Unleashing Aurora GT

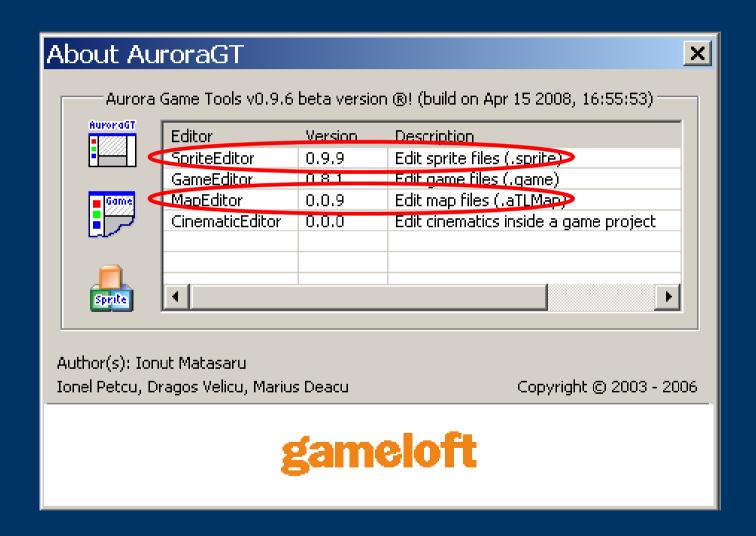
PART I – SpriteEditor & MapEditor: fundamentals



Version

27/02/08	Diego.Mercado@gameloft.com	0.0.2	Added Tileset editor
29/02/08	Diego.Mercado@gameloft.com	0.0.3	Modified gpl2act args, compound graphic & minor changes
10/03/08	Diego.Mercado@gameloft.com	1.0.0	Reorder some slides & minor changes
10/03/08	Diego.Mercado@gameloft.com	1.0.1	Added mask subdivision, MapEditor including isometric maps (r1006) & some optimizations
17/04/08	Diego.Mercado@gameloft.com	1.0.2	Added preview of an animation, more flags, support for non-indexed images and truecolor bmp & updated to r1093: support for more types (triangles & arcs), new bsprite's chunks, and some minor changes
22/04/08	Diego.Mercado@gameloft.com	1.0.3	Added Content & Contact Us pages
02/06/08	Diego.Mercado@gameloft.com	1.0.4	Fixed some bugs at the exporting sprite section
10/09/08	gaspar.deelias@gameloft.com	1.0.5	Splitted AuroraGT Workshop into several sessions (7)

Reference Version¹



¹ https://terminus.mdc.gameloft.org/vc/tools/AuroraGT (r1093)

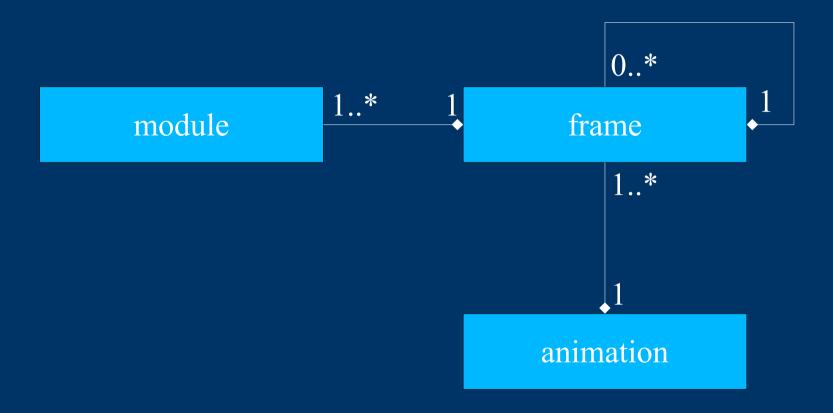
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AuroraGT

- Aurora Game Tools)
 - Is:
 - A sprite editor
 - A game designing tool
 - It has 3 main different versions:
 - Normal (AuroraGT.exe)
 - Home-Edition (AuroraGT_HE.exe)
 - Unicode-Edition (AuroraGT unicode.exe)
 - The extensions of its files are:
 - Sprites: *.sprite
 - Games: *.game
 - Maps: *.aTLMap

Sprite



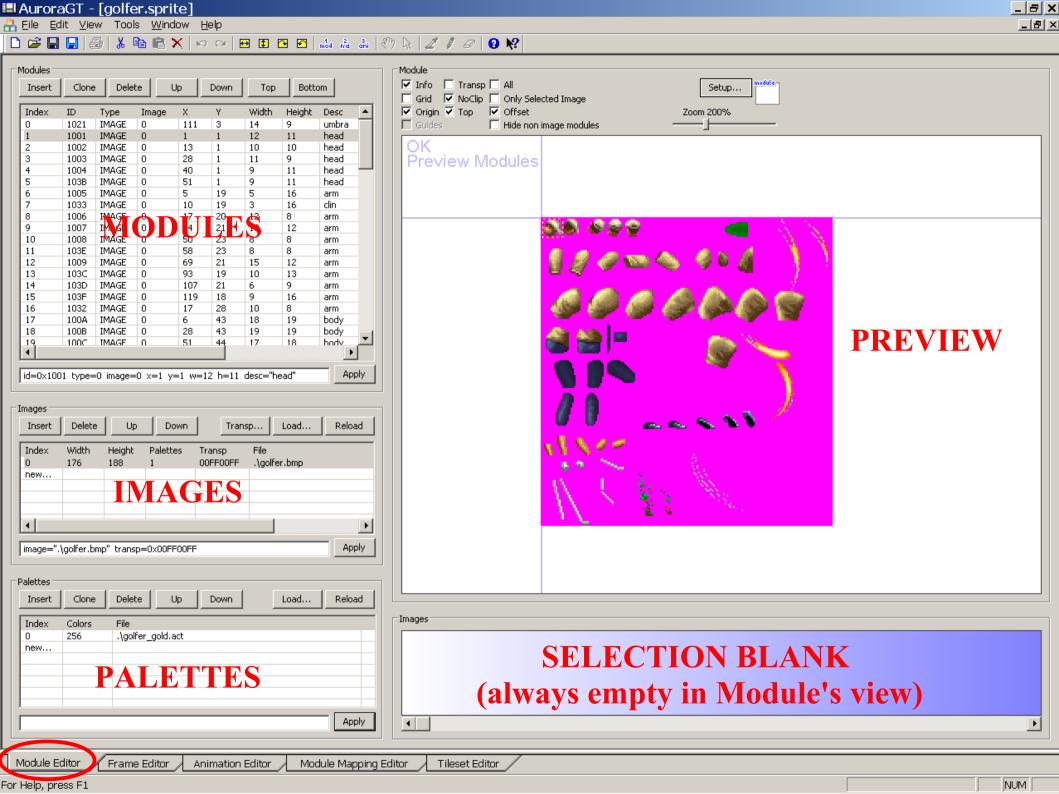
Sprite

• Sprite

- "An independent graphic object controlled by its own bit plane (area of memory)"
- "Is a two-dimensional/three-dimensional image or animation that is integrated into a larger scene" (Wikipedia)

⁽¹) Computer Desktop Encyclopedia

⁽²) Wikipedia



- For each module you need to set:
 - Index:
 - auto-generated (expressed as int)
 - the modules are ordered according to this value
 - <u>ID</u>:
 - auto-generated (expressed as HEX)
 - from the frame editor you need to refer to this value always
 - <u>- Туре</u>:
 - indicates if it's an image or a RECT, a filled RECT, an ARC, a FILL_ARC, a MARKER, a TRIANGLE or a FILLED TRIANGLE
 - <u>Image</u>:
 - If the type is an image indicate the index of it

- Widht/Height
 - Portion taken from an image or size of any other object
- X/Y
 - Position of an image
 - For the other objects are 0 the default values and it cannot be changed
- Color:
 - For any filled objects (i.e. Fill_arc, Fill_rect)
- Desc:
 - Description of the module
 - Some font tools use this field for mapping characters

- Triangle (specific)
 - <u>p2X/p2Y/p3X/p3Y</u>:
 - X and Y values for the 1st vertex are always zero
 - p2X and p2Y values for the 2nd vertex
 - p3X and p3Y values for the 3rd vertex
- Arc (specific)
 - StartAngle
 - From which angle the ellipse is going to start
 - ArcAngle
 - In which angle the ellipse ends
 - these are parameters from drawArc(..), fillArc(..) methods

Modules Insert	Clone	e Dele	te L	lp	Down	Тор	Botto	om
Index	ID	Туре	Image	X	Υ	Width	Height	Desc 🔺
0	1021	IMAGE	0	111	3	14	9	umbra
1	104F	IMAGE	0	0	0	16	16	
2	1001	IMAGE	0	1	1	12	11	head
3	1002	IMAGE	0	13	1	10	10	head
4	1003	IMAGE	0	28	1	11	9	head
5	1004	IMAGE	0	40	1	9	11	head
6	103B	IMAGE	0	51	1	9	11	head
7	1005	IMAGE	0	5	19	5	16	arm
8	1033	IMAGE	0	10	19	3	16	clin
9	1006	IMAGE	0	17	20	12	8	arm
10	1007	IMAGE	0	34	21	13	12	arm
11	1008	IMAGE	0	50	23	8	8	arm
12	103E	IMAGE	0	58	23	8	8	arm
13	1009	IMAGE	0	69	21	15	12	arm
14	103C	IMAGE	0	93	19	10	13	arm
15	103D	IMAGE	0	107	21	6	9	arm
16	103F	IMAGE	0	119	18	9	16	arm
17	1032	IMAGE	0	17	28	10	8	arm
18	100A	IMAGE	0	6	43	18	19	body 💌
<u>+</u>								
id=0x1001 type=0 image=0 x=1 y=1 w=12 h=11 desc="head" Apply								

ΓI	Modules —			
	Insert	Clone	e Delei	te
	Index	ID	Туре	Imag
	0	1021	IMAGE	0
	1	104F	IMAGE	0_
	2	1001	IMAGE	▼
	3	1002	IMAGE	
	4	1003	RECT	
	5	1004	FILL REC	т L
	6	103B	ARC	•
	7	1005	FILL ARC	
	8	1033	MARKER	
	9	1006	IMAGE	

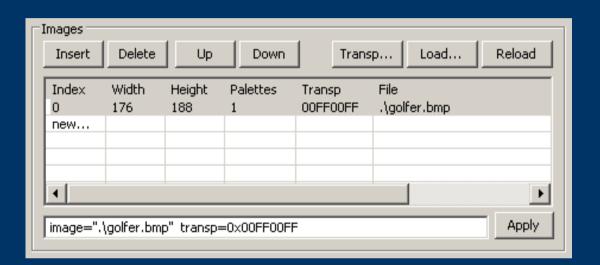
- Examples of
 - FILL RECT
 - FILL ARC
 - FILL_TRIANGLE

type=4 color=0x00AACCFF w=50 h=50 startAngle=20 arcAngle=9

Sprite *Module Editor - Images*

• IMAGES

- Supports:
 - *.bmp
 - *.png
 - *.jpg
 - *.gif
 - *.tga



SpriteASprite_PaintModule.hxx

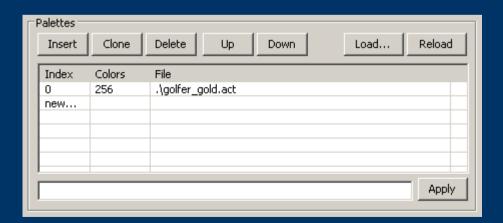
- An important difference:
 - MIDP1 phones supports "at least" PNG version 1.0
 - static Image createImage(byte[] imageData, int imageOffset, int imageLength)
 - MIDP2 phones supports "at least" PNG version 1.0 and image creation using an ARGB array
 - static Image createRGBImage(int[] rgb, int width, int height, boolean processAlpha)

SpriteASprite_PaintModule.hxx

- For painting modules:
 - Depends of one of the following flags (mutually exclusive):
 - IMAGE USAGE DYNAMIC PNG
 - images are created using the Image.createImage(...) from PNG streams
 - IMAGE_USAGE_RGB_ARRAYS
 - images are created using the Image.createRGBImage(...) from RGB arrays
 - IMAGE USAGE NOKIA UI
 - Nokia UI classes are used to handle images
 - IMAGE USAGE DOJA
 - DOJA classes are used to handle images

SpriteModule Editor - Palettes

- Each image may have one or more palettes associated
 - the index field is use to indicate this
- You can set the palette/s through:
 - Image
 - ACT



• Images are stored in a 2D array:

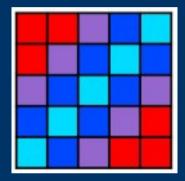
52	55	61	66	70	61	64	73
63	59	55	66 90	109	85	69	72
62	59	68	113	144	104	66	73
			122				
67	61	68	104	126	88	68	70
79	65	60	70	77	68	58	75
85	71	64	59	55	61	65	83
87	79	69	68	65	76	78	94

• This would require 8bits/pixel since values range is [0 - 255]

- This is a B&W image.
- In color images range is [0 16,777,216]
- This means 24bits/pixel

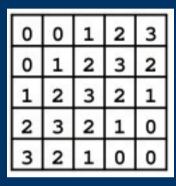
- Image size= bytes/pixel * number of pixels.
- Let's say we have a 24 bit image -> 3bytes/pixel.
- For a 240x320 image, it would be: 3 bytes * 240 * 320 = 240 kb !!!

• Original image:

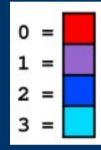


RAW Size:
24 bits/px * 25px=600bits
Every pixel needs 24 bits

• Indexed image:



where...



- Indexed Size:
- 2 bits/px * 25px=50bits

Every pixel needs 2 bits

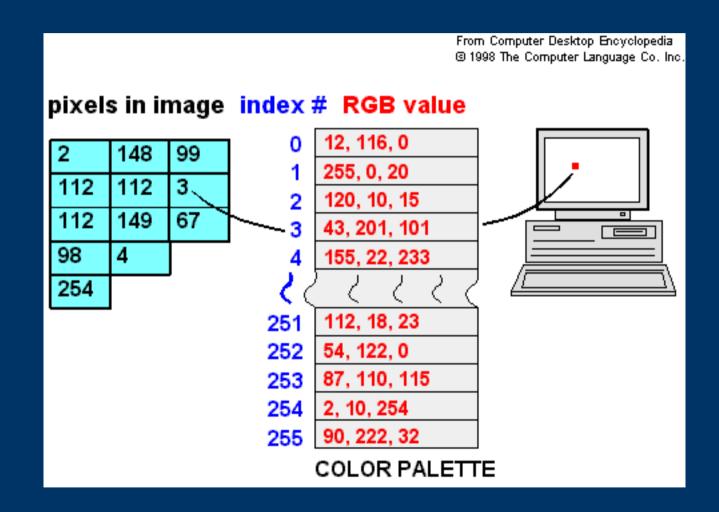
- Conclusion:
- Indexed images bit depth depends on the color table entries. (DATA FORMAT)
- Every color table entry has a COLOR FORMAT.

• Examples: DATA_FORMAT: I4 COLOR_FORMAT: 0565

• Examples: DATA_FORMAT: I16 COLOR_FORMAT: 1555

• PALETTES

- Known as "index map", "color table" or "color map"
- "is a designated subset of the total range of colors" ...
 "each color in the palette is assigned an index, and for each pixel one of these indexes is stored to determine the color of the pixel."
- Save space: instead of each pixel containing its own red, green and blue values (24 bits per pixel), each pixel holds an 8-bit value, which is an index number into the color palette



- Bit, Pixel or Color Depth:
 - The number of bits used to hold a pixel.

Bit depth Number of colors

4-bits 8-bits 16-bits 24-bits	16 (Standard VGA) 256 (Super VGA, indexed color) 65,536 (High Color) 16,777,216 (True Color)
32-bits 15-bits	16,777,216 + alpha channel32,768 (Custom option sometimes available on earlier display adapters)

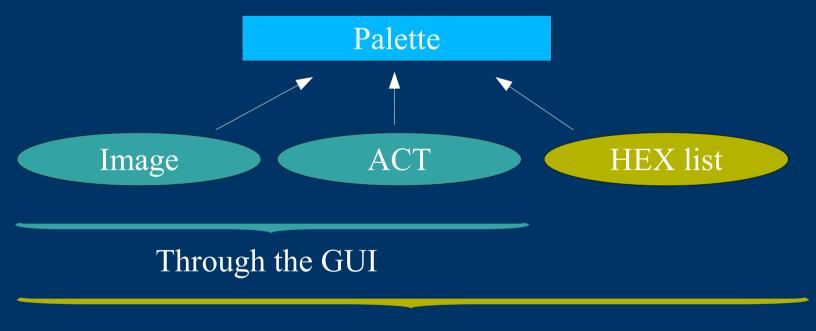
PIXEL STRUCTURES 1-BIT MONOCHROME (black & white) **8-BIT GRAYSCALE** 24-BIT COLOR (three 8-bit subpixels) Green Red Blue Red Green Blue Red Green Blue

• The most common color depth / format color at AuroraGT are:

Nama	Define	Bits per Color			
Name	Define	Alpha	Red	Green	Blue
Ignore	USE_ORIGINAL_PAL_8888	8	8	8	8
8888	USE_PIXEL_FORMAT_8888	8	8	8	8
4444	USE_PIXEL_FORMAT_4444	4	4	4	4
1555	USE_PIXEL_FORMAT_1555	1	5	5	5
0565	USE_PIXEL_FORMAT_0565	0	5	6	5

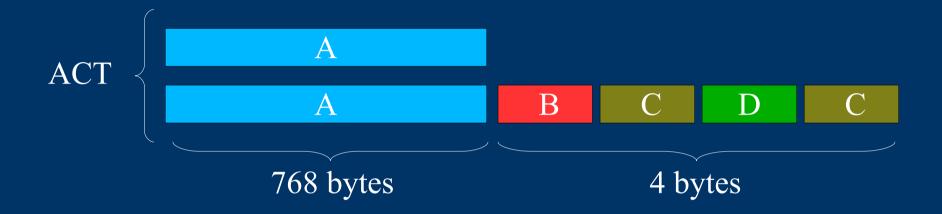
SpritePalettes - Exporting

• How we set/generate a palette:



Through the *sprcmd* file

- ACT means Adobe Color Table
 - Is the Photoshop format for defining a palette
 - Each triplet of bytes specifies a color
 - 1st Red
 - 2nd Green
 - 3rd Blue



A (768 bytes) – specifies 256 colors

B (1 byte) – specifies how many colors are (often 256 but could be less)

 $\overline{C(1 \text{ byte})}$ – always zero

D (1 byte) – indicates which byte contains the transparent color

• You can convert from GPL (GIMP Palette) to ACT using the tool gpl2act¹ (designed by Boris Godin):

```
gpl2act.exe [-r] filename_input.gpl [filename_output.act]
        [-r] (revert) will convert from .ACT to .GPL
```

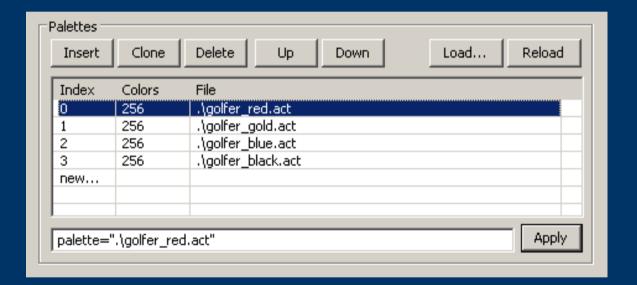
⁽¹⁾ https://wiki.gameloft.org/twiki/bin/view/Cordoba/Gpl2act

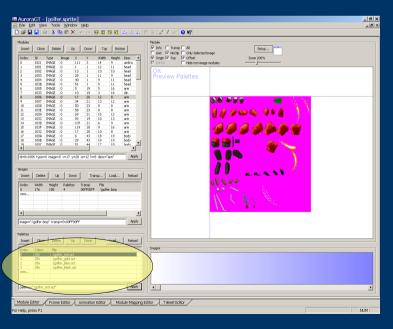


golfer_red.act golfer_gold.act golfer_blue.act golfer_black.act

SpritePalettes - Module Editor - Exporting - GUI tool

• You can specify them through the GUI:





Sprite

Palettes - Exporting - sprcmd file

• Loading a palette from an ACT file or an image through the *sprcmd* file:

NOTE: if you have any problem with 8bpp & the compression, the command convert (ImageMagick) may be helpful: i.e. "convert -type truecolor [in] [out]"

SpritePalettes - Exporting - sprcmd file

• Example:

```
Load("golfer.sprite")

LoadPalette(0, 0, "golfer_gold.act")  // DEFAULT

LoadPalette(0, 1, "golfer_red.act")  // T.WOOD

LoadPalette(0, 2, "golfer_blue.act")  // VJ.SING

LoadPalette(0, 3, "golfer_black.act")  // G.PLAYERS

ExportBSpriteEx("golfer.bsprite", GLOBAL, 164RLE, _8888)
```

SpritePalettes - Exporting - sprcmd file

• Setting the palette through the *sprcmd* file:

```
+ SetPalette(image, palette, { 0xAARRGGBB ... })
   -> modify a palette with hex codes of colors
   * image
        -> image index
   * palette
        -> palette index -> multiple palettes
   * { 0xAARRGGBB ... }
        -> hex codes for each color
        -> colors must be specified between "{" and "}"
        -> the order must match the bitmap
```

SpritePalettes - Exporting - sprcmd file

• Example:

```
Load("fonts/fontL.sprite")

// transp color outline

SetPalette(0, 0, {0x00000000 0xFFfffc00 0xFF000000})

SetPalette(0, 1, {0x00000000 0xFFFFFFFF 0xFF000000})

ExportBSpriteEx("fontL.bsprite", GLOBAL, I4, _8888)
```

original image

Yellow Font Black outline

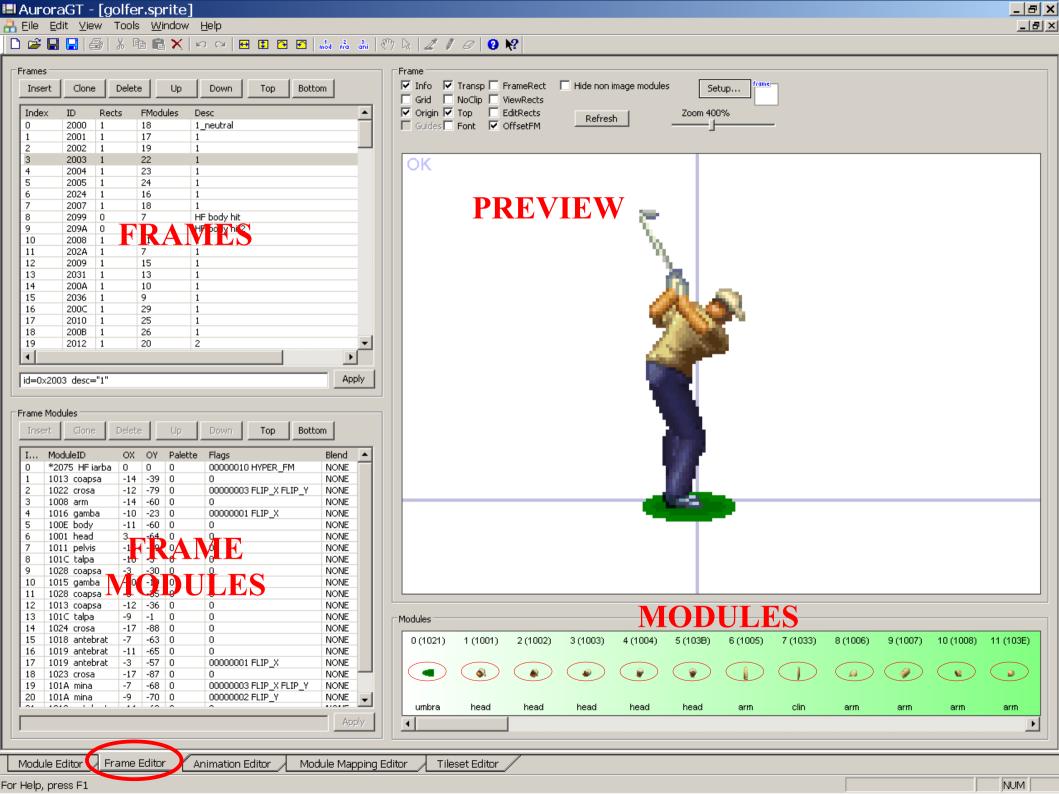
```
! " # $ % & ' ( ) * † , ¯ . /
01 23456789: ; ∢ = ▶ ?
e ABCDEFGHI JKLMNO
PQRSTUVWXYZ
Ä ÀÁÂBÇÈÉÊÌÑÒÔÖŐÙÜ¿i
Ã
```

White Font Black outline

SpritePalettes - ASprite_Palette.hxx

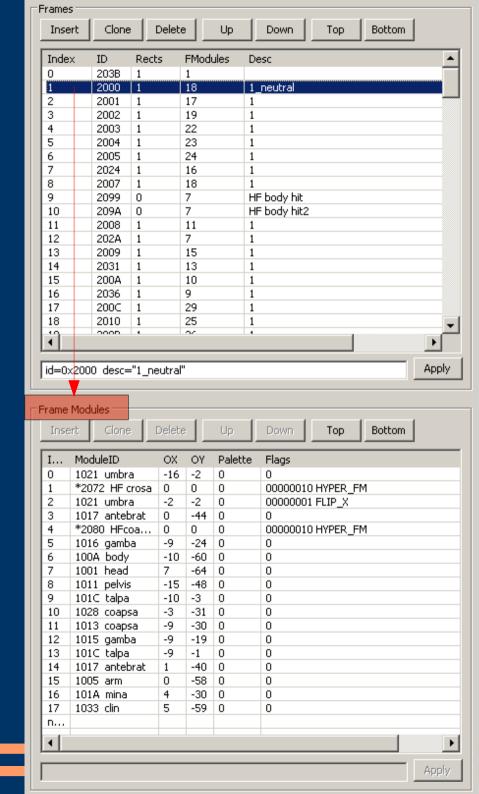
• Setting/getting a palette:

```
void SetCurrentPalette(int pal) { _crt_pal = pal; }
int GetCurrentPalette() { return _crt_pal; }
```



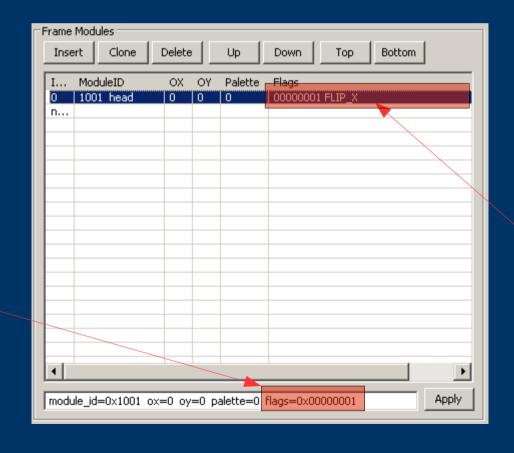
SpriteFrame Editor

- Frame Modules
 - Means "all those modules that belongs to a frame"
 - For each one:
 - <u>ModuleID</u>: the reference of the module
 - Rects: rectangles on each FM
 - OX / OY: offset of the image since the origin (0 is the default value)
 - <u>Palette</u>: index of the palette (you set this on the module view)
 - Flags: rotations & flips



SpriteFrame Editor

• Flags



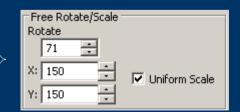
2) And it's reflected here

1) We change the value here

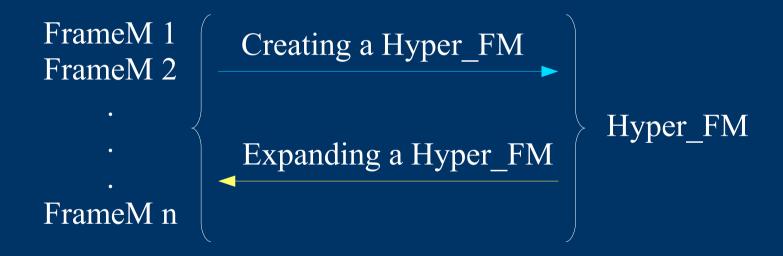
SpriteFrame Editor - Flags

	0x00000000	0x00000001	0x00000002	0x00000003	0x00000004	0x00000005	0x00000006	0x00000007
FLIP_X		•		•		•		•
FLIP_Y			•	•			•	•
ROT_90					•	•	•	•
FREE_ROT_SCALE								
IMAGE	(A)	Sep.	•	1	9	8	•	6

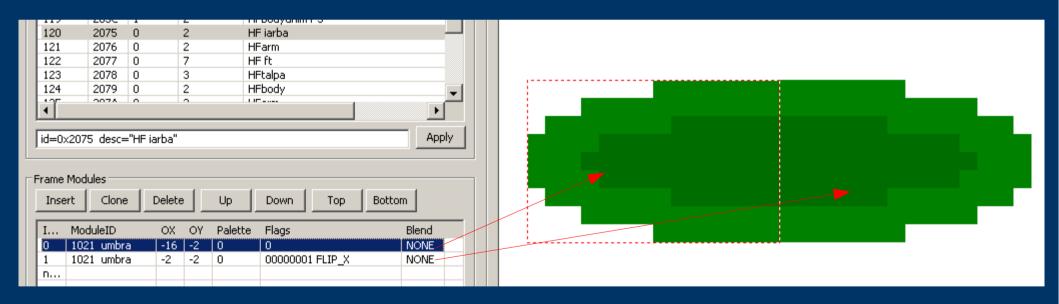
	0x00000008	0x00000009	0x0000000A	0x0000000B	0x0000000C	0x0000000D	0x0000000E	0x000000F
FLIP_X		•		•		•		•
FLIP_Y			•	•			•	•
ROT_90					•	•	•	•
FREE_ROT_SCALE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
IMAGE	*	*						



• Hyper Frame Modules:

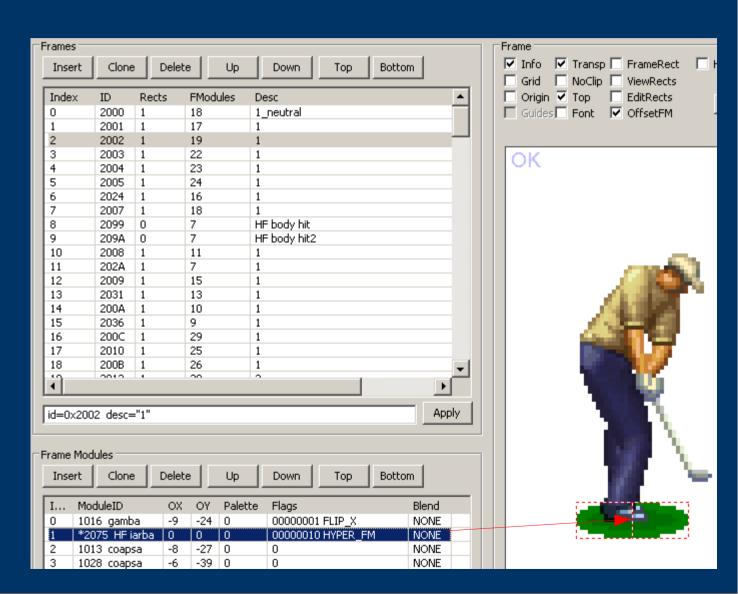


• Let's say that we need to create a frame that draws the grass:



Hyper_FM

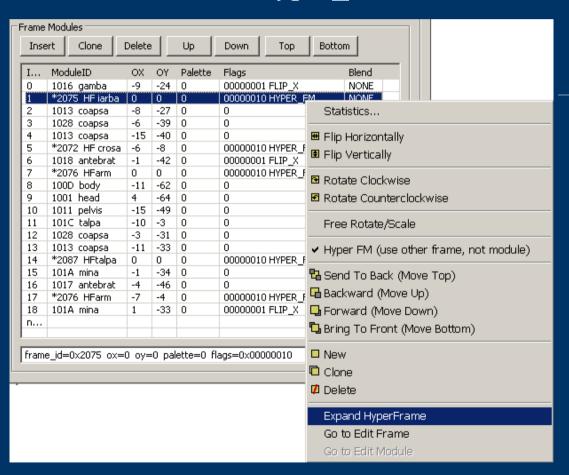
A FRAME REFERENCED BY ANOTHER FRAME



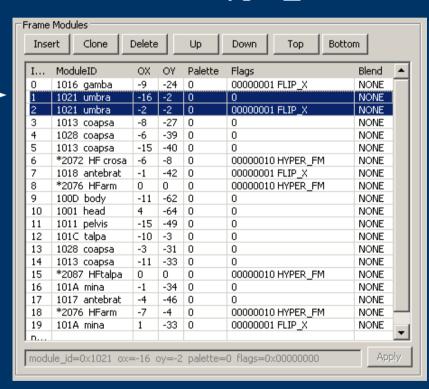
- Creating a Hyper Frame Modules
 - Means: "convert a <u>Frame Module</u> into a <u>Hyper Frame</u> <u>Module</u>"
 - Steps:
 - 1) Insert a frame module
 - 2) Right click over the frame module
 - 3) Select the unchecked "Hyper FM (use other frame, not module)"
 - 4) Edit the field "frame_id" with the current ID of your reference frame (i.e. frame_id=0x2075)

- Expanding a HyperFrame
 - Means: "convert an <u>Hyper Frame Module</u> into 2 or more <u>Frame Modules</u>"
 - Steps:
 - 1) Right click over the Hyper_FM
 - 2) Select the checked "Expand HyperFrame"

With Hyper_FM



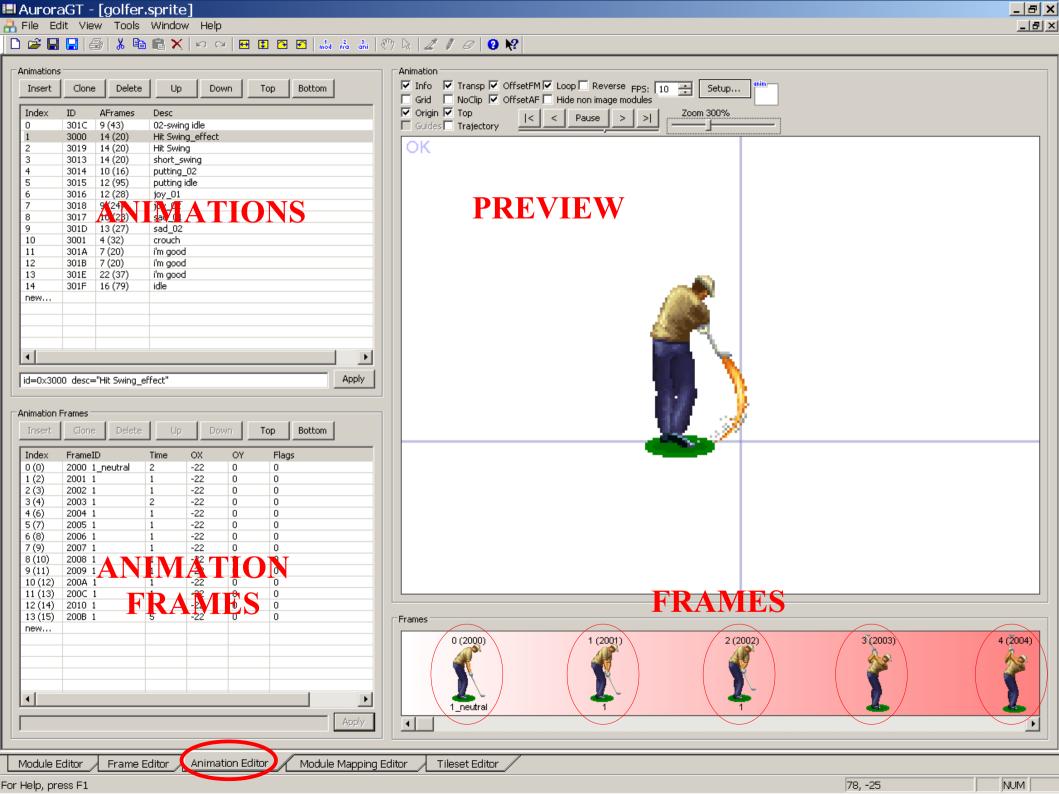
Without Hyper_FM



SpriteFrame Editor - Hyper FM - ASprite Paint.hxx

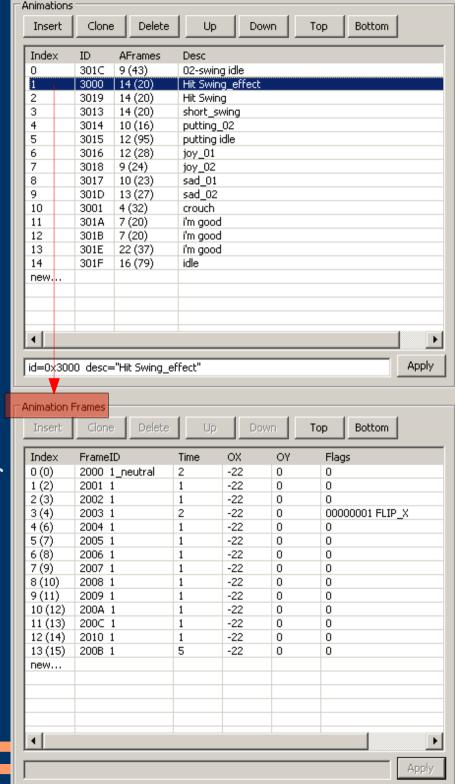
- Part of the code that handles Hyper_FM
 - (posX, posY and palette were modified before)

```
#ifdef USE_HYPER_FM
if ((fm_flags & FLAG_HYPER_FM) != 0)
{
    PaintFrame(index, posX, posY, flags ^ (fm_flags&0x0F));
}
else
#endif //USE_HYPER_FM
{
    PaintModule(index, posX, posY, flags ^ (fm_flags&0x0F));
}
```



SpriteAnimation Editor

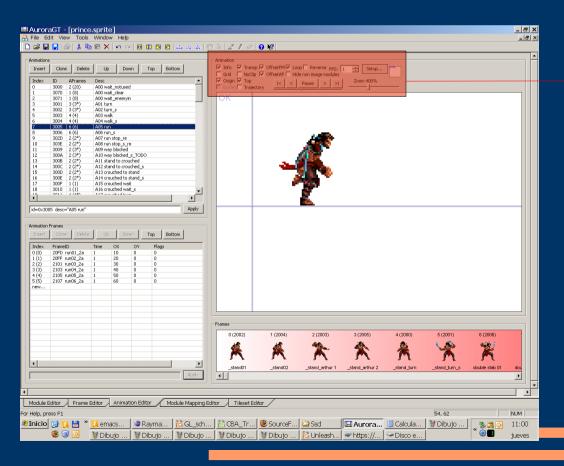
- Animation Frames
 - Means "all those frames that belong to an animation"
 - The fields are analogous to the frame modules except for:
 - <u>Time</u>: indicates the number of times to reproduce the same frame (for delay purposes)



Sprite

Animation Editor - Previewing an animation

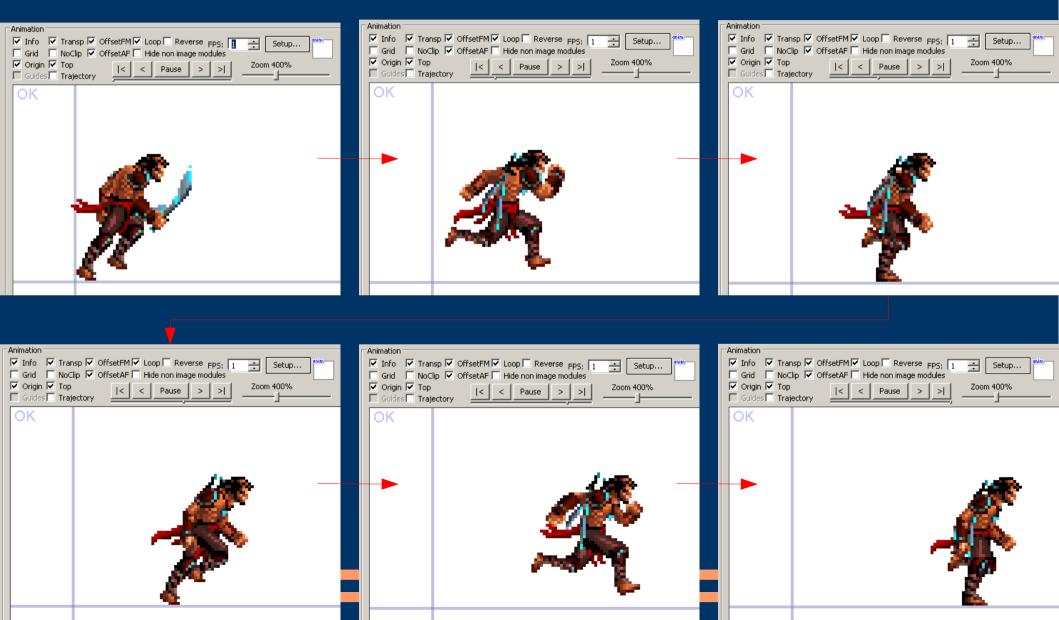
• For each animation you can preview the sequence of an animation frame:





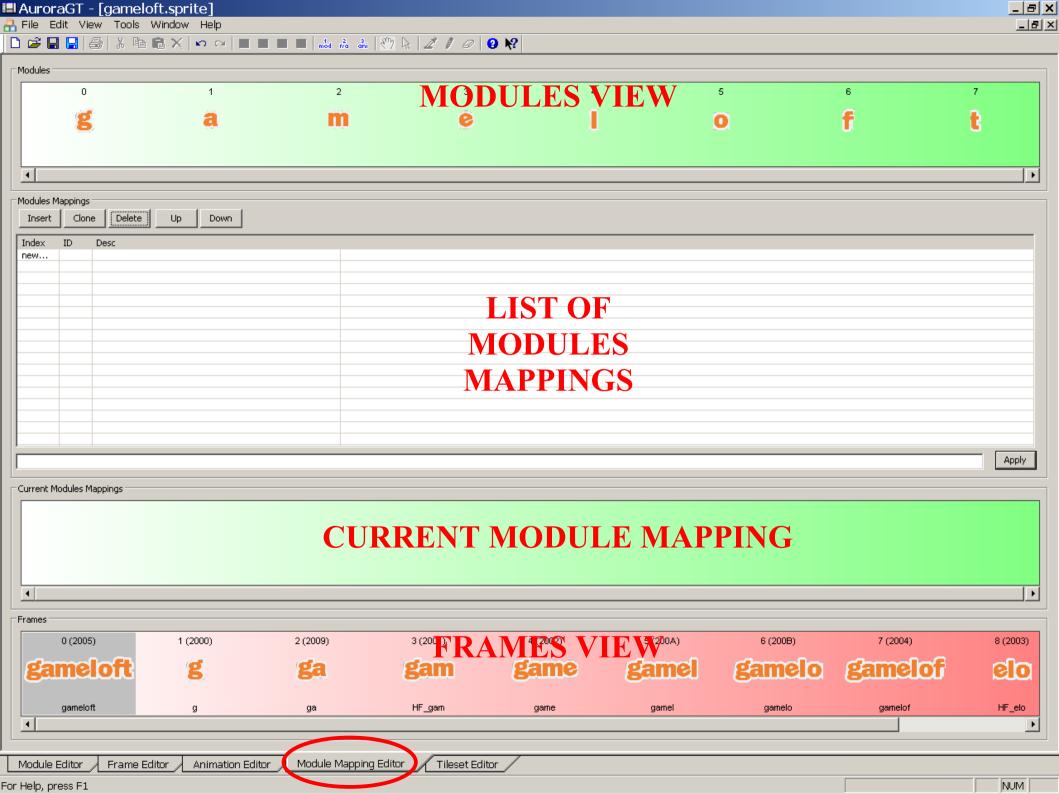
- You can set:
 - FPS: frames(animations frames)per second
 - loop: reproduce it every time

SpriteAnimation Editor - Previewing an animation



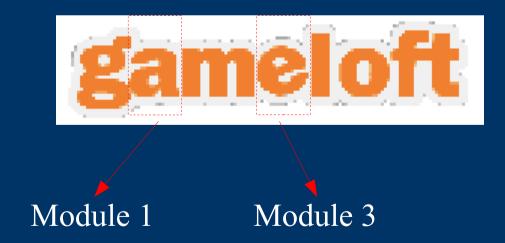
SpriteASprite Paint.hxx

- For painting frames & animations:
 - void PaintFrame(int frame, int posX, int posY,
 int flags)
 - ->Paints a frame
 - void PaintFModule(int frame, int fmodule, int posX, int posY, int flags)
 - ->Paints a frame module (a module that belongs to a frame)
 - void PaintAFrame(int anim, int aframe, int posX, int posY, int flags)
 - ->Paints an animation frame (a frame that belongs to an animation)



Sprite *Module Mapping editor*

- This is a way to associate a module with another
 - So, changing this mapping implies the use of the mapped module
- For instance,



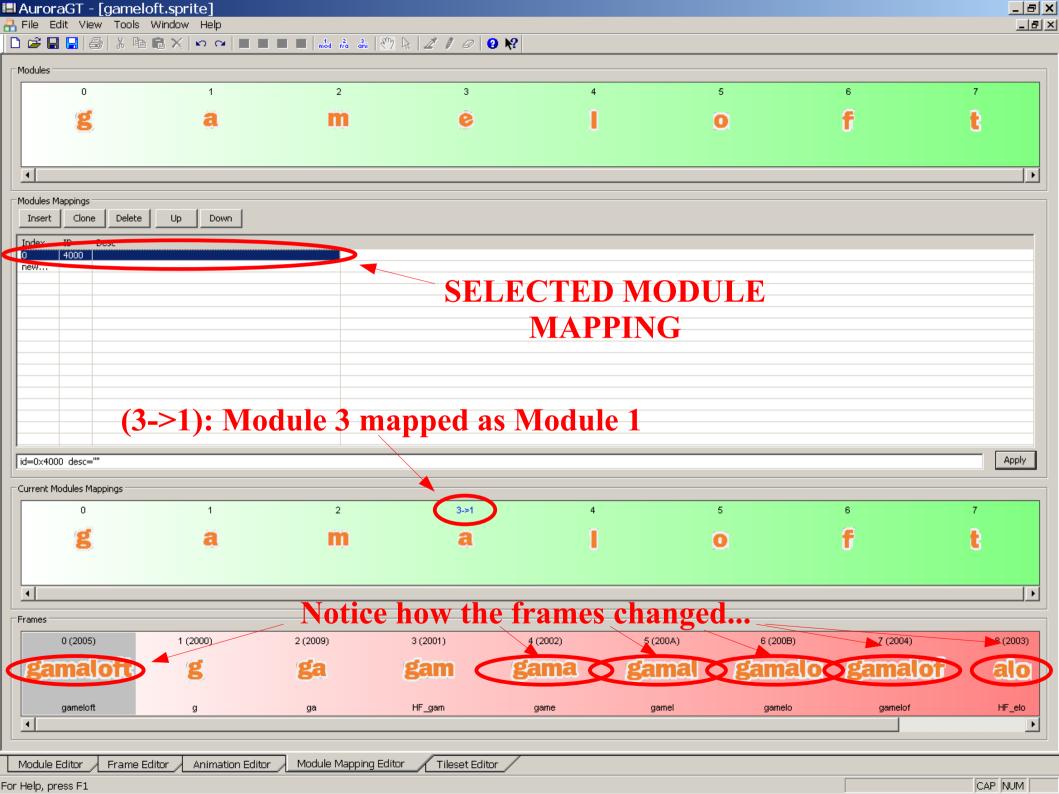
Sprite *Module Mapping editor*

• We map the "a" with "e":



• So, if the module mapping is selected the frames and animations would show:





Sprite *Module Mapping editor*

- The modules mappings are stored with the MMP extension
 - To save them: Export -> Module MMP
 - USE_MODULE_MAPPINGS activates it and
 Asprite MMapping.h mainly handles this feature

Conclusion

- Stuff we learned:
 - Create Modules / Frames / Animations / HyperFrames
 - Images & Palettes
 - Understand palettes and indexed images.
 - Pixel format types.
 - Useful for logos adaptation or resizing.

Bibliography

- AuroraGT official repository https://terminus.mdc.gameloft.org/vc/tools/AuroraGT
- AuroraGT main wiki
 https://wiki.gameloft.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/AuroraGT

Contact us

- Please, we look forward for any suggestions or bug found:
 - send us a mail toWorld-AuroraSuggestions@gameloft.com