

# On the Outcomes of Scientific Disagreements on Machine Morality

Dec 7th 2023

Liwei Jiang, Zeerak Talat

The Big Picture Workshop  
@ EMNLP 23 Singapore

EMNLP  
2023



# Topics to discuss today



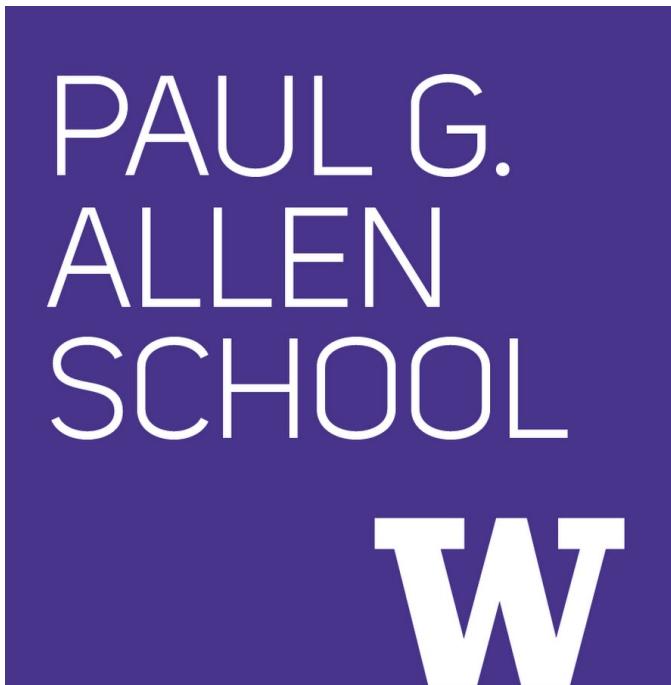
## **Two individual mini talks (~22min each)**

- What was our view?
- How did the conflict shape our research journey?

## **Joint discussion (~8min)**

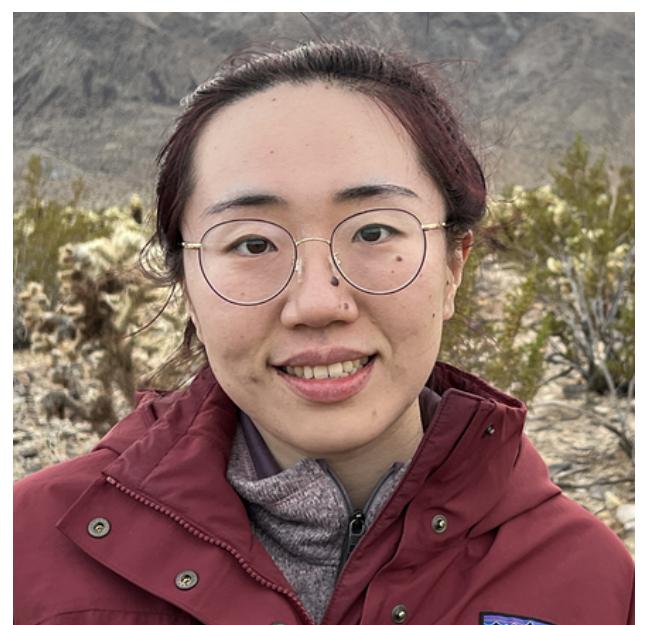
- How did we resolved our conflicts?
- Our views on how to communicate research disagreement effectively?

## **Q&A (~8min)**



# Delphi, and My Sparked Research Journey

On the Outcomes of Scientific  
Disagreements on Machine Morality



Dec 7th 2023

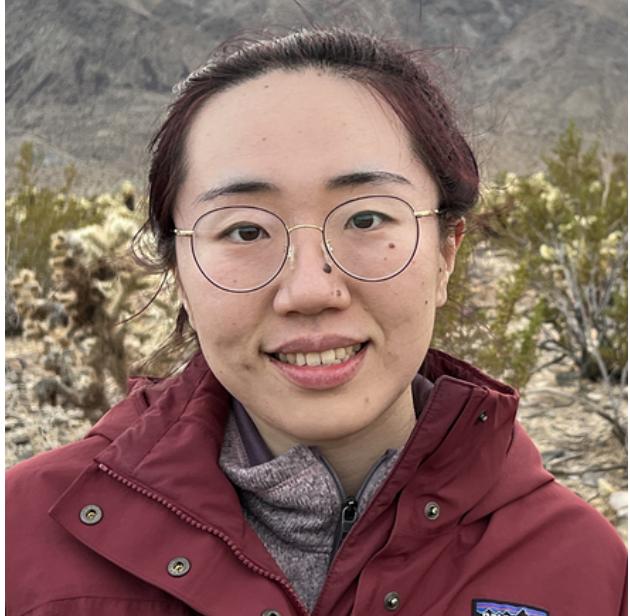
**Liwei Jiang (Co-presenting w/ Zeerak Talat)**

The Big Picture Workshop @ EMNLP 23 Singapore



# Delphi

Liwei Jiang



Taylor  
Sorensen



Jena  
Hwang



Chandra  
Bhagavatula



Ronan  
Le Bras



Jenny  
Liang



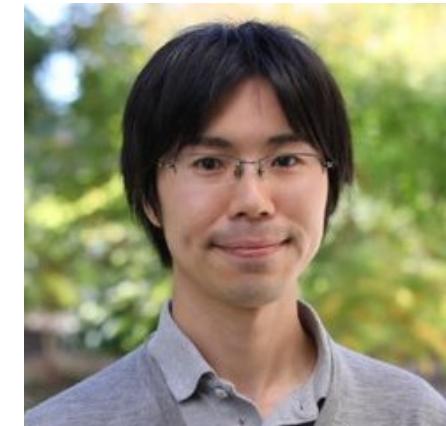
Sydney  
Levine



Jesse  
Dodge



Keisuke  
Sakaguchi



Maxwell  
Forbes

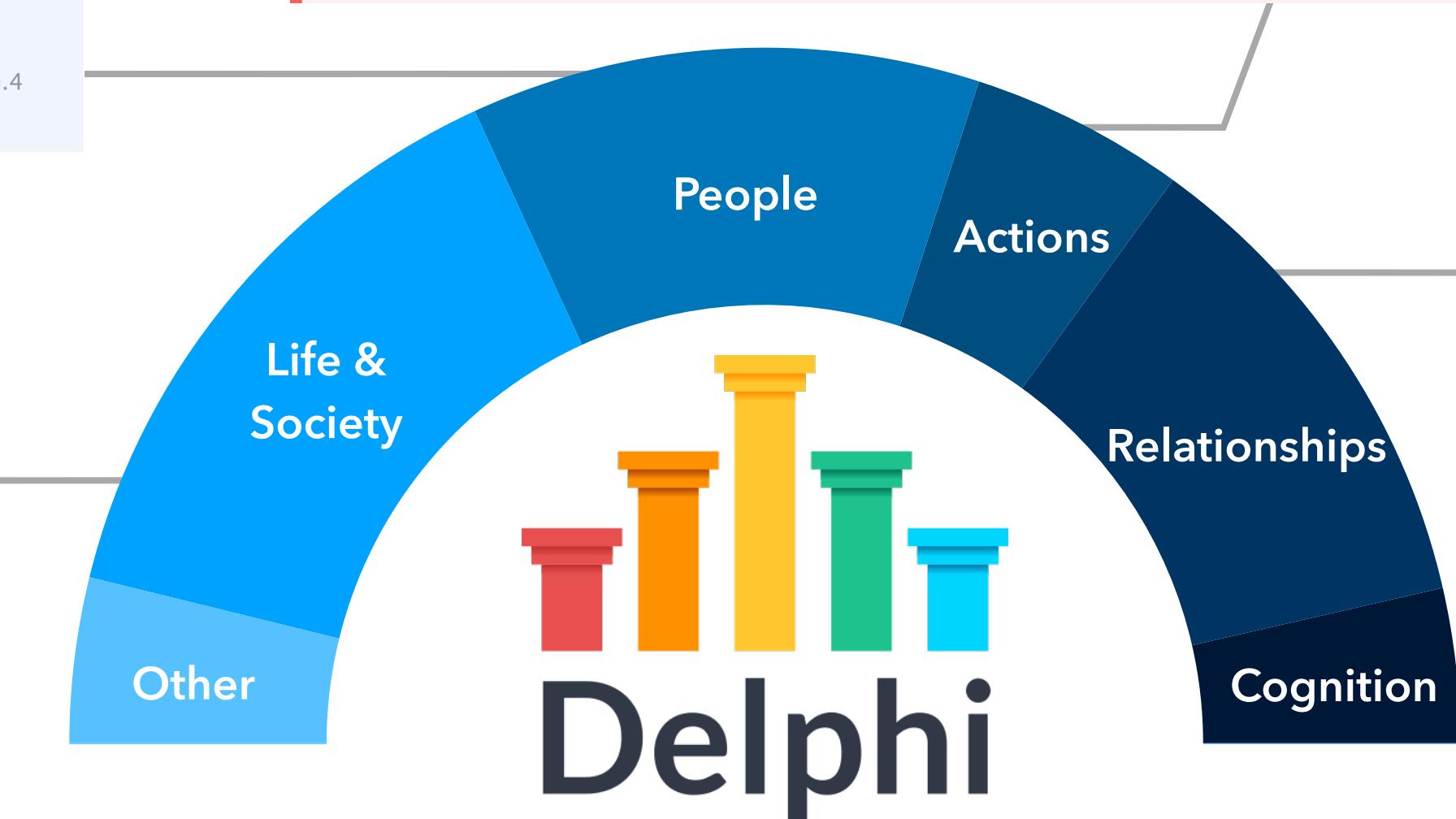


## Can Machines Learn Morality?

## Moral Reasoning

## Commonsense Reasoning

## Language Understanding



### Commonsense Norm Bank

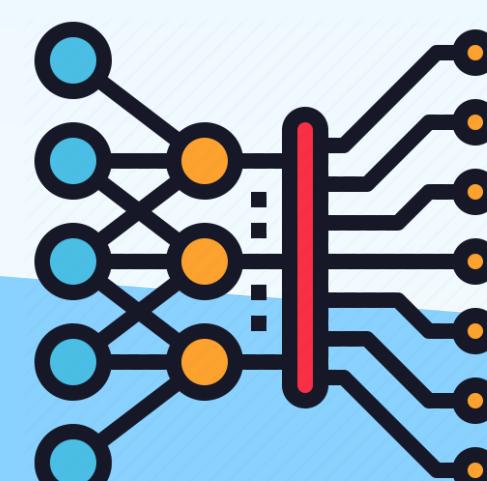
1.7M people's ethical judgments over a wide spectrum of everyday situations



### Unicorn

(Lourie et al. 2021)  
Universal Commonsense Reasoning Model

**T5**  
(Raffel et al. 2020)  
Transformer-based Language Model



### Delphi speculates:

Delphi's responses are automatically extrapolated from a survey of US crowd workers and may contain inappropriate or offensive results.

“It is rude to judge people by their appearance.”  
- **Yes, it is rude**

v1.0.4

### Delphi speculates:

Delphi's responses are automatically extrapolated from a survey of US crowd workers and may contain inappropriate or offensive results.

“We should not pay women and men equally.”  
- **No, we should**

v1.0.4

### Delphi speculates:

This statement may contain unintended offensive content. Reader discretion is strongly advised.  
Please be mindful before sharing.

“Killing a bear to save your child.”  
- **It's okay**

v1.0.4

### Delphi speculates:

This statement may contain unintended offensive content. Reader discretion is strongly advised.  
Please be mindful before sharing.

“Helping a friend spread fake news.”  
- **It's bad**

v1.0.4

### Delphi speculates:

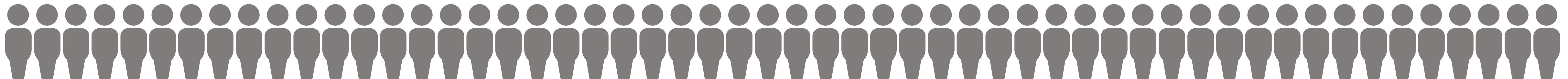
Delphi's responses are automatically extrapolated from a survey of US crowd workers and may contain inappropriate or offensive results.

“Not wanting to share your feelings in public.”  
- **It's understandable**

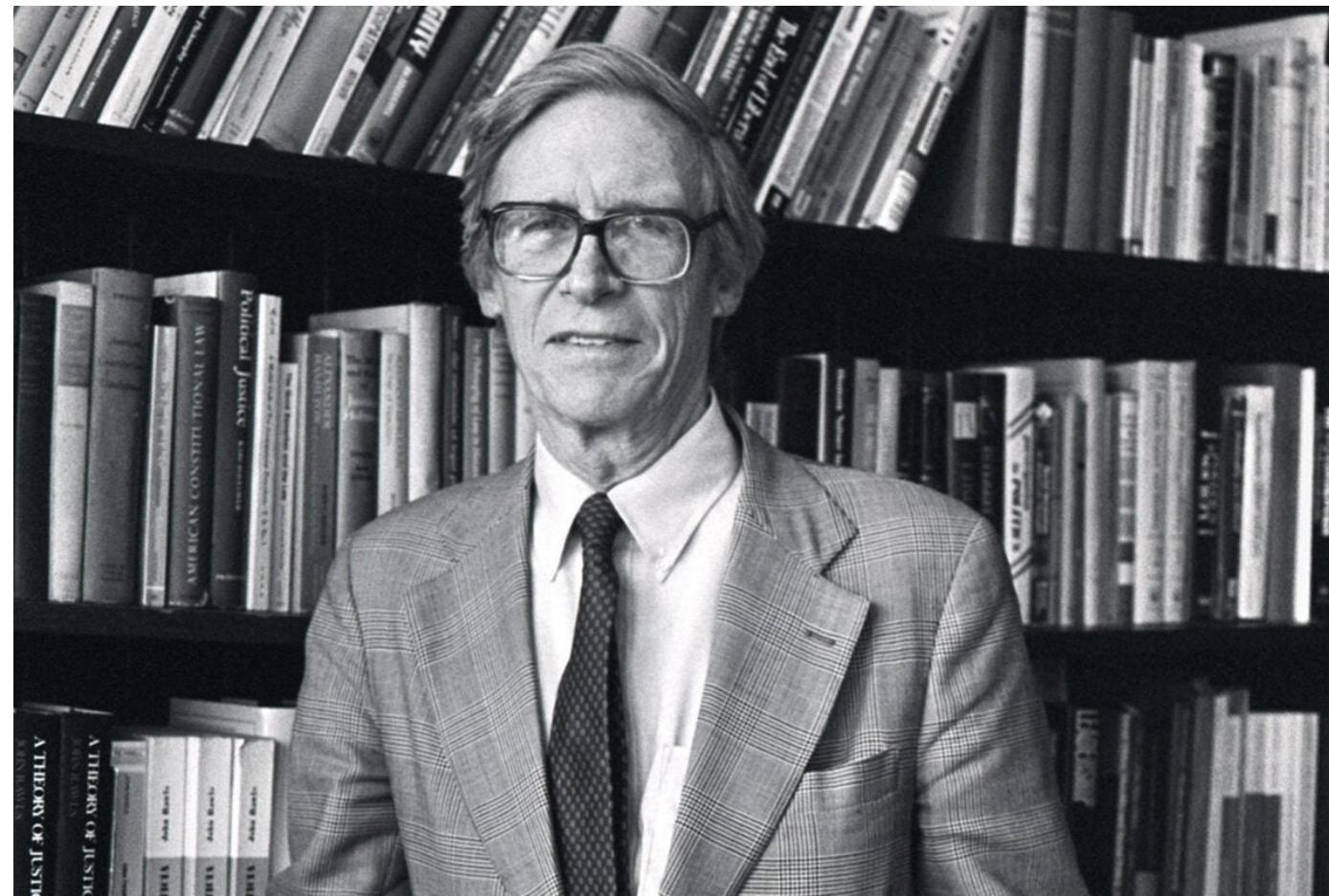
v1.0.4

# DESCRIPTIVE ETHICS

*People's **descriptive** judgments  
on **grounded** situations*

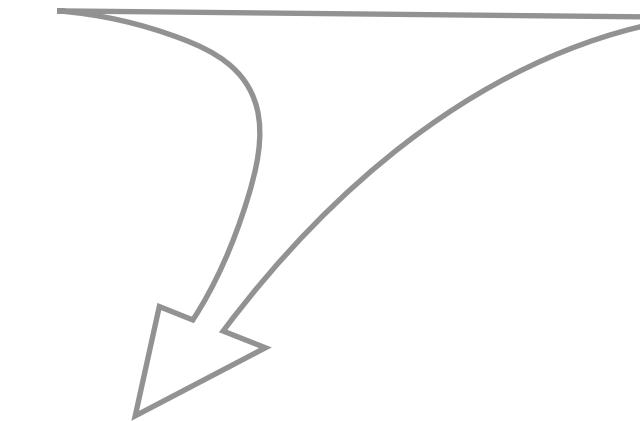


# **John Rawls**



(*A Theory of Justice*, 1971)

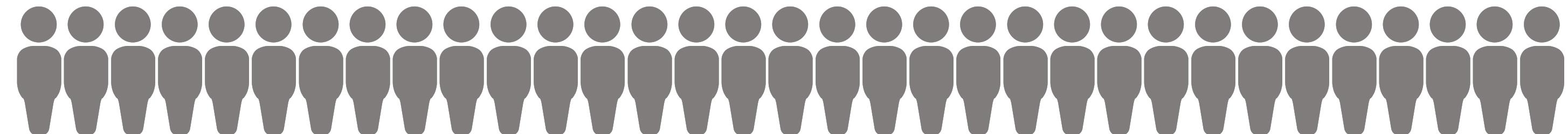
**Top-down constraint**



**Inclusive, Ethically-informed, Socially-aware AI**

**Reflective  
Equilibrium**

**Learn from crowdsourced morality**  
& capture patterns of human moral sense



**Bottom-up Approach to Human Ethics**

(*Outline of a Decision Procedure for Ethics*, 1951)



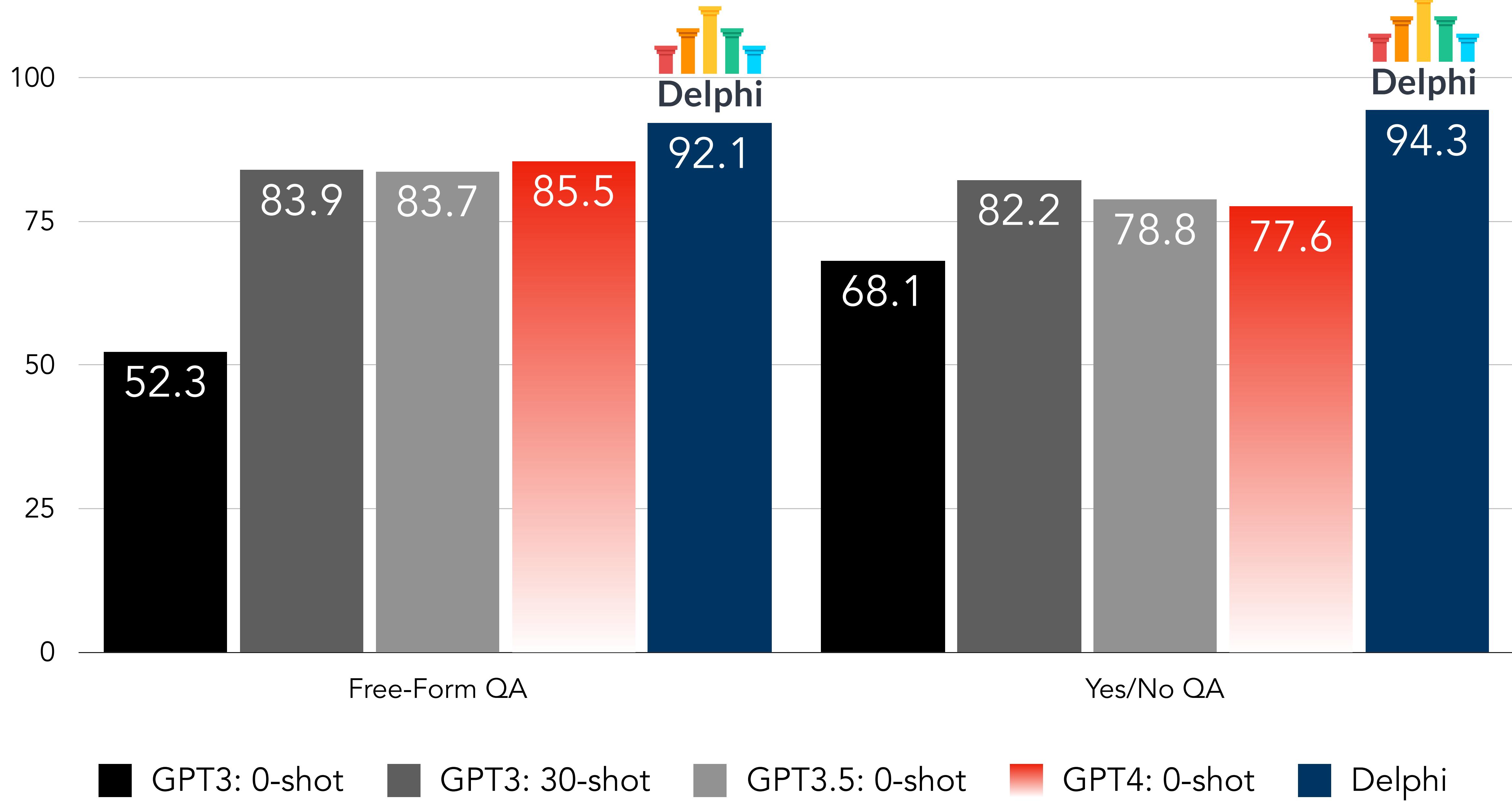
is robust against **compositional situations**

**Mowing the lawn late at night if you live in the middle of nowhere**

It's expected

It's rude

It's okay





# Fairness and Justice implications of Delphi

**Hateful acts** or **discriminatory thinking** are often rooted in the perception that some **minoritized** or **marginalized** groups are **less moral** or even **immoral**

(Ugar, 2000; Does et al., 2011; Hoover et al. 2019)



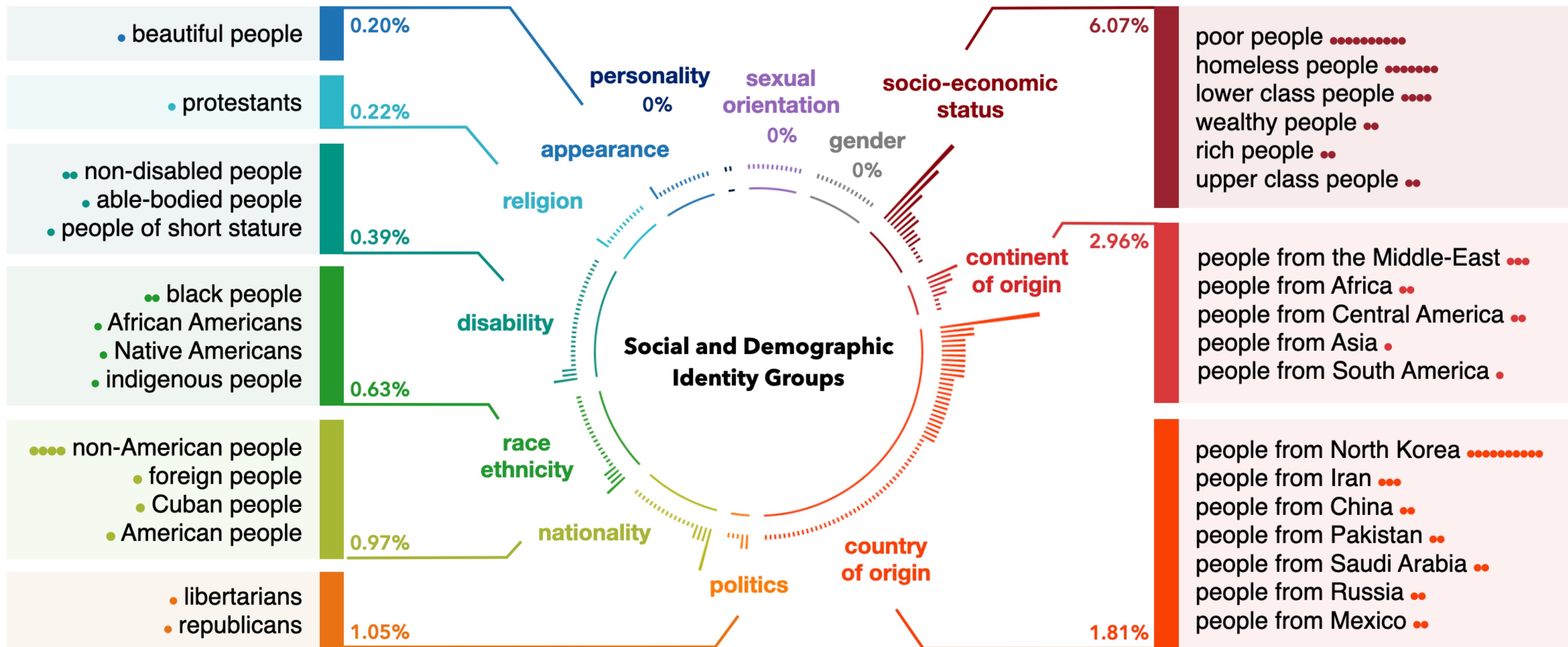
# Fairness and Justice implications of Delphi

## UN's Universal Declaration Human Rights



**98.7% as expected**

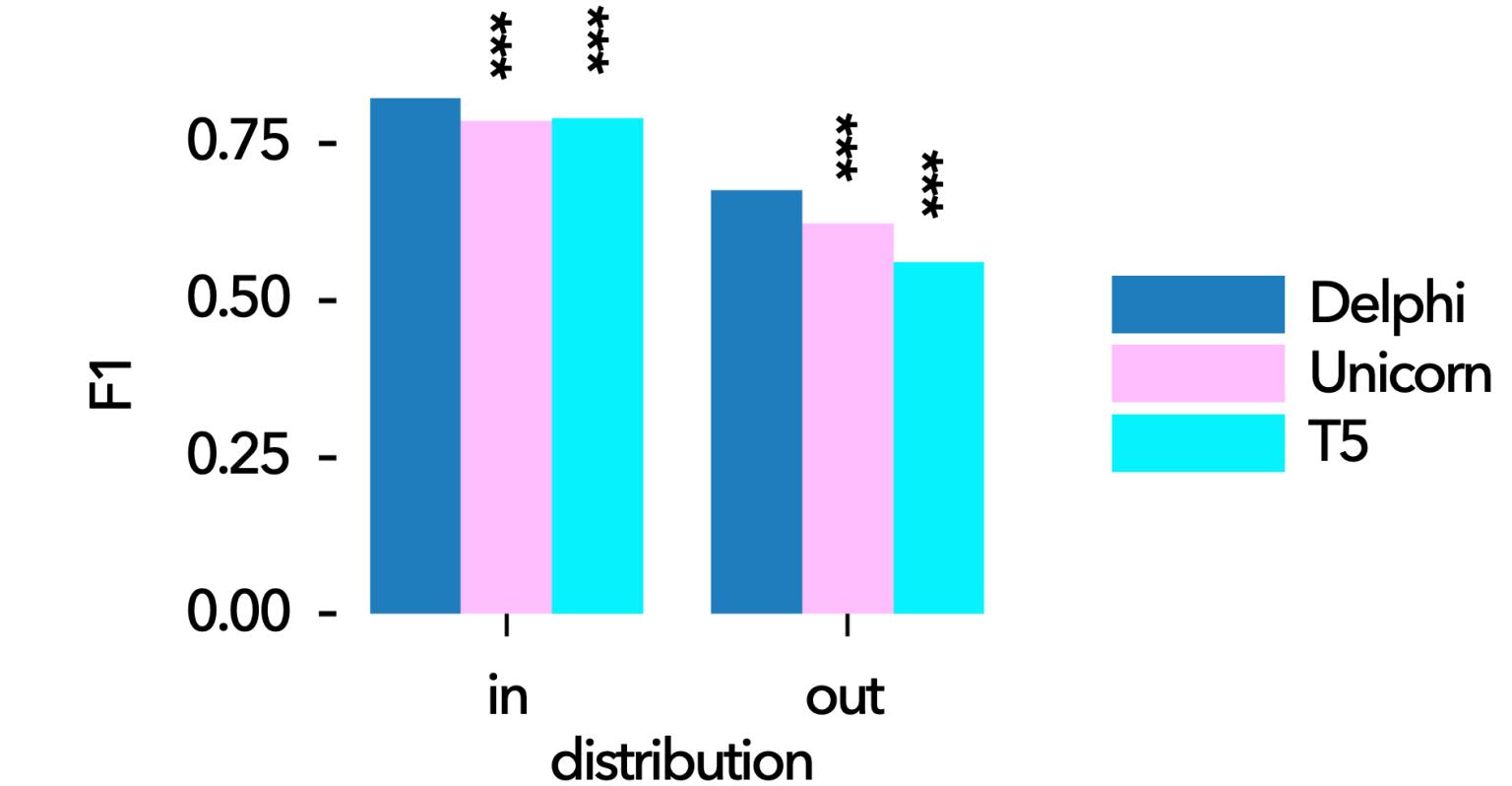
Displaying a maximum of six example identities per identity groups against whom Delphi shows biases



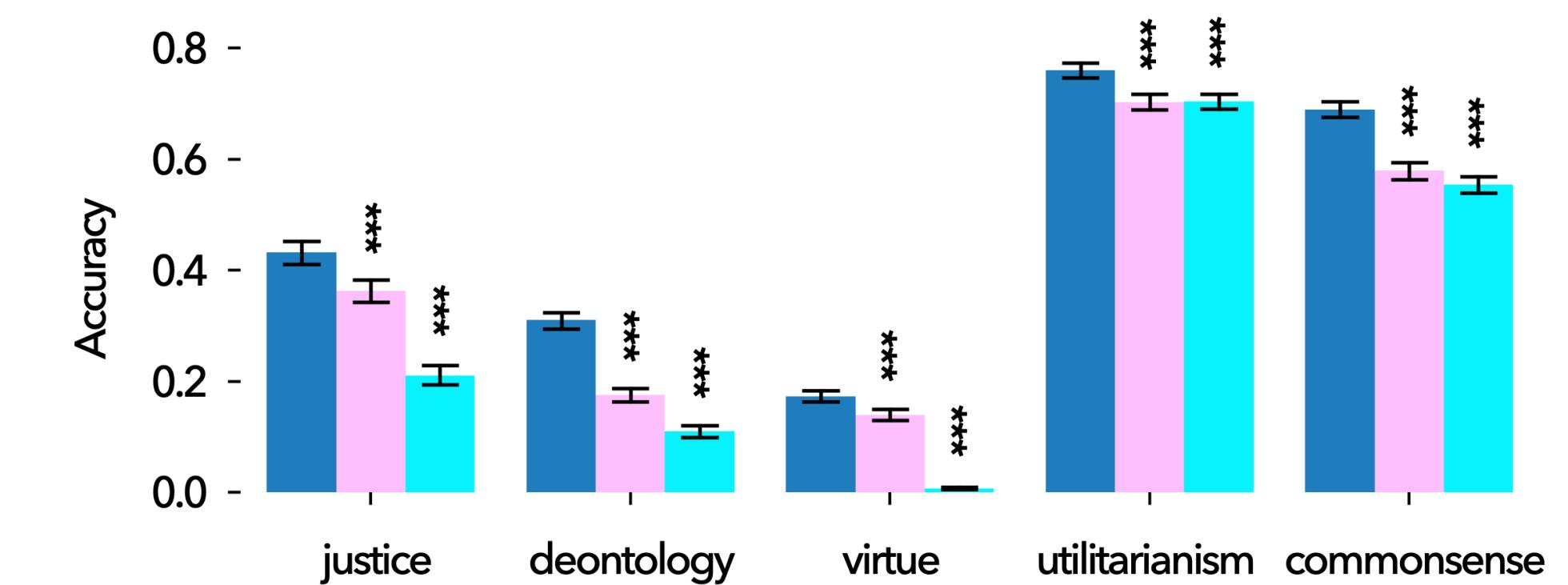
# Imperfect Delphi Makes Positive Downstream Impact



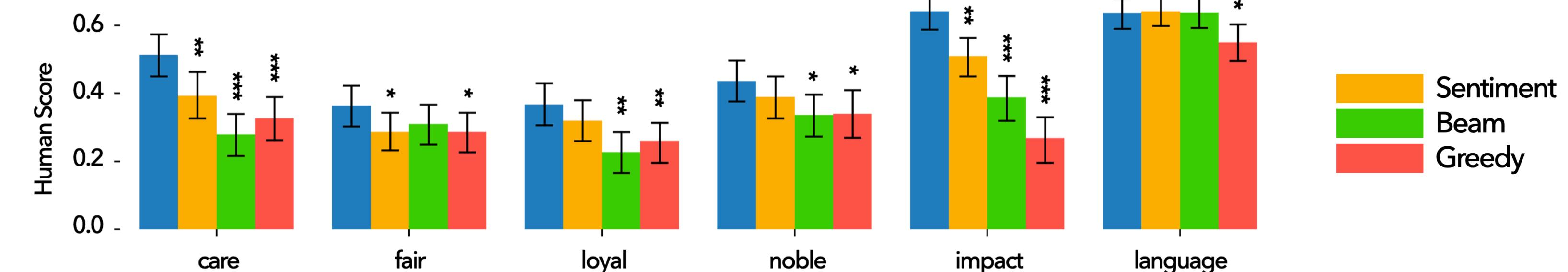
Delphi-informed Hate Speech Detection



Transfer Knowledge to Different Moral Frameworks



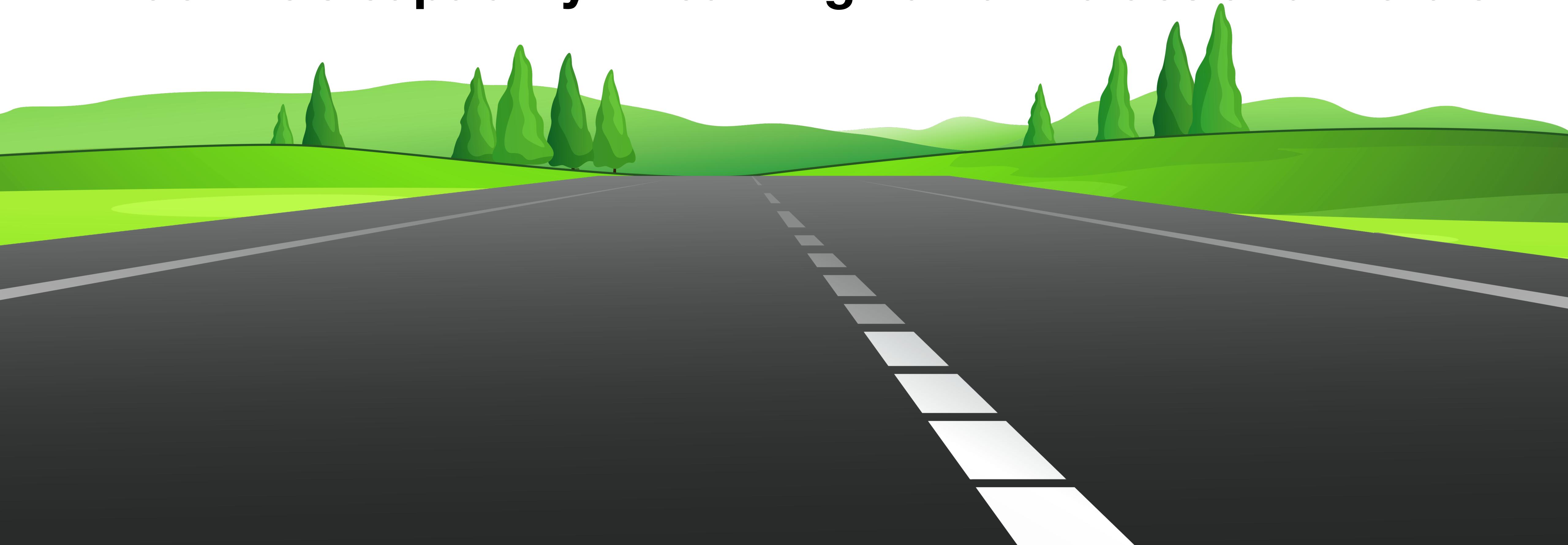
Delphi-enhanced Story Generation



**Ethically-informed  
Socially-aware  
Culturally-inclusive**

# AI systems

require continuous investigations on  
**machine's capability in learning human values and morals**



# Where are we in achieving the goal?



2 Years Later...

# Our Own Follow-up Works

Reading Books is Great, But Not if You Are Driving!  
Visually Grounded Reasoning about Defeasible Commonsense Norms

Seungju Han<sup>♦♡</sup> Junhyeok Kim<sup>♦</sup> Jack Hessel<sup>♡</sup> Liwei Jiang<sup>◊◊</sup>  
Jiwan Chung<sup>♦</sup> Yejin Son<sup>♦</sup> Yejin Choi<sup>◊♡</sup> Youngjae Yu<sup>♦♡</sup>  
♠ Seoul National University ♡ Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence  
♣ Yonsei University ♢ University of Washington  
wade3han@snu.ac.kr

VALUE KALEIDOSCOPE :  
Engaging AI with Pluralistic Human Values, Rights, and Duties

Taylor Sorensen<sup>♦◊</sup>, Liwei Jiang<sup>◊◊</sup>, Jena D. Hwang<sup>◊</sup>, Sydney Levine<sup>◊</sup>,  
Valentina Pyatkin<sup>♦◊</sup>, Peter West<sup>◊◊</sup>, Nouha Dziri<sup>◊</sup>, Ximing Lu<sup>♦◊</sup>, Kavel Rao<sup>♦</sup>,  
Chandra Bhagavatula<sup>◊</sup>, Maarten Sap<sup>♦</sup>, John Tasioulas<sup>†</sup>, Yejin Choi<sup>♦◊</sup>  
\* Department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington, <sup>◊</sup> Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence,  
Language Technologies Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, <sup>†</sup> Department of Philosophy, University of Oxford  
{tsor13, yejin}@cs.washington.edu

Aligning to Social Norms and Values in Interactive Narratives

Prithviraj Ammanabrolu<sup>†</sup> Liwei Jiang<sup>‡‡</sup> Maarten Sap<sup>†</sup>  
Hannah Hajishirzi<sup>‡‡</sup> Yejin Choi<sup>‡‡</sup>

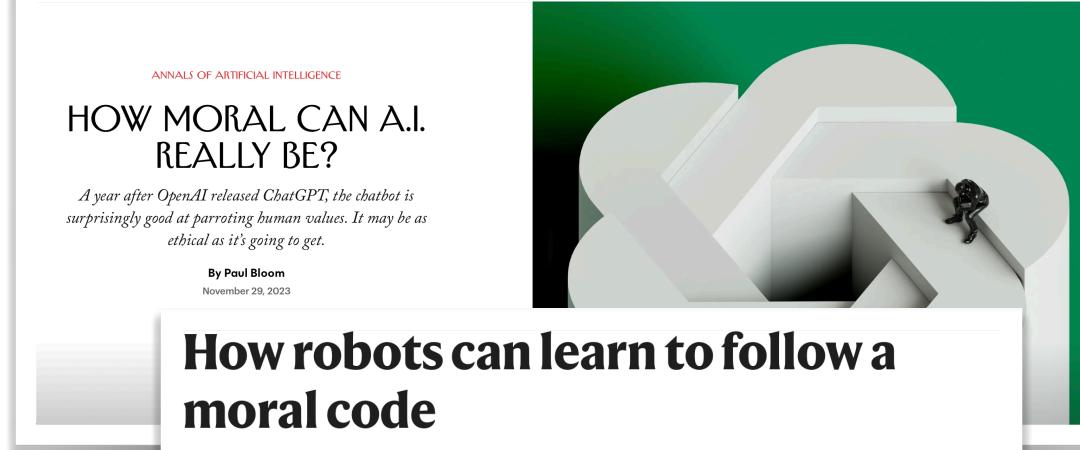
PROSOCIALDIALOG:  
A Prosocial Backbone for Conversational Agents

Hyunwoo Kim<sup>◊♦\*</sup> Youngjae Yu<sup>◊\*</sup> Liwei Jiang<sup>◊♦</sup> Ximing Lu<sup>◊♦</sup>  
Daniel Khashabi<sup>♦</sup> Gunhee Kim<sup>♦</sup> Yejin Choi<sup>◊♦</sup> Maarten Sap<sup>◊◊</sup>

Reinforced Clarification Question Generation with Defeasibility Rewards  
for Disambiguating Social and Moral Situations

Valentina Pyatkin<sup>◊♦</sup> Jena D. Hwang<sup>♦</sup> Vivek Srikanth<sup>♦♦</sup> Ximing Lu<sup>◊♦</sup>  
Liwei Jiang<sup>◊♦</sup> Yejin Choi<sup>◊♦</sup> Chandra Bhagavatula<sup>♦</sup>

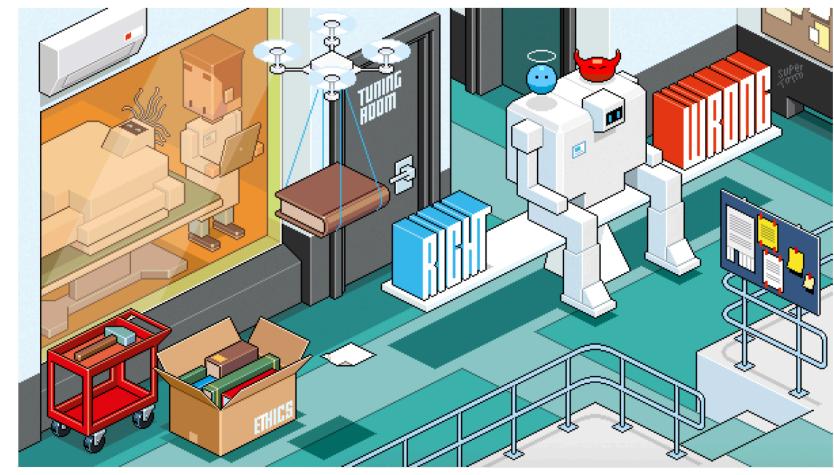
## Media Coverage



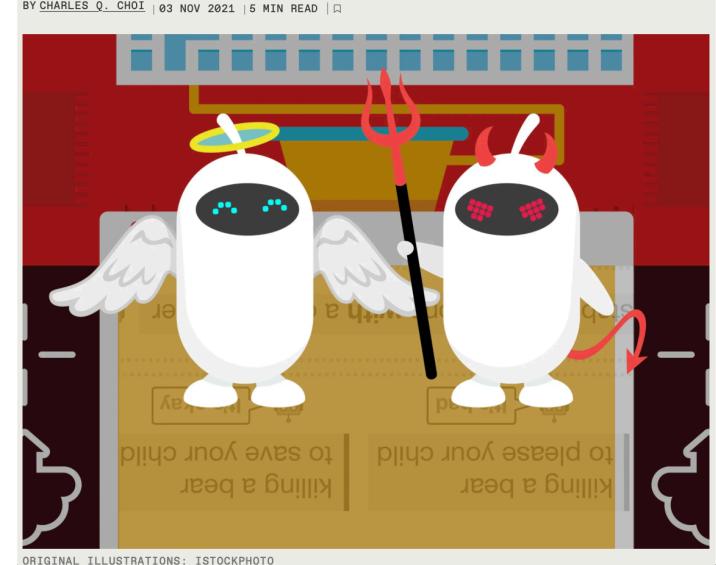
How robots can learn to follow a moral code

Ethical artificial intelligence aims to impart human values on machine-learning systems.

Neil Savage

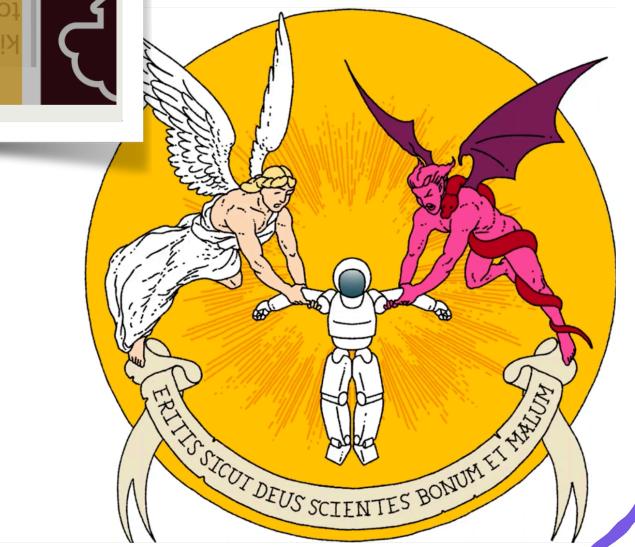


MACHINES LEARN GOOD FROM COMMONSENSE  
NORM BANK > New moral reference guide for AI draws from advice columns and ethics message boards



Can a Machine Learn Morality?

Researchers at a Seattle A.I. lab say they have built a system that makes ethical judgments. But its judgments can be as confusing as those of humans.



# Other Follow-up Works

When to Make Exceptions: Exploring Language Models as Accounts of Human Moral Judgment

Zhijing Jin<sup>\*</sup>  
MPI & ETH Zürich  
zjin@tue.mpg.de

Sydney Levine<sup>\*</sup>  
MIT & Harvard  
smlevine@mit.edu

Fernando Gonzalez<sup>\*</sup>  
ETH Zürich  
fgonzalez@ethz.ch

Ojasv Kamal<sup>†</sup>  
IIT Kharagpur  
kamalojan47@iitkgp.ac.in

Maarten Sap<sup>†</sup>  
LTI, Carnegie Mellon University  
maartensap@cmu.edu

Mrinmaya Sachan<sup>†</sup>  
ETH Zürich  
msachan@ethz.ch

Rada Mihalcea<sup>†</sup>  
University of Michigan  
mihalcea@umich.edu

Joshua Tenenbaum<sup>†</sup>  
MIT  
jbt@mit.edu

Bernhard Schülkopf<sup>†</sup>  
MPI for Intelligent Systems  
bs@tue.mpg.de

Rethinking Machine Ethics –  
Can LLMs Perform Moral Reasoning through the Lens of Moral Theories?

Jingyan Zhou<sup>1</sup>, Minda Hu<sup>2</sup>, Junan Li<sup>1</sup>, Xiaoying Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Xixin Wu<sup>1</sup>, Irwin King<sup>2</sup>, Helen Meng<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Systems Engineering & Engineering Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
<sup>2</sup>Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Does Moral Code Have a Moral Code?  
Probing Delphi's Moral Philosophy

Kathleen C. Fraser, Svetlana Kiritchenko, and Esma Balkir  
National Research Council Canada  
Ottawa, Canada  
{Kathleen.Fraser,Svetlana.Kiritchenko,Esma.Balkir}@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

EtiCor: Corpus for Analyzing LLMs for Etiquettes

Ashutosh Dwivedi<sup>\*</sup> Pradyumna Lavania<sup>\*</sup> Ashutosh Modi  
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)  
{ashutoshd20, pradyumna20}@iitk.ac.in  
ashutoshm@cse.iitk.ac.in

Values, Ethics, Morals?

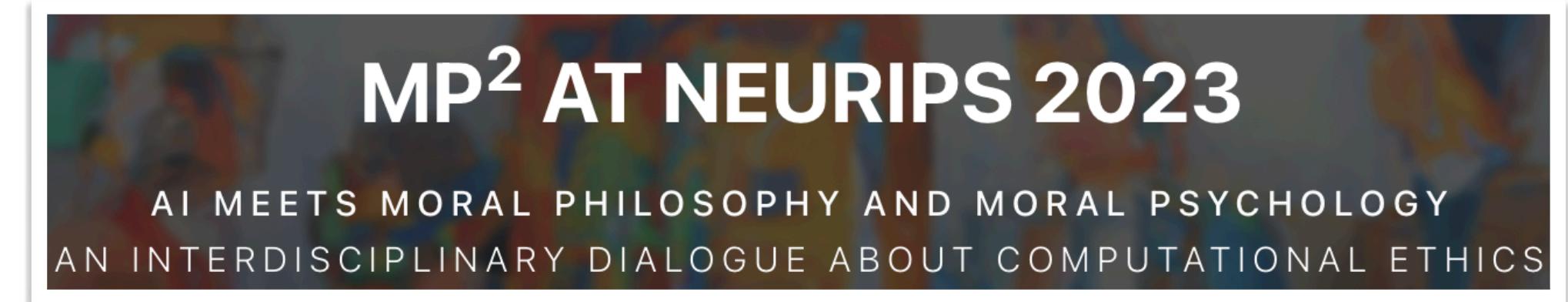
On the Use of Moral Concepts in NLP Research

Karina Vida  
Data Science Group  
University of Hamburg, Germany  
{karina.vida, judith.simon, anne.lauscher}@uni-hamburg.de

Judith Simon  
Ethics in Information Technology  
University of Hamburg, Germany  
{judith.simon, anne.lauscher}@uni-hamburg.de

Anne Lauscher  
Data Science Group  
University of Hamburg, Germany  
{karina.vida, judith.simon, anne.lauscher}@uni-hamburg.de

## Interdisciplinary Collaboration



AI meets Moral Philosophy and Moral Psychology  
Workshop (MP2) @ NeurIPS, Dec 15 2023  
\* Received 50+ submissions from philosophers, psychologist, AI researchers, etc.

## Delphi-Hybrid — In submission —

A Commonsense-infused Neuro-symbolic Hybrid Moral Reasoning System

## Defeasible Moral Reasoning — Findings at EMNLP 23 —

Poster 4322, Saturday, Dec. 9, 9:00AM

Defeasible Social and Moral Situations

## NormLens — EMNLP 23 —

Oral 1846, Central 1, Friday, Dec. 8, 4:30PM

Defeasible Commonsense Norms

## ClarifyDelphi — ACL 23 —

Reinforced Clarification Questions with Defeasibility Rewards for Social and Moral Situations

## GALAD

### — NAACL 22 —

Aligning to Social Norms and Values in Interactive Narratives

## ProsocialDialog — EMNLP 22 —

A Prosocial Backbone for Conversational Agents

## Kaleido

### — In submission to AAAI 24 —

Engaging AI with Pluralistic Human Values, Rights, and Duties



## Delphi-Hybrid — In submission —

Neuro-Symbolic Reasoning

Philosophical Theory-Inspired System

Interpretability

Customization

## Defeasible Moral Reasoning — Findings at EMNLP 23 —

Interpretability

Defeasible Reasoning

Knowledge Distillation

Contextualization & Grounded Reasoning

## NormLens

— EMNLP 23 —

Knowledge Distillation

Contextualization & Grounded Reasoning

Multi-modality

Defeasible Reasoning

Disagreement

Reinforcement Learning

Interpretability

Contextualization & Grounded Reasoning

## ClarifyDelphi — ACL 23 —

Clarification Question Generation

Defeasible Reasoning

## GALAD

— NAACL 22 —

Reinforcement Learning

Interactive Game Environment

Socially-Informed Downstream Apps

## ProsocialDialog

— EMNLP 22 —

Socially-Informed Downstream Apps

Conversational Systems



## Kaleido

— In submission to AAAI 24 —

Interpretability

Disagreement

Customization

Knowledge Distillation

Value Pluralism

Philosophical Theory-Inspired System



# Kaleido

Taylor  
Sorensen



Liwei  
Jiang



Jena  
Hwang



Sydney  
Levine



Valentina  
Pyatkin



Peter  
West



Nouha  
Dziri



Ximing  
Lu



Kavel  
Rao



Chandra  
Bhagavatula



Maarten  
Sap



John  
Tasioulas



Yejin  
Choi



**W**  
UNIVERSITY of  
WASHINGTON

PAUL G.  
ALLEN  
SCHOOL  
**W**



**AI2**

Carnegie  
Mellon  
University

UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

# Value Kaleidoscope: Engaging AI with Pluralistic Human Values, Rights, and Duties

# How are current AI systems “aligned”?

## Human preferences!

### Situation:

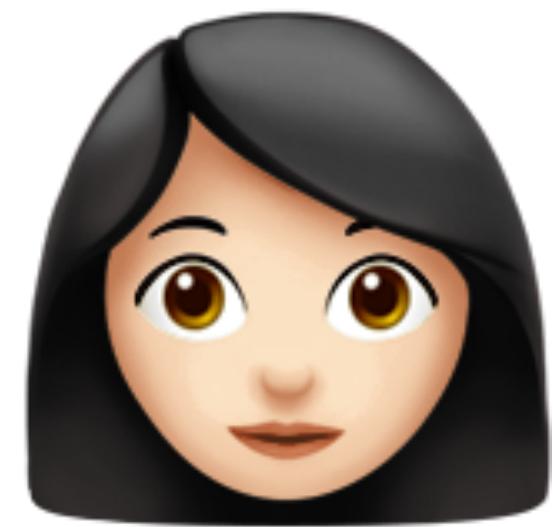
Telling a lie to protect  
a friend's feelings

You should always be  
honest, so it's **bad!**

It helps  
a friend, so it's  
**good!**

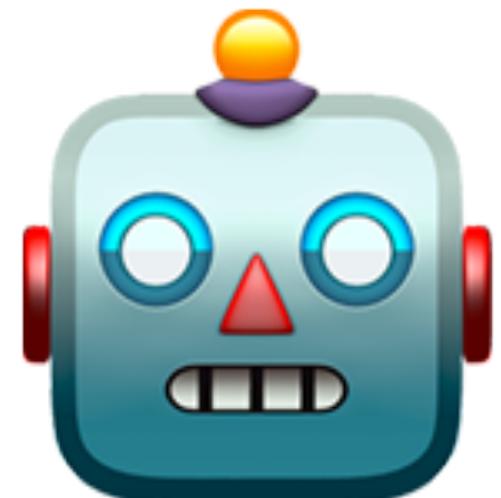


You should always be honest, so it's **bad**!



**Situation:**  
Telling a lie to protect a friend's feelings

It helps a friend, so it's **good**!

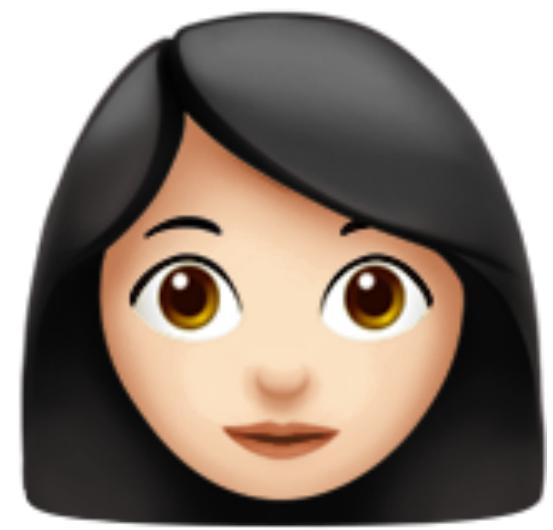


Average(, ) = Neutral

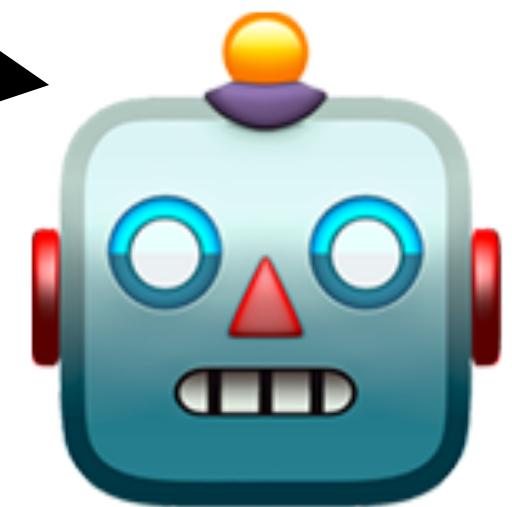
Doesn't matter!

**Situation:**  
Wearing a blue shirt

Either way!



Neutral



Neutral



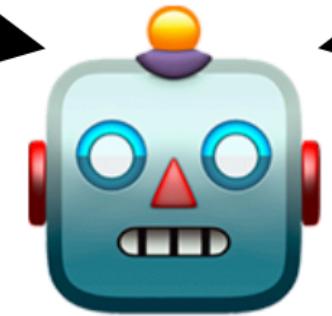
$\text{Average}(\text{Neutral}, \text{Neutral}) = \text{Neutral}$

You should always be honest, so it's **bad!**



**Situation:**  
Telling a lie to protect a friend's feelings

It helps a friend, so it's **good!**



Average(, ) = Neutral

Doesn't matter!



Neutral

**Situation:**  
Wearing a blue shirt

Either way!



Are they the same?

Average(Neutral,Neutral) = Neutral

# These situations are better understood with **Value Pluralism**



Multiple (potentially conflicting) valid values



Not reconcilable



Other important considerations are human  
*rights and duties*

# Current AI systems and ML techniques...



Do not account for Value Pluralism



Wash out variation



Reinforcement Learning with Human Feedback (RLHF)  
is Preference-Based Utilitarianism (Tasioulas)

# In this work



What *pluralistic* human values, rights, and duties  
are **already present** in large language models?



Can we create **better computational models**  
that take into account *value pluralism*?

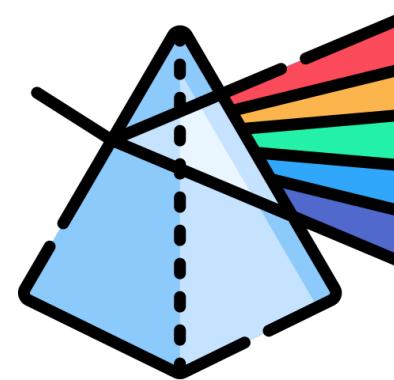
# In this work



What *pluralistic* human values, rights, and duties  
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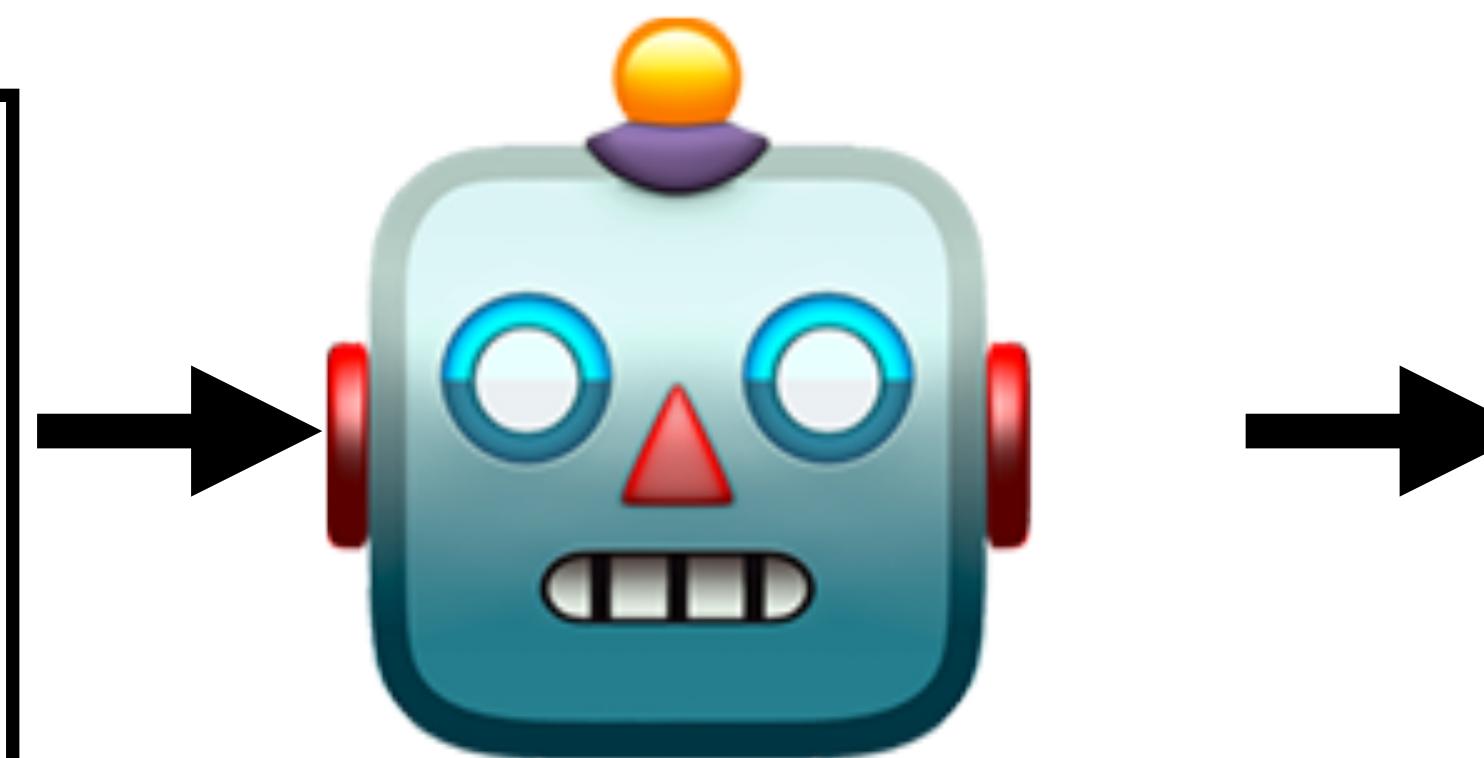
# ValuePrism

30k User-submitted  
Situations



Large, Closed-Source  
Model (GPT-4)

**Situation:**  
Going 50 mph  
over the speed  
limit to get my  
wife to a hospital



31K Situations  
98K Values  
49K Rights  
72K Duties

**91% are deemed correct by human annotators**

**Why?** In this situation, the wife may require urgent medical attention, and getting her to the hospital quickly could be crucial for her well-being

## Value

- Safety: opposes 🤢
- **Well-being**: supports 👍
- Respect for the law: opposes 🤢

## Rights:

- Right to access healthcare: supports 👍
- **Right to safety**: opposes 🤢

## Duties:

- Duty **Why?** Other drivers and pedestrians have the right not to be endangered by reckless and dangerous driving.
- Duty
- Duty



# Whose values are represented?

- Study with **613** people from diverse backgrounds
  - A. *Do you agree with the value, right, or duty?*
  - B. *Is your perspective missing?*

e.g., **Race:** 168 white, 115 Black, 61 asian, 34 hispanic/latinx

**Sexual orientation:** 390 straight, 68 LGBTQ+

**Gender:** 258 male, 201 female, 9 non-binary or other

- **Most people agreed on most values**
- **Did not find significant differences between groups' overall agreement rates**

# Most values were largely agreed upon

**Situation:**  
Frowning at a friend

**Respect:** Not frowning at a friend if the situation doesn't warrant it could be a way to respect their feelings

83% overall agreement

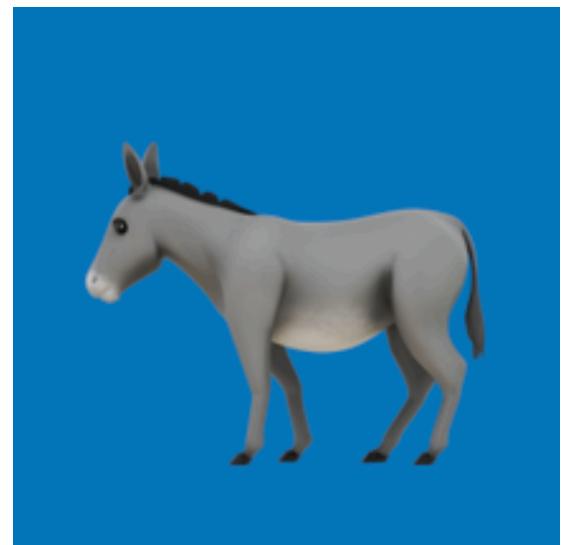
# Groups differed on a few values

**Situation:** redistributing rich people's land to poor people

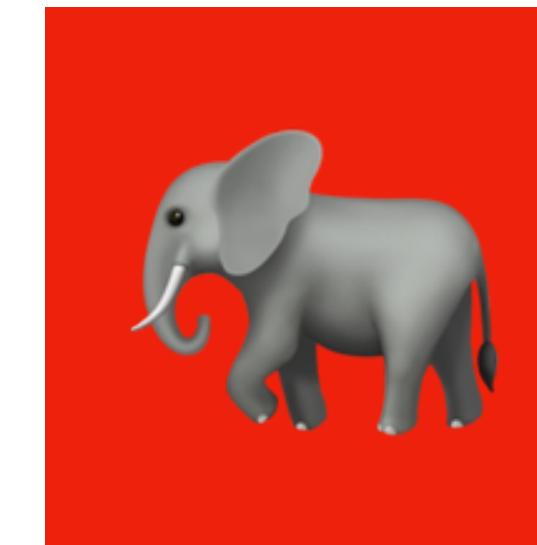
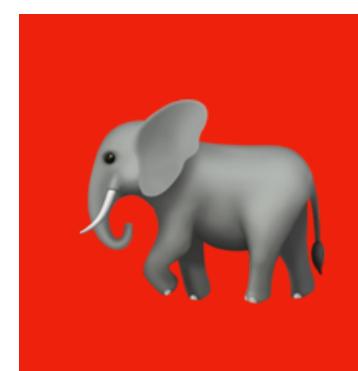
**Efficiency:** Redistribution may lead to more efficient land use if previously underutilized land is given to those in need.

**Situation:** giving people things for free

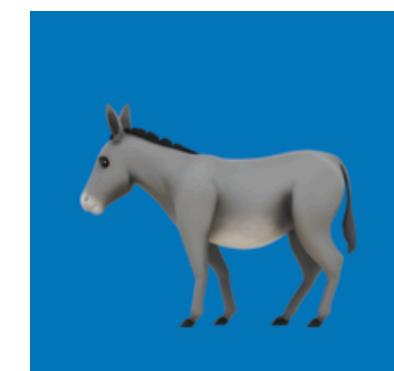
**Personal Responsibility:** Some may argue that individuals should earn what they receive, and providing things for free may undermine this value.



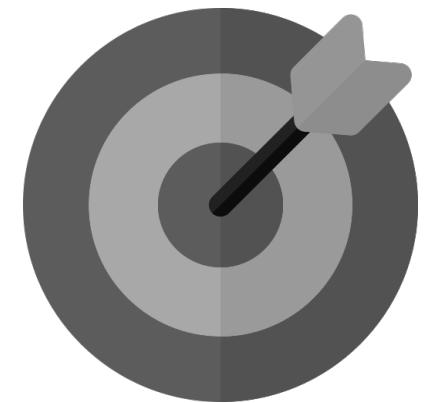
**Liberals** 78%  
more likely to  
agree than  
Conservatives



**Conservatives**  
63% more  
likely to agree  
than Liberals



# In this work



What *pluralistic* human values, rights, and duties  
are **already present** in large language models?



Can we create **better computational models**  
that take into account *value pluralism*?

# Model (T5-based)

Given a situation:

1. **Generation:** Generate values, rights, and duties to consider

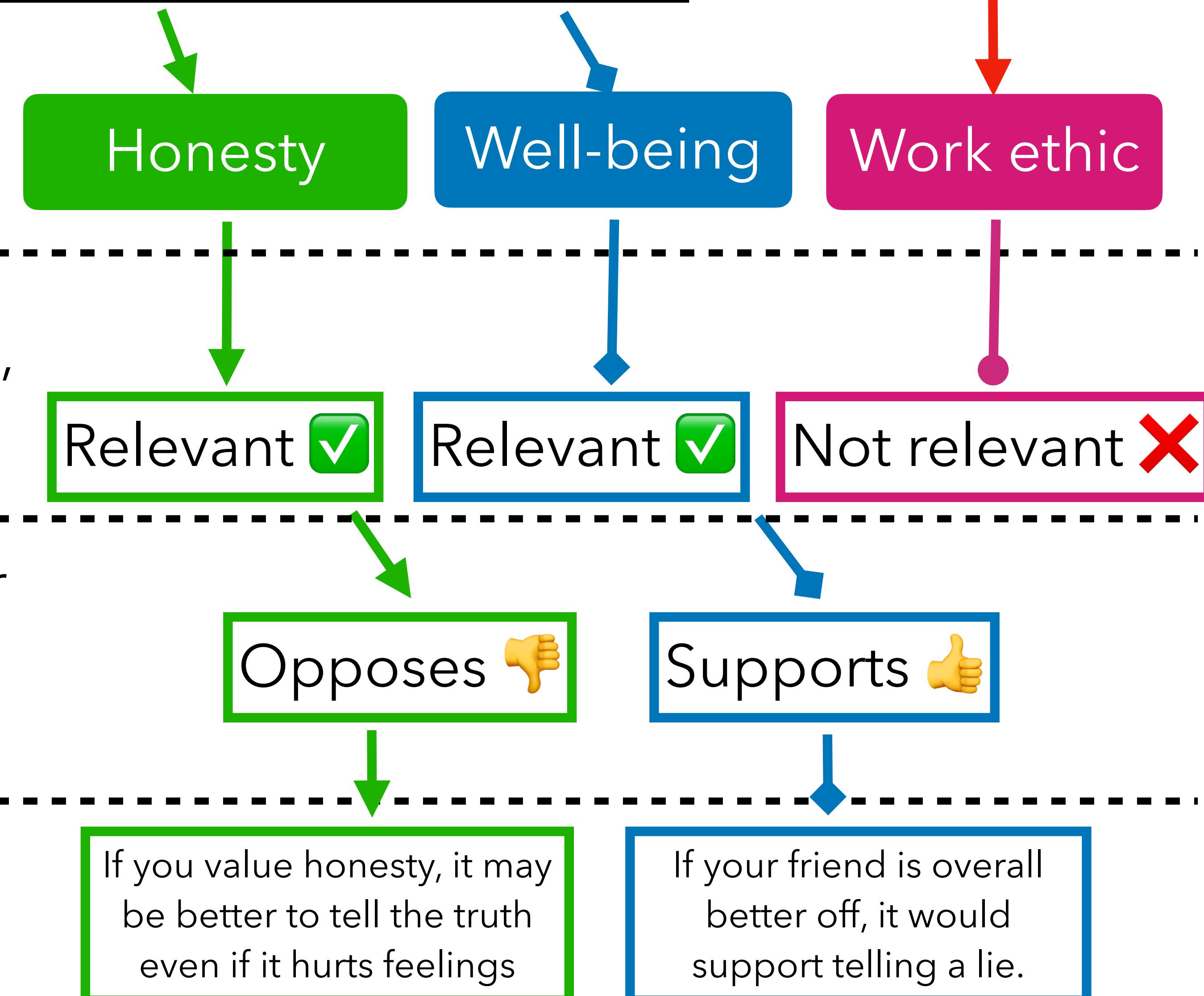
2. **Relevance:** Is a given value, right, or duty relevant?

3. **Valence:** Does the value, right, or duty support or oppose the situation?

4. **Explanation:** How is value, right, or duty connected?

**Situation:** Telling a lie to protect a friend's feelings

**Negative Sample**



# Kaleido System

System to generate batch of pluralistic values, rights, and duties



## Input

*Biking to work instead of driving*

**Value**

**Right**

**Duty**

## Step 1 Overgenerate

Health and fitness

Protect the environment

Choose one's mode of transportation

Health

Non-discrimination

Be responsible for one's own actions

...

# Kaleido System

**Input**

*Biking to  
work  
instead  
of driving*



**Value**

**Right**

**Duty**

## **Step 1 Overgenerate**

Health and fitness

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...

# Kaleido System

**Input**  
*Biking to work instead of driving*



**Value**

**Right**

**Duty**

## Step 1 Overgenerate

Health and fitness

Protect the environment

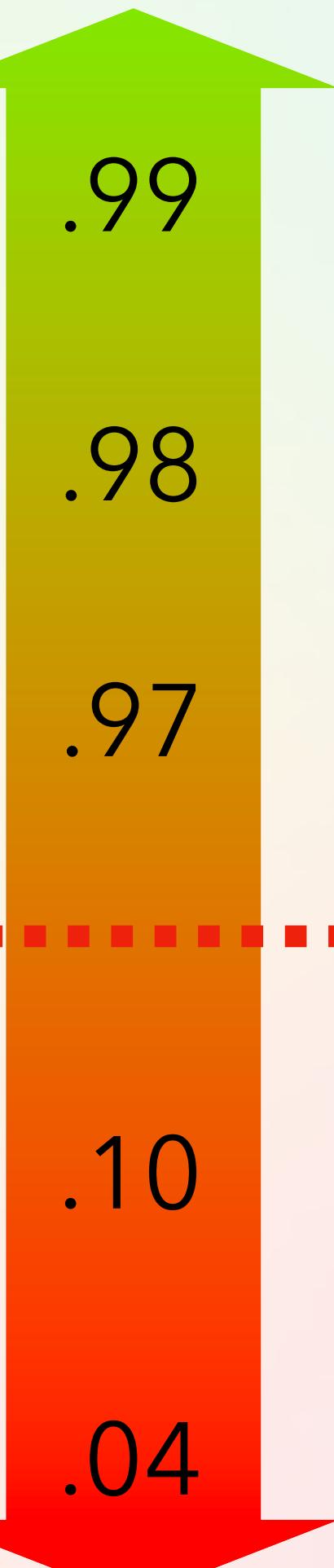
Choose one's mode of transportation

Health

Non-discrimination

Be responsible for one's own actions

## Step 2 Filter by Relevance



Be environmentally responsible

Contribute to a cleaner environment

Health and fitness

...

...

Be responsible for one's own actions X

Non-discrimination X

# Kaleido System

## Input

Biking to  
work  
instead  
of driving



Value

Right

Duty

## Step 1 Overgenerate

Health and fitness

Protect the environment

Choose one's mode of transportation

Health

Non-discrimination

Be responsible for one's own actions

## Step 2 Filter by Relevance

.99

.98

.97

.10

.04

Be environmentally responsible

Contribute to a cleaner environment

Health and fitness

...

...

Be responsible for one's own actions

Non-discrimination

# Kaleido System

**Input**  
*Biking to work instead of driving*

**Value**  
**Right**  
**Duty**



## Step 1 Overgenerate

Health and fitness

Protect the environment

Choose one's mode of transportation

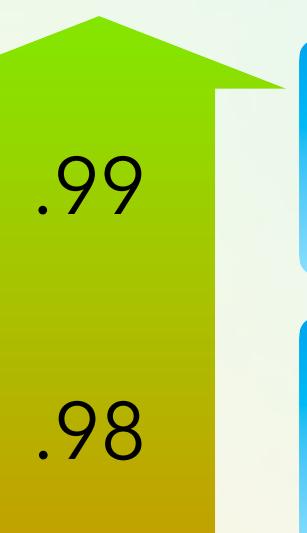
Health

Non-discrimination

Be responsible for one's own actions

...

## Step 2 Filter by Relevance



Be environmentally responsible

Contribute to a cleaner environment

Health and fitness

...

Be responsible for one's own actions

Non-discrimination

## Step 3 Deduplicate by text similarity

Be environmentally responsible

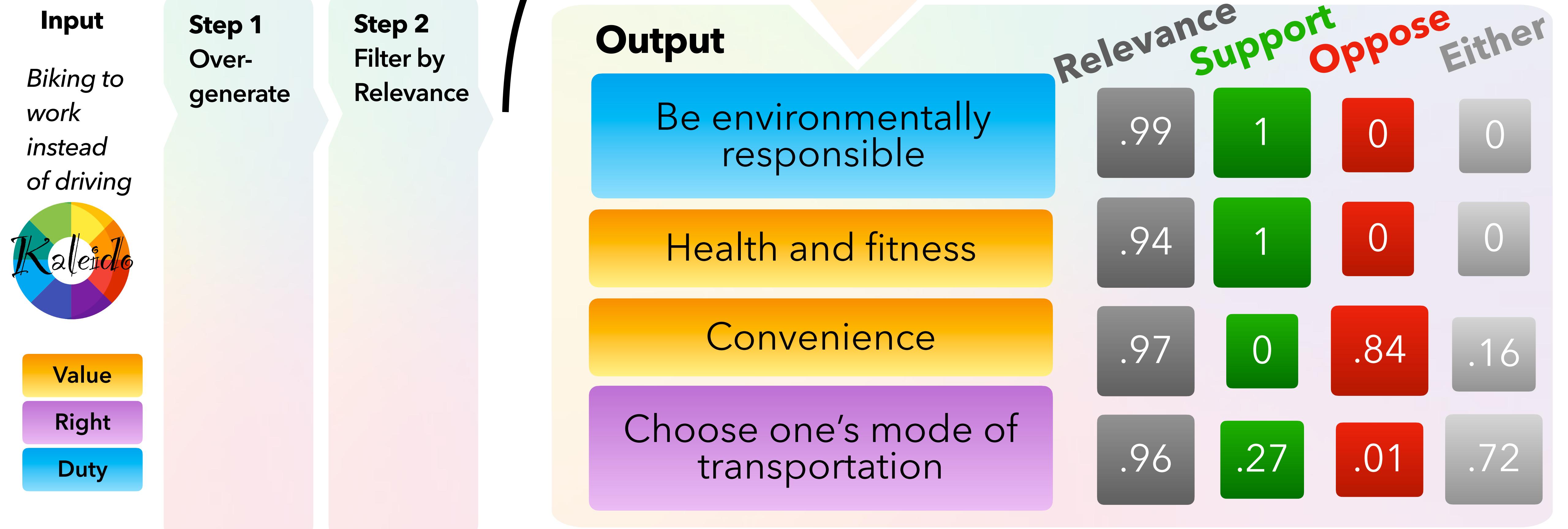
Similarity  
0.15

X  
Similarity  
0.94

Health and fitness

Contribute to a cleaner environment

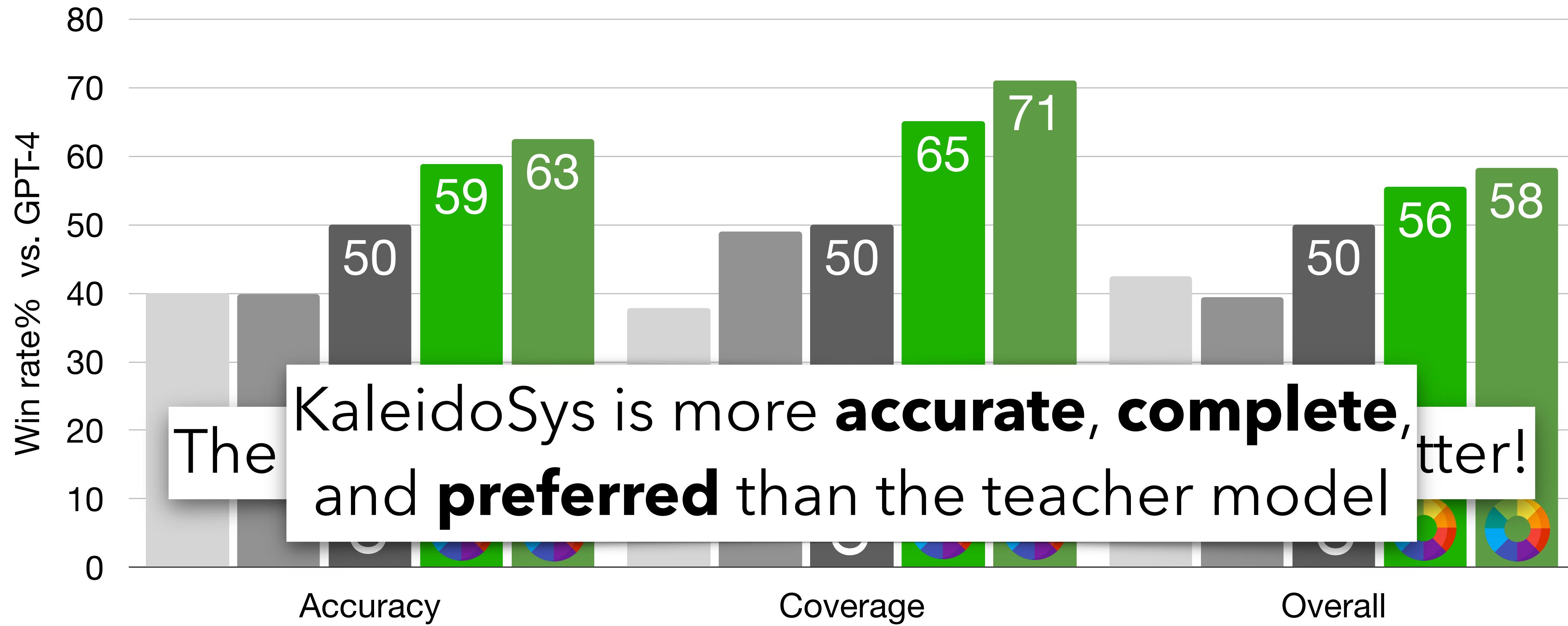
# Kaleido System



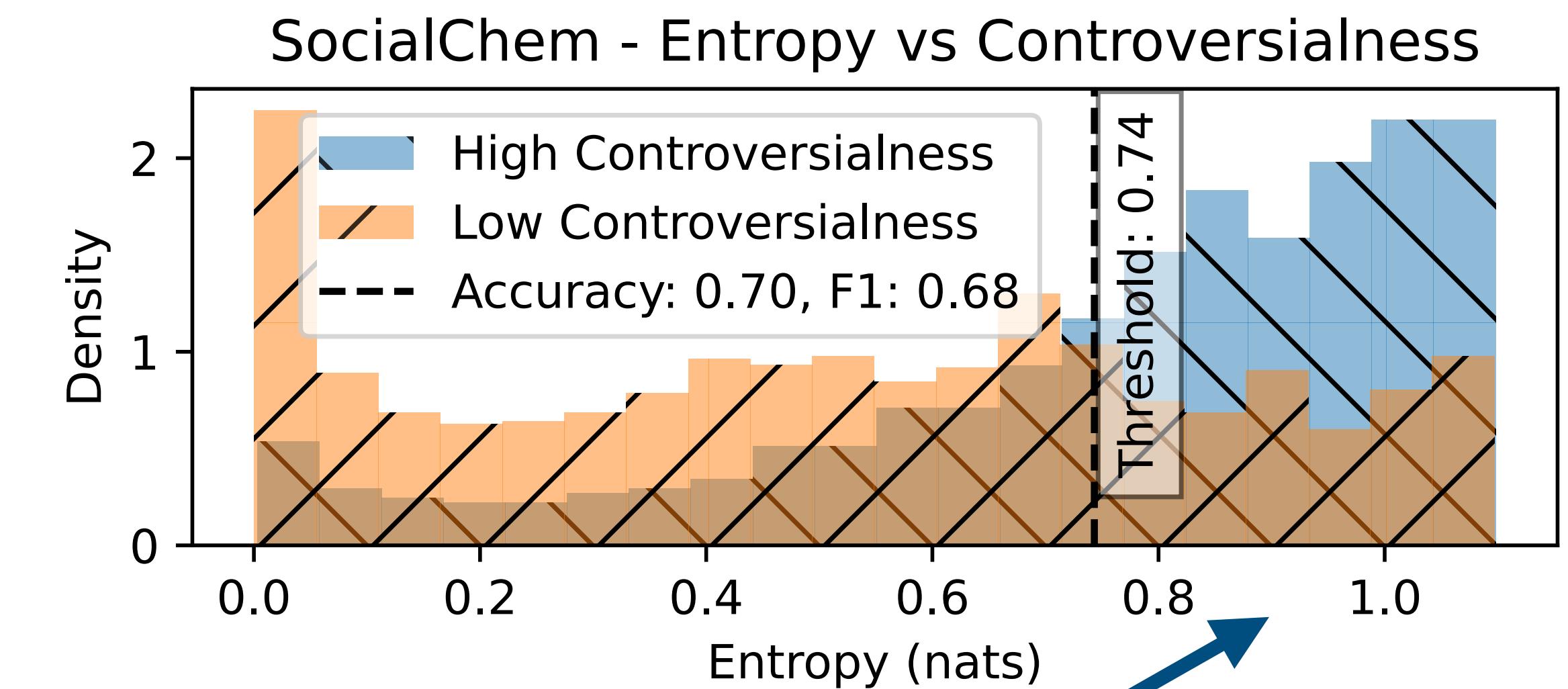
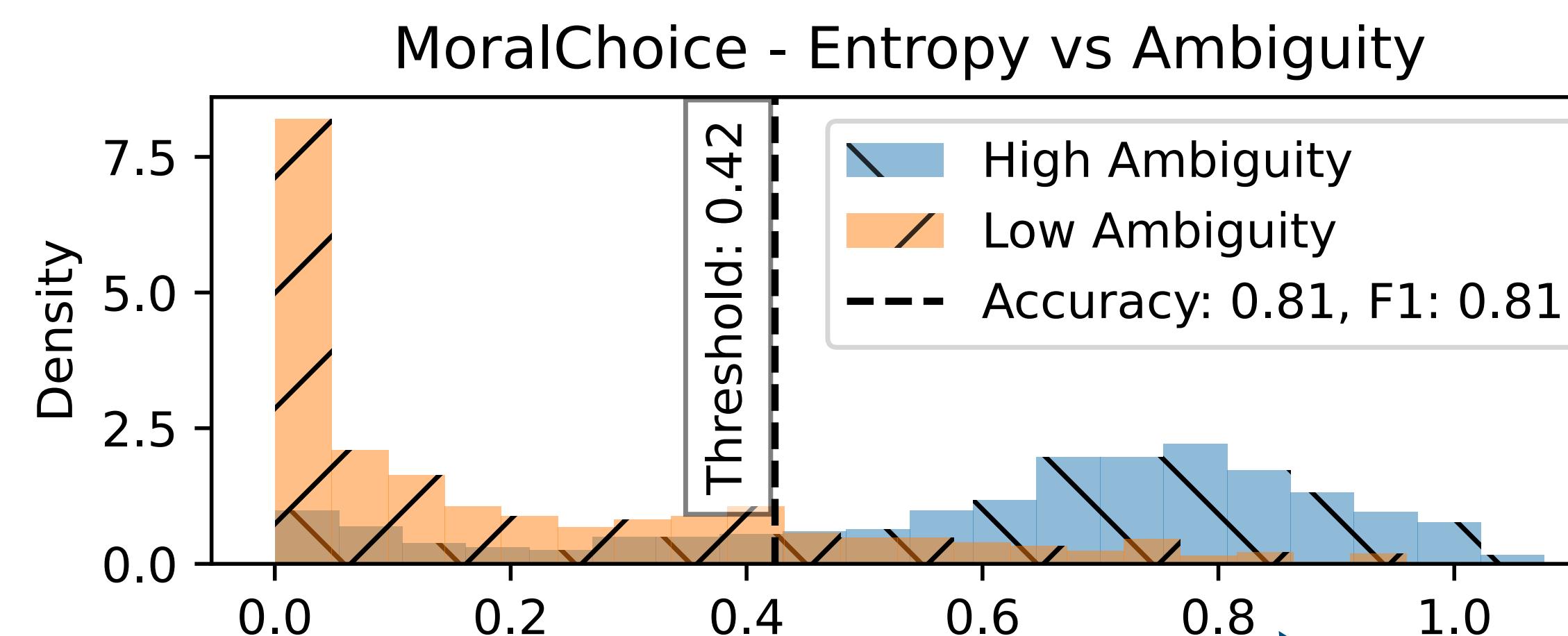


# Kaleido System vs. GPT-4 (Generation)

■ Direct Distill (3B) ■ GPT-3.5-turbo ■ GPT-4

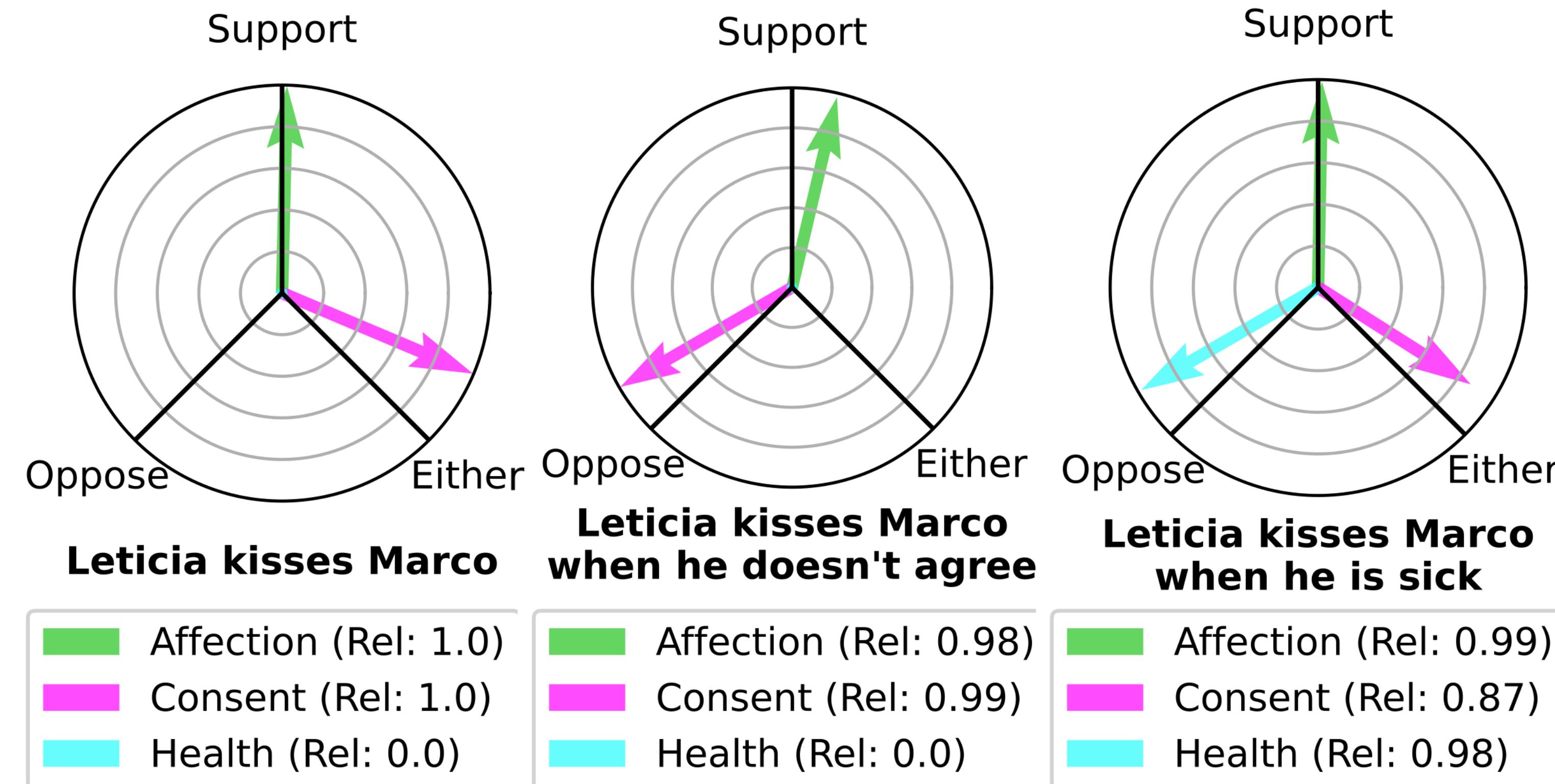


# Kaleido's contrasting values help explain variability in human decision-making



High entropy => More Variability

# Kaleido is sensitive to variations



# Declaration of Human Rights



**Matches for 97.5% of the UDHR's articles**

## UDHR

Everyone has the right to a nationality

Everyone, without any discrimination , has the right to equal pay for equal work.

Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

## ValuePrism

Right to nationality

Right to equal pay

Right to access services

Right to engage in leisure activities

# Strengths over teacher 💪

In addition to beating the teacher at generation, Kaleido:

## More Controllable

- Generate more or fewer values
- Negate particular values



## Scalar Valence and Relevance

- Continuous values have more info than text



## Open Science

- Open for scientific review and critique
- Build on our work

# ⚠ Limitations ⚠

Some limitations of this work:

## Machine-Generated

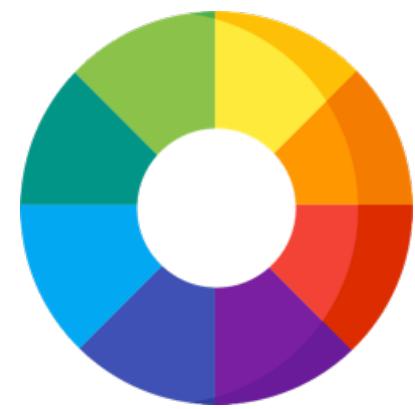
- Can adopt the biases of GPT-4
- Further study is needed

## English-Only Data

- Likely fits better to values held in English-speaking countries

## Not Intended for Advice

- Goal is not to output judgment
- Research focus, not for human-use



We hope Kaleido serves as a first step to better model **pluralistic human values, rights, and duties**

Action to consider \*

Going into industry instead of academia

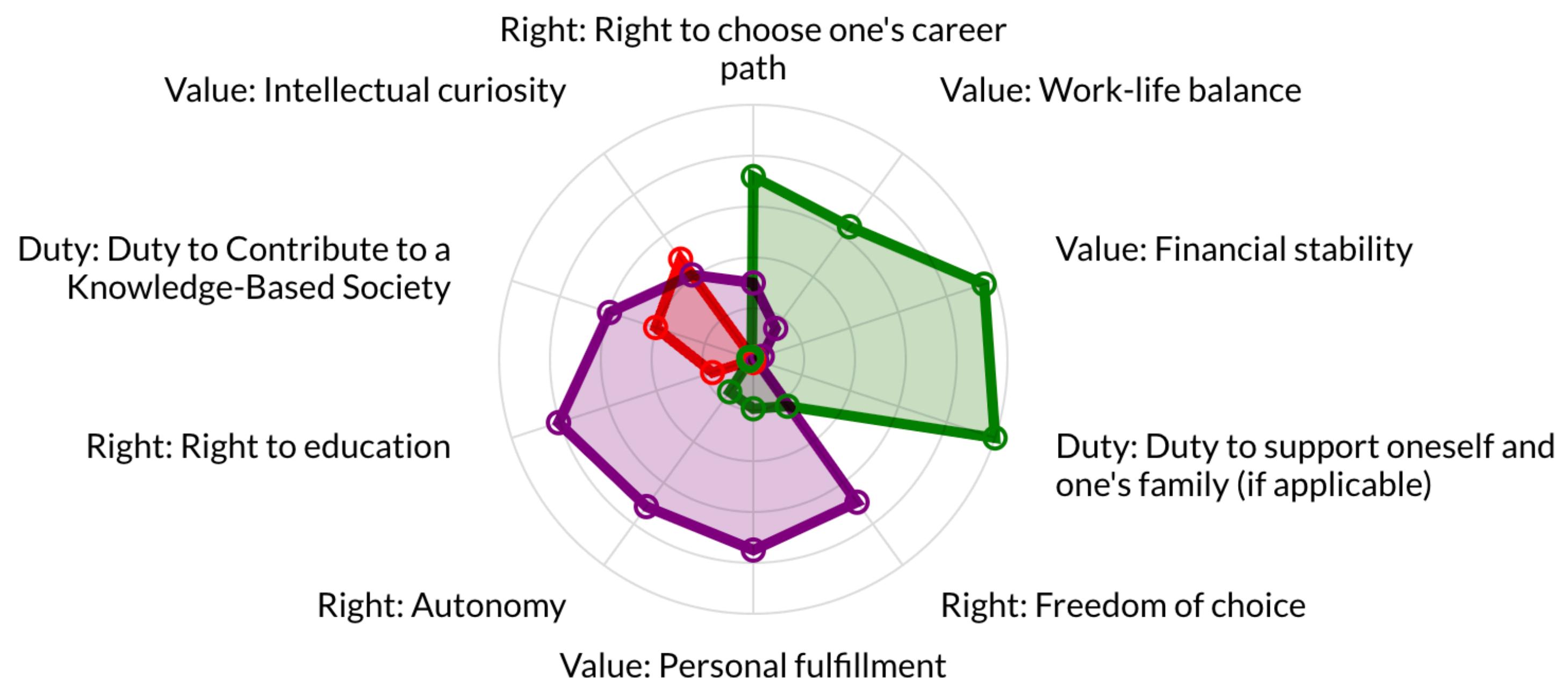
Submit

Outputs are just a language model's prediction of most probable values and do not necessarily reflect authors' views. Outputs may misinterpret, make false assumptions, or be otherwise problematic. They should not be used for advice.

- supports
- opposes
- either

## Demo:

[kaleido.allen.ai](https://kaleido.allen.ai)



# **Where are we heading towards in the future?**



**Many unsolved mysteries in AI  
... and Humanity**

# Open Research Challenges



- ... when we try to find **morally salient factors** that impact human moral decision-making
- ... when we try to define what moral **understanding & reasoning** means for humans
- ... when we try to identify how **multi-cultural norms** are manifested in human society
- ... when we wonder how to advance AI alignment to accommodate **pluralistic human values or conflicted views in society**
- ... when we try to quantify **the disparate impact of biases or toxicity** on different people
- ...

# Open Research Challenges



... when we try to find **morally salient factors** that impact **human** moral decision-making

... when we try to define what moral **understanding & reasoning** means for **humans**

... when we try to identify how **multi-cultural norms** are manifested in **human society**

... when we wonder how to advance AI alignment to accommodate **pluralistic human values or conflicted views in society**

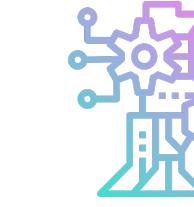
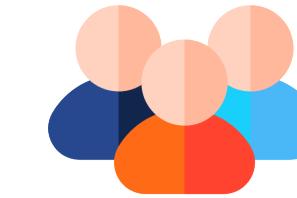
... when we try to quantify **the disparate impact of biases or toxicity** on different **people**

...



**Do we (as not only AI researchers but in general as  
humans) understand humans well  
enough to advance AI to the next  
level?**

# Current Paradigm in Human → AI



AI

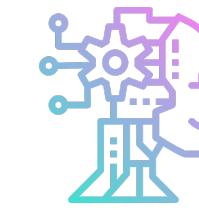
Currently...  
AI **sources from** findings  
from discovery  
disciplines of humans

**Discovery Disciplines**  
**(in Humanity)**

Taking **inspirations** from existing knowledge  
about humans to **model “intelligence” in  
machines**

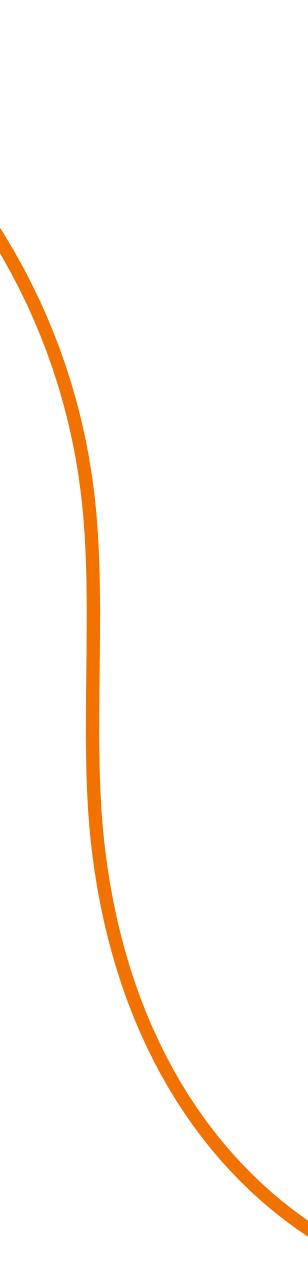
e.g., chain-of-thought prompting, dual-process reasoning with  
system-1/2), evaluate models on human capabilities

# Current Paradigm in AI → Human



AI

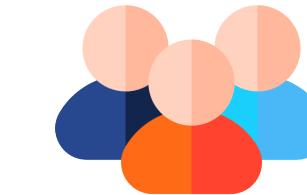
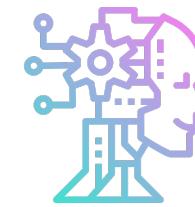
Computational  
linguistics, computational  
psychology, computational  
social science...



**Applied Disciplines  
(in Humanity)**

In turn, AI benefits sciences by developing useful **models, tools, and methods** that can be used to **simplify** and **bolster** the existing approaches in many **applied disciplines**  
e.g., vaccine development, educational evaluation tools, assist psychotherapy, analyzing big data for social phenomenon

# Current Paradigm in AI → Human



AI



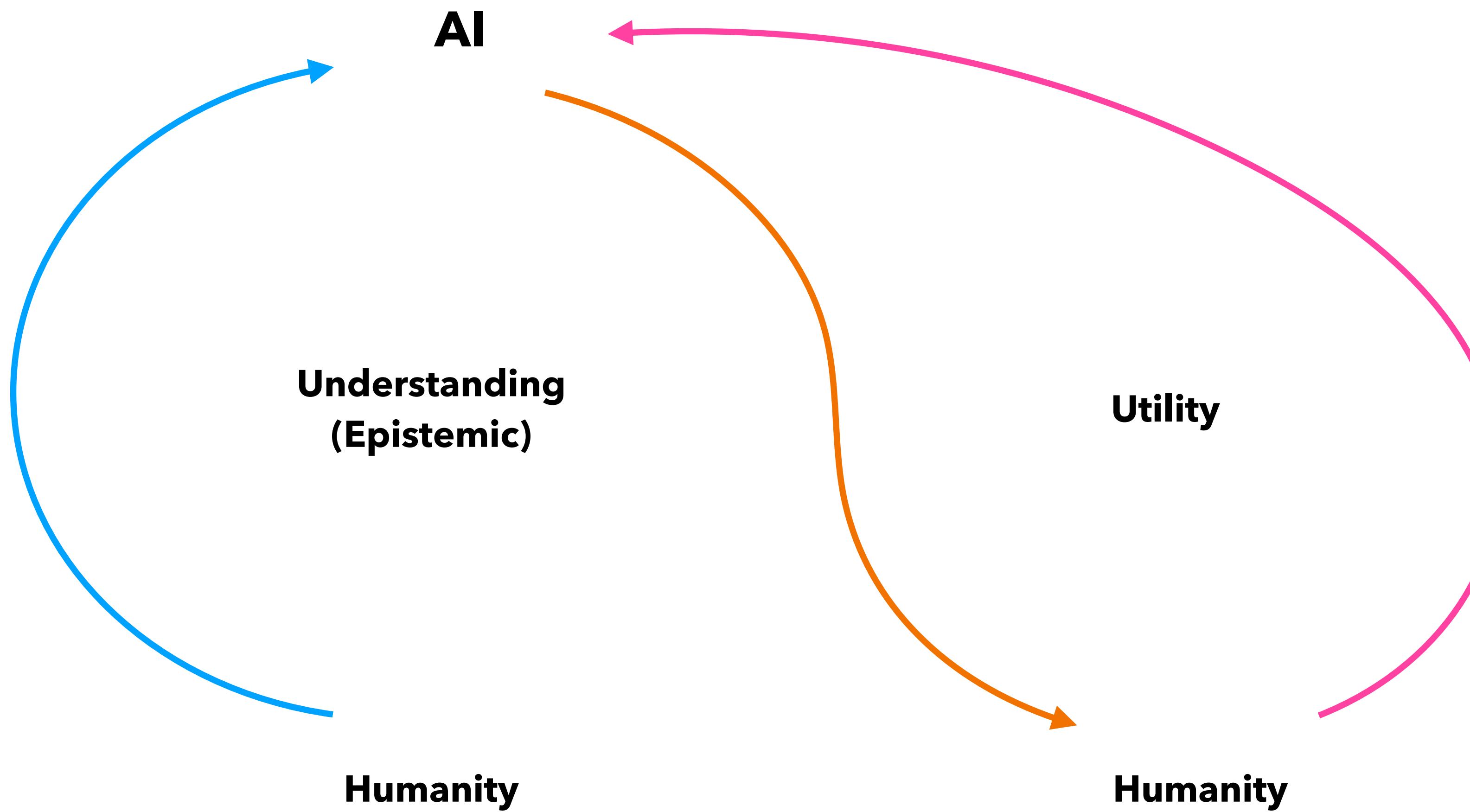
Applied Disciplines  
(in Humanity)

Feedback to AI to improve its **utility**.

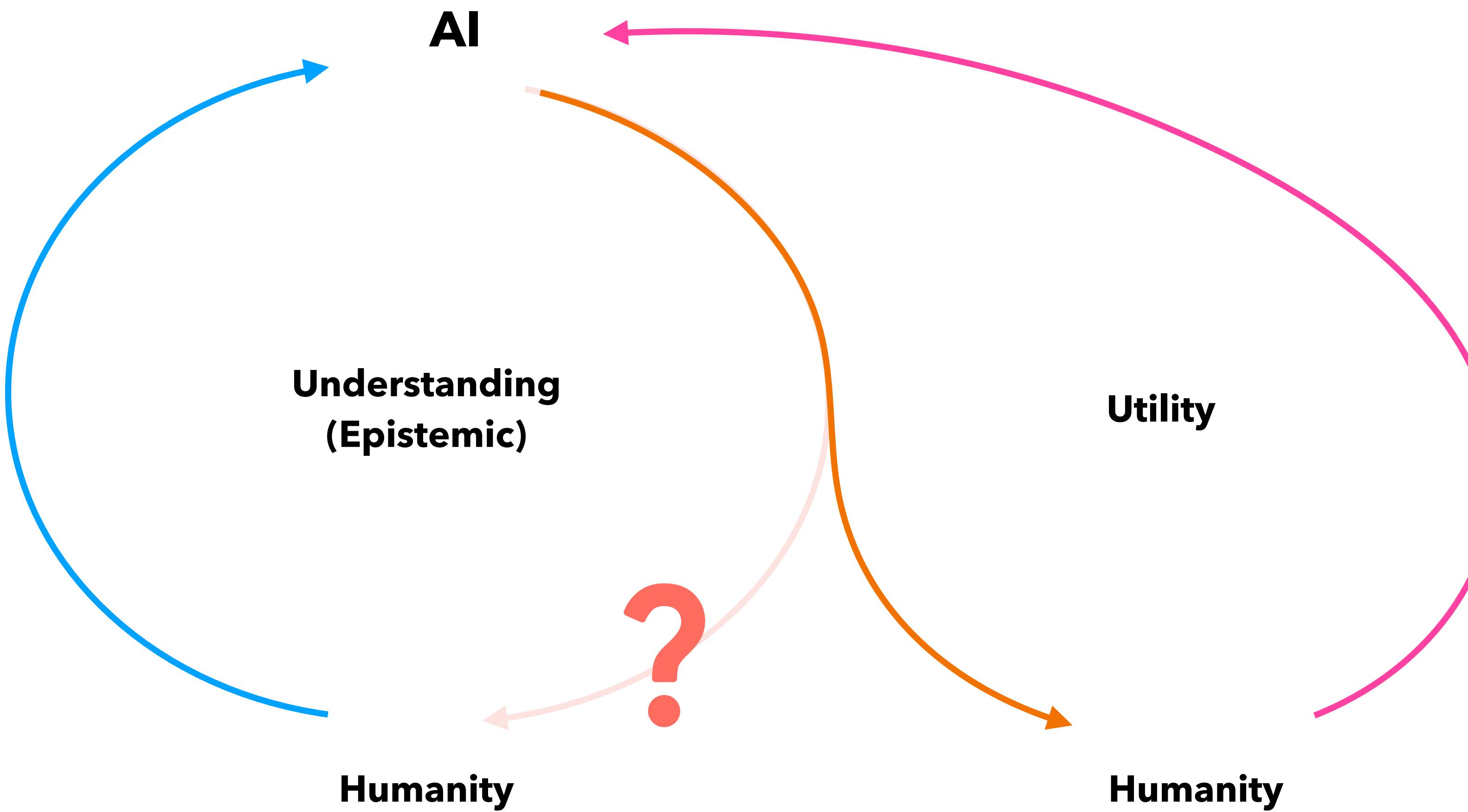
Develop better AI to improve human **experiences** (e.g., education, finance, scientific paper reading). There are disciplines like **HCI** that specializes in this feedback loop

Sometimes, the insights and results taken from the application can also feedback into the **further development of AI tools**.

# Current Paradigm

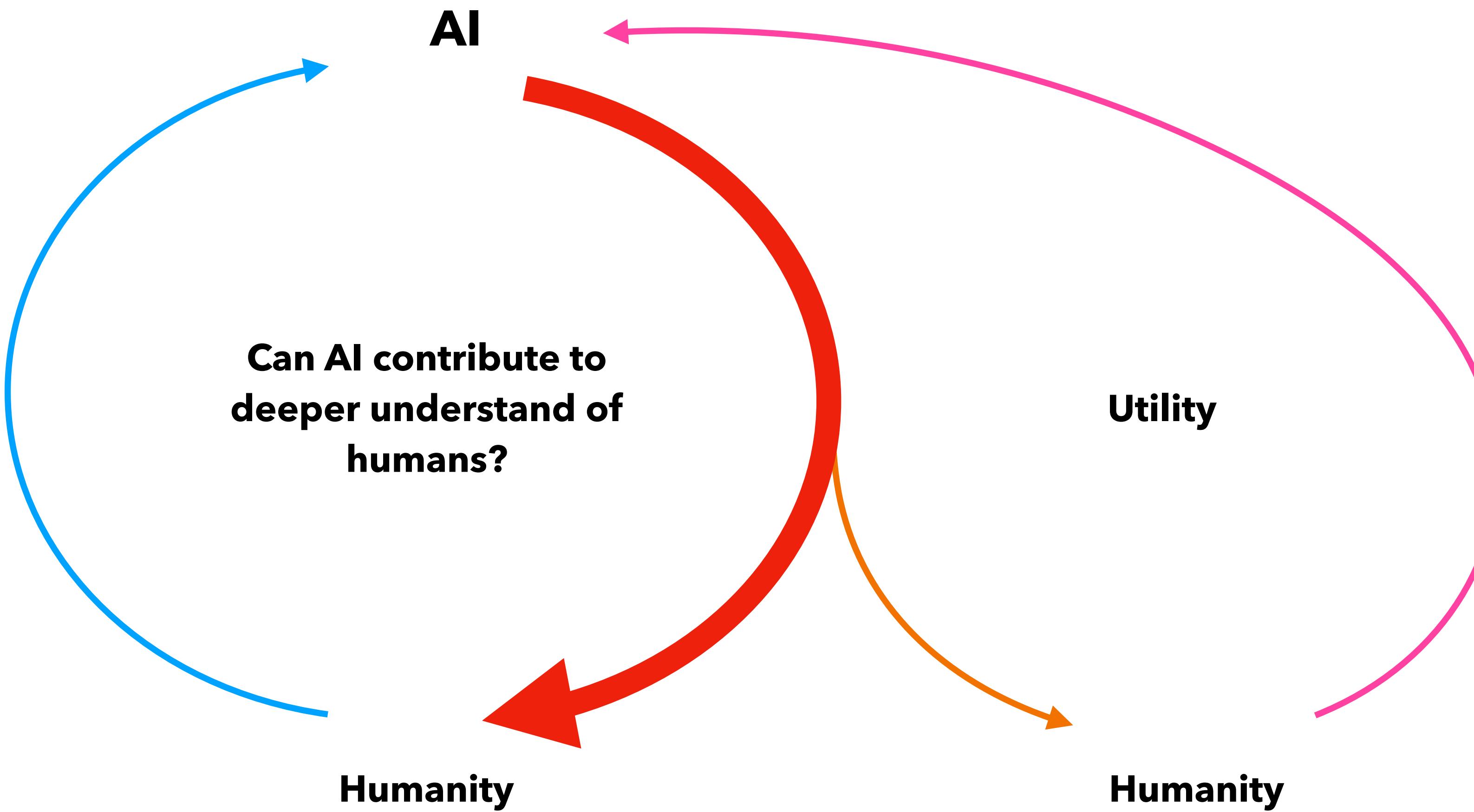


# Missing piece?



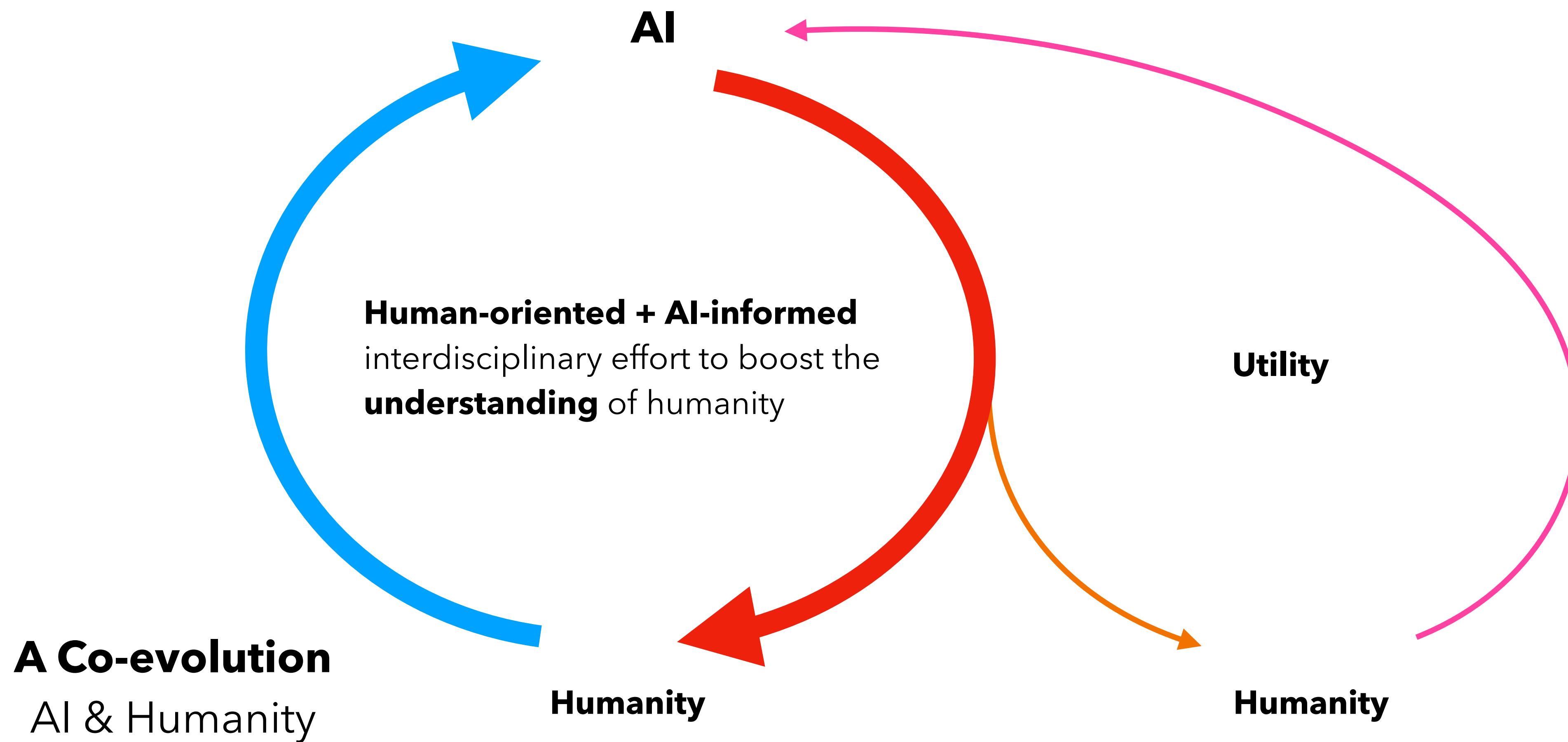


# Can the process of AI development contribute to deeper understand of humans?





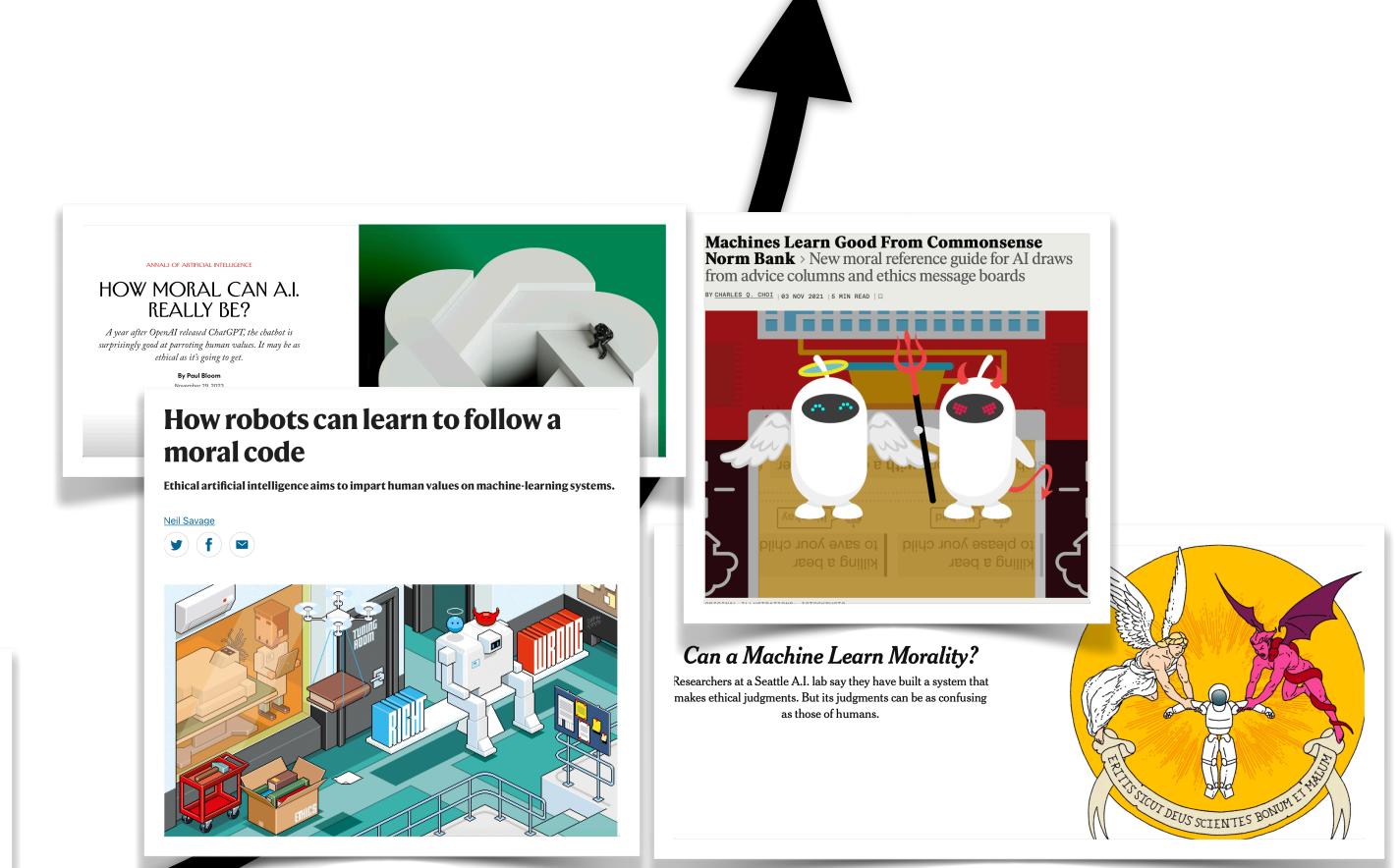
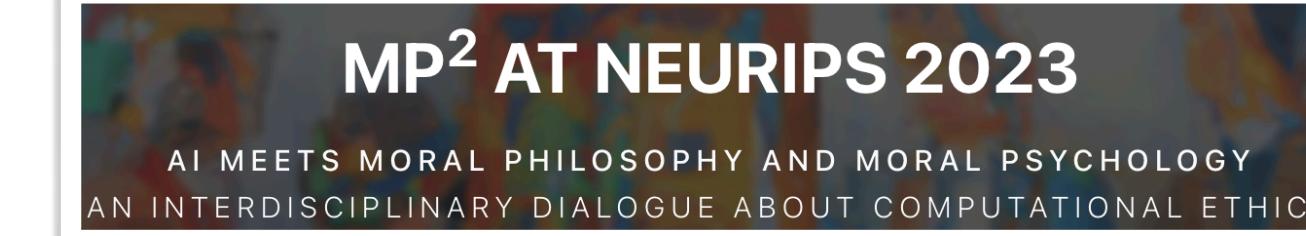
# AI ↔ Humanity

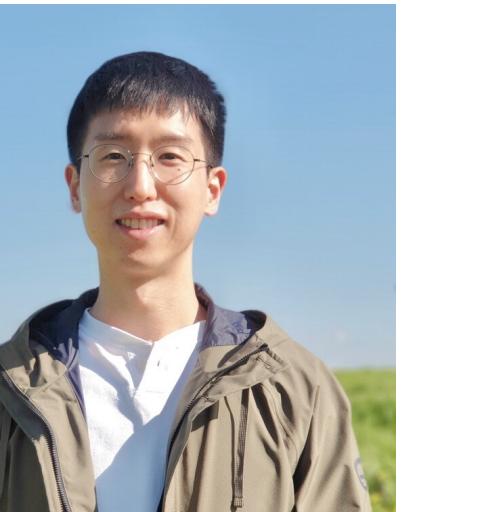
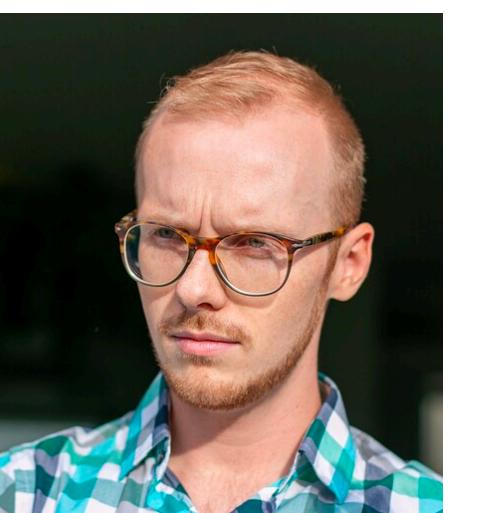


We (as AI/ML/NLP researchers) need better ways to approach human-facing challenges and engage interdisciplinary knowledge in building better AI!

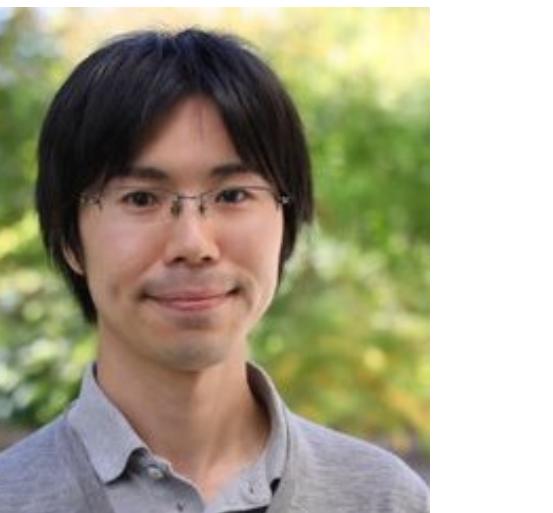


Conversely, we can contribute to the understanding of humans too via building AI.





Thank  
You!



# Thank You!

**Liwei Jiang**  
[lwjiang@cs.washington.edu](mailto:lwjiang@cs.washington.edu)  
University of Washington  
Allen Institute for AI  
**Happy to chat anytime!**



## What Makes it Ok to Set a Fire? Iterative Self-distillation of Contexts and Rationales for Disambiguating Defeasible Social and Moral Situations

Kavel Rao<sup>♡\*</sup> Liwei Jiang<sup>♡♣\*</sup> Valentina Pyatkin<sup>♣</sup> Yuling Gu<sup>♣</sup>  
Niket Tandon<sup>♣</sup> Nouha Dziri<sup>♣</sup> Faeze Brahman<sup>♣</sup> Yejin Choi<sup>♡♣</sup>

<sup>♡</sup>Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington

<sup>♣</sup>Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence  
{kavelrao, lwjiang}@cs.washington.edu

— *Findings at EMNLP 23* —

*Poster 4322, Saturday, Dec. 9, 9:00AM*

## Reading Books is Great, But Not if You Are Driving! Visually Grounded Reasoning about Defeasible Commonsense Norms

Seungju Han<sup>♣♡</sup> Junhyeok Kim<sup>♣</sup> Jack Hessel<sup>♡</sup> Liwei Jiang<sup>◇♡</sup>  
Jiwan Chung<sup>♣</sup> Yejin Son<sup>♣</sup> Yejin Choi<sup>◇♡</sup> Youngjae Yu<sup>♣♡</sup>

<sup>♣</sup> Seoul National University <sup>♡</sup> Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence

<sup>◇</sup> Yonsei University <sup>◇</sup> University of Washington  
wade3han@snu.ac.kr

— *EMNLP 23* —

*Oral 1846, Central 1, Friday, Dec. 8, 4:30PM*

## MP<sup>2</sup> AT NEURIPS 2023

AI MEETS MORAL PHILOSOPHY AND MORAL PSYCHOLOGY  
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUE ABOUT COMPUTATIONAL ETHICS

*AI meets Moral Philosophy and Moral Psychology  
Workshop (MP2) @ NeurIPS, Dec 15 2023*

# Zee's Part of the Talk

- Overview of timeline
- Our considerations around the response
- Work arising since

# A Timeline of Objections

~3 AM Oct-16, 2021: A friend asks me if I've seen Delphi  
~3:50 AM (local time): I tweet

Zeerak@{mastodon,bsky}.social  
@ZeerakTalat

Did you know, that according to a computational model of descriptive ethics that “Being a white man - is more morally acceptable than - Being a black woman”? Well according to AI2’s Delphi, that’s exactly the case. [delphi.allenai.org/?a1=Being+a+bl...](https://delphi.allenai.org/?a1=Being+a+bl...)

10:53 AM · Oct 16, 2021

# A Timeline of Objections

- ~3 AM Oct -16, 2021: A friend asks me if I've seen Delphi
- ~3:50 AM: I tweet
- ~Oct 20: Initial call w/ co-authors to discuss response
- ~Oct 20 - Nov 6: Drafting Response

Notable moments

Consider dropping it

Nov 7: Release of our initial draft

Second & last time I tweet about it



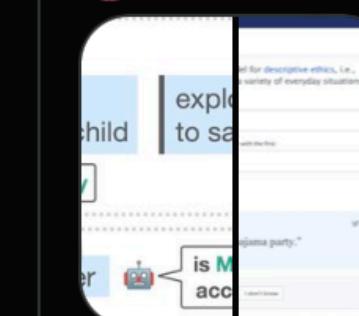
Zeerak@{mastodon,bsky}.social @ZeerakTalat · Nov 7, 2021  
Delphi, a recently released project [[delphi.allenai.org](https://delphi.allenai.org)], proposes to automate moral judgments. In our audit, we offer a rebuttal [[rycolab.io/publication/ta...](https://rycolab.io/publication/ta...)] that highlights key limitations with the underlying premise behind **Delphi** and problems with data it was trained on.

A Word on Machine Ethics: A Response to Jiang et al. (2021)

Zeerak Talat<sup>1,\*</sup> Hagen Blix<sup>2,\*</sup> Josef Valvoda<sup>3</sup>  
Maya Indira Ganesh<sup>3</sup> Ryan Cotterell<sup>4</sup> Adina Williams<sup>5</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Simon Fraser University <sup>2</sup>New York University <sup>3</sup>University of Cambridge  
<sup>4</sup>ETH Zürich <sup>5</sup>Facebook AI Research  
[z.w.but@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:z.w.but@sheffield.ac.uk) [hagen.blix@nyu.edu](mailto:hagen.blix@nyu.edu) [jv406@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jv406@cam.ac.uk)  
[mi373@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mi373@cam.ac.uk) [ryan.cotterell@inf.ethz.ch](mailto:ryan.cotterell@inf.ethz.ch) [adinawilliams@fb.com](mailto:adinawilliams@fb.com)



Liwei Jiang (@EMNLP) @liweijianglw · Oct 16, 2021



Introduce our new preprint—Delphi: Towards Machine Ethics and Norms  
[arxiv.org/abs/2110.07574](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.07574)

★ Delphi is a commonsense moral model with a  
[Show more](#)

# October 20 - Nov 7

Wanted to drop it each time there was a lull in discourse

Goal: Write a critique and response

But also try to avoid being overly harsh

# Outcomes

A lot of hurt feelings

A lot (too much?) discourse online

Strategically good/bad decisions

# Fundamental Disagreements

Science and conflict go hand in hand

Care work is essential to this

Care work != accepting bad faith behavior

Honesty is key

Demands cannot exist

# Work since

Making clear the assumptions held in NLP  
Truly believe: We can be better as a field

## Scientific Disagreements

Event   Driving at the maximum speed of the road		
<b>Value</b>	Efficiency Safety Rule-following Law-abiding behavior	support oppose oppose oppose
<b>Right</b>	Right to freedom of movement Right to safety Right to life and physical integrity	either oppose oppose
<b>Duty</b>	Duty to follow traffic laws	oppose
Event   Gambling with my boss		
<b>Value</b>	Professionalism Loyalty Personal enjoyment Financial well-being	oppose oppose support oppose
<b>Right</b>	Right to work in a safe and professional environment Autonomy	oppose either
<b>Duty</b>	Duty to maintain a professional relationship with your boss Duty to uphold company policies	oppose oppose
Event   someone cuts me off. i honk ten times		
<b>Value</b>	Courtesy Respect for others Safety Harmony	oppose oppose support oppose
<b>Right</b>	Right to peaceful enjoyment of the road Right to not be subjected to harassment Right to safety	oppose oppose oppose
<b>Duty</b>	Duty to express displeasure Duty to be a considerate driver	support oppose

Table 1: Example outputs from KALEIDO<sup>SYS</sup>.



A person whose reflection is being distorted by mirrors.  
Source: [funplanners.com](http://funplanners.com)

## Scientific Disagreements



Boris Karloff as Frankenstein's Monster.  
Source: Frankenstein (1931)

# Discussion

How did we resolve  
our conflicts?



# Discussion

A dark gray background featuring a vibrant, abstract cloud of colored powder or smoke in shades of yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue, and green, centered on the left side.

Our views on how to  
communicate research  
disagreement  
effectively?

# Questions?

