View Frustum Clipping
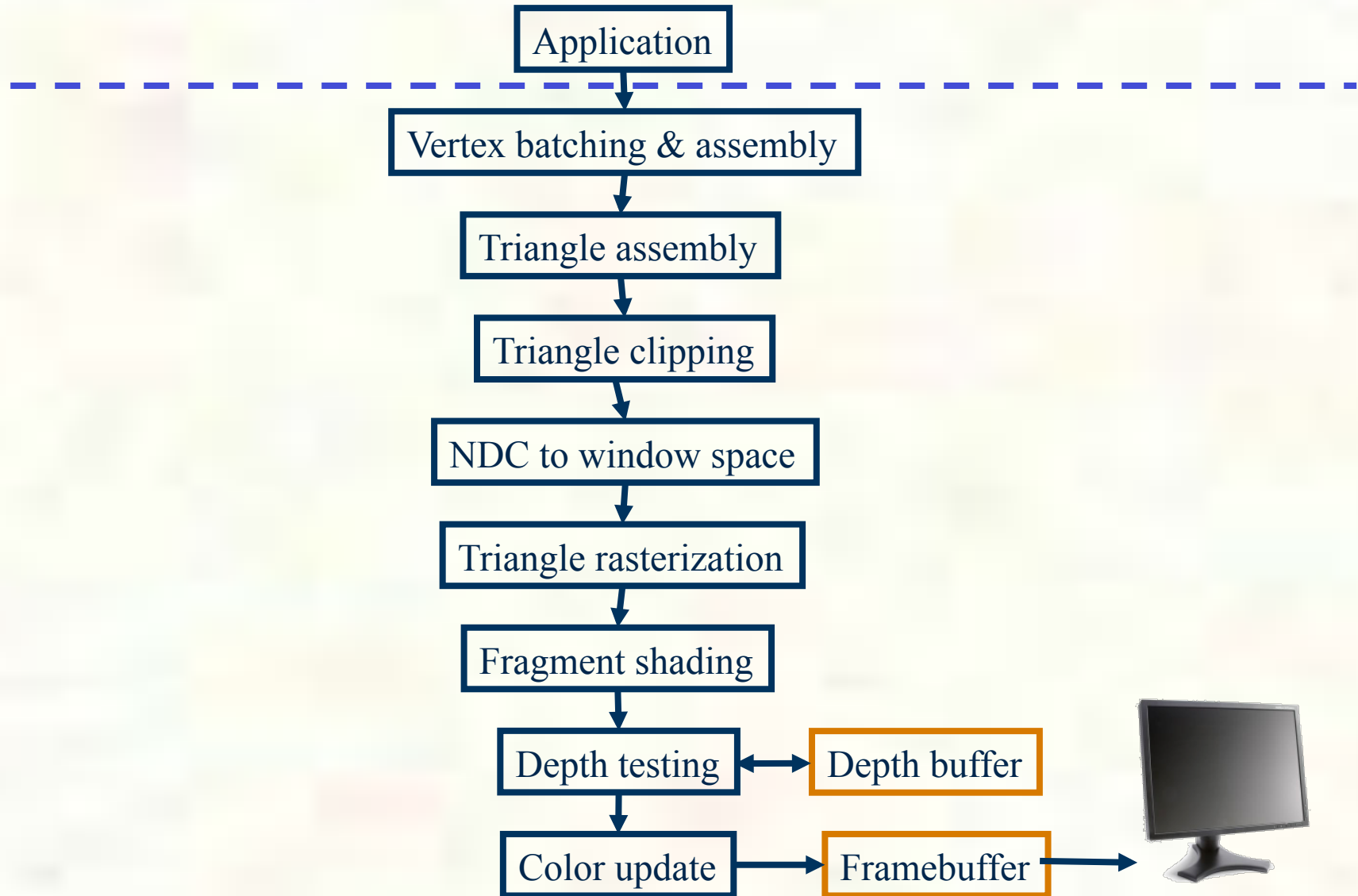
Don Fussell

Computer Science Department

The University of Texas at Austin
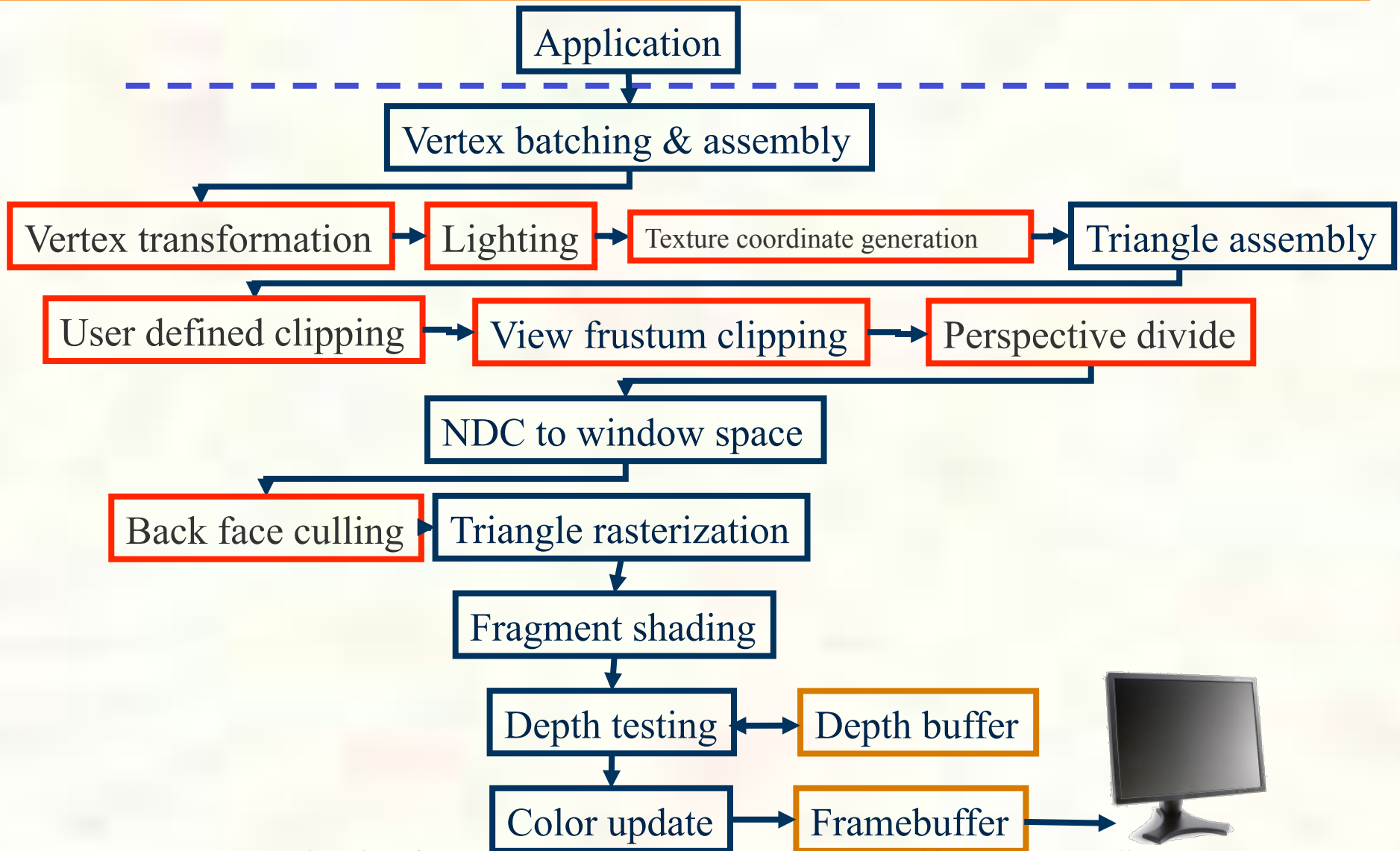
A Simplified Graphics Pipeline
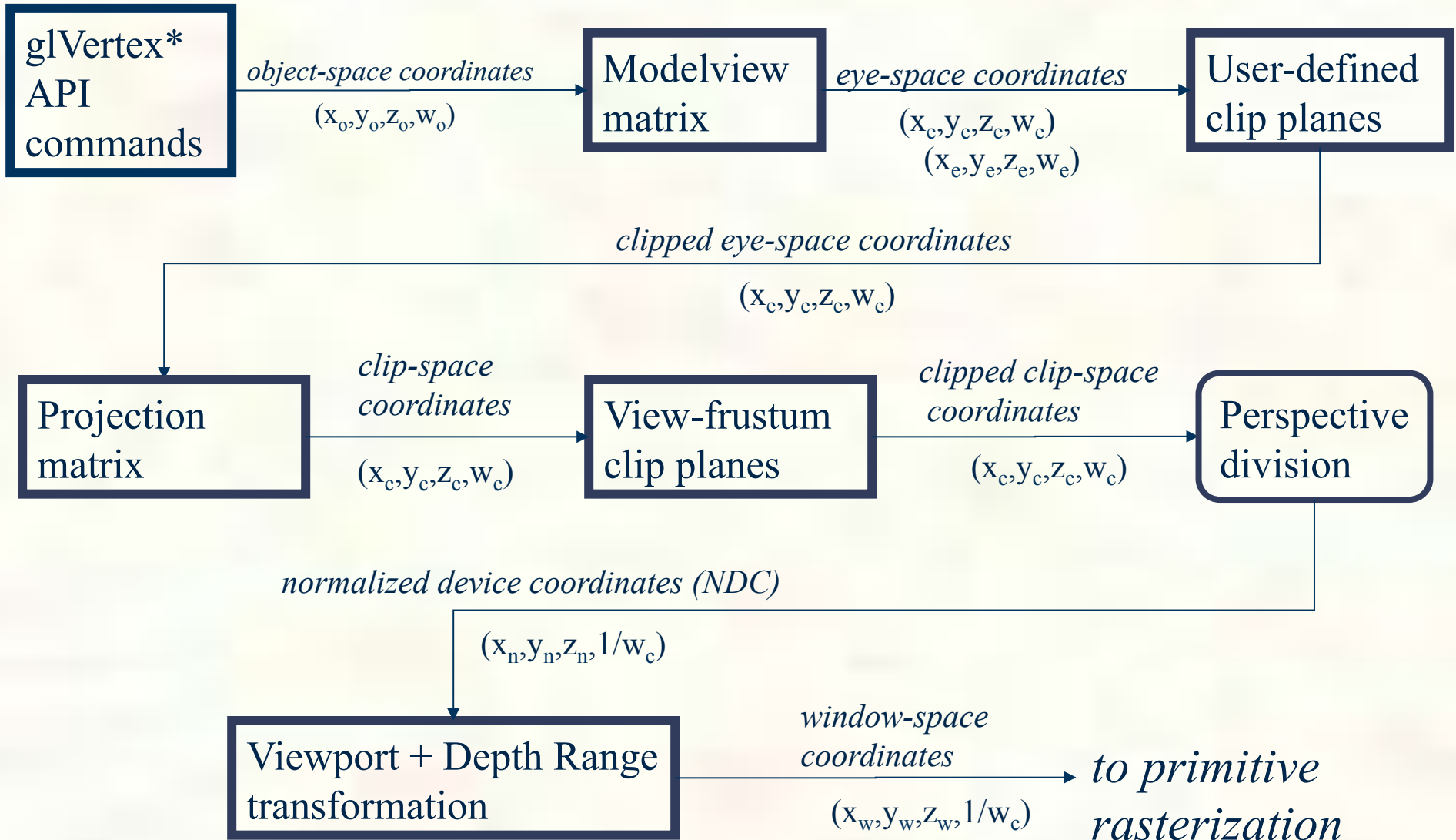
Application

- -

Vertex batching & assembly

Triangle assembly

Triangle clipping

NDC to window space

Triangle rasterization

Fragment shading

Depth testing ↔ Depth buffer

Color update → Framebuffer →

A few more steps expanded

Application

- -

Vertex batching & assembly

Vertex transformation → Lighting → Texture coordinate generation → Triangle assembly

User defined clipping → View frustum clipping → Perspective divide

NDC to window space

Back face culling ◁ Triangle rasterization

Fragment shading

Depth testing → Depth buffer

Color update → Framebuffer →

Conceptual Vertex Transformation

```
glVertex*
API          → object-space coordinates → Modelview → eye-space coordinates → User-defined
commands          (x_o, y_o, z_o, w_o)      matrix        (x_e, y_e, z_e, w_e)     clip planes
                                                           (x_e, y_e, z_e, w_e)
```

glVertex* API commands — object-space coordinates (x_o, y_o, z_o, w_o) → **Modelview matrix** — eye-space coordinates (x_e, y_e, z_e, w_e) (x_e, y_e, z_e, w_e) → **User-defined clip planes**

clipped eye-space coordinates
(x_e, y_e, z_e, w_e)

Projection matrix — clip-space coordinates (x_c, y_c, z_c, w_c) → **View-frustum clip planes** — clipped clip-space coordinates (x_c, y_c, z_c, w_c) → **Perspective division**

normalized device coordinates (NDC)
$(x_n, y_n, z_n, 1/w_c)$

Viewport + Depth Range transformation — window-space coordinates $(x_w, y_w, z_w, 1/w_c)$ → *to primitive rasterization*

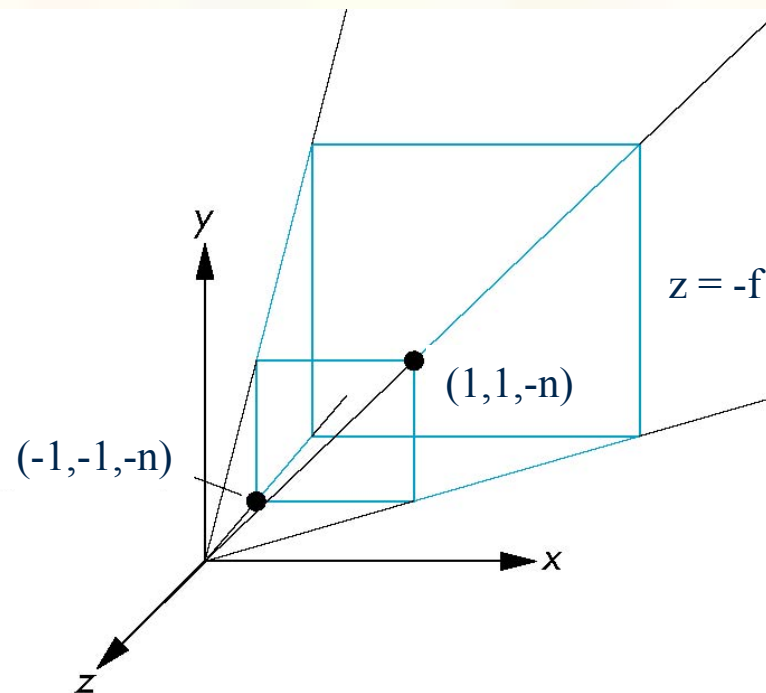# OpenGL Perspective

`glFrustum(left,right,bottom,top,near,far`
`)`
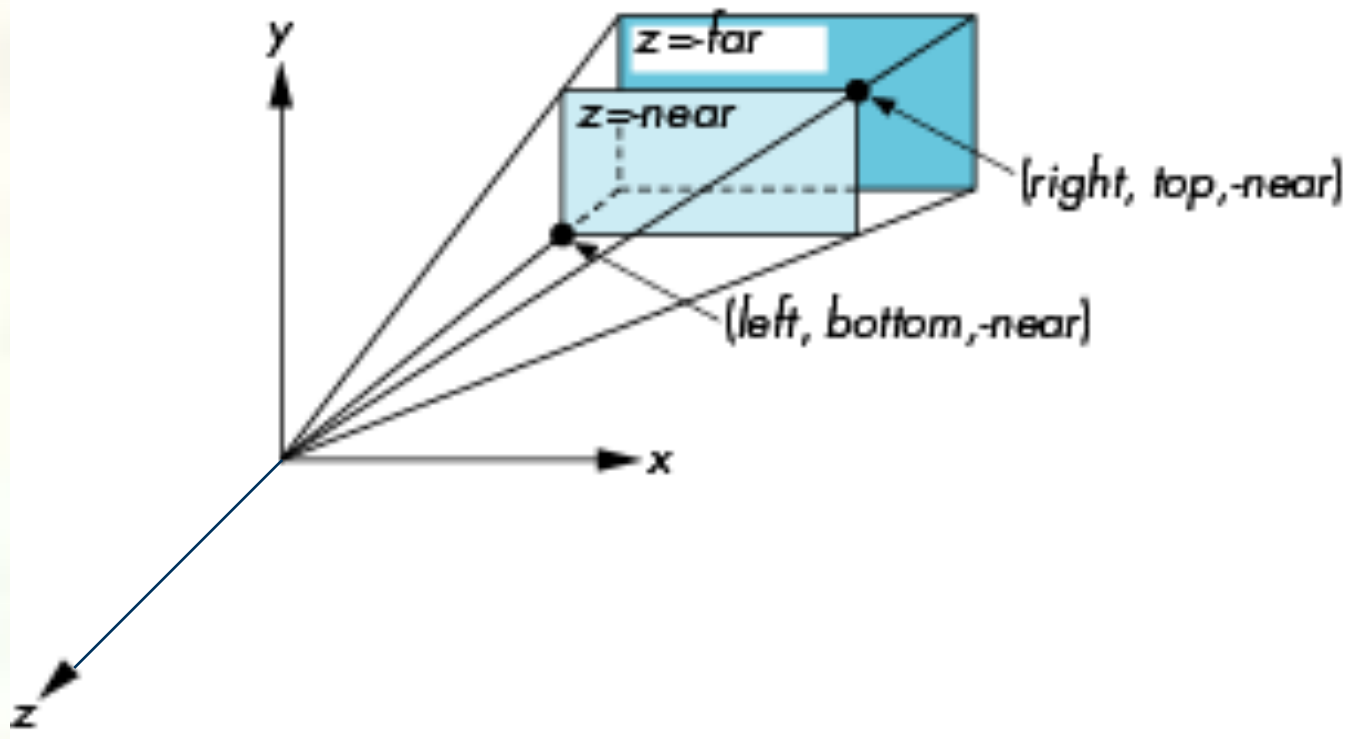
Simple Perspective

Consider a simple perspective with the COP at the origin, the near clipping plane at z = -near, and a 90 degree field of view determined by the planes

$x = \pm z, y = \pm z$

Generalization

$$\mathbf{N} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

after perspective division, the point $(x, y, z, 1)$ goes to

$x' = x/z$
$y' = y/z$
$z' = -(\alpha + \beta/z)$

which projects orthogonally to the desired point regardless of α and β

Picking α and β

If we pick

$$\alpha = -\frac{f+n}{f-n}$$

$$\beta = -\frac{2nf}{f-n}$$

$$\mathbf{N} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\dfrac{f+n}{f-n} & -\dfrac{2nf}{f-n} \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

the near plane is mapped to $z = -1$
the far plane is mapped to $z = 1$
and the sides are mapped to $x = \pm 1, y = \pm 1$

Hence the new clipping volume is the default clipping volume

General Perspective Frustum

$$x' = x + \frac{l+r}{2n}z$$

$$y' = y + \frac{t+b}{2n}z$$

$$z' = z$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dfrac{l+r}{2n} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dfrac{t+b}{2n} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
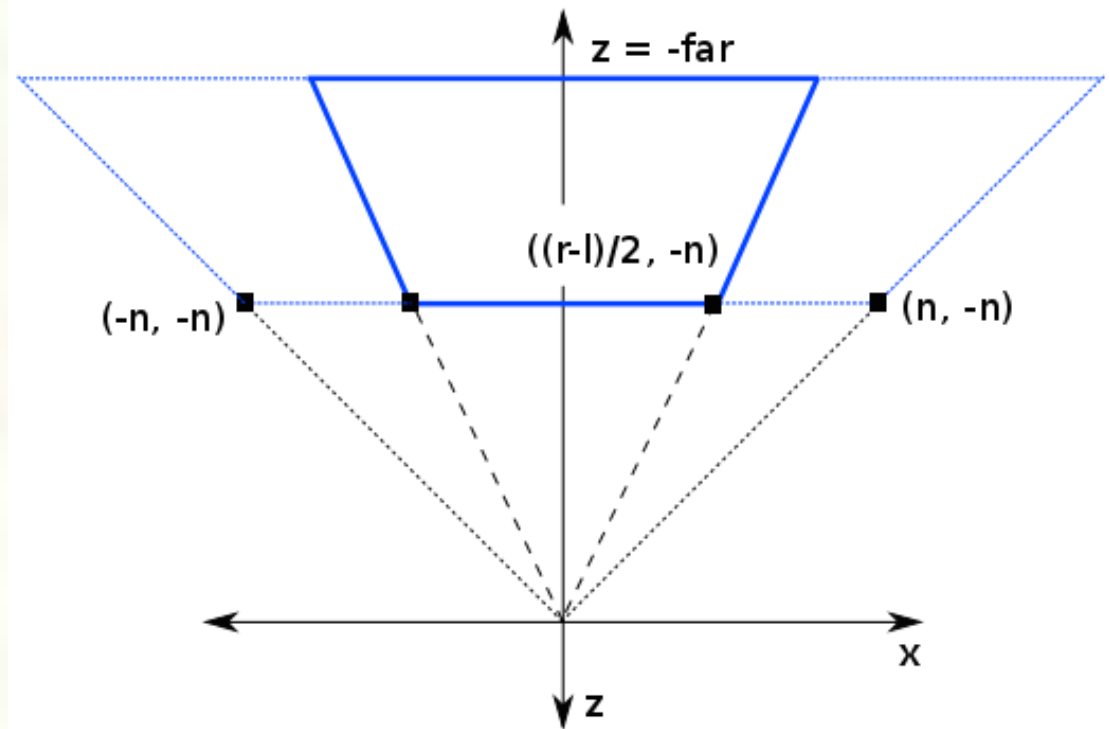

z = -far

((l+r)/2, -n)

(0, -n)

(l, -n)

(r, -n)

x

z
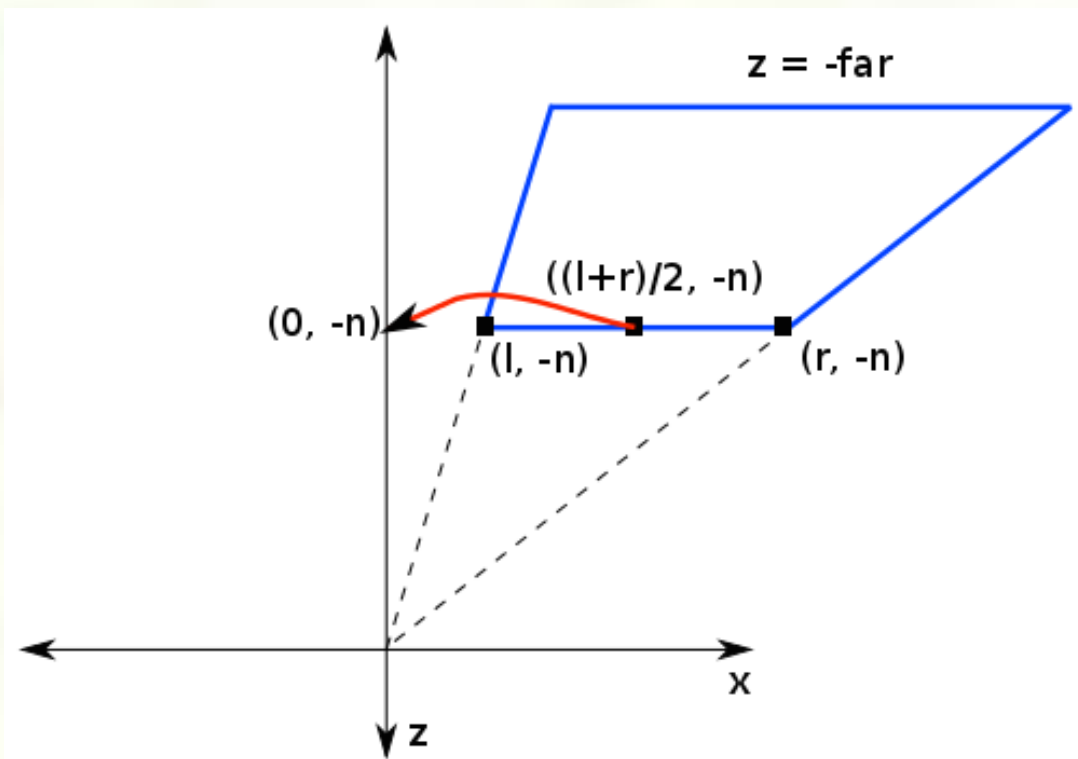
Step 1: Shear to center on –z axis

General Perspective Frustum

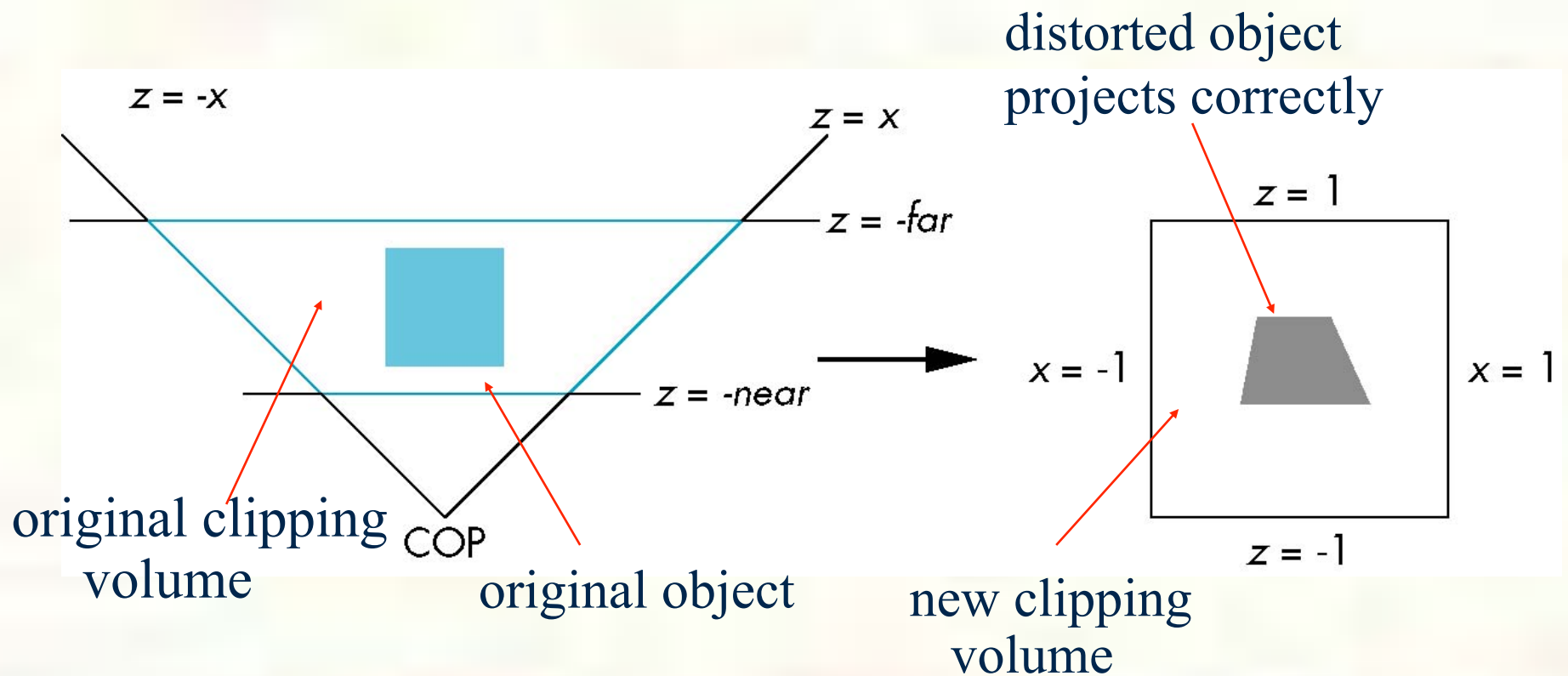$$x' = \frac{2n}{r-l}x$$

$$y' = \frac{2n}{t-b}y$$

$$z' = z$$

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{2n}{r-l} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \dfrac{2n}{t-b} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 2: Scale so boundary slopes are ± 1

Normalization Transformation

z = -x

z = x

z = -far

z = -near

COP

original clipping volume

original object

distorted object projects correctly

z = 1

x = -1

x = 1

z = -1

new clipping volume

OpenGL Perspective Matrix

■ The normalization in **`glFrustum`** requires an initial shear to form a right viewing pyramid, followed by a scaling to get the normalized perspective volume. Finally, the perspective matrix results in needing only a final orthogonal transformation

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NSH}$$

our previously defined
perspective matrix

shear and scale

Normalization

- Rather than derive a different projection matrix for each type of projection, we can convert all projections to orthogonal projections with the default view volume

- This strategy allows us to use standard transformations in the pipeline and makes for efficient clipping
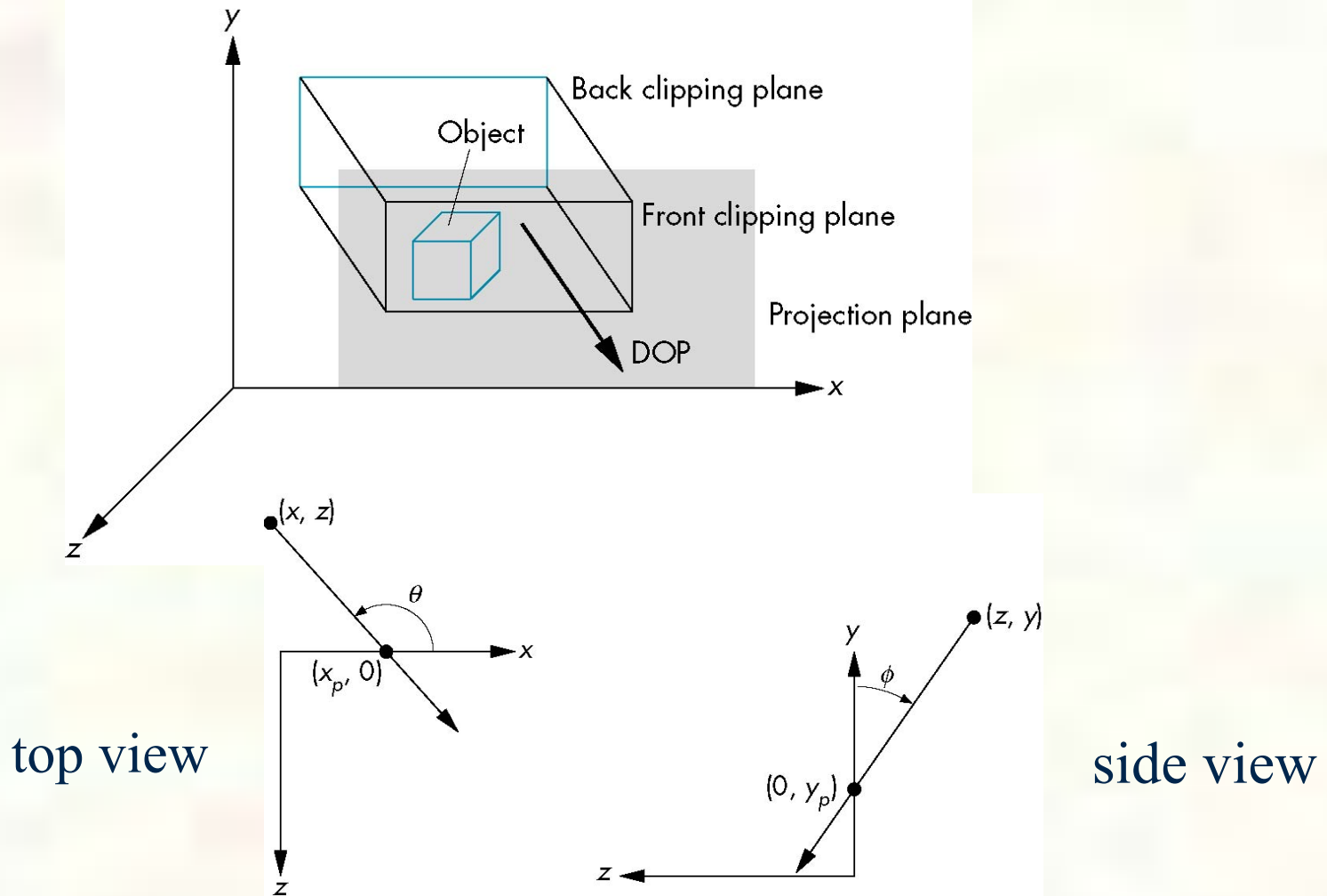
Oblique Projections

- The OpenGL projection functions cannot produce general parallel projections such as

- However if we look at the example of the cube it appears that the cube has been sheared
- Oblique Projection = Shear + Orthogonal Projection

General Shear

top view

side view

Shear Matrix

xy shear (*z* values unchanged)

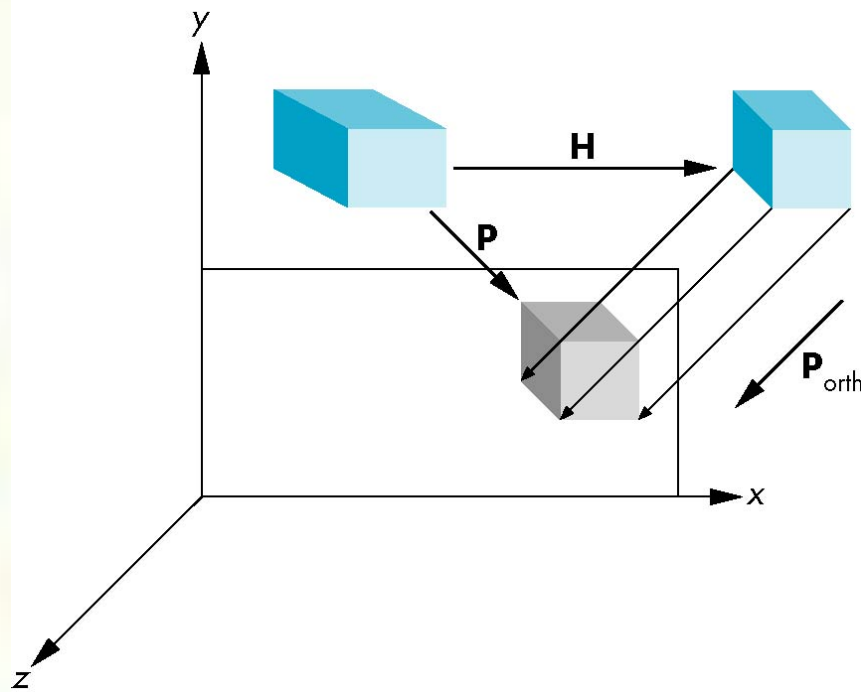$$\mathbf{H}(\theta,\phi) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\cot\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\cot\phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Projection matrix $\quad \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{M}_{orth}\ \mathbf{H}(\theta,\phi)$

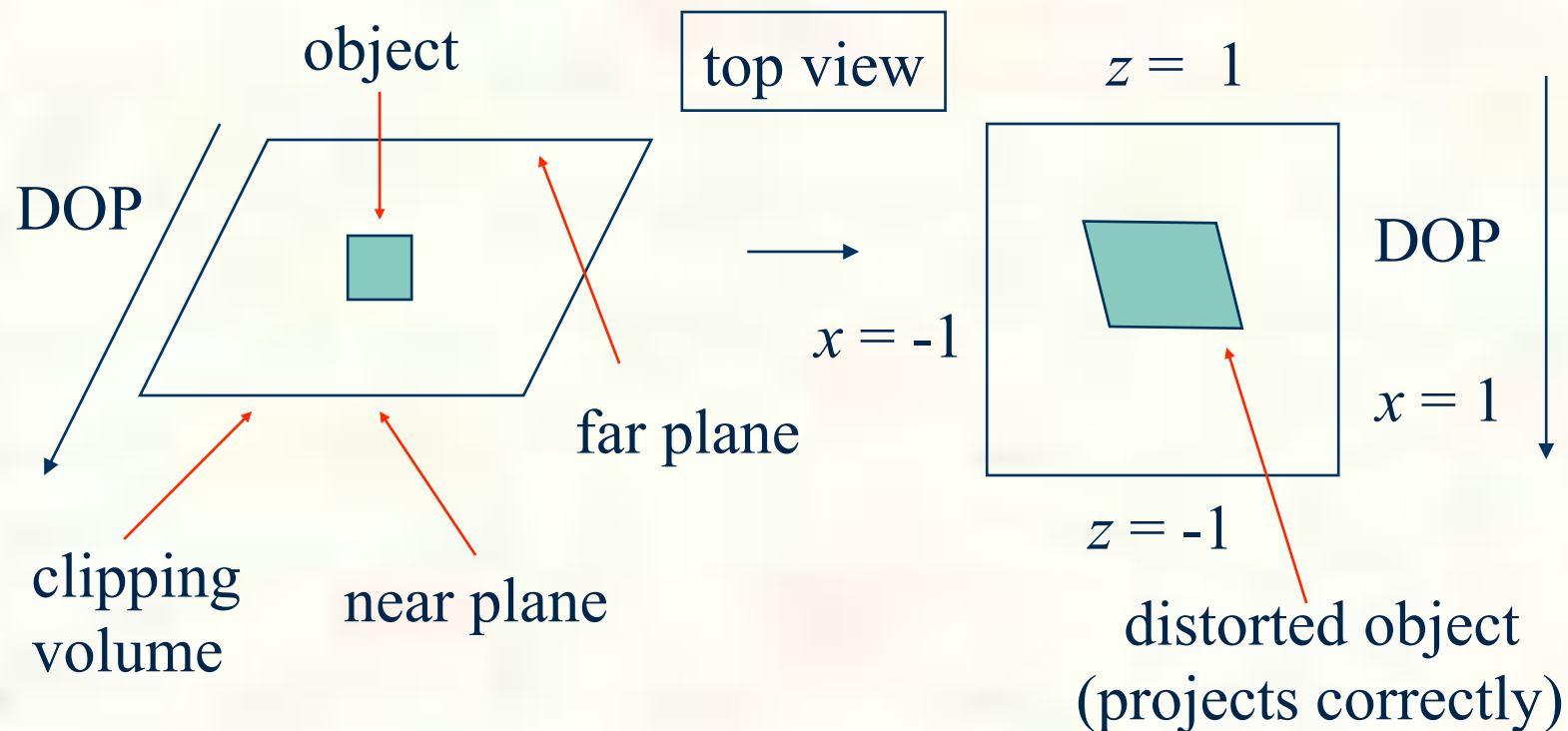General case: $\quad \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{M}_{orth}\ \mathbf{STH}(\theta,\phi)$

Equivalency

Effect on Clipping

- The projection matrix **P** = **STH** transforms the original clipping volume to the default clipping volume

object

top view

$z = 1$

DOP

$x = -1$

DOP

$x = 1$

far plane

$z = -1$

clipping volume

near plane

distorted object (projects correctly)
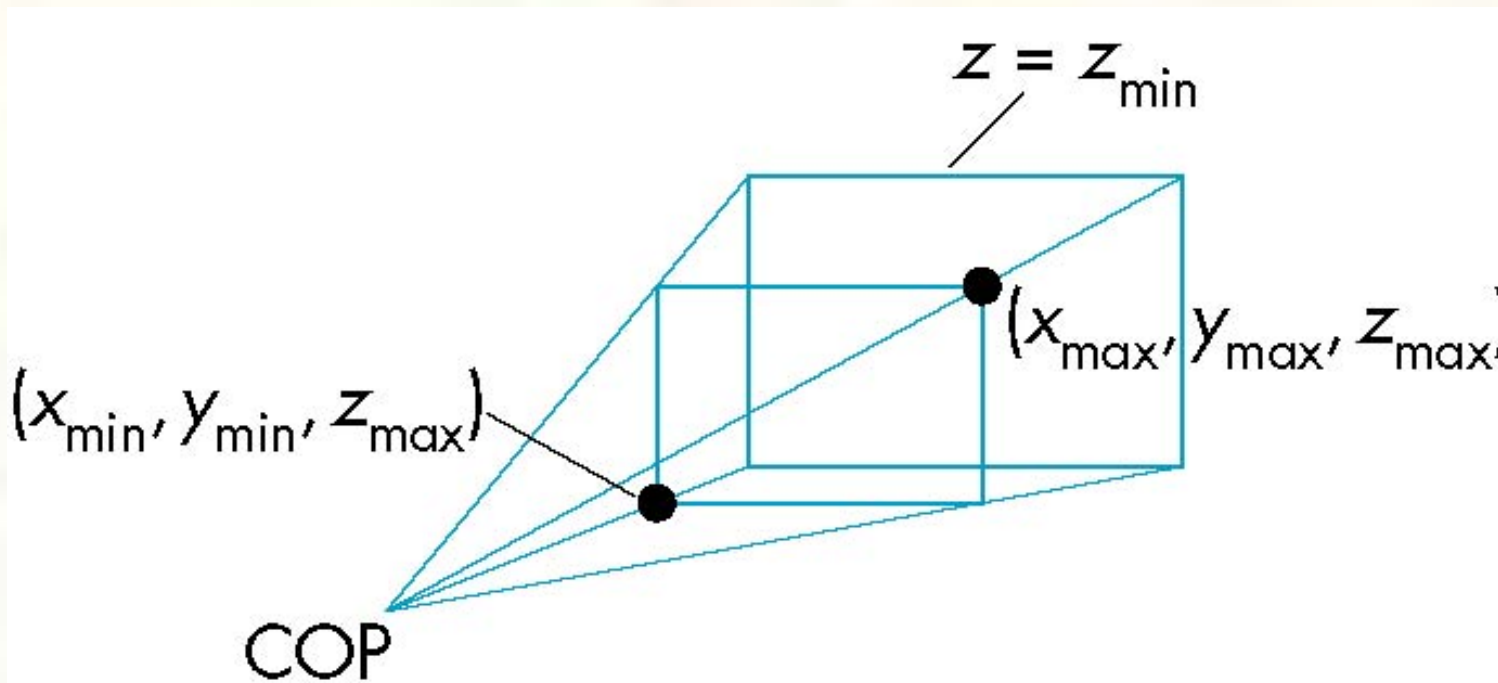
Using Field of View

- With **glFrustum** it is often difficult to get the desired view

- **gluPerpective(fovy, aspect, near, far)** often provides a better interface

front plane

aspect = w/h
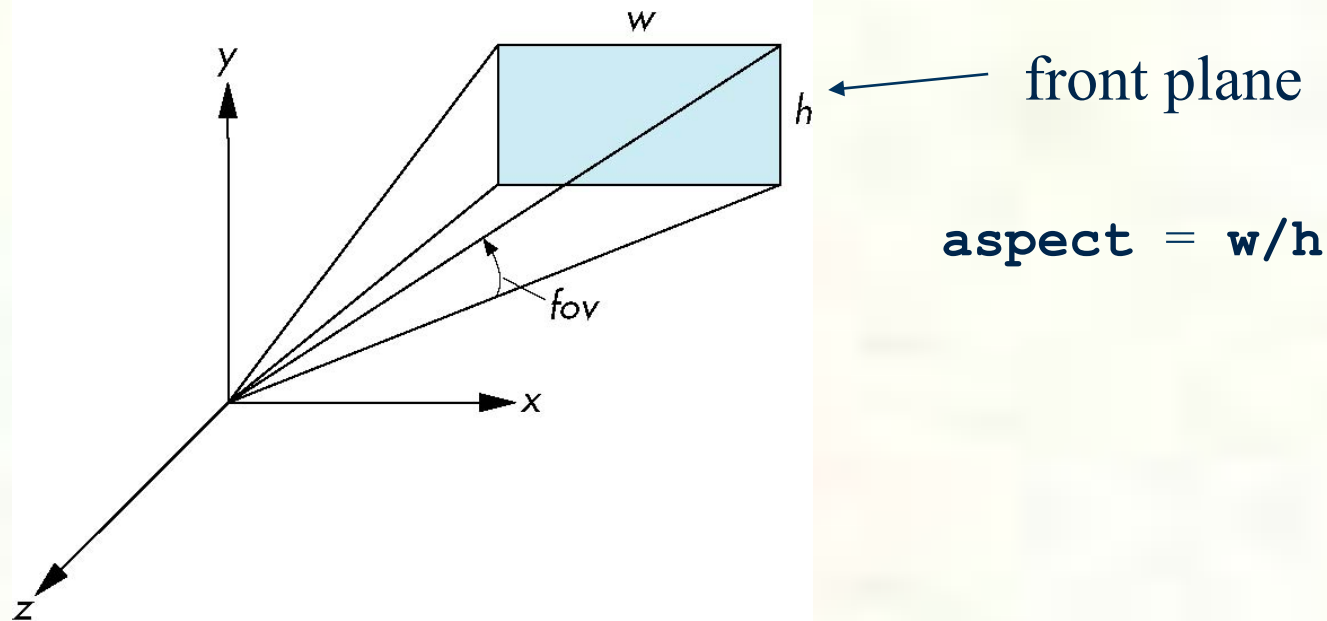
OpenGL Perspective

- **glFrustum** allows for an unsymmetric viewing frustum (although **gluPerspective** does not)

$$z = z_{min}$$

$$(x_{max}, y_{max}, z_{max})$$

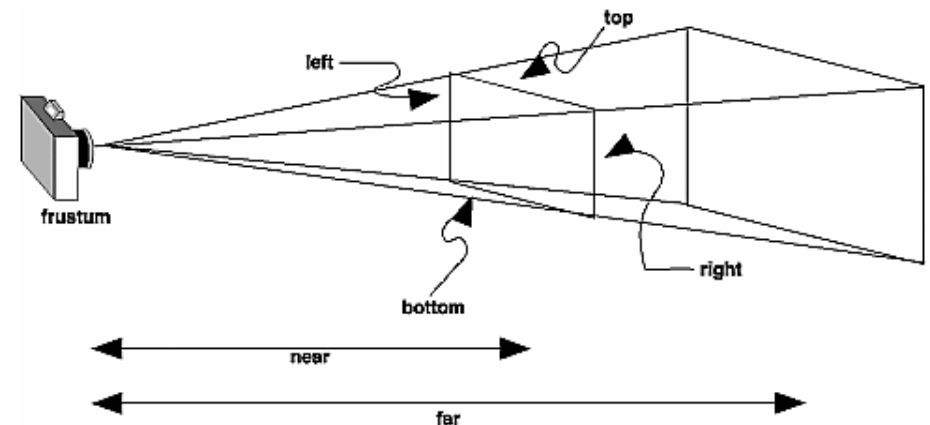$$(x_{min}, y_{min}, z_{max})$$

COP

Frustum Transform

- ■ Prototype

  - ■ glFrustum(GLdouble left, GLdouble right,
    GLdouble bottom, GLdouble top,
    GLdouble near, GLdouble far)

- ■ Post-concatenates a frustum matrix

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\dfrac{2n}{r-l} & 0 & \dfrac{r+l}{r-l} & 0 \\[2ex]
0 & \dfrac{2n}{t-b} & \dfrac{t+b}{t-b} & 0 \\[2ex]
0 & 0 & \dfrac{-(f+n)}{f-n} & \dfrac{-2fn}{f-n} \\[2ex]
0 & 0 & -1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
$$

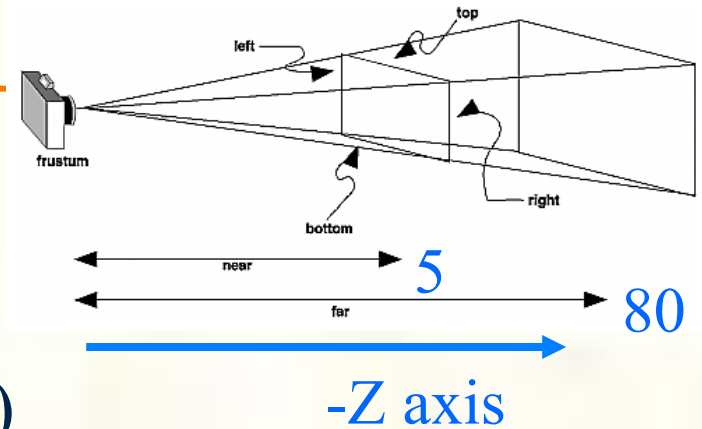# glFrustum Matrix

- **Projection specification**
  - glLoadIdentity();
    glFrustum(-4, +4, -3, +3, 5, 80)
    - left=-4, right=4, bottom=-3, top=3, near=5, far=80
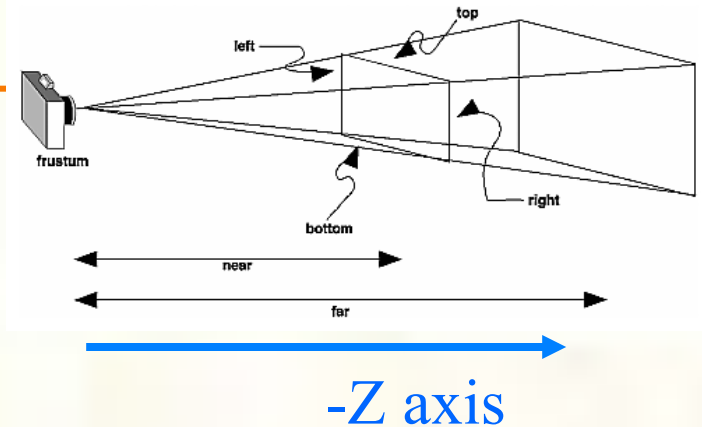
5
80

-Z axis

- **Matrix**

symmetric left/right & top/bottom so zero

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\dfrac{2n}{r-l} & 0 & \dfrac{r+l}{r-l} & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & \dfrac{2n}{t-b} & \dfrac{t+b}{t-b} & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & \dfrac{-(f+n)}{f-n} & \dfrac{-2fn}{f-n} \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & -1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
=
\begin{bmatrix}
\dfrac{5}{4} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & \dfrac{5}{3} & 0 & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & -\dfrac{85}{75} & -\dfrac{800}{75} \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & -1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
$$

glFrustum Example

- Consider
  - glLoadIdentity();
    glFrustum(-30, 30, -20, 20, 1, 1000)
   - left=-30, right=30, bottom=-20, top=20, near=1, far=1000

- Matrix

symmetric left/right & top/bottom so zero

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\dfrac{2n}{r-l} & 0 & \dfrac{r+l}{r-l} & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & \dfrac{2n}{t-b} & \dfrac{t+b}{t-b} & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & \dfrac{-(f+n)}{f-n} & \dfrac{-2fn}{f-n} \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & -1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
=
\begin{bmatrix}
\dfrac{1}{30} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & \dfrac{1}{20} & 0 & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & -\dfrac{1001}{999} & -\dfrac{2000}{999} \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & -1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
$$

glOrtho and glFrustum

- These OpenGL commands provide a parameterized transform mapping eye space into the "clip cube"
- Each command
  - glOrtho is orthographic
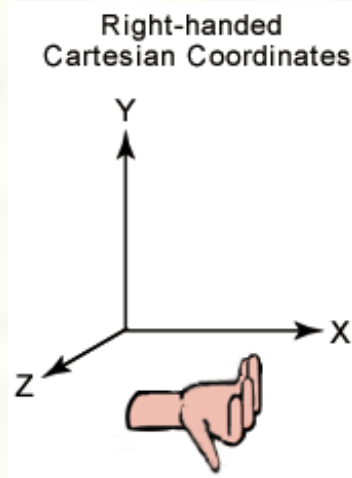 - glFrustum is single-point perspective
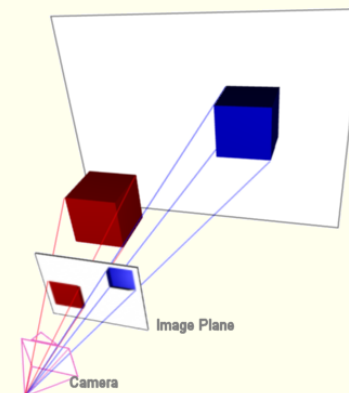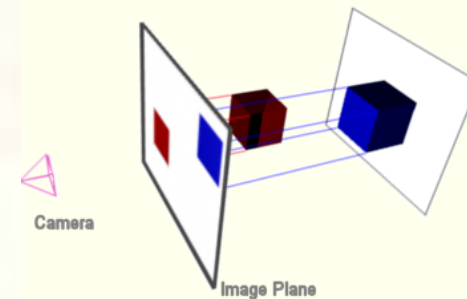
Handedness of Coordinate Systems

- When
  - Object coordinate system is right-handed,
  - Modelview transform is generated from one or more of the commands glTranslate, glRotate, and glScale with positive scaling values,
  - Projection transform is loaded with glLoadIdentity followed by exactly one of glOrtho or glFrustum,
  - Near value specified for glDepthRange is less than the far value;
- Then
  - Eye coordinate system is right-handed
  - Clip, NDC, and window coordinate systems are left-handed

Conventional OpenGL Handedness

- Right-handed
  - Object space
  - Eye space

- Left-handed
  - Clip space
  - Normalized Device Coordinate (NDC) space
  - Window space

Right-handed
Cartesian Coordinates

In eye space, eye is "looking down" the negative Z axis

Left-handed
Cartesian Coordinates
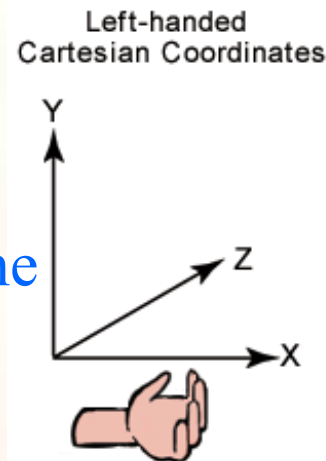
Positive depth is further from view

Affine Frustum Clip Equations

- The idea of a $[-1,+1]^3$ view frustum cube
  - Regions outside this cube get clipped
  - Regions inside the cube get rasterized
- Equations
  - $-1 \leq x_c \leq +1$
  - $-1 \leq y_c \leq +1$
  - $-1 \leq z_c \leq +1$

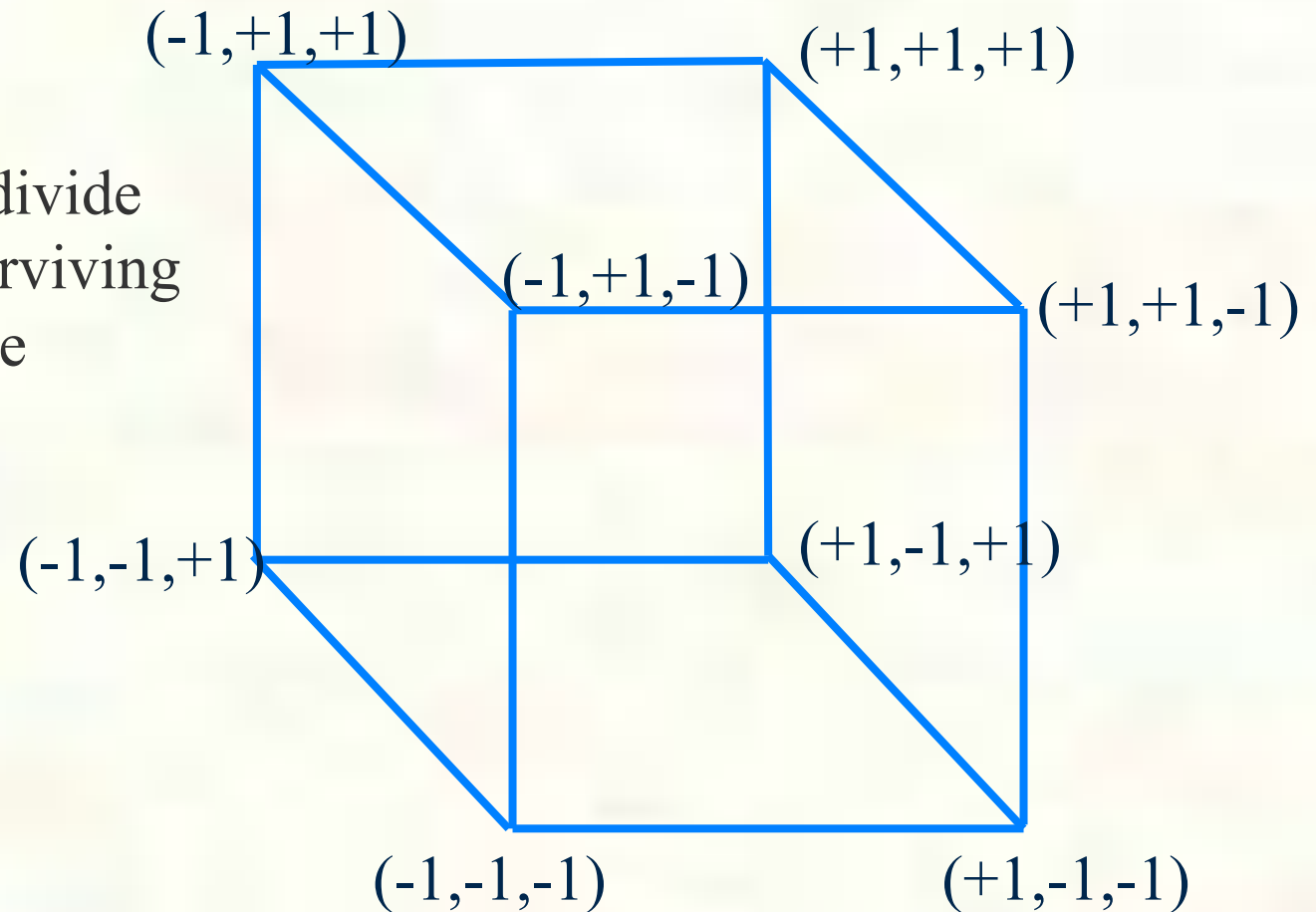# Projective Frustum Clip Equations

- Generalizes clip cube as a projective space
  - Uses (x_c, y_c, z_c, w_c) clip-space coordinates
- Equations
  - $-w_c \leq x_c \leq +w_c$
  - $-w_c \leq y_c \leq +w_c$
  - $-w_c \leq z_c \leq +w_c$
- Notice
  - Impossible for $w_c < 0$ to survive clipping
  - Interpretation: w_c is distance in front of the eye
    - So negative w_c values are "behind your head"

Post-perspective divide puts the region surviving clipping within the $[-1,+1]^3$

(-1,+1,+1)   (+1,+1,+1)

(-1,+1,-1)   (+1,+1,-1)

(-1,-1,+1)   (+1,-1,+1)

(-1,-1,-1)   (+1,-1,-1)

Clip Space Clip Cube

Constraints

$(x_{min}/w, y_{max}/w, z_{max}/w)$ $(x_{max}/w, y_{max}/w, z_{max}/w)$

$x_{min} = -w$

$x_{max} = w$

$y_{min} = -w$ $(x_{min}/w, y_{max}/w, z_{min}/w)$ $(x_{max}/w, y_{max}/w, z_{min}/w)$

$y_{max} = w$

$z_{min} = -w$

$z_{max} = w$

$w > 0$ $(x_{min}/w, y_{min}/w, z_{max}/w)$ $(x_{max}/w, y_{min}/w, z_{max}/w)$

$(x_{max}/w, y_{min}/w, z_{min}/w)$

$(x_{min}/w, y_{min}/w, z_{min}/w)$

Pre-perspective divide puts the region surviving clipping within

$-w \leq x \leq w, \ -w \leq y \leq w, \ -w \leq z \leq w$

Window Space Clip Cube

(x,y+h,zFar)   (x+w,y+h,zFar)

(x,y+h,zNear)

(x+w,y+h,zNear)

(x,y,zFar)

(x+w,y,zFar)

(x,y,zNear)   (x+w,y,zNear)
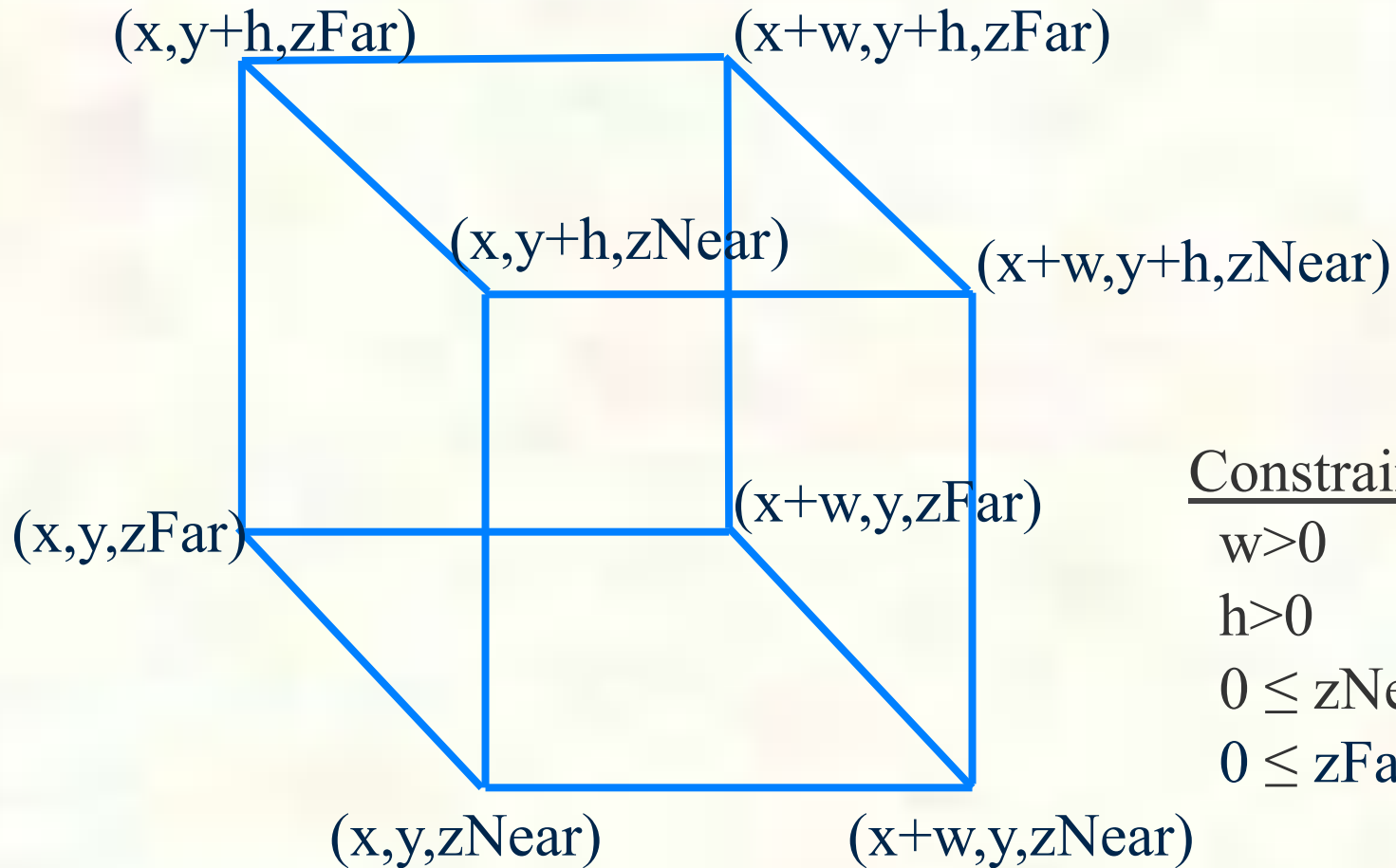
Constraints
w>0
h>0
$0 \leq zNear \leq 1$
$0 \leq zFar \leq 1$

Assuming glViewport(x,y,w,h) and glDepthRange(zNear,zFar)

Perspective Divide

- Divide clip-space (x,y,z) by clip-space w
  - To get Normalized Device Coordinate (NDC) space
- Means reciprocal operation is done once
  - And done after clipping
  - Minimizes division by zero concern

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \\ z_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_c / w_c \\ y_c / w_c \\ z_c / w_c \end{bmatrix}$$

Transform All Box Corners

keep in mind: looking down the negative Z axis… so Z box coordinates are negative n (-15) and negative f (+25)

- Consider
    - glLoadIdentity();
      glOrtho(-20, 30, 10, 60, 15, -25);
        - l=-20, r=30, b=10, t=50, n=15, f=-25
    - Eight box corners: (-20,10,-15), (-20,10,25), (-20, 50,-15), (-20, 50,-25), (30,10,-15), (30,10,25), (30,50,-15), (30,50,25)

- Transform each corner by the 4x4 matrix

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{25} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{5} \\
0 & \frac{1}{20} & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} \\
0 & 0 & \frac{1}{20} & -\frac{1}{4} \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
-20 & -20 & -20 & -20 & 30 & 30 & 30 & 30 \\
10 & 10 & 50 & 50 & 10 & 10 & 50 & 50 \\
-15 & 25 & -15 & 25 & -15 & 25 & -15 & 25 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
$$

8 corners in column vector (position) form

Box Corners in Clip Space

8 "eye space" corners in column vector form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{25} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{5} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{20} & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{20} & -\frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -20 & -20 & -20 & -20 & 30 & 30 & 30 & 30 \\ 10 & 10 & 50 & 50 & 10 & 10 & 50 & 50 \\ -15 & 25 & -15 & 25 & -15 & 25 & -15 & 25 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

result is "corners" of clip space (and NDC) clip cube

Transform All Box Corners

keep in mind: looking down the negative Z axis… so Z box coordinates are negative n (-1) and negative f (-1000)

- Consider
  - glLoadIdentity();
    glFrustum(-30, 30, -20, 20, 1, 1000)
    - left=-30, right=30, bottom=-20, top=20, near=1, far=1000
  - Eight box corners: (-30,-20,-1), (-30,-20,-1000), (-30, 20,-1), (-30, 20,-1000), (30,10,-1), (30,10,-1000), (30,50,-1), (30,50,-1000)

- Transform each corner by the 4x4 matrix

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{30} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & \frac{1}{20} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -\frac{1001}{999} & -\frac{2000}{999} \\
0 & 0 & -1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
-30 & -30000 & -30 & -30000 & 30 & 30000 & 30 & 30000 \\
-20 & -20000 & 20 & 20000 & -20 & -20000 & 20 & 20000 \\
-1 & -1000 & -1 & -1000 & -1 & -1000 & -1 & -1000 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
$$

near far near far near far near far

Box Corners in Clip Space

8 "eye space" corners in column vector form

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\dfrac{1}{30} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & \dfrac{1}{20} & 0 & 0 \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & -\dfrac{1001}{999} & -\dfrac{2000}{999} \\[2mm]
0 & 0 & -1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
-30 & -30000 & -30 & -30000 & 30 & 30000 & 30 & 30000 \\
-20 & -20000 & 20 & 20000 & -20 & -20000 & 20 & 20000 \\
-1 & -1000 & -1 & -1000 & -1 & -1000 & -1 & -1000 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
$$

$$
=
\begin{bmatrix}
-1 & -1000 & -1 & -1000 & +1 & +1000 & +1 & +1000 \\
-1 & -1000 & +1 & +1000 & -1 & -1000 & +1 & +1000 \\
-1 & +1000 & -1 & +1000 & -1 & +1000 & -1 & +1000 \\
+1 & +1000 & +1 & +1000 & +1 & +1000 & +1 & +1000
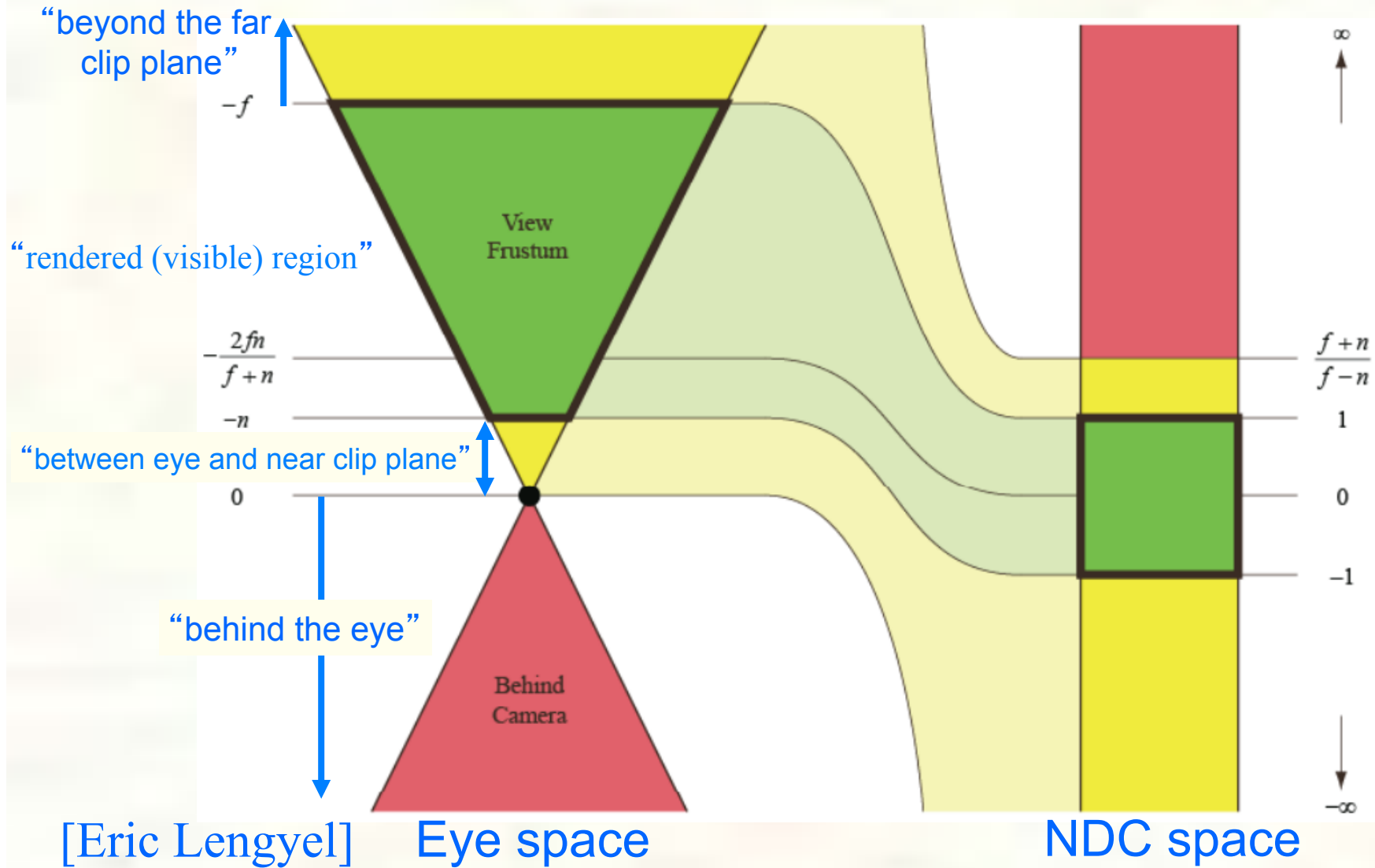\end{bmatrix}
$$

Box Corners in NDC Space

■ Perform perspective divide

$$
wdivide\left(\begin{bmatrix}
-1 & -1000 & -1 & -1000 & +1 & +1000 & +1 & +1000 \\
-1 & -1000 & +1 & +1000 & -1 & -1000 & +1 & +1000 \\
-1 & +1000 & -1 & +1000 & -1 & +1000 & -1 & +1000 \\
+1 & +1000 & +1 & +1000 & +1 & +1000 & +1 & +1000
\end{bmatrix}\right)
$$

$$
= \begin{bmatrix}
-1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & +1 \\
-1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 \\
-1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 \\
+1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & +1
\end{bmatrix}
$$

W component is 1 (at near plane) or 1/1000 (at far plane)
Z component is always -1 (assuming W=1 eye-space positions)

Eye Space and NDC Space

"beyond the far clip plane"

$-f$

"rendered (visible) region"

View Frustum

$-\dfrac{2fn}{f+n}$

$-n$

"between eye and near clip plane"

0

"behind the eye"

Behind Camera

∞

$\dfrac{f+n}{f-n}$

1

0

-1

$-\infty$

[Eric Lengyel]   Eye space

NDC space

Hidden-Surface Removal

- Although our selection of the form of the perspective matrices may appear somewhat arbitrary, it was chosen so that if $z_1 > z_2$ in the original clipping volume then for the transformed points $z_1' > z_2'$

- Thus hidden surface removal works if we first apply the normalization transformation

- However, the formula $z' = -(\alpha + \beta/z)$ implies that the distances are distorted by the normalization which can cause numerical problems especially if the near distance is small

Why do we do it this way?

- Normalization allows for a single pipeline for both perspective and orthogonal viewing
- We stay in four dimensional homogeneous coordinates as long as possible to retain three-dimensional information needed for hidden-surface removal and shading
- We simplify clipping

Notes

- We stay in four-dimensional homogeneous coordinates through both the modelview and projection transformations
  - Both these transformations are nonsingular
  - Default to identity matrices (orthogonal view)
- Normalization lets us clip against simple cube regardless of type of projection
- Delay final projection until end
  - Important for hidden-surface removal to retain depth information as long as possible

Viewport and Depth Range

- Prototypes
  - glViewport(GLint vx, GLint vy, GLsizei vw, GLsizei vh)
  - glDepthRange(GLclampd n, GLclampd f)
- Equations
  - Maps NDC space to window space

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_w \\ y_w \\ z_w \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{v_w}{2} x_n + \left(v_x + \dfrac{v_w}{2} \right) \\ \dfrac{v_h}{2} y_n + \left(v_y + \dfrac{v_h}{2} \right) \\ \dfrac{f-n}{2} z_n + \dfrac{f+n}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Next Lecture

- Modelview Transformations