

F from a point without a circle two straight lines be drawn to it, one of which is a tangent to the circle, and the other cuts it; the rectangle under the whole cutting line and the external segment is equal to the square of the tangent.

FIGURE I.

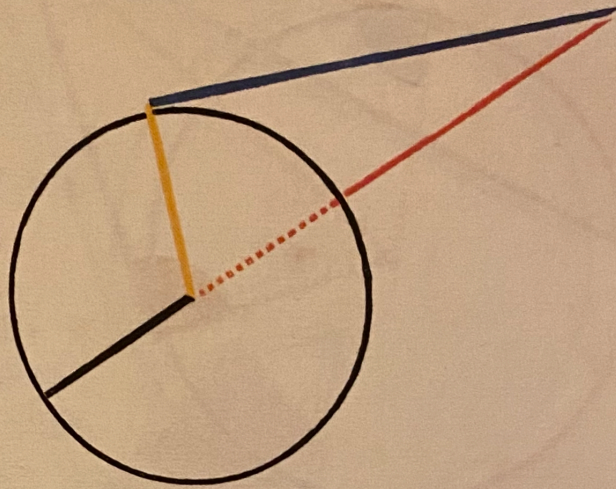


FIGURE I.

Let --- pass through the centre;
 draw --- from the centre to the point of contact;
 $\text{---}^2 = \text{---}^2$ minus ---^2 (B. 1. pr. 47),
 or $\text{---}^2 = \text{---}^2$ minus ---^2 ,
 $\therefore \text{---}^2 = \text{---} \times \text{---}$ (B. 2. pr. 6).

FIGURE II.

If --- do not pass through the centre, draw --- and --- .

Then $\text{---} \times \text{---} = \text{---}^2$ minus ---^2
 (B. 2. pr. 6), that is,

$\text{---} \times \text{---} = \text{---}^2$ minus ---^2 ,
 $\therefore \text{---} \times \text{---} = \text{---}^2$ (B. 3. pr. 18).

Q. E. D.