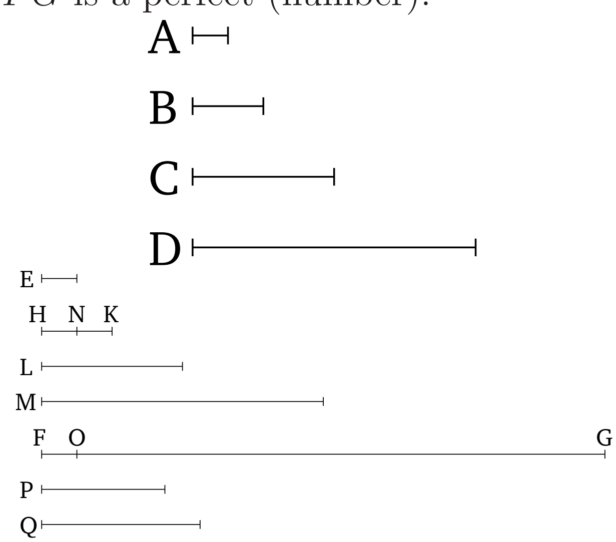
Book 9
Proposition 36

If any multitude whatsoever of numbers is set out continuously in a double proportion, (starting) from a unit, until the whole sum added together becomes prime, and the sum multiplied into the last (number) makes some (number), then the (number so) created will be perfect.

For let any multitude of numbers, A, B, C, D, be set out (continuouly) in a double proportion, until the whole sum added together is made prime. And let E be equal to the sum. And let E make FG (by) multiplying D. I say that FG is a perfect (number).



For as many as is the multitude of A, B, C, D, let so many (numbers), E, HK, L, M, have been taken in a double proportion, (starting) from E. Thus, via equality, as A is to D, so E (is) to M [Prop. 7.14]. Thus, the (number created) from (multiplying) E, D is equal to the (number created) from (multiplying) A, M. And FG is the (number created) from (multiplying) E, D. Thus, FG is also the (number created) from (multiplying) A, M [Prop. 7.19]. Thus, A has made FG (by) multiplying M. Thus, M measures FG according to the units in A. And A is a dyad. Thus, FG is double M. And M, L, HK, E are also continuously double one another. Thus, E, HK, L, M, FG are continuously proportional in a double proportion. So let HN and FO, each equal to the first (number) E, have been subtracted from the second (number) HK and the last FG (respectively). Thus, as the excess of the second number is to the first, so the excess of the last (is) to (the sum of) all those (numbers) before it [Prop. 9.35]. Thus, as NK is to E, so OG (is) to M, L, KH, E. And NK is equal to E. And thus OG is equal to M, L, HK, E. And FO is also equal to E, and E to A, B, C, D, and a unit. Thus, the whole of FG is equal to E, HK, L, M, and A, B, C, D, and a unit. And it is measured by them. I also say that FG will be measured by no other (numbers) except A, B, C, D, E, HK, L, M, and a unit. For, if possible, let some (number) P measure FG, and let P not be the same as any of A, B, C, D, E, HK, L, M. And as many times as P measures FG, so many units let there be in Q. Thus, Q has made FG (by) multiplying P. But, in fact, E has also made FG (by) multiplying D. Thus, as E is to Q, so P (is) to D [Prop. 7.19]. And since A, B, C, D are continually proportional, (starting) from a unit, D will thus not be measured by any other numbers except A, B, C [Prop. 9.13]. And P was assumed not (to be) the same as any of A, B, C. Thus, P does not measure D. But, as P (is) to D, so E (is) to Q. Thus, E does not measure Q either [Def. 7.20]. And E is a prime (number). And every prime number [is] prime to every (number) which it does not measure [Prop. 7.29]. Thus, E and Q are prime to one another. And (numbers) prime (to one another are) also the least (of those numbers having the same ratio as them) [Prop. 7.21], and the least (numbers) measure those (numbers) having the same ratio as them an equal number of times, the leading (measuring) the leading, and the following the following [Prop. 7.20]. And as E is to Q, (so) P (is) to D. Thus, E measures P the same number of times as Q (measures) D. And D is not measured by any other (numbers) except A, B, C. Thus, Q is the same as one of A, B, C. Let it be the same as B. And as many as is the multitude of B, C, D, let so many (of the set out numbers) have been taken, (starting) from E, (namely) E, HK, L. And E, HK, L are in the same ratio as B, C, D. Thus, via equality, as B (is) to D, (so) E (is) to L [Prop. 7.14]. Thus, the (number created) from (multiplying) B, L is equal to the (number created) from multiplying D, E [Prop. 7.19]. But, the (number created) from (multiplying) D, E is equal to the (number created) from (multiplying) Q, P. Thus, the (number created) from (multiplying) Q, P is equal to the (number created) from (multiplying) B, L. Thus, as Q is to B, (so) L (is) to P [Prop. 7.19]. And Q is the same as B. Thus, L is also the same as P. The very thing (is) impossible. For P was assumed not (to be) the same as any of the (numbers) set out. Thus, FG cannot be measured by any number except A, B, C, D,

E, HK, L, M, and a unit. And FG was shown (to be) equal to (the sum of) A, B, C, D, E, HK, L, M, and a unit. And a perfect number is one which is equal to (the sum of) its own parts [Def. 7.22]. Thus, FG is a perfect (number). (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.