

SACCHERI LOST A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE EUCLID'S FIFTH POSTULATE

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Abstract

For a mathematical proof is correct and blameless, it must respect the unchanging nature of beings of geometry. In the case of Euclid's 5th postulate, the only beings involved are straight lines and plane surface. But G. Saccheri destroyed the true nature of these beings without realizing it and he offended the logic he taught, because he was not able to reason well. If, G. Saccheri had well thought, he could easily refute both hypotheses acute angle and obtuse angle in the fundamental quadrilateral known by his name. This fundamental quadrilateral was misunderstood by Saccheri and all his successors. Nobody noticed that the opposite side CD to the base, which is a straight line segment, turned at the same time in two opposite directions, obviously impossible. This contradiction, sought for thirty years by Saccheri, unfortunately, he escaped.

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