

# Analysis of Unreal Rendering System (09) -

## Material System

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### 9.1 Overview

**Material** is a very important basic system in UE rendering system, which includes material blueprint, rendering status, geometry attributes and other data. Due to various cross-platform and detail encapsulation of UE, the material system appears to be large and complex. This article will analyze its technology, features and mechanisms from the surface to the bottom layer.

Many previous chapters have covered a lot of concepts, types and codes of materials. This article will explain its system in more depth and extensive. It mainly explains the following contents of UE:

- Basic concepts and basic types of materials.
- The implementation level of the Material.
- The implementation and principles of materials.
- How to use materials and use cases.

The material system is built on the Shader system and is the main bridge connecting graphics programs, TA, and artists.

## 9.2 Material Basics

This chapter will analyze the basic concepts and types of materials, and explain their basic relationships and usage methods.

### 9.2.1 UMaterial

UMaterial is a concept belonging to the engine layer, corresponding to the uasset resource file we edited in the material editor, which can be applied to the mesh to control its visual effect in the scene. It inherits from UMaterialInterface, and their definitions are as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Materials\MaterialInterface.h

//The basic interface class of materials defines a large number of material-related data and interfaces. Some interfaces are
empty or unimplemented interfaces. class UMaterialInterface: public UObject, public IBlendableInterface, public
IInterface_AssetData
{
    //Subsurface scattering profile (configuration)
    class USubsurfaceProfile* SubsurfaceProfile; //A fence that
    keeps track of when a primitive is no longer used as a parent.
    FRenderCommandFence ParentRefFence;

protected:
    // LightmassOfflineGIset up.
    struct FLightmassMaterialInterfaceSettings //Texture      LightmassSettings;
    streaming data.
    TArray<FMaterialTextureInfo> TextureStreamingData; //A list of
    user data stored in this material asset.
    TArray<UAssetUserData*> AssetUserData;

private:
    //Force compilation targetsFeature Level.
```

```

        uint32 FeatureLevelsToForceCompile;

public:
    //---- IInterface_AssetDatainterface----
    virtual void AddAssetUserData(UAssetUserData* InUserData) override; virtual void RemoveUserDataOfClass
    (TSubclassOf<UAssetUserData> InUserDataClass) override;

    virtual UAssetUserData* GetAssetUserDataOfClass(TSubclassOf<UAssetUserData> InUserDataClass)
    override;
    //---- IInterface_AssetDatainterface----

    //Compiled for all materialsFeaturelevelBit field. static
    uint32 FeatureLevelsForAllMaterials;
    void SetFeatureLevelToCompile(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel, bool bShouldCompile);

    static void SetGlobalRequiredFeatureLevel(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel, bool bShouldCompile);

    //---- UObjectinterface----
    virtual void BeginDestroy() override; virtual bool
    IsReadyForFinishDestroy() override; virtual void PostLoad()
    override;
    virtual void PostDuplicate(bool bDuplicateForPIE) override; virtual void
    PostCDOContract() override; //---- UObjectinterface----

    //---- IBlendableInterfaceinterface----
    virtual void OverrideBlendableSettings(class FSceneView& View, float Weight) const override;

    //---- IBlendableInterfaceinterface----

    //Go down the parent chain to find the base material that this instance belongs to.
    UMaterial* GetBaseMaterial(); //Get the
    material being instantiated

    virtual class UMaterial* GetMaterial() PURE_VIRTUAL
    (UMaterialInterface::GetMaterial, return NULL);
    virtual const class UMaterial* GetMaterial() const PURE_VIRTUAL
    (UMaterialInterface::GetMaterial, return NULL);

    //Get the material being instantiated (concurrent mode)
    virtual const class UMaterial* GetMaterial_Concurrent(TMicRecursionGuard RecursionGuard =
    TMicRecursionGuard()) const
    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetMaterial_Concurrent, return NULL);

    //Tests whether this material depends on the specified material.
    virtual bool IsDependent(UMaterialInterface* TestDependency); virtual bool
    IsDependent_Concurrent(UMaterialInterface* TestDependency, TMicRecursionGuard
    RecursionGuard = TMicRecursionGuard());

    //Get the corresponding material for rendering FMaterialRenderProxy
    Examples. virtual class FMaterialRenderProxy* GetRenderProxy() const
    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetRenderProxy, return NULL);

    (.....)

    //Get the list of textures used to render this material.
    virtual void GetUsedTextures(TArray<UTexture*>& OutTextures, EMaterialQualityLevel::Type QualityLevel, bool
    bAllQualityLevels, ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel, bool bAllFeatureLevels) const

```

```

    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetUsedTextures,); //Get the list and index
    of textures used to render this material.

    virtualvoid GetUsedTexturesAndIndices(TArray<UTexture*>& OutTextures, TArray<TArray<int32>>&
    OutIndices, EMaterialQualityLevel::Type QualityLevel, ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel) const;

    //Overwrites the specified texture.
    virtualvoid OverrideTexture(const UTexture* InTextureToOverride, UTexture* OverrideTexture,
    ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel)
    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::OverrideTexture,return);

    //Override the default value of a given parameter (temporarily)
    virtualvoid OverrideVectorParameterDefault(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,const
    FLinearColor& Value,bool bOverride, ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel) PURE_VIRTUAL
    (UMaterialInterface::OverrideTexture,return);

    //Checks for the specified material tag and returns it if it existstrue.
    virtualbool CheckMaterialUsage(const EMaterialUsage Usage) PURE_VIRTUAL
    (UMaterialInterface::CheckMaterialUsage,returnfalse);

    virtualbool CheckMaterialUsage_Concurrent(const EMaterialUsage Usage) const PURE_VIRTUAL
    (UMaterialInterface::CheckMaterialUsage,returnfalse);

    //Get the render texture of the material, you need to specifyFeatureLevel/QualityLevel.
    virtual FMaterialResource* GetMaterialResource(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel,
    EMaterialQualityLevel::Type QualityLevel = EMaterialQualityLevel::Num);

    //Get the group sort priority.
    virtualbool GetGroupSortPriority(const FString& InGroupName, int32& OutSortPriority) const

    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetGroupSortPriority,returnfalse);

    //Get all data of various types of materials.
    virtualvoid GetAllScalarParameterInfo(TArray<FMaterialParameterInfo>& OutParameterInfo,
    TArray<FGuid>& OutParameterIds) const
        PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetAllScalarParameterInfo,return); virtualvoid
        GetAllVectorParameterInfo(TArray<FMaterialParameterInfo>& OutParameterInfo,
    TArray<FGuid>& OutParameterIds) const
        PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetAllVectorParameterInfo,return); virtualvoid
        GetAllTextureParameterInfo(TArray<FMaterialParameterInfo>& OutParameterInfo,
    TArray<FGuid>& OutParameterIds) const
        PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetAllTextureParameterInfo,return); virtualvoid
        GetAllRuntimeVirtualTextureParameterInfo(TArray<FMaterialParameterInfo>& OutParameterInfo, TArray<FGuid>&
    OutParameterIds) const
        PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetAllRuntimeVirtualTextureParameterInfo, return);

    virtualvoid GetAllFontParameterInfo(TArray<FMaterialParameterInfo>& OutParameterInfo, TArray<FGuid>&
    OutParameterIds) const
        PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetAllFontParameterInfo,return);

    //Get various types of data about the material.
    virtualbool GetScalarParameterDefaultValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,float&
    OutValue,bool bOveriddenOnly = false,bool bCheckOwnedGlobalOverrides = false) const

        PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetScalarParameterDefaultValue,returnfalse); virtualbool
        GetVectorParameterDefaultValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, FLinearColor&
    OutValue,bool bOveriddenOnly = false,bool bCheckOwnedGlobalOverrides = false) const

        PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetVectorParameterDefaultValue,returnfalse); virtualbool
        GetTextureParameterDefaultValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo&

```

```

ParameterInfo, class UTexture*& OutValue, bool bCheckOwnedGlobalOverrides =false) const
    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetTextureParameterDefaultValue, return false); virtual bool
    GetRuntimeVirtualTextureParameterDefaultValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, class
URuntimeVirtualTexture*& OutValue, bool bCheckOwnedGlobalOverrides =false) const

        PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetRuntimeVirtualTextureParameterDefaultValue, return false);;

virtualbool GetFontParameterDefaultValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, class
UFont*& OutFontValue, int32& OutFontSize, bool bCheckOwnedGlobalOverrides =false) const

    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetFontParameterDefaultValue, return false);;

//Get hierarchical data.
virtual int32 GetLayerParameterIndex(EMaterialParameterAssociation Association,
UMaterialFunctionInterface * LayerFunction) const
    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetLayerParameterIndex, return INDEX_NONE);;

//Gets the texture referenced by an expression, including nested functions.
virtual TArrayView<UObject*> GetReferencedTextures() const
    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::GetReferencedTextures, return const>()); TArrayView<UObject*>

//saveshaderStable key value.
virtual void SaveShaderStableKeysInner(const class ITargetPlatform* TP, const FShaderKeyAndValue&
SaveKeyVal)
    PURE_VIRTUAL(UMaterialInterface::SaveShaderStableKeysInner, );;

//Get material parameter information.
FMaterialParameterInfo GetParameterInfo(EMaterialParameterAssociation FName Association,
ParameterName, UMaterialFunctionInterface* LayerFunction) const;
//Get the material association flag.
ENGINE_API FMaterialRelevance GetRelevance(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel) const;

ENGINE_API FMaterialRelevance GetRelevance_Concurrent(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type
InFeatureLevel) const;

#ifndef(UE_BUILD_SHIPPING || UE_BUILD_TEST) //Document
    materials and textures.
    ENGINE_API virtual void LogMaterialsAndTextures(FOutputDevice& Ar, int32 Indent) const
{}

#endif

private:
    int32 GetWidth() const;
    int32 GetHeight() const;

    // Lightmassinterface.
    const FGuid& GetLightingGuid() const; void
    SetLightingGuid();
    virtual void GetLightingGuidChain(bool bIncludeTextures, TArray<FGuid>& OutGuids) const;

    virtual bool UpdateLightmassTextureTracking(); inline bool
    GetOverrideCastShadowAsMasked() const; inline bool
    GetOverrideEmissiveBoost() const; (.....)

//Data acquisition interface.
virtual bool GetScalarParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo&

```

```

ParameterInfo,float& OutValue,bool bOveriddenOnly =false)const;
    virtualbool GetScalarCurveParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,
FInterpCurveFloat& OutValue)const;
        virtualbool GetVectorParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,
FLinearColor& OutValue,bool bOveriddenOnly =false)const;
            virtualbool GetVectorCurveParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,
FInterpCurveVector& OutValue)const;
                virtualbool GetLinearColorParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,
FLinearColor& OutValue)const;
                    virtualbool GetLinearColorCurveParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,
FInterpCurveLinearColor& OutValue)const;
                        virtualbool GetTextureParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, class
UTexture*& OutValue,bool bOveriddenOnly =false)const;
                            virtualbool GetRuntimeVirtualTextureParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, class
URuntimeVirtualTexture*& OutValue,bool bOveriddenOnly =false)const;

                            virtualbool GetFontParameterValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,class UFont*&
OutFontValue, int32& OutFontPage,bool bOveriddenOnly =false) const;

                            virtualbool GetRefractionSettings(float& OutBiasValue)const;

//Access the override properties of the base material.
virtualfloat GetOpacityMaskClipValue()const; virtualbool
GetCastDynamicShadowAsMasked()const; virtual EBlendMode
GetBlendMode()const;
virtual FMaterialShadingModelField GetShadingModels()const; virtualbool
IsShadingModelFromMaterialExpression()const; virtualbool IsTwoSided()const;

virtualbool           IsDitheredLODTransition()const;           virtualbool
IsTranslucencyWritingCustomDepth()const;           virtualbool
IsTranslucencyWritingVelocity()const; virtualbool IsMasked()const; virtual
bool IsDeferredDecal()const;

virtual USubsurfaceProfile* GetSubsurfaceProfile_Internal()const; virtualbool
CastsRayTracedShadows()const;

//Forces the streaming system to ignore the normal logic of specifying a duration and instead always load all
textures used by this material.miplevel. virtualvoid SetForceMipLevelsToBeResident(bool
OverrideForceMiplevelsToBeResident, bool bForceMiplevelsToBeResidentValue,float ForceDuration, int32
CinematicTextureGroups = 0,bool bFastResponse =false);

//Re-cache unified expressions for all material interfaces.
static void RecacheAllMaterialUniformExpressions(bool bRecreateUniformBuffer); virtualvoid
RecacheUniformExpressions(bool bRecreateUniformBuffer)const; //Initialize all system default materials.

static void InitDefaultMaterials();
virtualbool IsPropertyActive(EMaterialProperty InProperty)const; static uint32
GetFeatureLevelsToCompileForAllMaterials()

//Returns the number of used texture coordinates, and whether the vertex data is used in the shader graph.
void AnalyzeMaterialProperty(EMaterialProperty InProperty, int32&
OutNumTextureCoordinates,bool& bOutRequiresVertexData);

//Traverse allFeatureLevel,A callback can be
specified. template <typename FunctionType>
static void IterateOverActiveFeatureLevels(FunctionType InHandler);

//Access to material sampler type cacheUEnumType information.

```

```

static UEnum* GetSamplerTypeEnum();

bool UseAnyStreamingTexture() const;
bool HasTextureStreamingData() const;
const TArray<FMaterialTextureInfo>& GetTextureStreamingData() const; FORCEINLINE
TArray<FMaterialTextureInfo>& GetTextureStreamingData(); //Texture streaming interface.

bool FindTextureStreamingDataIndexRange(FName TextureName, int32& LowerIndex, int32& HigherIndex) const;

void SetTextureStreamingData(const TArray<FMaterialTextureInfo>&
InTextureStreamingData);
//Returns the scale of the texture (LocalSpace Unit / Texture), Used for texture streaming matrices.
virtual float GetTextureDensity(FName TextureName, const FMeshUVChannelInfo& UVChannelData) const;

//Pre-save.
virtual void PreSave(const class ITPlatform* TargetPlatform) override; //Sort texture stream data
by name to speed up searching. Sort only when necessary.
void SortTextureStreamingData(bool bForceSort, bool bFinalSort);

protected:
    uint32 GetFeatureLevelsToCompileForRendering() const;
    void UpdateMaterialRenderProxy(FMaterialRenderProxy& Proxy);

private:
    static void PostLoadDefaultMaterials(); //Material
    sampler type cache UEnumType information. static
    UEnum* SamplerTypeEnum;
};

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Materials\Material.h

//Material class, corresponding to a material resource file.
class UMaterial : public UMaterialInterface {

    //Physical materials.
    class UPhysicalMaterial* PhysMaterial;
    class UPhysicalMaterialMask* PhysMaterialMask;
    class UPhysicalMaterial* PhysicalMaterialMap[EPhysicalMaterialMaskColor::MAX];

    //Material properties.
    FScalarMaterialInput    Metallic;
    FScalarMaterialInput    Specular;
    FScalarMaterialInput    Anisotropy;
    FVectorMaterialInput   Normal;
    FVectorMaterialInput   Tangent;
    FColorMaterialInput    EmissiveColor;

#if WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA
    //transmission.
    FScalarMaterialInput   Opacity;
    FScalarMaterialInput   OpacityMask;
#endif

    TEnumAsByte<enum EMaterialDomain> MaterialDomain; EBlendMode>
    TEnumAsByte<enum BlendMode; EDecalBlendMode> DecalBlendMode;
    TEnumAsByte<enum EMaterialDecalResponse> MaterialDecalResponse;
    TEnumAsByte<enum

```

```

TEnumAsByte<enumEMaterialShadingModel> ShadingModel;
UPROPERTY(AssetRegistrySearchable)
FMaterialShadingModelField ShadingModels;

public:

//Material properties.
float OpacityMaskClipValue;
FVectorMaterialInput      WorldPositionOffset;
FScalarMaterialInput      Refraction;
FMaterialAttributesInput FScalarM MataetreibunglApturrti bPuixtelD;epthOffset;
FShadingModelMaterialInput ShadingModelFromMaterialExpression;

#if WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA
FVectorMaterialInput      WorldDisplacement;
FScalarMaterialInput      TessellationMultiplier;
FColorMaterialInput       SubsurfaceColor;
FScalarMaterialInput      ClearCoat;
FScalarMaterialInput      ClearCoatRoughness;
FScalarMaterialInput      AmbientOcclusion;
FVector2MaterialInput     CustomizedUVs[8];
#endif

int32 NumCustomizedUVs;

//Material tags.
uint8 bCastDynamicShadowAsMasked:1; uint8
bEnableSeparateTranslucency:1; uint8
bEnableResponsiveAA :1; uint8
bScreenSpaceReflections :1; uint8
bContactShadows :1; uint8 TwoSided :1;

uint8 DitheredLODTransition :1; uint8
DitherOpacityMask :1;
uint8 bAllowNegativeEmissiveColor:1;

//Transparency related.
TEnumAsByte<enumETranslucencyLightingMode> uint8 TranslucencyLightingMode;
bEnableMobileSeparateTranslucency:1; float
TranslucencyDirectionalLightingIntensity;
float TranslucentShadowDensityScale;
float TranslucentSelfShadowDensityScale;
float TranslucentSelfShadowSecondDensityScale;
FLinearColor TranslucentSelfShadowSecondOpacity;
TranslucentBackscatteringExponent;
TranslucentMultipleScatteringExtinction;
float TranslucentShadowStartOffset;

//Use tags.
uint8 bDisableDepthTest :1; uint8
bWriteOnlyAlpha :1;
uint8 bGenerateSphericalParticleNormals:1; uint8
bTangentSpaceNormal :1;
uint8 bUseEmissiveForDynamicAreaLighting:1; uint8
bBlockGI :1;
uint8 bUsedAsSpecialEngineMaterial:1; uint8
bUsedWithSkeletalMesh :1; uint8
bUsedWithEditorCompositing:1; uint8
bUsedWithParticleSprites :1;

```

```

        uint8      bUsedWithBeamTrails      :1;      uint8
bUsedWithMeshParticles:1; uint8 bUsedWithNiagaraSprites
:1;      uint8      bUsedWithNiagaraRibbons:1;      uint8
bUsedWithNiagaraMeshParticles:1;      uint8
bUsedWithGeometryCache:1;      uint8
bUsedWithStaticLighting:1; uint8 bUsedWithMorphTargets
:1;      uint8      bUsedWithSplineMeshes:1;      uint8
bUsedWithInstancedStaticMeshes:1;      uint8
bUsedWithGeometryCollections :1; uint8 bUsesDistortion :
1; uint8 bUsedWithClothing :1; uint32 bUsedWithWater :1;
uint32      bUsedWithHairStrands      :1;      uint32
bUsedWithLidarPointCloud      :1;      uint32
bUsedWithVirtualHeightfieldMesh:1;      uint8
bAutomaticallySetUsageInEditor:1; uint8 bFullyRough :1;
uint8      bUseFullPrecision      :1;      uint8
bUseLightmapDirectionality      :1;      uint8
bUseAlphaToCoverage :1;

```

```

        uint32 bForwardRenderUsePreintegratedGFForSimpleIBL:1; uint8
bUseHQForwardReflections :1; uint8 bUsePlanarForwardReflections :1;

```

```

//Reduces roughness based on screen space normal variations.
        uint8 bNormalCurvatureToRoughness:1; uint8
AllowTranslucentCustomDepthWrites :1; uint8 Wireframe :1
; //Coloring frequency.

```

```

TEnumAsByte<EMaterialShadingRate> ShadingRate; uint8
bCanMaskedBeAssumedOpaque:1; uint8 blsPreviewMaterial :
1; uint8 blsFunctionPreviewMaterial:1; uint8
bUseMaterialAttributes :1; uint8 bCastRayTracedShadows :1;
uint8 bUseTranslucencyVertexFog:1; uint8
bApplyCloudFogging :1; uint8 blsSky :1;

```

```

        uint8 bComputeFogPerPixel :1; uint8
bOutputTranslucentVelocity:1; uint8
bAllowDevelopmentShaderCompile:1; uint8
blsMaterialEditorStatsMaterial:1; TEnumAsByte<enum
EBlendableLocation> uint8 BlendableOutputAlphaB:1|e ndableLocation;
uint8 bEnableStencilTest :1;
TEnumAsByte<EMaterialStencilCompare> uint8
StencilRefValue =0; TEnumAsByte<enum
ERefractionMode> int32 BlendablePriority;

```

```
        RefractionMode;
```

```

        uint8 blsBlendable :1; uint32
        UsageFlagWarnings;
float    RefractionDepthBias;
FGuid StatId;
float    MaxDisplacement;

```

//When the renderer needs to obtain the parameter value, it represents the material to the renderer.FMaterialRenderProxyderivative.

```

class FDefaultMaterialInstance* DefaultMaterialInstance;

#if WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA
//Editor parameters.
TMap< FName, TArray< UMaterialExpression*>> EditorParameters; //Material Graph.
Data behind the editor model.

class UMaterialGraph* MaterialGraph;
#endif

private:
//Inline material resource serialized from the site. By the game threadPostLoad deal with.
TArray< FMaterialResource> //A list of LoadedMaterialResources;
resources to use for rendering materials.
TArray< FMaterialResource*> MaterialResources;

#if WITH_EDITOR
//The material asset being cached or baked.
TMap< const class ITargetPlatform*, TArray< FMaterialResource*>> CachedMaterialResourcesForCooking;
#endif

//To ensure that this is used before cleaningUMaterialComplete the various
resources inRT. FThreadSafeBool ReleasedByRT;
FMaterialCachedExpressionData CachedExpressionData;

public:
//~ Begin UMaterialInterface Interface. virtual UMaterial* GetMaterial()
override; virtual const UMaterial* GetMaterial() const override;

virtual const UMaterial* GetMaterial_Concurrent(TMicRecursionGuard RecursionGuard = TMicRecursionGuard())
const override;
virtual bool GetScalarParameterValue(...) const override; (.....)

void SetShadingModel(EMaterialShadingModel NewModel);
virtual bool IsPropertyActive(EMaterialProperty InProperty) const override; //~ End UMaterialInterface
Interface.

//~ Begin UObject Interface
virtual void PreSave(const class ITargetPlatform* TargetPlatform) override; virtual void
PostInitProperties() override; virtual void Serialize(FArchive& Ar) override;

virtual void PostDuplicate(bool bDuplicateForPIE) override; virtual void PostLoad()
override; virtual void BeginDestroy() override; virtual bool
IsReadyForFinishDestroy() override; virtual void FinishDestroy() override;

virtual void GetResourceSizeEx(FResourceSizeEx& CumulativeResourceSize) override; static void
AddReferencedObjects(UObject* InThis, FReferenceCollector& Collector); virtual bool CanBeClusterRoot() const
override;
virtual void GetAssetRegistryTags(TArray< FAssetRegistryTag>& OutTags) const override; //~ End UObject Interface

//Data acquisition interface.
bool IsDefaultMaterial() const ReleaseResources();
void IsUsageFlagDirty(EMaterialUsage)
bool IsCompilingUgsaOgreH(a;dCompileError (ERHIFeatureLevel::Type
bool
InFeatureLevel);

(.....)

```

private:

```
//New version of the interface for getting material data.  
bool GetScalarParameterValue_New(...) const;  
bool GetVectorParameterValue_New(...) const;  
bool GetTextureParameterValue_New(...) const;  
bool GetRuntimeVirtualTextureParameterValue_New(...) const;  
bool GetFontParameterValue_New(...) const;  
  
FString GetUsageName(const EMaterialUsage Usage) const; bool  
GetUsageByFlag(const EMaterialUsage Usage) const;  
bool SetMaterialUsage(bool& bNeedsRecompile, const EMaterialUsage Usage);  
  
(.....)
```

private:

```
virtual void FlushResourceShaderMaps(); //Buffers  
resources or data.  
void CacheResourceShadersForRendering(bool bRegenerateId);  
void CacheResourceShadersForCooking(...);  
void CacheShadersForResources(...);
```

public:

```
//Static toolbox or operation interface.  
static UMaterial* GetDefaultMaterial(EMaterialDomain Domain); static  
void UpdateMaterialShaders(...);  
static void BackupMaterialShadersToMemory(...);  
static void RestoreMaterialShadersFromMemory(...);  
static void CompileMaterialsForRemoteRecompile(...);  
static bool GetExpressionParameterName(const UMaterialExpression* Expression, FName& OutName);  
  
static bool CopyExpressionParameters(UMaterialExpression* Source, UMaterialExpression* Destination);  
  
static bool IsParameter(const UMaterialExpression* Expression); static bool IsDynamicParameter(  
const UMaterialExpression* Expression); static const TCHAR* GetMaterialShadingModelState  
(EMaterialShadingModel InMaterialShadingModel);  
  
static EMaterialShadingModel GetMaterialShadingModelFromString(const TCHAR*  
InMaterialShadingModelStr);  
static const TCHAR* GetBlendModeString(EBlendMode InBlendMode); static EBlendMode  
GetBlendModeFromString(const TCHAR* InBlendModeStr); virtual TArrayView<UObject*> const  
GetReferencedTextures() const override final;  
  
(.....)  
};
```

**UMaterialInterface** is a basic abstract class that defines a set of common material properties and interfaces. The main data declared by UMaterialInterface are:

- USubsurfaceProfile\* SubsurfaceProfile: Subsurface scattering profile, commonly used for materials such as skin and jade.
- TArray<UAssetUserData\*> AssetUserData: user data, can store multiple data.
- FLightmassMaterialInterfaceSettings LightmassSettings: Offline GI data.
- TArrayTextureStreamingData: Texture streaming data.

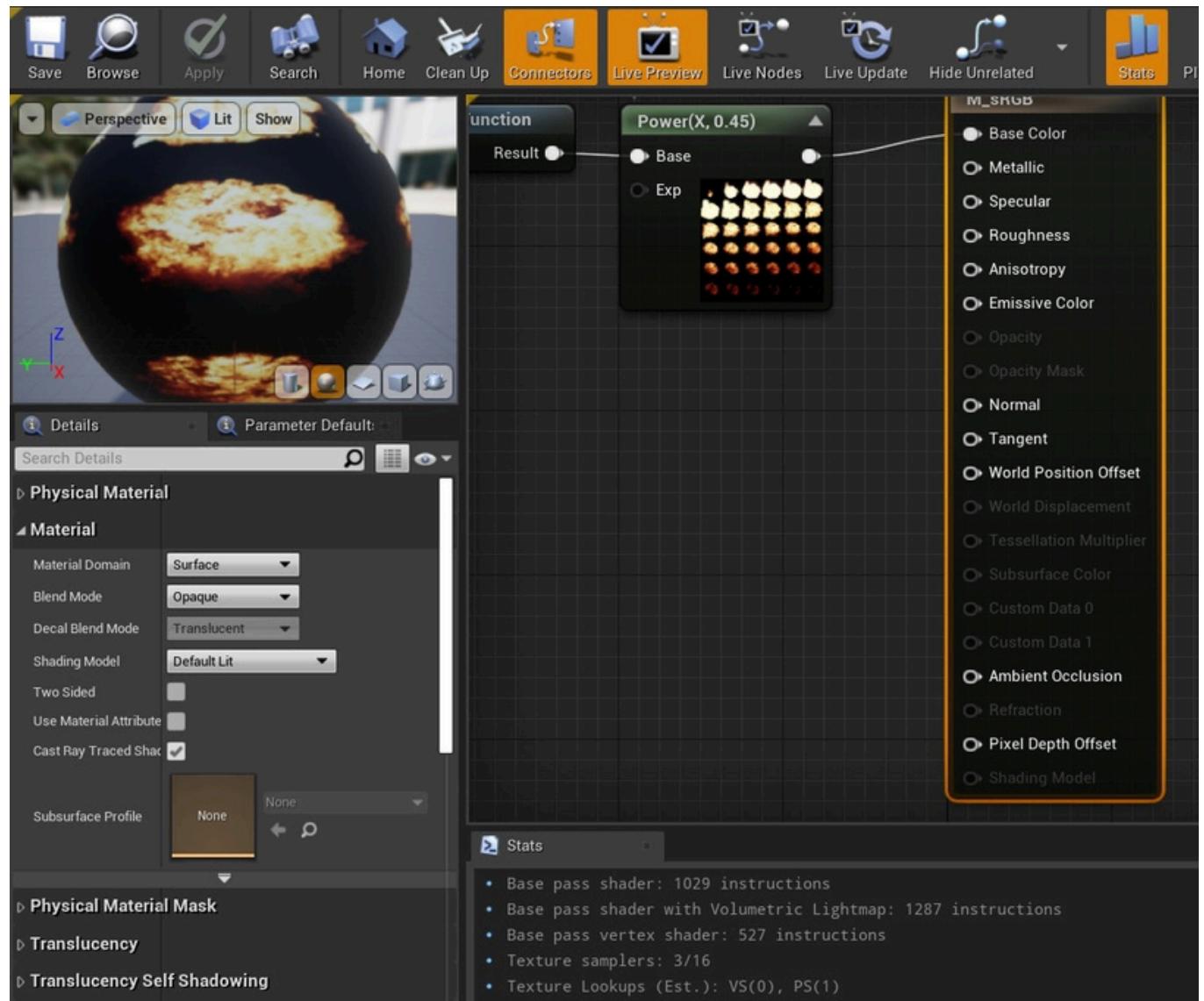
The subclasses of UMaterialInterface are not only UMaterial, but also UMaterialInstance (which will be analyzed later).

**UMaterial** defines all the data and operation interfaces required by the material, and is responsible for opening up links to other associated types. Its core data includes:

- TArray<FMaterialResource\*> MaterialResources: Material rendering resources. A material can have multiple rendering resource instances.
- FDefaultMaterialInstance\* DefaultMaterialInstance: The default material rendering proxy, inherited from FMaterialRenderProxy.
- UPhysicalMaterial\* PhysMaterial: Physical material.
- TArrayLoadedMaterialResources: Loaded material resources, usually loaded from disk and serialized by the game thread.
- Various properties and flags for materials.

Among them, FMaterialResource is the resource of the rendering material, which belongs to the type and data of the rendering layer, and will be analyzed in the following chapters.

A UMaterial corresponds to the resource of the material editor, and is also the object we come into contact with most often:



The material editor we use most often is the one that edits the UMaterial instance. The options in the property panel on the left are consistent with the UMaterial declaration.

UMaterial has only one special subclass, UPreviewMaterial, which is mainly used for editor-related material previews, such as the preview window in the upper left corner of the material editor, the material thumbnail of the browser, and so on.

## 9.2.2 UMaterialInstance

UMaterialInstance is a material instance and cannot exist independently. Instead, it needs to rely on a parent class of the UMaterialInterface type, which means that the parent class can be any subclass of UMaterialInterface, but the top-level parent class must be UMaterial. It is defined as follows:

```

class UMaterialInstance: public UMaterialInterface {

    //Physical materials.
    class UPhysicalMaterial* PhysMaterial;
    class UPhysicalMaterial* PhysicalMaterialMap[EPhysicalMaterialMaskColor::MAX];

    //Material father.
    class UMaterialInterface* Parent;
    //When the renderer needs to get the parameter value, it represents the FMaterialRenderProxy
    Subclass of . class FMaterialInstanceResource* Resource;

    //Can partially coverParentThe properties of UMaterialIn comparison, it's just a small part.
    uint8 bHasStaticPermutationResource:1;
    uint8 bOverrideSubsurfaceProfile:1;
    uint8 TwoSided :1;
    uint8 DitheredLODTransition :1; uint8
    bCastDynamicShadowAsMasked:1;
    uint8 blsShadingModelFromMaterialExpression:1;
    TEnumAsByte<EBlendMode> BlendMode;
    float OpacityMaskClipValue;
    FMaterialShadingModelField ShadingModels;

    //coverParentvarious types of data.
    TArray<struct FScalarParameterValue> FVectoSrcPaalraarmPaertaemrVeatleureV>a lues;
    TArray<struct FTextureParameterValue> VectorParameterValues;
    TArray<struct FRuntimeVirtualTextureParameter> ParameterValues;
    TArray<struct RuntimeVirtualTextureParameter> ParameterValues;

    RuntimeVirtualTextureParameterValues;
    TArray<struct FFontParameterValue> struct FontParameterValues;
    FMaterialInstanceBasePropertyOverrides BasePropertyOverrides;

    (...)

private:
    FStaticParameterSet StaticParameters;
    FMaterialCachedParameters CachedLayerParameters;
    TArray<UObject*> CachedReferencedTextures; //The loaded
    material resource.
    TArray<FMaterialResource> LoadedMaterialResources;
    TArray<FMaterialResource*> StaticPermutationMaterialResources;
    FThreadSafeBool ReleasedByRT;
}

```

```

public:
    // Begin UMaterialInterface interface.
    virtual ENGINE_API UMaterial* GetMaterial() override;
    virtual ENGINE_API const UMaterial* GetMaterial() const override; virtual ENGINE_API const UMaterial* GetMaterial_Concurrent(TMicRecursionGuard RecursionGuard = TMicRecursionGuard()) const override;

    virtual ENGINE_API FMaterialResource* AllocatePermutationResource(); (.....)

    //~ End UMaterialInterface Interface.

    //~ Begin UObject Interface.
    virtual ENGINE_API void GetResourceSizeEx(FResourceSizeEx& CumulativeResourceSize) override;

    virtual ENGINE_API void PostInitProperties() override; virtual ENGINE_API void Serialize(FArchive& Ar) override; virtual ENGINE_API void PostLoad() override;
    virtual ENGINE_API void BeginDestroy() override; virtual ENGINE_API bool IsReadyForFinishDestroy() override; virtual ENGINE_API void FinishDestroy()
    override;

ENGINE_API static void AddReferencedObjects(UObject* InThis, FReferenceCollector& Collector);

    //~ End UObject Interface.

    void GetAllShaderMaps(TArray<FMaterialShaderMap*>& OutShaderMaps);
    void GetAllParametersOfType(EMaterialParameterType Type,
TArray<FMaterialParameterInfo>& OutParameterInfo, TArray<FGuid>& OutParameterIds) const;
    (.....)

protected:
    void CopyMaterialUniformParametersInternal(UMaterialInterface* Source);
    bool UpdateParameters();
    ENGINE_API void SetParentInternal(class UMaterialInterface* NewParent, bool RecacheShaders);

    (.....)

    //Initializes the resource for a material instance.
    ENGINE_API void InitResources();

    //Cache resources.
    void CacheResourceShadersForRendering(); CacheResourceShadersForRendering
    void (FMaterialResourceDeferredDeletionArray&
OutResourcesToFree);
    void CacheShadersForResources(...);
    void DeleteDeferredResources(FMaterialResourceDeferredDeletionArray& ResourcesToFree);

    ENGINE_API void CopyMaterialInstanceParameters(UMaterialInterface* Source);

    (.....)
};


```

UMaterialInstance is different from UMaterial, it needs to be attached to a parent instance, and the top-level parent must be a UMaterial instance. It can only cover a small part of the parameters of UMaterial, and is usually not created separately, but is created with its two subclasses

### **UMaterialInstanceConstantandUMaterialInstanceDynamic :**

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Materials\MaterialInstanceConstant.h

//Fixed Material Instance
class UMaterialInstanceConstant : public UMaterialInstance {

    //Editor Data
#if WITH_EDITOR
    friend class UMaterialInstanceConstantFactoryNew;
    friend class UMaterialEditorInstanceConstant;
    virtual ENGINE_API void PostEditChangeProperty(FPropertyChangedEvent& PropertyChangedEvent) override;
#endif

    class UPhysicalMaterialMask* PhysMaterialMask;

    // Begin UMaterialInterface interface.
    virtual UPhysicalMaterialMask* GetPhysicalMaterialMask() const override; // End UMaterialInterface interface.

    float K2_GetScalarParameterValue(FName ParameterName);
    class UTexture* K2_GetTextureParameterValue(FName ParameterName); FLinearColor K2_GetVectorParameterValue(FName ParameterName);

    ENGINE_API void PostLoad();

    (.....)
};


```

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Materials\MaterialInstanceDynamic.h
```

```

//Dynamic Material Instances
class ENGINE_API UMaterialInstanceDynamic : public UMaterialInstance {

    //To create a dynamic instance, you need to give a parent instance.
    static UMaterialInstanceDynamic* Create(class UMaterialInterface* ParentMaterial, class UObject* InOuter);

    static UMaterialInstanceDynamic* Create( class UMaterialInterface* ParentMaterial, class UObject* InOuter, FName Name );

    //Copy from Material or Instance LevelUniformparameter((scalar, vector and texture).
    void CopyMaterialUniformParameters(UMaterialInterface* Source);
    void CopyInterpParameters(UMaterialInstance* Source); CopyParameterOverrides(UMaterialInstance* MaterialInstance);
    void CopyScalarAndVectorParameters(const UMaterialInterface& SourceMaterialToCopyFrom, ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel);

    //Clean up parameters.
    void ClearParameterValues();

    //Initialization.
    bool InitializeScalarParameterAndGetIndex(const FName& ParameterName, float Value, int32& OutParameterIndex);
    bool InitializeVectorParameterAndGetIndex(const FName& ParameterName, const FLinearColor& Value, int32& OutParameterIndex);

    //Data setting interface.

```

```

void SetScalarParameterValue(FName ParameterName, float Value);
void SetScalarParameterValueByInfo(const FMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, float Value);

bool SetScalarParameterByIndex(int32 ParameterIndex, float Value);
bool SetVectorParameterByIndex(int32 ParameterIndex, const FLinearColor& Value); void
SetTextureParameterValue(FName ParameterName, class UTexture* Value);
void SetTextureParameterValueByInfo(const FMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, class UTexture* Value);

void SetVectorParameterValue(FName ParameterName, FLinearColor Value);
void SetVectorParameterValueByInfo(const FMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, FLinearColor Value);

void SetFontParameterValue(const FMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, class UFont* FontValue, int32
FontPage);

//Data acquisition interface.
float K2_GetScalarParameterValue(FName ParameterName);
float K2_GetScalarParameterValueByInfo(const FMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo); class UTexture*
K2_GetTextureParameterValue(FName ParameterName);
class UTexture*K2_GetTextureParameterValueByInfo(const FMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo);

FLinearColor      K2_GetVectorParameterValue(FName ParameterName);
FLinearColor      K2_GetVectorParameterValueByInfo(const FMaterialParameterInfo&
ParameterInfo);
void K2_InterpolateMaterialInstanceParams(UMaterialInstance*                               Source A,
UMaterialInstance* SourceB, float Alpha);
void K2_CopyMaterialInstanceParameters(UMaterialInterface* Source, bool
bQuickParametersOnly = false);

virtual bool HasOverriddenBaseProperties() const override { return false; } virtual float
GetOpacityMaskClipValue() const override; virtual bool GetCastDynamicShadowAsMasked() const
override; virtual FMaterialShadingModelField GetShadingModels() const override; virtual bool
IsShadingModelFromMaterialExpression() const override; virtual EBlendMode GetBlendMode()
const override; virtual bool IsTwoSided() const override;

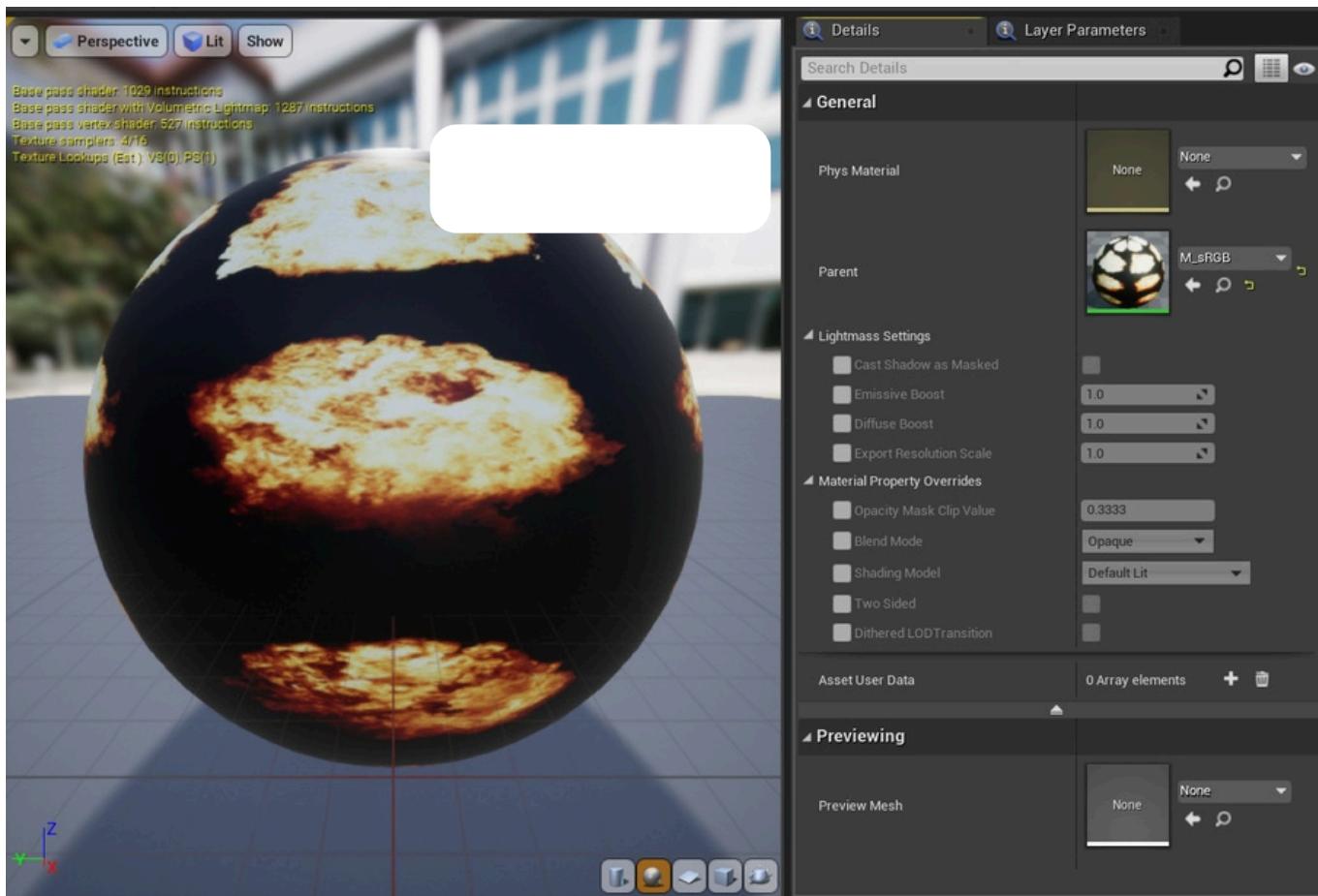
virtual bool IsDitheredLODTransition() const override; virtual bool IsMasked
() const override;

//Each texture that has been renamed must be tracked in order to remap to the correct
texture stream data. TMap<FName, TArray<FName>> RenamedTextures;

//Gets the texture density.
virtual float GetTextureDensity(FName TextureName, const struct FMeshUVChannelInfo& UVChannelData) const
override; };

```

UMaterialInstanceConstant, as the name implies, is a fixed material instance, which is used for material instance resources that have been pre-created and edited by the editor:



An overview of the Material Instance Editor. The Material Property Overrides in the middle on the right shows the properties that can be edited and overridden by the Material Instance, which is quite limited.

UMaterialInstanceConstant was created to avoid recompilation caused by modifying material parameters at runtime, which is why it has limited internal data coverage. Without recompilation, regular modifications to materials cannot be supported, so instances can only change the values of predefined material parameters. The parameters here are unique static definitions of name, type and default value defined in the material editor. In addition, it should be clearly noted that we cannot change the material properties of UMaterialInstanceConstant instances in runtime code (non-editor code). UMaterialInstanceConstant also has a subclass of ULandscapeMaterialInstanceConstant specifically for rendering terrain.

UMaterialInstanceDynamic is different from UMaterialInstanceConstant. It provides the function of dynamically creating and modifying material properties in runtime code, and it also does not cause the material to be recompiled. The UE built-in code contains a lot of UMaterialInstanceDynamic creation, setting and rendering code. Here is a use case:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Components\DecalComponent.cpp

class UMaterialInstanceDynamic* UDecalComponent::CreateDynamicMaterialInstance() {
    //Create a dynamic instance, where DecalMaterials is the parent of the dynamic instance, specified by the user
    UDecalComponentMaterial* UMaterialInstanceDynamic* Instance = UMaterialInstanceDynamic::Create(DecalMaterial,
    this);
```

```

//Overwrite with new decal material.
SetDecalMaterial(Instance);

return Instance;
}

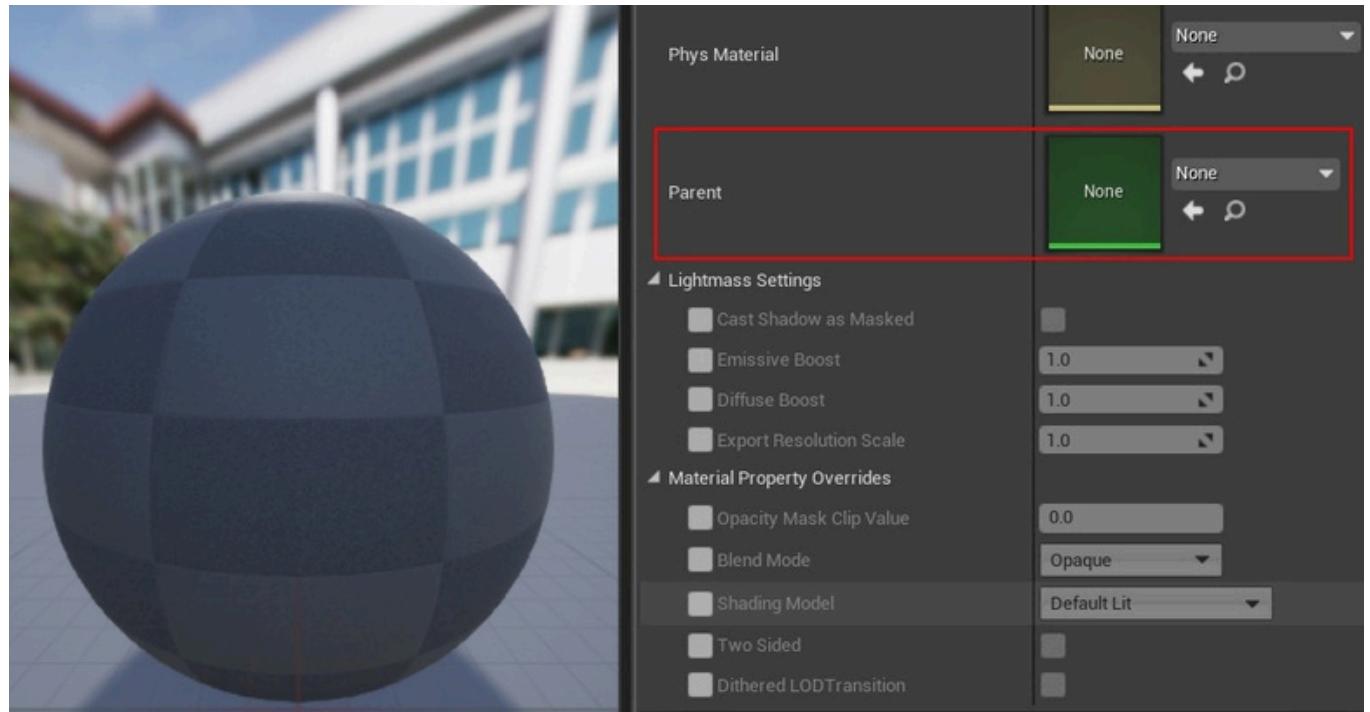
```

The inheritance relationship between UMaterialInstance can be any tree structure. Theoretically, there is no limit to the inheritance level (but too many inheritance levels increase the difficulty of maintenance and reduce operating efficiency). The top-level parent class must be a UMaterial instance, and the secondary and subsequent parent classes must be UMaterialInstance instances. The following figure shows the 4-level hierarchy displayed in the Material Instance Editor:



*There are 4 levels of material instance hierarchy. The top level is UMaterial instance, and the 3 levels below are UMaterialInstance instances.*

If you try to set the parent class of the top or middle layer to null, UE can tolerate it, but the rendering effect of the material will be abnormal:



## 9.2.3 FMaterialRenderProxy

We know that scene types such as primitives, meshes, and light sources have game thread representatives and rendering thread representatives, and materials are no exception. The rendering thread representative corresponding to the UMaterialInterface as the game thread representative is FMaterialRenderProxy. FMaterialRenderProxy is responsible for receiving data from the game thread representative and then passing it to the renderer for processing and rendering. The definition of FMaterialRenderProxy is as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Public\MaterialShared.h

class FMaterialRenderProxy : public FRenderResource {

public:
    //Cache data.
    mutable FUniformExpressionCacheContainer UniformExpressionCache;
    mutable FImmutableSamplerState ImmutableSamplerState;

    //Constructor/destructor.
    ENGINE_API FMaterialRenderProxy(); virtual
    ENGINE_API ~FMaterialRenderProxy();

    //Evaluate the expression and store it inOutUniformExpressionCache.
    void ENGINE_API EvaluateUniformExpressions(FUniformExpressionCache& OutUniformExpressionCache, const
        FMaterialRenderContext& Context, class FRHICmdList* CommandListIfLocalMode = nullptr) const;

    // UniformExpressioninterface.
    void ENGINE_API CacheUniformExpressions(bool bRecreateUniformBuffer);
    void ENGINE_API CacheUniformExpressions_GameThread(bool bRecreateUniformBuffer); void ENGINE_API
    InvalidateUniformExpressionCache(bool bRecreateUniformBuffer); void ENGINE_API
    UpdateUniformExpressionCacheIfNeeded(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel) const;

    //Returns valid FMaterialExamples.
    const class FMaterial* GetMaterial(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel) const; //Find the code used to
    render this FMaterialRenderProxy of FMaterialExamples.
    virtual const FMaterial& GetMaterialWithFallback(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel, const
        FMaterialRenderProxy*& OutFallbackMaterialRenderProxy) const = 0;
    virtual FMaterial* GetMaterialNoFallback(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel) const { return NULL; }

    //Get the corresponding UMaterialInterface Examples.
    virtual UMaterialInterface* GetMaterialInterface() const { return NULL; }

    //Get the value of a material property.
    virtual bool GetVectorValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, FLinearColor*
        OutValue, const FMaterialRenderContext& Context) const = 0;
    virtual bool GetScalarValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, float* OutValue, const
        FMaterialRenderContext& Context) const = 0;
    virtual bool GetTextureValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, const UTexture** OutValue,
        const FMaterialRenderContext& Context) const = 0;
    virtual bool GetRuntimeVirtualTextureValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, const
        URuntimeVirtualTexture** OutValue, const FMaterialRenderContext& Context) const = 0;

    bool IsDeleted() const;
    void MarkForGarbageCollection();
    bool IsMarkedForGarbageCollection() const;
}
```

```

// FRenderResource interface.

ENGINE_API virtual void InitDynamicRHI() override; ENGINE_API virtual
void ReleaseDynamicRHI() override; ENGINE_API virtual void
ReleaseResource() override;

//Gets the static material rendering representation mapping table.
ENGINE_API static const TSet<FMaterialRenderProxy*>& GetMaterialRenderProxyMap();

void SetSubsurfaceProfileRT(const USubsurfaceProfile* Ptr); const
USubsurfaceProfile* GetSubsurfaceProfileRT() const;

ENGINE_API static void UpdateDeferredCachedUniformExpressions(); static inline bool
HasDeferredUniformExpressionCacheRequests();

int32 GetExpressionCacheSerialNumber() const { return
UniformExpressionCacheSerialNumber; }

private:
    const USubsurfaceProfile* SubsurfaceProfileRT; mutable int32
UniformExpressionCacheSerialNumber = 0;

//Material tags.
mutable int8 MarkedForGarbageCollection : 1; mutable int8
DeletedFlag : 1; mutable int8 ReleaseResourceFlag: 1;
mutable int8 HasVirtualTextureCallbacks : 1;

//Tracks the render delegates for all materials in all scenes. Only accessible in the rendering thread. Used to propagate new shader
maps to materials used in rendering. ENGINE_API static TSet<FMaterialRenderProxy*> MaterialRenderProxyMap; ENGINE_API static
TSet<FMaterialRenderProxy*> DeferredUniformExpressionCacheRequests;
};


```

FMaterialRenderProxy is an abstract class that defines a static global material rendering proxy mapping table and an interface for obtaining FMaterial rendering instances. The specific logic is completed by subclasses, and its subclasses are:

- **FDefaultMaterialInstance**: The default representative instance for rendering UMaterial.
- **FMaterialInstanceResource**: A delegate for rendering a UMaterialInstance instance.
- FColoredMaterialRenderProxy: A material rendering proxy that overrides the material's color vector parameters.
- FLandscapeMaskMaterialRenderProxy: Landscape mask material rendering proxy.
- FLightmassMaterialProxy: Lightmass material rendering
- proxy.....

We will focus on two important subclasses: FDefaultMaterialInstance and FMaterialInstanceResource, which are defined as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\Material.cpp
```

```
// For rendering UMaterialThe default rendering representation of , the default parameter values are stored in FMaterialUniformExpressionXxxParameterThe resource
elephant,
value used to store the selected color.

class FDefaultMaterialInstance: public FMaterialRenderProxy
```

```

{
public:

//Game thread destruction interface.
void GameThread_Destroy() {

    FDefaultMaterialInstance* Resource = this;
    ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(FDestroyDefaultMaterialInstanceCommand)
        [Resource](FRHICmdList& RHICmdList)
    {
        delete Resource;
    });
}

// FMaterialRenderProxy interface. Get the
// material interface.
virtual const FMaterial& GetMaterialWithFallback(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel,const
FMaterialRenderProxy*& OutFallbackMaterialRenderProxy) const
{
    const FMaterialResource* MaterialResource = Material-
>GetMaterialResource(InFeatureLevel);
    if(MaterialResource && MaterialResource->GetRenderingThreadShaderMap()) {

        return *MaterialResource;
    }

    OutFallbackMaterialRenderProxy = &GetFallbackRenderProxy();
    return OutFallbackMaterialRenderProxy->GetMaterialWithFallback(InFeatureLevel,
OutFallbackMaterialRenderProxy);
}

virtual FMaterial* GetMaterialNoFallback(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel) const {

    return Material->GetMaterialResource(InFeatureLevel);
}

//Get the corresponding UMaterialInterface interface.
virtual UMaterialInterface* GetMaterialInterface() const override {

    return Material;
}

//Gets the parameter values of a vector.
virtual bool GetVectorValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, FLinearColor*
OutValue,const FMaterialRenderContext& Context) const
{
    const FMaterialResource* MaterialResource = Material-
>GetMaterialResource(Context.Material.GetFeatureLevel()); if
(MaterialResource && MaterialResource->GetRenderingThreadShaderMap())
    {
        return false;
    }
    else
    {
        return GetFallbackRenderProxy().GetVectorValue(ParameterInfo, OutValue,
Context);
    }
}

//Get the value of a scalar parameter.

```

```

virtualbool GetScalarValue(constFHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, float* OutValue, const
FMaterialRenderContext& Context)const
{
    constFMaterialResource* MaterialResource = Material-
>GetMaterialResource(Context.Material.GetFeatureLevel());
    if(MaterialResource && MaterialResource->GetRenderingThreadShaderMap()) {

        static FName NameSubsurfaceProfile(TEXT(" __SubsurfaceProfile")); if
        (ParameterInfo.Name == NameSubsurfaceProfile) {

            const USubsurfaceProfile* MySubsurfaceProfileRT =
GetSubsurfaceProfileRT();

            int32 AllocationId =0; if
            (MySubsurfaceProfileRT) {

                // can be optimized (cached)
                AllocationId =
AllocationId;

GSubsurfaceProfileTextureObject.FindAllocationId(MySubsurfaceProfileRT);
            }
            else
            {
                // no profile specified means we use the default one stored at [0]
which is human skin
                AllocationId =0;
            }

            * OutValue = AllocationId /255.0f;

            returntrue;
        }

        return false;
    }
    else
    {
        return GetFallbackRenderProxy().GetScalarValue(ParameterInfo, OutValue,
Context);
    }
}

//Gets the texture parameter value.

virtualbool GetTextureValue(constFHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, const UTexture** OutValue,
constFMaterialRenderContext& Context)const
{
    constFMaterialResource* MaterialResource = Material-
>GetMaterialResource(Context.Material.GetFeatureLevel());
    if(MaterialResource && MaterialResource->GetRenderingThreadShaderMap()) {

        returnfalse;
    }
    else
    {
        return
GetFallbackRenderProxy().GetTextureValue(ParameterInfo,OutValue,Context);
    }
}

virtualbool GetTextureValue(constFHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, const
URuntimeVirtualTexture** OutValue, constFMaterialRenderContext& Context)const

```

```

{
    const FMaterialResource* MaterialResource = Material-
>GetMaterialResource(Context.Material.GetFeatureLevel());
    if(MaterialResource && MaterialResource->GetRenderingThreadShaderMap()) {

        return false;
    }
    else
    {
        return GetFallbackRenderProxy().GetTextureValue(ParameterInfo, OutValue,
Context);
    }
}

// FRenderResource interface.

virtual FString GetFriendlyName() const{return Material->GetName(); }

// Constructor.

FDefaultMaterialInstance(UMaterial* InMaterial);

private:

    //Get the backup material rendering proxy.
    FMaterialRenderProxy& GetFallbackRenderProxy() const

    return*(UMaterial::GetDefaultMaterial(Material->MaterialDomain)-
>GetRenderProxy());
}

//The corresponding material instance.
UMaterial* Material;
};

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\MaterialInstanceSupport.h

//RenderingUMaterialInstanceMaterial resources.

class FMaterialInstanceResource: public FMaterialRenderProxy {

public:

    //Stores name and value pairs for material instances.
    template <typename ValueType> struct
    TNamedParameter
    {
        FHashedMaterialParameterInfo Info;
        ValueType Value;
    };

    FMaterialInstanceResource(UMaterialInstance* InOwner);

    void GameThread_Destroy() {

        FMaterialInstanceResource* Resource = this;
        ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(FDestroyMaterialInstanceResourceCommand)(
[Resource](FRHICmdList& RHICmdList) {

            delete Resource;
        });
    }
}

```

```

}

// FRenderResource interface.
virtual FString GetFriendlyName() const override { return Owner->GetName(); }

// FMaterialRenderProxy interface. Get material
// rendering resources.
virtual const FMaterial& GetMaterialWithFallback(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel, const
FMaterialRenderProxy*& OutFallbackMaterialRenderProxy) const override;
virtual FMaterial* GetMaterialNoFallback(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel) const override;

virtual UMaterialInterface* GetMaterialInterface() const override;

//Get the value of a material.
virtual bool GetVectorValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, FLinearColor*
OutValue, const FMaterialRenderingContext& Context) const override;
virtual bool GetScalarValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, float* OutValue, const
FMaterialRenderingContext& Context) const override;
virtual bool GetTextureValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, const UTexture** OutValue,
const FMaterialRenderingContext& Context) const override;
virtual bool GetTextureValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, const
URuntimeVirtualTexture** OutValue, const FMaterialRenderingContext& Context) const override;

void GameThread_SetParent(UMaterialInterface* ParentMaterialInterface); void InitMIParameters(
struct FMaterialInstanceParameterSet& ParameterSet); void RenderThread_ClearParameters() {

    VectorParameterArray.Empty();
    ScalarParameterArray.Empty();
    TextureParameterArray.Empty();
    RuntimeVirtualTextureParameterArray.Empty();
    InvalidateUniformExpressionCache(false);

}

//Update parameters.
template <typename ValueType>
void RenderThread_UpdateParameter(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo, const ValueType&
Value )
{
    LLM_SCOPE(ELLMTag::MaterialInstance);

    InvalidateUniformExpressionCache(false); TArray<TNamedParameter<ValueType>>& ValueArray =
    GetValueArray<ValueType>(); const int32 ParameterCount = ValueArray.Num();

    for(int32 ParameterIndex = 0; ParameterIndex < ParameterCount; ++ParameterIndex ) {

        TNamedParameter<ValueType>& Parameter = ValueArray[ParameterIndex]; if
        (Parameter.Info == ParameterInfo) {

            Parameter.Value = Value;
            return;
        }
    }
    TNamedParameter<ValueType> NewParameter;
    NewParameter.Info = ParameterInfo;
    NewParameter.Value = Value;
    ValueArray.Add(NewParameter);
}

```

```

//Find the value of a parameter with the specified name.
template <typename ValueType>
const ValueType* RenderThread_FindParameterByName(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo)
const
{
    const TArray<TNamedParameter<ValueType>>& ValueArray = GetValueArray<ValueType>()
);
    const int32 ParameterCount = ValueArray.Num();
    for(int32 ParameterIndex = 0; ParameterIndex < ParameterCount; ++ParameterIndex) {

        const TNamedParameter<ValueType>& Parameter = ValueArray[ParameterIndex]; if(Parameter.Info
        == ParameterInfo) {

            return &Parameter.Value;
        }
    }
    return NULL;
}

private:
template <typename ValueType> TArray<TNamedParameter<ValueType>>& GetValueArray();

//The parent of the material instance.
UMaterialInterface* Parent;
//The parent of the game thread.
UMaterialInterface* GameThreadParent;
//The material instance it belongs to.
UMaterialInstance* Owner;

//List of parameter values of various types.
TArray<TNamedParameter<FLinearColor>> VectorParameterArray;
TArray<TNamedParameter<float>> ScalarParameterArray;
TArray<TNamedParameter<const UTexture*>> TextureParameterArray;
TArray<TNamedParameter<const URuntimeVirtualTexture*>>
RuntimeVirtualTextureParameterArray;
};

```

It is important to note that FMaterialRenderProxy will be processed by both the game thread and the rendering thread, so you need to be careful about the data access and interface calls between them. The one with GameThread is dedicated to the game thread, and the one with RenderThread is dedicated to the rendering thread. If there is no special instruction, it is generally (not absolutely) used for the rendering thread. If you mistakenly call an interface that should not be called or access data, a race condition will occur, causing random crashes , and increasing the difficulty of debugging exponentially.

## 9.2.4 FMaterial, FMaterialResource

**FMaterial** has 3 functions:

- Represents the material-to-material compilation process and provides extensibility hooks (CompileProperty, etc.).
- Pass material data to the renderer and use functions to access material properties.

- Stores cached shader maps, and other transient outputs from compilation. This is necessary for asynchronous shader compilation.

Here is the definition of FMaterial:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Public\MaterialShared.h

class FMaterial
{
public:
#if UE_CHECK_FMATERIAL_LIFETIME
    uint32 AddRef() const;
    uint32 Release() const;
    inline uint32 GetRefCount() const { return uint32(NumDebugRefs.GetValue()); }

    mutable FThreadSafeCounter NumDebugRefs;
#endif

    FMaterial();
    ENGINE_API virtual ~FMaterial();

    //cacheshader.
    ENGINE_API bool CacheShaders(EShaderPlatform Platform, const ITargetPlatform* TargetPlatform =
        nullptr);
    ENGINE_API bool CacheShaders(const FMaterialShaderMapId& ShaderMapId, EShaderPlatform Platform, const
        ITargetPlatform* TargetPlatform = nullptr);

    //Do you need to cache the specified shader type of data.
    ENGINE_API virtual bool ShouldCache(EShaderPlatform Platform, const FShaderType* ShaderType, const
        FVertexFactoryType* VertexFactoryType) const;
    ENGINE_API bool ShouldCachePipeline(EShaderPlatform Platform, const FShaderPipelineType* PipelineType,
        const FVertexFactoryType* VertexFactoryType) const;

    //Serialization.
    ENGINE_API virtual void LegacySerialize(FArchive& Ar); void
    SerializeInlineShaderMap(FArchive& Ar);

    // ShaderMap interface.
    void RegisterInlineShaderMap(bool bLoadedByCookedMaterial);
    void ReleaseShaderMap();
    void DiscardShaderMap();

    //Material properties.
    ENGINE_API virtual void GetShaderMapId(EShaderPlatform Platform, const ITargetPlatform*
        TargetPlatform, FMaterialShaderMapId& OutId) const;
    virtual EMaterialDomain GetMaterialDomain() const = 0; // See EMaterialDomain.
    virtual bool IsTwoSided() const = 0;
    virtual bool IsDitheredLODTransition() const = 0;
    virtual bool IsTranslucencyWritingCustomDepth() const { return false; } virtual bool
    IsTranslucencyWritingVelocity() const { return false; } virtual bool IsTangentSpaceNormal() const {
        return false; }
```

```

(.....)

//Whether to save to disk.
virtual bool IsPersistent() const=0; //Get a material
instance.
virtual UMaterialInterface* GetMaterialInterface() const{return NULL; }

ENGINE_API bool HasValidGameThreadShaderMap() const; inline bool
ShouldCastDynamicShadows() const; EMaterialQualityLevel::Type
GetQualityLevel() const

//Data access interface.
ENGINE_API const FUniformExpressionSet& GetUniformExpressions() const; ENGINE_API
TArrayView<const FMaterialTextureParameterInfo> GetUniformTextureExpressions
(EMaterialTextureParameterType Type) const;
ENGINE_API TArrayView<const FMaterialVectorParameterInfo>
GetUniformVectorParameterExpressions() const;
ENGINE_API TArrayView<const FMaterialScalarParameterInfo>
GetUniformScalarParameterExpressions() const;
inline TArrayView<const FMaterialTextureParameterInfo> GetUniform2DTextureExpressions()
const{return GetUniformTextureExpressions(EMaterialTextureParameterType::Standard2D);
}

inline TArrayView<const FMaterialTextureParameterInfo>
GetUniformCubeTextureExpressions() const{return
GetUniformTextureExpressions(EMaterialTextureParameterType::Cube); }

inline TArrayView<const FMaterialTextureParameterInfo>
GetUniform2DArrayTextureExpressions() const{return
GetUniformTextureExpressions(EMaterialTextureParameterType::Array2D);
}

inline TArrayView<const FMaterialTextureParameterInfo>
GetUniformVolumeTextureExpressions() const{return
GetUniformTextureExpressions(EMaterialTextureParameterType::Volume);
}

inline TArrayView<const FMaterialTextureParameterInfo>
GetUniformVirtualTextureExpressions() const{return
GetUniformTextureExpressions(EMaterialTextureParameterType::Virtual);
}

const FStaticFeatureLevel GetFeatureLevel() const{return FeatureLevel; } bool
GetUsesDynamicParameter() const;
ENGINE_API bool RequiresSceneColorCopy_GameThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
RequiresSceneColorCopy_RenderThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
NeedsSceneTextures() const; ENGINE_API bool NeedsGBuffer() const; ENGINE_API
bool UsesEyeAdaptation() const;

ENGINE_API bool UsesGlobalDistanceField_GameThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
UsesWorldPositionOffset_GameThread() const;

//Material tags.
ENGINE_API bool MaterialModifiesMeshPosition_RenderThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
MaterialModifiesMeshPosition_GameThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
MaterialUsesPixelDepthOffset() const; ENGINE_API bool
MaterialUsesDistanceCullFade_GameThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
MaterialUsesSceneDepthLookup_RenderThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
MaterialUsesSceneDepthLookup_GameThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
UsesCustomDepthStencil_GameThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
MaterialMayModifyMeshPosition() const; ENGINE_API bool
MaterialUsesAnisotropy_GameThread() const; ENGINE_API bool
MaterialUsesAnisotropy_RenderThread() const;

// shader mapinterface.

```

```

class FMaterialShaderMap*GetGameThreadShaderMap()const {
    return GameThreadShaderMap;
}
void SetGameThreadShaderMap(FMaterialShaderMap* InMaterialShaderMap) {
    GameThreadShaderMap = InMaterialShaderMap;

    TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap> ShaderMap = GameThreadShaderMap;
    TRefCountPtr<FMaterial> Material = this;

    //Set the game thread shader map set to the rendering thread.
    ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(SetGameThreadShaderMap)([Material = MoveTemp(Material), ShaderMap
= MoveTemp(ShaderMap)](FRHICmdListImmediate& RHICmdList) mutable
    {
        Material->RenderingThreadShaderMap = MoveTemp(ShaderMap);
    });
}

void SetInlineShaderMap(FMaterialShaderMap* InMaterialShaderMap)
ENGINE_API class FMaterialShaderMap*GetRenderingThreadShaderMap()const;ENGINE_API void
SetRenderingThreadShaderMap(const TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap>& InMaterialShaderMap);

ENGINE_API virtual void AddReferencedObjects(FReferenceCollector& Collector);

virtual TArrayView<UObject*> GetReferencedTextures()const=0;

//Get shader/shader pipeline.
template<typename ShaderType>
TShaderRef<ShaderType> GetShader(FVertexFactoryType* VertexFactoryType,const typename
ShaderType::FPermutationDomain& PermutationVector,bool bFatalIfMissing =true)const;
template <typename ShaderType>
TShaderRef<ShaderType> GetShader(FVertexFactoryType* VertexFactoryType, int32 PermutationId =0,
bool bFatalIfMissing =true)const;
ENGINE_API FShaderPipelineRef GetShaderPipeline(class FShaderPipelineType* ShaderPipelineType,
FVertexFactoryType* VertexFactoryType,bool bFatalIfNotFound =true) const;

//Material interface.
virtual FString GetMaterialUsageDescription()const=0; virtual bool GetAllowDevelopmentShaderCompile()
const{return true;} virtual EMaterialShaderMapUsage::Type GetMaterialShaderMapUsage()const{return
EMaterialShaderMapUsage::Default; }

ENGINE_API bool GetMaterialExpressionSource(FString& OutSource); ENGINE_API bool
WritesEveryPixel(bool bShadowPass =false)const; virtual void SetupExtraCompilationSettings(const
EShaderPlatform Platform, FExtraShaderCompilerSettings& Settings) const;

(.....)

protected:
    const FMaterialShaderMap* GetShaderMapToUse()const;

    virtual int32 CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(EMaterialProperty Property, class FMaterialCompiler*
Compiler, EShaderFrequency OverrideShaderFrequency = SF_NumFrequencies, bool bUsePreviousFrameTime =false) const
=0;

void SetQualityLevelProperties(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel,

```

```

EMaterialQualityLevel::Type InQualityLevel = EMaterialQualityLevel::Num);
    virtual EMaterialShaderMapUsage::Type GetShaderMapUsage() const; virtual FGuid
    GetMaterialId() const=0;
    ENGINE_API void GetDependentShaderAndVFTypes(EShaderPlatform Platform,
TArray<FShaderType*>& OutShaderTypes, TArray<const FShaderPipelineType*>&
OutShaderPipelineTypes, TArray<FVertexFactoryType*>& OutVFTypes) const;
    bool GetLoadedCookedShaderMapId() const;

private:
    //Game thread and rendering thread shader
    TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap> GameThreadShaderMap;
    TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap> RenderingThreadShaderMap;

    //Quality grade.
    EMaterialQualityLevel::Type QualityLevel;
    ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel;

    //Special markings.
    uint32 bStencilDitheredLOD :1; uint32
    bContainsInlineShaders:1; uint32
    bLoadedCookedShaderMapId:1;

    bool BeginCompileShaderMap(
        const FMaterialShaderMapId&           ShaderMapId,
        const FStaticParameterSet&             &StaticParameterSet,
        EShaderPlatform           Platform,
        TRefCountPtr<class FMaterialShaderMap>&   OutShaderMap,
        const ITargetPlatform* TargetPlatform = nullptr); void
    SetupMaterialEnvironment(
        EShaderPlatform           Platform,
        const FShaderParametersMeta& InUniformBufferStruct,
        FShaderExpressionSet& InUniformExpressionSet,
        OutEnvironment
    const;

    ENGINE_API TShaderRef<FShader> GetShader(class FMeshMaterialShaderType* ShaderType, FVertexFactoryType*
VertexFactoryType, int32 PermutationId, bool bFatalIfMissing = true) const;
};

}

```

As can be seen above, FMaterial is a collection of all data and operation interfaces, including materials, shaders, vertexfactories, shader pipelines, shader maps, etc. It is the distribution center of these data. However, it is just an abstract parent class , and specific functions need to be implemented by subclasses. Its only subclass is FMaterialResource:

```

//accomplishFMaterialInterface for renderingUMaterialorUMaterialInstance.
class FMaterialResource : public FMaterial {

public:
    ENGINE_API FMaterialResource();
    ENGINE_API virtual ~FMaterialResource();

    //Set the material.
    void SetMaterial(UMaterial* InMaterial, UMaterialInstance* InInstance, ERHIFeatureLevel::Type
InFeatureLevel, EMaterialQualityLevel::Type InQualityLevel = EMaterialQualityLevel::Num)

```

```

{
    Material = InMaterial;
    MaterialInstance = InInstance;
    SetQualityLevelProperties(InFeatureLevel,           InQualityLevel);
}

ENGINE_API uint32 GetNumVirtualTextureStacks()const;
ENGINE_API virtual FString GetMaterialUsageDescription()constoverride;

// FMaterial interface.
ENGINE_API virtual void GetShaderMapId(EShaderPlatform Platform,const ITargetPlatform*
TargetPlatform, FMaterialShaderMapId& OutId)constoverride;
ENGINE_API virtual EMaterialDomain GetMaterialDomain()constoverride;   ENGINE_API virtual bool
IsTwoSided()constoverride;   ENGINE_API virtual bool IsDitheredLODTransition()constoverride;
ENGINE_API virtual bool IsTranslucencyWritingCustomDepth()constoverride; ENGINE_API virtual bool
IsTranslucencyWritingVelocity()constoverride; ENGINE_API virtual bool IsTangentSpaceNormal()const
override; ENGINE_API virtual EMaterialShadingRate GetShadingRate()constoverride;

(.....)

//Material interface.
inline const UMaterial* GetMaterial()const{return Material; }
inline const UMaterialInstance* GetMaterialInstance()const{return MaterialInstance; }

}

inline void SetMaterial(UMaterial* InMaterial) { Material = InMaterial; } inline void
SetMaterialInstance(UMaterialInstance* InMaterialInstance) { MaterialInstance =
InMaterialInstance; }

```

protected:

```

//The corresponding material.
UMaterial* Material;
//The corresponding material instance.
UMaterialInstance* MaterialInstance;

//Compile the entry for specifying material properties.SetMaterialPropertyCall.
ENGINE_API virtual int32 CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(EMaterialProperty Property, class
FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, EShaderFrequency OverrideShaderFrequency, bool bUsePreviousFrameTime)const
override;

ENGINE_API virtual bool HasVertexPositionOffsetConnected()constoverride; ENGINE_API virtual bool
HasPixelDepthOffsetConnected()constoverride; ENGINE_API virtual bool
HasMaterialAttributesConnected()constoverride;

(.....)
};

```

FMaterialResource only implements the interface that FMaterial does not implement, and stores instances of UMaterial or UMaterialInstance. If both instances of UMaterialInstance and UMaterial are valid, then the overlapping data of UMaterialInstance will take precedence, for example:

```

//Get the shading model domain
FMaterialShadingModelField FMaterialResource::GetShadingModels() const

//PriorityMaterialInstanceof data.

```

```

return MaterialInstance ? MaterialInstance->GetShadingModels() : Material-
> GetShadingModels();
}

```

It should be noted that FMaterialResource must ensure that the UMaterial instance is valid, and MaterialInstance can be empty.

FMaterialResource also has a subclass FLandscapeMaterialResource, which corresponds to the material for rendering ULandscapeMaterialInstanceConstant.

In addition to FMaterial, another core concept of rendering resources is FMaterialRenderingContext, which saves the association pairing between FMaterialRenderProxy and FMaterial:

```

struct ENGINE_API FMaterialRenderingContext
{
    // Used for material shader material rendering representation of .
    const FMaterialRenderProxy* MaterialRenderProxy;

    // Material rendering resources.
    const FMaterial& Material;

    // Whether to display the selected color.
    bool bShowSelection;

    // Constructor.
    FMaterialRenderingContext(const FMaterialRenderProxy* InMaterialRenderProxy, const FMaterial& InMaterial,
                           const FSceneView* InView); };

```

FMaterialRenderingContext is mostly used for parameters of various types of material interfaces, such as:

```

// FDefaultMaterialInstanceIn obtaining the vector parameter value, we use FMaterialRenderingContext parameter.
virtual bool FDefaultMaterialInstance::GetVectorValue(const FHashedMaterialParameterInfo& ParameterInfo,
FLinearColor* OutValue, const FMaterialRenderingContext& Context) const {

    const FMaterialResource* MaterialResource = Material-
> GetMaterialResource(Context.Material.GetFeatureLevel());

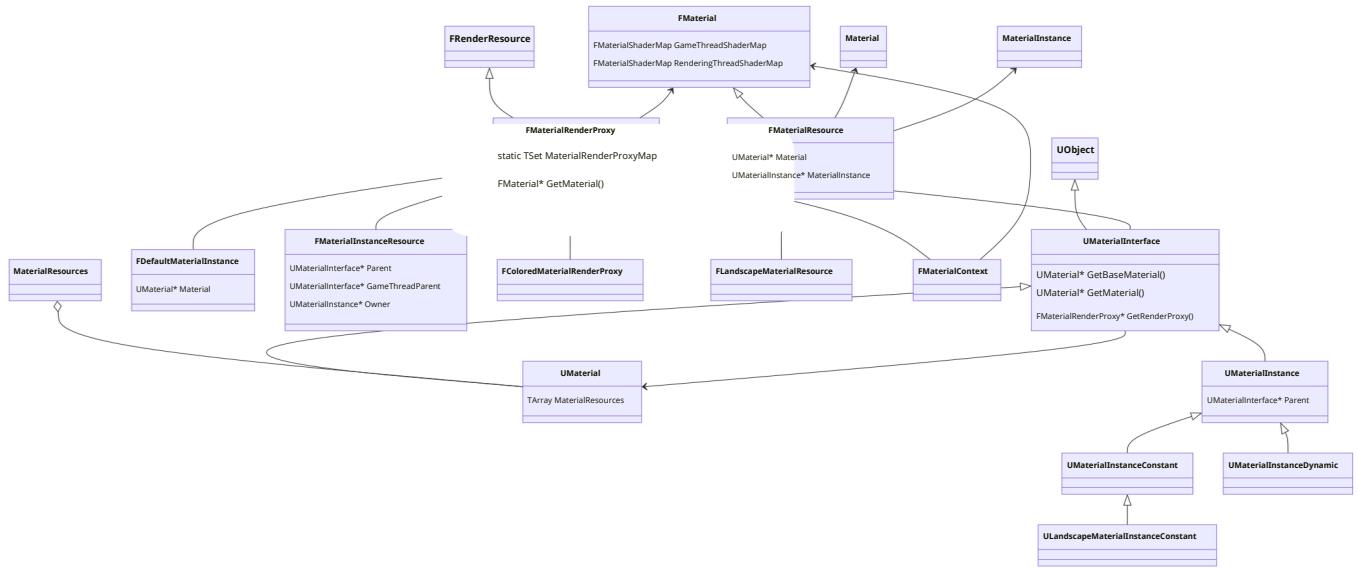
    if (MaterialResource && MaterialResource->GetRenderingThreadShaderMap()) {

        return false;
    }
    else
    {
        return GetFallbackRenderProxy().GetVectorValue(ParameterInfo, OutValue, Context);
    }
}

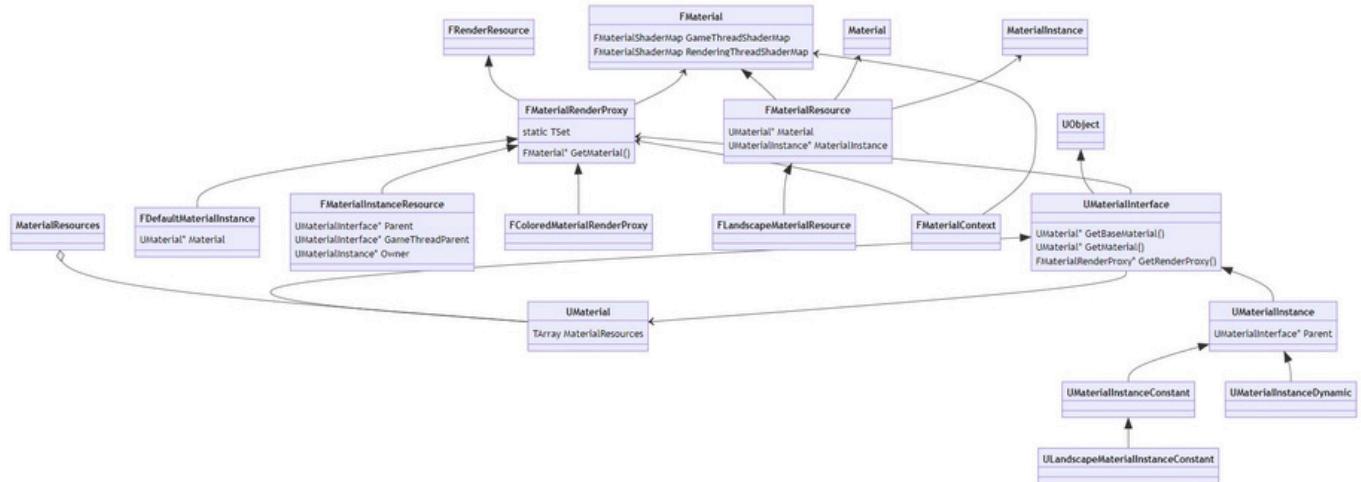
```

## 9.2.5 Material Overview

The previous sections have elaborated on the basic types, concepts and definitions of the material system. This section will directly show their UML diagrams to give an overview of their relationships:



If the text in the image above is too small to see clearly, you can click to enlarge the image version below:



Why are there so many concepts and types of materials in UE? What is the relationship between them? This section attempts to explain their relationship and function.

First, **UMaterialInterface** and its subclasses are explained. They are the representatives of the engine module in the game thread. **UMaterialInterface** inherits **UObject** and provides an abstract interface for materials, providing consistent behaviors and specifications for subclasses, and unifying the differences between different types of subclasses. The subclass **UMaterial** corresponds to the resources of the material blueprint generated by the material editor, saving various expression nodes and various parameters. Another subclass, **UMaterialInstance**, abstracts the interface of the material instance. It exists to support the modification of material parameters without triggering material recompilation. At the same time, it unifies and standardizes the data and behaviors of the two subclasses of fixed instances (**UMaterialInstanceConstant**) and dynamic instances (**UMaterialInstanceDynamic**). **UMaterialInstanceConstant** creates and modifies material parameters during the editor, and cannot be modified at runtime, improving the performance of data update and rendering; **UMaterialInstanceDynamic** can create instances and modify data at runtime, improving the scalability and customizability of materials, but its performance is worse than

UMaterialInstanceConstant. UMaterialInstance needs to specify a parent class, and the top-level parent class is required to be a UMaterial instance.

FMaterialRenderProxy is the representative of the rendering thread of UMaterialInterface, similar to the relationship between UPrimitiveComponent and FPrimitiveSceneProxy. FMaterialRenderProxy moves (copies) the data of the UMaterialInterface instance to the rendering thread, but it will also be accessed by the game thread at the same time. It is a coupling type of the two threads, and their data and interface calls need to be handled with caution. The subclass of FMaterialRenderProxy corresponds to the subclass of UMaterialInterface, so that the subclass data of UMaterialInterface can be accurately moved (copied) to the rendering thread to avoid competition between the game thread and the rendering thread. FMaterialRenderProxy and its subclasses are all types of engine modules.

Since there is already a rendering thread delegate of FMaterialRenderProxy, why do FMaterial and FMaterialResource still exist? The answer is twofold:

- FMaterialRenderProxy and its subclasses are types of engine modules. They are capsule classes of the game thread and the rendering thread. The data and interface calls of the two threads need to be handled carefully, and the rendering module cannot really have full jurisdiction over it.
- The data of FMaterialRenderProxy is passed from UMaterialInterface, which means that the information of FMaterialRenderProxy is limited and cannot contain other information of the mesh using the material, such as vertex factory, ShaderMap, ShaderPipeline, FShader and various shader parameters.

Therefore, FMaterial came into being. FMaterial is also a type of engine module, but it stores two ShaderMaps for the game thread and the rendering thread, which means that the rendering module can freely access the ShaderMap of the rendering thread without affecting the access of the game thread. Moreover, FMaterial contains all the data required for rendering materials. As long as other places in the renderer get the FMaterial of the mesh, they can normally obtain the material data and submit drawing instructions. For example, the code of FBasePassMeshProcessor:: AddMeshBatch:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Renderer\Private\BasePassRendering.cpp

void FBasePassMeshProcessor::AddMeshBatch(const FMeshBatch& RESTRICT MeshBatch, uint64 BatchElementMask,
                                         const FPrimitiveSceneProxy* RESTRICT PrimitiveSceneProxy, int32 StaticMeshId)

{
    if(MeshBatch.bUseForMaterial) {

        const FMaterialRenderProxy* FallbackMaterialRenderProxyPtr = nullptr; //GetFMaterial
        Examples.
        const FMaterial& Material = MeshBatch.MaterialRenderProxy-
        > GetMaterialWithFallback(FeatureLevel, FallbackMaterialRenderProxyPtr);
        const FMaterialRenderProxy& MaterialRenderProxy = FallbackMaterialRenderProxyPtr?
        * FallbackMaterialRenderProxyPtr: *MeshBatch.MaterialRenderProxy;

        //pass FMaterialInterface to obtain material data.
    }
}
```

```

const EBlendMode BlendMode = Material.GetBlendMode();
const FMaterialShadingModelField ShadingModels = Material.GetShadingModels(); const bool
bIsTranslucent = IsTranslucentBlendMode(BlendMode); const FMeshDrawingPolicyOverrideSettings
OverrideSettings = ComputeMeshOverrideSettings(MeshBatch);

const ERasterizerFillMode MeshFillMode = ComputeMeshFillMode(MeshBatch, Material, OverrideSettings);

const ERasterizerCullMode MeshCullMode = ComputeMeshCullMode(MeshBatch, Material, OverrideSettings);

(...)

}

```

## 9.3 Material Mechanism

This chapter mainly some underlying mechanisms of materials, such as material rendering, analysis compilation mechanism and process, material caching strategy, etc.

### 9.3.1 Material Rendering

This section will explain the data transfer, update, and rendering logic of the material. The originator of material data is still the resource on the game thread side, which is usually a binary resource loaded from disk and then serialized into a UMaterialInterface instance, or dynamically created and set by the runtime. However, most of them are loaded from disk. When a primitive component that uses a material is asked to collect mesh elements, the FMaterialRenderProxy corresponding to the UMaterialInterface it uses can be passed to FMeshBatchElement. The following takes StaticMesh as an example:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\StaticMeshRender.cpp

bool FStaticMeshSceneProxy::GetMeshElement(
    int32 LODIndex,
    int32 BatchIndex,
    int32 SectionIndex,
    uint8 InDepthPriorityGroup,
    bool bUseSelectionOutline,
    bool bAllowPreCulledIndices,
    FMeshBatch& OutMeshBatch)const
{
    const ERHIFeatureLevel::Type FeatureLevel = GetScene().GetFeatureLevel(); const FStaticMeshLODResources&
    LOD = RenderData->LODResources[LODIndex]; const FStaticMeshVertexFactories& VFs = RenderData-
    >LODVertexFactories[LODIndex]; const FStaticMeshSection& Section = LOD.Sections[SectionIndex]; const
    FLODInfo& ProxyLODInfo = LODs[LODIndex];

    //Get various instances of the material (including UMaterialInterface, FMaterialRenderProxy and FMaterial)
    UMaterialInterface* MaterialInterface = ProxyLODInfo.Sections[SectionIndex].Material; FMaterialRenderProxy*
    MaterialRenderProxy = MaterialInterface->GetRenderProxy(); const FMaterial* Material = MaterialRenderProxy-
    >GetMaterial(FeatureLevel);

```

```

FMeshBatchElement& OutMeshBatchElement = OutMeshBatch.Elements[0];

//Handling Vertex Factories
const FVertexFactory* VertexFactory = nullptr; if
(ProxyLODInfo.OverrideColorVertexBuffer)

{
    (.....)
}

(.....)

if(NumPrimitives >0) {

    OutMeshBatch.SegmentIndex = SectionIndex;

    OutMeshBatch.LODIndex = LODIndex;

    //Assign materials and render delegates.
    OutMeshBatch.MaterialRenderProxy = MaterialRenderProxy;

    (.....)
}
}

```

Therefore, we can know that when the component collects the mesh elements, all types of material data are ready and can be accessed. This means that during the game thread phase, instances of various types of materials have been loaded, set, and created. Let's continue to dig deeper into when they are created. First, look at FMaterialRenderProxy. Different UMaterialInterface subclasses are slightly different, as shown in the following code:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\MaterialInstance.cpp

void UMaterialInstance::PostInitProperties() {

Super::PostInitProperties();

if(!HasAnyFlags(RF_ClassDefaultObject)) {

    //createFMaterialRenderProxy.
    Resource = new FMaterialInstanceResource(this);
}

FMaterialRenderProxy* UMaterialInstance::GetRenderProxy() const {

    return Resource;
}

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\Material.cpp

void UMaterial::PostInitProperties() {

Super::PostInitProperties();
if(!HasAnyFlags(RF_ClassDefaultObject))

```

```

{
    //createFMaterialRenderProxy.
    DefaultMaterialInstance = new FDefaultMaterialInstance(this);
}

FPlatformMisc::CreateGuid(StatId);

}

FMaterialRenderProxy* UMaterial::GetRenderProxy() const {
    return DefaultMaterialInstance;
}

```

It can be inferred that the FMaterialRenderProxy corresponding to UMaterialInstance is created in the PostInitProperties stage of the subclass.

We continue to find out which interface and member the corresponding FMaterial instance is obtained by UMaterialInterface:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\Material.cpp

//GetUMaterialCorrespondingFMaterialResource(FMaterialInstance of a subclass of .
FMaterialResource* UMaterial::GetMaterialResource(ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel,
EMaterialQualityLevel::Type QualityLevel)
{
    if(QualityLevel == EMaterialQualityLevel::Num) {

        QualityLevel = GetCachedScalabilityCVars().MaterialQualityLevel;
    }
    return FindMaterialResource(MaterialResources, InFeatureLevel, QualityLevel, true);
}

```

From the above, we can know that UMaterial::MaterialResources is being searched, so let's continue to investigate when it is created:

```

FMaterialResource* FindOrCreateMaterialResource(TArray<FMaterialResource*>& MaterialResources,
UMaterial* OwnerMaterial, UMaterialInstance* OwnerMaterialInstance, ERHIFeatureLevel::Type InFeatureLevel, EMaterialQualityLevel::Type InQualityLevel)
{
    (.....)

    FMaterialResource* CurrentResource = FindMaterialResource(MaterialResources, InFeatureLevel,
    QualityLevelForResource, false);

    // If the current resource list does not exist, create a new one.FMaterialResource
    if Examples. (!CurrentResource)
    {
        //Prefer to use the material instance interface to create.
        CurrentResource = OwnerMaterialInstance? OwnerMaterialInstance-> AllocatePermutationResource() : OwnerMaterial->AllocateResource(); CurrentResource->SetMaterial(OwnerMaterial, OwnerMaterialInstance, QualityLevelForResource); InFeatureLevel,
    }
}

```

```

    //Add toFMaterialResourceList of instances.
    MaterialResources.Add(CurrentResource);
}

(...)

return CurrentResource;
}

```

When creating the FMaterialResource instance above, the valid OwnerMaterialInstance will be used first, and then the UMaterial interface will be used. Let's enter their interfaces to create FMaterialResource instances:

```

FMaterialResource*UMaterialInstance::AllocatePermutationResource() {

    return new FMaterialResource();
}

FMaterialResource*UMaterial::AllocateResource() {

    return new FMaterialResource();
}

```

Wow, the logic is the same, they all directly create a new FMaterialResource object and return it. Let's continue to track which interfaces will call FindOrCreateMaterialResource:

- ProcessSerializedInlineShaderMaps
- UMaterial::PostLoad
- UMaterial::CacheResourceShadersForRendering
- UMaterial::AllMaterialsCacheResourceShadersForRendering
- UMaterial::ForceRecompileForRendering
- UMaterial::PostEditChangePropertyInternal
- UMaterial::SetMaterialUsage
- UMaterial::UpdateMaterialShaders
- UMaterial::UpdateMaterialShaderCacheAndTextureReferences

The above interfaces will directly or indirectly call the FindOrCreateMaterialResource interface, thereby triggering the creation of the FMaterialResource object. However, in the runtime version, it is usually triggered by UMaterial::PostLoad, and the call stack is as follows:

- UMaterial::PostLoad
  - ProcessSerializedInlineShaderMaps
    - FindOrCreateMaterialResource

In addition, some interfaces of UMaterialInstance will also trigger the creation of FMaterialResource instances, which will not be tracked in this article.

We continue to study where and when FMaterial's GameThreadShaderMap and RenderingThreadShaderMap are set and passed:

```

//Direct settingsRenderingThreadShaderMap
void FMaterial::SetRenderingThreadShaderMap(const TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap>& InMaterialShaderMap)
{
    RenderingThreadShaderMap = InMaterialShaderMap;
}

//Setting up the game threadShaderMap.
void FMaterial::SetGameThreadShaderMap(FMaterialShaderMap* InMaterialShaderMap)

    GameThreadShaderMap = InMaterialShaderMap;

    TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap> ShaderMap = GameThreadShaderMap;
    TRefCountPtr<FMaterial> Material = this;
    //Pushing settings to the rendering threadShaderMapInstructions.
    ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(SetGameThreadShaderMap)([Material = MoveTemp(Material), ShaderMap = MoveTemp(ShaderMap)](FRHICmdListImmediate& RHICmdList) mutable
    {
        Material->RenderingThreadShaderMap = MoveTemp(ShaderMap);
    });
}

//Setting InlineShaderMap
void FMaterial::SetInlineShaderMap(FMaterialShaderMap* InMaterialShaderMap)

    GameThreadShaderMap = InMaterialShaderMap;
    bContainsInlineShaders = true;
    bLoadedCookedShaderMapId = true;

    TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap> ShaderMap = GameThreadShaderMap;
    TRefCountPtr<FMaterial> Material = this;
    //Pushing settings to the rendering threadShaderMapInstructions. ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(SetInlineShaderMap)([Material = MoveTemp(Material), ShaderMap = MoveTemp(ShaderMap)](FRHICmdListImmediate& RHICmdList) mutable
    {
        Material->RenderingThreadShaderMap = MoveTemp(ShaderMap);
    });
}

```

The above can set FMaterial's RenderingThreadShaderMap to have 3 interfaces, and continue to track which interfaces will call them:

- FMaterial::CacheShaders
  - FMaterial::SetGameThreadShaderMap
- FMaterialShaderMap::LoadForRemoteRecompile
  - FMaterial::SetGameThreadShaderMap
- ProcessSerializedInlineShaderMaps
  - FMaterial::SetInlineShaderMap
- SetShaderMapsOnMaterialResources\_RenderThread

- FMaterial::SetRenderingThreadShaderMap

Although many of the above interfaces will eventually be set to FMaterial's RenderingThreadShaderMap, in most cases, the call stack where the runtime RenderingThreadShaderMap is set as follows:

- UMaterial::PostLoad
  - ProcessSerializedInlineShaderMaps
    - FMaterial::SetInlineShaderMap

Once the RenderingThreadShaderMap of FMaterial is set correctly, many other data related to the material will be freely read by the rendering thread and renderer, just like a fish swimming carefree in the blue sea.

## 9.3.2 Material Compilation

In the previous article Shader system, the Shader compilation process has been explained, but this section describes the process and mechanism of how to convert material blueprints into HLSL code.

In the previous sections, we first understand the main types and concepts involved in the material blueprint compilation process.

### 9.3.2.1 UMaterialExpression

UMaterialExpression is an expression. Each material node UMaterialGraphNode has a UMaterialExpression instance. Its main definition is as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Materials\MaterialExpression.h

class ENGINE_API UMaterialExpression : public UObject {

#if WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA
    int32 MaterialExpressionEditorX;
    int32 MaterialExpressionEditorY;
    //Material nodes.

    UEdGraphNode* GraphNode;
#endif

    // The material it belongs to.
    class UMaterial* Material;
    //The material function it belongs to.
    class UMaterialFunction* Function;

    uint8 bIsParameterExpression:1;

    //Editor data and markup.
#if WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA
    uint32 bIsInput:1;
    TArray<FTslateOutput> Outputs;
    //Expression output. MenuCategories;
#endif

    TArray<FExpressionOutput> Outputs;
#endif
}
```

```

//~ Begin UObject Interface.
virtualvoid PostInitProperties() override;
virtualvoid PostLoad() override;
virtualvoid PostDuplicate(bool bDuplicateForPIE) override; virtualvoid Serialize
(FStructuredArchive::FRecord Record) override; virtualbool IsEditorOnly()const {

    returntrue;
}
//~ End UObject Interface.

#ifndef WITH_EDITOR
//Compile
virtual int32Compile(class FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, int32 OutputIndex) { return INDEX_NONE; }

virtual int32CompilePreview(class FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, int32 OutputIndex) { returnCompile(Compiler,
OutputIndex); }
#endif

//Data acquisition interface.
virtualvoid GetTexturesForceMaterialRecompile(TArray<UTexture *> &Textures)const{ } virtual UObject*
GetReferencedTexture()const{returnnullptr;} virtualbool CanReferenceTexture()const{returnfalse; }

#ifndef WITH_EDITOR
//Get all input expressions.
bool GetAllInputExpressions(TArray<UMaterialExpression*>&
                           InputExpressions);

//Parameter interface.
virtualbool HasAParameterName()const{returnfalse; }
virtualvoid ValidateParameterName(const bool bAllowDuplicateName =true); virtualbool
HasClassAndNameCollision(UMaterialExpression* OtherExpression)const; virtualvoid
SetValueToMatchingExpression(UMaterialExpression* OtherExpression) {} virtual FName GetParameterName()
const{returnNAME_None; } virtualvoid SetParameterName(constFName& Name) {}

(...)

#endif// WITH_EDITOR };

```

There are a lot of subclasses that inherit from UMaterialExpression (about 200), because UE has many built-in material nodes. The following figure shows a small part of the subclasses:

-  MaterialExpressionSmoothStep.h
-  MaterialExpressionSobol.h
-  MaterialExpressionSpec
-  MaterialExpressionSph
-  MaterialExpressionSphericalParticleOpacity.h
-  MaterialExpressionSquareRoot.h
-  MaterialExpressionStaticBool.h
-  MaterialExpressionStaticBoolParameter.h
-  MaterialExpressionStaticComponentMaskParameter.h
-  MaterialExpressionStaticSwitch.h
-  MaterialExpressionStaticSwitchParameter.h
-  MaterialExpressionStep.h
-  MaterialExpressionSubtract.h
-  MaterialExpressionTangent.h
-  MaterialExpressionTangentOutput.h
-  MaterialExpressionTemporalSobol.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureBase.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureCoordinate.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureObject.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureObjectParameter.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureProperty.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureSample.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureSampleParameter.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureSampleParameter2D.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureSampleParameter2DArray.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureSampleParameterCube.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureSampleParameterSubUV.h
-  MaterialExpressionTextureSampleParameterVolume.h
-  MaterialExpressionThinTranslucentMaterialOutput.h
-  MaterialExpressionTime.h
-  MaterialExpressionTransform.h

The following two most commonly used subclasses are selected as cases for analysis:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Materials\MaterialExpressionAdd.h

class UMaterialExpressionAdd : public UMaterialExpression {

    //Addition of two operands.
    FExpressionInput      A;
    FExpressionInput      B;
```

```

//whenAandBAlternative value if
illegal. floaConstA;
float ConstB;

//~ Begin UMaterialExpression Interface
#if WITH_EDITOR
virtual int32 Compile(class FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, int32 OutputIndex) override; virtual void GetCaption
(TArray<FString>& OutCaptions) const override;
virtual FText GetKeywords() const override { return FText::FromString(TEXT("+")); }

#endif // WITH_EDITOR
//~ End UMaterialExpression Interface
};

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\MaterialExpressions.cpp

//Compile an expression.
int32 UMaterialExpressionAdd::Compile(class FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, int32 OutputIndex)

{
    //Takes two operands.
    int32 Arg1 = A.GetTracedInput().Expression ? A.Compile(Compiler) : Compiler-
> Constant(ConstA);
    int32 Arg2 = B.GetTracedInput().Expression ? B.Compile(Compiler) : Compiler-
> Constant(ConstB);

    //Add and return the result.
    return Compiler->Add(Arg1, Arg2);
}

//Get instructions.
void UMaterialExpressionAdd::GetCaption(TArray<FString>& OutCaptions) const {

FString ret = TEXT("Add");

FExpressionInput ATraced = A.GetTracedInput();
FExpressionInput BTraced = B.GetTracedInput(); if(
ATraced.Expression || !BTraced.Expression) {

    ret += TEXT("(");
    ret += ATraced.Expression ? TEXT(",") : FString::Printf(TEXT("% .4g"), ConstA); ret += BTraced.Expression ?
TEXT(")") : FString::Printf(TEXT("% .4g"), ConstB);
}

OutCaptions.Add(ret);
}

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Materials\MaterialExpressionDDX.h

class UMaterialExpressionDDX : public UMaterialExpression {

FExpressionInput Value;

//~ Begin UMaterialExpression Interface
#if WITH_EDITOR
virtual int32 Compile(class FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, int32 OutputIndex) override; virtual void GetCaption
(TArray<FString>& OutCaptions) const override;
#endif
}

```

```

//~ End UMaterialExpression Interface
};

int32 UMaterialExpressionDDX::Compile(class FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, int32 OutputIndex)

{
    int32 ValueInput = INDEX_NONE;

    if(Value.GetTracedInput().Expression) {

        ValueInput = Value.Compile(Compiler);
    }

    if(ValueInput == INDEX_NONE) {

        return INDEX_NONE;
    }

    return Compiler->DDX(ValueInput);
}

void UMaterialExpressionDDX::GetCaption(TArray<FString>& OutCaptions) const {
    OutCaptions.Add(FString(TEXT("DDX")));
}

```

The above two types call the compiler's Add and DDX when compiling. Now let's go into the implementation of these two interfaces of FMaterialCompiler (an abstract class implemented by the subclass FHLSLMaterialTranslator):

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\HLSLMaterialTranslator.cpp

int32 FHLSLMaterialTranslator::Add(int32 A,int32 B) {

    if(A == INDEX_NONE || B == INDEX_NONE) {

        return INDEX_NONE;
    }

    const uint64 Hash = CityHash128to64({ GetParameterHash(A), GetParameterHash(B)}); if
    (GetParameterUniformExpression(A) && GetParameterUniformExpression(B)) {

        return AddUniformExpressionWithHash(Hash, new
        FMaterialUniformExpressionFoldedMath(GetParameterUniformExpression(A),GetParameterUniform
        Expression(B),FMO_Add),GetArithmeticResultType(A,B),TEXT("(%s + %s)"),*GetParameterCode(A),*GetParameterCode(B));

    }
    else
    {
        return AddCodeChunkWithHash(Hash, GetArithmeticResultType(A,B),TEXT("(%s + %s)")
        ,*GetParameterCode(A),*GetParameterCode(B));
    }
}

int32 FHLSLMaterialTranslator::DDX( int32 X ) {

```

```

if(X == INDEX_NONE) {

    return INDEX_NONE;
}

if(ShaderFrequency == SF_Compute)
{
    // running a material in a compute shader pass (eg when using SVOGI) return
    AddInlinedCodeChunk(MCT_Float, TEXT("0"));

}

if(ShaderFrequency != SF_Pixel) {

    return NonPixelShaderExpressionError();
}

return AddCodeChunk(GetParameterType(X),TEXT("DDX(%s)"),*GetParameterCode(X));
}

```

Therefore, the compilation of material expressions is actually the serialization of parameters and corresponding functions into HLSL fragments.

### 9.3.2.2 UMaterialGraphNode

UMaterialGraphNode is the material node we created in the material editor. The inherited parent classes are UMaterialGraphNode\_Base and UEDGraphNode. Their definitions are as follows:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\EdGraph\EdGraphNode.h

class ENGINE_API UEdGraphNode : public UObject {

public:
    //Pinout
    TArray<UEdGraphPin*> Pins;

    int32 NodePosX;
    int32 NodePosY;
    int32 NodeWidth;
    int32 NodeHeight;

    TEnumAsByte<ENodeAdvancedPins::Type> AdvancedPinDisplay;

private:
    //Status and tags.
    ENodeEnabledState EnabledState;
    ESaveOrphanPinMode OrphanedPinSaveMode;
    uint8 bDisableOrphanPinSaving:1;
    uint8 bDisplayAsDisabled:1;
    uint8 bUserSetEnabledState:1;
    uint8 bIsIntermediateNode :1; uint8
    bHasCompilerMessage:1;

    //Interface.
    virtual bool IsInDevelopmentMode() const; bool
        IsAutomaticallyPlacedGhostNode() const;
    void MakeAutomaticallyPlacedGhostNode();
}

```

```

virtualvoid Serialize(FArchive& Ar) override;

};

// Engine\Source\Editor\UnrealEd\Classes\MaterialGraph\MaterialGraphNode_Base.h

class UMaterialGraphNode_Base: public UEdGraphNode {

    // Pininterface.
    virtualvoid CreateInputPins() {}; virtualvoid CreateOutputPins() {}; virtual
    bool IsRootNode()const{return false;} class UEdGraphPin*GetInputPin
    (int32 InputIndex)const;

    UNREALED_APIvoid GetInputPins(TArray<class UEdGraphPin*>& OutInputPins)const; class UEdGraphPin*
    GetOutputPin(int32 OutputIndex)const;
    UNREALED_APIvoid GetOutputPins(TArray<class UEdGraphPin*>& OutOutputPins)const; UNREALED_APIvoid
    ReplaceNode(UMaterialGraphNode_Base* OldNode);

    //Input interface.
    virtual int32GetInputIndex(constUEdGraphPin* InputPin)const{return -1;} virtual uint32GetInputType(
    constUEdGraphPin* InputPin)const;
    void InsertNewNode(UEdGraphPin* FromPin, UEdGraphPin* NewLinkPin, TSet<UEdGraphNode*>& OutNodeList);

    //~ Begin UEdGraphNode Interface. virtualvoid
    AllocateDefaultPins() override; virtualvoid ReconstructNode
    () override;
    virtualvoid RemovePinAt(constint32 PinIndex,constEEdGraphPinDirection PinDirection) override;

    virtualvoid AutowireNewNode(UEdGraphPin* FromPin) override;
    virtualbool CanCreateUnderSpecifiedSchema(constUEdGraphSchema* Schema)const override;

    virtual FStringGetDocumentationLink()constoverride; //~ End
    UEdGraphNode Interface.

protected:
    void ModifyAndCopyPersistentPinData(UEdGraphPin& TargetPin,constUEdGraphPin& SourcePin)const;

};

// Engine\Source\Editor\UnrealEd\Classes\MaterialGraph\MaterialGraphNode.h

class UMaterialGraphNode: public UMaterialGraphNode_Base {

    //Material Expression.
    class UMaterialExpression*MaterialExpression;

    bool bPreviewNeedsUpdate;
    bool bIsErrorExpression;
    bool bIsPreviewExpression;

    FRealtimeStateGetter RealtimeDelegate; FSetMaterialDirty
    MaterialDirtyDelegate; FSimpleDelegate
    InvalidatePreviewMaterialDelegate;

public:
    UNREALED_APIvoid PostCopyNode();
}

```

```

UNREALED_API FMaterialRenderProxy* GetExpressionPreview(); void
UNREALED_API RecreateAndLinkNode();
UNREALED_API int32 GetOutputIndex(const UEdGraphPin* OutputPin); uint32
GetOutputType(const UEdGraphPin* OutputPin);

//~ Begin UObject Interface
virtual void PostEditChangeProperty(FPropertyChangedEvent& PropertyChangedEvent) override;

virtual void PostEditImport() override;
virtual void PostDuplicate(bool bDuplicateForPIE) override; //~ End UObject
Interface

//~ Begin UMaterialGraphNode_Base Interface virtual void
CreateInputPins() override; virtual void CreateOutputPins()
override;
virtual UNREALED_API int32 GetInputIndex(const UEdGraphPin* InputPin) const override; virtual uint32 GetInputType(
const UEdGraphPin* InputPin) const override; //~ End UMaterialGraphNode_Base Interface

(.....)
};

```

The material node contains the information of the graphical interface and the corresponding expression, adopting the classic design mode of separating view and data.

### 9.3.2.3 UMaterialGraph

UMaterialGraph is a member of UMaterial, which is used to store material nodes and parameters generated by the editor. It and related types are defined as follows:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\EdGraph\EdGraph.h

class ENGINE_API UEdGraph : public UObject {

public:
    //Graphic style.
    TSubclassOf<class UEdGraphSchema> Schema; // Graphics node.
    TArray<class UEdGraphNode*> Nodes;

    uint32 bEditable:1;
    uint32 bAllowDeletion:1;
    uint32 bAllowRenaming:1;

    (.....)

public:
    FDelegateHandle AddOnGraphChangedHandler(const FOnGraphChanged::FDelegate& InHandler
);
    void RemoveOnGraphChangedHandler( FDelegateHandle Handle ); //~ Begin
UObject interface
    virtual void BuildSubobjectMapping(UObject* OtherObject, TMap<UObject*, UObject*>& ObjectMapping) const
override;

    //Node operations.
    template <typename NodeClass>

```

```

NodeClass*CreateIntermediateNode();
void AddNode( UEdGraphNode* NodeToAdd,bool bUserAction =false,bool bSelectNewNode = ) ;
true
bool RemoveNode( UEdGraphNode* NodeToRemove,bool bBreakAllLinks=true);

(.....)

protected:
//Create a node.
UEdGraphNode*CreateNode(TSubclassOf<UEdGraphNode> NewNodeClass,bool bFromUI,bool bSelectNewNode );

UEdGraphNode*CreateNode(TSubclassOf<UEdGraphNode> NewNodeClass,bool bSelectNewNode = true)

UEdGraphNode*CreateUserInvokedNode(TSubclassOf<UEdGraphNode> NewNodeClass,bool bSelectNewNode =true)
bSelectNewNode =true)

private:
FOnGraphChanged OnGraphChanged;
};

// Engine\Source\Editor\UnrealEd\Classes\MaterialGraph\MaterialGraph.h

class UNREALED_API UMaterialGraph: public UEdGraph {

//The corresponding material instance.
class UMaterial* Material;
//Material functions.
class UMaterialFunction* //Root
node. MaterialFunction;
class UMaterialGraphNode_Root*
RootNode;

//List of material inputs.
TArray<FMaterialInputInfo> MaterialInputs;

//Delegation.
FRealtimeStateGetter RealtimeDelegate; FSetMaterialDirty
MaterialDirtyDelegate; FToggleExpressionCollapsed
ToggleCollapsedDelegate;

public:
//Rebuild the material graph.
void RebuildGraph();

//Adds an expression to the material graph.
class UMaterialGraphNode* AddExpression(UMaterialExpression* Expression,
bool bUserInvoked);
class UMaterialGraphNode_Comment* bool AddComment(UMaterialExpressionComment* Comment,
bIsUserInvoked =false);

//Connect all nodes.
void LinkGraphNodesFromMaterial();
void LinkMaterialExpressionsFromGraph() const;

(.....)
};

```

### 9.3.2.4 FHLSLMaterialTranslator

FHLSLMaterialTranslator inherits from FMaterialCompiler and its function is to translate the material expression into HLSL code and fill it into the macros and empty code segments of MaterialTemplate.ush. Their definitions are as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Public\MaterialCompiler.h

class FMaterialCompiler {

public:
    virtual ~FMaterialCompiler() {} //Material
    property interface.
    virtual void SetMaterialProperty(EMaterialProperty InProperty, EShaderFrequency OverrideShaderFrequency =
SF_NumFrequencies, bool bUsePreviousFrameTime =false) =0;
    virtual void PushMaterialAttribute(const FGuid& InAttributeID) =0; virtual FGuid
    PopMaterialAttribute() =0; virtual const FGuid GetMaterialAttribute() =0;

    virtual void SetBaseMaterialAttribute(const FGuid& InAttributeID) =0; virtual void PushParameterOwner(
    const FMaterialParameterInfo& InOwnerInfo) =0; virtual FMaterialParameterInfo PopParameterOwner() =0;

    //Calls a material expression.
    virtual int32 CallExpression(FMaterialExpressionKey ExpressionKey, FMaterialCompiler* InCompiler) =0;

    //Platform and shading model dependent.
    virtual EShaderFrequency GetCurrentShaderFrequency() const=0;
    virtual EMaterialCompilerType GetCompilerType() const; inline bool
    IsVertexInterpolatorBypass() const; virtual EMaterialValueType GetType(int32 Code) =0;
    virtual EMaterialQualityLevel::Type GetQualityLevel() =0; virtual
    ERHIFeatureLevel::Type GetFeatureLevel() =0; virtual EShaderPlatform
    GetShaderPlatform() =0;

    virtual const ITargetPlatform* GetTargetPlatform() const=0; virtual FMaterialShadingModelField
    GetMaterialShadingModels() const=0;

    (.....)

    //The interface corresponding to the material expression.

    virtual int32 AccessCollectionParameter(UMaterialParameterCollection* ParameterCollection,
int32 ParameterIndex, int32 ComponentIndex) =0;
    virtual int32 ScalarParameter(FName ParameterName, float DefaultValue) =0; virtual int32 VectorParameter(FName
ParameterName, const FLinearColor& DefaultValue) =
0;
    virtual int32 Constant(float X) =0; virtual int32 Constant2(float X,
float Y) =0; virtual int32 Sine(int32 X) =0; virtual int32 Cosine
(int32 X) =0; virtual int32 Tangent(int32 X) =0; virtual int32
ReflectionVector() =0;

    virtual int32 If(int32 A, int32 B, int32 AGreaterThanB, int32 AEqualsB, int32 ALessThanB, int32
Threshold) =0;
    virtual int32 VertexInterpolator(uint32 InterpolatorIndex) =0;

    virtual int32 Add(int32 A, int32 B) =0; virtual int32 Sub
(int32 A, int32 B) =0;
```

```

virtual int32Mul(int32 A,int32 B) =0; virtual int32Div
(int32 A,int32 B) =0; virtual int32Dot(int32 A,int32 B) =0;
virtual int32Cross(int32 A,int32 B) =0;

virtual int32DDX(int32 X) =0; virtual int32
DDY(int32 X) =0;

(...)

};

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\HLSLMaterialTranslator.h

class HLSLMaterialTranslator: public FMaterialCompiler {

protected:

    //Compiled materials.
    FMaterial* Material;
    //The compiled output will be stored inDDC.
    FMaterialCompilationOutput& MaterialCompilationOutput;

    //The resource string.
    FString ResourcesString;
    // MaterialTemplate.usfThe string content.
    FString MaterialTemplate;

    //Platform dependent.
    EShaderFrequency    ShaderFrequency;
    EShaderPlatform     Platform;
    EMaterialQualityLevel::Type ERHIFeatuQreulAelivtyeLl:e:Tvyep;e FeatureLevel;
    FMaterialShadingModelField ShadingModelsFromCompilation; const
    ITargetPlatform* TargetPlatform;

    //Compiled intermediate data.
    EMaterialProperty MaterialProperty; TArray<FGuid> MaterialAttributesStack;
    TArray<FMaterialParameterInfo> ParameterOwnerStack; TArray<FShaderCodeChunk>*>
    CurrentScopeChunks; boolSharedPixelProperties[CompiledMP_MAX];
    TArray<FMaterialFunctionCompileState*> FunctionStacks[SF_NumFrequencies];
    FStaticParameterSet StaticParameters;

    TArray<FShaderCodeChunk> TArraSyh< aFrSehdaPdroeprCeortdyeCCohduenCkh>u nks[SF_NumFrequencies];
    TArray<TRefCountPtr<FMaterialUnUifnoifromrEmxExpxrpersessiosnio>n s;
    TArray<TRefCountPtr<FMaterialUniformExpression> >UniformVectorExpressions;
    TArray<TRefCountPtr<FMaterialUniformExpressionTexture> >UniformScalarExpressions;
    UniformTextureExpressions[NumMaterialTextureParameterTypes]; >

    TArray<TRefCountPtr<FMaterialUniformExpressionExternalTexture>>
    UniformExternalTextureExpressions;

    TArray<UMaterialParameterCollection*> ParameterCollections;
    TArray<FMaterialCustomExpressionEntry> TArray<FSCtruiinsgto>m Expressions;
    CustomOutputImplementations;
    TArray<UMaterialExpressionVertexInterpolator*> CustomVertexInterpolators;

    //Vertex Factory stack entry.

```

```

TArray<FMaterialVTStackEntry> VTStacks;
FHashTable VTStackHash;

TBitArray<> AllocatedUserTexCoords;
TBitArray<> AllocatedUserVertexTexCoords;

(....)

public:
    //implementHSLTranslate.
    bool Translate();
    //Get the material environment.
    void GetMaterialEnvironment(EShaderPlatform InPlatform, FShaderCompilerEnvironment& OutEnvironment);

    void GetSharedInputsMaterialCode(FString& PixelMembersDeclaration, FString& NormalAssignment,
FString& PixelMembersInitializationEpilog);
    //Get the material shader code.
    FString GetMaterialShaderCode();

protected:
    //Get all definitions.
    FString GetDefinitions(TArray<FShaderCodeChunk>& CodeChunks, int32 StartChunk, int32 EndChunk) const;

    //Code blocks.
    int32 AddCodeChunkInner(uint64 Hash, const TCHAR* FormattedCode, EMaterialValueType Type, bool bInlined);

    int32 AddCodeChunk(EMaterialValueType Type, const TCHAR* Format, ...); int32 AddCodeChunkWithHash(uint64
BaseHash, EMaterialValueType Type, const TCHAR* Format, ...);

    int32 AddInlinedCodeChunk(EMaterialValueType Type, const TCHAR* Format, ...); int32
AddInlinedCodeChunkWithHash(uint64 BaseHash, EMaterialValueType Type, const TCHAR* Format, ...);

    int32 AddUniformExpressionInner(uint64 Hash, FMaterialUniformExpression* UniformExpression,
EMaterialValueType Type, const TCHAR* FormattedCode);
    int32 AddUniformExpression(FMaterialUniformExpression* UniformExpression, EMaterialValueType
Type, const TCHAR* Format, ...);
    int32 AddUniformExpressionWithHash(uint64 BaseHash, FMaterialUniformExpression* UniformExpression,
EMaterialValueType Type, const TCHAR* Format, ...);

    //Material Expression.
    virtual int32 Sine(int32 X) override; virtual int32 Cosine(int32 X)
override; virtual int32 Tangent(int32 X) override; virtual int32
Arcsine(int32 X) override; virtual int32 ArcsineFast(int32 X)
override; virtual int32 Arccosine(int32 X) override; virtual int32
Floor(int32 X) override; virtual int32 Ceil(int32 X) override;
virtual int32 Round(int32 X) override; virtual int32 Truncate
(int32 X) override; virtual int32 Sign(int32 X) override; virtual
int32 Frac(int32 X) override; virtual int32 Fmod(int32 A, int32 B)
override;

```

(.....)

`FHLSLMaterialTranslator` implements all abstract interfaces of `FMaterialCompiler`. Its core members and interfaces are as follows:

- FMaterial\* Material: The target material to compile.
  - FMaterialCompilationOutput & MaterialCompilationOutput: The compiled result. FString
  - MaterialTemplate: The MaterialTemplate.ush string to be filled or after being filled. Translate():
  - Perform HLSL translation, translate the expression into a code block and save it in the corresponding attribute slot.
  - GetMaterialShaderCode(): Fills the material's macros, properties, expressions and other data into MaterialTemplate.ush and returns the result.

There is a section later that specifically explains the translation process of FHLSTMaterialTranslator.

In addition, FMaterialCompiler also has a subclass FProxyMaterialCompiler, which is used for Lightmass renderer and material baking.

### 9.3.2.5 MaterialTemplate.usf

MaterialTemplate.usf is a material shader template, which contains a lot of %s vacancies and macros to be replaced, which are filled by FHLSLMaterialTranslator::GetMaterialShaderCode. Some of its original codes are as follows:

```

#define PPI_Opacity    10
e      PPI_Roughness   11
#define PPI_MaterialAO 12
e      PPI_CustomDepth 13
#define
e
#define ///////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
e
//Macros definitions to be filled.

#define NUM_MATERIAL_TEXCOORDS_VERTEX    %s
#define NUM_MATERIAL_TEXCOORDS %s
#define NUM_CUSTOM_VERTEX_INTERPOLATORS   %s
#define NUM_TEX_COORD_INTERPOLATORS %s

// Vertex interpolation position definitions.

%s

//File references and macro definitions.

#include"/Engine/Private/PaniniProjection.ush"

#ifndef USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION
#if USE_INSTANCING
#ifndef USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION_FOR_INSTANCE
#error"USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION_FOR_INSTANCE should have been defined"
#endif
#define USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION_FOR_INSTANCE
#else
#ifndef USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION_FROM_MATERIAL
#error"USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION_FROM_MATERIAL should have been defined"
#endif
#define USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION USE_DITHERED_LOD_TRANSITION_FROM_MATERIAL
#endif
#endif

#ifndef USE_STENCIL_LOD_DITHER
#define USE_STENCIL_LOD_DITHER           USE_STENCIL_LOD_DITHER_DEFAULT
#endif

#define MATERIALBLENDING_ANY_TRANSLUCENT (MATERIALBLENDING_TRANSLUCENT || MATERIALBLENDING_ADDITIVE || MATERIALBLENDING_MODULATE)

(.....)

//Various structures of materials.
struct FMaterialAttributes {

%s
};

struct FPixelMaterialInputs {

%s
};

//Pixel parameters.
struct FMaterialPixelParameters {

```

```

#ifndef NUM_TEX_COORD_INTERPOLATORS
    float2 TexCoords[NUM_TEX_COORD_INTERPOLATORS];
#endif

half4 VertexColor;
half3 WorldNormal;
half3 WorldTangent;
half3 ReflectionVector;
half3 CameraVector;
half3 LightVector;
float4 SvPosition;
float4 ScreenPosition;
half UnMirrored;
half TwoSidedSign;
half3x3 TangentToWorld;

#if USE_WORLDVERTEXNORMAL_CENTER_INTERPOLATION
    half3 WorldVertexNormal_Center;
#endif

float3 AbsoluteWorldPosition;
float3 WorldPosition_CamRelative;
float3 WorldPosition_NoOffsets;
float3 WorldPosition_NoOffsets_CamRelative;
half3 LightingPositionOffset;
float AOMaterialMask;

#if LIGHTMAP_UV_ACCESS
    float2 LightmapUVs;
#endif

#if USE_INSTANCING
    half4 PerInstanceParams;
#endif

uint PrimitiveId;

#if TEX_COORD_SCALE_ANALYSIS
    FTexCoordScalesParams TexCoordScalesParams;
#endif

(...)

};

//Vertex parameters.
struct FMaterialVertexParameters {

    float3 WorldPosition;
    half3x3 TangentToWorld;
#if USE_INSTANCING
    float4x4 InstanceLocalToWorld;
    float3 InstanceLocalPosition;
    float4 PerInstanceParams;
    uint InstanceId;
    uint InstanceOffset;
#endif

#if IS_MESH_PARTICLE_FACTORY
    float4x4 InstanceLocalToWorld;

```

```

#endiff
    float4x4 PrevFrameLocalToWorld;

    float3 PreSkinnedPosition;
    float3 PreSkinnedNormal;

#ifndef GPU_SKINNED_MESH_FACTORY
    float3 PreSkinOffset;
    float3 PostSkinOffset;
#endiff

half4VertexColor;
#ifndef NUM_MATERIAL_TEXCOORDS_VERTEX
    float2 TexCoords[getNumMaterialTexcoordsVertex];
#ifndef ES3_1_PROFILE
    float2 TexCoordOffset;
#endiff
#endiff

FMaterialParticleParameters Particle; uint
PrimitiveId;

(...)

};

//Data operation interface.
MaterialFloat3x3 GetLocalToWorld3x3(uint      PrimitiveId);
MaterialFloat3x3 GetLocalToWorld3x3();
float3 GetObjectWorldPosition(FMaterialPixelParameters      Parameters);
float3 GetObjectWorldPosition(FMaterialTessellationParameters Parameters);
(...)

//Material expression interface.
float MaterialExpressionDepthOfFieldFunction(float SceneDepth,int FunctionValueIndex); float2
    MaterialExpressionGetAtlasUVs(FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters);
float4 MaterialExpressionGetHairAuxiliaryData(FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters);
float3 MaterialExpressionGetHairColorFromMelanin(float Melanin,float Redness, float3 DyeColor);

(...)

//Material property lookup.
MaterialFloat4 ProcessMaterialColorTextureLookup(MaterialFloat4 TextureValue);
MaterialFloat4 ProcessMaterialVirtualColorTextureLookup(MaterialFloat4 TextureValue);
MaterialFloat4 ProcessMaterialExternalTextureLookup(MaterialFloat4 TextureValue);
MaterialFloat4 ProcessMaterialLinearColorTextureLookup(MaterialFloat4 TextureValue);
MaterialFloat   ProcessMaterialGreyscaleTextureLookup(MaterialFloat TextureValue);
(...)

// Unity material expressions.
%$s

//Material property acquisition interface.
half3 GetMaterialNormalRaw(FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);
half3 GetMaterialNormal(FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters, FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);

half3 GetMaterialTangentRaw(FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs); GetMaterialTangent
half3 (FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs); GetMaterialEmissiveRaw
half3 (FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);

```

```

half3 GetMaterialEmissive(FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);
half3 GetMaterialEmissiveForCS(FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters);
{ %s;
}
uint
half3 GetMaterialShadingModel(FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);
half3 GetMaterialBaseColorRaw(FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);
half GetMaterialBaseColor(FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);
{ %s; GetMaterialCustomData0(FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters)
}
half
{ %s;
} GetMaterialCustomData1(FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters)
half
half
half2
(.....) GetMaterialAmbientOcclusionRaw(FPixelMaterialInputs GetMaterialAmbientOcclusionRawInputs);
(FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);
GetMaterialRefraction(FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs);

//Calculate material parameters interface.
void CalcMaterialParametersEx(
    in out FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters, in out
    FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs, float4
        SvPosition,
    float4 ScreenPosition,
    FlsFrontFace blsFrontFace,
    float3 TranslatedWorldPosition,
    float3 TranslatedWorldPositionExcludingShaderOffsets);
void CalcMaterialParameters(
    in out FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters, in out
    FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs, float4 SvPosition,
    FlsFrontFace blsFrontFace);
void CalcMaterialParametersPost(
    in out FMaterialPixelParameters Parameters, in out
    FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs, float4 SvPosition,
    FlsFrontFace blsFrontFace);
float ApplyPixelDepthOffsetToMaterialParameters(inout FMaterialPixelParameters
    MaterialParameters, FPixelMaterialInputs PixelMaterialInputs, out float OutDepth);
(.....)

```

As can be seen above, `MaterialTemplate.ush` contains a lot of data and interfaces, mainly in several categories:

- Base shader module reference.
- Macro definition to be filled.
- The interface implementation to be populated.
- Structure definitions for vertices, pixels, material properties, etc. Some structures need to be filled.

- Material properties, data processing, expressions, and tool interface definitions. Some interfaces are yet to be filled.

### 9.3.2.6 Material compilation process

The above sections analyze in detail the core types involved in material compilation. This section will directly analyze the process of compiling material blueprints into HLSL code.

The compilation entry of the material ShaderMap is in the following two interfaces of FMaterial:

- FMaterial::BeginCompileShaderMap
- FMaterial::GetMaterialExpressionSource

However, BeginCompileShaderMap is in the main process and has stronger applicability. Let's take it as a starting point to analyze the compilation process of the material blueprint:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\MaterialShared.cpp

bool FMaterial::BeginCompileShaderMap(const FMaterialShaderMapId& ShaderMapId, const FStaticParameterSet
&StaticParameterSet,
EShaderPlatform Platform, TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap>& OutShaderMap, const ITargetPlatform*
TargetPlatform) {

    //Note that this is only executed while in the editor.
#if WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA
    bSuccess = false; //New shader
    map.
    TRefCountPtr<FMaterialShaderMap> NewShaderMap = new FMaterialShaderMap();

#if WITH_EDITOR
    NewShaderMap->AssociateWithAsset(GetAssetPath());
#endif
}

// Generate Material's shader code.
// Output the results.
FMaterialCompilationOutput // NewCompilationOutput;
Converter.
FHLSLMaterialTranslator MaterialTranslator(this,           NewCompilationOutput,
StaticParameterSet, Platform, GetQualityLevel(), ShaderMapId.FeatureLevel, TargetPlatform);
//Perform expression conversion, fill inMaterialTemplate.ush.
bSuccess = MaterialTranslator.Translate();

//Subsequent operations need to be performed only if the expression conversion is successful.
if(bSuccess)
{
    //Create a shader compilation environment for the material. All compilation jobs will share this
    material. TRefCountPtr<FShaderCompilerEnvironment> MaterialEnvironment = new
    FShaderCompilerEnvironment();
    MaterialEnvironment->TargetPlatform = TargetPlatform; //Get the material
    environment.
    MaterialTranslator.GetMaterialEnvironment(Platform, *MaterialEnvironment); //Get Material shader
    Code.
    const FString MaterialShaderCode = MaterialTranslator.GetMaterialShaderCode();

    const bool bSynchronousCompile = RequiresSynchronousCompilation() ||
}
```

```

!GShaderCompilingManager->AllowAsynchronousShaderCompiling();

//Contains virtual texture file paths.
MaterialEnvironment-
>IncludeVirtualPathToContentsMap.Add(TEXT("/Engine/Generated/Material.ush"),
MaterialShaderCode);

//Compiling MaterialsshaderCode.
NewShaderMap->Compile(this, ShaderMapId, MaterialEnvironment,
NewCompilationOutput, Platform, bSynchronousCompile);

if(bSynchronousCompile)//Synchronous compilation {

    //Synchronous mode, directly assign toOutShaderMap.
    OutShaderMap = NewShaderMap->CompiledSuccessfully() ? NewShaderMap : nullptr;
}

else//Asynchronous compilation

{
    //FirstNewShaderMapPut it in the list waiting for compilation to end.
    OutstandingCompileShaderMapIds.AddUnique( NewShaderMap->GetCompilingId() ); //Asynchronous mode,
    OutShaderMapFirst set tonull,Will fall back to the default material. OutShaderMap = nullptr;

}

returnbSuccess;
#else
    UE_LOG(LogMaterial, Fatal, TEXT("Not supported."));
    returnfalse;
#endif
}

```

The above interface is divided into several steps: initialize data and create a new compilation object, execute material blueprint translation, if the translation is successful, create a material shader compilation environment, and then compile the translated material blueprint shader code. Finally, it will be divided into different returns based on whether it is asynchronous. If it is synchronous, it will be returned directly. If it is asynchronous, it will be put into the list OutstandingCompileShaderMapIds waiting for the compilation to end.

The logical stack chain for handling OutstandingCompileShaderMapIds is as follows:

- UMaterial::Serialize
  - SerializeInlineShaderMaps
    - FMaterial::SerializeInlineShaderMap
      - FMaterial::FinishCompilation
        - FMaterial::GetShaderMapIDsWithUnfinishedCompilation

The code of FMaterial::GetShaderMapIDsWithUnfinishedCompilation is as follows:

```

void FMaterial::GetShaderMapIDsWithUnfinishedCompilation(TArray<int32>& ShaderMapIds) {

    //Add uncompiledShaderMapIdTo the list. (First detectGameThreadShaderMap,Retest
    OutstandingCompileShaderMapIds)
}

```

```

if(GameThreadShaderMap && !GameThreadShaderMap->IsCompilationFinalized()) {

    ShaderMapIds.Add(GameThreadShaderMap->GetCompilingId());
}

else if(OutstandingCompileShaderMapIds.Num() !=0) {

    ShaderMapIds.Append(OutstandingCompileShaderMapIds);
}

}

```

FMaterial::BeginCompileShaderMap also has several important interfaces of FHLSLMaterialTranslator that are not resolved. Let's cover them all:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\HLSLMaterialTranslator.cpp

bool FHLSLMaterialTranslator::Translate() {

    bSuccess =true;

    //The compiled output needs to be saved toMaterialCompilationOutput,It can be automatically saved toDDC.

    Material->CompileErrors.Empty(); Material->ErrorExpressions.Empty();
    bCompileForComputeShader = Material->IsLightFunction(); int32
    NormalCodeChunkEnd =-1; int32 Chunk[CompiledMP_MAX];

    ...

    memset(Chunk, INDEX_NONE,sizeof(Chunk));

    //Translate all custom vertex interpolators before accessing primary attributes so that type information is available. {

        CustomVertexInterpolators.Empty();
        CurrentCustomVertexInterpolatorOffset      =0;
        NextVertexInterpolatorIndex      =0;
        MaterialProperty      = MP_MAX;
        ShaderFrequency      = SF_Vertex;

        TArray<UMaterialExpression*> Expressions; Material-
        >GatherExpressionsForCustomInterpolators(Expressions);
        GatherCustomVertexInterpolators(Expressions);

        //Resets the shared stack data.
        while(FunctionStacks[SF_Vertex].Num() >1) {

            FMaterialFunctionCompileState* Stack = FunctionStacks[SF_Vertex].Pop(false); delete Stack;

        }
        FunctionStacks[SF_Vertex][0]->Reset();

        //When expression lists are available, node count limits are applied.
        int32 NumMaterialLayersAttributes =0;
        for(UMaterialExpression* Expression : Expressions) {

            if(UMaterialExpressionMaterialAttributeLayers* Layers =
            Cast<UMaterialExpressionMaterialAttributeLayers>(Expression))
            {

```

```

+ + NumMaterialLayersAttributes;

if(NumMaterialLayersAttributes >1) {

    Errorf(TEXT("Materials can contain only one Material Attribute Layers
node."));

    break;
}
}

const EShaderFrequency NormalShaderFrequency =
FMaterialAttributeDefinitionMap::GetShaderFrequency(MP_Normal);
const EMaterialDomain Domain = Material->GetMaterialDomain(); const
EBlendMode BlendMode = Material->GetBlendMode();

//Collects implementations of any custom output expressions.
TArray<UMaterialExpressionCustomOutput*> CustomOutputExpressions; Material-
>GatherCustomOutputExpressions(CustomOutputExpressions); TSet<UClass*>
SeenCustomOutputExpressionsClasses;

//Some custom outputs must be pre-compiled so that they can be reused as shared inputs.
CompileCustomOutputs(CustomOutputExpressions, SeenCustomOutputExpressionsClasses, true);

//Normals are compiled first.
{
    Chunk[MP_Normal]      = Material->CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_Normal,
this);
    NormalCodeChunkEnd    = SharedPropertyCodeChunks[NormalShaderFrequency].Num();
}

(.....)

//The remaining material properties.
Chunk[MP_EmissiveColor]           =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_EmissiveColor)           , this);
Chunk[MP_DiffuseColor]            =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_DiffuseColor)            , this);
Chunk[MP_SpecularColor]           =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_SpecularColor)           , this);
Chunk[MP_BaseColor]               =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_BaseColor)               , this);
Chunk[MP_Metallic]                =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_Metallic)                , this);
Chunk[MP_Specular]                 =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_Specular)                 , this);
Chunk[MP_Roughness]                =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_Roughness)                , this);
Chunk[MP_Anisotropy]               =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_Anisotropy)               , this);
Chunk[MP_Opacity]                  =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_Opacity)                  , this);
Chunk[MP_OpacityMask]              =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_OpacityMask)              , this);
Chunk[MP_Tangent]                  =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_Tangent)                  , this);

```

```

    Chunk[MP_WorldPositionOffset] =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_WorldPositionOffset , this);
Chunk[MP_WorldDisplacement] =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_WorldDisplacement , this);
Chunk[MP_TessellationMultiplier] =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_TessellationMultiplier , this);

//deal with shading model.
    Chunk[MP_ShadingModel] =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_ShadingModel FMaterialShadingModelField this);
    MaterialShadingModels = Material->GetShadingModels(); if(Material-
    >IsShadingModelFromMaterialExpression() && ShadingModelsFromCompilation.IsValid())

{
    MaterialShadingModels = ShadingModelsFromCompilation;
}
ValidateShadingModelsForFeatureLevel(MaterialShadingModels);

(.....)

//Self-defined data.
    Chunk[MP_CustomData0] =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_CustomData0 , this);
Chunk[MP_CustomData1] =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_CustomData1 , this);
Chunk[MP_AmbientOcclusion] =Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_AmbientOcclusion if , this);
    (IsTranslucentBlendMode(BlendMode) || MaterialShadingModels.HasShadingModel(MSM_SingleLayerWater))
    {
        int32 UserRefraction = ForceCast(Material-
> CompilePropertyAndSetMaterialProperty(MP_Refraction, this), int32 MCT_Float1);
        RefractionDepthBias =
ForceCast(ScalarParameter(FName(TEXT("RefractionDepthBias"))), Material-
> GetRefractionDepthBiasValue(), MCT_Float1);

        Chunk[MP_Refraction] = AppendVector(UserRefraction, RefractionDepthBias);
    }
(.....)

ResourcesString = TEXT("");


(.....)

//Code block generation completed.
bAllowCodeChunkGeneration =false;

//Handles various flags for compilation and materials.
bUsesEmissiveColor = IsMaterialPropertyUsed(MP_EmissiveColor, Chunk[MP_EmissiveColor], FLinearColor(0,0,0,0),3);

bUsesPixelDepthOffset = (AllowPixelDepthOffset(Platform) && IsMaterialPropertyUsed(MP_PixelDepthOffset,
Chunk[MP_PixelDepthOffset], FLinearColor(0,0,0,0),1))

|| (Domain == MD_DeferredDecal && Material->GetDecalBlendMode() ==
DBM_Volumetric_DistanceFunction);

bool bUsesWorldPositionOffsetCurrent = IsMaterialPropertyUsed(MP_WorldPositionOffset,
Chunk[MP_WorldPositionOffset], FLinearColor(0,0,0,0),3);

```

```

bool bUsesWorldPositionOffsetPrevious = IsMaterialPropertyUsed(MP_WorldPositionOffset,
Chunk[CompiledMP_PrevWorldPositionOffset], FLinearColor(0,0,0,3);
bUsesWorldPositionOffset = bUsesWorldPositionOffsetCurrent ||
bUsesWorldPositionOffsetPrevious;
MaterialCompilationOutput.bModifiesMeshPosition = bUsesPixelDepthOffset ||
bUsesWorldPositionOffset;
MaterialCompilationOutput.bUsesWorldPositionOffset MaterialComp=il abtUiosneOsWutopruldt.PboUssietisoPniOxeffIDsetp; thO
bIsFullyRough = Chunk[MP_Roughness] != INDEX_NONE && IsMaterialPropertyUsed(Chunk[MP_Roughness], FLinearColor(1,0,0,0),1) == false;

bUsesAnisotropy = IsMaterialPropertyUsed(MP_Anisotropy, Chunk[MP_Anisotropy], FLinearColor(0,0,0,0
),1);
MaterialCompilationOutput.bUsesAnisotropy = bUsesAnisotropy; if
(bUsesSceneDepth)

{
    MaterialCompilationOutput.SetIsSceneTextureUsed(PPI_SceneDepth);
}
MaterialCompilationOutput.bUsesDistanceCullFade = bUsesDistanceCullFade;

(.....)

bool bDBufferAllowed = IsUsingDBuffers(Platform);
bool bDBufferBlendMode = IsDBufferDecalBlendMode((EDecalBlendMode)Material-
>GetDecalBlendMode());

FString InterpolatorsOffsetsDefinitionCode; TBitArray<>
FinalAllocatedCoords =
GetVertexInterpolatorsOffsets(InterpolatorsOffsetsDefinitionCode);

MaterialCompilationOutput.NumUsedUVScalars = GetNumUserTexCoords() *2;
MaterialCompilationOutput.NumUsedCustomInterpolatorScalars =
CurrentCustomVertexInterpolatorOffset;

//Let's process the normals code block first.
{
    GetFixedParameterCode(
        0,
        NormalCodeChunkEnd,
        Chunk[MP_Normal],
        SharedPropertyCodeChunks[NormalShaderFrequency],
        TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[MP_Normal],
        TranslatedCodeChunks[MP_Normal]);

    if(TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[MP_Normal].IsEmpty()) {

        TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[MP_Normal] =
GetDefinitions(SharedPropertyCodeChunks[NormalShaderFrequency],0,
                    NormalCodeChunkEnd);
    }
}

//Normals are ignored for the rest of the properties block.
for(uint32 PropertyInfoId =0; PropertyInfoId < MP_MAX; ++PropertyId) {

    if(PropertyId == MP_MaterialAttributes || PropertyInfoId == MP_Normal || PropertyInfoId == MP_CustomOutput)
==

    {
        continue;
}

```

```

}

const EShaderFrequency PropertyShaderFrequency =
FMaterialAttributeDefinitionMap::GetShaderFrequency((EMaterialProperty)PropertyId);

int32 StartChunk = 0;
if(PropertyShaderFrequency == NormalShaderFrequency &&
SharedPixelProperties[PropertyId])
{
    StartChunk = NormalCodeChunkEnd;
}

GetFixedParameterCode(
    StartChunk,
    SharedPropertyCodeChunks[PropertyShaderFrequency].Num(),
    Chunk[PropertyId],
    SharedPropertyCodeChunks[PropertyShaderFrequency],
    TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[PropertyId],
    TranslatedCodeChunks[PropertyId]);
}

//Manipulate material properties.
for(uint32 PropertyId = MP_MAX; PropertyId < CompiledMP_MAX; ++PropertyId) {

    switch(PropertyId)
    {
        case CompiledMP_EmissiveColorCS:
            if(bCompileForComputeShader) {

                GetFixedParameterCode(Chunk[PropertyId],
SharedPropertyCodeChunks[SF_Compute], TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[PropertyId],
TranslatedCodeChunks[PropertyId]);
            }
            break;
        case CompiledMP_PrevWorldPositionOffset:
        {
            GetFixedParameterCode(Chunk[PropertyId],
SharedPropertyCodeChunks[SF_Vertex], TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[PropertyId],
TranslatedCodeChunks[PropertyId]);
        }
        break;
        default: check(0);
        break;
    }
}

//Outputs the implementation of any custom output expressions.
for(int32 ExpressionIndex = 0; ExpressionIndex < CustomOutputImplementations.Num(); ExpressionIndex++)

{
    ResourcesString += CustomOutputImplementations[ExpressionIndex] + "\r\n\r\n";
}

// UniformScalar expressions.
for(const FMaterialUniformExpression* ScalarExpression : UniformScalarExpressions) {

    FMaterialUniformPreshaderHeader& Preshader =
MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformScalarPreshaders.AddDefaulted_GetRef
}

```

```

0;
Preshader.OpcodeOffset =
MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformPreshaderData.Num();
ScalarExpression -
> WriteNumberOpcodes(MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformPreshaderData);
Preshader.OpcodeSize =
MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformPreshaderData.Num() -
Preshader.OpcodeOffset;
}

// UniformVector expression.
for(FMaterialUniformExpression* VectorExpression : UniformVectorExpressions) {

    FMaterialUniformPreshaderHeader& Preshader =
MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformVectorPreshaders.AddDefaulted_GetRef();

    Preshader.OpcodeOffset =
MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformPreshaderData.Num();
VectorExpression -
> WriteNumberOpcodes(MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformPreshaderData);
Preshader.OpcodeSize =
MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformPreshaderData.Num() -
Preshader.OpcodeOffset;
}

// UniformScalar expressions.
for(uint32 TypeIndex =0; TypeIndex < NumMaterialTextureParameterTypes; ++TypeIndex) {

MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformTextureParameters[TypeIndex].Empty(U
niformTextureExpressions[TypeIndex].Num());
    for(FMaterialUniformExpressionTexture* TextureExpression :
UniformTextureExpressions[TypeIndex])
    {
        TextureExpression -
> GetTextureParameterInfo(MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformTexturePara
meters[TypeIndex].AddDefaulted_GetRef());
    }
}

//External texture.

MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformExternalTextureParameters.Empty(UniformExternalTextureExpressions.Nu
m);
for(FMaterialUniformExpressionExternalTexture* TextureExpression :
UniformExternalTextureExpressions)
{
    TextureExpression -
> GetExternalTextureParameterInfo(MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.UniformExt
ernalTextureParameters.AddDefaulted_GetRef());
}

//loadMaterialTemplate.ushThe code of the file. LoadShaderSourceFileChecked(TEXT("/Engine/
Private/MaterialTemplate.ush"), GetShaderPlatform(), MaterialTemplate);

//turn up#line'The string position of .
const int32 LineIndex = MaterialTemplate.Find(TEXT("#line"),

```

```

ESearchCase::CaseSensitive);

//calculate '#line' The end of the line before the
statement. MaterialTemplateLineNumber =
INDEX_NONE; int32 StartPosition = LineIndex +1; do

{
    MaterialTemplateLineNumber++;
    StartPosition = MaterialTemplate.Find(TEXT("\n"), ESearchCase::CaseSensitive, ESearchDir::FromEnd,
StartPosition -1);
}
while(StartPosition != INDEX_NONE);

MaterialTemplateLineNumber +=3;

//Material parameter sets.

MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.SetParameterCollections(ParameterCollection s);

//Create a material uniform buffer structure.
MaterialCompilationOutput.UniformExpressionSet.CreateBufferStruct(); //Storage Unification VTThe
number of samples. MaterialCompilationOutput.EstimatedNumVirtualTextureLookups =
NumVtSamples;

//Clean up all function stacks.
ClearAllFunctionStacks();

return bSuccess;
}

//Get the material's environment (macro definition).
void FHLSLMaterialTranslator::GetMaterialEnvironment(EShaderPlatform InPlatform,
FShaderCompilerEnvironment& OutEnvironment)
{
    if(bNeedsParticlePosition || Material->ShouldGenerateSphericalParticleNormals() ||
    bUsesSphericalParticleOpacity)
    {
        OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("NEEDS_PARTICLE_POSITION"),1);
    }

    if(bNeedsParticleVelocity || Material->IsUsedWithNiagaraMeshParticles())
    {
        OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("NEEDS_PARTICLE_VELOCITY"),1);
    }

    (.....)

    OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_ENABLE_TRANSLUCENCY_FOGGING"), Material-
>ShouldApplyFogging());
    OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_ENABLE_TRANSLUCENCY_CLOUD_FOGGING"), Material-
>ShouldApplyCloudFogging());
    OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_IS_SKY"), Material->IsSky());
    OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_COMPUTE_FOG_PER_PIXEL"), Material-
>ComputeFogPerPixel());
    OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_FULLY_ROUGH"), bIsFullyRough || Material-
>IsFullyRough());
    OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_USES_ANISOTROPY"), bUsesAnisotropy);
}

```

```

(.....)

//Material parameters.
for(int32 CollectionIndex =0; CollectionIndex < ParameterCollections.Num(); CollectionIndex++)

{
    const FString CollectionName = FString::Printf(TEXT("MaterialCollection%u"), CollectionIndex);

    FShaderUniformBufferParameter::ModifyCompilationEnvironment(*CollectionName,
ParameterCollections[CollectionIndex]->GetUniformBufferStruct(), InPlatform, OutEnvironment);

}

OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("IS_MATERIAL_SHADER"), TEXT("1"));

//deal with shading model. FMaterialShadingModelField ShadingModels = Material-
>GetShadingModels(); if(Material->IsShadingModelFromMaterialExpression() &&
ShadingModelsFromCompilation.IsValid())

{
    ShadingModels = ShadingModelsFromCompilation;
}

if(ShadingModels.IsLit()) {

    intNumSetMaterials =0;
    if(ShadingModels.HasShadingModel(MSM_DefaultLit)) {

        OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_SHADINGMODEL_DEFAULT_LIT"),
TEXT("1"));
        NumSetMaterials++;
    }
    if (ShadingModels.HasShadingModel(MSM_Subsurface))
    {
        OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_SHADINGMODEL_SUBSURFACE"), TEXT("1"));
        NumSetMaterials++;
    }
    if (ShadingModels.HasShadingModel(MSM_PreintegratedSkin))
    {
        OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_SHADINGMODEL_PREINTEGRATED_SKIN"),
TEXT("1"));
        NumSetMaterials++;
    }
    if(ShadingModels.HasShadingModel(MSM_SubsurfaceProfile)) {

        OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_SHADINGMODEL_SUBSURFACE_PROFILE"),
TEXT("1"));
        NumSetMaterials++;
    }
}

(.....)
}

else
{
    OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_SINGLE_SHADINGMODEL"),
TEXT("1"));
    OutEnvironment.SetDefine(TEXT("MATERIAL_SHADINGMODEL_UNLIT"), TEXT("1"));
}

(.....)
}

```

```

//Get the translated material expression shader      (fillingMaterialTemplatebring%s)
Code. FString FHLSLMaterialTranslator::GetMaterialShaderCode()
{
    // Delayed formattingMaterialTemplateString.
    FLazyPrintf    LazyPrintf(*MaterialTemplate);

    //Assign slots to vertex interpolators.
    FString VertexInterpolatorsOffsetsDefinition; TBitArray<>
    FinalAllocatedCoords =
GetVertexInterpolatorsOffsets(VertexInterpolatorsOffsetsDefinition);

    const uint32 NumUserVertexTexCoords = GetNumUserVertexTexCoords(); const uint32
    NumUserTexCoords = GetNumUserTexCoords(); const uint32 NumCustomVectors =
FMath::DivideAndRoundUp((uint32)CurrentCustomVertexInterpolatorOffset,
                           2u);
    const uint32 NumTexCoordVectors = FinalAllocatedCoords.FindLast(true) + 1;

    LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("%u"), NumUserVertexTexCoords));
    LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("%u"), NumUserTexCoords));
    LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("%u"), NumCustomVectors));
    LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("%u"), NumTexCoordVectors));

    LazyPrintf.PushParam(*VertexInterpolatorsOffsetsDefinition);

    FString MaterialAttributesDeclaration;

    //Serialize the material's floating point type intoHLSLtype.
    const TArray<FGuid>& OrderedVisibleAttributes =
FMaterialAttributeDefinitionMap::GetOrderedVisibleAttributeList();
    for(const FGuid& AttributeID : OrderedVisibleAttributes) {

        const FString PropertyName =
FMaterialAttributeDefinitionMap::GetAttributeName(AttributeID);
        const EMaterialValueType PropertyType =
FMaterialAttributeDefinitionMap::GetValueType(AttributeID);
        switch(PropertyType)
        {
            case MCT_Float1: case MCT_Float: MaterialAttributesDeclaration += FString::Printf(TEXT(
"\tfloat %s;") LINE_TERMINATOR, *PropertyName); break;
            case MCT_Float2: MaterialAttributesDeclaration += FString::Printf(TEXT("\tfloat2 %s;") LINE_TERMINATOR,
*PropertyName); break;
            case MCT_Float3: MaterialAttributesDeclaration += FString::Printf(TEXT("\tfloat3 %s;") LINE_TERMINATOR,
*PropertyName); break;
            case MCT_Float4: MaterialAttributesDeclaration += FString::Printf(TEXT("\tfloat4 %s;") LINE_TERMINATOR,
*PropertyName); break;
            case MCT_ShadingModel: MaterialAttributesDeclaration += FString::Printf(TEXT("\tuint %s;")
) LINE_TERMINATOR, *PropertyName); break;
        }
    }
    LazyPrintf.PushParam(*MaterialAttributesDeclaration);

    FString    PixelMembersDeclaration;
    FString    NormalAssignment;
    FString    PixelMembersSetupAndAssignments;

    //Get the shared input material code.
    GetSharedInputsMaterialCode(PixelMembersDeclaration,           NormalAssignment,
PixelMembersSetupAndAssignments);
}

```

```

LazyPrintf.PushParam(*PixelMembersDeclaration);
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*ResourcesString);

if(bCompileForComputeShader) {

    LazyPrintf.PushParam(*GenerateFunctionCode(CompiledMP_EmissiveColorCS));
}

else
{
    LazyPrintf.PushParam(TEXT("return 0"));
}

LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return %.5f"), Material-
>GetTranslucencyDirectionalLightingIntensity()));
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return %.5f"), Material-
>GetTranslucentShadowDensityScale()));
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return %.5f"), Material-
>GetTranslucentSelfShadowDensityScale()));
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return %.5f"), Material-
>GetTranslucentSelfShadowSecondDensityScale()));
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return %.5f"), Material-
>GetTranslucentSelfShadowSecondOpacity()));
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return %.5f"), Material-
>GetTranslucentBackscatteringExponent()));

{

    FLinearColor Extinction = Material->GetTranslucentMultipleScatteringExtinction();
    LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return MaterialFloat3(%f, %f, %f)"), Extinction.R,
Extinction.G, Extinction.B));
}

LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return %.5f"), Material-
>GetOpacityMaskClipValue())); LazyPrintf.PushParam(*GenerateFunctionCode(MP_WorldPositionOffset));
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*GenerateFunctionCode(CompiledMP_PrevWorldPositionOffset));
am(*FString::Printf(TEXT("return %.5f"), Material-

>GetMaxDisplacement())); LazyPrintf.PushParam(*GenerateFunctionCode(MP_TessellationMultiplier));
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*GenerateFunctionCode(MP_CustomData0));
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*GenerateFunctionCode(MP_CustomData1));

//Fill in custom texture coordinate allocations.
FString CustomUVAssignments; int32
LastProperty = -1;
for(uint32 CustomUVIndex = 0; CustomUVIndex < NumUserTexCoords; CustomUVIndex++) {

    if(CustomUVIndex == 0) {

        CustomUVAssignments += TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[MP_CustomizedUVs0 +
CustomUVIndex];
    }

    if(TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[MP_CustomizedUVs0 + CustomUVIndex].Len() > 0) {

        if(LastProperty >= 0) {

            check(TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[LastProperty].Len() ==

```

```

TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[MP_CustomizedUVs0 + CustomUVIndex].Len());
}
LastProperty = MP_CustomizedUVs0 + CustomUVIndex;
}
CustomUVAssignments += FString::Printf(TEXT("\tOutTexCoords[%u] = %s;") LINE_TERMINATOR,
CustomUVIndex, *TranslatedCodeChunks[MP_CustomizedUVs0 + CustomUVIndex]);
}
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*CustomUVAssignments);

//Populate custom vertex shader interpolator assignments.
FString CustomInterpolatorAssignments;
for(UMaterialExpressionVertexInterpolator* Interpolator : CustomVertexInterpolators) {

    if(Interpolator->InterpolatorOffset != INDEX_NONE) {

        const EMaterialValueType Type = Interpolator->InterpolatedType == MCT_Float?
MCT_Float1 : Interpolator->InterpolatedType;
        const TCHAR* Swizzle[2] = { TEXT("x"), TEXT("y") }; const int32 Offset =
Interpolator->InterpolatorOffset; const int32 Index = Interpolator-
>InterpolatorIndex;

        CustomInterpolatorAssignments +=
FString::Printf(TEXT("\tOutTexCoords[VERTEX_INTERPOLATOR_%i_TEXCOORDS_X].%s =
VertexInterpolator%i(Parameters).x;") LINE_TERMINATOR, Index, Swizzle[Offset%2], Index);

        if(Type >= MCT_Float2) {

            (.....)
        }
    }
}
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*CustomInterpolatorAssignments);

// NormalRequired Initializers
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*TranslatedCodeChunkDefinitions[MP_Normal]);
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*NormalAssignment);
//Finally, the remaining common code is followed by the assignment of values to each input.
LazyPrintf.PushParam(*PixelMembersSetupAndAssignments); LazyPrintf.PushParam(*FString::Printf(TEXT("%u"
),MaterialTemplateLineNumber));

returnLazyPrintf.GetResultString();
}

```

Now let's briefly summarize several important interfaces of FHLSLMaterialTranslator:

- **Translate:** Translate the material node expression of the material blueprint and fill the compiled results of all material properties into the FShaderCodeChunk of the grid.
- **GetMaterialEnvironment:** Handles the compilation environment of the material blueprint (macro definition).
- **GetMaterialShaderCode:** Fills in the missing code of MaterialTemplate.ush according to the material attribute interface corresponding to the FShaderCodeChunk compiled by Translate, as well as other macro definitions, structures, and tool class interfaces.

After being compiled by FHLSLMaterialTranslator, the complete material shader code will be obtained and sent to the FMaterialShaderMap::Compile interface for compilation. The compiled shader code is saved in FMaterialShaderMap.

The only interface for calling FMaterial::BeginCompileShaderMap is FMaterial::CacheShaders. The core call stack for calling FMaterial::CacheShaders is as follows:

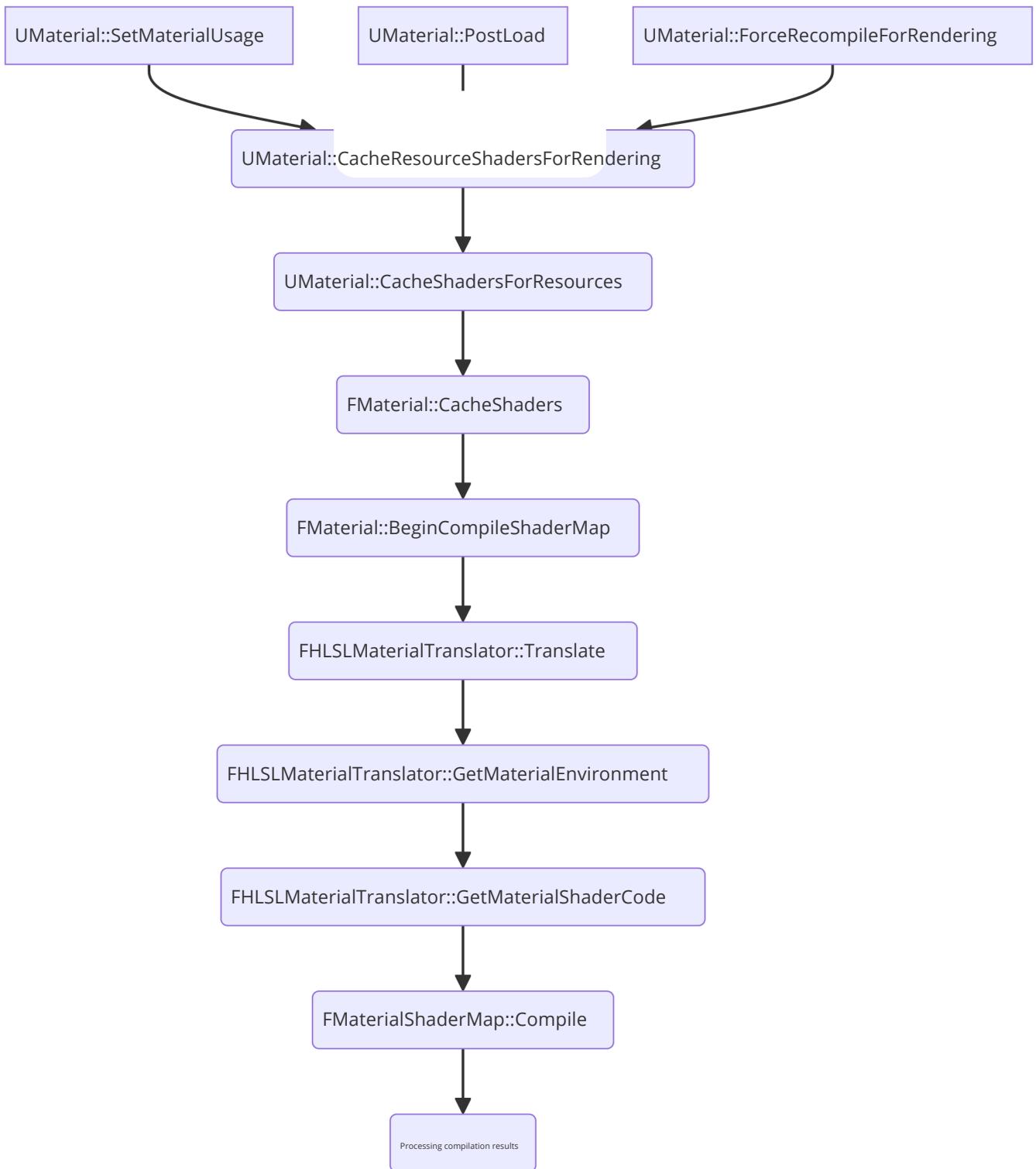
- UMaterial::CacheResourceShadersForRendering
  - UMaterial::CacheShadersForResources
    - FMaterial::CacheShaders
- UMaterialInstance::CacheResourceShadersForRendering
  - UMaterialInstance::CacheShadersForResources
    - FMaterial::CacheShaders

The CacheResourceShadersForRendering call logic is very large, including various setting interfaces of UMaterial and UMaterialInstance:

- SetMaterialUsage
- UpdateMaterialShaderCacheAndTextureReferences
- PostLoad
- PostEditChangePropertyInternal
- ForceRecompileForRendering
- AllMaterialsCacheResourceShadersForRendering

In the above interfaces, PostLoad must be called.

At this point, the entire process of material compilation is clear, and the flowchart is as follows (taking UMaterial as an example, the same is true for UMaterialInstance):



In fact, when compiling different types of shaders, the data required is not exactly the same:

| <b>type</b>        | <b>composition</b>  |
|--------------------|---|
| GlobalShader       | Shader_x.usf  |
| MaterialShader     | Shader_x.usf + MaterialTemplate_x.usf                       |
| MeshMaterialShader | Shader_x.usf + MaterialTemplate_x.usf + VertexFactory_x.usf |

in:

- Shader\_x.usf: Existing files in the engine Shader directory, such as DeferredLightVertexShaders.usf and DeferredLightPixelShaders.usf. MaterialTemplate\_x.usf: Code that fills in MaterialTemplate.ush
- after FHLSLMaterialTranslator compiles the material blueprint.
- VertexFactory\_x.usf: Existing vertex factory file codes in the engine Shader directory, such as LocalVertexFactory.ush and GpuSkinVertexFactory.ush.

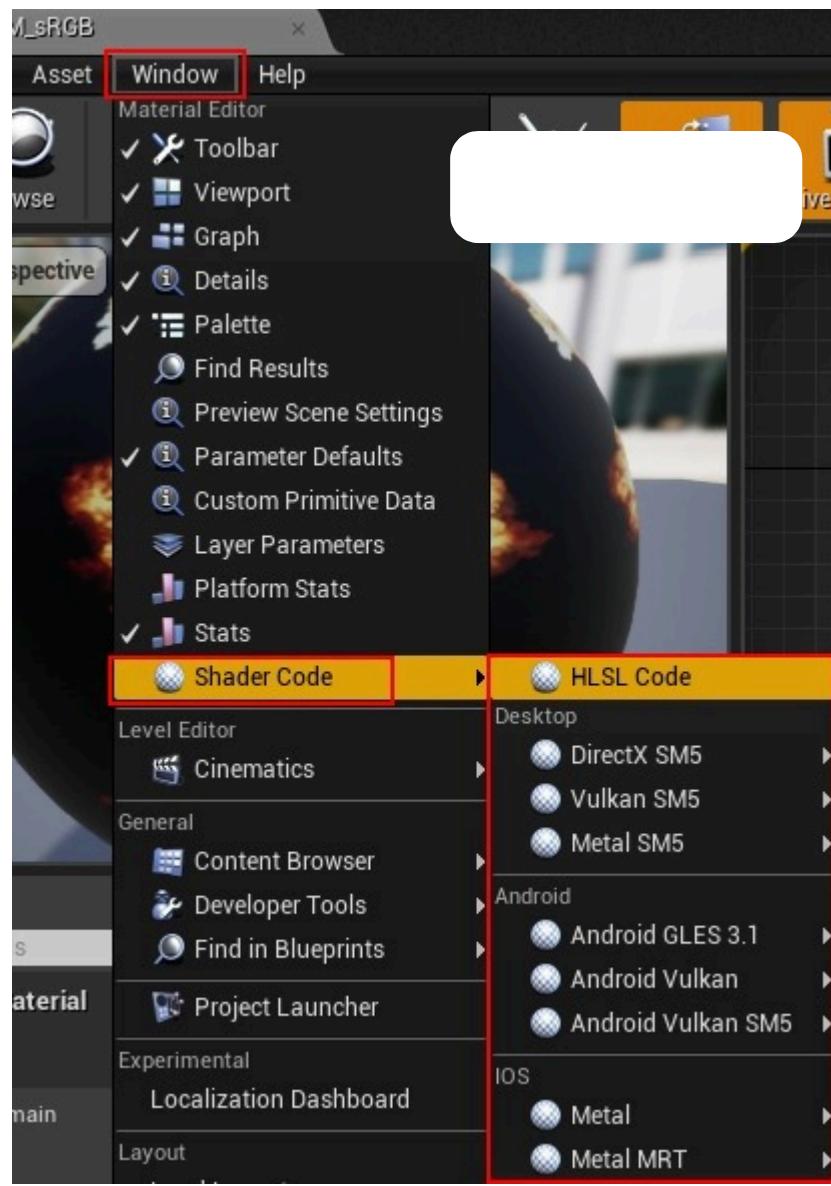
In addition, the data required to generate shader codes with different shading frequencies for the same material blueprint is also different:

| <b>Coloring frequency</b> | <b>composition</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| PixelShader               | MaterialTemplate_x.usf + VertexFactory_x.usf + PixelShader_x.usf  |
| VertexShader              | MaterialTemplate_x.usf + VertexFactory_x.usf + VertexShader_x.usf |
| GeometryShader            | MaterialTemplate_x.usf + VertexFactory_x.usf + VertexShader_x.usf |

in:

- PixelShader\_x.usf: PixelShader code of a rendering Pass, such as BasePassPixelShader.usf, ShadowDepthPixelShader.usf, DepthOnlyPixelShader.usf.
- VertexShader\_x.usf: VertexShader code of a rendering pass, such as BasePassVertexShader.usf, ShadowDepthVertexShader.usf, DepthOnlyVertexShader.usf.

In addition, you can view the target platform code after filling the MaterialTemplate in the material editor:



The following figure shows the code preview interface after opening HLSL:

**HLSL Code** X

**Copy**

```
// Copyright Epic Games, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/** 
 * MaterialTemplate.usf: Filled in by FHLSLCompiler. This file contains materialShaderCode for each material being compiled.
 */

```

```
#include "/Engine/Private/SceneTexturesCommon.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/EyeAdaptationCommon.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/Random.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/SobolRandom.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/MonteCarlo.ush"
#include "/Engine/Generated/UniformBuffers/Material.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/DepthOfFieldCommon.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/CircleDOFCommon.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/GlobalDistanceFieldShared.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/SceneData.ush"
#include "/Engine/Private/HairShadingCommon.ush"

#if USES_SPEEDTREE
    #include "/Engine/Private/SpeedTreeCommon.ush"
#endif

///////////////////////////////
//! Must match ESceneTextureId

#define PPI_SceneColor 0
#define PPI_SceneDepth 1
#define PPI_DiffuseColor 2
#define PPI_SpecularColor 3
#define PPI_SubsurfaceColor 4
#define PPI_BaseColor 5
#define PPI_Specular 6
#define PPI_Metallic 7
#define PPI_WorldNormal 8
#define PPI_SeparateTranslucency 9
#define PPI_Opacity 10
#define PPI_Roughness 11
#define PPI_MaterialAO 12
#define PPI_CustomDepth 13
#define PPI_PostProcessInput0 14
#define PPI_PostProcessInput1 15
#define PPI_PostProcessInput2 16
#define PPI_PostProcessInput3 17
#define PPI_PostProcessInput4 18
#define PPI_PostProcessInput5 19 // (UNUSED)
#define PPI_PostProcessInput6 20 // (UNUSED)
#define PPI_DecalMask 21
#define PPI_ShadingModelColor 22
#define PPI_ShadingModelID 23
#define PPI_AmbientOcclusion 24
#define PPI_CustomStencil 25
#define PPI_StoredBaseColor 26
#define PPI_StoredSpecular 27
#define PPI_Velocity 28
#define PPI_WorldTangent 29
#define PPI_Anisotropy 30

///////////////////////////////

#define NUM_MATERIAL_TEXCOORDS_VERTEX 1
#define NUM_MATERIAL_TEXCOORDS 1
#define NUM_CUSTOM_VERTEX_INTERPOLATORS 0
#define NUM_TEX_COORD_INTERPOLATORS 1

// Vertex interpolators offsets definition

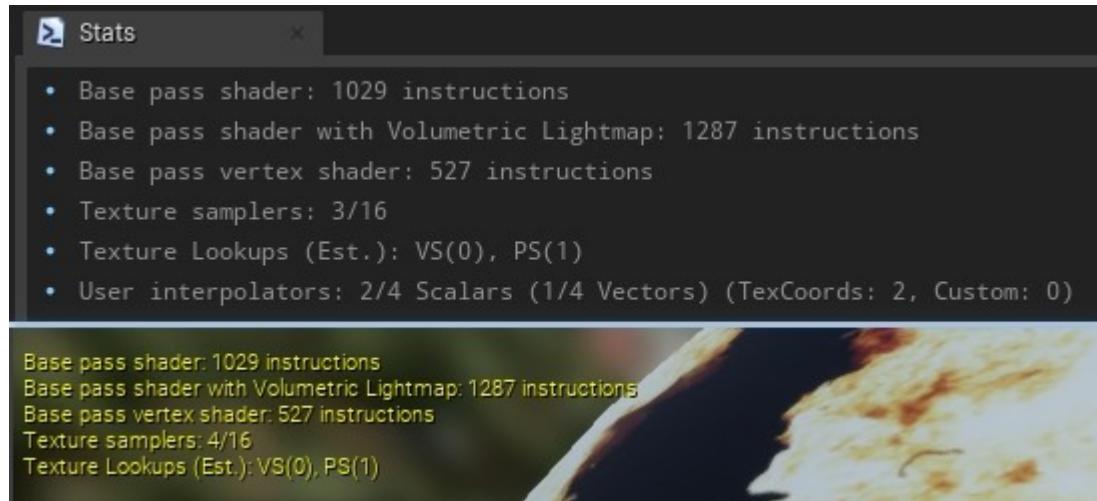
#if NUM_VIRTUALTEXTURE_SAMPLES || LIGHTMAP_VT_ENABLED
    #include "/Engine/Private/VirtualTextureCommon.ush"
#endif
```

# 9.4 Material Development

This chapter will cover material development cases, debugging tips, and optimization techniques.

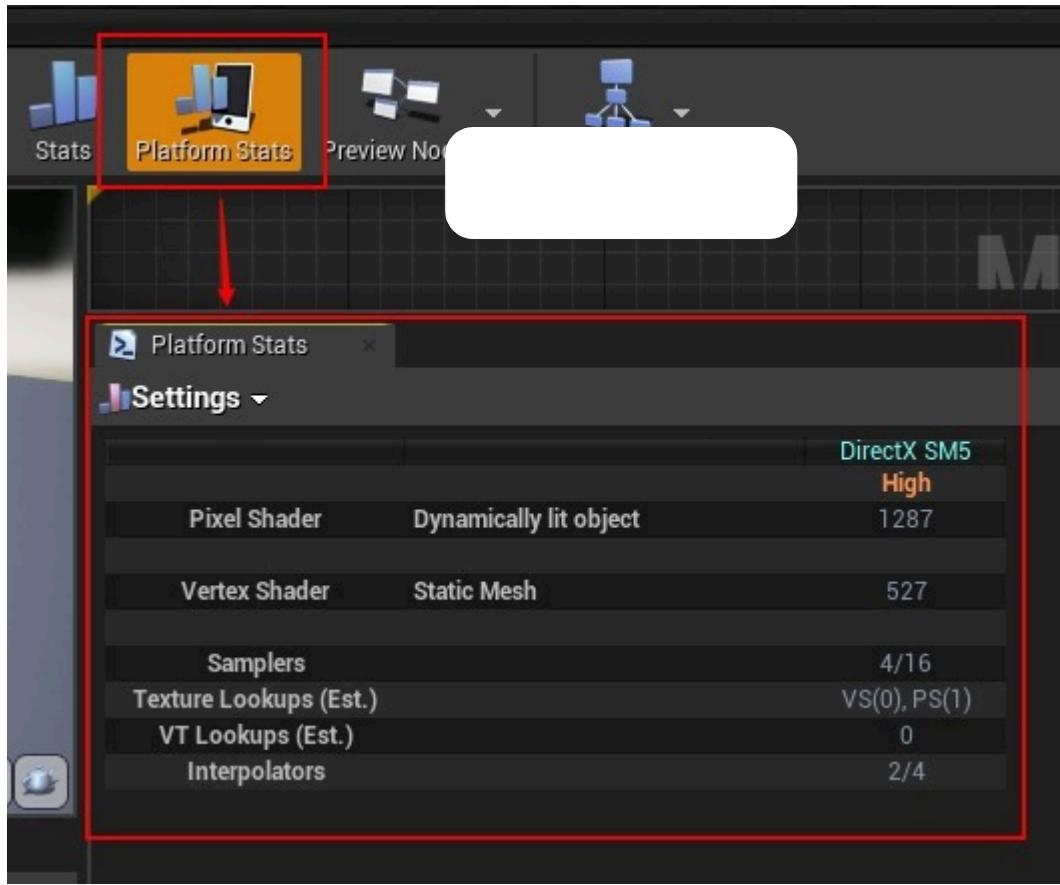
## 9.4.1 Material debugging and optimization

In the material and material instance editors, you can view the number of instructions, texture sampling number, interpolator data, etc. after the current material is compiled:

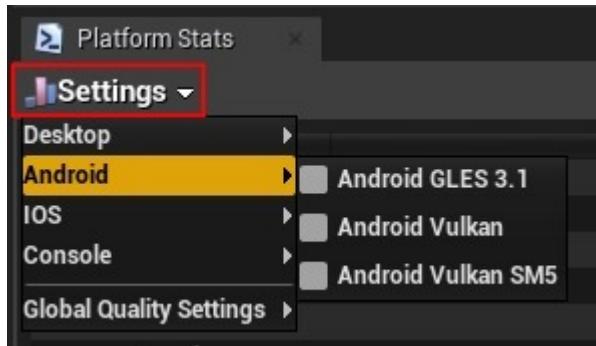


*Top: Material Editor's Statistics window. Bottom: Material Instance Editor's Statistics.*

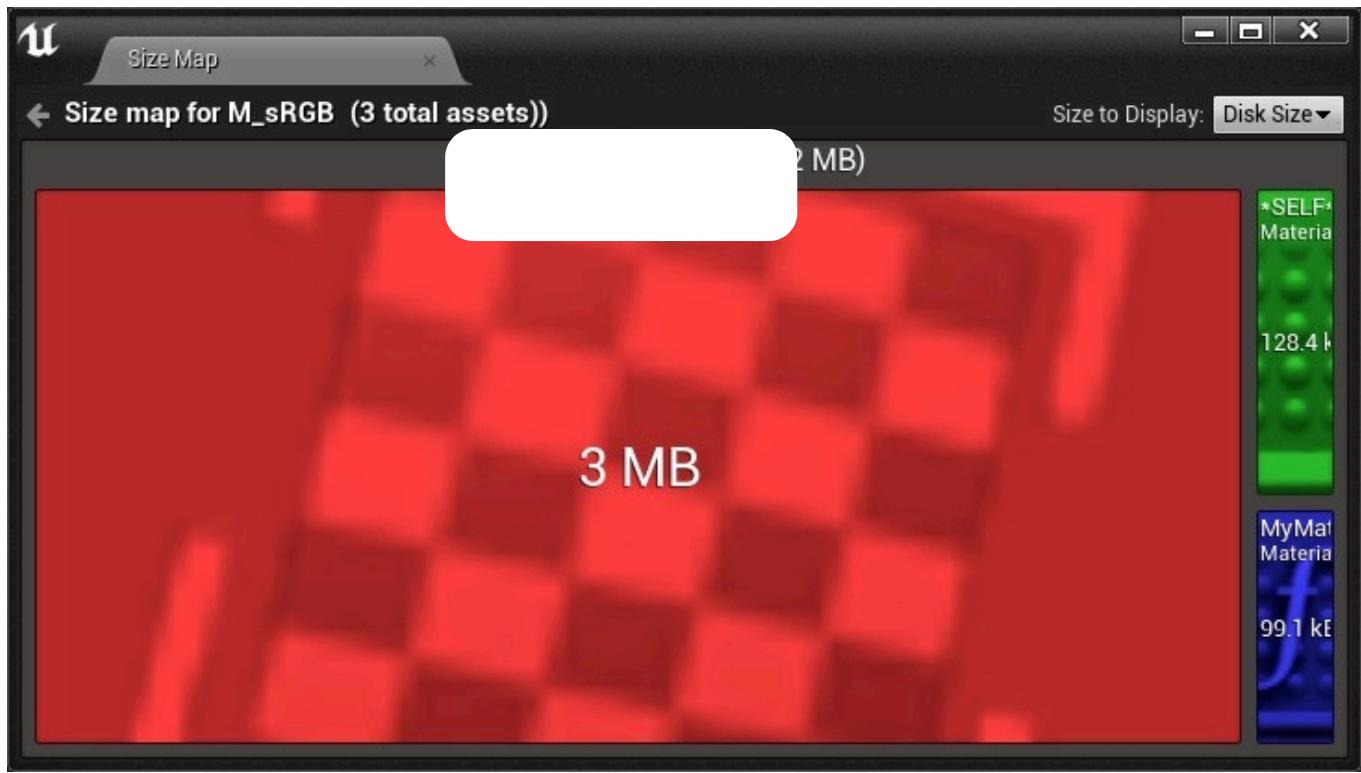
After opening the Platform Stats on the upper side of the Material Editor, you can view more detailed data for the specified platform (PS, VS, samplers, etc.):



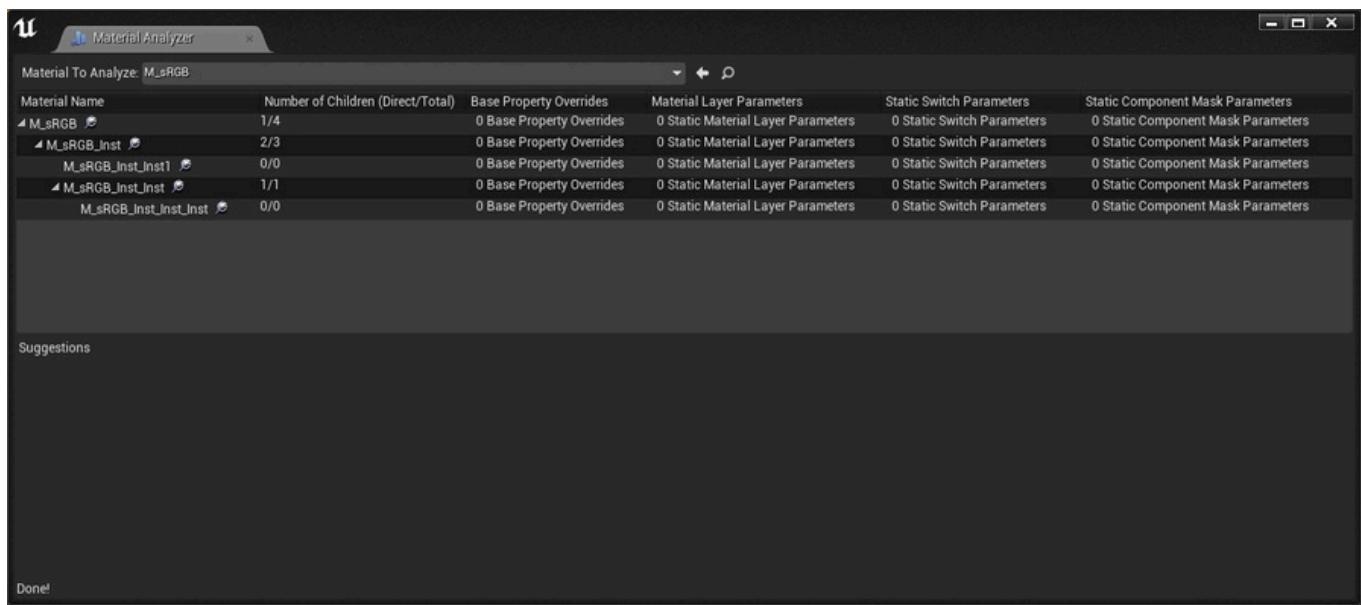
Click the Settings button in the picture above to view data from other platforms.



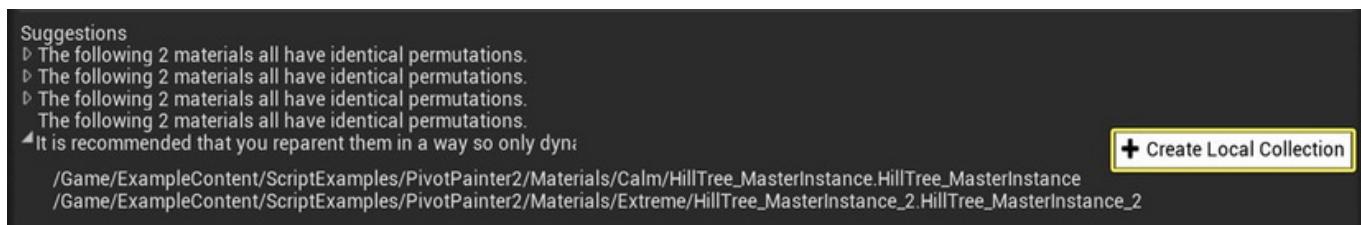
Open the menu Asset / Size Map of the material editor to open the layout of the space occupied by the material resources (disk and memory):



Open the menu Windows / Developer Tools / Material Analyzer of the material editor to view the level of the specified material and the number of various types of attributes:



If some data is abnormal or can be improved, the system will prompt and give modification suggestions. For example, the following picture prompts that multiple materials have the same arrangement:

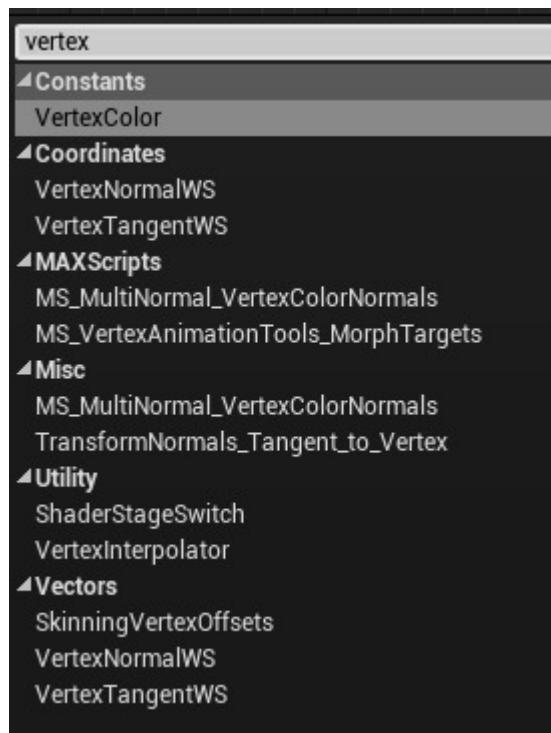


You can click Create Local Collection to place all related instances into a local collection so that they can be easily found and updated for a more efficient material parameter setup.

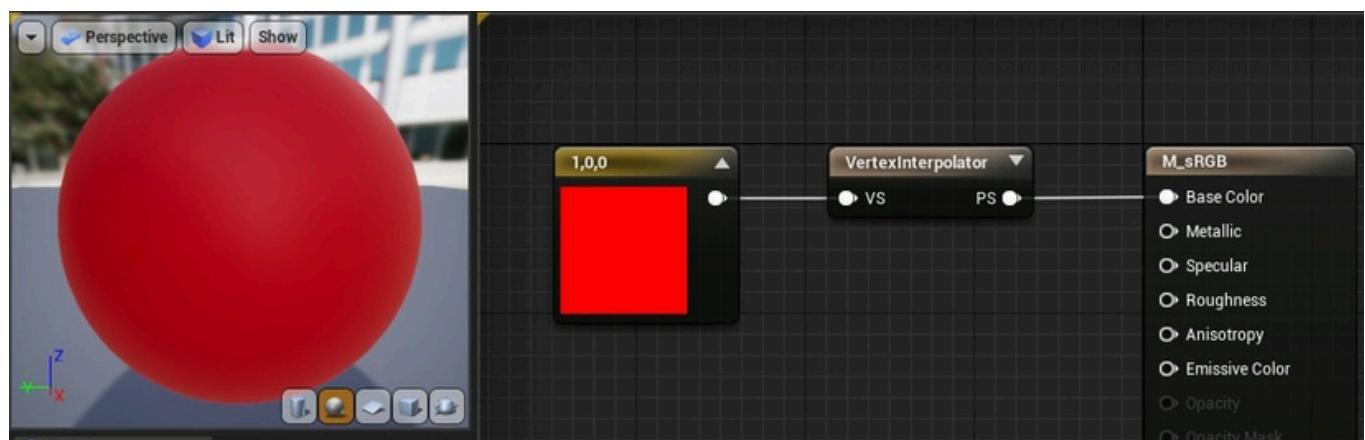
Of course, the material analyzer above can only manually select one material at a time, which is very slow. In fact, batch inspection tools can be developed based on this, and even certain rules can be customized to automatically create local parameter sets to improve the efficiency and effect of material optimization.

In addition, when editing the material blueprint, you can pay attention to the following points:

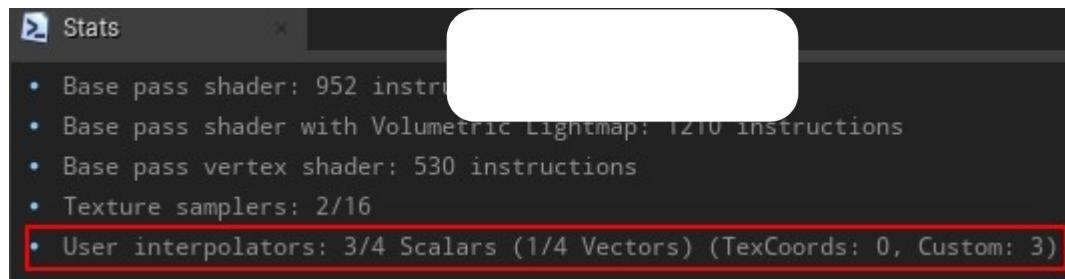
1. Pay attention to the number of static variables, switches, levels, and FeatureLevels, which usually increase the number of permutations.
2. Merge material parameters to reduce or avoid unnecessary material nodes.
3. Reasonably add annotations, modularize and abstract into material functions, which is very necessary for complex materials, conducive to maintenance and expansion, and improves material reuse rate.
4. Although most of the material nodes are PS nodes, there are also a few VS nodes, as shown below:



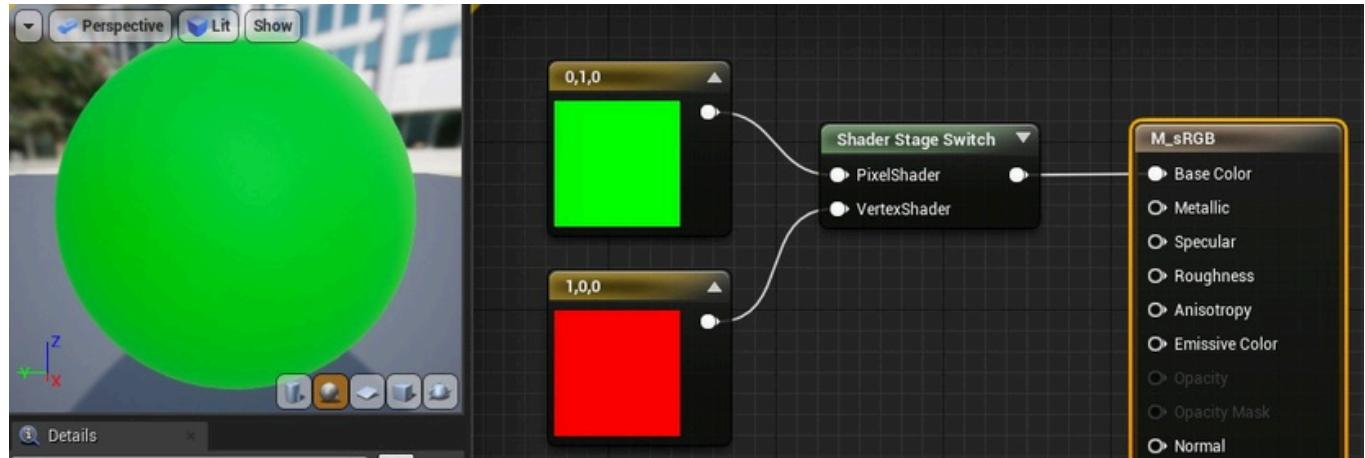
In particular, the `VertexInterpolator` node can put part of the logic into the VS calculation, and then use the `VertexInterpolator` to perform hardware interpolation and output the PS value:



VertexInterpolator supports Float~Float4 interpolation and supports up to 4 Float4 interpolations. If you want to know the current number of VertexInterpolators, you can see it in the Stats window:



In addition, Shader Stage Switch can also treat VS and PS values differently:



## 9.4.2 Material Development Case

### 9.4.2.1 Adding Material Nodes

This section takes adding **MyCustomOperation** a material node named as an example.

First, you need to add relevant interfaces and implementations in FMaterialCompiler and FHLSLMaterialTranslator:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Public\MaterialCompiler.h

class FMaterialCompiler {

public:
    virtual int32 MyCustomOperation(int32 A, int32 B) {return 0; } //Do not write it as an abstract interface to prevent other subclasses from
    reporting errors.

    (.....)
};

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\HLSLMaterialTranslator.h

class FHLSLMaterialTranslator: public FMaterialCompiler {

public:
    virtual int32 MyCustomOperation(int32 A, int32 B) override;

    (.....)
}
```

```

};

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\HLSLMaterialTranslator.cpp

int32 HLSLMaterialTranslator::MyCustomOperation(int32 A, int32 B) {

    //Note that both operands are indices, not values!!
    if(A == INDEX_NONE || B == INDEX_NONE) {

        return INDEX_NONE;
    }

    const uint64 Hash = CityHash128to64({ GetParameterHash(A), GetParameterHash(B) });
    if (GetParameterUniformExpression(A) && GetParameterUniformExpression(B)) {

        //Since it is a custom operation node, you can specify any HLSLCode snippet of standard syntax^_^
        return AddUniformExpressionWithHash(Hash, new
            FMaterialUniformExpressionFoldedMath(GetParameterUniformExpression(A), GetParameterUniformExpression(B),
                FMO_Add), GetArithmeticResultType(A, B), TEXT("(%s + %s * 0.5)")
            , *GetParameterCode(A), *GetParameterCode(B));
    }
    else
    {
        return AddCodeChunkWithHash(Hash, GetArithmeticResultType(A, B), TEXT("(%s + %s * 0.5)")
            , *GetParameterCode(A), *GetParameterCode(B));
    }
}

```

After implementing the above interface, you need to add the corresponding material expression type and file:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Materials\MaterialExpressionMyCustomOperation.h
```

```
#Pragmas once
```

```
#include "CoreMinimal.h"
#include "UObject/ObjectMacros.h"
#include "MaterialExpressionIO.h" "Materials"
#include "MaterialExpression.h"
```

```
//UBTCompiled header files, Can't be missed.
```

```
#include "MaterialExpressionMyCustomOperation.generated.h"
```

```
UCLASS (MinimalAPI)
```

```
class UMaterialExpressionMyCustomOperation : public UMaterialExpression {
```

```
    GENERATED_UCLASS_BODY()
```

```
    UPROPERTY(meta = (RequiredInput = "false", ToolTip = "Defaults to 'ConstA' if not specified"))
```

```
        FExpressionInput A;
```

```
    UPROPERTY(meta = (RequiredInput = "false", ToolTip = "Defaults to 'ConstB' if not specified"))
```

```
        FExpressionInput B;
```

```
    UPROPERTY(EditAnywhere, Category=MaterialExpressionAdd, meta=(OverridingInputProperty
```

```

    ="A"))
    floatConstA;

    UPROPERTY(EditAnywhere, Category=MaterialExpressionAdd, meta=(OverridingInputProperty "B"))
=
    floatConstB;

    //~ Begin UMaterialExpression Interface
#if WITH_EDITOR
    virtual int32 Compile(class FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, int32 OutputIndex) override; virtual void GetCaption
    (TArray<FString>& OutCaptions) const override;
#endif// WITH_EDITOR
    //~ End UMaterialExpression Interface
};

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Materials\MaterialExpressions.cpp

//Add header file reference for new node.
#include "Materials/MaterialExpressionMyCustomOperation.h"

//Default constructor.
UMaterialExpressionMyCustomOperation::UMaterialExpressionMyCustomOperation(const
FObjectInitializer& ObjectInitializer)
    : Super(ObjectInitializer)
{
    // Structure to hold one-time initialization struct
    FConstructorStatics {
        FText NAME_Math;
        FConstructorStatics()
            : NAME_Math(LOCTEXT("Math", "Math"))
        {
        }
    };
    static FConstructorStatics ConstructorStatics;

    ConstA = 0.0f;
    ConstB = 1.0f;

#if WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA
    MenuCategories.Add(ConstructorStatics.NAME_Math);
#endif
}

//Compile.
int32 UMaterialExpressionMyCustomOperation::Compile(class FMaterialCompiler* Compiler, int32 OutputIndex)

{
    int32 Arg1 = A.GetTracedInput().Expression ? A.Compile(Compiler) : Compiler-
> Constant(ConstA);
    int32 Arg2 = B.GetTracedInput().Expression ? B.Compile(Compiler) : Compiler-
> Constant(ConstB);

    return Compiler->MyCustomOperation(Arg1, Arg2);
}

//Illustrate.

```

```

void UMaterialExpressionMyCustomOperation::GetCaption(TArray< FString>& OutCaptions) const {
    FString ret = TEXT("MyCustomOperation");

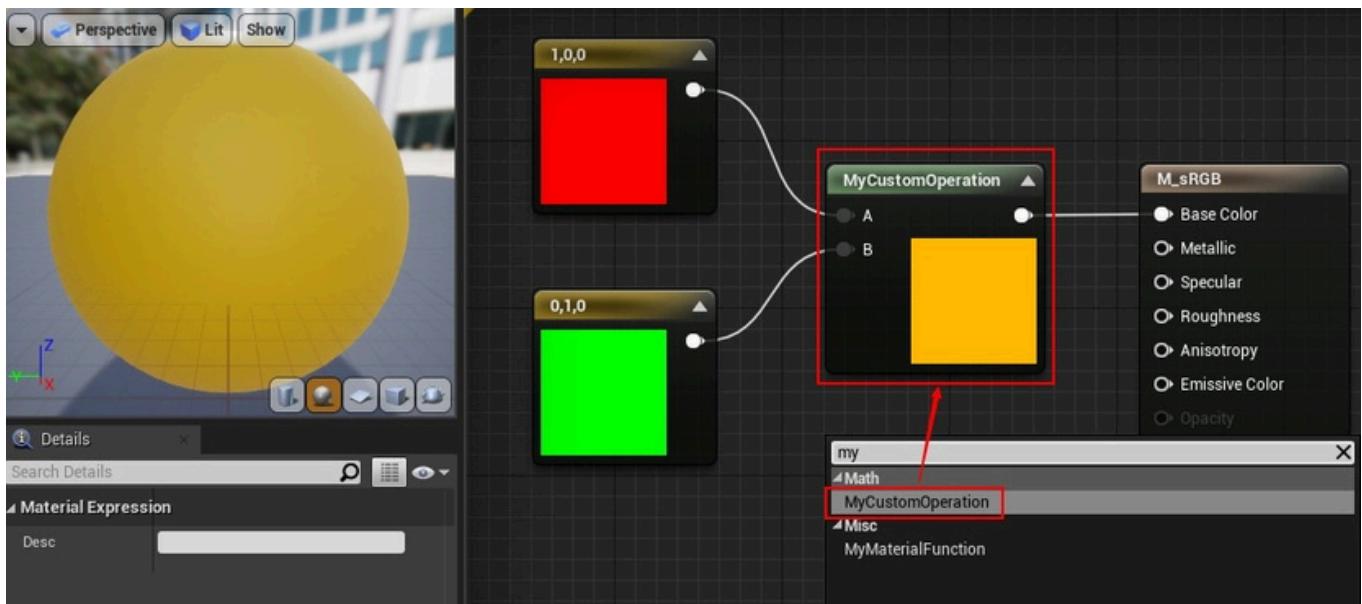
    FExpressionInput ATraced = A.GetTracedInput();
    FExpressionInput BTraced = B.GetTracedInput();
    if(!ATraced.Expression || !BTraced.Expression) {

        ret += TEXT("(");
        ret += ATraced.Expression ? TEXT(",") : FString::Printf(TEXT("%f"), ConstA); ret += BTraced.Expression ?
        TEXT(")") : FString::Printf(TEXT("%f"), ConstB);
    }

    OutCaptions.Add(ret);
}

```

After adding the above code, compile the engine code, start the UE editor, open the material editor, and you can search for the MyCustomOperation material node in the node and use it (see the figure below).



#### 9.4.2.2 Extending custom nodes

Although the Custom material node that comes with UE can write any code, it is limited to a certain function. For example, the following code is written in Custom:

```
return 1.0;
```

In fact, the HLSL compiler will compile it into code similar to the following:

```

float CustomExpression0() {
    return 1.0;
}

```

Being limited to the function body will greatly limit our performance. For example, we cannot define functions and structures in the Custom node, nor can we reference other ush files.

The common and quick way is to add curly braces around the Custom stage:

```
return0.0; }//Matches the compiler's {  
  
floatMyParameter =1.0;  
  
//Normal code.  
float MyFunction()  
{  
    returnMyParameter;  
  
//You don't need to add } here, because the compiler will add it later
```

The generated HLSL code looks like this:

```
float CustomExpression0() {  
  
    return1.0;  
}  
  
floatMyParameter =1.0;  
  
float MyFunction()  
{  
    returnMyParameter;  
}
```

But this method is very inelegant, and the result obtained by the material node is the value of the first return. Here is another slightly more elegant way that supports the definition of multiple functions and variables:

```
structFMyStruct  
{  
    float3 ColorDensity;  
  
    float3ColorOperation(float3 Color) {  
  
        returnColor * ColorDensity;  
    }  
  
    float3 Out()  
    {  
        // InColor is the function input parameter.  
        return ColorOperation(InColor);  
    }  
};  
  
FMyStruct MyStruct;  
FMyStruct.ColorDensity = float3(0.5,0.5,0);  
  
returnMyStruct.Out();
```

The above code uses the feature of HLSL that local structures can be defined within a function body, supporting the definition of any number of functions and variables.

### 9.4.2.3 Extending Material Templates

MaterialTemplate.ush defines a large number of global macros, structures, and interfaces. We can of course modify it and add the required code or data, such as:

- Add global static variables.
- Add macro definition.
- Add reference files.
- Add the missing code of %s to fill it in the HLSL compiler. Add structure.
- Add custom functions.

All the above data and interfaces can be combined with Custom nodes and MaterialFunction and exposed to material blueprints for access.

For example, let's add a global static constant to MaterialTemplate.ush:

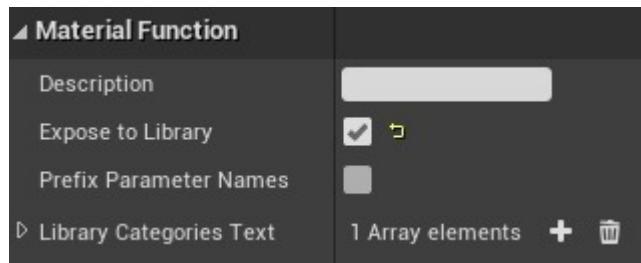
```
// Engine\Shaders\Private\MaterialTemplate.ush

//Next to include after.
static const float MyGlobalParameter = 0.5;
```

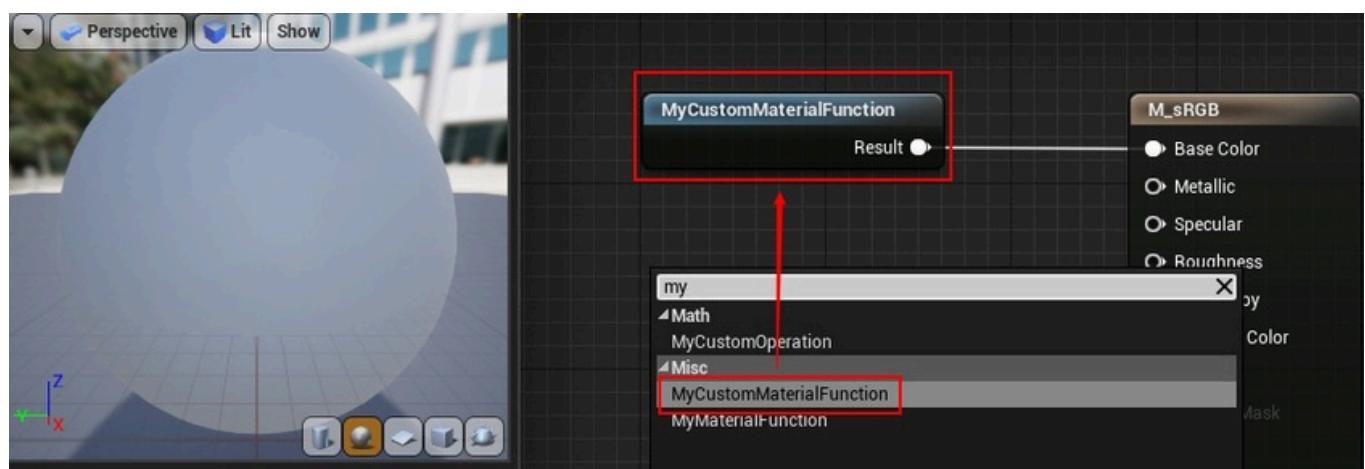
Compile the engine, start it and open the material editor, add a new material function, and add a Custom node to the material function. The code of the Custom node is as follows:

```
return MyGlobalParameter;
```

Then check Expose to Library for the material function:



Now you can search and apply the material function in the material node:



# 9.5 Summary

This article mainly explains the basic concepts, types, and mechanisms of UE's material system. I hope that after studying this article, you will no longer be unfamiliar with UE's materials and will be able to easily master, apply, and expand them.

## 9.5.1 Thoughts on this article

As usual, this article also arranges some small thoughts to help understand and deepen the mastery and understanding of the UE material system:

- What are the connections and differences between UMaterialInterface, FMaterialRenderProxy, and FMaterial? Why are there so many material types?
- What is the data update process when rendering materials?
- What is the process of compiling a material blueprint? What are the main interface functions of the compiler?
- When editing materials, what performance data should I pay attention to? How can I view it? Added
- a new Shading Model to support 2D style rendering.

- 
- 
- 
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- 



# References

- [Unreal Engine Source](#)
- [Rendering and Graphics](#)
- [Materials](#)
- [Graphics Programming](#)

- [Analysis of UE4 rendering module](#)
- [UE4 Render System Sheet](#)
- [【UE4 Renderer】 <03> PipelineBase](#)
- [UE4 material system source code analysis: UMaterial and material node introduction UE4](#)
- [material system source code analysis: material compiled into HLSL CODE](#)
- [UE4 HLSL and Shader Development Guide and Tips](#)
- [Material Analyzer](#)
- [Unreal Engine4 Custom Function](#)
- [Unreal Engine 4 Rendering Part 6: Adding a new Shading Model](#)

<https://github.com/pe7yu>