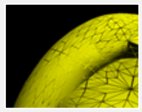
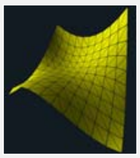
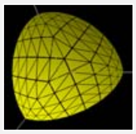
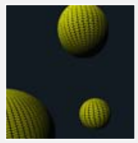
Tessellation Shaders

Oregon State University
Mike Bailey
mjb@cs.oregonstate.edu







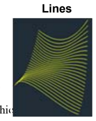


Why do we need a Tessellation step right in the pipeline?

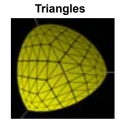
- You can perform adaptive subdivision based on a variety of criteria (size, curvature, etc.)
- You can provide coarser models, but have finer ones displayed (≈ geometric compression)
- You can apply detailed displacement maps without supplying equally detailed geometry
- You can adapt visual quality to the required level of detail
- You can create smoother silhouettes
- You can do all of this, and someone else will supply the patterns!

What built-in patterns can the Tessellation shaders produce?

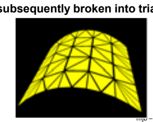
Lines



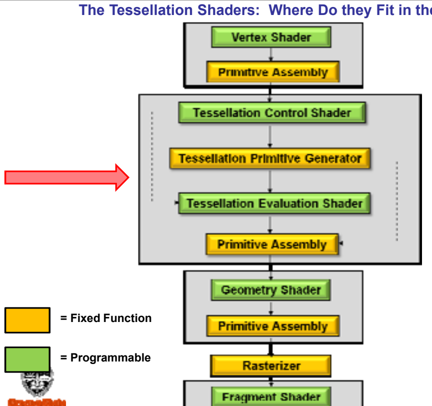
Triangles



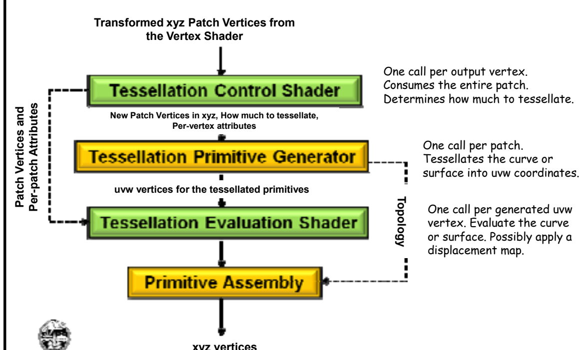
Quads (subsequently broken into triangles)



The Tessellation Shaders: Where Do they Fit in the Pipeline?



Tessellation Shader Organization



Tessellation Shader Organization

The **Tessellation Control Shader (TCS)** transforms the input coordinates to a regular surface representation. It also computes the required tessellation level based on distance to the eye, screen space spanning, hull curvature, or displacement roughness. There is one invocation per output vertex.

The Fixed-Function **Tessellation Primitive Generator (TPG)** generates semi-regular u-v-w coordinates in specific patterns. (In fact, if it had been up to me, this would have been called the **Tessellation Pattern Generator**.)

The **Tessellation Evaluation Shader (TES)** evaluates the surface in *uvw* coordinates. It interpolates attributes and applies displacements. There is one invocation per generated vertex.

There is a new "Patch" primitive – it is the face and its neighborhood:
glBegin(GL_PATCHES)
followed by some number of glVertex3f( ) calls. There is no implied function, number of vertices, or vertex ordering – those are given by you in how you write the shader.

In the OpenGL Program

```
glBegin( GL_PATCHES );
        glVertex3f( … );
        glVertex3f( … );
glEnd( );
```

These have no implied topology – they will be given to you in an array. It's up to your shader to interpret the order

```
glPatchParameteri( GL_PATCH_VERTICES, num );   // #of vertices in each patch

GLuint tcs = glCreateShader( GL_TESS_CONTROL_SHADER );

GLuint tes = glCreateShader( GL_TESS_EVALUATION_SHADER );
```

If you have a TCS, you must also have a Vertex Shader

Check the OpenGL extension:
"GL_ARB_tessellation_shader"

In GLSL:
#version 400
#ension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable

TCS Inputs

gl_in[ ] is an array of structures:

```
struct
{
        vec4 gl_Position;
        float gl_PointSize;
        float gl_ClipDistance[ 6 ];
} gl_in[ ];
```

gl_InvocationID tells you which output vertex you are working on, This *must* be the index into the gl_in[ ] array.

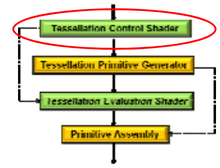
gl_PatchVerticesIn is the number of vertices in each patch and the dimension of gl_in[ ]

gl_PrimitiveID is the number of primitives since the last glBegin( ) (the first one is #0)

TCS Outputs

gl_out[ ] is an array of structures:

```
struct
{
        vec4 gl_Position;
        float gl_PointSize;
        float gl_ClipDistance[ 6 ];
} gl_out[ ];
```



All invocations of the TCS have read-only access to all the output information.

layout(vertices = n) out; Used to specify the number of vertices output to the TPG

gl_TessLevelOuter[4] is an array containing up to 4 edges of tessellation levels

gl_TessLevelInner[2] is an array containing up to 2 edges of tessellation levels

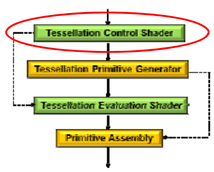
In the TCS

User-defined variables defined per-vertex are qualified as “out”

User-defined variables defined per-patch are qualified as “patch out”

Defining how many vertices this patch will output:

layout(vertices = 16) out;



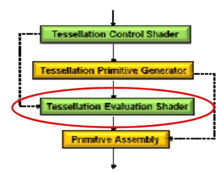
TES Inputs

Reads one vertex of 0 <= (u,v,w) <= 1 coordinates in variable *vec3 gl_TessCoord*

User-defined variables defined per-vertex are qualified as “out”
User-defined variables defined per-patch are qualified as “patch out”

gl_in[ ] is an array of structures coming from the TCS:

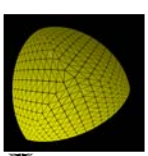
```
struct
{
        vec4 gl_Position;
        float gl_PointSize;
        float gl_ClipDistance[ 6 ];
} gl_in[ ];
```



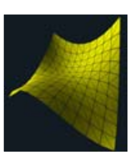
$$\text{layout(} \begin{Bmatrix} \text{triangles} \\ \text{quads} \\ \text{isolines} \end{Bmatrix}, \begin{Bmatrix} \text{equal\_spacing} \\ \text{fractional\_even\_spacing} \\ \text{fractional\_odd\_spacing} \end{Bmatrix}, \begin{Bmatrix} \text{ccw} \\ \text{cw} \end{Bmatrix}, \text{point\_mode) in;}$$

Tessellation ~~Primitive~~ Pattern Generator (TPG)

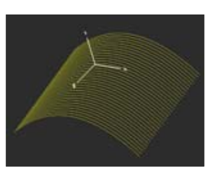
- The TPG is “fixed-function”, i.e., you can’t change its operation except by setting parameters
- Consumes all vertices from the TCS and emits vertices for the ***triangles***, ***quads***, or ***isolines*** patterns
- TPG outputs a series of vertices as coordinates in barycentric (u,v,w) parametric space
- All three coordinates (u,v,w) are used for triangles
- Just (u,v) are used for quads and isolines



Triangle pattern



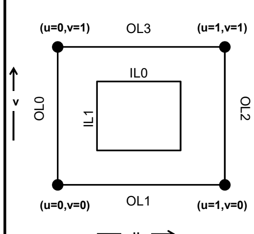
Quad pattern

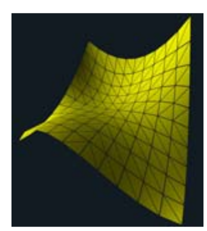


Isoline pattern

TES Output Topologies: the Quad Pattern

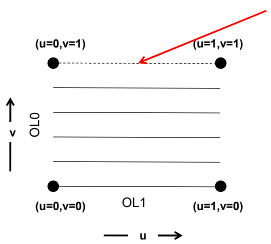
gl_TessLevelOuter[4] is an array containing up to 4 edges of tessellation levels.
gl_TessLevelInner[2] is an array containing up to 2 edges of tessellation levels.

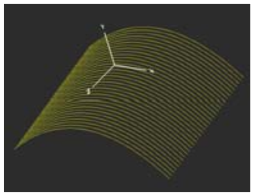




TES Output Topologies: the Isolines Pattern

gl_TessLevelOuter[4] is an array containing up to 4 edges of tessellation levels.
gl_TessLevelInner[2] is an array containing up to 2 edges of tessellation levels.

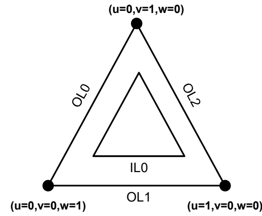




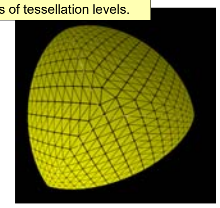
OL0 == 1 implies that you just want to draw a single curve

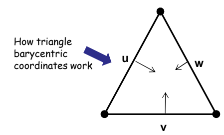
TES Output Topologies: the Triangle Pattern

gl_TessLevelOuter[4] is an array containing up to 4 edges of tessellation levels.
gl_TessLevelInner[2] is an array containing up to 2 edges of tessellation levels.



u + v + w = 1





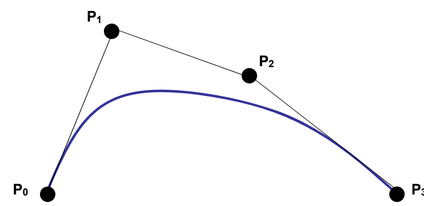
u + v + w = 1

Examples

In these examples:

1. We are using *glman* to run them. The only necessary input files are the *glman* .glib file and the shader files. If you aren't using *glman*, you can do this from a full OpenGL program.
2. All of the surface examples use the Geometry Shader triangle-shrink shader. This isn't necessary, but is educational to really see how much and where the surfaces have been tessellated.

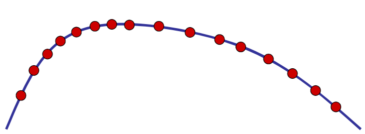
Example: A Bézier Curve



$$P(u) = (1-u)^3 P_0 + 3u(1-u)^2 P_1 + 3u^2(1-u)P_2 + u^3 P_3$$

Need to pass 4 points in to define the curve. Need to pass N points out to draw the curve.

Example: A Bézier Curve



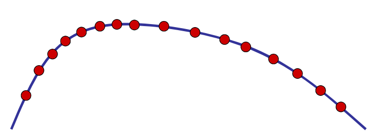
$$P(u) = (1-u)^3 P_0 + 3u(1-u)^2 P_1 + 3u^2(1-u)P_2 + u^3 P_3$$

1. You program the Tessellation Control Shader to decide how much to tessellate the curve based on screen area, curvature, etc.

Can even tessellate non-uniformly if you want

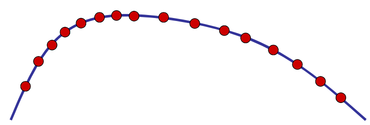
The OpenGL tessellation can also do 1D curves. Just set OL0 = 1.

Example: A Bézier Curve



2. The Tessellation Primitive Generator generates u[,v,w] values for as many subdivisions as the TCS asked for.

Example: A Bézier Curve



$$P(u) = (1-u)^3 P_0 + 3u(1-u)^2 P_1 + 3u^2(1-u)P_2 + u^3 P_3$$

3. The Tessellation Evaluation Shader computes the x,y,z coordinates based on the TPG's u values

$$P(u) = u^3(-P_0 + 3P_1 - 3P_2 + P_3) + u^2(3P_0 - 6P_1 + 3P_2) + u(-3P_0 + 3P_1) + P_0$$

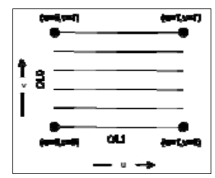
In an OpenGL Program


```
glPatchParameteri( GL_PATCH_VERTICES, 4 );

glBegin( GL_PATCHES );
        glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
        glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
        glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
        glVertex3f( x3, y3, z3 );
glEnd( );
```

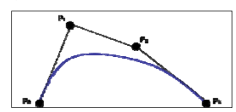

In a .glib File


```
##OpenGL GLIB
Perspective 70

Vertex          beziercurve.vert
Fragment        beziercurve.frag
TessControl     beziercurve.tcs
TessEvaluation beziercurve.tes
Program BezierCurve  uOuter0 <0  1  5>  uOuter1 <3  5  50>

Color 1.  .5  0. 1.

NumPatchVertices 4
glBegin gl_patches
   glVertex 0. 0. 0.
   glVertex 1. 1. 1.
   glVertex 2. 1. 0.
   glVertex 3. 0. 1.
glend
```


In the TCS Shader

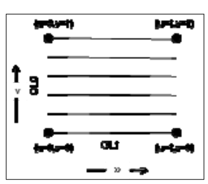


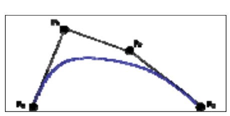
```
#version 400
#ension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader: enable

uniform int uOuter0, uOuter1;

layout( vertices = 4 )  out;

void
main( )
{
      gl_out[ gl_InvocationID ].gl_Position = gl_in[ gl_InvocationID ].gl_Position;

      gl_TessLevelOuter[0] = float( uOuter0 );
      gl_TessLevelOuter[1] = float( uOuter1 );
}
```



In the TES Shader

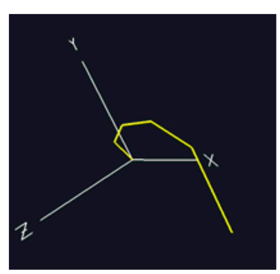

```
#version 400
#ension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader: enable

layout( isolines, equal_spacing)  in;

void
main( )
{
      vec4 p0 = gl_in[0].gl_Position;
      vec4 p1 = gl_in[1].gl_Position;
      vec4 p2 = gl_in[2].gl_Position;
      vec4 p3 = gl_in[3].gl_Position;

      float u = gl_TessCoord.x;

      // the basis functions:

      float b0 = (1.-u) * (1.-u) * (1.-u);
      float b1 = 3. * u * (1.-u) * (1.-u);
      float b2 = 3. * u * u * (1.-u);
      float b3 = u * u * u;

      gl_Position = b0*p0 + b1*p1 + b2*p2 + b3*p3;
}
```



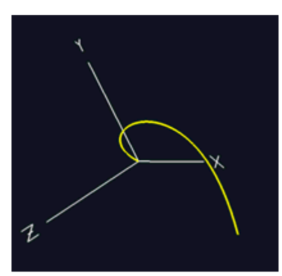


Assigning the intermediate pi's is here to make the code more readable. From what I have seen, the compiler will optimize this away.

Example: A Bézier Curve

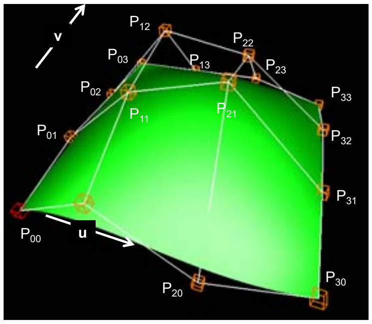


Outer1 = 5

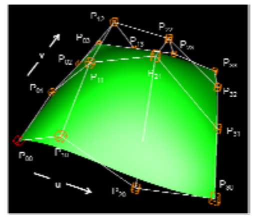


Outer1 = 50

Example: A Bézier Surface



Bézier Surface Parametric Equations



$$P(u,v) = \begin{bmatrix} (1-u)^3 & 3u(1-u)^2 & 3u^2(1-u) & u^3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} P_{00} & P_{01} & P_{02} & P_{03} \\ P_{10} & P_{11} & P_{12} & P_{13} \\ P_{20} & P_{21} & P_{22} & P_{23} \\ P_{30} & P_{31} & P_{32} & P_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} (1-v)^3 \\ 3v(1-v)^2 \\ 3v^2(1-v) \\ v^3 \end{Bmatrix}$$

In an OpenGL Program

```
glPatchParameteri( GL_PATCH_VERTICES, 16 );

glBegin( GL_PATCHES );
        glVertex3f( x00, y00, z00 );
        glVertex3f( x10, y10, z10 );
        glVertex3f( x20, y20, z20 );
        glVertex3f( x30, y30, z30 );
        glVertex3f( x01, y01, z01 );
        glVertex3f( x11, y11, z11 );
        glVertex3f( x21, y21, z21 );
        glVertex3f( x31, y31, z31 );
        glVertex3f( x02, y02, z02 );
        glVertex3f( x12, y12, z12 );
        glVertex3f( x22, y22, z22 );
        glVertex3f( x32, y32, z32 );
        glVertex3f( x03, y03, z03 );
        glVertex3f( x13, y13, z13 );
        glVertex3f( x23, y23, z23 );
        glVertex3f( x33, y33, z33 );
glEnd( );
```

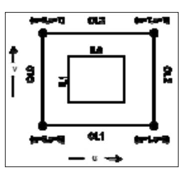
This order is not set by OpenGL. It is set by you. Pick a convention yourself and stick to it!

GLSL doesn't care as long as you are consistent.

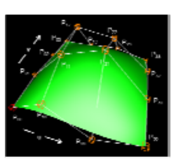
In the .glib File

```
##OpenGL GLIB
Perspective 70

Vertex          beziersurface.vert
Fragment        beziersurface.frag
TessControl     beziersurface.tcs
TessEvaluation beziersurface.tes
Geometry         beziersurface.geom
Program BezierSurface  uOuter02 <1 10 50>  uOuter13 <1 10 50>  uInner0 <1 10 50>  uInner1 <1 10 50>    \
                        uShrink <0. 1. 1.>                                                           \
                        u LightX <-10. 0. 10.>  u LightY <-10. 10. 10.>   uLightZ <-10. 10. 10. >

Color  1. 1. 0. 1.

NumPatchVertices 16

glBegin gl_patches
   glVertex 0. 2. 0.
   glVertex 1. 1. 0.
   glVertex 2. 1. 0.
   glVertex 3. 2. 0.

   glVertex 0. 1. 1.
   glVertex 1. -2. 1.
   glVertex 2. 1. 1.
   glVertex 3. 0. 1.

   glVertex 0. 0. 2.
   glVertex 1. 1. 2.
   glVertex 2. 0. 2.
   glVertex 3. -1. 2.

   glVertex 0. 0. 3.
   glVertex 1. 1. 3.
   glVertex 2. -1. 3.
   glVertex 3. -1. 3.
glEnd
```


In the TCS Shader

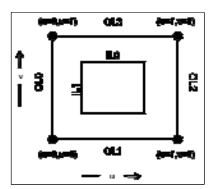


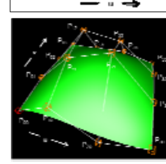
```
#version 400
#extension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable

uniform float uOuter02, uOuter13, uInner0, uInner1;

layout( vertices = 16 )  out;

void
main( )
{
        gl_out[ gl_InvocationID ].gl_Position = gl_in[ gl_InvocationID ].gl_Position;

        gl_TessLevelOuter[0] = gl_TessLevelOuter[2] = uOuter02;
        gl_TessLevelOuter[1] = gl_TesslevelOuter[3]  = uOuter13;
        gl_TessLevelInner[0]  = uInner0;
        gl_TessLevelInner[1]  = uInner1;
}
```



In the TES Shader

```
#version 400 compatibility
#extension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable

layout( quads, equal_spacing, ccw)  in;

out vec3 teNormal;

void main(  )
{
        vec4 p00 = gl_in[ 0].gl_Position;
        vec4 p10 = gl_in[ 1].gl_Position;
        vec4 p20 = gl_in[ 2].gl_Position;
        vec4 p30 = gl_in[ 3].gl_Position;
        vec4 p01 = gl_in[ 4].gl_Position;
        vec4 p11 = gl_in[ 5].gl_Position;
        vec4 p21 = gl_in[ 6].gl_Position;
        vec4 p31 = gl_in[ 7].gl_Position;
        vec4 p02 = gl_in[ 8].gl_Position;
        vec4 p12 = gl_in[ 9].gl_Position;
        vec4 p22 = gl_in[10].gl_Position;
        vec4 p32 = gl_in[11].gl_Position;
        vec4 p03 = gl_in[12].gl_Position;
        vec4 p13 = gl_in[13].gl_Position;
        vec4 p23 = gl_in[14].gl_Position;
        vec4 p33 = gl_in[15].gl_Position;

        float u = gl_TessCoord.x;
        float v = gl_TessCoord.y;
```

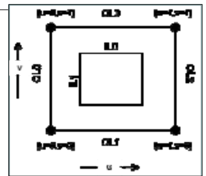




Assigning the intermediate pij's is here to make the code more readable. From what I've seen, the compiler will optimize this away.

In the TES Shader – Computing the Position, given a u and v

31



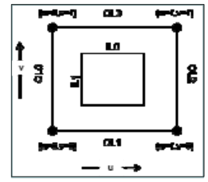
```
// the basis functions:

float bu0 = (1.-u) * (1.-u) * (1.-u);
float bu1 = 3. * u * (1.-u) * (1.-u);
float bu2 = 3. * u * u * (1.-u);
float bu3 = u * u * u;

float dbu0 = -3. * (1.-u) * (1.-u);
float dbu1 =  3. * (1.-u) * (1.-3.*u);
float dbu2 =  3. * u *      (2.-3.*u);
float dbu3 =  3. * u *      u;

float bv0 = (1.-v) * (1.-v) * (1.-v);
float bv1 = 3. * v * (1.-v) * (1.-v);
float bv2 = 3. * v * v * (1.-v);
float bv3 = v * v * v;

float dbv0 = -3. * (1.-v) * (1.-v);
float dbv1 =  3. * (1.-v) * (1.-3.*v);
float dbv2 =  3. * v *      (2.-3.*v);
float dbv3 =  3. * v *      v;

// finally, we get to compute something:

gl_Position =          bu0 * ( bv0*p00 + bv1*p01 + bv2*p02 + bv3*p03 )
                     + bu1 * ( bv0*p10 + bv1*p11 + bv2*p12 + bv3*p13 )
                     + bu2 * ( bv0*p20 + bv1*p21 + bv2*p22 + bv3*p23 )
                     + bu3 * ( bv0*p30 + bv1*p31 + bv2*p32 + bv3*p33 );
```

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

In the TES Shader – Computing the Normal, given a u and v

32



Tangent Vectors

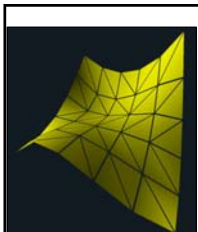
```
vec4 dpdu =            dbu0 * ( bv0*p00 + bv1*p01 + bv2*p02 + bv3*p03 )
                     + dbu1 * ( bv0*p10 + bv1*p11 + bv2*p12 + bv3*p13 )
                     + dbu2 * ( bv0*p20 + bv1*p21 + bv2*p22 + bv3*p23 )
                     + dbu3 * ( bv0*p30 + bv1*p31 + bv2*p32 + bv3*p33 );

vec4 dpdv =            bu0 * ( dbv0*p00 + dbv1*p01 + dbv2*p02 + dbv3*p03 )
                     + bu1 * ( dbv0*p10 + dbv1*p11 + dbv2*p12 + dbv3*p13 )
                     + bu2 * ( dbv0*p20 + dbv1*p21 + dbv2*p22 + dbv3*p23 )
                     + bu3 * ( dbv0*p30 + dbv1*p31 + dbv2*p32 + dbv3*p33 );

teNormal = normalize( cross( dpdu.xyz, dpdv.xyz ) );
}
```

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

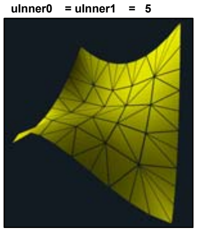
Example: A Bézier Surface

33

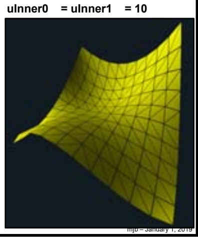


uOuter02 = uOuter13 = 5
uInner0 = uInner1 = 5

uOuter02 = uOuter13 = 10
uInner0 = uInner1 = 5



uOuter02 = uOuter13 = 10
uInner0 = uInner1 = 10

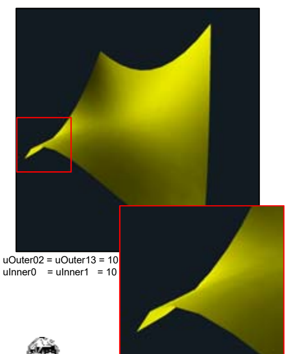


Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Tessellation Levels and Smooth Shading

34



uOuter02 = uOuter13 = 10
uInner0 = uInner1 = 10

uOuter02 = uOuter13 = 30
uInner0 = uInner1 = 10

Smoothing edge boundaries is one of the reasons that you can set Outer and Inner tessellation levels separately

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Example: Whole-Sphere Subdivision

35

spheresubd.glib

```
##OpenGL GLIB

Vertex          spheresubd.vert
Fragment        spheresubd.frag
TessControl     spheresubd.tcs
TessEvaluation  spheresubd.tes
Geometry        spheresubd.geom
Program SphereSubd                              \
            uDetail <1 30 200>                  \
            uScale <0.1 1. 10.>                 \
            uShrink <0. 1. 1.>                  \
            uFlat <false>                       \
            uColor {1. 1. 0. 0.}                \
            uLightX <-10. 5. 10.>  uLightY <-10. 10. 10.>  uLightZ <-10. 10. 10.>

Color 1. 1. 0.

NumPatchVertices 1

glBegin gl_patches
            glVertex 0. 0. 0. .2
            glVertex 0. 1. 0. .3
            glVertex 0. 0. 1. .4
glEnd
```

Using the x, y, z, and w to specify the center and radius of the sphere

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Example: Whole-Sphere Subdivision

36

spheresubd.vert

```
#version 400 compatibility

out vec3  vCenter;
out float  vRadius;

void
main( )
{
            vCenter = gl_Vertex.xyz;
            vRadius = gl_Vertex.w;

            gl_Position = vec4( 0., 0., 0., 1. );   // doesn't matter now – we will in the cords later
}
```

Using the x, y, z, and w to specify the center and radius of the sphere

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Example: Whole-Sphere Subdivision
37

spheresubd.tcs

```
#version 400 compatibility
#extension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable

in float   vRadius[ ];
in vec3  vCenter[ ];

patch out float   tcRadius;
patch out vec3  tcCenter;

uniform float uDetail;
uniform float uScale;

layout( vertices = 1 )  out;

void
main( )
{
        gl_out[ gl_InvocationID ].gl_Position = gl_in[ 0 ].gl_Position;     // (0,0,0,1)

        tcCenter = vCenter[ 0 ];
        tcRadius = vRadius[ 0 ];

        gl_TessLevelOuter[0] = 2.;
        gl_TessLevelOuter[1] = uScale * tcRadius * uDetail;
        gl_TessLevelOuter[2] = 2.;
        gl_TessLevelOuter[3] = uScale * tcRadius * uDetail;
        gl_TessLevelInner[0]  = uScale * tcRadius * uDetail;
        gl_TessLevelInner[1]  = uScale * tcRadius * uDetail;
}
```

Using the scale and the radius to help set the tessellation detail

Outer[0] and Outer[2] are the number of divisions at the poles. Outer[1] and Outer[3] are the number of divisions at the vertical seams. Inner[0] and Inner[1] are the inside sphere detail.

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Example: Whole-Sphere Subdivision
38

spheresubd.tes

```
#version 400 compatibility
#extension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable

uniform float  uScale;

layout( quads, equal_spacing, ccw)  in;

patch in float   tcRadius;
patch in vec3  tcCenter;

out vec3         teNormal;

const float PI = 3.14159265;

void main( )
{
        vec3 p = gl_in[0].gl_Position.xyz;

        float u  = gl_TessCoord.x;
        float v  = gl_TessCoord.y;
        float w = gl_TessCoord.z;

        float phi    =       PI * ( u - .5 );
        float theta = 2. * PI * ( v - .5 );

        float cosphi = cos(phi);
        vec3 xyz = vec3( cosphi*cos(theta), sin(phi), cosphi*sin(theta) );
        teNormal = xyz;

        xyz *= ( uScale * tcRadius );
        xyz += tcCenter;

        gl_Position = gl_ModelViewMatrix * vec4( xyz,1. );
}
```

$-\frac{\pi}{2} \le \phi \le +\frac{\pi}{2}$

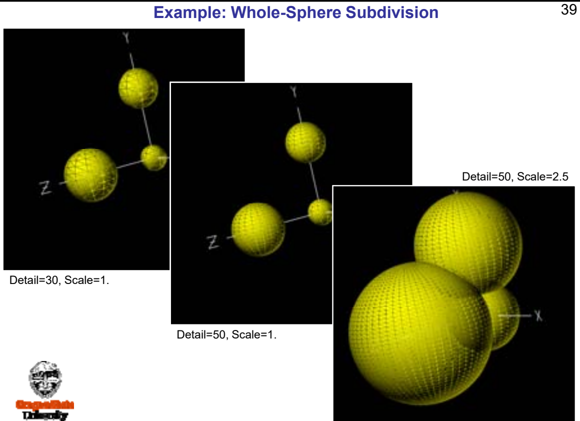
$-\pi \le \theta \le +\pi$

Turning u and v into spherical coordinates

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Example: Whole-Sphere Subdivision
39



Detail=30, Scale=1.

Detail=50, Scale=1.

Detail=50, Scale=2.5

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Making the Whole-Sphere Subdivision Adapt to Screen Coverage
40

sphereadapt.tcs, I

```
#version 400 compatibility
#extension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable

in float   vRadius[ ];
in vec3  vCenter[ ];

patch out float   tcRadius;
patch out vec3  tcCenter;

uniform float uDetail;

layout( vertices = 1 )  out;

void main( )
{
        gl_out[ gl_InvocationID ].gl_Position = gl_in[ 0 ].gl_Position;          // (0,0,0,1)

        tcCenter = vCenter[ 0 ];
        tcRadius = vRadius[ 0 ];

        vec4 mx = vec4( vCenter[0] - vec3( vRadius[0], 0., 0. ),  1. );
        vec4 px  = vec4( vCenter[0] + vec3( vRadius[0], 0., 0. ),  1. );
        vec4 my = vec4( vCenter[0] - vec3( 0., vRadius[0], 0. ),  1. );
        vec4 py  = vec4( vCenter[0] + vec3( 0., vRadius[0], 0. ),  1. );
        vec4 mz = vec4( vCenter[0] - vec3( 0., 0., vRadius[0] ),  1. );
        vec4 pz  = vec4( vCenter[0] + vec3( 0., 0., vRadius[0] ),  1. );
```

Extreme points of the sphere

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Making the Whole-Sphere Subdivision Adapt to Screen Coverage
41

sphereadapt.tcs, II

```
        mx = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * mx;
        px  = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * px;
        my = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * my;
        py  = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * py;
        mz = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * mz;
        pz  = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * pz;

        mx.xy /= mx.w;
        px.xy  /= px.w;
        my.xy /= my.w;
        py.xy  /= py.w;
        mz.xy /= mz.w;
        pz.xy  /= pz.w;

        float dx = distance( mx.xy, px.xy );
        float dy = distance( my.xy, py.xy );
        float dz = distance( mz.xy, pz.xy );
        float dmax = sqrt( dx*dx + dy*dy + dz*dz );

        gl_TessLevelOuter[0] = 2.;
        gl_TessLevelOuter[1] = dmax * uDetail;
        gl_TessLevelOuter[2] = 2.;
        gl_TessLevelOuter[3] = dmax * uDetail;
        gl_TessLevelInner[0]  = dmax * uDetail;
        gl_TessLevelInner[1]  = dmax * uDetail;
}
```

Extreme points of the sphere in Clip space

Extreme points of the sphere in NDC space

How large are the lines between the extreme points?

We no longer use uScale or tcRadius. But, we do use uDetail to provide a way to convert from NDC to Screen Space or to indicate the quality you'd like

(I.e., uDetail depends on how good you want the spheres to look and on how large the window is in pixels.)

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Making the Whole-Sphere Subdivision Adapt to Screen Coverage
42

sphereadapt.tes

```
#version 400 compatibility
#extension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable

layout( quads, equal_spacing, ccw)  in;

patch in float   tcRadius;
patch in vec3  tcCenter;

out vec3         teNormal;

const float PI = 3.14159265;

void main( )
{
        vec3 p = gl_in[0].gl_Position.xyz;

        float u = gl_TessCoord.x;
        float v = gl_TessCoord.y;
        float w = gl_TessCoord.z;

        float phi    = PI  *       ( u - .5 );
        float theta = 2. * PI * ( v - .5 );

        float cosphi = cos(phi);
        vec3 xyz = vec3( cosphi*cos(theta), sin(phi), cosphi*sin(theta) );
        teNormal = xyz;

        xyz *=  tcRadius;
        xyz += tcCenter;

        gl_Position = gl_ModelViewMatrix * vec4( xyz,1. );
}
```

$-\frac{\pi}{2} \le \phi \le +\frac{\pi}{2}$

$-\pi \le \theta \le +\pi$

Spherical coordinates

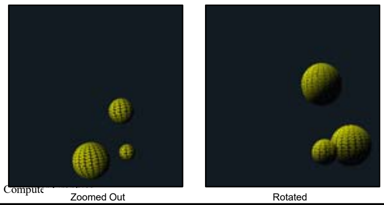
No longer uses uScale

Computer Graphics

mjb – January 1, 2019

Making the Whole-Sphere Subdivision Adapt to Screen Coverage

Original — Triangles Shrunk — Zoomed In

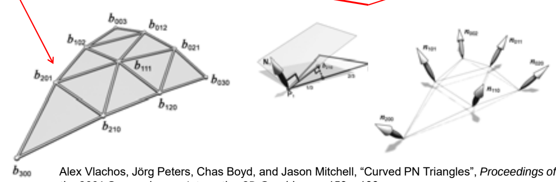


Zoomed Out — Rotated

Notice that the number of triangles adapts to the screen coverage of each sphere, and that the size of the tessellated triangles stays about the same, regardless of radius or transformation

Example: PN Triangles

General idea: turn each triangle into a triangular Bézier patch. Create the Bézier control points by using the surface normals at the corner vertices. The Bézier patch equation can then be interpolated to any level of tessellation.



Alex Vlachos, Jörg Peters, Chas Boyd, and Jason Mitchell, "Curved PN Triangles", *Proceedings of the 2001 Symposium on Interactive 3D Graphics*, pp.159 – 166.

Observation: triangles are usually passed in with points (P) and normals (N). Using this method, those triangles can be broken into a series of smoother triangles internally. AMD actually had this in their firmware before tessellation shaders made it unnecessary.

Example: PN Triangles

pntriangles.vert

```
#version 400 compatibility
uniform float  uScale;
out vec3        vNormal;

void
main( )
{
        vec3 xyz = gl_Vertex.xyz;
        xyz *= uScale;
        gl_Position = gl_ModelViewMatrix * vec4( xyz, 1. );
        vNormal = normalize( gl_NormalMatrix * gl_Normal );
}
```

pntriangles.tcs

```
#version 400 compatibility
#ension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable
uniform int       uOuter, uInner;
uniform float   uScale;

layout( vertices = 3 )  out;
in vec3    vNormal[ ];
out vec3  tcNormals[ ];

void main( )
{
        teNormals[ gl_InvocationID ] = vNormal[ gl_InvocationID ];
        gl_out[ gl_InvocationID ].gl_Position = gl_in[ gl_InvocationID ].gl_Position;

        gl_TessLevelOuter[0] = uScale * float(uOuter);
        gl_TessLevelOuter[1] = uScale * float(uOuter);
        gl_TessLevelOuter[2] = uScale * float(uOuter);
        gl_TessLevelInner[0]  = uScale * float(uInner);
}
```


Example: PN Triangles

pntriangles.tes, I

```
#version 400 compatibility
#ension GL_ARB_tessellation_shader : enable
in vec3     tcNormals[  ];
out vec3  teNormal;

layout( triangles, equal_spacing, ccw)  in;

void
main( )
{
        vec3 p1 = gl_in[0].gl_Position.xyz;
        vec3 p2 = gl_in[1].gl_Position.xyz;
        vec3 p3 = gl_in[2].gl_Position.xyz;

        vec3 n1 = tcNormals[0];
        vec3 n2 = tcNormals[1];
        vec3 n3 = tcNormals[2];

        float u = gl_TessCoord.x;
        float v = gl_TessCoord.y;
        float w = gl_TessCoord.z;

        vec3 b300 = p1;
        vec3 b030 = p2;
        vec3 b003 = p3;

        float w12 = dot( p2 - p1, n1 );
        float w21 = dot( p1 - p2, n2 );
        float w13 = dot( p3 - p1, n1 );
        float w31 = dot( p1 - p3, n3 );
        float w23 = dot( p3 - p2, n2 );
        float w32 = dot( p2 - p3, n3 );
```


Example: PN Triangles

pntriangles.tes, II

```
        vec3 b210 = ( 2.*p1 + p2 - w12*n1 ) / 3.;
        vec3 b120 = ( 2.*p2 + p1 - w21*n2 ) / 3.;
        vec3 b021 = ( 2.*p2 + p3 - w23*n2 ) / 3.;
        vec3 b012 = ( 2.*p3 + p2 - w32*n3 ) / 3.;
        vec3 b102 = ( 2.*p3 + p1 - w31*n3 ) / 3.;
        vec3 b201 = ( 2.*p1 + p3 - w13*n1 ) / 3.;

        vec3 ee = ( b210 + b120 + b021 + b012 + b102 + b201 ) / 6.;
        vec3 vv = ( p1 + p2 + p3 ) / 3.;
        vec3 b111 = ee + ( ee - vv ) / 2.;

        vec3 xyz =    1.*b300*w*w*w + 1.*b030*u*u*u  + 1.*b003*v*v*v  +
                      3.*b210*u*w*w  + 3.*b120*u*u*w + 3.*b201*v*w*w +
                      3.*b021*u*u*v   + 3.*b102*v*v*w  + 3.*b012*u*v*v  +
                      6.*b111*u*v*w;

        float v12 = 2. * dot( p2-p1, n1+n2 ) / dot( p2-p1, p2-p1 );
        float v23 = 2. * dot( p3-p2, n2+n3 ) / dot( p3-p2, p3-p2 );
        float v31 = 2. * dot( p1-p3, n3+n1 ) / dot( p1-p3, p1-p3 );

        vec3 n200 = n1;
        vec3 n020 = n2;
        vec3 n002 = n3;
        vec3 n110 = normalize( n1 + n2 - v12*(p2-p1) );
        vec3 n011 = normalize( n2 + n3 - v23*(p3-p2) );
        vec3 n101 = normalize( n3 + n1 - v31*(p1-p3) );

        Normal =      n200*w*w + n020*u*u + n002*v*v +
                      n110*w*u + n011*u*v + n101*w*v;

        gl_Position = vec4( xyz, 1. );
}
```


Example: PN Triangles

pntriangles.geom

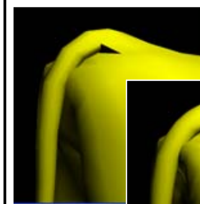
```
#version 400 compatibility
#ension GL_gpu_shader4: enable
#ension GL_geometry_shader4: enable

uniform float   uShrink;
in vec3          teNormal[  ];
out float         gLightIntensity;

const vec3     LIGHTPOS = vec3( 5., 10., 10. );

vec3 V[3];
vec3 CG;

void
ProduceVertex( int  v )
{
        gLightIntensity = abs( dot( normalize(LIGHTPOS - V[v]), normalize(teNormal[v]) ) );
        gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * vec4( CG + uShrink * ( V[v] - CG ), 1. );
        EmitVertex( );
}



void
main( )
{
        V[0]  =   gl_PositionIn[0].xyz;
        V[1]  =   gl_PositionIn[1].xyz;
        V[2]  =   gl_PositionIn[2].xyz;

        CG = ( V[0] + V[1] + V[2] ) / 3.;

        ProduceVertex( 0 );
        ProduceVertex( 1 );
        ProduceVertex( 2 );
}
```

Example: PN Triangles

pntriangles.frag

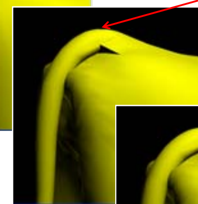
```
#version 400 compatibility

in float     gLightIntensity;

const vec3 COLOR = vec3( 1., 1., 0. );

void
main( )
{
                gl_FragColor = vec4(  gLightIntensity*COLOR, 1. );
}
```


The Cow's Tail is a Good Example of using PN Triangles

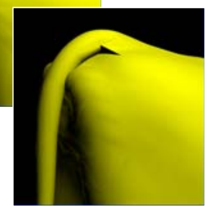


uOuter = 1, uInner = 1

Notice how much improvement there is just by increasing the outer tessellation. This is because smooth shading already helps the inner parts of triangles, but does nothing for the silhouettes.

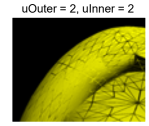


uOuter = 2, uInner = 1



uOuter = 2, uInner = 2

uOuter = 2, uInner = 2



The Difference Between Tessellation Shaders and Geometry Shaders

By now, you are probably confused about when to use a Geometry Shader and when to use a Tessellation Shader. Both are capable of creating new geometry from existing geometry. See if this helps.

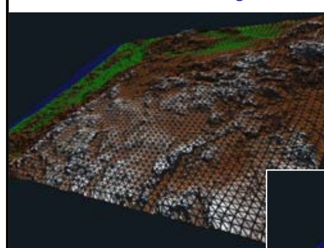
Use a **Geometry Shader** when:

1. You need to convert an input topology into a different output topology, such as in the silhouette and hedgehog shaders (triangles→lines) or the explosion shader (triangles→points)
2. You need some sort of geometry processing to come after the Tessellation Shader (such as how the shrink shader was used).

Use a **Tessellation Shader** when:

1. One of the built-in tessellation patterns will suit your needs.
2. You need more than 6 input vertices to define the surface being tessellated.
3. You need more output vertices than a Geometry Shader can provide.

Demonstrating the Limits of Tessellation Shaders



This tessellation is using 64x64 (the maximum allowed).

This is pretty good-looking, but doesn't come close to using the full 4096x2276 resolution available for the bump-map.