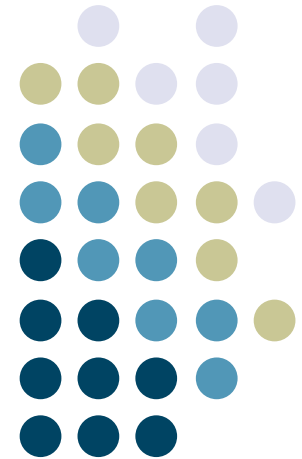


Animation in the Interface



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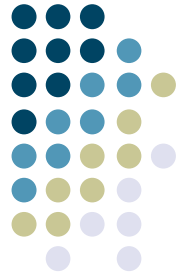
Reading assignment:

This section based on 2 papers



- Bay-Wei Chang, David Ungar, “Animation: From Cartoons to the User Interface”, *Proceedings of UIST’ 93*, pp.45-55.
 - <http://www.acm.org/pubs/articles/proceedings/uist/168642/p45-chang/p45-chang.pdf>
- Scott E. Hudson, John T. Stasko, “Animation Support in a User Interface Toolkit: Flexible, Robust and Reusable Abstractions”, *Proceedings of UIST ‘93*, pp.57-67.
 - <http://www.acm.org/pubs/articles/proceedings/uist/168642/p57-hudson/p57-hudson.pdf>
- Good related paper: John Lasseter, “Principles of traditional animation applied to 3D computer animation”, *Proceedings of SIGGRAPH ‘87*, pp. 35 - 44

Animation is of increasing interest

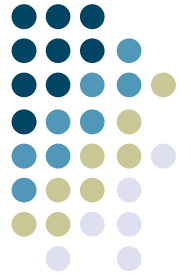


- Perceptual advantages
- Just recently had enough spare horsepower (circa Win98)
- Now seeing this in the mainstream (Vista, MacOS X)



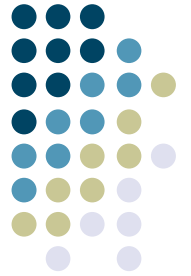
Why animation?

- Gives a feeling of reality and liveness
 - “animation” = “bring to life”
 - make inanimate object animate



Why animation?

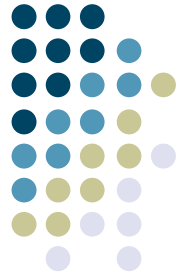
- Provides visual continuity (and other effects) enhancing perception
 - particularly perception of change
 - hard to follow things that just flash into & out of existence
 - real world doesn't act this way



Why Animation?

- Can also be used to direct attention
 - movement draws attention
 - strong evolutionary reasons
 - therein lies a danger
 - overuse tends to demand too much attention
 - e.g., the dreaded paper clip

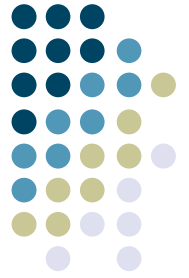
Check out "The Illusion of Life" - a book by Disney animators



Why Animation?

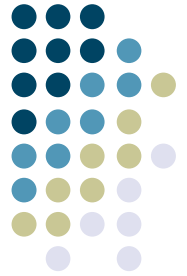
- Used sparingly and understandingly, animation can enhance the interface
- Draw attention to important details
- Provide a sense of realism
- Provide important affordances and feedback to user actions

Three principles from traditional animation



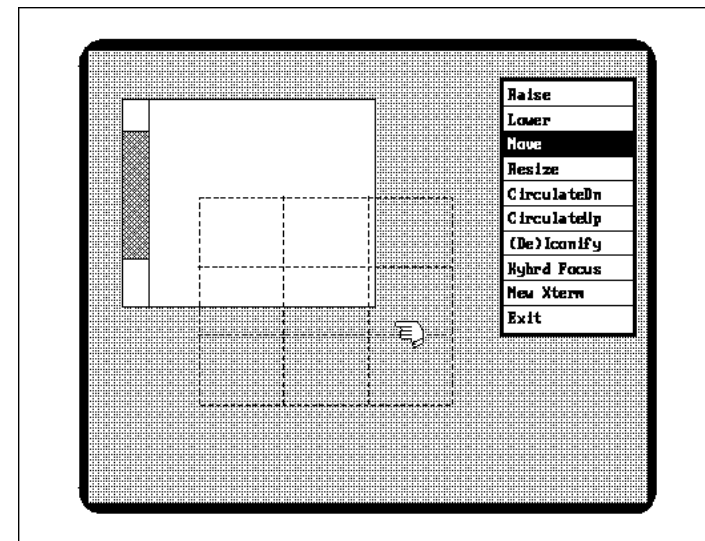
- Not mutually exclusive:
- **Solidity**
 - make objects appear to be solid, have mass
- **Exaggeration**
 - exaggerate certain physical actions to enhance perception
 - paradoxically, increases realism (liveness) by being less literal
- **Reinforcement**
 - effects to drive home feeling of reality...often more subtle than the above
- We'll discuss a set of techniques that build on these... each technique may draw from multiple principles

Specific techniques drawn from these principles

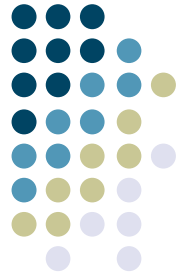


- **Solid drawing**

- Want objects to appear solid and appear to have mass
- Solid (filled) drawing
 - now common place



Specific techniques drawn from these principles



- **No teleportation**

- objects must come from somewhere
 - not just “pop into existence”
- nothing in the real world does this (things with mass can’t do this)

- E.g., OS X Dock
- (new windows still materialize though)

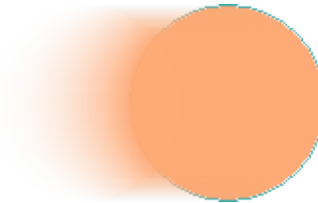


Specific techniques drawn from these principles

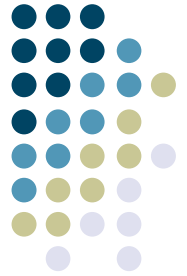


- **Motion blur**

- if objects move more than their own length (some say 1/2 length) in one frame, motion blur should be used
- matches real world perception of solid objects
- makes movement look smoother
- doesn't need to be realistic

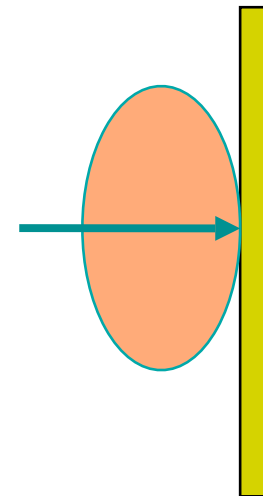
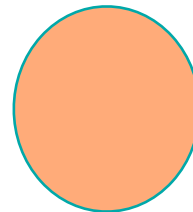


Specific techniques drawn from these principles



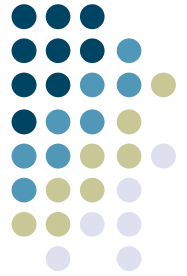
- **Squash and stretch**

- Cartoon objects are typically designed to look “squishy”
- When they stop, hit something, land, they tend to squash
 - like water balloon
 - compress in direction of travel



Specific techniques drawn from these principles

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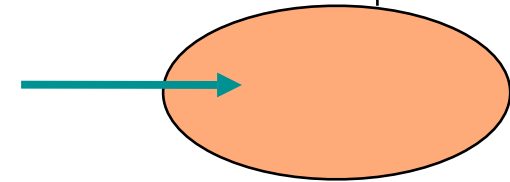


- Squash and stretch

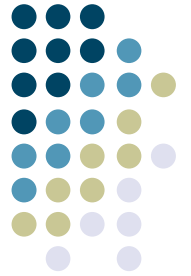
- Also stretch when they accelerate

- opposite direction

- Basically an approximation of inertia + conservation of volume (area)

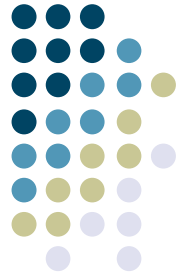


Specific techniques drawn from these principles



- Squash and stretch
 - Conveys **solidity**
 - Although S&S makes things look “squishy” they **reinforce** solidity because they show mass
 - (This is tends to be **exaggerated**)

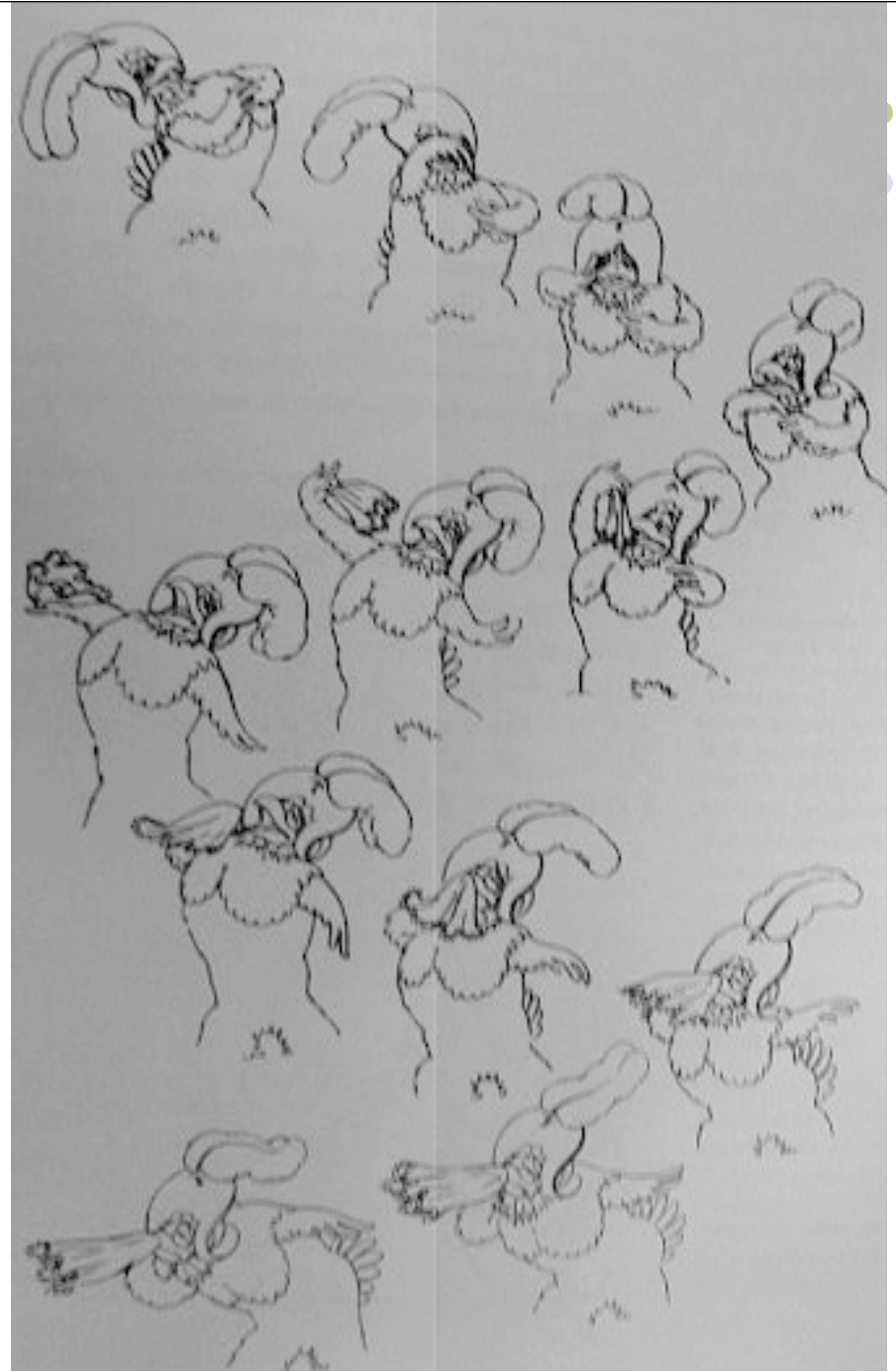
Specific techniques drawn from these principles



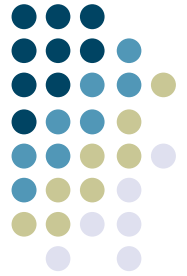
- **Follow through** (& secondary action)
 - Emphasize **termination** of an action
 - **Solid** objects don't just stop, they continue parts of the motion
 - e.g., clothes keep moving, body parts keep moving
 - **Reinforces** that object has mass via inertia
 - (also tends to be **exaggerated**)

Example of Follow Through

- Notice feather lags behind character
- Also S&S here
- From: Thomas & Johnston "The Illusion of Life: Disney Animation", Hyperion, 1981



Specific techniques drawn from these principles



- **Anticipation**

- Example of **exaggeration** in the interface
- small counter movement just prior to the main movement
- this sets our attention on the object where the action is (or will be)
- Contrast to follow-through (which is about termination of movement)... anticipation is about the **start** of movement

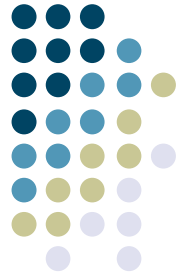
Specific techniques drawn from these principles



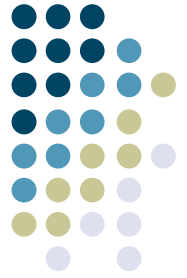
- **Slow-in / Slow-out**

- Movement between two points starts slow, is fast in the middle, and ends slow
- Two effects here
 - objects with mass must accelerate... thus **reinforces solidity**
 - interesting parts typically @ ends
 - tweaking perception to draw attention to most salient aspects of motion from a UI perspective

Specific techniques drawn from these principles



- **Movement in arcs**
 - Subtle reinforcement effect
 - Objects in the real world rarely move in a straight line
 - Animate objects to move in gently curving paths, not straight lines
 - Why?
 - Movements by animate objects are in arcs (due to mechanics of joints)
 - Most movements in gravity also in arcs

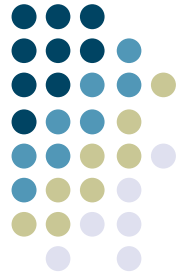


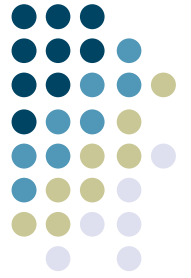
Recap

- Appearance of mass
 - solidity & conservation of volume
 - several ways to show inertia
- Tweak perception
 - direct attention to things that count
 - time on conceptually important parts
- Caricature of reality

Examples From Video

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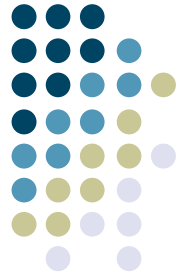




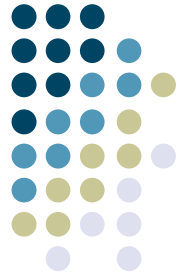
Reminder

- Animation can bring otherwise boring things to life, but...
- Its not a uniformly good thing
 - demands a lot of attention
 - can take time
- Needs to be used wisely (and probably sparingly)

Making animation happen in a toolkit

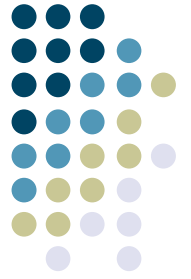


- Paper describes model in subArctic (and predecessor)
 - high to middle level model
 - robust to timing issues
- Primary abstraction: transition
 - models movement over time
 - arbitrary space of values (eg, color)
 - screen space is most common



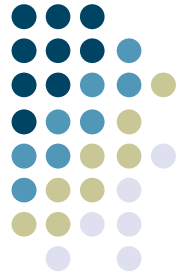
Transition consists of

- Reference to obj being animated
 - passage of time modeled as events
- Time interval
 - period of time animation occurs
- Trajectory
 - path taken through value space
 - timing of changes through values



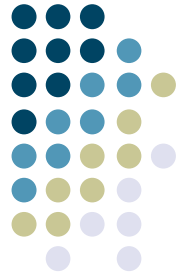
Trajectory has two parts

- Curve
 - set of values we pass through
 - typically in 2D space, but could be in any space of values (e.g., font size)
- Pacing function
 - mapping from time interval $(0 \dots 1)$ to “parameter space” of curve $(0 \dots 1)$
 - determines pacing along curve
 - e.g., slow-in / slow-out



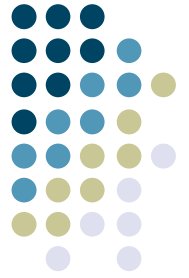
Mapping from time to value

- Time normalized with respect to animation interval $(0 \dots 1)$
- Normalized time is transformed by pacing function $(0 \dots 1)$
- Paced value is then fed to curve function to get final value



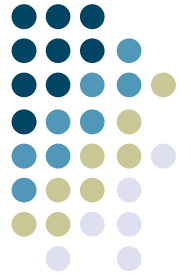
To get a movement

- Create and schedule a transition
 - several predefined types (i.e., linear)
 - scheduling can be done absolute
 - start stop at the following wall clock times
 - or relative
 - D seconds from now
 - D seconds from start / end of that



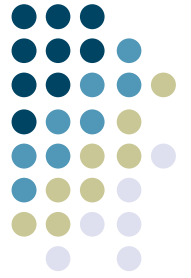
System action

- Transition will deliver time as input using animatable interface
 - `transition_start()`
 - `transition_step()`
 - `transition_end()`
- Each delivers:
 - trajectory object, relative time & value



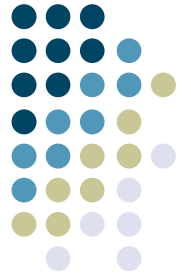
Transition steps

- Steps represent intervals of time, not points in time
 - deliver start and end times & values
- Typical OS can't deliver uniform time intervals
 - Number of steps (delivery rate) is not fixed in advance (animation system sends as many as it can)
 - system delivers as many as it can



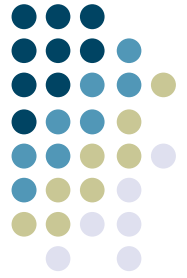
Recap

- Transition
 - Object to animate
 - Time interval to work over
 - Time $\Rightarrow (0 \dots 1)$
 - Trajectory to pass through
 - Pacing function $(0 \dots 1) \Rightarrow (0 \dots 1)$
 - Curve $(0 \dots 1) \Rightarrow \text{Value}$



Animation in Swing

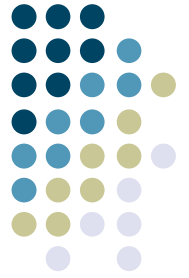
- Unfortunately, no nice API custom built for animation
- Animation usually cobbled together using a grab bag of tricks
 - Separate thread to update positions or other attributes of animated components
 - Custom repaint code
 - Graphical trickery
 - Understanding/using the Swing threading model
- (Depending on what you want to do...)



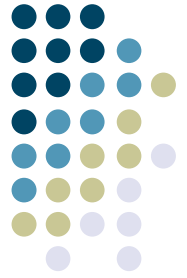
Good Animation Examples

- Excellent book: *Swing Hacks*, Marinacci and Adamson, O'Reilly Press
 - Hack #8: Animated transitions between tabs
 - Hack #18: Animated fade-ins of JList selections
 - Hack #42: Animated dissolving JFrames
- Plus several others
- Most involve:
 - Subclassing existing components to override their painting behavior (overriding `paintComponent()` for example)
 - Capturing on-screen regions in an Image, and then:
 - Fiddle with the image
 - Blit it to the screen
 - Lather, rinse, repeat as necessary to do a transition
 - Simply using a thread to update existing properties on normal components

Using a Thread to Update Normal Component Properties



- If you want to do *simple* animation (just move a component on-screen, or change its size), you can do this pretty easily
 - No need for crazy custom paint code or imaging
- Figure out the two states you want to change between
 - Example: location is currently (0, 0); want to get to (100, 100)
- Figure out how often you want to do updates, and how long the total transition should take
 - Example, want the entire move to happen in .5 seconds; would like .1 seconds between updates, so ideally 5 “frames” in the animation
- Create a thread that sleeps for the interval, wakes up, and does the update



Threading and Swing

- Caution!
 - You cannot (should not) update or read any Swing property from a thread other than a Swing thread
 - Example: ok to update component properties in an event handler, as that code is running in the Swing event dispatch thread
 - Updating *outside* a Swing thread can yield unpredictable results
- See: <http://java.sun.com/products/jfc/tsc/articles/threads/threads1.html>

How to Run Code in the Swing Event Dispatch Thread?



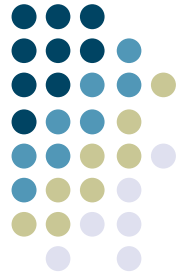
- `javax.swing.SwingUtilities`
 - `invokeLater(Runnable r)` -- queue up a runnable to execute on the Swing event dispatch thread at some later time
 - `invokeAndWait(Runnable r)` -- caution: may lead to deadlock!
 - Useful for one-off updates to Swing state
- `javax.swing.Timer`
 - Fires one or more actions after a specified delay
 - Calls out to `ActionListeners`, whose code executes on the event dispatch thread

SwingUtilities.invokeLater Example



```
SwingUtilities.invokeLater(new Runnable() {  
    public void run() {  
        someComponent.setLocation(50, 50);  
    }  
});
```

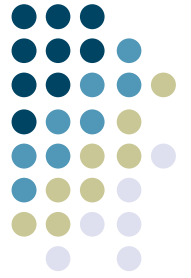
- Take care -- don't loop in run() or you'll tie up the event dispatch thread



SwingUtilities.Timer Example

```
public final static int TENTH_OF_A_SECOND = 100;
public int numIterations = 0;
timer = new Timer(TENTH_OF_A_SECOND, new ActionListener() {
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent ev) {
        if (numIterations++ >= 5) {
            timer.stop();
        } else {
            someComponent.setLocation(startX + numIterations * (endX - startX)/5,
                                     startY + numIterations * (endY - startY)/5);
        }
    }
});
timer.start();
```

- (Be sure to distinguish from non-Swing java.util.Timers, which *aren't* smart with respect to the event dispatch thread)



Gotchas

- Don't forget that some updates may conflict with other ongoing processes in Swing
- Example:
 - Changing a component's layout may not “take” if you're using a `LayoutManager` in the parent of that component

