

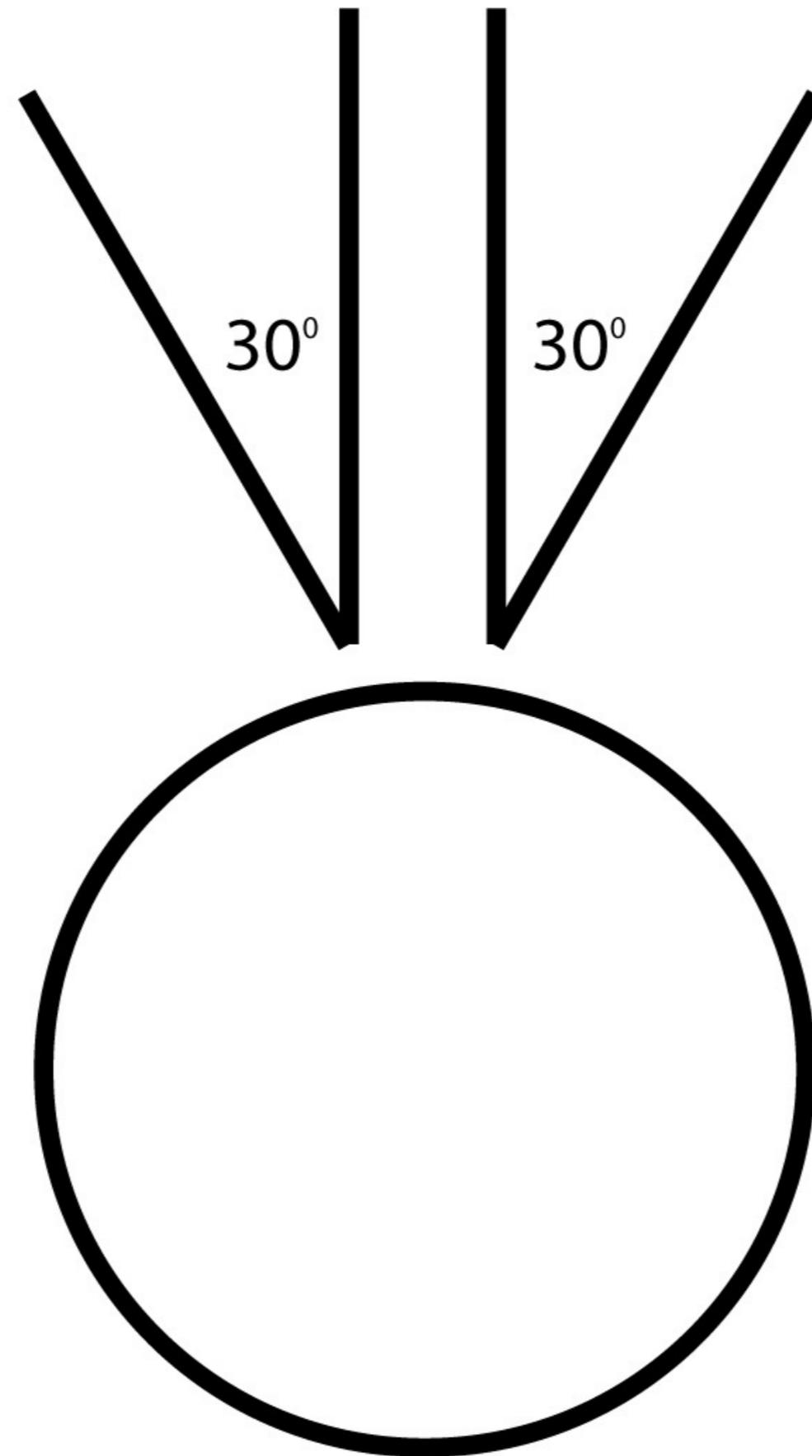
Jump Cut

Definitions

- A jump cut is a cut in film editing in which two sequential shots of the same subject are taken from camera positions that vary only slightly.
- A jump cut is, "an abrupt transition, typically in a sequential clip that makes the subject appear to jump from one spot to the other, without continuity."

30 Degree Rule

- Continuity editing uses a guideline called the "30 degree rule" to avoid jump cuts. The 30 degree rule advises that for consecutive shots to appear "seamless," the camera position must vary at least 30 degrees from its previous position.



the 30 degree rule and stereo vision

- Some of the first examples of jump cuts occurred in the work of French magician and filmmaker [Georges Méliès](#), who is credited as the "[father of the jump cut](#)," which he discovered by accident and first used as a special effect in his 1896 film, [The Vanishing Lady](#).

We accept the cut because it resembles the way images are juxtaposed in our dreams. In fact, the abruptness of the cut may be one of the key determinants in actually producing the similarity between films and dreams.

Walter Murch

Most mainstream films made use of continuity editing, only breaking the illusion of reality when a certain effect was desired, though whole movements of avant-garde and art cinema far too numerous to go into here experimented with new and exciting techniques in film production. But it wasn't until 1960, with the release of Jean-Luc Godard's first film, *Breathless* (or, *À bout de Souffle*, "out of breath") came out and shocked audiences, that the jump cut as we know it today would enter the popular film vernacular.



The reasoning behind these cuts has long been the subject of debate, with many stories circulated. The director (who just celebrated his 84th birthday!) himself has said that they were **the result of economic necessity**, because the film he had made was roughly two and a half hours long and the film he had been contracted to make was 90 minutes:

"I remember very clearly -- how I invented this famous way of cutting, that is now used in commercials: we took all the shots and systematically cut out whatever could be cut, while trying to maintain some rhythm."

Jean Luc Godard



Alas! Alas! Alas! I love a girl who has a very pretty neck...



...very pretty breasts...



...a very pretty voice...



...very pretty wrists...



...a very pretty forehead...



...very pretty knees...



...but who is a coward.

- 1967's [Bonnie and Clyde](#) is one of the first major Hollywood releases to incorporate new wave effects, started to change the landscape of mainstream film.
- These effects made their way from the movie theater to the TV screen as commercials began to be directed by a new generation of film- school-educated directors and editors, who needed to communicate, in 30 seconds, as much information, in as startling a way, as possible. And many of these same people were behind the new videos on [MTV](#). To take one example, the immortal 1986 clip for "[Everybody Have Fun Tonight](#)" by Wang Chung is made almost entirely out of jump cuts.