**ABSTRACT**

This is an educational animation built using OpenGL where sunflowers follow the Sun’s daily round, following the Sun—a process known as solar tracking or heliotropism.

A field of domesticated sunflowers ( Helianthus annuus ) fully in bloom is a striking sight. The large and showy flowering heads face east, positioned toward the rising Sun. Before floral development, however, elongating vegetative stems move their apices steadily from facing east in the morning to facing west in the afternoon.

During the night, the shoots reorient their apices to face east again at sunrise. As flower development is initiated, solar tracking diminishes and finally ceases, with the developing flowering heads at rest and facing east.

A sunflower anticipates daybreak, much like a rooster does before starting to crow. At sunrise, sunflowers face east to greet the first rays and continue to move with the sun until it sets in the west. Overnight, the sunflower head swings back around so it faces

east at dawn.

There are controls to control the movement of the sun. Left and Right arrow keys are used to control the movement of the sun.

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CHAPTER NO. CHAPTER NAME PAGE NO.**

1. INTRODUCTION ………………… 1

1.1Introduction To OpenGL…………………… 1

1.2Computer Graphics……………..………………1

1.3 OpenGL-Related Libraries…………………….4

2 REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICATION…….. 5

2.1Hardware Requirements …………………….. 5

2.2Software Requirements …………………… 5

2.3Miscellaneous Requirements…………………….5

2.4 Language used in Coding………………………5

3 SYSTEM DESIGN ……………………… 6

3.1 System Architecture ………………………… 6

4 IMPLEMENTATION…………………….. 7

4.1 Implementation of OpenGL Built In Functions used...7

4.2 Implementation of User Defined Functions….9

5 SNAP SHOTS ……………………………...11

6 FUTURE ENHANCEMENT…………..13

7 CONCLUSION …………...…14

REFERENCES ……………………………… 15

Appendix A:Source code 16