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La matematica della mente: il pensiero come calcolo in Hobbes e Boole

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We compare Hobbes and Boole's conceptions about the nature of reasoning. Hobbes promoted the idea of a coincidence between reasoning and computing (i.e., performing additions and subtractions), but he did not develop a logical calculus rigorously expressed in a mathematical language. Two centuries later, Boole argued that logic principles and numerical laws share a common structure, and he introduced a logical system in a purely algebraic language in order to prove it. In this paper we describe the two different mathematics of the mind that emerge from their works: Hobbes (1654) and Boole (1854). We show some philosophical and technical similarities, as well as some conceptual and methodological differences, which characterize the two approaches.