

# Controlling the GPU from the CPU: The 3D API

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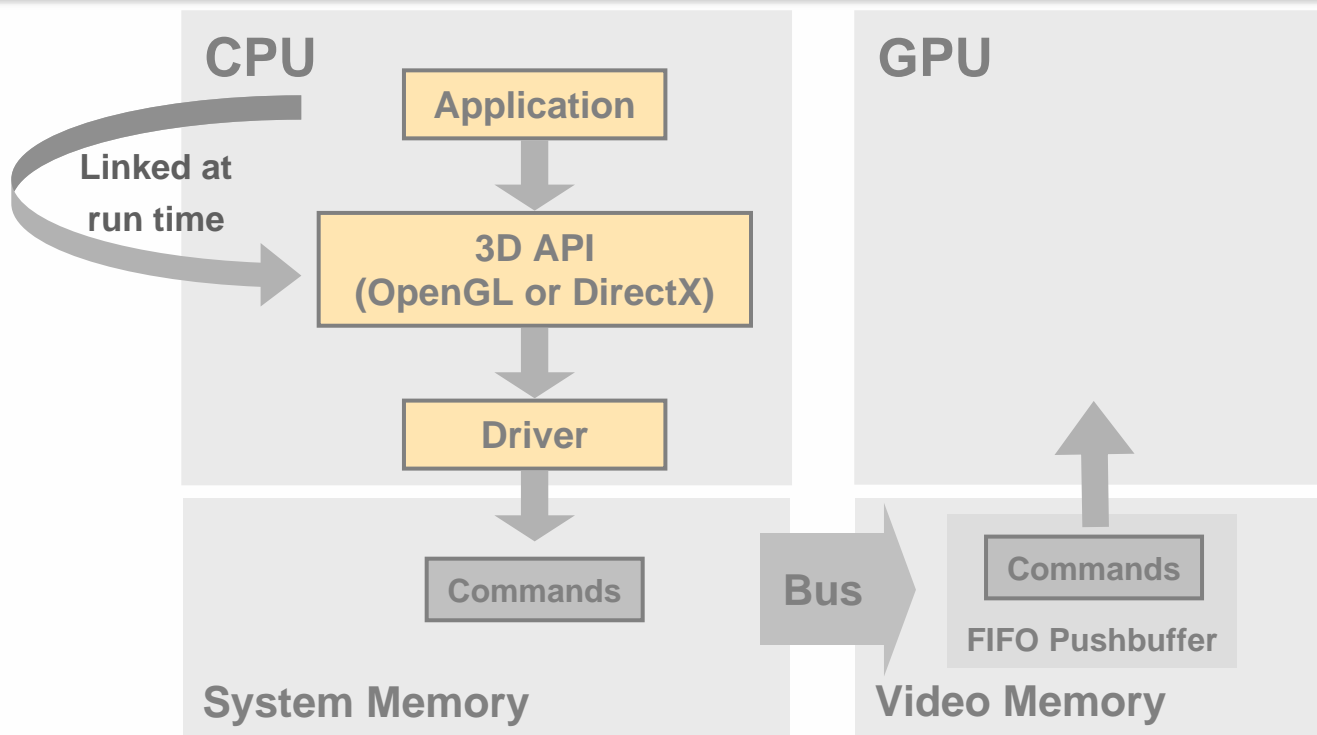
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# Overview

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- **Software architecture**
- **Double buffering**
- **Basic skeleton of a graphics application**
  - Initialization
  - Rendering loop
- **Specific topics:**
  - DirectX's effect framework
  - Accessing resources from the CPU
  - Occlusion query
  - Scene management

# CPU Side of a Graphics Application



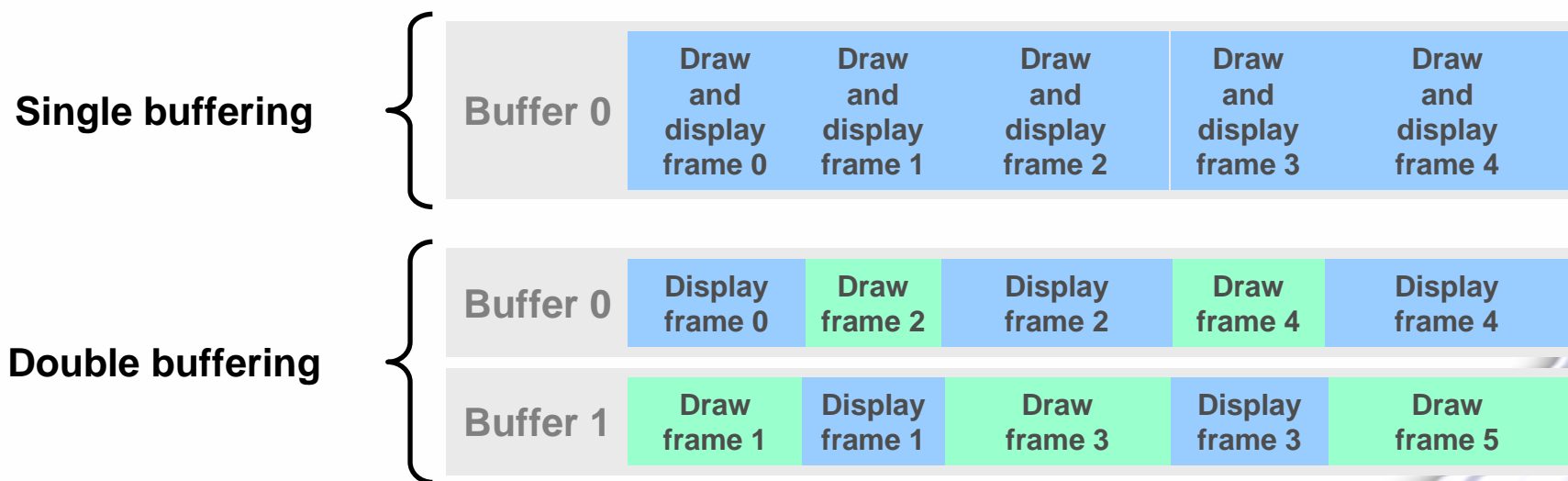
- The application is programmed to the 3D API and links with the driver at run time
- With DirectX, there is an intermediate software layer between the application and the driver called the DirectX runtime

# OpenGL vs. DirectX

	OpenGL	DirectX
<b>Ownership:</b>	OpenGL Architectural Review Board	Microsoft Corporation
<b>Platforms:</b>	Windows, Linux, Unix, MacOS	Windows
<b>Native language:</b>	C	C++
<b>Most popular fields:</b>	Computer aided design, scientific visualization, movie industry, academic world...	Game industry
<b>API specification:</b>	OpenGL specification	DirectX documentation
<b>API evolution:</b>	Mostly through extensions to the core API	Mostly through complete revisions of the core API every year or so
<b>API functionalities:</b>	Mostly equivalent	

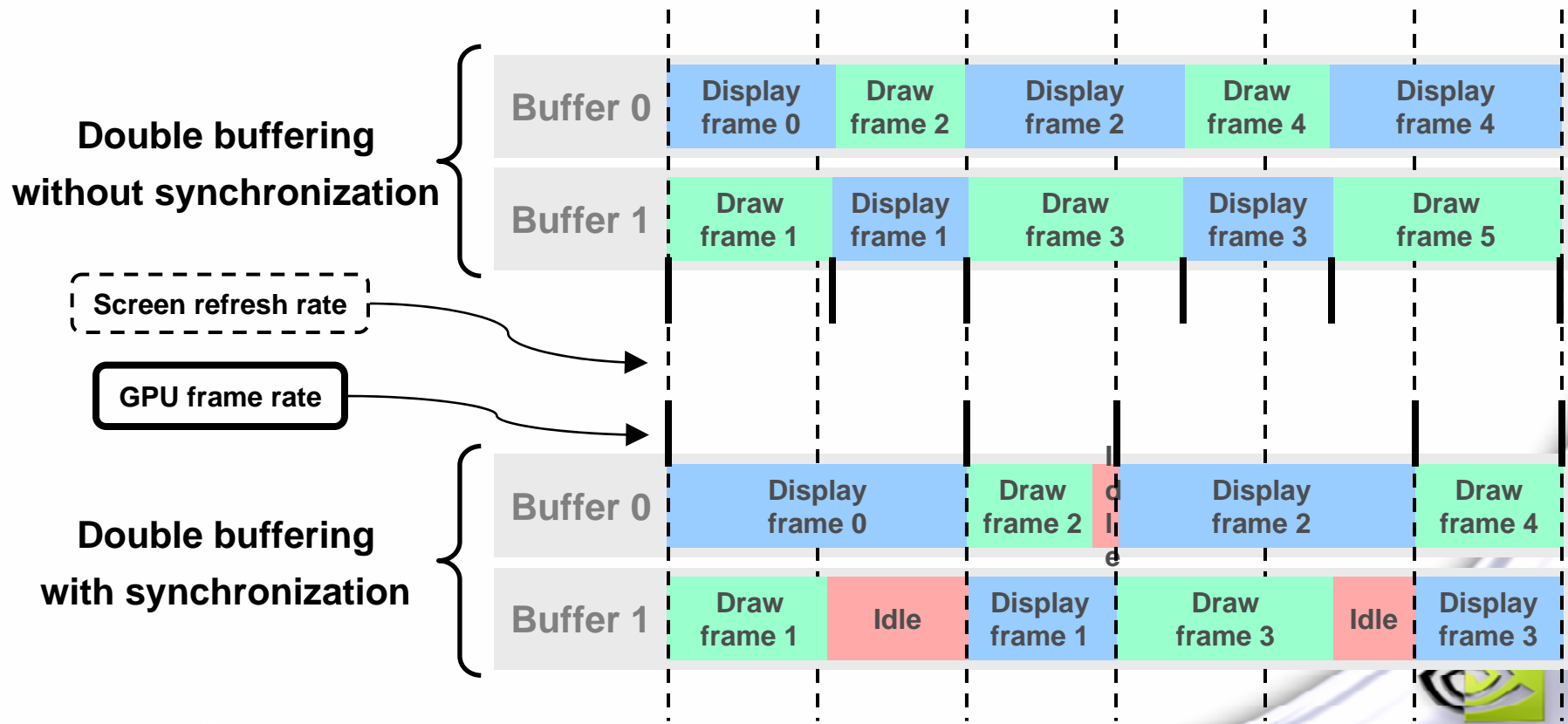
# Double Buffering

- **Problem:** Drawing the scene to the buffer that is shown on screen (**front buffer**) produces tearing
- **Solution:** Use an additional off-screen buffer (**back buffer**) to draw the scene and swap buffers when done



# Double Buffering with VSync

- **Problem:** Buffer swapping may cause tearing too
- **Solution:** Synchronize swapping with refresh rate



# Basic Skeleton

## Initialization

- **Initialize API**
- **Check hardware capabilities**
- **Create resources**

## Rendering loop

- **For every frame:**
  - **Draw to back buffer**
  - **Swap back buffer and front buffer**

# Initialization: Initialize API

- Create a window
- Create a **device** (DirectX) or **rendering context** (OpenGL) that defines:
  - Back buffer (dimension, pixel format, multisampling type, ...)
  - Front and back buffer swapping method
  - Window or full-screen mode
  - Etc.



# Initialization: Initialize API in DirectX

```
// Create a window
HWND hWnd = CreateWindow(...);

// Create a Direct3D object
LPDIRECT3D9 pD3D = Direct3DCreate9(D3D_SDK_VERSION);

// Specify desired device parameters
D3DPRESENT_PARAMETERS d3dpp;
d3dpp.BackBufferFormat = D3DFMT_A8R8G8B8;
d3dpp.PresentationInterval = D3DPRESENT_INTERVAL_IMMEDIATE;
d3dpp.Windowed = FALSE;
...

// Create a device
LPDIRECT3DDEVICE9 pDevice;
pD3D->CreateDevice(D3DADAPTER_DEFAULT, D3DDEVTYPE_HAL, hWnd,
                 D3DCREATE_HARDWARE_VERTEXPROCESSING, &d3dpp, &pDevice);
```

# Initialization: Initialize API in OpenGL (Windows)

```
// Create a window
HWND hWnd = CreateWindow(...);

// Specify desired device parameters
PIXELFORMATDESCRIPTOR pfd;
pfd.nSize      = sizeof(PIXELFORMATDESCRIPTOR);
pfd.nVersion   = 1;
pfd.dwFlags    = PFD_DRAW_TO_WINDOW | PFD_DOUBLEBUFFER | PFD_SUPPORT_OPENGL;
pfd.iPixelFormat = PFD_TYPE_RGBA;
pfd.cColorBits = 32;
pfd.cDepthBits = 32;
...

// Create a rendering context
HDC deviceContext = GetDC(hWnd);
unsigned int pixelFormat = ChoosePixelFormat(deviceContext, &pfd);
SetPixelFormat(deviceContext, pixelFormat, &pfd);
HGLRC renderingContext = wglCreateContext(deviceContext);
```

# Initialization: Initialize API in Practice

- **DirectX:**

- Start with one of the **sample** that comes with the **SDK** in  
“C:\Program Files\Microsoft DirectX 9.0 SDK (Summer 2004)\Samples\C++\Direct3D”

- **OpenGL:**

- Use **GLUT** (OpenGL Utility Toolkit):

```
glutInit(&argc, argv);  
glutInitDisplayMode(GLUT_DOUBLE | GLUT_DEPTH | GLUT_RGBA);  
glutInitWindowSize(512, 512);  
glutCreateWindow("Simple application");  
...
```

- **Simple and cross-platform!**

# Initialization: Check Hardware Capabilities

- **DirectX:**

- **Check caps bits:**

```
D3DCAPS9 d3dcaps;  
pDevice->GetDeviceCaps (&d3dcaps);  
...
```

- **OpenGL:**

- **Check available extensions:**

```
const char* extensions = (const char*)glGetString(GL_EXTENSIONS);  
...
```

# OpenGL Extension Mechanism

- Why use extensions?
  - To expose new hardware features as soon as possible and let early adopters try them before incorporating them into multi-vendor extensions and then into the core API
- Life of an extension:
  - GL\_NVX\_foo – eXperimental
  - GL\_NV\_foo – vendor specific (NV = NVIDIA)
  - GL\_EXT\_foo – multi-vendor
  - GL\_ARB\_foo
  - Core OpenGL

# Initialization: Create Resources

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- **Render targets**
- **Vertex and pixel shaders**
- **Textures**
- **Index and vertex buffers**

# Initialization: Render Targets

- A **render target** is a piece of the video memory that can serve as color or depth buffer
- **Render to texture**: Render targets are typically used to compute intermediate images subsequently read as textures to contribute to the final image in the back buffer

# Initialization: Render Targets in DirectX

```
// Create a color buffer for the render target
IDirect3DTexture9* pTexture;
pDevice->CreateTexture(..., D3DUSAGE_RENDERTARGET, ..., &pTexture, ...);

// Optionally create a z-buffer for the render target
IDirect3DSurface9* pDepthStencilBuffer;
pDevice->CreateDepthStencilSurface(..., &pDepthStencilBuffer, ...);
```



# Initialization: Render Targets in OpenGL

- Pixel buffers or pbuffers extensions:  
WGL\_ARB\_pbuffer (Windows),  
GLX\_SGIX\_pbuffer (Linux)

```
// Create render target
HPBUFFERARB pbuffer = wglCreatePbufferARB(...);
HDC pbufferDeviceContext = wglGetPbufferDCARB(pbuffer);
```

# Initialization: Shaders in DirectX

## ● Compiler is decoupled from runtime

```
// Compile
char* pSource = ...;
ID3DXBuffer* pCode;
ID3DXConstantTable* pConstantTable;
D3DXCompileShader(pSource, ..., &pCode, ..., &pConstantTable);
```

```
// Create vertex shader or...
IDirect3DVertexShader9* pShader;
pDevice->CreateVertexShader(pCode->GetBufferPointer(), &pShader);

// ... pixel shader
IDirect3DPixelShader9* pShader;
pDevice->CreatePixelShader(pCode->GetBufferPointer(), &pShader);
```

# Initialization: Shaders in OpenGL

- Extensions: GL\_ARB\_shader\_objects, GL\_ARB\_vertex\_shader, GL\_ARB\_fragment\_shader

```
// Create program object
GLhandleARB program = glCreateProgramObjectARB();

// Create and compile a shader and add it to the program
GLhandleARB shader = glCreateShaderObjectARB(GL_VERTEX/PIXEL_SHADER_ARB);
GLcharARB* source = ...;
glShaderSourceARB(shader, ..., &source, ...); // Specify source code
glCompileShaderARB(shader); // Compile
glAttachObjectARB(program, shader); // Add

// Optionally add more shaders to the program and link the program
glLinkProgramARB(program);
```

# Initialization: Textures in DirectX

```
// Allocate
IDirect3DTexture9* pTexture;
pDevice->CreateTexture(..., &pTexture, ...);

// Load data into texture
D3DLOCKED_RECT rect;
pTexture->LockRect(..., &rect, ...);
// Write at address (void*)rect.pBits
pTexture->UnlockRect(...);
```

# Initialization: Textures in OpenGL

```
// Generate ID
GLuint textureID;
glGenTextures(1, &textureID);

// Bind texture
glBindTexture(GL_TEXTURE_2D, textureID);

// Load data into texture
unsigned char* data = ...;
glTexImage2D(..., data);
```

# Initialization: Index and Vertex Buffers in DirectX

```
// Allocate vertex buffer or...
IDirect3DVertexBuffer9* pBuffer;
pDevice->CreateVertexBuffer(..., &pBuffer, ...);
// ...index buffer
IDirect3DIndexBuffer9* pBuffer;
pDevice->CreateIndexBuffer(..., &pBuffer, ...);

// Load data into buffer
void* pData = ...;
pBuffer->Lock(..., &pData, ...);
// Write at address pData
pBuffer->Unlock(...);
```

```
D3DVERTEXELEMENT9 vertexElements[] = {
{ 0, 0, D3DDECLTYPE_FLOAT3, D3DDECLMETHOD_DEFAULT, D3DDECLUSAGE_POSITION, 0 },
{ 1, 0, D3DDECLTYPE_FLOAT3, D3DDECLMETHOD_DEFAULT, D3DDECLUSAGE_NORMAL, 0 },
... };
pDevice->CreateVertexDeclaration(vertexElements, &pVertexDeclaration);
```

# Initialization: Index and Vertex Buffers in OpenGL

- Extensions: GL\_ARB\_vertex\_buffer\_object

```
// Generate ID
GLuint bufferID;
glGenBuffersARB(1, &bufferID);

// Load data into...
void* pData = ...;
// ... index buffer or...
glBindBufferARB(GL_ELEMENT_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, bufferID);
glBufferDataARB(GL_ELEMENT_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, ..., pData, ...);
// ... vertex buffer
glBindBufferARB(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, bufferID);
glBufferDataARB(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, ..., pData, ...);
```

# Rendering Loop: Draw to Back Buffer

- DirectX only: `pDevice->BeginScene();`
- Clear frame buffer
- For each mesh of the scene:
  - For each rendering pass:
    - Set index and vertex buffers
    - Set vertex and pixel shaders and their parameters
    - Set texture sampling parameters
    - Set render states
    - Set render target
    - Draw
- Add postprocessing effects
- DirectX only: `pDevice->EndScene();`



# Rendering Loop: Clear Frame Buffer

## ● DirectX:

```
pDevice->Clear(..., D3DCLEAR_TARGET | D3DCLEAR_ZBUFFER, ...);
```

## ● OpenGL:

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

# Rendering Loop: Index and Vertex Buffers in DirectX

```
// Set vertex declaration
pDevice->SetVertexDeclaration(pVertexDeclaration);

// Set vertex buffer
pDevice->SetStreamSource(0, pVertexBuffer0, ...);
pDevice->SetStreamSource(1, pVertexBuffer1, ...);
...

// Set index buffer
pDevice->SetIndices(pIndexBuffer);
```

# Rendering Loop: Index and Vertex Buffers in OpenGL

```
// Bind vertex and index buffers
glBindBufferARB(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, vertexBufferID);
glBindBufferARB(GL_ELEMENT_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, indexBufferID);

// Specify vertex data sizes and offsets into the vertex buffer
glVertexPointer(3, GL_FLOAT, vertexStride, vertexOffset);
glNormalPointer(GL_FLOAT, normalStride, normalOffset);
...
```

# Rendering Loop: Shaders in DirectX

```
// Set vertex shader parameters
D3DXHANDLE hParam = pConstantTable->GetConstantByName(0, "WorldViewProjection");
pConstantTable->SetMatrix(pDevice, hParam, pWorldViewProjection);
... // SetFloat(), SetVector(), SetTexture(), SetFloatArray(), etc.

// Set vertex shader
pDevice->SetVertexShader(pShader);

// Set pixel shader parameters
D3DXHANDLE hParam = pConstantTable->GetConstantByName(0, "TextureSampler");
D3DXCONSTANT_DESC description;
pConstantTable->GetConstantDesc(hParam, &description, ...);
pDevice->SetTexture(description.TextureIndex, texture);
... // SetFloat(), SetVector(), , SetMatrix(), SetFloatArray(), etc.

// Set pixel shader
pDevice->SetPixelShader(pShader);
```

# Rendering Loop: Shader Built-In Parameters in OpenGL

```
// Set projection and modelview matrices
// (referred to as gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix in the GLSL program)
glMatrixMode(GL_PROJECTION);
glLoadIdentity();
gluPerspective(...);
glMatrixMode(GL_MODELVIEW);
glLoadIdentity();
glTranslatef(...); glRotatef(...); glScalef(...);
glLoadMatrixf(...);

// Set other built-in uniform parameters...
```

# Rendering Loop: Shaders in OpenGL

```
// Set vertex shader parameters
GLint cameraPos = glGetUniformLocationARB(vertexProgram, "CameraPosition");
glUniform4fARB(cameraPos, x, y, z);
... // glUniform[1,2,3,4][i,f][v]ARB(), glUniformMatrix[2,3,4]fvARB(), etc.

// Set vertex program
glUseProgramObjectARB(vertexProgram);

// Set fragment shader parameters
GLint texSampler = glGetUniformLocationARB(fragmentProgram, "TextureSampler");
glUniform1iARB(texSampler, 0);
glActiveTexture(GL_TEXTURE0);
glBindTexture(GL_TEXTURE_2D, textureID);
... // glUniform[1,2,3,4][i,f][v]ARB(), glUniformMatrix[2,3,4]fvARB(), etc.

// Set fragment program
glUseProgramObjectARB(fragmentProgram);
```

# Rendering Loop: Texture Sampling Parameters in DirectX

```
// Set sampling parameters for sampler N
pDevice->SetSamplerState(N, D3DSAMP_MAGFILTER, D3DTEXF_LINEAR);
pDevice->SetSamplerState(N, D3DSAMP_MINFILTER, D3DTEXF_LINEAR);
pDevice->SetSamplerState(N, D3DSAMP_MIPFILTER, D3DTEXF_LINEAR);
pDevice->SetSamplerState(N, D3DSAMP_ADDRESSU, D3DTADDRESS_WRAP);
```

# Rendering Loop: Texture Sampling Parameters in OpenGL

```
// Bind texture
glBindTexture(GL_TEXTURE_2D, textureID);

// Set sampling parameters
glTexParameteri(GL_TEXTURE_2D, GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_S, GL_REPEAT);
glTexParameteri(GL_TEXTURE_2D, GL_TEXTURE_MAG_FILTER, GL_LINEAR);
glTexParameteri(GL_TEXTURE_2D, GL_TEXTURE_MIN_FILTER, GL_LINEAR_MIPMAP_LINEAR);
```



# Rendering Loop: Render States in DirectX

```
// Enable alpha blending and set the blending mode
pDevice->SetRenderState(D3DRS_ALPHABLENDENABLE, TRUE);
pDevice->SetRenderState(D3DRS_SRCBLEND, D3DBLEND_SRCALPHA);
pDevice->SetRenderState(D3DRS_DESTBLEND, D3DBLEND_INVSRCALPHA);

// Enable z-buffering
pDevice->SetRenderState(D3DRS_ZENABLE, D3DZB_TRUE);
pDevice->SetRenderState(D3DRS_ZWRITEENABLE, TRUE);

// Set culling state
pDevice->SetRenderState(D3DRS_CULLMODE, D3DCULL_CW);

...
```

# Rendering Loop: Render States in OpenGL

```
// Enable alpha blending and set the blending mode
glEnable(GL_BLEND);
glBlendFunc(GL_SRC_ALPHA, GL_ONE_MINUS_SRC_ALPHA);

// Enable z-buffering
glEnable(GL_DEPTH_TEST);
glDepthMask(GL_TRUE);

// Set culling state
glEnable(GL_CULL_FACE);

...
```

# Rendering Loop: Render Target in DirectX

```
// Set render target
pDevice->SetRenderTarget(0, pTexture);
pDevice->SetDepthStencilSurface(pDepthStencilBuffer);

// Clear render target
pDevice->Clear(..., D3DCLEAR_TARGET | D3DCLEAR_ZBUFFER, ...);
```

# Rendering Loop: Render Target in OpenGL

```
// Set a rendering context that is compatible with the pbuffer
HGLRC renderingContext = ...;
                // = wglCreateContext(pbufferDeviceContext);
wglMakeCurrent(pbufferDeviceContext, renderingContext);

// Clear render target
glClear(GL_COLOR_BUFFER_BIT | GL_DEPTH_BUFFER_BIT);
```

# Rendering Loop: Draw

- DirectX:

```
pDevice->DrawIndexedPrimitive(D3DPT_TRIANGLELIST, ...);
```

- OpenGL: GL\_EXT\_draw\_range\_elements

```
glDrawRangeElements(GL_TRIANGLES, ...);
```

- Immediate mode:

```
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES);  
    // First triangle  
    glColor3f(0.0f, 1.0f, 0.0f);  
    glVertex3f(0.0f, 130.0f, 0.0f);  
    glColor3f(0.0f, 0.0f, 1.0f);  
    glVertex3f(0.0f, 0.0f, 0.0f);  
    glColor3f(1.0f, 0.0f, 0.0f);  
    glVertex3f(130.0f, 0.0f, 0.0f);  
    // Remaining triangles  
    ...  
glEnd();
```

# Rendering Loop: Postprocess

- 2D-postprocessing is usually performed by rendering a **full-screen quad** (or smaller quads) and fetching from a texture the image computed so far
- **Typical postprocessing:** Fog, tone mapping, depth of field, motion blur, glow effects, etc.
- **Other applications:**
  - **Video processing**
  - **Deferred shading:** Lighting itself is handled as a 2D-postprocess:
    - For each mesh:
      - Render positions, normals, etc. to multiple render targets
    - For each light:
      - Render light volume and compute light contribution to the scene

# Rendering Loop: Swap Buffers

○ DirectX:

```
pDevice->Present(...);
```

○ OpenGL:

```
glutSwapBuffers();
```

# DirectX's Effect Framework: File Format

```
// Shaders and global variables
void MyVertexShader0(uniform float4x4 worldViewProjection, ...) { ... }
void MyPixelShader0(uniform sampler2D textureSampler...) { ... }
float4x4 WorldViewProjection; sampler2D Texture; sampler2D TextureSampler = ...;
...

// Techniques
technique Technique0 {
    pass Pass0 {
        AlphaBlendEnable = True; SrcBlend = SrcAlpha; DestBlend = InvSrcAlpha;
        ZEnable = True; ZWriteEnable = True;
        CullMode = CW;
        VertexShader = compile vs_3_0 MyVertexShader0(WorldViewProjection, ...);
        PixelShader = compile ps_3_0 MyPixelShader0(TextureSampler, ...);
    }
    pass Pass1 { ... }
    ...
}
technique Technique1 { ... }
...
```



# DirectX's Effect Framework: Initialization

- FX files can be **precompiled**:
  - Either using the **fxc** executable
  - Or by the application itself using **D3DXCreateEffectCompiler()**
- Then, for each FX file an effect is created:

```
ID3DXEffect* pEffect;  
void* pCode = ...; // Can be either source code or object code  
D3DXCreateEffect(pDevice, pCode, ..., &pEffect, ...);
```

# DirectX's Effect Framework: Rendering Loop

```
// Set uniform parameters
pEffect->SetMatrix("WorldViewProjection", pWorldViewProjection);
pEffect->SetTexture("Texture", pTexture);
...

// Apply one technique contained in the effect
pEffect->SetTechnique("Technique1");
unsigned int cPasses;
pEffect->Begin(&cPasses, 0);
for (unsigned int iPass = 0; iPass < cPasses; iPass++) {
    pEffect->BeginPass(iPass);
    DrawMesh();
    pEffect->EndPass();
}
pEffect->End();
```

# Accessing Resources from the CPU

- Usually, resources are accessed by the CPU only when created during initialization
- Sometimes, resources need to be accessed during the rendering loop requiring **CPU/GPU synchronization** because of concurrent access
- To minimize synchronization cost, **inform the driver of your intention** through the API usage flags:
  - At creation time:
    - DirectX: `D3DUSAGE_DYNAMIC`, `D3DUSAGE_WRITEONLY`
    - OpenGL: `STATIC_DRAW_ARB`, `STATIC_READ_ARB`, `STATIC_COPY_ARB`, `DYNAMIC_DRAW_ARB`, `DYNAMIC_READ_ARB`, etc.
  - At access time:
    - DirectX: `D3DLOCK_DISCARD`, `D3DLOCK_READONLY`, `D3DLOCK_NOOVERWRITE`
    - OpenGL: `READ_ONLY_ARB`, `WRITE_ONLY_ARB`, `READ_WRITE_ARB`

# Accessing Resources: DirectX

```
// Appending data to the end of a buffer
void* pData = ...;
pBuffer->Lock(..., &pData, D3DLOCK_NOOVERWRITE);
// Write at address pData
pBuffer->Unlock(...);
```

```
// Updating the entire content of a texture
D3DLOCKED_RECT rect;
pTexture->LockRect(..., &rect, D3DLOCK_DISCARD);
// Write at address (void*)rect.pBits
pTexture->UnlockRect(...);
```

# Accessing Resources: OpenGL

- Extensions: `GL_ARB_vertex_buffer_object`, `GL_EXT_pixel_buffer_object`

```
// Updating the entire content of a buffer
glBindBufferARB(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, bufferID);
glBufferDataARB(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, ..., 0, GL_DYNAMIC_DRAW_ARB);
void* pData = glMapBufferARB(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB, GL_WRITE_ONLY);
// Write at address pData
glUnmapBufferARB(GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_ARB);
```

```
// Updating the entire content of a texture
glBindBufferARB(GL_PIXEL_UNPACK_BUFFER_EXT, bufferID);
glBufferDataARB(GL_PIXEL_UNPACK_BUFFER_EXT, ..., 0, GL_DYNAMIC_DRAW_ARB);
void* pData = glMapBufferARB(GL_PIXEL_UNPACK_BUFFER_EXT, GL_WRITE_ONLY);
// Write at address pData
glUnmapBufferARB(GL_PIXEL_UNPACK_BUFFER_EXT);
glTexSubImage2D(GL_TEXTURE_2D, ..., 0);
```

# Reading Back Buffer or Render Target

- **Must copy to some resource first:**

- **DirectX: To a texture**

```
IDirect3DSurface9* pSourceSurface = ...;  
                // = GetBackBuffer() or GetSurfaceLevel()  
IDirect3DSurface9* pDestSurface = ...;  
                // = GetSurfaceLevel()  
pDevice->StretchRect(pSourceSurface, 0, pDestSurface, 0, D3DTEXF_LINEAR);
```

- **OpenGL: To a pixel buffer object**

```
glBindBuffer(GL_PIXEL_PACK_BUFFER_EXT, destBufferID);  
glReadPixels(..., 0);
```

- **And then read this resource as previously mentioned**

# Occlusion Query

- An occlusion query **asynchronously returns the number of fragments that pass z-test**
- **Typical use: In multi-pass rendering, skip subsequent passes if the first one rendered too few pixels**
- **Usage:**
  - Create the query
  - Issue a begin event to start counting
  - Draw something
  - Issue an end event to stop counting
  - Get the result

# Occlusion Query: DirectX

```
// Create query
IDirect3DQuery9* pQuery;
pDevice->CreateQuery(D3DQUERYTYPE_OCCLUSION, &pQuery);
...

// Count
pQuery->Issue(D3DISSUE_BEGIN);
Draw(...);
pQuery->Issue(D3DISSUE_END);
...

// Get result
int fragmentsDrawn;
while (pQuery->GetData(&fragmentsDrawn, ...) == S_FALSE);
```



# Occlusion Query: OpenGL

## ● Extension: GL\_ARB\_occlusion\_query

```
// Generate ID
GLuint queryID;
glGenQueriesARB(1, &queryID);
...

// Count
glBeginQueryARB(GL_SAMPLES_PASSED_ARB, queryID);
Draw(...);
glEndQueryARB(GL_SAMPLES_PASSED_ARB);
...

// Get result
int fragmentsDrawn;
glGetQueryObjectivARB(queryID, GL_QUERY_RESULT_ARB, &fragmentsDrawn);
```

# Scene Management

- For each frame of the rendering loop the application should:
  - **Cull** invisible triangles
    - Per group of triangles, not per triangle!
    - Scene graph makes it efficient
  - **Sort** the triangle batches
    - To minimize state changes between draw calls
    - To maximize the effectiveness of the z-buffer algorithm

# Getting Started!

- Grab the **latest driver** from the website of your card's manufacturer
- **DirectX:**
  - Install the **latest DirectX 9.0c SDK** that comes with a full documentation
  - Start with one of the sample that comes with the SDK in "C:\Program Files\Microsoft DirectX 9.0 SDK (Summer 2004)\Samples\C++\Direct3D"
- **OpenGL:**
  - Download GLUT from [www.opengl.org](http://www.opengl.org)
  - Start with one of the sample provided at [www.opengl.org](http://www.opengl.org)
  - Full specification is at [www.opengl.org](http://www.opengl.org)

# Questions

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- Support e-mail:
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