

CS460 Fall 2021

Name: Jack Tan

Github Username: jztan93

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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>	(radius, tube, tubularSegments, radialSegments)
<code>THREE.SphereBufferGeometry</code>	(radius, widthSegments, heightSegments)
<code>THREE.OctahedronBufferGeometry</code>	(radius)
<code>THREE.ConeBufferGeometry</code>	(radius, height)
<code>THREE.RingBufferGeometry</code>	(innerRadius, outerRadius, thetaSegments)

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.

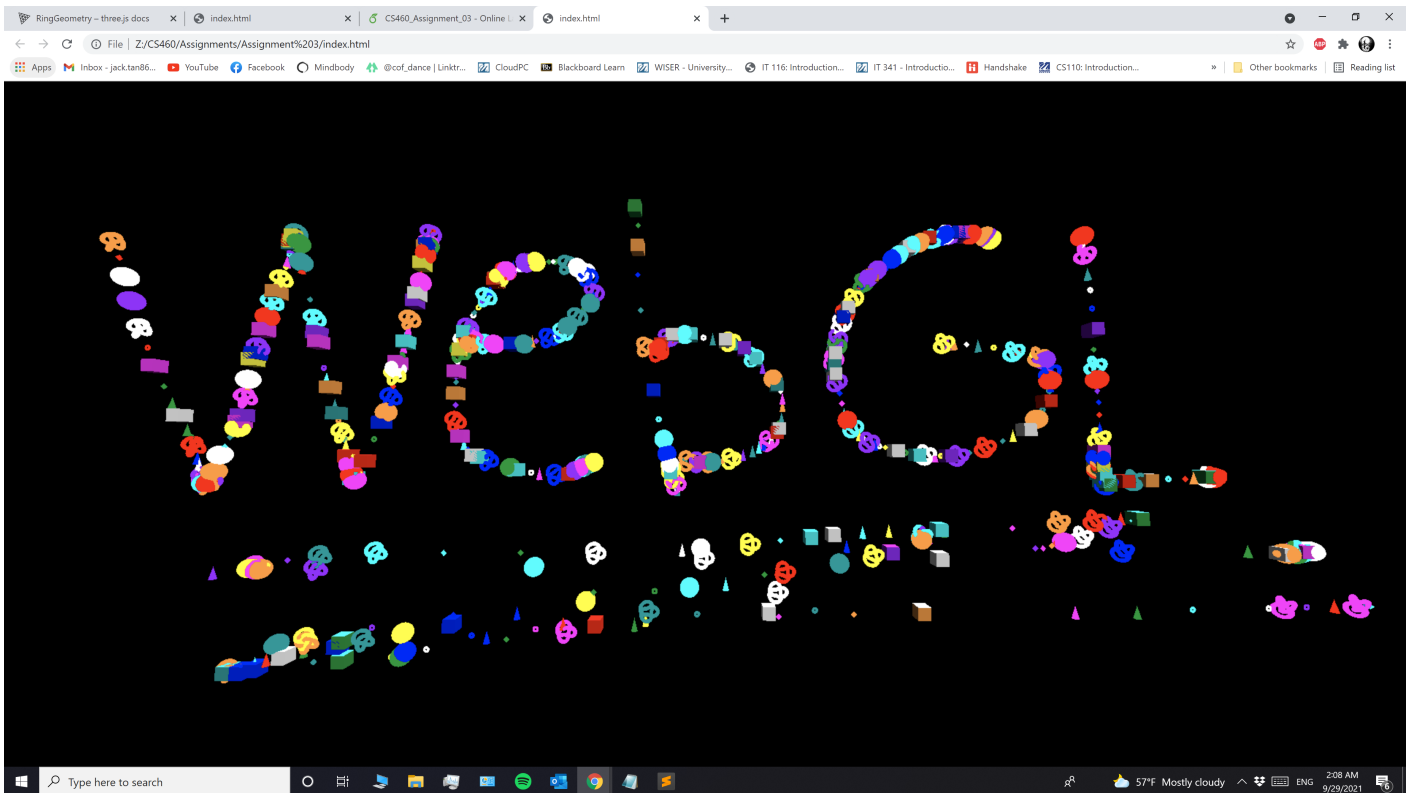
Link to your assignment: <https://jztan93.github.io/cs460student/03/>

Bonus (33 points):

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

Yes! When two or more shapes are too close to each other and they overlap, the computer doesn't know which shape to render on top, which causes the Z-fighting.

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?

To solve this problem, I set up a counter for each shape to keep track of how many of them were generated. After rendering over 6000 shapes (about 1000 of each), I didn't notice any slowdown of rendering and it was still able to follow my mouse without any significant lag. Perhaps it is because I am running this on my desktop, which has quite a beefed-up GPU (NVIDIA GeForce 1060). :D

What happens if the console is not open during drawing?

Nothing interesting really happens, aside from the fact that I have a bigger canvas to create drawings on!

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

Not applicable (no slow-down noticed).