24.400: Proseminar in Philosophy I

Fall 2013

Q02: Grundlagen

1. In §55 Frege offers definitions of the numbers that "suggest themselves…spontaneously in the light of our previous results." What are these previous results? Why does Frege think the definitions are inadequate? Is he right?

2. Explain why Frege rejects the account of direction he considers in §65, and the corresponding definition of number via Hume's Principle.   What does he want to put in their place?   "That this definition is correct will hardly be evident at first" (§69). How does he try to convince us that the definition is correct?

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