

Representation of the Middle Line of a Trapezoid Through the Sides

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Abstract

This article describes the method of expressing the second midline of a trapezoid using the property of the median of a triangle in terms of the sides of the trapezium.

Key words: triangle median property, proof, sides of a trapezoid, equal sections.

Introduction

We all know that there is a formula for expressing the median of a triangle by its sides. It looks like this:

$$m_c = \frac{1}{2} * \sqrt{2a^2 + 2b^2 - c^2} \quad (1)$$

We present the proof of formula (1). For this, we will first use Stewart's theorem and study its proof.

$$BD^2 = \frac{BC^2 \cdot AD}{AC} + \frac{AB^2 \cdot DC}{AC} - AD \cdot DC \quad (2)$$

Let's get acquainted with the proof of Stewart's theorem:

Proof: Let ABC be an arbitrary triangle. We make an arbitrary cut from one end of the triangle to the other. We apply the theorem of cosines to the 2 resulting triangles. (**Figure 1**)

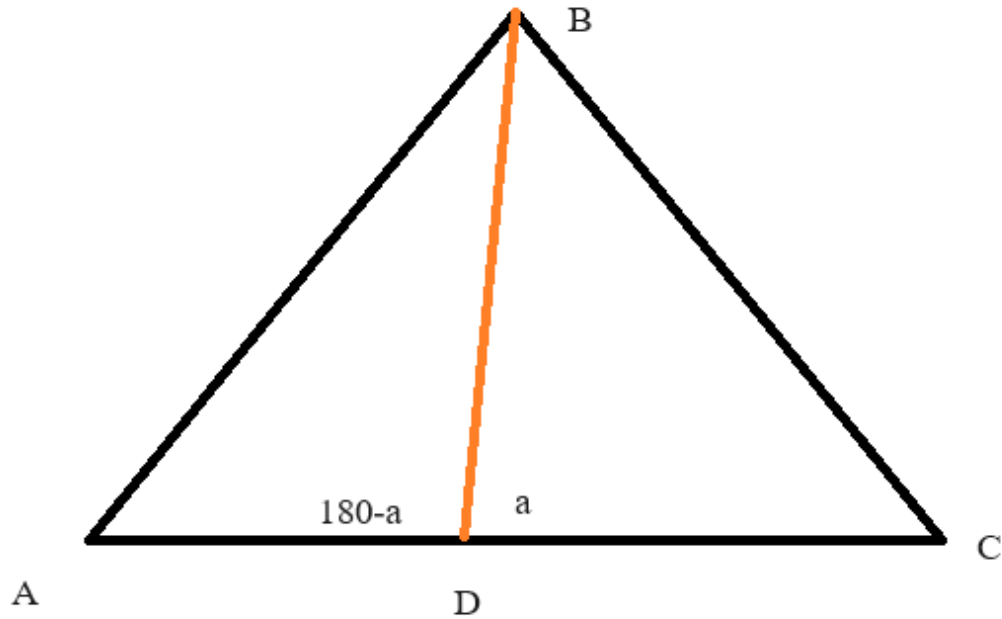


Figure 1

$$AB^2 = AD^2 + BD^2 - 2AD \cdot BD \cdot \cos(\pi - \varphi)$$

$$BC^2 = DC^2 + BD^2 - 2DC \cdot BD \cdot \cos \varphi$$

Of both $\cos \varphi$ find and equate the expressions:

$$\cos(\pi - \varphi) = -\cos \varphi$$

$$\cos \varphi = \frac{BD^2 + DC^2 - BC^2}{2BD \cdot DC}$$

$$\cos \varphi = \frac{AD^2 + BD^2 - AB^2}{-2BD \cdot AD}$$

$$\frac{BD^2 + DC^2 - BC^2}{2BD \cdot DC} = \frac{AD^2 + BD^2 - AB^2}{-2BD \cdot AD}$$

$$-(BD^2 + DC^2 - BC^2) \cdot AD = (AD^2 + BD^2 - AB^2) \cdot DC$$

$$AD^2 \cdot DC + BD^2 \cdot DC - AB^2 \cdot DC = -BD^2 \cdot AD - DC^2 \cdot AD + BC^2 \cdot AD$$

$$AD^2 \cdot DC + BD^2 \cdot DC + BD^2 \cdot AD + DC^2 \cdot AD = BC^2 \cdot AD + AB^2 \cdot DC$$

$$AD \cdot DC \cdot (AD + DC) + BD^2 \cdot (AD + DC) = BC^2 \cdot AD + AB^2 \cdot DC$$

$$\{AD + DC = AC\}$$

$$AD \cdot DC \cdot AC + BD^2 \cdot AC = BC^2 \cdot AD + AB^2 \cdot DC$$

$$BD^2 \cdot AC = BC^2 \cdot AD + AB^2 \cdot DC - AD \cdot DC \cdot AC$$

$$BD^2 = \frac{BC^2 \cdot AD}{AC} + \frac{AB^2 \cdot DC}{AC} - AD \cdot DC$$

the theorem is proved.

We can also prove the formula for the median of an arbitrary triangle using Stuart's theorem. (Figure 2)

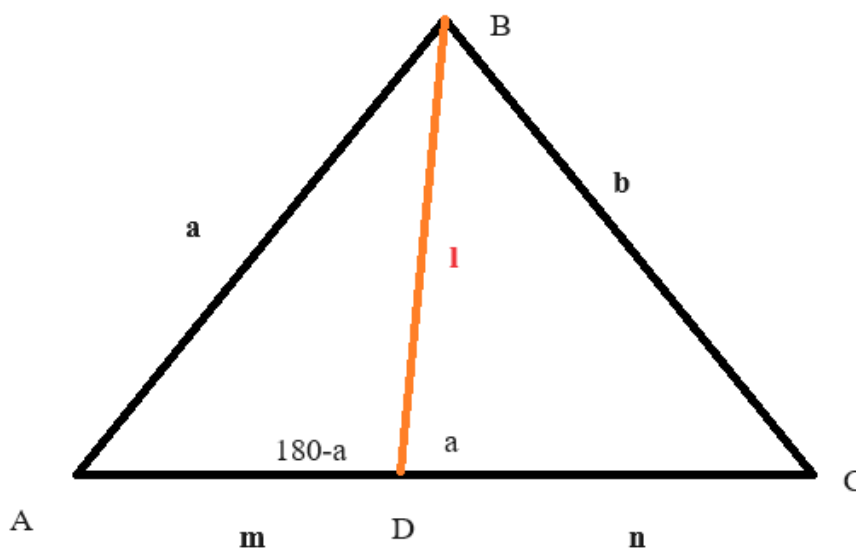


Figure 2

$$BD^2 = \frac{BC^2 \cdot AD}{AC} + \frac{AB^2 \cdot DC}{AC} - AD \cdot DC$$

We write down Stuart's theorem according to our drawing.

$$l_c^2 = \frac{a^2 \cdot n}{c} + \frac{b^2 \cdot m}{c} - m \cdot n$$

Let us consider the proof of this median formula.

$$m = \frac{c}{2} \quad n = \frac{c}{2}$$

$$m_c = l_c$$

$$l_c^2 = \frac{a^2 - c}{2c} + \frac{b^2 - c}{2c} - \frac{c - c}{2 \cdot 2}$$

$$m_c^2 = \frac{a^2 + b^2}{2} - \frac{c^2}{4}$$

$$m_c^2 = \frac{2(a^2 + b^2) - c^2}{4}$$

$$m_c = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{2(a^2 + b^2) - c^2}$$

$$m_c = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{2(a^2 + b^2) - c^2}$$

The median formula was proved.

Now, let us be given a trapezoid ABCD. **(Figure 3)**

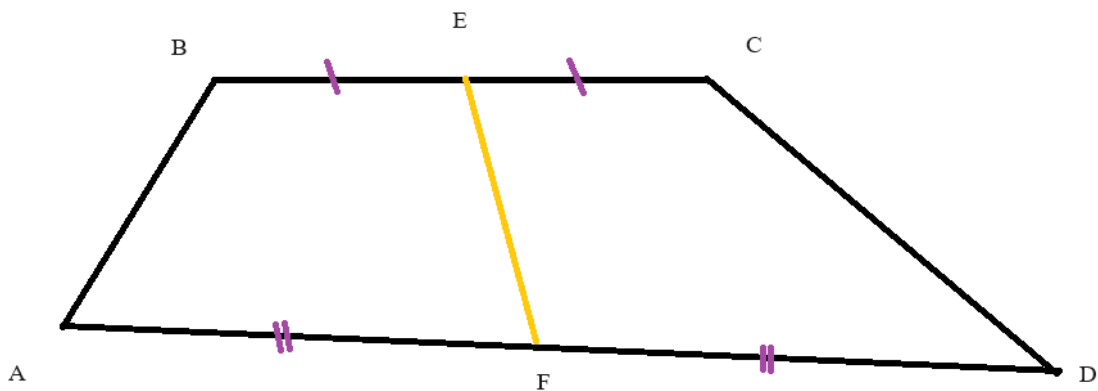


Figure 3

Here, k - is the section connecting the middle of the bases of the trapezoid ABCD, or we can take it as the second middle line of the trapezoid. $BE = EC = AE = ND = m/2$; $AB = EF = p$; $EN = CD = q$;
We draw sections EF and EG parallel to sides AB and CD and ending at point E. **(Figure 4)**.

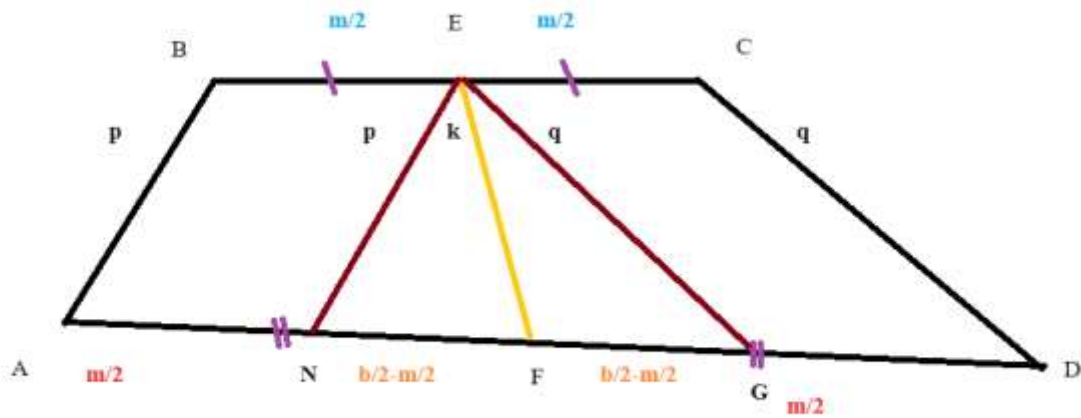


Figure 4

Let's pay attention to the triangle ENG. (Figure 5)

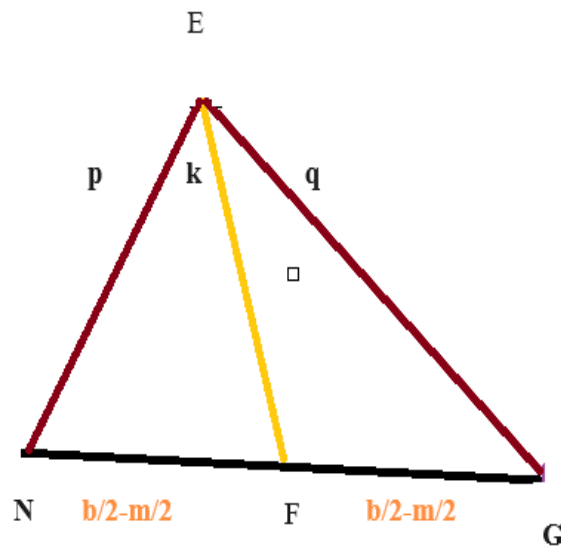


Figure 5

Based on the above formula for finding the median of a triangle,

$$l = \frac{1}{2} * \sqrt{2p^2 + 2q^2 - (b - m)^2} = \frac{1}{2} * \sqrt{2p^2 + 2q^2 - b^2 - m^2 + 2mb} =$$

(3)

$$= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}p^2 + \frac{1}{2}q^2 - \frac{1}{4}b^2 - \frac{1}{4}m^2 + \frac{1}{2}mb}$$

$$l = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}p^2 + \frac{1}{2}q^2 - \frac{1}{4}b^2 - \frac{1}{4}m^2 + \frac{1}{2}mb}$$

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