

**Numbers and operations in contexts linked to
administration and astronomy in ancient China**

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The talk gathered clues about the number systems and the calculating instruments by means of which computations were carried out in the context in which the earliest mathematical Chinese writings were written down. In this respect, the classic handed down through the written tradition and probably dating from the 1st century of the common era or early 1st century CE, *The Gnomon of the Zhou*, displays continuity with the manuscripts recently discovered and dating from the first centuries of the Chinese Empire, whereas *The Nine Chapters*, probably completed in the 1st century CE, belongs to another culture. The talk brought to light reasons for believing that the available documents bear witness to two distinct number systems being used as well as the use of two distinct ways of calculating.