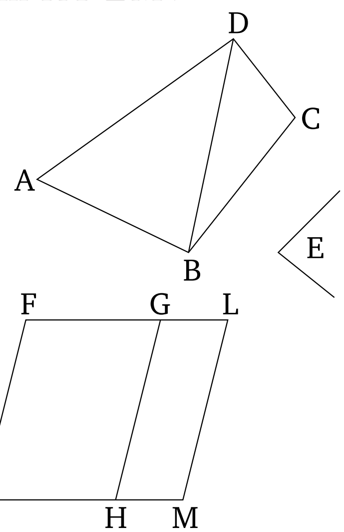
Book 1
Proposition 45

To construct a parallelogram equal to a given rectilinear figure in a given rectilinear angle.

Let $ABCD$ be the given rectilinear figure,† and E the given rectilinear angle. So it is required to construct a parallelogram equal to the rectilinear figure $ABCD$ in the given angle E.

Let DB have been joined, and let the parallelogram FH, equal to the triangle ABD, have been constructed in the angle HKF, which is equal to E [Prop. 1.42]. And let the parallelogram GM, equal to the triangle DBC, have been applied to the straight-line GH in the angle GHM, which is equal to E [Prop. 1.44]. And since angle E is equal to each of (angles) HKF and GHM, (angle) HKF is thus also equal to GHM. Let KHG have been added to both. Thus, (the sum of) FKH and KHG is equal to (the sum of) KHG and GHM. But, (the sum of) FKH and KHG is equal to two right-angles [Prop. 1.29]. Thus, (the sum of) KHG and GHM is also equal to two right-angles. So two straight-lines, KH and HM, not lying on the same side, make adjacent angles with some straight-line GH, at the point H on it, (whose sum is) equal to two right-angles. Thus, KH is straight-on to HM [Prop. 1.14]. And since the straight-line HG falls across the parallels KM and FG, the alternate angles MHG and HGF are equal to one another [Prop. 1.29]. Let HGL have been added to both. Thus, (the sum of) MHG and HGL is equal to (the sum of) HGF and HGL. But, (the sum of) MHG and HGL is equal to two right-angles [Prop. 1.29]. Thus, (the sum of) HGF and HGL is also equal to two right-angles. Thus, FG is straight-on to GL [Prop. 1.14]. And since FK is equal and parallel to HG [Prop. 1.34], but also HG to ML [Prop. 1.34], KF is thus also equal and parallel to ML [Prop. 1.30]. And the straight-lines KM and FL join them. Thus, KM and FL are equal and parallel as well [Prop. 1.33]. Thus, $KFLM$ is a parallelogram. And since triangle ABD is equal to parallelogram FH, and DBC to GM, the whole rectilinear figure $ABCD$ is thus equal to the whole parallelogram $KFLM$.



Thus, the parallelogram $KFLM$, equal to the given rectilinear figure $ABCD$, has been constructed in the angle FKM, which is equal to the given (angle) E. (Which is) the very thing it was required to do.