Using your tech career to do good
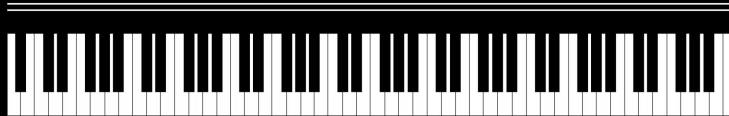
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About Me
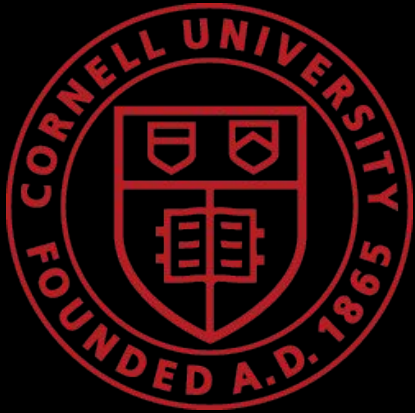
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU

THAT YOUR SOFTWARE COVER
LETTER WILL STAND OUT IF
YOU WRITE ABOUT AN ETHICAL GOAL

Topics

- Tech job search

- Personal fit

- Planning for an impactful career

Tech job search

- What worked?

  - 2 Projects: Full Stack App, Pure JS + Data Vis

  - Resume review & ATS optimization (test w/ jobscan)

  - LinkedIn, LinkedIn, LinkedIn

  - Weekly application quota, tracking

  - Mock interviews

  - Networking (meetup.com)

  - "What will this company remember about me?"

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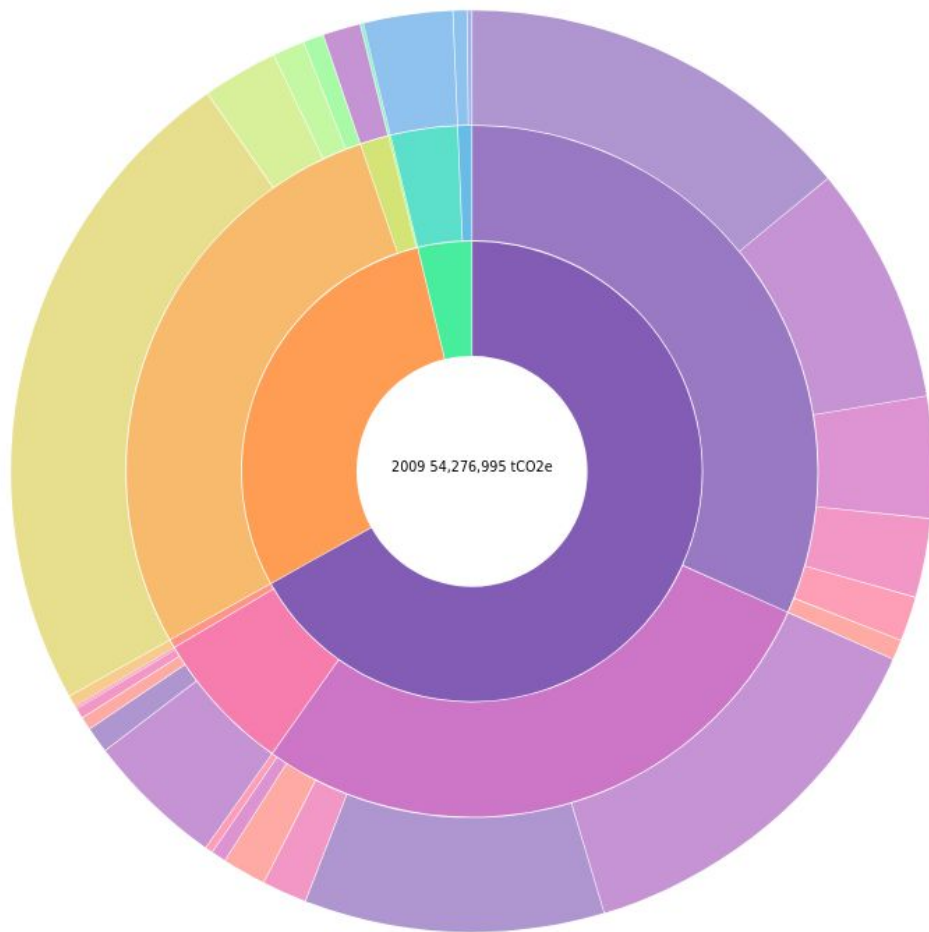
Personal fit

- Take the time to think about your personality type
  - Do you enjoy working with people?
  - Technical track vs. other tracks
  - Startup vs. big company
  - Nonprofit vs private sector

Planning for an impactful career

- Goals:
    i. Your career solves problems in a way that is consistent with your ethics/morality
    ii. Your career is sustainable for you in terms of mental/physical health, engagement, and balance
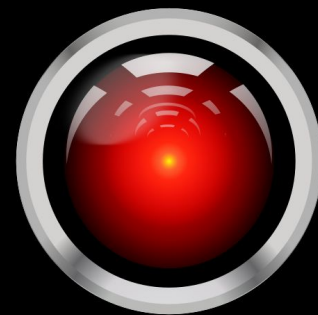
Planning for an impactful career (cont'd)

Planning for an impactful career (cont'd)

Positive Impact?

Planning for an impactful career (cont'd)

- One framework for thinking about career impact: Effective Altruism

  - How can we use our resources to help others the most?

  - Focus on evidence & analysis

  - Some specific problems are extremely pressing, solvable, and relatively neglected

  - Donating to highly impactful charities is a great way to have a positive impact! And not the only way!

Example: How many lives saved?

- Based on a thought exercise in *Doing Good Better* by Will McCaskill
- These are only estimates based on a 40 year career, average salary across disciplines/time, $3,400 per life saved by Against Malaria Foundation
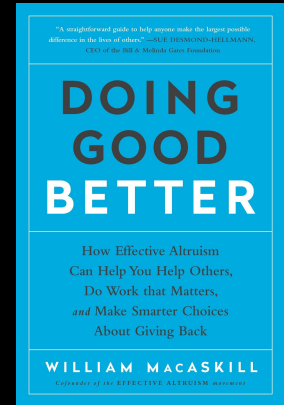
Doctor in United States	~ 2 - 4 lives saved directly
Doctor in Uganda	~ 300 lives saved directly
Doctor in United States donating $100,000/yr to Against Malaria Foundation (conservatively assumes $3,400 per life saved)	~ 1,176 lives saved via donations + ~ 2-4 lives saved directly
You??? (Software Engineer donating $10,000 per year to Against Malaria Foundation)	117 Lives!

Planning for an impactful career (cont'd)

Problems specific to Tech industry

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Destructive Incentives of Social Media

- Unethical uses of AI/ML

- Energy consumption of cryptocurrencies

- Defense/surveillance contracting
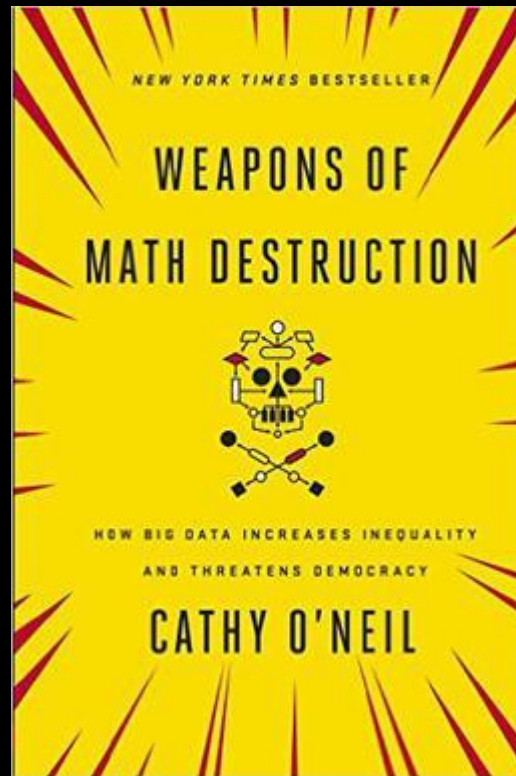
Action Items

1) Stand out in the job search by focusing on ethics and problem-solving
2) Consider personal fit in job applications/interviews/offers
3) Make a short-term plan for impact

Impact Plan Ideas

- Donate to effective charities or invest in mission-driven startups
- Directly work for a nonprofit specific to your problem area
- Directly work for a mission-driven startup specific to your problem area
- Use your influence at your job to solve or draw attention to issues specific to Tech
- Apply to jobs that fit your ethical standards

Thank You!

Resources:

https://github.com/patrickdlandy/tech-career-resources-for-good

(Shortened: https://bit.ly/39ppAZX)