Jeremy Muskat* (muskat@math.colostate.edu), Colorado State University, Department of Mathematics, Fort Collins, CO 80523. Determining the Zeta Function of Gauss' Curve.

For $p \equiv 3 \mod 4$, we give a proof that the zeta function of the curve $C: x^2t^2 + y^2t^2 + x^2y^2 - t^4 = 0$ in \mathbb{P}^2 defined over \mathbb{F}_p is

$$Z_C(u) = \frac{(1+pu^2)(1+u)^2}{(1-pu)(1-u)}.$$

(Received February 20, 2006)