Instancing
Instancing – What and why?

• Instancing is the ability to draw the same object multiple times

• It uses all the same vertices and graphics pipeline each time

• It avoids the overhead of the program asking to have the object drawn again, letting the GPU/driver handle all of that

```c
vkCmdDraw(CommandBuffers[nextImageIndex], vertexCount, instanceCount, firstVertex, firstInstance);
```

But, this will only get us multiple instances of identical objects drawn on top of each other. How can we make each instance look differently?
Making each Instance look differently -- Approach #1

Use the built-in vertex shader variable `gl_InstanceIndex` to define a unique display property, such as position or color.

`gl_InstanceIndex` starts at 0

In the vertex shader:

```glsl
int NUMINSTANCES = 16;
float DELTA = 3.0;

float xdelta = DELTA * float( gl_InstanceIndex % 4 );
float ydelta = DELTA * float( gl_InstanceIndex / 4 );
vColor = vec3( 1., float( (1.+gl_InstanceIndex) ) / float( NUMINSTANCES ), 0. );

xdelta -= DELTA * sqrt( float(NUMINSTANCES) ) / 2.;
ydelta -= DELTA * sqrt( float(NUMINSTANCES) ) / 2.;
vec4 vertex = vec4( aVertex.xyz + vec3( xdelta, ydelta, 0. ), 1. );

gl_Position = PVM * vertex;
```
Making each Instance look differently -- Approach #2

Put the unique characteristics in a uniform buffer and reference them

Still uses `gl_InstanceIndex`

In the vertex shader:

```glsl
layout( std140, set = 3, binding = 0 ) uniform colorBuf
{
    vec3 uColors[1024];
} Colors;

out vec3 vColor;

... 

int index = gl_InstanceIndex % 1024; // 0 - 1023
vColor = Colors.uColors[ index ];

gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
```
Making each Instance look differently -- Approach #3

Put a series of unique characteristics in a data buffer, one element per instance.

Read a new characteristic for each instance

Internally uses gl_InstanceIndex, but you don’t
This is just the Vertex Input State Portion of the Graphics Pipeline Structure

Vertex Input State

VkPipelineVertexInputStateCreateInfo

VkVertexInputBindingDescription

VkVertexInputAttributeDescription

vkCreateGraphicsPipeline()
This definition says that we should advance through the input buffer by this much every time we hit a new vertex.
How We Constructed the Graphics Pipeline Structure Before

VkVertexInputAttributeDescription vviad[4];

// an array containing one of these per vertex attribute in all bindings
// 4 = vertex, normal, color, texture coord
vviad[0].location = 0;                  // location in the layout decoration
vviad[0].binding = 0;                   // which binding description this is part of
vviad[0].format = VK_FORMAT_VEC3;       // x, y, z
vviad[0].offset = offsetof( struct vertex, position );                  // 0

vviad[1].location = 1;
vviad[1].binding = 0;
vviad[1].format = VK_FORMAT_VEC3;       // nx, ny, nz
vviad[1].offset = offsetof( struct vertex, normal );                    // 12

vviad[2].location = 2;
vviad[2].binding = 0;
vviad[2].format = VK_FORMAT_VEC3;       // r, g, b
vviad[2].offset = offsetof( struct vertex, color );                     // 24

vviad[3].location = 3;
vviad[3].binding = 0;
vviad[3].format = VK_FORMAT_VEC2;       // s, t
vviad[3].offset = offsetof( struct vertex, texCoord );                  // 36
How We Constructed the Graphics Pipeline Structure Before

```
VkPipelineVertexInputStateCreateInfo vpvisci;
    // used to describe the input vertex attributes
    vpvisci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_PIPELINE_VERTEX_INPUT_STATE_CREATE_INFO;
    vpvisci.pNext = nullptr;
    vpvisci.flags = 0;

    vpvisci.vertexBindingDescriptionCount = 1;
    vpvisci.pVertexBindingDescriptions = vvibd;

    vpvisci.vertexAttributeDescriptionCount = 4;
    vpvisci.pVertexAttributeDescriptions = vviad;

VkGraphicsPipelineCreateInfo vgpci;
    vgpci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_GRAPHICS_PIPELINE_CREATE_INFO;
    vgpci.pNext = nullptr;
    vgpci.flags = 0;
    .
    .
    vgpci.pVertexInputState = &vpvisci;
    .
    .

result = vkCreateGraphicsPipelines( LogicalDevice, VK_NULL_HANDLE, 1, IN &vgpci,
                                        PALLOCATOR, OUT pGraphicsPipeline );
```
Let's assign a different color per Instance.
Create a data buffer with one glm::vec3 (to hold r, g, b) for each Instance.

```c
VkVertexInputBindingDescription vvidb[2];
    vvidb[0].binding = 0; // which binding # this is
    vvidb[0].stride = sizeof( struct vertex ); // bytes between successive
    vvidb[0].inputRate = VK_VERTEX_INPUT_RATE_VERTEX;

    vvidb[1].binding = 1; // which binding # this is
    vvidb[1].stride = sizeof( glm::vec3 ); // bytes between successive entries
    vvidb[1].inputRate = VK_VERTEX_INPUT_RATE_INSTANCE;
```

This definition says that we should advance through the input buffer by this much every time we hit a new instance.
How We Construct the Graphics Pipeline Structure Now

Let’s assign a different color per Instance.
Create a data buffer with one glm::vec3 (to hold r, g, b) for each Instance.

```
VkVertexInputAttributeDescription vviad[5];
    // an array containing one of these per vertex attribute in all bindings
    // 4 = vertex, normal, color, texture coord
vviad[0].location = 0;                  // location in the layout decoration
vviad[0].binding = 0;                   // which binding description this is part of
vviad[0].format = VK_FORMAT_VEC3;       // x, y, z
vviad[0].offset = offsetof( struct vertex, position );                  // 0

    .

vviad[4].location = 0;                  // location in the layout decoration
vviad[4].binding = 1;                   // which binding description this is part of
vviad[4].format = VK_FORMAT_VEC3;       // r, g, b
vviad[4].offset = 0;                    // just one element, so offset is 0
```
Let’s assign a different color per Instance.
Create a data buffer with one glm::vec3 (to hold r, g, b) for each Instance.

```cpp
VkPipelineVertexInputStateCreateInfo vpvisci;
vpvisci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_PIPELINE_VERTEX_INPUT_STATE_CREATE_INFO;
vpvisci.pNext = nullptr;
vpvisci.flags = 0;
vpvisci.vertexBindingDescriptionCount = 2;
vpvisci.pVertexBindingDescriptions = vvibd;
vpvisci.vertexAttributeDescriptionCount = 5;
vpvisci.pVertexAttributeDescriptions = vviad;
```

Note: same names as before, but different sizes

```cpp
VkGraphicsPipelineCreateInfo vgpci;
vgpci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_GRAPHICS_PIPELINE_CREATE_INFO;
vgpci.pNext = nullptr;
vgpci.flags = 0;

vgpci.pVertexInputState = &vpvisci;
result = vkCreateGraphicsPipelines( LogicalDevice, VK_NULL_HANDLE, 1, IN &vgpci,
PALLOCATOR, OUT pGraphicsPipeline );
```
How We Write the Vertex Shader Now

```plaintext
#version 400
#extension GL_ARB_separate_shader_objects : enable
#extension GL_ARB_shading_language_420pack : enable

... 
layout( location = 0 ) in vec3 aVertex;
layout( location = 1 ) in vec3 aNormal;
layout( location = 2 ) in vec3 aColor;
layout( location = 3 ) in vec2 aTexCoord;

layout( location = 4 ) in vec3 aInstanceColor;

layout( location = 0 ) out vec3 vNormal;
layout( location = 1 ) out vec3 vColor;
layout( location = 2 ) out vec2 vTexCoord;

void main( )
{
    mat4 PVM = Matrices.uProjectionMatrix * Matrices.uViewMatrix * Matrices.uModelMatrix;

    vNormal = normalize( vec3( Matrices.uNormalMatrix * vec4(aNormal, 1.) ) );
    //vColor = aColor;
    vColor = aInstanceColor;
    vTexCoord = aTexCoord;

    gl_Position = PVM * vec4( aVertex, 1. );
}
```