



OpenGL: A Practical Introduction

(based on a talk by Mark Livingston)



Outline

- **What is OpenGL?**
- **Auxiliary libraries**
- **Basic code structure**
- **Rendering**
- **Practical hints**
- **Virtual world operations**



OpenGL Definitions

Software interface to graphics hardware

Model of client-server graphics

State machine



Features of OpenGL

Basic features:

- **Drawing primitives**
- **Transformations**
- **Color**
- **Lighting**
- **Display Lists**

Advanced features:

- **Texture mapping**
- **Vertex Arrays**
- **Blending effects**
- **Frame buffer manipulation**



OpenGL Anti-definitions

Not a library of pre-defined 3D objects

Not a window system interface

Not a window system event manager

Not a user event manager



Auxiliary libraries

auxlib

glX

GLU

GLUT

Motif, Xt, X11



Features of auxiliary libraries

Most provide:

- **Window system commands**
- **Events and callbacks**
- **More frame buffer management**
- **3D drawing primitives**

Some include:

- **Some user interface items (e.g. menus)**
- **Improved support for fonts**
- **Overlay management**



A typical OpenGL program

Definition of callback functions, including drawing and per-frame computations

Initialization and window creation

Turn control over to the auxiliary library's event loop

(see `cube.c` handout)



Essential GLUT functions

glutInitWindowSize

glutInitWindowPosition

glutInit

glutInitDisplayMode

glutCreateWindow

glutDisplayFunc

glutMainLoop

glutSwapBuffers



Other GLUT Functionality

Event handling

- keyboard, mouse position, mouse buttons, window resize, etc.

Pop-up menus



Primitives and Attributes

“Open”

glBegin

Normals

glNormal

Texture Coordinates

glTexCoord

Colors

glColor

Other material props

glMaterial

Vertex Coordinates

glVertex

“Close”

glEnd



Attributes and Current State

All drawing attributes have a current state maintained for each rendering context

Calling `glVertex()` sets vertex position attribute and binds all necessary current state to the vertex

`glColorMaterial` determines which material property is set by `glColor` “shortcut”

- **usually `GL_AMBIENT_AND_DIFFUSE`**



Lighting

Light properties

- Position or direction
- Color
- Attenuation

Enable lighting

glLight

glEnable

- **GL_LIGHTING**
- **GL_LIGHT0,**
GL_LIGHT1, etc.



Textures

Define (load)

- Image size
- Pixel format, data type

glTexImage2D

$2^M \times 2^N$

Blend or replace?

glTexEnv

Boundary handling

glTexParameter

Sampling

Binding

glBindTextureEXT

Update “live” texture

glTexSubImage2DEXT



Matrix stacks

Projection

- **glFrustum, gluPerspective**

Model-view

- **glRotate, glTranslate, glScale, glLoadMatrix**

Texture

Viewport (okay, no stack for this one)

- **glViewport**



Frame buffer configuration

Color

Alpha

Depth

Double-buffering

- **glutSwapBuffers**



Performance

Triangle/Quad Strips

Display lists

Vertex Arrays (man glIntro)

- **<http://www.cs.jhu.edu/~cohen/VW2000/Misc/IR-table.ps>**



Performance

Render primitives with the “right” type

Lighting is slow

Don’t overload texture memory

Multiprocessing

- **Not for feeding pipe, only for pre-processing**



Some practical hints

Develop incrementally

Develop in wireframe

Develop without lighting, anti-aliasing, texturing, and other “extra” operations

Light positions get transformed

Lighting is per vertex

`/usr/sbin/ogldebug <application>`

Watch your modes -- state machine



Transformation matrices

Render axis tripods everywhere

Everything has a coordinate system!

- tracker, sensor, room, world, hand, eyes, etc.

Naming convention: foo2bar

A useful OpenGL paradigm

“Transform from object space to eye space.”



Column or row vectors?

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{M} * \mathbf{v} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{M3} * \mathbf{M2} * \mathbf{M1} * \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{M321} * \mathbf{v}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 x' & a & b & c & d & x \\
 y' & e & f & g & h & y \\
 z' & i & j & k & m & z \\
 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1
 \end{array} *$$

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{v} * \mathbf{M} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{v} * \mathbf{M1} * \mathbf{M2} * \mathbf{M3} = \mathbf{v} * \mathbf{M123}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 x' & y' & z' & 1 \\
 x & y & z & 1
 \end{array} *
 \begin{array}{cccc}
 a & e & i & 0 \\
 b & f & j & 0 \\
 c & g & k & 0 \\
 d & h & m & 1
 \end{array}$$



OpenGL Matrices

Written out using column vector notation

BUT: stored in memory in column-major order rather than row major

float M[16]	0	4	8	12	*	x
	1	5	9	13		y
	2	6	10	14		z
	3	7	11	15		1



Manipulating transformations

Quatlib: library for common mathematical types and operations used in VEs

Source: Ken Shoemake, SIGGRAPH 1985; various UNC additions

Numerous operations and conversions

- **affine matrix inversion, matrix multiplication, matrix-vector multiplication, vector magnitude, point-to-point distance, dot product, cross product**



Conclusions

Reality: event-driven programming

Simple drawings are easy

Complex stuff is more complex



For More Information

See the OpenGL and GLUT section of our course homework help page

- **will be available soon**