

Frege's definition of number re-examined

In his treatise *Die Grundlagen der Arithmetik*, Gottlob Frege tries to find a definition of number. First he rejects the idea that number could be a property of external (empirical) objects. Then he comes with a suggestion that a numerical statement express' a property of a concept, namely it indicates how many objects falls under the concept. Subsequently Frege rejects or at least essentially modifies also this definition, because in his view a number cannot be a property – it should be an object. In this article, I try to show that Frege's first definition of number seems to be, despite his own opinion, much more promising than he supposed. I also argue that Frege's argumentation against the (possibly) empirical character of number is not utterly convincing.