

David & Warfield's "Six Possible Counterexamples to One or Two Epistemic Closure Principles"

The First Targeted Closure Principle

CLOSURE 1. If S knows P and knows that P entails Q and believes Q on the basis of deduction from these two bits of knowledge, then S knows Q.

CE 1. Overdetermination

S knows P, knows that P entails Q and believes Q on the basis of inference from these two bits of knowledge. In addition to believing Q on the basis of this deduction, however, S also believes Q on the basis of terrible reasons and believes Q *most firmly* on the basis of these terrible reasons.

The Second Targeted Closure Principle

CLOSURE 2. If S knows P and knows that P entails Q and believes Q *solely* on the basis of deduction from these two bits of knowledge, then S knows Q.

CE 2. Global Defeat

S satisfies the antecedent of CLOSURE 2 ... but also occurrently believes [perhaps because of misleading testimony from those S trusts most] that deduction is a horrible way (from the epistemic point of view) to go about adding to one's belief set.

CE 3. Local Defeat

S satisfies the antecedent of CLOSURE 2 but, in addition, S is in possession of an undefeated defeater for Q. The defeater for Q prevents S from knowing Q but ... S satisfies the antecedent of CLOSURE 2 and so CLOSURE 2 is false.

CE 4. Defect

S satisfies the antecedent of CLOSURE 2 but in addition has a defective concept of entailment.

CE 5. Negation

S satisfies the antecedent of CLOSURE 2 but in addition believes $\sim Q$ [and hence, according to the authors' non-crazy epistemic principle, fails to know that Q].

CE 6. Paradox

Let L = It's not the case that L is true. Suppose, then, that S knows that if $\sim L$, then L. And S knows that (if $\sim L$ then L) entails L. Now have S deduce that L solely from these two bits of knowledge. Does it follow that S knows that L? Of course not: the availability of the corresponding derivation of $\sim L$ [from the available proof that (if L then $\sim L$) and the *a priori* knowable fact that this claim entails $\sim L$] seems clearly sufficient to block knowledge that L in this case.