

Title

The Earth–Moon–Sun Dance

CSC317 Fall 2025 Showcase Extra Credit

Personal Information

Full Name: Zihan Zhao

UtorID: zhaoz188

Student Number: 1010128274

Assignment Augmented: Assignment 6 (Shader Pipeline)

Instructions

1. Configure the project (CMake)

From the Code/ directory:

```
mkdir build-release
```

```
cd build-release
```

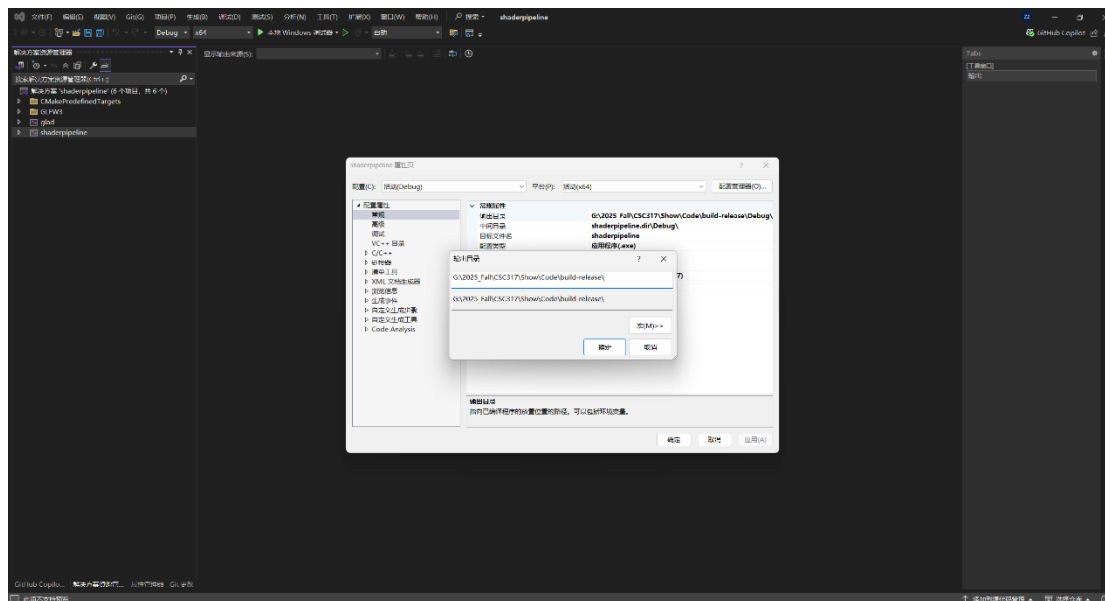
```
cmake ../ -DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=Release
```

2. Open in Visual Studio

Open shaderpipeline.sln inside build-release/

Change shaderpipeline target Output Directory to build-release/

Build the Release configuration.



3. Run

Run the executable generated inside build-release/

Description

This showcase significantly extends Assignment 6 by enhancing three major components: the main application logic (`main.cpp`), the planet surface shader (`planet.fs`), the transformation system (`model.glsl`), and the procedural surface functions (`bump_height.glsl`).

1. main.cpp – Real-time animation, camera system, and shader integration
 - Added Earth–Moon–Sun orbital mechanics with nested model transformations.
 - Implemented a dynamic follow-Earth camera using a custom lookAt() function.
 - Added keyboard interactions (A, L, Z, H, R) for animation control and camera modes.
 - Passed sun_world_pos into shaders for physically-inspired lighting.
 - Integrated shader hot-reloading, automatically recompiling when files change.
2. planet.fs – Fully procedural Earth, Moon, Sun, and background starfield
 - Implemented a layered procedural Sun using animated Perlin noise, convection patterns, Fresnel glow, and emissive coloring.
 - Added multi-layer Earth shading: oceans, land, mountains, deserts, snow, polar caps, procedural clouds with soft shadows, and procedural night-time city lights.
 - Developed a procedural Moon surface using bump mapping and height-based color.
 - Added a procedural starfield background using multi-octave noise.
 - Unified all shading under a physically-based light model driven by sun_world_pos.
3. model.glsl – Orbital transformations for Sun, Earth, and Moon
 - Added complete transformation hierarchy: Sun, Earth orbit, Earth spin, Moon orbit, Moon tilt, Moon scale.
 - Tuned parameters for orbit radius, tilt, speed, and spin periods.
 - Added background sphere transformation for starfield rendering.
4. bump_height.glsl – Procedural surface generation
 - Implemented height-based terrain for Earth (ocean, coast, land, mountains, snow).
 - Added lunar crater-style bump height function for the Moon.
 - Provided height values used for dynamic shading, cloud shadows, night lights, and biome transitions.

Together, these components form a fully procedural real-time Earth–Moon–Sun system featuring physically-inspired lighting, detailed planetary rendering, and dynamic camera motion.

Acknowledgements

- libigl (icosahedron mesh generation)
- Ken Perlin's noise reference
- CSC317 Assignment 6 starter code
- GLFW, Eigen