

Philosophy of Mathematics – Essay 5

(Platonism)

Readings:

- (!) **Benacerraf, P.**, ‘What numbers could not be’, in B&P.
- (!) **Wetzel, L.**, ‘That numbers could be objects’, *Philosophical Studies* 56 (1989), pp. 272-292.
- (!) **Shapiro, S.**, *Thinking About Mathematics*, OUP (2000), **chapter 8**, (‘Numbers Exist’).
- **Maddy, P.**, ‘The roots of contemporary Platonism’, *The Journal of Symbolic Logic* 54 (1989), pp. 1121-1144.
- **Gödel, K.**, ‘What is Cantor’s Continuum Problem?’ in B&P.
- **Steiner, M.**, ‘Platonism and Mathematical Knowledge’, chapter 4 of his, *Mathematical Knowledge*, Cornell University Press (1975).
- **Dummett, M.**, ‘Platonism’, in his *Truth and Other Enigmas*, Duckworth (1978).

Essay Questions: What is Platonism about mathematics, and what are the motivations for holding it? Can Platonism provide an acceptable epistemology to mathematics? What are other problems that a Platonist might face?