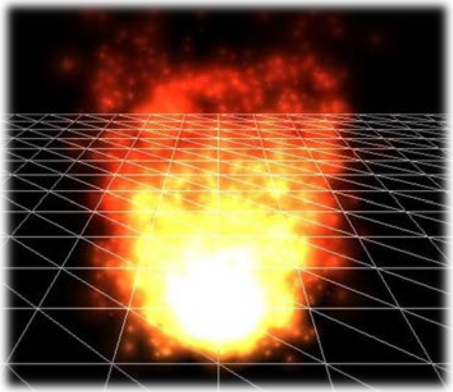
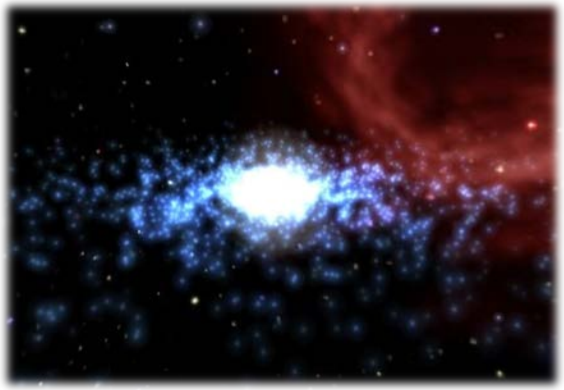
CSE 167: Introduction to Computer Graphics Lecture #16: Particles, Collisions

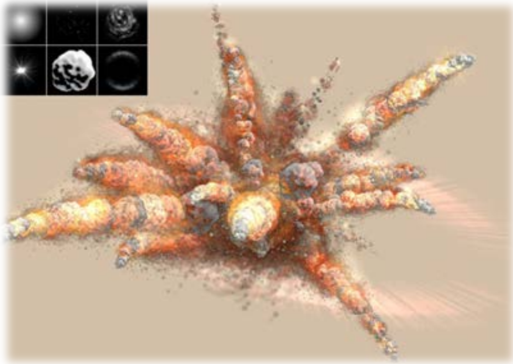
Jürgen P. Schulze, Ph.D.
University of California, San Diego
Fall Quarter 2020

Particle Systems

Particle Systems

- Used for:
  - Fire/sparks
  - Rain/snow
  - Water spray
  - Explosions
  - Galaxies



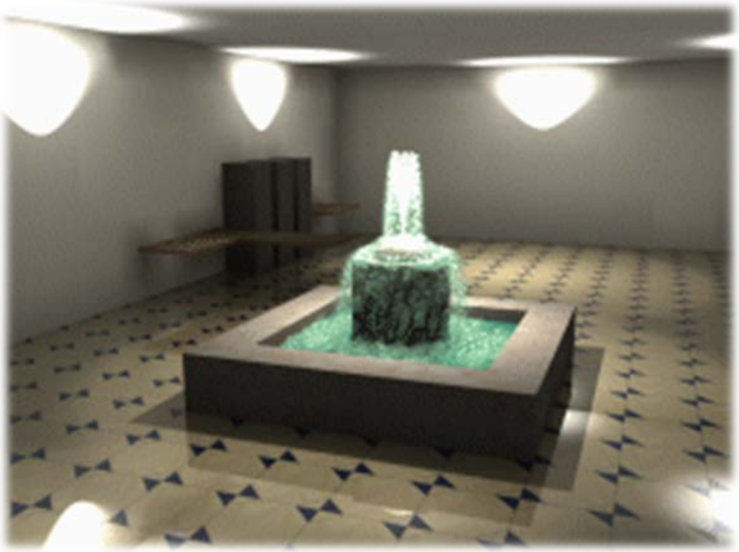

UCSD

Internal Representation

- Particle system is collection of a number of individual elements (particles)
  - Controls a set of particles which act autonomously but share some common attributes
- Particle Emitter: Source of all new particles
  - 3D point
  - Polygon mesh: particles' initial velocity vector is normal to surface
- Particle attributes:
  - position (3D)
  - velocity (vector: speed and direction)
  - color + opacity
  - lifetime
  - size
  - shape
  - weight

Dynamic Updates

- Particles change position and/or attributes with time
- Initial particle attributes often created with random numbers
- Frame update:
  - Parameters: simulation of particles, can include collisions with geometry
    - Forces (gravity, wind, etc) accelerate a particle
    - Acceleration changes velocity
    - Velocity changes position
  - Rendering:
    - GL_POINTS
    - GL_POINT_SPRITE
    - Point shader



Source: http://www.particlesystems.org/

Point Rendering – Vertex Shader

```
uniform mat4 u_MVPMatrix;
uniform vec3 u_cameraPos;

// Constants (tweakable):
const float minPointScale = 0.1;
const float maxPointScale = 0.7;
const float maxDistance   = 100.0;

void main()
{
    // Calculate point scale based on distance from the viewer
    // to compensate for the fact that gl_PointSize is the point
    // size in rasterized points / pixels.
    float cameraDist = distance(a_position_size.xyz, u_cameraPos);
    float pointScale = 1.0 - (cameraDist / maxDistance);
    pointScale = max(pointScale, minPointScale);
    pointScale = min(pointScale, maxPointScale);

    // Set GL globals and forward the color:
    gl_Position  = u_MVPMatrix * vec4(a_position_size.xyz, 1.0);
    gl_PointSize = a_position_size.w * pointScale;
    v_color      = a_color;
}
```

Demo

- Particle system in WebGL:
  - http://nullprogram.com/webgl-particles/

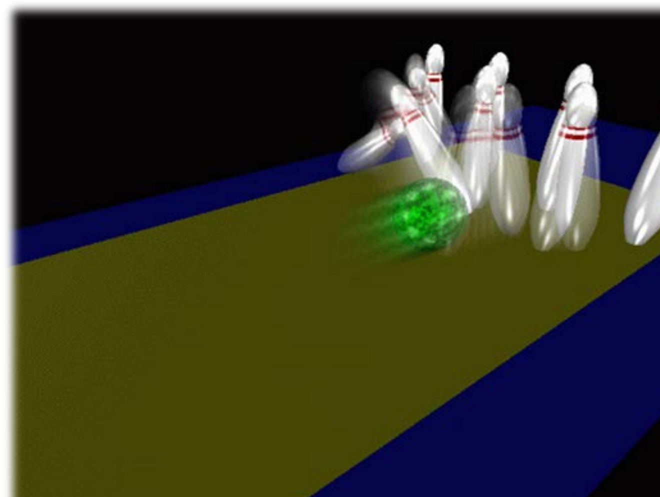
References

- Tutorial with source code by Bartlomiej Filipek, 2014:
  - http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/795065/Flexible-particle-system-OpenGL-Renderer
- Articles with source code:
  - Jeff Lander: "The Ocean Spray in Your Face", Game Developer, July 1998
    - http://www.darwin3d.com/gamedev/articles/col0798.pdf
  - John Van Der Burg: "Building an Advanced Particle System", Gamasutra, June 2000
    - http://www.gamasutra.com/view/feature/3157/building_an_advanced_particle_.php
- Founding scientific paper:
  - Reeves: "Particle Systems - A Technique for Modeling a Class of Fuzzy Objects", ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG) Volume 2 Issue 2, April 1983
    - https://www.evl.uic.edu/aej/527/papers/Reeves1983.pdf

Collison Detection

Collision Detection

- Goals:
  - Physically correct simulation of collision of objects
    - Not covered here
  - Determine if two objects intersect
- Slow calculation because of exponential growth $O(n^2)$:
  - # collision tests = n*(n-1)/2



Intersection Testing

- Purpose:
  - Keep moving objects on the ground
  - Keep moving objects from going through walls, each other, etc.
- Goal:
  - Believable system, does not have to be physically correct
- Priority:
  - Computationally inexpensive
- Typical approach:
  - Spatial partitioning
  - Object simplified for collision detection by one or a few
    - Points
    - Spheres
    - Axis aligned bounding box (AABB)
  - Pairwise checks between points/spheres/AABBs and static geometry

Sweep and Prune Algorithm

- Sorts bounding boxes
- Not intuitively obvious how to sort bounding boxes in 3-space
- Dimension reduction approach:
  - Project each 3-dimensional bounding box onto the x,y and z axes
  - Find overlaps in 1D: a pair of bounding boxes can overlap if and only if their intervals overlap in all three dimensions
    - Construct 3 lists, one for each dimension
    - Each list contains start/end point of intervals corresponding to that dimension
    - By sorting these lists, we can determine which intervals overlap
    - Reduce sorting time by keeping sorted lists from previous frame, changing only the interval endpoints

Collision Map (CM)

- 2D map with information about where objects can go and what happens when they go there
- Colors indicate different types of locations
- Map can be computed from 3D model, or hand drawn with paint program
- Granularity: defines how much area (in object space) one CM pixel represents