

Workshop
Cultures of Computation and Quantification
January – March 2013

Abstract

Cultures of computation: elementary operations and fractions
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In this session we examine how sources in the Indian subcontinent evoke elementary operations: what vocabulary was used for them, what rules were given to carry them out, on what quantities they were to be executed and how their execution can be reconstructed. The texts examined will be from commentaries on the Brahmasphuṭasiddhānta (628), the Gaṇitasārasaṃgraha (ca. 850) and the Gaṇitatilaka (11th century). Emphasis will be on what characterizes each commentator's practice of computation, making it unique compared to others.