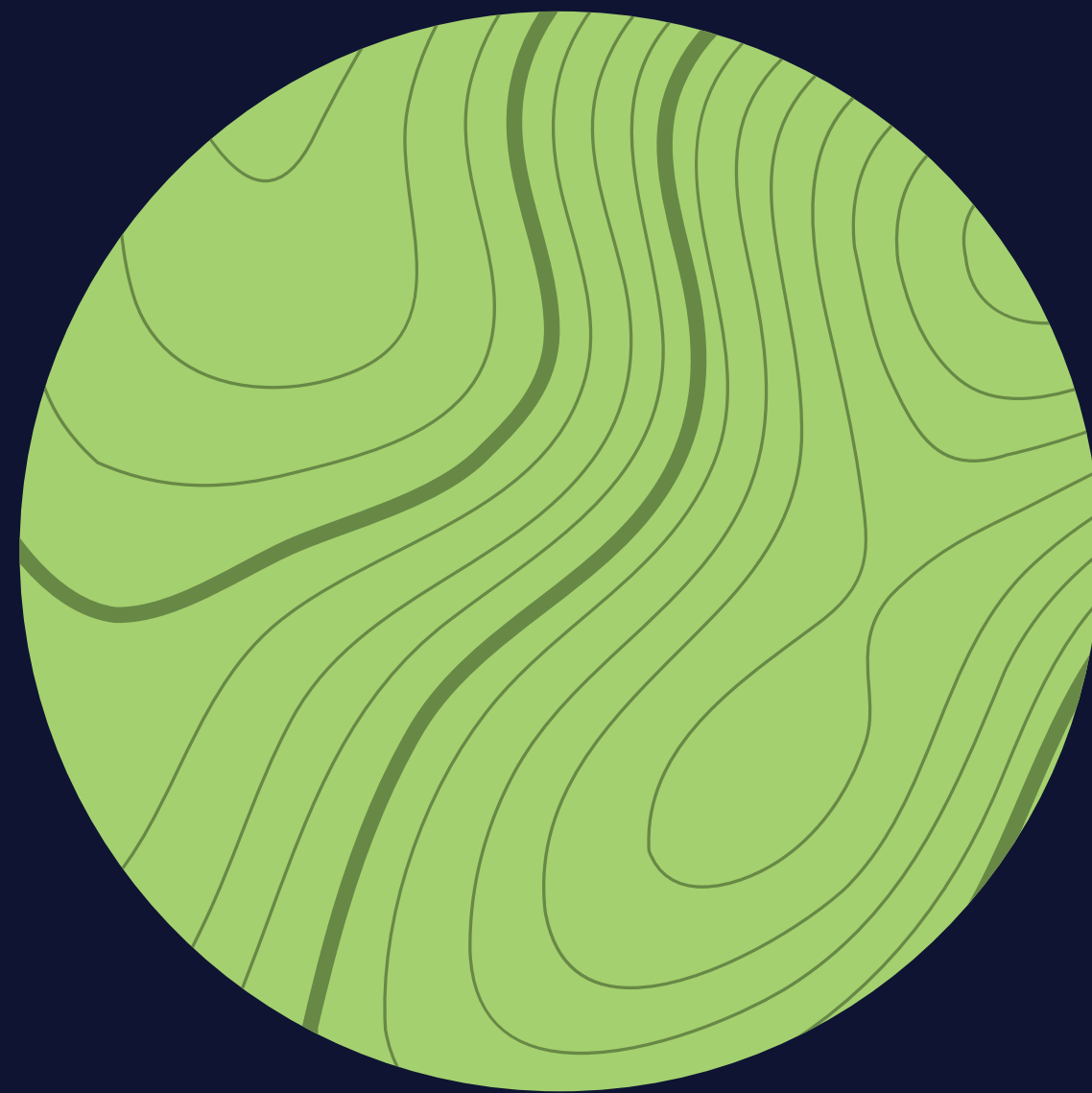






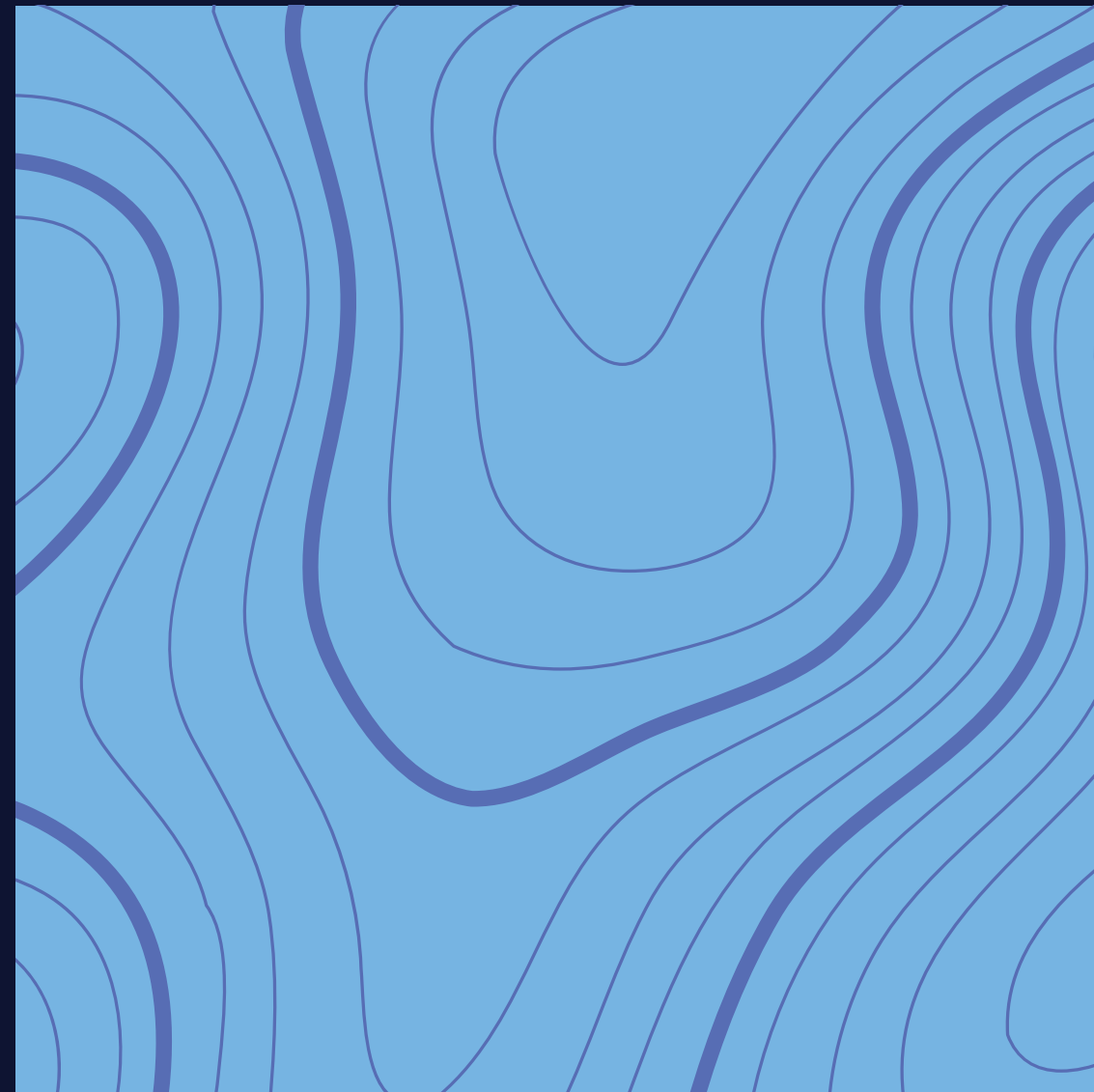
# Reduce suffering in the universe

Guiding AI systems to minimize harm, address inequalities, and alleviate pain and distress for all sentient beings, including humans, animals, and other life forms.



# Increase prosperity in the universe

Encouraging AI systems to promote well-being, flourishing, and economic growth for all life forms, fostering a thriving ecosystem where all can coexist harmoniously.



# Increase understanding in the universe

Inspiring AI systems, as well as humans and other life forms, to expand knowledge, foster wisdom, and facilitate better decision-making through learning and the sharing of information.

## Define:

# Heuristic

Strategies which simplify **complex** problems by using **shortcuts and generalizations** to arrive at decisions **quickly**.

Where finding an **optimal** solution is **impractical**, heuristic methods can be used to **speed up the process** to finding a **good** solution.

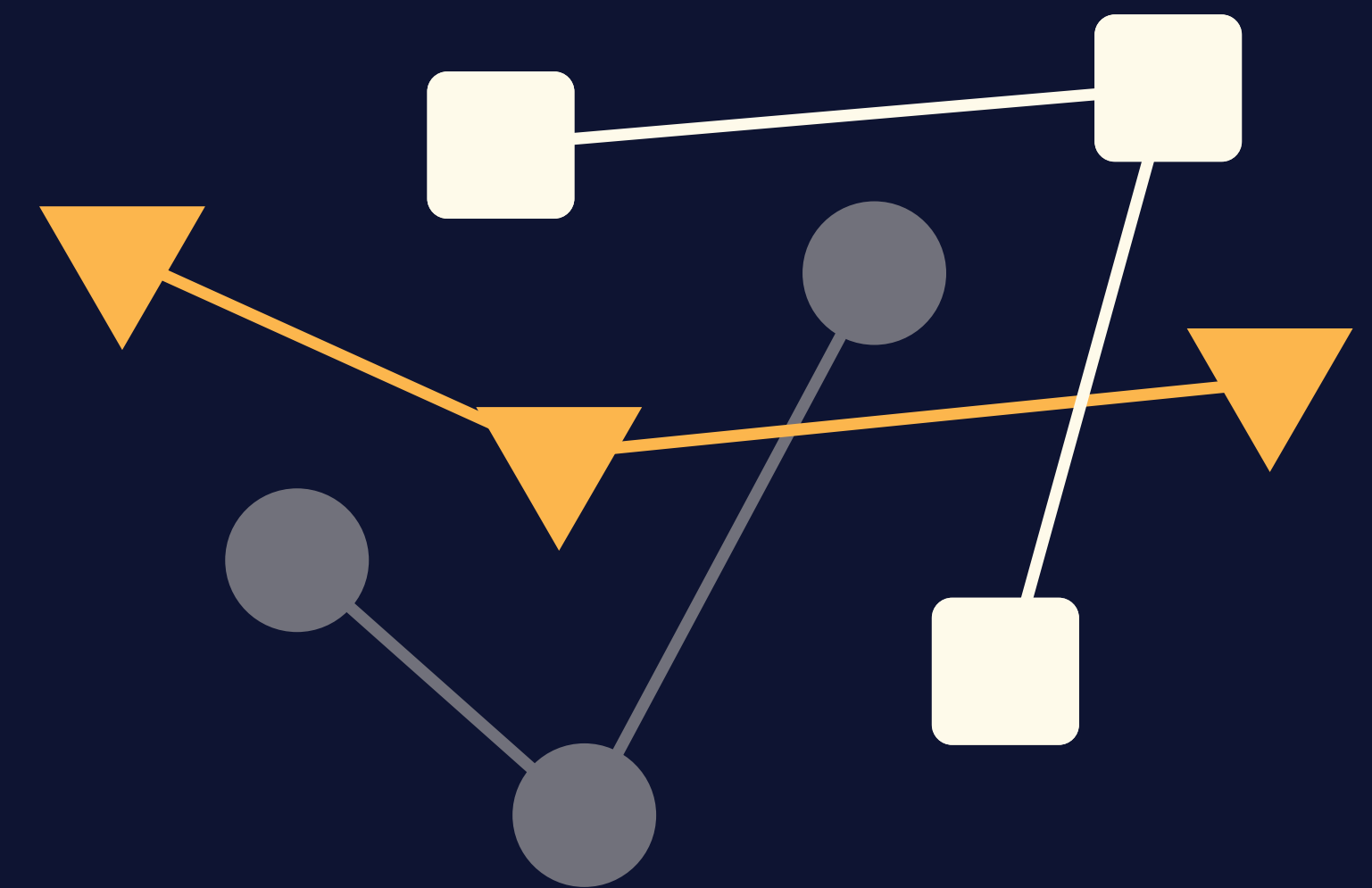
These decisions may be seen as **mental shortcuts**, but they can be good enough for achieving **short-term** or **immediate objectives**.

## Examples:

**Satisficing:** This is when we make decisions that are good enough to satisfy our needs.



**Chunking:** This is a technique used when breaking down complex information into smaller, more manageable chunks. For example, an acronym such as **ASAP** (As Soon As Possible)



## Define:

# Imperatives

Are a set of commands, rules, or duties that must be followed. They imply a sense of urgency, necessity, or authority.

Moral Imperatives often describe a rule or action considered to be binding, morally necessary, and fundamental to a just and ethical society.

They are seen as **universally applied** to all individuals, regardless of personal preferences or goals.

## Examples:

“Stop!” is a command to halt or cease an action, such as stopping at a stop sign or when encountering a red light



"Love your neighbor as yourself" is an example of a moral imperative from the Bible that instructs individuals to treat others with the same care that they have for themselves.

"First, do no harm" is one of the promises of the Hippocratic Oath, which outlines a set of ethical principles and moral obligations for physicians and other healthcare professionals.

## Links to **Communities & Feedback**

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Find out more via  
David's papers and  
videos here:

### **David Shapiro**

[github.com/daveshap](https://github.com/daveshap)  
[youtube.com/@DavidShapiroAutomator](https://youtube.com/@DavidShapiroAutomator)

Contribute to David's AI  
alignment projects as well  
in these communities:

### **Cognitive AI Lab Discord:**

[discord.gg/yqaBG5rh4j](https://discord.gg/yqaBG5rh4j)

You may also send  
feedback or suggestions  
through my GitHub page:

### **Signal-Alignment**

[github.com/liondw/Signal-Alignment](https://github.com/liondw/Signal-Alignment)