

# Getting Started with OpenGL

Supplementary Course Notes for COMP 471 and COMP 6761

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These notes may be photocopied for students taking  
courses in graphics programming at Concordia University.

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# Getting Started with OpenGL

Peter Grogono

## 1 Introduction

OpenGL consists of three libraries: the Graphics Library (GL); the Graphics Library Utilities (GLU); and the Graphics Library Utilities Toolkit (GLUT). Function names begin with `gl`, `glu`, or `glut`, depending on which library they belong to.

These notes assume that you are programming with GLUT. There are two advantages of using GLUT:

1. Your programs run under different operating systems (including Windows, Unix, Linux, MacOS, etc.) without requiring changes to the source code.
2. You don't have to learn the details of window management because they are hidden by GLUT.

These notes do *not* explain how to use OpenGL with the MS Windows API (in other words, how to write Windows programs that use OpenGL but not GLUT). The *OpenGL SuperBible* (see reference 5 below) is a good source of information on this topic.

Several versions of these libraries have been implemented. The explanations and programs in these notes are based on the Silicon Graphics implementation. Another implementation, called Mesa, has been installed on the "greek" machines. Implementations are also available for PCs running LINUX, or Windows.

The principal sources for these notes are listed below.

1. *OpenGL Programming Guide*. Mason Woo, Jackie Neider, Tom Davis, and Dave Shreiner. Third Edition, Addison-Wesley, 1999. The "official guide to learning OpenGL".
2. *OpenGL Reference Manual*. Third Edition, Addison-Wesley, 2000.
3. *The OpenGL Utility Toolkit (GLUT) Programming Interface*. Mark J. Kilgard. Silicon Graphics, 1997.  
<http://www.opengl.org/developers/documentation/glut/index.html>
4. *The OpenGL Graphics System: a Specification*. Mark Segal and Kurt Akeley. Silicon Graphics, 1997.  
<http://www.opengl.org/developers/documentation/specs.html>.
5. *OpenGL SuperBible*. Richard S. Wright, Jr. and Michael Sweet. Second Edition, Waite Group Press, 2000.

Since people are constantly changing their web pages and links, you may find that the URLs above do not work. If so, try going to the OpenGL web site ([www.opengl.org](http://www.opengl.org)) and exploring.

Appendix C contains specifications of all of the functions mentioned in these notes, and a few others as well. To use OpenGL effectively, however, you must know not only the specifications

of individual functions but also the way in which these functions work together in programs. Sections 2 through 6 provide examples of ways in which the functions can be used.

I have tried to make this manual as accurate as possible. If you find errors, omissions, or misprints, please send an e-mail message to me at [grogono@cs.concordia.ca](mailto:grogono@cs.concordia.ca).

## 1.1 Compiling and Executing an OpenGL Program

OpenGL can be used with various programming languages but, in these notes, we assume that the language is C or C++. The source code for an OpenGL program should the following directives. If you are not using GLUT:

```
#include <GL/gl.h>
#include <GL/glu.h>
```

If you are using GLUT:

```
#include <GL/glut.h>
```

When you link an OpenGL program, you must include the OpenGL libraries in the fashion appropriate to the platform you are using. The following sections describe how to use OpenGL with MS Windows and Linux.

**Windows.** Include these libraries when you link your program: `glu32.lib`, `opengl32.lib`, and `glut32.lib`. To do this with Visual C++:

- Select Project/Settings/Link.
- In the “Object/library modules:” window, add the name of each library. Library names are separated by a space. The order of libraries doesn’t matter.

Alternatively, if you are using VC++, you can include the following code in your OpenGL program:

```
#pragma comment(lib, "opengl32.lib")
#pragma comment(lib, "glu32.lib")
#pragma comment(lib, "glut32.lib")
```

On some DCS Windows PCs, the header files may be in the directory `... \include` rather than in the subdirectory `... \include\GL`. If this is the case, the directives given above cause compiler errors and, to make them work, you should omit “GL/”.

**Linux.** You can develop OpenGL programs under Linux using your favourite C or C++ compiler. The header files are in `/usr/include/GL` and the libraries are in `/usr/lib`.

On DCS PCs, OpenGL programs run much more slowly under Linux than under Windows. The speeds can differ by a factor of five or more. This is because most modern graphics cards are capable of using hardware to execute low-level OpenGL functions. However, the hardware will be exploited only if the appropriate drivers are installed. Suitable drivers have been installed for Windows but not, in most cases, for Linux.

---

```
1  #include <GL/glut.h>
2
3  void display (void)
4  {
5      glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
6  }
7
8  void init (void)
9  {
10 }
11
12 int main (int argc, char *argv[])
13 {
14     glutInit(&argc, argv);
15     glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_SINGLE | GLUT_RGBA);
16     glutInitWindowSize(800, 600);
17     glutInitWindowPosition(100, 50);
18     glutCreateWindow("My first OpenGL program");
19     init();
20     glutDisplayFunc(display);
21     glutMainLoop();
22     return 0;
23 }
```

Figure 1: The basic OpenGL program

---

## 1.2 Additional Resources

The example programs in these notes have two disadvantages: the first one is that you have to enter them into your computer before you can see how they work, and the second is that they are very short. You can avoid both of these disadvantages by downloading, reading, and compiling the example programs that I have provided at

<http://www.cse.concordia.ca/~grogono/Graphics/graphex.html>

I have also started the development of a local library that provides useful functions that are not built in to OpenGL. You can find details at

<http://www.cs.concordia.ca/~grogono/CUGL/>

## 1.3 A Simple OpenGL Program

Figure 1 shows a simple OpenGL program. Although this program does nothing useful, it defines a pattern that is used by most OpenGL programs. The line numbers are not part of the program, but are used in the explanation below.



- Line 1.** Every OpenGL program should include `GL/glut.h`. The file `glut.h` includes `glu.h`, `gl.h` and other header files required by GLUT.
- Line 3.** You must write a function that displays the graphical objects in your model. The function shown here clears the screen but does not display anything. Your program does not call this function explicitly, but it will be called at appropriate times by OpenGL.
- Line 5.** It is usually a good idea to clear various buffers before starting to draw new objects. The colour buffer, cleared by this call, is where the image of your model is actually stored.
- Line 8.** It is a good idea to put “standard initialization” (the `glut...` calls) in the `main` program and application dependent initialization in a function with a name like `init()` or `myInit()`. We follow this convention in these notes because it is convenient to give different bodies for `init` without having to explain where to put the initialization statements. In this program, the function `init()` is defined in lines 8 through 10, does nothing, and is invoked at line 19.
- Line 14.** The function `glutInit()` initializes the OpenGL library. It is conventional to pass the command line arguments to this function because it may use some of them. You will probably not need this feature.
- Line 15.** The function `glutInitDisplayMode()` initializes the display. Its argument is a bit string. Deleting this line would not affect the execution of the program, because the arguments shown are the default values.
- Line 16.** This call requests a graphics window 800 pixels wide and 600 pixels high. If this line was omitted, GLUT would use the window manager’s default values for the window’s size.
- Line 17.** This call says that the left side of the graphics window should be 100 pixels from the left of the screen and the top of the graphics window should be 50 pixels below the top of the screen. Note that the Y value is measured from the **top** of the screen. If this line was omitted, GLUT would use the window manager’s default values for the window’s position.
- Line 18.** This call creates the window using the settings given previously. The text in the argument becomes the title of the window. The window does not actually appear on the screen until `glutMainLoop()` has been called.
- Line 19.** This is a good place to perform any additional initialization that is needed (see above). Some initialization, such as calls to `glEnable()`, must come **after** the call to `glutCreateWindow()`.
- Line 20.** This call **registers** the callback function `display()`. After executing the call, OpenGL knows what function to call to display your model in the window. Section 2 describes callback functions.
- Line 21.** The last statement of an OpenGL program calls `glutMainLoop()`. This function processes events until the program is terminated. Well-written programs should provide the user with an easy way of stopping the program, for example by selecting **Quit** from a menu or by pressing the ESC key.

---

```

void display (void)
{
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
    glColor3f(1.0, 0.0, 0.0);
    glBegin(GL_LINES);
        glVertex2f(-1.0, 0.0);
        glVertex2f(1.0, 0.0);
    glEnd();
    glFlush();
}

```

Figure 2: Displaying a bright red line

---

## 1.4 Drawing Objects

All that remains is to describe additions to Figure 1. The first one that we will consider is an improved `display()` function. Figure 2 shows a function that displays a line. The call `glColor3f(1.0,0.0,0.0)` specifies the colour of the line as “maximum red, no green, and no blue”.

The construction `glBegin(mode); ...; glEnd();` is used to display groups of primitive objects. The value of *mode* determines the kind of object: in this case, `GL_LINES` tells OpenGL to expect one or more lines given as pairs of vertices. Other values of *mode* and their effects are given in Section 3.

In this case, the line goes from  $(-1, 0)$  to  $(1, 0)$ , as specified by the two calls to `glVertex2f()`. If we use the default viewing region, as in Figure 1, this line runs horizontally across the centre of the window.

The call `glFlush()` forces previously executed OpenGL commands to begin execution. If OpenGL is running on a workstation that communicates directly with its graphics subsystem, `glFlush()` will probably have no effect on the behaviour of the program. It is important to use it if your program is running, or might be run, in a client/server context, however, because otherwise attempts by the system to optimize packet transfers may prevent good graphics performance.

The suffix “3f” indicates that `glColor3f()` requires three arguments of type `GLfloat`. Similarly, `glVertex2f()` requires two arguments of type `GLfloat`. Appendix C provides more details of this notational convention and explains why it is used.

The code between `glBegin()` and `glEnd()` is not restricted to `gl` calls. Figure 3 shows a display function that uses a loop to draw 51 vertical yellow (red + green) lines across the window. Section 3 describes some of the other primitive objects available in OpenGL.

The call `glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT)` clears the colour buffer to the background colour. You can set the background colour by executing

```
glClearColor(r, g, b, a);
```

with appropriate values of *r*, *g*, *b*, and *a* during initialization. Each argument is a floating-point number in the range  $[0, 1]$  specifying the amount of a colour (red, green, blue) or blending

---

```

void display (void)
{
    int i;
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
    glColor3f(1.0, 1.0, 0.0);
    glBegin(GL_LINES);
        for (i = -25; i <= 25; i++)
        {
            float x = i / 25.0;
            glVertex2f(x, -1.0);
            glVertex2f(x, 1.0);
        }
    glEnd();
}

```

Figure 3: Drawing vertical yellow lines

---

(alpha). The default values are all zero, giving a black background. To make the background blue, you could call

```
glClearColor(0.0, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0);
```

Blending is an advanced feature; unless you know how to use it, set the fourth argument of `glClearColor` to zero.

OpenGL allows you to define a **viewing volume**; only objects that are inside the viewing volume will appear on the screen. The following code establishes a viewing volume with orthogonal projection.

```

glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
glLoadIdentity();
glOrtho(left, right, bottom, top, near, far);

```

An object at  $(x, y, z)$  will be displayed only if  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  satisfy the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{left} &\leq x \leq \text{right}, \\
 \text{bottom} &\leq y \leq \text{top}, \\
 \text{near} &\leq z \leq \text{far}.
 \end{aligned}$$

The default projection is orthogonal with boundaries `left = bottom = near = -1` and `right = top = far = 1` (see Figure 13 on page 18). The following version of `init()` sets the background colour to white and defines a viewing volume in which  $0 < x < 5$ ,  $0 < y < 5$ , and  $-2 < z < 2$ . Section 3.1 describes coordinate systems. The last three lines of this function illustrate the selection, initialization, and transformation of the projection matrix. Section 4 describes matrix transformations in detail. To obtain a realistic view of a three-dimensional model, you will need a perspective projection rather than an orthogonal projection, as described in Section 4.3.

Suffix	Data type	C Type	OpenGL Type
b	8-bit integer	signed char	GLbyte
s	16-bit integer	short	GLshort
i	32-bit integer	int or long	GLint, GLsizei
f	32-bit floating point	float	GLfloat, GLclampf
d	64-bit floating point	double	GLdouble, GLclampd
ub	8-bit unsigned integer	unsigned char	GLubyte, GLboolean
us	16-bit unsigned integer	unsigned short	GLushort
ui	32-bit unsigned integer	unsigned int	GLuint, GLenum, GLbitfield
	Nothing	void	GLvoid

Table 1: OpenGL Types

```

void init (void)
{
    glClearColor(1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 0.0);
    glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
    glLoadIdentity();
    glOrtho(0.0, 5.0, 0.0, 5.0, -2.0, 2.0);
}

```

## 1.5 OpenGL Types

OpenGL defines a number of types that are usually equivalent to C types. You can use C types but, if you want to write portable OpenGL programs, it is better to use the OpenGL types: see Table 1. The suffix column contains the letter that is used in function names; for example, the “f” in `glVertex3f`.

## 2 Callbacks

GLUT handles events with **callback functions**. If you want to handle an event, such as a keystroke or mouse movement, you write a function that performs the desired action. Then you **register** your function by passing its name as an argument to a function with a name of the form `glut...Func()`, in which “...” indicates which callback you are registering.

Since OpenGL defines the argument lists of callback functions, you usually cannot pass information in function arguments. Instead, you have to violate the programming practices you have been taught and use global variables. (It is possible to eliminate most of the global variables by using object oriented programming techniques: see my web pages for simple examples.) Typical OpenGL programs usually contain the following components:

- declarations of global variables whose values affect the scene;
- a `display()` function that uses the global variables to draw the scene; and
- one or more callback functions that respond to events by changing the values of the global variables.

The program in Figure 4 illustrates these conventions. It displays a wire-frame cube which is rotated about the  $X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  axes by the angles `x_angle`, `y_angle`, and `z_angle`, which are stored as global variables with initial values zero. We will add callback functions to this program to rotate the cube. The comment “**Callback registration here**” in the main program shows where the callbacks should be registered.

There is one callback function that must be declared in all OpenGL programs: it is the display callback, and it is registered by calling `glutDisplayFunc()` with the name of the display function as its argument, as shown in Figure 4.

### 2.1 The Idle Function

OpenGL calls the **idle function** when it has nothing else to do. The most common application of the idle function is to provide continuous animation. We will use the idle function to make the cube in Figure 4 rotate. The axis of rotation is determined by the global variable `axis`, and is the  $X$ -axis initially.

1. The main program must register the idle function. The following call registers an idle function called `spin()`:

```
glutIdleFunc(spin);
```

2. The idle function must be declared. It has no arguments and returns no results. Figure 5 shows an idle function that increments one of the angles by  $1^\circ$  (one degree) and requests that the model be redisplayed. The global variable `axis` determines which angle is incremented.

---

```
#include <GL/glut.h>

#define SIZE 500

float x_angle = 0.0;
float y_angle = 0.0;
float z_angle = 0.0;
enum { X, Y, Z } axis = X;

void display (void)
{
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
    glLoadIdentity();
    glRotatef(x_angle, 1.0, 0.0, 0.0);
    glRotatef(y_angle, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0);
    glRotatef(z_angle, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0);
    glutWireCube(1.0);
    glutSwapBuffers();
}

void init (void)
{
    glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
    glLoadIdentity();
    glOrtho(-5.0, 5.0, -5.0, 5.0, -5.0, 5.0);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
    glutInit(&argc, argv);
    glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_RGB);
    glutInitWindowSize(SIZE, SIZE);
    glutInitWindowPosition(100, 50);
    glutCreateWindow("Rotating a wire cube");
    init();
    /* Callback registration here */
    glutDisplayFunc(display);
    glutMainLoop();
}
```

Figure 4: Displaying a wire cube

---

---

```
void spin (void)
{
    switch (axis)
    {
        case X:
            x_angle += 1.0;
            break;
        case Y:
            y_angle += 1.0;
            break;
        case Z:
            z_angle += 1.0;
            break;
        default:
            break;
    }
    glutPostRedisplay();
}
```

Figure 5: A callback function that rotates the cube

---

Notice that, after changing the angle, `spin()` does not call `display()` directly. Instead, it calls `glutPostRedisplay()`, which informs `glutMainLoop()` to redisplay the model at the next convenient opportunity.

You should *always* use `glutPostRedisplay()` and you should almost *never* call the display function directly. OpenGL handles many kinds of events and it may receive several requests to re-display before it actually gets around to doing so; thus it is more efficient to request a re-display rather than to force it.

## 2.2 Keyboard Callback Functions

If the program has registered a keyboard callback function, the keyboard callback function is called whenever the user presses a key. The following steps modify the cube program so that it responds to the keys 'x', 'y', and 'z' by changing the axis of rotation of the cube.

1. Register a keyboard callback function.

```
glutKeyboardFunc(keyboard);
```

2. Figure 6 shows a keyboard callback function. It receives three arguments: the key that was pressed, and the current *X* and *Y* coordinates of the mouse.

It would be possible to rewrite `keyboard()` so that it called `glutPostRedisplay()` once only, after the `switch` statement. The advantage of the code shown is that the scene is redisplayed only when one of the keys *x*, *y*, or *z* has been pressed; other keys are ignored.

---

```
void keyboard (unsigned char key, int x, int y)
{
    switch (key)
    {
        case 'x':
            axis = X;
            glutPostRedisplay();
            break;
        case 'y':
            axis = Y;
            glutPostRedisplay();
            break;
        case 'z':
            axis = Z;
            glutPostRedisplay();
            break;
        default:
            break;
    }
}
```

Figure 6: A keyboard callback function that selects an axis

---

```
#define ESCAPE 27

void keyboard (unsigned char key, int x, int y)
{
    if (key == ESCAPE)
        exit(0);
}
```

Figure 7: Quitting with the ESCAPE key

---

The callback function registered by `glutKeyboardFunc()` recognizes only keys corresponding to ASCII graphic characters and ESC, BACKSPACE, and DELETE. The keyboard callback function in Figure 7 is a useful default keyboard function: it allows the user to quit the program by pressing the ESCAPE key.

To make your program respond to other keys, such as the arrow keys and the function (“F”) keys:

1. Register a special key callback function.

```
glutSpecialFunc(special);
```

2. Declare the special key function as follows:



---

GLUT_KEY_F1	GLUT_KEY_F8	GLUT_KEY_UP
GLUT_KEY_F2	GLUT_KEY_F9	GLUT_KEY_DOWN
GLUT_KEY_F3	GLUT_KEY_F10	GLUT_KEY_PAGE_UP
GLUT_KEY_F4	GLUT_KEY_F11	GLUT_KEY_PAGE_DOWN
GLUT_KEY_F5	GLUT_KEY_F12	GLUT_KEY_HOME
GLUT_KEY_F6	GLUT_KEY_LEFT	GLUT_KEY_END
GLUT_KEY_F7	GLUT_KEY_RIGHT	GLUT_KEY_INSERT

---

Table 2: Constants for special keys

```

void special (int key, int x, int y)
{
    switch (key)
    {
        case GLUT_KEY_F1:
            // code to handle F1 key
            break;
        ....
    }
}

```

The arguments that OpenGL passes to `special()` are: the key code, as defined in Table 2; the  $X$  coordinate of the mouse; and the  $Y$  coordinate of the mouse.

Within a keyboard or special callback function, you can call `glutGetModifiers()` (page 71) to find out whether any SHIFT, ALT, CTRL are pressed.

### 2.3 Mouse Event Callback Functions

There are several ways of using the mouse and two ways of responding to mouse activity. The first callback function responds to pressing or releasing one of the mouse buttons.

1. Register a mouse callback function.

```
glutMouseFunc(mouse_button);
```

2. The mouse callback function is passed four arguments.

- The first argument specifies the button. Its value is one of `GLUT_LEFT_BUTTON`, `GLUT_MIDDLE_BUTTON`, or `GLUT_RIGHT_BUTTON`.
- The second argument specifies the button state. Its value is one of `GLUT_DOWN` (the button has been pressed) or `GLUT_UP` (the button has been released).
- The remaining two arguments are the  $X$  and  $Y$  coordinates of the mouse.

---

```
void mouse_button (int button, int state, int x, int y)
{
    double new_angle = x * 360.0 / SIZE;
    if (button == GLUT_LEFT_BUTTON && state == GLUT_DOWN)
    {
        x_angle = new_angle;
        glutPostRedisplay();
    }
    else if (button == GLUT_MIDDLE_BUTTON && state == GLUT_DOWN)
    {
        y_angle = new_angle;
        glutPostRedisplay();
    }
    else if (button == GLUT_RIGHT_BUTTON && state == GLUT_DOWN)
    {
        z_angle = new_angle;
        glutPostRedisplay();
    }
}
```

Figure 8: A callback function that responds to mouse buttons

---

Figure 8 shows a mouse function that uses the mouse buttons to select the axis of rotation and the  $X$  position of the mouse to set the value of the corresponding angle. The value of `new_angle` will be 0 if the mouse cursor is at the left of the OpenGL window and 360 if the mouse cursor is at the right of the window. If the user has changed the width of the window, the value of `SIZE` will be wrong, and the results will be different; Section 2.4 shows how you can avoid this problem.

An OpenGL program can also respond to “dragging” events in which the user holds a mouse button down and moves the mouse.

1. Register a callback function for mouse dragging events:

```
glutMotionFunc(drag);
```

2. The motion function is given the  $X$  and  $Y$  coordinates of the mouse. Figure 9 shows a motion function that uses the position of the mouse to set `z_angle` and `x_angle`.

The function `glutPassiveMotionFunc()` is similar but registers a callback function that responds to mouse movement when no buttons have been pressed.

Within a mouse callback function, you can call `glutGetModifiers()` to find out whether any `SHIFT`, `ALT`, `CTRL` are pressed.

---

```
void drag (int x, int y)
{
    z_angle = 360.0 * x / SIZE;
    x_angle = 360.0 * y / SIZE;
    glutPostRedisplay();
}
```

Figure 9: A callback function that responds to dragging the mouse

---

## 2.4 Reshaping the Graphics Window

Whenever the user moves or resizes the graphics window, OpenGL informs your program, provided that you have registered the appropriate callback function. The main problem with reshaping is that the user is likely to change the shape of the window as well as its size; you do not want the change to distort your image.

1. Register a callback function that will respond to window reshaping:

```
glutReshapeFunc(reshape);
```

2. Figure 10 shows a callback function that responds to a reshape request. The arguments are the width and height of the new window, in pixels. The function first calls `glViewport()` to update the viewport so that it includes the entire window. Then, it changes the view to match the shape of the new window in such a way that none of the scene is lost. The code ensures that:

- The ratio `w/h` is the same as the ratio `width/height`; and
- The smaller of `w` and `h` is 5.0, ensuring that none of the model will be cut out of the scene.

If your program uses the mouse position as a source of input, it is a good idea to match the mouse coordinates to the borders of the graphics window. Figure 11 outlines a program that uses the mouse to set the global variables `xpos` and `ypos`. The callback functions `reshape()` and `drag()` work together to maintain the following invariants:

```
xpos = 0   at the left
xpos = 1   at the right
ypos = 0   at the bottom
ypos = 1   at the top
```

Note:

- The  $Y = 0$  is the top of the screen in mouse coordinates but the bottom of the screen in graphics coordinates.

---

```
void reshape (int width, int height)
{
    GLfloat w, h;
    glViewport(0, 0, width, height);
    glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
    glLoadIdentity();
    if (width > height)
    {
        w = (5.0 * width) / height;
        h = 5.0;
    }
    else
    {
        w = 5.0;
        h = (5.0 * height) / width;
    }
    glOrtho(-w, w, -h, h, -5.0, 5.0);
    glutPostRedisplay();
}
```

Figure 10: A callback function that responds to window reshaping

---

- The code does not ensure that  $0 \leq xpos \leq 1$  or  $0 \leq ypos \leq 1$  because some window systems allow the user to drag the mouse outside an application's window without the application giving up control.
- The function `reshape()` computes the aspect ratio of the new window and passes it to `gluPerspective()` to set up a perspective projection.

The `reshape` callback function responds to a user action that changes the shape of the window. You can also change the shape or position of a window from within your program by calling `glutReshapeWindow()` or `glutPositionWindow()`.

---

```
#include <GL/glut.h>

int screen_width = 600;
int screen_height = 400;
GLfloat xpos = 0.0;
GLfloat ypos = 0.0;

void display (void)
{
    /* display the model using xpos and ypos */
}

void drag (int mx, int my)
{
    xpos = (GLfloat) mx / screen_width;
    ypos = 1.0 - (GLfloat) my / screen_height;
    glutPostRedisplay();
}

void reshape (int width, int height)
{
    screen_width = width;
    screen_height = height;
    glViewport(0, 0, width, height);
    glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
    glLoadIdentity();
    gluPerspective(30.0, (GLfloat) width / (GLfloat) height, 1.0, 20.0);
    glutPostRedisplay();
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
    glutInit(&argc, argv);
    glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_RGB);
    glutInitWindowSize(screen_width, screen_height);
    glutCreateWindow("Demonstration of reshaping");
    glutDisplayFunc(display);
    glutMotionFunc(drag);
    glutReshapeFunc(reshape);
    glutMainLoop();
}
```

---

Figure 11: Maintaining scaling invariants

### 3 Primitive Objects

The `display()` callback function usually contains code to render your model into graphical images. All models are built from primitive parts. There are a few functions for familiar objects, such as spheres, cones, cylinders, toruses, and teapots, but you have to build other shapes yourself. OpenGL provides functions for drawing **primitive objects**, including points, lines, and polygons. There are also various short-cuts for drawing the sets of related polygons (usually triangles) that approximate three-dimensional surfaces.

The code for drawing primitives has the general form

```
glBegin(mode);
.....
glEnd();
```

Table 3 explains what OpenGL expects for each value of the parameter `mode`. Assume, in each case, that the code specifies  $n$  vertices  $v_0, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-1}$ . For some modes,  $n$  should be a multiple of something: e.g., for `GL_TRIANGLES`,  $n$  will normally be a multiple of 3. It is not an error to provide extra vertices, but OpenGL will ignore them. The polygon drawn in mode `GL_POLYGON` must be convex.

Figure 12 shows how the vertices of triangle and quadrilateral collections are labelled. The label numbers are important, to ensure both that the topology of the object is correct and that the vertices appear in counter-clockwise order (see Section 3.4).

Separate triangles are often easier to code than triangle strips or fans. The trade-off is that your program will run slightly more slowly, because you will have multiple calls for each vertex.

Mode Value	Effect
<code>GL_POINTS</code>	Draw a point at each of the $n$ vertices.
<code>GL_LINES</code>	Draw the unconnected line segments $v_0v_1, v_2v_3, \dots, v_{n-2}v_{n-1}$ .
<code>GL_LINE_STRIP</code>	Draw the connected line segments $v_0v_1, v_1v_2, \dots, v_{n-2}v_{n-1}$ .
<code>GL_LINE_LOOP</code>	Draw a closed loop of lines $v_0v_1, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-2}v_{n-1}, v_{n-1}v_0$ .
<code>GL_TRIANGLES</code>	Draw the triangle $v_0v_1v_2$ , then the triangle $v_3v_4v_5$ , and so on.
<code>GL_TRIANGLE_STRIP</code>	Draw the triangle $v_0v_1v_2$ , then use $v_3$ to draw a second triangle, and so on (see Figure 12 (a)).
<code>GL_TRIANGLE_FAN</code>	Draw the triangle $v_0v_1v_2$ , then use $v_3$ to draw a second triangle, and so on (see Figure 12 (b)).
<code>GL_QUADS</code>	Draw the quadrilateral $v_0v_1v_2v_3$ , then the quadrilateral $v_4v_5v_6v_7$ , and so on.
<code>GL_QUAD_STRIP</code>	Draw the quadrilateral $v_0v_1v_3v_2$ , then the quadrilateral $v_2v_3v_5v_4$ , and so on (see Figure 12 (c)).
<code>GL_POLYGON</code>	Draw a single polygon using $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}$ as vertices ( $n \geq 3$ ).

Table 3: Primitive Specifiers

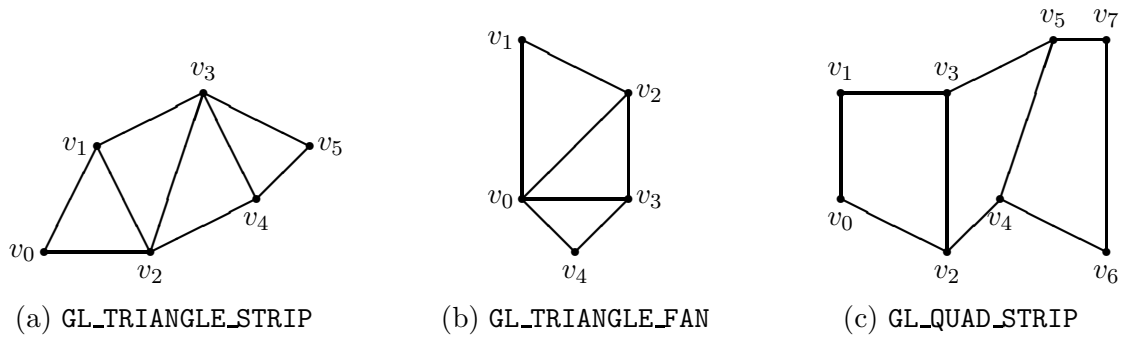


Figure 12: Drawing primitives

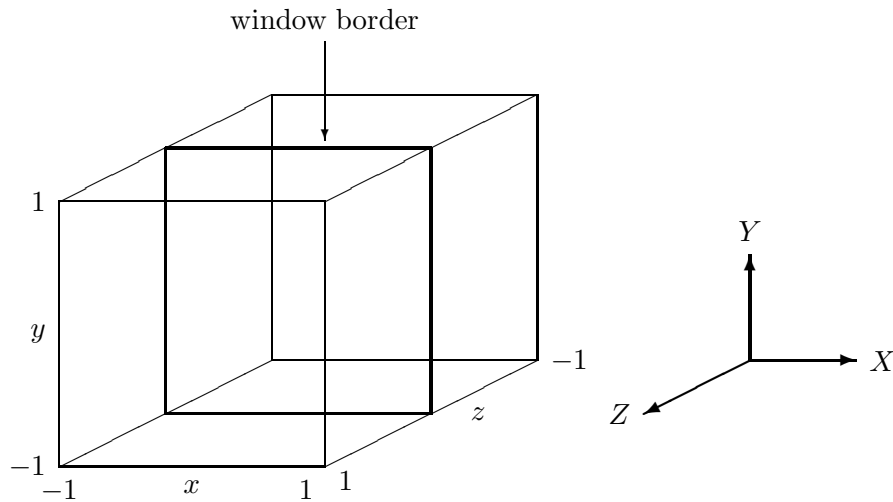


Figure 13: Default viewing volume

### 3.1 The Coordinate System

When we draw an object, where will it be? OpenGL objects have four coordinates:  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $w$ . The first two,  $x$  and  $y$  must always be specified. The  $z$  coordinate defaults to 0. The  $w$  coordinate defaults to 1. (Appendix A.1 explains the use of  $w$ .) Consequently, a call to `glVertex()` may have 2, 3, or (occasionally) 4 arguments.

Objects are visible only if they are inside the **viewing volume**. By default, the viewing volume is the  $2 \times 2$  cube bounded by  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ ,  $-1 \leq y \leq 1$ , and  $-1 \leq z \leq 1$ , with the screen in the plane  $z = 0$ : see Figure 13. The projection is **orthographic** (no perspective), as if we were viewing the window from infinitely far away.

The following code changes the boundaries of the viewing volume but maintains an orthographic projection:

```
glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
```

```
glLoadIdentity();
glOrtho(left, right, bottom, top, near, far);
```

An object at  $(x, y, z)$  will be visible if  $\text{left} \leq x \leq \text{right}$ ,  $\text{bottom} \leq y \leq \text{top}$ , and  $-\text{near} \leq z \leq -\text{far}$ . Note the sign reversal in the  $Z$ -axis: this convention ensures that the coordinate system is right-handed.

For many purposes, a perspective transformation (see Section 4.3) is better than an orthographic transformation. Section 4.5 provides further details of OpenGL's coordinate systems.

### 3.2 Points

The diameter of a point is set by `glPointSize(size)`. The initial value of `size` is 1.0.

The unit of size is pixels. The details are complicated because the actual size and shape of a point larger than one pixel in diameter depend on the implementation of OpenGL and whether or not anti-aliasing is in effect. If you set `size > 1`, the result may not be precisely what you expect.

### 3.3 Lines

The width of a line is set by `glLineWidth(size)`. The default value of `size` is 1.0. The unit is pixels: see the note about point size above.

To draw stippled (or dashed) lines, use the following code:

```
glEnable(GL_LINE_STIPPLE);
glLineStipple(factor, pattern);
```

The `pattern` is a 16-bit number in which a 0-bit means “don't draw” and a 1-bit means “do draw”. The `factor` indicates how much the pattern should be “stretched”.

**Example:** After the following code has been executed, lines will be drawn as  $10 \times 10$  pixel squares separated by 10 pixels (note that  $A_{16} = 1010_2$ ).

```
glEnable(GL_LINE_STIPPLE);
glLineWidth(10.0);
glLineStipple(10, 0xAAAA);
```

### 3.4 Polygons

The modes `GL_POINTS`, `GL_LINES`, `GL_LINE_STRIP`, and `GL_LINE_LOOP` are straightforward. The other modes all describe polygons of one sort or another.

The way in which polygons are drawn is determined by calling `glPolygonMode(face, mode)`. Table 4 shows the possible values of `face` and `mode`.

How do we decide which is the front of a polygon? The rule that OpenGL uses is: if the vertices appear in a counter-clockwise order in the viewing window, we are looking at the front of the polygon. If we draw a solid object, such as a cube, the “front” of each face should be the “outside”. The distinction between front and back does not matter in the default mode, in which the front and back sides of a polygon are treated in the same way.



---

face	mode
GL_FRONT_AND_BACK (default)	GL_FILL (default)
GL_FRONT	GL_LINE
GL_BACK	GL_POINT

---

Table 4: Options for drawing polygons

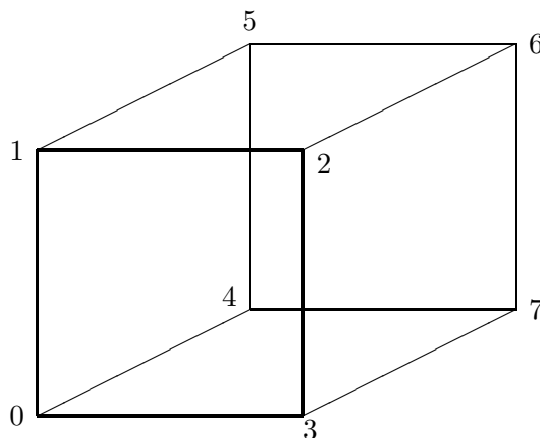


Figure 14: Labelling the corners of a cube

---

**Example:** Suppose that we want to draw a unit cube centered at the origin, with vertices numbered as in Figure 14. Figure 15 shows the code required.

We begin by declaring an array `pt` giving the coordinates of each vertex. Next, we declare a function `face()` that draws one face of the cube. Finally, we declare a function `cube()` that draws six faces, providing the vertices in counter-clockwise order when viewed from outside the cube.

Polygons must be **convex**. The effect of drawing a concave or re-entrant (self-intersecting) polygon is undefined. If necessary, convert a concave polygon to two or more convex polygons by adding internal edges.

**Colouring** The function call `glShadeModel(mode)` determines the colouring of polygons. By default, `mode` is `GL_SMOOTH`, which means that OpenGL will use the colours provided at each vertex and interpolated colours for all other points. For example, if you draw a rectangle with red corners at the left and blue corners at the right, the left edge will be red, the right edge will be blue, and the other points will be shades of purple.

If `mode` is `GL_FLAT`, the entire polygon has the same colour as its first vertex.

A set of three points defines a plane. If there are more than three points in a set, there may be no plane that contains them. OpenGL will draw non-planar “polygons”, but lighting and shading effects may be a bit strange.

---

```
typedef GLfloat Point[3];

Point pt[] = {
    { -0.5, -0.5,  0.5 },
    { -0.5,  0.5,  0.5 },
    {  0.5,  0.5,  0.5 },
    {  0.5, -0.5,  0.5 },
    { -0.5, -0.5, -0.5 },
    { -0.5,  0.5, -0.5 },
    {  0.5,  0.5, -0.5 },
    {  0.5, -0.5, -0.5 } };

void face (int v0, int v1, int v2, int v3)
{
    glBegin(GL_POLYGON);
        glVertex3fv(pt[v0]);
        glVertex3fv(pt[v1]);
        glVertex3fv(pt[v2]);
        glVertex3fv(pt[v3]);
    glEnd();
}

void cube (void)
{
    face(0, 3, 2, 1);
    face(2, 3, 7, 6);
    face(0, 4, 7, 3);
    face(1, 2, 6, 5);
    face(4, 5, 6, 7);
    face(0, 1, 5, 4);
}
```

Figure 15: Drawing a cube

---

**Stippling** To draw stippled polygons, execute the following code:

```
glEnable(GL_POLYGON_STIPPLE);
glPolygonStipple(pattern);
```

The argument `pattern` is a pointer to a  $32 \times 32$  pixel bitmap ( $32^2 = 1024$  bits = 128 bytes = 256 hex characters).

**Rectangles** Since rectangles are used often, OpenGL provides a special function, `glRect()` for drawing rectangles in the  $z = 0$  plane (page 77).

### 3.5 Hidden Surface Elimination

To obtain a realistic view of a collection of primitive objects, the graphics system must display only the objects that the viewer can see. Since the components of the model are typically surfaces (triangles, polygons, etc.), the step that ensures that invisible surfaces are not rendered is called **hidden surface elimination**. There are various ways of eliminating hidden surfaces; OpenGL uses a **depth buffer**.

The depth buffer is a two-dimensional array of numbers; each component of the array corresponds to a pixel in the viewing window. In general, several points in the model will map to a single pixel. The depth-buffer is used to ensure that only the point closest to the viewer is actually displayed.

To enable hidden surface elimination, modify your graphics program as follows:

- When you initialize the display mode, include the depth buffer bit:

```
glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_RGBA | GLUT_DEPTH);
```

- During initialization and after creating the graphics window, execute the following statement to enable the depth-buffer test:

```
glEnable(GL_DEPTH_TEST);
```

- In the `display()` function, modify the call to `glClear()` so that it clears the depth-buffer as well as the colour buffer:

```
glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT | GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT);
```

### 3.6 Animation

If your program has an idle callback function that changes the values of some global variables, OpenGL will display your model repeatedly, giving the effect of animation. The display will probably flicker, however, because images will be alternately drawn and erased. To avoid flicker, modify your program to use **double buffering**. In this mode, OpenGL renders the image into one buffer while displaying the contents of the other buffer.

- When you initialize the display mode, include the double buffer bit:

```
glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_RGBA | GLUT_DOUBLE);
```

- At the end of the `display()` function include the call

```
glutSwapBuffers();
```

## 4 Transformations

The effect of a **transformation** is to move an object, or set of objects, with respect to a coordinate system. Table 5 describes some common transformations. The least important transformation is shearing; OpenGL does not provide primitive functions for it.

We can apply transformations to: the model; parts of the model; the camera (or eye) position; and the camera “lens”.

In OpenGL, the first three of these are called “model view” transformations and the last is called the “projection” transformation. Note that model transformations and camera transformations are complementary: for every transformation that changes the model, there is a corresponding inverse transformation that changes the camera and has the same effect on the screen.

The OpenGL functions that are used to effect transformations include `glMatrixMode()`, `glLoadIdentity()`, `glTranslatef()`, `glRotatef()`, and `glScalef()`.

### 4.1 Model View Transformations

A transformation is represented by a matrix. (Appendix A provides an overview of the theory of representing transformations as matrices.) OpenGL maintains two current matrices: the **model view matrix** and the **projection matrix**. `glMatrixMode()` selects the current matrix; `glLoadIdentity()` initializes it; and the other functions change it. In the example below, the left column shows typical code and the right column shows the effect in pseudocode.  $M$  is the current matrix,  $I$  is the identity matrix,  $T$  is a translation matrix,  $R$  is a rotation matrix, and  $\times$  denotes matrix multiplication. The final value of  $M$  is  $I \times T \times R = T \times R$ .

<code>glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);</code>	
<code>glLoadIdentity();</code>	$M := I$
<code>glTranslatef(x,y,z);</code>	$M := M \times T$
<code>glRotatef(a,x,y,z);</code>	$M := M \times R$

You might think it natural to draw something and then transform it. OpenGL, however, works the other way round: you define the transformations first and then you draw the objects. This seems backwards, but actually provides greater flexibility in the drawing process, because we can interleave drawing and transformation operations — it’s also more efficient. Consider the following pseudocode:

---

Name	Effect
Translate	Move or slide along a straight line
Rotate	Rotate, spin, or twist, about an axis through the origin
Scale	Make an object larger or smaller
Shear	Turn rectangles into parallelograms
Perspective	Give illusion of depth for 3D objects

Table 5: Common transformations

---

---

```

1  void display (void)
2  {
3      glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
4      glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
5      glLoadIdentity();
6      glutWireCube(1.0);
7      glTranslatef(0.0, 0.5, 0.0);
8      glRotatef(-90.0, 1.0, 0.0, 0.0);
9      glutWireCone(0.5, 2.0, 15, 15);
10     glRotatef(90.0, 1.0, 0.0, 0.0);
11     glTranslatef(0.0, 2.5, 0.0);
12     glutWireSphere(0.5, 15, 15);
13 }
```

Figure 16: A balancing act

---

```

initialize model view matrix
draw object P1
do transformation T1
draw object P2
do transformation T2
draw object P3
.....
```

The object P1 is drawn without any transformations: it will appear exactly as defined in the original coordinate system. When the object P2 is drawn, transformation T1 is in effect; if T1 is a translation, for example, P2 will be displaced from the origin. Then P3 is drawn with transformations T1 and T2 (that is, the transformation  $T1 \times T2$ ) in effect.

In practice, we usually define a camera transformation first, before drawing any objects. This makes sense, because changing the position of the camera should change the entire scene. By default, the camera is positioned at the origin and is looking in the negative  $Z$  direction.

Although we can think of a transformation as moving either the objects or the coordinate system, it is often simpler to think of the coordinates moving. The following example illustrates this way of thinking.

The program `balance.c` draws a sphere on the top of a cone which is standing on a cube. Figure 16 shows the display callback function that constructs this model (the line numbers are not part of the program).

Line 3 clears the buffer, line 4 selects the model view matrix, and line 5 initialize the matrix. The first object drawn is a unit cube (line 6); since no transformations are in effect, the cube is at the origin. Since the cone must sit on top of the cube, line 7 translates the coordinate system up by 0.5 units.

The axis of the cone provided by GLUT is the  $Z$  axis, but we need a cone with its axis in the  $Y$  direction. Consequently, we rotate the coordinate system (line 8), draw the cone (line 9), and rotate the coordinate system back again (line 10). Note that the rotation in line 10:

1. does **not** affect the cone, which has already been drawn; and
2. avoids confusion: if it it was not there, we would have a coordinate system with a horizontal  $Y$  axis and a vertical  $Z$  axis.

Line 11 moves the origin to the centre of the sphere, which is  $2.0 + 0.5$  units (the height of the cone plus the radius of the sphere) above the top face of the cube. Line 12 draws the sphere.

The example demonstrates that we can start at the origin (the “centre” of the model) and move around drawing parts of the model. Sometimes, however, we have to get back to a previous coordinate system. Consider drawing a person, for instance: we could draw the body, move to the left shoulder, draw the upper arm, move to the elbow joint, draw the lower arm, move to the wrist, and draw the hand. Then what? How do we get back to the body to draw the right arm?

The solution that OpenGL provides for this problem is a **matrix stack**. There is not just one model view matrix, but a stack that can contain 32 model view matrices. (The specification of the API requires a stack depth of at least 32 matrices; implementations may provide more.) The function `glPushMatrix()` pushes the current matrix onto the stack, and the function `glPopMatrix()` pops the current matrix off the stack (and loses it). Using these functions, we could rewrite lines 8–10 of the example as:

```
glPushMatrix();
glRotatef(-90.0, 1.0, 0.0, 0.0);
glutWireCone(0.5, 2.0, 15, 15);
glPopMatrix();
```

The stack version is more efficient because it is faster to copy a matrix than it is to construct a new matrix and perform a matrix multiplication. It is always better to push and pop than to apply inverse transformations.

When pushing and popping matrices, it is important to realize that the sequence

```
glPopMatrix();
glPushMatrix();
```

does have an effect: the two calls do not cancel each other out. To see this, look at Figure 17. The left column contains line numbers for identification, the second column contains code, the third column shows the matrix at the top of the stack after each function has executed, and the other columns show the matrices lower in the stack. The matrices are shown as  $I$  (the identity),  $T$  (the translation), and  $R$  (the rotation). At line 4, there are three matrices on the stack, with  $T$  occupying the top two places. Line 5 post-multiplies the top matrix by  $R$ . Line 6 pops the product  $T \cdot R$  off the stack, restoring the stack to its value at line 3. Line 7 pushes the stack and copies the top matrix. Note the difference between the stack entries at line 5 and line 7.

## 4.2 Projection Transformations

The usual practice in OpenGL coding is to define a projection matrix once and not to apply any transformations to it. The projection matrix can be defined during initialization, but a

---

#	Code	Stack
1	<code>glLoadIdentity();</code>	<i>I</i>
2	<code>glPushMatrix();</code>	<i>I I</i>
3	<code>glTranslatef(1.0, 0.0, 0.0);</code>	<i>T I</i>
4	<code>glPushMatrix();</code>	<i>T T I</i>
5	<code>glRotatef(10.0, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0);</code>	<i>T · R T I</i>
6	<code>glPopMatrix();</code>	<i>T I</i>
7	<code>glPushMatrix();</code>	<i>T T I</i>

---

Figure 17: Pushing and popping

better place to define it is the reshape function. If the user changes the shape of the viewing window, the program should respond by changing the projection transformation so that the view is not distorted. The callback function `reshape()` in Figure 10 on page 15 shows how to do this.

The following code illustrates the default settings:

```
glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
glLoadIdentity();
glOrtho(-1.0, 1.0, -1.0, 1.0, -1.0, 1.0);
```

This code defines an orthographic projection (no perspective) and defines the **viewing volume** to be a  $2 \times 2 \times 2$  unit cube centered at the origin. The six arguments are, respectively: minimum  $X$ , maximum  $X$ , minimum  $Y$ , maximum  $Y$ , minimum  $Z$ , and maximum  $Z$ .

### 4.3 Perspective Transformations

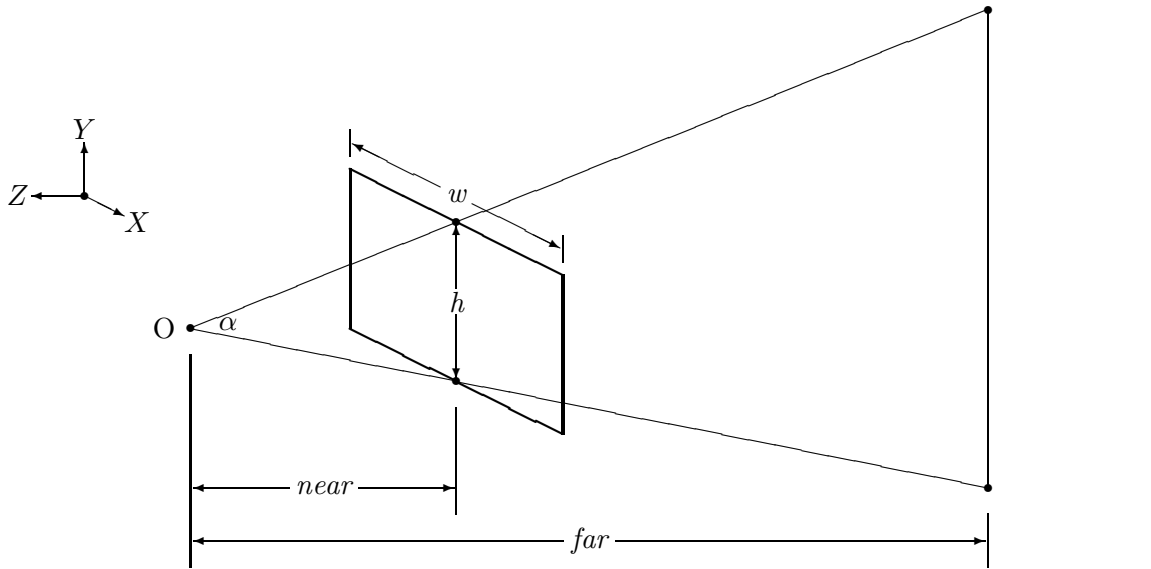
It is not surprising that distant objects appear to be smaller than close objects: if an object is further from our eyes, it will subtend a smaller angle at the eye and hence create a smaller image on the retina. A projection that captures this phenomenon in a two-dimensional view is called a **perspective projection**.

The difference between an orthographic projection and a perspective projection lies in the shape of the viewing volume. As we have seen, the viewing volume for an orthographic projection is a cuboid (rectangular box). The viewing volume for a perspective projection is a **frustum**, or truncated pyramid. The apex of the pyramid is at the eye; and the top and bottom of the frustum determine the distances of the nearest and furthest points that are visible. The sides of the pyramid determine the visibility of objects in the other two dimensions.

OpenGL provides the function `glFrustum()` to define the frustum directly, as shown in Figure 18. The eye and the apex of the pyramid are at the point labelled **O** at the left of the diagram. We can think of the closer vertical plane as the screen: the closest objects lie in the plane of the screen and other objects lie behind it. The first four arguments determine the range of  $X$  and  $Y$  values as follows: **left** corresponds to minimum  $X$ ; **right** corresponds to maximum  $X$ ; **bottom** corresponds to minimum  $Y$ ; and **top** corresponds to maximum  $Y$ .





Figure 19: Perspective projection using `gluPerspective()`


---

```

void reshape (int width, int height)
{
    glViewport(0, 0, width, height);
    glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
    glLoadIdentity();
    gluPerspective(30.0, (GLfloat) width / (GLfloat) height, 1, 20);
}

```

---

Figure 20: Reshaping with `gluPerspective()`

occupies half of the viewport. The effect is that of viewing the cube from a large distance: the back of the cube is only slightly smaller than the front.

Figure 22 shows the effect of a large value of `alpha`. The model is again a wire cube whose image occupies half of the viewport. The effect is of viewing the cube from a small distance: the back of the cube is much smaller than the front.

Making `alpha` smaller without moving the model simulates “zooming in”: the image gets larger in the viewport. Making `alpha` larger simulates “zooming out”: the image gets smaller.

Although we can use `alpha` to manipulate the image in any way we please, there is a correct value for it. Suppose that the user is sitting at a distance  $d$  from a screen of height  $h$ : the appropriate value of `alpha` is given by

$$\alpha = 2 \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{h}{2d} \right).$$

For example, if  $h = 12$  in and  $d = 24$  in, then

$$\alpha = 2 \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{12}{2 \times 24} \right) \approx 28^\circ.$$

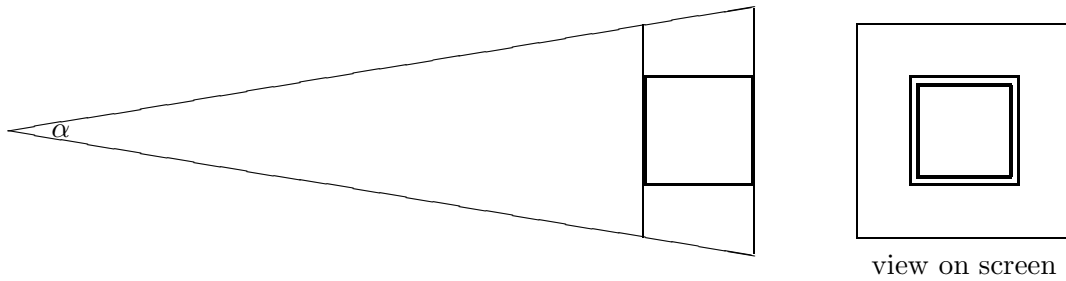


Figure 21: `gluPerspective()` with a small value of  $\alpha$

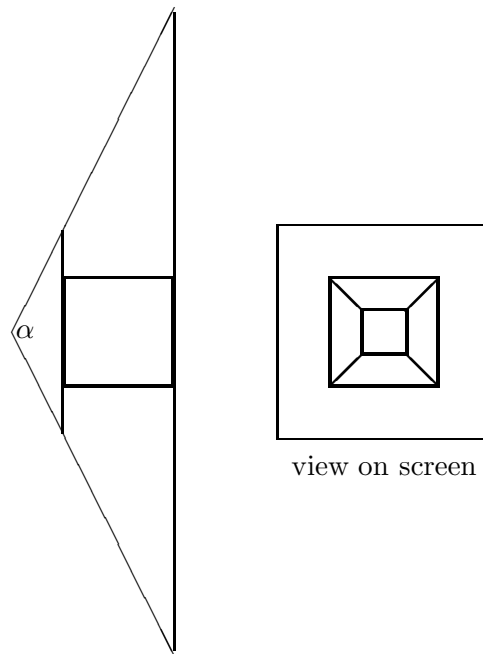


Figure 22: `gluPerspective()` with a large value of  $\alpha$

If you have used a 35 mm camera, you may find the following comparisons helpful. The vertical height of a 35 mm film frame is  $h = 24$  mm, so  $h/2 = 12$  mm. When the camera is used with a lens with focal length  $f$  mm, the vertical angle subtended by the field of view is  $2 \tan^{-1}(12/f)$ . The angle for a 24 mm wide-angle lens is about  $53^\circ$ ; the angle for a regular 50 mm lens is about  $27^\circ$ ; and the angle for a 100 mm telephoto lens is about  $14^\circ$ .

#### 4.4 Combining Viewpoint and Perspective

The function `gluLookAt()` defines a model-view transformation that simulates viewing (“looking at”) the scene from a particular viewpoint. It takes nine arguments of type `GLfloat`. The first three arguments define the camera (or eye) position with respect to the origin; the next three arguments are the coordinates of a point in the model towards which the camera is

directed; and the last three arguments are the components of a vector pointing upwards. In the call

```
gluLookAt ( 0.0,  0.0, 10.0,
            0.0,  0.0,  0.0,
            0.0,  1.0,  0.0 );
```

the point of interest in the model is at  $(0, 0, 0)$ , the position of the camera relative to this point is  $(0, 0, 10)$ , and the vector  $(0, 1, 0)$  (that is, the  $Y$ -axis) is pointing upwards.

Although the idea of `gluLookAt()` seems simple, the function is tricky to use in practice. Sometimes, introducing a call to `gluLookAt()` has the undesirable effect of making the image disappear altogether! In the following code, the effect of the call to `gluLookAt()` is to move the origin to  $(0, 0, -10)$ ; but the near and far planes defined by `gluPerspective()` are at  $z = -1$  and  $z = -5$ , respectively. Consequently, the cube is beyond the far plane and is invisible.

```
glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
glLoadIdentity();
gluPerspective(30, 1, 1, 5);
glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
glLoadIdentity();
gluLookAt ( 0, 0, 10,  0, 0, 0,  0, 1, 0 );
glutWireCube(1.0);
```

Figure 23 demonstrates how to use `gluLookAt()` and `gluPerspective()` together. The two important variables are `alpha` and `dist`. The idea is that the extension of the object in the  $Z$ -direction is less than 2; consequently, it can be enclosed completely by planes at  $z = \text{dist} - 1$  and  $z = \text{dist} + 1$ . To ensure that the object is visible, `gluLookAt()` sets the camera position to  $(0, 0, \text{dist})$ .

Changing the value of `alpha` in Figure 23 changes the size of the object, as explained above. The height of the viewing window is  $2(\text{dist} - 1) \tan(\text{alpha}/2)$ ; increasing `alpha` makes the viewing window larger and the object smaller.

Changing the value of `dist` also changes the size of the image in the viewport, but in a different way. The perspective changes, giving the effect of approaching (if `dist` gets smaller and the object gets larger) or going away (if `dist` gets larger and the object gets smaller).

It is possible to change `alpha` and `dist` together in such a way that the size of a key object in the model stays the same while the perspective changes. (For example, consider a series of diagrams that starts with Figure 21 and ends with Figure 22.) This is a rather simple technique in OpenGL, but it is an expensive effect in movies or television because the zoom control of the lens must be coupled to the tracking motion of the camera. Hitchcock used this trick to good effect in his movies *Vertigo* and *Marnie*.

## 4.5 Coordinate Systems

Figure 24 summarizes the different coordinate systems that OpenGL uses and the operations that convert one set of coordinates to another.

---

```
#include <GL/glut.h>

const int SIZE = 500;

float alpha = 60.0;
float dist = 5.0;

void display (void)
{
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
    glLoadIdentity();
    gluLookAt ( 0.0, 0.0, dist,
               0.0, 0.0, 0.0,
               0.0, 1.0, 0.0 );
    glutWireCube(1.0);
}

void init (void)
{
    glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
    glLoadIdentity();
    gluPerspective(alpha, 1.0, dist - 1.0, dist + 1.0);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
    glutInit(&argc, argv);
    glutInitWindowSize(SIZE, SIZE);
    glutInitWindowPosition(100, 50);
    glutCreateWindow("A Perspective View");
    init();
    glutDisplayFunc(display);
    glutMainLoop();
}
```

Figure 23: Using `gluLookAt()` and `gluPerspective()`

---

- You design your scene in *model coordinates*.
- The model view matrix transforms your model coordinates to *eye coordinates*. For example, you will probably put the centre of your model at the origin (0,0,0). Using the simplest model view matrix, a translation  $t$  in the negative  $Z$  direction, will put the centre of your model at (0,0, $-t$ ) in eye coordinates.
- The projection matrix transforms eye coordinates into clip coordinates. Any vertex whose coordinates do not satisfy  $|x/w| \leq 1$ ,  $|y/w| \leq 1$ , and  $|z/w| \leq 1$  removed at this stage.

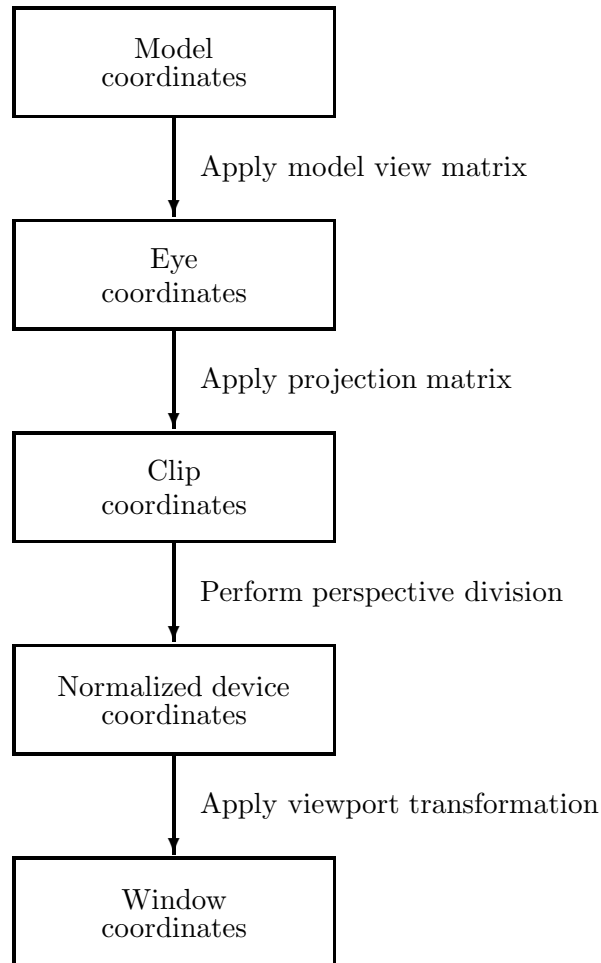


Figure 24: OpenGL Coordinates

---

- The  $(x, y, z, w)$  coordinates are now replaced by  $(x/w, y/w, z/w)$ . This is called *perspective division* and the result is *normalized device coordinates*.
- Finally, the *viewport transformation* produces window coordinates.

## 5 Lighting

We talk about “three dimensional” graphics but, with current technology, the best we can do is to create the illusion of three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional screen. Perspective is one kind of illusion, but it is not enough. A perspective projection of a uniformly-coloured cube, for example, looks like an irregular hexagon. We can paint the faces of the cube in different colours, but this does not help us to display a realistic image of a cube of one colour.

We can improve the illusion of depth by simulating the lighting of a scene. If a cube is illuminated by a single light source, its faces have different brightnesses, and this strengthens the illusion that it is three dimensional. Appendix B outlines the theory of illumination; this section describes some of the features that OpenGL provides for lighting a scene.

To light a model, we must provide OpenGL with information about the objects in the scene and the lights that illuminate them. To obtain realistic lighting effects, we must define:

1. normal vectors for each vertex of each object;
2. material properties for each object;
3. the positions and other properties of the light sources; and
4. a lighting model.

Since OpenGL provides reasonable defaults for many properties, we have to add only a few function calls to a program to obtain simple lighting effects. For full realism, however, there is quite a lot of work to do.

### 5.1 A Simple Example

Suppose that we have a program that displays a sphere. We must eliminate hidden surfaces by passing `GLUT_DEPTH` to `glutInitDisplayMode()` and by clearing `GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT` in the display function. The following steps would be necessary to illuminate a sphere.

1. Define normal vectors. If we use the GLUT function `glutSolidSphere()`, this step is unnecessary, because normals are already defined for the sphere and other GLUT solid objects.
2. Define material properties. We can use the default properties.
3. Define light sources. The following code should be executed during initialization:

```
glEnable(GL_LIGHTING);  
glEnable(GL_LIGHT0);
```

4. Define a lighting model. We can use the default model.

This is the simplest case, in which we add just two lines of code. The following sections describe more of the details.

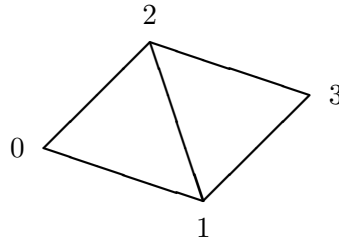


Figure 25: A simple object

---

## 5.2 Normal Vectors

For any plane surface, there is a *normal vector* at right angles to it. A pencil standing vertically on a horizontal desktop provides an appropriate mental image.

OpenGL associates normals with vertices rather than surfaces. This seems surprising at first, but it has an important advantage. Often, we are using flat polygons as approximations to curved surfaces. For example, a sphere is constructed of many small rectangles whose edges are lines of latitude and longitude. If we provide a single normal for each rectangle, OpenGL will illuminate each rectangle as a flat surface. If, instead, we provide a normal at each vertex, OpenGL will illuminate the rectangles as if they were curved surfaces, and provide a better illusion of a sphere.

Consequently, there are two ways of specifying normals. Consider the very simple object shown in Figure 25 consisting of two triangles. We could provide a single normal for each triangle using the following code:

```
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES);
    glNormal3f(u0,v0,w0); /* Normal for triangle 012.*/
    glVertex3f(x0,y0,z0);
    glVertex3f(x1,y1,z1);
    glVertex3f(x2,y2,z2);
    glNormal3f(u1,v1,w1); /* Normal for triangle 132. */
    glVertex3f(x1,y1,z1);
    glVertex3f(x3,y3,z3);
    glVertex3f(x2,y2,z2);
glEnd();
```

The function `glNormal()` defines a normal vector for any vertex definitions that follow it. Note that it is possible for two normals to be associated with the same vertex: in the code above, vertices 1 and 2 each have two normals. As far as OpenGL is concerned, the code defines *six* vertices, each with its own normal.

The other way of describing this object requires a normal for each vertex. The normals at vertices 0 and 3 are perpendicular to the corresponding triangles. The normals at vertices 1 and 2 are computed by averaging the normals for the triangles. In the following code, each vertex definition is preceded by the definition of the corresponding normal.

```

glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES);
  glNormal3f(u0,v0,w0); /* Normal to triangle 012 */
  glVertex3f(x0,y0,z0);
  glNormal3f(ua,va,wa); /* Average */
  glVertex3f(x1,y1,z1);
  glNormal3f(ua,va,wa); /* Average */
  glVertex3f(x2,y2,z2);

  glNormal3f(ua,va,wa); /* Average */
  glVertex3f(x1,y1,z1);
  glNormal3f(u3,v3,w3); /* Normal to triangle 132 */
  glVertex3f(x3,y3,z3);
  glNormal3f(ua,va,wa); /* Average */
  glVertex3f(x2,y2,z2);
glEnd();

```

We do not usually see code like this in OpenGL programs, because it is usually more convenient to store the data in arrays. The following example is more typical; each component of the arrays `norm` and `vert` is an array of three floats.

```

glBegin{GL_TRIANGLES}
  for (i = 0; i < MAX; i++)
  {
    glNormal3fv(norm[i]);
    glVertex3fv(vert[i]);
  }
glEnd();

```

Each normal vector should be normalized (!) in the sense that its length should be 1. Normalizing the vector  $(x, y, z)$  gives the vector  $(x/s, y/s, z/s)$ , where  $s = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ .

If you include the statement `glEnable(GL_NORMALIZE)` in your initialization code, OpenGL will normalize vectors for you. However, it is usually more efficient to normalize vectors yourself.

**Computing Normal Vectors** The vector normal to a triangle with vertices  $(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ ,  $(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ , and  $(x_3, y_3, z_3)$  is  $(a, b, c)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned}
 a &= + \begin{vmatrix} y_2 - y_1 & z_2 - z_1 \\ y_3 - y_1 & z_3 - z_1 \end{vmatrix} \\
 b &= - \begin{vmatrix} x_2 - x_1 & z_2 - z_1 \\ x_3 - x_1 & z_3 - z_1 \end{vmatrix} \\
 c &= + \begin{vmatrix} x_2 - x_1 & y_2 - y_1 \\ x_3 - x_1 & y_3 - y_1 \end{vmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

To compute the average of  $n$  vectors, simply add them up and divide by  $n$ . In practice, the division by  $n$  is not usually necessary, because we can simply add the normal vectors at a vertex and then normalize the resulting vector.



---

```

enum { X, Y, Z };
typedef float Point[3];
typedef float Vector[3];

Point points[MAX_POINTS];

void find_normal (int p, int q, int r, Vector v) {
    float x1 = points[p][X];
    float y1 = points[p][Y];
    float z1 = points[p][Z];
    float x2 = points[q][X];
    float y2 = points[q][Y];
    float z2 = points[q][Z];
    float x3 = points[r][X];
    float y3 = points[r][Y];
    float z3 = points[r][Z];
    v[X] = + (y2-y1)*(z3-z1) - (z2-z1)*(y3-y1);
    v[Y] = - (x2-x1)*(z3-z1) + (z2-z1)*(x3-x1);
    v[Z] = + (x2-x1)*(y3-y1) - (y2-y1)*(x3-x1);
}

```

Figure 26: Computing normals

---

Formally, the normalized average vector of a set of vectors  $\{(x_i, y_i, z_i) \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is  $\left(\frac{X}{S}, \frac{Y}{S}, \frac{Z}{S}\right)$ , where  $X = \sum_{i=1}^{i=n} x_i$ ,  $Y = \sum_{i=1}^{i=n} y_i$ ,  $Z = \sum_{i=1}^{i=n} z_i$ , and  $S = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}$ .

Figure 26 shows a simple function that computes vector normal for a plane defined by three points  $\mathbf{p}$ ,  $\mathbf{q}$ , and  $\mathbf{r}$ , chosen from an array of points.

There is a simple algorithm, invented by Martin Newell, for finding the normal to a polygon with  $N$  vertexes. For good results, the vertexes should lie approximately in a plane, but the algorithm does not depend on this. If the vertexes have coordinates  $(x_i, y_i, z_i)$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N - 1$ , the normal  $\mathbf{n} = (n_x, n_y, n_z)$  is computed as

$$\begin{aligned}
 n_x &= \sum_{0 \leq i < N} (y_i - y_{i+1})(z_i + z_{i+1}) \\
 n_y &= \sum_{0 \leq i < N} (z_i - z_{i+1})(x_i + x_{i+1}) \\
 n_z &= \sum_{0 \leq i < N} (x_i - x_{i+1})(y_i + y_{i+1}).
 \end{aligned}$$

The subscript  $i + 1$  is computed “mod  $N$ ”: if  $i = N - 1$ , then  $i + 1 = 0$ . The result  $\mathbf{n}$  must be divided by  $\|\mathbf{n}\| = \sqrt{n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2}$  to obtain a unit vector.

A general purpose formula can often be simplified for special cases. Suppose that we are constructing a terrain using squares and that the  $X$  and  $Y$  coordinates are integer multiples of the grid spacing,  $d$ . The height of the terrain at  $x = i$  and  $y = j$  is  $z_{i,j}$ . Figure 27 shows 9 points of the terrain, centered at  $z_{i,j}$ . The  $X$  coordinates in this view are  $i - 1$ ,  $i$ , and

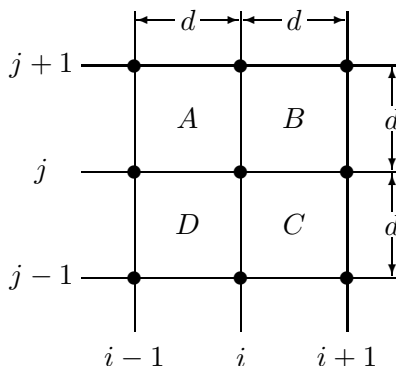


Figure 27: Computing average normals on a square grid

$i + 1$ , and the  $Y$  coordinates are  $j - 1$ ,  $j$ , and  $j + 1$ . The appropriate normal for the point  $(x_i, y_i)$  is the average of the normals to the quadrilaterals  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$ . Using Newell's formula to compute these four normals and adding the resulting vectors gives a vector  $\mathbf{n}$  with components:

$$\begin{aligned} n_x &= d(z_{i-1,j+1} - z_{i+1,j+1} + 2z_{i-1,j} - 2z_{i+1,j} + z_{i-1,j-1} - z_{i+1,j-1}) \\ n_y &= d(-z_{i-1,j+1} - 2z_{i,j+1} - z_{i+1,j+1} + z_{i-1,j-1} + 2z_{i,j-1} + z_{i+1,j-1}) \\ n_z &= 8d^2 \end{aligned}$$

Note that we do not need to include the factor  $d$  in the calculation of  $\mathbf{n}$  since a scalar multiple does not affect the direction of a vector. The correct normal vector is then obtained by normalizing  $\mathbf{n}$ .

### 5.3 Defining Material Properties

When lighting is enabled, OpenGL ignores `glColor()` calls. Instead, it computes the colour of each point using information about the lights, the objects, and their relative positions. The function that defines the effect of lighting an object is `glMaterialfv()` and it requires three arguments.

1. The first argument determines which face we are defining. The possible values are `GL_FRONT`, `GL_BACK`, or `GL_FRONT_AND_BACK`.

It is usually best to use `GL_FRONT` because, in most situations, only front faces should be visible. (Recall that a face is at the “front” if its vertices are given in counterclockwise order as seen by the viewer.) You can specify different properties for front and back faces by calling `glMaterialfv()` twice, once with `GL_FRONT` and again with `GL_BACK`.

2. The second argument is a parameter name. Table 6 shows its possible values.
3. The third argument provides the value of the corresponding parameter: it is a pointer to an array.

Parameter	Meaning	Default
GL_DIFFUSE	diffuse colour of material	(0.8, 0.8, 0.8, 1.0)
GL_AMBIENT	ambient colour of material	(0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 1.0)
GL_AMBIENT_AND_DIFFUSE	ambient and diffuse	
GL_SPECULAR	specular colour of material	(0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0)
GL_SHININESS	specular exponent	0.0
GL_EMISSION	emissive colour of material	(0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0)

Table 6: Parameters for `glMaterialfv()`

The first column of Table 6 shows the parameter names accepted by `glMaterialfv()`; the second column describes the meaning of the parameter; and the third column shows the value that will be provided if you do not call `glMaterialfv()`.

The diffuse colour of an object is its colour when it is directly illuminated; it is what we normally mean when we say, for example, “the book is blue”. The ambient colour of an object is its colour when it is illuminated by the ambient (or “background”) light in the scene.

For most objects, the diffuse and ambient colours are almost the same. For this reason, OpenGL provides the parameter name `GL_AMBIENT_AND_DIFFUSE` which sets the ambient and diffuse colours to the same value.

The specular colour of an object produces highlights when the object is directly illuminated. Smooth, polished surfaces give specular reflections but dull, matte objects do not. Specular highlights usually have the colour of the light source, rather than the object; consequently, if a specular colour is defined, it is usually white.

The specular exponent determines the smoothness of a specular surface. Its value must be between 0.0 and 128.0. A low value gives a large, dull highlight, and a high value gives a small, bright highlight.

Define an emissive colour for an object if it is emitting light. For example, a light bulb in your model would have an emissive colour of white or almost white. Defining an emissive colour does **not** make the object a source of light: you must put a light source at the same position in the scene to provide the light.

Figure 28 shows some examples of the use of `glMaterialfv()`. Properties do not automatically revert to their defaults: if you want to restore a default value, you must do so explicitly. For example, the shininess of the dark blue sphere must be turned off before drawing the dull red cube.

## 5.4 Defining the Lights

To use lighting, you must first enable it by calling `glEnable(GL_LIGHTING)`. You must also enable each light that you want to use. OpenGL provides eight lights, named `GL_LIGHT0` through `GL_LIGHT7`. To enable light  $n$ , call `glEnable(GL_LIGHTn)`.

The function `glLightfv()` specifies the properties of a light and is used in the same way as `glMaterialfv()`. There are three arguments: the first specifies a light, the second is a

---

```

/* Data declarations */
GLfloat off[] = { 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0 };
GLfloat white[] = { 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0 };
GLfloat red[] = { 1.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 };
GLfloat deep_blue[] = { 0.1, 0.5, 0.8, 1.0 };
GLfloat shiny[] = { 50.0 };
GLfloat dull[] = { 0.0; }

/* Draw a small, dark blue sphere with shiny highlights */
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_AMBIENT_AND_DIFFUSE, deep_blue);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_SPECULAR, white);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_SHININESS, shiny);
glutSolidSphere(0.2, 10, 10);

/* Draw a large, red cube made of non-reflective material */
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_AMBIENT_AND_DIFFUSE, red);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_SPECULAR, off);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_SHININESS, dull);
glutSolidCube(10.0);

/* Draw a white, glowing sphere */
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_AMBIENT_AND_DIFFUSE, off);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_SPECULAR, off);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_SHININESS, dull);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_EMISSION, white);
glutSolidSphere(10.0, 20, 20);

```

Figure 28: Using `glMaterial()`

---

parameter name, and the third is a value for that parameter. Table 7 shows the parameter names and their default values.

The diffuse colour is the colour of the directional light that appears to come from the light itself. It is the colour that we normally associate with the light. The default is bright white.

The ambient colour is the contribution that the light makes to the ambient colour of the scene. Since ambient light pervades the scene, without appearing to come from any particular direction, the default value is black.

The specular colour is the colour given to highlights in specular objects that are illuminated by this light. It is usually the same as the diffuse colour. For example, a brown bottle illuminated by a white light has white highlights.

The position of the light can be specified in two ways: if the fourth component of the vector is 0, the light is called *directional* and the effect is that of a light source infinitely far away. If the fourth component is 1, the light source is called *positional* and the effect is that of a light at the corresponding point.

For example: the vector  $(-1, 1, 0, 0)$  is a light source at the left of the scene ( $x = -1$ ); above it ( $y = 1$ ); infinitely far away and hence directional ( $w = 0$ ). This vector would be suitable

Parameter	Meaning	Default
GL_DIFFUSE	diffuse colour	(1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0)
GL_AMBIENT	ambient colour	(0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0)
GL_SPECULAR	specular colour	(1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0)
GL_POSITION	position	(0.0, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0)
GL_CONSTANT_ATTENUATION	constant attenuation	1.0
GL_LINEAR_ATTENUATION	linear attenuation	0.0
GL_QUADRATIC_ATTENUATION	quadratic attenuation	0.0
GL_SPOT_DIRECTION	direction of spotlight	(0.0, 0.0, -1.0)
GL_SPOT_CUTOFF	cutoff angle of spotlight	180.0
GL_SPOT_EXPONENT	exponent of spotlight	0.0

Table 7: Parameters for `glLightfv()`

for sunlight.

The vector  $(0, 1, -5, 1)$  is a light source at the top centre ( $x = 0, y = 1$ ) of the scene; behind it ( $z = -5$ ); and at a finite distance ( $w = 1$ ). This vector would be suitable for an overhead light in a room.

Directional lighting requires less computation than positional lighting because there are fewer angles to calculate.

In the real world, the intensity of a light decreases with distance. OpenGL calls this decrease “attenuation”. There is no attenuation for a directional light because it is infinitely far away. OpenGL attenuates a positional light source by multiplying the intensity of the light by

$$\frac{1}{C + Ld + Qd^2}$$

where  $C$  is the constant attenuation factor,  $L$  is the linear attenuation factor,  $Q$  is the quadratic attenuation factor, and  $d$  is the distance between the light and the object. The default values are  $C = 1$  and  $L = Q = 0$ . Including linear and/or quadratic attenuation factors increases the realism of the scene at the expense of extra computation.

By default, a light radiates in all directions. A *spotlight* radiates a cone of light in a particular direction. Obviously, a directional light cannot be a spotlight. To turn a positional light into a spotlight, provide the following values:

- `GL_SPOT_DIRECTION` determines the direction in which the spotlight is pointing.
- `GL_SPOT_CUTOFF` determines the “spread” of the light. It is the angle between the axis of the cone and the edge of the light beam. The default value,  $180^\circ$ , corresponds to an omni-directional light (i.e. not a spotlight). If the angle is not  $180^\circ$ , it must be between  $0^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ . The angle  $5^\circ$  gives a highly-focused searchlight effect; the angle  $90^\circ$  illuminates anything in front of the light but nothing behind it.
- `GL_SPOT_EXPONENT` determines how the light varies from the axis to the edges of the cone. The default value,  $0.0$ , gives uniform light across the cone; a higher value focuses the light towards the centre of the cone.

Parameter	Meaning	Default
<code>GL_LIGHT_MODEL_AMBIENT</code>	ambient light intensity	<code>(0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 1.0)</code>
<code>GL_LIGHT_MODEL_LOCAL_VIEWER</code>	simulate a close viewpoint	<code>GL_FALSE</code>
<code>GL_LIGHT_MODEL_TWO_SIDE</code>	select two-sided lighting	<code>GL_FALSE</code>
<code>GL_LIGHT_MODEL_COLOR_CONTROL</code>	colour calculations	<code>GL_SINGLE_COLOR</code>

Table 8: Parameters for `glLightModel()`

## 5.5 Defining a Lighting Model

The function `glLightModel()` defines a lighting model. The first argument is a parameter name and the second argument is a value for that parameter. Table 8 shows the possible parameter names, their meanings, and their default values.

The ambient light intensity determines the colour of the light that pervades the scene, independently of any actual lights. Its default value, dark grey, ensures that you will see something even if your lights are not switched on or are pointing in the wrong direction. In reality, most scenes do have a certain amount of ambient light. For example, a sunlit scene is illuminated not only by the sun (directional and bright yellow) but also by the sky (ambient and light blue). Dark greenish-blue ambient light would be suitable for an underwater scene. For special applications, such as deep space scenes, set the ambient light to black.

By default, OpenGL calculates specular reflections with the assumption that the scene is being viewed from infinitely far away. Specifying a local viewer by giving the value `GL_TRUE` provides more realistic results but requires a considerable amount of additional computation.

By default, OpenGL illuminates only the front sides of polygons. (This is true even if you have defined material properties for both sides of your polygons.) In many cases, the back sides of polygons are invisible anyway. For example, the back sides of the polygons of a sphere face the inside of the sphere. Specifying two-sided illumination by giving the value `GL_TRUE` tells OpenGL to illuminate any face of a polygon that is visible, at the expense of additional computation.

## 5.6 Putting It All Together

It is usually best to build a lit scene incrementally. Start by enabling lighting and turning on a light:

```
glEnable(GL_LIGHTING);
glEnable(GL_LIGHT0);
```

At this point, you are using default values for the properties of the objects in your model and the lights. Next, add statements that provide explicit values when the defaults are not suitable. You will probably want to start by positioning your light (or lights) and then defining the surface properties of your objects. Some interactions may be surprising, although they are realistic. For example, a green object will appear black (and therefore invisible) in red light.

Points to note:

---

```
1   GLfloat dir[] = { 0.0, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0 };
2   GLfloat pos[] = { 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 };
3   GLfloat sun_col[] = { 1.0, 1.0, 0.6, 0.0 };
4
5   void display (void)
6   {
7       glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT | GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT);
8       glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
9       glLoadIdentity();
10      glLightfv(GL_LIGHT0, GL_POSITION, dir);
11      glTranslatef(0.0, 0.0, -dist);
12      glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_AMBIENT_AND_DIFFUSE, sun_col);
13      glutSolidSphere(0.4, 40, 40);
14      glLightfv(GL_LIGHT0, GL_POSITION, pos);
15      .....
16  }
```

Figure 29: Illuminating the sun

---

- Remember that OpenGL is a state machine. Once a call has been executed, its effects remain until undone. For example, if you have a number of objects and you make the first one red, all the others will be red unless you explicitly say otherwise.
- If your lights do not move, you can set them up during initialization. If you want moving lights, the calls that set position must be in your `display()` callback function. Usually, you will set light positions after choosing the viewpoint (e.g. with `gluLookAt()`) and before making any other transformations.
- OpenGL has a rather simple view of illumination. It does not compute shadows and it does not recognize objects as obstacles in the light paths. If you construct a “solar system” consisting of a sun, a planet, and a moon, the planet and its moon are illuminated by the sun, but the moon does not disappear when the planet is between it and the sun (lunar eclipse) and it does not throw a shadow on the planet (solar eclipse).
- An object which is a light source must be lit twice: once to make it visible and once to make it act as a light source. The code in Figure 29 demonstrates how to do this. Line 10 introduces a directional light source on the  $Z$  axis to illuminate the sun. Line 11 is a translation that moves the sun into the viewing volume. Lines 12 and 13 define the properties of the sun and display it as a solid sphere. Line 14 moves the light source to the centre of the sun so that it will illuminate the planets and satellites drawn in lines 15ff.

## 6 Odds and Ends

### 6.1 Multiple Windows

While simple OpenGL programs need only one graphic window, it is sometimes useful to have more than one window. The windows can be used to present different views of the same scene or completely different scenes. GLUT makes it very easy to work with multiple windows:

- `glutCreateWindow()` returns an integer that identifies the window created.
- `glutSetWindow(i)` makes window *i* the active window.
- `glutGetWindow()` returns the number of the active window.

Figures 30 and 31 show a program that illustrates the use of these functions. The `main` function creates two windows; the keyboard callback function uses the keys 1 and 2 to select the current window; and the idle callback function updates two angles at different rates. When this program runs, it displays two windows, each containing a wire cube. The cube in the selected window rotates and the cube in the other window remains stationary.

---

```
#include <GL/glut.h>

int firstWindow, secondWindow;
float xRotation = 0.0;
float yRotation = 0.0;

void displayFirstWindow()
{
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
    glLoadIdentity();
    glRotatef(xRotation, 0.0, 0.5, -1.0);
    glutWireCube(1.0);
    glutSwapBuffers();
}

void displaySecondWindow()
{
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
    glLoadIdentity();
    glRotatef(yRotation, 0.0, 0.5, 1.0);
    glutWireCube(1.0);
    glutSwapBuffers();
}
```

Figure 30: Displaying two windows: first part

---



---

```
void keyboard(unsigned char key, int x, int y)
{
    switch (key)
    {
        case '1':
            glutSetWindow(firstWindow);
            break;
        case '2':
            glutSetWindow(secondWindow);
            break;
        case 27:
            exit(0);
    }
}

void spin()
{
    xRotation += 1.0;
    yRotation += 2.0;
    glutPostRedisplay();
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    glutInit(&argc, argv);
    glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_RGB);

    glutInitWindowSize(300, 300);
    glutInitWindowPosition(100, 100);
    firstWindow = glutCreateWindow("Window 1");
    glutDisplayFunc(displayFirstWindow);
    glutKeyboardFunc(keyboard);

    glutInitWindowSize(200, 200);
    glutInitWindowPosition(100, 500);
    secondWindow = glutCreateWindow("Window 2");
    glutDisplayFunc(displaySecondWindow);
    glutKeyboardFunc(keyboard);

    glutIdleFunc(spin);
    glutMainLoop();
    return 0;
}
```

---

Figure 31: Displaying two windows: second part

Notes:

- The window which is *selected* is not necessarily the same as the window which is *active*. A window is *selected* by clicking when the mouse cursor is inside the window. (In MS Windows, the top bar of the window is blue when the window is selected and grey otherwise. Other window managers use similar conventions.) A window *i* is *active* when `glutSetWindow(i)` has been called.

When you run the program above, you can select either window with the mouse, but you can only activate the window (i.e., make the cube in it rotate) by pressing the 1 key or 2 key.

- `glutKeyboardFunc(keyboard)` is called twice, once for each window. If it was called only once, keystrokes would be recognized only when the corresponding window is selected by the mouse.
- The program above has a display callback function for each window. An alternative approach is to have just one display callback function that uses `glutGetWindow()` to determine which window it is displaying. This is suitable, for example, when the windows are used to display different views of the same scene. The code would look something like this:

```
void display()
{
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
    glLoadIdentity();
    switch(glutGetWindow())
    {
    case Window1:
        // Viewing transformations for first window
        ....
        break;
    case Window2:
        // Viewing transformations for second window
        ....
        break;
    }
    // Display scene
    ....
    glutSwapBuffers();
}
```

- Similar reasoning applies to the other callback functions: depending on the application, you can use a single callback function for all windows, or give each window its own callback functions, or any combination.

## 6.2 Menus

GLUT provides menus. The format of menus is restricted but the functions are easy to use. Follow the steps below to define a menu without submenus.

1. Call `glutCreateMenu(func)` to create the menu. `func` is the name of a function that will handle menu-selection events (see item 4 below).
2. Call `glutAddMenuEntry(string,num)` for each menu item. `string` is the string that will be displayed in the menu. `num` is a constant that will be sent to the callback function when the user selects this item. You must ensure that all selections have different values.
3. Call `glutAttachMenu(button)` to “attach” the menu to a mouse button. `button` should be one of `GLUT_LEFT_BUTTON`, `GLUT_MIDDLE_BUTTON`, or `GLUT_RIGHT_BUTTON`. (MS Windows may not be able to recognize the middle mouse button.)
4. Write the callback function for the menu. This function has one integer argument and returns nothing. The value passed to it will be one of the constants that you chose in step 2.

Figure 32 shows an example of the code required for a simple menu. The initialization function `initialize_menu()` must be called explicitly by the application program. The callback function `choose_colour()` is not called by the program but will be called by GLUT when the user has invoked the menu by pressing the right mouse button and has made a selection from the menu.

Follow the steps below to obtain menus with submenus.

1. To create a submenu, call `glutCreateMenu()` as before. This time, however, you should keep a copy of the integer that it returns. Suppose, for example, that you write

```
int sub1 = glutCreateMenu(get_key);
```

2. Complete the submenu with calls to `glutAddMenuEntry()`, but do not attach it to a button.
3. Write code for the main menu **after** the submenus. (That is, build the menu “tree” bottom-up.) To add a submenu to the main menu, call `glutAddSubMenu(string,num)`. `string` is the text that appears in the main menu to identify the submenu and `num` is the value returned by `glutCreateMenu()` in the first step.

Note that the main menu can contain both simple entries (added with `glutAddMenuEntry()`) and submenus (added with `glutAddSubMenu()`).

## 6.3 Text

OpenGL provides two kinds of characters: bit-mapped characters and stroked characters.

### 6.3.1 Bitmapped Characters

**Bitmapped characters**, as their name implies, are bitmaps that are displayed on the screen without scaling or rotation. The size of each character is determined by the size of pixels on the screen, and is fixed. Two steps are necessary to display a bitmapped character: first, set the **raster position** for the character; then display the character.

---

```
#define M_RED      20
#define M_GREEN   21
#define M_BLUE    22

void choose_colour (int sel)
{
    switch (sel)
    {
        case M_RED:
            /* Action for red selection. */
            break;
        case M_GREEN:
            /* Action for green selection. */
            break;
        case M_BLUE:
            /* Action for blue selection. */
            break;
        default:
            break;
    }
}

void initialize_menu (void)
{
    glutCreateMenu(choose_colour);
    glutAddMenuEntry("Red", M_RED);
    glutAddMenuEntry("Green", M_GREEN);
    glutAddMenuEntry("Blue", M_BLUE);
    glutAddMenuEntry("Quit", M_QUIT);
    glutAttachMenu(GLUT_RIGHT_BUTTON);
}
```

Figure 32: Code for a simple menu

---

The following call sets the raster position to the point  $(x, y)$ . Any transformations currently in effect are applied to the coordinates  $x$  and  $y$ .

```
glRasterPos2f(x,y)
```

After executing the following code, for example, the raster position is (4,6):

```
glMatrixMode(GL_MODEL_VIEW);
glLoadIdentity();
glTranslatef(3.0, 5.0);
glRasterPos2f(1.0, 1.0);
```

The following call displays the character 'z' in a  $9 \times 15$  pixel, fixed-width font at the current raster position, and then moves the raster position right one character-width:

---

```

void display_string (int x, int y, char *string)
{
    int len, i;
    glRasterPos2f(x, y);
    len = strlen(string);
    for (i = 0; i < len; i++)
    {
        glutBitmapCharacter(GLUT_BITMAP_TIMES_ROMAN_24, string[i]);
    }
}

```

Figure 33: Displaying a string of text

---

```

glutBitmapCharacter(GLUT_BITMAP_9_BY_15, 'z');

```

Since `glutBitmapCharacter` moves the raster position, we can display a string without having to change the raster position after each character. Figure 33 shows a simple function that you can use to display a string of text at a given position. Table 10 on page 68 shows the available bitmapped fonts.

If the text does not appear on the screen, it is probably not in the viewing volume. If there are no translations in the  $Z$  direction, the text lies in the plane  $Z = 0$ , which is not in the viewing volume of a perspective transformation. One way to fix this problem is to call `glRasterPos3f(x,y,z)`.

Bitmapped text can be tricky to use because there is no obvious relation between model coordinates and screen coordinates. It is sometimes a good idea to display text before applying any model view transformations (that is, immediately after `glLoadIdentity()` in the display function). If you have several lines of text, you will have to compute the line separation using the window height (in pixels) and the range of  $Y$  values defined by your projection transformation.

### 6.3.2 Stroked Characters

Stroked characters are true objects that can be scaled, translated, and rotated. The call

```

glutStrokeCharacter(font, c);

```

displays the character with ASCII code `c` in the given font at the current position (that is, after applying the transformations currently in effect to the point  $(0, 0, 0)$ ). The fonts available are `GLUT_MONO_ROMAN` (fixed width) and `GLUT_STROKE_ROMAN` (proportional width). Since characters are about 120 units high, you will usually want to scale them.

Figures 34 and 35 illustrate the use of stroked fonts. The program reads characters from the keyboard, stores them in a string, and continuously rotates the string in the viewing window.

---

```

#include <GL/glut.h>

#define LEN 50
#define HEIGHT 600
#define WIDTH 800

float angle = 0.0;
char buffer[LEN];
int len;

void display (void)
{
    char *p;
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
    glLoadIdentity();
    glRotatef(angle, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0);
    glTranslatef(-400.0, 0.0, 0.0);
    glColor3f(1.0, 1.0, 0.0);
    for (p = buffer; *p; p++)
        glutStrokeCharacter(GLUT_STROKE_ROMAN, *p);
    glutSwapBuffers();
}

void keys (unsigned char key, int x, int y)
{
    if (key == 27)
        exit(0);
    else if (len < LEN - 1)
    {
        buffer[len++] = key;
        glutPostRedisplay();
    }
}

```

Figure 34: Stroked fonts: first part

---

## 6.4 Special Objects

The GLUT library provides several objects that are rather tedious to build. These objects are fully defined, with normals, and they are useful for experimenting with lighting. Table 9 lists their prototypes. A “wire” object displays as a wire frame; this is not very pretty but may be useful during debugging. A “solid” object looks like a solid, but you should define its material properties yourself, as described in Figure 5.3. For a sphere, “slices” are lines of longitude and “stacks” are lines of latitude. Cones are analogous. For a torus, “sides” run around the torus and “rings” run around the “tube”.

---

```

void spin (void)
{
    angle += 2.0;
    glutPostRedisplay();
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    glutInit(&argc, argv);
    glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_RGB);
    glutInitWindowSize(WIDTH, HEIGHT);
    glutCreateWindow("Enter your name.  ESC to quit.");
    glLineWidth(3.0);
    glutDisplayFunc(display);
    glutKeyboardFunc(keys);
    glutIdleFunc(spin);
    for (len = 0; len < LEN; len++)
        buffer[len] = '\0';
    len = 0;
    glutMainLoop();
}

```

Figure 35: Stroked fonts: second part

---

```

void glutWireSphere (double radius, int slices, int stacks);
void glutSolidSphere (double radius, int slices, int stacks);
void glutWireCube (double size);
void glutSolidCube (double size);
void glutWireTorus (double inner, double outer, int sides, int rings);
void glutSolidTorus (double inner, double outer, int sides, int rings);
void glutWireIcosahedron (void);
void glutSolidIcosahedron (void);
void glutWireOctahedron (void);
void glutSolidOctahedron (void);
void glutWireTetrahedron (void);
void glutSolidTetrahedron (void);
void glutWireDodecahedron (void);
void glutSolidDodecahedron (void);
void glutWireCone (double radius, double height, int slices, int stacks);
void glutSolidCone (double radius, double height, int slices, int stacks);
void glutWireTeapot (double size);
void glutSolidTeapot (double size);

```

Table 9: GLUT objects

## 6.5 Programming Hints

**Program Development.** The recommended way of developing a program is write a specification and a design before starting to code. This works well if you know exactly what you want to do and have accurate knowledge about the capabilities and limitations of the systems on which your program is going to run. When you are writing your first graphics programs, you may not know precisely what you want to do or whether you will be able to do it. In this situation, **incremental development** may be the best strategy.

The idea is to develop the program in small steps, ensuring that you have something working at each step. In choosing the next step, ask yourself what is most likely to go wrong. This strategy makes it less likely that you will complete 90% of your graphics project, only to discover the fatal flaw that makes it unworkable.

The following examples illustrate the incremental development of some hypothetical programs.

- Your application is supposed to show an aircraft performing aerobatics. There are two problems here: modelling the aircraft and displaying complex motions. Since the second is harder, the first step might be to make a very simple object, such as a wire cube, perform aerobatics. When the motions are satisfactory, replace the cube by a plane.
- Your application supposed to show a number of moving objects, such as pool balls in a simulated game of pool. The following increments might be used: display a stationary ball; display a moving ball; display a moving ball that bounces off the rails at the sides of a table; display two moving balls that collide realistically; display fifteen (or as many as required) moving, colliding balls.
- Your application is supposed to show an aquarium full of fish with various sizes and colours swimming around. Check first of all that you can model a single, grey fish and make it swim convincingly. Then design other fish with different shapes and colours. It may be possible to obtain some shapes simply by scaling the original fish.

**Team Projects.** Working on a graphics project with a team can be a rewarding experience because a team can achieve significantly more than an individual in a given amount of time. The problem that is most likely to arise with a team project is integration failure: team members build components of the project that work well individually, but fail when put together.

OpenGL is a “state machine” with a very large number of possible states: almost every function changes its state in one way or another. Consequently, OpenGL programs are prone to integration failure because one component of the program will put OpenGL into a state that other components do not expect.

The best way to avoid integration failure is to build a simplified version of the complete system at a very early stage. The first version will contain each component in a minimal form. As each component is developed, enhanced versions are incorporated into the system and the system is tested. It may be worthwhile to give one of the members of the team the job of maintaining the system while its components are being constructed.



---

```
void check_error ()
{
    GLenum error_code = glGetError();
    if (error_code != GL_NO_ERROR)
        printf("GL error: %s.\n", gluErrorString(error_code));
}
```

Figure 36: Obtaining and reporting OpenGL errors

---

**Debugging** Debugging a graphics program is quite different from debugging other kinds of program. Conventional debugging tools may not be very helpful, but the mere appearance of the image may provide important information that is not usually available.

- A common and frustrating problem is a blank screen. The usual cause is that your model is outside the viewing volume. Try removing transformations (especially `gluLookAt()`) or changing them; add an idle callback function, if you haven't already got one, so that you can make the image change continuously in various ways; try running the program with and without lighting.
- Check that you have included everything needed to obtain the effect you want. For example, for hidden surface elimination, you must initialize correctly, *and* enable the depth test, *and* clear the depth buffer bit (Section 3.5).
- If illuminated surfaces look strange, you may have computed the normals incorrectly (Section 5.2). One way to check this is to plot the normals by drawing a line from each grid-point of the surface in the direction of the normal at that point.
- In most development environments, the OpenGL program will have access to a text window (`stdout`) and the graphics window. You can find out what is going on by using `printf()` statements to write in the text window.
- OpenGL may detect errors, but it does not report them unless you ask it to do so. If an error is detected in a particular command, that command has no effect. Figure 36 shows a function that checks for errors and displays them in your command-line window. By calling this function from various places in your code you can discover what OpenGL is doing or failing to do.

**Efficiency** Don't invest a lot of time and effort into making your program efficient until you know you have to do so. If efficiency is important for your application, put your effort into the display callback function, because this function usually has the most significant effect on the performance of your program.

The performance of OpenGL programs depends on the platform they are running on. Performance is affected by many factors, but is strongly dependent on processor speed and graphics controller capabilities. OpenGL programs usually run well on SGI machines, because these machines use hardware to implement low-level operations such as depth-buffer comparison

and polygon shading. But it is nevertheless a mistake to ignore performance issues when using another platform on the grounds that “it will be fast enough on SGI”.

Graphics programming often involves a trade-off between detail in the image and speed of the animation. Roughly speaking, you can have a very detailed image or fast animation, but not both. Consider this when using incremental development as described above: a cube that performs elegant aerobatics is small consolation if your airplane flies like a snail.

Every features that you add to an OpenGL program will probably slow it down slightly. Normals, illumination, textures, reflections, shadows, and fog all contribute to the appearance of the finished picture, but they all take time to compute. If you want fast movement, you may have to simplify appearance.

**Advanced Features** This introductory manual does not discuss many of the most interesting features of OpenGL. Once you have mastered the basic principles of OpenGL programming, however, you should not find it hard to learn other features from a book such as *OpenGL Programming Guide*.

Some features, such as display lists, do not introduce new capabilities, but provide improved performance. Others, such as clipping planes and stencils, may be used both to enhance both capability and performance. Although OpenGL does not provide direct support for shadows and reflections, it provides facilities that simplify their implementation. You can build models by providing sets of points, or by using tesselators and evaluators. You can use the accumulation buffer for antialiasing, blurring, depth of field simulation, and jittering.

All you need is time and imagination.

## A Spaces and Transformations

We could build graphical models and view them in a single coordinate frame, but this would be very tedious. Instead, we work with many coordinate frames (or “reference systems”) and move between them by using transformations. In the following examples, we move from a frame  $(x, y, z)$  to a new frame  $(x', y', z')$ .

- Move the origin to  $(a, b, c)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= x - a \\y' &= y - b \\z' &= z - c\end{aligned}$$

- Rotate the frame about the  $z$  axis through an angle  $\theta$ .

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta \\y' &= x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \\z' &= z\end{aligned}$$

- Scale the axes by factors  $r$ ,  $s$ , and  $t$ .

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= r x \\y' &= s y \\z' &= t z\end{aligned}$$

If  $M = m_{ij}$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} \\ m_{31} & m_{32} & m_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11}x + m_{12}y + m_{13}z \\ m_{21}x + m_{22}y + m_{23}z \\ m_{31}x + m_{32}y + m_{33}z \end{bmatrix}$$

which shows that we can represent a scaling or rotation, but not a translation, using a  $3 \times 3$  matrix.

The solution is to use  $4 \times 4$  matrices. We can view this as an algebraic trick, but there is a mathematical justification that we present briefly in Section A.1. For details, consult the Appendix of *Computer Graphics: Principles and Practice*, by Foley and van Dam.

### A.1 Scalar, Vector, Affine, and Euclidean Spaces

**Scalar Space** An element of a scalar space is just a real number. The familiar operations (add, subtract, multiply, and divide) are defined for real numbers and they obey familiar laws such as commutation, association, distribution, etc. (In the following, we will use lower-case Greek letters  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots)$  to denote scalars.)

**Vector Space** A vector space is a collection of vectors that obey certain laws. (We will use bold lower-case Roman letters ( $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \dots$ ) to denote vectors.)

We can add vectors (notation:  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ ); vector addition is commutative and associative. Vector subtraction (notation:  $\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}$ ) is the inverse of addition. For any vector  $\mathbf{v}$ , we have  $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ , the unique *zero vector*.

We can also multiply a vector by a scalar (notation:  $\alpha \mathbf{v}$ ). The result is a vector and we have laws such as  $\alpha(\beta \mathbf{v}) = (\alpha\beta) \mathbf{v}$ ,  $\alpha(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \alpha \mathbf{u} + \alpha \mathbf{v}, \dots$

We say that a set,  $U$ , of vectors *spans* a vector space  $V$  if every vector in  $V$  can be written as in the form  $\alpha_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + \alpha_n \mathbf{u}_n$  with  $\mathbf{u}_1 \in U, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n \in U$ . The *dimension* of a vector space is the number of vectors in its smallest spanning set. We can represent every vector in a  $n$ -dimensional vector space as a tuple of  $n$  real numbers. For example, in a 3-dimensional vector space, every vector can be written as  $(x, y, z)$  where  $x, y$ , and  $z$  are real numbers.

The zero vector plays a special role in a vector space: it defines an origin. We cannot move the origin, and we cannot translate a vector. The only operations we can perform on vectors are scaling and rotation. This is just the limitation we found with  $3 \times 3$  matrices above.

**Affine Space** An affine space, like a vector space, contains scalars and vectors with the same operations and laws. An affine space also contains points (notation:  $P, Q, \dots$ ). Points appear in two operations:

1. The *difference* between two points  $P$  and  $Q$  is a vector (notation:  $P - Q$ ).
2. The *sum* of a point  $P$  and a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is a point (notation:  $P + \mathbf{v}$ ).

Given a scalar  $\alpha$  and points  $P, Q$ , the expression  $P + \alpha(Q - P)$  is called the *affine combination of the points  $P$  and  $Q$  by  $\alpha$* . To understand this expression, note that:  $P$  and  $Q$  are points;  $Q - P$  is the difference between two points, and hence a vector;  $\alpha(Q - P)$  is a scalar times a vector, and hence a vector;  $P + \alpha(Q - P)$  is the sum of a point and a vector, and hence a point.

If  $\alpha = 0$ , then  $P + \alpha(Q - P)$  simplifies to  $P + \mathbf{0} = P$ . If  $\alpha = 1$ , then  $P + \alpha(Q - P)$  simplifies to  $P + (Q - P) = Q$ . (This reduction can be derived from the axioms of an affine space, which we have not given here. Intuitively,  $Q - P$  is an arrow (vector) representing a trip from  $Q$  to  $P$ ; by adding this vector to  $P$ , we get back to  $Q$ .)

The set of points  $\{P + \alpha(Q - P) \mid \alpha \in \mathcal{R}\}$  is defined to be a *line* in affine space. If  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , then  $P + \alpha(Q - P)$  is *between*  $P$  and  $Q$ .

Continuing in this way, we can express many geometrical properties in terms of the axioms of an affine space. There is no absolute scale (like inches or centimetres) but we can represent ratios. An *affine transformation* is a transformation that preserves certain ratios.

**Representation of an Affine Space** We define a point to be a tuple  $(x, y, z, 1)$  and a vector to be a tuple  $(x, y, z, 0)$ , with  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{R}$ . Using component-wise addition and subtraction:

- $(x, y, z, 1) - (x', y', z', 1) = (x - x', y - y', z - z', 0)$ : the difference between two points is a vector;

- $(x, y, z, 1) + (x', y', z', 0) = (x + x', y + y', z + z', 1)$ : the sum of a point and a vector is a point; and
- $(x, y, z, 0) \pm (x', y', z', 0) = (x \pm x', y \pm y', z \pm z', 0)$ : the sum or difference of vectors is a vector.

It is possible to show formally that this representation satisfies the axioms of an affine space. The space represented is actually a three-dimensional *affine subspace* of a four-dimensional vector space.

The advantage of this representation is that all of the transformations that we need for graphics can be expressed as  $4 \times 4$  matrices. In particular, the translation that we could not do with  $3 \times 3$  matrices is now possible.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x + a \\ y + b \\ z + c \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

In this example and below, we write points in the affine space as  $4 \times 1$  matrices (column matrices), and a point is always the second (or final) term in a product. In running text, we write  $[x, y, z, 1]^T$  (transpose of a  $1 \times 4$  matrix) for a  $4 \times 1$  matrix.

**Euclidean Space** We cannot make measurements in an affine space. We introduce distance *via* inner products. The *inner product* of vectors  $\mathbf{u} = [u_x, u_y, u_z, 0]^T$  and  $\mathbf{v} = [v_x, v_y, v_z, 0]^T$  is

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_x v_x + u_y v_y + u_z v_z$$

The *length* of a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}} = \sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2}$$

We define:

- The *distance* between two points  $P$  and  $Q$  is  $\|P - Q\|$ .
- The *angle*  $\alpha$  between two vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  is  $\alpha$  where

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{u}\| \|\mathbf{v}\|}$$

If  $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$ , then  $\cos \alpha = 0$  and  $\alpha = 90^\circ$  and the vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are orthogonal.

A space in which we can measure distances and angles in this way is called a *Euclidean space*. Defining measurement in other ways yields non-Euclidean spaces of various kinds.

## A.2 Matrix Transformations

We now have the machinery required to define transformations in three-dimensional Euclidean space as  $4 \times 4$  matrices. The important transformations are summarized in Figure 37. The identity transformation doesn't change anything; translation moves the origin to the point  $[-t_x, -t_y, -t_z, 1]^T$ ; scaling multiplies  $x$  values by  $s_x$ , etc; and the rotations rotate the frame counterclockwise through an angle  $\theta$  about the given axis.

---

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & t_x \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & t_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} s_x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_y & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$
Identity	Translation	Scale
$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$
Rotation $\theta$ about $X$ -axis	Rotation $\theta$ about $Y$ -axis	Rotation $\theta$ about $Z$ -axis

---

Figure 37: Basic transformations

### A.3 Sequences of Transformations

If  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are transformations expressed as matrices, then the matrix products  $T_1 T_2$  and  $T_2 T_1$  are also transformations. In general,  $T_1 T_2 \neq T_2 T_1$ , corresponding to the fact that transformations do not commute.

Consider a translation  $d$  along the  $X$ -axis and a rotation  $R$  about the  $Z$  axis. Assume

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & d \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then we have

$$TR = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 & d \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad RT = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 & d \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 & d \sin \theta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Applying these transformations to a point  $\mathbf{p} = (x, y, z, 1)$ , we obtain:

$$TR\mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta + d \\ x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad RT\mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta + d \cos \theta \\ x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta + d \sin \theta \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

These results show that  $TR$  is a rotation *followed by* a translation and  $RT$  is a translation *followed by* a rotation. In other words, the transformations are applied in the opposite order to their appearance in the matrix product. This is not surprising, because we can write  $TR\mathbf{p}$  as  $T(R\mathbf{p})$ .

If we view transformations as operating on the coordinate system rather than points, the sequence of operations is reversed. (Algebraically, the reversal can be expressed by the law  $(T_1T_2)^{-1} = T_2^{-1}T_1^{-1}$ .) We can think of the transformation  $TR$  as first moving to a new coordinate system translated from the original system, and then rotating the new coordinates. Similarly,  $RT$  is viewed as first rotating the coordinate system and then translating it. With this viewpoint, the sequence of matrices in a composition of transformations corresponds to the sequence of operations. It is also closer to the way that graphics software, such as OpenGL, actually works.

#### A.4 Gimbal Locking

The obvious way to rotate objects about the principle axes. This works because an arbitrary rotation can be effected by rotating the object through angle  $\theta_x$  about the  $X$ -axis, then  $\theta_y$  about the  $Y$ -axis, and then  $\theta_z$  about the  $Z$ -axis. The angles  $\theta_x$ ,  $\theta_y$ , and  $\theta_z$  are called *Euler angles*.

In graphics programming, we often want to perform sequences of rotations. Unfortunately, Euler angles do not work well for sequences. Suppose we write an OpenGL program which declares three angles:

```
int xTheta = 0;
int yTheta = 0;
int zTheta = 0;
```

and uses them to rotate an object in the display callback function:

```
void display ()
{
    glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT | GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT);
    glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
    glLoadIdentity();
    glTranslatef(0, 0, -10);
    glRotatef(xTheta, 1, 0, 0);
    glRotatef(yTheta, 0, 1, 0);
    glRotatef(zTheta, 0, 0, 1);
    // show scene
    ....
    glutSwapBuffers();
}
```

Rotation is controlled by the keyboard: pressing `x` adds 30 degrees to `xTheta`, and similarly for the other angles:

```

void keyboard(unsigned char key, int x, int y)
{
    switch (key)
    {
        case 'x':
            xTheta += 30;
            glutPostRedisplay();
            break;
        case 'y':
            yTheta += 30;
            glutPostRedisplay();
            break;
        case 'z':
            zTheta += 30;
            glutPostRedisplay();
            break;
    }
}

```

The code looks reasonable, but the program does not work in the way that you might expect: the sequences `yyxx` and `yyzz` have exactly the same effect! After `yyy`, the  $X$  and  $Z$  axes are superimposed, so that changing `xTheta` has the same effect as changing `zTheta`. This phenomenon is known as *gimbal lock* because it is analogous to a problem that occurs with gyroscopes that are mounted in three “gimbals” that allow them to rotate about any axis. If two of the gimbals become aligned, the gyroscope loses a degree of freedom.

Quaternions provide an alternative means of effecting rotations. CUGL (see Section 1.2) provides functions that use quaternions to rotate objects.

## A.5 Viewing

In order to view a three-dimensional object on a two-dimensional screen, we must *project* it. The simplest kind of projection simply ignores one coordinate. For example, the transformation  $[x, y, z, 1]^T \mapsto (x, y)$  provides a screen position for each point by ignoring its  $z$  coordinate. A projection of this kind is called an *orthographic* or *parallel* projection.

Orthographic projections do not give a strong sensation of depth because the size of an object does not depend on its distance from the viewer. An orthographic projection simulates a view from an infinite distance away.

Perspective transformations provide a better sense of depth by drawing distant objects with reduced size. The size reduction is a natural consequence of viewing the object from a finite distance. In Figure 38,  $E$  represents the eye of the viewer viewing a screen. Conceptually, the model is behind the screen. An object at  $P$  in the model, for example, appears on the screen at the point  $P'$ .

The point  $P$  in the model is  $[x, y, z, 1]^T$ . (The  $x$  value does not appear in the diagram because it is perpendicular to the paper.) The transformed coordinates on the screen are  $(x', y')$ : there is no  $z$  coordinate because the screen has only two dimensions. By similar triangles:

$$\frac{x'}{d} = \frac{x}{z + d}$$



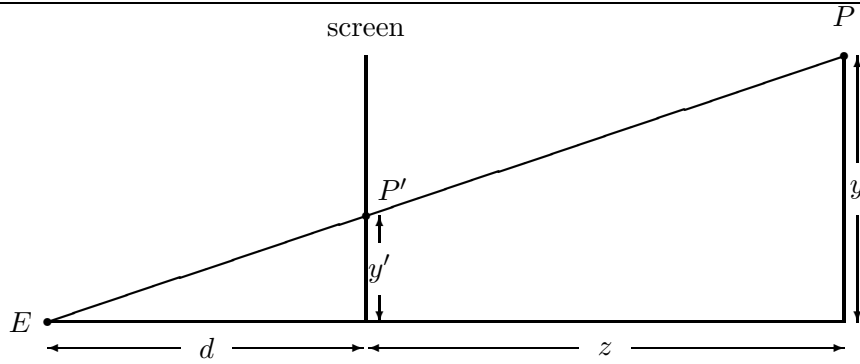


Figure 38: Perspective transformation

$$\frac{y'}{d} = \frac{y}{z+d}$$

and hence

$$x' = \frac{x d}{z+d}$$

$$y' = \frac{y d}{z+d}$$

To obtain the perspective transformation in matrix form, we note that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/d & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ z/d + 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Unlike the previous points we have seen, the transformed point has a fourth coordinate that is not equal to 1. Homogenizing this point gives  $\left[ \frac{x d}{z+d}, \frac{y d}{z+d}, \frac{z d}{z+d}, 1 \right]^T$ , as we obtained above.

The  $z$  component has no obvious physical significance but there are advantages in retaining it. Since transformed  $z$  values depend monotonically on the original  $z$  values, the transformed values can be used for hidden surface elimination. Moreover, the transformation can be inverted only if the  $z$  information is retained. This is necessary for transforming normal vectors and for selecting objects from a scene.

## B Theory of Illumination

To obtain realistic images in computer graphics, we need to know not only about light but also what happens when light is reflected from an object into our eyes. The nature of this reflection determines the appearance of the object. The general problem is to compute the apparent colour at each pixel that corresponds to part of the object on the screen.

### B.1 Steps to Realistic Illumination

We provide various techniques for solving this problem, increasing the realism at each step. In each case, we define the *intensity*,  $I$ , of a pixel in terms of a formula. The first few techniques ignore colour.

**Technique #1.** We assume that each object has an *intrinsic brightness*  $k_i$ . Then

$$I = k_i$$

This technique can be used for simple graphics, but it is clearly unsatisfactory. There is no attempt to model properties of the light or its effect on the objects.

**Technique #2.** We assume that there is *ambient light* (light from all directions) with intensity  $I_a$  and that each object has an *ambient reflection coefficient*  $k_a$ . This gives

$$I = I_a k_a$$

In practice, the effect of technique #2 is very similar to that of technique #1.

**Technique #3.** We assume that there is a single, point source of light and that the object has *diffuse* or *Lambertian* reflective properties. This means that the light reflected from the object depends only on the incidence angle of the light, not the direction of the viewer.

More precisely, suppose that:  $\mathbf{N}$  is a vector normal to the surface of the object;  $\mathbf{L}$  is a vector corresponding to the direction of the light; and  $\mathbf{V}$  is a vector corresponding to the direction of the viewer. Figure 39 shows these vectors: note that  $\mathbf{V}$  is not necessarily in the plane defined by  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$ . Assume that all vectors are normalized ( $\|\mathbf{N}\| = \|\mathbf{L}\| = \|\mathbf{V}\| = 1$ ). Then the apparent brightness of the object is proportional to  $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}$ . Note that:

- $\mathbf{V}$  does not appear in this expression and so the brightness does not depend on the viewer's position;
- the brightness is greatest when  $\mathbf{N}$  and  $\mathbf{L}$  are parallel ( $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L} = 1$ ); and
- the brightness is smallest when  $\mathbf{N}$  and  $\mathbf{L}$  are orthogonal ( $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L} = 0$ ).

We can account for Lambertian reflection in the following way. Suppose that the beam of light has cross-section area  $A$  and it strikes the surface of the object at an angle  $\theta$ . Then the area illuminated is approximately  $A/\cos\theta$ . After striking the object, the light is scattered uniformly in all directions. The apparent brightness to the viewer is inversely proportional to

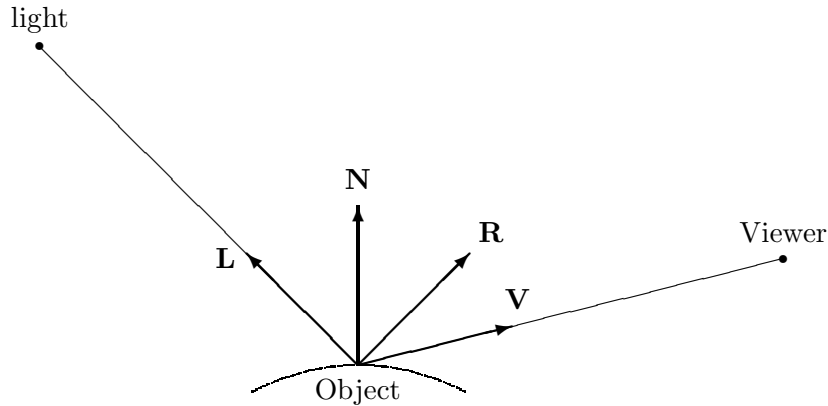


Figure 39: Illuminating an object

---

the area illuminated, which means that it is proportional to  $\cos\theta$ , the inner product of the light vector and the surface normal.

We introduce  $I_p$ , the incident light intensity from a point source, and  $k_d$ , the *diffuse reflection coefficient* of the object. Then

$$I = I_p k_d (\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L})$$

If we include some ambient light, this equation becomes

$$I = i_a k_a + I_p k_d (\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L})$$

The value of  $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}$  can be negative: this will be the case if the light is underneath the surface of the object. We usually assume that such light does not contribute to the illumination of the surface. In calculations, we should use  $\max(\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}, 0)$  to keep negative values out of our results.

**Technique #4.** Light attenuates (gets smaller) with distance from the source. The theoretical rate of attenuation for a point source of light is quadratic. In practice, sources are not true points and there is always some ambient light from reflecting surfaces (except in outer space). Consequently, we assume that attenuation,  $f$ , is given by

$$f = \frac{1}{C + Ld + Qd^2}$$

where:

- $d$  is the distance between the light and the object;
- $C$  (constant attenuation) ensures that a close light source does not give an infinite amount of light;
- $L$  (linear term) allows for the fact that the source is not a point; and
- $Q$  (quadratic term) models the theoretical attenuation from a point source.

Then we have

$$I = i_a k_a + f I_p k_d (\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L})$$

**Technique #5.** Techniques #1 through #4 ignore colour. We assume that:

- the object has *diffuse colour factors*  $O_{dr}$ ,  $O_{dg}$ , and  $O_{db}$ ;
- the light has *intensity colour factors* corresponding to ambient sources ( $I_{ar}$ ,  $I_{ag}$ , and  $I_{ab}$ ); and
- point sources ( $I_{pr}$ ,  $I_{pg}$ , and  $I_{pb}$ ).

All of these numbers are in the range  $[0, 1]$ . We now have three intensity equations of the form

$$I_\lambda = I_{a\lambda} k_a O_{d\lambda} + f I_{p\lambda} k_d O_{d\lambda} (\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L})$$

for  $\lambda = r, g, b$ .

**Technique #6.** Lambertian reflection is a property of dull objects such as cloth or chalk. Many objects exhibit degrees of shininess: polished wood has some shininess and a mirror is the ultimate in shininess. The technical name for shininess is *specular reflection*. A characteristic feature of specular reflection is that it has a colour closer to the colour of the light source than the colour of the object. For example, a brown table made of polished wood that is illuminated by a white light will have specular highlights that are white, not brown.

Specular reflection depends on the direction of the viewer as well as the light. We introduce a new vector,  $\mathbf{R}$  (the *reflection vector*), which is the direction in which the light would be reflected if the object was a mirror (see Figure 39). The brightness of specular reflection depends on the angle between  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$  (the angle of the viewer). For *Phong shading* (developed by Phong Bui-Tong), we assume that the brightness is proportional to  $(\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{V})^n$ , where  $n = 1$  corresponds to a slightly glossy surface and  $n = \infty$  corresponds to a perfect mirror. We now have

$$I_\lambda = I_{a\lambda} k_a O_{d\lambda} + f I_{p\lambda} (k_d O_{d\lambda} (\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}) + k_s (\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{V})^n)$$

where  $k_s$  is the *specular reflection coefficient* and  $n$  is the *specular reflection exponent*.

**Technique #7.** In practice, the colour of specular reflection is not completely independent of the colour of the object. To allow for this, we can give the object a *specular colour*  $O_{s\lambda}$ . Then we have

$$I_\lambda = I_{a\lambda} k_a O_{d\lambda} + f I_{p\lambda} (k_d O_{d\lambda} (\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}) + k_s O_{s\lambda} (\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{V})^n)$$

This equation represents our final technique for lighting an object and is a close approximation to what OpenGL actually does. The actual calculation performed by OpenGL is:

$$V_\lambda = O_{e\lambda} + M_{a\lambda} O_{a\lambda} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( \frac{1}{k_c + k_l d + k_q d^2} \right)_i s_i [I_{a\lambda} O_{a\lambda} + (\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}) I_{d\lambda} O_{d\lambda} + (\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{V})^\sigma I_{s\lambda} O_{s\lambda}]_i$$

where

$V_\lambda$	=	Vertex brightness
$M_{a\lambda}$	=	Ambient light model
$k_c$	=	Constant attenuation coefficient
$k_l$	=	Linear attenuation coefficient
$k_q$	=	Quadratic attenuation coefficient
$d$	=	Distance of light source from vertex
$s_i$	=	Spotlight effect
$I_{a\lambda}$	=	Ambient light
$I_{d\lambda}$	=	Diffuse light
$I_{s\lambda}$	=	Specular light
$O_{e\lambda}$	=	Emissive brightness of material
$O_{a\lambda}$	=	Ambient brightness of material
$O_{d\lambda}$	=	Diffuse brightness of material
$O_{s\lambda}$	=	Specular brightness of material
$\sigma$	=	Shininess of material

the subscript  $\lambda$  indicates colour components and the subscript  $i$  denotes one of the lights.

## B.2 Multiple Light Sources

If there are several light sources, we simply add their contributions. If the sum of the contributions exceeds 1, we can either “clamp” the value (that is, use 1 instead of the actual result) or reduce all values in proportion so that the greatest value is 1. Clamping is cheaper computationally and usually sufficient.

## B.3 Polygon Shading

The objects in graphical models are usually defined as many small polygons, typically triangles or rectangles. We must choose a suitable colour for each visible pixel of a polygon: this is called *polygon shading*.

**Flat Shading** In flat shading, we compute a vector normal to the polygon and use it to compute the colour for every pixel of the polygon. The computation implicitly assumes that:

- the polygon is really flat (not an approximation to a curved surface);
- $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}$  is constant (the light source is infinitely far away); and
- $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{V}$  is constant (the viewer is infinitely far away.)

Flat shading is efficient computationally but not very satisfactory: the edges of the polygons tend to be visible and we see a polyhedron rather than the surface we are trying to approximate. (The edges are even more visible than we might expect, due to the subjective *Mach effect*, which exaggerates a change of colour along a line.)

**Smooth Shading** In smooth shading, we compute normals at the vertices of the polygons, averaging over the polygons that meet at the vertex. If we are using polygons to approximate a smooth surface, these vectors approximate the true surface normals at the vertices. We compute the colour at each vertex and then colour the polygons by *interpolating* the colours at interior pixels.

**Gouraud Shading** Gouraud shading is a form of smooth shading that uses a particular kind of interpolation for efficiency.

1. Compute the normal at each vertex of the polygon mesh. For analytical surfaces, such as spheres and cones, we can compute the normals exactly. For surfaces approximated by polygons, we use the average of the surface normals at each vertex.
2. Compute the light intensity for each colour at each vertex using a *lighting model* (e.g., Technique #7 above).
3. Interpolate intensities along the edges of the polygons.
4. Interpolate intensities along scan lines within the polygons.

**Phong Shading** Phong shading is similar to Gouraud shading but interpolates the normals rather than the intensities. Phong shading requires more computation than Gouraud shading but gives better results, especially for specular highlights.

## C Function Reference

Each function of OpenGL is specified by a prototype and a brief explanation. The explanations are brief: you may find the suggested examples help you to understand them. The specifications follow some conventions, listed below.

- Function descriptions are in alphabetical sequence by name. The prefix (`gl-`, `glu-`, or `glut-`) is not considered to be part of the name for alphabetization.
- If a function has many arguments of the same type, the argument types are omitted from the prototype but specified in the explanation that follows it.
- A name of the form `glname{234}{sifd}[v]` describes several functions. The name of a particular function is obtained by taking one character from each “set” `{...}` and optionally adding the character enclosed in brackets `[...]`.

The digit gives the number of arguments and the letter gives the type. The final “v”, if present, says that there will be a single argument that is a pointer to an array.

When the function definition uses this form, the argument types are omitted because they must conform to the function name.

For example, the function referred to as `glVertex()` in these notes may be called with any of the following argument lists.

- Two `shorts` specifying *X* and *Y* positions:

```
glVertex2s(3, 4);
```

- Four `doubles` specifying *X*, *Y*, *Z*, and *W* values:

```
glVertex4d(1.0, 1.0, 5.0, 1.0);
```

- A pointer to an array of three floats:

```
glVertex3fv(ptr);
```

## Function Definitions

```
void glutAddMenuEntry (char *label, int selection);
```

Add an entry to the current menu. The first argument is the text that the user will see and the second argument is the integer that will be passed to the callback function when the user selects this entry.

**See also**

`glutCreateMenu()`.

`void glutAddSubMenu (char *label, int menu);`

Add a sub-menu to the current menu. The first argument is the text that the user will see and the second argument is an integer returned by `glutCreateMenu()`.

**See also**

`glutCreateMenu()`.

`void glutAttachMenu (int button);`

Associate the current menu with a mouse button. The value of the argument must be one of `GLUT_LEFT_BUTTON`, `GLUT_MIDDLE_BUTTON`, or `GLUT_RIGHT_BUTTON`.

**See also**

`glutCreateMenu()`.

`void glBegin (GLenum mode);`

Marks the beginning of a vertex data list. The permitted values of `mode` are given in Table 3 on page 17.

**See also**

`glEnd()`.

`void glutBitmapCharacter (void *font, int character);`

Displays one bitmapped character at the current raster position and moves the raster position right by the width of the character. Table 10 lists the permitted values of `font`.

**See also**

`glRasterPos()`, `glutStrokeCharacter()`.

`int glutBitmapWidth(void *font, int character);`

Returns the width of the bitmapped character. Table 10 lists the permitted values of `font`.

`void glClear (GLbitfield mask);`

Clears the specified buffers. Table 11 shows the names of the mask bits. Using multiple calls of `glClear()` may be less efficient than using `|` to “OR” mask bits.



Font name	Description
GLUT_BITMAP_8_BY_13	fixed width, 8 × 13 pixels
GLUT_BITMAP_9_BY_15	fixed width, 9 × 15 pixels
GLUT_BITMAP_TIMES_ROMAN_10	proportional width, 10 points
GLUT_BITMAP_TIMES_ROMAN_24	proportional width, 24 points
GLUT_BITMAP_HELVETICA_10	proportional width, 10 points
GLUT_BITMAP_HELVETICA_12	proportional width, 12 points
GLUT_BITMAP_HELVETICA_18	proportional width, 18 points

Table 10: Fonts for `glutBitmapCharacter()`

Buffer	Mask bit
Colour	GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT
Depth	GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT
Accumulation	GL_ACCUM_BUFFER_BIT
Stencil	GL_STENCIL_BUFFER_BIT

Table 11: Mask bits for clearing

```
void glClearColor (red, green, blue, alpha);
```

Set the clearing colour used for clearing the colour buffers in RGBA mode. The arguments are all of type `GLfloat` and they are clamped to the range  $[0, 1]$ . Use this function to set the background colour of your scene.

#### Default

```
void glClearColor (0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0);
```

```
void glColor{34}{sifd}[v] (...);
```

Set the current colour. The first three values give the intensities for red, green, and blue, respectively. The fourth argument, if present, gives the value of alpha to be used for blending. If `v` is present, there is one argument that points to an array. The values of all arguments should be in the range  $[0, 1]$ .

Calls to `glColor()` have no effect if lighting is enabled.

```
int glutCreateMenu (void (*func)(int selection));
```

Create a menu and register a callback function that will be invoked when the user makes a selection from the menu. The value returned is an integer that identifies the menu. It is used as an argument to `glutCreateSubMenu()`, telling the submenu which menu it belongs to. The value passed to the callback function is an integer corresponding to the item selected from the menu by the user.

**See also**

`glutAddMenuEntry()`, `glutAddSubMenu()`, `glutAttachMenu()`.

**int glutCreateSubWindow (win, x, y, width, height);**

All arguments are integers. `win` is the number of the new window's parent. `(x,y)` is the location of the new window relative to the parent window's origin. `width` and `height` are the width and height of the new window. The value returned is an integer that identifies the window.

**int glutCreateWindow (const char \* text);**

Creates a window with features that have been previously defined by calls to the initialization functions `glutInitDisplayMode()`, `glutInitWindowPosition()`, and `glutInitWindowSize()`. The string `text` will appear in the title bar at the top of the window. The window is not actually displayed on the screen until `glutMainLoop()` has been entered.

The value returned is a unique identifier for the window. It is used by programs that support several graphics windows.

Call `glutCreateWindow()` before calling `glEnable()` to turn on special GL features.

**See also**

`glutSetWindowTitle()`.

**void glutDestroyWindow(int win);**

Destroy the window with number `win`.

**void glDisable (GLenum capability);**

Turns off one of GL's capabilities.

**See also**

`glEnable()`.

**void glutDisplayFunc (void (\*func)(void));**

Register a callback function that displays the model in the graphics window. The display function has no arguments and does not return a value.

**See also**

`glutPostRedisplay()`.

**void glEnable (GLenum capability);**

Turns on one of GL's capabilities. There are many capabilities, including `GL_DEPTH_TEST`, `GL_FOG`, and so on.

**See also**

`glDisable()`.

`void glEnd();`

Marks the end of a vertex data list introduced by `glBegin()`.

`char *gluErrorString (int code);`

Return a string describing the error indicated by `code`.

**See also**

`glGetError()`;

`void glFlush (void);`

Forces previously issued OpenGL commands to begin execution. It is not usually necessary to call `glFlush()` for programs run on a single-user system, but it is important for programs that run on a network.

`void glFrustum (left, right, bottom, top, near, far);`

Defines a projection matrix and multiplies the current projection matrix by it. The matrix defines a “viewing volume” for a perspective view in the negative *Z* direction.

All arguments should be GLfloats and `far > near > 0`. The first four arguments determine the size of the viewing “window”. Only objects whose distance from the viewpoint is between `near` and `far` will be drawn.

**See Also**

`gluPerspective()`, `glOrtho()`.

`void glutFullScreen();`

Request that the current window be displayed in full screen mode. The precise effect depends on the underlying window system, but the intent of this call is to maximize the window area and to remove as much border decoration as possible.

A call to `glutPositionWindow()` or `glutReshapeWindow()` is supposed to reverse the effect of a call to `glutFullScreen()` but this doesn’t work on some Windows systems.

`int glutGet(GLenum state);`

Return the value of a GLUT state variable. There are many possible values of the parameter `state`; Table 12 shows a few of the more useful ones.

Value of state	Value returned
GLUT_WINDOW_X	Distance from left of screen to left of current window (pixels)
GLUT_WINDOW_Y	Distance from top of screen to top of current window (pixels)
GLUT_WINDOW_WIDTH	Width of current window (pixels)
GLUT_WINDOW_HEIGHT	Height of current window (pixels)
GLUT_SCREEN_WIDTH	Width of the screen in pixels, zero if unknown
GLUT_SCREEN_HEIGHT	Height of the screen in pixels, zero if unknown
GLUT_WINDOW_BUFFER_SIZE	Number of bits used to store the current window's colour buffer
GLUT_WINDOW_DOUBLEBUFFER	1 if double-buffering is enabled for the current window, 0 otherwise
GLUT_WINDOW_PARENT	Window number of the current window's parent
GLUT_ELAPSED_TIME	Time since <code>glutInit</code> was called
Invalid constant	-1

Table 12: Parameter values for `glutGet(state)`

```
int glGetError (void);
```

Return the value of the error flag. If the result is `GL_NO_ERROR`, then no error has occurred. Otherwise, you can obtain a string describing the error by passing the result to `gluErrorString()`.

```
int glutGetModifiers();
```

If this function is called while a keyboard, special, or mouse callback is being handled, it returns a bit string giving the state of the keyboard, as follows:

Bit set	Meaning
GLUT_ACTIVE_SHIFT	A Shift key is pressed or Caps Lock is active
GLUT_ACTIVE_CTRL	A Control key is pressed
GLUT_ACTIVE_ALT	An Alt key is pressed

See also:

`glutKeyboardFunc()`, `glutKeyboardFunc()`.

```
int glutGetWindow(void);
```

Return the value of the current window. All functions that apply to windows operate on the current window. Events (such as mouse clicks and keystrokes) apply to the window that contains the cursor, not necessarily the current window. The value of `win` is the integer returned by a call to `glutCreateWindow()`.

---

Mode bit	Description
GLUT_RGB	Use RGB colour values (default)
GLUT_RGBA	Use RGB colour values (same as GLUT_RGB)
GLUT_INDEX	Use colour indexes
GLUT_SINGLE	Use a single colour buffer (default)
GLUT_DOUBLE	Use two colour buffers
GLUT_DEPTH	Use a depth buffer
GLUT_STENCIL	Use a stencil buffer
GLUT_ALPHA	Use a buffer with an alpha component
GLUT_STEREO	Use a stereo pair of windows
GLUT_ACCUM	Use an accumulation buffer

---

Table 13: Display mode bits

**See also**

`glutSetWindow()`, `glutCreateWindow()`.

```
void glutIdleFunc (void (*func)(void));
```

Register a callback function that will be called when no other events are being processed.

```
void glutInit (int argc, char *argv[]);
```

Initialize the GLUT library. This function should be called before any other `glut-` functions. The arguments have the same type as the arguments of `main()` and are, by convention, the same as the arguments passed to `main()`.

```
void glutInitDisplayMode (unsigned int mode);
```

Specify a display mode. The argument is a bitfield constructed from constants chosen from Table 13 and OR'd together.

**Default**

```
glutInitDisplayMode (GLUT_RGBA | GLUT_SINGLE | GLUT_DEPTH);
```

```
void glutInitWindowPosition (int x, int y);
```

Sets the initial position of the graphics window to be created by `glutCreateWindow()`. The arguments give the position of the top left corner of the window in screen coordinates ( $Y = 0$  at the top of the screen). If you do not call this function, or you call it with negative arguments, the underlying window system chooses the window position.

**Default**

```
glutWindowPosition (-1, -1);
```

```
void glutInitWindowSize (int width, int height);
```

Sets the initial size of the graphics window that is to be created by `glutCreateWindow()`. The arguments give the size of the window in pixels.

#### Default

```
glutInitWindowSize (300, 300);
```

#### See also

```
glutReshapeFunc().
```

```
void glutKeyboardFunc (void (*func)(key, x, y));
```

Register a callback function that handles keyboard events. The arguments passed to the function are the `unsigned char` code of the key that was pressed, and the current position of the mouse.

#### See also

```
glutSpecialFunc(), glutGetModifiers().
```

```
void glLight{if}[v] (GLenum light, GLenum name, GLfloat values);
```

Creates the specified light if it has not already been created and defines some of its properties. The first argument must be `GL_LIGHT $n$` , where  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 7$ . The second argument is a parameter name, and should be one of:

<code>GL_AMBIENT</code>	<code>GL_SPOT_DIRECTION</code>	<code>GL_CONSTANT_ATTENUATION</code>
<code>GL_DIFFUSE</code>	<code>GL_SPOT_EXPONENT</code>	<code>GL_LINEAR_ATTENUATION</code>
<code>GL_SPECULAR</code>	<code>GL_SPOT_CUTOFF</code>	<code>GL_QUADRATIC_ATTENUATION</code>
<code>GL_POSITION</code>		

The third argument gives the value of the parameter. The most common form of call is `glLightfv`, in which case the third argument is a pointer to an array of four `GLfloat`s. See Table 7 on page 40 for an explanation of the parameter names and values.

#### Default

Figure 40 shows default values for lighting.

```
void glLightModel{if}[v] (GLenum name, GLfloat [*] value);
```

Define properties of the lighting model. The first argument is a parameter name, and it should be one of:

```
GL_LIGHT_MODEL_AMBIENT
GL_LIGHT_MODEL_LOCAL_VIEW
GL_LIGHT_MODEL_TWO_SIDE
```

See Table 8 on page 41 for an explanation of the meanings of these parameters and their values.

---

```

GLfloat black[] = { 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 };
GLfloat white[] = { 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0 };
GLfloat pos[]   = { 0.0, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0 };
GLfloat dir[]   = { 0.0, 0.0, -1.0 };
glLightfv(GL_LIGHT0, GL_AMBIENT, black);
glLightfv(GL_LIGHT0, GL_DIFFUSE, white);
glLightfv(GL_LIGHT0, GL_SPECULAR, white);
glLightfv(GL_LIGHT0, GL_POSITION, pos);
glLightfv(GL_LIGHT0, GL_SPOT_DIRECTION, dir);
glLightf(GL_LIGHT0, GL_SPOT_EXPONENT, 0.0);
glLightf(GL_LIGHT0, GL_SPOT_CUTOFF, 180.0);
glLightf(GL_LIGHT0, GL_CONSTANT_ATTENUATION, 1.0);
glLightf(GL_LIGHT0, GL_LINEAR_ATTENUATION, 0.0);
glLightf(GL_LIGHT0, GL_QUADRATIC_ATTENUATION, 0.0);

```

Figure 40: Default values for lighting

---

## Default

```

GLfloat amb[] = { 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 1.0 };
glLightModelfv(GL_LIGHT_MODEL_AMBIENT, amb);
glLightModelf(GL_LIGHT_MODEL_LOCAL_VIEWER, GL_FALSE);
glLightModelf(GL_LIGHT_MODEL_TWO_SIDE, GL_FALSE);

```

```
void glLineWidth (GLfloat width);
```

Sets the width of lines. The default value of `width` is 1.0, and its value must be greater than 0.0.

```
void gluLookAt (ex, ey, ez, cx, cy, cz, ux, uy, uz);
```

Defines a viewing matrix and multiplies it to the right of the current `GL_MODELVIEW` matrix. All of the arguments have type `GLfloat`.

The matrix establishes a point of view for looking at the scene. Your “eye” is at  $(e_x, e_y, e_z)$  and you are looking towards the point  $(c_x, c_y, c_z)$ . The vector  $(u_x, u_y, u_z)$  is pointing upwards.

```
void glLoadIdentity (void);
```

Sets the current matrix (top of the stack) to the identity matrix.

```
void glutMainLoop (void);
```

Enters the GLUT processing loop. Within this loop, events are processed and the corresponding callback functions are invoked. This function never returns: the program is terminated by executing `exit()` or by the user closing the graphics window.

```
glMaterial{if}[v] (GLenum face, GLenum name, GLfloat[*] value);
```

Defines a material property for use in lighting. The first argument specifies which face of each polygon is being defined. The allowed values are `GL_FRONT`, `GL_BACK`, and `GL_FRONT_AND_BACK`. You are allowed to call `glMaterial()` twice, with different values for front and back polygons. Back faces will not be rendered unless you request `GL_LIGHT_MODEL_TWO_SIDE` when you call `glLightModel()`.

The second argument is the name of a parameter and the third argument is the corresponding value. When `v` is included in the function name, the third argument should be a pointer to an array. See Table 6 on page 38 for an explanation of the parameter names and their meanings.

### Default

```
GLfloat dim[] = { 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.8 };
GLfloat bright[] = { 0.8, 0.8, 0.8, 1.0 };
GLfloat black[] = { 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 };
GLfloat shine[] = { 0.0 };
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT_AND_BACK, GL_AMBIENT, dim);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT_AND_BACK, GL_DIFFUSE, bright);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT_AND_BACK, GL_SPECULAR, black);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT_AND_BACK, GL_SHININESS, shine);
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT_AND_BACK, GL_EMISSION, black);
```

```
void glMatrixMode (GLenum mode);
```

Sets the matrix mode to one of `GL_MODELVIEW` (default), `GL_PROJECTION`, or `GL_TEXTURE`.

```
void glutMotionFunc (void (*func)(int x, int y));
```

Register a callback function for mouse movements. The function is called when the mouse is dragged with one of its buttons pressed, and it is given the current mouse coordinates.

### See also

```
glutPassiveMotionFunc().
```

```
void glutMouseFunc (void (*func)(button, state, x, y));
```

Register a callback function that handles mouse events. The callback function must take four arguments, all of type `int`: a mouse button (one of `GLUT_LEFT_BUTTON`, `GLUT_MIDDLE_BUTTON`, or `GLUT_RIGHT_BUTTON`); the state of the button (either `GLUT_UP` or `GLUT_DOWN`); and the current position of the mouse.

```
void glNormal3{bsidf}(nx, ny, nz);
void glNormal3{bsidf}v(p);
```

Defines a normal vector for the current vertex. In the first form, the user provides the values of the components. In the second form, the user provides a pointer to an array containing the values of the components.



```
void glOrtho (left, right, bottom, top, near, far);
```

Defines an orthographic projection matrix with viewing volume bounded by  $(x, y, z)$  where  $\text{left} \leq x \leq \text{right}$ ,  $\text{bottom} \leq y \leq \text{top}$ , and  $\text{near} \leq -z \leq \text{far}$ . The arguments are of type `GLfloat`.

```
void glOrtho2D (left, right, bottom, top);
```

This function is used mainly for two-dimensional graphics. The call

```
glOrtho2D (left, right, bottom, top);
```

is equivalent to

```
glOrtho (left, right, bottom, top, -1.0, 1.0);
```

```
void glutPassiveMotionFunc (void (*func)(int x, int y));
```

Register a callback function for mouse movements. The function is called when the mouse is dragged without any buttons pressed, and it is given the current mouse coordinates.

```
void gluPerspective (alpha, aspect, near, far);
```

Defines a projection matrix and multiplies the current projection matrix by it. All arguments are `GLfloat`s. The camera is situated at the origin and is looking in the negative  $Z$  direction. `alpha` is the vertical angle of the field of view in degrees: it must be positive and less than  $180^\circ$ . A typical value is  $28^\circ$ , corresponding to a 50mm lens on a 35mm camera. `aspect` is the aspect ratio (width/height) of the image. Only objects whose distance from the viewpoint is between `near` and `far` ( $\text{near} \leq -z \leq \text{far}$ ) will be drawn.

**See also**

```
glFrustum(), glOrtho().
```

```
void glPointSize (GLfloat size);
```

Sets the size of a point. The default value of `size` is 1.0 and its value must be greater than 0.

```
void glPolygonMode (GLenum face, GLenum mode);
```

Controls the drawing mode for a polygon's front and back faces. The value of `face` may be `GL_FRONT`, `GL_BACK`, or `GL_FRONT_AND_BACK`. The value of `mode` may be `GL_POINT` (draw vertexes), `GL_LINES` (draw edges), or `GL_FILL` (draw filled polygon).

**Default**

```
glPolygonMode (FRONT_AND_BACK, GL_FILL);
```

```
void glPopMatrix (void);
```

Pops the top matrix of the current matrix stack. The value of the popped matrix is lost.

**See also**

`glPushMatrix()`.

```
void glutPositionWindow(int x, int y);
```

Request that the current window be moved so that its top left corner is at  $(x, y)$ .

```
void glutPostRedisplay (void);
```

Requests that the current graphics window be redrawn at the next opportunity: `glutMainLoop()` will eventually invoke the callback function registered by `glutDisplayFunc()`.

```
void glPushMatrix (void);
```

Makes a copy of the current transformation matrix and pushes it onto the stack.

**See also**

`glPopMatrix()`, `glLoadIdentity()`.

```
void glRasterPos{234}{sifd}[v] (x, y, z, w);
```

Set the current raster position. The arguments are used in the same way as the coordinates of a vertex (that is, transformations are applied). This function is typically used before displaying a bitmap or bitmapped character.

**See also**

`glutBitmapCharacter()`.

```
void glRect{sifd}[v] (x0, y0, x1, y1);
```

Draw a rectangle with top left corner at  $(x_0, y_0)$  and bottom right corner  $(x_1, y_1)$ . The rectangle is in the plane  $z = 0$  and is drawn according to the current polygon drawing style. The current transformation is applied to the coordinates.

**See also**

`glPolygonMode()`.

```
void glutReshapeFunc (void (*func)(int width, int height));
```

Register a callback function that adjusts the display after the graphics window has been moved or resized. The reshape function must accept two arguments, the new width and new height of the window in pixels, and does not return a value.

**Default**

```
void default_reshape (int width, int height)
{
    glViewport(0, 0, width, height);
}
```

```
void glutReshapeWindow(int w, int h);
```

Request that the shape of the current window be changed so that its width is  $w$  and its new height is  $h$ .

```
glRotate{fd} (angle, x, y, z);
```

Multiplies the current matrix by a matrix that rotates counterclockwise through the given angle. The axis of rotation is a line from the origin  $(0, 0, 0)$  to the point  $(x, y, z)$ .

```
void glScale{fd} (x, y, z);
```

Multiplies the current matrix by a matrix that stretches or shrinks an object along each axis. The object will be distorted if the arguments are not equal. The arguments may be positive or negative. If an argument is  $-1$ , the object is reflected in the corresponding axis.

```
void glutSetCursor (int style);
```

Change the cursor image in the current window. The value of `style` determines the shape of the cursor; Table 14 shows some of the possibilities.

```
void glutSetWindow(int win);
```

Set the current window to be `win`. All functions that apply to windows operate on the current window. Events (such as mouse clicks and keystrokes) apply to the window that contains the cursor, not necessarily the current window. The value of `win` is the integer returned by a call to `glutCreateWindow()`.

**See also**

```
glutGetWindow(), glutCreateWindow().
```

```
void glutSetWindowTitle(const char * text);
```

Write `text` in the current window title bar.

```
void glShadeModel (GLenum mode);
```

Sets the shading model to either `GL_SMOOTH` (default) or `GL_FLAT`.

Identifier	Description
GLUT_CURSOR_LEFT_ARROW	left arrow
GLUT_CURSOR_RIGHT_ARROW	right arrow
GLUT_CURSOR_TOP_SIDE	arrow pointing to top of window
GLUT_CURSOR_BOTTOM_SIDE	arrow pointing to bottom of window
GLUT_CURSOR_LEFT_SIDE	arrow pointing to left side of window
GLUT_CURSOR_RIGHT_SIDE	arrow pointing to right side of window
GLUT_CURSOR_CURSOR_INFO	pointing hand
GLUT_CURSOR_DESTROY	skull and crossbones
GLUT_CURSOR_HELP	question mark
GLUT_CURSOR_CYCLE	rotating arrows
GLUT_CURSOR_SPRAY	spray can
GLUT_CURSOR_WAIT	wrist watch
GLUT_CURSOR_TEXT	text insertion marker
GLUT_CURSOR_CROSSHAIR	small cross hair
GLUT_CURSOR_FULL_CROSS_HAIR	full window cross hair
GLUT_CURSOR_NONE	invisible cursor

Table 14: Cursor codes

```
void glutSpecialFunc (void (*func)(int key, int x, int y));
```

Registers a callback function for special key codes, such as arrows, F keys, and so on. The callback parameters `x` and `y` give the position of the mouse when the key was pressed. Note that the keys `ESC`, `BACKSPACE`, and `DELETE` have regular ASCII codes and are recognized by `glutKeyboardFunc()`.

The keys are identified by predefined constants: see Table 2 on page 12.

#### See also

```
glutKeyboardFunc() glutGetModifiers().
```

```
void glutStrokeCharacter (void *font, int character);
```

Draws a stroked character at the origin of the current model view and advance the model view matrix by the width of the character. Stroked characters may be (and usually are) scaled. There are two fonts available:

**GLUT\_STROKE\_ROMAN.** A proportionally spaced Roman font for ASCII characters 32 through 127. All characters sit on a base line and reach up to 119.05 units above and 33.33 units below the line.

**GLUT\_MONO\_ROMAN.** A fixed-space Roman font for ASCII characters 32 through 127. All characters sit on a base line and reach up to 119.05 units above and 33.33 units below the line. Each character is 104.76 units wide.

**See also**

`glutBitmapCharacter()`, `glutStrokeWidth()`.

`int glutStrokeWidth (void *font, int character);`

Return the width of the given character. The font must be a stroked font.

`void glutSwapBuffers (void);`

Exchange the “front” colour buffer and the “back” colour buffer. OpenGL displays the front buffer while the program is drawing into the back buffer. This works only if the mode `GLUT_DOUBLE` was selected in the call to `glutInitDisplayMode()`.

`void glTranslate{fd} (x, y, z);`

Multiplies the current matrix by a matrix that translates (moves) an object from  $(X, Y, Z)$  to  $(X + x, Y + y, Z + z)$ .

`void glVertex{234}{sifd} (x, y, z, w);`

`void glVertex{234}v (p);`

Specifies a vertex. Up to four coordinates ( $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $w$ ) may be provided.  $z$  defaults to 0 and  $w$  defaults to 1. In the first form, the user provides the coordinates as arguments. In the second form, the user provides a pointer to an array containing the coordinates.

`void glViewport (x, y, width, height);`

Defines a pixel rectangle in the viewing window into which the final image is to be mapped. The arguments are integers. The lower-left corner of the viewport is at  $(x, y)$  and the viewport has the indicated width and height. The default viewport is the entire viewing window.