Display Lists

Mike Bailey
mjb@cs.oregonstate.edu
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void Sphere( float radius, int slices, int stacks )
{
    struct point top, bot;          // top, bottom points
    struct point *p;
    NumLngs = slices;
    NumLats = stacks;
    Pts = new struct point[ NumLngs * NumLats ];
    for( int ilat = 0; ilat < NumLats; ilat++ )
    {
        float lat = -M_PI/2. + M_PI * (float)ilat / (float)(NumLats-1);
        float xz = cos( lat );
        float y = sin( lat );
        for( int ilng = 0; ilng < NumLngs; ilng++ )
        {
            float lng = -M_PI + 2. * M_PI * (float)ilng / (float)(NumLngs-1);
            float x =  xz * cos( lng );
            float z = -xz * sin( lng );
            p = PtsPointer( ilat, ilng );
            p->x  = radius * x;
            p->y  = radius * y;
            p->z  = radius * z;
            p->nx = x;
            p->ny = y;
            p->nz = z;
            p->s = ( lng + M_PI ) / ( 2.*M_PI );
            p->t = ( lat + M_PI/2. ) / M_PI;
        }
    }
}

You don’t want to execute all that code every time you want to redraw the scene, so draw it once, store the numbers in GPU memory, and call them back up later

The solution is to incur the sphere-creation overhead once, and whenever the sphere needs to be re-drawn, just draw the saved numbers, not the equations. This is a Display List.

The coordinates, etc. end up in memory instead of being sent to the display

Pull all the coordinates, etc. from memory, just as if the code to generate them had been executed here.