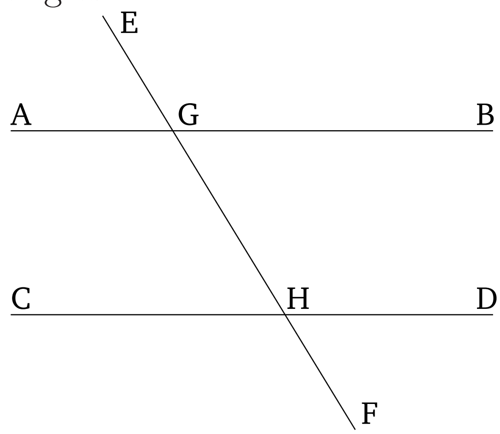
Book 1
Proposition 29

A straight-line falling across parallel straight-lines makes the alternate angles equal to one another, the external (angle) equal to the internal and opposite (angle), and the (sum of the) internal (angles) on the same side equal to two right-angles.



For let the straight-line EF fall across the parallel straight-lines AB and CD. I say that it makes the alternate angles, AGH and GHD, equal, the external angle EGB equal to the internal and opposite (angle) GHD, and the (sum of the) internal (angles) on the same side, BGH and GHD, equal to two right-angles.

For if AGH is unequal to GHD then one of them is greater. Let AGH be greater. Let BGH have been added to both. Thus, (the sum of) AGH and BGH is greater than (the sum of) BGH and GHD. But, (the sum of) AGH and BGH is equal to two right-angles [Prop 1.13]. Thus, (the sum of) BGH and GHD is [also] less than two right-angles. But (straight-lines) being produced to infinity from (internal angles whose sum is) less than two right-angles meet together [Post. 5]. Thus, AB and CD, being produced to infinity, will meet together. But they do not meet, on account of them (initially) being assumed parallel (to one another) [Def. 1.23]. Thus, AGH is not unequal to GHD. Thus, (it is) equal. But, AGH is equal to EGB [Prop. 1.15]. And EGB is thus also equal to GHD. Let BGH be added to both. Thus, (the sum of) EGB and BGH is equal to (the sum of) BGH and GHD. But, (the sum of) EGB and BGH is equal to two right-angles [Prop. 1.13]. Thus, (the sum of) BGH and GHD is also equal to two right-angles.

Thus, a straight-line falling across parallel straight-lines makes the alternate angles equal to one another, the external (angle) equal to the internal and opposite (angle), and the (sum of the) internal (angles) on the same side equal to two right-angles. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.