

Filling The Typical Gap

In this paper I fix a typical regress argument, point out that there's a typical gap in the argument, and try to supply the relevant premises.

1. Locating It

The typical regress argument:

1. There is a problem P.
2. There is a theory S of how to solve P.
3. S generates a regress R.
4. R is unacceptable.
5. Therefore, S is to be rejected.

The argument can be resisted simply by denying premise 4. So, there's a gap, and it must be filled.

2. Filling It

In order to fill the gap, we should get clear on the problem P that is to be met. I shall distinguish several takes on the problem solving task, among which:

- (P1) Solve problem X of type Y.
- (P2) Solve all problems of type Y.
- (P3) Solve all problems of type Y and complete the task.
- (P4) Solve all problems of type Y at once.

Next I discuss which of these strategies succeed in the filling.

3. Emptying It Again

Lastly, I argue that the strategies which can do the filling are of no help. The main point is: surely it is possible to strengthen the problem solving tasks in such a way that they can't be met, but the strengthenings go unmotivated, and should be resisted.

This consequently undermines the typical regress argument.