The Reality of Numbers

A Physicalist's Philosophy
of Mathematics

John Bigelow

[Reality Of Numbers A Physicalists Philosophy Of Mathematics](#)

Stewart Shapiro

Reality Of Numbers A Physicalists Philosophy Of Mathematics:

The Reality of Numbers John Bigelow,1988 This book casts new light on mathematics through its consideration of metaphysical materialism The author identifies natural real and imaginary numbers and sets with specified physical properties and relations However sets are construed numbers are not sets Sets are important simply because they instantiate all the numbers and all the other properties and relations studied in mathematics Set theory tempts us into misunderstanding the nature of mathematics Bigelow challenges the myth that mathematicalobjects can be defined into existence By reconstruing numbers as real non linguistic physical properties or relations mathematics can be drawn back from its sterile abstract exile into the midst of the physical world to which we belong **An Aristotelian Realist Philosophy of Mathematics** J. Franklin,2014-04-09 Mathematics is as much a science of the real world as biology is It is the science of the world s quantitative aspects such as ratio and structural or patterned aspects such as symmetry The book develops a complete philosophy of mathematics that contrasts with the usual Platonist and nominalist options Neo-Aristotelian Perspectives in Metaphysics Daniel D. Novotný,Lukáš Novák,2014-04-16 This volume re examines some of the major themes at the intersection of traditional and contemporary metaphysics The book uses as a point of departure Francisco Su rez s Metaphysical Disputations published in 1597 Minimalist metaphysics in empiricist pragmatist clothing have today become mainstream in analytic philosophy Independently of this development the progress of scholarship in ancient and medieval philosophy makes clear that traditional forms of metaphysics have affinities with some of the streams in contemporary analytic metaphysics The book brings together leading contemporary metaphysicians to investigate the viability of a neo Aristotelian metaphysics Physicalism in Mathematics A.D. Irvine,2012-12-06 This collection of papers has its origin in a conference held at the Uni versity of Toronto in June of 1988 The theme of the conference was Physicalism in Mathematics Recent Work in the Philosophy of Math ematics At the conference papers were read by Geoffrey Hellman Minnesota Yvon Gauthier Montreal Michael Hallett McGill Hartry Field USC Bob Hale Lancaster St Andrew s Alasdair Urquhart Toronto and Penelope Maddy Irvine This volume supplements updated versions of six of those papers with contributions by Jim Brown Toronto John Bigelow La Trobe John Burgess Princeton Chandler Davis Toronto David Papineau Cambridge Michael Resnik North Carolina at Chapel Hill Peter Simons Salzburg and Crispin Wright St Andrews Michigan Together they provide a vivid expansive snapshot of the exciting work which is currently being carried out in philosophy of mathematics Generous financial support for the original conference was provided by the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council of Canada the British Council and the Department of Philosophy together with the Office of Internal Relations at the University of Toronto Additional support for the production of this volume was gratefully received from the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council of Canada **Philosophical Letters of David K. Lewis** David K. Lewis,2020-10-29 David Kellogg Lewis 1941 2001 was one of the most influential philosophers of the twentieth century He made significant contributions to almost every area

of analytic philosophy including metaphysics philosophy of language philosophy of mind and philosophy of science and set the agenda for various debates in these areas which carry on to this day In several respects he remains a contemporary figure yet enough time has now passed for historians of philosophy to begin to study his place in twentieth century thought His philosophy was constructed and refined not just through his published writing but also crucially through his life long correspondence with fellow philosophers including leading figures such as D M Armstrong Saul Kripke W V Quine J J C Smart and Peter van Inwagen His letters formed the undercurrent of his published work and became the medium through which he proposed many of his well known theories and discussed a range of philosophical topics in depth A selection of his vast correspondence over a 40 year period is presented here across two volumes As metaphysics is arguably where Lewis made his greatest contribution this forms the focus of Volume 1 Arranged under the broad areas of Causation Modality and Ontology the letters offer an organic story of the origins development breadth and depth of his metaphysics in its historical context as well as a glimpse into the influence of his many interlocutors This volume will be an indispensable resource for contemporary metaphysics and for those interested in the Lewisian perspective *Philosophical Letters of David K. Lewis* David Kellogg Lewis,2020 The life long correspondence of David K Lewis one of the most influential philosophers of the twentieth century reveals the development breadth and depth of his philosophy in its historical context The first of this two volume collection of letters focuses on his contributions to metaphysics arguably where he made his greatest impact

Ontology, Causality, and Mind John Bacon,Keith Campbell,Lloyd Reinhardt,1993-03-26 This collection of essays all especially written for this volume explore the many facets of Armstrong s work concentrating on his interests **Canadian Journal of Philosophy** ,1971 **Corrupting the Youth** James Franklin,2003 **Mind** ,1992 Includes papers of the Aristotelian Society 1896 1900 **Philosophy of Mathematics** Stewart Shapiro,1997-08-07 Do numbers sets and so forth exist What do mathematical statements mean Are they literally true or false or do they lack truth values altogether Addressing questions that have attracted lively debate in recent years Stewart Shapiro contends that standard realist and antirealist accounts of mathematics are both problematic As Benacerraf first noted we are confronted with the following powerful dilemma The desired continuity between mathematical and say scientific language suggests realism but realism in this context suggests seemingly intractable epistemic problems As a way out of this dilemma Shapiro articulates a structuralist approach On this view the subject matter of arithmetic for example is not a fixed domain of numbers independent of each other but rather is the natural number structure the pattern common to any system of objects that has an initial object and successor relation satisfying the induction principle Using this framework realism in mathematics can be preserved without troublesome epistemic consequences Shapiro concludes by showing how a structuralist approach can be applied to wider philosophical questions such as the nature of an object and the Quinean nature of ontological commitment Clear compelling and tautly argued Shapiro s work noteworthy both in its attempt to develop a full length structuralist

approach to mathematics and to trace its emergence in the history of mathematics will be of deep interest to both philosophers and mathematicians **God and Necessity** Brian Leftow,2012-09-06 Brian Leftow offers a theist theory of necessity and possibility and a new sort of argument for God s existence He argues that necessities of logic and mathematics are determined by God s nature but that it is events in God s mind His imagination and choice that account for necessary truths about concrete creatures **The Oxford Handbook of The History of Analytic Philosophy** Michael Beaney,2013-06-20 The main stream of academic philosophy in Anglophone countries and increasingly worldwide is identified by the name analytic The study of its history from the 19th century to the late 20th has boomed in recent years These specially commissioned essays by forty leading scholars constitute the most comprehensive book on the subject **Thinking about Mathematics** Stewart Shapiro,2000-07-13 Thinking about Mathematics covers the range of philosophical issues and positions concerning mathematics The text describes the questions about mathematics that motivated philosophers throughout history and covers historical figures such as Plato Aristotle Kant and Mill It also presents the major positions and arguments concerning mathematics throughout the twentieth century bringing the reader up to the present positions and battle lines **Truth, Objects, Infinity** Fabrice Pataut,2017-01-27 This volume features essays about and by Paul Benacerraf whose ideas have circulated in the philosophical community since the early nineteen sixties shaping key areas in the philosophy of mathematics the philosophy of language the philosophy of logic and epistemology The book started as a workshop held in Paris at the Coll ge de France in May 2012 with the participation of Paul Benacerraf The introduction addresses the methodological point of the legitimate use of so called Princess Margaret Premises in drawing philosophical conclusions from G del s first incompleteness theorem The book is then divided into three sections The first is devoted to an assessment of the improved version of the original dilemma of Mathematical Truth due to Hartry Field the challenge to the platonist is now to explain the reliability of our mathematical beliefs given the very subject matter of mathematics either pure or applied The second addresses the issue of the ontological status of numbers Frege s logicism fictionalism structuralism and Bourbaki s theory of structures are called up for an appraisal of Benacerraf s negative conclusions of What Numbers Could Not Be The third is devoted to supertasks and bears witness to the unique standing of Benacerraf s first publication Tasks Super Tasks and Modern Eleatics in debates on Zeno s paradox and associated paradoxes infinitary mathematics and constructivism and finitism in the philosophy of mathematics Two yet unpublished essays by Benacerraf have been included in the volume an early version of Mathematical Truth from 1968 and an essay on What Numbers Could Not Be from the mid 1970 s A complete chronological bibliography of Benacerraf s work to 2016 is provided Essays by Jody Azzouni Paul Benacerraf Justin Clarke Doane S bastien Gandon Brice Halimi Jon P rez Laraudogoitia Mary Leng Antonio Le n S nchez and Ana C Le n Mej a Marco Panza Fabrice Pataut Philippe de Rouilhan Andrea Sereni and Stewart Shapiro **The Space of Mathematics** Javier Echeverria,Andoni Ibarra,Thomas Mormann,2012-10-25 No detailed

description available for The Space of Mathematics **The Broadview Introduction to Philosophy Volume I: Knowledge and Reality** Andrew Bailey,2019-06-18 This volume of The Broadview Introduction to Philosophy offers a thoughtful selection of readings in epistemology metaphysics and the philosophy of religion Substantial selections from important historical texts are provided including the entirety of Descartes s Meditations as are a number of contemporary readings on each topic Unlike other introductory anthologies the Broadview offers considerable apparatus to assist the student reader in understanding the texts without simply summarizing them Each selection includes an introduction discussing the context and structure of the primary reading as well as thorough annotations designed to clarify unfamiliar terms references and argument forms **Surface/Volume** Alan E. Rubin,2023-02-28 This book explains that diffusion osmosis dissolution evaporation and heat loss all preferentially affect small bodies due to their high surface volume ratios Because surface area increases as the square of length but volume and mass increase as the cube large objects have low surface volume ratios and small objects have high surface volume ratios This simple physical constraint governs much of the physical world It accounts for why the Earth has active volcanoes but the Moon does not why the human brain has numerous folds why deciduous trees lose their leaves every Fall and why nanoparticles of gold melt at surprisingly low temperatures It is a phenomenon well known to every scientist but this book is the first comprehensive treatment of this effect *Themes from Weir: A Celebration of the Philosophy of Alan Weir* Adam Rieger,Stephan Leuenberger,2024-05-30 This book celebrates and explores some philosophical issues raised by the work of Alan Weir who is Professor Emeritus at the University of Glasgow having previously held positions at the Universities of Oxford Edinburgh and Queen s Belfast In a number of areas Weir has elaborated strikingly original views which involve a radical departure from the mainstream These include formalism in the philosophy of mathematics and as well as na ve set theory with a universal set and a na ve theory of truth In contrast to other contemporary defenders of the latter two theories Weir rejects dialetheism and accepts classical rules for the logical connectives He avoids contradictions by restricting certain structural inference rules specifically some generalized versions of transitivity In addition Weir has developed radical versions of naturalism and physicalism partly informed by his work on Quine and perceptual realism This collection includes contributions by a distinguished group of philosophers on Weir s philosophy as well as a memoir and a new essay on the philosophy of mathematics by Weir himself Who's who in Australia ,1995

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