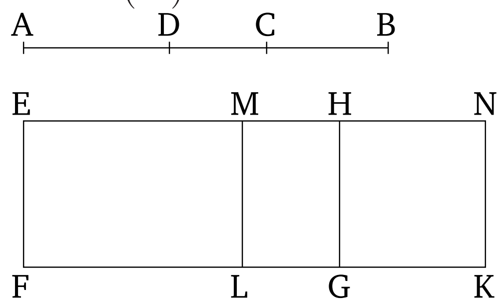
Book 10
Proposition 44

A second bimedial (straight-line) can be divided (into its component terms) at one point only.†

Let AB be a second bimedial (straight-line) which has been divided at C, so that AC and BC are medial (straight-lines), commensurable in square only, (and) containing a medial (area) [Prop. 10.38]. So, (it is) clear that C is not (located) at the point of bisection, since (AC and BC) are not commensurable in length. I say that AB cannot be (so) divided at another point.



For, if possible, let it also have been (so) divided at D, so that AC is not the same as DB, but AC (is), by hypothesis, greater. So, (it is) clear that (the sum of) the (squares) on AD and DB is also less than (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB, as we showed above [Prop. 10.41 lem.]. And AD and DB are medial (straight-lines), commensurable in square only, (and) containing a medial (area). And let the rational (straight-line) EF be laid down. And let the rectangular parallelogram EK, equal to the (square) on AB, have been applied to EF. And let EG, equal to (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB, have been cut off (from EK). Thus, the remainder, HK, is equal to twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB [Prop. 2.4]. So, again, let EL, equal to (the sum of) the (squares) on AD and DB—which was shown (to be) less than (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB—have been cut off (from EK). And, thus, the remainder, MK, (is) equal to twice the (rectangle contained) by AD and DB. And since (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB is medial, EG (is) thus [also] medial. And it is applied to the rational (straight-line) EF. Thus, EH is rational, and incommensurable in length with EF [Prop. 10.22]. So, for the same (reasons), HN is also rational, and incommensurable in length with EF. And since AC and CB are medial (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only, AC is thus incommensurable in length with CB. And as AC (is) to CB, so the (square) on AC (is) to the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB [Prop. 10.21 lem.]. Thus, the (square) on AC is incommensurable with the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB [Prop. 10.11]. But, (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB is commensurable with the (square) on AC. For, AC and CB are commensurable in square [Prop. 10.15]. And twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB is commensurable with the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB [Prop. 10.6]. And thus (the sum of) the squares on AC and CB is incommensurable with twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB [Prop. 10.13]. But, EG is equal to (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB, and HK equal to twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB. Thus, EG is incommensurable with HK. Hence, EH is also incommensurable in length with HN [Props. 6.1, 10.11]. And (they are) rational (straight-lines). Thus, EH and HN are rational (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only. And if two rational (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only are added together then the whole (straight-line) is that irrational called binomial [Prop. 10.36]. Thus, EN is a binomial (straight-line) which has been divided (into its component terms) at H. So, according to the same (reasoning), EM and MN can be shown (to be) rational (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only. And EN will (thus) be a binomial (straight-line) which has been divided (into its component terms) at the different (points) H and M (which is absurd [Prop. 10.42]). And EH is not the same as MN, since (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB is greater than (the sum of) the (squares) on AD and DB. But, (the sum of) the (squares) on AD and DB is greater than twice the (rectangle contained) by AD and DB [Prop. 10.59 lem.]. Thus, (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB—that is to say, EG—is also much greater than twice the (rectangle contained) by AD and DB—that is to say, MK. Hence, EH is also greater than MN [Prop. 6.1]. Thus, EH is not the same as MN. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.