JAIRŌ JOSÉ DA SILVA

HUSSERL ON GEOMETRY And Spatial Representation

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Husserl left many unpublished drafts explaining his views on spatial representation and geometry, but no completely articulate work on the subject. In this paper, I put forward an interpretation of what those views might have been. Husserl, I claim, distinguished among different conceptions of space, the space of perception, that of physical geometry (or idealized perceptual space), the space of the mathematical science of physical nature and the abstract spaces of mathematics (free creations of the mathematical mind), each of them with its peculiar geometrical structure. Perceptual space is proto-Euclidean and the space of physical geometry Euclidean, but mathematical physics, Husserl allowed, may find it convenient to represent physical space with a non-Euclidean structure. Mathematical spaces, on their turn, can be endowed, he thinks, with any geometry mathematicians may find interesting. I conclude with an overview of Weyl's ideas on the matter.

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