

[http://www.fuzzybinary.com/articles/IntroToArchitecture.ppt#256,1,Intro to Game Architecture](http://www.fuzzybinary.com/articles/IntroToArchitecture.ppt#256,1,Intro%20to%20Game%20Architecture)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTUe8eGzow8&feature=related>

# Game Architecture



<http://www.daftcartoons.co.uk/Cartoon%20Library/About/Architects.jpg>

# 3D Game Engines: Architecture

D.H. Eberly: 3D Game Engine Architecture J. Gregory: Game Engine Architecture
--

- Book presents the basics for developing an architecture
- Software snippets to quickly realize something

# Software Architecture

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/de-de/library/ee658098.aspx>

Bass, Clements, and Kazman *Software Architecture in Practice (2nd edition)*

“The software architecture of a program or computing system is the structure or structures of the system, which comprise **software elements**, the **externally visible properties** of those elements, and the **relationships** among them.

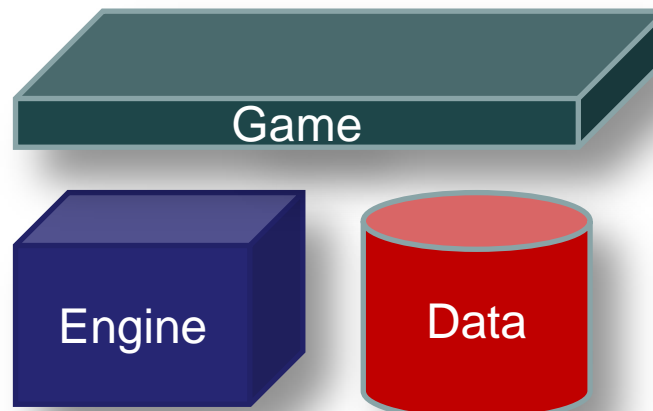
Architecture is concerned with the public side of interfaces; private details of elements—details having to do solely with internal implementation—are not architectural.”

Architecture =

1. externally visible properties and
2. relationships between  
elements of the software system

# Motivation: Why Game Engines?

- Game Engines allow **simplifying** the development of games
  - **Typical routines and algorithms** are already available as library
  - Ideal case:
    - Include only data to finalize a game
    - Not achievable since often engines used for multiple genres and only routines that are shared by them are implemented
      - Each genre requires it's own supplement of routines



# What is a Game Engine

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_game\\_engines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_game_engines)

- Important issue for game development: attachment of
  - Development tools (Editors etc.)
  - Reusable software components („middleware“)
    - Data driven development – change only data, not code
- Platform independent
- Component based architecture
  - E.g. physics engines can be replaced by others (Havok vs. physX)

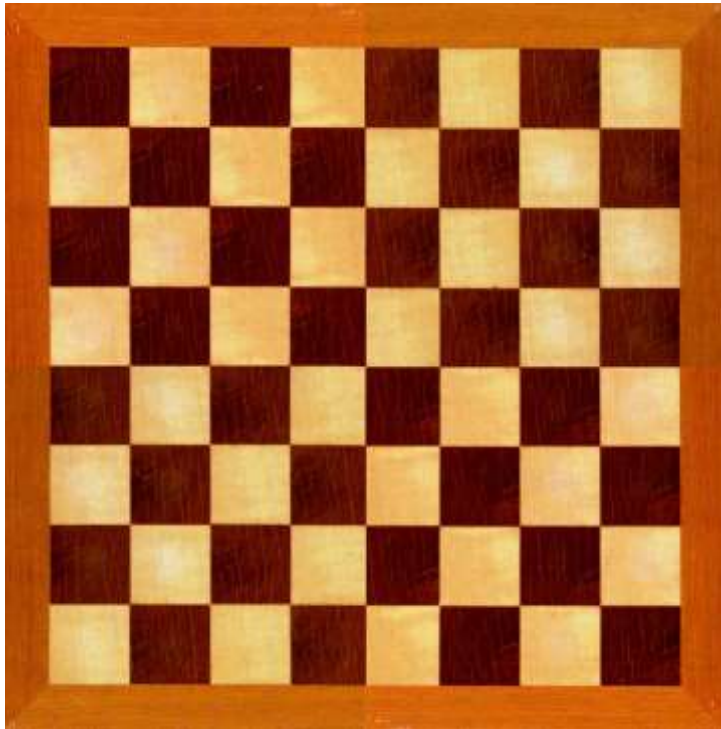
# Game Engines

- Open Source
  - OGRE/Yake, Crystal Space, Irrlicht, The Nebula Device2 , Panda 3D, NeoAxis, Torque 3D
    - not always complete
  - Doom, Doom2, Quake, Quake2
    - older, complete
- Commercially
  - Doom 3, Quake 3, Half Life, Half Life 2, Unreal Tournament, Unreal Tournament 2004, Unreal 3.
    - contains all necessary features
    - Quake 3: source code open

# Example: Chess

- Let us assume that we want to build a chess game
- What do we need?

# Graphical Elements



<http://www.sjgames.com/proteus/img/chessboard.jpg>



<http://www.chessncrafts.com/brass-chess-pieces/images/3466s1.jpg>



# Physics: Pieces Move and Collide



<http://elder-geek.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/battle-vs-chess.jpg>

# AI: Select Best Next Move



Download from  
**Dreamstime.com**

This watermarked image is for previewing purposes only



12269770



Fabian Kerbusch | Dreamstime.com

<http://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/3d-chess-strategy-horse-12269770.jpg>

# How to Save Time

- Use available elements to build game
  - this is a game engine...
- .... and just program what is not yet there...

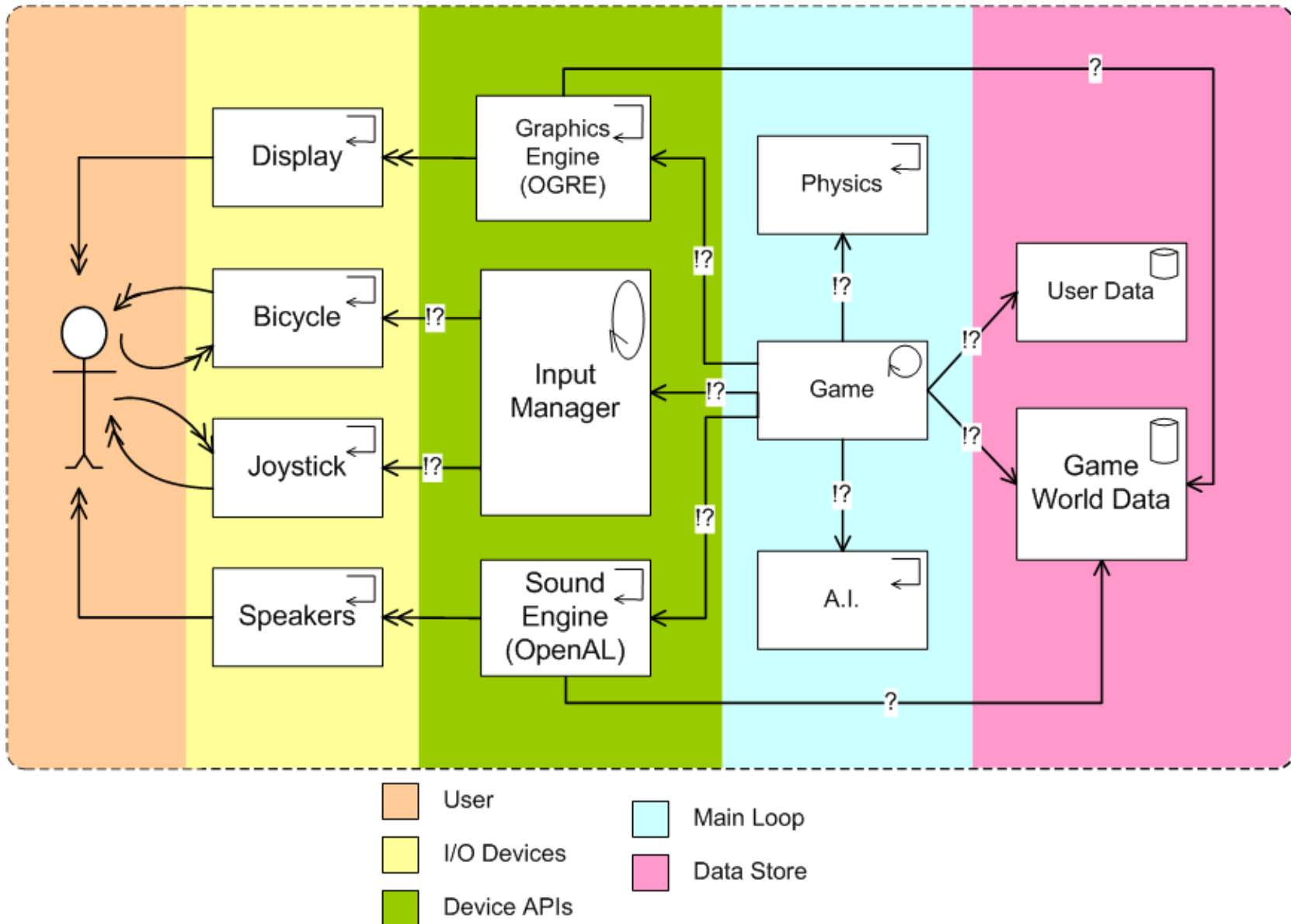
# Elements

- what is behind....



[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-qvm\\_rIF45SI/TsMXq-6EjLI/AAAAAAAAAGw/1Jd9zRPf7Fg/s1600/behind-the-curtain.jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-qvm_rIF45SI/TsMXq-6EjLI/AAAAAAAAAGw/1Jd9zRPf7Fg/s1600/behind-the-curtain.jpg)

# Example



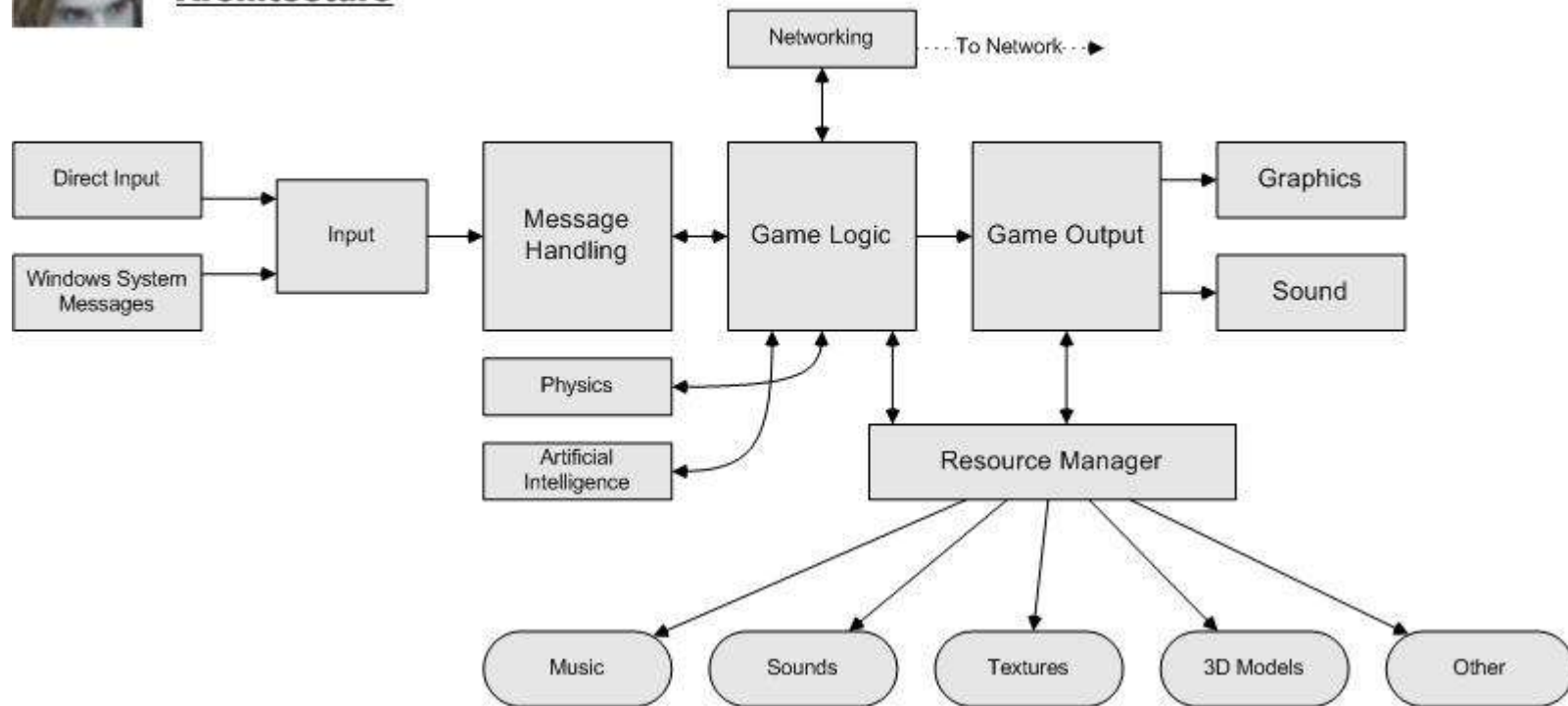
# Discussion

- What do we learn about this architecture?
  - Layered: access only to layers above and below
    - However, OGRE and OpenAL do not follow this line
    - Game: complex communication within the same layer
  - Advantage:
    - clear interfaces and responsibilities
    - reduced complexity
    - modular

# Example



## **Standard Game Architecture**



<http://www2.fiu.edu/~jmarr002/html/images/Diagrams/BasicGameArchitecture.jpg>

# Discussion

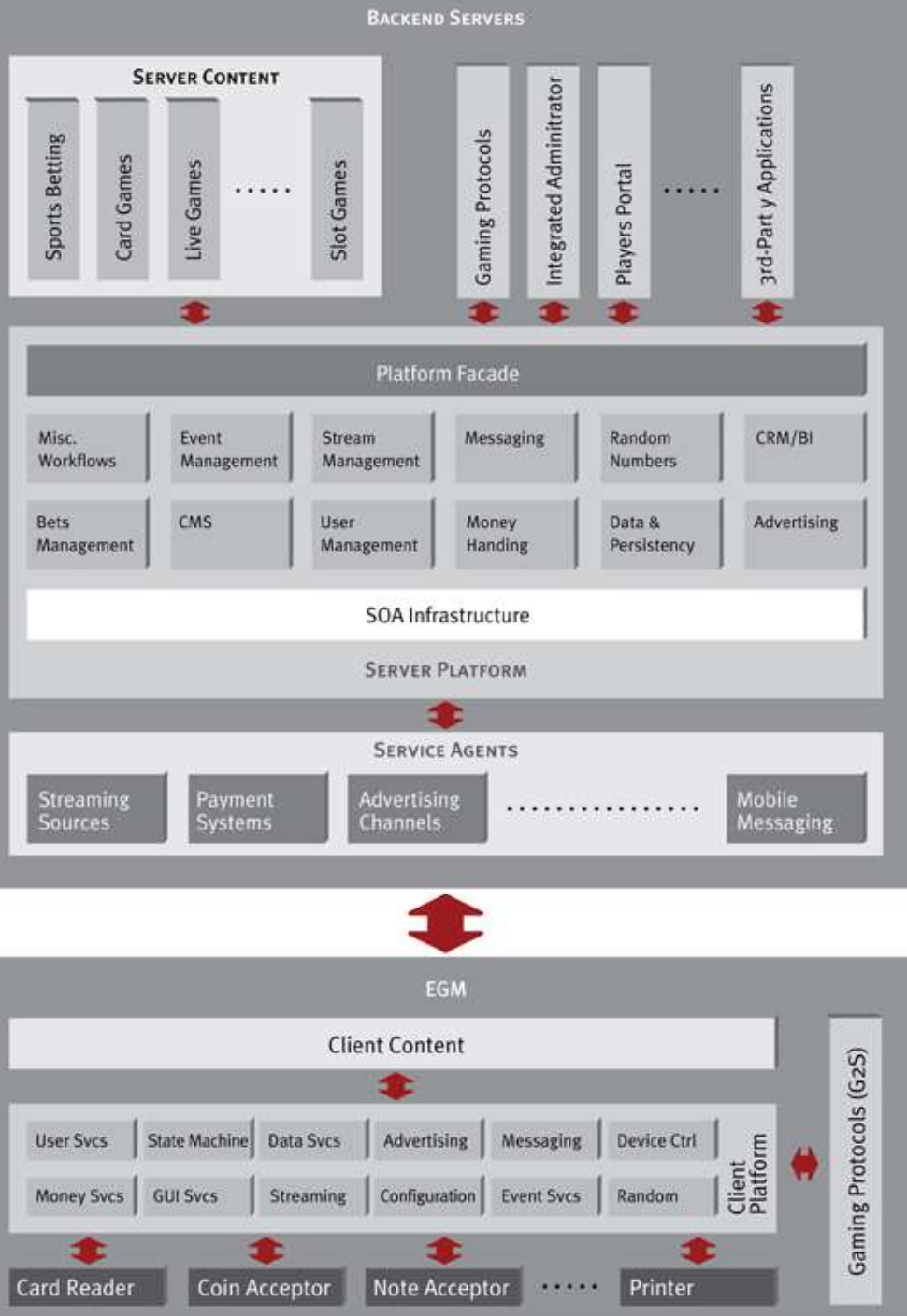
- Separation between input and output
  - different devices
- Game logic is now central node



# Example

more than a game, beyond our scope....

[http://gaming.comtrade.com/images/Gaming\\_Platform\\_Architecture.jpg](http://gaming.comtrade.com/images/Gaming_Platform_Architecture.jpg)



# Discussion

- good Game Engines have the following properties
  - extremely **modular** and **extendable**
  - **low complexity** to that it can learned easily
  - contains **all relevant functionality** that is needed in a game (no extra algorithms are required)

# Discussion: Flexibility

1. Game Engines are consisting of sub-engines that can be exchanged
  - Graphics
  - Physics
  - etc.
2. Game Engines use special classes that make
  - communication
  - resource control
  - configurationeasier
3. Game Engines provide ways so that non-programmers can easily work with them
  - configuration files
  - scripting

# Discussion: Simplicity

- Game Engines try to reduce the code that has to be provided for a new game to a minimum so that all essential functions are available
- Game Engines have a class structure that allows easy configuration of components
  - Discussion s. later

# Internal Components

- Graphics
- Collision/Physics
- Animation/AI
  - Comprising Path Planning
- Audio/Video
- Additional elements:
  - Interfacing to input devices
  - Networking
  - Scripting

# Game Engines

- Develop engines for as many games as possible but
  - Mostly restricted to a single genre – see first lecture where this was discussed
  - See list of games and engines
- Genre requirements
  - First person shooters
    - Fast rendering, physics based animation, AI
  - Platformers
    - Dynamic world, good animation, camera views
  - Fighting games
    - Animation database, accurate user input, character animation
  - Racing games
    - Level of detail rendering, rigid body physics (e.g. cars), evtl. deformations
  - Real-time strategy
    - Crowd simulation, evolving environment, AI

# Game Engines can be characterized by views

- Architectural or structural view
- Functional view
- Implementation view
- User view

# Architectural View

Own Engine

Game Engine API



Graphics  
Engine



Collision  
&  
Physics



Anima-  
tion



AI



Audio



Network  
and  
Multi-  
player



Core and  
Script



...



Hardware Abstraction Layer: DirectX, OpenGL

Hardware Layer – sound card, graphics card, ...



# Functional/ View

- Functional view
  - Game Engine
    - s.a.
  - Game Logic
    - Scripts, Byte-Code, DLL
    - Controlling game
    - Content
    - Users can modify game on this level
  - Game Art

# Implementation View

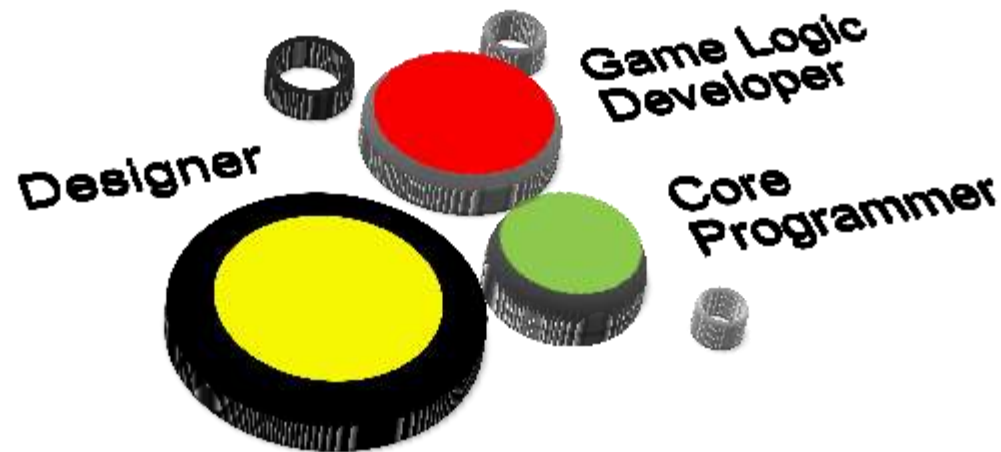
- Implementation View
- ([http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/~burkhard/Reports/2005\\_S1\\_AndrewGits.pdf](http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/~burkhard/Reports/2005_S1_AndrewGits.pdf))
  - Game Engine (.exe)
  - Game Code (.dll) or script (.xx)
  - Game Content (media)

# User View

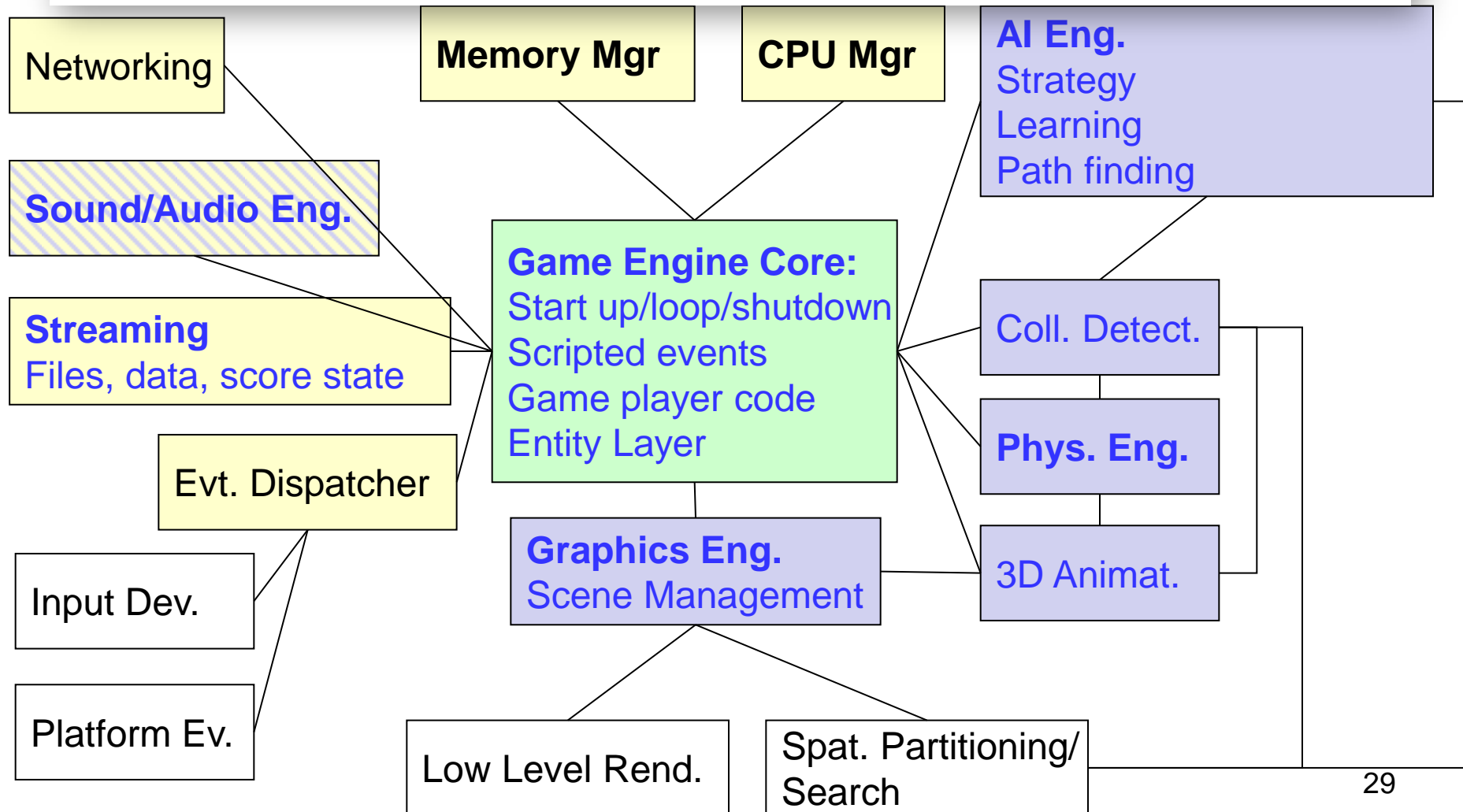
- Game Engine development
  - Engineers
- Game designers (small programming, scripting, script)
  - Game flow etc.
- Editors, graphics/animation etc.
  - Artists
- ... producers, publishers and studios, other staff

# Why is a computer game a good example of realizing complex software with little resources?

- Separation between
  - core code: mostly given by libraries (game engines)
  - scripted code: faster to develop than compiled code
  - data driven: can be done by users/designers



# Typical Structure of Game Architecture



# Discussing Architectures

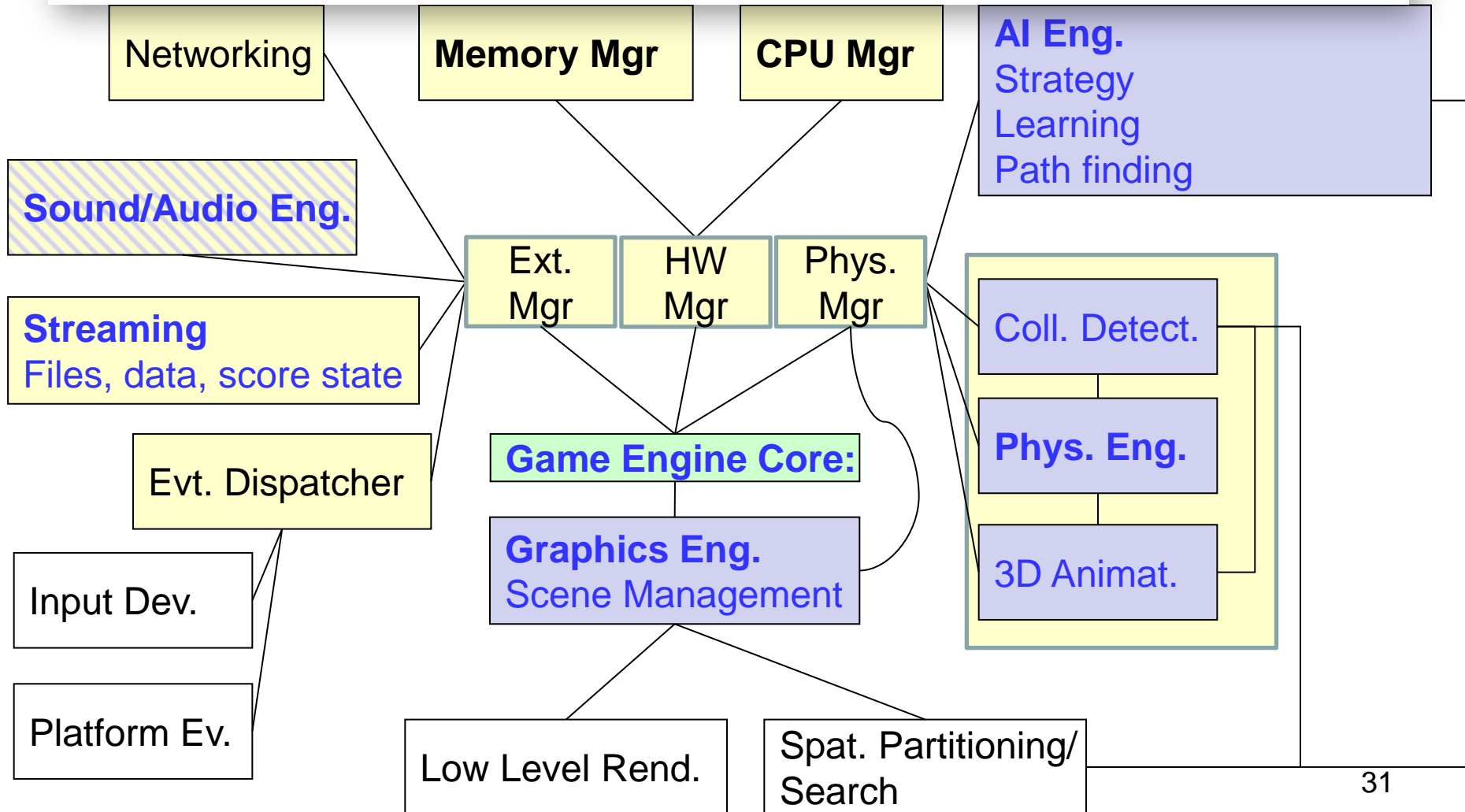
- Software architecture describes
  - elements of the software system
  - how they are integrated
  - how they fulfill the requirements
- In computer games, we have the problem of increasing complexity
  - reducing complexity is one of the main goals
  - this can be achieved by reducing the number of dependencies between the elements

**Managers**

**Engines**

other elements

# Improved



# Core Elements

- I. Support Systems
- II. Gameplay System
- III. Runtime Gameplay Foundation Systems
- IV. Architecture of Runtime Object Model



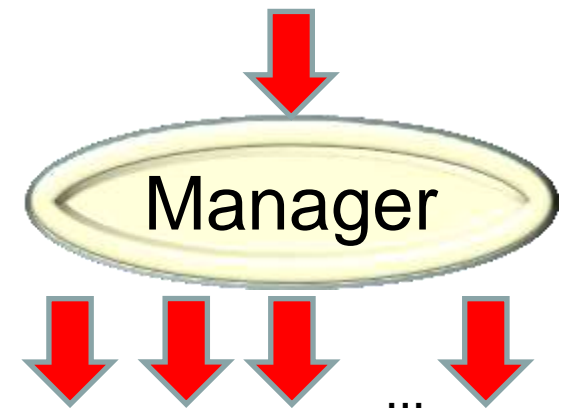
# I. Support Systems

- Support systems allow to simplify routine tasks
- Allow to maximize quality by using structured elements that have been proven useful in other games

# Support Systems

- Support Systems
  1. Manager Classes
  2. Controller Classes
  3. Message Passing System
  4. State Machines
  5. Mathematics System
  6. Scripting Engine
  7. Interfacing

# 1. Managers



- Role
  - coordinate parts and resources of game engine
- Pro
  - Hides complexity
    - multiple, different objects to be accessed but of no interest from game logic
    - complex handling of resources, internal part is highly specific and of no interest for the game logic
  - keeps flexibility
    - one location to change code if new objects are included or new management algorithms are implemented
- Con
  - additional indirection – costs a little performance
- Where:
  - coordinate resources and coordinate I/O elements

# Manager-Class

## Manager

...manage different objects and resources

- access over manager simplifies the structure of the game engine significantly!
- have typical **singleton structure**
  - exists only once in the program: centralized control
  - this guarantees that there is no conflict or misuse of managers
- for each type of resource in each case, a manager is responsible
  - in the general construction of a manager, the implementation of individual managers (derived) concentrate purely on their own issues.

# Singleton Design Pattern

from: <http://www.oodesign.com/singleton-pattern.html>

- Ensure that only one instance of a class is created.
- Provide a global point of access to the object.

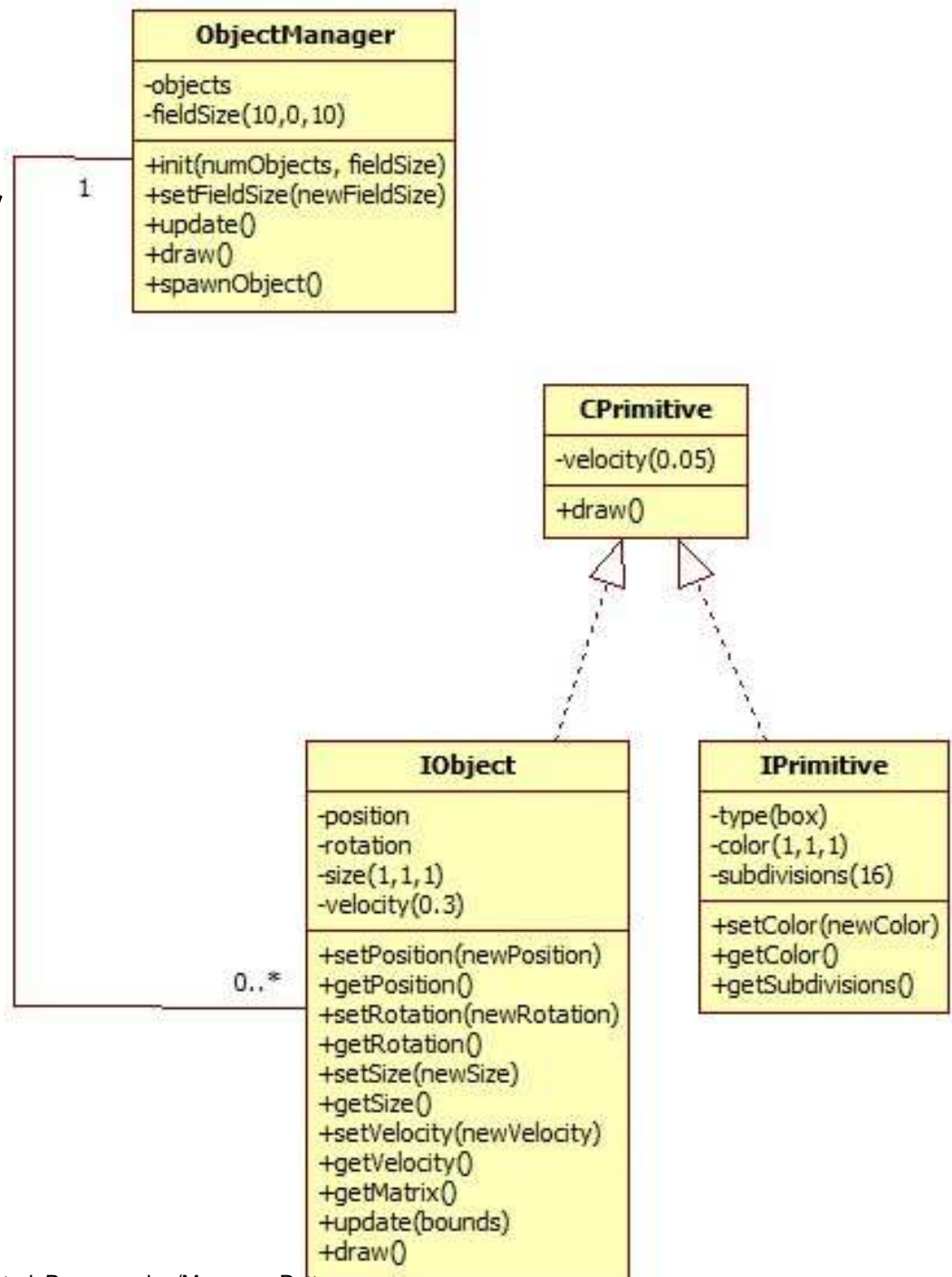
```
class Singleton
{
    private static Singleton instance;
    private Singleton()
    {
        ...
    }

    public static synchronized Singleton getInstance()
    {
        if (instance == null)
            instance = new Singleton();

        return instance;
    }
    ...
    public void doSomething()
    {
        ...
    }
}
```

# Example: Object Manager

one `ObjectManager` manages  
multiple `IObjects`

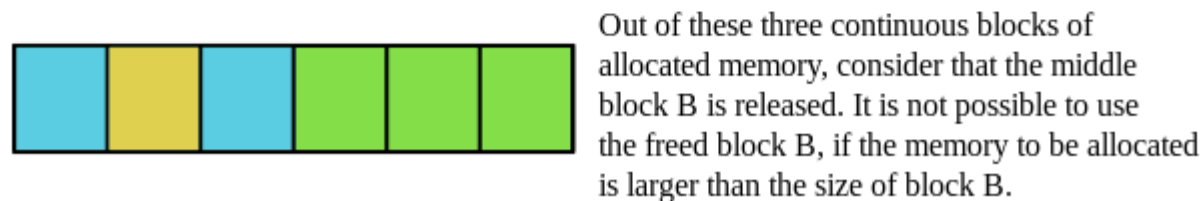
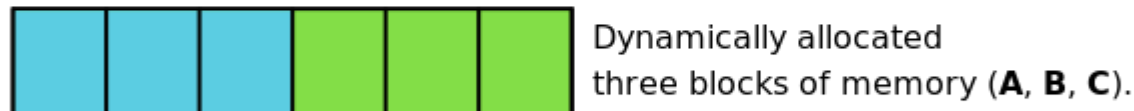


# Example: Memory Manager

s.a. [http://gamasutra.com/blogs/StewartLynch/20130520/192576/Anatomy\\_of\\_a\\_Memory\\_Manager.php](http://gamasutra.com/blogs/StewartLynch/20130520/192576/Anatomy_of_a_Memory_Manager.php)

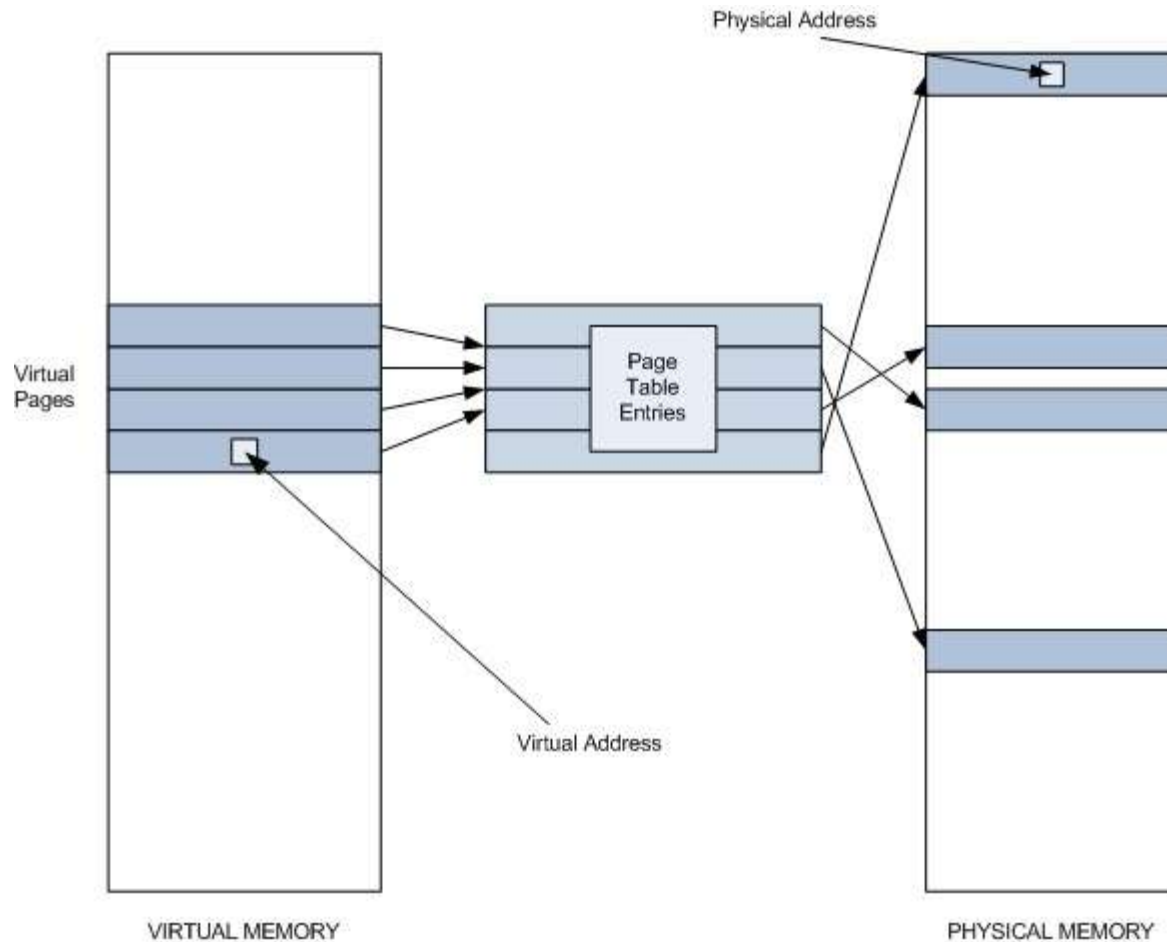
- Problem 1:
  - Request to allocate large block in memory
  - Problem: memory fragmented by allocation/free

## External fragmentation



# Example: Memory Manager

- Solution: use virtual instead of physical memory and reallocate entries

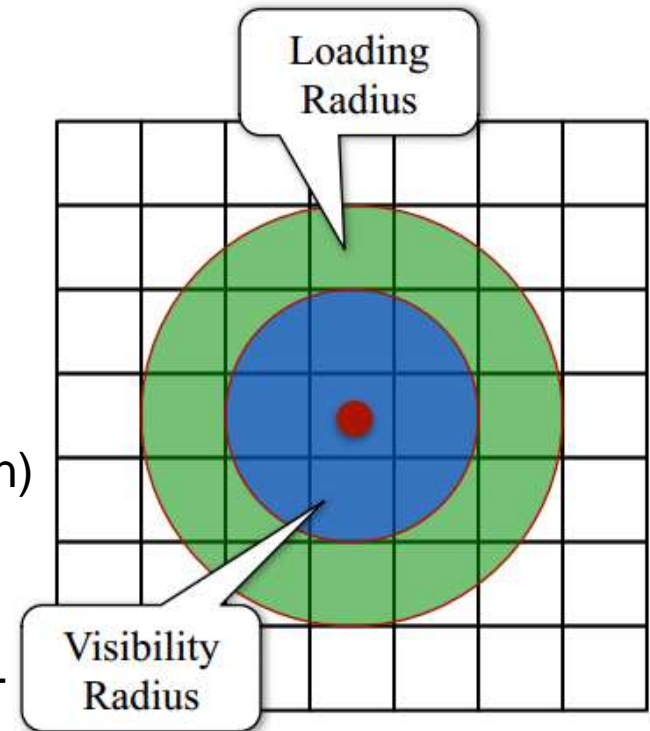




# Example: Memory Manager

<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/courses/CS4152/2013sp/sessions/09-MemoryManagement.pdf>

- Problem 2:
  - not enough free space for allocation
- Solution:
  - dynamic loading
    - keep only necessary data on main memory and push rest on hard disk
      - on demand
      - invisible for the request (allocation)
  - games:
    - often spatial coherency used
    - depends on game objects (game-specific)



## 2. Controllers

- are discussed when handling animation tasks..
  - they are responsible to handle animations
    - different animation techniques might be used
    - the user is selecting a certain type of animation and all non-necessary complexity behind the animation technique is hidden to simplify the interface to the user
  - animation techniques can thus be easily replaced by other, more realistic ones without code change

# Physics/Collision/AI

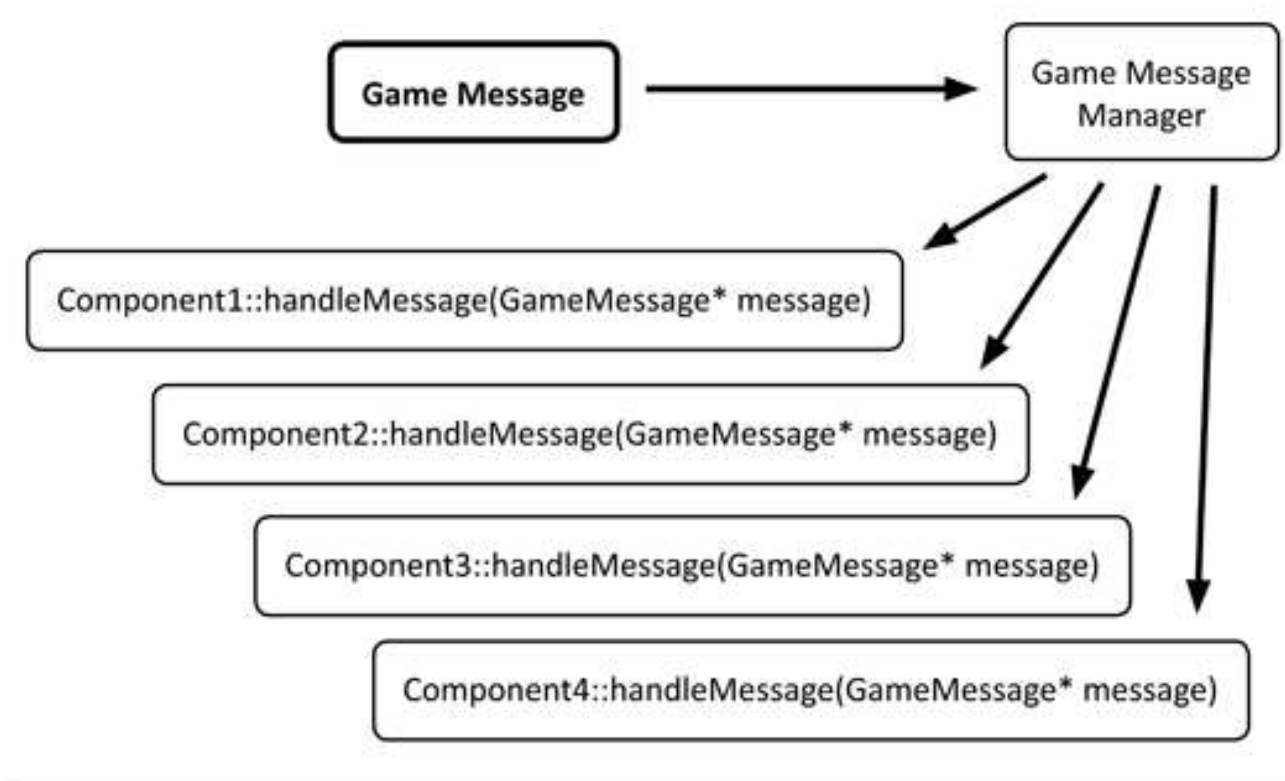
- managed by **manager classes**
  - used different algorithms depending on the situation
    - the manager has the task of selecting the appropriate algorithms
  - AI: different behaviors
    - be implemented by **controllers**
      - Replacing the controller enables a variety of behaviors
      - Controllers can be reused (details later)
        - » Factory pattern

# Example

- Physics simulation
  - simple parametric models
  - physical simulation with simple solvers
  - physical simulation with complex solvers
- A manager manages the controller, via keywords, you can select the various controllers and assign a default controller
- All controllers have the same interface to the outside so that they are interchangeable

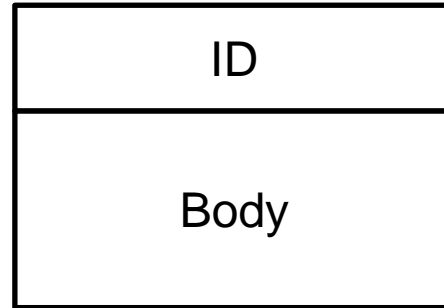
# 3. Messaging System

- Idea
  - coordinate communication between game objects



# Messaging System

- Message



- functions to be implemented:
  - sendMsg() – direct communication
  - a message board where to store messages and where to pick up messages
  - receiveMsg() – polling for new messages
  - objects are to be included into a listener queue or removed from this queue
    - can listen specific objects for broadcasts

# Example

<http://www.randygaul.net/2013/09/02/powerful-c-messaging/>

- `receivers = player->nearbyObject();`
- `receivers->sendMsg( "Action" );`
- `person::receiveMsg( str ) { if str = "Action" do_anything(); }`

# Example: Message Listeners without polling

- `objectA->subscribe( objectB, "MsgType", functionPtr );`
- `objectB->postMsg( "MsgType" );`
- `ListenerList l = objectB->getListeners();`  
    `for(auto *begin = l; l=l->next)`  
        `if l->ID = "MsgType" l->functionPtr();`



# Messaging System

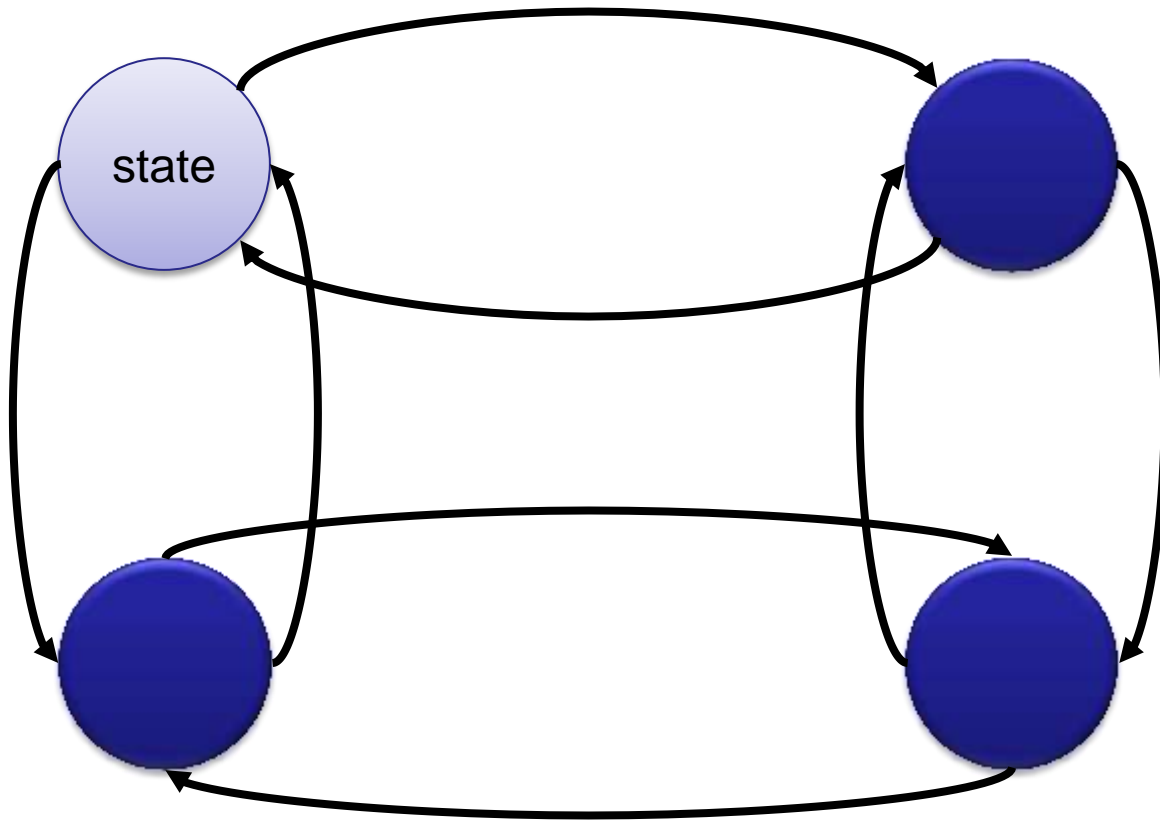
- objects can communicate in order to exchange their states by sending messages
- with  $N$  objects and full communication, we would have  $N \times N$  different communication channels that are hard to control
  - better: have a centralized instance that is handling the message exchange
    - easy control who is sending what
    - easy modification of messages
    - manages the case where recipient is not available or not existing
    - blocks unnecessary messages if system is busy
- has the role a post office has as well

## 4. State Machines

- State machines are tools that allow to give characters a set of properties that might change over environmental variations
- The states are well defined and one can easily describe and characterize different objects by using only one code and different data for these state machines
- **State machines are often the nucleus of AI in games.**

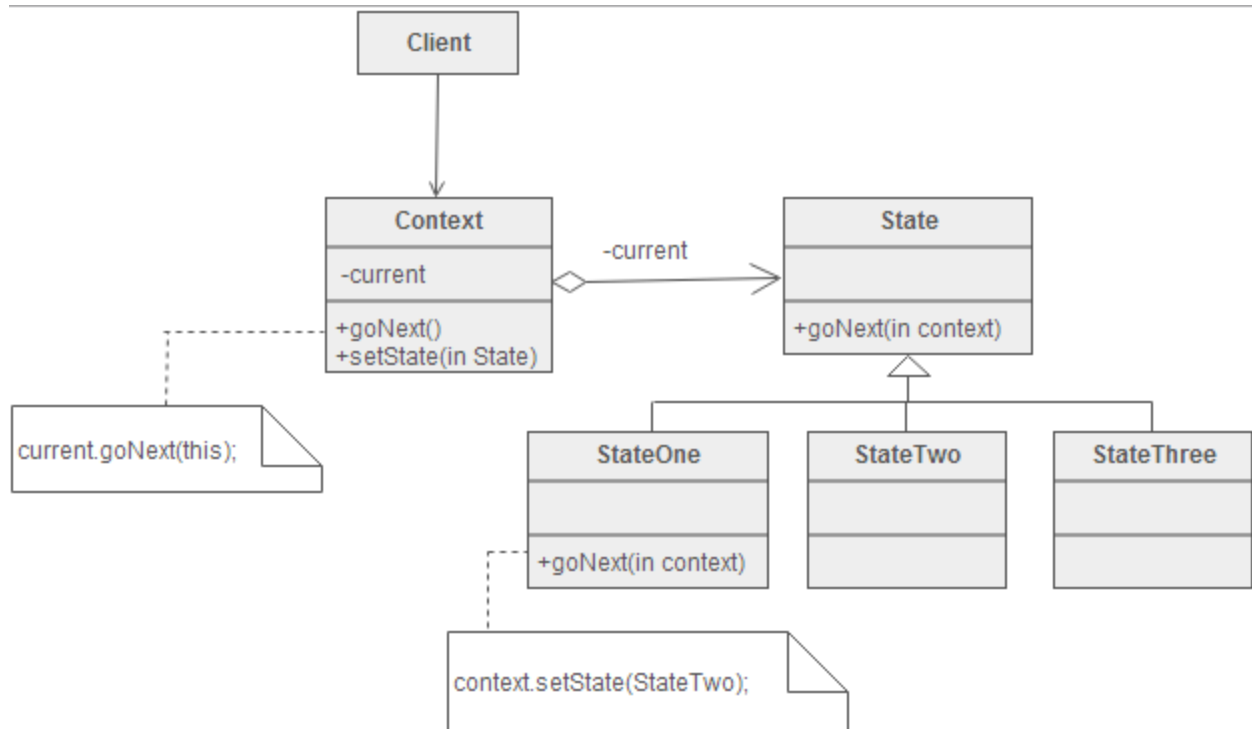
# State Machines

transition – depends on event



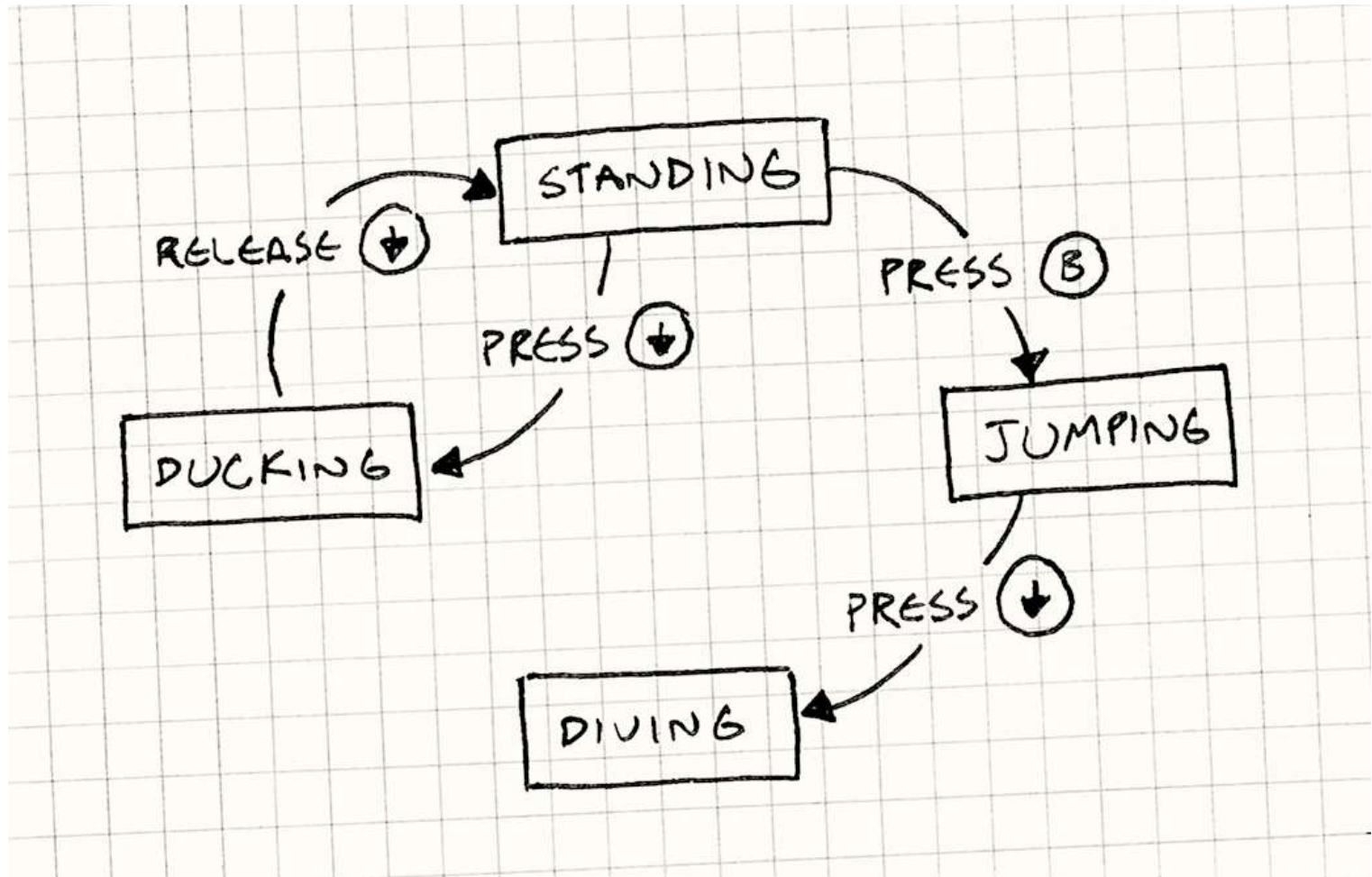
# Design of State Machines

<http://sourcemaking.com/files/v2/content/patterns/State1.svg>



# Example

<http://gameprogrammingpatterns.com/state.html>



# 5. Mathematics System

- Role
  - provide level of functions that are fast for the given hardware
    - partially parallel code
    - efficient code
    - shortcuts for higher speed at cost of accuracy

# Mathematics-System

- Contains constants and optimized functions
- Examples
  - ACos(Real)
  - ATan2(Real)
  - Cos(Real)
  - InvSqrt(Real)
  - ...
- Constants
  - Let the work be done by the compiler
    - `PI = (float) ( 4.0 * atan(1.0));`

# Mathematics-System

- Fast functions
  - $x \in [0, \pi/2]$ :  $\text{Sin}(x) \approx x - 0.16605 x^3 + 0.00761 x^5$ ; error:  $< 1.7 \cdot 10^{-4}$
  - fast sine:  $\text{fSin}(x) \approx x - 0.166666664 x^3 + 0.0083333315 x^5$   
–  $- 0.0001984090 x^7 + 0.00000027526 x^9 - 0.0000000239 x^{11}$ ; error:  $< 1.7 \cdot 10^{-8}$
- Where to get them?
  - Newton iteration formula (additive)
- Alternatives
  - Look-Up-Tables (LUTs)
    - Only reasonable if functions are complex
    - Interpolation between LUT-entries



# 6. Scripting Engine

- Scripting is a very essential part of game engines
  - Scripts are realized in interpreted languages
    - Python, Lua, QtScript etc.
  - Interpreted languages are quicker to write than compiled languages like C++
    - they are ideally suited for game specific modifications like controlling animation, physics, collisions, messages etc.
    - all modern games use scripts
    - this is found outside the field of games as well in an increasing amount of cases since it speeds up configuration of software to demands of different customers

# Engine+Script

## Engines:

- Graphics: rendering, ...
- Physics: dynamics, collision, ...
- AI: pathfinding algorithm, behavior pattern, ...

## Script:

- Graphics: add/remove light, load...
- Physics: assign objects mass, collisions, ...
- AI: select computed paths, perform decision making, ...

# 7. Interfacing

- Interfaces to standard development tools
  - Modeling
    - 3DS Max
    - Maya
    - Blender
    - Softimage
  - Audio
    - Sound Forge, Audacity
  - World editor
    - Radiant, Hammer, UnrealEd



[http://ui15.gamespot.com/2254/speed2007072011385278\\_2.jpg](http://ui15.gamespot.com/2254/speed2007072011385278_2.jpg)

## II. Gameplay Systems

s.a. J. Gregory: Game engine architecture. A.K. Peters, Natrick, MA

Up to now: tools and techniques that are basic elements of a game

Now: the mechanics that are specific for games

Vary much between different types of games

# World Elements

- Virtual Game World
  - Static elements
    - Terrain
    - Buildings
    - Roads
    - Bridges
    - ...static structures



<http://www.sandagames.co.uk/images/war-game-terrain.jpg>



<http://redjak.com/Terrain/MVC-011F.jpg>

# World Elements

- Dynamic elements
  - Characters
  - Vehicles
  - Weaponry
  - Power-ups and health packs
  - Collectible objects
  - Particle emitters, dynamic lights
  - Invisible regions or splines for paths



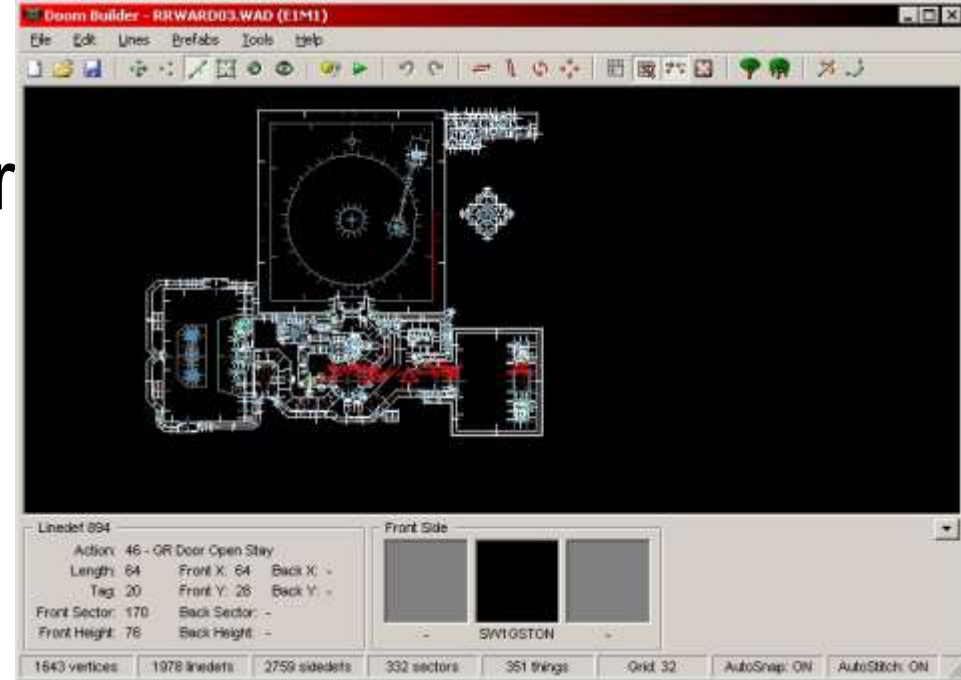
[http://www.gameon.co.uk/files/images/games/w/WET/arena\\_01.jpg](http://www.gameon.co.uk/files/images/games/w/WET/arena_01.jpg)



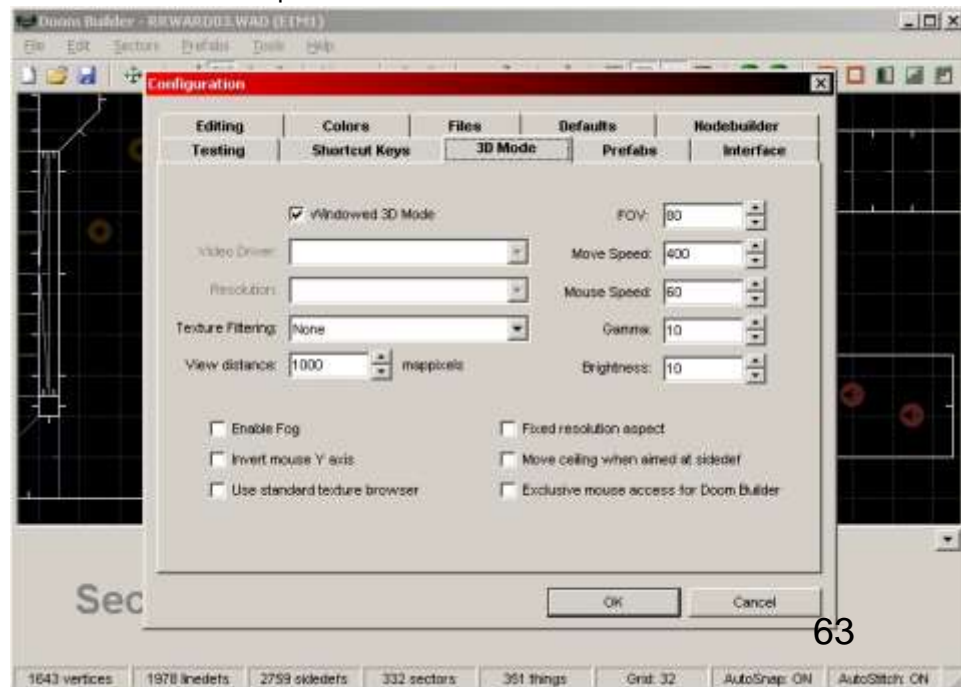
<http://media.photobucket.com/image/dynamic%20elements%20game/Acuteboy/screen00981.jpg>

# Game World Editor

- Data driven Models for asset-creation
  - Maya, Photoshop, Havok content tools
  - Generate individual assets
- Analog: game world editor
  - Permits game world chunks to be defined and enriched with dynamic elements
    - Radiant (Quake, Doom)
    - Hammer (Valve's source)
  - Permits definition of initial states of game objects (values of their attributes)
  - Control on behaviors of the dynamic objects: configuration parameters

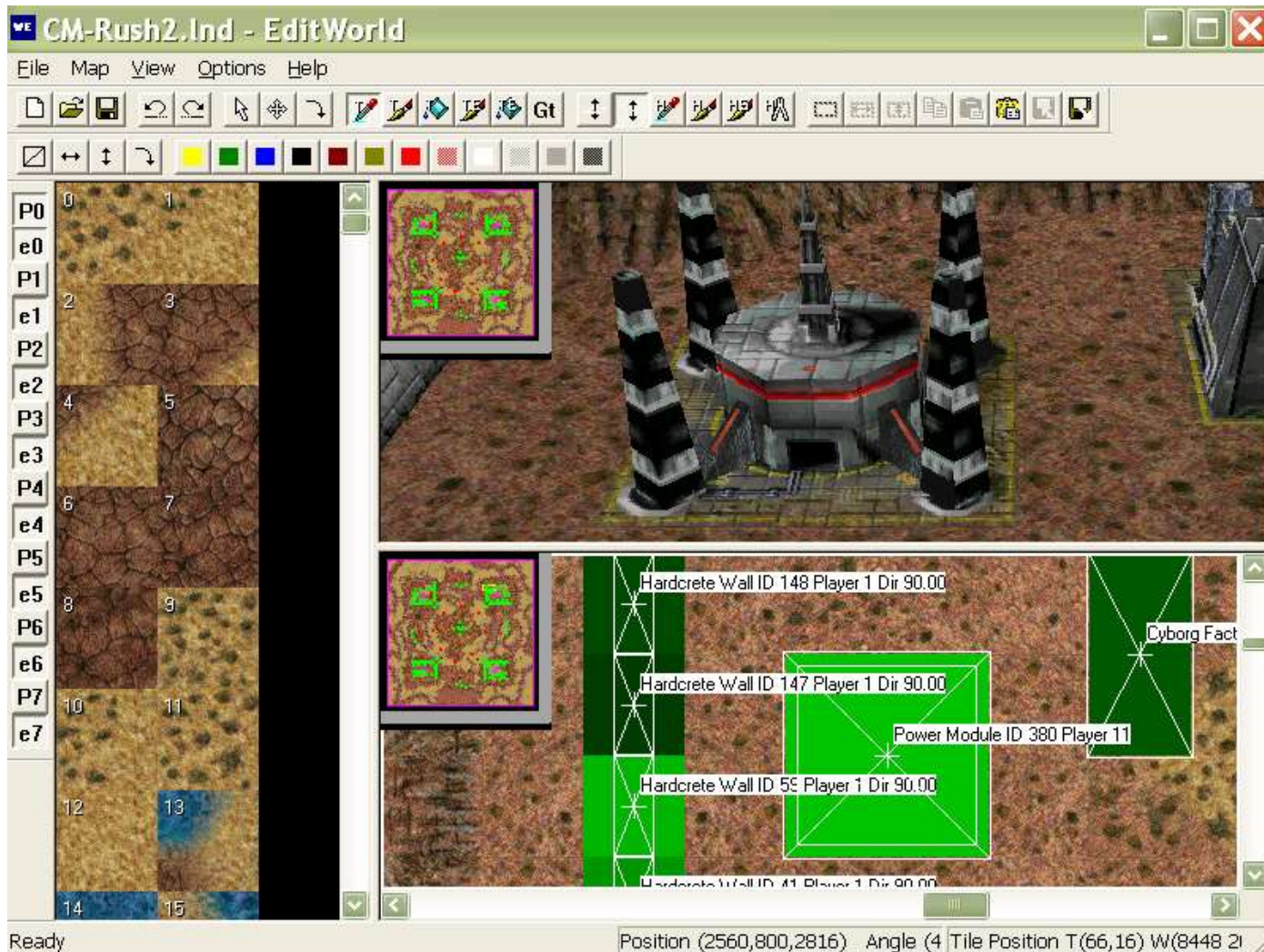


[http://doom-builder-](http://doom-builder-software.informer.com/screenshot/86436/)



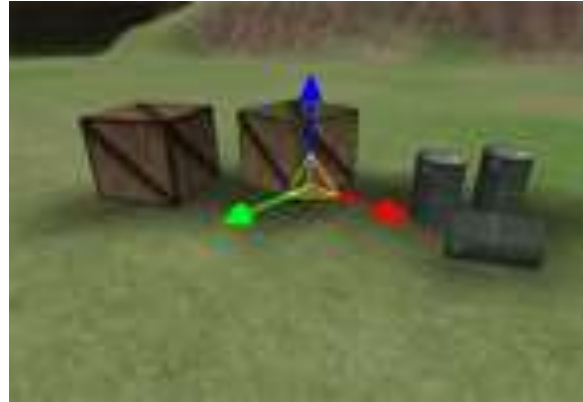
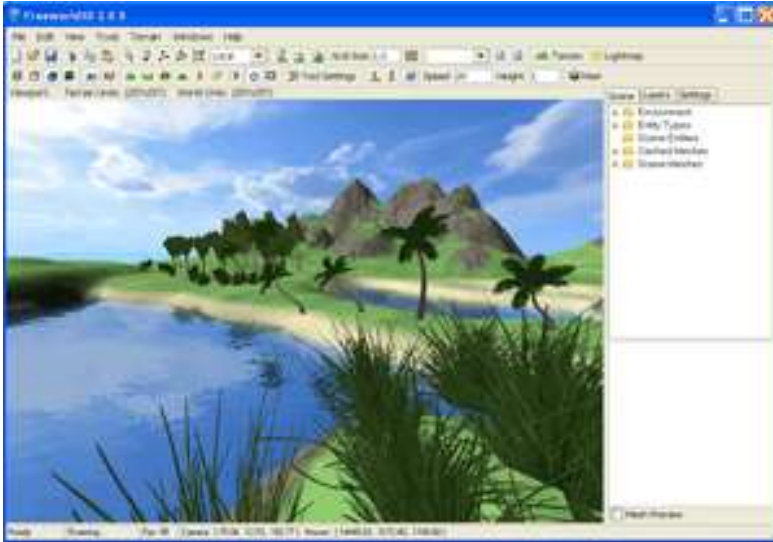


# Example





# Example <http://freeworld3d.org/>

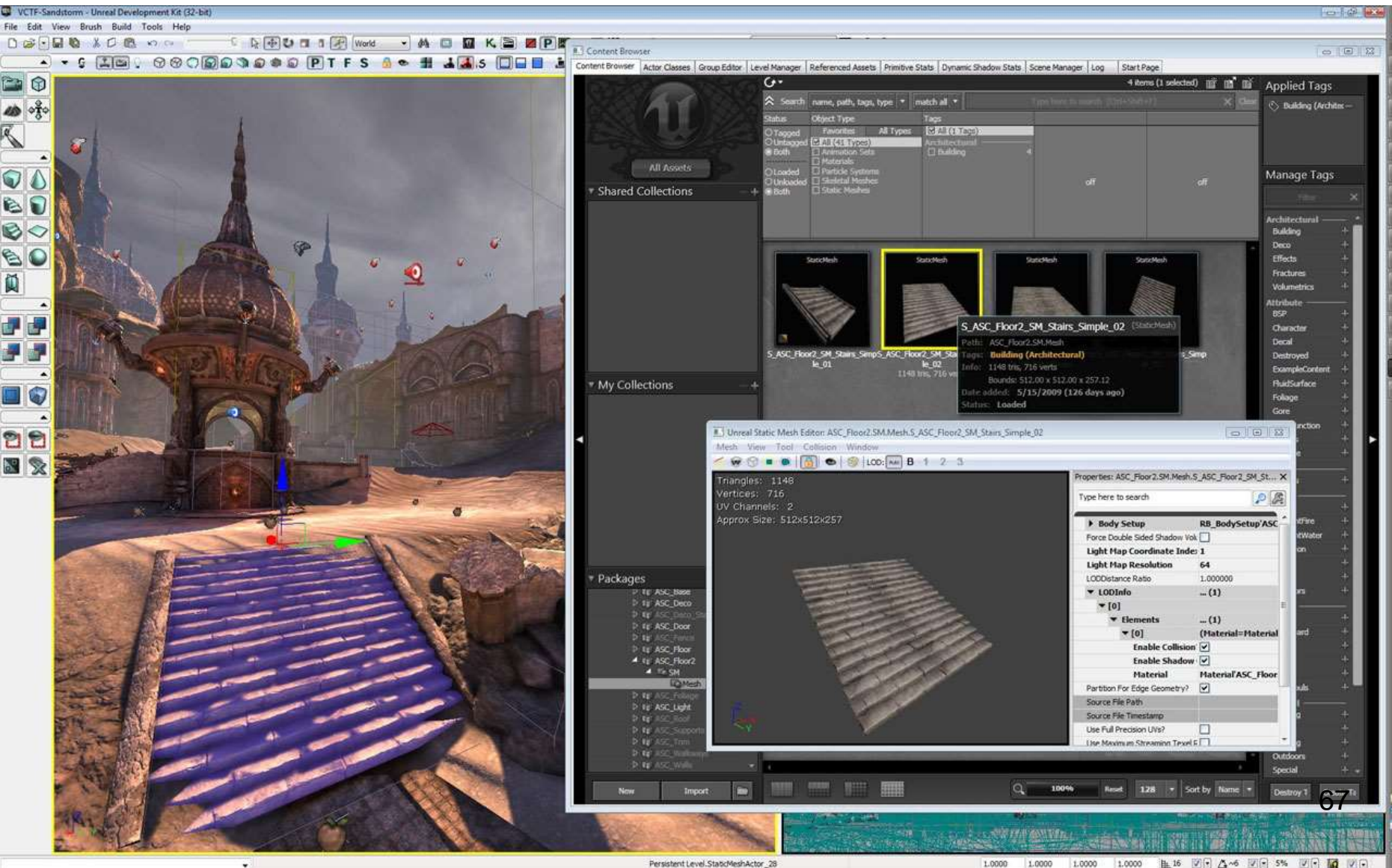


# Example





# Example



# III. Runtime Gameplay Foundation Systems

- Runtime software with game engine
  - Level management: load and unload contents (streaming)
  - Real-time model update
  - Messaging and event handling
  - Scripting
  - Objectives and game flow management
    - Organization of all game flow objects
      - Current status of player
      - Updates etc.
  - Runtime object model
    - Spawning/destroying game objects dynamically
    - Link to low-level engine and simulation
    - Define new game object types: by XML files
    - Unique object ids (handle objects over ids), handle queries and references
    - Support finite state machine
    - Saving/loading game

# General Comment on Pointers in Configuration Files

- Do not use pointers but id's
  - Use a table to convert id's to pointers
- Pro
  - Pointers may be changed during a game to tidy up the heap (make space for new objects)
    - Classical solution: handles (pointers to pointers)
    - Games: id's: if pointers are changed, just the table is updated, not each object pointer!
  - Id's are short (less memory, lightweight)
- Con
  - Extra indirect step

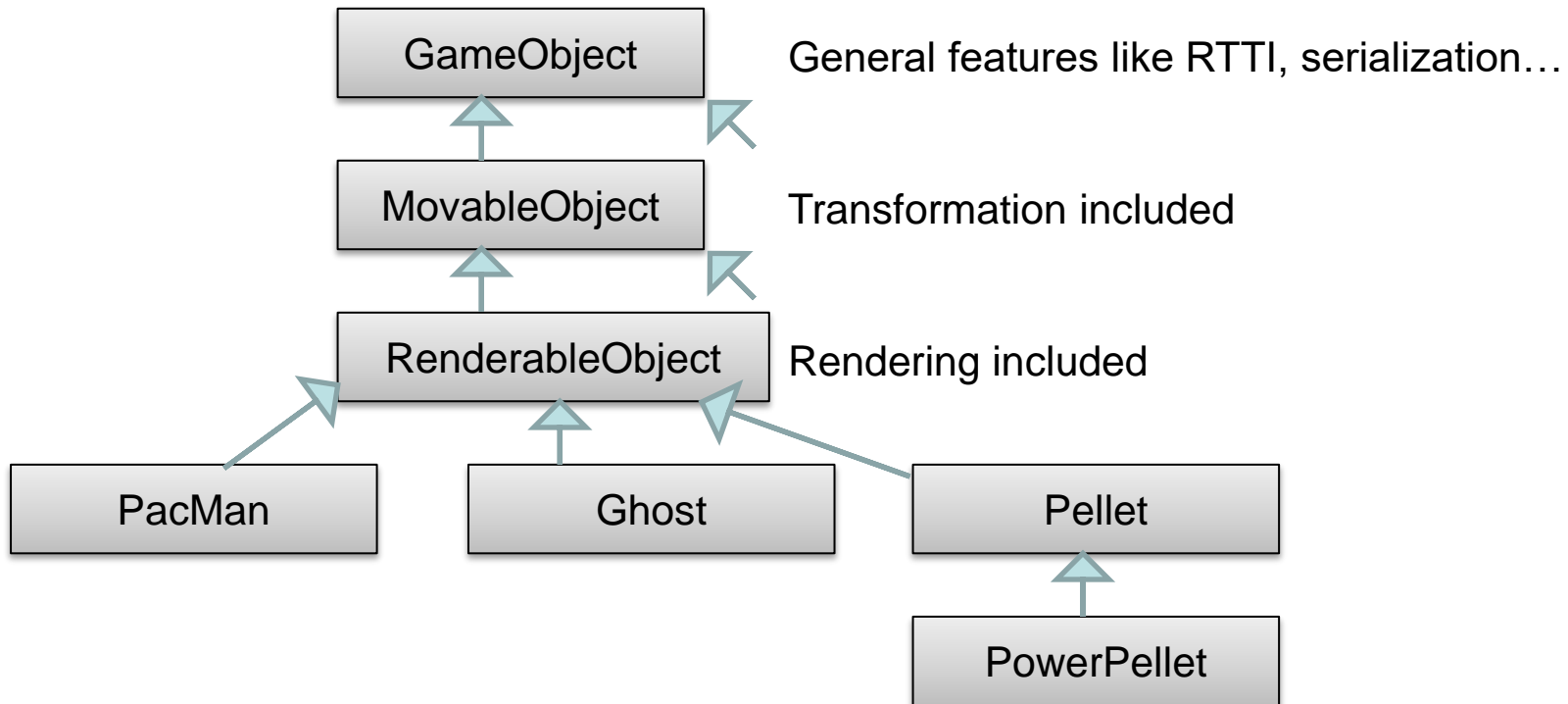
Id	pointer
0	403840
1	5958751
2	710727
3	1794240
4	5796120
5	2936571
6	621904
7	9325604

# IV. Architecture of Runtime Object Model

- Object centric:
  - represented as single class instance with attributes and behaviors:  
Class Pointer
- Property centric:
  - represented by ID  
properties are in data tables

# Object Centric Architecture

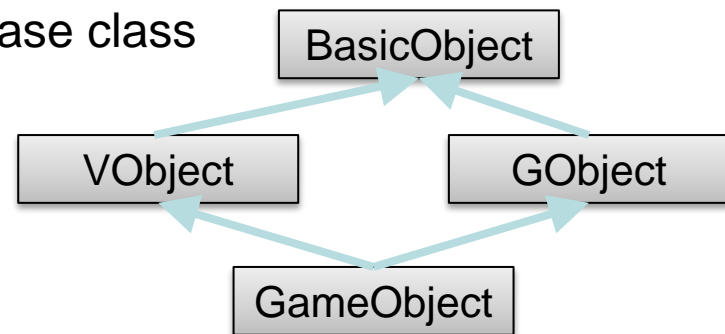
- Monolithic Class Hierarchies: PacMan



# Monolithic Architecture - Discussion

- can be difficult for many classes (deep and wide hierarchies)
  - Deep hierarchies: different taxonomies can be used for subdivision, not always clear and natural/different ways are possible
  - Multiple inheritance: generates loops in class hierarchies („diamond of death“)

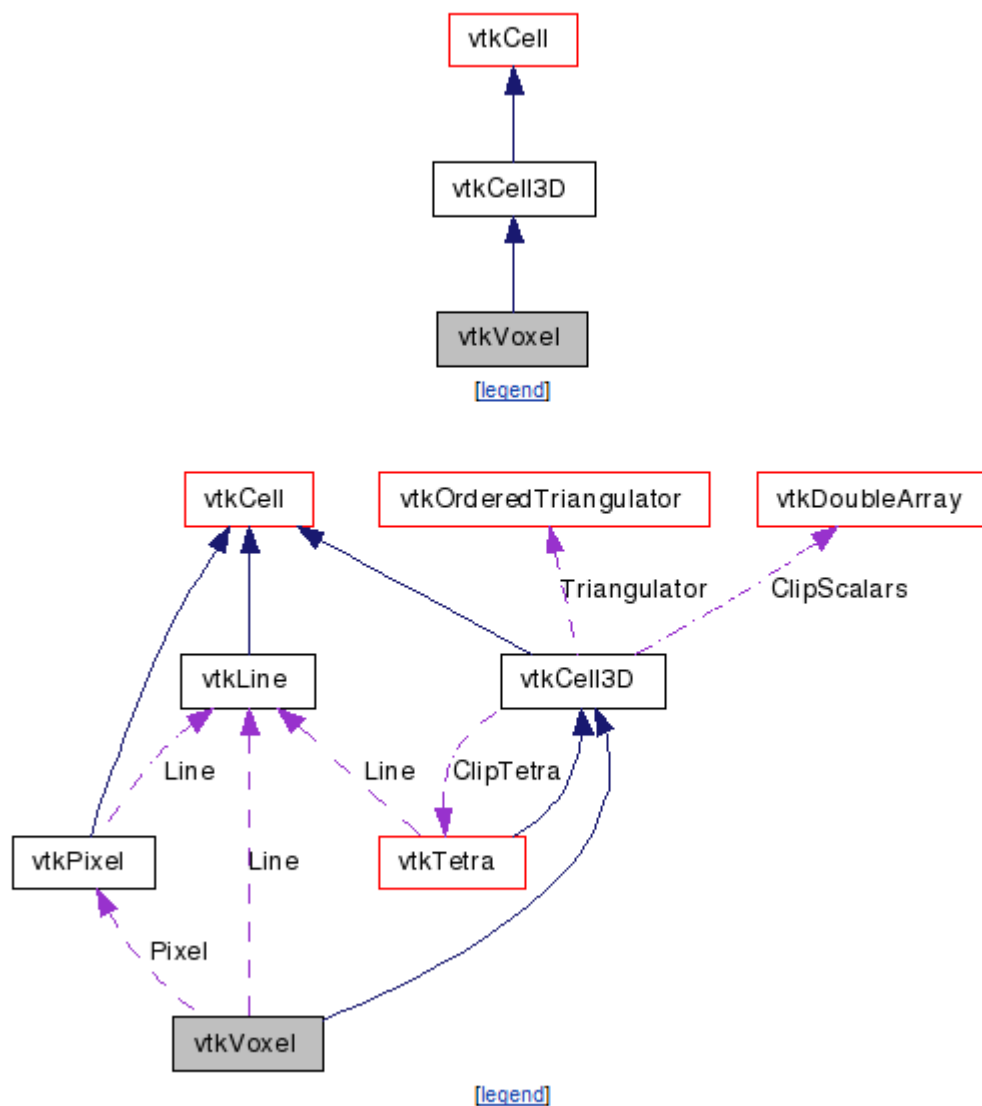
- Contains multiple copies of base class



- Bubble-up-effect: share properties from classes that have otherwise nothing to do with the own one
- Solutions
  - Is-a-composition leads often to monolithic architectures: is-a-relationship as design principle
  - Alternative: has-a-composition .... see next

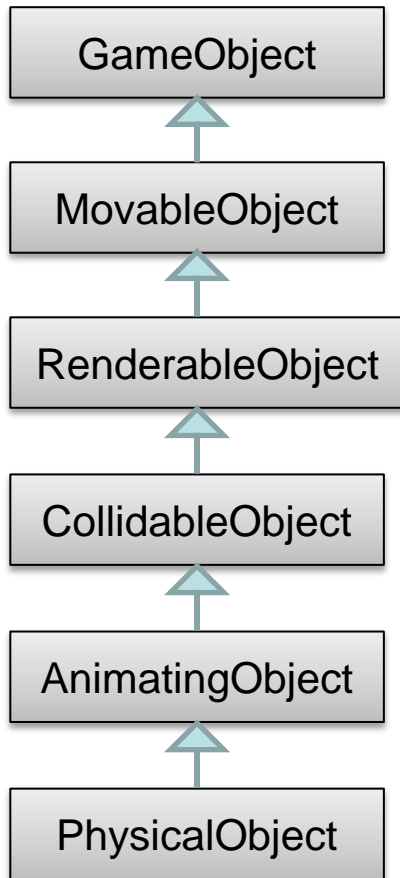


# Example vtk

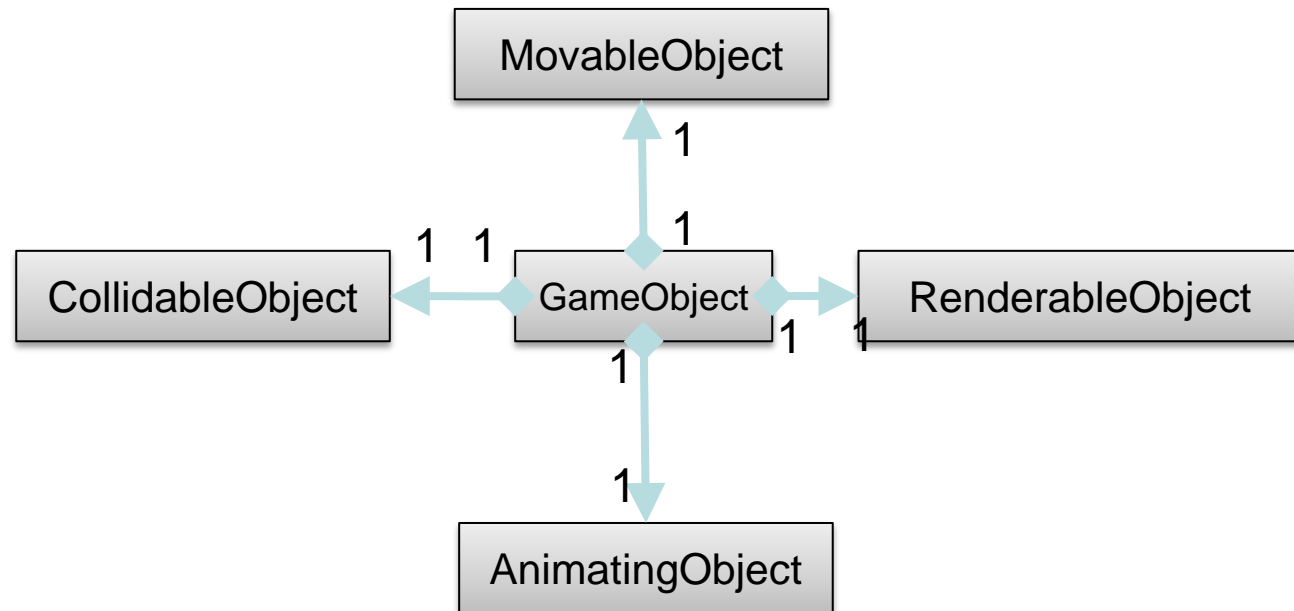


# Example

- Instead of



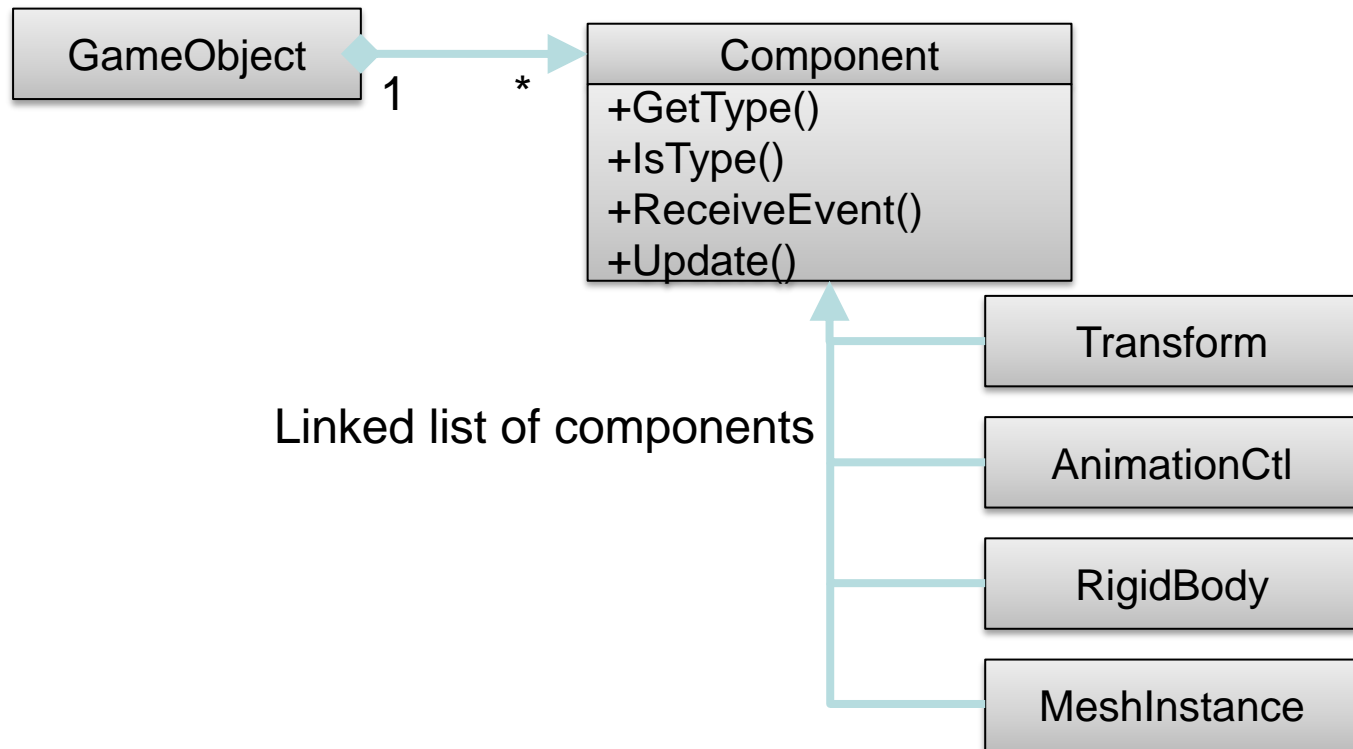
- Isolate features in individual classes (service objects): has-a-relationship



# What is the advantage and disadvantage?

- Pro
  - attach on need
  - isolated elements
- Con
  - fixed number of components foreseen
  - difficult to extend: internal code

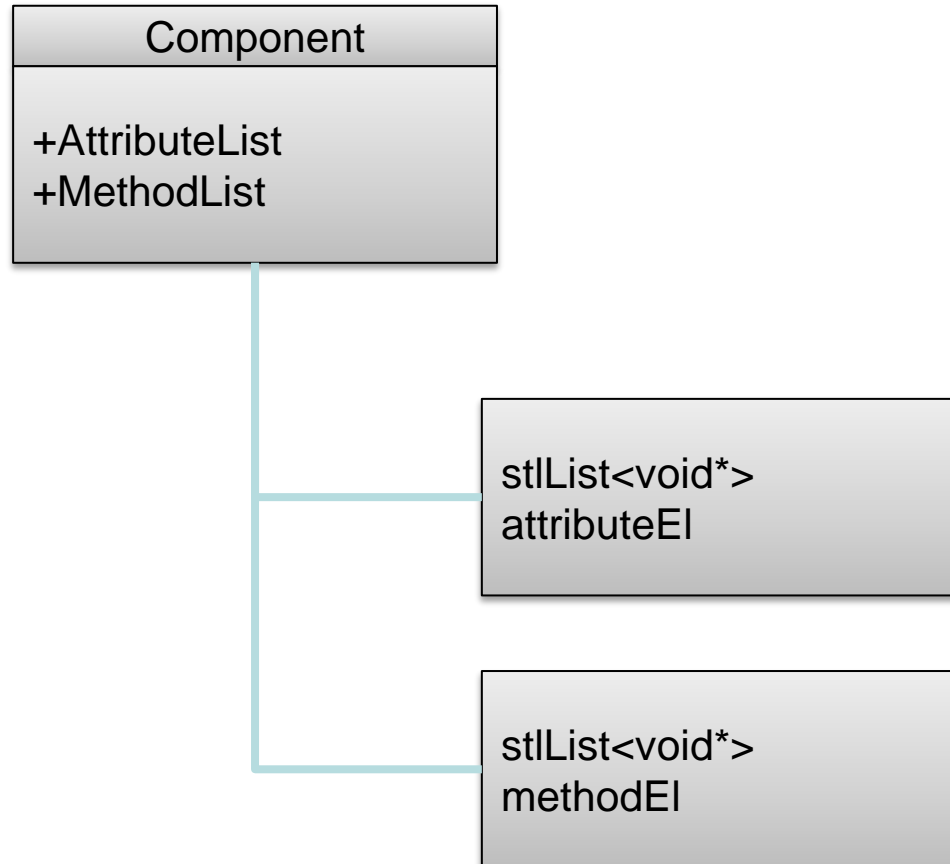
# Better Solution: Generic Components



# Pro/Con

- Pro
  - as before
  - but easier to enlarge
- Con
  - still fixed list

# Generic Generic



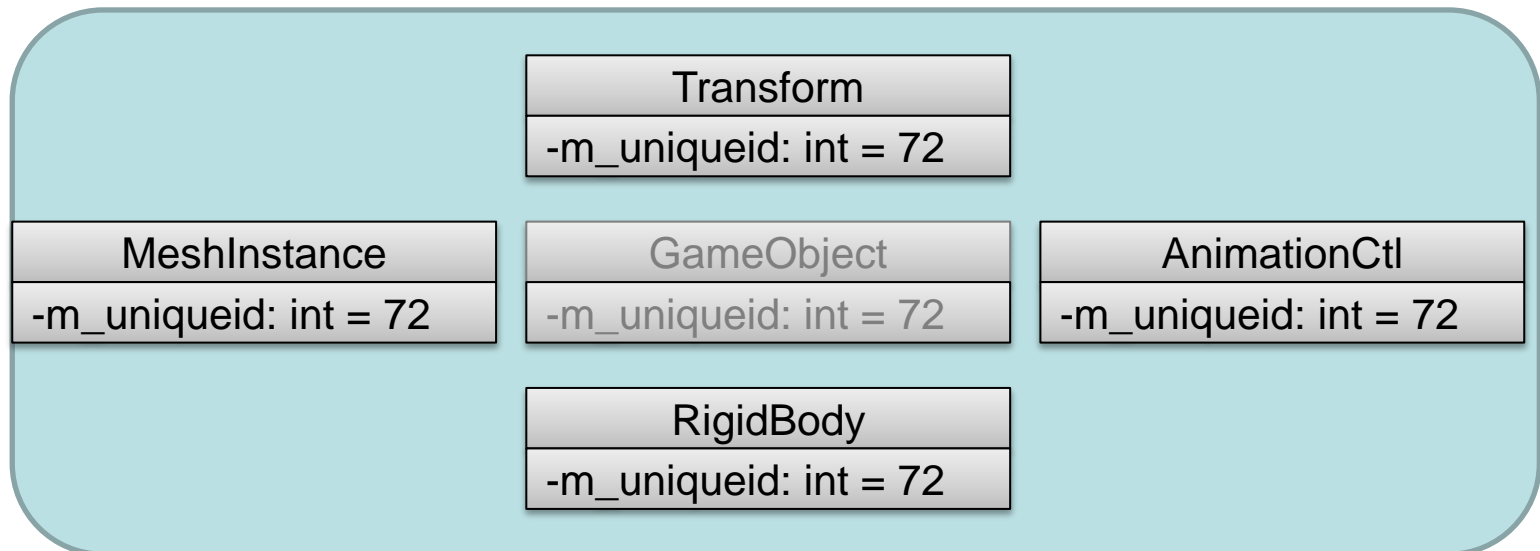
In program: convert void\*  
into actual type

# Pro/Con

- Pro
  - as before
  - but now list can be update on the fly
- Con
  - `<void*>` pointer does not allow to be completely generic
    - solution: C++14 auto keyword

# Pure Component Models

- Leave out any logic in GameObject, only components in container
  - Linked together in logic id
    - Look up components which are used by id, pointers are in tables (id is address, pointers are contents)
      - Initialization and communication could be a problem since there is not THE corresponding GameObject to be called





# Property-Centric Architectures

- ...think about objects having attributes and behaviors: property centric view

Object1

- Position = (0,3,15)
- Orientation = (0, 43, 0)

or

Position

- Object1 = (0,3,15)
- Object2 = (-12,0,8)

Object2

- Position = (-12,0,8)
- Health = 15

Orientation

- ...

- Very successful architecture: mimics relational data base with game object's id as primary key
- Question: How do we implement behavior?

# Pro/Con

- different view: from the properties and not from objects
- Pro
  - each property knows which object requires this property
  - easy to attach new object
  - property on demand
- Con
  - object is not aware of its properties
    - would require a property manager that is caring about that

# Implementing Behavior

- Via Property Classes
  - Each property can be implemented as property class
    - Bool, float, renderable triangle mesh, AI
    - Behavior over class internal methods
    - Full behavior over aggregation of such classes
- Via Script
  - Put property values in table and use scripts to for implementation
- Versus Components
  - Property object: use multiple sub-objects for each game object
    - Each sub-object defines an attribute

# Games by Properties

- We first define the individual functionalities like
  - movability
  - rotatability
  - physics
  - collidable
  - renderable
  - animatable
- Then we generate a set of objects with IDs
- Finally, we provide object lists for each functionality
  - The object interfaces for each functionality should always be the same, so we can handle any sort of incoming object.

# Overview of the next sessions...

- Graphics
- Collision
- Physics/Animation/AI
- Path Planning

# Graphics Engine

- Built on top of low-level interfaces like OpenGL or DirectX
- High-level interface to reduce complexity and having tuned functions
  - Sprites
    - Background image that is displayed instead of rendered
- High-level modeling
- Handles complicated display aspects
  - Special effects
  - Overlays
  - Multiple views
- Reduces graphics to model generation
  - All rendering aspects are encapsulated like
    - Scene graph exploration
    - Visual effects like particle mapping, shadows, textures, graphical user interfaces, menus, ...

# Collision Engine

- Determines collisions between objects or parts of objects in environment
  - Needs just a flag for allowing for collisions, no knowledge about algorithms required
  - Can handle different degrees of realism
- Often part of physics engine

# Physics Engine

- Computes the physics simulation
  - No need to understand the physics, just tick to switch on gravity, soft objects, collisions etc.
  - Handles complex scenes like explosions
  - Handles massive number of objects like in crowd simulation
- Typical engines are
  - Havok
  - physX
  - Open DynamicsEngine
  - Bullet



# Animation Engine

- Often part of physics engine
- Can handle offline things like
  - Motion capture
  - Motion editing and annotation
- Handles online
  - Sprites/texture animation
  - Vertex animation by skinning
  - Rigid body and skeletal motion
- Examples
  - Granny
  - Havok
  - Edge
  - Endorphin/Euphoria

# AI (often combined with Path Planning)

- Models behavior and interaction like dialogue (scripted or generated)
- Motion (path planning, obstacle avoidance)
- Strategies (hiding, attack)
- Decision making
- Crowds
- Often: agent-based with the entities
  - Perception: sense input
  - Decision: AI core, rules/state machine
  - Action: sequence of operations
- Examples
  - Preagis
  - Kynapse
  - DirectIA
  - SimBionic

# Input Devices

- Consoles
- Joystick
- Special input devices like
  - Wiimote
  - PS move controller
  - Kinect

# Core Engine

- Implements
  - Event system for communication between objects
  - Scripting for game logic
- Gameplay in native language or script
  - World actions and rules, character abilities, objectives of game
- Scripting languages
  - Easy control, quick to learn and use, data driven
  - Low performance
  - Examples
    - Python
    - Lua
    - GameMonkey
    - AngelScript

# Management Functions in Game Engines

- Mathematics System
  - Accelerates frequently used functions
    - Low resolution results
- Manager Classes
  - Manage resources and objects
- State Machines
  - Allow to simplify the dynamic behavior of the Game Logic
    - Different states in game which are well defined
    - Clear state transition due to external signals
    - Clear behavior in each state resp. state transition
  - Allows to implement arbitrary complex rule systems for AI

# Summary

- Games exist of three parts
  - Game Engine
  - Game Logic
  - Game Art
- Central
  - Important parts: Physics, Collision, AI, Graphics
  - Manager for Audio, Graphics/Material, Files, Memory, CPU