

### The Argument from Pain and Suffering

P1. It is wrong to inflict a great deal of pain and suffering on others for the sake of relatively minor benefits.

P2. The meat industry inflicts a great deal of pain and suffering on animals for the sake of relatively minor benefits.

C. Therefore, the meat industry is acting wrongly.

Other possible benefits of eating meat:

- meat is cheaper and can be easier to get, at least in some contexts
- meat industry provides jobs and profits for owners
  - but the food industries that would develop in its place would provide these benefits
- might the meat industry be beneficial in ensuring that everyone is fed?
  - but plant-based food takes fewer resources to produce

Workout M's meat-industry-friendly position

M1:

When X is more intelligent than Y, it's ok for X to inflict great suffering on Y for sake of minor benefits.

Problem:

- the sadistic genius
- super-intelligent aliens

M2:

- (i) It is ok to inflict great suffering on beings whose intelligence is below a certain threshold for the sake of minor benefits for those above that threshold.
- (ii) that threshold is below humans but above the animals that humans eat (e.g., pigs, chickens, cows)

Problem:

- the two headaches

M2:

- (i) It is ok to inflict great suffering on beings whose intelligence is below a certain threshold for the sake of minor benefits for those above that threshold.
- (ii) that threshold is below humans but above the animals that humans eat (e.g., pigs, chickens, cows)
- (iii) for beings that are above the intelligence threshold, their interests matter equally