

Proofs without words I

Exercises in METAPOST

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Contents

Geometry and Algebra

3

Geometry and Algebra

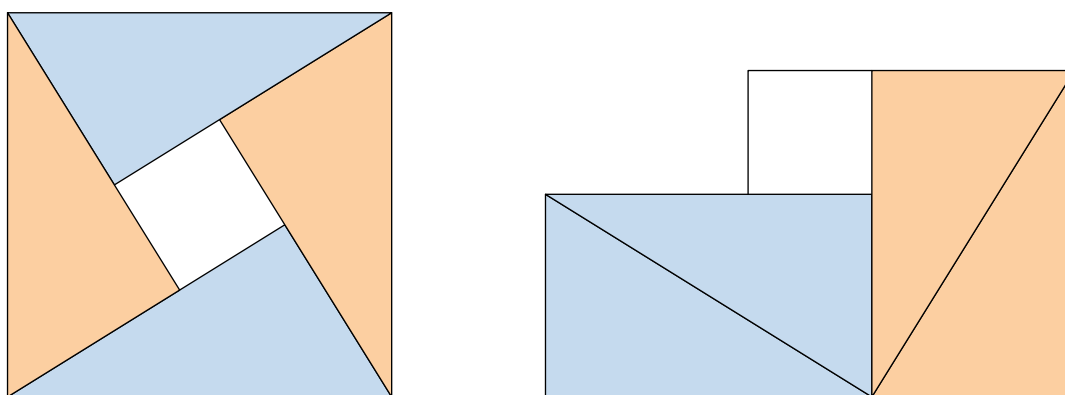
The Pythagorean theorem I	4
The Pythagorean theorem II	5
The Pythagorean theorem III	6
The Pythagorean theorem IV	7
The Pythagorean theorem V	8
The Pythagorean theorem VI	9
A Pythagorean theorem: $aa' = bb' + cc'$	10
The rolling circle squares itself	11
On trisecting an angle	12
Trisection in an infinite number of steps	13
Trisection of a line segment	14
The vertex angles of a star sum to 180°	15
Viviani's theorem I	16
Viviani's theorem II	17
A theorem about right angles	18
Area and the projection theorem of a right triangle	19
Chords and tangents of equal length	20

The Pythagorean theorem I



— adapted from the *Chou pei san ching*

The Pythagorean theorem II



Behold!

— Bhāskara (12th century)

The Pythagorean theorem III



— based on Euclid's proof

The Pythagorean theorem IV



— H. E. Dudeney (1917)

The Pythagorean theorem V



$$A = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}ab + \frac{1}{2}c^2 = \frac{1}{2}(a+b)^2$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

— James A. Garfield (1876)

The Pythagorean theorem VI

$$\frac{c+a}{b} = \frac{b}{c-a}$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$



— Michael Hardy

A Pythagorean theorem: $aa' = bb' + cc'$



$$\frac{x}{b'} = \frac{b}{a} \implies \frac{x}{b} = \frac{b'}{a} \implies ax = bb';$$

$$\frac{y}{c'} = \frac{c}{a} \implies \frac{y}{c} = \frac{c'}{a} \implies ay = cc';$$

$$\therefore aa' = a(x + y) = bb' + cc'.$$

— Enzo R. Gentile

The rolling circle squares itself



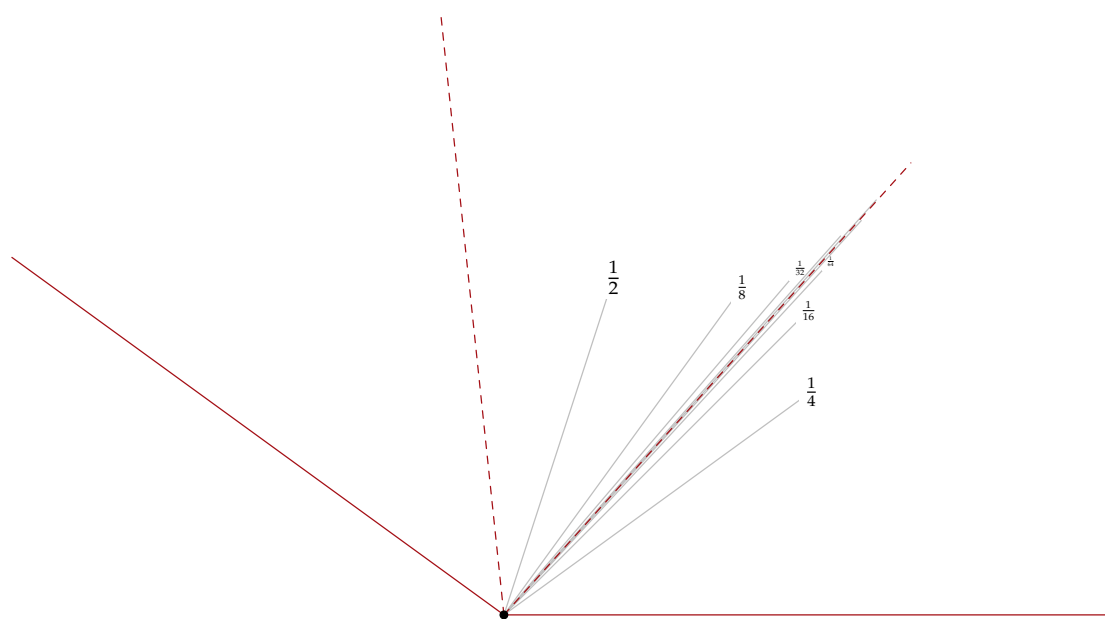
— Thomas Elsner

On trisecting an angle



— Rufus Isaacs

Trisection in an infinite number of steps



$$\frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{16} + \dots$$

— Eric Kincanon

Trisection of a line segment



$$\overline{AF} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \overline{AB}$$

— Scott Cobel

The vertex angles of a star sum to 180°



— Fouad Nakhli

Viviani's theorem I

The perpendiculars to the sides from a point on the boundary or within an equilateral triangle add up to the height of the triangle.



This shows a particular example, with C'GQ collinear, rather than the general case

— Samuel Wolf

Viviani's theorem II

The perpendiculars to the sides from a point on the boundary or within an equilateral triangle add up to the height of the triangle.



— Ken-Ichiroh Kawasaki

A theorem about right angles

The internal bisector of the right angle of a right triangle bisects the square on the hypotenuse



— Roland H. Eddy

Area and the projection theorem of a right triangle

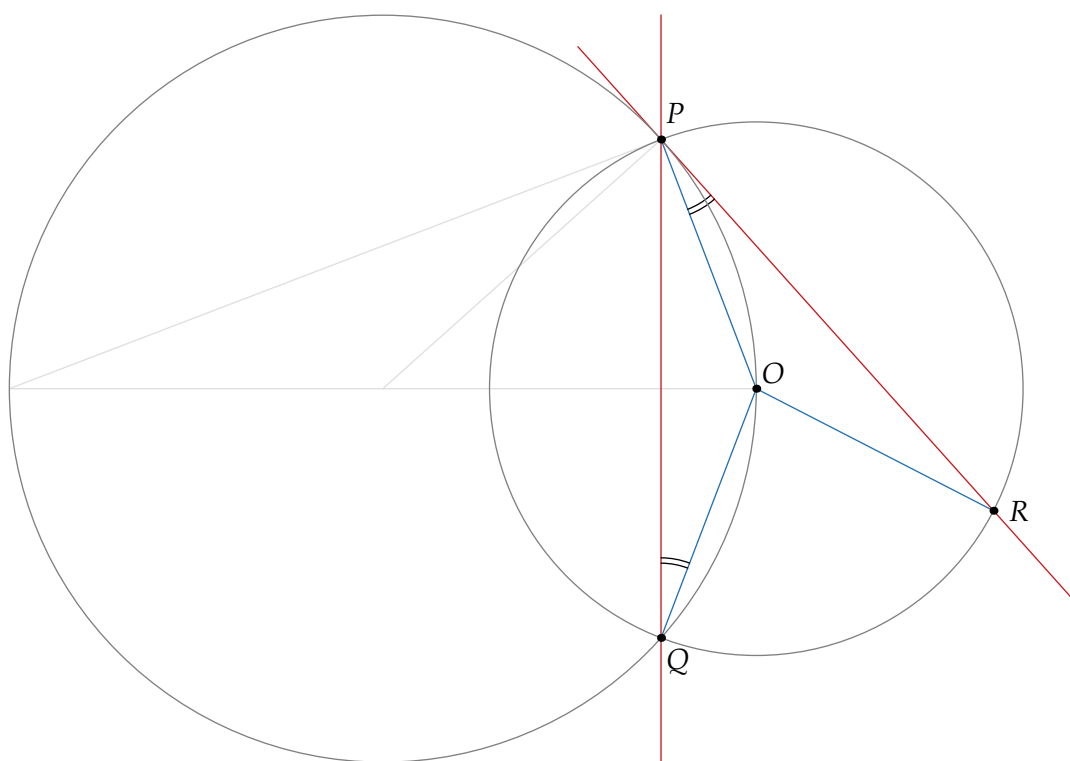


$$CD^2 = AD \cdot DB$$

— Sidney H. Kung

Chords and tangents of equal length

If circle C_1 passes through the center O of circle C_2 , the length of the common chord \overline{PQ} is equal to the tangent segment \overline{PR} .



— Roland H. Eddy