CSc 165
Computer Game Architecture

13 - Physics Engines & Collisions

Overview

Collision Detection
- Broad- vs. Narrow-phase

Collision Handling & Physics

Physics Engines
- Rigid Bodies and Joints
- Collision Spaces

Integrating Physics & Game Engines

Naïve Collision Detection

```
/** Check for collisions between world objects by comparing
 *  all possible combinations of objects  (as done in CSc-133)
 */
void checkCollisions()
{  Iterator iter1 = theWorld.iterator();
   while (iter1.hasNext())
   {  //get a world object
      ICollider curObj = (ICollider) iter1.next();
      Iterator iter2 = theWorld.iterator();
      while (iter2.hasNext())
      {  //get a second object
         ICollider otherObj = (ICollider) iter2.next();
         //insure it's not the SAME object
         if (otherObj != curObj)
         {  //check for collision and handle it
            if (curObj.collidesWith(otherObj))
               curObj.handleCollision(otherObj);
         }
      }
   }
}
```


Two-Phase Collision Detection

Broad-phase:
select pairs of objects that *might* have collided

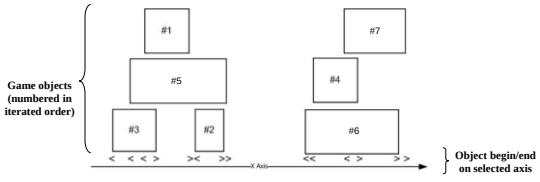
Goals:
- Try to avoid selecting pairs that *can't* collide
- Try to make these sections quickly

Narrow-phase:
compare those pairs to see if they actually collided

Goals:
- *Accurate* comparisons
- *Efficient* comparisons

Broad-phase (step 1)

"*Sweep And Prune*" *(SAP)* Algorithm



Unsorted:	<1	>1	<2	>2	<3	>3	<4	>4	<5	>5	<6	>6	<7	>7
After sorting:	<3	<5	<1	>3	>1	<2	>2	>5	<6	<4	<7	>4	>6	>7

after: Broadphase Collision Detection, John Wells

Sweep And Prune (cont.)

Identifying "interference" (potential collisions):
- *Prune* (skip) non-interfering objects

After sorting:	<3	<5	<1	>3	>1	<2	>2	>5	<6	<4	<7	>4	>6	>7

```
for (each world object x)
{   i = indexOf(x.beginDelimiter);                  //start of cur obj in array
    for (j=i+1; j<indexOf(x.endDelimiter); j++)     //check all locs btwn xBegin/xEnd
    {   if (array[j] instanceof BeginDelimiter)     //check for new object start
        {   checkForCollision(array[i], array[j]); //found interference
        }
        else if (array[j] instanceof EndDelimiter)          //check for obj end
        {   start = indexOf(array[j].obj.beginDelimiter);  //find matching start
            if (start < i)                  //check if new obj start was before cur obj
                checkForCollision(array[i], array[j]);      //found interference
        }
    }
}
```

Narrow-phase (step 2)

For hierarchical objects, using *Bounding Volumes:*

```
public class SceneNode
{  ...
   boolean collidesWith (SceneNode otherNode)
   {  if ( ! this.getWorldBound().intersects(otherNode.getWorldBound() )
      {  return false ;                  //world BV's don't intersect
      }
      else if (this.hasChildren())
      {    for (each child of this node)
           {  if (child.intersects(otherNode))
                return true ;            //found a child that intersects
           }
           return false ;                //no child intersects
      }
      else if (otherNode.hasChildren())
      {    for (each child of otherNode)
           {  if (child.collidesWith(this))
                return true ;
           }
           return false ;
      }
   }
}
```


Collision Handling

(Some) factors to consider

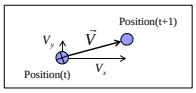
- Position
- Orientation
- Linear velocity (change in position)
- Angular velocity (change in orientation)
- Friction
- Air lift/drag
- Water resistance/buoyancy
- Gravity
- Elasticity

Using Physics In Games

Ad-hoc solutions:

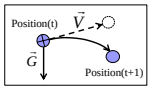
- Constant velocity

```
newPos = curPos + velocity * elapsedTime ;
```



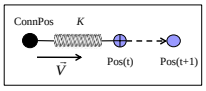
- Gravity

```
velocityY = velocityY + GRAVITY * elapsedTime ;
newPosY = curPosY + velocityY * elapsedTime ;
```



- Springs

```
k = 0.2;  //spring constant
springVector = mass.pos - connectionPos;
mass.pos = mass.applyForce(-springVector*k);
```



(Ordinary) Differential Equations

- Equations defining a relationship between a single-variable function $x(t)$ *and its derivatives*

$$\frac{d\,x(t)}{dt}, \quad \frac{d^2x(t)}{dt^2}, \quad \ldots$$

- ex. : Newton's Second Law of motion

$$F = ma\,; \quad F(x(t)) = m\frac{d^2x(t)}{dt^2}$$

Force on particle at position X at time t

Acceleration (2nd derivative of position)

Physics Engines

Integrate laws of physics into a game

- Laws are represented by ODE's
- Physics Engines contain "solvers"

Independent of "gameplay"

- Analogous to how a Game Engine supplies independent "renderers"
- Usable for a wide number of genres:
  - Race simulation
  - FPS action-shooter
  - Virtual world dynamic structures
  - Space travel, planets, etc.
  - Sports

Popular Physics Engines

Havok (`www.havok.com`)

Newton (`www.newtondynamics.com`)

PhysX (`www.nvidia.com/physX`)

- jPhysX (`www.jphysx.com`)

Bullet (`www.bulletphysics.org`)

- JBullet (`jbullet.advel.cz`)

Open Dynamics Engine (ODE) (`www.ode.org`)

- ODEJava (`odejava.dev.java.net`)

Chipmunk (`http://chipmunk-physics.net`)

- Chipmunk-for-Java (`https://github.com/johang/chipmunk-for-java`)

Physics Engine Concepts

`World` ("Physics Space")

A container for **`Bodies`, `Constraints`, `CollisionShapes`, `CollisionHandlers`,** and **`Solvers`**

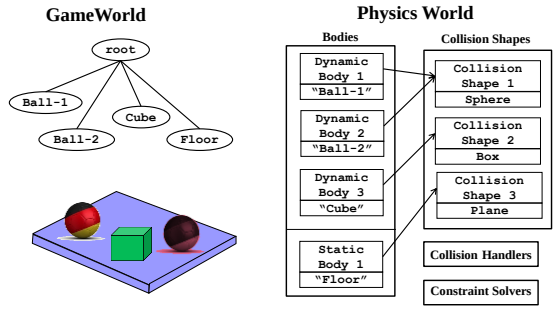
`Body`

Represents a single rigid or soft body.
Most common is rigid:
Fixed attributes: Mass, Mass distribution
Dynamic Attributes: Position, Orientation, Velocity, Angular velocity

`Constraint` ("joint")

Represents a connection between two bodies

Physics Spaces



Constraints (a.k.a. *Joints*)

Enforced relationships between *bodies.*
(created at start-up)

Common types of constraints:

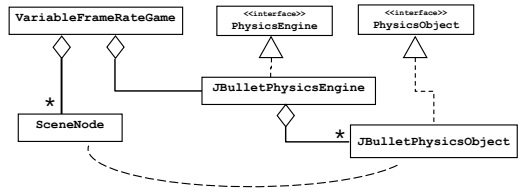
Ball & Socket ("Point-to-Point")

Hinge

Slider ("Piston")

Source: Bullet 2.76 Physics SDK Manual, Erwin Coumans

RAGE Physics World classes



RAGE Physics Engine Interface

```
/**  RAGE interface  */
public interface PhysicsEngine
{   public void initSystem();            //sets defaults for gravity, collisions, etc.
    public void setGravity(float[] gravity_vector);     //sets gravity explicitly
    public int nextUID(); // unique identifier to keep track of physics objects

    public PhysicsObject addBoxObject(int uid, float mass, double[] transform,
                                      float[] size);
    public PhysicsObject addSphereObject (int uid, float mass, double[] transform,
                                          float radius);
    public PhysicsObject addConeObject (int uid, float mass, double[] transform,
                                        float radius, float height);
    public PhysicsObject addCapsuleObject (int uid, float mass, double[] transform,
                                           float radius, float height);
    public PhysicsObject addCylinderObject (int uid, float mass, double[] transform,
                                            float[] halfExtents);
    public PhysicsObject addStaticPlaneObject (int uid, double[] transform,
                                               float[] up_vector, float plane_constant);
    public void removeObject(int uid);

    public void addBallSocketConstraint(int uid, PhysicsObject bodyA, PhysicsObject bodyB)
    public void addHingeConstraint(int uid, PhysicsObject bodyA, PhysicsObject bodyB)
    public void update(float nanoseconds);   //steps the physics simulation
}
```


Physics Object Interface

```
/** Defines the interface implemented by all Physics Objects */
public interface IPhysicsObject
{  public int getUID();

   public void setTransform(double[] transform);
   public double[] getTransform();

   public float getFriction();
   public void setFriction(float friction);

   public float getLinearDamping();
   public float getAnglularDamping();
   public void setDamping(float linearDamping, float angularDamping);

   public float getBounciness();
   public void setBounciness(float value);

   public float[] getLinearVelocity();
   public void setLinearVelocity(float[] velocity);

   public float[] getAngularVelocity();
   public void setAngularVelocity(float[] velocity);

   public void applyForce(float fx, float fy, float fz, float px, float py, float pz);
   public void applyTorque(float fx, float fy, float fz);

   public boolean isDynamic();
}
```