Can We Engineer Car That Doesn’t Kill

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I believe the question of Can we engineer car that doesn’t kill should be asked in a different way for better understanding. This question should be break down into two layers, one is the physical functionality of the car, the other layer is at the moral standard level. Thus if I answer the question, I would say yes to the first question. In other words. Yes, we can engineer a car that is equipped with a variety of sensors, pedestrian detection, and imagine recognition; and that car is capable of not killing anyone. While on the other hand, the control system of the car needs to prioritize and it has to.have priority and values for making actions. Let me further explain.

Thousands of brilliant scientists will, within decades, develop a impeccable automobile safety system that will prevent any casualty. In recent years, we have seen few examples of autopilot failure causing the death of pilots. For example, in 2016, a Tesla model S followed a not well-defined white line ending with crash into barrels. This is a great example showing that the “killing” is done by blindly following the poor written code; a result of a terrible algorithm. Thus, just like any developing system, there’re ways to improve and be perfect at any conditions. We have considered the conditions when the brakes fail, gas pedal fail, and sensors fail. But I strongly doubt that this kind of failure will pass examination and will be allowed for legally driving.

While, many people ask that if the car was in a lethal accident, would you prefer for it to kill one innocent bystander or five? That shouldn’t be a question if the car is safe enough. Cars will be constantly making decisions that redistribute risk away from some people and towards others.