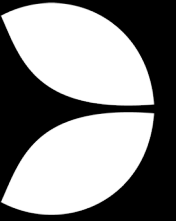


Nuts and bolts of BabylonJS

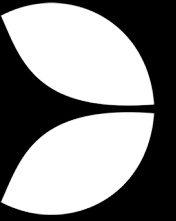
06.04.2022 Uldis Baurovskis, Armands Baurovskis

Agenda

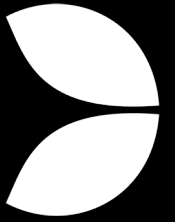


- Intro in Web3D
- Intro in BabylonJS
- Meshes and geometries
- Materials
- Animations
- Lights
- Cameras
- Asset management

Intro in Web3D

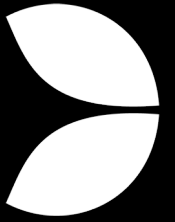


- Keywords:
 - WebGL 1 / 2
 - WebGPU
 - Shaders
 - Math (matrices and vectors)



Web3D in action

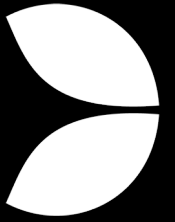
Intro in BabylonJS



- BabylonJS is one most popular real time 3D engine using JavaScript
- Written in TypeScript
- Rich feature support
- 2013 by David Catuhe, David Rousset
- Now maintained by Microsoft
- Has a lot of great tools:
 - Playground
 - Node material editor



HelloWorld in BabylonJS



- Necessary parts:
 - Canvas
 - Engine
 - Scene
 - Light
 - Camera
 - Render loop

```
// canvas element that will be in DOM, used to create webgl context
const canvas = document.createElement("canvas");
document.body.appendChild(canvas);

// babylonjs main object
const engine = new Engine(canvas, true, {}, true);

// root for objects created in babylonjs, there can be multiple scenes if needed
const scene = new Scene(engine, {});

// generic light to see objects
const light = new HemisphericLight("light", new Vector3(0, 1, 0), scene);

// defines visible area that is rendered on the canvas
const camera = new ArcRotateCamera("camera",
  -Math.PI * 0.5, Math.PI * 0.25, 12, Vector3.Zero(), scene);

// need to resize engine in order to read canvas size
engine.resize();

// game loop function that is run each frame and draws scene
engine.runRenderLoop(() => {
  scene.render();
});
```

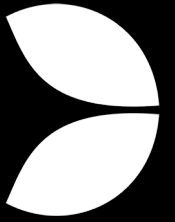
Mesh



- Mesh is container for every visible element in babylonjs
- Mesh includes:
 - Geometry
 - Material

```
const sphere = MeshBuilder.CreateSphere("sphere", { diameter: 1 }, scene);
```

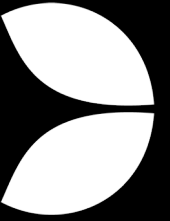
TransformNode



- non visible node used for grouping purposes
- More lightweight then empty mesh as parent

```
const node = new TransformNode("node", scene);
```


Transformation



- Main transformations:
 - Position
 - Rotation
 - scale

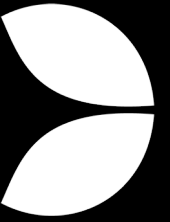
```
const sphere = MeshBuilder.CreateSphere("sphere", { diameter: 1 }, scene);
```

```
sphere.position.x = 0;  
sphere.position.y = 0;  
sphere.position.z = 0;
```

```
sphere.rotation.x = 0;  
sphere.rotation.y = 0;  
sphere.rotation.z = 0;
```

```
sphere.scale.x = 0;  
sphere.scale.y = 0;  
sphere.scale.z = 0;
```

Hierarchy



- Tree like structure for all nodes (parent / child)
- Sums up scale / position / rotation
- Is used to group nodes in structures

```
const parent = MeshBuilder.CreateSphere("parent", { diameter: 1 }, scene);  
const child = MeshBuilder.CreateSphere("child", { diameter: 1 }, scene);  
  
child.setParent(parent);
```

Material



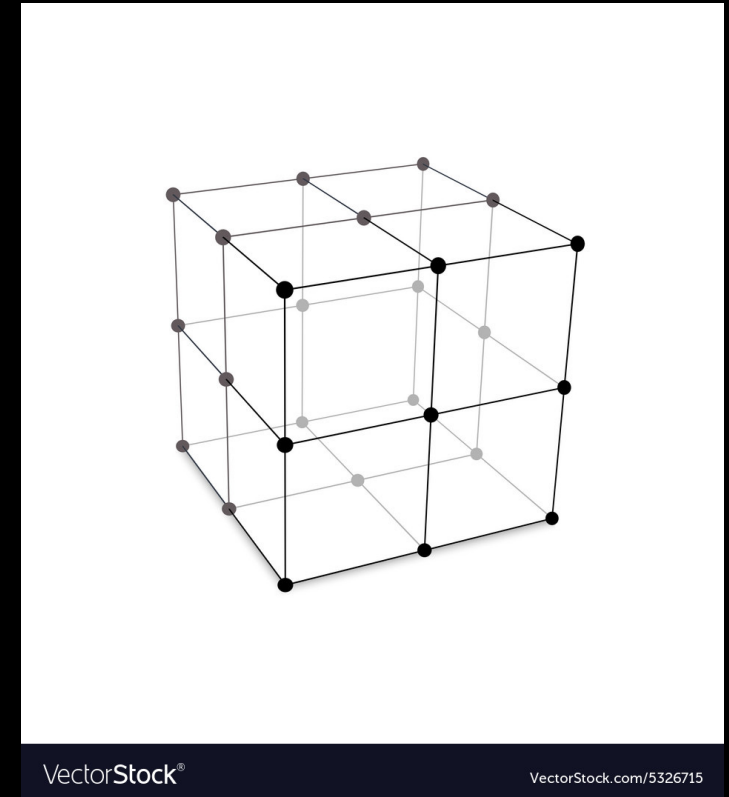
- Material describes visual look of a mesh
- Can be described using a color and textures
- BabylonJS includes multiple material types
- Is a wrapper for shaders

```
const material = new StandardMaterial("material", scene);  
  
material.diffuseColor = new Color3(1, 1, 1);  
  
sphere.material = material;
```

Geometry



- Describe mesh shape using vertexes
- Holds information necessary for gpu to draw shape



<https://www.vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vector/cube-made-is-mesh-polygonal-element-vector-5326715>

Texture

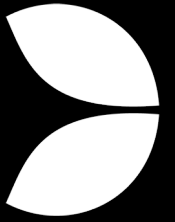


- Texture represents image in babylonjs framework
- Does all the heavy lifting to load image from file and send data to GPU
- Can be static image or canvas
- Textures are used by material to color meshes

```
const texture = new Texture("url", scene);
```

```
material.diffuseTexture = texture;
```

Standard material



- Reacts to the light
- Most common properties:
 - Diffuse
 - Emissive
 - Specular
 - Mask
 - Alpha

```
const material = new StandardMaterial("material", scene);

material.diffuseColor = new Color3(1, 1, 1);
material.diffuseTexture = new Texture("diffuse-url", scene);

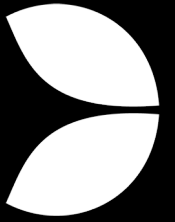
material.emissiveColor = new Color3(1, 1, 1);
material.emissiveTexture = new Texture("emissive-url", scene);

material.specularColor = new Color3(1, 1, 1);
material.specularPower = 16;
material.specularTexture = new Texture("specular-url", scene);

// mask
material.opacityTexture = new Texture("mask-url", scene);

material.alpha = 0.5;
```

Animations



- Two ways to animate:
 - Using BabylonJS built-in animations
 - Using GameLoop
- Can animate multiple properties:
 - Scale
 - Position
 - Color
 -

```
scene.registerBeforeRender(() => {  
    sphere.position.x += 0.01 * scene.getAnimationRatio();  
});
```

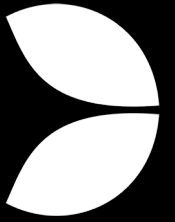
```
const startFrame = 0;  
const endFrame = 60;
```

```
const animation = new Animation("anim-x", "position.x", 60,  
    Animation.ANIMATIONTYPE_FLOAT);
```

```
const keyFrames = [  
    { frame: startFrame, value: 2, },  
    { frame: endFrame, value: -2, },  
];
```

```
animation.setKeys(keyFrames);  
sphere.animations.push(animation);  
scene.beginAnimation(sphere, startFrame, endFrame, false);
```

Lights



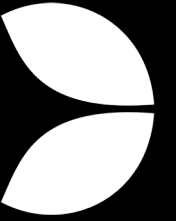
- Is required for seeing mesh volume
- Without lights – mesh are just flat (even cube)
- Used for coloring and shadows
- Most popular types:
 - Directional Light
 - Spot Light
 - Hemispheric Light

```
const directionalLight = new DirectionalLight("light",  
new Vector3(0, -1, 0), scene);
```

```
const spotLight = new SpotLight("light", new Vector3(-2, 10, -1),  
new Vector3(0, -1, 0), Math.PI * 0.5, 4, scene);
```

```
const hemisphericLight = new HemisphericLight("light",  
new Vector3(0, 1, 0), scene);
```


Camera



- Camera is used as term from film industry, but reality is just an more human usable form to set view matrix (visible area).
- In 3d word camera is always static, and world is turning around it
- Has different types:
 - Free
 - ArcRotate
 - Follow

```
const camera = new ArcRotateCamera("camera", -Math.PI * 0.5,  
Math.PI * 0.25, 12, Vector3.Zero(), scene);
```

Asset management



- AssetsManager is used to load external models/textures asynchronously
- There are multiple ways how to load assets in BabylonJS

```
const assetManager = new AssetsManager(scene);
assetManager.useDefaultLoadingScreen = false;
assetManager.addMeshTask("task-id", "", "url", "");
assetManager
    .loadAsync()
    .then(() => {
        // done with loading
    })
    .catch(() => {
        // error on loading
    });
```

File formats



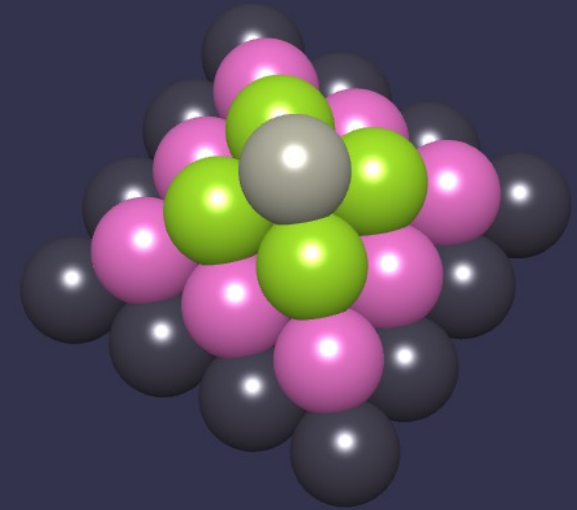
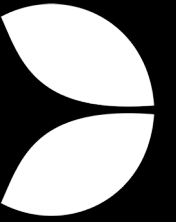
- Most used file formats:
 - Babylon file format
 - glTF
- glTF is global standard file format for models
- To use glTF in BabylonJS, Loader plugin is needed
- Contains data about models, meshes, materials, geometry

Useful resources



<https://webglsfundamentals.org>
<https://webgl2fundamentals.org>
<https://thebookofshaders.com>
<https://www.shadertoy.com>
<https://doc.babylonjs.com>

Homework





Q&A