3D User Interfaces for Games and Virtual Reality

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

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
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

Required Books

- *3D User Interfaces: Theory and Practice*
  - Doug A. Bonnici
  - Ira P. Puffney

- *Unity 3D Game Development by Example: Beginner’s Guide*
  - Ryan Henson Creighton
Grading

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

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
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

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
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

Tools - Hardware

- Samsung 50" 3D DLP HDTV
- TriDef Stereo Emitter
- Wii Sensor Bar
- PC with Intel Quad Core processor
- 3GB RAM
- NVIDIA GT8500 GFX Card
- TriDef Shutter Glasses
- 5.1 Speaker System
- Wii controllers
Tools – More Hardware

- NVidia 3D Vision Kit
- Wii Balance Board
- Novint Falcon
- 3rd Space Gaming Vest
- IZ3D Monitor
- Microsoft Kinect

Tools – Even More Hardware

- PlayStation Move
- Xbox
- Remote Control

Spring 2011
CAP 6121 – 3D User Interfaces for Games and Virtual Reality
© Joseph J. LaViola Jr.
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

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
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!

What makes 3D interaction difficult?

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

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
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

Applications

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

- Games and 3DUIs
- Readings
  - Bowman – Chapters 1 and 2