

Reading Assignment 9: Geometric Construction Before Descartes

Required Readings: Bos [2001]. Sections 1.1-1.4, 1.6; Chapter 3 pages 37-41; Sections 3.4-3.5, 3.7; Section 5.1, 5.3; Chapter 6.

Questions:

- Describe Pappus' three-fold division among geometric problems.
- Explain Pappus' precept in your own words.
- What is the difference between analysis and synthesis?
- According to Bos, what were three reasons for mathematicians failure to integrate geometry and arithmetic prior to the seventeenth century?

References

Henk JM Bos. *Redefining geometrical exactness: Descartes' transformation of the early modern concept of construction*. Springer, 2001.