

In general the position as regards all such new calculi is this.-That one cannot accomplish by them anything that could not be accomplished without them. However, the advantage is, that, provided that such a calculus corresponds to the inmost nature of frequent needs, anyone who masters it thoroughly is able - without the unconscious inspiration which no one can command - to solve the associated problems, even to solve them mechanically in complicated cases in which, without such aid, even genius becomes powerless ... Such conceptions unite, as it were, into an organic whole, countless problems which otherwise would remain isolated and require for their separate solution more or less of inventive genius.

C. F. Gauss, Werke, Bd. 8. p. 298