Math and Physics for Video Game Developers

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KC Math Tech Expo, 2007

Current Market

- Video game hardware and software sales topped $12.5 billion in 2006, up 19%
- Hardware sales increased 43% from 2005 to 2006
- The 2007 Game Developer's Conference in San Francisco was attended by 25,000 people

JCCC Interest

- Growth of Video Game market suggested a need for programmers
- Computer Science division was experiencing a shift in the programming job market

Initial Institutional Planning

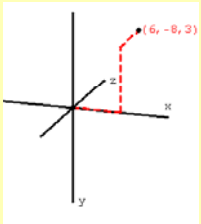
- An Associate Degree program
- College algebra prerequisite
- No physics prerequisite
- C++ computer prerequisite
- 4 credit hours

Our planning

- 4 credit hours would be 3 lecture, 2 lab
- Lectures: primarily math and physics
- Lab: implementing lecture material in C++
- Graded material: weekly homework & labs, 4 unit tests, final exam

Basic 2D & 3D Math

- Basic coordinates
- Distance Formula
- Lines, circles, spheres
- Bounding boxes
- Domains of basic functions

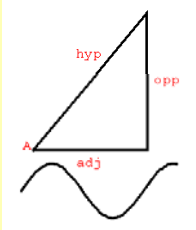


Basic Motion

- Units of measurement
- Position, velocity, acceleration in 1D
- 4 equations of motion (cst acceleration)
- Free Fall
- Forward Euler method

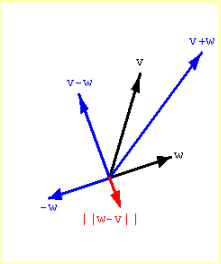
Basic Trigonometry

- Angle measures: degrees & radians
- Definitions & Graphs: sine, cosine
- Inverse functions: definitions, domain
- Identities: symmetric, translational
- Approximations: Taylor vs. Minimax



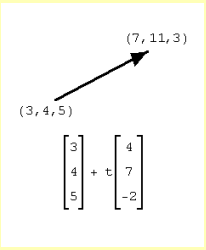
Basic Vectors

- Coordinate form
- Magnitude, heading and pitch
- Opposites, addition, subtraction
- Scaling, normalizing



Parametric Forms

- Line, Ray: defined by point and direction
- Convert to/from algebraic form
- Given point & direction, find new point
- Given 2 points, find direction

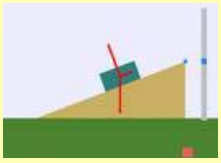


Projectile Motion

- Motion in 2D (generalizable to 3D)
- Vertical & horizontal components
- Acceleration due to gravity

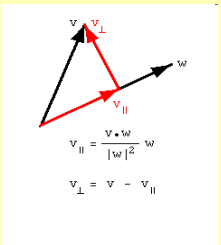
Newton's Laws

- Forces and accelerations
- Free body diagrams
- Normal forces
- Flat surfaces and Inclined planes
- Friction
- Wind resistance



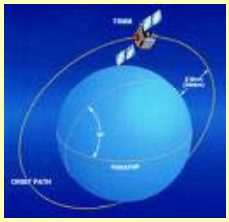
Vector Dot Products

- Definition & properties
- Dot product equations: 2D line, 3D plane
- Angle between two vectors
- Vector projection
- Perpendicular & parallel components



Circular Motion

- Centripetal forces
- Speed limits and tightest turns
- Gravity between two objects
- Circular orbits



Closest Points

- Closest point on a 3D line to a point
- Closest point on a plane to a point

Basic Matrices

- Definitions
- Equality of matrices
- Operations: add, subtract, scalar multiplication, transposition
- Determinants

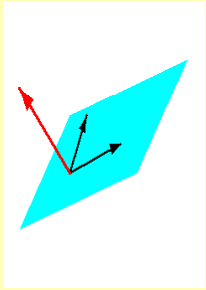
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 32 & -4 \\ 6 & 27 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 17 \\ 5 & 76 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$2A + 3B = ?$$

Vector Cross Products

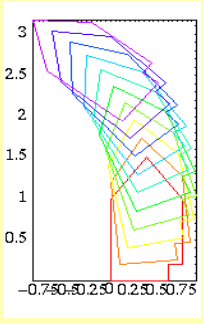
- Definition (as a determinant)
- Properties
- Finding equation of plane from 3 points



Matrix Multiplication

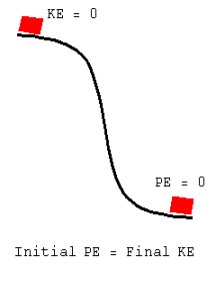
- Definition
- Identity matrices
- Homogeneous coordinates
- Matrices for scaling, translation, rotation

webMathematica demo



Work, Energy, and Power

- Work is a change in energy
- Kinetic energy: energy of motion
- Potential energy: stored energy
- Power: time rate at which work is done



Conservative Forces

- Conservative forces do no work (conservation of energy)
- Examples: gravity
- Using energy to find speed at bottom of a hill (assuming no friction)

Non-Conservative Forces

- Non-conservative forces can do work
- Examples: friction, air resistance, thrust, rope tension
- Using energy to find frictional force
- Finding speed at which work is done

Orbital Energy

- Gravitational Potential Energy
- Several sources of gravity
- Force fields

Collisions

- Momentum: p = mv
- Impulse: force in small time which changes momentum
- Conservation of momentum
- Recoil velocity
- Elastic and Inelastic collisions
- Reflections off walls

Rotation Matrices

- 2D rotations about origin
- 3D rotations about origin and axes
- Rotations about other points
- Rotations about another axis
- Concatenate all rotation matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 & 0 \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Rotational Motion

- angular displacement, angular velocity, angular acceleration
- tangential and centripetal acceleration
- Moment of inertia (rotational analog of mass)
- Torque (rotational analog of force)

The Labs

- 1. Collision detection (algebraically)
- 2. Linear accelerated motion (Forward Euler)
- 3. Force and motion (simulations of sliding box and a rocket)

The Labs

- 4. Angles (vector class, unary functions)
- 5. Projections (class binary functions)
- 6. Closest Points (class ternary functions)
- 7. Scaling & Translations (adding matrix multiplication to the class)

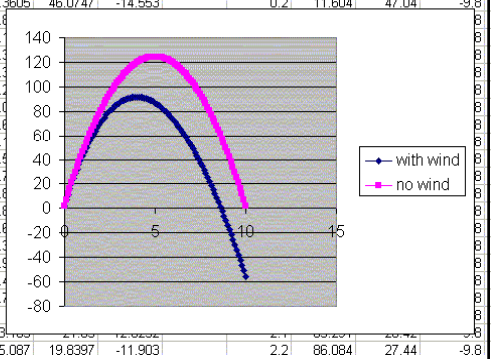
The Labs

- 8. Work and Energy (simulation of cart on a ramp and spacecraft around the earth)
- 9. Collisions and Momentum (object bouncing off of a plane, 2 objects colliding)
- 10. Rotations (about any axis and center)


```
// mpgU2c.cpp : Forward Euler method with given variable acceleration
// Steve Wilson, Jan. 31, 2007, home, MS Visual C++ 2001
// also tested in CLB 233, MS Visual C++ 2003

#include "stdafx.h"
#include <iostream>
#include <fstream>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
	// Declare variables
	const int arraySize = 1001;		// array size
	double deltaT;				// time step
	double x[arraySize];			// position
	double v[arraySize];			// velocity
	double a[arraySize];			// acceleration
	double t[arraySize];			// time
	int i = 0;				// loop counter
	int totalSteps;				// total number steps needed

	// Initialize variables
	t[0] = 0;
	cout << "Enter the initial position: ";
	cin >> x[0];
	cout << "Enter the initial velocity: ";
	cin >> v[0];
	a[0] = -9.8 - 0.1 * v[0];		// acc with wind resistance
	cout << "Enter the time step: ";
	cin >> deltaT;
```

```
	// Print header to screen
	cout << "Time \t Pos \t Vel \t Accel" << endl;
	cout << 0 << "\t" << x[0] << "\t" << v[0]
		<< "\t" << a[0] << endl;

	// Compute and print results to screen
	totalSteps = static_cast< int >( 10 / deltaT );
	do {
		t[i + 1] = t[0] + (i + 1) * deltaT;
		a[i + 1] = - 9.8 - 0.10 * v[i];
		v[i + 1] = v[i] + a[i + 1] * deltaT;
		x[i + 1] = x[i] + v[i + 1] * deltaT;
		cout << t[i + 1] << "\t" << x[i + 1] << "\t";
		cout << v[i + 1] << "\t" << a[i + 1] << endl;
	} while ( ++i < totalSteps);

	cout << endl;
	cout << endl;

	// Open sequential-access file
	ofstream outMotion(
		"C://Documents and Settings/All Users/Desktop/wind.dat",
		ios::out );

	// write results to file
	for (i = 0; i <= totalSteps; i++)
		outMotion << t[i] << ' ' << x[i] << ' ' << v[i]
			<< ' ' << a[i] << '\n';

	return 0;
// ofstream destructor will close file
}
```

Euler - Wind				Analytic - No Wind			
Time	Position	Velocity	Accel	Time	Position	Velocity	Accel
0	2	49	-14.7	0	2	49	-9.8
0.1	6.753	47.53	-14.7	0.1	6.851	48.02	-9.8
0.2	11.3605	46.0747	-14.553	0.2	11.604	47.04	-9.8
0.3	15.8						
0.4	20.1						
0.5	24.3						
0.6	28.3						
0.7	32.2						
0.8	36.0						
0.9	39.6						
1	43.1						
1.1	46.4						
1.2	49.7						
1.3	52.8						
1.4	55.8						
1.5	58.6						
1.6	61.3						
1.7	63.9						
1.8	66.4						
1.9	68.7						
2							
2.1	73.1						
2.2	75.087	19.8397	-11.903	2.2	86.084	27.44	-9.8



Students

- 8 students in Spring 2007
- 6 were Game degree candidates
- All had trig, 5 had some calculus
- C++ experience was varied
- Almost perfect attendance
- Grades: A, A, B, C, C, D, D, W
- Feedback: useful & challenging class

A Second Course ?

- Calculus prerequisite?
- Higher C++ prerequisite?
- Projections and viewing transformations
- Splines and Bezier Curves
- Quaternions
- Representing surfaces
- Lighting, shading, texturing