# Working with shaders

Patrick SARDINHA

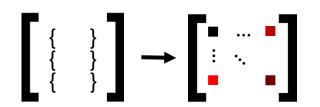
#### What's a shader?

Small programs that run on the GPU

Executed for each specific section of the graphics pipeline

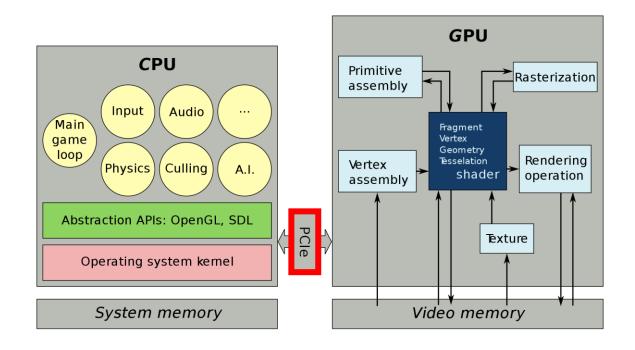
Isolated and not allowed to communicate with each other





It works with geometric primitives, lights, textures, ...

## Shaders in the Graphics Processing Unit



Shaders are executed by the GPU & are good to be executed in parallel

Sending data to the GPU goes through the PCI, it is relatively slow & CPU/GPU must be synchronized

# Different languages



DirectX High-Level Shader Language



Cg Shader Language



OpenGL Shading Language (GLSL)

#### Problem



In GLSL, there are no real data structures to easily get the attributes of a primitive (matrices, vectors, ...)





The construction of shaders is very repetitive which implies a lot of copy and paste



Must reduce the data sent in the PCI to avoid multiple synchronizations between CPU & GPU

# Goal of the project

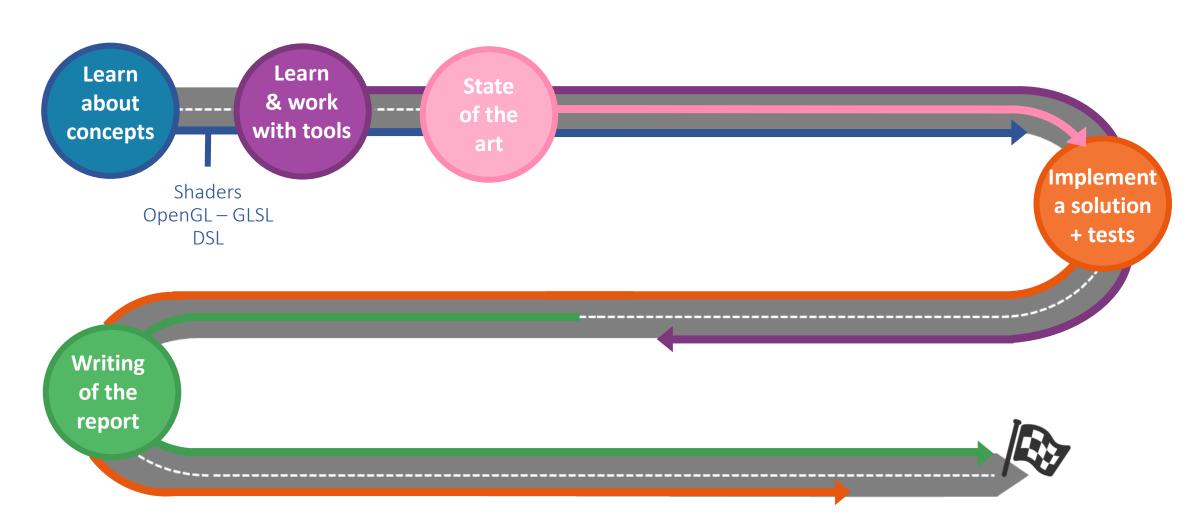


Work with the representation of the data & abstract the types



Construct a DSL for shaders

# Road map



#### 3D space to 2D screen space



The process of transforming 3D coordinates to 2D pixel is done by the graphics pipeline

First big part: transforms 3D coordinates into 2D coordinates

Second big part: transforms the 2D coordinates into actual colored pixels

# Graphics pipeline



Input & Output Data



3 different shaders processing units

Vertex Shader

Geometry Shader

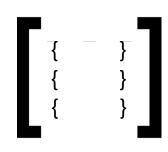
Fragment/Pixel Shader



Some others processes

Tessellation, Rasterization, Color blending

#### Input Data



Take as input a Vertex (or Vertices) [] which is a data structure that describes geometric primitives with certain attributes like:

Position (2D, 3D coordinates)



Color (RGB, ...)

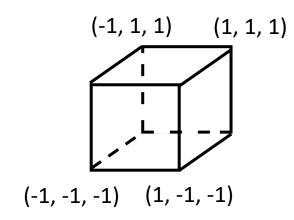


Texture coordinates



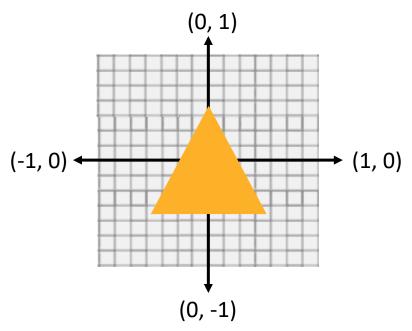
### Example

In OpenGL, only the Normalize Device Coordinates (NDC) are visible on the screen



To render a single 2D triangle:

3D position (NDC) of each vertex



### Linking vertex attributes



The input data will compose a Vertex Buffer Object (VBO) which can store a large number of vertices in the GPU memory

Then, we specify how the vertex data should be interpreted



Finally, it will be sent to the Vertex Shader



# Example

Triangle with position attributes:

```
float vertices[] = {
    -0.5f, -0.5f, 0.0f,
    0.5f, -0.5f, 0.0f,
    0.0f, 0.5f, 0.0f
};
```

Copy our vertices array in a buffer

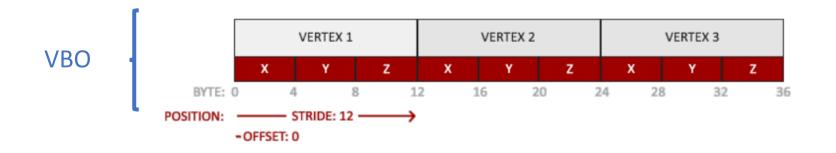
ID of the buffer which must be bind

```
Specifies the target buffer object

glBindBuffer(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER, VBO);
glBufferData(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER, sizeof(vertices), vertices, GL_STATIC_DRAW);

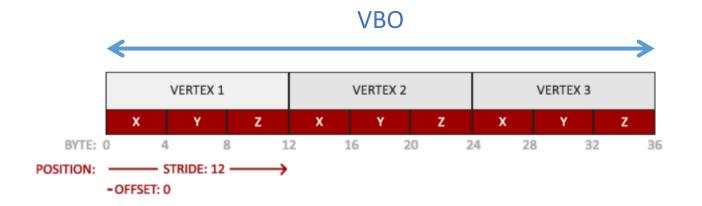
Size of the buffer object

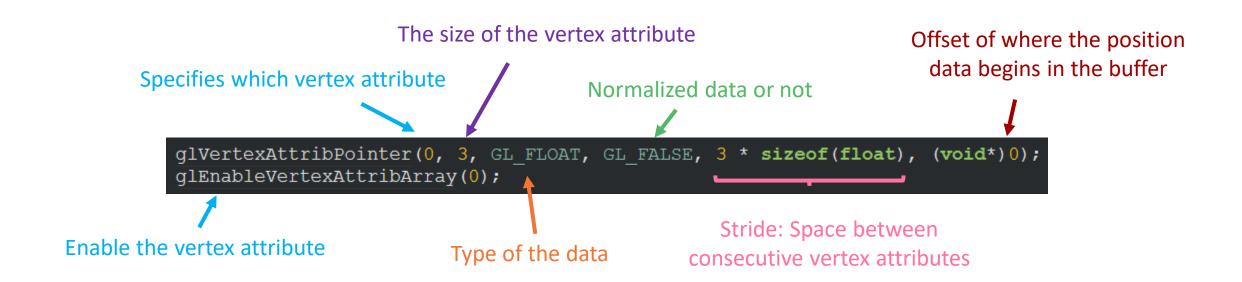
Pointer to data
```



# Example (Cont.)

Define how the vertex data should be interpreted





## Example (Cont.)

Triangle with position & color attributes:

```
VERTEX 1

VERTEX 2

VERTEX 3

X Y Z R G B X Y Z R G B

BYTE: 0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 68 72

POSITION: STRIDE: 24

-OFFSET: 0

COLOR: -OFFSET: 12
```

Position offset

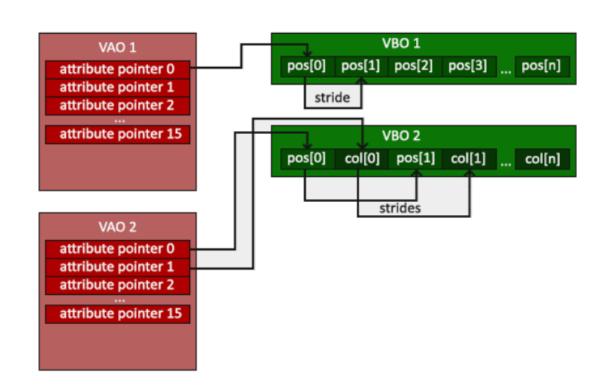
```
// position attribute
glVertexAttribPointer(0, 3, GL_FLOAT, GL_FALSE, 6 * sizeof(float), (void*)0);
glEnableVertexAttribArray(0);
// color attribute
glVertexAttribPointer(1, 3, GL_FLOAT, GL_FALSE, 6 * sizeof(float), (void*)(3* sizeof(float))
glEnableVertexAttribArray(1);
Stride

Color offset
```

## Vertex Array Object (VAO)

Allows to configure vertex attribute pointers more easily

To draw an object, just bind the corresponding VAO



We generate a VAO like a VBO

```
unsigned int VAO;
glGenVertexArrays(1, &VAO);
```

#### Summary

```
glBindVertexArray(VAO);
// 2. copy our vertices array in a buffer for OpenGL to use
glBindBuffer(GL ARRAY BUFFER, VBO);
glBufferData(GL ARRAY BUFFER, sizeof(vertices), vertices, GL STATIC DRAW);
// 3. then set our vertex attributes pointers
glVertexAttribPointer(0, 3, GL FLOAT, GL FALSE, 3 * sizeof(float), (void*)0);
glEnableVertexAttribArray(0);
// (render loop)
// 4. draw the object
glUseProgram(shaderProgram);
glBindVertexArray(VAO);
someOpenGLFunctionThatDrawsOurTriangle();
```

## Render & draw an object



The idea now is to render and draw an object. To do that we will have to:

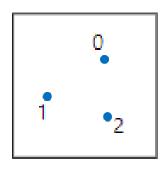


Set up a Vertex & a Fragment Shader

Compile these shaders

Link them to a shader program

#### Vertex Shader

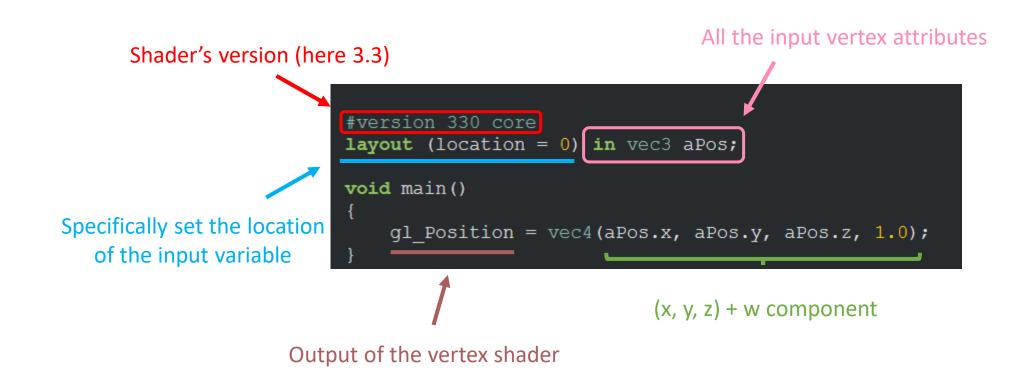


Compute the projection of the vertices of primitives from 3D space into a different 3D space (NDC)

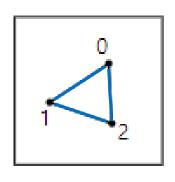
<u>Input data</u>: some properties of the vertices (position, color or texture coordinates)

Output data: the corresponding properties in the new space

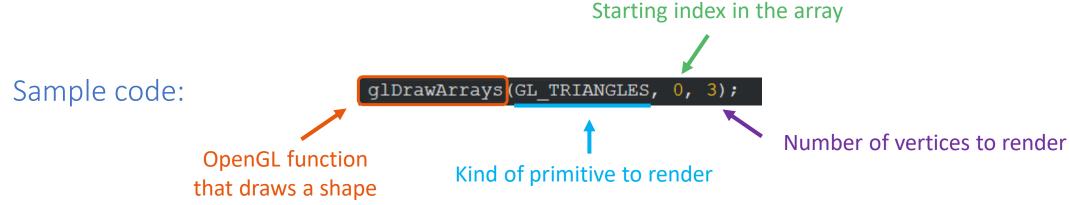
# Sample code



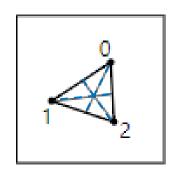
### Primitives Assembly



This process takes all the vertex given by the step before and assemble them in order to create a geometric shape



#### Tessellation

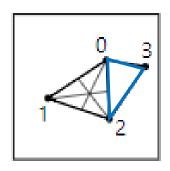


In 3D, the surfaces are built with triangular tiles

Tessellation allows to double triangles on a given surface and therefore increase the level of details

## Geometry Shader



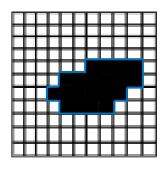


Allows to modify the geometry of each polygon and allows to create new polygons by emitting new vertices

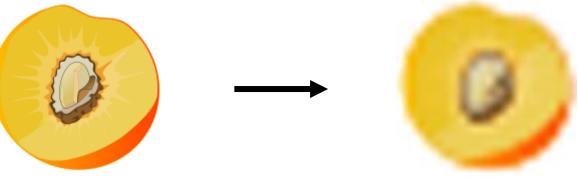
Input data: data of a geometric primitive

Output data: data of one or more geometric primitive

#### Rasterization



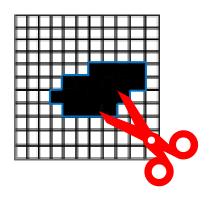
Method of converting a vector image into a raster image to be displayed on a screen



Vector image composed of geometric objects

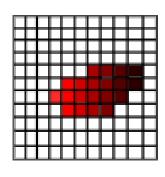
Raster image or Bitmap composed of pixels

# Clipping



This step discard all fragments (which is the required data to render a single pixel) that are outside the view, increasing the performance

# Fragment/Pixel Shader

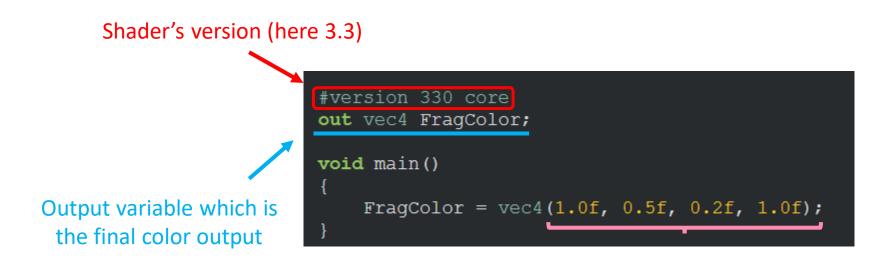


Calculates the final color of a pixel

Input data: pixel data
(position, texture coordinates, color)

Output data: the pixel color

# Sample code



RGB + alpha component

# Compile a Shader

First, we store the code in a string constant

```
const char *vertexShaderSource = "#version 330 core\n"
    "layout (location = 0) in vec3 aPos;\n"
    "void main()\n"
    "{\n"
        " gl_Position = vec4(aPos.x, aPos.y, aPos.z, 1.0);\n"
    "}\0";
```

Then, we store and create the shader

```
unsigned int vertexShader;
vertexShader = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);
```

Type of shader we want to create

Finally, we link the source code to the object and compile it

```
glShaderSource(vertexShader, 1, &vertexShaderSource, NULL);
glCompileShader(vertexShader);
```

# Shader program

First, we create a program object

unsigned int shaderProgram;
shaderProgram = glCreateProgram();

We attach the previously compiled shaders to the program object and link them

glAttachShader(shaderProgram, vertexShader);
glAttachShader(shaderProgram, fragmentShader);
glLinkProgram(shaderProgram);

We can now activate this program to render and draw an object

glUseProgram(shaderProgram);

Final step is to delete our shader objects

glDeleteShader(vertexShader);
glDeleteShader(fragmentShader);

#### Uniforms variables



Useful to pass data from the application on the CPU to the shaders on the GPU

These are global variables

#### Sample code:



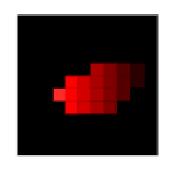
#version 330 core
out vec4 FragColor;
uniform vec4 ourColor;

void main()
{
 FragColor = ourColor;
}

## Alpha test





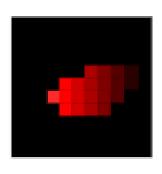


Done with the depth testing using a Z-buffer (in which the depth value of the fragments is stored)

glEnable(GL\_DEPTH\_TEST);

Then, checks for alpha values (opacity of an object) & blends the objects

# Color Blending



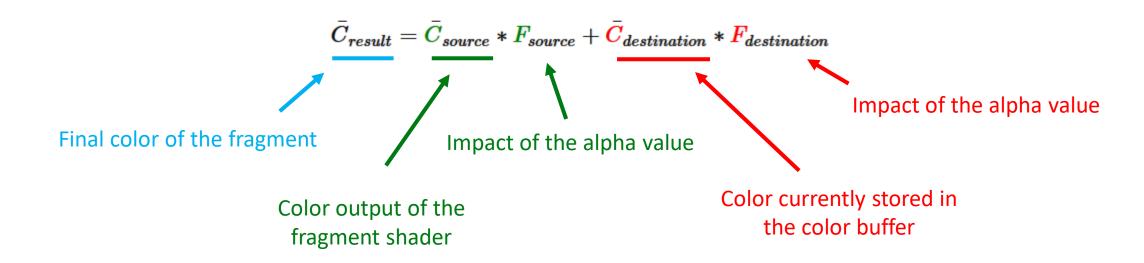
The technique of gently blending two or more colors to create a gradual transition

# Example of a blending function

First, we have to enable the OpenGL functionality

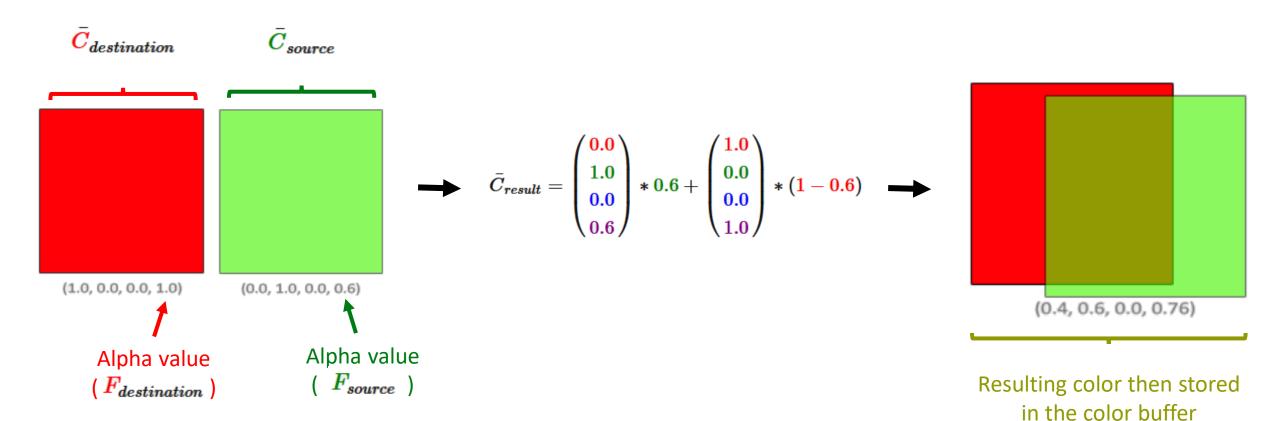
glEnable(GL\_BLEND);

Then, blending can follow this equation:

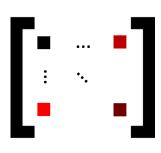


## Example (Cont.)

$$\bar{C}_{result} = \bar{C}_{source} * F_{source} + \bar{C}_{destination} * F_{destination}$$



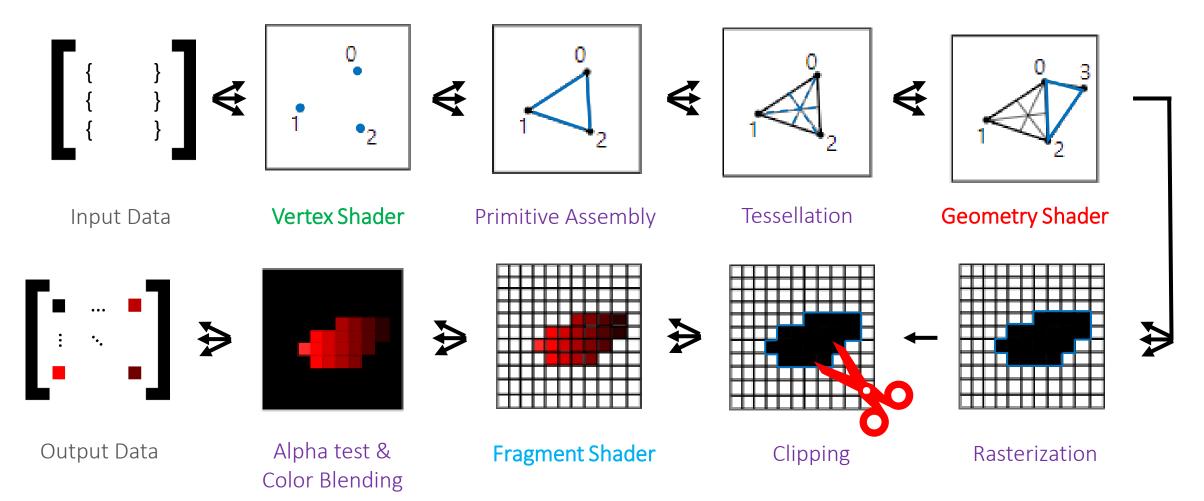
#### Output Data



Return a Framebuffer

The information in this buffer are the values of the color components (RGB) for each pixel

#### Overall view



#### Textures

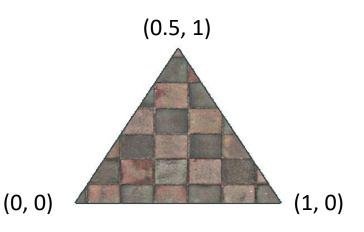
Allows to give the illusion the object is detailed without having to specify vertices

Associate each vertex to a texture coordinate

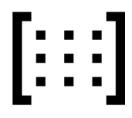
A fragment interpolation is then done for the other fragments

#### Sample code:

```
float texCoords[] = {
    0.0f, 0.0f, // lower-left corner
    1.0f, 0.0f, // lower-right corner
    0.5f, 1.0f // top-center corner
};
```



### **Transformations**



Make an object dynamic using matrix objects & by combining the matrices



Some library can be used like the GLM (OpenGL Mathematics) library

### Useful matrices

#### Scaling Matrix

$$egin{bmatrix} egin{bmatrix} m{S_1} & m{0} & m{0} & m{0} \ 0 & m{S_2} & 0 & 0 \ m{0} & m{0} & m{S_3} & m{0} \ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot egin{bmatrix} x \ y \ z \ 1 \end{pmatrix} = egin{bmatrix} m{S_1} \cdot x \ S_2 \cdot y \ S_3 \cdot z \ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Translation Matrix

$$egin{bmatrix} egin{bmatrix} 1 & oldsymbol{0} & oldsymbol{0} & oldsymbol{0} & oldsymbol{T_x} \ 0 & oldsymbol{0} & oldsymbol{1} & oldsymbol{T_x} \ 0 & oldsymbol{0} & oldsymbol{0} & oldsymbol{1} \end{bmatrix} \cdot egin{pmatrix} x \ y \ z \ z \ 1 \end{pmatrix} = egin{pmatrix} x + oldsymbol{T_x} \ y + oldsymbol{T_y} \ z + oldsymbol{T_z} \ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### **Rotation Matrix**

#### Around X-axis

$$egin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \ 0 & \cos heta & -\sin heta & 0 \ 0 & \sin heta & \cos heta & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot egin{bmatrix} x \ y \ z \ 1 \end{pmatrix} = egin{bmatrix} x \ \cos heta \cdot y - \sin heta \cdot z \ \sin heta \cdot y + \cos heta \cdot z \ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Around Y-axis

$$egin{bmatrix} \cos heta & 0 & \sin heta & 0 \ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \ -\sin heta & 0 & \cos heta & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot egin{bmatrix} x \ y \ z \ 1 \end{pmatrix} = egin{bmatrix} \cos heta \cdot x + \sin heta \cdot z \ y \ -\sin heta \cdot x + \cos heta \cdot z \ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Around Z-axis

$$egin{bmatrix} \cos heta & -\sin heta & 0 & 0 \ \sin heta & \cos heta & 0 & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot egin{bmatrix} x \ y \ z \ 1 \end{pmatrix} = egin{bmatrix} \cos heta \cdot x - \sin heta \cdot y \ \sin heta \cdot x + \cos heta \cdot y \ z \ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Sample code

Translating a vector of (1,0,0) by (1,1,0)

```
The matrix to transform (identity Matrix4)

trans = glm::translate(trans, glm::vec3(1.0f, 1.0f, 0.0f));

vec = trans * vec;

Multiply vec by the translation matrix

A translate function
```

## Coordinates system

Transforming coordinates to NDC is done by a process regrouping several intermediate coordinate systems



Local Space



World Space



View Space

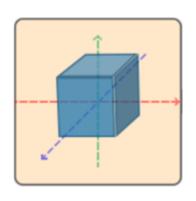




Screen Space



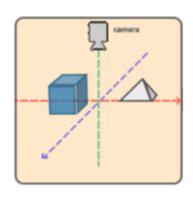
# Local Space



Coordinates of the object relative to its local origin

In general, all new objects have (0, 0, 0) as initial position

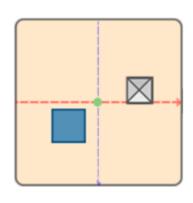
# World Space



Coordinates of all the objects are relative to some global origin of the world

We use a <u>model matrix</u> which translates, scales and/or rotates the object to place it in the world

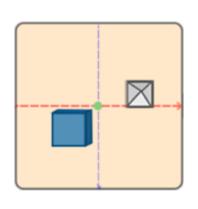
## View Space



Each coordinates is seen from the camera's point of view

This is done by a combination of translations & rotations of the scene which is stored in a <u>view matrix</u>

## Clip Space



Each coordinates is seen from the camera's point of view

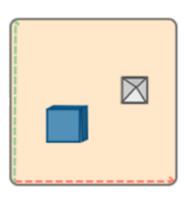
For this step, we use a <u>projection matrix</u> which transform the coordinates into NDC

#### Example:

Specified range [-1000, 1000] for each dimension

(1250, 500, 750) → Not visible (900, 500, 750) → Visible

## Screen Space

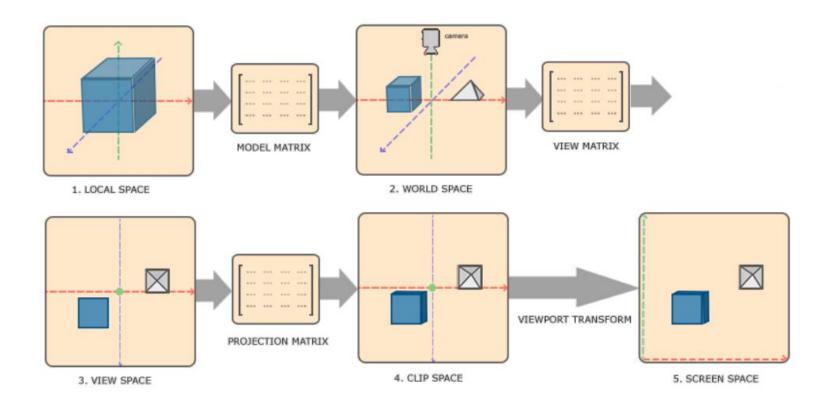


Transforms the NDC coordinates to the window coordinates with the *glViewport()* function

Resulting coordinates are then sent to the rasterizer

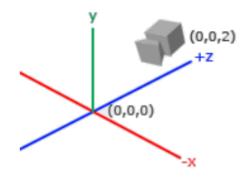
### Overall view

A vertex coordinate is transformed to clip coordinates as follow:  $V_{clip} = M_{projection} \cdot M_{view} \cdot M_{model} \cdot V_{local}$ 

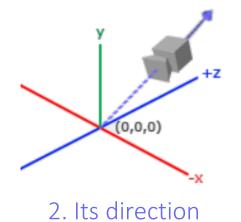


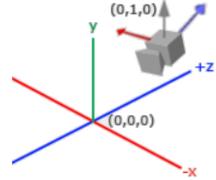
### Camera

To define a camera we need 4 pieces of information

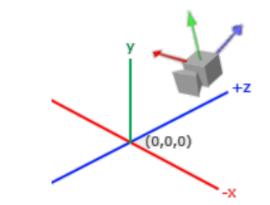


1. Its position in the world space



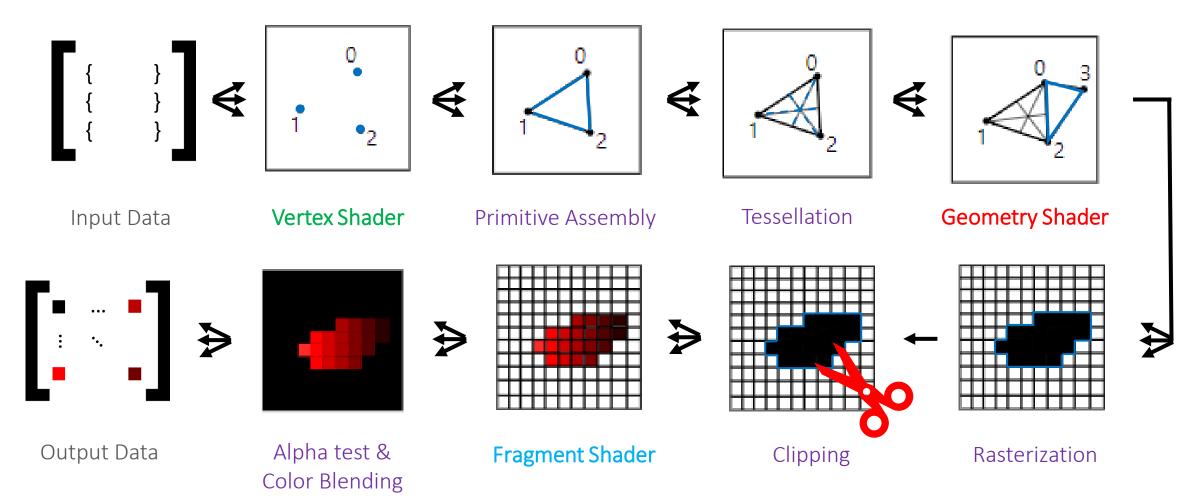


3. A vector pointing to the right



4. A vector pointing upwards

# Recall: Graphics pipeline



## Pipeline abstraction

We can see the pipeline as a function composition which can give us:

#### Context

We can define the notion of context that gives us the valid constants for a run (see after Uniforms)

The formula below is applied for every run

output\_data = (cb o at o fs o c o r o t o pa o vs) (input\_data)

## Recall: Input data



A VBO is built containing the attributes of all vertices which give us a huge vector of data

To work with that, we have to use offsets, strides, etc.

### Idea of the abstraction



No longer working with containers of type

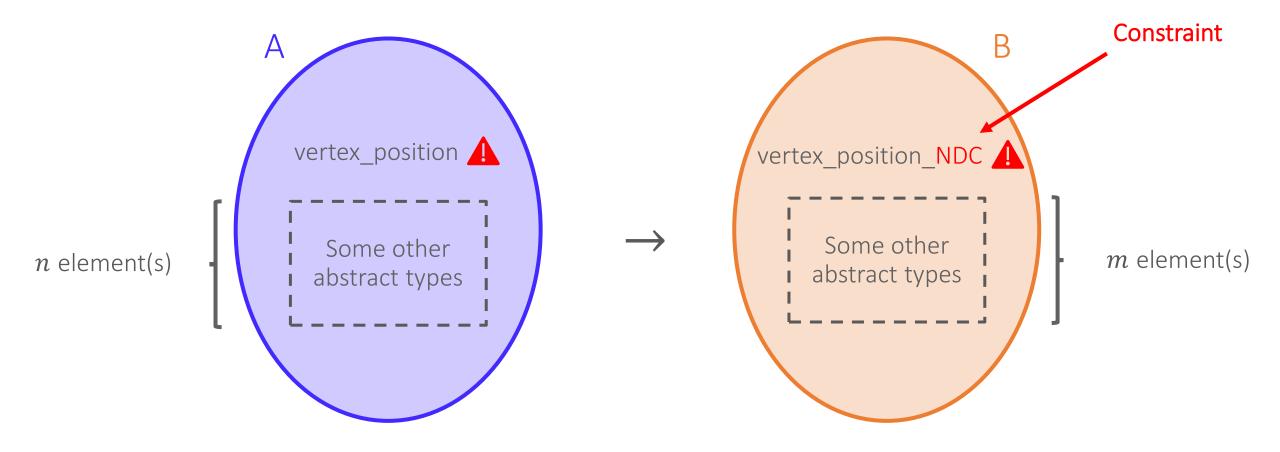
Ex: vec3, vec4, ivec4, mat4, ...



But with abstract type objects

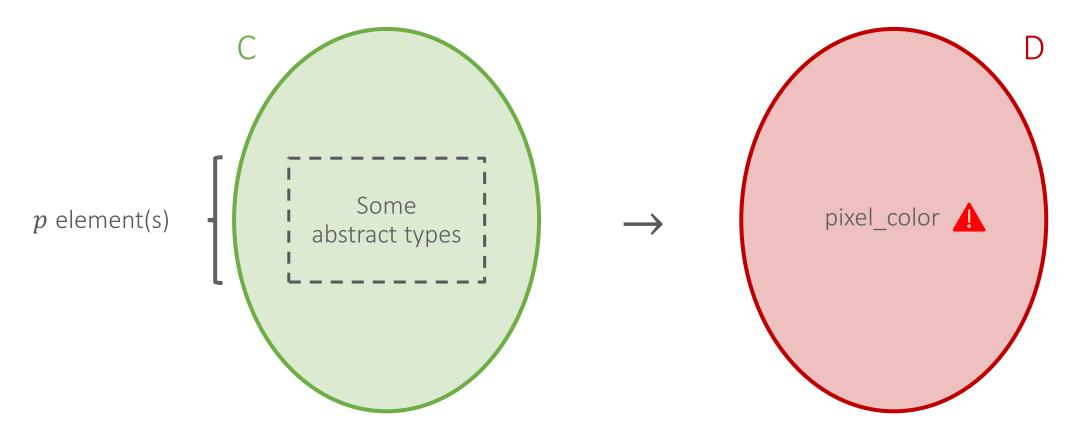
Ex: color, position, textures, ...

### Vertex Shader function $vs: A \rightarrow B$



 $VS(\_:vertex\_position, \cup \_:(A_i \setminus vertex\_position))$ 

# Fragment Shader function fs : C → D



$$fs(\underline{\phantom{a}}:C_i)$$

# Fragment Shader function $fs: C \rightarrow D$ Alternative



$$fs(\underline{\phantom{a}}: C_i)$$

### Several signatures



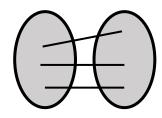
Depending on why a shader is created, the signature will be different

#### Examples:

### Uniforms



We saw that uniform variables are global variables



They are part of the domain and the codomain of the vs() & fs() function



These variables are set for a run and define the context

# Type checking between vs() & fs()

Check that names and types variables shared between the vertex & the fragment shader are identical

#### Example:

```
#version 330 core
layout (location = 0) in vec3 aPos;

out vec4 vertexColor;

void main()
{
    gl_Position = vec4(aPos, 1.0);
    vertexColor = vec4(0.5, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0);
}
```

Vertex shader

```
#version 330 core
out vec4 FragColor;
in vec4 vertexColor;

void main()
{
    FragColor = vertexColor;
}
```

59

Fragment shader

# Recall: Different languages



DirectX High-Level Shader Language

(Unreal Engine)



Cg Shader Language

(Unity)



OpenGL Shading Language

### Similar structures

A sample Cg vertex shader:

Types definition

Calculate output coordinates & colors

```
input vertex
     struct VertIn {
         float4 pos
                      : POSITION;
         float4 color : COLORO;
     };
     // output vertex
     struct VertOut {
         float4 pos
                       : POSITION;
         float4 color : COLORO;
                                          Uniform keyword
     };
     // vertex shader main entry
     VertOut main(VertIn IN, uniform float4x4 modelViewProj) {
         VertOut OUT;
                     = mul(modelViewProj, IN.pos);
         OUT.pos
                     = IN.color;
         OUT.color
         return OUT;
Output
```

### Same abstraction



The different shader languages are very similar



We could therefore use the same abstraction for any language

## Domain-Specific Language (DSL)

A DSL is a programming language whose specifications allow to overcome some constraints in a specific domain



The specific domain will be for us the shaders and especially vertex & fragment shaders

### Advantages & disadvantages



DSL will allow us to gain in productivity

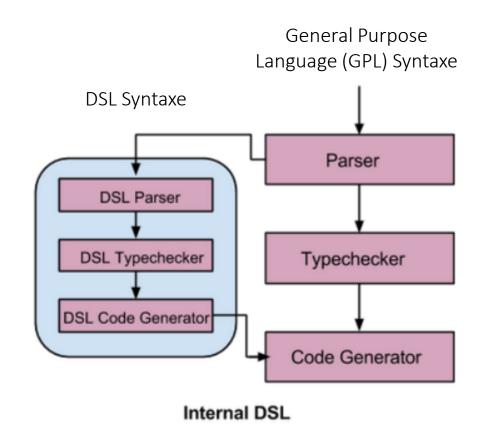
DSL can be reused for other purposes

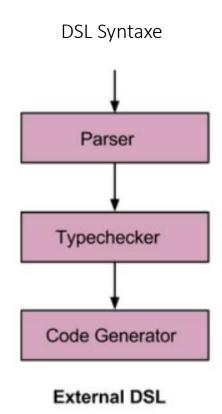


DSL maintenance is complicated

The cost of a DSL is expensive

# Different types of DSL





### Our way



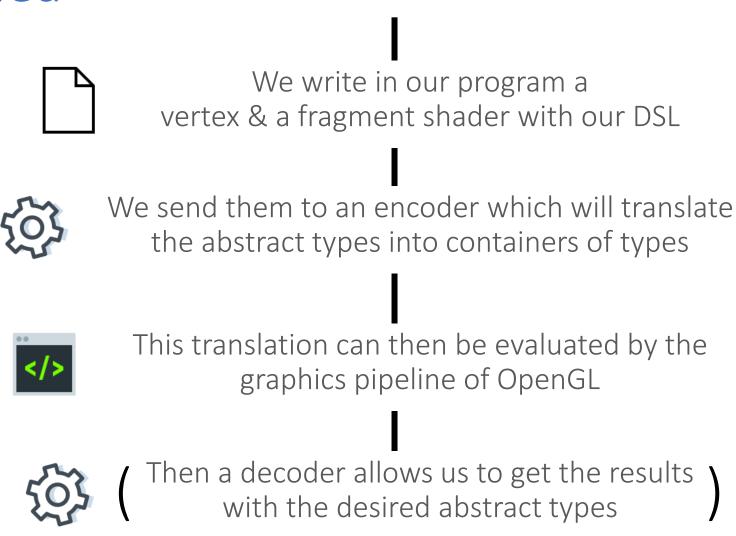
First, we will go on an Internal DSL based on the Swift language

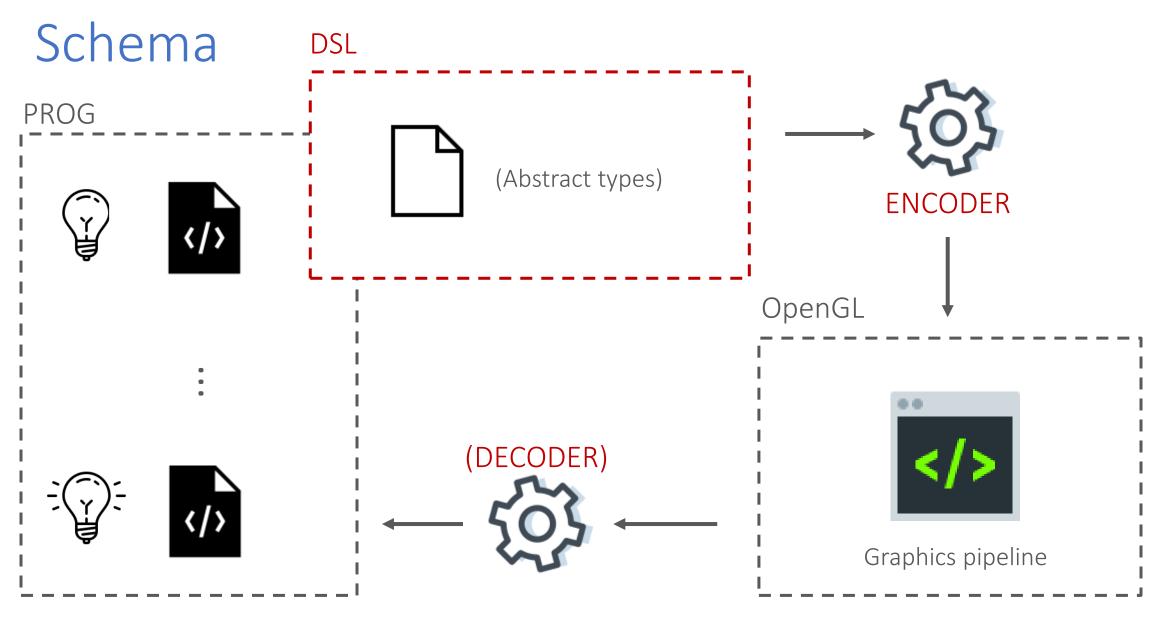


Later, we can potentially encounter a lot of constraints relating to Swift

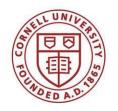
If so, we will go on an External DSL at this time

### Main idea





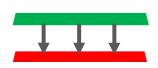
#### Gator



Language created by Dietrich Geisler, Irene Yoon, Aditi Kabra, Horace He, Yinnon Sanders & Adrian Sampson



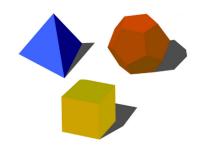
Higher level programming model that allows focus on the geometric semantics of programs



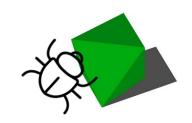
Gator is a surface language with an extended type system based on a target language with a type set (GLSL)

A type-directed translation allows to compile Gator to GLSL

### Problem & ideas



3D scenes consist of many individual objects & the rendering code must combine vectors of different coordinate systems

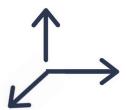


Geometry bugs are difficult to detect



Introduce a type system to eliminate this class of bugs & implement a mechanism that can exclude some bugs by construction

## A geometry type



"Geometry types describe the coordinate system representing each value and the transformations that manipulate them"

A geometry type is made up of 3 components:

- Reference frame
- Geometric object
- Coordinate scheme

Define which operations are legal

### Syntax



Geometry types give more information about the objects they represent than simple vector types in GLSL

Syntax for a geometry type is *scheme*<*frame*>.*object* 

#### Example:

cart3<world>.point

represents the type of a point in world space represented in a 3D cartesian coordinate scheme

## Example: Diffuse Lighting

GLSL implementation

```
float naiveDiffuse(vec3 lightPos, vec3 fragPos), vec3 fragNorm) {
  vec3 lightDir = normalize(lightPos - fragPos);
  return max(dot(lightDir, normalize(fragNorm)), 0.);
}
```

lightPos & fragPos have the same type but they are not geometrically compatible. We have different vectors in different coordinate systems

Subtraction between fragPos (model space) & lightPos (world space)

```
float naiveDiffuse(vec3 lightPos, vec3 fragPos, vec3 fragNorm) {
   vec3 lightDir = normalize(lightPos - uModel * fragPos));
   return max(dot(lightDir, normalize(fragNorm)), 0.);
}
```

To correct the problem we transform the two vectors into a common coordinate system

We define a transformation matrix to go from model to world space

```
float naiveDiffuse(vec3 lightPos, vec3 fragPos, vec3 fragNorm) {
   vec3 lightDir = normalize(lightPos - vec3(uModel * vec4(fragPos, 1.)));
   return max(dot(lightDir, normalize(fragNorm)), 0.);
}
```

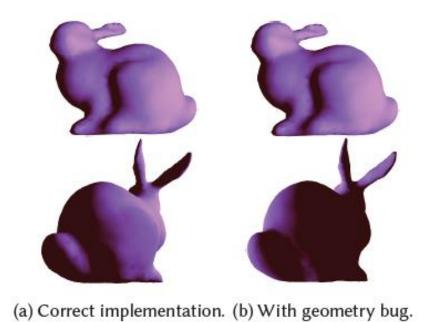
3x3 Cartesian transformation matrices allow only linear transformations 4x4 transformation matrices in Homogeneous coordinates can express affine transformations

```
Cartesian to Homogeneous: [x, y, z] \rightarrow [x, y, z, 1.]
Homogeneous to Cartesian: [x, y, z, w] \rightarrow [x/w, y/w, z/w]
```

```
float naiveDiffuse(vec3 lightPos, vec3 fragPos, vec3 fragNorm) {
   vec3 lightDir = normalize(lightPos - vec3(uModel * vec4(fragPos, 1.)));
   return max(dot(lightDir, normalize(vec3(uModel * vec4(fragNorm, 0.)))))
}
```

The final calculation of the diffuse intensity

We must transform now fragNorm into world space It's a direction so w should be 0



Subtle differences can imply errors

```
frame model has dimension 3;
frame world has dimension 3;
```

### Gator implementation

lightPos & fragPos are both positions but their reference frames are different : <world> vs <model>

The subtraction implies an error

### Gator implementation (Cont.)

```
with frame(3) r:
coordinate cart3 : geometry {
  object vector is float[3];
  ...
}
```

```
float diffuse(
    cart3<world>.point lightPos,
    cart3<model>.point fragPos,
    cart3<model>.direction fragNorm,
    hom3<model>.transformation<world> uModel) {
    cart3<world>.direction lightDir =
        normalize(lightPos - (uModel * fragPos));
    return max(dot(lightDir, normalize(uModel * fragNorm)), 0.0);
```

We need to define an affine transformation matrix to transform fragPos & fragNorm into world reference frame

Multiplying uModel & fragPos implies an error because the coordinate schemes are different

```
coordinate hom3 : geometry {
                                                            object point is float[4];
                                                            object direction is float[4];
                                                            with frame(3) r:
Gator implementation (Cont.)
                                                           object transformation is float[4][4];
 float diffuse(
     cart3<world>.point lightPos,
     cart3<model>.point fragPos,
     cart3<model>.direction fragNorm,
     hom3<model>.transformation<world> uModel) {
   cart3<world>.direction lightDir =
      normalize(lightPos - reduce(uModel * homify(fragPos)));
   return max(dot(lightDir, normalize(reduce(uModel * homify(fragNorm)))), 0.0);
  homify() allows us to go from cart3<model>.point to hom3<model>.point (w=1)
      or to go from cart3<model>.direction to hom3<model>.direction (w=0)
          reduce() allows to map Homogeneous to Cartesian coordinates
```

## Subtyping in Gator

Object & type declarations extend existing types

All types must be given a supertype which can be a primitive type (bool, int, float, string, array) or a geometry type

type angle is float;
type acute is angle;
type obtuse is angle;
Subtype of angle

Example:

### Conclusion



The Gator type system avoids statically incorrect coordinate system transformation codes



We can thus automatically generate a correct transformation code by construction

→ Programmers do not write vector-matrix multiplication calculations
 → Let the compiler find the right transformations

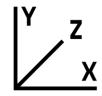


Gator helps to limit the number of geometry bugs

### Limitations



The created abstraction remains low level



It's only based on coordinate system transformations

The syntax is a bit complicated



## Inspiration



The notion of surface language



New types based on primitives

color, light, texture, normal, (position)

A little less complicated syntax



## Work incoming



Learn more about DSL & the creation of abstract types

Construct abstract types

Look steps to create an Internal DSL in Swift

How to link the DSL to the OpenGL pipeline



(To document more about other shader languages)



Begin to work with Rendery

## References (Links)

https://learnopengl.com https://developer.apple.com/metal

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shader https://github.com/RenderyEngine/Rendery

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenGL https://www.khronos.org/opengl/wiki

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/DirectX <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain-specific language">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain-specific language</a>

https://tomassetti.me/domain-specific-languages/

## References (Research)

Dietrich Geisler, Irene Yoon, Aditi Kabra, Horace He, Yinnon Sanders, and Adrian Sampson. 2020. Geometry Types for Graphics Programming. Proc. ACM Program. Lang. 4, OOPSLA, Article 173 (November 2020), 25 pages.

# Working with shaders

Patrick SARDINHA