

ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS: CONSEQUENTIALISM

NORMATIVE ETHICAL THEORY

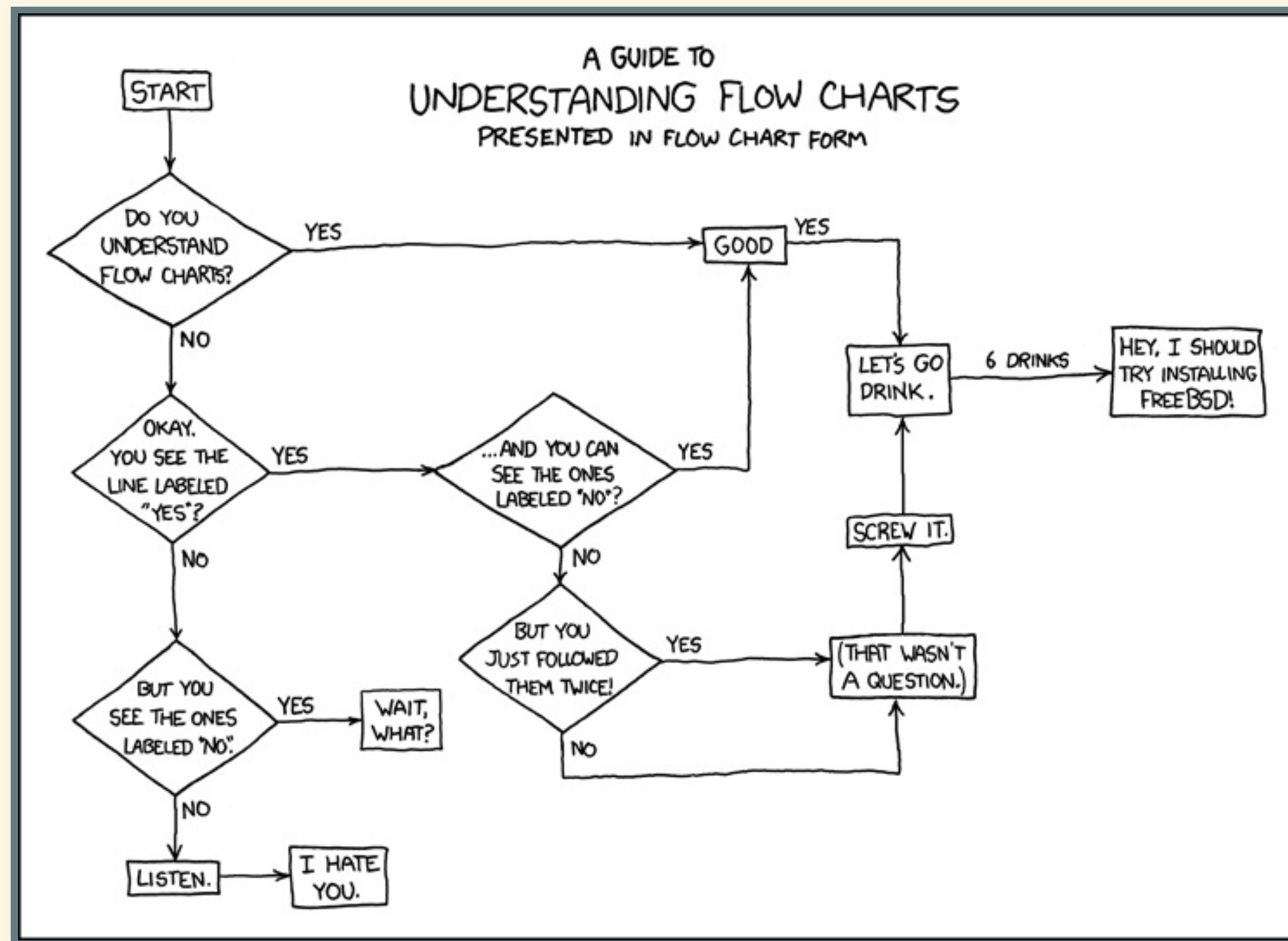
- Normative ethics provides answers to normative questions (questions about how one *ought* to act)
 - Is it bad to lie?
 - Is it wrong to steal?
 - What should I do?
 - What is good/bad for me or others to do?
 - What is im/permissible for me or others to do?

Normative Theory

A theoretical framework for answering normative questions that articulates (the) general principles concerning moral evaluation

DECISION PROCEDURE

- A decision procedure articulates a set of necessary and sufficient rules by which one decides what to do



EXPLANATORY THEORY

- Articulates criteria that specify **why** an act or state of affairs is good or right

CONSEQUENTIALISM

- Whether an act is morally right **exclusively depends** on the consequences of that act

UTILITARIANISM

Two components of utilitarianism:

- Act Consequentialism
- Hedonism

ACT CONSEQUENTIALISM

- An act is morally right if and only if that act maximizes the good
 - An act is good just in case the total amount of good for all minus the total amount of bad for all is greater than the net amount brought about by any other act available to the agent on that occasion

HEDONISM

- Pleasure is the only intrinsic good and pain is the only intrinsic bad

UTILITARIANISM IN ACTION

- Sample cases
 - Lying
 - Animal treatment

PROBLEMS FOR UTILITARIANISM

- Four potential problems
 - Ignores the seperateness of persons
 - "Utility monsters"
 - Self-effacing
 - Overly demanding

