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Steve Gimbel*, Gettysburg College. *Hermann Minkowski: The quiet genius.*

Hermann Minkowski was Albert Einstein's professor in college, but the real lesson he taught Einstein came years later when he framed the geometric interpretation of the special theory of relativity and claimed that its truly revolutionary result was not its non-Newtonian mechanics, but what it said about the unified nature of space and time. Minkowski was a mathematician whose use of late 19th century geometric tools to endow physical theory with an ontological significance was a radical departure from the formalist picture of mathematics set out by Minkowski's life-long best friend David Hilbert, but anticipated views connecting mathematics, science, and philosophy by half a century. (Received July 15, 2013)