Introduction to Computer Graphics

1. Graphics Systems

I-Chen Lin

National Chiao Tung University

Textbook: E.Angel, D. Shreiner Interactive Computer Graphics, 6th Ed., Pearson

Ref: D.D. Hearn, M. P. Baker, W. Carithers, Computer Graphics with OpenGL, 4th Ed., Pearson

Computer Graphics

- Computer graphics deals with all aspects of creating images with a computer.
  - Hardware
  - Software
  - Applications

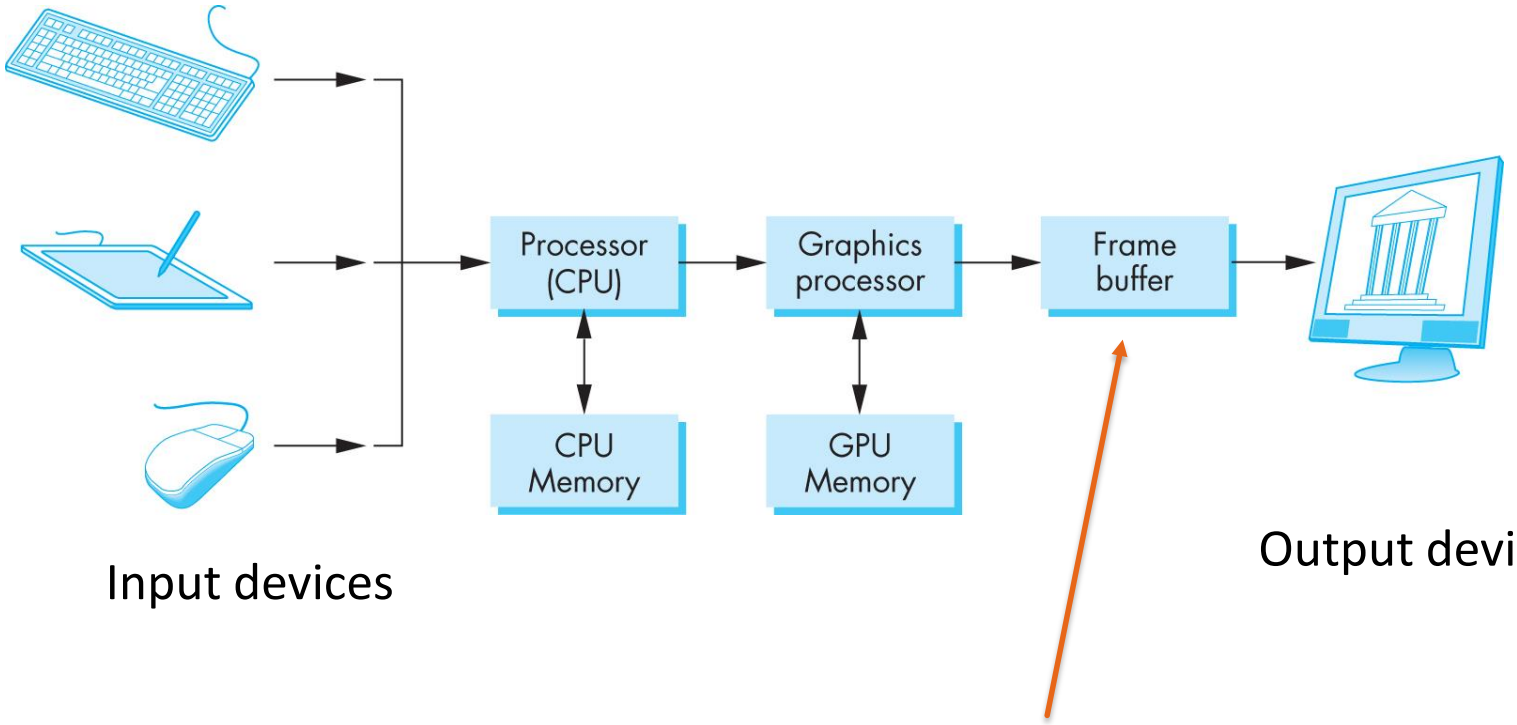
Example

- Where did this image come from?
- What hardware/software did we need to produce it?

Preliminary Answer

- **Application**: The object is an artist's rendition of the sun for an animation to be shown in a domed environment (planetarium)
- **Software**: Maya for modeling and rendering but Maya is built on top of OpenGL
- **Hardware**: PC with graphics card for modeling and rendering

Basic Graphics System

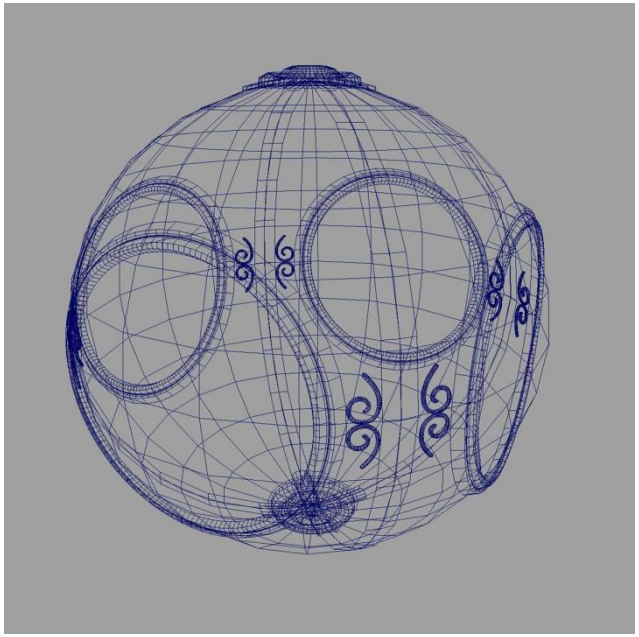


Computer Graphics: 1950-1960

- Computer graphics goes back to the earliest days of computing
  - Strip charts
  - Pen plotters
  - Simple displays using A/D converters to go from computer to calligraphic CRT
- Cost of refresh for CRT too high
  - Computers slow, expensive, unreliable

Computer Graphics: 1960-1970

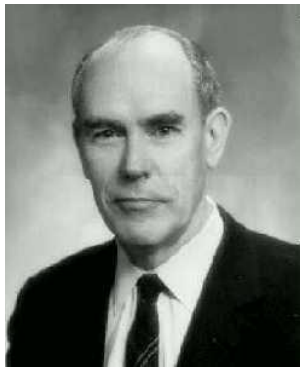
- *Wireframe* graphics
  - Draw only lines
- Sketchpad
- Display Processors
- Storage tube



wireframe representation of sun object

Sketchpad

- **Ivan Sutherland**'s PhD thesis at MIT
  - Recognized the potential of man-machine interaction.
  - Sutherland also created many of the now common algorithms for computer graphics



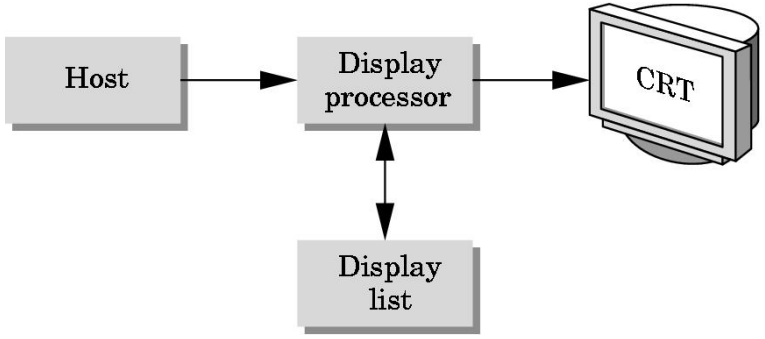
Ivan Sutherland,

Turing Award winner, 1988

The console of the TX-2, Sketchpad Project

Display Processor

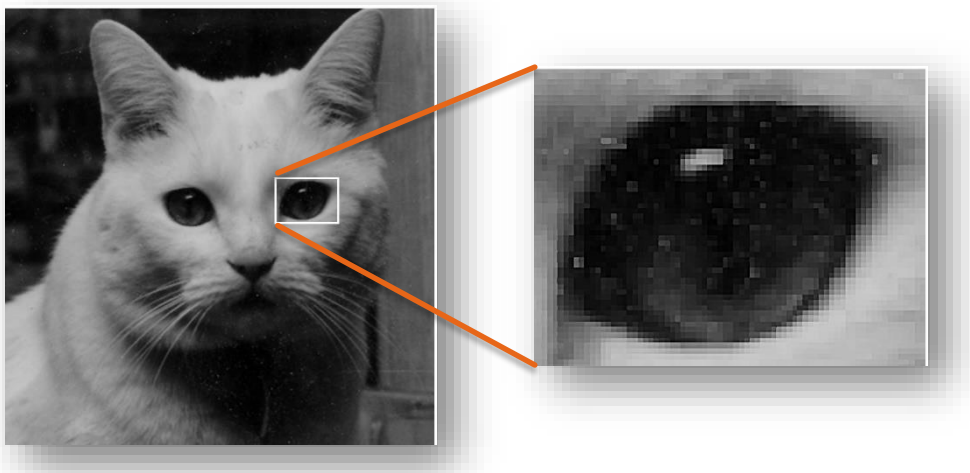
- Rather than have the host computer try to refresh display, use a special purpose computer called a *display processor* (DPU)

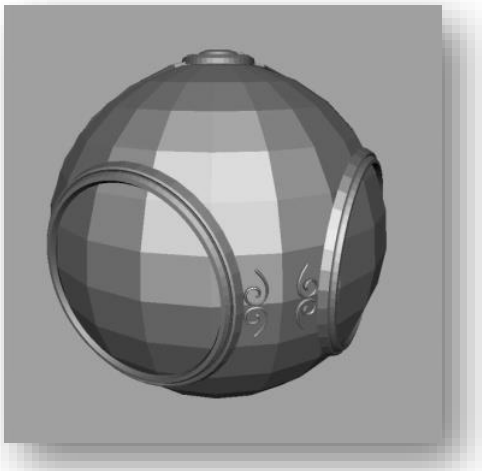


- Graphics stored in display list (display file) on display processor
- Host *compiles* display list and sends to DPU

Computer Graphics: 1970-1980

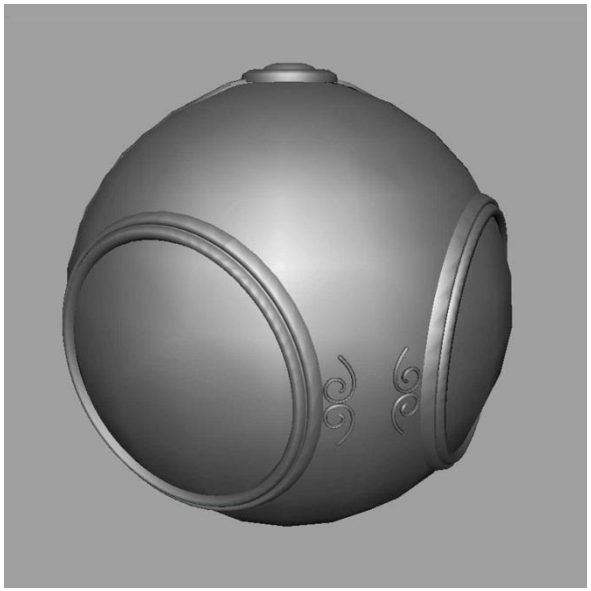
- Raster Graphics
  - Image produced as an array (the *raster*) of picture elements (*pixels*) in the *frame buffer*
  - Allows us to go from lines and wire frame images to filled polygons





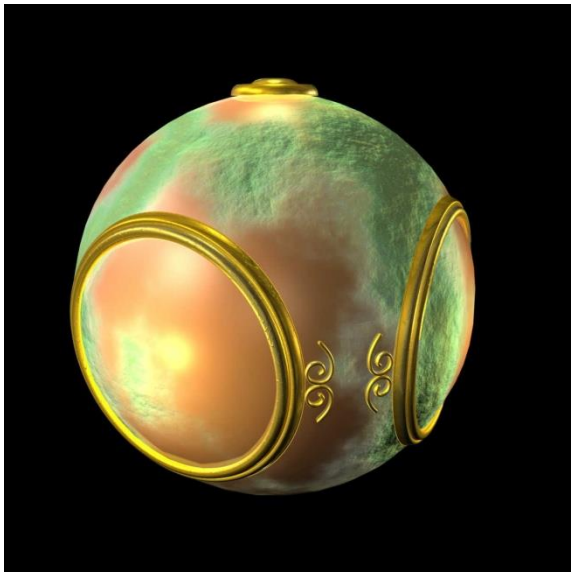
Computer Graphics: 1980-1990

- Realism comes to computer graphics



smooth shading

environment mapping



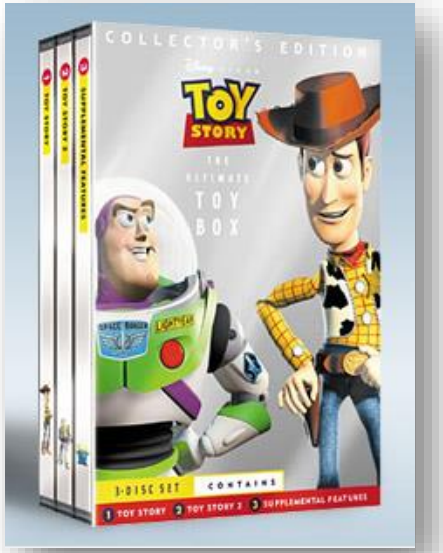
bump mapping

Computer Graphics: 1980-1990

- Special purpose hardware
  - Silicon Graphics geometry engine
    - VLSI implementation of graphics pipeline
- Industry-based standards
  - PHIGS
    - Programmer's Hierarchical Interactive Graphics System
  - RenderMan
- Networked graphics: X Window System
- Human-Computer Interface (HCI)

Computer Graphics: 1990-2000

- OpenGL API
- Completely computer-generated feature-length movies (Toy Story) are successful.
- New hardware capabilities
  - Texture mapping
  - Blending
  - Stencil buffers, …



Computer Graphics: 2000-

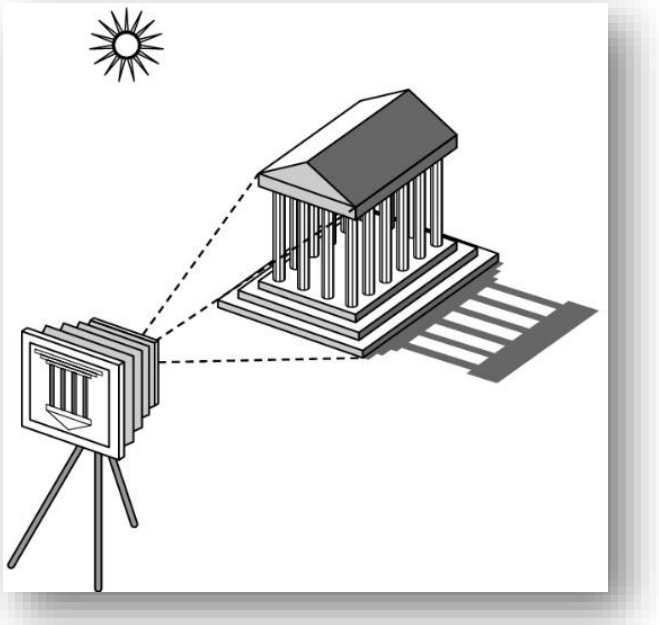
- Photorealism
- Graphics cards for PCs dominate market
  - Nvidia, ATI (-> AMD)
  - GPU (Graphics processing unit)
- Game boxes and game players determine direction of market
- Computer graphics routine in movie industry: Maya, Lightwave.
- Programmable pipelines

Image Formation

- Fundamental imaging notions
- Physical basis for image formation
  - Light
  - Color
  - Perception
- Synthetic camera model
- Other models

Elements of Image Formation

- Objects
- Viewer
- Light source(s)

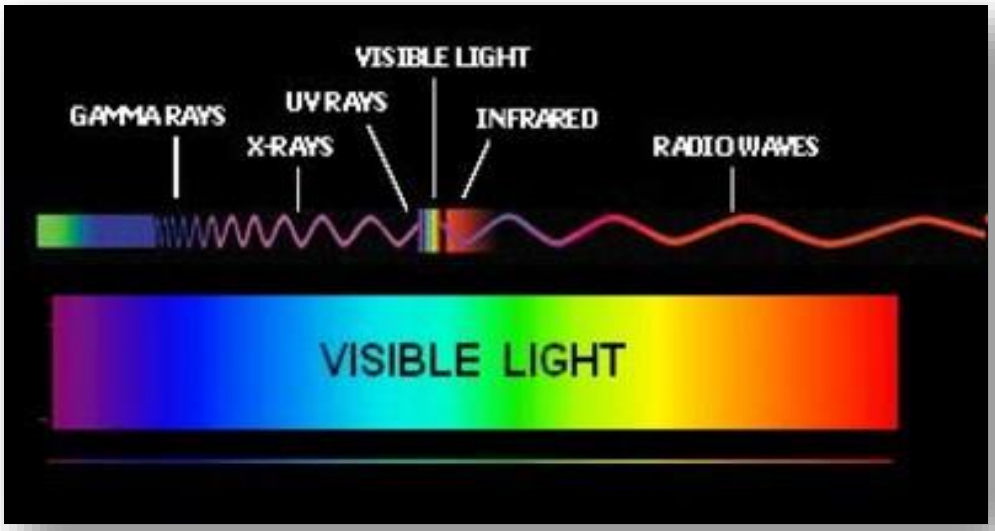


- Attributes that govern how light interacts with the materials in the scene
- Note the independence of the objects, the viewer, and the light source(s)

Light

- *Light* is the part of the electromagnetic spectrum that causes a reaction in our visual systems

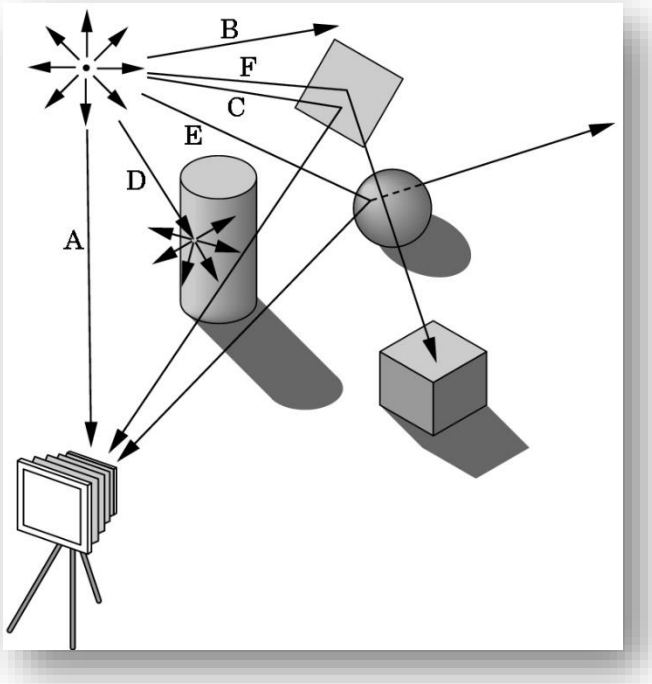
- Generally these are wavelengths in the range of about 350-750 nm (nanometers)



Ray Tracing and Geometric Optics

- One way to form an image is to follow rays of light from a point source finding which rays enter the lens of the camera.

- However, each ray of light may have multiple interactions with objects before being absorbed or going to infinity.

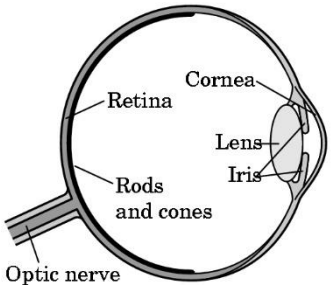


Luminance and Color Images

- Luminance Image
  - Monochromatic
  - Values are gray levels
  - Analogous to working with black and white film or television
- Color Image
  - Has perceptional attributes of hue, saturation, and lightness
  - Do we have to match every frequency in visible spectrum?

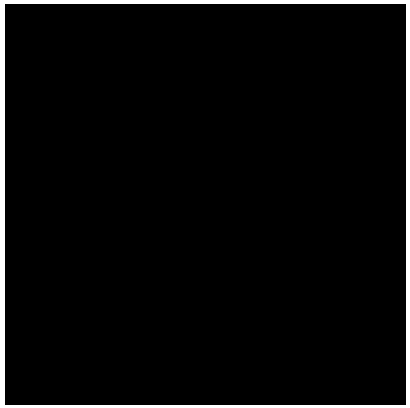
Three-Color Theory

- Human visual system has two types of sensors
  - Rods: monochromatic, night vision
  - Cones
    - Color sensitive
    - Three types of cones
    - Only three values (the *tristimulus* values) are sent to the brain



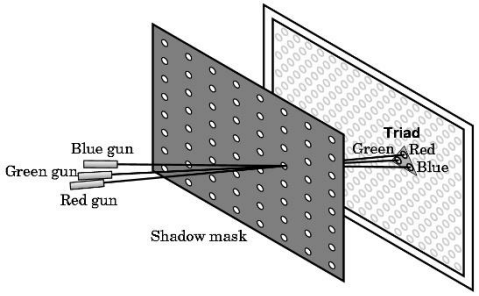
- Need only match these three values
  - Need only three *primary* colors

Additive and Subtractive Color



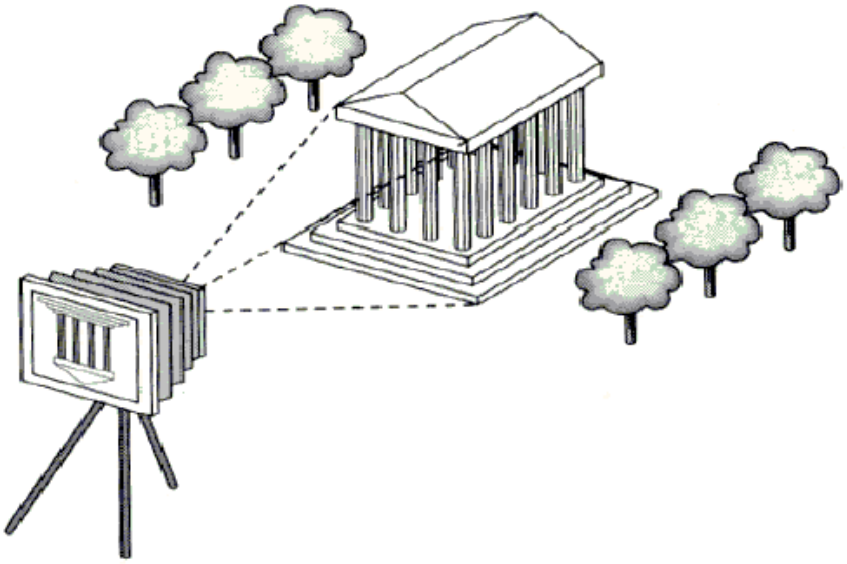
- Additive color
  - Form a color by adding amounts of three primaries
    - CRTs, LCD, projection systems, positive film
  - Primaries: Red (R), Green (G), Blue (B)

Shadow Mask CRT



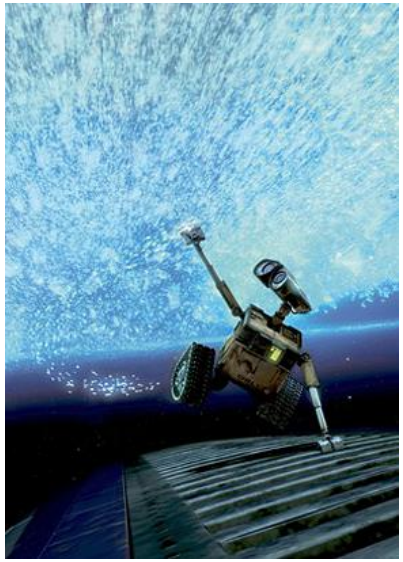
  - Subtractive color
  - Form a color by filtering white light with:
    - Cyan (C), Magenta (M), and Yellow (Y) filters
    - Printing, Negative film

Basic 3D Graphics



What's "3D"?

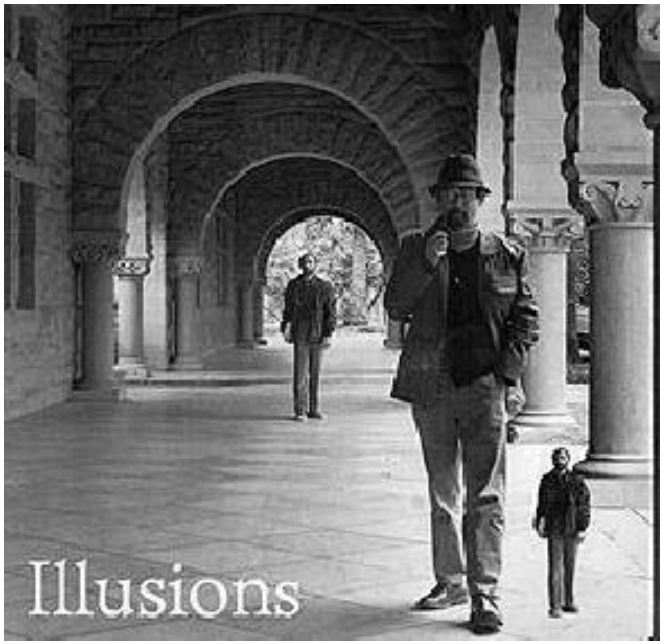
- How about these pictures?

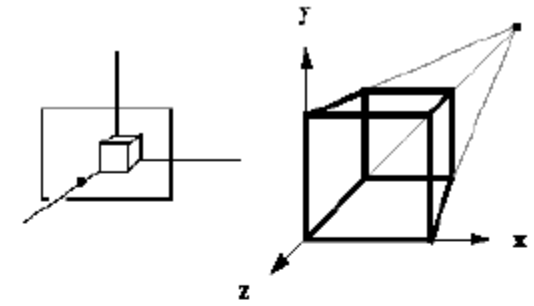


Wall-E, Pixar

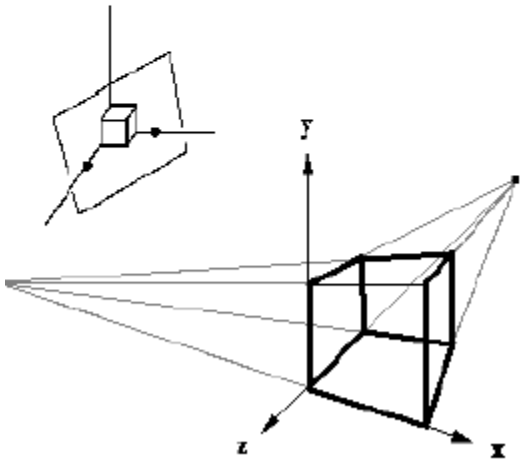
JoJo's Bizarre Adventure, PS3

Vanish point

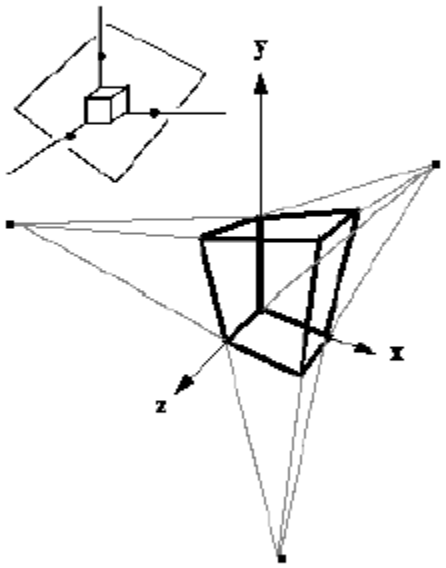




One Point Perspective
(z-axis vanishing point)



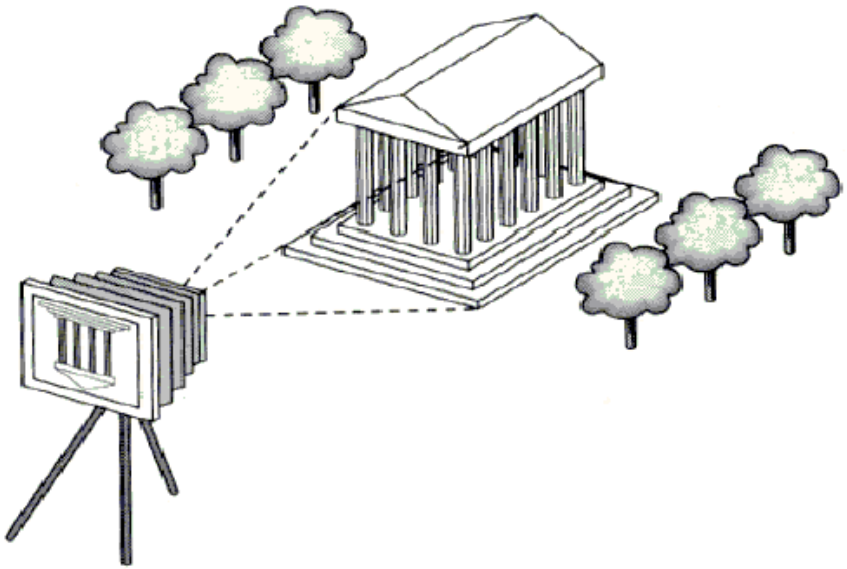
Two Point Perspective
z, and x-axis vanishing points

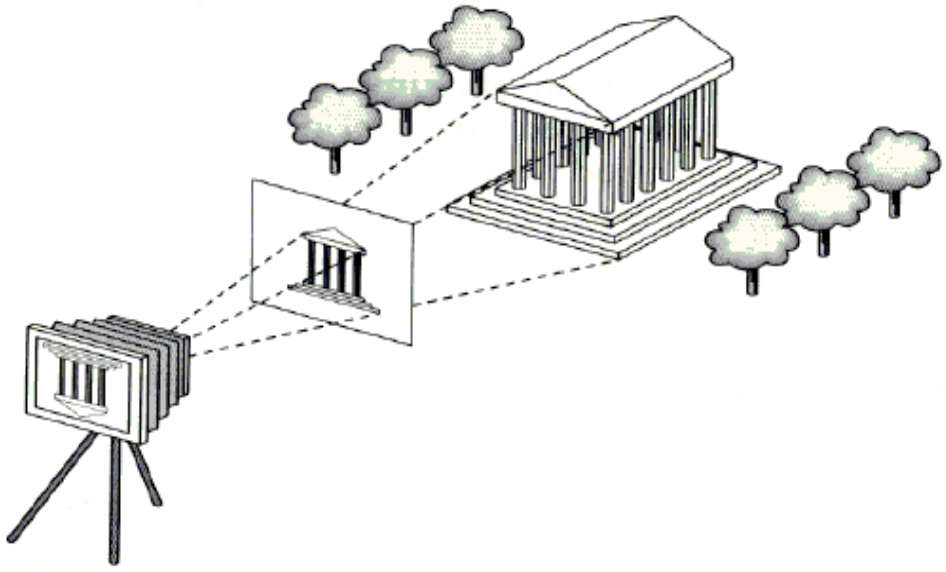


Three Point Perspective
(z, x, and y-axis
vanishing points)

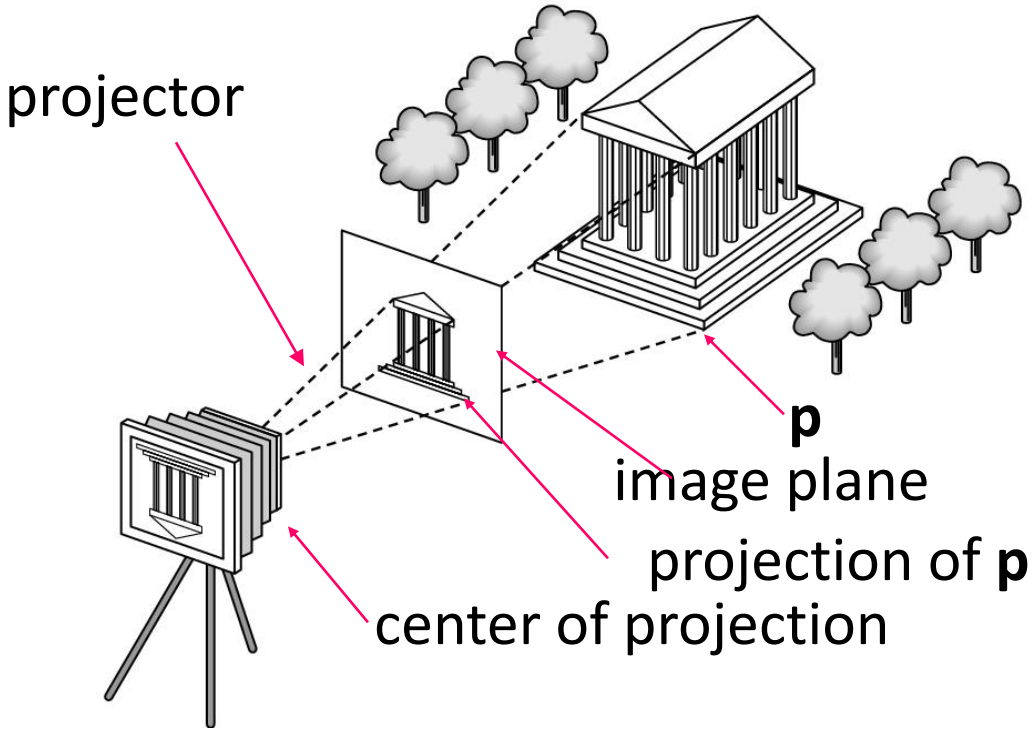
Perspective projection

- Taking photographing as an example.

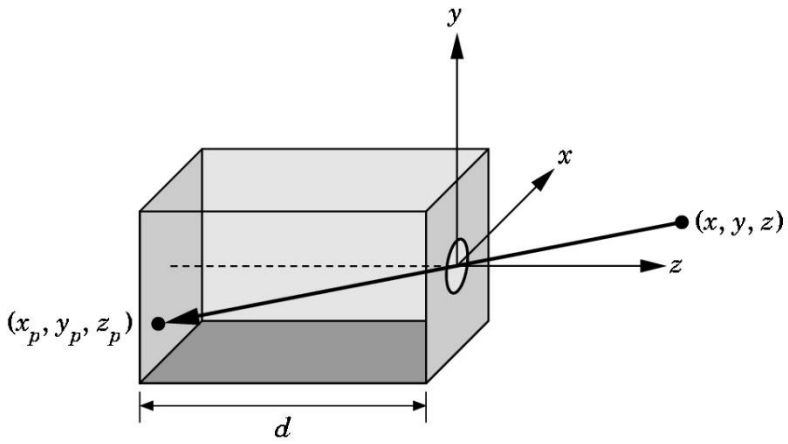




Synthetic Camera Model



Pinhole Camera



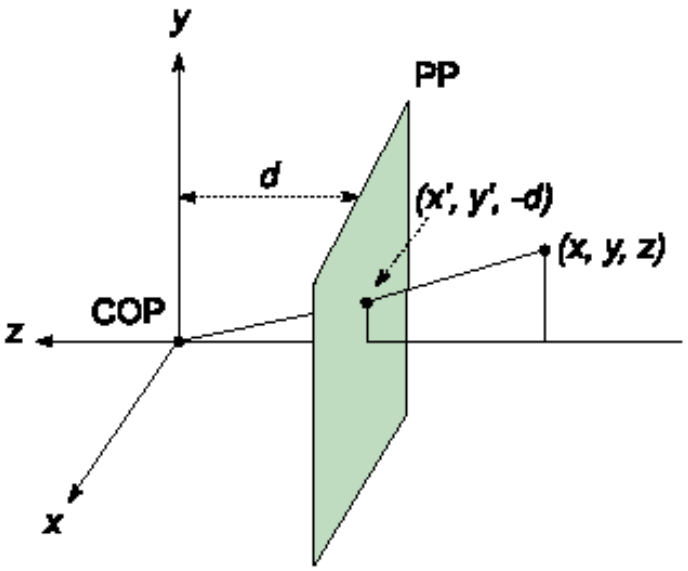
Use trigonometry to find projection of point at (x,y,z)

$$x_p = -x/(z/d) \qquad y_p = -y/(z/d) \qquad z_p = d$$

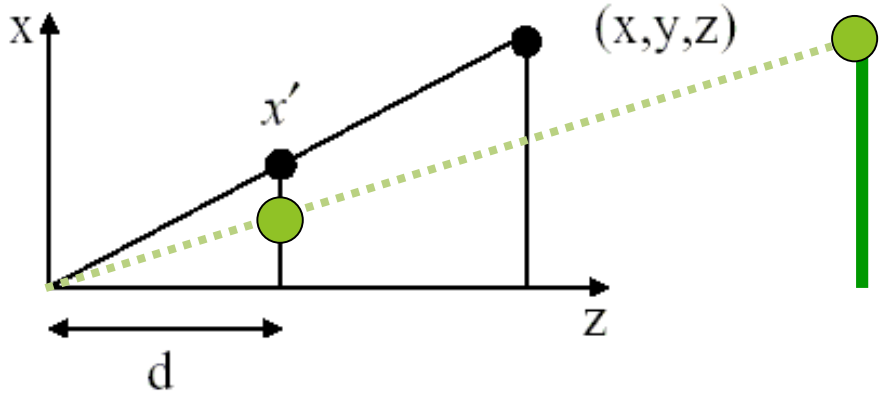
These are equations of simple perspective

Perspective projection (cont.)

- Projection

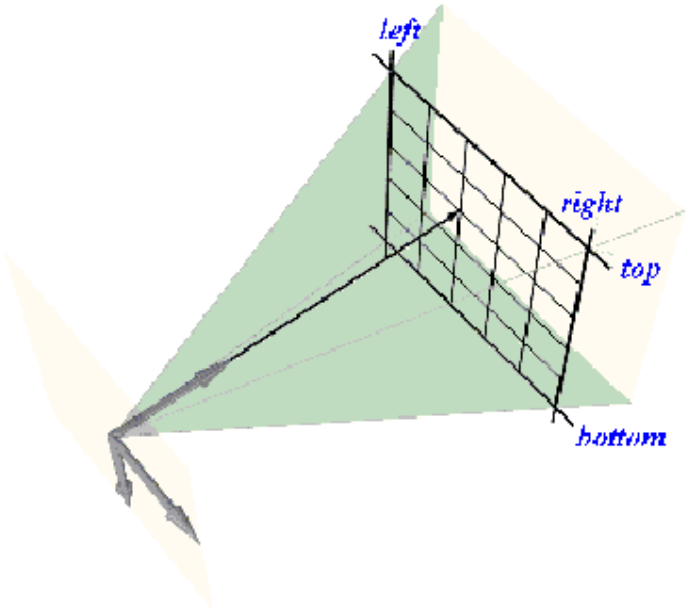


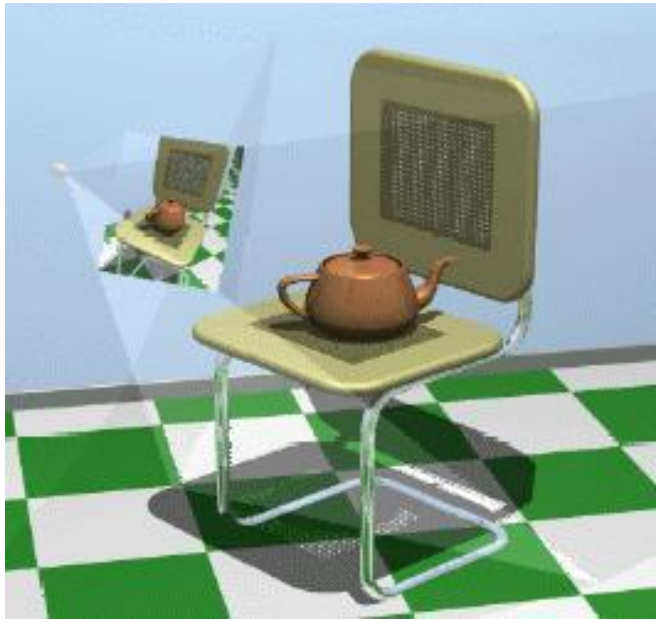
Using similar triangles gives:



Perspective projection (cont.)

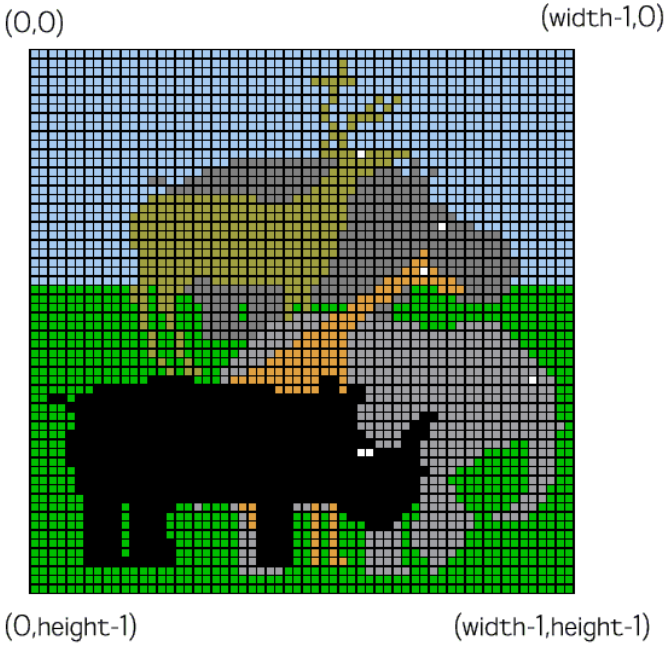
- Let pupils as the pinhole and a screen as the film.

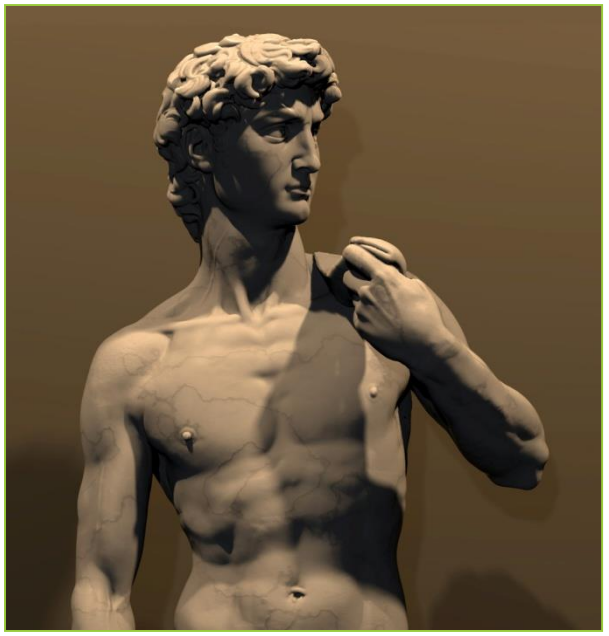




Generating perspective views

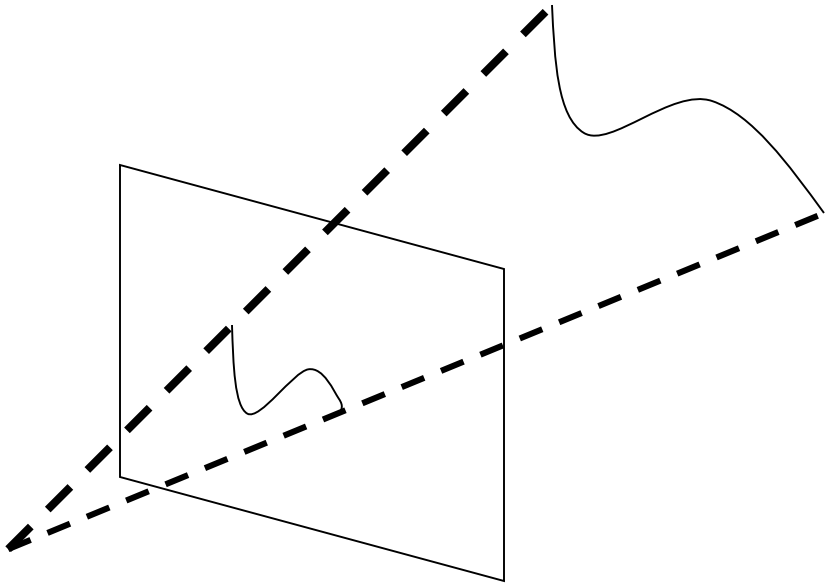
- From the continuous world to a digital one.
- Representing by surfaces?

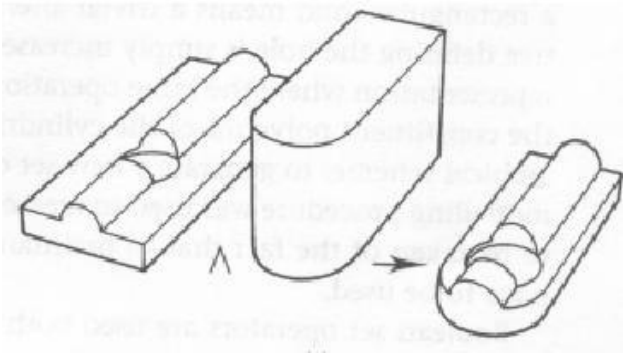


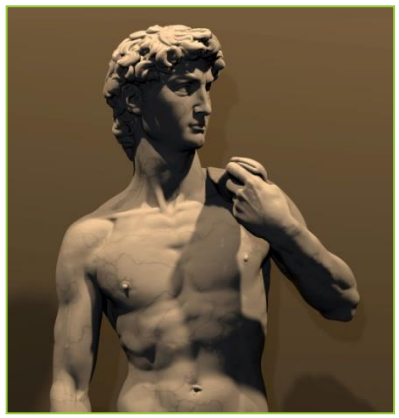


Represented by primitives

- Curves and surfaces are **inefficient** to render directly.

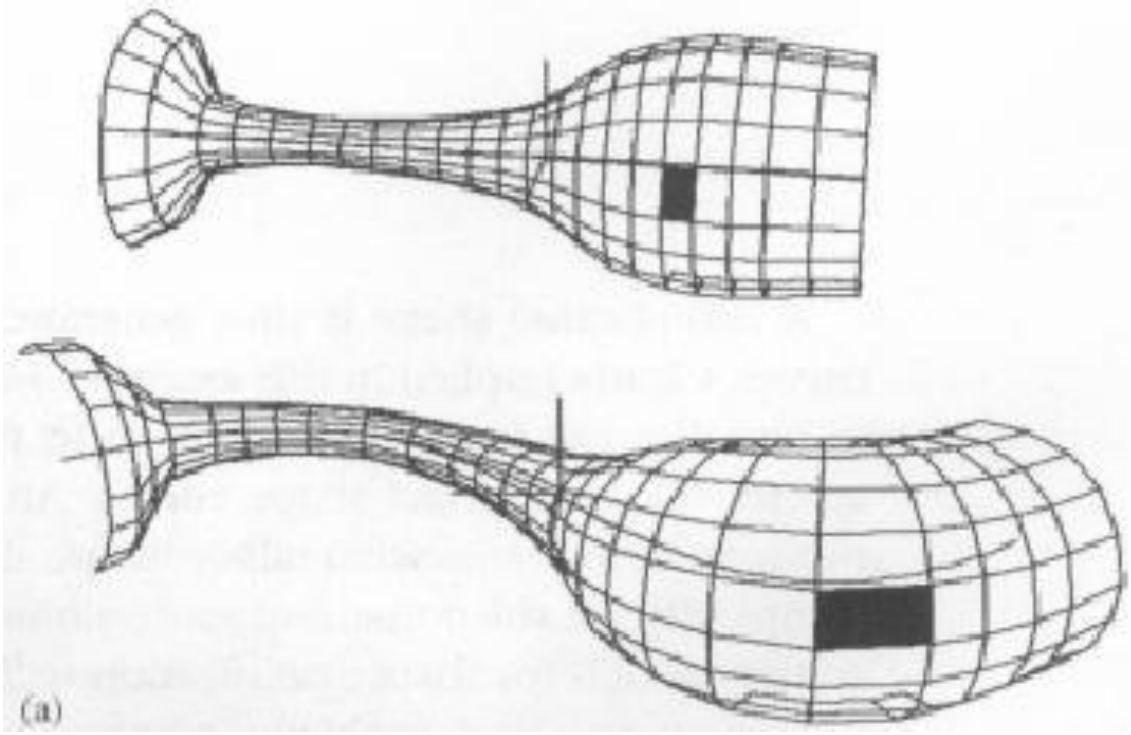






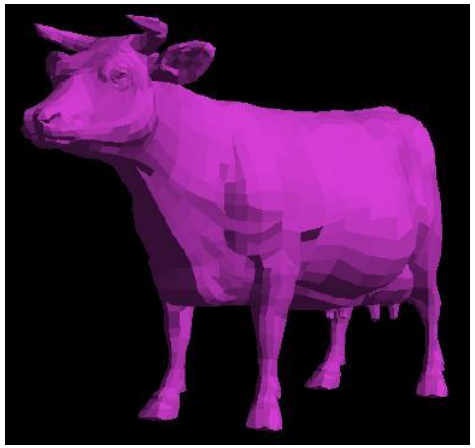
Represented by primitives (cont.)

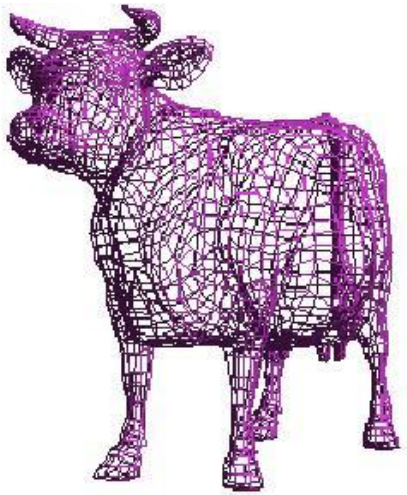
- We use primitives such as polygons instead.

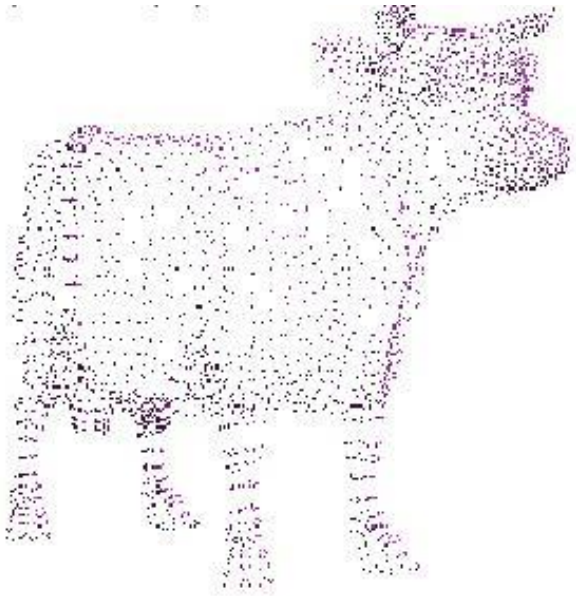


Represented by primitives

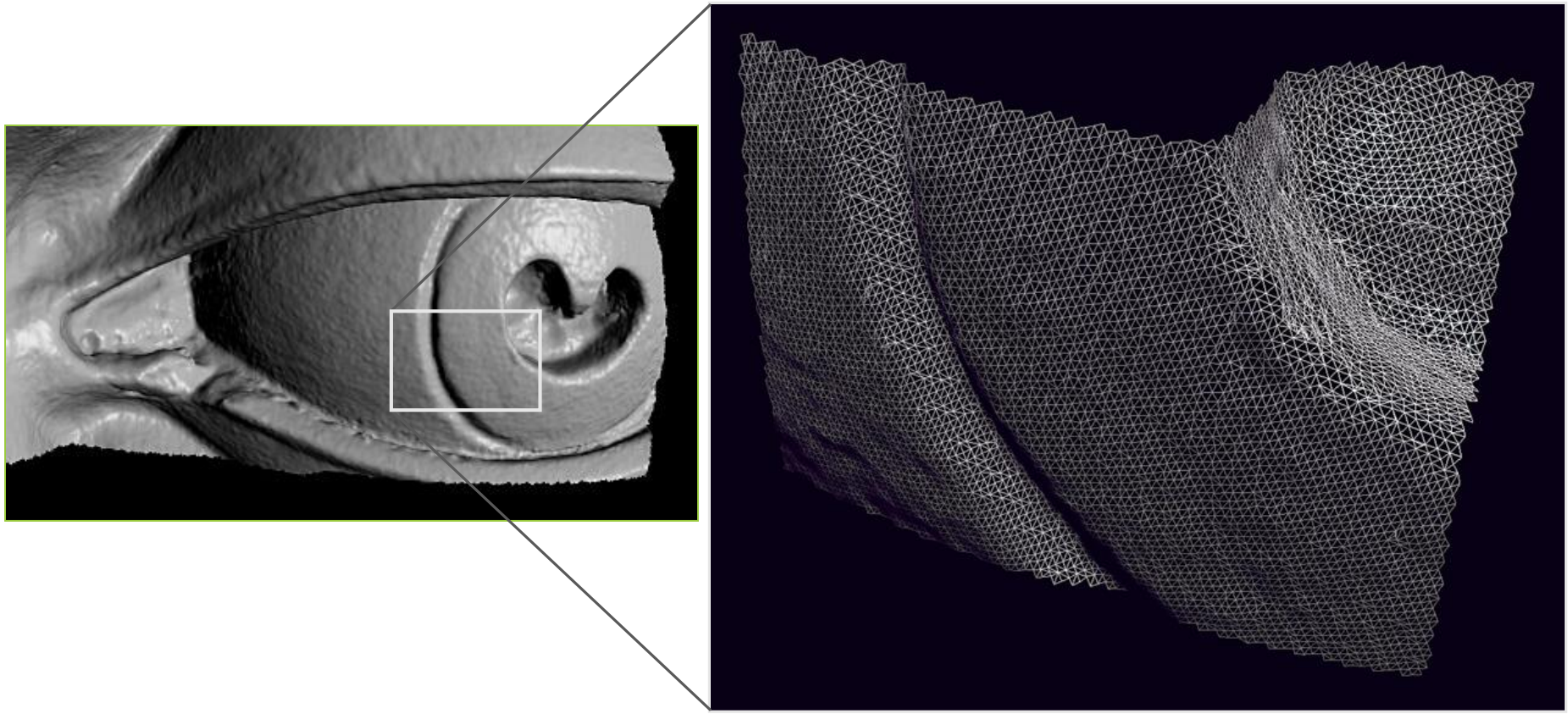
- Polygons







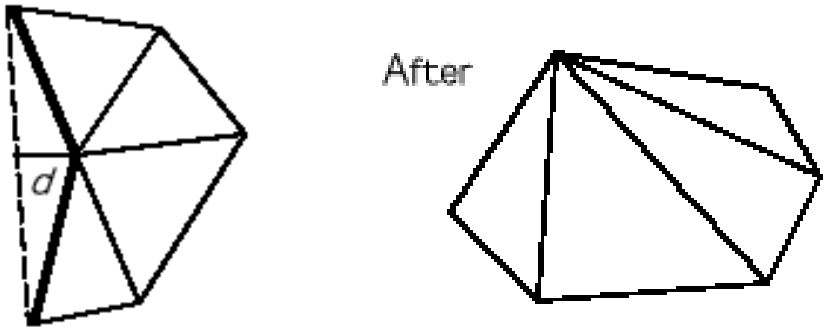
Represented by primitives



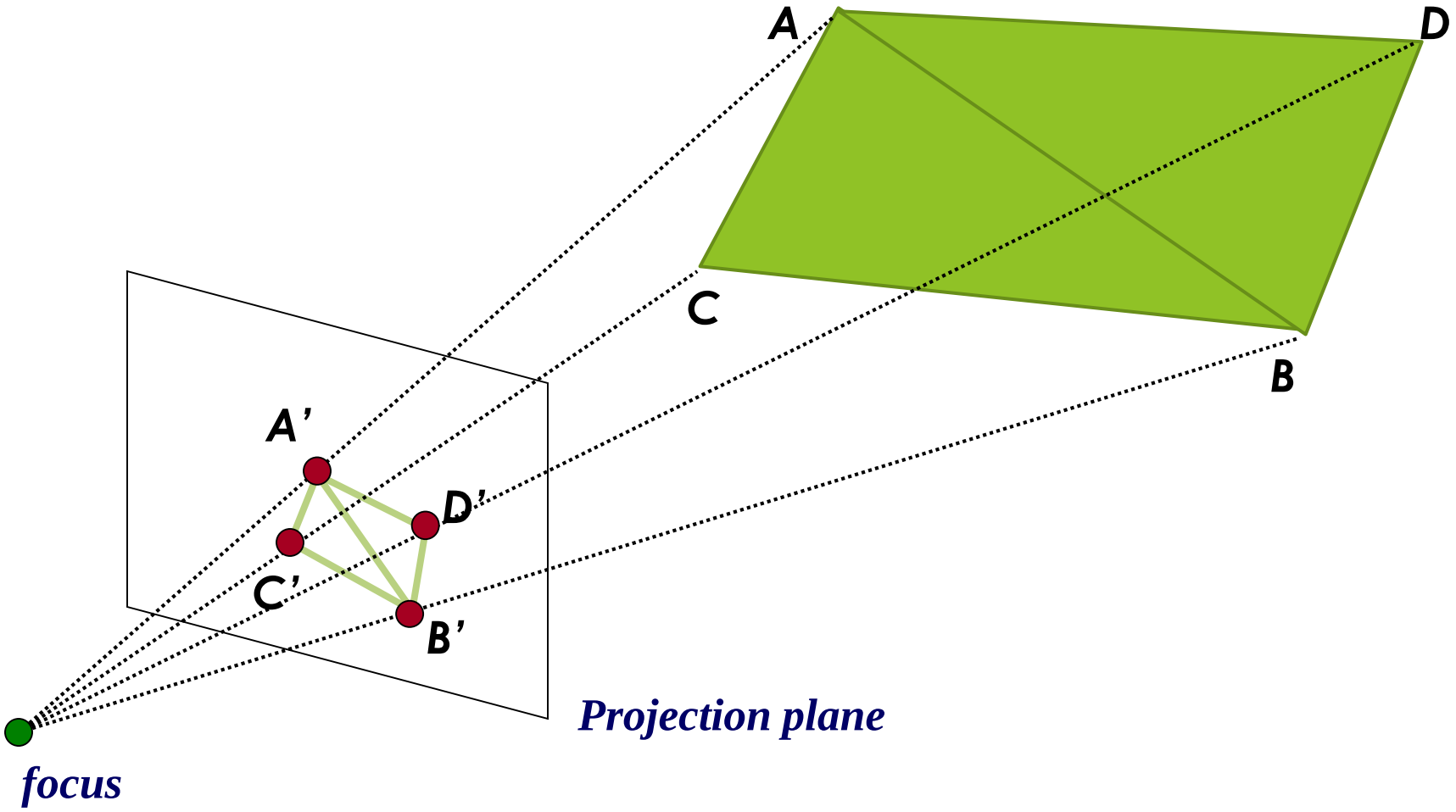
Digital Michelangelo Project, Stanford University

Represented by primitives (cont.)

- A triangle is usually the most basic primitive.
- Polygons -> triangles.

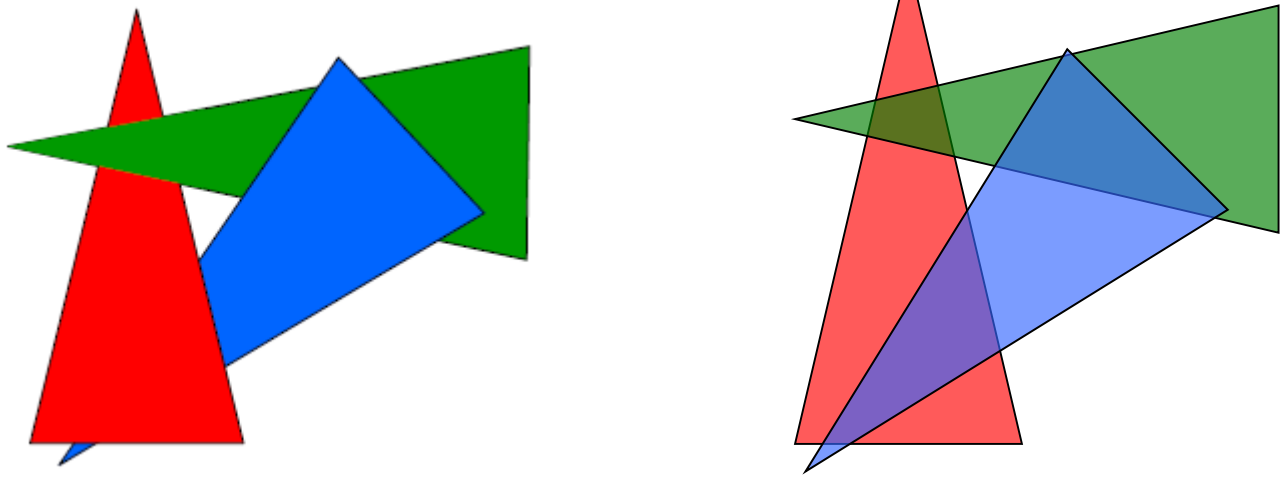


Projection of triangles



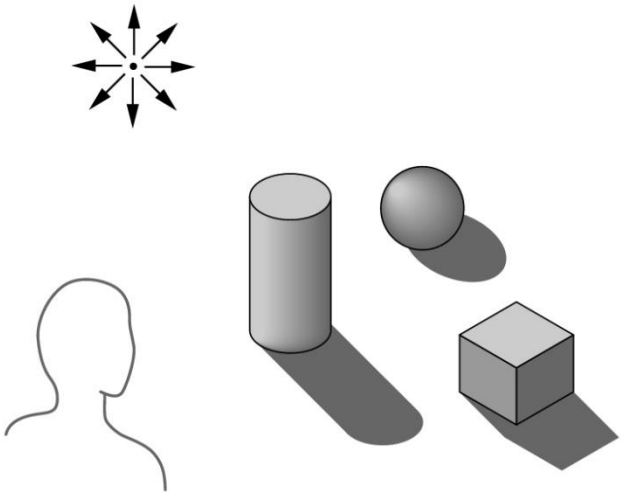
Visibility

- If we draw triangles directly, our screen will be a “mess”.
- Remove hidden surfaces.



Global vs Local Lighting

- Cannot compute color or shade of each object independently
  - Some objects are blocked from light
  - Light can reflect from object to object
  - Some objects might be translucent



A realistic 3D view

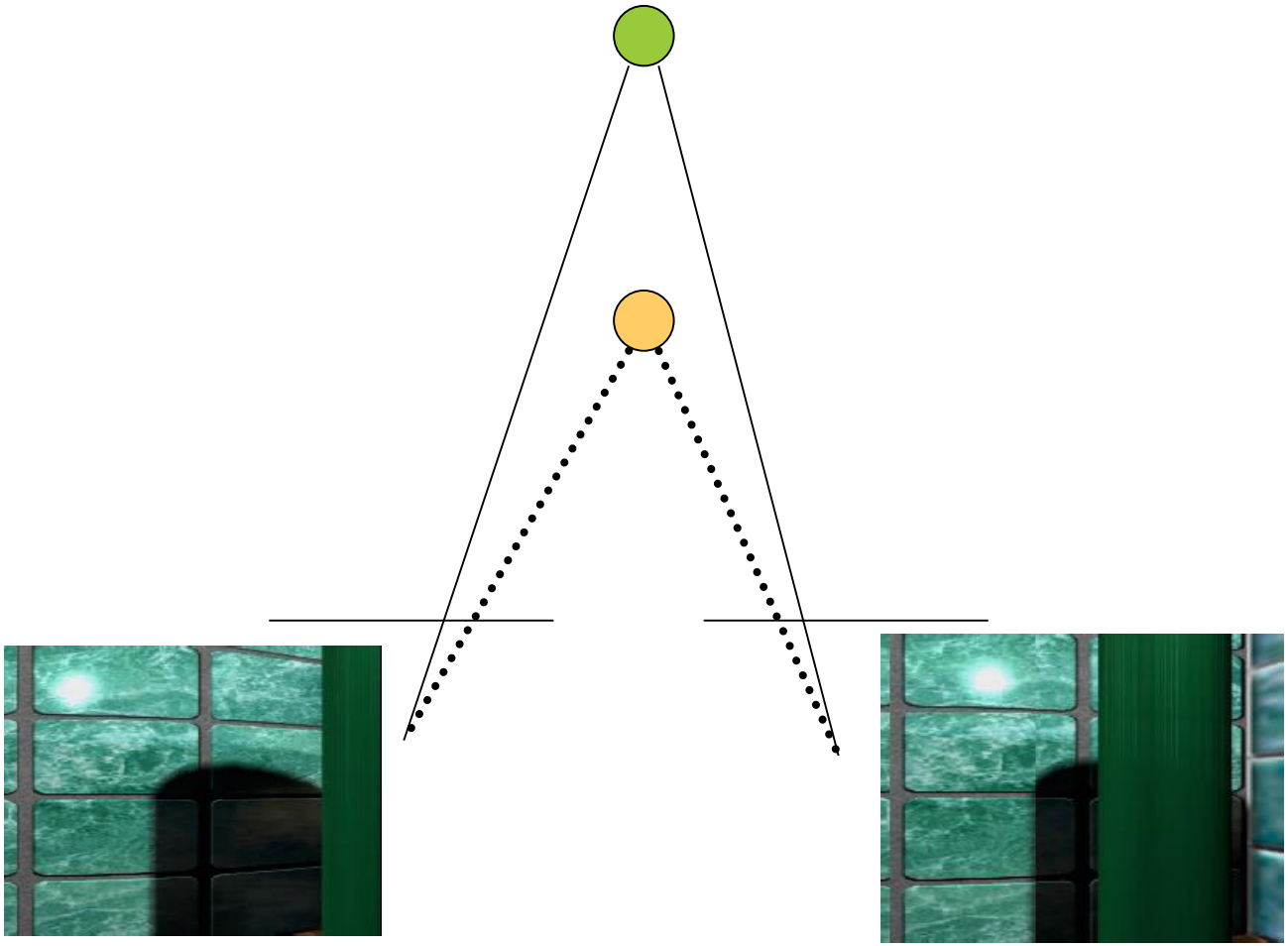
- Delicate 3D models.
- Perspective.
- Hidden surface removal.
- Shading (lighting & reflection).
- Shadow.
- Detailed textures and normals

Pixar corp.

B. Martin, U. Utah

Appendix: What's a "3D" movie?

- Movies that can provide binocular cues.

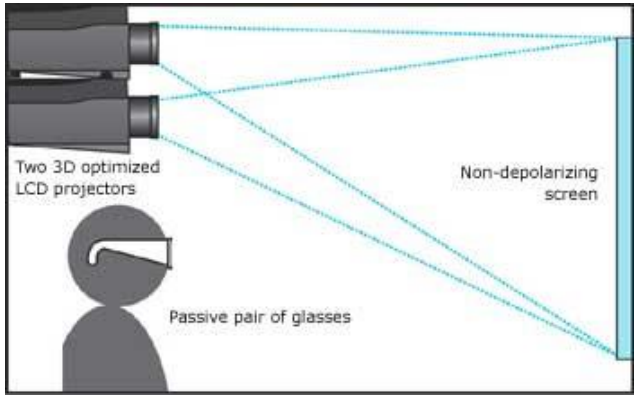


Stereoscopic viewing

- Temporal multiplexing
- Spectral multiplexing
- Polarization multiplexing

mars.jpl.nasa.gov/MPF/mpf/anaglyph-arc.htm

http://www.stereographics.com



http://www.barco.com

Autostereoscopic viewing

- Spatial multiplexing
  - Parallax barrier methods
  - Lenticular approach
  - Etc..