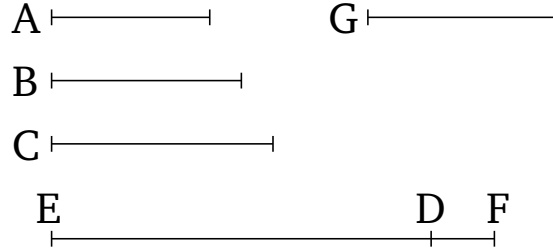


Book 9

Proposition 20

The (set of all) prime numbers is more numerous than any assigned multitude of prime numbers.



Let A, B, C be the assigned prime numbers. I say that the (set of all) primes numbers is more numerous than A, B, C .

For let the least number measured by A, B, C have been taken, and let it be DE [Prop. 7.36]. And let the unit DF have been added to DE . So EF is either prime, or not. Let it, first of all, be prime. Thus, the (set of) prime numbers A, B, C, EF , (which is) more numerous than A, B, C , has been found.

And so let EF not be prime. Thus, it is measured by some prime number [Prop. 7.31]. Let it be measured by the prime (number) G . I say that G is not the same as any of A, B, C . For, if possible, let it be (the same). And A, B, C (all) measure DE . Thus, G will also measure DE . And it also measures EF . (So) G will also measure the remainder, unit DF , (despite) being a number [Prop. 7.28]. The very thing (is) absurd. Thus, G is not the same as one of A, B, C . And it was assumed (to be) prime. Thus, the (set of) prime numbers A, B, C, G , (which is) more numerous than the assigned multitude (of prime numbers), A, B, C , has been found. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.