



# Penrose: from mathematical notation to beautiful diagrams

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\*Carnegie Mellon University

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SIGGRAPH 2020

Our goal: create high-quality  
diagrams directly from abstract  
mathematical statements.



set theory

venn-3d

run

sign in

step

inspector

venn 3d

sub

sty

dsl

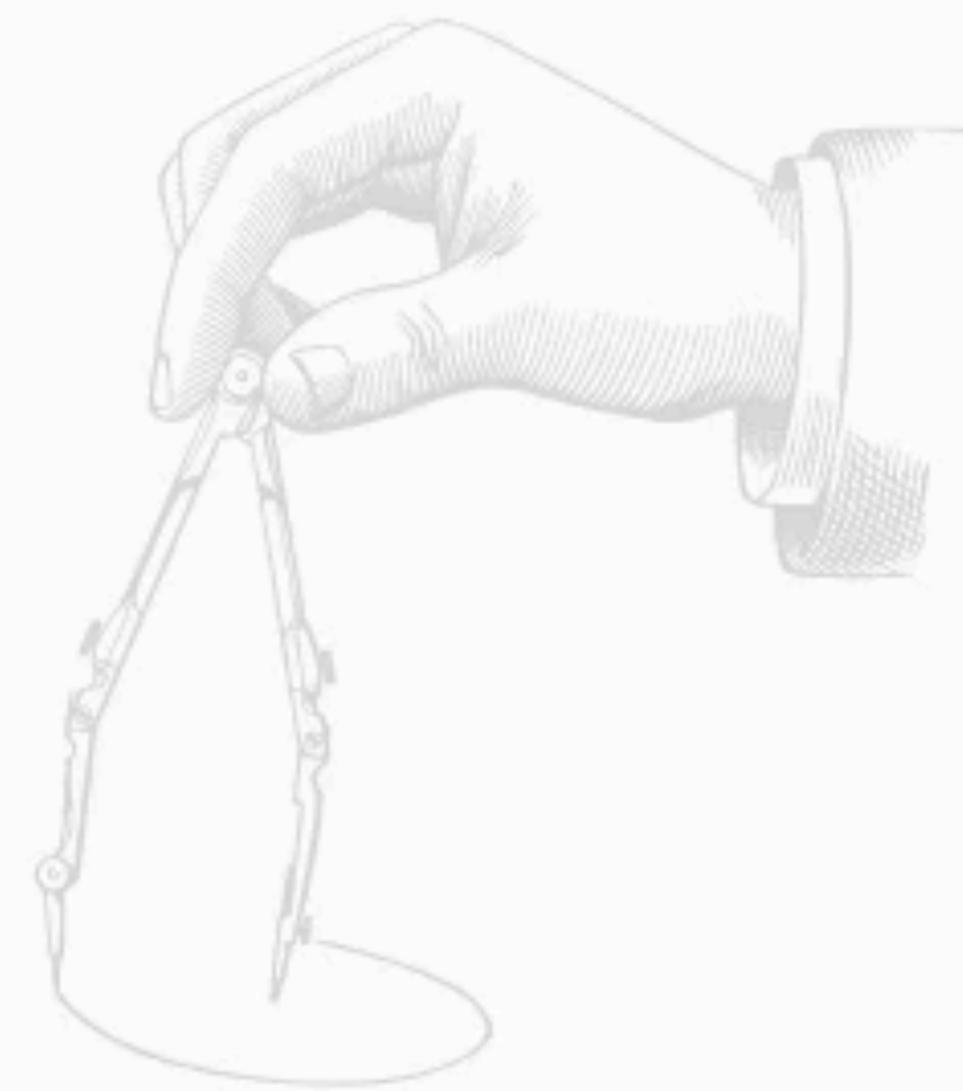
editing

fill

1

2

3 AutoLabel All



Click run to render your diagram.

resample

autostep (off)

download



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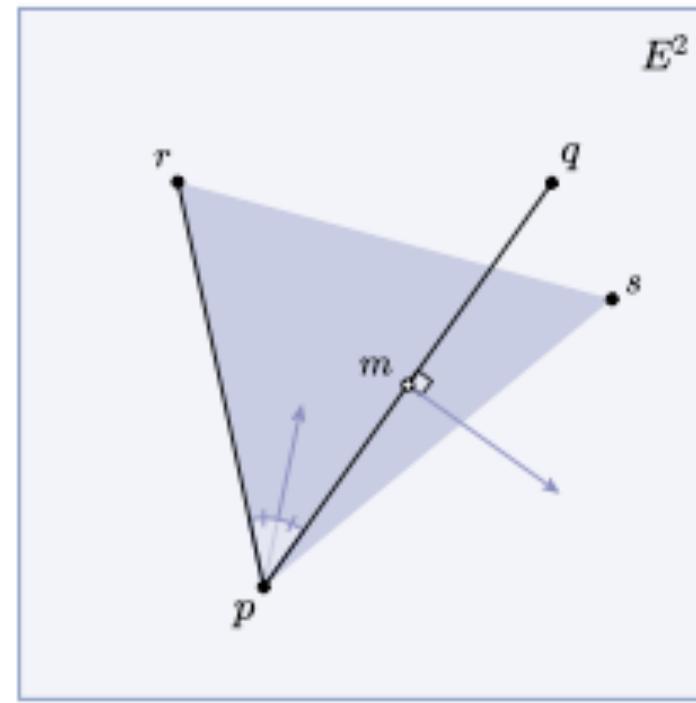
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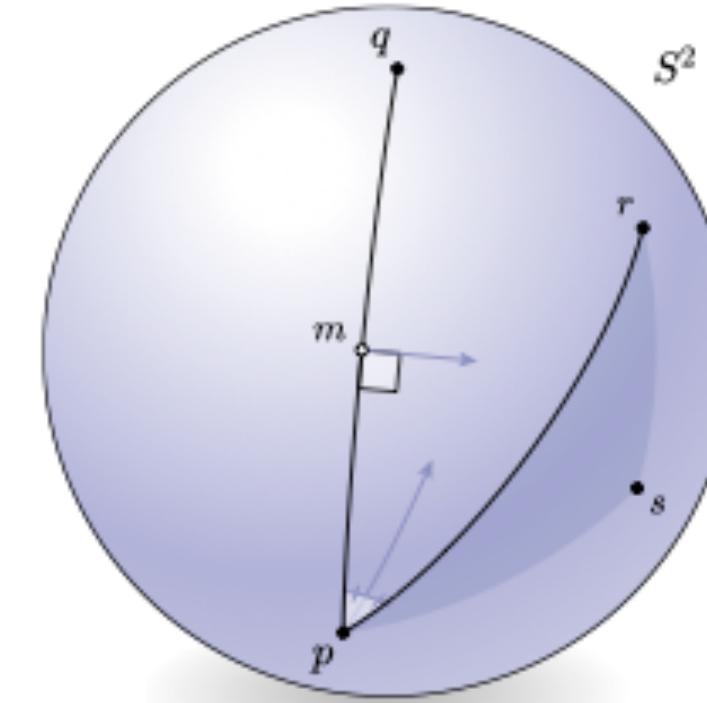
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**Can draw diagrams from any user-defined domain:**

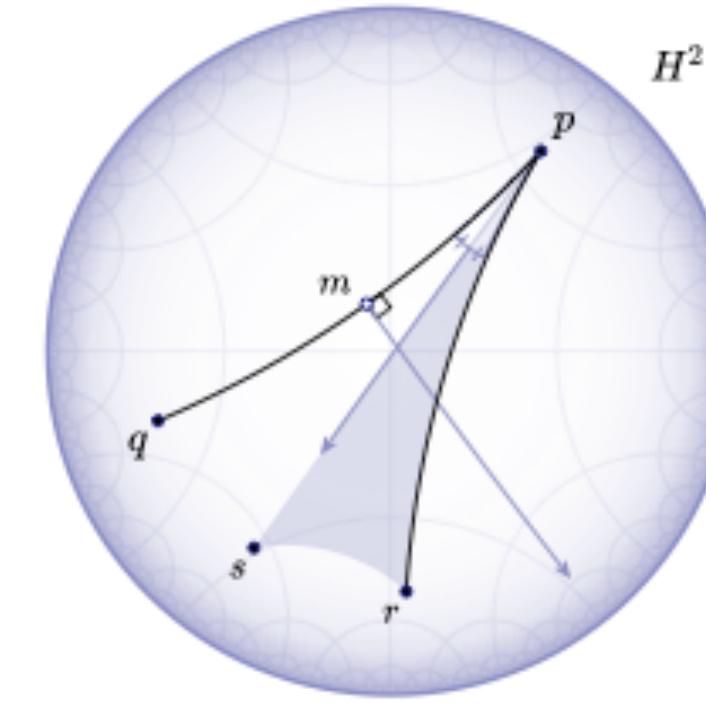
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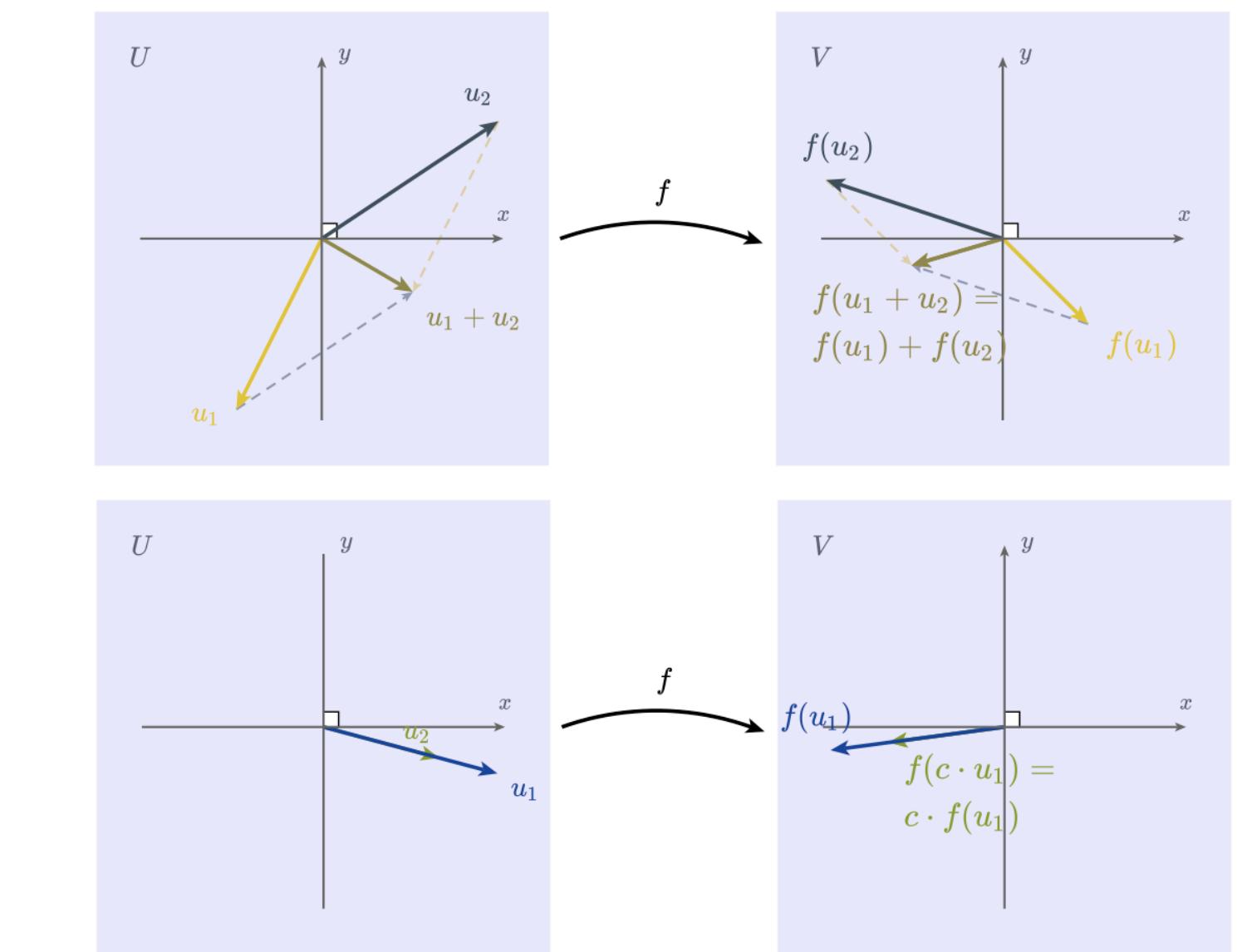
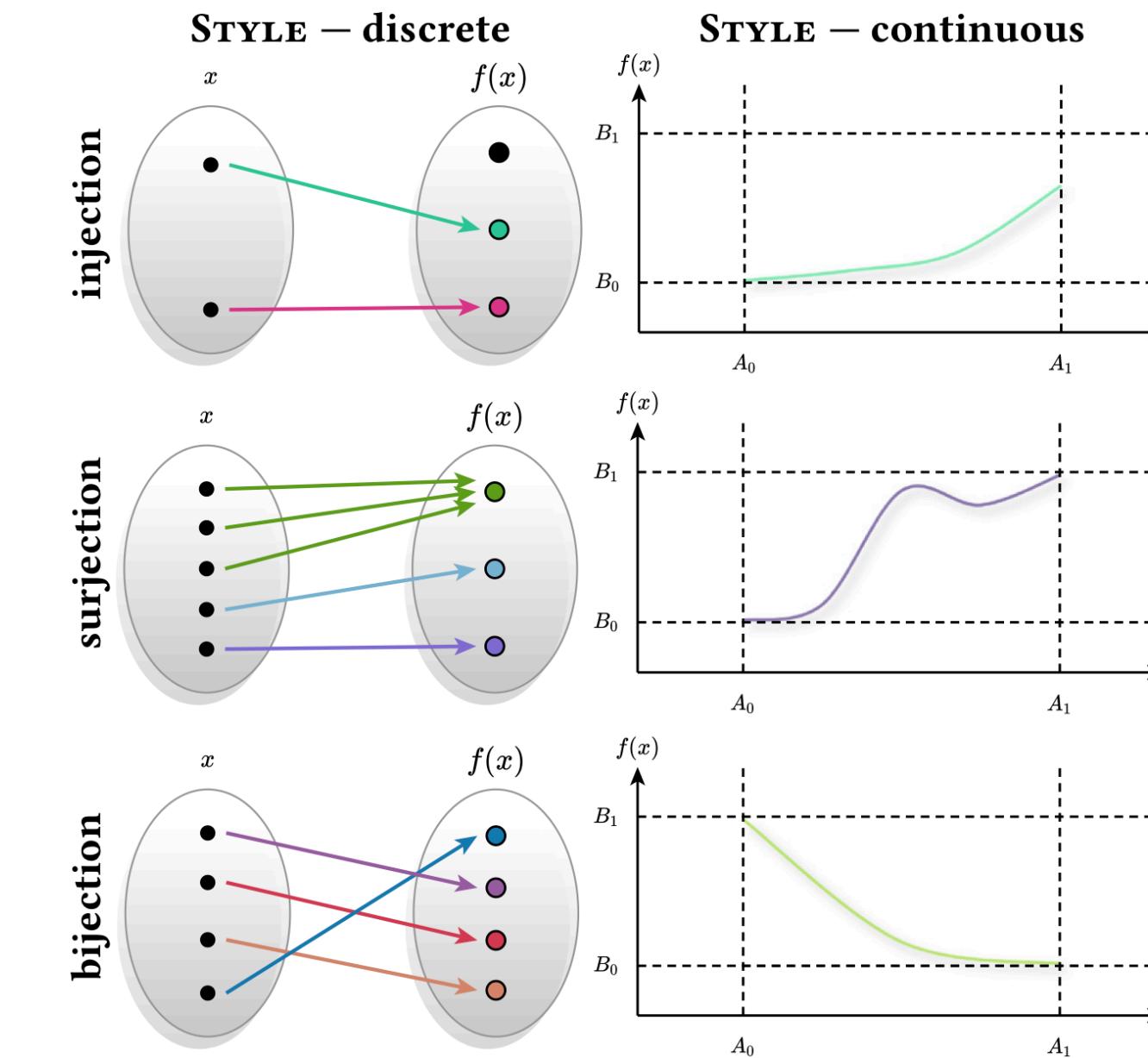
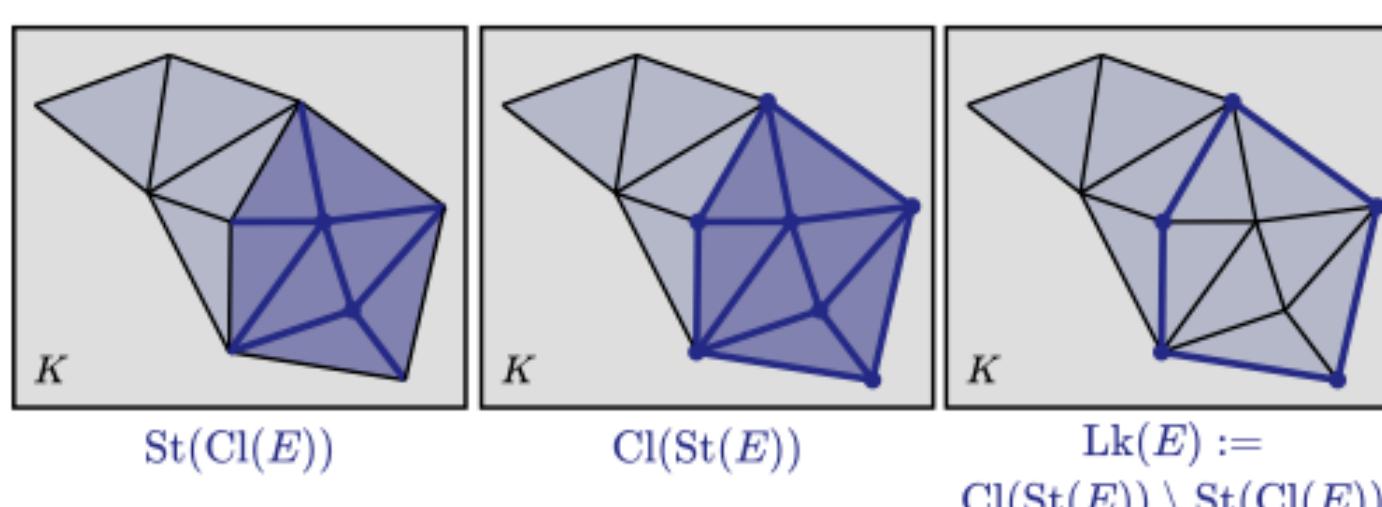
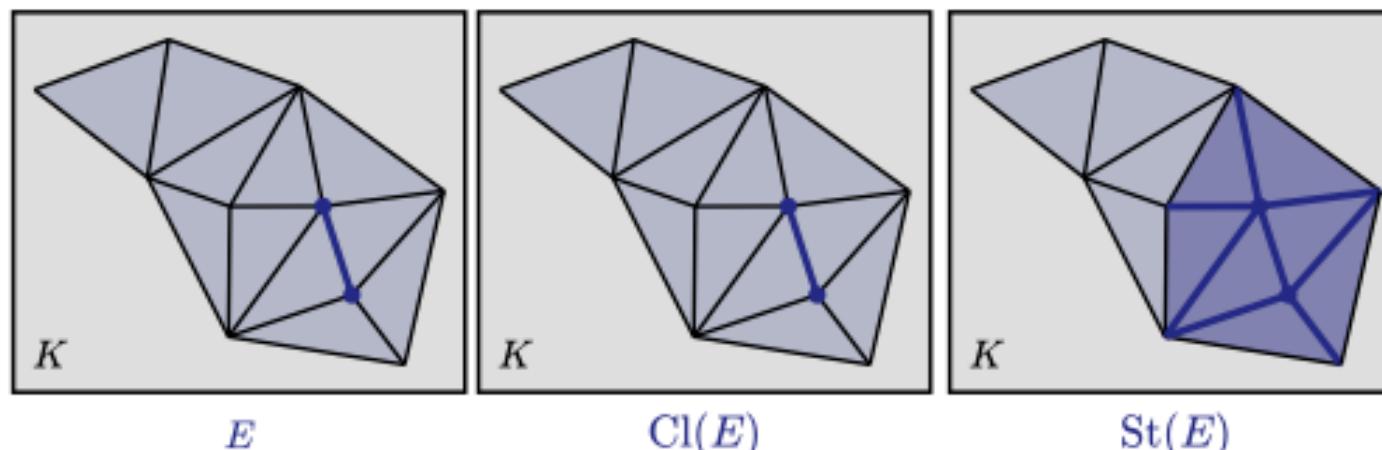
**STYLE — Euclidean**



**STYLE — spherical**



**STYLE — hyperbolic**



# Abstract ideas can be (very) hard to visualize.

## 3.1 THE NOTION OF A TOPOLOGY

The fundamental properties of open subsets of a metric space are outlined in Proposition 2 of Chapter 2. Mathematicians have found from experience that families of subsets having these same properties arise in contexts other than those of metric spaces; hence it is reasonable to study these properties in their own right, abstracted from the limitations that metric spaces impose. In particular, the properties of open sets in metric spaces inspire the following definition.

**Definition 1.** Let  $X$  be any set. A collection  $\tau$  of subsets of  $X$  is said to be a *topology* on  $X$  if the following axioms are satisfied:

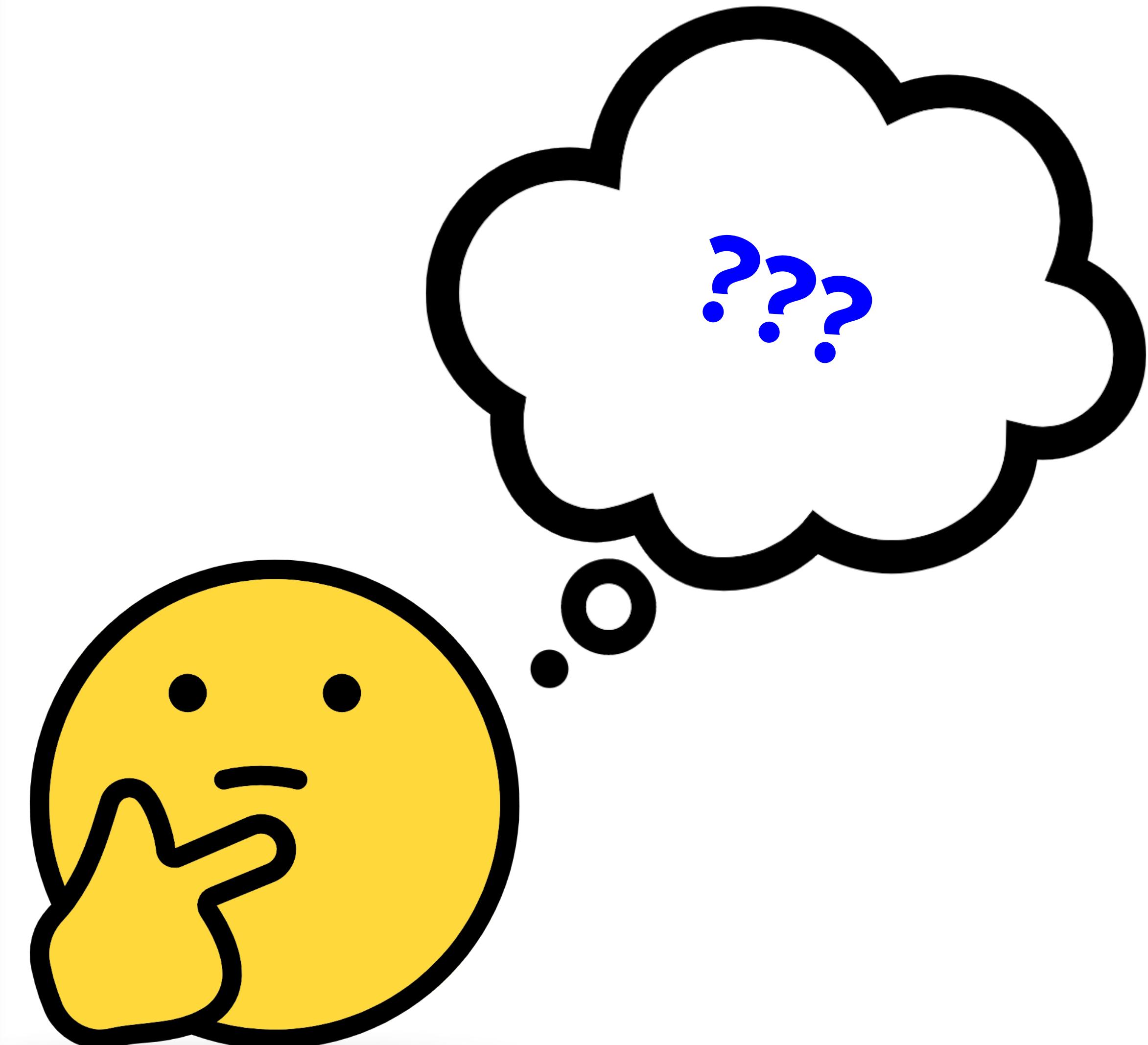
- i)  $X$  and  $\phi$  are members of  $\tau$ .
- ii) The intersection of any two members of  $\tau$  is a member of  $\tau$ .
- iii) The union of any family of members of  $\tau$  is again in  $\tau$ .

The members of  $\tau$  are then said to be  $\tau$ -open subsets of  $X$ , or merely *open* subsets of  $X$  if no confusion may result.

**Example 1.** If  $X, D$  is a metric space, then the  $D$ -open subsets of  $X$  form a topology on  $X$ . This topology is called the *metric topology* induced on  $X$  by  $D$ . It was, of course, this topology that we studied in Chapter 2.

**Example 2.** Let  $X$  be any set. Then the family of all subsets of  $X$  forms a topology on  $X$ . This topology consisting of all of the subsets of  $X$  is called the *discrete topology* on  $X$ . The discrete topology contains the maximum possible number of open sets since, relative to the discrete topology, every subset of  $X$  is open.

**Example 3.** If  $X$  is any set, then the collection  $\{X, \phi\}$  of subsets of  $X$  also forms a topology on  $X$ . This topology is called the *trivial* (by some, the



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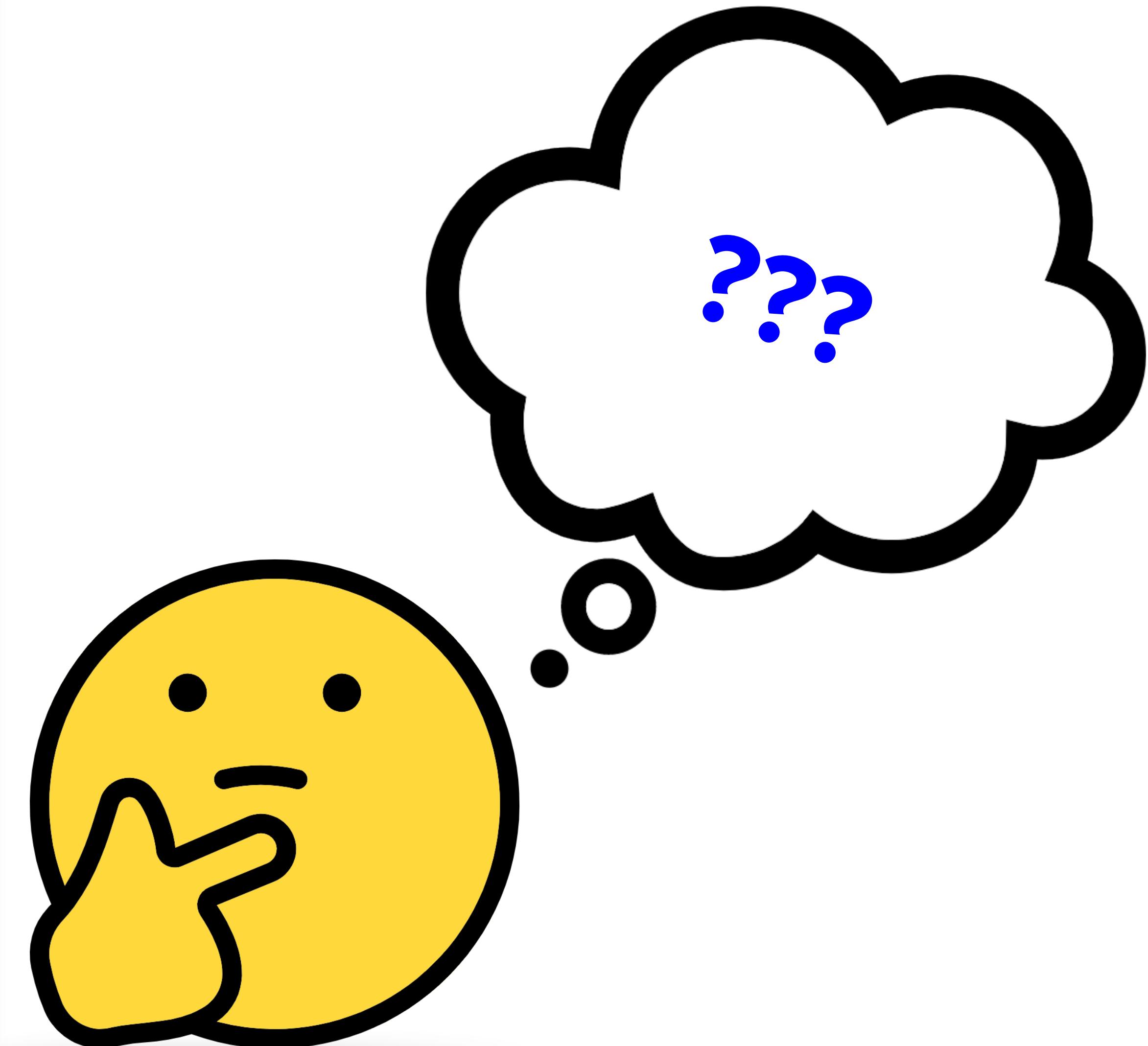
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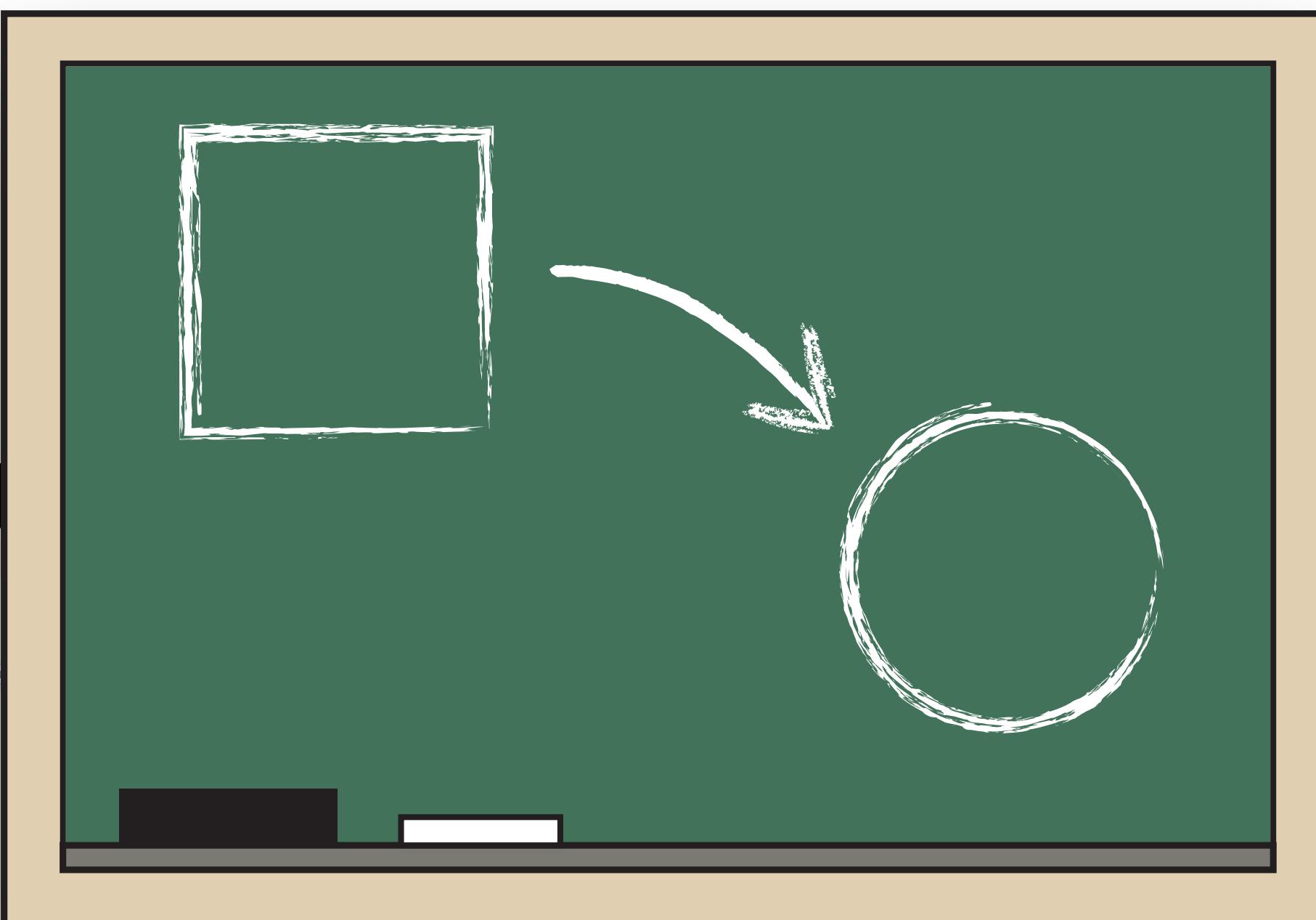
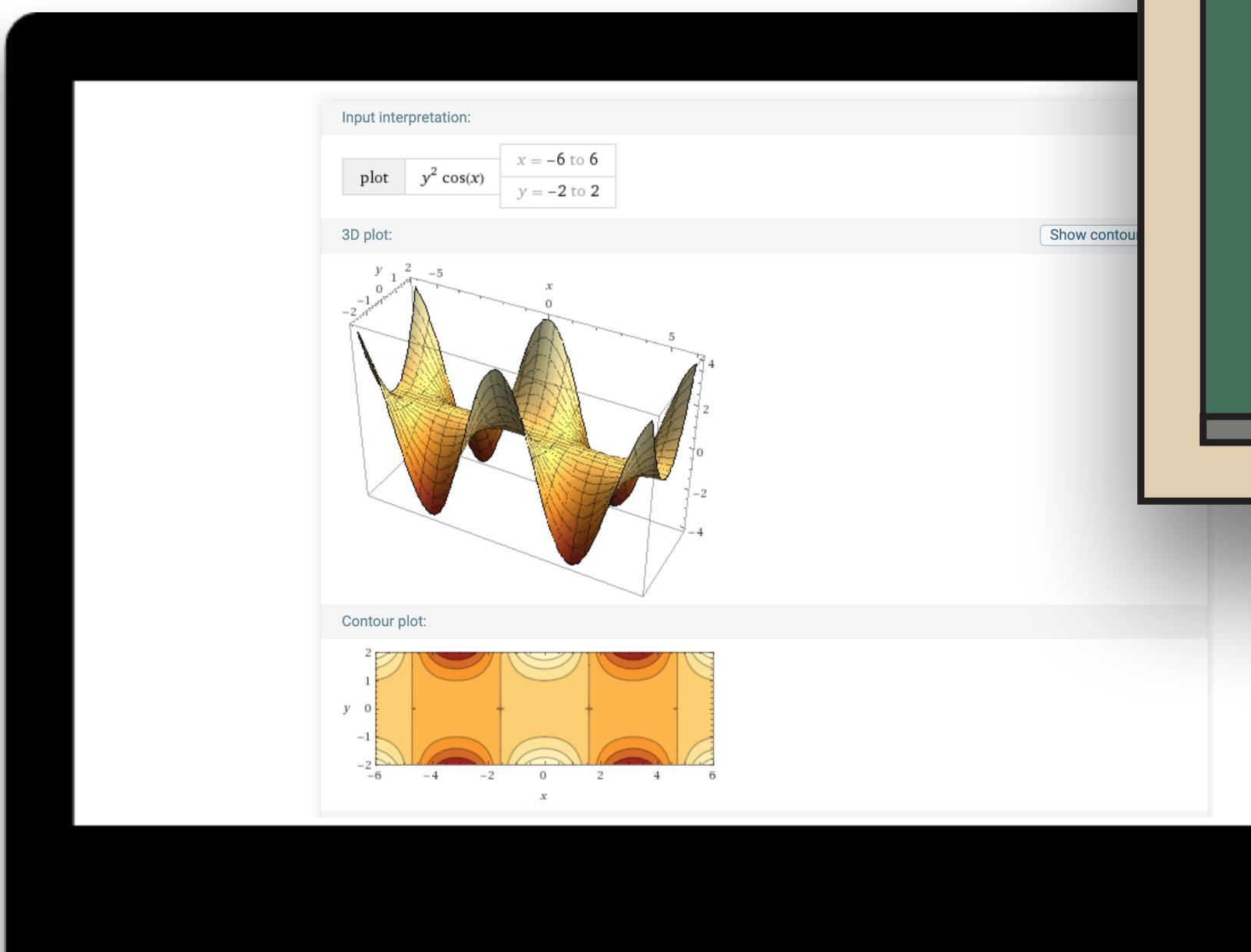
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# Plotting/drawing tools don't solve the problem.



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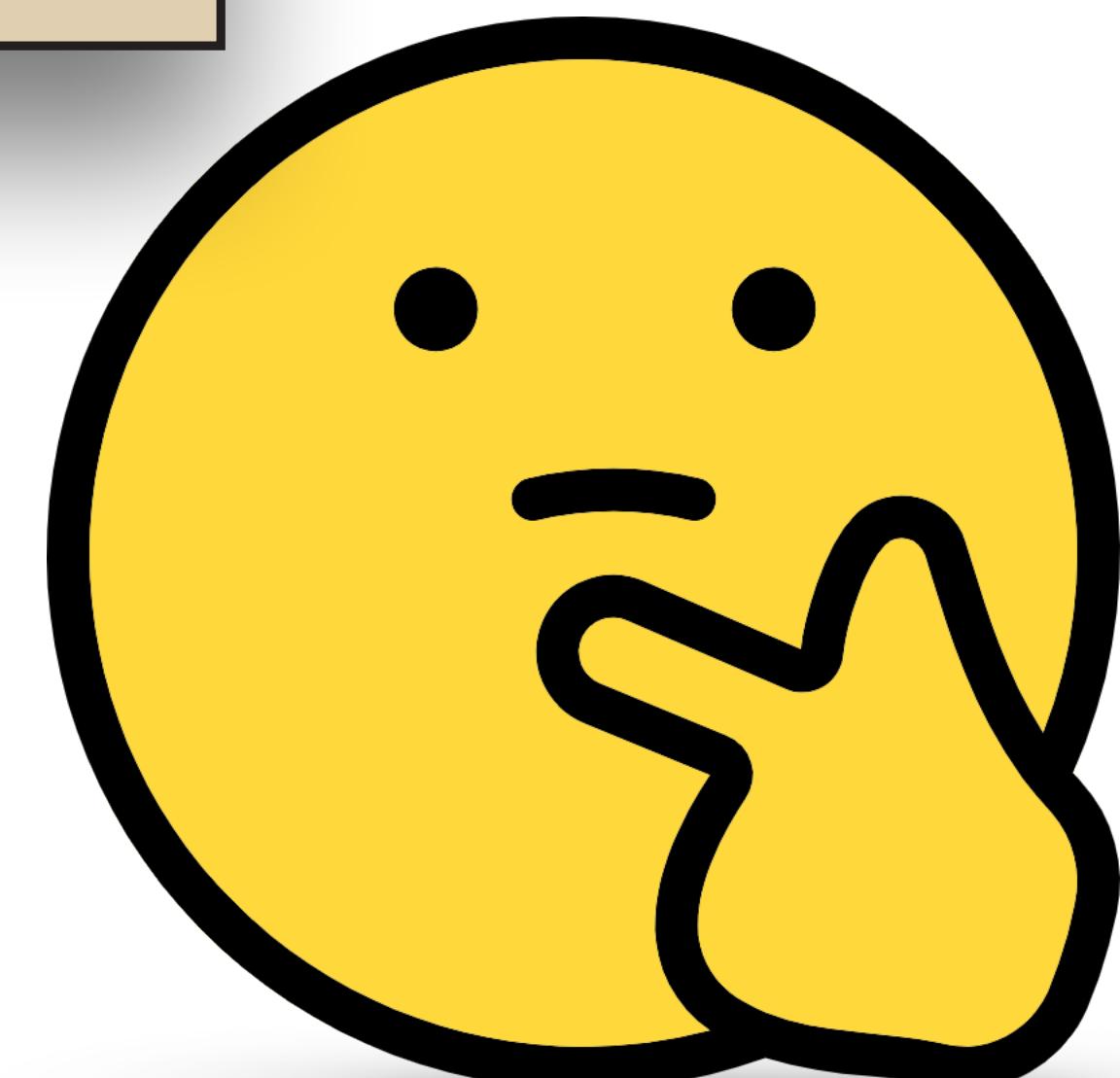
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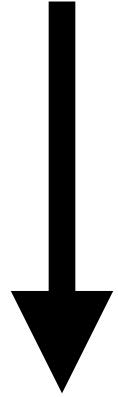
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**specify the mathematical idea**

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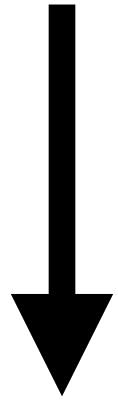
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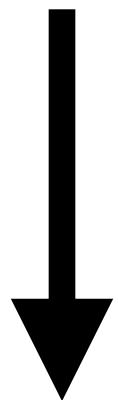
**translate it into a visual interpretation**

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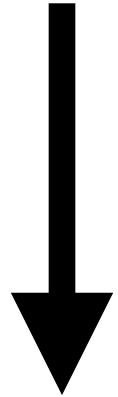
**make a high-quality drawing**

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**Penrose**

# Organizing principles

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- (Specification) A diagram is a **mapping** from abstract mathematical statements to a concrete visual representation.

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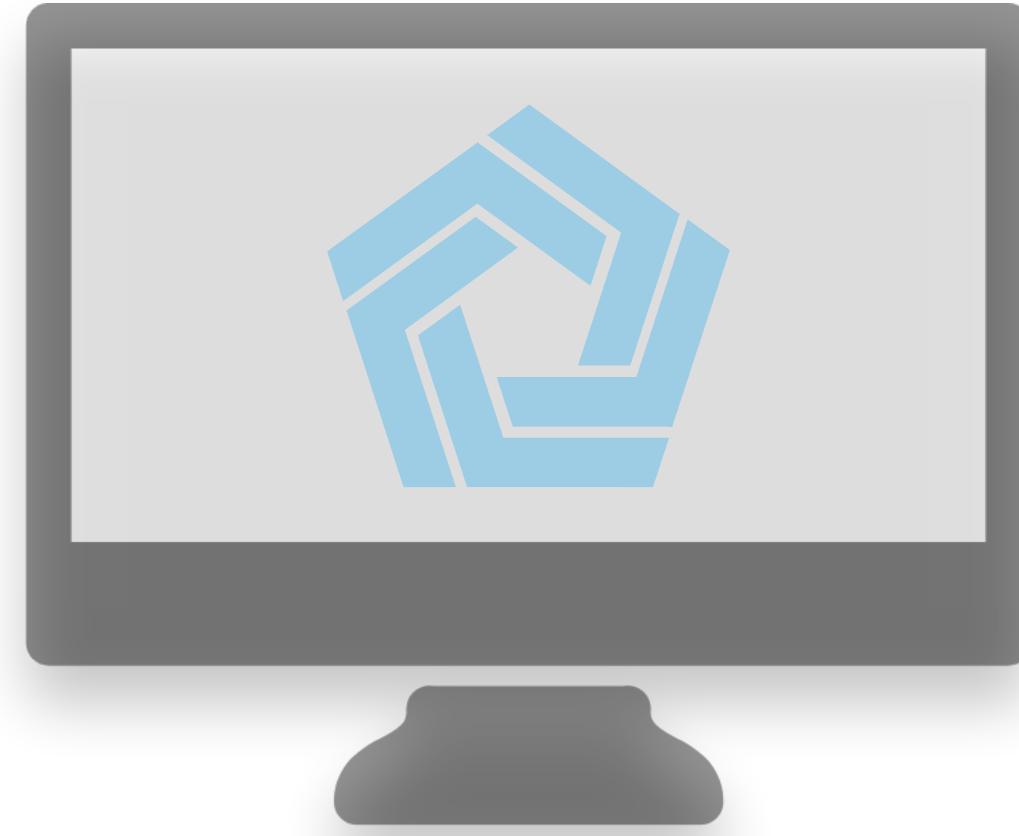
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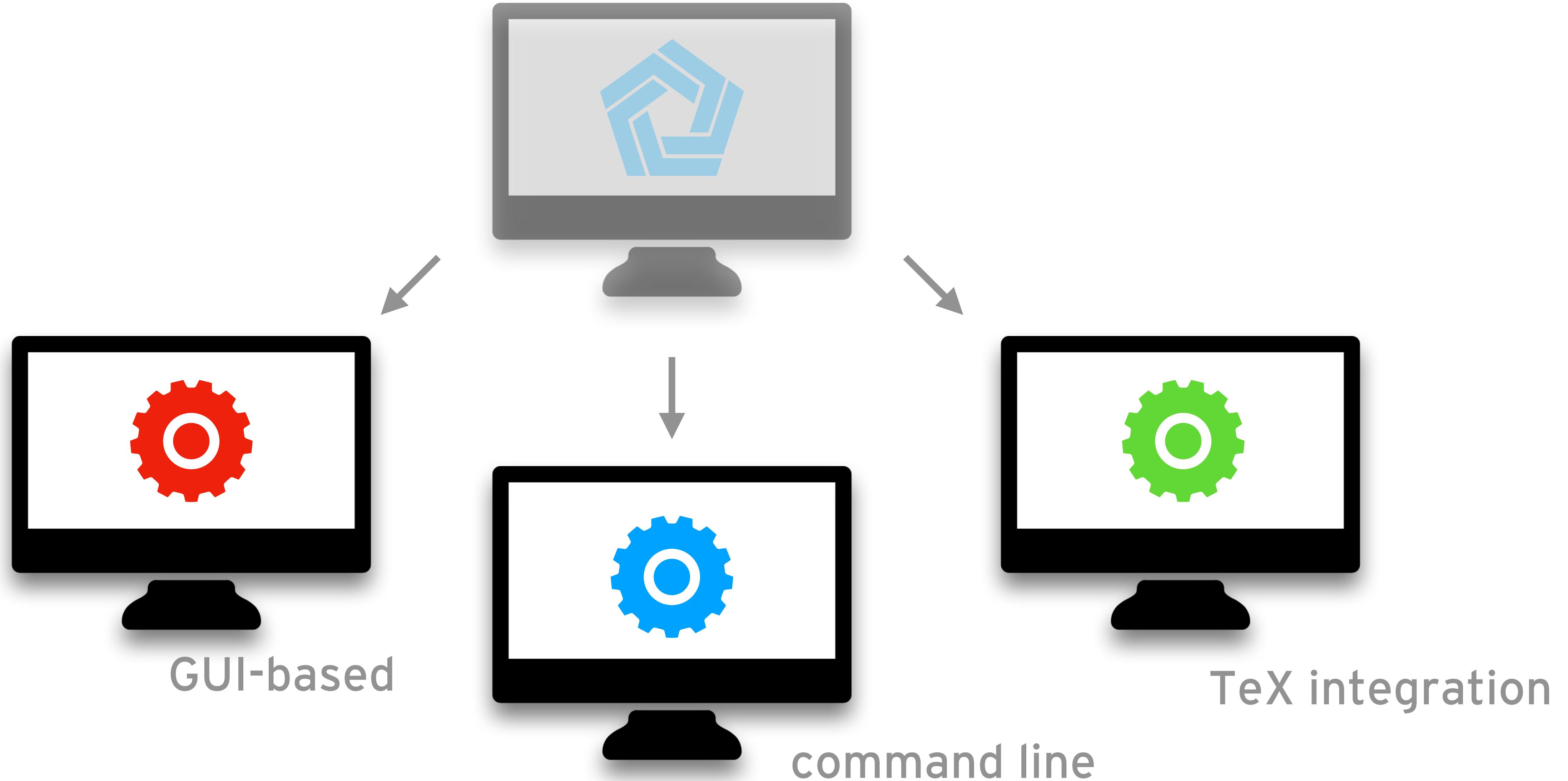
- (Specification) A diagram is a **mapping** from abstract mathematical statements to a concrete visual representation.
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Specification is encoded via domain-specific languages

# Provide a platform for building diagramming tools.



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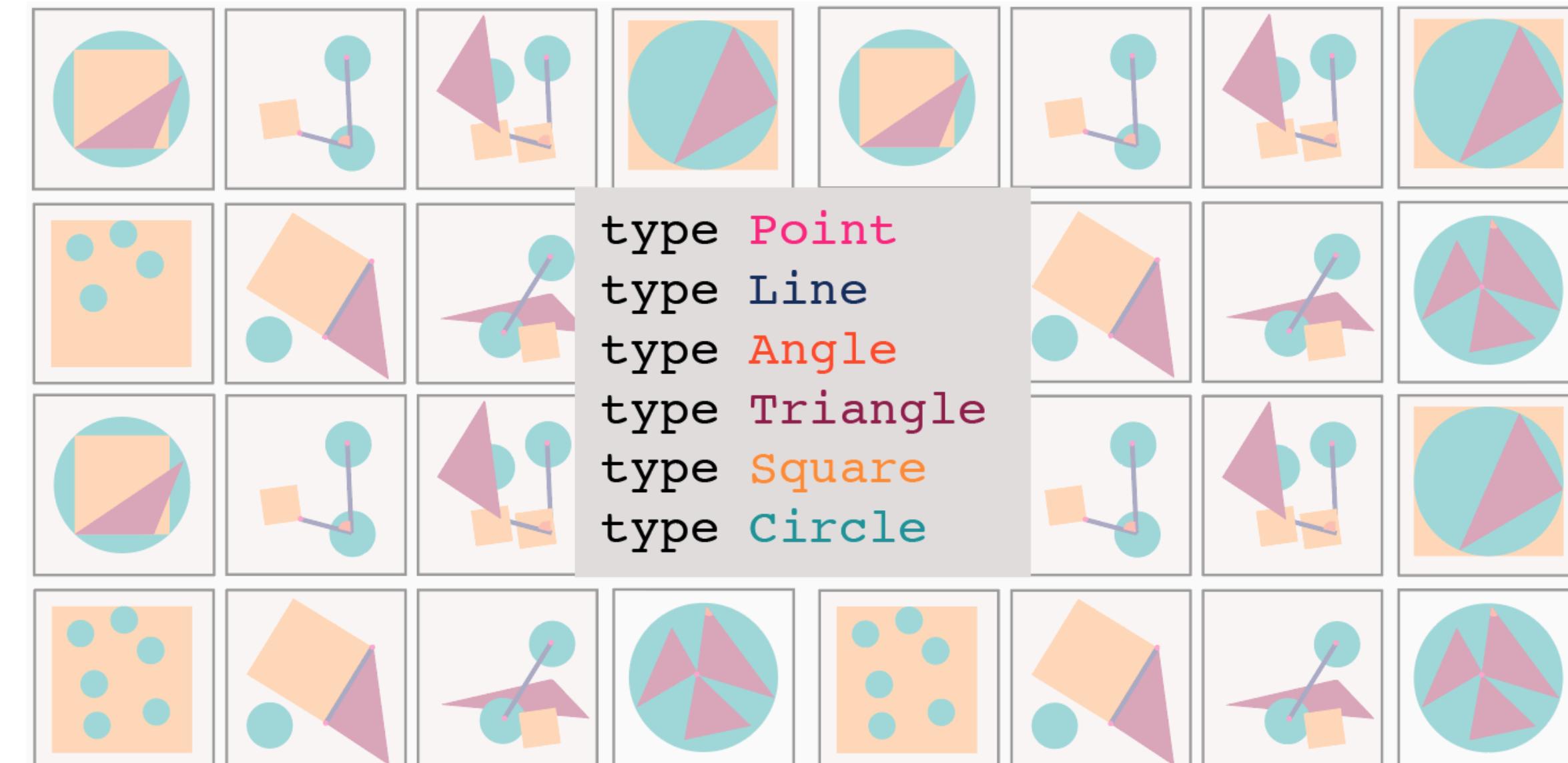
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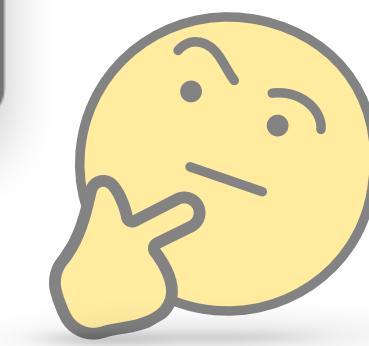
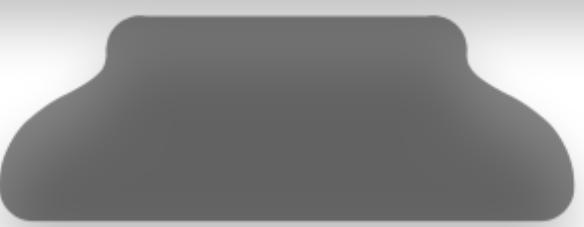
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- Large-scale generation and evolution of collections

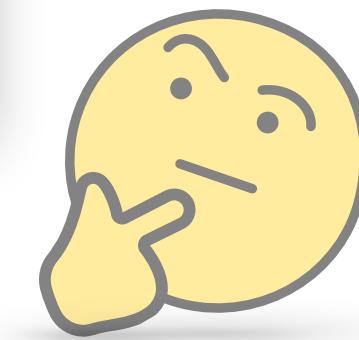
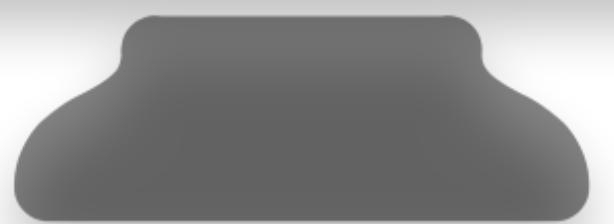


# Talk outline



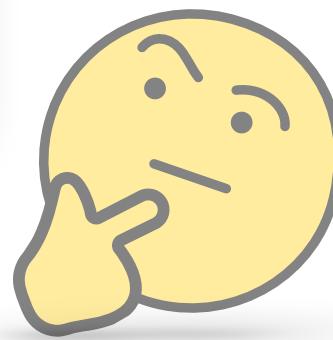
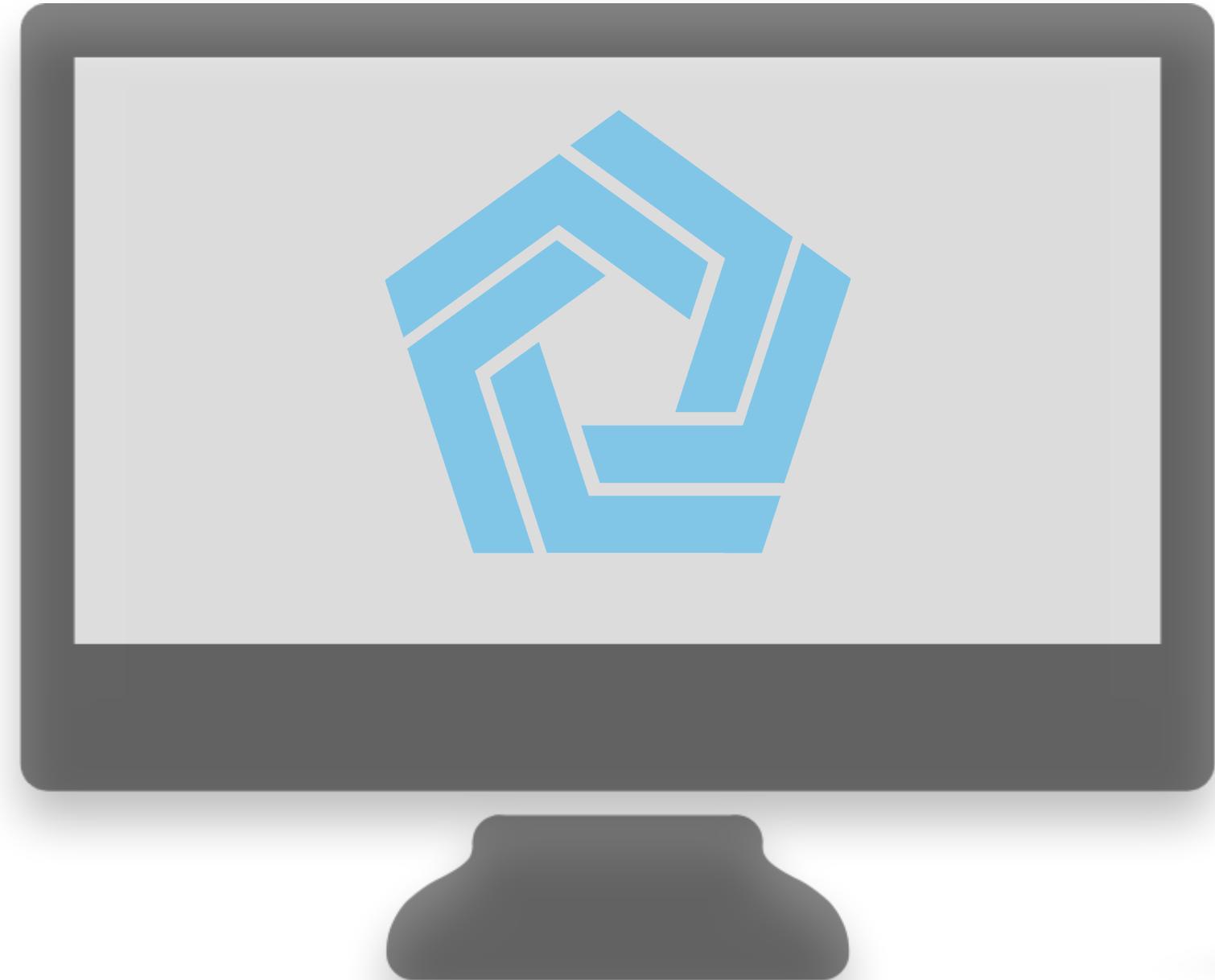
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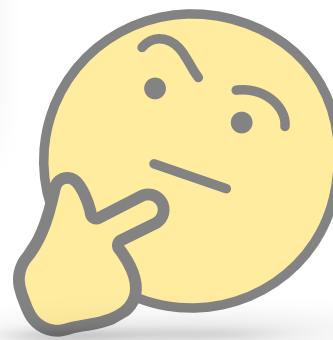
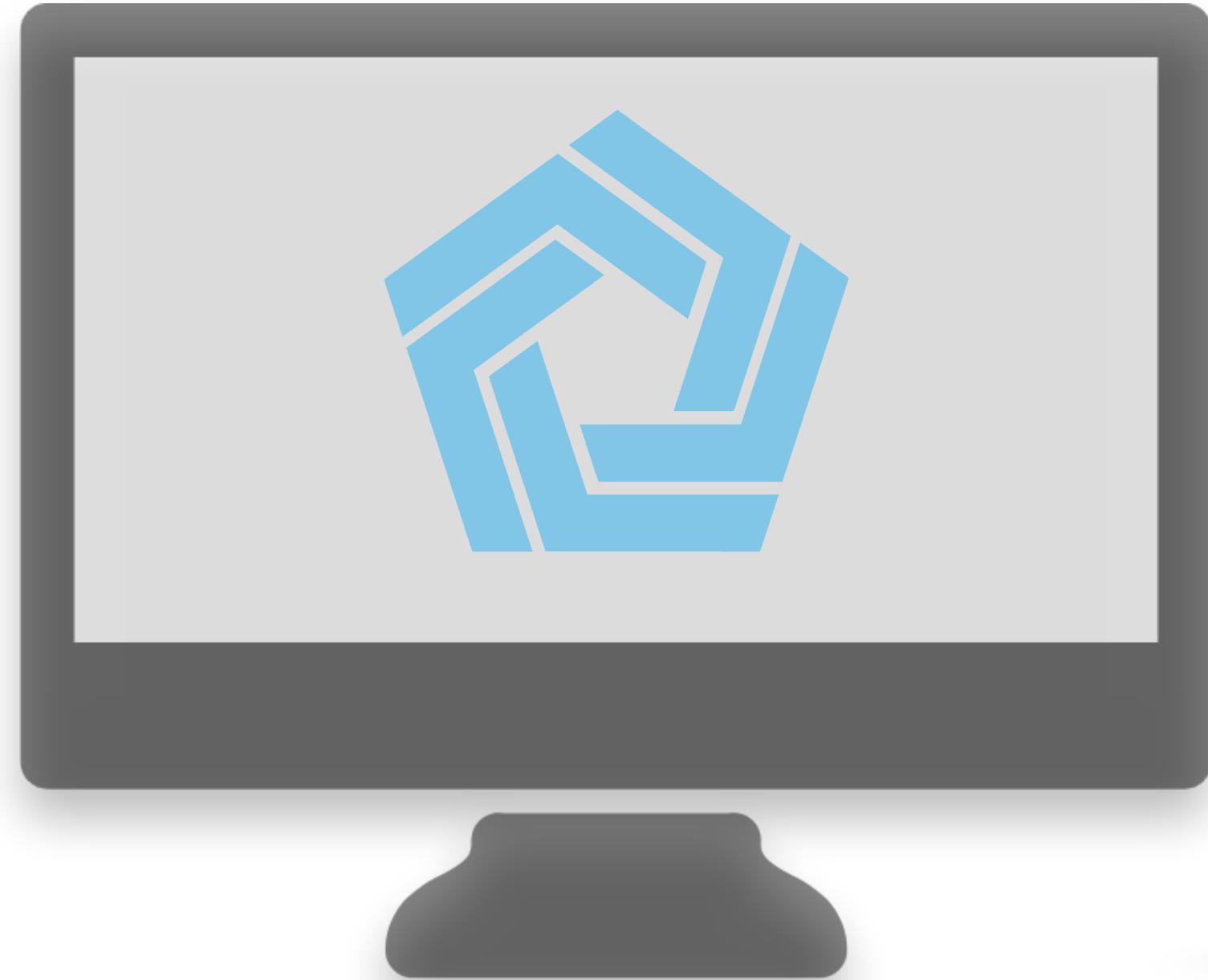
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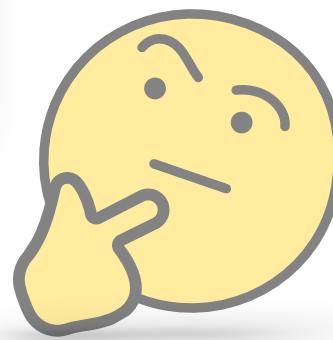
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# Talk outline

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- The system in action



# Goals & related work

# What would an ideal diagramming tool look like?



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# **Design goals for a mathematical diagramming tool**

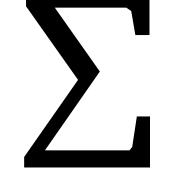
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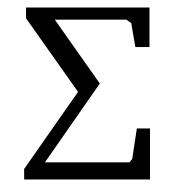
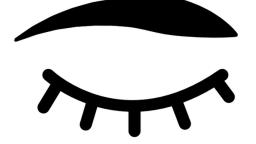
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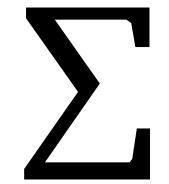
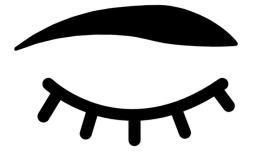
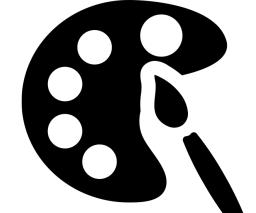
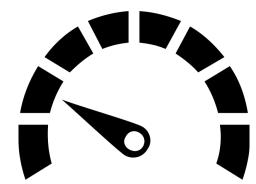
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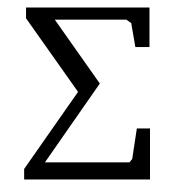
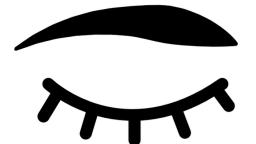
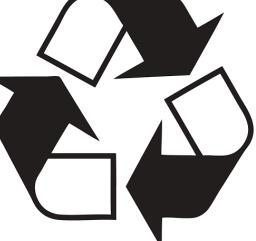
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**translate it into a visual interpretation**



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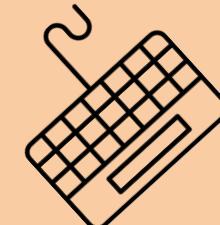
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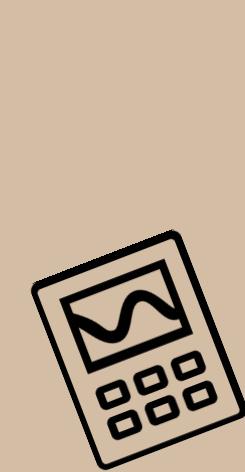
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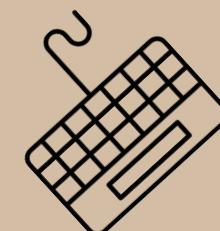


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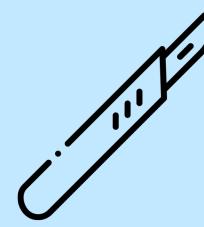
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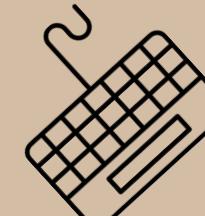
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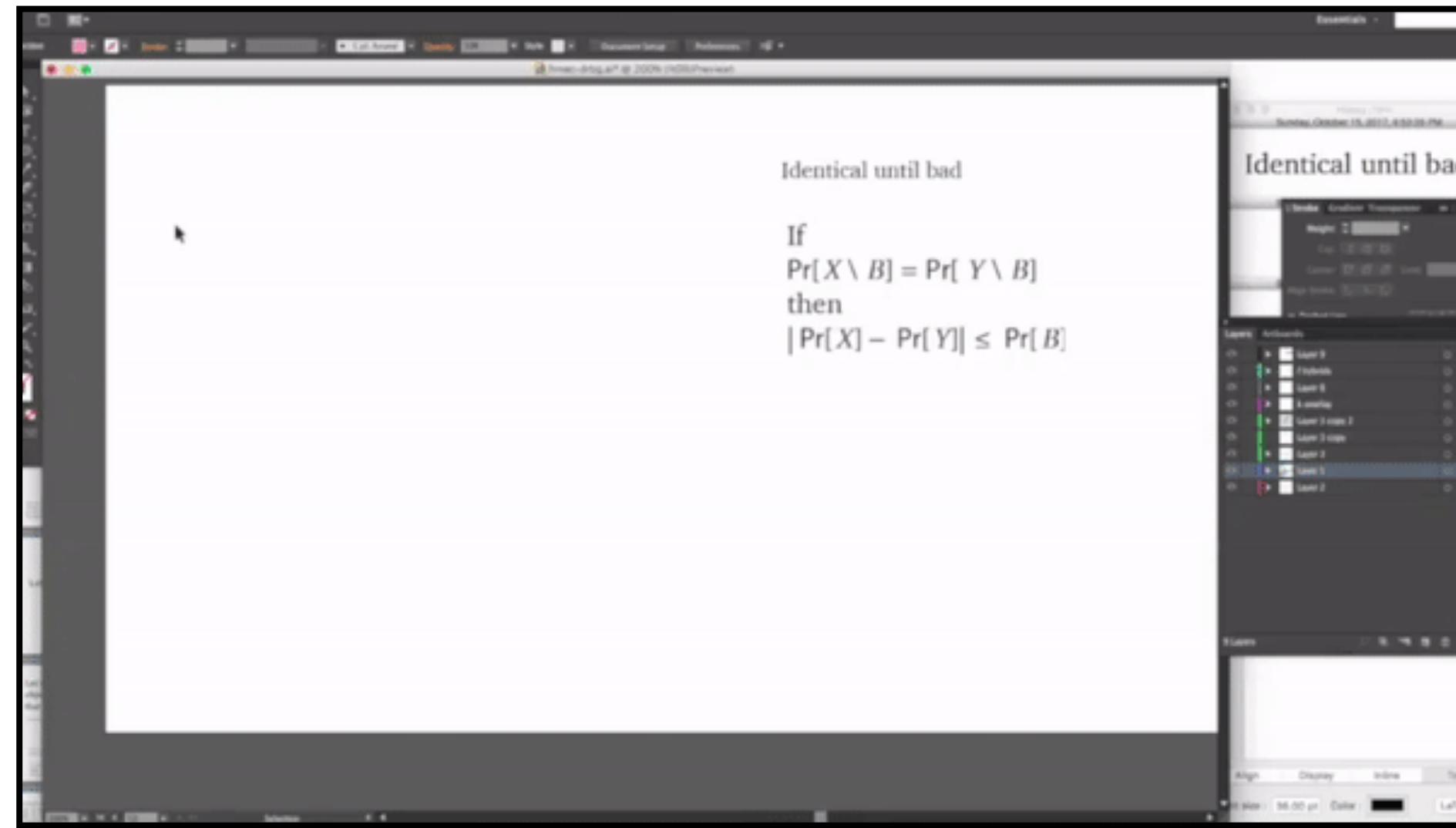
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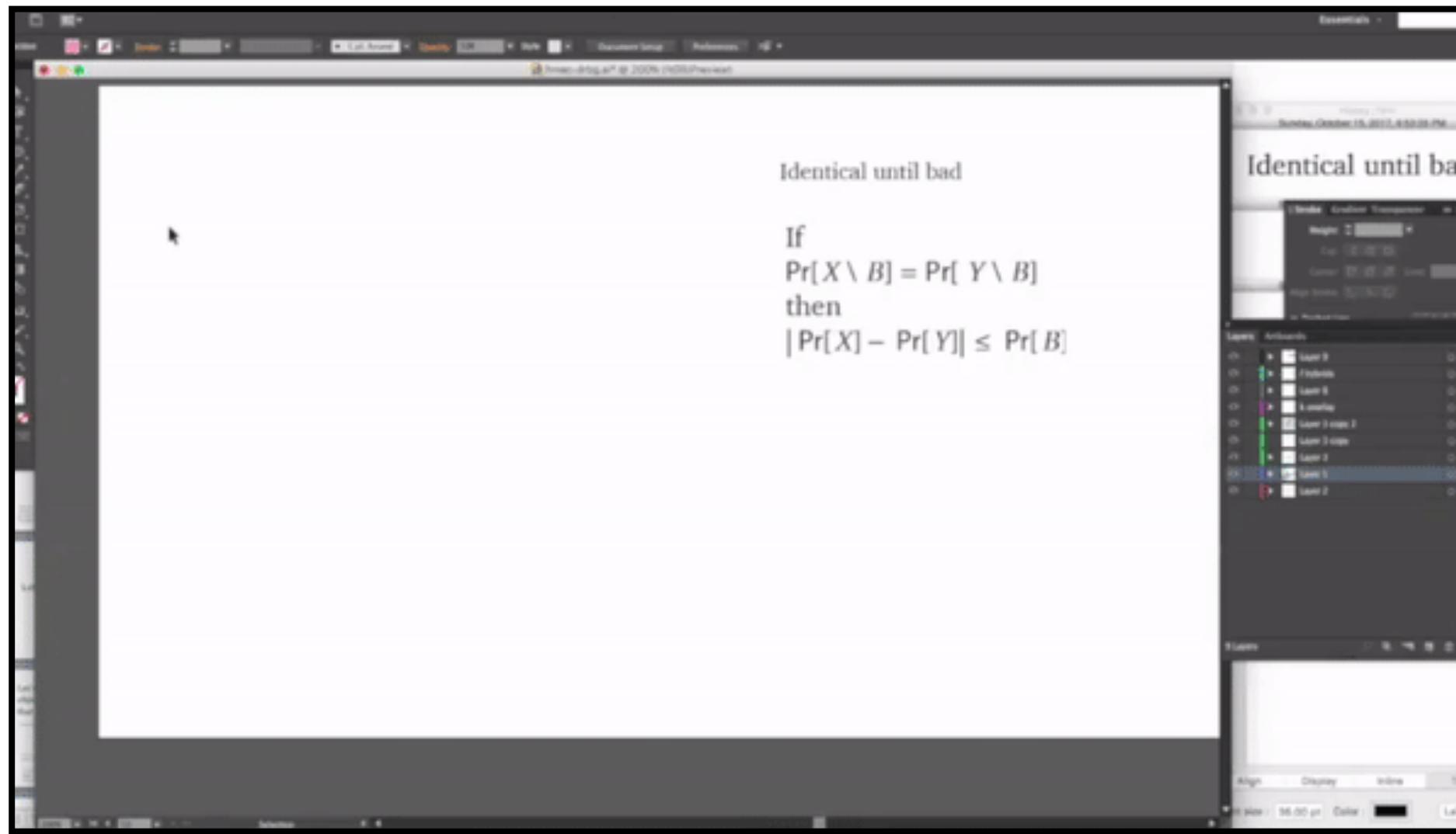
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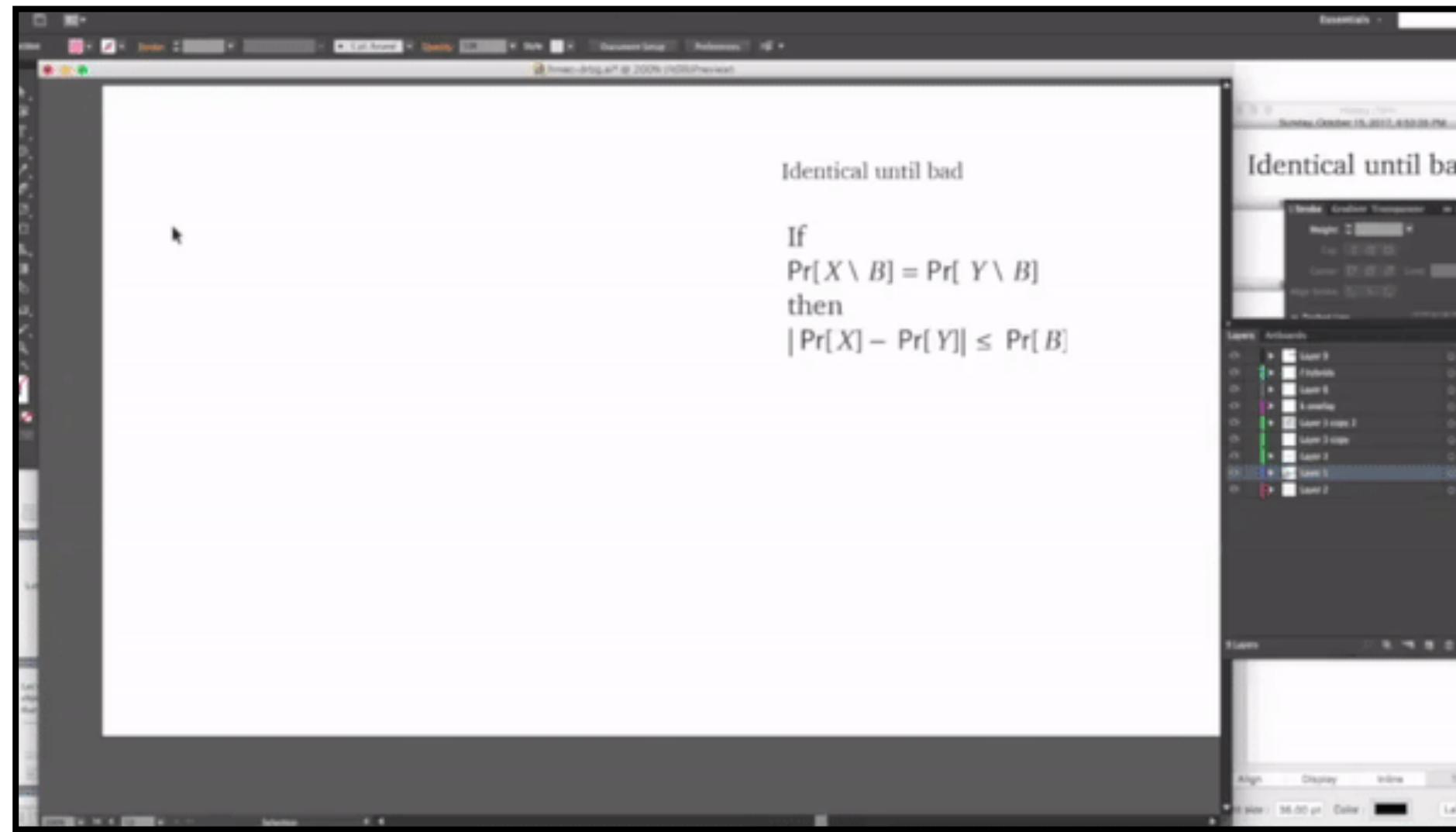
Less of this:



```
\usepackage{tikz}
\begin{document}
\pagestyle{empty}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\begin{scope}[shift={(3cm,-5cm)},fill opacity=0.5]
\draw[fill=red,draw=black](0,0) circle(3);
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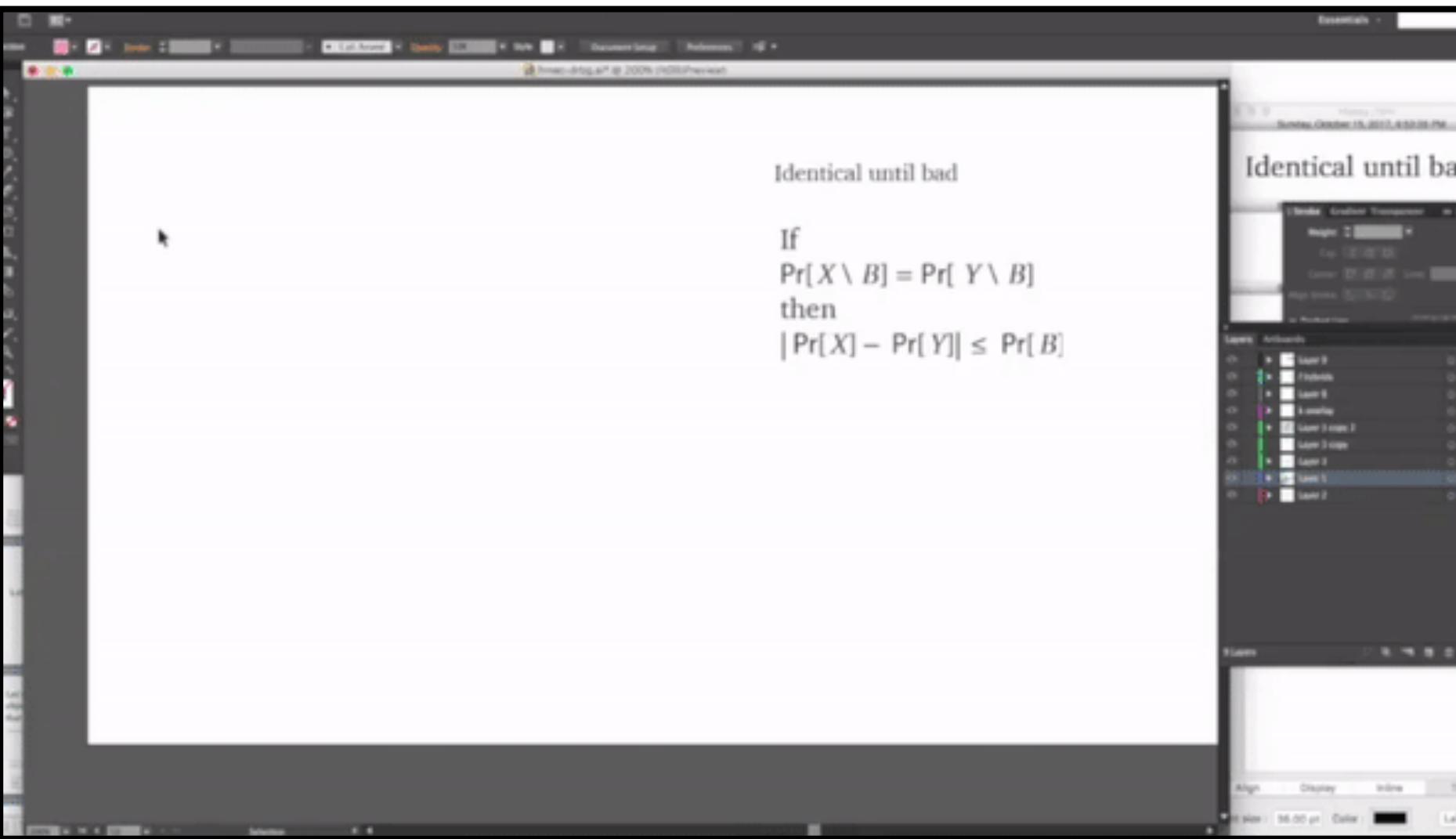


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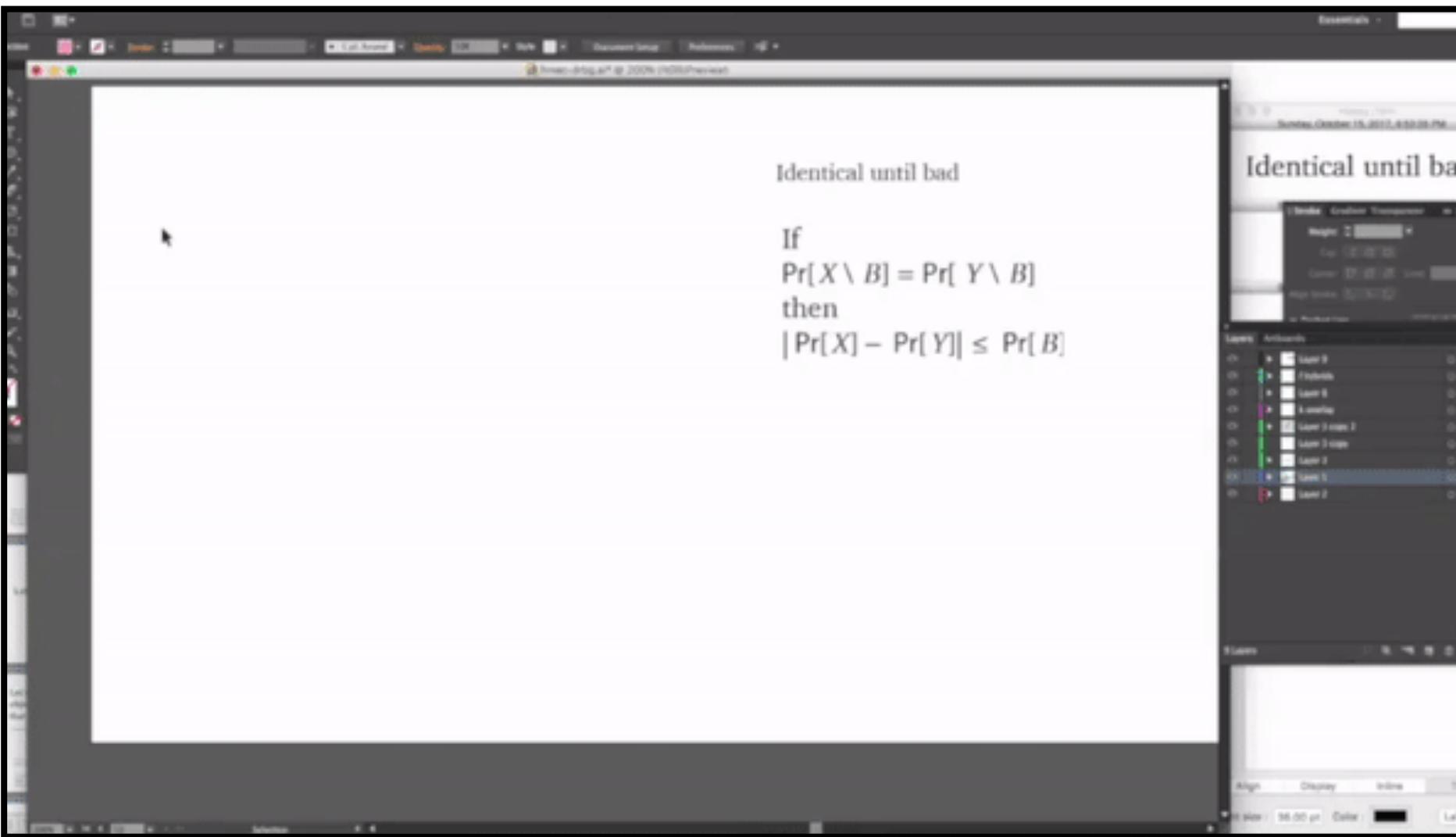
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\end{document}
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More of this:

A screenshot of a LaTeX document page from "3.1 THE NOTION OF A TOPOLOGY". The page contains text about topology and examples. A yellow thinking emoji with a thought bubble containing three question marks is overlaid on the page.

# Goal: provide translation; avoid tedium

Less of this:



```
\usepackage{tikz}  
\begin{document}  
\pagestyle{empty}  
\begin{tikzpicture}  
  \begin{scope}[shift={(3cm,-5cm)}, fill opacity=0.5]  
    \draw[fill=red, draw=black](0,0) circle(3);  
    \draw[fill=green, draw=black](-1.5,1) circle(3);  
    \draw[fill=blue, draw=black](1.5,1) circle(3);  
    \node at (0,4) (A) {\large\textbf{A}};  
    \node at (-2,1) (B) {\large\textbf{B}};  
    \node at (2,1) (C) {\large\textbf{C}};  
    \node at (0,0) (D) {\large\textbf{D}};  
  \end{scope}  
\end{tikzpicture}  
\end{document}
```

More of this:

The image shows a LaTeX document page with the following text:

### 3.1 THE NOTION OF A TOPOLOGY

The fundamental properties of open subsets of a metric space were discussed in Proposition 2 of Chapter 2. Mathematicians have found it useful to consider families of subsets having these same properties in spaces other than those of metric spaces; hence it is reasonable to study these properties in their own right, abstracted from the limiting conditions metric spaces impose. In particular, the properties of open sets in metric spaces inspire the following definition.

**Definition 1.** Let  $X$  be any set. A collection  $\tau$  of subsets of  $X$  is said to be a *topology* on  $X$  if the following axioms are satisfied.

- $X$  and  $\phi$  are members of  $\tau$ .
- The intersection of any finite number of members of  $\tau$  is also a member of  $\tau$ .
- The union of any family of members of  $\tau$  is also a member of  $\tau$ .

The members of  $\tau$  are the *open sets* of  $X$ , or merely the *open subsets* of  $X$  if no topology is specified.

**Example 1.** If  $X$ ,  $D$  is a metric space, then the collection of all subsets of  $X$  form a topology on  $X$ . This topology is called the *metric topology* induced on  $X$  by  $D$ . It was, of course, discussed in Chapter 2.

**Example 2.** Let  $X$  be any set. Then the collection of all subsets of  $X$  forms a topology on  $X$ . This topology consisting of all of the subsets of  $X$  is called the *discrete topology* on  $X$ . The discrete topology contains the maximum possible number of open sets since, relative to the discrete topology, every subset of  $X$  is open.

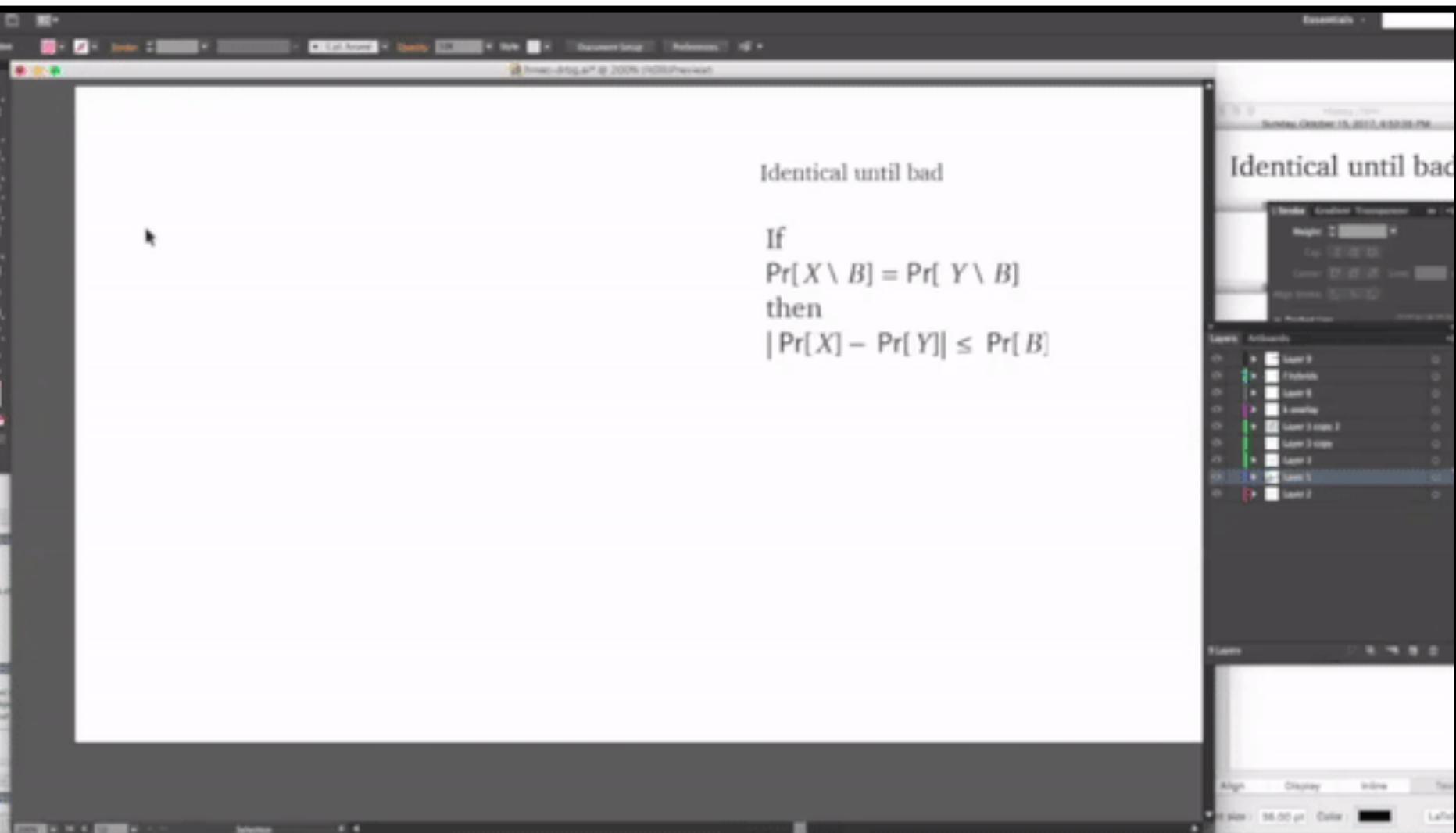
**Example 3.** If  $X$  is any set, then the collection  $\{X, \phi\}$  of subsets of  $X$  also forms a topology on  $X$ . This topology is called the *trivial topology* on  $X$ .

A yellow thinking emoji with a thought bubble containing three question marks is overlaid on the page.



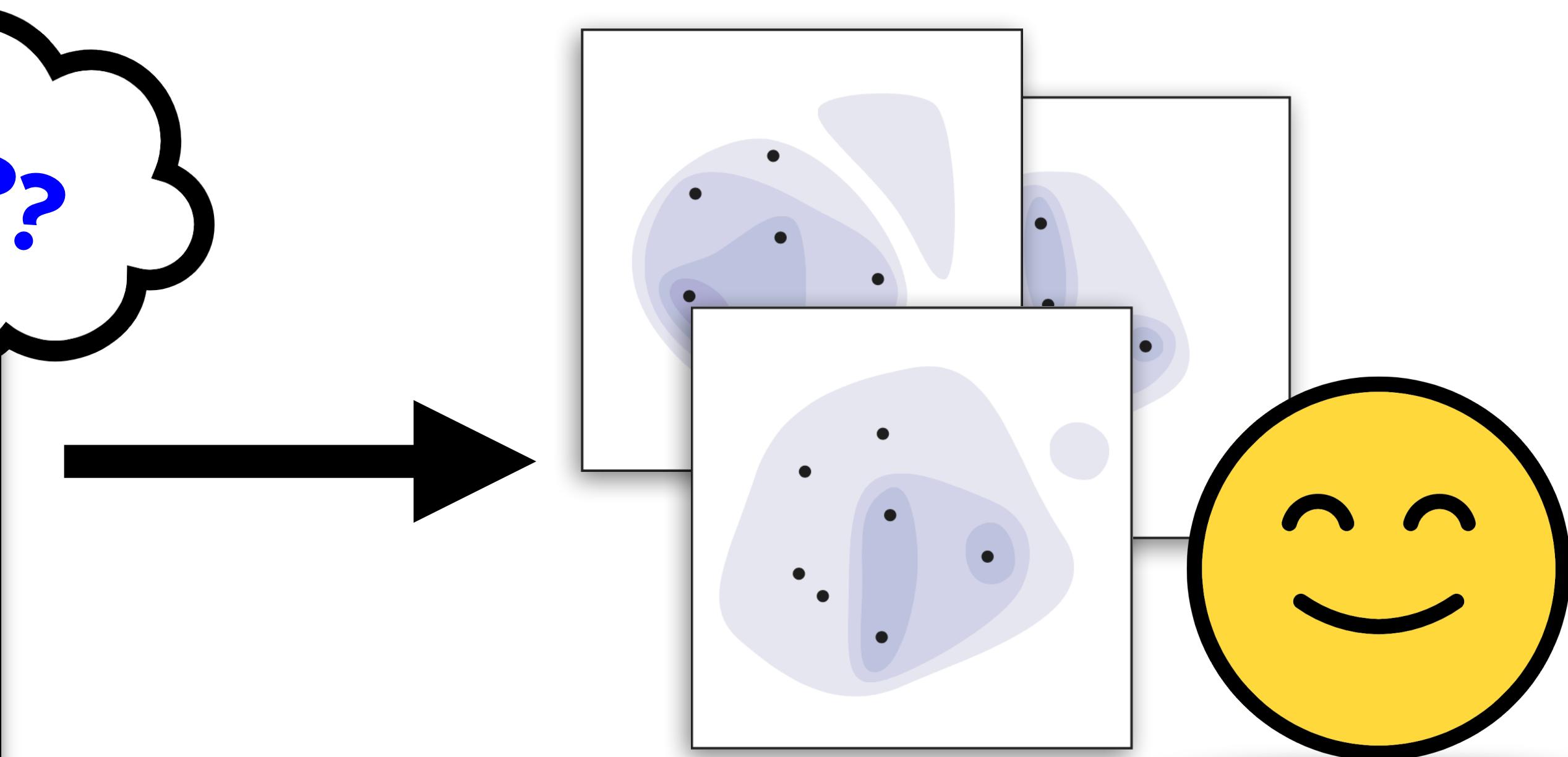
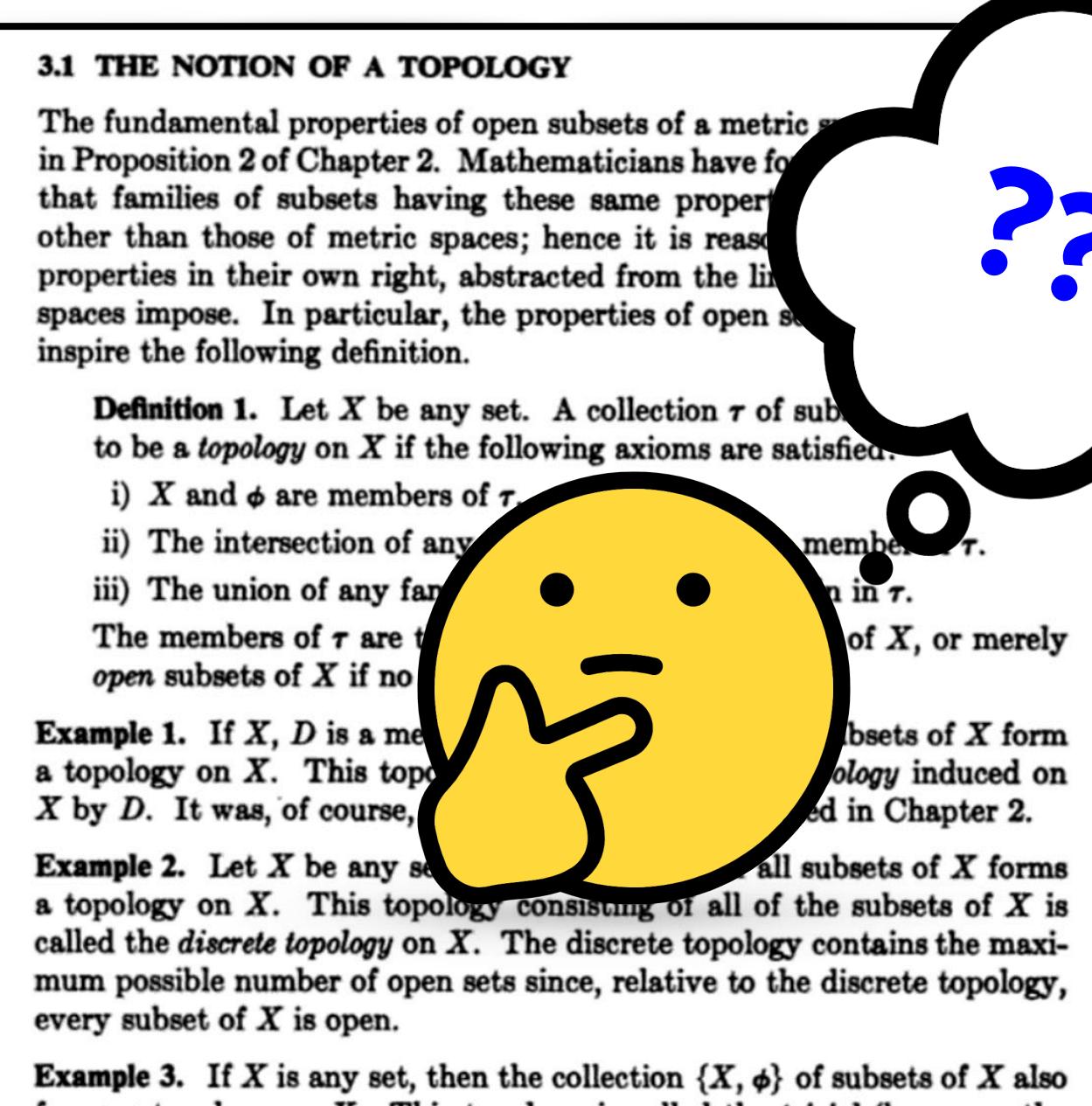
# Goal: provide translation; avoid tedium

Less of this:



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\usepackage{tikz}
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\node at (0,0) (D) {\large\textbf{D}};
\end{scope}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{document}
```

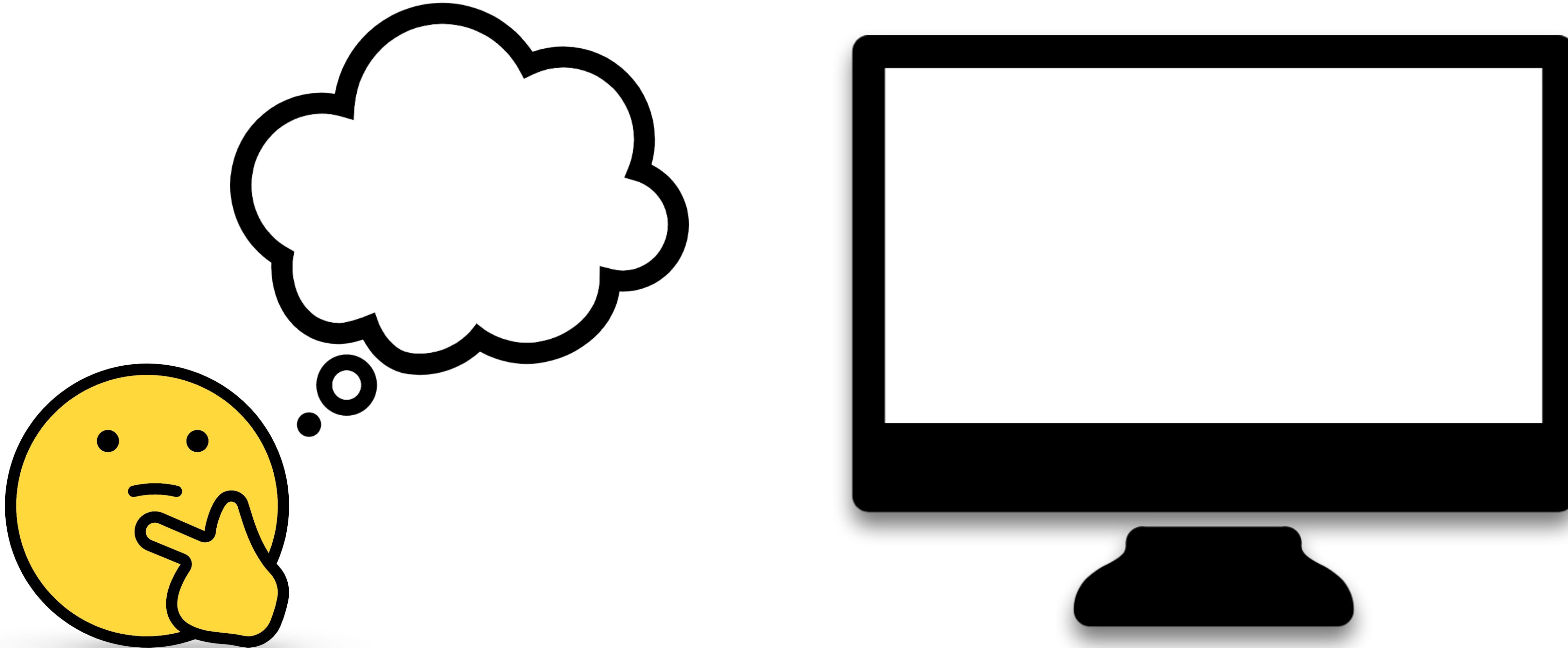
More of this:



# System design principles

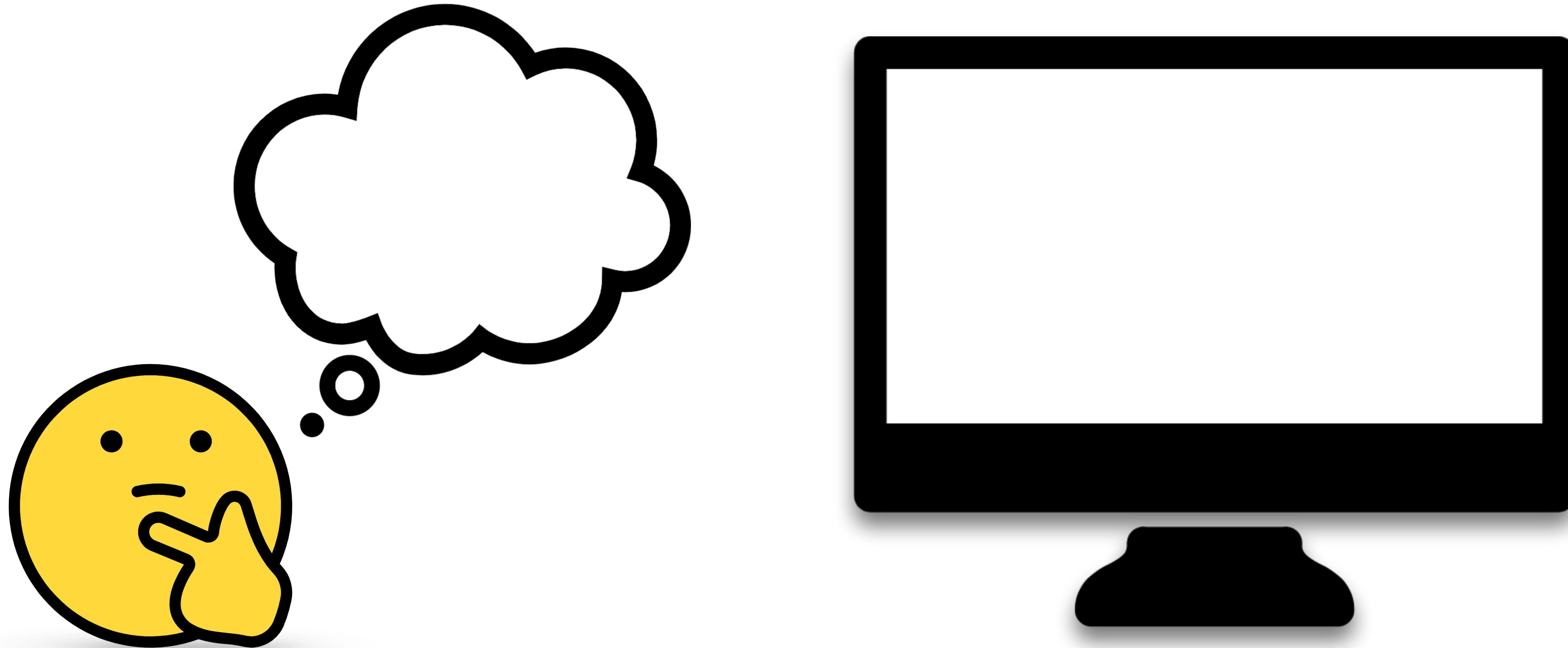
# Modeling how people visualize abstract ideas by hand

There exist sets  $A, B$  such that  $B \subseteq A$ .



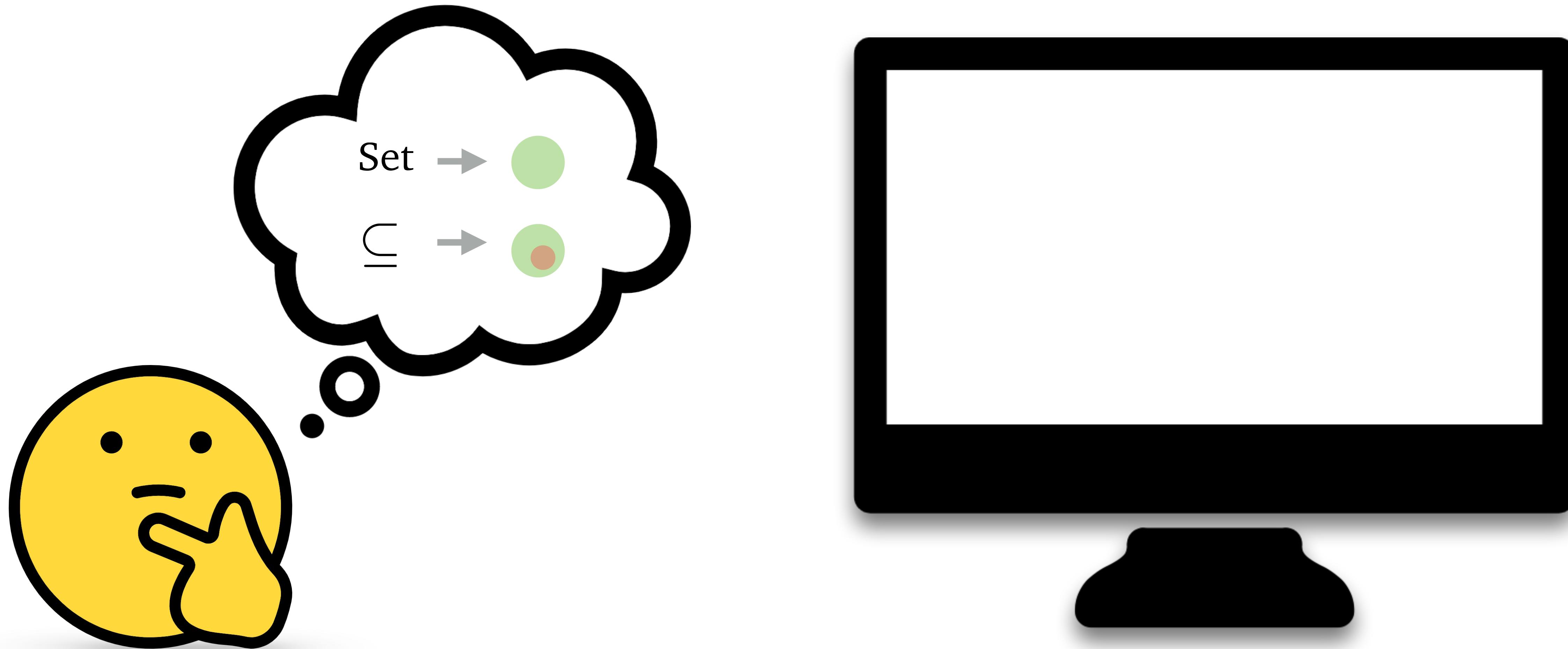
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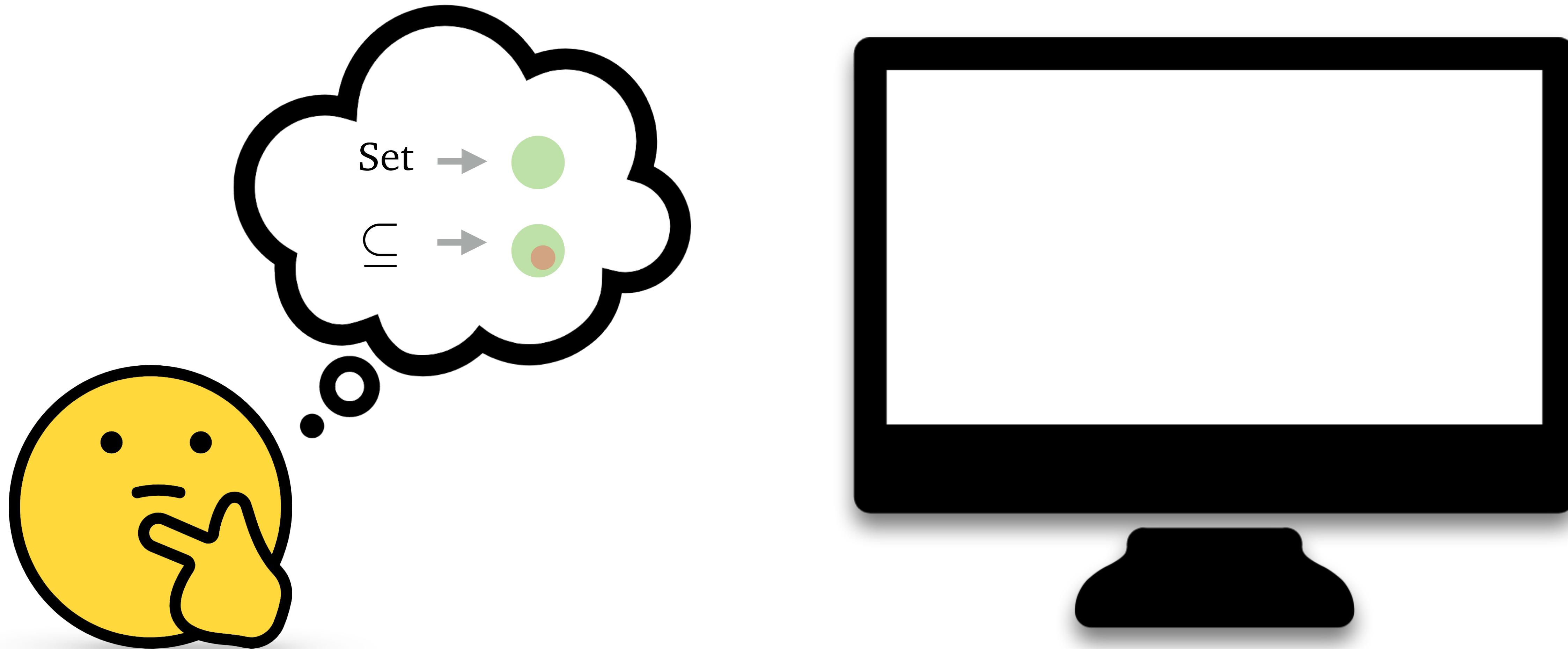
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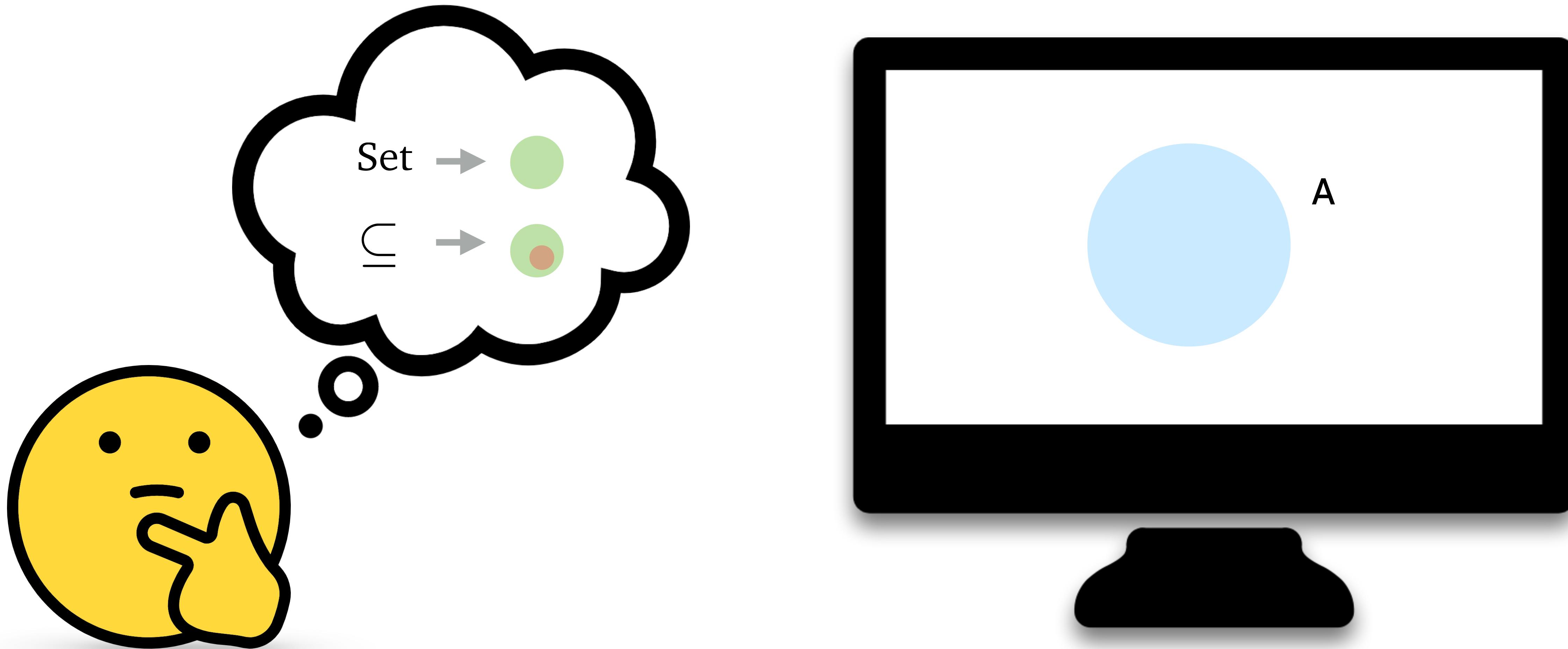
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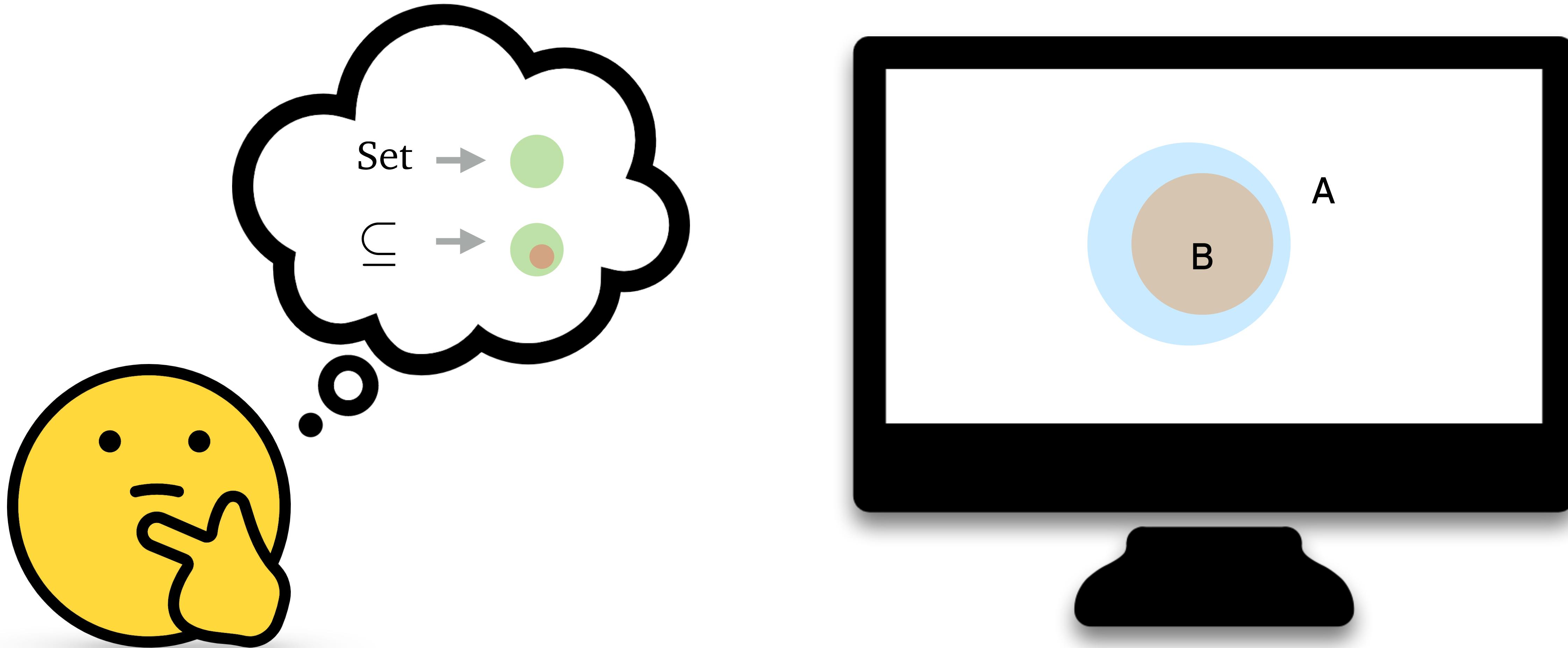
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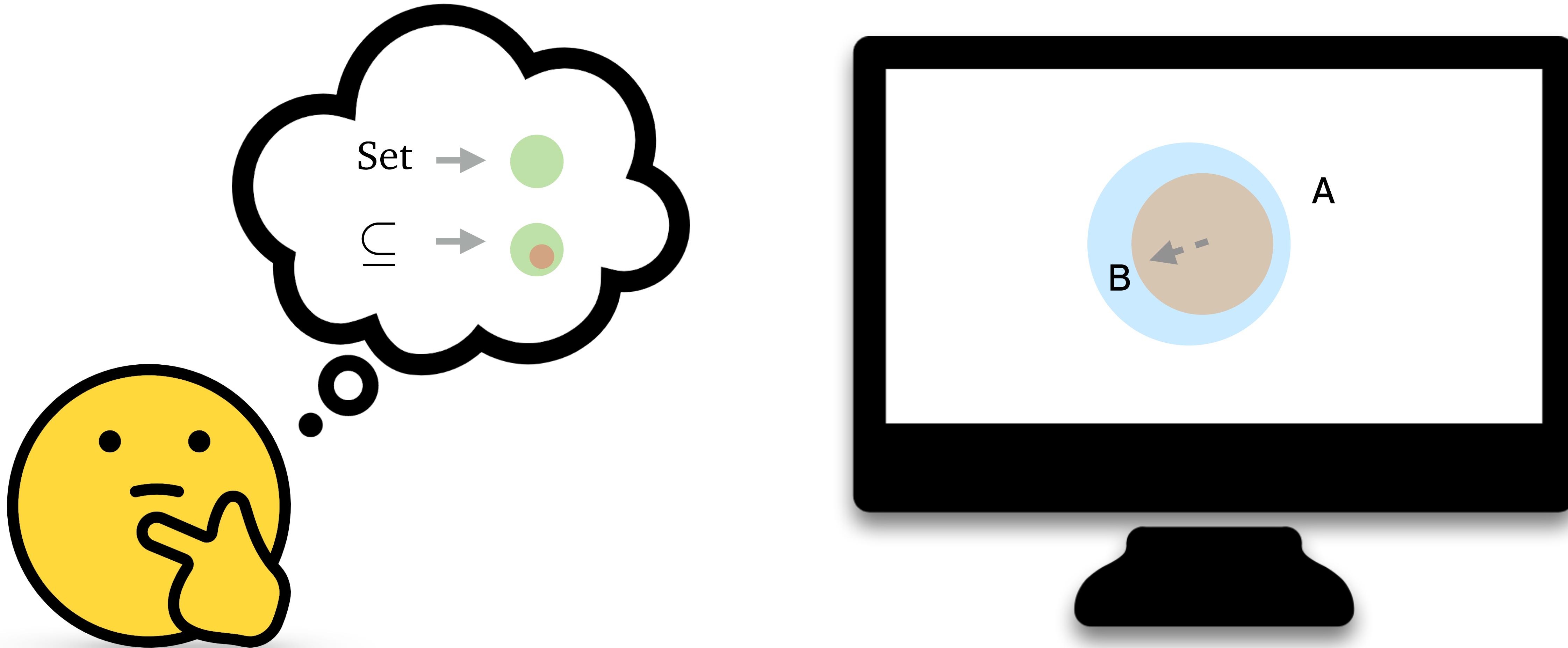
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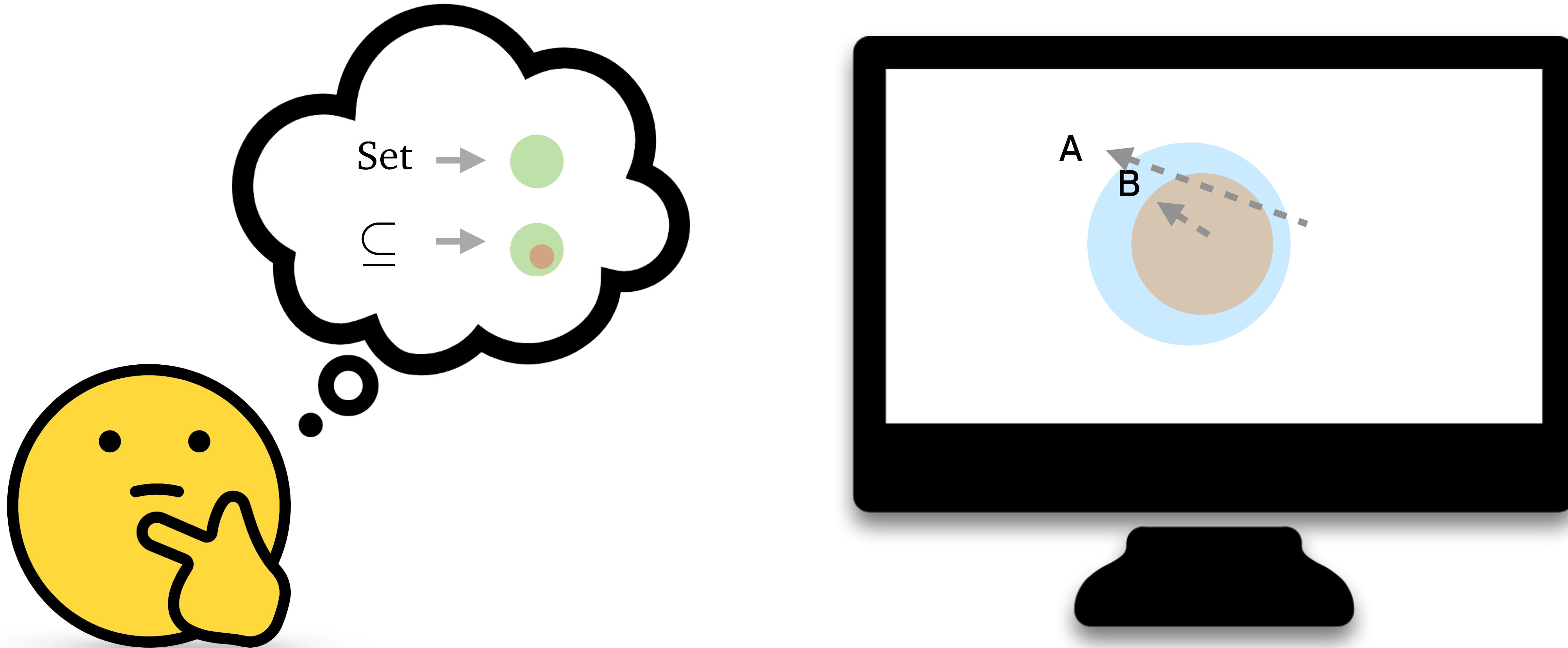
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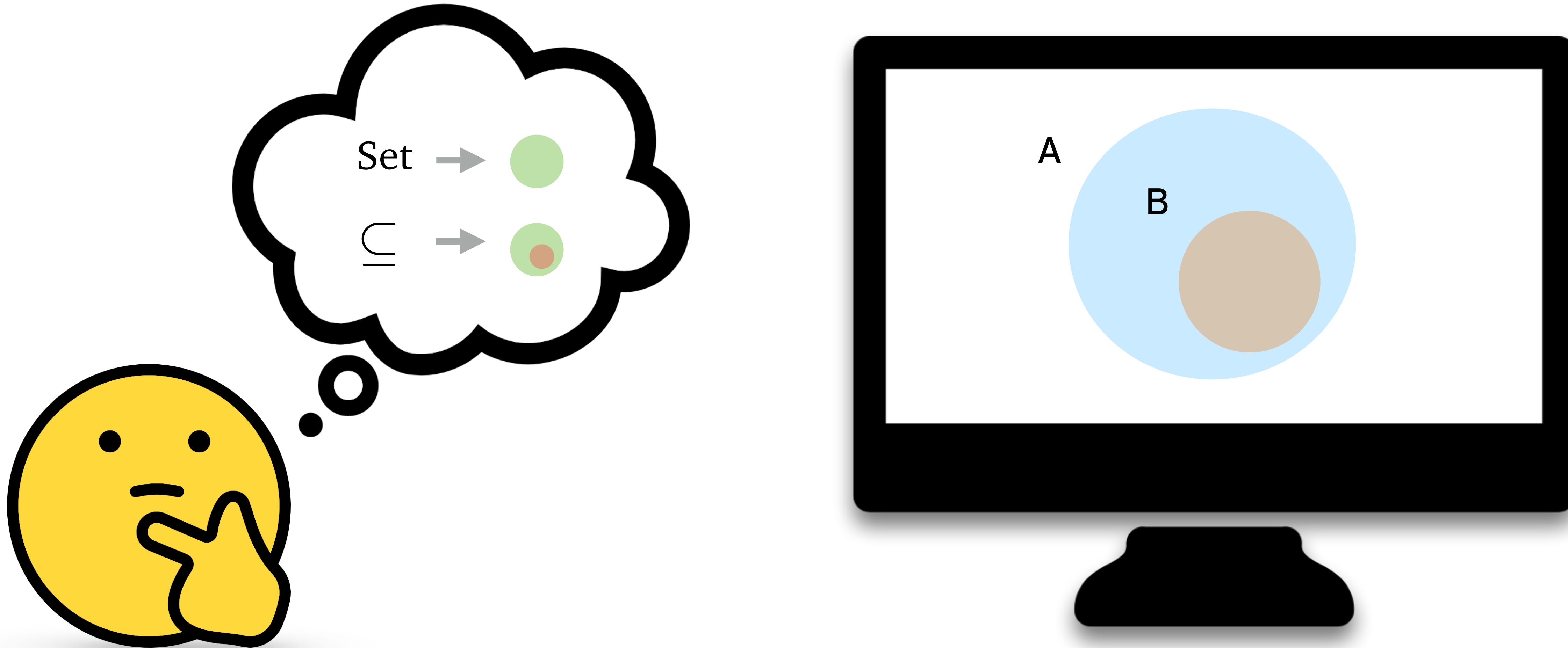
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# Modeling how people visualize abstract ideas by hand

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# General design principles for math diagramming systems

There exist sets  $A, B$  such that  $B \subseteq A$ .

**Specification**

**Synthesis**

# General design principles for math diagramming systems

There exist sets  $A, B$  such that  $B \subseteq A$ .

## Specification

applying a formal mapping

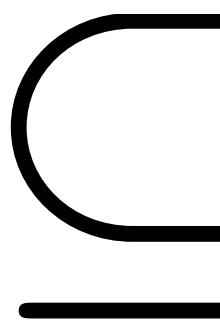
logical object

Set



visual object

logical relationship



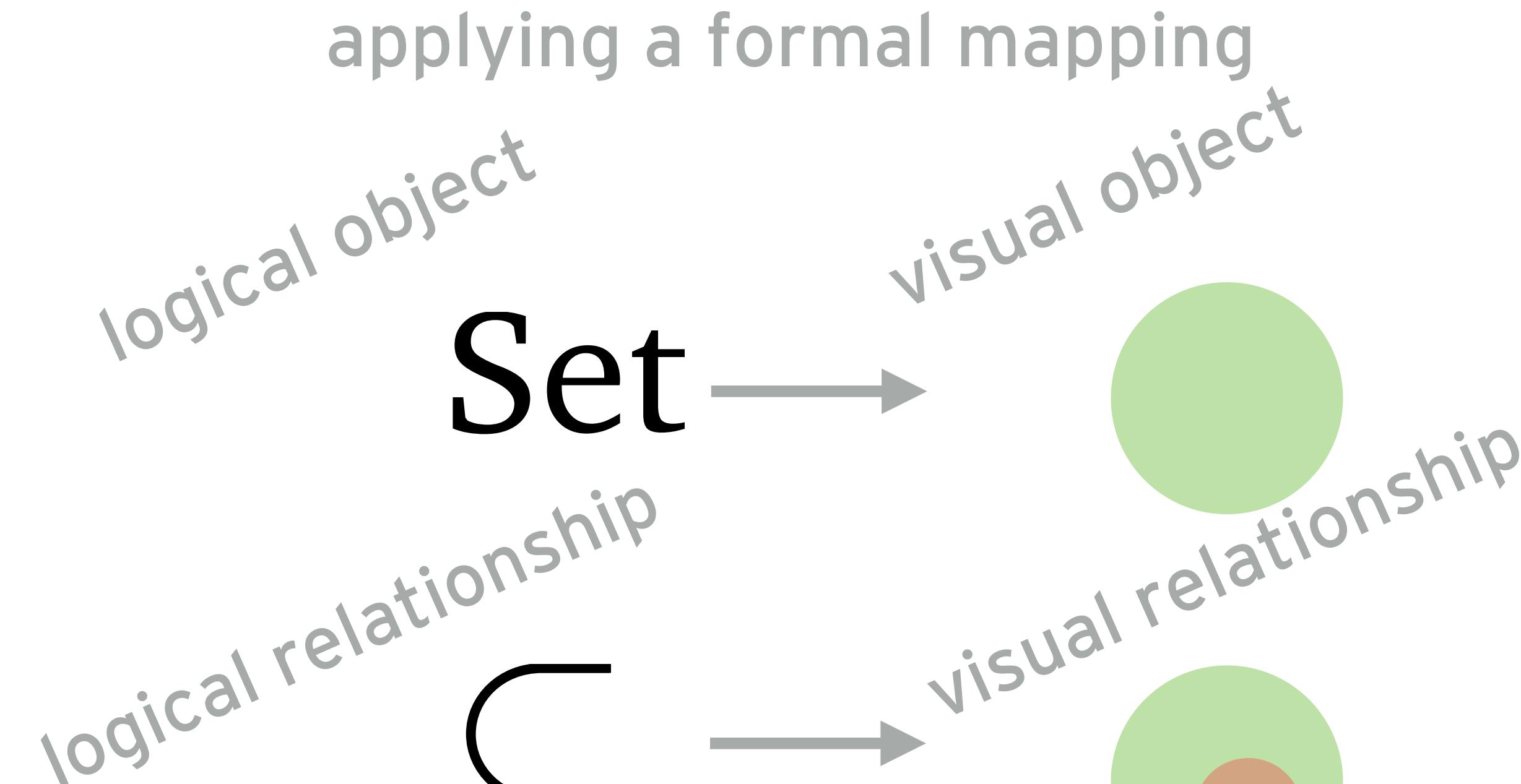
visual relationship

## Synthesis

# General design principles for math diagramming systems

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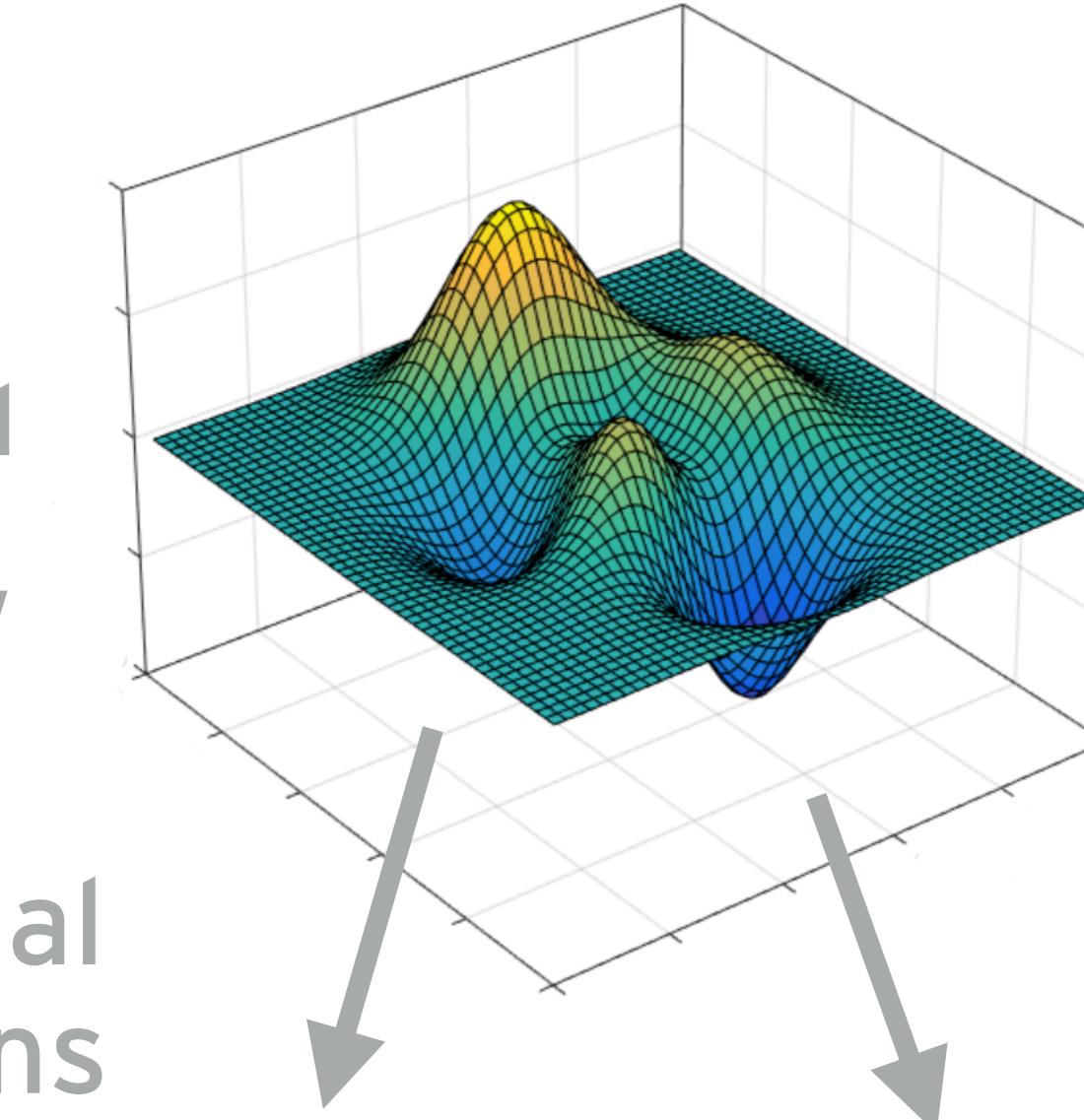


## Synthesis

finding a satisfying diagram

objective:  
"how good  
is this  
diagram?"

potential  
solutions



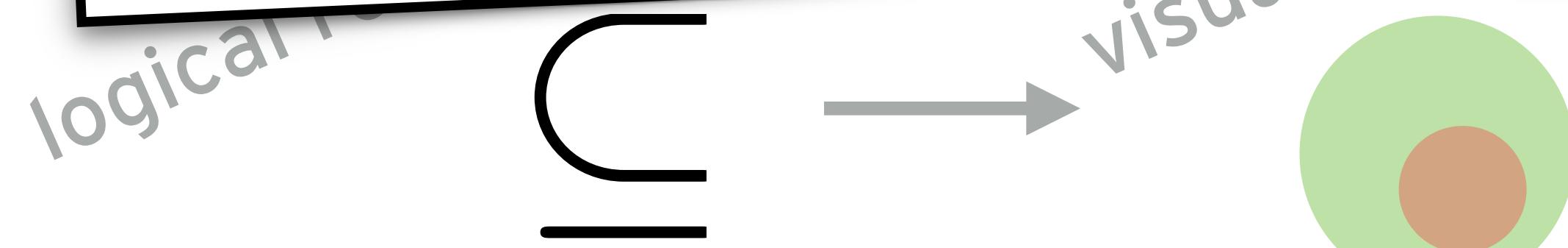
# General design principles for math diagramming systems

There exist sets  $A, B$  such that  $B \subseteq A$ .

## Specification

applying a formal mapping

good tool for the job:  
domain-specific languages  
+ compiler

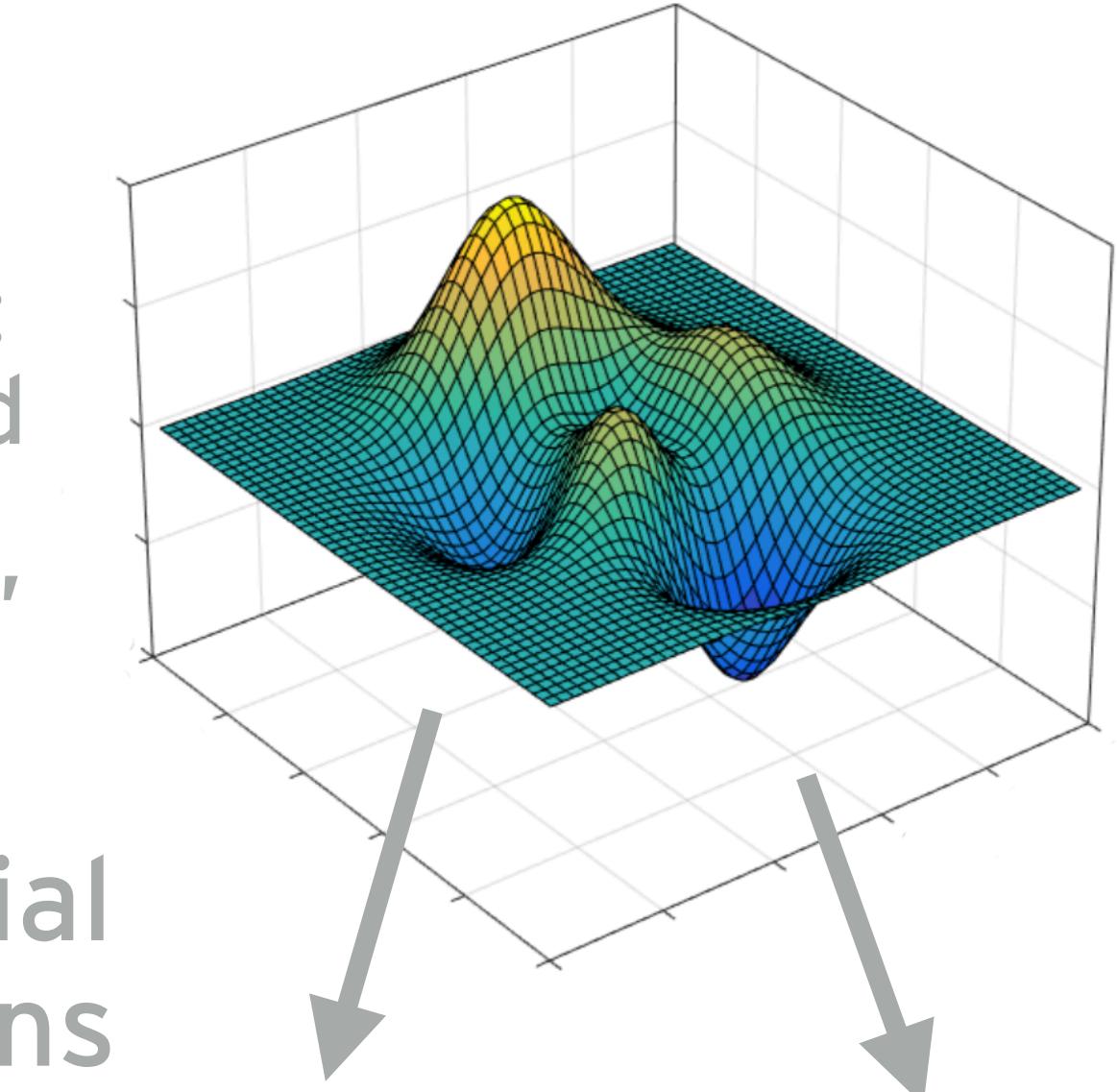


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# General design principles for math diagramming systems

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applying a formal mapping

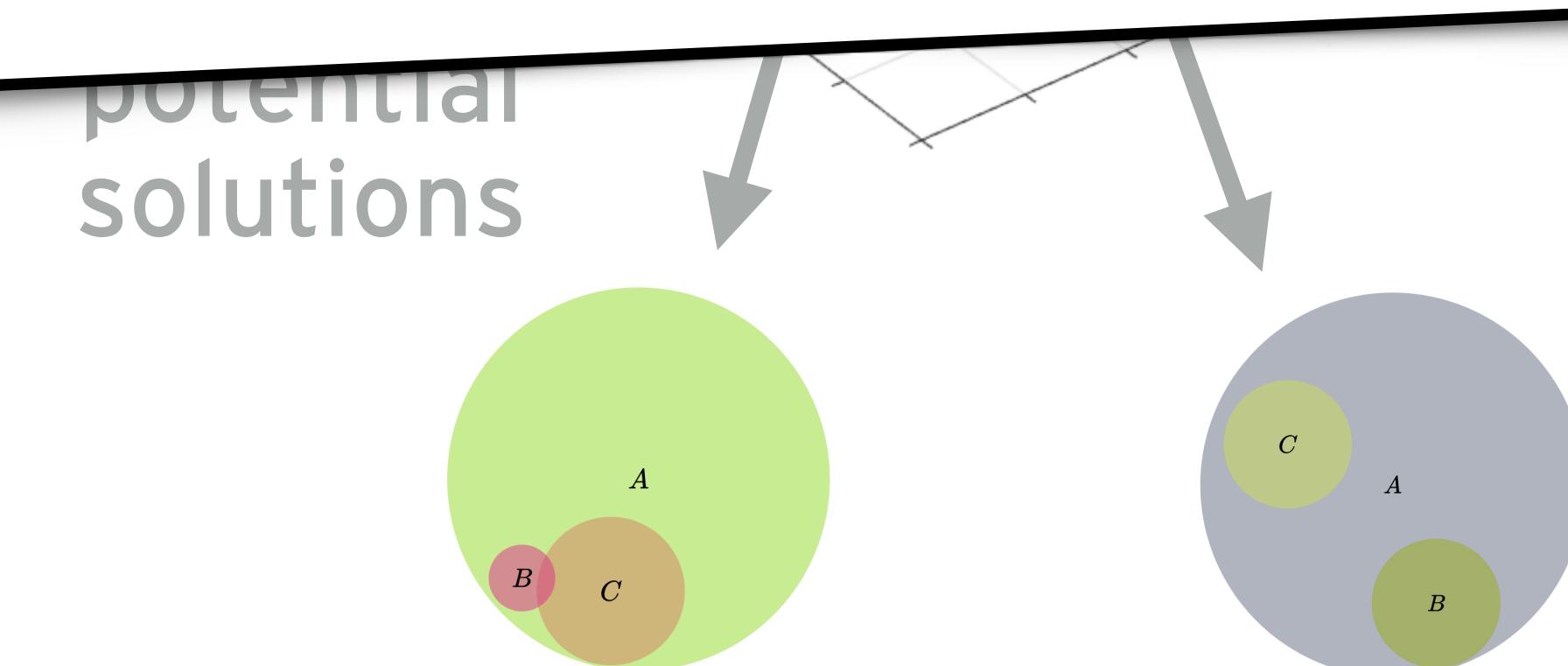
good tool for the job:  
domain-specific languages  
+ compiler



## Synthesis

finding a satisfying diagram

good tool for the job:  
constrained optimization  
+ numerical solver



# **Building these design principles into a system**

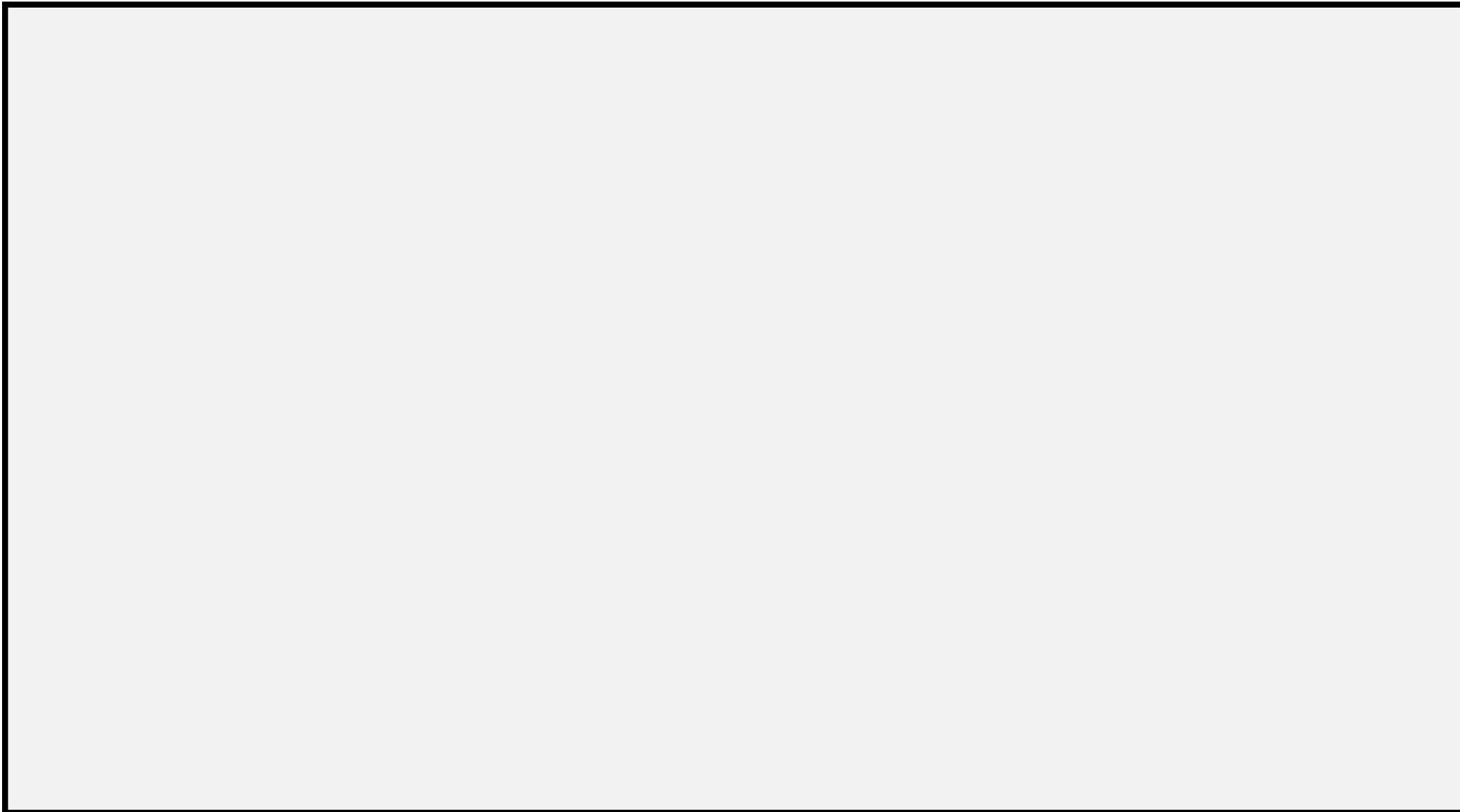
**Specification**

**Synthesis**

# Building these design principles into a system

**Specification**

source code

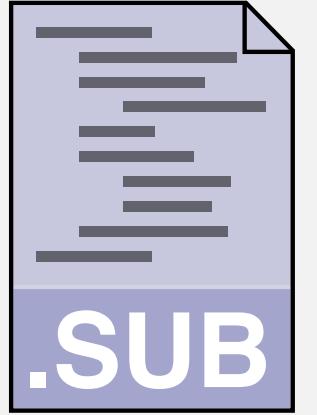


**Synthesis**

# Building these design principles into a system

## Specification

source code



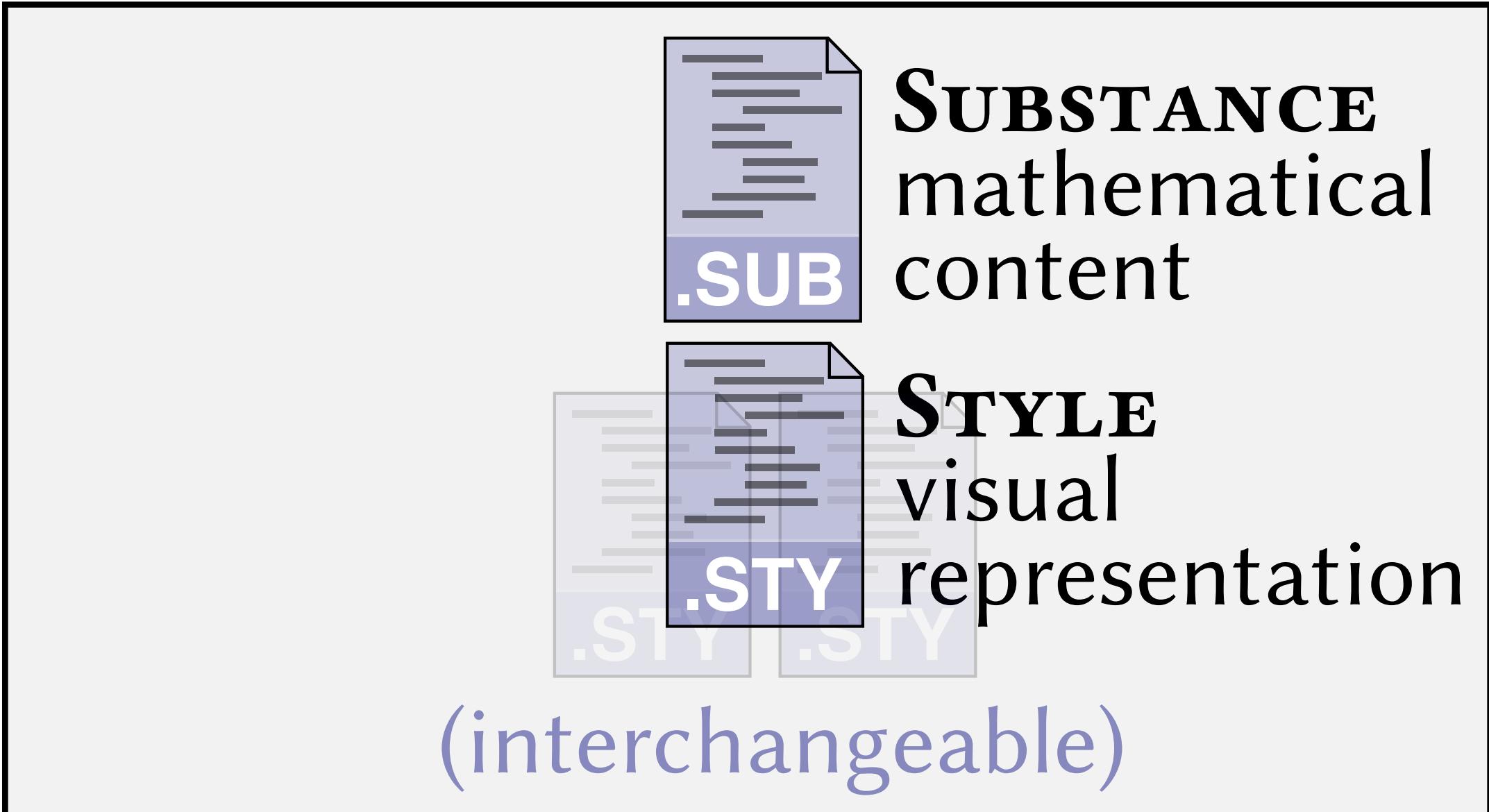
**SUBSTANCE**  
mathematical  
content

## Synthesis

# Building these design principles into a system

## Specification

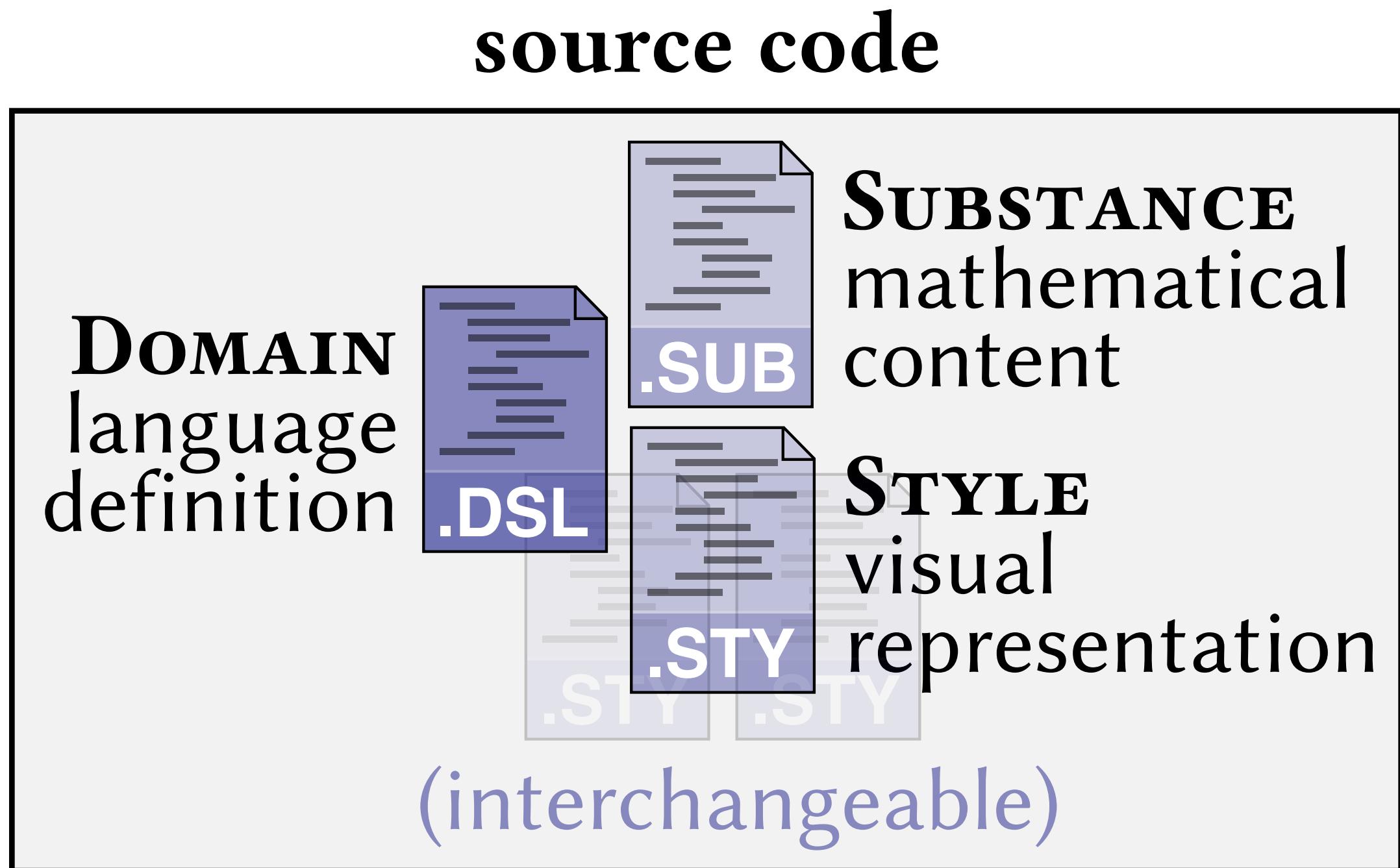
source code



## Synthesis

# Building these design principles into a system

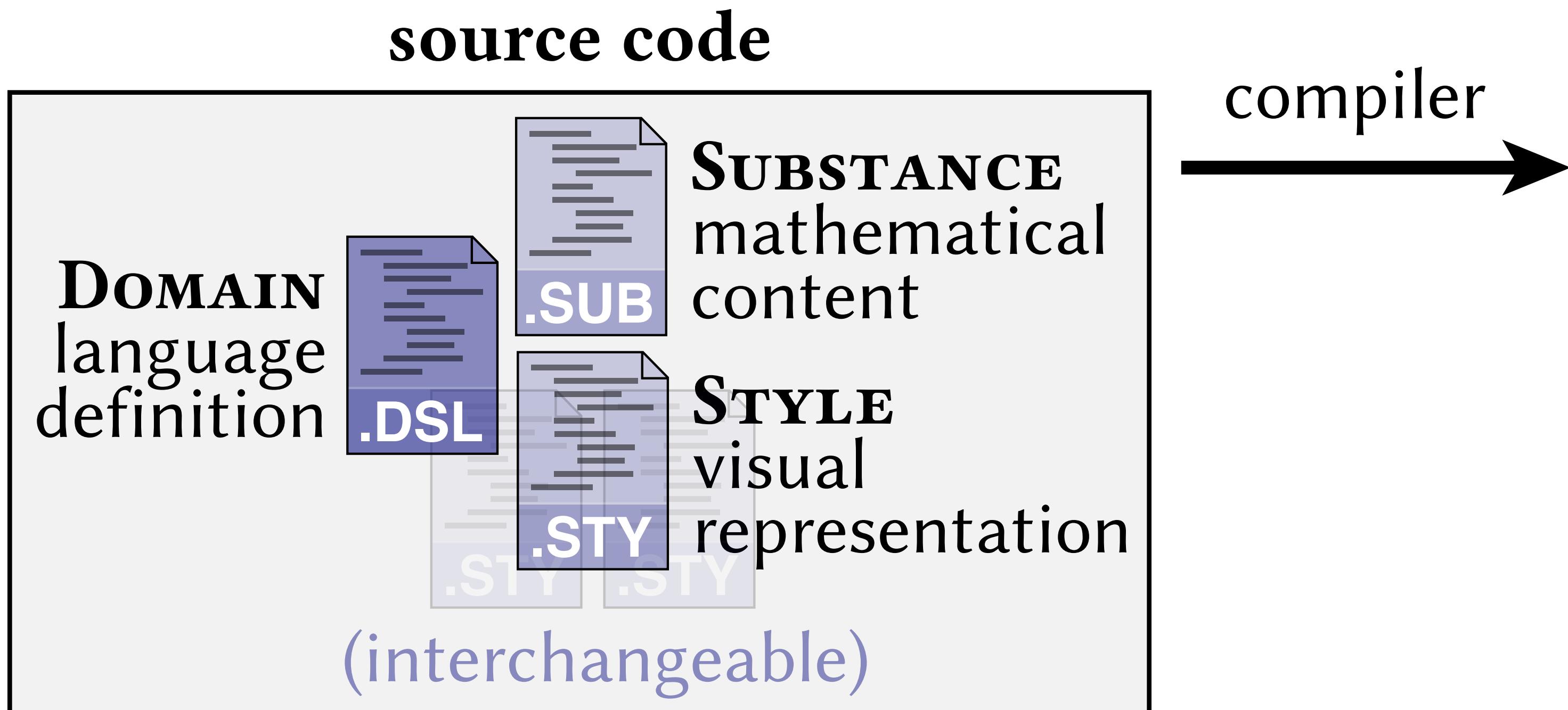
## Specification



## Synthesis

# Building these design principles into a system

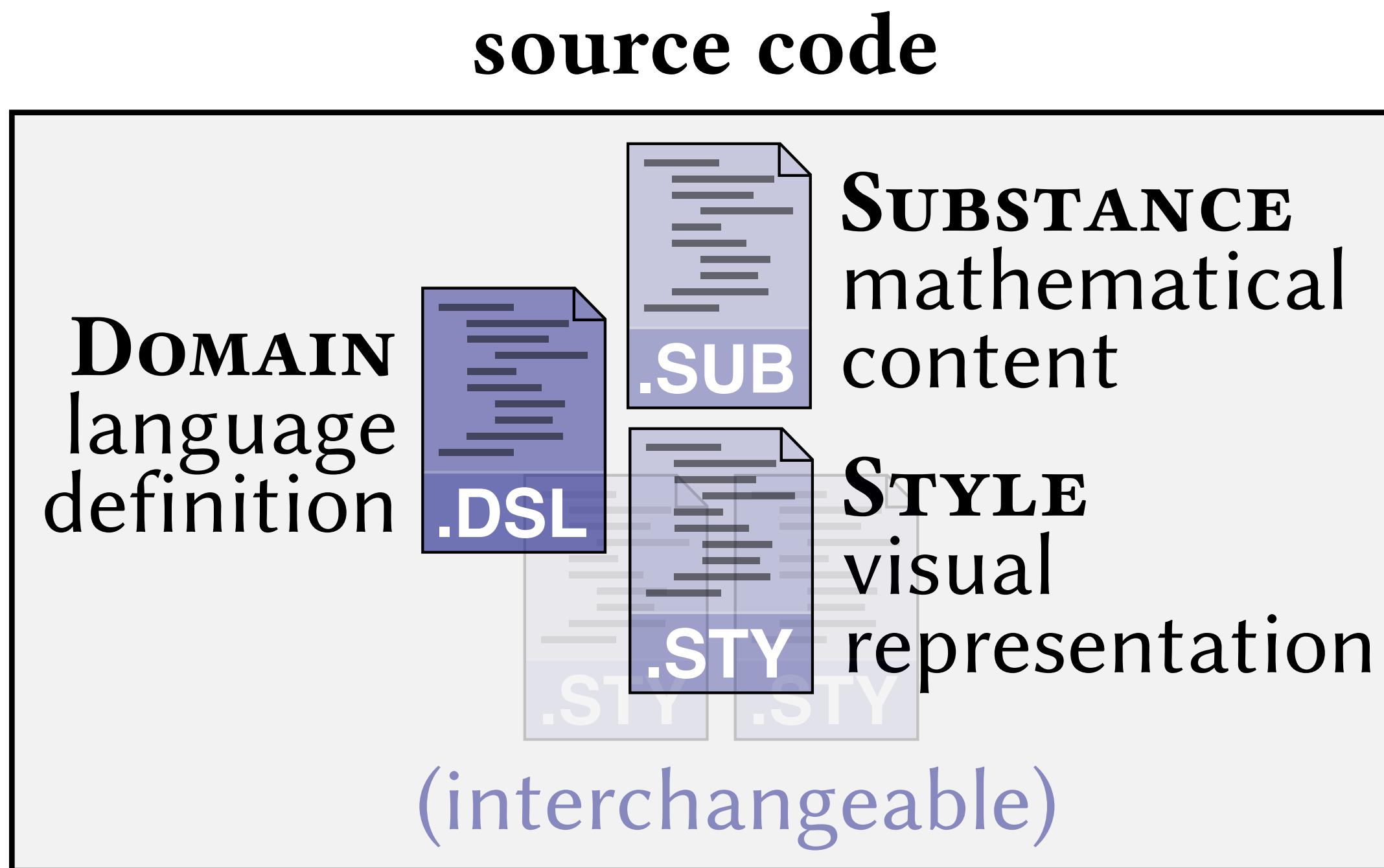
## Specification



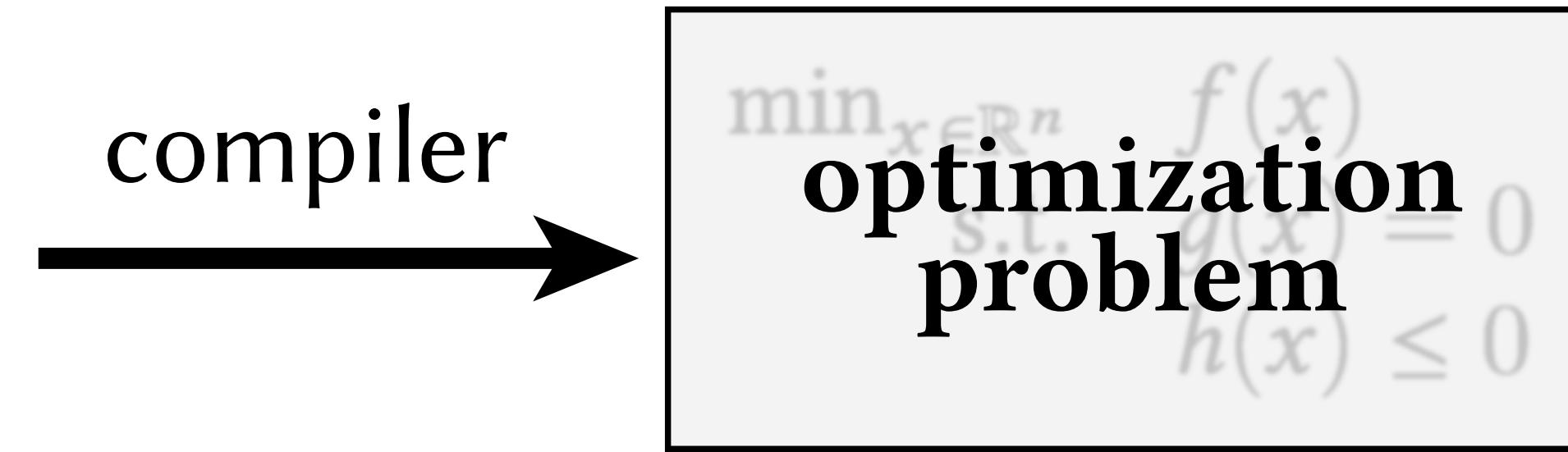
## Synthesis

# Building these design principles into a system

## Specification

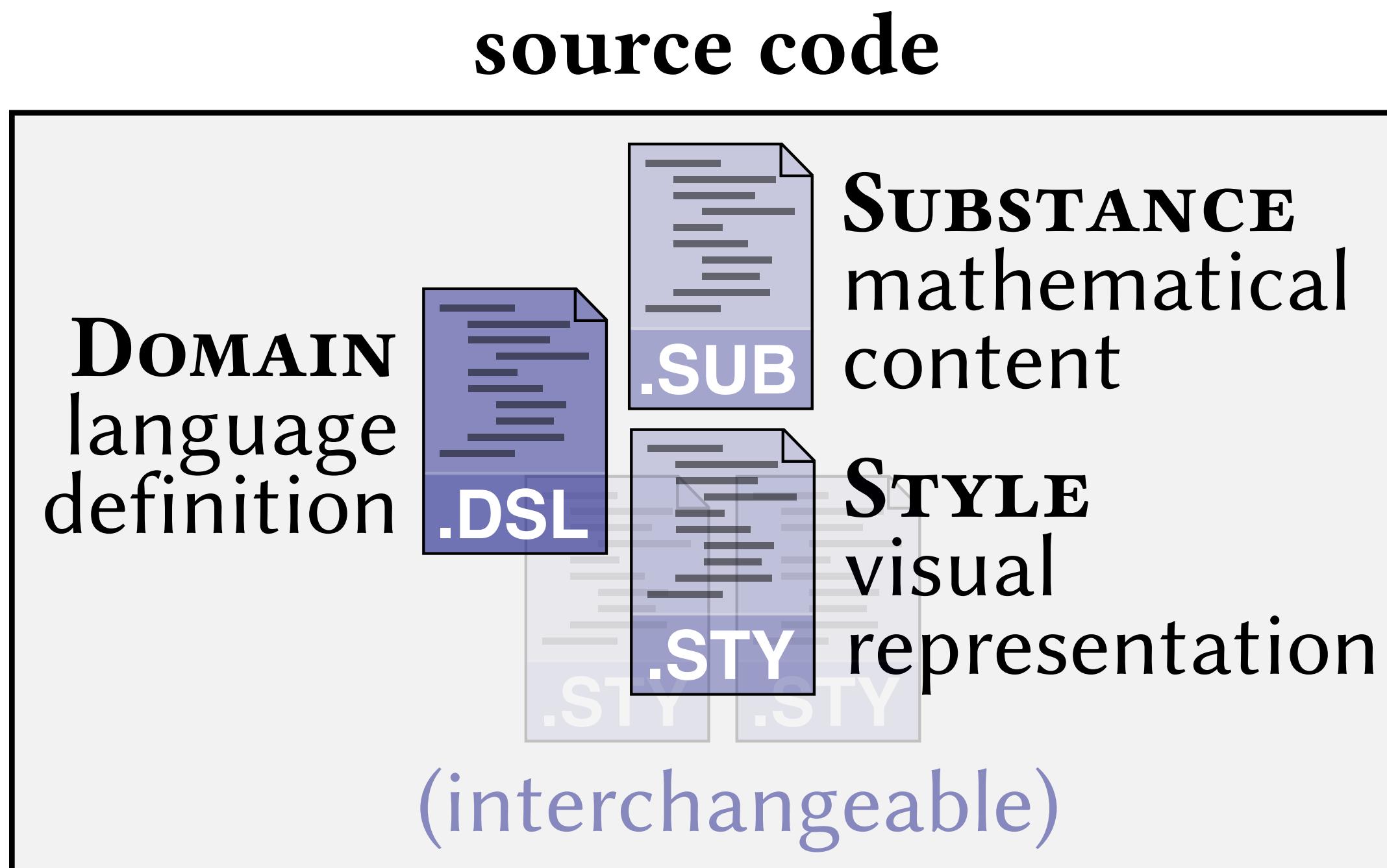


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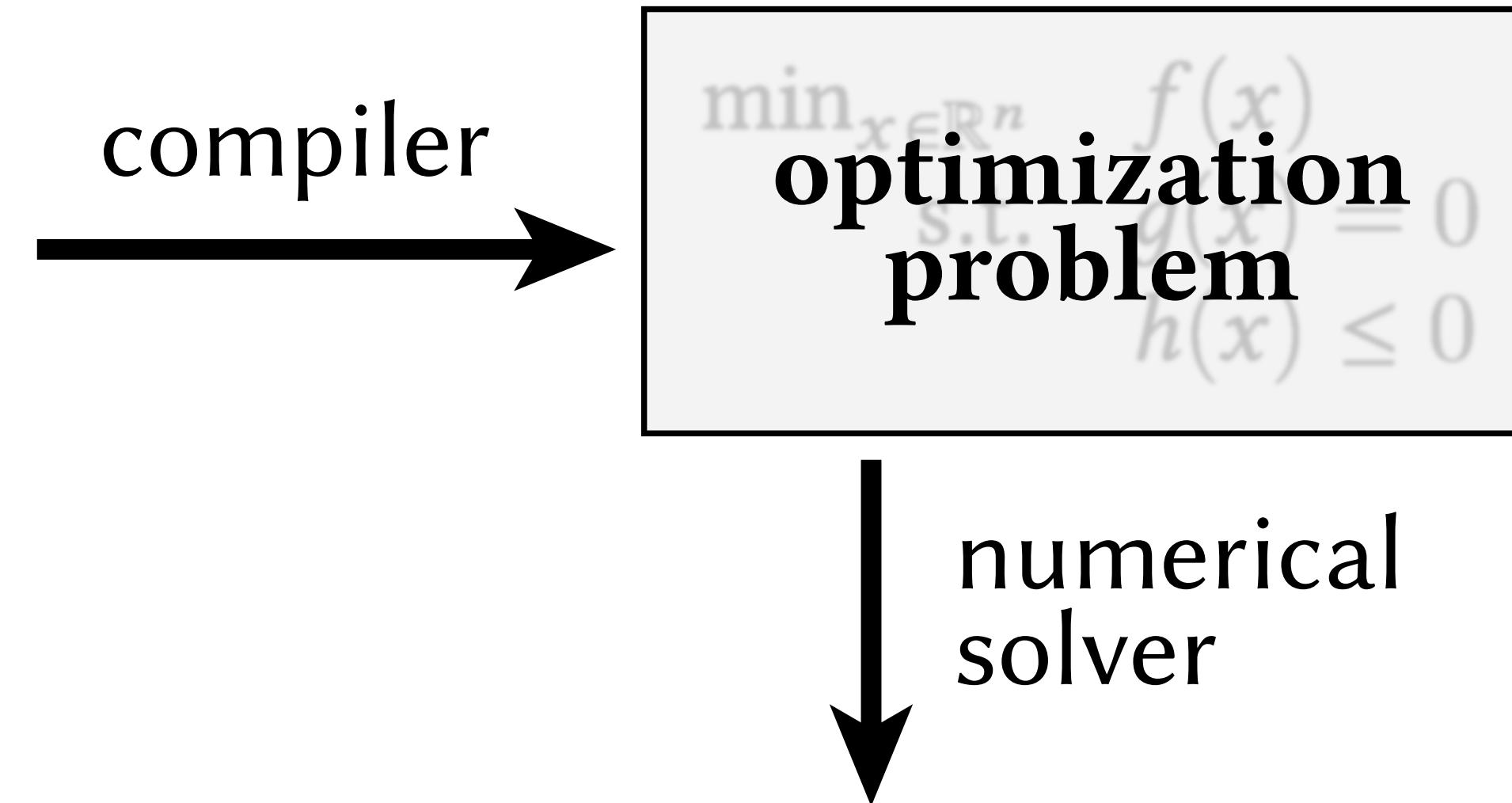


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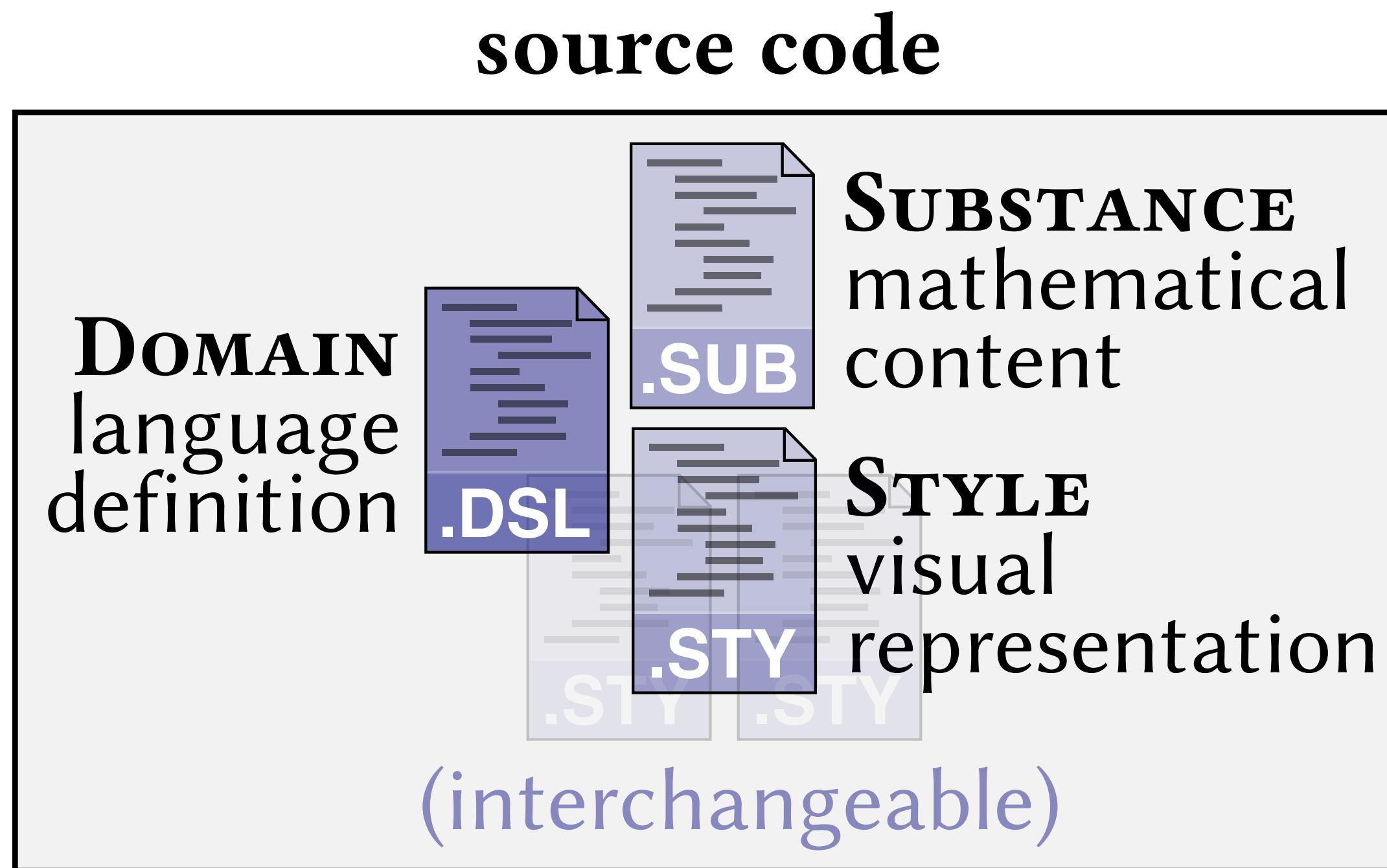


## Synthesis

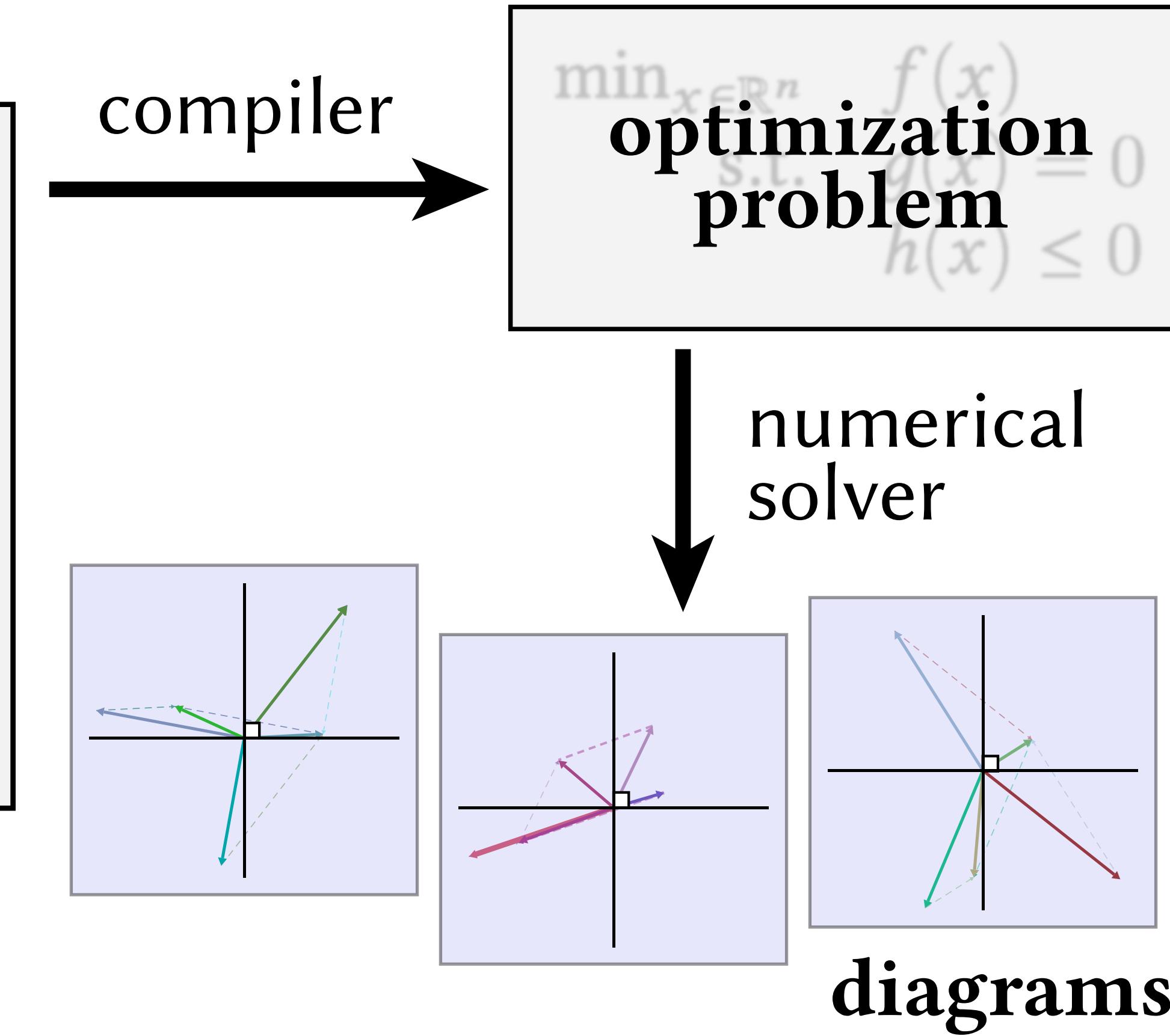


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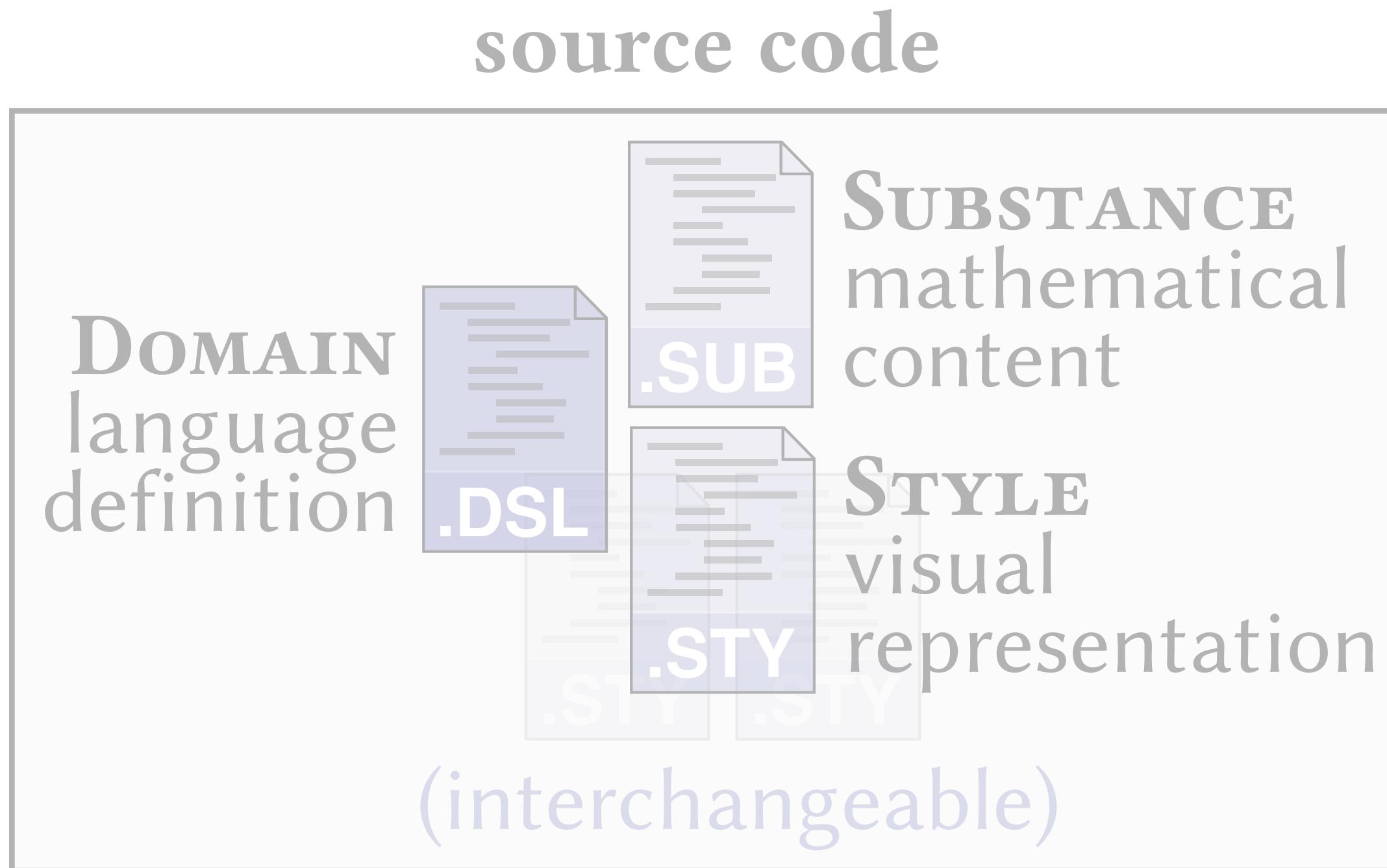


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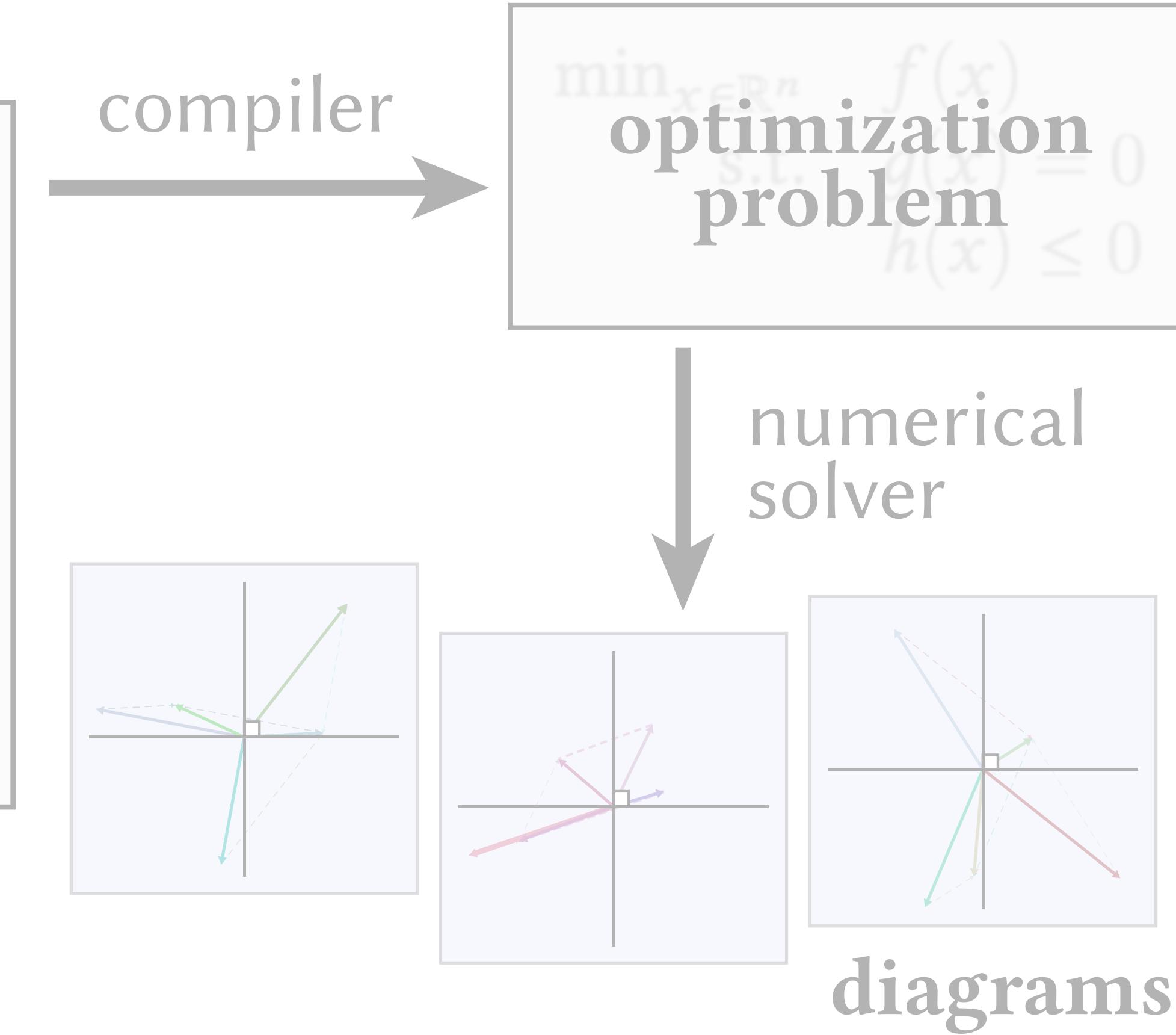


# Webpages follow similar design principles

## Specification

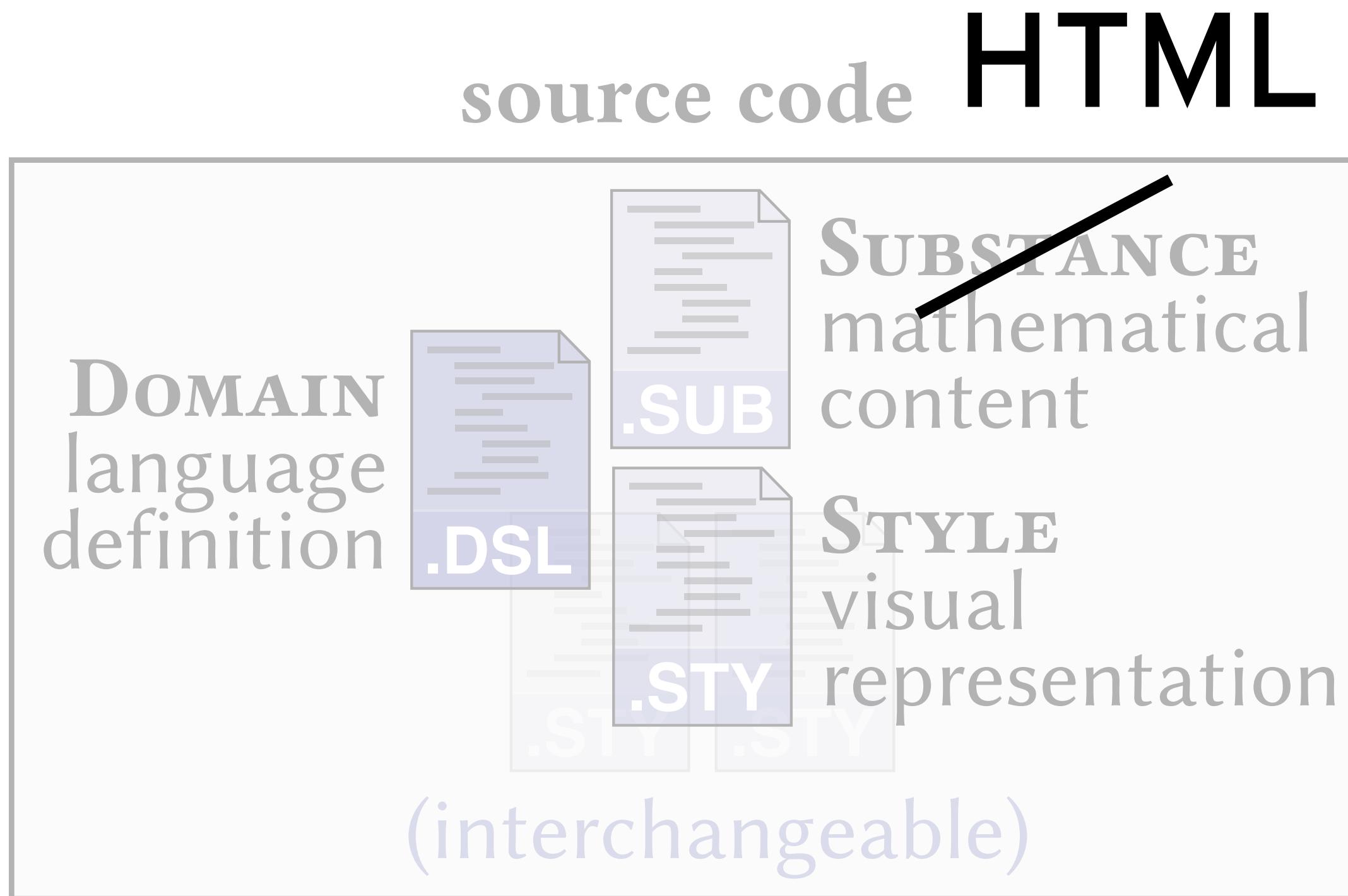


## Synthesis

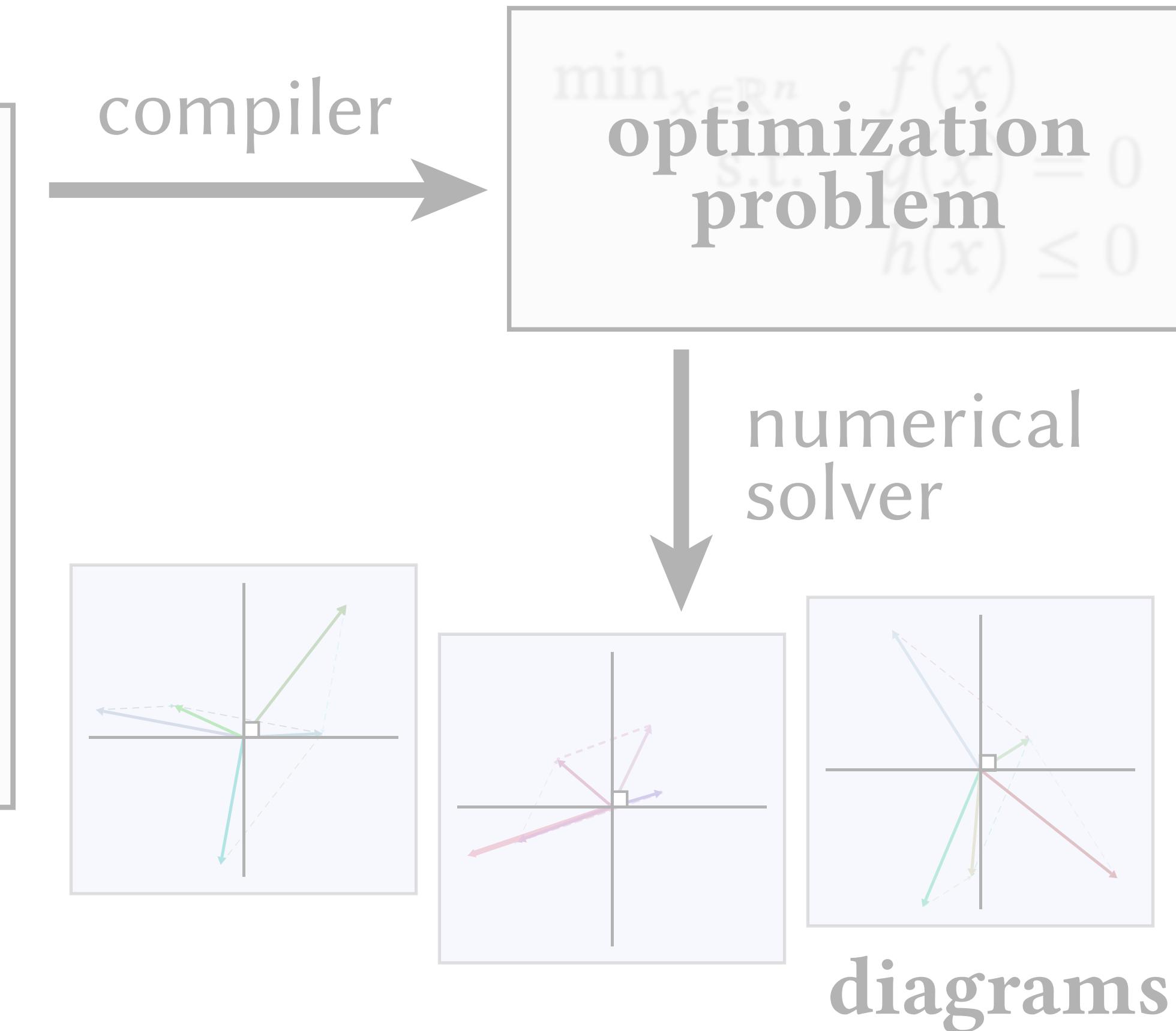


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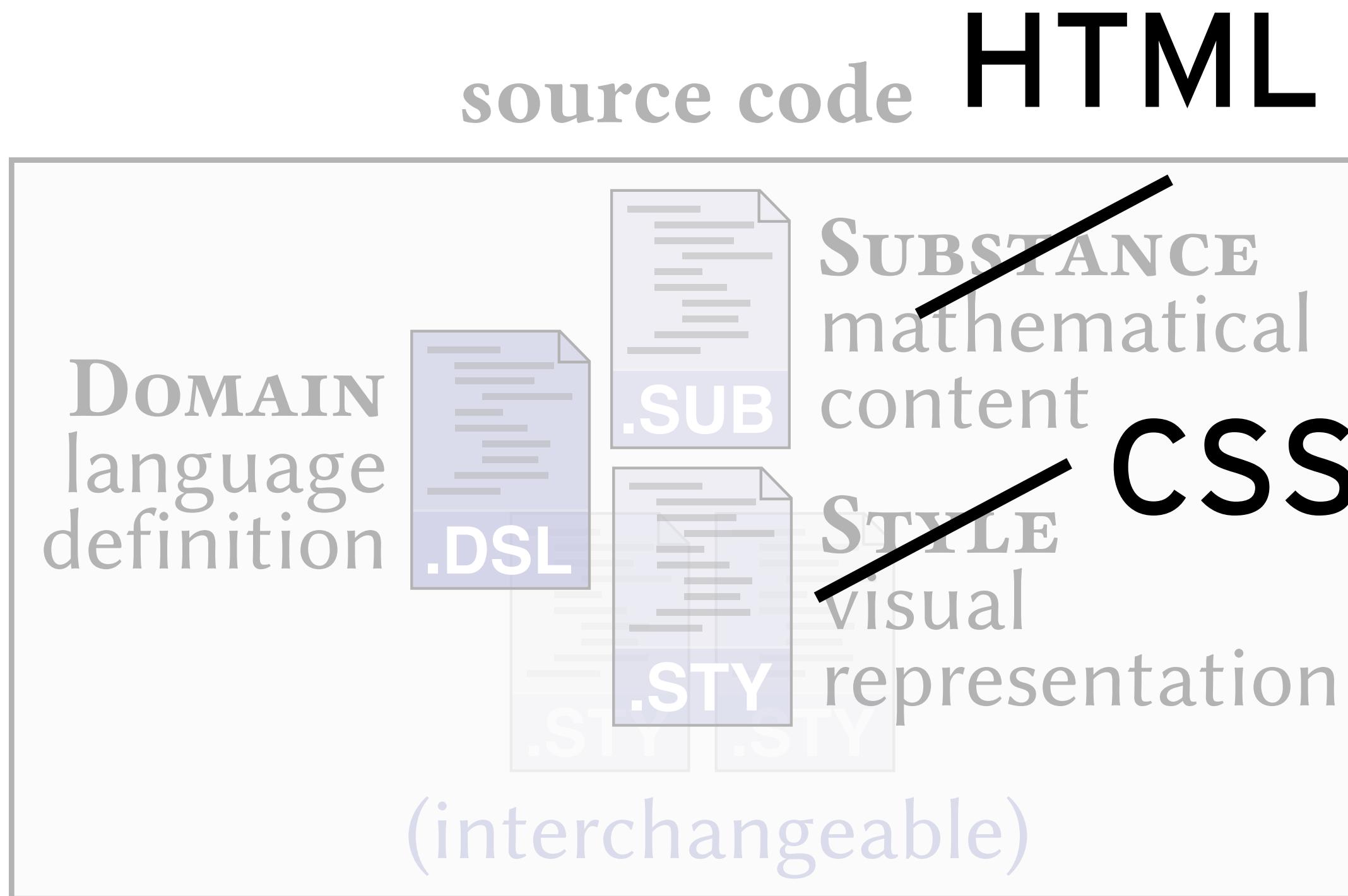


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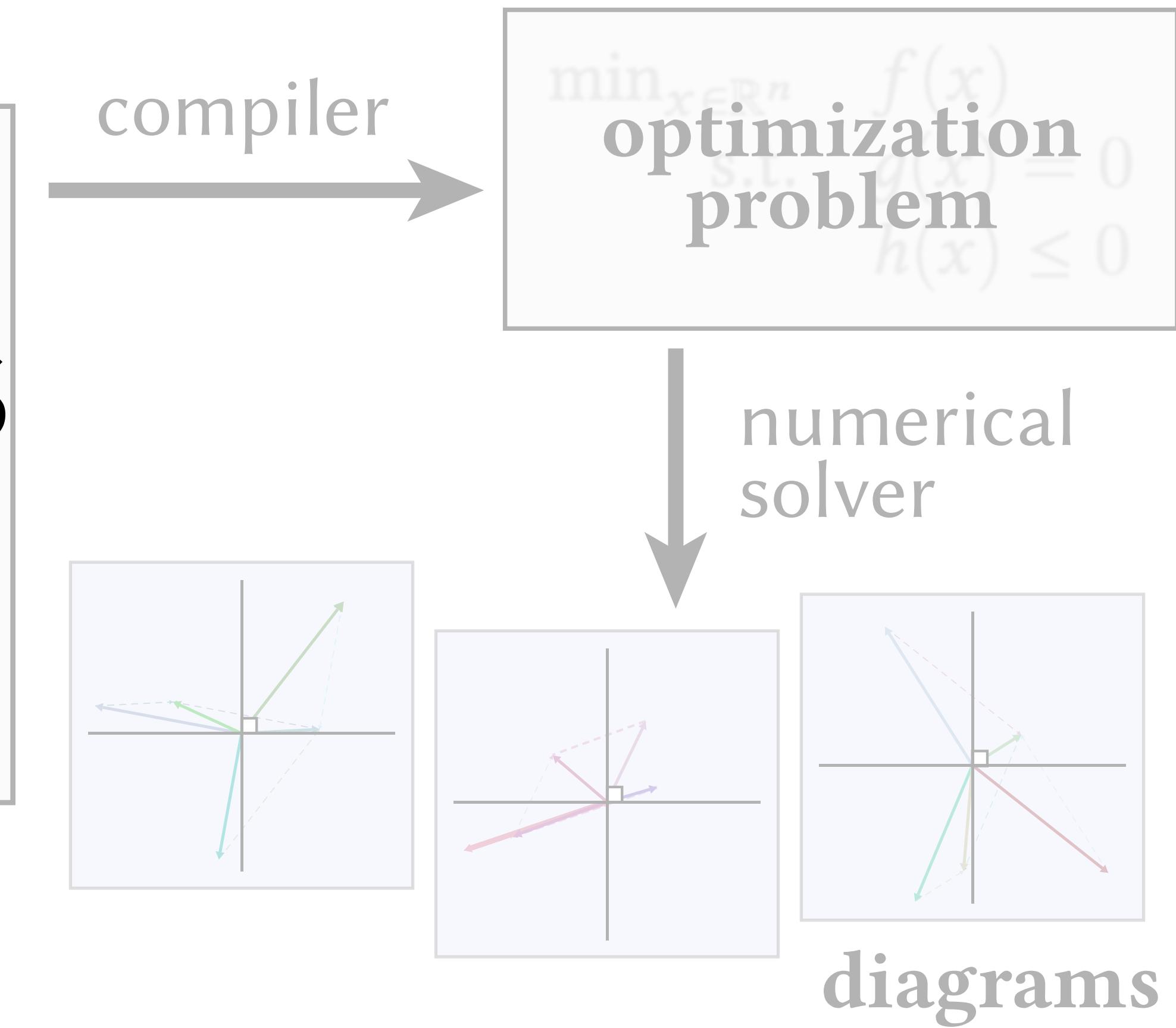


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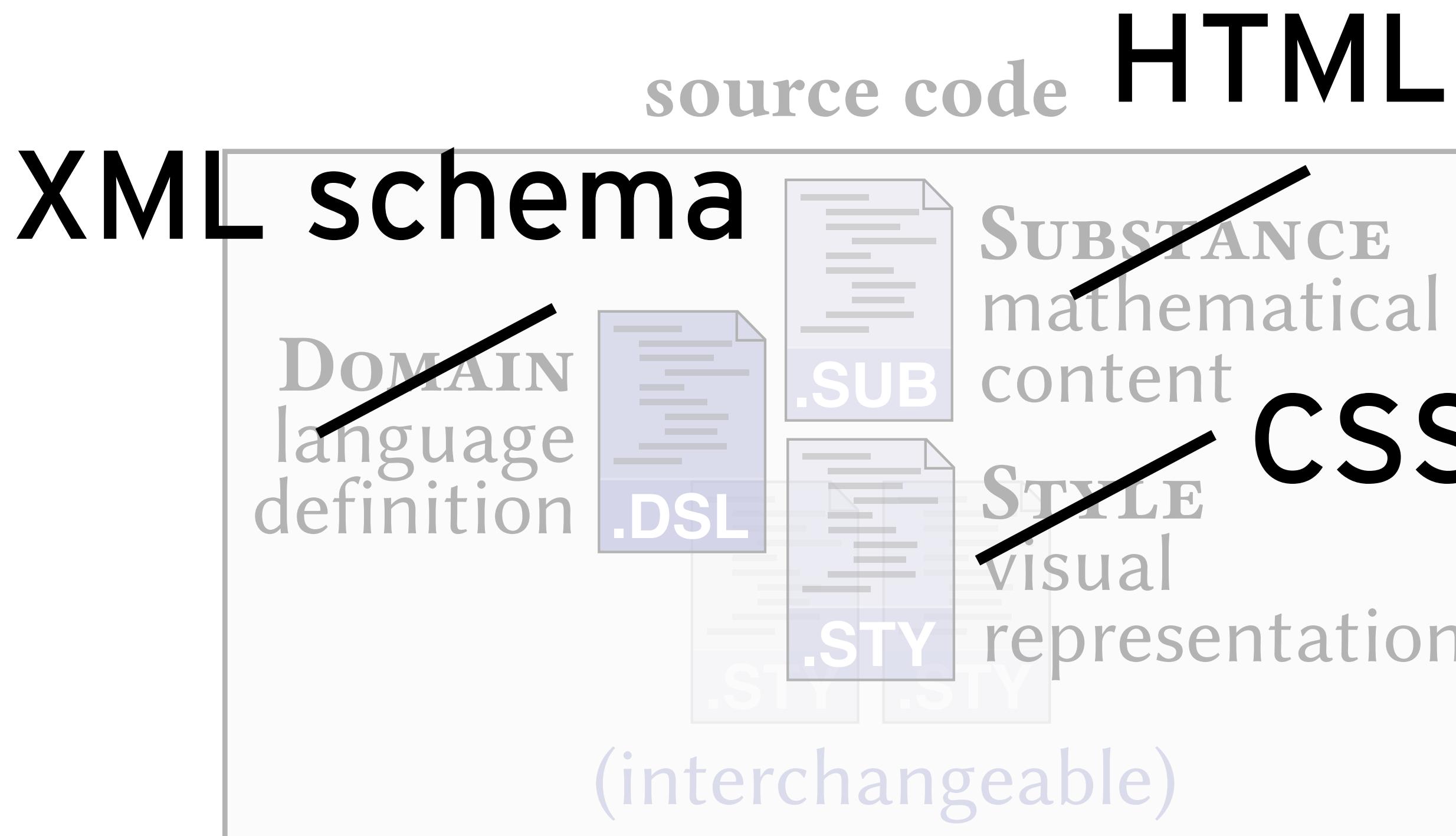


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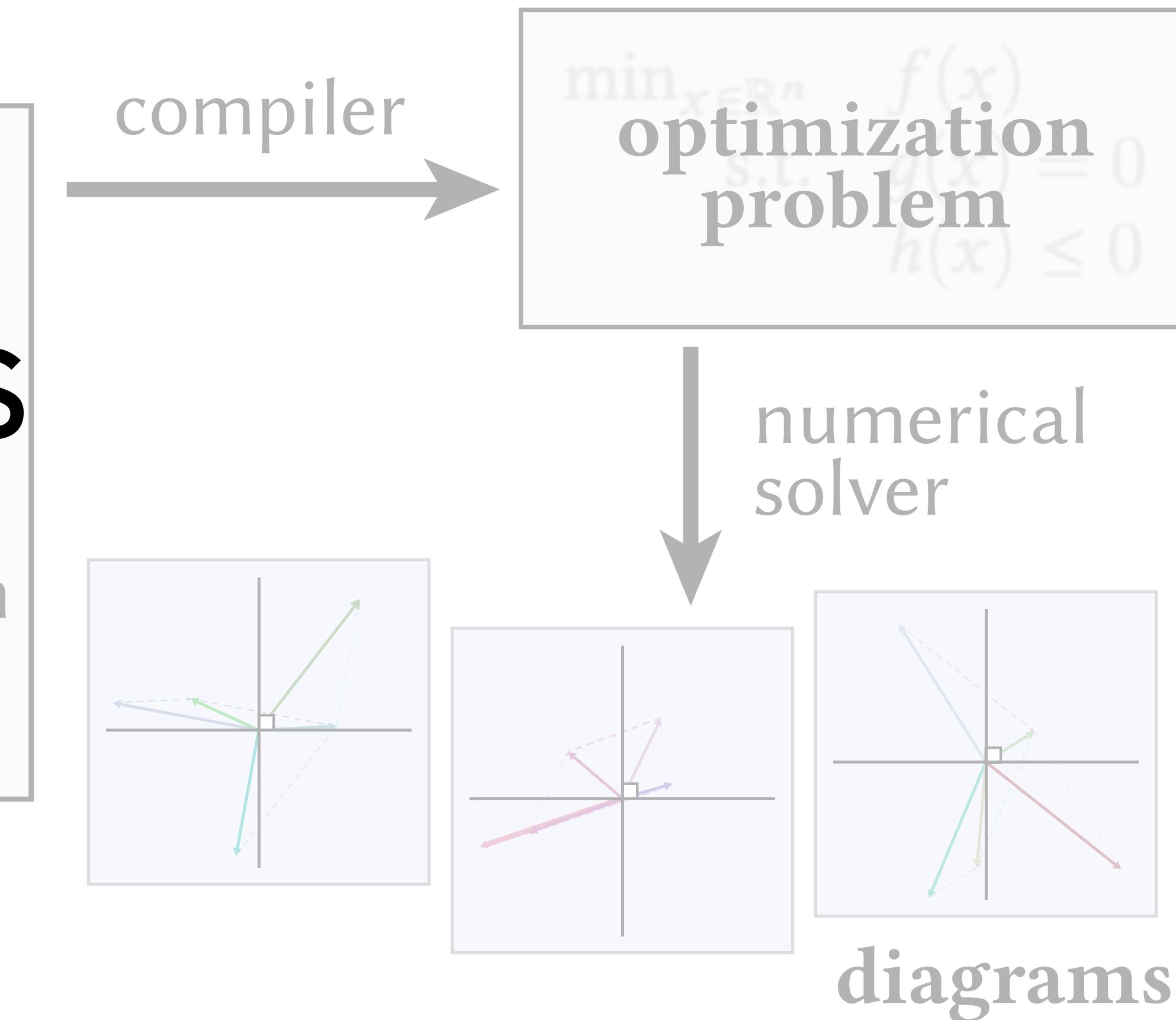


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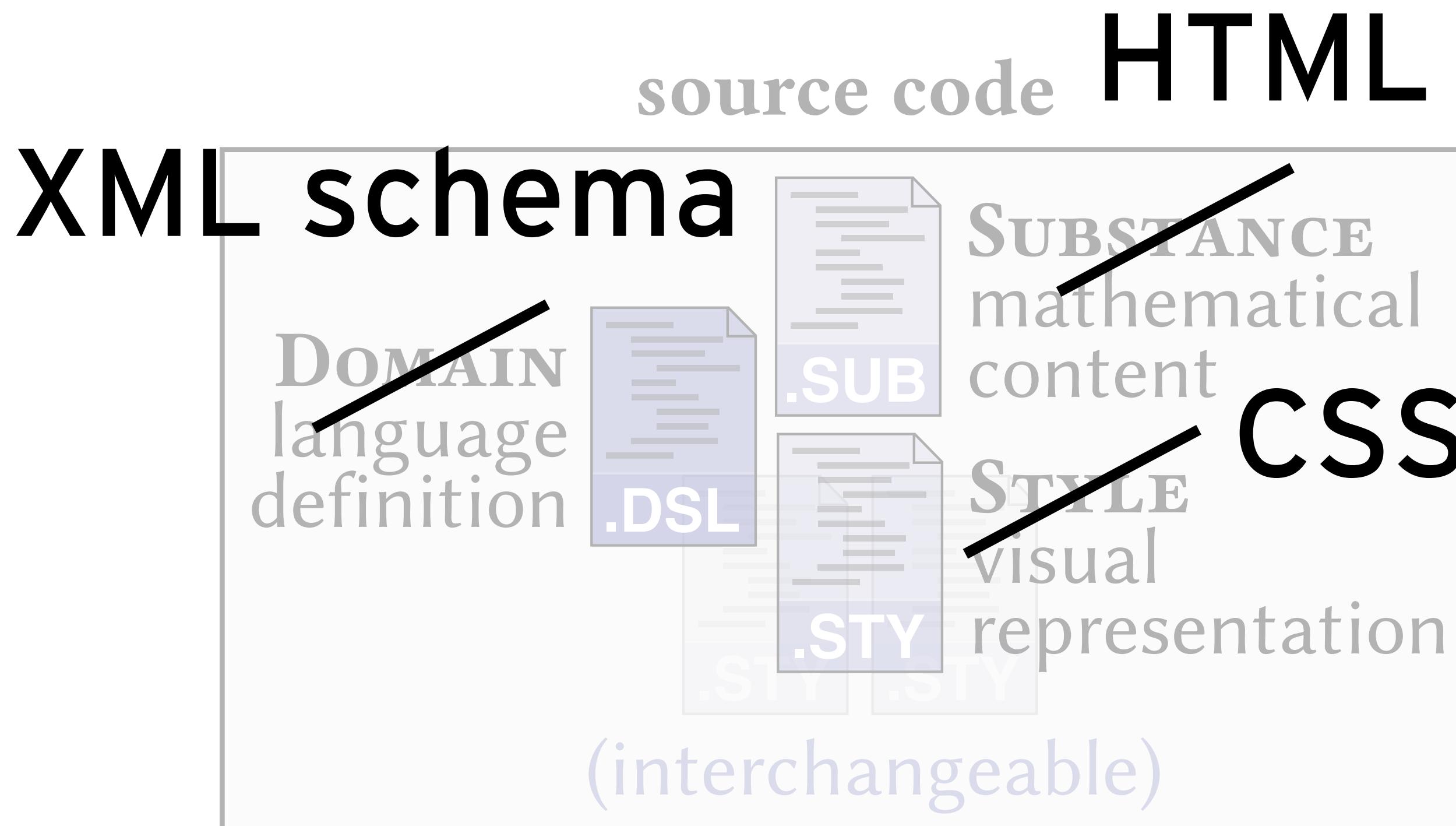


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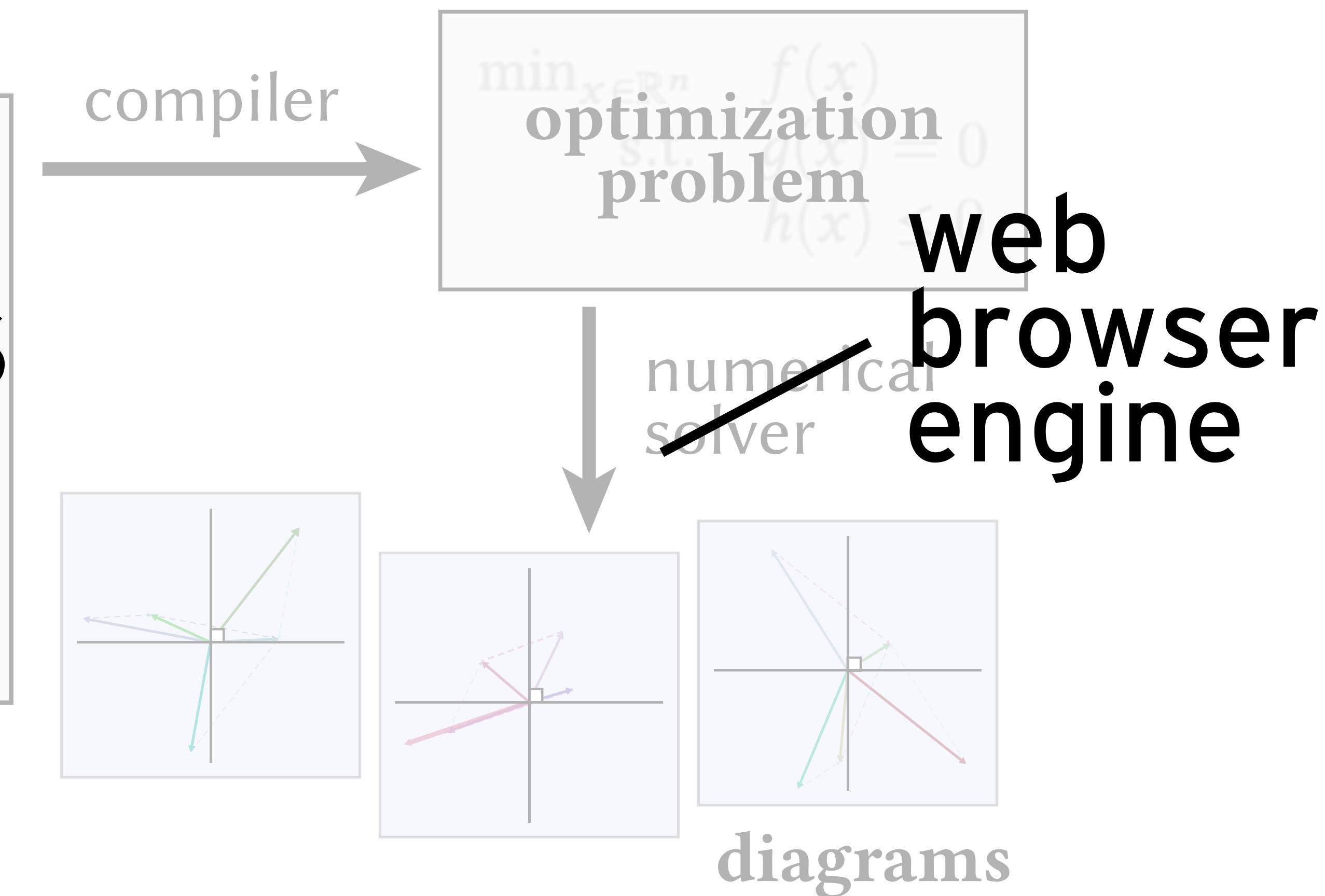


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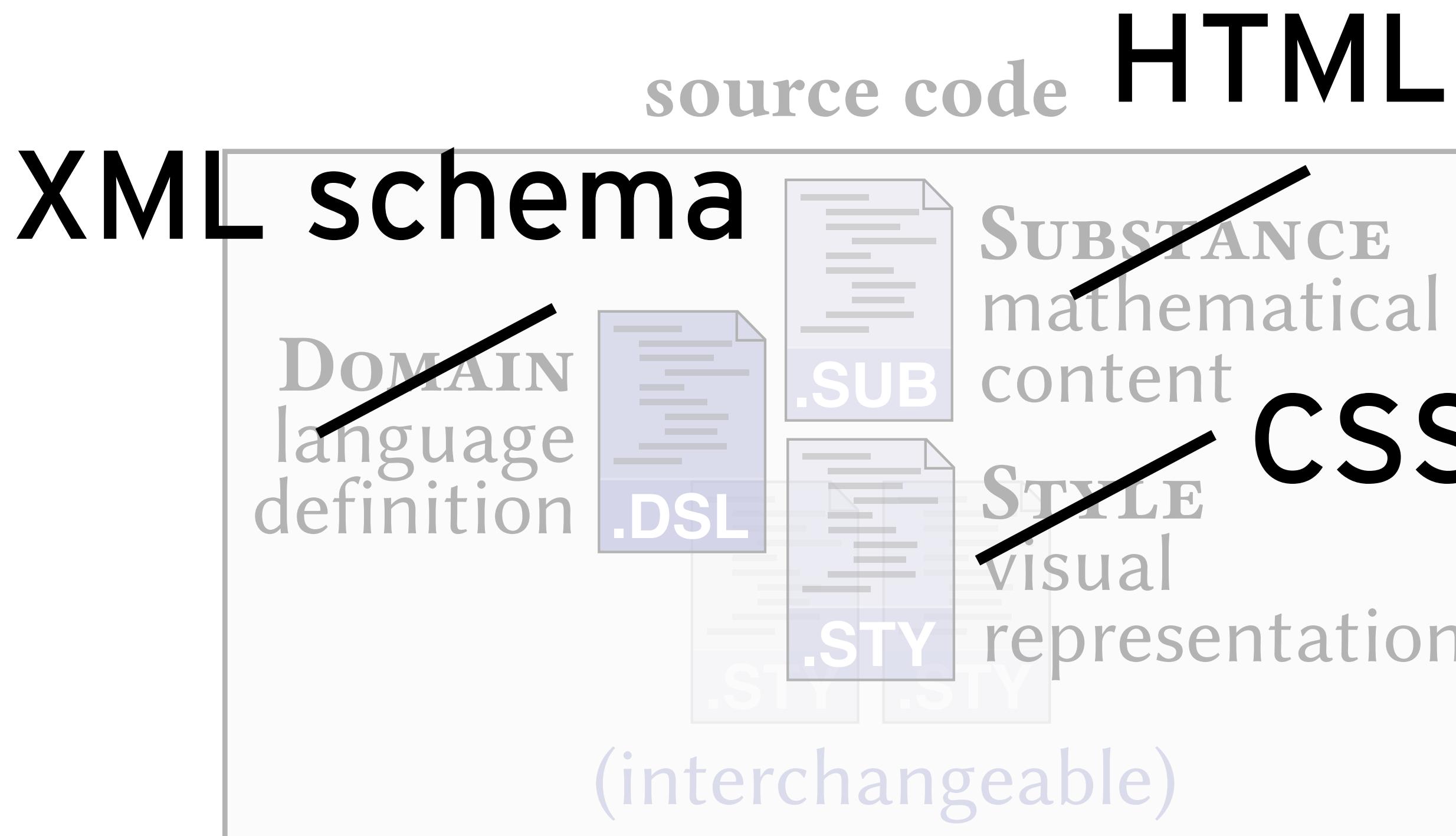


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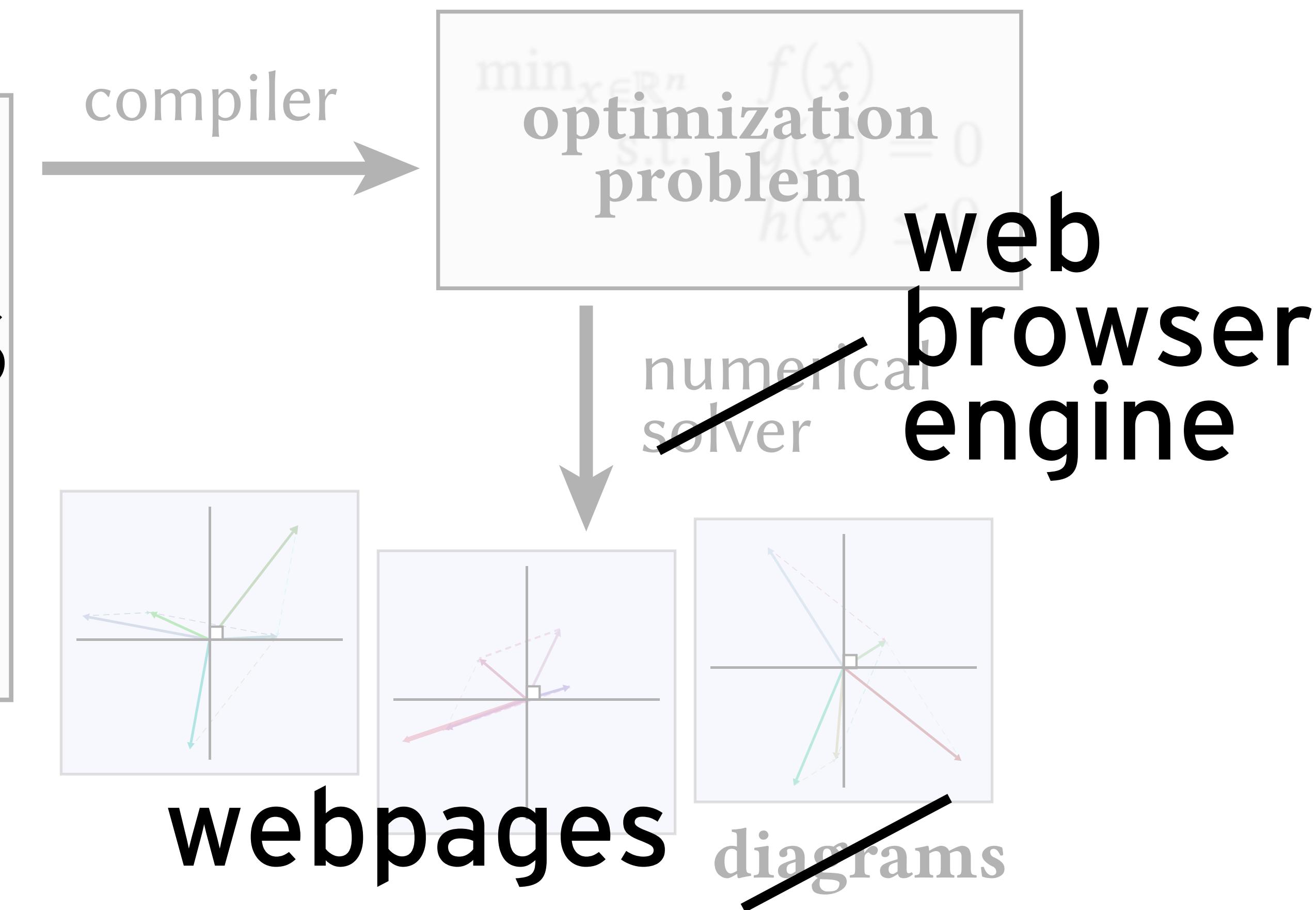


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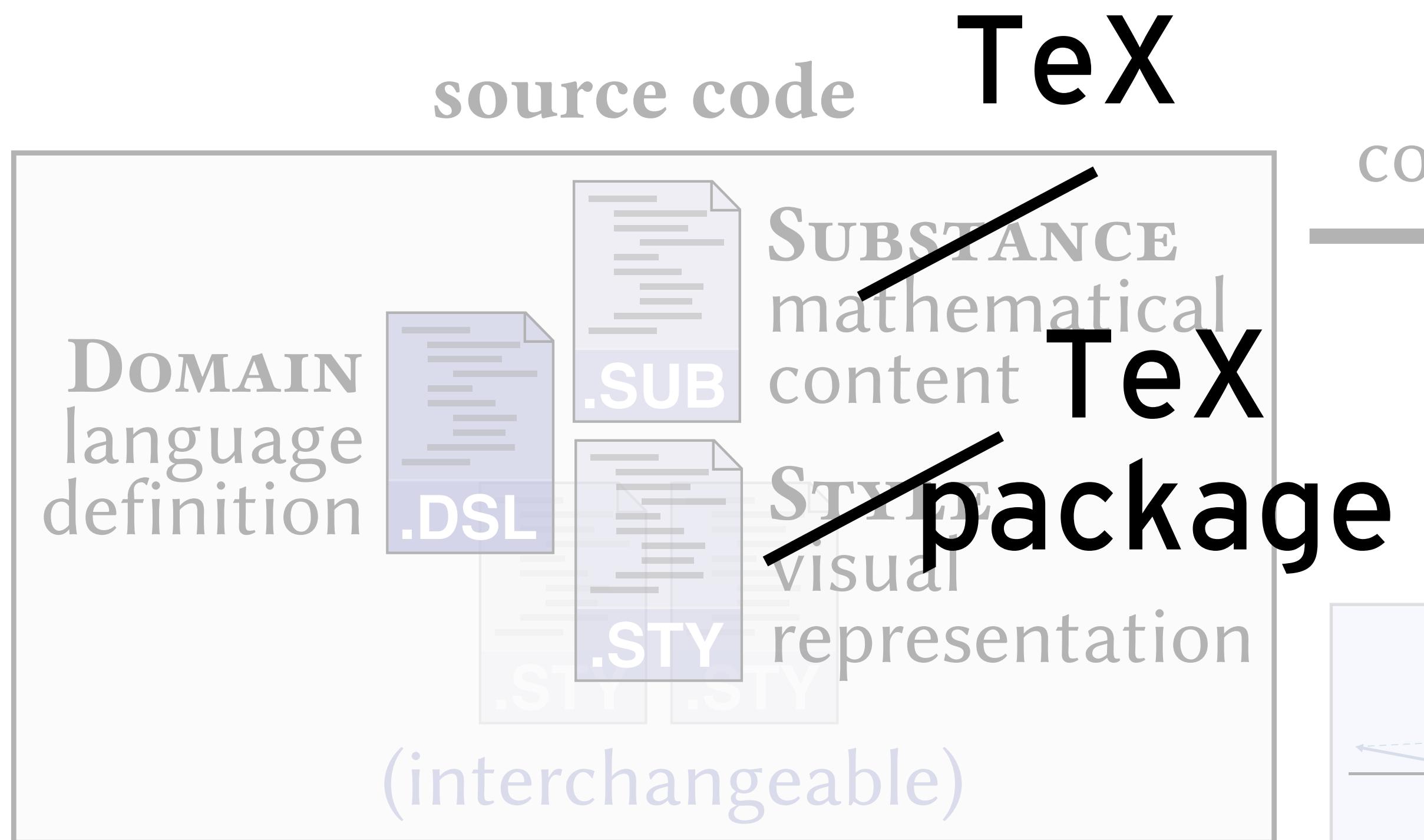


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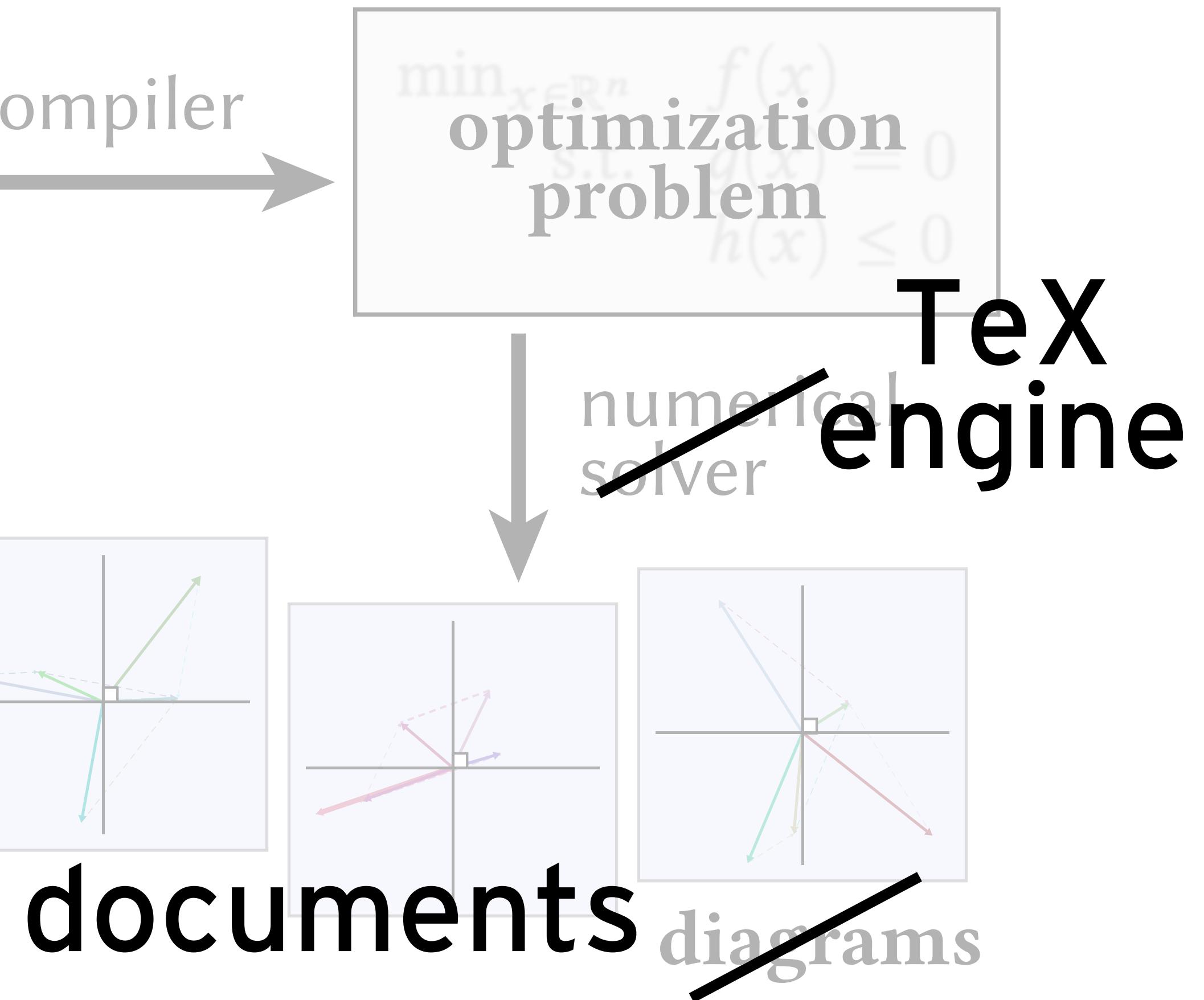


# TeX/LaTeX follows similar design principles

## Specification



## Synthesis

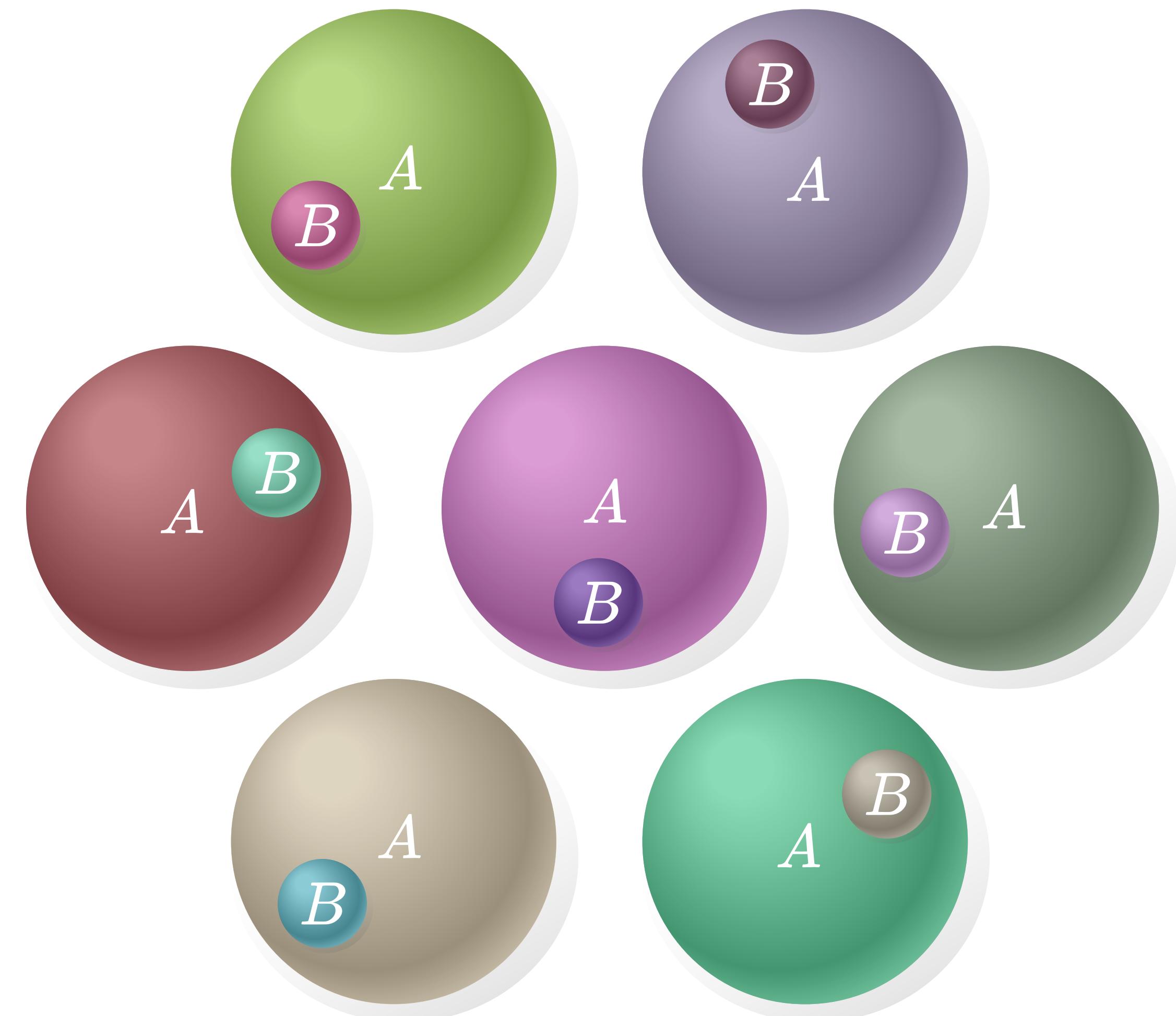


# System walkthrough

# A simple example

# A simple example

**Set A, B**  
B C A



# **Substance defines the content of a diagram**

*There exist sets A and B  
such that B is a subset of A.*

# **Substance defines the content of a diagram**

specify objects

*There exist sets A and B  
such that B is a subset of A.*

# **Substance defines the content of a diagram**

specify objects

*There exist sets A and B  
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specify a  
relationship

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specify objects

specify a  
relationship

# **Substance is compositional**

“Consider sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  such that  
 $B$  is a subset of  $A$ ,  $C$  is a subset of  $A$ ,  
and  $B$  and  $C$  don’t intersect, and ...”

# **Substance is compositional**

“Consider sets  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  such that  
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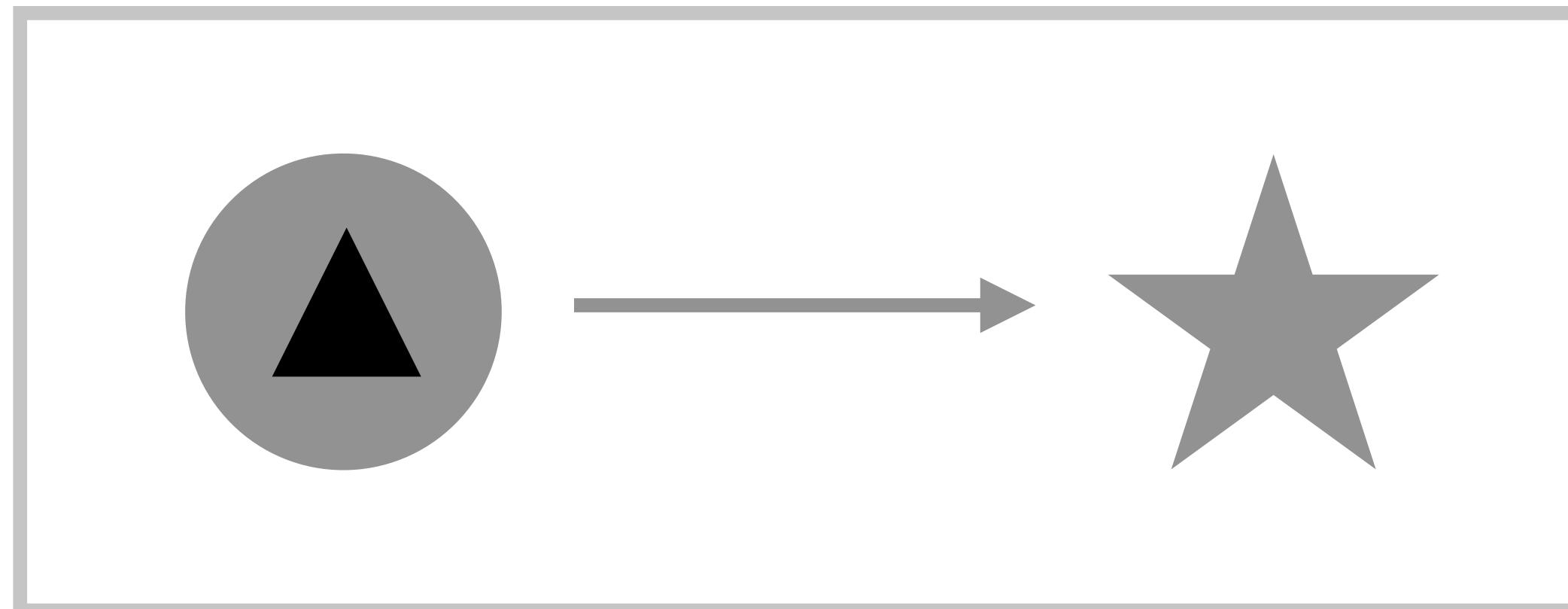
**Set  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$**   
 $B \subset A$   
 $C \subset A$   
 $B \cap C = \emptyset$

...

# **Style defines a domain's visual representation**

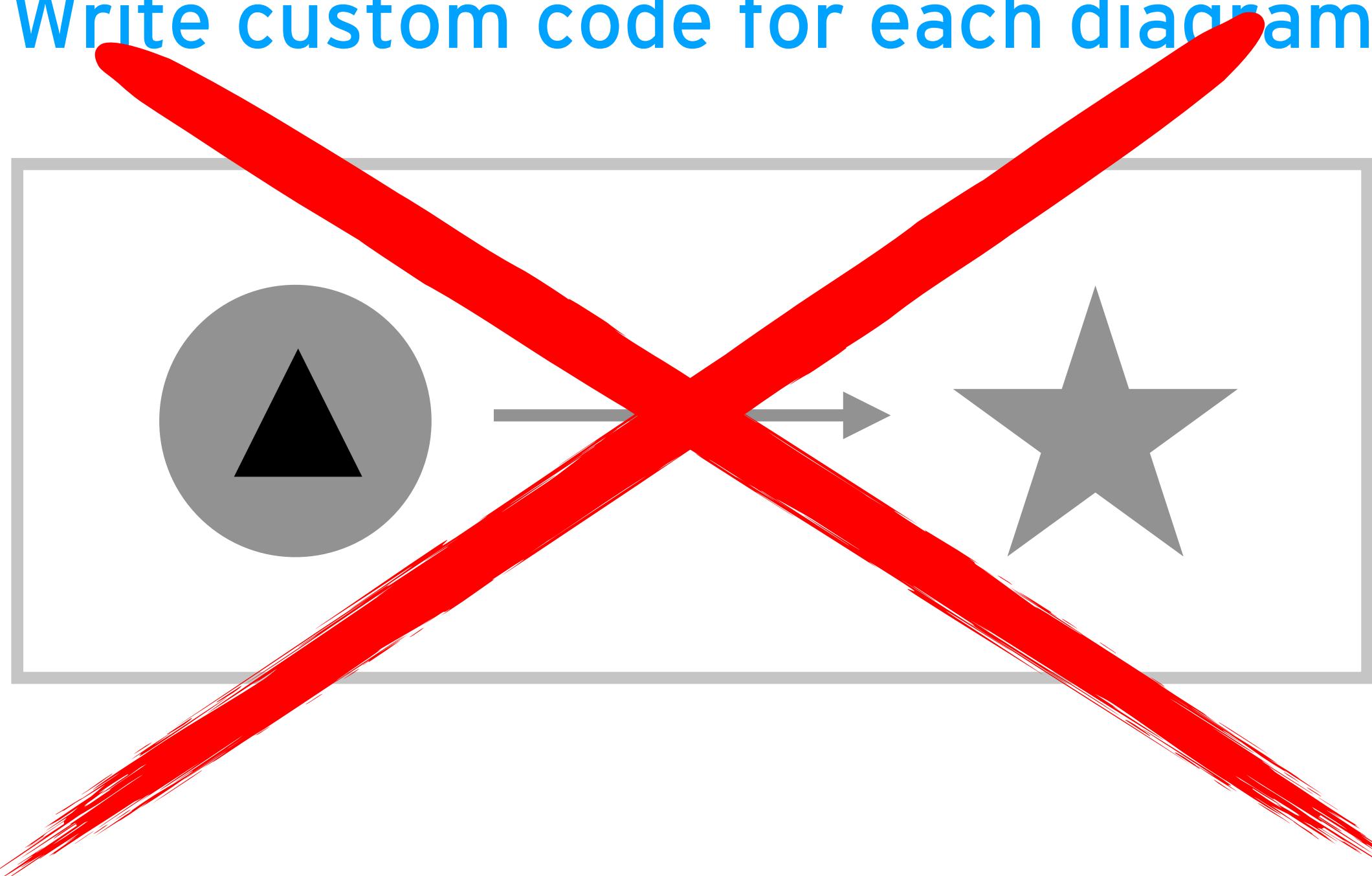
# Style defines a domain's visual representation

Write custom code for each diagram

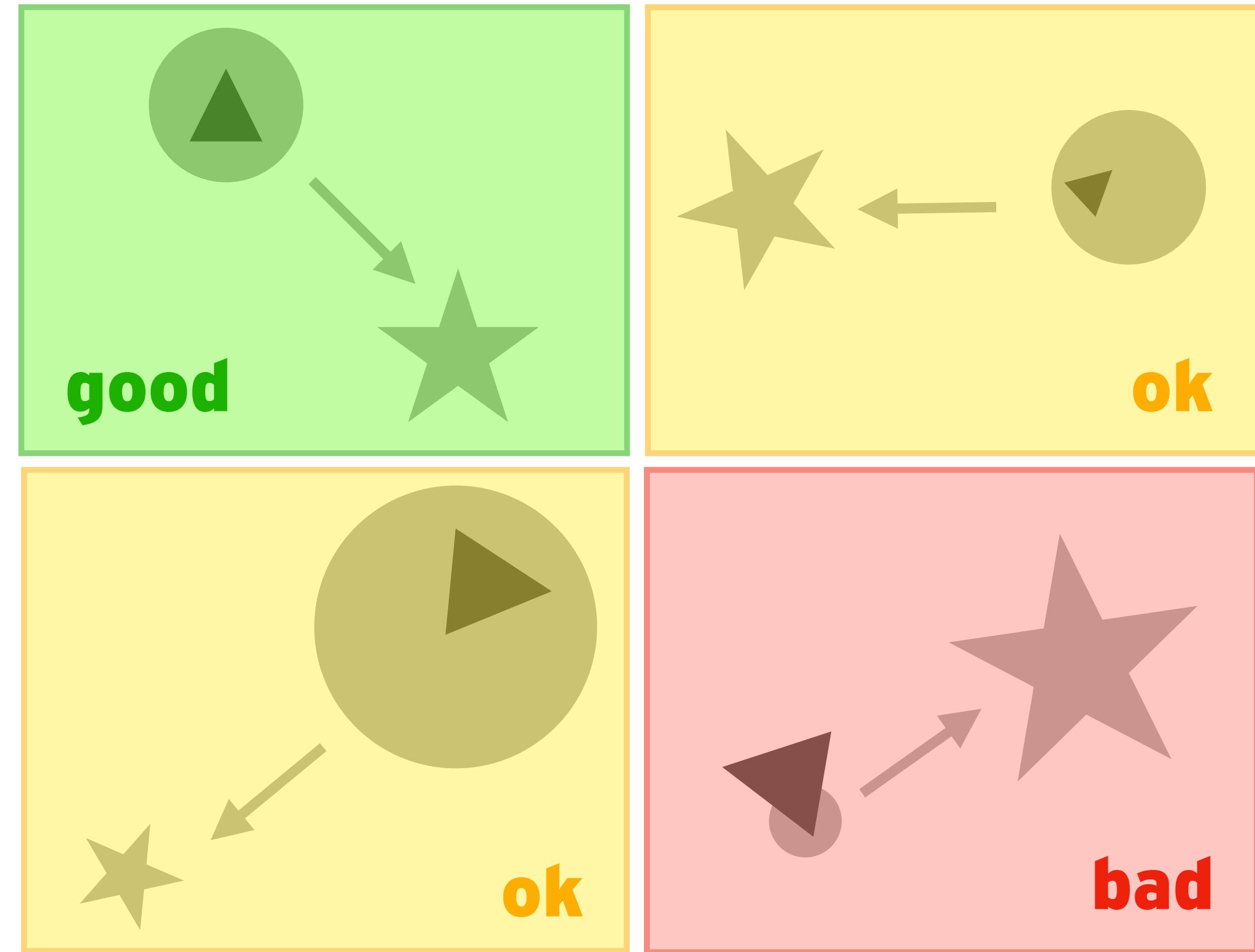


# Style defines a domain's visual representation

Write custom code for each diagram



Write code **once** for many diagrams



# **A Style is a list of selectors & rules**

# **A Style is a list of selectors & rules**

**Selector**

**Rule (e.g. make a shape)**

**Rule (e.g. make a constraint)**

# A Style is a list of selectors & rules

Selector

Rule (e.g. make a shape)

Rule (e.g. make a constraint)

More specific selector

Rule refinement

Rule refinement

# Visualizing sets & subsets

# Visualizing sets & subsets

# A simple *Style* for sets & subsets

# A simple *Style* for sets & subsets

```
forall Set x {  
    x.shape = Circle { strokeWidth : 0.0 }  
    x.text = Text { string : x.label }  
    ensure contains(x.shape, x.text)  
    encourage sameCenter(x.text, x.shape)  
    layer x.shape below x.text  
}
```

# A simple *Style* for sets & subsets

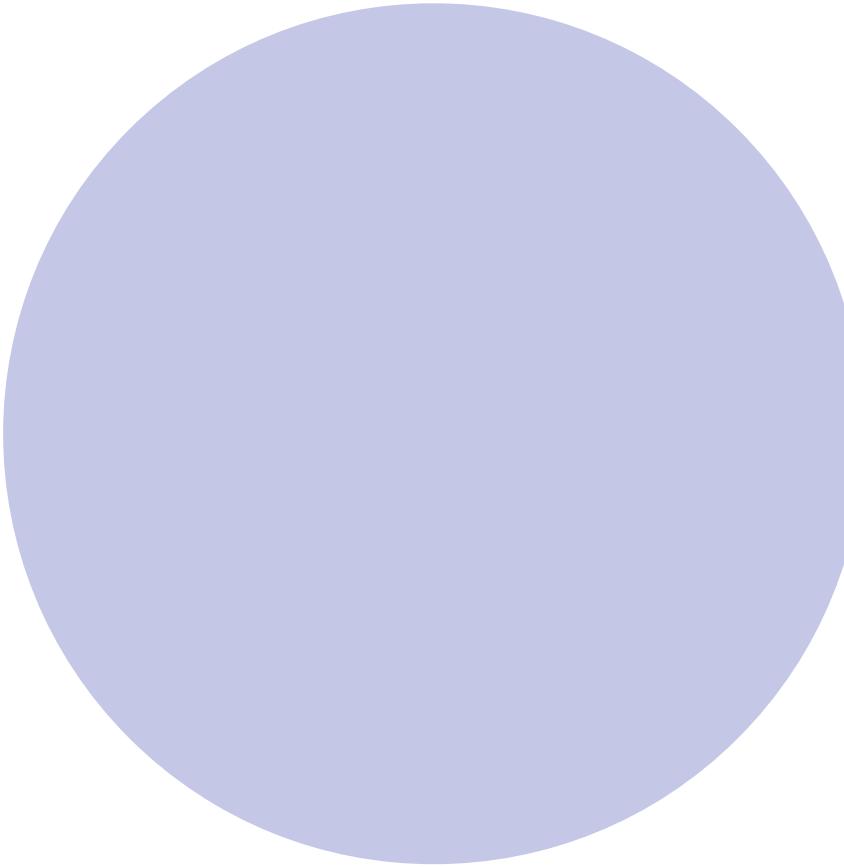
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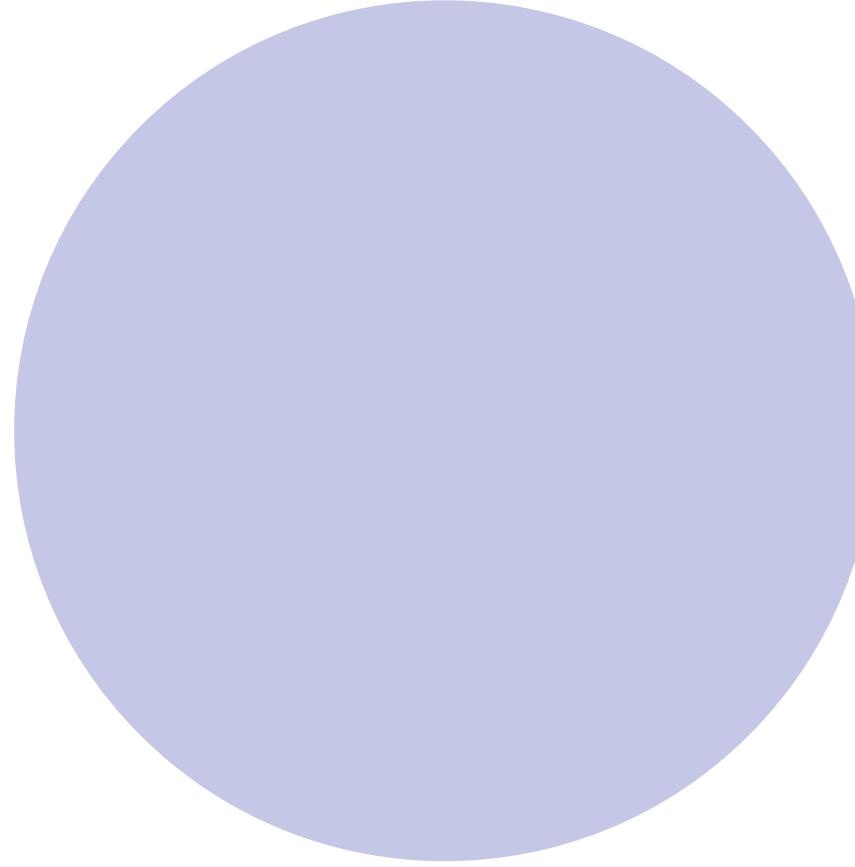
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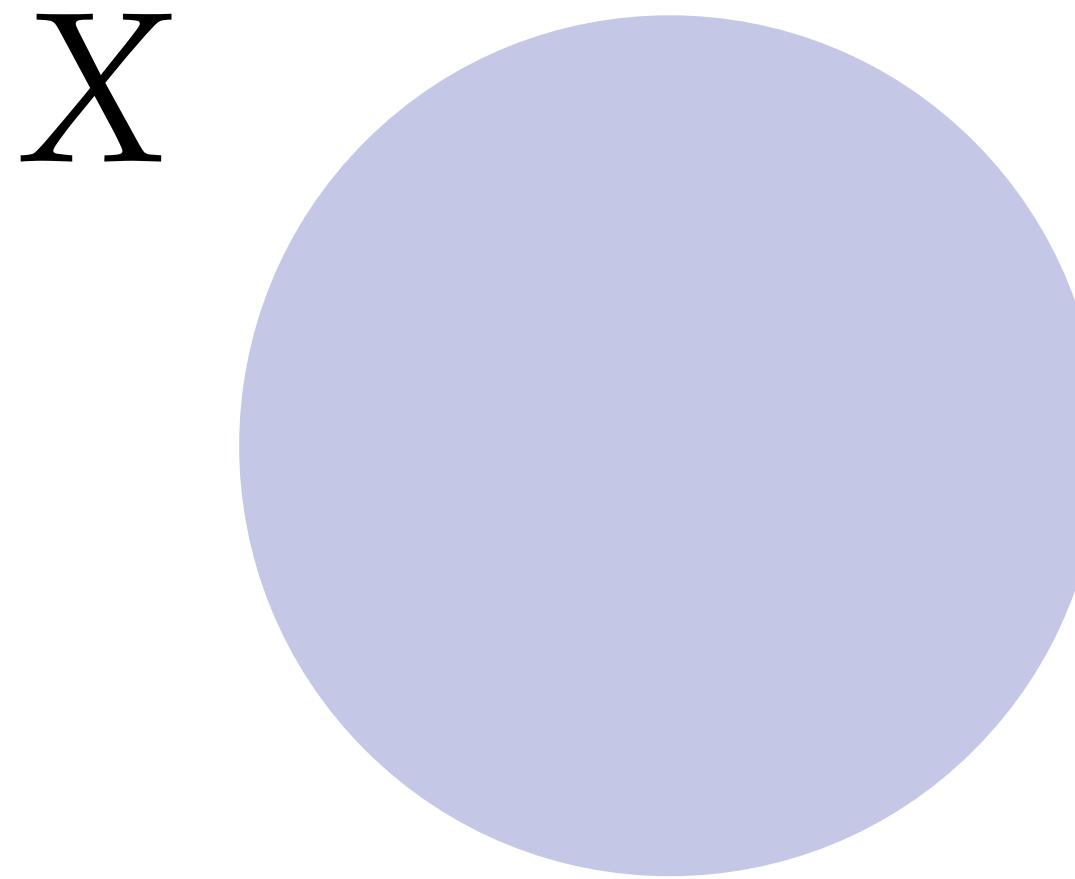
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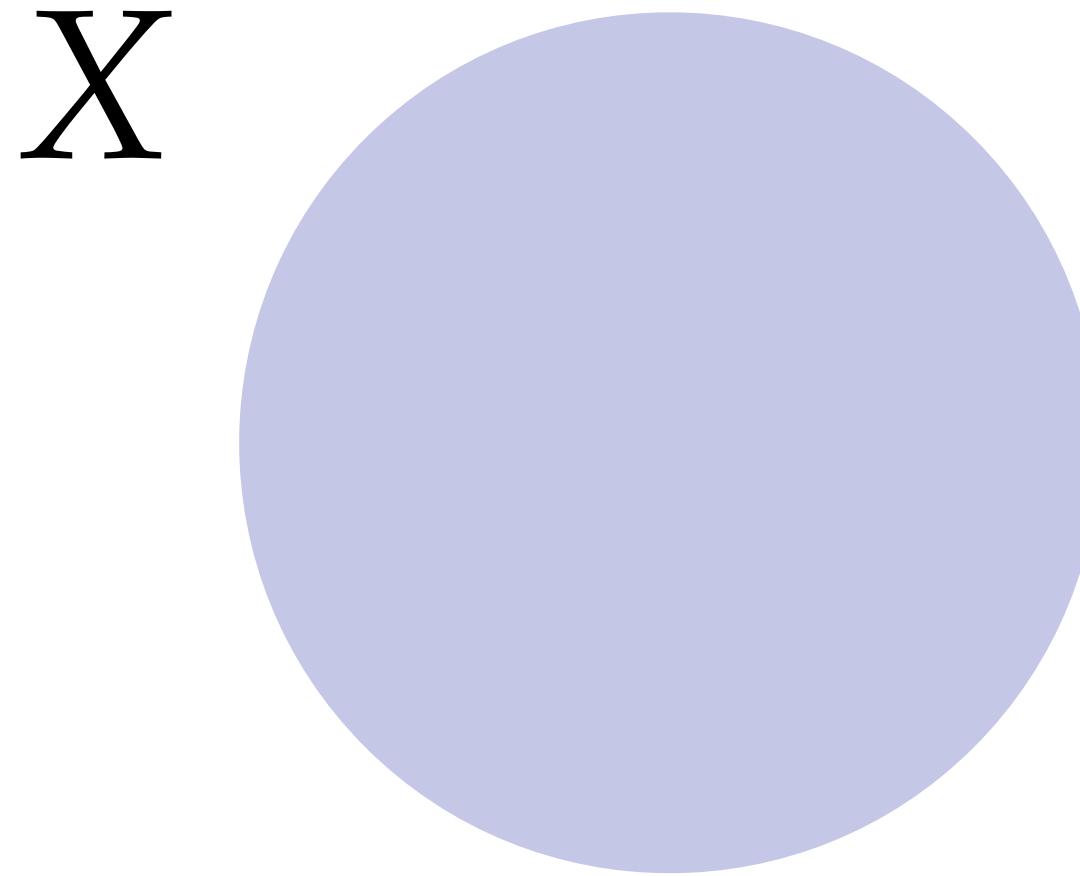
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}
```



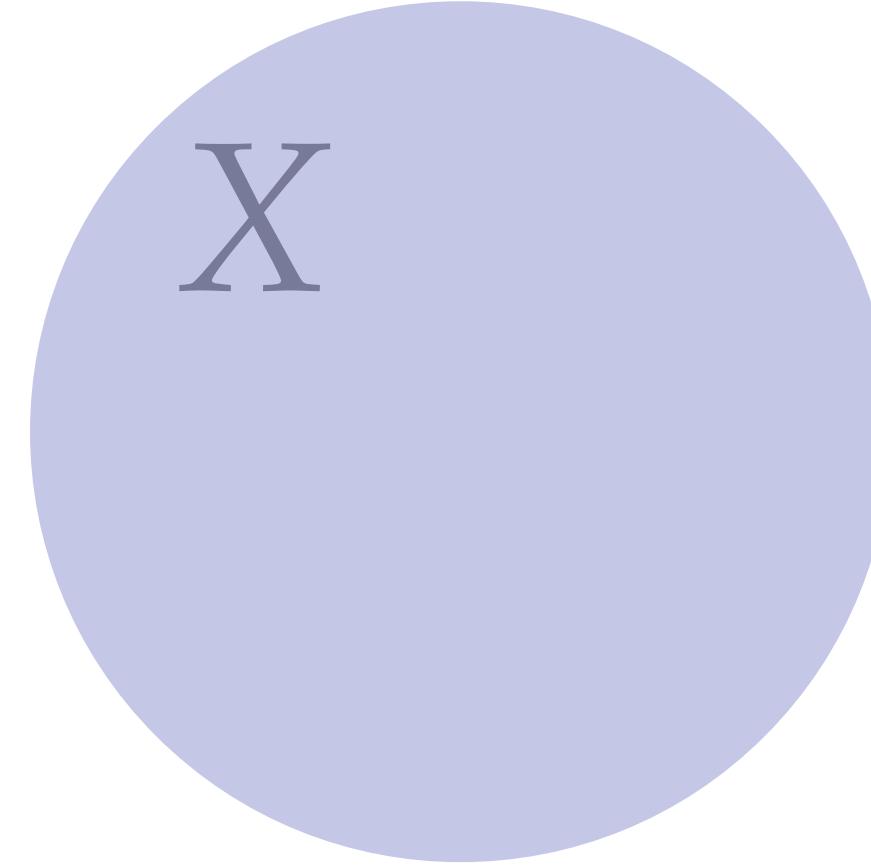
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```



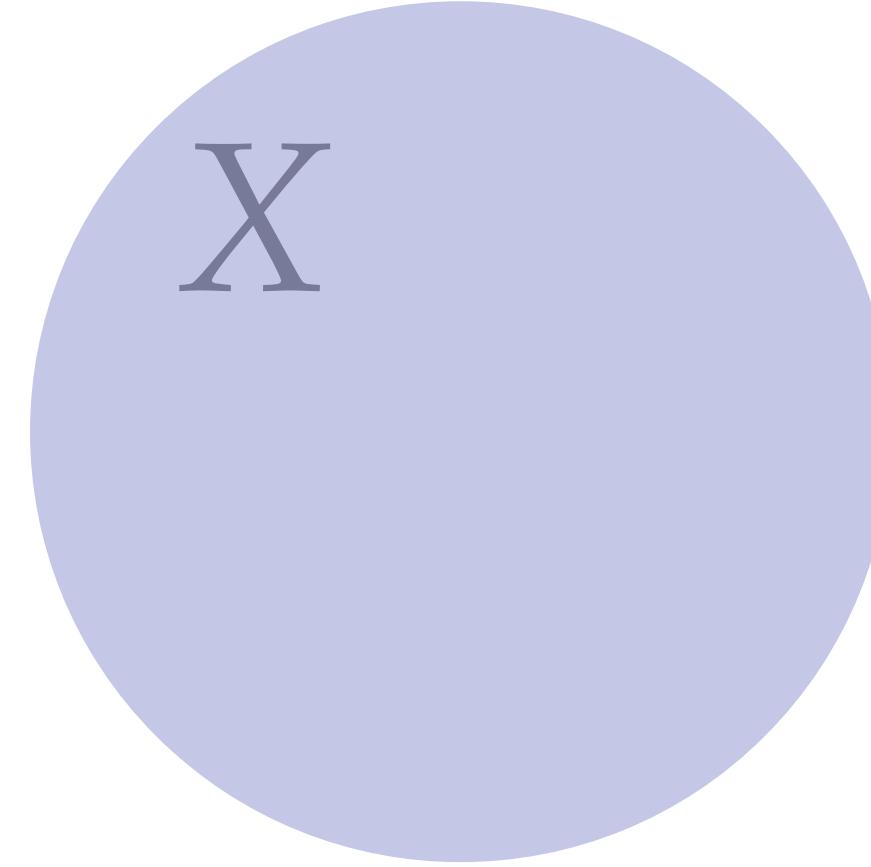
# A simple *Style* for sets & subsets

```
forall Set x {  
    x.shape = Circle { strokeWidth : 0.0 }  
    x.text = Text { string : x.label }  
    ensure contains(x.shape, x.text)  
    encourage sameCenter(x.text, x.shape)  
    layer x.shape below x.text  
}
```



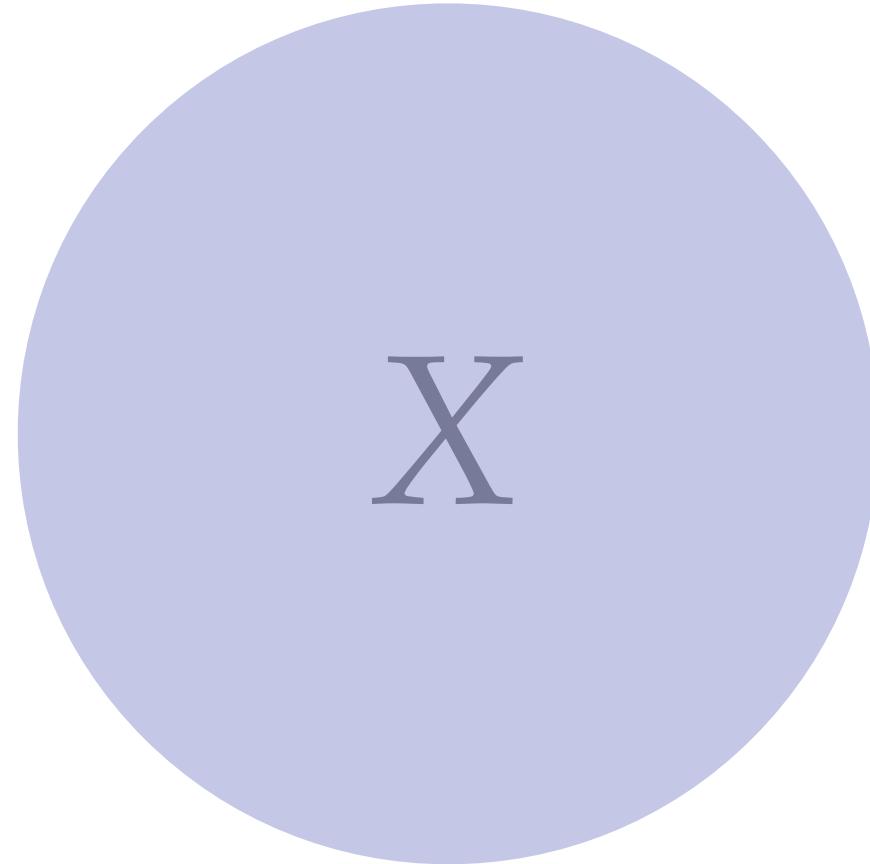
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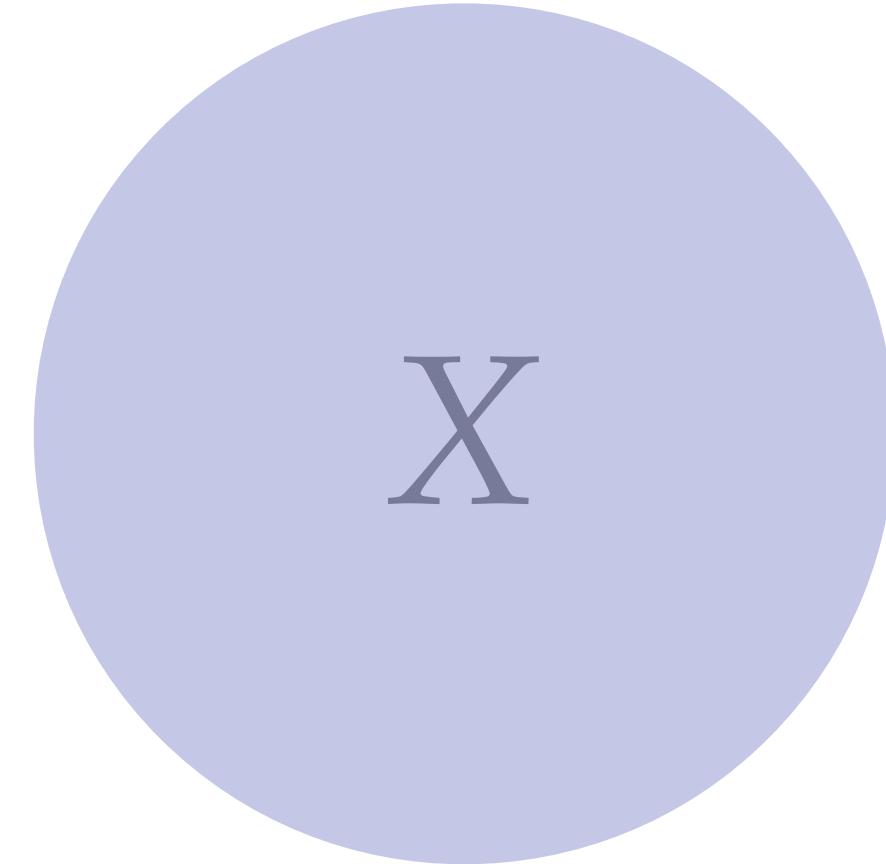
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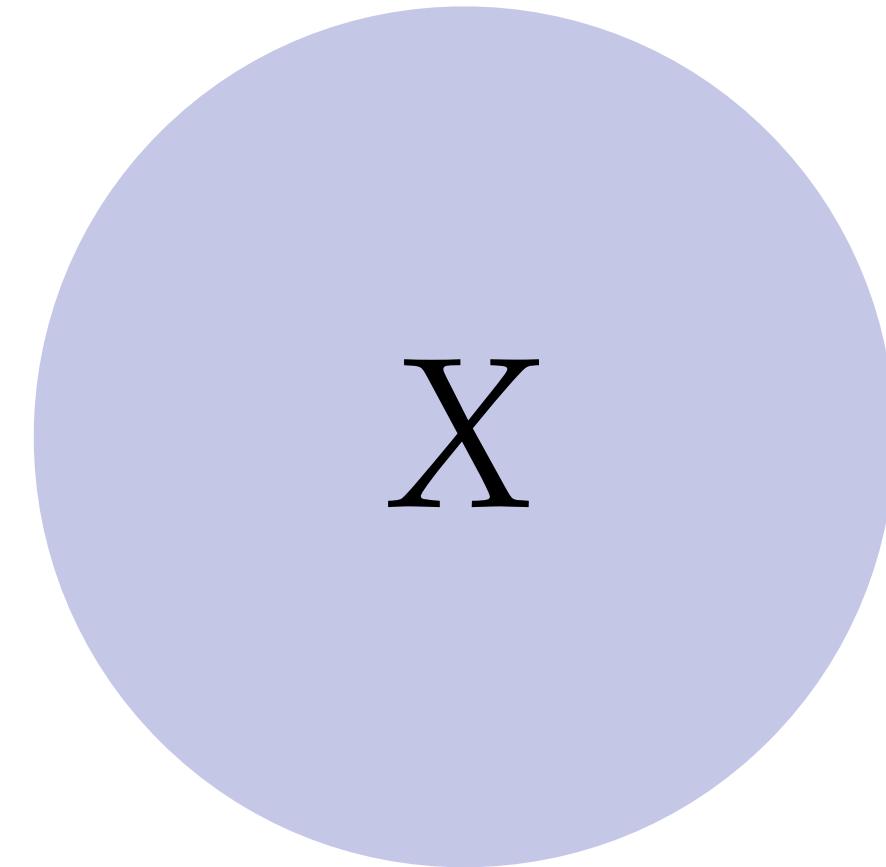
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}
```



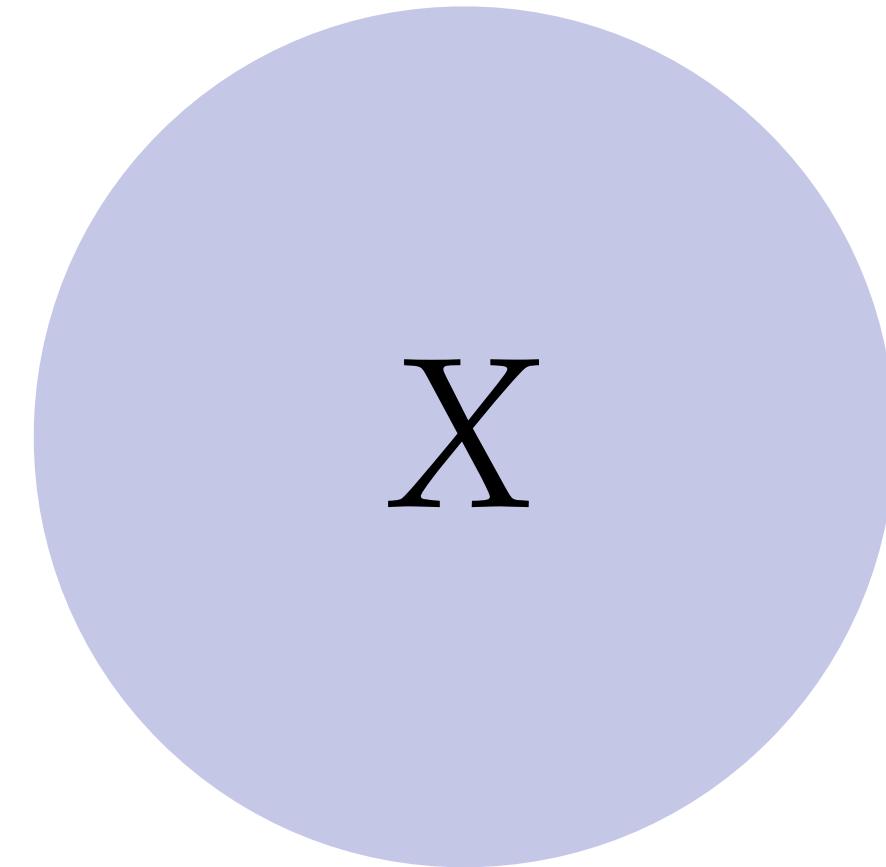
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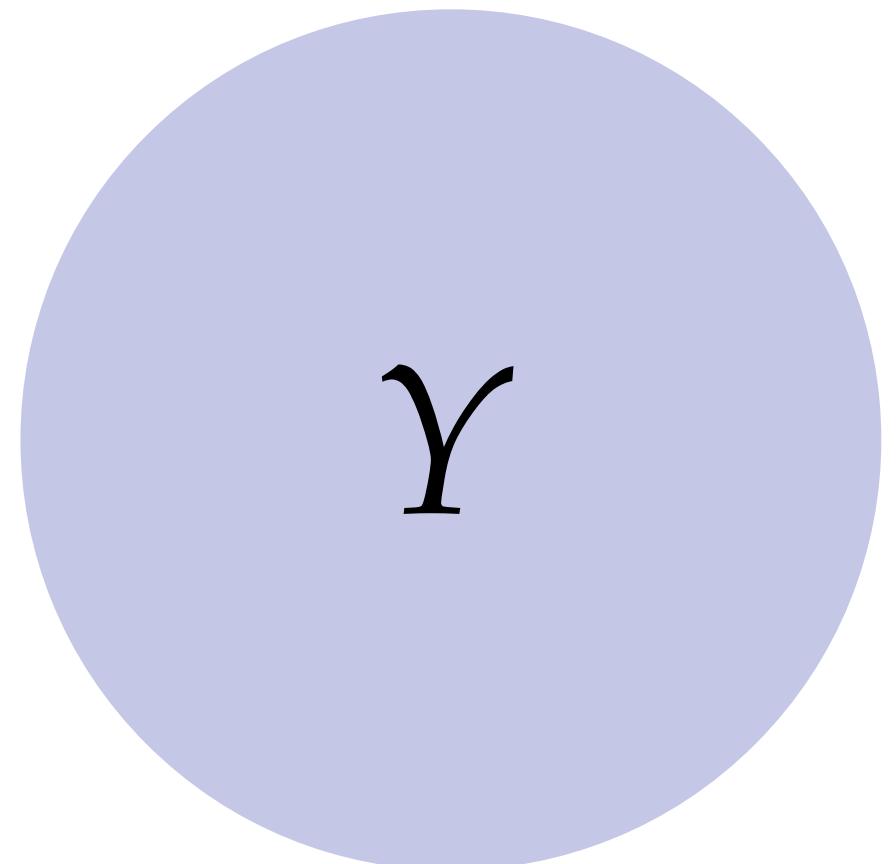
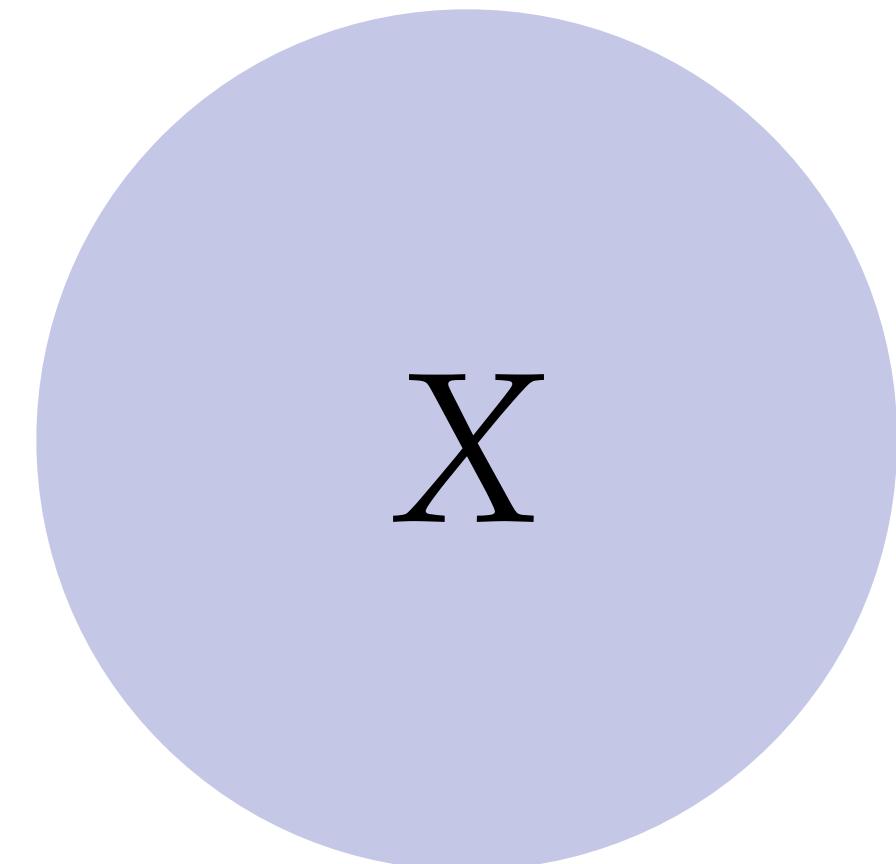


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}  
  
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}
```

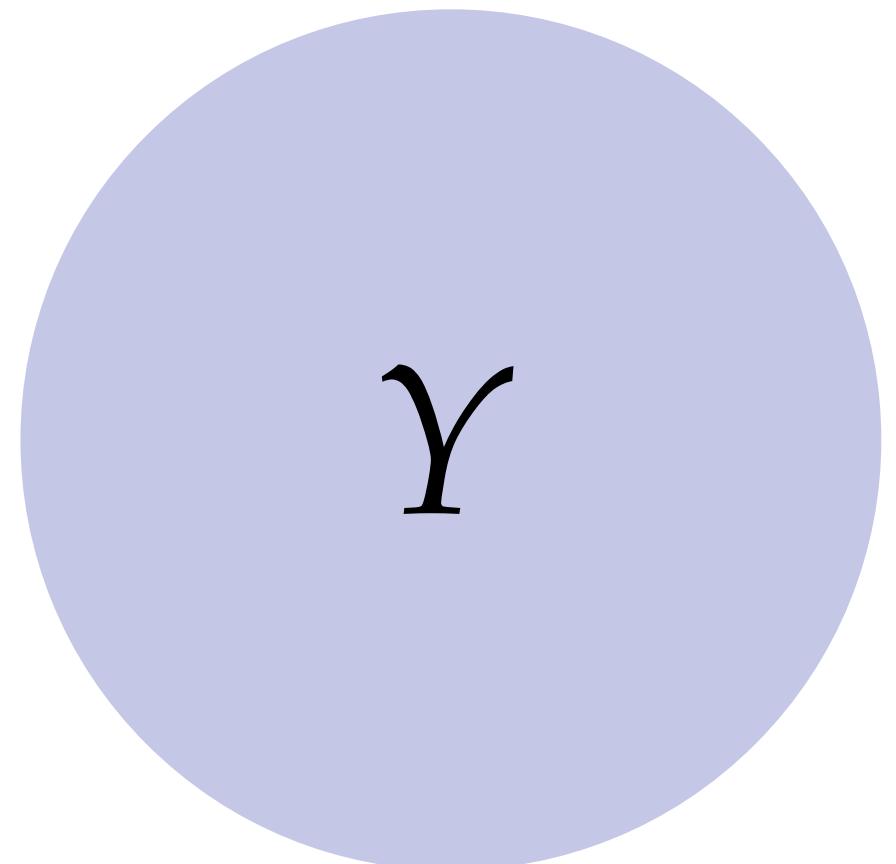
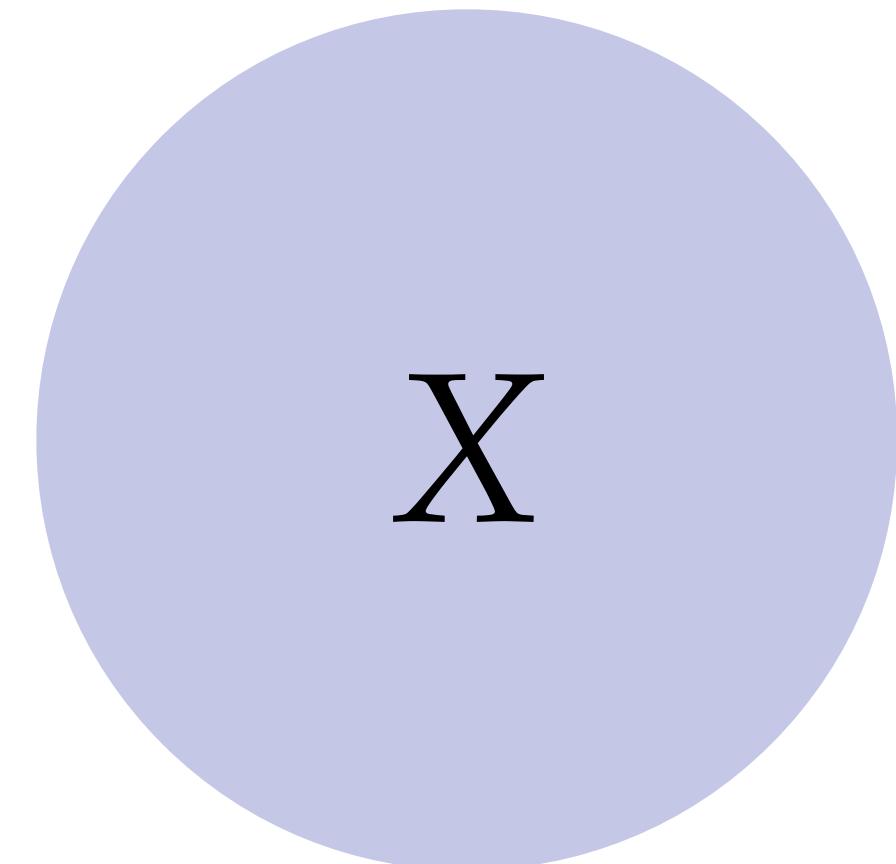
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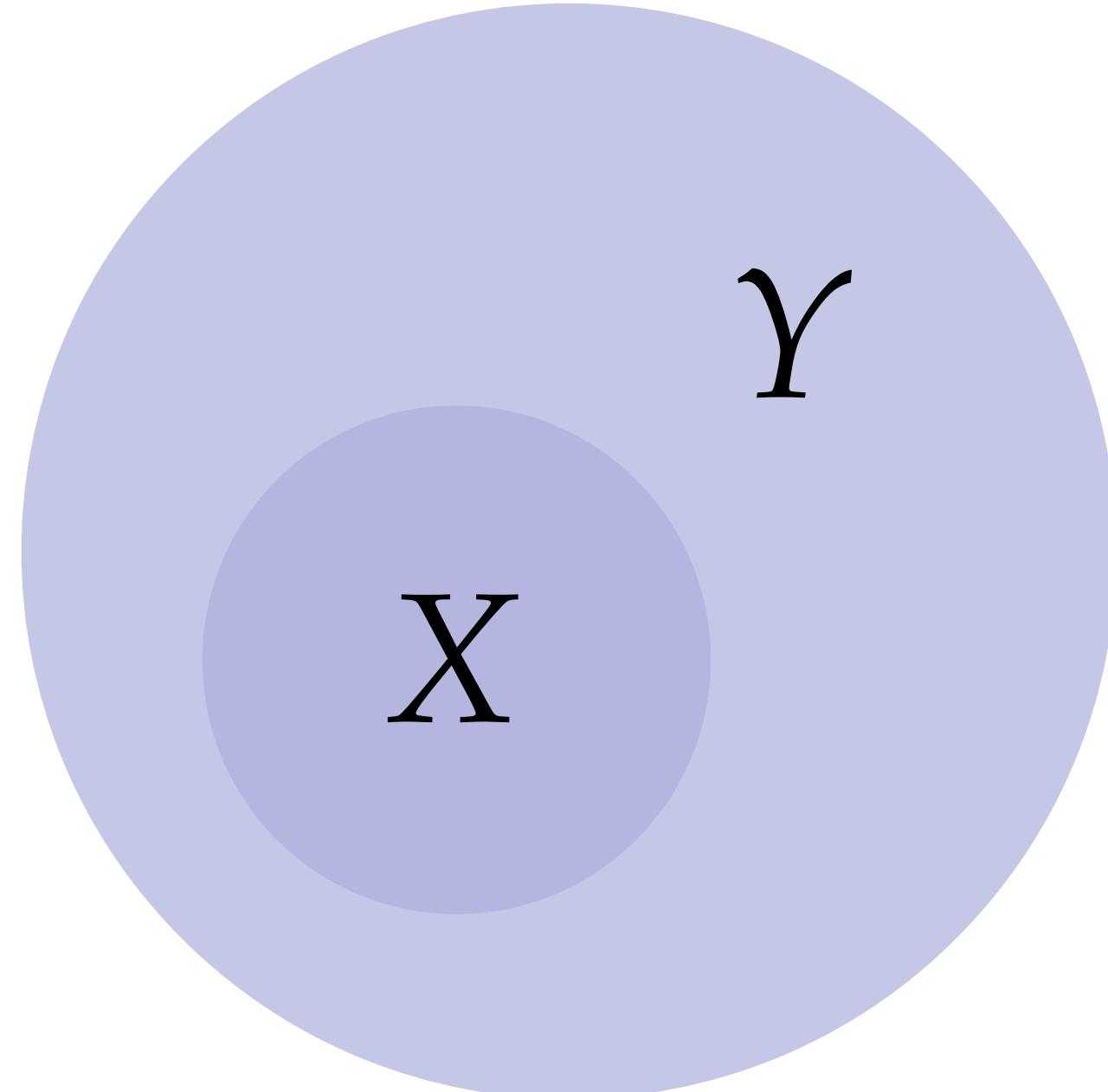
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}
```



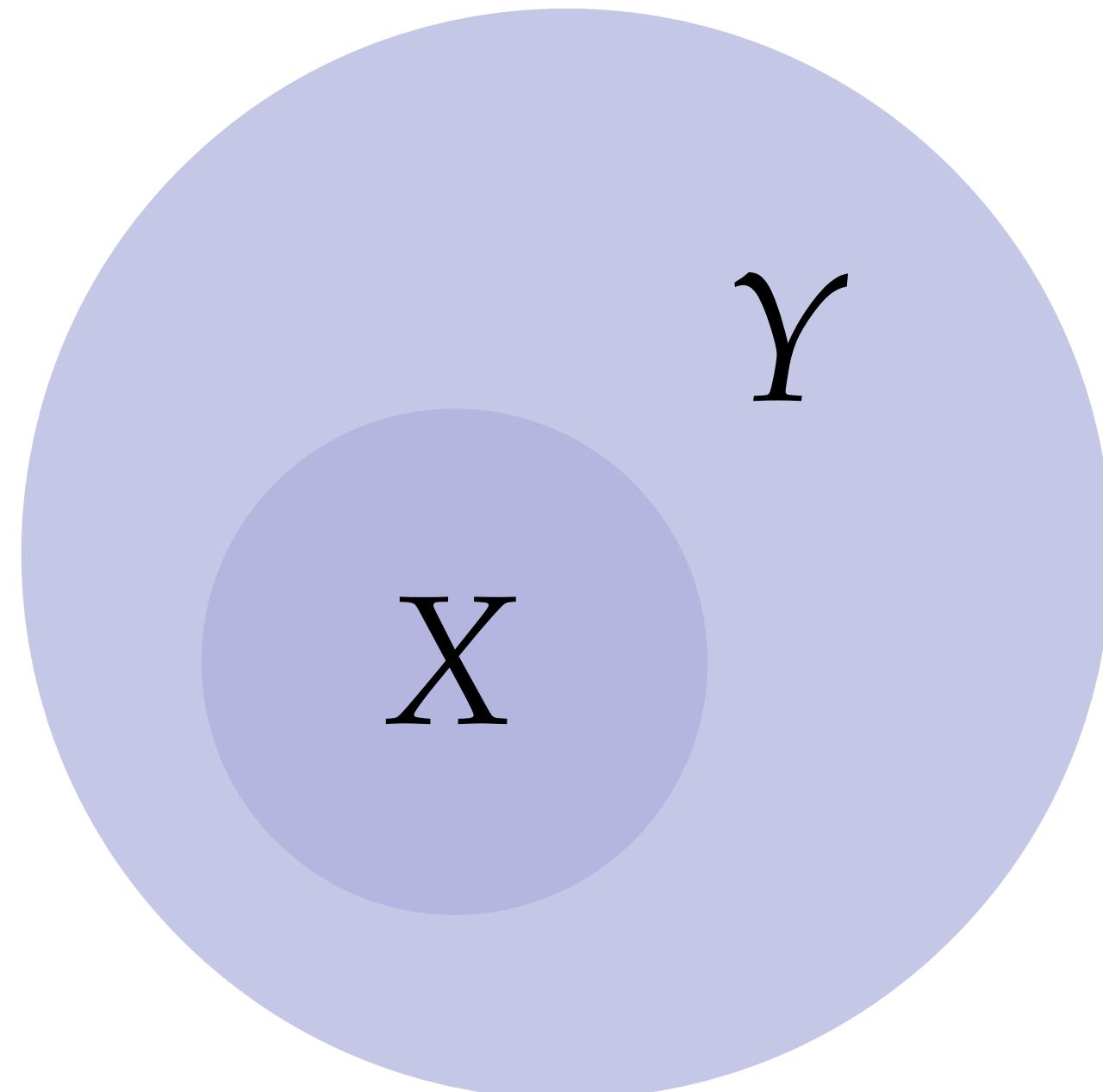
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    layer x.shape above y.shape  
    layer y.text below x.shape  
}
```

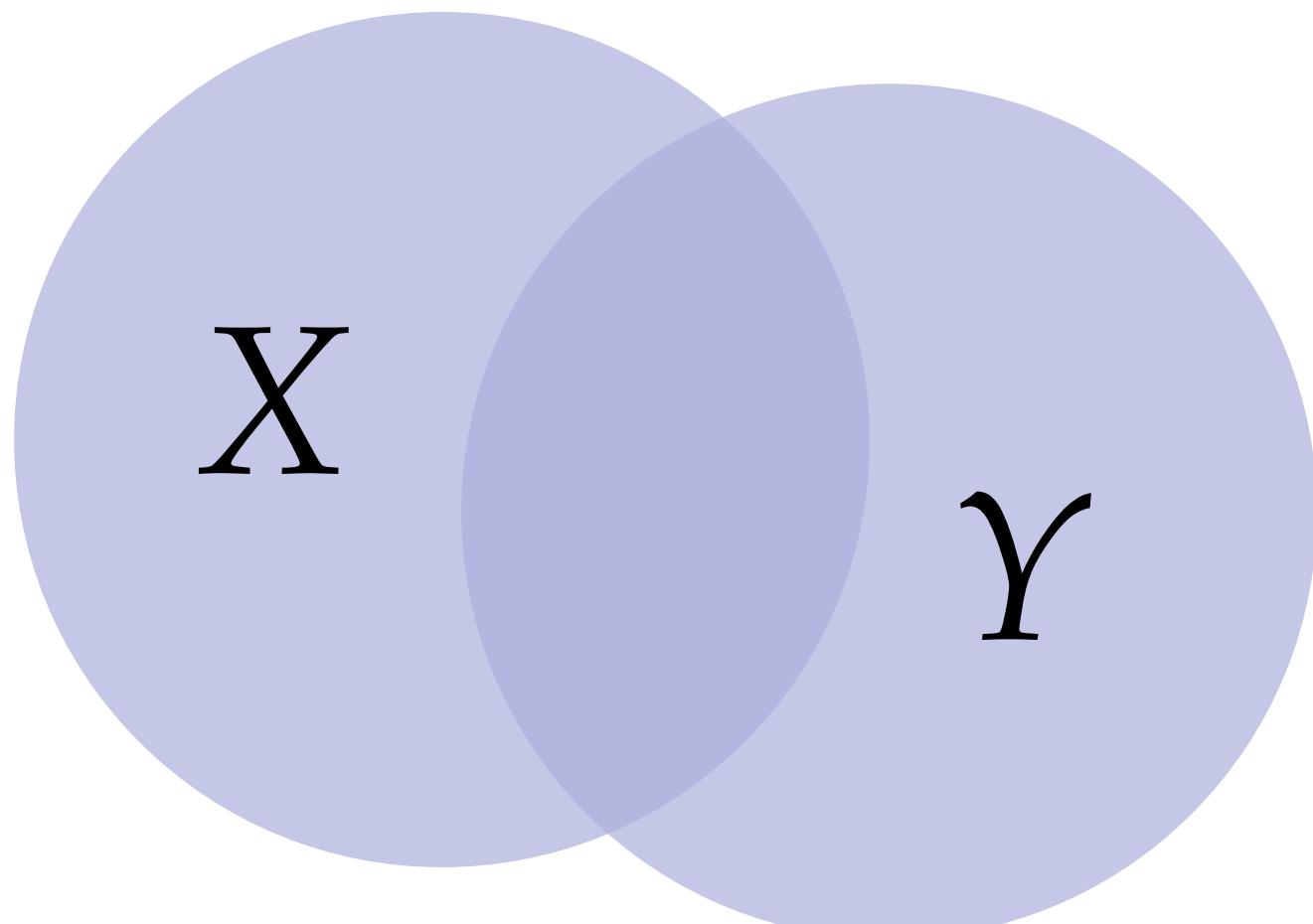


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}  
  
forall Set x; Set y  
where Not(Intersecting(x, y)) {  
    ensure disjoint(x.shape, y.shape)  
}
```

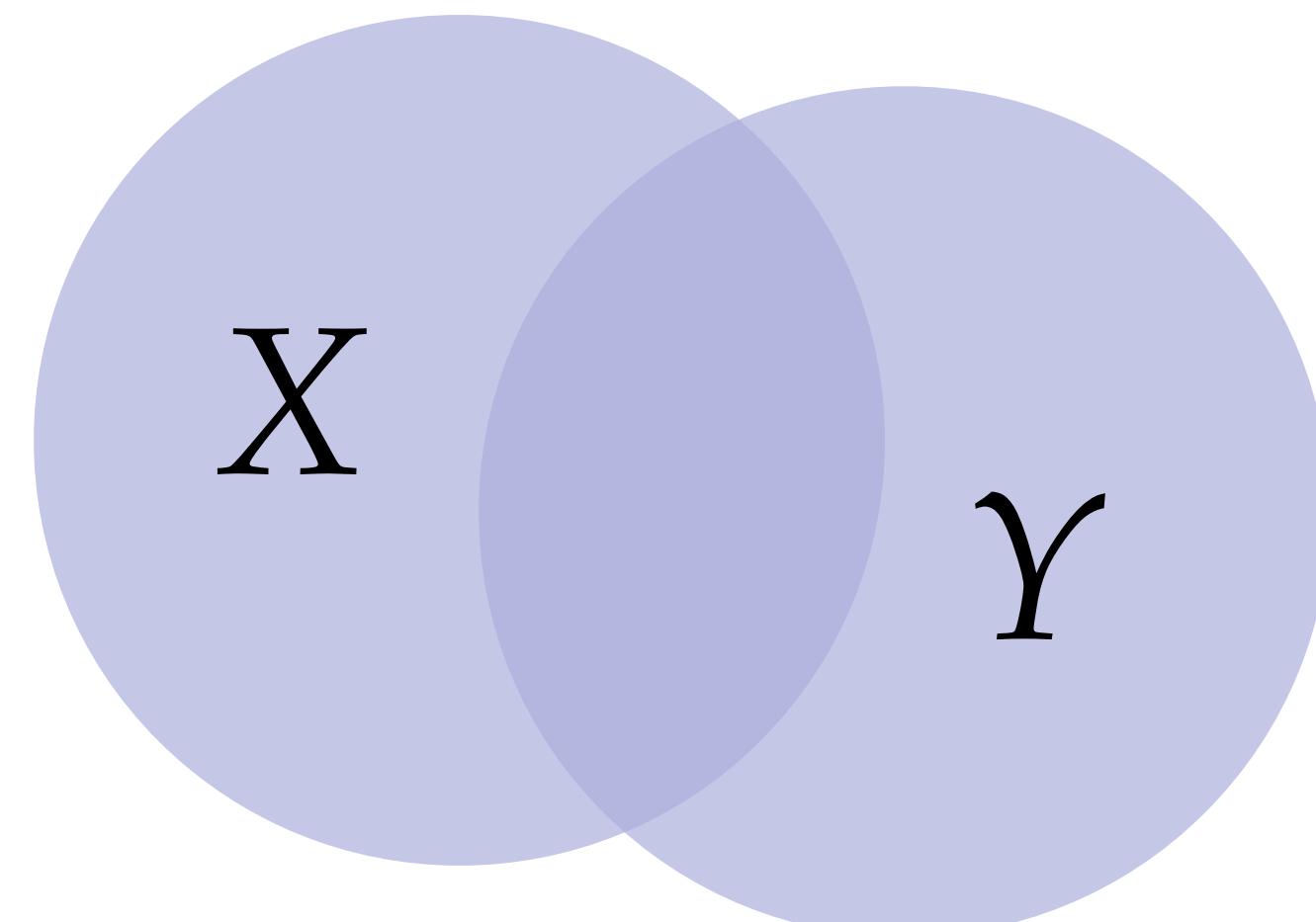
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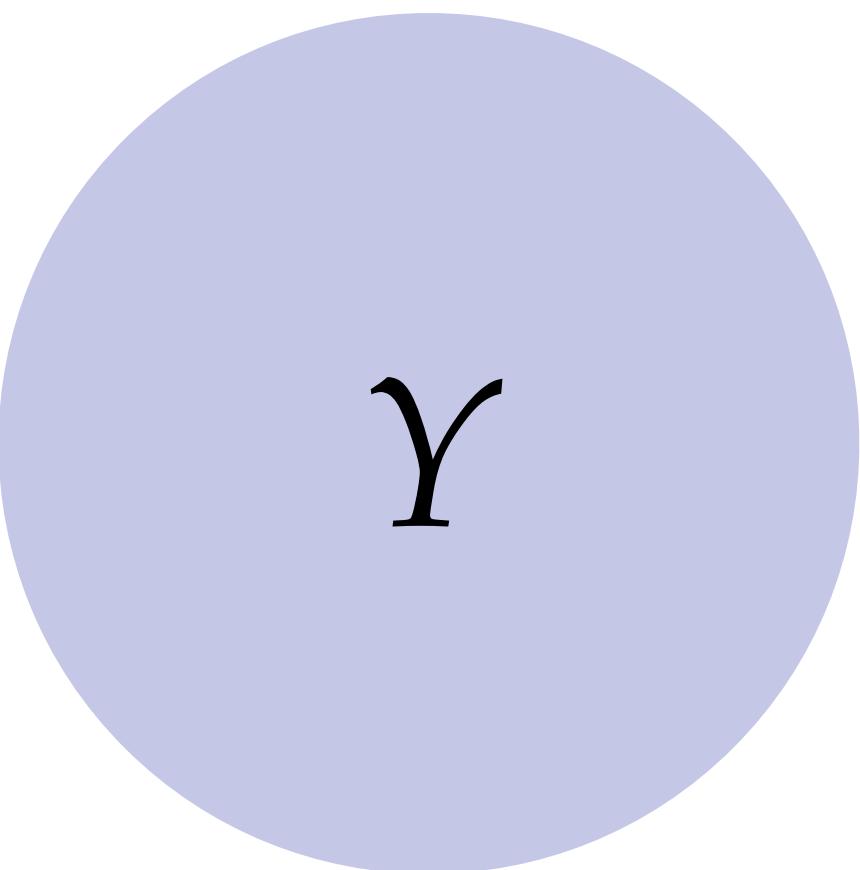
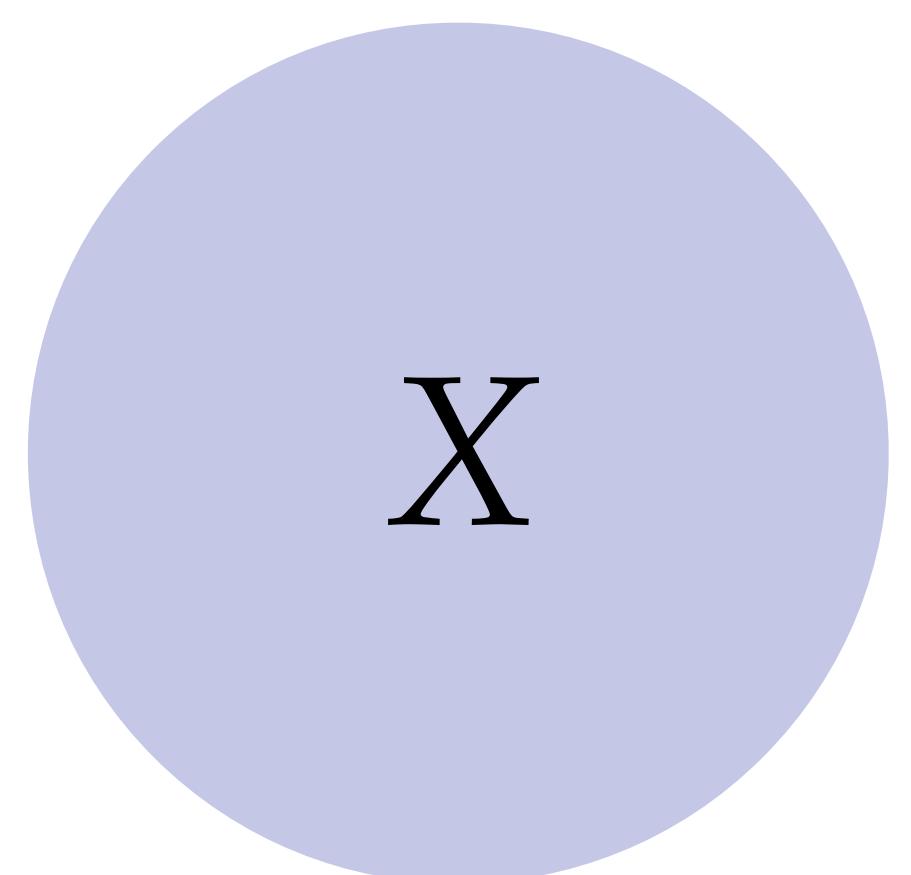
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```

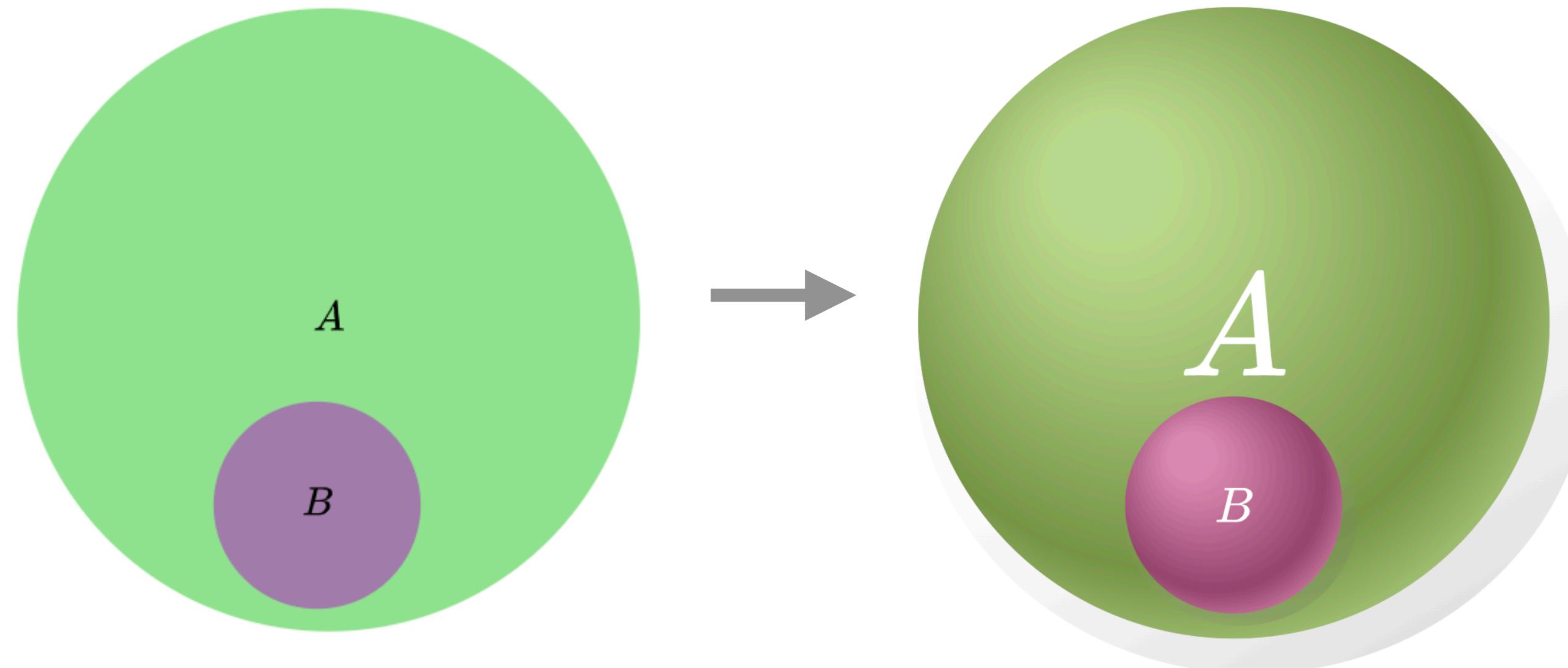
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    ensure contains(x.shape, x.text)  
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}  
  
forall Set x; Set y  
where Not(Intersecting(x, y)) {  
    ensure disjoint(x.shape, y.shape)  
}
```

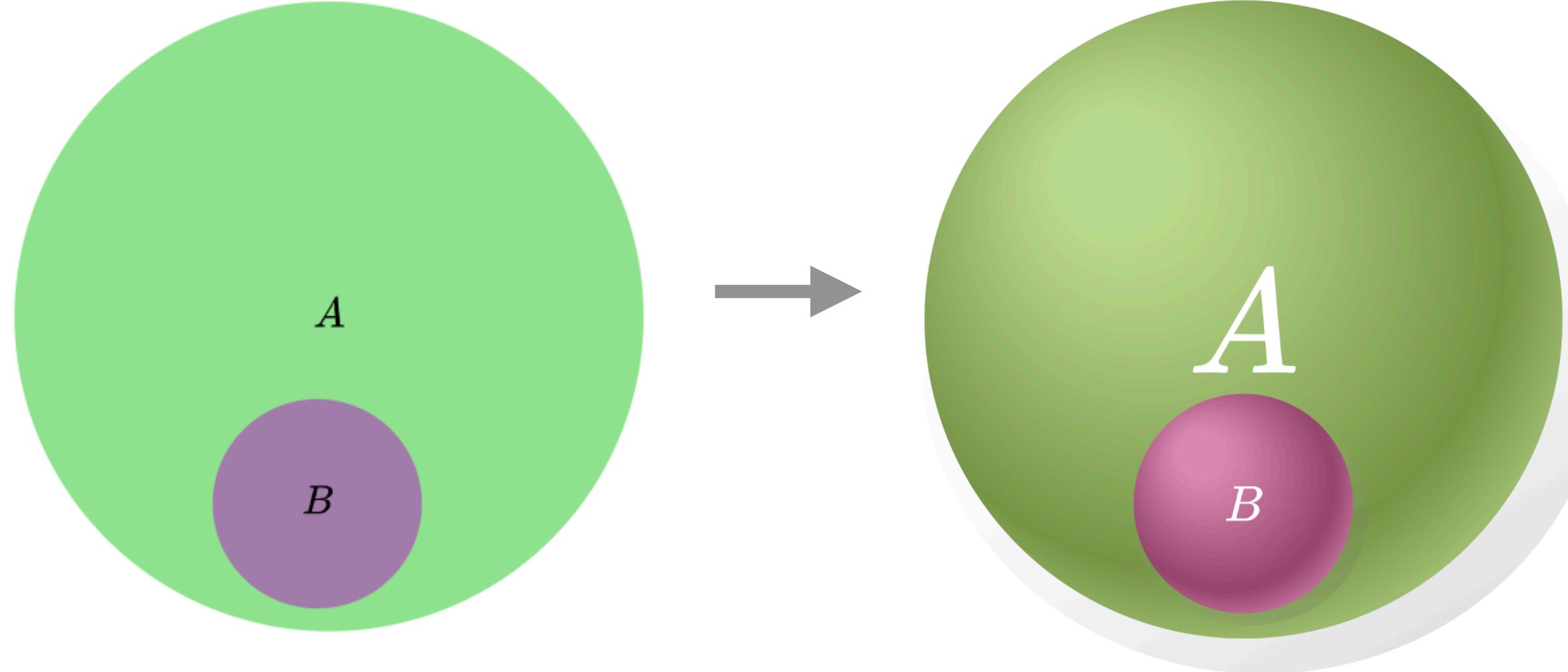
defines a family  
of diagrams

# **Style makes it easy to refine the visual style**

# Style makes it easy to refine the visual style



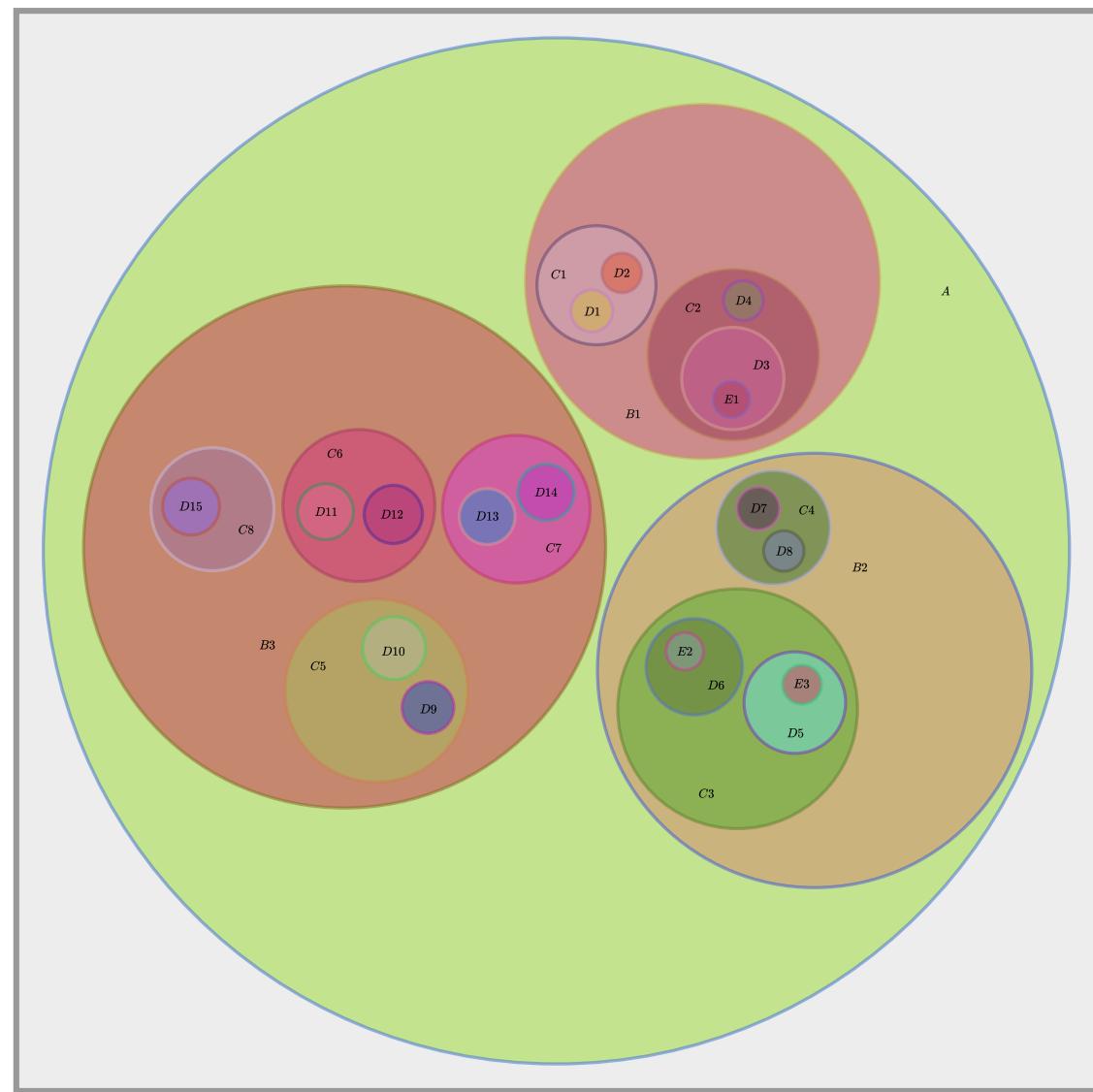
# Style makes it easy to refine the visual style



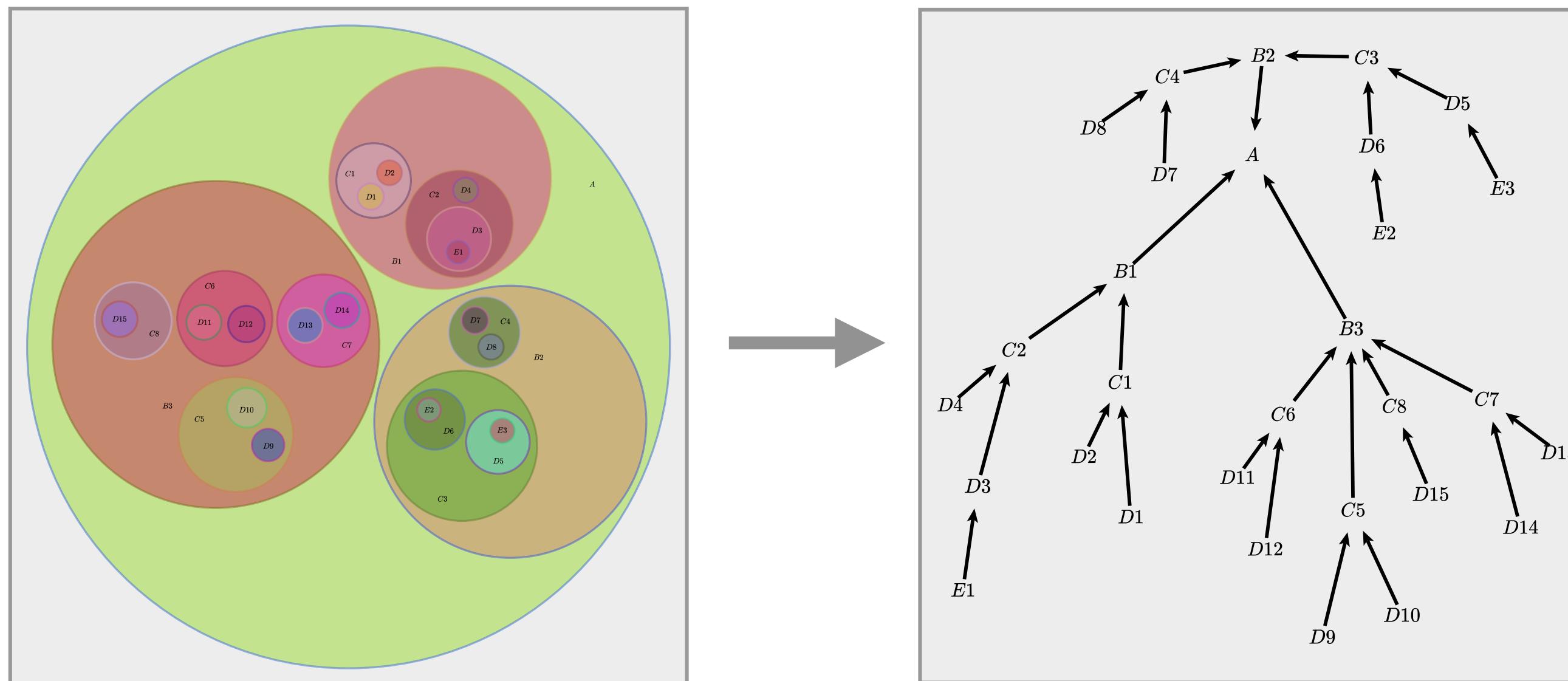
```
x.shading = Image {  
    x : x.shape.x  
    y : x.shape.y  
    w : x.shape.r * 2.0  
    h : x.shape.r * 2.0  
    path : "shading.svg"  
}  
  
x.shadow = Image {  
    path : "shadow.svg"  
    w : x.shape.r * 2.15  
    h : x.shape.r * 2.22  
    x : x.shape.x + 0.03 * x.shading.w  
    y : x.shape.y - 0.051 * x.shading.h  
}  
  
x.text = Text {  
    string : x.label  
    color: rgba(1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0)  
    w: 0.5 * x.shape.r  
    h: 0.5 * x.shape.r  
}
```

# **Style makes it easy to change the visual representation**

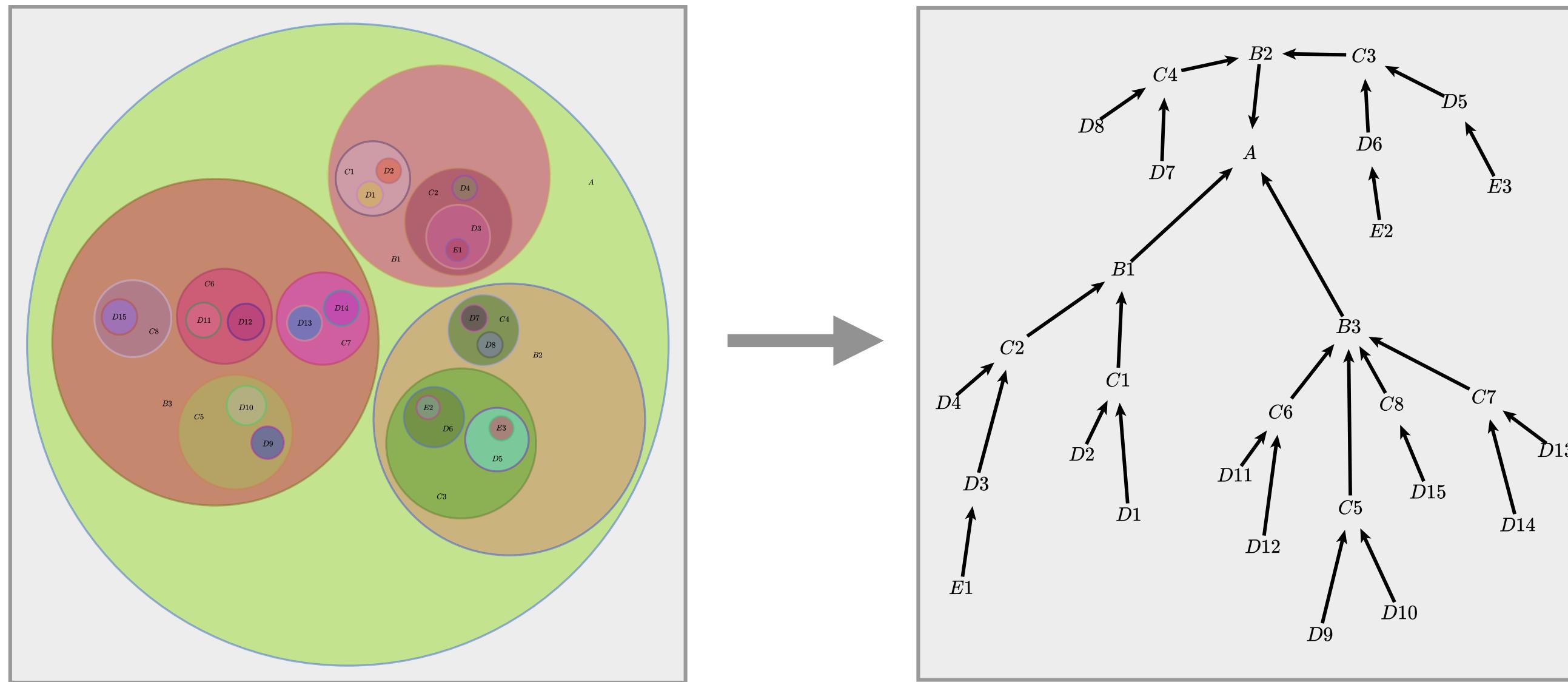
# Style makes it easy to change the visual representation



# Style makes it easy to change the visual representation



# Style makes it easy to change the visual representation



```
Set x {  
    x.shape = Text { string : x.label }  
}
```

```
Set x; Set y {  
    encourage repel(x.shape, y.shape, 5.0)  
}
```

```
Set x; Set y  
where IsSubset(x, y) {  
    arrow = Arrow {  
        thickness : 2.0  
        color : rgba(0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0)  
    }  
}
```

```
encourage centerArrow(LOCAL.arrow,  
                      x.shape, y.shape)  
encourage above(y.shape, x.shape)  
encourage equal(x.shape.x, y.shape.x)  
}
```

# ***Domain schemas define the mathematical environment***

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- There's no way to anticipate every object/idea a user might want to diagram...

# Domain schemas define the mathematical environment

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image credit: Martin Kuppe

# Domain schemas define the mathematical environment

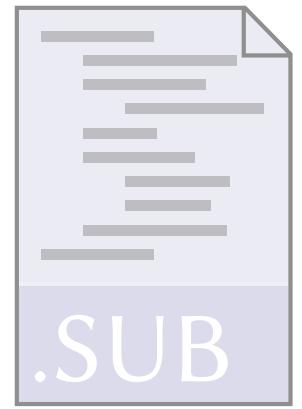
- There's no way to anticipate every object/idea a user might want to diagram...
- But users can **extend** the Substance language by writing Domain schemas that define their own domain-specific dialects



image credit: Martin Kuppe

# ***Domain schemas define abstract types & notation***

# **Domain schemas define abstract types & notation**



**Set A, B, C, D,  
E, F, G**

B ⊂ A

C ⊂ A

D ⊂ B

E ⊂ B

F ⊂ C

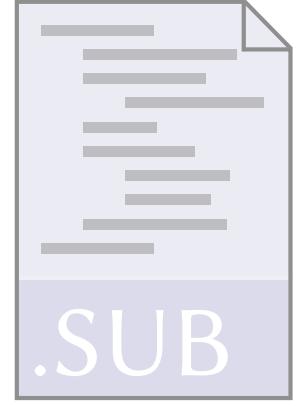
G ⊂ C

E ∩ D = Ø

F ∩ G = Ø

B ∩ C = Ø

# **Domain schemas define abstract types & notation**



**Set A, B, C, D,  
E, F, G**

B ⊂ A

C ⊂ A

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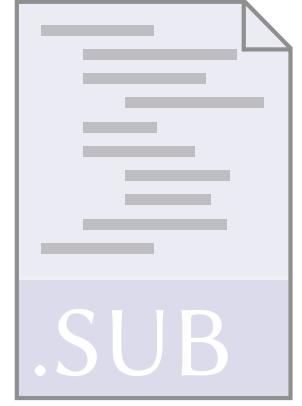
E ∩ D = ∅

F ∩ G = ∅

B ∩ C = ∅



# **Domain schemas define abstract types & notation**



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E, F, G**

B ⊂ A

C ⊂ A

D ⊂ B

E ⊂ B

F ⊂ C

G ⊂ C

E ∩ D =  $\emptyset$

F ∩ G =  $\emptyset$

B ∩ C =  $\emptyset$

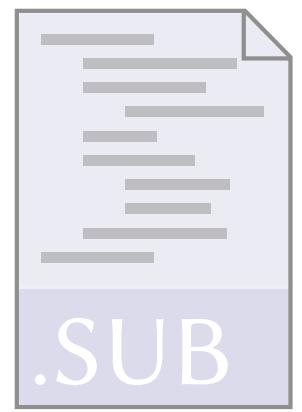


**type Set**



**type Set**

# Domain schemas define abstract types & notation



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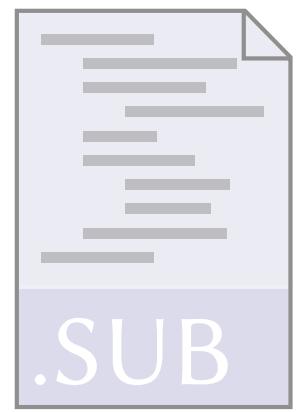
F ∩ G =  $\emptyset$

B ∩ C =  $\emptyset$



**type** Set  
**predicate** IsSubset : Set s1 \* Set s2

# Domain schemas define abstract types & notation



**Set** A, B, C, D,  
E, F, G

B ⊂ A

C ⊂ A

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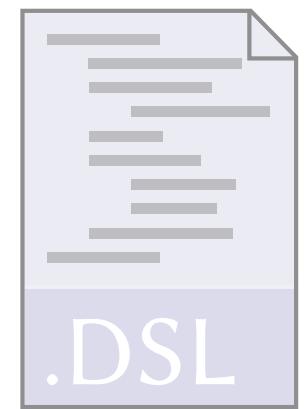
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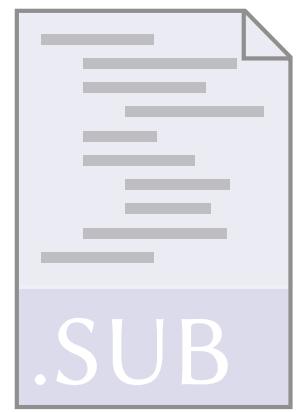
F ∩ G =  $\emptyset$

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```
type Set
predicate IsSubset : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Intersecting : Set s1 * Set s2
```

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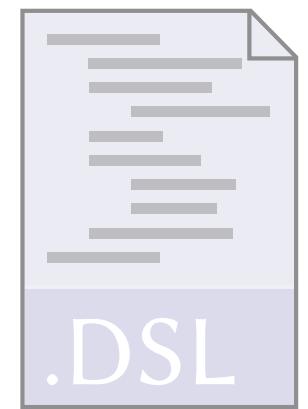
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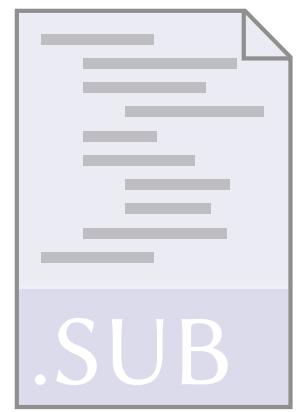
F ∩ G =  $\emptyset$

B ∩ C =  $\emptyset$



```
type Set
predicate IsSubset : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Intersecting : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Not : Prop p
```

# Domain schemas define abstract types & notation



**Set** A, B, C, D,  
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B ⊂ A

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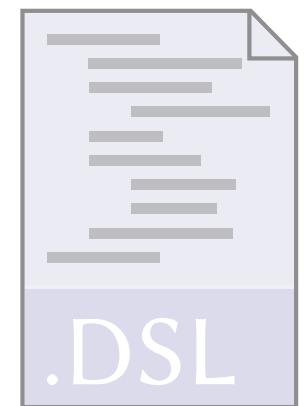
F ⊂ C

G ⊂ C

E ∩ D =  $\emptyset$

F ∩ G =  $\emptyset$

B ∩ C =  $\emptyset$



```
type Set
predicate IsSubset : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Intersecting : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Not : Prop p
notation "A ⊂ B" ~ "IsSubset(A, B)"
```

# Domain schemas define abstract types & notation



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C ⊂ A

D ⊂ B

E ⊂ B

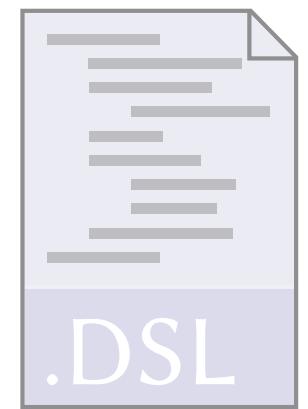
F ⊂ C

G ⊂ C

E ∩ D = ∅

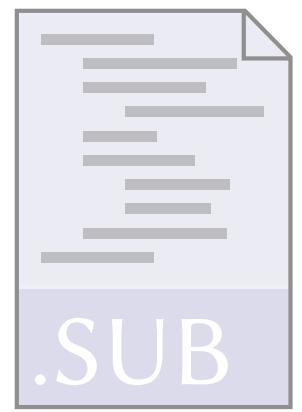
F ∩ G = ∅

B ∩ C = ∅



```
type Set
predicate IsSubset : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Intersecting : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Not : Prop p
notation "A ⊂ B" ~ "IsSubset(A, B)"
notation "A ∩ B = ∅" ~ "Not(Intersecting(A, B))"
```

# Domain schemas define abstract types & notation



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E, F, G

B ⊂ A

C ⊂ A

D ⊂ B

E ⊂ B

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G ⊂ C

E ∩ D = ∅

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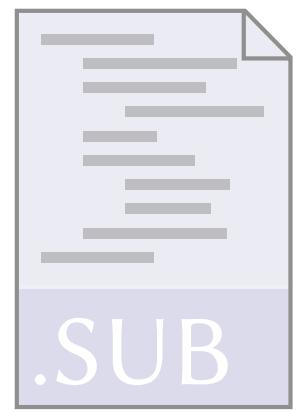
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notation "A ⊂ B" ~ "IsSubset(A, B)"
notation "A ∩ B = ∅" ~ "Not(Intersecting(A, B))"
```

purely abstract

# Domain schemas define abstract types & notation



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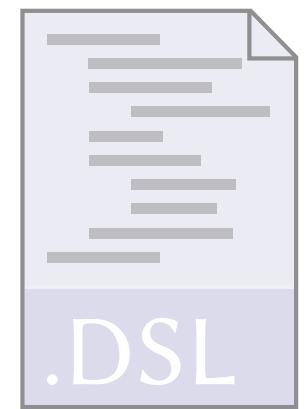
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G ⊂ C

E ∩ D = ∅

F ∩ G = ∅

B ∩ C = ∅



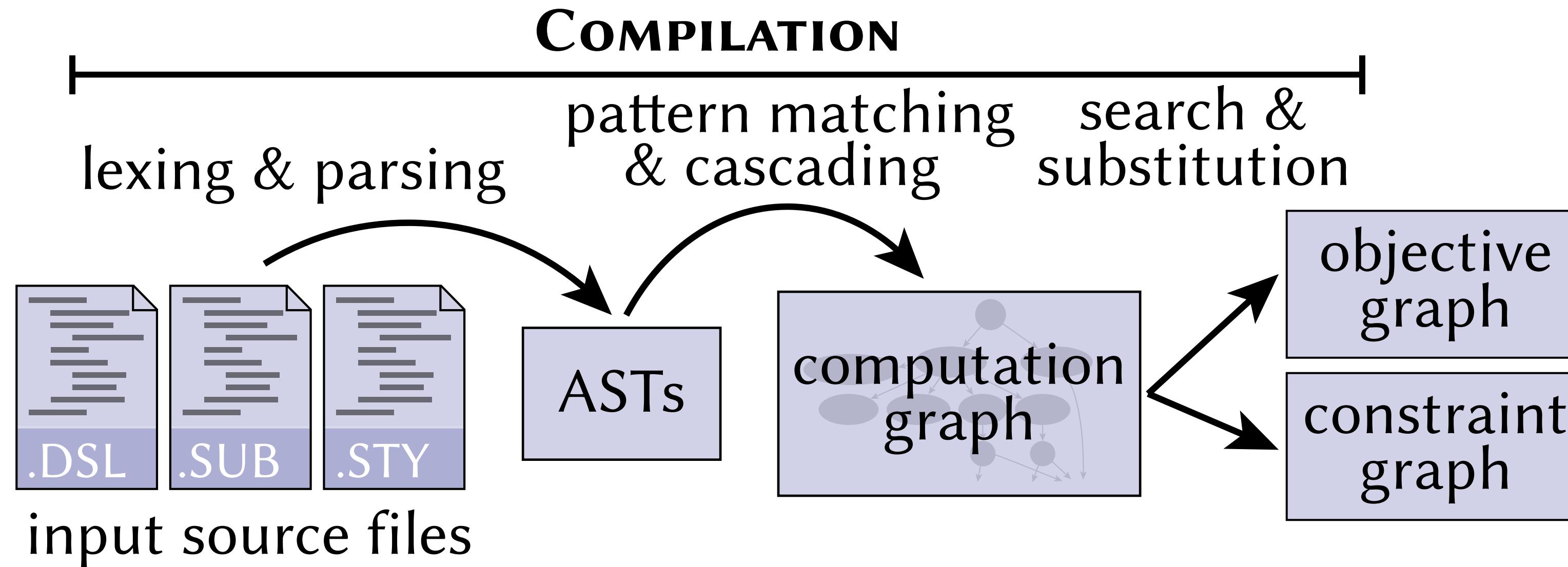
```
type Set
predicate IsSubset : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Intersecting : Set s1 * Set s2
predicate Not : Prop p
notation "A ⊂ B" ~ "IsSubset(A, B)"
notation "A ∩ B = ∅" ~ "Not(Intersecting(A, B))"
```

purely abstract

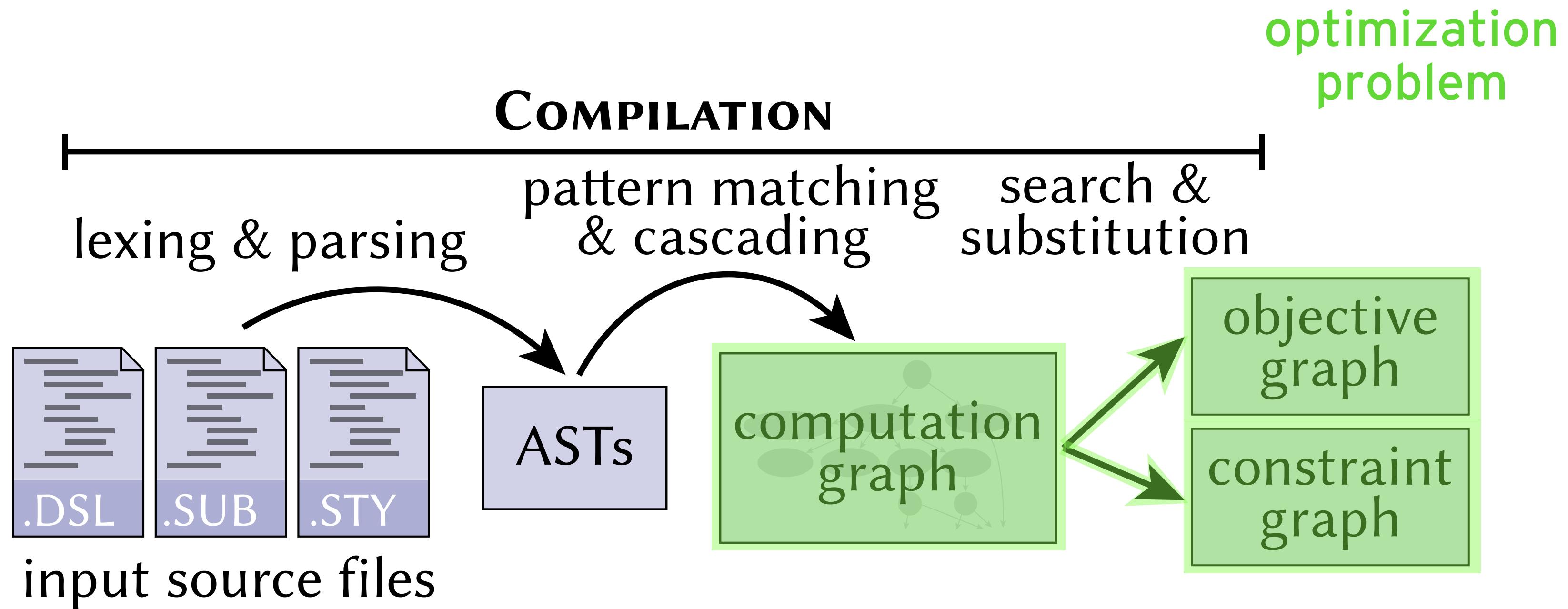
custom notation

# The Penrose pipeline links specification and synthesis

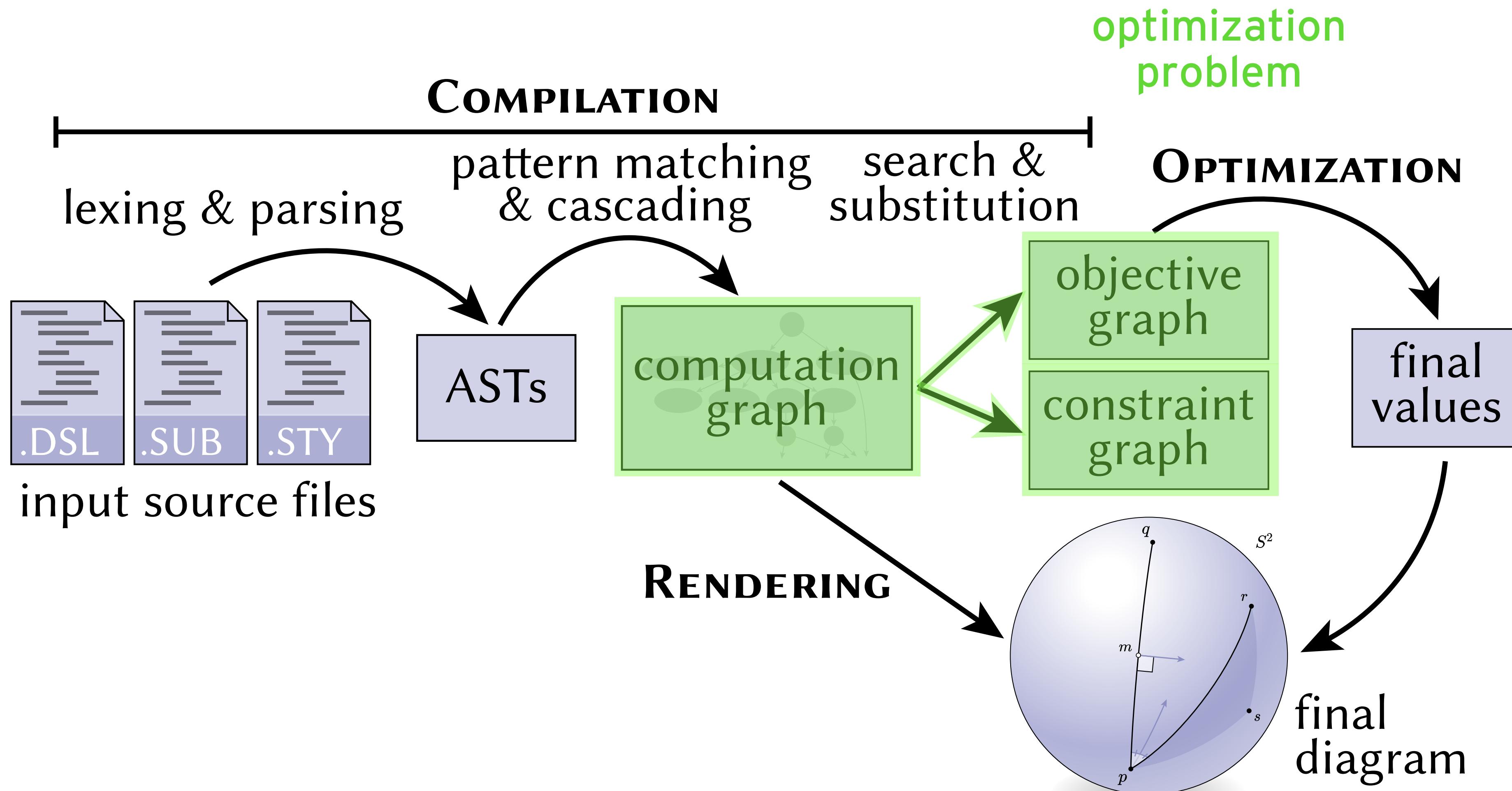
# The Penrose pipeline links specification and synthesis



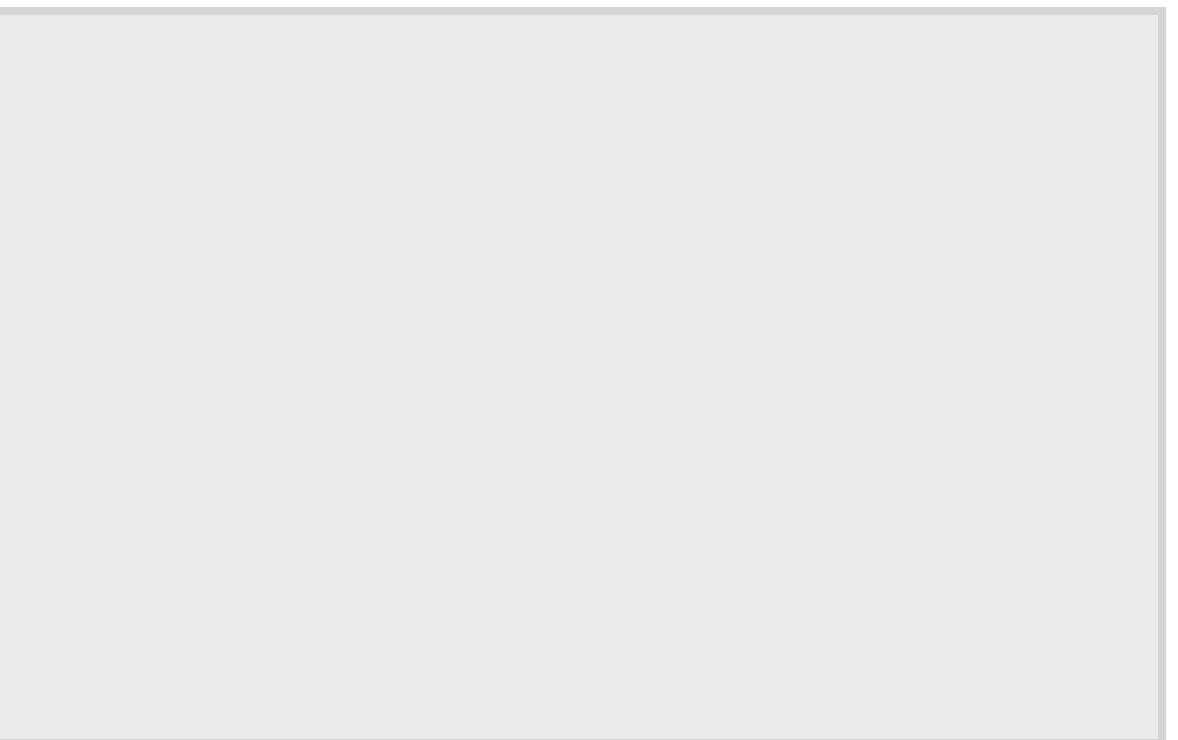
# The Penrose pipeline links specification and synthesis



# The Penrose pipeline links specification and synthesis



# Building the computation graph



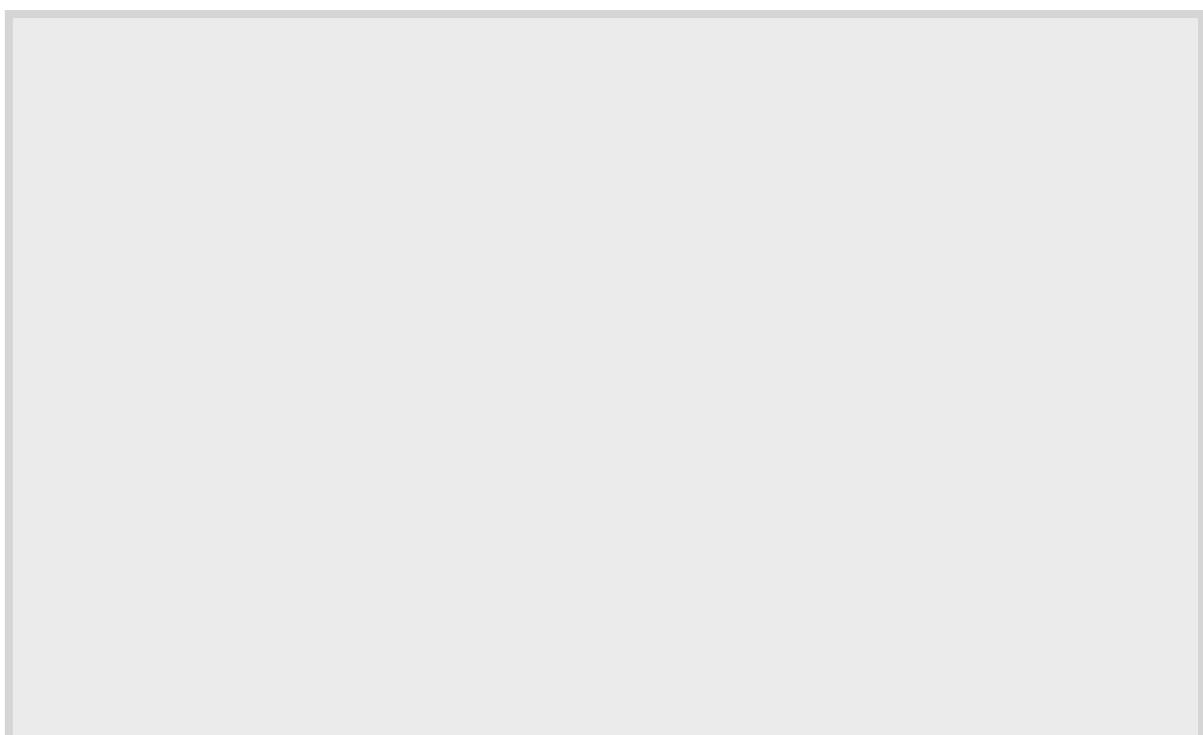
# Building the computation graph

**Set A, B**

$B \subset A$

```
forall Set x { -- Sets-Disks.sty
    x.shape = Circle { strokeWidth : 0.0 }
    x.text = Text { string : x.label }
    ensure contains(x.shape, x.text)
    encourage sameCenter(x.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape below x.text
}

forall Set x; Set y
where IsSubset(x, y) {
    ensure contains(y.shape, x.shape)
    ensure smallerThan(x.shape, y.shape)
    ensure outsideOf(y.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```



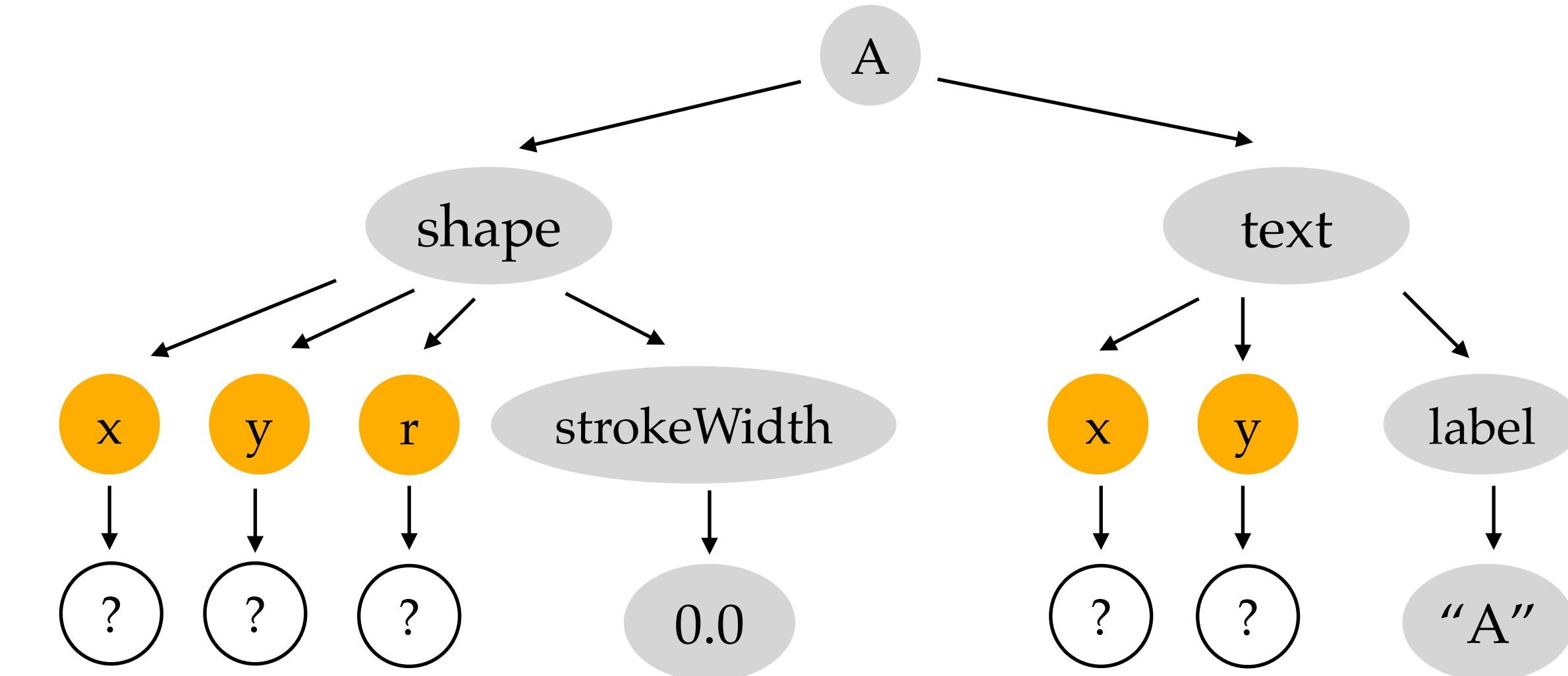
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    ensure outsideOf(y.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```



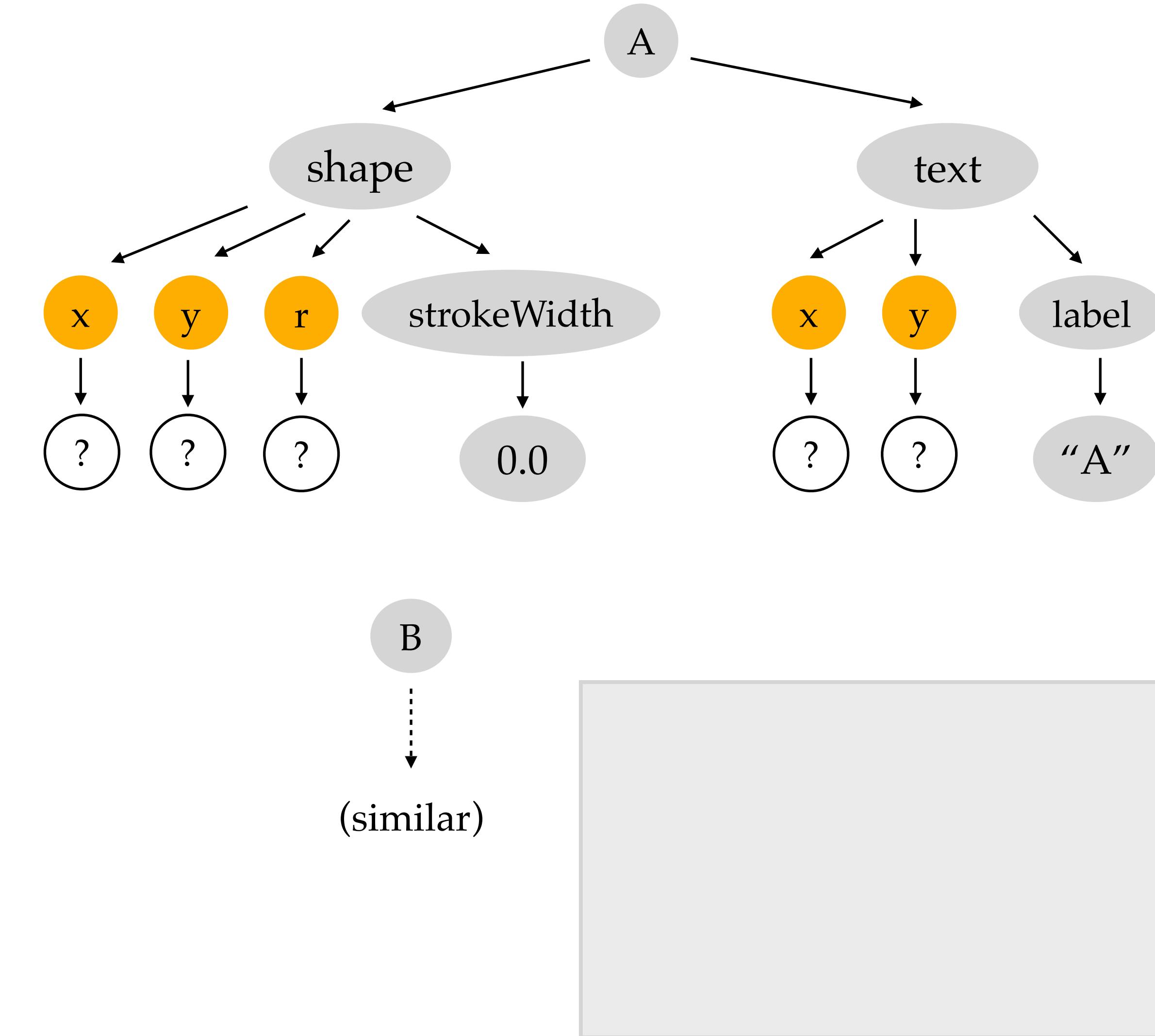
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    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```



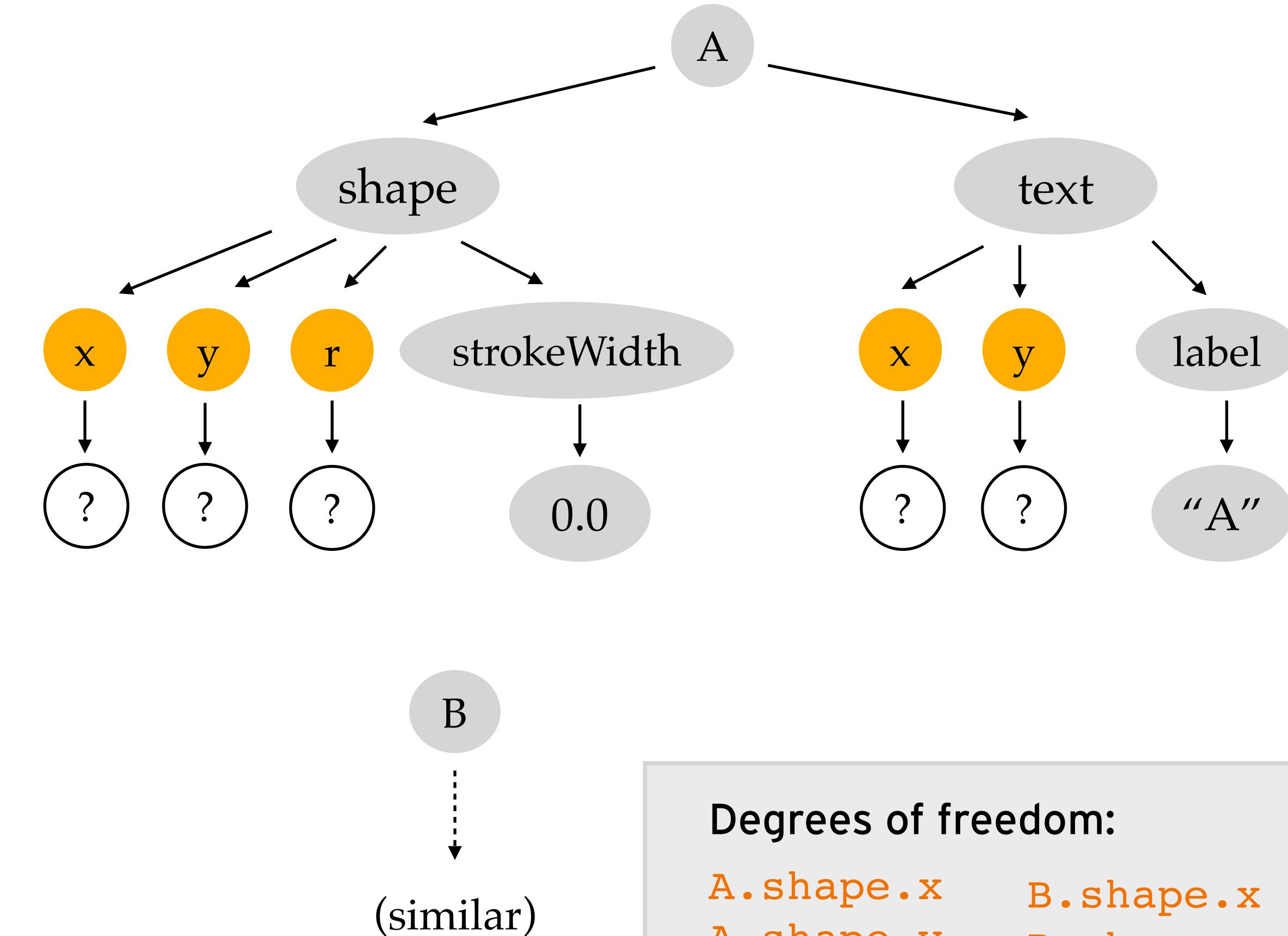
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```

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    ensure smallerThan(x.shape, y.shape)
    ensure outsideOf(y.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```



B

(similar)

Degrees of freedom:

A.shape.x	B.shape.x
A.shape.y	B.shape.y
A.shape.r	B.shape.r
A.text.x	B.text.x
A.text.y	B.text.y

# Building the constraint graph

**Set A, B**

$B \subset A$

```
forall Set x { -- Sets-Disks.sty
    x.shape = Circle { strokeWidth : 0.0 }
    x.text = Text { string : x.label }
    ensure contains(x.shape, x.text)
    encourage sameCenter(x.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape below x.text
}
```



```
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    ensure smallerThan(x.shape, y.shape)
    ensure outsideOf(y.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```

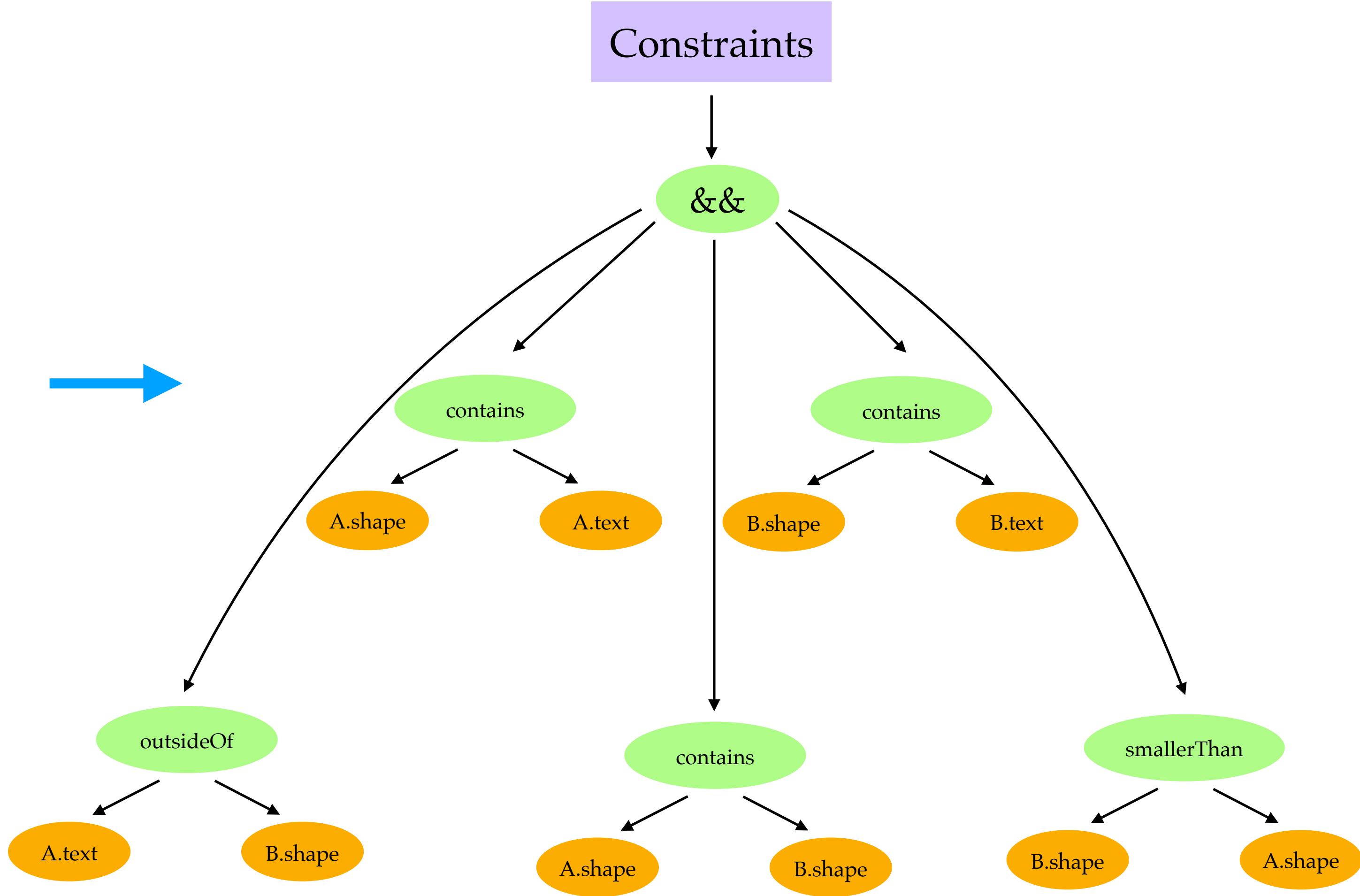
# Building the constraint graph

**Set A, B**

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```
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    x.shape = Circle { strokeWidth : 0.0 }
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    ensure outsideOf(y.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```



# Building the constraint graph

**Set A, B**

$B \subset A$

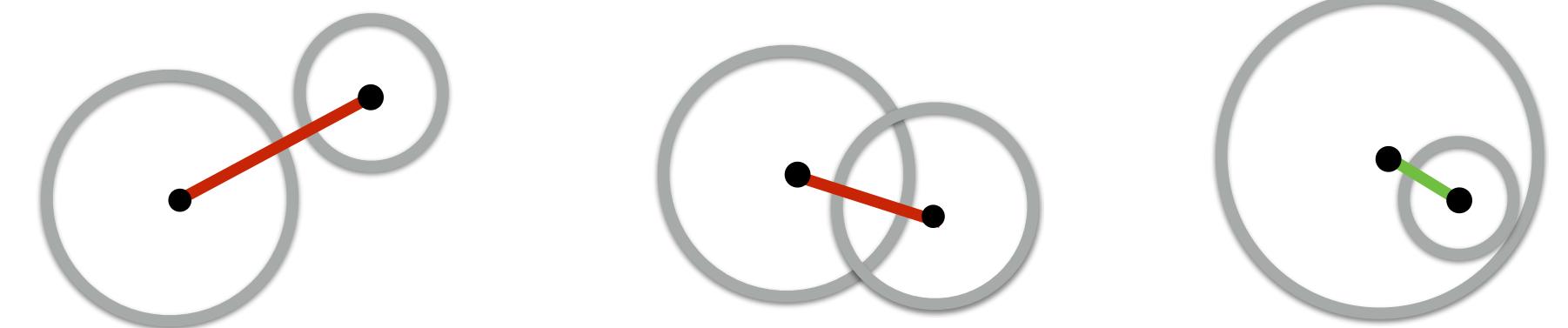
```
forall Set x { -- Sets-Disks.sty
    x.shape = Circle { strokeWidth : 0.0 }
    x.text = Text { string : x.label }
    ensure contains(x.shape, x.text)
    encourage sameCenter(x.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape below x.text
}
```

```
forall Set x; Set y
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    ensure smallerThan(x.shape, y.shape)
    ensure outsideOf(y.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```

Constraints

&&

“contains” gets automatically translated  
into the constraint (for circles)



$$|c_Y - c_X| < r_Y - r_X$$

outsideOf

A.text

B.shape

contains

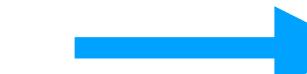
A.shape

B.shape

smallerThan

B.shape

A.shape



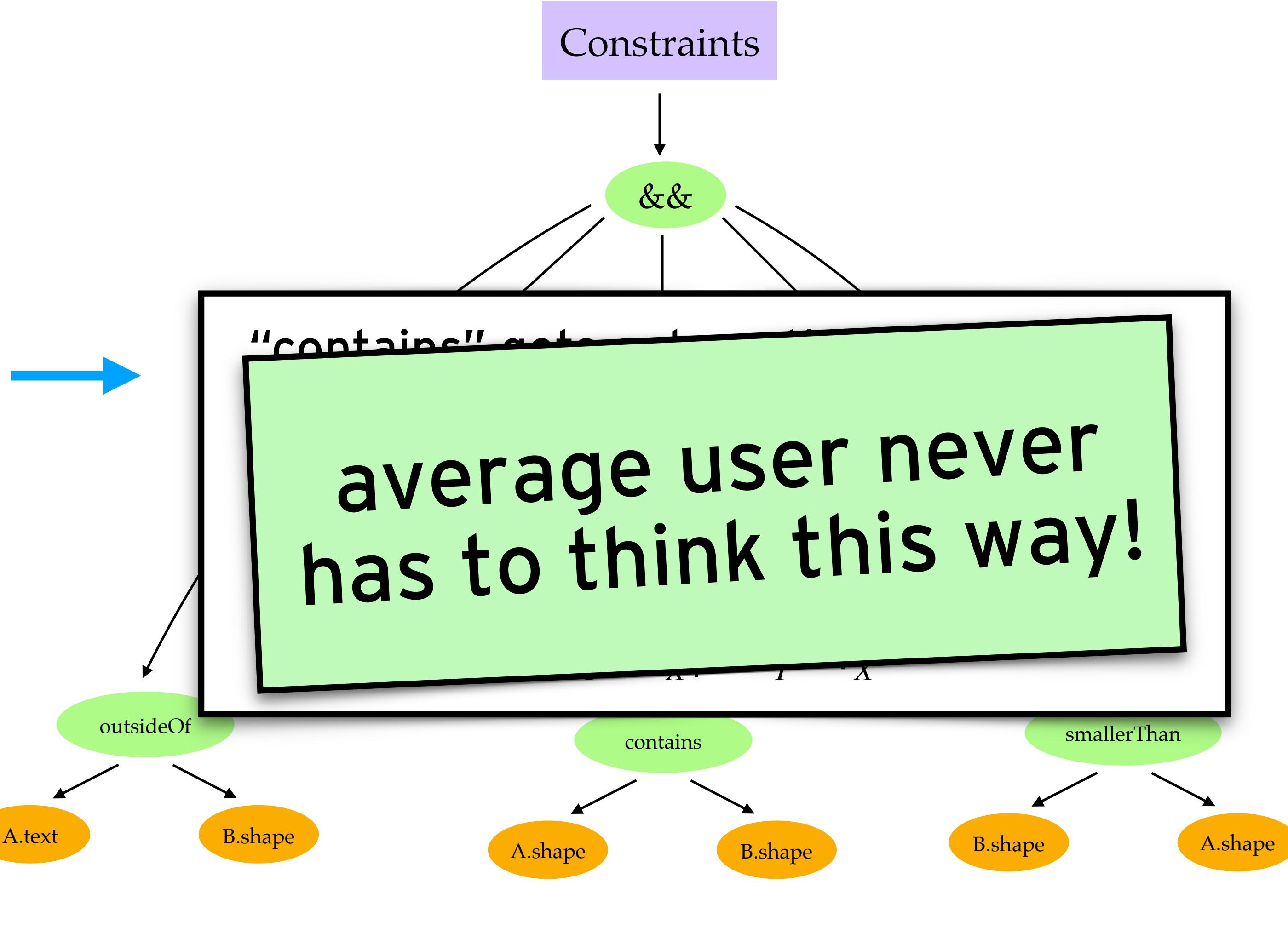
# Building the constraint graph

**Set A, B**

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}
```

```
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    ensure outsideOf(y.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```



# Building the objective graph

**Set A, B**

$B \subset A$

```
forall Set x { -- Sets-Disks.sty
    x.shape = Circle { strokeWidth : 0.0 }
    x.text = Text { string : x.label }
    ensure contains(x.shape, x.text)
    encourage sameCenter(x.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape below x.text
}
```



```
forall Set x; Set y
where IsSubset(x, y) {
    ensure contains(y.shape, x.shape)
    ensure smallerThan(x.shape, y.shape)
    ensure outsideOf(y.text, x.shape)
    layer x.shape above y.shape
    layer y.text below x.shape
}
```

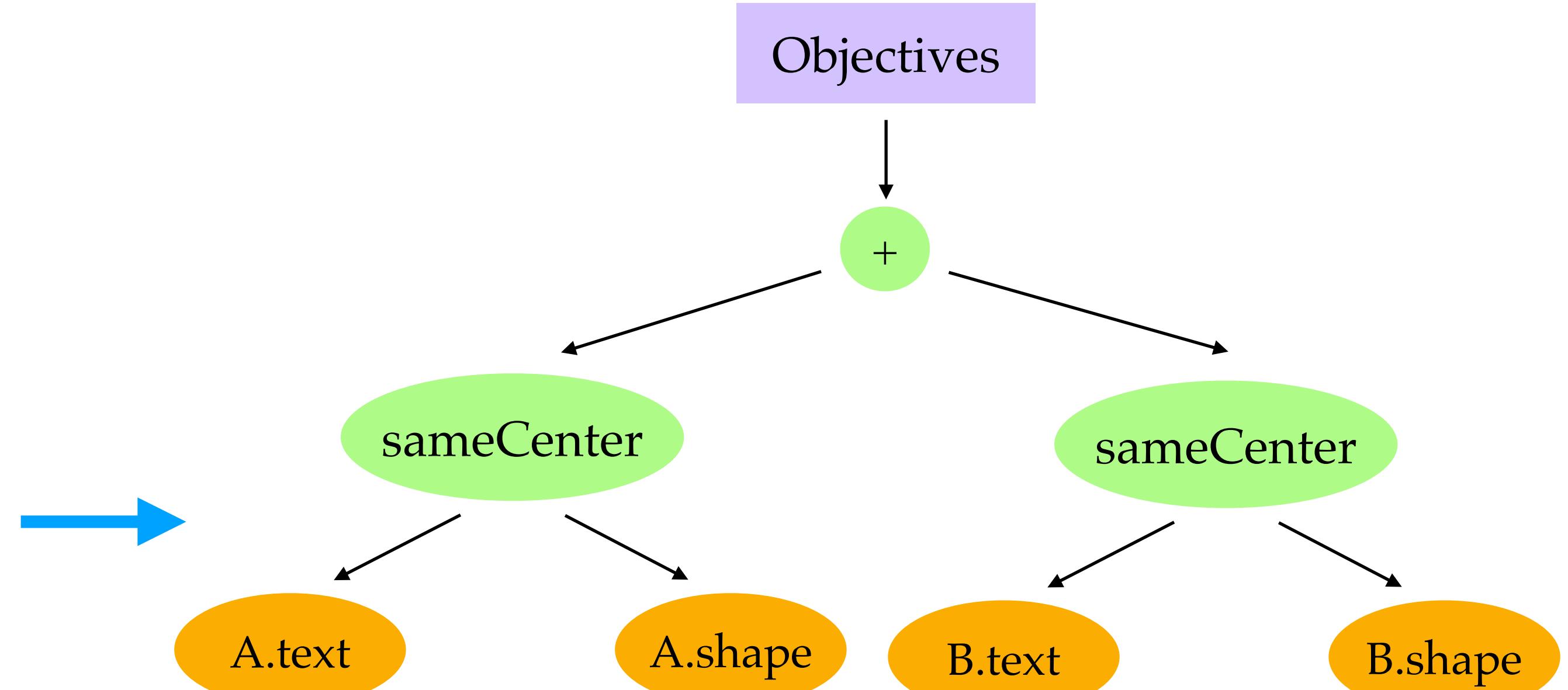
# Building the objective graph

**Set A, B**

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    layer x.shape above y.shape
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}
```



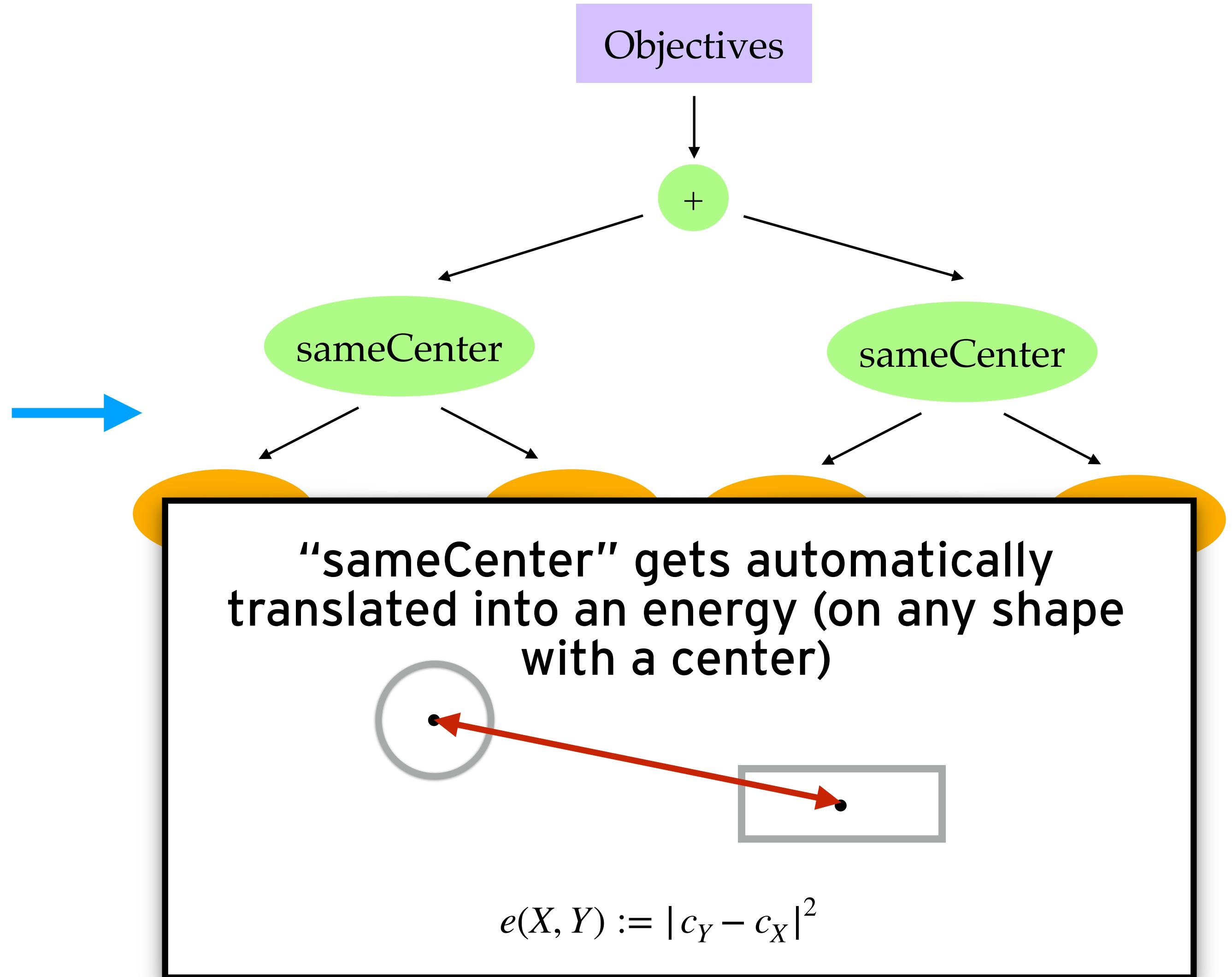
# Building the objective graph

**Set A, B**

$B \subset A$

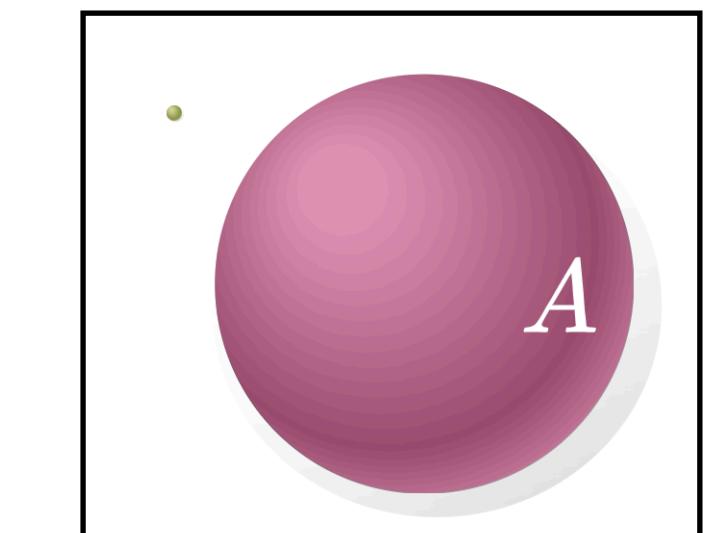
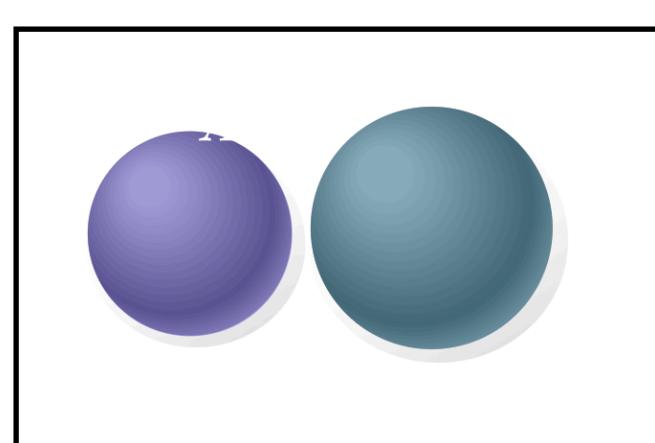
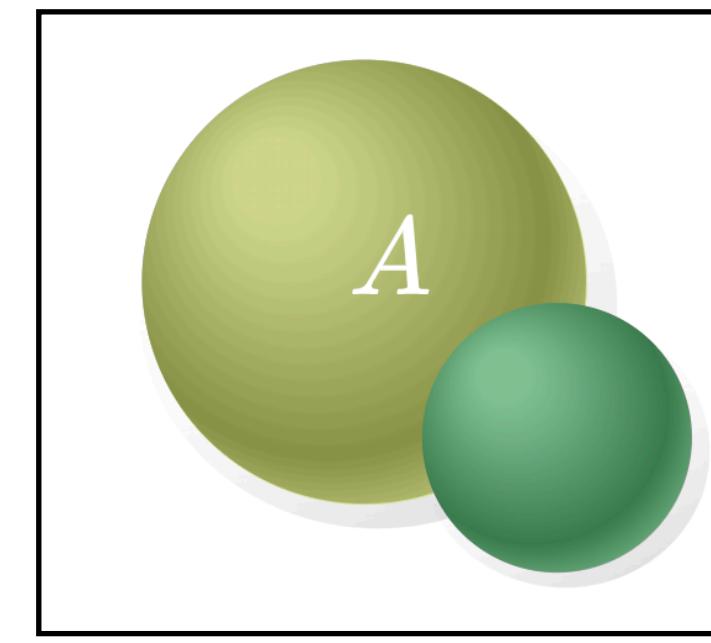
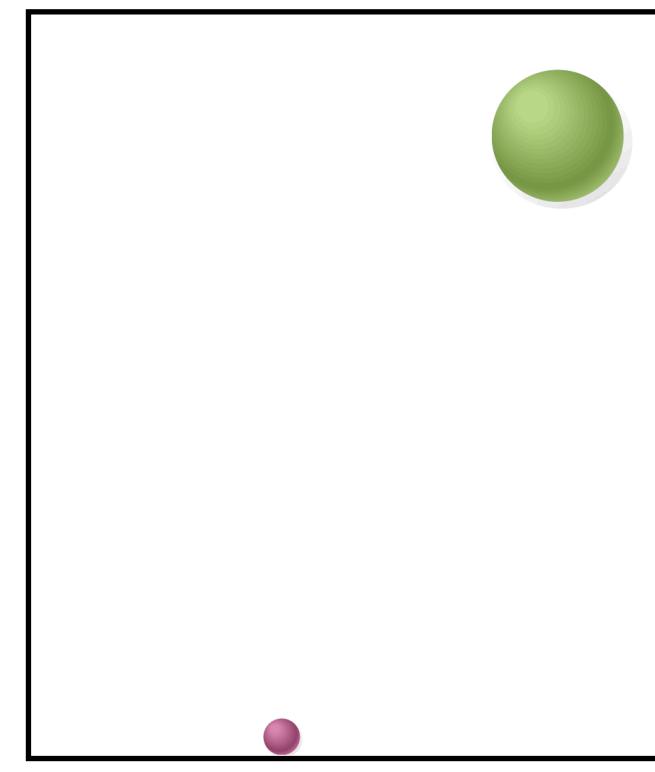
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```

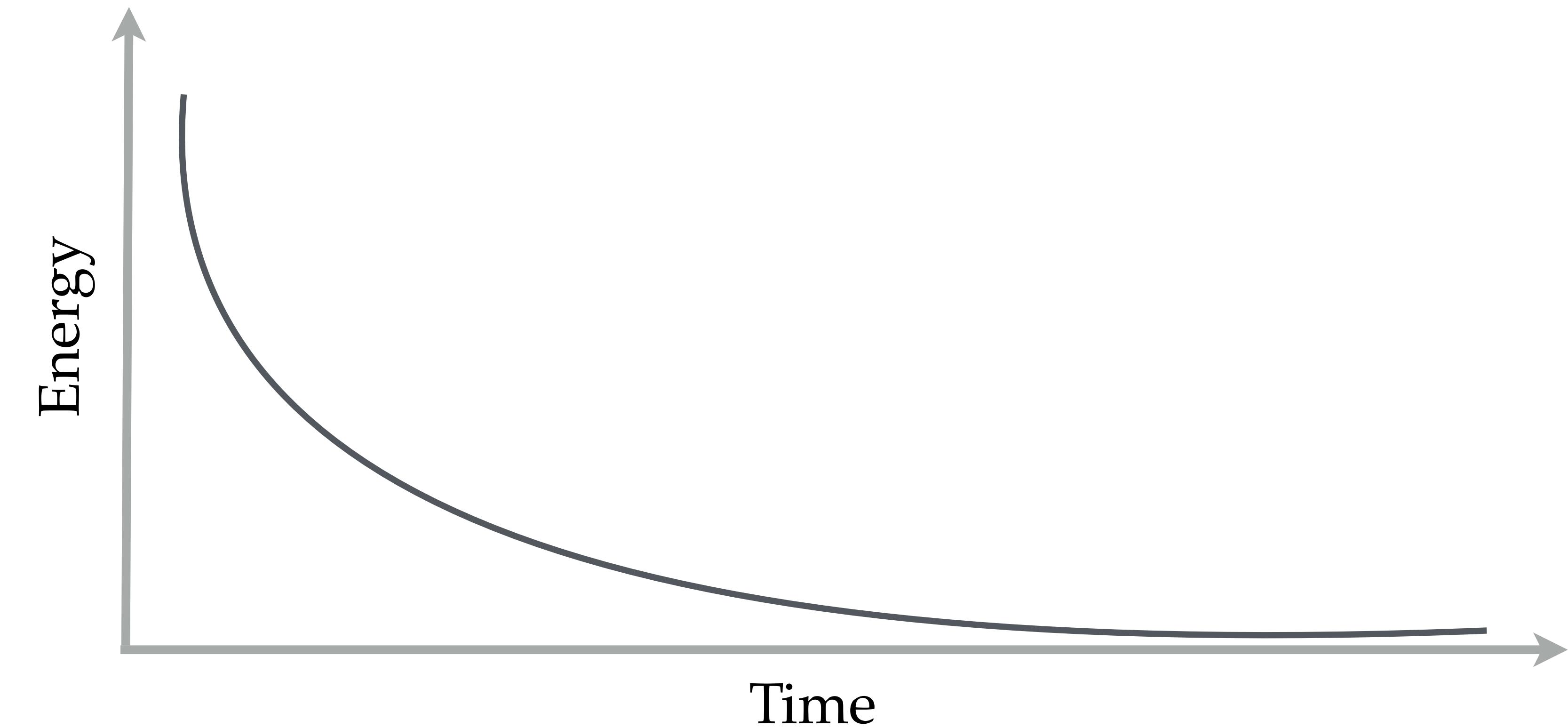
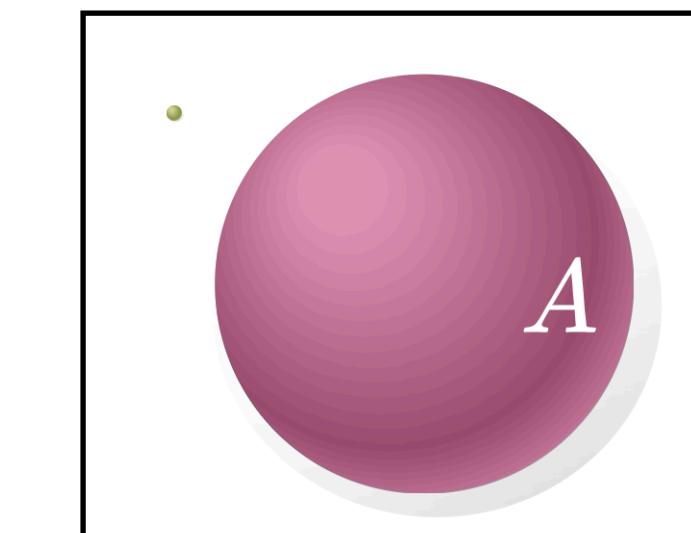
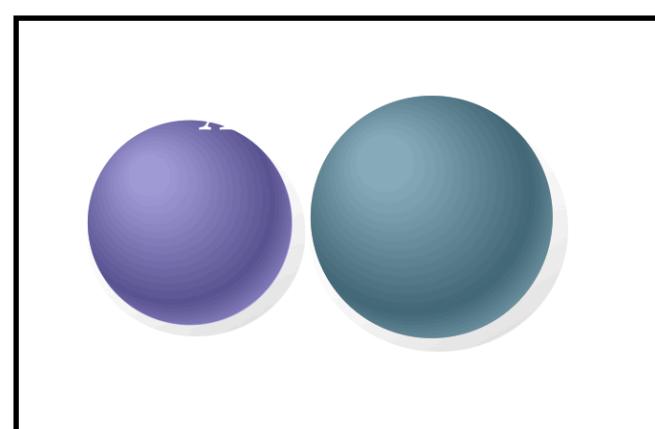
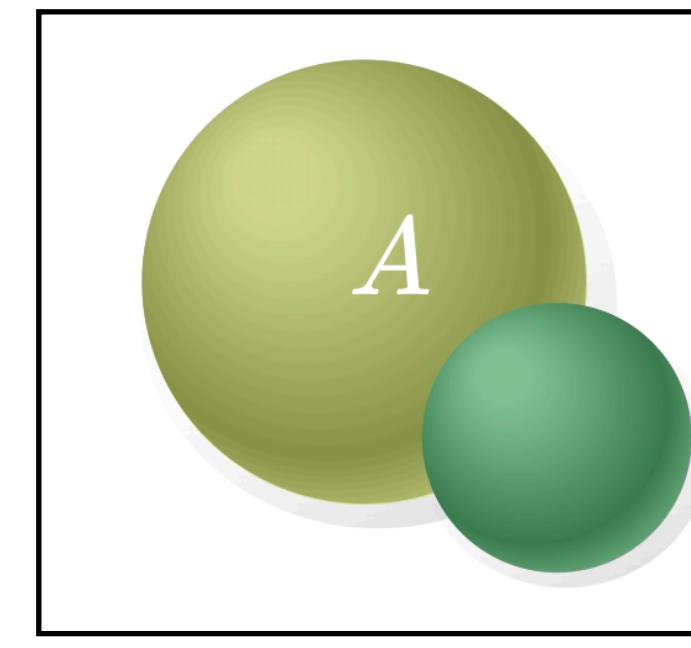
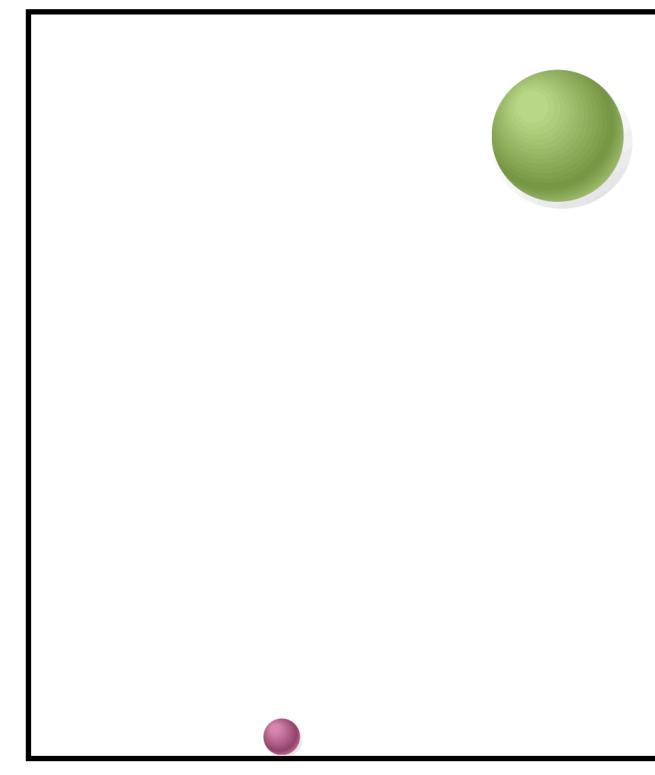


# Constrained optimization yields diagrams

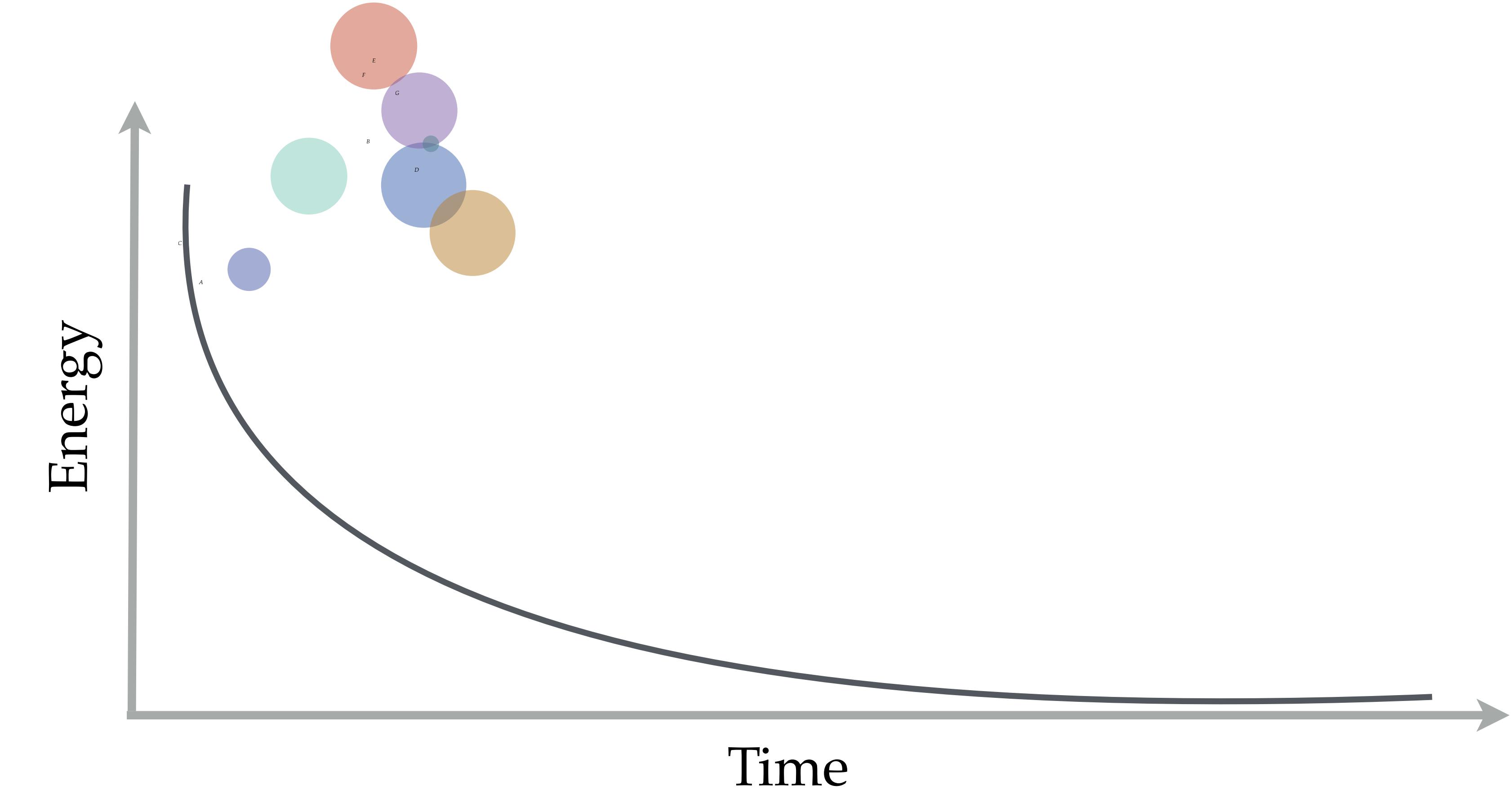
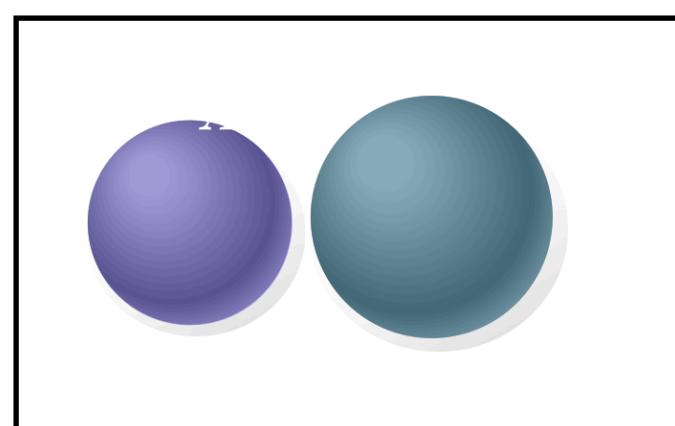
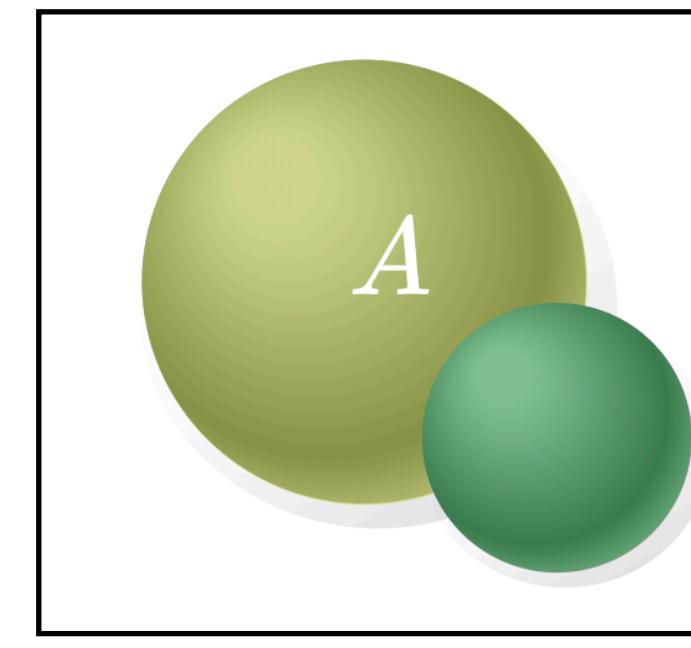
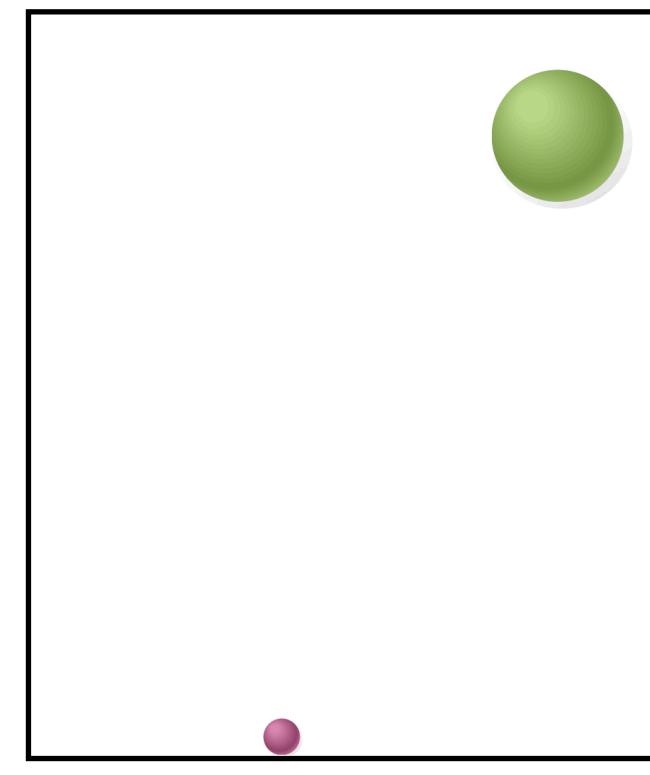
# Constrained optimization yields diagrams



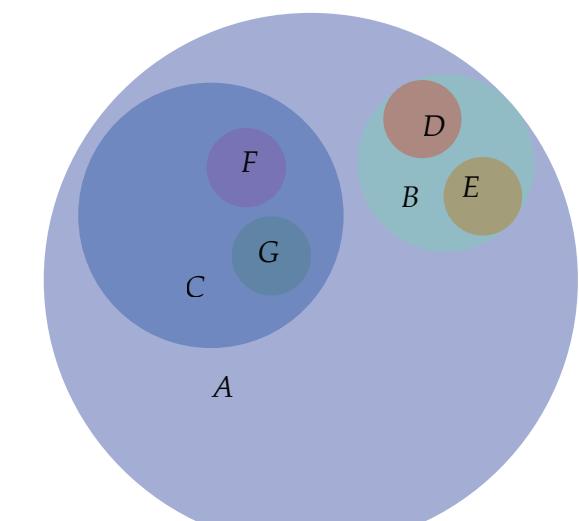
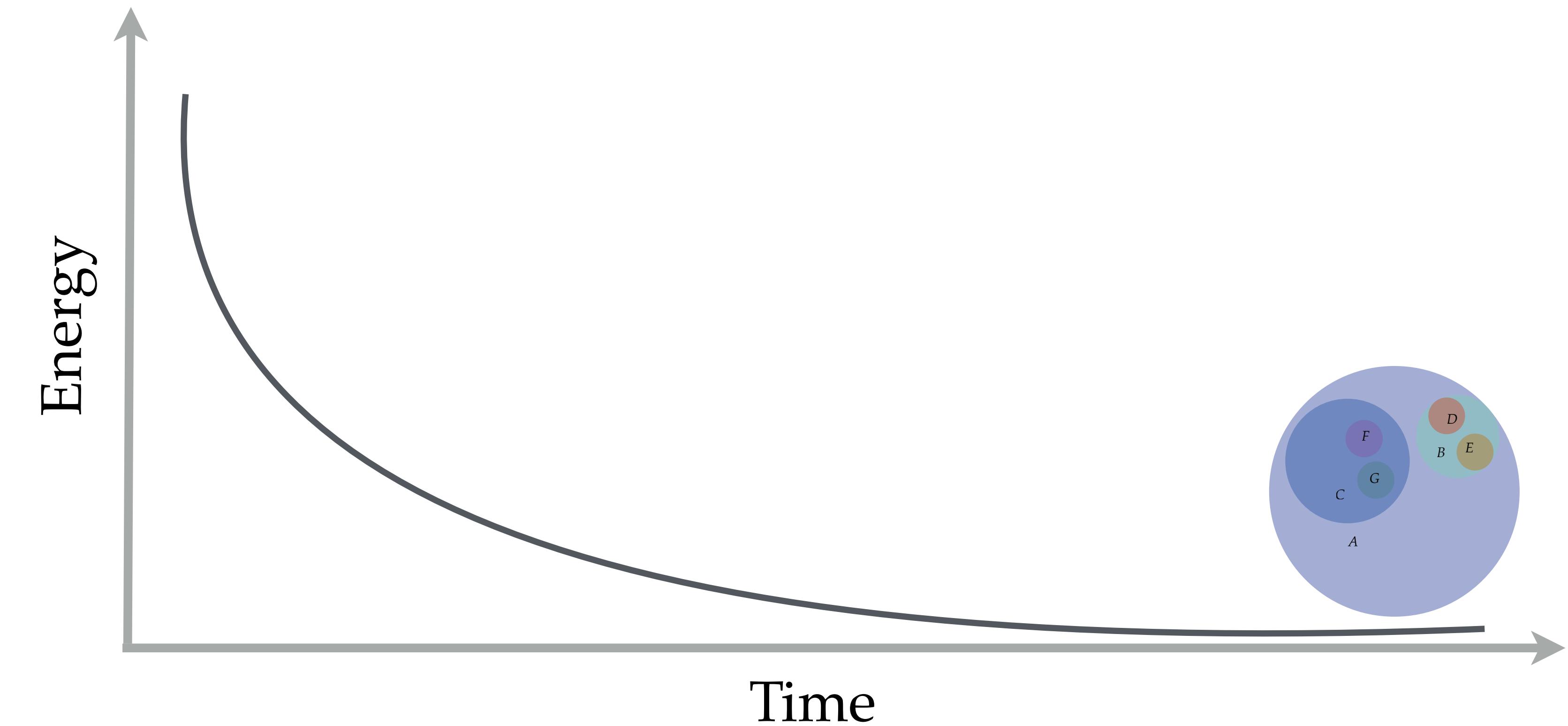
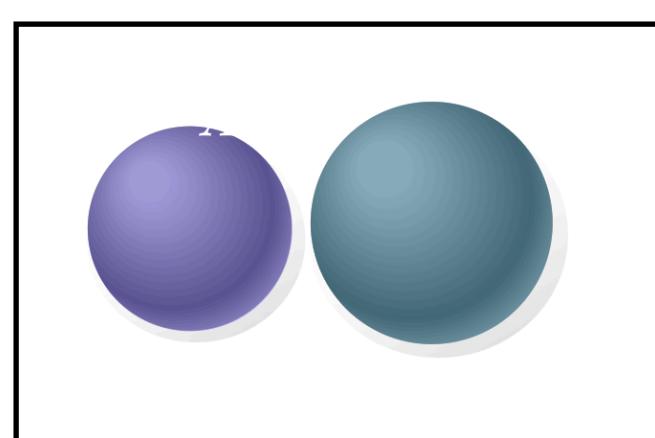
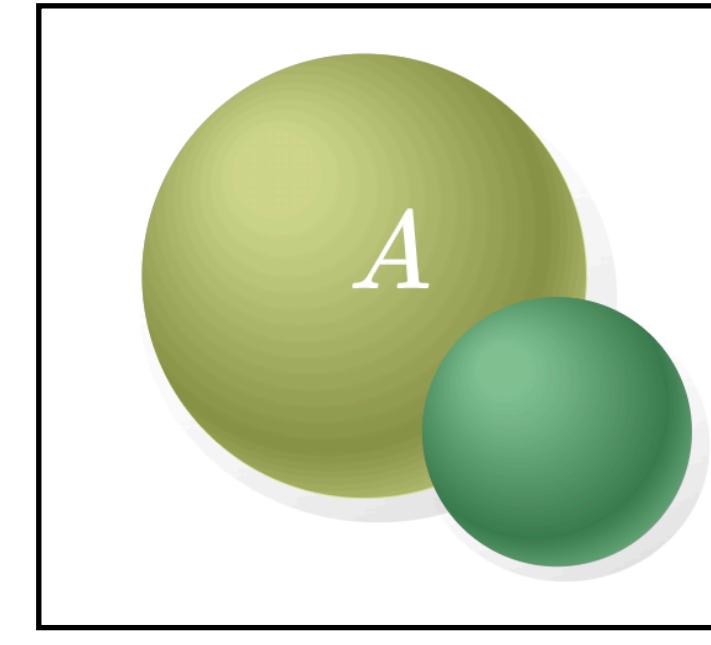
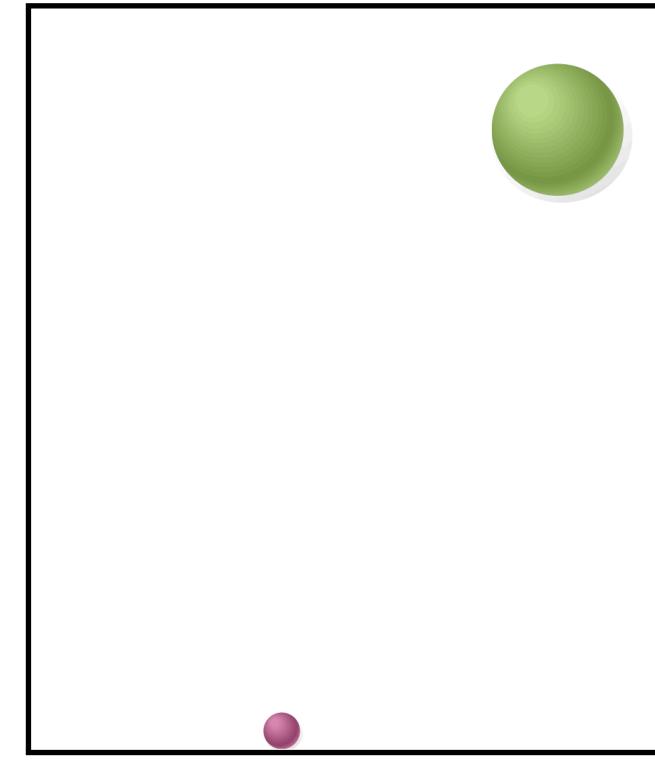
# Constrained optimization yields diagrams



# Constrained optimization yields diagrams



# Constrained optimization yields diagrams



# Diagram optimization is hard but tractable

Why it's hard

Why it's tractable

# Diagram optimization is hard but tractable

## Why it's hard

- User-defined / unpredictable

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- Objective has many local minima (nonconvex)

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## Why it's tractable

- Only need local minima

# Diagram optimization is hard but tractable

## Why it's hard

- User-defined / unpredictable
- Objective has many local minima (nonconvex)
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## Why it's tractable

- Only need local minima
- Few degrees of freedom (10-100)

# Diagram optimization is hard but tractable

## Why it's hard

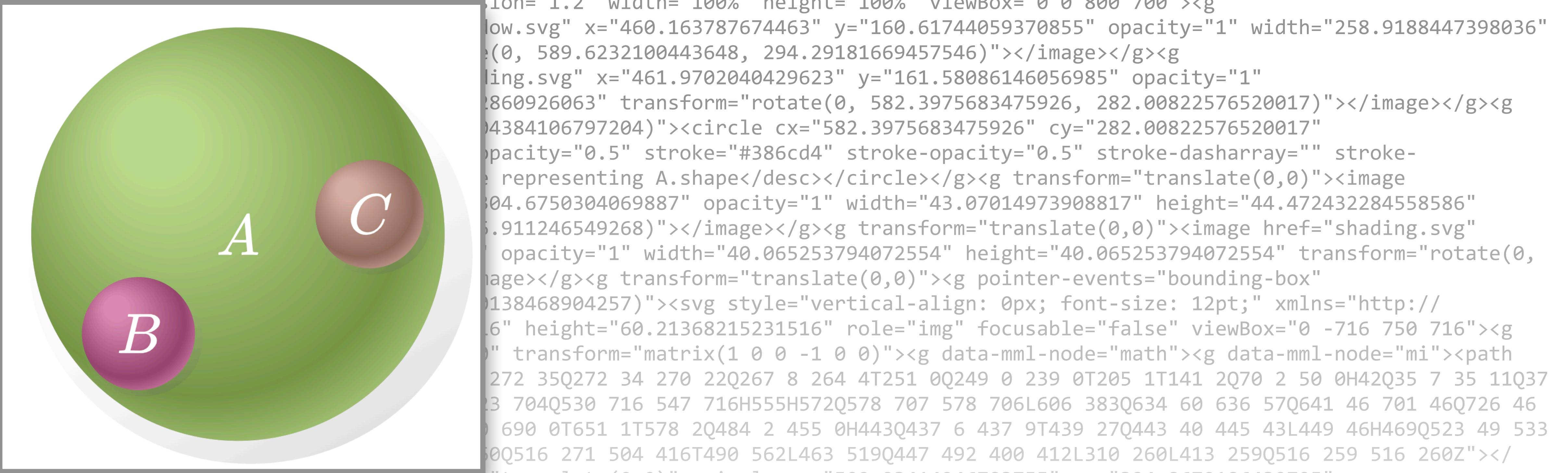
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## Why it's tractable

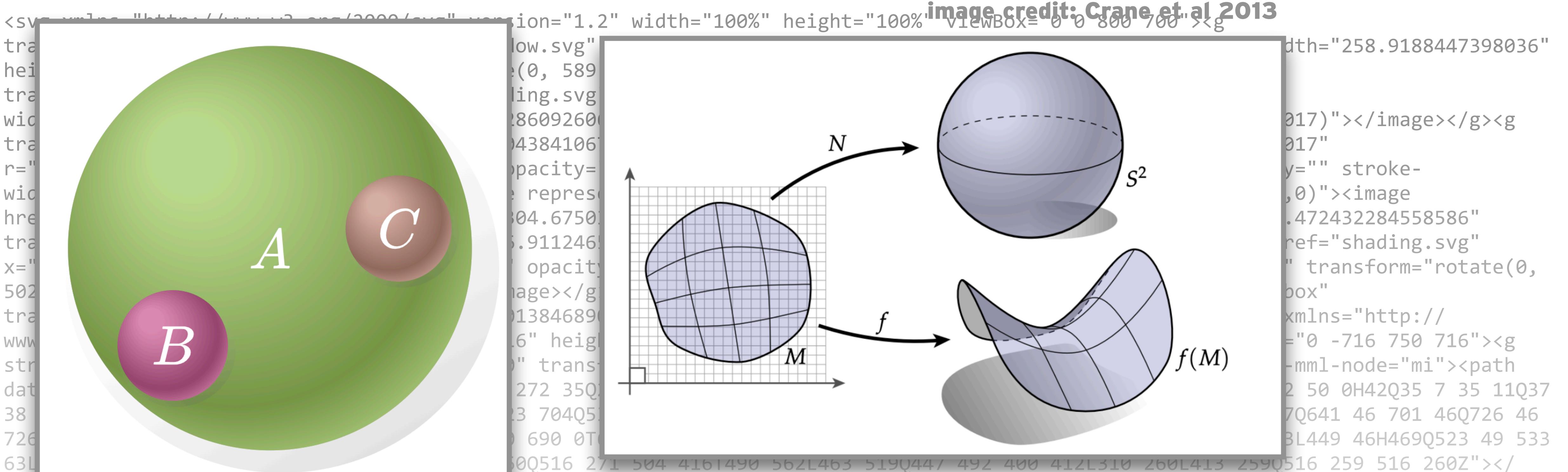
- Only need local minima
- Few degrees of freedom (10-100)
- Special problem structure can be exploited by solvers

# Rendering a solution yields a 2D vector diagram

# Rendering a solution yields a 2D vector diagram



# Rendering a solution yields a 2D vector diagram



# Rendering a solution yields a 2D vector diagram

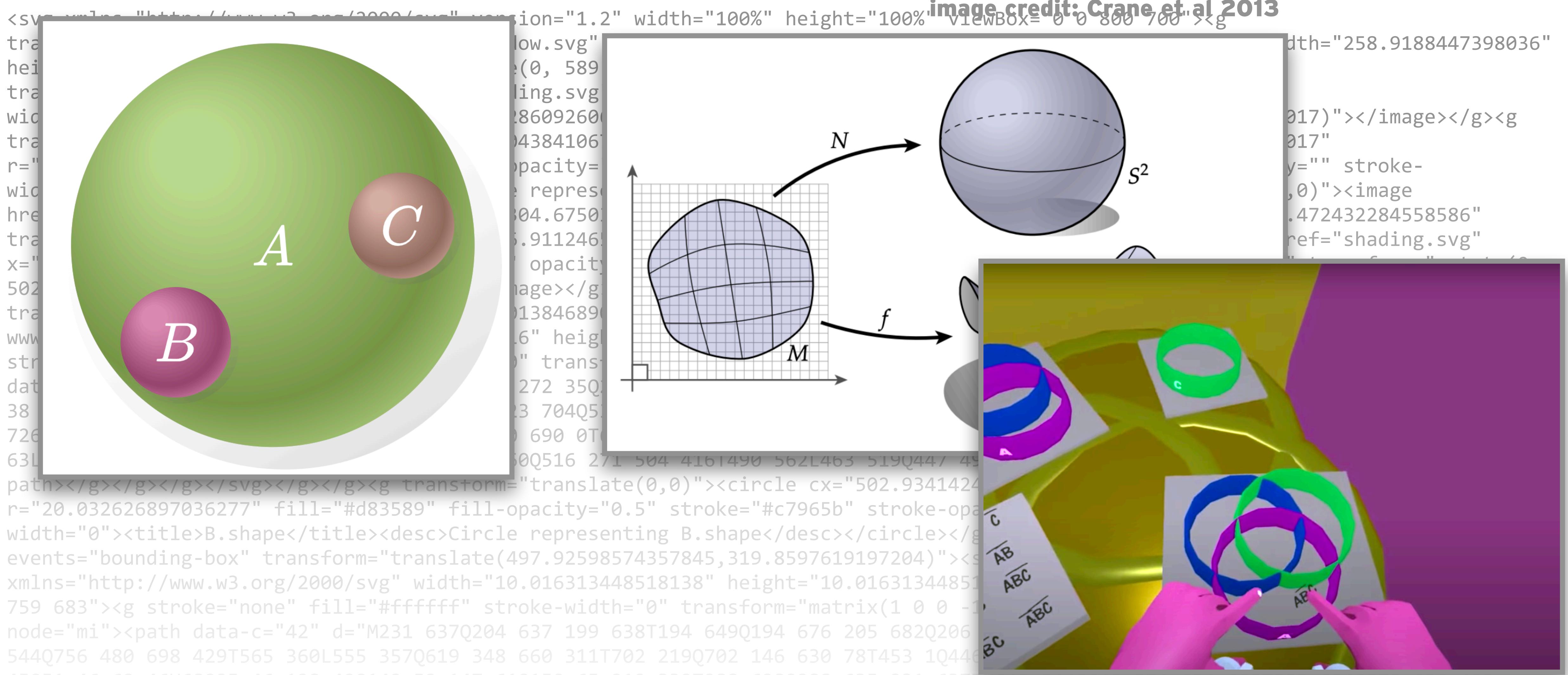
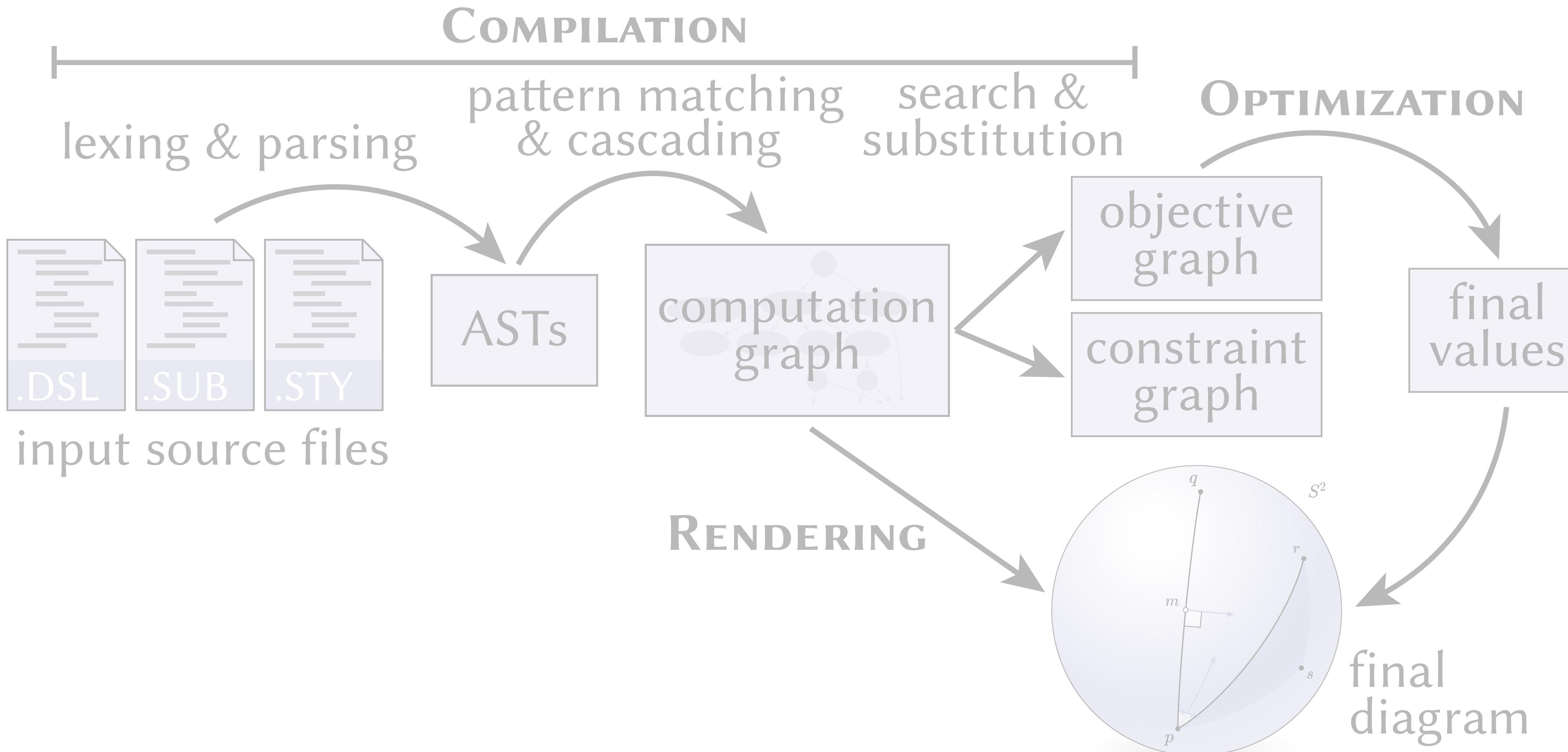
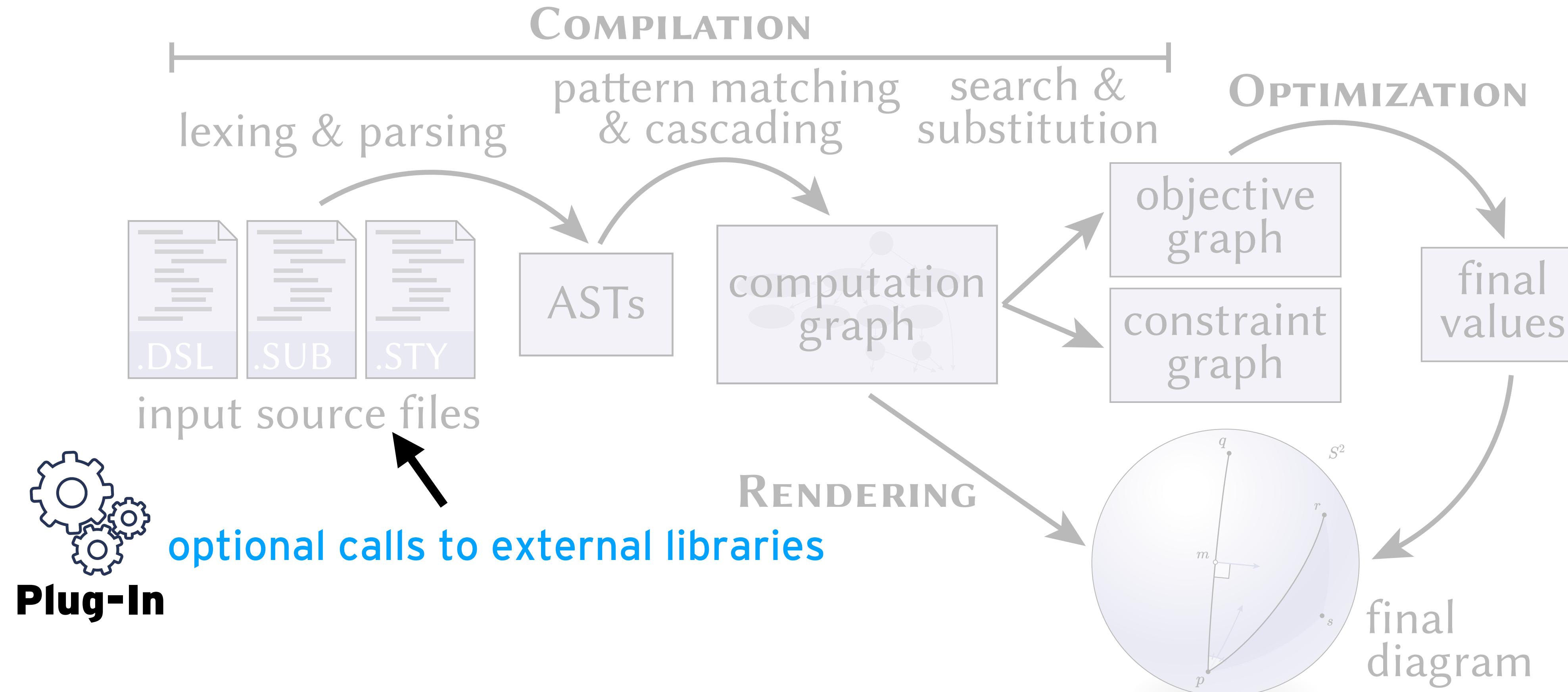


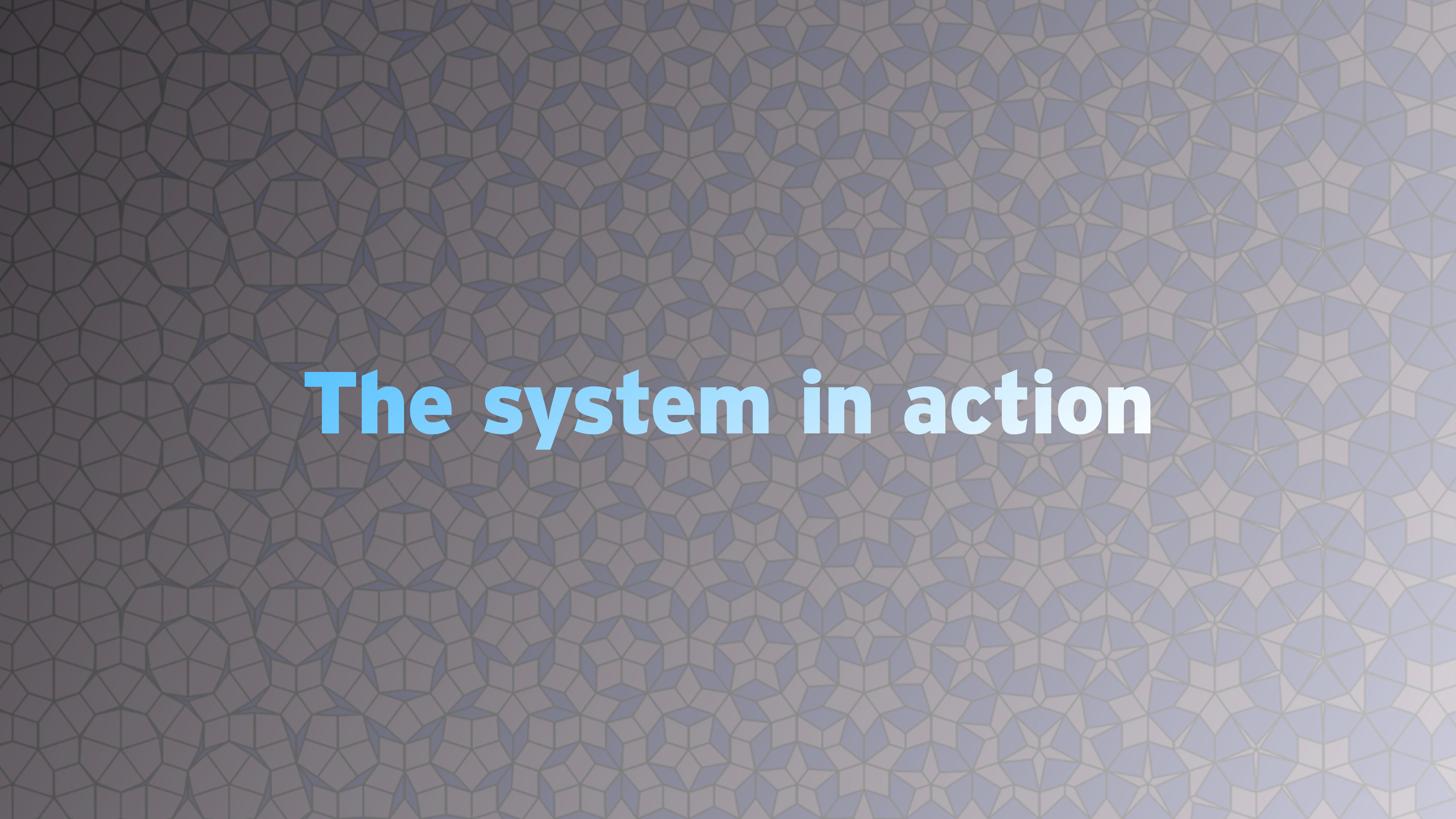
image credit: eleVR / Venn Diagram Museum

# Plug-ins enable integration with external code



# Plug-ins enable integration with external code





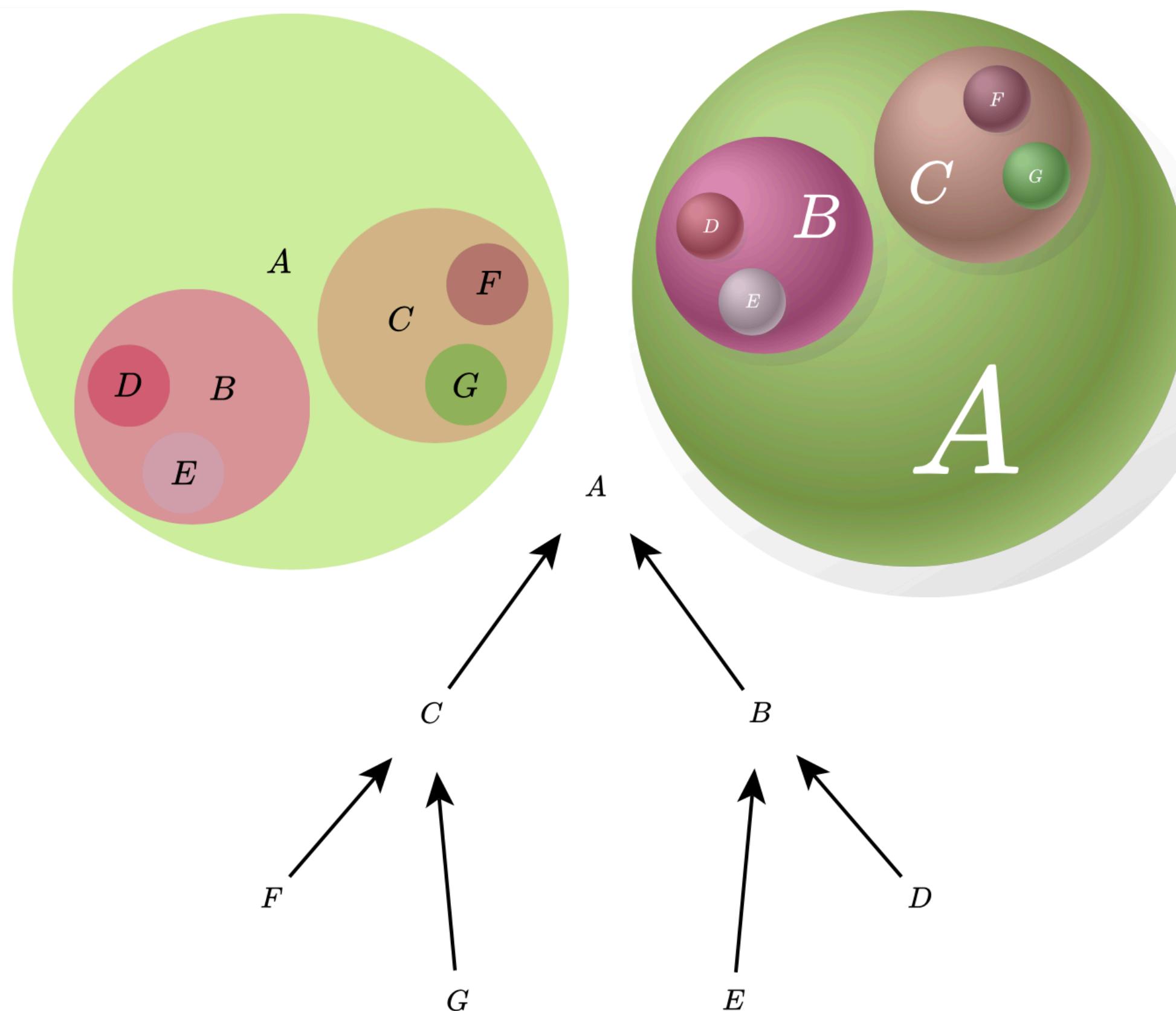
# The system in action

# Visualizing sets

# Visualizing sets

## changing style or visual representation

<b>Set A, B, C, D, E, F, G</b>	$F \subset C$	-- Sets.sub
$B \subset A$	$G \subset C$	
$C \subset A$	$E \cap D = \emptyset$	
$D \subset B$	$F \cap G = \emptyset$	
$E \subset B$	$B \cap C = \emptyset$	



# Visualizing sets

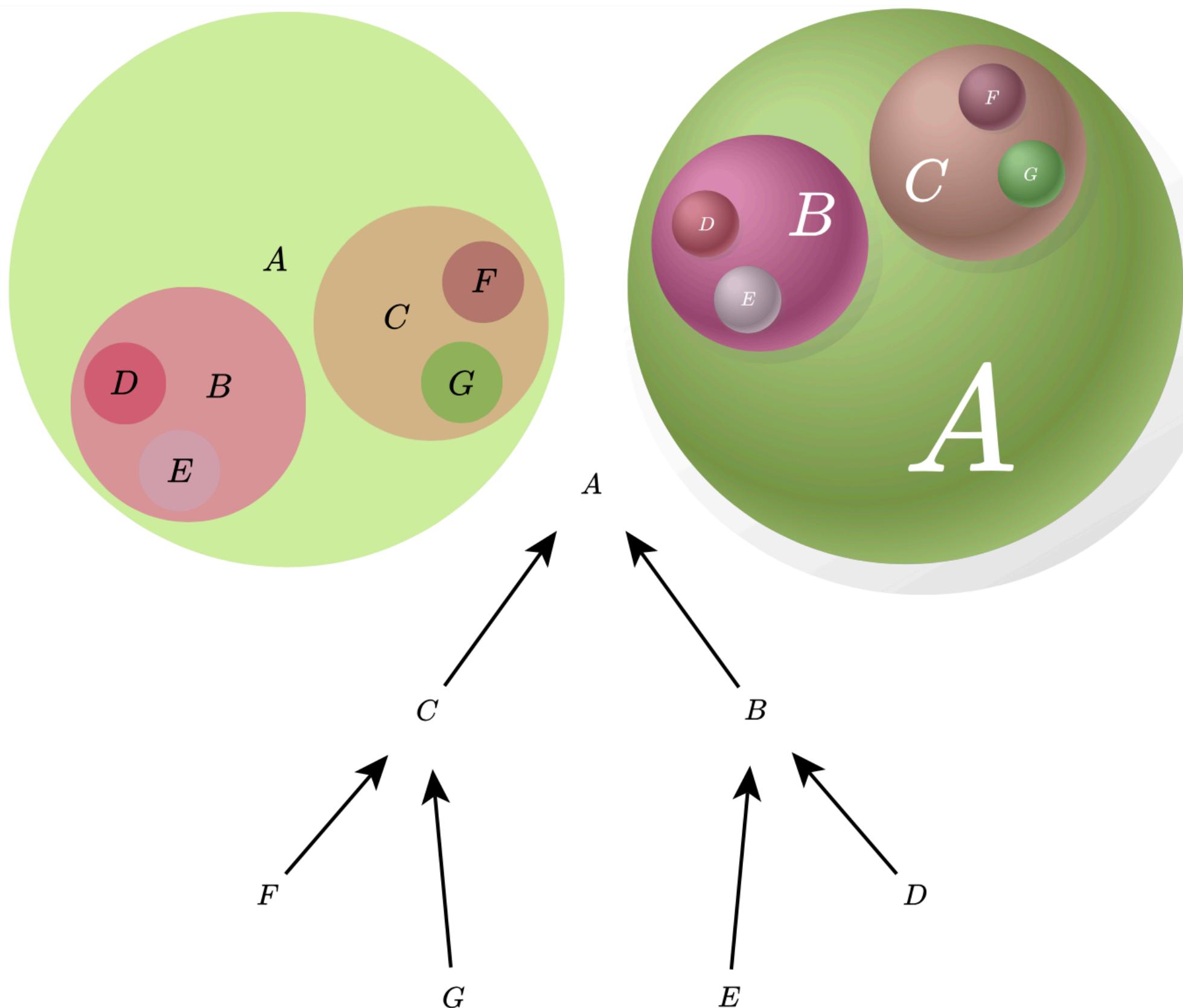
**changing style or visual representation**

**Set A, B, C, D, E, F, G**

$B \subset A$   
 $C \subset A$   
 $D \subset B$   
 $E \subset B$

$F \subset C$   
 $G \subset C$   
 $E \cap D = \emptyset$   
 $F \cap G = \emptyset$   
 $B \cap C = \emptyset$

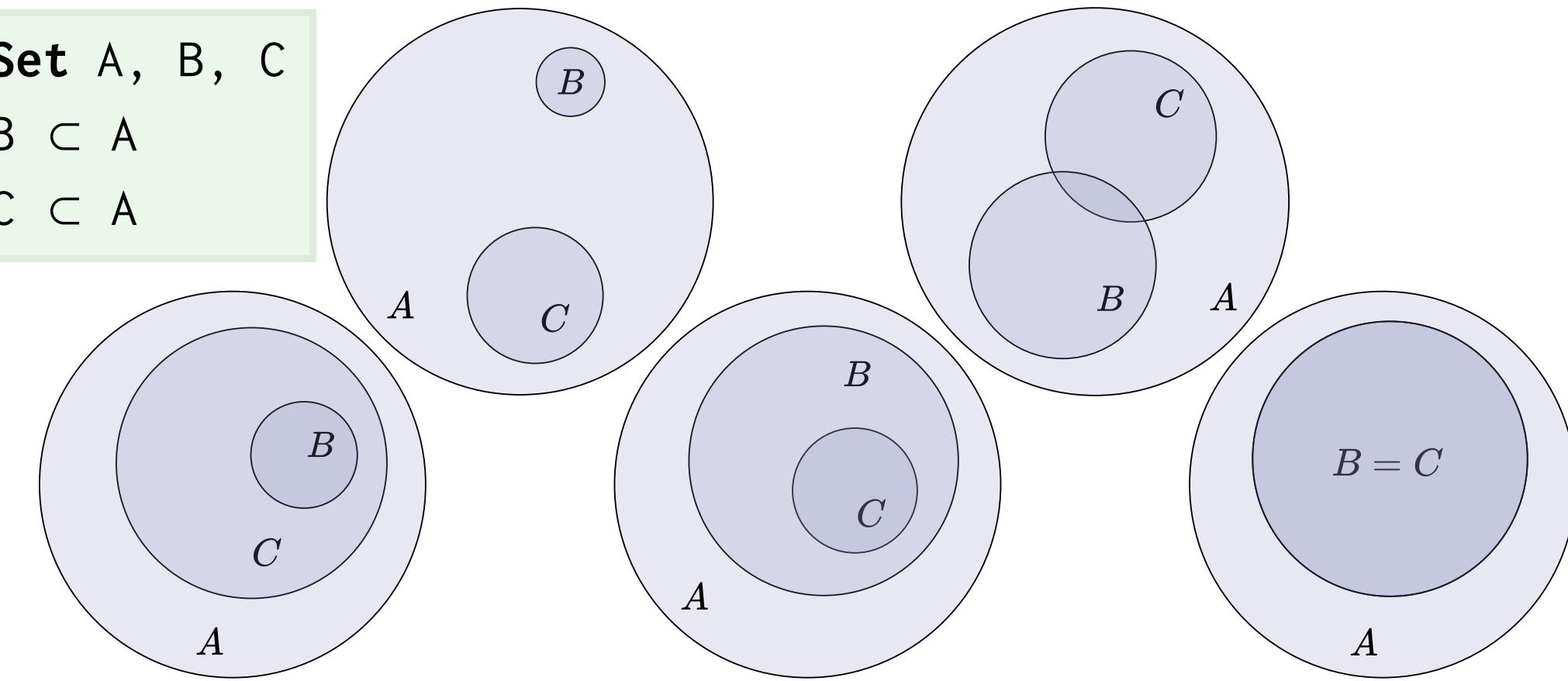
-- Sets.sub



**enumerating possibilities**

**Set A, B, C**

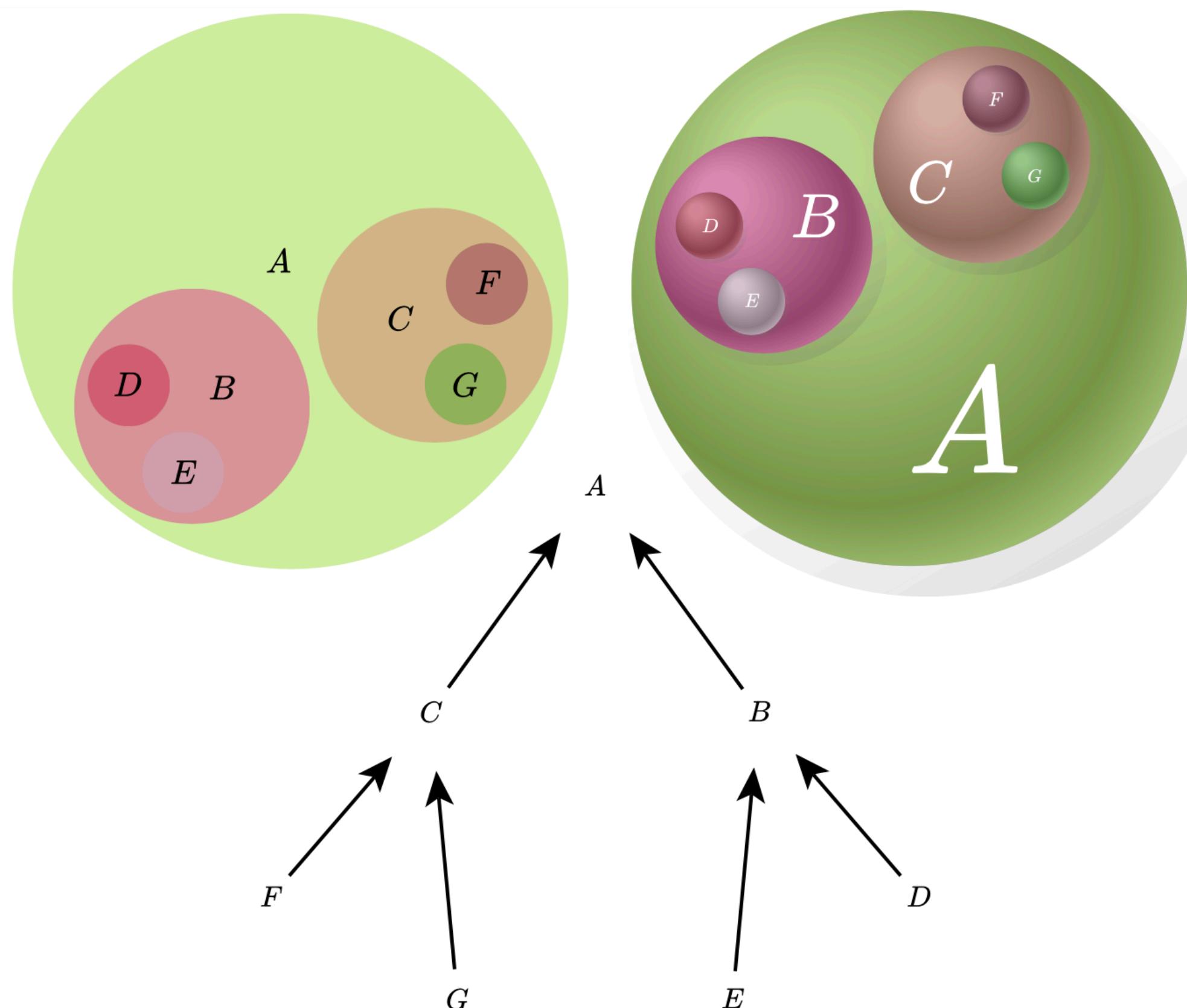
$B \subset A$   
 $C \subset A$



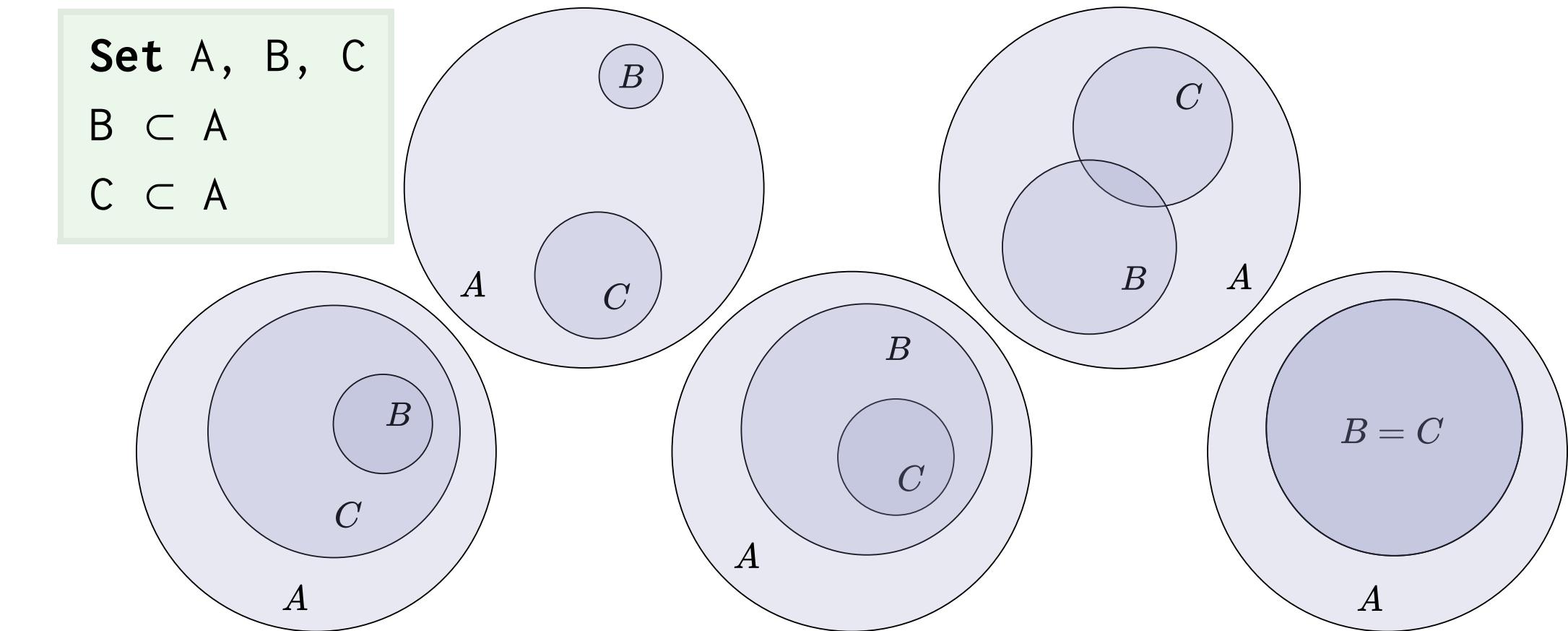
# Visualizing sets

## changing style or visual representation

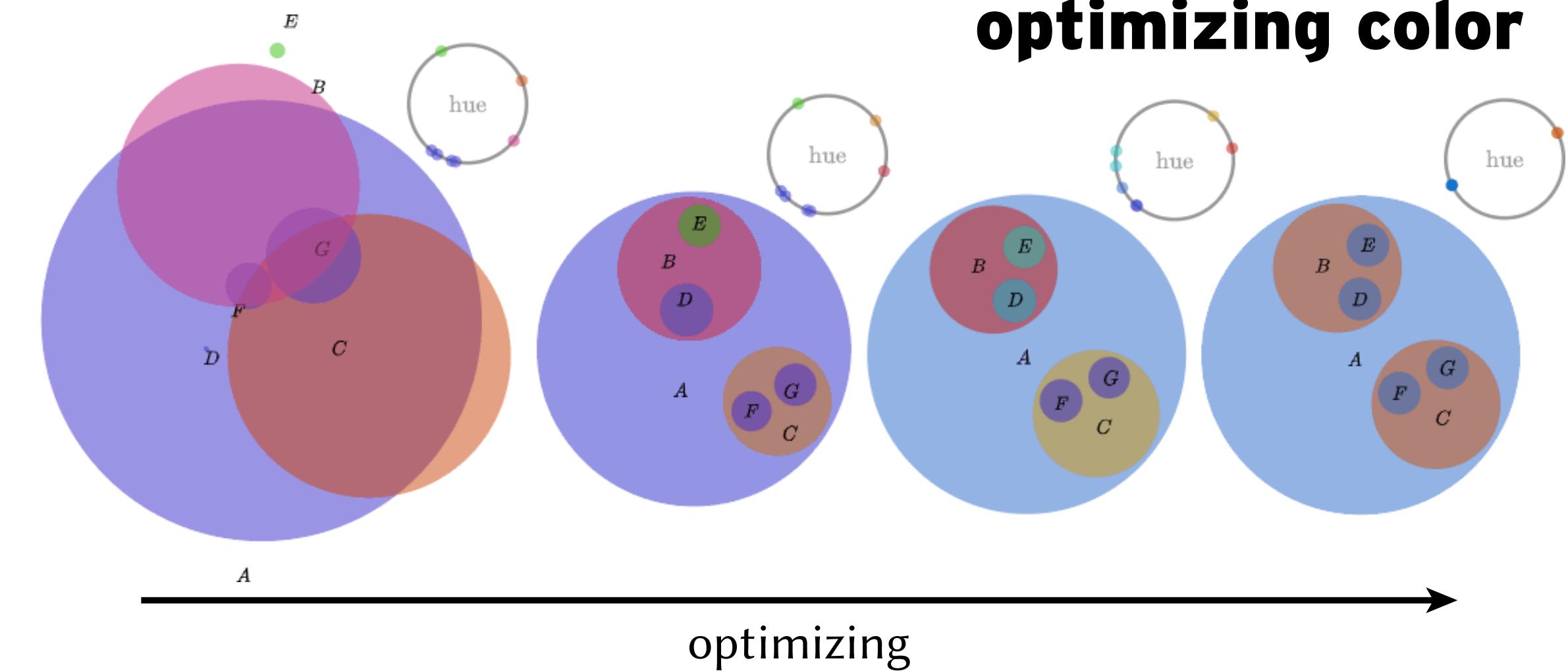
**Set A, B, C, D, E, F, G**  
 $F \subset C$       -- Sets.sub  
 $B \subset A$   
 $C \subset A$   
 $D \subset B$   
 $E \subset B$   
 $G \subset C$   
 $E \cap D = \emptyset$   
 $F \cap G = \emptyset$   
 $B \cap C = \emptyset$



## enumerating possibilities



## optimizing color



# Visualizing functions

# Visualizing functions

```
-- Injection.sub  
Set A, B  
f: A → B  
Injection(f)  
Not(Surjection(f))
```

```
-- Surjection.sub  
Set A, B  
f: A → B  
Surjection(f)  
Not(Injection(f))
```

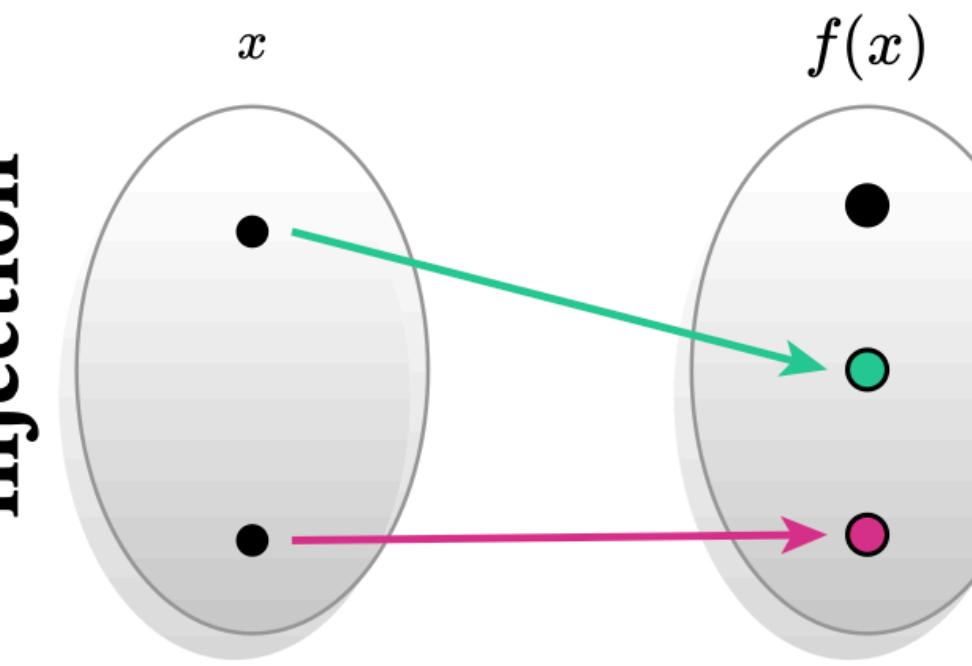
```
-- Bijection.sub  
Set A, B  
f: A → B  
Surjection(f)  
Injection(f)
```

injection

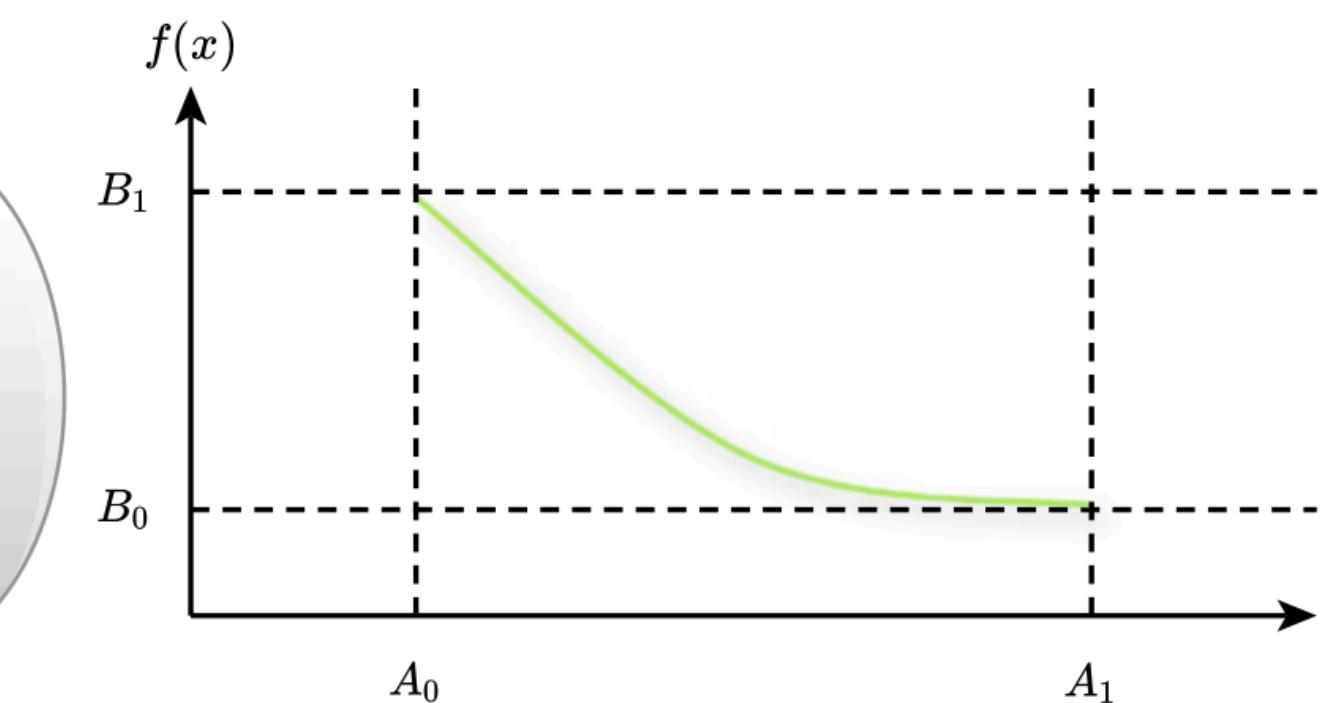
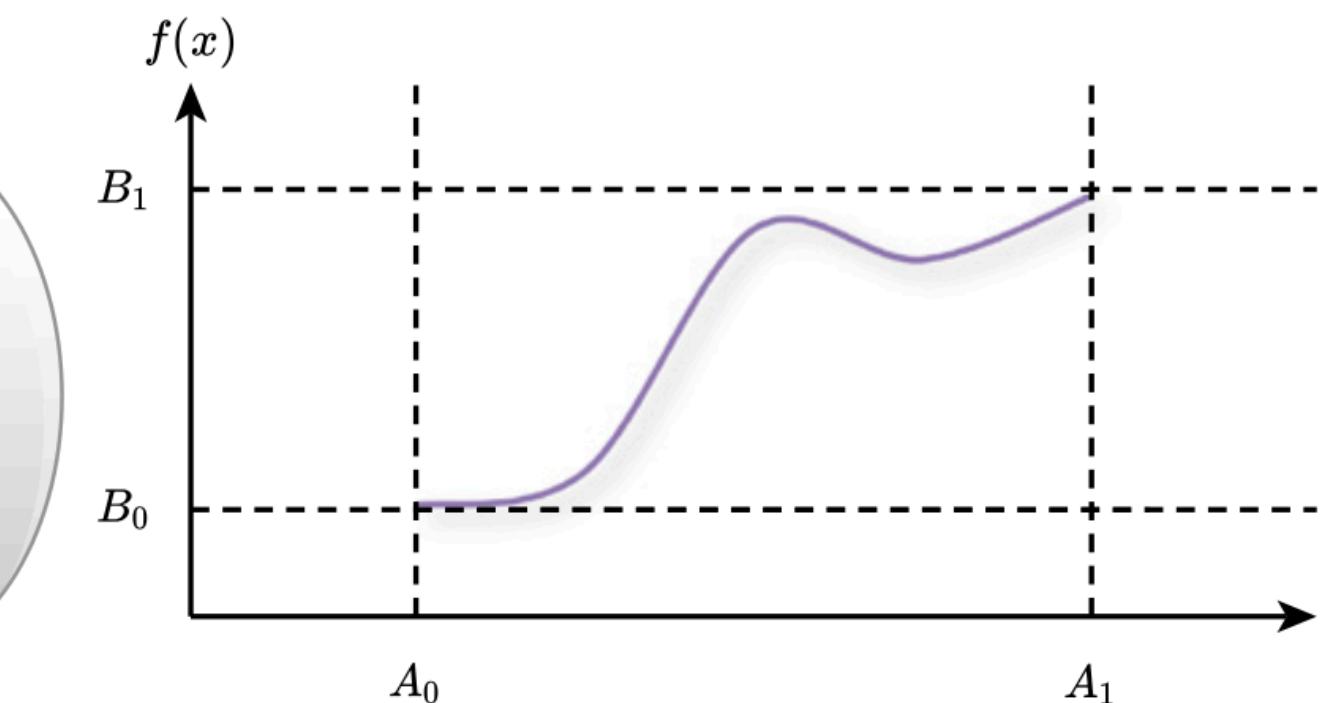
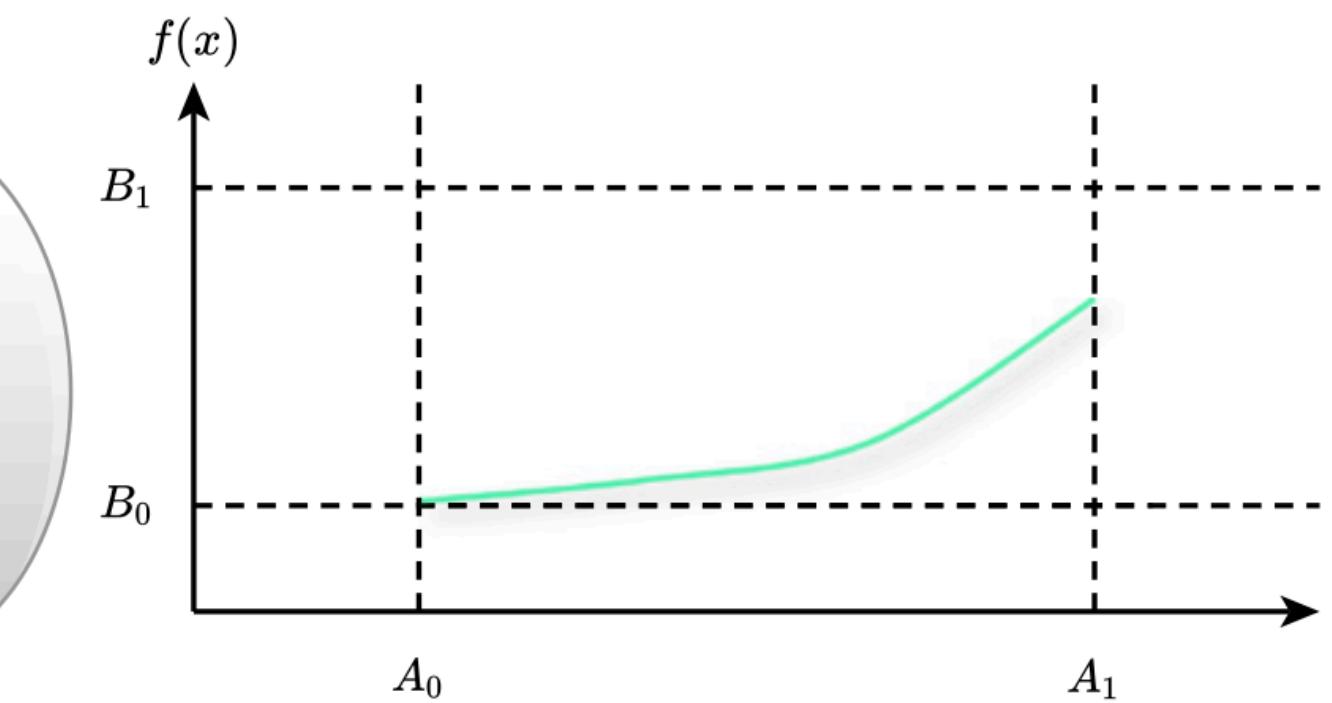
surjection

bijection

**STYLE – discrete**



**STYLE – continuous**

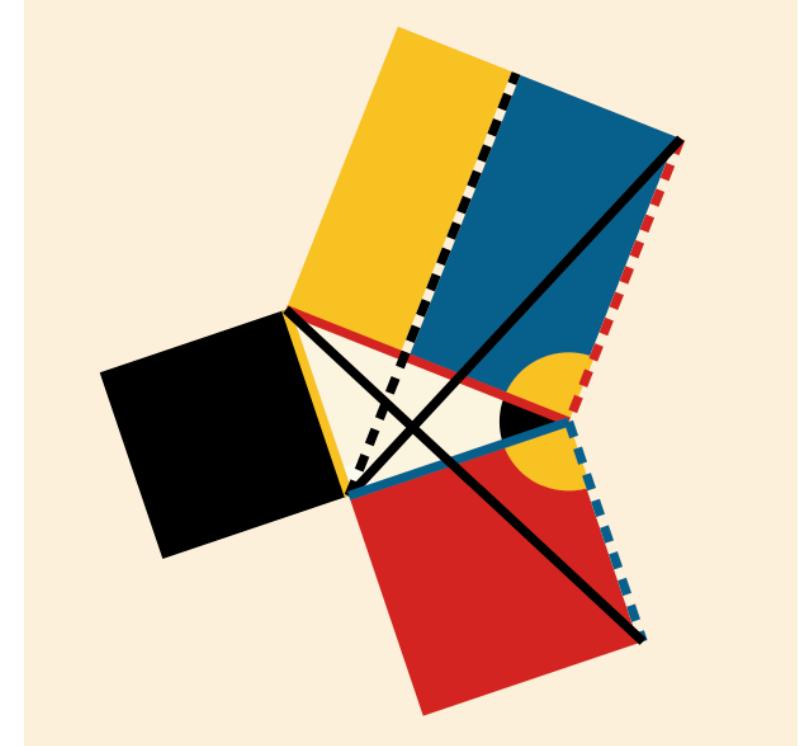
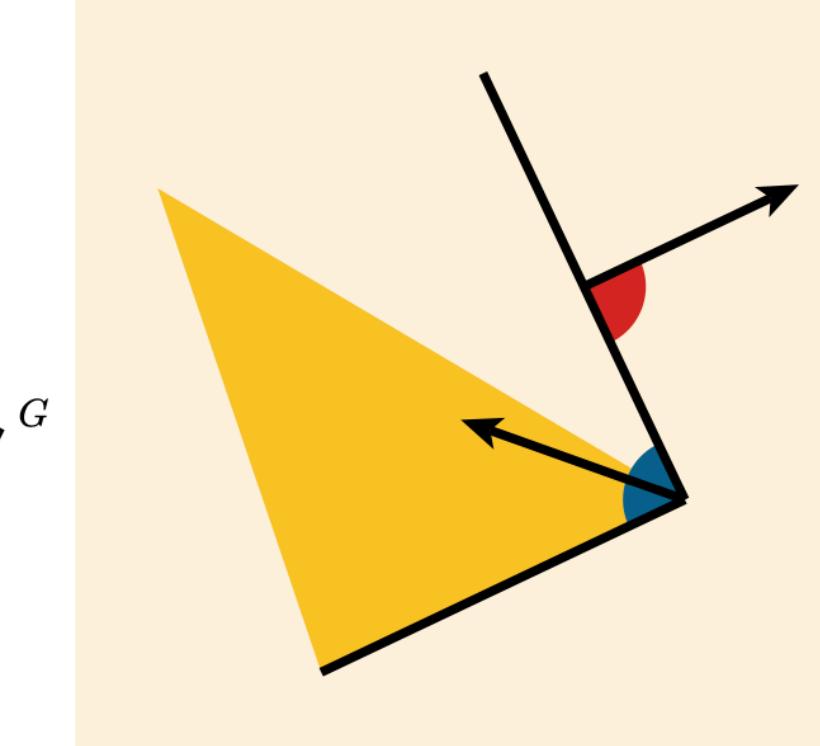
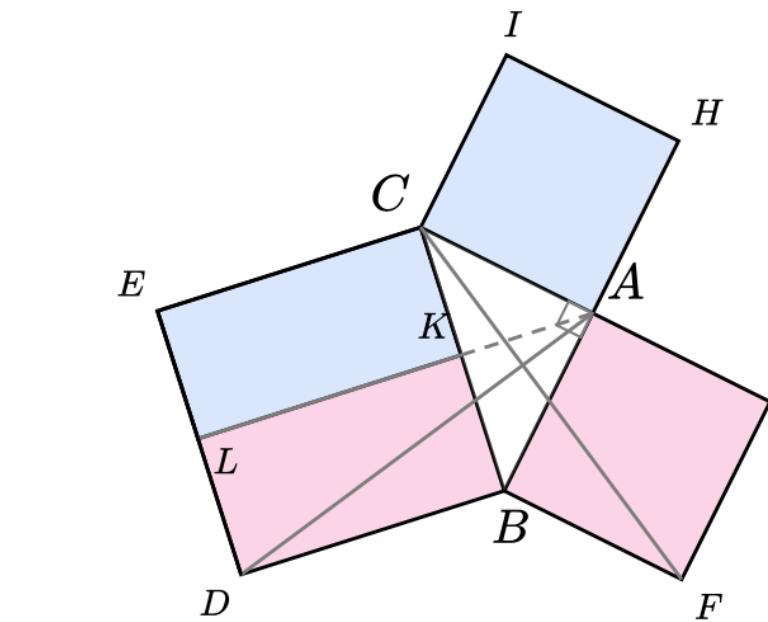
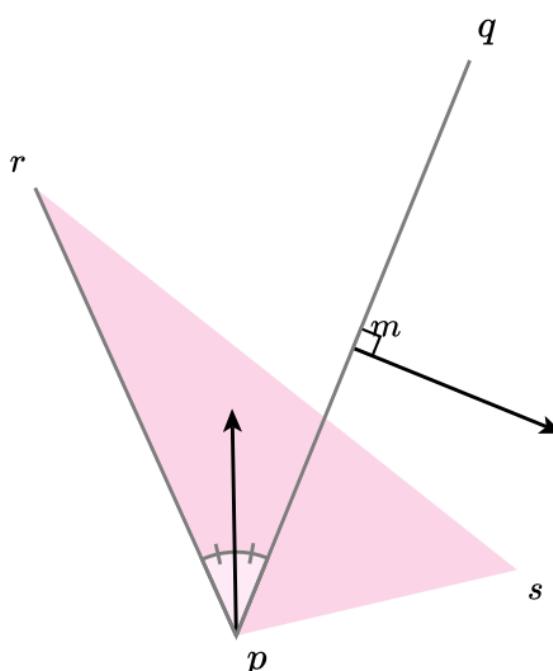
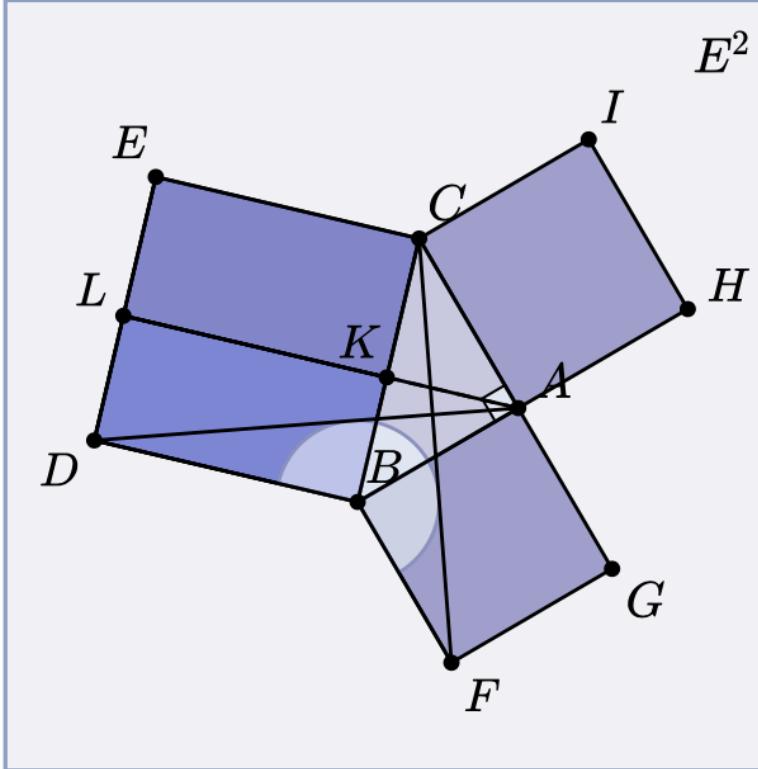
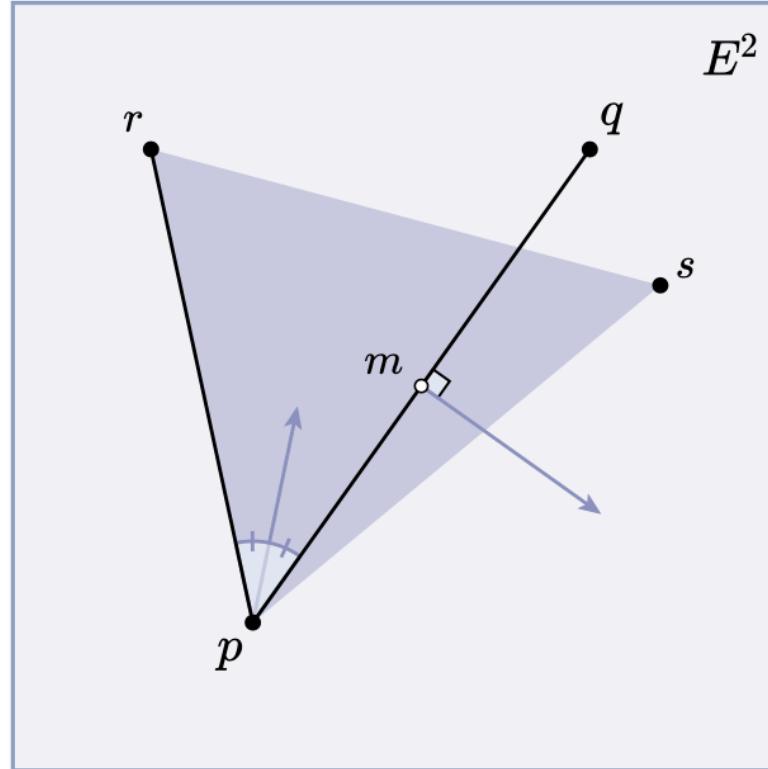


# Visualizing Euclidean geometry



# Visualizing Euclidean geometry

# changing the styling



## Point A, B, C

-- define a right triangle

**Triangle** ABC := {A,B,C}

Angle  $\theta$  :=  $\angle(C$

## Right( $\theta$ )

-- square each side

## **Point D, E, F, G, H, I**

**Square** CBDE := [C,B]

**Disjoint(CBDE, ABC)**

**Square BAGF** := [B,A]

## **Disjoint(BAGF, ABC)**

**Square** ACIH := [A,C,I,H]

-- PythagoreanTheorem.sub

-- split hypotenuse area

**Segment AK := Altitude(ABC, θ)**

**Point K := Endpoint(AK)**

**Segment DE** := {D,E}

## Point L

**On(L, DE)**

**Segment KL := {K,L}**

**Perpendicular(KL, DE)**

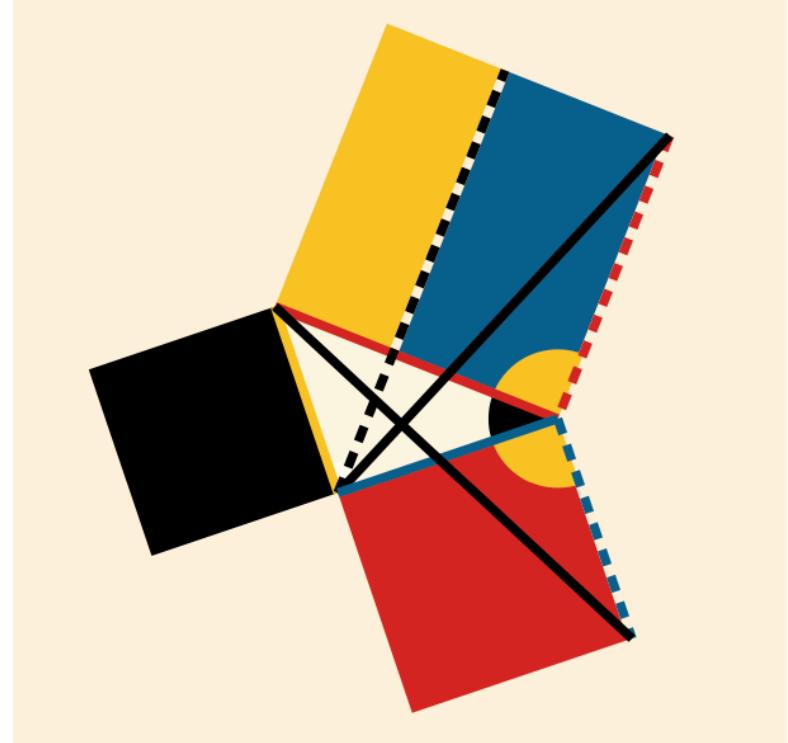
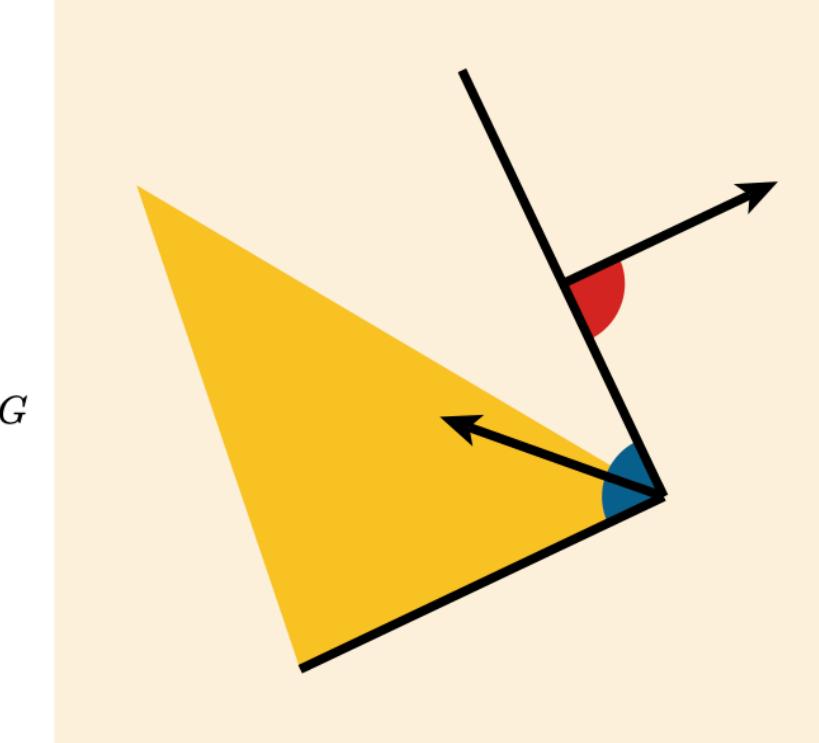
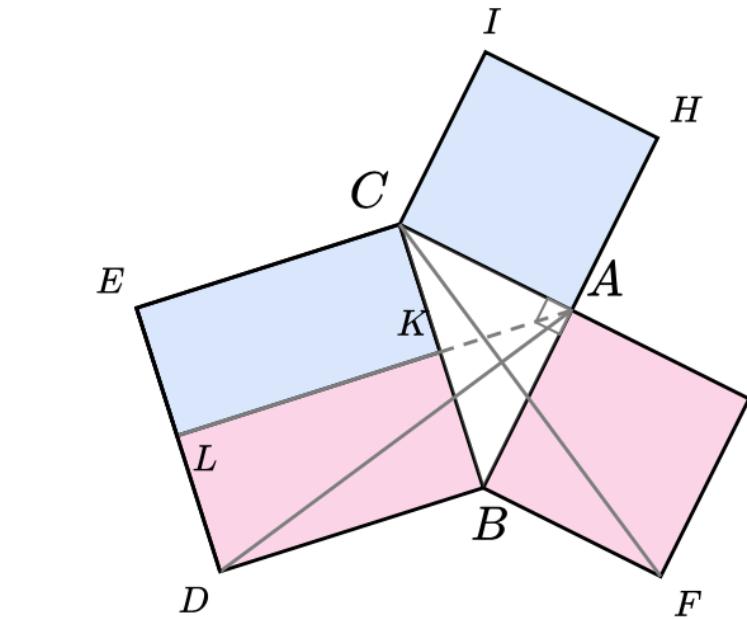
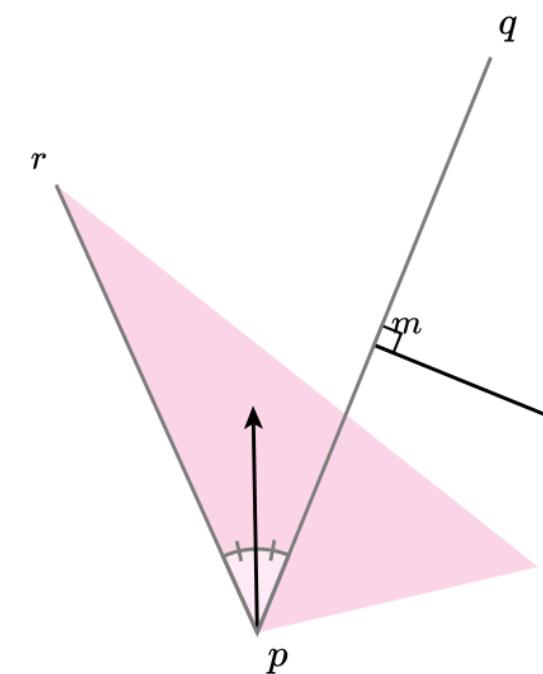
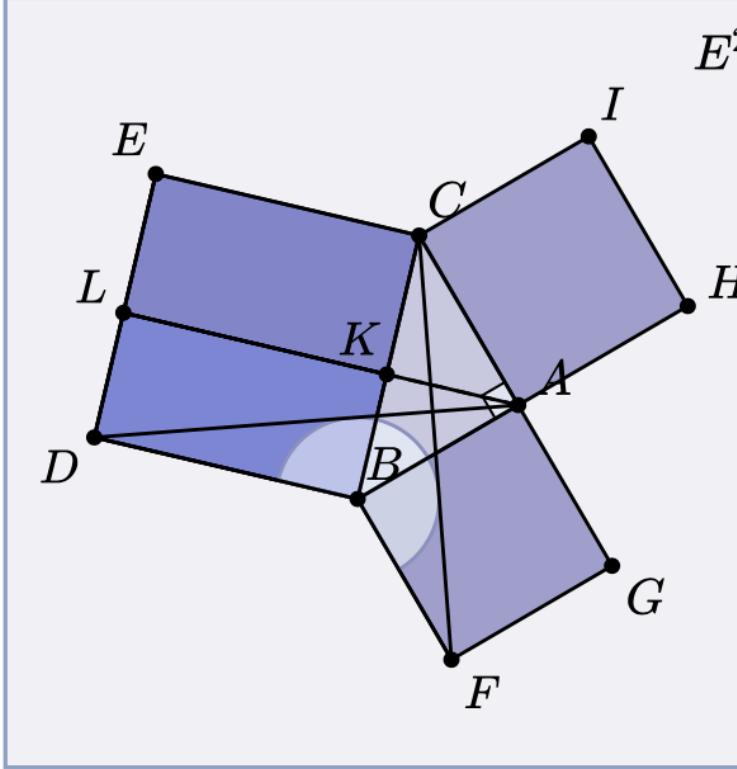
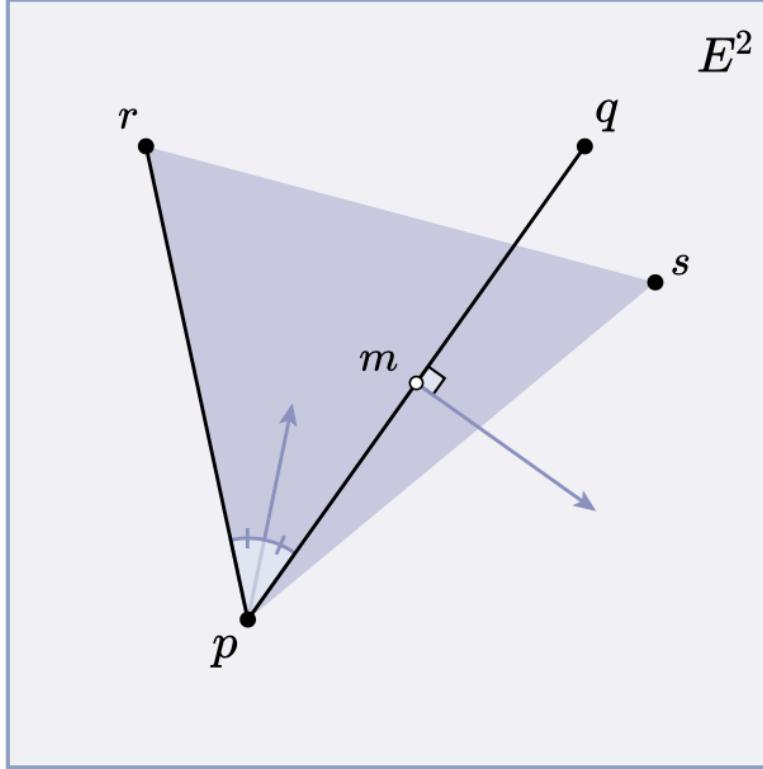
**Rectangle** BDLK := {B,D,L,K}

**Rectangle** CKLE := {C,K,L,E}

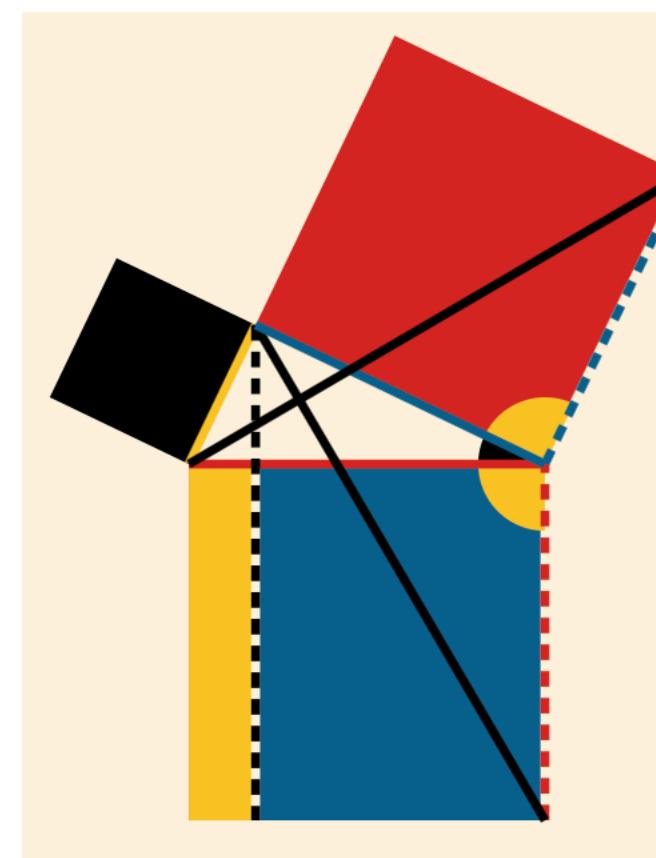
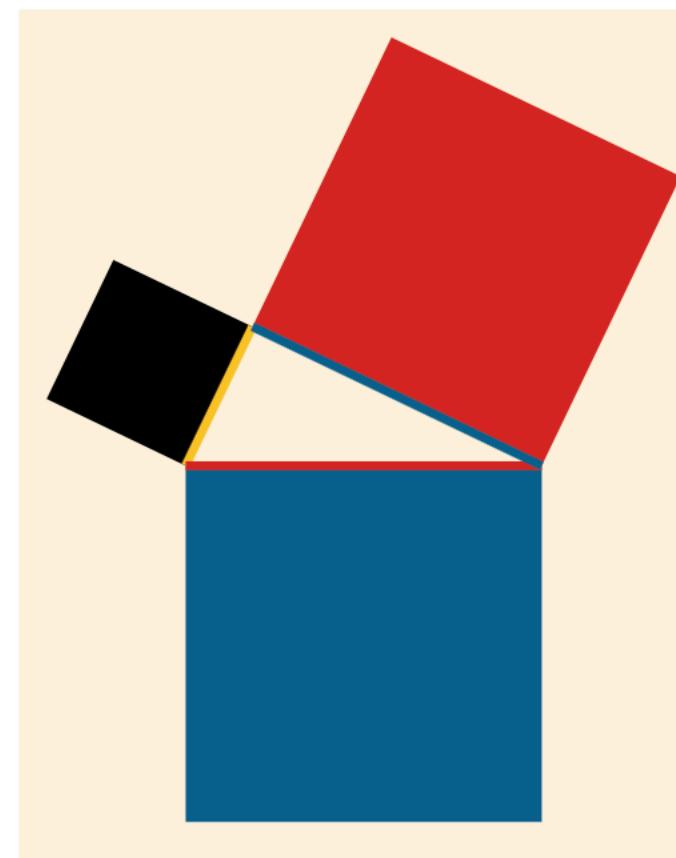
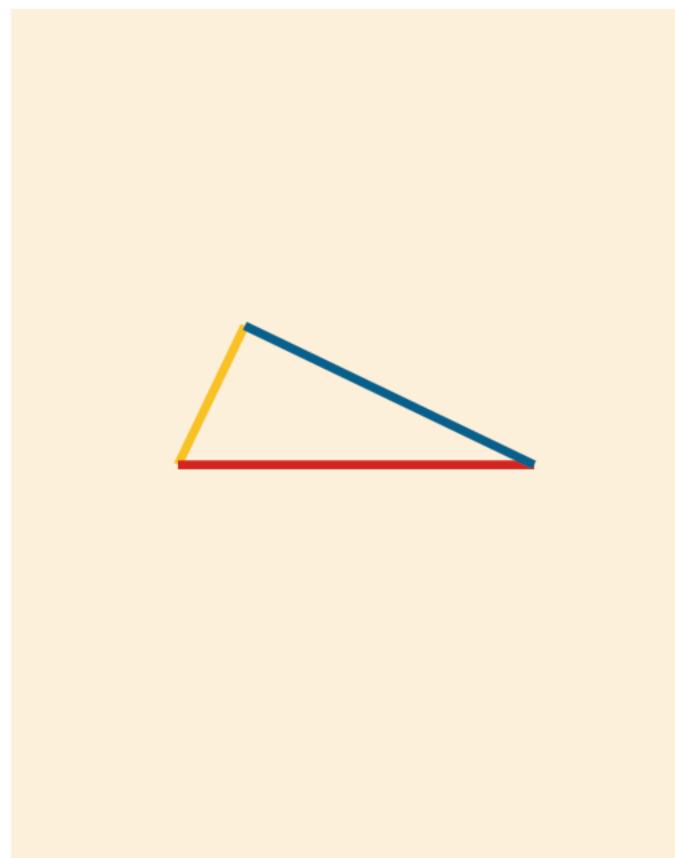
-- (plus additional object)

# Visualizing Euclidean geometry

**changing the styling**



**sequences of diagrams**



**Point A, B, C**

-- define a right triangle

**Triangle ABC := {A,B,C}**

**Angle θ := ∠(C,A,B)**

**Right(θ)**

-- square each side

**Point D, E, F, G, H, I**

**Square CBDE := [C,B,D,E]**

**Disjoint(CBDE, ABC)**

**Square BAGF := [B,A,G,F]**

**Disjoint(BAGF, ABC)**

**Square ACIH := [A,C,I,H]**

**Disjoint(ACIH, ABC)**

-- PythagoreanTheorem.sub

-- split hypotenuse area

**Segment AK := Altitude(ABC,θ)**

**Point K := Endpoint(AK)**

**Segment DE := {D,E}**

**Point L**

**On(L, DE)**

**Segment KL := {K,L}**

**Perpendicular(KL, DE)**

**Rectangle BDLK := {B,D,L,K}**

**Rectangle CKLE := {C,K,L,E}**

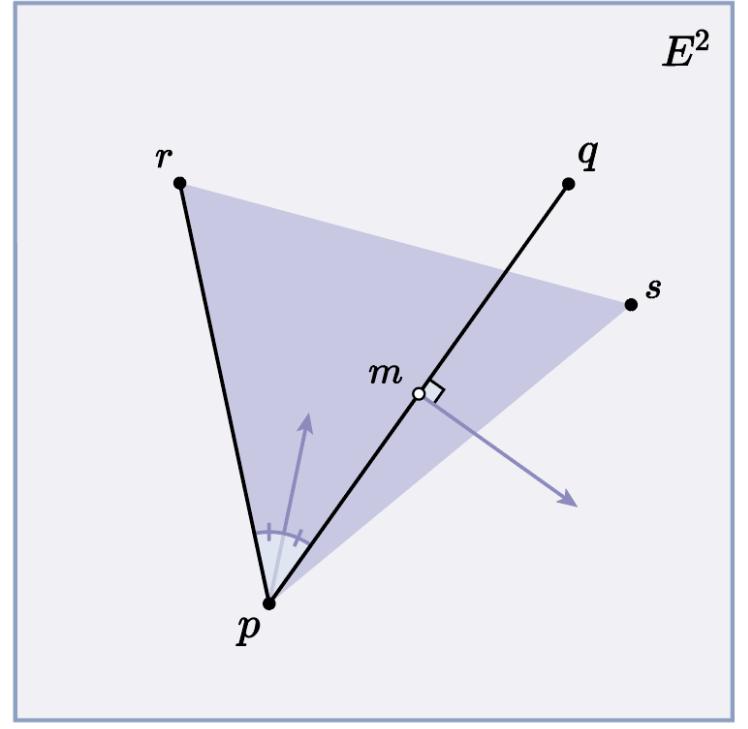
-- (plus additional objects

-- from Byrne's diagram)

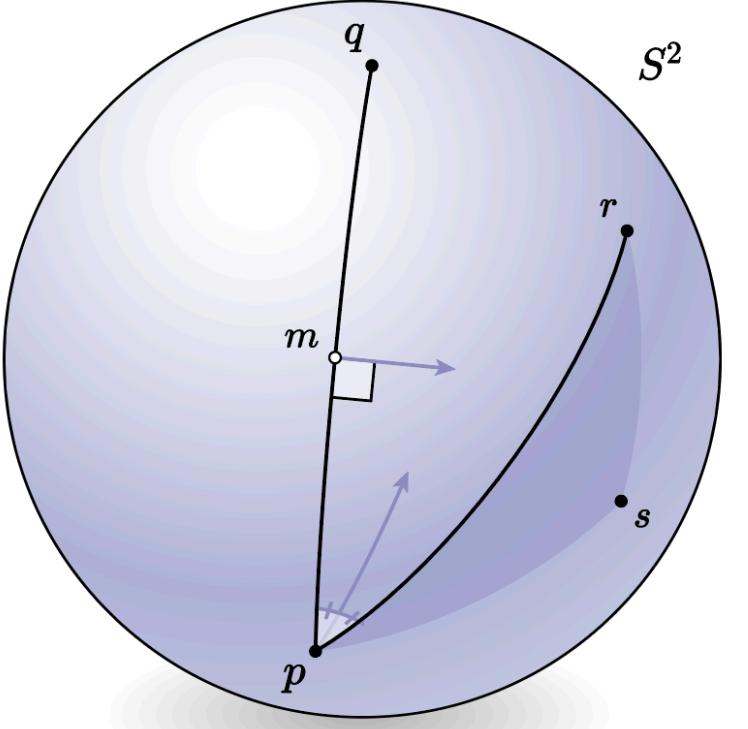
# Visualizing neutral geometry

# Visualizing neutral geometry

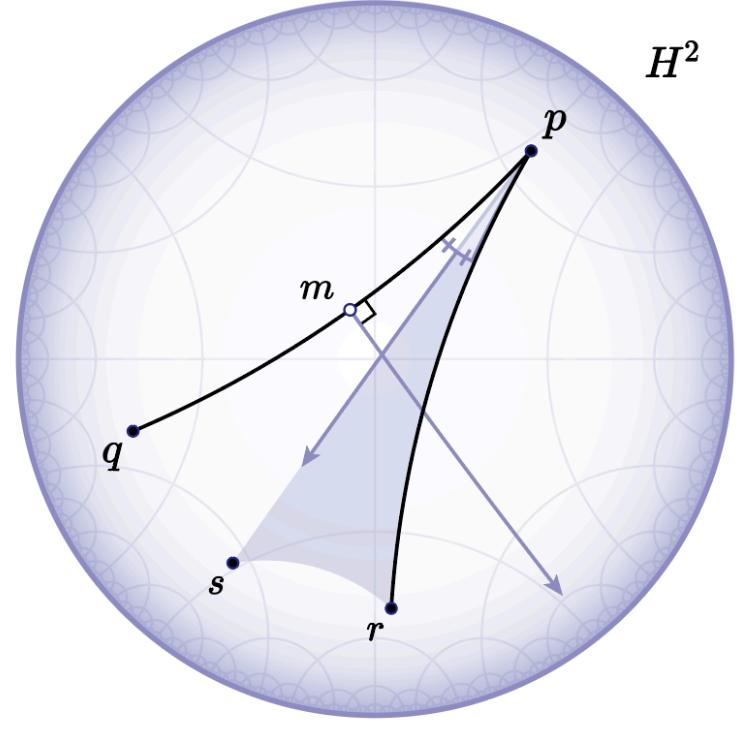
## changing the geometric interpretation



**Style-Euclidean**



**Style-spherical**



**Style-hyperbolic**

**Point**  $p, q, r, s$

**Segment**  $a := p, q$

**Segment**  $b := p, r$

**Point**  $m := \text{Midpoint}(a)$

**Angle**  $\theta := \angle(q, p, r)$

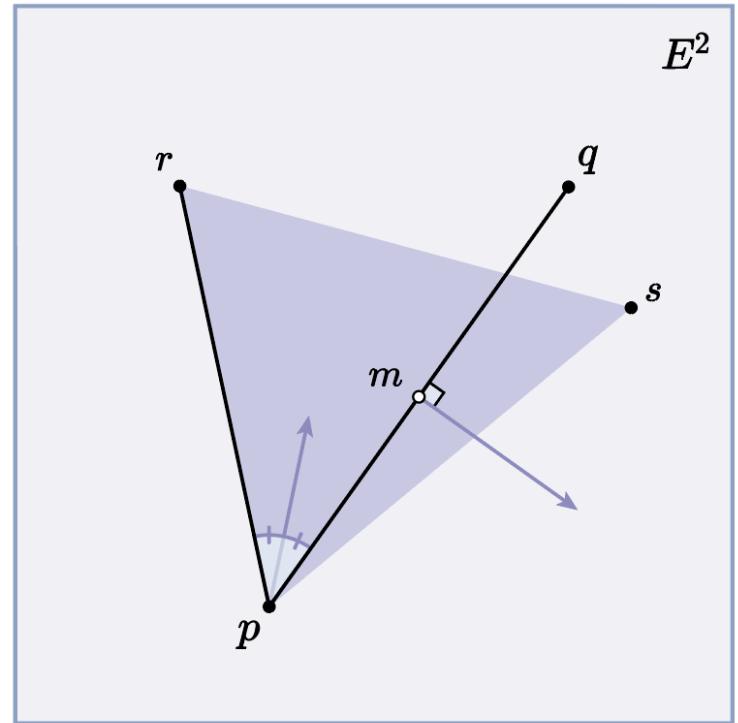
**Triangle**  $t := p, r, s$

**Ray**  $w := \text{Bisector}(\theta)$

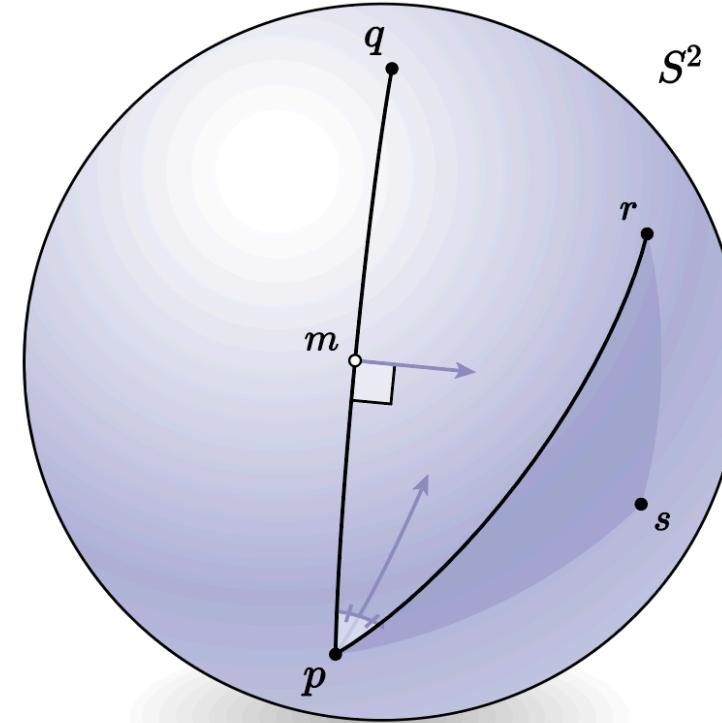
**Ray**  $h := \text{PerpendicularBisector}(a)$

# Visualizing neutral geometry

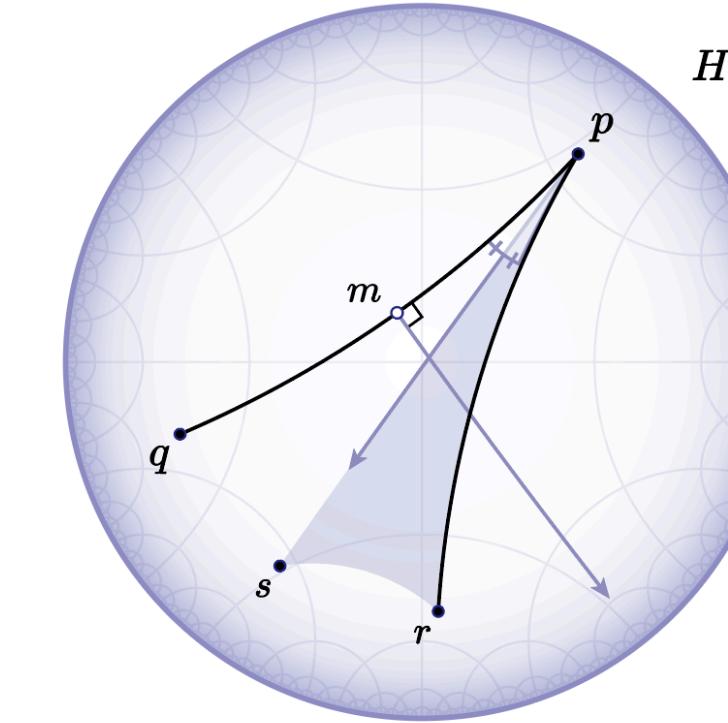
changing the geometric interpretation



**Style-Euclidean**



**Style-spherical**



**Style-hyperbolic**

**Point**  $p, q, r, s$

**Segment**  $a := p, q$

**Segment**  $b := p, r$

**Point**  $m := \text{Midpoint}(a)$

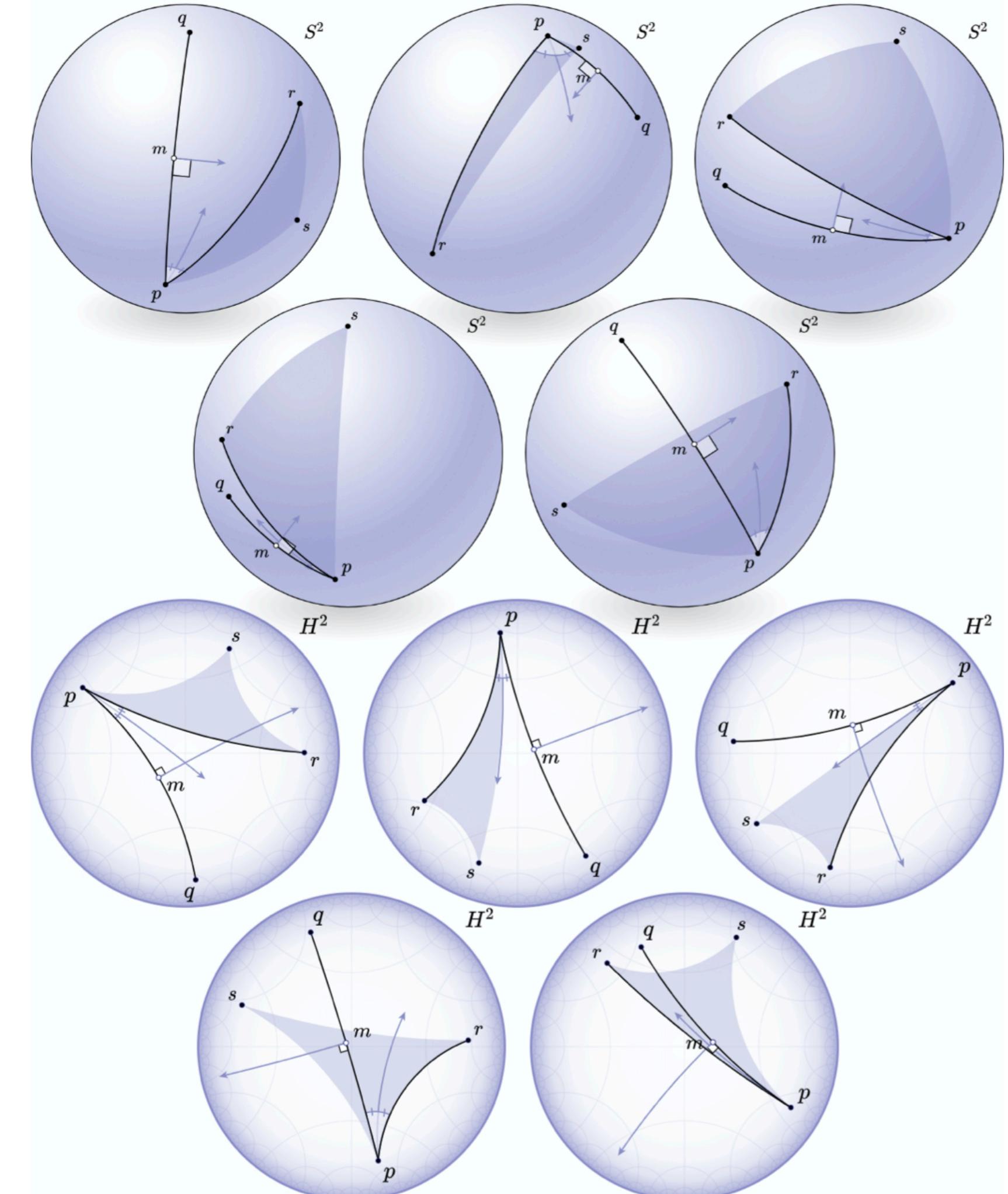
**Angle**  $\theta := \angle(q, p, r)$

**Triangle**  $t := p, r, s$

**Ray**  $w := \text{Bisector}(\theta)$

**Ray**  $h := \text{PerpendicularBisector}(a)$

generating a gallery of alternatives

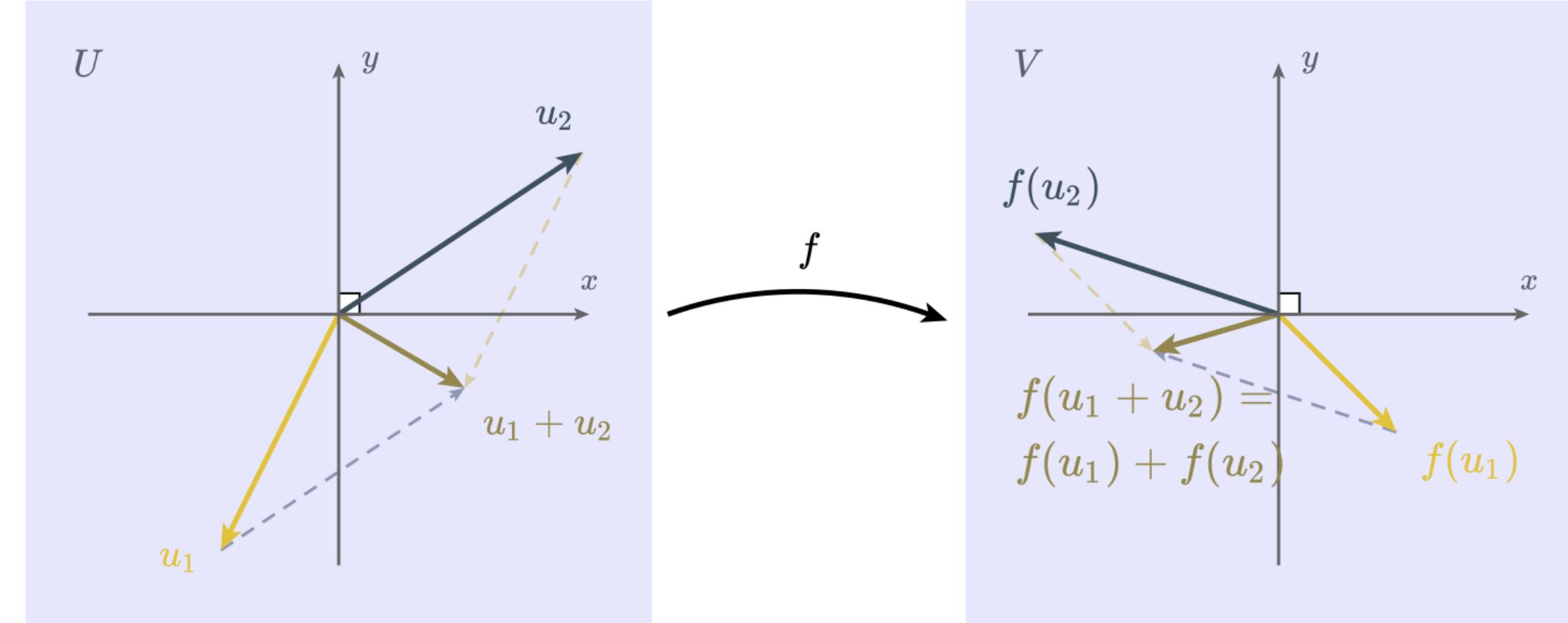


# Visualizing vectors

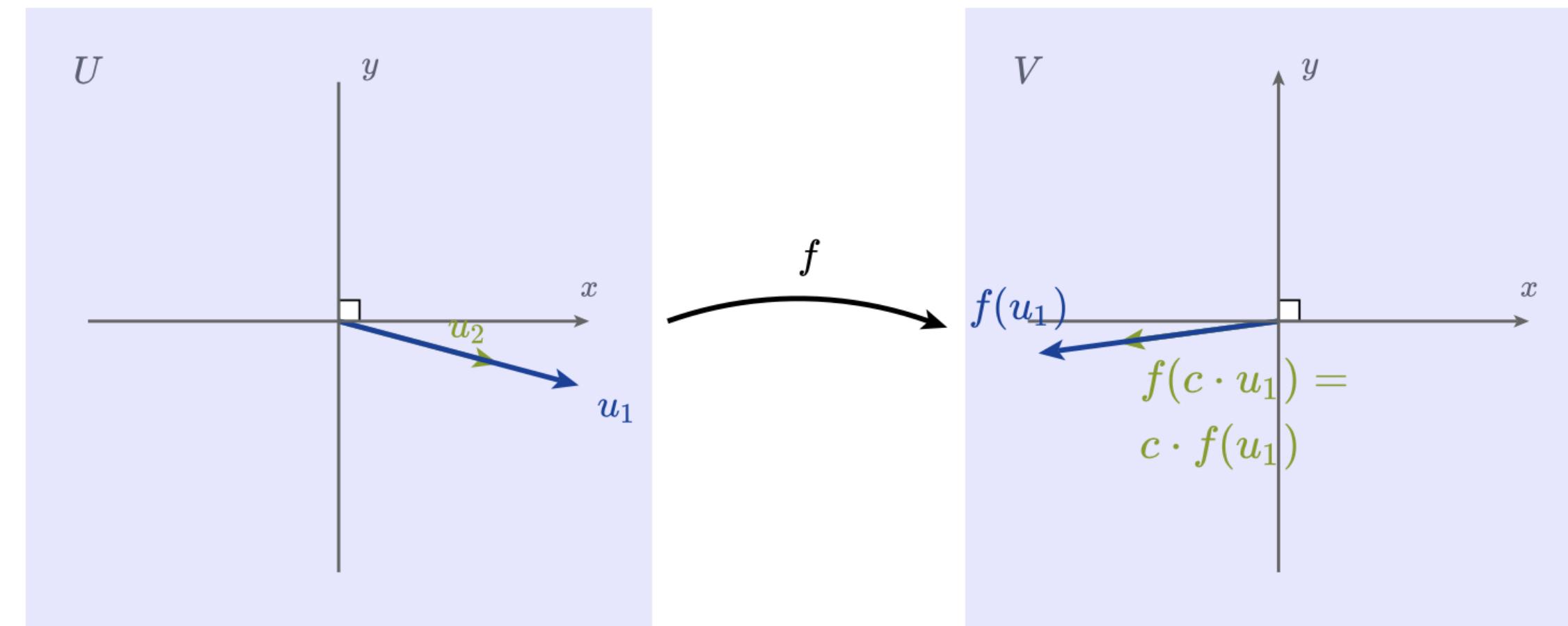
# Visualizing vectors

**composition of math translates to composition of visualization**

```
VectorSpace U, V  
LinearMap f : U → V  
Vector u1, u2 ∈ U  
Vector v1, v2, v3 ∈ V  
Scalar c  
u2 := c * u1  
v1 := f(u1)  
v2 := f(u2)  
v3 := c * v1
```



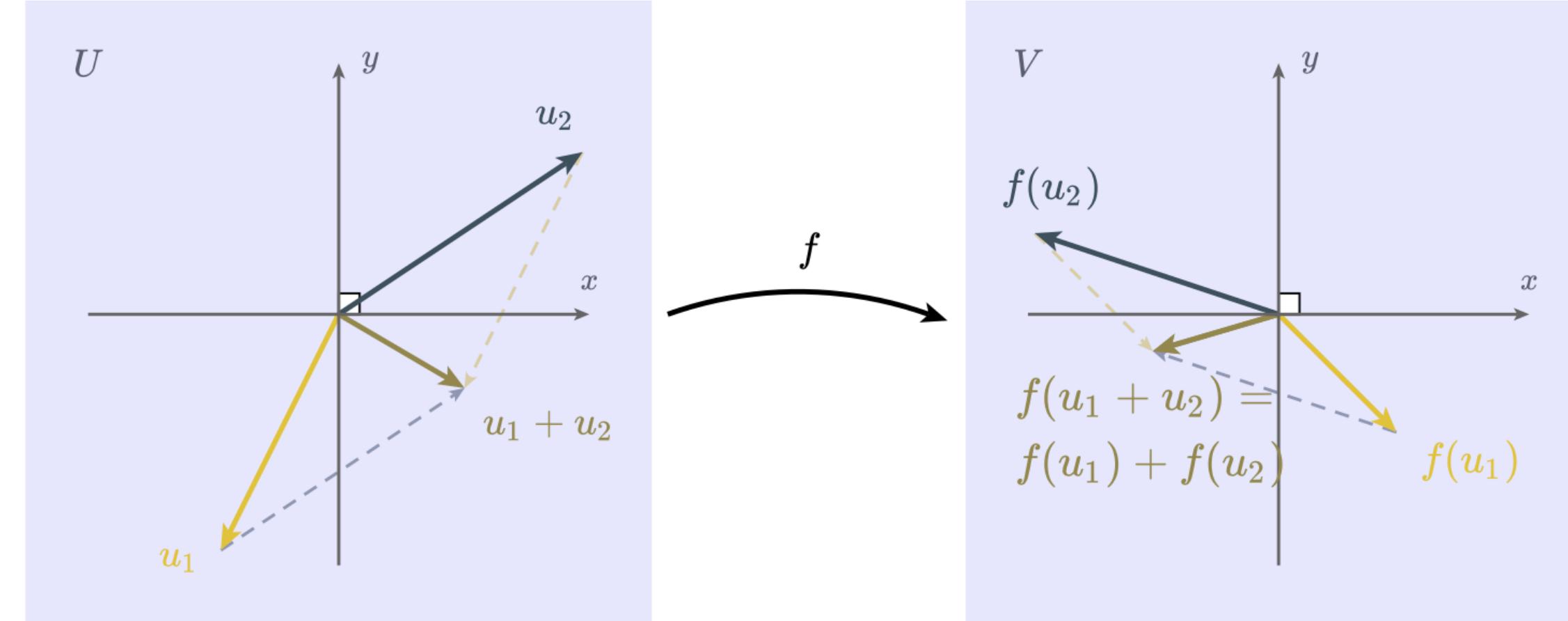
```
VectorSpace U, V  
LinearMap f : U → V  
Vector u1, u2, u3 ∈ U  
Vector v1, v2, v3, v4 ∈ V  
u3 := u1 + u2  
v1 := f(u1)  
v2 := f(u2)  
v3 := f(u3)  
v4 := v1 + v2
```



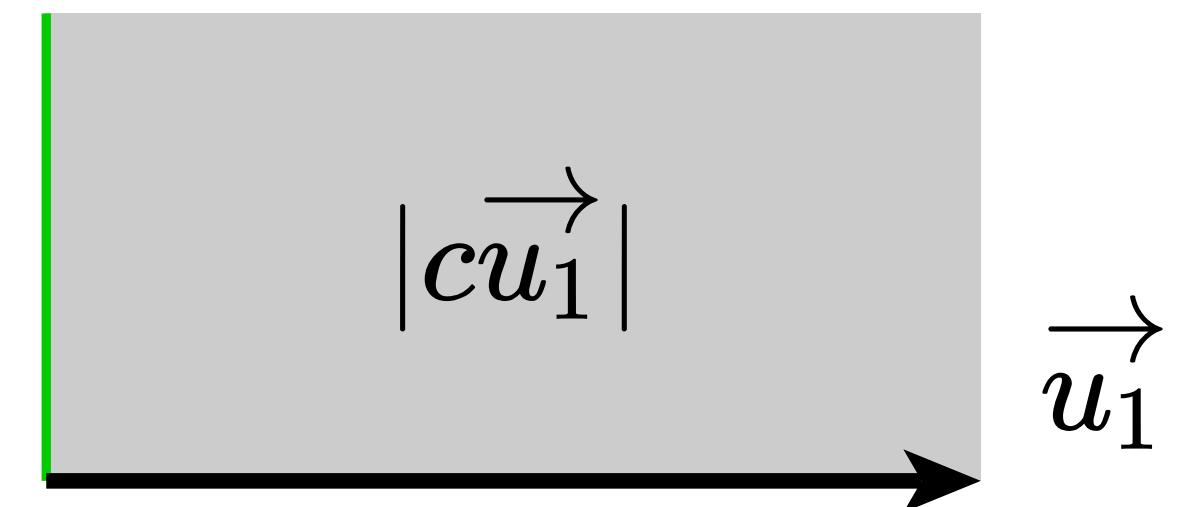
# Visualizing vectors

**composition of math translates to composition of visualization**

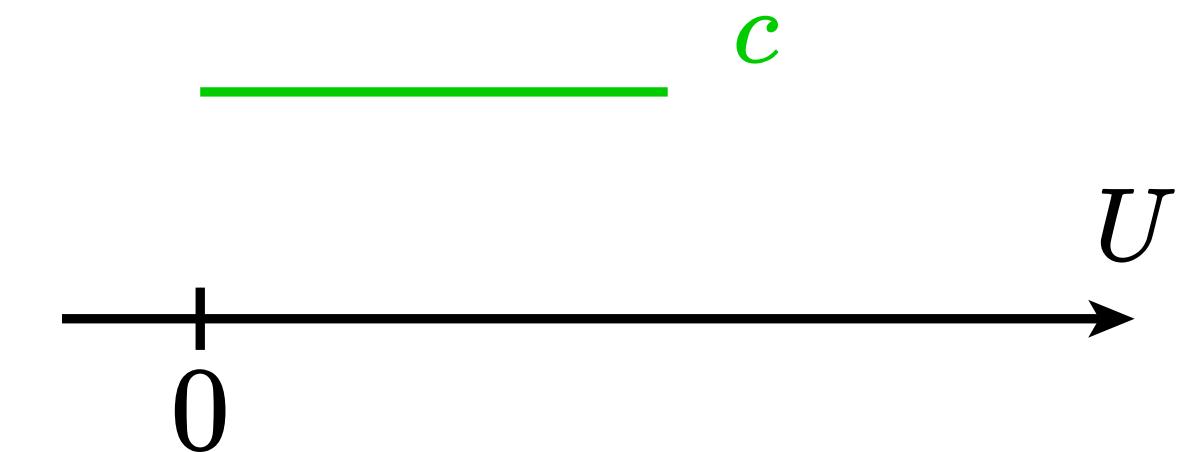
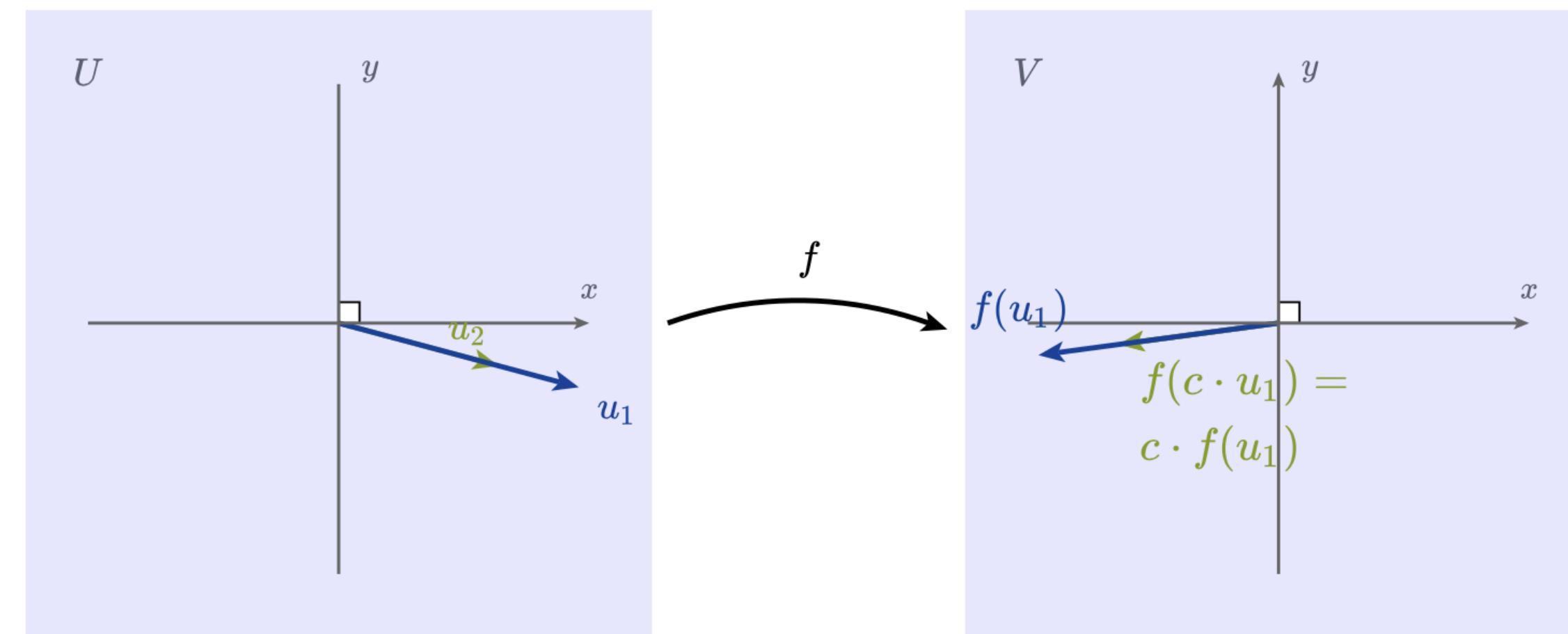
```
VectorSpace U, V  
LinearMap f : U → V  
Vector u1, u2 ∈ U  
Vector v1, v2, v3 ∈ V  
Scalar c  
u2 := c * u1  
v1 := f(u1)  
v2 := f(u2)  
v3 := c * v1
```



**adapting the representation to the dimension**



```
VectorSpace U, V  
LinearMap f : U → V  
Vector u1, u2, u3 ∈ U  
Vector v1, v2, v3, v4 ∈ V  
u3 := u1 + u2  
v1 := f(u1)  
v2 := f(u2)  
v3 := f(u3)  
v4 := v1 + v2
```



# Visualizing meshes

# Visualizing meshes

## illustrating steps of a complex process

**SimplicialComplex**  $K$

**Edge**  $e \in K$

**Subcomplex**  $E \subseteq K$

$E := \text{Closure}(e)$

**SimplicialSet**  $\text{St}E \subseteq K$

$\text{St}E := \text{Star}(E)$

**Subcomplex**  $\text{Cl}StE \subseteq K$

$\text{Cl}StE := \text{Closure}(\text{St}E)$

**Subcomplex**  $\text{Cl}E \subseteq K$

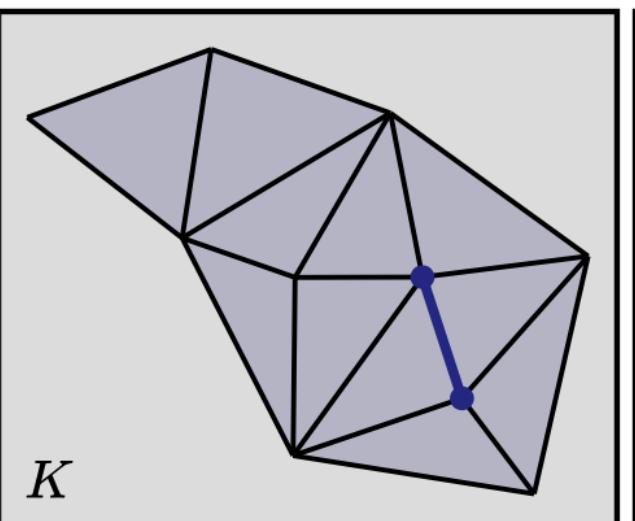
$\text{Cl}E := \text{Closure}(E)$

**SimplicialSet**  $\text{St}\text{Cl}E \subseteq K$

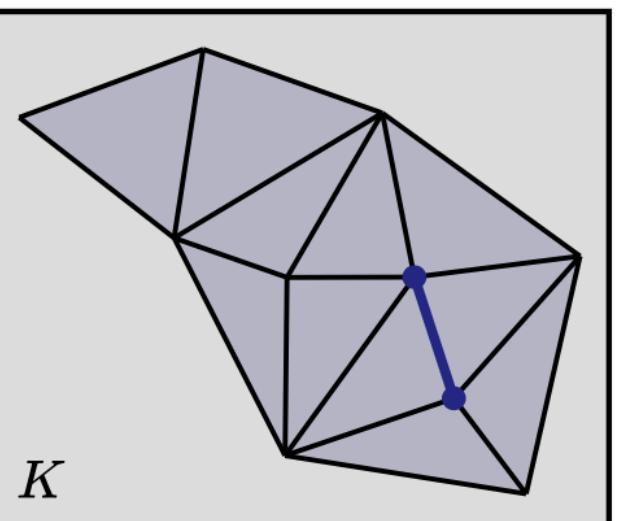
$\text{St}\text{Cl}E := \text{Star}(\text{Cl}E)$

**SimplicialSet**  $\text{Lk}E \subseteq K$

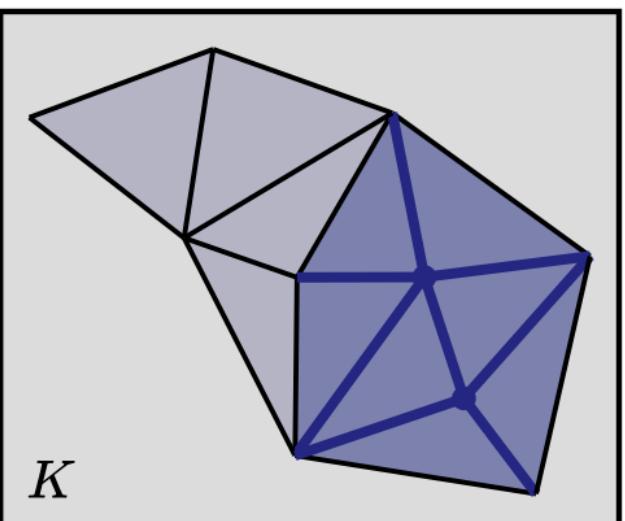
$\text{Lk}E := \text{SetMinus}(\text{Cl}StE, \text{St}\text{Cl}E)$



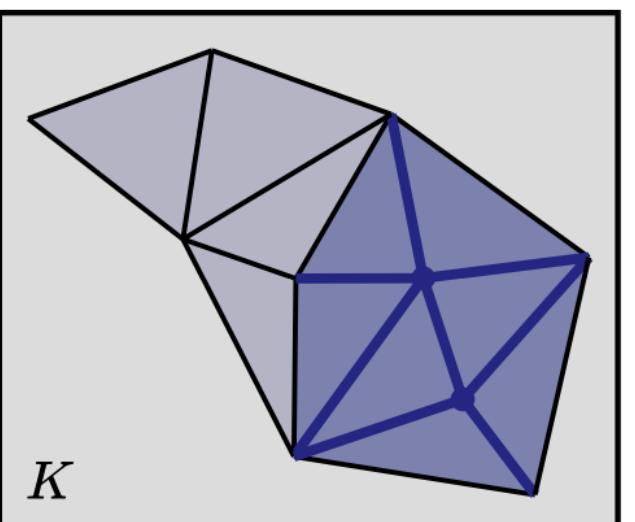
$E$



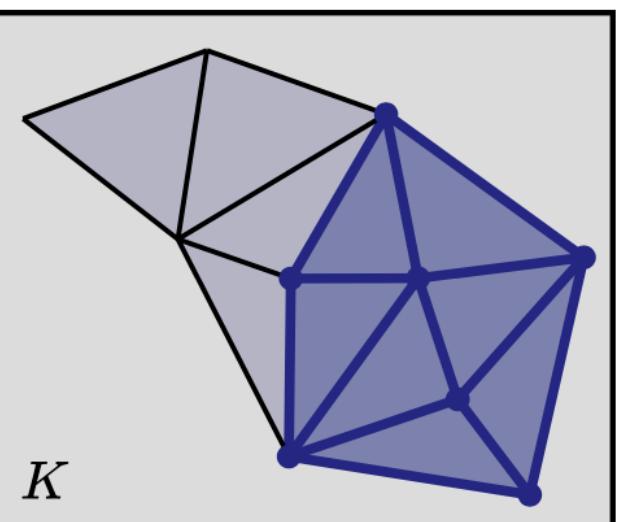
$\text{Cl}(E)$



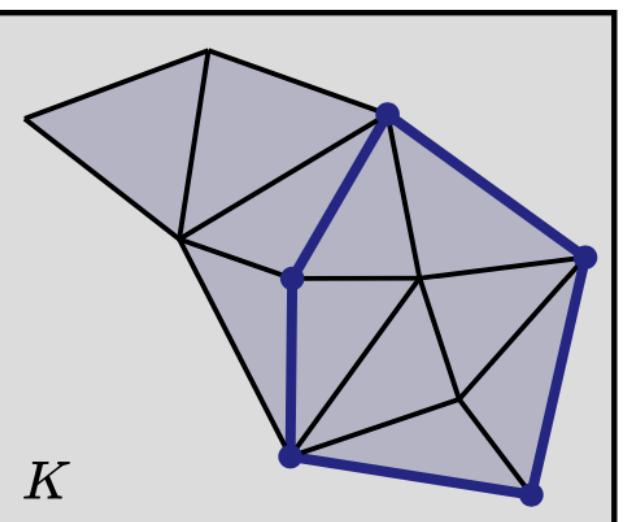
$\text{St}(E)$



$\text{St}(\text{Cl}(E))$



$\text{Cl}(\text{St}(E))$



$\text{Lk}(E) := \text{Cl}(\text{St}(E)) \setminus \text{St}(\text{Cl}(E))$

# Visualizing meshes

**illustrating steps of a complex process**

**SimplicialComplex**  $K$

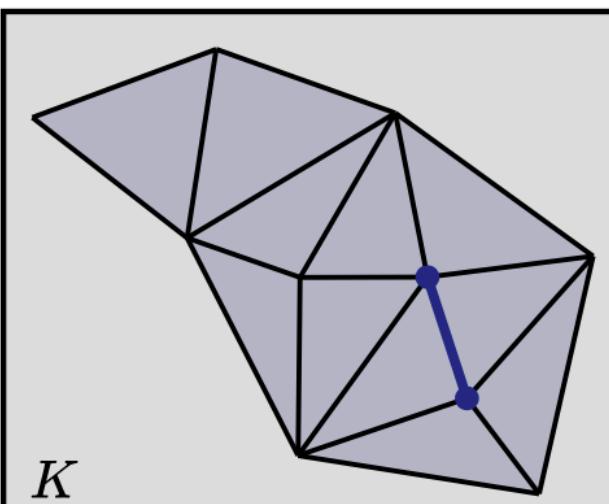
**Edge**  $e \in K$

**Subcomplex**  $E \subseteq K$

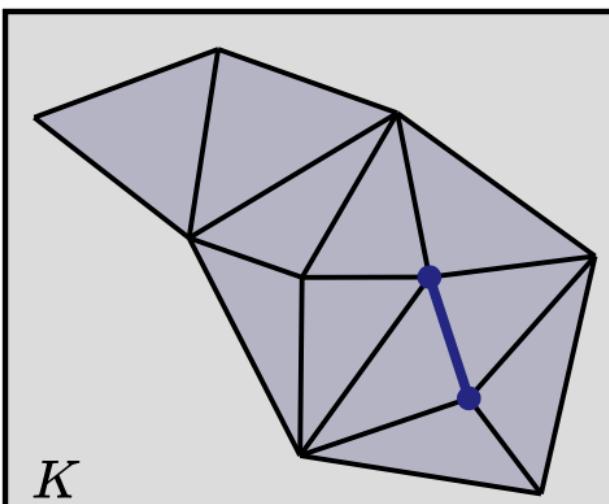
$E := \text{Closure}(e)$

**SimplicialSet**  $StE \subseteq K$

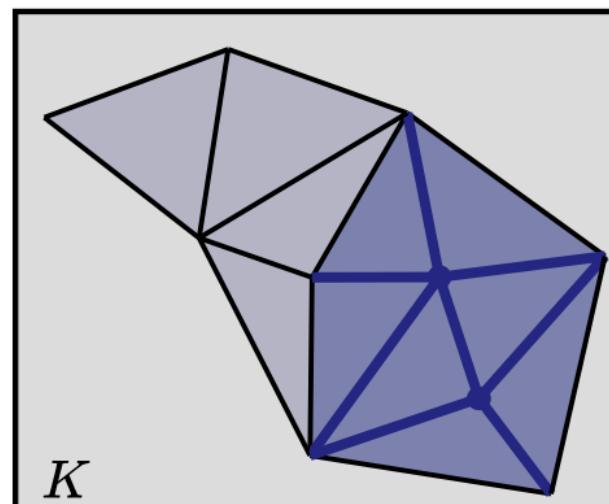
$StE := \text{Star}(E)$



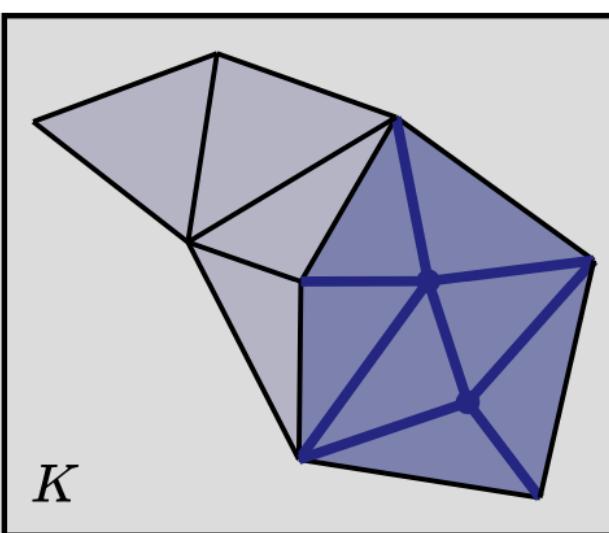
$E$



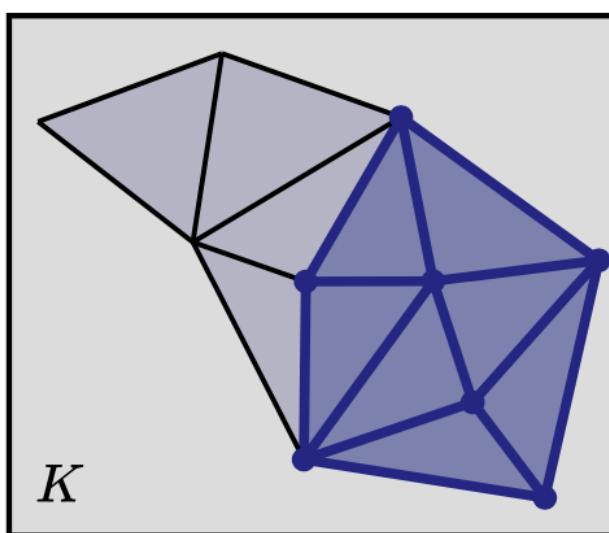
$Cl(E)$



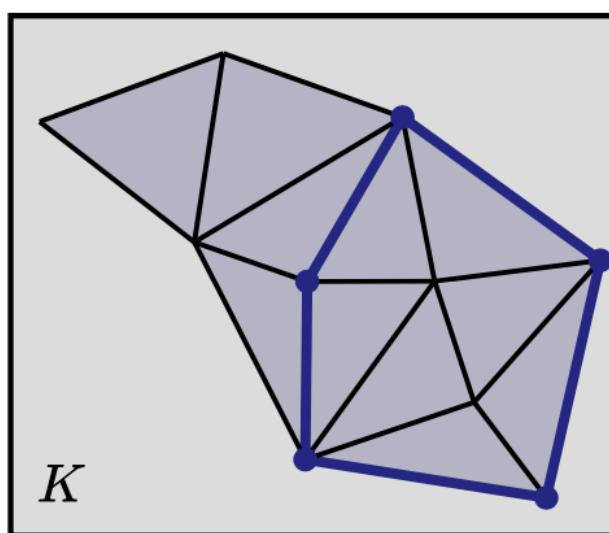
$St(E)$



$St(Cl(E))$



$Cl(St(E))$



$Lk(E) := Cl(St(E)) \setminus St(Cl(E))$

**Subcomplex**  $ClStE \subseteq K$

$ClStE := \text{Closure}(StE)$

**Subcomplex**  $ClE \subseteq K$

$ClE := \text{Closure}(E)$

**SimplicialSet**  $StClE \subseteq K$

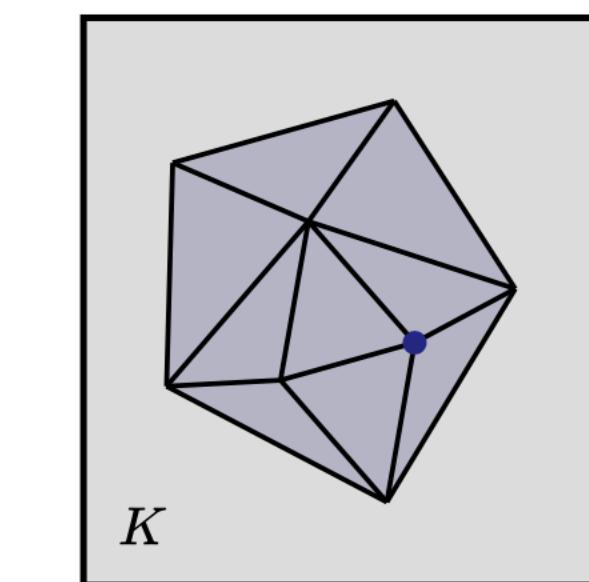
$StClE := \text{Star}(ClE)$

**SimplicialSet**  $LkE \subseteq K$

$LkE := \text{SetMinus}(ClStE, StClE)$

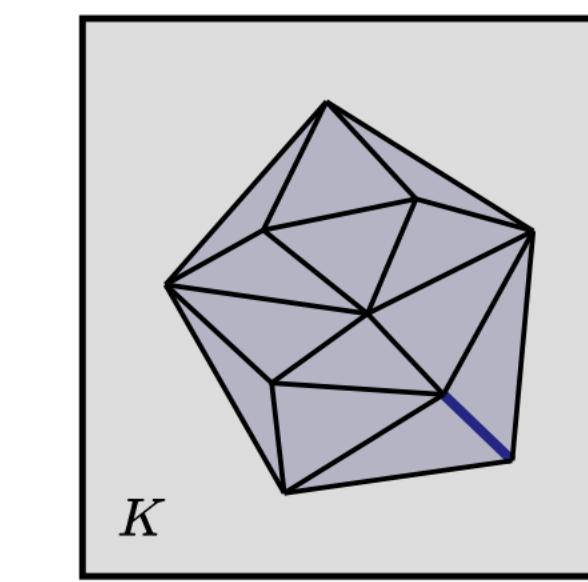
**using many examples to build intuition**

**Vertex**  $s \in K$



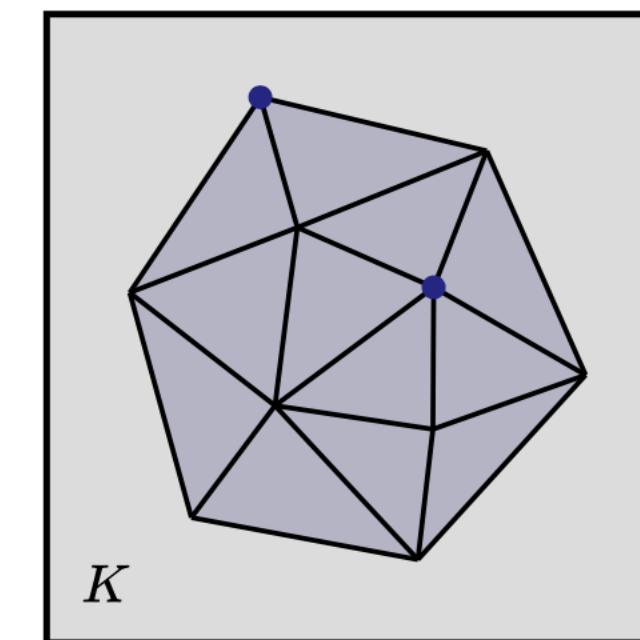
$v$

**Edge**  $s \in K$



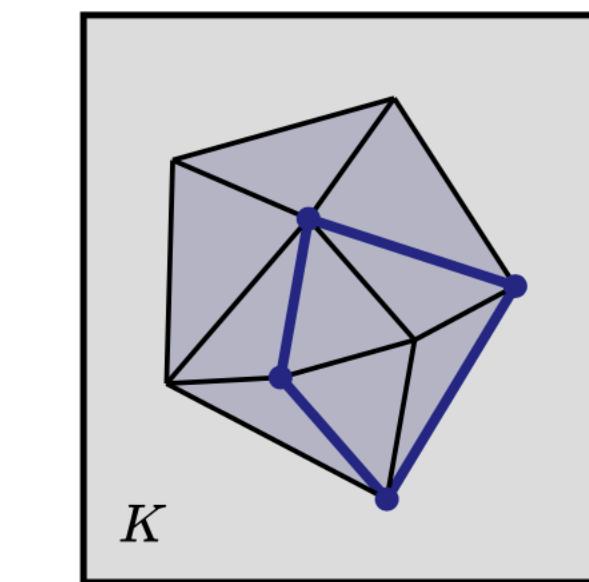
$e$

**Vertex**  $v_1 \in K$   
**Vertex**  $v_2 \in K$   
**SimplicialSet**  $S \subseteq K$   
 $S := \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$

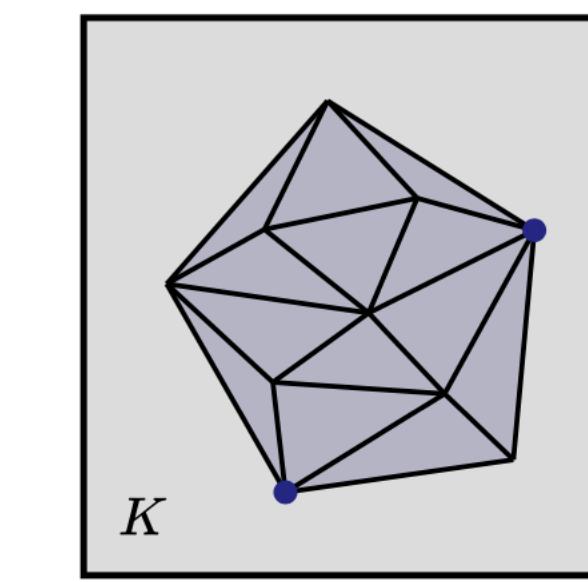


$S$

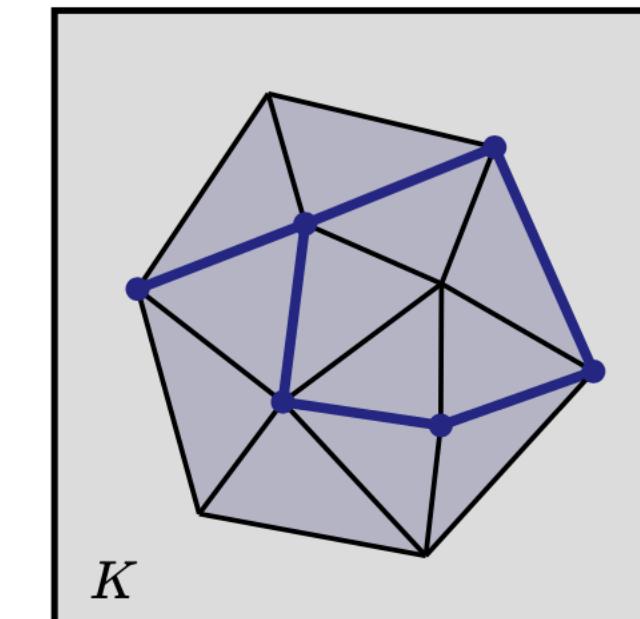
**SimplicialComplex**  $K$   
**SimplicialSet**  $LkS := \text{Link}(S)$



$Lk(v)$



$Lk(e)$

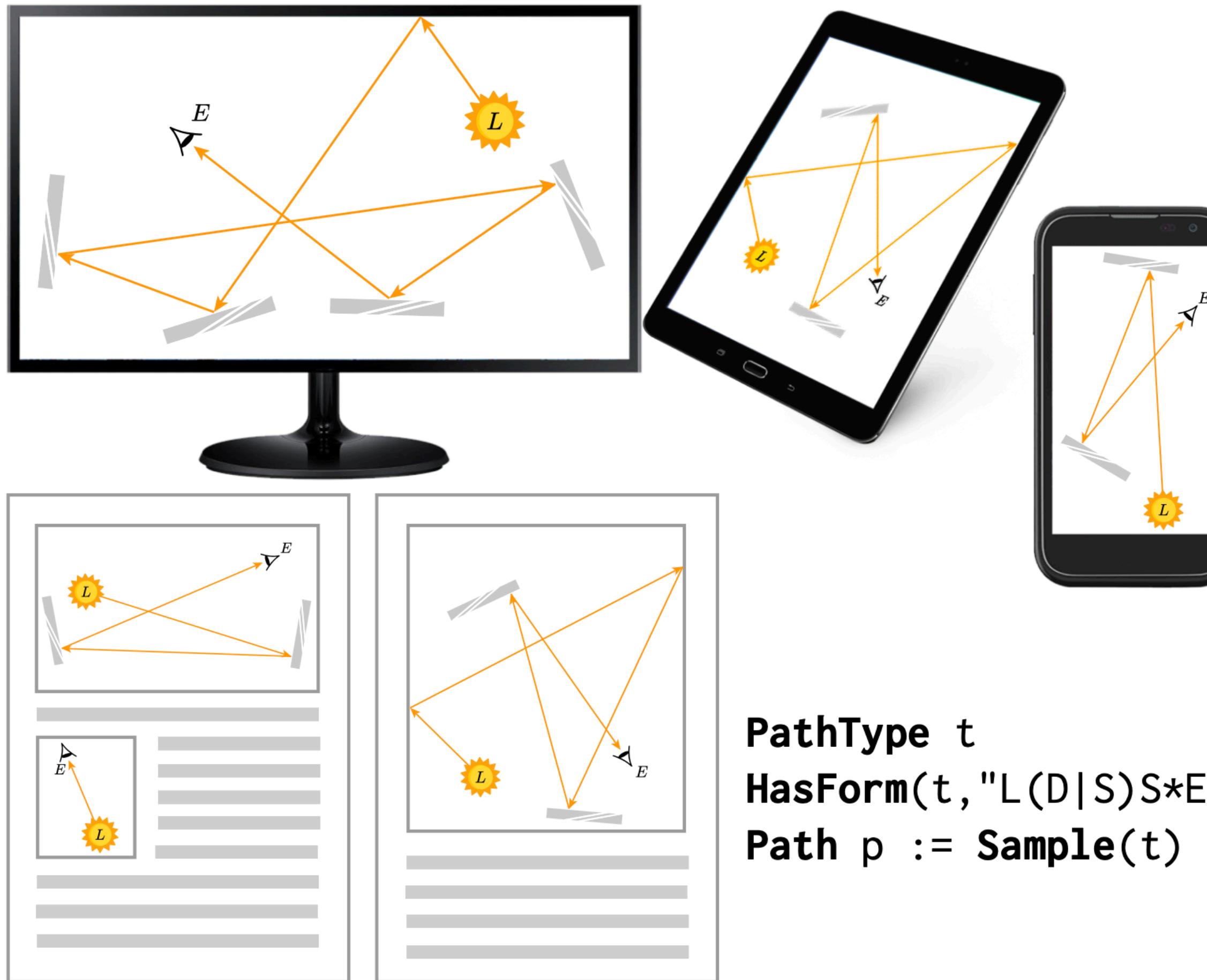


$Lk(S)$

# Visualizing rays

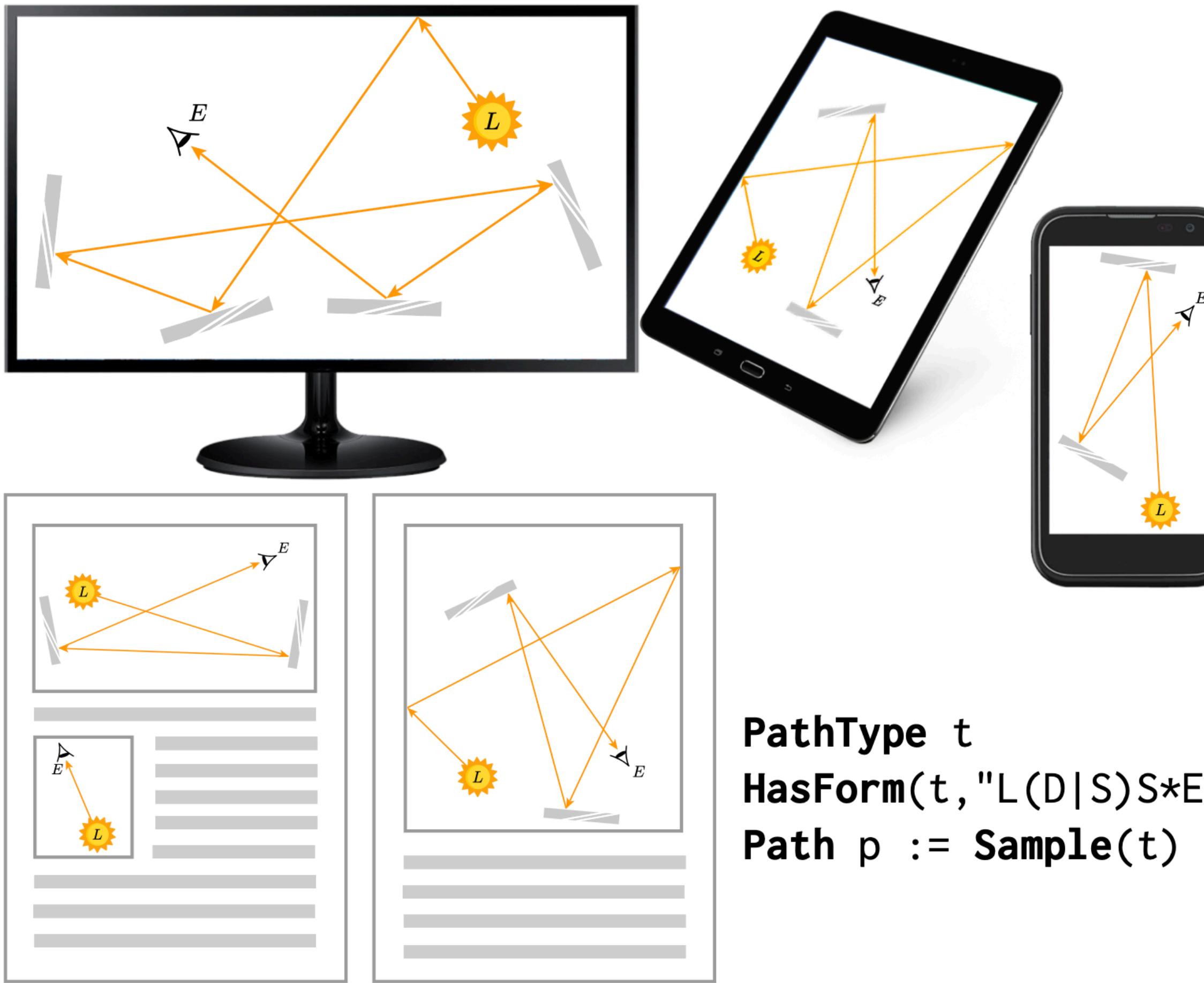
# Visualizing rays

re-generating diagrams for a target platform



# Visualizing rays

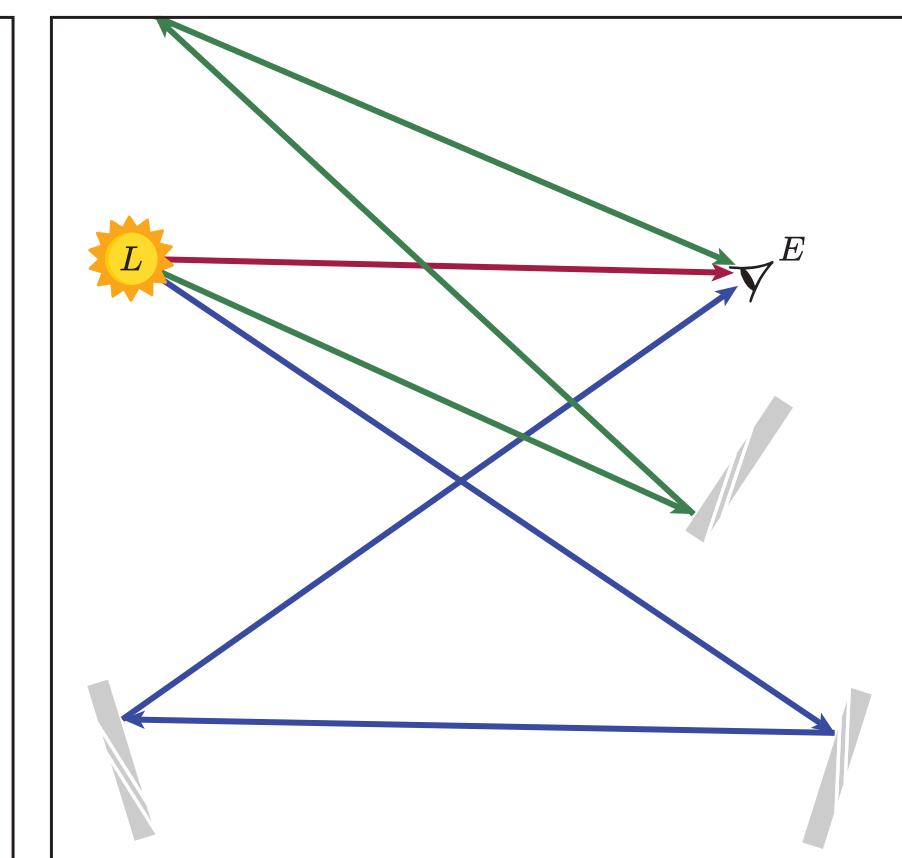
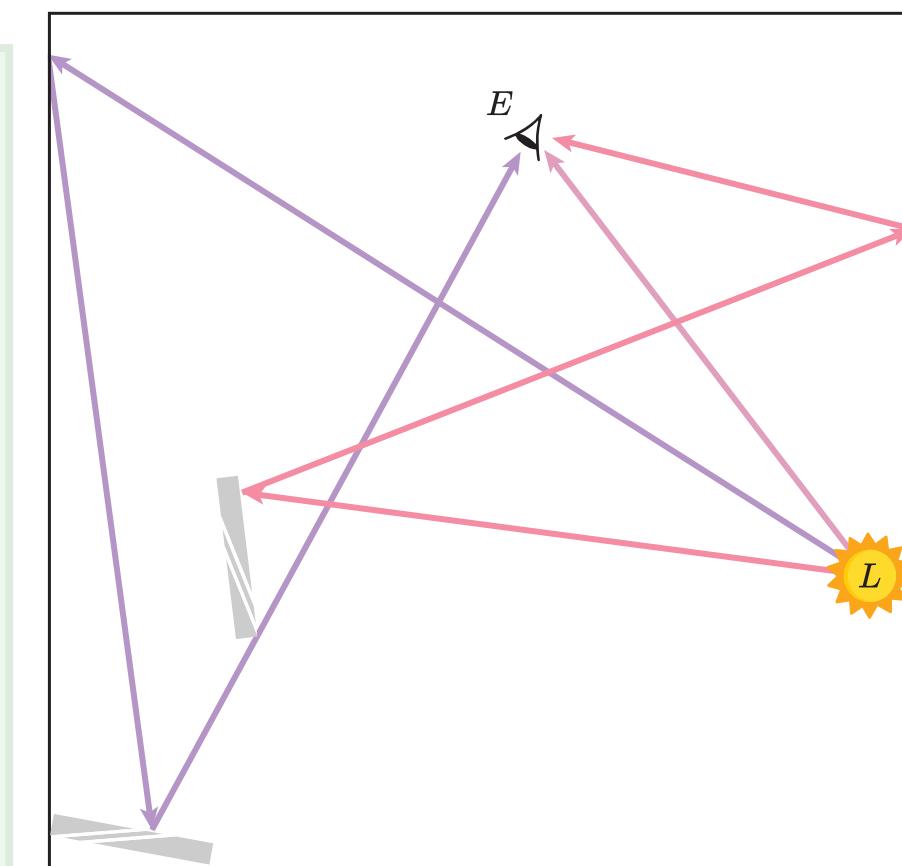
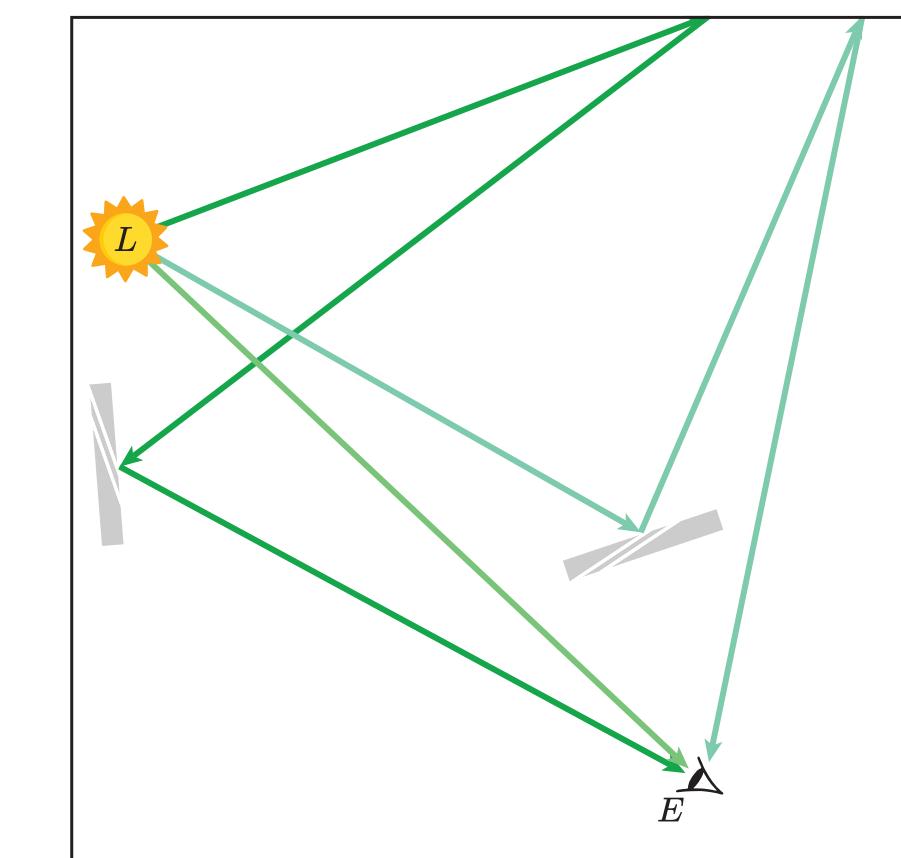
re-generating diagrams for a target platform



handling a tricky specification

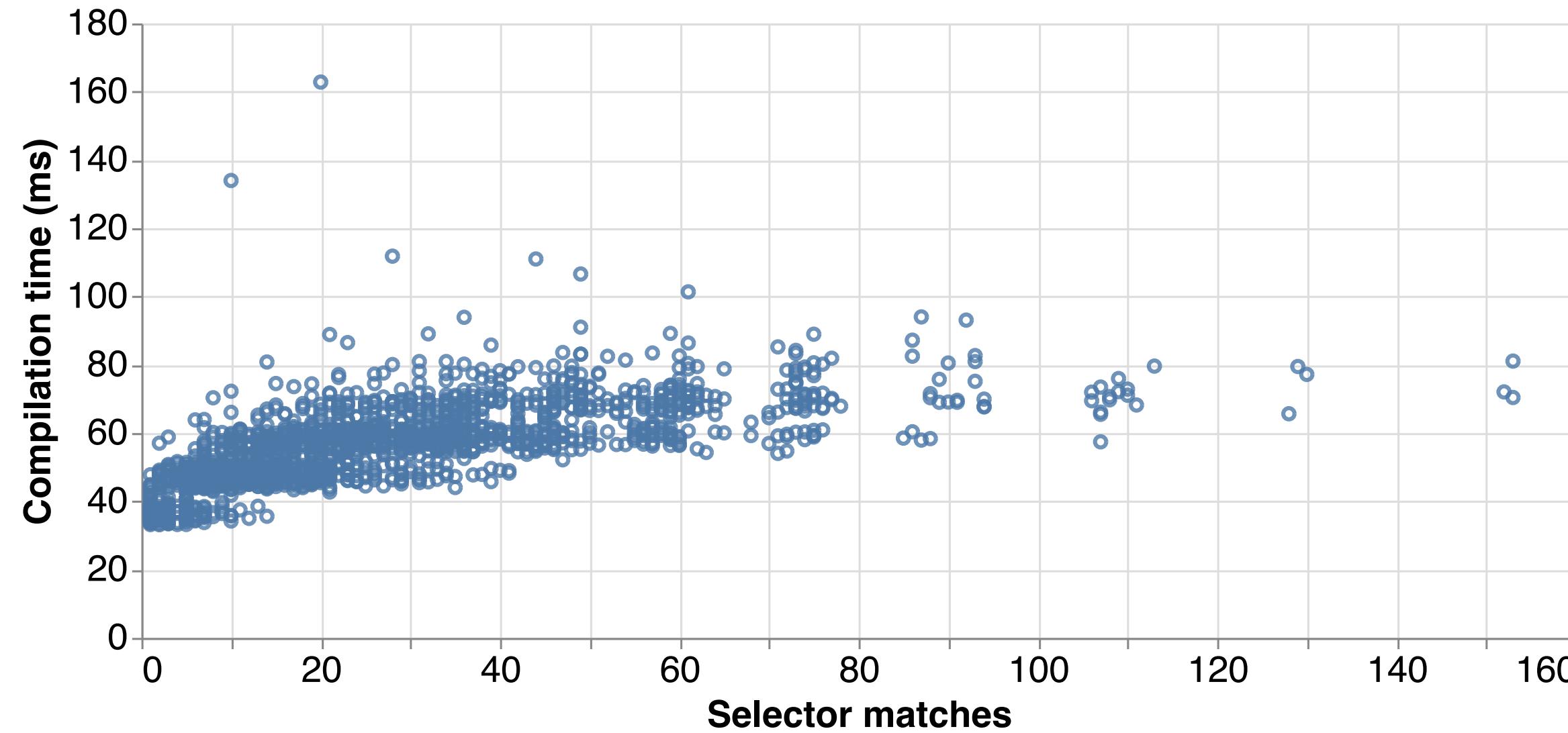
**PathType**  $t_1, t_2, t_3$   
**HasForm**( $t_1$ , "L(D|S)SE")  
**HasForm**( $t_2$ , "LSDE")  
**HasForm**( $t_3$ , "LE")

**Path**  $p_1, p_2, p_3$   
 $p_1 := \text{Sample}(t_1)$   
 $p_2 := \text{Sample}(t_2)$   
 $p_3 := \text{Sample}(t_3)$

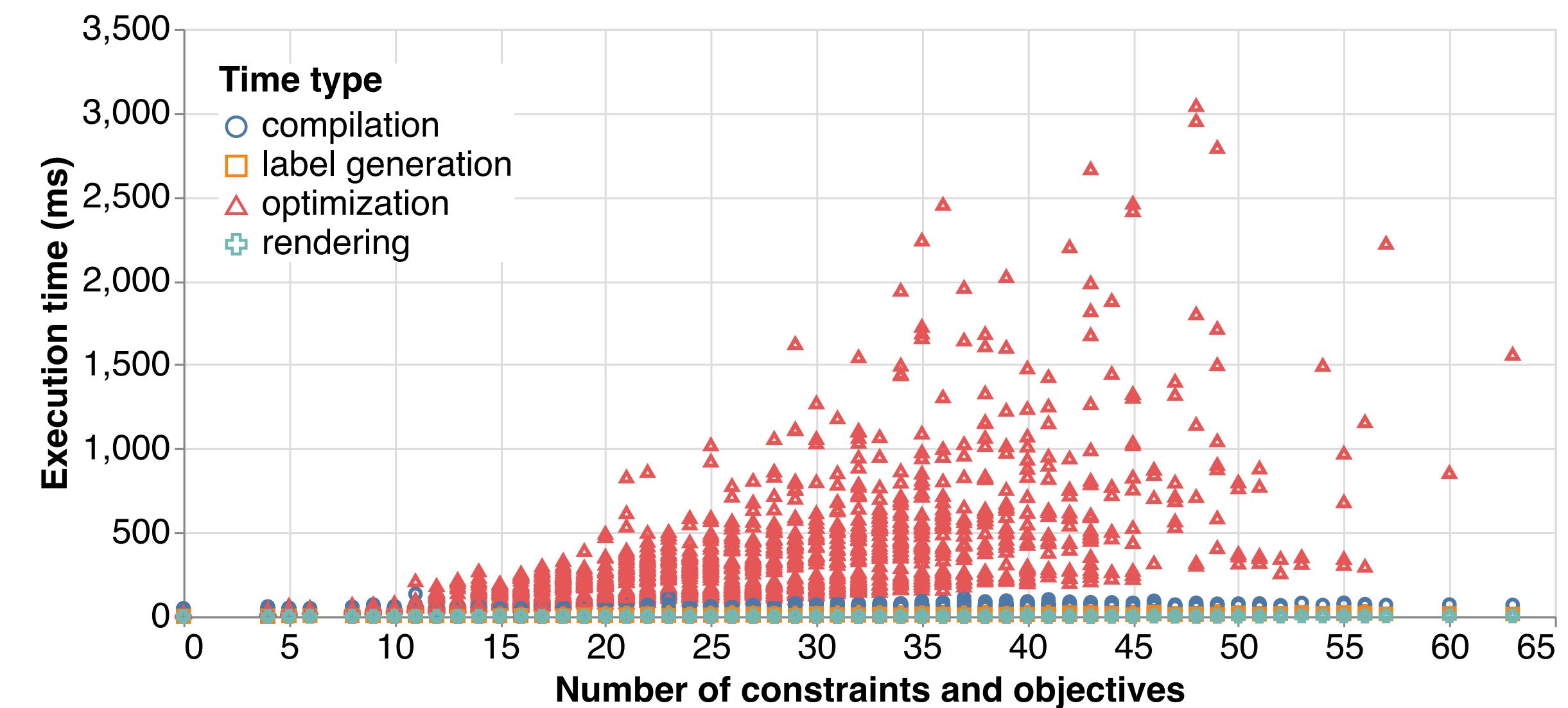


# Performance scaling

compilation time vs. program size

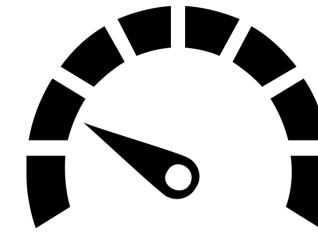
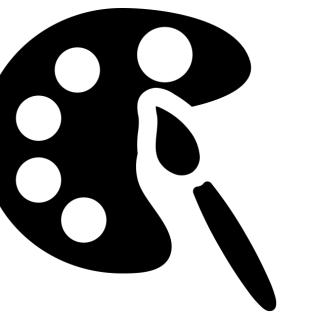
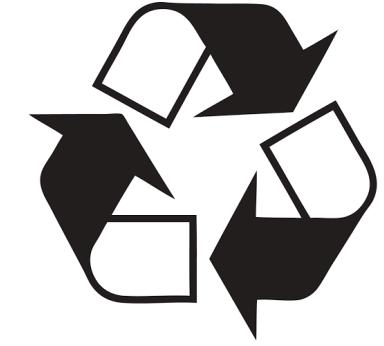


optimization time vs. problem size



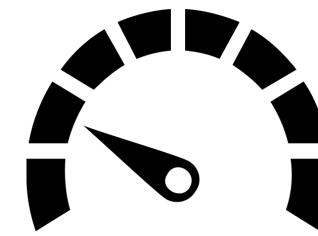
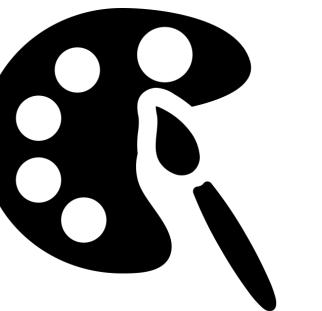
# Insights

$\Sigma$



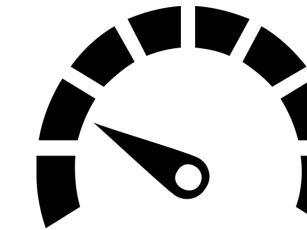
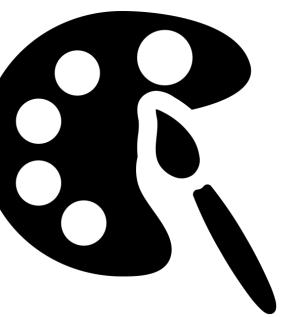
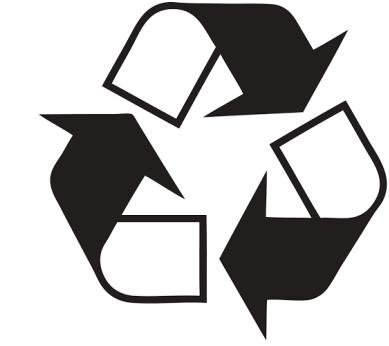
# Insights

$\Sigma$



# Insights

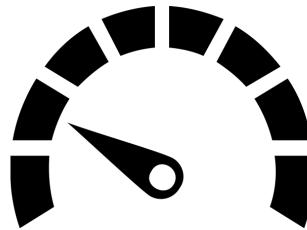
$\Sigma$



# Insights

- Separating content and visual representation provides new capabilities.

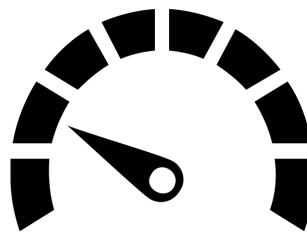
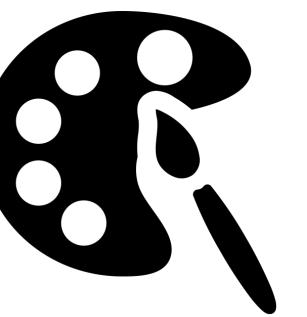
$\Sigma$



# Insights

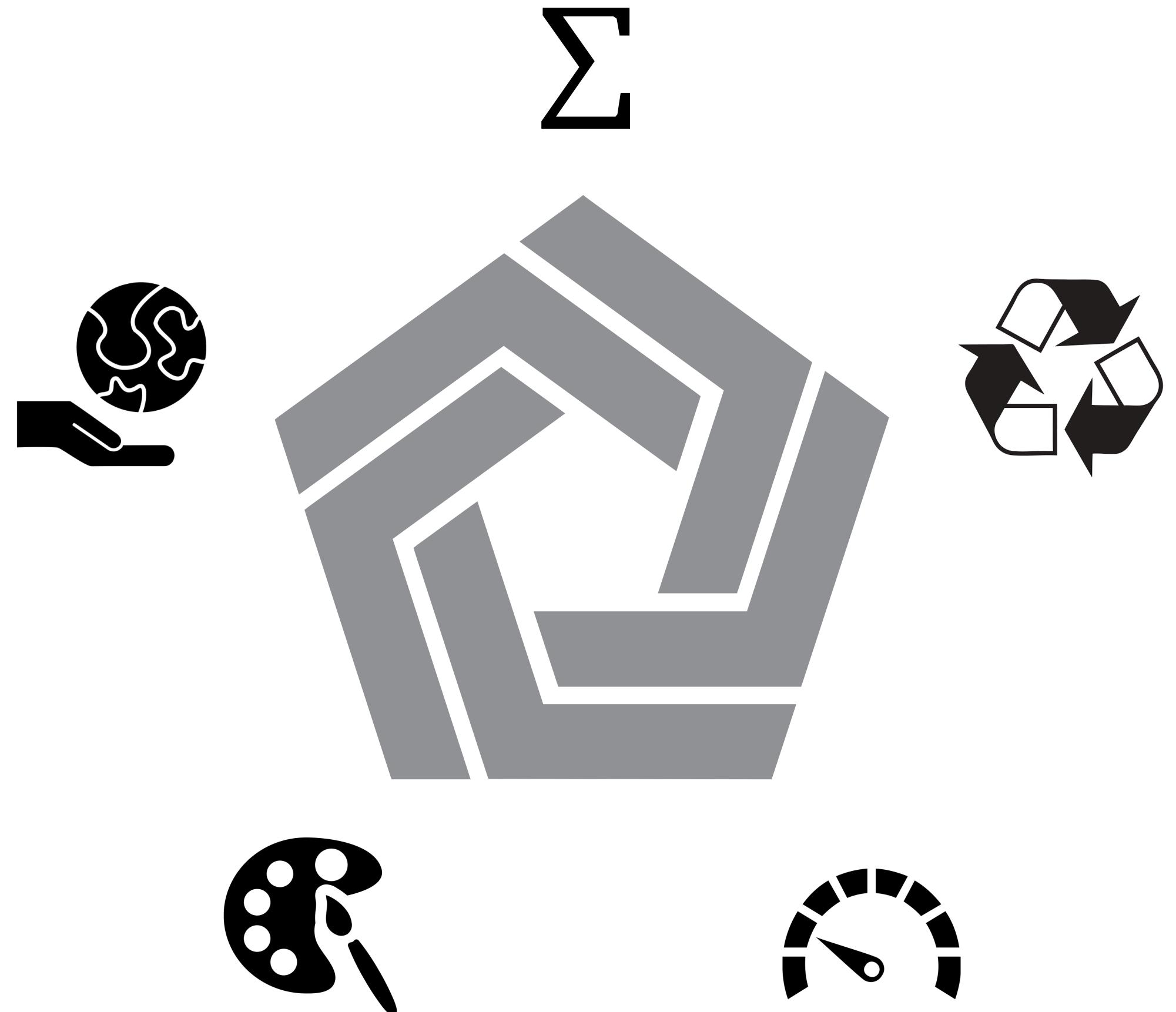
- Separating content and visual representation provides new capabilities.
- The mapping from abstract objects to a visual representation provides rich semantics.

$\Sigma$



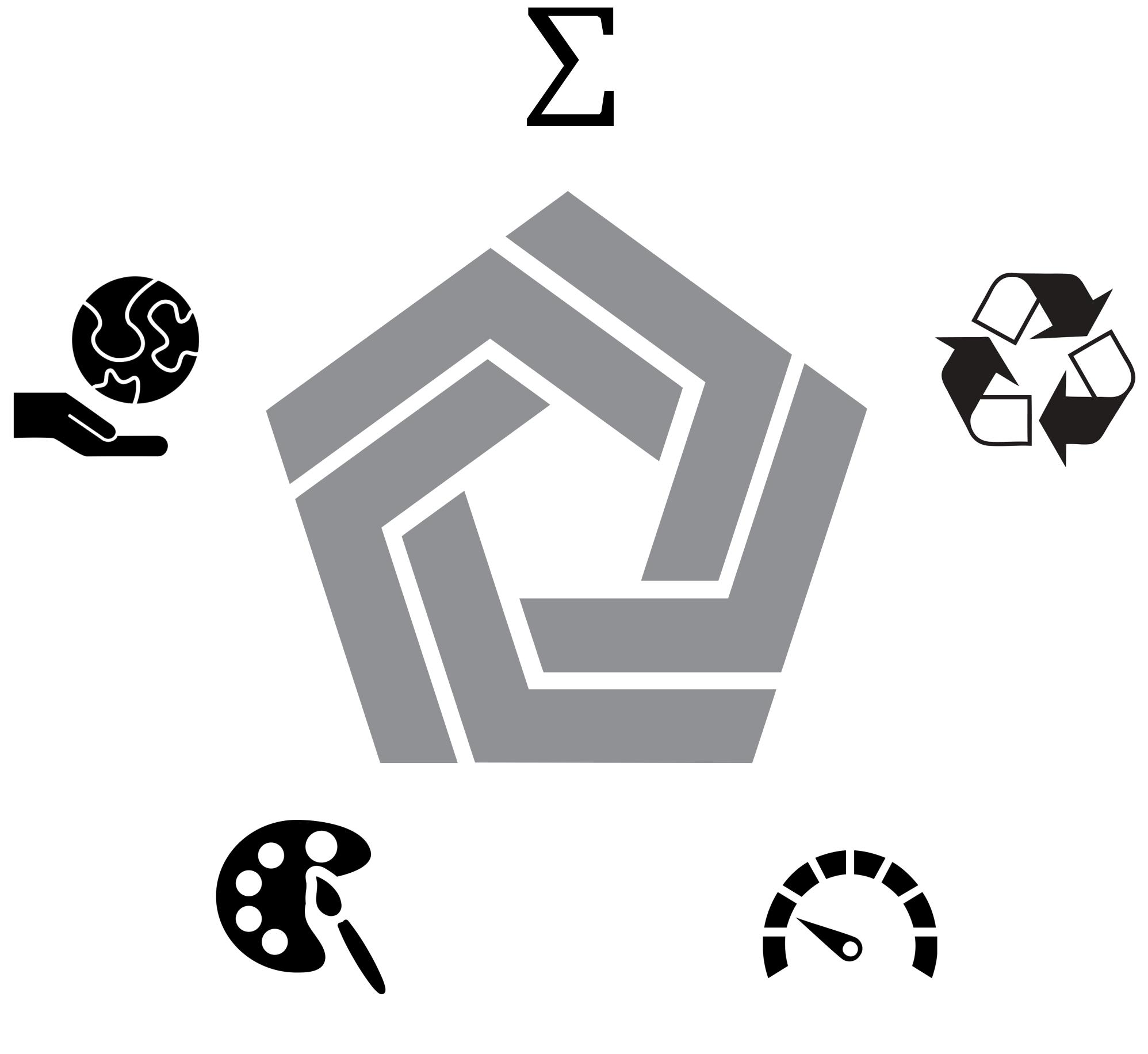
# Insights

- Separating content and visual representation provides new capabilities.
- The mapping from abstract objects to a visual representation provides rich semantics.
- Constrained optimization can be an effective general-purpose solution for diagram layout.



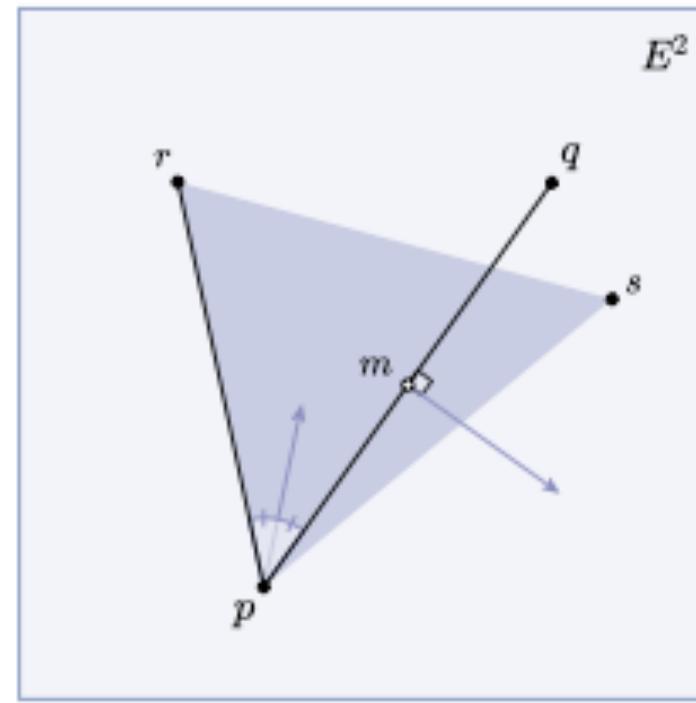
# Insights

- Separating content and visual representation provides new capabilities.
- The mapping from abstract objects to a visual representation provides rich semantics.
- Constrained optimization can be an effective general-purpose solution for diagram layout.
- Penrose acts as a nexus for diagram generation, connecting **specification** and **synthesis**.

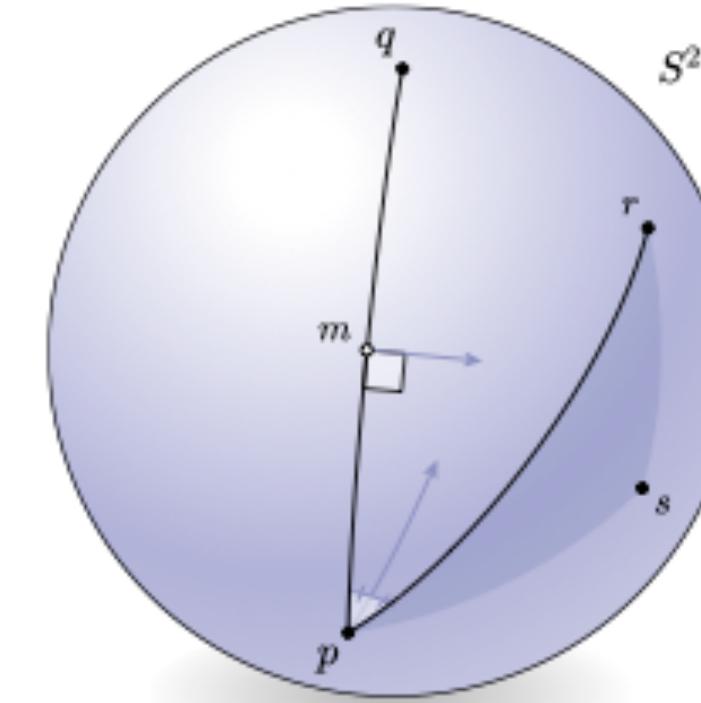


We want to make diagrams like these the norm, not the exception!

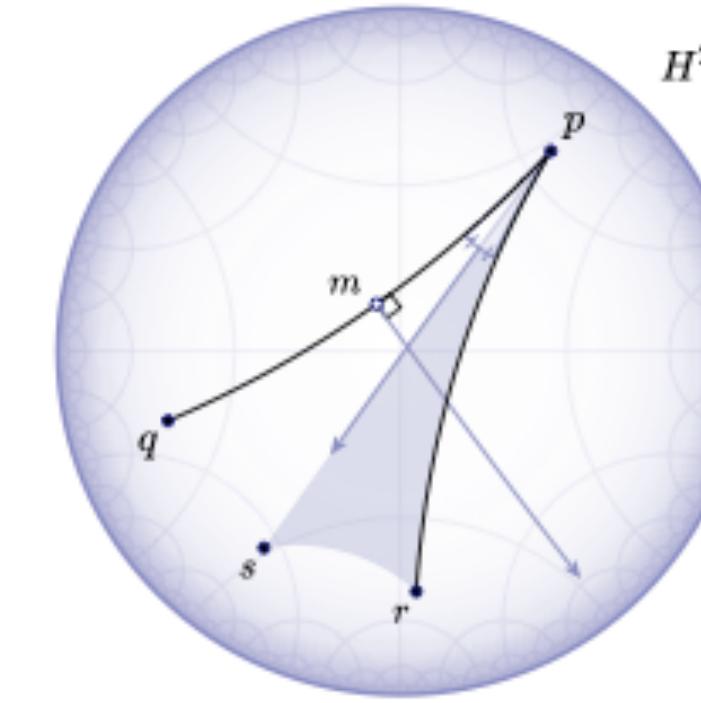
# We want to make diagrams like these the norm, not the exception!



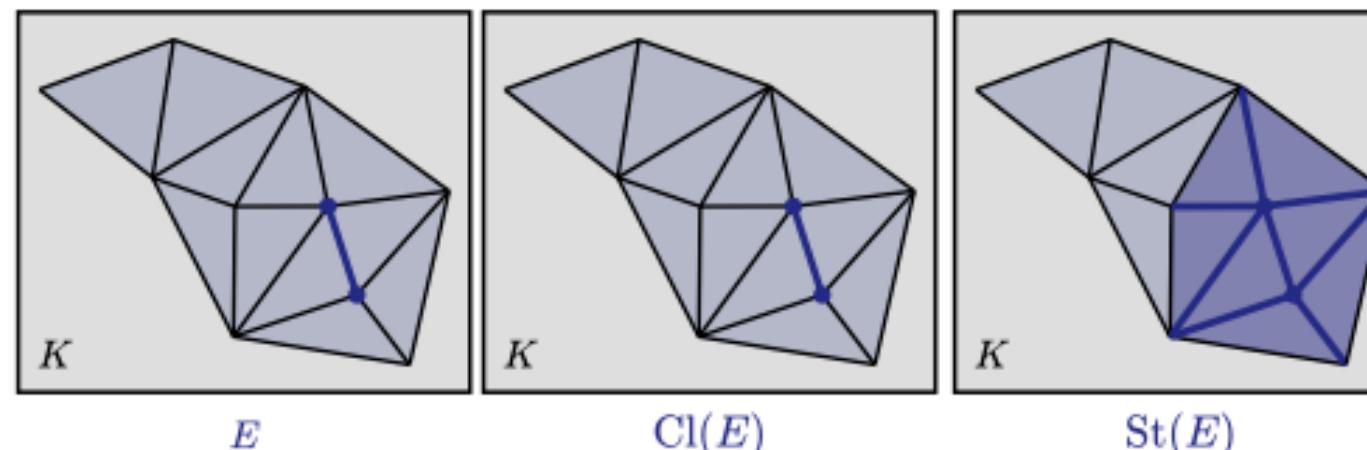
**STYLE — Euclidean**



**STYLE — spherical**



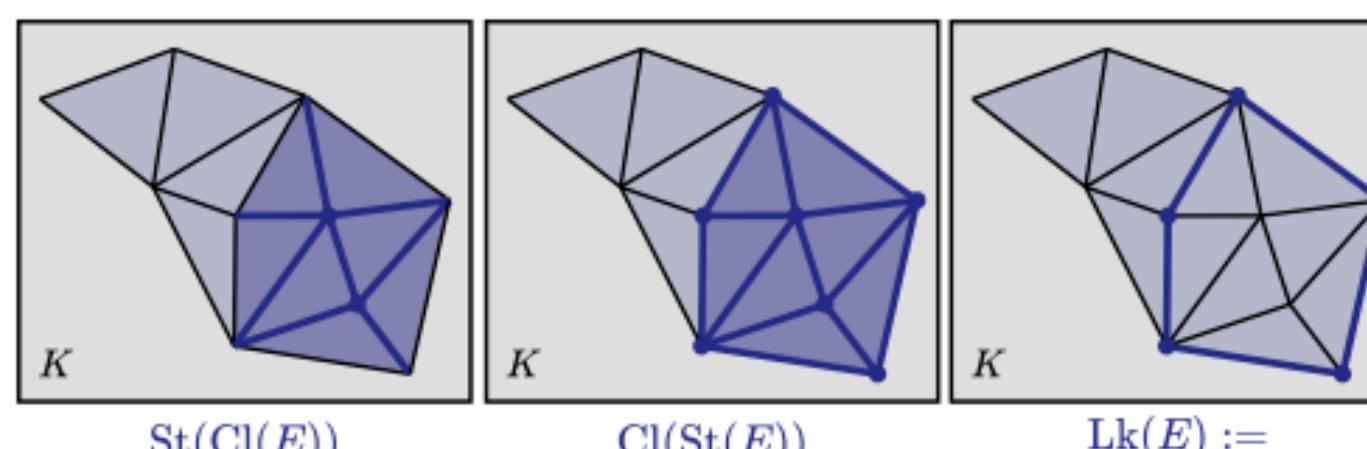
**STYLE — hyperbolic**



$E$

$\text{Cl}(E)$

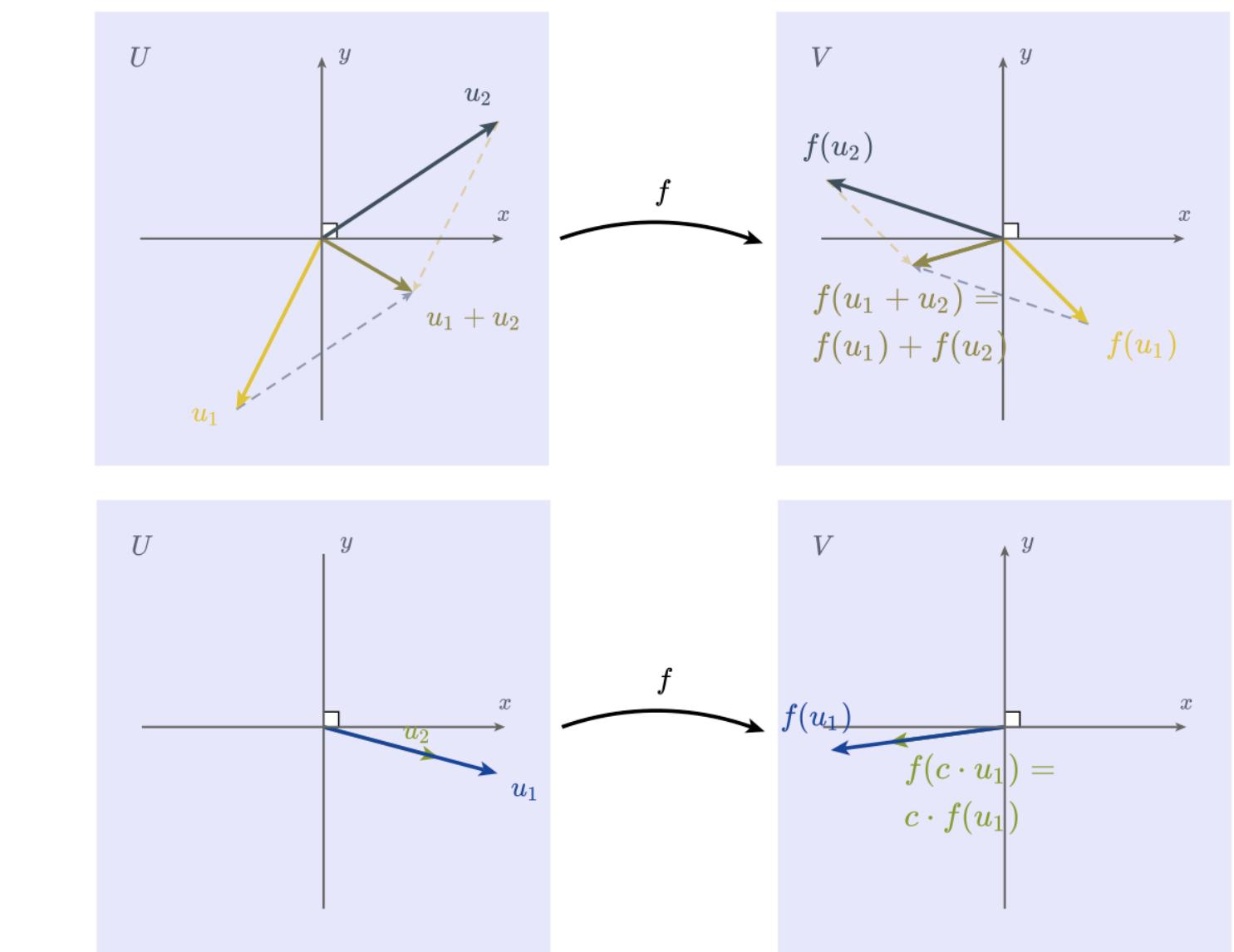
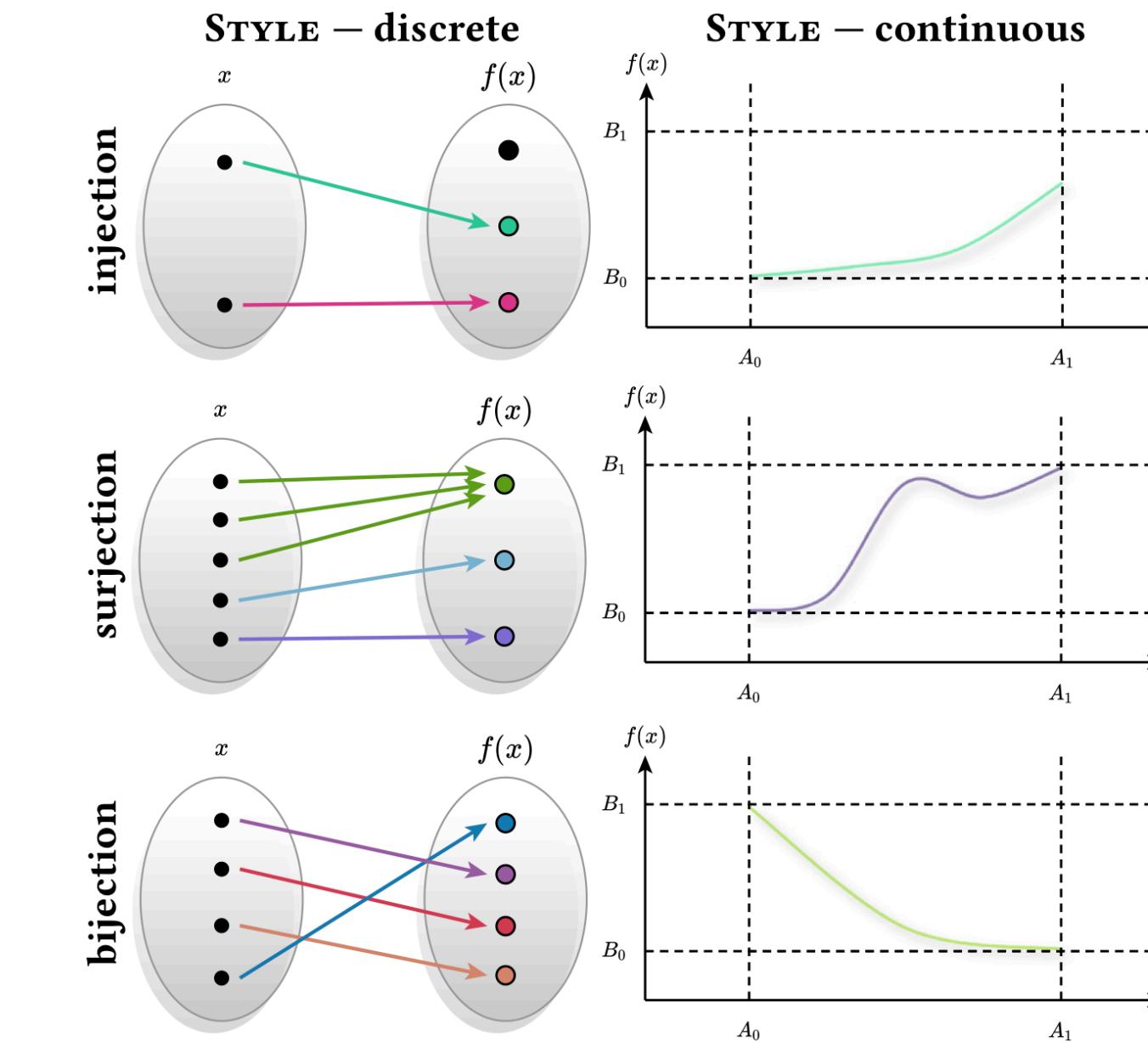
$\text{St}(E)$



$\text{St}(\text{Cl}(E))$

$\text{Cl}(\text{St}(E))$

$\text{Lk}(E) := \text{Cl}(\text{St}(E)) \setminus \text{St}(\text{Cl}(E))$





Thanks!  
<https://penrose.ink>