

Book 7

Proposition 29

Every prime number is prime to every number which it does not measure.

A ───────────┘

B ───────────────────┘

C ───────────┘

Let A be a prime number, and let it not measure B . I say that B and A are prime to one another. For if B and A are not prime to one another then some number will measure them. Let C measure (them). Since C measures B , and A does not measure B , C is thus not the same as A . And since C measures B and A , it thus also measures A , which is prime, (despite) not being the same as it. The very thing is impossible. Thus, some number cannot measure (both) B and A . Thus, A and B are prime to one another. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.