





Compression Code Puzzle 4: Solution

This is a variation of Isaac Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics from the I Robot series of stories

FIRST LAW
A ROBOT MUST 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 A HUMAN BEING
EXCEPT WHERE THE ORDERS
CONFLICT WITH THE FIRST LAW

THIRD LAW
A ROBOT MUST
PROTECT ITS OWN EXISTENCE
EXCEPT WHERE THE PROTECTION
CONFLICTS WITH THE FIRST LAW OR SECOND LAW

Part of Asimov's aim was to show that such rules even hard-wired into robot "brains" could not prevent machines doing harm of the kind the laws were trying to avoid. In each story the robots correctly follow the laws but unexpected harm still happens.

