

functional 3D game design

James Reeves



boolean.knot

why a game?

why clojure?

*You cannot correctly represent
change without immutability*

Rich Hickey

concurrency
concurrency
concurrency

can functional
programming be
performant?

Performance

Brute Force

Caching

Mutability



Reliability

Brute Force

Caching

Mutability



When in doubt, use brute force.

Ken Thompson

Performance

assoc on 1000 element map

Brute Force

PersistentArrayMap

4600ns

Caching

PersistentHashMap

180ns

Mutability

TransientHashMap

85ns

caching is often
good enough

16ms per frame

...is actually a sizable chunk of time

caveats

- ▶ performance can't be eyeballed
- ▶ I/O typically too costly
- ▶ hard time limit

3D space

vector translation in space

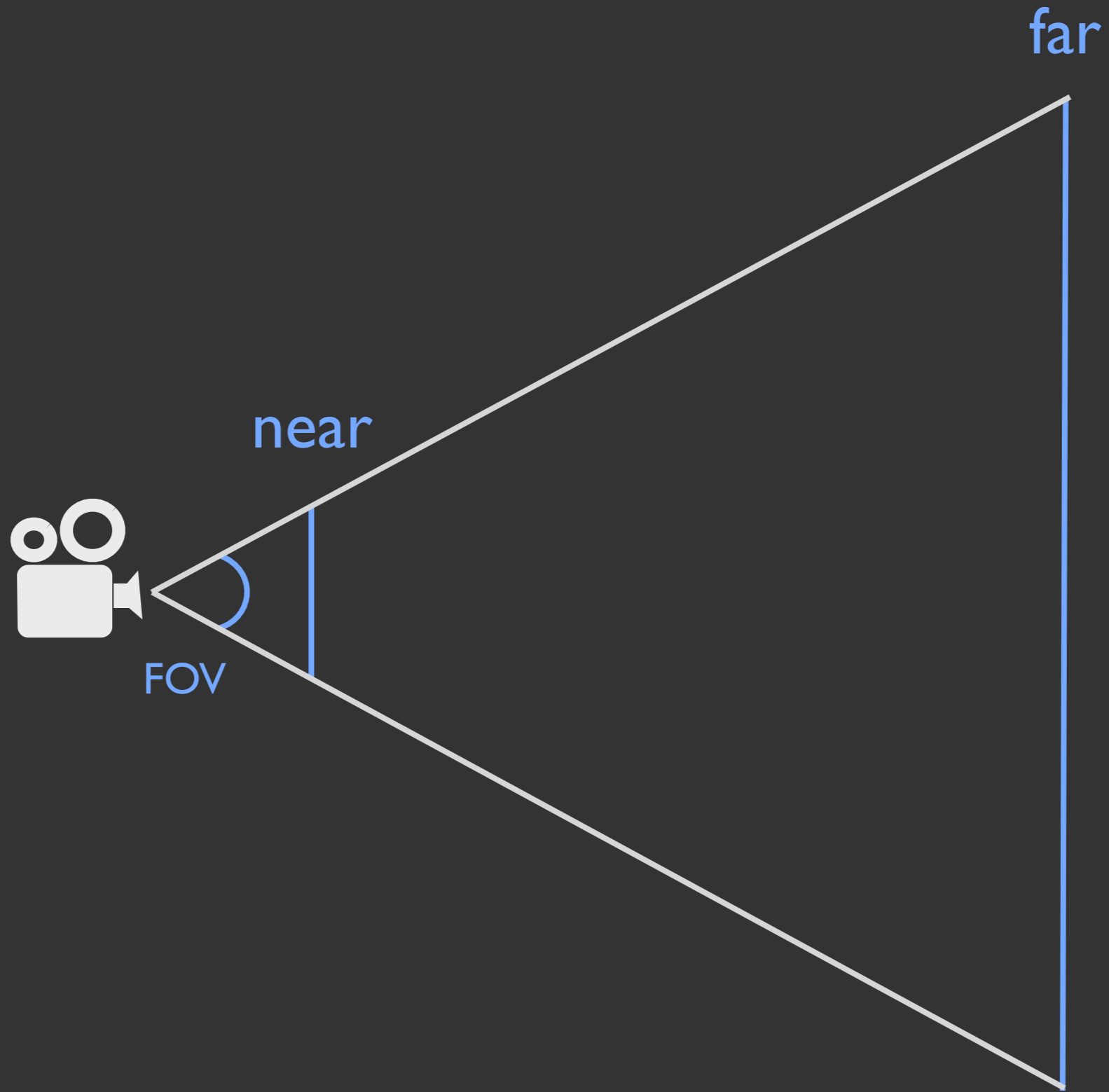
`#math/vector [0 0 0]`

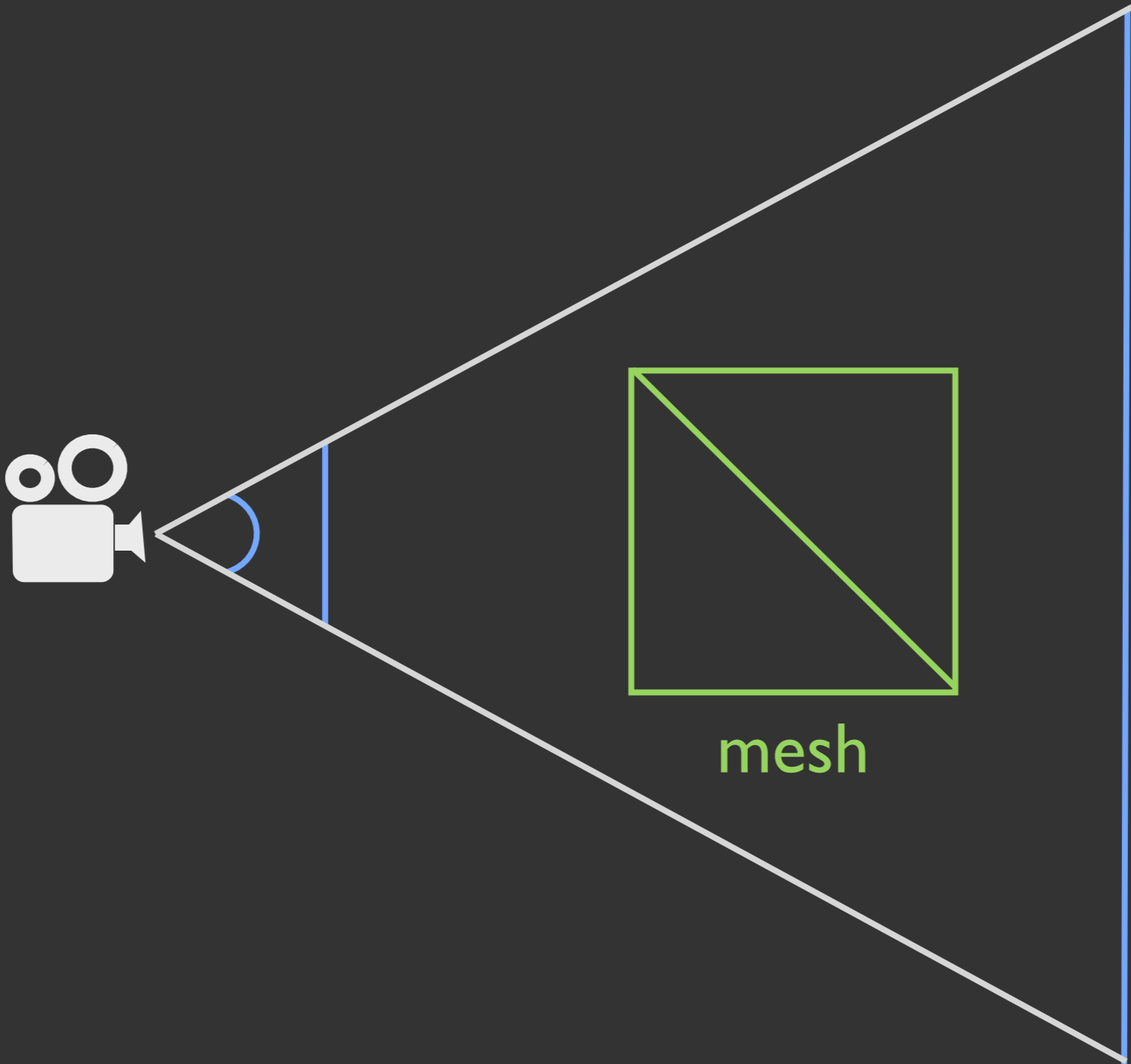
quaternion rotation in space

`#math/quaternion [0 0 0 1]`

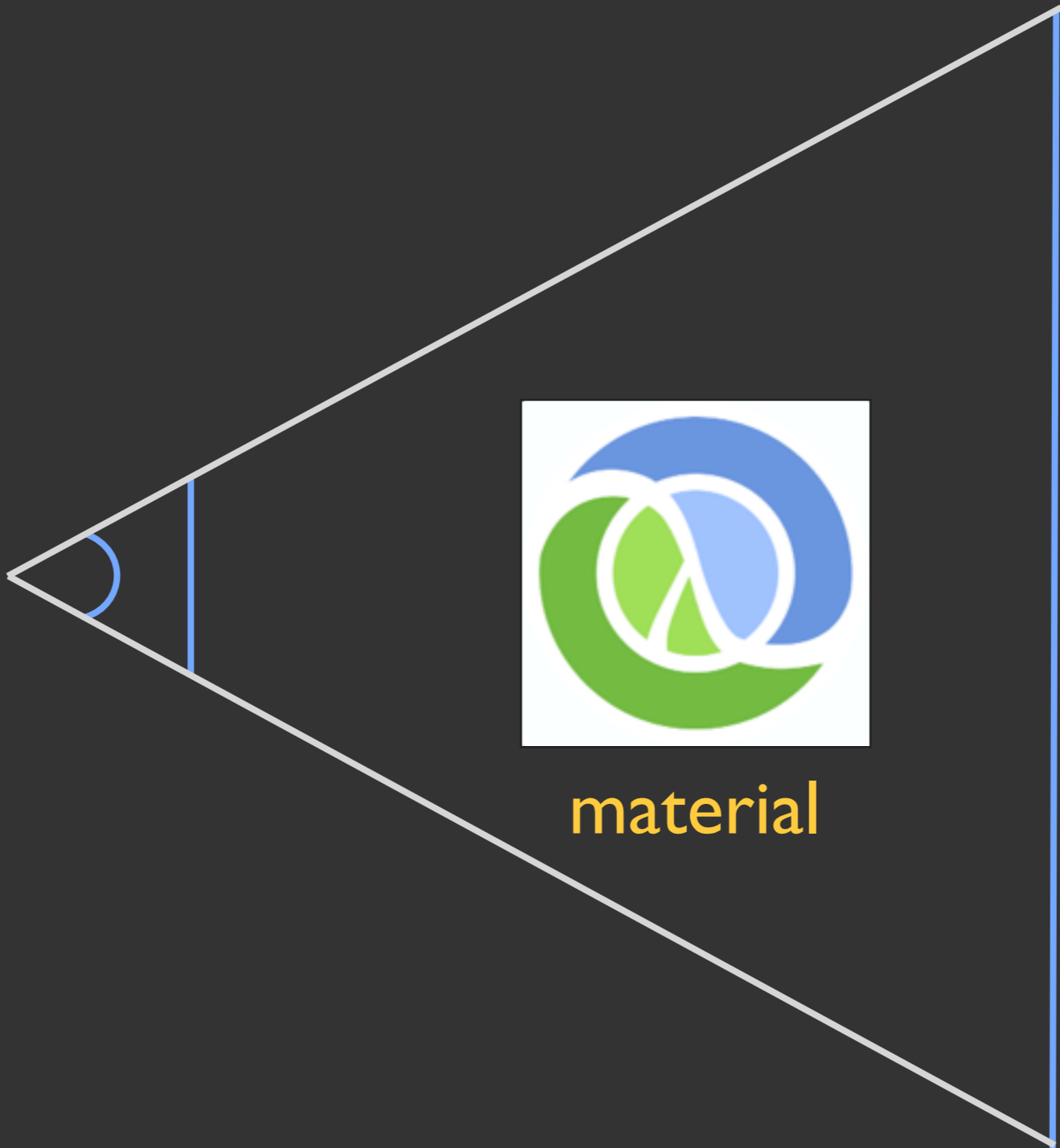
camera



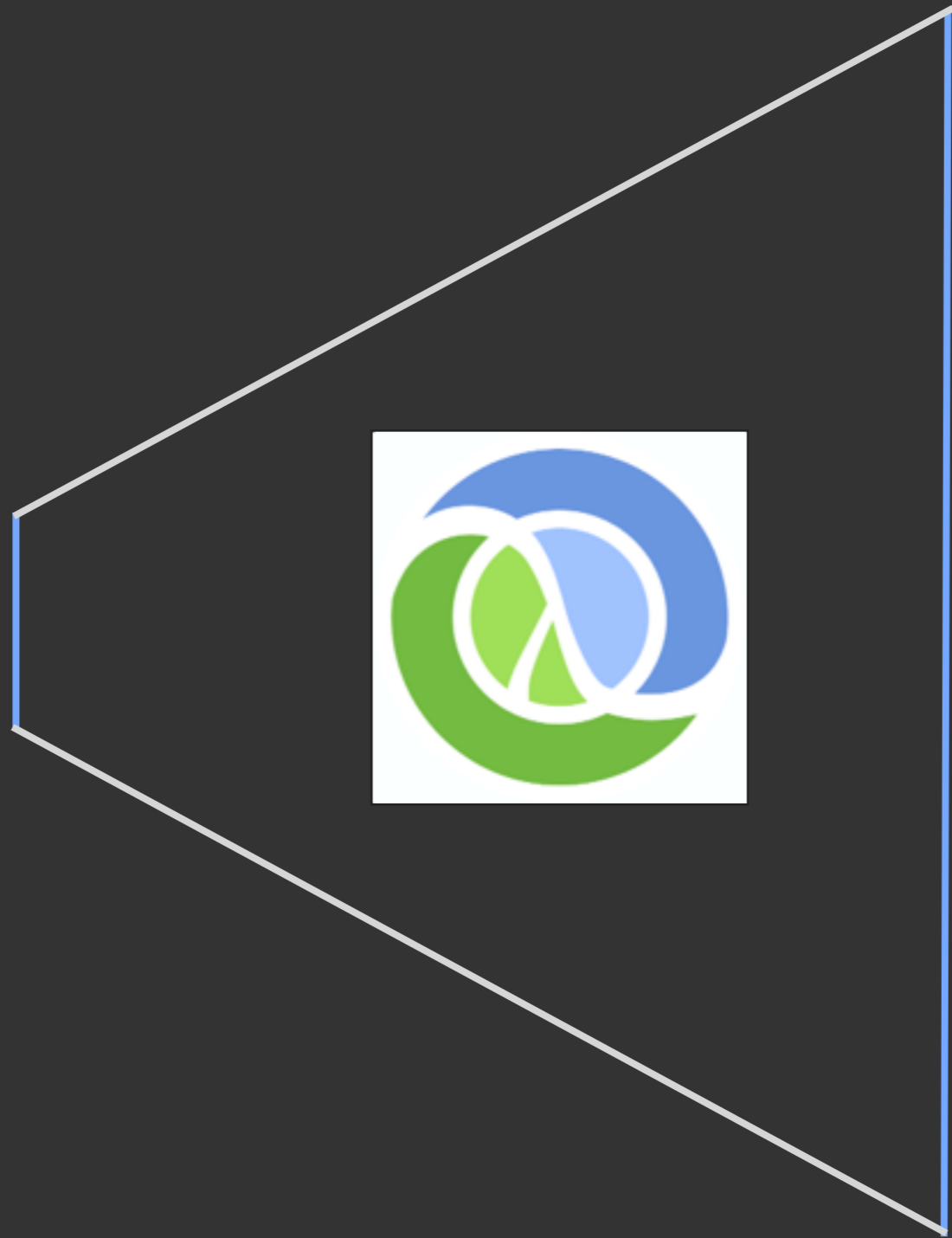




mesh



material



projection



data

camera :location :rotation

frustum :fov :near :far

mesh :location :rotation :scale
:vertices :tex-coords :indexes

material :definition :color-map

game loop

other I/O
(system time, resources, etc.)

user input



?



display



audio

abstractions

display series of frames over time

frame snapshot of a changing value

▣▣▣▣▣ → **reference**

```
(defn display []  
  (loop []  
    (render @scene)  
    (recur)))
```

abstractions

user input series of discrete events

event immutable value

 **channel**

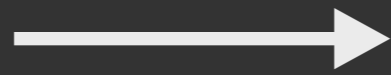
```
(def events (chan))
```

user input → display

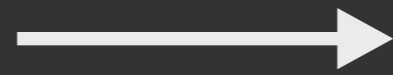


channel → reference

channel



?



reference

option 1

callbacks + mutable state

mutable state

```
(def events (chan))
```

```
(def world (atom {}))
```

```
(def callbacks (atom #{}))
```


callbacks

```
(go (loop []  
    (when-let [evt (<! events)]  
      (doseq [cb callbacks]  
        (swap! world cb evt))))  
    (recur))))
```

so what's the **problem?**

it's complex

it's complex

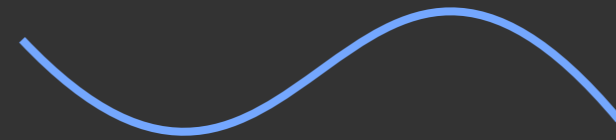
- ▶ any callback can change any part of the world
- ▶ few constraints on mutation
- ▶ no isolation between components

option II

functional
reactive programming

reagi introduces two new
reference types

behavior



continuous change

events



discrete changes

behavior

wraps a zero argument function

```
(r/behavior-call #( + 1 1 ))
```

```
(r/behavior (+ 1 1))
```


behavior

most useful when dependent on time

```
(def time  
  (behavior (/ (System/nanoTime) 1e9)))
```

```
(defn delta []  
  (let [t0 @time]  
    (behavior (- @time t0))))
```

events

wraps an asynchronous channel

```
(def nums (r/events))
```

```
(r/push! evts 1)
```

```
@evts ;; => 1
```

events

seq-like transform functions

```
(def nums (r/events))
```

```
(def incs (r/map inc nums))
```

```
(r/push! evts 2)
```

```
@incs ;; => 3
```

single value

multiple values

delay ↔ behavior

promise ↔ events

feedback

```
(r/reduce  
  (fn [pos v] (+ pos v))  
  init-position  
  velocities)
```

feedback

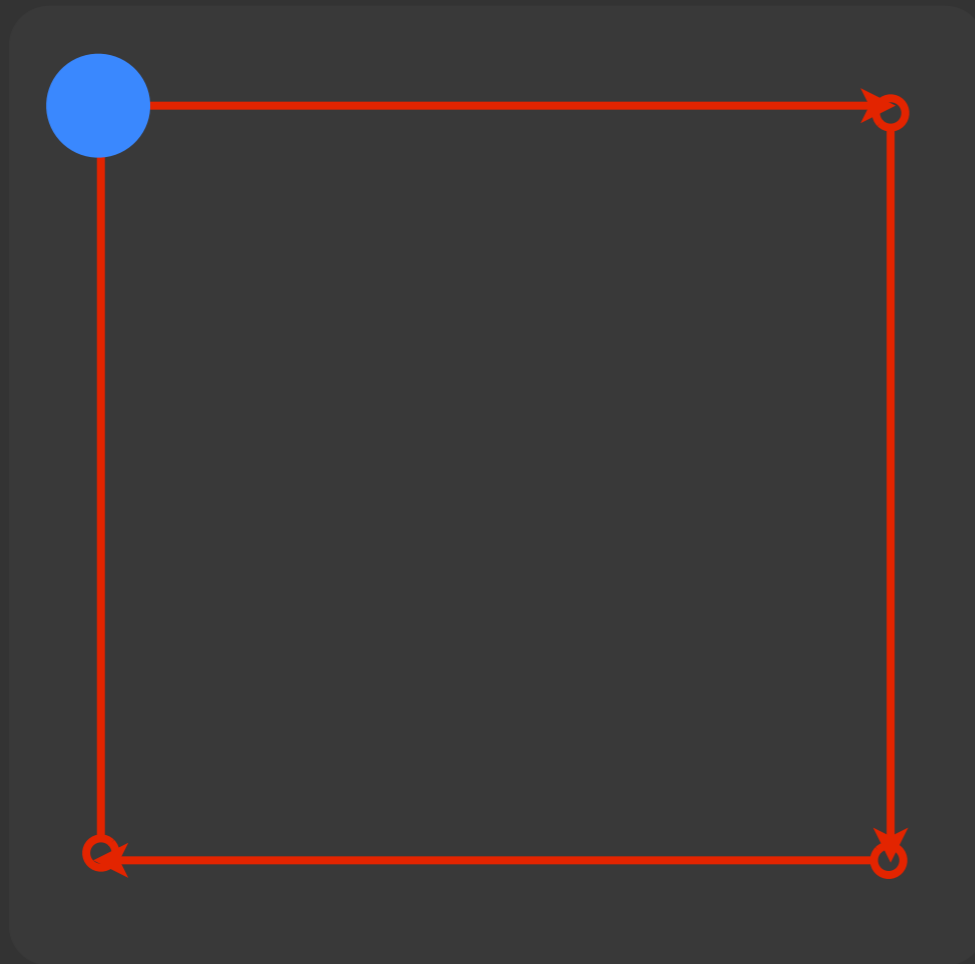
```
(r/reduce  
  (fn [pos v]  
    (let [p @pos]  
      (r/behavior (+ p v))))))  
(r/behavior init-position)  
velocities)
```

feedback

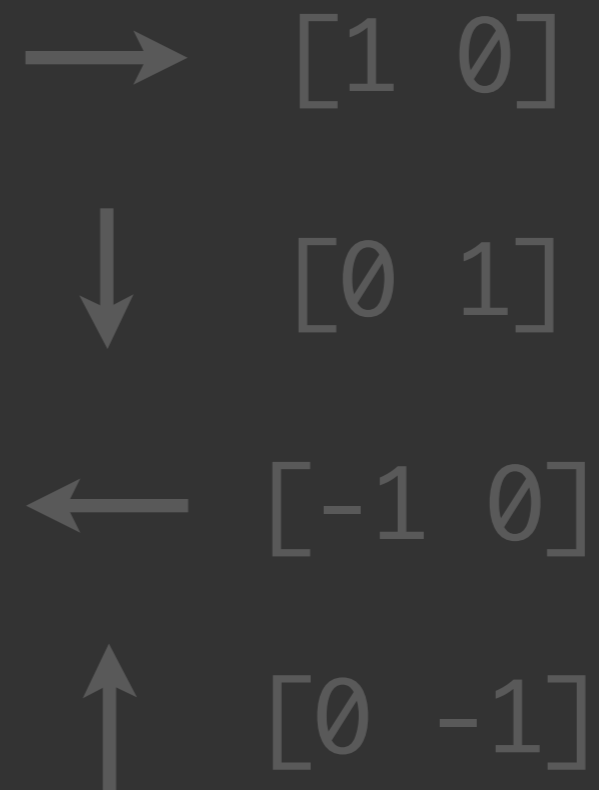
```
(r/reduce  
  (fn [pos v]  
    (let [p @pos, t (r/delta)]  
      (r/behavior (+ p (* v t))))))  
  (r/behavior init-position)  
  velocities)
```

example

position



velocities



refactor

```
(r/reduce  
  (fn [pos v]  
    (let [p @pos, t (r/delta)]  
      (r/behavior (+ p (* v t))))))  
  (r/behavior init-position)  
  velocities)
```

refactor

```
(defn graph [f & args]
  (fn [pos]
    (let [p @pos, t (r/delta)]
      (r/behavior (apply f @t p args))))))

(defn linear [t p v]
  (+ p (* v t)))
```

refactor

```
(->>> velocities  
  (r/map (fn [v] (graph linear v)))  
  (r/accum (r/behavior init-pos)))
```

live coding

libraries

reagi FRP for clojure

euclidean vector and quaternion math

crumpets color representation

criterium benchmarking

questions?