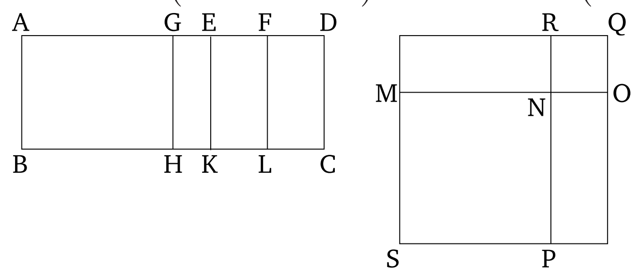
Book 10
Proposition 59

If an area is contained by a rational (straight-line) and a sixth binomial (straight-line) then the square-root of the area is the irrational (straight-line which is) called the square-root of (the sum of) two medial (areas).[†]



For let the area $ABCD$ be contained by the rational (straight-line) AB and the sixth binomial (straight-line) AD, which has been divided into its (component) terms at E, such that AE is the greater term. So, I say that the square-root of AC is the square-root of (the sum of) two medial (areas).

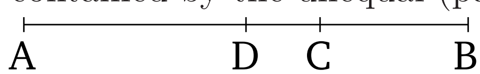
[For] let the same construction be made as that shown previously. So, (it is) clear that MO is the square-root of AC, and that MN is incommensurable in square with NO. And since EA is incommensurable in length with AB [Def. 10.10], EA and AB are thus rational (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only. Thus, AK—that is to say, the sum of the (squares) on MN and NO—is medial [Prop. 10.21]. Again, since ED is incommensurable in length
FE is thus also incommensurable (in length) with EK [Prop. 10.13]. Thus, FE and EK are rational (straight-lines which are) commensurable in square only. Thus, EL—that is to say, MR—that is to say, the (rectan-

gle contained) by MNO—is medial [Prop. 10.21]. And since AE is incommensurable (in length) with EF, AK is also incommensurable with EL [Props. 6.1, 10.11]. But, AK is the sum of the (squares) on MN and NO, and EL is the (rectangle contained) by MNO. Thus, the sum of the (squares) on MNO is incommensurable with the (rectangle contained) by MNO. And each of them is medial. And MN and NO are incommensurable in square.

Thus, MO is the square-root of (the sum of) two medial (areas) [Prop. 10.41]. And (it is) the square-root of AC. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.

Lemma

If a straight-line is cut unequally then (the sum of) the squares on the unequal (parts) is greater than twice the rectangle contained by the unequal (parts).



Let AB be a straight-line, and let it have been cut unequally at C, and let AC be greater (than CB). I say that (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB is greater than twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB.

For let AB have been cut in half at D. Therefore, since a straight-line has been cut into equal (parts) at D, and into unequal (parts) at C, the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB, plus the (square) on CD, is thus equal to the (square) on AD [Prop. 2.5]. Hence, the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB is less than the (square) on AD. Thus, twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB is less than double the (square) on AD. But, (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB [is] double (the sum of) the (squares) on AD and DC [Prop. 2.9]. Thus, (the sum of) the (squares) on AC and CB is greater than twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.