

Intro to OpenGL

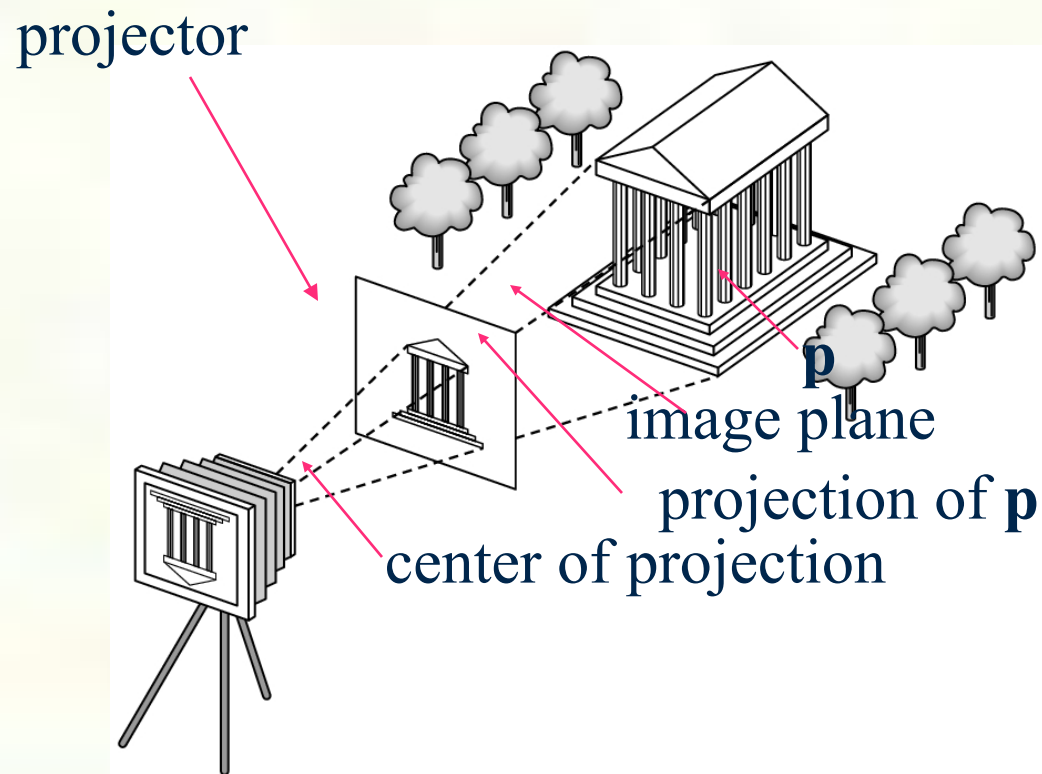
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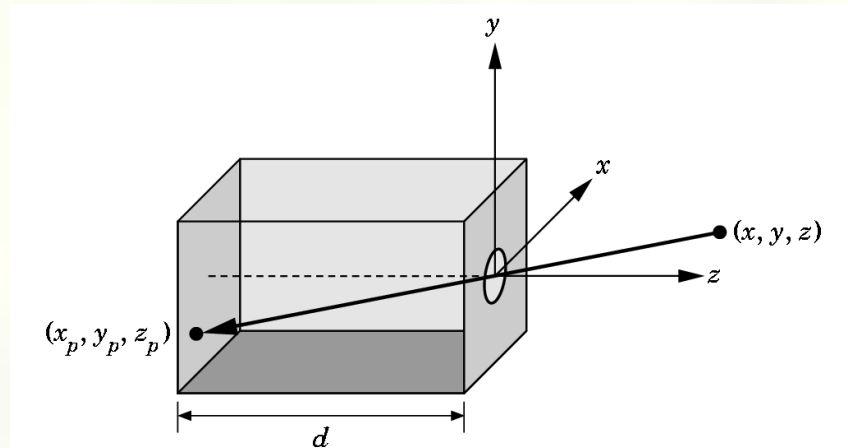


Synthetic Camera Model





Pinhole Camera



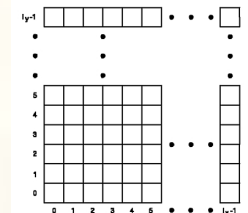
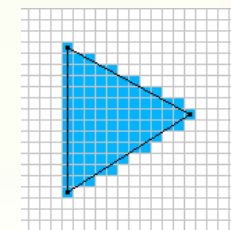
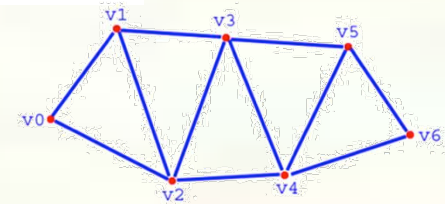
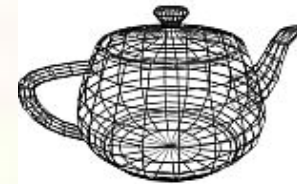
Use similar triangles to find perspective projection of point at (x,y,z)

$$x_p = -x/z/d \quad y_p = -y/z/d \quad z_p = d$$



Objects and Scenes

- Programmers want to render “objects”
 - Say a fire truck or molecule
 - Arranged relative to other objects (a scene) & then viewed
- Graphics pipeline approach—used by OpenGL and GPUs
 - Break objects into geometry batches
 - Batches may be meshes or “patches”
 - Batches reduce to polygonal primitives
 - Typically triangles
 - But also lines, points, bitmaps, or images
 - Geometric primitives are specified by vertices
 - So vertices are assembled into primitives
 - Primitives are rasterized into fragments
 - Fragments are shaded
 - Raster operations take shaded fragments and update the framebuffer





Advantages

- Separation of objects, viewer, light sources
- Two-dimensional graphics is a special case of three-dimensional graphics
- Leads to simple software API
 - Specify objects, lights, camera, attributes
 - Let implementation determine image
- Leads to fast hardware implementation



What is OpenGL?

- The OpenGL Graphics System
 - Not just for 3D graphics; imaging too
 - “GL” standard for “Graphics Library”
 - “Open” means industry standard meant for broad adoption with liberal licensing
- Standardized in 1992
 - By Silicon Graphics
 - And others: Compaq, DEC, Intel, IBM, Microsoft
 - Originally meant for Unix and Windows workstations
- Now *de facto* graphics acceleration standard
 - Now managed by the Khronos industry consortium
 - Available everywhere, from supercomputers to cell phones
 - Alternative: Direct3D provides similar functionality with a very different API for Microsoft Windows platforms



Student's View of OpenGL

- You can learn OpenGL gradually
 - Lots of its can be ignored for now
 - The “classic” API is particularly nice
 - “Deprecation” has ruined the pedagogical niceness of OpenGL; ignore deprecation
- Plenty of documentation and sample code
- Makes concrete the abstract graphics pipeline for rasterization



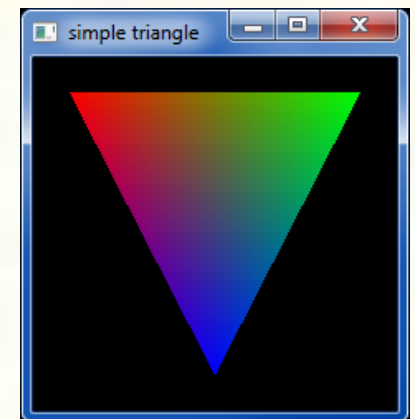
OpenGL API Example

```
glShadeModel(GL_SMOOTH); // smooth color interpolation  
glEnable(GL_DEPTH_TEST); // enable hidden surface removal
```

```
glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT|GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT);  
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES); // every 3 vertexes makes a triangle  
glColor4ub(255, 0, 0, 255); // RGBA=(1,0,0,100%)  
glVertex3f(-0.8, 0.8, 0.3); // XYZ=(-8/10,8/10,3/10)
```

```
glColor4ub(0, 255, 0, 255); // RGBA=(0,1,0,100%)  
glVertex3f( 0.8, 0.8, -0.2); // XYZ=(8/10,8/10,-2/10)
```

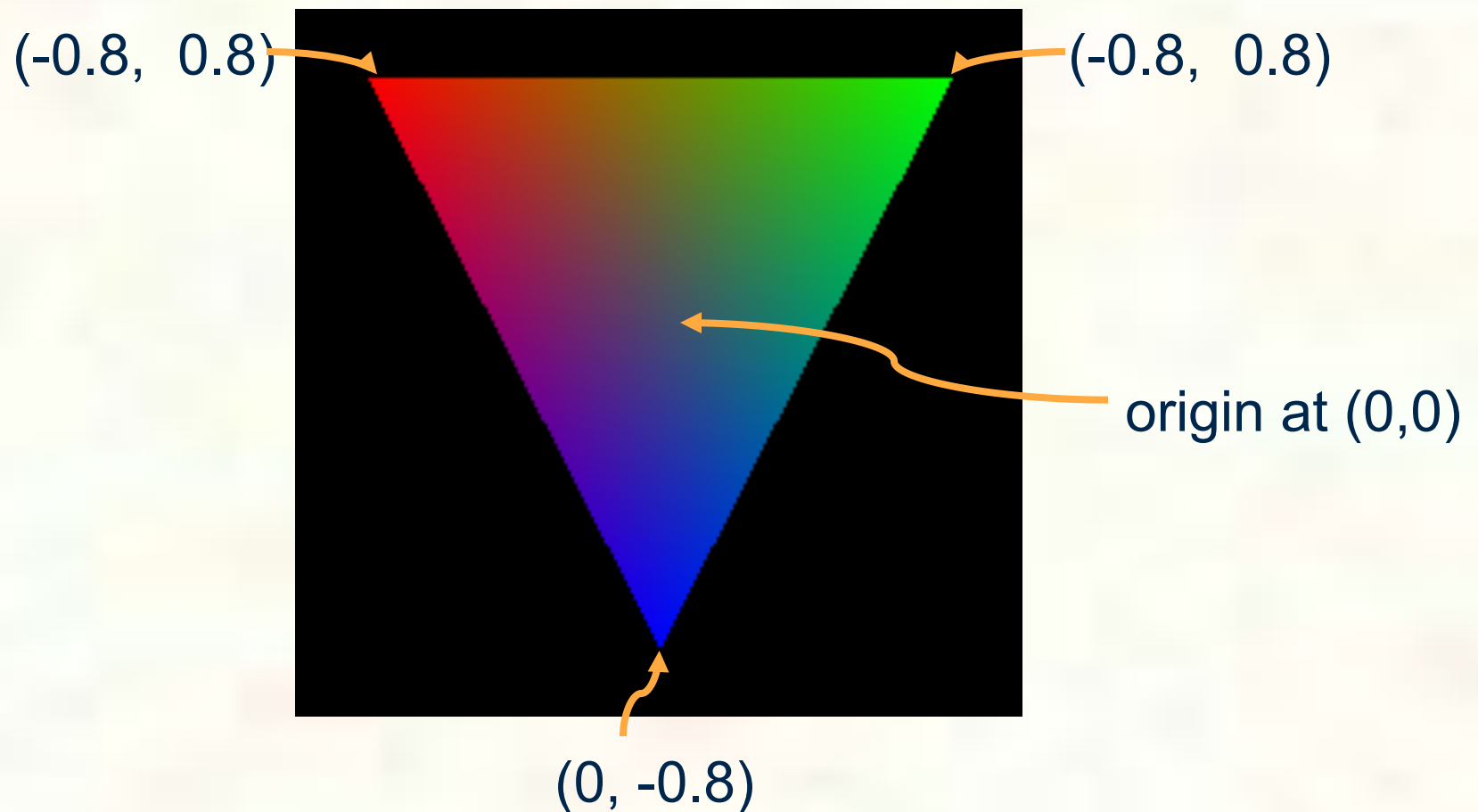
```
glColor4ub(0, 0, 255, 255); // RGBA=(0,0,1,100%)  
glVertex3f( 0.0, -0.8, -0.2); // XYZ=(0,-8/10,-2/10)  
glEnd();
```





Initial Logical Coordinate System

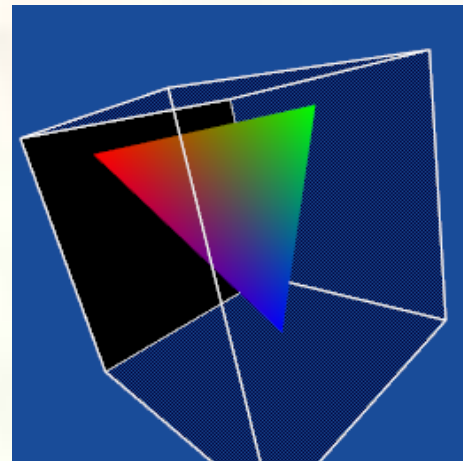
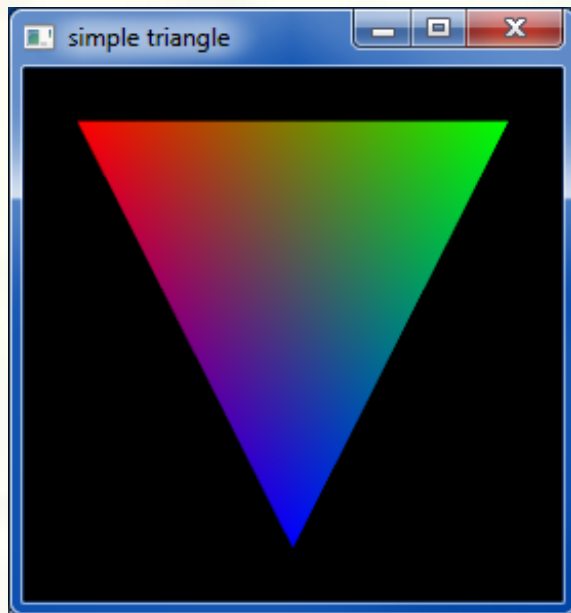
- Think of drawing into a $[-1,+1]^3$ cube



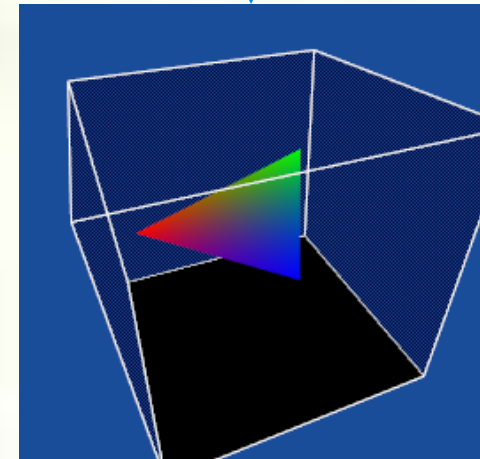


Normalized Device Coordinates

- What does this simple triangle look like with the $[-1,+1]^3$ cube's coordinate system?
 - We call this coordinate system "Normalize Device Coordinate" or NDC space



Wire frame cube shows boundaries of NDC space



From NDC views, you can see triangle isn't "flat" in the Z direction

Two vertices have Z of -0.2—third has Z of 0.3

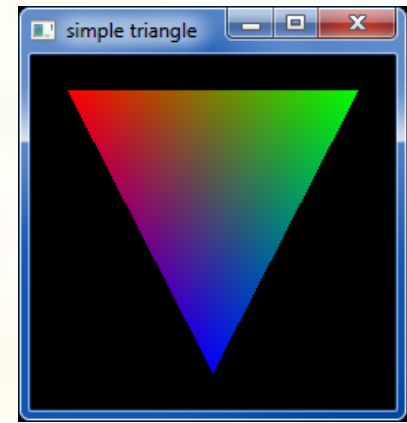


GLUT API Example

```
#include <GL/glut.h> // includes necessary OpenGL headers
```

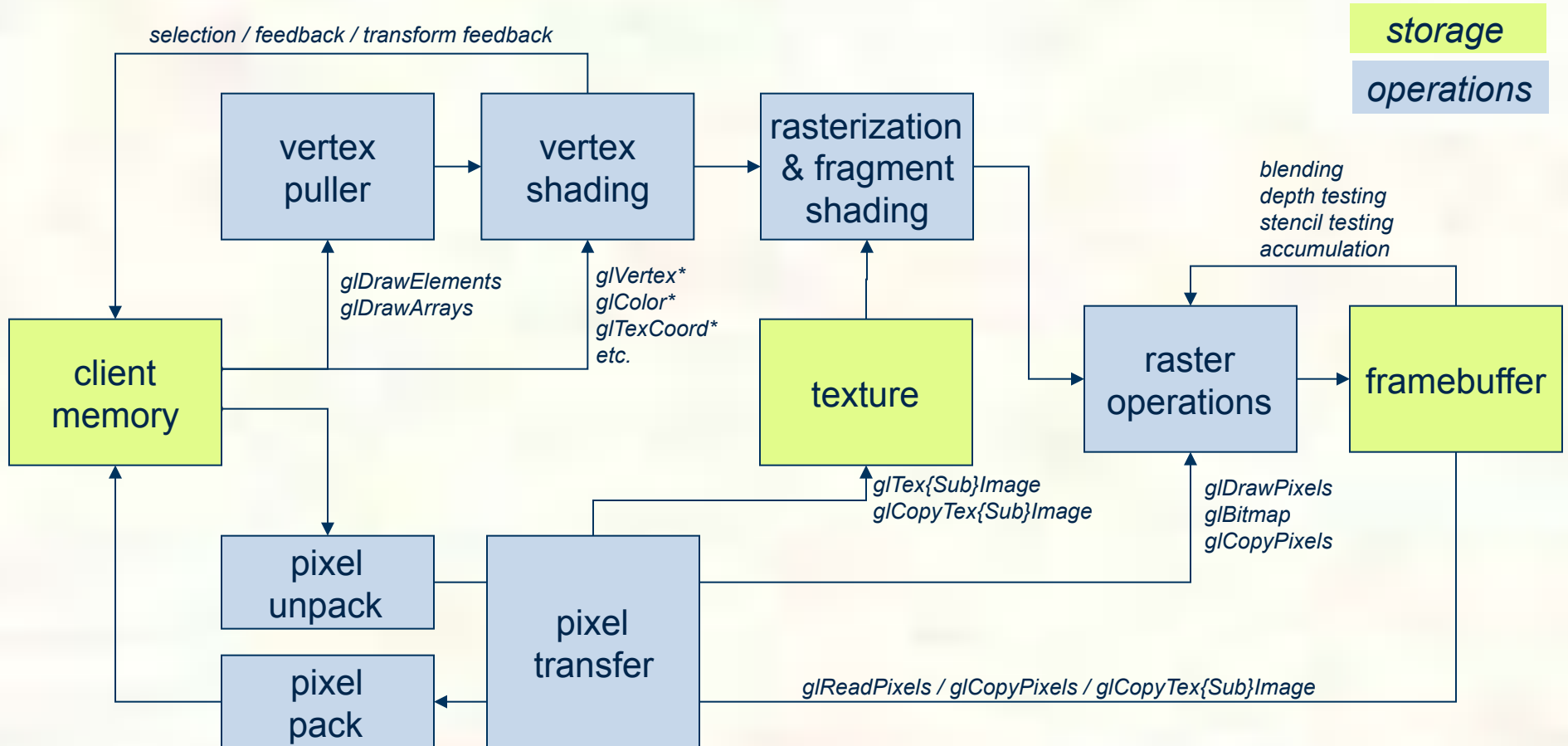
```
void display() {  
    // << insert code on prior slide here >>  
    glutSwapBuffers();  
}
```

```
void main(int argc, char **argv) {  
    // request double-buffered color window with depth buffer  
    glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_RGBA | GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_DEPTH);  
    glutInit(&argc, argv);  
    glutCreateWindow("simple triangle");  
    glutDisplayFunc(display); // function to render window  
    glutMainLoop();  
}
```



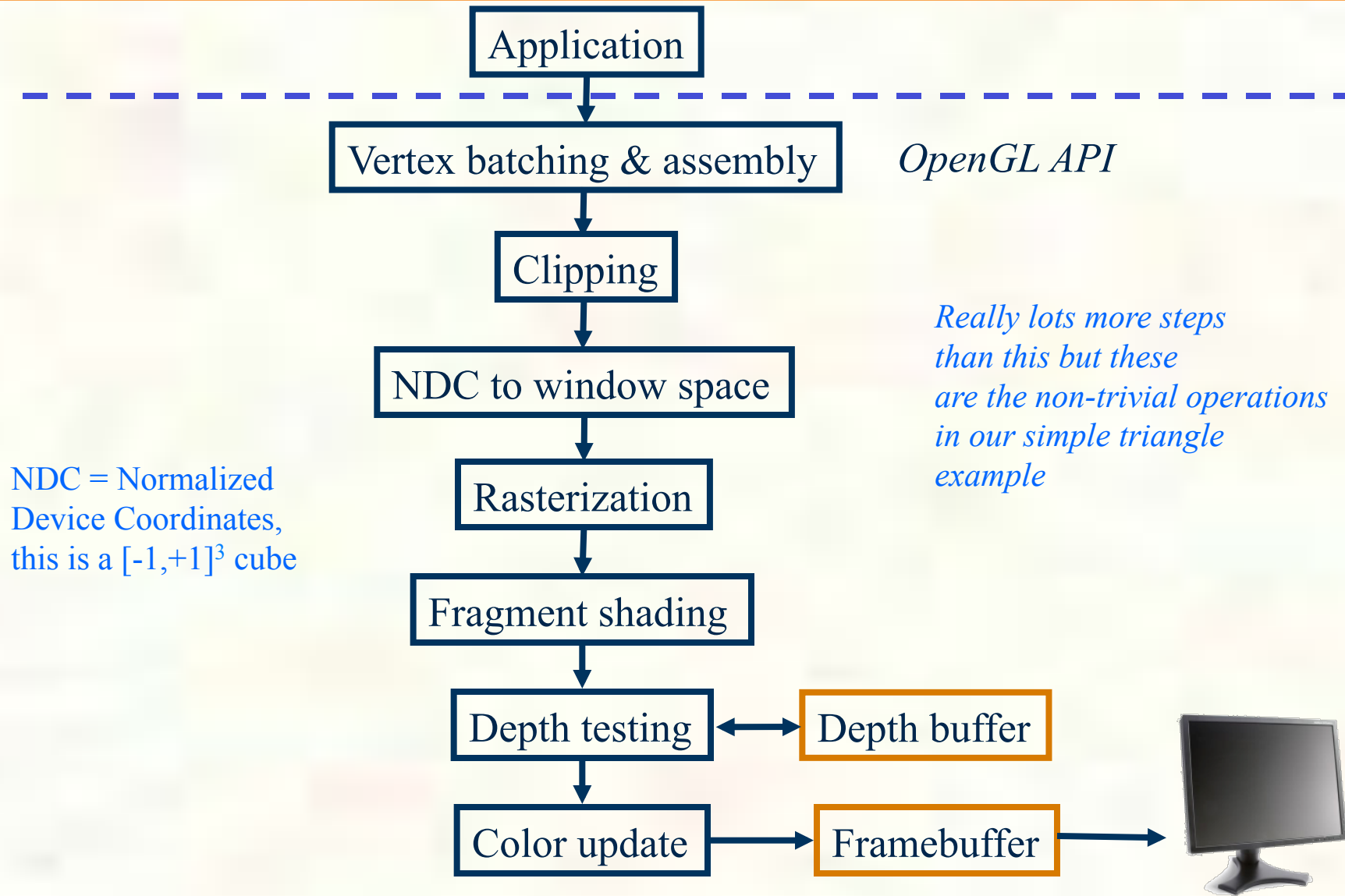


OpenGL Data Flow





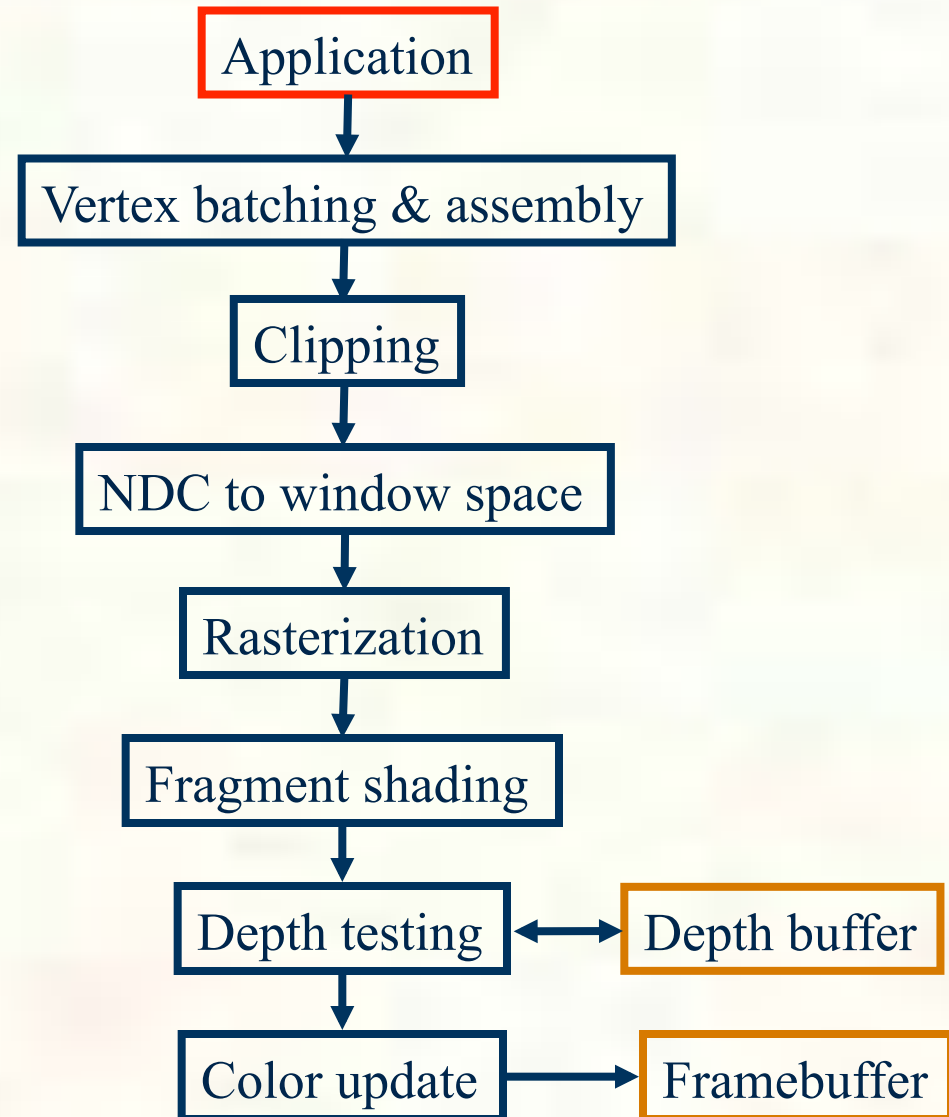
Simplified Graphics Pipeline





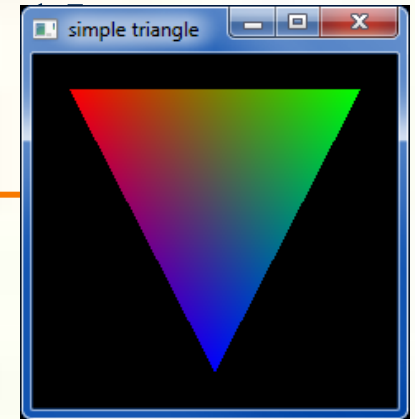
Application

- What's the app do?
 - Running on the CPU
- Initializes app process
 - Creates graphics resources such as
 - OpenGL context
 - Windows
- Handles events
 - Input events, resize windows, etc.
 - Crucial event for graphics: **Redisplay**
 - Window needs to be drawn —so do it
 - GPU gets involved at this point





App Stuff



- GLUT is doing the heavy lifting
 - Talking to Win32, Cocoa, or Xlib for you
 - Other alternatives: SDL, etc.

```
#include <GL/glut.h> // includes necessary OpenGL headers

void display() {
    // << insert code on prior slide here >>
    glutSwapBuffers();
}

void main(int argc, char **argv) {
    // request double-buffered color window with depth buffer
    glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_RGBA | GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_DEPTH);
    glutInit(&argc, argv);
    glutCreateWindow("simple triangle");
    glutDisplayFunc(display); // function to render window
    glutMainLoop();
}
```

display function is being registered as a “callback”



Rendering - the *display* Callback

```
glShadeModel(GL_SMOOTH); // smooth color interpolation
glEnable(GL_DEPTH_TEST); // enable hidden surface removal
```

} Graphics
state
setting

```
glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT|GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT);
```

} Framebuffer
buffer
clearing

```
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES); { // every 3 vertexes makes a triangle
    glColor4ub(255, 0, 0, 255); // RGBA=(1,0,0,100%)
    glVertex3f(-0.8, 0.8, 0.3); // XYZ=(-8/10,8/10,3/10)

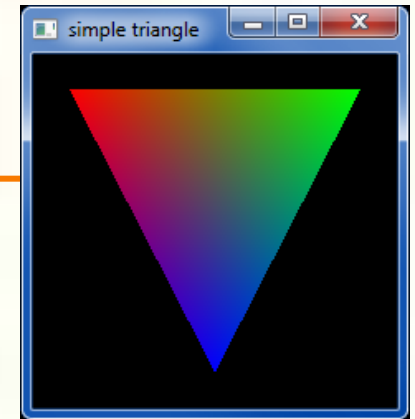
    glColor4ub(0, 255, 0, 255); // RGBA=(0,1,0,100%)
    glVertex3f(0.8, 0.8, -0.2); // XYZ=(8/10,8/10,-2/10)

    glColor4ub(0, 0, 255, 255); // RGBA=(0,0,1,100%)
    glVertex3f(0.0, -0.8, -0.2); // XYZ=(0,-8/10,-2/10)
} glEnd();
```

} Triangle
rendering



Graphics State Setting



■ Within the draw routine

```
glShadeModel(GL_SMOOTH); // smooth color interpolation
glEnable(GL_DEPTH_TEST); // enable hidden surface removal

glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT|GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT);
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES); { // every 3 vertexes makes a triangle
    glColor4ub(255, 0, 0, 255); // RGBA=(1,0,0,100%)
    glVertex3f(-0.8, 0.8, 0.3); // XYZ=(-8/10,8/10,3/10)

    glColor4ub(0, 255, 0, 255); // RGBA=(0,1,0,100%)
    glVertex3f( 0.8, 0.8, -0.2); // XYZ=(8/10,8/10,-2/10)

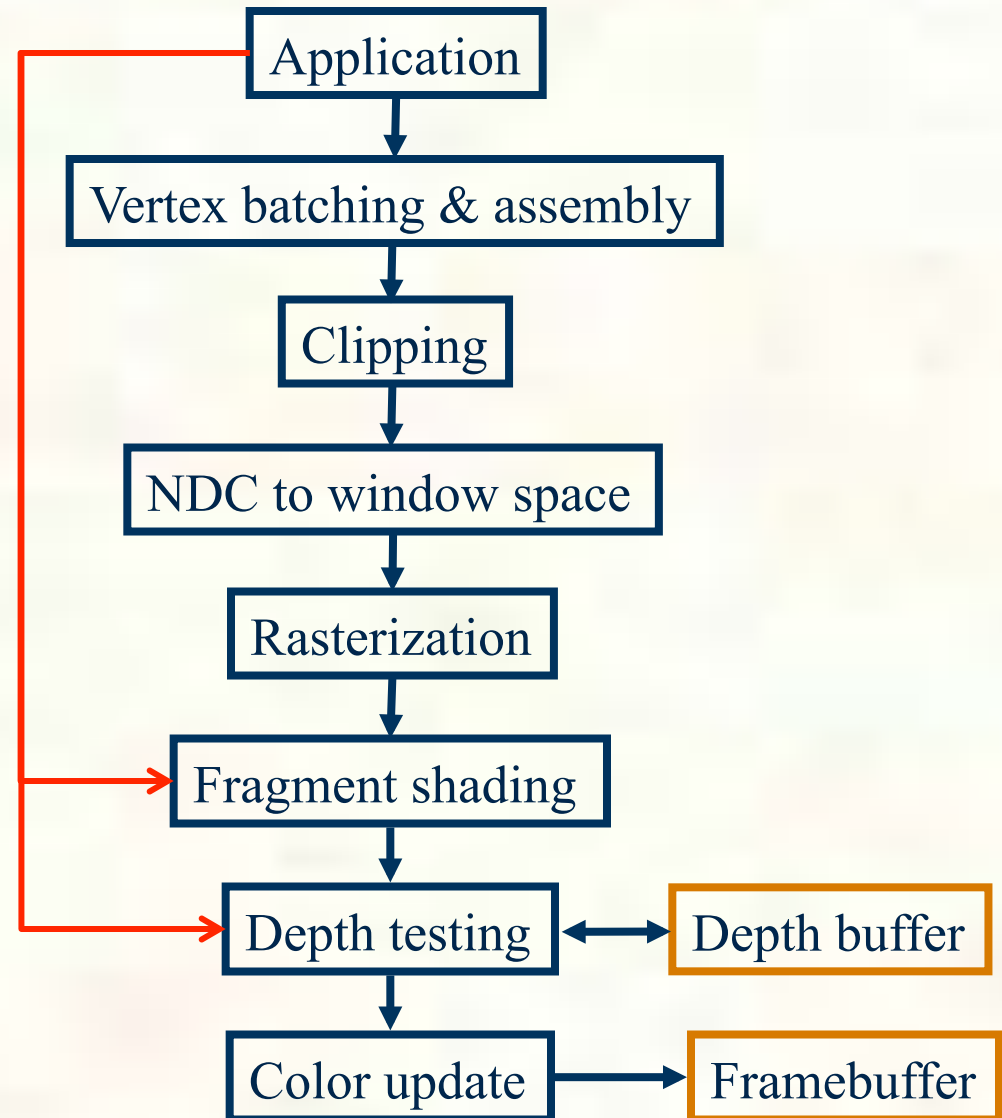
    glColor4ub(0, 0, 255, 255); // RGBA=(0,0,1,100%)
    glVertex3f( 0.0, -0.8, -0.2); // XYZ=(0,-8/10,-2/10)
} glEnd();
```

graphics context state is “stateful” (sticky) so technically doesn’t need to be done every time display is called



State Updates

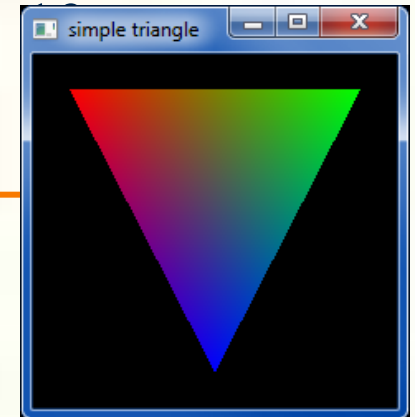
- ShadeModel(SMOOTH) requests smooth color interpolation
 - changes fragment shading state
 - alternative is “flat shading”
- Enable(DEPTH_TEST) enables depth buffer-based hidden surface removal algorithm
- State updates happen in command sequence order
- In fact, all OpenGL commands are in a stream that must complete in order





Clearing the buffers

- Within the draw routine



```
glShadeModel(GL_SMOOTH); // smooth color interpolation
glEnable(GL_DEPTH_TEST); // enable hidden surface removal

glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT|GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT);

glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES); // every 3 vertexes makes a triangle
    glColor4ub(255, 0, 0, 255); // RGBA=(1,0,0,100%)
    glVertex3f(-0.8, 0.8, 0.3); // XYZ=(-8/10,8/10,3/10)

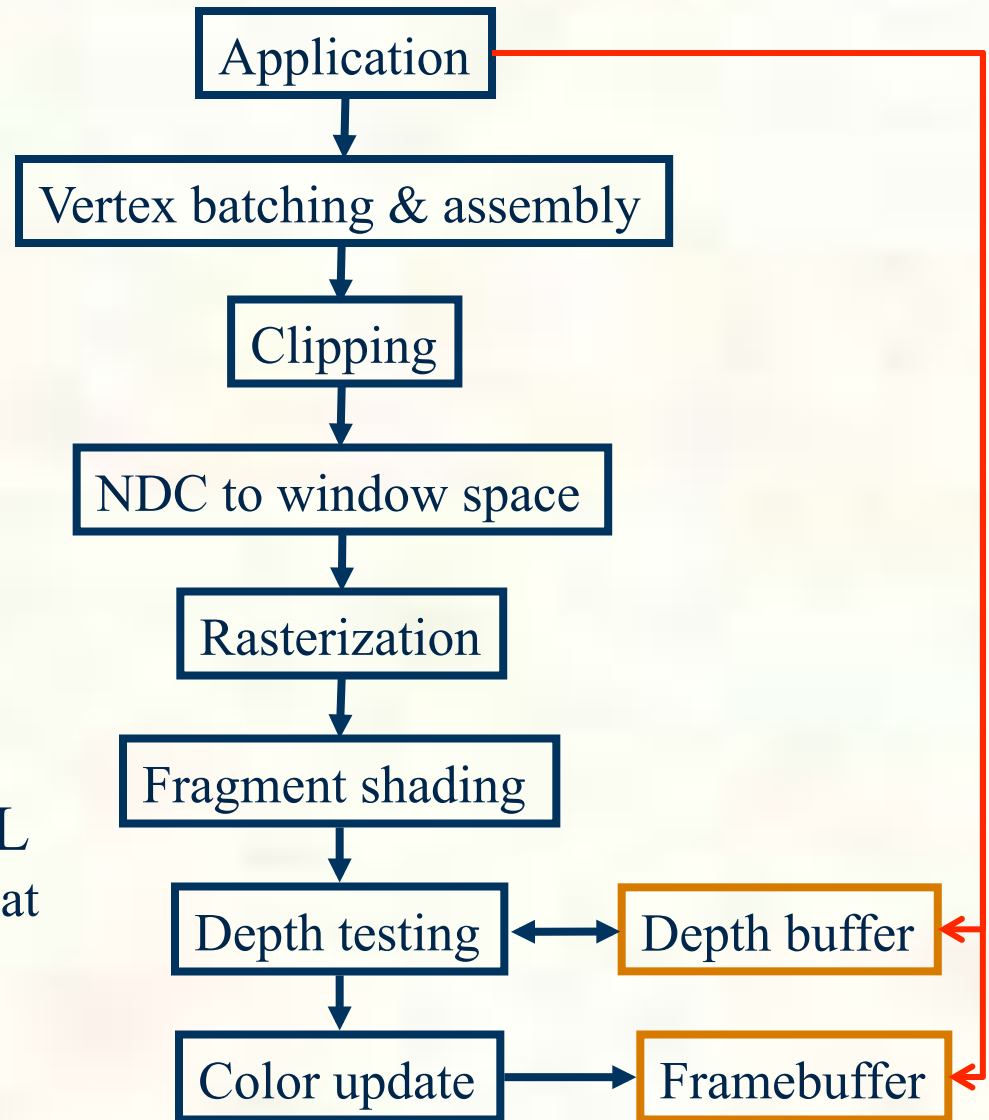
    glColor4ub(0, 255, 0, 255); // RGBA=(0,1,0,100%)
    glVertex3f( 0.8, 0.8, -0.2); // XYZ=(8/10,8/10,-2/10)

    glColor4ub(0, 0, 255, 255); // RGBA=(0,0,1,100%)
    glVertex3f( 0.0, -0.8, -0.2); // XYZ=(0,-8/10,-2/10)
glEnd();
```



Buffer Clearing

- New frame needs to reset entire color buffer to “background” or “clear” color
 - Avoids having remnants of prior frame persist
 - Needed if can't guarantee every pixel is touched every frame
- Depth buffer needs to be cleared to “farthest value”
 - More about depth buffering later
- Special operation in OpenGL
 - Hardware wants clears to run at memory-saturating speeds
 - Still in-band with command stream





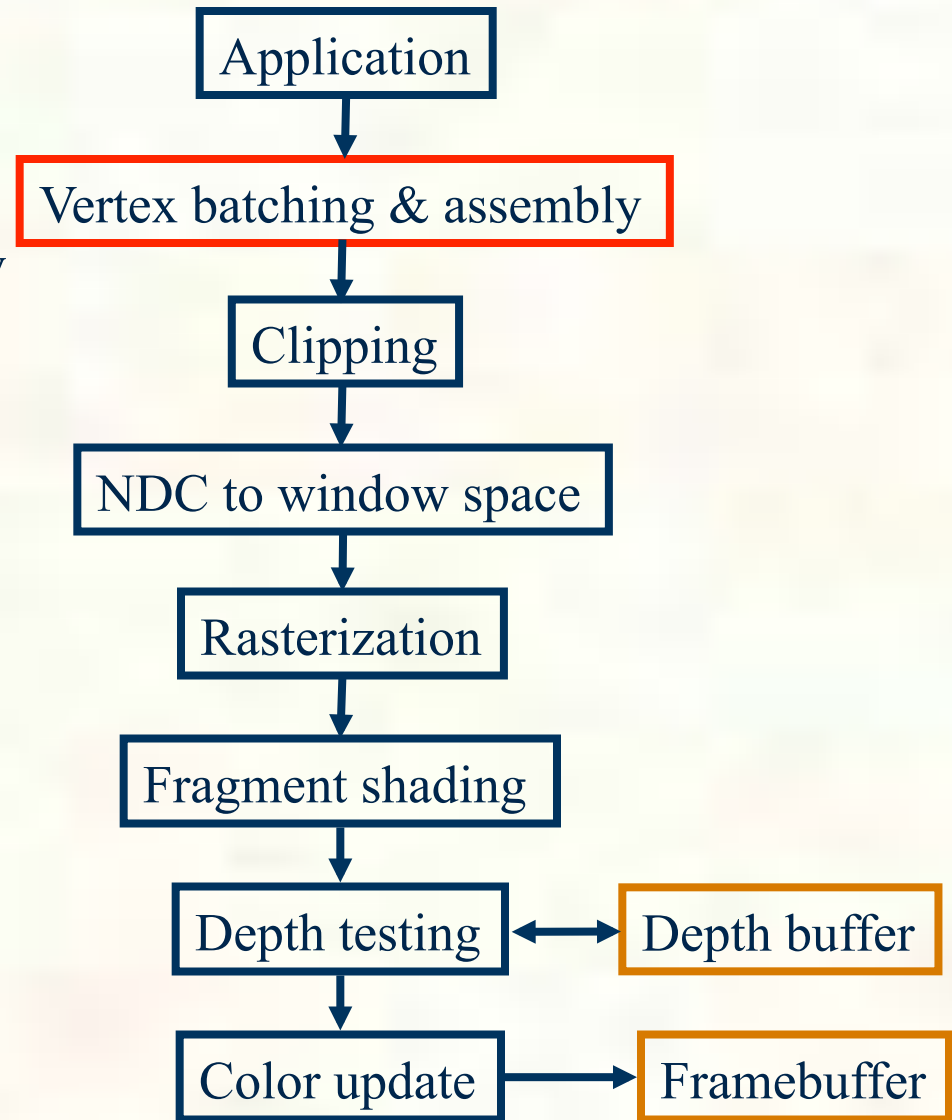
Clear Values and Operations

- OpenGL commands to set clear values
 - `glClearColor` for RGBA color buffers
 - **Example:** `glClearColor(0,0,0,1);`
 - Clear to black with 100% opacity
 - Initial clear value is (0,0,0,0) so black with 0% opacity
 - `glClearDepth` for depth buffers
 - **Example:** `glClearDepth(1.0);`
 - Clear to farthest depth value, for [0,1] range
 - Initial depth clear value is 1.0 so farthest depth value
 - Neither commands does the actual clear operation...
- That's done by `glClear(mask)`
 - Mask parameter indicates buffers to clear
 - `GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT`, `GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT`
 - Bitwise-OR (`|`) them together
 - Also `GL_STENCIL_BUFFER_BIT`, `GL_ACCUM_BUFFER_BIT`
 - Allows multiple buffers (e.g. depth & color) to be cleared in single operation, possibly in parallel



Batching and Assembling Vertices

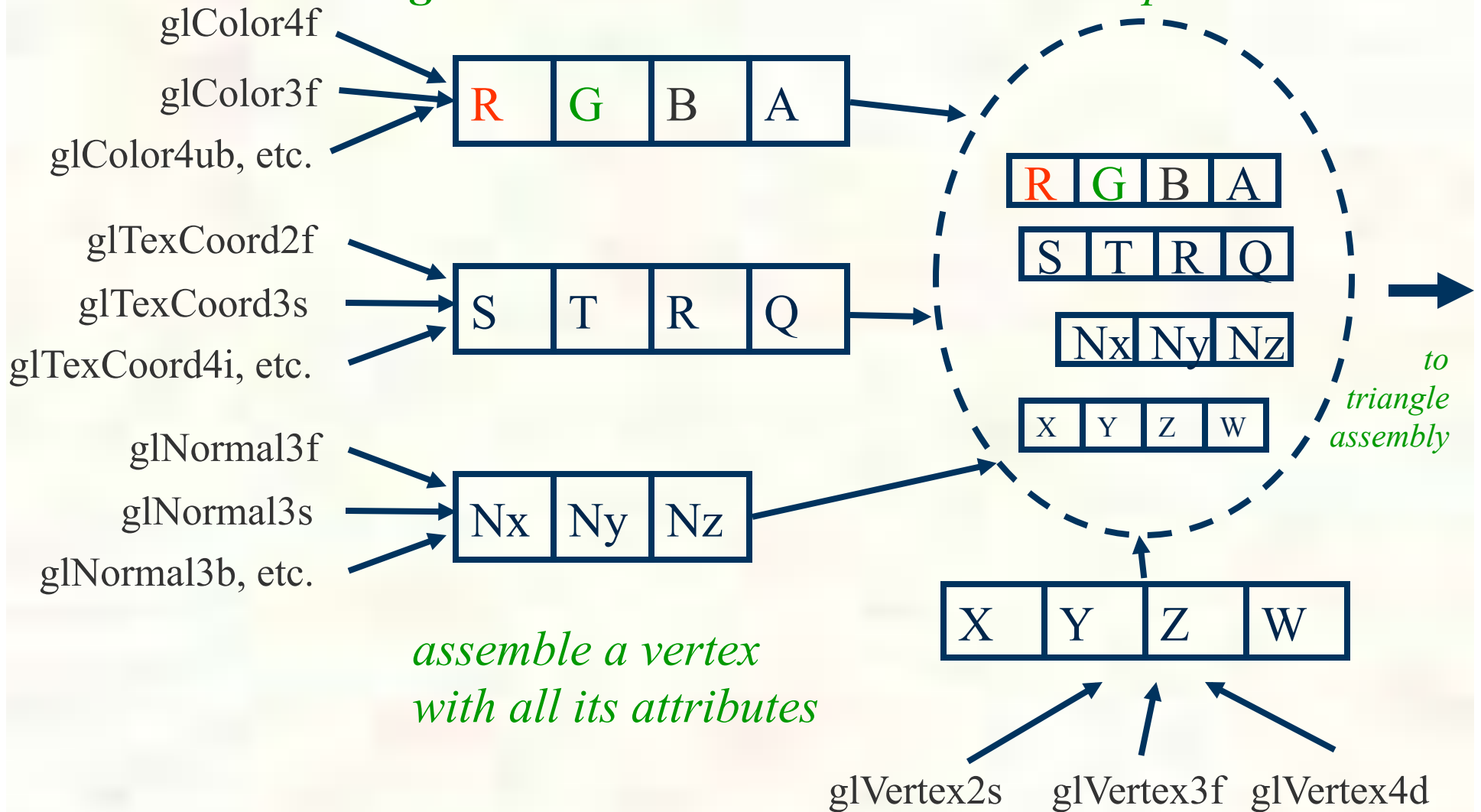
- glBegin and glEnd designate a batch of primitives
 - Begin mode of GL_TRIANGLES means every 3 vertices = triangle
- Various vertex attributes
 - Position attribute sent with glVertex* commands
 - Also colors, texture coordinates, normals, etc.
- glVertex* assembles a vertex and puts it into the primitive batch
 - Other vertex attribute commands such as glColor* have their attributes “latched” when glVertex* assembles a vertex





Assembling a Vertex

glVertex command assembles a complete vertex*





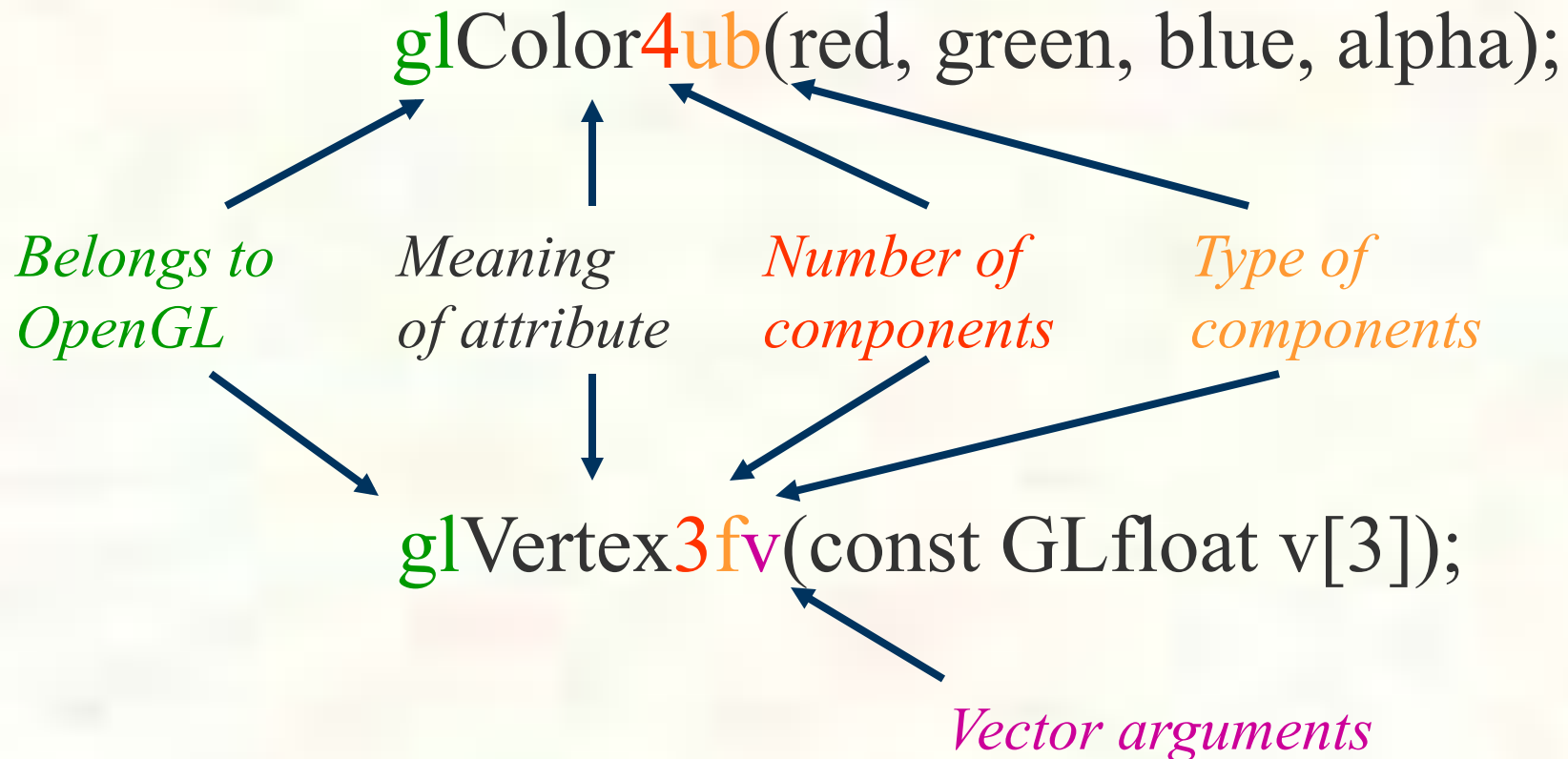
Vertex Attribute Commands

- OpenGL vertex attribute commands follow a regular pattern
 - gl-prefix :: common to all OpenGL API calls
 - Vertex, Normal, TexCoord, Color, SecondaryColor, FogCoord, VertexAttrib, etc.
 - Name the semantic meaning of the attribute
 - VertexAttrib is for generic attributes
 - Used by vertex shaders where the shader determines “meaning” of attributes
 - Attribute zero & Vertex are “special”—they latch the assembly of a vertex
 - 1, 2, 3, 4 :: Number of components for the attribute
 - For an attribute with more components than the number, sensible defaults apply
 - For example, 3 for Color means Red, Green, Blue & Alpha assumed 1.0
 - f, i, s, b, d, ub, us, ui
 - Type of components: float, integer, short, byte, double, unsigned byte, unsigned short, unsigned integer
 - v :: means parameters are passed by a pointer
 - Instead of immediate values



Example

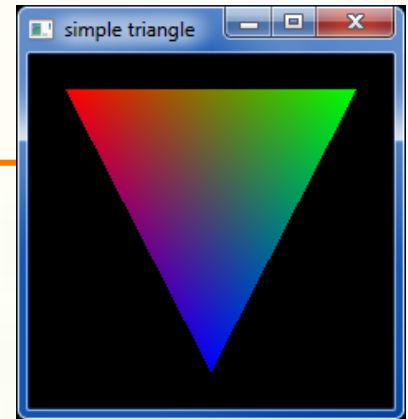
- Consider glColor4ub and glVertex3fv





Assemble a Triangle

■ Within the draw routine



```
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES);
```

```
    glColor4ub(255, 0, 0, 255);  
    glVertex3f(-0.8, 0.8, 0.3);
```

} First
vertex

```
    glColor4ub(0, 255, 0, 255);  
    glVertex3f( 0.8, 0.8, -0.2);
```

} Second
vertex

```
    glColor4ub(0, 0, 255, 255);  
    glVertex3f( 0.0, -0.8, -0.2);
```

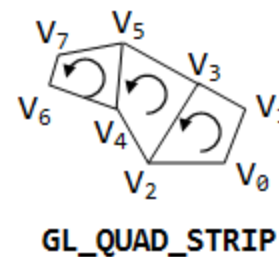
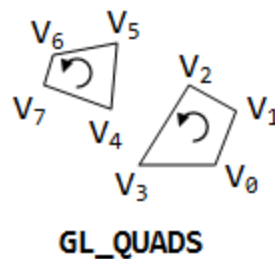
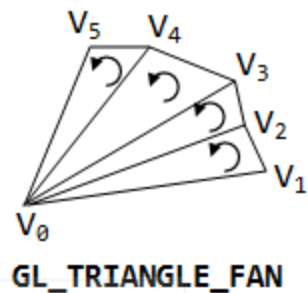
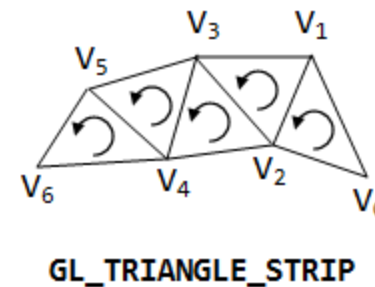
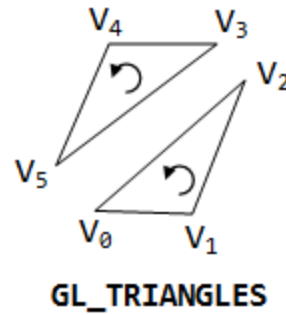
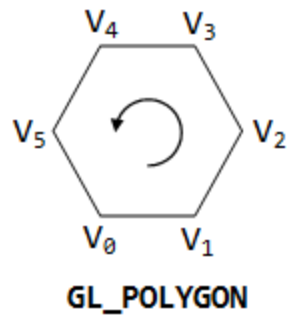
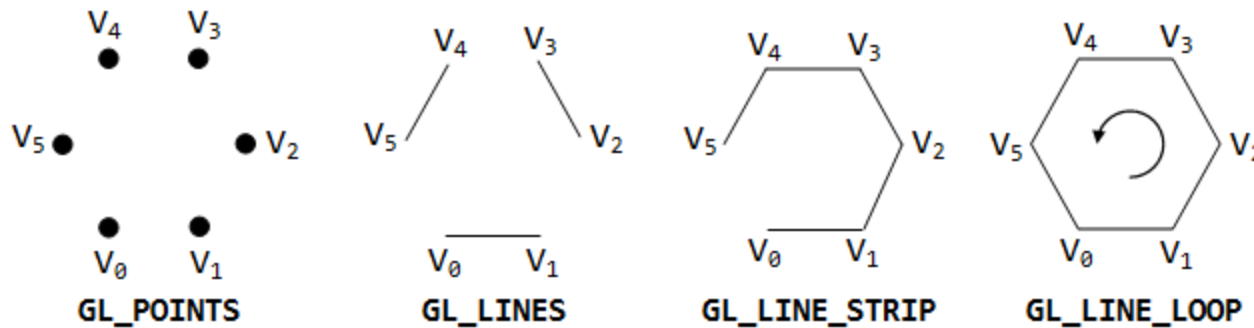
} Third
vertex

} First
triangle

```
glEnd();
```



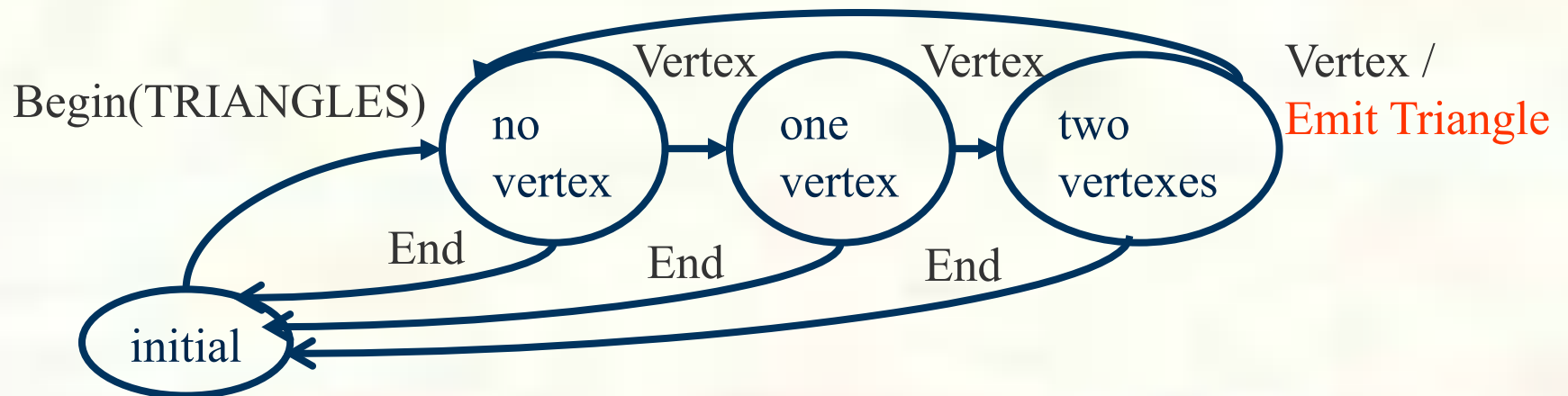
glBegin Primitive Batch Types





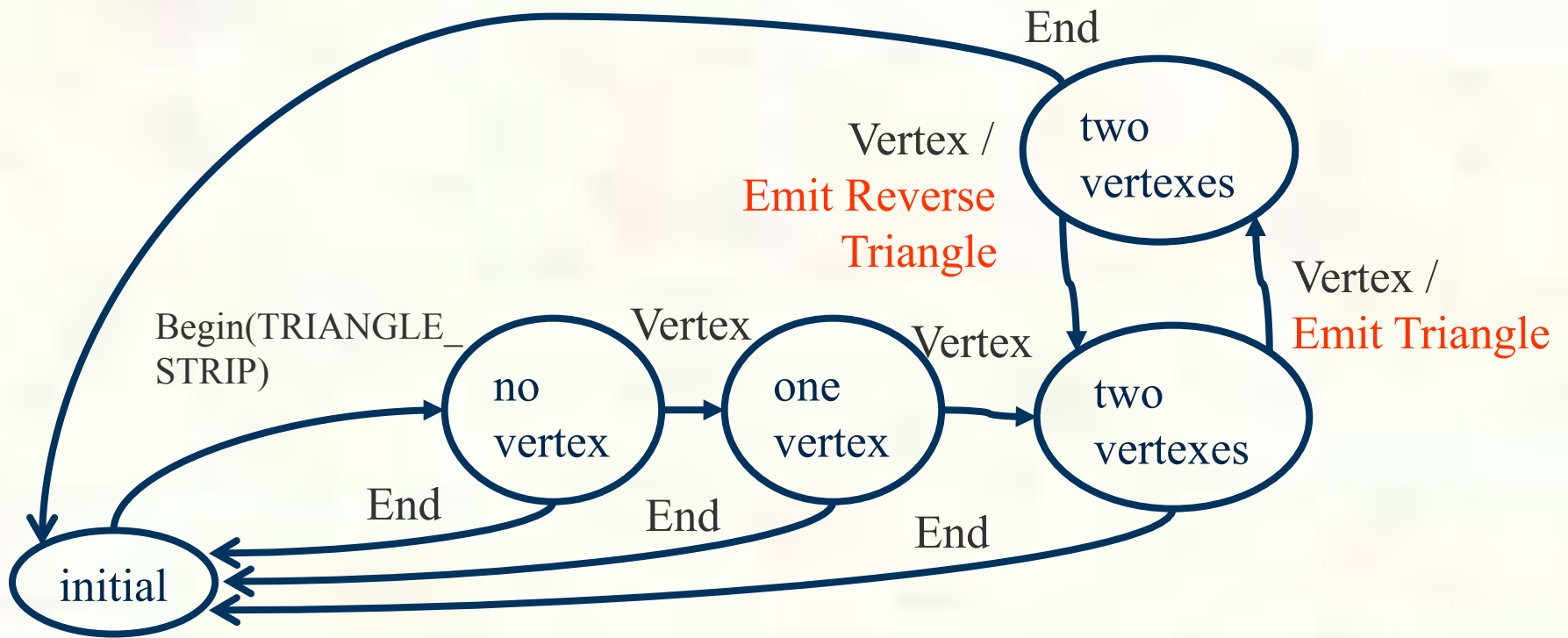
Assembly State Machines

- Fixed-function hardware performs primitive assembly
 - Based on glBegin's mode
- State machine for GL_TRIANGLES



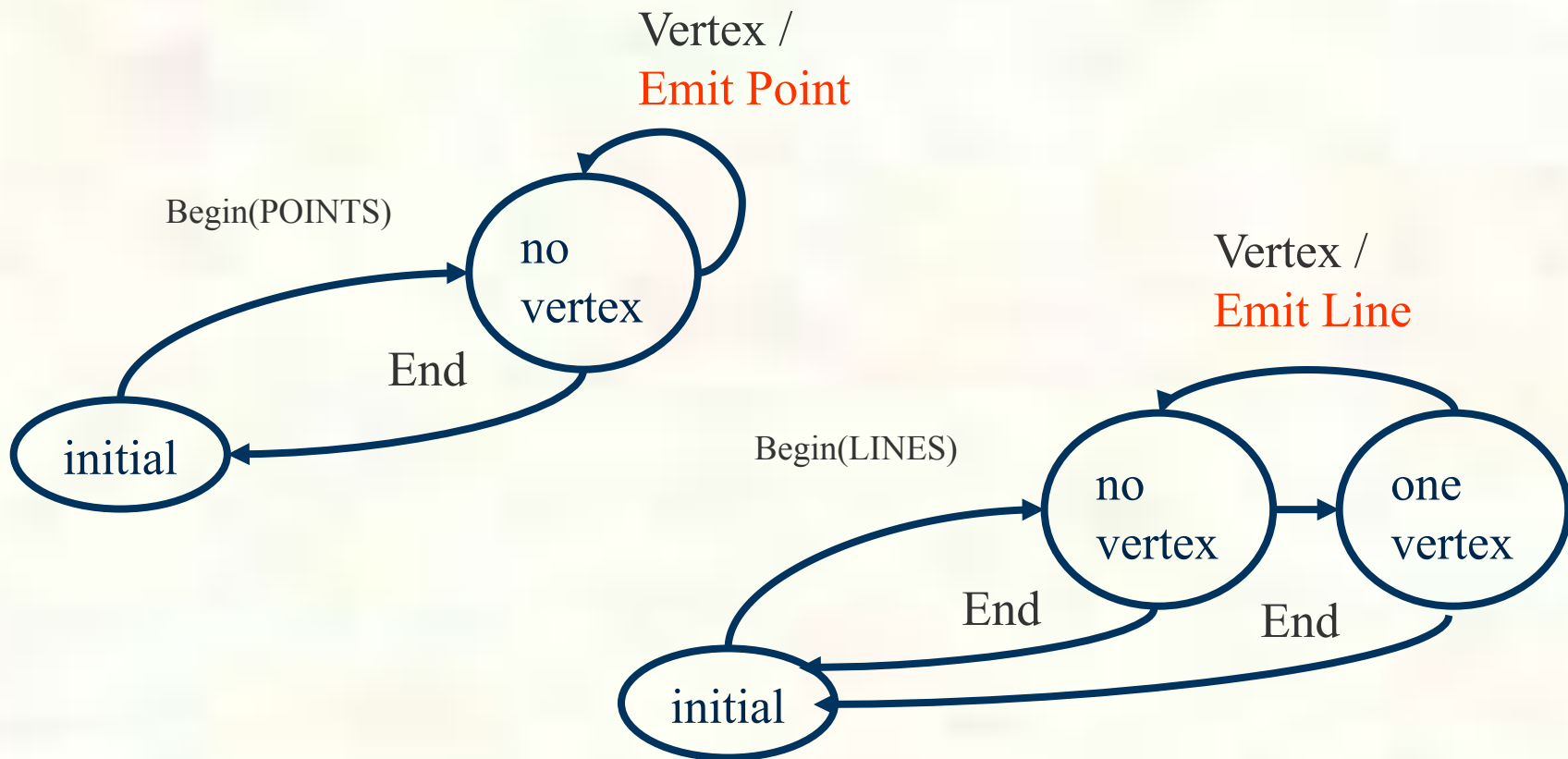


GL_TRIANGLE_STRIP





GL_POINTS and GL_LINES

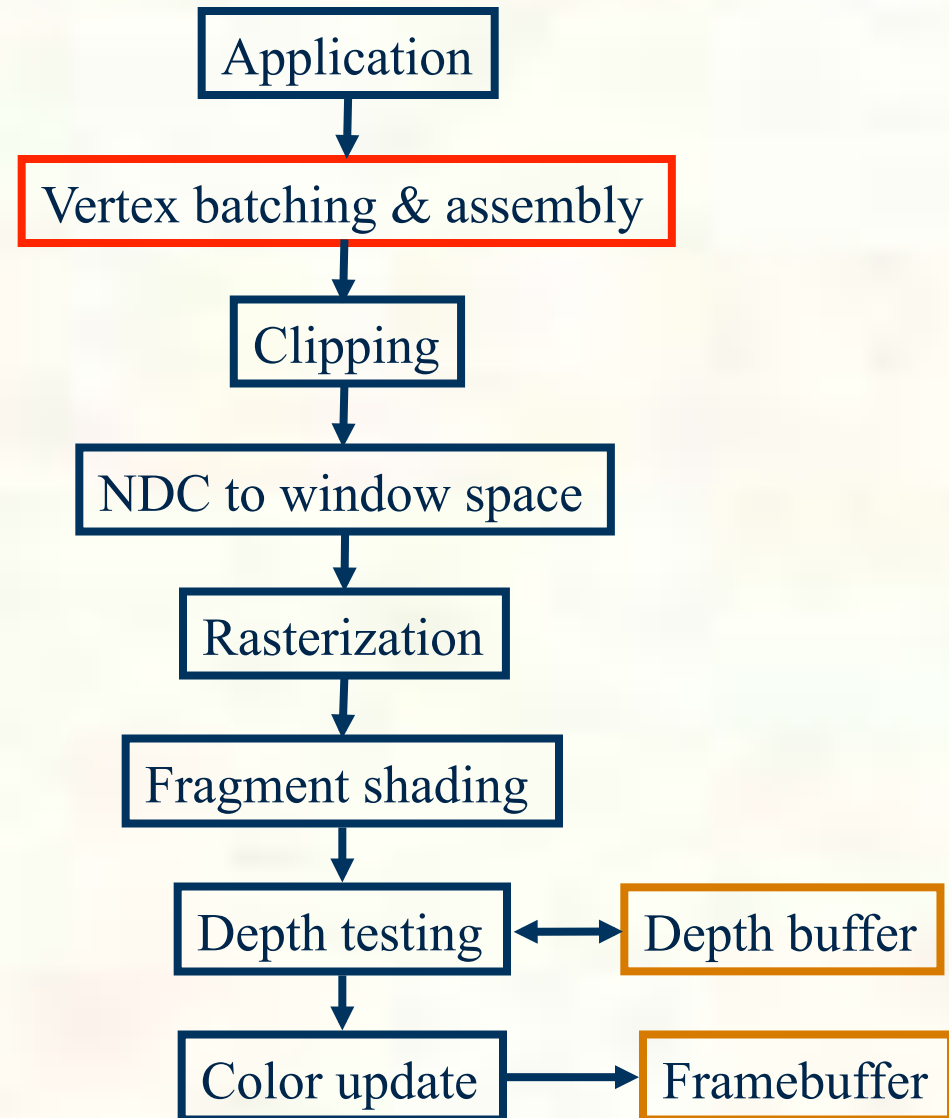


Actual hardware state machine handles all OpenGL begin modes, so rather complex



Triangle Assembly

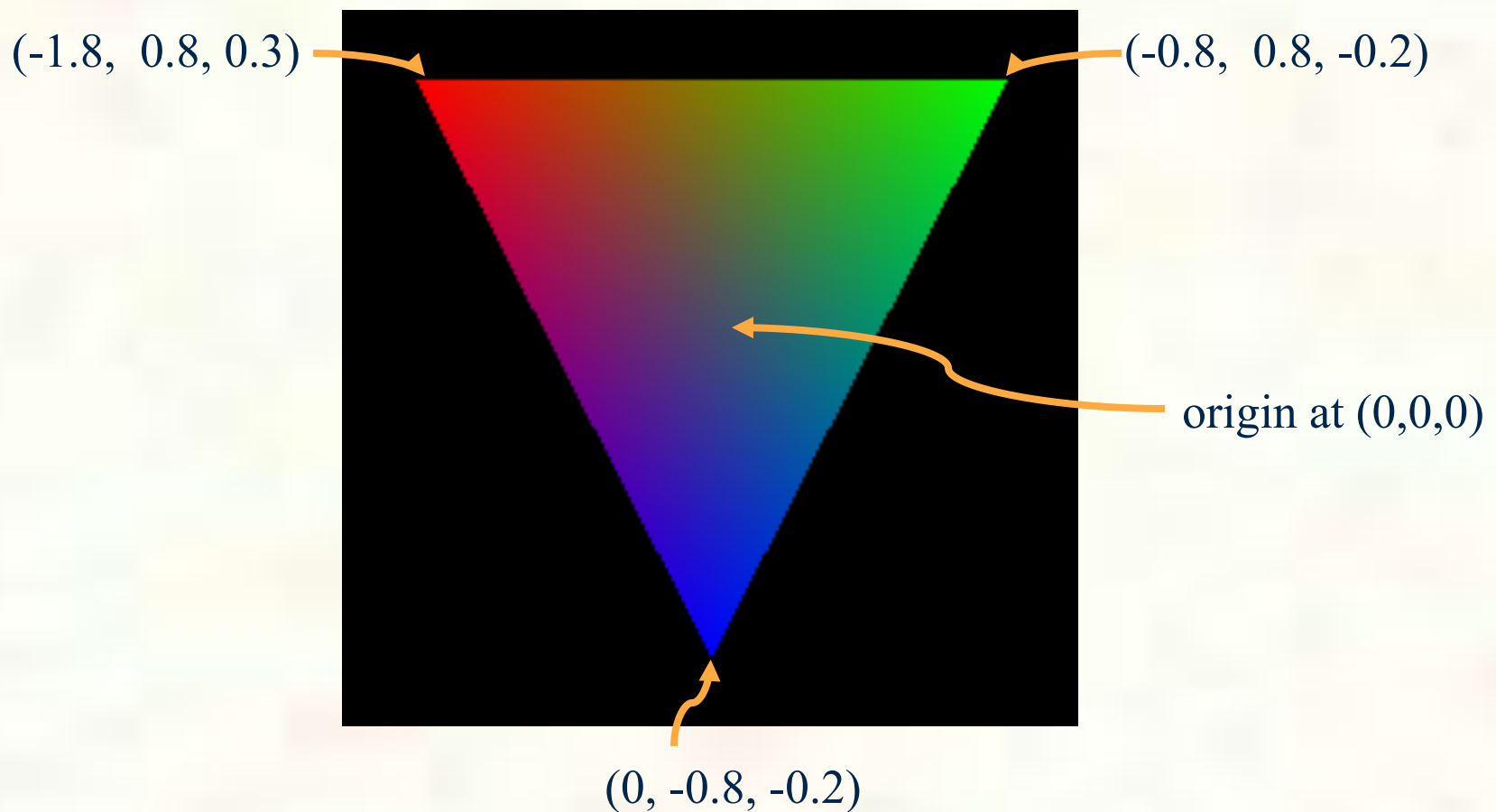
- Now we have a triangle assembled
- Later, we'll generalize how the vertex positions get transformed
 - And other attributes might be processed too
- For now, just assume the XYZ position passed to `glVertex3f` position is in NDC space





Our Newly Assembled Triangle

- Think of drawing into a $[-1,+1]^3$ cube

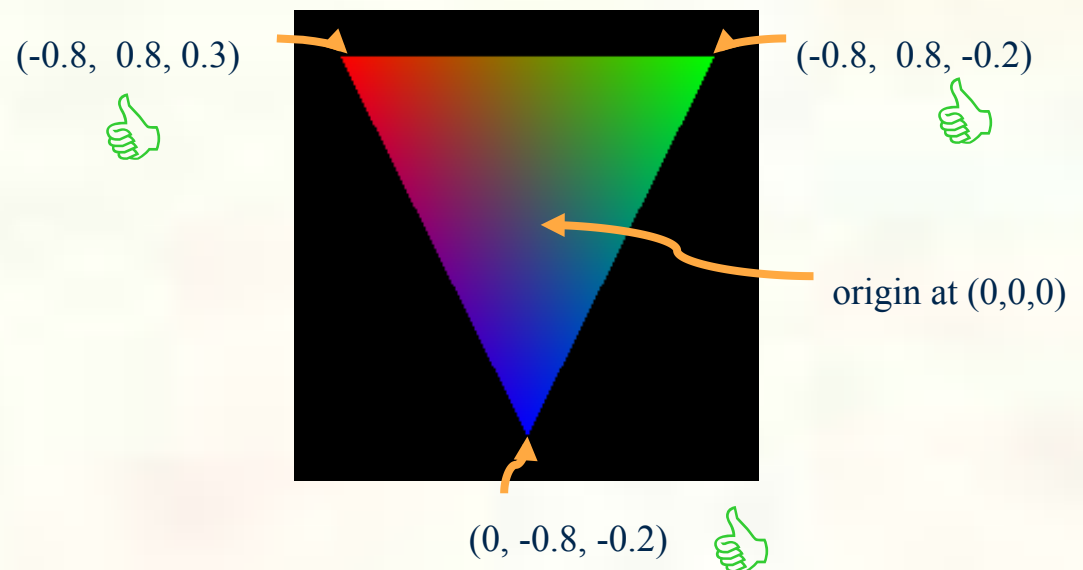




Clipping

- What if any portion of our triangle extended beyond the NDC range of the $[-1,+1]^3$ cube?
 - Only regions of the triangle $[-1,+1]^3$ cube should be rasterized!
- No clipping for our simple triangle
 - This situation is known as “trivial accept”
 - Because all 3 vertices in the $[-1,+1]^3$ cube

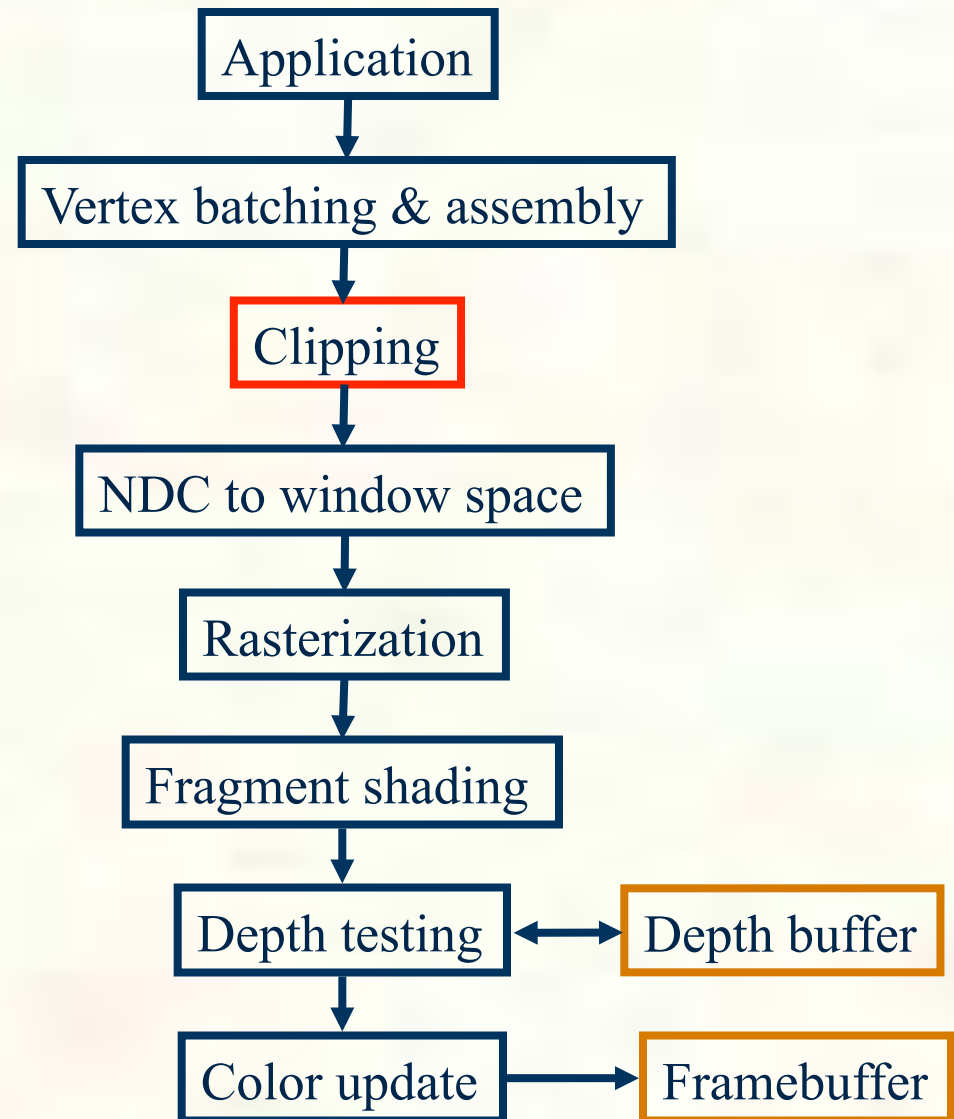
Triangles are convex, so entire triangle must also be in the cube if the vertexes are





Triangle Clipping

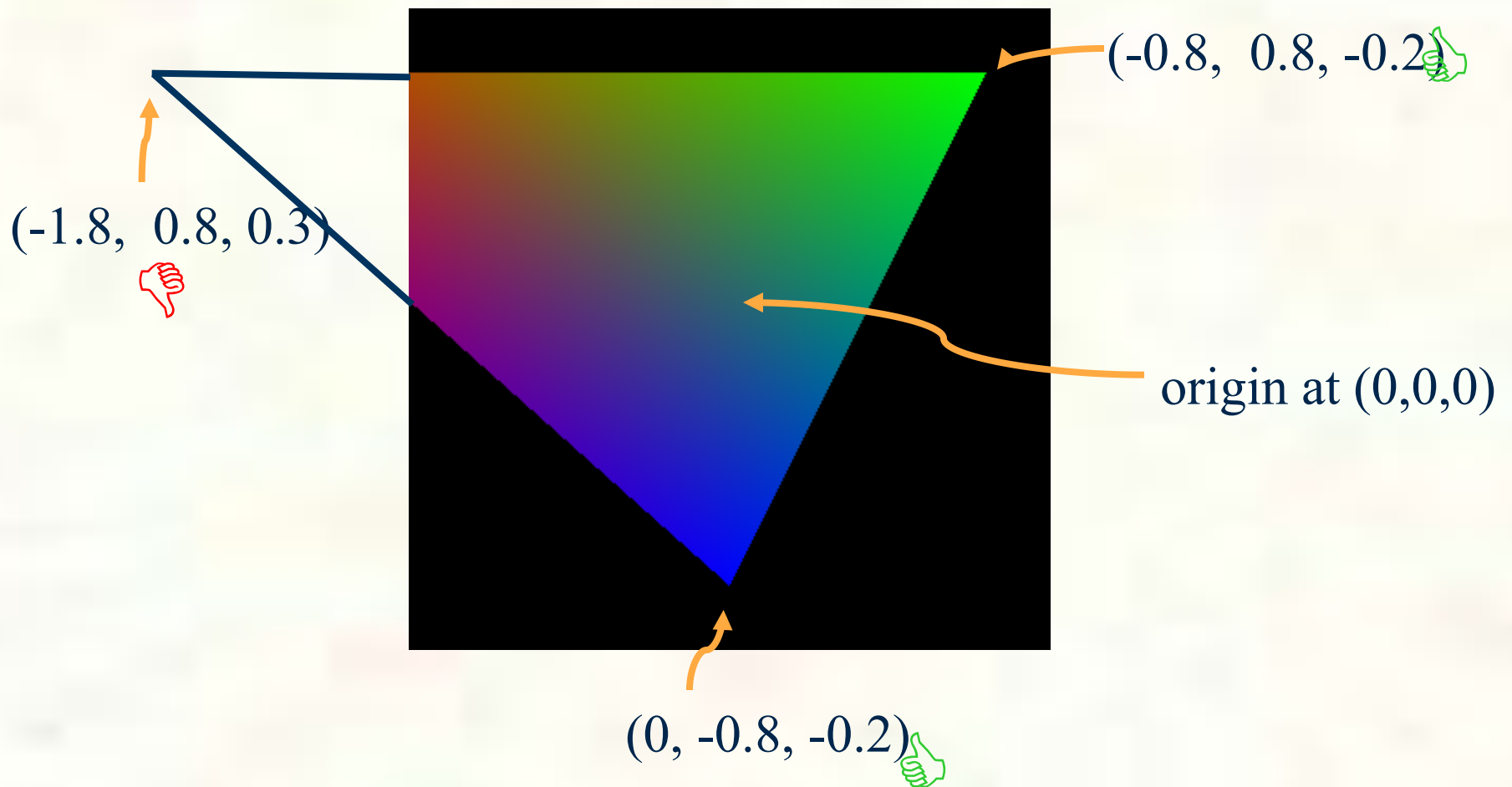
- Triangles can straddle the NDC cube
 - Happens with lines too
- In this case, we must “clip” the triangle to the NDC cube
 - This is an involved process but one that must be done





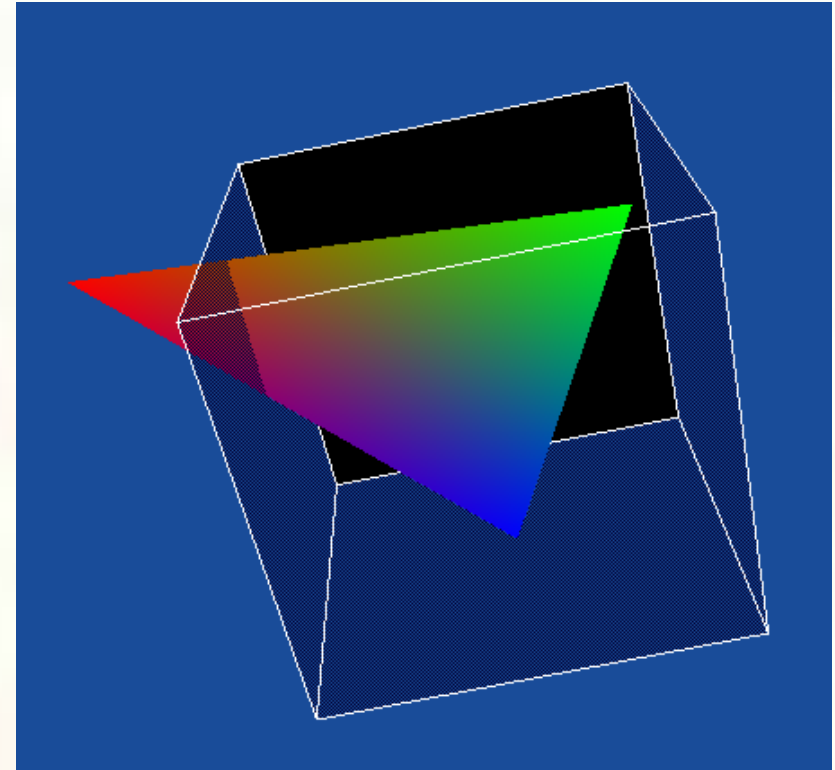
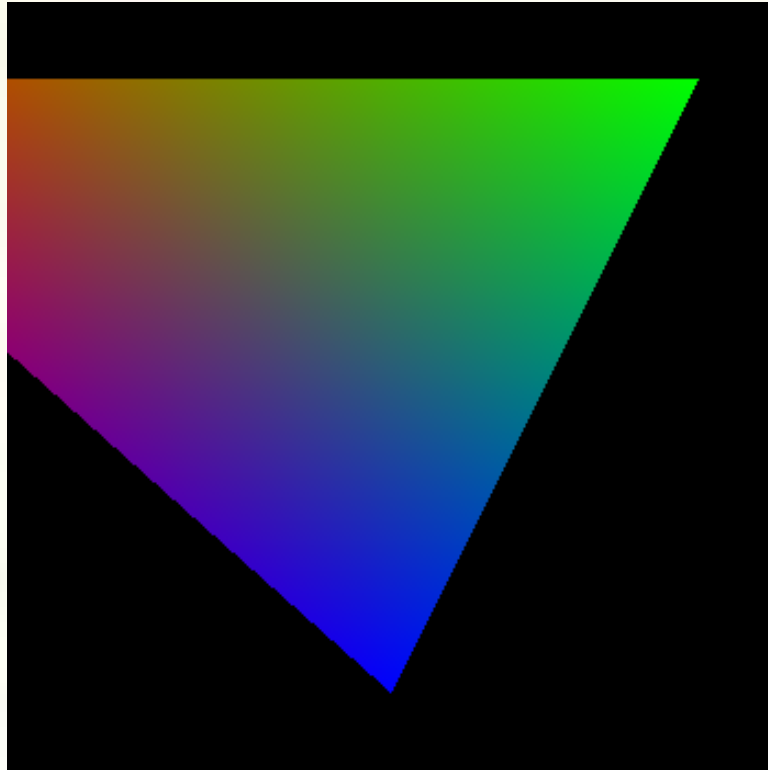
Consider a Different Triangle

- Move left vertex so it's $X = -1.8$
 - Result is a clipped triangle





Clipped Triangle Visualized



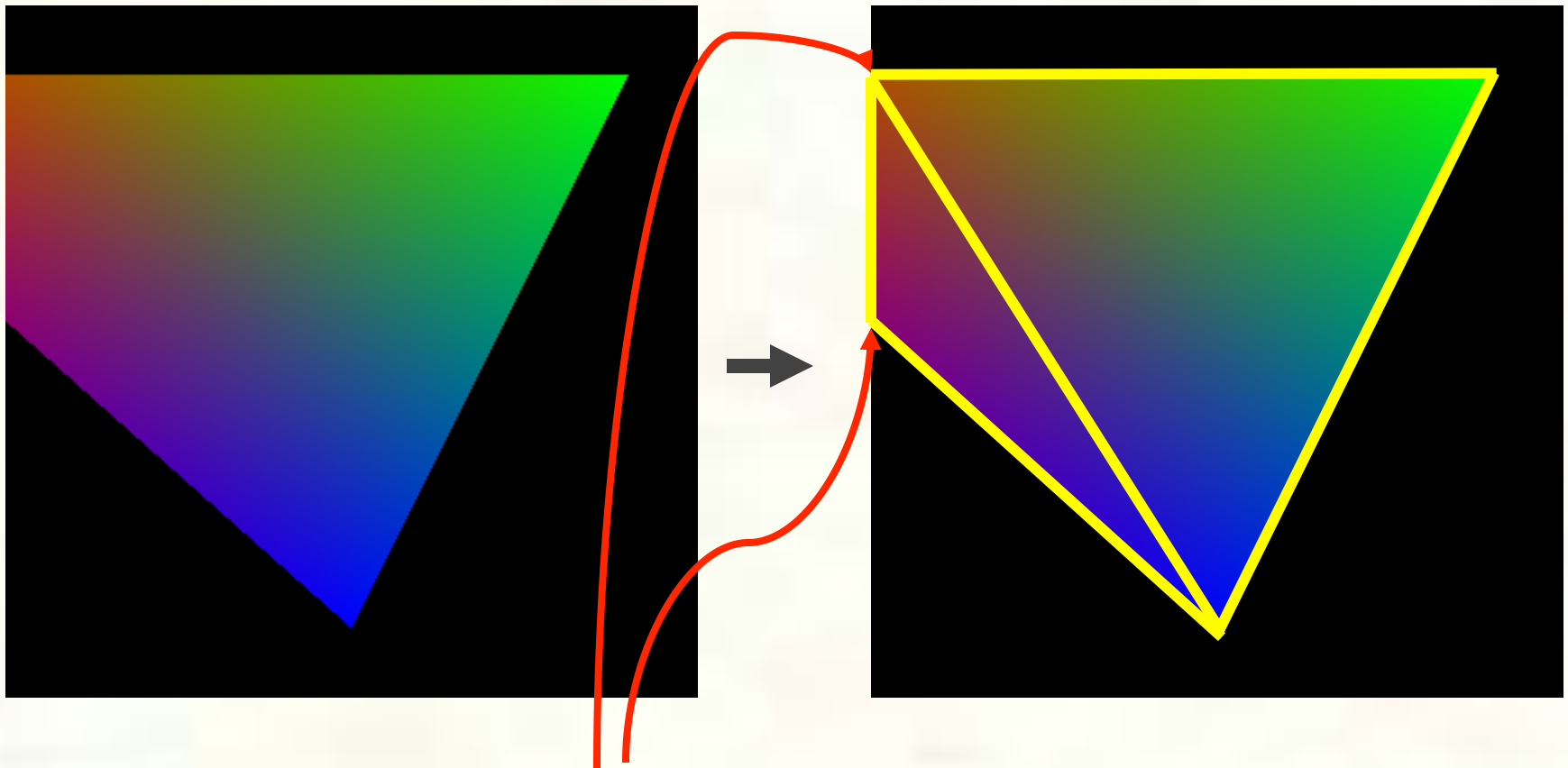
Clipped and Rasterized Normally

Visualization of NDC space

*Notice triangle is “poking out” of the cube;
this is the reason that should be clipped*



New triangles out

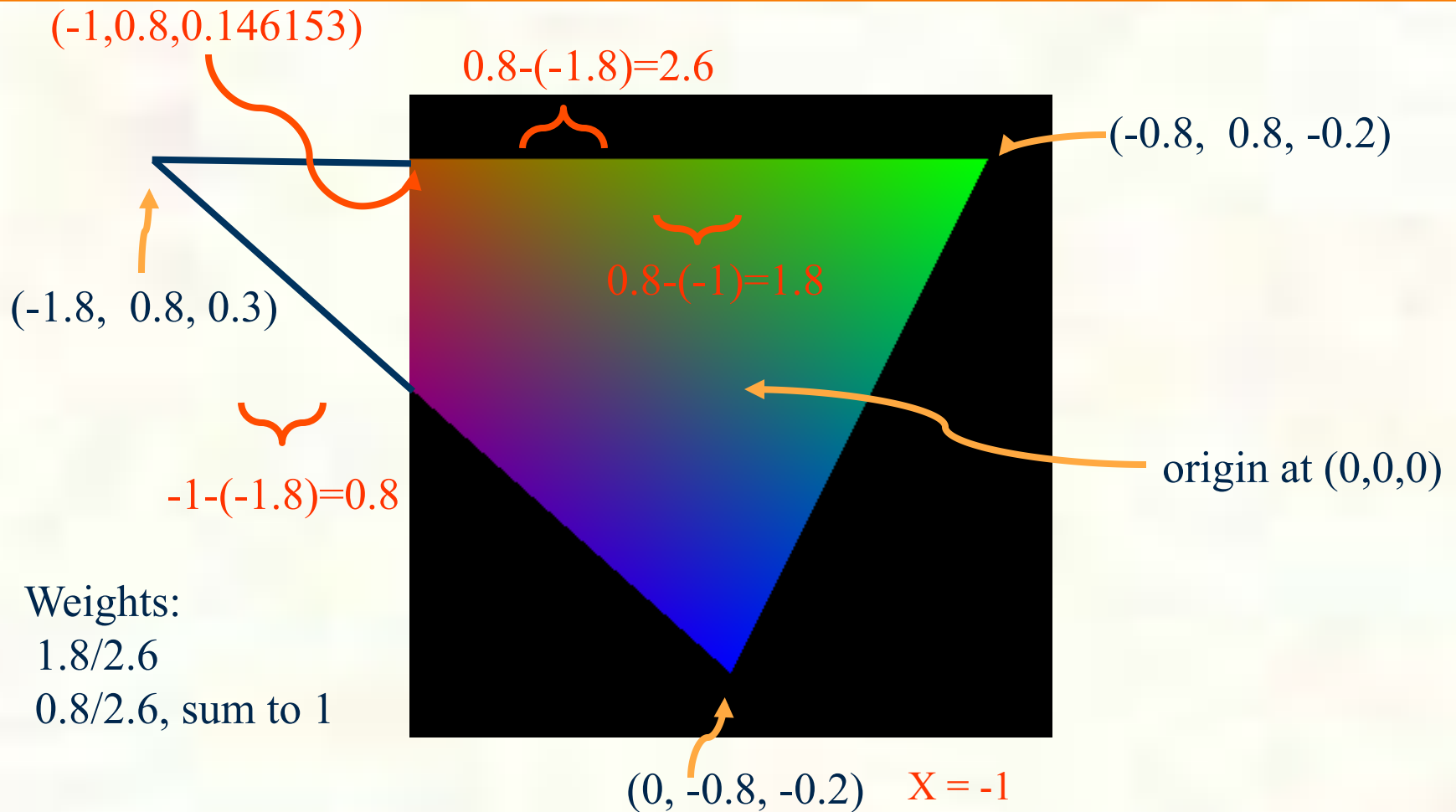


But how do we find these “new” vertices?

*The edge clipping the triangle is the line at $X = -1$
so we know $X = -1$ at these points—but what about Y ?*



Use Ratios to Interpolate Clipped Positions

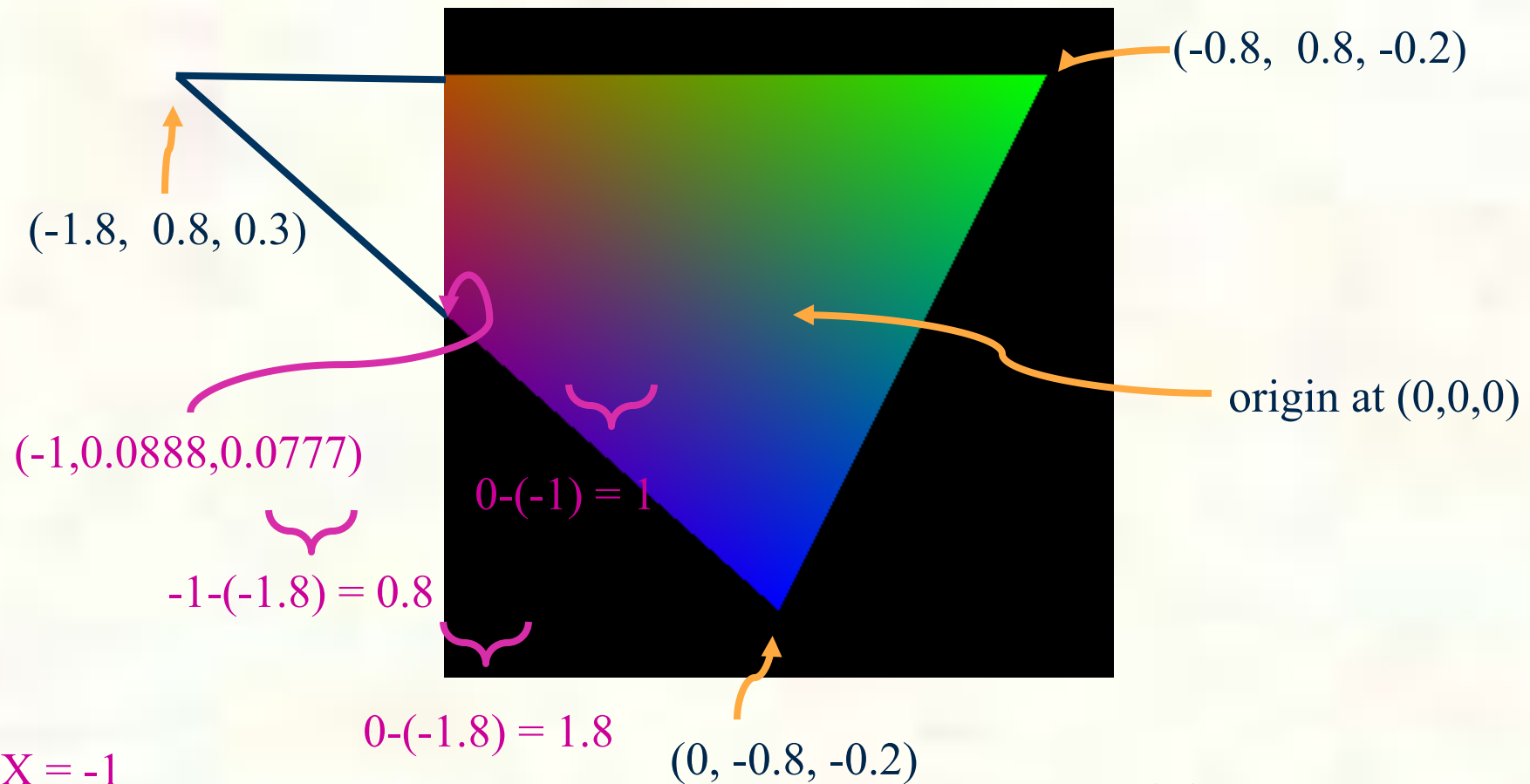


Straightforward because all the edges are orthogonal

$$\begin{aligned} X &= -1 \\ Y &= (1.8/2.6) \times 0.8 + (0.8/2.6) \times 0.8 \\ &= 0.8 \\ Z &= (1.8/2.6) \times 0.3 + (0.8/2.6) \times -0.2 \\ &= 0.1461538 \end{aligned}$$



Use Ratios to Interpolate Clipped Positions



$$X = -1$$

$$Y = (1/1.8) \times 0.8 + (0.8/1.8) \times -0.8$$
$$= 0.08888\dots$$

$$Z = (1/1.8) \times 0.3 + (0.8/1.8) \times -0.2$$
$$= 0.07777\dots$$

Weights:

$1/1.8$

$0.8/1.8$, sum to 1



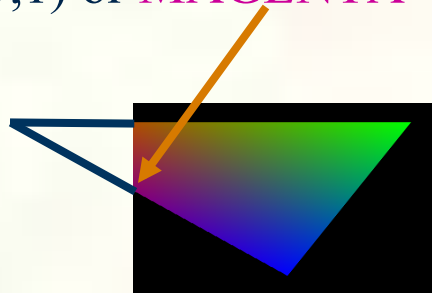
Clipping Complications

- Given primitive may be clipped by multiple cube faces
 - Potentially clipping by all 6 faces!
- Approach
 - Four possibilities
 - Face doesn't actually result in any clipping of a triangle
 - Triangle is unaffected by this plane then
 - Clipping eliminates a triangle completely
 - All 3 vertices on "wrong" side of the face's plane
 - Triangle "tip" clipped away
 - Leaving two triangles
 - Triangle "base" is clipped away
 - Leaving a single triangle
 - **Strategy:** implement recursive clipping process
 - "Two triangle" case means resulting two triangles must be clipped by all remaining planes



Attribute Interpolation

- When splitting triangles for clipping, must also interpolate new attributes
 - For example, color
 - Also texture coordinates
- Back to our example
 - $\text{BLUE} \times 0.8/1.8 + \text{RED} \times 1/1.8$
 - $(0,0,1,1) \times 0.8/1.8 + (1,0,0,1) \times 1/1.8$
 - $(0.444, 0, .555, 1)$ or **MAGENTA**



Weights:

1/1.8

0.8/1.8, sum to 1

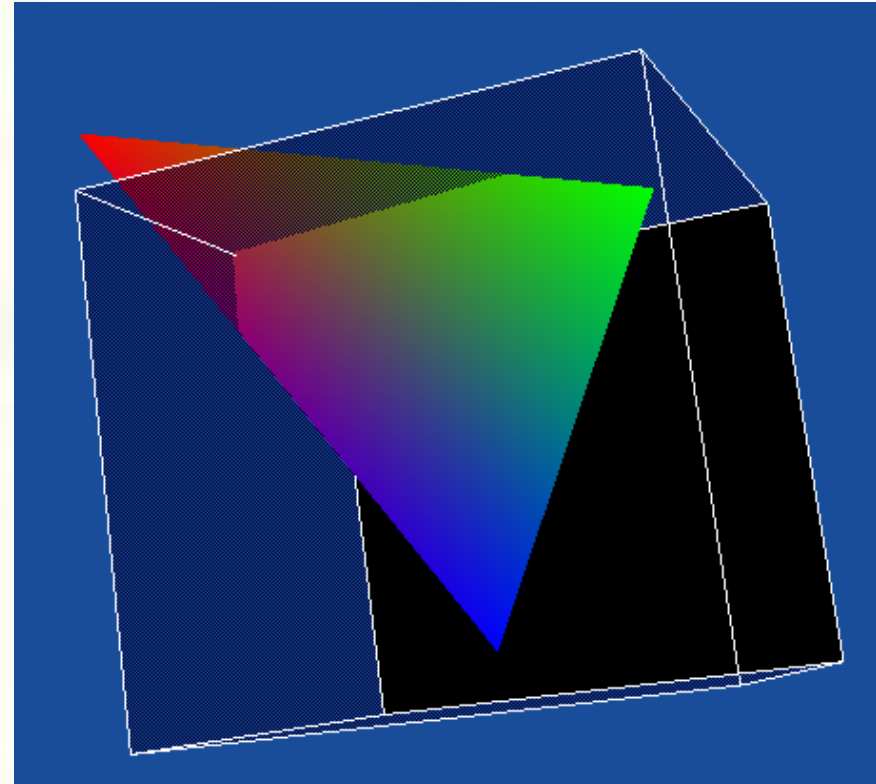
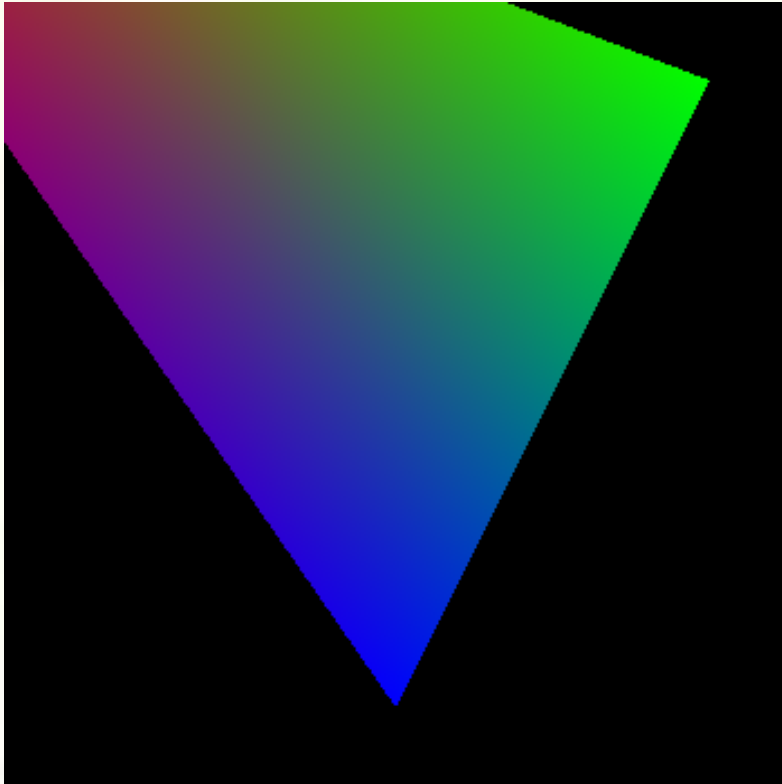


What to do about this?

- Several possibilities
 - Require applications to never send primitives that require clipping
 - Wishful thinking
 - And a cop-out—makes clipping their problem
 - Rasterize into larger space than normal and discard pixels outside the NDC cube
 - Increases useless rasterizer work
 - Requires additional math precision in the rasterizer
 - Worse, creates problems when rendering into a projective clip space (needed for perspective)
 - Something for a future lecture
 - Break clipped triangles into smaller triangles that tessellate the clipped region...



Triangle clipped by Two Planes

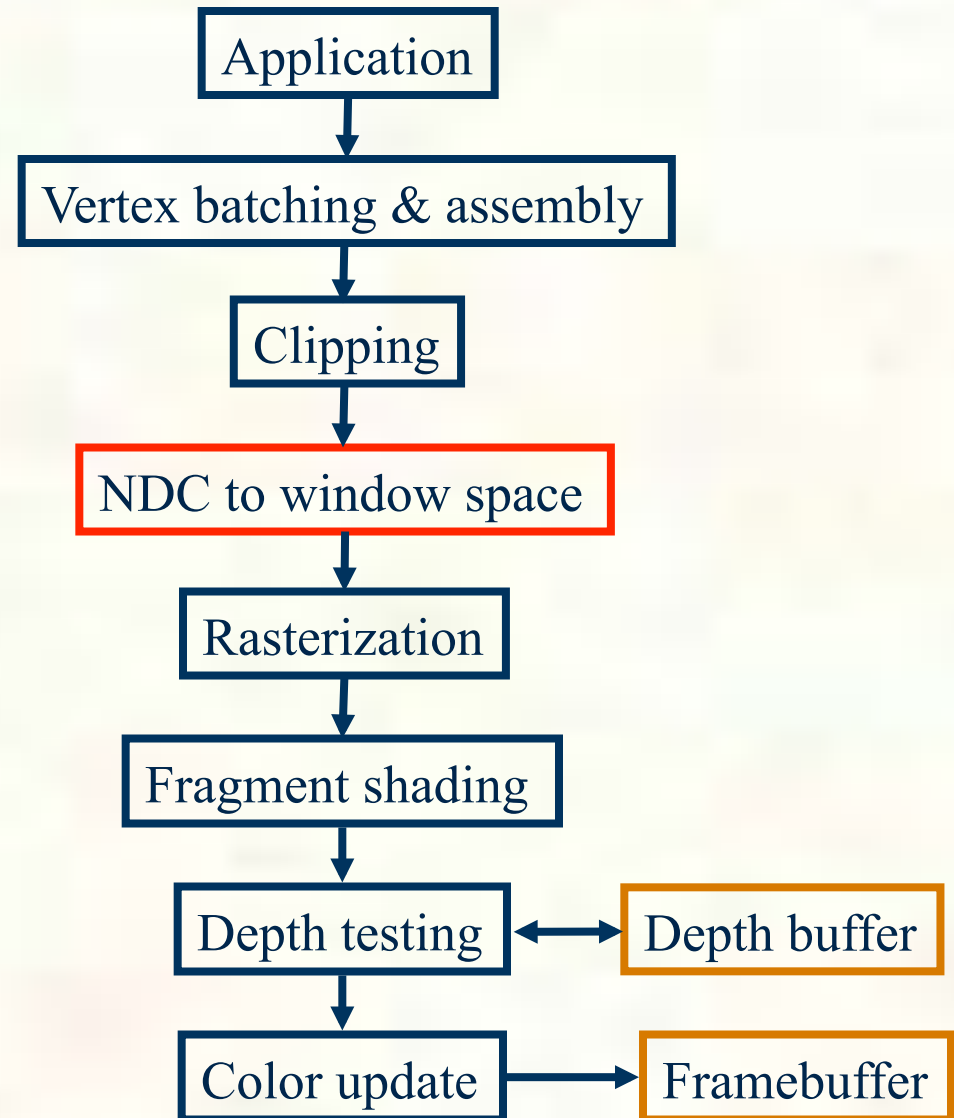


*Recursive process can make 4 triangles
And it gets worse with more non-trivial clipping*



NDC to Window Space

- NDC is “normalized” to the $[-1,+1]^3$ cube
 - Nice for clipping
 - But doesn't yet map to pixels on the screen
- **Next:** a transform from NDC space to window space





Viewport and Depth Range

- OpenGL has 2 commands to configure the state to map NDC space to window space
 - `glViewport(GLint vx, GLint vy, GLsizei w, GLsizei h);`
 - Typically programmed to the window's width and height for w & h and zero for both vx & vy
 - **Example:** `glViewport(0, 0, window_width, window_height);`
 - `glDepthRange(GLclampd n, GLclampd f);`
 - n for near depth value, f for far depth value
 - Normally set to `glDepthRange(0,1)`
 - Which is an OpenGL context's initial depth range state
- The mapping from NDC space to window space depends on vx , vy , w , h , n , and d



OpenGL Data Type Naming

- The OpenGL specification allow an implementation to specify how language data types map to OpenGL API data types
 - GLfloat is usually typedef'ed to float but this isn't necessarily true
 - Same for GLint, GLshort, GLdouble
 - But is true in practice
 - GLbyte is byte-sized so expected it to be a char
 - GLubyte, GLushort, and GLuint are unsigned versions of GLbyte, GLshort, and GLint
- Certain names clue you into their parameter usage
 - GLsizei is an integer parameter that is not allowed to be negative
 - An `GL_INVALID_VALUE` is generated if a GLsizei parameter is ever negative
 - GLclampd and GLclampf are the same as GLfloat and GLdouble, but indicate the parameter will be clamped automatically to the [0,1] range
- Notice
 - `glViewport` uses GLsizei for width and height
 - `glDepthRange` uses GLclampd for near and far



OpenGL Errors

- OpenGL reports asynchronously from your commands
 - Effectively, you must explicitly call `glGetError` to find if any prior command generated an error or was otherwise used incorrectly
 - `glGetError` returns `GL_NO_ERROR` if there is no error
 - Otherwise an error such as `GL_INVALID_VALUE` is returned
- Rationale
 - OpenGL commands are meant to be executed in a pipeline so the error might not be identified until after the command's function has returned
 - Errors might be detected by hardware that isn't actually the CPU
 - Also forcing applications to check return codes of functions is slow
 - It's inappropriate for a high-performance API such as OpenGL
- So if you suspect errors, you have to poll for them
 - Learn to do this while you are debugging your code
 - If something fails to happen, suspect there's an OpenGL errors
- Also commands that generated an error are ignored
 - The only exception is `GL_OUT_OF_MEMORY` which results in undefined state



Mapping NDC to Window Space

- Assume (x,y,z) is the NDC coordinate that's passed to `glVertex3f` in our `simple_triangle` example

- Then window-space (w_x, w_y, w_z) location is

- $w_x = (w/2) \times x + v_x + w/2$

- $w_y = (h/2) \times y + v_y + h/2$

- $w_z = [(f-n)/2] \times z + (n+f)/2$

× means scalar multiplication here



Where is glViewport set?

- The simple `_triangle` program never calls `glViewport`
 - That's OK because GLUT will call `glViewport` for you if you don't register your own per-window callback to handle when a window is reshaped (resized)
 - Without a reshape callback registered, GLUT will simply call `glViewport(0, 0, window_width, window_height)`;
- Alternatively, you can use `glReshapeFunc` to register a callback
 - Then calling `glViewport` or otherwise tracking the window height becomes your application's responsibility
 - Example reshape callback:

```
void reshape(int w, int h) {  
    glViewport(0, 0, w, h);  
}
```
 - Example registering a reshape callback:

```
glReshapeFunc(reshape);
```
- **FYI:** OpenGL maintains a lower-left window-space origin
 - Whereas most 2D graphics APIs use upper-left



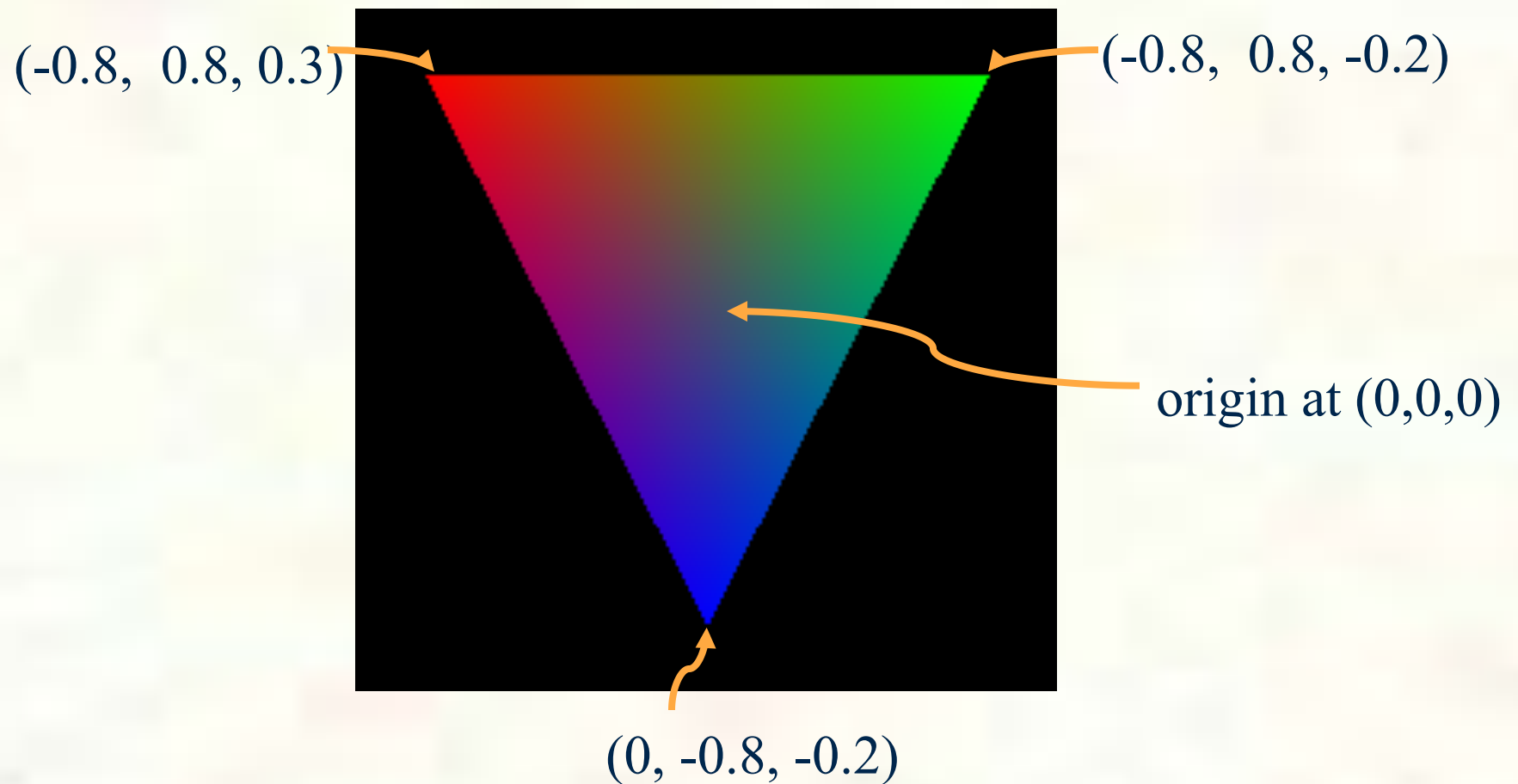
What about glDepthRange?

- Simple applications don't normally need to call `glDepthRange`
 - Notice the `simple_triangle` program never calls `glDepthRange`
- Rationale
 - The initial depth range of $[0,1]$ is fine for most application
 - It says the entire available depth buffer range should be used
- When the depth range is $[0,1]$ the equation for window-space z simplifies to $wz = \frac{1}{2} \times z + \frac{1}{2}$



Triangle Vertices in Window Space

- Assume the window is 500x500 pixels
 - So `glViewport(0,0,500,500)` has been called





Apply the Transforms

- First vertex :: (-0.8, 0.8, 0.3)

- $w_x = (w/2) \times x + v_x + w/2 = 250 \times (-0.8) + 250 = 50$

- $w_y = (h/2)y + v_y + h/2 = 250 \times (0.8) + 250 = 450$

- $w_z = [(f-n)/2] \times z + (n+f)/2 = 0.65$

- Second vertex :: (0.8, 0.8, -0.2)

- $w_x = (w/2) \times x + v_x + w/2 = 250 \times (-0.8) + 250 = 50$

- $w_y = (h/2)y + v_y + h/2 = 250 \times (0.8) + 250 = 450$

- $w_z = [(f-n)/2] \times z + (n+f)/2 = 0.4$

- Third vertex :: (0, -0.8, -0.2)

- $w_x = (w/2) \times x + v_x + w/2 = 250 \times 0 + 250 = 250$

- $w_y = (h/2)y + v_y + h/2 = 250 \times (-0.8) + 250 = 50$

- $w_z = [(f-n)/2] \times z + (n+f)/2 = 0.4$



Still Left to Do

- Rasterize the clipped triangle
 - But our triangle's vertexes are in window space so we are ready
- Interpolate color values over the triangle
- Depth test the triangle
- Update pixel locations
- Swap buffers
- Next lecture!



Next Lecture

- Graphics Pipeline
 - *What are the operations in the so-called “graphics pipeline”?*
 - As usual, expect a short quiz on today’s lecture
 - Know how to map clip space to NDC space to window space

- Assignments
 - Reading from “Interactive Computer Graphics” (Angel)
 - Chapter 2, pages 43-107
 - Homework (a.k.a. Project Zero), **deadline** January 25th
 - Get the ZIP for the “simple triangle” and “clip space” example programs
 - Learn how to compile and run them on your CS account
 - Modify either program to
 - Change the clear color to burnt orange
 - Change the title of the window to your name
 - Instead of drawing a single triangle, make a simple arrangement of polygons forming a letter from your name
 - Use the **turnin** system to submit your modified source code and a screenshot image of your modified example

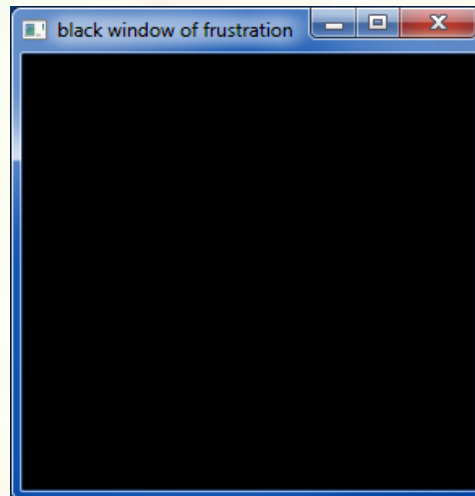
Purpose

Gain familiarity
with OpenGL programming
and submitting
projects



Programming tips

- 3D graphics, whether OpenGL or Direct3D or any other API, can be frustrating
 - You write a bunch of code and the result is



Nothing but black window; where did your rendering go??



Things to Try

- Set your clear color to something other than black!
 - It is easy to draw things black accidentally so don't make black the clear color
 - But black is the initial clear color
- Did you draw something for one frame, but the next frame draws nothing?
 - Are you using depth buffering? Did you forget to clear the depth buffer?
- Remember there are near and far clip planes so clipping in Z, not just X & Y
- Have you checked for glGetError?
 - Call glGetError once per frame while debugging so you can see errors that occur
 - For release code, take out the glGetError calls
- Not sure what state you are in?
 - Use glGetIntegerv or glGetFloatv or other query functions to make sure that OpenGL's state is what you think it is
- Use glutSwapBuffers to flush your rendering and show to the visible window
 - Likewise glFinish makes sure all pending commands have finished
- Try reading
 - http://www.slideshare.net/Mark_Kilgard/avoiding-19-common-opengl-pitfalls
 - This is well worth the time wasted debugging a problem that could be avoided