

# OpenGL and WebGL

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CIS 565 - Fall 2016

## OpenGL



- Is a C-based API
- Is cross platform
- Is run by the **ARB**: Architecture Review Board
- Hides the device driver details
- OpenGL vs. Direct3D

## OpenGL

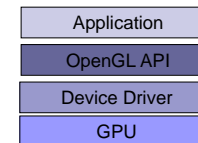


- We are core profile
  - No fixed function vertex and fragment shading
  - No legacy API calls:
    - `glBegin()`
    - `glRotatef()`
    - `glTexEnvf()` ← Recall the fixed function light map
    - `AlphaFunc()` ← Why was the alpha test remove?
    - ...

## OpenGL



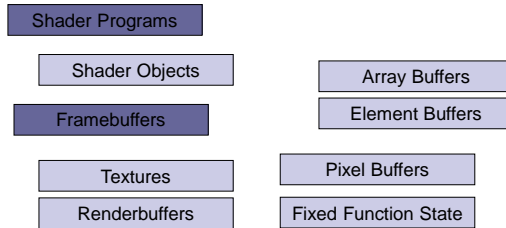
- Software stack:



# OpenGL



## ■ Major objects:



- We are not covering everything. Just surveying the most relevant parts for writing GLSL shaders

# Shaders

- **Shader object:** an individual vertex, fragment, etc. shader
  - Are provided shader source code as a string
  - Are compiled
- **Shader program:** Multiple shader objects linked together

# Shader Objects

## ■ Compile a shader object:

```
const char *source = // ...
GLuint sourceLength = // ...

GLuint v = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);

glShaderSource(v, 1, &source, &sourceLength);

glCompileShader(v);

GLuint compiled;
glGetShaderiv(v, GL_COMPILE_STATUS, &compiled);
// success: compiled == GL_TRUE

// ...
glDeleteShader(v);
```

# Shader Objects

## ■ Compile a shader object:

```
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glShaderSource(v, 1, &source, &sourceLength);

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// success: compiled == GL_TRUE

// ...
glDeleteShader(v);
```

OpenGL functions start with gl. Why?  
How would you design this in C++?

v is an opaque object  
• What is it under the hood?  
• How would you design this in C++?

## Shader Objects

### ■ Compile a shader object:

```
const char *source = // ...
GLint sourceLength = // ...
```

```
GLuint v = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);
```

```
glShaderSource(v, 1, &source, &sourceLength);
```

```
glCompileShader(v);
```

```
GLint compiled;
glGetShaderiv(v, GL_COMPILE_STATUS, &compiled);
// success: compiled == GL_TRUE
```

```
// ...
```

```
glDeleteShader(v);
```

Provide the shader's  
source code

Where should the  
source come from?

Why can we pass  
more than one string?

## Shader Objects

### ■ Compile a shader object:

```
const char *source = // ...
GLint sourceLength = // ...
```

```
GLuint v = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);
```

```
glShaderSource(v, 1, &source, &sourceLength);
```

```
glCompileShader(v);
```

```
GLint compiled;
glGetShaderiv(v, GL_COMPILE_STATUS, &compiled);
// success: compiled == GL_TRUE
```

```
// ...
```

```
glDeleteShader(v);
```

Good developers  
check for error. Again,  
how would you design  
this in C++?

Calling glGet\* has performance  
implications. Why?

## Shader Objects

### ■ Compile a shader object:

```
const char *source = // ...
GLint sourceLength = // ...
```

```
GLuint v = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);
```

```
glShaderSource(v, 1, &source, &sourceLength);
```

```
glCompileShader(v);
```

```
GLint compiled;
glGetShaderiv(v, GL_COMPILE_STATUS, &compiled);
// success: compiled == GL_TRUE
```

```
// ...
```

```
glDeleteShader(v);
```

Compile, but what  
does the driver really  
do?

## Shader Objects

### ■ Compile a shader object:

```
const char *source = // ...
GLint sourceLength = // ...
```

```
GLuint v = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);
```

```
glShaderSource(v, 1, &source, &sourceLength);
```

```
glCompileShader(v);
```

```
GLint compiled;
glGetShaderiv(v, GL_COMPILE_STATUS, &compiled);
// success: compiled == GL_TRUE
```

```
// ...
```

```
glDeleteShader(v);
```

Good developers also  
cleanup resources

## Shader Programs

### ■ Link a shader program:

```
GLuint v = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);
GLuint f = glCreateShader(GL_FRAGMENT_SHADER);
// ...

GLuint p = glCreateProgram();
glAttachShader(p, v);
glAttachShader(p, f);

glLinkProgram(p);

GLint linked;
glGetShaderiv(p, GL_LINK_STATUS, &linked);
// success: linked == GL_TRUE

// ...
glDeleteProgram(v);
```

## Shader Programs

### ■ Link a shader program:

```
GLuint v = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);
GLuint f = glCreateShader(GL_FRAGMENT_SHADER);
// ...

GLuint p = glCreateProgram();
glAttachShader(p, v);
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glLinkProgram(p);

GLint linked;
glGetShaderiv(p, GL_LINK_STATUS, &linked);
// success: linked == GL_TRUE

// ...
glDeleteProgram(v);
```

A program needs a  
vertex and fragment  
shader

## Shader Programs

### ■ Link a shader program:

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GLuint v = glCreateShader(GL_VERTEX_SHADER);
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// ...
glDeleteProgram(v);
```

## Shader Programs

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glLinkProgram(p);

GLint linked;
glGetShaderiv(p, GL_LINK_STATUS, &linked);
// success: linked == GL_TRUE

// ...
glDeleteProgram(v);
```

Be a good developer  
again

## Using Shader Programs

```
GLuint p = glCreateProgram();
// ...

glUseProgram(p);
glDraw(); // * because there are lots of draw functions
```

Part of the current state

- How do you draw different objects with different shaders?
- What is the cost of using multiple shaders?
- How do we reduce the cost?
  - Hint: write more CPU code – really.

## Uniforms

```
GLuint p = glCreateProgram();
// ...
glLinkProgram(p);

GLuint m = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_modelViewMatrix");
GLuint l = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_lightMap");

glUseProgram(p);
mat4 matrix = // ...
glUniformMatrix4fv(m, 1, GL_FALSE, &matrix[0][0]);
glUniform1i(l, 0);
```

## Uniforms

```
GLuint p = glCreateProgram();
// ...
glLinkProgram(p);

GLuint m = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_modelViewMatrix");
GLuint l = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_lightMap");

glUseProgram(p);
mat4 matrix = // ...
glUniformMatrix4fv(m, 1, GL_FALSE, &matrix[0][0]);
glUniform1i(l, 0);
```

Each active uniform has an integer index location.

## Uniforms

```
GLuint p = glCreateProgram();
// ...
glLinkProgram(p);

GLuint m = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_modelViewMatrix");
GLuint l = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_lightMap");

glUseProgram(p);
mat4 matrix = // ...
glUniformMatrix4fv(m, 1, GL_FALSE, &matrix[0][0]);
glUniform1i(l, 0);
```

mat4 is part of the C++ GLM library

## Uniforms

```
GLuint p = glCreateProgram();
// ...
glLinkProgram(p);

GLuint m = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_modelViewMatrix");
GLuint l = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_lightMap");

glUseProgram(p);
mat4 matrix = // ...
glUniformMatrix4fv(m, 1, GL_FALSE, &matrix[0][0]);
glUniform1i(l, 0);
```

glUniform\* for all sorts of datatypes

Uniforms can be changed as often as needed, but are constant during a draw call

Not transposing the matrix

## Uniforms

```
GLuint p = glCreateProgram();
// ...
glLinkProgram(p);

GLuint m = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_modelViewMatrix");
GLuint l = glGetUniformLocation(p, "u_lightMap");

glUseProgram(p);
mat4 matrix = // ...
glUniformMatrix4fv(m, 1, GL_FALSE, &matrix[0][0]);
glUniform1i(l, 0);
```

Why not glUniform\* (p, ...)?

## WebGL

- The web has text, images, and video
  - What is the next media-type?
- We want to support
  - Windows, Linux, Mac
  - Desktop and mobile



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## Bring 3D to the Masses

- Put it in on a webpage
  - Does not require a plugin or install
  - Does not require administrator rights
- Make it run on most GPUs

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## WebGL

- OpenGL ES 2.0 for JavaScript
  - Seriously, JavaScript



Image from <http://www.khronos.org/assets/uploads/developers/library/2011-siggraph-mobile/Khronos-and-the-Mobile-Platform-Architecture.pdf>

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## WebGL

- | ■ Includes                                | ■ Does not include                               |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vertex shaders   | <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry shaders        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fragment shaders | <input type="checkbox"/> Tessellation shaders    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vertex buffers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vertex Array Objects    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Textures         | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple render targets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Framebuffers     | <input type="checkbox"/> Floating-point textures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Render states    | <input type="checkbox"/> Compressed textures     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ...              | <input type="checkbox"/> FS depth writes         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> ...                     |

See <http://www.khronos.org/registry/webgl/specs/latest/>

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## WebGL

- If you know *OpenGL*, you already know *WebGL*
- If you know *C++*, the real learning curve is *JavaScript*

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## WebGL

- Creating a context is easy:

```
// HTML:
<canvas id="glCanvas" width="1024"
height="768"></canvas>

// JavaScript:
var gl =
  document.getElementById("glCanvas")
    .getContext("experimental-webgl");
```

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## WebGL

- The rest is similar to desktop OpenGL:

```
// ...
gl.bindBuffer(/* ... */);
gl.vertexAttribPointer(/* ... */);
gl.useProgram(/* ... */);
gl.drawArrays(/* ... */);
```

Checkout <http://learningwebgl.com/> <sup>29</sup>

## WebGL Performance

- Performance can be very good. Why?

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## WebGL

- Create an animation loop:

```
(function tick(){
  // ... GL calls to draw scene
  window.requestAnimationFrame(tick);
})();
```

You want this to work cross-browser. See <http://paulirish.com/2011/requestanimationframe-for-smart-animating/> <sup>30</sup>

## WebGL Performance

- Performance can be very good. Why?
  - The GPU is still doing the rendering
  - Batch!
    - Draw multiple objects with one draw call
    - Sort by texture
    - Push work into shaders
    - Push work into web workers

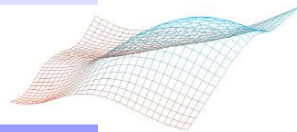
See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ8rKGTvlq> <sup>32</sup>



## WebGL Performance (out dated)

	32x32	64x64	128x128
C++	1.9 ms	6.25 ms	58.82 ms
Chrome 18	27.77 ms	111.11 ms	454.54 ms
x slowdown	14.62	17.78	7.73

CPU-intensive



	32x32	64x64	128x128
C++	3.33 ms	9.43 ms	37.03 ms
Chrome 18	12.82 ms	22.72 ms	41.66 ms
x slowdown	3.85	2.41	1.13

GPU-intensive (256 draws per frame)

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## WebGL and other APIs

### ■ Take advantage of other web APIs:

- HTML5 <video>
- 2D <canvas>
- CSS transforms
- Composite UI elements
- Web workers
- Typed Arrays

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## HTML5 on Mobile

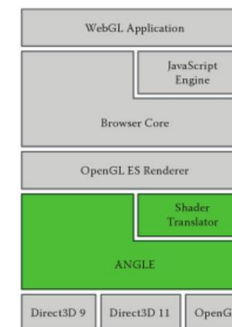
- Touch events
- Geolocation
- Device orientation and motion

- The future of HTML5 and WebGL on mobile is *very promising*

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## ANGLE

- *ANGLE* – *A*lmost *N*ative *G*raphics *L*ayer *E*ngine



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Image from WebGL Insights

## Tools Demos

- WebGL Report
- Chrome debugger
- Chrome profiler
- Firefox shader editor
- Firefox canvas inspector
- Web Tracing Framework

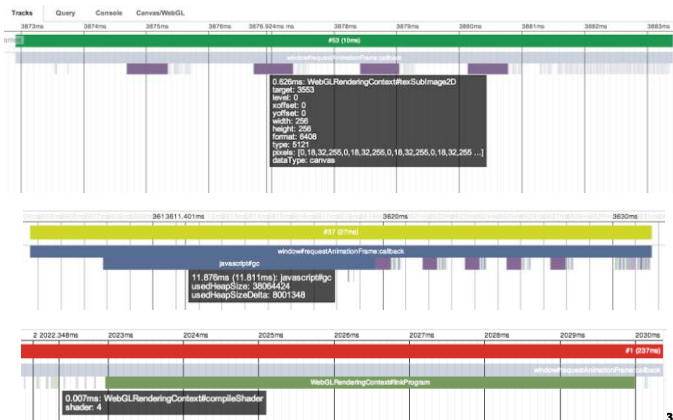
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## Performance Bottlenecks

- **Garbage collector** (browser CPU overhead)
- **Shader compile and link** (driver CPU overhead): compileShader, linkProgram, getProgramParameter, and friends. When is the performance hit?
- **Texture/buffer upload** (driver CPU overhead): texImage2D, texSubImage2D, bufferData, bufferSubData, and friends
- **readPixels** (stall CPU and starve GPU)
- **getParameter** and other get\* functions (stall CPU for inter-process communication)
- **drawElements/drawArrays** - lack of view frustum culling and batching, i.e., doing a lot of calls to draw meshes that are not visible
- **uniform\*** - lack of batching

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## Performance Bottleneck



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## Cross-Origin Resource Sharing

- Images can't always be used as texture sources. Why?

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## Cross-Origin Resource Sharing

- Same domain is OK:

```
var img = new Image();
img.onload = function() {
    gl.texImage2D(/* ... */, img);
};
img.src = "image.png";
```

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## Cross-Origin Resource Sharing

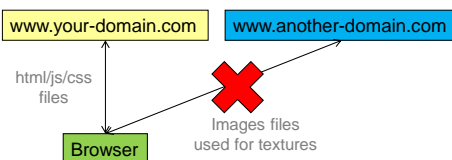
- Another domain requires **CORS** if supported:

```
var img = new Image();
img.onload = function() {
    gl.texImage2D(/* ... */, img);
};
img.crossOrigin = "anonymous";
img.src = "http://another-domain.com/image.png";
```

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## Cross-Origin Resource Sharing

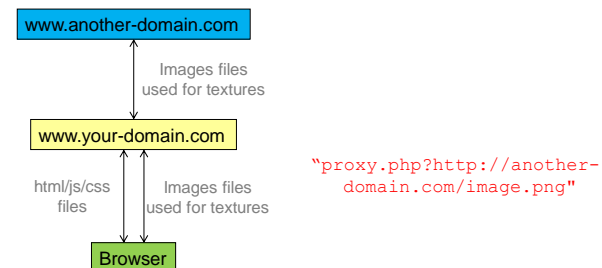
- Not all servers support CORS:



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## Cross-Origin Resource Sharing

- Use a proxy server:



See [http://resources.esri.com/help/9.3/arcgisserver/apis/javascript/arcgis/help/shelp/ags\\_proxy.htm](http://resources.esri.com/help/9.3/arcgisserver/apis/javascript/arcgis/help/shelp/ags_proxy.htm)

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## Denial of Service Attacks

- Long draw calls
  - Complicated shaders
  - Big vertex buffers
- Solutions
  - Kill long draw calls
  - Forbid further rendering

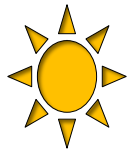
Lots of WebGL security info: <http://learningwebgl.com/blog/?p=3890>

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## WebGL Libraries

- Three.js: <https://github.com/mrdoob/three.js/>
- Cesium: <http://cesium.agi.com/>
- Many more:  
[http://www.khronos.org/webgl/wiki/User\\_Contributions](http://www.khronos.org/webgl/wiki/User_Contributions)

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## The Joys of JavaScript

Skip the next 30 slides if you already know JavaScript

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## JavaScript is weakly typed...

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## JavaScript Type System

- `short`, `int`, `float`, `double`. Who needs them?

```
var n = 1;
```

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## JavaScript Type System

- JavaScript has numbers, strings, and booleans:

```
var n = 1;  
var s = "WebGL";  
var b = true;
```

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## JavaScript Type System

- This compiles:

```
var n = 1;  
var s = "WebGL";  
var b = true;
```

```
var sum = n + s + b;
```

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JavaScript is a  
functional language...

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## JavaScript Functions

- Looks familiar:

```
function add(x, y) {  
    return x + y;  
}
```

```
var sum = add(1, 2);
```

- Functions are first-class objects, so...

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## JavaScript Functions

- Functions are objects:

```
var add = function(x, y) {  
    return x + y;  
};
```

```
var sum = add(1, 2);
```

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## JavaScript Functions

- Pass functions to functions:

```
var add = function // ...
```

```
function execute(op, x, y) {  
    return op(x, y);  
}
```

```
var sum = execute(add, 1, 2);
```

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## JavaScript Anonymous Functions

- Why name functions?

```
function execute(op, x, y) // ...
```

```
var sum = execute(function(x, y) {  
    return x + y;  
}, 1, 2);
```

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## JavaScript Closures

- Why limit scope?

```
var z = 3;

var sum = execute(function(x, y) {
  return x + y + z;
}, 1, 2);
```

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JavaScript is a  
dynamic language...

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## JavaScript Object Literals

- Who needs `struct`? Create objects on the fly:

```
var position = {
  x : 1.0,
  y : 2.0
};
```

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## JavaScript Object Literals

- Why not add fields on the fly too?

```
var position = {
  x : 1.0,
  y : 2.0
};
position.z = 3.0;
```

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## JavaScript Object Literals

- Who needs `class`?

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## JavaScript Object Literals

- Who needs `class`? Create functions too:

```
var position = {  
  x : 1.0,  
  y : 2.0,  
  min : function() {  
    return Math.min(this.x, this.y);  
  }  
};
```

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## JavaScript Object Literals

- Why not change `min()`?

```
position.z = 3.0;  
position.min = function() {  
  return Math.min(this.x, this.y,  
    this.z);  
};
```

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## JavaScript Object Literals

- Useful for passing to functions. Why?

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## JavaScript Object Literals

- Useful for passing to functions. Why?
- What do these arguments mean?

```
pick(322, 40, 5, 4);
```

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## JavaScript Object Literals

- Useful for passing to functions. Why?
- What do these arguments mean?

```
pick({  
  x : 322,  
  y : 40,  
  width : 5,  
  height : 4  
});
```

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JavaScript does  
object-oriented...

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## JavaScript Constructor Functions

```
function Vector(x, y) {  
  this.x = x;  
  this.y = y;  
}  
  
var v = new Vector(1, 2);
```

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## JavaScript Constructor Functions

- Objects can have functions:

```
function Vector(x, y) {  
  this.x = x;  
  this.y = y;  
  this.min = function() {  
    return Math.min(this.x, this.y);  
  };  
}
```

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## JavaScript Constructor Functions

- Objects have prototypes:

```
function Vector(x, y) {  
  this.x = x;  
  this.y = y;  
}  
  
Vector.prototype.min = function() {  
  return Math.min(this.x, this.y);  
};
```

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## JavaScript Polymorphism

- No need for virtual functions

```
function draw(model) {  
  model.setRenderState();  
  model.render();  
}
```

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## JavaScript Polymorphism

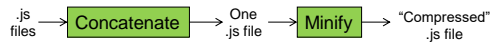
- No need for virtual functions

```
var level = {  
  setRenderState : function() // ...  
  render : function() // ...  
};  
  
draw(level); // Just works
```

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## JavaScript Build Pipeline

- Different than C++
- *Goal*: fast downloads
- Common:



- Alternative: fine-grain modules
- How do you deploy shaders?

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See <http://www.julienlecomte.net/blog/2007/09/16/>

## JavaScript Advice

- Use JSHint
- Have excellent test coverage
- Use the Chrome and Firefox debuggers

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