COMP30510 Mobile Application Development

Graphics on Android

Dr. Abraham Campbell
University College Dublin
Abey.campbell@ucd.ie

Outline

- Graphics Options beyond using View/ Widget Objects
 - Drawable
 - Canvas
 - SurfaceView
- 3D Graphics option
 - GLSurface View
 - OpenGL ES
- Video on Android

Remember everything is just a bitmap

- In Android, your screen is just a large buffer that the device draws onto
- Every view is just an underlying bitmap, and its canvas is attached to it.
- This change of the graphic buffer needs to happen sufficiently for the user to believe the screen is animating.

Drawable approach

- Android custom 2D graphics library
- Primary library : Android.graphics.drawable
- A drawable is an abstraction of anything that can be drawn
- As these are so important and can be unique to each phone/region, they use the res/drawable/ folder, using typical Android annotations
- There are three approach's the use an image or XML description or class constructors.
- For this course I will recommend just using the standard image, if you
 want to use animations, I will recommend the Canvas option for now.

Creating from resource images

- Adding image files (normally PNG files are recommend)
- Remember PNG are Lossless compressed.
- JPG do work but they lossy compressed
- Lossless > lossy, as Lossless do not change the image but are reduced size due to the compression from a bitmap
- Lossy compression works by removing and changing information from an original bitmap, this compression is very smart as the human eye can be tricked easily.

Classic Lena example

Example of Lossy Compression



Original Lena Image (12KB size)



Lena Image, Compressed (85% less information, 1.8KB)



Lena Image, Highly Compressed (96% less information, 0.56KB)

Image Formats Supported

Image	JPEG	•	•	Base+progressive	JPEG (.jpg)
	GIF		•		GIF (.gif)
	PNG	•	•		PNG (.png)
	ВМР		•		BMP (.bmp)
	WEBP	• (Android 4.0+)	• (Android 4.0+)		WebP (.webp)

Code example from Android Deveopler Doc's

```
LinearLayout mLinearLayout;
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
  super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
  // Create a LinearLayout in which to add the ImageView
  mLinearLayout = new LinearLayout(this);
  // Instantiate an ImageView and define its properties
  ImageView i = new ImageView(this);
  i.setImageResource(R.drawable.my image);
  i.setAdjustViewBounds(true); // set the ImageView bounds to match the Drawable's dimensions
  i.setLayoutParams(new Gallery.LayoutParams(LayoutParams.WRAP CONTENT,
      LayoutParams.WRAP CONTENT));
  // Add the ImageView to the layout and set the layout as the content view
  mLinearLayout.addView(i);
  setContentView(mLinearLayout);
```

Canvas approach

- You can direct add a canvas to your activity by extending a view
- Example in android-sdk\samples\android-15\Snake
- A better way would be to extend a Surfaceview object.
- Technically it is just extending a View but the SurfaceView is dedicated to drawing on a Canvas.
- Remember each view technical has its own canvas which is just a bitmap.
- Best example I cold find was actually not in Android SDK,
- https://github.com/MrBlackk/KillThemAll-Training
 - I have re-written this and adding in touch examples , this version will be put up on the moodle later so you do not have to take pictures ☺
- Remember GITHUB is a great source for tutorial, but learn from it, do not copy.
- As this is such a simple example though you could build on top of it and I would not see that as grounds for plagiarism. Normally I would only say that for direct samples from the Android SDK samples.

Canvas with Surface view

 First we need to setup our activity as usually but we add our custom Surface view called GameView

```
public class MainActivity extends Activity {
    /** Called when the activity is first created. */
    @Override
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        requestWindowFeature(Window.FEATURE_NO_TITLE);
        setContentView(new GameView(this));
    }
}
```

Thread to keep updating the SurfaceView

```
public class GameLoop extends Thread {
  private GameView view;
  private boolean running = false;

public GameLoop(GameView view) {
  this.view = view;
  } public void setRunning(boolean run) {
  running = run;
  }
  @Override
  public void run() {
  while (running) {
```

```
Canvas c = null;
try {
    c = view.getHolder().lockCanvas();
synchronized (view.getHolder()) {
    view.draw(c);
}
} finally {
    if (c != null) {
        view.getHolder().unlockCanvasAndPost(c);
}}}}
```

```
public class GameView extends SurfaceView {
...
public GameView(Context context) {
super(context);
gameLoop = new GameLoop(this);
holder = getHolder();
holder.addCallback(new SurfaceHolder.Callback() {
```

```
@Override
public void surfaceDestroyed(SurfaceHolder holder) {
         boolean retry = true;
         gameLoop.setRunning(false);
                  while (retry) {
                            try {
                                      gameLoop.join();
                                      retry = false;
                                 } catch (InterruptedException e) {
                                      }}}
@Override
public void surfaceCreated(SurfaceHolder holder) {
         gameLoop.setRunning(true);
         gameLoop.start();
```

```
@Override
public void surfaceChanged(SurfaceHolder holder, int format, int width, int height) {
}
});
// need to load in our textures once and not on every redraw
Character = BitmapFactory.decodeResource(getResources(), R.drawable.mario);
Background = BitmapFactory.decodeResource(getResources(), R.drawable.background);
}
```

3D Graphics option /OpenGL ES

- Several version of OpenGL ES
- Version 1 is most similar to OpenGl 2
- Version 2 3 Is more like Current OpenGL 4.2
- Powerful but does require more battery life
- New Android phones have dedicated GPU chips

OpenGL ES activity

```
public class MainActivity extends Activity {
                                                     @Override
                                                     protected void onPause() {
                                                      super.onPause();
 private BasicGLSurfaceView mView;
                                                      mView.onPause();
 @Override
 protected void onCreate(Bundle icicle) {
   super.onCreate(icicle);
                                                     @Override
                                                     protected void onResume() {
   mView = new
BasicGLSurfaceView(getApplication());
                                                      super.onResume();
  setContentView(mView);
                                                      mView.onResume();
```

OpenGL ES

To use you will need to make a specialised SurfaceView

```
import android.opengl.GLSurfaceView;

class BasicGLSurfaceView extends GLSurfaceView {
    public BasicGLSurfaceView(Context context) {
        super(context);
        setEGLContextClientVersion(2);
        setRenderer(new MYTriangleRenderer(context));
    }
}
```

MyTriangleRenderer

- As OpenGL ES 2, requires the programmer to setup the environment with far greater detail than lower version OpenGL
- To see full code
 - android-sdk\samples\android-15\BasicGLSurfaceView
- I'll go through a demo using eclipse in class.
- For this module, I recommend using the Canvas Object.

Video in Android

- To start playing a Sound or video file in android
- Use the MediaPlayer class.

```
MediaPlayer mediaPlayer = MediaPlayer.create(context, R.raw.sound_file_1);
mediaPlayer.start(); // no need to call prepare(); create() does that for you
```

- Remember if you want to add video directly in your app
- Use the VideoView and set its path

```
VideoView videoView = (VideoView)findViewById(R.id.VideoView);
VideoView.setVideoPath("/sdcard/video.mp4");
videoView.start();
```

Video formats supported

Video	H.263	•	•		• 3GPP (.3gp) • MPEG-4 (.mp4)
	H.264 AVC	• (Android 3.0+)	•	Baseline Profile (BP)	 3GPP (.3gp) MPEG-4 (.mp4) MPEG-TS (.ts, AAC audio only, not seekable, Android 3.0+)
	MPEG-4 SP		•		3GPP (.3gp)
	VP8		• (Android 2.3.3+)	Streamable only in Android 4.0 and above	WebM (.webm)Matroska (.mkv, Android 4.0+)