Basic Graphics Programming

What is OpenGL

- A low-level graphics library (API) for 2D and 3D interactive graphics.
- Descendent of GL (from SGI)
- First version in 1992; now: 4.2 (2012)
- Managed by Khronos Group (non-profit consortium)
- API is governed by Architecture Review Board (part of Khronos)

Where is OpenGL used

- CAD
- Virtual reality
- Scientific visualization
- Flight simulation
- Video games

OpenGL is cross-platform

- Same code works with little/no modifications
- Implementations:
  - Windows, Mac, Linux: ships with the OS
  - Linux: Mesa, a freeware implementation.

How does OpenGL work

From the programmer’s point of view:

1. Specify geometric objects
2. Describe object properties
   - Color
   - How objects reflect light
How does OpenGL work (continued)

3. Define how objects should be viewed
   • where is the camera
   • what type of camera

4. Specify light sources
   • where, what kind

5. Move camera or objects around for animation

OpenGL is a state machine

State variables: color, camera position, light position, material properties...

These variables (the state) then apply to every subsequent drawing command.

They persist until set to new values by the programmer.

OpenGL uses *immediate-mode rendering*

- Application generates stream of geometric primitives (polygons, lines)
- System draws each one into the framebuffer
- Entire scene redrawn anew every frame
- Compare to: off-line rendering (e.g., Pixar Renderman, ray tracers)
The pipeline is implemented by OpenGL, graphics driver and the graphics hardware.

OpenGL programmer does not need to implement the pipeline.

However, pipeline is reconfigurable if needed ➔ “shaders”

---

Graphics Pipeline

- Efficiently implementable in hardware (but not in software)
- Each stage can employ multiple specialized processors, working in parallel, busses between stages
- #processors per stage, bus bandwidths are fully tuned for typical graphics use
- Latency vs throughput

---

Vertices

- Vertices in world coordinates
- void glVertex3f(GLfloat x, GLfloat y, GLfloat z)
  - Vertex (x, y, z) is sent down the pipeline.
  - Function call then returns.
  - Use GLtype for portability and consistency
  - glVertex{234}(type)[v][TYPE coords]

---

Transformer

- Transformer in world coordinates
- Must be set before object is drawn!
  - glRotatef(45.0, 0.0, 0.0, -1.0);
  - glTranslatef(1.0, 0.0, 0.0);
- Complex [Angel Ch. 4]

---

Clipper

- Mostly automatic (must set viewport)

---

Projector

- Complex transformation [Angel Ch. 5]

Orthographic

Perspective
Rasterizer

- Interesting algorithms [Angel Ch. 7]
- To window coordinates
- Antialiasing

Primitives

- Specified via vertices
- General schema
  
  \[
  \begin{align*}
  &\text{glBegin}(\text{type}); \\
  &\text{glVertex3f}(x_1, y_1, z_1); \\
  &\text{glVertex3f}(x_N, y_N, z_N); \\
  &\text{glEnd}();
  \end{align*}
  \]
- *type* determines interpretation of vertices
- Can use glVertex2f(x,y) in 2D

Example: Draw Square Outline

- *Type* = GL_LINE_LOOP
  
  \[
  \begin{align*}
  &\text{glBegin}(\text{GL_LINE_LOOP}); \\
  &\text{glVertex3f}(0.0, 0.0, 0.0); \\
  &\text{glVertex3f}(1.0, 0.0, 0.0); \\
  &\text{glVertex3f}(1.0, 1.0, 0.0); \\
  &\text{glVertex3f}(0.0, 1.0, 0.0); \\
  &\text{glEnd}();
  \end{align*}
  \]
- Calls to other functions are allowed between
  glBegin(type) and glEnd();

Points and Line Segments

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{glBegin}(\text{GL_POINTS}); \\
&\text{glVertex3f}(\ldots); \\
&\ldots \\
&\text{glVertex3f}(\ldots); \\
&\text{glEnd}();
\end{align*}
\]

Draw points

Polygons

- Polygons enclose an area
  
  \[
  \begin{align*}
  &\text{glBegin}(\text{GL_TRIANGLES}); \\
  &\text{glVertex3f}(\ldots); \\
  &\ldots \\
  &\text{glVertex3f}(\ldots); \\
  &\text{glEnd}();
  \end{align*}
  \]
- Rendering of area (fill) depends on attributes
- All vertices must be in one plane in 3D

Polygon Restrictions

- OpenGL Polygons must be simple
- OpenGL Polygons must be convex

(a) simple, but not convex

(b) non-simple

(c) convex
Why Polygon Restrictions?

- Non-convex and non-simple polygons are expensive to process and render
- Convexity and simplicity is expensive to test
- Behavior of OpenGL implementation on disallowed polygons is “undefined”
- Some tools in GLU for decomposing complex polygons (tessellation)
- Triangles are most efficient

Polygon Strips

- Efficiency in space and time
- Reduces visual artefacts
- Polygons have a front and a back, possibly with different attributes!

Attributes: color, shading and reflection properties

- Part of the OpenGL state
- Set before primitives are drawn
- Remain in effect until changed!

Physics of Color

- Electromagnetic radiation
- Can see only tiny piece of the spectrum

Color Filters

- Eye can perceive only 3 basic colors
- Computer screens designed accordingly

Color Spaces

- RGB (Red, Green, Blue)
  - Convenient for display
  - Can be unintuitive (3 floats in OpenGL)
- HSV (Hue, Saturation, Value)
  - Hue: what color
  - Saturation: how far away from gray
  - Value: how bright
- Other formats for movies and printing
Example: Drawing a shaded polygon

- Initialization: the “main” function

```c
int main(int argc, char** argv)
{
    glutInit(&argc, argv);
    glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_RGB);
    glutInitWindowSize(500, 500);
    glutInitWindowPosition(100, 100);
    glutCreateWindow(argv[0]);
    init();
    ..."}
```

GLUT Callbacks

- Window system independent interaction
- glutMainLoop processes events

```c
void init(void)
{
    glClearColor(0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0);
    // glShadeModel(GL_FLAT);
    glShadeModel(GL_SMOOTH);
}
```

The Display Callback

- The routine where you render the object
- Install with glutDisplayFunc(display)

```c
void display(void)
{
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT); /* clear buffer */
    setupCamera(); /* set up the camera */
    drawTriangle(); /* draw triangle */
    glutSwapBuffers(); /* force display */
}
```

Drawing

- In world coordinates; remember state!

```c
void triangle(void)
{
    glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES);
    // red
    glColor3f(1.0, 0.0, 0.0);
    glVertex2f(5.0, 5.0);
    // green
    glColor3f(0.0, 1.0, 0.0);
    glVertex2f(25.0, 5.0);
    // blue
    glColor3f(0.0, 0.0, 1.0);
    glVertex2f(5.0, 25.0);
    glEnd();
}
```
The Image

- `glShadeModel(GL_FLAT)`
- `glShadeModel(GL_SMOOTH)`

Flat vs Smooth Shading

Projection

- Mapping world to screen coordinates

```cpp
void reshape(int w, int h)
{
    glViewport (0, 0, (GLsizei) w, (GLsizei) h);
    glMatrixMode (GL_PROJECTION);
    glLoadIdentity ();
    if (w <= h)
        gluOrtho2D (0.0, 30.0, 0.0, 30.0 * (GLfloat) h/(GLfloat) w);
    else
        gluOrtho2D (0.0, 30.0 * (GLfloat) w/(GLfloat) h, 0.0, 30.0);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
}
```

Orthographic Projection

- 2D and 3D versions
- `glOrtho2D(left, right, bottom, top)`
- In world coordinates!

Viewport

- Determines clipping in window coordinates
- `glViewport(x, y, w, h)`

Summary

1. A Graphics Pipeline
2. The OpenGL API
3. Primitives: vertices, lines, polygons
4. Attributes: color
5. Example: drawing a shaded triangle