

κβ'. Τῶν δὲ τετραπλεύρων σχημάτων τετράγωνον μὲν ἐστίν, ὃ ἰσόπλευρόν τε ἐστὶ καὶ ὀρθογώνιον, ἑτερόμηκες δέ, ὃ ὀρθογώνιον μὲν, οὐκ ἰσόπλευρον δέ, ῥόμβος δέ, ὃ ἰσόπλευρον μὲν, οὐκ ὀρθογώνιον δέ, ῥομβοειδὲς δὲ τὸ τὰς ἀπεναντίον πλευράς τε καὶ γωνίας ἴσας ἀλλήλαις ἔχον, ὃ οὔτε ἰσόπλευρόν ἐστιν οὔτε ὀρθογώνιον· τὰ δὲ παρὰ ταῦτα τετράπλευρα τραπέζια καλεῖσθω.

κγ'. Παράλληλοί εἰσιν εὐθεῖαι, αἵτινες ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ ἐπιπέδῳ οὔσαι καὶ ἐκβαλλόμεναι εἰς ἄπειρον ἐφ' ἑκάτερα τὰ μέρη ἐπὶ μηδέτερα συμπίπτουσιν ἀλλήλαις.

21. And further of the trilateral figures: a right-angled triangle is that having a right-angle, an obtuse-angled (triangle) that having an obtuse angle, and an acute-angled (triangle) that having three acute angles.

22. And of the quadrilateral figures: a square is that which is right-angled and equilateral, a rectangle that which is right-angled but not equilateral, a rhombus that which is equilateral but not right-angled, and a rhomboid that having opposite sides and angles equal to one another which is neither right-angled nor equilateral. And let quadrilateral figures besides these be called trapezia.

23. Parallel lines are straight-lines which, being in the same plane, and being produced to infinity in each direction, meet with one another in neither (of these directions).

† This should really be counted as a postulate, rather than as part of a definition.

Αἰτήματα.

α'. Ἡτῆσθω ἀπὸ παντὸς σημείου ἐπὶ πᾶν σημεῖον εὐθεῖαν γραμμὴν ἀγαγεῖν.

β'. Καὶ πεπερασμένην εὐθεῖαν κατὰ τὸ συνεχὲς ἐπ' εὐθείας ἐκβαλεῖν.

γ'. Καὶ παντὶ κέντρῳ καὶ διαστήματι κύκλον γράφεσθαι.

δ'. Καὶ πάσας τὰς ὀρθὰς γωνίας ἴσας ἀλλήλαις εἶναι.

ε'. Καὶ ἐὰν εἰς δύο εὐθείας εὐθεῖα ἐμπίπτουσα τὰς ἐντὸς καὶ ἐπὶ τὰ αὐτὰ μέρη γωνίας δύο ὀρθῶν ἐλάσσονας ποιῇ, ἐκβαλλομένας τὰς δύο εὐθείας ἐπ' ἄπειρον συμπίπτειν, ἐφ' ᾧ μέρη εἰσὶν αἱ τῶν δύο ὀρθῶν ἐλάσσονες.

Postulates

1. Let it have been postulated[†] to draw a straight-line from any point to any point.

2. And to produce a finite straight-line continuously in a straight-line.

3. And to draw a circle with any center and radius.

4. And that all right-angles are equal to one another.

5. And that if a straight-line falling across two (other) straight-lines makes internal angles on the same side (of itself whose sum is) less than two right-angles, then the two (other) straight-lines, being produced to infinity, meet on that side (of the original straight-line) that the (sum of the internal angles) is less than two right-angles (and do not meet on the other side).[‡]

† The Greek present perfect tense indicates a past action with present significance. Hence, the 3rd-person present perfect imperative Ἡτῆσθω could be translated as “let it be postulated”, in the sense “let it stand as postulated”, but not “let the postulate be now brought forward”. The literal translation “let it have been postulated” sounds awkward in English, but more accurately captures the meaning of the Greek.

‡ This postulate effectively specifies that we are dealing with the geometry of *flat*, rather than curved, space.

Κοινὰ ἔννοιαι.

α'. Τὰ τῷ αὐτῷ ἴσα καὶ ἀλλήλοις ἐστὶν ἴσα.

β'. Καὶ ἐὰν ἴσοις ἴσα προστεθῇ, τὰ ὅλα ἐστὶν ἴσα.

γ'. Καὶ ἐὰν ἀπὸ ἴσων ἴσα ἀφαιρεθῇ, τὰ καταλειπόμενά ἐστιν ἴσα.

δ'. Καὶ τὰ ἐφαρμόζοντα ἐπ' ἀλλήλα ἴσα ἀλλήλοις ἐστὶν.

ε'. Καὶ τὸ ὅλον τοῦ μέρους μεῖζόν [ἐστίν].

Common Notions

1. Things equal to the same thing are also equal to one another.

2. And if equal things are added to equal things then the wholes are equal.

3. And if equal things are subtracted from equal things then the remainders are equal.[†]

4. And things coinciding with one another are equal to one another.

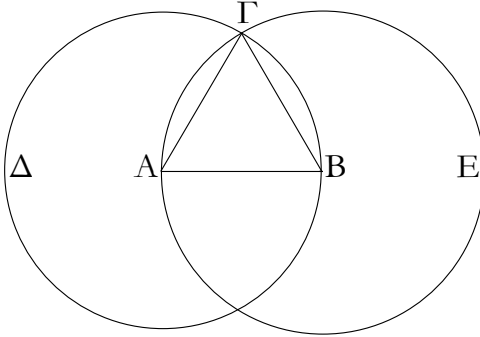
5. And the whole [is] greater than the part.

† As an obvious extension of C.N.s 2 & 3—if equal things are added or subtracted from the two sides of an inequality then the inequality remains

an inequality of the same type.

α'.

Ἐπὶ τῆς δοθείσης εὐθείας πεπερασμένης τριγώνον ἰσόπλευρον συστήσασθαι.



Ἐστω ἡ δοθεῖσα εὐθεῖα πεπερασμένη ἡ AB.

Δεῖ δὴ ἐπὶ τῆς AB εὐθείας τριγώνον ἰσόπλευρον συστήσασθαι.

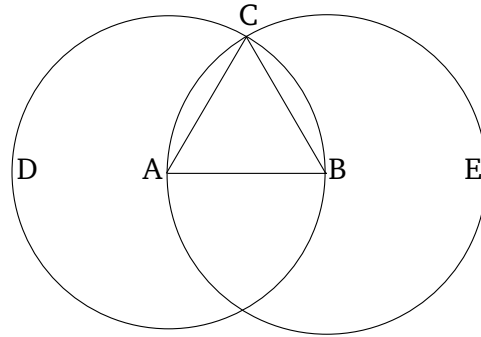
Κέντρῳ μὲν τῷ A διαστήματι δὲ τῷ AB κύκλος γεγράφθω ὁ BΓΔ, καὶ πάλιν κέντρῳ μὲν τῷ B διαστήματι δὲ τῷ BA κύκλος γεγράφθω ὁ AΓΕ, καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ Γ σημείου, καθ' ὃ τέμνουσιν ἀλλήλους οἱ κύκλοι, ἐπὶ τὰ A, B σημεῖα ἐπεζεύχθωσαν εὐθεῖαι αἱ ΓΑ, ΓΒ.

Καὶ ἐπεὶ τὸ A σημεῖον κέντρον ἐστὶ τοῦ ΓΔΒ κύκλου, ἴση ἐστὶν ἡ ΑΓ τῇ ΑΒ· πάλιν, ἐπεὶ τὸ B σημεῖον κέντρον ἐστὶ τοῦ ΓΑΕ κύκλου, ἴση ἐστὶν ἡ ΒΓ τῇ ΒΑ. ἐδείχθη δὲ καὶ ἡ ΓΑ τῇ ΑΒ ἴση· ἑκάτερα ἄρα τῶν ΓΑ, ΓΒ τῇ ΑΒ ἐστὶν ἴση. τὰ δὲ τῷ αὐτῷ ἴσα καὶ ἀλλήλοις ἐστὶν ἴσα· καὶ ἡ ΓΑ ἄρα τῇ ΓΒ ἐστὶν ἴση· αἱ τρεῖς ἄρα αἱ ΓΑ, ΑΒ, ΒΓ ἴσαι ἀλλήλαις εἰσὶν.

Ἰσόπλευρον ἄρα ἐστὶ τὸ ΑΒΓ τρίγωνον. καὶ συνέσταται ἐπὶ τῆς δοθείσης εὐθείας πεπερασμένης τῆς ΑΒ. ὅπερ ἔδει ποιῆσαι.

Proposition 1

To construct an equilateral triangle on a given finite straight-line.



Let AB be the given finite straight-line.

So it is required to construct an equilateral triangle on the straight-line AB .

Let the circle BCD with center A and radius AB have been drawn [Post. 3], and again let the circle ACE with center B and radius BA have been drawn [Post. 3]. And let the straight-lines CA and CB have been joined from the point C , where the circles cut one another,[†] to the points A and B (respectively) [Post. 1].

And since the point A is the center of the circle CDB , AC is equal to AB [Def. 1.15]. Again, since the point B is the center of the circle CAE , BC is equal to BA [Def. 1.15]. But CA was also shown (to be) equal to AB . Thus, CA and CB are each equal to AB . But things equal to the same thing are also equal to one another [C.N. 1]. Thus, CA is also equal to CB . Thus, the three (straight-lines) CA , AB , and BC are equal to one another.

Thus, the triangle ABC is equilateral, and has been constructed on the given finite straight-line AB . (Which is) the very thing it was required to do.

[†] The assumption that the circles do indeed cut one another should be counted as an additional postulate. There is also an implicit assumption that two straight-lines cannot share a common segment.

β'.

Πρὸς τῷ δοθέντι σημείῳ τῇ δοθείσῃ εὐθείᾳ ἴσην εὐθεῖαν θέσθαι.

Ἐστω τὸ μὲν δοθὲν σημεῖον τὸ A, ἡ δὲ δοθεῖσα εὐθεῖα ἡ ΒΓ· δεῖ δὴ πρὸς τῷ A σημείῳ τῇ δοθείσῃ εὐθείᾳ τῇ ΒΓ ἴσην εὐθεῖαν θέσθαι.

Ἐπεζεύχθω γὰρ ἀπὸ τοῦ A σημείου ἐπὶ τὸ B σημεῖον εὐθεῖα ἡ ΑΒ, καὶ συνεστάτω ἐπ' αὐτῆς τρίγωνον ἰσόπλευρον τὸ ΔΑΒ, καὶ ἐκβεβλήσθωσαν ἐπ' εὐθείας ταῖς ΔΑ, ΔΒ

Proposition 2[†]

To place a straight-line equal to a given straight-line at a given point (as an extremity).

Let A be the given point, and BC the given straight-line. So it is required to place a straight-line at point A equal to the given straight-line BC .

For let the straight-line AB have been joined from point A to point B [Post. 1], and let the equilateral triangle DAB have been constructed upon it [Prop. 1.1].