Hierarchical Modeling

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Reading

Required:

- Angel, sections 8.1 – 8.6, 8.8

Optional:

- *OpenGL Programming Guide*, chapter 3
Symbols and instances

Most graphics APIs support a few geometric primitives:

- spheres
- cubes
- cylinders

These symbols are instanced using an instance transformation.

Q: What is the matrix for the instance transformation above?

\[ M = T R S \]
3D Example: A robot arm

Let’s build a robot arm out of a cylinder and two cuboids, with the following 3 degrees of freedom:

- Base rotates about its vertical axis by $\theta$
- Upper arm rotates in its $xy$-plane by $\phi$
- Lower arm rotates in its $xy$-plane by $\psi$

(Note that the angles are set to zero in the figure; i.e., the parts are shown in their “default” positions.)

Q: What matrix do we use to transform the base?

Q: What matrix for the upper arm?

Q: What matrix for the lower arm?
3D Example: A robot arm

An alternative interpretation is that we are taking the original coordinate frames…

…and translating and rotating them into place:
From parts to model to viewer
Robot arm implementation

The robot arm can be displayed by keeping a global matrix and computing it at each step:

Matrix M, M_model, M_view;

main()
{
   . . .
   M_view = compute_view_transform();
   robot_arm();
   . . .
}

robot_arm()
{
   M_model = R_y(theta);
   M = M_view*M_model;
   base();
   M_model = R_y(theta)*T(0,h1,0)*R_z(phi);
   M = M_view*M_model;
   upper_arm();
   M_model = R_y(theta)*T(0,h1,0)*R_z(phi)*T(0,h2,0)*R_z(psi);
   M = M_view*M_model;
   lower_arm();
}

Do the matrix computations seem wasteful?
Robot arm implementation, better

Instead of recalculating the global matrix each time, we can just update it *in place* by concatenating matrices on the right:

```c
Matrix M_modelview;

main()
{
    . . .
    M_modelview = compute_view_transform();
    robot_arm();
    . . .
}

robot_arm()
{
    M_modelview *= R_y(theta);
    base();
    M_modelview *= T(0,h1,0)*R_z(phi);
    upper_arm();
    M_modelview *= T(0,h2,0)*R_z(psi);
    lower_arm();
}
```
Robot arm implementation, OpenGL

OpenGL maintains a global state matrix called the model-view matrix, which is updated by concatenating matrices on the right.

```c
main()
{
    . . .
    glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
    Matrix M = compute_view_xform();
    glLoadMatrixf( M );
    robot_arm();
    . . .
}

robot_arm()
{
    glRotatef( theta, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0 );
    base();
    glTranslatef( 0.0, h1, 0.0 );
    glRotatef( phi, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 );
    lower_arm();
    glTranslatef( 0.0, h2, 0.0 );
    glRotatef( psi, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 );
    upper_arm();
}
```
Hierarchical modeling

Hierarchical models can be composed of instances using trees or DAGs:

- edges contain geometric transformations
- nodes contain geometry (and possibly drawing attributes)

How might we draw the tree for the robot arm?
A complex example: human figure

Q: What’s the most sensible way to traverse this tree?

Depth First w/ stack
Human figure implementation, OpenGL

```c
figure()
{
    torso();
    glPushMatrix();
    glTranslate(...);
    glRotate(...);
    head();
    glPopMatrix();
    glPushMatrix();
    glTranslate(...);
    glRotate(...);
    left_upper_arm();
    glPushMatrix();
    glTranslate(...);
    glRotate(...);
    left_lower_arm();
    glPopMatrix();
    glPopMatrix();
}
```
**Animation**

The above examples are called **articulated models**:

- rigid parts
- connected by joints

They can be animated by specifying the joint angles (or other display parameters) as functions of time.
Key-frame animation

The most common method for character animation in production is **key-frame animation**.

- Each joint specified at various **key frames** (not necessarily the same as other joints)
- System does interpolation or **in-betweening**

Doing this well requires:

- A way of smoothly interpolating key frames: **splines**
- A good interactive system
- A lot of skill on the part of the animator
Scene graphs

The idea of hierarchical modeling can be extended to an entire scene, encompassing:

- many different objects
- lights
- camera position

This is called a scene tree or scene graph.
Summary

Here’s what you should take home from this lecture:

- All the **boldfaced terms**.
- How primitives can be instanced and composed to create hierarchical models using geometric transforms.
- How the notion of a model tree or DAG can be extended to entire scenes.
- How OpenGL transformations can be used in hierarchical modeling.
- How keyframe animation works.