

Viviani's theorem (AD 1600) Copper foil technique

Vincenzo Viviani (1622 - 1703) was an Italian mathematician and scientist. He investigated geometric properties for equilateral triangles among other things. An equilateral triangle is a triangle where all sides have equal length.

Viviani was contemporary with *Galileo Galilei* (1564 - 1642). Galileo is known for his discovery that Jupiter has several moons. He is even more famous for realizing that Earth orbits the Sun. This upset the Church that wanted to believe the opposite. Therefore, the Church confined Galileo to his home. Galileo was very impressed by Viviani's talent so he took him into his house as a collaborator.

Viviani wrote Galileo's biography when Galileo died. He also tried to publish a complete edition of Galileo's works. The Church prohibited this effort, which hurt Viviani's reputation and was a blow to science in general.