# Basic Game Physics

With material from: Introduction to Game Development, Second Edition. Edited by Steve Rabin. Cengage Learning, 2009. (Chapter 4.3)

# Introduction (1 of 2)

### • What is game physics?

- Computing motion of objects in virtual scene
  - Including player avatars, NPC's, inanimate objects
- Computing mechanical interactions of objects
   Interaction usually involves contact (collision)
- Simulation must be <u>real-time</u> (versus highprecision simulation for CAD/CAM, etc.)
- Simulation may be very realistic, approximate, or intentionally distorted (for effect)

# Introduction (2 of 2)

- And why is it important?
  - Can improve immersion
  - Can support new gameplay elements
  - Becoming increasingly prominent (expected) part of high-end games
  - Like AI and graphics, facilitated by hardware developments (multi-core, GPU)
  - Maturation of physics engine market

# **Physics Engines**

- Similar buy vs. build analysis as game engines

   Buy:
  - Buy:
    - Complete solution from day oneProven, robust code base (hopefully)
    - Proven, robust code base (noperuny)
       Feature sets are pre-defined
  - Costs range from free to expensive
  - Build:
    - Bulla:
    - Choose exactly features you want
      Opportunity for more game-specification optimizations
    - Opportunity for more game-specification
       Creater expecting to innevete
    - Greater opportunity to innovate
    - Cost guaranteed to be expensive (unless features extremely minimal)

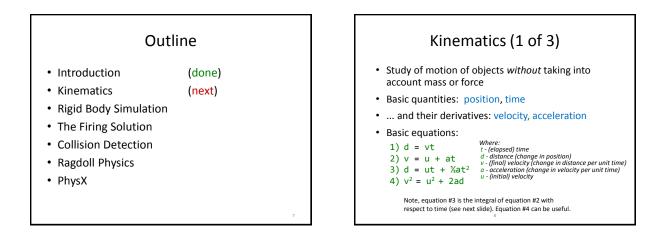
# **Physics Engines**

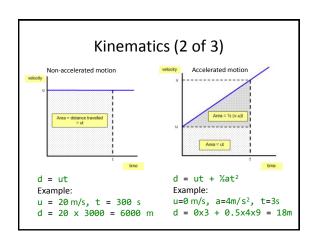
- Open source
  - Box2D, Bullet, Chipmunk, JigLib, ODE, OPAL, OpenTissue, PAL, Tokamak, Farseer, Physics2d, Glaze
- Closed source (limited free distribution)
  - Newton Game Dynamics, Simple Physics Engine, True Axis, PhysX
- Commercial
  - Havok, nV Physics, Vortex
- Relation to Game Engines
  - Native, e.g,. C4
  - Integrated, e.g., UE4 + PhysX
  - Pluggable, e.g., C4 + PhysX, jME + ODE (via jME Physics)

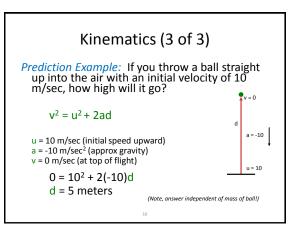
# **Basic Game Physics Concepts**

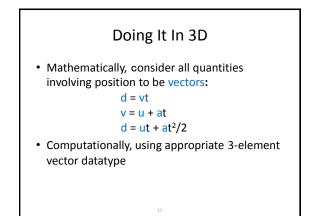
### Why are we studying this?

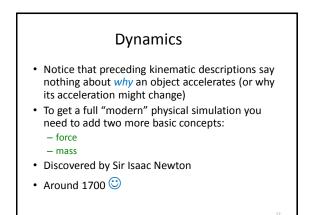
- To use an engine effectively, you need to understand something about what it's doing
- You may need to implement small features or extensions yourself
- Cf., owning a car without understanding anything about how it works (possible, yes, but ideal?, no)
- Examples
  - Kinematics and dynamics
  - Projectile motion
  - Collision detection and response



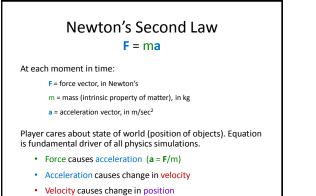








### Newton's Laws Motion Without Newton's Laws 1. A body will remain at rest or continue to • Pac-Man or early Mario style move in a straight line at a constant speed - Follow path with instantaneous changes in speed and unless acted upon by a force. direction (velocity) 2. The acceleration of a body is proportional to the resultant force acting on the body and is in the same direction as the resultant force. 3. For every action, there is an equal and - Not physically possible opposite reaction. • Note - fine for some casual games (especially with appropriate animations) 13

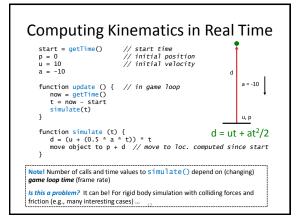


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- May involve contact
  - Collision (rebound)
  - Friction (rolling, sliding)
- Without contact
  - Rockets/Muscles/Propellers
  - Gravity
  - Wind (if not modeling air particles)
  - Magic
- Dynamic (force) modeling also used for autonomous steering behaviors

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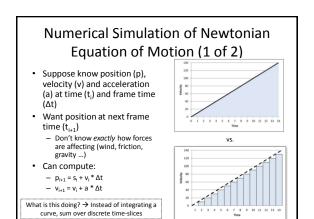


Outline			
Introduction	(done)		
<ul> <li>Kinematics</li> </ul>	(done)		
<ul> <li>Rigid Body Simulation</li> </ul>	(next)		
<ul> <li>The Firing Solution</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Collision Detection</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Ragdoll Physics</li> </ul>			
• PhysX			
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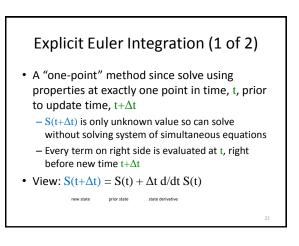
# **Rigid-Body Simulation**

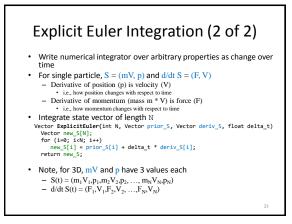
- If no rotation, only gravity and occasional frictionless collision, basic Kinematic equations are fine
  - Closed form solution can be integrated
    - (e.g., d = ut + ½at<sup>2</sup>)
- But in many games (and life!), interesting motion involves non-constant forces and collision impulse forces
- Unfortunately, often no closed-form solutions
  What to do? → Numerical simulation

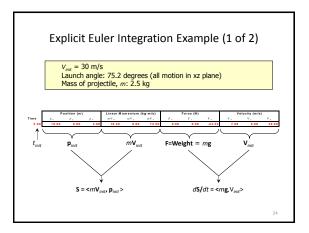
Numerical Simulation techniques for incrementally solving equations of motion when forces applied to object are not constant, or when otherwise there is no closed-form solution

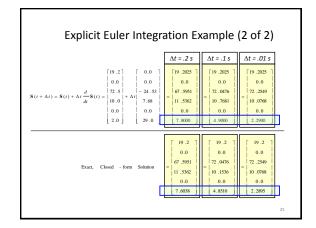


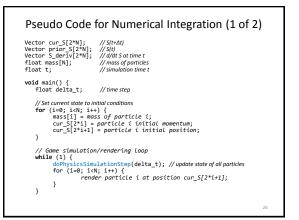
Numerical Simulation of Newtonian Equation of Motion (2 of 2) • Family of numerical sim techniques called finite difference methods • Incremental "solution" to equations of motion • Most common for rigid-body dynamics simulation • Derived from *Taylor series expansion* of properties interested in  $\frac{\sum_{n=0}^{|D|} ||||_{n}^{n}||_{n}^{n}(z-\alpha)^{n}}$  [Interest ensurementations  $S(t+\Delta t) = S(t) + \Delta t d/dt S(t) + (\Delta t)^{2}/2! d^{2}/dt S(t) + ...$ • In general, not know values of any higher order. Truncate, remove  $S(t+\Delta t) = S(t) + \Delta t d/dt S(t) + O(\Delta t)^{2}$ • Can do beyond, but always higher terms •  $O(\Delta t)^{2}$  is called *truncation error* • size is proportional to  $\Delta t$  (step size) • Can use to update properties (position) • Called "simple" or "explicit" *Euler integration* 

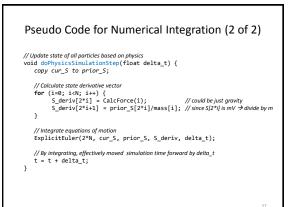


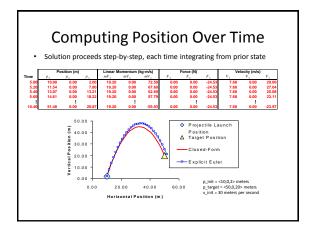


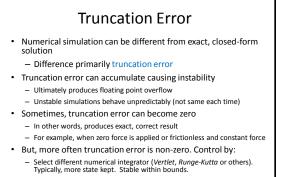




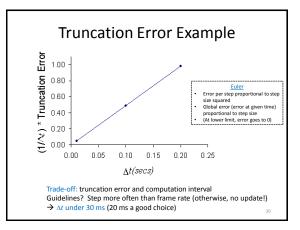






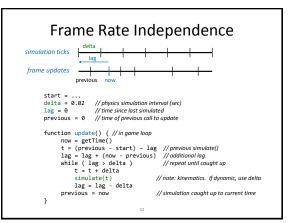


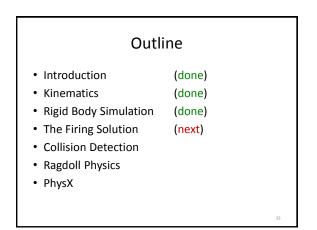
– Reduce time step,  $\Delta t$  (next slide)

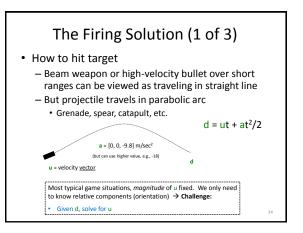


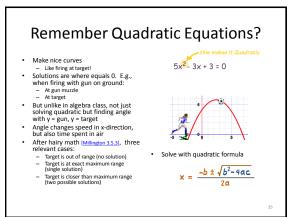
# Frame Rate Independence

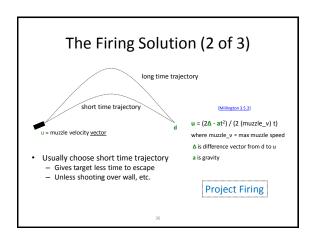
- Complex numerical simulations used in physics engines are sensitive to time steps (due to truncation error and other numerical effects)
- But results need to be repeatable regardless of CPU/GPU performance
  - for debugging
  - for game play
- So, if frame rate drops (game loop can't keep up), then physics will change
- Solution: Control physics simulation interval independently of frame rate

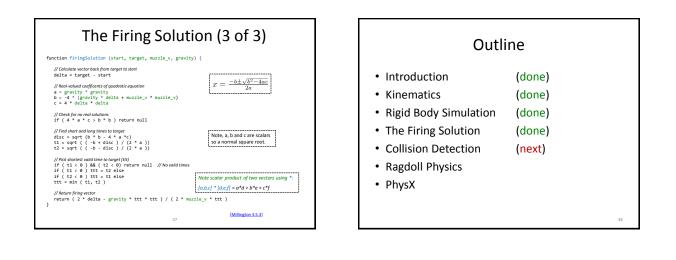


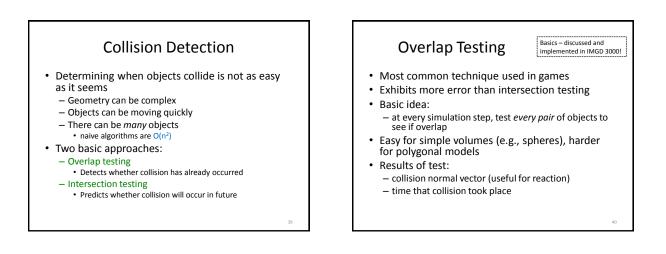


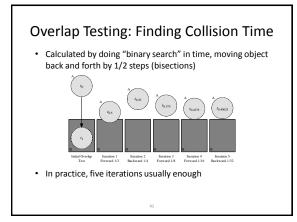


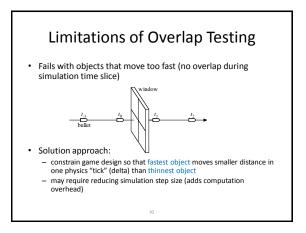


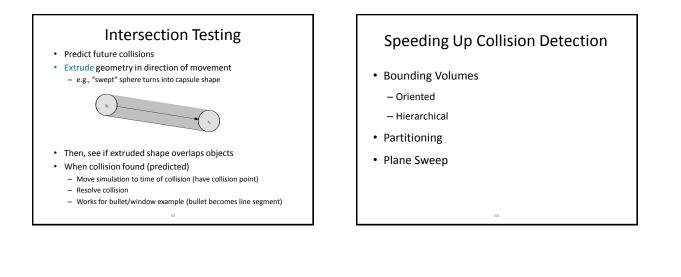


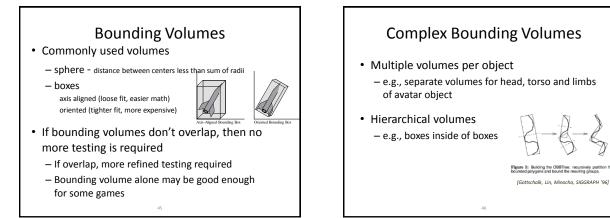


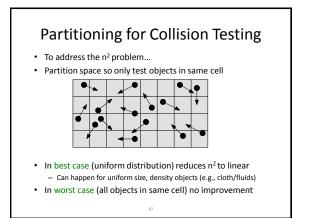


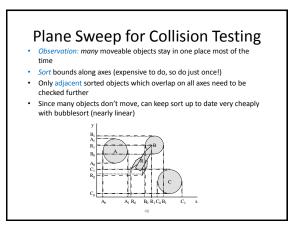




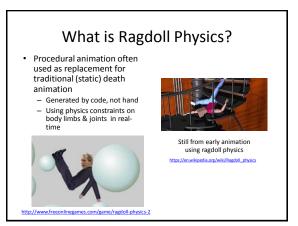


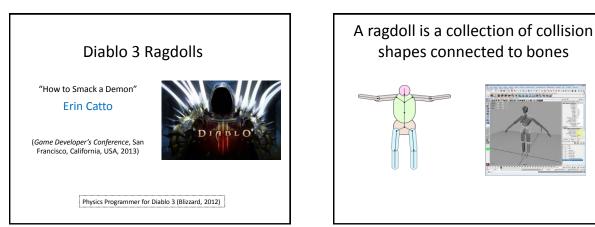






Outline			
<ul> <li>Introduction</li> <li>Kinematics</li> <li>Rigid Body Simulation</li> <li>The Firing Solution</li> <li>Collision Detection</li> <li>Ragdoll Physics</li> <li>PhysX</li> </ul>	(done) (done) (done) (done) (done) (next)		
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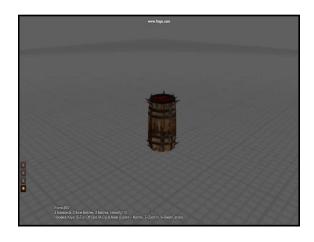


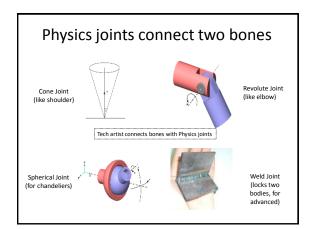


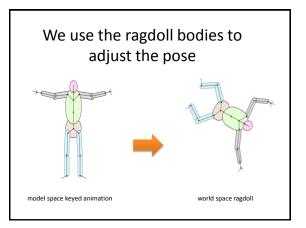


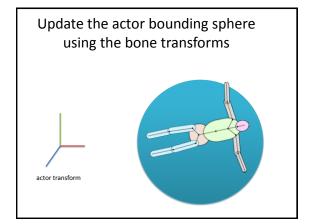


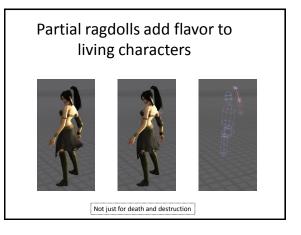














# More Physics We Are Not Covering

- Collision response
- Conservation of momentum
- Elastic collisions
- Non-elastic collisions coefficient of restitution
- Rigid body simulation (vs. point masses)
- Joints as constraints to motion
- · Soft body simulation

[see excellent book by Millington, "Game Physics Engine Development", MK, 2007]

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## **PhysX Overview**

- Developed by NVIDIA for C++ applications
- Windows, Mac, Linux, Playstation, Xbox, Android, Apple iOS and Wii
- Simulate
  - Fluids
  - Soft bodies (cloth, hair)
  - Rigid bodies (boxes, bones)

Why Does NVIDIA Make Physics Software?

- NVIDIA is mainly known as a developer and manufacturer of graphics hardware (GPU's)
- So taking advantage of GPU for hardware acceleration of their physics engine
  - Algorithms can be tuned to their hardware
  - Giving a competitive advantage over other GPU manufacturers

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# What Algorithms Does PhysX Use?

- Hard to know exactly, because algorithm details are NVIDIA's intellectual property (IP)
- However from various forums and clues, it is clear PhysX uses:
  - Both sweep and overlap collision detection
  - AABB and OBBT and (both axis-aligned and oriented bounding bounding box trees)
  - Constraints: hinges, springs, etc.
  - and lots of other hairy stuff, see https://devtalk.nvidia.com/default/board/66/physx-and-physics-modeling/

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Graphics ok, but with intensive and complex real-time fluid simulation



