At the moment, we don’t have any mathematical document from the Old Babylonian Period in which the height of a trapezoidal figure appears calculated. In that time, the surface of a quadrangular field used to be determined by applying the surveyor’s rule: multiplying the average of its opposite sides.

Obviously, for those people it would be very complicated to find the height of an irregular trapezoid; but if they already knew the Pythagorean formula and the questioned figure was an isosceles trapezium, why this principle was not employed?

In this communication we will show, only as a conjecture, that at least there is a geometric exercise in which the students would learn how to compute the surface of a symmetric trapezium, beginning with the calculation of its true height. This would be the problem text YBC 8633.

Seemingly in this exercise the area of a symmetric triangle - divided in three regions - is determined; nevertheless, although the calculation introduces the rule of the diagonal, the obtained result is erroneous. It is very surprising! We will prove here that it is only a routine carried out in the determination of surfaces of symmetric trapezoidal fields.

We will connect our analysis with the last studies carried out by Jöran Friberg on the Egyptian geometry.

