The Ethics Behind Self-Driven Vehicles
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How Self-Driven Cars Are Ethical
- The development and advancement of self-driven cars has provided society with a safer way to travel.
- According to the Law Office of David E. Gordon, it is estimated that self-driven cars can reduce accident fatalities by as much as 90%.

Overview of Ethical Algorithms in Self-Driven Cars
- Although self-driven cars can provide safer roads to travel on, they open a huge ethical dilemma about how the self-driven car's algorithm should respond to accidents.
- Since everyone has different ethical values and opinions, no matter what option the car chooses, someone will be unhappy, even if they weren't involved in the accident.
- Ultimately, the ethical decision the car makes on the road is based on a human being's personal ethical views. Whether that's from the algorithm the manufacturer provides, or the ethical setting the driver chooses.
- Manufacturers of self-driven cars must decide whether to allow drivers to decide what the car does in these situations or automatically program the cars to do what they believe is most ethical.

Ethical Algorithms in Self-Driven Cars
- This dilemma is extremely difficult to answer because everyone has different ethical values in how the car should respond to a situation like this.
- In a study done by Jean-François Bonnefon, he found that there was disagreement by the public on how the self-driven cars algorithm should work.
- Some people believed that the car should prioritize the driver's safety over everything else, others believed that the car should choose the option that creates the least amount of harm, and others believe the car should have an ethics settings in which the driver can choose how to react to accidents.

Self-Driven Car Ethical Example
- Sven Nyholm presented the ethical dilemma of a self-driving car with 5 passengers driving down a road. Suddenly a road-block appeared in the road and the self-driven car had to decide between driving into the road-block and killing the 5 passengers or driving onto the sidewalk and killing 5 innocent pedestrians.

- This is a difficult ethical dilemma to engage in, and the best answer is still unknown by car manufacturers. Therefore, such algorithms were made in case of situations like this.

Bibliography