



Course Plan



- lec. 1: **Introduction** ●
- lec. 2: **Mathematics** for 3D Games ●●●●●●
- lec. 3: **Scene Graph** ●
- lec. 4: **Game 3D Physics** ●📍● + ●●
- lec. 5: **Game Particle Systems** ◀
- lec. 6: **Game 3D Models** ▶●
- lec. 7: **Game Textures** ●●
- lec. 9: **Game Materials** ◀
- lec. 8: **Game 3D Animations** ▶●●
- lec. 10: **Networking** for 3D Games ●
- lec. 11: **3D Audio** for 3D Games ●
- lec. 12: **Rendering Techniques** for 3D Games ●
- lec. 13: **Artificial Intelligence** for 3D Games ●

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Example of forces: etc



- Remember all forces acting on a particle add up!
(vector summatory)

$\vec{f} \leftarrow \text{fun}(\mathbf{p}, \dots)$

one
step

$\vec{a} \leftarrow \vec{f} / m$

$\mathbf{p} \leftarrow \mathbf{p} + \vec{v} \cdot dt$

$\vec{v} \leftarrow \vec{v} + \vec{a} \cdot dt$

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Example of forces: gravitational forces (near a planet)

- Given a particle in \mathbf{p} with (gravitational) mass m

Gravity acceleration constant (scalar, depends on the planet)


Downward versor

$$\vec{f} = g m \hat{d}_{Down}$$

- Note: does not depend on position
- Note: if this is the only force, acceleration is just $\vec{a} = \frac{m}{m} g \hat{d}_{Down}$

Gravitational mass

Inertial mass



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Example of forces: gravitational forces (in open space)

- Given two particles in \mathbf{p}_a and \mathbf{p}_b with (gravitational) masses m_a and m_b

a global constant

$$\vec{f}_a = \frac{G m_a m_b}{\|\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a\|^2} \frac{\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a}{\|\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a\|}$$

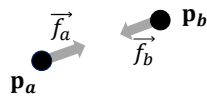
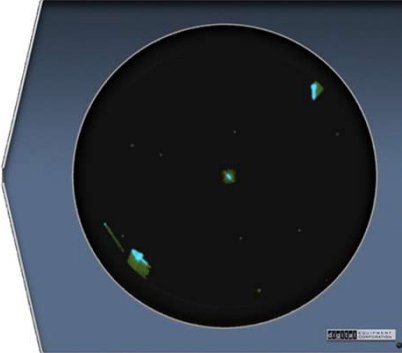
force magnitude (a scalar)

force direction (a versor)

$$= \frac{G m_a m_b}{\|\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a\|^3} (\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a)$$

$\vec{f}_b = -\vec{f}_a$

As used by the first videogame: **spacewars!**

this image from the simulation at <https://www.masswerk.at/spacewar/>

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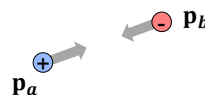
Example of forces: electric forces

- Given two charged particles in \mathbf{p}_a and \mathbf{p}_b with positive or negative charges q_a and q_b

some global constant

$$\vec{f}_a = \frac{-K q_a q_b}{\|\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a\|^2} \frac{\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a}{\|\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a\|} = \frac{-K q_a q_b}{\|\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a\|^3} (\mathbf{p}_b - \mathbf{p}_a)$$

force magnitude (scalar) positive or negative
force direction (versor)



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Example of forces: wind pressure

- Wind is a force acting on surfaces
- The larger the exposed surface to the wind, the STRONGER / MORE INTENSE the force
- The more orthogonal the surface to the wind direction, the larger the force
- The stronger the wind pressure \vec{w} (a vector), the larger the force

A diagram showing a cloud on the left blowing wind, represented by a blue arrow labeled \vec{w} , towards a grey triangle. The vertices of the triangle are labeled \mathbf{p}_0 , \mathbf{p}_1 , and \mathbf{p}_2 .

$$\vec{f} = \left\| \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0) \times (\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_0) \cdot \vec{w} \right\| \frac{\vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|}$$

force magnitude (scalar)
force direction (versor)

(apply 1/3 of \vec{f} on each particle)

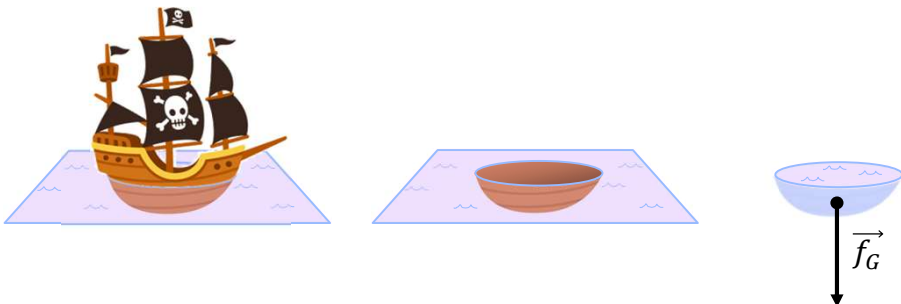
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Example of forces: buoyancy

- Opposite of gravity force \vec{f}_G
 - of the submerged part... if it was made of water
 - mass of the submerged part = its volume *times* density of water

or whichever liquid

mass/volume
aka "specific mass"



The diagram shows three scenarios of buoyancy. On the left, a pirate ship floats on water. In the middle, a bowl floats on water. On the right, a bowl is fully submerged in water, with a downward-pointing arrow labeled \vec{f}_G representing the gravity force.

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Attrition (or friction) forces

- *Isotropic* friction **forces** :
 - a force that opposes any motion, regardless of its direction
 - direction: always opposite of current velocity direction
 - magnitude: proportional to the speed (= magnitude of velocity vector)
 - note: this force depends on velocity, not positions.
 - models the effect of the medium where the motion happens (air, water, thin space...)
 - the denser the medium, the stronger the force (water >> air >> thin space)
- Planar friction **forces**:
 - A force that happens when things slide against each other
 - Always parallel to the contact plane (orthogonal to the normal)

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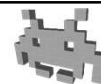
Attrition (or friction) forces: simulate them with *velocity damping*



- A useful trick to simulate isotropic friction: “velocity damping”
 - simply reduce all velocity vectors by a fixed proportion
 - for example: scale velocity down by 2% per second (“drag factor” = 0.02 / sec)
(that is, scale velocity vectors by a factor 0.98)
 - Why it makes sense:
Higher speed = more attrition = more loss of speed.
So, attrition = a “fixed tax” (in %) on speed.
- For planar friction:
 - Split velocity into parallel / orthogonal parts
 - Apply different Drag factors to each parts

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Velocity Damping: how to (in one example)



- Objective: “reduce speed by 1.5% *every second*”
- So:
 - After 1 second: $\vec{v} \leftarrow (1.0 - 0.015) \vec{v}$
 - After 2 seconds? $\vec{v} \leftarrow (1.0 - 0.015)^2 \vec{v}$
 - After k seconds? $\vec{v} \leftarrow (1.0 - 0.015)^k \vec{v}$
 - After dt seconds? $\vec{v} \leftarrow (1.0 - 0.015)^{dt} \vec{v}$
e.g 1/60 = 0.17 sec
 - Which can be approximated with $\vec{v} \leftarrow (1.0 - 0.015 \cdot dt) \vec{v}$
 - The approximation is good when *this* is small

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Velocity Damping: pseudo-code



```
Vec3 position = ...
Vec3 velocity = ...

void initState(){
    position = ...
    velocity = ...
}

void physicsStep( float dt )
{
    Vec3 acceleration = force( positions ) / mass;
    position += velocity * dt;
    velocity += acceleration * dt;
    velocity *= (1.0 - DRAG * dt);
}

void main(){
    initState();
    while (1) do physicsStep( 1.0 / FPS );
}
```

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Velocity Damping: notes



- Velocity Damping is useful for robustness,
 - Prevents the energy to ever increase
- Problems of Velocity Damping
 - it may exaggerate frictions of, e.g., air, especially in absence of contacts
 - it's a crude approximation: attrition forces are not really *linear* with speed
- In practice:
 - low drag: hardly noticeable (in the short run), increases robustness
 - high drag: everything feels like to be moving in molasses; (ita: *melassa*); everything quickly grinds to a halt
 - super high drag: (e.g. 10% per sec) basically, no inertia anymore. May be useful to converge to (local) minimal energy states: your simulator is basically solver for **statics not dynamics**

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Continuity of pos and vel



- In real Newtonian physics the state (pos and vel) can only change *continuously*
 - No sudden jump!
- In practice, sometimes is useful to artificially break continuity in the simulations
- Discontinuous changes:
 - for positions: “teleports”
 - for velocity: “impulses”
 - In the real world, those variations can well be consequences of forces, but these forces are not modelled as such, in our system

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Dynamics displacements VS kinematic

a discontinuous
change of state (position)

$$\dots$$
$$p = p + \vec{v} \cdot dt$$
$$\dots$$

aka **dynamic**
displacements

Justified
by physics

$$\dots$$
$$p = p + dp$$
$$\dots$$

aka **Kinematic**
displacements

Just
“teleportation”

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Impulses VS Forces

...

$$\vec{v} = \vec{v} + (\vec{f} / m) \cdot dt$$

...

...

$$\vec{v} = \vec{v} + (\vec{i} / m) \cdot dt$$

...

a discontinuous change of state (velocity)

- **Forces** (continuous)
 - Continuous application
 - every frame
- **Impulses**
 - Infinitesimal time
 - una tantum

they model very intense but short forces (such as impacts)

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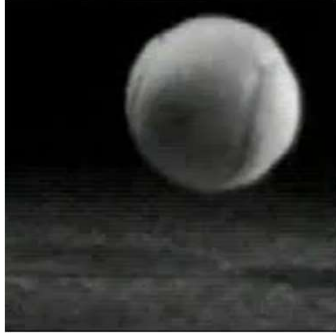
Impulses VS Forces

- **Force** :
 - it determines an **acceleration**
 - **acc** determines a (continuous!) change of **vel**
 - physically correct
- **Impulse** :
 - a (**discontinuous!**) change of **vel**
 - useful to control a simulation (direct change of velocity)
 - a physical interpretation: a force with:
 - application time approaching **zero**
 - magnitude approaching **infinity**
 - Useful to model phenomena with a time scale $\ll dt$
 - ex: a tennis ball rebounding against a tennis racket

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Impulses VS Forces

- what does *truly* happen when it bounces off the ground?

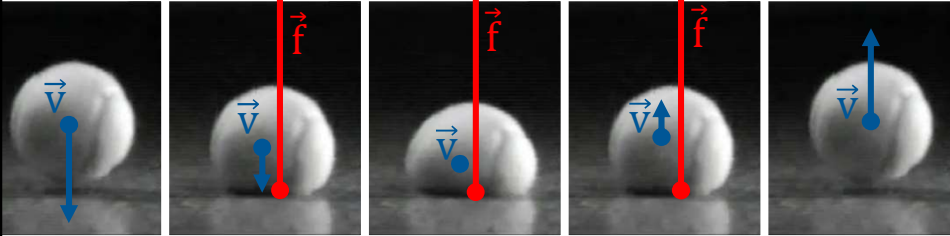


- very strong forces (but not infinite)
- applied for a very short time (but not instantaneous)
- see *collision response* later for details about the impulse-based approximations

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Impulses VS Forces

- what does *truly* happen when it bounces off the ground?



0 msec 1 msec 2 msec 3 msec 4 msec

- very strong forces (but not infinite)
- applied for a very short time (but not instantaneous)
- see *collision response* later for details about the impulse based approximations

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Impulses VS Forces

- what does *truly* happen when it bounces off the ground?

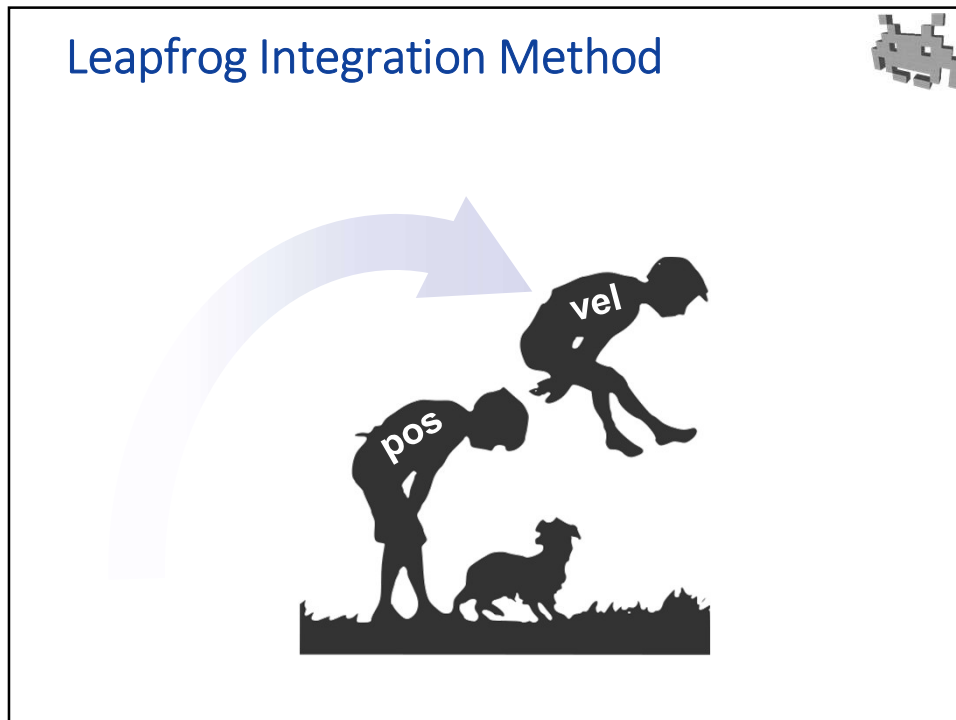
- This can only be modelled as an *impulse*, not a force
- See also *collision response*, later

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Next: better integration methods for (Newtonian) dynamics

```
graph TD; forces --> acceler.; acceler. --> velocity; velocity --> positions; positions --> forces;
```


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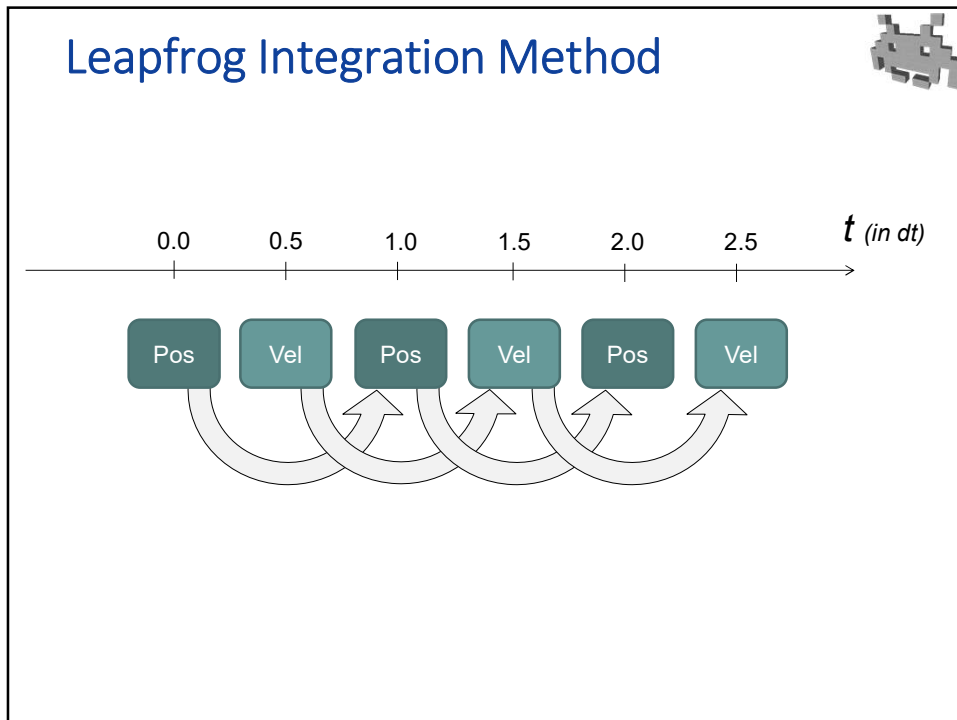
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Leapfrog Integration Method

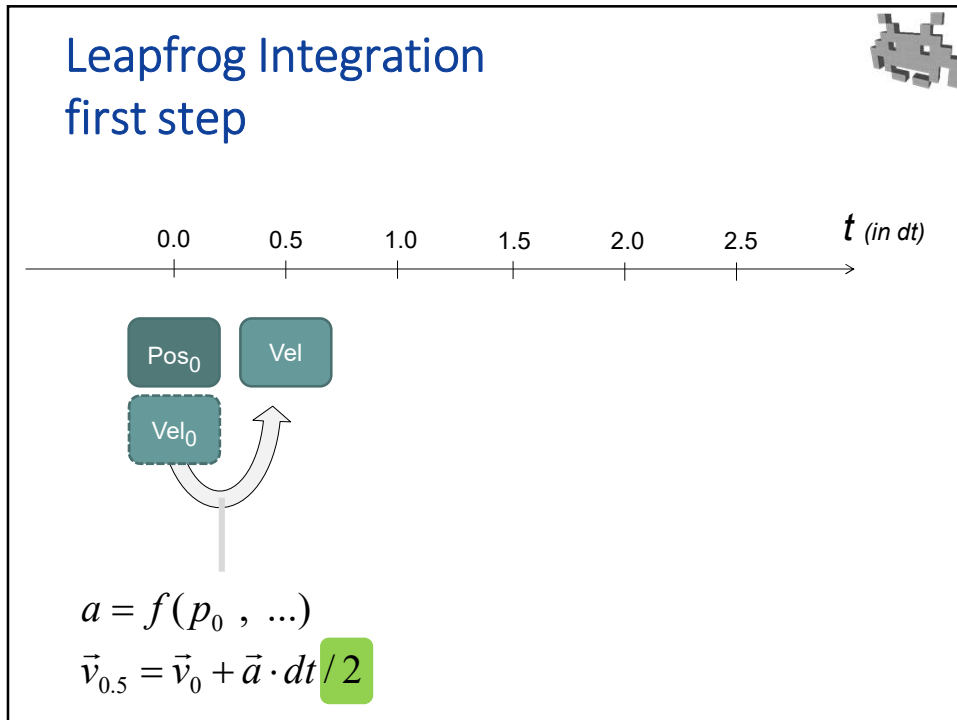
- Basic Idea:
store positions at time $k \cdot dt$ (0, dt, 2dt, 3dt...)
but store velocities at time $k \cdot dt + \frac{1}{2} dt$
- Equivalent to use a summatory of the areas of trapezoids, (having base dt and height $v(t)$) not rectangles, to compute the integral



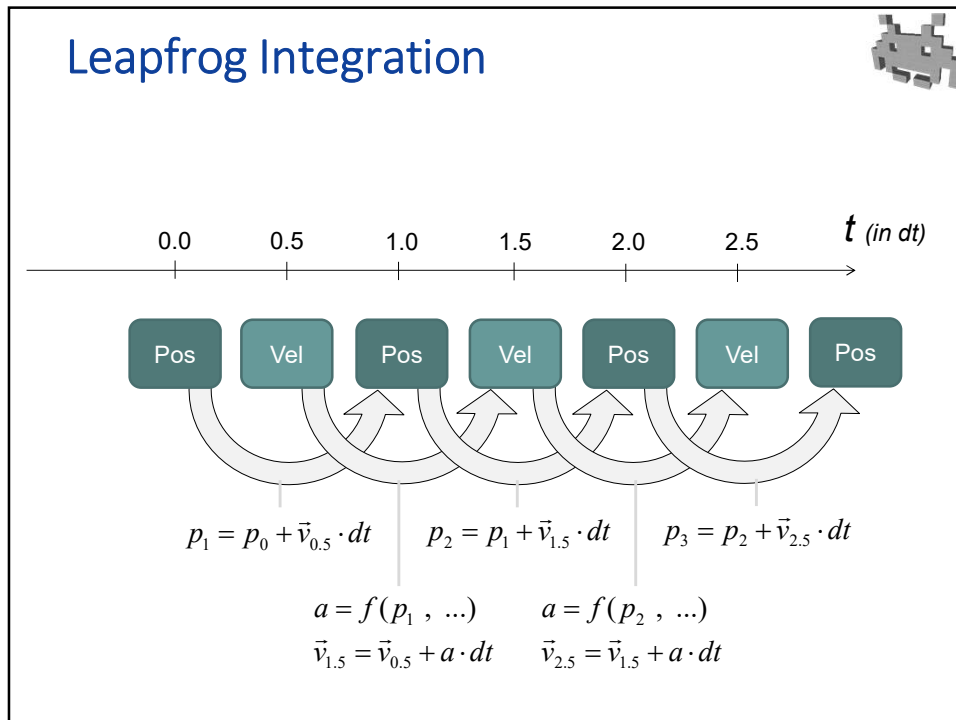
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Leapfrog method: pros and cons

- Same cost as Euler – and basically same code
 - Velocity stored in status = velocity “half a dt ago” (and after updating it: “half a frame in the future”)
 - Only real difference: the initialization of speed
- Better theoretical accuracy, for the same dt
 - better asymptotic behavior: it’s a “second order” system instead of first!
 - cumulated error: proportional to dt^2 instead of dt
 - error per frame: proportional to dt^3 instead of dt^2
- Bonus: fully reversible!
 - in theory only. Beware numerical errors.
- But: requires fixed dt during all the simulation
 - for the theory to work as advertised

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Verlet integration method

- Idea: remove velocity from state
Instead, store previous position
- Velocity is now implicit
- It's defined by:
 - current pos \mathbf{p}_{now}
 - last pos \mathbf{p}_{old}
which we need to record

A diagram showing two grey dots representing positions. The left dot is labeled \mathbf{p}_{old} and the right dot is labeled \mathbf{p}_{now} . A black arrow points from \mathbf{p}_{old} to \mathbf{p}_{now} with the label $\vec{v} \cdot dt$ above it.

$$\mathbf{p}_{now} = \mathbf{p}_{old} + \vec{v} \cdot dt$$
⇨ Euler & variants

$$\vec{v} = (\mathbf{p}_{now} - \mathbf{p}_{old})/dt$$
⇨ Verlet

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Verlet integration method: (modifying Euler integration...)

init state $\mathbf{p}_{now} = \dots$
 $\mathbf{p}_{old} = \dots$

one step

$$\vec{f} = \text{funct}(\mathbf{p}_{now}, \dots)$$

$$\vec{a} = \vec{f}/m$$

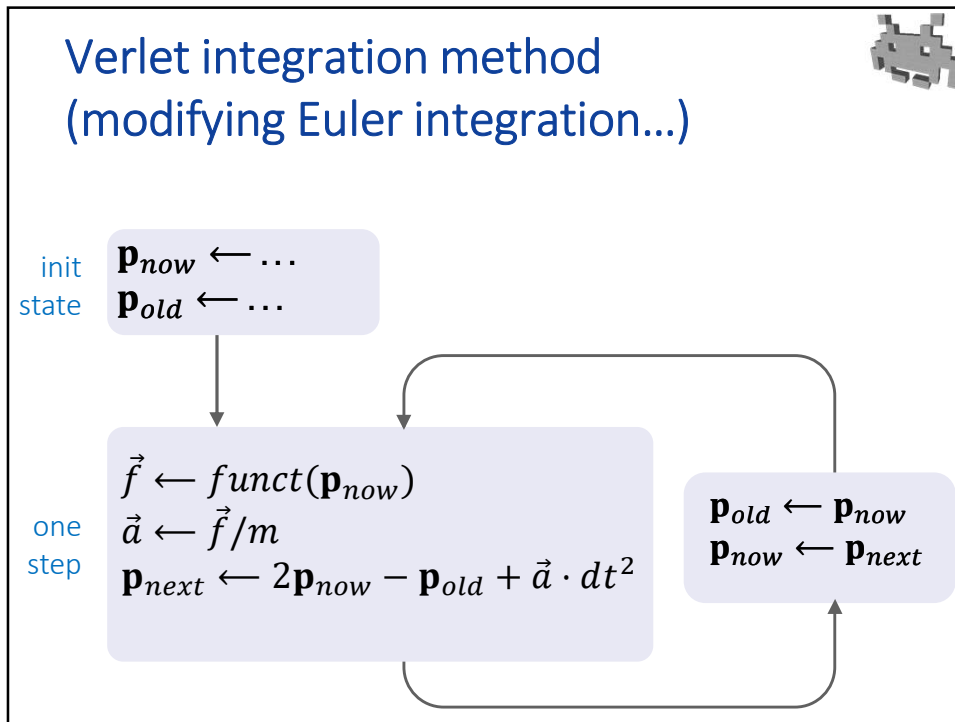
$$\vec{v} = (\mathbf{p}_{now} - \mathbf{p}_{old})/dt$$

$$\vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{a} \cdot dt$$

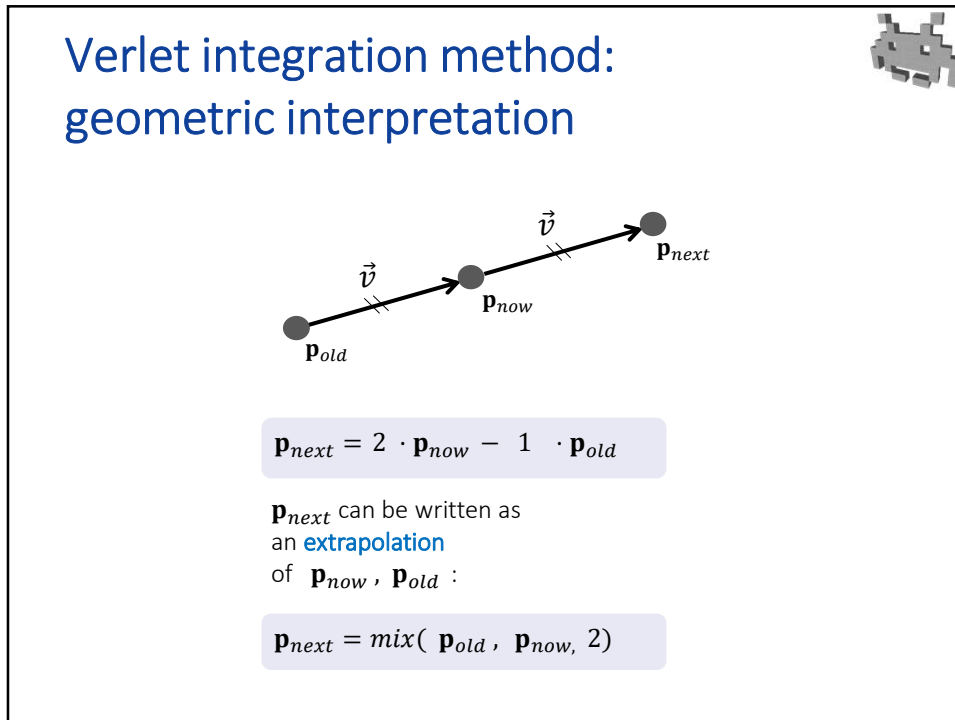
$$\mathbf{p}_{next} = \mathbf{p}_{now} + \vec{v} \cdot dt$$

expanding this...

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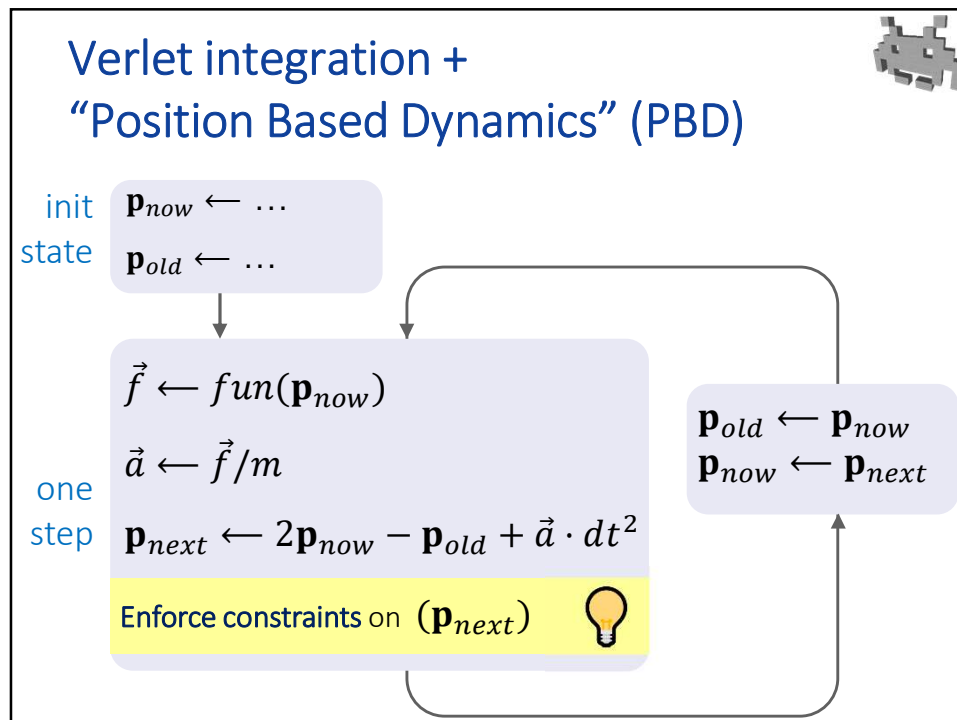
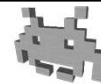
Verlet: characteristics



- Velocity is kept implicit
 - but that doesn't save RAM:
we need to store previous position instead
 - (a point instead of a vector: same memory)
- Good efficiency / accuracy ratio
 - Per-step error: linear with dt
 - accumulated error: order of dt^2 (second order method)
- Extra bonus: reversibility
 - it's possible to go backward in t and reach the initial state from any state
 - only in theory... careful with implementation details

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Verlet integration + "Position Based Dynamics" (PBD)



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Position Based Dynamics (PDB)

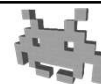


- A **positional constraint** is an equality/inequality involving the *positions* of particles.
 - Useful, for example, to model consistency conditions
 - Like “*solid objects don’t compenetrates each other*”, or “*steel bars won’t become shorter or longer than they are*”
 - We will see many examples
- 💡 We **enforce** (impose) positional constraint directly by displacing the *positions* of particles
 - Thanks to Verlet: this displacement automatically causes some appropriate update of the velocity!
 - it’s not necessarily correct, but it’s plausible and robust

a formula with ‘=’ ‘>’ ‘<’ etc.

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Example of a positional constraint



«I want all particles to stay above ground (that is, their y must never be negative) »

Enforce this constraint: trivial!

```
for (each particle i)
{
  if (p[i].y < 0) p[i].y = 0;
}
```



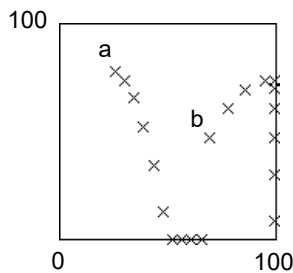
Imposing constraints like this one is a first part of **collision response**. For re-bounces, **impulses** must still be added (see collisions).

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Example of a positional constraint (here, in 2D physics)



«I want particles to stay
inside a 2D box [0 – 100] x [0 – 100] »



Enforce this constraint: simple clamp!

```
for (each particle i)
{
  p[i].x = clamp( p[i].x, 0, 100 );
  p[i].y = clamp( p[i].y, 0, 100 );
}
```



Imposing constraints like this one is a first part of **collision response**.
For re-bounces, **impulses** must still be added (see collisions).

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Verlet + Position Based Dynamics. Advantages



- **flexibility**: different constraints can be used to model many different phenomena
 - Useful constraints are straightforward to define
 - They are easy to impose (they involve only few particles)
 - They can be used to model many possible phenomena
 - See following slides for examples
- **robustness** : plausibility is ensured by *explicitly* enforcing the conditions we want to see
 - For example: a ball won't ever be seen outside the box containing it – and it will also recover from mistakes
- No forces / impulses are needed to enforce any such consistency conditions

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How to enforce positional constraint? (see next lecture for the answer)



When enforcing constraints...

- If a constraint is valid, no problem.
- If it doesn't, there can be many way to change particle POSITIONS, so that it does

⚠ Which one to pick?

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Verlet: *caveats* (see next lecture for solutions)



⚠ it assumes a constant dt (time-step duration)

- if dt varies: corrections are needed! (how?)

⚠ Q: how to act on **velocity** (which is now implicit)?

- for example, how to apply **impulses** ?
- A: change \mathbf{p}_{old} instead (how?)

⚠ Q: how to act of **positions** w/o impacting velocity?

- for example, to apply **teleports** / **kinematic motions** ?
- A: change both \mathbf{p}_{new} and \mathbf{p}_{old} (how?)

⚠ Q: how to apply **velocity damps**?

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