Summary Ferraro and Sandifer

- How did Euler conceive infinitesimals and what are, according to Ferraro, “fictitious numbers”? What role do they play in Euler’s mathematics, what did they allow him to do?
- What does it mean that there is no “separation between semantics and syntax in the Eulerian calculus” (p. 54)? What could the lack thereof tell us about mathematics at that time? How could we relate this to other historical examples that we’ve encountered?
- What role do differentials and differential coefficients play in Euler’s conception of calculus? How does this role reflect his conception of, how Ferraro calls them, “fictitious entities”?
- How did Euler treat divergent series and what is similar in this treatment to his way of doing calculus? What could his way of doing mathematics tell us about mathematics in general?
- Could we connect the example of Eulerian calculus with other texts that we’ve read (e.g. Wittgenstein)?