

“The algebra of pure thought.” Deleuze and the calculation of problems

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Abstract:

Under the influence of Bergson, Deleuze was always attentive to the benefit that philosophy could draw from the advances in science. In this regard, we might not have enough highlighted the importance played by the interpretation of the birth of modern mathematics in Deleuze’s theory of pure thought and its object, the Idea. It is true that in Deleuze’s work, we have to wait for *What is philosophy?* (1991) in order to find a complete theory of philosophy, science, and the arts. But it is no less true: 1) that the theory of the dialectic of Ideas-problems was developed since *Difference and Repetition* (1968), Chapter IV, “Ideal Synthesis of Difference”; 2) that dialectic refers to the common sphere of thought that of which *What is philosophy?* constitutes the theory; 3) Finally, that the theory of the dialectic of Ideas-problems finds one of its main inspirations in the interpretation of the birth of modern mathematics, especially the transformation of algebra in the early nineteenth century.

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