

ZMATH 2006d.02342

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Getting a better angle.

Consortium, No. 86, 9-12 (2004).

This month's column deals with a problem often referred to as the "problem of Regiomontanus" and it is reputed to be the first max-min problem of the modern age. 'At what point on the ground does a perpendicularly suspended rod appear largest (i.e., subtends the greatest visual angle)? It has been claimed that this was the first extreme problem in the history of mathematics since antiquity'. (orig.)

Classification: G43 G44 G63 G64 M93 M94

Keywords: problem of regiomontanus; extreme value problems; plane geometry; mathematical applications; triangles; circles