The OpenGL Mathematics (GLM) Library

Mike Bailey
mjb@cs.oregonstate.edu

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License

What is GLM?

GLM is a set of C++ classes and functions to fill in the programming gaps in writing the basic vector and matrix mathematics for OpenGL applications.

GLM isn’t really a library – it is all specified in *.hpp header files so that it gets compiled in with your source code.

You can find it at:

http://glm.g-truc.net/0.9.8.5/

You invoke GLM like this:

```cpp
#define    GLM_FORCE_RADIANS
#include <glm/glm.hpp>
#include <glm/gtc/matrix_transform.hpp>
```

Or, you can #include only the specific GLM .hpp files you need.

If GLM is not installed in a system place, put it somewhere you can get access to. Later on, these notes will show you how to use it from there.

Why are we even talking about this?

The OpenGL overlords have “deprecated” some of the OpenGL functions we have been using to perform transformations. In the desktop world, it means that the use of such functions is discouraged. In Vulkan and in the mobile world of OpenGL-ES, it means those functions are gone.

You might as well become familiar with how to live without them. So, instead of saying:

```cpp
gluLookAt( 0., 0., 3., 0., 0., 0., 0., 1., 0.);  
glRotatef( (GLfloat)Yrot, 0., 1., 0.);  
glRotatef( (GLfloat)Xrot, 1., 0., 0.);  
glScalef( (GLfloat)Scale, (GLfloat)Scale, (GLfloat)Scale );
```

for OpenGL, you would now say:

```cpp
glm::mat4 modelview;  
glm::vec3 eye(0.,0.,3.);  
glm::vec3 look(0.,0.,0.);  
glm::vec3 up(0.,1.,0.);  
modelview = glm::lookAt( eye, look, up );
```

for OpenGL you would now say:

```cpp
glm::mat4 modelview;  
glm::vec3 eye(0.,0.,3.);  
glm::vec3 look(0.,0.,0.);  
glm::vec3 up(0.,1.,0.);  
modelview = glm::lookAt( eye, look, up );
```

You might as well become familiar with how to live without them. So, instead of saying:

```cpp
gluLookAt( 0., 0., 3., 0., 0., 0., 0., 1., 0.);  
glRotatef( (GLfloat)Yrot, 0., 1., 0.);  
glRotatef( (GLfloat)Xrot, 1., 0., 0.);  
glScalef( (GLfloat)Scale, (GLfloat)Scale, (GLfloat)Scale );
```

for OpenGL, you would now say:

```cpp
glm::mat4 modelview;  
glm::vec3 eye(0.,0.,3.);  
glm::vec3 look(0.,0.,0.);  
glm::vec3 up(0.,1.,0.);  
modelview = glm::lookAt( eye, look, up );
```

for OpenGL you would now say:

```cpp
glm::mat4 modelview;  
glm::vec3 eye(0.,0.,3.);  
glm::vec3 look(0.,0.,0.);  
glm::vec3 up(0.,1.,0.);  
modelview = glm::lookAt( eye, look, up );
```

The Most Useful GLM Variables, Operations, and Functions

GLM recommends that you use the “glm::” syntax and not use “using namespace” syntax because they have not made any effort to create unique function names

```cpp
// constructor:
glm::mat4( );  
glm::vec4( );  // identity matrix
glm::vec3( );
```

GLM recommends that you use the “glm::” syntax and not use “using namespace” syntax because they have not made any effort to create unique function names

```cpp
// multiplications:
glm::mat4 * glm::mat4  
glm::vec4 * glm::vec4  
```

GLM recommends that you use the “glm::” syntax and not use “using namespace” syntax because they have not made any effort to create unique function names

```cpp
// emulating OpenGL transformations with concatenation:
glm::mat4 glm::rotate( glm::mat4 const & m, float angle, glm::vec3 const & axis );  
glm::mat4 glm::scale( glm::mat4 const & m, glm::vec3 const & factors );  
```

GLM recommends that you use the “glm::” syntax and not use “using namespace” syntax because they have not made any effort to create unique function names

```cpp
// emulating OpenGL transformations with concatenation:
glm::mat4 glm::rotate( glm::mat4 const & m, float angle, glm::vec3 const & axis );  
```
The Most Useful GLM Variables, Operations, and Functions

// viewing volume (assign, not concatenate):
glm::mat4 glm::ortho( float left, float right, float bottom, float top, float near, float far );

// viewing (assign, not concatenate):
glm::mat4 glm::lookAt( glm::vec3 const & eye, glm::vec3 const & look, glm::vec3 const & up );

// loading matrices into opengl:
glLoadMatrixf( glm::value_ptr( glm::mat4 ) );
glUniformMatrix4fv( Location, 1, GL_FALSE, glm::value_ptr( glm::mat4 ) );

Installing GLM into your own space

I like to just put the whole thing under my Visual Studio project folder so I can zip up a complete project and give it to someone else.

Telling Linux about where the GLM folder is

```
g++ ... -I ...
```

“minus-capital-eye-period” means “also look for the < > includes in this folder”

Instead of the period, you can list a full or relative pathname.
Using Transformations, OpenGL-style, like in the sample.cpp Program

```c
#include <GL/glut.h>
#include <GL/gl.h>
#include <GL/glext.h>

const float D2R = M_PI/180.f; // 0.01745…

glMatrixMode( GL_PROJECTION );
gLoadIdentity( );
glm::mat4 projection;
if( WhichProjection == ORTHO )
    projection = glm::ortho( -3., 3., -3., 3., 0.1, 1000. );
else
    projection = glm::perspective( D2R*90., 1., 0.1, 1000. );

// apply the projection matrix:
gMultMatrixf( glm::value_ptr( projection ) );
```

Using Transformations, GLM-style, I

```c
#include <glm/vec3.hpp>
#include <glm/mat4x4.hpp>
#include <glm/gtc/matrix_transform.hpp>
#include <glm/gtc/type_ptr.hpp>

const float D2R = M_PI/180.f; // 0.01745…

glMatrixMode( GL_PROJECTION );
gLoadIdentity( );
glm::mat4 projection;
if( WhichProjection == ORTHO )
    projection = glm::ortho( -3., 3., -3., 3., 0.1, 1000. );
else
    projection = glm::perspective( D2R*90., 1., 0.1, 1000. );

// apply the projection matrix:
gMultMatrixf( glm::value_ptr( projection ) );
```
// place the objects into the scene:
glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
gLoadIdentity();

// set the eye position, look-at position, and up-vector:
glm::vec3 eye(0.,0.,3.);
glm::vec3 look(0.,0.,0.);
glm::vec3 up(0.,1.,0.);
glm::mat4 modelview = glm::lookAt(eye, look, up);

// rotate the scene (warning -- unlike OpenGL's glRotatef,
// GLM's rotate method takes angles in *radians*):
modelview = glm::rotate(modelview, D2R*Yrot, glm::vec3(0.,1.,0.));
modelview = glm::rotate(modelview, D2R*Xrot, glm::vec3(1.,0.,0.));

// uniformly scale the scene:
if( Scale < MINSCALE )
    Scale = MINSCALE;
modelview = glm::scale(modelview, glm::vec3(Scale, Scale, Scale));

// apply the modelview matrix:
    glMultMatrixf(glm::value_ptr(modelview));

// set the view matrix:
glm::vec3 eye(0.,0.,3.);
glm::vec3 look(0.,0.,0.);
glm::vec3 up(0.,1.,0.);
glm::mat4 view = glm::lookAt(eye, look, up);
glm::mat4 model = glm::rotate(modelview, D2R*Yrot, glm::vec3(0.,1.,0.));
glm::mat4 model = glm::rotate(modelview, D2R*Xrot, glm::vec3(1.,0.,0.));

glm::mat4 projection = glm::perspective(D2R*90., 1., 0.1, 1000.);
projection[1][1] *= -1.; // Vulkan's projected Y is inverted from OpenGL's