Seminar SAW : History and philosophy of Mathematics

Abstract :

March 10, 2014
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Remarks on John of Murs’s De monetis.

As a part of his complex and manifold Quadripartitum numerorum completed in 1343 John of Murs wrote a treatise on money. The general theme of his treatise is the making of money with a prescribed proportion of silver and copper starting with other types of money or with a certain amount of the two metals. The relation of this treatise to Fibonacci’s Liber abbaci will be acknowledged and its situation in the frame of the Quadripartitum numerorum will be examined. Then we will look at a few key passages, comparing them with the Liber abbaci and other parts of the Quadripartitum numerorum in order to understand how this problem of money was tackled mathematically and how it was presented to various potential readers of the work.