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## Abstract

Truth-telling is held to be a moral imperative in Kantian ethics, because lying fails to respect other people who need accurate information to understand situations pertinent to their own ends. Furthermore, Kant tells us that we also have obligations not only to respect the ends of others, but also to promote them. Thus, it seems that not only must I refrain from lying, I have an obligation to offer truthful information to others in situations where it will promote their (moral) ends. I call this component of Kantian ethics an “ethics of clear vision,” that amounts to the moral imperative that we provide each other with the reliable information we need to navigate successfully through the courses of our lives. If this “ethics of clear vision” carries any weight, then a series of moral imperatives follow concerning what kinds of software we should be designing and when and where we use it. If data-driven, computer analysis exceeds the power of human reason (which often works by anecdote and is limited by perception), then, it would seem that we have a moral responsibility to defer to computers in place of unaided human judgment. This conclusion will seem counter-intuitive to some, since it puts machine reasoning ahead of human cognition. Consequently, there is either something wrong with the “ethics of clear vision” or we are morally required to build technologies that aid, or in more radical cases, replace, our own cognitive comprehension of things.

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