Versione originale della dimostrazione di Euclide sull'esistenza di un numero infinito di numeri primi

tratta dal Libro IX de

EUCLID'S ELEMENTS OF GEOMETRY

The Greek text of J.L. Heiberg (1883–1885) Euclidis Elementa, edidit et Latine interpretatus est I.L. Heiberg, in aedibus B.G. Teubneri, 1883–1885 edited, and provided with a modern English translation, by Richard Fitzpatrick.

κ'.

Οἱ πρῶτοι ἀριθμοὶ πλείους εἰσὶ παντὸς τοῦ προτεθέντος πλήθους πρώτων ἀριθμῶν.

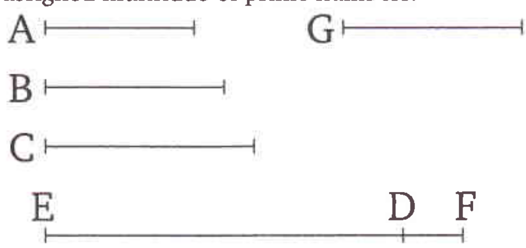
Ἔστωσαν οἱ προτεθέντες πρῶτοι ἀριθμοὶ οἱ Α, Β, Γ· λέγω, ὅτι τῶν Α, Β, Γ πλείους εἰσὶ πρῶτοι ἀριθμοί.

Εἰλήφθω γὰρ ὁ ὑπὸ τῶν Α, Β, Γ ἐλάχιστος μετρούμενος καὶ ἔστω ΔΕ, καὶ προσκείσθω τῷ ΔΕ μονὰς ἡ ΔΖ. ὁ δὴ ΕΖ ἤτοι πρῶτός ἐστιν ἢ οὔ. ἔστω πρότερον πρῶτος· εὑρημένοι ἄρα εἰσὶ πρῶτοι ἀριθμοὶ οἱ Α, Β, Γ, ΕΖ πλείους τῶν Α, Β, Γ.

Ἀλλὰ δὴ μὴ ἔστω ὁ ΕΖ πρῶτος· ὑπὸ πρώτου ἄρα τινὸς ἀριθμοῦ μετρεῖται. μετρείσθω ὑπὸ πρώτου τοῦ Η· λέγω, ὅτι ὁ Η οὐδενὶ τῶν Α, Β, Γ ἐστιν ὁ αὐτός. εἰ γὰρ δυνατόν, ἔστω. οἱ δὲ Α, Β, Γ τὸν ΔΕ μετροῦσιν· καὶ ὁ Η ἄρα τὸν ΔΕ μετρήσει. μετρεῖ δὲ καὶ τὸν ΕΖ· καὶ λοιπὴν τὴν ΔΖ μονάδα μετρήσει ὁ Η ἀριθμὸς ὤν· ὅπερ ἄτοπον. οὐκ ἄρα ὁ Η ἑνὶ τῶν Α, Β, Γ ἐστιν ὁ αὐτός. καὶ ὑπόκειται πρῶτος. εὑρημένοι ἄρα εἰσὶ πρῶτοι ἀριθμοὶ πλείους τοῦ προτεθέντος πλήθους τῶν Α, Β, Γ οἱ Α, Β, Γ, Η· ὅπερ ἔδει δεῖξαι.

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.