

Lecture 15

Perspective in 2D Games

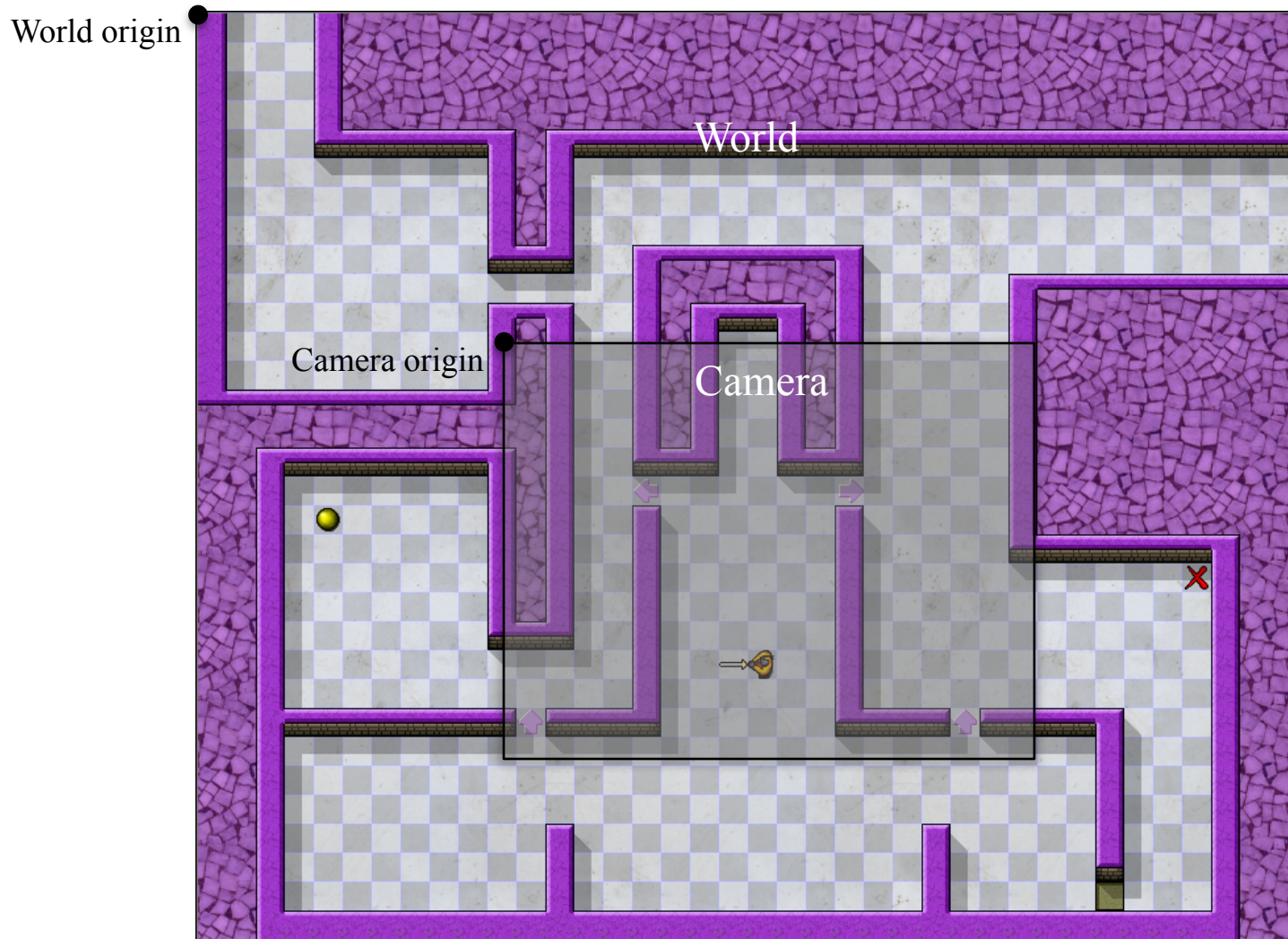
Take Away for Today

- What is the game “camera”?
 - How does it relate to screen space? Object space?
 - How does the camera work in a 2D game? 3D?
- How do we give 2D games depth?
 - Advantages, disadvantages of *orthographic view*
 - Advantages, disadvantages of *axonometric view*
- How does “tileability” affect art in games?

The Game Camera

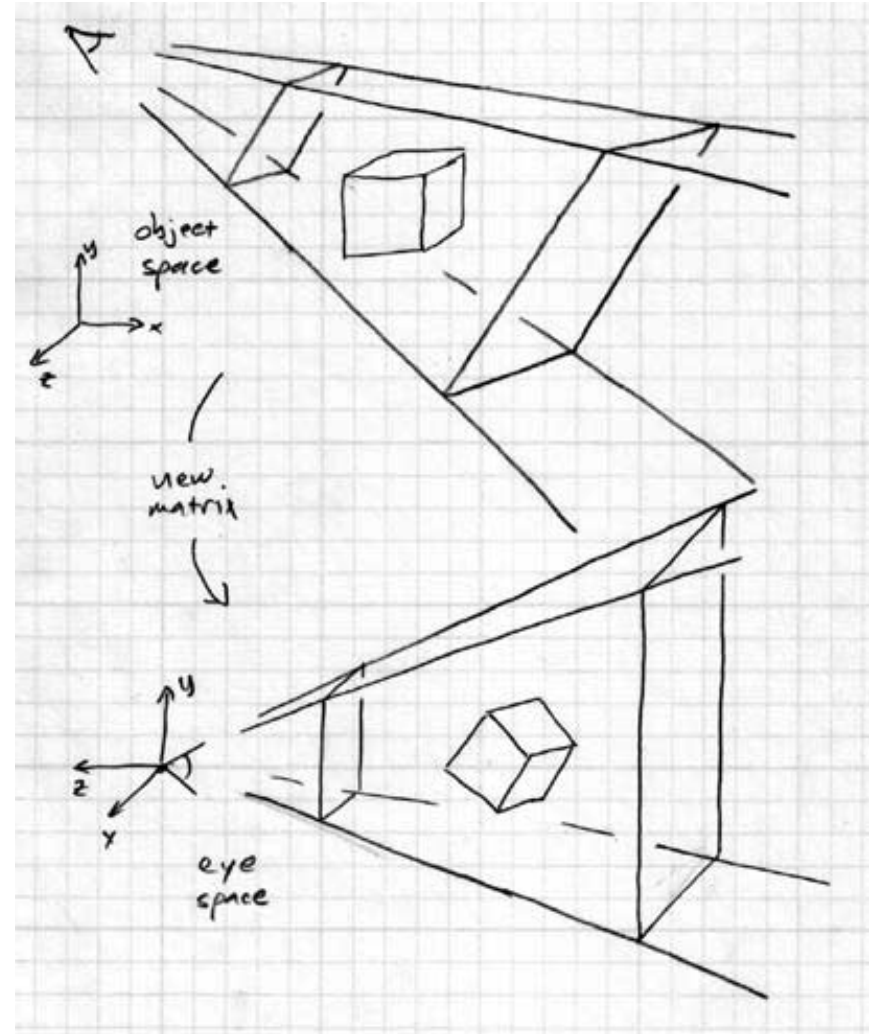
- What makes a game 3-D?
 - Everything is shown on a 2-D screen (mostly)
- 3D game have a **user controlled** “camera”
 - Position camera to look at art from all sides
 - 3-D art has enough information to allow this
- CS/INFO 3152 limits you to a 2-D game
 - The game camera has a *fixed perspective*
 - You render all art to one visible side

Camera in 2D Games



Specifying the Camera

- Camera is a **coord space**
 - Called “eye space”
 - Eye position at origin
- How to move camera?
 - Transforms again!
- **Inverse** of scrolling
 - **Scrolling**: move obj to eye
 - **Camera**: move eye to obj
 - Two matrices are *inverses*

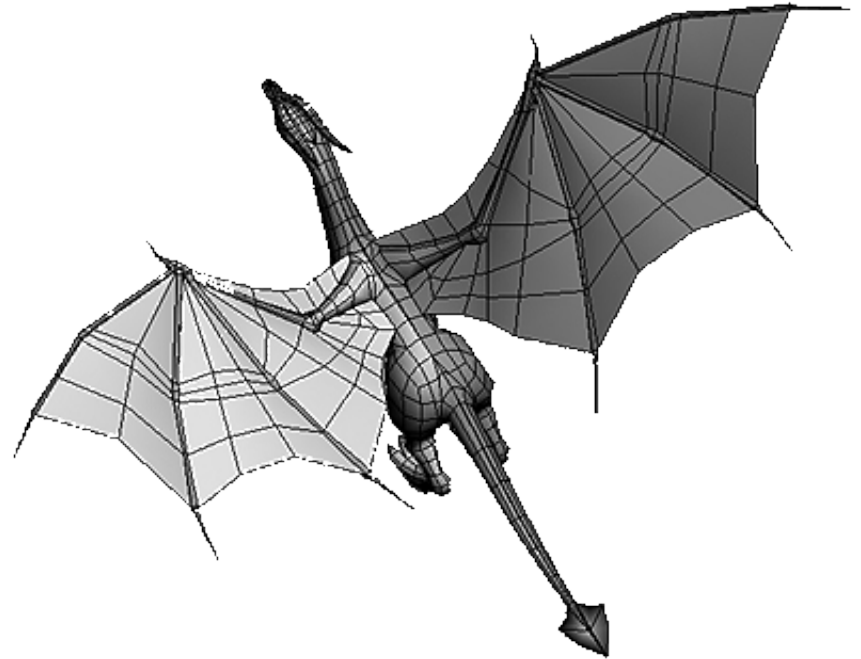


Camera in XNA

- Purpose of `BasicEffects` class
 - `View` property holds **eye space transform**
 - ... also, `Texture` property holds current texture
- Set camera with an **effect pass**
 - `effect.CurrentTechnique.Passes`
 - Call `pass.Apply()` before you draw
 - Works with both sprites and triangles
 - See `Board.cs` in *Programming Lab 2*

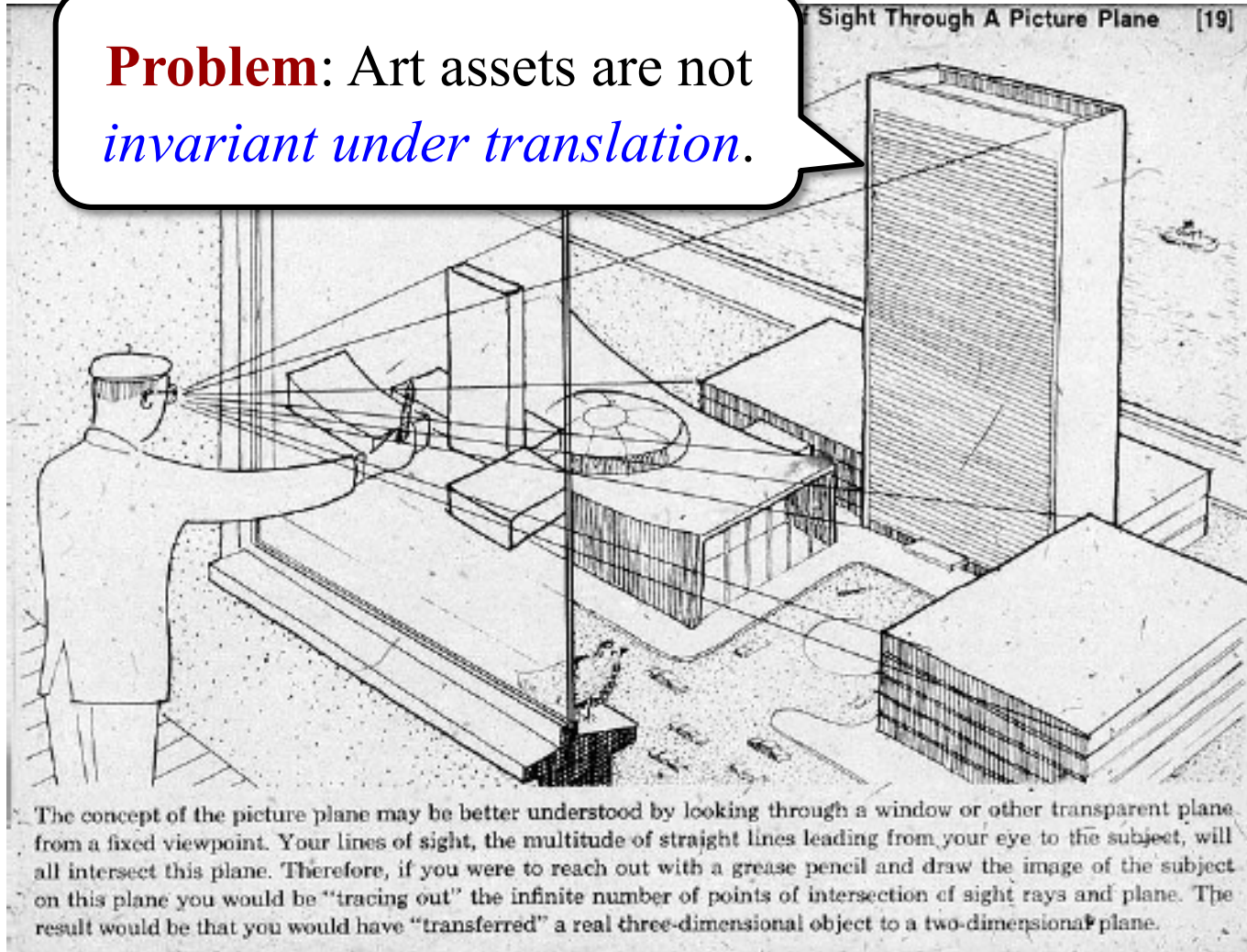
Drawing for a Perspective

- 3D Models make it easy
 - Rotate model to position
 - Flatten to jpeg, tiff, etc...
- But 3D modeling is hard
 - Very technical programs
 - Cannot draw “by hand”
- How to draw perspective?
 - Artist “captures” camera
- **Realism creates problems**

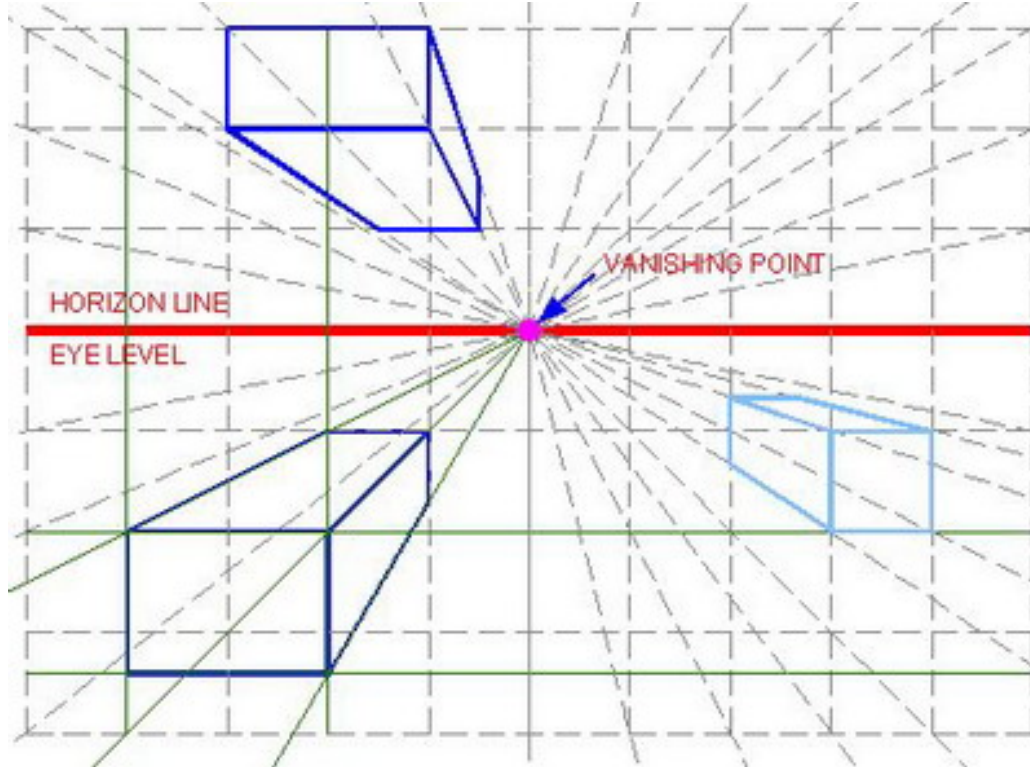


Plane Projection in Drawing

Problem: Art assets are not *invariant under translation*.



Vanishing Points are **Not** Our Friend

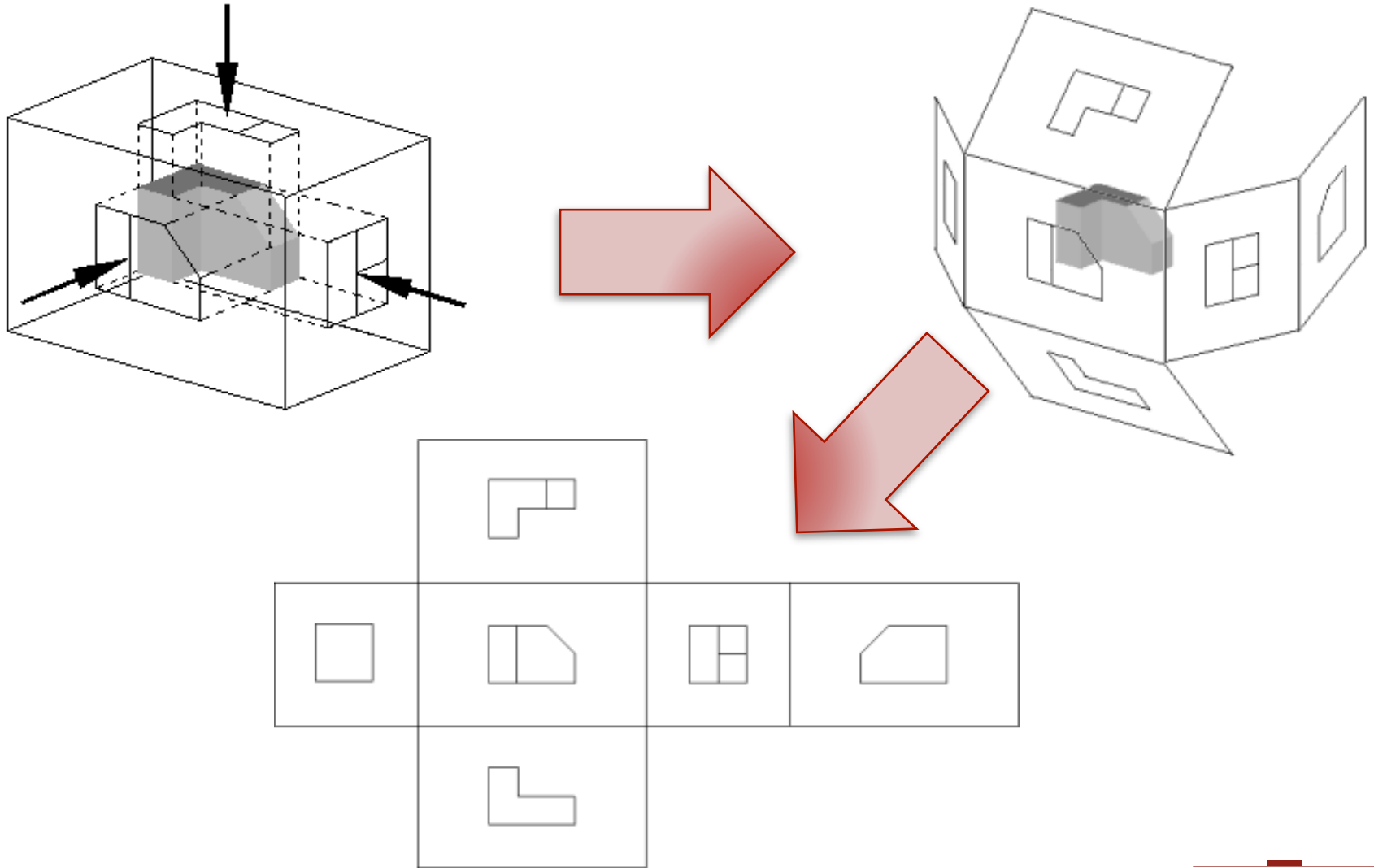


2D games rely on **distortional** perspectives

Orthographic Projection

- *Project perpendicular* to an axis
 - **Top-down**: perpendicular to z-axis
 - **Side scrolling**: perpendicular to y-axis
- Very easy to do artistically
 - Art objects are flat tiles
 - Layer tiles via compositing
- But enforces *2-D gameplay*
 - 3rd dimension lost; cannot be seen
 - **Distorted**: All rays to eye are parallel

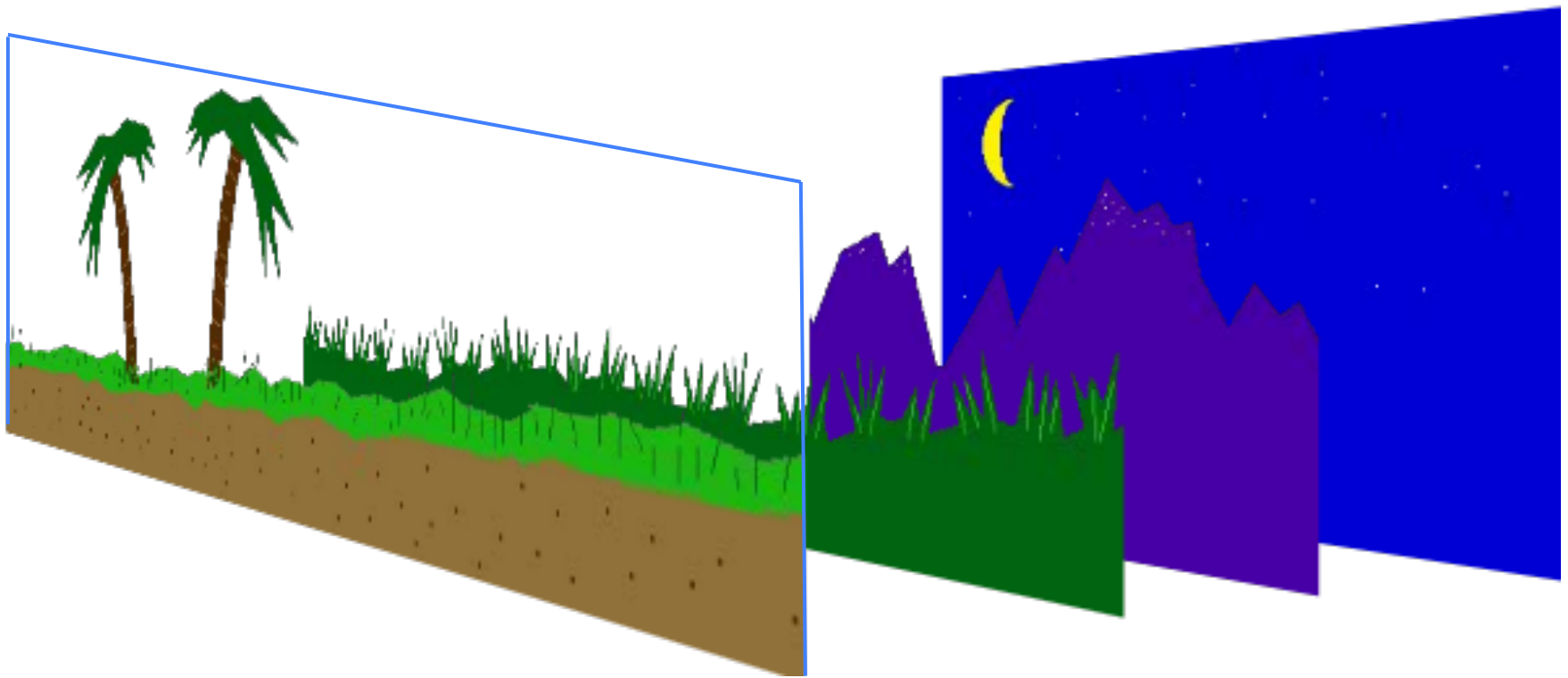
Orthographic Projection



Parallax Scrolling

- Gives depth to orthographic projection
 - Objects in background have distance
 - Rate of scrolling depends on distance
- Implement with multiple background layers
 - Each layer scrolls at a different rate
 - See course website for sample code
- Often requires some degree of **transparency**
 - *Composite* front layers with back layers

Parallax Scrolling

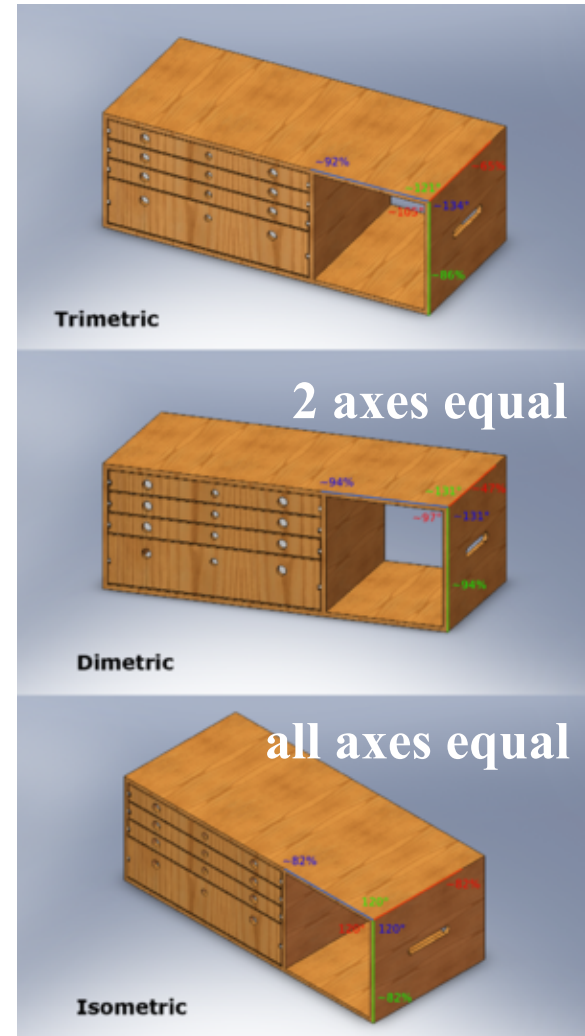


Alternative: Artificial Vanishing Point



Axonometric Projection

- Off axis view of object
 - View along all 3-axes
- Once again: **distorted**
 - Not a true projection
 - No *vanishing point*
 - Axes are “foreshortened”
- Allows 3-D gameplay
 - “Cliffs” are visible
 - May also **hide objects!**



Axonometric Projection



Axonometric Projection



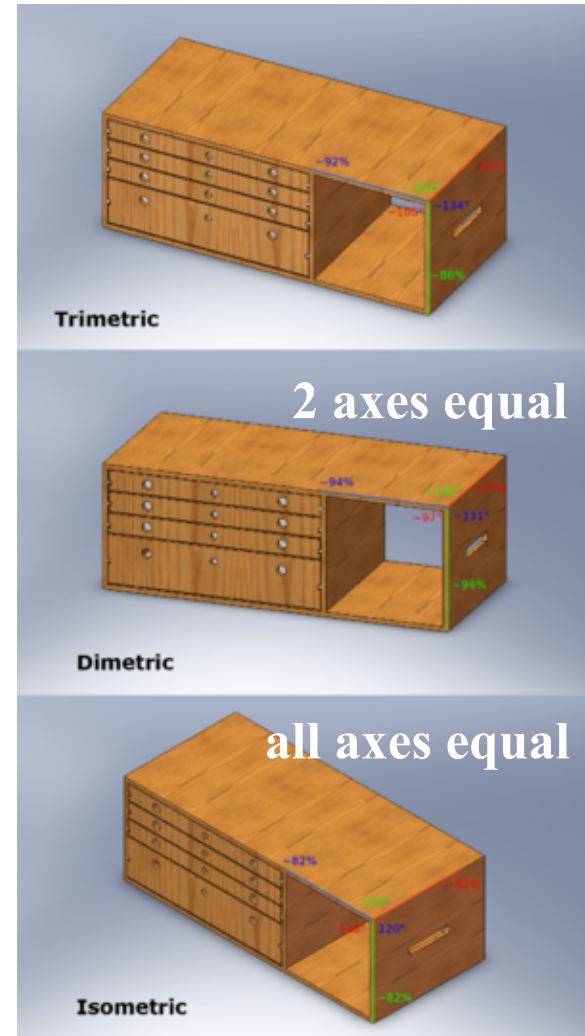
Projection Types

- **Isometric**

- All axes are equal
- If need all dimensions
- Used in classic RPGs

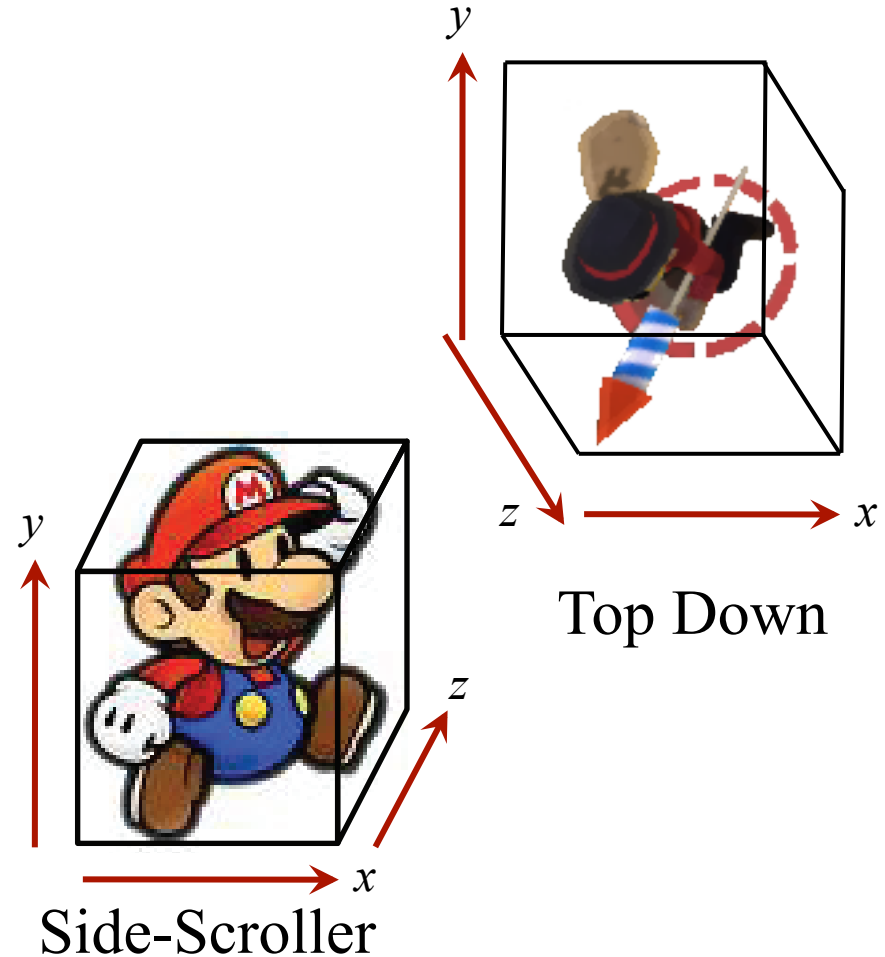
- **Dimetric**

- z-axis is very short
- x, y axes are equal
- Orthographic+depth
- For aesthetic reasons only



Projection Geometry

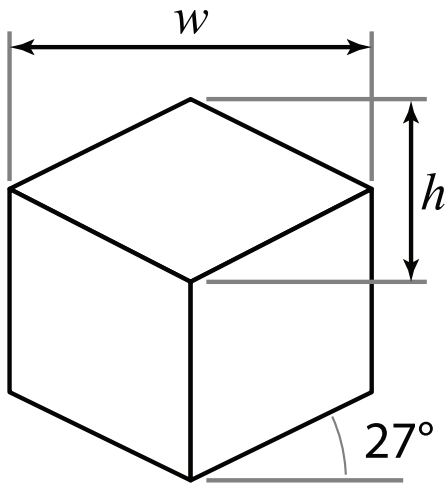
- Axes relative to screen
 - z goes “into” the screen
 - x, y are in screen plane
- **Axonometric coordinates**
 - May not be “true” coords
 - “Meaning” of x, y, z ?
- Orthographic substitutes
 - **Side-scroller**: y is height
 - **Top-down**: z is height



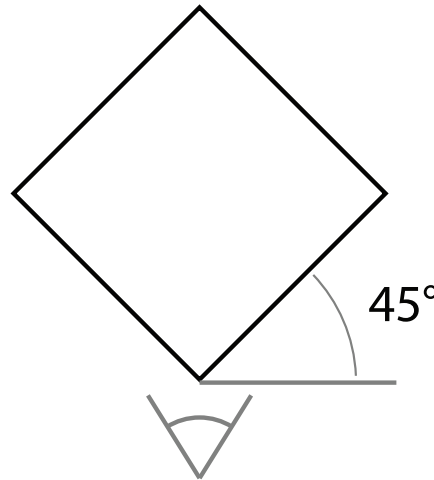
Isometric View

$$\frac{h}{w} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

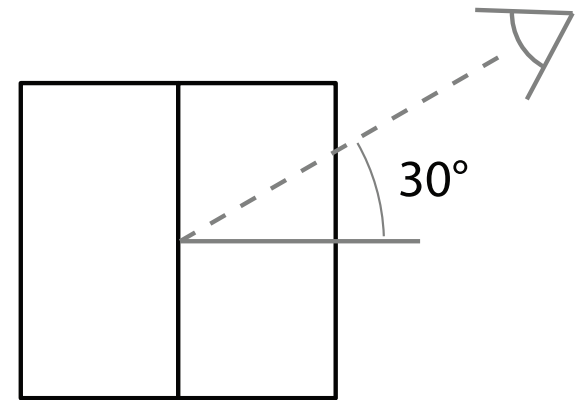
- If need all axes visible
- Used in classic RPGs



Game View



Top View



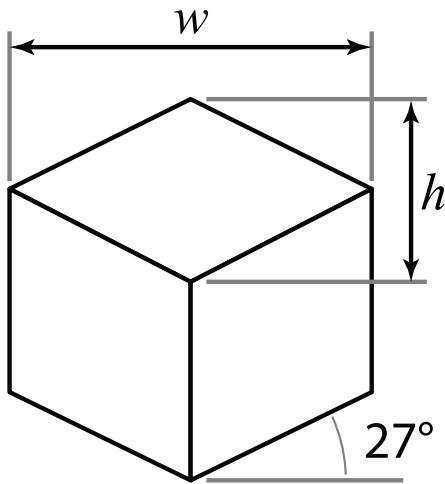
Side View

Isometric View

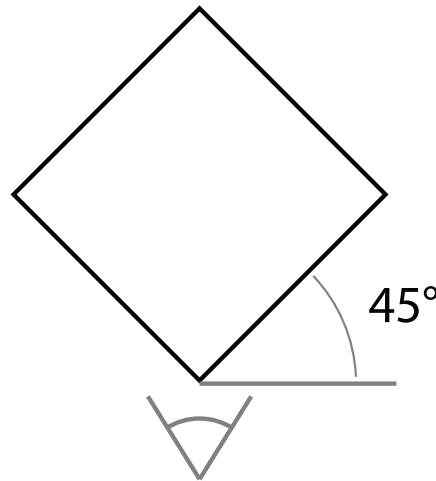
- $x, y, z =$ Axonometric Coords
- $x', y' =$ Screen Coordinates

$$x' = x - z$$

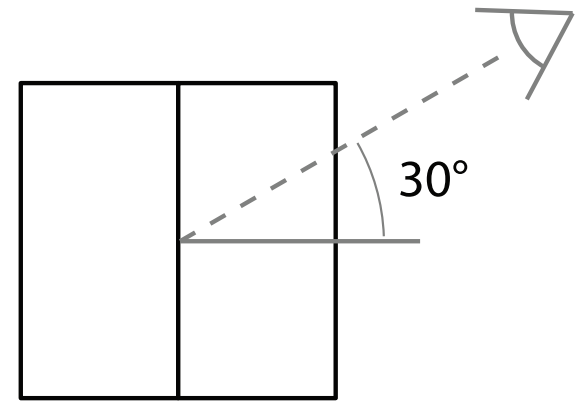
$$y' = y + \frac{1}{2}(x+z)$$



Game View

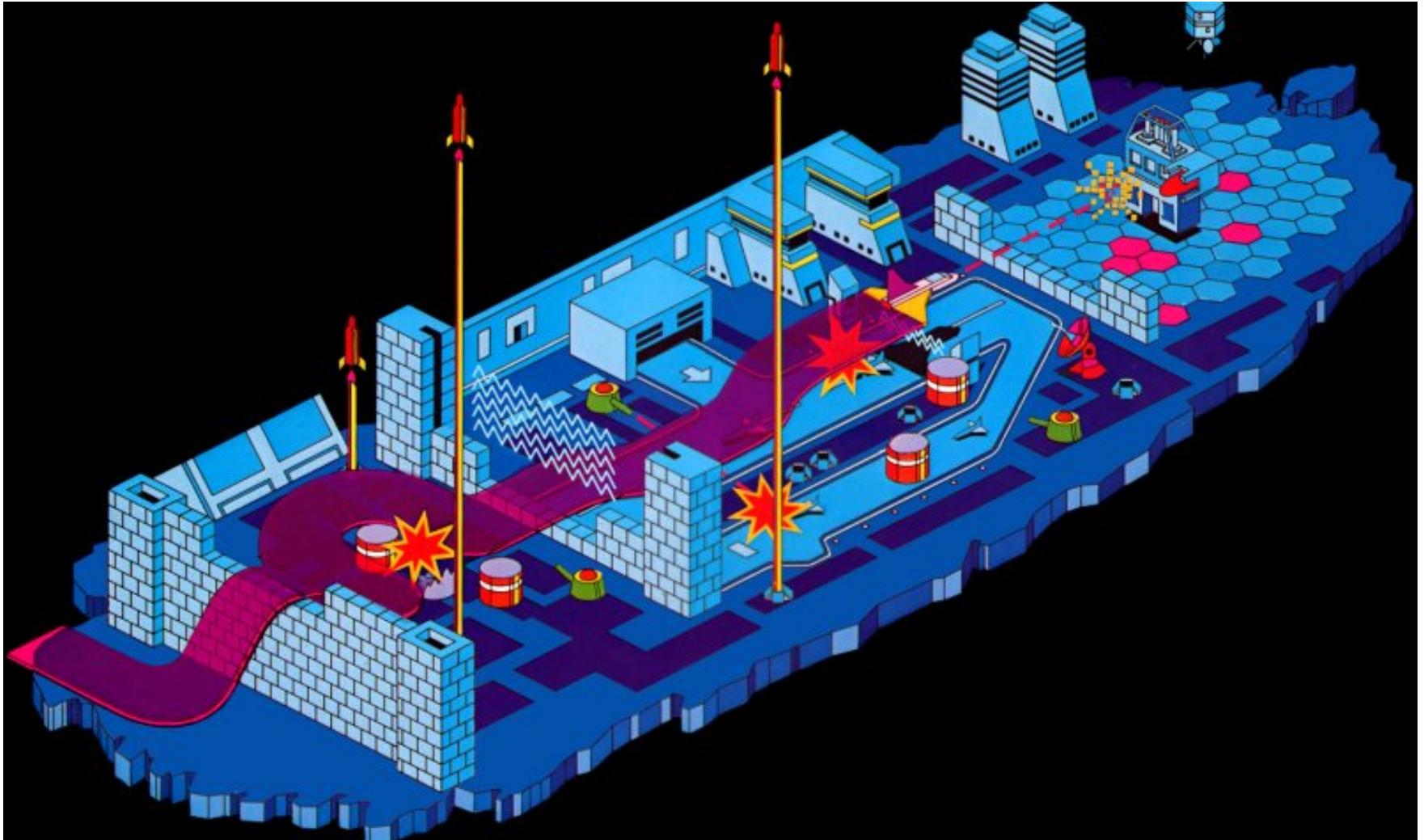


Top View



Side View

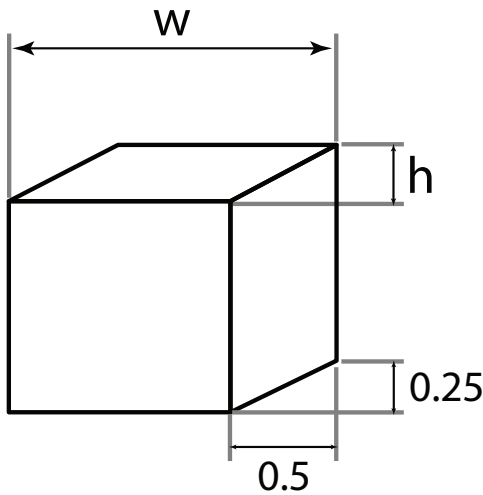
Isometric View: Zaxxon



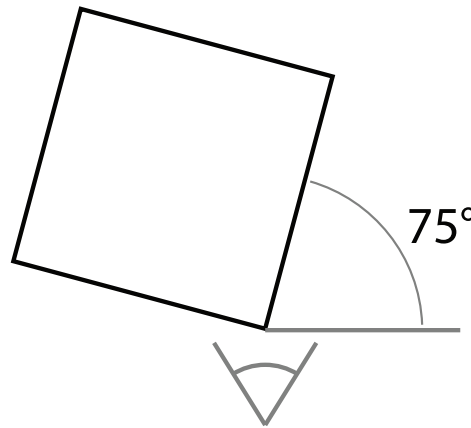
Dimetric View (Side-Depth)

- For horizontal movement
- Gives depth to side
- **Example:** platformer

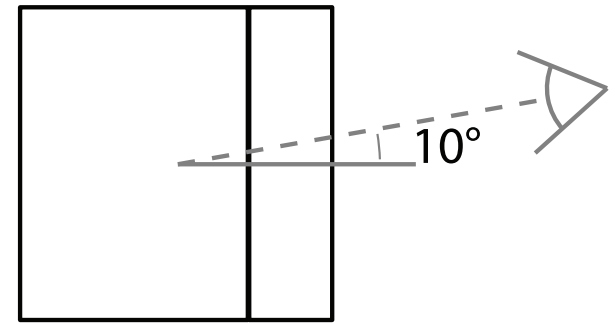
$$\frac{h}{w} = \frac{1}{6}$$



Game View



Top View



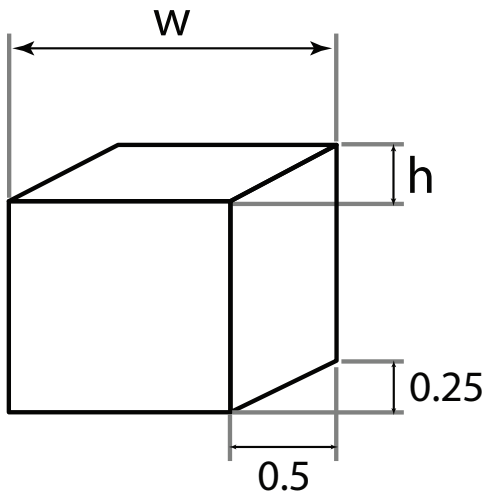
Side View

Dimetric View (Side-Depth)

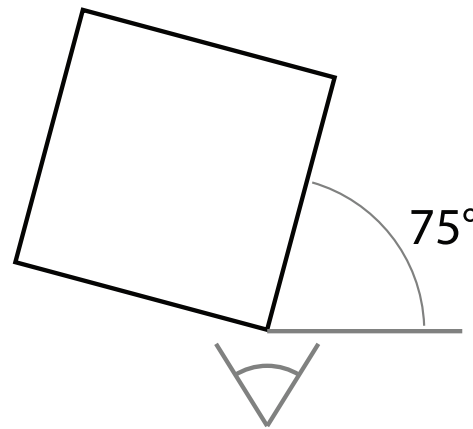
- $x, y, z =$ Axonometric Coords
- $x', y' =$ Screen Coordinates

$$x' = x + \frac{1}{2}(z)$$

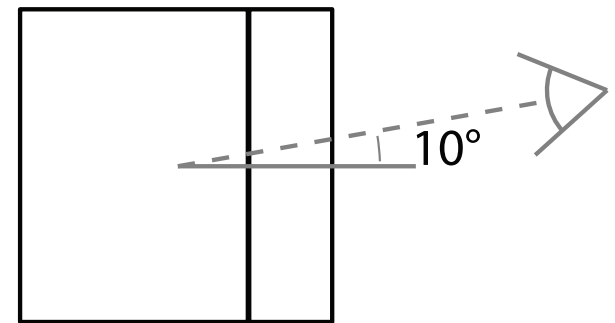
$$y' = y + \frac{1}{4}(z)$$



Game View



Top View

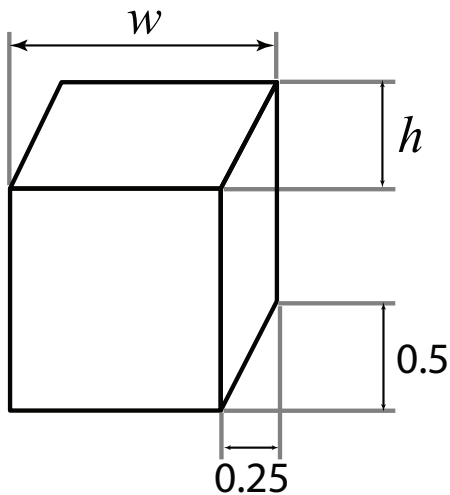


Side View

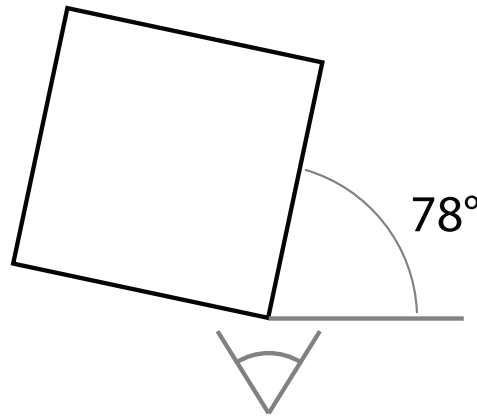
Dimetric View (Top-Depth)

- For full 2D movement
- z still goes into screen
- **Example:** stealth games

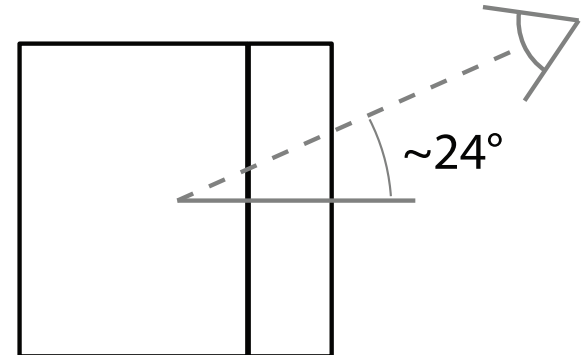
$$\frac{h}{w} = \frac{2}{5}$$



Game View



Top View



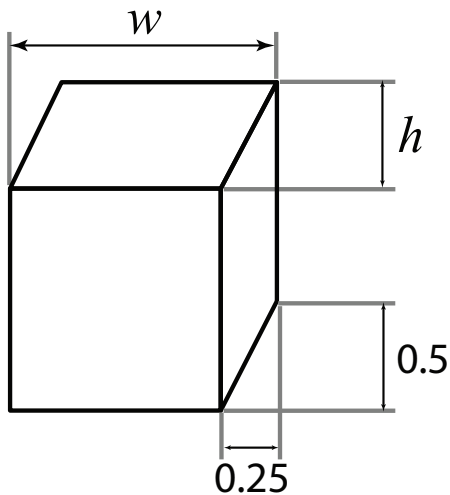
Side View

Dimetric View (Top-Depth)

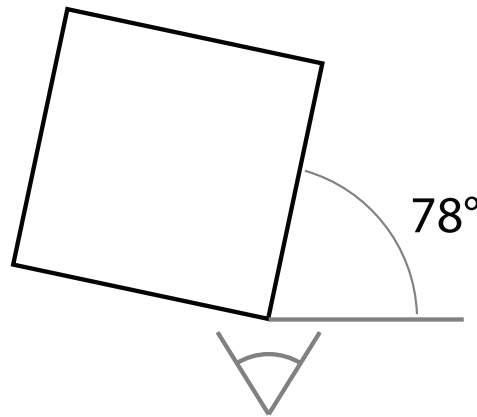
- $x, y, z =$ Axonometric Coords
- $x', y' =$ Screen Coordinates

$$x' = x + \frac{1}{4}(z)$$

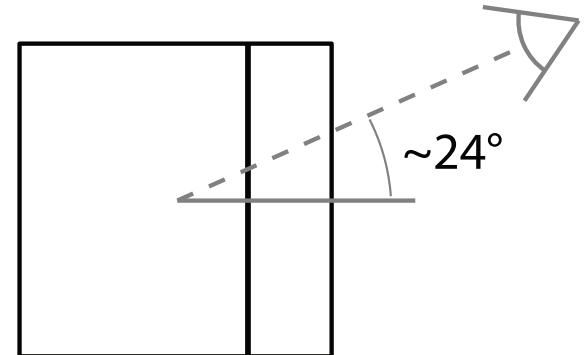
$$y' = y + \frac{1}{2}(z)$$



Game View

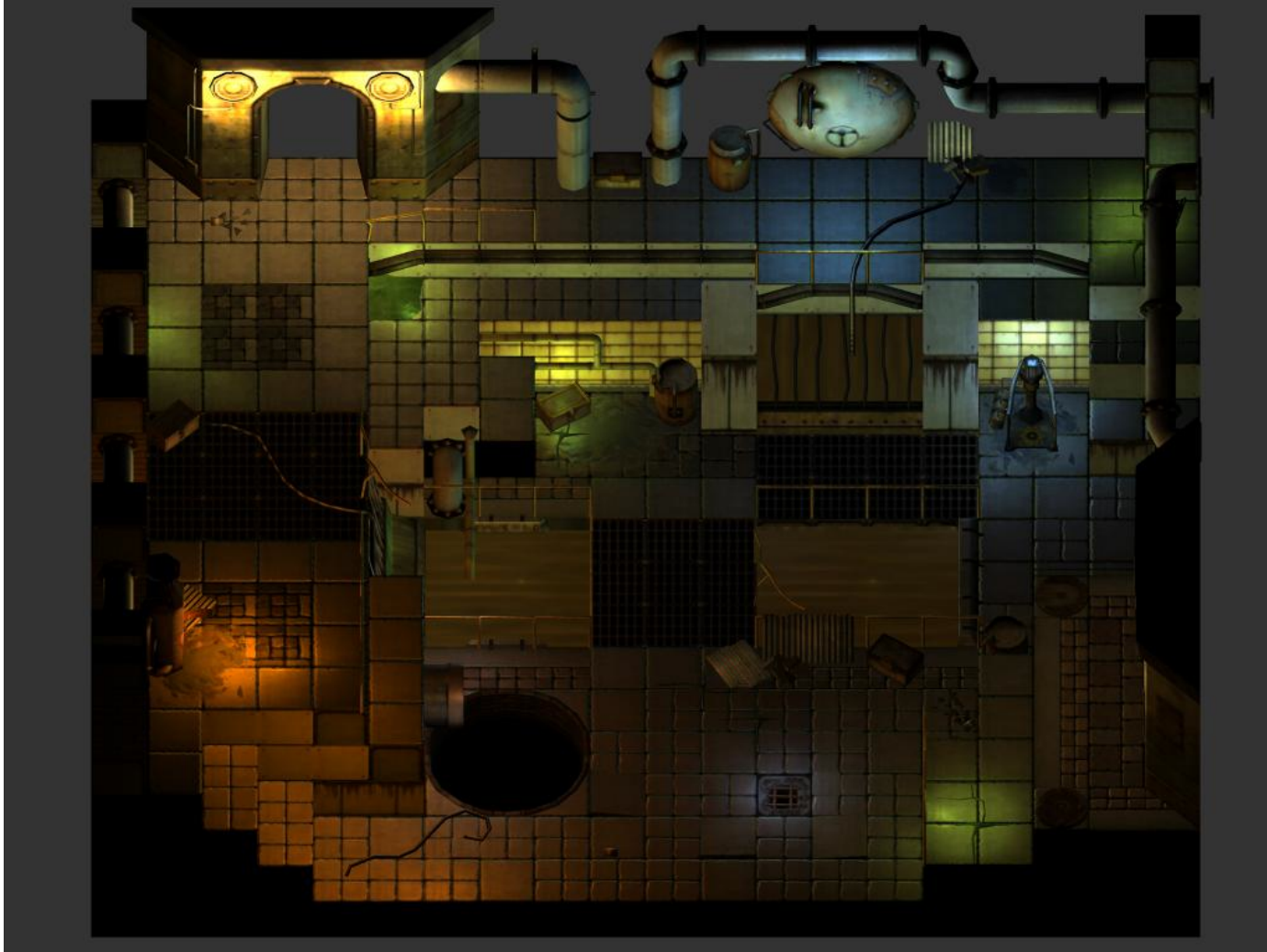


Top View



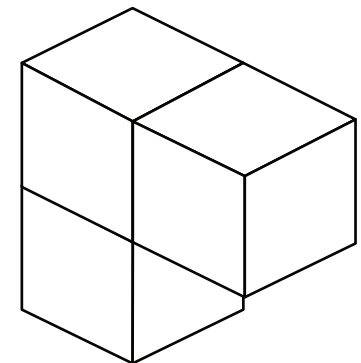
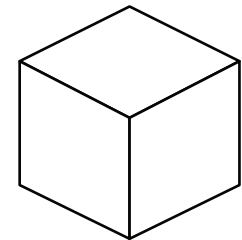
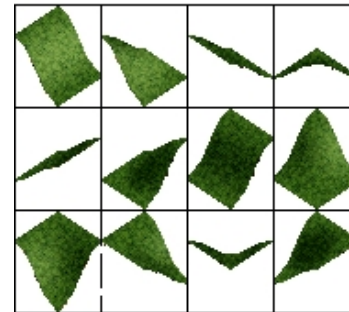
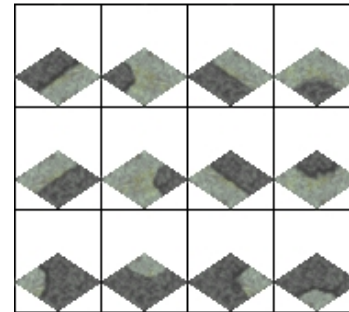
Side View

Dimetric View (Top Down)

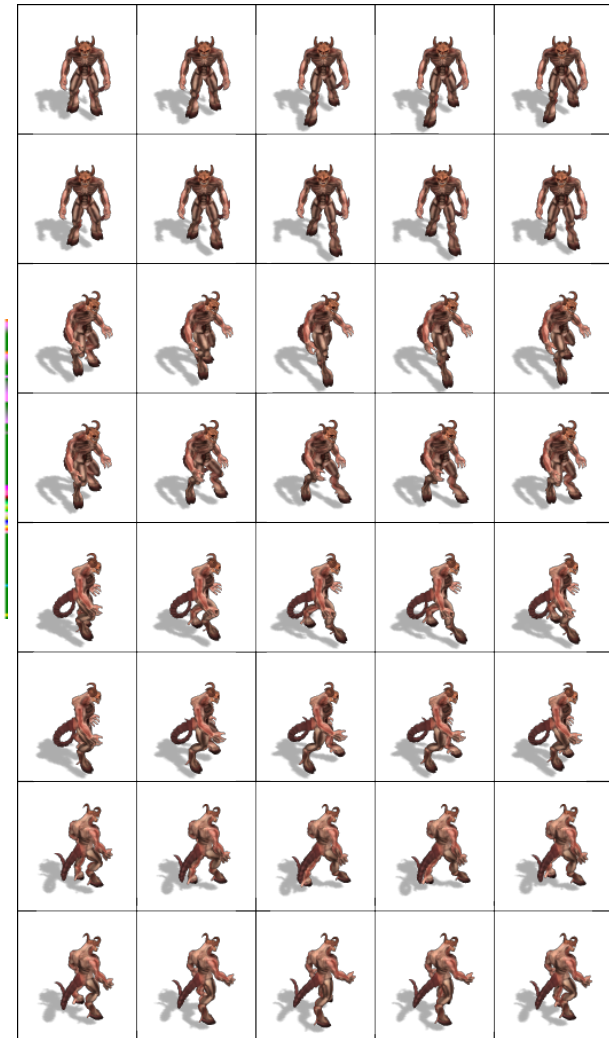
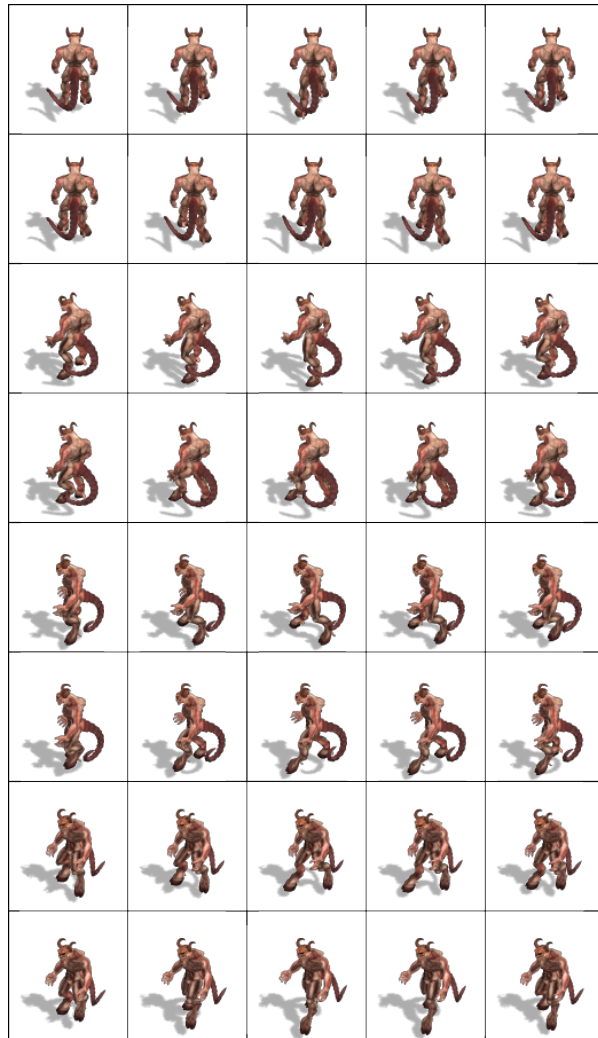


Drawing for Axonometric View

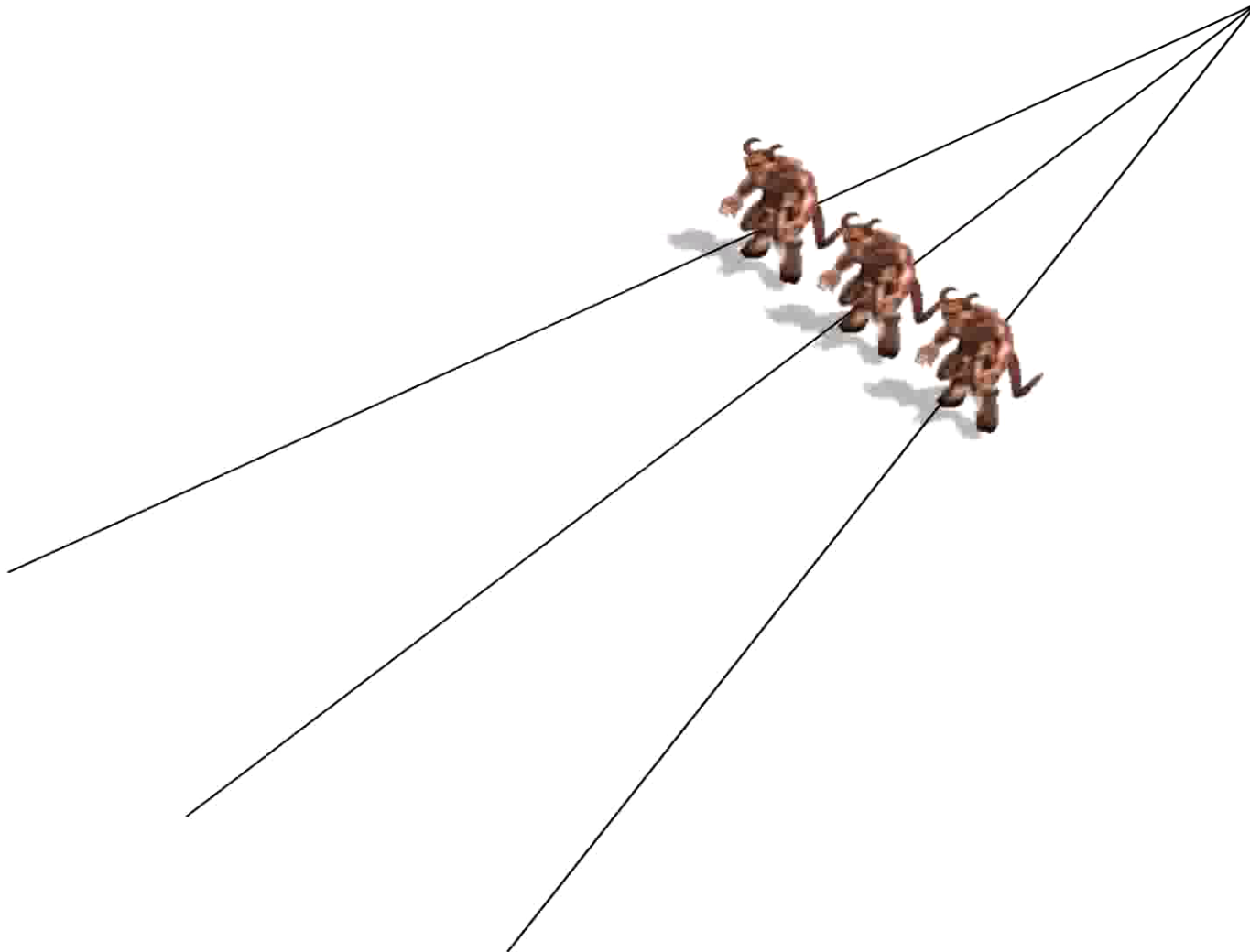
- Use boxes shown on slide
 - Tiling boxes is easy
 - Draw shape inside box
- Complex, large shapes?
 - Glue together boxes
 - Draw inside box group
- Objects need many angles
 - Transparency is tricky
 - Standard: 8 compass points
- **Example:** LakeHills.ai



Isometric Walking Animation



Isometric Walking Animation



Which Style to Use?

Orthographic

- **Advantages**

- Easy to make tiles
- Easy to composite

- **Disadvantages**

- Movement is 2D
- Game feels flat

- Common in this class

Axonometric

- **Advantages**

- Sort of easy to tile
- Some 3-D movement

- **Disadvantages**

- Harder to composite
- Objects may be hidden

- Lot of work for artist

Combining the Perspectives



Combining the Perspectives



Summary

- Camera represents “eye space” coordinates
 - 3D games have arbitrary camera movement
 - 2D games are limited to scrolling movement
- 2-D art requires you chose a projection
 - **Orthographic** is easy, but limits gameplay
 - **Axonometric** has better gameplay, but harder to draw
- Axonmetric type depends on style of game
 - Isometric common to classic RPGs
 - Dimetric gives depth to traditional orthographic