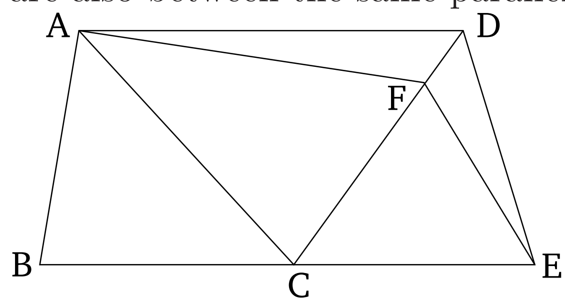
Book 1
Proposition 40

Equal triangles which are on equal bases, and on the same side, are also between the same parallels.



Let ABC and CDE be equal triangles on the equal bases BC and CE (respectively), and on the same side (of BE). I say that they are also between the same parallels.

For let AD have been joined. I say that AD is parallel to BE.

For if not, let AF have been drawn through A parallel to BE [Prop. 1.31], and let FE have been joined. Thus, triangle ABC is equal to triangle FCE. For they are on equal bases, BC and CE, and between the same parallels, BE and AF [Prop. 1.38]. But, triangle ABC is equal to [triangle] DCE. Thus, [triangle] DCE is also equal to triangle FCE, the greater to the lesser. The very thing is impossible. Thus, AF is not parallel to BE. Similarly, we can show that neither (is) any other (straight-line) than AD. Thus, AD is parallel to BE.

Thus, equal triangles which are on equal bases, and on the same side, are also between the same parallels. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.