



## Functional Geometry

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**Abstract.** An algebra of pictures is described that is sufficiently powerful to denote the structure of a well-known Escher woodcut, Square Limit. A decomposition of the picture that is reasonably faithful to Escher's original design is given. This illustrates how a suitably chosen algebraic specification can be both a clear description and a practical implementation method. It also allows us to address some of the criteria that make a good algebraic description.

**Keywords:** Functional programming, graphics, geometry, algebraic style, architecture, specification.

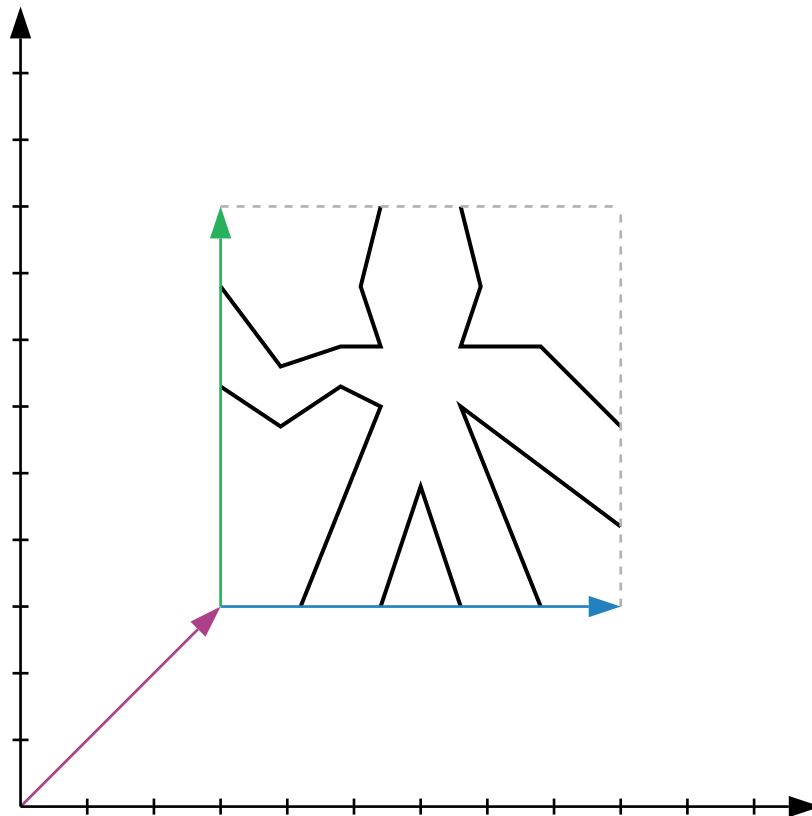
A **picture** is an example  
of a **complex object** that  
can be described in terms  
of its **parts**.

Let us define a picture as a **function** which takes three arguments, each being two-space **vectors** and returns **a set of graphical objects** to be rendered on the output device.

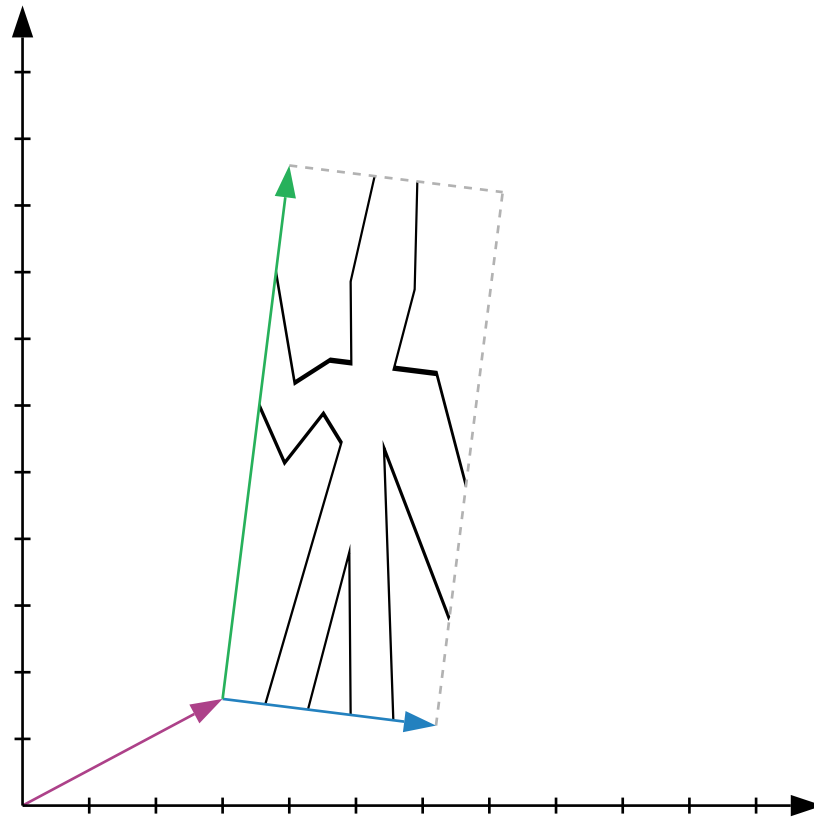
```
type Box = { a : Vector  
             b : Vector  
             c : Vector }
```

```
type Picture = Box -> Rendering
```

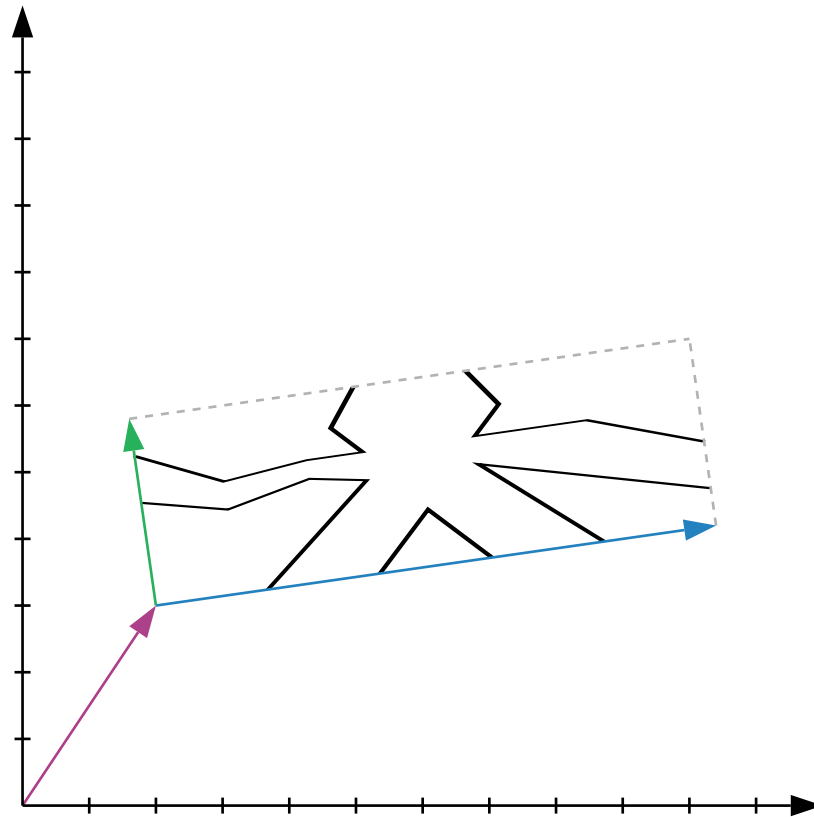
george



also george

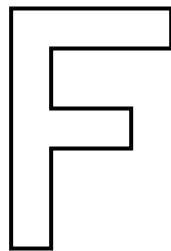


still george

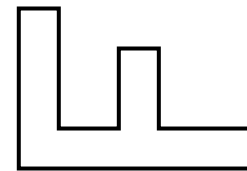




turn



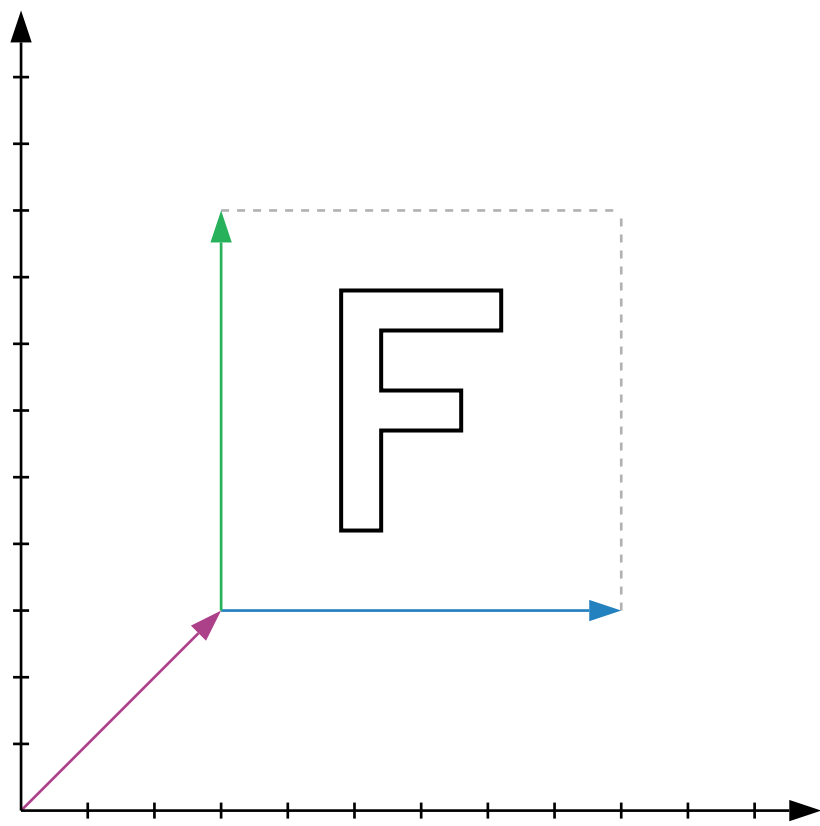
=>



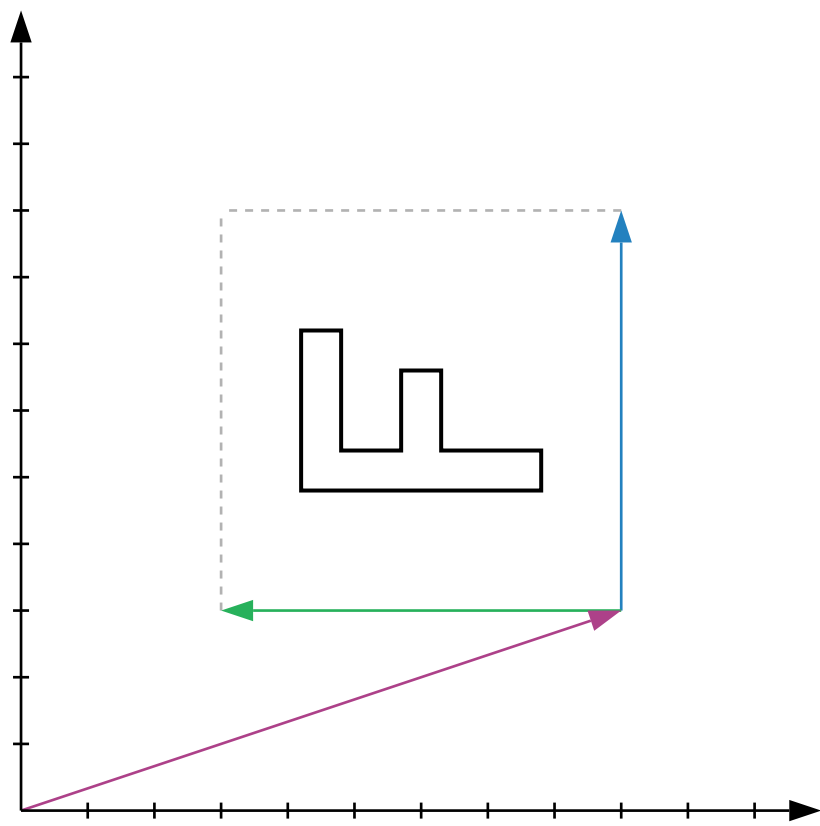
```
turnBox : Box -> Box
turnBox { a, b, c } = { a = add a b
                        , b = c
                        , c = neg b }
```

```
turn : Picture -> Picture
turn p = turnBox >> p
```

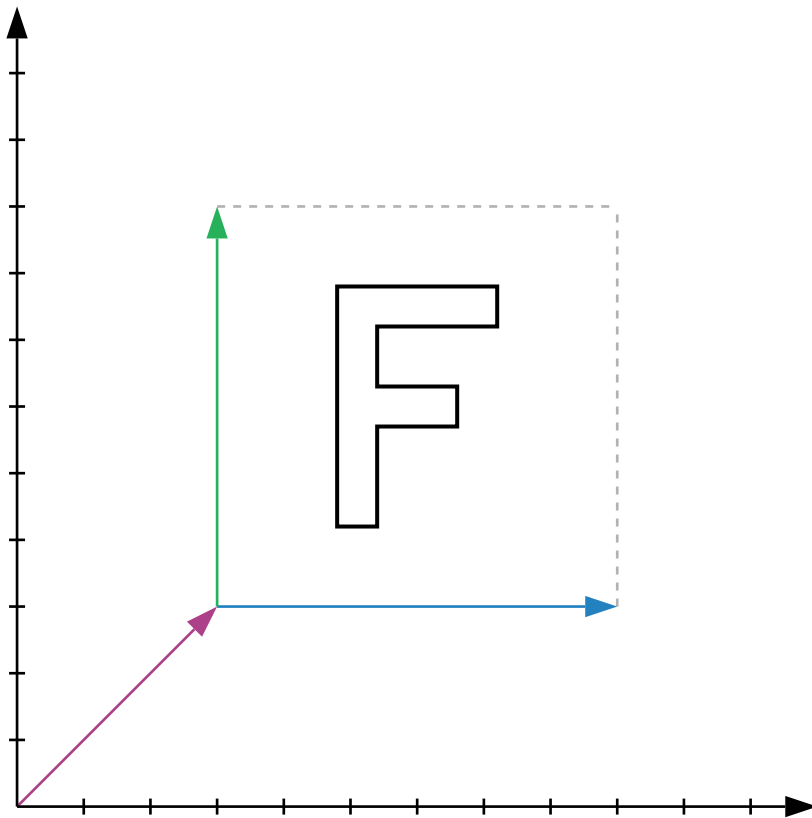
turn



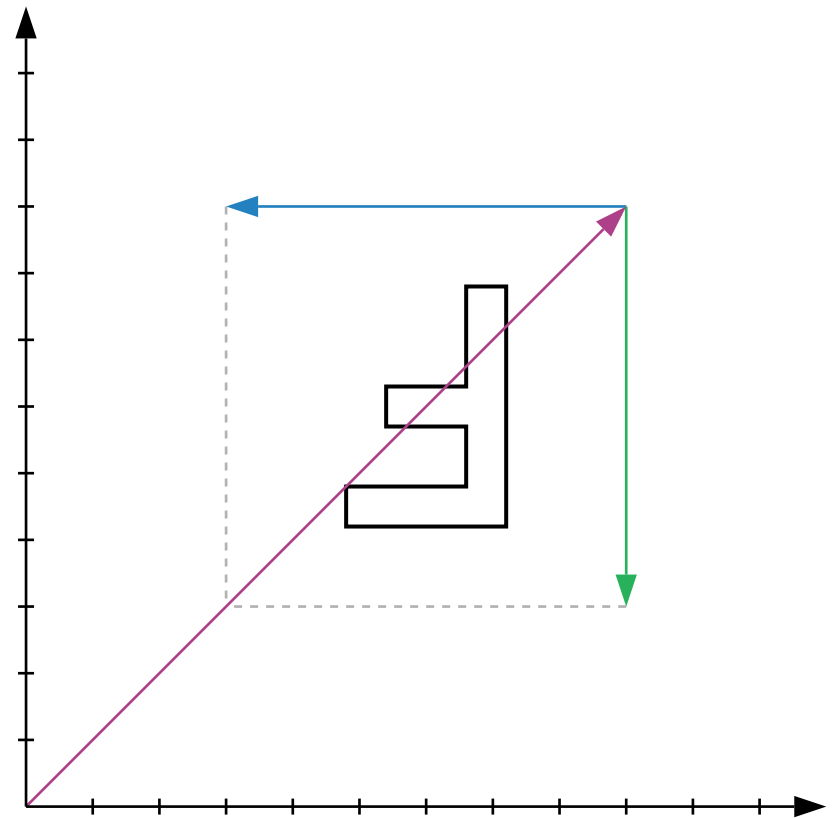
=>



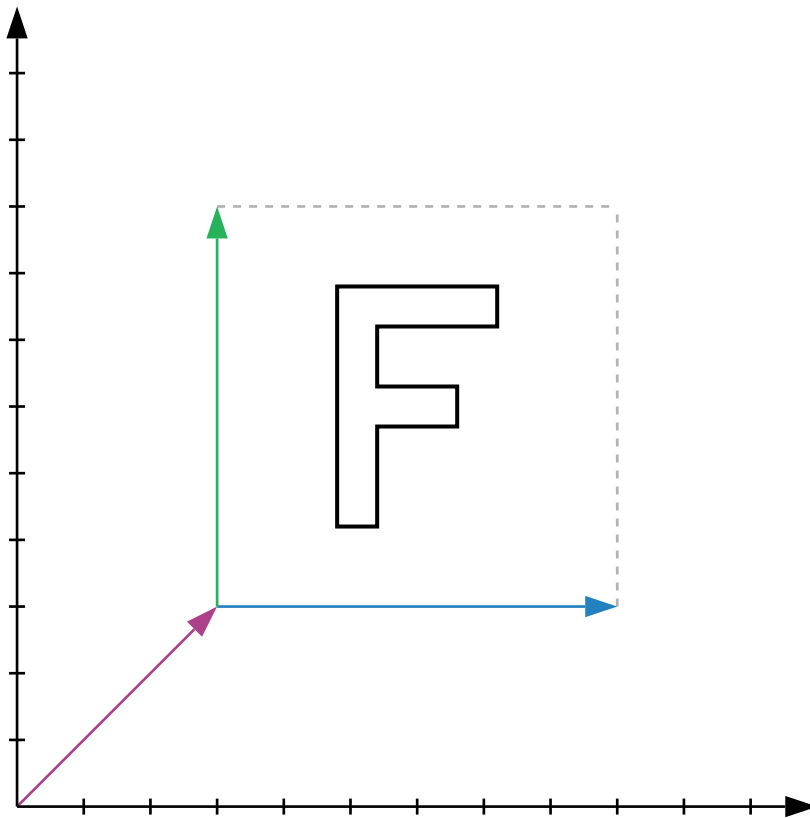
turn >> turn



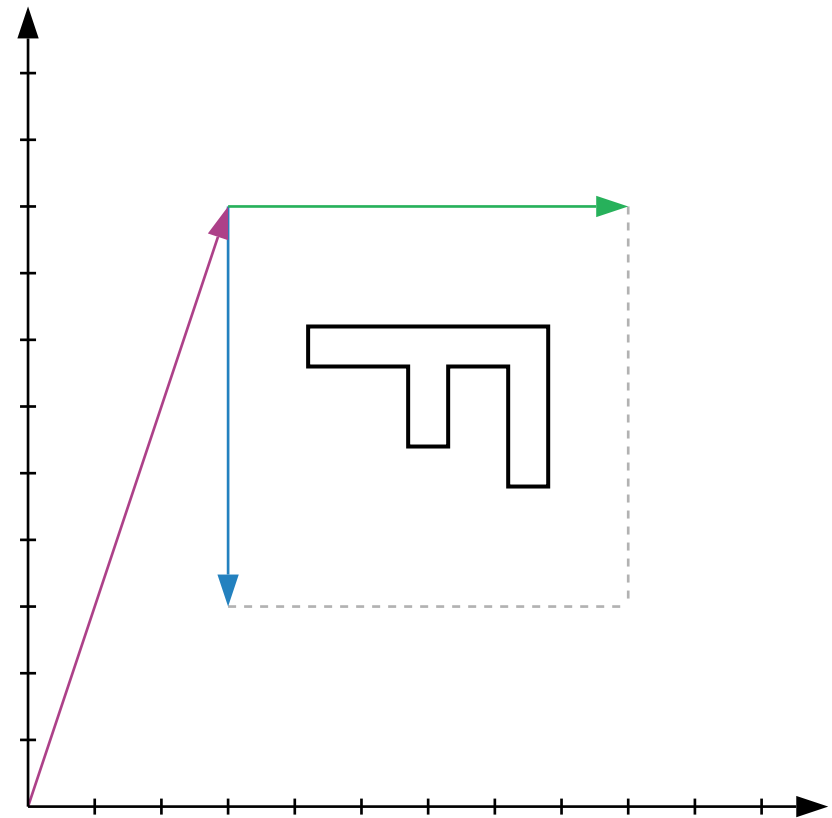
=>



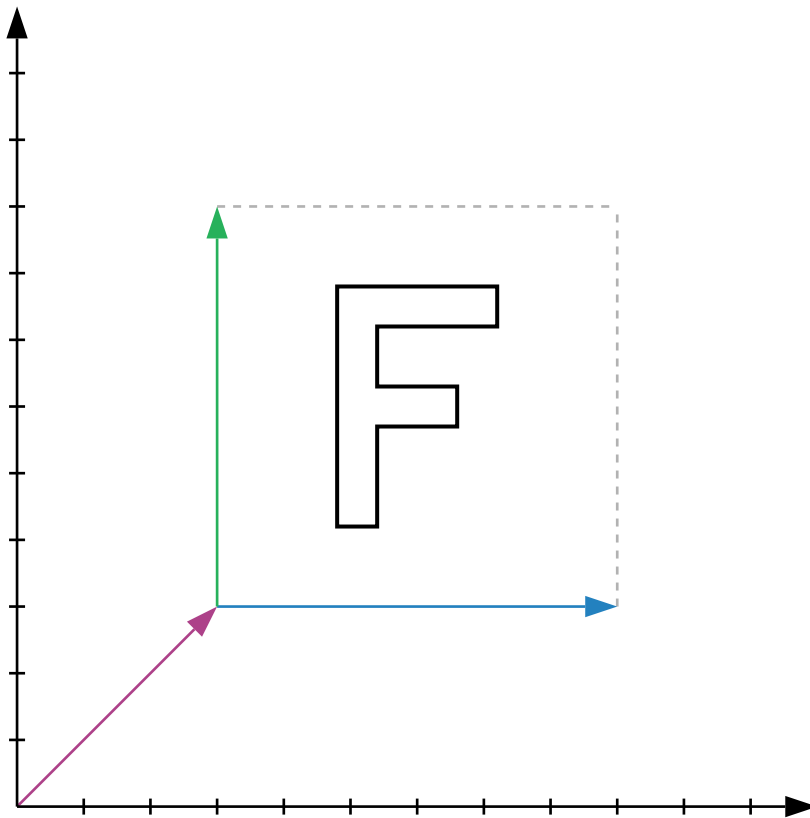
turn >> turn >> turn



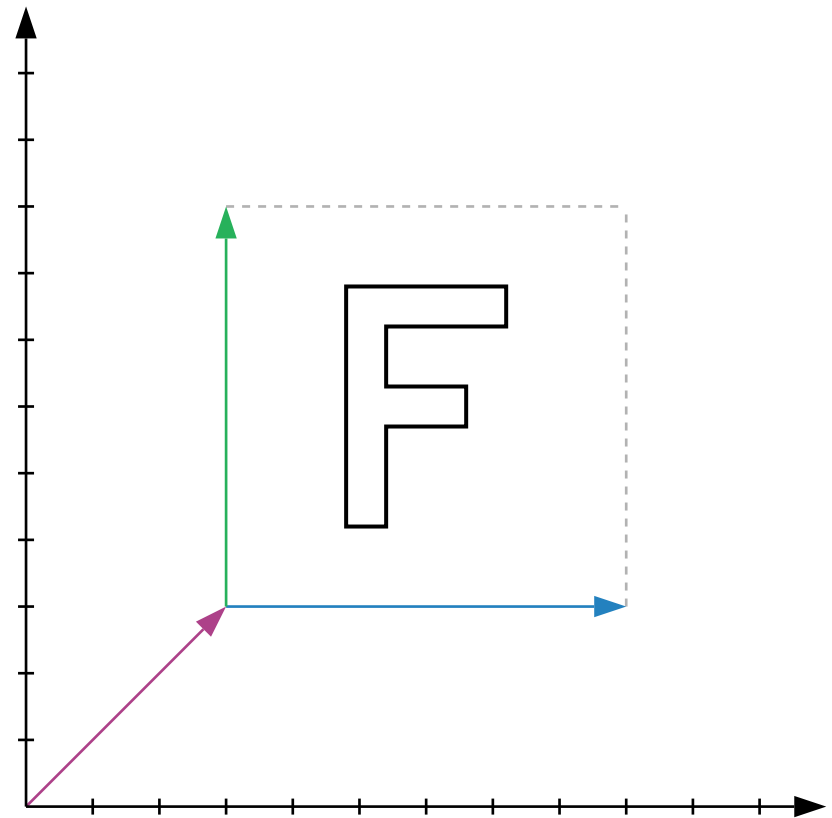
=>



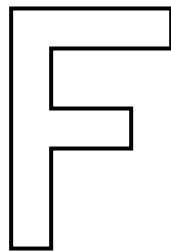
turn >> turn >> turn >> turn



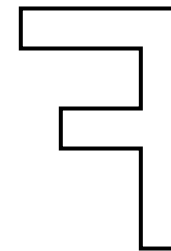
=>



flip



=>

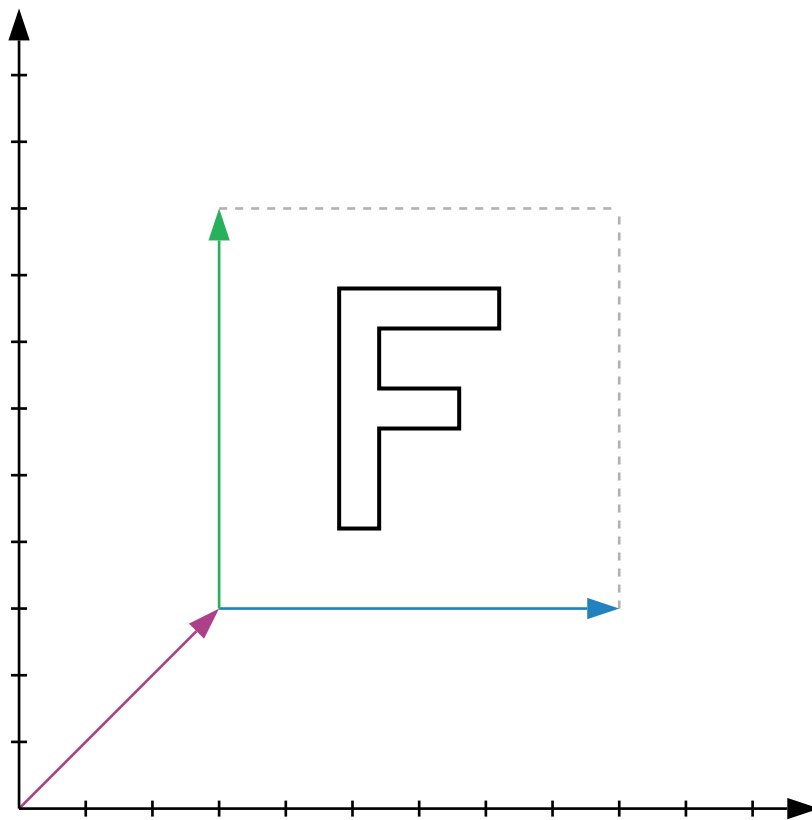
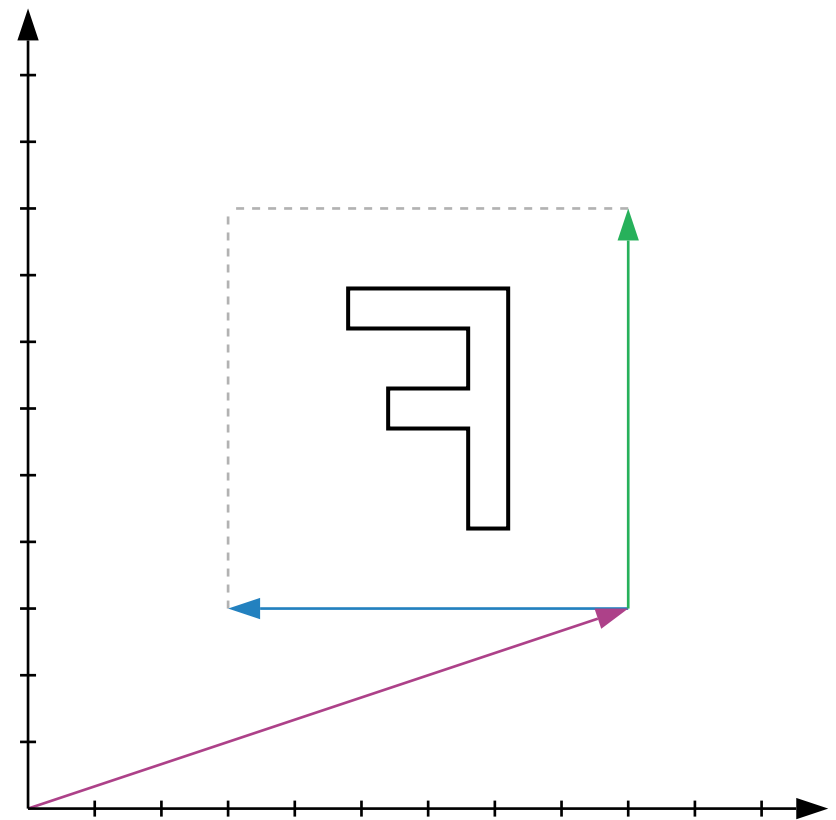


```
flipBox : Box -> Box
flipBox { a, b, c } = { a = add a b
                        , b = neg b
                        , c = neg c }
```

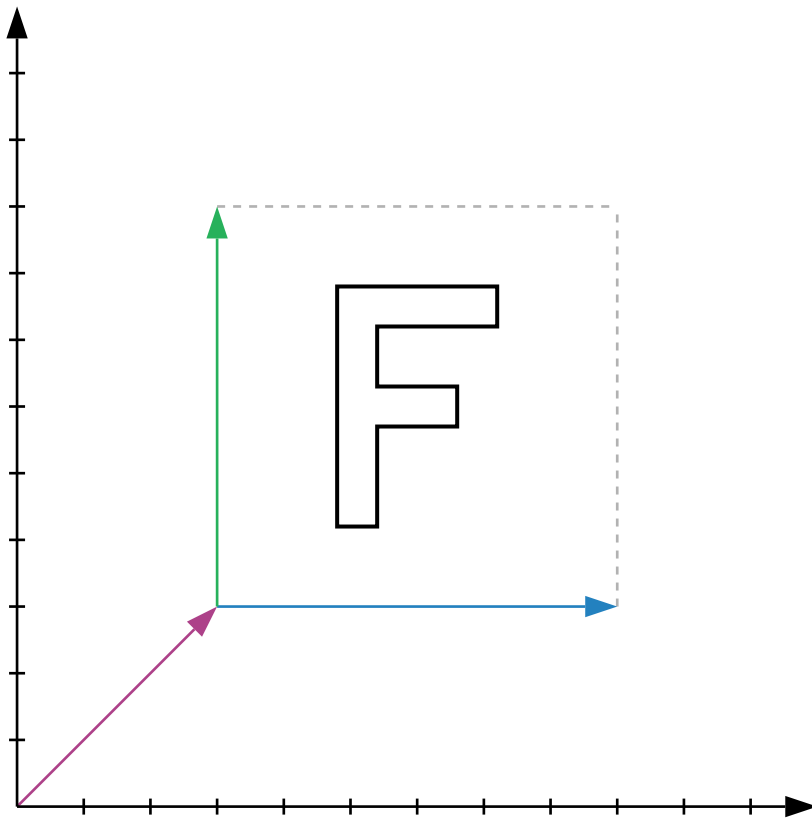
```
flip : Picture -> Picture
flip p = flipBox >> p
```



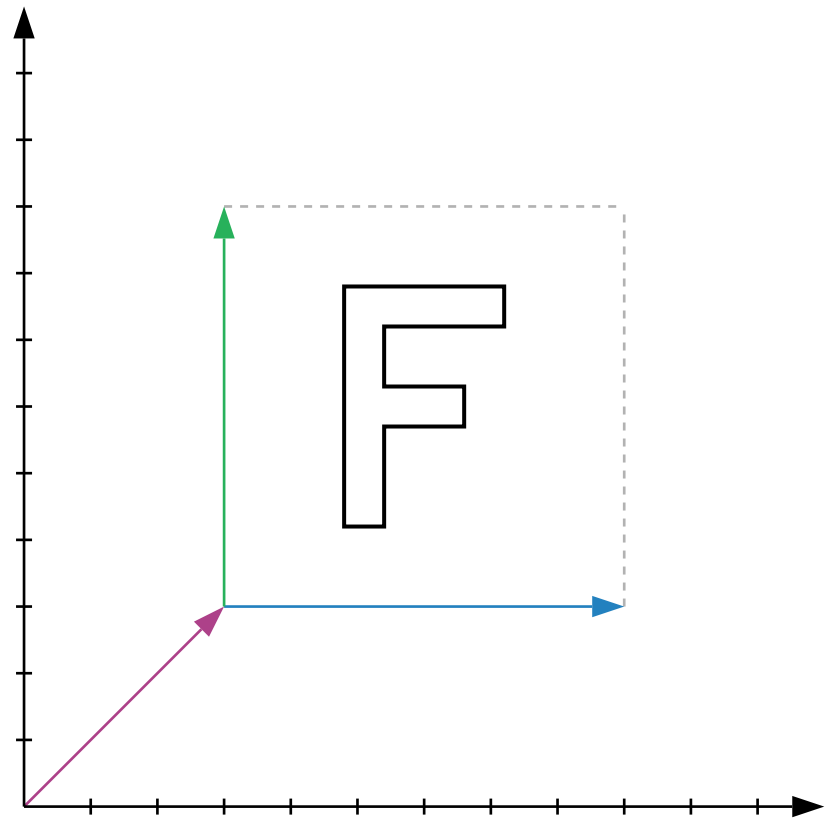
flip

 $\Rightarrow$ 

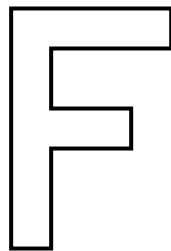
flip >> flip



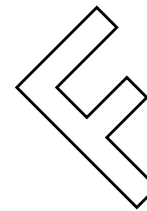
=>



toss



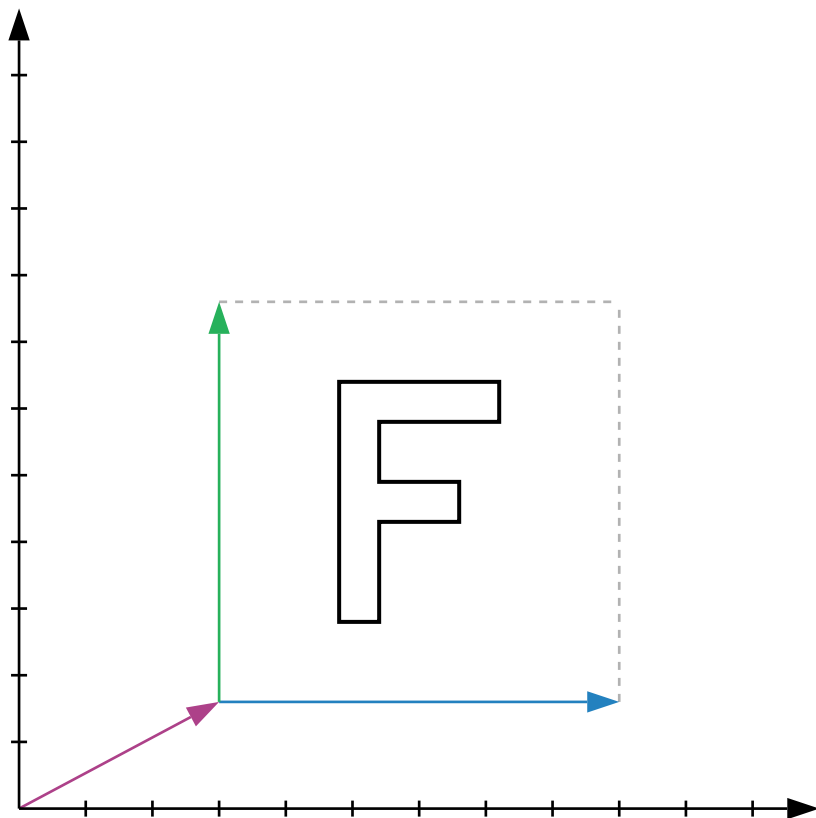
=>



```
tossBox : Box -> Box
tossBox { a, b, c } =
  { a = add a (scale 0.5 (add b c))
    , b = scale 0.5 (add b c)
    , c = scale 0.5 (sub c b) }
```

```
toss : Picture -> Picture
toss p = tossBox >> p
```

toss



=>

