

Workshop
Cultures of Computation and Quantification
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Abstract

About measuring units in different kinds of Prakrit and Sanskrit sources
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Lists of technical terms for different kinds of measuring units and their corresponding values are usually given in the first chapter of Sanskrit mathematical texts, in a way which seems to leave very little room for debate.

In this session, however, we will aim at showing that behind this apparent simplicity, many questions can be raised and discussed. The sources examined will concern the *Gaṇitasārasaṃgraha* (ca. 850) and two more texts of the jaina tradition (*Tiloyapannatti* and *Anuyogadvara*, 5th – 7th CE), the political text *Arthaśāstra* (4th BCE-3rd CE) with its commentary *Cāṇakyaṭīkā* (sometimes before 10th ?) and the mathematical texts *Līlāvātī* (12th) with its commentary *Kriyākramakarī* (16th CE).