

Fireball

 This feature is still **unpolished** but will be kept in the final version.

Overview

 **FlappyFireball** is the class of the fireball enemies. Its script handle **movement** and **culling**.

The fireball script has **3 responsibilities**:

- **Culling** the object when **out of bound**.
- **Setting up** particles and properties of the object.
- **Moving** the object according to **random movement types**.

A script having multiple responsibilities at this point is *fine*, but it might need to be changed later.

Readying the Fireball

 **Readying** is the step that executes **when all the node's children are present in scene**.

Variable Initialisation

These **variables** using `@onready` are **defined only when all the children are in the scene**.

Then **using the \$ symbol** before a children's name (or path) will **store them into the variable**.

```
@onready var particles = $root_particle
@onready var hitbox = $hitbox
@onready var face = $face
```

`_ready()`

This is the function called when the object is **ready**.

We call **three functions** that will be explained below.

- `generate_properties()`
- `propagate_scale()`
- `setup_particles()`

Also in this function there is a condition **setting the y velocity** to -60 if the object is a **free fall movement type**.

This is **bad** and will be **changed**.

```
func _ready():
    generate_properties()
    propagate_scale()
    setup_particles()

    # TODO: NOT HARDCODE THIS AND DO BETTER
    if movement == "fall_movement":
        velocity.y = -60
```

generate_properties()

 This function is **heavily hardcoded** and needs a **refactor**.

The below code **generates random values** for each property that **might be useful** for the fireball, such as:


- **movement**: the movement type of the fireball.
- **phase**: the offset of the movement (in case of **cosine wave**).
- **puls**: the higher it is, the higher the frequency of the **cosine wave** will be.
- **amp**: the amplitude of movement such as **cosine and triangular wave**.
- **wave_time**: the period of time it takes for a **triangular wave** to do one iteration.
- **scale_**: the scale of the fireball, **impact its speed and particle number**

```
func generate_properties():
    """
    Initialise the fireball's property randomly.
    """
    movement = movement_types.pick_random()

    phase = randf_range(0,2)
    amp = randi_range(50,120)
    puls = randi_range(2,8)
    wave_time = randf_range(1.2,2)

    scale_ = randf_range(1,1.75)
```

propagate_scale()

 This function **could need light refactor.** (*mostly as speed shouldn't be defined here*)

This function **changes according to scale:**

- **All particles scales** to be at minimum and maximum scale_.
- **Speed** which is inversely proportional to scale_.
- **Hitbox scale** which is equal to scale_.

```
func propagate_scale():  
    """  
    Make the fireball faster the smaller it is.  
    Also spread the scale to each particles.  
    """  
  
    # Bigger the scale slower the fireball  
    speed *= 1/scale_  
  
    # Apply scale to every particles  
    particles.scale_amount_min = scale_  
    particles.scale_amount_max = scale_  
    for particle in particles.get_children():  
        particle.scale_amount_min = scale_  
        particle.scale_amount_max = scale_  
    hitbox.scale = Vector2(scale_, scale_)
```

setup_particles()

 Once again, **slightly hardcoded.**

Set the amount of particles according to speed using the formula:

$$amount = \frac{speed}{10}$$

```

func setup_particles():
    """
    Increase the number of particles of the fireball according to its speed.
    """
    particles.amount = int(speed / 10)
    for particle in particles.get_children():
        particle.amount = particles.amount

```

Culling the fireball

fireball_culling()

If the fireball is **too far** off the left or bottom edges, **delete it**.

```

func fireball_culling():
    """
    When out of bound, remove the fireball from tree.
    """
    if position.x >= CULL_DISTANCE and position.y <= -CULL_DISTANCE: return

    queue_free()

```

Moving the fireball

Movement system

Our current system work with an array of **function names** from which **one will be chosen** and attributed to `movement` .

Then it is called by using `call(movement)` in `_physics_process(delta)` .

The code **checks** each frame **if the fireball is out of bounds** via `fireball_culling`.

```

var movement_types = [
    "cos_movement",
    "linear_movement",
    "triangle_movement",
    "fall_movement"
]

var movement: String

func _physics_process(delta):
    """
    Move the fireball according to its random movement pattern.
    """
    time += delta
    velocity.x = -speed

    call(movement)

    move_and_slide()
    fireball_culling()

```

Movement functions

Currently there are **four movement types**:

- **cos_movement()**: work in modular time (float) using `fmod(value, divisor)` .

$$\text{time} = \text{time} \bmod 2\pi$$

- **linear_movement()**: which is just a pass since nothing needs to be done.
- **triangle_movement()**: work in modular time (float) using `fmod()`

$$\text{time} = \text{time} \bmod \text{wavetime}$$

- **fall_movement()**: applies a vertical acceleration to fireball.

```

func cos_movement():
    """
    Moves the fireball in the style of a cosine graph.
    """
    time = fmod(time, PI*2)
    velocity.y = cos((time + phase) * puls) * amp

func linear_movement():
    pass

func triangle_movement():
    """
    Moves the fireball in the style of a triangle wave graph.
    """
    time = fmod(time, wave_time)
    velocity.y = sign(time - wave_time/2) * amp

func fall_movement():
    """
    Moves the fireball like a free fall.
    """
    # TODO: same, do not hardcode this and do better
    velocity.y += 0.7

```

Styling the Fireball

Make it so the face and the particles are pointed in the direction of the velocity.

```

func _process(delta):
    """
    Procedurally make the fireball look where it's going
    """
    particles.direction = velocity.normalized()
    for particle in particles.get_children():
        particle.direction = particles.direction

    face.look_at(position + velocity)

```