

CS 1301 – Spring 2009

Homework 8 – Lights, Camera, Robot Action!

Due: Friday, April 3rd, before 6 PM EST (10% off if turned in before Monday, April 6th, before 6PM)

Out of 200 points

Files to submit:

- **filmingCode.py**
- **actingCode.py**
- **editingCode.py**
- **performanceCode.py**
- **movie.avi or movie.wmv**
- **project_write-up.txt**
- **team_evaluation.txt**

For Help:

- TA Helpdesk – Schedule posted on class website.
- Email TAs
- Newsgroups

Notes:

- **Don't forget to include the required comments and collaboration statement (as outlined on the course syllabus).**
 - **Do not wait until the last minute to do this assignment in case you run into problems.**
 - If you find a significant error in the homework assignment, please let a TA know immediately.
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Lights, Camera, Robot Action!

You have the special effects, the robots, but now all you need is the inspiration to compose your short-length robot feature film. The robots will be the actors, the camera, and the stars of the movie. Cohesively, your group will shoot and edit a 30-120 second movie with the robots. This assignment is very open to the director's choice of genre.

Here are a few examples from the year's past:

[RoboMovie](#)

[Pacman\(\): Try and Except Error!](#)

[The Scribbling](#)

[Mad Cow](#)

Grading

This assignment is worth a total of 200 pts, so we stress that you do **not wait until the last minute to complete this assignment**. 100 pts of the project will be code-based (i.e. Filming Code, Acting Code, Editing Code, and Performance Code). The other 100 pts be split up into The Film, Project Write-up, and the Team Evaluation. *When creating The Film to turn in, use your Performance Code to display your images with added sound effects or music, and use a screen movie capture program to turn it into either an .avi file or a .wmv file*. Both the Project Write-up and Team Evaluation should be submitted as .txt files. Every member of the group needs to submit the same code, film, and project write-up. The team evaluation should be different for each member in the group.

- Filming Code (30 pts) – Although you may choose to use images from other sources if you want, at least 30 frames used for the footage of your movie must be taken from the robot's camera. The filming code captures these images
- Acting Code (20 pts) - Robot(s) should do some kind of interacting with other robot(s) and the environment. This code controls your robots.
- Editing Code (30 pts) – Code used to edit the film, do special effects, etc. You should use several of the special effects you created for the last assignment.
- Performance Code (20 pts) – This code plays back the individual images as a complete film and may add interesting music or narration.
- The Film (30 pts) – The short-length motion picture should be between 30-120 seconds in length. You can capture it using a screen capture tool that creates movies, or put it together using a 3rd party film editing program.
- Project Write-up (20 pts) - Describe (in English not Python) what your movie is about and the special effects you used.
- Team Evaluation (50 pts)

For team evaluations: Each member of the group should submit a file (team_evaluation.txt) to t-Square which contains:

1. Your name, and the name of the other team members.
2. What you did, and what each of the other members did.
3. What percentage of work each team member did (should add to 100%)
(i.e. if everybody contributed equally, each person gets 33%)

Extra Credit:

In each recitation awards will be handed out based on the movies in their own recitation. The TA's for each section will sift through all of the movies and decide which movies are awarded. Each individual award is worth 10 extra credit points and a total of 5 awards will be given out per recitation.

- The Walter Award for innovative robot camera work.
- The Walter Award for outstanding robot performance.
- The Walter Award for excellent audio accompaniment.
- The Walter Award for stellar special effects.
- The Walter Award for superb screenplay.

Resources:

Various software for video capture can be found here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_screencasting_software

Written By Nicolas Villanueva, CS 1301 Fall 2008