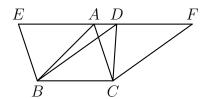
Study Note—Euclid's *Elements*, Book I, Proposition 37

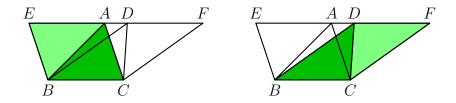
David R. Wilkins

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This proposition concerns two triangles, ABC and DBC, that are on the same base BC and in the same parallels BC and EF. It is required to show that these two triangles are equal in area.



Let the parallelogram EBCA be constructed so that the line AB bisects the parallelogram, and let the parallelogram DBCF be constructed so that the line DC bisects the parallelogram.



Proposition 35 of Book I of the *Elements* ensures that the parallelograms EBCA and DBCF are equal in area. Proposition 34 ensures that the parallelogram EBCA is in area double the triangle ABC, and also ensures that the parallelogram DBCF is in area double the triangle DBC. It follows that the triangles ABC and DBC must be equal in area, as required.