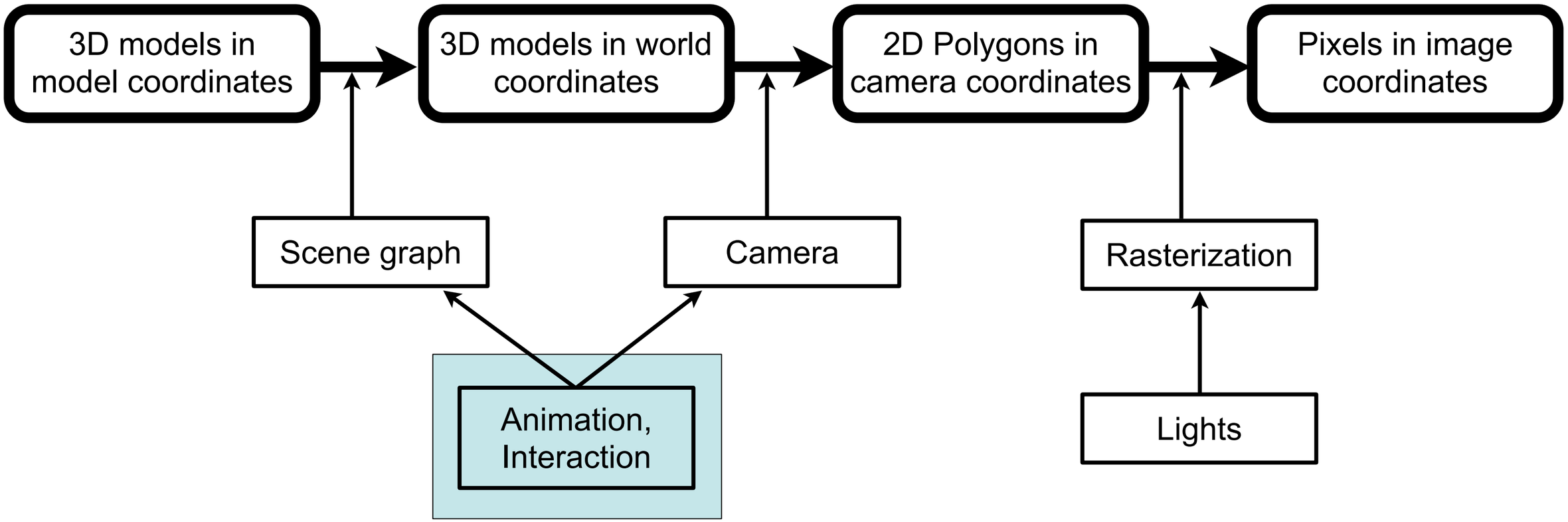
Computer Graphics 1

Chapter 8 (July 14th, 2011, 2-4pm): Animation

The 3D rendering pipeline (our version for this class)



Chapter 8 - Animation

- Animation before the time of 3DCG
- Animation techniques
  - keyframing
  - bone animation & motion capture
  - simulation
- Animation principles

Animation == bring to life

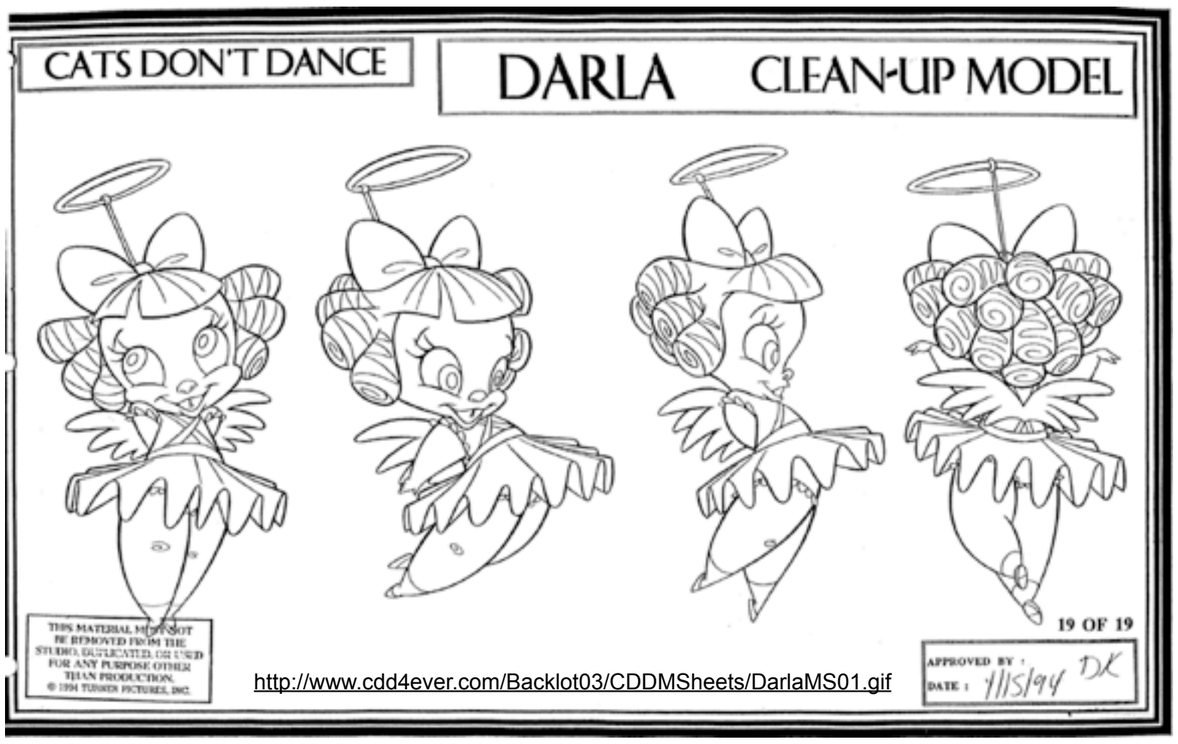
- Generally any kind of **moving** graphics
  - flipbooks
  - cartoon films
  - computer animation
- Sequence of single images
  - Movie: 24, TV: 30, Comp.: up to >100/sec.
- Impression of movement >6 fps (???)
- 3D animation most often at video frame rates

http://disney-clipart.com/aristocats/Disney_Aristocats_Kittens.php

http://germanblogs.de/pub/germanblogs/digitallife/daumenkino_0.jpg

Creating a classic cartoon animation

- idea > treatment > story board, sound
- draw keyframes (expensive)
  - important or tricky phases of motion
- interpolate between keyframes (cheap)
  - easy and straightforward phases
- color and film the single frames



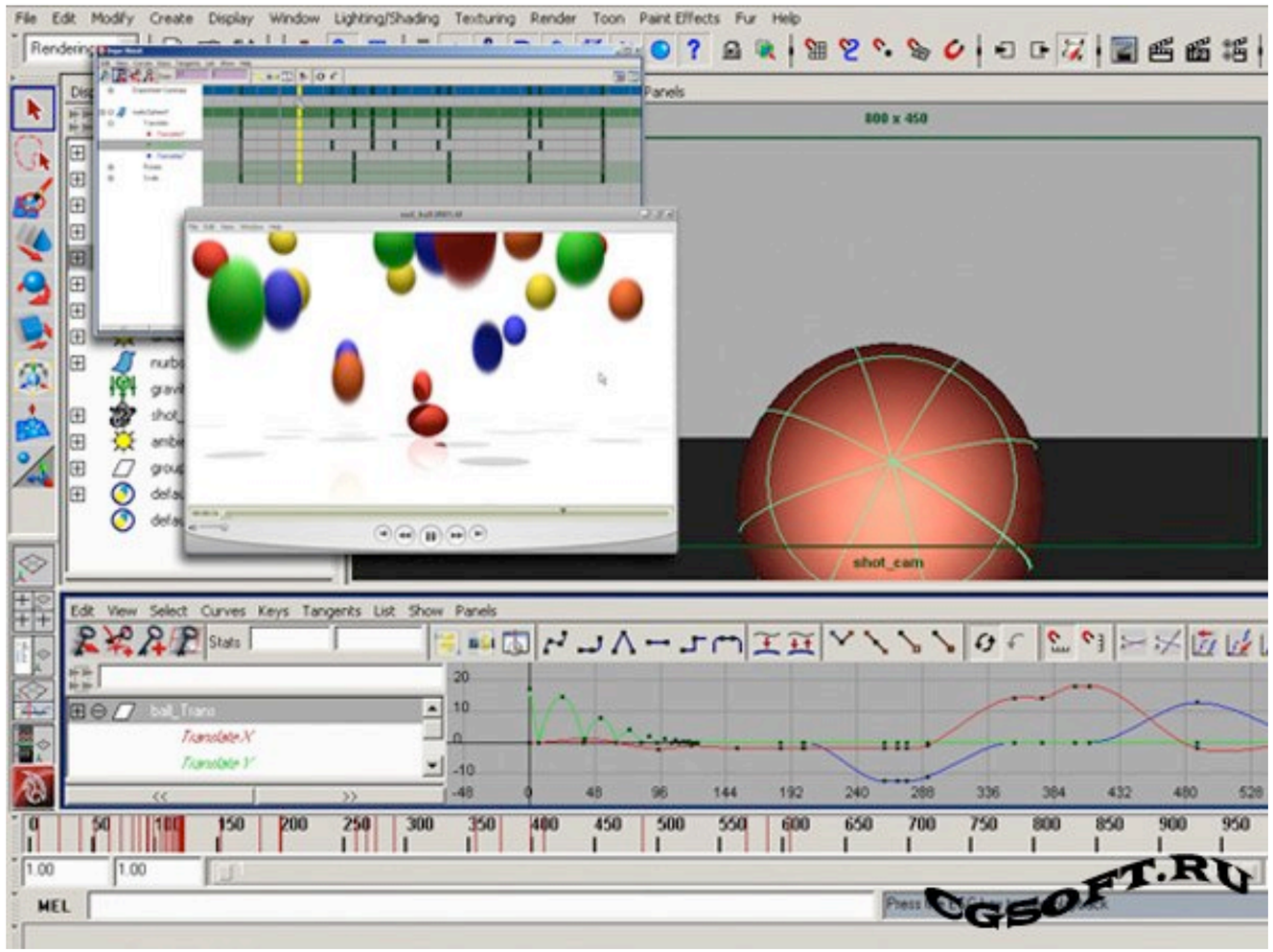
http://www.cdd4ever.com/Backlot03/CDDMSheets/DarlaMS01.gif

http://webshiva.com/Spring_2005_History_Animation/lectures/images/us_ns_2.jpg

Creating 3D computer animation

- idea > treatment > story board
- describe keyframes explicitly
  - complete description of the 3D world state
- interpolate between keyframes
  - calculate state of the world for each frame
- render and display/store single frames

http://me-cheza.blogspot.com/2009/10/gnomonology-intro-to-keyframe-animation.html



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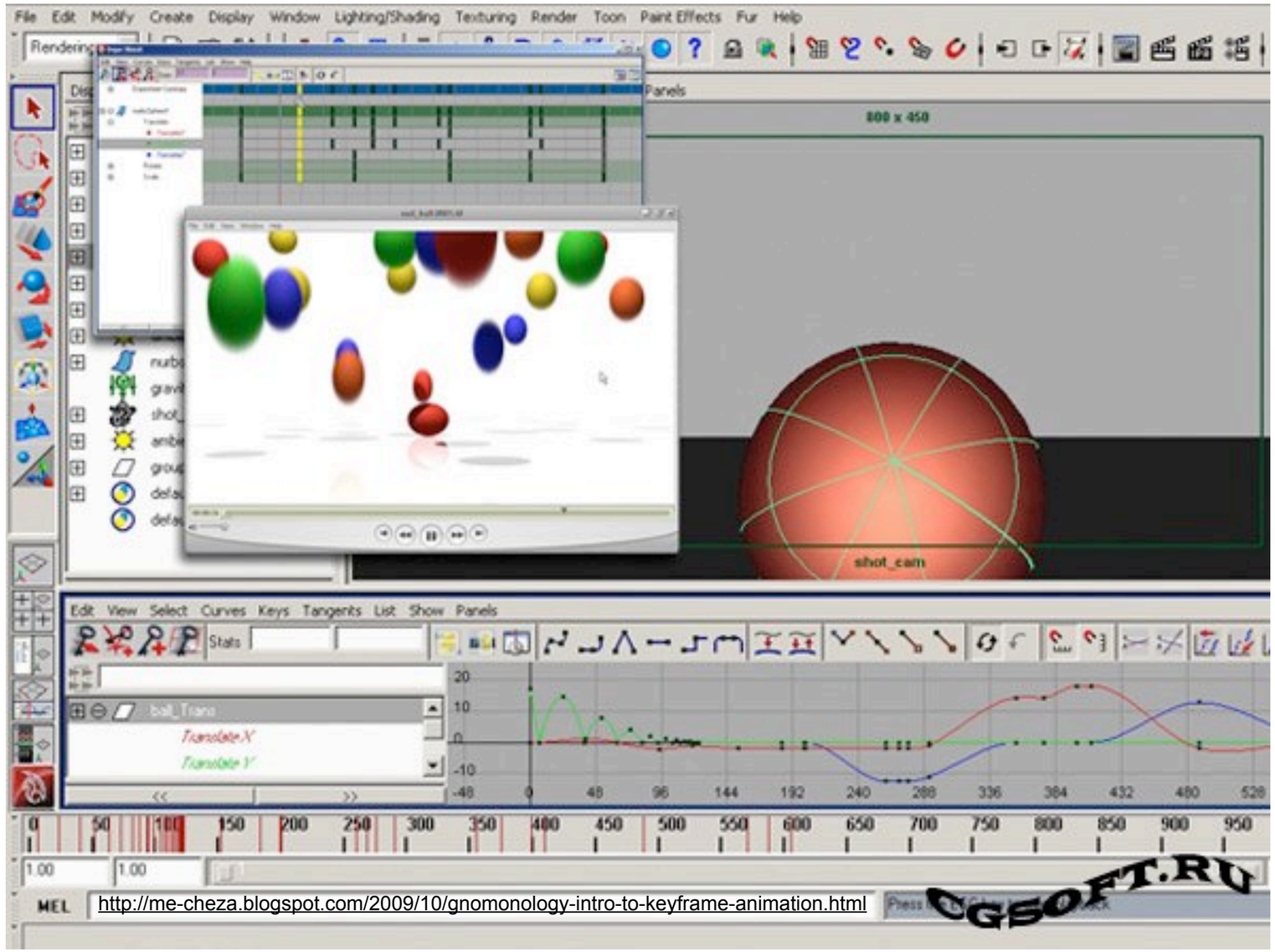
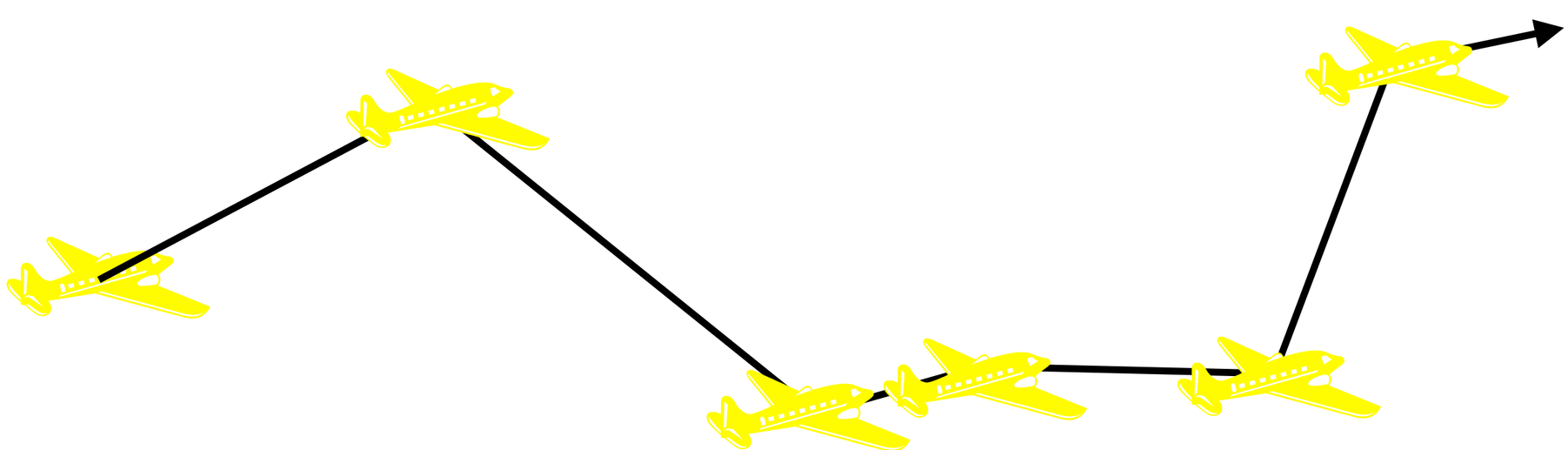
Keyframing

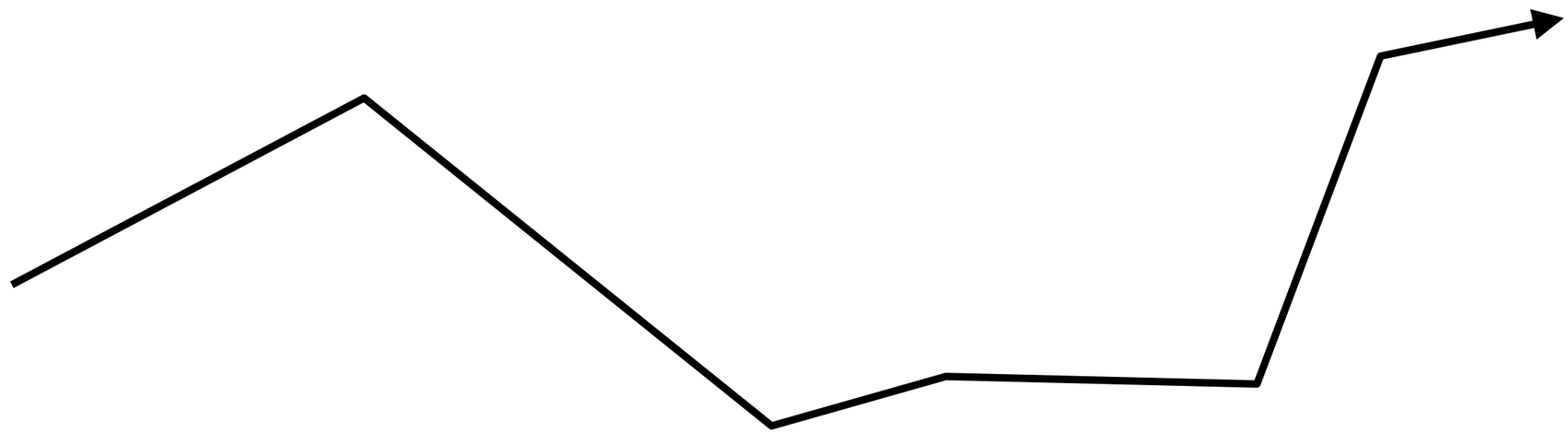
- define certain parameters of the scene for certain frames
- not all in every keyframe
- also known from Flash



Keyframing the Position

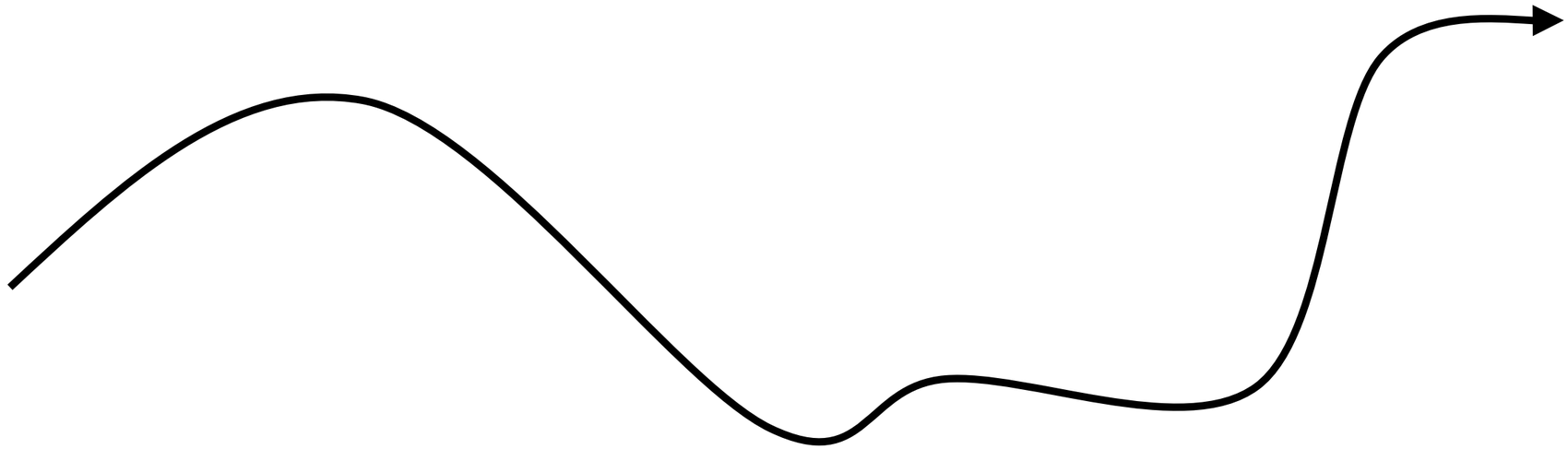


Linear interpolation



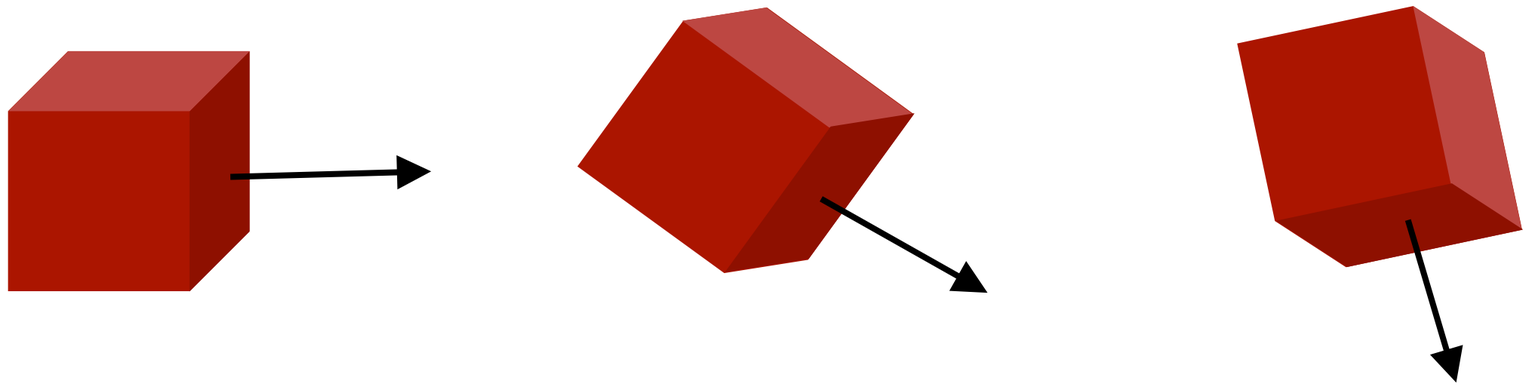
$$x = x_0 + \frac{t - t_0}{t_1 - t_0}(x_1 - x_0), y = y_0 + \frac{t - t_0}{t_1 - t_0}(y_1 - y_0)$$

Spline interpolation



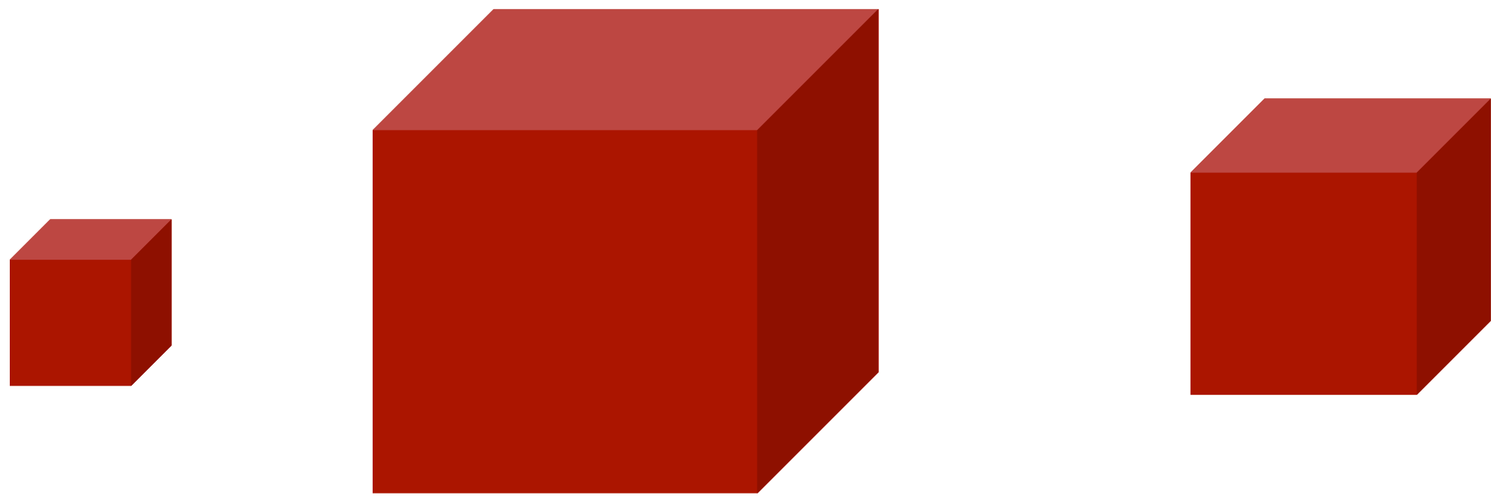
- still only define key frames as control points of the spline
- interpolate in a smooth curve
- risk of overshooting when controlling the splines

Keyframing the Orientation

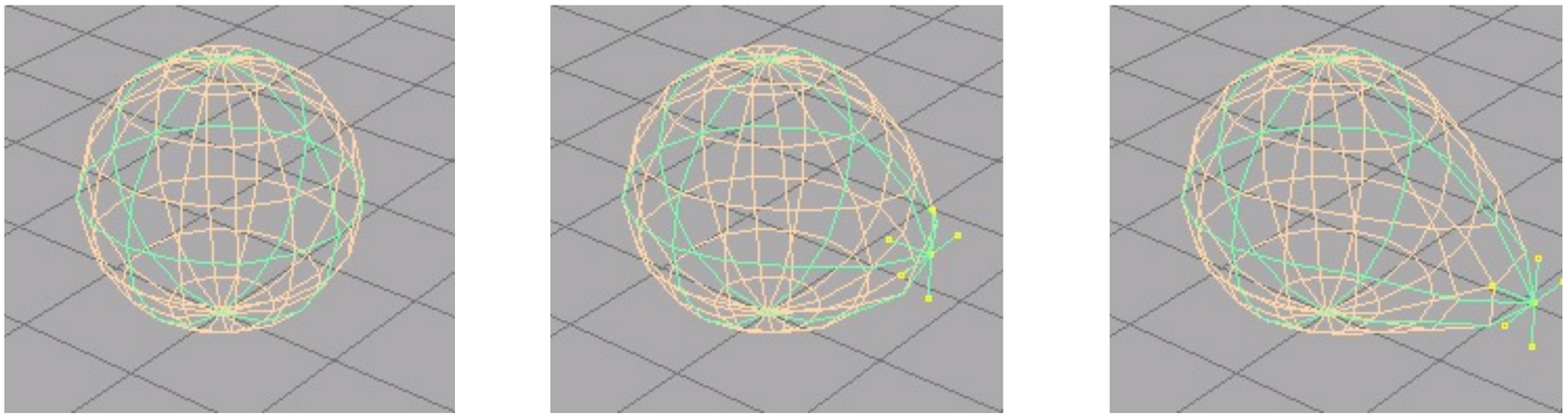


- Choose rotation axis
- interpolate angle about this axis
- or: shortest path on the unit sphere

Keyframing the Size

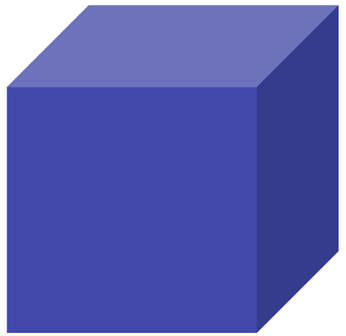


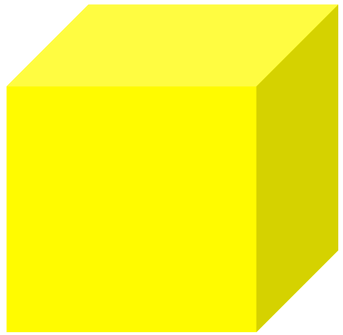
Keyframing mesh deformation



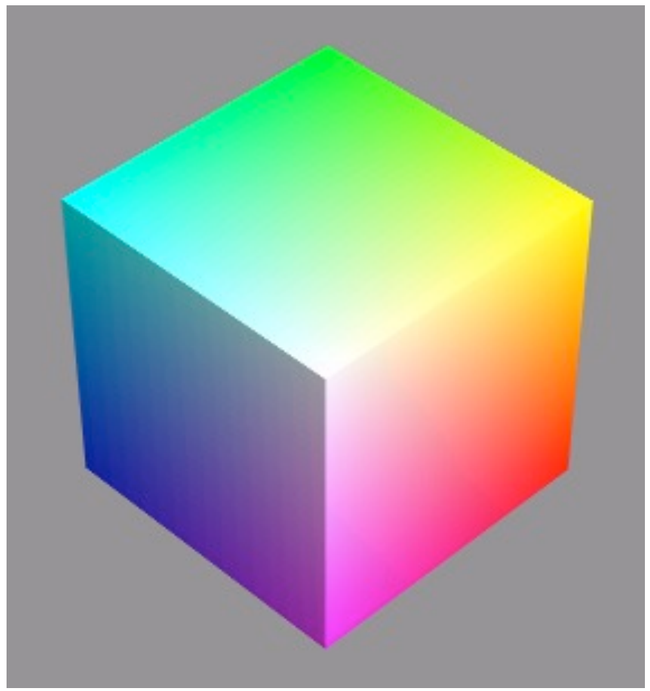
- grab a control point
- keyframe its position
- deform the polygon mesh accordingly

Keyframing the Color

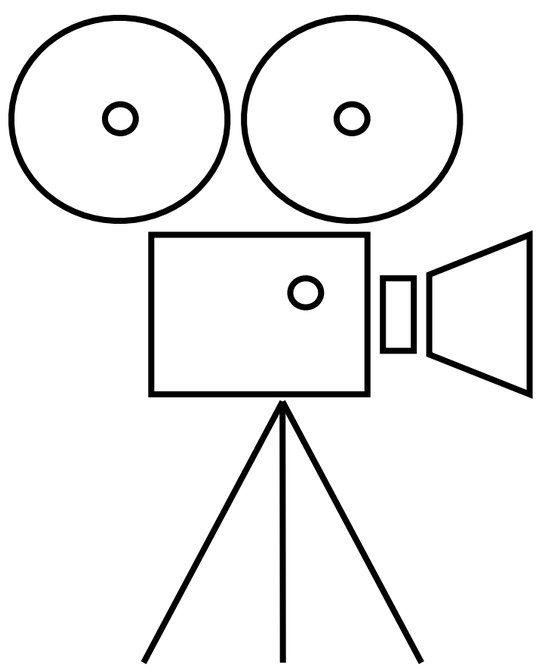




- Can be done in RGB or HSV color space

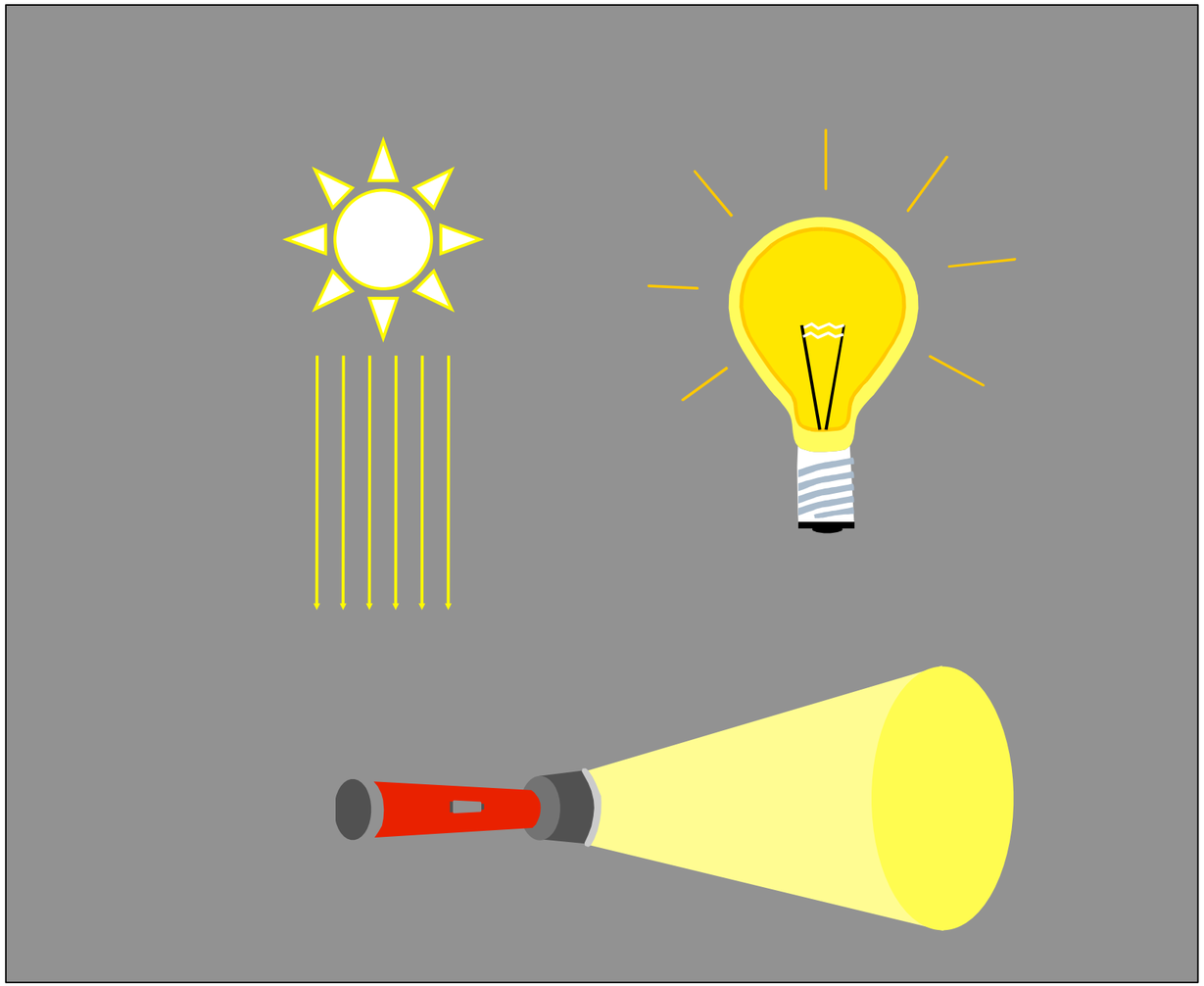


Keyframing the virtual camera



- Position
- Orientation
- Field of view
- Depth of field

Keyframing the light setup



- directional light
- positional light
- ambient light
- spotlight
- area light

- position
- direction
- beam angle

Other things to keyframe

- levels of detail
- visibility
- transparency, shininess
- texture / bump maps
- shading parameters
- rendering method

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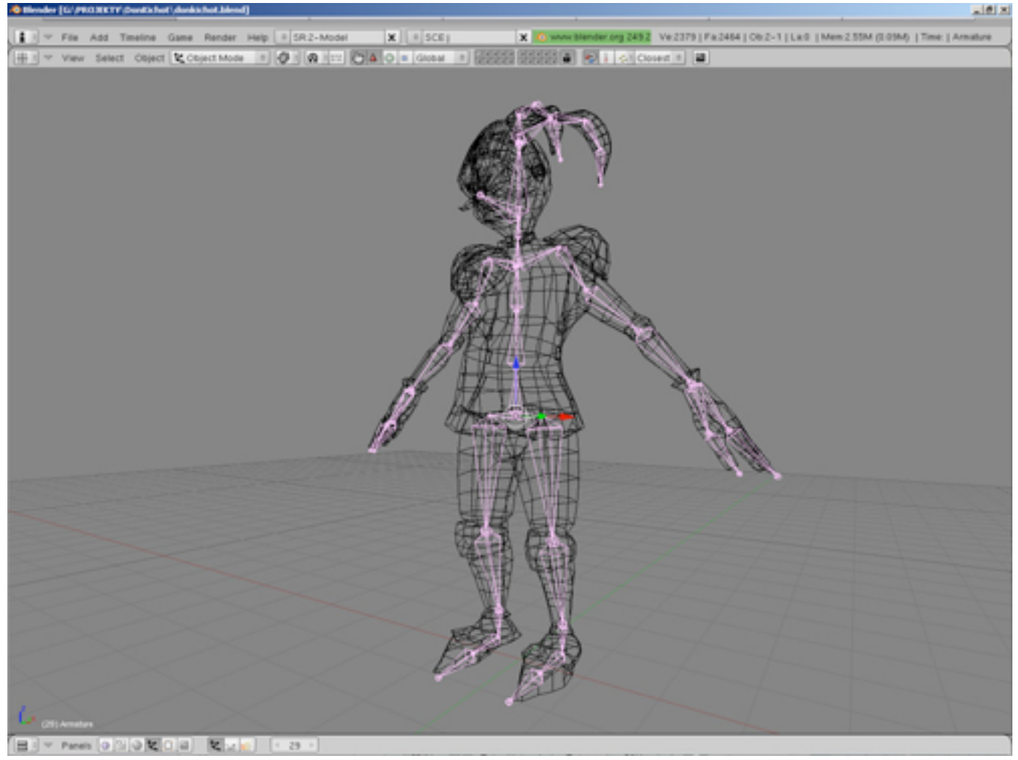
Bone animation

- also: skeletal animation

- define a skeleton for a polygon mesh
  - topology/structure of the model
- move only the bones of this skeleton
  - by keyframing joint angles
  - by motion capture data
  - by inverse kinematics
- polygon mesh follows and deforms
  - connection between bone and mesh is not rigid
  - mesh stays closed and smooth

http://www.gamecask.com/news/animation.jpg



http://www.3dluvr.com/clisk3d/anims.htm

Motion Capture

- tracking position and/or orientation of
  - limbs of an actor
  - feature points of a face
  - optical markers on a suit

- Define a relation between tracked feature points and 3D scene points

- Move the mesh exactly along the tracked data

- Still gives the most realistic results

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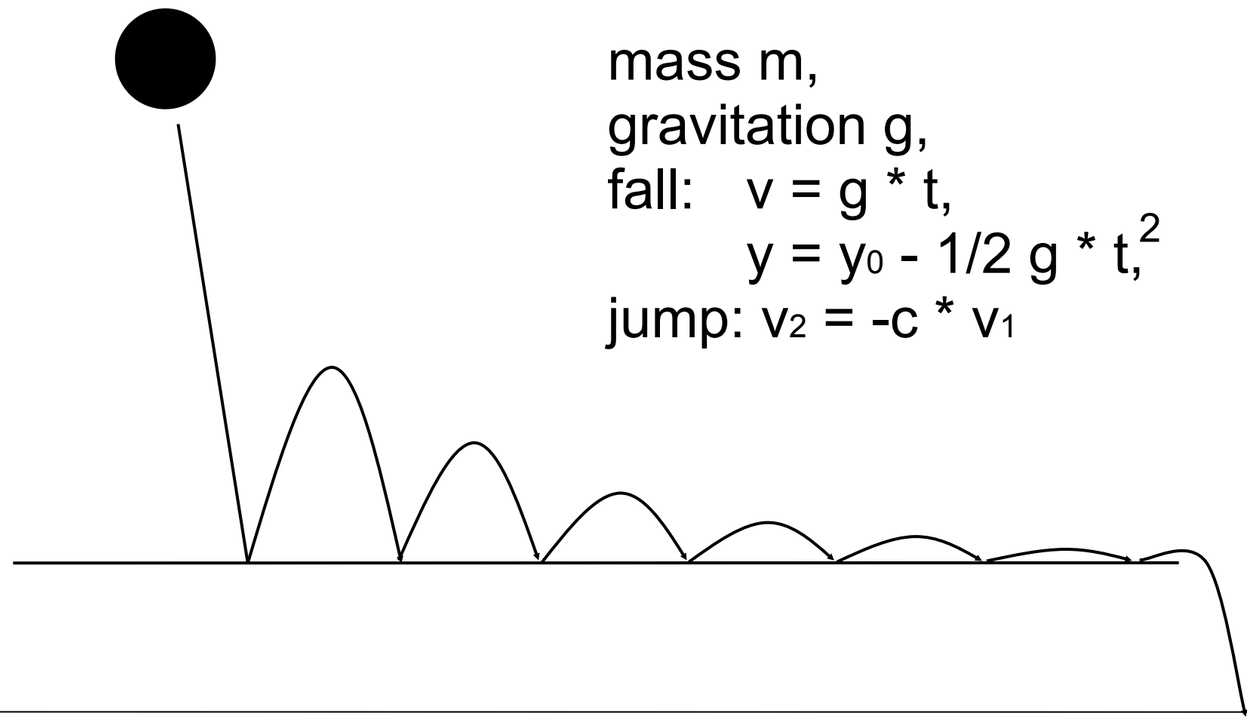
Physics simulation

- Physics engine is often an integral part of 3D games
  - calculations can be done efficiently on GPUs, for example
  - can handle large numbers of objects

- Not all aspects of physics need to be simulated

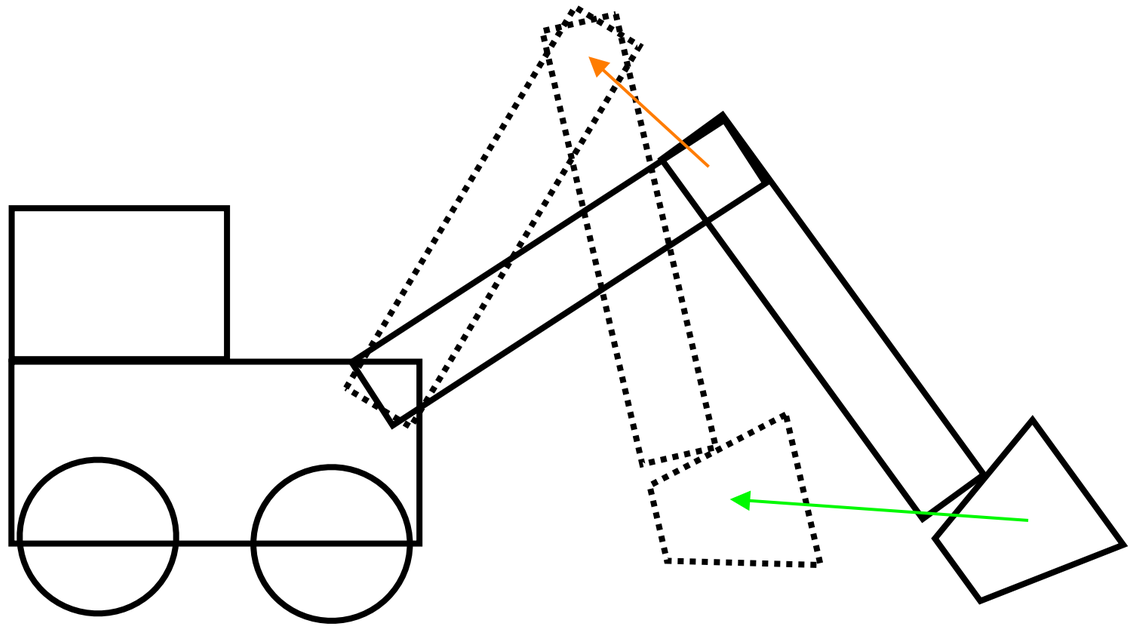
- 2 examples
  - inverse kinematics
  - particle systems



Inverse kinematics

- kinematics describes, how an object moves
- forward kinematics: how does the object move, given the joint angles
- inverse kinematics: what are the joint angles, given the object motion

- Mainly a way to save work in keyframing



Particle systems

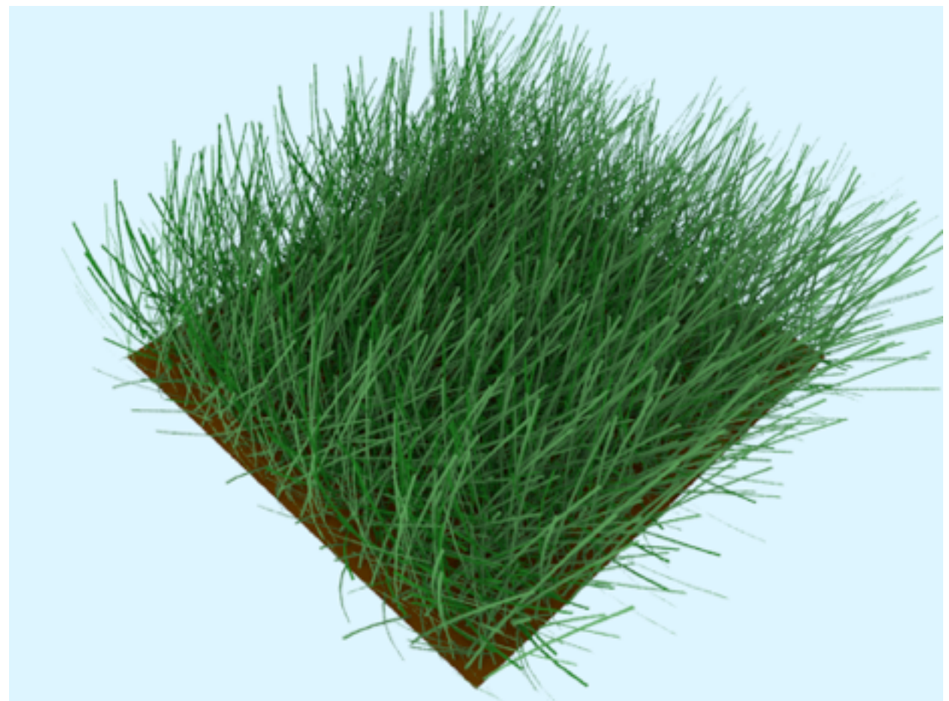
- used for various phenomena
  - dust, explosions
  - fire
  - grass, hair, fur

- generates a large number of objects
- moves them with simple physics
- handle collissions etc..

- no detailed influence on single objects
- parameters of creation and motion can be controlled

http://www.cgtutorials.com/oneadmin/_files/linksdir/1685_Create_fire_effects_with_particle_system.jpg

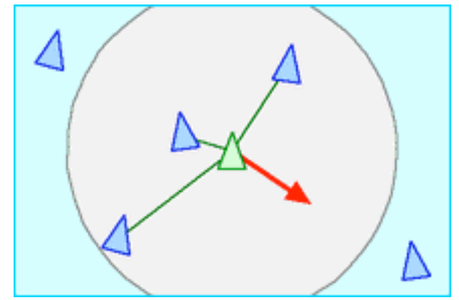
http://www.blender3darchitect.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/blender-3d-yafaray-realistic-grass.png

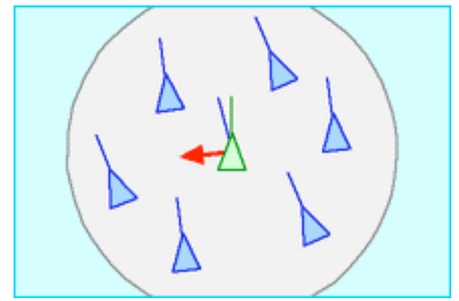


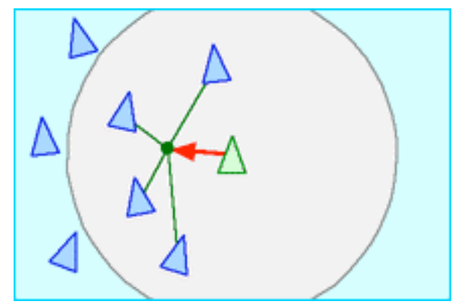
AI example: flocks, herds, schools

- A classic example of a simulation of a natural phenomenon (1987)
- http://www.red3d.com/cwr/boids/
- [Reynolds, C. W. (1987) Flocks, Herds, and Schools: A Distributed Behavioral Model, in Computer Graphics, 21(4) (SIGGRAPH '87 Conference Proceedings) pages 25-34.]

- Each bird/fish has 3 simple control principles
  - Separation: steer to avoid crowding local flockmates
  - Alignment: steer towards the average heading of local flockmates
  - Cohesion: steer to move toward the average position of local flockmates







Stanley & Stella in Breaking the Ice (1987)

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Animation principles

- known by cell animators for a long time
- will make your animations look appealing
- often have to do with exaggeration
  - support our perception of a character/motion

- Examples here from tutorials at
- http://www.comet-cartoons.com/toons/3ddocs/charanim/
- http://www.siggraph.org/education/materials/HyperGraph/animation/character_animation/principles/prin_trad_anim.htm
- http://billysalisbury.com/tutorials_principles.htm

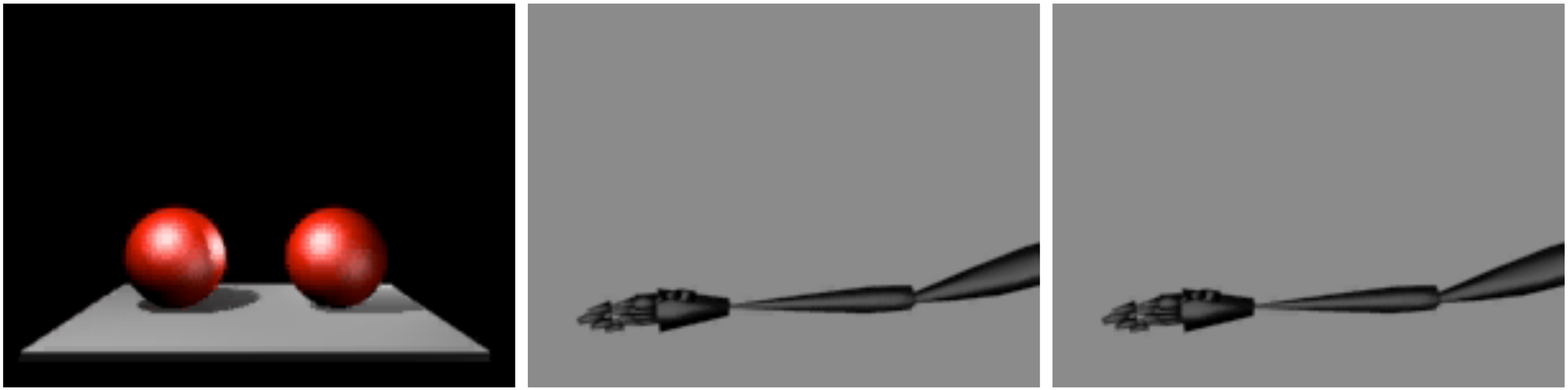
Timing

- The exact same motion can express entirely different things at different speeds
- Generally: slow timing conveys calm, fast timing conveys hectic
- "The difference between the right timing and the almost right timing, is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug."



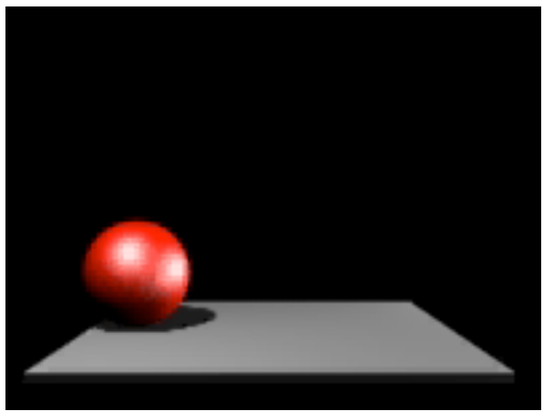
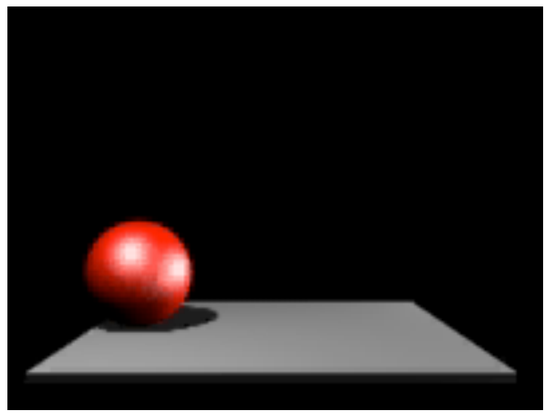
Ease In and Out (or Slow In and Out)

- All motions in nature start slowly and accelerate
- Due to physics (inertia of mass)
- Heavy objects generally accelerate slower
- Light objects accelerate faster
- Can be combined with object deformations



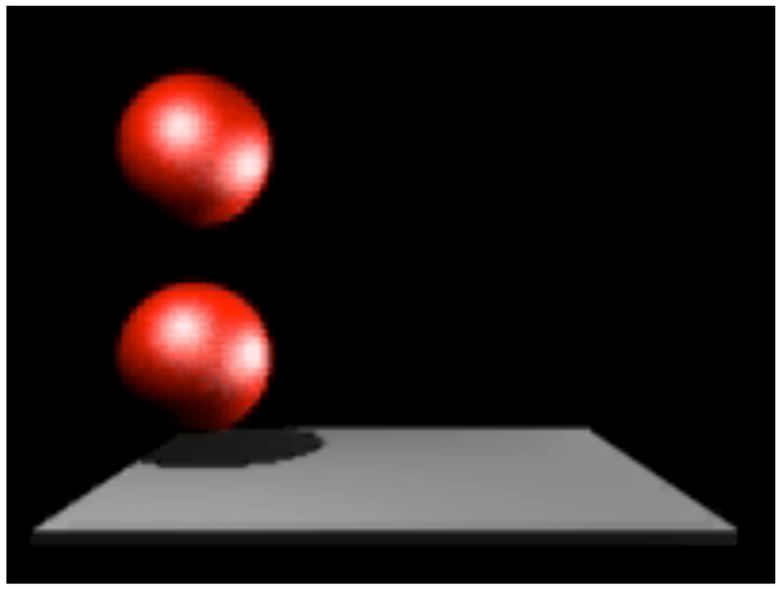
Arcs

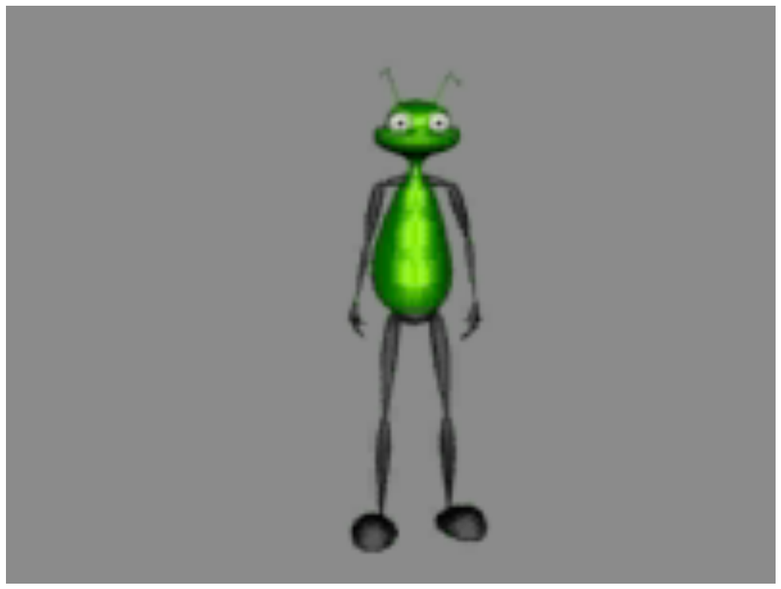
- Many motions in nature happen in arcs.
- Linear motions only in machines
- Motion in arcs look more natural on characters

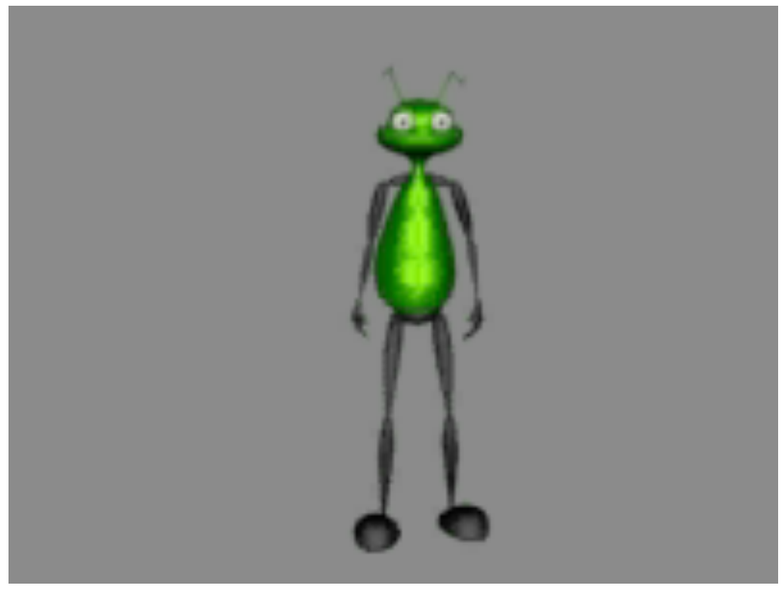



Anticipation

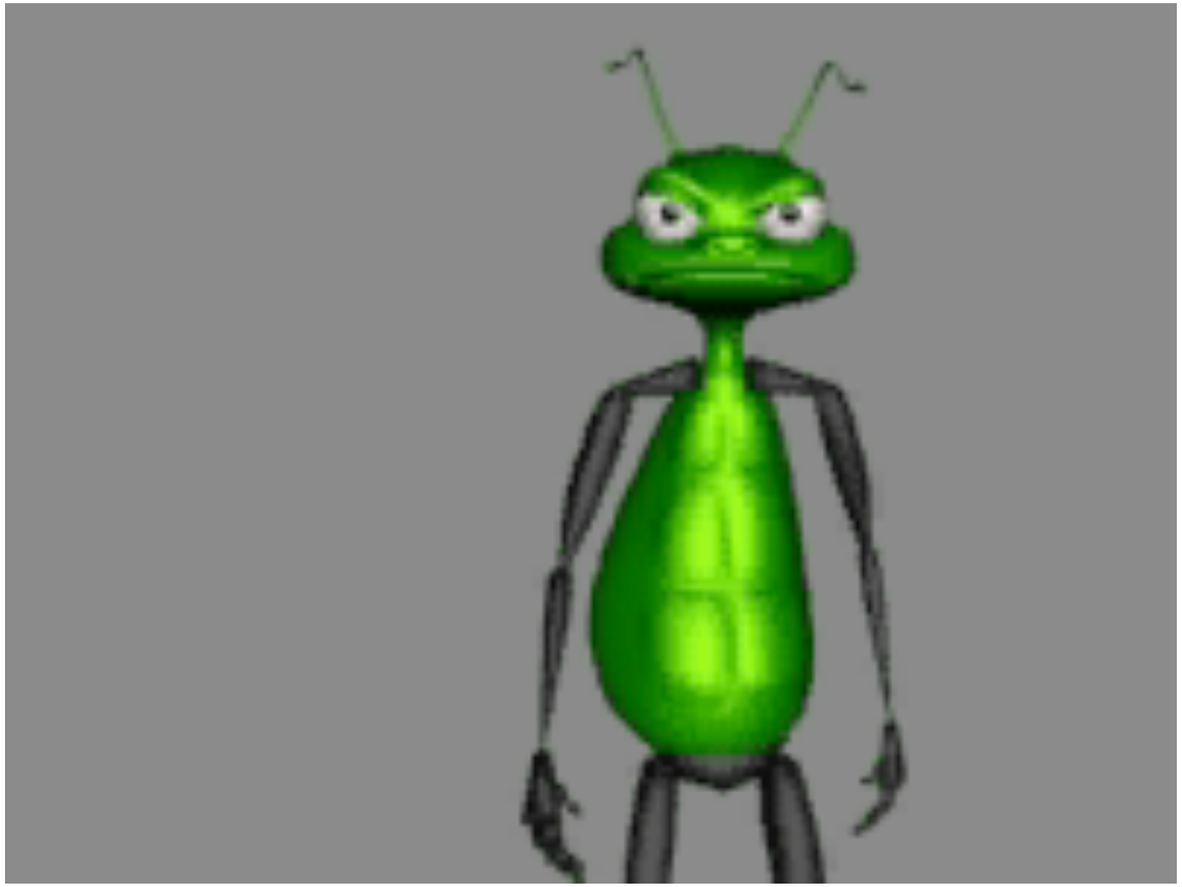
- Motions in nature never start abruptly.
- There is always a phase before the actual motion, when the character already knows he wants to move.
- Is used with much exaggeration in cartoons







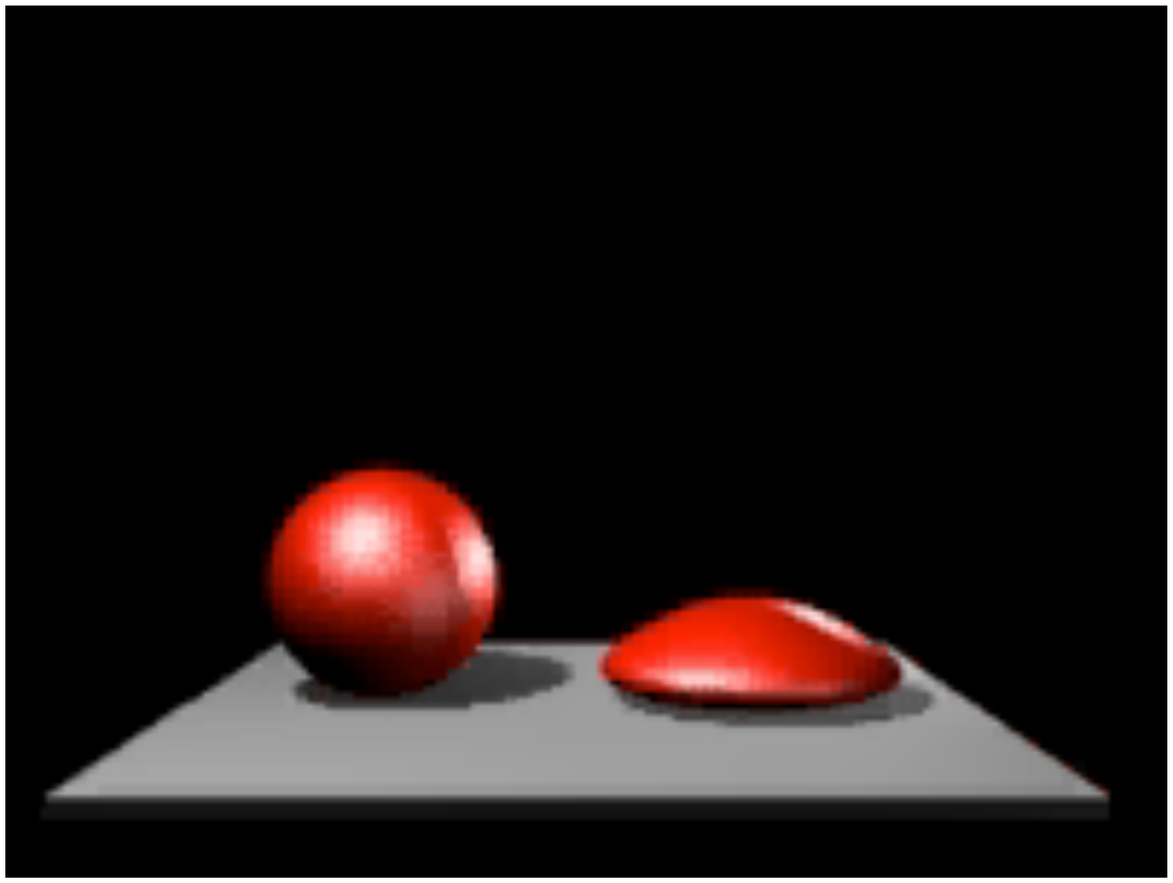
Exaggeration

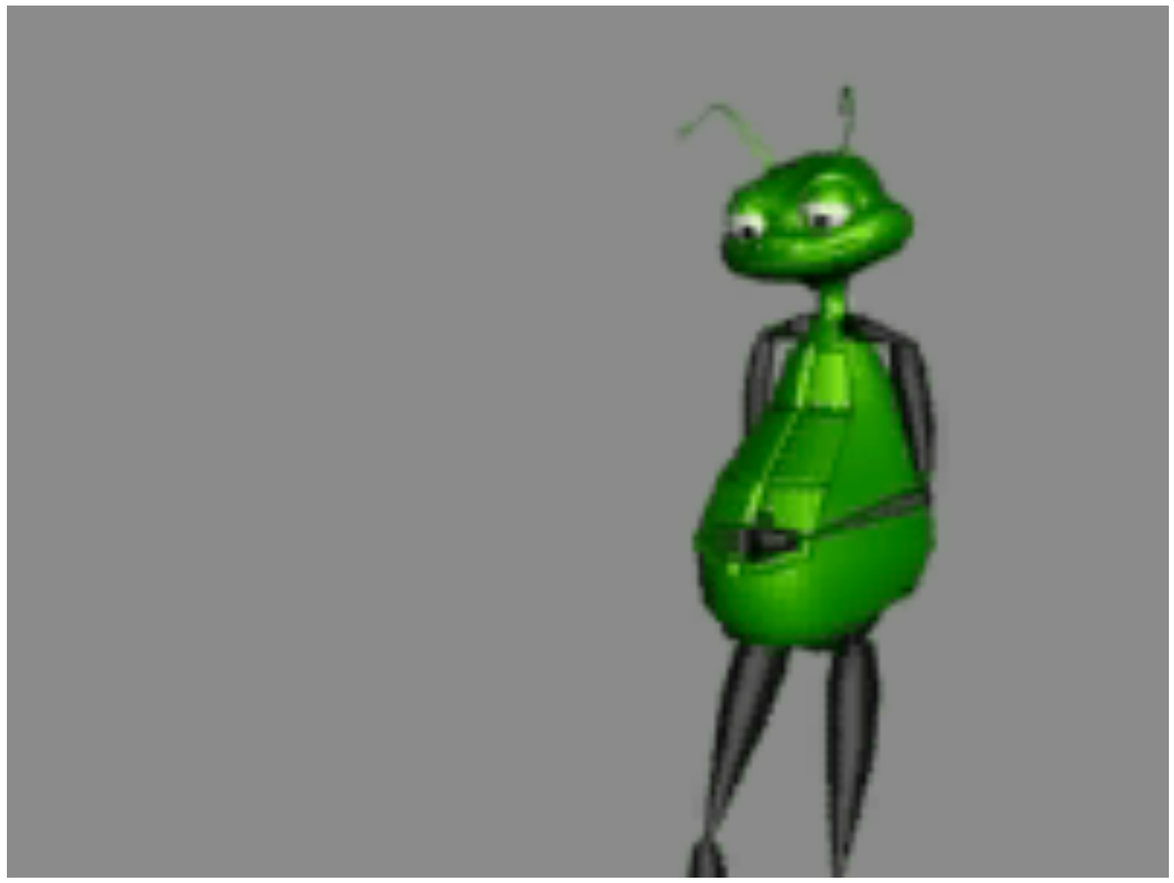


- Motions come across more pointedly when exaggerated
- Light exagg. = only emphasizing the motion
- Strong exagg. = cartoon-like appearance

Squash and Stretch

- Soft objects are squashed when they hit an obstacle and stretch when released.
- All objects are soft to *some* extent
- Again: exaggeration creates a cartoon-like appearance





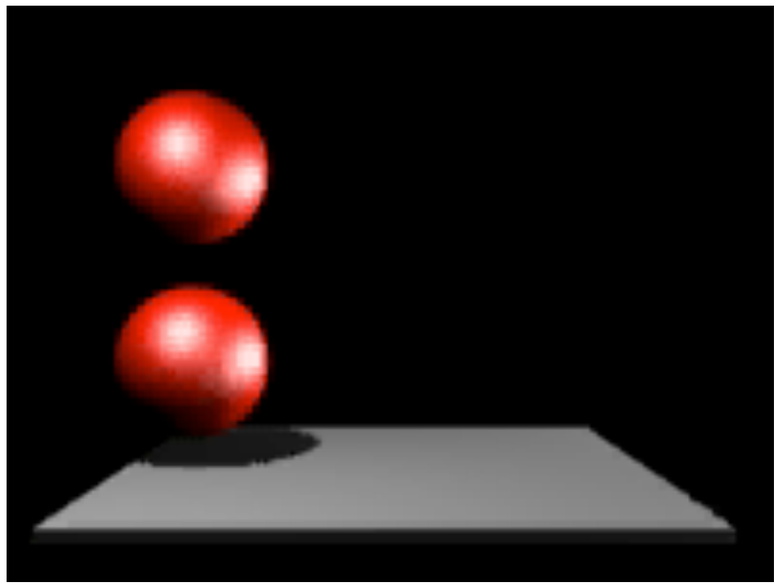
Secondary Action

- Secondary story/character/movement in the background
- Should not outpower main action
- Creates a counterpoint to the main action
- Can be used for running gags, Eastereggs
- Can create ironic side notes
- Can emphasize atmosphere
- Example:
  - fingers on the table
  - Figure in the background

http://www.canalred.info/public/Fondos_Pantalla/Cine y Tv/Scrat - Ice Age.jpg

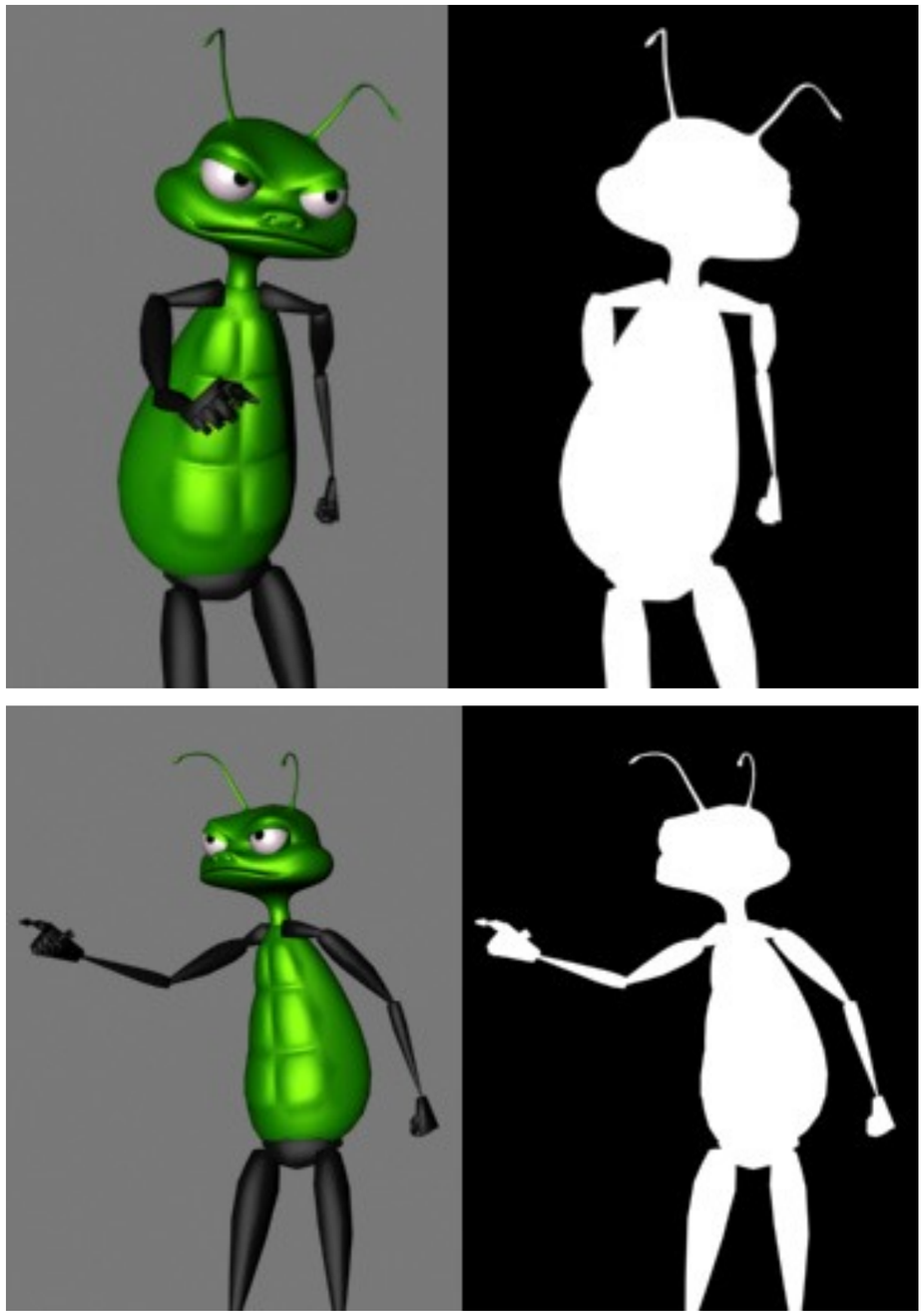
Follow Through and Overlapping Action

- Same as anticipation, but at the end of an action
- Object goes past its resting point and then comes back to where it would normally be.
- Again: exaggeration creates a cartoon-like appearance



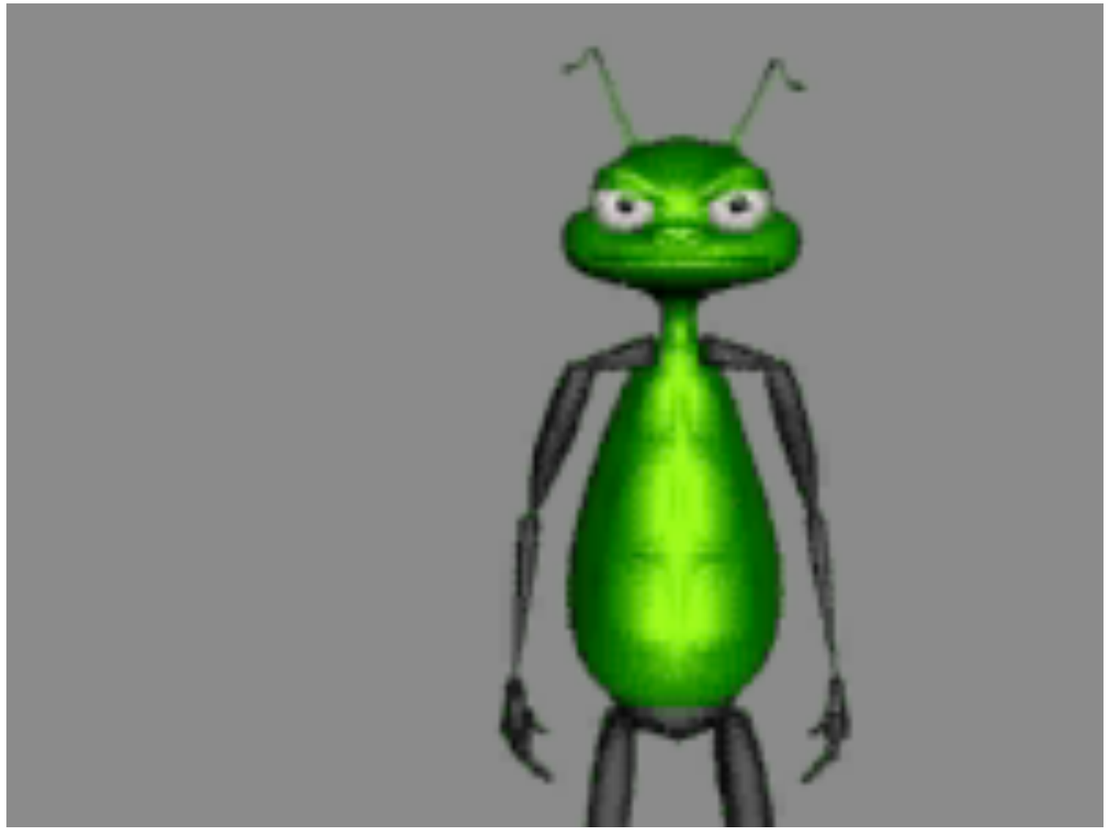
Staging

- Make action and objects understandable
- Show actions one at a time
- position objects to maximize silhouette
- Combine effects to convey a consistent message



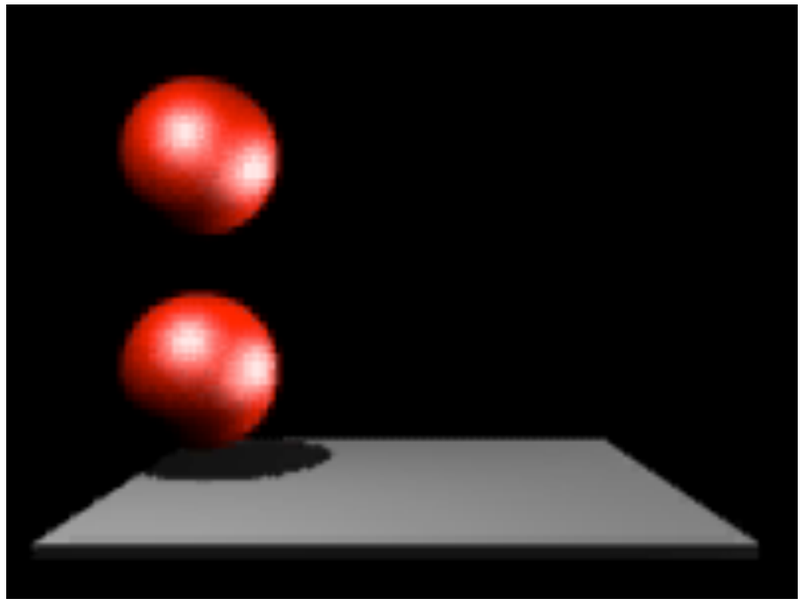
Non-symmetrical Posing and Performing

- Asymmetrical compositions are more interesting
- Nature is almost never *perfectly* symmetric
- Image diagonal can convey atmosphere



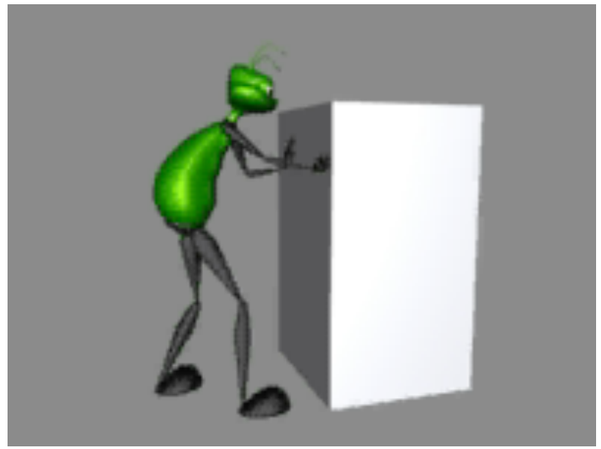
Snap

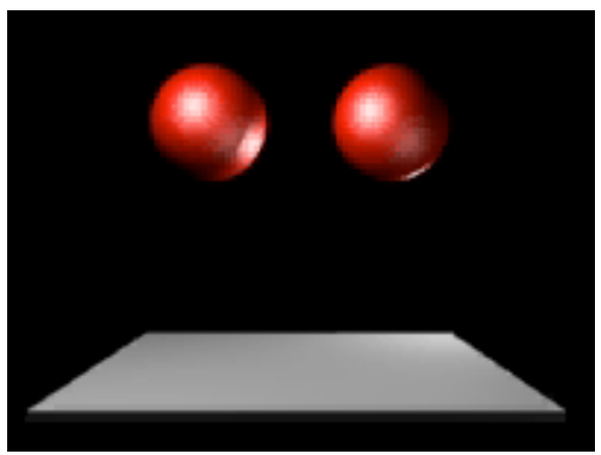
- Quick and abrupt motions
- Only a few frames long
- Convey something that happens abruptly
- Can be emphasized by sound

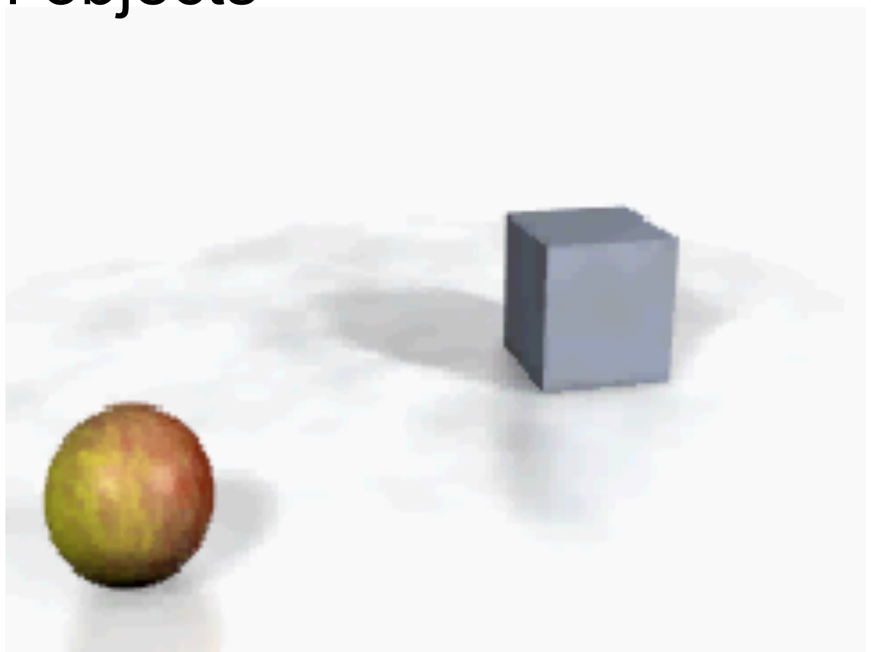


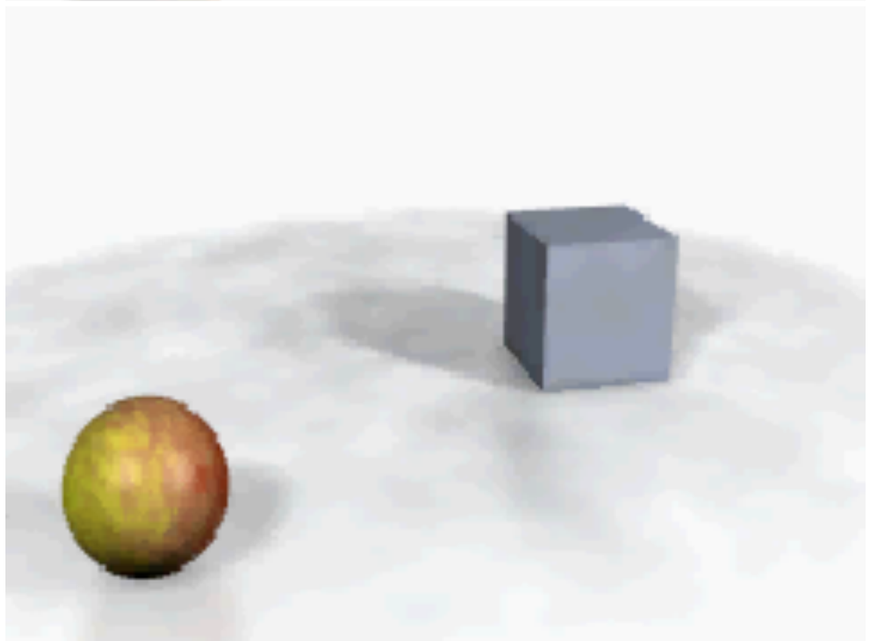
Weight

- Imitate physical behavior to convey the weight of objects
- Heavy objects accelerate slowly
- Light objects bounce higher
- Heavy objects push light ones aside





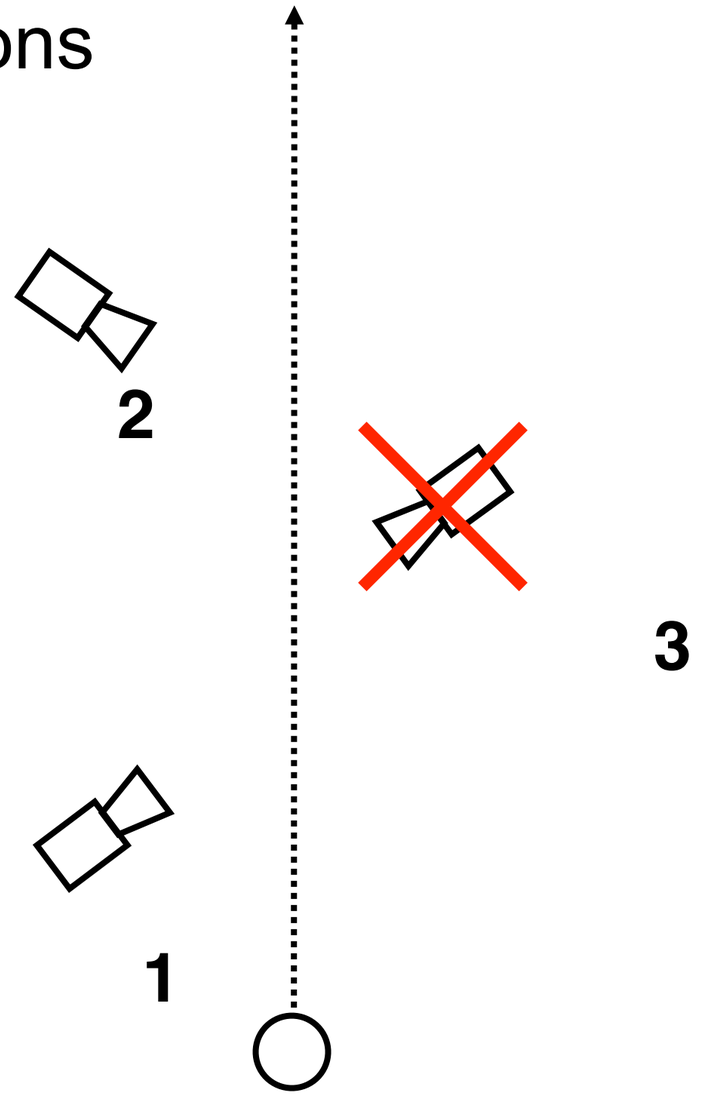




Line crossing error

- Camera must not cross the line of motion
- Otherwise will be perceived as 2 different motions
- Fix: cut a different scene in between

- not particular to 3D animation!



Appeal, Personality

- Appeal is anything the audience likes to see
- Can be quality of charm, design, simplicity, movements, communication
- Create believable personalities
  - Consistency in pose, facial expression, communication, behavior

- Image from „ferdinand the bull“
- Disney, 1938..

http://www.ultimatedisney.com/images/w-z/wdac-v6-03.jpg

Pixar: For the Birds (2008)