

Frege, Foundations of Arithmetic

Essay 1: Frege's criticisms of his predecessors

Readings:

- (!) Frege, *Foundations of Arithmetic*, the introduction, and sections **5, 9-28, 45** (the section is particularly helpful because it contains a summary of what happened so far).
- (!) Beaney, M., *Frege, Making Sense* (London, 1996), **§3.4, §3.5**.
- (!) Shapiro, S., *Thinking about Mathematics*, OUP 2000, **ch. 4**
- Dummett, M., *Frege, Philosophy of Mathematics* (London, 1991), **chapter 2** (you can skip subsection on Husserl).

Essay: Write an essay addressing the following issues:

What are the main views concerning numbers that Frege criticises and what are his main criticisms to these views? (If you want, you can focus especially on psychologism and empiricism). Also, in the introduction to the book (p. xxii in my edition), Frege states his 'three fundamental principles': how (if at all) do these principles relate to the criticisms Frege makes against his predecessors?