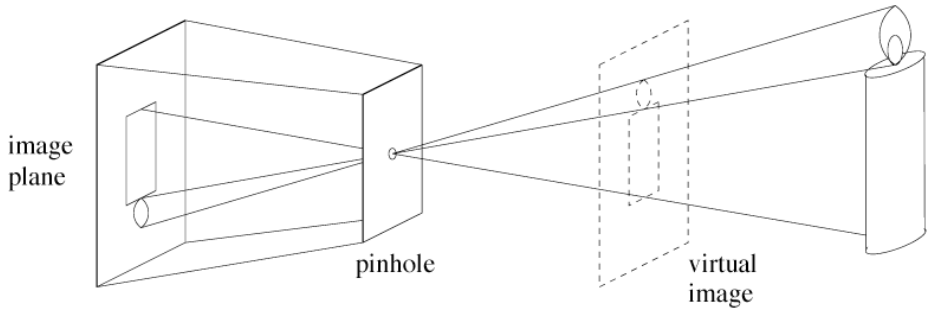
Cameras

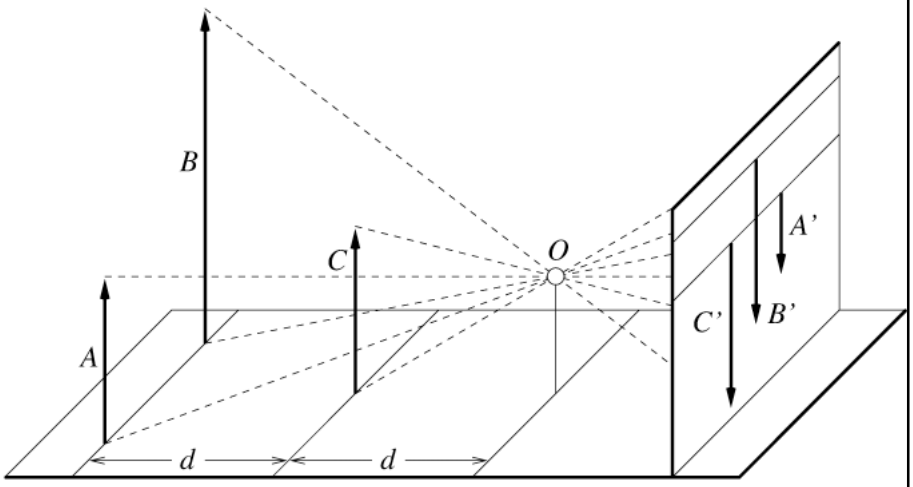
- First photograph due to Niepce
- First on record shown in the book - 1822
- Basic abstraction is the pinhole camera
  - lenses required to ensure image is not too dark
  - various other abstractions can be applied

Pinhole cameras

- Abstract camera model - box with a small hole in it
- Pinhole cameras work in practice



Distant objects are smaller



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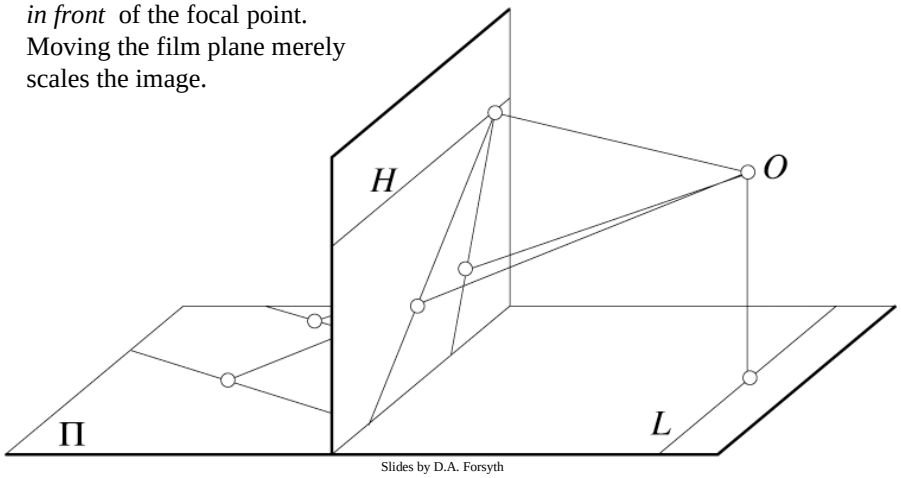
Parallel lines meet

Common to draw film plane *in front* of the focal point. Moving the film plane merely scales the image.



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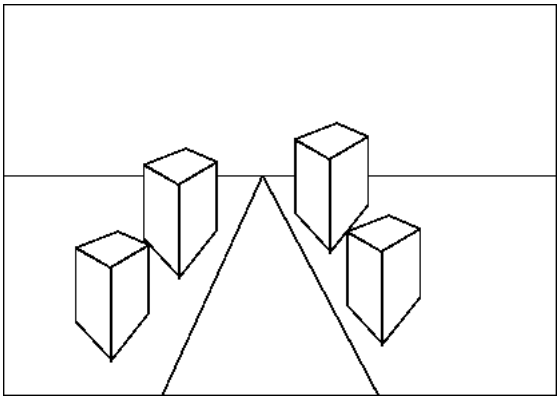
Vanishing points

- each set of parallel lines (=direction) meets at a different point
  - The *vanishing point* for this direction
- Sets of parallel lines on the same plane lead to *collinear* vanishing points.
  - The line is called the *horizon* for that plane
- Good ways to spot faked images
  - scale and perspective don't work
  - vanishing points behave badly
  - supermarket tabloids are a great source.



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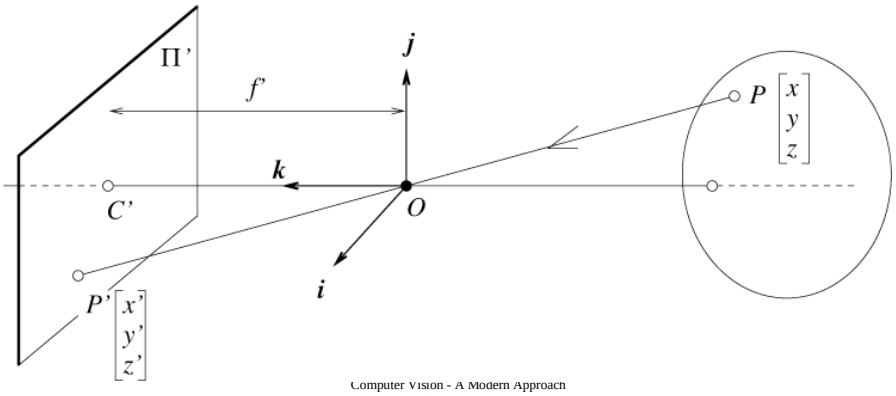
The equation of projection



The equation of projection

- Cartesian coordinates:
  - We have, by similar triangles, that (x, y, z) -> (f x/z, f y/z, -f)
  - Ignore the third coordinate, and get

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow (f\frac{x}{z}, f\frac{y}{z})$$

Homogenous coordinates

- Add an extra coordinate and use an equivalence relation
- for 2D
  - equivalence relation k*(X,Y,Z) is the same as (X,Y,Z)
- for 3D
  - equivalence relation k*(X,Y,Z,T) is the same as (X,Y,Z,T)

- Basic notion
  - Possible to represent points "at infinity"
    - Where parallel lines intersect
    - Where parallel planes intersect
  - Possible to write the action of a perspective camera as a matrix

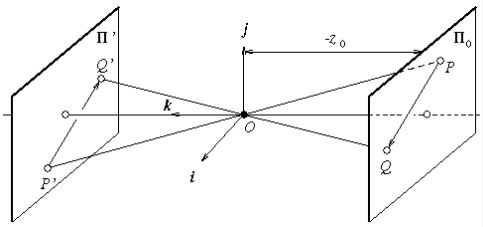
The camera matrix

- Turn previous expression into HC's
  - HC's for 3D point are (X,Y,Z,T)
  - HC's for point in image are (U,V,W)

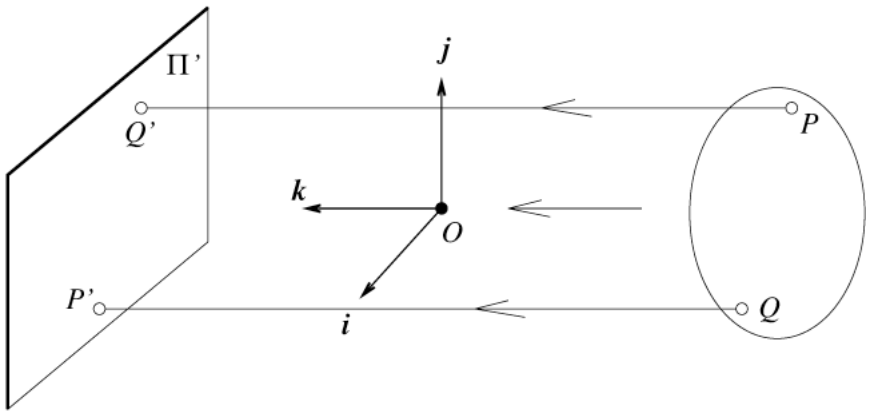
$$\begin{pmatrix} U \\ V \\ W \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/f & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ T \end{pmatrix}$$

Weak perspective

- Issue
  - perspective effects, but not over the scale of individual objects
  - collect points into a group at about the same depth, then divide each point by the depth of its group
  - Adv: easy
  - Disadv: wrong



Orthographic projection



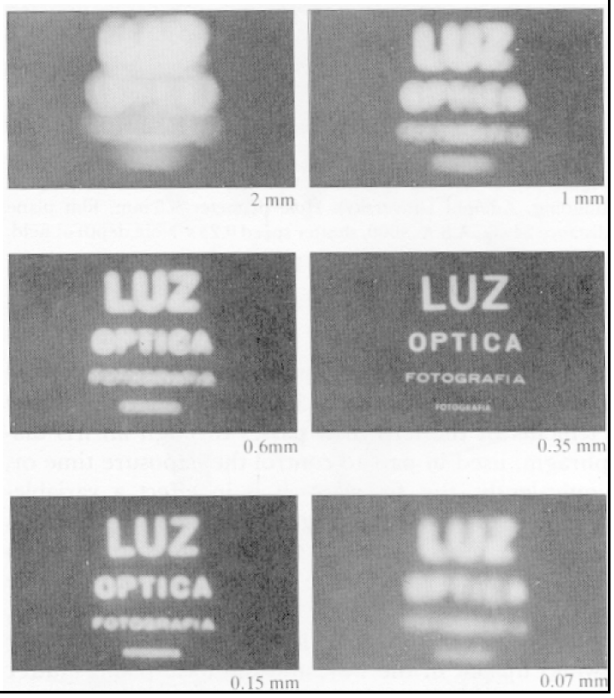
The projection matrix for orthographic projection

$$\begin{pmatrix} U \\ V \\ W \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ T \end{pmatrix}$$

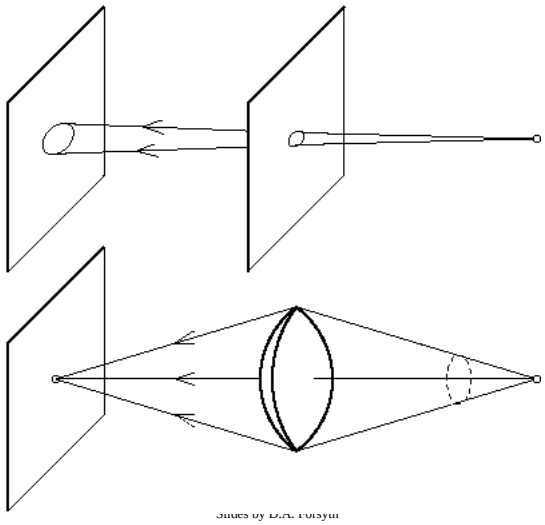
Pinhole too big - many directions are averaged, blurring the image

Pinhole too small- diffraction effects blur the image

Generally, pinhole cameras are *dark*, because a very small set of rays from a particular point hits the screen.



The reason for lenses



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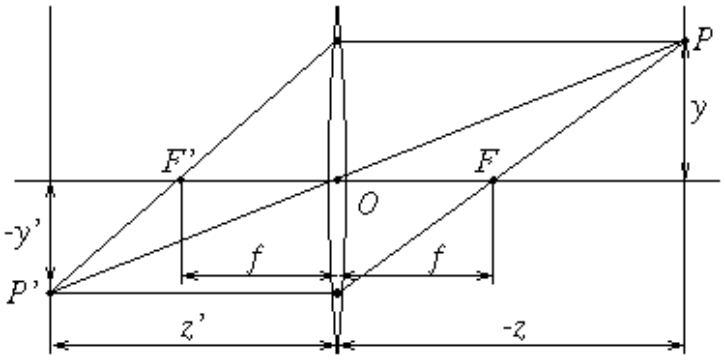
The thin lens



$$\frac{1}{z'} - \frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{f}$$

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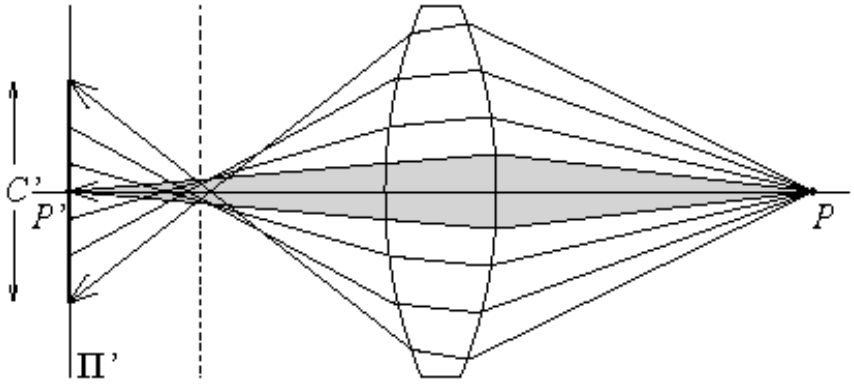
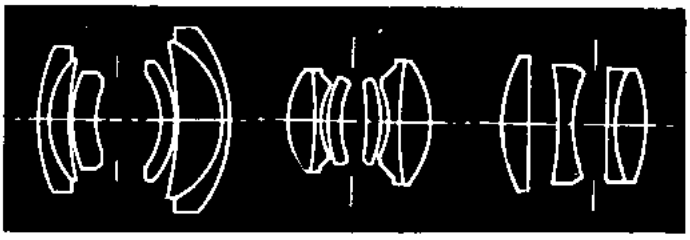
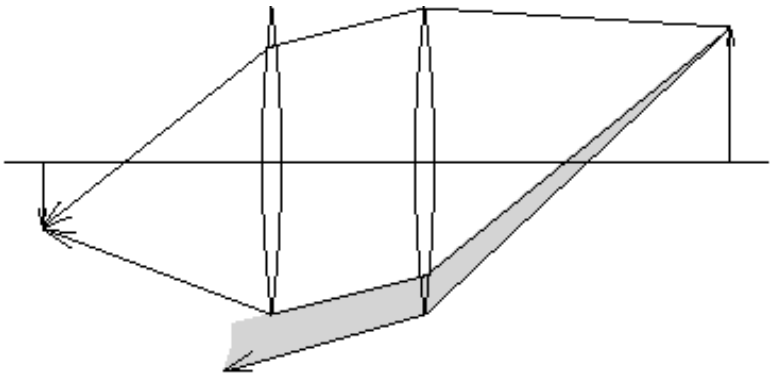
Spherical aberration



Lens systems



Vignetting



Other (possibly annoying) phenomena

- Chromatic aberration
  - Light at different wavelengths follows different paths; hence, some wavelengths are defocussed
  - Machines: coat the lens
  - Humans: live with it
- Scattering at the lens surface
  - Some light entering the lens system is reflected off each surface it encounters (Fresnel's law gives details)
  - Machines: coat the lens, interior
  - Humans: live with it (various scattering phenomena are visible in the human eye)
- Geometric phenomena (Barrel distortion, etc.)

Camera parameters

- Issue
  - camera may not be at the origin, looking down the z-axis
    - extrinsic parameters
  - one unit in camera coordinates may not be the same as one unit in world coordinates
    - intrinsic parameters - focal length, principal point, aspect ratio, angle between axes, etc.

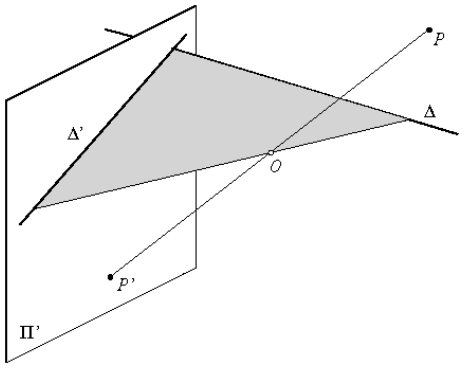
$$\begin{pmatrix} U \\ V \\ W \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Transformation} \\ \text{representing} \\ \text{intrinsic parameters} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \text{Transformation} \\ \text{representing} \\ \text{extrinsic parameters} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ T \end{pmatrix}$$

Camera calibration

- Issues:
  - what are intrinsic parameters of the camera?
  - what is the camera matrix? (intrinsic+extrinsic)
- General strategy:
  - view calibration object
  - identify image points
  - obtain camera matrix by minimizing error
  - obtain intrinsic parameters from camera matrix
- Error minimization:
  - Linear least squares
    - easy problem numerically
    - solution can be rather bad
  - Minimize image distance
    - more difficult numerical problem
    - solution usually rather good,
    - start with linear least squares
  - Numerical scaling is an issue

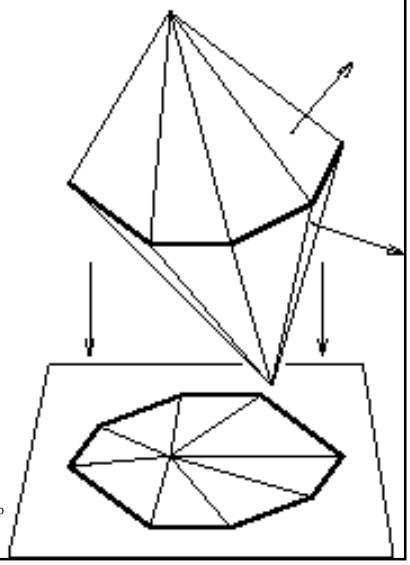
Geometric properties of projection

- Points go to points
- Lines go to lines
- Planes go to whole image
- Polygons go to polygons
- Degenerate cases
  - line through focal point to point
  - plane through focal point to line



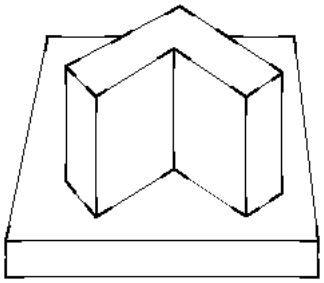
Polyhedra project to polygons

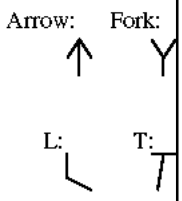
- (because lines project to lines)

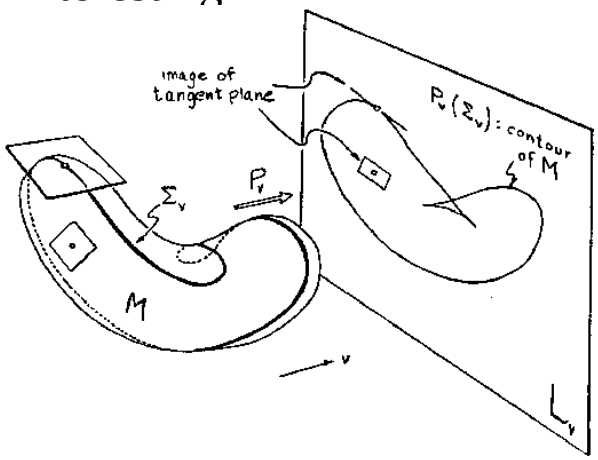


Junctions are constrained

- This leads to a process called “line labelling”
  - one looks for consistent sets of labels, bounding polyhedra
  - disadv - can’t get the lines and junctions to label from real images





Curved surfaces are much more interesting

- Crucial issue: outline is the set of points where the viewing direction is tangent to the surface
- This is a projection of a space curve, which varies from view to view of the surface