VU Entwurf und Programmierung einer Rendering-Engine

Domain Specific Languages and Shader Systems for Rendering What are DSLs in rendering systems? Engines

- Shader system designs
- Shader DSLs
- Demo/Discussion

Domain Specific Languages (DSLs)?

Definition

- A domain specific language (DSL) is a computer language designed for application in a specific domain
- DSLs are used to effectively describe something, and to allow for abstraction and optimization (compiler techniques, semantic understanding)
- Examples: HTML, SQL, MATLAB (matrix arithmetic), Torch (tensor operations), Renderman, various game scripting languages, ...

https://negativespace.co/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/negative-space-code-html-dark-background-Mian-Shahzad-Raza-thumb-1.jpg

Software Design Patterns *vs* (Domain Specific) Language-based approaches

- Software engineering has its own language
 - Words like visitor, state pattern, aggregation, inheritance, dependency injection, singleton
 - For some rendering engine modules, this language is adequate
- Rendering touches on many specific domains
 - Animation/Storytelling: when designing animations, we don't care about classes.
 - Shaders
 - Scene description, e.g. RenderMan uses own language to model scenes
- Two reasons to implement a DSL
 - A language may be a **better description** than software concepts
 - We would like to do **optimizations** based on the domain-specific semantics

```
PixelVariance .007
Format 500 500 1.0
ShadingRate 1.0
Projection "perspective" "fov" [ 39.14625166082039 ] # lens 45.0, aspect 1.0
Rotate 180 0 1 0 # right handed
Scale -1 1 1 # right handed
```

Motivation 1: Complexity Management

Shading Pipelines have many functionalities (light types, visibility, filtering), using differently encoded in-/outputs (forward/deferred pipeline), and have interchangeable alternatives (microfacet/fresnel BRDF, shadow masking)

Geometry Displacement Tessellation Animation Instancing	Light Point Spot Area Directional Photometric Disk	Visibility Cubemap Perspective Paraboloid Cascaded Imperfect Stochastic	PCF Poisson PCSS CSS	BRDF Diffuse Phong Ward GGX	Post Effects Fog Scattering Tonemap
	Visibility Filtering Area Li		Area Ligh	nt Approx	
	+lma	ge-based Lig	hting	BRDF	
	+Global Illumination			BRDF	

Motivation 2: Performance and Feature Abstraction

- Graphics APIs keep evolving to have increasingly specialized capabilities for specific rendering scenarios.
 - Inputs grouped by update frequency (descriptor sets/tables)
 - Hardware Instancing
 - Stereo rendering
 - Input layout unification, to make shader switches less costly
 - Code re-use on CPU/GPU

```
for( sporadically )
{

Bind Descriptor Set #0

for( the entire scene )
{

Bind Descriptor Set #1

for( each object in the scene )
{

Bind Descriptor Set #2

Do the drawing
}
}
```

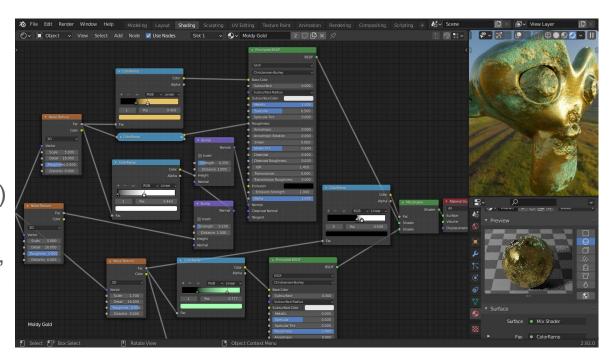
Vulkan spec, updating inputs at different frequencies



https://www.trustedreviews.com/explainer/what-is-virtual-reality-2940543

Motivation 3: "Programmability", Frontend

- Artists/API consumers should be able to make bespoke modifications and arrangements (sometimes at runtime)
- There are many deploy targets (opengl, webgl, spir-v, hlsl, ...) and hardware capabilities we may need to respect



Blender wiki, shader editor

Types of DSLs

External DSL:

- Use lexer, parser, program analysis and code generation for specific problem
- However, there are many tools helping here (e.g. LLVM, YACC, spoofax)
- Advantage: freedom in language design

Embedded DSL:

- Language expressed in host language
 - e.g. by using implicit conversions, higher order functions etc
- Advantages
 - fluently embedded in host program
 - can interact with embedding environment



```
Hello.c x Makefile x
1 hello: Hello.o
           qcc Hello.o -o hello
4 Hello.o:Hello.c
  http://blog.csdn.net/XGsilence
7 #hello:Hello.c
8 #
           qcc Hello.c -o hello
9 clean:
           rm -f *.o hello Makefile~
O references
public void MvMethod()
   List<string> greetings = new List<string>()
           { "hi", "yo", "hello", "howdy" };
   IEnumerable<string> enumerable()
       return from string greet in greetings
              where greet.Length < 3
              select greet;
```

Embedded Domain Specific Languages

- Two implementation approaches
 - Interpretation
 - Non performance critical tasks: e.g. DSL for animation or story-telling
 - Code Generation
 - The DSL expression tree is traversed in order to generate native code
 - This is a very common technique
 - Compiling embedded languages, [Elliott 2003]

```
var transformed = input.DoByVertex(v => {
    v.Position = Uniform.ModelViewProjTrafo * v.Position;
    v.Normal = Uniform.NormalTrafo * v.Normal;
    v.WorldPosition = Uniform.ModelTrafo * v.Position;
    return v;
});
Cosmo [9] compiles shader code from embedded language
```

Implementation of Embedded DSLs

- Deep embedding
 - Host language builds an expression tree
 - Expression tree can be analyzed and optimized
 - In order to be used for
 - Code generation
 - Interpretation
- Shallow embedding
 - No explicit expression tree built
 - Optimizations are hard

```
with sh.function('add', sh.Float4)(a = sh.Float4, b = sh.Float4):
    sh.return_(sh.a + sh.b)

float4 add(float4 a, float4 b)
{
    return (a + b);
}
```

Source [6], metashade builds expression tree and compiles it to shader code

```
public abstract class Exp
  public abstract string Compile();
                                                                             var add1 = new Add(new Lit(1), new Lit(2));
  public static Exp operator +(Exp a, Exp b)
                                                                             var add2 = new Add(add1, add1);
    return new Add(a, b);
                                                                             Console.WriteLine(add2.Compile());
  public static implicit operator Exp(int d)
                                                                             => ((1+2)+(1+2))
    return new Lit(d);
public class Lit : Exp
                                                                                              Use caching for common
  int value;
                                                                                              subexpressions
  public Lit(int I) { value = I; }
  public override string Compile() { return string.Format("{0}", value); }
                                                                                                   Nice syntax using
public class Add: Exp
                                                                                                   Implicit conversion
                                                                                                            Operator overload
  Exp left; Exp right;
  public Add(Exp I, Exp r) { left = I; right = r; }
                                                                       Exp add3 = 2 + 2;
  public override string Compile()
                                                                       Exp add4 = add3 + add3;
                                                                       Console.WriteLine(add4.Compile());
    return string.Format("({0}+{1})", left.Compile(), right.Compile());
```

Embedded DSL provides abstraction for free

- Embedded DSL has two execution times
 - 1. When the expression is constructed
 - 2. When the expression is interpreted or its compiled variant is executed
- This property gives us abstraction for free
- Parameters, Virtual Functions, Lambdas etc, are evaluated when constructing the expr. Tree
- Rompf et al. 2010, Lightweight Modular Staging
- Seitz et al. 2019, Staged Metaprogramming for Shader System Development

```
local MaterialSystem = require("MaterialSystem")
...
shader SurfaceShader {
    ConfigurationOptions {
        MaterialType = MaterialSystem.MaterialTypeOption.new()
    }
    ...
    uniform LightData {
        @UIType(Slider3) lightDirection : vec3
    }
    ...
    fragment code
    ...
    color = [MaterialType:eval()](shadingData)
    return color * max(0, dot(shadingData.normal, lightDirection end
}
```

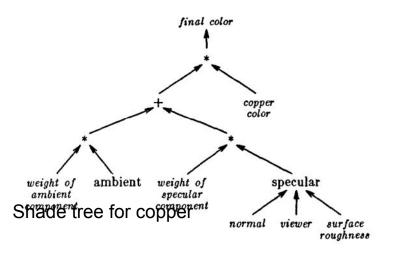
DSLs for rendering systems

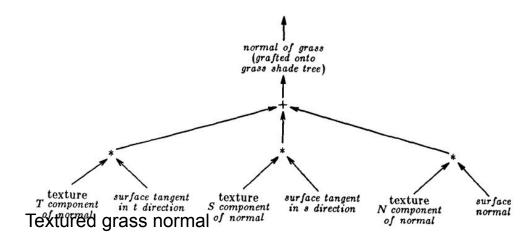




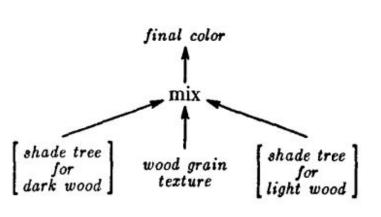
Shade Trees

- Cook's shade trees [Cook 1984] Disney
- Idea: no single shading model appropriate for all use cases
- Independent aspects like lighting, surface & atmospheric into separate modules
- Purely functional forms expression tree (no loops, assignments)





Shade Trees: Language vs API



Language approach:

Software design/API approach:

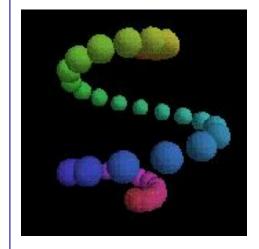
```
ExpressionBuilder e = new ExpressionBuilder();
e.CreateNewMix(e.Sample(this.woodGrain,tc));
e.Input1 = base.Wood
e.Input2 = base.lightWood
```



Functional Reactive Animation

FRAN, [Elliott 1997]

```
spiralTurn = turn3 zVector3 (pi*time) (unionGs (map ball [1 .. n]))
where
n = 40
ball i = withColorG color ( // colorize it
move3 motion ( // move it by motion
stretch3 0.1 sphereLowRes // scale it
))
where
motion = vector3Spherical 1.5 (10*phi) phi
phi = pi * fromInt i / fromInt n
color = colorHSL (2*phi) 0.5 0.5
```



Vertigo

 [Elliot 2004], Embedded DSL for scene description in Haskell, Code generation generates Vertex/Fragment shader (assembly)

```
type Surf = R^2 \rightarrow R^3

sphere :: Surf

sphere (u, v) = (cos \theta ·sin \phi, sin \theta ·sin \phi, cos \phi)

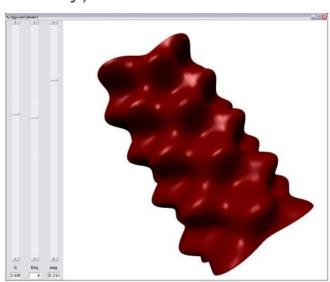
where \theta = 2 · \pi · u \phi = \pi · v

displace :: Surf \rightarrow HeightField \rightarrow Surf

displace surf field = surf + field · normal surf

normal :: Surf \rightarrow Surf

normal = normalize \circ cross \circ derivative
```



eggcrateCylinder 3.8 4.0 0.23

Visualization DSLs

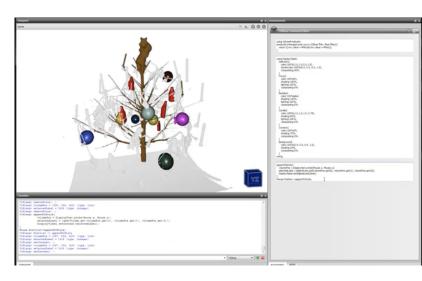
Include interactivity and data wrangling

VEGA: https://vega.github.io/vega/examples/regression/

```
"description": "A scatter plot with trend line calculated via user-configurable regression methods.",
"padding": 5,
"width": 500.
"height": 500.
"autosize": "pad",
"signals": [
    "name": "method", "value": "linear",
   "bind": {"input": "select", "options": [
     "linear", "log", "exp", "pow", "quad", "poly"
    "name": "polyOrder", "value": 3,
    "bind": {"input": "range", "min": 1, "max": 10, "step": 1}
    "name": "groupby", "value": "none",
    "bind": {"input": "select", "options": ["none", "genre"]}
"data": [
    "name": "movies",
   "url": "data/movies.json",
    "transform": [
        "type": "filter",
        "expr": "datum['Rotten Tomatoes Rating'] != null && datum['IMDB Rating'] != null"
    "name": "trend",
   "source": "movies",
    "transform": [
        "type": "regression",
        "groupby": [{"signal": "groupby === 'genre' ? 'Major Genre' : 'foo'"}],
        "method": {"signal": "method"},
        "order": {"signal": "polyOrder"},
       "extent": {"signal": "domain('x')"},
       "x": "Rotten Tomatoes Rating",
        "v": "IMDB Rating",
       "as": ["u", "v"]
```

ViSlang

https://www.cg.tuwien.ac.at/research/public ations/2014/Rautek Peter 2014 VSA/



Lambdacube 3D

- Entire rendering pipeline is one DSL written in Haskell
- Rendering pipeline is abstracted as composable functions
- CPU and GPU code is the same

http://lambdacube3d.com/

```
makeFrame (time :: Float)
          (vertexstream :: PrimitiveStream Triangle (Vec 4 Float, Vec 2 Float))
          = imageFrame (emptyDepthImage 1, emptyColorImage navy)
  'overlay' fragments
  projmat = perspective 0.1 100.0 (30 * pi / 180) 1.0
         .*. lookat (V3 3.0 1.3 0.3) (V3 0.0 0.0 0.0) (V3 0.0 1.0 0.0)
         .*. rotMatrixY (pi / 24.0 * time)
  sampler = Sampler LinearFilter MirroredRepeat $ Texture2DSlot "Diffuse"
   fragments =
          vertexstream
                                    (scale 0.5 (projmat *. x), uv))
       & mapPrimitives (\((x,uv) ->
       & rasterizePrimitives (TriangleCtx CullNone PolygonFill NoOffset LastVertex) ((Smooth))
       & mapFragments (\(((x)) \rightarrow ((texture2D sampler x)))
       & accumulateWith (DepthOp Less True, ColorOp NoBlending (V4 True True True True))
main = renderFrame $
  makeFrame (Uniform "Time")
             (fetch "stream4" (Attribute "position4", Attribute "vertexUV"))
```

Shader Systems

GLSL Example

Render everything white

```
uniform UBO{
    mat4 MVPMat;
};

in vec4 Position;
void Vertex()
{
    vec4 pos = MVPMat* Position;
    gl_Position = pos;
}
```

```
out vec4 Color;
void Fragment()
{
    Color = vec4(1,1,1,1);
}
```

GLSL Example: Texturing

Render everything textured - semantic change leads to many code changes

```
uniform UBO{
                                       uniform sampler2D tex;
    mat4 MVPMat;
                                       in vec2 fs TexCoord;
                                       out vec4 Color;
in vec4 Position;
                                       void Fragment()
in vec2 TexCoord;
out vec2 fs TexCoord
                                           Color = texture(tex, fs TexCoord);
void Vertex()
    vec4 pos = MVPMat* Position;
    fs TexCoord = TexCoord;
    gl Position = pos;
```

The abstraction pyramid of Shader Systems

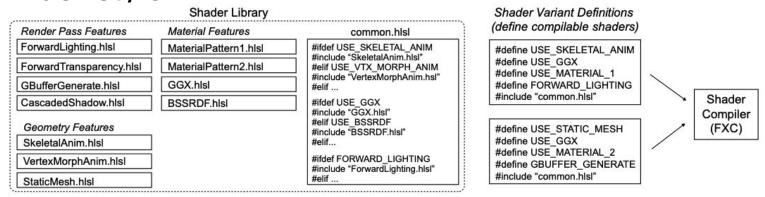
In decreasing order of abstraction:

- interfaces, mixins, OOP approach (ex. Spark)
- Embedded DSL, FP approach (ex. FShade)
- External DSL (ex. Unity ShaderLab)
- Übershader/Ifdef Metaprogramming
- GLSL, HLSL, WGSL, high level input languages
- intermediate languages (DXIL, SPIR-V)
- ASM

```
// colored vertex lighting
Shader "Simple colored lighting"
   // a single color property
   Properties {
        Color ("Main Color", Color) = (1..5..5.1)
    // define one subshader
    SubShader
        // a single pass in our subshader
        Pass
            // use fixed function per-vertex lighting
            Material
               Diffuse [ Color]
            Lighting On
```

https://docs.unity3d.com/560/Documentation/Manual/SL-Shader.htm

"Ifdef-style"



Source: [1], Unreal Engine 4 (ca 2015) shader modularization via preprocessor directives

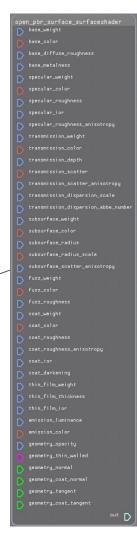
- Shader compiler preprocessor directives used to enable/disable parts of code
- Helps avoid branching in shader code
- Hard to adapt shader inputs, hard to manage attribute passing (or always pass all inputs (e.g. using empty textures if none).
- Difficult to maintain

Übershader

- Write everything into one shader, modularity at runtime (using if-else)
- Requires unified input bindings (e.g.

```
if (hasTexture) { . . . } ).
```

- Good match with extensive modern material systems used in computer graphics (ex. OpenPBR)
- Limited feature set becomes prohibitive
- No real tooling



Unity-style Macros

- Provided macros are "filled in" at runtime by the engine
- Unity's HLSL/ShaderLab exposes many shader-related features like this (platform specific feature sets, textures/cubemaps, shadow mapping,)
- Be careful with definitions, little IDE support

https://docs.unity3d.com/6000.0/Documentation/Manual/SL-BuiltinFunctions.html

Macro:	Use:
UNITY_DECLARE_SHADOWMAP(tex)	Declares a shadowmap Texture variable with name "tex".
UNITY_SAMPLE_SHADOW(tex,uv)	Samples shadowmap Texture "tex" at given "uv" coordinate (XY components are Texture location, Z component is depth to compare with). Returns single float value with the shadow term in 01 range.
<pre>UNITY_SAMPLE_SHADOW_PROJ(tex,uv)</pre>	Similar to above, but does a projective shadowmap read. "uv" is a float4, all other components are divided by .w for doing the lookup.

Sh - Shader Metaprogramming language

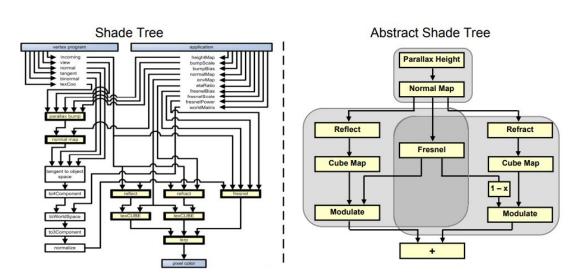
- Embedded DSL
- Support Template programming
- Additional degree of abstraction
- Shader code generation is delayed, allowing for some code analysis

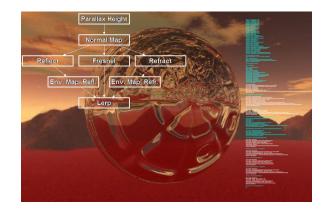
```
class BaseShader {
   public:
     static ShMatrix4x4f VD;
                                        // VCS to DCS
                                        // MCS to VCS
     static ShMatrix4x4f MV;
     static ShMatrix4x4f MD;
                                        // MCS to DCS
     static ShMatrix4x4f inverse_MV;
                                        // MCS from VCS
     ShProgram vertex_shader;
    ShProgram fragment_shader;
     BaseShader();
     void bind();
    virtual void init() = 0;
template <int NLIGHTS>
class PointLightShader: public BaseShader {
  public:
    static ShPoint3f light_position[NLIGHTS];
    static ShColor3f light_color[NLIGHTS];
    PointLightShader();
}:
template <int NLIGHTS>
class BlinnPhongShader: public PointLightShader < NLIGHTS > {
  public:
    ShColor3f ks;
                        // specular color
    ShColor3f kd;
                        // diffuse color
    ShAttrib1f exp;
                        // exponent
    BlinnPhongShader();
    virtual void init();
};
```

Source: [2], Sh metalanguage (2005) generates shader code

Abstract Shade Trees

- [Morgan McGuire et al. 2006]
- Semantic annotations (TEXCOORD, TANGENT,..)

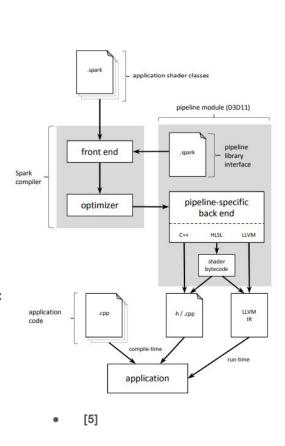




[Morgan McGuire et al. 2006]

Spark

- Foley 2011 [5]
- External DSL
- Pipeline Shader concept
- Composability on class level (mixins)
- Frequency annotations
- No shader stages = single function => easy to compose
- Compiler maps to shader stages



```
shader class Base extends D3D11DrawPass
    input @Uniform float4x4
                                modelViewProjection;
    input @Uniform uint
                                vertexCount;
    input @Uniform SamplerState linearSampler;
    // Stream of vertices in memory
    struct PNuv { float3 P; float3 N; float2 uv; }
    input @Uniform VertexStream[PNuv] vertexStream;
    // Bind number and type of primitives to draw
    override IA_DrawSpan = TriangleList(vertexCount);
    // Per-coarse-vertex - fetch from buffer
    @CoarseVertex PNuv assembled =
        vertexStream(IA_VertexID);
    @CoarseVertex float3 P_base = assembled.P;
    @CoarseVertex float2 uv = assembled.uv;
    // Declare model-space position to be virtual
    virtual @FineVertex float3 P model = P base;
    // Bind clip-space position for rasterizer
    override RS Position = mul(float4(P_model, 1.0f),
                               modelViewProjection);
mixin shader class Displace extends Base
    input @Uniform Texture2D[float3] displacementMap;
    // Per-fine-vertex - displace
    @FineVertex float3 disp =
        SampleLevel (displacementMap, linearSampler,
                    uv, 0.0f);
    override P model = P base + disp;
mixin shader class Shade extends Base
    input @Uniform Texture2D[float4] colorMap;
    // Per-fragment - sample color
    @Fragment float4 color = Sample(colorMap,
                                    linearSampler,
    // Per-pixel - write to target
    output @Pixel float4 target = color;
shader class Example extends Displace, Shade {}
```

Slang

- Foley 2018 [4]
- External DSL
- Uses advanced OOP concepts to achieve high expressivity
- Type extensions
 - E.g for BRDF-specific light types
- Associated types
 - E.g define BRDF type while defining associated material type

```
struct QuadLight : ILightEnv {
  float3 vertices[4];
  float3 intensity;
  float3 illuminate<B:IBxDF>(B bxdf, SurfaceGeometry geom,
                                float3 wo) {
    return bxdf.acceptQuadLight(
      this,
      geometry,
      wo);
                                                                                                       GLSL
                                                                front end
                                                                                                       DXBC
                                                                                                       SPIR-V
                                                                          reflection API
interface IAcceptQuadLight {
  float3 acceptQuadLight(
                                                                                                      specialized
                                                       users author
                                                                         engine allocates parameters blocks,
    QuadLight
                      light,
                                                                                                      code on GPU
                                                       shader modules
                                                                          makes specialization decisions
    SurfaceGeometry geom,
    float3
                      wo);
                                                    Source:[4], Slang uses reflection to analyze
                                                    code and reason about parameter layouts
extension IBxDF : IAcceptQuadLight {}
extension Lambertian : IAcceptQuadLight {
  float3 acceptQuadLight(QuadLight
                           SurfaceGeometry geom.
                            float3
    return albedo * LTC_Evaluate(light, geometry, wo,
      float3x3(1,0,0, 0,1,0, 0,0,1));
```

extension DisneyBRDF : IAcceptQuadLight { ... }

Source:[4], retrospective type extensions used for brdf-specific lights

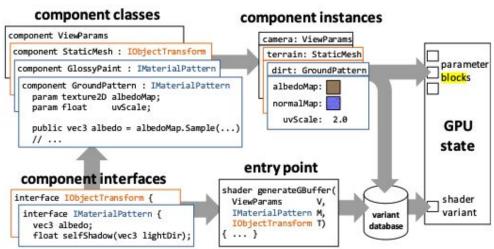
Customizable code generator in MaterialX

- MaterialX is an exchange format and material spec
- allows for custom shader code by providing access to the code generator
- Provides closure and generator state
- Code decides which lines are emitted
- Very high degree of flexibility

https://github.com/AcademySoftwareFoundation/MaterialX/blob/main/documents/DeveloperGuide/ShaderGeneration.md

Even Higher Level Languages

- Explicitly design host code encapsulating shading system features
- Can choose which properties to expose to the artist, the engine, the UI, the shader compiler ...
- High analysis and abstraction potential
 - ex: engine swaps between single and multipass rendering automatically
 - ex: programmer adds new backend target without having to change existing shaders
- Shader Components[1], Slang[4], Spark[5], Open Shading Language[8], FShade



Source: [1], Shader Components (2017) maintains shader variant database constructed using interfaces and classes

FShade

Transform: FShade

```
type Vertex =
       [<Position>] pos : V4d
       [\langle Normal \rangle] n : V3d
        // ...
let transform (v : Vertex) =
    vertex {
        return {
           pos = uniform.MVPMat * v.pos
           n = uniform.NormalMat * v.n
```

White: FShade

Transform & White: GLSL output

```
compose [ transform; white ]
```

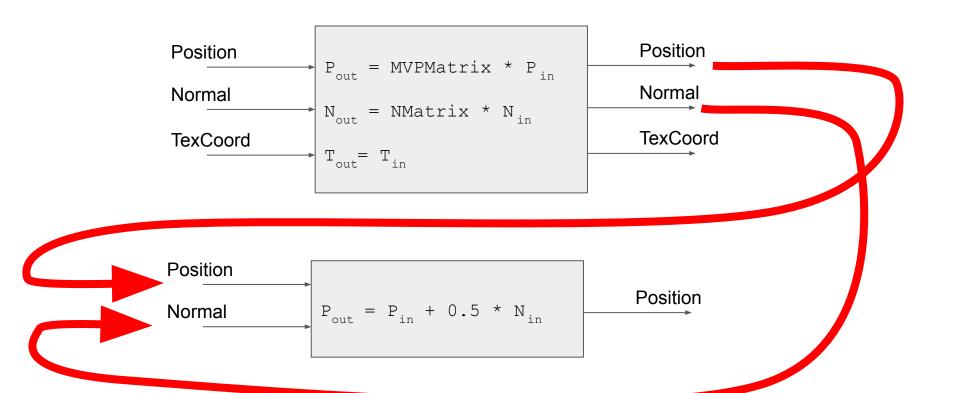
```
uniform UBO{
    mat4 MVPMat;
};

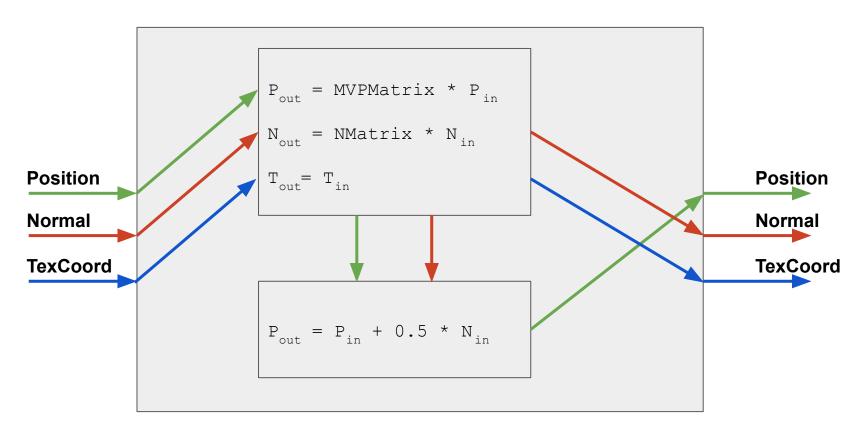
in vec4 Position;
void Vertex()
{
    vec4 pos = MVPMat * Position;
    gl_Position = pos;
}
```

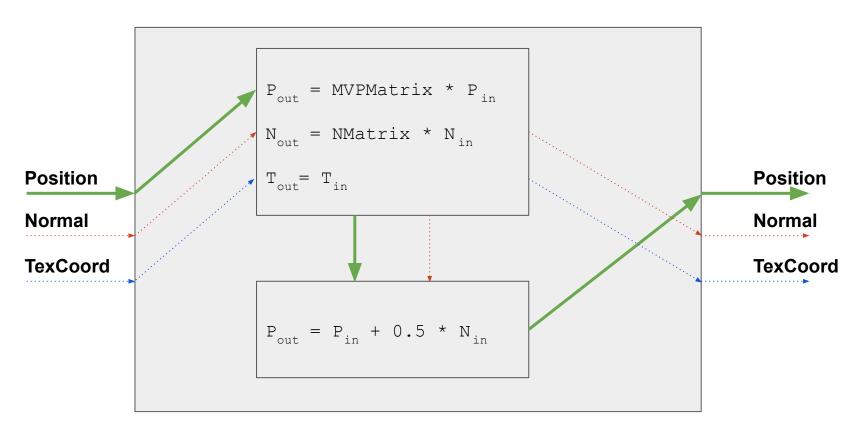
```
out vec4 Color;
void Fragment()
{
    Color = vec4(1,1,1,1);
}
```

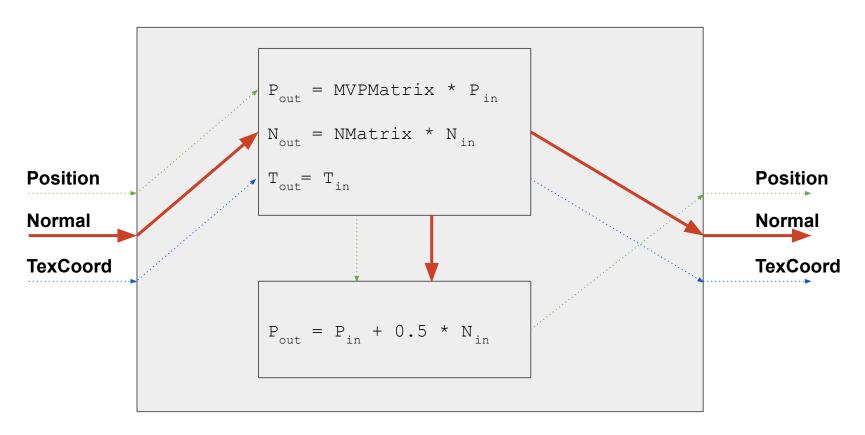
Normals disappeared!

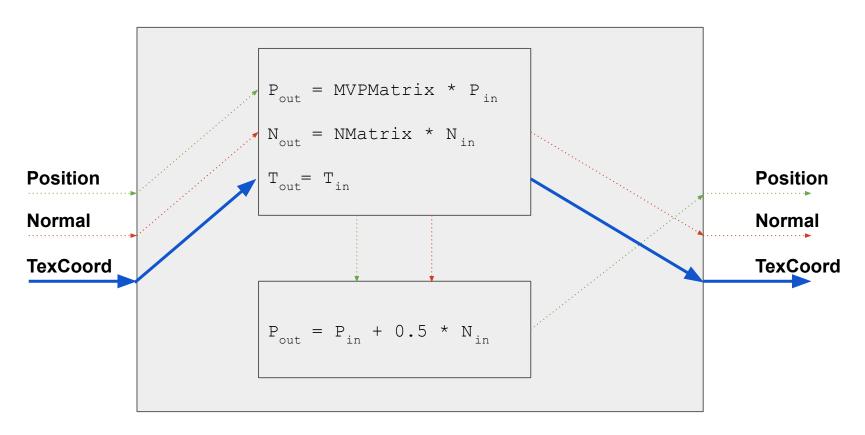
Shaders as Modules











Texturing: FShade

```
type Vertex =
       [<TexCoord>] tc : V2d
       [<Color>] color : V4d
let tex =
    sampler2d {
        addressU WrapMode.Wrap
        addressV WrapMode.Wrap
let texturing (v : Vertex) =
   fragment {
       return { v with color = tex.Sample(v.tc) }
```

Texturing: GLSL output

```
compose [ transform; white; texturing ]
```

```
uniform UBO{
    mat4 MVPMat;
in vec4 Position;
in vec2 TexCoord;
out vec2 fs TexCoord
void Vertex()
    vec4 pos = MVPMat* Position;
    fs TexCoord = TexCoord;
    gl Position = pos;
```

```
uniform sampler2D tex;
in vec2 fs_TexCoord;
out vec4 Color;
void Fragment()
{
    Color = texture(tex, fs_TexCoord);
}
```

Implementation Overview

Implemented using F# quotations

let quotedAddition = <@ 1 + 3 @>

Quotations allow us to get the function's code as typed AST

Composition achieved via transforming/combining the AST

Translate AST to GLSL/HLSL/SpirV/etc.

Optimizations

Dead Code Elimination

Constant Folding (-> evaluate constant expressions at compile time)

Function Inlining (-> reduce number of function calls)

Stage Hoisting (-> moving expressions out of loops if possible)

Common Subexpression Elimination (by using caches)

Many more...

Demos

DSLs in other domains

- Spiral, DSL for Digital signal processing, http://www.spiral.net/
 - Uses mathematical rules in order to generate variants of algorithms
 - Compiler automatically finds best FFT implementation
- Parallel programming: <u>Delite</u> by stanford PPL group, <u>summer schoool talk</u>
 - Also for heterogeneous parallel computing, e.g. <u>Lee et al. 2011</u>
 - OptiML: for machine learning
 - OptiQL: for data querying
 - OptiGraph: graph analytics
- LINQ
 - Originally for data querying
 - Interesting: LINQ provides higher order Functions, which SQL (target) lacks.
 This is why: <u>Embedding by Normalization</u>

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