

Frame Problems, Emotions and Axiological Projectivism

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Abstract Although the technical Frame Problem in artificial intelligence has been solved, there are a number of ‘philosophical’ Frame Problems that are still puzzling and still severely constrain the project of building machines with general intelligence. These problems stem from the basic problem of relevance detection. De Sousa proposed that emotional response is nature’s solution to these Frame Problems. Emotions manage to focus our attention, effortlessly and swiftly, on the relevant features of our current environment, whether natural or social. This paper explores and extends this idea by characterizing emotions as a kind of representationalist projectivism by which what de Sousa calls ‘axiological properties’ appear in experience. These properties are merely projective, but supervene on Gibsonian affordances.