Subject: Re: Shadows (Yet Another Object Graphics Question)
Posted by Jason P. Meyers on Thu, 01 Feb 2001 00:49:05 GMT
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Karl Schultz wrote:
>
>
> The short answer is that there is no magic shadow switch in object graphics.
>
> But here is a reference that might be of help. There is a section on
> shadows in the OpenGL ("red book") Programming Guide about generating
> shadows. It involves computing a projection transform that projects your
> objects onto a plane along the light direction, which is exactly what you
> want. The book tells how to come up with the matrix given the plane
> equation of your ground plane and the direction vector of your light source.
>
> You can create an object graphics model structure where you have your
> objects and their "normal" transform in one model (IDLgrModel). You would
> also create an additional model whose parent is the first model, and add the
> same graphic objects (sans ground plane) to it with the /ALIAS keyword, to
> avoid complete duplication. Finally you adjust the transform in the second
> model using the transform derived from the red book. The intent is to draw
> the same objects twice, using a different transform each time.
>
> I haven't actually tried it, but I think it would work and would make an
> interesting project.
>
> There is one additional problem that you may run into. The shadow polygons
> will be drawn onto the same plane as the ground plane (we are trying to do
> this!), so you may get Z-buffer "fights" or stitching effects, because the
> rasterizer may not generate the same Z-coords for each pixel since the plane
> equations for the polygons may not be exactly the same. If you encounter
> this, I would try moving the shadow plane slightly away from the light
> source so that the shadow polygons sort of float over the ground plane. You
> would use the original ground plane plane equation when computing the shadow
> transform matrix, but actually draw the ground plane with a slightly
> different plane equation. If the ground plane is perpendicular to the light
> source direction, then it would be a simple matter of adjusting D in the
> ground plane plane equation.
>
> Hope this helps,
> Karl

Wow! This works great! I had already suspected the Z-buffer fight problem and had pre-positioned the ground plane so it wouldn't be an issue. It does help that I have a simple geometry case.

Once again thanks!

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