

# Analysis of Unreal Rendering System (01) - Overview and Basics

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## 1.1 Introduction to Unreal

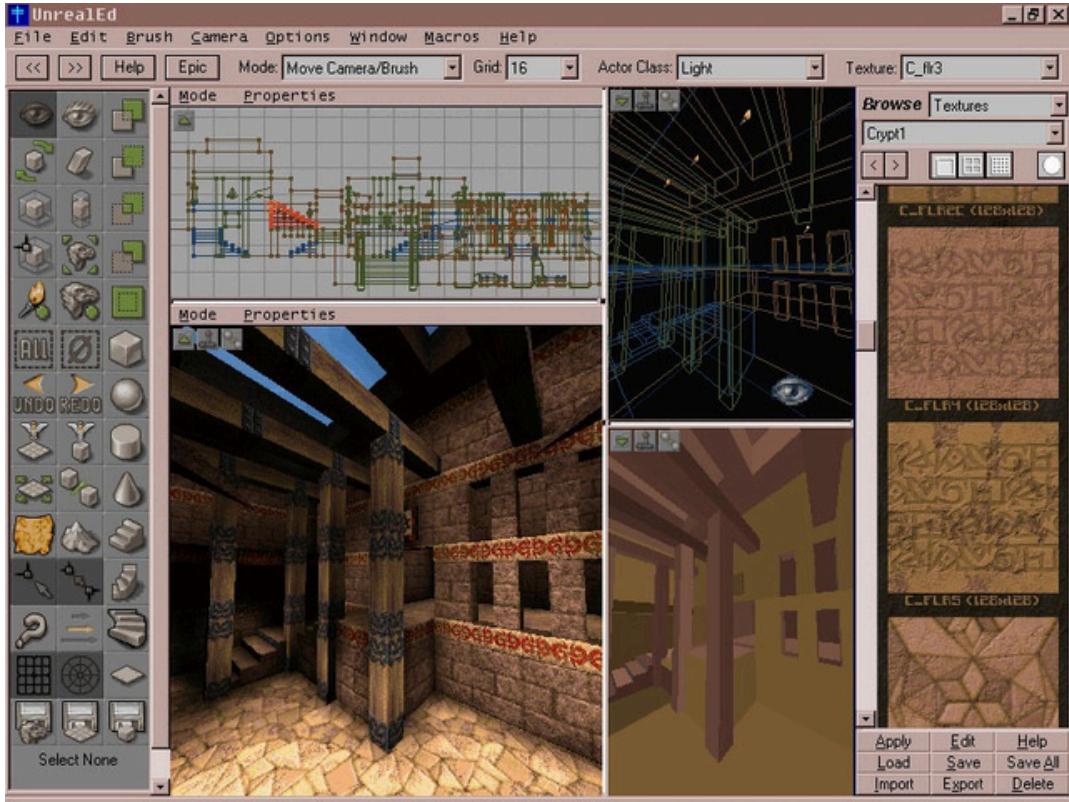
Unreal Engine (UE) is a commercial engine that integrates graphics rendering and development kits. After decades of development and accumulation, it has become a global general-purpose commercial engine leading the field of real-time rendering. It is widely used in games, design, simulation, film and other industries. It comes from the game company Epic Games and was originally managed by Tim Sweeney. It started in the mid-1990s and has been in existence for many iterations.

### 1.1.1 Unreal Engine 1 (1995)

Tim Sweeney led the development in 1995, and the first game Unreal was developed in 1998. It was a third-person shooter game, which opened the door to the Engine.

As the first generation engine, it has the following features:

- Colored lighting.
- A limited form of texture filtering.
- Collision detection.
- Scenario Editor.
- Soft renderer (the CPU executes drawing instructions and then moves them to the hardware-accelerated Glide API).
- 



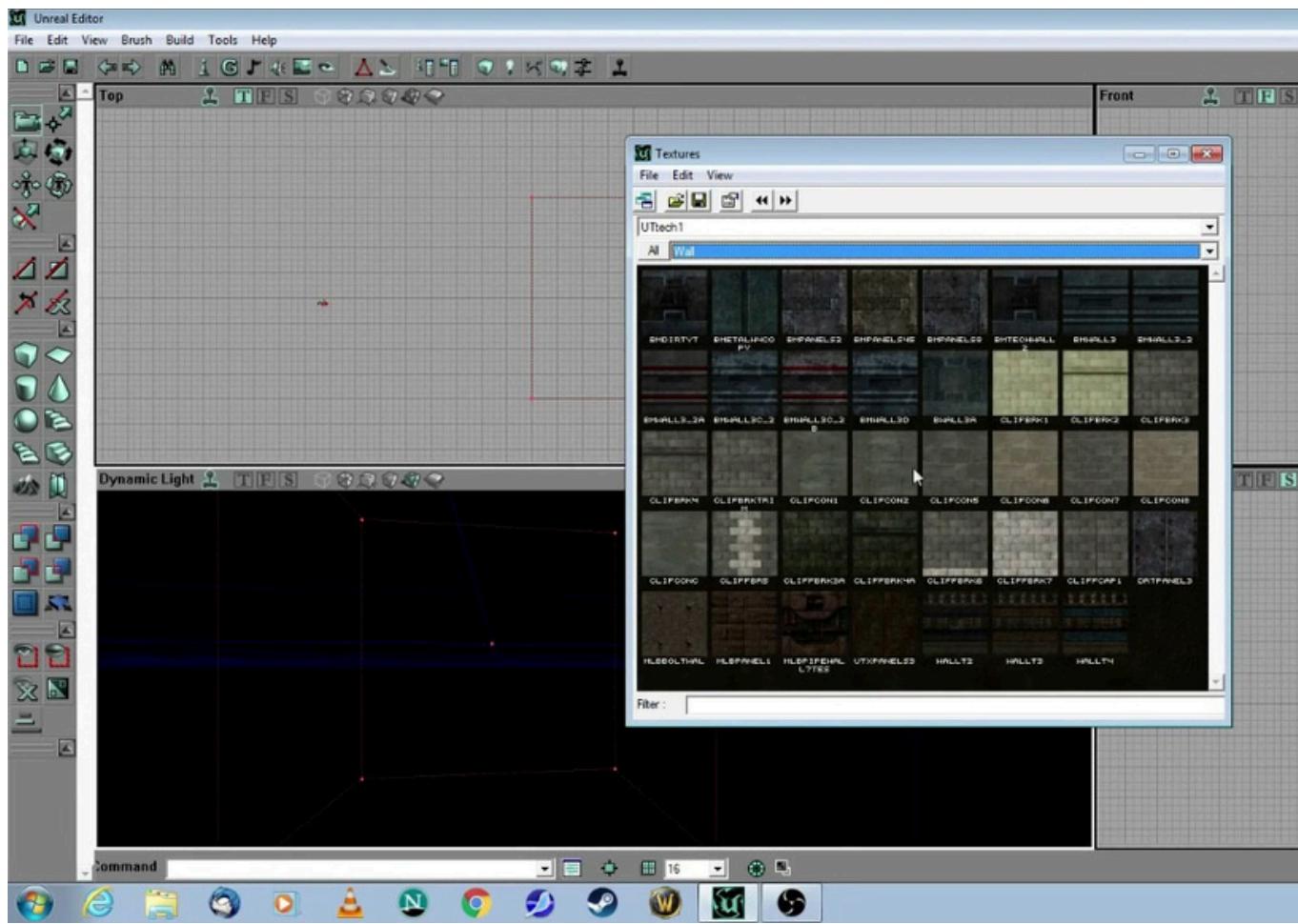
The interface of the first Unreal Engine editor.

### 1.1.2 Unreal Engine 2 (1998)

Unreal Engine 2 was still developed by Tim Sweeney. Development began in 1998, and the second version was completed in 2002. Several games were also developed using the engine, including the multi-player shooting game America's Army.

Compared with the first generation, the features of the second generation of Unreal are mainly reflected in:

- A more complete tool chain.
- Cinematic editing toolchain.
- Particle system.
- Supports DCC skeletal animation export and other plug-ins.
- The wxWidgets toolkit based on C++.
- Physical simulation based on Karma physics engine: ragdoll collision, rigid body collision, etc.



## *Unreal Engine 2 editor interface.*

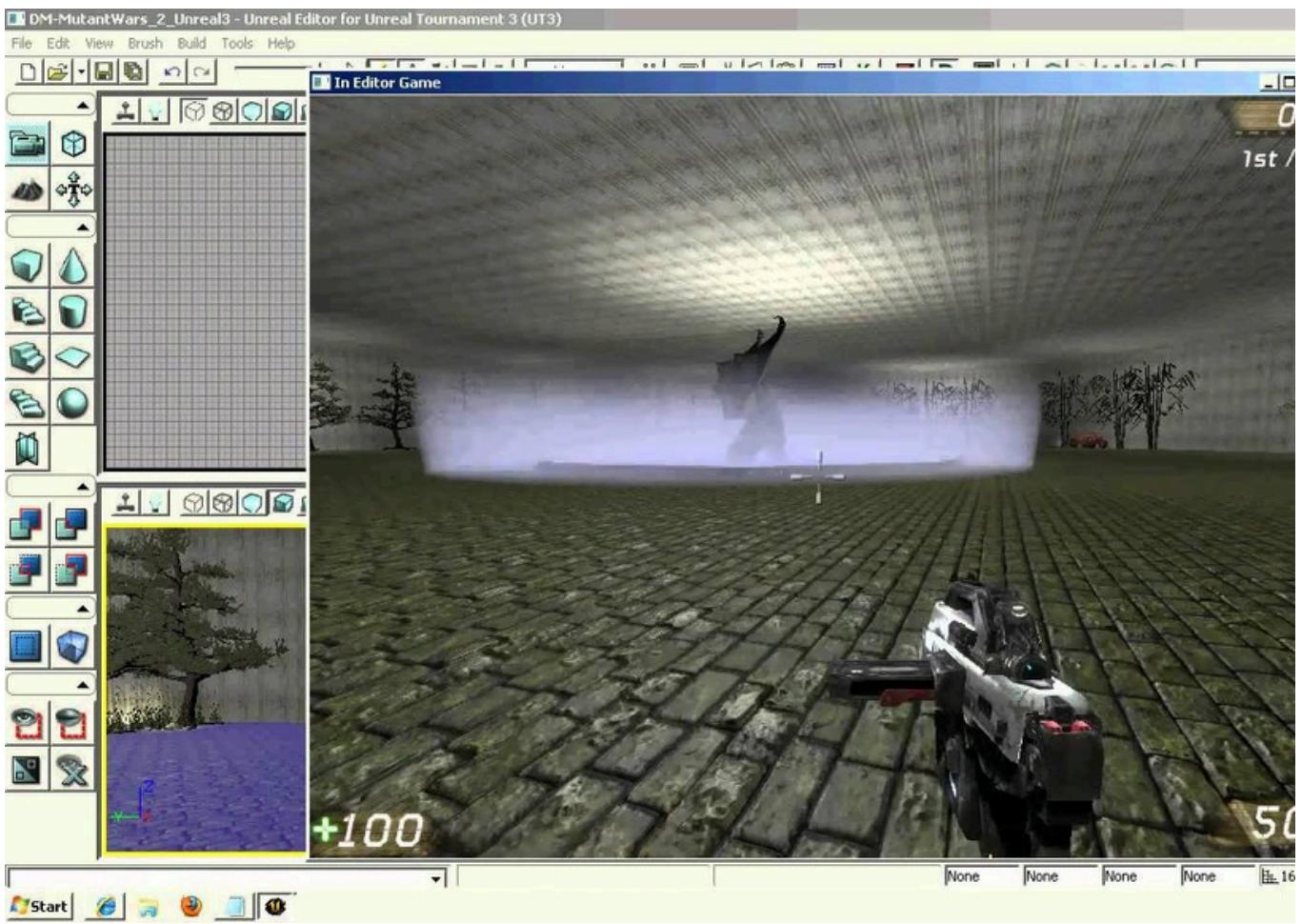


Screenshot of *Killing Floor*, a game developed based on Unreal Engine 2.

### 1.1.3 Unreal Engine 3 (2004)

Unreal Engine 3 was released in 2004 after a year and a half of closed-door development. This version also brought many new features to the industry, mainly

- Object-oriented design.
- Data driven scripts.
- Physical systems.
- Sound system.
- A new dynamic WYSIWYG toolchain.
- Programmable rendering pipeline.
- Pixel-by-pixel lighting and shading calculations.
- Gamma-corrected HDR renderer.
- Destructible environments.
- Dynamic software body simulation.
- Group role simulation.
- Real-time GI solution.



Unreal Engine 3 editor interface.

There are many representative games of Unreal 3, including Gear of War, RobotBlitz, Infinity Blade, Dungeon Defenders, Batman: Arkham City, Aliens: Colonial

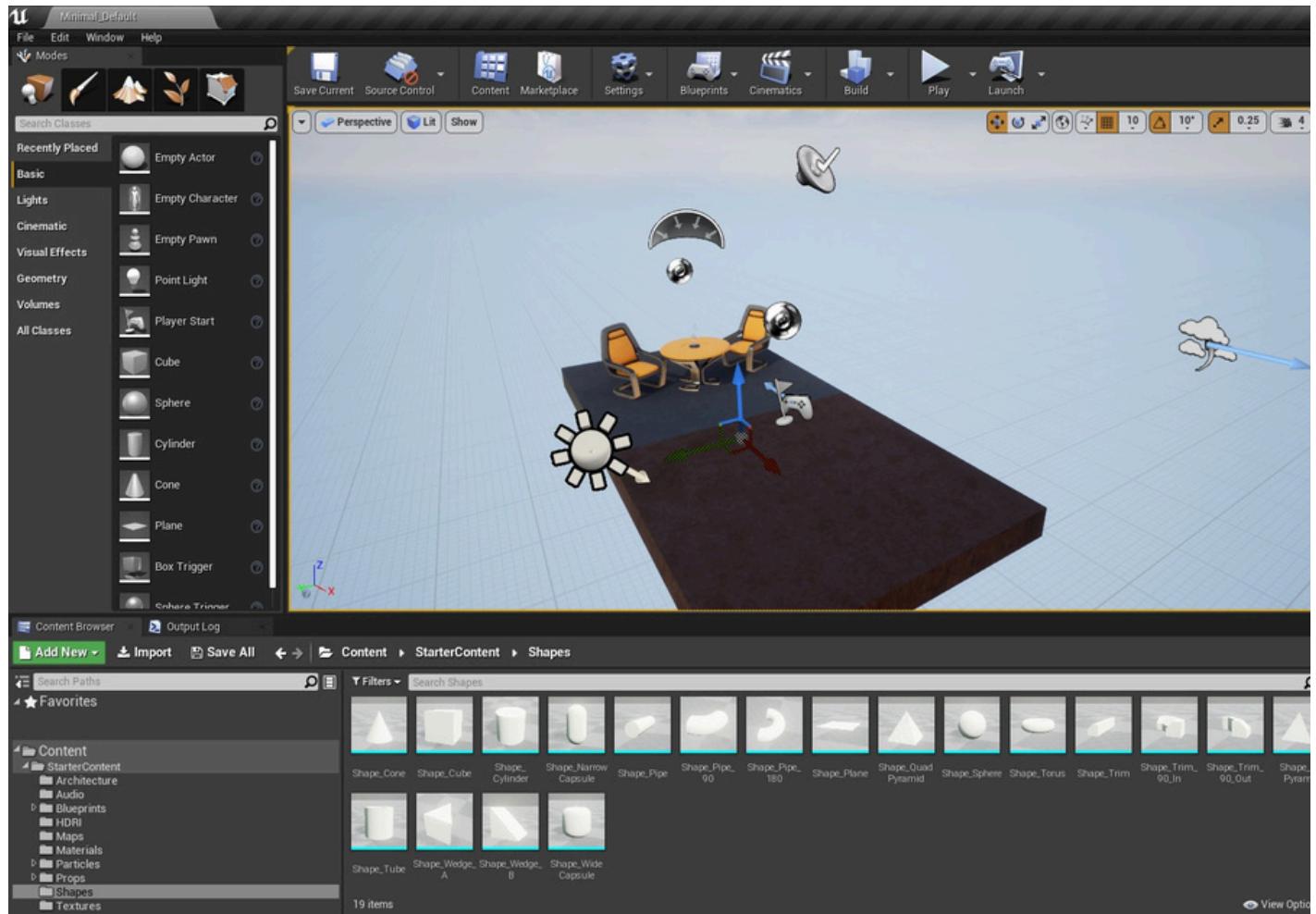


A sneak peek at Batman: Arkham City gameplay footage.

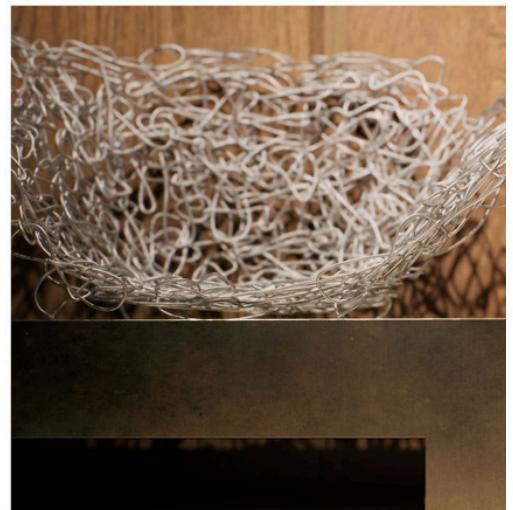
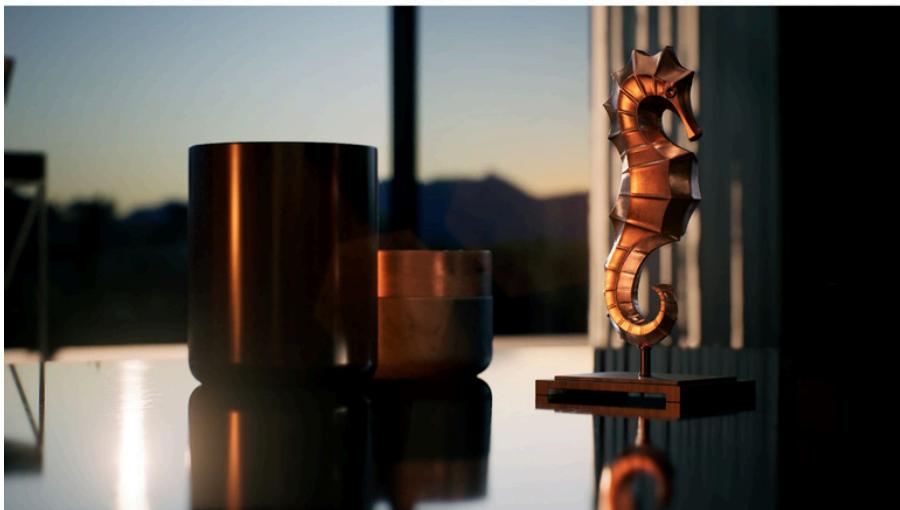
## 1.1.4 Unreal Engine 4 (2008)

Unreal Engine 4 was released as early as 2008, and it has been 12 years since then. It has gone through more than 20 versions and introduced countless amazing features.

- PBR rendering pipeline and supporting toolchain.
- Real-time ray tracing based on DXR and RTX. Blueprint system.
- Visual material editor.
- Deferred rendering pipeline.
- Lightweight rendering pipeline for mobile platforms. VR rendering pipeline.
- Niagara and other GPU particles.
- More realistic physics simulation (destruction, collisions, soft bodies, etc.).
- A more complete game and film and television production tool chain.
- Support more mainstream platforms.
- ....



A look at the UE4 Editor.



An overview of UE4.22 real-time ray tracing images.

With the development of UE4 and the change of Epic Games' strategy, a shocking decision was finally made in 2015: free for all users and open source code. F can study the source code of UE, and this series of articles was born.

There are more and more blockbuster games developed based on UE4, including Gears of War 4, Dead at Dawn, PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds, Game for Pe Final Fantasy VII Remake, Code Vein, etc.



*Final Fantasy 7 Remake has truly gorgeous and dynamic graphics.*

In addition to the gaming industry, industries such as film and television, simulation, design, radio and television, and scientific visualization have also gradually produced and gradually improved the corresponding tool chain.



*Film-quality virtual characters rendered by Unreal Engine 4.*

### **1.1.5 Unreal Engine 5 (2021)**

In May 2020, Unreal officially released a video "Lumen in the Land of Nanite" to showcase the rendering features of Unreal Engine 5. The video showcases Nan and Lumen technology for real-time global illumination, bringing a cinematic audio-visual experience to real-time games. This is not a game, it's a movie! I be by this video at the time, and it really amazed everyone. When I first saw this video, I was so excited that I watched it many times.



A frame from the "Lumen in the Land of Nanite" demonstration video.

According to the official introduction, **Nanite** supports hundreds of billions of polygons on the same screen, which means that traditional art production process mapping are no longer required, and high-poly rendering is directly adopted. **Lumen** is a fully dynamic global illumination solution that can respond to scene the need for dedicated ray tracing hardware. The system can render indirect specular reflections and diffuse reflections that can bounce infinitely in grand and

In addition, the video also shows new features such as the Chaos physics and destruction system, Niagara VFX, convolution reverb, and ambient stereo render

As for the release date of UE5, it is straightforward to quote the official statement:

#### **Unreal Engine 4 and 5 release schedule**

Unreal Engine 4.25 already supports the next-generation console platforms from Sony and Microsoft. Epic is currently working closely with console manufacturers to develop next-generation games using Unreal Engine 4.

**Unreal Engine 5 will be released in preview in early 2021 and in full version in late 2021.** It will support next-generation consoles, current-generation PC platforms.

We are designing forward-compatible features so that you can start next-generation development in UE4 first and migrate your project to UE5 when the time comes. We will release Fortnite, developed with UE4, on next-generation consoles after they are released. In order to prove our industry-leading technology through game to UE5 in mid-2021.

In other words, if UE officials don't let down their guard, they will release the full version of UE5 in 2021. Let's wait and see.

## **1.2 Rendering Overview**

### **1.2.1 Evolution of Unreal Rendering**

Looking at the development history of UE, UE is actually in line with the development trend of hardware technology and software technology, and is good at catching hardware, plus the result of software engineering, operating system and other technical encapsulation. For example, with the development of hardware in the pipeline was added, and in 1998 it was increased to 32-bit RGBA; at the beginning of this century, after the emergence of hardware-based programmable rendering fixed pipelines (now abandoned) and programmable rendering pipelines. In the following years, HDR emerged, delayed rendering pipelines were introduced, and so on. All followed this rule.

# Direct3D 11 Pipeline

Input Assembler

Vertex Shader

Hull Shader

Tessellator

Domain Shader

Geometry Shader

Rasterizer

Pixel Shader

Output Merger

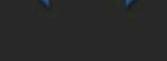
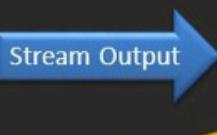
Direct3D 10 pipeline

*Plus*

Three new stages for  
Tessellation

*Plus*

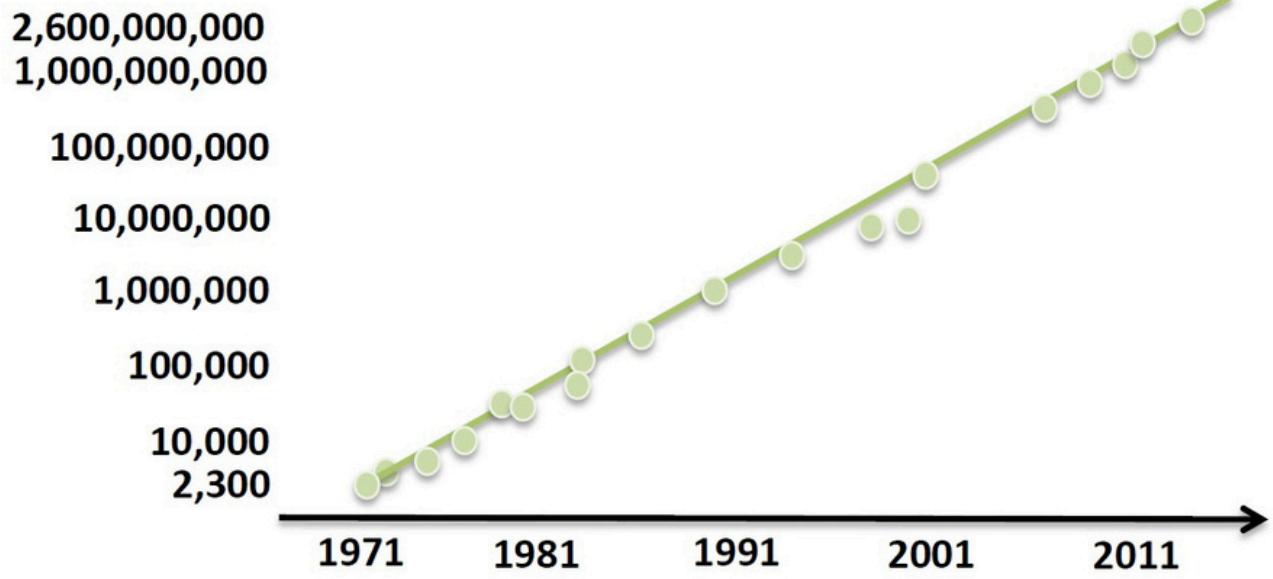
Compute Shader



**Gamefest**  
MICROSOFT GAME TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2008

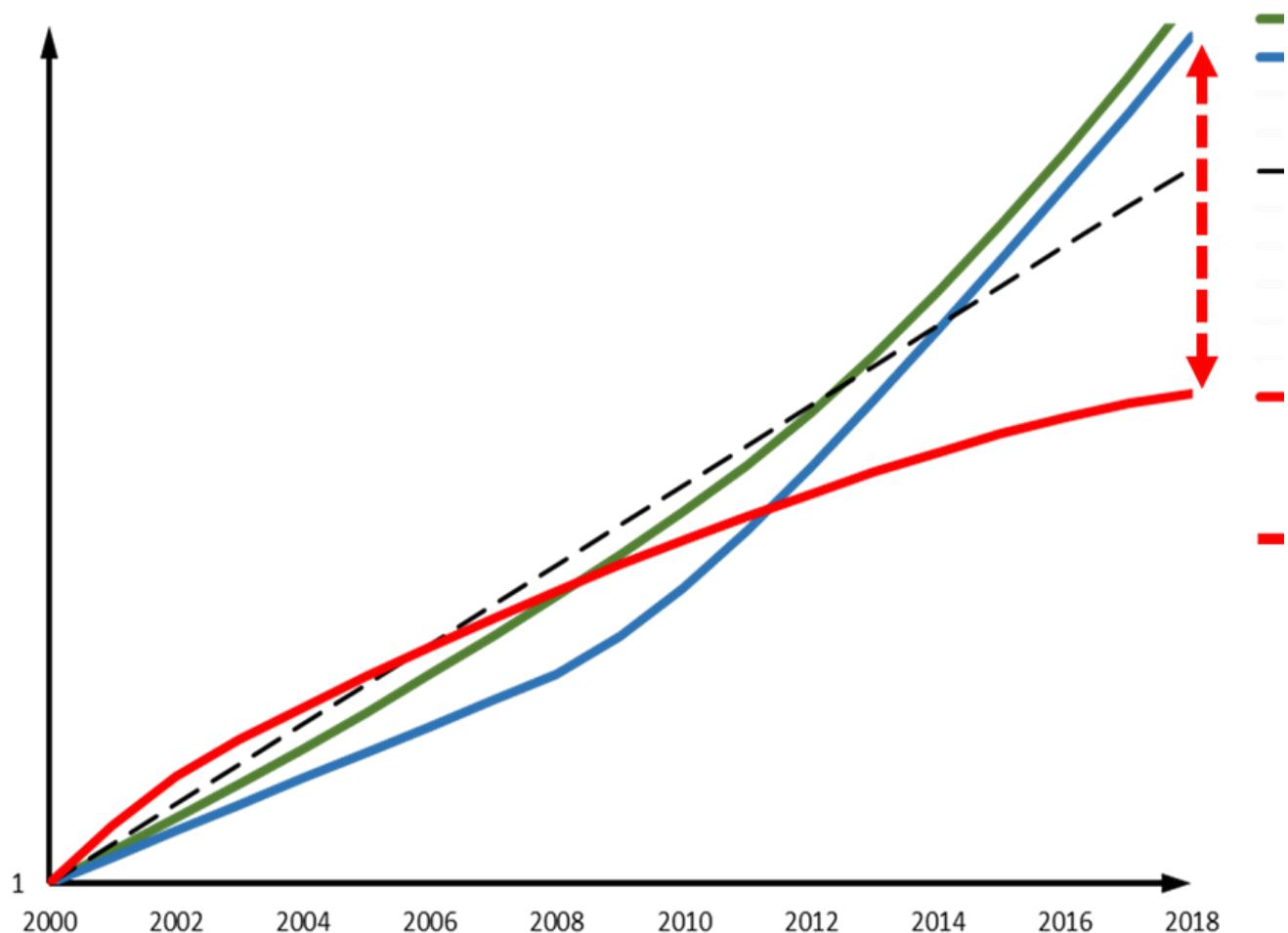
The picture shows the new features of DirectX 11, such as surface subdivision and compute shader.

Until a few years ago, Moore's Law of CPU reached its ceiling, and CPU manufacturers had to change their strategies to vigorously develop multi-core. As a result, parallelism has been strongly developed, and with the emergence of lightweight, multi-threaded friendly graphics APIs such as Vulkan, DirectX12, and Metal, rendering to give full play to the performance advantages of modern CPU multi-core and GPU massive computing units.



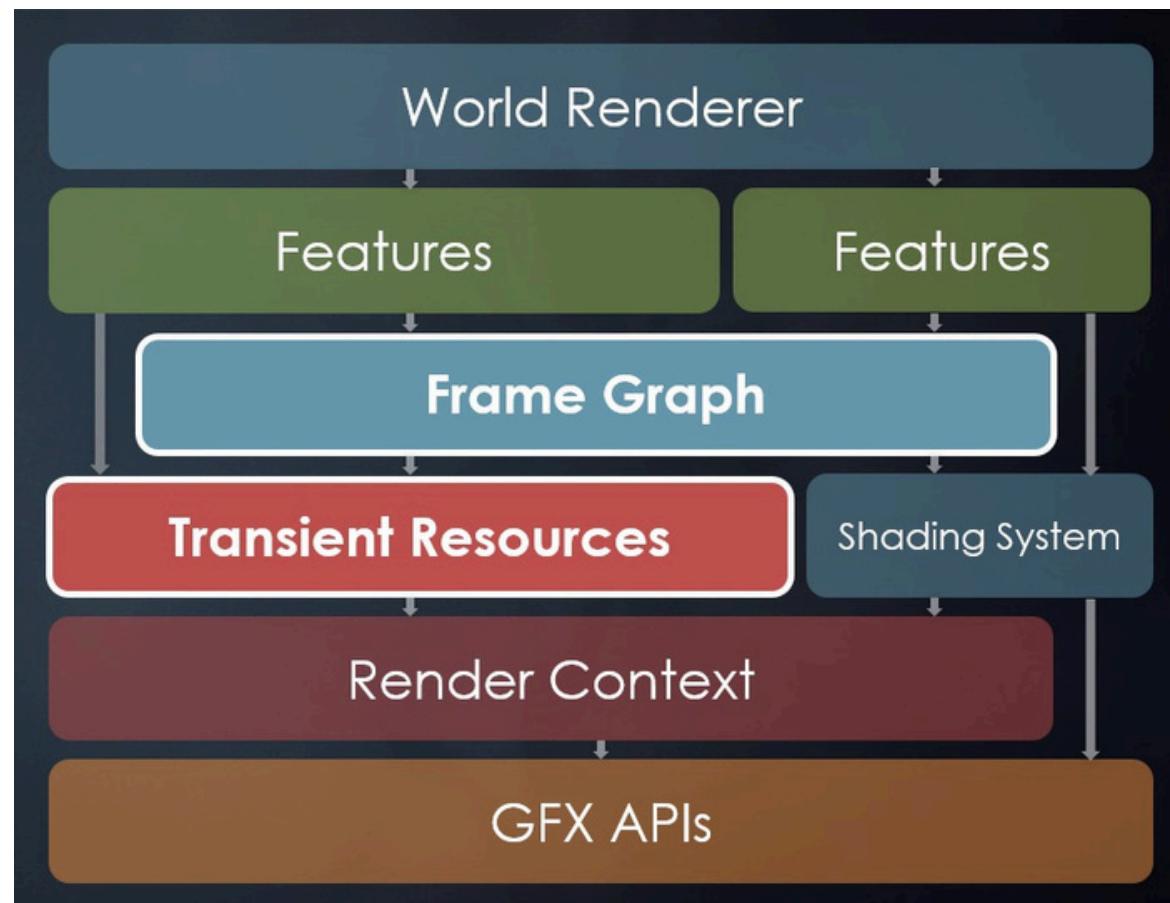
Gordon  
Intel C

The CPU core frequency growth has maintained Moore's Law from 1970 to 2011, but with the stagnation of chip technology development, it has obviously not continued to follow the law after 2011. (The figure on the right is Intel founder Moore himself.)



Around 2006, CPU performance lagged significantly behind the Moore's Law curve, but at the same time, the number of CPU cores also increased.

Since UE needs to support many mainstream operating systems and encapsulate many graphics APIs and corresponding shaders, the rendering system of UE by layer, turning the originally simple API into the complex UE system today. For example, in order to cross multiple graphics APIs, the RHI system is added to APIs at the user level; in order to facilitate users to use and edit material effects, material templates and material editors are introduced, and a series of intermediate compile shaders to the corresponding hardware platform; in order to give full play to the advantages of multi-core, game threads, rendering threads, and RHI thread access conflicts and competitions, game thread representatives starting with U are introduced, and there are corresponding rendering thread representation rendering such as model batching and reducing DrawCall, dynamic and static rendering paths are added, and concepts such as FMeshPassProcessor, FMeshBatcher in order to adapt to and make full use of new lightweight modern graphics APIs such as Vulkan and DirectX12, UE also introduced RDG (rendering dependency graph).



Frame Graph (or RDG) separates the engine functional modules and GPU resources, making the structure clearer and enabling targeted scheduling optimization.

In the past few years, AI technology has risen with the trend and has been introduced into the field of graphics by industry researchers, giving full play to the potential of the integration of Tensor Core and Raytrace Core in NVIDIA's Turing hardware architecture, and Microsoft's integration of the standard API for ray tracing has finally ushered in spring and has flourished. The first general commercial engine to integrate real-time ray tracing is UE 4.22, and the corresponding demo



When Epic Games released UE 4.22, it announced support for real-time ray tracing and released the demo video "Troll" in collaboration with Goodbye Kansas. In summary, the main reasons why the UE rendering system is in such a complex situation today are:

- Adapt to the development of software and hardware technology. Cater to the ideas and designs of object-oriented software engineering.
- The architecture is modularized to improve reusability and scalability and reduce coupling. Cross-platform, cross-compiler, cross-graphics API.
- Compatible with old functions, codes, and interfaces.
- Improve rendering efficiency, performance ratio, and robustness.
- Encapsulate the underlying details of the API and abstract away the details and complexity of the rendering system in order to reduce the learning and usage for programmers, artists, TAs, planners, etc.).
- In order to improve the versatility of the engine, it is necessary to add multi-level and multi-concept encapsulation.

Looking at the development of the entire graphics rendering industry, the goal of industry R&D personnel is the same, that is: **to make full use of limited hardware or more stylized images faster and better.**

## 1.2.2 Content Scope

Many people have written books (such as "[A Brief Analysis of Unreal Engine Programming](#)") or technical articles (such as [Unreal Engine 4 Rendering series](#), "[F](#)  
[Rendering System Architecture](#)" and many Zhihu articles) analyzing Unreal Rendering, but I think their articles can only reveal part of the UE rendering system. There are many articles that can fully analyze the whole picture of the UE rendering system. In view of this, I dare to take on this important task, but after all, my energy and mistakes or omissions, I sincerely ask readers to correct them.

This series of articles focuses on analyzing the UE rendering system. More specifically, it is mainly limited to the source code of the following UE directories:

- Engine\Source\Runtime\RendererCore.
- Engine\Source\Runtime\Renderer.
- Engine\Source\Runtime\RHI.
- Some RHI modules: D3D12RHI, OpenGLDrv, VulkanRHI, etc. Some
- basic modules: Core, CoreUObject, etc.

Of course, if necessary, code files not shown above will also be involved, but they will not be mentioned specifically later.

## 1.3 Basic Modules

This section mainly briefly describes some basic knowledge, concepts and systems commonly used in rendering systems, so as to provide a transition and entr or have a weak foundation. If you are a UE veteran, you can skip this section.

### 1.3.1 New Features of C++

This section briefly describes the new C++ features (C++11, C++14 and later versions) that are often involved in UE and rendering systems.

#### 1.3.1.1 Lambda

C++ lambda is a feature of C++11, which is similar to closures and anonymous functions in scripting languages such as C# and Lua, but it is more complex an style of Native languages. It has several grammatical forms:

- (1) [ captures ] <tparams>(optional)(C++20) ( params ) specifiers exception attr -> ret requires(optional)(C++20) { body } [ captures ] ( params ) -> ret { body }
- (2)
- (3) [ captures ] ( params ) { body } [ captures ]
- (4) { body }

Among them, the first one is the syntax supported by C++20, which is not used by UE yet. The other three are common forms. The most commonly used is to thread, such as FScene::AddPrimitive (...) indicates that some codes are omitted, the same below):

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Renderer\Private\RendererScene.cpp

void FScene::AddPrimitive(UPrimitiveComponent* Primitive) {

    (.....)

    FScene* Scene = this;

    TOptional<FTransform> PreviousTransform = FMotionVectorSimulation::Get().GetPreviousTransform(Primitive);

    ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(AddPrimitiveCommand)
    {
        Params = MoveTemp(Params), Scene, PrimitiveSceneInfo, PreviousTransform = MoveTemp(PreviousTransform))(FRHICommandListImmediate& RHICmdL {

            FPrimitiveSceneProxy* SceneProxy = Params.PrimitiveSceneProxy;
            FScopeCycleCounter Context(SceneProxy->GetStatId());
            SceneProxy->SetTransform(Params.RenderMatrix, Params.WorldBounds, Params.LocalBounds, Params.AttachmentRootPosition);

            // Create any RenderThreadResources required. SceneProxy-
            >CreateRenderThreadResources();

            Scene->AddPrimitiveSceneInfo_RenderThread(PrimitiveSceneInfo, PreviousTransform);
        });
    }
}
```

When generating a closure, there are multiple ways to capture variables in the current environment (scope): by value (directly put the variable into the capture before the variable and put it into the captures list). The above FScene::AddPrimitive uses the method of passing Lambda variables by value. Since the life cycle guaranteed by the coder, UE mostly uses the method of passing by value to prevent access to invalid memory.

For more detailed explanation, please refer to the official C++ website's description of [Lambda:Lambda expressions](#).

#### 1.3.1.2 Smart Pointer

Since C++11, the standard library has introduced a set of smart pointers:unique pointer (`unique_ptr`),shared pointer (`shared_ptr`),weak pointer (`weak_ptr`) programmers in memory allocation and tracking.

However, Unreal does not use this set of pointers directly, but implements its own set. In addition to the three mentioned above, UE can also add `shared_ref` nullable shared pointers. Unreal Objects use a separate memory tracking system that is more suitable for game code, so these classes cannot be used at the same time. Their comparison and description are shown in the following table:

<b>name</b>	<b>UE</b>	<b>C++</b>	<b>illustrate</b>
<b>Shared Pointers</b>	TShare dPtr	shared_ ptr	A shared pointer owns the object it refers to, indefinitely protecting that object from deletion, and eventually handling its deletion when no shared pointers or shared references refer to it. A shared pointer can be null, meaning it does not refer to any object. Any non-null shared pointer can generate a shared reference to the object it refers to.
<b>Unique pointer</b>	TUniqu ePtr	unique_ ptr	A unique pointer will only explicitly own the object it refers to. There is only one unique pointer to a given resource, so unique pointers can transfer ownership, but they cannot be shared. Any attempt to copy a unique pointer will result in a compilation error. When a unique pointer goes out of scope, it automatically deletes the object it refers to.

<b>name</b>	<b>UE</b>	<b>C++</b>	<b>illustrate</b>
<b>Weak Pointers</b>	TWeakP tr	weak_p tr	The WeakPointer class is similar to a SharedPointer, but does not own the object it references, and therefore does not affect its lifetime. This property is useful because it breaks reference cycles, but it also means that a weak pointer can become null at any time without warning. Therefore, a weak pointer can generate a shared pointer to the object it references, ensuring that the programmer has safe temporary access to the object.
<b>Shared References</b>	TShare dRef	-	Shared references behave like shared pointers, that is, they own the object they reference. There is a difference in the case of null objects; a shared reference must always reference a non-null object. Shared pointers do not have this restriction, so a shared reference can always be converted to a shared pointer, and that shared pointer always references a valid object. Use shared references when you want to confirm that the referenced object is non-null, or to assert ownership of a shared object.

UE also provides a tool interface similar to C++ to build smart pointers better and faster:

<b>name</b>	<b>UE</b>	<b>C++</b>	<b>illustrate</b>
Construct a shared pointer from this	TSharedFromThis	enable_sh ared_from _this	Derive a class in which you add a <a href="#">AsShared</a> or <a href="#">ShareThisFunction</a> <a href="#">TSharedFromThis</a> . This type of function allows you to get the object's <a href="#">TSharedRef</a> .
Constructing a shared pointer	MakeShared, MakeShareable	make_sh ared	Creates a shared pointer from a regular C++ pointer. <a href="#">MakeShared</a> A new object instance and reference controller are allocated in a single block of memory, but requires the object to submit a public constructor. <a href="#">MakeShareable</a> This is less efficient, but will work even if the object's constructor is private. This allows you to own objects that you did not create yourself, and supports custom behavior when objects are deleted.
Static conversion	StaticCastSh aredRef, StaticCastSh aredPtr	-	Static casting utility function, typically used to cast down to derived types.
Fixed conversion	ConstCastSh aredRef, ConstCastSh aredPtr	-	Converts <a href="#">const</a> smart reference or smart pointer to <a href="#">mutable</a> a smart reference or smart pointer, respectively.

In addition to providing basic functions such as memory management access and reference count tracking, the smart pointer library that comes with UE can a standard version in terms of efficiency and memory usage. In addition, it also provides thread-safe access modes:

- [TSharedPtr<T, ESPMode::ThreadSafe>](#)
- [TSharedRef<T, ESPMode::ThreadSafe>](#)
- [TWeakPtr<T, ESPMode::ThreadSafe>](#)
- [TSharedFromThis<T, ESPMode::ThreadSafe>](#)

However, since the thread-safe version relies on atomic reference counting, its performance is slightly slower than the non-thread-safe version, but its behavior

- Read and Copy are guaranteed to be thread-safe.
- Write and Reset must be synchronized to be safe.

These thread-safe smart pointers are widely used in the UE multi-threaded rendering architecture.

### 1.3.1.3 Delegate

A **delegate** is essentially a function type and representation, which facilitates the declaration, reference, and execution of specified member functions. The C+ delegates, but can achieve the effect of class delegation through obscure syntax.

Microsoft's built-in library implements the **delegate** function. Similarly, due to the large number of delegate requirements and applications in UE, UE also imple There are three types of UE delegation:

- Single point entrustment
- Multicast delegation
  - event
- Dynamic Objects
  - UObject
  - Serializable

It is declared through a set of macros. The common declaration forms and corresponding function definitions are as follows:

Declaring Macros	Function definition or description
DECLARE_DELEGATE(DelegateName)	void Function()
DECLARE_DELEGATE_OneParam(DelegateName, Param1Type)	void Function(Param1)
DECLARE_DELEGATE_Parms(DelegateName, Param1Type, Param2Type, ...)	void Function(Param1, Param2, ...)
DECLARE_DELEGATE_RetVal(RetValType, DelegateName)	Function()
DECLARE_DELEGATE_RetVal_OneParam(RetValType, DelegateName, Param1Type)	Function(Param1)
DECLARE_DELEGATE_RetVal_Parms(RetValType, DelegateName, Param1Type, Param2Type, ...)	Function(Param1, Param2, ...)
DECLARE_MULTICAST_DELEGATE(_XXX)	Create a multicast delegate type (with parameters)
DECLARE_DYNAMIC_MULTICAST_DELEGATE()	Create a dynamic multicast delegate type (with parameters)

After the declaration, you can use the BindXXX and UnBind interfaces to bind and unbind the existing interfaces accordingly. For the bound delegate, you can

```
//Declare a delegate type
DECLARE_DELEGATE_OneParam(FOnEndCaptureDelegate, FRHICommandListImmediate*);

//Defining the delegate object
static FOnEndCaptureDelegate GEndDelegates;

//Registration Entrustment
void RegisterCallbacks(FOnBeginCaptureDelegate InBeginDelegate, FOnEndCaptureDelegate InEndDelegate) {
    GEndDelegates = InEndDelegate;
}

//Execute the delegation (if binding exists)
void EndCapture(FRHICommandListImmediate* RHICommandList)
{
    if(GEndDelegates.IsBound()) {
        GEndDelegates.Execute(RHICommandList);
    }
}

//Unbinding
void UnregisterCallbacks()
{
    GEndDelegates.Unbind();
}
```

UE's delegate implementation code is in TBaseDelegate:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Public\Delegates\DelegateSignatureImpl.inl

template <typename WrappedRetValType, typename... ParamTypes> class
TBaseDelegate: public FDelegateBase {

public:
    /** Type definition for return value type. */
    typedef typename TUnwrapType<WrappedRetValType>::Type RetValType; typedef
    RetValType TFuncType(ParamTypes...);

    /** Type definition for the shared interface of delegate instance types compatible with this delegate class. */ typedef BaseDelegateInstance<TFuncType>
    TDelegateInstanceInterface;
```

```
(.....)  
}
```

The implementation has a lot of source code, using templates and multiple inheritance, but in essence it also encapsulates objects, function pointers, etc.

#### 1.3.1.4 Coding Standard

This section briefly describes the common coding standards and common sense that are officially recommended or mandatory by UE.

- **Naming convention**

- Each word in a name (such as a type or variable) should have its first letter capitalized, and there are usually no underscores between words. For example, `notlastMouseCoordinates` or `delta_coordinates`.
- Type names are prefixed with an extra capital letter to distinguish them from variable names. For example, `FSkin` is a type name, and `Skin` is `FSkin`.
  - Template classes are prefixed with T.
  - Classes that inherit `UObject` from are prefixed with U.
  - Classes that inherit from `AActor` are prefixed with A.
  - Classes that inherit `SWidget` from are prefixed with S.
  - The prefix of interface class is I.
  - Enumerations are prefixed with E.
  - Boolean variables must be prefixed with b (eg `bPendingDestruction` or `bHasFadedIn`).
  - Most other classes are prefixed with F, while some subsystems are prefixed with other letters.
  - Typedefs should be prefixed with whatever letter is appropriate for their type: F for structs, `Uobject` U for , and so on.
    - Typedefs of special template instantiations are no longer templates and should be prefixed accordingly, for example:

```
typedef TArray<FMyType> FArrayOfMyTypes;
```

- In C# the prefix is omitted.
- In most cases, UnrealHeaderTool requires the correct prefix, so adding the prefix is important.

- Types and variables are named as nouns.
- Method names are verbs that describe the effect of the method or the return value that is not affected by the method.
- Variable, method, and class names should be clear, concise, and descriptive. The larger the scope of the name, the more important it is to have abbreviations.
- All functions that return a boolean should issue a true/false query, such as `IsVisible()` or `ShouldClearBuffer()`.
- Procedures (functions without a return value) should use strongly conjugated verbs after Object. An exception is when the method's Object is the Object is understood from the context. Avoid beginning a method with "Handle" and "Process", such verbs are ambiguous.

- **STL Whitelist**

Although UE avoids using some STL libraries and implements its own code for reasons such as memory management and efficiency, the C++ standard i cross-platform valid modules have been added. Therefore, the official whitelist status of the following modules is maintained (allowed to use and will no

- atomic
- type\_traits
- initializer\_list
- regex
- limits
- cmath

- The declaration of a class should be from the user's perspective rather than the implementer's perspective, so it is usually necessary to declare the class's first, and then the private ones.

```
UCLASS()
class MyClass
{
public:
    UFUNCTION()
    void SetName(const FString& InName);
    UFUNCTION()
    FString GetName() const;

private:
    void ProcessName_Internal(const FString& InName);
```

```

private:
    UPROPERTY()
    FString Name;
};

```

- Use const as much as possible, including parameters, variables, constants, function definitions, return values, etc.

```

void MyFunction(const TArray<Int32>& InArray, FThing& OutResult) {

    //This will not be modifiedInArray, but may be modifiedOutResult
}

void MyClass::MyFunction()const {

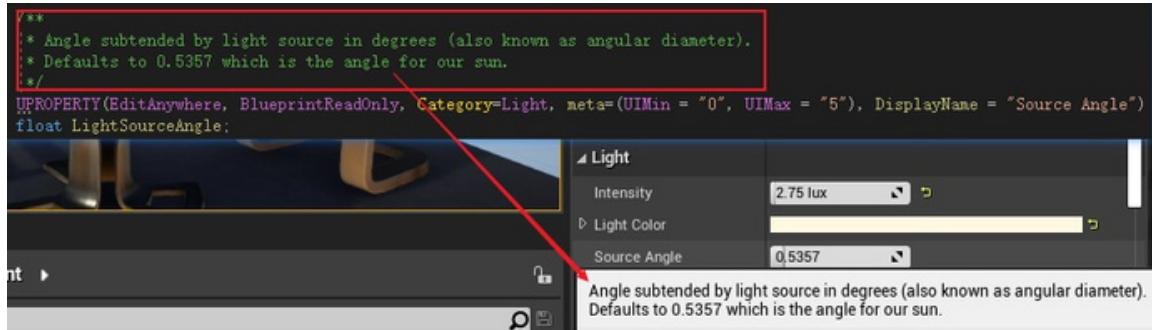
    //This code does not changeMyClassFor any member of , you can addconst
}

TArray<FString> StringArray; for(const
FString& :StringArray) {

    //The body of this loop does not modifyStringArray
}

```

- The code should be clearly and accurately commented. Specific comment formats can be used to generate tooltips for the editor using the automatic doxygen tool.



After the C++ component adds comments to the variables, their descriptions are captured by the UE compilation system and applied to the editor's pro

- **C++ New Syntax**

- nullptr replaces the old NULL.
- static\_assert (static assertion)
- override & final
- Try to avoid using the auto keyword.
- New traversal syntax

```

TMap<FString, int32> MyMap;

// Old style
for(auto it = MyMap.CreateIterator(); it; ++it) {

    UE_LOG(LogCategory, Log, TEXT("Key: %s, Value: %d"), it.Key(), *it.Value());
}

// New style
for(TPair<FString, int32>& Kvp : MyMap) {

    UE_LOG(LogCategory, Log, TEXT("Key: %s, Value: %d"), *Kvp.Key, Kvp.Value());
}

```

- New Enumeration

```

// Old enum
UENUM()
namespace EThing
{
    enum Type
    {
        Thing1,
        Thing2
    };
}

// New enum
UENUM()

```

```

enum class EThing : uint8 {
    Thing1,
    Thing2
}

```

- Move semantics. All UE4 built-in containers support move semantics and are used `MoveTemp` instead of C++ `std::move`.
- Initial values of class member variables.

```

UCLASS()
class UMyClass : public UObject {

    GENERATED_BODY()

public:

    UPROPERTY()
    float Width = 11.5f;

    UPROPERTY()
    FString Name = TEXT("Earl Grey");
}

```

- Third-party library specific formats.

```

// @third party code - BEGIN PhysX
#include<physx.h>
// @third party code - END PhysX

// @third party code - BEGIN MSDN SetThreadName
// [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/xcb2z8hs.aspx] // Used to set the
thread name in the debugger
...
// @third party code - END MSDN SetThreadName

```

For more complete coding standards, please refer to the UE official document: [Coding Standard](#).

### 1.3.2 Container

Unreal Engine implements a set of basic containers and algorithm libraries, and does not use the STL standard library. However, some of them can be found in shown in the following table:

Container Name	UE4	STL	Analysis
Arrays	TArray	vector	A continuous array can add, delete, and sort elements. It is more powerful and convenient than the vector of stl. When adding an array, the memory will be reallocated as needed, and the length of the array will grow according to a certain strategy (see below for details on the growth strategy).
Tuple	TTuple	tuple	Stores a set of data. Its length cannot be changed after construction, but the element types can be different.
Linked List	TList	forward_list	One-way linked list, the operation and underlying implementation are similar to stl.
Doubly Linked List	TDoubleLinkedlist	list	Doubly linked list, the operation and underlying implementation are similar to stl.
Mapping Table	TMap	map	The key-value one-to-one mapping table is ordered, implemented with TSet at the bottom layer, and stores a set of key-value pairing arrays.
Multi-value mapping table	TMultimap	unordered_map	A key-to-multi-value mapping table, ordered, with the underlying implementation being similar to TMap, but adding elements will not delete existing values. The difference is that stl's unordered_map is unordered and uses a hash table for storage and indexing.
Ordered Mapping Table	TSortedMap	map	A key-value mapping table, ordered, implemented with a TArray that is sorted by key at the bottom layer, and stores a set of key-value pairing arrays. The memory occupied is half that of TMap, but the complexity of

Container Name	UE4	STL	Analysis
			adding and deleting elements is O(n), and the complexity of searching is O(Log n).
<b>gather</b>	TSet	set	A collection of keys, and the keys cannot overlap. The underlying implementation uses TSparseArray, and the elements are stored in buckets. The number of buckets depends on the size of the elements, and the stored elements are linked with Hash values.
<b>Hash Table</b>	FHashTable	hash_map	Often used to index other arrays. Get the hash value of the specified ID based on other hash functions, and then store and search for elements in other arrays.
<b>queue</b>	TQueue	queue	Unbounded non-intrusive queue, implemented using lock-free linked lists. Supports multiple producers-single consumers (MPSC) and single producer-single consumers (SPSC) modes, both of which are thread-safe. Often used for data transmission and access between multiple threads.
<b>Circular Queue</b>	TCircular Queue	-	A lock-free circular queue, first-in-first-out, implemented using a circular array (TCircularBuffer), thread-safe in single producer-single consumer (SPSC) mode.
<b>Looping through arrays</b>	TCircularBuffer	-	The underlying implementation is TArray, which is boundless and requires a specified capacity when it is created, and the capacity cannot be changed later.
<b>String</b>	FString	string	A string whose content and size can be changed dynamically. It is similar to stl's string, but has more complete functions. It is implemented using TArray at the bottom layer. In addition, it also has optimized versions FText and FName.

The above correspondence between UE and STL is only considered from the perspective of the provided calling interface (user), but the actual underlying imp different. For example, let's analyze the element size growth strategy of TArray in detail (some macros and branches are simplified):

```
// Array.h

void TArray::ResizeGrow(SizeType OldNum) {

    ArrayMax = AllocatorInstance.CalculateSlackGrow(ArrayNum, ArrayMax, sizeof(ElementType));
    AllocatorInstance.ResizeAllocation(OldNum, ArrayMax, sizeof(ElementType));
}

// ContainerAllocationPolicies.h

SizeType CalculateSlackGrow(SizeType NumElements, SizeType NumAllocatedElements, SIZE_T NumBytesPerElement) const {

    return DefaultCalculateSlackGrow(NumElements, NumAllocatedElements, NumBytesPerElement, true, Alignment);
}

template <typename SizeType>
SizeType DefaultCalculateSlackGrow(SizeType NumElements, SizeType NumAllocatedElements, SIZE_T BytesPerElement, bool bAllowQuantize, uint32 Align {

    const SIZE_T FirstGrow = 4; const SIZE_T
    ConstantGrow = 16;

    SizeType Retval;
    checkSlow(NumElements > NumAllocatedElements && NumElements > 0);

    SIZE_T Grow = FirstGrow // this is the amount for the first alloc

    if(NumAllocatedElements || SIZE_T(NumElements) > Grow) {

        // Allocate slack for the array proportional to its size.
        Grow = SIZE_T(NumElements) + 3 * SIZE_T(NumElements) / 8 + ConstantGrow;
    }

    if(bAllowQuantize)
    {
        Retval = (SizeType)(FMemory::QuantizeSize(Grow * BytesPerElement, Alignment) / BytesPerElement);
    }
}
```

```

else
{
    Retval = (SizeType)Grow;
}
// NumElements and MaxElements are stored in 32 bit signed integers so we must be careful not to overflow here. if(NumElements > Retval) {

    Retval = TNumericLimits<SizeType>::Max();
}

returnRetval;
}

```

From the above, we can see the growth strategy of TArray memory length: when it is first allocated, it will grow by at least 4 elements; then it will grow proportionally and have a fixed growth of 16. Then it will be adjusted to a multiple of 8 and memory alignment. It can be seen that its memory growth strategy is quite different from TArray.

The above is just a small list of commonly used UE containers. There are dozens of UE containers. The complete list is [inContainers](#).

### 1.3.3 Mathematical Library

Unreal Engine implements a set of mathematical libraries, the code is in the Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Public\Math directory. The following lists the common mathematical types:

type	name	Analysis
<b>FBox</b>	Bounding Box	Axis-parallel three-dimensional bounding boxes are often used for bounding volumes, collision volumes, visibility determination, etc.
<b>FBoxSphereBounds</b>	Sphere-Cube Bounding Box	Contains the bounding box data of a sphere and an axis-parallel cube, each of which is used for different purposes, such as the sphere is used for scene traversal acceleration structure, and the cube is used for collision detection. It is the type of bounding box for most visible objects.
<b>FColor</b>	Gamma space color	Stores the color values of RGBA8888 4 channels, which are in Gamma space and can be converted from FLinearColor in linear space.
<b>FLinearColor</b>	Linear Space Color	Stores the color values of RGBA4 channels. The precision of each channel is 32-bit floating point value. They are in linear space and can be converted from FColor in Gamma space.
<b>FCapsuleShape</b>	Capsule	Stores the data of two circles and a cylinder. The two circles are located at both ends of the cylinder, thus forming a capsule. Commonly used for physical collision capsules.
<b>FInterpCurve</b>	Interpolation curve	The template class stores a series of key frames and provides interfaces such as interpolation and derivative to facilitate external operation of curves.
<b>FMatrix</b>	4x4 Matrix	Contains 16 floating-point values used to store spatial transformations, such as rigid body transformations such as rotation, scaling, translation, and non-rigid body transformations such as shear.
<b>FMatrix2x2</b>	2x2 Matrix	Contains a 2x2 matrix for transformations in 2D space.
<b>FQuat</b>	Quaternions	Stores quaternion 4D data, which associates the rotation axis and rotation angle. Commonly used for operations such as rotation and rotation interpolation.
<b>FPlane</b>	flat	A plane in 3D space described by a point and an additional W value.
<b>FRay</b>	ray	Describes a ray in three-dimensional space using a point and a vector.
<b>FRotationMatrix</b>	Rotation Matrix	The rotation matrix without translation is inherited from the rotation matrix with translation FRotationTranslationMatrix.
<b>FRotator</b>	Rotator	Provides a rotation structure described by Pitch, Yaw, and Roll, which is more in line with the rotation description method of human perspective, making it easier for the logic layer to control the rotation of objects (such as cameras).
<b>FSphere</b>	Sphere	A sphere in three-dimensional space described by a point and a radius.

type	name	Analysis
FMath	Mathematics Toolbox	A collection of cross-platform, precision-compatible mathematical constant definitions and utility functions.
FVector	3D Vector	A vector in three-dimensional space, with each dimension being a floating point value, can also be used to describe a point.
FVector2D	2D Vector	Two-dimensional vectors can also describe 2D points.
FVector4	4D Vector	It stores vectors of four dimensions XYZW and can be used for homogeneous coordinates, projection transformation, etc.

In addition to the commonly used types listed above, the UE math library also provides floating-point numbers of different precisions, random numbers, boun management nodes, auxiliary classes and toolboxes derived from basic types, and other modules. For a complete list of math libraries, see the UE source code [Math](#).

It is worth mentioning that UE provides several optimized versions of vector SIMD instructions, and different macros can be defined to enable the correspondi

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Public\Math\VectorRegister.h

// Platform specific vector intrinsics include.
#ifndef WITH_DIRECTXMATH
#define SIMD_ALIGNMENT(16)
#include "Math/UnrealMathDirectX.h"
#endif PLATFORM_ENABLE_VECTORINTRINSICS
#define SIMD_ALIGNMENT(16)
#include "Math/UnrealMathSSE.h"
#endif PLATFORM_ENABLE_VECTORINTRINSICS_NEON
#define SIMD_ALIGNMENT(16)
#include "Math/UnrealMathNeon.h"
#else
#define SIMD_ALIGNMENT(4)
#include "Math/UnrealMathFPU.h"
#endif
```

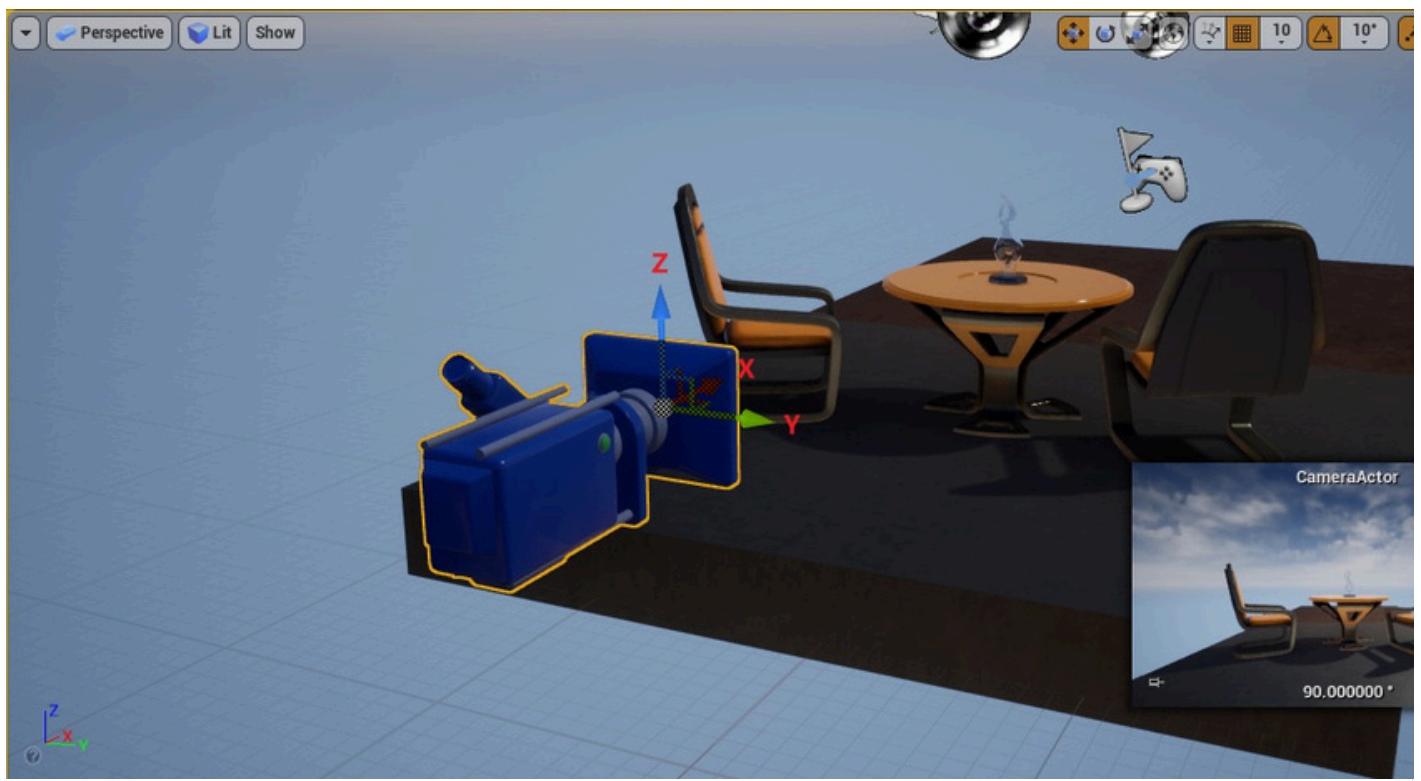
From the above code, we can see that UE supports DirectX built-in library, Arm Neon instructions, SSE instructions, FPU and other versions.

Designed by Arm, **Neon** is a set of single instruction multiple data (SIMD) architecture extension technologies suitable for Arm Cortex-A and Cortex-SSE(Stream SIMD Extensions) is an instruction set designed by Intel and first introduced in its computer chip Pentium3. It is an extended instruction set afte architectures. Currently, there are SSE2, SSE3, SSSE3, SSE4 and other instruction sets.

**FPU**(Floating-point unit) is a floating-point calculation unit. It is part of the hardware structure of the CPU core and is the core unit of the CPU for processin

### 1.3.4 Coordinate Space

UE uses a left-handed coordinate system (same as DirectX, but OpenGL uses a right-handed coordinate system). In the default level (newly created scene) view is to the back of the view; but when you drag a CameraActor into the scene, the default view of the camera is Z axis upward, Y is to the right, and X is to the fro coordinate system is different from many other engines. You may not be used to it at first, but you won't feel hindered after using it for a long time.



The orientation of the default coordinate system under the UE's camera view is shown in the figure.

The coordinate space of UE is basically the same as the conversion of the 3D rendering pipeline, but there are also some unique concepts, as detailed in the following table:

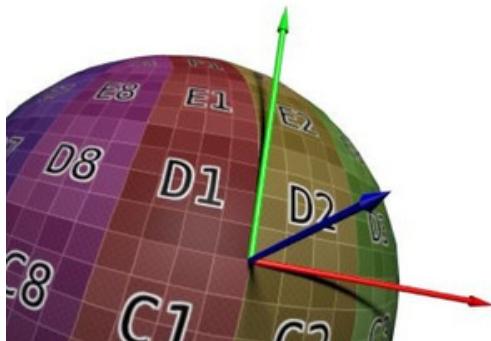
UE coordinate space	English name	Aliases	Analysis
Tangent	Tangent Space	-	Orthogonal (biased after interpolation), may be left-handed or right-handed. TangentToLocal contains only rotation, not position translation information, so it is OrthoNormal (the transposed matrix is also the inverse matrix).
Local	Local Space	ObjectSpace	Orthogonal, can be left-right or right-handed (meaning related to triangle clipping, need to be adjusted). LocalToWorld contains information such as rotation, scale, translation, etc. Scale may be negative, used for animation, wind direction simulation, etc.
World	World Space	-	The WorldToView matrix only contains rotation and translation, not scaling.
TranslatedWorld	World Space with Translation	-	TranslatedWorld=World+PreViewTranslation, PreViewTranslation is the reverse position of the Camera position, and TranslatedWorld is equivalent to the World matrix that does not contain the camera translation information. It is widely used in calculations such as BasePass, bone skinning, particle effects, hair, and noise reduction.
View	View Space	CameraSpace	View space is a coordinate space with the origin at the center of the camera's near clipping plane. The ViewToClip matrix includes x and y scaling, but no translation. It also scales and translates the depth value z, and usually also applies a projection matrix to transform to homogeneous projection space.
Clip	Clip Space	HomogenousCoordinates, PostProjectionSpace, ProjectionSpace	Once the perspective projection matrix is applied, we can transform to homogeneous clip space. Note that W in clip space is equal to Z in view space.

UE coordinate space	English name	Aliases	Analysis
Screen	Screen Space	NormalizedDeviceCoordinates	After applying perspective division to the coordinates in clip space (xyz divided by the w component), the coordinates in screen space can be obtained. The horizontal coordinates in screen space are [-1, 1] from left to right, the vertical coordinates are [-1, 1] from bottom to top, and the depth is [0, 1] from near to far (but the depth of OpenGL RHI is [-1, 1]).
Viewport	Viewport Space	ViewportCoordinates (viewport coordinates), WindowCoordinates (window coordinates)	Map the screen coordinates to the pixel coordinates of the window. The horizontal coordinates are [0, width-1] from left to right, and the vertical coordinates are [0, height-1] from top to bottom (note that the vertical coordinates of the screen space increase from bottom to top).

In UE's C++ interface or Shader variables, there are widespread transformations from one space to another. Their names are X To Y (X and Y are both spatial no

- LocalToWorld
- LocalToView
- TangentToWorld
- TangentToView
- WorldToScreen
- WorldToLocal
- WorldToTangent
- .....

Tangent space is different from local space (model space). It uses the normal and tangent of each vertex (or pixel) as axes to construct an orthogonal coordinate system.



Schematic diagram of the tangent space on the model's vertices. Each vertex has its own tangent space.

$$\mathbf{T} = \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{T}$$

$$\mathbf{N} = \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \right) \times \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial v}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial v}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} \right)$$

A common formula for constructing three axes (tangent T, bitangent B, normal N) of an orthogonal tangent space from a vertex.

#### Why do we need tangent space when we already have local space?

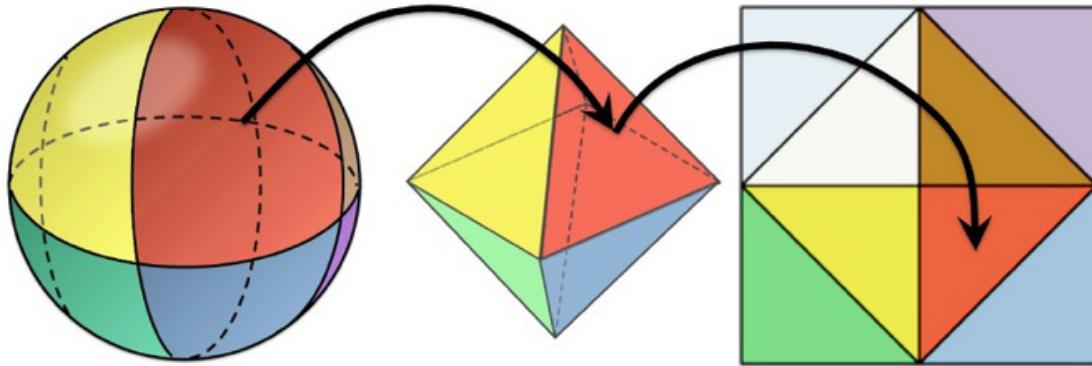
This can be answered from the role of tangent space. To sum up, there are mainly the following points:

- **Supports all kinds of animations**, including skinned skeletal animation, procedural animation, vertex animation, UV animation, etc. Since the normals operation is performed, if the normals are not corrected in real time in the tangent space, incorrect lighting results will be generated.
- **Supports tangent space calculation of lighting**. You only need to convert the light source direction L and the line of sight V to the tangent space, and normal sampling to perform the lighting calculation and obtain the correct lighting result.
- **Normal maps can be reused**. Tangent space normal maps record relative normal information, which means that even if the normal map is applied to a relatively reasonable lighting result can be obtained. The same model can reuse normal maps multiple times, and different models can also reuse the same model, only one map is needed to be used on all six faces.

- **Compressible.** Since the Z direction of the normal of the tangent space normal map is always toward the positive direction of the Z axis, the normal ma deduce the Z direction.

The compression of normal textures was mentioned above. By the way, the compression of unit vectors, which is widely used in the UE Shader layer, is also me

**Zina H. Cigolleet al.** published a paper [Survey of Efficient Representations for Independent Unit Vectors](#) in 2014 , which proposed a method to compress thre dimensions. The compression process is to first map the unit sphere into an octahedron, and then project it into a two-dimensional cube, as shown in the figu



The decompression process is just the opposite. The UE shader code clearly records the specific process of compression and decompression:

```
// Engine\Shaders\Private\DeferredShadingCommon.us
```

```
//Compression: From3After the unit vector of the dimension is converted to the
octahedron, it returns2Dimensional results. float2UnitVectorToOctahedron( float3 N ) {
```

```
    N.xy /= dot(1,abs(N)); if( Nz <=0 )           //Convert unit sphere to octahedron
    {
        N.xy = (1-abs(N.yx)) * ( N.xy >=0? float2(1,1) : float2(-1,-1) );
    }
    returnN.xy;
}
```

```
//Unzip: From2dimensional octahedron vector conversion to3
-dimensional unit vector. float3OctahedronToUnitVector( float2 Oct ) {
```

```
    float3 N = float3( Oct,1- dot(1,abs(Oct)) ); if( Nz <0 )
    {
        N.xy = (1-abs(N.yx)) * ( N.xy >=0? float2(1,1) : float2(-1,-1) );
    }
    returnnormalize(N);
}
```

Since the compressed vectors mentioned above are required to be of unit length, only vectors such as the incident light direction, line of sight, and normal can information such as color and light intensity cannot be accurately compressed.

In addition, UE also supports the encoding and decoding of half-octagonal surfaces:

```
// Engine\Shaders\Private\DeferredShadingCommon.us
```

```
// 3dimensional unit vector compressed into a half octahedron2Dimensional vector
```

```
float2UnitVectorToHemiOctahedron( float3 N ) {
```

```
    N.xy /= dot(1,abs(N));
    returnfloat2( Nx + Ny, Nx - Ny );
}
```

```
//Semi-octahedral2The vector is unpacked into3dimensional unit vector
```

```
float3HemiOctahedronToUnitVector( float2 Oct ) {
```

```
    Oct = float2( Oct.x + Oct.y, Oct.x - Oct.y ) *0.5; float3 N = float3( Oct,1-
    dot(1,abs(Oct)) ); returnnormalize(N);
}
```

### 1.3.5 Basic macro definitions

In order to be compatible with the differences between various platforms and various compiler options, UE defines a variety of macro definitions, which are m Build.h files:

```
// Engine\Intermediate\Build\Win64\UE4Editor\Development\Launch\Definitions.h
```

```
#defineIS_PROGRAM 0
```

```

#define UE_EDITOR 1
#define ENABLE_PGO_PROFILE 0
#define USE_VORBIS_FOR_STREAMING 1
#define USE_XMA2_FOR_STREAMING 1
#define WITH_DEV_AUTOMATION_TESTS 1
#define WITH_PERF_AUTOMATION_TESTS 1
#define UNICODE 1
#define _UNICODE 1
#define __UNREAL__ 1
#define IS_MONOLITHIC 0
#define WITH_ENGINE 1
#define WITH_UNREAL_DEVELOPER_TOOLS 1
#define WITH_APPLICATION_CORE 1
#define WITH_COREUOBJECT 1
#define USE_STATS_WITHOUT_ENGINE 0
#define WITH_PLUGIN_SUPPORT 0
#define WITH_ACCESSIBILITY 1
#define WITH_PERFCOUNTERS 1
#define USE_LOGGING_IN_SHIPPING 0
#define WITH_LOGGING_TO_MEMORY 0
#define USE_CACHE_FREED_OS_ALLOCS 1
#define USE_CHECKS_IN_SHIPPING 0
#define WITH_EDITOR 1
#define WITH_SERVER_CODE 1
#define WITH_PUSH_MODEL 0
#define WITH_CEF3 1
#define WITH_LIVE_CODING
#define WITH_XGE_CONTROLLER 1
#define UBT_MODULE_MANIFEST "UE4Editor.modules"
#define UBT_MODULE_MANIFEST_DEBUGGAME "UE4Editor-Win64-DebugGame.modules"
#define UBT_COMPILED_PLATFORM Win64
#define UBT_COMPILED_TARGET Editor
#define UE_APP_NAME "UE4Editor"
#define NDIS_MINIPORT_MAJOR_VERSION 0
#define WIN32 1
#define _WIN32_WINNT 0x0601
#define WINVER 0x0601
#define PLATFORM_WINDOWS 1
#define PLATFORM_MICROSOFT 1
#define OVERRIDE_PLATFORM_HEADER_NAME
#define RHI_RAYTRACING Windows
#define NDEBUG 1
#define UE_BUILD_DEVELOPMENT 1
#define UE_IS_ENGINE_MODULE 1
#define WITH_LAUNCHERCHECK 0
#define UE_BUILD_DEVELOPMENT_WITH_DEBUGGAME 0
#define UE_ENABLE_ICU 1
#define WITH_VS_PERF_PROFILER 0
#define WITH_DIRECTXMath 0
#define WITH_MALLOC_STOMP 1
#define CORE_API DLLIMPORT
#define TRACELOG_API DLLIMPORT
#define COREUOBJECT_API DLLIMPORT
#define INCLUDE_CHAOS 0
#define WITH_PHYSX 1
#define WITH_CHAOS 0
#define WITH_CHAOS_CLOTHING 0
#define WITH_CHAOS_NEEDS_TO_BE_FIXED 0
#define PHYSICS_INTERFACE_PHYSX 1
#define WITH_APEX 1
#define WITH_APEX_CLOTHING 1
#define WITH_CLOTH_COLLISION_DETECTION 1
#define WITH_PHYSX_COOKING 1
#define WITH_NVCLOTH 1
#define WITH_CUSTOM_SQ_STRUCTURE 0
#define WITH_IMMEDIATE_PHYSX 0
#define GPU PARTICLE_LOCAL_VF_ONLY 0
#define ENGINE_API DLLIMPORT
#define NETCORE_API DLLIMPORT
#define APPLICATIONCORE_API DLLIMPORT
#define DDPI_EXTRA_SHADERPLATFORMS SP_XXX=32,
#define DDPI_SHADER_PLATFORM_NAME_MAP { TEXT("XXX"), SP_XXX },
#define RHI_API DLLIMPORT
#define JSON_API DLLIMPORT
#define WITH_FREETYPE 1
#define SLATECORE_API DLLIMPORT
#define INPUTCORE_API DLLIMPORT
#define SLATE_API DLLIMPORT
#define WITH_UNREALPNG 1
#define WITH_UNREALJPEG 1
#define WITH_UNREALEXR 1
#define IMAGEWRAPPER_API DLLIMPORT
#define MESSAGING_API DLLIMPORT
#define MESSAGINGCOMMON_API DLLIMPORT
#define RENDERCORE_API DLLIMPORT
#define ANALYTICSET_API DLLIMPORT
#define ANALYTICS_API DLLIMPORT

```

```

#define SOCKETS_PACKAGE 1
#define SOCKETS_API DLLIMPORT
#define ASSETREGISTRY_API DLLIMPORT
#define ENGINEMESSAGES_API DLLIMPORT
#define ENGINESETTINGS_API DLLIMPORT
#define SYNTHBENCHMARK_API DLLIMPORT
#define RENDERER_API DLLIMPORT
#define GAMEPLAYTAGS_API DLLIMPORT
#define PACKETHANDLER_API DLLIMPORT
#define RELIABILITYHANDLERCOMPONENT_API DLLIMPORT
#define AUDIOPLATFORMCONFIGURATION_API DLLIMPORT
#define MESHDESCRIPTION_API DLLIMPORT
#define STATICMESHDESCRIPTION_API DLLIMPORT
#define PAKFILE_API DLLIMPORT
#define RSA_API DLLIMPORT
#define NETWORKREPLAYSTREAMING_API DLLIMPORT

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Public\Misc\Build.h

#ifndefUE_BUILD_DEBUG
#defineUE_BUILD_DEBUG 0
#endif
#ifndefUE_BUILD_DEVELOPMENT
#defineUE_BUILD_DEVELOPMENT 0
#endif
#ifndefUE_BUILD_TEST
#defineUE_BUILD_TEST 0
#endif
#ifndefUE_BUILD_SHIPPING
#defineUE_BUILD_SHIPPING 0
#endif
#ifndefUE_GAME
#defineUE_GAME 0
#endif
#ifndefUE_EDITOR
#defineUE_EDITOR 0
#endif
#ifndefUE_BUILD_SHIPPING_WITH_EDITOR
#defineUE_BUILD_SHIPPING_WITH_EDITOR 0
#endif
#ifndefUE_BUILD_DOCS
#defineUE_BUILD_DOCS 0
#endif
#endif

(....)

```

The common basic macros and their descriptions are as follows:

Macro Name	Analysis	default value
<b>UE_EDITOR</b>	Whether the current program is an editor, the most commonly used	1
<b>WITH_ENGINE</b>	Whether to enable the engine. If not, it is similar to SDK that only provides basic APIs and many modules will not work properly.	1
<b>WITH_EDITOR</b>	Whether to enable the editor, similar to UE_EDITOR.	1
<b>WIN32</b>	Whether it is a win32 program.	1
<b>PLATFORM_WINDOWS</b>	Whether the operating platform is Windows.	1
<b>UE_BUILD_DEBUG</b>	Debug build mode.	0
<b>UE_BUILD_DEVELOPMENT</b>	Developer build mode.	1
<b>UE_BUILD_SHIPPING</b>	Release build mode.	0
<b>UE_GAME</b>	Game Build Mode.	0
<b>UE_EDITOR</b>	Editor build mode.	0
<b>UE_BUILD_DEVELOPMENT_WITH_DEBUGGAME</b>	Developer build mode with game debugging.	0
<b>UE_BUILD_SHIPPING_WITH_EDITOR</b>	Release build mode with editor.	0

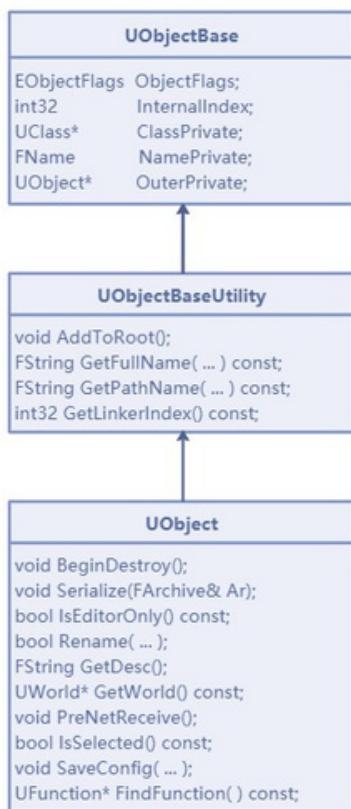
Macro Name	Analysis	default value
<b>UE_BUILD_DOCS</b>	Documentation build mode.	0
<b>RHI_RAYTRACING</b>	Whether to enable ray tracing	1

## 1.4 Engine Module

This section will go over the basic system and concepts of UE so that readers who are not familiar with UE can have a general understanding and better enter

### 1.4.1 Object, Actor, ActorComponent

UObject is the base class of all object types in UE. It inherits from UObjectBaseUtility, which in turn inherits from UObjectBase. It provides metadata, reflection serialization, some editor information, object creation and destruction, event callback and other functions. The specific type of the subclass is determined by the relationship is as follows:



AActor is the main and most important concept and type in the UE system. It inherits from UObject and is the base class of all objects that can be placed in the GameObject of the Unity engine. It provides network synchronization (Replication), creation and destruction of objects, frame update (Tick), component operation, transformation and other functions. AActor objects can be nested AActor objects, and are supported by the following interfaces:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\GameFramework\Actor.h

void AttachToActor(AActor* ParentActor, ... ); void AttachToComponent
(USceneComponent* Parent, ... );
```

The above two interfaces are actually equivalent, because in fact the implementation code of AActor::AttachToActor also calls the RootComponent::AttachToCo

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Private\Actor.cpp

void AActor::AttachToActor(AActor* ParentActor,const FAttachmentTransformRules& AttachmentRules, FName SocketName)

if(RootComponent && ParentActor) {

    USceneComponent* ParentDefaultAttachComponent = ParentActor->GetDefaultAttachComponent(); if
    (ParentDefaultAttachComponent) {

        RootComponent->AttachToComponent(ParentDefaultAttachComponent, AttachmentRules, SocketName);
    }
}
```

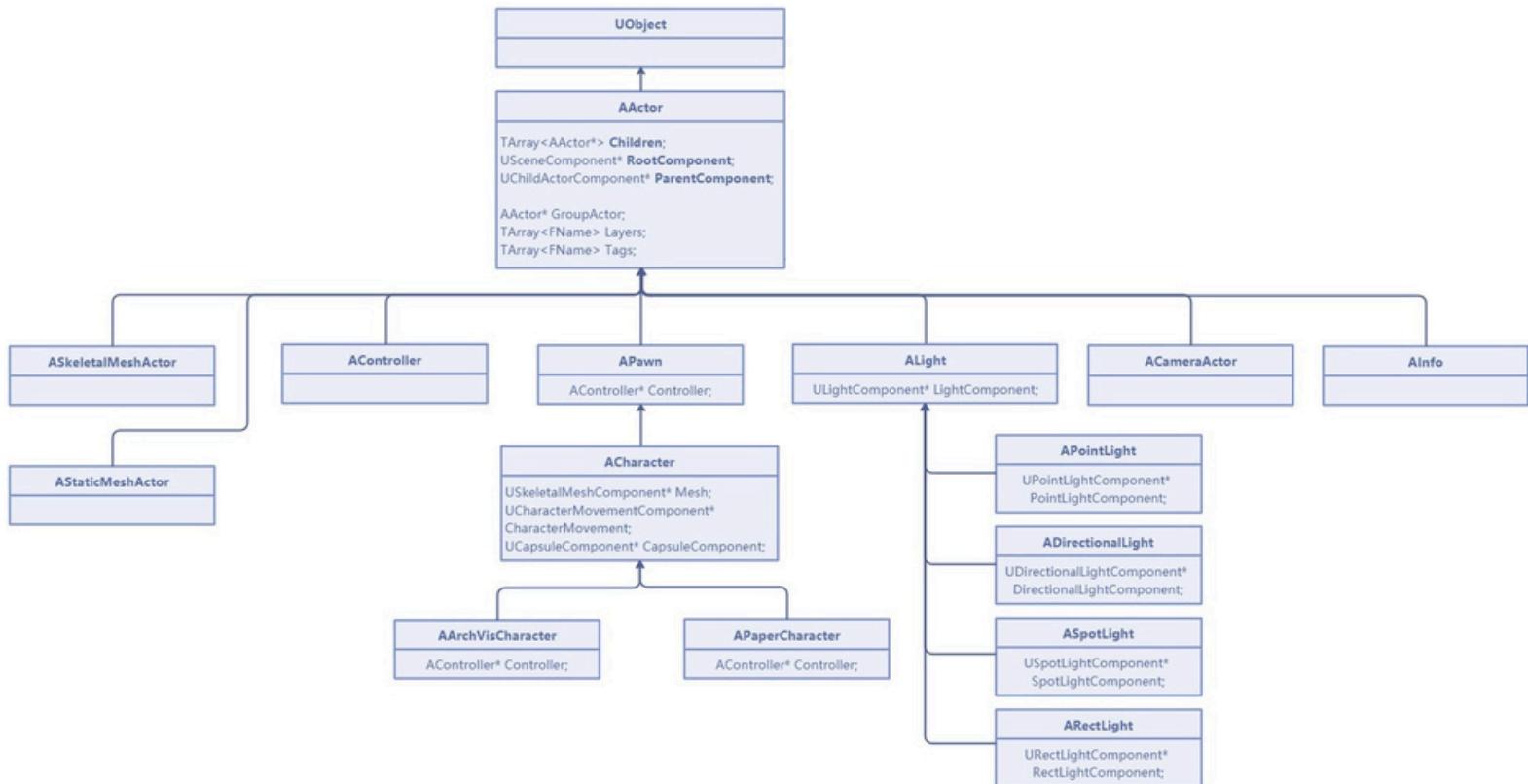
```
}
```

This means that the Actor itself does not have nesting capabilities, but it can be achieved through the RootSceneComponent, which has a one-to-one relation

Common subclasses that inherit from Actor are:

- ASkeletalMeshActor: Skinned skeleton body, used to render dynamic models with skeletal skinning.
- AStaticMeshActor: static model.
- ACameraActor: Camera object.
- APlayerCameraManager: Camera manager, which manages all camera (ACameraActor) instances in the current world.
- ALight: Light object, from which point light source (APointLight), parallel light (ADirectionalLight), spotlight (ASpotLight), rectangular light (ARectLight) a
- AReflectionCapture: Reflection capturer, used to generate environment maps offline.
- AController: character controller. It also derives subclasses such as AAIController and APlayerController.
- APawn: describes dynamic characters or objects with AI. Its subclasses include ACharacter, ADefaultPawn, AWheeledVehicle, etc.
- AMaterialInstanceActor: Material instance body.
- ALightmassPortal: Global illumination portal, used to accelerate and improve offline global lighting efficiency and effects.
- AInfo: The base class for configuration information classes. Common subclasses that inherit from it include AWorldSettings, AGameModeBase, AAtmosp
- ....

The above only lists some of the subclasses of AActor. It can be seen that some of them can be put into the level, but some cannot be put into the level directl follows:

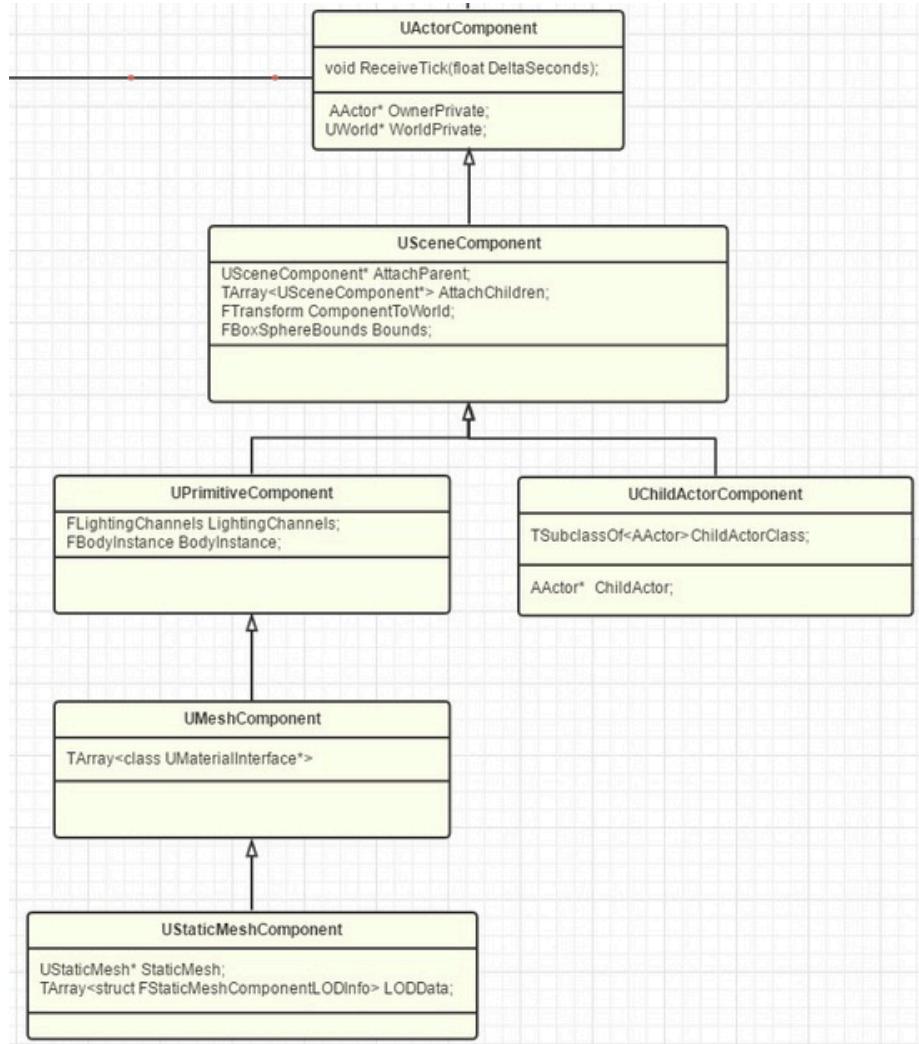


**UActorComponent** inherits from **UObject** and the interface **IInterface\_AssetData**. It is the base class of all component types and can be added to an **AActor** more intuitively that an Actor can be regarded as a container containing a series of components. The functional characteristics and properties of an Actor are m attached to it.

The main commonly used **UActorComponent** subcomponent types are:

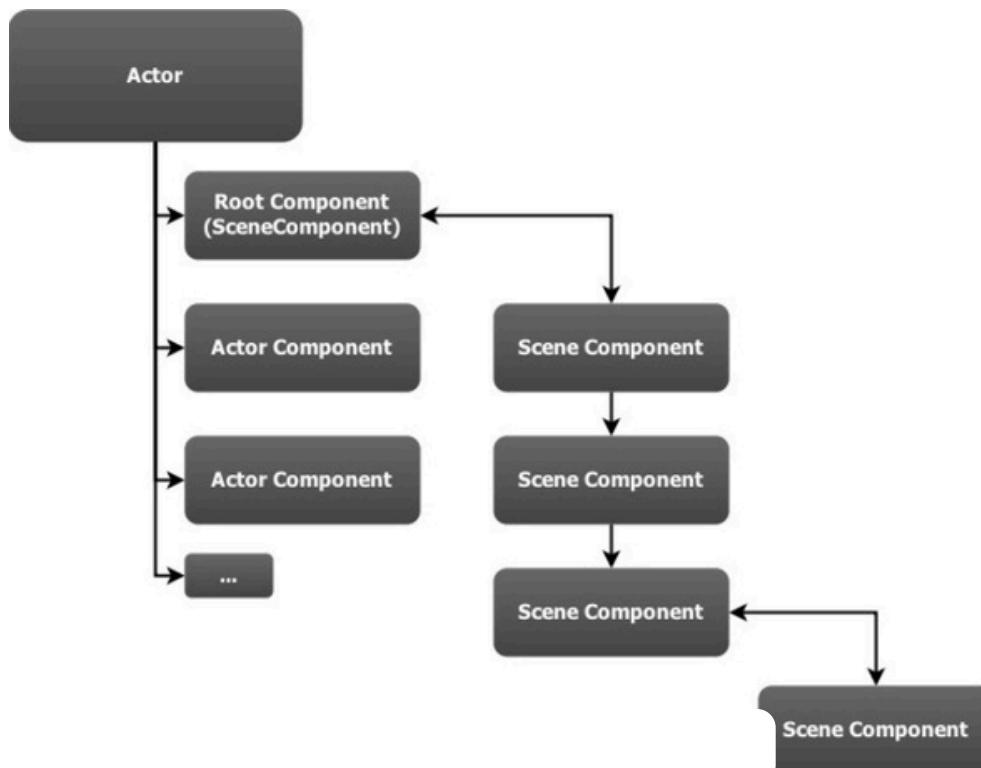
- **USceneComponent**: SceneComponents are ActorComponents that have transforms. The transform is the position in the scene, defined by position, rotation and scale attached to each other in a hierarchy. The Actor's position, rotation, and scale are taken from the SceneComponent at the root of the hierarchy . **UPrimitiveComponent**: Inherits from **SceneComponent**, is the base class for all visible (renderable, such as meshes or particle systems) objects, and also provides other functions.
- **UMeshComponent**: Inherited from **UPrimitiveComponent**, the base class for all renderable triangle mesh collections (static models, dynamic models, pro
- **UStaticMeshComponent**: Inherited from **UMeshComponent**, it is the geometry of the static mesh and is often used to create **UStaticMesh** instances.
- **USkinnedMeshComponent**: Inherits from **UMeshComponent**, a component that supports skinned mesh rendering, providing interfaces such as mesh, bone
- **USkeletalMeshComponent**: Inherited from **USkinnedMeshComponent**, usually used to create instances of **USkeletalMesh** resources with animation.

Their inheritance relationship is as follows:



All Actors that can be placed in a level have a Root Component (a type of Scene Component), which can be any subclass of a Scene Component. The Scene Component affects the scale of the Actor in the world, and these properties affect all of the Actor's child objects.

Even an empty Actor has a "Default Scene Root" object, which is the simplest scene component. During the editor operation phase, when we place a new scene root object of the Actor will be replaced.



*Actor, RootComponent, SceneComponent, ActorComponent hierarchical nesting diagram.*

## 1.4.2 Level, World, WorldContext, Engine

ULevel is the level of UE, a collection of objects in the scene, storing a series of Actors, including visible objects (such as meshes, lights, special effects, etc.) and blueprints, level configurations, navigation data, etc.).

UWorld is a container of ULevel, which truly represents a scene, because ULevel must be placed in UWorld to display its content. Each UWorld instance must also contain several streaming levels (Streaming Level, optional, non-essential, can be dynamically loaded and unloaded on demand). In addition to level GameInstance, AISystem, FXSystem, NavigationSystem, PhysicScene, TimerManager and other information. It has the following types:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Engine\EngineTypes.h

namespace EWorldType
{
    enum Type
    {
        None,
        Game, Editor,
        PIE,
        EditorPreview,
        GamePreview,
        GameRPC,
        Inactive
    };
}
```

Common WorldTypes include Game, Editor, Editor Play (PIE), and Preview Mode (EditorPreview, GamePreview), etc. The scene in the editor we usually use is ac

FWorldContext is the device context for processing Level at the engine level, which is convenient for UEngine to manage and record information related to Wo not be directly operated by the logic layer. The data it stores includes World type, ContextHandle, GameInstance, GameViewport and other information.

UEngine controls and manages many internal systems and resources, and derives UGameEngine and UEditorEngine. It is a singleton global variable:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Engine\Classes\Engine\Engine.h

/** Global engine pointer. Can be 0 so don't use without checking. */ extern ENGINE_API class
UEngine* GEngine;
```

It is created and assigned in FEngineLoop::PreInitPostStartupScreen at the beginning of the program startup:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Launch\Private\LaunchEngineLoop.cpp

int32 FEngineLoop::PreInitPostStartupScreen(const TCHAR* CmdLine)
{
    (....)

    if( GEngine == nullptr ) {

        #if WITH_EDITOR
        if( GIsEditor ) {

            FString EditorEngineClassName;
            GConfig->GetString(TEXT("/Script/Engine.Engine"), TEXT("EditorEngine"), EditorEngineClassName, GEngineInI); UClass* EditorEngineClass =
            StaticLoadClass( UEditorEngine::StaticClass(), nullptr, *EditorEngineClassName);

            //Create an editor engine instance
            GEngine = GEditor = NewObject<UEditorEngine>(GetTransientPackage(), EditorEngineClass);

            (....)
        }
        else
        {
            FString GameEngineClassName;
            GConfig->GetString(TEXT("/Script/Engine.Engine"), TEXT("GameEngine"), GameEngineClassName, GEngineInI);

            UClass* EngineClass = StaticLoadClass( UEngine::StaticClass(), nullptr, *GameEngineClassName);

            //Creating a game engine instance
            GEngine = NewObject<UEngine>(GetTransientPackage(), EngineClass);

            (....)
        }
    }
}
```

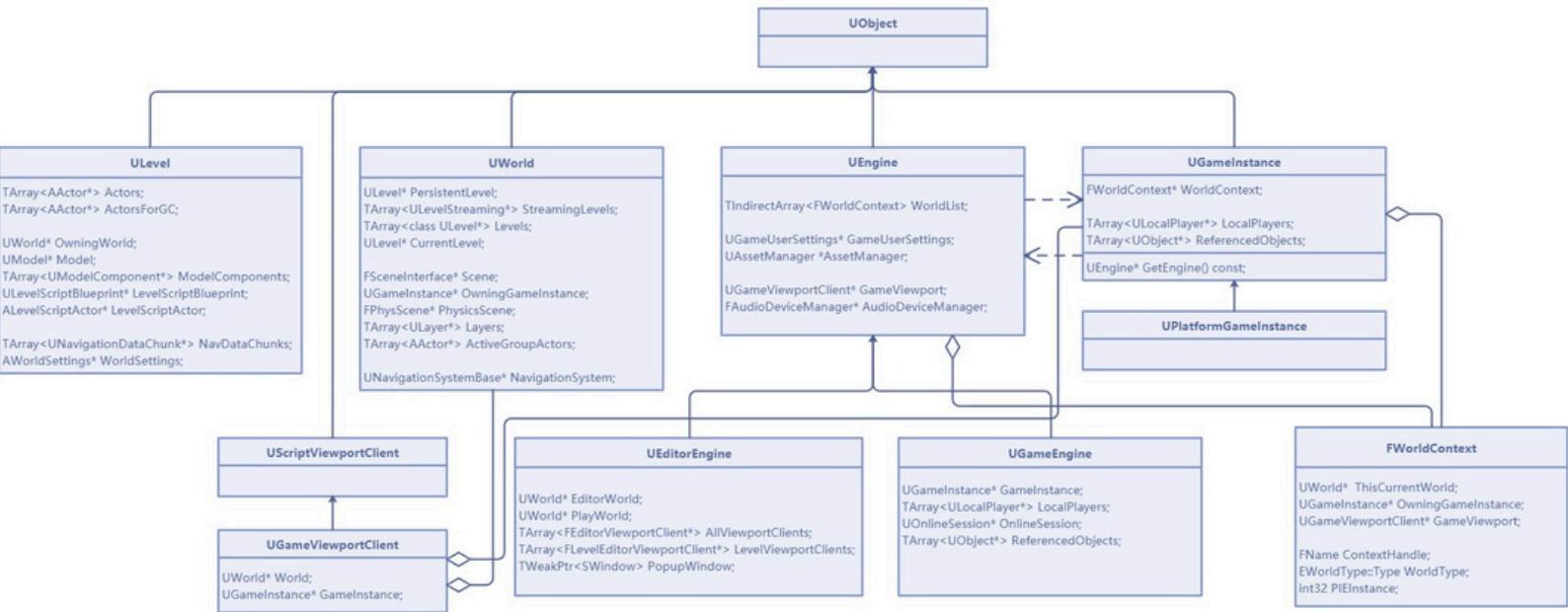
```

    return0;
}

```

As you can see above, a UEditorEngine or UGameEngine instance will be created depending on whether it is in editor mode, and then assigned to the global v directly accessed by code from other places.

The inheritance, dependency, and reference relationships among ULevel, UWorld, FWorldContext, and UEngine are shown in the following figure:



## 1.4.3 Memory Allocation

UE's memory allocation system is large and complex, and the functions it provides are summarized as follows:

- Encapsulates the differences between system platforms and provides a unified interface.
- Efficiently creating and reclaiming memory according to certain rules can effectively improve memory operation efficiency.
- Supports multiple memory allocation schemes to meet your needs.
- Supports multiple calling methods to cope with different scenarios.
- Supports multi-thread-safe memory operations.
- TLS is partially supported (thread-local caching). Supports
- unified management of GPU memory. Provides memory
- debugging and statistics information.
- Good scalability.

So, how does UE achieve the above goals? We will reveal the secrets below.

### 1.4.3.1 Memory Allocation Basics

In order to better explain the memory allocation scheme later, this section first explains the basic concepts involved.

#### • FFreeMem

The allocatable small block memory information record is **FAllocBinned** defined as follows:

```

struct FAllocBinned : FFreeMem {
    FFreeMem* Next;
    uint32 NumFreeBlocks;
    uint32 Padding;
};

```

#### • FPoolInfo

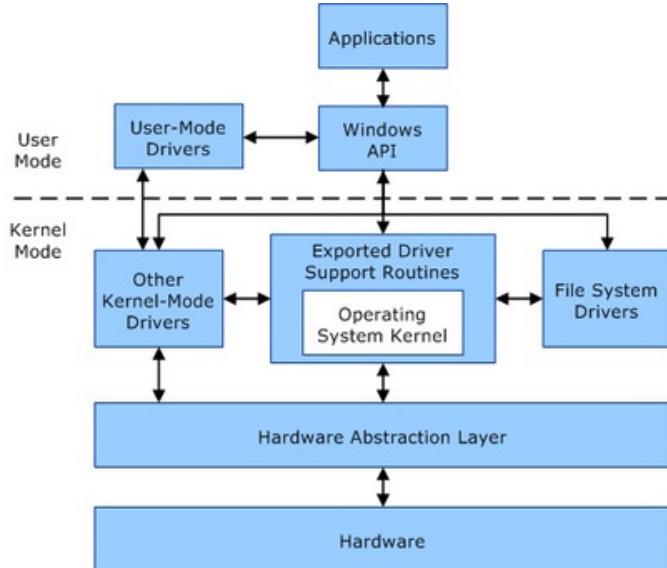
Memory pool, in common memory allocators, in order to reduce the system operation memory overhead, usually a large memory is allocated first, and several small blocks (UE's small blocks of memory are equal in size).

#### Why do we need to allocate a large block of memory and then divide it into several small blocks?

[The Memory Management section in Chapter 5 of Game Engine Architecture](#) gives an in-depth and clear answer. The reasons can be summarized as fo

1. The memory allocator usually operates in the heap, which is a slow process. It is a general-purpose device. If it is applied directly, it must handle allo lot of management overhead for the operating system.

2. On most operating systems, calling system memory operations will switch from user state to kernel state, and then switch back to user state after these states will take a lot of time.



Schematic diagram of communication between user state and kernel state in Windows operating system. It can be seen that the communication between layers of drivers.

This allocation method can effectively improve memory allocation efficiency and globally manage all memory operations (GC, optimization, defragme also has certain side effects, such as the inevitable waste of a certain proportion of memory space, the increase of instantaneous IO, the formation of m defragmented), etc.

FPoolInfo is [FAllocBinned](#) defined as follows:

```

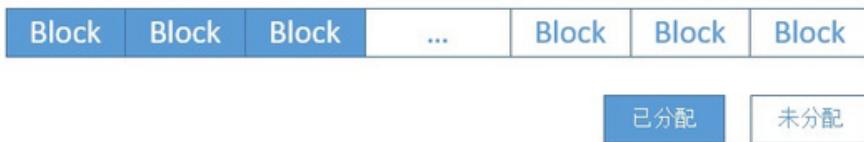
struct FAllocBinned::FPoolInfo {

    uint16 Taken;           //The number of allocated memory blocks.
    uint16 TableIndex;      //LocatedMemSizeToPoolTableIndex.
    uint32 AllocSize;       //The size of the allocated memory.

    FFreeMem* FirstMem;    //If it is boxing mode, it points to the memory block available in the memory pool; if it is non-boxing mode, it points to the memory block directly allocated by the operating system.
    FPoolInfo* Next;        // Points to the next memory pool.
    FPoolInfo** PrevLink;  // Points to the previous memory pool.

};
  
```

Since the memory blocks in the memory pool are of equal size, the memory distribution diagram of the memory pool is as follows:



#### • FPoolTable

The memory pool table uses a doubly linked list to store a group of memory pools. When a memory pool in the memory pool table cannot have allocat will be created and added to the doubly linked list.

FPoolTable is [FAllocBinned](#) defined as follows:

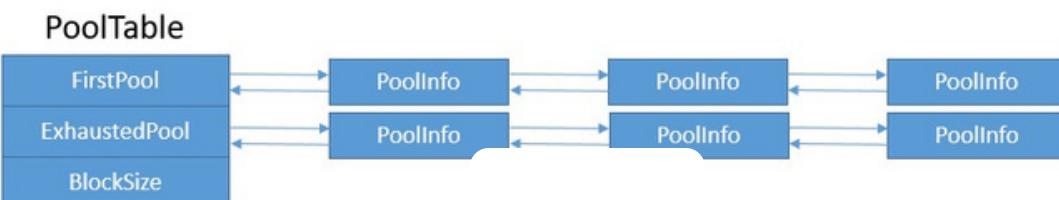
```

struct FAllocBinned::FPoolTable {

    FPoolInfo* FirstPool;          // The initial memory pool is the header of the doubly linked list.
    FPoolInfo* ExhaustedPool;      // A linked list of memory pools that have been exhausted (no memory to allocate)
    uint32 BlockSize;             // Memory block size

};
  
```

Schematic diagram of the data structure of FPoolTable:



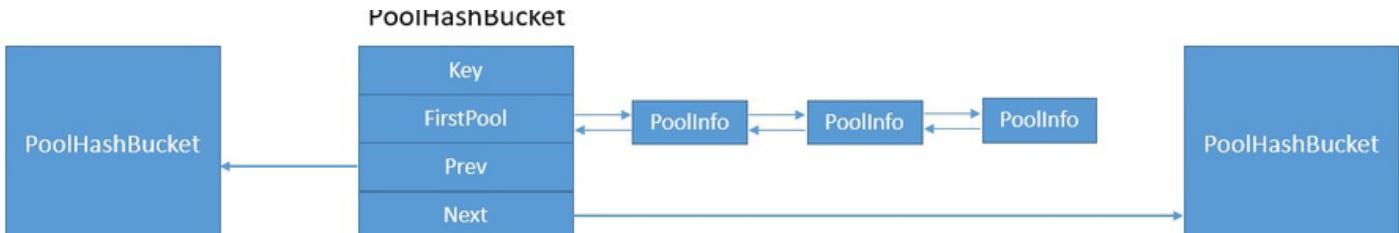
- **PoolHashBucket**

The memory pool hash bucket is used to store all pool memories corresponding to the keys hashed from the memory address. PoolHashBucket is [FAllocBinned](#)

```
struct FAllocBinned::PoolHashBucket {

    UPTRINT           Key;          // Hash Key
    FPoolInfo*        FirstPool;   // Point to the first memory pool
    PoolHashBucket*  Prev;        // Previous memory pool hash bucket
    PoolHashBucket*  Next;        // Next memory pool hash bucket
};
```

Its data structure diagram is as follows:



- **Memory size**

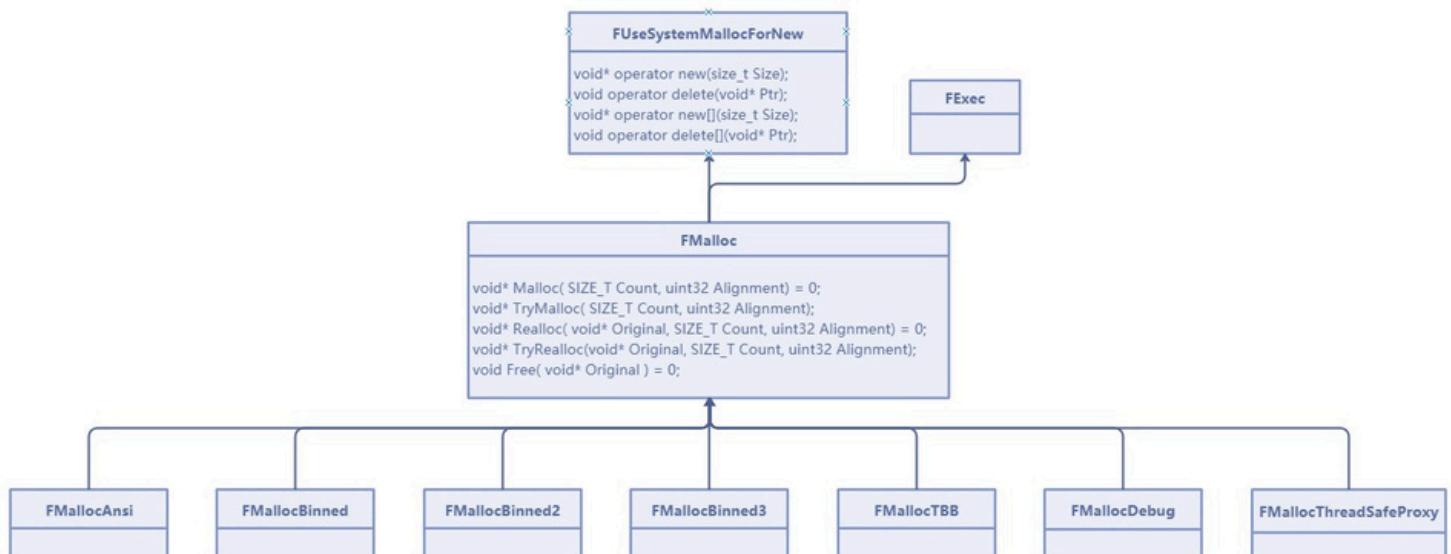
The memory size of UE involves many parameters, including memory pool size (PoolSize), memory page size (PageSize) and memory block (BlockSize). T system platform, memory alignment, and caller. The following are [FAllocBinned](#) the sizes of some memory-related variables defined:

```
#if PLATFORM_IOS
#define PLAT_PAGE_SIZE_LIMIT      16384
#define PLAT_BINNED_ALLOC_POOLSIZE 16384
#define PLAT_SMALL_BLOCK_POOL_SIZE 256
#else
#define PLAT_PAGE_SIZE_LIMIT      65536
#define PLAT_BINNED_ALLOC_POOLSIZE 65536
#define PLAT_SMALL_BLOCK_POOL_SIZE 0
#endif
```

From this we can see that on the IOS platform, the memory page upper limit and memory pool size are 16k, and the boxed memory block size is 256 by upper limit and memory pool size are 64k, and the boxed memory block size is 0 bytes.

#### 1.4.3.2 Memory Allocator

**FAlloc** is the core class of UE memory allocator, controlling all memory allocation and release operations of UE. However, it is a virtual base class, which inhe **FExec**, and also has multiple subclasses, corresponding to different memory allocation schemes and strategies. The main inheritance relationship of **FAlloc** is



The above figure only shows some of the **FAlloc** subclasses. Other debugging and auxiliary classes are not included in this figure. The main classes of the FM follows:

- **FUseSystemMallocForNew**

FUseSystemMallocForNew provides operator support for the new and delete keywords, and FMalloc inherits FUseSystemMallocForNew, which means th operations such as C++ keywords such as new and delete.

- **FMallocAnsi**

The standard allocator directly calls C's malloc and free operations without any memory caching and allocation strategy management.

- **FMallocBinned**

The standard (old) packing management method enables the memory pool table (FPoolTable), page memory pool table (FPagePoolTable) and memory p default memory allocation method of UE and also a memory allocation method supported by all platforms. Its core definition is as follows :

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Public\HAL\MallocBinned.h

class FMallocBinned : public FMalloc {

private:
    enum{ POOL_COUNT =42};
    enum{ EXTENDED_PAGE_POOL_ALLOCATION_COUNT =2}; enum
    { MAX_POOLED_ALLOCATION_SIZE =32768+1};

    (....)

    FPoolTable     PoolTable[POOL_COUNT];           //List of all memory pool tables, a single memory poolBlockThe size is the same.
    FPoolTable     OsTable;             //A memory pool table that manages memory allocated directly by the system. However, after reading the
    FPoolTable     source code, I found that it is not used. PagePoolTable[EXTENDED_PAGE_POOL_ALLOCATION_COUNT]; //Memory pool table for memory pages (not
    FPoolTable*    small blocks of memory). MemSizeToPoolTable[MAX_POOLED_ALLOCATION_SIZE+EXTENDED_PAGE_POOL_ALLOCATION_COUNT];           // Memory pool table indexed by size, It will actually point toPoolT

    PoolHashBucket* HashBuckets;           // Memory pool hash bucket
    PoolHashBucket* HashBucketFreeList;   //Allocatable memory pool hash buckets

    uint32          PageSize;            //Memory page size

    (....)
};


```

In order to better understand the subsequent memory allocation mechanism, let's first analyze the initialization code of the memory allocator:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Private\HAL\MallocBinned.cpp

FMallocBinned::FMallocBinned(uint32 InPageSize, uint64 AddressLimit) {

    (....)

    //The maximum size of the box is8k(iOS)or32k(NoiOSplatform).
    BinnedSizeLimit = Private::PAGE_SIZE_LIMIT/2;

    (....)

    //Initialize the memory pool of memory pages1,By default, itsBlockSizefor12k(iOS)or48k(NoiOS
    //platform). PagePoolTable[0].FirstPool = nullptr; PagePoolTable[0].ExhaustedPool = nullptr;

    PagePoolTable[0].BlockSize = PageSize == Private::PAGE_SIZE_LIMIT ? BinnedSizeLimit+(BinnedSizeLimit/2) :0;

    //Initialize the memory pool of memory pages2,By default, itsBlockSizefor24k(iOS)or96k(NoiOS
    //platform). PagePoolTable[1].FirstPool = nullptr; PagePoolTable[1].ExhaustedPool = nullptr;

    PagePoolTable[1].BlockSize = PageSize == Private::PAGE_SIZE_LIMIT ? PageSize+BinnedSizeLimit :0;

    //Used to create differentBlockSizeArrays of numbers that follow two rules:1.Try to be an integer divisor (factor) of the memory pool size to reduce memory waste;2.must16Bit
    alignment. static const int32 BlockSizes[POOL_COUNT] = {

        8,           16,           32,           48,           64,           80,           96,           112,
        128,          160,          192,          224,          256,          288,          320,          384,
        448,          512,          576,          640,          704,          768,          896,          1024,
        1168,         1360,         1632,         2048,         2336,         2720,         3264,         4096,
        4672,         5456,         6544,         8192,         9360,         10912,        13104,        16384,
        21840,        32768

    };

    //Create a memory pool table for the memory block andBlockSizes
    initializationBlockSize for( uint32 i=0; i < POOL_COUNT; i++ ) {

        PoolTable[i].FirstPool = nullptr;
        PoolTable[i].ExhaustedPool = nullptr;
        PoolTable[i].BlockSize = BlockSizes[i];

    #if STATS
        PoolTable[i].MinRequest = PoolTable[i].BlockSize;
    #endif
    }

    //InitializationMemSizeToPoolTable,Point memory pool tables of all sizes to
    PoolTable. for( uint32 i=0; i<MAX_POOLED_ALLOCATION_SIZE; i++ )

```

```

{
    uint32 Index =0;
    while( PoolTable[Index].BlockSize < i ) {

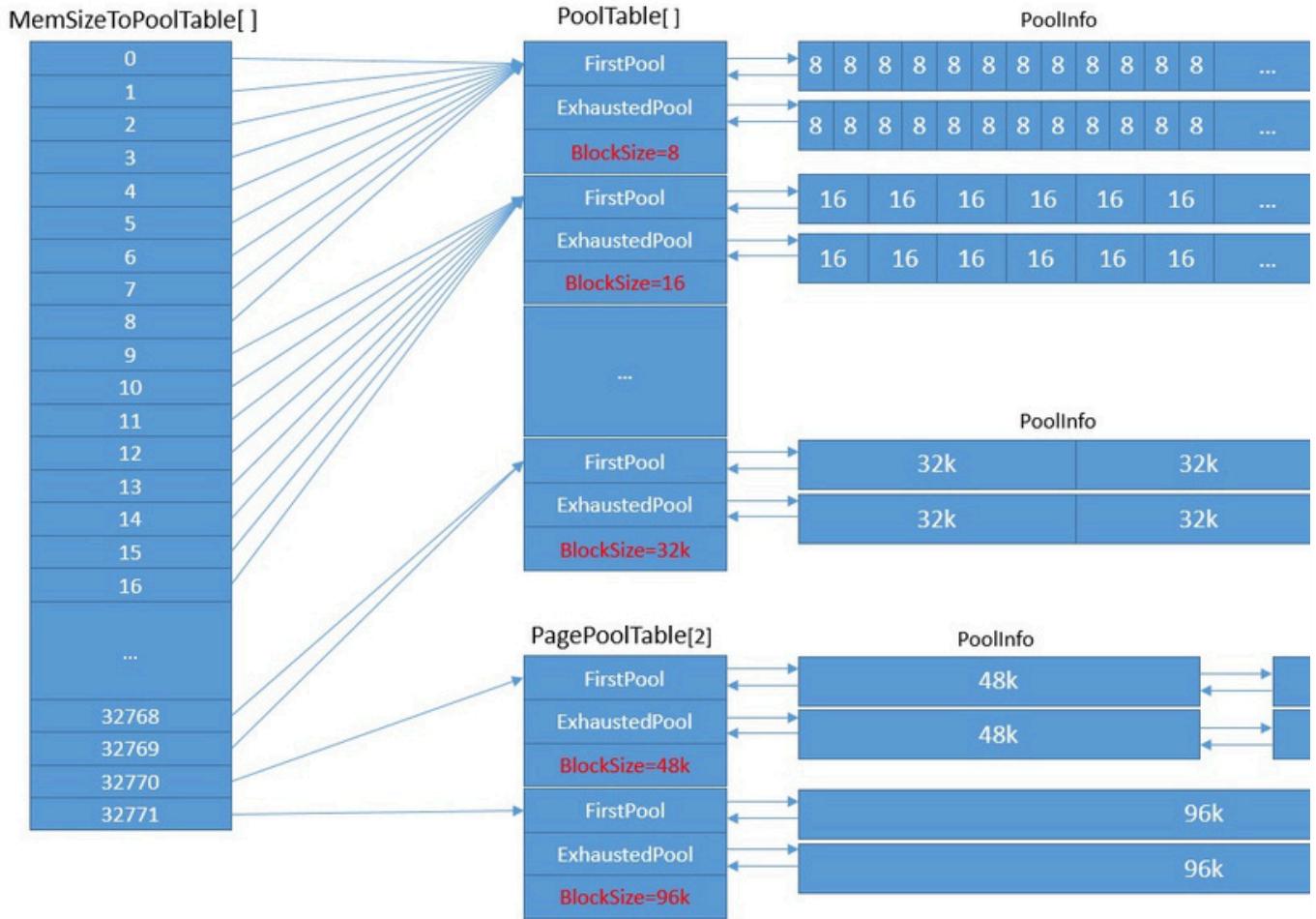
        ++ Index;
    }
    checkSlow(Index < POOL_COUNT); MemSizeToPoolTable[i]
        = &PoolTable[Index];
}

//Add the memory pool table for the memory page toMemSizeToPoolTable
The end of the array. MemSizeToPoolTable[BinnedSizeLimit] = &PagePoolTable[0];
MemSizeToPoolTable[BinnedSizeLimit+1] = &PagePoolTable[1];

check(MAX_POOLED_ALLOCATION_SIZE -1== PoolTable[POOL_COUNT -1].BlockSize);
}

```

In order to more clearly and intuitively illustrate the relationship and memory distribution between MemSizeToPoolTable, PoolTable and PagePoolTable, the schematic diagram:



FMallocBinned The main code and analysis of memory allocation are as follows:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Private\HAL\MallocBinned.cpp

void* FMallocBinned::Malloc(SIZE_T Size, uint32 Alignment) {

    (.....)

    //Handle memory alignment and adjust according to
    memory_alignmentSize If(Alignment ==
    DEFAULT_ALIGNMENT) {
        //The default memory alignment is 16byte
        Alignment = Private::DEFAULT_BINNED_ALLOCATOR_ALIGNMENT;
    }
    Alignment = FMath::Max<uint32>(Alignment, Private::DEFAULT_BINNED_ALLOCATOR_ALIGNMENT); SIZE_T SpareBytesCount =
    FMath::Min<SIZE_T>(Private::DEFAULT_BINNED_ALLOCATOR_ALIGNMENT, Size); Size = FMath::Max<SIZE_T>(PoolTable[0].BlockSize,
    Size + (Alignment - SpareBytesCount));

    (.....)

    FFreeMem* Free = nullptr; bool
    bUsePools =true; //Default memory pool

    (.....)

```

```

if (bUsePools)
{
    //If the allocated size is smaller thanBinnedSizeLimit(32k),It indicates memory fragmentation, putMemSizeToPoolTableoffPoolTable
    middle. if( Size < BinnedSizeLimit ) {

        // Allocate from pool.
        FPoolTable* Table = MemSizeToPoolTable[Size];
        USE_FINE_GRAIN_LOCKS
        FScopeLockTableLock(&Table->CriticalSection);

    #endif
    checkSlow(Size <= Table->BlockSize);

    Private::TrackStats(Table, (uint32)Size);

    FPoolInfo* Pool = Table->FirstPool; if( !Pool )

    {
        Pool = Private::AllocatePoolMemory(*this, Table, Private::BINNED_ALLOC_POOL_SIZE/*PageSize*/, Size);

        Free = Private::AllocateBlockFromPool(*this, Table, Pool, Alignment);
    }

    //If the allocated size is inBinnedSizeLimit(32k)andPagePoolTable[0].BlockSize(48k)between, or inPageSize(64k)andPagePoolTable[1].BlockSize(96k)between else if( ((Size >=
    BinnedSizeLimit && Size <= PagePoolTable[0].BlockSize) ||

        (Size > PageSize && Size <= PagePoolTable[1].BlockSize))

    {
        // Bucket in a pool of 3*PageSize or 6*PageSize uint32 BinType =
        Size < PageSize?0:1; uint32 PageCount =3*BinType +3;
        FPoolTable* Table = &PagePoolTable[BinType];
        USE_FINE_GRAIN_LOCKS

    #ifdef
        FScopeLockTableLock(&Table->CriticalSection);
    #endif
    checkSlow(Size <= Table->BlockSize);

    Private::TrackStats(Table, (uint32)Size);

    FPoolInfo* Pool = Table->FirstPool; if( !Pool )

    {
        Pool = Private::AllocatePoolMemory(*this, Table, PageCount*PageSize, BinnedSizeLimit+BinType);

        Free = Private::AllocateBlockFromPool(*this, Table, Pool, Alignment);
    }

    //Exceeds the memory page size, the system directly allocates memory and puts it inHashBucketsIn the
    table.else
    {
        // Use OS for large allocations. UPRINT AlignedSize =
        Align(Size,PageSize);
        SIZE_T ActualPoolSize;//TODO:use this to reduce waste?
        Free = (FFreeMem*)Private::OSAlloc(*this, AlignedSize, ActualPoolSize); if( !Free )

        {
            Private::OutOfMemory(AignedSize);
        }
    }

    void*AlignedFree = Align(Free, Alignment);

    // Create      indirect.
    FPoolInfo*      Pool;
    {
    #ifdef USE_FINE_GRAIN_LOCKS
        FScopeLockPoolInfoLock(&AccessGuard);
    #endif
    Pool = Private::GetPoolInfo(*this, (UPRINT)Free);

    if((UPRINT)Free != ((UPRINT)AlignedFree & ~((UPRINT)PageSize -1))) {

        // Mark the FPoolInfo for AlignedFree to jump back to the FPoolInfo for ptr.
        for(UPRINT i = (UPRINT)PageSize, Offset =0; i < AlignedSize; i += PageSize, ++Offset) {

            FPoolInfo* TrailingPool = Private::GetPoolInfo(*this, ((UPRINT)Free) + i); check(TrailingPool);

            //Set trailing pools to point back to first pool TrailingPool->SetAllocationSizes(0,0, Offset,
            BinnedOSTableIndex);
        }
    }
    Free  = (FFreeMem*)AlignedFree;
    Pool->SetAllocationSizes(Size, AlignedSize, BinnedOSTableIndex, BinnedOSTableIndex);

    (.....)
}
}

```

```
    returnFree;
}
```

To sum up the above code, in the case of non-IOS platform and default page size (64k), the allocation strategy of FMallocBinned is briefly described as follows:

- The size of the memory to be allocated is (0, 32k), and is allocated and stored using PoolTable of MemSizeToPoolTable.
- The size of the memory to be allocated is [32k, 48K] or [64k, 96k], and is allocated and stored using the PoolTable of PagePoolTable.
- The size of other memory to be allocated is directly allocated by the system and placed in HashBuckets.

#### Why does UE directly allocate memory between (48k, 64k) and not use boxing?

Since the memory pool of FMallocBinned is divided equally, if the memory between (48k, 64k) is allocated by binning, it must be placed in the 6 memory waste between (0, 16k). In other words, in the worst case, each memory allocation in this interval will waste 16k of memory, and the waste is 33.33%. This is obviously unacceptable for the UE official team that emphasizes high performance. We chose the lesser of two evils and came up with a solution.

Of course, there is room for optimization here, that is, the memory between (48k, 64k) can be assembled from smaller blocks. For example, 50k with a BlockSize of 2k, occupying only 25 blocks (but at the same time it will increase the management complexity of the memory pool and memory).

FMallocBinned and the FMallocBinned2 and FMallocBinned3 mentioned below actually allocate a large memory in advance, and then allocate appropriate memory. Although these methods can improve the efficiency of memory allocation, the instantaneous IO pressure will increase, and memory waste will increase.

The memory waste of FMallocBinned is mainly reflected in the following points:

1. The newly allocated memory pool often cannot be fully utilized immediately, resulting in redundancy of certain programs.
2. Due to memory alignment and size alignment, many memory blocks of consecutive sizes are mapped upward to the memory pool table of the same [9, 16] and are mapped to the memory pool table with BlockSize of 16, which also leads to a certain proportion of memory waste.
3. Maintain the additional memory generated by the allocator's memory pool table, memory pool, hash bucket, memory block and other information.

#### • FMallocBinned2

The new boxed memory allocation method. From the analysis of the source code, we can see that FMallocBinned2 is simpler than FMallocBinned. It will use a strategy based on the small block memory, alignment size and whether the thread cache is enabled (enabled by default).

#### • FMallocBinned3

A new binned memory allocation method available only on 64-bit systems. The implementation is similar to FMallocBinned2 and supports thread caching.

#### • FMallocTBB

FMallocTBB adopts the scalable\_allocator allocator in the third-party memory allocator TBB. The interface provided by scalable\_allocator is as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\ThirdParty\IntelTBB\IntelTBB-2019u8\include\tbb\scalable_allocator.h

void* __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNCscalable_malloc(size_tsize); void
    __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNCscalable_free(void*ptr);
void* __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNCscalable_realloc(void* ptr,size_tsize); void* __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNC
scalable_callloc(size_tnobj,size_tsize);
int __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNCscalable_posix_memalign(void** memptr,size_talignment,size_tsize); void* __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNC
scalable_aligned_malloc(size_tsize,size_talignment);
void* __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNCscalable_aligned_realloc(void* ptr,size_tsize,size_talignment); void __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNC
scalable_aligned_free(void*ptr); size_t __TBB_EXPORTED_FUNCscalable_mszie(void*ptr);
```

FMallocTBB uses the above `scalable_aligned_malloc` interface to implement memory operations, and the allocation code is as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Private\HAL\MallocTBB.cpp

void*FMallocTBB::TryMalloc( SIZE_T Size, uint32 Alignment ) {

    (.....)

    void* NewPtr = nullptr;

    if( Alignment != DEFAULT_ALIGNMENT ) {

        Alignment = FMath::Max(Size >= 16? (uint32)16: (uint32)8, Alignment); NewPtr =
            scalable_aligned_malloc( Size, Alignment );

    }
    else
    {
        // Fulfill the promise of DEFAULT_ALIGNMENT, which aligns 16-byte or larger structures to 16 bytes, // while TBB aligns to 8 by default.

        NewPtr = scalable_aligned_malloc( Size, Size >= 16? (uint32)16: (uint32)8);

    }

    (.....)

    returnNewPtr;
}
```

**TBB (Threading Building Blocks)** is developed by Intel and provides SDK. Its features include:

- Provides three allocation methods: tbb\_allocator, scalable\_allocator and cache\_aligned\_allocator. Parallel algorithms and data structures.
- Task-based memory scheduler.
- It is multi-thread friendly and supports multiple threads to operate memory at the same time. scalable\_allocator does not allocate memory in the consumption caused by multi-thread competition.
- The cache processing efficiency is higher than other methods. cache\_aligned\_allocator solves the problem of false sharing by aligning the cache.

#### • Other memory allocators

In addition to the commonly used basic memory allocators mentioned above, UE also comes with FMallocDebug (debugging memory), FMallocStomp ( FMallocJemalloc (suitable for memory allocation management under multi-threading) and GPU video memory related allocation (FMallocBinnedGPU), e quite special and will not be described in detail here. Interested readers can study the source code by themselves.

### 1.4.3.3 Memory Operation Mode

The previous section explained the memory allocation method and strategy technology. Next, let's talk about memory usage. For the caller, there are several w

- **GMalloc:** GMalloc is a global memory allocator, which **FPlatformMemory** is created at the beginning of UE startup:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Private\HAL\UnrealMemory.cpp

static int FMemory_GCreateMalloc_ThreadUnsafe() {

    (....)

    GMalloc = FPlatformMemory::BaseAllocator();

    (....)
}
```

**FPlatformMemory** Different operating systems have different types. For example, in Windows, it is actually **FWindowsPlatformMemory**:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Public\Windows\WindowsPlatformMemory.h

struct CORE_API FWindowsPlatformMemory : public FGenericPlatformMemory {

    (....)

    static class FMalloc* BaseAllocator();

    (....)
};

typedef FWindowsPlatformMemory FPlatformMemory;
```

As can be seen from the above code, GMalloc is actually an instance of FMalloc. Different **FPlatformMemory** FMalloc subclasses are created in different op allocation strategies. The following **FWindowsPlatformMemory::BaseAllocator** The code is analyzed:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Private\Windows\WindowsPlatformMemory.cpp

FMalloc* FWindowsPlatformMemory::BaseAllocator() {

#ifndef ENABLE_WIN_ALLOC_TRACKING
    // This allows tracking of allocations that don't happen within the engine's wrappers. // This actually won't be compiled
    // unless bDebugBuildsActuallyUseDebugCRT is set in the // build configuration for UBT.

    _CrtSetAllocHook(WindowsAllocHook);
#endif// ENABLE_WIN_ALLOC_TRACKING

    // Adopt different memory allocation strategies according to macro definitions
    if (FORCE_ANSI_ALLOCATOR)//-V517
    {
        AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Ansi;
    }
    else if((WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA || IS_PROGRAM) && TBB_ALLOCATOR_ALLOWED)//-V517 {
        AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::TBB;
    }
    #if PLATFORM_64BITS
    else if((WITH_EDITORONLY_DATA || IS_PROGRAM) && MIMALLOC_ALLOCATOR_ALLOWED)//-V517 {
        AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Mimalloc;
    }
    else if(USE_MALLOC_BINNED3) {
        AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned3;
    }
#endif
}
```

```

else if(USE_MALLOC_BINNED2) {
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned2;
}
else {
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned;
}

#if !UE_BUILD_SHIPPING
// If not shipping, allow overriding with command line options, this happens very early so we need to use windows functions constTCHAR* CommandLine
= ::GetCommandLineW();

// Adjust memory allocation strategy from command line
if (FCString::Stristr(CommandLine, TEXT("-ansimalloc")))
{
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Ansi;
}
#endif
#if TBB_ALLOCATOR_ALLOWED
else if(FCString::Stristr(CommandLine, TEXT("-tbbmalloc")))
{
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::TBB;
}
#endif
#if MIMALLOC_ALLOCATOR_ALLOWED
else if(FCString::Stristr(CommandLine, TEXT("-mimalloc")))
{
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Mimalloc;
}
#endif
#if PLATFORM_64BITS
else if(FCString::Stristr(CommandLine, TEXT("-binnedmalloc3")))
{
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned3;
}
#endif
else if(FCString::Stristr(CommandLine, TEXT("-binnedmalloc2")))
{
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned2;
}
else if(FCString::Stristr(CommandLine, TEXT("-binnedmalloc")))
{
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned;
}
#endif
#if WITH_MALLOC_STOMP
else if(FCString::Stristr(CommandLine, TEXT("-stompmalloc")))
{
    AllocatorToUse = EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Stomp;
}
#endif
#endif // !UE_BUILD_SHIPPING

//Create according to different typesFMallocA
subclass object of . switch(AllocatorToUse) {

    case EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Ansi:
        return new FMallocAnsi();
#if WITH_MALLOC_STOMP
    case EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Stomp: return
        new FMallocStomp();
#endif
    case EMemoryAllocatorToUse::TBB:
        return new FMallocTBB();
#endif
#if MIMALLOC_ALLOCATOR_ALLOWED && PLATFORM_SUPPORTS_MIMALLOC case
    EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Mimalloc:
        return new FMallocMimalloc();
#endif
    case EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned2:
        return new FMallocBinned2();
#endif
#if PLATFORM_64BITS
    case EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned3:
        return new FMallocBinned3();
#endif
    default: // intentional fall-through
    case EMemoryAllocatorToUse::Binned:
        return new FMallocBinned((uint32)(GetConstants().BinnedPageSize&MAX_uint32), (uint64)MAX_uint32 +1);
}
}

```

From this we can see that GMalloc operates memory through a subclass of FMalloc. The following table shows the memory allocation methods supported by systems:

Operating System	Supported Memory Allocation Methods	Default Memory Allocation Method
Windows	Ansi, Binned, Binned2, Binned3, TBB, Stomp, Mimalloc	Binned
Android	Binned, Binned2, Binned3	Binned
Apple(IOS, Mac)	Ansi, Binned, Binned2, Binned3	Binned
Unix	Ansi, Binned, Binned2, Binned3, Stomp, Jemalloc	Binned
HoloLens	Ansi, Binned, TBB	Binned

- **FMemory**: FMemory is a static tool class of UE. It provides many static methods for operating memory. The common APIs are as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Public\HAL\UnrealMemory.h

struct CORE_API FMemory
{
    // Direct calcMemory allocation and deallocation interface.

    static void* SystemMalloc(SIZE_T Size); static void
    SystemFree(void* Ptr);

    //pass GMallocObject Operation Memory
    static void* Malloc(SIZE_T Count, uint32 Alignment = DEFAULT_ALIGNMENT);
    static void* Realloc(void* Original, SIZE_T Count, uint32 Alignment = DEFAULT_ALIGNMENT); static void Free(void* Original);

    static void* MallocZeroed(SIZE_T Count, uint32 Alignment = DEFAULT_ALIGNMENT);

    //Memory auxiliary interface
    static void* Memmove(void* Dest,const void* Src, SIZE_T Count ); static int32 Memcmp(const void*
    Buf1,const void* Buf2, SIZE_T Count ); static void* Memset(void* Dest, uint8 Char, SIZE_T Count);
    static void* Memzero(void* Dest, SIZE_T Count);

    static void* Memcpy(void* Dest,const void* Src, SIZE_T Count); static void* BigBlockMemcpy(void*
    Dest,const void* Src, SIZE_T Count); static void* StreamingMemcpy(void* Dest,const void* Src, SIZE_T
    Count); static void Memswap(void* Ptr1,void* Ptr2, SIZE_T Size);

    (.....)

};
```

From the above code, we can see `FMemory` that both `GMalloc` and C-style memory operations are supported.

- **New/delete operators:** In addition to some classes overloading the new and delete operators, other global new and delete use the following declarations

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Core\Public\Modules\Boilerplate\ModuleBoilerplate.h

#define REPLACEMENT_OPERATOR_NEW_AND_DELETE \
    OPERATOR_NEW_MSVC_PRAGMA void* operator new ( size_t Size ) \
    OPERATOR_NEW_MSVC_PRAGMA void* operator new[]( size_t Size ) \
    OPERATOR_NEW_MSVC_PRAGMA void* operator new ( size_t Size, const std::nothrow_t& ) OPERATOR_NEW_NOTHROW_SPEC \
    OPERATOR_NEW_MSVC_PRAGMA void* operator new[]( size_t Size, const std::nothrow_t& ) OPERATOR_NEW_NOTHROW_SPEC void operator delete \
        ( void* Ptr ) \
    void operator delete[]( void* Ptr ) \
    void operator delete ( void* Ptr, const std::nothrow_t& ) void operator delete[] \
        ( void* Ptr, const std::nothrow_t& ) void operator delete ( void* Ptr, size_t Size ) \
        \
    void operator delete[]( void* Ptr, size_t Size ) \
    void operator delete ( void* Ptr, size_t Size, const std::nothrow_t& ) void operator delete[]( void* Ptr, \
        size_t Size, const std::nothrow_t& )

```

As can be seen from the source code, the global operator memory also [FMemory](#) completes memory operations through calls.

- **Specific API:** In addition to the above three memory operation methods, UE also provides various interfaces for creating and destroying specific memo example:

```
struct FPooledVirtualMemoryAllocator {

    void* Allocate(SIZE_T Size); void Free(void* Ptr,
    SIZE_T Size);

};

class CORE_API FAnsiAllocator {

    class CORE_API ForAnyElementType {

        void ResizeAllocation(SizePolicy PreviousNumElements, SizeType NumElements, SIZE_T NumBytesPerElement)
    };
};
```

```

class FVirtualAllocator {

    void* AllocateVirtualPages(uint32 NumPages, size_t AlignmentForCheck); void FreeVirtual(void* Ptr,
    uint32 NumPages);
};

class RENDERER_API FVirtualTextureAllocator {

    uint32 Alloc(FAllocatedVirtualTexture* VT); void Free
    (FAllocatedVirtualTexture* VT );
};

template<SIZE_T RequiredAlignment> class TMemoryPool {

    void* Allocate(SIZE_T Size); void Free(void* Ptr,
    SIZE_T Size);
};

```

From the caller's perspective, in most cases, `new/delete` operators and `FMemory` methods are used to manipulate memory, and it is rare to directly apply for system memory.

## 1.4.4 Garbage Collection

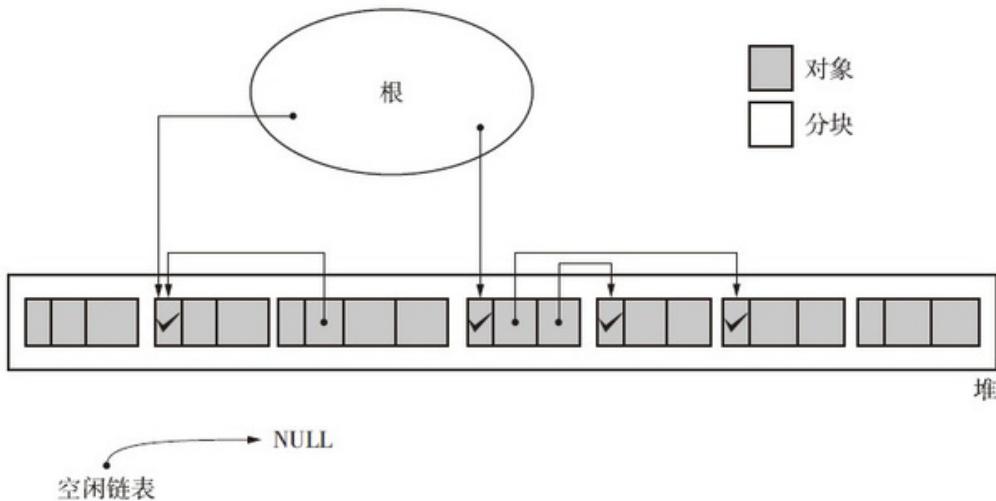
**Garbage collection** is abbreviated as GC (Garbage Collection), which is a mechanism that recycles or reuses invalid resources with a certain strategy. It is often operating systems, etc.

### 1.4.4.1 GC Algorithm Overview

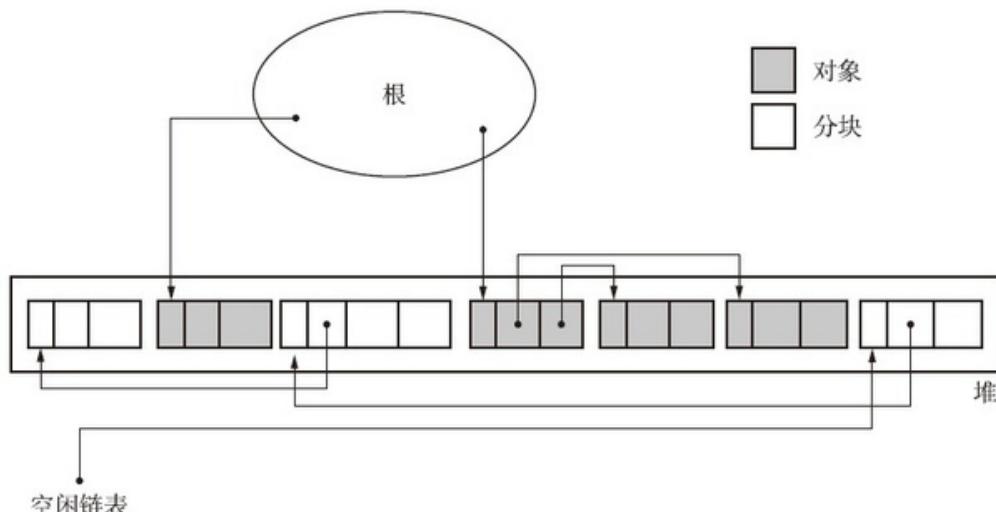
In the book "[Garbage Collection Algorithms and Implementations](#)", the GC algorithms mentioned are:

- **Mark-Sweep**. That is, the mark-clean algorithm, the algorithm is divided into two stages:

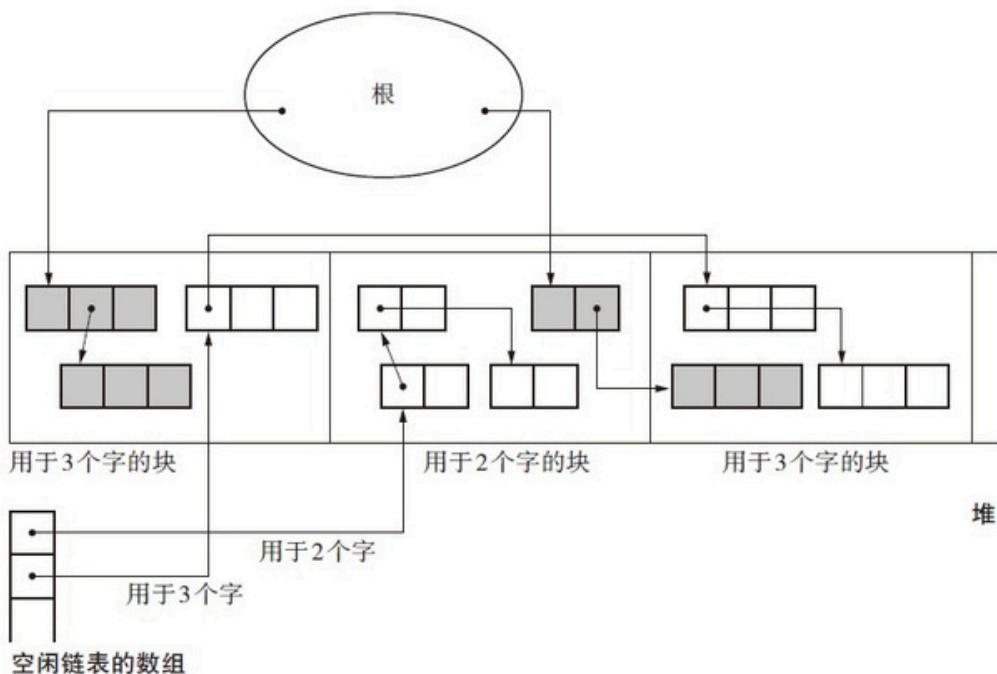
The first phase is the Mark phase, which traverses the root's active object list and marks the heap objects pointed to by all active objects `TRUE`.



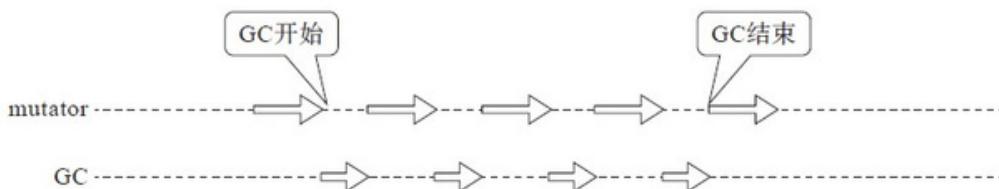
The second phase is the Sweep phase, which traverses the heap list, releases all marked `FALSE` objects to the allocatable heap, and resets the mark of them for the next time.



- **BiBOP**. The full name is Big Bag Of Pages. Its approach is to organize objects of similar size into fixed-size blocks for management, which `FAllocBinned` allocator.



- **Conservative GC.** Conservative GC is characterized by its inability to identify pointers and non-pointers. Since at the GC level, it is impossible to determine its memory value, many methods are derived to determine whether it is a pointer, which requires a certain cost. In contrast, **Exact GC** can clearly identify.
- **Generational GC.** Generational garbage collection, this method introduces the concept of age in objects and improves the efficiency of garbage collect likely to become garbage.
- **Incremental GC.** Incremental garbage collection is a method of controlling the maximum pause time of mutators by gradually advancing garbage collector



Schematic diagram of incremental garbage collection.

- **Reference Counting Immix.** Also known as RC Immix algorithm, it is a reference merging GC algorithm. Its purpose is to improve the behavior of refere improve GC throughput.

UE's GC algorithm is mainly based on Mark-Sweep, which is used to clean up UObject objects. Like the Mark-Sweep algorithm, UE also has the concept of Root properties and static variables) from being cleaned up by GC, you can use UObject's AddToRoot interface.

#### 1.4.4.2 UE GC

The main implementation code and analysis of the UE's GC module are as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\CoreUObject\Private\UObject\GarbageCollection.cpp

void CollectGarbage(EObjectFlags KeepFlags, bool bPerformFullPurge) {
    //getGClock, preventGCThe process is operated by
    other threads AcquireGCLock();

    //implementGCprocess
    CollectGarbageInternal(KeepFlags, bPerformFullPurge);

    //releaseGCLock so that other threads can
    operate ReleaseGCLock();
}

//Real executionGCoperate.KeepFlags: Exclude cleanupUObjectmark,bPerformFullPurge: Whether to turn off
incremental updates void CollectGarbageInternal(EObjectFlags KeepFlags, bool bPerformFullPurge) {
    (.....)
    {
        FGCScopeLock GCLock;

        //Make sure the last incremental garbage cleanup has been completed, or simply do a full cleanup to prevent the previous callGCThere
        was some leftover garbage. If(GObjIncrementalPurgesInProgress || GObjPurgesRequired)
        {

```

```

IncrementalPurgeGarbage(false);
FMemory::Trim();
}

// This can happen if someone disables clusters from the console (gc.CreateGCClusters) if(!GCreateGCClusters &&
GUObjectClusters.GetNumAllocatedClusters() {

    GUObjectClusters.DissolveClusters(true);
}

(...)

// Fall back to single threaded GC if processor count is 1 or parallel GC is disabled // or detailed per class gc stats are
enabled (not thread safe)
// Temporarily forcing single-threaded GC in the editor until Modify() can be safely removed from HandleObjectReference. const bool bForceSingleThreadedGC =
ShouldForceSingleThreadedGC();
// Run with GC clustering code enabled only if clustering is enabled and there's actual allocated clusters const bool bWithClusters = !!
GCreateGCClusters && GUObjectClusters.GetNumAllocatedClusters();

{

    const doubleStartTime = FPlatformTime::Seconds(); FRealtimeGC
    TagUsedRealtimeGC;
    //Perform reachability analysis (i.e. marking)
    TagUsedRealtimeGC.PerformReachabilityAnalysis(KeepFlags,
                                                bForceSingleThreadedGC,      bWithClusters);
    UE_LOG(LogGarbage, Log, TEXT("%f ms for GC"), (FPlatformTime::Seconds() - StartTime) *1000);
}

// Reconstruct clusters if needed
if(GUObjectClusters.ClustersNeedDissolving()) {

    const doubleStartTime = FPlatformTime::Seconds();
    GUObjectClusters.DissolveClusters();
    UE_LOG(LogGarbage, Log, TEXT("%f ms for dissolving GC clusters"), (FPlatformTime::Seconds() - StartTime) *1000);
}

// Fire post-reachability analysis hooks
FCoreUObjectDelegates::PostReachabilityAnalysis.Broadcast();

{

    FGCArryPool::Get().ClearWeakReferences(bPerformFullPurge);

    //Collecting unreachable objects
    GatherUnreachableObjects(bForceSingleThreadedGC);

    if(bPerformFullPurge || !GIncrementalBeginDestroyEnabled) {

        //Remove unreachable objects from the hash table
        UnhashUnreachableObjects(**bUseTimeLimit = */false);
        FScopedCDBProfile::DumpProfile();
    }
}

// Set flag to indicate that we are relying on a purge to be performed. GObjPurgesRequired =true;

//Clean up all the garbage
if(bPerformFullPurge || GIsEditor) {

    IncrementalPurgeGarbage(false);
}

// Zoom out UObject Hash Table
if (bPerformFullPurge)
{
    ShrinkUObjectHashTables();
}

// Destroy all pending delete linkers
DeleteLoaders();

//Free up memory.
FMemory::Trim();
}

// Route callbacks to verify GC assumptions
FCoreUObjectDelegates::GetPostGarbageCollect().Broadcast();

STAT_ADD_CUSTOMMESSAGE_NAME(STAT_NamedMarker, TEXT("GarbageCollection - End"));
}

```

The marking phase `FRealtimeGC::PerformReachabilityAnalysis` completed by the interface:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\CoreUObject\Private\UObject\GarbageCollection.cpp

class FRealtimeGC : public FGarbageCollectionTracer {

```

```

void PerformReachabilityAnalysis(EObjectFlags KeepFlags, bool bForceSingleThreaded, bool bWithClusters) {
    (....)

    /* Growing array of objects that require serialization */ FGCArryStruct* ArrayStruct =
    FGCArryPool::Get().GetArrayStructFromPool(); TArray<UObject*>& ObjectsToSerialize = ArrayStruct-
    >ObjectsToSerialize;

    //Reset the number of objects.
    GObjectCountDuringLastMarkPhase.Reset();

    // Make sure GC referencer object is checked for references to other objects even if it resides in permanent object pool
    if(FPlatformProperties::RequiresCookedData() && FGCOBJECT::GGCObjectReferencer && GUObjectArray.IsDisregardForGC(FGCOBJECT::GGCObjectRef {

        ObjectsToSerialize.Add(FGCOBJECT::GGCObjectReferencer);
    }

    {
        const doubleStartTime = FPlatformTime::Seconds(); //Use the function of
        marking objects to mark the corresponding objects.
        (this->*MarkObjectsFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(bForceSingleThreaded,
            bWithClusters)])(ObjectsToSerialize, KeepFlags);
        UE_LOG(LogGarbage, Verbose, TEXT("%f ms for Mark Phase (%d Objects To Serialize"), (FPlatformTime::Seconds() - StartTime) *1000, Obj
    }

    {
        const doubleStartTime = FPlatformTime::Seconds(); //Perform
        reachability analysis on an object.
        PerformReachabilityAnalysisOnObjects(ArrayStruct, bForceSingleThreaded,
            bWithClusters);
        UE_LOG(LogGarbage, Verbose, TEXT("%f ms for Reachability Analysis"), (FPlatformTime::Seconds() - StartTime) *1000);
    }

    // Allowing external systems to add object roots. This can't be done through AddReferencedObjects // because it may require tracing objects (via
    FGarbageCollectionTracer) multiple times FCoreUObjectDelegates::TraceExternalRootsForReachabilityAnalysis.Broadcast(*this, KeepFlags,
    bForceSingleThreaded);

    FGCArryPool::Get().ReturnToPool(ArrayStruct);

#ifdef UE_BUILD_DEBUG
    FGCArryPool::Get().CheckLeaks();
#endif
}
};

```

The above `MarkObjectsFunctions` sum `PerformReachabilityAnalysisOnObjects` is actually a combined template function for whether to support parallel (Parallel)

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\CoreUObject\Private\UObject\GarbageCollection.cpp

class FRealtimeGC : public FGarbageCollectionTracer {

    //statement
    MarkObjectsFn MarkObjectsFunctions[4]; ReachabilityAnalysisFn
    ReachabilityAnalysisFunctions[4];

    //initialization
    FRealtimeGC()
    {
        MarkObjectsFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(false, false)] = &FRealtimeGC::MarkObjectsAsUnreachable<false, false>;
        MarkObjectsFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(true, false)] = &FRealtimeGC::MarkObjectsAsUnreachable<true, false>;
        MarkObjectsFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(false, true)] = &FRealtimeGC::MarkObjectsAsUnreachable<false, true>;
        MarkObjectsFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(true, true)] = &FRealtimeGC::MarkObjectsAsUnreachable<true, true>;

        ReachabilityAnalysisFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(false, false)] = &FRealtimeGC::PerformReachabilityAnalysisOnObjectsInternal<false, false>;
        ReachabilityAnalysisFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(true, false)] = &FRealtimeGC::PerformReachabilityAnalysisOnObjectsInternal<true, false>;
        ReachabilityAnalysisFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(false, true)] = &FRealtimeGC::PerformReachabilityAnalysisOnObjectsInternal<false, true>;
        ReachabilityAnalysisFunctions[GetGCFUNCTIONINDEX(true, true)] = &FRealtimeGC::PerformReachabilityAnalysisOnObjectsInternal<true, true>;
    }
};

```

From the source code, we can see that UE's GC has the following characteristics:

- The main algorithm is Mark-Sweep. However, unlike the traditional Mark-Sweep algorithm which has only two steps, UE's GC has three steps:
  1. Index reachable object.
  2. Collect objects to be cleaned.
  3. Clean up the objects collected in step 2.
- Cleans up the UObject on the game thread.
- Thread-safe, supports multi-threaded parallel and cluster processing to improve throughput.
- Supports full cleanup, which is mandatory in editor mode; also supports incremental cleanup to prevent GC processing threads from being stuck for too long.
- You can specify that certain marked objects will not be cleaned up.

In fact, the GC mechanism and principle of UE are much more complicated than the above description. However, due to the limited space and topic, I will not interested can study the UE source code or seek references.

## 1.4.5 Memory Barriers

**Memory Barrier** is also called **Membar**, **memory fence** or **fence instruction**. It is used to solve the problem of disordered memory access and asynchronous

Memory disorder problems can occur at compile time or runtime. Compile time disorder is caused by compiler optimization that leads to changes in instruction by out-of-order access of multiple processes and multiple threads.

### 1.4.5.1 Compile-time memory barriers

For compile-time memory disorder, for example, suppose there is the following C++ code:

```
sum = a + b + c;
print(sum);
```

After being compiled by the compiler, the assembly instruction sequence may become one of the following three:

```
//Instruction sequence1
sum = a + b;
sum = sum + c;

//Instruction sequence2
sum = b + c;
sum = a + sum;

//Instruction sequence3
sum = a + c;
sum = sum + b;
```

The above situations do not seem to affect the results, but the following code will produce different results:

```
sum= a + b +sum; print(
sum);
```

The quality after compilation is as follows:

```
//Instruction sequence1
sum = a + b;
sum = sum + sum;

//Instruction sequence2
sum = b + sum;
sum = a + sum;

//Instruction sequence3
sum = a + sum;
sum = sum + b;
```

Obviously, after compiling into assembly instructions, the three situations will get different results!!

In order to prevent out-of-order problems during compilation, it is necessary to explicitly add memory barriers between instructions, such as:

```
sum = a + b;
__COMPILE_MEMORY_BARRIER__;
sum = sum + c;
```

The above **\_\_COMPILE\_MEMORY\_BARRIER\_\_** has different implementations in different compilers, some compiler implementations are as follows:

```
// C11 / C++11
atomic_signal_fence(memory_order_acq_rel);

// Microsoft Visual C++
_ReadWriteBarrier();

// GCC
__sync_synchronize();

// GNU
asm volatile(":::memory"); __asm__ __volatile__ (":::":
"memory");

// Intel ICC
__memory_barrier();
```

In addition, there are **combined barriers**, which combine different types of barriers into other operations (such as load, store, atomic increment, atomic comp barriers are added before or after them. It is worth mentioning that combined barriers are related to the CPU architecture, and will be compiled into different

and also rely on hardware memory ordering guarantees.

#### 1.4.5.2 Runtime Memory Barriers

The above explains the memory disorder problem at compile time, and the following will explain the memory disorder problem at runtime.

Early processors were **in-order processors**. If there is no out-of-order problem at compile time, this type of processor can ensure that the processing order is the programmer.

In the era of modern multi-core processors, there are many **out-of-order processors**. The order in which the processor actually executes instructions is determined by the programmer. The results of the instruction execution are written to the register file only after the execution results of all earlier instructions in the register file (the execution results are reordered to make the execution appear to be orderly).

In an out-of-order multiprocessor architecture, if there is no runtime memory barrier mechanism, many unexpected execution results will occur. Here is a specific example:

Assume that there are memory variables **x** and **f**, their values are initialized to 0, both processor #1 and processor #2 can access them, and the execution is as follows:

Processor #1:

```
while(f == 0); print(x);
```

Processor #2:

```
x = 42;  
f = 1;
```

One of the situations might be that the expected **x** value output by processor #1 is 42. However, this is not the case. Since processor #2 may be executing **x = 42**, and the value output by processor #1 is 0 instead of 42. Similarly, processor #1 may output **x** the value first and then execute **while** the statement. In order to avoid unexpected results caused by out-of-order execution, a runtime memory barrier can be added between the two processor instructions:

Processor #1:

```
while(f == 0);  
_RUNTIME_MEMORY_BARRIER; //Add memory barriers to ensure the value can read the latest value of other processors, and then execute print(x)  
print(x);
```

Processor #2:

```
x = 42;  
_RUNTIME_MEMORY_BARRIER; //Add memory barriers to ensure x is visible to other processors, it will be executed f = 1;
```

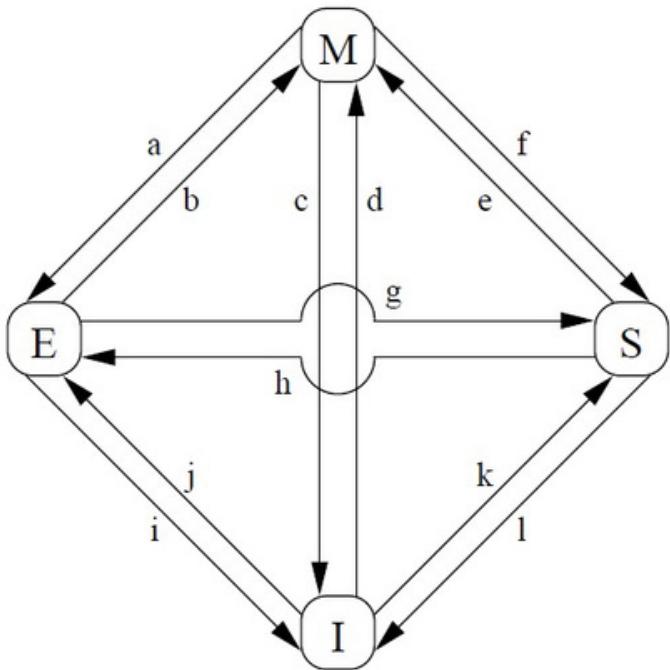
The above **\_RUNTIME\_MEMORY\_BARRIER** is a representation of the runtime memory barrier, which actually has different implementations on different hardware architectures.

At the hardware level, there are L1, L2, L3 caches, Store Buffers, and multi-core multi-threading. In order to keep the memory orderly, many states (such as MESI) are defined. There are more than a dozen combined interaction states between them, and they are related to the CPU hardware architecture. Obviously, it will directly access and manipulate these states.

**The MESI protocol** is an invalidation-based cache consistency protocol and is the most commonly used protocol that supports write-back cache. It is often used in multi-core CPUs.

The basic states of the MESI protocol: **Modified, Exclusive, Shared, and Invalid**.

MESI protocol messages: Read, Read Response, Invalidate, Invalidate Acknowledge, Read Invalidate, Writeback. The basic state transition of the MESI protocol is as follows:



Each basic state corresponds to a different meaning, but I will not elaborate on it here.

Other protocols similar to MESI include: Coherence protocol, MSI protocol, MOSI protocol, MOESI protocol, MESIF protocol, MERSI protocol, etc.

For more details about MESI, please refer to:

- [MESI protocol](#)
- [Memory Barriers: a Hardware View for Software Hackers](#)

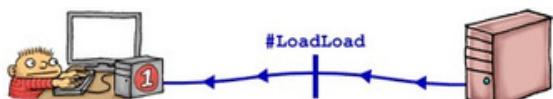
So, smart people (such as [Doug Lea](#)) simplified these states and message passing mechanisms and combined them into 4 commonly used combined barriers ordering.

Different CPUs have specific instructions, and these four can better match the instructions of real CPUs, although they are not completely matched. M combination of multiple types to achieve a specific effect.

**Load Barrier** and **Store Barrier** came into being. Inserting a Load Barrier before an instruction can invalidate the data in the cache and force the data to be reloaded after an instruction, the latest data in the cache can be written to the main memory so that it can be visible to other processor threads.

After arranging and combining Load Barrier and Store Barrier, four instructions can be formed:

- **LoadLoad**: It can prevent the disorder of read operations before and after the barrier caused by reordering.



After adding the LoadLoad barrier, even if the CPU accesses it out of order, it will not jump before or after the LoadLoad barrier.

Application examples:

```

if(isValid)          // Load and testisValid
{
    LOADLOAD_FENCE(); // LoadLoadThe barrier prevents reordering between two loads.ValueBefore the data to be read by subsequent read operations is accessed, ensure thatisValidThe data to be read before is
    returnValue;      // read.Value
}

```

- **StoreStore**: It can prevent the disorder of write operations before and after the barrier caused by reordering.



Application examples:

```

Value = x;           // WriteValue
STORESTORE_FENCE(); // StoreStoreThe barrier prevents reordering between two writes.isValidBefore subsequent write operations are performed, ensureValueWrite operations are visible to other
isValid = 1;         // processors.isValid

```

- **LoadStore**: It can prevent the reordering of load operations before the barrier and store operations after the barrier. Application examples:

```

if(isValid)          // Load and testisValid
{
    LOADSTORE_FENCE(); // LoadStoreThe barrier prevents reordering between loads and writes.ValueBefore subsequent write operations are flushed, ensureisValidThe data to be read has been read.
}

```

```

    Value = x;           //WriteValue
}

```

- **StoreLoad:** It can prevent the reordering of write operations before the barrier and load operations after the barrier. In most CPU architectures, it is a un other three memory barriers, but it also has the largest overhead. Application examples:

```

Value = x;           // WriteValue
STORELOAD_FENCE();  // existsValidBefore all subsequent read operations are performed, ensureValueWrites to are visible to all
if(isValid)         // processors. Load and detectisValid

{
    return1;
}

```

In the **Symmetric Multiprocessing (SMP)** micro-architecture, the memory access consistency model can be divided into:

- **Sequential consistency:** All read and write operations are sequential.
- **Relaxed consistency:** Loose consistency (or understood as partial consistency), Load after Load, Store after Store, Store after Load, and Load after Store **Weak**
- **consistency:** Weak consistency, all read and write operations may cause reordering unless there is an explicit memory barrier.

The following figure is a table of reordering of some common CPU architectures in different states:

Type	Alpha	ARMv7	MIPS	RISC-V		PA-RISC	POWER	SPARC			x86 [a]	AMD64	IA-64	z/Architecture
				WMO	TSO			RMO	PSO	TSO				
Loads can be reordered after loads	Y	Y	depend on implementation	Y		Y	Y	Y						Y
Loads can be reordered after stores	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y						Y
Stores can be reordered after stores	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y					Y
Stores can be reordered after loads	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Atomic can be reordered with loads	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y						Y
Atomic can be reordered with stores	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y					Y
Dependent loads can be reordered	Y													
Incoherent instruction cache pipeline	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y

Runtime memory barriers have different implementations on different hardware architectures. The following lists the implementations of common architecture

```

// x86, x86-64
lfence (asm),void_mm_lfence(void)//Read barrier sfence (asm),void
_mm_sfence(void)//Write barrier mfence (asm),void_mm_mfence(
void)//Read and write barrier

```

```

// ARMv7
dmb (asm)// Data Memory Barrier,Data memory barrier
dsb (asm)// Data Synchronization Barrier,Data synchronization barrier isb (asm)//
Instruction Synchronization Barrier,Instruction synchronization barrier

```

```

// POWER
dcs (asm)

```

```

//PowerPC
sync (asm)

```

```

// MIPS
sync (asm)

```

```

// Itanium
mf (asm)

```

Memory barriers are a broad topic. Due to space and subject limitations, we cannot fully present its technology and mechanisms. However, we can recommen

- Memory ordering
- Memory Barriers Are Like Source Control Operations
- Understanding Memory Barrier from a hardware perspective

#### 1.4.5.3 UE Memory Barrier

UE's memory barriers are encapsulated in `FGenericPlatformMisc` and its subclasses. The implementation of common operating systems is posted below:

```

struct FGenericPlatformMisc {
    (....)
    /**
     * Enforces strict memory load/store ordering across the memory barrier call.
     */
    static void MemoryBarrier();
}

```

```

        (...)

};

// Windows
struct FWindowsPlatformMisc: public FGenericPlatformMisc {

    (...)

    static void MemoryBarrier() {

        _mm_sfence();
    }

    (...)

};

#if WINDOWS_USE_FEATURE_PLATFORMMISC_CLASS typedef
    FWindowsPlatformMisc FPlatformMisc;
#endif

// Android
struct FAndroidMisc: public FGenericPlatformMisc {

    (...)

    static void MemoryBarrier() {

        __sync_synchronize();
    }

    (...)

};

#if !PLATFORM_LUMIN
    typedef FAndroidMisc      FPlatformMisc;
#endif

// Apple
struct FApplePlatformMisc: public FGenericPlatformMisc {

    (...)

    static void MemoryBarrier() {

        __sync_synchronize();
    }

    (...)

};

// Linux
struct FLinuxPlatformMisc: public FGenericPlatformMisc {

    (...)

    static void MemoryBarrier() {

        __sync_synchronize();
    }

    (...)

};

#if !PLATFORM_LUMIN
    typedef FLinuxPlatformMisc      FPlatformMisc;
#endif

```

Except for Windows, which uses x86 architecture instructions, other systems use GCC's memory barrier instructions. What's strange is that Windows uses runtime seem to use compile-time memory barriers. I was confused at first, but later found the answer in the reference [Memory ordering](#):

#### Compiler support for hardware memory barriers

Some compilers support builtins that emit hardware memory barrier instructions:

- GCC, version 4.4.0 and later, has `__sync_synchronize`.
- Since C11 and C++11 `anatomic_thread_fence` command was added. The
- Microsoft Visual C++ compiler has `MemoryBarrier()`.
- Sun Studio Compiler Suite has `__machine_r_barrier`, `__machine_w_barrier` and `__machine_rw_barrier`.

That is to say, the compile-time memory barriers of some compilers will also trigger the hardware (runtime) memory barriers, including that of the GCC compiler.

With UE's polymorphic encapsulation of system platforms, callers do not need to pay attention to which system it is. They `FPlatformMisc::MemoryBarrier()` can barriers to the code without any brain calls. The sample code is as follows:

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\RenderCore\Private\RenderingThread.cpp
```

```

void RenderingThreadMain(FEvent* TaskGraphBoundSyncEvent) {

    LLM_SCOPE(ELLMTAG::RenderingThreadMemory);

    ENamedThreads::Type RenderThread = ENamedThreads::Type(ENamedThreads::ActualRenderingThread);

    ENamedThreads::SetRenderThread(RenderThread);
    ENamedThreads::SetRenderThread_Local(ENamedThreads::Type(ENamedThreads::ActualRenderingThread_Local));

    FTaskGraphInterface::Get().AttachToThread(RenderThread);

    //Add system memory barriers
    FPlatformMisc::MemoryBarrier();

    // Inform main thread that the render thread has been attached to the taskgraph and is ready to receive tasks if( TaskGraphBoundSyncEvent !=NULL ) {

        TaskGraphBoundSyncEvent->Trigger();
    }

    // set the thread back to real time mode
    FPlatformProcess::SetRealTimeMode();

#ifndef STATS
    if(FThreadStats::WillEverCollectData()) {

        FThreadStats::ExplicitFlush(); // flush the stats and set update the scope so we don't flush again until a frame update, this helps prevent
    }
#endif

    FCoreDelegates::PostRenderingThreadCreated.Broadcast();
    check(!IsThreadedRendering);
    FTaskGraphInterface::Get().ProcessThreadUntilRequestReturn(RenderThread);

    //Add system memory barriers
    FPlatformMisc::MemoryBarrier();

    check(!IsThreadedRendering);
    FCoreDelegates::PreRenderingThreadDestroyed.Broadcast();

#ifndef STATS
    if(FThreadStats::WillEverCollectData()) {

        FThreadStats::ExplicitFlush(); // Another explicit flush to clean up the ScopeCount established above for any stats lingering since the last
    }
#endif

    ENamedThreads::SetRenderThread(ENamedThreads::GameThread);
    ENamedThreads::SetRenderThread_Local(ENamedThreads::GameThread_Local);

    //Add system memory barriers
    FPlatformMisc::MemoryBarrier();
}

```

From this we can see that UE directly encapsulates and uses runtime memory barriers, but does not encapsulate compile-time memory barriers.

In addition to the system's memory barrier, UE also encapsulates and uses the memory barrier of the graphics API layer:

```

// Direct3D / Metal
FPlatformMisc::MemoryBarrier();

// OpenGL
glMemoryBarrier(Barriers);

// Vulkan
typedef struct VkMemoryBarrier{
    .....
} VkMemoryBarrier;

typedef struct VkBufferMemoryBarrier{
    .....
} VkBufferMemoryBarrier;

typedef struct VkImageMemoryBarrier{
    .....
} VkImageMemoryBarrier;

```

## 1.4.6 Engine startup process

Readers who have learned programming for Windows and other operating systems should know that for each application, there are different entrances in different program entrance for Windows is [WinMain](#), while for Linux is [Main](#). The following will take the Windows PC platform entrance as the analysis process, and its

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Launch\Private\Windows\LaunchWindows.cpp

int32 WINAPI WinMain(_In_ HINSTANCE hlnInstance, _In_opt_ HINSTANCE hPrevInstance, _In_ char* _In_ int32 nCmdShow ) {

    TRACE_BOOKMARK(TEXT("WinMain.Enter"));

    SetupWindowsEnvironment();

    int32 ErrorLevel           = 0;
    hlnstance                 = hlnInstance;
    const TCHAR* CmdLine = ::GetCommandLineW();

    //Processing command lines
    if( ProcessCommandLine() ) {

        CmdLine = *GSavedCommandLine;
    }

    if( FParse::Param( CmdLine, TEXT("unattended") ) ) {

        SetErrorMode(SEM_FAILCRITICALERRORS | SEM_NOGPFAULTERRORBOX | SEM_NOOPENFILEERRORBOX);
    }

    (....)

    //Depending on whether there is exception handling and error level, you will enter different entrances, but you will eventually enterGuardedMainfunction.
    #if UE_BUILD_DEBUG
    if(true&& !GAlwaysReportCrash )
    #else
    if( bNoExceptionHandler || (FPlatformMisc::IsDebuggerPresent() && !GAlwaysReportCrash ) )
    #endif
    {
        //EnterGuardedMainMain Entrance ErrorLevel =
        GuardedMain(CmdLine);
    }
    else
    {
        (....)

        {
            GIsGuarded =1; //Enter
            GuardedMainMain Entrance
            ErrorLevel = GuardedMainWrapper( CmdLine ); GIsGuarded
            = 0;
        }

        (....)
    }
    //Exit Program
    FEngineLoop::AppExit();
    (....)

    returnErrorLevel;
}

```

The above main branches will eventually enter **GuardedMain** the interface. The code (excerpt) is as follows:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Launch\Private\Launch.cpp

int32 GuardedMain(const TCHAR* CmdLine ) {

    (....)

    //Ensure that you can callEngineExit
    struct EngineLoopCleanupGuard {

        ~EngineLoopCleanupGuard() {
            EngineExit();
        }
    } CleanupGuard;

    (....)

    //Engine Pre-Initialization
    int32 ErrorLevel = EnginePreInit(CmdLine); if( ErrorLevel !=0 ||

    IsEngineExitRequested() ){

        returnErrorLevel;
    }

    {
        (....)
    }

```

```

#ifndef WITH_EDITOR
    if(GIsEditor)
    {
        //Editor initialization
        ErrorLevel = EditorInit(GEngineLoop);
    }
    else
#endif
{
    {
        //Engine (non-editor) initialization
        ErrorLevel = EngineInit();
    }
}

(....)

while( !IsEngineExitRequested() )
{
    // Engine frame update
    EngineTick();
}

#if WITH_EDITOR
if( GIsEditor )
{
    //Editor Exit
    EditorExit();
}
#endif
#endif
returnErrorLevel;
}

```

It is not difficult to see that this logic mainly has four steps: engine pre-initialization (EnginePreInit), engine initialization (EngineInit), engine frame update (EngineTick), and finally EditorExit.

**1.4.6.1 Engine Pre-initialization**

UE engine pre-initialization mainly involves a lot of initialization and basic core-related module work during the startup page.



Its main code is as follows:

```

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Launch\Private\Launch.cpp

int32 EnginePreInit(const TCHAR* CmdLine) {

    //Call GEngineLoopPre-initialization.
    int32 ErrorLevel = GEngineLoop.PreInit(CmdLine);

    return(ErrorLevel);
}

// Engine\Source\Runtime\Launch\Private\LaunchEngineLoop.cpp

int32 FEngineLoop::PreInit(const TCHAR* CmdLine) {

    //Start the progress bar of the small window
    const int32 rv1 = PreInitPreStartupScreen(CmdLine); if(rv1 !=0)

    {

        PreInitContext.Cleanup(); return
        rv1;
    }

    const int32 rv2 = PreInitPostStartupScreen(CmdLine); if(rv2 !=0)

    {

        PreInitContext.Cleanup(); return
        rv2;
    }

    return0;
}

```

The pre-initialization phase will initialize the random seed, load the CoreUObject module, start the FTaskGraphInterface module and attach the current game modules of UE (Engine, Renderer, SlateRHI, Landscape, TextureCompressor, etc.), which is completed by:

```
void FEngineLoop::LoadPreInitModules()
{
#if WITH_ENGINE
    FModuleManager::Get().LoadModule(TEXT("Engine"));
    FModuleManager::Get().LoadModule(TEXT("Renderer"));
    FModuleManager::Get().LoadModule(TEXT("AnimGraphRuntime"));

    FPlatformApplicationMisc::LoadPreInitModules();

#if !UE_SERVER
    if(!IsRunningDedicatedServer())
    {
        if(!GUsingNullRHI)
        {
            // This needs to be loaded before InitializeShaderTypes is called
            FModuleManager::Get().LoadModuleChecked<ISlateRHIInterface>("SlateRHI");
        }
    }
#endif
#endif// WITH_ENGINE

#if(WITH_EDITOR && !(UE_BUILD_SHIPPING || UE_BUILD_TEST))
    FModuleManager::Get().LoadModule(TEXT("AudioEditor"));
    FModuleManager::Get().LoadModule(TEXT("AnimationModifiers"));
#endif
}
```

Then, we will process the configuration log, loading progress information, TLS (thread-local scope) cache of memory allocator, setting some global states, proc basic core modules (FModuleManager, IFileManager, FPlatformFileManager, etc.). Another important point is to process the game thread, set the currently exe (main thread) and record the thread ID. This code is as follows:

```
int32 FEngineLoop::PreInitPreStartupScreen(const TCHAR* CmdLine) {
    (....)

    GGameThreadId = FPlatformTLS::GetCurrentThreadId();
    GIsGameThreadIdInitialized = true;

    FPlatformProcess::SetThreadAffinityMask(FPlatformAffinity::GetMainGameMask());
    FPlatformProcess::SetupGameThread();

    (....)
}
```

Then set the Shader source code directory mapping, process the network token, initialize some basic modules (FCsvProfiler, AppLifetimeEventCapture, FTracing pool and a specified number of threads based on whether the platform supports multi-threading:

```
int32 FEngineLoop::PreInitPreStartupScreen(const TCHAR* CmdLine) {
    (....)

    if(FPlatformProcess::SupportsMultithreading()) {

        {
            TRACE_THREAD_GROUP_SCOPE("IOThreadPool")
            SCOPED_BOOT_TIMING("IOThreadPool->Create");
            GIOThreadPool = FQueuedThreadPool::Allocate();
            int32 NumThreadsInThreadPool = FPlatformMisc::NumberOfIOWorkerThreadsToSpawn(); if
                (FPlatformProperties::IsServerOnly()) {

                    NumThreadsInThreadPool = 2;
                }
            verify(GIOThreadPool->Create(NumThreadsInThreadPool, 96*1024, TPri_AboveNormal));
        }
    }

    (....)
}
```

Then initialize or process UGameUserSettings, Scalability, rendering thread (if turned on), FConfigCacheIni, FPlatformMemory, game physics, RHI, RenderUtils,

In the late pre-initialization stage, the engine processes modules such as SlateRenderer, IProjectManager, IInstallBundleManager, MoviePlayer, PIE preview dev

#### 1.4.6.2 Engine Initialization

The engine initialization is divided into two modes: editor and non-editor. The non-editor executes `FEngineLoop::Init`, and the editor executes `EditorInit` + the initialization logic executed by the non-editor.

The process of engine initialization `FEngineLoop::Init` is completed by, and its main process is as follows:

- Create the corresponding game engine instance according to the configuration file and store it `GEngine`. The instance will be used extensively later `GEN`.
- Determine whether to create an `EngineService` instance based on whether multithreading is supported.
- Implement `GEngine->Start()`.
- Load the `Media`, `AutomationWorker`, `AutomationController`, `ProfilerClient`, `SequenceRecorder`, `SequenceRecorderSections` modules.
- Enable thread heartbeat `FThreadHeartBeat`.
- Register the external profiler `FExternalProfiler`.

#### 1.4.6.3 Engine frame update

The process of engine initialization `FEngineLoop::Tick` is completed by, and its main process is as follows:

- Enable thread and thread hook heartbeat.
- Updates objects (`FTickableObjectRenderThread` instances) that the rendering module can update every frame.
- Profiler (`FExternalProfiler`) frame synchronization.
- Execute the console's callback interface.
- FlushRenderingCommands. If a separate rendering thread is not enabled, the rendering commands will be executed on the game thread, and then called command queue is submitted for drawing. A rendering fence (`FRenderCommandFence`) will be added at the end.

```
// Engine\Source\Runtime\RenderCore\Private\RenderingThread.cpp

void FlushRenderingCommands(bool bFlushDeferredDeletes) {

    (....)

    if(!GIsThreadedRendering
        &&!ITaskGraphInterface::Get().IsThreadProcessingTasks(ENamedThreads::GameThread) !
        && FTaskGraphInterface::Get().IsThreadProcessingTasks(ENamedThreads::GameThread_Local))
    {
        FTaskGraphInterface::Get().ProcessThreadUntilIdle(ENamedThreads::GameThread);
        FTaskGraphInterface::Get().ProcessThreadUntilIdle(ENamedThreads::GameThread_Local);
    }

    ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(FlushPendingDeleteRHIResourcesCmd)
        [bFlushDeferredDeletes](FRHICommandListImmediate& RHICmdList)
    {
        RHICmdList.ImmediateFlush(
            bFlushDeferredDeletes ?
            ElmmediateFlushType::FlushRHIThreadFlushResourcesFlushDeferredDeletes
            : ElmmediateFlushType::FlushRHIThreadFlushResources);
    });

    AdvanceFrameRenderPrerequisite();

    FPendingCleanupObjects* PendingCleanupObjects = GetPendingCleanupObjects();

    FRenderCommandFence Fence;
    Fence.BeginFence();
    Fence.Wait();

    (....)
}
```

- Triggers the `OnBeginFrame` event.
- Flush the thread log.
- Use `GEngine` to refresh time and handle maximum frame rate.
- Traverse the current World of all `WorldContexts` and update the `PrimitiveSceneInfo` of the scenes in the World. It may be easier to understand if you paste

```
for(const FWorldContext& Context : GEngine->GetWorldContexts()) {

    UWorld* CurrentWorld = Context.World(); if
    (CurrentWorld)
    {
        FSceneInterface* Scene = CurrentWorld->Scene;
        ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(UpdateScenePrimitives)(
            [Scene](FRHICommandListImmediate& RHICmdList)
        {
            Scene->UpdateAllPrimitiveSceneInfos(RHICmdList);
        });
    }
}
```

```
        });
    }
}
```

- Process the beginning of the RHI frame.
- Call all scenes `StartFrame`.
- Handles performance analysis and data statistics.
- Handles per-frame tasks on the rendering thread.
- Handles world scale scaling (`WorldToMetersScale`).
- Updates the active platform's files.
- Processes Slate module input.
- GEngine's Tick event. This is the main frame update, and a lot of logic will be handled here. The following is `UGameEngine::Tick` the main process:
  - If the time interval is sufficient, refresh the Log.
  - Clears the closed game viewport.
  - Updates a subsystem.
  - Updated FEngineAnalytics and FStudioAnalytics modules. (If Chaos is enabled) Update ChaosModule.
  - Handles WorldTravel frame updates.
  - Handles all World frame updates.
  - Update the skylight component (USkyLightComponent) and the reflection ball component (UReflectionCaptureComponent). These two components Handle the player object (ULocalPlayer).
  - Handles level streaming.
  - Updates all updateable objects. Here, the object updated is FTickableGameObject.
  - Update the GameViewport. Handles a window in windowed mode. Draw the Viewport.
  - Updated IStreamingManager and FAudioDeviceManager modules.
  - Update rendering related modules such as GRenderingRealtimeClock, GRenderTargetPool, FRDGBuider, etc.
- Handles asynchronous compilation results of GShaderCompilingManager.
- Handles asynchronous tasks for GDistanceFieldAsyncQueue (distance field asynchronous queue).
- Parallel processing of Slate-related task logic.
- Handle replicated properties (ReplicatedProperties).
- Use FTaskGraphInterface to handle parallel tasks stored in ConcurrentTask.
- Waiting for unresolved rendering tasks in the rendering queue. Maybe I didn't understand it correctly, so I'll post the code:
- 

```
ENQUEUE_RENDER_COMMAND(WaitForOutstandingTasksOnly_for_DelaySceneRenderCompletion)
{
    if(FRHICmdList)
    {
        QUICK_SCOPE_CYCLE_COUNTER(STAT_DelaySceneRenderCompletion_TaskWait);
        FRHICmdListExecutor::GetImmediateCommandList().ImmediateFlush(EImmediateFlushType::WaitForOutstandingTasksOnly);
    }
};
```

- Update AutomationWorker module.
- Update RHI module.
- Handles frame count (GFrameCounter) and total frame update time (TotalTickTime).
- Collect objects that need to be cleaned up in the next frame.
- Handle the frame end synchronization event (FFrameEndSync).
- Updated Ticker, FThreadManager, and GEngine's TickDeferredCommands.
- Triggers OnEndFrame on the game thread.
- Trigger the EndFrame event in the rendering module.

#### 1.4.6.4 Engine Exit

When the engine exits, if it is not in editor mode, it directly returns the ErrorLevel value; if it is in editor mode, it executes the EditorExit logic. Its main work is to engine module:

```
// Engine\Source\Editor\UnrealEd\Private\UnrealEdGlobals.cpp
```

```

void EditorExit()
{
    TRACE_CUPROFILER_EVENT_SCOPE(EditorExit);

    GLevelEditorModeTools().SetDefaultMode(FBuiltinEditorModes::EM_Default);
    GLevelEditorModeTools().DeactivateAllModes(); // this also activates the default mode

    // Save out any config settings for the editor so they don't get lost GEditor->SaveConfig();

    GLevelEditorModeTools().SaveConfig();

    // Clean up the actor folders singleton
    FActorFolders::Cleanup();

    // Save out default file directories
    FEditorDirectories::Get().SaveLastDirectories();

    // Allow the game thread to finish processing any latent tasks.
    // Some editor functions may queue tasks that need to be run before the editor is finished.
    FTaskGraphInterface::Get().ProcessThreadUntilIdle(ENamedThreads::GameThread);

    // Cleanup the misc editor
    FUnrealEdMisc::Get().OnExit();

    if( GLogConsole ) {

        GLogConsole->Show(false);
    }

    delete GDebugToolExec;
    GDebugToolExec=NULL;
}

```



## References

- [Unreal Engine 4 Sources](#)
- [Unreal Engine 4 Documentation](#)
- [Rendering and Graphics](#)
- [Materials](#)
- [Graphics Programming](#)
- [Unreal Engine](#)
- [Unreal Engine 4 Rendering](#)
- [List of Unreal Engine games](#)
- [Dissecting Unreal Engine's Hyper-Realistic Human Rendering Techniques Part 1 - Overview and Skin Rendering](#)
- [Explore ray tracing technology and its implementation in UE4](#)
- [In-depth understanding of GPU hardware architecture and operation mechanism](#)
- [A First Look at Unreal Engine 5](#)
- ["The Elephant is Invisible-A Brief Analysis of Unreal Engine Programming"](#)
- [Fang Yanliang - Analysis of Unreal 4 Rendering System Architecture](#)
- [UE4 Render System Sheet](#)
- [The End of Moore's Law and the Return of Cleverness](#)
- [FrameGraph Extensible Rendering Architecture in Frostbite](#)
- [Unreal Engine 4 Guide for Unity Developers](#)

- [Unreal Engine Math](#)
  - Neon
  - Streaming SIMD Extensions
- [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)
- [Floating-point unit](#)
- [Inside UE4](#)
- [Exploring in UE4](#)
- [c++ lambda](#)
- [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)
- Why do we need tangent space?
- [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)
- [Survey of Efficient Representations for Independent Unit Vectors](#)
- [UE4 memory management \(1\)](#)
- [UE4 source code analysis: MallocBinned](#)
- [UE4 memory optimization knowledge points summary](#)
- Game Design Patterns - Memory Pool Management
- [Garbage Collection Algorithms and Implementations](#)
- [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)
- [Game Engine Architecture](#)
- [Memory stomp allocator for Unreal Engine 4](#)
- [Intel® Threading Building Blocks](#)
- [Adding memory tracking to Unreal Engine 4](#)
- Memory ordering
- [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)
- [Memory barrier](#)
- [Introduction to Memory Barrier](#)
- [Understanding Memory Barrier from a hardware perspective](#)
- Using JDK 9 Memory Order Modes
- [Memory Barriers Are Like Source Control Operations](#)
- [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)
- [Memory Barriers](#)
- [Memory Barriers: a Hardware View for Software Hackers](#)
- MESI protocol
- User mode and kernel mode
- [UE4 Garbage Collection](#)
- [UE4 Garbage Collection \(Part 2\) GC Cluster](#)
- [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)
- [Analysis of Unreal 4 Garbage Collection](#)

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<https://github.com/pe7yu>