

SAW Seminar: History of Mathematics, History of Economic and financial Practices

Abstract

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Positions of counting rods in ancient China

This talk gives a brief introduction on using counting rods for doing multiplication and division. After that, I focus on three kinds of methods of reduction of fractions. The position and quantity of counting rods are two key factors when doing mathematics by counting rods. Based on it, we can conclude a philosophical aspect in relation to counting rods in ancient China.