**Crowd Simulation Application**

MS Project Report

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Understanding complicated crowd behaviors is essential to urban designers and architects. However, grouping a large amount of people to do experiment is dangerous and unrealistic. Among these, design and create an application which could correctly represent crowd behavior is crucial. This project report describes an implementation called *Crowd Simulation* that aim at creating realistic, unique and dynamic crowd by takes agents’ data as input and outputs the result in animation form.

**Introduction**

The increasing proportion of people living in urban areas brings new challenges to urban planning and architecture. Crowd simulation plays an important role in addressing these challenges. With the help of crowd simulation techniques, urban designers and architects could determine the evacuation time of a massive crowd, predict the behavior of a crowd flow inside of a building or prevent overcrowding during certain events.

A crowd forms when a large amount of people gathers in a limited space. Simulating the whole crowd as a single unit could help understand the behavior of the moving crowd. However, if we divide the crowd into groups that contains 2 to 3 people or individuals, the behavior of the crowd can be more realistic. In a group, people know each might walk together. Previous researcher Reynolds [1] proposed a steering approach known as Leader Following (LF). This approach involves pair agents where the “follower” agent follows the leader and stays on its side. This disadvantage of this approach is that in this basic steering approach, the leader agent does not wait for its follower agent if the distance between these two agents is too large, which is not realistic.

More recent simulations of crowds of people use more complicated calculation. For example, previous approach [2] designs agent as ellipses that have a sense of the environment and plan their own path ahead of time to avoid agent collisions. Unfortunately, the output of this kind of simulation lacks realism and flexibility. Since it does not involve dynamic behaviors such as allowing agents to move in and out of different group or queues based on agent’s desire, agents who have planned a path ahead of time might end up in the longest waiting line without being able to switch. In reality, people do not just stay in their waiting line once they choose it, they might need to change waiting lines if there is a better option.

Related Work

Report Outline

**Resources**

Java Port of Recast & Detour navigation mesh toolset

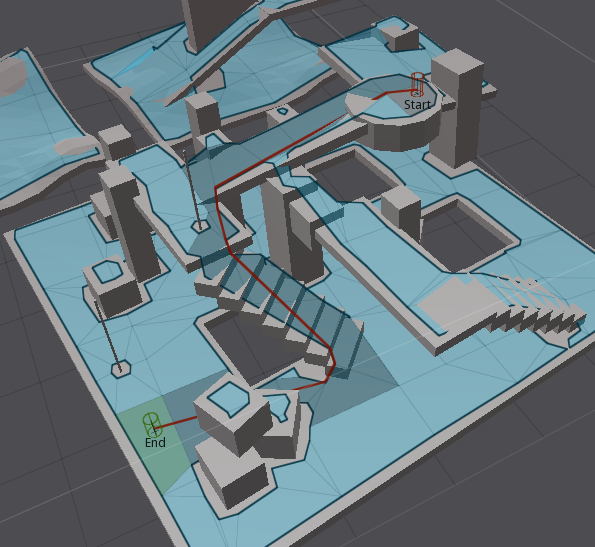
(ref: <http://masagroup.github.io/recastdetour/index.html>)

**Recast**

Recast is a state-of-the-art navigation mesh construction toolset for games. Recast is an open source which could automatically provide you a mesh at any level geometry in instant time; Recast could also be customized to achieve user’s specific purpose.

**Detour**

Detour is a spatial reasoning toolkit which accompanies with Recast to offer a simple static navigation mesh. DetourCrowd is a crowd management module offers features for agents handling and behavior customization. Detour allows user to create lots of agents and move agents in navigation mesh. What’s more, Detour allows user to create customized behaviors that determines agents how to move and react.



**Related Work**

blabla

**Implementation, Challenges, and Output**

**Scenario and Design**

In this project, I will develop a crowd simulation application which aim at creating realistic, unique and accurate crowd. To achieve this goal, I will use an open source state of art navigation mesh construction toolset called Recast to achieve static avoidance and shortest path calculation. What’s more, I will also utilize a path-finding and spatial reasoning toolkit Detour to achieve dynamic avoidance among agents in the path and to completed calculation of each frame of the simulation [3]. Using these open source platforms, I will build the lower level of my approach – QueueBehaviorApp.

*Scenario*: Single agents or pair agent are randomly generated within the initialized range; each agent is initialized with a default start position and end position, and they will walk to their end position.

However, before agents reaching their destination, every agent has to finish security check first. (People do ticket checking and security check during the concert event). Thus, every agent needs to stop near the security to simulate the security process. Since the new agents are generating and security process takes time, the number of agents in the scene increase dramatically and the crowd form. However, instead of generating a massive chaotic crowd, agents in the crowd will queue up orderly and form several waiting lines, and each agent in line will do the security check one by one. After finishing the security check, agents will move to their default end position and depart.

**////////// implementation detail starts here //////////**

**Input Data Initialization**

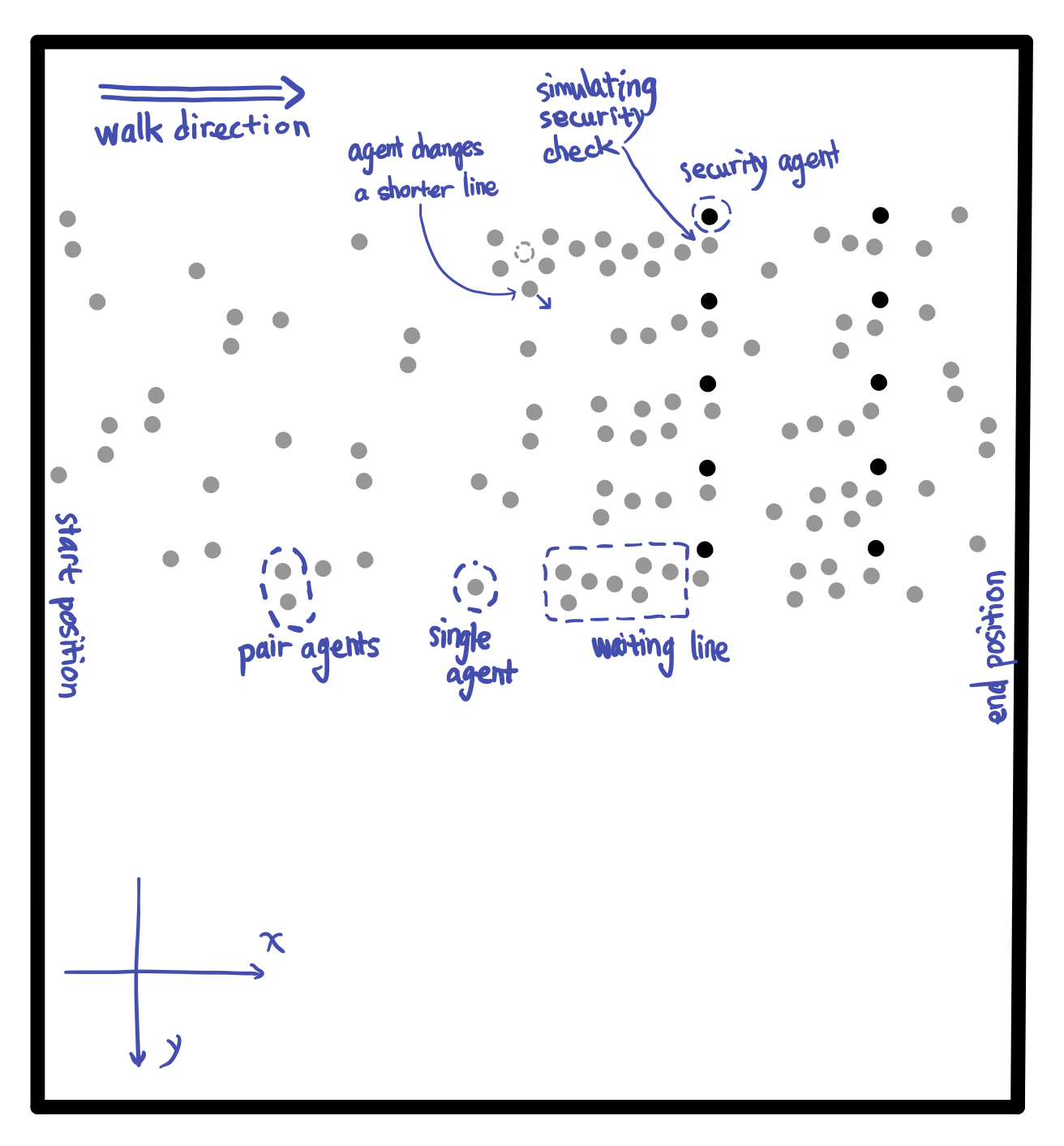
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Input data focus on:

* Start position
* End position
* Agent start time
  + Start position, End position determine where agent start to walk and where agent walk out of scene
  + Start position, End position and Agent start time determine agents’ friend relationship.
  + Agent start time determines when agent walk into the scene.
* Agent Id
* Agent Behavior Mode
  + Agent Behavior Mode determines how agent behave – queue up to form line, flee or walk from start position to end position.

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To simulate crowd behaviors such as pair walking, queue up and form single/pair waiting lines, agent switch from one waiting line to the others and then doing security checking. Each agent is initialized with specific status. The image below is the mockup demo that demonstrates the scene which represents agents’ environment. In this scene, agents are generated and walk from left to right.



**Environment Initialization**

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**Appearance of Upcoming Agents**

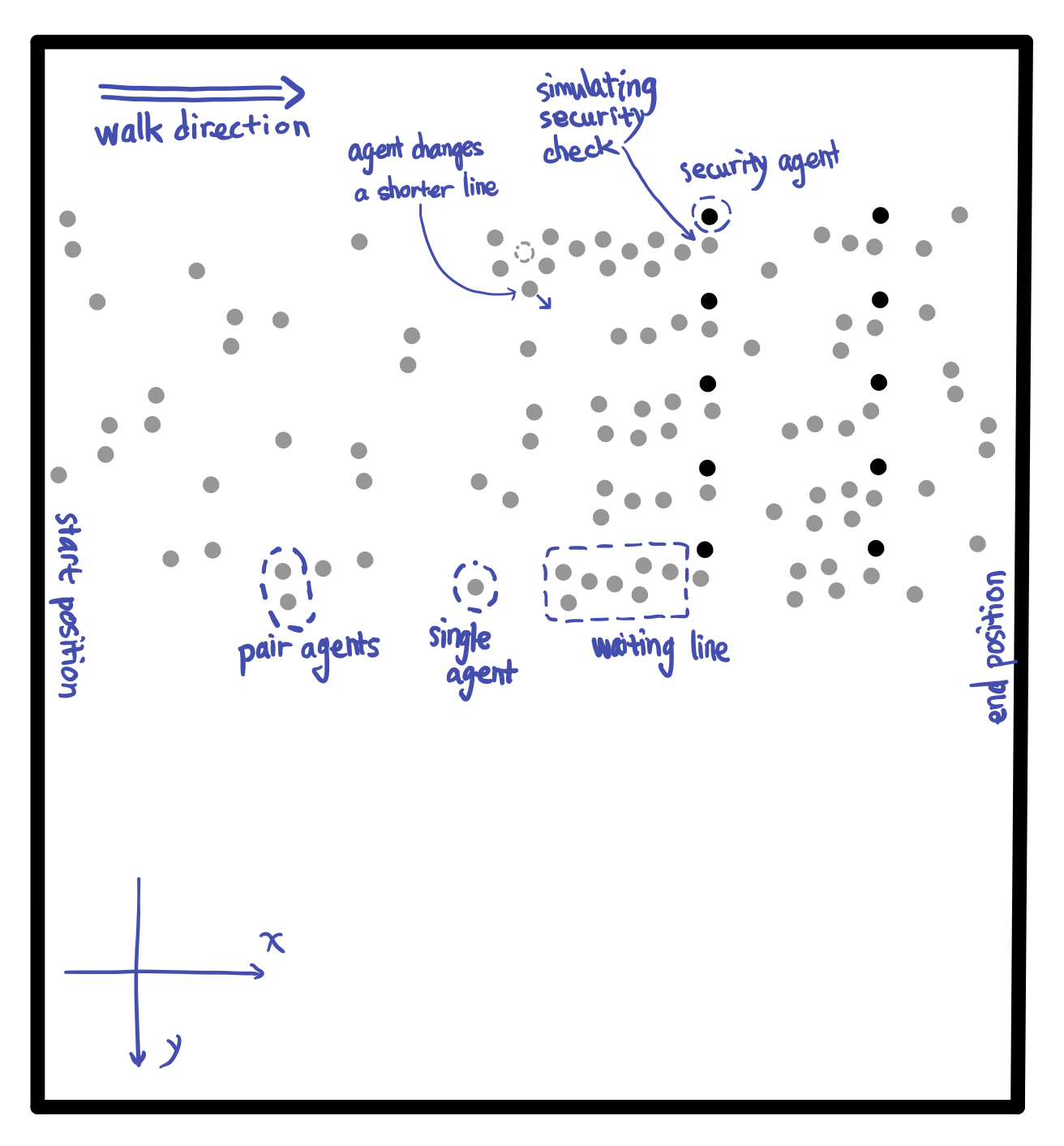
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**Agent Behavior Implementation**

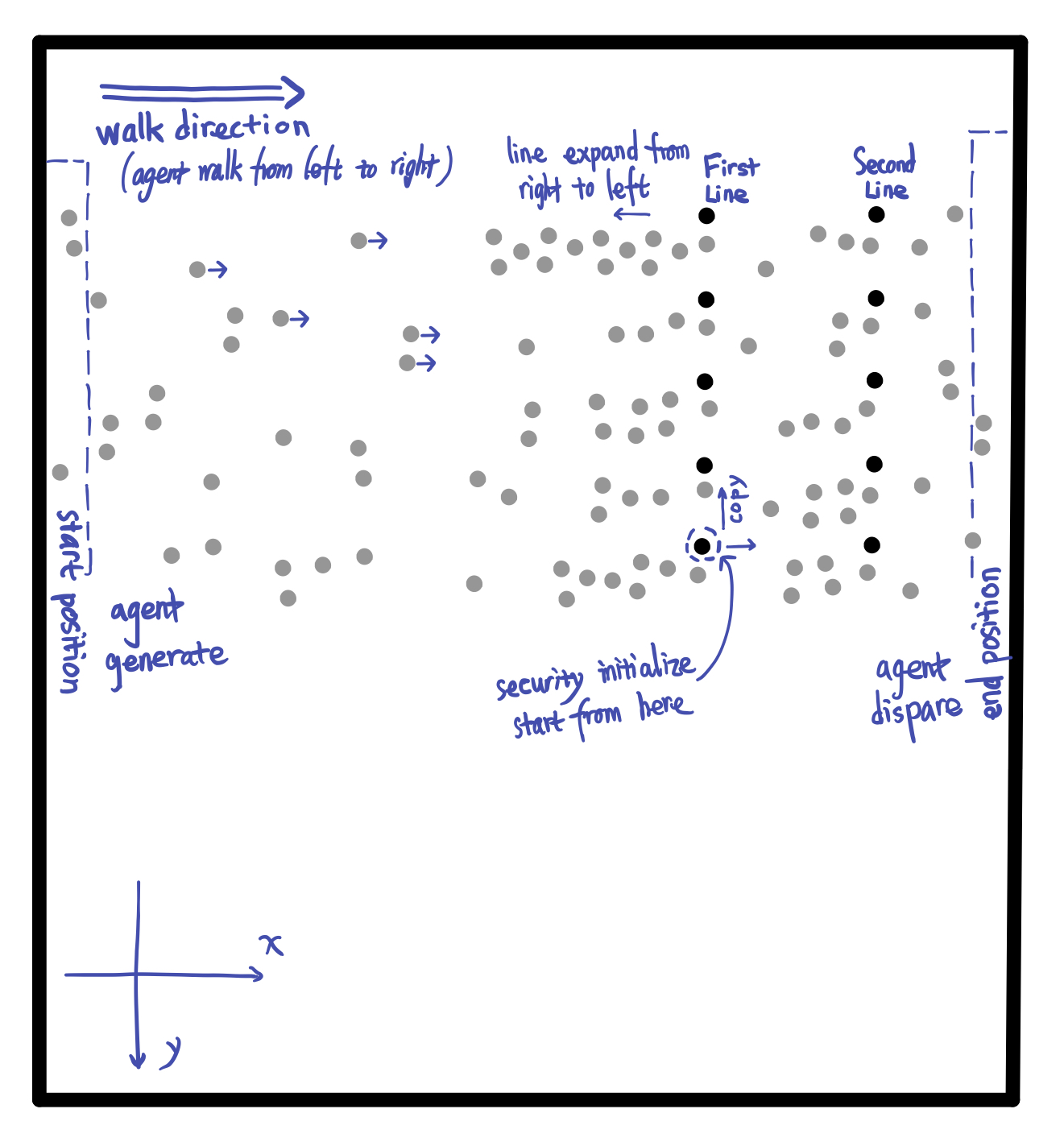
* Queue-up Behavior
* Pair Walk Behavior
* Do Security Check Behavior
* Re-consider Behavior

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QueueBehaviorApp will simulate crowd behaviors such as pair walking, queue up and form single/pair waiting lines, agent switch from one waiting line to the others and then doing security checking. The image below is the mockup demo that demonstrates the scene I will create. In this scene, agents are generated and walk from left to right. Among each agent, some agents might know each other, so they walk with each other while others walk alone. Once agent reach the security gate, agents stop for a few seconds to simulate the security checking process. If the security gate is occupied, the upcoming agents wait behind. Thus, the lines are created. If agents in the line are not satisfied with the length of the line, they will look to the left of right side of line to find out if there are any shorter line to go to. If there is a shorter line, the agent will leave its original line and queue up to a better line.



However, before doing that, I will initialize scene to generate input for the crowd simulation. Below is the mockup demo of the application interface with detailed requirement that could help understand the input and default requirements of the crowd simulation:



In this simulation, agents are initialized at the left side of the scene (*start position*) and disappear at the right side of the scene (*end position*). Agents in scene will move from left to right, this moving direction determines the direction of the waiting line, with the waiting line grow from right to left. In the simulation, there are two lines of agents always standing at the same position in the whole simulation. These two lines of agents play roles as security faculties of the event in the simulation to simulate security check. The upcoming agents will stop in front of the security faculty for a few seconds to simulate a security check (or a ticket check) as we do in our real life. Once agents finish check, they continue moving to their final destination. Implementation

**Evaluation**

**Future Work**

Acknowledgements???

**References**

[1] Reynolds,C.:Steeringbehaviorsforautonomouscharacters.In:GDC,pp.763–782(1999)

[2] Baig, Mirza Waqar, et al. "Realistic modeling of agents in crowd simulations." 2014 5th International Conference on Intelligent Systems, Modelling and Simulation. IEEE, 2014.

Test Cases???