
**Aristotle, Euclid and beyond: how the dichotomy between numbers
and magnitudes was introduced into China in the 17th century**

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Established by Aristotle and developed in Euclid's *Elements*, the dichotomy between discrete numbers and continuous magnitudes was a fundamental concern in mathematical practices from ancient Greece to Renaissance Europe. In the 17th centuries, this conceptual distinction was introduced from Europe into China, and thus was known to Chinese scholars. In this talk I will describe how the dichotomy was presented in the Chinese texts translated at the time. I will also discuss the translation of some concepts such as divisibility versus indivisibility, and the theory of ratio and proportion, which were strongly related to this dichotomy.