Mathematics 3820H – Mathematics from medieval to modern times

Trent University, Fall 2016

Assignment #6
The Rule of Three

Due on Wednesday, 7 December.

Cocker's Arithmetick was a standard basic math text that saw widespread use in England for about a century and a half, from the late Seventeenth to the early Nineteenth, going through over a hundred editions. Read the excerpt from the 22nd edition of this book and answer the following questions.

1. Explain the *Single Rule of Three Direct,* as presented in *Cocker's Arithmetick* in (your own!) words. What does the Rule accomplish? *[4]*

2. Explain the *Single Rule of Three Direct* algebraically. *[3]*

3. Why might Cocker and Hawkins have presented the *Single Rule of Three Direct* without using algebra? *[3]*

If you wish to read more of *Cocker's Arithmetick* for background, to illuminate the terminology and notation, or simply to see more examples of *Single Rule of Three Direct* in use, you can read and/or download the full text of the book at Google Book Search:

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http://books.google.com/books?id=GWcFAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq
    =Cocker%27s+Arithmetick&as_brr=1
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REFERENCE

1. *Cocker's Arithmetick, perused by J. Hawkins* (22nd Edition), by Edward Cocker & John Hawkins, London, 1702.