

CS460 Fall 2020

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Assignment 3: Three.js Cubes ... and other geometries

We will use Three.js to create multiple different geometries in an interactive fashion.

In class, we learned how to create a `THREE.Mesh` by combining the `THREE.BoxBufferGeometry` and the `THREE.MeshStandardMaterial`. We also learned how to *unproject* a mouse click from 2D (viewport / screen space) to a 3D position. This way, we were able use the `window.onclick` callback to move a cube to a new position in the 3D scene. Now, we will extend our code.

The goal of this assignment is to create multiple different geometries by clicking in the viewport. This means, rather than moving an existing mesh, we will create new ones in the `window.onclick` callback. On each click, our code will randomly choose a different geometry and a random color to place the object at the current mouse position.

We will be using six different geometries. Before we start coding, we want to understand their parameters. Please complete the table below. You can find this information in the Three.js documentation at <https://threejs.org/docs/> (scroll down to Geometries). In most cases, we only care about the first few parameters (**please replace the Xs**).

Constructor	Parameters
<code>THREE.BoxBufferGeometry</code>	(width, height, depth)
<code>THREE.TorusKnotBufferGeometry</code>	(X, X, X, X)
<code>THREE.SphereBufferGeometry</code>	(X, X, X)
<code>THREE.OctahedronBufferGeometry</code>	(X)
<code>THREE.ConeBufferGeometry</code>	(X, X)
<code>THREE.RingBufferGeometry</code>	(X, X, X)

Please write code to create one of these six geometries with a random color on each click at the current mouse position. We will use the `SHIFT`-key to distinguish between geometry placement and regular camera movement. Copy the starter code from <https://cs460.org/shortcuts/08/> and save it as **03/index.html** in your github fork. This code includes the `window.onclick` callback, the `SHIFT`-key condition, and the `unproject` functionality.

After six clicks, if you are lucky and you don't have duplicate shapes, this could be your result:



Please make sure that your code is accessible through Github Pages. Also, please commit this PDF and your final code to your Github fork, and submit a pull request.

Link to your assignment: <https://michaelotoole001.github.io/cs460student/03/>

Bonus (33 points):

Part 1 (5 points): Do you observe Z-Fighting? If yes, when?

I noticed Z-Fighting when the ring and the cubes were rendered on each other, since there is only 1 plane and the ring is flat as well as the cube sides.

Part 2 (10 points): Please change `window.onclick` to `window.onmousemove`. Now, holding `SHIFT` and moving the mouse draws a ton of shapes. Submit your changed code as part of your `03/index.html` file and **please replace the screenshot below with your drawing**.



Part 3 (18 points): Please keep track of the number of placed objects and print the count in the JavaScript console. Now, with the change to `window.onmousemove`, after how many objects do you see a slower rendering performance?

I noticed that as early as 800 objects the rendering became noticeably slower, with it getting progressively worse and laggy after that.

What happens if the console is not open during drawing?

I did not notice any difference between the console being opened and having it closed.

Can you estimate the total number of triangles drawn as soon as slow-down occurs?

You can estimate the total number of triangles drawn by making a new variable for each shape such as `BoxT`, `SphereT`, `TorusT`, etc, which hold the default number of triangles to create that specific object, then adding them up every time one is rendered until the performance slows down, then taking that total.