Ancient

The Presocratics

The Milesians
- Thales
- Anaximander
- Anaximenes

Heraclitus

The Eleatic School
- Parmenides
- Zeno
- Melissus

Qualitative Pluralists
- Empedocles
- Anaxagoras

The Hellenistic Schools

The Epicureans

The Stoics

The Skeptics

Atomists
- Leucippus
- Democritus

Pythagoras

The Sophists
- Protagoras
- Gorgias
- Antiphon

The Romans

Cicero (106-43 BC)
- Lucretius (94-55 BC)
- Seneca (4 BC - 65 AD)
- Plutarch (45-120 AD)
- Epictetus (55-135 AD)
- Marcus Aurelius (121-180 AD)

The Metaphysical Turn

“What is the fundamental nature of reality?”
Three Vexing Questions

1. Are the Divine Attributes compatible?
2. How is evil possible given the Divine Attributes?
3. How is freedom of the will compatible with Divine Foreknowledge?
The Epistemic Turn
“What can we know about the fundamental nature of reality?”

Pascal constructs a gear-driven adding machine, the “Pascalene”, in 1642.

Descartes (1596-1650)

Hobbes (1588-1679)

Pascal (1623-1662)

Spinoza (1632-1677)
Modern

Leibnitz (1646-1716)

Locke (1632-1704)

Leibnitz constructs a mechanical calculator, the “Stepped Reckoner”, in 1674.

Berkeley (1685-1753)

Kant (1724-1804)

Hume (1711-1776)

Mathematician and Engineer Charles Babbage designs and partly builds the Difference Engine. Work ceased in 1834. By 1835 Babbage had designed the Analytical Engine, a primitive programmable computer which he never built.

Babbage (1791-1871)

The Difference Engine

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The Linguistic Turn
“What can we say about the fundamental nature of reality and what we can know about it?”

Contemporary

Boole (1815-1864)

Frege (1848-1925)

Russell (1872-1970)

Wittgenstein (1889-1951)

Hilbert (1862-1943)

Boole publishes “An Investigation of the Laws of Thought, on Which are Founded the Mathematical Theories of Logic and Probabilities”, which develops what is known today as Boolean Algebra, a subfield of discrete mathematics and the formal theory behind the logic gates used in modern computers, in 1854.

Frege (1848-1925)

Russell (1872-1970)
Contemporary

Church (1903-1995)

Tarski (1901-1983)

Broad (1887-1971)

Turing (1912-1954)

von Neumann (1903-1957)

Gödel (1906-1978)

Ryle (1900-1976)
Contemporary

Searle

Nagel

Dennett

Churchland

Putnam

Armstrong

Kripke

Dretske