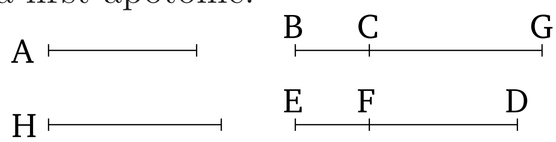
Book 10
Proposition 85

To find a first apotome.



Let the rational (straight-line) A be laid down. And let BG be commensurable in length with A. BG is thus also a rational (straight-line). And let two square numbers DE and EF be laid down, and let their difference FD be not square [Prop. 10.28 lem. I]. Thus, ED does not have to DF the ratio which (some) square number (has) to (some) square number. And let it have been contrived that as ED (is) to DF, so the square on BG (is) to the square on GC [Prop. 10.6. corr.]. Thus, the (square) on BG is commensurable with the (square) on GC [Prop. 10.6]. And the (square) on BG (is) rational. Thus, the (square) on GC (is) also rational. Thus, GC is also rational. And since ED does not have to DF the ratio which (some) square number (has) to (some) square number, the (square) on BG thus does not have to the (square) on GC the ratio which (some) square number (has) to (some) square number either. Thus, BG is incommensurable in length with GC [Prop. 10.9]. And they are both rational (straight-lines). Thus, BG and GC are rational (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only. Thus, BC is an apotome [Prop. 10.73]. So, I say that (it is) also a first (apotome).

Let the (square) on H be that (area) by which the (square) on BG is greater than the (square) on GC [Prop. 10.13 lem.]. And since as ED is to FD, so the (square) on BG (is) to the (square) on GC, thus, via conversion, as DE is to EF, so the (square) on GB (is) to the (square) on H [Prop. 5.19 corr.]. And DE has to EF the ratio which (some) square-number (has) to (some) square-number. For each is a square (number). Thus, the (square) on GB also has to the (square) on H the ratio which (some) square number (has) to (some) square number. Thus, BG is commensurable in length with H [Prop. 10.9]. And the square on BG is greater than (the square on) GC by the (square) on H. Thus, the square on BG is greater than (the square on) GC by the (square) on (some straight-line) commensurable in length with (BG). And the whole, BG, is commensurable in length with the (previously) laid down rational (straight-line) A. Thus, BC is a first apotome [Def. 10.11].

Thus, the first apotome BC has been found. (Which is) the very thing it was required to find.