Introduction to the OpenGL Shading Language (GLSL)

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The Basic Computer Graphics Pipeline, OpenGL-style

The Basic Computer Graphics Pipeline, Shader-style

GLSL Variable Types

attribute These are per-vertex in variables. They are assigned per-vertex and passed into the vertex shader, usually with the intent to interpolate them through the rasterizer.

uniform These are "global" values, assigned and left alone for a group of primitives. They are read-only accessible from all of your shaders. They cannot be written to from a shader.

out / in These are passed from one shader stage to the next shader stage. In our case, out variables come from the vertex shader, are interpolated in the rasterizer, and go to the fragment shader. Attribute variables are in variables to the vertex shader.

GLSL Shaders Are Like C With Extensions for Graphics:

- Types include int, vec2, vec3, vec4
- Types include float, vec2, vec3, vec4
- Types include mat2, mat3, mat4
- Types include bool, bvec2, bvec3, bvec4
- Types include sampler to access textures
- You can ask for parallel SIMD operations (doesn't necessarily do it in hardware): vec4 a, b, c;
  
  a += b + c
- Vector components can be "swizzled" (a.rgb + a.g) (a.rgb + a.b)
- Type qualifiers: const, attribute, uniform, in, out
- Variables can have "layout qualifiers" (more on this later)
- The discard operator is used in fragment shaders to get rid of the current fragment
The discard Operator Halts Production of the Current Fragment

if (random number < 0.5) 
    discard;

GLSL Shaders Are Missing Some C-isms:

- No type casts — use constructors instead: int i = int(x);
- Only some amount of automatic promotion (don’t rely on it!)
- No pointers
- No strings
- No enums
- Can only use 1-D arrays (no bounds checking)

Warning: integer division is still integer division!

float f = float(2 / 4); // still gives 0, like C, C++, Python, Java

The Shaders’ View of the Basic Computer Graphics Pipeline

- A missing stage is OK. The output from one stage becomes the input of the next stage that is there.
- The last stage before the fragment shader feeds its output variables into the rasterizer. The interpolated values then go to the fragment shader

We are just going to cover these two

A GLSL Vertex Shader Replaces These Operations:

- Vertex transformations
- Normal transformations
- Normal unitization (normalization)
- Computing per-vertex lighting
- Taking per-vertex texture coordinates (s,t) and interpolating them through the rasterizer to the fragment shader

Built-in Vertex Shader Variables You Will Use a Lot:

vec4 gl_Vertex
vec3 gl_Normal
vec4 gl_Color
vec4 gl_MultiTexCoord0
mat4 gl_ModelViewMatrix
mat4 gl_ProjectionMatrix
mat4 gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix
mat4 gl_NormalMatrix (this is the transpose of the inverse of the MV matrix)
vec4 gl_Position

Note: while this all still works, OpenGL now prefers that you pass in all the above variables (except gl_Position) as user-defined attribute variables. We’ll talk about this later. For now, we are going to use the easiest way possible.

A GLSL Fragment Shader Replaces These Operations:

- Color computation
- Texturing
- Handling of per-fragment lighting
- Color blending
- Discarding fragments

Built-in Fragment Shader Variables You Will Use a Lot:

vec4 gl_FragColor

Note: while this all still works, OpenGL now prefers that you pass in all the above variables (except gl_Position) as user-defined attribute variables. We’ll talk about this later. For now, we are going to use the easiest way possible.
My Own Variable Naming Convention

With 7 different places that GLSL variables can be written from, I decided to adopt a naming convention to help me recognize what program-defined variables came from what sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning letter(s)</th>
<th>Means that the variable is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a per-vertex attribute from the application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>a uniform variable from the application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>came from the vertex shader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tc</td>
<td>came from the tessellation control shader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>came from the tessellation evaluation shader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>came from the geometry shader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>came from the fragment shader</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This isn't part of "official" OpenGL – it is my way of handling the confusion.

The Minimal Vertex and Fragment Shader

Vertex shader:
```glsl
#version 330 compatibility

void main() {
    gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
}
```

Fragment shader:
```glsl
#version 330 compatibility

void main() {
    gl_FragColor = vec4(0.5, 1.0, 0.0, 1.0);
}
```

This makes sure that each vertex gets transformed. This assigns a fixed color (r=0.5, g=1., b=0.) and alpha (=1.) to each fragment drawn.

Not terribly useful...

A Reminder of what a Rasterizer does

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.

Rasterizers interpolate built-in variables, such as the (x,y) position where the pixel will live and the pixel’s z-coordinate. They can also interpolate user-defined variables as well.

A Little More Interesting: Setting rgb From xyz, I

Vertex shader:
```glsl
out vec3 vColor;

void main() {
    vColor = gl_Vertex.xyz; // set rgb from xyz!
    gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
}
```

Fragment shader:
```glsl
in vec3 vColor;

void main() {
    gl_FragColor = vec4(vColor, 1.0);
}
```

Setting rgb From xyz, II

Something Has Changed: Setting rgb From xyz, II
Setting rgb From xyz, II

vColor = ( gl_ModelViewMatrix * gl_Vertex ).xyz;

Setting rgb From xyz

vColor = gl_Vertex.xyz;

Vertex shader: Per-fragment Lighting

#version 330 compatibility
uniform float   uKa, uKd, uKs; // coefficients of each type of lighting
uniform vec3  uColor; // object color
uniform vec3  uSpecularColor; // light color
uniform float   uShininess; // specular exponent
in vec2   vST; // texture cords
in  vec3  vN; // normal vector
in  vec3  vL; // vector from point to light
in  vec3  vE; // vector from point to eye
const vec3 LIGHTPOSITION = vec3( 5., 5., 0. );

void 
main( )
{
vec3 Normal = normalize(vN);
vec3 Light = normalize(vL);
vec3 Eye = normalize(vE);
vec3 ambient = uKa * uColor;
float d = max( dot(Normal,Light), 0. ); // only do diffuse if the light can see the point
vec3 diffuse = uKd * d * uColor;
float s = 0.; // only do specular if the light can see the point
if( dot(Normal,Light) > 0. )
{
vec3 ref = normalize( reflect( -Light, Normal ) );
s = pow( max( dot(Eye,ref),0. ), uShininess );
}
vec3 specular = uKs * s * uSpecularColor;
vec4 fragColor = vec4( ambient + diffuse + specular, 1.);
}

Fragment shader: Per-fragment Lighting

#version 330 compatibility
uniform float   uKa, uKd, uKs; // coefficients of each type of lighting
uniform vec3  uColor; // object color
uniform vec3  uSpecularColor; // light color
uniform float   uShininess; // specular exponent
in vec2   vST; // texture cords
in vec3  vN; // normal vector
in vec3  vL; // vector from point to light
in vec3  vE; // vector from point to eye

void 
main( )
{
vec3 Normal = normalize(vN);
vec3 Light = normalize(vL);
vec3 Eye = normalize(vE);
vec3 ambient = uKa * uColor;
float d = max( dot(Normal,Light), 0. ); // only do diffuse if the light can see the point
vec3 diffuse = uKd * d * uColor;
float s = 0.; // only do specular if the light can see the point
if( dot(Normal,Light) > 0. )
{
vec3 ref = normalize( reflect( -Light, Normal ) );
s = pow( max( dot(Eye,ref),0. ), uShininess );
}
vec3 specular = uKs * s * uSpecularColor;
vec4 fragColor = vec4( ambient + diffuse + specular, 1.);
}
Within the fragment shader, find out if the current fragment is within a particular rectangle:

```cpp
vec3 myColor = uColor;
if( uS0 - uSize/2. <= vST.s && vST.s <= uS0 + uSize/2.  &&
  uT0 - uSize/2. <= vST.t   &&   vST.t <= uT0 + uSize/2.  )
{
  myColor = vec3( 1., 0., 0. );
}
```

vec3 ambient = uKa * myColor;

Here’s the cool part: It doesn’t matter (up to the limits of 32-bit floating-point precision) how far you zoom in. You still get an exact crisp edge. This is an advantage of procedural (equation-based) textures, as opposed to texel-based textures.

**Drawing a Pattern on an Object**

Within the fragment shader, find out if the current fragment is within a particular rectangle:

```cpp
vec3 myColor = uColor;
if( uS0 - uSize/2. <= vST.s && vST.s <= uS0 + uSize/2.  &&
  uT0 - uSize/2. <= vST.t   &&   vST.t <= uT0 + uSize/2.  )
{
  myColor = vec3( 1., 0., 0. );
}
```

vec3 ambient = uKa * myColor;

Here’s the cool part: It doesn’t matter (up to the limits of 32-bit floating-point precision) how far you zoom in. You still get an exact crisp edge. This is an advantage of procedural (equation-based) textures, as opposed to texel-based textures.

**Setting Up a Shader is somewhat involved:**

**Here is a C++ Class to Handle the Shader Setup for You**

```cpp
GLSLProgram *Pattern;

// do this setup in InitGraphics( ):
Pattern = new GLSLProgram( );
bool valid = Pattern->Create( "pattern.vert",  "pattern.frag" );
if( ! valid )
{
  // do something...
}
```

This loads, compiles, and links the shader. If something went wrong, it prints error messages into the console window and returns a value of false.

**A C++ Class to Handle the Shaders**

Use this in Display( ):

```cpp
// globals:
unsigned char * Texture;
GLuint TexName;

// In InitGraphics( ):
glGenTextures( 1, &TexName );
int nums, numt;
Texture = BmpToTexture( "filename.bmp", &nums, &numt );
gBindTexture( GL_TEXTURE_2D, TexName );
gTexParameterf( GL_TEXTURE_2D, GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_S, GL_REPEAT );
gTexParameterf( GL_TEXTURE_2D, GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_T, GL_REPEAT );
gTexParameterf( GL_TEXTURE_2D, GL_TEXTURE_MAG_FILTER, GL_LINEAR );
gTexParameterf( GL_TEXTURE_2D, GL_TEXTURE_MIN_FILTER, GL_LINEAR );
gTexImage2D( GL_TEXTURE_2D, 0, 3, nums, numt, 0, 3, GL_RGB, GL_UNSIGNED_BYTE, Texture );

// In Display( ):
Pattern->Use( );
gActiveTexture( GL_TEXTURE5 );
gBindTexture( GL_TEXTURE_2D, TexName );
Pattern->SetUniformVariable( "uTexUnit", 5 );
Pattern->Use( 0 );
```

This is the hardware Texture Unit Number. It can be 0-15 (and often higher depending on the graphics card).

**2D Texturing**

```cpp
#version 330 compatibility

out  vec2  vST;

void main( )
{
  // this is the vertex shader
  vST = gl_MultiTexCoord0.st;
  gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
}
```

```cpp
#version 330 compatibility

in  vec2  vST;

uniform sampler uTexUnit;

void main( )
{
  vec3 newcolor = texture( uTexUnit, vST ).rgb;
  gl_FragColor = vec4( newcolor, 1. );
}
```
Hints on Running Shaders on Your Own System

• You need a graphics system that is OpenGL 2.0 or later. Basically, if you got your graphics system in the last 5 years, you should be OK. (The most recent OpenGL level is 4.6)
• Update your graphics drivers to the most recent!
• You must do the GLEW setup. It looks like this in the sample code:
  ```c
  GLenum err = glewInit();
  if( err != GLEW_OK )
  {
  fprintf(stderr, "glewInit Error\n");
  }
  else
  fprintf(stderr, "GLEW initialized OK\n");
  ```
  And, this must come after you’ve opened a window. (It is this way in the code, but I’m saying this because I know some of you went in and “simplified” the sample code by deleting everything you didn’t think you needed.)
  • You can use the GLSL C++ class you’ve been given only after GLEW has been setup. So, initialize your shader program:
    ```c
    bool valid = Pattern->Create( "pattern.vert", "pattern.frag" );
    ```
  after successfully initializing GLEW.

Guide to Where to Put Pieces of Your Shader Code, I

Declare the GLSLProgram above the main program (as a global):
```c
GLSLProgram * Pattern;
```
At the end of InitGraphics(), create the shader program and setup your shaders:
```c
Pattern = new GLSLProgram();
bool valid = Pattern->Create( "project.vert", "project.frag" );
if( ! valid ) { . . . }
```
Use the Shader Program in Display():
```c
Pattern = Use( );
Pattern = SetUniformVariable( ... );
```
Draw the object here:
```c
Sphere( );
Pattern = Use( 0 ); // return to fixed functionality
```

Guide to Where to Put Pieces of Your Shader Code, II

Tips on drawing the object:
• If you want to key off of s and t coordinates in your shaders, the object had better have s and t coordinates assigned to its vertices – not all do!
• If you want to use surface normals in your shaders, the object had better have surface normals assigned to its vertices – not all do!
• Be sure you explicitly assign all of your uniform variables – no error messages occur if you forget to do this – it just quietly screws up.
• The glutSolidTeapot has been textured in patches, like a quilt – cute, but weird!
• The OsuSphere() function from the texturing project will give you a very good sphere!