Introduction to the OpenGL Shading Language (GLSL)

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The Basic Computer Graphics Pipeline, OpenGL-style

Model
Transform
View
Transform
Projection
Transform
Fragment
Processing,
Texturing,
Per-fragment
Lighting
Per-vertex
Lighting
Rasterization

MC = Model Vertex Coordinates
WC = World Vertex Coordinates
EC = Eye Vertex Coordinates

The Basic Computer Graphics Pipeline, Shader-style

Vertex Shader
Fragment Shader

GLSL Variable Types

attribute
These are per-vertex 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 in 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
- Vector components are accessed with [index], .rgba, .xyzw, or .stpq
- 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" ( c1.rgba = c2.abgr )
- 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.

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 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 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 ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>Is a per-vertex attribute from the application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>Is 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.

#version 330 compatibility

void

main( )
{
  gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
}

#version 330 compatibility

void

main( )
{
  gl_FragColor = vec4( .5, 1., 0., 1.);
}

Vertex shader:

Fragment shader:

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

Setting rgb From xyz, I

Something Has Changed: Setting rgb From xyz, II

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A Little More Interesting: Setting rgb From xy, I

Setting rgb From xy, I

Something Has Changed: Setting rgb From xy, II
### What's Different About This?

Set the color from **pre-transformed (MC)**:

```
out vec3 vColor;
void main( ) {
    vec4 pos = gl_ModelViewMatrix * gl_Vertex;
    vColor = pos.xyz; // set rgb from xyz! why? who cares?
    gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
}
```

Set the color from **post-transformed (WC/EC)**:

```
out vec3 vColor;
void main( ) {
    vec4 pos = gl_ModelViewMatrix * gl_Vertex;
    vColor = pos.xyz; // set rgb from xyz! why? who cares?
    gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
}
```

---

### Setting rgb From xyz

```
vColor = gl_Vertex.xyz;
```

### Per-fragment Lighting

#### Vertex shader:

```
#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
constant 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.; if( dot(Normal,Light) > 0. ) // only do specular if the light can see the point
    { vec3 ref = normalize(  reflect( -Light, Normal )  );
        s = pow( max( dot(Eye,ref),0. ), uShininess );
    }
    vec3 specular = uKs * s * uSpecularColor;
    gl_FragColor = vec4( ambient + diffuse + specular, 1. );
}
```

#### Fragment shader:

```
#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
constant 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.; if( dot(Normal,Light) > 0. ) // only do specular if the light can see the point
    { vec3 ref = normalize(  reflect( -Light, Normal )  );
        s = pow( max( dot(Eye,ref),0. ), uShininess );
    }
    vec3 specular = uKs * s * uSpecularColor;
    gl_FragColor = vec4( ambient + diffuse + specular, 1. );
}
```
Within the fragment shader, find out if the current fragment is within a particular rectangle:

```glsl
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;
```

Zoomed in

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 pixel-based textures.

Setting up a Shader is somewhat involved.

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

Setup:

```cpp
GLSLProgram *Pattern;

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

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.

```
float  S0, T0;
float  Ds, Dt;
float  V0, V1, V2;
float  ColorR, ColorG, ColorB;

Pattern->Use( );
Pattern->SetUniformVariable( "uS0", S0);
Pattern->SetUniformVariable( "uT0", T0 );
Pattern->SetUniformVariable( "uDs", Ds);
Pattern->SetUniformVariable( "uDt",  Dt );
Pattern->SetUniformVariable( "uColor",  ColorR,  ColorG,  ColorB );
glBegin( GL_TRIANGLES );
Pattern->SetAttributeVariable( "aV0", V0 ); // don't need for Project #5
glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
Pattern->SetAttributeVariable( "aV1", V1 ); // don't need for Project #5
glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
Pattern->SetAttributeVariable( "aV2", V2 ); // don't need for Project #5
glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
glEnd( );
Pattern->Use( 0 ); // go back to fixed-function OpenGL
```

A C++ Class to Handle the Shaders

```
GLfloat GL_TRIANGLES();
void main( ){
    vST = gl_MultiTexCoord0.st;
    gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
}
```

```
GLfloat GL_TRIANGLES();
in  vec2  vST;
void main( ){
    vec3 newcolor = texture( uTexUnit, vST ).rgb;
    gl_FragColor = vec4( newcolor, 1. );
}
```

Vertex shader:

Fragment shader:

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

```
// In Display( ):
Pattern->Use( );
gActiveTexture( GL_TEXTURE5 );                 // use texture unit 5
glBindTexture( GL_TEXTURE_2D, TexName );
Pattern->SetUniformVariable( "uTexUnit", 5 );   // tell your shader program you are using texture unit 5
<< draw something >>
Pattern->Use( 0 );
```

Setting up Texturing in Your C/C++ Program

```
#version 330 compatibility
out  vec2  vST;
void main() {
    vST = gl_MultiTexCoord0.st;
    gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
}
```

```
#version 330 compatibility
in  vec2  vST;
void main() {
    gl_FragColor = texture( uTexUnit, vST );
    gl_FragColor = vec4( gl_FragColor.rgb, 1. );
}
```

2D Texturing
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.

Hints on Running Shaders on Your Own System

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 );
```

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