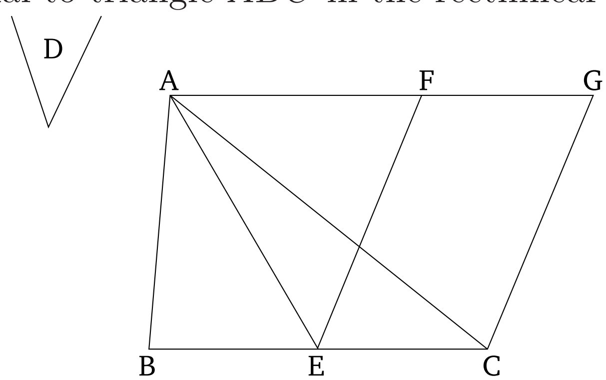
Book 1
Proposition 42

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

Let ABC be the given triangle, and D the given rectilinear angle. So it is required to construct a parallelogram equal to triangle ABC in the rectilinear angle D.



Let BC have been cut in half at E [Prop. 1.10], and let AE have been joined. And let (angle) CEF, equal to angle D, have been constructed at the point E on the straight-line EC [Prop. 1.23]. And let AG have been drawn through A parallel to EC [Prop. 1.31], and let CG have been drawn through C parallel to EF [Prop. 1.31]. Thus, $FECG$ is a parallelogram. And since BE is equal to EC, triangle ABE is also equal to triangle AEC. For they are on the equal bases, BE and EC, and between the same parallels, BC and AG [Prop. 1.38]. Thus, triangle ABC is double (the area) of triangle AEC. And parallelogram $FECG$ is also double (the area) of triangle AEC. For it has the same base as (AEC), and is between the same parallels as (AEC) [Prop. 1.41]. Thus, parallelogram $FECG$ is equal to triangle ABC. ($FECG$) also has the angle CEF equal to the given (angle) D.

Thus, parallelogram $FECG$, equal to the given triangle ABC, has been constructed in the angle CEF, which is equal to D. (Which is) the very thing it was required to do.