Getting Started with OpenGL Graphics Programming

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The Basic Computer Graphics Pipeline

MC = Model Coordinates
WC = World Coordinates
EC = Eye Coordinates
CC = Clip Coordinates
NDC = Normalized Device Coordinates
SC = Screen Coordinates

We’ll come back to this later. For now, understand that there are multiple steps to go from your 3D geometry to pixels on the screen.
Geometry vs. Topology

Geometry: Where things are (e.g., coordinates)

Topology: How things are connected

Original Object

Geometry = changed
Topology = same (1-2-3-4-1)

Geometry = same
Topology = changed (1-2-4-3-1)
3D Coordinate Systems

Left-handed

Right-handed
Homer Simpson uses Right-handed Coordinates. So then we will too.
Right-handed 3D Coordinate System for a CNC Machine
Right-handed Positive Rotations

Right-Handed Coordinate System

Y

X

Z

Right-Handed Coordinate System
This is a wonderfully understandable way to start with 3D graphics, but it is also incredibly internally inefficient! We’ll talk about that later…
OpenGL Topologies

GL_POINTS

GL_LINES

GL_LINE_STRIP

GL_LINE_LOOP

GL_TRIANGLES

GL_TRIANGLE_STRIP
OpenGL Topologies

**GL_TRIANGLE_FAN**

V0 - V1 - V2 - V3 - V4 - V0

**GL_QUAD_STRIP**

V0 - V1 - V2 - V3 - V4 - V5 - V6 - V7 - V0

**GL_QUADS**

V0 - V1 - V2 - V3 - V6 - V5 - V4 - V7 - V0

**GL_POLYGON**

V0 - V1 - V2 - V3 - V4 - V5 - V6 - V7 - V0
OpenGL Topologies – Polygon Requirements

Polygons must be:

• **Convex** and

• **Planar**

For that reason, GL_TRIANGLE_STRIP and GL_TRIANGLE are considered preferable to GL_QUAD_STRIP and GL_QUADS. GL_POLYGON is rarely used.
Polygons are traditionally:

- **CCW when viewed from outside the solid object**

It doesn’t matter much, but there is an advantage in being **consistent**.
OpenGL Topologies – Vertex Order Matters

GL_LINE_LOOP

V0 \rightarrow V1 \rightarrow V2 \rightarrow V3 \rightarrow V0

GL_LINE_LOOP

V0 \rightarrow V1 \rightarrow V2 \rightarrow V3 \rightarrow V0

This disease is referred to as “The Bowtie” 😊
What does “Convex Polygon” Mean?

We can go all mathematical here, but let’s go visual instead. In a convex polygon, a line between any two points inside the polygon never leaves the inside of the polygon.

Convex

Stays within the polygon

Not Convex

Leaves the polygon
Why is there a Requirement for Polygons to be Convex?

Graphics polygon-filling hardware can be highly optimized if you know that, no matter what direction you fill the polygon in, there will be two and only two intersections between the scanline and the polygon’s edges.

**Convex**

2 edge intersections

---

**Not Convex**

4 edge intersections
What if you need to display Polygons that are not Convex?

There are two good solutions I know of (and there are probably more):

1. OpenGL’s utility (gluXxx) library has a built-in tessellation capability to break a non-convex polygon into convex polygons.

2. There is an open source library to break a non-convex polygon into convex polygons. It is called **Polypartition**, and the source code can be found here:

   https://github.com/ivanfratric/polypartition
Why is there a Requirement for Polygons to be Planar?

Graphics hardware assumes that a polygon has a definite front and a definite back, and that you can only see one of them at a time.
OpenGL Drawing Can Be Done Procedurally

```c
// Explicitly listing vertices
Color3f( r, g, b );
Begin( GL_LINE_LOOP );
  Vertex3f( x0, y0, 0. );
  Vertex3f( x1, y1, 0. );
...
End( );

// Procedurally computing vertices
Color3f( r, g, b );
float dang = 2. * M_PI / (float)( NUMSEGS – 1 );
float ang = 0.;
Begin( GL_LINE_LOOP );
  for( int i = 0; i < NUMSEGS; i++ )
  {
    Vertex3f( RADIUS*cos(ang), RADIUS*sin(ang), 0. );
    ang += dang;
  }
End( );
```

Listing a lot of vertices explicitly gets old in a hurry.

The graphics card can’t tell how the numbers in the `Vertex3f` calls were produced: both explicitly listed and procedurally computed look the same to `Vertex3f`.
glColor3f( r, g, b );

0.0 ≤ r, g, b ≤ 1.0

This is referred to as “Additive Color”

Cyan = Green + Blue
Magenta = Red + Blue
Yellow = Red + Green
White = Red + Green + Blue
Transformations

Translation

Rotation

Scaling
OpenGL Transformations

```c
glTranslatef(tx, ty, tz);
```

```c
glRotatef(degrees, ax, ay, az);
```

```c
glScalef(sx, sy, sz);
```
Single Transformations

glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( )

glTranslatef( degrees, ax, ay, az );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin( GL_LINE_STRIP );
   glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
   glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
   glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
   glVertex3f( x3, y3, z3 );
   glVertex3f( x4, y4, z4 );
glEnd( );
Compound Transformations

glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( )

1. glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
2. glRotatef( degrees, ax, ay, az );
3. glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin( GL_LINE_STRIP );
   glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
   glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
   glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
   glVertex3f( x3, y3, z3 );
   glVertex3f( x4, y4, z4 );
glEnd( );

These transformations “add up”, and look like they take effect in this order
Computer Graphics

Why do the Compound Transformations Take Effect in Reverse Order?

1. Envision fully-parenthesizing what is going on. In that case, it makes perfect sense that the most recently-set transformation would take effect first.

2. $\text{glTranslatef}( tx, ty, tz );$

3. $\text{glRotatef}( \text{degrees}, \text{ax}, \text{ay}, \text{az} );$

4. $\text{glScalef}( \text{sx}, \text{sy}, \text{sz} );$

5. $\text{glBegin}( \text{GL\_LINE\_STRIP} );$
   $\text{glVertex3f}( x0, y0, z0 );$
   $\text{glVertex3f}( x1, y1, z1 );$
   $\text{glVertex3f}( x2, y2, z2 );$
   $\text{glVertex3f}( x3, y3, z3 );$
   $\text{glVertex3f}( x4, y4, z4 );$

6. $\text{glEnd}( );$
Order Matters!
Compound Transformations are Not Commutative

Rotate, then translate

Translate, then rotate
The designers of OpenGL could have put lots and lots of arguments on the glVertex3f call to totally define the appearance of your drawing, like this:

```c
glVertex3f( x, y, z,   r, g, b,   m00, …, m33,   s, t,   nx, ny, nz,  linewidth, …  );
```

Yuch! *That* would have been ugly. Instead, they decided to let you create a “current drawing state”. You set all of these characteristics first, then they take effect when you do the drawing. They continue to remain in effect for future drawing calls, until you change them.

---

**The OpenGL Drawing State**

Set the state first

Use the state second

You must set the transformations before you expect them to take effect!
Projecting an Object from 3D into 2D

Orthographic (or Parallel) projection

```c
glOrtho( xl, xr, yb, yt, zn, zf );
```

Perspective projection

```c
gluPerspective( fovy, aspect, zn, zf );
```
Projecting on Object from 3D to 2D

Parallel/Orthographic is good for lining things up and comparing sizes

Perspective is more realistic-looking
OpenGL Projection Functions

```c
glMatrixMode( GL_PROJECTION );
glLoadIdentity( );

glOrtho( xl, xr, yb, yt, zn, zf );  gluPerspective( fovy, aspect, zn, zf );

Use one of these, but not both!

Use one of these, but not both!

glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( );

gluLookAt( ex, ey, ez, lx, ly, lz, ux, uy, uz );

glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glRotatef( degrees, ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin( GL_LINE_STRIP );
  glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
  glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
  glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
  glVertex3f( x3, y3, z3 );
  glVertex3f( x4, y4, z4 );

glEnd( );
```
How the Viewing Volumes Look from the Outside

\[
glOrtho( \text{xl, xr, yb, yt, zn, zf });
\]

\[
gluPerspective( \text{fovy, aspect, zn, zf });
\]
The Perspective Viewing Frustum

\code{gluPerspective( fovy, aspect, zn, zf );}

- **fovy** = vertical field of view angle (degrees)
  (good values are 50-100°)

- **aspect** = \( \frac{DX}{DY} \)

- **zfar**
- **znear**
Arbitrary Viewing

```c
glMatrixMode( GL_PROJECTION );
glLoadIdentity( );
gluPerspective( fpvy, aspect, zn, zf );

glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( );

    Eye Position               Look-at Position             Up vector
    gluLookAt( ex, ey, ez,      lx, ly, lz,                  ux, uy, uz );

    glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
    glRotatef( degrees, ax, ay, az );
    glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

    glColor3f( r, g, b );
    glBegin( GL_LINE_STRIP );
        glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
        glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
        glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
        glVertex3f( x3, y3, z3 );
        glVertex3f( x4, y4, z4 );
    glEnd( );
```
Chicago Fly-through: Changing Eye, Look, and Up
How Can You Be Sure You See Your Scene?

```gl

gluPerspective( fovy, aspect, zn, zf );

gluLookAt( ex, ey, ez, lx, ly, lz, ux, uy, uz );
```

Here’s a good way to start:

1. Set `lx,ly,lz` to be the average of all the vertices
2. Set `ux,uy,uz` to be `0.,1.,0.`.
3. Set `ex=lx` and `ey=ly`
4. Now, you change $\Delta E$ or `fovy` so that the object fits in the viewing volume:

\[
\tan\left(\frac{fovy}{2}\right) = \frac{H/2}{\Delta E}
\]

Giving:

\[
fovy = 2\arctan\left(\frac{H}{2\Delta E}\right)
\]

or:

\[
\Delta E = \frac{H}{2\tan\left(\frac{fovy}{2}\right)}
\]
Specifying a Viewport

Be sure the y:x aspect ratios match!!

```c
int ixl, iyb, idx, idy;

void glViewport(int x, int y, int width, int height)
{
    glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
    gluPerspective(fovy, aspect, zn, zf);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
    gluLookAt(ex, ey, ez, lx, ly, lz, ux, uy, uz);
    glTranslatef(tx, ty, tz);
    glRotatef(degrees, ax, ay, az);
    glScalef(sx, sy, sz);

    glColor3f(r, g, b);
    glBegin(GL_LINE_STRIP);
    glVertex3f(x0, y0, z0);
    glVertex3f(x1, y1, z1);
    glVertex3f(x2, y2, z2);
    glVertex3f(x3, y3, z3);
    glVertex3f(x4, y4, z4);
    glEnd();
}
```

Viewports use the upper-left corner as (0,0) and their Y goes down.

Note: setting the viewport is not part of setting either the Modelview or the Projection transformations.
Saving and Restoring the Current Transformation

```c
glViewport( ixl, iyb, idx, idy );

glMatrixMode( GL_PROJECTION );
glLoadIdentity( );
gluPerspective( fovy, aspect, zn, zf );

glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( );
gluLookAt( ex, ey, ez, lx, ly, lz, ux, uy, uz );
glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glPushMatrix( );
glPushMatrix();
glRotatef( degrees, ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin( GL_LINE_STRIP );
    glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
    glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
    glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
    glVertex3f( x3, y3, z3 );
    glVertex3f( x4, y4, z4 );

    glEnd( );
glPopMatrix( );
glPopMatrix();
```

...
sample.cpp Program Structure

- #includes
-_consts and #defines
- Global variables
- Function prototypes
- Main program
- InitGraphics function
- Display callback
- Keyboard callback
#includes

#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <ctype.h>

#define _USE_MATH_DEFINES
#include <math.h>

#ifdef WIN32
#include <windows.h>
#pragma warning(disable:4996)
#include "glew.h"
#endif

#include <GL/gl.h>
#include <GL/glu.h>
#include "glut.h"
consts and #defines

`const char *WINDOWTITLE = { "OpenGL / GLUT Sample -- Joe Graphics" };`
`const char *GLUITITLE = { "User Interface Window" };`
`const int GLUITRUE = { true };`
`const int GLUIFALSE = { false };`
`#define ESCAPE 0x1b`
`const int INIT_WINDOW_SIZE = { 600 };`
`const float BOXSIZE = { 2.f };`
`const float ANGFACT = { 1. };`
`const float SCLFACT = { 0.005f };`
`const float MINSCALE = { 0.05f };`
`const int LEFT = { 4 };`
`const int MIDDLE = { 2 };`
`const int RIGHT = { 1 };`

```c
enum Projections { ORTHO, PERSP };
enum ButtonVals { RESET, QUIT };
enum Colors { RED, YELLOW, GREEN, CYAN, BLUE, MAGENTA, WHITE, BLACK };
```

consts are always preferred over #defines. But, Visual Studio does not allow consts to be used in case statements or as array sizes.
Initialized Global Variables

const GLfloat BACKCOLOR[ ] = { 0., 0., 0., 1. };
const GLfloat AXES_WIDTH   = { 3. };
char * ColorNames[ ] =
{
    "Red",
    "Yellow",
    "Green",
    "Cyan",
    "Blue",
    "Magenta",
    "White",
    "Black"
};
const GLfloat Colors[ ][3] =
{
    { 1., 0., 0. },       // red
    { 1., 1., 0. },       // yellow
    { 0., 1., 0. },       // green
    { 0., 1., 1. },       // cyan
    { 0., 0., 1. },       // blue
    { 1., 0., 1. },       // magenta
    { 1., 1., 1. },       // white
    { 0., 0., 0. },       // black
};
const GLfloat FOGCOLOR[4] = { .0, .0, .0, 1. };
const GLenum FOGMODE     = { GL_LINEAR };
const GLfloat FOGDENSITY  = { 0.30f };
const GLfloat FOGSTART      = { 1.5 };
const GLfloat FOGEND          = { 4. };
Global Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>ActiveButton;</td>
<td>current button that is down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLuint</td>
<td>AxesList;</td>
<td>list to hold the axes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>AxesOn;</td>
<td>!= 0 means to draw the axes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>DebugOn;</td>
<td>!= 0 means to print debugging info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>DepthCueOn;</td>
<td>!= 0 means to use intensity depth cueing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLuint</td>
<td>BoxList;</td>
<td>object display list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>MainWindow;</td>
<td>window id for main graphics window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float</td>
<td>Scale;</td>
<td>scaling factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>WhichColor;</td>
<td>index into Colors[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>WhichProjection;</td>
<td>ORTHO or PERSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>Xmouse, Ymouse;</td>
<td>mouse values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float</td>
<td>Xrot, Yrot;</td>
<td>rotation angles in degrees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Function Prototypes

void Animate( );
void Display( );
void DoAxesMenu( int );
void DoColorMenu( int );
void DoDepthMenu( int );
void DoDebugMenu( int );
void DoMainMenu( int );
void DoProjectMenu( int );
void DoRasterString( float, float, float, char * );
void DoStrokeString( float, float, float, float, char * );
float ElapsedSeconds( );
void InitGraphics( );
void InitLists( );
void InitMenus( );
void Keyboard( unsigned char, int, int );
void MouseButton( int, int, int, int );
void MouseMotion( int, int, int, int );
void Reset( );
void Resize( int, int );
void Visibility( int );

void Axes( float );
void HsvRgb( float[3], float[3] );
int main( int argc, char *argv[] )
{
    // turn on the glut package:
    // (do this before checking argc and argv since it might
    // pull some command line arguments out)
    glutInit( &argc, argv );

    // setup all the graphics stuff:
    InitGraphics( );

    // create the display structures that will not change:
    InitLists( );

    // init all the global variables used by Display( ):
    // this will also post a redisplay
    Reset( );

    // setup all the user interface stuff:
    InitMenus( );

    // draw the scene once and wait for some interaction:
    // (this will never return)
    glutSetWindow( MainWindow );
    glutMainLoop( );

    // this is here to make the compiler happy:
    return 0;
}
void InitGraphics() {

    // request the display modes:
    // ask for red-green-blue-alpha color, double-buffering, and z-buffering:

    glutInitDisplayMode( GLUT_RGBA | GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_DEPTH );

    // set the initial window configuration:

    glutInitWindowPosition( 0, 0 );
    glutInitWindowSize( INIT_WINDOW_SIZE, INIT_WINDOW_SIZE );

    // open the window and set its title:

    MainWindow = glutCreateWindow( WINDOWTITLE );
    glutSetWindowTitle( WINDOWTITLE );

    // set the framebuffer clear values:

    glClearColor( BACKCOLOR[0], BACKCOLOR[1], BACKCOLOR[2], BACKCOLOR[3] );

    glutSetWindow( MainWindow );
    glutDisplayFunc( Display );
    glutReshapeFunc( Resize );
    glutKeyboardFunc( Keyboard );
    glutMouseFunc( MouseButton );
    glutMotionFunc( MouseMotion );
    glutTimerFunc( -1, NULL, 0 );
    glutIdleFunc( NULL );
}
ifdef WIN32

GLenum err = glewInit();
if( err != GLEW_OK )
{
    fprintf( stderr, "glewInit Error\n" );
}

#endif
void Display( )
{
    // set which window we want to do the graphics into:
    glutSetWindow( MainWindow );

    // erase the background:
    glDrawBuffer( GL_BACK );
    glClear( GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT | GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT );
    glEnable( GL_DEPTH_TEST );

    // specify shading to be flat:
    glShadeModel( GL_FLAT );

    // set the viewport to a square centered in the window:
    GLsizei vx = glutGet( GLUT_WINDOW_WIDTH );
    GLsizei vy = glutGet( GLUT_WINDOW_HEIGHT );
    GLsizei v = vx < vy ? vx : vy; // minimum dimension
    GLint xl = ( vx - v ) / 2;
    GLint yb = ( vy - v ) / 2;
    glViewport( xl, yb, v, v );
// set the viewing volume:
// remember that the Z clipping values are actually
// given as DISTANCES IN FRONT OF THE EYE

glMatrixMode( GL_PROJECTION );
glLoadIdentity( );
if( WhichProjection == ORTHO )
    glOrtho( -3., 3., -3., 3., 0.1, 1000. );
else
    gluPerspective( 90., 1., 0.1, 1000. );

// place the objects into the scene:

glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( );

// set the eye position, look-at position, and up-vector:

gluLookAt( 0., 0., 3., 0., 0., 0., 0., 1. );

// rotate the scene:

glRotatef( (GLfloat)Yrot, 0., 1., 0. );
glRotatef( (GLfloat)Xrot, 1., 0., 0. );

// uniformly scale the scene:

if( Scale < MINSCALE )
    Scale = MINSCALE;
glScalef( (GLfloat)Scale, (GLfloat)Scale, (GLfloat)Scale );
// set the fog parameters:

if( DepthCueOn != 0 )
{
    glFogi( GL_FOG_MODE, FOGMODE );
    glFogfv( GL_FOG_COLOR, FOGCOLOR );
    glFogf( GL_FOG_DENSITY, FOGDENSITY );
    glFogf( GL_FOG_START, FOGSTART );
    glFogf( GL_FOG_END, FOGEND );
    glEnable( GL_FOG );
}
else
{
    glDisable( GL_FOG );
}

// possibly draw the axes:

if( AxesOn != 0 )
{
    glColor3fv( &Colors[WhichColor][0] );
    glCallList( AxesList );
}

// draw the current object:

glCallList( BoxList );

Replay the graphics commands from a previously-stored Display List.

Display Lists have their own noteset.
// draw some gratuitous text that just rotates on top of the scene:

glDisable( GL_DEPTH_TEST );
glColor3f( 0., 1., 1. );
DoRasterString( 0., 1., 0., "Text That Moves" );

// draw some gratuitous text that is fixed on the screen:
// the projection matrix is reset to define a scene whose
// world coordinate system goes from 0-100 in each axis
// this is called "percent units", and is just a convenience
// the modelview matrix is reset to identity as we don't
// want to transform these coordinates

glDisable( GL_DEPTH_TEST );
glMatrixMode( GL_PROJECTION );
glLoadIdentity( );
gluOrtho2D( 0., 100., 0., 100. );
glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( );
glColor3f( 1., 1., 1. );
DoRasterString( 5., 5., 0., "Text That Doesn't" );

// swap the double-buffered framebuffers:

glutSwapBuffers( );

// be sure the graphics buffer has been sent:
// note: be sure to use glFlush( ) here, not glFinish( ) !

glFlush( );
glutSwapBuffers( )

// swap the double-buffered framebuffers:

```c
glutSwapBuffers();
```

```c
glutInitDisplayMode( GLUT_RGBA | GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_DEPTH );
```

```c
glDrawBuffer( GL_BACK );
```

You draw into here

This is called the *update*

"swap buffers" changes the role of the two framebuffers

The monitor displays from here

This is called the *refresh*

You draw into here

The monitor displays from here

Oregon State University
Computer Graphics
Extra Topics:
(Don’t need this to get started with OpenGL programming)
Subtractive Colors (CMYK)
Sidebar: Subtractive Colors (CMYK)

- R = M + Y
- G = C + Y
- B = C + M
- K = C + M + Y

Additive Colors:
- R = Y + G
- G = B + Y
- B = R + G
- C = G + B
Sidebar: Hue-Saturation-Value (HSV) -- Another way to specify additive color

```c
float hsv[3], rgb[3];
HsvRgb( hsv, rgb );
glColor3fv( rgb );
```

The HsvRgb function is in your sample code

0. ≤ s, v, r, g, b ≤ 1.
0. ≤ h ≤ 360.
The OSU ColorPicker Program

Red, Green, Blue

Hue, Saturation, Value
Sidebar: How Did We Make the Transition from Vertices to Pixels?

Vertices

- Model Transform
- View Transform
- Per-vertex Lighting
- Projection Transform
- Homogeneous Division
- Viewport Transform

Pixels

- Framebuffer
- Raster Ops
- Fragment Processing, Texturing, Per-fragment Lighting
- Rasterization

Vector Spaces:
- MC = Model Coordinates
- WC = World Coordinates
- EC = Eye Coordinates
- CC = Clip Coordinates
- NDC = Normalized Device Coordinates
- SC = Screen Coordinates
Sidebar: How Did We Make the Transition from Vertices to Pixels?

There is a piece of hardware called the **Rasterizer**. Its job is to interpolate a line or polygon, defined by vertices, into a collection of **fragments**. Think of it as filling in squares on graph paper.

A fragment is a “pixel-to-be”. In computer graphics, “pixel” is defined as having its full RGBA already computed. A fragment does not yet but all of the information needed to compute the RGBA is there.

A fragment is turned into a pixel by the **fragment processing** operation.

In CS 457/557, you will do some pretty snazzy things with your own fragment processing code!