GLSL Geometry Shaders

Here’s What We Know So Far

- **Fixed Function**
- **Programmable**
- **Vertex Shader**
- **Primitive Assembly**
- **Tessellation Control Shader**
- **Tessellation Primitive Generator**
- **Tessellation Evaluation Shader**
- **Geometry Shader**
- **Primitive Assembly**
- **Rasterizer**
- **Fragment Shader**
Here's What We Know So Far

One Vertex In

→

Vertex Shader

→

One Vertex Out

The Geometry Shader: Where Does it Fit in the Pipeline?

- Vertex Shader
- Primitive Assembly
- Tessellation Control Shader
- Tessellation Primitive Generator
- Tessellation Evaluation Shader
- Primitive Assembly
- Geometry Shader
- Primitive Assembly
- Rasterizer
- Fragment Shader

= Fixed Function
= Programmable
Computer Graphics

Geometry Shader: What Does it Do?

Your application generates these:
- Points, Lines, Line Strip, Line Loop, Lines with Adjacency, Line Strip with Adjacency, Triangles, Triangle Strip, Triangle Fan, Triangles with Adjacency, Triangle Strip with Adjacency

The driver translates those and feeds these one-at-a-time into the Geometry Shader:
- Point, Line, Line with Adjacency, Triangle, Triangle with Adjacency

The Geometry Shader generates (almost) as many of these as it wants:
- Points, LineStrips, TriangleStrips

There needn't be any correlation between Geometry Shader input type and Geometry Shader output type. Points can generate triangles, triangles can generate triangle strips, etc.

Additional Arguments Available for glBegin( ):

GL_LINES_ADJACENCY
GL_LINE_STRIP_ADJACENCY
GL_TRIANGLES_ADJACENCY
GL_TRIANGLE_STRIP_ADJACENCY
Adjacency Primitives (and what they do by default)

This is what Fixed-Function OpenGL expects these vertices to mean. In Shader World, they can mean whatever you want them to mean. In Shader World, it's just a way to get multiple vertices into a Geometry Shader.

**Lines with Adjacency**

4N vertices are given.

(where N is the number of line segments to draw).

A line segment is drawn between #1 and #2.

Vertices #0 and #3 are there to provide adjacency information.

**Line Strip with Adjacency**

N+3 vertices are given.

(where N is the number of line segments to draw).

A line segment is drawn between #1 and #2, #2 and #3, …, #N and #N+1.

Vertices #0 and #N+2 are there to provide adjacency information.

---

**Triangles with Adjacency**

6N vertices are given.

(where N is the number of triangles to draw).

Points 0, 2, and 4 define the triangle.

Points 1, 3, and 5 tell where adjacent triangles are.

**Triangle Strip with Adjacency**

4+2N vertices are given.

(where N is the number of triangles to draw).

Points 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, … define the triangles.

Points 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, … tell where adjacent triangles are.
If a Vertex Shader Writes Variables as:

- `gl_Position`
- `gl_PointSize`
- `gl_Layer`

then the Geometry Shader will Read Them as:

- `gl_PositionIn[]`
- `gl_PointSizeIn[]`
- `gl_LayerIn[]`

and will Write Them to the Fragment Shader as:

- `gl_Position`
- `gl_PointSize`
- `gl_Layer`

In the Geometry Shader, the dimensions indicated by `[]` are given by the variable `gl_VerticesIn`, although you will already know this by the type of geometry you are inputting:

- `GL_POINTS`
- `GL_LINES`
- `GL_LINES_ADJACENCY`
- `GL_TRIANGLES`
- `GL_TRIANGLES_ADJACENCY`

The Geometry Shader Can Assign These Built-in *out* Variables:

- `gl_Position`
- `gl_PointSize`
- `gl_Layer`
- `gl_PrimitiveID`

Plus any of your own that you have declared to be *out*

When the Geometry Shader calls `EmitVertex()` this set of variables is copied to a slot in the shader’s Primitive Assembly step.

When the Geometry Shader calls `EndPrimitive()` the vertices that have been saved in the Primitive Assembly step are then assembled, rasterized, etc.

Note: there is no "BeginPrimitive( )" routine. It is implied by (1) the start of the Geometry Shader, or (2) returning from the EndPrimitive( ) call.

Note: there is no need to call EndPrimitive( ) at the end of the Geometry Shader – it is implied.
If you are using a Geometry Shader, then the GS must be used if you want to pass information from the Vertex Shader to the Fragment Shader.

```glsl
out vec4 gl_Position;
out vec4 vColor;
vColor = gl_Color;

in vec4 gl_PositionIn[3];
in vec4 vColor[3];
in vec4 gColor;
out vec4 gl_Position;
out vec4 gColor;
gColor = vColor[ k ];
```

Example: A Bézier Curve

\[ P(u) = (1-u)^3 P_0 + 3u(1-u)^2 P_1 + 3u^2(1-u)P_2 + u^3 P_3 \]
Example: Expanding 4 Points into a Bezier Curve with a Variable Number of Line Segments

bezier_curve.glib

```
Vertex bezier_curve.vert
Geometry bezier_curve.geom
Fragment bezier_curve.frag
Program BezierCurve uNum <2 4 50>
LineWidth 3.
LinesAdjacency [0. 0. 0.] [1. 1. 1.] [2. 1. 2.] [3. -1. 0.]
```

bezier_curve.vert

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

bezier_curve.frag

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

bezier_curve.geom

```
#version 330 compatibility
#extension GL_EXT_gpu_shader4: enable
#extension GL_EXT_geometry_shader4: enable
layout( lines_adjacency ) in;
layout( line_strip, max_vertices=200 ) out;
uniform int uNum;
void main()
{
    float dt = 1. / float(uNum);
    float t = 0.;
    for( int i = 0; i <= uNum; i++ )
    {
        float omt = 1. - t;
        float omt2 = omt * omt;
        float omt3 = omt * omt2;
        float t2 = t * t;
        float t3 = t * t2;
        vec4 xyzw = omt3 * gl_PositionIn[0].xyzw +
                    3. * t * omt2 * gl_PositionIn[1].xyzw +
                    3. * t2 * omt * gl_PositionIn[2].xyzw +
                    t3 * gl_PositionIn[3].xyzw;
        gl_Position = xyzw;
        EmitVertex();
        t += dt;
    }
}
```

Note: these are used to define the storage
Example: Expanding 4 Points into a Bezier Curve with a Variable Number of Line Segments

Note: It would have made no Difference if the Matrix Transform had been done in the Geometry Shader Instead

```glsl
void main(){
  gl_Position = gl_Vertex;
}
```
```
```
Another Example: Shrinking Triangles

Centroid = "CG"

Example: Shrinking Triangles

\[
CG = \frac{(P_0 + P_1 + P_2)}{3};
\]

\[
P_0' = CG + uShrink \cdot (P_0 - CG)
\]

\[
P_1' = CG + uShrink \cdot (P_1 - CG)
\]

\[
P_2' = CG + uShrink \cdot (P_2 - CG)
\]
Another Example: Sphere Subdivision

It's often useful to be able to parameterize a triangle into \((s, t)\), like this:

\[ V(s, t) = V_0 + s * (V_1 - V_0) + t * (V_2 - V_0) \]
Example: Sphere Subdivision

Vertex       spheresubd.vert
Geometry spheresubd.geom
Fragment spheresubd.frag
Program SphereSubd  uLevel <0 0 10>  uRadius <.5 1.5>  uColor { 1. .5 .15 1. }

Triangles [ 0. 0. 1.] [ 1. 0. 0.] [ 0. 1. 0.]
Triangles [ 1. 0. 0.] [ 0. 0. -1.] [ 0. 1. 0.]
Triangles [ 0. 0. -1.] [-1. 0. 0.] [ 0. 1. 0.]
Triangles [-1. 0. 0.] [ 0. 0. 1.] [ 0. 1. 0.]

Triangles [ 0. 0. 1.] [ 1. 0. 0.] [ 0. -1. 0.]
Triangles [ 1. 0. 0.] [ 0. 0. -1.] [-1.0. -1.0.]
Triangles [ 0. 0. -1.] [-1. 0. 0.] [-1.0. -1.0.]
Triangles [-1. 0. 0.] [ 0. 0. 1.] [ 0. -1.0.]

spheresubd.glib
Example: Sphere Subdivision

spheresubd.vert

```cpp
void main()
{
    gl_Position = gl_Vertex;
}
```

spheresubd.frag

```cpp
uniform vec4 uColor;
in float gLightIntensity;
void main()
{
    gl_FragColor = vec4( gLightIntensity*uColor.rgb, 1. );
}
```

Example: Sphere Subdivision

spheresubd.geom

```cpp
#version 330 compatibility
#extension GL_EXT_gpu_shader4: enable
#extension GL_EXT_geometry_shader4: enable
layout( triangles ) in;
layout( triangle_strip, max_vertices=200 ) out;
uniform int uLevel;
uniform float uRadius;
out float gLightIntensity;
const vec3 LIGHTPOS = vec3( 0., 10., 0. );
vec3 V0, V01, V02;
void ProduceVertex( float s, float t )
{
    vec3 v = V0 + s*V01 + t*V02;
    v = normalize(v);
    vec3 n = v;
    vec3 tnorm = normalize( uNormalMatrix * n ); // the transformed normal
    vec4 ECposition = gl_ModelViewMatrix * vec4( (uRadius*v), 1. );
    gLightIntensity = abs( dot( normalize(LIGHTPOS - ECposition.xyz), tnorm ) );
    gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * ECposition;
    EmitVertex();
}
```
void main( )
{
    V01 = ( gl_PositionIn[1] - gl_PositionIn[0] ).xyz;
    V02 = ( gl_PositionIn[2] - gl_PositionIn[0] ).xyz;
    V0 = gl_PositionIn[0].xyz;
    int numLayers = 1 << uLevel;
    float dt = 1. / float( numLayers );
    float t_top = 1.;
    for( int it = 0; it < numLayers; it++ )
    {
        ...
    }
}

Example: Sphere Subdivision

for( int it = 0; it < numLayers; it++ )
{
    float t_bot = t_top - dt;
    float smax_top = 1. - t_top;
    float smax_bot = 1. - t_bot;
    int nums = it + 1;
    float ds_top = smax_top / float( nums - 1 );
    float ds_bot = smax_bot / float( nums );
    float s_top = 0.;
    float s_bot = 0.;
    for( int is = 0; is < nums; is++ )
    {
        ProduceVertex( s_bot, t_bot );
        ProduceVertex( s_top, t_top );
        s_top += ds_top;
        s_bot += ds_bot;
    }
    ProduceVertex( s_bot, t_bot );
    EndPrimitive( );
    t_top = t_bot;
    t_bot -= dt;
}
Example: Sphere Subdivision with One triangle

Level = 0

Level = 1

Level = 2

Level = 3

Example: Sphere Subdivision with the Whole Sphere (8 triangles)

Level = 0

Level = 1

Level = 2

Level = 3
Another Example: Explosion

1. Break the triangles into points
2. Treat each point's distance from the triangle’s CG as an initial velocity
3. Follow the laws of projectile motion:

\[ x = x_0 + v_x t \]
\[ y = y_0 + v_y t + \frac{1}{2} a_y t^2 \]

Example: Explosion

```glsl
#version 330 compatibility
#extension GL_EXT_galu_shader4: enable
#extension GL_EXT_geometry_shader4: enable
layout( triangles ) in;
layout( points, max_vertices=200 ) out;
uniform int uLevel;
uniform float uGravity;
uniform float uTime;
uniform float uVelScale;
vec3 V0, V01, V02;
vec3 CG;

void ProduceVertex( float s, float t )
{
    vec3 v = V0 + s*V01 + t*V02;
    vec3 vel = uVelScale * ( v - CG );
    v = CG + vel*uTime + 0.5*vec3(0.,uGravity,0.)*uTime*uTime;
    gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * vec4( v, 1. );
    EmitVertex();
}
```

```glsl
eplode.geom
```
Example: Explosion

```c
void main() {
    V01 = (gl_PositionIn[1] - gl_PositionIn[0]).xyz;
    V02 = (gl_PositionIn[2] - gl_PositionIn[0]).xyz;
    V0 = gl_PositionIn[0].xyz;
    CG = (gl_PositionIn[0].xyz + gl_PositionIn[1].xyz + gl_PositionIn[2].xyz) / 3.;
    int numLayers = 1 << uLevel;
    float dt = 1. / float(numLayers);
    float t = 1.;
    for (int it = 0; it <= numLayers; it++) {
        float smax = 1. - t;
        int nums = it + 1;
        float ds = smax / float(nums - 1);
        float s = 0.;
        for (int is = 0; is < nums; is++) {
            ProduceVertex(s, t);
            s += ds;
        }
        t -= dt;
    }
}
```
Another Example: Silhouettes

1. Compute the normals of each of the four triangles
2. If there is a sign difference between the z component of the center triangle and the z component of an adjacent triangle, draw their common edge

Example: Silhouettes

silh.glib

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Obj bunny.obj</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vertex silh.vert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geometry silh.geom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragment silh.frag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Silhouette uColor { 0. 1. 0. 1. }</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ObjAdj bunny.obj |
Example: Silhouettes

silh.vert

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

silh.frag

```c
uniform vec4 uColor;

void main() {
    gl_FragColor = vec4( uColor.rgb, 1. );
}
```

silh.geom

```
#version 330 compatibility
#extension GL_EXT_gpu_shader4: enable
#extension GL_EXT_geometry_shader4: enable
layout( triangles_adjacency ) in;
layout( line_strip, max_vertices=200 ) out;
void main() {
    vec3 V0 = gl_PositionIn[0].xyz;
    vec3 V1 = gl_PositionIn[1].xyz;
    vec3 V2 = gl_PositionIn[2].xyz;
    vec3 V3 = gl_PositionIn[3].xyz;
    vec3 V4 = gl_PositionIn[4].xyz;
    vec3 V5 = gl_PositionIn[5].xyz;
    vec3 N042 = cross( V4-V0, V2-V0 ); // the center triangle's normal
    vec3 N021 = cross( V2-V0, V1-V0 );
    vec3 N243 = cross( V4-V2, V3-V2 );
    vec3 N405 = cross( V0-V4, V5-V4 );
    if( dot( N042, N021 ) < 0. )    // make sure each outer triangle's
        N021 = vec3(0.,0.,0.) - N021; // normal is in the same general direction
    if( dot( N042, N243 ) < 0. )    // normal is in the same general direction
        N243 = vec3(0.,0.,0.) - N243;
    if( dot( N042, N405 ) < 0. )    // normal is in the same general direction
        N405 = vec3(0.,0.,0.) - N405;
```
if( N042.z * N021.z <= 0. )
{
    gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * vec4( V0, 1. );
    EmitVertex( );
    gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * vec4( V2, 1. );
    EmitVertex( );
    EndPrimitive( );
}
if( N042.z * N243.z <= 0. )
{
    gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * vec4( V2, 1. );
    EmitVertex( );
    gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * vec4( V4, 1. );
    EmitVertex( );
    EndPrimitive( );
}
if( N042.z * N405.z <= 0. )
{
    gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * vec4( V4, 1. );
    EmitVertex( );
    gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * vec4( V0, 1. );
    EmitVertex( );
    EndPrimitive( );
}
Another Example: Hedgehog Plots

```glsl
#version 330 compatibility
#extension GL_EXT_gpu_shader4: enable
#extension GL_EXT_geometry_shader4: enable
layout( triangles ) in;
layout( line_strip, max_vertices=200 ) out;
uniform int uDetail;
uniform float uDroop;
uniform int uLength;
uniform float uStep;
in vec3 vTnorm[3];
in vec4 vColor[3];
out vec4 gColor;

int ILength;
vec3 Norm[3];
vec3 N0, N01, N02;
vec4 V0, V01, V02;

void ProduceVertices( float s, float t )
{
    vec4 v = V0 + s*V01 + t*V02;
    vec3 n = normalize( N0 + s*N01 + t*N02 );
    for( int i = 0; i <= uLength; i++ )
    {
        gl_Position = gl_ProjectionMatrix * v;
        gColor = vColor[0];
        EmitVertex( );
        v.xyz += uStep * n;
        v.y -= uDroop * float(i*i);
    }
    EndPrimitive( );
}
```

hedgehog.geom, I
hedgehog.geom, II

```c
void main()
{
    V0 = gl_PositionIn[0];
    V01 = (gl_PositionIn[1] - gl_PositionIn[0]);
    V02 = (gl_PositionIn[2] - gl_PositionIn[0]);
    Norm[0] = vTnorm[0];
    Norm[1] = vTnorm[1];
    Norm[2] = vTnorm[2];
    if (dot(Norm[0], Norm[1]) < 0.0)
        Norm[1] = -Norm[1];
    if (dot(Norm[0], Norm[2]) < 0.0)
        Norm[2] = -Norm[2];
    N0 = normalize(Norm[0]);
    N01 = normalize(Norm[1] - Norm[0]);
    N02 = normalize(Norm[2] - Norm[0]);
    int numLayers = 1 << uDetail;
}
```

hedgehog.geom, III

```c
float dt = 1.0 / float(numLayers);
float t = 1.0;
for( int it = 0; it <= numLayers; it++ )
{
    float smax = 1.0 - t;
    int nums = it + 1;
    float ds = smax / float(nums - 1);
    float s = 0.0;
    for( int is = 0; is < nums; is++ )
    {
        ProduceVertices(s, t);
        s += ds;
    }
    t -= dt;
}
```
Ducky Hedgehog Plot

Hedgehog Plots Gone Wild
A GLSL Built-in Variable for the Geometry Shaders

int gl_PrimitiveIDIn

- Tells the number of primitives processed since the last time glBegin() was called
- Calling a vertex array function counts as an implied glBegin()
- gl_PrimitiveIDIn is 0 for the first primitive after the glBegin()

Geometry shaders can set the built-in variable gl_PrimitiveID to send a primitive number to the fragment shader

What Happens if you Exceed the Maximum Allowed Emitted Vertices?

New in GLSL 4.x – you can loop back through the Geometry Shader multiple times