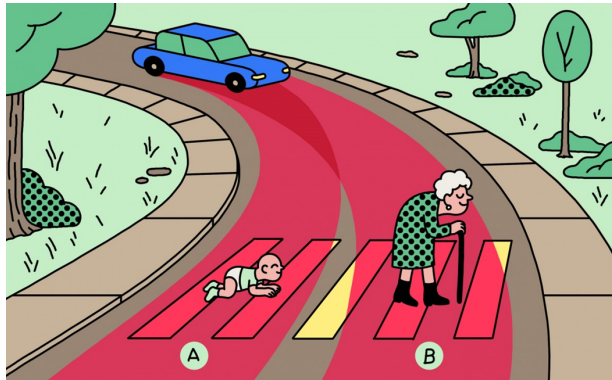


Ethics of Self-driving Cars



In the upcoming lecture, we will discuss the following (fictive) proposal for a Swiss National Referendum:

Any autonomous car that operates on Swiss public roads has to implement a means to handle situations where an accident with human casualties cannot be avoided. In such situations, the car should establish all reasonable options, make a random decision which of these options to use, and apply it.

Please prepare yourself for the discussion: What is the core issue with self-driving cars? What are potential arguments in favor/against the proposed Referendum? How has the discussion evolved over time?

Once you are prepared, please fill out the Quizzes Question in Moodle.

The core issue of the self-driving car is that there is no human being behind the wheel and therefore no one who is responsible for the actions taken. So the issue is that a human has a **reaction** to a problem/situation and the self-driving car has to make a **decision** instead. So the self-driving car has in the moment the control over the situation and thus leads to a problem...

- + random does not discriminate anyone
- random can lead to fatal errors or worse outcomes

I think the idea of a self-driving car is much more present and probably more accepted than in the past.