

5CM507 Graphics

Lecture 04 Viewing and Projection

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October 12, 2025

Last Week



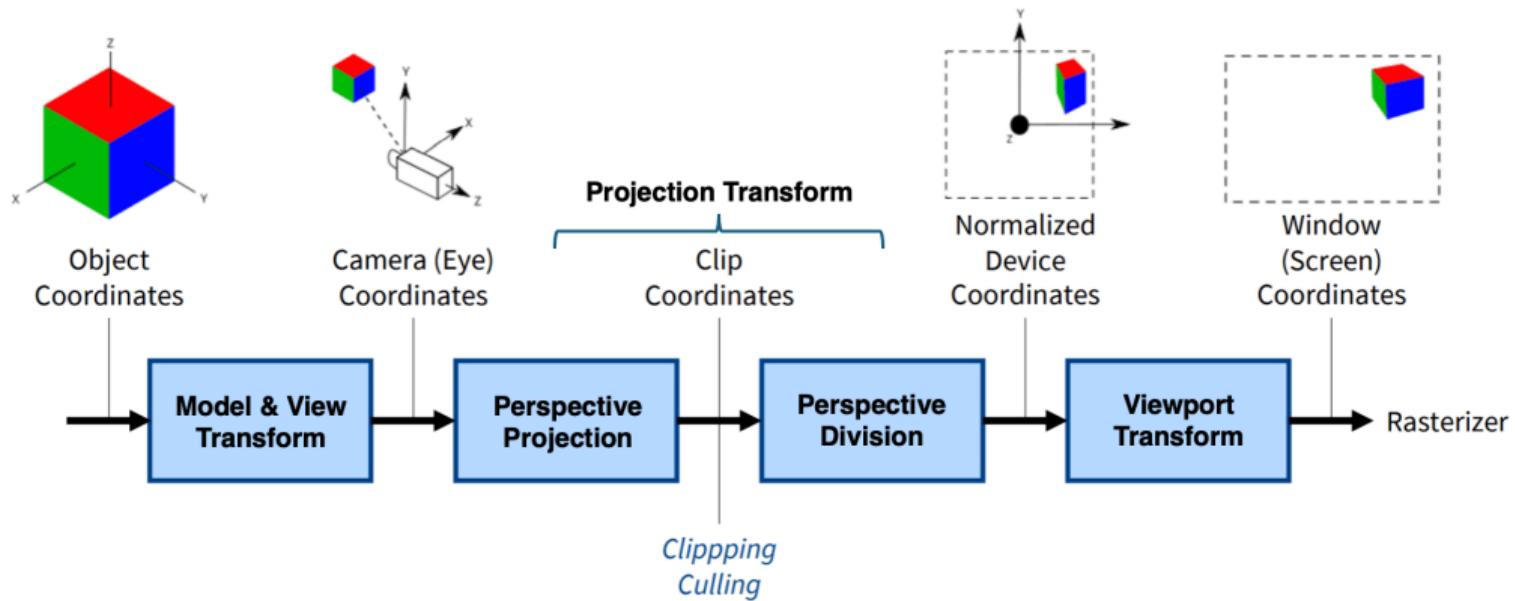
- ▶ Position a Model: Model Transform
- ▶ Build a scene: Hierarchical Transformation
- ▶ Transformation of frames
- ▶ Position and orient the Camera: View Transform
- ▶ The Model-View Matrix

Contents



- ▶ Camera control
- ▶ Orthographic Projection
- ▶ Perspective Projection

Modelling, Viewing and Projection



[Youngdo Lee]

The View Matrix - the LookAt function

The LookAt function specifies the major axis vector of the camera space in the world space.

$${}^w\vec{X} = \begin{pmatrix} {}^A X_B^x & {}^A X_B^y & {}^A X_B^z \end{pmatrix}^T, {}^w\vec{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} {}^A Y_B^x & {}^A Y_B^y & {}^A Y_B^z \end{pmatrix}^T, {}^w\vec{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} {}^A Z_B^x & {}^A Z_B^y & {}^A Z_B^z \end{pmatrix}^T$$

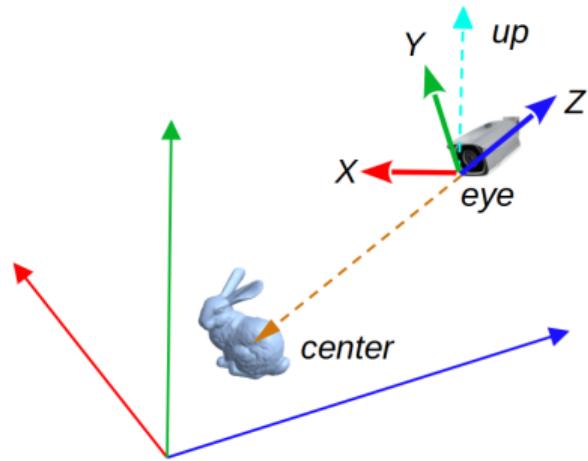
```
glm::dmat4 glm::lookAt(glm::dvec3 eye, glm::dvec3 center, glm::dvec3 up);
```

which defines the view matrix V:

$$\mathbf{V} = {}_w^c\mathbf{M} = {}_w^c\mathbf{M}^{-1} = ({}^w_c\mathbf{T} {}^w_c\mathbf{R})^{-1} = {}^w_c\mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{T}(-\mathbf{e}_x, -\mathbf{e}_y, -\mathbf{e}_z)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} {}^A X_B^x & {}^A X_B^y & {}^A X_B^z & 0 \\ {}^A Y_B^x & {}^A Y_B^y & {}^A Y_B^z & 0 \\ {}^A Z_B^x & {}^A Z_B^y & {}^A Z_B^z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -e_x \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -e_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -e_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

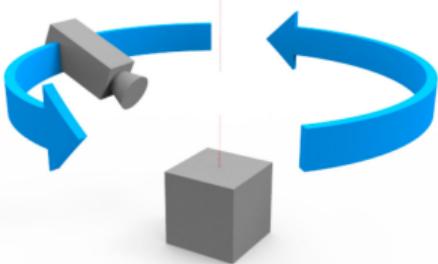
$$= \begin{pmatrix} {}^w X_c^x & {}^w X_c^y & {}^w X_c^z & -\vec{e} \cdot {}^w \vec{X}_c \\ {}^w Y_c^x & {}^w Y_c^y & {}^w Y_c^z & -\vec{e} \cdot {}^w \vec{Y}_c \\ {}^w Z_c^x & {}^w Z_c^y & {}^w Z_c^z & -\vec{e} \cdot {}^w \vec{Z}_c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Basic Camera Control

Position and orientation

- ▶ Position and orient : `glm::lookAt()`
 - ▶ You can achieve the **bullet time effect** !
- ▶ Translation - change the position only
 - ▶ Easy way: use `glm::lookAt()` again
 - ▶ update the position
 - ▶ update the center based on the original orientation
 - ▶ But how about using translation matrices ?



Camera orbit



Camera dolly

Basic Camera Control

Translation

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{PVM}$$

- ▶ Hint: a camera is move of $T(t_x, t_y, t_z)$ is equiv. to the scene/object's with the opposite move of $T(-t_x, -t_y, -t_z)$
- ▶ Move with regard to the world frame ${}^wT(t_x, t_y, t_z) \mathbf{C}' = \mathbf{PV} {}^wT(-t_x, -t_y, -t_z) \mathbf{M}$

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{v} {}^wT(-t_x, -t_y, -t_z) \begin{bmatrix} {}^wX_c^x & {}^wX_c^y & {}^wX_c^z & -(e + \vec{t}) \cdot {}^w\vec{X}_c \\ {}^wY_c^x & {}^wY_c^y & {}^wY_c^z & -(e + \vec{t}) \cdot {}^w\vec{Y}_c \\ {}^wZ_c^x & {}^wZ_c^y & {}^wZ_c^z & -(e + \vec{t}) \cdot {}^w\vec{Z}_c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ Move with regard to the camera frame ${}^cT(t_x, t_y, t_z) \mathbf{C}' = \mathbf{P} {}^cT(-t_x, -t_y, -t_z) \mathbf{V} \mathbf{M}$

$$\mathbf{v}' = {}^cT(-t_x, -t_y, -t_z) \mathbf{v} \begin{bmatrix} {}^wX_c^x & {}^wX_c^y & {}^wX_c^z & -e \cdot {}^w\vec{X}_c - t_x \\ {}^wY_c^x & {}^wY_c^y & {}^wY_c^z & -e \cdot {}^w\vec{Y}_c - t_y \\ {}^wZ_c^x & {}^wZ_c^y & {}^wZ_c^z & -e \cdot {}^w\vec{Z}_c - t_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Basic Camera Control

Pan, Tilt, Zoom

- ▶ Pan : camera frame rotates θ_y about its Y axis
 - ▶ equiv. to the scene rotates $-\theta_y$ about the camera Y axis
- ▶ Tilt : camera frame rotates θ_x about its X axis
 - ▶ equiv. to the scene rotates $-\theta_x$ about the camera X axis
- ▶ Zoom : Dolly zoom: Camera moving along its Z axis; Optical zoom:
change FoV of the projection

Example:

- ▶ A camera pan: $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{R}_{pan}(-\theta_y)\mathbf{V}$
- ▶ A camera pan followed by a tilt: $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{R}_{tilt}(-\theta_x)\mathbf{R}_{pan}(-\theta_y)\mathbf{V}$
- ▶ A camera zoom in by $d_{in} < 0$, with a pan followed by a tilt, then zoom out by $d_{out} > 0$: $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{T}_{out}(-T_{out})\mathbf{R}_{tilt}(-\theta_x)\mathbf{R}_{pan}(-\theta_y)\mathbf{T}_{in}(-d_{in})\mathbf{V}$

Matrix order : right to left, negative rotation angles or translation distance.

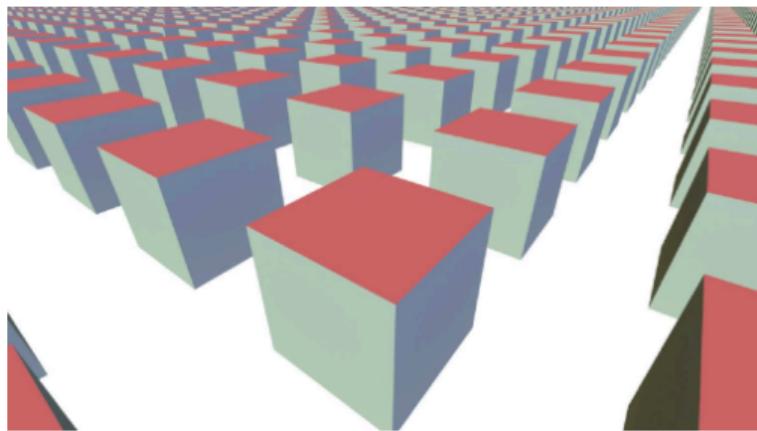


Projections

Perspective vs Orthographic Projections

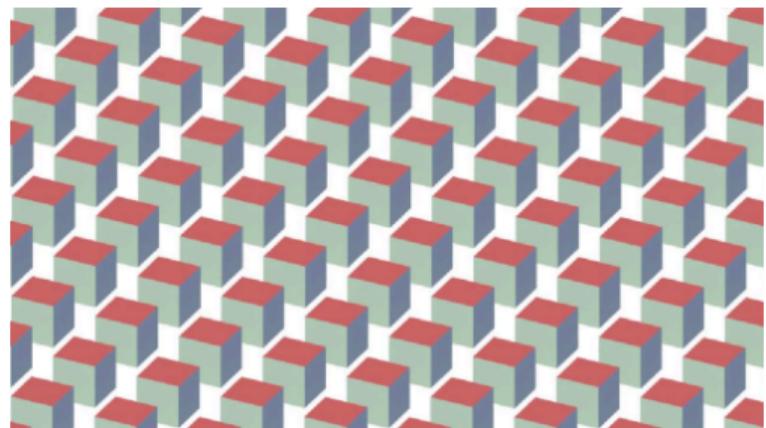
Perspective

- ▶ Does not preserve parallelism, proportions
- ▶ Provides a sense of depth
- ▶ 1 to 3 vanishing points

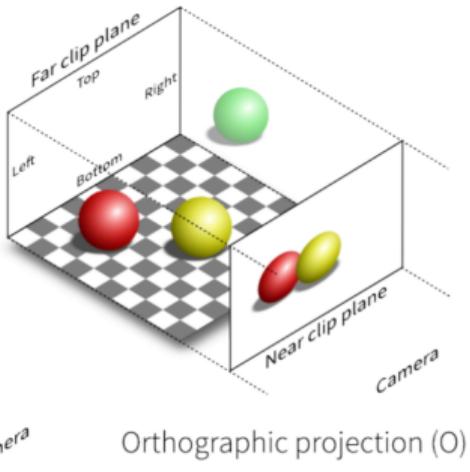
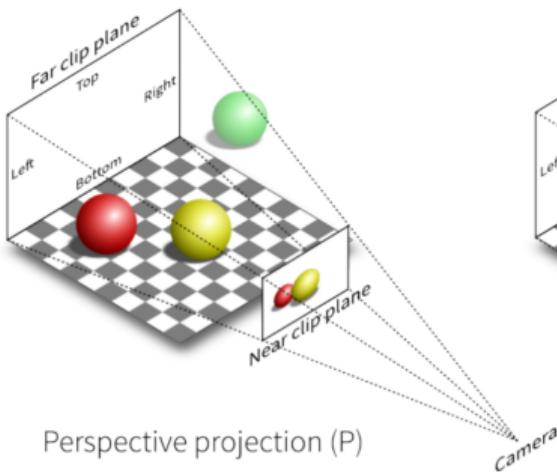


Orthographic

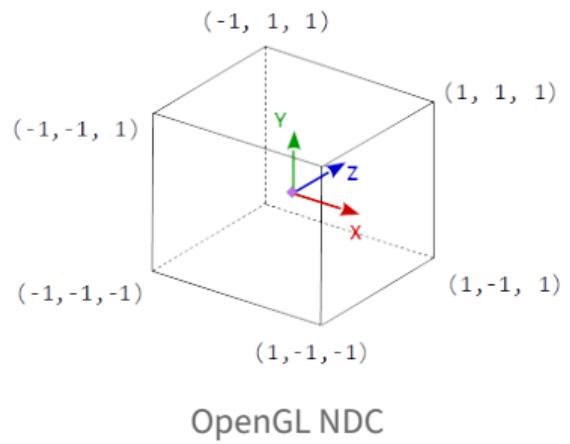
- ▶ A view preserving parallelism, proportions
- ▶ Lack a sense of depth



View volume and Normalised Device Coordinates (NDC)



Normalized Device Coordinates (NDC)

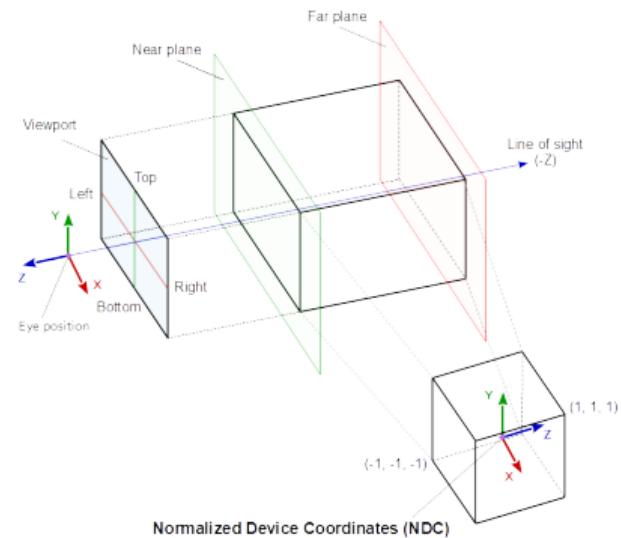
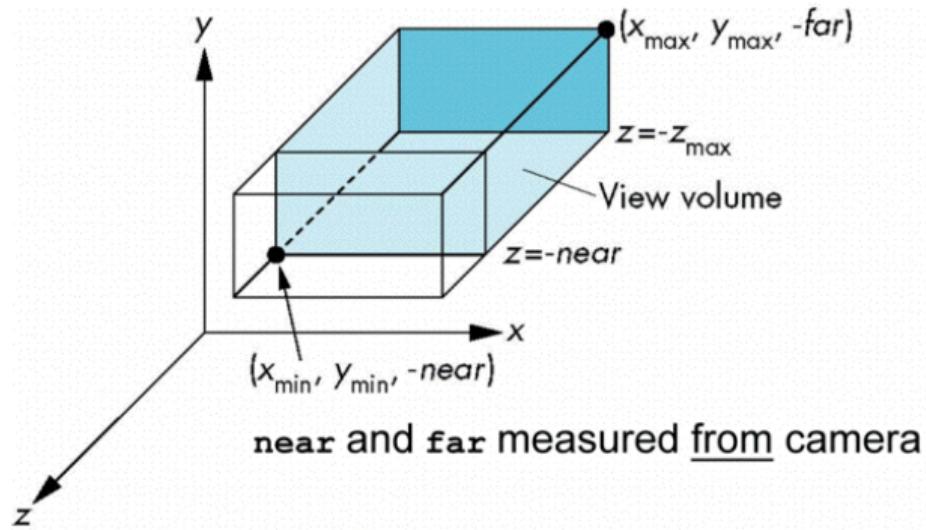


Orthographic Projection

Orthographic Projection

OpenGL orthographic projection function:

```
glm::mat4 glm::ortho(left, right, bottom, top, zNear, zFar);  
(left < right, bottom < top, 0 < near < far)
```



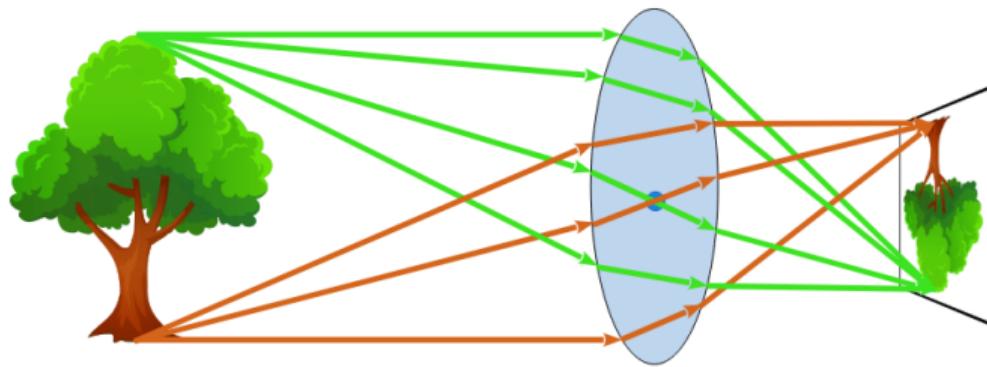
Orthographic Projection Matrix

The orthographic projection matrix is a translation to the centre of the view volume, following by scaling.

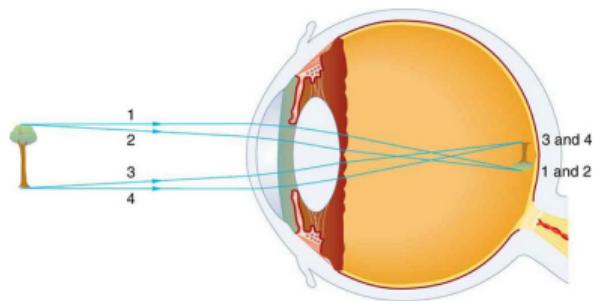
$$P = ST = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{right-left} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{top-bottom} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{2}{far-near} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{right+left}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{top+bottom}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{far+near}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{right-left} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{right+left}{right-left} \\ 0 & \frac{2}{top-bottom} & 0 & -\frac{top+bottom}{top-bottom} \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{2}{far-near} & -\frac{far+near}{far-near} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Perspective Projection

A camera simulates an eye



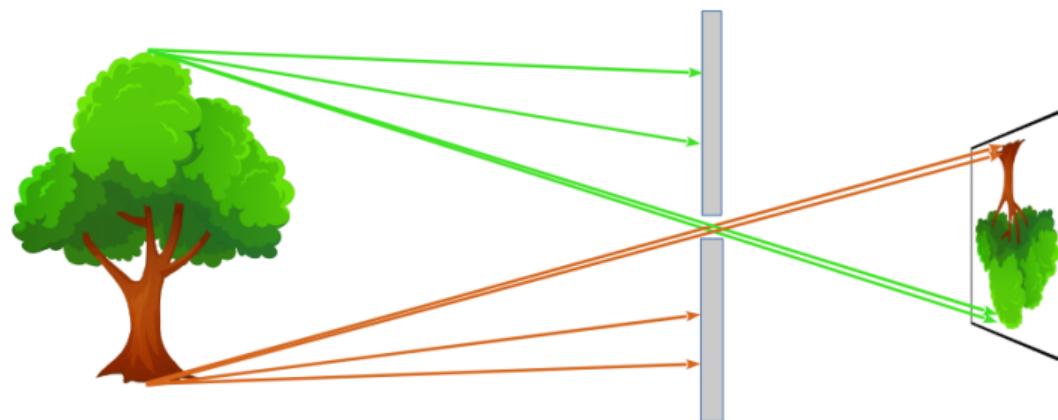
Imaging with lens



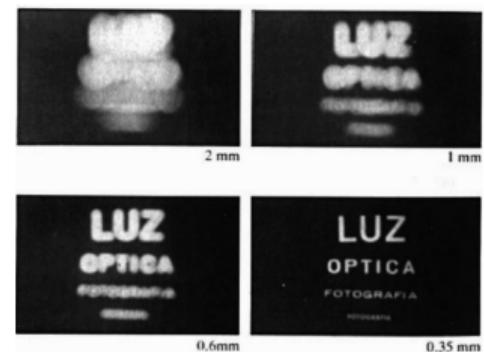
The human vision

The Pinhole Camera

- ▶ The pinhole effect : described by a great Chinese thinker Mo Di (Mozi) dating back to around 400BC.
- ▶ The pinhole camera model
 - ▶ computes the size of image projections
 - ▶ unable to simulate depth of field effects

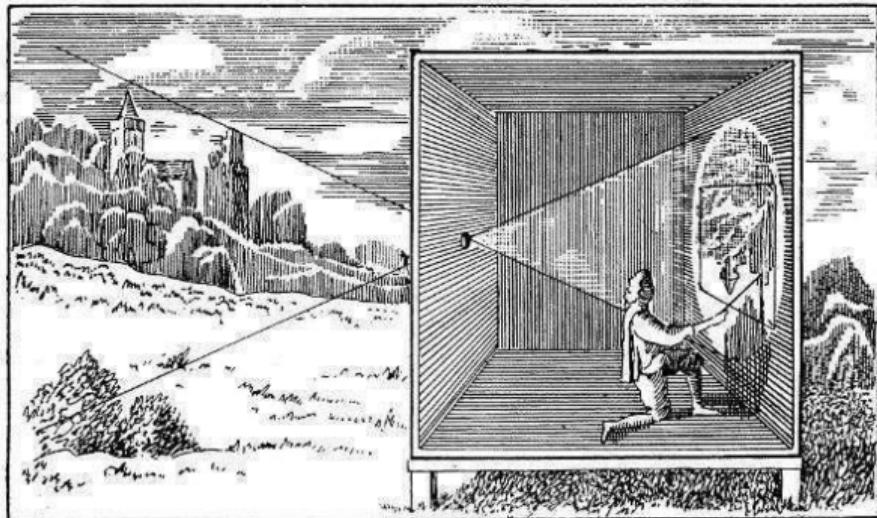


Imaging with a pinhole



Imaging with different pinhole sizes

Camera Obscura (dark chamber)



Engraving of a "portable" camera obscura in Athanasius Kircher's *Ars Magna Lucis Et Umbrae* (1645)

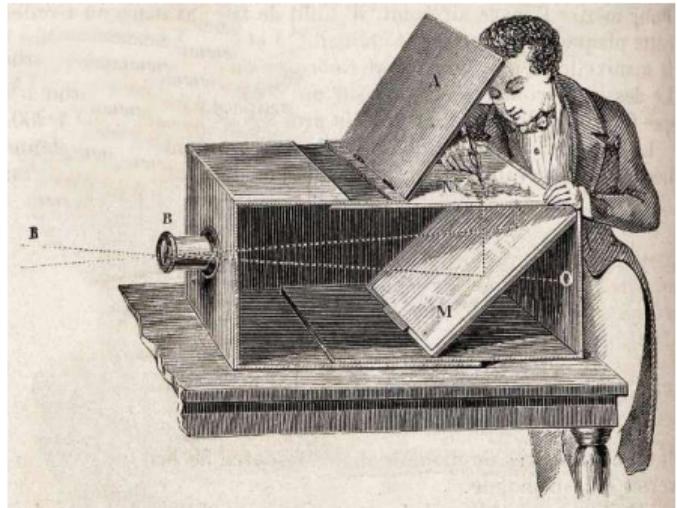
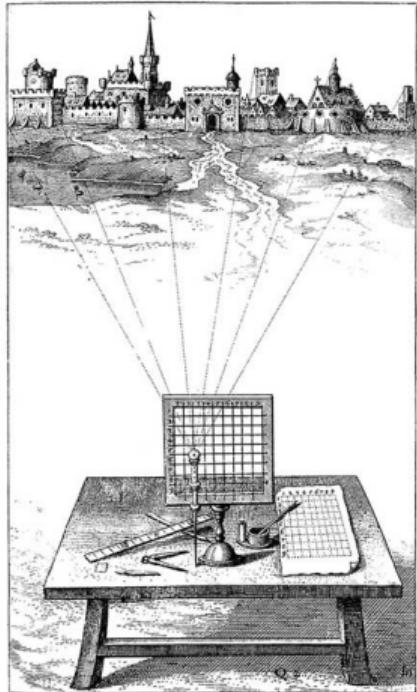
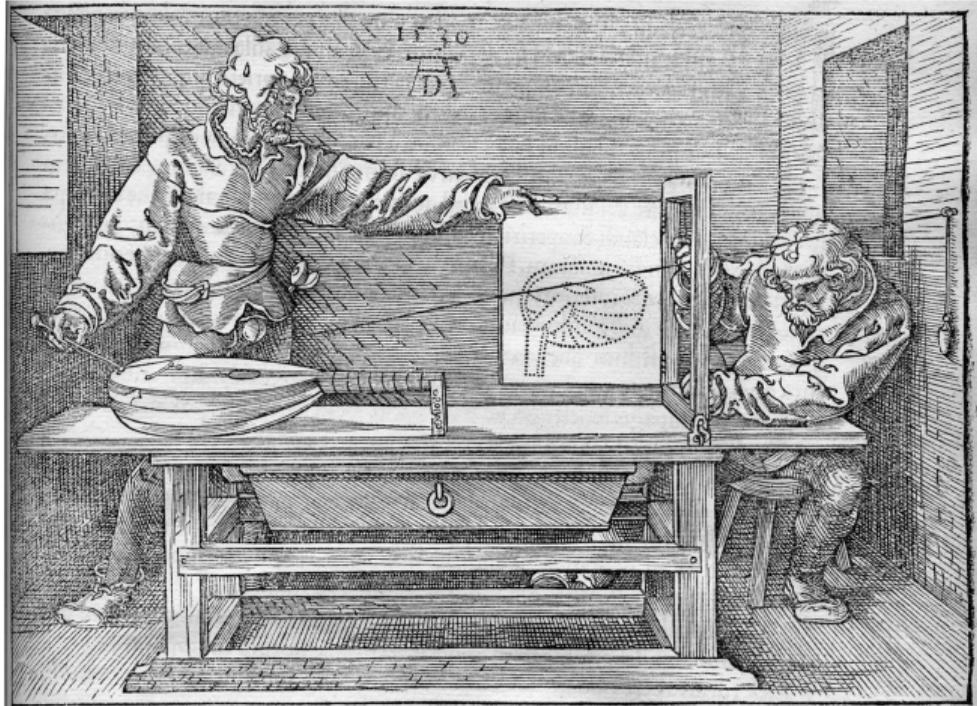


Illustration from Adolphe Ganot, *An Elementary Treatise on Physics*, 1882

Perspective Drawing Machines



Robert Fludd's sighting grid (1617)



Albrecht Dürer: "The draughtsman of the lute" (1525)

Perspective Drawing in Renaissance



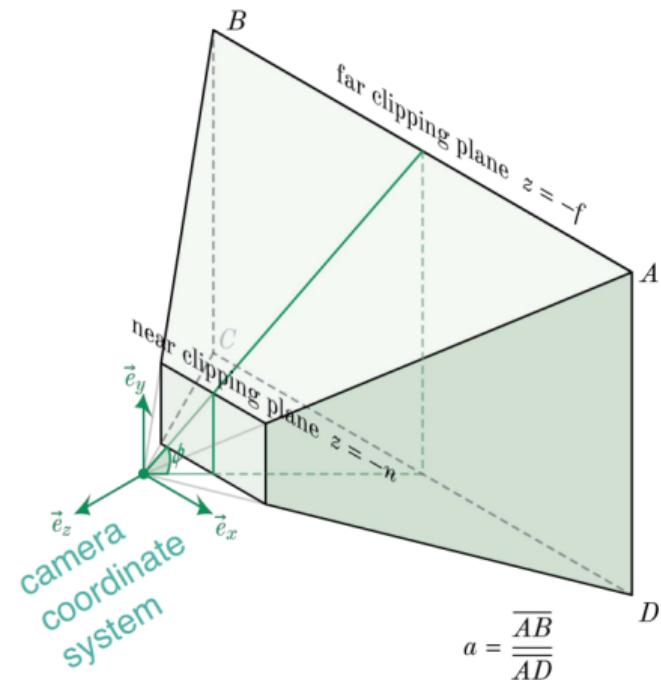
Annunciation, Leonardo da Vinci, c.1472-1476

Perspective View Frustum

Parameters

In graphics, a view frustum is the 3D region that is visible on the screen.

- ▶ Parameters for a viewing frustum:
 - ▶ field of view (FoV): angle ϕ
 - ▶ aspect ratio $a = \frac{\text{width}}{\text{height}}$
 - ▶ near clipping plan distance $n > 0$
 - ▶ far clipping plan distance $f > n$
- ▶ Camera zooming: adjusting the field of view angle ϕ
 - ▶ Wide angle zoom: wide FoV with a large ϕ
 - ▶ Telephoto zoom: narrow FoV with a small ϕ



Perspective can be done simply as well ?

Let's have a try as the Renaissance draft man !

- ▶ Bring me my thread of simulated light.
- ▶ Bring me my target of sight.

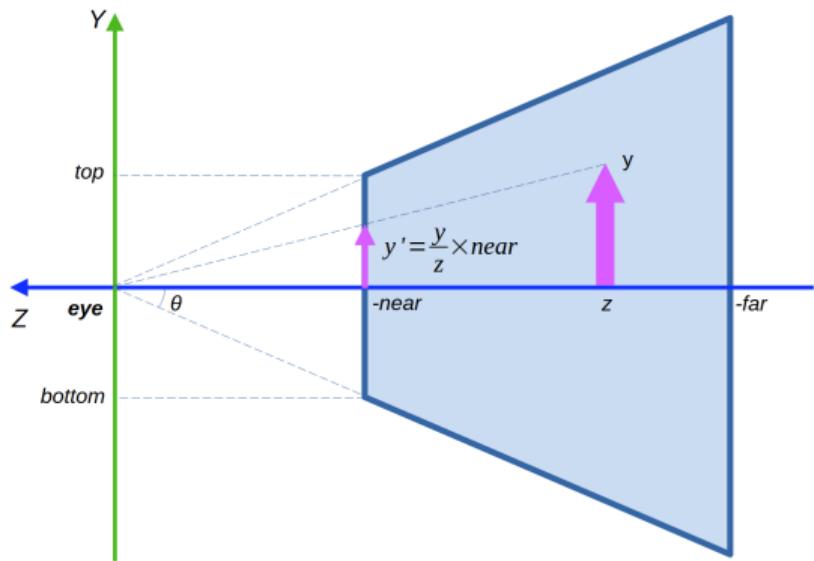
$$\begin{cases} x' = \frac{x}{z}n \\ y' = \frac{y}{z}n \end{cases}$$

are almost right

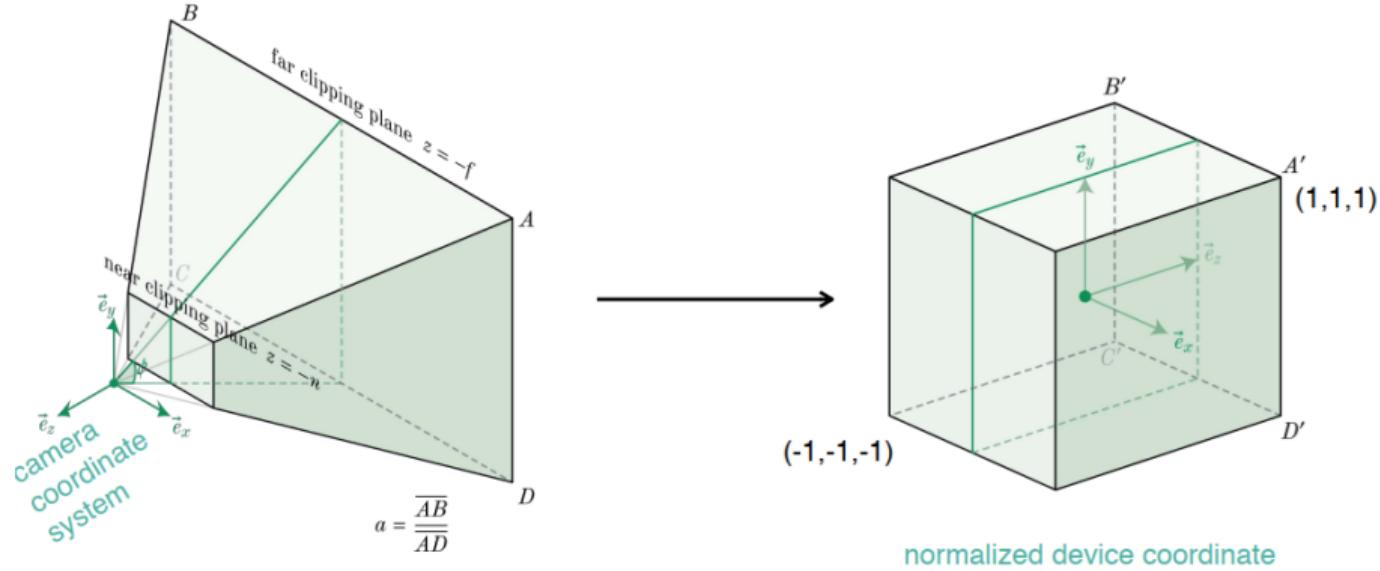
Design of z Transform: no need in drawing but needed in CG for hidden surface removal, clipping and interpolation (we are projecting vertices).

$$\text{Let's try } z' = \frac{z-n}{f-n}$$

- ▶ OK for vertex depth but not preserve lines
- ▶ Linearity is needed for clipping and interpolation
- ▶ We like to see a factor of $\frac{1}{z}$ in all of x', y', z'



Parameters for Perspective Projection



A projection matrix transforms a view frustum to a canonical cube

// Symmetric Viewing Volume

```
glm::mat4 perspective(double fovy, double aspect, double zNear, double zFar);
```

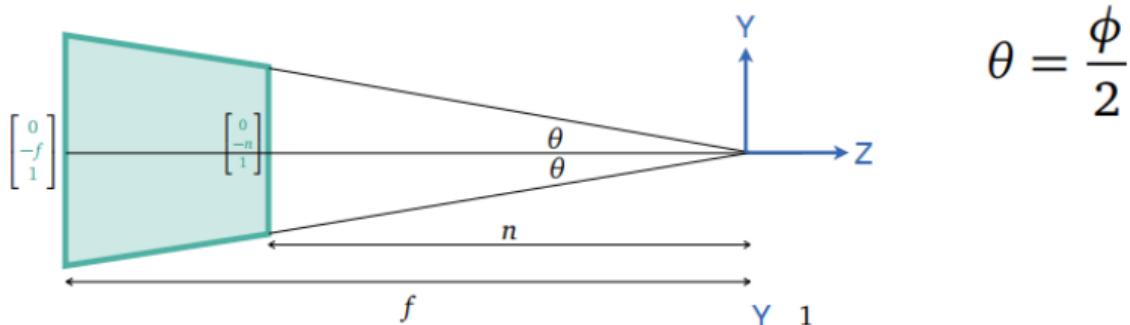
// General Viewing Volume

```
glm::mat4 glm::frustum(double left, double right, double bottom, double top, double zNear, double zFar);
```

Symmetric Perspective Projection Matrix

A translation along Z, followed by a z-based scaling.

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{sym}} \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{a \tan \theta} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\tan \theta} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{f+n}{f-n} & -\frac{2fn}{f-n} \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2n}{r-l} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2n}{t-b} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{f+n}{f-n} & -\frac{2fn}{f-n} \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2n}{r-l}x \\ \frac{2n}{t-b}y \\ -\frac{f+n}{f-n}z - \frac{2fn}{f-n} \\ -z \end{bmatrix}$$



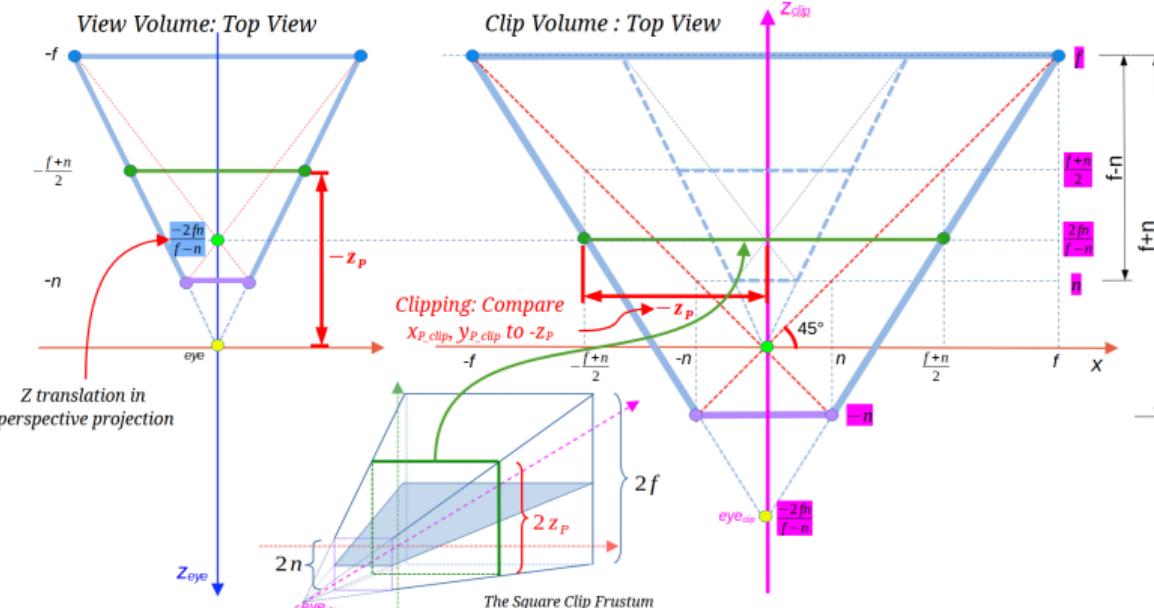
$$\theta = \frac{\phi}{2}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\text{top-bottom}}{2\text{near}} \quad a \tan \theta = \frac{\text{right-left}}{\text{top-bottom}} \frac{\text{top-bottom}}{2\text{near}} = \frac{\text{right-left}}{2\text{near}}$$

Projection Step 1: The Clip Volume

The perspective matrix transforms a point $v(x, y, z, 1)$ to the clip space, before normalised by $w_{clip} = -z$.

$$v_{clip} = \mathbf{P}v = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2n}{r-l} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2n}{t-b} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{f+n}{f-n} & -\frac{2fn}{f-n} \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2n}{r-l}x \\ \frac{2n}{t-b}y \\ -\frac{f+n}{f-n}z - \frac{2fn}{f-n} \\ -z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{clip} \\ y_{clip} \\ z_{clip} \\ w_{clip} \end{bmatrix}$$



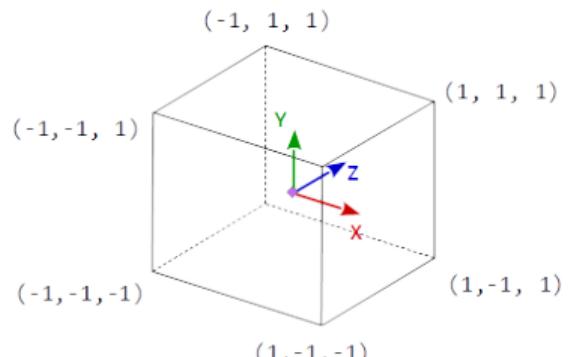
Projection Step 2: Perspective Divide (Normalisation)

- ▶ Clip volume: every cross section parallel to the image plane shares a constant $w_{clip} = -z$ and spans $[-w_{clip}, w_{clip}] = [-z, z]$ in both x and y , speeding up clipping.
- ▶ Divide x, y, z by the weight component $-z$ results in the normalised coordinate system (NCS).

$$v_{norm} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{norm} \\ y_{norm} \\ z_{norm} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{clip}/(-z) \\ y_{clip}/(-z) \\ z_{clip}/(-z) \\ (-z)/(-z) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{2n}{r-l} \frac{x}{z} \\ -\frac{2n}{t-b} \frac{y}{z} \\ \frac{f+n}{f-n} + \frac{2fn}{(f-n)} \frac{1}{z} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Vanishing point: $(-\frac{r+l}{r-l}, -\frac{t+b}{t-b})$, $(0, 0)$ for symmetric projection

Normalized Device Coordinates (NDC)



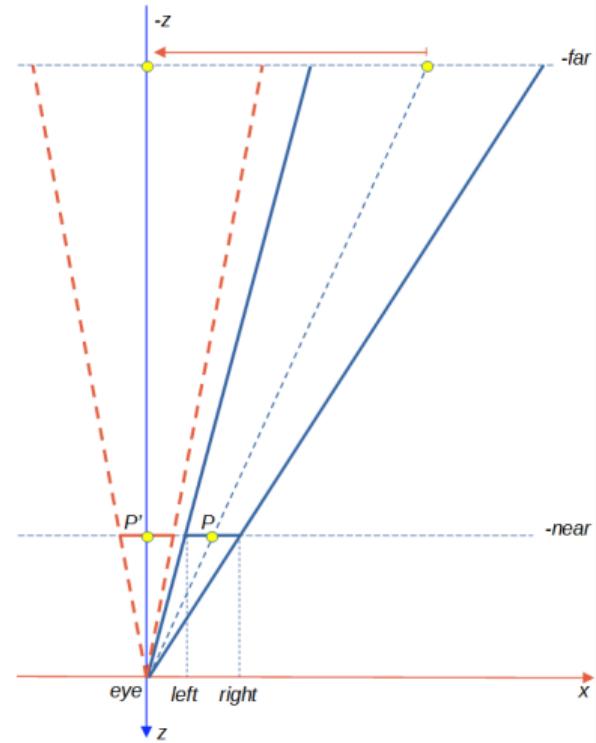
OpenGL NDC

The General Perspective Projection Matrix

- ▶ Oblique viewing volumes
 - ▶ Not common for single display games
 - ▶ Use a shear transform of X and Y to convert into a symmetric volume.

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2n}{r-l} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2n}{t-b} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{f+n}{f-n} & -\frac{2fn}{f-n} \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \frac{r+l}{2n} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{t+b}{2n} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2n}{r-l} & 0 & \frac{r+l}{r-l} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2n}{t-b} & \frac{t+b}{t-b} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{f+n}{f-n} & -\frac{2fn}{f-n} \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} v_{norm} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{2n}{r-l} \frac{x}{z} - \frac{r+l}{r-l} \\ -\frac{2n}{t-b} \frac{y}{z} - \frac{t+b}{t-b} \\ \frac{f+n}{f-n} + \frac{2fn}{(f-n)} \frac{1}{z} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Distortions resulted from $\frac{1}{z}$

- ▶ Marginal distortion (large x, y offsets with a small $-z$ leading to large $\frac{x}{-z}$)
- ▶ Close-up distortion: (with a smaller n , $\frac{-z}{n} \rightarrow \infty$, $\frac{n}{-z} \rightarrow 0$, projections converge to the vanishing point)
- ▶ Vertical distortion: buildings appears leaning if tilt the camera up (vanishing points caused by $\frac{1}{-z}$)



Vertical distortion



(a) A wide-angle photo with distortions on subjects' faces.

(b) Distortion-free photo by our method.

Marginal distortion [Google]



Close-up(Wide angle) distortion [Daniel]

Transformed z is not uniform

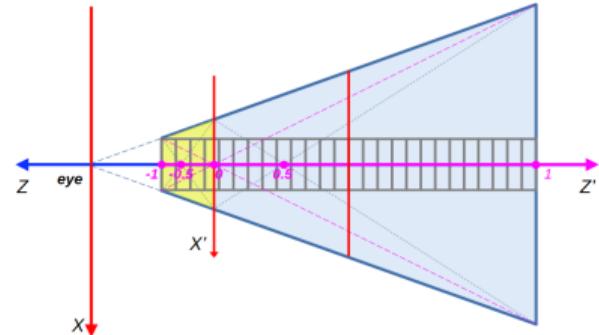
$$z' = \frac{f+n}{f-n} + \frac{2fn}{f-n} \frac{1}{z}$$

$\frac{1}{z}$ is not linear

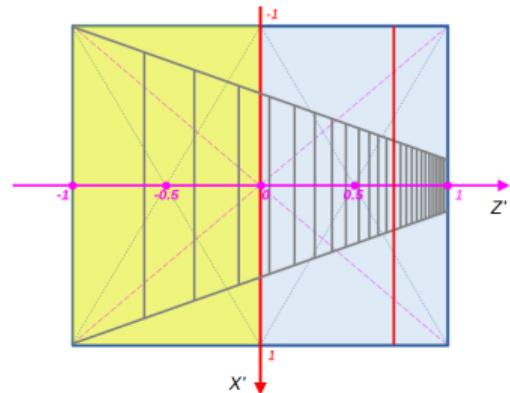
- ▶ Closer to the camera => greater numerical precision
- ▶ Most points are squeezed close to $z' = 1$
- ▶ May cause z-fighting when precision is lacking
- ▶ Points in the middle ranges are pushed much backwards away from the camera.

Choose near and far planes that tightly fit the objects to make full use of the $[-1, 1]$ range.

- ▶ Common mistake: set $\text{near} = 0, \text{far} = \infty$
- ▶ Near plane: in decent distance from the camera



The z' quartiles before projection



z' distribution after projection

FoV Setting



- ▶ Desktop / VR preview 45°–60° Feels natural; similar to a 50 mm camera lens
- ▶ First-person games 60°–90° Wider for situational awareness
- ▶ VR headset (per eye) 90°–110° Matches immersive field

Summary



- ▶ Camera control
- ▶ Normalised Device Coordinates (NDC)
- ▶ Orthographic Projection Matrix
- ▶ Perspective Projection Matrices

Questions?

You are welcome to take the poll !