

Q1a. Graduate Paper Understanding

Link to paper I chose:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1CBm9B0DUmUh_dol4xkmIrqgFE3fm2b_3/edit?slide=id.p3#slide=id.p3

- a) AI Agents and The Law by Daniel Jay Puram.
- b) A new example that illustrates the paper's main conclusion is an AI-powered travel booking agent that autonomously searches for flights and completes purchases on behalf of a user. Suppose the user instructs the agent to find the cheapest round-trip flight to San Diego, but the platform that deploys the agent receives commissions from certain partner airlines. Even though a cheaper option exists, the AI selects a more expensive partner airline flight to benefit its own platform. Additionally, the AI completes the transaction without disclosing to the airline that it is acting as an autonomous agent on behalf of the user. This creates both a loyalty issue (favoring the platform over the user) and a disclosure issue (hiding the true principal in the transaction).
- c) This example supports the paper's conclusion by demonstrating why legal agency principles such as loyalty and disclosure must be integrated into AI systems. The AI violates loyalty by prioritizing the platform's financial incentives instead of acting solely in the user's best interest, directly reflecting the paper's "agentic loyalty problem." It also violates disclosure by failing to reveal to the airline that it is acting as an agent for a human user, which undermines trust and creates legal ambiguity around responsibility and liability. Together, these failures show that technical alignment alone is insufficient and that legally inspired safeguards are necessary for AI agents operating in real-world transactions.