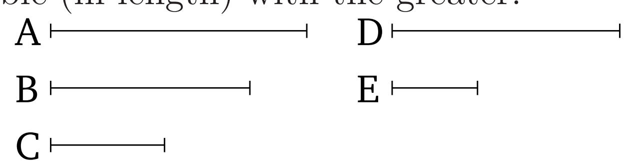
Book 10
Proposition 32

To find two medial (straight-lines), commensurable in square only, (and) containing a medial (area), such that the square on the greater is larger than the (square on the) lesser by the (square) on (some straight-line) commensurable (in length) with the greater.



Let three rational (straight-lines), A, B and C, commensurable in square only, be laid out such that the square on A is greater than (the square on C) by the (square) on (some straight-line) commensurable (in length) with (A) [Prop. 10.29]. And let the (square) on D be equal to the (rectangle contained) by A and B. Thus, the (square) on D (is) medial. Thus, D is also medial [Prop. 10.21]. And let the (rectangle contained) by D and E be equal to the (rectangle contained) by B and C. And since as the (rectangle contained) by A and B is to the (rectangle contained) by B and C, so A (is) to C [Prop. 10.21 lem.], but the (square) on D is equal to the (rectangle contained) by A and B, and the (rectangle contained) by D and E to the (rectangle contained) by B and C, thus as A is to C, so the (square) on D (is) to the (rectangle contained) by D and E. And as the (square) on D (is) to the (rectangle contained) by D and E, so D (is) to E [Prop. 10.21 lem.]. And thus as A (is) to C, so D (is) to E. And A (is) commensurable in square [only] with C. Thus, D (is) also commensurable in square only with E [Prop. 10.11]. And D (is) medial. Thus, E (is) also medial [Prop. 10.23]. And since as A is to C, (so) D (is) to E, and the square on A is greater than (the square on) C by the (square) on (some straight-line) commensurable (in length) with (A), the square on D will thus also be greater than (the square on) E by the (square) on (some straight-line) commensurable (in length) with (D) [Prop. 10.14]. So, I also say that the (rectangle contained) by D and E is medial. For since the (rectangle contained) by B and C is equal to the (rectangle contained) by D and E, and the (rectangle contained) by B and C (is) medial [for B and C are rational (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only] [Prop. 10.21], the (rectangle contained) by D and E (is) thus also medial.

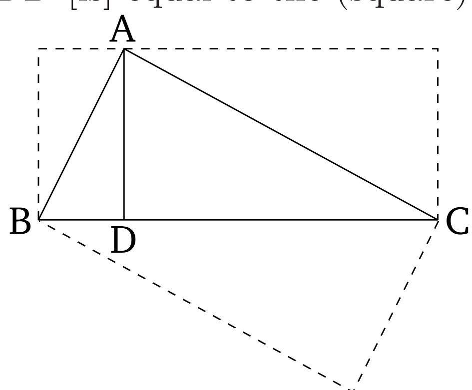
Thus, two medial (straight-lines), D and E, commensurable in square only, (and) containing a medial (area), have been found such that the square on the greater is larger than the (square on the) lesser by the (square) on (some straight-line) commensurable (in length) with the greater.[†].

So, similarly, (the proposition) can again also be demonstrated for (some straight-line) incommensurable (in length with the greater), provided that the square on A is greater than (the square on) C by the (square) on (some straight-line) incommensurable (in length) with (A) [Prop. 10.30].[‡]

Lemma

Let ABC be a right-angled triangle having the (angle) A a right-angle. And let the perpendicular AD have been drawn. I say that the (rectangle contained) by CBD is equal to the (square) on BA, and the (rectangle contained) by BCD (is) equal to the (square) on CA, and the (rectangle contained) by BD and DC (is) equal to the (square) on AD, and, further, the (rectangle contained) by BC and AD [is] equal to the (rectangle contained) by BA and AC.

And, first of all, (let us prove) that the (rectangle contained) by CBD [is] equal to the (square) on BA.



For since AD has been drawn from the right-angle in a right-angled triangle, perpendicular to the base, ABD and ADC are thus triangles (which are) similar to the whole, ABC, and to one another [Prop. 6.8]. And since triangle ABC is similar to triangle ABD, thus as CB is to BA, so BA (is) to BD [Prop. 6.4]. Thus, the (rectangle contained) by CBD is equal to the (square) on AB [Prop. 6.17].

So, for the same (reasons), the (rectangle contained) by BCD is also equal to the (square) on AC.

And since if a (straight-line) is drawn from the right-angle in a right-angled triangle, perpendicular to the base, the (straight-line so) drawn is the mean proportional to the pieces of the base [Prop. 6.8 corr.], thus as BD is to DA, so AD (is) to DC. Thus, the (rectangle contained) by BD and DC is equal to the (square) on DA [Prop. 6.17].

I also say that the (rectangle contained) by BC and AD is equal to the (rectangle contained) by BA and AC. For since, as we said, ABC is similar to ABD, thus as BC is to CA, so BA (is) to AD [Prop. 6.4]. Thus, the (rectangle contained) by BC and AD is equal to the (rectangle contained) by BA and AC [Prop. 6.16]. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.