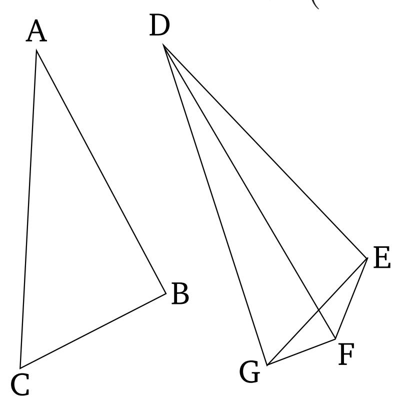
Book 1
Proposition 24

If two triangles have two sides equal to two sides, respectively, but (one) has the angle encompassed by the equal straight-lines greater than the (corresponding) angle (in the other), then (the former triangle) will also have a base greater than the base (of the latter).



Let ABC and DEF be two triangles having the two sides AB and AC equal to the two sides DE and DF, respectively. (That is), AB (equal) to DE, and AC to DF. Let them also have the angle at A greater than the angle at D. I say that the base BC is also greater than the base EF.

For since angle BAC is greater than angle EDF, let (angle) EDG, equal to angle BAC, have been constructed at the point D on the straight-line DE [Prop. 1.23]. And let DG be made equal to either of AC or DF [Prop. 1.3], and let EG and FG have been joined.

Therefore, since AB is equal to DE and AC to DG, the two (straight-lines) BA, AC are equal to the two (straight-lines) ED, DG, respectively. Also the angle

BAC is equal to the angle EDG. Thus, the base BC is equal to the base EG [Prop. 1.4]. Again, since DF is equal to DG, angle DGF is also equal to angle DFG [Prop. 1.5]. Thus, DFG (is) greater than EGF. Thus, EFG is much greater than EGF. And since triangle EFG has angle EFG greater than EGF, and the greater angle is subtended by the greater side [Prop. 1.19], side EG (is) thus also greater than EF. But EG (is) equal to BC. Thus, BC (is) also greater than EF.

Thus, if two triangles have two sides equal to two sides, respectively, but (one) has the angle encompassed by the equal straight-lines greater than the (corresponding) angle (in the other), then (the former triangle) will also have a base greater than the base (of the latter). (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.