SOFA: a modular yet efficient physical simulation architecture

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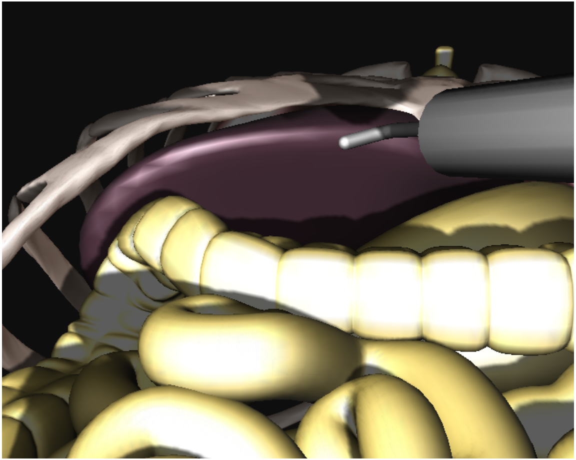
Outline

A complex physical simulation



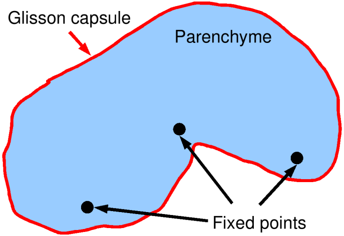
Material, internal forces, contraints, contact detection and modeling, ODE solution, visualization, interaction, etc.

Simulation platforms

- Current platforms (ODE, Havok, Novodex, etc.) provide :
  - limited number of material types
  - limited number of geometry types
  - no control on collision detection algorithms
  - no control on interaction modeling
  - few (if any) control of the numerical models and methods.
  - no control on the main loop
  - few (if any) parallelism
- We need much more !
  - models, algorithms, scheduling, visualization, etc.

Animation of a simple body

- a liver



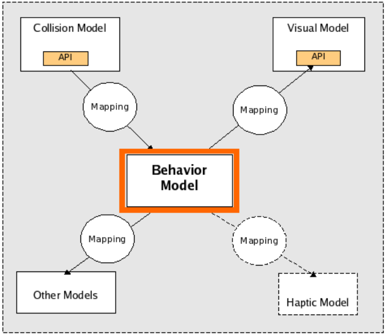
- inside : soft material
- surface : stiffer material

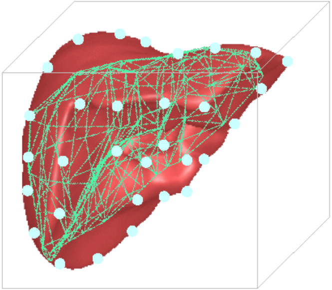
A specialized program :

```
f  = M*g
f  += F1(x,v)
f  += F2(x,v)
a  = f/M
a  = C(a)
v  += a * dt
x  += v * dt
display(x)
```

A generic approach

- Behavior model : all internal laws
- Others : interaction with the world
- Mappings : relations between the models (uni- or bi-directional)



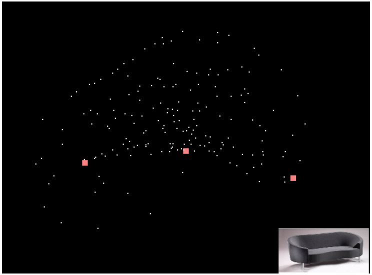


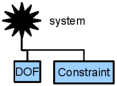
Outline

Components

Data :

- sample points and associated values : x, v, a, f
- constraints : fixed points
  other : oscillator, collision plane, etc.

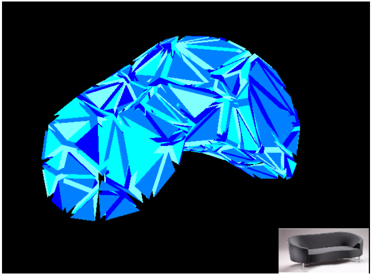


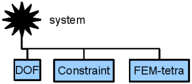


Components

Data :

- sample points and associated values : x, v, a, f
- constraints : fixed points
- force field : tetrahedron FEM
  other : triangle FEM, springs, Lennard-Jones, SPH, etc.





Components

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- sample points and associated values : x, v, a, f
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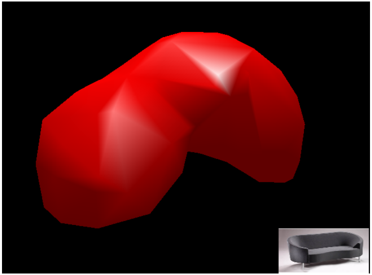
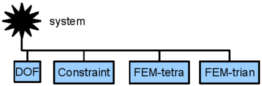
- force field : tetrahedron FEM
- force field : triangle FEM

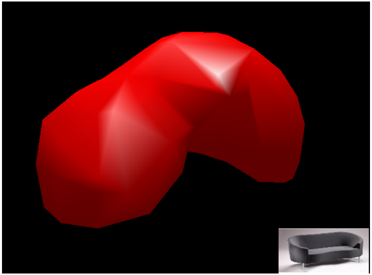


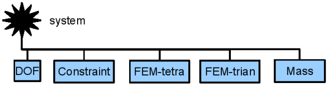


Components

Data :

- sample points and associated values : x, v, a, f
- constraints : fixed points
- force field : tetrahedron FEM
- force field : triangle FEM
- mass : uniform
  other : diagonal, sparse symmetric matrix

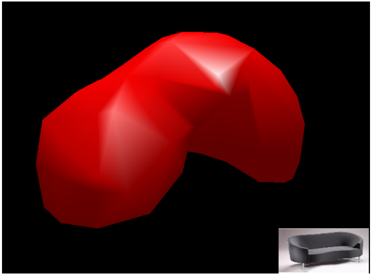


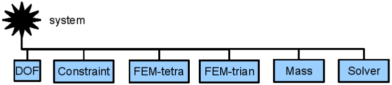


Components

Data :

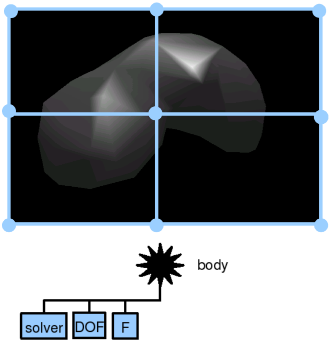
- sample points and associated values : x, v, a, f
- constraints : fixed points
- force field : tetrahedron FEM
- force field : triangle FEM
- mass : uniform
- ODE solver : explicit Euler *other : Runge-Kutta, implicite Euler, static solution, etc.*





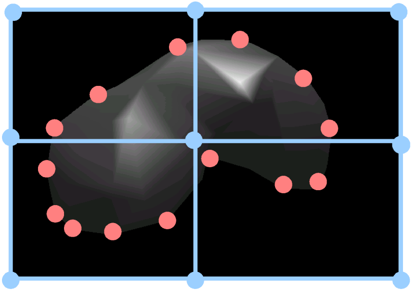
Layered body

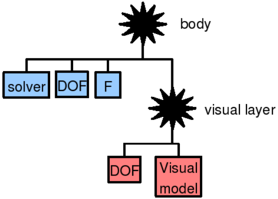
- independent DOFs (blue)



Layered body

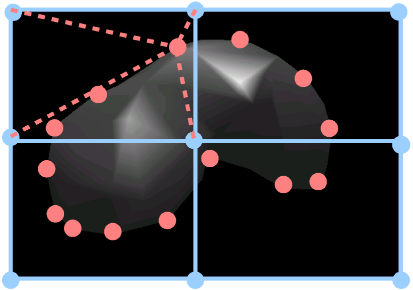
- independent DOFs (blue)
- visual samples (salmon)

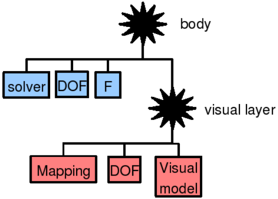




Layered body

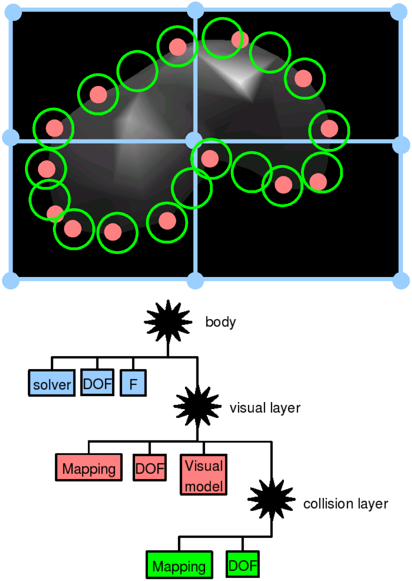
- independent DOFs (blue)
- visual samples (salmon)
- visual mapping





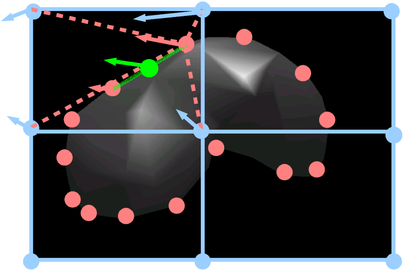
Layered body

- independent DOFs (blue)
- visual samples (salmon)
- visual mapping
- collision samples (green)
- collision mapping



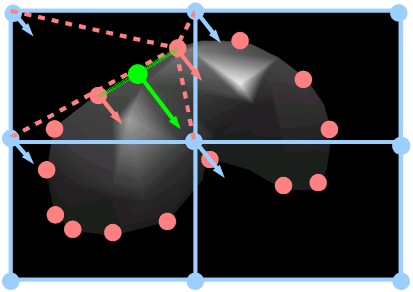
Layered body

- independent DOFs (blue)
- visual samples (salmon)
- visual mapping
- collision samples (green)
- collision mapping
- apply displacements
  1. $v_{visual} = J_{visual} v$
  2. $v_{collision} = J_{collision} v_{visual}$



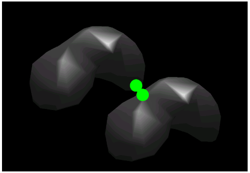
Layered body

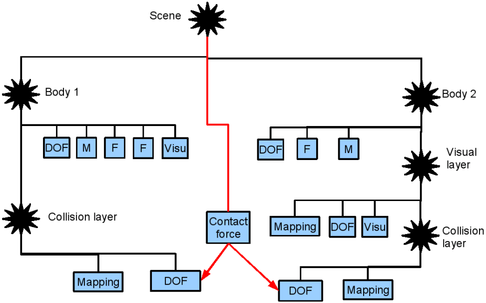
- independent DOFs (blue)
- visual samples (salmon)
- visual mapping
- collision samples (green)
- collision mapping
- apply displacements
  1. $v_{visual} = J_{visual} v$
  2. $v_{collision} = J_{collision} v_{visual}$
- apply forces
  1. $f_{visual} = J^T_{collision} f_{collision}$
  2. $f = J^T_{visual} f_{visual}$



Two bodies in contact

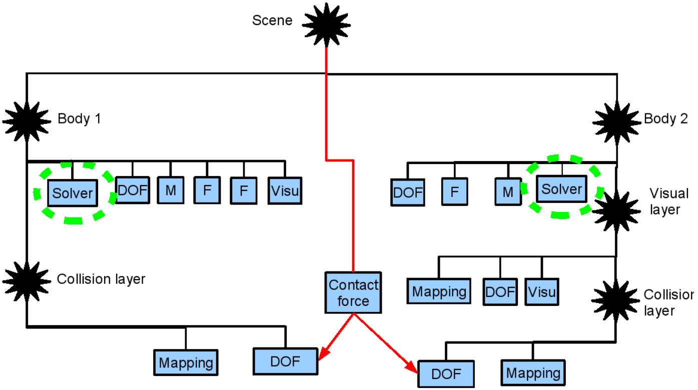
Use extended trees (Directed Acyclic Graphs) to model trees with loops.





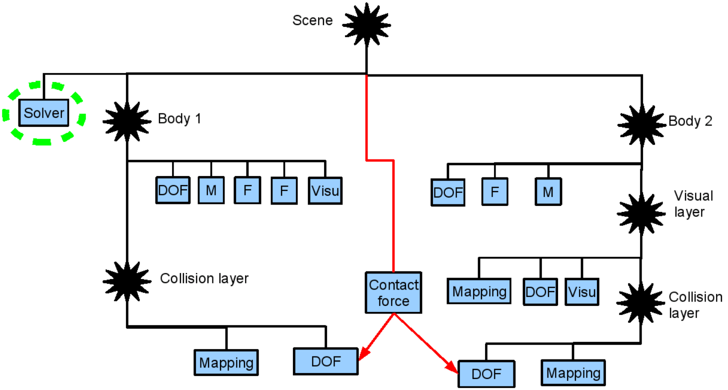
ODE solution of interacting bodies

- Soft interactions : independent processing, no synchronization required



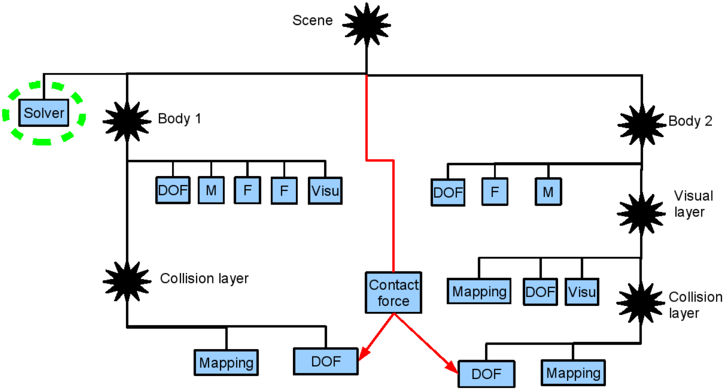
ODE solution of interacting bodies

- Soft interactions : independent processing, no synchronization required
- Stiff interactions : unified implicit solution, synchronized objects



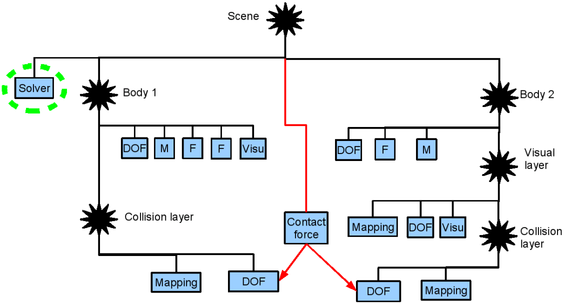
ODE solution of interacting bodies

- Soft interactions : independent processing, no synchronization required
- Stiff interactions : unified implicit solution, synchronized objects
- Hard interaction constraints : work in progress *(Christian Duriez, ALCOVE)*



Outline

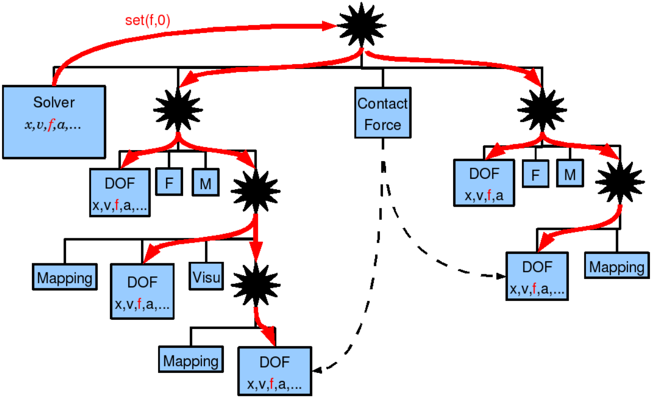
Actions



- No global state vector
- Action = graph traversal + global vector ids + call of abstract top-down and bottom up methods

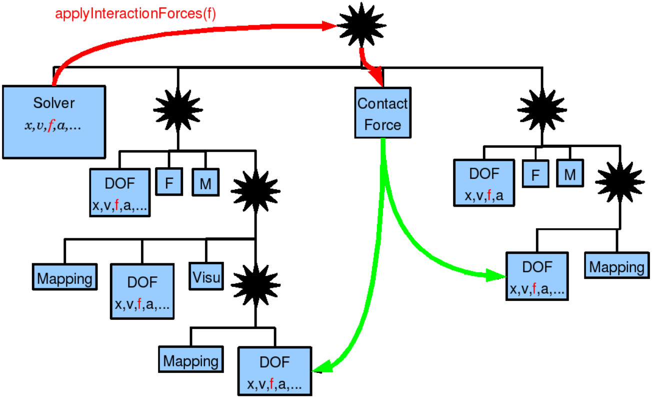
Example : clearing a global vector

- The solver triggers an action starting from its parent system and carrying the necessary symbolic information
- the action is propagated through the graph and calls the appropriate methods at each DOF node



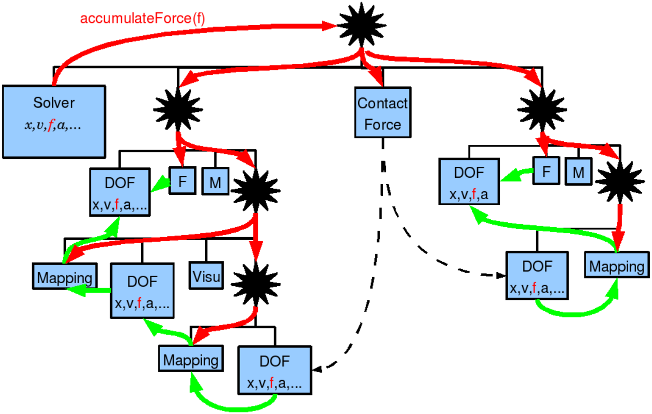
Example : applying interaction forces

- The solver triggers the appropriate action
- the action is propagated through the graph and calls the appropriate methods at each Contact node



Example : accumulating the forces

- The solver triggers the appropriate action
- the action is propagated through the graph and calls the appropriate (botom-up) methods at each Force and Mapping node



Efficient implicit integration

- Large time steps for stiff internal forces and interactions
- solve $(\alpha M + \beta h^2 K)\Delta v = h(f + hKv)$ Iteratively using a cojugate gradient solution

Actions :

- propagateDx
- computeDf
- vector operations
- dot product (only global value directly accessed by the solver)

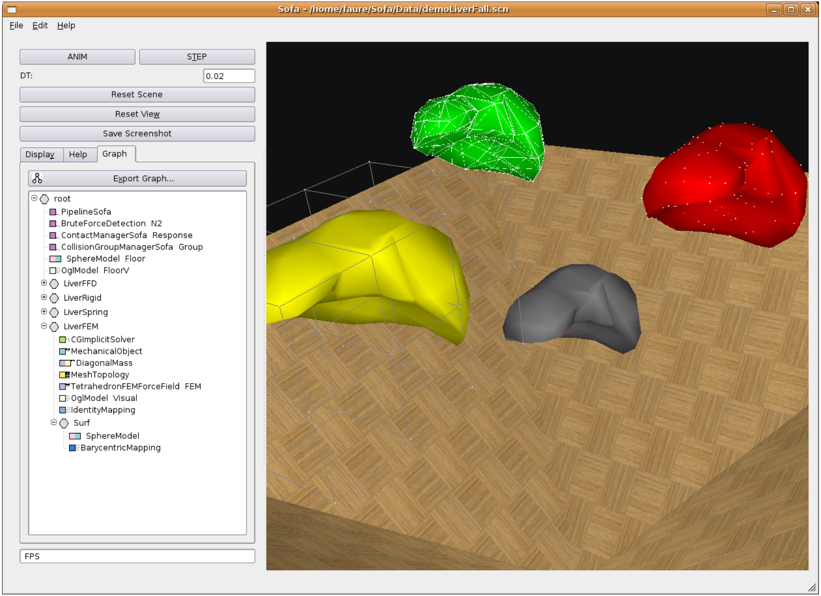
Ongoing work : building global vectors and matrices also

Efficiency

- No global state vector
  - they are scattered over the DOF components
  - each DOF component can be based on its own types (e.g. Vec3, Frame, etc.)
  - symbolic values are used to represent global state vectors
- Action = graph traversal + global vector ids + call of abstract top-down and bottom up methods
  - Displacements are propagated top-down
  - Interactions forces are evaluated after displacement propagation
  - Forces are accumulated bottom-up
  - Branches can be processed in parallel
  - virtual functions applied to components

Outline

Current stage



Efficient coupling

High modularity :

- Abstract components : DOF, Force, Constraint, Solver, Topology, Mass, CollisionModel, VisualModel, etc.
- Arbitrary DOF types can coexist in the same scene

Efficiency :

- global vectors and matrices are avoided
- parallel processing is allowed

Implementation :

- currently 20000 C++ lines
- Windows, Linux
- Qt or FLTK user interfaces
- XML file format

Ongoing work

- More people : ETHZ, ...
- More algorithms : cutting *(Hervé Delingette, ASCLEPIOS)*, interfaces *(François Faure, EVASION)*,...
- More schedulers : asynchronous simulation/rendering/haptic feedback *(Jeremie Allard, Cimit)*
- More brute force : parallelization on PC cluster *(Everton Hermann, LIG/LJK)*
- More visual performance : coupling to a good render engine *(Pierre-Jean Bensoussan, ALCOVE)*
- More documentation *(everybody...)*

www.sofa-framework.org