

Report 1: A CS296 Group 11 Project Report

Mayank Meghwanshi
110050012

mayankmeghwanshi@gmail.com

Divyam Bansal
110050086

divyambansal93@gmail.com

Jaswant Kumar
110050081

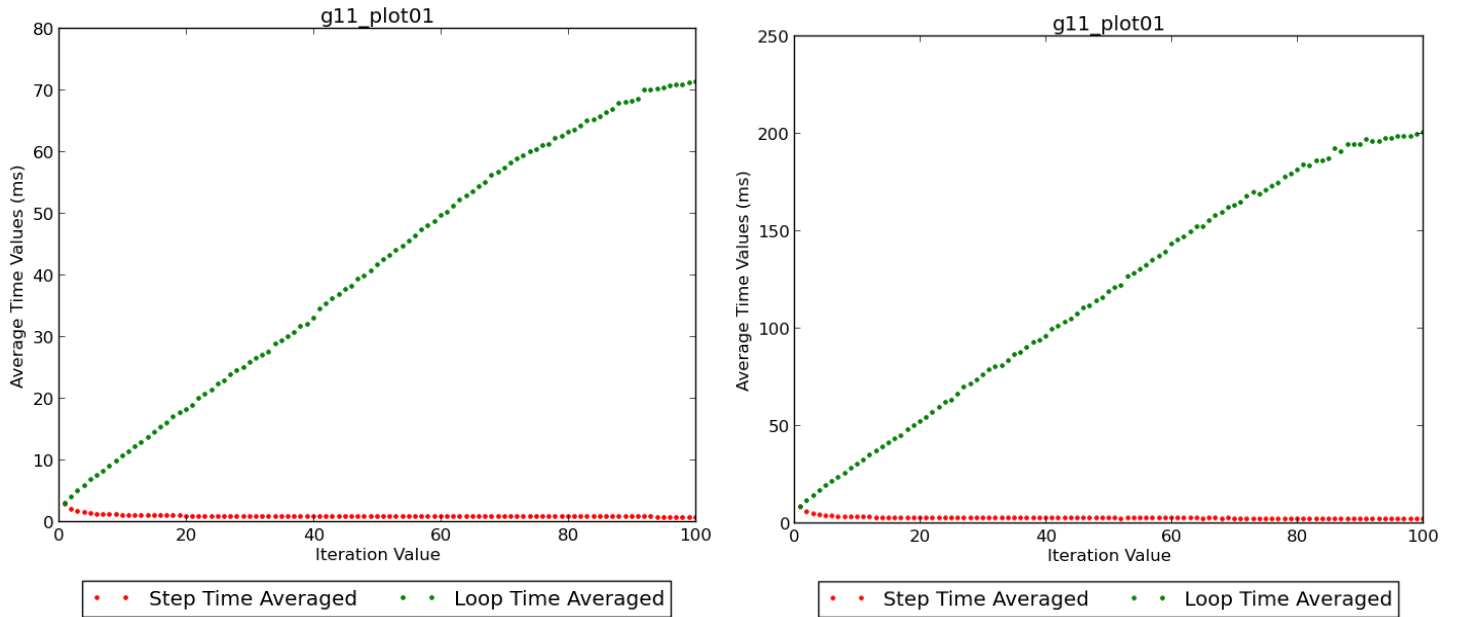
yashwantkumar2509@gmail.com

9th April 2013

Introduction

Purpose of this report is to analyze the graphs which were produced to show the relation between step time, loop time, velocity update time, position update time, collision time and the no. of iterations and re-runs.

Graph 1



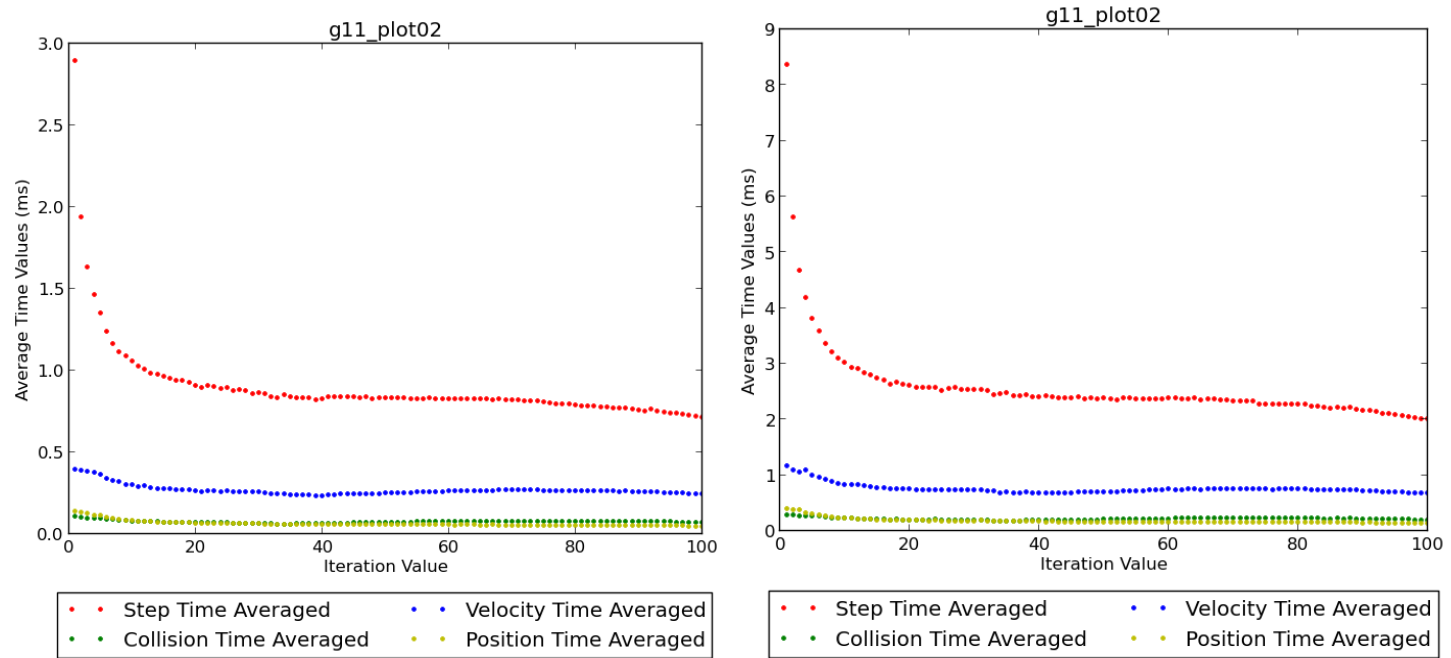
In graphs shown above, we have average step time values and total loop time value over all reruns versus iteration value graph. Left side graph is obtained when program is executed with low CPU load and right side graph is obtained when CPU load is high.

As expected, loop time increases with iteration value since with increasing number of iteration total calculations also increases. Also, the slope of graph decreases when iteration value is around 90. By running the simulation using single step we see that at the 90th step the pendulum which is initially in air collides with the ball and rebounds. At this point the pendulum starts going back and balls start moving, therefore the chances of expected collision increase as relative velocity of ball w.r.t. platform is away from platform. Therefore the time taken in analysing collision decreases and hence total time taken decreases. So the slope decreases at 90th iteration.

From the graph we can observe that the average step time value continuously decreases. It might be because the simulation takes more time at initial steps than at later steps so the average is high initially but after the number of steps increases time decreases. This may happen because when more no. of iteration occurs, CPU might prioritise the program, thus helping in the faster execution. Also Box2D looks for the collision when objects have approaching velocity between them. Therefore, after the collision of sphere and plank approaching velocity becomes negative and rest other things remain same, which results in less time taken for collision analysis and hence resulting in decreased step time.

If we do the same experiment with increased load on the CPU and memory then the shape of the graph is almost similar but values of average time increases by some factor proportional to load.

Graph 2

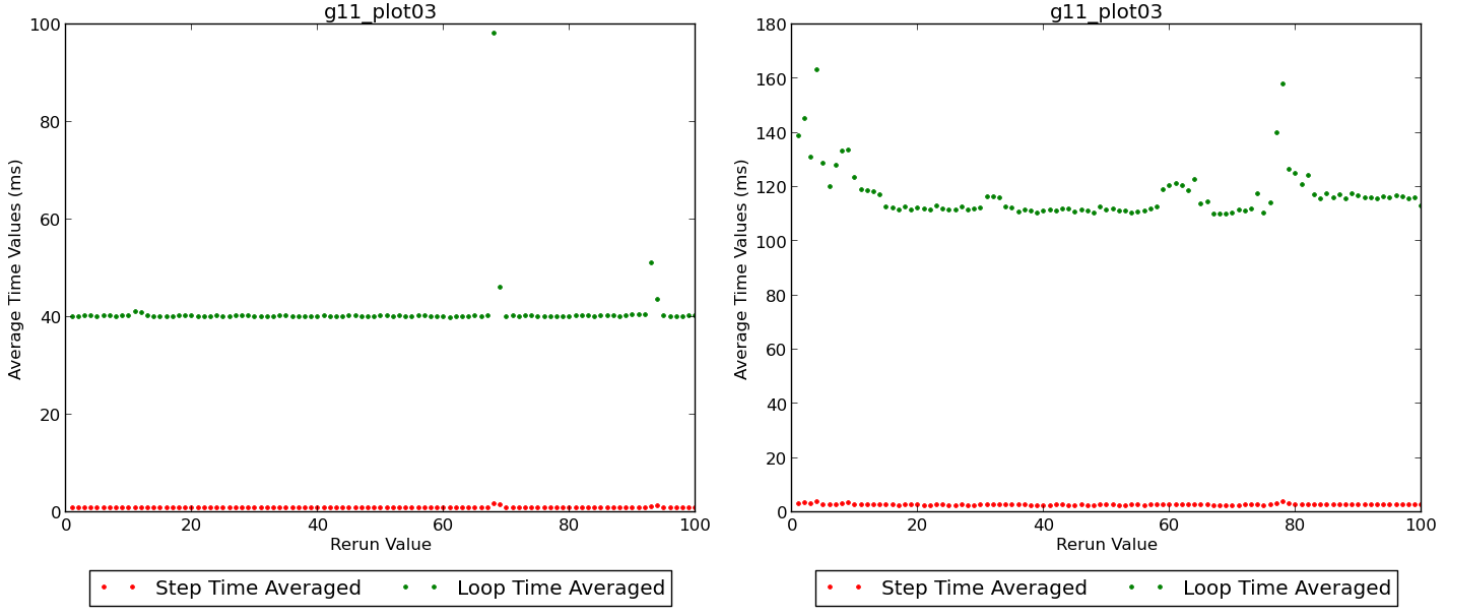


In graphs shown above. we have step times, collision detection times, velocity update times and position update times averaged over all reruns versus iteration value of graph. Left side graph is obtained when program is executed with low CPU load and right side graph is obtained when CPU load is high.

As observed from Graph 1 average step time decreases continuously with Iteration value. But the average collision detection times, velocity update times and position update times remains almost constant. Since they only depend on number of steps in simulation and in calculation we have averaged them with the iteration value i.e. number of steps so they remain constant.

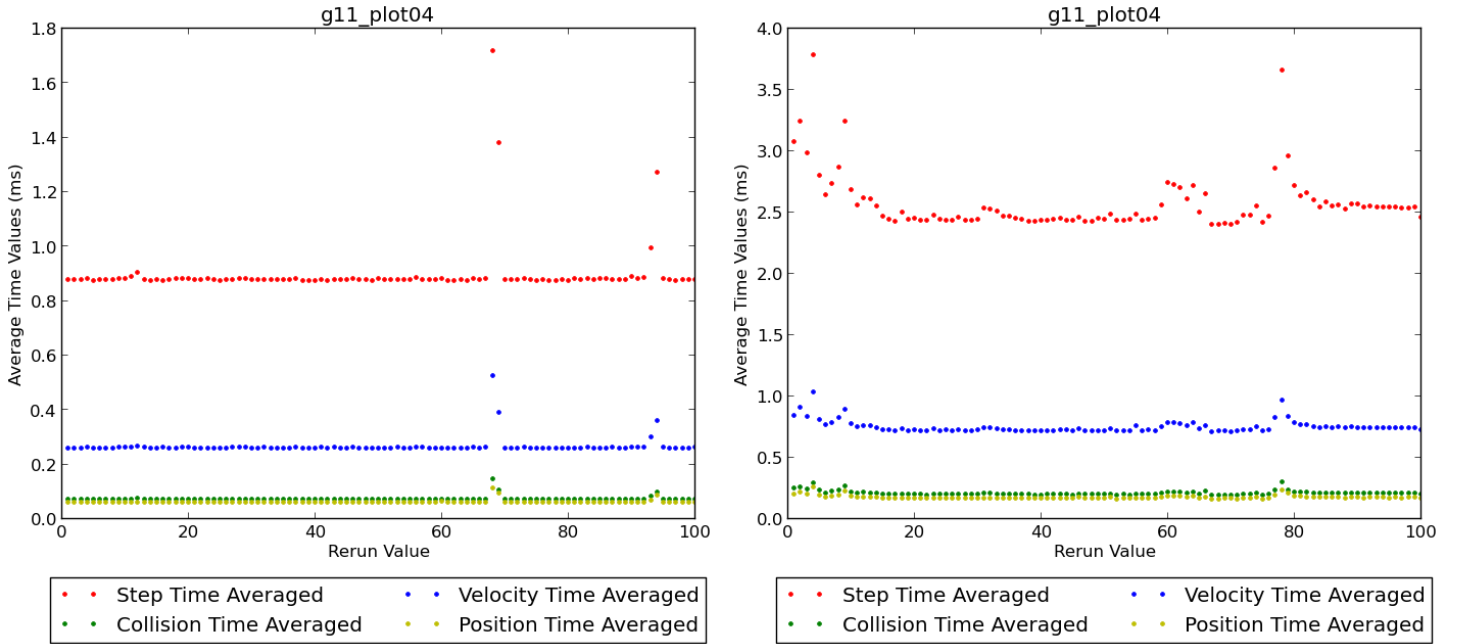
When load is increased time increases by some factor proportional to load, which is expected as the program will be executed slower.

Graph 3



In graph 3 we have average step time values and total loop time value over all iterations versus rerun value graph. We expect both the values to be almost constant with respect to the number of rerun since time of program only depends on iteration value i.e. number of steps and since we averaged it over all iteration value, so values are constant only depending on CPU condition at which rerun is performed. So when we increase the load it increases the time values according to the load and otherwise it is almost constant. There are some erroneous points due to change in load value in between the running time.

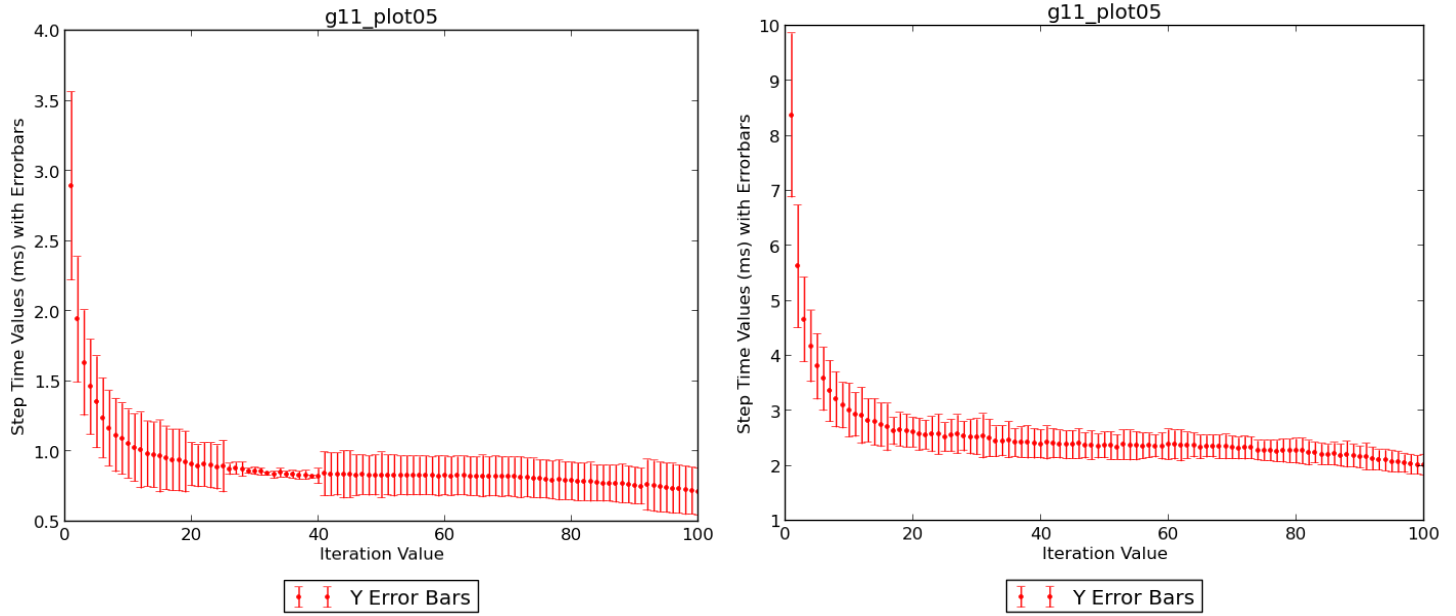
Graph 4



In graph 4 we have step times, collision detection times, velocity update times and position update times averaged over all iterations versus rerun value of graph. We expect all the values to be constant with respect to the number

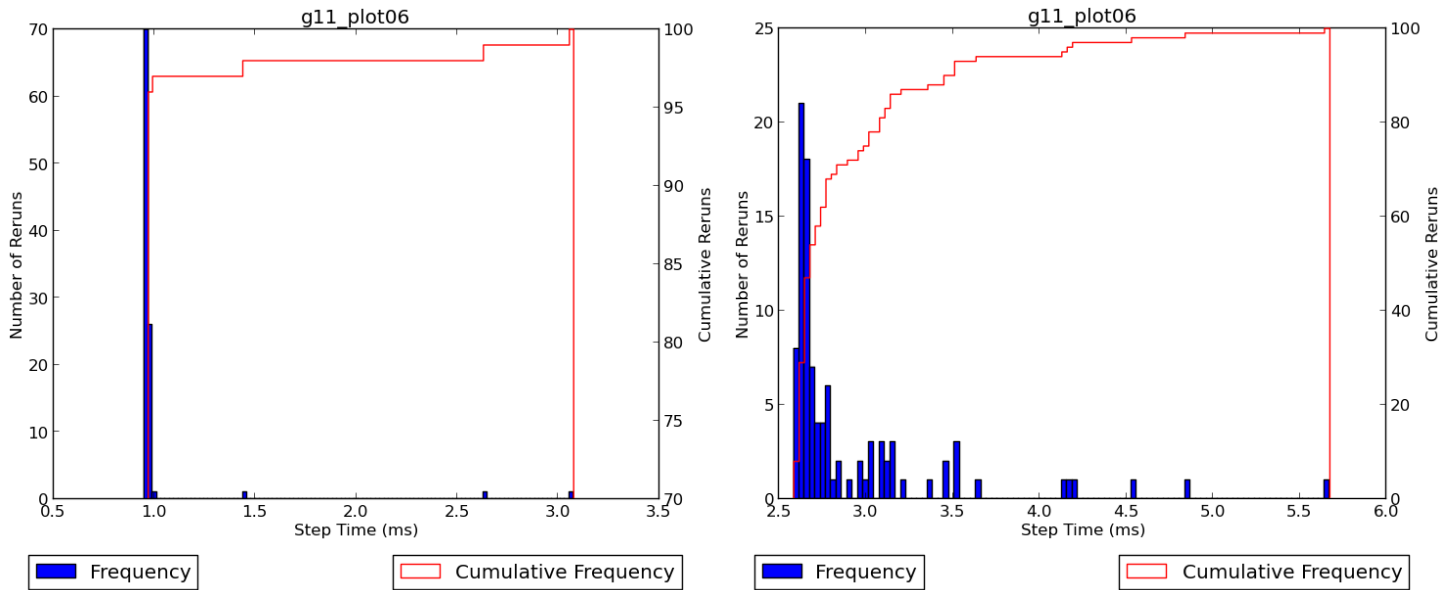
of rerun since as mentioned above time of program only depends on iteration value i.e. number of steps and we averaged it over all iteration value, so values are constant only depending on CPU condition at which rerun is performed. So when we increase the load it increases the time values according to the load and otherwise it is almost constant.

Graph 5



In graph 5 we have step time values with error bars according to value at different reruns versus Iteration value. In most of the cases the error bar is small as there is not much change in values at different reruns of the same iteration value. But at some values error is large it may be due to CPU allocation at some rerun of that iteration. Because of CPU processing error bars at some points is large. With increased load the error bar values also magnifies as the time values also increases. But if we see the relative error it is almost the same with some exceptions due to CPU performance.

Graph 6



In graph 6 we have for a given iteration value frequency and cumulative frequency of reruns with respect to step time. From this graph we can see that most of the reruns occur within some range of step time and then there are small blocks due to error and CPU processing. Cumulative frequency as expected adds up to 100. With increased load the distribution of rerun over step time increases i.e. error increases but most of reruns occur in same range of step time.

Comparison between time

Time obtained using time command on terminal is more than time obtained using gettimeofday. This is because gettimeofday gives only the time elapsed in the running of for loop whereas time obtained from time command includes the time for initialisation of variables along with the execution time of for loop. Latter also includes the time needed to start a program.

Profiling

Choice of no.of iterations value

For profiling we are running our program for 100,000 iterations, so that when perf is sampling, it doesn't miss the function which are called for very less no. of time or function whose execution time is very less. Also, it will magnify the stats for those function which take very long in their execution or which are called for large no. of times. Also when no. of iterations is less the difference between the time of execution of optimized and non-optimized program isn't visible.

Analysis of optimized and non-optimized program profiles

Profiles for both program indicates that SolveVelocityConstrain is the most expensive function. Profile for non-optimized debug mode shows that function like b2Vec2, operator*, operator+, operator-, b2Cross etc have large no. of calls as they appear in most of the of the calculation and thus they a good toll of total time. But in the optimized profile such function doesn't even appear. In former profile large no. of calls has been made to elementary functions but in the latter profile they have been made inline by -O3 flag of g++ compiler. So calls to

such function doesn't appear in latter profile. While using this flag, Compiler heuristically decides which all functions to be made inline. Doing this, it avoids many function calls which would have increased the function stack, thus increasing the speed of program. It also unrolls loops in the program which increases the size of executable but increases the speed as it doesn't need to jump from last position to initial position again. Many times a function call is made with same arguments many times, which could be saved into a local variable to avoid repeated function calls.

An interesting difference is no. of calls made to function operator* is of order 8 in debug mode whereas it is negligible in release mode when no. of iterations is of order 6. Even the most expensive function takes about 1.38s in release mode whereas 2.34s in debug mode.

Suggestion for optimization

In b2ContactSolver.cpp, various optimisation could be made. For instance in function SolveVelocityConstraints(), reference to `vc->points` is made repeatedly in a for loop, which can be avoided if it is saved in a local variable. Also variables are declared inside the loop which gets redeclared in every iteration of that loop, resulting in the allocation and deallocation of the memory to that variable in each iteration. This could be avoided if variable is declared outside the loop, thus saving the time used in reallocation of memory which is huge. Also unrolling of loop and using local variable could save us a lot of time in many files.

Interpretation From Call Graph

From callgraph we can see the percentage time taken by each function call and percentage time taken by self and also it has arrows pointing towards different function blocks which shows number of times that function is called from the given function. Each block also has a color code according to its percentage red for high, blue for normal etc.

When we compare the two call graphs one of debug and other of release there is significant change in number of function block as release mode makes many functions inline. Also time of many functions in the release mode decreases when compared with debug mode profile.