

A Rigorous Euclidean Geometric Proof of the Cube Duplication Impossibility

Alex Mwololo Kimuya*

Department of Physical Science (Physics), Meru University of Science and Technology, Kenya

E-mail: alexkimuya23@gmail.com

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1433-3186>

*Corresponding Author

Received: 25 October, 2023; Revised: 28 December, 2023; Accepted: 20 January, 2024; Published: 08 February, 2024

Abstract: This paper introduces a rigorous impossibility proof in Euclidean geometry, presenting a scrupulous demonstration of the unattainability of doubling the volume of a cube through any given procedure. The proof methodically follows the rigorous principles of classical geometry, offering clarity and insight into a longstanding mathematical challenge. The paper further emphasizes the historical misconceptions and varied solutions that have emerged due to the lack of a definitive Euclidean geometric proof. It highlights the enduring strengths, independence, and richness of Euclidean geometry while dispelling the notion that algebraic methods are the exclusive avenue to tackle geometric impossibilities. The results obtained throughout this proof solidify the position of Euclidean geometry as a potent and illuminating tool, reaffirming its pivotal role in the world of mathematics. This work contributes not only to the resolution of a specific mathematical challenge but also to the broader understanding of the unique virtues and capabilities of Euclidean geometry in tackling complex geometric problems.

Index Terms: Euclidean geometry, Cube duplication, Impossibility proof, Geometric construction, Euclid's Elements, Algebraic methods, Visual intuition, Classical geometry.

1. Introduction

The age-old problem of cube duplication, or the quest to double the volume of a given cube, has persisted through centuries as one of the most intriguing challenges in geometry [1–5]. It has not only ignited the curiosity of scholars but has also driven countless mathematicians to explore alternative methods and non-Euclidean approaches [3,6–8]. However, a rigorous geometric impossibility proof, firmly grounded in the principles of Euclidean geometry, has been conspicuously absent from the domain of mathematical literature. This absence has led to misconceptions, diverse solutions [4–6,9,10], and a significant gap in academic understanding.

This paper presents what is arguably the first geometric impossibility proof that aligns seamlessly with the requirements of Euclidean geometry. The objective of this geometric solution is to provide a comprehensive geometric proof, in strict alignment with the requirements of classical Euclidean geometry, that unequivocally demonstrates the infeasibility of doubling the volume of any cube. The aim is to convey a geometric impossibility of such magnitude that Euclid himself, the founding figure of Euclidean geometry, would likely appreciate and recognize the harmony of our proof with the foundational principles he laid out in his masterpiece, “Elements”.

The absence of a definitive Euclidean geometric proof for the cube duplication problem has spurred various misconceptions throughout history. It has given rise to alternative solutions, most notably the modern algebraic proof [11], which, while valid in its own right, diverges significantly from the desires of Euclidean geometry. This paper seeks to address the prevailing misconceptions that have endured across the centuries by introducing a rigorous Euclidean geometric proof of the cube duplication problem.

It is with humility that we acknowledge the author's own journey of misconception, once believing in the possibility of cube duplication [4]. This revelation, that geometric exactness within the Euclidean framework remains elusive [12], underscores the need for a bridge between the depths of Euclidean geometry and its application to real-world problems. The lack of thorough research, especially when it comes to delving into the intricacies of Euclidean geometry's robustness and reliability in contrast to non-Euclidean geometries, has continued to pose difficulties for contemporary researchers attempting to tackle the problem of duplicating a cube through traditional geometric means. This scarcity of research can be partially traced back to the prevalence of misleading and unfounded solutions for cube duplication that are present in today's research environment [9,11,13]. These misleading solutions have unintentionally

shifted the focus away from the pursuit of a legitimate proof demonstrating the either a positively asserted solution or the impossibility of cube duplication within the confines of Euclidean geometry.

The hope for this paper is that it will definitively render further debates and alternative solutions to the cube duplication problem unnecessary. We anticipate that those engaged in this timeless quest will pivot towards analytical methods of geometry, embracing the possibilities offered by non-Euclidean methods while acknowledging the irreplaceable position of Euclidean geometry in mathematics.

To achieve these objectives, a scrupulous comparison between the developed cube duplication impossibility proof, which we refer to as the “traditional proof”, and the modern cube duplication impossibility proof is provided. Through this comparative analysis, we aim to elucidate the limitations of the modern proof as a substitute for the Euclidean desires of a solution. Further, this comparative analysis, aims to elucidate the limitations of the modern proof as a substitute for the Euclidean desires of a solution. This reinforces the notion of incompatibility between Euclidean geometry and non-Euclidean geometries, accentuating the unique independence and richness of the Euclidean geometric system.

To facilitate the clarity and comprehensiveness of the Euclidean Cube Duplication Analysis, we have thoughtfully included a computer code (Appendix A) that serves as an interpretive tool for dissecting the intricacies of the provided construction and analysis. This code illuminates the logical underpinnings and step-by-step progression that collectively affirm the inherent impossibility of doubling the volume of any given cube through a geometric procedure within the Euclidean geometric framework. The broader implications of our provided proof are addressed in a later section of this paper, shedding light on the significance of this geometric breakthrough in the domain of mathematics..

1.1. Defining the Cube Duplication Problem in Euclidean Geometry

1.1.1. Terminology Within Context

In Euclidean geometry, the terms “identical” and “equal” carry precise contextual significance. These meanings, contextual in nature as Euclid did not explicitly elucidate their definitions, derive from fundamental assumptions and axioms within the geometric framework. Before incorporating these terms into the primary definition of the problem, it is crucial to understand their contextual definitions from a geometric standpoint.

Definition 1 (Equal within a Euclidean Geometry Context): In the context of Euclidean geometry, we define two geometric figures or quantities as equal if they share the same measurements, lengths, or sizes, in accordance with the Euclidean principle of superposition [14,15].

Remark 1: In Euclidean geometry, the concept of equality is grounded in the following Euclidean axiom.

Playfair’s Axiom: “Through a given point, not on a given straight line, one and only one straight line can be drawn that does not intersect the given straight line [15,16].”

Clarity on Playfair’s Axiom: The Playfair’s Axiom asserts that if you have a point not on a particular line, you can draw exactly one line through that point that doesn’t intersect the given line. This axiom helps establish the parallel postulate in a different form and is used as an alternative to Euclid’s parallel postulate in some geometric systems. This axiom underlies the principle of superposition, which states that if two geometric figures can be placed in such a way that they coincide exactly, or they can be made to coincide by a geometric translation or geometric rotation, then they are considered equal.

Definition 2 [Identical (Euclidean Geometry)] [15,16]: In the specific context of Euclidean geometry and the cube duplication impossibility proof, we define two geometric figures as “identical” if they perfectly coincide and possess precisely the same size, shape, and orientation. In the realm of the cube duplication challenge, this implies that if two cubes are considered identical, they are indistinguishable from each other in terms of their dimensions and geometric configuration.

Remark 2: The cube duplication impossibility proof relies on the inherent characteristics and notion of identical cubes. In attempting to double the volume of a given cube, the proof highlights that the resulting cube, if possible, must be identical to the original. Any deviation from perfect congruence would violate the principles of Euclidean geometry. Therefore, in the context of the impossibility proof, the term “identical” underscores the stringent requirement that any geometric procedure must yield a cube indistinguishable from the original in size, shape, and orientation.

Contextual Axiom on Equality: “All right angles are equal to one another [15].”

Postulate 1 (Ruler Postulate): “On a straight line, we can mark off as many points as we please, as such, all straight lines are congruent.”

Remark 3: In Euclidean geometry, two figures are considered identical if they can be superimposed without any distinction in size, shape, or orientation. This concept is fundamental to establishing the congruence of geometric figures in Euclidean proofs.

These definitions highlight the significance of congruence, superposition, and the inability to distinguish between geometric figures in formulating notions of equality and identity. In the context of Euclidean geometry, the cube duplication problem becomes a query concerning the geometric combination of volumes and the comparison of their magnitudes. It can be viewed as a task of redistributing the contents (such as sand grains) from two identical cubic containers in a way that, upon even distribution, these contents collectively fill a new cube, as illustrated in (Fig. 1.).

This definition underscores the essence of the problem as a purely geometric puzzle.

1.1.2. Helpful Geometric Ingredients

To set up this definition, the following Euclidean geometric ingredients play a crucial role.

Euclidean Space: The problem operates within the bounds of Euclidean space, characterized by the principles of congruence, parallel lines, and right angles.

Cubic Objects: The objects in question are perfect cubes, having six congruent square faces and uniform dimensions. These cubes are geometrically ideal and obey the principles of Euclidean geometry.

Uniform Contents: The content inside the cubes is uniform and measurable, ensuring the reliability and consistency of the geometric analysis.

1.1.3. Common Geometric Assumptions and Axioms

The subsequent sections of the proof will also rely on a set of assumptions and axioms of Euclidean geometry [14–17], as outlined in this section. These guiding principles ensure a coherent progression within the geometric framework. Axioms 1-5 elucidate essential relations between equalities and wholes, as well as the magnitude of the whole in comparison to its parts. Furthermore, the provided assumptions align with Euclid’s fundamental principles, emphasizing congruence among geometric figures and the axiomatic underpinnings of geometry, including the critical principle of superposition. This section serves as a pivotal groundwork, ensuring the logical coherence and adherence to established Euclidean principles throughout the ensuing proof.

Axiom 1: Things that are equal to the same thing are equal to one another.

Axiom 2: If equals are added to equals, then the wholes are equal.

Axiom 3: If equals are subtracted from equals, then the remainders are equal.

Axiom 4: Things that coincide with one another are equal to one another.

Axiom 5: The whole is greater than the part.

Assumptions: In the Euclidean geometric framework, we assume the fundamental principles laid out by Euclid, such as the congruence of geometric figures and the axiomatic foundation of geometry, including the principle of superposition.

Applying the stated axioms and assumption, the cube duplication problem, from a Euclidean geometric perspective, can be defined as follows.

Definition 3 (On Cube Duplication): Given two identical cubic objects, each with side length “ L ”, and the contents (e.g., sand grains) uniformly filling these cubes, the challenge is to construct a new cube with side length “ S ” such that the combined contents of the original cubes, when transferred to the new cube, fill it evenly and completely. In other words, if the sand grains from both identical cubes are poured into a single container, and from that container, a new cube is to be constructed, the problem is to determine whether it is possible for this new cube, with side length “ S ” to have a content that equals twice the volume of the original cube with side-length “ l ”.

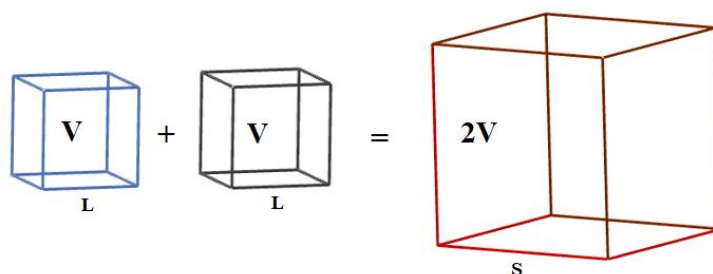


Fig. 1. Illustration of the Cube Duplication Problem

This traditional geometric definition of the cube duplication problem places it within the realm of classical geometric rigor. This contrasts with modern mathematical approaches that have shifted the problem from its geometric origins to the realm of non-Euclidean geometry and algebraic methods. Such a shift has led to misconceptions and misunderstandings in contemporary research. The Euclidean definition seeks to uphold the original nature of the problem, grounded in the principles of Euclidean geometry, and to demonstrate its complexity within this pure geometric framework, thereby emphasizing the strength and clarity of Euclidean geometry in addressing geometric impossibility problems.

2. Construction and Analysis-A Geometric Proof

In this section, we embark on a precise yet comprehensive construction and analysis, serving the primary aim of demonstrating the impossibility of doubling the volume of any cube through any given procedure. We present a clear and thorough geometric exposition, following the principles of Euclidean geometry. Additionally, to make the intricacies of the described process more understandable, we have included computer code that makes the logical processes and consequences of the analysis more tangible.

Proof: To demonstrate the impossibility of doubling the volume of a cube geometrically, we will begin by assuming the opposite and proceeding towards a contradiction. Let us imagine we have a cube with a certain side length “ L ” and aim to create a new cube with a different side length “ S ”. The goal is to determine if it is possible to distribute the contents from the original two cubes in such a way that, upon even redistribution, they collectively fill a new cube, without any content remaining. To achieve this, we follow the described series of construction steps below.

2.1. Geometric Construction of the Proof

Consider the following construction steps and the resulting geometric analysis, established strictly within the rigor of Euclidean geometry [14–18].

1. Construct line l_1 through two distinct points A and B .

In Euclidean geometry, this step reflects Euclid’s notion of drawing a straight line from one point to another (Euclid’s Elements, Book 1, Definitions (1- 4)).

2. Construct points C and D , equidistant from points A and B respectively.

3. Construct line l_2 congruent and parallel to line l_1 , through points C and D .

By construction, l_1 is parallel and congruent to l_2 implying that lines AD and BC are also parallel and congruent.

4. Construct square $ABCD$ with sides line l_1 bound by points A and B , l_3 bound by points B and C , l_2 bound by points C and D , and l_4 bound by points D and A .

Euclid’s Elements, Book 1, Proposition 46, explains how to construct a square using a given straight line.

5. Construct a plane parallel to the plane of square $ABCD$, passing through line AB (l_1), and label it as the plane of square $EFGH$.

In Euclidean geometry, parallel planes are those that do not intersect. This concept aligns with Euclid’s Elements, Book 11, Definition 9.

6. Construct a line segment AM , originating from point A and extending to point M .

This segment represents the side length of a cube that is expected to have a length of “ b ”.

7. Construct a line segment MN perpendicular to line AB .

At point M , construct a line segment MN that is perpendicular to line AB . Euclid’s Elements, Book 1, Proposition 11, guides the construction of perpendicular lines.

8. Extend line MN to intersect the plane of square $ABCD$ at point N .

Continue extending line MN until it intersects the plane of square $ABCD$ at point N . This step ensures that the new cube’s side length (“ b ”) can be accommodated within the three-dimensional space represented by the original square (Euclid’s Elements, Book 11, Definition 3).

9. Construct square $EFGH$ on the plane parallel to $ABCD$ such that line EN is congruent to line AB (Euclid’s Elements, Book 1, Proposition 45).

The length of line segment EN in square $EFGH$ is made congruent (equal in length) to line segment AB in square $ABCD$. This ensures that EN and AB have the same length. This reflects Euclid’s Elements, Book 1, Proposition 45, which demonstrates the construction of squares with equal sides.

10. Construct line KL , parallel to AB , passing through points G and H .

This line should pass through points G and H creating parallelism of lines KL and AB is in accordance with Euclid’s Elements, which allows for the construction of parallel lines and planes. Since square $EFGH$ is parallel to square $ABCD$, the line segments KL and AB are equal in length.

Remark 4 (On the Congruence): At this point in the construction, we have established that square $ABCD$ is congruent to square $EFGH$. Both squares share the same shape and size. Congruence, in the context of Euclidean geometry, signifies that the two squares share identical shapes and sizes. This assertion is grounded in the meticulous construction steps, guided by Euclid’s geometric principles.

The congruence is primarily derived from the parallelism and equality of corresponding sides established during the construction. The lines AB and EF , BC and FG , CD and GH , and DA and HE are not only equal in length but also parallel. The parallelism ensures that corresponding angles are equal, and equal lengths along each side further affirm the squares’ identical shapes.

Euclid’s Proposition 45, which addresses the construction of squares with equal sides, forms the theoretical basis for this congruence. The careful adherence to Euclidean principles in each construction step guarantees the validity of the congruence between $ABCD$ and $EFGH$. This congruence becomes a pivotal foundation for subsequent analyses and

deductions in the proof, reinforcing the significance of Euclidean geometric rigor in establishing fundamental geometric relationships.

2.2. Geometric Analysis (Establishing the Contradiction)

11. Construct line LP perpendicular to line AB .

Construct a line segment LP starting at point L and extending perpendicularly to line AB . This ensures that LP forms a right angle with AB , consistent with Euclidean geometry (Euclid's Elements, Book 1, Proposition 11).

12. Extend line LP to intersect the plane of square $ABCD$ at point P .

Continue extending the line segment LP until it intersects the plane of square $ABCD$ at point P . This connection links the parallel plane with the original square, facilitating a meaningful comparison (Euclid's Elements, Book 11, Definition 3).

13. Establish parallelism.

Since line KL is parallel to AB , lines LP and MN are also parallel. Parallelism is a fundamental concept in Euclidean geometry, ensuring that these lines do not intersect unless they are coincident (Euclid's Elements, Book 11, Proposition 2).

14. Construct line PQ parallel to line MN , intersecting line KL at point Q .

Construct a line segment PQ starting at point P , ensuring it is parallel to line MN and intersects line KL at point Q . This creates a right angle at point Q due to the parallelism of PQ and KL (Euclid's Elements, Book 11, Definition 4).

15. Congruence of line segments.

Since LP is parallel to MN , it follows that line PQ is congruent in length to line MN within the parallel plane. This is consistent with Euclid's Elements, Book 11, Proposition 1, which deals with the congruence of line segments.

16. Perpendicularity of PQ and KL .

Recognize that, due to the construction, line PQ is perpendicular to line KL , creating a right angle at point Q . This aligns with the principles of Euclidean geometry, where perpendicular lines create right angles (Euclid's Elements, Book 11, Definition 4).

17. Consider triangle KLP . It has a right angle at point P , and line segments KL and LP are congruent.

The triangle KLP contains a right angle at point P , established by the perpendicularity of LP with AB . This is consistent with Euclid's Elements, Book 1, Proposition 11, which deals with right triangles.

18. Use of Euclid's Elements, Book 1, Proposition 47.

Apply the geometric proposition from Euclid's Elements, Book 1, Proposition 47. It states that in a right-angled triangle, the length of the hypotenuse (KP in this case) is longer than the length of one of the other two sides (LP). This proposition demonstrates Euclid's principles for right triangles.

19. Construction of line segment KR .

20. Starting from point K , construct a line segment KR perpendicular to line AB .

21. Extend line KR to intersect the plane of square $ABCD$ at point R .

Since line KR is perpendicular to AB , triangle KRP is a right triangle with a right angle at point R . This step is consistent with Euclidean geometry, as it adheres to the construction of right angles (Euclid's Elements, Book 1, Proposition 11).

22. Extend line KR to intersect the plane of square $ABCD$ at point R .

Continue extending the line segment KR until it intersects the plane of square $ABCD$ at point R . This connection is essential for comparing the lengths within the three-dimensional space and the original square, in accordance with Euclid's Elements, Book 11, Definition 3.

23. Perpendicularity in triangle KRP .

The construction of KR perpendicular to AB ensures that triangle KRP contains a right angle at point R . This aligns with Euclid's Elements' principles for right triangles (Book 1, Proposition 11).

24. Use of Euclid's Elements, Book 1, Proposition 47.

Apply Euclid's Elements, Book 1, Proposition 47, which states that the hypotenuse (KP) of a right triangle (KRP) is longer than one of the other sides (KR). This proposition illustrates Euclid's principles for right triangles.

25. Comparison of lengths.

Recognize that KP is longer than both KL and KR based on the conclusions from steps 18 and 24. This comparison aligns with Euclidean geometry's principles of comparing lengths.

26. Application of Axiom 5.

Utilize Axiom 5, which states that "the whole is greater than the part." It implies that if KP is longer than both KL and KR , then KL must be less than KP . This axiom is fundamental in Euclidean geometry.

27. Contradiction.

At this point, a contradiction arises. The construction and analysis have led to the conclusion that KL is both less than and equal to KP , which contradicts the axiomatic foundation of geometry. This contradiction follows the logic of Euclidean geometry, where contradictory statements are rejected.

28. Consequences of the Contradiction

The rigorous geometric analysis, firmly rooted in the established principles of Euclidean geometry, brings forth an undeniable contradiction. Within the geometric framework of congruent cubes and the redistribution of contents,

following the construction it is clear that KL , representing the side length of the new cube, stands in direct contradiction. It is simultaneously less than and equal to KP , which by the construction symbolizes the side length of one of the original cubes. This contradiction emerges from the very essence of Euclidean geometry, where logical inconsistencies are unequivocally rejected. The geometric comparison of side lengths underscores the insurmountable barrier faced when seeking to double the volume of a cube, as the foundational axioms and principles of geometry resist such an endeavor. Consequently, the initial premise that a cube with a side length " S " could be fashioned such that it encompassed a volume equivalent to twice that of the original cube (Contents of cubes with side-lengths " L " put together) is categorically rejected.

2.3. *Establishing The Cube Duplication Geometric Impossibility*

The irrefutable impossibility of cube duplication following straightedge and compass operations is laid bare through the scrupulous geometric analysis firmly entrenched in the principles of Euclidean geometry. The construction, rooted in the congruence of cubes and the redistribution of contents, leads to a glaring contradiction. The comparison of side lengths, denoted as KL and KP , elucidates a paradox where KP , representing the side length of the newly constructed cube, is both less than and equal to KL , symbolizing the side length of one of the original cubes. This contradiction arises from the intrinsic logic of Euclidean geometry, where contradictory statements are resolutely rejected. The profound consequences of this contradiction reverberate through the geometric comparison, accentuating the impassable obstacle in the quest to double the volume of a cube. The foundational axioms and principles of geometry steadfastly resist such endeavors, compelling the unequivocal rejection of the initial premise that a cube with a side length " b " could encompass a volume twice that of the original cube. The geometric analysis thus establishes, within the domain of Euclidean geometry, the insurmountable impossibility of doubling the volume of a cube through any conceivable geometric procedure.

3. Comparing Cube duplication proofs-Euclidean vs. Modern Cube duplication proofs

3.1. *Genetic Differences*

The Euclidean cube duplication proof and the modern cube duplication proof originate from vastly different genetic backgrounds. The Euclidean proof is deeply rooted in classical Greek geometry, tracing its heritage to Euclid's *Elements*, a foundational work in the history of mathematics. In stark contrast, the modern proof finds its genesis in the mathematical developments of the modern era, heavily influenced by abstract algebra and field theory. While the Euclidean proof adheres to the principles of classical geometry, focusing on visual and constructive proofs, the modern proof incorporates abstract algebraic concepts not present in Euclid's work.

3.2. *Logical Structural Differences*

These two cube duplication proofs differ significantly in their logical and structural foundations. The Euclidean Cube duplication proof follows a logical sequence of constructions, propositions, and axioms that align seamlessly with classical geometric principles. It maintains logical rigor grounded in Euclidean geometry, making it a visual and intuitive proof. In contrast, the Modern Cube duplication proof is rooted in abstract algebraic field theory, introducing non-intuitive elements that may be challenging for those without a background in modern mathematics. While it achieves rigor within the framework of abstract algebra, it departs from the logical structure characteristic of Euclidean proofs.

3.3. *Geometric Differences*

Geometrically, the Euclidean Cube duplication proof and the Modern Cube duplication proof represent different paradigms. The Euclidean proof is inherently geometric, involving the manipulation of lines, angles, and geometric figures. It relies on compass and straightedge constructions, emphasizing the visual intuition that underpins Euclidean geometry. In contrast, the modern proof is not primarily geometric; it delves into algebraic and field theory concepts, creating a departure from the visual nature of Euclidean geometry. This abstraction makes it less accessible to those without a firm grasp of modern mathematics.

3.4. *Limitations of the Modern Cube duplication proof from Euclid's Perspective*

The assumption that Euclid would not understand algebra and that a geometric impossibility proof was impossible in his time is contentious. Euclid demonstrated profound insights into abstract concepts within the realm of visual and constructive geometry. The limitations of the modern proof, when viewed from a Euclidean perspective, include its lack of geometric intuition, deviation from Euclid's framework, and increased complexity. It diverges significantly from the principles and clarity that defined Euclidean geometry.

3.5. *Strengths of the Provided Euclidean Proof*

The Euclidean Cube duplication proof possesses several strengths. It maintains geometric rigor and clarity while adhering to the time-tested principles of Euclidean geometry. Its visual and intuitive appeal is accessible to a broader audience, not limited to mathematicians well-versed in abstract algebra. By upholding the tradition of Euclidean

geometry, this proof emphasizes its historical continuity and independence. Its visual appeal makes it engaging and comprehensible for learners of all levels, reinforcing the belief that certain geometric problems are best approached through classical Euclidean methods.

4. Discussion

The Euclidean cube duplication impossibility proof presented in this paper is a testament to the enduring strength and integrity of classical geometry. The endeavor to provide the first geometric impossibility proof in line with the prerequisites of Euclidean geometry is a profound assertion. The objective here goes beyond solving the long-standing cube duplication problem; it aims to establish a standard for what a geometric impossibility proof should embody, aligning with the visionary perspective of Euclid himself. If transported through time, the great mathematician would likely appreciate and recognize the harmony of this proof with the foundational principles laid out in his masterpiece, “Elements”. The cube duplication problem has perplexed mathematicians for centuries, and the absence of a definitive Euclidean geometric proof has given rise to misconceptions and diverse solutions. The modern algebraic proof, while valid, diverges significantly from the desires of classical Euclidean geometry. The paper addresses the prevalent misconceptions that have endured across academic landscapes, emphasizing the necessity of upholding the tradition and pedagogy of Euclidean geometry. The author’s personal journey, shared humbly in the paper, adds a poignant dimension. The acknowledgment that the author, too, once believed in the possibility of doubling a cube, underscores the need for a sophisticated understanding of Euclidean geometry. The deficiency in research that explores the strengths and integrity of Euclidean geometry in contrast to non-Euclidean geometries has contributed to enduring misconceptions. This highlights the importance of delving into the classical roots of geometry to dispel modern complexities. The proof itself is a scrupulous embodiment of Euclidean rigor, progressing through a sequence of geometric constructions with unwavering adherence to the principles of classical geometry. It unambiguously establishes that the doubling of the cube is unattainable using compass and straightedge. The inclusion of a computer code to illustrate the workings of this construction enhances the accessibility of this classical geometric demonstration.

In terms of broader implications, the paper underscores the independence and richness of Euclidean geometry. It forcefully communicates that Euclidean geometry remains a potent and complete system even when faced with complex geometric challenges. The impossibility proof refutes the notion that algebraic methods are the exclusive route to addressing geometric impossibilities. It stands as a testament to the enduring significance of Euclidean geometry in the mathematical world, providing a timeless and rigorous foundation for geometric problem-solving. This geometric impossibility proof resonates far beyond the specific challenge of cube duplication, reinforcing the enduring legacy of Euclid’s geometric principles.

5. Conclusion

This paper culminates in a geometric proof that transcends the confines of a specific construction algorithm, offering a generic perspective on the impossibility of doubling the volume of an arbitrary cube within the Euclidean geometric framework. Beyond a mere construction algorithm, this proof offers a Euclidean geometric perspective demonstrating the implausibility of doubling the volume of an arbitrary cube, transcending the limitations of Euclidean geometric inconsistencies. It establishes a generic viewpoint that applies universally to any geometric procedure aspiring to double the volume of a cube, emphasizing the impossibility of such a procedure within the Euclidean context. This perspective remains steadfast, addressing the specific requirement of a procedure with the property to double the volume of all cubes. Given the uniform properties shared by all cubes within the Euclidean geometric system, the absence of a geometric property enabling volume duplication signifies the inconceivability of such a property through straightedge and compass operations. Importantly, this proof not only resolves the longstanding skepticism surrounding the algebraic cube duplication impossibility proof, deemed geometrically faulty and incompatible, but also positions itself as a reliable geometric foundation for a spectrum of research and applications. The proof serves as a beacon for researchers and practitioners, offering a geometrically rich alternative to algebraic methods. By exposing the inadequacy of algebraic approaches that rest on geometric intuitions, this proof stands as a testament to the potency and completeness of a purely geometric impossibility proof. Its reliance on fundamental straightedge and compass ingredients, absent in the modern algebraic cube duplication impossibility proof, ensures a sound and comprehensive treatment of the geometric intricacies involved. In essence, this paper propels Euclidean geometry to the forefront, reclaiming its significance in resolving classical problems and dispelling misconceptions, and reaffirms the enduring legacy of Euclid’s geometric principles in mathematical discourse.

Appendix A Perspective interpretation of the Cube Duplication Impossibility Proof

This code serves as a computational interpretation of the provided Euclidean geometric construction and analysis. Its primary goal is to demonstrate that the requirements for doubling the cube, when subjected to a geometric analysis, do not perfectly align with the rigor of Euclidean geometry. The cube duplication problem is fundamentally geometric, representing the challenge of combining two identical cubic entities into a single cube, ensuring that their contents

evenly fill the new space. This paper aims to address the misconceptions arising from modern mathematical approaches to this problem, which have shifted from its geometric nature to a non-Euclidean mathematical problem. The consequence of this shift has been the proliferation of misconceptions and misinterpretations in the current research aimed at a solution to the cube duplication problem. By providing a geometric interpretation of the construction, this code contributes to the ongoing discourse on mathematical independence and the timeless significance of Euclidean geometry.

Consider the code:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Brief Introduction
print("Interpreting the Cube Duplication Problem Geometrically\n")
print("This code serves as a computer interpretation of the provided Euclidean geometric construction and analysis.")
print("It aims to demonstrate that the requirements for doubling the cube, when subjected to a geometric analysis, do not perfectly align with the rigor of Euclidean geometry. Let's explore the geometric analysis of cube duplication:\n")

# Define the side length of the original cube
a = 1.0

# Create points for the vertices of the original cube
A = (0, 0, 0)
B = (a, 0, 0)
C = (a, a, 0)
D = (0, a, 0)
E = (0, 0, a)
F = (a, 0, a)
G = (a, a, a)
H = (0, a, a)

# Create lines for the edges of the original cube
edges = [(A, B), (B, C), (C, D), (D, A), (E, F), (F, G), (G, H), (H, E), (A, E), (B, F), (C, G), (D, H)]

# Create a new cube with side length b where  $b^3 = 2 * a^3$ 
b = (2 ** (1/3)) * a

# Create a new set of points for the vertices of the new cube
A2 = (0, 0, 0)
B2 = (b, 0, 0)
C2 = (b, b, 0)
D2 = (0, b, 0)
E2 = (0, 0, b)
F2 = (b, 0, b)
G2 = (b, b, b)
H2 = (0, b, b)

# Create lines for the edges of the new cube
edges2 = [(A2, B2), (B2, C2), (C2, D2), (D2, A2), (E2, F2), (F2, G2), (G2, H2), (H2, E2), (A2, E2), (B2, F2), (C2, G2), (D2, H2)]

# Calculate the lengths of KL and KP
KL = ((A[0] - B[0]) ** 2 + (A[1] - B[1]) ** 2 + (A[2] - B[2]) ** 2) ** 0.5
KP = ((A2[0] - B2[0]) ** 2 + (A2[1] - B2[1]) ** 2 + (A2[2] - B2[2]) ** 2) ** 0.5

# Print the lengths of KL and KP
print(f"Length of KL (AB): {KL}")
print(f"Length of KP (A2B2): {KP}")

# Check for the impossibility of cube duplication
if KL < KP:
    print("\nIt is impossible to double the cube within the Euclidean geometric system.")
```



```

elif KL == KP:
    print("\nIt is impossible to double the cube within the Euclidean geometric system.")
else:
    print("\nNo contradiction: KL is greater than KP.")

# Plot the original and new cubes
fig = plt.figure()
ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')

# Label the vertices of the original cube
ax.text(A[0], A[1], A[2], 'A', color='b')
ax.text(B[0], B[1], B[2], 'B', color='b')
ax.text(C[0], C[1], C[2], 'C', color='b')
ax.text(D[0], D[1], D[2], 'D', color='b')
ax.text(E[0], E[1], E[2], 'E', color='b')
ax.text(F[0], F[1], F[2], 'F', color='b')
ax.text(G[0], G[1], G[2], 'G', color='b')
ax.text(H[0], H[1], H[2], 'H', color='b')

# Label the vertices of the new cube
ax.text(A2[0], A2[1], A2[2], 'A2', color='r')
ax.text(B2[0], B2[1], B2[2], 'B2', color='r')
ax.text(C2[0], C2[1], C2[2], 'C2', color='r')
ax.text(D2[0], D2[1], D2[2], 'D2', color='r')
ax.text(E2[0], E2[1], E2[2], 'E2', color='r')
ax.text(F2[0], F2[1], F2[2], 'F2', color='r')
ax.text(G2[0], G2[1], G2[2], 'G2', color='r')
ax.text(H2[0], H2[1], H2[2], 'H2', color='r')

for edge in edges:
    ax.plot([edge[0][0], edge[1][0]], [edge[0][1], edge[1][1]], [edge[0][2], edge[1][2]], 'b')

for edge in edges2:
    ax.plot([edge[0][0], edge[1][0]], [edge[0][1], edge[1][1]], [edge[0][2], edge[1][2]], 'r')

plt.show()

```

References

- [1] D. Crippa, "IMPOSSIBILITY RESULTS: FROM GEOMETRY TO ANALYSIS," phdthesis, Univeristé Paris Diderot Paris 7, 2014. Accessed: Sep. 05, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-01098493>.
- [2] V. Blåsjö, "Operationalism: An Interpretation of the Philosophy of Ancient Greek Geometry," *Found. Sci.*, vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 587–708, Jun. 2022, doi: 10.1007/s10699-021-09791-4.
- [3] A. Grozdanić and G. Vojvodić, "On the ancient problem of duplication of a cube in high school teaching," *Teach. Math.*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 51–61, 2010, Accessed: Oct. 24, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://scindeks.ceon.rs/article.aspx?artid=1451-49661001051G>.
- [4] K. M. A. Mutembei Josephine, "The Cube Duplication Solution (A Compassstraightedge(Ruler) Construction)," *Int. J. Math. Trends Technol. IJMTT*, Accessed: Oct. 23, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://ijmtjournal.org/archive/ijmtt-v50p549>.
- [5] K. Saito, "Doubling the cube: A new interpretation of its significance for early greek geometry," *Hist. Math.*, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 119–137, May 1995, doi: 10.1006/hmat.1995.1013.
- [6] M. Ben-Ari, "Geometric Constructions Using Origami," in *Mathematical Surprises*, M. Ben-Ari, Ed., Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022, pp. 141–150. doi: 10.1007/978-3-031-13566-8_12.
- [7] H. Güler and M. Gürbüz, "Construction Process of the Length of $3\sqrt{2}$ by Paper Folding," *Int. J. Res. Educ. Sci.*, pp. 121–135, Jan. 2018, doi: 10.21890/ijres.382940.
- [8] I. E. Rabinovitch, "Non-Euclidean Geometry," *Science*, vol. 24, no. 614, pp. 440–441, Oct. 1906, doi: 10.1126/science.24.614.440.
- [9] T. D. Son, "Exact Doubling the Cube with Straightedge and Compass by Euclidean Geometry," *Int. J. Math. Trends Technol. IJMTT*, Accessed: Oct. 23, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://ijmtjournal.org/archive/ijmtt-v69i8p506>.
- [10] J. Lützen, "The Algebra of Geometric Impossibility: Descartes and Montucla on the Impossibility of the Duplication of the Cube and the Trisection of the Angle," *Centaurus*, vol. 52, no. 1, pp. 4–37, 2010, doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0498.2009.00160.x.
- [11] Pierre Laurent Wantzel, *Recherches sur les Moyens de Reconnaître si un Problème de Géométrie Peut se Résoudre Avec la Règle et le Compas*, *Journal de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées*, 2, (1837) 366–372.
- [12] M. Panza, "Rethinking geometrical exactness," *Hist. Math.*, vol. 38, no. 1, pp. 42–95, 2011.

- [13] P. Milici, “A QUEST FOR EXACTNESS : machines, algebra and geometry for tractional constructions of differential equations,” 2015.
- [14] F. Borceux, *An Axiomatic Approach to Geometry: Geometric Trilogy I*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2014. doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-01730-3.
- [15] J. Stillwell, *Mathematics and Its History: A Concise Edition*. in *Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2020. doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-55193-3.
- [16] R. J. Trudeau, “Euclidean Geometry,” in *The Non-Euclidean Revolution*, Boston, MA: Birkhäuser Boston, 2001, pp. 22–105. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4612-2102-9_2.
- [17] F. Borceux, “Euclid’s Elements,” in *An Axiomatic Approach to Geometry*, Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2014, pp. 43–110. doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-01730-3_3.
- [18] I. E. Rabinovitch, “Non-Euclidean Geometry,” *Science*, vol. 24, no. 614, pp. 440–441, Oct. 1906, doi: 10.1126/science.24.614.440.

Authors’ Profiles



Alex Mwololo Kimuya is a physicist and a determined science scholar with a fairly broad research interests scattered around the areas of Physics, Geometry, Computer Vision, Machine Learning, Image processing, Signal Processing, and, Medical Science. His work reflects a keen curiosity and a commitment to advancing knowledge across these interconnected disciplines.

How to cite this paper: Alex Mwololo Kimuya, "A Rigorous Euclidean Geometric Proof of the Cube Duplication Impossibility", *International Journal of Mathematical Sciences and Computing(IJMSC)*, Vol.10, No.1, pp. 9-18, 2024. DOI: 10.5815/ijmsc.2024.01.02