

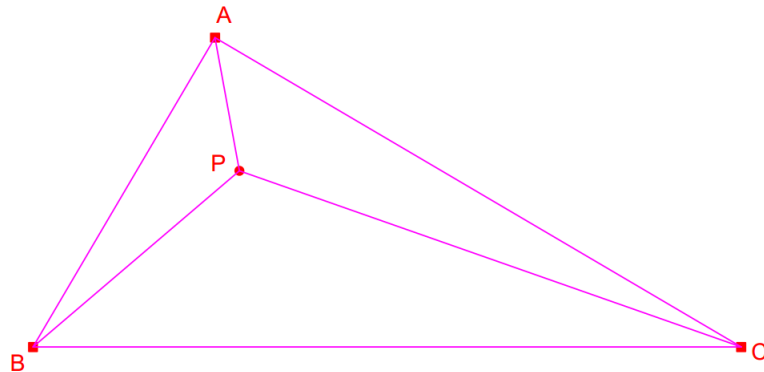
Bi-State Math Colloquium

Who: Clem Jeske

Where: Thursday, February 14, 4:00 pm

When: Ottensman 126

The Fermat Point of a Triangle



Given $\triangle ABC$, determine the location of the point P in $\triangle ABC$ so that the sum $PA + PB + PC$ is minimum. This problem was given by Fermat to Toricelli, a student of Galileo. If one of the angles of the triangle is 120° or more, then P is located at the obtuse vertex of the triangle and the minimum sum is the sum of the smaller two sides of the triangle. We will discuss some of the solutions to this problem and a connection to Napoleon's Theorem.

Clem Jeske has been hanging around the Math Department at UW-Platteville longer than anyone cares to remember. He has taught just about every math class the department offers. His favorite classes to teach include College Geometry, Math of Finance, Differential Equations, and Statistical Methods.