The Jello Cube
Assignment 1, CS599, Spring 2011

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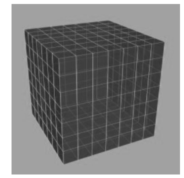
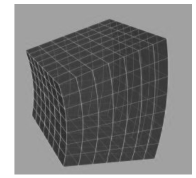
The jello cube



Undeformed cube

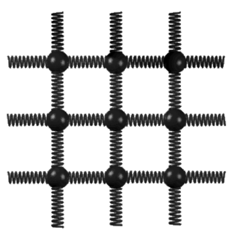


Deformed cube

- The jello cube is elastic,
- Can be bent, stretched, squeezed, …,
- Without external forces, it eventually restores to the original shape.

Mass-Spring System

- Several mass points
- Connected to each other by springs
- Springs expand and stretch, exerting force on the mass points
- Very often used to simulate cloth
- Examples:
  A 2-particle spring system
  Another 2-particle example
  Cloth animation example

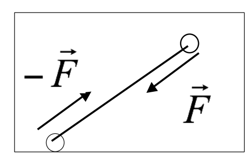


Newton's Laws

- Newton's 2nd law:

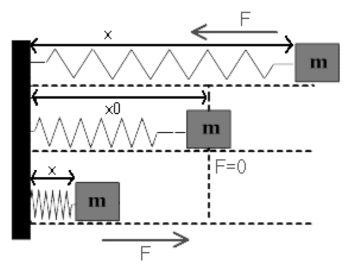
$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

  - Tells you how to compute acceleration, given the force and mass
- Newton's 3rd law: If object A exerts a force F on object B, then object B is at the same time exerting force -F on A.



Single spring

- Obeys the *Hook's law*:
  F = k (x - x_0)
- x_0 = rest length
- k = spring elasticity (aka stiffness)
- For $x<x_0$, spring wants to extend
- For $x>x_0$, spring wants to contract



Hook's law in 3D

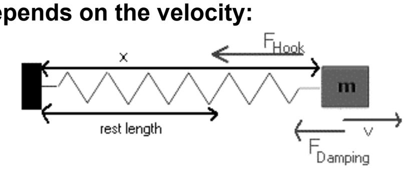
- Assume A and B two mass points connected with a spring.
- Let L be the vector pointing from B to A
- Let R be the spring rest length
- Then, the elastic force exerted on A is:

$$\vec{F} = -k_{Hook}(|\vec{L}| - R)\frac{\vec{L}}{|\vec{L}|}$$

Damping

- Springs are not completely elastic
- They absorb some of the energy and tend to decrease the velocity of the mass points attached to them
- Damping force depends on the velocity:

$$\vec{F} = -k_d\vec{v}$$



- k_d = damping coefficient
- k_d different than k_{Hook} !!

Damping in 3D

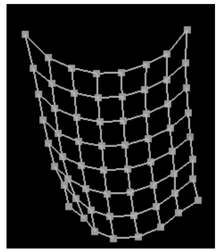
- Assume A and B two mass points connected with a spring.
- Let L be the vector pointing from B to A
- Then, the damping force exerted on A is:

$$\vec{F} = -k_d \frac{(\vec{v}_A - \vec{v}_B)\cdot\vec{L}}{|\vec{L}|}\frac{\vec{L}}{|\vec{L}|}$$

- Here v_A and v_B are velocities of points A and B
- Damping force always OPPOSES the motion

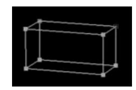
A network of springs

- Every mass point connected to some other points by springs
- Springs exert forces on mass points
  - Hook's force
  - Damping force
- Other forces
  - External force field
    - » Gravity
    - » Electrical or magnetic force field
  - Collision force

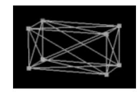


How to organize the network (for jello cube)

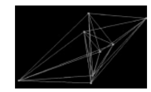
- To obtain stability, must organize the network of springs in some clever way
- Jello cube is a 8x8x8 mass point network
- 512 discrete points
- Must somehow connect them with springs



Basic network



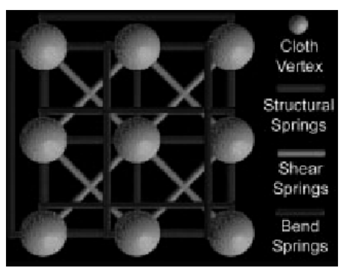
Stable network



Network out of control

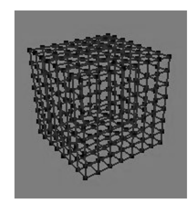
Solution:
Structural, Shear and Bend Springs

- There will be three types of springs:
  - Structural
  - Shear
  - Bend
- Each has its own function



Structural springs

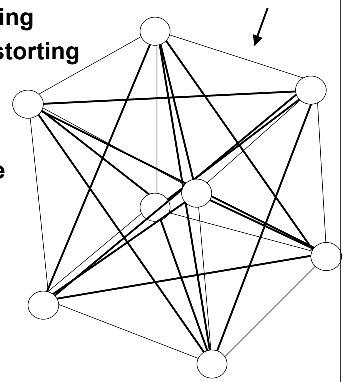
- Connect every node to its 6 direct neighbours
- Node (i,j,k) connected to
  - (i+1,j,k), (i-1,j,k), (i,j-1,k), (i,j+1,k), (i,j,k-1), (i,j,k+1)
    (for surface nodes, some of these neighbors might not exists)
- Structural springs establish the basic structure of the jello cube
- The picture shows structural springs for the jello cube. Only springs connecting two surface vertices are shown.

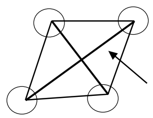


Shear springs

A 3D cube
(if you can't see it immediately, keep trying)

- **Disallow excessive shearing**
- **Prevent the cube from distorting**
- **Every node (i,j,k) connected to its diagonal neighbors**
- **Structural springs = white**
- **Shear springs = red**



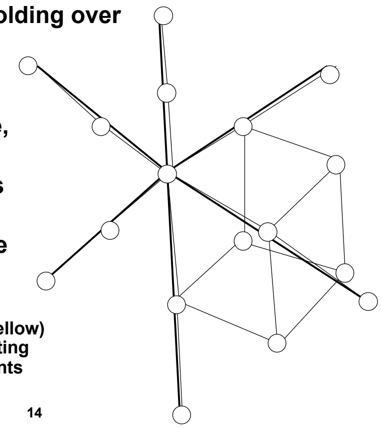


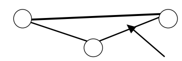
Shear spring (red) resists stretching and thus prevents shearing

13

Bend springs

- **Prevent the cube from folding over**
- **Every node connected to its second neighbor in every direction (6 connections per node, unless surface node)**
- **white=structural springs**
- **yellow=bend springs (shown for a single node only)**





Bend spring (yellow) resists contracting and thus prevents bending

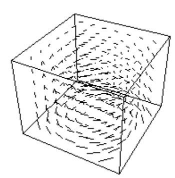
14

External force field

- **If there is an external force field, add that force to the sum of all the forces on a mass point**

$$\vec{F}_{total} = \vec{F}_{Hook} + \vec{F}_{damping} + \vec{F}_{force\ field}$$

- **There is one such equation for every mass point and for every moment in time**



15

Collision detection

- **The movement of the jello cube is limited to a bounding box**
- **Collision detection easy:**
  - Check all the vertices if any of them is outside the box
- **Inclined plane:**
  - Equation: $F(x, y, z) = ax + by + cz + d = 0$
  - Initially, all points on the same side of the plane
  - F(x,y,z)>0 on one side of the plane and F(x,y,z)<0 on the other
  - Can check all the vertices for this condition

16

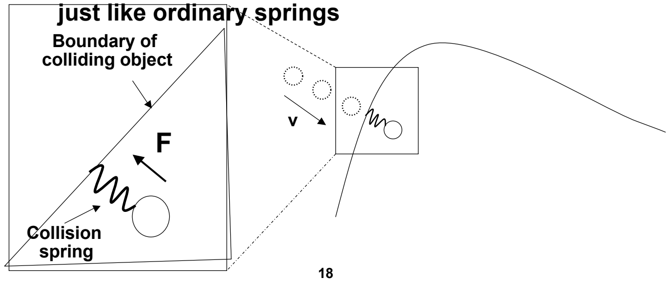
Collision response

- When collision happens, must perform some action to prevent the object penetrating even deeper
- Object should bounce away from the colliding object
- Some energy is usually lost during the collision
- Several ways to handle collision response
- We will use the *penalty method*

17

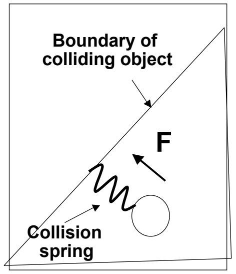
The penalty method

- When collision happens, put an artificial *collision spring* at the point of collision, which will push the object backwards and away from the colliding object
- Collision springs have elasticity and damping, just like ordinary springs



18

Penalty force



- Direction is normal to the contact surface
- Magnitude is proportional to the amount of penetration
- Collision spring rest length is zero

19

Integrators

- Network of mass points and springs
- Hook's law, damping law and Newton's 2nd law give acceleration of every mass point at any given time
- F=ma
  - Hook's law and damping provide F
  - 'm' is point mass
  - The value for a follows from F=ma
- Now, we know acceleration at any given time for any point
- Want to compute the actual motion

20

Integrators (contd.)

- The equations of motion:

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \vec{v}$$

$$\frac{d^2\vec{x}}{dt^2} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \vec{a}(t) = \frac{1}{m}(\vec{F}_{Hook} + \vec{F}_{damping} + \vec{F}_{force\ field})$$

- x = point position, v = point velocity, a = point acceleration
- They describe the movement of any single mass point
- F_{hook}=sum of all Hook forces on a mass point
- $F_{damping}$ = sum of all damping forces on a mass point

21

Integrators (contd.)

- When we put these equations together for all the mass points, we obtain a system of ordinary differential equations.
- In general, impossible to solve analytically
- Must solve numerically
- Methods to solve such systems numerically are called *integrators*
- Most widely used:
  – Euler
  – Runge-Kutta 2nd order (aka the midpoint method) (RK2)
  – Runge-Kutta 4th order (RK4)

22

Integrator design issues

- Numerical stability
  – If time step too big, method "explodes"
  – t = 0.001 is a good starting choice for the assignment
  – Euler much more unstable than RK2 or RK4
    » Requires smaller time-step, but is simple and hence fast
  – Euler rarely used in practice
- Numerical accuracy
  – Smaller time steps means more stability and accuracy
  – But also means more computation
- Computational cost
  – Tradeoff: accuracy vs computation time

23

Integrators (contd.)

- RK4 is often the method of choice
- RK4 very popular for engineering applications
- The time step should be inversely proportional to the square root of the elasticity *k* [*Courant condition*]
- For the assignment, we provide the integrator routines (Euler, RK4)
  – void Euler(struct world * jello);
  – void RK4(struct world * jello);
  – Calls to there routines make the simulation progress one time-step further.
  – State of the simulation stored in 'jello' and automatically updated

24

Tips

- Use double precision for all calculations (double)
- Do not overstretch the z-buffer
  - It has finite precision
  - Ok: gluPerspective(90.0,1.0,0.01,1000.0);
  - Bad: gluPerspective(90.0,1.0,0.0001,100000.0);
- Choosing the right elasticity and damping parameters is an art
  - Trial and error
  - For a start, can set the ordinary and collision parameters the same
- Read the webpage for updates