

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
“HOW TO MAKE THE PERIPHERAL ‘MAINSTREAM’:
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF SCIENCE”

Paris, 12-14 December 2011

THE DIVIDE BETWEEN PROOF AND COMPUTATION:
HISTORIOGRAPHIC AND HISTORICAL REMARKS

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(SPHERE, CNRS, Paris & European Research Council Grant SAW)

19th century European books in history of mathematics bear witness to the shaping of a divide between the West and the Orient, on the basis of the idea that the former would emphasize — and have long emphasized— proof whereas the latter would have concentrated on mere calculation. The opposition between proof and computation has a complex history, which involves many different kinds of factors. It was used —and is still used— to oppose East and West, but it also has a life of its own. This paper presents a first inquiry into that intricate matter. Interestingly enough, the opposition between calculation and proof as two kinds of mathematical activity —the former downgraded and the latter prized— is still prominent in contemporary writings in the philosophy of mathematics. In this paper, I suggest that mathematical writings taken among Chinese sources can help us take a critical stand vis-à-vis this divide. Rethinking this opposition is an essential prerequisite to rewrite the history of mathematical proof in ancient traditions and end up with a more global view for it.