

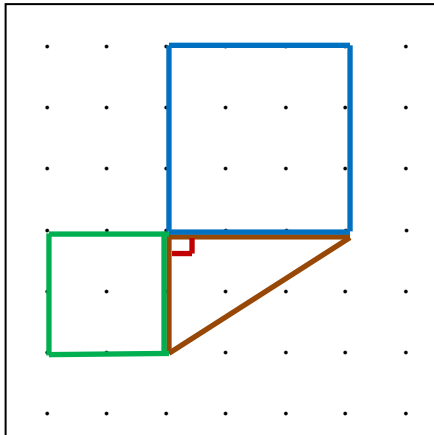
# Pythagoras' Theorem:

**Italiano:** Busto di [Pitagora](#). Copia romana di originale greco. [Musei Capitolini](#), Roma. Brüste des Philosophen Pythagoras von Samos in den [Kapitolinischen Museen](#), [de: Palazzo Nuovo](#); [de: Rom](#) Fotograf oder Zeichner: [Galilea](#) Copyright Status: [de: GNU Freie Dokumentationslizenz](#)

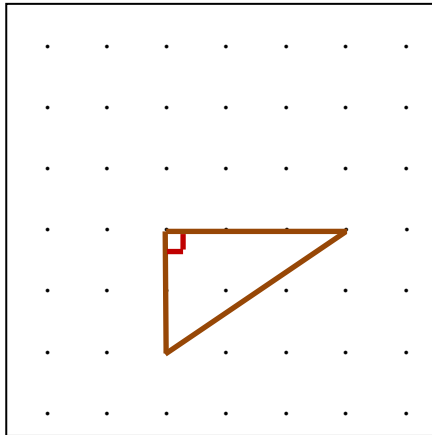
## Geometric Proofs

**INSTRUCTION :** Do these on the worksheet, but using a 7 x 7 nail geoboard as well will make them easier to understand

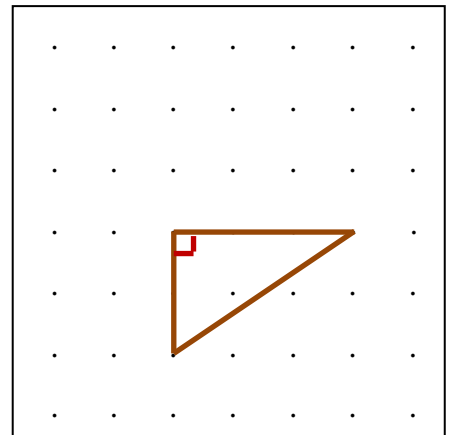
### Geometric Proof #1 (by shearing squares)



Make a right triangle as above and then make squares  $a^2$ , and  $b^2$  on the two shorter sides. Let's call the shortest side  $a$

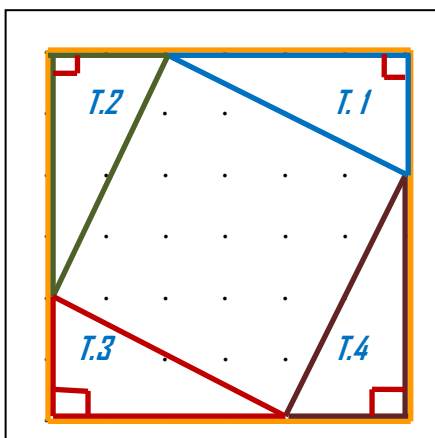


Shear both squares (keeping the same area) to the top left corner of the geoboard, forming two parallelograms.

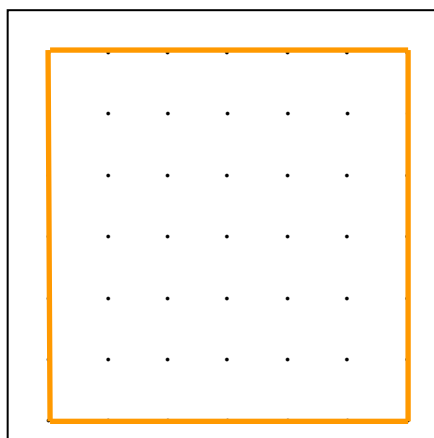


Make a square on the hypotenuse. Shear the parallelograms to the square OR just subtract the top triangle from the shape, so  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

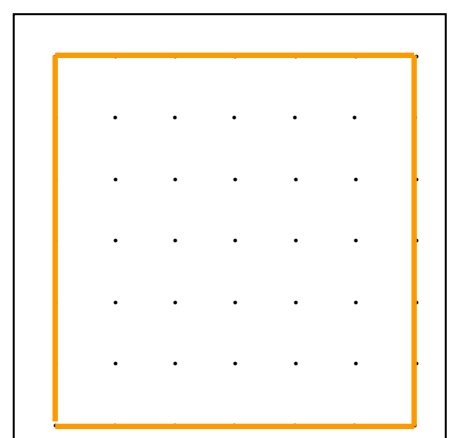
### Geometric Proof #2 (by translating right triangles)



Make four separate identical right triangles as above within a large square. Note the area outside the right triangles =  $c^2$

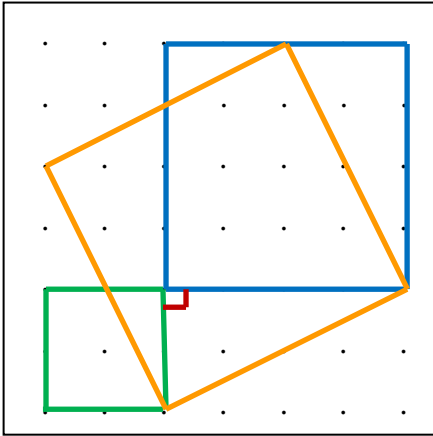


Translate Triangle 1 (T. 1) down 4 units and back 2 units so it meets T.3. The area outside the right triangles remains  $c^2$

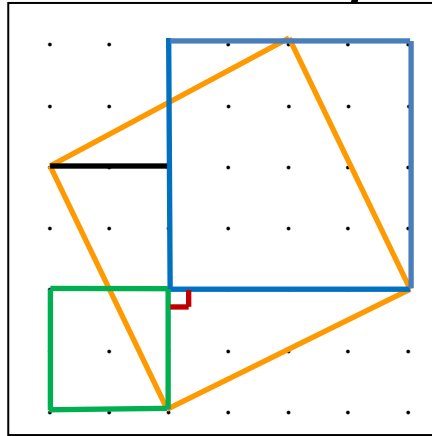


Translate T.4 up 2 units and T.2 across 4 units. The remaining area (outside the right triangles) remains  $c^2$  ... so  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

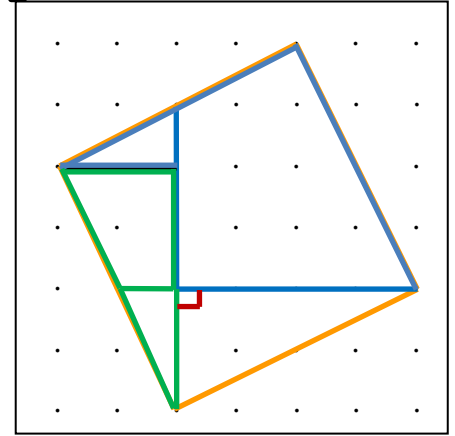
# Geometric Proof #3 (by rotating areas)



Make a right triangle and then make squares  $a^2$ ,  $b^2$  and  $c^2$  on each of the sides as above. Let's call the shortest side  $a$



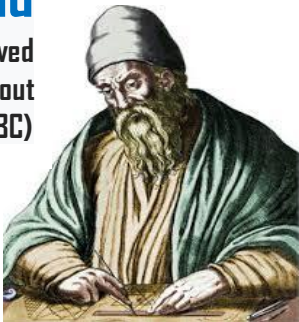
We are going to fill  $c^2$ . (a) Rotate the top right triangle of  $b^2$   $90^\circ$  anti-clockwise. (b) Rotate the remaining section of  $b^2$   $180^\circ$  (c) Rotate the part of  $a^2$  outside  $c^2$   $180^\circ$



All sections outside  $c^2$  have been used. All parts of  $c^2$  are filled. Therefore  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

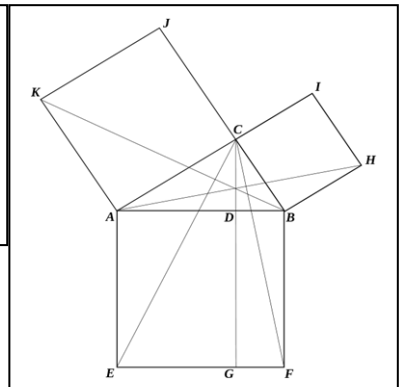
## Euclid

(lived about 300 BC)

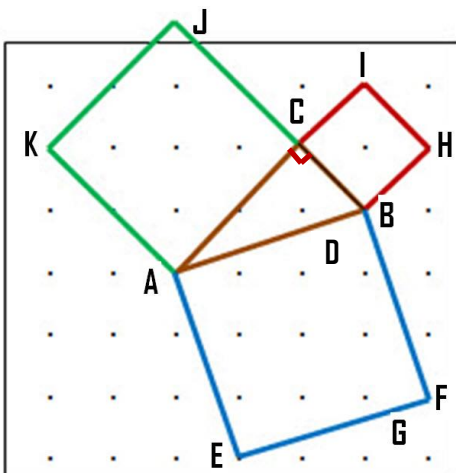


Source : Eukleides of Alexandria  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3AEuklid-von-Alexandria\\_1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3AEuklid-von-Alexandria_1.jpg)

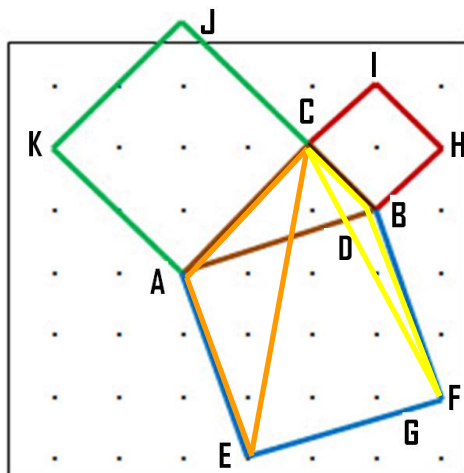
Illustration to Euclid's proof of Pythagorean theorem by congruence. by User : 4C via <https://commons.wikimedia.org> under *GNU Free Documentation License*.



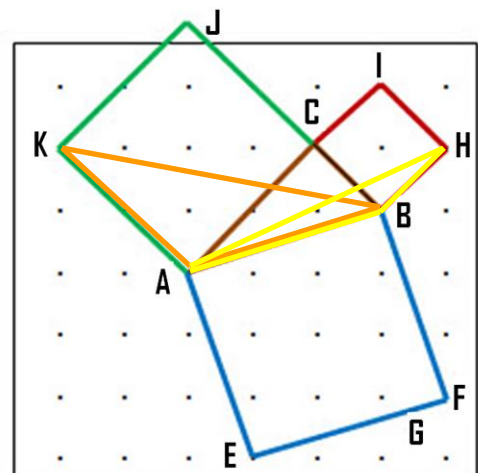
## #4. Euclid's Proof



Set up the geo-board as above, but "create" an extra nail for "J"



Form 2 triangles as above. By the rules of shearing, together they form  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  $c^2$



Note the larger triangle is a  $90^\circ$  anti-clockwise rotation about A, and the smaller triangle is a  $90^\circ$  clockwise rotation about B.

Euclid proves that each pair of triangles is congruent - see at left

Is  $\triangle KAB \cong \triangle CAE$  ?  
 $KA = CA$  and  $AB = AE$   
 Angle  $KAB =$  Angle  $CAE$  (included)  
 $\therefore \triangle KAB \cong \triangle CAE$  (SAS)  
 Note  $\triangle KAB = \frac{1}{2} b^2$

In the same way:  
 $\triangle HBA \cong \triangle CBF$  (SAS)  
 Note  $\triangle HBA = \frac{1}{2} a^2$   
 So  $\frac{1}{2} a^2 + \frac{1}{2} b^2 = \frac{1}{2} c^2$   
 $\therefore a^2 + b^2 = c^2$