
CS770/870 Fall 2008

Introduction to Scene Graphs

Related material in Hill and Kelley: None

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Preview

- Problem: How do we represent complicated scenes efficiently & flexibly?
- Solution: Hierarchical scene graph

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The Problem

- How do we represent complicated scenes efficiently & flexibly?
 - Many 3D objects
 - composed of other objects
 - arbitrary reference frames between subobjects
 - Some subobjects share rendering state (OpenGL)
 - Down the road... want more efficient ways to
 - Render complex scenes
 - Select objects
 - Detect collisions between objects, etc.

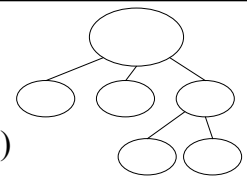
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A Solution: Scene Graphs

- Hierarchy of Nodes
- To begin, let nodes represent
 - 3D geometry (vertices, lines, faces)
 - Transformation matrices
 - Rendering state (lighting, color, etc.)
 - Groupings of other nodes
- Rendering becomes a depth-first traversal

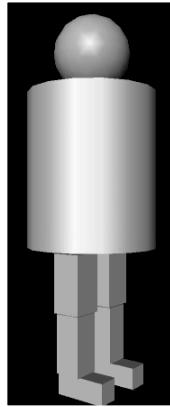
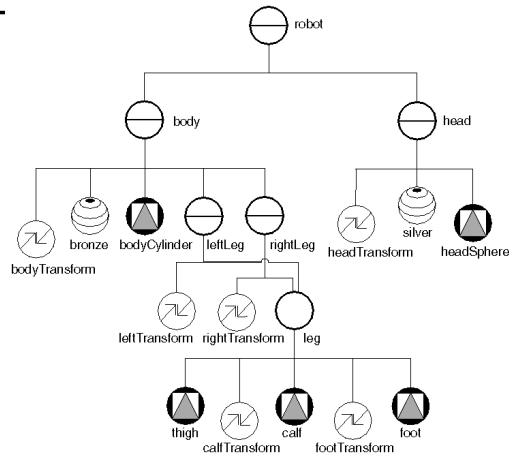


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A Simple Scene Graph



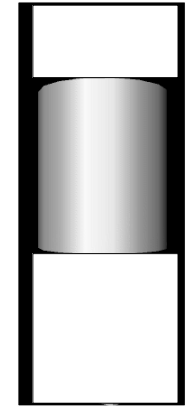
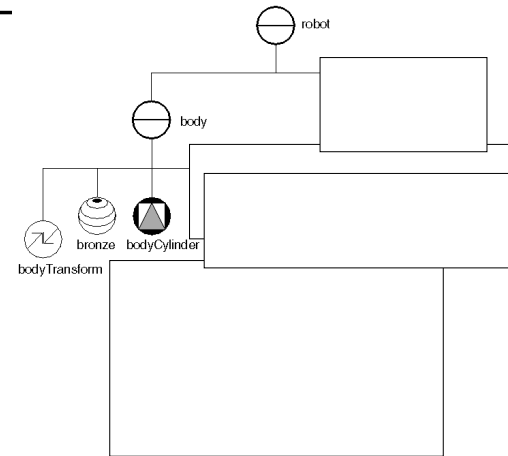
Figures 3-10 and 3-11 from *The Inventor Mentor*

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A Simple Scene Graph



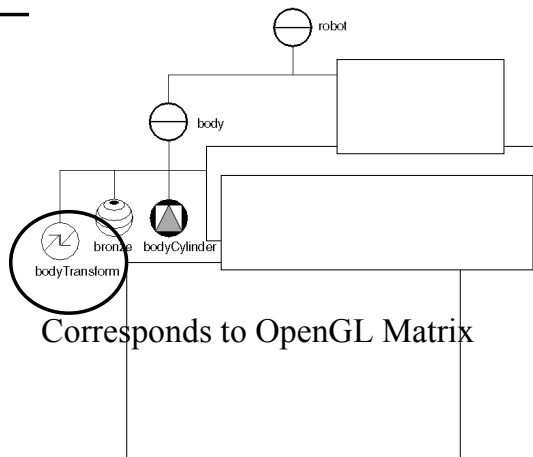
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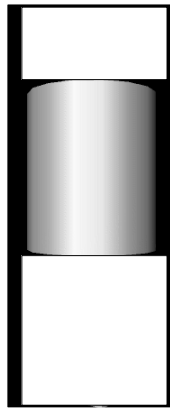
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A Simple Scene Graph



Corresponds to OpenGL Matrix



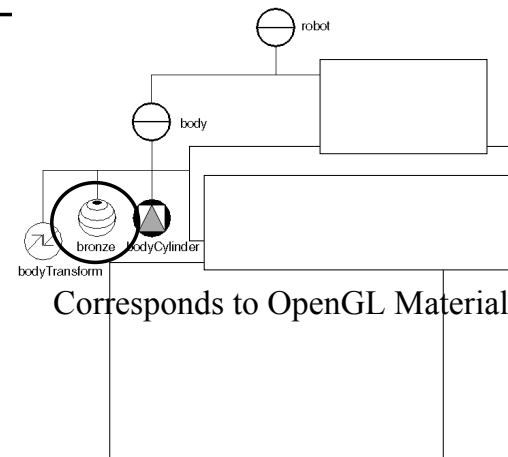
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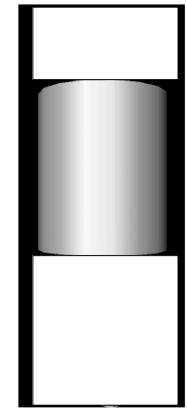
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Corresponds to OpenGL Material



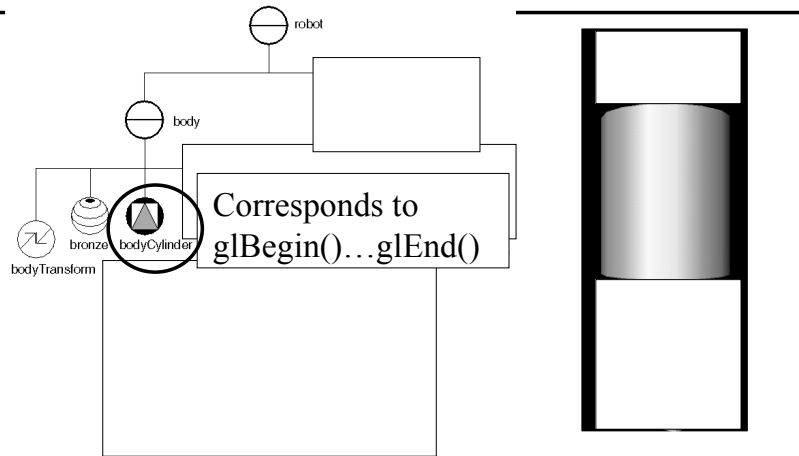
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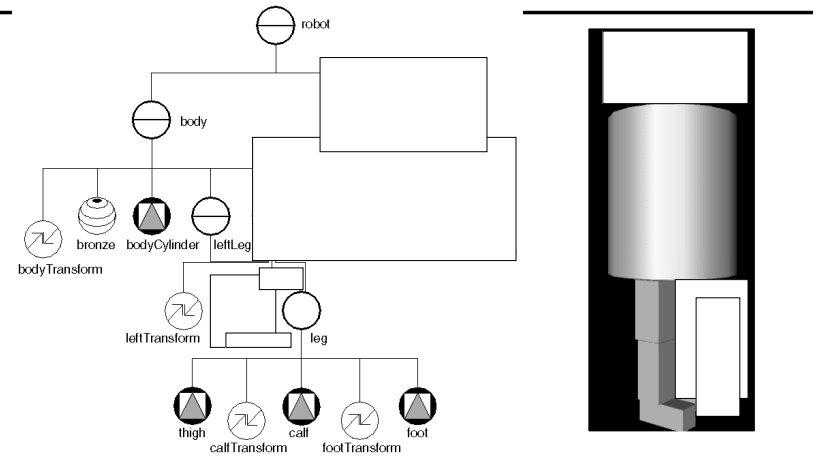
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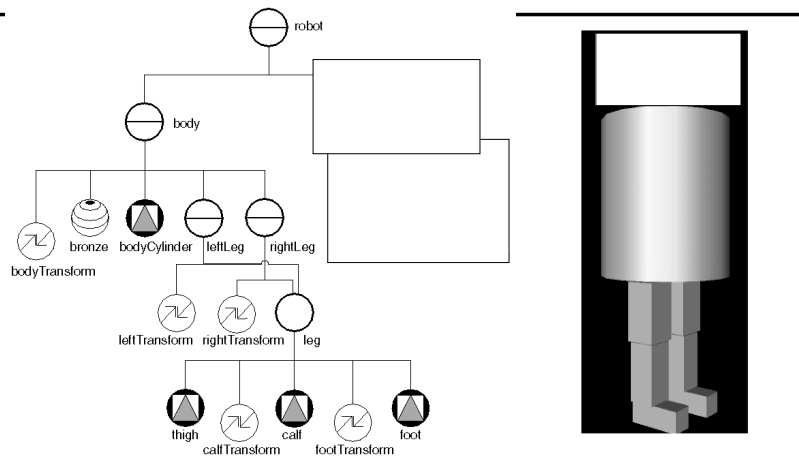
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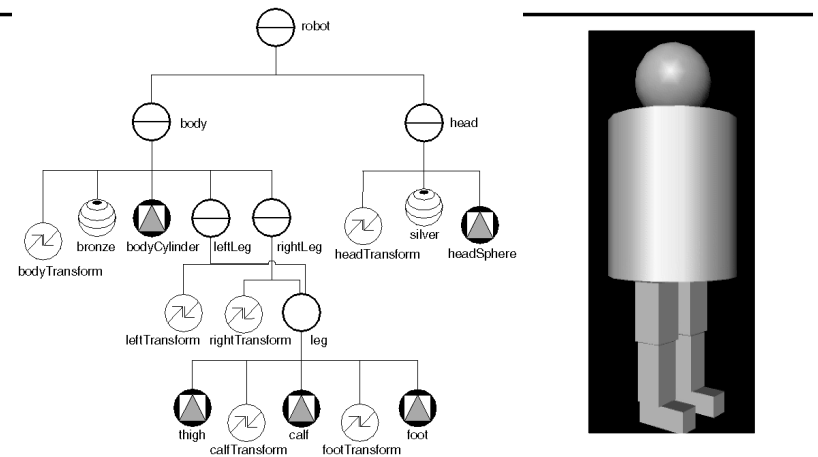
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A Simple Scene Graph



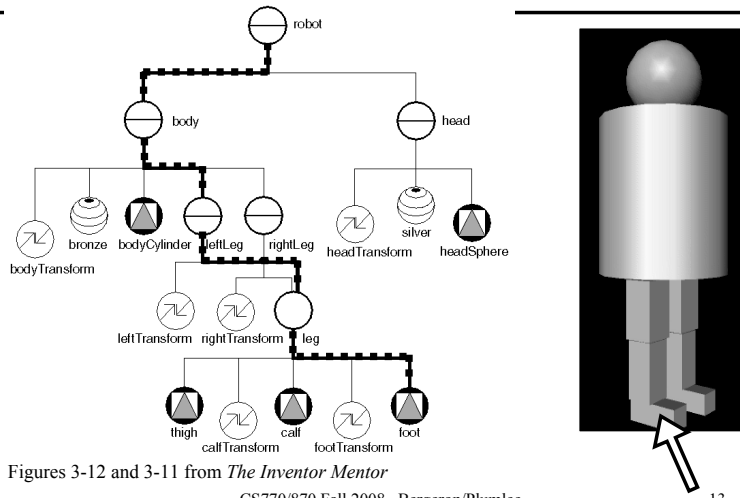
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The Notion of a *Path*

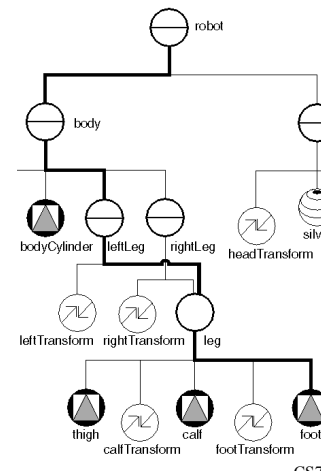


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What Does a Path Give Us?



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- Unique way to address each rendered item
- Way to ID all parts that might be important
 - What was picked?
 - What collided with another object?
 - Can walk up path: foot, left leg, whole robot...

Existing Scene Graphs

- Coin/OpenInventor
 - Early scene graph, closest to OpenGL
- OpenSceneGraph (OSG)
 - Modern scene graph, close to OpenGL
- Ogre3D
 - Modern scene graph with own innovations
 - OpenGL or DirectX, so not close to either
- X3D implementations (VRML successor)

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Your Scene Graphs

- Assignment 4: your own simple scene graph
- Now, some base code...
 - Address system
 - GLUT command window
 - How they tie in with your shapes

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Review

- Scene graph as an efficient, flexible way to render complex scenes
 - Hierarchy of nodes
 - Rendering: depth-first traversal
 - Path: unique ID for each rendered object
- List of scene graphs
- Base scene graph code

Sources

- Coin3D and general scene graph concepts:
 - Book: *The Inventor Mentor* (Addison-Wesley)
- Open Scene Graph:
 - Home: <http://www.openscenegraph.com>
 - Books available at <http://www.skew-matrix.com/OSGdocs.html>
- Ogre3D:
 - Home: <http://www.ogre3d.org/>
 - Book: *Pro OGRE 3D Programming* (Apress)