

International Conference on History of Ancient Mathematics and Astronomy

In Memory of Professor Li Jimin (1938-1993)

Algorithms in the mathematical sciences in the ancient world

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Algorithms and proofs in the Latin world

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Conjunction problems in John of Murs' Quadripartitum numerorum

Abstract – In 1343 John of Murs finished the redaction of a comprehensive work on arithmetic and algebra: the *Quadripartitum numerorum*. This work is comparable in depth and scope to those written a little more than a century earlier by Leonard of Pisa. In the 15th century Regiomontanus prepared (but did not complete) an edition of it. Among the various topics treated by John of Murs a full section is devoted to pursuit and conjunction problems. After giving the appropriate elements of context this section will be the focus of my presentation. By analysing selected problems I will show how John of Murs uses various features of algorithms, like technical vocabulary or mathematical structure, to integrate insights coming from astral sciences into the treatment of this classical topic of medieval arithmetical treatises.