



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**PLATTEVILLE**  
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK #6  
(Fall 2022)

Notice that  $2^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 = 17$ , which is a prime number.

Suppose that  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are prime numbers, all of which are greater than or equal to five. Show that  $a^2 + b^2 + c^2$  is not prime.

[Please fully explain your answer.]

Email solutions to [kwonmi@uwplatt.edu](mailto:kwonmi@uwplatt.edu) by 4:00pm on Wednesday, October 26, 2022.

Every week, the best solution submitted earns a \$10 Platteville gift certificate; the top scorer each semester also wins a cash award. Good luck!

You can always see the Problem of the Week (and complete rules) online at:

<http://uwpmath.weebly.com/>