Claims and Consistency: Outlining a Rights-Based Deontic Logic
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Deontic logic is a branch of formal logic used to represent normative and specifically moral claims. It has roots in modal logic, which deals with necessity and possibility of propositional statements. Traditional models of deontic logic use two monadic operators to represent obligation and permission, analogous to necessity and possibility, respectively. Due to the wide variety of ethical theories available, however, this logic must often choose between vagueness and controversy. Consequentialist and deontological theories of ethics have different baseline assumptions, and argue for right action in different ways. As a result, it is difficult for any single formal system to adequately capture the reasoning involved in both prominent fields. Even within these families of theories, opinions differ considerably on what sorts of obligations, freedoms,