DTU COMPUTE

Worksheet 10: Virtual trackball

Reading	Angel: 3.4.3-3.4.4, 4.12-4.14 WebGL Programming Guide: "Rotate an Object with the Mouse"
Purpose	In this worksheet, we return to user interaction. Our goal is to implement interactive orbiting, dollying, and panning of the camera. Orbiting is moving spherically around the scene center. Dollying is moving radially to have the camera closer to the center or further away from it. Panning is moving the camera in a plane parallel to the image plane. These three interaction modes are typical for a trackball, but this is not a commonly available tool, so we implement a virtual trackball and attach it to the mouse. The virtual trackball can equally well be attached to a touch interface.
	Inspecting the code of the different steps in the webpage at the link below is useful as a kind of tutorial for solving the exercises. However, if you do this, be aware that the math library used for this tutorial is different. The vector math is simpler to write in the MV. js library that we are using in this course. https://courses.compute.dtu.dk/02560/lectures/week02/trackball.html
Part 1 Simple orbiting	Pick one of your previous solutions where you draw in 3D. Use the mouse events from the WebGL Programming Guide ("Rotate an Object with the Mouse") to set mouse events that modify your view matrix when a mouse button is down.
Part 2 Quaternion rotation	Switch to using quaternions for the orbit rotation instead of Euler angles. In this way, you can avoid the gimbal lock. Get x - and y -coordinates for your mouse position that are in $[-1,1]$. Project these coordinates to a spherical surface of radius 2. Normalize the resulting vector and build a quaternion that rotates from the previous to the current of these vectors to find the rotation corresponding to the mouse movement. To solve this part, you need a quaternion math library. This is available in quaternion.js, which is available on DTU Learn.
Part 3 Dolly and panning	Set up interaction modes (using either webpage buttons or mouse buttons) for orbiting, dollying, and panning. Store distance to the eye point from the look-at point and the xy-displacement of the look-at point together with the quaternions used for orbiting. In dolly mode, the difference in the y-coordinate of the mouse position is used to update the distance to the eye from the look-at point. In panning mode, the differences in x- and y-coordinates of the mouse position are used for displacement of both look-at and eye points along the world space basis vectors of the image plane.
Part 4 Spinning	To do spinning, continue to update the quaternion rotation of the view using another quaternion representing the last incremental rotation recorded in the mousemove function. Stop the spinning by resetting the incremental rotation to an identity quaternion when the mouse is released at the same position as the one last recorded in the mousemove function or if more than 20 milliseconds passed since the last mouse move event.