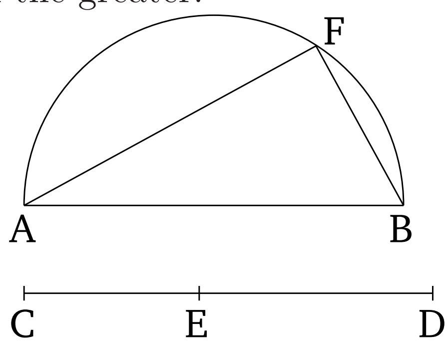
Book 10
Proposition 29

To find two rational (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only, such that the square on the greater is larger than the (square on the) lesser by the (square) on (some straight-line which is) commensurable in length with the greater.



For let some rational (straight-line) AB be laid down, and two square numbers, CD and DE, such that the difference between them, CE, is not square [Prop. 10.28 lem. I]. And let the semi-circle AFB have been drawn on AB. And let it be contrived that as DC (is) to CE, so the square on BA (is) to the square on AF [Prop. 10.6 corr.]. And let FB have been joined.

[Therefore,] since as the (square) on BA is to the (square) on AF, so DC (is) to CE, the (square) on BA thus has to the (square) on AF the ratio which the number DC (has) to the number CE. Thus, the (square) on BA is commensurable with the (square) on AF [Prop. 10.6]. And the (square) on AB (is) rational [Def. 10.4]. Thus, the (square) on AF (is) also rational. Thus, AF (is) also rational. And since DC does not have to CE the ratio which (some) square number (has) to (some) square number, the (square) on BA thus does not have to the (square) on AF the ratio which (some) square number has to (some) square number either. Thus, AB is incommensurable in length with AF [Prop. 10.9]. Thus, the rational (straight-lines) BA and AF are commensurable in square only. And since as DC [is] to CE, so the (square) on BA (is) to the (square) on AF, thus, via conversion, as CD (is) to DE, so the (square) on AB (is) to the (square) on BF [Props. 5.19 corr., 3.31, 1.47]. And CD has to DE the ratio which (some) square number (has) to (some) square number. Thus, the (square) on AB also has to the (square) on BF the ratio which (some) square number has to (some) square number. AB is thus commensurable in length with BF [Prop. 10.9]. And the (square) on AB is equal to the (sum of the squares) on AF and FB [Prop. 1.47]. Thus, the square on AB is greater than (the square on) AF by (the square on) BF, (which is) commensurable (in length) with (AB).

Thus, two rational (straight-lines), BA and AF, commensurable in square only, have been found such that the square on the greater, AB, is larger than (the square on) the lesser, AF, by the (square) on BF, (which is) commensurable in length with (AB).† (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.