

Re: Platonism

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2004-12/2220.html>

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Date: 11/27/04

Date: Sat, 27 Nov 2004 17:12:10 GMT

On 27 Nov 2004 06:16:09 -0800, examachine@gmail.com (Eray Ozkural exa) wrote:

>>> *Otherwise, it is nonsense. If I am allowed to*
>>> *distort the meaning of "exists" every now and then, I will be able to*
>>> *talk of God and angels as if they existed, and that will be heresy for*
>>> *me: I am a physicalist.*
>>
>> *Well, me too, I think, but my physicalism relates only to the*
>> *sub-domains of philosophy that I care about, those of cognition and*
>> *language and computation. As far as cognitive agencies go, they may*
>> *assume that things exist and make the appropriate ontological*
>> *commitments, and then we can get on with the internal matters that we*
>> *need to deal with, about how agencies do what they do, in a material*
>> *world.*
>
> *I think I understood this when I first read it, but I'm not sure. Do*
> *you mean you don't care what somebody assumes to exist? :)*

Well, sure I *care*! My friend Fred, he assumes green dragons exist. I have to take this into consideration when I parse any sentence that I get from Fred, because I know that only blue dragons really exist. Then again, perhaps (!) neither of us is much of an ontological authority, no matter how handsome we may be otherwise.

> *Yes, I can see that my claim was much closer to Russell than Meinong,*
> *and for the most part I've found Russell to be a very reasonable*
> *philosopher. But I surely hope I am not becoming a logical positivist*
> *or anything like that. I should watch my steps. :)*

Indeed, for many faults are built in at the very beginning. But I am not arguing for Meinong, either. I'm arguing Turing, and Fodor, some Dennett and Millikan, some Wittgenstein and a little revisionist Quine, some axiomatics that may be more Hilbert than Tarski, a little Berkeleyian abhorrence of abstraction, and a modern nominalism that is all my own, mine and about three million practicing software developers who don't know that they're doing it, too.

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- >What do you mean by unsoundly combining several domains of philosophy?
- >You mean combining metaphysics, language philosophy, method of
- >philosophy (logic, etc.), philosophy of science like the logical
- >positivists did? Do you think these should be taken as separate
- >inquiries? (Your meta-philosophy? :)

42.

J.