



Faculty of Science



# Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics

## A short Introduction to Principles and Ideas

Kenny Erleben  
[kenny@diku.dk](mailto:kenny@diku.dk)

Department of Computer Science  
University of Copenhagen

2010



# Starting Point is Interpolation

The Integral Interpolant of any function  $A(\mathbf{x})$  (This is just a convolution/smoothing/regularization)

$$A_I(\mathbf{x}) = \int A(\mathbf{x}') W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|, h) d\mathbf{x}'$$

Interpolating Kernel

$$\int W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|, h) d\mathbf{x}' = 1$$

and

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|, h) = \delta(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|)$$

$h$  is the kernel support.



# More Kernel Properties

Usually we want

- Rotational (Symmetry) Invariant Kernels

$$W(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i, h) = W(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j, h)$$

- Non-negative kernels

$$W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|, h) \geq 0$$



# Discretization

By definition

$$A_I(\mathbf{x}) = \int A(\mathbf{x}') W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|, h) d\mathbf{x}'$$

Discretization (Simpson/mid-point rule)

$$A_I(\mathbf{x}) \approx A_S(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_j A(\mathbf{x}_j) W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j'\|, h) \Delta V_j$$

Since  $\Delta V_j = m_j/\rho_j$  we have

$$A_S(\mathbf{x}) = \sum m_j \frac{A(\mathbf{x}_j)}{\rho_j} W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j'\|, h)$$



# SPH in a Nutshell

Summation Interpolant

$$A_S(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_j \frac{m_j A_j}{\rho_j} W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$

Gradient

$$\nabla A_S(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_j \frac{m_j A_j}{\rho_j} \nabla W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$

Laplacian

$$\nabla^2 A_S(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_j \frac{m_j A_j}{\rho_j} \nabla^2 W(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$



# The Golden Rules of SPH

According to Monaghan

**First:** If you want to find a physical interpretation then it is always best to assume the kernel is Gaussian

**Second:** Rewrite formulas with density inside operators.

Last rule may be tricky so lets see how it can be done.



# Putting Density inside Operators

Let us study the pressure gradient by definition

$$\nabla P_i = \nabla P(x_i) = \sum_j m_j \frac{P_j}{\rho_j} \nabla W(\| \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j \|, h)$$

Non-symmetric forces. Rewrite (using differentiation rules)

$$\nabla \left( \frac{P}{\rho} \right) = \left( \frac{\nabla P}{\rho} \right) - \left( \frac{P}{\rho^2} \right) \nabla \rho$$

Then

$$\left( \frac{\nabla P}{\rho} \right) = \nabla \left( \frac{P}{\rho} \right) + \left( \frac{P}{\rho^2} \right) \nabla \rho$$

Now density is inside operators.



## Putting Density inside Operators (Cont'd)

So

$$\left(\frac{\nabla P}{\rho}\right) = \nabla \left(\frac{P}{\rho}\right) + \left(\frac{P}{\rho^2}\right) \nabla \rho$$

Using definition of summation interpolant

$$\nabla \left(\frac{P_i}{\rho_i}\right) = \sum_j m_j \frac{P_j}{\rho_j^2} \nabla_i W(\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$

$$\left(\frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2}\right) \nabla \rho_i = \frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} \sum_j m_j \nabla_i W(\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$

Putting it together we have

$$\left(\frac{\nabla P_i}{\rho_i}\right) = \sum_j m_j \left(\frac{P_j}{\rho_j^2} + \frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2}\right) \nabla_i W(\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$

A symmetrical central force between pairs of particles.





# The Real World Problems

- The choice of kernel  $W(\cdot)$  has great influence on accuracy and stability
- Using the Gradient and Laplacian equations may result in break-down of symmetry laws known from physics



# A Simple Navier–Stokes Solver

Step 1 Compute density

$$\rho_i = \rho(\mathbf{x}_i) = \sum_j m_j W(\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$

Step 2 Compute pressure

$$p_i = p(\mathbf{x}_i) = k(\rho(\mathbf{x}_i) - \rho_0)$$

Any problems here?

Step 3 Compute Interaction (Symmetric) Forces

$$\mathbf{f}^p(\mathbf{x}_i) = - \sum_j m_j \frac{p_i + p_j}{2\rho_j} \nabla W(\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$

$$\mathbf{f}^v(\mathbf{x}_i) = \mu \sum_j m_j \frac{\mathbf{v}_j - \mathbf{v}_i}{\rho_j} \nabla^2 W(\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|, h)$$

$$\text{sum up } \mathbf{f}_i = \mathbf{f}_i^p + \mathbf{f}_i^v + \mathbf{g}$$



# Navier–Stokes Solver (Cont'd)

Step 4 Solve ODE (typical leap-frog scheme is used)

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{v}_i$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{v}}_i = \mathbf{f}_i / \rho_i$$

Step 5 Goto step 1

Discuss

- How to compute surface tension forces?
- How to deal with solid boundaries?



# The Poly6 Kernel

$$W_{\text{poly6}}(r, h) = \frac{315}{64\pi h^4} \begin{cases} (h^2 - r^2)^3 & ; 0 \leq r \leq h \\ 0 & ; \end{cases}$$

Try

- Plot  $W_{\text{poly6}}(r, h)$  as a function of  $r$ .
- Prove  $\int W_{\text{poly6}}(r, h) dr = 1$  (Hint: consider if you are in 2D or 3D)
- Prove  $W_{\text{poly6}}(r, h) \geq 0$
- Compute  $\nabla_r W_{\text{poly6}}(r, h)$  and plot it
- Compute  $\nabla_r^2 W_{\text{poly6}}(r, h)$  and plot it



# The Spiky Kernel

$$W_{\text{spiky}}(r, h) = \frac{15}{\pi h^6} \begin{cases} (h-r)^3 & ; 0 \leq r \leq h \\ 0 & ; \end{cases}$$

Try

- Plot  $W_{\text{spiky}}(r, h)$  as a function of  $r$ .
- Compute  $\nabla_r W_{\text{spiky}}(r, h)$  and plot it
- Compute  $\nabla_r^2 W_{\text{spiky}}(r, h)$  and plot it



# Acceleration Techniques

- Finite Kernel Support  $\Rightarrow$  only sum over neighbors that contribute
- Given support radius  $h$  find number of neighbors  $K$  for kNN

```
1 : find-K( $\mathbf{x}, h, K$ )  
2 :   while  
3 :     [ $I, D$ ] = knnsearch( $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}, K$ )  
4 :     if  $\|h\| > \max D$   
5 :        $K \leftarrow K + \Delta K$   
6 :     else  
7 :       return  $K$   
8 :     end  
9 :   end  
10 : end
```

- Spatial Hashing (Later)



# Choosing Kernel Support Radius

- Proportional to the “volume” of the particle

$$h_i = \sigma \left( \frac{m_i}{\rho_i} \right)^{1/d}$$

where  $d$  is dimension and  $\sigma \sim 1.3$  is a constant.

- Adjust  $h$  so each particle has a constant number of neighbors
- Choice  $h$  consistent with Density summation equation

1 : **while not converged**

2 :  $\rho_i \leftarrow \sum_j m_j W(\| \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j \|, h_i); \quad \forall i$

3 :  $h_i \leftarrow \sigma \left( \frac{m_i}{\rho_i} \right)^{1/d}; \quad \forall i$

4 : **end**

A fixed-point problem



# Particle Setup

Given  $\rho_0$  and some global  $h$ -value

- Make  $d$ -dimensional grid with cell sides  $2h$
- Make mass  $m_i$  of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  particle correspond to the cell size

$$m_i = (2h)^d \rho_0$$

Body-Centered-Cubic (BCC) Lattice may result in better “compactness”





# Visualization of Fluid

- Think of particles as balls of material having volume

$$V_i = \frac{m_i}{\rho_i}$$

and radius

$$r_i = \sqrt[3]{\left(\frac{3V_i}{4\pi}\right)}$$

Draw particle as ball with center  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and radius  $r_i$

- Think of particles as a blob (distribution) of material so draw them as balls with radius equal to  $h$ .
- Use color field and marching cubes or tetrahedra
- Use point rendering/splatting



# That is It!

## Questions?



## Further Reading

- J. J. Monaghan: Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics, In: Annual review of astronomy and astrophysics. Vol. 30, p. 543-574. 1992.
- M. Desbrun and M. Gascuel: Smoothed particles: a new paradigm for animating highly deformable bodies, Proceedings of the Eurographics workshop on Computer animation and simulation 1996.
- M. Müller, D. Charypar and M. Gross: Particle-based fluid simulation for interactive applications, Proceedings of the 2003 ACM SIGGRAPH/Eurographics symposium on Computer animation.
- M. Müller, B. Solenthaler, R. Keiser and M. Gross: Particle-based fluid-fluid interaction, Proceedings of the 2005 ACM SIGGRAPH/Eurographics symposium on Computer animation.



## More Reading

- J. J. Monaghan: Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics, Reports on Progress in Physics, Volume 68, Number 8, 2005
- M. Kelager: Lagrangian Fluid Dynamics Using Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics, DIKU graduate project, 2006.
- M. Becker and M. Teschner: Weakly compressible SPH for free surface flows, Proceedings of the 2007 ACM SIGGRAPH/Eurographics symposium on Computer animation.
- B. Adams, M. Pauly, R. Keiser and J.L. Guibas: Adaptively sampled particle fluids, ACM SIGGRAPH 2007
- B. Solenthaler and R. Pajarola, Predictive-corrective incompressible SPH, ACM Trans. Graph., vol. 28, no. 3, 2009.
- H. Lee and S. Han: Solving the Shallow Water equations using 2D SPH particles for interactive applications, The Visual Computer Volume 26, Numbers 6-8, 2010.



# Study Groups

From the literature given

- List values used for the gas constant
- List the different kernels used
- List all the different methods for selecting/controlling the kernel radius
- List all the different methods for controlling the time-step size
- List the methods for computing pressure forces
- List the equation of state
- Identify problems with using the classical formula for density estimation
- Identify issues in using time-spatial varying support radii



# Basic Programming Assignment

- Implement the M4 spline, the Poly 6 and the Spiky kernels in 2D
- Using numerical integration verify that your kernels are normalized
- Plot the kernels and verify that they are symmetrical (even) functions
- Implement the derivatives of the kernels, plot them and visually verify that they corresponds to the “slopes” of the kernel functions.



# Intermediate Programming Assignment

Given a grid-based initialization of a water-like particles investigate the numerical properties of the density estimation only<sup>1</sup>. Plot the density profile along a horizontal line going through particles.

- Based on everyday experience reflect over how a real-world density profile should look
- Based on knowledge from convolution reflect over how a regularized density profile should look
- Examine how the density profile changes as a function of the support radius
- Examine how the density profile changes as a function of the number of particles
- Examine how the computing time changes as a function of the support radius and number of particles

---

<sup>1</sup>Turn of all forces and time integration



# Advanced Programming Assignment

Use SPH to solve the problem

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -\nu\mathbf{v} - \frac{\nabla P}{\rho} + \mathbf{r}$$

where  $\nu > 0$  and  $\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $P, \rho \in \mathbb{R}$ .

- Work out the SPH formulas for the problem
- Determine what kernels you want to use and how to compute kernel size
- If time permits try to play around with using different kernels, different strategies for choosing kernel size and different ways of initializing the problem.
- If time permits try to investigate what happens if the number of particles is increased.





# Nice Matlab Functions to Know

Read about these things in your Matlab help

- **quad2d**
- **knnsearch**
- **repmat**
- **struct**
- Logical subscripting of matrices
- (Anonymous) function handles

They are used everywhere in the sample code.

