

Composition and Vagueness

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I. The Vagueness Argument

- (1) If composition is restricted, then composition is sometimes vague.
 - (2) If composition is sometimes vague, then it is sometimes vague whether something exists.
 - (3) If it is sometimes vague whether something exists, then ‘exists’ is vague.
 - (4) ‘Exists’ is not vague.
- Therefore,
- (5) It is false that composition is restricted.

II. Vague Composition and Vague Existence

III. The “Vague Desiderata” Defense of Premise (1)

- (A) Necessarily, objects compose something if and only if “intuitively relevant” relations hold among them.

IV. The Continuous Series Defense of Premise (1)

- (TS) It is implausible that there is a sharp cut-off in the composition continuum.

V. Vagueness and Composition

- (1*) If composition is restricted *and the story of the whistling composites is false*, then composition is sometimes vague.
 - (1**) If composition is restricted *and every story relevantly like the story of the whistling composites is false*, then composition is sometimes vague.
 - (1.5) Every story relevantly like the story of the whistling composites is false.
 - (I) A composite’s *existence* is not reduced to its parts (or the features of those parts, etc.).
 - (II) Existence is not possibly vague.
- Therefore,
- (III) (1.5) is false.

VI. A New Approach