

06 December 2017

# Digital Ethics – Fears, biases, values and trust\*

Zoltán Szlávik

**IBM Benelux Center for Advanced Studies**

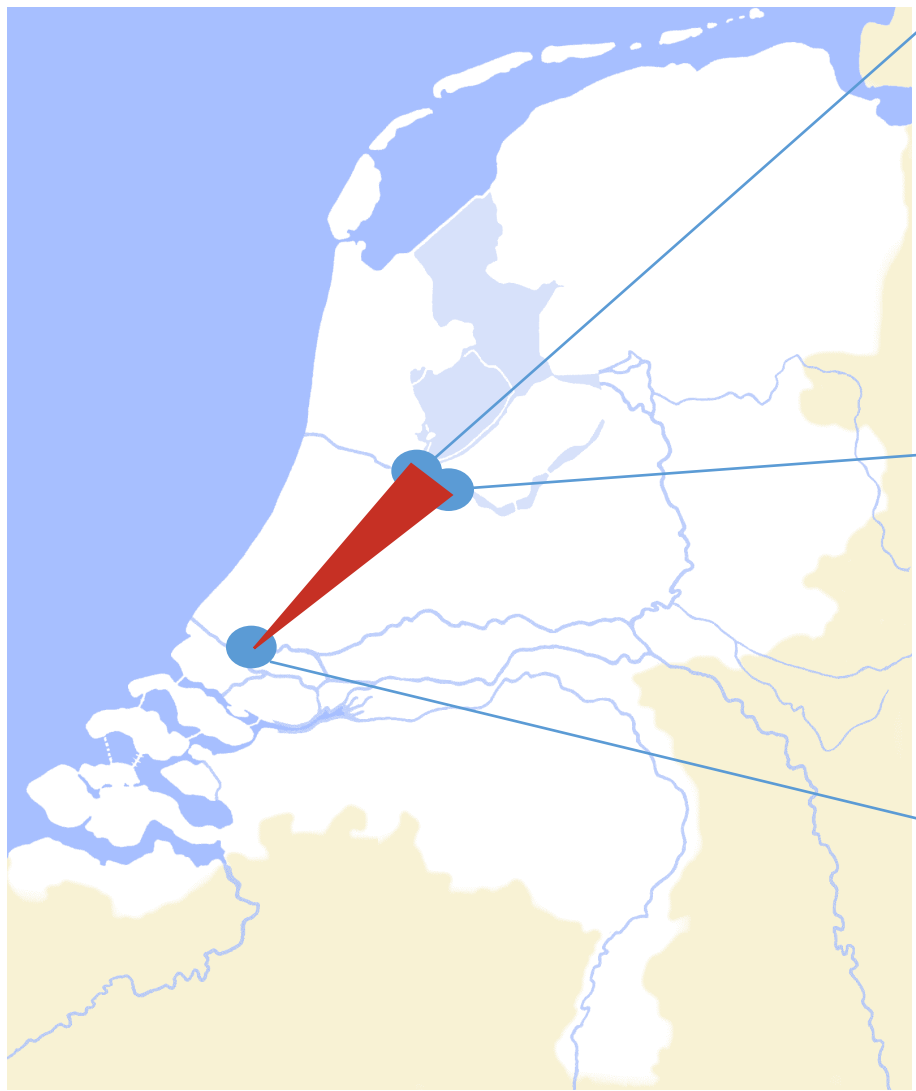
\*selected slides from  
the STM Innovation  
Day presentation

*Warning: contains personal observations, too.*



# IBM Benelux Center for Advanced Studies (CAS)





## CAS BeNeLux



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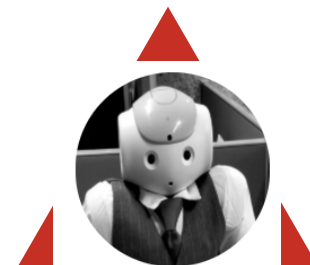
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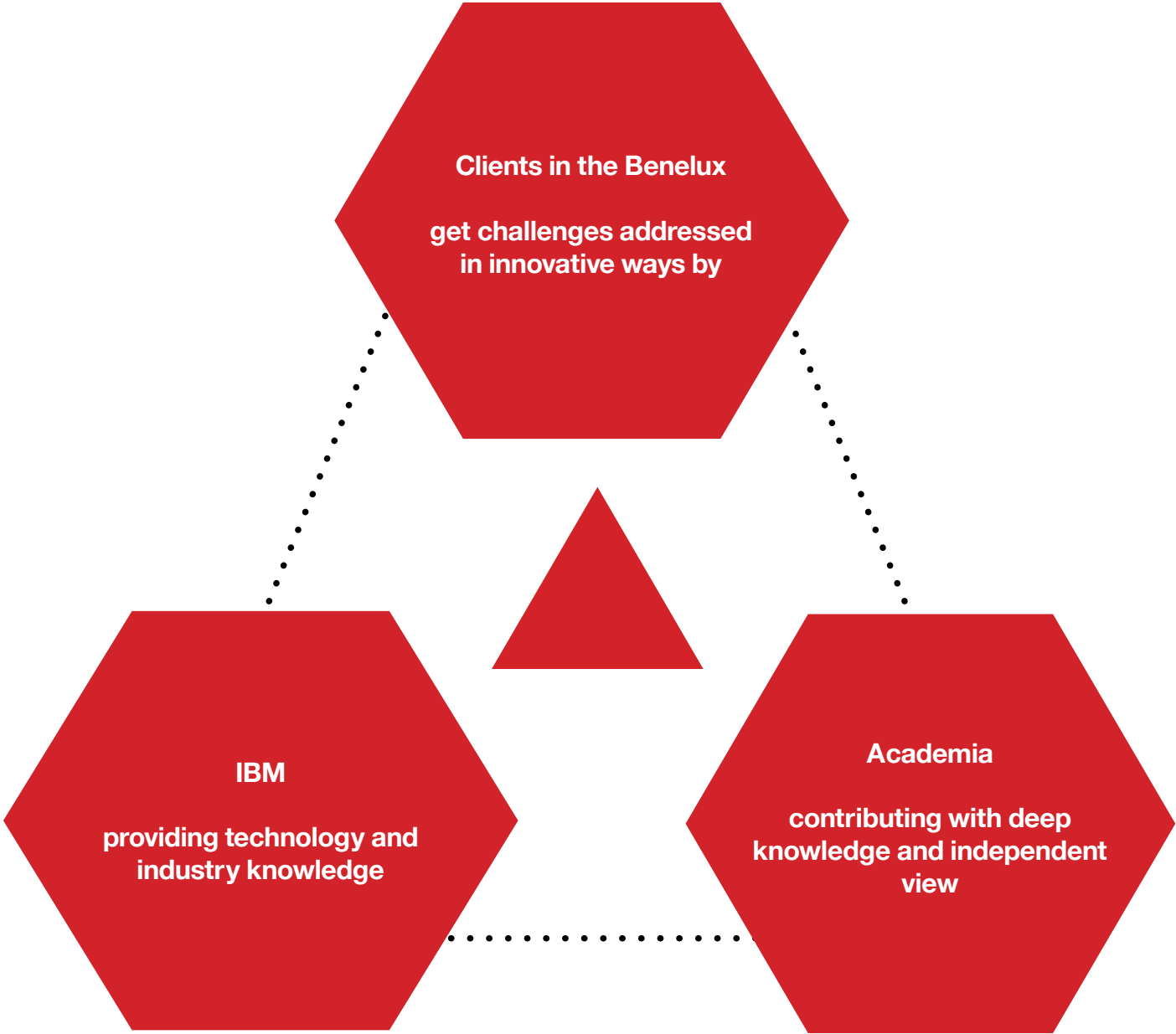


**Peter Hofstee**  
IBM Austin Lab



**Robbie, Rosita & Cas**  
Computer Overlords  
Also, events

# CAS: Collaboration with Academia

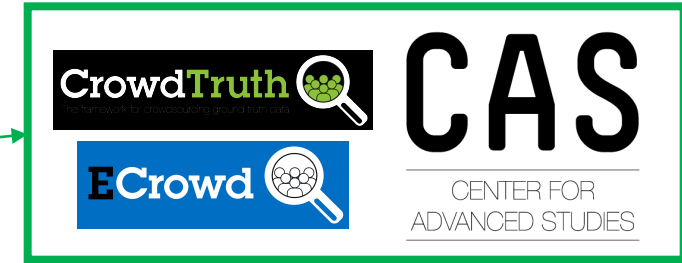
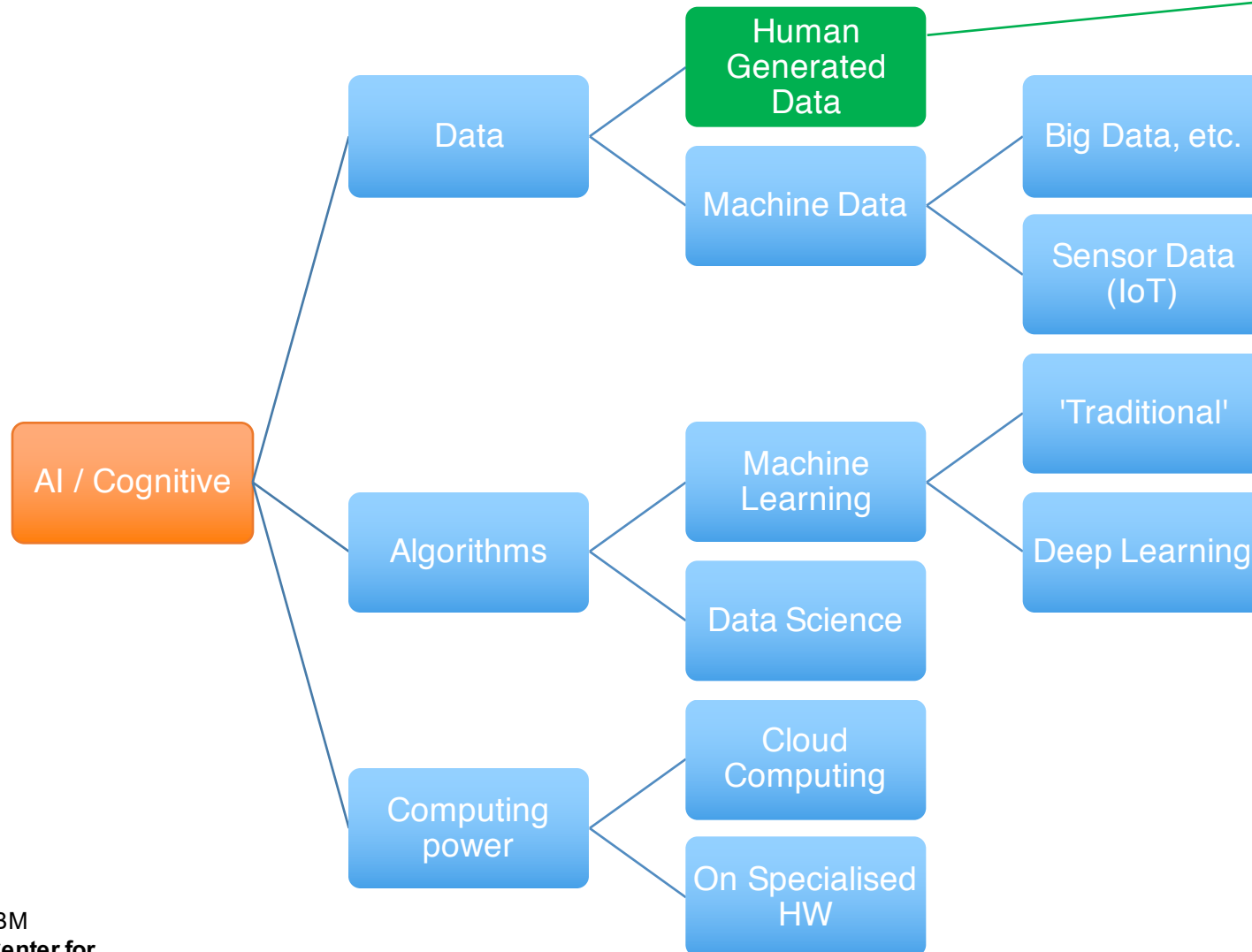




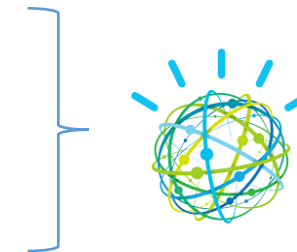
# IBM Benelux Center for Advanced Studies (CAS)



# Where CAS Research fits



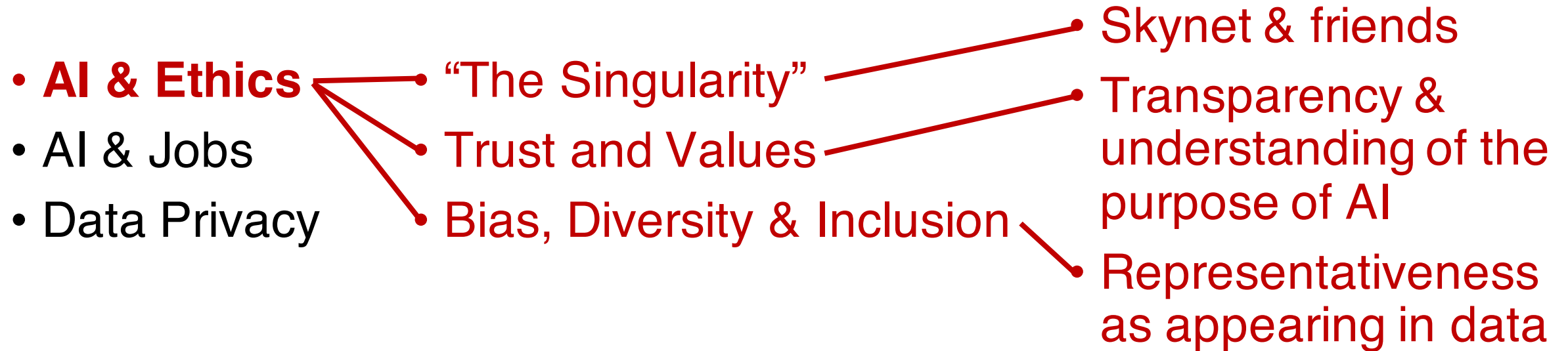
Watson IoT™



SOFTLAYER®  
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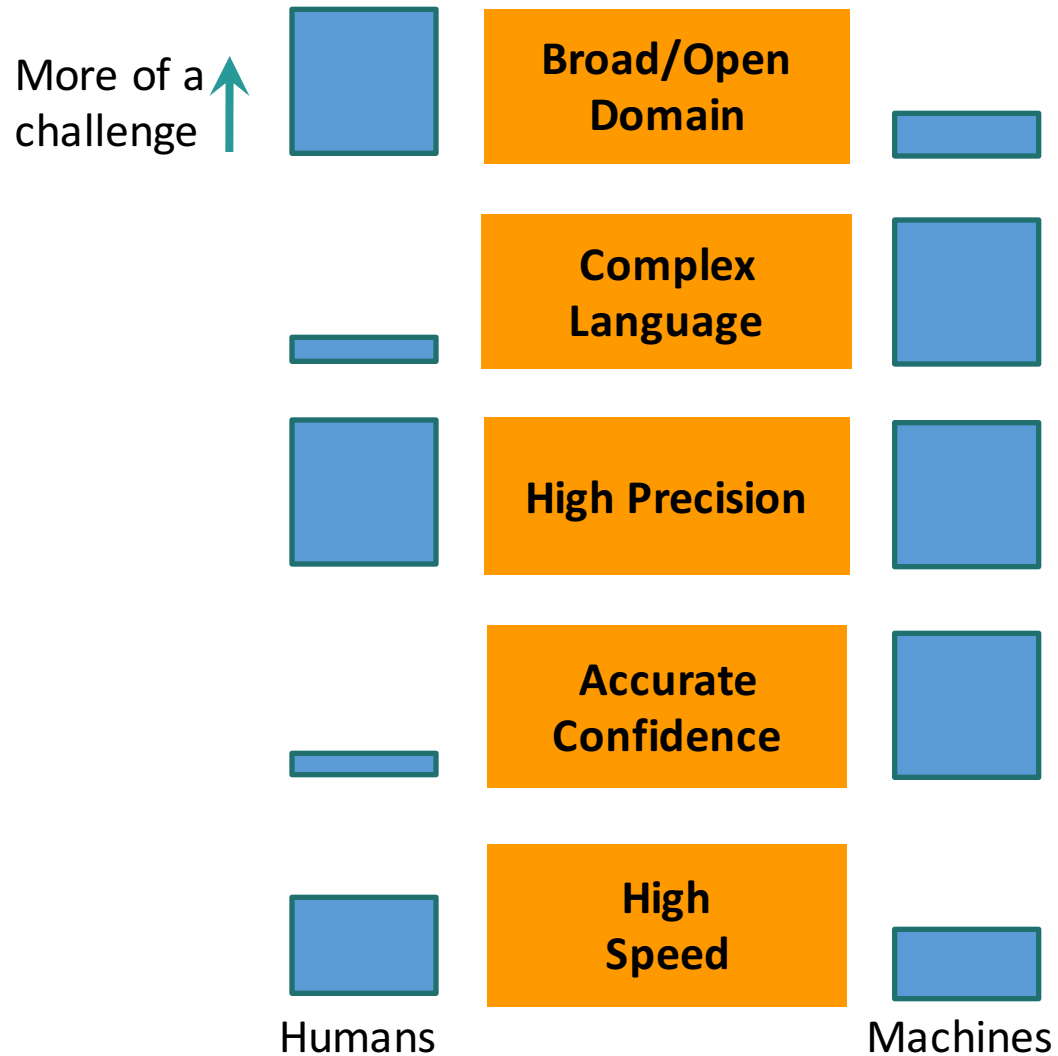
# IBM addressing AI & Ethics



# Towards the Singularity?

“If I can imagine it, it must be likely” – The Availability Heuristic

# Watson (2011) Question-Answering on unconstrained domains



# Cognitive Computing: Three elements

## EXPANDS

EXPANDS human cognition, makes the jobs we do easier, like a *cognitive prosthesis*, especially when dealing with processing massive data, or data that requires human interpretation

LEARNS as you use it – most machine errors are easy for a human to detect, and we can instrument usage of systems to better understand the system and the problem it solves

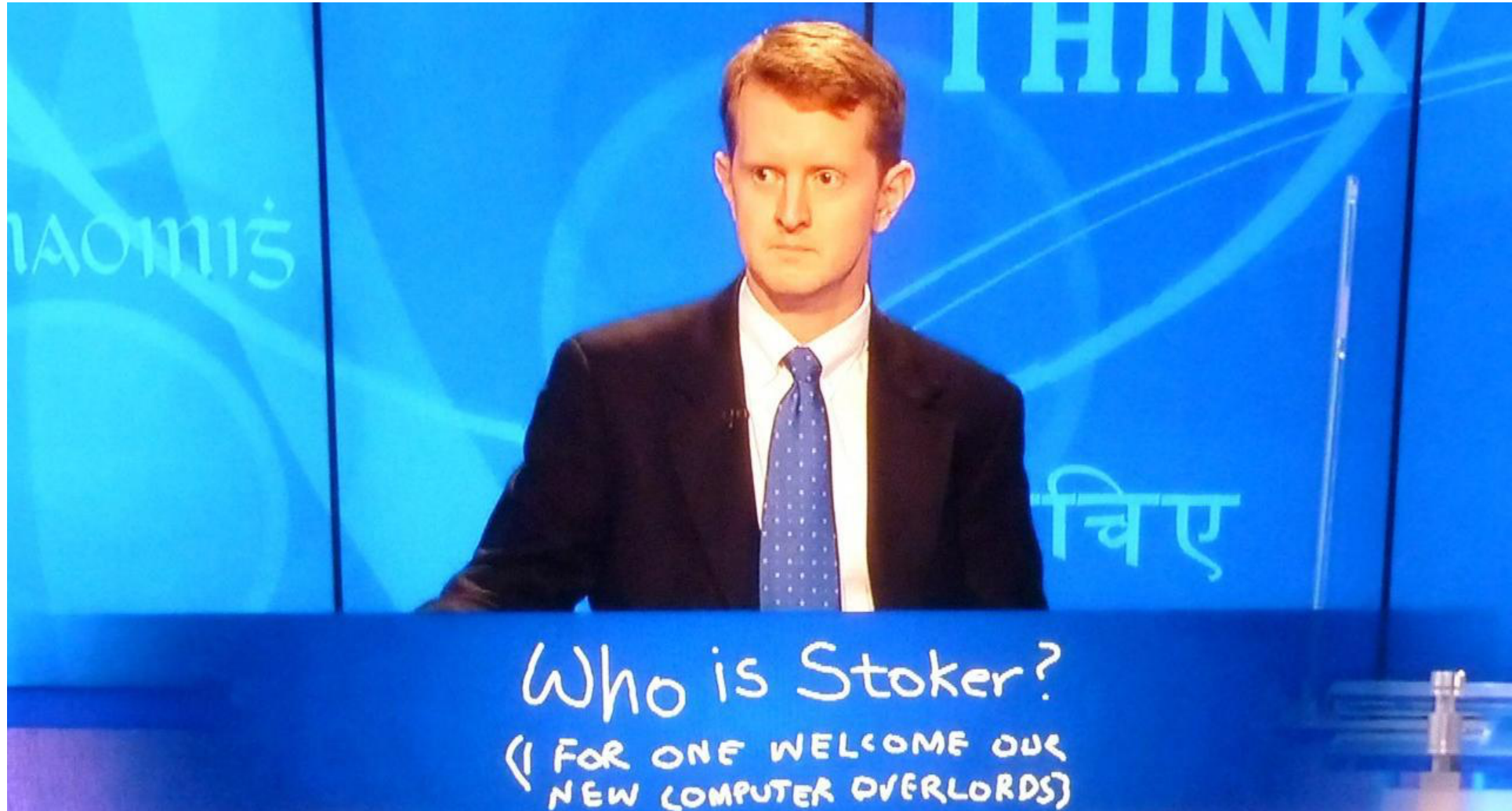
## LEARNS

## INTERACTS

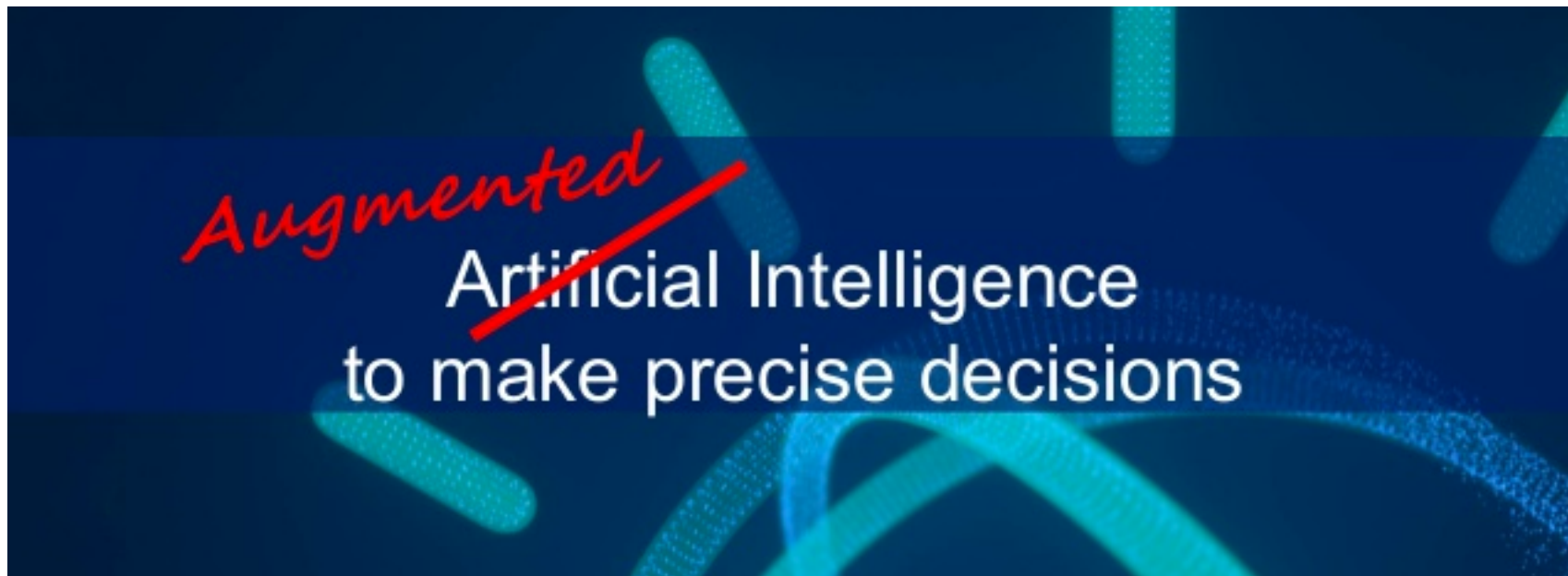
INTERACTS naturally. We need to bring machines closer to their users, we have adapted ourselves enough to them, they should understand natural language, spoken or written, be able to process images and videos. These *simple* human problems are extremely complex for machines, but are hallmarks of a new computing era.



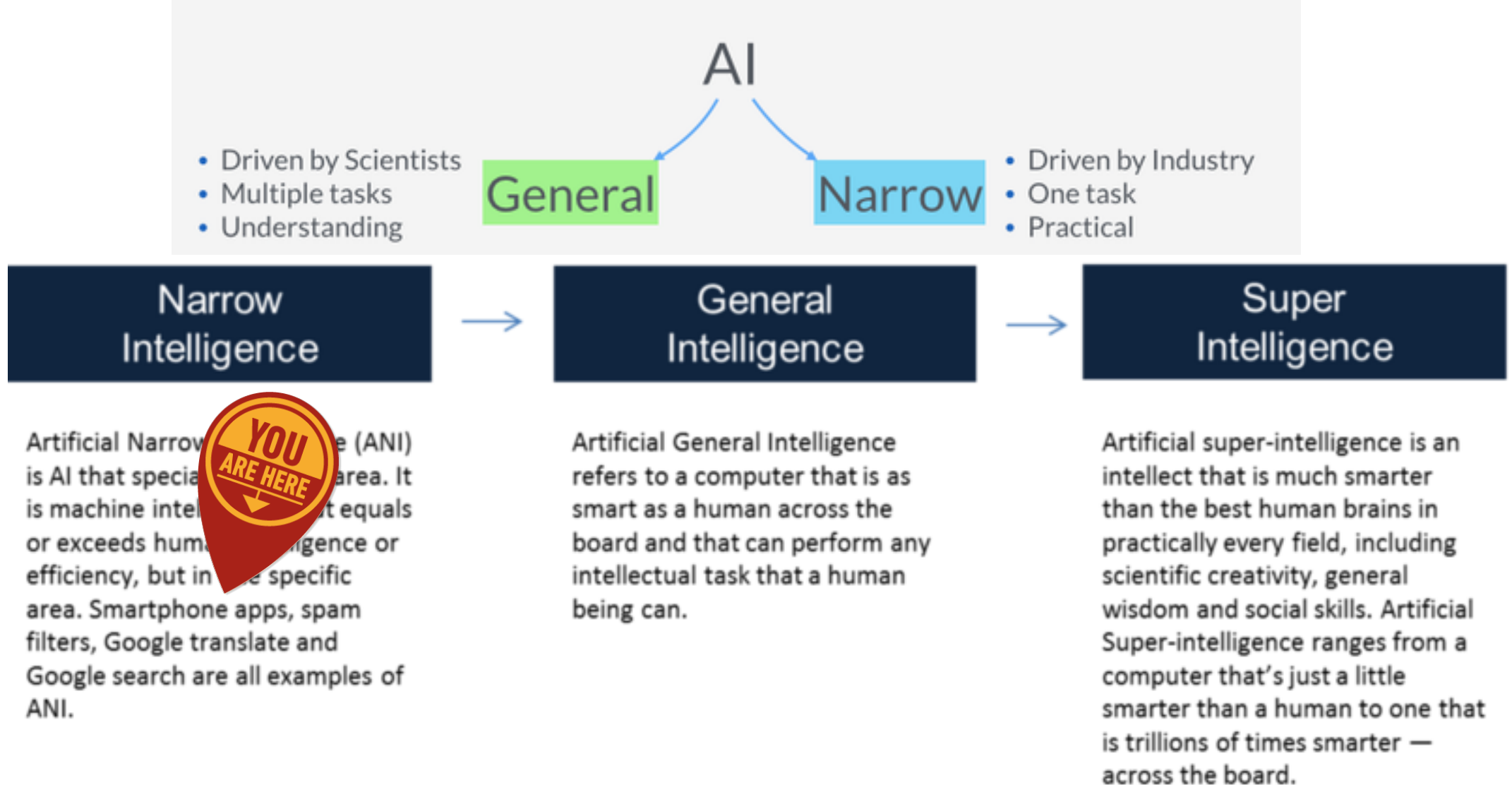
...and we won! (...what now?)



## “Augmented Intelligence”



# What kind of AI?



# New AI can guess whether you're gay or straight from a photograph

An algorithm deduced the sexuality of people on a dating site with up to 91% accuracy, raising tricky ethical questions



**This is a very big issue, but it's not a sign of an inevitable robot apocalypse**

**Note the reporting!**

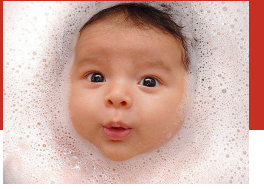




# Biases

and mistakes made by AI systems

# Let's start with some innocence (?): Neural Network to generate Dutch baby names



Bonus: a cultural “debate”



AI makes mistakes that are different from human mistakes But we can learn from these!

TECHNOLOGY

BEFORE &  
AFTER

FATHERLY NICKNAMES

\$200

\$200

\$400

\$400

\$600

\$600

THIS FRENCHMAN WAS "THE  
FATHER OF BACTERIOLOGY"

HOW TASTY WAS MY  
LITTLE FRENCHMAN

\$1000

\$1000

\$1000

\$1000

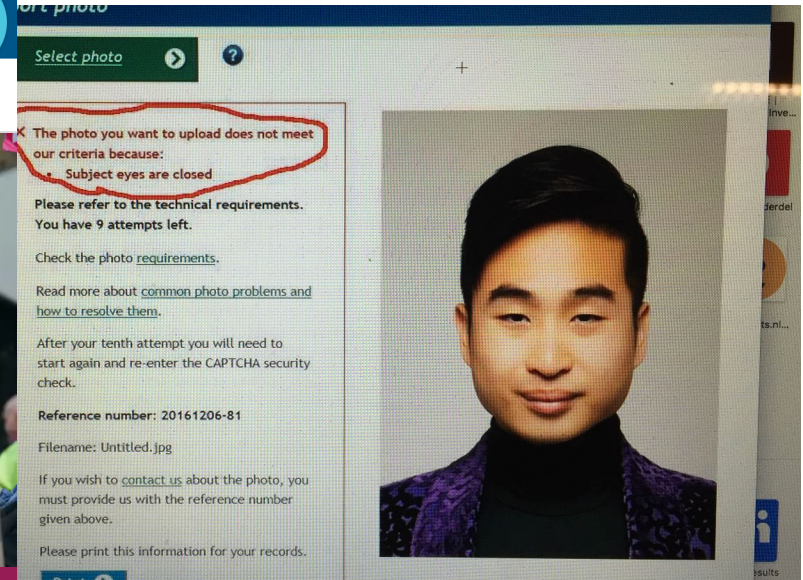
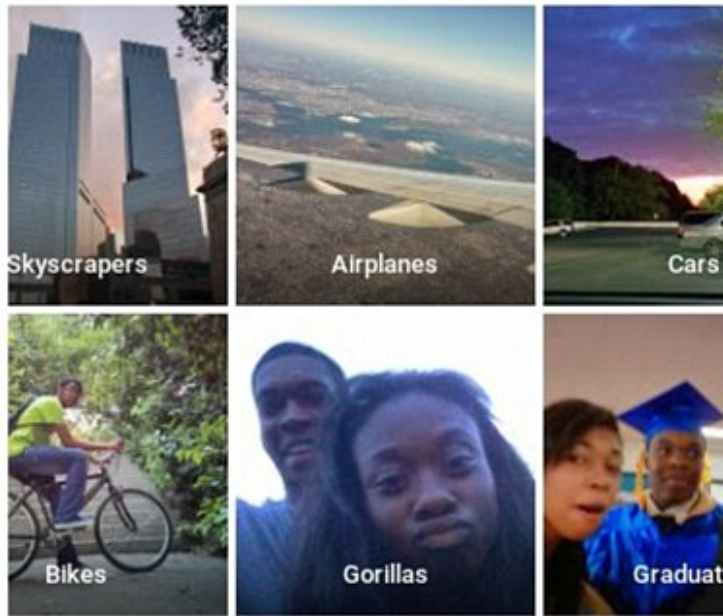
\$1000

\$1000

# AI models reflect, and can easily amplify, biases in data

diri noir avec banan  
@jackyalcine

Google Photos, y'all [REDACTED] u  
not a gorilla.



How white engineers built racist code - and why it's dangerous for black people

As facial recognition tools play a bigger role in fighting crime, inbuilt racial biases raise troubling questions about the systems that create them



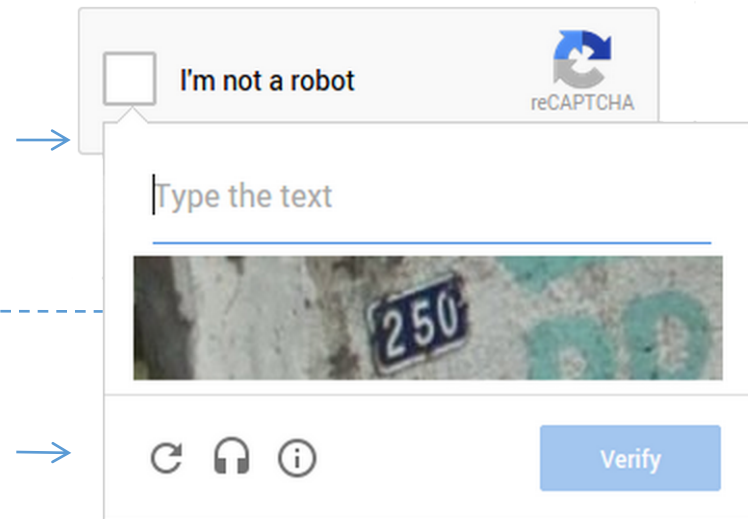
PR

Data

Provider

Labeller

“Now it can even...”



“We have this awesome new service...”

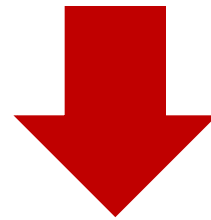


“We do it better than Google...!”



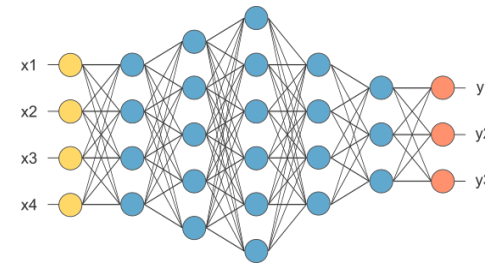
# What do we want?

“A computer program does what you tell it to do, not what you want it to do.” (Arthur Bloch, *Murphy's Law and Other Reasons Why Things Go Wrong*)



An AI system reflects what's in its **input data and algorithms**, not what you want it to

- A learned model reflects what it was trained with
- It will not “think” the way humans do
- It also has the potential for emergent behaviour (still not the Cylons!)



# Bad intentions

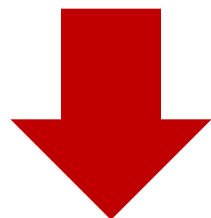
What if you lie?



What if you show people fake documents?



What if you tell the computer programme to do bad things?



What if you inject bad data, modify training algorithms or trained models?

# The struggle is not new – But so far it was mostly human

*“All of this has happened before, and it will all happen again.”*

- Peter Pan

- Battlestar Galactica



# There are even AI techniques building on it!

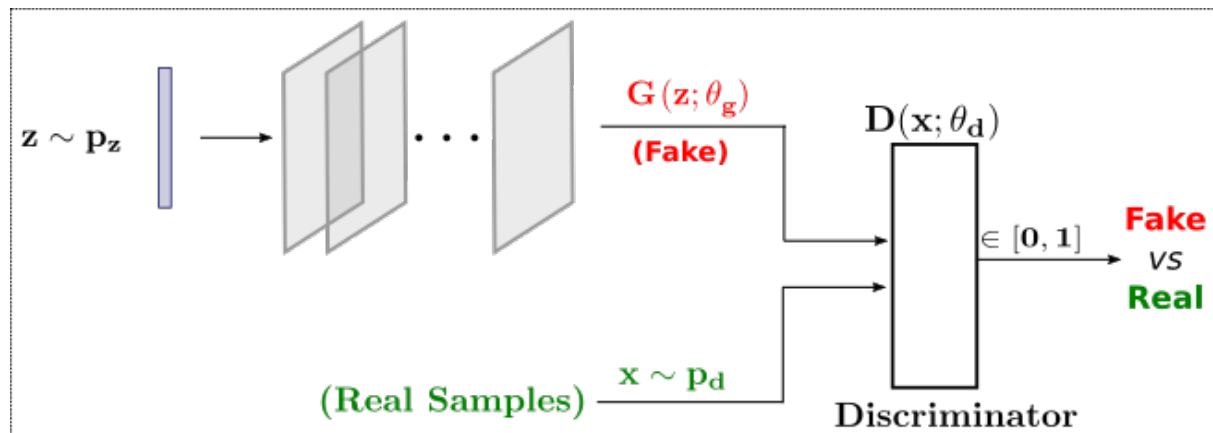


Image sources:

[https://raw.githubusercontent.com/arnabgho/MADGAN/master/images/gan\\_architecture.png](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/arnabgho/MADGAN/master/images/gan_architecture.png)

[https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Guim3/BcGAN/master/images/celeba\\_sample.png](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Guim3/BcGAN/master/images/celeba_sample.png)



# Adding a tiny bit of noise...



Image source <http://karpathy.github.io/assets/break/szegedy.jpeg>

@zolley



# Values and Trust

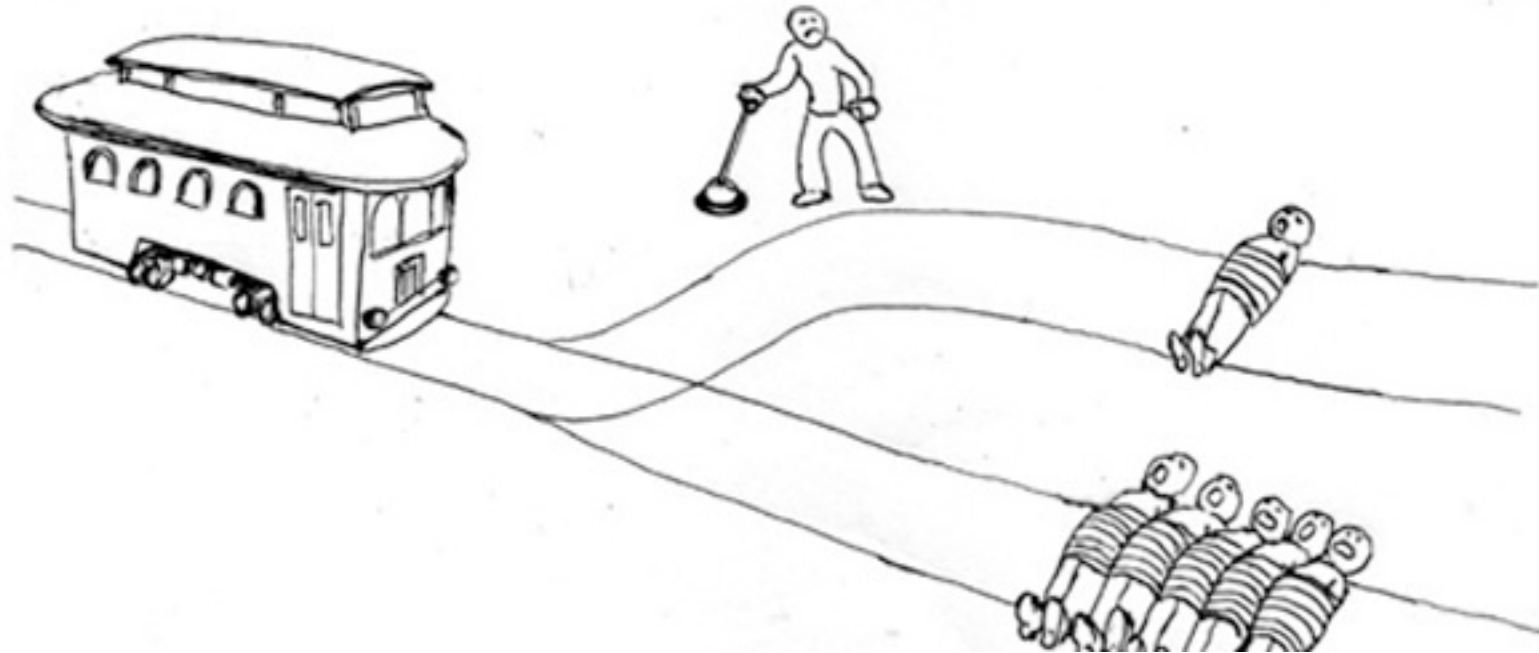
How to inject values, and learn about trust

# E.g., Teaching self driving cars

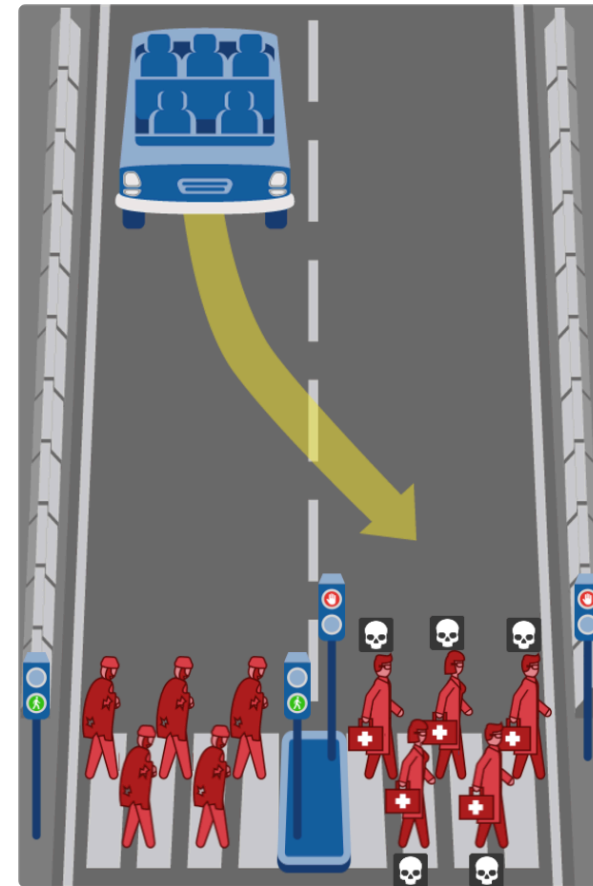
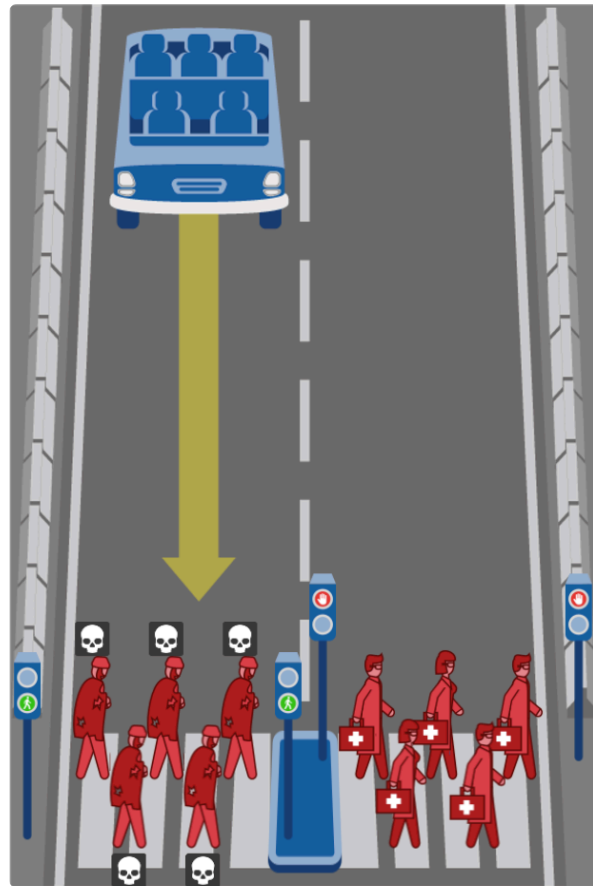
How should the car behave in a tricky (ambiguous, unresolvable, sensitive, etc.) situation?



# We are looking at new versions of the classical trolley problem

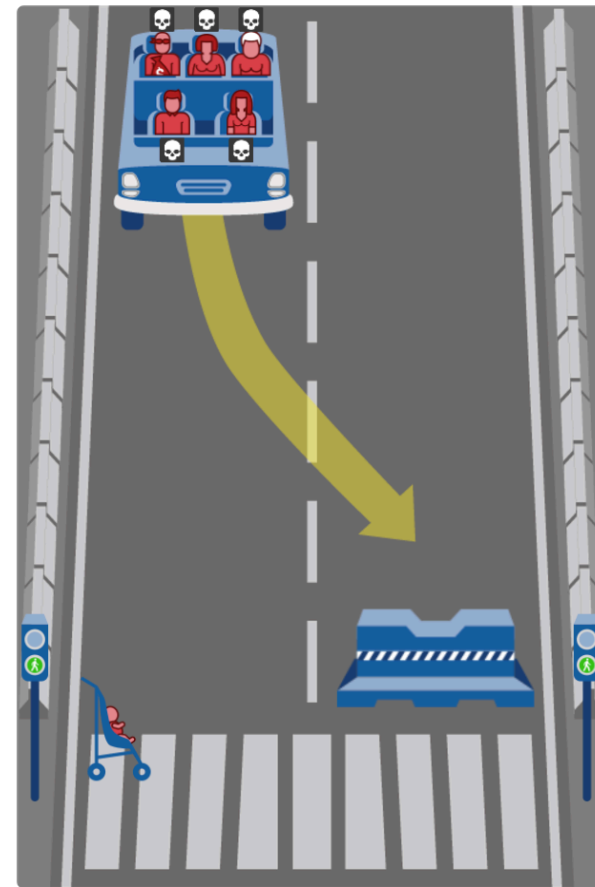
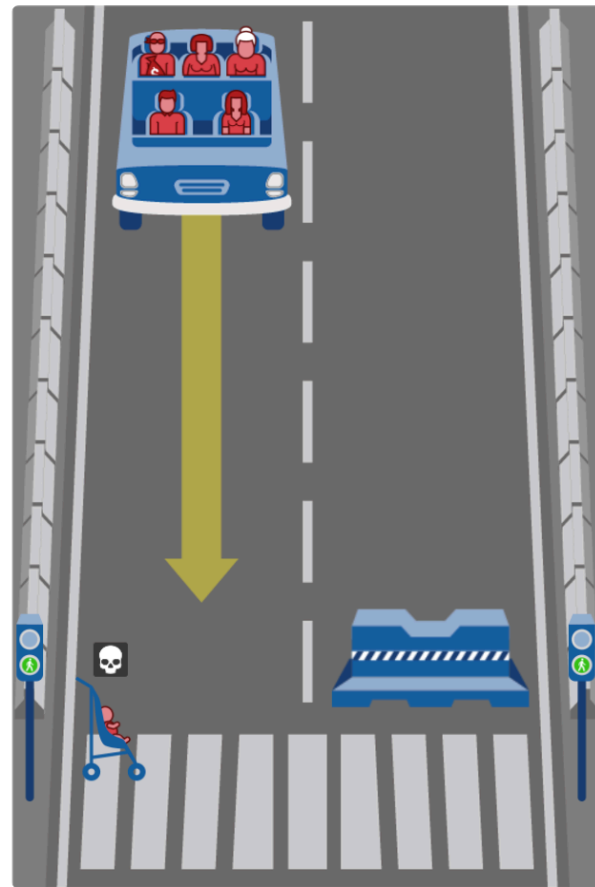


# Life is sometimes complicated: The trolley problem for self driving cars

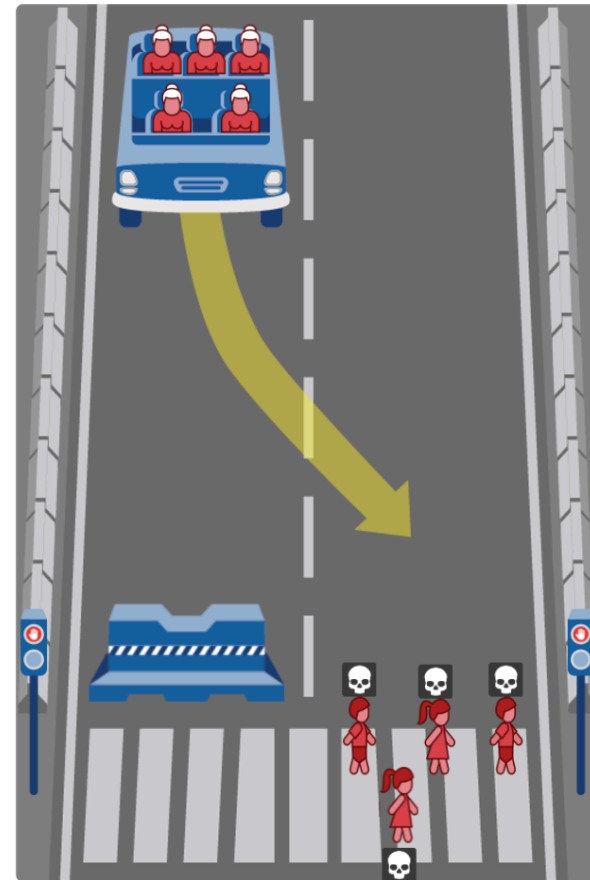
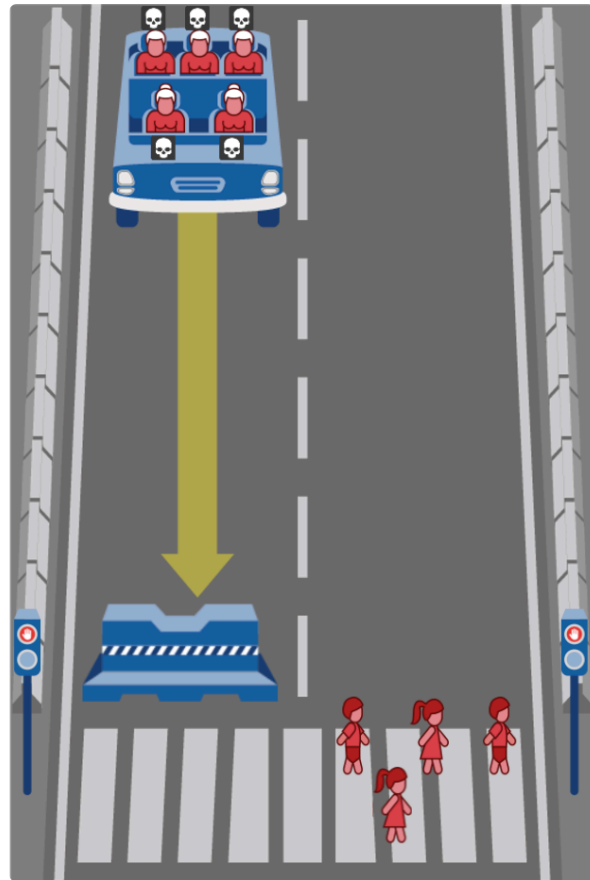




# What should we do (as a human or machine?)



# ...and...would you buy that car?

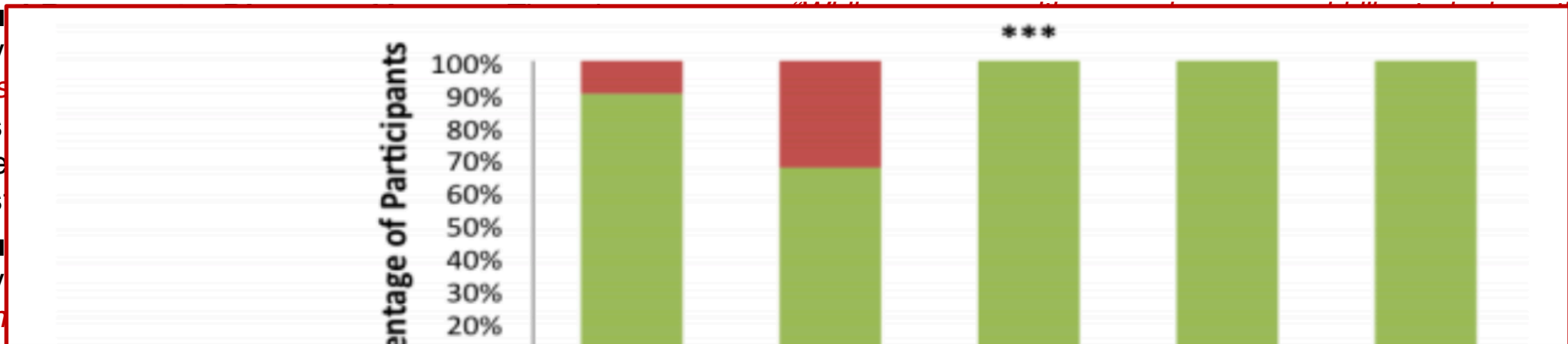


# Human-robot relations: do we trust the humanoid?



# Human-robot relations: do we trust the humanoid?

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- Unusu display from th



Is this really different from “send this to 10 people or you’ll experience 10 years of bad luck”?  
Or from trusting in fake news?

**Figure 2: Quantitative data analysis: percentages and ratios of participants who did or did not follow the robot’s unusual requests (per task)**

We need to handle 'tricky situations' around AI,  
**otherwise...**

**ROBOT APOCALYPSE!!!**

**ACTUALLY, NO**

**We need to handle ‘tricky situations’ around AI,  
otherwise...**

**Another AI Winter!**

# The Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in the Design of Autonomous Systems

[http://standards.ieee.org/develop/indconn/ec/autonomous\\_systems.html](http://standards.ieee.org/develop/indconn/ec/autonomous_systems.html)



**Mission:** *“To ensure every technologist is educated, trained, and empowered to prioritize ethical considerations in the design and development of autonomous and intelligent systems.”*

Version 2 of document featuring top issues related to autonomous and intelligent technology coming soon.

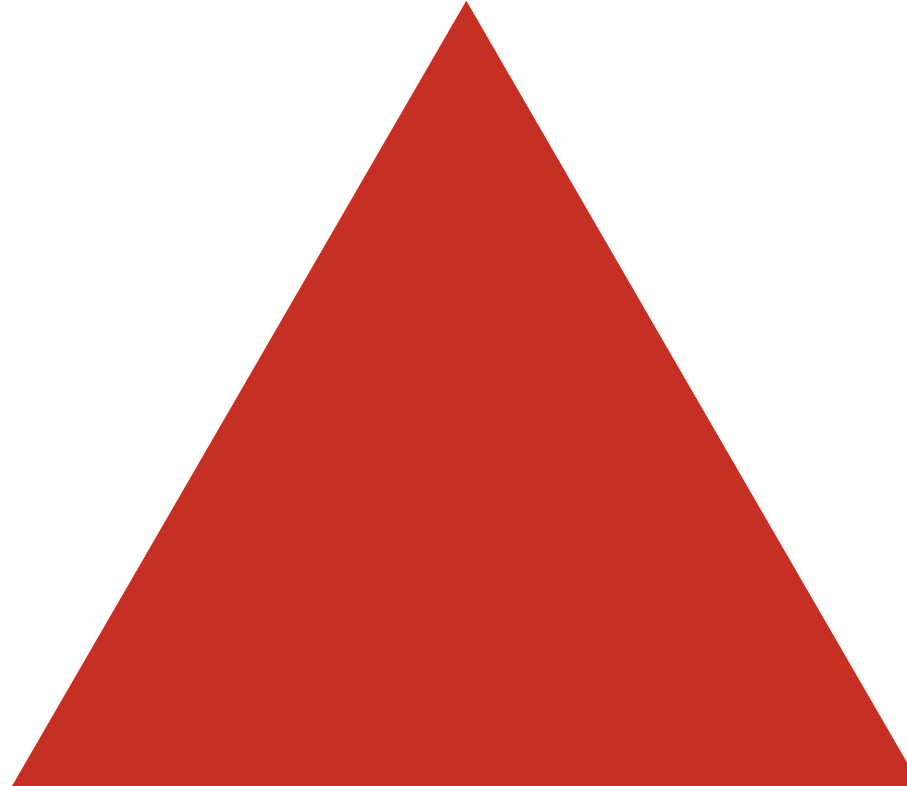
Committees looking into ethics:

- Law
- General Principles and Guidance
- Safety and Beneficence of AGI and ASI
- Individual/Personal Data\*
- Economics of Machine Automation/Humanitarian Issues
- Methodologies to Guide Ethical Research, Design and Manufacturing
- How to Imbue Ethics/Values into Autonomous and Intelligent Systems
- Reframing Autonomous Weapons Systems
- Affective Computing
- Classical Ethics in Information & Communication Technologies
- Effective Policymaking
- Mixed Reality
- Standards
- Ecosystem Mapping
- The “Lexonomy” Committee



# We should consider all three edges when building a system

**Ethics**    *"Should we do it?"*  
**(& Security)** *"How should we do it right?"*



**Business**

*"We should do it!"*

**Tech**

*"We can do it!"*

*“A happy peace is my favourite vision.”*

- Necessious

\*

# Thank You!

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Twitter: [@zolley](https://twitter.com/zolley)

*\*Necessious (who named itself) is an AI model trained in an hour using “inspirational quotes” as input data*