3D User Interfaces for Games and Virtual Reality

Lecture #1: Introduction
Spring 2011
Joseph J. LaViola Jr.

Spring 2011

CAP6121 -- 3D User Interfaces for Games and Virtual Reality

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Instructor

Professor – Joseph J. LaViola Jr.

Email - jjl@eecs.ucf.edu

Office Hours – Tues. 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Wed. 5:45pm - 6:45pm

Office is Harris 321

Website will have all required info www.eecs.ucf.edu/courses/cap6121/spr11

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Class Goals

- Provide in-depth introduction to spatial 3D user interfaces
- Focus on 3D games
- Speaking and presentation skills
- Start of master's projects and PhD dissertations
- Possible publications
 - Virtual Reality 2012
 - 3D User Interfaces 2012
 - Foundations of Digital Games 2012
 - SIGGRAPH Sandbox 2012

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Grading

Assignment 1 (group) 15%
Assignment 2 (group) 15%
Chapter Paper (individual) 15%
Paper presentation (individual) 5%
Final Project (group) 50%

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Final Projects

- 2-3 person teams
- Must have research component
 - related to games
 - innovative 3D UI
- Everyone must write and get approved a project proposal
- Final Project write up required
- DEMO DAY!!!! May 2, 2011

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Class Structure (see syllabus for details)

- Lectures
 - Fundamentals of 3D user interfaces
 - hardware
 - common interaction tasks
 - user evaluation
- Student paper presentation
 - 20 minute presentation
- Final project update sessions
- Work done in ISUE Lab Harris 208 (laptops also)
 - key access required

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Course Topics

- Unity 3D
- 3D Hardware
 - perception
 - input and output devices
- Common 3D Interaction Tasks
 - travel (e.g., navigation and wayfinding)
 - selection and manipulation
 - system control
- 3D UI Design
- 3D UI Evaluation
- 3D UI and Augmented/Mixed Reality

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Collaboration and Late Policy

- Collaboration encouraged
 - do your own work on assignments
 - cheating = BAD!!!
- All assignments must be handed in on time
 - Assignments by 11:59pm on due date

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Tools - Software

- Visual Studio 2010, C#
- Unity 3D
 - game engine
 - audio support, graphics support
 - physics engine
 - development UI
 - Scripting in C#, Javascript
 - Supports 3D stereo
- Open NUI
 - interface to Microsoft Kinect
 - supports RGB, depth image extraction
 - skeleton tracking
- Custom Client/Server code
- Google SketchUp Pro
 - nice model database

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What are 3D UIs?

- 3D interaction: Human-computer interaction in which the user's tasks are carried out in a 3D spatial context
 - 3D input devices
 - 2D input devices with direct mappings to 3D
- 3D user interface (3D UI): A UI that involves 3D interaction
- 3D interaction technique: A method (hardware and software) allowing a user to accomplish a task in a 3D UI

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Why 3D Interfaces?

- 3D applications should be useful
 - immersion
 - natural skills
 - immediacy of visualization
- But, applications in common use have low complexity of interaction
- More complex applications have serious usability problems
- Technology alone is not the solution!

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What makes 3D interaction difficult?

- Spatial input
- Lack of constraints
- Lack of standards
- Lack of tools
- Lack of precision
- Fatigue
- Layout more complex
- Perception

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Interaction Goals

- Performance
 - efficiency
 - accuracy
 - productivity
- Usability
 - ease of use
 - ease of learning
 - user comfort
- Usefulness
 - interaction helps meet system goals
 - interface relatively transparent so users can focus on tasks

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Universal 3D Interaction Tasks

- Navigation
 - travel: motor component
 - wayfinding: cognitive component
- Selection/Picking
- Manipulation
 - specification of object position & orientation
 - specification of scale, shape, other attributes
- System Control
 - changing the system state or interaction mode
 - may be composed of other tasks
- Symbolic Input

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3D UI Design Philosophies

- Artistic approach: Base design decisions on
 - intuition about users, tasks, and environments
 - heuristics, metaphors, common Sense
 - aesthetics
 - adaptation/inversion of existing interfaces
- Scientific approach: Base design decisions on
 - formal characterization of users, tasks, and environments
 - quantitative evaluation results
 - performance requirements
 - examples: taxonomies, formal experimentation

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Applications

- Architecture / CAD
- Education
- Manufacturing
- Medicine
- Simulation / Training
- Entertainment Games!!!
- Design / Prototyping
- Information / Scientific Visualization
- Collaboration / Communication

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