**Carleton University, Computer Science, Fall 2024**

**Comp 1008 Math for Game Programmers**

**Lectures/Instructor:** Thursday 6-9pm, Check on Carleton Central for the room location, **W.R. Lalonde**.

**Weekly Assignments**: Due Wednesday at Midnight (for assignment provided the week before).

**Course Goal**: Provides the math background for subsequent game programming courses.

**Course calendar description**: Math for building 3D games. Points, vectors, normals. Dot and cross products. Transformations and inverses in left- and right-handed systems. Uses for controlling objects, cameras, and texture manipulation. Bounding boxes, planes, frustums for collision detection and visibility, fast billboarding techniques, point and sphere sweeping. Quaternions.

**Prerequisite(s):** One Grade 12 university preparation mathematics course.

**Course Work**: 1 weekly assignment (70%), in class paper test (10%), and in class exam (20%).

**Brightspace Course materials:** Powerpoint notes; **Pdf NOT USED since slides are animated**.

**Book**: Reference (not required) **Mathematics for 3D Game Programming & Computer Graphics (Third edition is the latest)**, Eric Lengyel, Charles River Media, Inc.

**Handing in**: Assignment files should be handed into Brightspace before midnight on Wednesday (for assignment provided the week before). If the assignments are handed in late, Brightspace will not accept it. Files can be PowerPoint, Word, or Text files (the advantage of PowerPoint is it allows diagrams).

**Discord Link:** [**https://discord.gg/2vwYZXtQ5y**](https://discord.gg/2vwYZXtQ5y) **(icon contains C1-A)**

**E-mail:** wilf.lalonde@gmail.com

**TA (Marking only): Abdelrahman Soliman**

**SCS Laptop Requirement (applies to on-campus courses)**

**Every student that has been enrolled in a 1000-level (i.e., first year) course offered by the School of Computer Science after the 2020/2021 school year is required to have a laptop. This includes COMP1001, COMP1005, and COMP1006. For more information, please visit** [**https://carleton.ca/scs/scs-laptop-requirement/**](https://carleton.ca/scs/scs-laptop-requirement/) **and then review the requirements at** [**https://carleton.ca/scs/scs-laptop-requirement/laptop-specs/**](https://carleton.ca/scs/scs-laptop-requirement/laptop-specs/)**.**

Course Outline

The rendering pipeline

Generic overview

Left versus right-handed coordinate systems

Left-to-right versus right-to-left evaluation math

Coordinates spaces (object, world, camera, and perspective)

Tuples

The distinction between points, vectors, normals

Two definitions of vector dot product

Two definitions of vector cross product

Intuitions behind dot products and cross products

Many operations and related theorems on tuples, points, vectors, dot products and cross products.

Matrices

Matrix multiply, matrix transposes, and vector-matrix operations

Matrix inverses and how to compute them

Useful theorems involving transposes and inverses

Matrix forms of dot and cross products

Transformations

Translating, rotating, scaling transformations and their inverses

Projection transformations

Properties of rotations

The general rotation transformation

Fast inverses

Transformations for gaming

Placement matrices versus Delta matrices in the context of rotating (R), scaling (S), and translation (T).

Controlling placement by using the natural order SRT

Object placement in worlds

Texture placement in textured objects

Camera placement in worlds

Controlling and animating changes via delta matrices

Changes relative to an Object (pre-transformations)

Changes relative to a World (post-transformations)

Changes relative to a Parent

Controlling changes when dealing with inverses

Placement and Delta Changes in right to left-handed systems

Articulated figures, poses, and skinning

Object and camera “look at” functions

Visibility determination

Bounding boxes, planes, frustums, and visibility trees

Octrees, quad trees, bounding box trees, and bsp trees.

Distance to planes, plane transformations

Building frustums, frustum transformations

Determining if points, bounding boxes, and spheres are inside frustums

Sprites and how to draw them without needing to rotate them

Portal visibility

Collision detection and collision reacting

Movement boxes and collision detection trees (similar to visibility trees)

Basic algorithms for projections of points on a line, on a plane

Basic algorithm for intersection of a line with a plane, with a sphere

The concept of object sweeping.

Point sweeps colliding with planes, spheres, bounding boxes, polygons, and polygon soup.

Sphere sweeps colliding with planes, spheres, bounding boxes, polygons, and polygon soup.

More general sweeps done efficiently

Odd and ends

Quaternions if time admits

Course Takeaway

Deep intuitive and mathematical understanding of vectors and transformations. Less mathematical but

still intuitive understanding of visibility and collision detection.

**Artificial Intelligence**

With the advent of large language models (LLMs), it’s becoming more and more possible to use chatbots such as ChatGPT, Google Bard, Bing Chart, research assistants such as Elicit, and image generators such as Stable Diffusion, Dall-E to aid with course work. However, there are problems with those tools:

* They sometimes hallucinate; i.e. lie.
* They can’t explain why something is true.
* They can’t attribute knowledge (they don’t know where they found this information).
* They can’t learn.
* They don’t know if they don’t know something; i.e., always give an answer whether right or wrong.
* They don’t understand non-linguistic knowledge; e.g., liquids filling containers until full, batteries discharging until they don’t work, 3D relationships between people and objects (e.g., right, left, above, below).
* They have no sense of ethics, danger, or reasonableness (e.g., a 1000 year old person).

This course was designed to be completed by individuals working alone. For this reason, tests and exams are given in class without in-class access to external tools or notes.

However, in the interests of societal advancement, we are interested in whether or not such tools should ultimately become part of the curriculum. Consequently, we will allow the use of such tools to check the correctness of your solutions provided they are fully attributed. For example, “this assignment was checked by XXXX and found 3 problems; problem 3 was originally solved as YYY which I revised to ZZZ, problem 7 …, problem 12 …” TAs marking the assignments will make that information available to the lecturer who may divulge the results to the class if it proves interesting.

**University Policies**

**Academic Accommodations**

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. Please review the academic accommodation available to students here: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>.

**Student Academic Integrity Policy.** Every student should be familiar with the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity policy. A student found in violation of academic integrity standards may be sanctioned with penalties which range from a reprimand to receiving a grade of F in the course, or even being suspended or expelled from the University. Examples of punishable offences include plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration. Any such reported offences will be reviewed by the office of the Dean of Science. More information on this policy may be found on the ODS Academic Integrity page: [Academic Integrity | Faculty of Science (carleton.ca)](https://science.carleton.ca/students/academic-integrity/).

**Plagiarism.** As defined by Senate, "plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". Such reported offences will be reviewed by the office of the Dean of Science. More information and standard sanction guidelines can be found here: <https://science.carleton.ca/students/academic-integrity/>. Please note that content generated by an unauthorized A.I.-based tool \*is\* considered plagiarized material.

*“If you are unsure of the expectations regarding academic integrity (how to use and cite references, if unauthorized* *collaboration with lab- or classmates is permitted (and, if so, to what degree), then you must ASK your instructor. Sharing assignment or quiz specifications or posting them online (to sites like Chegg, CourseHero, OneClass, etc.) is ALWAYS considered academic misconduct. You are NEVER permitted to post, share, or upload course materials without explicit permission from your instructor. Academic integrity offences are reported to the office of the Dean of Science. Information, process and penalties for such offences can be found on the ODS webpage:* <https://science.carleton.ca/students/academic-integrity/>.*"*