



CSE 5255

INTRODUCTION TO  
COMPUTER GRAPHICS  
CLASS NOTES

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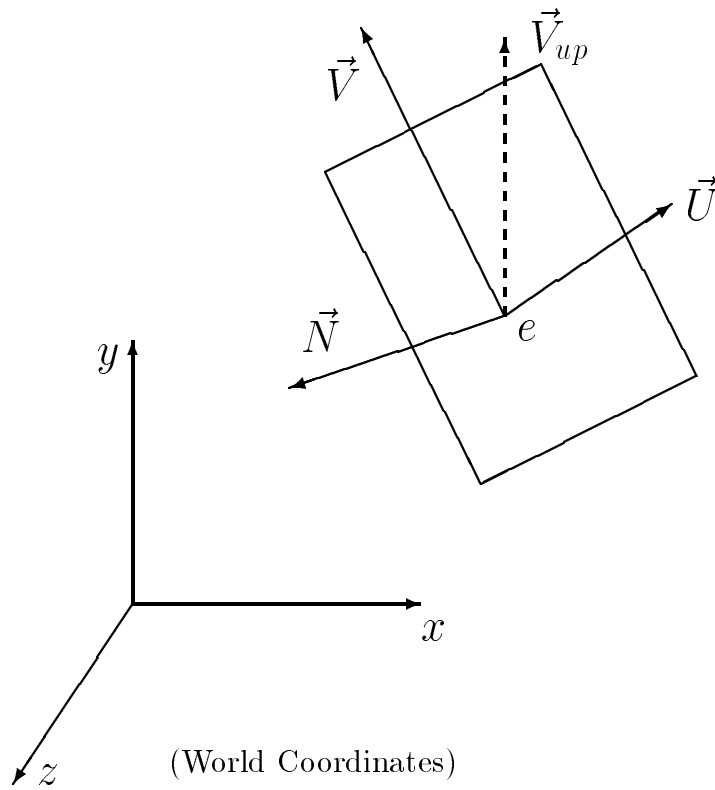
## The Viewing Transformation

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- A 3D scene can be viewed from any position in 3D space
- The viewing operation is broken up into two steps
  - Define the view orientation (what we'll do in this section)
  - Projecting the view volume to normalized device coordinates (later)
- To define the view orientation we need to specify:
  - View reference point  $e$  — the origin of view coordinates
  - View plane normal  $\vec{N}$  (unit length) — the  $z$  axis of view coordinates
  - View up vector  $\vec{V}_{up}$  (unit length) — projects onto the  $y$  axis of view coordinates
- $\vec{N}$  and  $e$  determine a plane orthogonal to  $\vec{N}$  containing  $e$
- The perpendicular projection of  $\vec{V}_{up}$  onto this plane determines  $\vec{V}$  (the  $y$  axis of view coordinates)
- The  $x$  axis of view coordinates, called  $\vec{U}$ , is orthogonal to  $\vec{V}$  and  $\vec{N}$  (i.e., their cross-product)
- View coordinate system is left-handed

## The Viewing Transformation

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## The Viewing Transformation

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- For perspective views it is convenient to think of
  - the view reference point as the eye's (camera's) position  $e = (e_x, e_y, e_z)$
  - the view plane normal as a unit vector from eye to a "look-at point"  $a = (a_x, a_y, a_z)$ , so

$$\vec{N} = \frac{1}{\|a - e\|} \langle a_x - e_x, a_y - e_y, a_z - e_z \rangle$$

where

$$\|a - e\| = \sqrt{(a_x - e_x)^2 + (a_y - e_y)^2 + (a_z - e_z)^2}$$

- The view up vector as the tilt (rotation) of the head (camera)
- For parallel views it is convenient to think of the view plane normal as determining the direction of projection

## View Coordinate System

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- Given an object, defined in world coordinate space, we want to express its world coordinate vertices  $(x, y, z)$  in term of view coordinates  $(u, v, n)$
- Break the transformation from world to view coordinates into a sequence of transformations:
  - Translate the view reference point  $e$  to the origin
  - Rotate about world coordinate  $y$  axis to bring the view coordinate  $\vec{N}$  axis into the  $yz$  plane of world coordinates
  - Rotate about the world coordinate  $x$  axis until the  $z$  axes of both systems are aligned
  - Rotate about the world coordinate  $z$  axis to align the  $\vec{V}$  axis with the  $y$
  - Reflect relative to the  $xy$  plane, reversing sign of each  $z$  coordinate to change into a left-handed coordinate system
- The viewing transformation is

$$V = T \cdot R(y) \cdot R(x) \cdot R(z) \cdot F$$

## Example of the Viewing Transformation

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- Let  $(1, 1, 1)$  be the view reference point.
- Let  $(0, 0, 0)$  be the look-at point.
- Let  $(0, 1, 0)$  be the up vector.

– Translate:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

– Rotate about  $y$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2}/2 & 0 & \sqrt{2}/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sqrt{2}/2 & 0 & \sqrt{2}/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

– Rotate about  $x$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2}/\sqrt{3} & 1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & -1/\sqrt{3} & \sqrt{2}/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

– Rotate about  $z$ : Identity

## Example of the Viewing Transformation

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– Reflection:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

– Composite transform V:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2}/2 & -1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 2/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ -\sqrt{2}/2 & -1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{3} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



## Alternative Construction of Viewing Transform

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- Let  $e = (e_x, e_y, e_z)$  be the eye position (view reference point)
- Let  $a = (a_x, a_y, a_z)$  be the “look-at” point.
- Unit length view plane normal is

$$\vec{N} = \frac{a - e}{\|a - e\|}$$

- Let  $M$  be a  $3 \times 3$  rotation matrix that maps the view plane normal  $\vec{N}$  to the  $z$  axis.

$$\vec{N}M = (0, 0, 1)$$

Thus, the third column of  $M$  is  $\vec{N}$

$$\vec{N} = (0, 0, 1)M^T = (m_{1,3}, m_{2,3}, m_{3,3}) = m_3$$

- Let  $\vec{V}_{up}$  be the unit length view up vector. We want  $M$  to map  $\vec{V}_{up}$  into the  $yz$  plane. Thus,

$$\vec{V}_{up}M = (0, A, B)$$

for some  $A, B$  such that  $A^2 + B^2 = 1$ .

$$\vec{V}_{up} = (0, A, B)M^T = Am_2 + Bm_3$$

where  $m_2$  and  $m_3 = \vec{N}$  are the second and third columns of  $M$ .

## Alternative Construction of Viewing Transform

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- Inner product of  $\vec{V}_{up}$  and  $m_3$  gives

$$\vec{V}_{up} \cdot m_3 = A(m_2 \cdot m_3) + B(m_3 \cdot m_3) = B$$

- Both  $\vec{V}_{up}$  and  $m_3 = \vec{N}$  are known, so  $B$  is known and

$$A = \sqrt{1 - B^2}$$

. Thus, solving for  $m_2$

$$m_2 = \frac{\vec{V}_{up} - B\vec{N}}{\sqrt{1 - B^2}}$$

$$m_2 = \frac{\vec{V}_{up} - (\vec{V}_{up} \cdot \vec{N})\vec{N}}{\sqrt{1 - (\vec{V}_{up} \cdot \vec{N})^2}}$$

- Finally, we can compute the first column of  $M$  via cross products

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 &= m_3 \times m_2 \\ &= \frac{m_3 \times \vec{V}_{up}}{\sqrt{1 - (\vec{V}_{up} \cdot \vec{N})^2}} \end{aligned}$$

(Note: (1) the order of the cross product produces a left-handed system, (2) a vector crossed with itself is zero.)

## Constructing the Viewing Transform

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- First translate view reference point to the origin

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -e_x & -e_y & -e_z & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Second construct the rotation matrix  $M$
- The viewing transform is given by

$$V = T \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} & 0 \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} & 0 \\ m_{31} & m_{32} & m_{33} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Example – Constructing Viewing Transform

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- Let  $(1, 1, 1)$  be the view reference point.
- Let  $(0, 0, 0)$  be the look-at point.
- Let  $\vec{V}_{up} = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$  be the up vector.
- Translate:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- compute third column of  $M$ 
  - step 1: view plane normal

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{N} &= \frac{a - e}{\|a - e\|} \\ &= (-1/\sqrt{3}, -1\sqrt{3}, -1\sqrt{3}) \\ &= m_3 \end{aligned}$$

- compute second column of  $M$

- step 1:

$$(\vec{V}_{up} \cdot m_3) = -1/\sqrt{3} = B$$

- step 2:

$$\begin{aligned} m_2 &= \frac{\vec{V}_{up} - B\vec{N}}{\sqrt{1 - B^2}} \\ m_2 &= (-1/\sqrt{6}, 2/\sqrt{6}, -1/\sqrt{6}) \end{aligned}$$

### Example – Constructing Viewing Transform

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- compute first column of  $M$

$$m_1 = m_3 \times m_2 = (\sqrt{2}/2, 0, -\sqrt{2}/2)$$

- The matrix  $M$  is

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2}/2 & -1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 2/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ -\sqrt{2}/2 & -1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- compute  $V = TM$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2}/2 & -1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 2/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ -\sqrt{2}/2 & -1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{3} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Problems

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1. Find the viewing transformation matrix given a view reference point of  $(1, 2, 1)$ , a look-at point  $(0, 1, 0)$ , and a view-up vector  $\vec{V}_{up} = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$ .
2. Find the viewing transformation given eye position  $e = (1, 1, 1)$ , look-at point  $e = (1, 0, 0)$  and up-vector  $\vec{V}_{up} = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$ .
3. Find the viewing transformation given eye position  $e = (1, 1, 1)$ , look-at point  $e = (1, 0, 0)$  and up-vector  $\vec{V}_{up} = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$ .
4. Find the viewing transformation given eye position  $e = (1, 0, 0)$ , look-at point  $e = (0, 1, 0)$  and up-vector  $\vec{V}_{up} = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$ .
5. If  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are two different rows of a rotation matrix (a) what is their inner product, (b) what can be said about their cross product?