

Creating a orthonormal coordinate frame

Let a be the viewing direction *eye - center* and let b be the *up* vector. Assume the camera is centered at the origin.

$$w = \frac{a}{|a|}$$
$$u = \frac{b \times w}{|b \times w|}$$
$$v = w \times u$$

Creating a ray from the camera

Let $width, height$ be the screen resolution.

We want to create a ray through the virtual screen, given the w vector and a pixel position given by i, j .

Let α be the screen intersection in the u direction on $[-1, 1]$ and β be the screen intersection in the v direction on $[-1, 1]$.

Therefore

$$\alpha = \tan\left(\frac{fov_x}{2}\right) \times \left(\frac{j - (width/2)}{width/2}\right)$$
$$\beta = \tan\left(\frac{fov_y}{2}\right) \times \left(\frac{(height/2) - i}{height/2}\right)$$

With

$$aspect = \frac{width}{height}$$
$$fov_x = 2 * \operatorname{atan}\left(\tan\left(\frac{fov_y}{2}\right) * aspect\right)$$

And

$$ray = eye + \frac{\alpha u + \beta v - w}{|\alpha u + \beta v - w|}$$