

AN EVEN SIMPLER PROOF OF PASCAL'S HEXAGON THEOREM

*René DESCARTES*¹ and *Shalosh B. EKHAD*²

We give an even shorter, simpler, and more elegant proof than [vY] of:

Pascal's Theorem: *If the vertices of a hexagon lie on a circle and the three pairs of opposite sides intersect, then the three points of intersection are collinear.*

Proof:Type maple (CR), and then³ the following:

```
with(geometry): for i from 0 to 5 do point(A.i,cos (t.i),sin(t.i)) od:
for i from 0 to 2 do line(L.i,[A.i,A.(i+1)]):line(M.i,[A.(i+3) ,A.(i+4 mod 6)]):
point( P.i,coordinates(inter(L.i,M.i))):od:triangle(T,[P0,P1,P2]):evalb(simplify(area(T))=0);
```

Reference

[vY] J. van Yzeren, *A simple proof of Pascal's theorem*, Amer. Math. Monthly **100**(1993) 930-931.

¹ Queen Christine's Court, Stockholm, Sweden. Current address: Panthéon, Paris, France.

² Department of Mathematics, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, USA. ekhad@math.temple.edu .

³ Inserting `cos:=proc(t):(t+1/t)/2:end: sin:=proc(t):(t-1/t)/2/I:end:` at the beginning will speed up the computation twenty-fold.