

Choice-Theoretic Deontic Logic

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Rational choice theorists and deontic logicians both study actions, yet they use very different approaches. This paper introduces some choice-theoretic concepts namely those of feasible options, choice contexts, choice functions, rankings of options, and reasons structures into deontic logic. We use these concepts to define a simple “choice-theoretic” language for deontic logic, and discuss four different “choice-theoretic” semantics for that language, which we call “basic”, “behavioural”, “ranking-based”, and “reason-based semantics”. We compare these semantics in terms of the strength of their entailment relations and characterize precisely the differences in strength between weaker and stronger ones among these semantics.