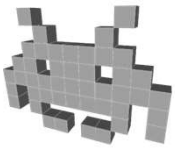
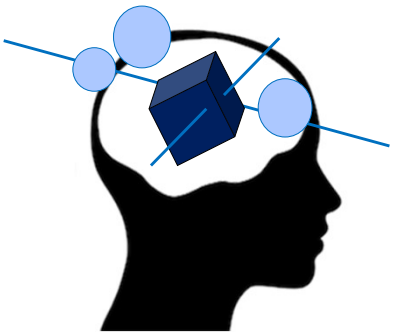
3D VideoGames - UniMi

Points, Vectors, Versors (recap)





Marco Tarini

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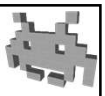
Course Plan



lec. 1: **Introduction**
lec. 2: **Mathematics** for 3D Games
lec. 3: **Scene Graph**
lec. 4: Game **3D Physics** +
lec. 5: Game **Particle Systems**
lec. 6: Game **3D Models**
lec. 7: Game **Textures**
lec. 9: Game **Materials**
lec. 8: Game **3D Animations**
lec. 10: **Networking** for 3D Games
lec. 11: **3D Audio** for 3D Games
lec. 12: **Rendering Techniques** for 3D Games
lec. 13: **Artificial Intelligence** for 3D Games

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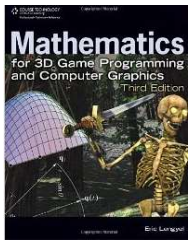
Suggested reading



Mathematics for 3D Game Progr. and C.G. (3rd ed)
Eric Lengyel

Chapters 2, 3, 4

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Point, Vectors, Versors and Spatial Transformation

They are the basic data-type of 3D Games

- In the computation, for all modules
  - rendering engine
  - physics engine
  - AI
  - 3D sound
  - …
- In the data structures of all 3D Assets
  - Meshes, animations, etc

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Point, Vectors, Versors

	represents:	example:	imagine it as...
Point	A position A location	Where a character is The center of a sphere	a small floating dot :-D
Vector	A displacement The difference between 2 points. The vector that connects them.	The velocity of a thrown knife The gravity acceleration How to reach the head of a character from its neck	a small arrow :-D *(length is relevant)*
Versor aka unit vector (as length = 1) aka normal aka direction aka normalized vector	A direction A facing	The view direction of a character The facing of a plane in 3D (i.e. its "normal") The direction of a line, or a ray A rotation axis	the same :-D *(its length is irrelevant)*

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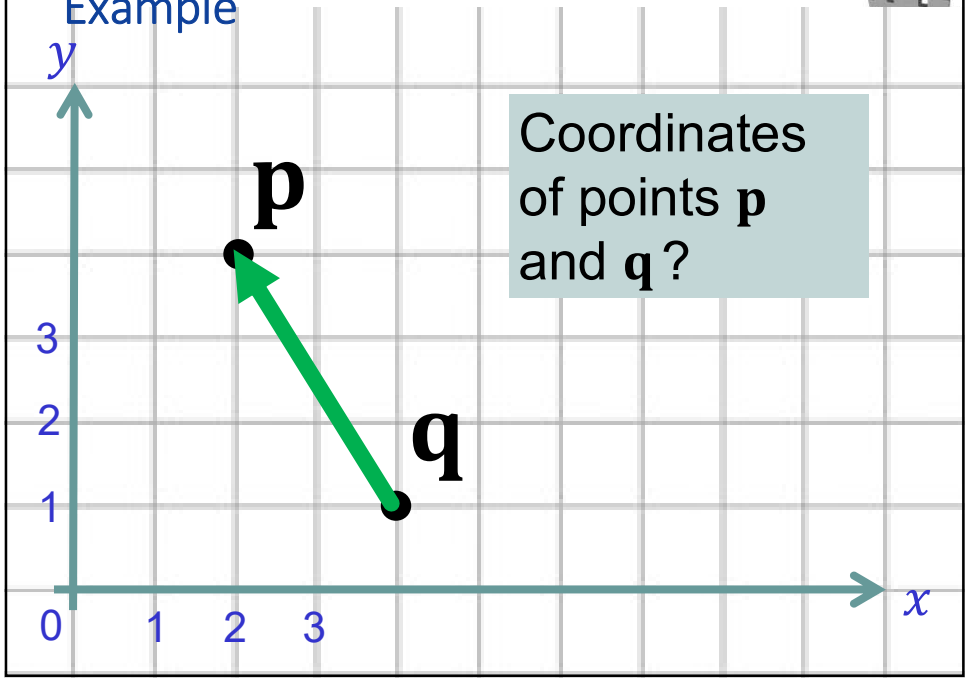
Example



Coordinates of points **p** and **q**?

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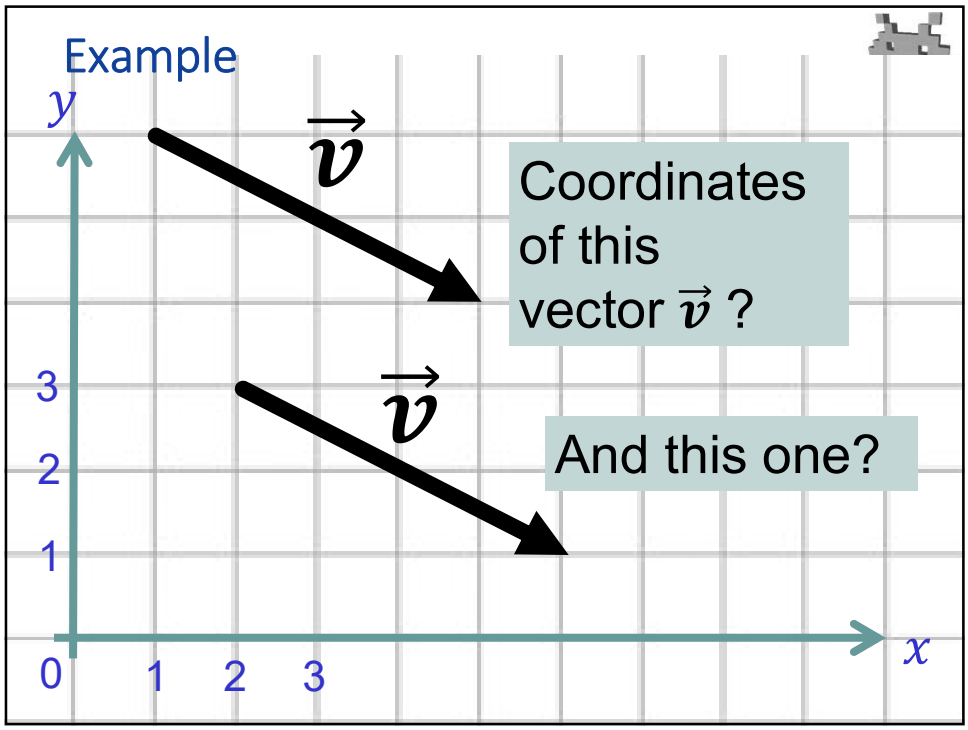

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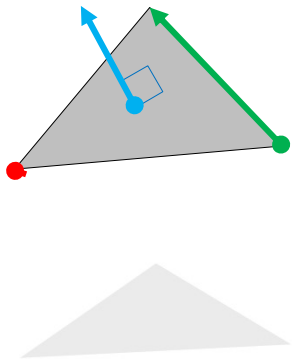
Points, Vectors, Versors
...on a 3D floating tirangle

Examples of...

- point:
  - one vertex of the triangle
- vector:
  - one side of the triangle
- versor:
  - the «normal» of the triangle



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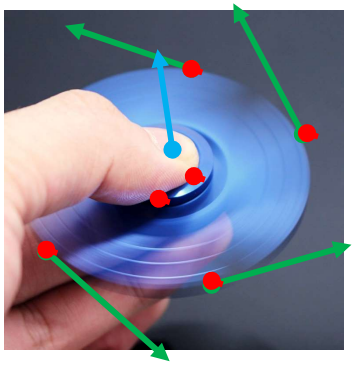
Points, Vectors, Versors ...in a spinner

Examples of...

- points:
  - points of contact between finger-spinner
- vectors:
  - linear velocities of these four points
- versors:
  - rotation axis (direction of)



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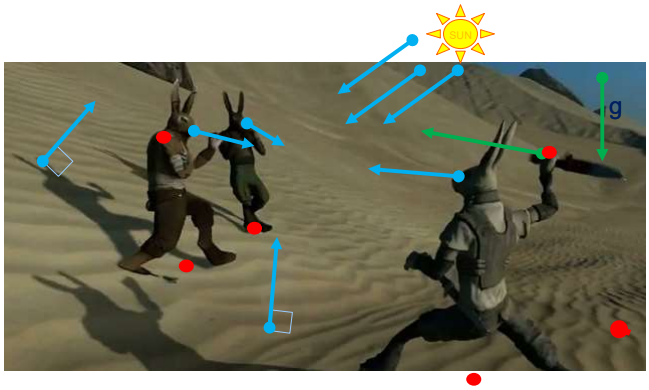
Points, Vectors, Versors ...in this screenshot



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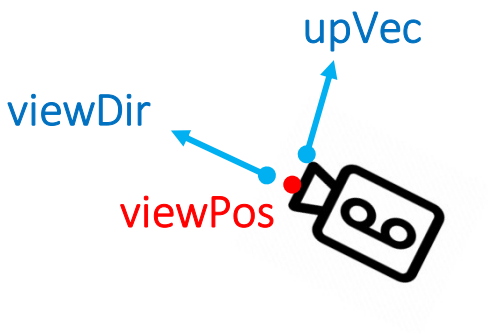
Stuff = Points + Vectors + Versors



Description of a camera
(its so called «extrinsic parameteres»)

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Stuff = Points + Vectors + Versors

description of
a (directional) sound emitter

description of
a (directional) microphone

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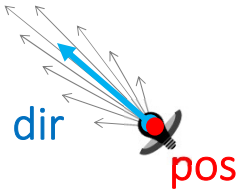
Stuff = Points + Vectors + Versors



description of a spotlight

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The *algebra* of points, vectors, versors (and scalars)

- make sure you understand each of operation in 3 different ways:

- intuitive / spatial: what does it do conceptually / visually in 3D

- operational: how to compute the result, starting from
  (a) the coordinates of the operand(s)
  (b) occasionally, also
  the angle between the operands, their lengths, etc

- syntactic: how to write them down
  (a) on paper (mathematical notation)
  (b) in a programming language (Unity C# lib, Unreal C++ lib, GLSL…)

- also, familiarize how to manipulate equations, i.e. rules such as

(a) commutativity? associativity? (of each operation)
(b) distributivity? (between pairs of operations)
(c) inverse operation? identity element? absorbing element?

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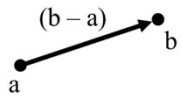
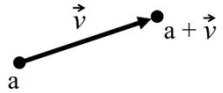
Point and vector algebra (summary 1/7)

- Difference:
  point – point = vector



- Addition:
  point + vector = point



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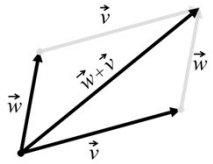
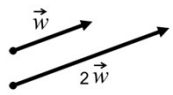
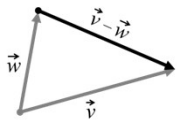
Point and vector algebra (summary 2/7)

- Linear operations for vectors
  - addition (vector + vector = vector)
  - product with a scalar (scaling)
    (vector * scalar = vector)
  - therefore: interpolation
    $\mathrm{mix}(\overrightarrow{v_0}, \overrightarrow{v_1}, t) = (1-t)\,\overrightarrow{v_0} + t\,\overrightarrow{v_1}$
  - therefore: opposite (flip verse)
    (how to: multiply by – 1)
  - therefore: difference
    (vector – vector = vector)







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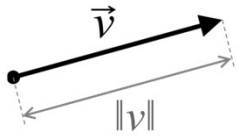
Point and vector algebra (summary 3/7)



- Norm (for vectors)
  - aka length / magnitude / Euclidean norm / 2-norm
  - distance between points: length of vector (**a** – **b**) = distance between **a** and **b**
  - Rules: triangle inequality:

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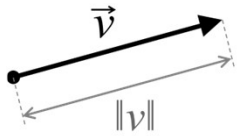
Point and vector algebra (summary 4/7)



- Normalization
  - Input: a vector. Result: a versor
  - how to: scale the vector by (1.0 / length)

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Point and vector algebra (summary 5/7)

- Interpolate between pairs of <*something*> :
  - mix(point , point , t) → point
  - mix(vector , vector , t) → vector
  - mix(versor , versor , t) → versor
- t is a scalar «weight»
  - $t = 0$ → pick the first one
  - $t = 1$ → pick the second one
  - $t \in (0,1)$ → get something in between, for example:
  - $t = 0.5$ → just average the two
  - $t = 0.1$ → use almost the first, with just a bit of the second in it
  - $t < 0$ or $t > 1$ → extrapolate
- Terminology: (in libraries, game engines…)
  - interpolate = mix = blend = lerp

a proper interpolation

specifically linear

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Interpolation in general - notes

- Very used in Computer Graphics (e.g., rendering, animation)
- Terminology:
  - $a\,\mathbf{x} + b\,\mathbf{y}$: a linear combination of **x** and **y**
  - if $a+b=1$ and $a,b \in [0,1]$: a (linear) interpolation of **x** and **y**
  - if $a+b=1$ but $a,b \notin [0,1]$: a (linear) extrapolation of **x** and **y**
  - a , b : the used weights
  - $a + b = 1$: weights are a partition of unity
- Generalizes to > 2 objects ($a\,\mathbf{x} + b\,\mathbf{y} + c\,\mathbf{z}$)
- When interpolating 2 objects, we can just give one weight t.
  - The other is given by difference. $a = t$, $b = 1-t$
  - The interpolation is often written in programming languages as `mix( x, y, t )` (or similar ways). Rember: t=0 → pick the first
- It's a general concept! All sorts of objects can be interpolated
  - Intuition: interpolation = a mix between objects
  - Let's analyze case of Points, Vectors, Versors

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How to interpolate between…

But easily generalizes to > 2

Linear interpolation

- …two vectors $\mathbf{v}_0$ and $\mathbf{v}_1$:

$$(1 - t)\,\mathbf{v}_0 + (t)\,\mathbf{v}_1$$

Only legal operations with an easily defined geometric meaning (to-do: check)

- …two points $\mathbf{p}_0$ and $\mathbf{p}_1$:

$$\mathbf{p}_0 + t\,(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0)$$

which you may also want to write as:

$$(1 - t)\,\mathbf{p}_0 + (t)\,\mathbf{p}_1$$

Summing… two points ??

Scaling… a point ??

We usually don't need any such operation.
But it's equivalent, mathematically.

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How to interpolate between…

But easily generalizes to > 2

Linear interpolation

- …two vectors $\mathbf{v}_0$ and $\mathbf{v}_1$:

$$(1 - t)\,\mathbf{v}_0 + (t)\,\mathbf{v}_1$$

- …two points $\mathbf{p}_0$ and $\mathbf{p}_1$:

$$\mathbf{p}_0 + t\,(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0)$$

- …two versors $\mathbf{d}_0$ and $\mathbf{d}_1$:

$$(1 - t)\,\mathbf{d}_0 + (t)\,\mathbf{d}_1$$

then renormalize the result (it's no longer unitary).

Or, use "spherical interpolation" (aka "slerp")…

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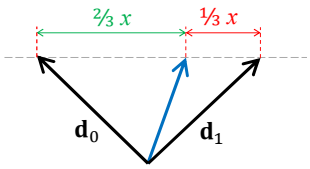
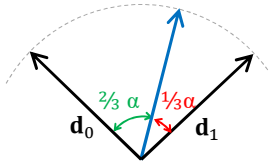
LERP vs SLERP (of versors)

Linear interpolation:



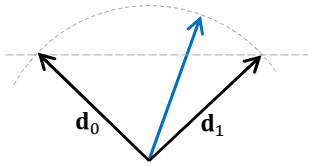
$\mathbf{d} = \mathrm{lerp}(\mathbf{d}_0, \mathbf{d}_1, ⅔)$

Spherical interpolation:



$\mathbf{d} = \mathrm{slerp}(\mathbf{d}_0, \mathbf{d}_1, ⅔)$

Then, renormalize:



Not the same result!

- But, close enough
- Even closer when:
  $\mathbf{d}_0$, $\mathbf{d}_1$ similar OR t close to ½
- Is it worth the extra computation cost? 🤔

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The formulas

- LERP + normalization:

$$(1 - t)\,\mathbf{d}_0 + t\,\mathbf{d}_1$$

then re-normalize

aka "NLERP"

- or SLERP:

angle between $\mathbf{d}_0$ and $\mathbf{d}_1$

$$\frac{\sin((1-t)\,\alpha)}{\sin(\alpha)}\mathbf{d}_0 + \frac{\sin(t\,\alpha)}{\sin(\alpha)}\mathbf{d}_1$$

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SLERP: notes

- Applicable to any versor (unit vector) including 2D, 3D, and quaternions (see later)
- SLERP can even be used on general vectors:
  - Compute magnitudes of vectors
  - Compute directions of vectors (divide by magnitude, i.e., normalize)
  - new direction = SLERP of the directions (unit vectors)
  - new magnitude = LERP of the magnitudes (scalars)
  - multiply new dir with new mag to get the final result

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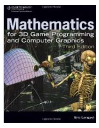
Point and vector algebra
Products: additional reading

To be continued!

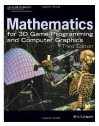
Products between vectors and/or versors



Section 2.2

- Dot product (or inner product)
  - Output: a scalar

NEXT LECTURE!



Section 2.3

- Cross product (or vector product)
  - Output: a vector

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