

# Ethics has to do with...

- Right and Wrong
- Good and Bad
- Moral values

# Major areas: Metaethics

- Foundational issues:
  - Is morality a matter of personal taste/collective agreement/truth?
  - Are we free to choose (and responsible for our behaviors)?

# Major areas: Normative ethics

- *Deontological* (deon=duty, obligation - Kant)
- *Consequentialist* (good/bad consequences, well-being maximization – J. S. Mill)
- *Virtue* (virtuous traits of character, achieving practical wisdom - Aristotle)
  - Ethics of care, feminist ethics, ...

# Major areas: Applied ethics

- Bioethics
  - principles (grounded in normative ethics) of beneficence (C), non-maleficence (C), patient autonomy (D), distributive justice (C-D)
    - How to reconcile beneficence and autonomy?
- Animal ethics, Business ethics, Computer ethics, Environmental ethics, AI ethics, ....

# AI ethics example: unavoidable collisions rule

Ethics Commission -

Bundesministerium fuer Digitales und Verkehr (2017)

- **D1**: *In unavoidable accident situations*, any distinction based on personal features (age, gender, physical or mental constitution) is strictly prohibited
- **D2**: Parties involved in the generation of mobility risks must not sacrifice non-involved parties
- **C1**: General programming to reduce injuries to persons is justifiable
- Alternative prioritizations : Individual freedom of choice, nudging, ...

# Problem solving in applied ethics

## from normative principles to policies

- Consider plurality of principles
  - Duty-oriented ethics: focus on obligations and fundamental rights
  - Consequence ethics: focus on maximizing/promoting collective welfare
- Bring out moral tensions in context
  - Medical beneficence vs respect of patient autonomy
  - Non-discrimination vs damage minimization
- Ethical policy development
  - prioritization of principles and thoughtful compromise
  - Try and avoid paralyzing moral dilemmas