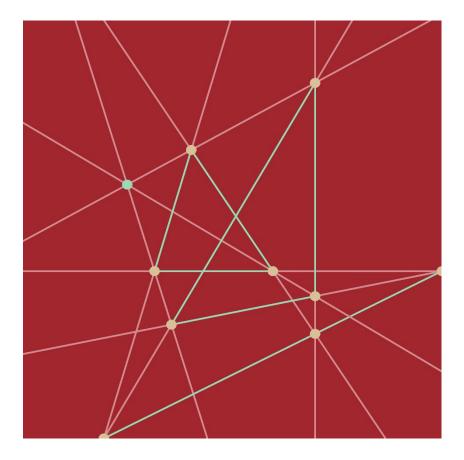
## **Desargues**



Girard Desargues (1591-1661) was a French mathematician and engineer, highly original, completely rigorous, and far from lucid. His method of stone-cutting works was a brilliant invention, but without personal tutoring no mason of the time would have been likely to understand it. Desargues' work on perspective led him to develop a new, non-Greek way of doing geometry, now called projective geometry. Indeed, Pascal contributed the little that he found on the matter, <a href="Hexagrammum Mysticum">Hexagrammum Mysticum</a>, to Desargues' writings.

Two triangles abc and ABC (depicted in green) are in perspective with respect to a point if the three lines aA, bB, cC meet in a point.

Two triangles abc and ABC are in perspective with respect to a line if the intersection points of the pairs of lines ab-AB, bc-BC, ac-AC are colinear.

Desargues' theorem states that two triangles are in perspective with respect to a point if and only if they are in perspective with respect to a line.