The camera

Full course PDF

Learn framing, camera, light, prompts and delivery through short lessons and practice.

3. The camera

The camera turns sideways. Name the term: _____.

Pan

The camera turns sideways.

Working definitions with sources; labels describe practices rather than guaranteed model behaviour.

https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/ · 2026-09-16

The camera turns upward or downward. Name the term: _____.

Tilt

The camera turns upward or downward.

Working definitions with sources; labels describe practices rather than guaranteed model behaviour.

https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/ · 2026-09-16

The camera travels through space. Name the term: _____.

Tracking

The camera travels through space.

Working definitions with sources; labels describe practices rather than guaranteed model behaviour.

https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/ · 2026-09-16

Rapid sideways rotation creates streaked blur. Name the term: _____.

Whip pan

Rapid sideways rotation creates streaked blur.

Working definitions with sources; labels describe practices rather than guaranteed model behaviour.

https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/ · 2026-09-16

Sharpness transfers between depths. Name the term: _____.

Rack focus

Sharpness transfers between depths.

Working definitions with sources; labels describe practices rather than guaranteed model behaviour.

https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/ · 2026-09-16

Focal length changes. Name the term: _____.

Zoom

Focal length changes.

Working definitions with sources; labels describe practices rather than guaranteed model behaviour.

https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/ · 2026-09-16

An arm carries the camera through space. Name the term: _____.

Crane

An arm carries the camera through space.

Working definitions with sources; labels describe practices rather than guaranteed model behaviour.

https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/ · 2026-09-16

Small adjustments keep the subject in view. Name the term: _____.

Reframing

Small adjustments keep the subject in view.

Working definitions with sources; labels describe practices rather than guaranteed model behaviour.

https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/ · 2026-09-16

A wheeled platform moves the camera through space. Name the term: _____.

Dolly

A wheeled platform moves the camera through space.

Physical camera equipment, as described by the American Society of Cinematographers. These names do not guarantee a model will reproduce the move.

https://theasc.com/article/shot-craft-camera-movement/ · 2026-09-16

Camera travel and an opposing zoom hold the subject’s size while the background changes scale. Name the term: _____.

Dolly zoom

Camera travel and an opposing zoom hold the subject’s size while the background changes scale.

Physical camera equipment, as described by the American Society of Cinematographers. These names do not guarantee a model will reproduce the move.

https://theasc.com/article/shot-craft-camera-movement/ · 2026-09-16

A small crane carries the camera on a pivoting arm. Name the term: _____.

Jib

A small crane carries the camera on a pivoting arm.

Physical camera equipment, as described by the American Society of Cinematographers. These names do not guarantee a model will reproduce the move.

https://theasc.com/article/shot-craft-camera-movement/ · 2026-09-16

A branded body-mounted stabilizer uses a vest and spring arms to isolate movement. Name the term: _____.

Steadicam

A branded body-mounted stabilizer uses a vest and spring arms to isolate movement.

Physical camera equipment, as described by the American Society of Cinematographers. These names do not guarantee a model will reproduce the move.

https://theasc.com/article/shot-craft-camera-movement/ · 2026-09-16

A compact camera platform travels along a short track. Name the term: _____.

Slider

A compact camera platform travels along a short track.

Physical camera equipment, as described by the American Society of Cinematographers. These names do not guarantee a model will reproduce the move.

https://theasc.com/article/shot-craft-camera-movement/ · 2026-09-16

The operator’s body supports the camera. Name the term: _____.

Handheld

The operator’s body supports the camera.

Physical camera equipment, as described by the American Society of Cinematographers. These names do not guarantee a model will reproduce the move.

https://theasc.com/article/shot-craft-camera-movement/ · 2026-09-16

What does Camera trajectory conditioning mean in Camera control: a move without a camera?

Supplying a sequence of camera poses as an explicit input so the generated clip approximates a specified move.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

What does Motion prior mean in Camera control: a move without a camera?

The statistical tendency a model has learned about how images move, which fills in everything the prompt and conditioning do not specify.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

What does Parallax mean in Camera control: a move without a camera?

The differential apparent motion of near and far objects under a moving viewpoint, which a generative model imitates rather than computes.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

What does Appearance-free condition mean in Camera control: a move without a camera?

A control signal such as a camera pose or trajectory chosen so it alters motion without changing the shape or look of objects.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

How do Motion prior and Camera trajectory conditioning differ?

Motion prior: The statistical tendency a model has learned about how images move, which fills in everything the prompt and conditioning do not specify. Camera trajectory conditioning: Supplying a sequence of camera poses as an explicit input so the generated clip approximates a specified move.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

Explain why this claim is wrong: the model builds a 3D scene and renders a camera through it.

It predicts pixels across space and time; the Sora report presents 3D consistency as an emergent behaviour of scale, not as an explicit geometric stage in the pipeline.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

Explain why this claim is wrong: naming a focal length in the prompt sets a focal length.

It biases the image toward the compression, distortion and depth cues typical of images captioned that way, which is why 24mm and 85mm read differently even though no lens exists.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

Explain why this claim is wrong: trajectory conditioning guarantees the move you specified.

Camera pose modules such as CameraCtrl markedly improve fidelity to a trajectory but sit on top of a frozen generator, so the move is followed approximately and degrades on trajectories unlike the training data.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

Explain why this claim is wrong: camera motion and subject motion are one control.

MotionCtrl exists precisely because the two were conflated, and separating them was the contribution; in prompt-only workflows they still bleed into each other.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

Explain why this claim is wrong: a longer generation gives a longer move.

Clip length is set by the model's token budget, and stitching two generations to extend a move gives you two similar moves, not one continuous one.

https://shotcraft.video/learn/concepts/camera-control/

Progress can be exported to a file and imported again. With no server, that file is the only real guarantee — browsers do clear storage.