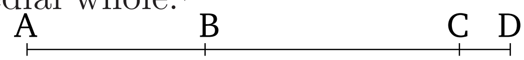
Book 10
Proposition 83

Only one straight-line, which is incommensurable in square with the whole, and (together) with the whole makes the sum of the squares on them medial, and twice the (rectangle contained) by them rational, can be attached to that (straight-line) which with a rational (area) makes a medial whole.†



Let AB be a (straight-line) which with a rational (area) makes a medial whole, and let BC be (so) attached to AB. Thus, AC and CB are (straight-lines which are) incommensurable in square, fulfilling the (other) proscribed (conditions) [Prop. 10.77]. I say that another (straight-line) fulfilling the same (conditions) cannot be attached to AB.

For, if possible, let BD be (so) attached (to AB). Thus, AD and DB are also straight-lines (which are) incommensurable in square, fulfilling the (other) prescribed (conditions) [Prop. 10.77]. Therefore, analogously to the (propositions) before this, since by whatever (area) the (sum of the squares) on AD and DB exceeds the (sum of the squares) on AC and CB, twice the (rectangle contained) by AD and DB also exceeds twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB by this (same area). And twice the (rectangle contained) by AD and DB exceeds twice the (rectangle contained) by AC and CB by a rational (area). For they are (both) rational (areas). Thus, the (sum of the squares) on AD and DB also exceeds the (sum of the squares) on AC and

CB by a rational (area). The very thing is impossible. For both are medial (areas) [Prop. 10.26].

Thus, another straight-line cannot be attached to AB, which is incommensurable in square with the whole, and fulfills the (other) aforementioned (conditions) with the whole. Thus, only one (such straight-line) can be (so) attached. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.