Real Time Cameras: A Guide for Game Designers and Developers

By Mark Haigh-Hutchinson

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The control of cameras is as important in games as it is in cinema. How the camera tracks and moves determines our point of view and influences our attitude towards the content. A poorly designed camera system in a game can disrupt a users experience, while a well-designed one can make a good game into a great one. The challenge in games is that the camera must respond to unscripted events, and this is where much of the difficulty of designing real-time camera systems arises. The increasing use of motion in virtual environments, marked by the inclusion of physics modeling and complex collision detection systems, means that camera systems must be even more effective to keep up. **Real-Time Cameras** is written by an experienced game developer who has written camera control systems for award-winning games such as *Metroid Prime*. Mark Haigh-Hutchinson discusses the key algorithms for camera control and then shows how to implement them in code. This book is written for game developers and designers, although it is also pertinent to other professionals in the interactive media field. **Real-Time Cameras** presents a practical approach to camera systems, introducing their theory, design, and implementation.

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Editorial Review

About the Author
Mark Haigh-Hutchinson is a senior software engineer at Retro Studios Inc., based in Austin, Texas. He has designed and programmed video games professionally since 1984 and as a hobby since 1979. He has contributed to over 40 published games in roles as varied as programmer, designer, and project leader. Some of the more notable titles he has worked on include several Star Wars games: *Rogue Squadron*, *Episode 1: Racer*, *Shadows of the Empire*, and *Rebel Assault*, as well as other games such as *Zombies Ate My Neighbors* and *The Secret of Monkey Island 2*. Most recently Mark was responsible for the camera systems and player control in the award winning *Metroid Prime* and its sequel *Metroid Prime 2: Echoes*.

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