Euclid's Elements Book IV

Philosophy (nature) is written in that great book which ever is before our eyes -- I mean the universe -- but we cannot understand it if we do not first learn the language and grasp the symbols in which it is written. The book is written in mathematical language, and the symbols are triangles, circles and other geometrical figures, without whose help it is impossible to comprehend a single word of it - without which one wanders in vain through a dark labyrinth.

Galileo Galilei



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B C

Proposition 9 of Book IV

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.

In other words

Given a square ABCD, draw a circle outside the square, going through points A,B,C and D

Construction

Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E



Proposition 9 of Book IV

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.

Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
Draw a circle with centre E, and radius AE
This circle circumscribes the square



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Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
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Proof



Proposition 9 of Book IV

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.

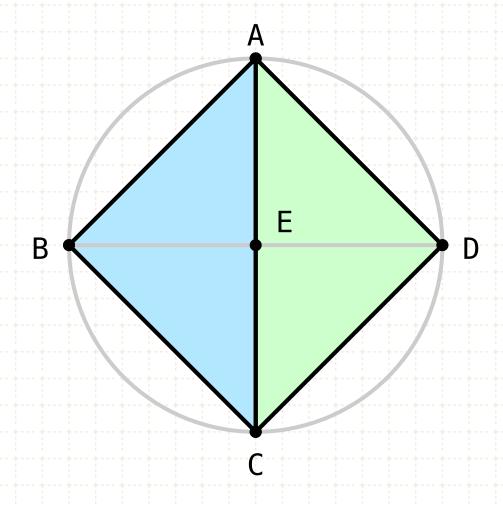
Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
Draw a circle with centre E, and radius AE
This circle circumscribes the square

Proof

Consider the two triangles ABC and ADC

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.



$$\Delta ABC \equiv \Delta ADC$$

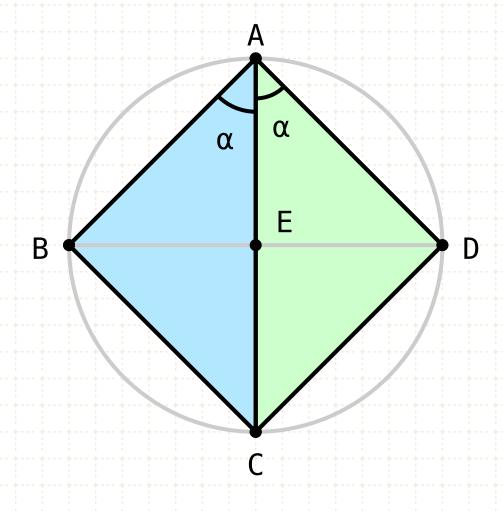
Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
Draw a circle with centre E, and radius AE
This circle circumscribes the square

Proof

Consider the two triangles ABC and ADC
AB equals AD, and AC is common to both triangles
Given that ABCD is a square, the bases BC and CD are also equal, so the triangles are equal in all respects (SSS) (I·8)

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.



$$\triangle ABC \equiv \triangle ADC$$

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \angle A$$

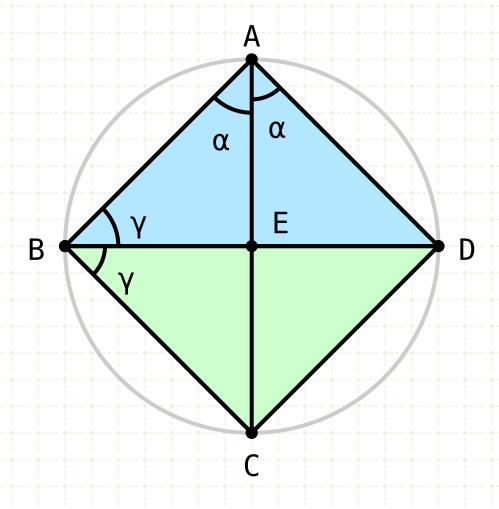
Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
Draw a circle with centre E, and radius AE
This circle circumscribes the square

Proof

Consider the two triangles ABC and ADC
AB equals AD, and AC is common to both triangles
Given that ABCD is a square, the bases BC and CD are also
equal, so the triangles are equal in all respects (SSS) (I-8)
Thus, the angles BAC and DAC are equal, and angle A is
bisected

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.



$$\triangle ABC \equiv \triangle ADC$$
 $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \angle A$
 $\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \angle B$

Construction

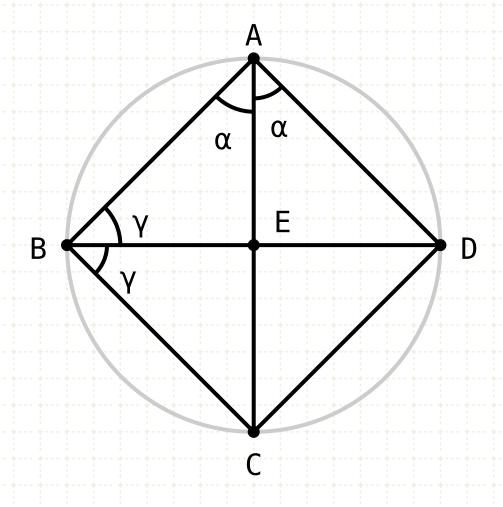
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Proof

Consider the two triangles ABC and ADC
AB equals AD, and AC is common to both triangles
Given that ABCD is a square, the bases BC and CD are also
equal, so the triangles are equal in all respects (SSS) (I-8)
Thus, the angles BAC and DAC are equal, and angle A is
bisected

Similarly, the angles ABD and CBD are equal

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.



$$\triangle ABC \equiv \triangle ADC$$
 $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \angle A$
 $\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \angle B$
 $\angle A = \angle B \therefore \alpha = \gamma$

Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
Draw a circle with centre E, and radius AE
This circle circumscribes the square

Proof

Consider the two triangles ABC and ADC AB equals AD, and AC is common to both triangles

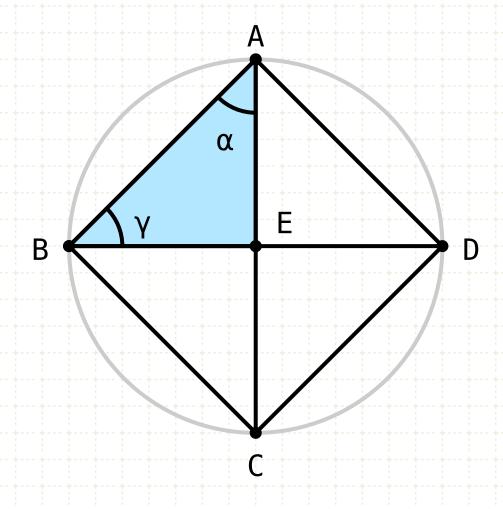
Given that ABCD is a square, the bases BC and CD are also equal, so the triangles are equal in all respects (SSS) (I-8)

Thus, the angles BAC and DAC are equal, and angle A is bisected

Similarly, the angles ABD and CBD are equal

Since angle A is equal to angle B, and α and γ are half of A and B respectively, α is equal to γ

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.



$$\triangle ABC \equiv \triangle ADC$$
 $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \angle A$
 $\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \angle B$
 $\angle A = \angle B : \alpha = \gamma$
 $AE = BE$

Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
Draw a circle with centre E, and radius AE
This circle circumscribes the square

Proof

Consider the two triangles ABC and ADC

AB equals AD, and AC is common to both triangles

Given that ABCD is a square, the bases BC and CD are also equal, so the triangles are equal in all respects (SSS) (I-8)

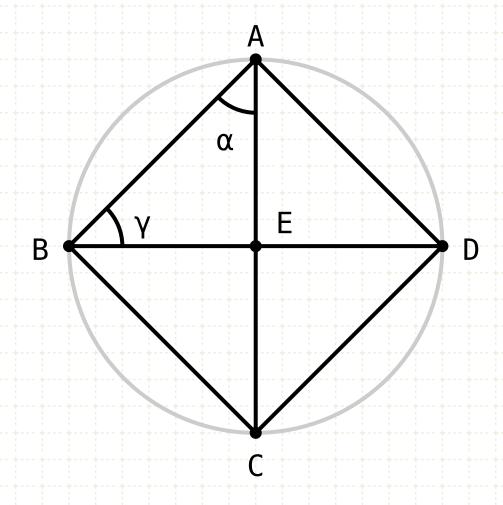
Thus, the angles BAC and DAC are equal, and angle A is bisected

Similarly, the angles ABD and CBD are equal

Since angle A is equal to angle B, and α and γ are half of A and B respectively, α is equal to γ

The triangle ABE is an isosceles triangle, and therefore AE equals BE (I·6)

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.



$$\triangle ABC \equiv \triangle ADC$$
 $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \angle A$
 $\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \angle B$
 $\angle A = \angle B \therefore \alpha = \gamma$
 $AE = BE$
 $AE = BE = CE = DE$

Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
Draw a circle with centre E, and radius AE
This circle circumscribes the square

Proof

Consider the two triangles ABC and ADC

AB equals AD, and AC is common to both triangles

Given that ABCD is a square, the bases BC and CD are also equal, so the triangles are equal in all respects (SSS) (I-8)

Thus, the angles BAC and DAC are equal, and angle A is bisected

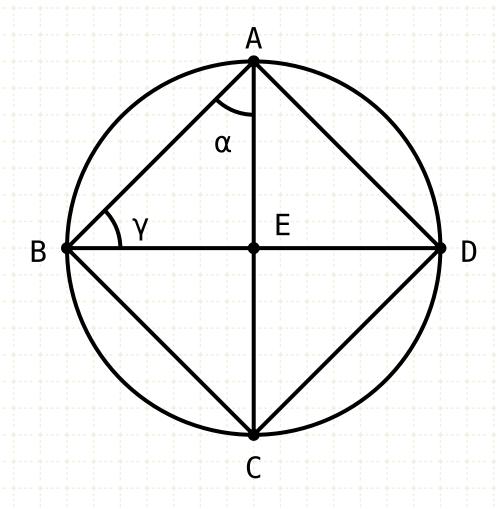
Similarly, the angles ABD and CBD are equal

Since angle A is equal to angle B, and α and γ are half of A and B respectively, α is equal to γ

The triangle ABE is an isosceles triangle, and therefore AE equals BE (I·6)

Using the same methods, it can be shown that CE and DE are also equal to AE and BE

About a given square, to circumscribe a circle.



$$\triangle ABC = \triangle ADC$$

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \angle A$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \angle B$$

$$\angle A = \angle B \therefore \alpha = \gamma$$

$$AE = BE$$

$$AE = BE = CE = DE$$

Construction

Draw lines AC and BD, and label the intersection point E
Draw a circle with centre E, and radius AE
This circle circumscribes the square

Proof

Consider the two triangles ABC and ADC

AB equals AD, and AC is common to both triangles

Given that ABCD is a square, the bases BC and CD are also equal, so the triangles are equal in all respects (SSS) (I-8)

Thus, the angles BAC and DAC are equal, and angle A is bisected

Similarly, the angles ABD and CBD are equal

Since angle A is equal to angle B, and α and γ are half of A and B respectively, α is equal to γ

The triangle ABE is an isosceles triangle, and therefore AE equals BE (I·6)

Using the same methods, it can be shown that CE and DE are also equal to AE and BE

Thus, a circle with the centre at E, with radius AE will pass through the points A,B,C and D



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