

CSCI 108: Essay 1

Due: Wednesday, November 5

Anderson and Anderson (2007) argue that we face a choice with respect to machine ethics and Artificial Intelligence. We can either allow AI researchers to continue to develop autonomous intelligent machines but require that those machines have ethical components, or we should stifle AI research.

Select one application of AI (for example, autonomous vehicles or translation systems), and discuss the ethical dilemmas that a machine performing that application might face. Then either

1. propose an appropriate system of ethics for the system, or
2. argue that no such system of ethics can be devised.

In either case, you need not worry about the technical details of implementing such a system of ethics.

If you choose the first option, make clear whether the system would be implicit or explicit; state the rules or principles by which the machine would have to “live” or provide examples of the types of cases it would need to analyze in order to learn to behave appropriately. You may use the ideas discussed in Grau (2006) and Anderson and Anderson (2007) or other work, but be sure to cite all sources appropriately.

If you choose the second option, also argue whether it is necessary and appropriate, then, to stop AI research in this area. Again, feel free to cite ideas from the papers you read this week as well as other works.

Your essay should be approximately 3 pages long, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins. Try to keep quotations from the reading to a minimum (say, 1 from each of the two papers), but be sure to give references for material that you derive from the readings.