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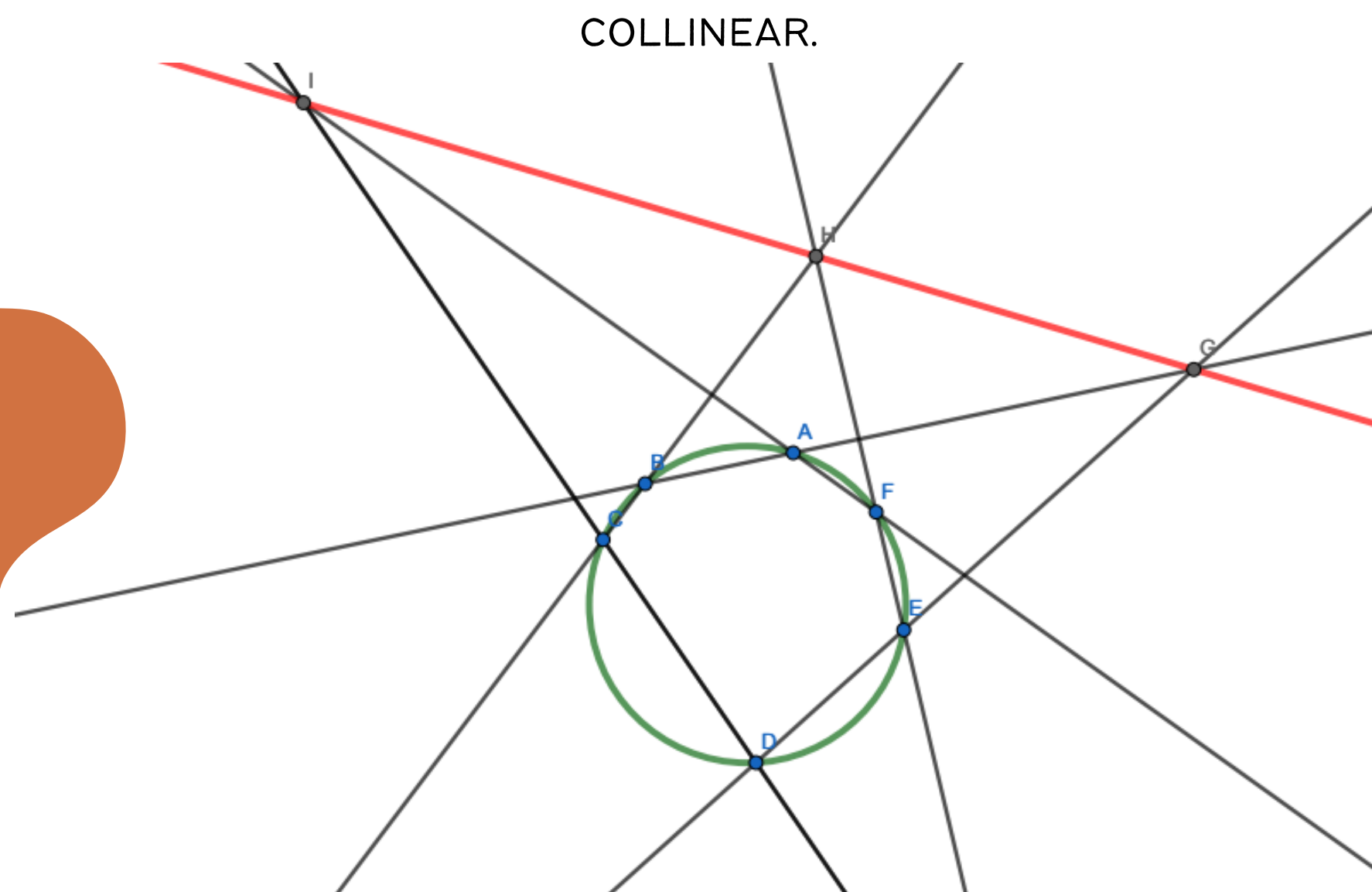
Pascal's Mystic Hexagon
With Peter Goetz

In 1640, at the age of 16, Blaise Pascal, published a short manuscript Essai pour les Coniques containing the following remarkable result:

If a hexagon be inscribed in a circle, the three points in which the pairs of opposite sides intersect are collinear.

Thursday, September 29, 2022

4:00 PM
BSS 166

Unfortunately, Pascal's proof was never published and is lost to us. In this talk, I will begin by illustrating the result using the program GeoGebra. This will reveal that the theorem can be understood using "projections". So the next part of the talk will be a short introduction to projective geometry. I will conclude by giving a proof of Pascal's theorem using this geometry.

The talk will be accessible to all.

We cordially invite you to the pre-colloquium tea on the third floor of BSS at 3:30 PM