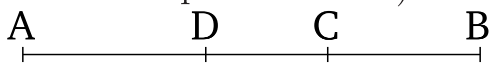
Book 10
Proposition 46

The square-root of a rational plus a medial (area) can be divided (into its component terms) at one point only.



Let AB be the square-root of a rational plus a medial (area) which has been divided at C, so that AC and CB are incommensurable in square, making the sum of the (squares) on AC and CB medial, and twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB rational [Prop. 10.40]. I say that AB cannot be (so) divided at another point.

For, if possible, let it also have been divided at D, so that AD and DB are also incommensurable in square, making the sum of the (squares) on AD and DB medial, and twice the (rectangle contained) by AD and DB rational. Therefore, since by whatever (amount) twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB differs from twice the (rectangle contained) by AD and DB, (the sum of) the (squares) on AD and DB also differs from (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB by this (same amount). And twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB exceeds twice the (rectangle contained) by AD and DB by a rational (area). (The sum of) the (squares) on AD and DB thus also exceeds (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB by a rational (area), (despite both) being medial (areas). The very thing is impossible [Prop. 10.26]. Thus, the square-root of a rational plus a medial (area) cannot be divided (into its component terms) at different points. Thus, it can be (so) divided at one point (only).

(Which is) the very thing it was required to show.