Simple Keyframe Animation

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Approaches to Animation

1. Motion Capture (“MoCap”)
2. Using the laws of physics (we’ll use this in the spring-based motion)
3. Using functional (target-driven) animation (we’ll use this in collision avoidance)
4. Using keyframing

Keyframing

Keyframing involves creating certain key positions for the objects in the scene, and then the program later interpolating the animation frames in between the key frames.

In hand-drawn animation, the key frames were developed by the senior animators, and the in-between frames were developed by the junior animators. In our case, you are going to be the senior animator, and the computer will do the in-betweening.

But, first we need to look into the mathematics of smooth curves . . .

Bézier Curves: the Derivation

One parametric line:

\[ P_t = (1-t)P_0 + tP_1 \]

Two parametric lines:

\[ P_t = (1-t)P_0 + tP_2 \]
\[ P_t = (1-t)P_1 + tP_2 \]
Bézier Curves: the Derivation

Two parametric lines, blended:

\[ P_0 = (1-t)P_0 + tP_1 \]
\[ P_1 = (1-t)P_1 + tP_2 \]
\[ P_{01} = (1-t)P_0 + tP_2 = (1-t)^2P_0 + 2(1-t)tP_1 + t^2P_2 \]

Three parametric lines, blended:

\[ P_0 = (1-t)P_0 + tP_1 \]
\[ P_1 = (1-t)P_1 + tP_2 \]
\[ P_2 = (1-t)P_2 + tP_3 \]
\[ P_{01} = (1-t)^2P_0 + 2(1-t)tP_1 + t^2P_2 \]
\[ P_{12} = (1-t)^2P_1 + 2(1-t)tP_2 + t^2P_3 \]
\[ P_{23} = (1-t)^2P_2 + 2(1-t)tP_3 + t^2P_4 \]
\[ P_{012} = (1-t)^3P_0 + 3(1-t)^2tP_1 + 3(1-t)t^2P_2 + t^3P_3 \]
\[ P_{123} = (1-t)^3P_1 + 3(1-t)^2tP_2 + 3(1-t)t^2P_3 + t^3P_4 \]

The General Form of Cubic Curves

\[ P(t) = A + Bt + Ct^2 + Dt^3 \]

In this form, you need to determine 4 quantities (A, B, C, D) in order to use the equation. That means you have to provide 4 pieces of information. In the Bézier curve, this happens by specifying the 4 points.

Rearranging gives:

\[ A = P_0 \]
\[ B = -3P_0 + 3P_1 \]
\[ C = 3P_0 - 6P_1 + 3P_2 \]
\[ D = -P_0 + 3P_1 - 3P_2 + P_3 \]

Coons (also called Hermite) Cubic Curves

Another approach to specifying the 4 pieces of information would be to give a start point, an end point, a start parametric slope, and an end parametric slope.

If we do this, then the equation of the curve is:

\[ P = A + Bt + Ct^2 + Dt^3 \]

\[ \dot{P}_0 = \frac{dP}{dt} \]
\[ \dot{P}_1 = \frac{dP}{dt} \]

where:

\[ A = P_0 \]
\[ B = P_1 \]
\[ C = -3P_0 + 3P_1 - 2P_0 - P_1 \]
\[ D = 2P_0 - 2P_1 + P_0 + P_1 \]
Now, let's apply this to the Y translation of a keyframe animation. To make this simple to use, our goal is to just specify the keyframe values, not the slopes. We will let the computer compute the slopes for us, which will then result in being able to compute the in-between frames.

The "Y vs. Frame" curve looks like this:

Computing the end slopes for the Y translation:

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{dY}{dt}_0 &= \frac{Y_i - Y_{i-1}}{F_i - F_{i-1}} \\
\frac{dY}{dt}_1 &= \frac{Y_i - Y_{i}}{F_i - F_{i}} \\
\frac{dF}{dt}_i &= \frac{F_i - F_{i-1}}{1, -0} = F'_i - F_0 \\
\frac{dY}{dt}_i &= \frac{Y_i - Y_{i+1}}{F_i - F_{i+1}} \\
\frac{dY}{dt}_{i+1} &= \frac{Y_{i+1} - Y_{i}}{F_{i+1} - F_{i}} \\
\frac{dF}{dt}_{i+1} &= \frac{F_{i+1} - F_{i}}{1, -0} \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
A = Y_i \\
B = Y_i \\
C = -3Y_i + 3Y_{i-1} - 2Y_0 - Y_i \\
D = 2Y_i - 2Y_{i-1} + Y_{i+1} - Y_i \\
Y &= A + Bt + Cy^2 + Dy^2
\]
Getting the Two End Slopes

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{dY}{dt} &= \frac{Y_{i+2} - Y_i}{F_{i+2} - F_i} = \frac{650 - 650}{525 - 300} = \frac{0}{225} = 0, \\
\frac{dY}{dt} &= \frac{Y_{i+2} - Y_i}{F_{i+2} - F_i} = \frac{650 - 650}{525 - 300} = \frac{0}{225} = 0
\end{align*}
\]

Do This Same Thing for the X, Y, and Z Translations and the X, Y, and Z Rotations

\[
\begin{align*}
\theta_X &= \theta_{X1} + \theta_{X2}\theta_X  \\
\theta_Y &= \theta_{Y1} + \theta_{Y2}\theta_Y  \\
\theta_Z &= \theta_{Z1} + \theta_{Z2}\theta_Z
\end{align*}
\]

Using the System Clock in Animate() for Timing

if( AnimationIsOn )
{
if( # msec into the cycle ( 0 - MSEC-1 ) )
 {
int msec = glutGet( GLUT_ELAPSED_TIME )  %  MSEC;
int NowFrame = (int) (  (float)MAXFRAME * (float)msec / (float)MSEC  );
for( int i = 0; i < maxKeyframes; i++ )
{
if( ????? )
{
KeyFrameBefore = ?????;  
KeyFrameAfter = ?????;  
brea;
}
}
if( i < 1 ) { returnKeyframes[ -1 ];  }  
int NowFrame = (int) (  (float)MAXFRAME * (float)msec / (float)MSEC  );
NowT = ?????

A Final Word

If you ever do this "for real", quaternions are a better way to do the rotations. Quaternions are essentially 4D complex numbers, the details of which are beyond the scope of this class. They do a smoother job of rotations because they deal with an angle and an axis of rotation, rather than 3 angles about the principle axes, which is somewhat arbitrary.

See, for example, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quaternion