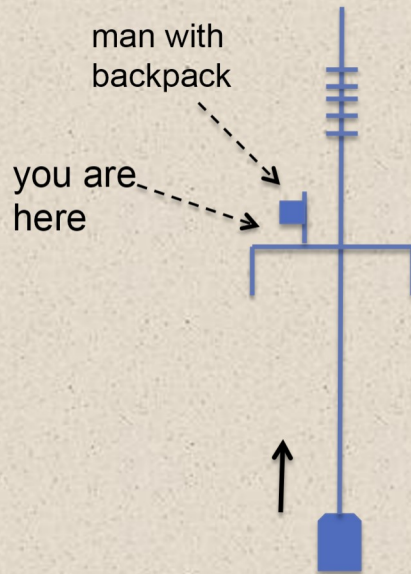


Trolley-ology

The Footbridge Dilemma 1

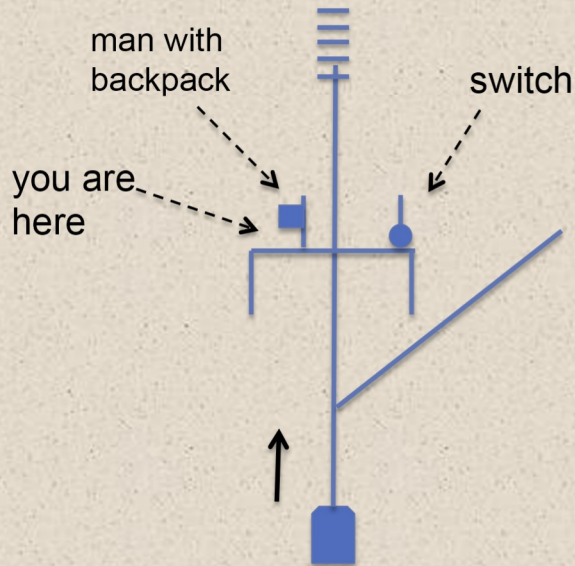


You are on a footbridge and can push a man with a backpack off the bridge so *guaranteeing* that the trolley will be stopped. The 5 workers are saved, but the man with backpack dies instead – he is used as a ‘trolley stopper’

What would you do ?

Trolley-ology

The Footbridge + Switch Dilemma



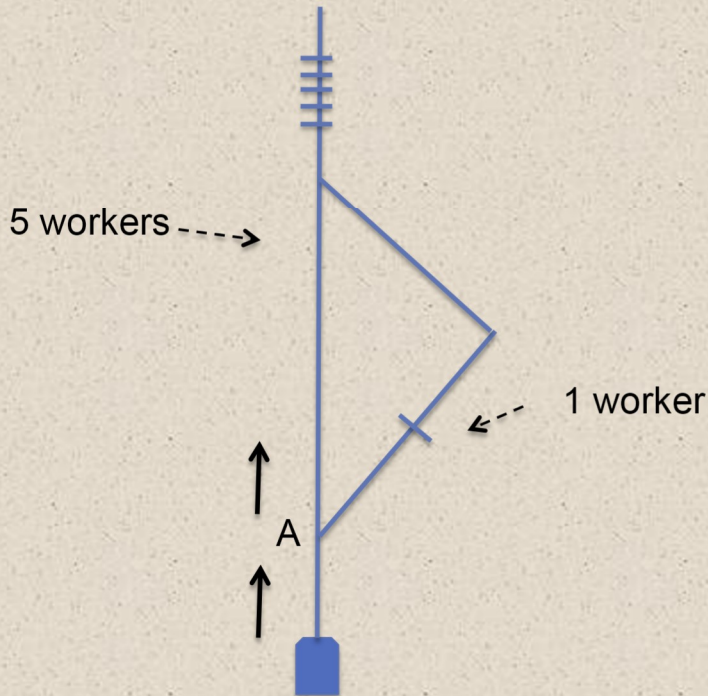
You are on a footbridge and need to run very quickly (no time even to warn man with backpack) to the end of bridge to pull switch so that trolley takes track on right and saves the 5.

But you know that it is impossible to avoid colliding with the man with backpack and knock him of bridge so that he dies from the high fall

What would you do ?

Trolley-ology

The Switch Dilemma 2

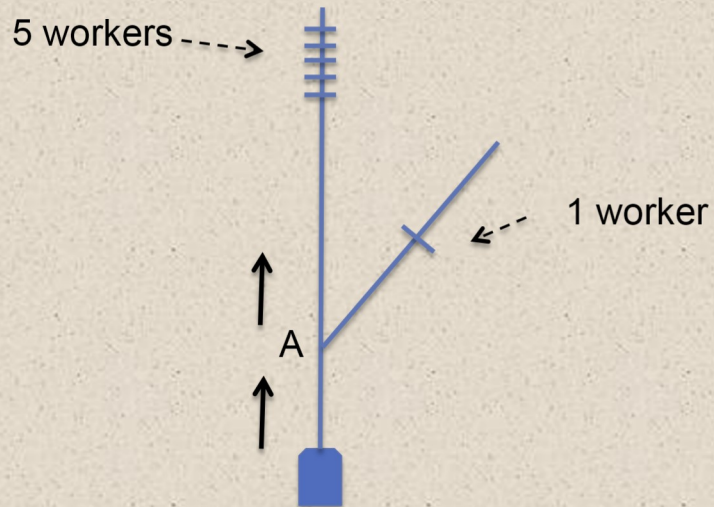


At point A you can steer the trolley so that it takes the side track on the right and kills the one worker instead of the five. But note that this time, if the worker were not on the side track, the trolley would return to the main track and kill the five

What would you do ?

Trolley-ology

The Switch Dilemma



What would you do ?

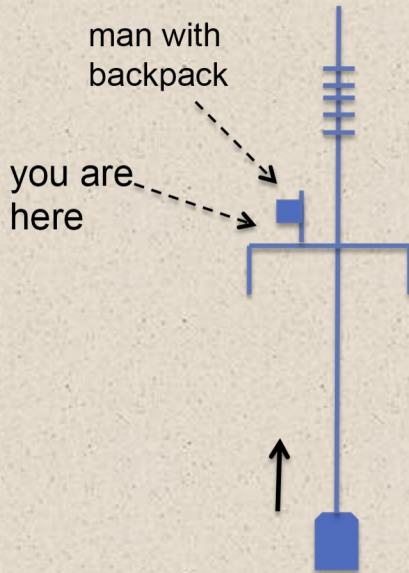
87 % would pull switch

Physical Force **And** Means to End

The Footbridge Dilemma

What would you do ?

31 % would push man



But the utilitarian calculation is the same !

What's the difference ?

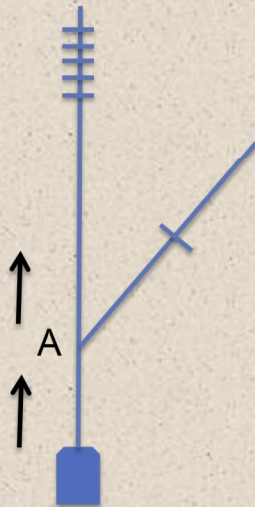
- 1) In this case you're actively pushing the man and our emotional resistance to using physical force interferes with rational calculation
- 2) The man is used as a trolley stopper – as a *means to an end*. If you did not push the man off the bridge, you would not achieve your goal to save the five.

No Physical Force and Side Effect

The Switch Dilemma

What would you do ?

87 % would pull switch



But in this case:

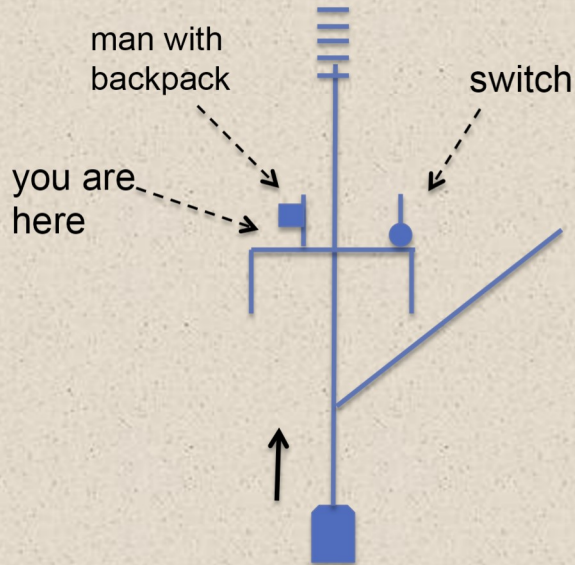
- 1) No physical force
- 2) The killed worker is not used as a means to an end – as a trolley stopper – his death is a *side effect*.
Think *counter-factually*: if the 1 worker were not tied down on the right hand track, you would still achieve your goal of saving the five. Indeed it would be great if there was no one tied down. So killing the one is not **causally** important to saving the five – killing the one is not a means to achieving the end (goal) of saving the five

Physical Force and Side Effect

The Footbridge Dilemma 2

What would you do ?

81 % would run to pull switch



- 1) Physical force
- 2) The death of the man is a side-effect and is not used as a means to an end – as a trolley stopper – his death is a side effect

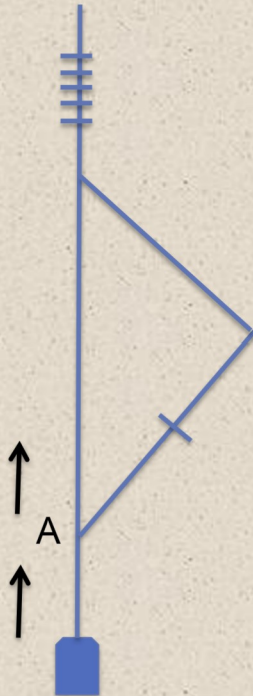
Again, thing counter-factually
(if the man were not there then great !)

No Physical Force and Means to End

The Switch Dilemma 3

What would you do ?

81 % would steer the trolley right



- 1) No physical force
- 2) The worker is used as a means to an end – as a trolley stopper – if the man were not there the five would be killed. So killing the one worker is required to achieve the goal of saving the five