

Liethagoras' Theorem

Once upon a time Liethagoras, jealous of Pythagoras' fame, proposed a theorem. He claimed to be able to find all the right triangles, but faster than Pythagoras. His theorem was:—

In any right triangle the square of the smallest side is equal to the sum of the other two sides.

e.g.	3, 4, 5	$3^2 = 4 + 5$
	5, 12, 13	$5^2 = 12 + 13$
	7, 24, 25	$7^2 = 24 + 25$
	9, 40, 41	$9^2 = 40 + 41$

The mathematicians only laughed at Liethagoras and Pythagoras' theorem was saved.

Questions

1. Why did the mathematicians laugh? Find a Pythagorean triad that disobeys Liethagoras' theorem.
2. Find a Liethagorean triad that disobeys Pythagoras' theorem.
3. Liethagoras' theorem works for certain right triangles, under which condition does Liethagoras' theorem work?

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Mr White is a teacher at South Sydney Boys' High. The answers to the first two questions may be found in the article on page 2, and the answer to the third question will be given in the next issue of Parabola.



Pen Friends

The following people have written to Parabola asking for names and addresses of other people interested in Mathematics so that they may write to them:

Chris Manning, 6th Form, Jesmond High (1974)

Glenn Reeves, 1st Form, Newington (1974)

Kerys Loizou, Canterbury Boys' High

Mylene Zaccai, 4th Form, Beverly Hills Girls' High (1974).

If you would like to write to others, send your name, address, form and school to the editor (address on inside front cover).