



THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS

Lecturer: Mark Gillan

ISAAC ASIMOV

- Author
- Science Fiction short story
- 'Runaround'
- Introduced in 1942
- THREE laws of robotics
- Since appeared in numerous works of science fiction



THE THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS

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FIRST LAW

- A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

SECOND LAW

- A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the first law.

THIRD LAW

- A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.



PURPOSE

The three laws are designed to ensure robots are always subservient to humans

To never pose a threat to humanity

Remains an influential concept

NOT legally binding, but have influenced the development of robotics

Many engineers and ethicists consider the laws to be important guidelines for designing and using robots safely and responsibly



CONSIDERATIONS

- Definition of 'robot' ... Is a robot simply a machine, or does it require a certain level of intelligence or sentience to be subject to the law?
- Interpretation of 'harm' ... Does harm only mean to include physical harm, or does it also encompass emotional or psychological harm?
- Role of obedience ... To what extent should a robot obey human orders, even if those orders conflict with its own judgement or the First Law?
- Self-preservation instinct ... How does a robot balance its own self-preservation with its obligation to protect humans?

