1114-97-98   **Mihaela B Vajiac*** (`mbvajiac@chapman.edu`), Schmid College of Science, Chapman University, One University Dr, Orange, CA 92866. *Geometric Loci, a primer for understanding proofs.*

Geometric Loci, a primer for understanding proofs]Geometric Loci, a primer for understanding proofs

In this talk I will describe the importance of geometric loci as gateway to deeper understanding of proof methods. In this context, geometric loci constitute perfect examples of the danger of tautologies in proof-writing. I have been using these methods in several summer camps dedicated to problem solving techniques in a mathematical competition setting, as well as at the program organized by the mathematics department at California Sate University at Fullerton.