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Deontic Justification Logics: Resolving Deontic Paradoxes through Normative Reasons

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In everyday life, we encounter various norms-rules that govern what is required, permitted, or forbiddensuch as laws, religious codes, traffic rules, game regulations, or linguistic grammatical conventions. The formal study of moral and normative concepts like obligation and permission originated in the 1950s with the development of Standard Deontic Logic (SDL). However, SDL was soon found to be riddled with paradoxes, including Plato's dilemma on deontic defeasibility, Sartre's dilemma about conflicting obligations, Aqvist's paradox of epistemic obligation, the Good Samaritan paradox, and puzzles related to free choice permissions. Numerous alternative deontic logics have been proposed to address these issues, yet none explicitly incorporate the underlying "reasons" behind obligations or permissions-what we refer to as "normative reasons." Justification logics offer a formal framework to represent these normative reasons, providing a means to clarify why an agent ought to perform a certain action. This lecture demonstrates how integrating normative reasons into deontic logics can resolve these paradoxes. Furthermore, we offer a solution to the Protagoras court paradox and briefly discuss Leibniz's solution.