

Project Documentation: Cube Rotation Visualization (Part A)

Overview

This project is a Qt-based OpenGL application that renders a 3D cube with an animated magma texture. It provides a menu-driven interface to interact with the cube via several features:

1. Line Rotation

- **What it does:** Lets the user specify a line defined by a point **b** and a direction vector **d** along with a rotation angle (α).
- **How it's implemented:**
 - A dialog (LineRotationDialog) collects the parameters.
 - The cube is rotated using the transformation:
$$M = T(+b) * R(\alpha, \text{normalized}(d)) * T(-b) * M_{\text{current}}$$
 - The dialog is pre-populated with default values based on the current state.

2. View Position

- **What it does:** Allows the user to change the camera position (eye) and the point the camera is looking at.
- **How it's implemented:**
 - A dialog (ViewPositionDialog) collects the eye and target coordinates.
 - The view matrix is updated using a **lookAt** transformation.

3. Default Position

- **What it does:** Resets the view to its default state (camera at (0,0,3) looking at the origin).
- **How it's implemented:**
 - The **resetDefault()** method sets the view matrix and resets the model matrix.

4. Animation

- **What it does:** Toggles an automatic rotation of the cube around the Y-axis.
- **How it's implemented:**
 - A QTimer triggers continuous rotation updates.

5. Texture Animation

- **What it does:** Cycles through three phases of the magma texture every 700ms.
- **How it's implemented:**
 - The 16×48 texture is split into three 16×16 sub-images.
 - A timer cycles through these textures.

6. Gloss Effect Toggle

- **What it does:** Applies a gloss (specular highlight) effect on bright areas of the texture.
- **How it's implemented:**

- The fragment shader uses a `smoothstep` between brightness thresholds (values corresponding to colors #CA4E06 and #F89E44) to compute a specular component.
- A toggle in the menu enables/disables the effect via a uniform (`uGlossOn`).

7. Zoom & Manual Rotation 🔍 ⓘ

- **What it does:**
 - **Zoom:** The mouse wheel adjusts the camera distance.
 - **Manual Rotation:** Clicking and dragging rotates the cube manually (disabling automatic animation).
- **How it's implemented:**
 - The `wheelEvent()` updates the view matrix.
 - Mouse events compute rotation deltas to update the model matrix.

8. Window Icon & Background 😊

- **What it does:** Sets a custom window icon and background color (#456990).
- **How it's implemented:**
 - The MainWindow uses `setWindowIcon(QIcon(":/textures/textures/mine.png"));`.
 - In `initializeGL()`, `glClearColor(0.27f, 0.41f, 0.56f, 1.0f);` is called to set the background.

Architecture and Implementation Details 🛠️

• Project Structure:

- The application is built using Qt Widgets and QOpenGLWidget.
- All texture and icon files are managed using the Qt resource system (.qrc).

• Rendering Pipeline:

- **Vertex Data:**
Each vertex includes 8 floats: position (vec3), normal (vec3), and texture coordinates (vec2).
- **Shaders:**
Custom GLSL shaders implement Phong lighting (ambient, diffuse, specular) and a configurable gloss effect.
- **Uniforms:**
Various uniforms control transformations, lighting parameters, and the gloss toggle.

Visual Architecture Diagram 📊

Below is a sample PlantUML diagram representing the project structure:

