

Video Games Technologies

11498: MSc in Computer Science and Engineering

11156: MSc in Game Design and Development

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Chap. 8 — Collisions

Collisions

Outline

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- Introduction
- Touching and perception
- Collision detection
- Broad phase
- Narrow phase
- Point & mesh relationship



Collision detection: introduction

Remember:

- Physical laws do not exist in the virtual world by default.
- You must model and program them on computer.

Definition:

- Collision detection concerns the detection of collisions between objects in the virtual environment.

Goal:

- To stop objects moving through each other and the environment (see below).

Why:

- Collisions are everywhere in computer games: between characters and characters, between characters and terrain, etc.



Modeling perception in games:

Why? It helps to create the illusion of intelligence.

Senses in games? Sound, Touch, Sight, Smell, Taste.

Examples:

- You approach a bot silently, from the rear but it immediately turns around and frags you with a chain gun. *Game bots do not really perceive!*
- You run and hide. It is impossible for an enemy to know where you are, but it nevertheless proceeds directly to your location.
- You notice a guard in a guard tower. It sweeps the ground with a search light. You follow a path that avoids the search light, but the guard still sees you.



Touch & collisions

Goal:

- Detecting when two 3D objects collide.

Examples:

- The player collides with the walls.
- The player walks up stairs.
- A projectile hits a game entity.
- A projectile hits a wall.
- The player collides with a game entity.
- The player goes somewhere they are not supposed to.



Two major issues in collision detection

Large scale or object scale collisions:

- If you have n objects, object #1 may collide with $(n-1)$ objects, object #2 may collide with the remaining $(n-2)$ objects, and so forth. Thus, we end up having $n!$ collisions potentially.

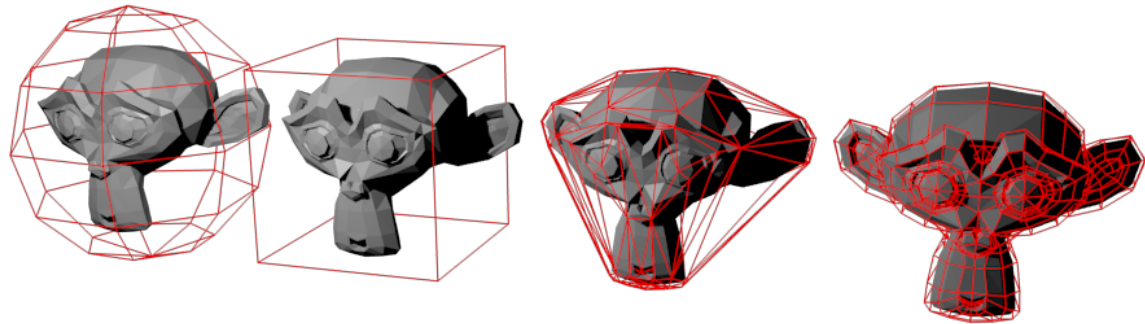


Narrow scale or polygon scale collisions:

- True collision detection requires computing the intersection between arbitrarily complex polygons.



Collision detection between two objects: 2 phases

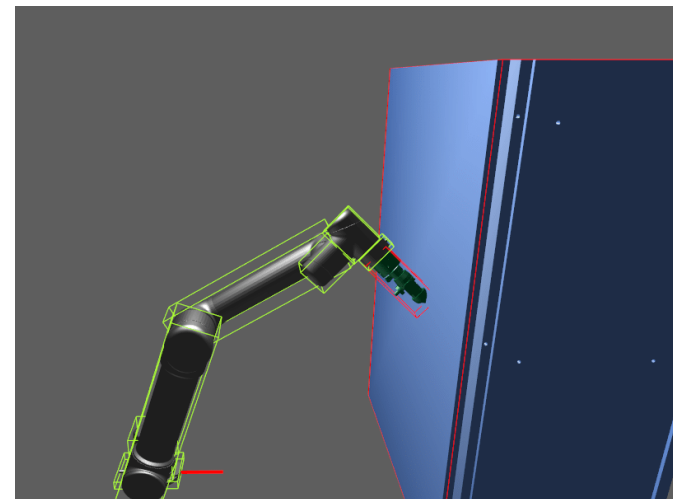
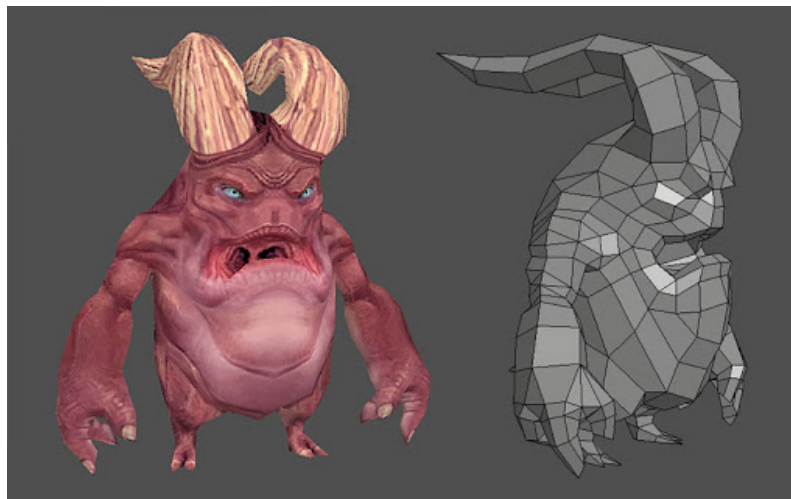
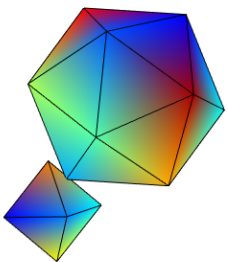
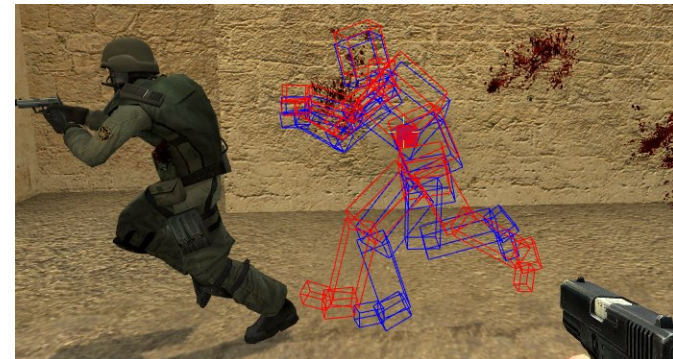


Broad phase:

- Collision detection takes place with proxies (bounding volumes).

Narrow phase:

- Collision detection takes place using polygon-polygon intersection.



Collision detection algorithms: categories

- We use *bounding boxes/spheres* to determine which meshes are colliding (**broad phase**)
- At some point we need to compare each triangle of each mesh whose bounding box/sphere collides to check for a true collision (**narrow phase**)

Broad Phase:

- Point & bounding box
- Point & bounding sphere
- Bounding box & bounding box
- Bounding sphere & bounding sphere
- Box & sphere
- Ray & sphere
- Ray & bounding box

Narrow phase:

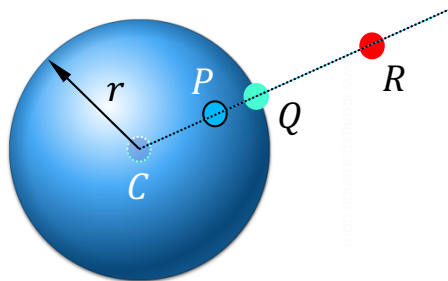
- Point & plane (triangle)
- Ray & plane (triangle)
- Plane & plane (triangle & triangle)



Broad Phase

Point & bounding sphere

Euclidean distance: $\|\cdot\|$



$\|P - C\| < r \Rightarrow P$ is inside sphere
 $\|Q - C\| = r \Rightarrow Q$ is on sphere
 $\|R - C\| > r \Rightarrow R$ is outside sphere

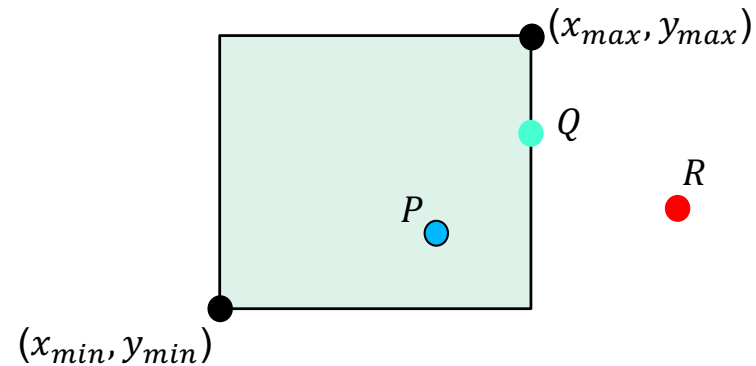
```

1 function isPointInsideSphere(point, sphere) {
2   // we are using multiplications because is faster than calling Math.pow
3   var distance = Math.sqrt((point.x - sphere.x) * (point.x - sphere.x) +
4                           (point.y - sphere.y) * (point.y - sphere.y) +
5                           (point.z - sphere.z) * (point.z - sphere.z));
6   return distance < sphere.radius;
7 }
  
```


Point & AABB

Comparison operators: \geq and \leq

Boolean operators: \wedge and \vee



$(x_P \geq x_{min}) \wedge (x_P \leq x_{max}) \wedge (y_P \geq y_{min}) \wedge (y_P \leq y_{max}) \Rightarrow P$ is inside AABB
 $(x_Q \geq x_{min}) \wedge (x_Q \leq x_{max}) \wedge (y_Q \geq y_{min}) \wedge (y_Q \leq y_{max}) \Rightarrow Q$ is on AABB
 $(x_R \geq x_{min}) \wedge (x_R \geq x_{max}) \wedge (y_R \geq y_{min}) \wedge (y_P \leq y_{max}) \Rightarrow R$ is outside AABB

```

1 function isPointInsideAABB(point, box) {
2   return (point.x >= box.minX && point.x <= box.maxX) &&
3         (point.y >= box.minY && point.y <= box.maxY) &&
4         (point.z >= box.minZ && point.z <= box.maxZ);
5 }
  
```

Box-box intersection

Algorithm 1 (box-box intersection):

- 1) Determine the center of the 2nd box (blue);
- 2) Add the length of the 2nd box (blue) to the length of the 1st box (red);
- 3) Add the height of the 2nd box (blue) to the height of the 1st box (red);
- 4) Check whether the center of the 2nd box (blue) is inside the 1st augmented box (point-box membership)

Algorithm 2 (point-box membership):

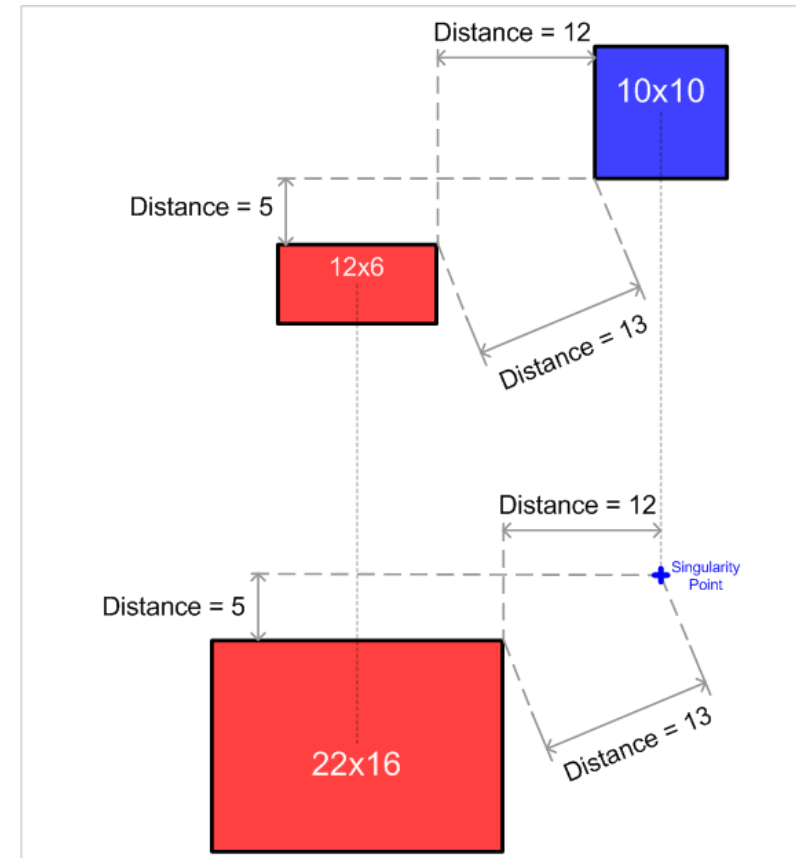
IN: point P

IN: left-bottom corner L

IN: right-top corner R

OUT: boolean value (either true or false)

- 1) **if**
- 2) (
- 3) $(p.x > L.x) \text{ and } (p.x < R.x)$
- 4) and
- 5) $(p.y > L.y) \text{ and } (p.y < R.y)$
- 6))
- 7) return **TRUE**;
- 8) **else**
- 9) return **FALSE**;





Narrow Phase

Geometry refresher

Point:

- $P = (x, y, z)$

2D Line:

- Start and end points: P and Q
- Slope and intercept: $y = mx + b$
- Cartesian: $ax + by + d = 0$

Ray:

- point O and vector \vec{v}
- $P(t) = O + t\vec{v}$, with $t \in [0, \infty[$

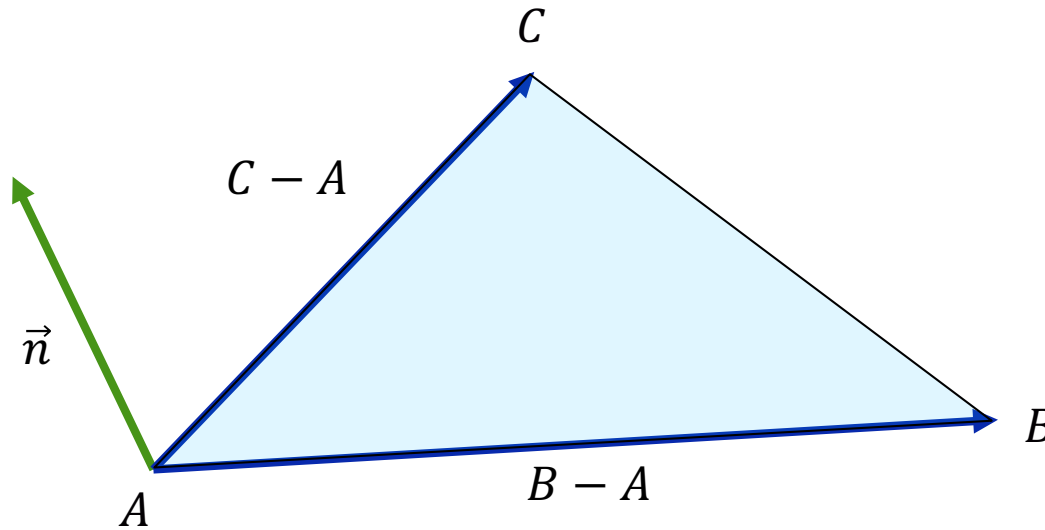
Plane:

- Point P and normal vector \vec{n}
- Cartesian: $ax + by + cz + d = 0$
- $\vec{n} = (a, b, c)$

Triangle normal

Normal vector:

- $\vec{n} = (B - A) \times (C - A)$
- Length of n is twice the area of the triangle ($AB \sin \theta$)

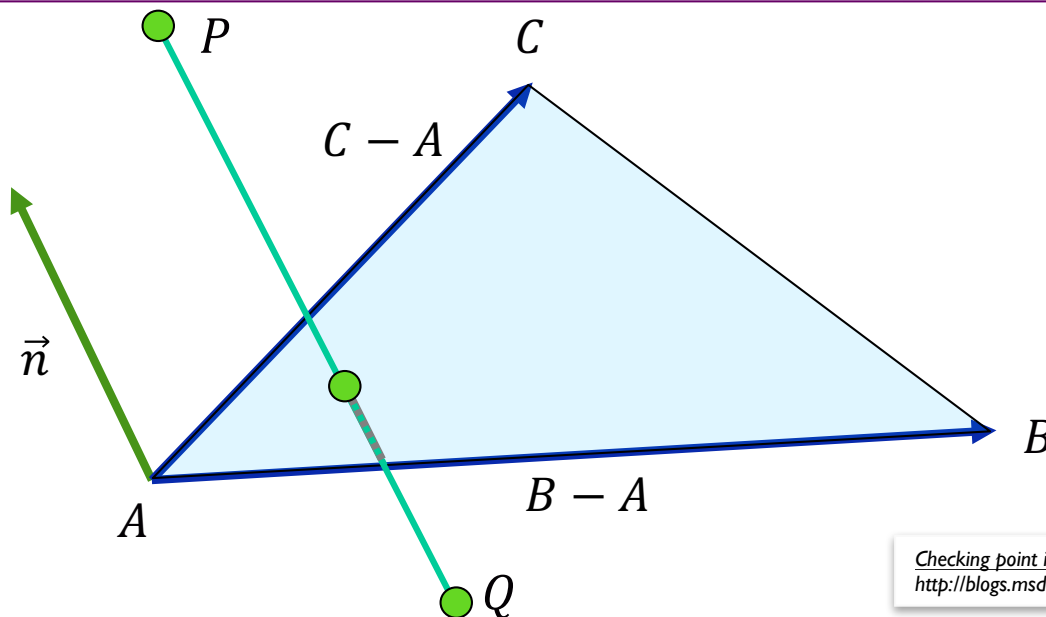


Segment-triangle intersection

Does the segment PQ intersect the triangle ABC ?

- $\vec{n} = (B - A) \times (C - A)$
- First, compute signed distances of P and Q to the plane:
 $d(P, X) = (P - A) \cdot \vec{n}$ and $d(Q, X) = (Q - A) \cdot \vec{n}$
- If both are above or both are below the plane, return NULL.
- Otherwise, return the point $X = \frac{Q \cdot d(P, X) - P \cdot d(Q, X)}{d(P, X) - d(Q, X)}$

See the proof at:
<http://www.di.ubi.pt/~agomes/tjv/proof.pdf>



Checking point inside triangle:
<http://blogs.msdn.com/b/rezanour/archive/2011/08/07/barycentric-coordinates-and-point-in-triangle-tests.aspx>

Triangle-triangle intersection

Input: triangles **ABC** and **A'B'C'**

- Step 1: compute the plane equations for ABC:

$$\vec{n} = (B - A) \times (C - A) \quad \text{and} \quad d = -\vec{n} \cdot A$$

- Step 2: compute signed distances from vertices of A'B'C' to the plane of ABC:

$$d_0 = \vec{n} \cdot A' + d \quad d_1 = \vec{n} \cdot B' + d \quad d_2 = \vec{n} \cdot C' + d$$

- Return NULL if all $d_i < 0$ or all $d_i > 0$
- Step 3: repeat Step 2 for vertices of ABC against the plane of A'B'C'
- Step 4: determine intersection points X and Y
- Step 5: Determine if segment XY is inside triangle or intersects triangle edge.



Summary:

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