L4.1 – Ethical Analysis – Part 2

CS 230 : Ethical Issues in Computing
Fall 2020
Dr. Henderson
BSU

Announcements

- LA-2 due today at midnight
- LA-3 due next Tuesday at midnight
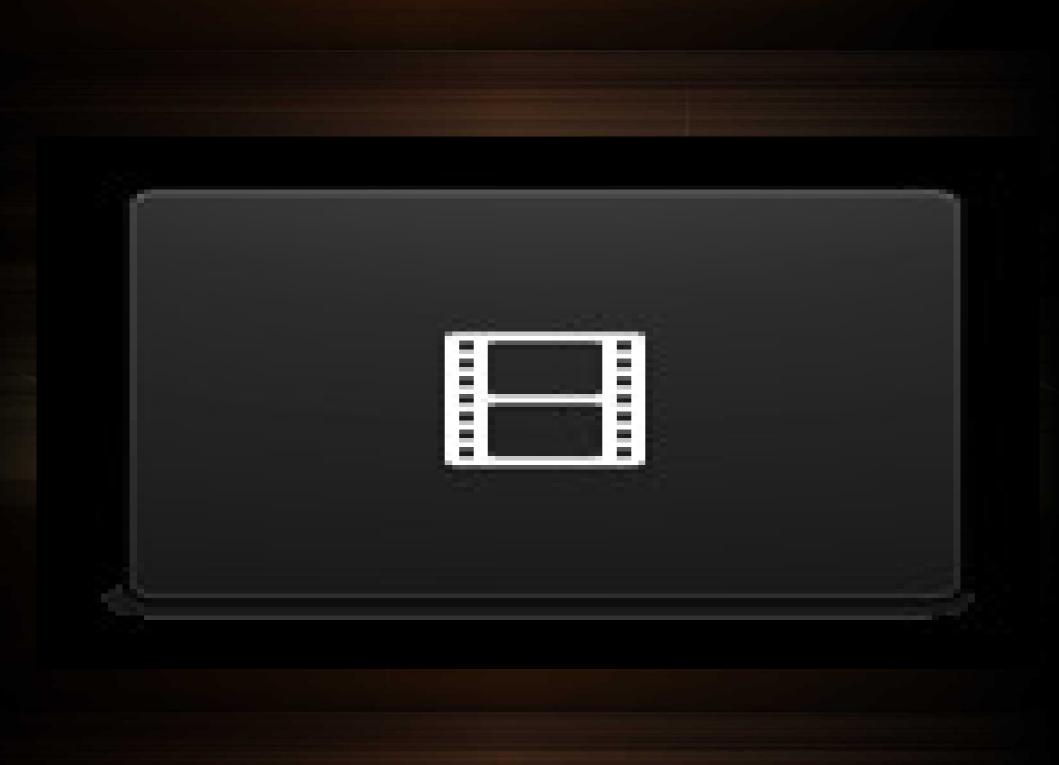- LA-1 retakes and resubs
- Moral luck
- Relativism

Last Time

- Comparing Ethical Theories
  - Objective Theories (~~Relativism~~)
  - Rational Theories (~~Divine Command~~)
  - Ethical Point of View (~~Egoism~~)
- Jedi Council
  - Best Theories
    1) Virtue Ethics
    2) Kantianism
    3) Rule Utilitarianism
  - Luke and Leia
    - Virtue vs. Act Utilitarianism

Today

- Jedi Council
  - 3 Issues
  - Breakout Room Protocol
    - Quicksort according to provided rule
    - Each person assigned theory based on order
      1) Kantianism
      2) Act Utilitarianism
      3) Rule Utilitarianism
      4) Social Contract Theory
      5) Virtue Ethics
- For each theory attempt analysis (group helps)
- Group votes on final answer

Issue 1: Dark Knight Ferries

- Sort: Alphabetical of reverse of first name

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- Sort: Alphabetical of reverse of first name
- What is the ethical action for those on the ferries?

Issue 2:Emissions Test

- Sort: Sibling index (oldest/only = 1); break ties with sibling count then first name alphabetical

  - You are a firmware developer for a major automotive manufacturer

  - Prototypes of your next generation car are failing a required regulatory emissions test in a major marketplace

  - Production of last year's model has ceased and the assembly lines of last year's model are being converted to the next generation model

  - A simple, creative firmware change will enable the next generation model to pass the test but will not reduce the underlying emissions unless the engine is running at 2000+ RPM while the car is stationary

  - Your company will lose many millions of dollars if the car doesn't pass

  - The root cause is the cost-effective design of the emission system

  - Many jobs will be lost if the car doesn't pass

  - Air Quality in the world's major cities will suffer if you "fix" the problem.

  - Your manager suggests you "fix" the problem. What will you do?

Issue 3 : SAFEHOME

- Sort: Alphabetical by birth city name; break ties by birth month
  - You are hired by a medical company to work on data analytics
  - The company uses data from smartphones and smartwatches to track medical markers
  - After working at the company for awhile you learn they have signed a contract with the government
  - They will apply their technology to monitor mentally ill patients
  - The algorithm will detect when mentally ill patients are about to turn violent
  - There is potential to prevent mass-shootings
  - The technology is unproven and not 100% accurate
  - Is it ethical for the company? Is it ethical for you?