Euclid's Elements

Book VI



One can state, without exaggeration, that the observation of and the search for similarities and differences are the basis of all human knowledge.

Alfred Nobel



Table of Contents, Chapter 6

- If the height of two triangles are equal, then the ratio of the areas is equal to the ratio of the bases
- If a line cuts a triangle, parallel to its base, it will cut the sides of the triangle proportionally
- If an angle of a triangle is bisected and the straight line cutting the angle also cuts the base, the segments of the base will have the same ratio as the remaining sides of the triangle
- If two triangles have equal angles, then the sides opposite the equal angles are proportional, as well, the sides of the triangles on either side of the equal angles are also proportional
- 5 It two triangles have proportional sides, the triangles will be equiangular
- If two triangles have one angle equal to one angle and the sides about the equal angles are proportional, then the triangles will be equiangular

- 7 If two triangles have one angle equal to one angle, and the sides about other angles are proportional, and the remaining angles either both less or both not less than a right angle, then triangles will be equiangular
- If in a right-angled triangle a perpendicular be drawn from the right angle to the base, the triangles adjoining the perpendicular are similar both to the whole and to one another
- 9 From a given straight line to cut off a given fraction
- 10 To cut a given uncut straight line similarly to a given cut straight line
- 11 To two given straight lines to find a third proportional
- 12 To three given straight lines to find a fourth proportional
- 13 To two given straight lines to find a mean proportional

- 14 In equal and equiangular parallelograms, the sides about the equal angles are reciprocally proportional; and vice versa
- 15 In equal triangles which have one angle equal to one angle the sides about the equal angles are reciprocally proportional; and vice versa
- 16 If four straight lines are proportional, the rectangle contained by the extremes is equal to the rectangle contained by the means, and vice versa
- 17 If three straight lines are proportional, the rectangle contained by the extremes is equal to the square on the mean; and vice versa
- 18 On a given straight line to describe a rectilineal figure similar and similarly situated to a given rectilineal figure
- 19 Similar triangles are to one another in the duplicate ratio of the corresponding sides



Table of Contents, Chapter 3

- 20 Similar polygons are divided into the same number of similar triangles, which have the same ratio as the wholes, and the polygons have duplicate ratios to their corresponding sides
- 21 Figures which are are similar to the same rectilineal figure are also similar to one another
- 22 If four straight lines are proportional, similar rectilineal figures will also be proportional; and vice versa
- 23 Equiangular parallelograms have to one another the ratio compounded of the ratios of their sides
- 24 In any parallelogram the parallelograms about the diameter are similar both to the whole and to one another
- 25 To construct one and the same figure similar to a given rectilineal figure and equal to another given rectilineal figure

- 26 If from a parallelogram a similar parallelogram with a common angle is subtracted, it is about the same diameter as the original
- 27 Of all the parallelograms applied to the same straight line and deficient by parallelogrammic figures similar to a parallelogram drawn on half the said line, the largest will be one that is drawn on half of the straight line and is similar to the defect
- 28 To a given straight line, apply a parallelogram equal to a given rectilineal figure and deficient by a parallelogrammic figure similar to a given one
- 29 To a given straight line, apply a parallelogram equal to a given rectilineal figure and exceeding by a parallelogrammic figure similar to a given one
- 30 To cut a finite straight line in extreme ratio

In right-angled triangles the figure on the side subtending the right angle is equal to the similar and similarly described figures on the sides containing the right angle



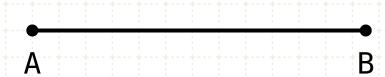
Proposition 9 of Book VI From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.



From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.

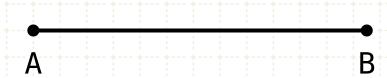
In other words

The instructions required to cut off a certain fraction from a given line



Proposition 9 of Book VI From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.

Construction

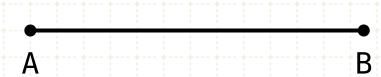




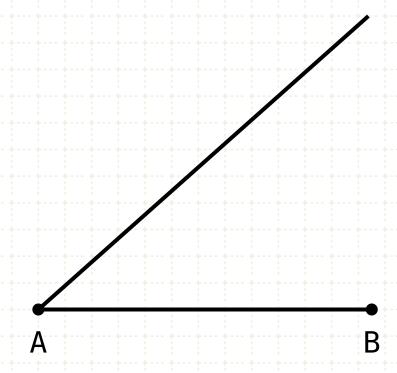
From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.

Construction

Let AB be the given line, and the fraction to be removed is one third



From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.

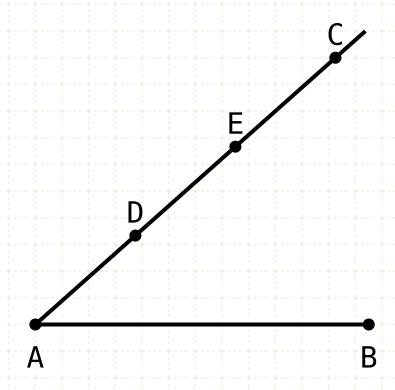


Construction

Let AB be the given line, and the fraction to be removed is one third

Draw a line of any length, making an arbitrary angle with AB

From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.

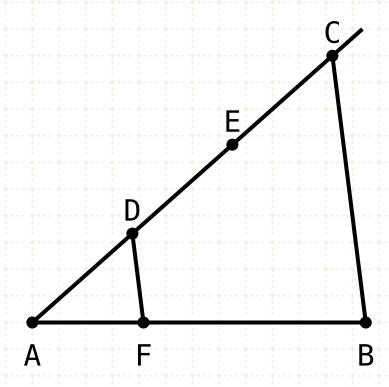


Construction

Let AB be the given line, and the fraction to be removed is one third

Draw a line of any length, making an arbitrary angle with AB Let point D be defined anywhere on the new line, and find points E and C such that DE and EC are equal to AD (I·3)

From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.

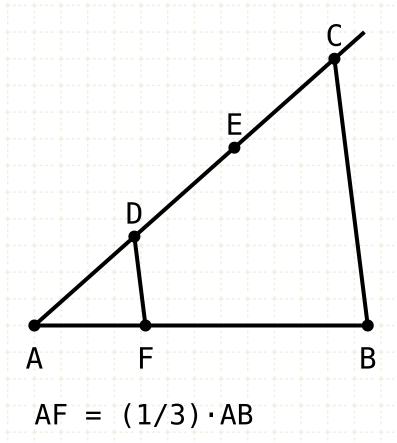


Construction

Let AB be the given line, and the fraction to be removed is one third

Draw a line of any length, making an arbitrary angle with AB Let point D be defined anywhere on the new line, and find points E and C such that DE and EC are equal to AD (I·3) Draw BC, and draw line DF parallel to BC (I·31)

From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.



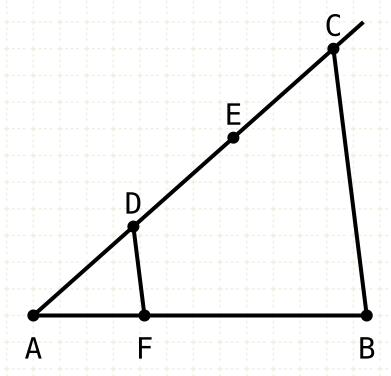
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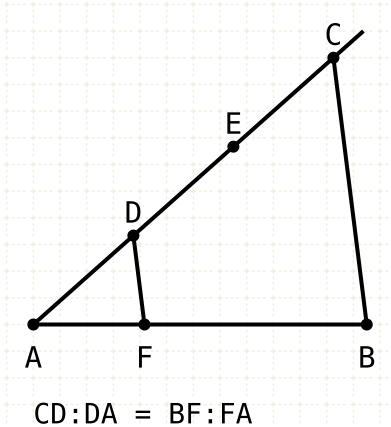
AF is one third of AB

Proposition 9 of Book VI From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.



Proof

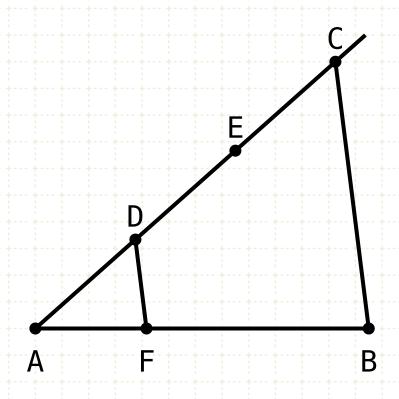
From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.



Proof

Since FD is parallel to BC, one of the sides of the triangle ABC, therefore CD is to DA as BF is to FA (VI·2)

From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.



$$CD:DA = BF:FA$$

$$CD = 2 \cdot AD : BF = 2 \cdot AF$$

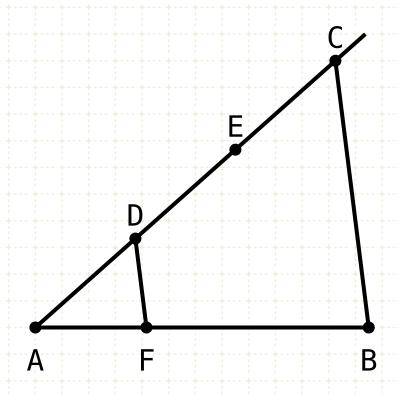
$$\therefore AB = 3 \cdot AF$$

Proof

Since FD is parallel to BC, one of the sides of the triangle ABC, therefore CD is to DA as BF is to FA (VI·2)

But CD is double that of AD, therefore BF is double of AF, therefore AB is triple of AF

From a given straight line to cut off a prescribed part.



$$CD:DA = BF:FA$$

$$CD = 2 \cdot AD : BF = 2 \cdot AF$$

$$\therefore AB = 3 \cdot AF$$

Proof

Since FD is parallel to BC, one of the sides of the triangle ABC, therefore CD is to DA as BF is to FA (VI-2)

But CD is double that of AD, therefore BF is double of AF, therefore AB is triple of AF

Therefore AF is one third AB

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