Game Technology

Lecture 8 – 5.12.2014
Physics 1

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Preliminary timetable

Lecture No.	Date	Topic
1	17.10.2014	Basic Input & Output
2	24.10.2014	Timing & Basic Game Mechanics
3	31.10.2014	Software Rendering 1
4	07.11.2014	Software Rendering 2
5	14.11.2014	Basic Hardware Rendering
6	21.11.2014	Animations
7	28.11.2014	Physically-based Rendering
8	**05.12.2014**	**Physics 1**
9	12.12.2014	Physics 2
10	19.12.2014	Procedural Content Generation
11	16.01.2015	Compression & Streaming
12	23.01.2015	Multiplayer
13	30.01.2015	Audio
14	06.02.2015	Scripting
15	13.02.2015	AI

Overview

Today

- As easy as possible
- Build a simple demo with
  - Particle system
  - Colliding spheres
- Understand the basic principles

Next week

- Build upon what we have learned
- Look at more complicated case
- Apply the physics to our game

Where we are headed

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„Marbellous“

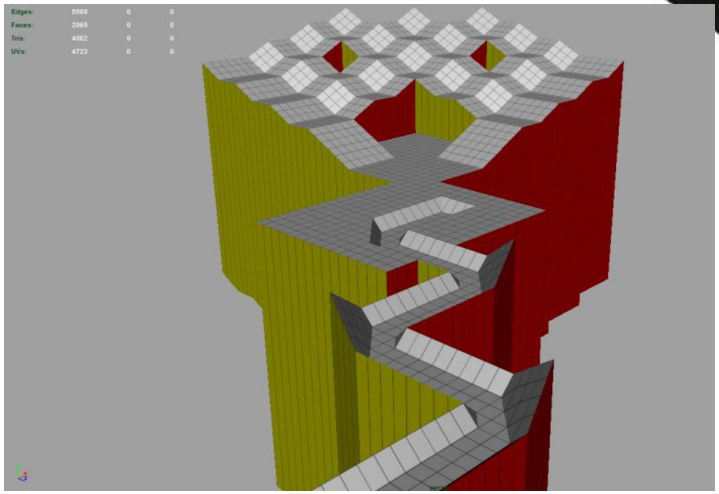
- Clone of „Marble Madness“ (1984)
- Roll a marble through a maze

Ball Physics

- Apply force based on key inputs
- Bounce off off the level geometry
- (Fall from too high)

Level

- Provided as a mesh
- „2D in 3D“



Physics gone wrong…

Skyrim

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2UDHkTITMk

Skate 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaUR6u8nHoM

Assassin‘s Creed

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyovOrA64B8

Crysis

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG5qDeWHNmk

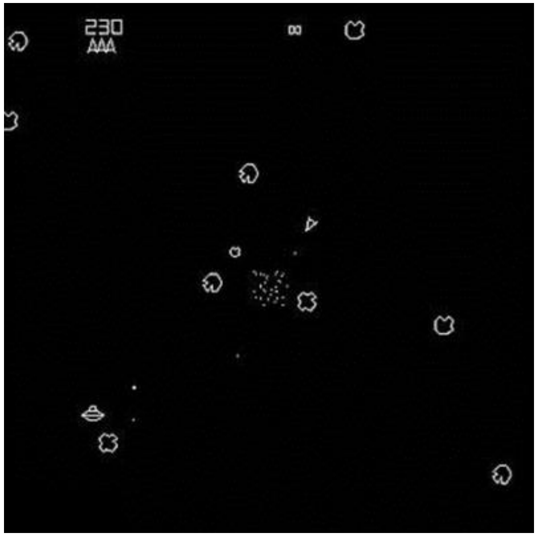
Physics History

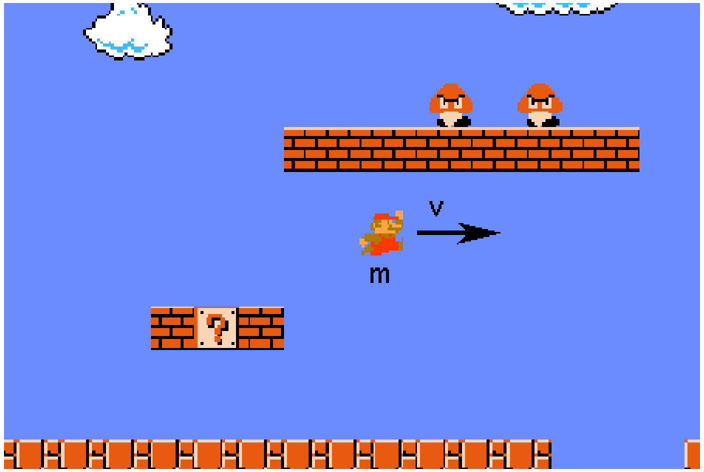
Special-Purpose Physics

- Like the games, built for one purpose/game
- E.g. Asteroids, Marble Madness, …

Built for enjoyment and good gameplay feeling

- Physical accuracy not important
- E.g. Mario’s momentum and friction





Physics History

3D Physics

- Now more important to get realistic feel
- Started out with solutions developed in-house
- E.g. Trespasser (1998), own engine

Ragdoll Physics

- Physical Simulation for articulated bodies
- Previously only for unconcious characters
- Now mixed with forward kinematics

General-Purpose Physics

Libraries – Re-usable for different games

- Bullet
- Box2D
- …

Hardware Acceleration

- Nvidia Physx
  - Uses CUDA General-Purpose GPU Calculations
  - E.g. for particle systems

Newtonion Physics

Isaac Newton
1643 - 1727

Newton’s three laws

I. **Every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it.**

II. **The relationship between an object's mass m, its acceleration a, and the applied force F is F = ma. Acceleration and force are vectors (as indicated by their symbols being displayed in slant bold font); in this law the direction of the force vector is the same as the direction of the acceleration vector.**

III. **For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.**

Law #1

Every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it.

Examples of forces

- Gravity
- Drag
- Explosions
- …

→ **If we have an object that is just floating in space, simulation is very easy**

→ Just continue with the same velocity in the same direction

Law #2

The relationship between an object's mass m, its acceleration a, and the applied force F is F = ma. Acceleration and force are vectors (as indicated by their symbols being displayed in slant bold font); in this law the direction of the force vector is the same as the direction of the acceleration vector.

Mass m

- Measures the mass, not the weight
- The property that resists changes in linear or angular velocity

Acceleration a

- Measure of the change of velocity

Force m

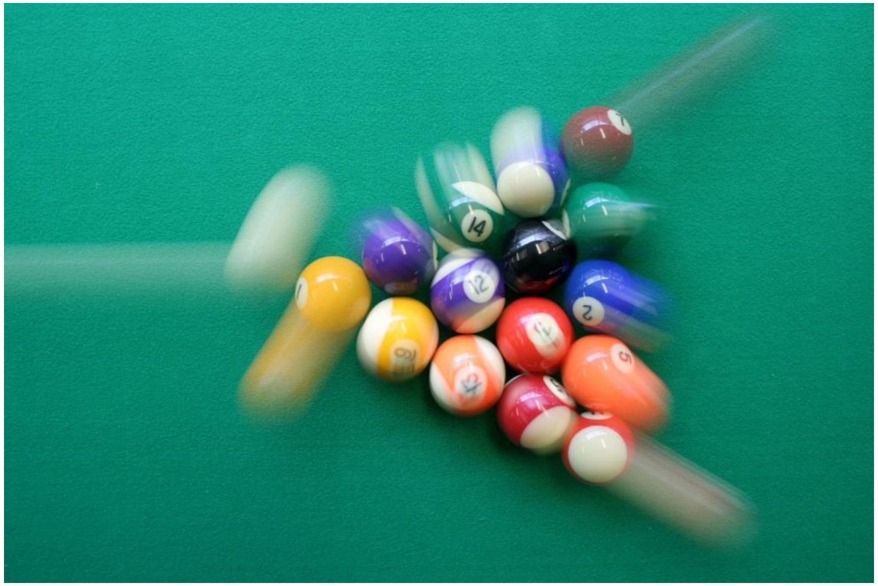
Law #3

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

We need to take care of this when we are simulating collisions

- Collision Detection
- Collision Response

→ This is where the fun begins ;-)

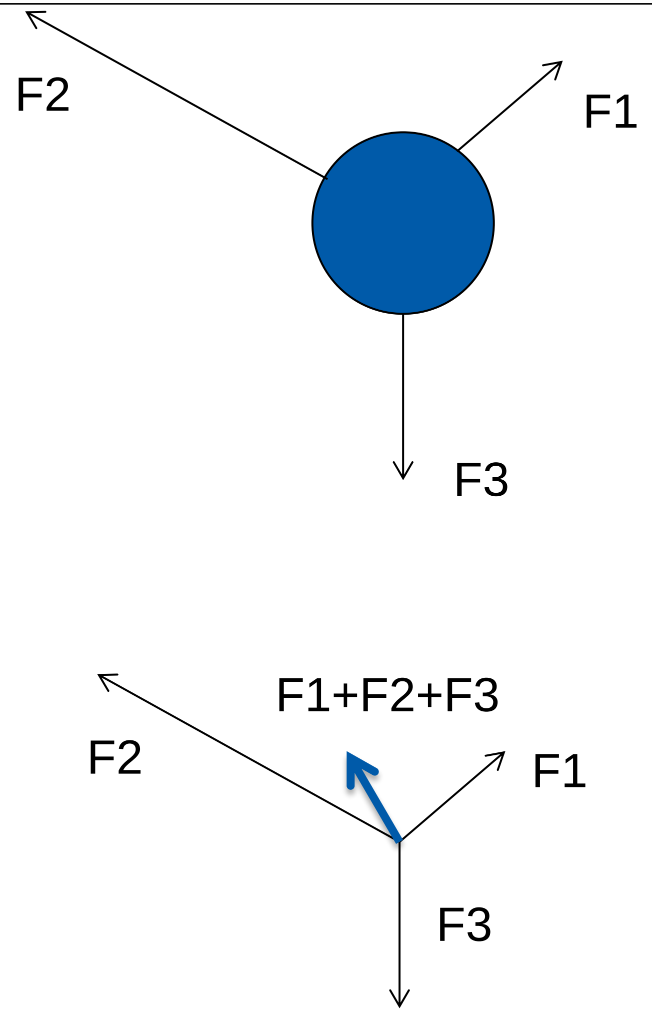


D‘Alamberts Prinicple

Forces being applied to an object add up (Vector sums)

Will save us computational time and make code more readable

- Calculating the effect of each force individually
  - Vs
- Accumulating forces and calculating the effect of the sum of the forces



Particle Systems

Particle

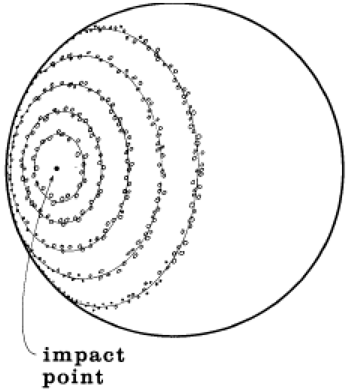
- Infinitisemally small object

→No need to calculate rotations, forces off-center

→No volume

Origins

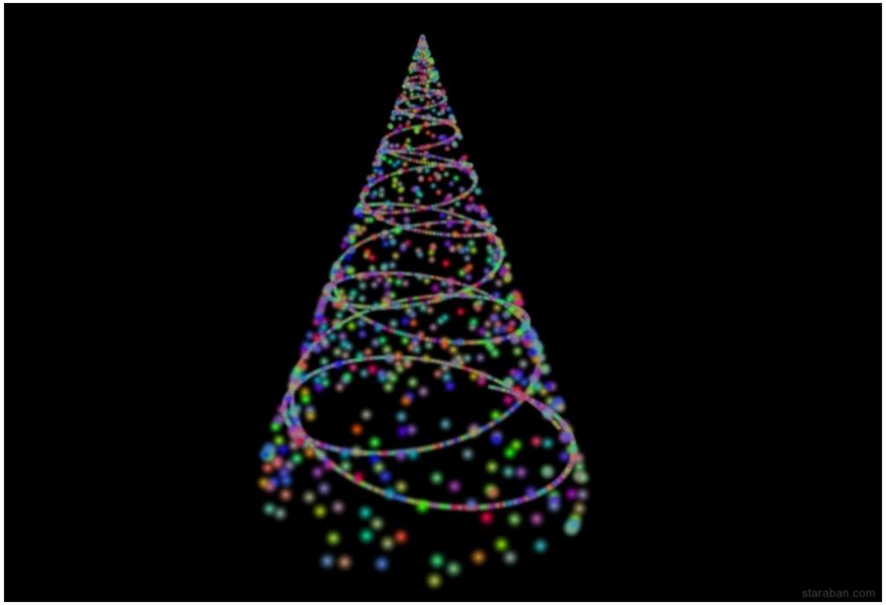
- William T. Reeves: „Particle Systems A Technique for Modeling a Class of Fuzzy Objects” (1983
- Worked on “Star Trek 2 – The Wrath of Khan”



Particle Systems

Use in Games today

- Gaseous effects
  - Fire
  - Smoke
  - Gasses
- Explosions
- Atmospheric effects



Basis for advanced techniques

- Cloth simulation
- Hair simulation
- Fluid simulation

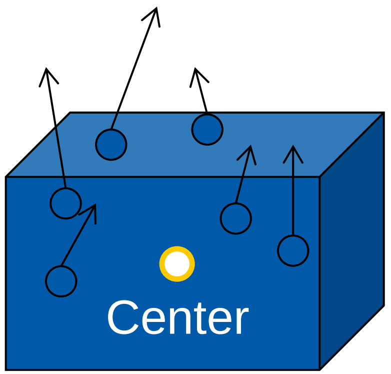
Particle Systems

Emitter

- Geometric shape in which the particles are spawned
- Spheres
- Boxes
- Complex polyhedra (meshes)
- Planes
- …

Emission Control

- Position (on faces, vertices, edges, inside the volume, …)
- Random positioning of the emitted particles
- Number of particles
- Initial velocity
- Other particle properties



Example – Particle systems shaping objects

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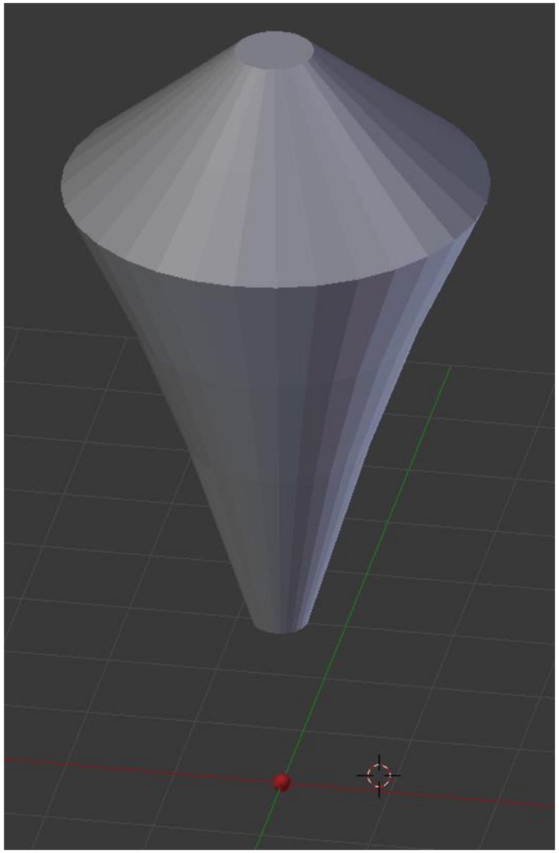
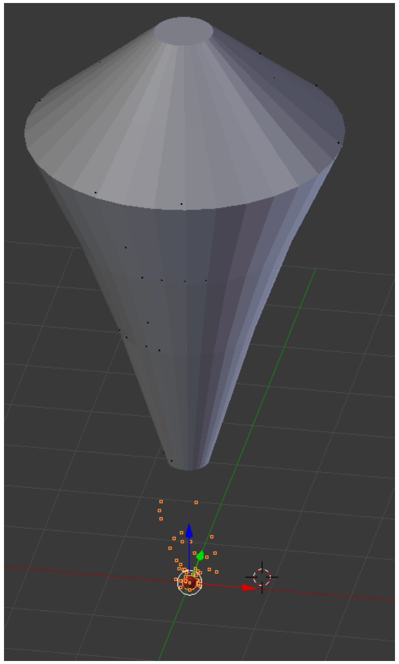
Goal: Render an amorphous/gaseous “alien”

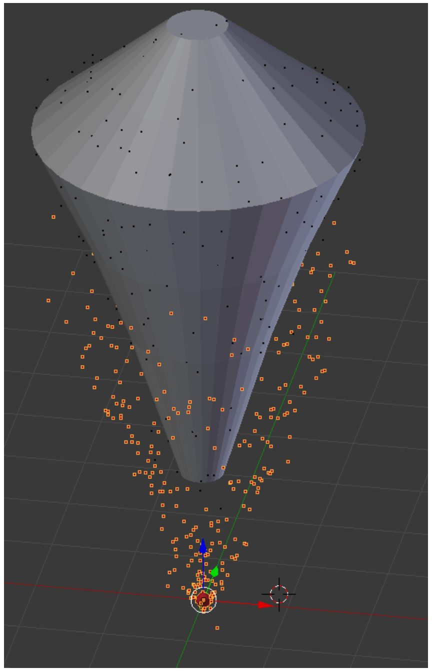
Two particle systems

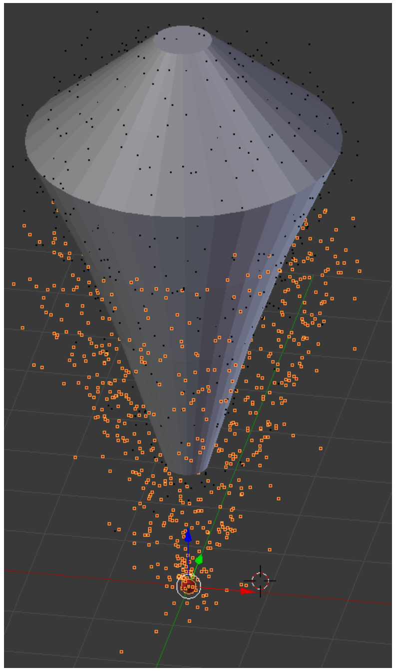
- One emits particles that are rendered, no gravity
- One emits invisible particles
  - From the shape of the mesh
  - No velocity, no gravity
  - Brownian motion
  - Act as attractors for the other particles



Example contd.







Example contd.

Particle system control parameters

Initial position

- Jittering – amount of randomness

Spawn rate

- The rate itself
- Changes over time
- All at once, over a certain time, continuuously, maximal number of particles, …

Initial direction & velocity

- Direction (straight up, sidewards, …)
- Velocity

Gravity

Particle system control parameters

Other forces
- Wind
- Player interaction
- …

Time to live

2nd and further levels
- Spawn new particles at the end of the life cycle
- E.g. used for fireworks

Animation
- Control shape, size, transparency, sprite or any other parameter over time

Rendering Particles

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Billboards

- Textures with (alpha) textures
- Simple geometry (can be instanced)

Rotating the particles to the camera

- Use the inverse of the view matrix
- View matrix is usually Translation and Rotation
- We only care about the rotation part
  - → Orthogonal matrix, can be inverted by transposing

Depth-Sorting the particles

- Use the transformed z-value of the particle
- Sometimes not necessary – can be a performance setting

Trails

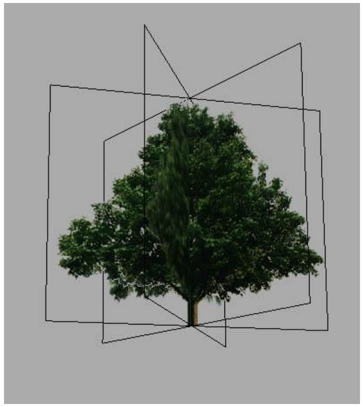
Types of Billboards

Quads

- Oriented towards the camera
  - In all directions (e.g. particles)
  - Only in one axis (e.g. vertical objects such as trees)

Several quads

- Placed around central axes
- E.g. for trees, bushes (vertical)
- Or beams (along the central axis)
- Not oriented towards the camera → one side always visible to a certain degree



Particle Properties by Reeves

(1) initial position,

(2) initial velocity (both speed and direction),

(3) initial size,

(4) initial color,

(5) initial transparency,

(6) shape,

(7) lifetime

Example: Fire

Gravity: **Little to none (fire moves upward)**

Lifetime: **Such that the flames do not rise unrealistically high**

Emission: **Continuously**

Texture: **Simple texture with alpha (to get round look)**

Tint

- Control parameter that can be animated over the lifetime of the particle
- Color value
  - Simple case: Color 1 at birth, Color 2 at death
  - More complicated cases: Provide intermediate key colors
- Supply to shader via a uniform
  - Discard the rgb values of the texture
  - Write the tint-color as rgb and use alpha from the texture

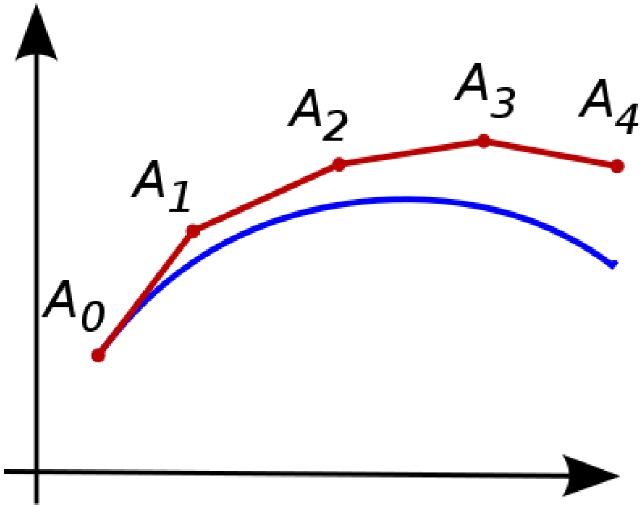
Integration for particles

We need to simulate the effect of forces on the particles

Closed solution not tractable for real-time interaction and especially player interactions

Numerical integration

- Simplest approach: Euler integration



Apply Newton‘s second law

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Newton‘s second law:

$$F = m \cdot a$$

$$a = \dot{v}$$

$$v = \dot{x}$$

$\boldsymbol{F}$: force
$\boldsymbol{m}$:mass
$\boldsymbol{a}$: acceleration
$\boldsymbol{v}$: velocity
$\boldsymbol{x}$: position

By transforming, this can be rephrased as a differential equation for the second derivative of the position, depending on the mass (assumed to be constant) and the force(s) acting on the object at time t.

$$\ddot{\boldsymbol{x}} = \frac{\boldsymbol{F}}{\boldsymbol{m}}$$

Solve the differential equation

Usually done numerically

$$\boldsymbol{t}: \boldsymbol{Previous\ time}$$
$$\boldsymbol{\Delta_t}: \boldsymbol{Timestep}$$
$$\mathbf{t} + \boldsymbol{\Delta_t}: \boldsymbol{Current\ time}$$

Easiest algorithm: Euler method

First step: Velocity

$$\ddot{x} = \dot{v} = \frac{F}{m}$$
$$v_{t+\Delta_t} = v_t + \frac{F}{m}\Delta_t$$

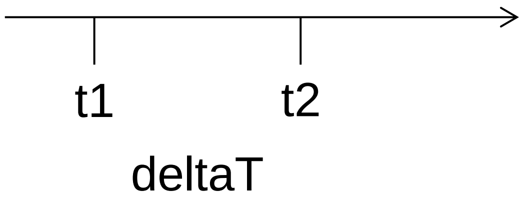
Second step: Position

$$x_{t+\Delta_t} = x_t + v_t\Delta_t$$

Time

With game‘s frame rate

- Update each frame
- Keep track of the last frame time
- Only an approximation of the next frame‘s duration
- Watch out for paused game (e.g. tabbed out of the window)



Independent

- Simulate independent of frame rate
- Sub-frame calculations → more exact
- Can adapt
  - If nothing happens, use large time step
  - Go to important moments (collisions)

Time source

High Precision Event Timer (HPET)

- Found in chipsets starting in 2005
- 64 bit counter
- Counts up with a frequency of at least 10 MHz
- OS sets up an interrupt with a certain frequency

Getting the time

- Divide the counter value by the frequency
- Watch out for large values (e.g. PC in standby over weeks)

Rigid Bodies

Solid bodies that do not deform

Added properties:

- Center of mass
- Rotation
- Angular velocity
- Angular acceleration
- Moment of inertia

Basic Terms

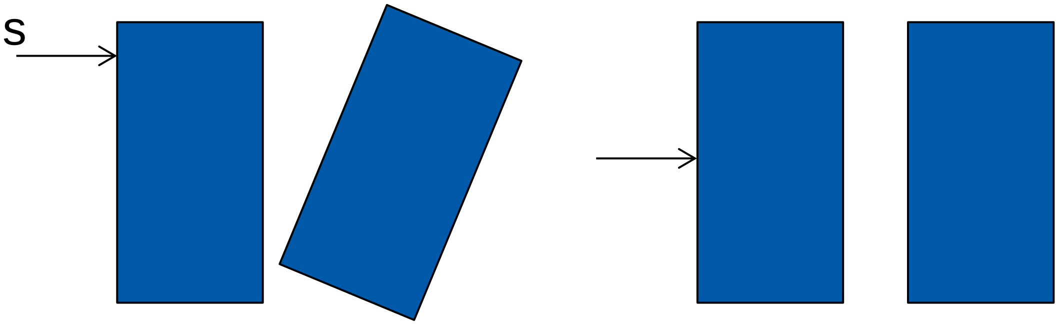
Mass: The property that resists changes in velocity

Center of mass

- Manually: Defined by artist
- Automatically: Assume uniform distribution
  - Integrate over the volume of the body

Force applied in line with the center of mass change only linear velocity

- Easiest way to handle collisions
- But not very realistic



Moment of Inertia

Captures the way in which a body resists changes to angular velocity

Think of non-uniform objects

- Pushing at different points leads to different results

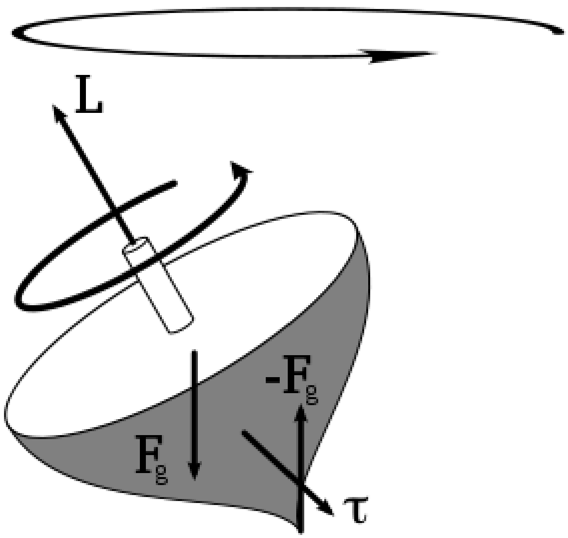
More in the next lecture

Torque

~ „Angular acceleration"

Forces that act off the center of balance

More info in next lecture



Collision Detection

Information we need to calculate a response:

- Was there a collision?
- What was the collision normal?
- How far are the objects interpenetrating?

Intersection Sphere-Sphere

Easiest intersection

The spheres intersect if the distance of the centers is less than the sum of the radii

Collision normal can be found as the direction of one sphere's center to the other

Penetration depth is the difference between the sum of the radii and the center's position

Intersection Plane-Sphere

Describe the plane as

- Normal
- Distance along this normal

d = n * c + D

Implicit formula

- Gives us a signed distance
- = 0 everywhere on the surface of the plane
- Distance to the plane everywhere else
- Sign indicates direction (with normal, in the opposite direction)

Collision Response

Separate objects

- In reality: Elastic collision → energy is absorbed
- Approximate using coeffiction of restitution
  - Float between 0 and 1 → indicates the amount of speed retained after the collision
  - COR = 1 → No energy lost

Immovable Objects

- Infinite mass
- Save as inverse mass
  - Needed for calculations this way already
  - Infinite mass → Inverse mass = 0

Collision between two objects

Calculate the collision normal

- Direction along which the two objects are colliding
- Plane-Sphere: Use the plane’s normal
- Sphere-Sphere (for now): Use the vector from one sphere’s center to the other’s center

Calculate the separating velocity

- Velocity with which the objects are colliding plus direction
- Careful with signs
- Velocity < 0: Colliding
- Velocity = 0: Resting/Sliding
- Velocity = > 0: Separating (Nothing to do, yay ☺)

Collision between two objects

Calculate a new separating velocity

- Using the coefficients of restitution and mass of the involved objects

Calculate an impulse that changes the velocity accordingly

- Instantaneous change in velocity
- In reality: Forces acting over very small times

Solve the interpenetration

- Move the objects so that they are not colliding any more
- Along the collision normal
- With the aspect ratio of the weights involved
- Immovable object (e.g. ground): Movable object has to move

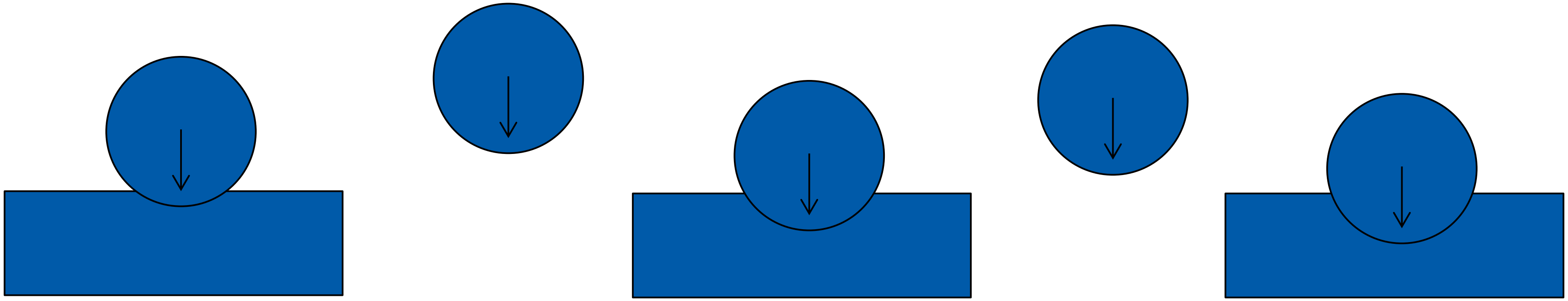
Apply the impulses

- = Adding to the current velocity

Problems – Interpenetration

Ignoring interpenetration

- Just calculate separating velocity
- Objects „hammer“ themselves into the ground
- On each collision, the object settles a bit more into the ground
- → Move the object out of the ground



Problems - Bouncing

Reality – Objects do not interpenetrate

- Deformation
- Energy shifted between the materials

Resting Contact

- Ground supports the resting object
- → Force that counters gravity

Ways to reduce/eliminate bouncing

- Add an additional impulse to counter the effect of gravity in the next frame
- Put objects to sleep when their energy goes low enough

Sleeping

In many games, most objects will be resting most of the time

- They only move when a script or a player action causes them to move

Identify when objects do not need to be simulated any more

- Start in a stable position (level design) and sleep initially
- Recognize that the energy is low enough

Wake up again

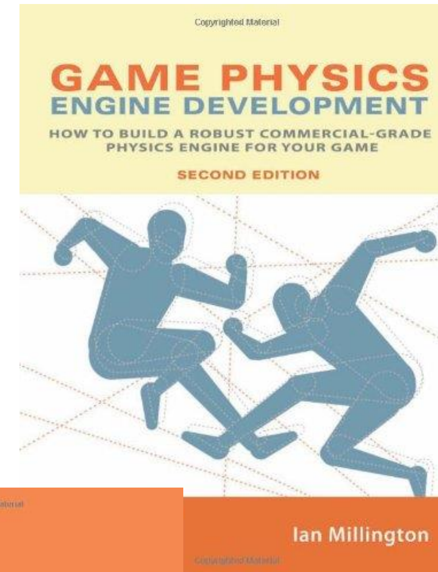
- Whenever the object takes part in the physical simulation
- Identify „Islands“
  - Groups of objects that should wake up together
  - E.g. the billard balls in the start configuration

Literature

“Game Physics Engine Development”, Ian Millington

“Real-Time Collision Detection”, Christer Ericson

Box2D blog http://box2d.org/

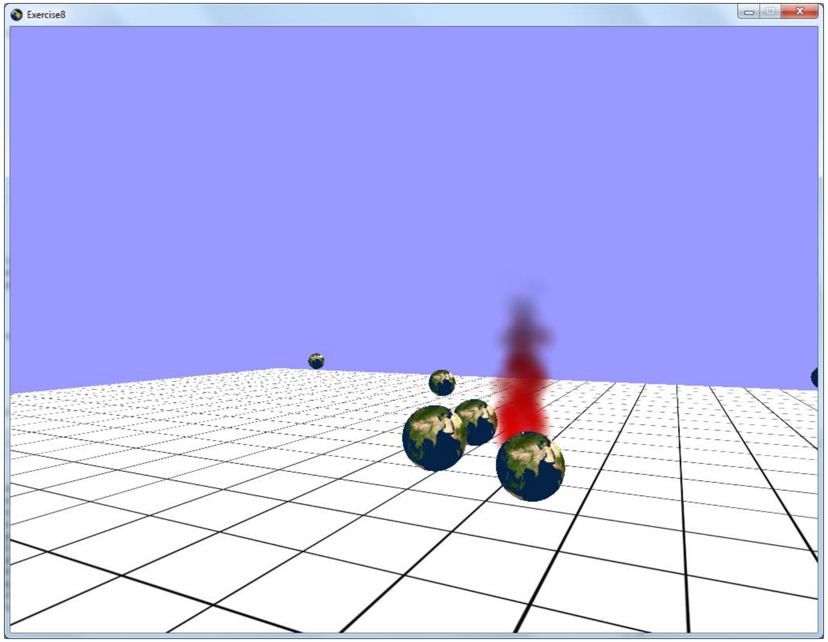


Exercise

Will be up after the lecture

Particle System

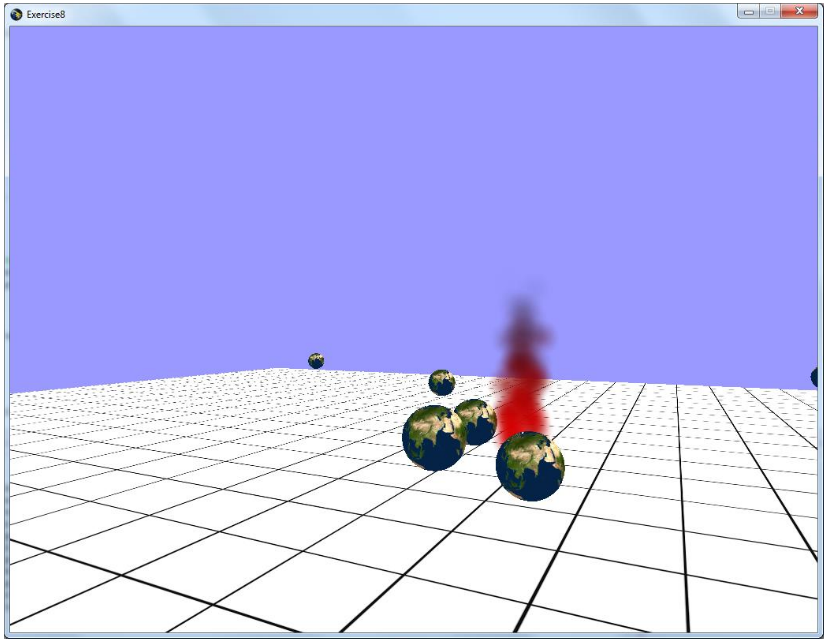
- Orient billboards to the camera
- Implement one new control parameter
  - Free choice of effect
    - Gas
    - Explosion
    - Rain
    - …
  - If you can't think of anything, use the fire example



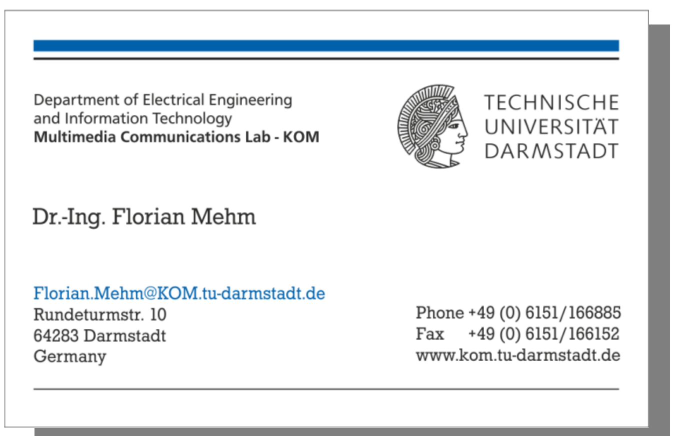
Exercise

Physical Simulation

- Spheres are shot from the camera using Space
- Very simple solution:
  - Bouncing of spheres is not fixed
  - Collision can go horribly wrong ;-)
- We will post a video of the level we are ok with in this exercise



Questions & Contact



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