

The intellect superior to the imagination and the differential calculus

The momentum of Leibniz's discovery

Shohei EDAMURA

Leibniz's differential calculus has been interpreted from a pragmatic point of view, and been regarded as contradictory but yet a useful instrument. This paper aims to give a new interpretation on his differential calculus through a study of his early philosophy and metaphysics. The followings are among our conclusions. Leibniz's differential calculus neither is theoretically contradictory nor was decisively described so by himself. It has its own basis which employs the contextual definition of infinitesimal. And the discovery by Leibniz is closely connected to his philosophy, his idea on the intellect prior to the imagination. The intellect can comprehend the pure relational concept itself, which is not accessible for the imagination, whereas it is this concept that gives the foundation of his differential calculus.