

Input

Keyboard and mouse handling

Overview

Origami Engine provides GameMaker-style input functions for keyboard and mouse. All input functions are global and can be called from any object's `step()` event.

Keyboard Functions

`keyboard_check()`

Checks if a key is currently held down.

Syntax: `keyboard_check(key)`

Arguments:

- `key` (number) - Virtual key constant

Returns: `boolean` - True if key is down

Example:

```
step(): void {
    // Continuous movement while holding key
    if (keyboard_check(vk_right)) {
        this.x += 4;
    }
    if (keyboard_check(vk_left)) {
        this.x -= 4;
    }
    if (keyboard_check(vk_up)) {
        this.y -= 4;
    }
    if (keyboard_check(vk_down)) {
        this.y += 4;
    }
}
```

Use case: Actions that should happen continuously while key is held (movement, shooting, etc.).

keyboard_check_pressed()

Checks if a key was **just pressed** this frame.

Syntax: keyboard_check_pressed(key)

Arguments:

- `key` (number) - Virtual key constant

Returns: boolean - True if just pressed

Example:

```

step(): void {
    // Jump only on initial press
    if (keyboard_check_pressed(vk_space)) {
        if (this.onGround) {
            this.vspeed = -10;
        }
    }

    // Toggle debug mode
    if (keyboard_check_pressed(vk_f3)) {
        this.debugMode = !this.debugMode;
    }
}

```

Use case: Single-action events (jumping, firing, toggling, menu navigation).

keyboard_check_released()

Checks if a key was **just released** this frame.

Syntax: `keyboard_check_released(key)`

Arguments:

- `key` (number) - Virtual key constant

Returns: `boolean` - True if just released

Example:

```

step(): void {
    // Charge jump while holding, release to jump
    if (keyboard_check(vk_space)) {
        this.jumpCharge++;
    }

    if (keyboard_check_released(vk_space)) {
        this.vspeed = -this.jumpCharge;
        this.jumpCharge = 0;
    }
}

```

Use case: Charge attacks, hold-to-aim mechanics.

Keyboard Constants

Letter Keys

```
vk_a, vk_b, vk_c, vk_d, vk_e, vk_f, vk_g, vk_h, vk_i, vk_j,  
vk_k, vk_l, vk_m, vk_n, vk_o, vk_p, vk_q, vk_r, vk_s, vk_t,  
vk_u, vk_v, vk_w, vk_x, vk_y, vk_z
```

Example:

```
if (keyboard_check(vk_w)) this.y -= 4;  
if (keyboard_check(vk_a)) this.x -= 4;  
if (keyboard_check(vk_s)) this.y += 4;  
if (keyboard_check(vk_d)) this.x += 4;
```

Number Keys

```
vk_0, vk_1, vk_2, vk_3, vk_4, vk_5, vk_6, vk_7, vk_8, vk_9
```

Arrow Keys

```
vk_left, vk_right, vk_up, vk_down
```

Example:

```
if (keyboard_check(vk_right)) this.image_xscale = 1;  
if (keyboard_check(vk_left)) this.image_xscale = -1;
```

Special Keys

```
vk_space      // Spacebar
vk_enter      // Enter/Return
vk_shift       // Shift
vk_control    // Ctrl
vk_alt        // Alt
vk_escape     // Esc
vk_backspace  // Backspace
vk_tab        // Tab
```

Function Keys

```
vk_f1, vk_f2, vk_f3, vk_f4, vk_f5, vk_f6,
vk_f7, vk_f8, vk_f9, vk_f10, vk_f11, vk_f12
```

Example:

```
if (keyboard_check_pressed(vk_f3)) {
    globalThis.debugMode = !globalThis.debugMode;
}
```

Mouse Functions

`mouse_check_button()`

Checks if mouse button is currently held.

Syntax: `mouse_check_button(button)`

Arguments:

- `button` (number) - Button constant (mb_left, mb_right, mb_middle)

Returns: `boolean` - True if button is down

Example:

```
step(): void {
    // Fire weapon while holding
    if (mouse_check_button(mb_left)) {
        this.shootTimer--;
        if (this.shootTimer <= 0) {
            await instance_create(this.x, this.y, 'obj_bullet');
            this.shootTimer = 10;
        }
    }
}
```

mouse_check_button_pressed()

Checks if mouse button was **just pressed**.

Syntax: `mouse_check_button_pressed(button)`

Arguments:

- `button` (number) - Button constant

Returns: `boolean` - True if just pressed

Example:

```
step(): void {
    // Single shot on click
    if (mouse_check_button_pressed(mb_left)) {
        await instance_create(this.x, this.y, 'obj_bullet');
    }

    // Right-click for special ability
    if (mouse_check_button_pressed(mb_right)) {
        this.useSpecialAbility();
    }
}
```

```
mouse_check_button_released()
```

Checks if mouse button was **just released**.

Syntax: `mouse_check_button_released(button)`

Arguments:

- `button` (number) - Button constant

Returns: `boolean` - True if just released

Example:

```
step(): void {
    // Charge shot
    if (mouse_check_button(mb_left)) {
        this.chargeAmount++;
    }
    if (mouse_check_button_released(mb_left)) {
        this.fireChargedShot(this.chargeAmount);
        this.chargeAmount = 0;
    }
}
```

Mouse Constants

```
mb_left      // Left mouse button
mb_right     // Right mouse button
mb_middle    // Middle mouse button (scroll wheel click)
```

Mouse Position

Global Variables

```
mouse_x // Mouse X coordinate in room  
mouse_y // Mouse Y coordinate in room
```

Example:

```
step(): void {  
    // Point at mouse  
    this.image_angle = point_direction(this.x, this.y, mouse_x, mouse_y);  
  
    // Move towards mouse  
    const dir = point_direction(this.x, this.y, mouse_x, mouse_y);  
    this.x += lengthdir_x(this.speed, dir);  
    this.y += lengthdir_y(this.speed, dir);  
}
```

Common Input Patterns

WASD Movement

```
step(): void {  
    const speed = 4;  
  
    if (keyboard_check(vk_w)) this.y -= speed;  
    if (keyboard_check(vk_s)) this.y += speed;  
    if (keyboard_check(vk_a)) this.x -= speed;  
    if (keyboard_check(vk_d)) this.x += speed;  
}
```

8-Direction Movement

```
step(): void {
    let xdir = 0;
    let ydir = 0;

    if (keyboard_check(vk_right)) xdir += 1;
    if (keyboard_check(vk_left)) xdir -= 1;
    if (keyboard_check(vk_down)) ydir += 1;
    if (keyboard_check(vk_up)) ydir -= 1;

    if (xdir !== 0 || ydir !== 0) {
        const dir = point_direction(0, 0, xdir, ydir);
        this.x += lengthdir_x(4, dir);
        this.y += lengthdir_y(4, dir);
    }
}
```

Platformer Controls

```
step(): void {
    const moveSpeed = 4;
    const jumpPower = -10;

    // Horizontal movement
    if (keyboard_check(vk_d)) {
        this.hspeed = moveSpeed;
        this.image_xscale = 1; // Face right
    } else if (keyboard_check(vk_a)) {
        this.hspeed = -moveSpeed;
        this.image_xscale = -1; // Face left
    } else {
        this.hspeed = 0;
    }

    // Jump
    if (keyboard_check_pressed(vk_space) && this.onGround) {
        this.vspeed = jumpPower;
    }
}
```

Mouse Aiming

```
step(): void {
    // Aim at mouse
    this.image_angle = point_direction(this.x, this.y, mouse_x, mouse_y);

    // Shoot on click
    if (mouse_check_button_pressed(mb_left)) {
        const bullet = await instance_create(this.x, this.y, 'obj_bullet');
        if (bullet) {
            bullet.direction = this.image_angle;
            bullet.speed = 10;
        }
    }
}
```

Click to Move

```
private targetX: number = 0;
private targetY: number = 0;
private moving: boolean = false;

step(): void {
    // Set target on click
    if (mouse_check_button_pressed(mb_left)) {
        this.targetX = mouse_x;
        this.targetY = mouse_y;
        this.moving = true;
    }

    // Move towards target
    if (this.moving) {
        const dist = point_distance(this.x, this.y, this.targetX, this.targetY);
        if (dist > 2) {
            const dir = point_direction(this.x, this.y, this.targetX, this.targetY);
            this.x += lengthdir_x(4, dir);
            this.y += lengthdir_y(4, dir);
        } else {
            this.moving = false;
        }
    }
}
```

Drag Objects

```
private dragging: boolean = false;
private dragOffsetX: number = 0;
private dragOffsetY: number = 0;

step(): void {
    // Start dragging
    if (mouse_check_button_pressed(mb_left)) {
        const dist = point_distance(this.x, this.y, mouse_x, mouse_y);
        if (dist < 20) {
            this.dragging = true;
            this.dragOffsetX = this.x - mouse_x;
            this.dragOffsetY = this.y - mouse_y;
        }
    }
}

// While dragging
if (this.dragging) {
    this.x = mouse_x + this.dragOffsetX;
    this.y = mouse_y + this.dragOffsetY;
}

// Stop dragging
if (mouse_check_button_released(mb_left)) {
    this.dragging = false;
}
```

Shoot Cooldown

```
private shootCooldown: number = 0;  
private readonly SHOOT_DELAY = 10; // 10 frames  
  
step(): void {  
    // Decrease cooldown  
    if (this.shootCooldown > 0) {  
        this.shootCooldown--;  
    }  
  
    // Shoot if cooldown ready  
    if (keyboard_check(vk_space) && this.shootCooldown === 0) {  
        await instance_create(this.x, this.y, 'obj_bullet');  
        this.shootCooldown = this.SHOT_DELAY;  
    }  
}
```

Input Buffering

Handle input more reliably:

```
private jumpBuffer: number = 0;
private readonly BUFFER_FRAMES = 5;

step(): void {
    // Buffer jump input
    if (keyboard_check_pressed(vk_space)) {
        this.jumpBuffer = this.BUFFER_FRAMES;
    }

    // Decrease buffer
    if (this.jumpBuffer > 0) {
        this.jumpBuffer--;
    }

    // Jump if buffered and on ground
    if (this.jumpBuffer > 0 && this.onGround) {
        this.vspeed = -10;
        this.jumpBuffer = 0;
    }
}
```

Combo System

Detect button sequences:

```

private comboKeys: number[] = [];
private comboTimer: number = 0;
private readonly COMBO_WINDOW = 30; // 0.5 seconds

step(): void {
    // Decrease combo timer
    if (this.comboTimer > 0) {
        this.comboTimer--;
    } else {
        this.comboKeys = []; // Reset if too slow
    }

    // Record keypresses
    if (keyboard_check_pressed(vk_a)) {
        this.comboKeys.push(vk_a);
        this.comboTimer = this.COMBO_WINDOW;
        this.checkCombos();
    }

    if (keyboard_check_pressed(vk_s)) {
        this.comboKeys.push(vk_s);
        this.comboTimer = this.COMBO_WINDOW;
        this.checkCombos();
    }

    if (keyboard_check_pressed(vk_d)) {
        this.comboKeys.push(vk_d);
        this.comboTimer = this.COMBO_WINDOW;
        this.checkCombos();
    }
}

private checkCombos(): void {
    // Check for A-S-D combo
    if (this.comboKeys.length === 3 &&
        this.comboKeys[0] === vk_a &&
        this.comboKeys[1] === vk_s &&
        this.comboKeys[2] === vk_d) {
        this.specialMove();
        this.comboKeys = [];
    }
}

```

Common Issues

Input Not Working

Checklist:

- Using correct key constants? (`vk_space` , not `'space'`)
- Browser tab has focus?
- Input check is in `step()` method?
- Check console for JavaScript errors?

Keys Stick

Problem: Key stays "pressed" after releasing

Cause: Browser loses focus while key is down

Solution: Reset input state on window blur

```
window.addEventListener('blur', () => {
  // Reset all input when window loses focus
});
```

Diagonal Movement Too Fast

Problem: Moving diagonally is faster than cardinal directions

Cause: Adding both X and Y speeds without normalization

Solution: Use `point_direction()` for normalized movement

```
let xdir = 0;
let ydir = 0;

if (keyboard_check(vk_right)) xdir += 1;
if (keyboard_check(vk_left)) xdir -= 1;
if (keyboard_check(vk_down)) ydir += 1;
if (keyboard_check(vk_up)) ydir -= 1;

if (xdir !== 0 || ydir !== 0) {
    const dir = point_direction(0, 0, xdir, ydir);
    this.x += lengthdir_x(4, dir); // Normalized to 4 pixels
    this.y += lengthdir_y(4, dir);
}
```

Next Steps

- [04-gameobjects.md](#) - Using input in GameObjects
 - [40-common-patterns.md](#) - More input patterns
 - [24-api-input.md](#) - Complete input API
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