

# **Intro to GLSL (OpenGL Shading Language)**

**Cliff Lindsay**



# Talk Summary

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## Topic Coverage

- **Define Shading Languages (loosely)**
- **High Level View of GPU**
- **OpenGL Shading Language**
- **Example Shader**

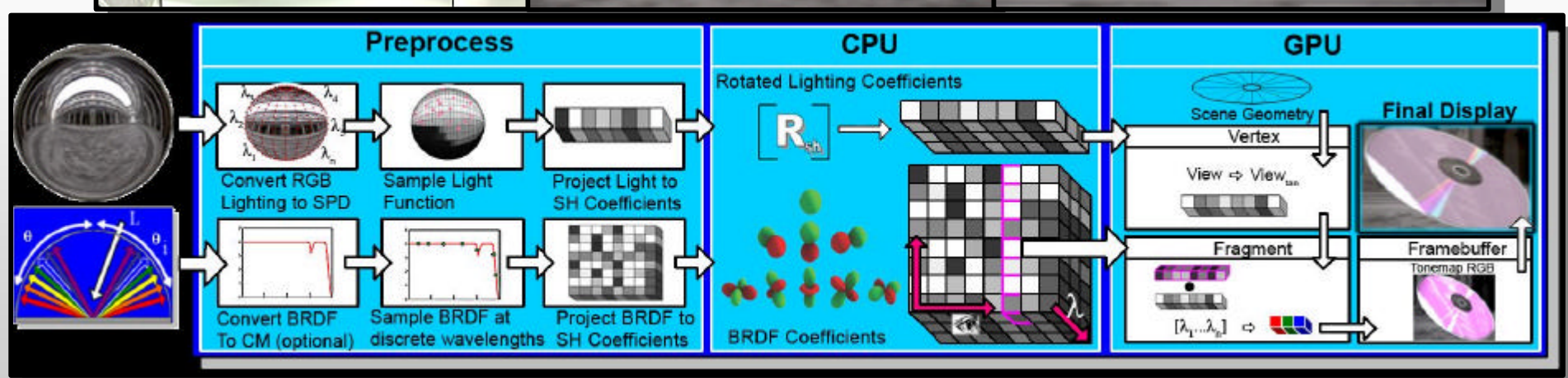
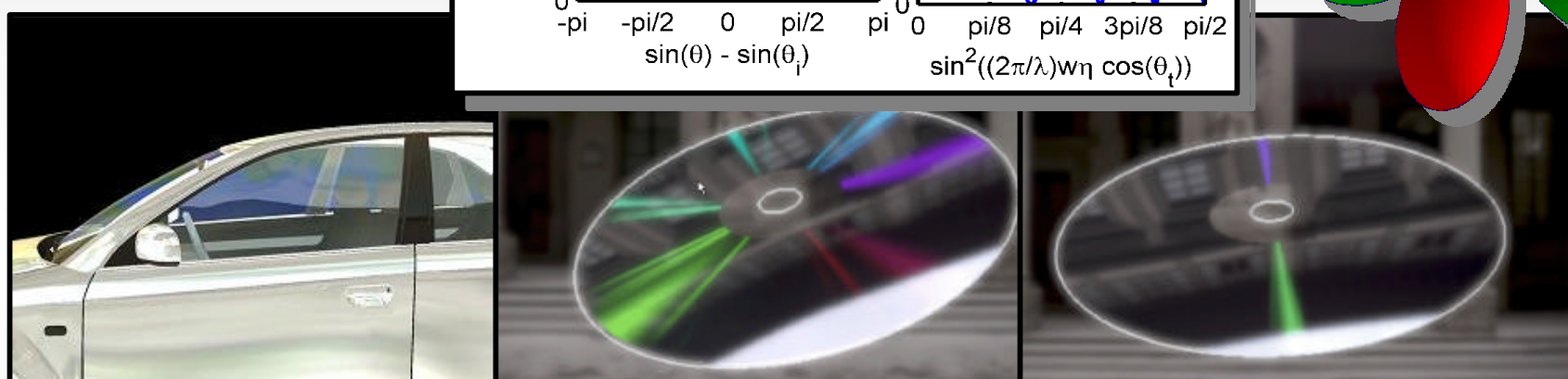
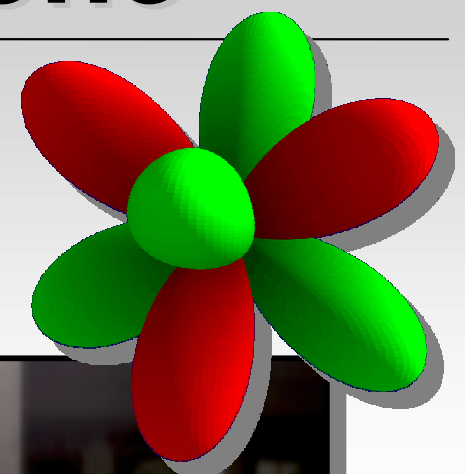
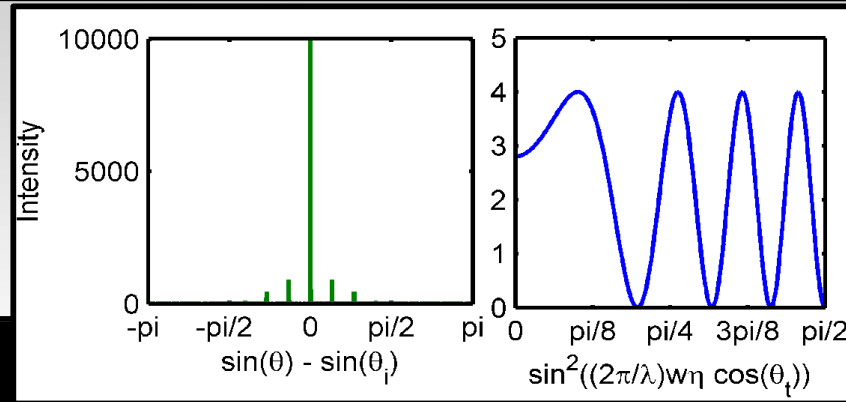
# Who Am I?

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- **Ph.D. Student @ WPI**
- **Advisor = Emmanuel**
- **Interests:**
  - *Real-time Rendering*
  - *Photorealistic Rendering*
  - *Image/Video Based Rendering*
  - *Computational Photography*
- **Done: Published Papers, M.S. Thesis**

# Some Work We've Done

## Samples



# Back To Lecture

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**Q: What is OpenGL Shading Language & Why do we need it?**

**A:**

- **OpenGL Fixed Function: Can only select from pre-defined effects (90's)**
  - E.g. Only two shading models pre-defined
- **Industry needs flexibility (new effects)**
- **GLSL = programmability + access to GPU internals**

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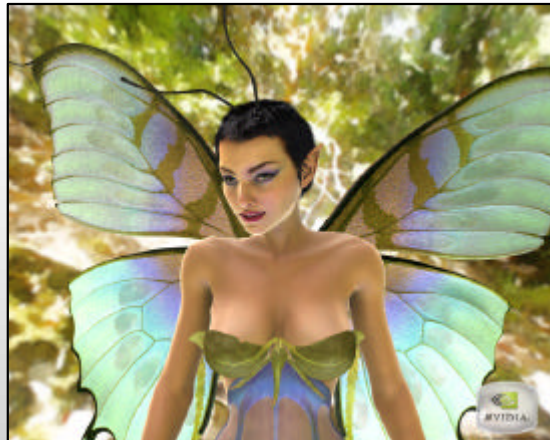
# Examples of New Effects



**Complex Materials**



**Shadowing**



**Lighting Environments**



**Advanced Mapping**

# History of Shading Languages

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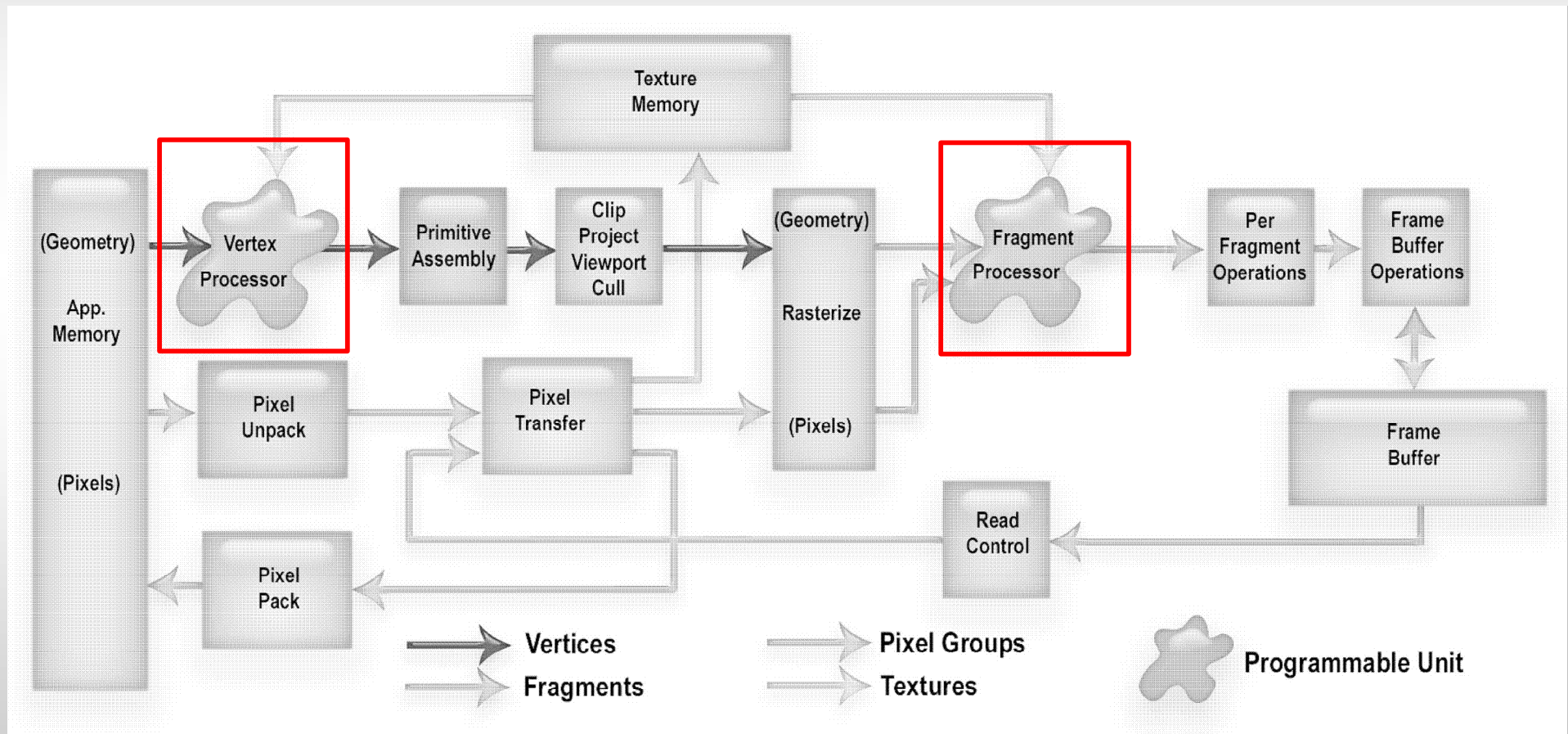
## Big Players

- **RenderMan** – Pixar, software based in toy story
- **Cg** – nVidia, 1st commercial SL
- **HLSL** – M\$/nVidia, Cg & Xbox project
- **GLSL** – SGI, ARB/3DLabs
- **Stanford RTSL** - Academic SLs

Several others more recently

# Shader Pipeline

## Programmable Graphics Pipeline





# Programmable Pipeline

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## Programmable Functionality

- Exposed via small programs
- Language similar to c/c++
- Hardware support highly variable

## Vertex Shaders

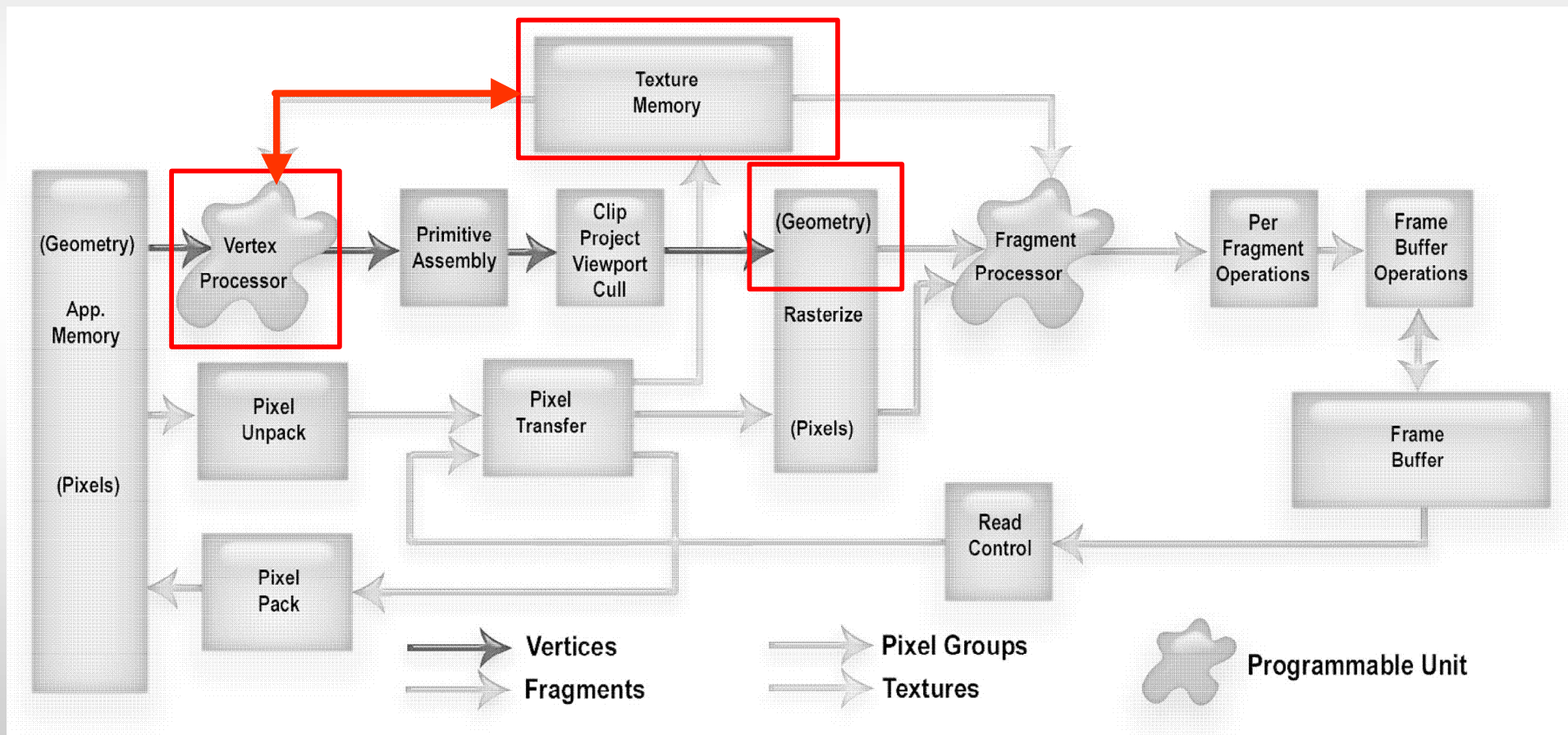
- Input: Application geometry & per vertex attributes
- Transform input in a meaningful way

## Fragment Shaders

- Input: Perspective Correct Attributes (interpolated)
- Transform input into color or discard

# Recent Advances

- **Geometry Shaders**
- **Texture Fetching Within Vertex Shaders**



# In General

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## Some Fixed Functions Are Bypassed

### Vertex Tasks

- Vertex Transformation
- Normal Transformation, Normalization
- Lighting
- Texture Coordinate Generation and Transformation

### Fragment Tasks

- Texture accesses
- Fog
- Discard Fragment

# Anatomy Of GLSL: Data Types

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## Scalar Types

- float - 32 bit, very nearly IEEE-754 compatible
- int - at least 16 bit, but not backed by a fixed-width register
- bool - like C++, but must be explicitly used for all flow control

## Vector Types

- vec[2|3|4] - floating-point vector
- ivec[2|3|4] - integer vector
- bvec[2|3|4] - boolean vector

## Matrix Types

- mat[2|3|4] - for 2x2, 3x3, and 4x4 floating-point matrices

## Sampler Types

- sampler[1|2|3]D - for texture data

# Anatomy Of GLSL: Operations

## Operators

- Behave like in C++
- Component-wise for vector & matrix
- Multiplication on vectors and matrices

### Examples:

```
Vec3 t = u * v
```

```
float f = v[2]
```

```
v.x = u.x + f
```

Operator	Description
[]	selection
.	member selection
++ --	increment and decrement
* /	multiply and divide
+ -	add and subtract
< > <= >= == !=	relational
&& ^^    !	logical
?:	ternary
= += -= *= /=	assignment

# Anatomy Of GLSL: Structures

## Arrays and Structs

- Can declare arrays as in C++ (i.e. `vec3 foo[4];`)
- Can also declare structs as in C++ (i.e. `struct foo{vec2 bar;};`)

## Swizzling

- Can use array-style access to get single vector values
- Swizzling operations via structure member selector (.) more powerful
- Can use only one set per access (`.rgba .xyzw .stpq`)

```
vec4 baz;  
baz. rgba;    //is the same as baz  
baz. xy;      //is a vec2  
baz. b;       //is a float  
baz[ 2];      //is the same as baz. b  
baz. xb;      //illegal  
baz. xxx;     //is a vec3
```

# Anatomy Of GLSL: Global Qualifiers

## Attribute (per vertex)

- Changing info passed app to vertex shader
- No integers, bools, structs, or arrays

## Uniform (per primitive)

- Unchanging info passed app to vertex/fragment shader
- Cannot be written to in a shader

## Varying (registers writing)

- Info passed from vertex shader to fragment shader
- Interpolated in a perspective-correct manner
- Write in vertex shader, but only read in fragment shader

## Const

- To declare non-writable, constant variables

## Examples:

Vertex Color

Light Position  
Eye Position

Texture/Bump  
Map Coords

i.e.  $p = 3.14$

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# Anatomy Of GLSL: Flow Control

## Loops and Selection

- C++ style if-else
- C++ style for, while, and do

## Functions

- Much like C++
- Entry point into a shader is void main()
- Overloading parameter (not return type)
- No support for recursion
- Call by value-return calling convention

## Parameter Qualifiers

- in - copy in, but don't copy out
- out - only copy out
- inout - copy in and copy out

## Example Function

```
void ComputeTangent(  
    in    vec3 N,  
    out   vec3 T,  
    inout vec3 coord)  
{  
  
    if(dot(N, coord) > 0)  
        T = 1.0;  
    else  
        T = 0.0;  
}
```



# Anatomy Of GLSL: Built-in Funct

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## Wide Assortment

- Trigonometry (i.e. cos, sin, tan, etc.)
- Exponential (i.e. pow, log, sqrt, etc.)
- Common (i.e. abs, floor, min, clamp, mix, etc.)
- Geometry (i.e. length, dot, normalize, reflect, etc.)
- Vector relational (i.e. lessThan, equal, any, etc.)

## Keep in Mind

- Need to watch out for common reserved keywords
- [Always use built-in functions, don't implement your own](#)
- Some functions aren't implemented on some cards

# Anatomy Of GLSL: OpenGL State

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## Built-in Variables

- Always prefaced with gl\_
- Accessible to both vertex and fragment shaders

## Uniform Variables

- Matrices (i.e. ModelViewMatrix, ProjectionMatrix, inverses, transposes)
- Materials (in MaterialParameters struct, ambient, diffuse, etc.)
- Lights (in LightSourceParameters struct, specular, position, etc.)

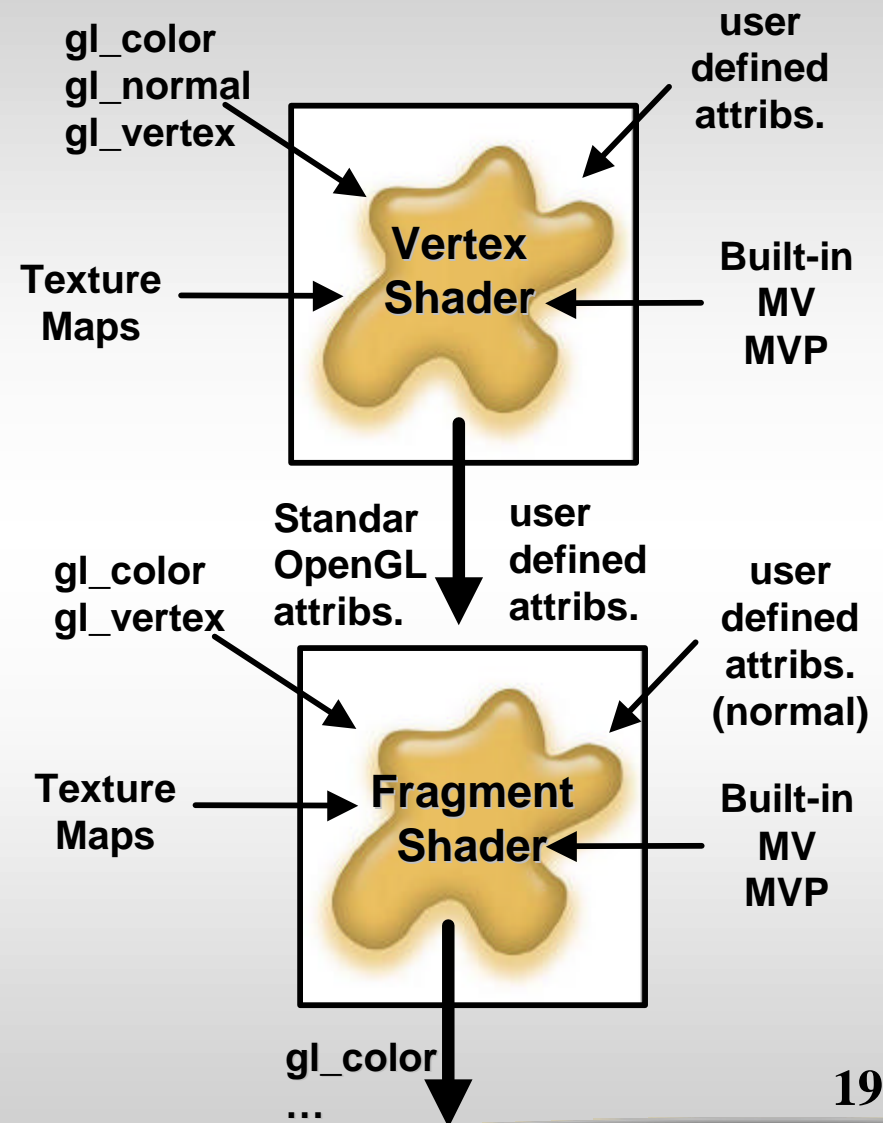
## Varying Variables

- FrontColor for colors
- TexCoord[] for texture coordinates

# Anatomy Of GLSL: Special Vars

## Vertex Shaders

- Have access to several vertex attributes:
  - gl\_Color, gl\_Normal, gl\_Vertex, etc.
- Also write to special output variables:
  - gl\_Position, gl\_PointSize, etc.



## Fragment Shaders

- Have access to special input variables:
  - gl\_FragCoord, gl\_FrontFacing, etc.
- Also write to special output variables:
  - gl\_FragColor, gl\_FragDepth, etc.

# Example: Phong Shader

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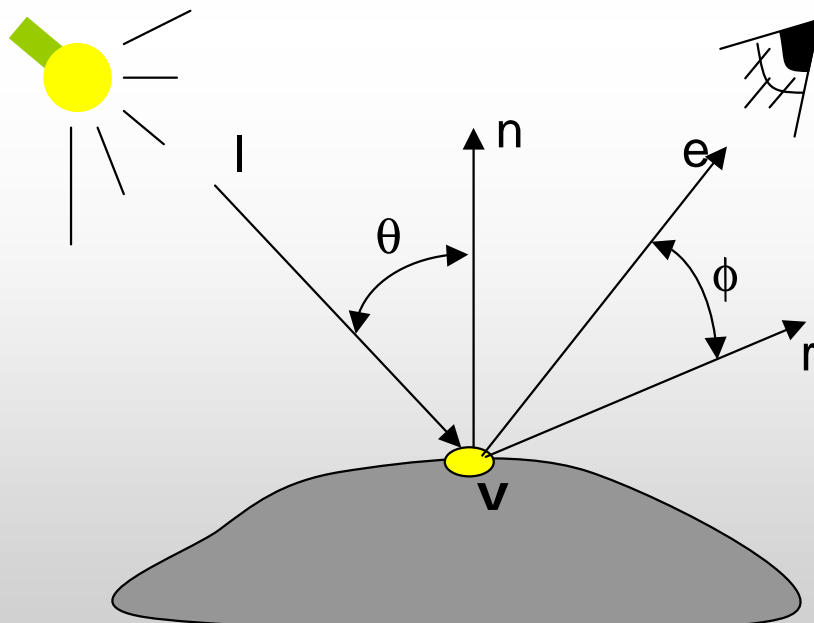
## Questions?

### Goals

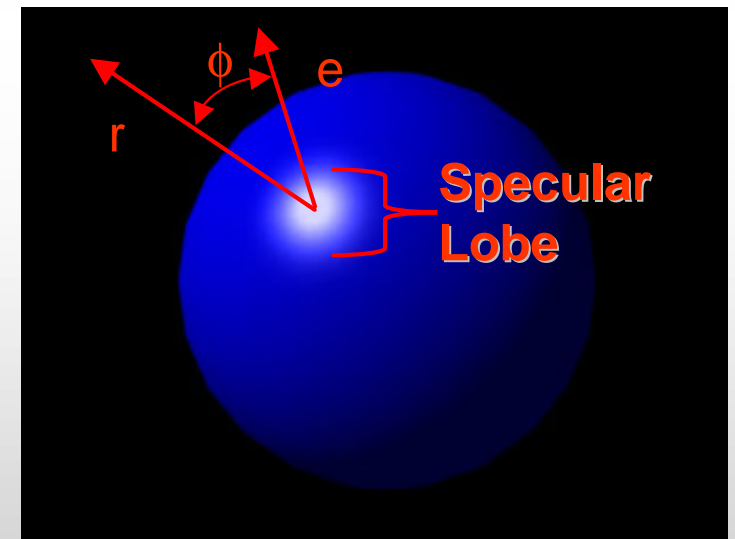
- Phong Illumination Review (1 slide)
- C/C++ Application Setup
- Vertex Shader
- Fragment Shader
- Debugging

# Phong Shader Review

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Illum} &= \text{ambient} + \text{diffuse} + \text{specular} \\ &= K_a \times I + K_d \times I \times (\cos \theta) + K_s \times I \times \cos^n(\phi) \end{aligned}$$



[Diagram Courtesy of E. Agu]



# Phong Shader: Setup Steps

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## Step 1: Create Shaders

Create handles to shaders

## Step 2: Specify Shaders

load strings that contain shader source

## Step 3: Compiling Shaders

Actually compile source (check for errors)

## Step 4: Creating Program Objects

Program object controls the shaders

## Step 5: Attach Shaders to Programs

Attach shaders to program obj via handle

## Step 6: Link Shaders to Programs

Another step similar to attach

## Step 7: Enable Program

Finally, let GPU know shaders are ready

# Phong Shader: App Setup

```
GLhandleARB phongVS, phongkFS, phongProg; // handles to objects

// Step 1: Create a vertex & fragment shader object
phongVS = glCreateShaderObjectARB(GL_VERTEX_SHADER_ARB);
phongFS = glCreateShaderObjectARB(GL_FRAGMENT_SHADER_ARB);

// Step 2: Load source code strings into shaders
glShaderSourceARB(phongVS, 1, &phongVS_String, NULL);
glShaderSourceARB(phongFS, 1, &phongFS_String, NULL);

// Step 3: Compile the vertex, fragment shaders.
glCompileShaderARB(phongVS);
glCompileShaderARB(phongFS);

// Step 4: Create a program object
phongProg = glCreateProgramObjectARB();

// Step 5: Attach the two compiled shaders
glAttachObjectARB(phongProg, phongVS);
glAttachObjectARB(phongProg, phongFS);

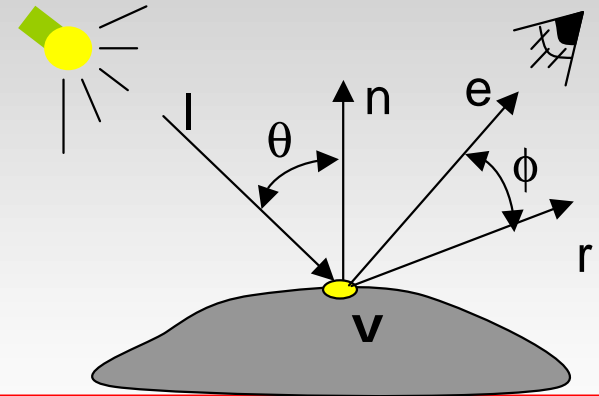
// Step 6: Link the program object
glLinkProgramARB(phongProg);

// Step 7: Finally, install program object as part of current state
glUseProgramObjectARB(phongProg);
```

# Phong Shader: Vertex

## This Shader Does

- Gives eye space location for  $v$
- Transform Surface Normal
- Transform Vertex Location



```
varying vec3 N;
```

```
varying vec3 v;
```

```
void main(void)
```

```
{
```

```
    v = vec3(gl_ModelViewMatrix * gl_Vertex);
```

```
    N = normalize(gl_NormalMatrix * gl_Normal);
```

Created For Use  
Within Frag Shader

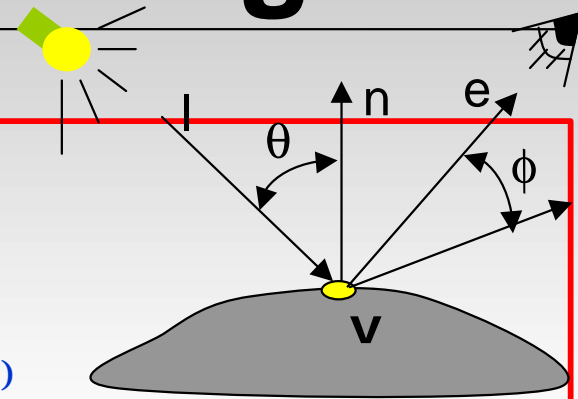
```
    gl_Position = gl_ModelViewProjectionMatrix * gl_Vertex;
```

```
}    (Update OpenGL Built-in Variable for Vertex Position)
```

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# Phong Shader: Fragment



```
varying vec3 N;  
varying vec3 v;
```

Passed in From VS

```
void main (void)  
{
```

```
// we are in Eye Coordinates, so EyePos is (0, 0, 0)
```

```
vec3 L = normalize(gl_LightSource[0].position.xyz - v);
```

```
vec3 E = normalize(-v);
```

```
vec3 R = normalize(-reflect(L, N));
```

```
//calculate Ambient Term
```

```
vec4 Iamb = gl_FrontLightProduct[0].ambient;
```

```
//calculate Diffuse Term
```

```
vec4 Idiff = gl_FrontLightProduct[0].diffuse * max(dot(N, L), 0.0);
```

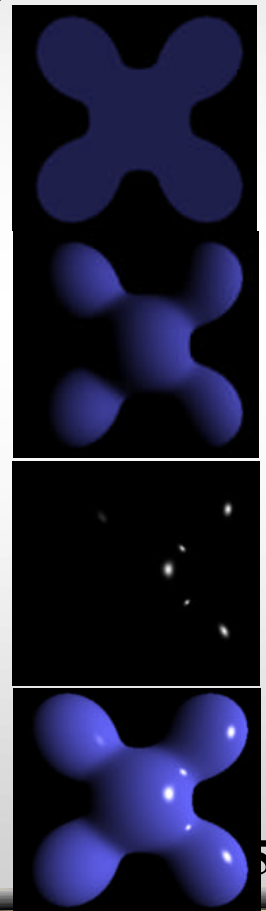
```
// calculate Specular Term
```

```
vec4 Ispec = gl_FrontLightProduct[0].specular  
            * pow(max(dot(R, E), 0.0), gl_FrontMaterial.shininess);
```

```
// write Total Color:
```

```
gl_FragColor = gl_FrontLightModelProduct.sceneColor + Iamb + Idiff + Ispec;
```

```
}
```



# Phong Shader: Debugging

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**\*\*Many things will silently fail during setup\*\***

- No good automatic debugging tools for GLSL yet exist
- Common show-stoppers:
  - Typos in shader source
  - Assuming implicit type conversion
  - Attempting to pass data to undeclared varying/uniform variables
- Extremely important to check error codes, use status functions like:
  - `glGetObjectParameter{I|f}vARB` (GLhandleARB shader, GLenum whatToCheck, GLfloat \*statusVals)
- Subtle Problems
  - Type over flow
  - Shader too long
  - Use too many registers

# Phong Shader: Demo

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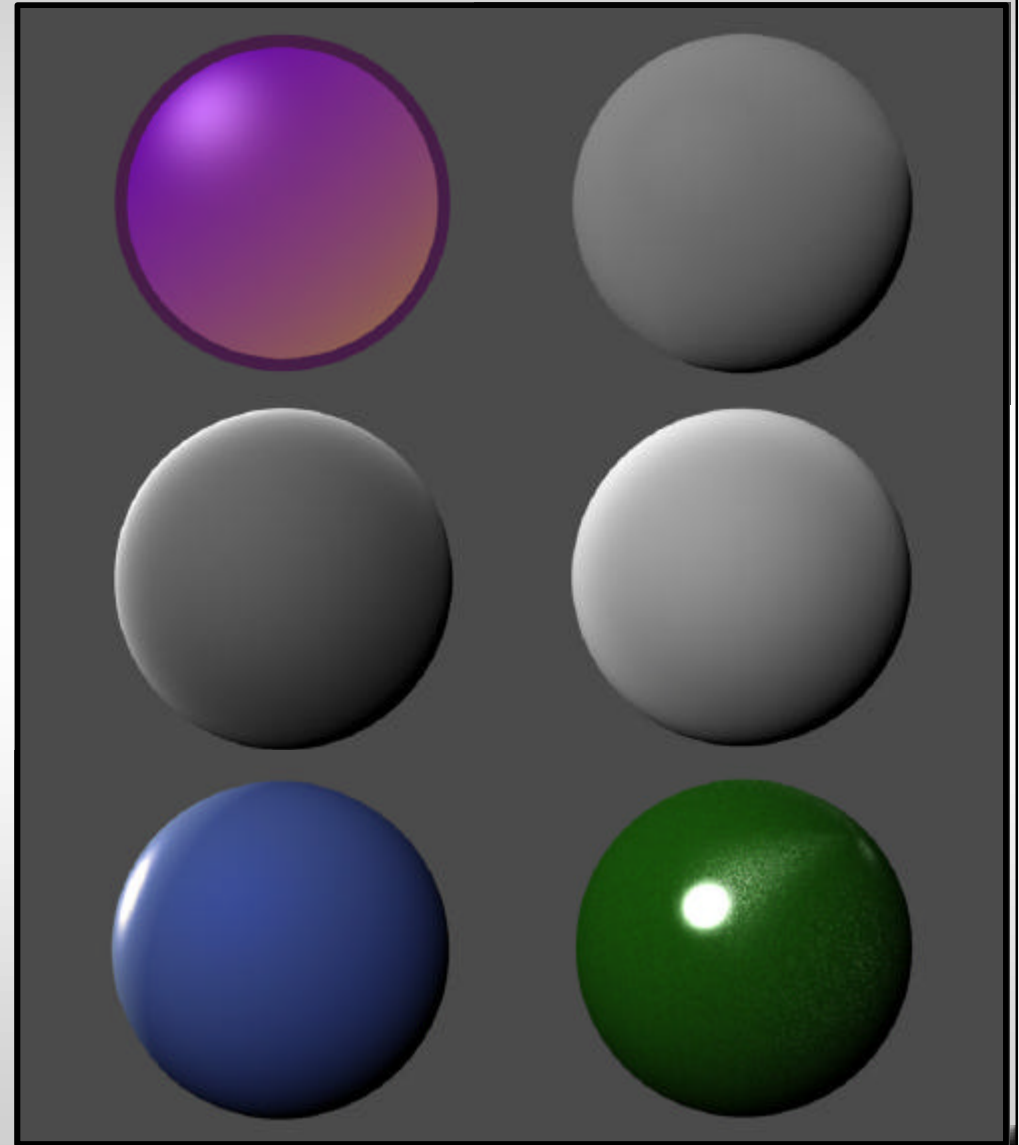
**Click Me!**

# Assignment: Write A Shader

## Reflection Models

- Ashikhmin-Shirley
- Fresnel
- Lafortune
- Ward
- Oren Nayer
- Velvet
- Car paint
- Gooch

We'll let you know which one(s)  
soon! (Next week)



# Questions?

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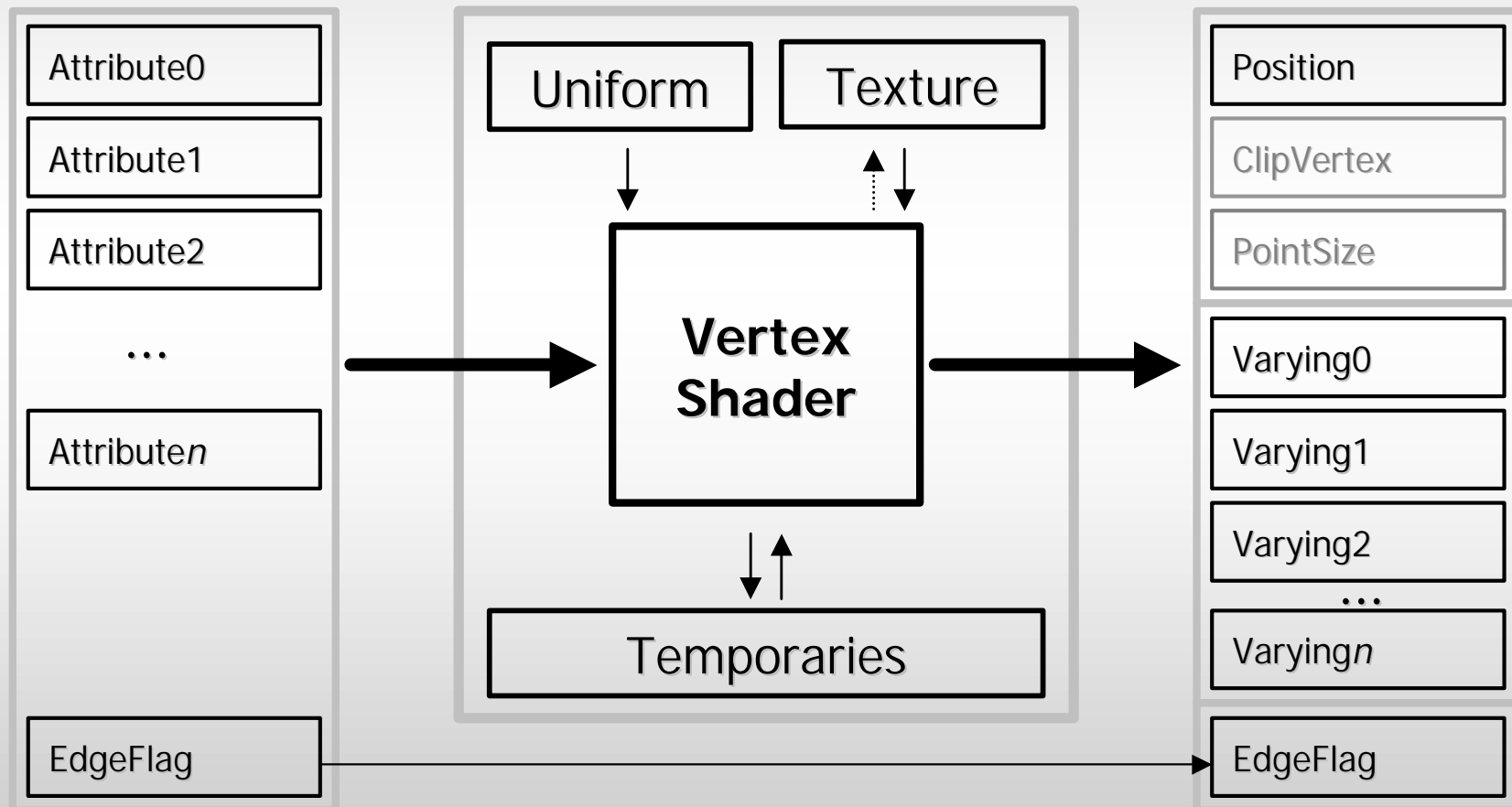
# References

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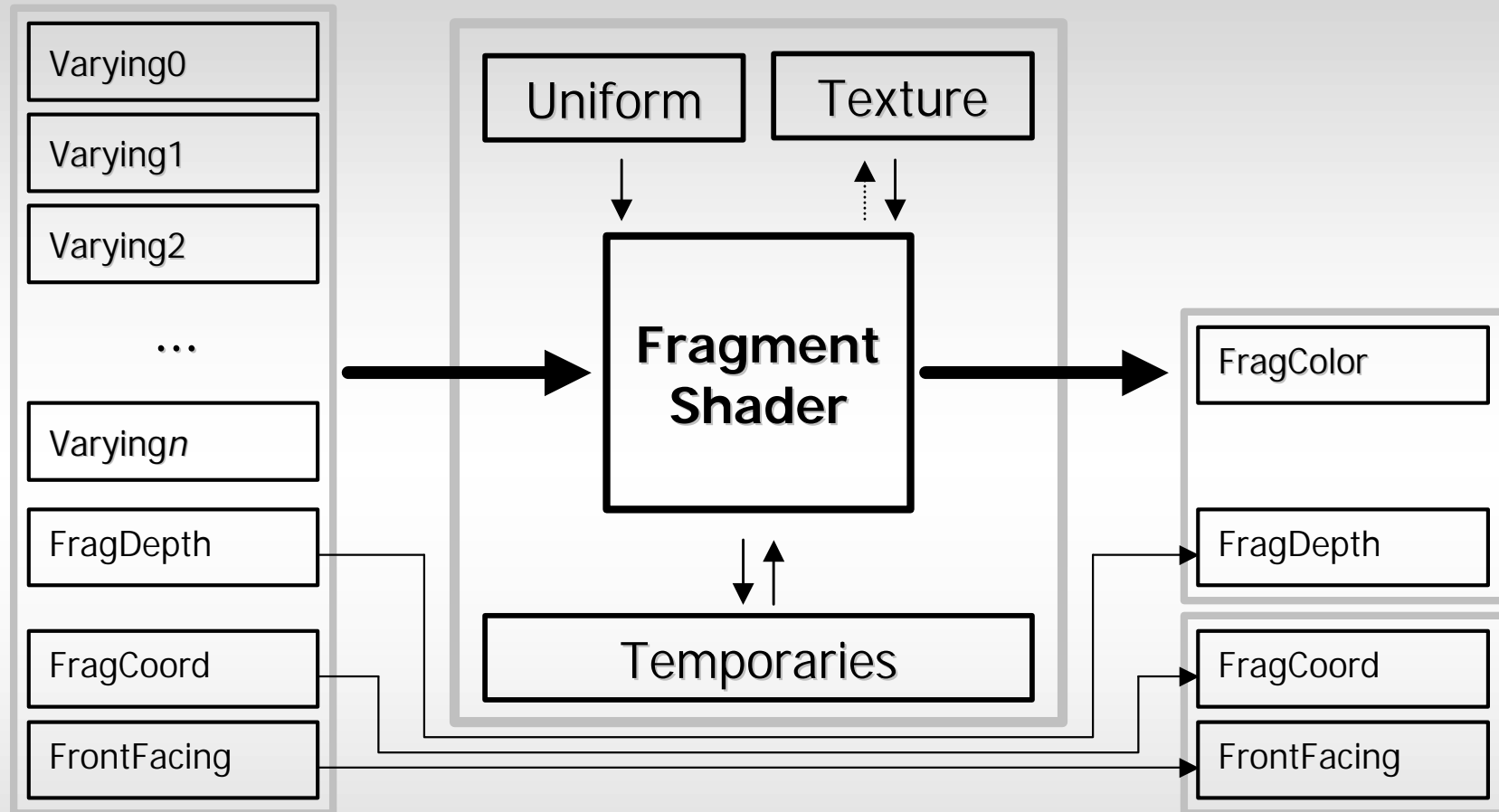
- **OpenGL Shading Language (Orange Book), Randi Rost, 2004**
- **Intro GLSL, Talk Slides Randi Rost 3DLabs, 2005**
- **Intro GLSL, Teaching Slide, Mike Bailey (my ugrad graphics teacher) U of O, 2006**
- **Intro GLSL, Teaching Slides, Keith O'connor, GV2 (U of Dublin)**
- **OpenGL Shading Language, Teaching Slides, Jerry Talton, Stanford, 2006**
- **Real-time Shading, John Hart, 2002, AK Peters**
- **OpenGL 2.0 Specification, OpenGL ARB, 2004, OpenGL.org**
- **OpenGL Shading Language Specification, 2004, OpenGL.org**
- **The Cg Tutorial: The Definitive Guide to Programmable Real-Time Graphics, Randima Fernando, Mark Kilgard, 2003**

# Shader Vertex Processing

All value are inputs to Shaders



# Shader Fragment Processing



**Same as vertex, all values are input into shader**