

# The Pythagorean Proposition

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the author presents a complex history of the pythagorean theorem examining the

earliest evidence of knowledge of the theorem to Einstein's theory of relativity

bringing together geometry and philosophy this book undertakes a strikingly original study of the origins and significance of the Pythagorean theorem. Thales, whom Aristotle called the first philosopher and who was an older contemporary of Pythagoras, posited the principle of a unity from which all things come and back into which they return upon dissolution. He held that all appearances are only alterations of this basic unity and there can be no change in the cosmos. Such an account requires some fundamental geometric figure out of which appearances are structured. Robert Hahn argues that Thales came to the conclusion that it was the right triangle. By recombination and repackaging all alterations can be explained from that figure. This idea is central to what the discovery of the Pythagorean theorem could have meant to Thales and Pythagoras in the sixth century BCE. With more than two hundred illustrations and figures, Hahn provides a series of geometric proofs for this lost narrative, tracing it from Thales to Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans who followed and then finally to Plato's Timaeus. Uncovering the philosophical motivation behind the discovery of the theorem, Hahn's book will enrich the study of ancient philosophy and mathematics alike.

The Pythagorean theorem is one of the most important ideas in all of mathematics. In this book, students study history and geometry as they explore eight elegant proofs of the theorem. From across the centuries included are interesting facts about the theorem, a brief biography of Pythagoras, and a list of concepts needed to understand the proofs. Learn how Leonardo da Vinci, President James A. Garfield, Pythagoras, the Chinese Bhaskara, and others proved this famous theorem about the right triangle. This would be a useful book for any student taking geometry or anyone interested in mathematics history. Now with a link to powerpoint slides you can download with animations, videos, pictures, and hyperlinks to supplement the book. Each proof is displayed in color with an explanation of the steps taken in its geometric presentation. Blackline masters for the proofs and for manipulatives that offer students hands-on understanding are included. The book is in PDF format.

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