

Rethinking Computation.
Reflections based on ancient Chinese sources

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Brussels, 3 September 2012

The recent development of history and philosophy of science has led to a more and more conspicuous divide between those who study ancient science and those who study modern science. It may be interesting to identify the forces at play in bringing about this divide and to ponder about its recent history. In fact, in this context, modern science attracts an increasing attention, the only ancient name that has not disappeared from discussions on modern science apparently being that of Euclid. This talk is a plea for maintaining the coherence of the discipline and thinking about ancient and modern science conjointly. It is also a plea for thinking about science worldwide. I shall illustrate these suggestions, by outlining a research program on computation for which ancient and modern documents taken everywhere on the planet are a source of new questions and reflection. This research program, in my view, offers opportunities of cooperation between history and philosophy of science.