

# CSC 240 Computer Graphics

## Video 10: Introduction to 3D Graphics

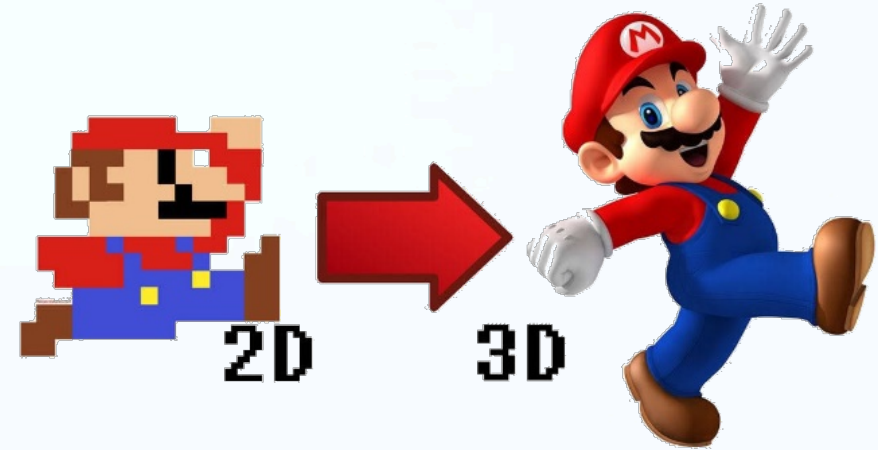
Nick Howe  
Smith College

*Some slides & content courtesy Sara Mathieson*

# 3D Graphics

How do we get from 2D to 3D?

- Just add a  $z$ ?  $p = (x, y)$ , now  $p = (x, y, z)$ ?
- But we still need to view in 2D!
- Solution:  $p_W = (x_W, y_W, z_W)$  in 3D world coordinates  
Rendering transformation converts into a 2D  $P_V = (x_V, y_V)$





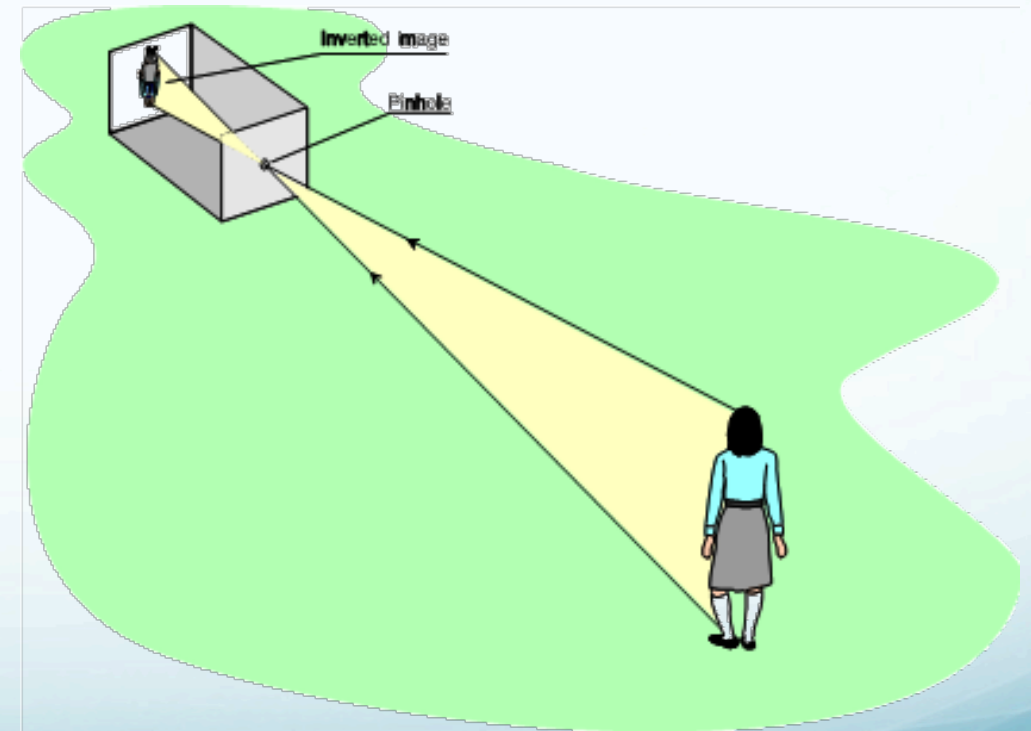
# Image Formation

Idea: Mimic the formation of images in the real world!



# Image Formation: Photography

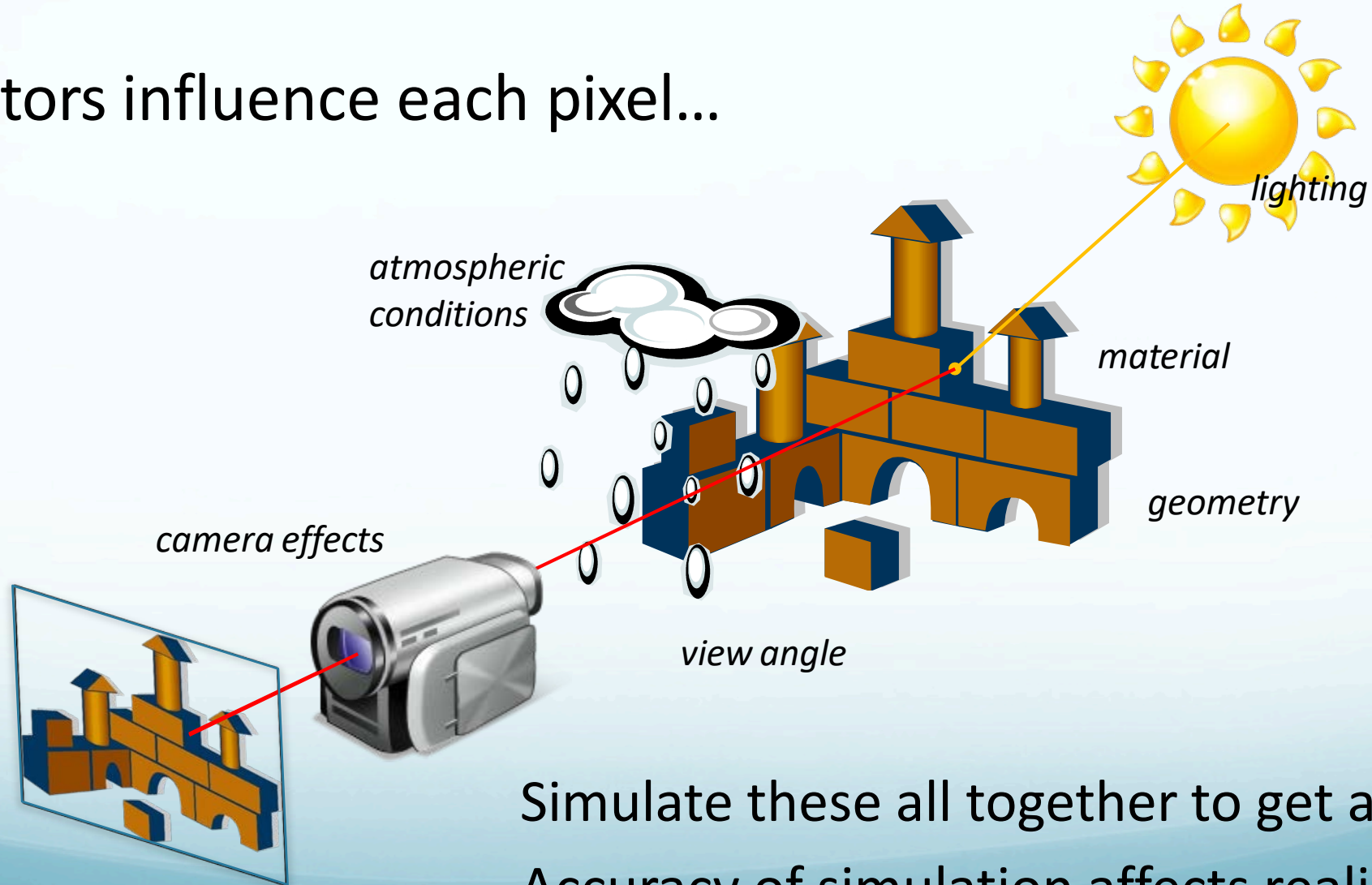
- Light from 3D observed scene enters camera
- Recorded by 2D grid of sensor pixels
- Position of feature on sensor grid depends on angle of incoming light ray
- Image formation happens automatically thanks to physics & geometry





# Image Formation: Simulation

Many factors influence each pixel...



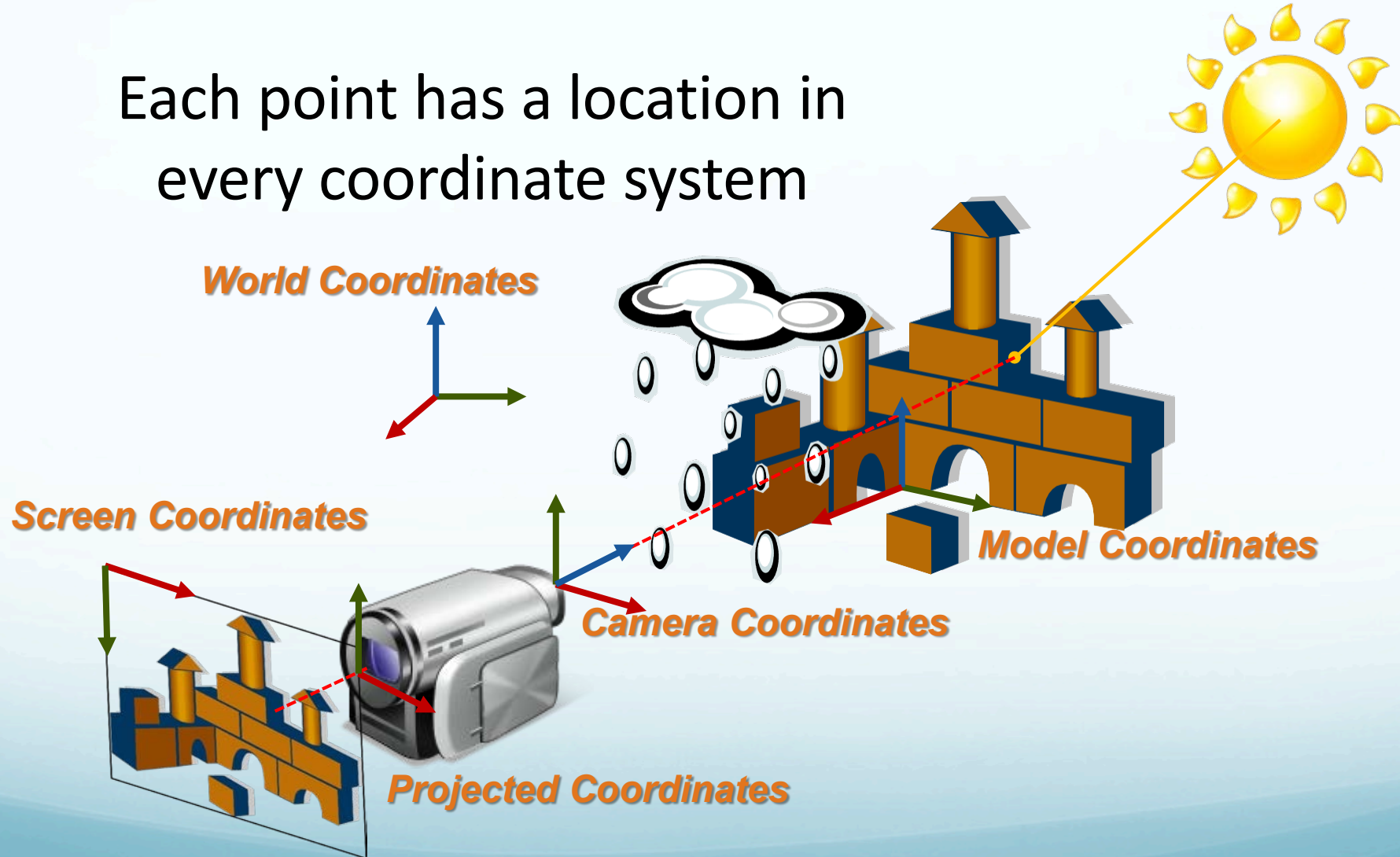
Simulate these all together to get an image  
Accuracy of simulation affects realism of result

# Coordinate Systems

- **World coordinates**: where all objects live, fully 3D
- **Model or object coordinates**: one for each object (choose origin to be the center of each object), 3D
- **Camera coordinates**: 3D coordinate system that moves with the point of view  
“Eye” coordinates
- **Projected coordinates**: coordinates after projection (either orthographic or perspective), 2D  
“Clip” coordinates
- **Screen coordinates**: pixel locations (i.e. 300x400 window), all viewport coordinates need to be mapped to pixel locations  
“Device” coordinates

# Coordinate Systems & Rendering

Each point has a location in every coordinate system



# Questions

PAUSE NOW & ANSWER

1. List five factors that contribute to the appearance of a pixel in an image.

*Materials, geometry, lighting, atmospherics, angle of view, camera effects.*

2. Match each coordinate system with its description

A. Projected coordinates

B. World coordinates

C. Camera coordinates

D. Model coordinates

E. Screen coordinates

U. 3D, moves with point of view

V. 2D, with pixel-sized units

W. 3D, encompasses entire scene

X. 2D, version of 3D scene

Y. 3D, specific to a single object

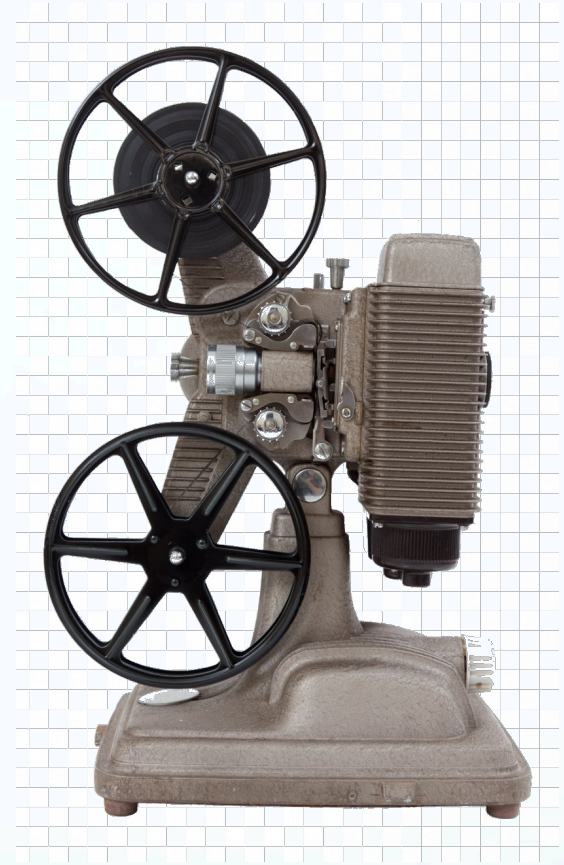
3. How can the different coordinate systems be related to one another?

*By a transformation that converts points from one to the other*



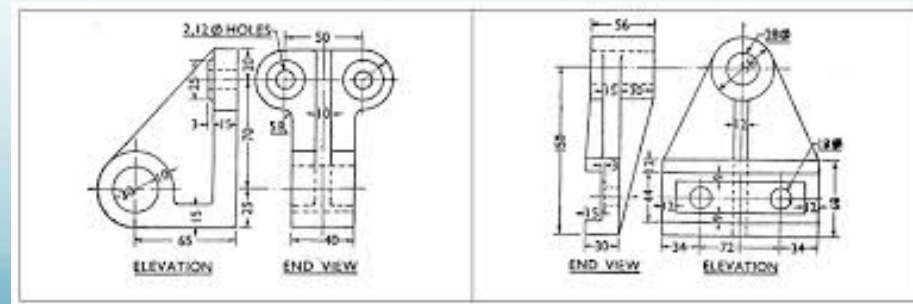
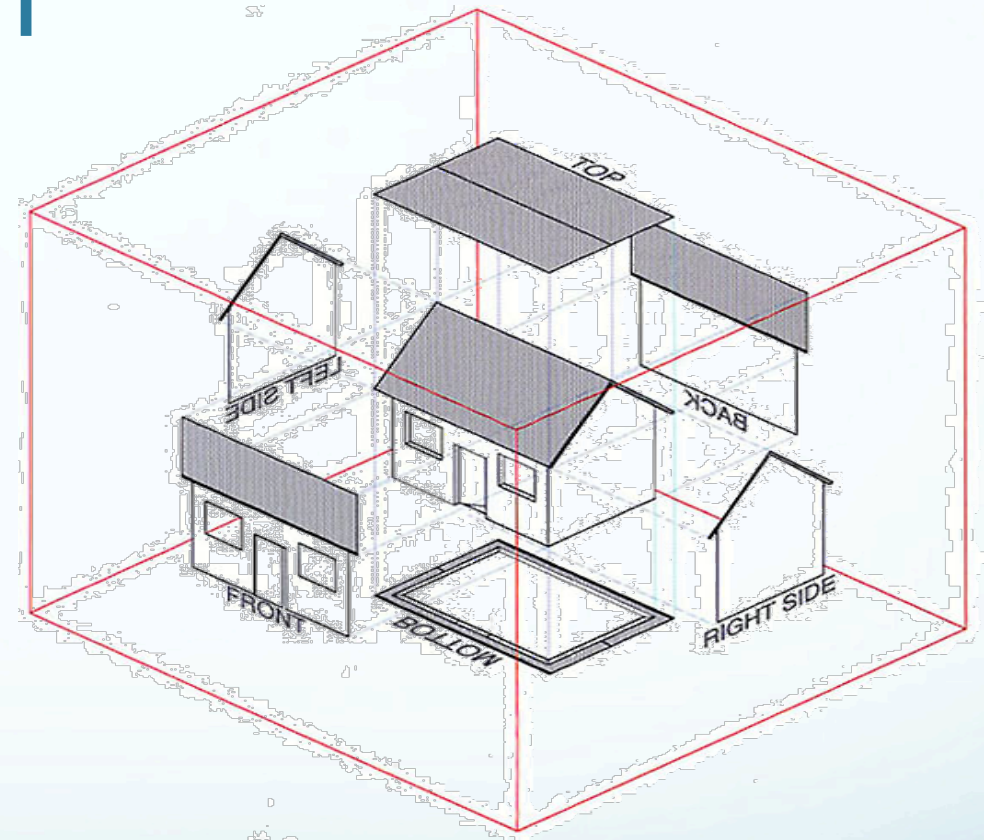


# Projection



# Projection

- Easiest way to go from 3 to 2 dimensions is to drop one.
- This is called **orthographic projection**.
- Used in plan views of buildings
  - Floor plan
  - Side elevations
- Also used in mechanical drawings

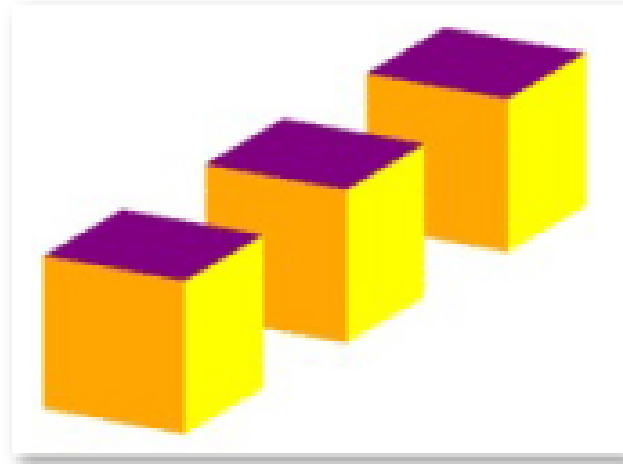


Robert Gardiner,  
the University of  
British Columbia

# Projection

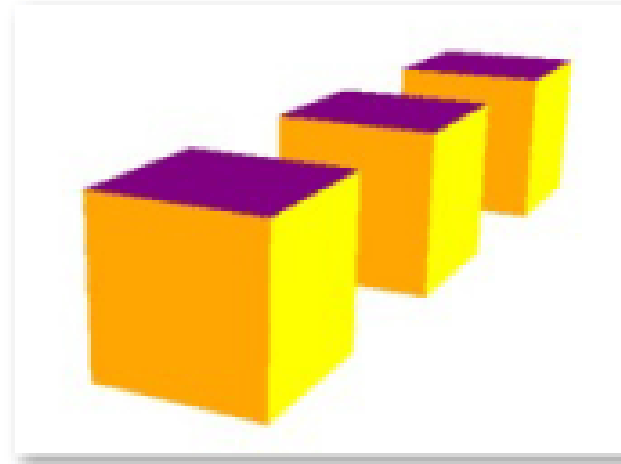
Orthographic projection is useful for drafting diagrams, but doesn't match the way we see the world

Orthographic Projection



Under orthographic projection, objects look the same size no matter how far away they are

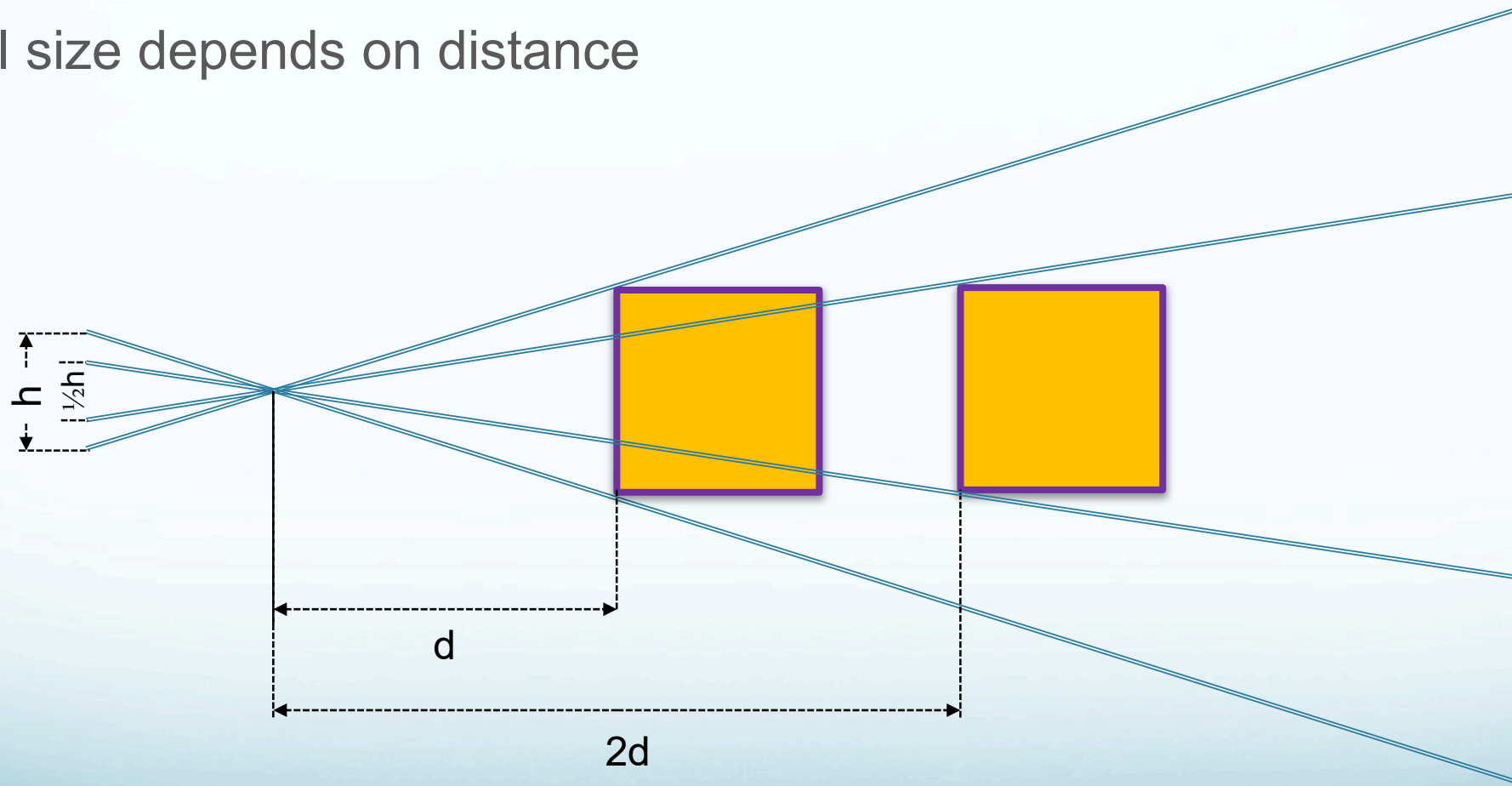
Perspective Projection



In our lived experience, the visual size of an object depends upon its distance

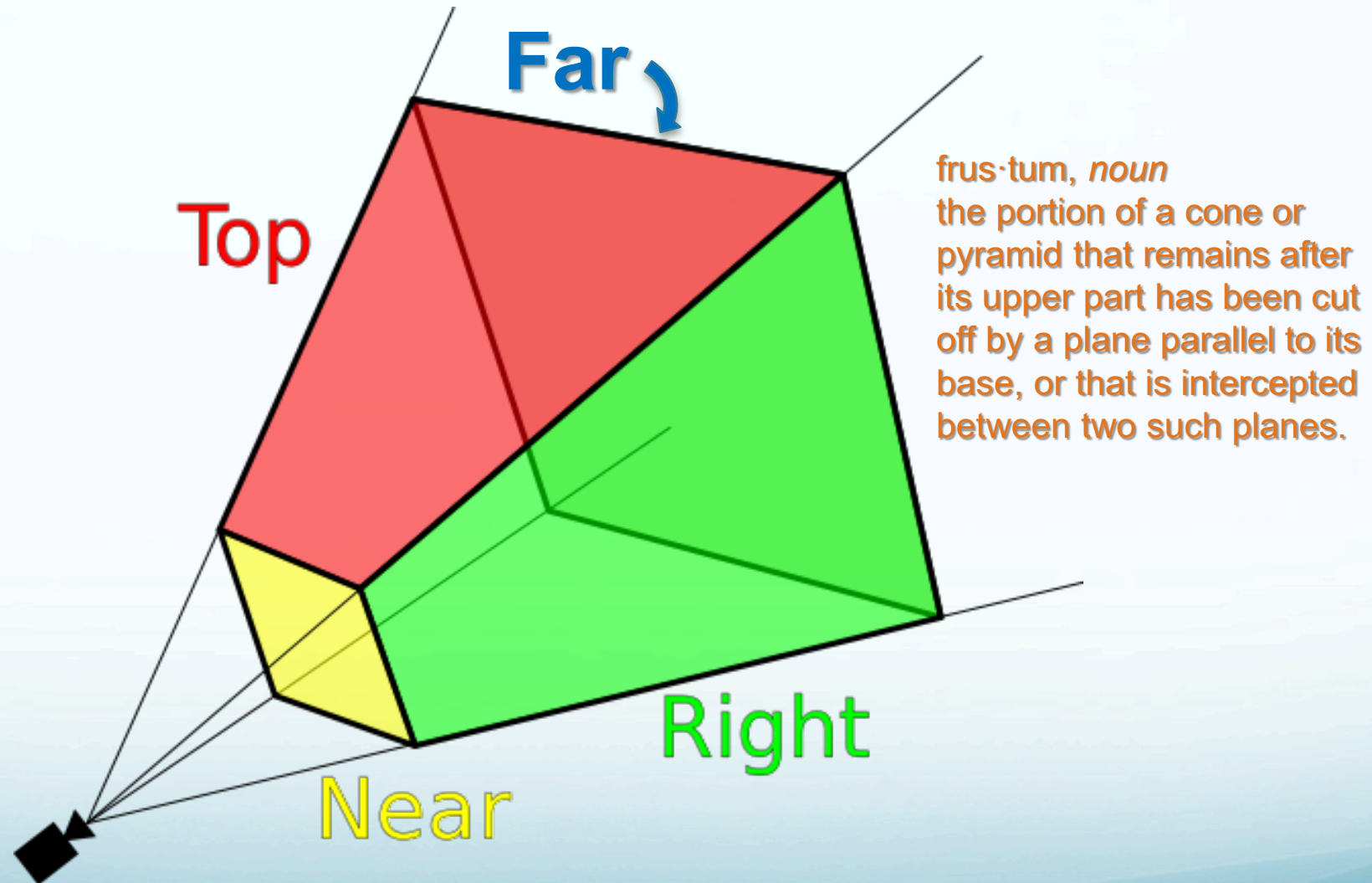
# Perspective Projection

Visual size depends on distance

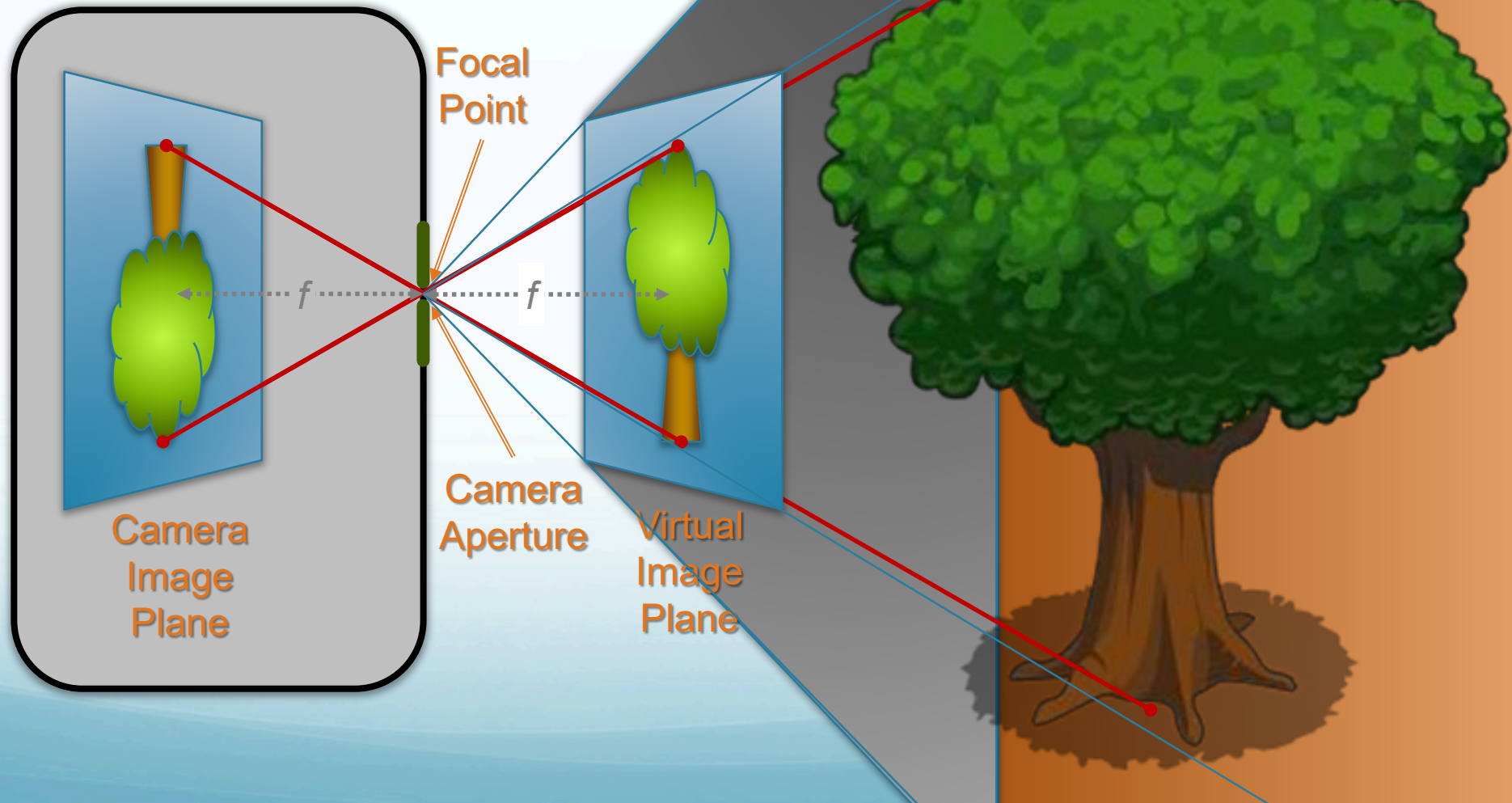




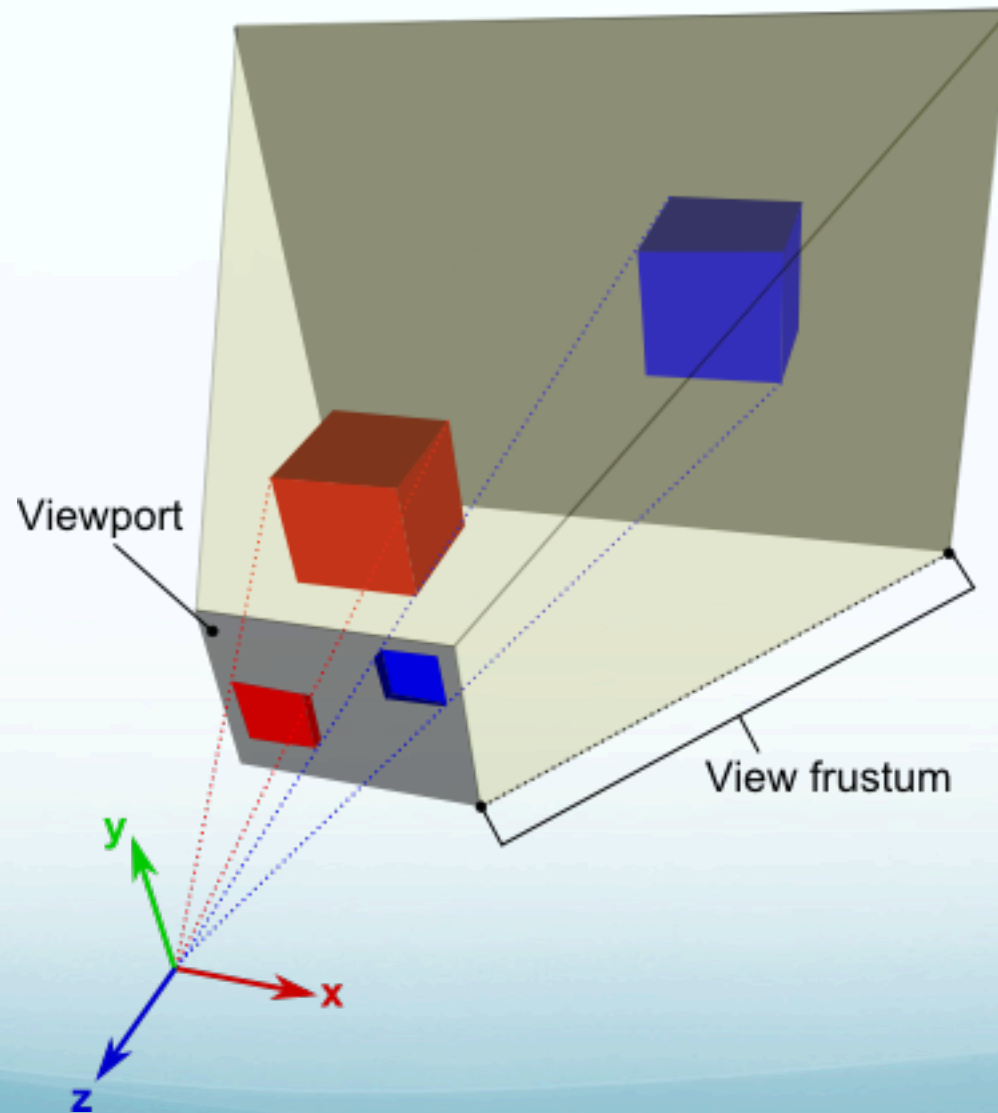
# Perspective Projection: Frustum



# Perspective Projection



# Perspective Projection



# Projection

How does projection work mathematically?

- 2x3 matrix takes 3D points down to 2D
- (In homogeneous coordinates, matrix would be 3x4)

- Ex: Orthographic projection is  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

- Perspective projection scales  $x$  and  $y$  by  $z$  component

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/f & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$f$  is the focal length

- to restore homogeneous coordinates, 3<sup>rd</sup> coordinate must be normalized back to 1 after doing the projection

Not a matrix  
multiplication!



# Perspective Projection

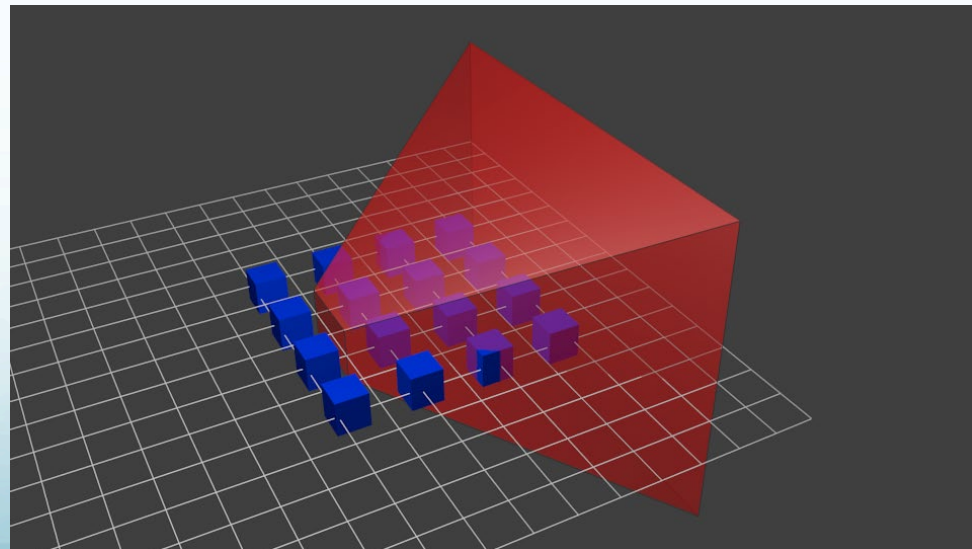
Example: Project the points (1,0,1), (1,0,2), and (2,0,2) using focal length of 1

Perspective projection matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  Matrix of points  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

The homogeneous coordinates must be normalized to 1!  
Divide each column by the value in the bottom row

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.5 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Result is 2D homogeneous form of the original 3D points under perspective projection



# Questions

PAUSE NOW & ANSWER

1. Which projection draws objects at the same size no matter how far away?

*Orthographic*

2. Why do you think the view frustum has a far clipping plane?

*To avoid drawing many objects that are too small to see clearly.*

3. Compute the **orthographic** projection of the points (6,4,4), and (2,8,2).

*(6,4) and (2,8)*

4. Compute the **perspective** projection of the points (6,4,4), and (2,8,2) using focal length of 2

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 4 & 8 \\ 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 4 & 8 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 8 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Review

After watching this video, you should be able to...

- List factors that influence the formation of images
- Identify different coordinate systems used during 3D rendering
- Define two types of projections & express as projection matrices
- Describe the view frustum and its purpose
- Project points numerically from 3D to 2D under both orthographic and perspective projection