Philosophisches Kolloquium

Sommersemester 2025

Values in machine learning: What follows from underdetermination?

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Machine learning is in many ways biased. Much contemporary work in computer science as well as philosophy is devoted to charting the various types and entry points of algorithmic bias in machine learning pipelines. Several authors have further made a connection to the debate in the philosophy of science about the role of non-epistemic value judgments in scientific inference. Some have adopted arguments against the value-free ideal of science to reason more fundamentally that machine learning algorithms *must* be value-laden. Their arguments rely on the inductive nature of scientific inference, and the fundamental problem of the underdetermination of inductive conclusions by the available data. These are general characteristics that are shared by learning algorithms. Thus, it has been claimed that scientific and algorithmic decision procedures are deeply value-laden. In this talk I clarify and delineate the relevant notion of ''value-ladeness'' and of ''machine learning algorithm'' needed for the discussion. I then show why the underdetermination argument does not suffice to establish the value-ladeness of learning algorithms.

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Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!