



Functional Geometry

Peter Henderson

Department of Electronics and Computer Science

University of Southampton

Southampton, SO17 1BJ, UK

p.henderson@ecs.soton.ac.uk

<http://www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/~ph>



October, 2002

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.

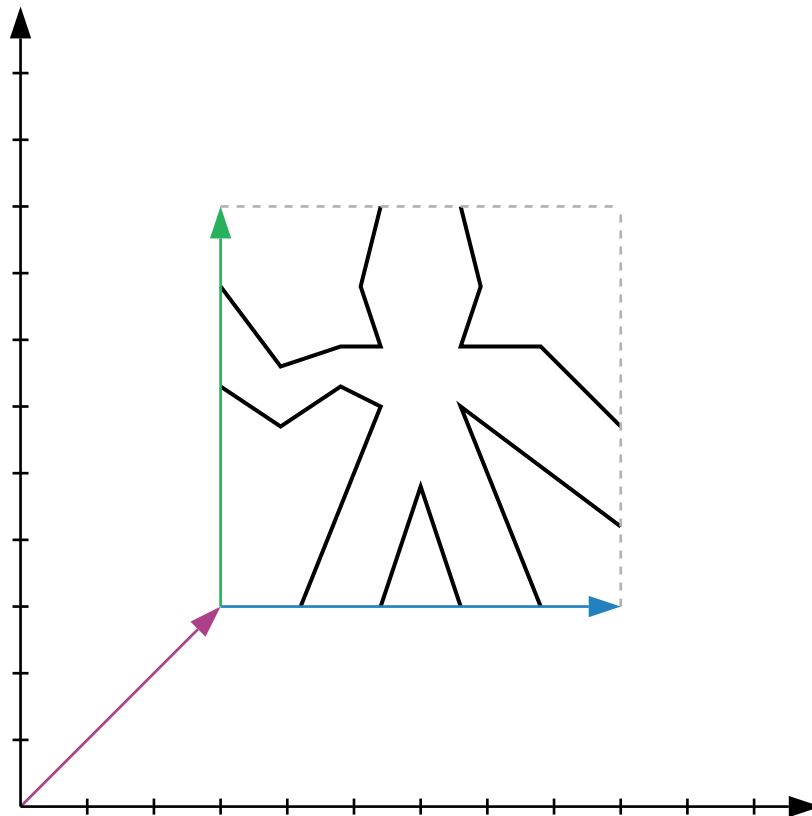
A **picture** is an example
of a **complex object** that
can be described in terms
of its **parts**.

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.

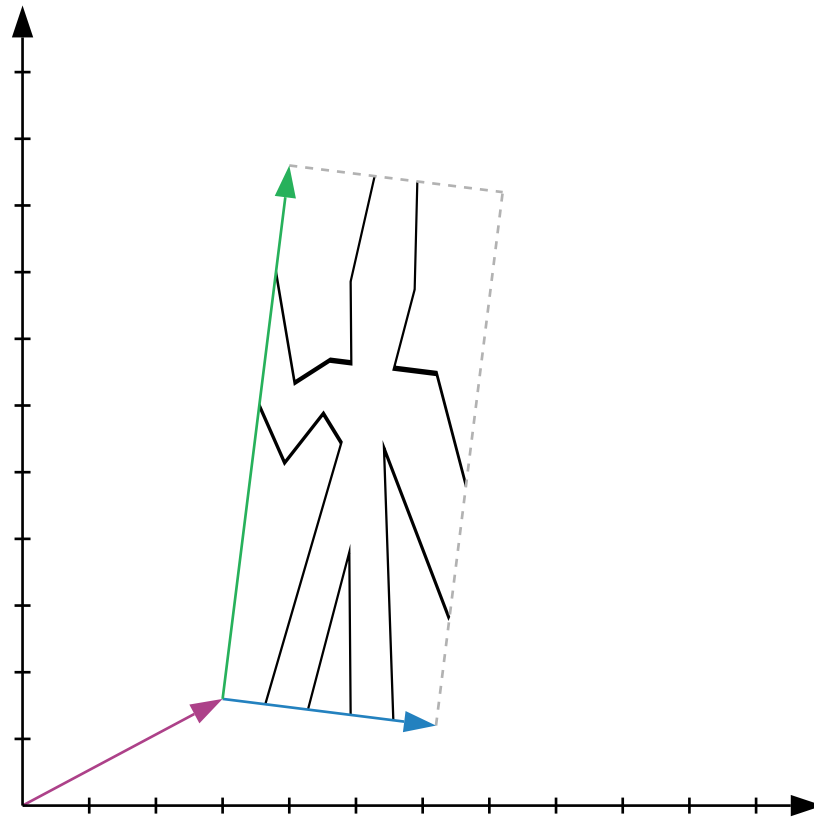
```
type Box = { a : Vector  
             b : Vector  
             c : Vector }
```

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

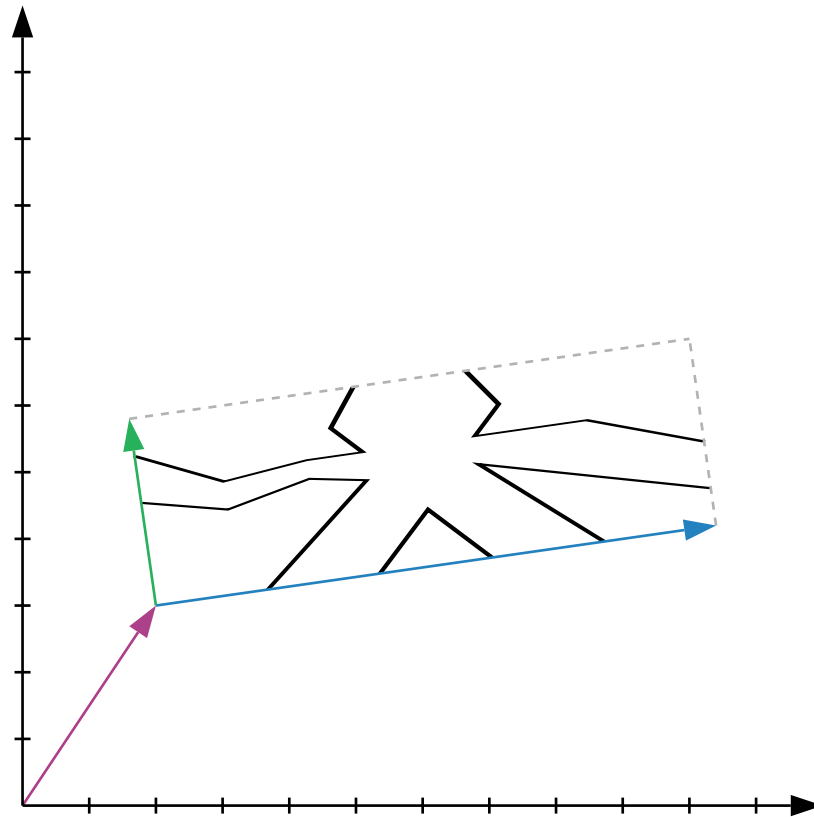
george



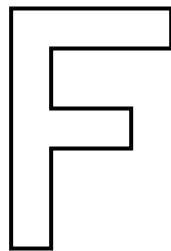
also george



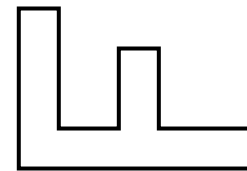
still george



turn



=>



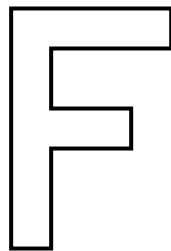
```
turnBox : Box -> Box
```

```
turnBox { a, b, c } = { a = add a b  
                        , b = c  
                        , c = neg b }
```

```
turn : Picture -> Picture
```

```
turn p = turnBox >> p
```

turn



=>

