# AUTOMATICALLY VISUALIZING MATHEMATICS

Wode "Nimo" Ni

with Jonathan Aldrich, Keenan Crane, Joshua Sunshine, Katherine Ye

#### MOTIVATION

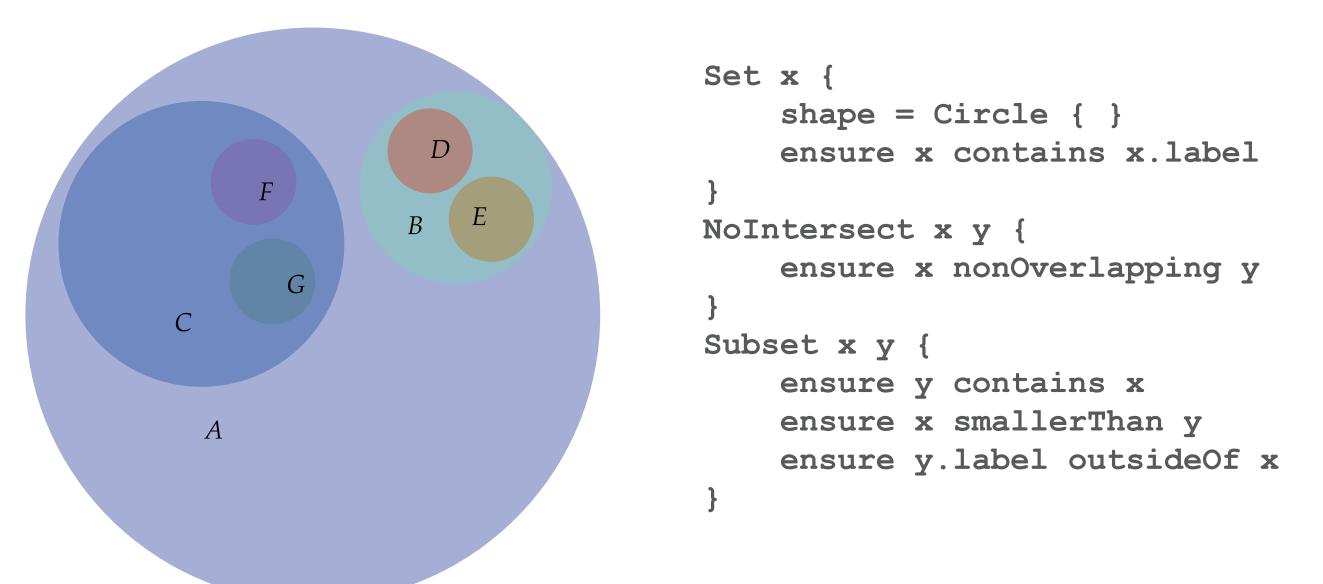
A well-chosen figure can be a tremendous help in understanding mathematical concepts. The production of a good illustration often requires extensive experience, and remarkable effort. To make such process easier, we are building Penrose, a system that automatically produces professional-quality mathematical illustrations from high-level descriptions of mathematical objects.

PENROSE provides two extensible domain specific languages: Substance and Style. Similar to using HTML and CSS in the web, a Penrose user would write mathematical notations in Substance, and use Style to specify the details about visualization.

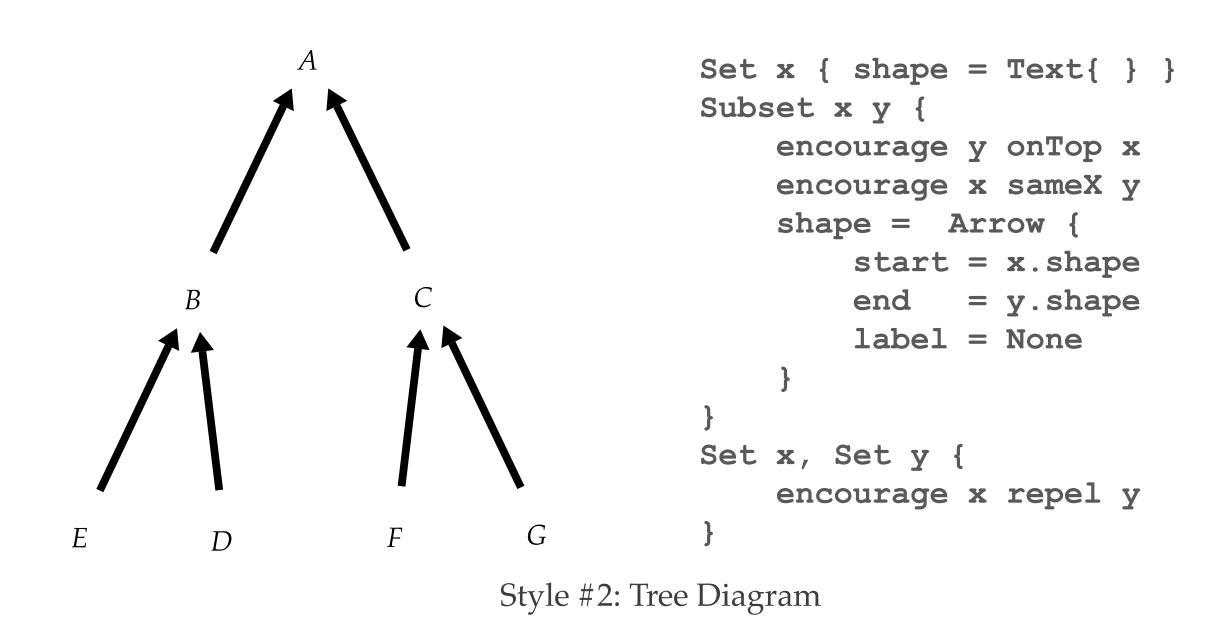
#### THE STYLE LANGUAGE

```
Set A, B, C, D, E, F, G
Subset F C
Subset B A
Subset G C
NoIntersect E D
NoIntersect F G
Subset E B
NoIntersect B C
```

A Substance program of 3 layers of subset relations



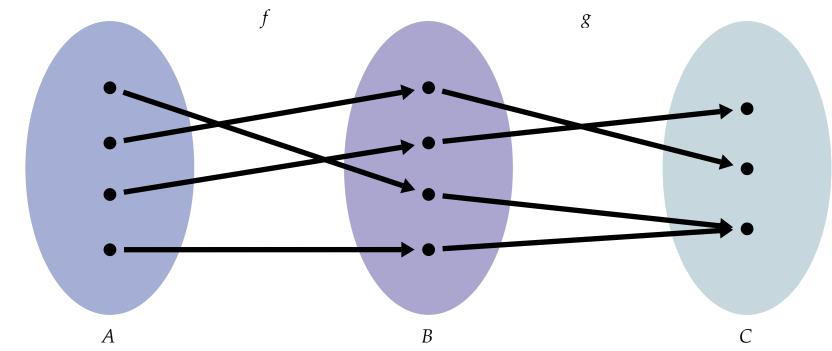
Style #1: Venn Diagram



We designed a STYLE language that selects SUBSTANCE objects using pattern matching, declares geometries, and specifies objectives (encourage) or constraints (ensure). The STYLE files are reusable for all similar SUBSTANCE programs.

## VISUALIZING MATHEMATICAL DEFINITIONS

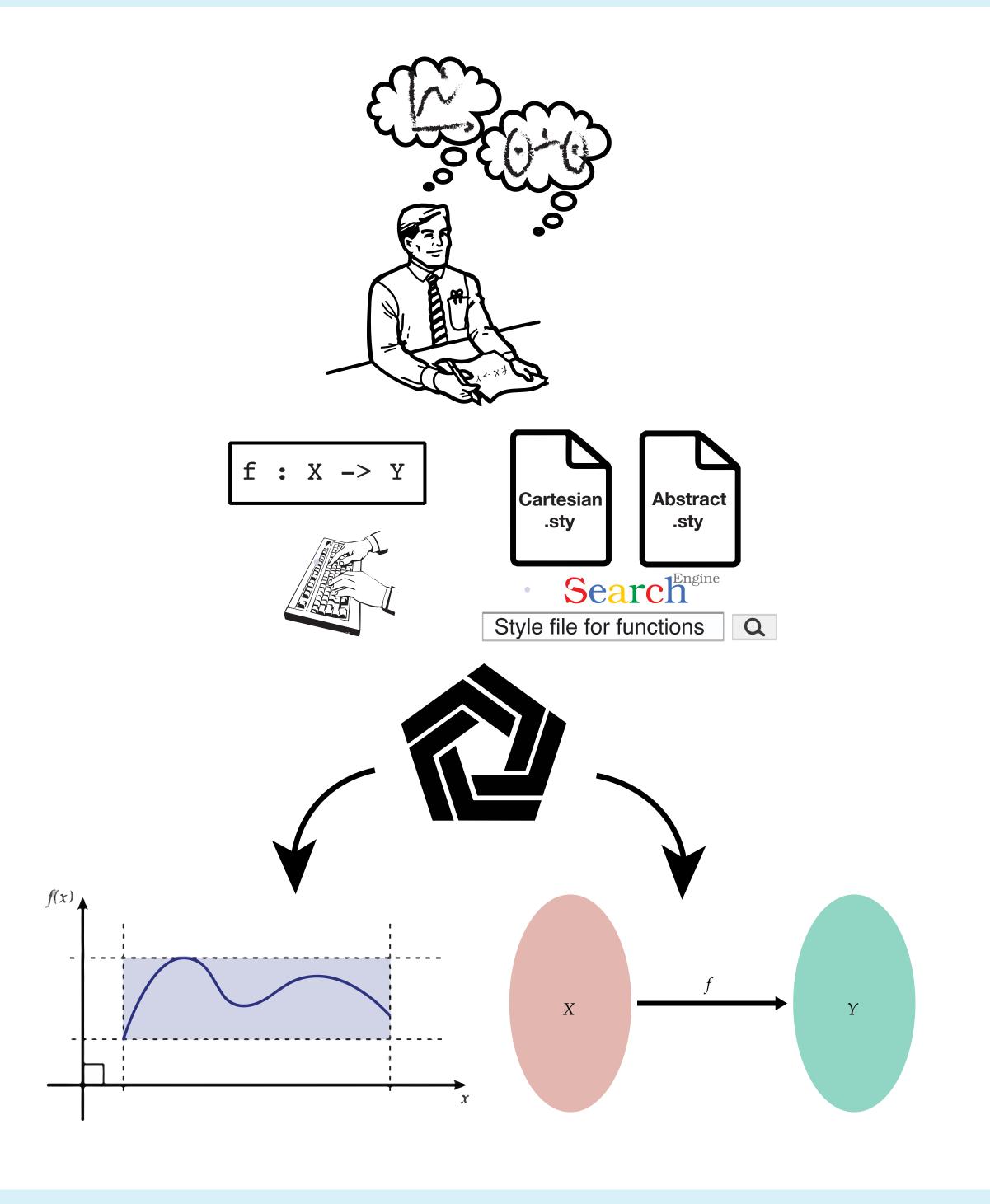
```
f: A -> B
g: B -> C     Definition Surjection(Map f, Set A, Set B):
Set A, B, C     forall b : B | exists a : A | f(a) = b
Size A 4     Surjection(f, A, B)
Size B 4     Surjection(g, B, C)
Size C 3
```



Illustrating theorem: the composition of surjective functions is also surjective

To illustrate mathematical definitions, we often pick representative examples. Penrose allows users to specify mathematical definitions in first-order logic, and automatically generates instances of the definition by integrating Alloy, an external SAT-solver.

### THE DESIGN PROCESS



## FUTURE WORK

- How to generate figures in general position?
- Currently using Exterior Point Method for layout optimization. Try others.
- Extending Substance to other domains.
- How to specify the STYLE for illustrations that requires an algorithm/a procedure?
- How much math should Penrose know?
- User interaction: prodirect manipulation

