

A SHORTENED ABSTRACT FOR THE SWEDISH CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY 2026

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## TITLE:

On Caesar=0

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Frege found it problematic that his logicist project did not rule out the identification of Caesar with the number zero. Since the logicist project must be given up on, the problem in its original formulation is no longer of interest. We nevertheless treat the question 'Is Caesar=0?'. We show the perhaps surprising result that it is perfectly consistent with our best scientific theories that Caesar=0. More generally, we show that any "abstract object" may be identified with a space-time object. Our findings are not only curiosities---for example, to some extent they may allow for a nominalistic theory of the world.

## Original abstract:

Frege found it problematic that his logicist project did not rule out the identification of Caesar with the number zero. Since the logicist project---together with its later incarnations---must be given up on, the problem in its original formulation is no longer of interest. We nevertheless treat the question 'Is Caesar=0?'. We show the perhaps surprising result that it is perfectly consistent with our best scientific theories that Caesar=0. More generally, we show that any "abstract object" may be identified with a space-time object; furthermore, the number of abstracts objects that may be simultaneously identified with space-time objects is equal to the cardinality of the set of space-time objects. Our findings are not only curiosities---for example, to some extent they may allow for a nominalistic theory of the world.