

24.400
Proseminar in philosophy I

Fall 2003

“Function and Concept”

0. Translate the following formulas into Frege’s notation:

$$\sim \exists x (x = 2), \forall x \exists y (y > x), \forall x (x^2 > x) \supset \exists y (\sim y = y)$$

1. “‘ $2 \cdot x^3 + x$ ’ is a function of ‘ x ’”. Why can’t this “satisfy us”? According to Frege, in what respect do “functions differ fundamentally from numbers”?
2. Critically expound Frege’s response to the objection that “suggests itself” to the claim that $(2^2 = 4) = (2 > 1)$. What is the “sense” of an expression supposed to be? Do any other objections suggest themselves?

“On Concept and Object”

3. “When I wrote my *Grundlagen der Arithmetik*, I had not yet made the distinction between sense and reference...Consequently, I no longer entirely approve of the explanation I then gave”. Please explain.
4. Why does Frege say that the concept *horse* is not a concept? How does he treat ‘There is at least one square root of 4’, and ‘The concept *square root of 4* is realized’? Can Frege put the blame for his expressive difficulties simply on “an awkwardness of language”?