

24.400
Proseminar in philosophy I

Fall 2003

Grundlagen

1. In §45 Frege writes: "We were thus forced, it seemed, to ascribe to units two contradictory qualities, namely identity and distinguishability." What does he mean by this? Were we?
2. In §55 Frege offers definitions of the numbers that "suggest themselves...spontaneously in the light of our previous results." Why does Frege think are they nevertheless inadequate? Is he right?
3. Explain why Frege rejects the account of direction he considers in §65.
4. Outline and explain Frege's proof (§73) "that the Number which belongs to the concept F is identical with the number which belongs to the concept G if the concept F is equal to the concept G".
5. On one popular proposal, the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, ... are identified with the sets (the Zermelo "numbers") \emptyset , $\{\emptyset\}$, $\{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}$, $\{\emptyset, \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}\}$,... Compare and contrast with Frege's account.