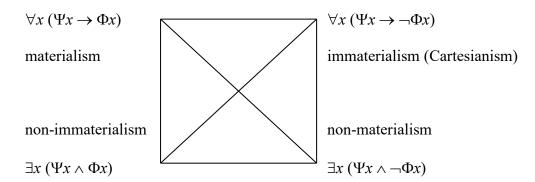
Peter Geach's temporality proof for the non-materiality of thinking (SE Cuypers)

Geach's hylomorphic Aristotelian-Thomistic view



proof

- (1) "[All] thinking is an activity".
- (2) "[All] thinking is a basic activity".
- (3) "The activity of thinking cannot be assigned a position in the physical time-series".
- (4) "[T]he basic activities of any bodily part [are] clockable in physical time".
- (∴) Thus, "thinking is not the activity of the brain or of any bodily organ".

a property difference argument

- (I) All basic thinking activities are *not* clockable in physical time.
- (II) All basic material (bodily) activities are clockable in physical time.
- (∴) All basic thinking activity is non-material.

The property difference principle $\forall x \ \forall y \ \{ [\exists F \ ((Fx \land \neg Fy) \lor (Fy \land \neg Fx))] \rightarrow (x \neq y) \}$ is deducible from Leibniz's Law $\forall x \ \forall y \ \{(x = y) \rightarrow [\forall F \ (Fx \leftrightarrow Fy)]\}$

Premise (2) Thinking is a basic activity, consists in concept-exercising

- (i) thinking is thinking
- (ii) thinking is conceptually cognizing
- (iii) thinking is imaging
- (iv) thinking is subvocalizing
- (v) thinking is symbol-manipulating (Language of Thought)
- (vi) thinking is brain-processing

Premise (3) Thinking is *non-clockable*, has *deviant* time-relations

- (A) clockability within the category of physical events
 - (i) non-basic (e.g., murder by poisoning) non-clockable
 - (ii) basic (e.g., drinking poison, brain-processes)
- (B) clockability within the category of physical events
 - (i) sensory activity (pain, mental image, etc.)
 - (ii) thinking activity non-clockable
 - (a) instantaneous thought
 - (b) flashing thought
 - (c) long thought

Compare and contrast qua temporal duration: the thought that the pack of cards is on the table — a unity $(c_1 + c_2 + ... + c_n)$ not a collection $\{(c_1) + (c_2) + ... + (c_n)\}$ — act of judgement the spoken sentence "The pack of cards is on the table" — speech-act the uttered words "the", "pack", "of", "cards", "is", "on", "the" and "table" the thought that the pack of 78 tarot cards is in the middle of the round table of the fortune-telling clairvoyant (and the corresponding spoken sentence and uttered words)