

## Chapter 12

# DISSECTION THEORY



Oh, come with old Khayyám, and leave the Wise  
To talk, one thing is certain, that Life flies;  
One thing is certain, and the Rest is Lies;  
The flower that once has blown for ever dies.  
— Omar Khayyam, Rubaiyat  
(from the translation by Edward Fitzgerald)

### WHAT IS DISSECTION THEORY?



Figure 12.1 Parallelogram

In showing that the parallelogram in Figure 12.1 has the same area as a rectangle with the same base and height (altitude), we can easily cut the parallelogram into two pieces and rearrange them to form the rectangle in Figure 12.2.



Figure 12.2 Equivalent by dissection to a rectangle