Math problems from samurai period and Dynamat project

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Math in Japan

Small extract of an article written in collaboration with Yuki Kurokawa (student of Hiroyuki Takamura):
The real development of Japanese mathematics began after the invasion of Korea in 1592. A soldier was able to return to the port of Hakata with a Chinese abacus, which existed in China since the 1200s and became known as soroban in Japanese. Its use became widespread after Mori Shigeyoshi published an introductory text regarding the abacus in 1622.

Math in Japan

A more extensive text, and also the first complete mathematics book in Japan, was published under the title, Jinkoki, or Large and Small Numbers, in 1627 by Yoshida Mitsuyoshi. After this initial takeoff, Japanese mathematics steadily progressed, primarily in areas of geometry and number theory, within an open intellectual dialogue that was initially facilitated and proliferated by the samurai class.

Math in Japan

Because of the low attendance fees, jukus were widely attended by members across all ages and economic strata, and consequently mathematics became widely accessible within the Japanese society. People who could not afford to publish their own books posted their new findings on wooden prayer tablets in temples as offering to the gods. These tablets, which became known as sangaku, allowed the Japanese mathematicians to exchange ideas and identify new problems and thus transformed the temples into intellectual forums facilitating a nationwide dialogue.

Collaboration with Yuki Kurokawa

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