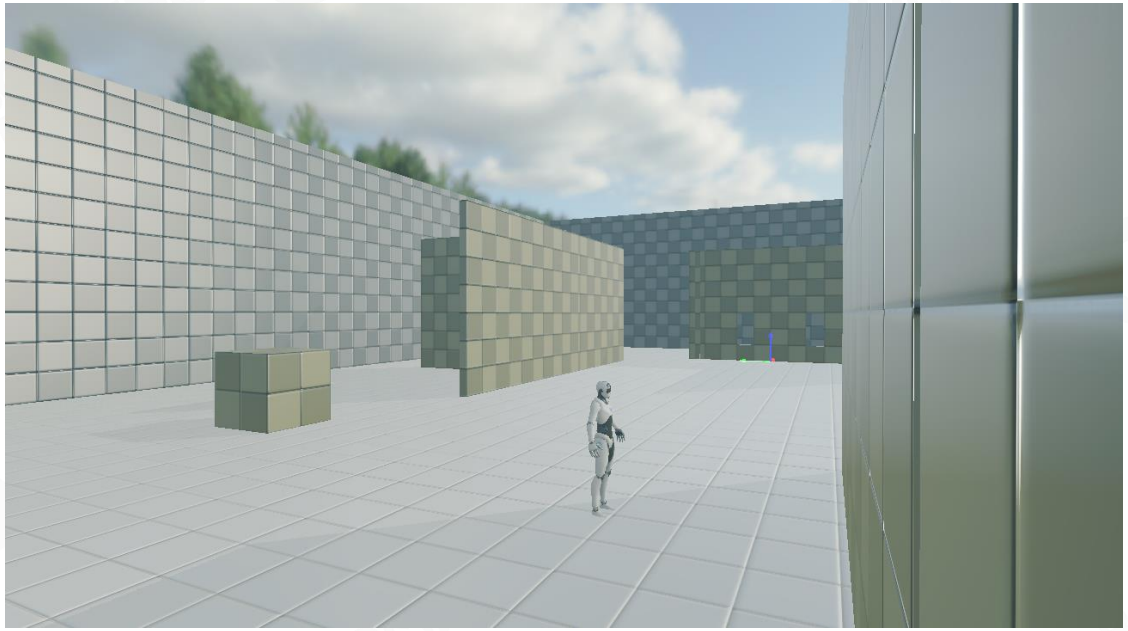
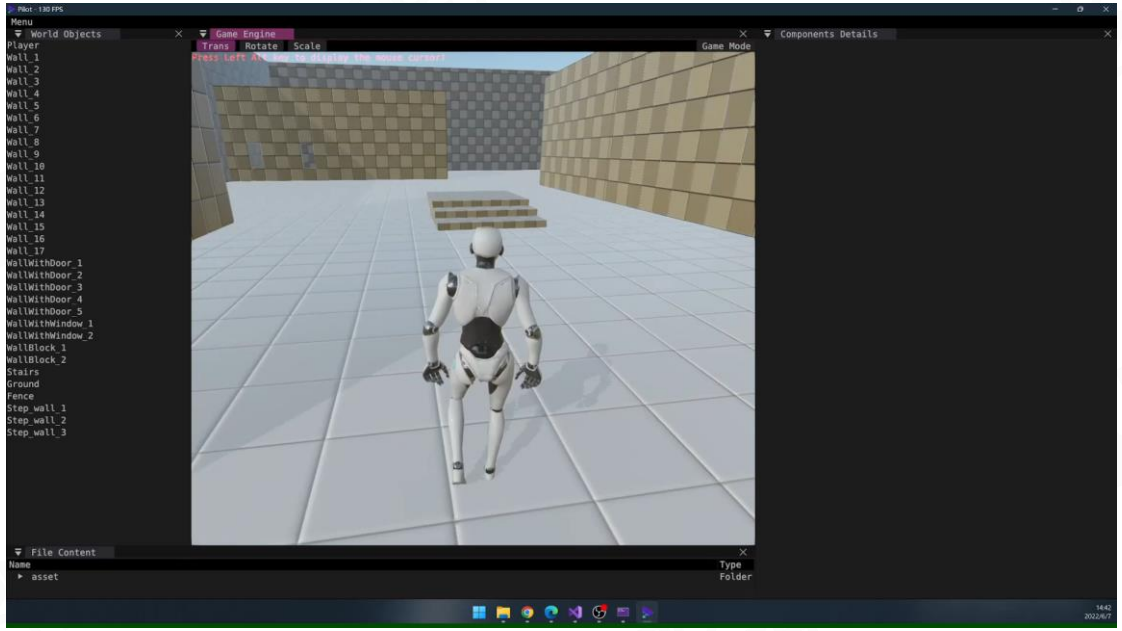
Homework Submission Extended

- Will extend Homework #2 and Homework #3 deadline to Aug 31th



Homework #2 : Rendering



Homework #3 : Animation and Physics

Voice from Community

- Some submissions are reported lost
- We've tested the submission system after received the reports
- We noticed one critical step may easily be omitted
- We have highlighted the critical step and updated our submission guide
- Please refer: https://cdn.boomingtech.com/games104_static/upload/GAMES104_SmartChair_Submission_Guide.pdf , Page 9

Q&A about Piccolo Engine

- Q1: Is script system in Piccolo Engine's roadmap? Which script language will Piccolo Engine support?

- Q2: Why did Piccolo Engine use CMake as meta build system instead of XMake?

- Q3: Why some source code will be recompiled even no code is modified?

Lecture 15

Gameplay

Gameplay Complexity and Building Blocks

WANG XI

GAMES 104

2022

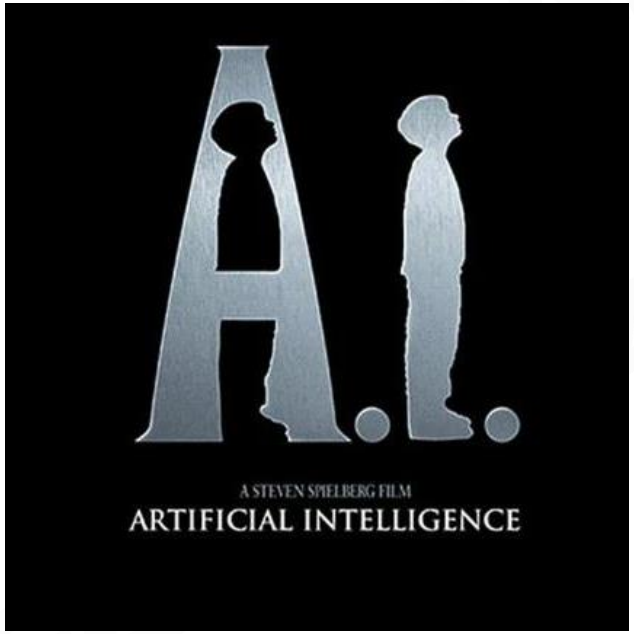
Outline of Gameplay System

01.

Gameplay Complexity and Building Blocks

- Overview
- Event Mechanism
- Script System
- Visual Script
- Character, Control and Camera

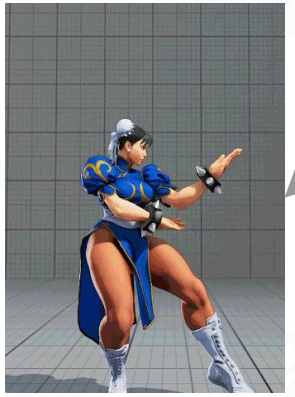
02.



Challenges in GamePlay(1/3)

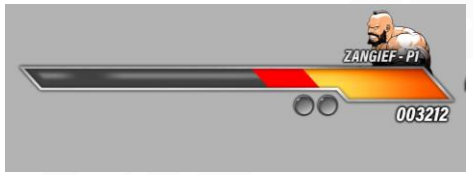
Cooperation among multiple systems

Animation

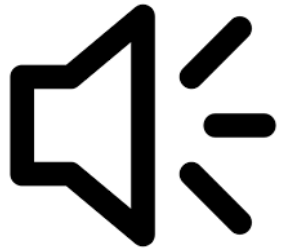


Effect

Street Fighter
Attack Feedback



UI



Audio

Interface Devices

Challenges in GamePlay (2/3)

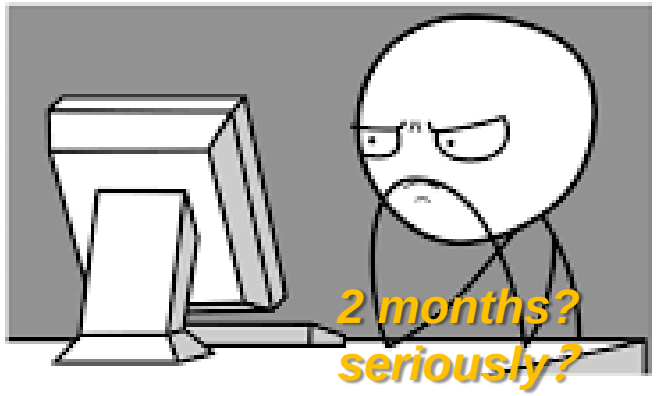
Diversity of game play in the same game

The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt
Combat Gameplay

The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt
Card-playing Mechanic

Challenges in GamePlay (3/3)

Rapid iteration



Fortnite: Save the World
TPS,tower defense, survival

Fortnite: Battle Royale
battle royale

Epic acknowledged that within the Fortnite fundamentals, they could also do a battle royale mode, and rapidly developed their own version atop Fortnite in about **two months**.

GamePlay

Event Mechanism

Let Objects Talk

Soldier

```
void Bomb:explode()
{
    ...
    switch(go_type)
    {
        case GoType.humen_type:
        {
            /* process soldier */
            ...
        }
        case GoType.drone_type:
        {
            /* process drone */
            ...
        }
        case GoType.tank_type:
        {
            /* process tank */
            ...
        }
        case GoType.stone_type:
        {
            /* process stone */
            ...
        }
        default:
        {
            break;
        }
    }
}
```

Helicopter

Tank

Stone

Event/Message Mechanism

- Abstract the world communication to messages
- Decoupling event sending and handling

Soldier

```
void Bomb:explode()
{
    ...
    sendExplodeEvent(go_id)
    ...
}
```

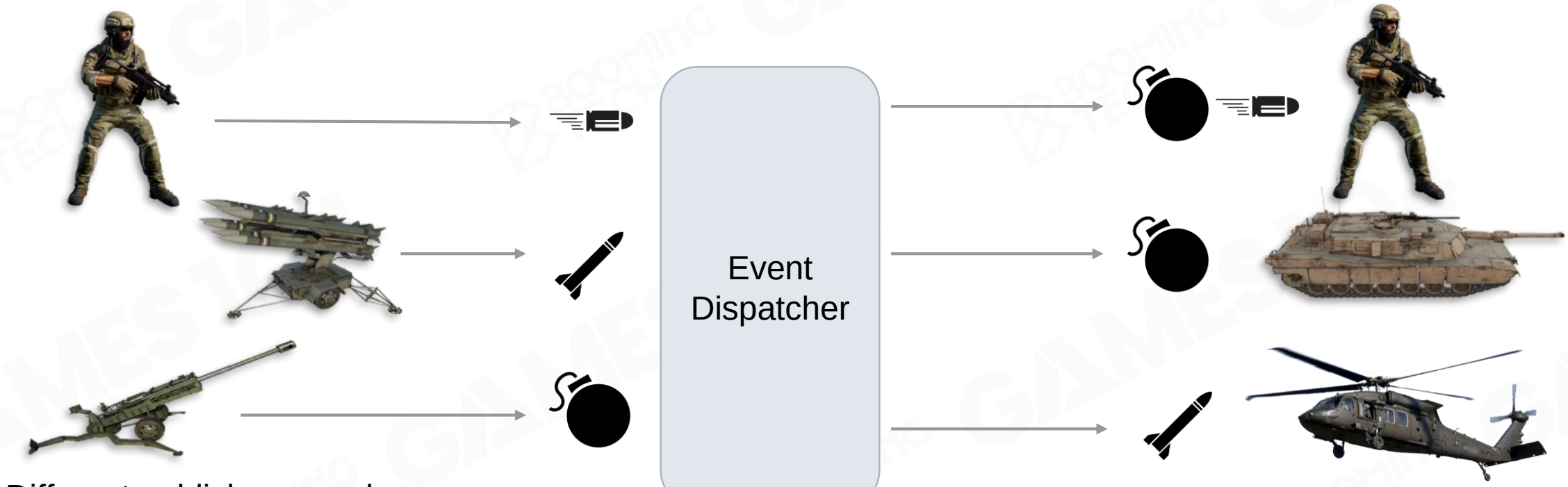
Helicopter

Tank

Stone

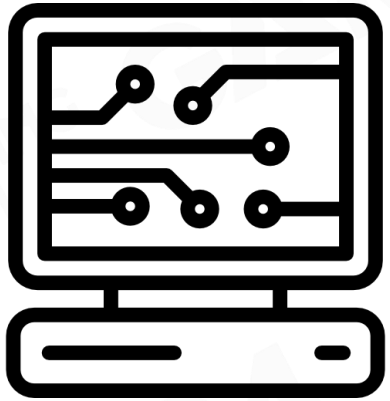
Publish-subscribe Pattern

- Publisher categorizes published messages (events) into classes
- Subscriber receive messages (events) that are of interest without knowledge of which publishers

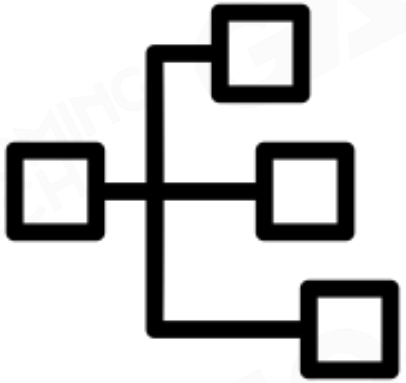


3 Key Components of Publish-subscribe Pattern

Event Definition

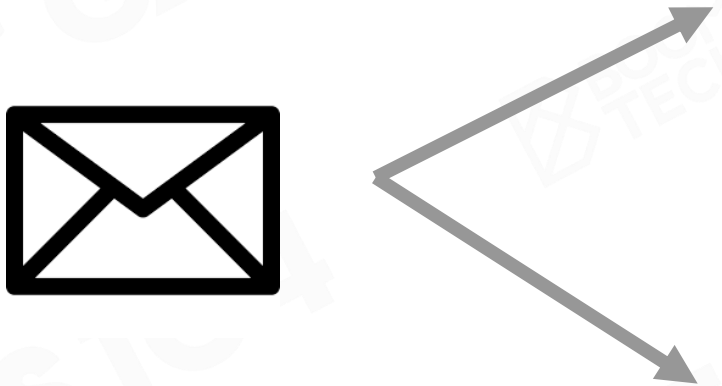


Callback Registration



Event Despatching

Event Definition



Event Type

`"EVENT_TYPE_BOMB_EXPLOSION"`

Event Argument

Key-value Table of Event Arguments

Key	Type	Value
"radius"	float	3.5
"damage"	int	40

Event Definition

Type and Arguments

```
class BombExplosionEvent : public Event
{
    Point m_center;
    float m_damage;
    float m_radius;
};
```

```
class BulletHitEvent : public Event
{
    float   m_final_speed;
    float   m_damage;
};
```

```
class MissileHitEvent : public Event
{
    float   m_damage;
};
```

```
... ...
```

Impossible for hardcode

Event Definition

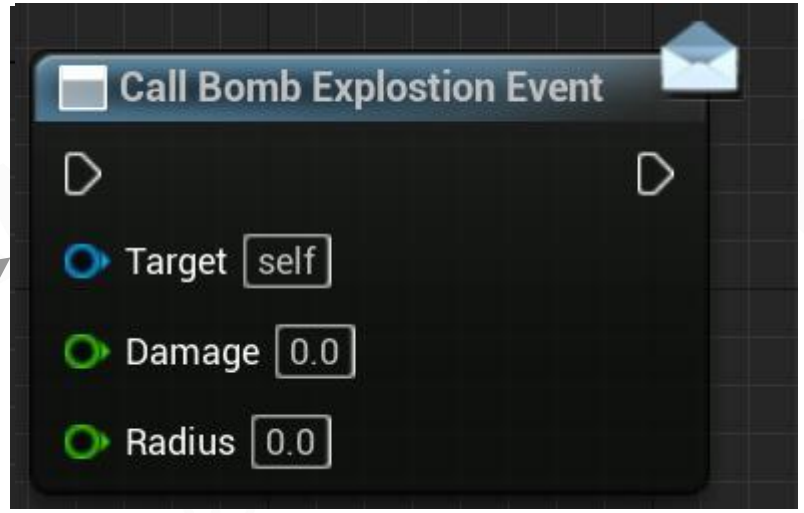
Type and Arguments

- Editable

```
class BombExplosionEvent
        : public Event
{
    float   m_damage;
    float   m_radius;
};
```

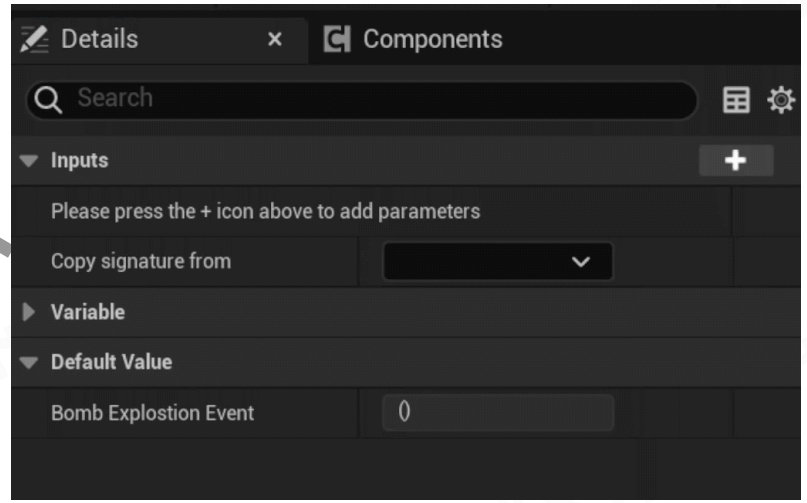
Hardcode

Reflection



View in Editor

Code Generator



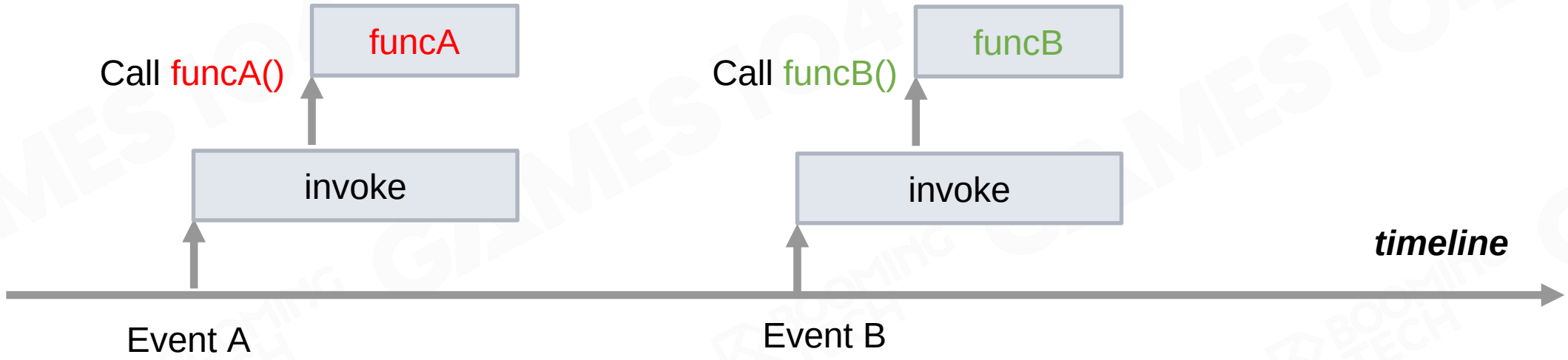
Editable

Callback Registration

Callback (function)

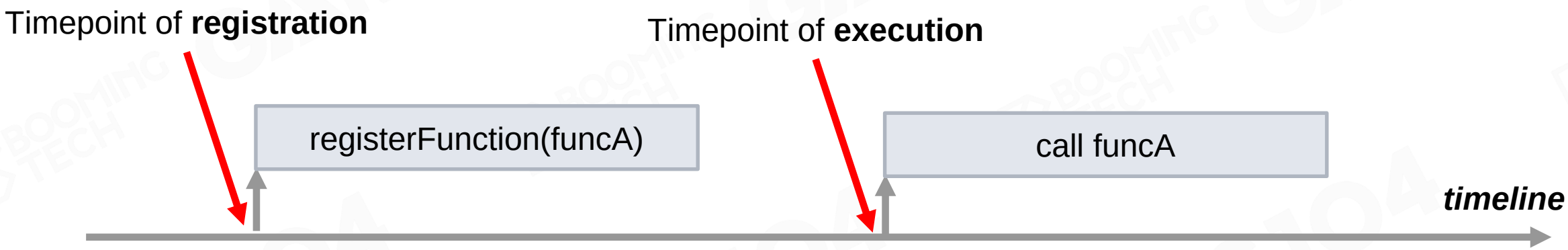
- Any reference to executable code that is passed as an argument to another piece of code

```
function invoke(call_back_function)
{
    // ...
    call_back_function()
}
```

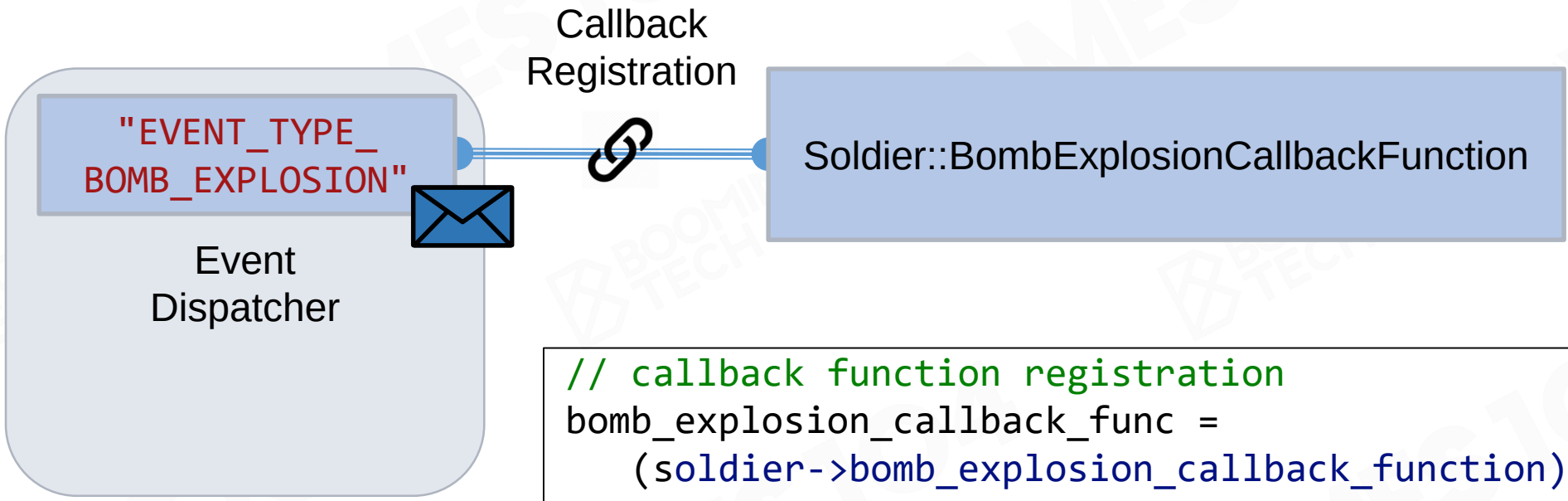


Object Lifespan and Callback Safety

Time points of registration and execution differs



Object Lifespan and Callback Safety



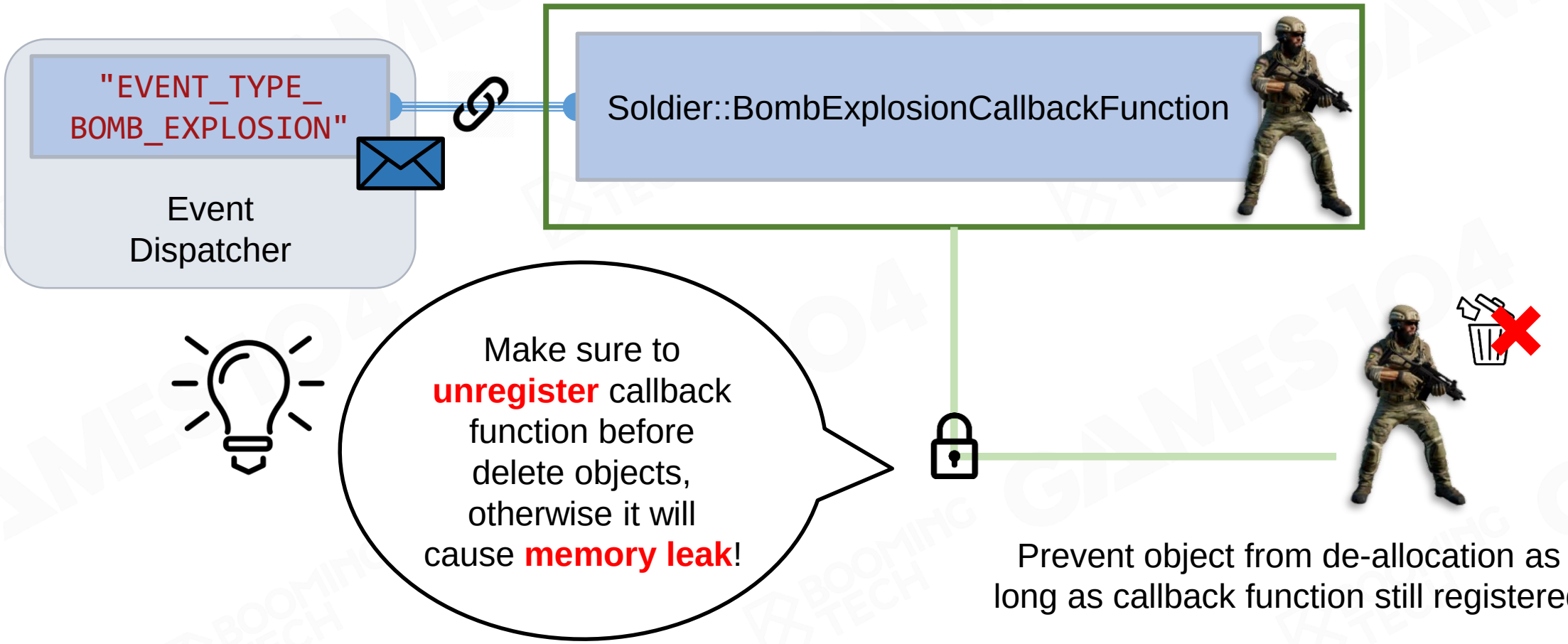

```
// callback function registration
bomb_explosion_callback_func =
   (soldier->bomb_explosion_callback_function)

//...
// when EVENT_TYPE_BOMB_EXPLOSION event comes
invoke(soldier, bomb_explosion_callback_func)
```

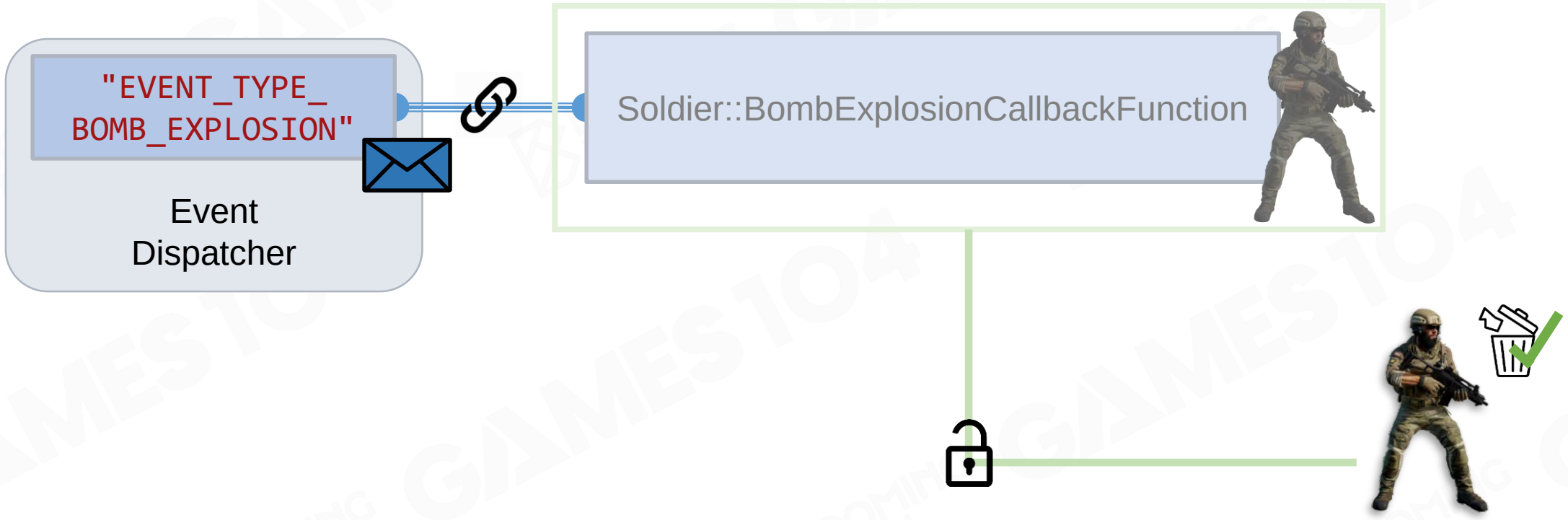
What if soldier already destroyed?

Wild pointer! Crashed!

Object Strong Reference



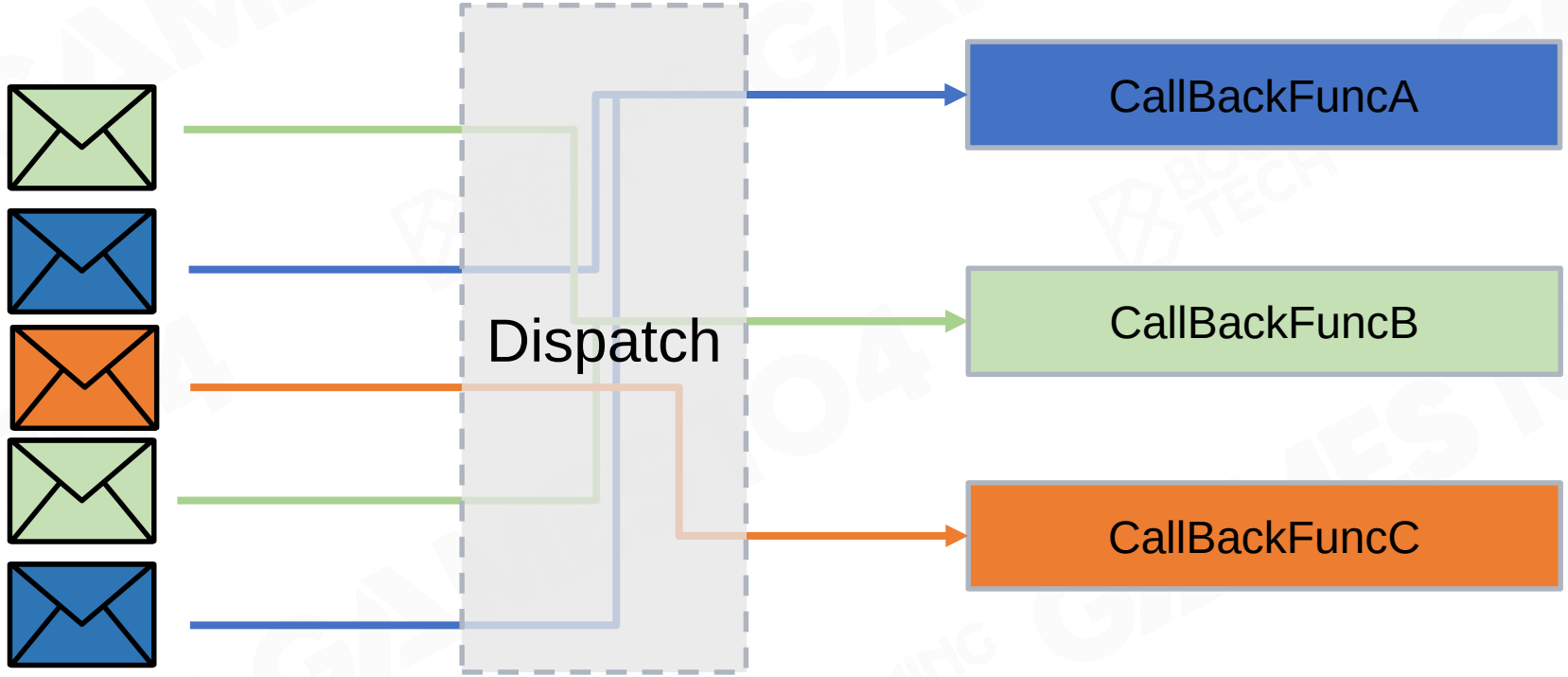
Object Weak Reference



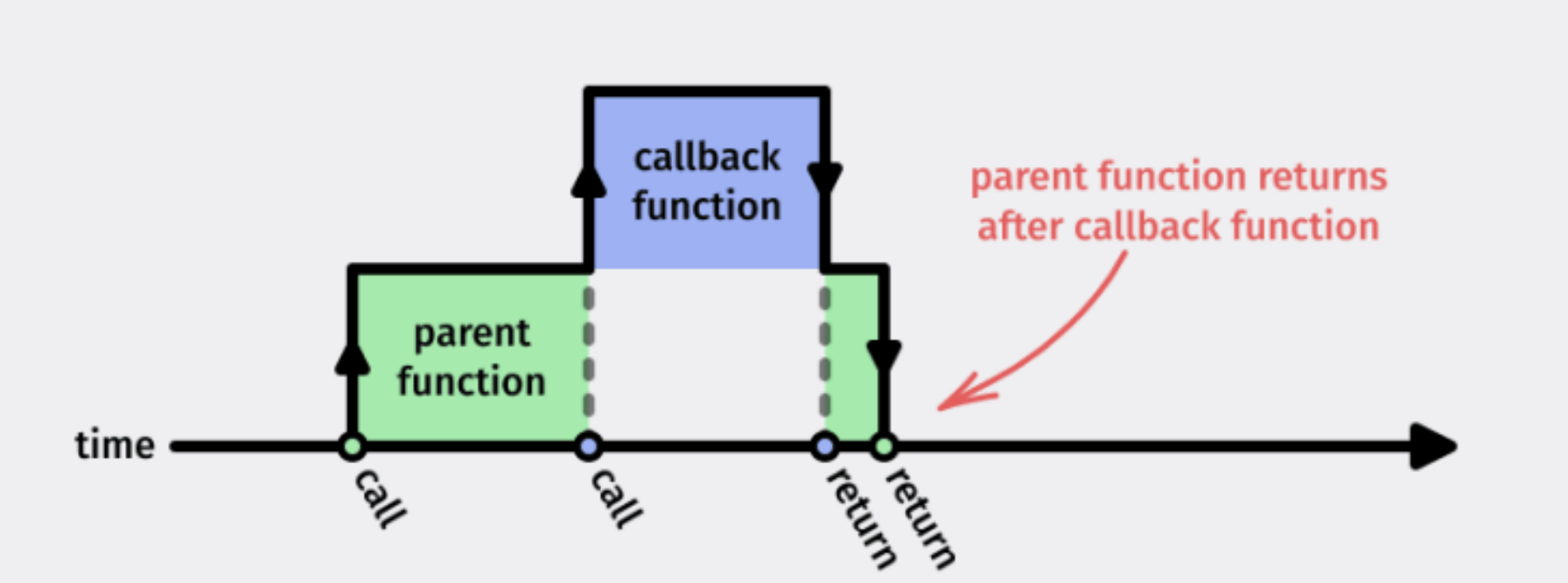
Object could be de-allocated, and will check callback function if valid

Event Dispatch

- Send event to appropriate destination



Event Dispatch : Immediate



Event Dispatch : Immediate

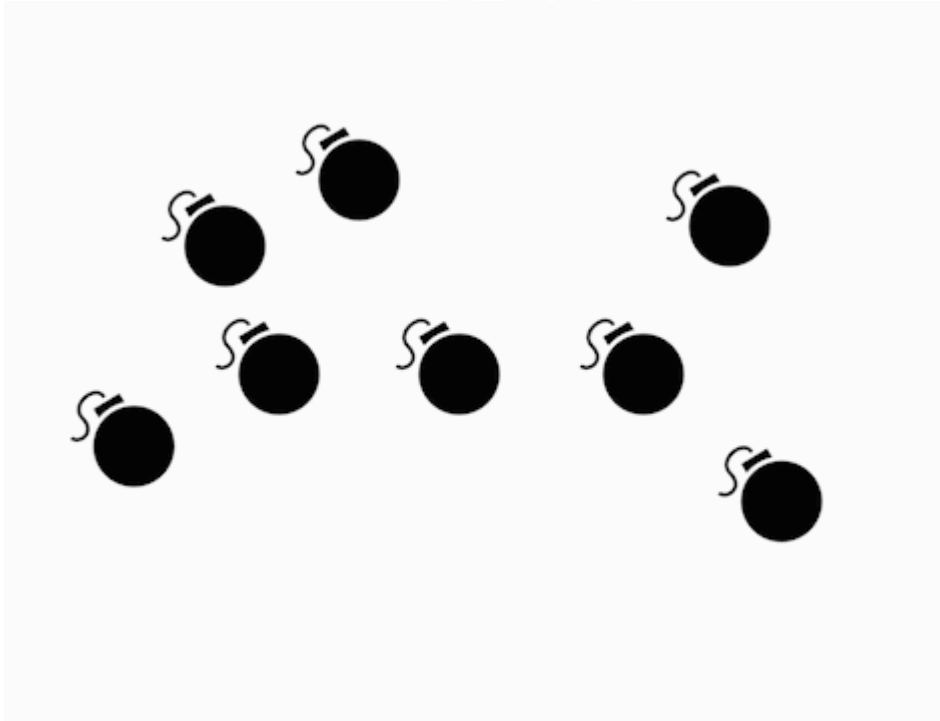
- Deep well of callbacks

When a bomb explodes near others.....

```
...
EventManager::sendEvent()
Bomb::explode()
Bomb::onEvent()
EventManager::sendEvent()
Bomb::explode()
Bomb::onEvent()
EventManager::sendEvent()
Bomb::explode()
Bomb::onEvent()
EventManager::sendEvent()
Bomb::explode()
...
GameWorld::updateObjects()
Engine::gameLoop()
main()
```

Recursively call these functions

Deep Callstack



Event Dispatch : Immediate

Problem

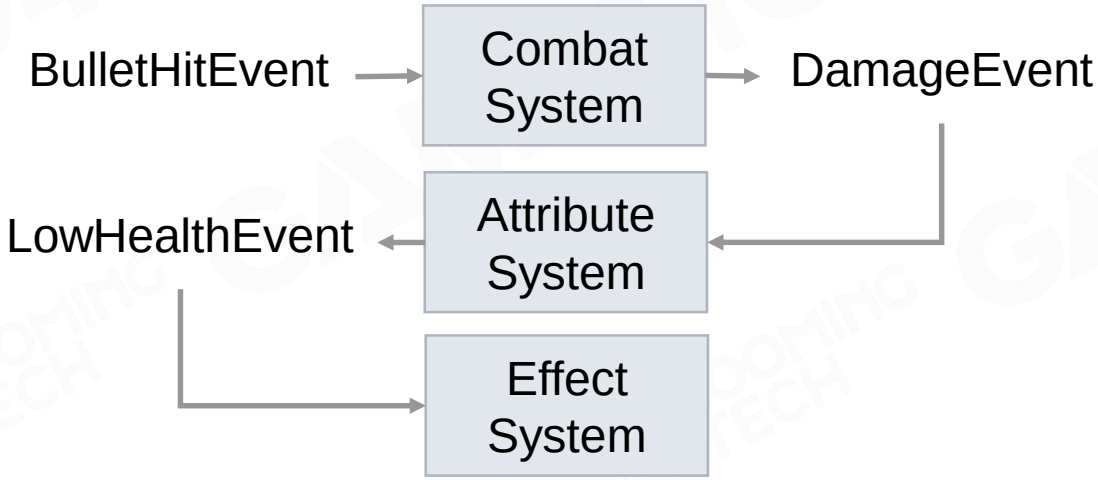
- Blocked by function

```
...
EventManager::sendEvent()
EffectSystem::addEffect()
EffectSystem::onEvent()
EventManager::sendEvent()
AttributeSystem::updateHealth()
AttributeSystem::onEvent()
EventManager::sendEvent()
CombatSystem::calculateDamage()
CombatSystem::onEvent()
GameWorld::updateSystem()
Engine::gameLoop()
main()
```

The bleeding effect should be loaded but cost plenty of time in this function call

Blocked

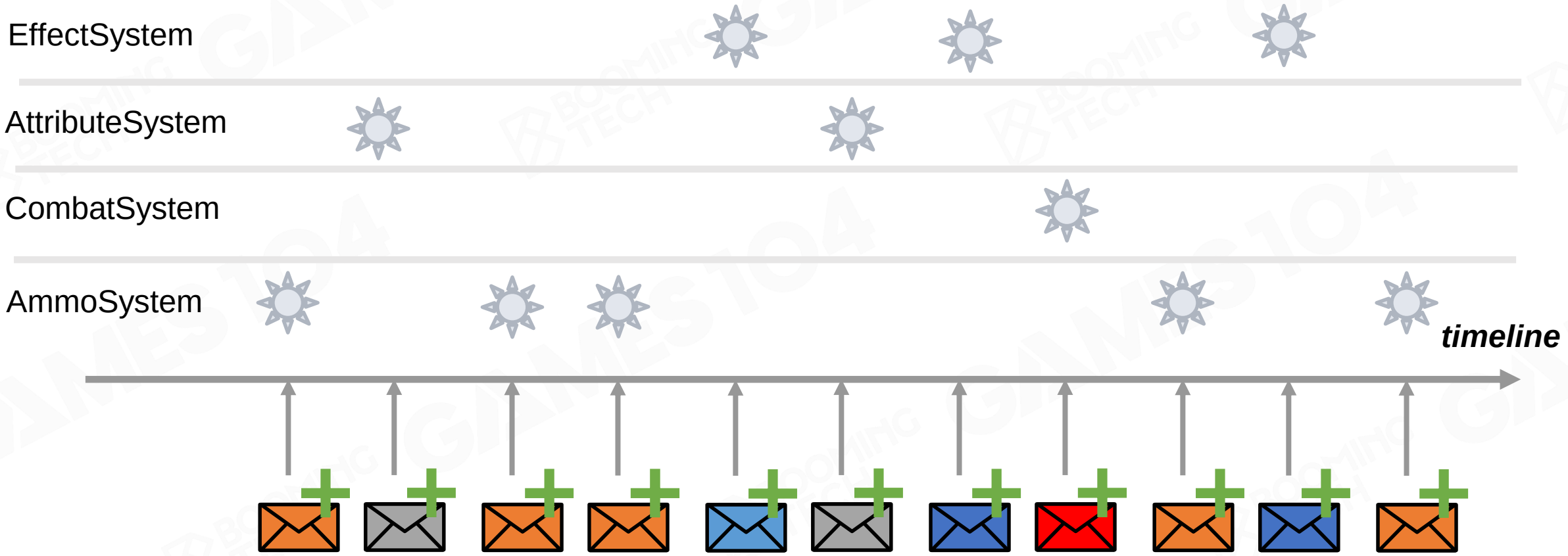
Soldier begin bleeding after hitted



Event Dispatch : Immediate

Problem

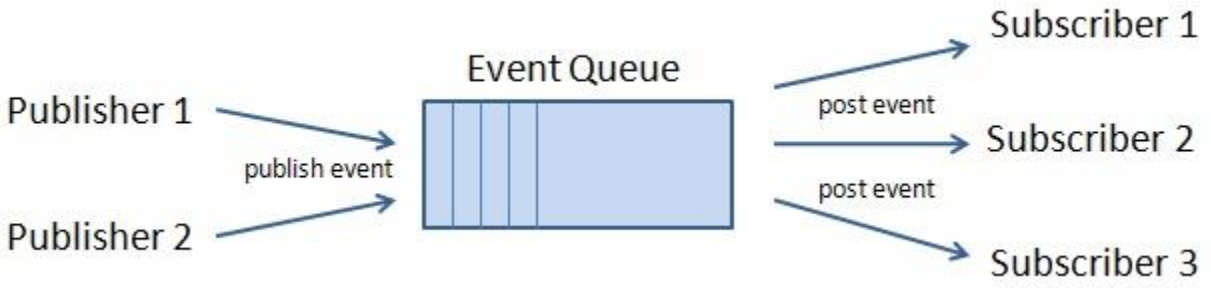
- Difficult for parallelization

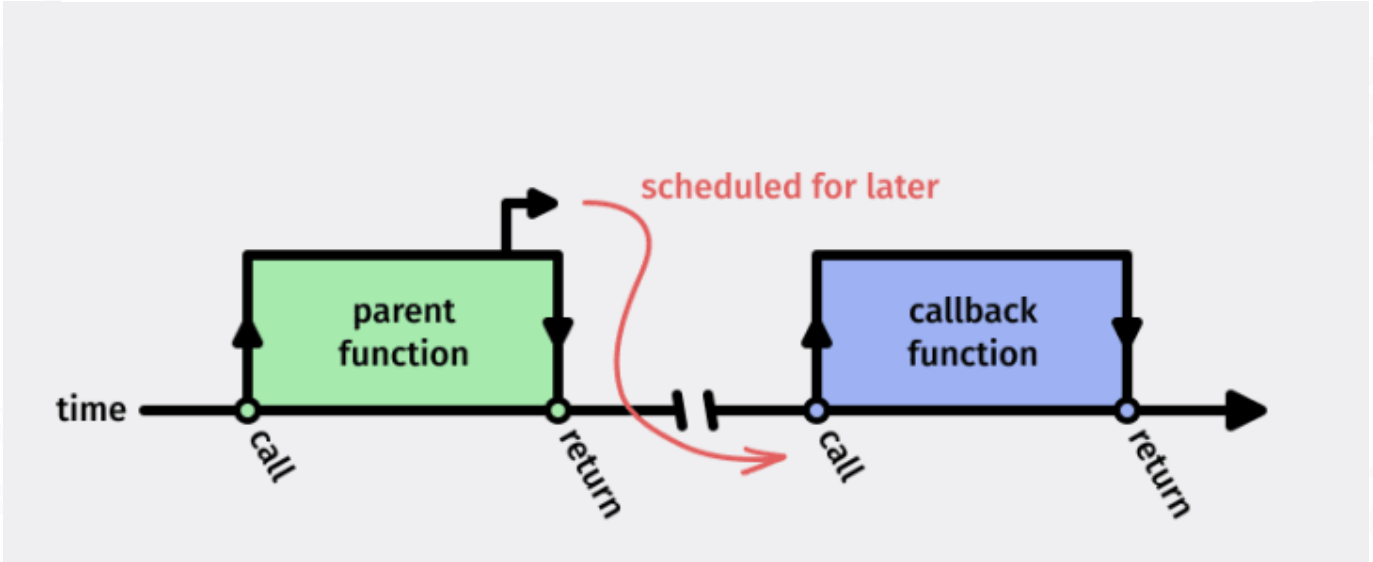


Event Queue

Basic Implementation

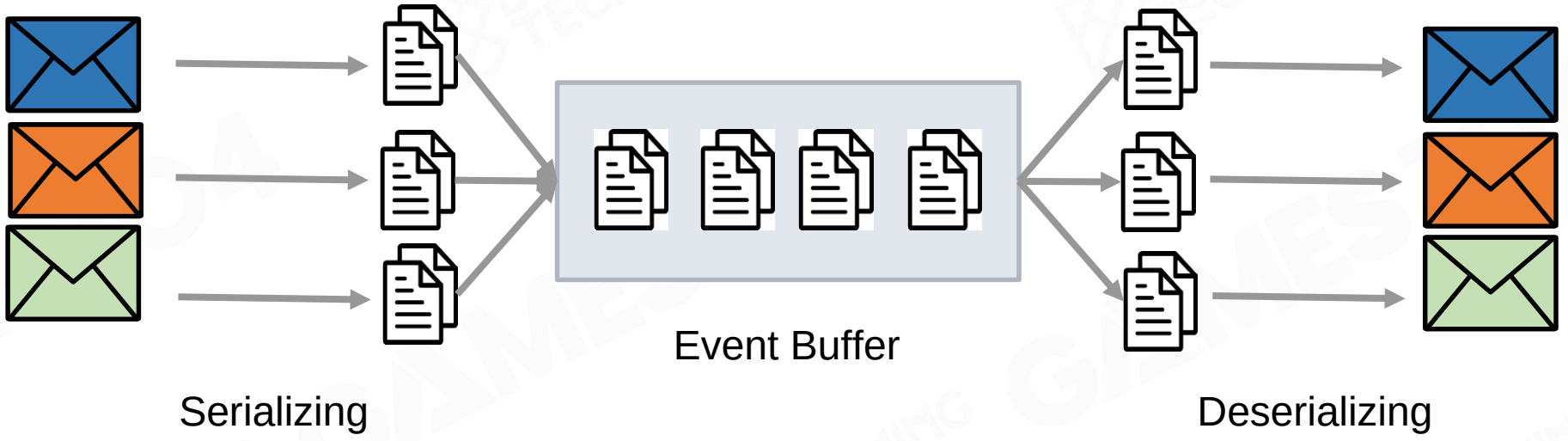
- Store events in queue for handling at an arbitrary future time





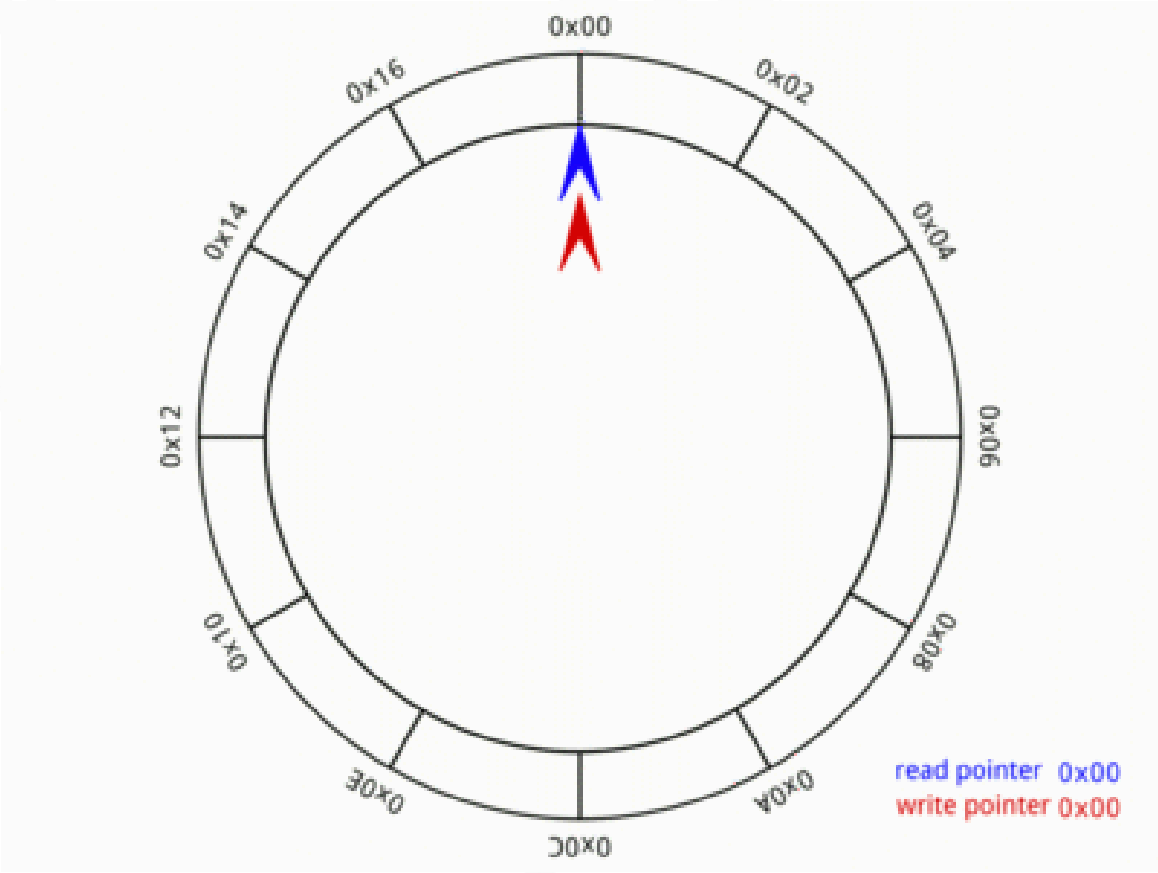
Event Serializing and Deserializing

- To store various types of events



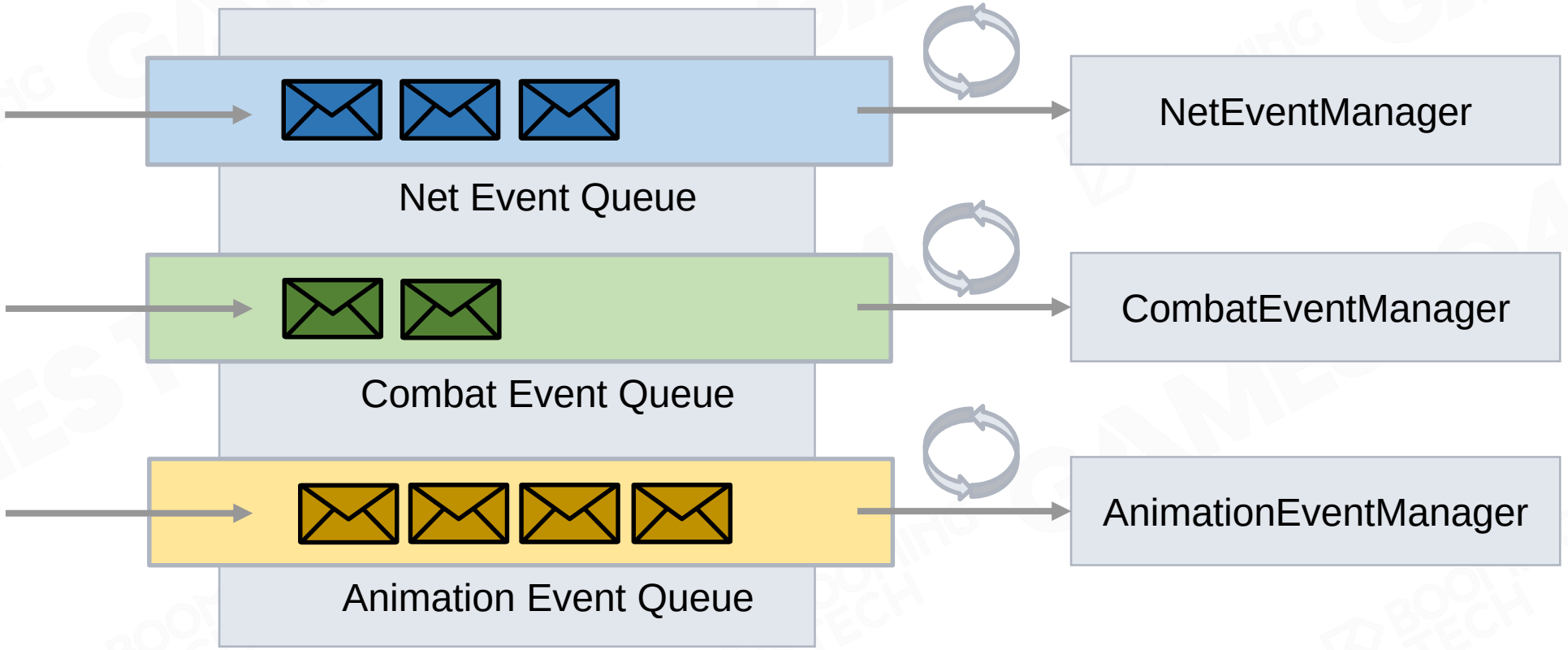
Event Queue

Ring buffer



Event Queue

Batching



Problems of Event Queue (1/2)

- Timeline not determined by publisher

Fire a bullet

Create Bullet

Update Ammo Count

Add Fire Effect

Add Fire Sound

Sequence of Event Sent

CombatSystem

AmmoSystem

EffectSystem

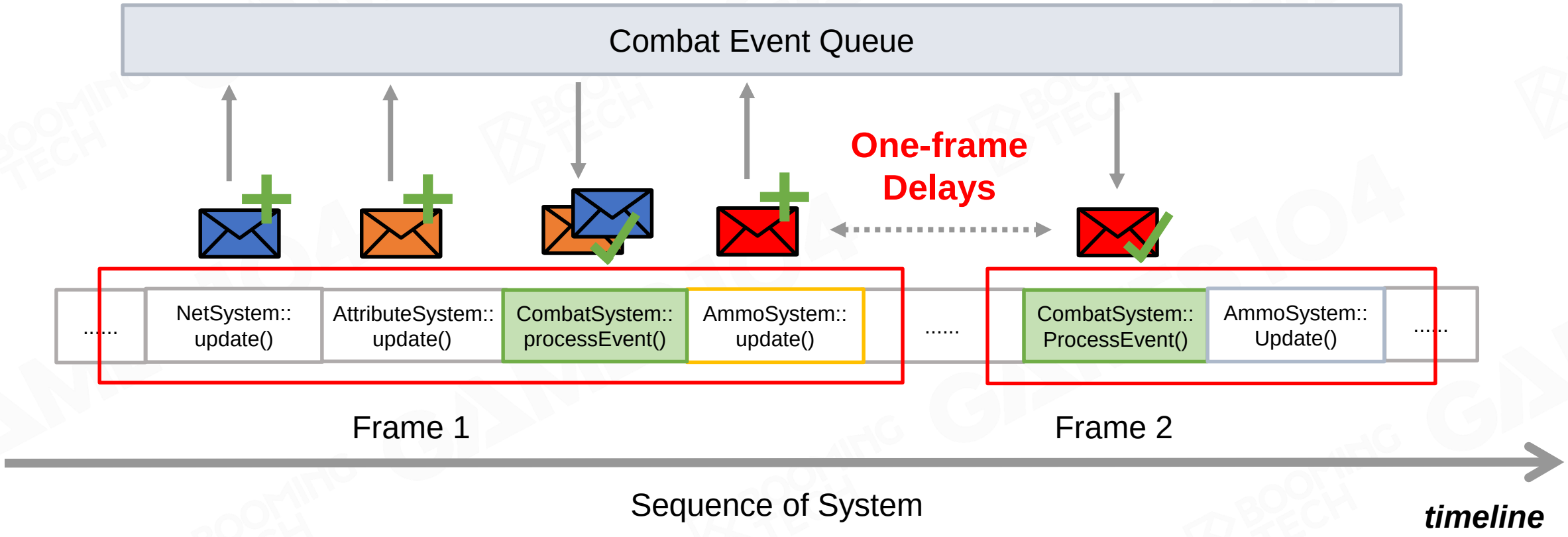
AudioSystem

(Parallel Processing)

Sequence of Event Processed

Problems of Event Queue (2/2)

- One-frame delays



GamePlay

Game Logic

Early Stage Game Logic Programming

Compiled language(mostly C/C++)

- Compiled to machine code with high performance
- More easier to use than assembly language


```
void Player::tick(Float delta)
{
    updateDirection();

    if (isKeyPressed(MOUSE_LEFT))
    {
        fire();
    }

    if (isKeyDown(KEY_W))
    {
        moveForward(delta);
    }
    else if (isKeyDown(KEY_S))
    {
        moveBackward(delta);
    }
    if (isKeyDown(KEY_A))
    {
        moveLeftward(delta);
    }
    else if (isKeyDown(KEY_D))
    {
        moveRightward(delta);
    }

    ...
}
```

Problem of Compiled Languages

Game requirements get complex as hardware evolves

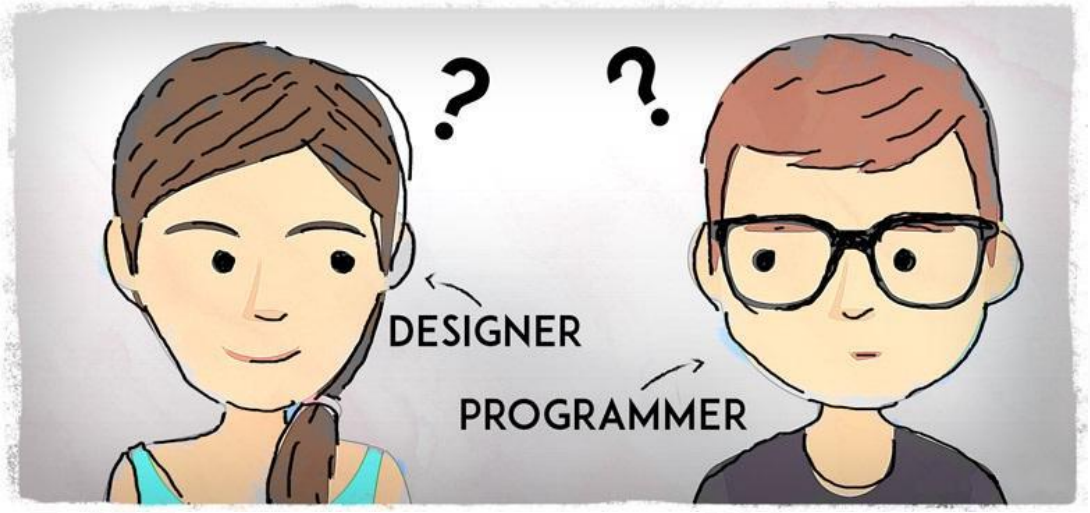
- Need quick iterations of gameplay logic

Issues with compiled language

- Need recompilation with even a little modification
- Program can easily get crashed with incorrect codes

Glue Designers and Programmers

- Get rid of inefficient communication between designers and programmers
- Designers need direct control of gameplay logic
- Artists need to quickly adjust assets at the runtime environment



Scripting Languages

- Support for rapid iteration
- Easy to learn and write
- Support for hot update
- Stable, less crash by running in a sandbox

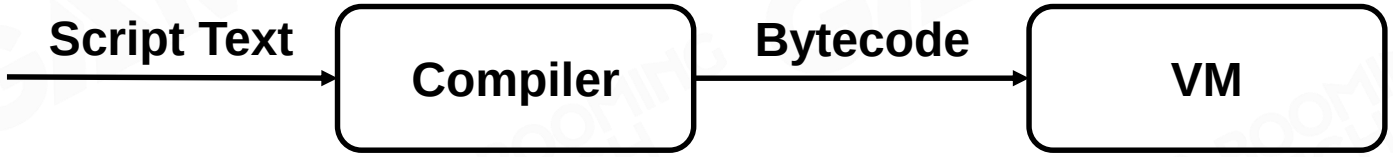
```lua
function tick(delta)
    if input_system.isKeyDown(KeyCode.W) then
        self:moveForward(delta)
    elseif input_system.isKeyDown(KeyCode.S) then
        self:moveBackward(delta)
    end

    if input_system.isKeyDown(KeyCode.MouseLeft) then
        self:fire(delta)
    end
    ...
end
```

Lua Script Example

How Script Languages Work

Script is converted to ***bytecode*** by a ***compiler*** first, then run on a ***virtual machine***



Instruction	Opcode	Description
NUM	0x00	Push a literal number
ADD	0x01	Pop two numbers and push the result of addtion
PRT	0x02	Pop a value and print

Instruction Set Example

Script: print(36 + 15)

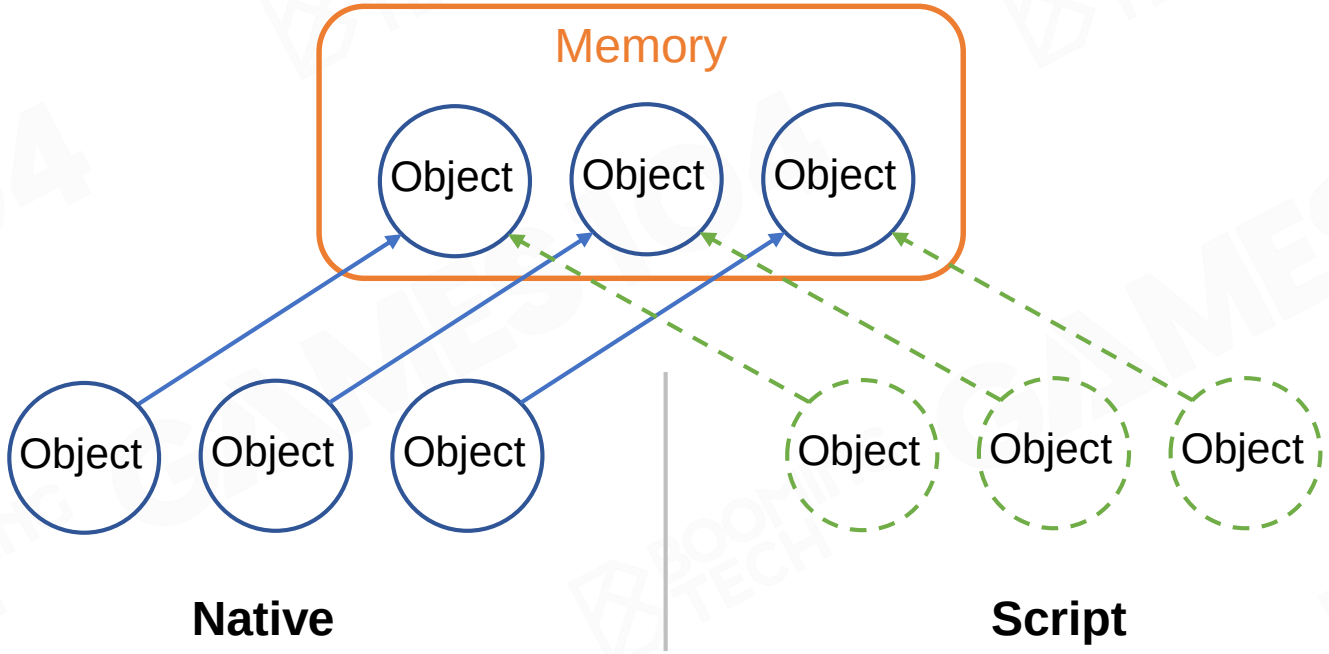
Bytecode:	0x00	0x24	0x00	0x0F	0x01	0x02
Instruction:	NUM	36	NUM	15	ADD	PRT

Bytecode Example

Object Management between Scripts and Engine (1/2)

Object lifetime management in ***native engine code***

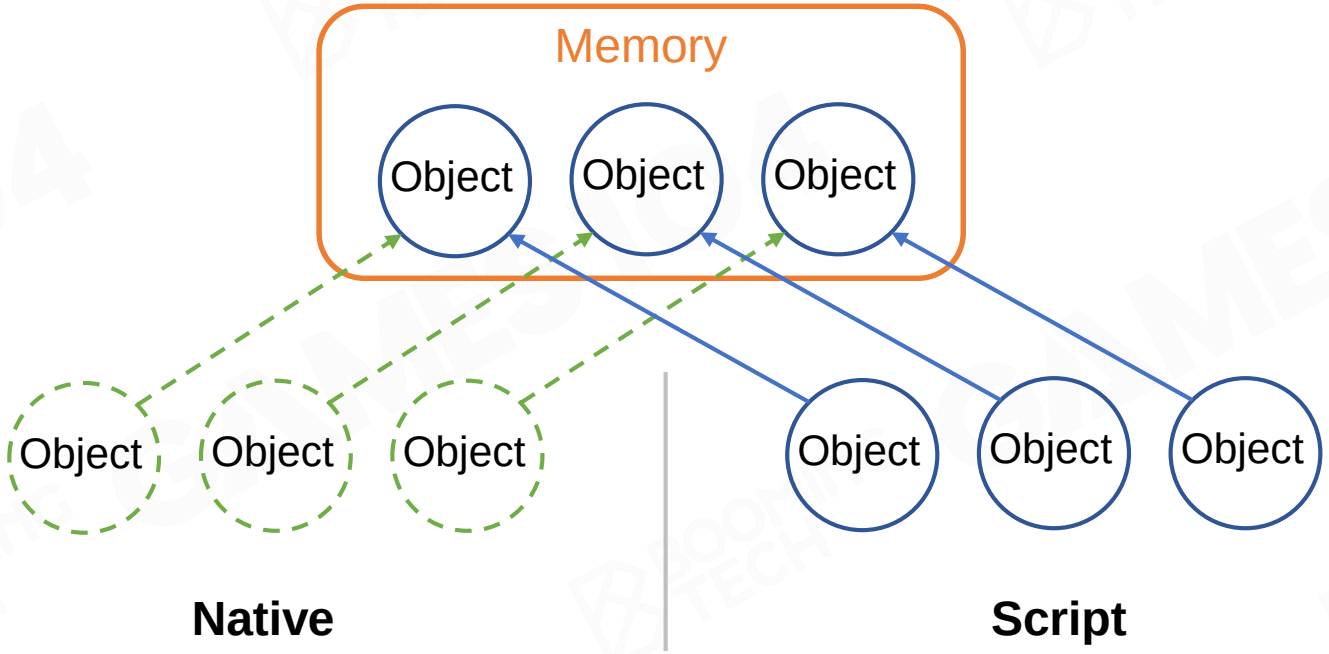
- Need to provide an object lifetime management mechanism
- Not safe when script uses native objects (may have been destructed)



Object Management between Scripts and Engine (2/2)

Object lifetime management in ***script***

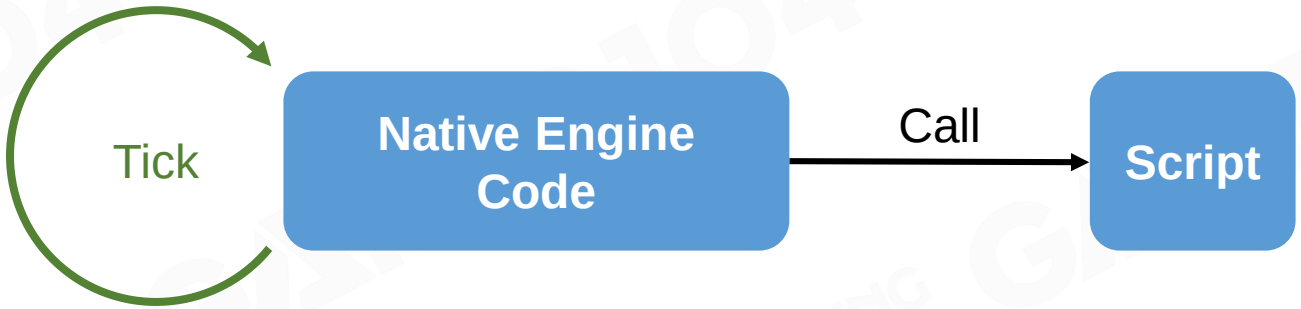
- The lifetime of objects are auto managed by script GC
- The time when object is deallocated is uncontrolled (controlled by GC)
- Easy to get memory leak if reference relations get complex in script



Architectures for Scripting System (1/2)

Native language dominants the game world

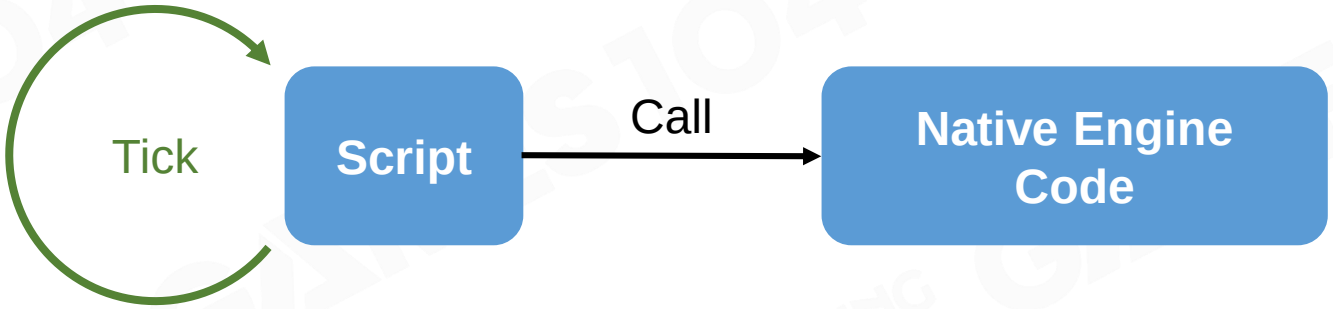
- Most gameplay logic is in native code
- Script extends the functionality of native engine code
- High performance with compiled language



Architectures for Scripting System (2/2)

Script language dominants the game world

- Most gameplay logic is in script
- Native engine code provides necessary functionality to script
- Quick development iteration with script language



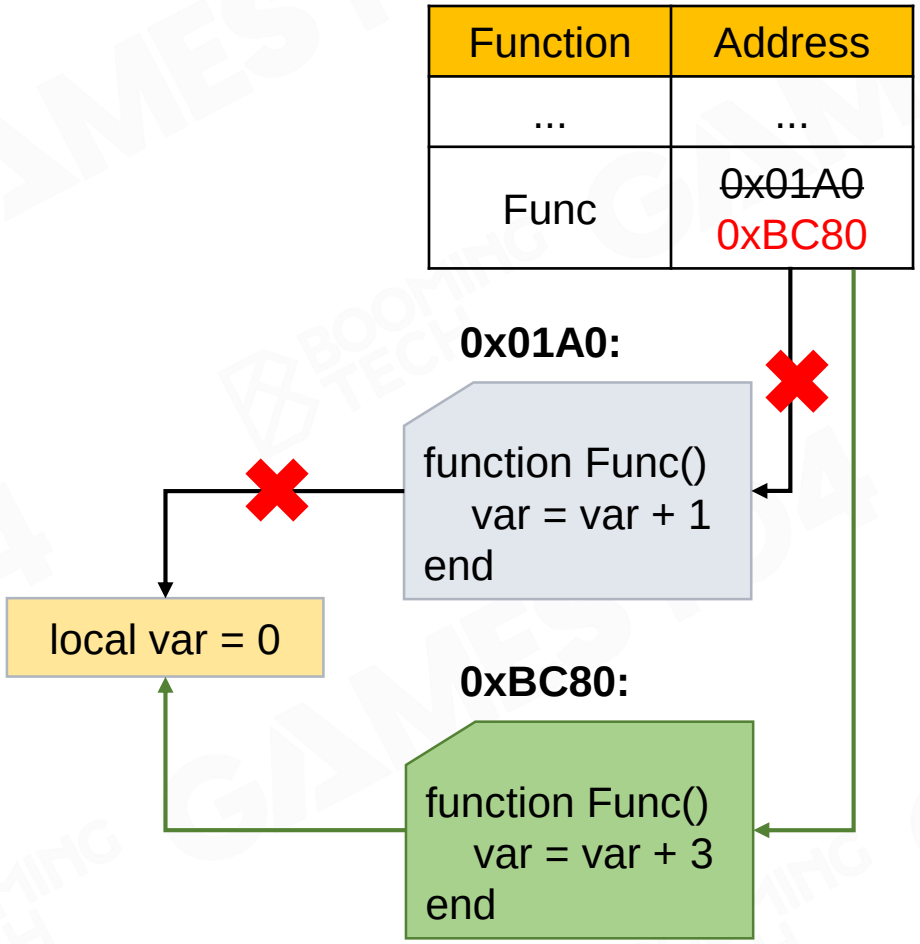
Advanced Script Features - Hot Update

Allow modifications of script while game is running

- Quick iteration for some specific logic
- Enable to fix bugs in script while game is online

A troublesome problem with hot update

- All variables reference to old functions should be updated too



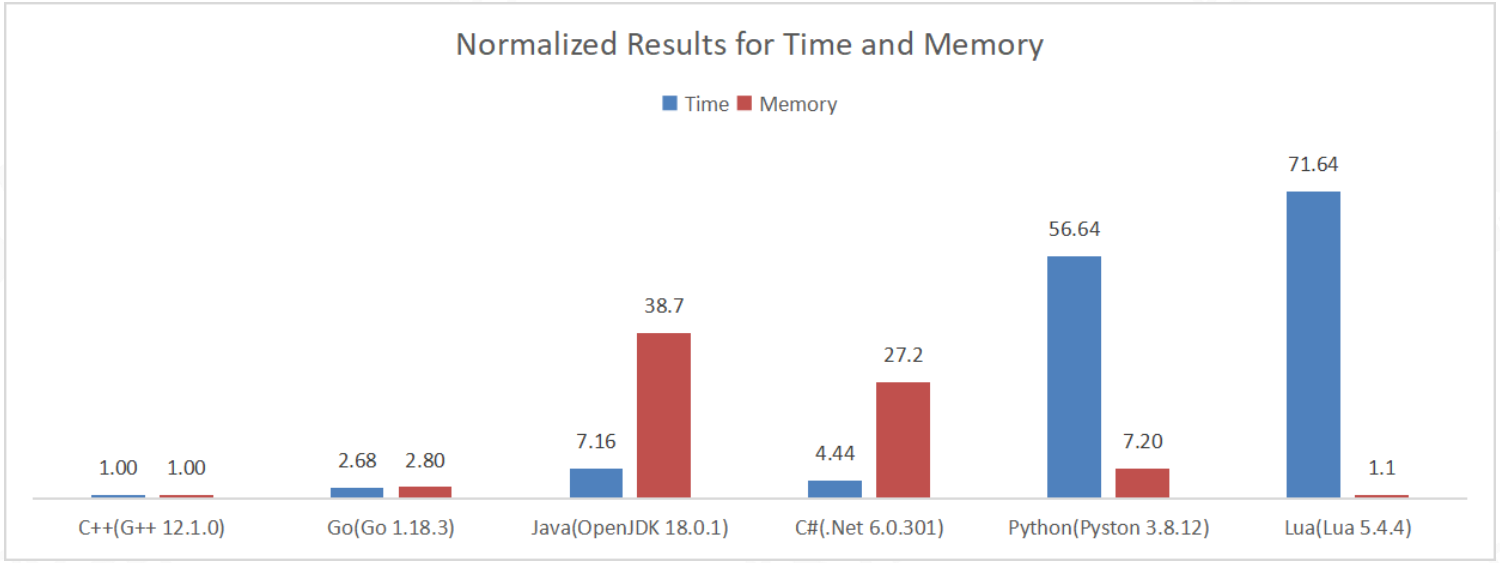
Hot update workflow example

Issues with Script Language

The **performance** is usually lower than compiled language

- Weakly typed language is usually harder to optimize when compile
- Need a virtual machine to run the bytecode
- JIT is a solution for optimization

Weakly typed language is usually harder to refactor



N-body problem benchmark of popular languages

Make a Right Choice of Scripting Language

Things need to be considered

- Language performance
- Built-in features, e.g. object-oriented programming support

Select the proper architecture of scripting

- Object lifetime management in native engine code or script
- Which one is dominant, native language or script

Popular Script Languages (1/2)

Lua (used in *World of Warcraft*, *Civilization V*)

- Robust and mature
- Excellent runtime performance
- Light-weighted and highly extensible

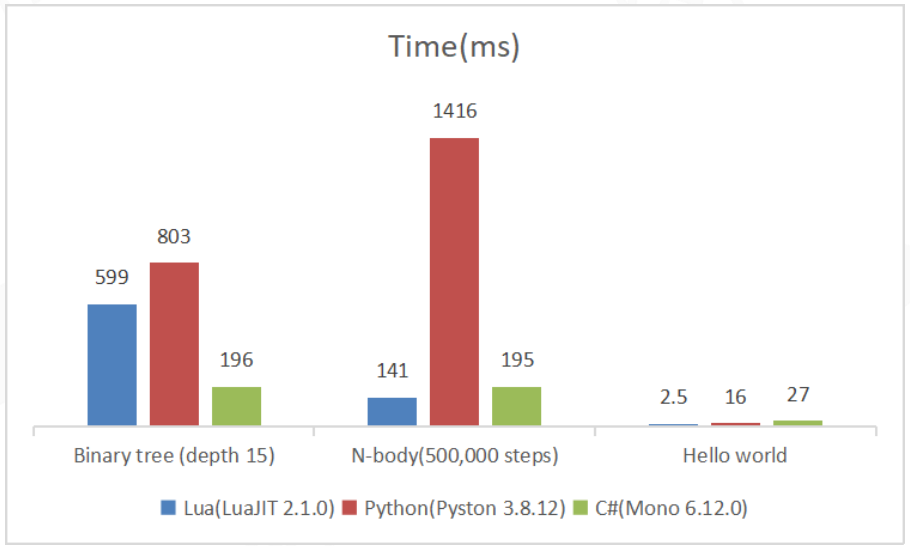
Python (used in *The Sims 4*, *EVE Online*)

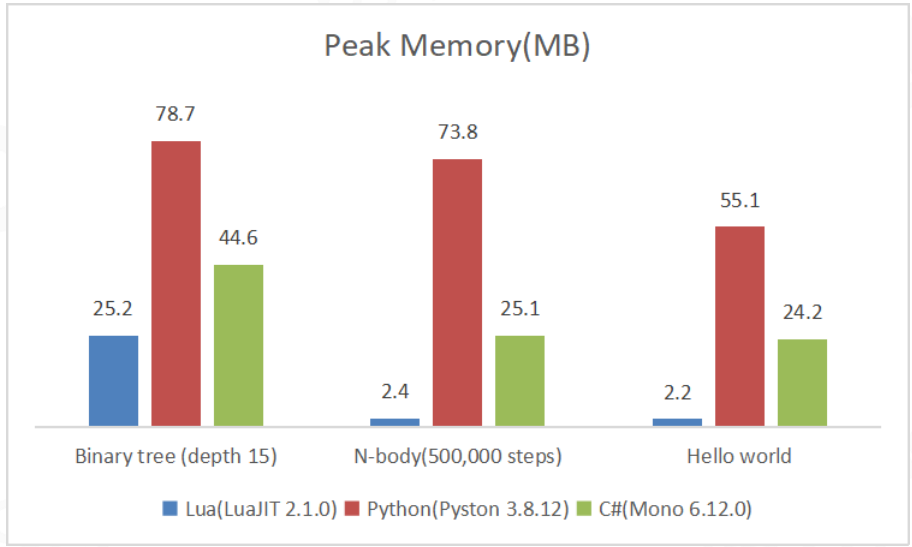
- Reflection support
- Built-in object-oriented support
- Extensive standard libraries and third-party modules

Popular Script Languages (2/2)

C# (to bytecode offline, used in *Unity*)

- Low learning curve, easy to read and understand
- Built-in object-oriented support
- Great community with lots of active developers





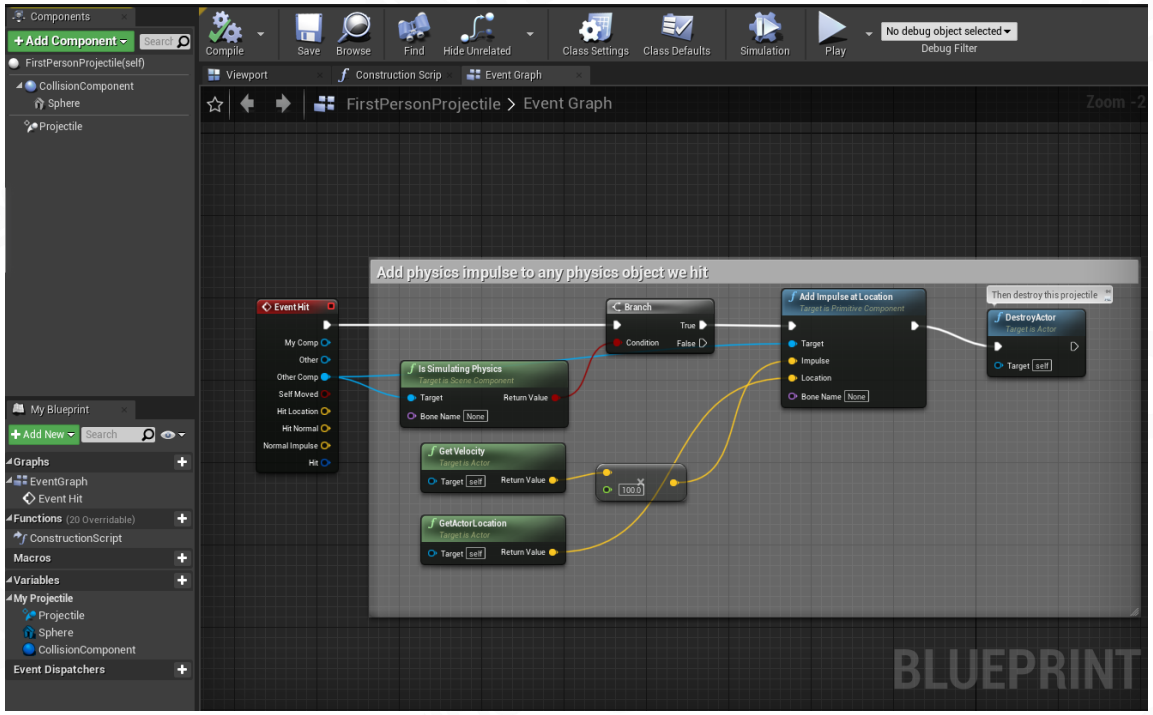
Benchmark of 3 popular script languages

GamePlay

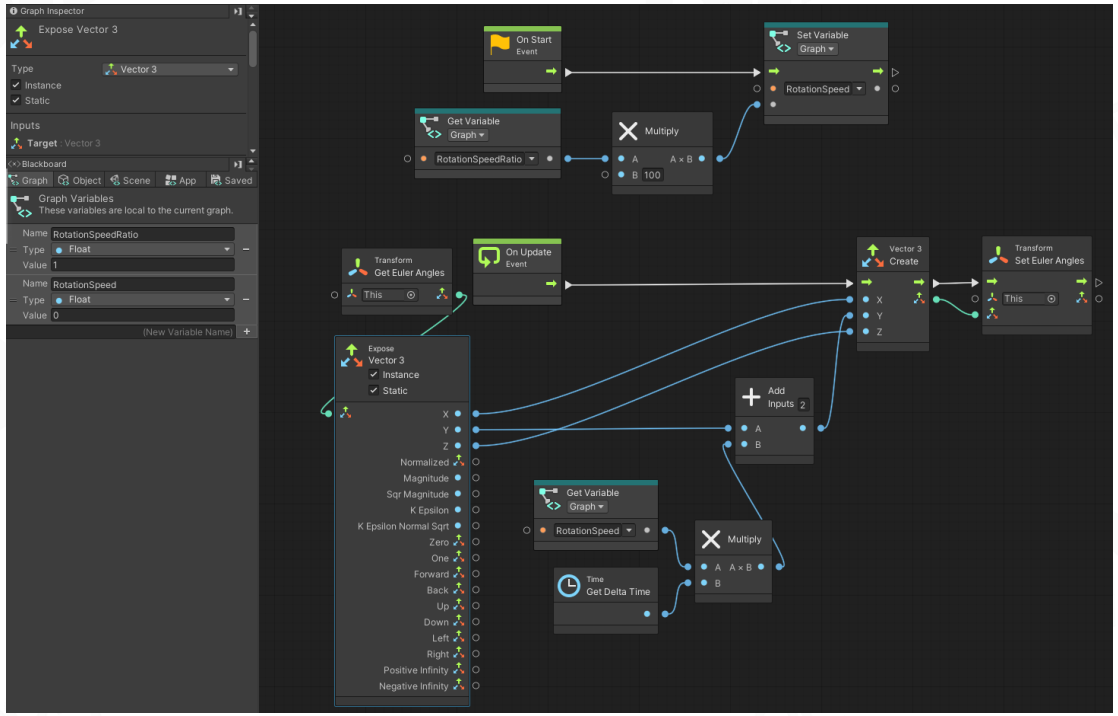
Visual Scripting

Why We Need Visual Scripting

- Friendly to non-programmers, especially designers and artists
- Less error-prone with drag-drop operations instead of code writing



Unreal Blueprint



Unity Visual Scripting

Visual Script is a Program Language

Visual script is also a programming language, which usually needs

- Variable
- Statement and Expression
- Control Flow
- Function
- Class (for object-oriented programming language)

```
class Class
{
public:
    int m_a;
};

void Function(int a)
{
    Class c;
    if (a >= 0)
    {
        c.m_a = 3 * a + 4;
    }
    else
    {
        c.m_a = 0;
    }
    ...
}
```

Variable

Expression

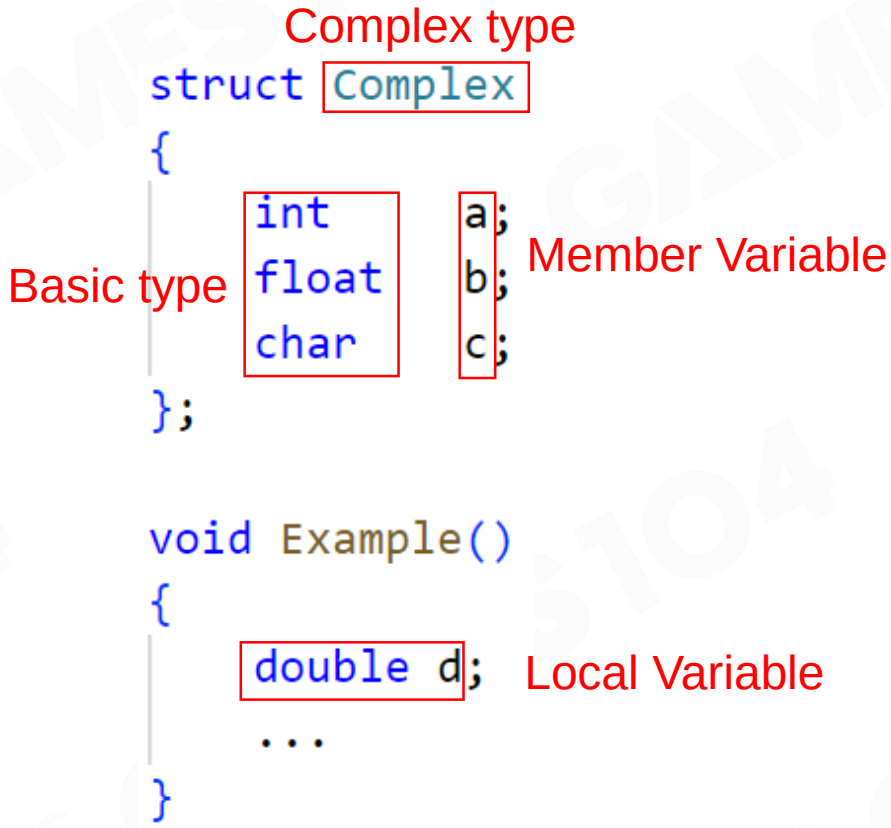
Control Flow

Statement

Variable

Preserve the data to be processed or output

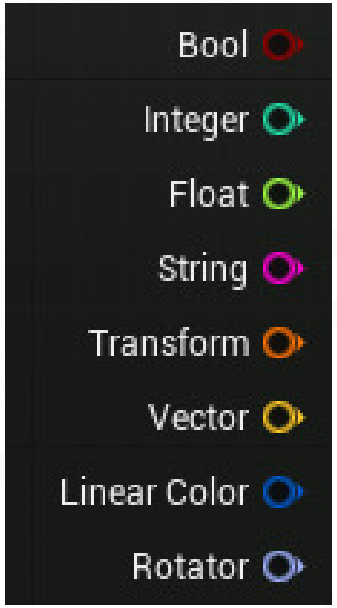
- Type
  - Basic type, e.g. integer, floating
  - Complex type, e.g. structure
- Scope
  - Local variable
  - Member variable
  - ...

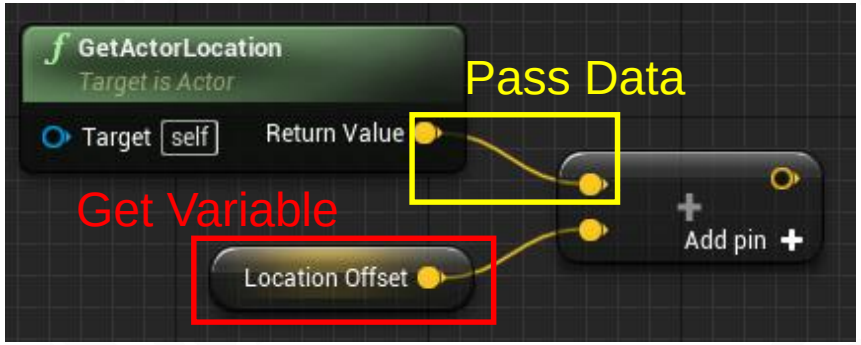


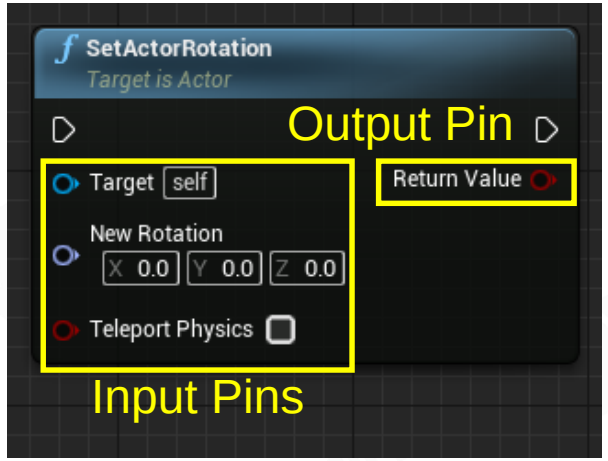
Variable Visualization - Data Pin and Wire

Use ***data wires*** through ***data pins*** to pass ***variables*** (parameters)

- Each data type uses a unique pin color







Statement and Expression

Control how to process data

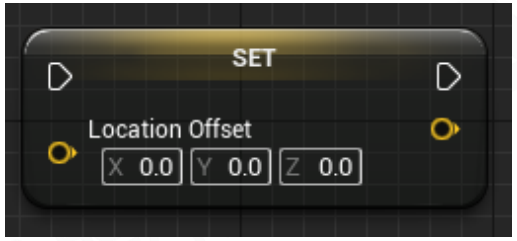
- Statement: expresses some action to be carried out
  - Assignment Statement
  - Function Statement
  - ...
- Expression: to be evaluated to determine its value
  - Function Expression
  - Math Expression
  - ...

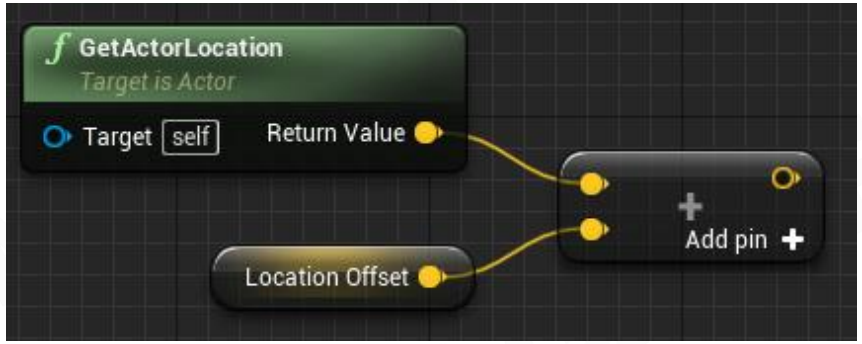
```
void Example()
{
    ...
    Assignment Statement
    int a = 3;
    Function Statement
    doSomething();
                Function Expression
    int b = getValue();
                Math Expression
    int sum = a + b;
    ...
}
```

Statement and Expression Visualization - Node

Use ***nodes*** to represent ***statements*** and ***expressions***

- Statement Node
- Expression Node





Expression Nodes

Statement Nodes

Control Flow

Control the statement execution order

- Sequence
  - By default statements are executed one by one
- Conditional
  - Next statement is decided by a condition
- Loop
  - Statements are executed iteratively until the condition is not true

```
void Example()
{
    first();
    then();

    if (condition)
    {
        doIfTrue();
    }
    else
    {
        doIfFalse();
    }

    for (int i = 0; i < loop_count; ++i)
    {
        doIteration();
    }
}
```

Sequence

Conditional

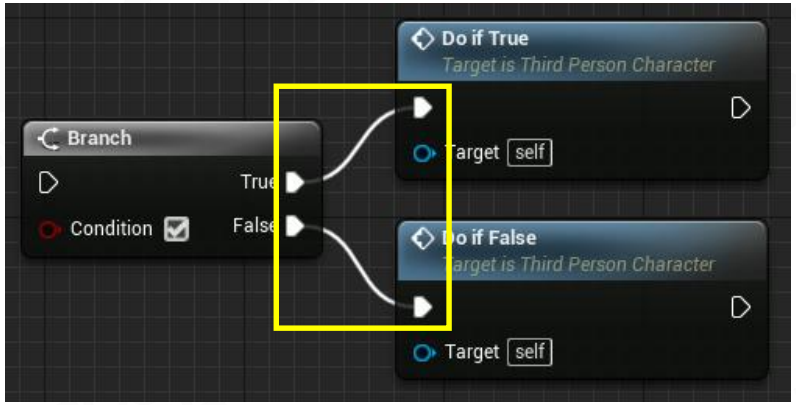
Loop

Control Flow Visualization - Execution Pin and Wire

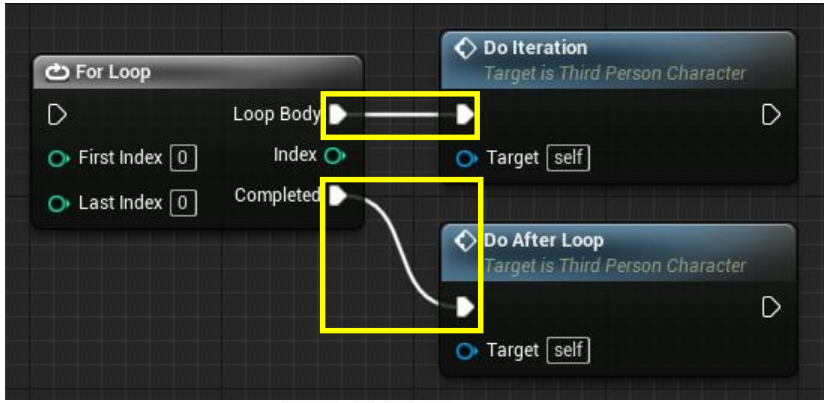
Use ***execution wires*** through ***execution pins*** to make ***statements*** sequence

- Use control statement nodes to make different control flow

Sequence



Conditional



Loop

Function

A logic module which take in data, process it and return result(s)

- Input Parameter
  - The data required input to be processed
- Function Body
  - Control how to process data
- Return value(s)
  - The data to be returned

Input Parameter

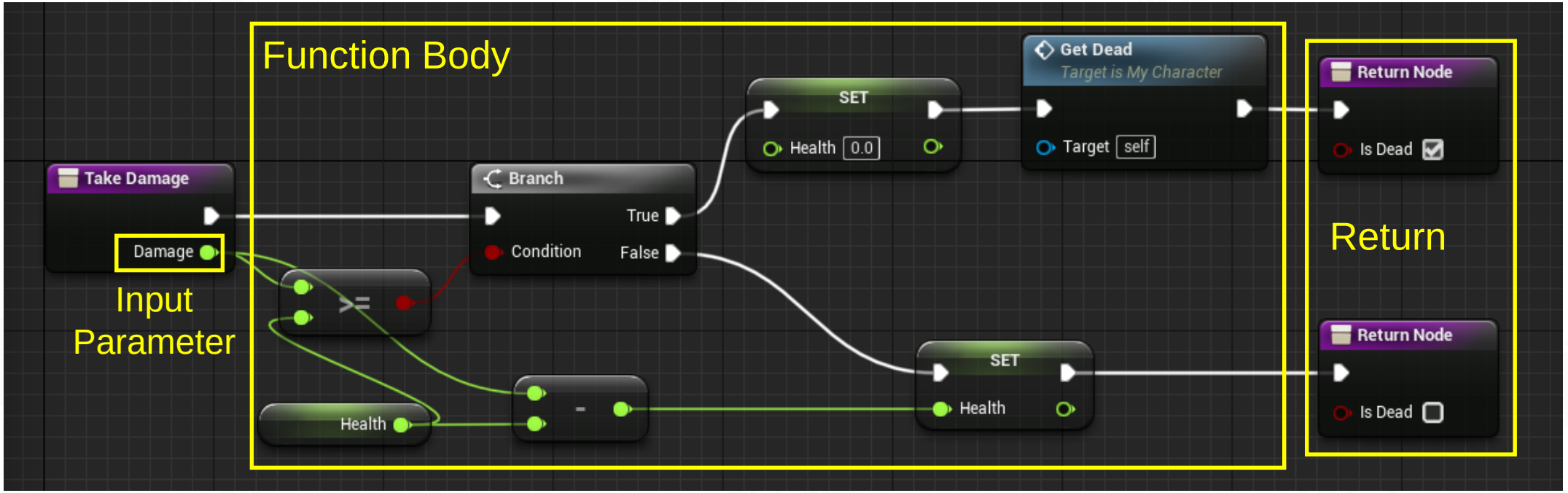
```
float functionExample(float input)
{
    doSomething();
    float result = calculateResult();
    return result;
}
```

Return value

Function Body

Function Visualization - Function Graph

Use a ***graph*** with connected nodes to make a function



Example: Define a Function with Graph

Class

A prototype for a kind of objects

- Member Variable
  - The lifetime is managed by the object instance
- Member Function
  - Can access member variables directly
  - Maybe overrided by derived classes

```
class ClassExample
{
public:
    int sum()
    {
        return m_a + m_b;
    }

private:
    int m_a;
    int m_b;
};
```

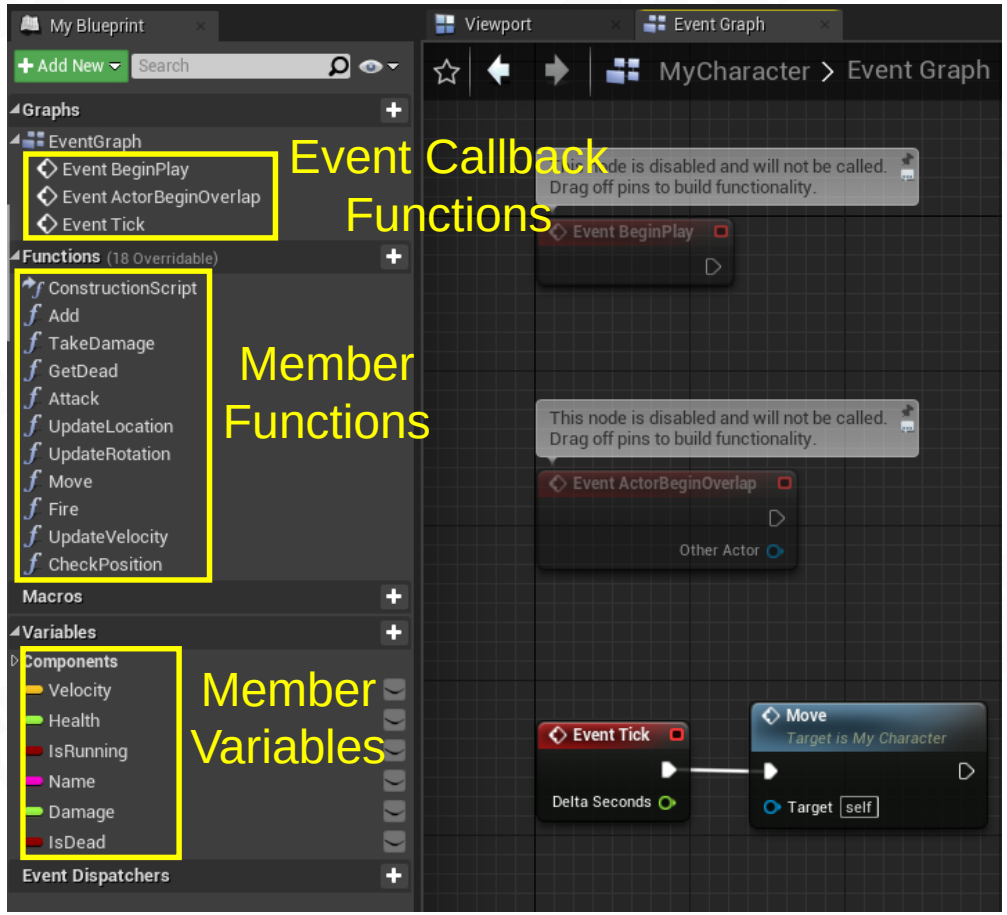
Member Function

Member Variables

Class Visualization - Blueprint

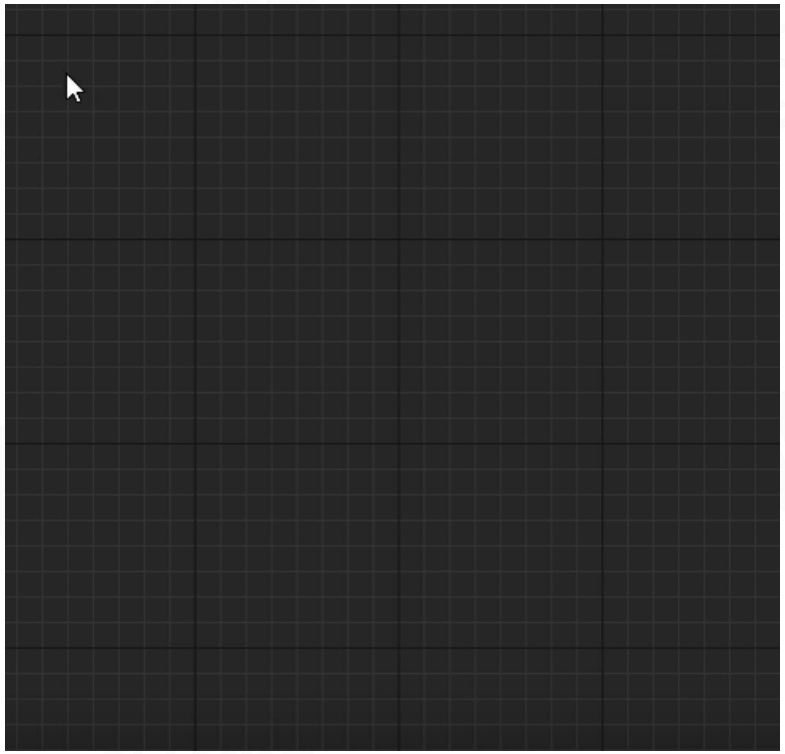
Use ***blueprint*** to define a class that inherits from a native class

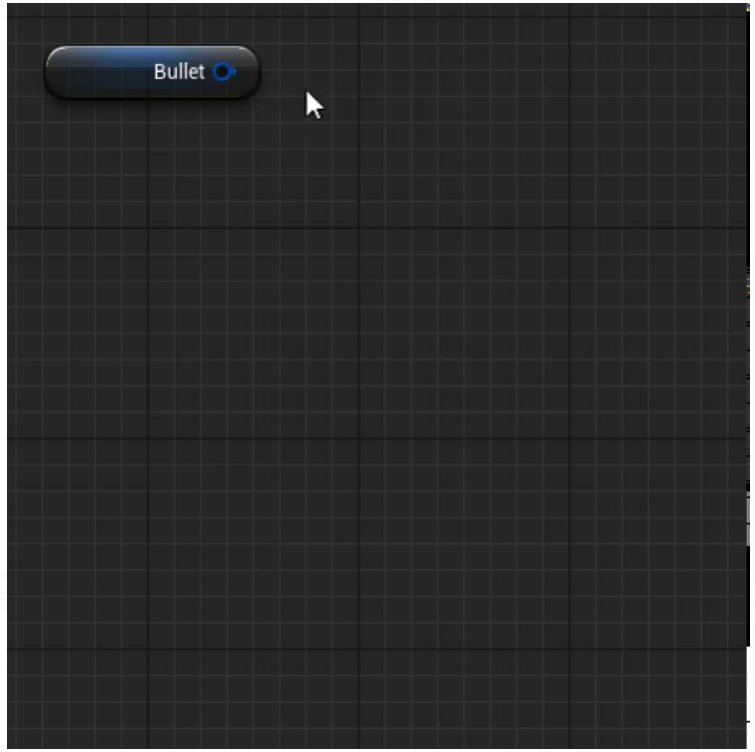
- Event Callback Functions
- Member Functions
- Member Variables
- ...



Make Graph User Friendly

- Fuzzy finding
- Accurate suggestions by type

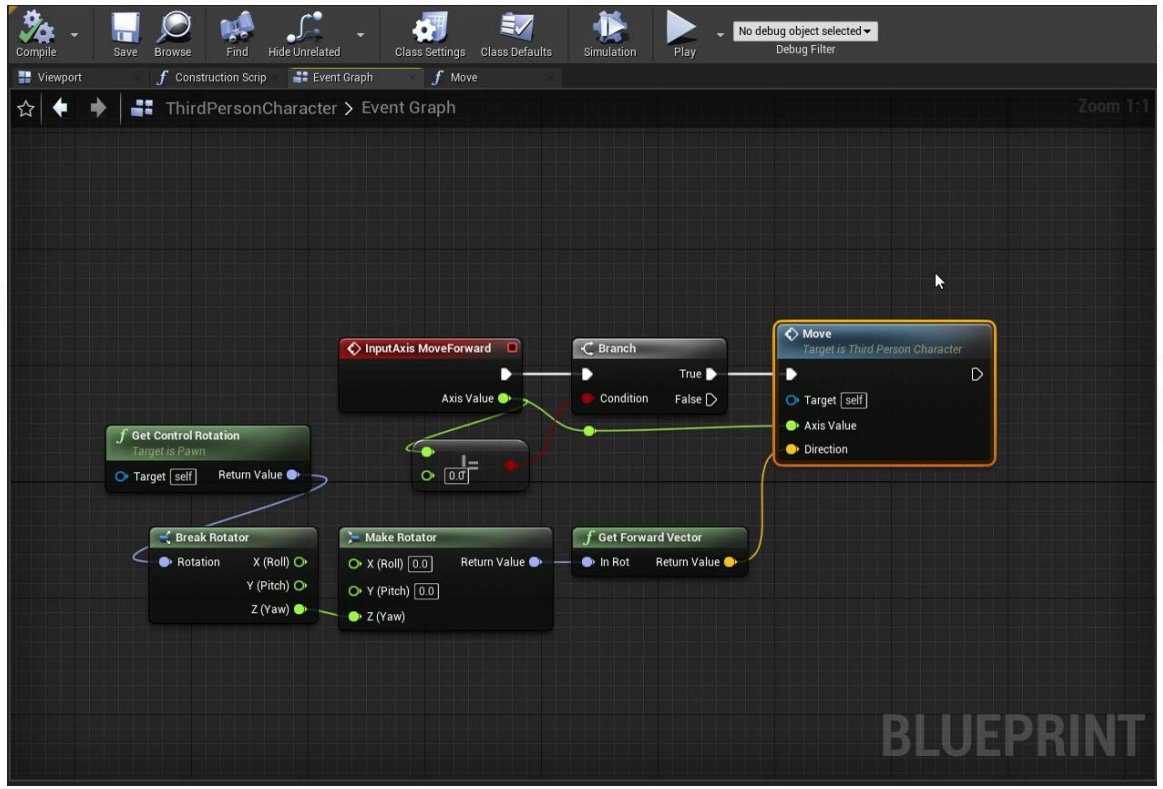




Visual Script Debugger

Debug is an important step among development

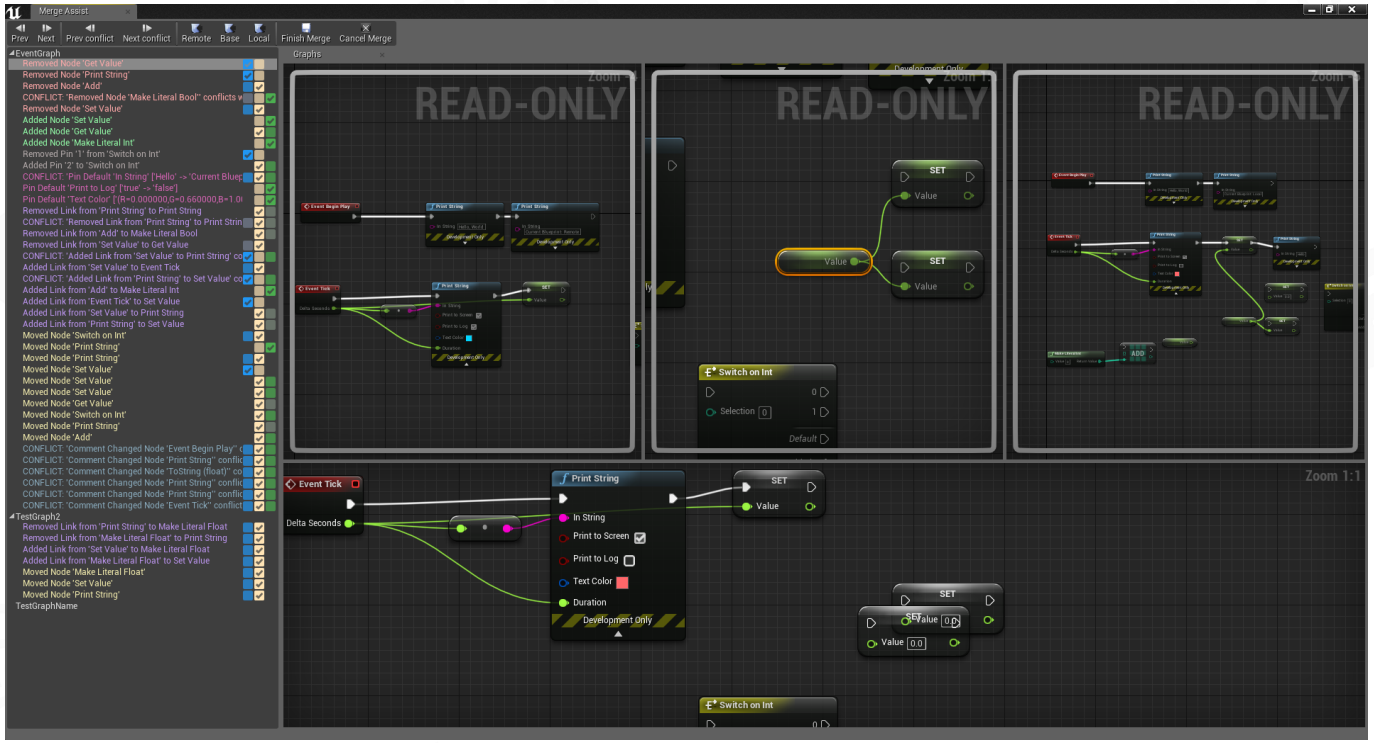
- Provide user-friendly debug tools for visual scripting



Issues with Visual Scriping (1/2)

Visual script is hard to merge for a team work

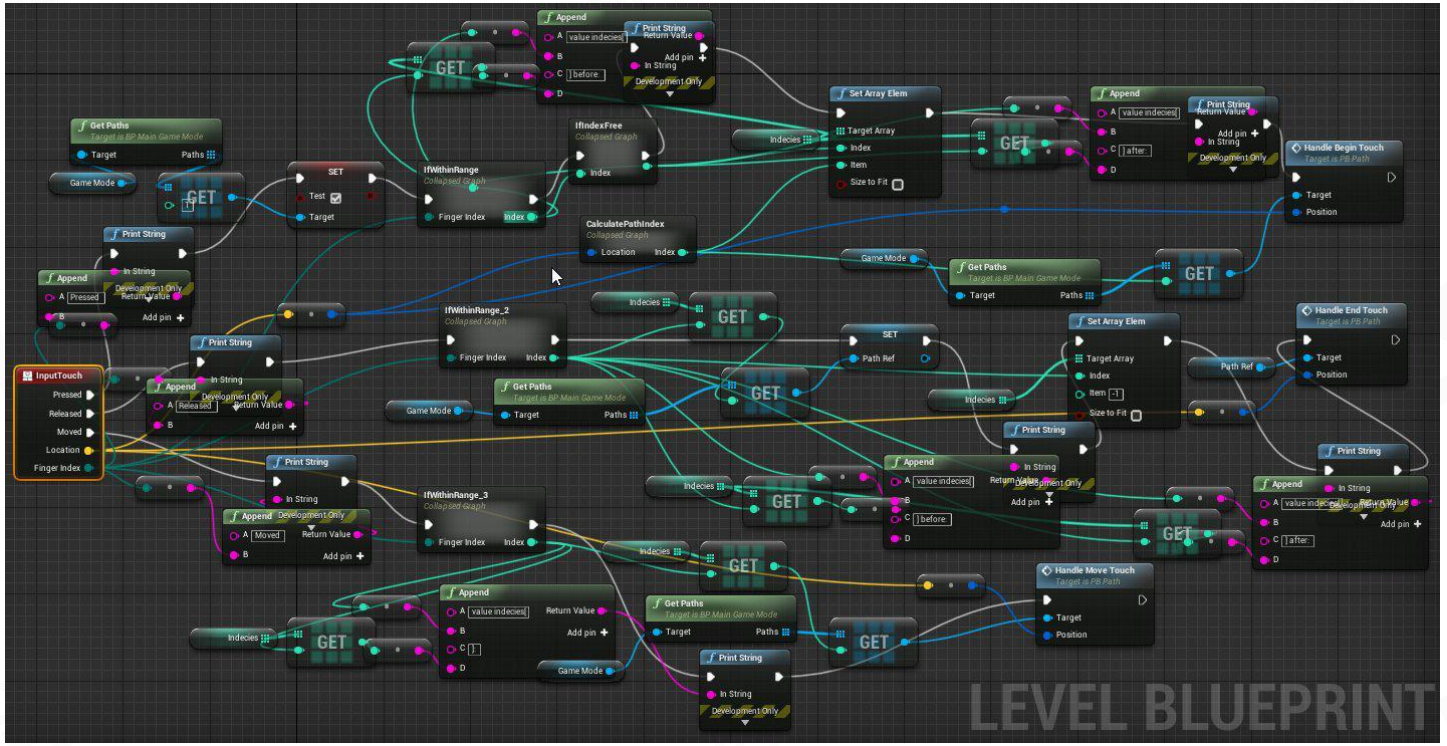
- Usually a visual script is stored as a binary file
- Manually reorder script graph is inefficient and error-prone even with a merge tool



Issues with Visual Scriping (2/2)

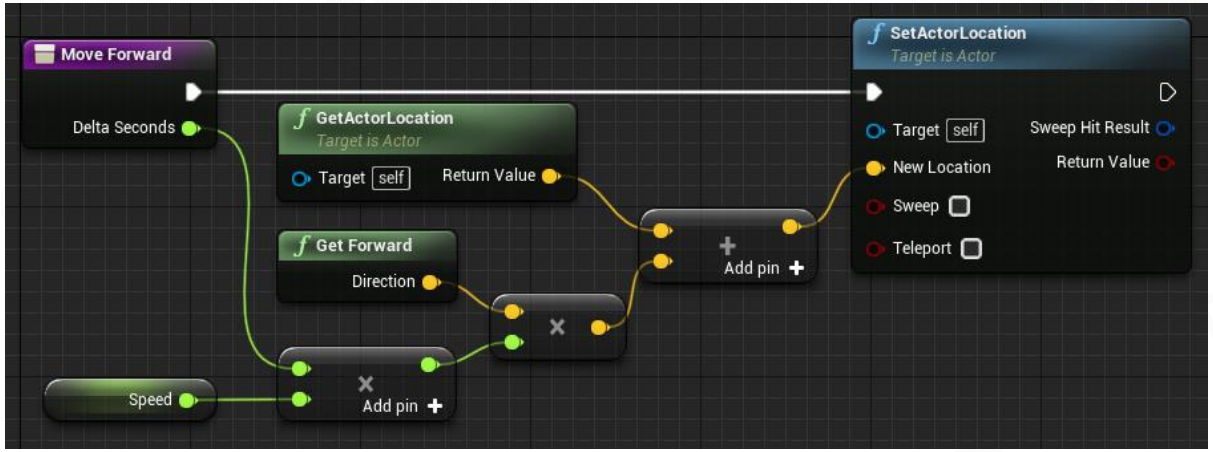
The graph can get pretty messy with complex logic

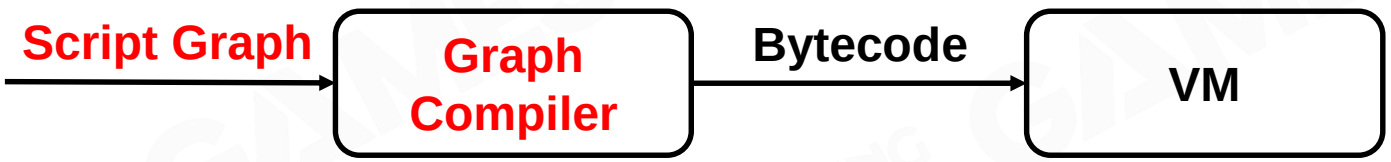
- Need uniform graph layout rules for a team work



Script and Graph are Twins

```
function moveForward(delta_seconds)
    local location = self:getLocation()
    local direction = self:getForward()
    local speed = self.speed
    local movement = delta_seconds * speed * direction
    self:setLocation(location + movement)
end
```





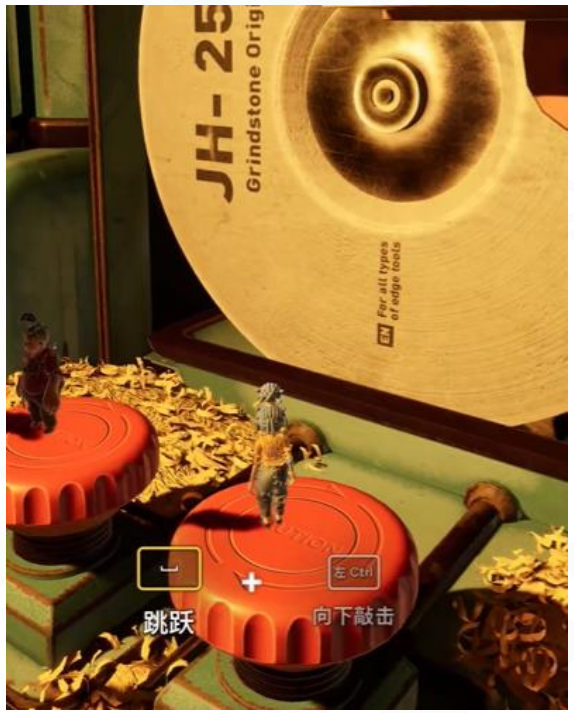
Game Play

“3C” in Game Play

It takes two

What is 3C?

3C: Character, Control & Camera
3C is the primary element that determines the gameplay experience



Character

In-game character, both player and npc.

Include character movement, combat, health, mana, what skills and talents they have, etc.

One most basic element of a character is **movement**.

Character: Well-designed Movement

Movement looks simple, but it's hard to do well.

In AAA games, every basic state of action needs to be broken down into detailed states.

several state changes in a few seconds

Idle

Start

Walk

Accelerate

Run

Brake

Extended Character：More complex and varied states

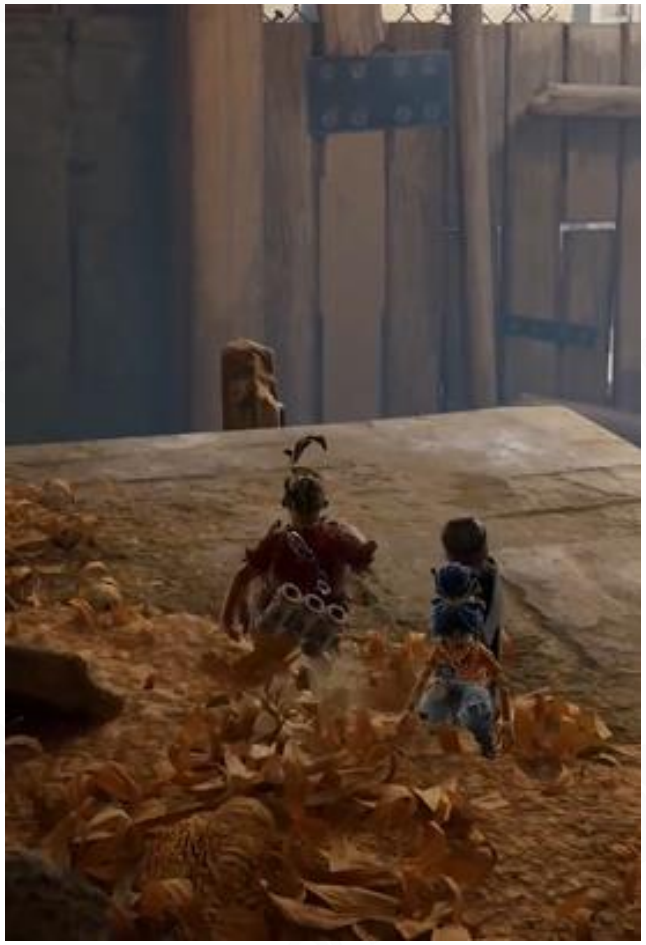
Hanging

Skating

Diving

Extended Character：Cooperate with other systems

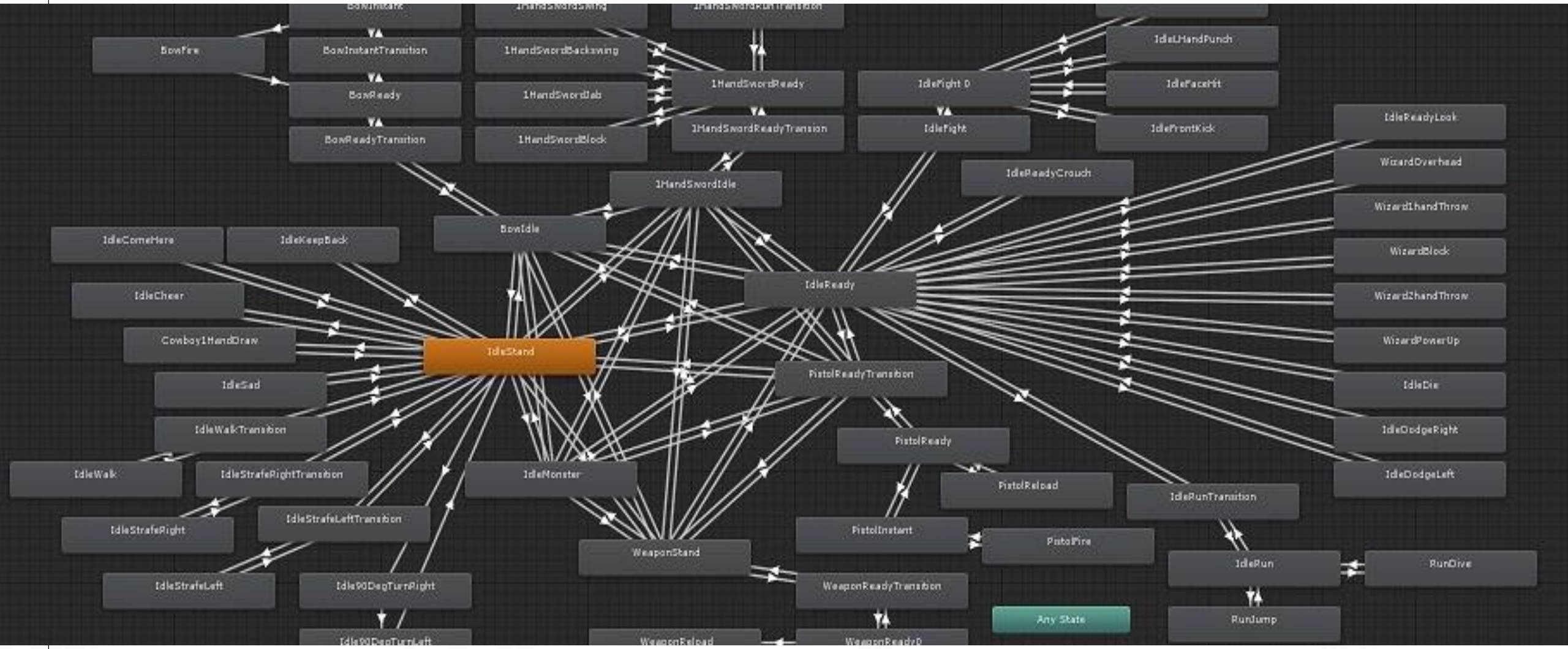
Game effects, sound, environment interaction.



Extended Character：More realistic motion with Physics

- Airflow
- Inertia tensor
- Torque
- ...

Movement State Machine

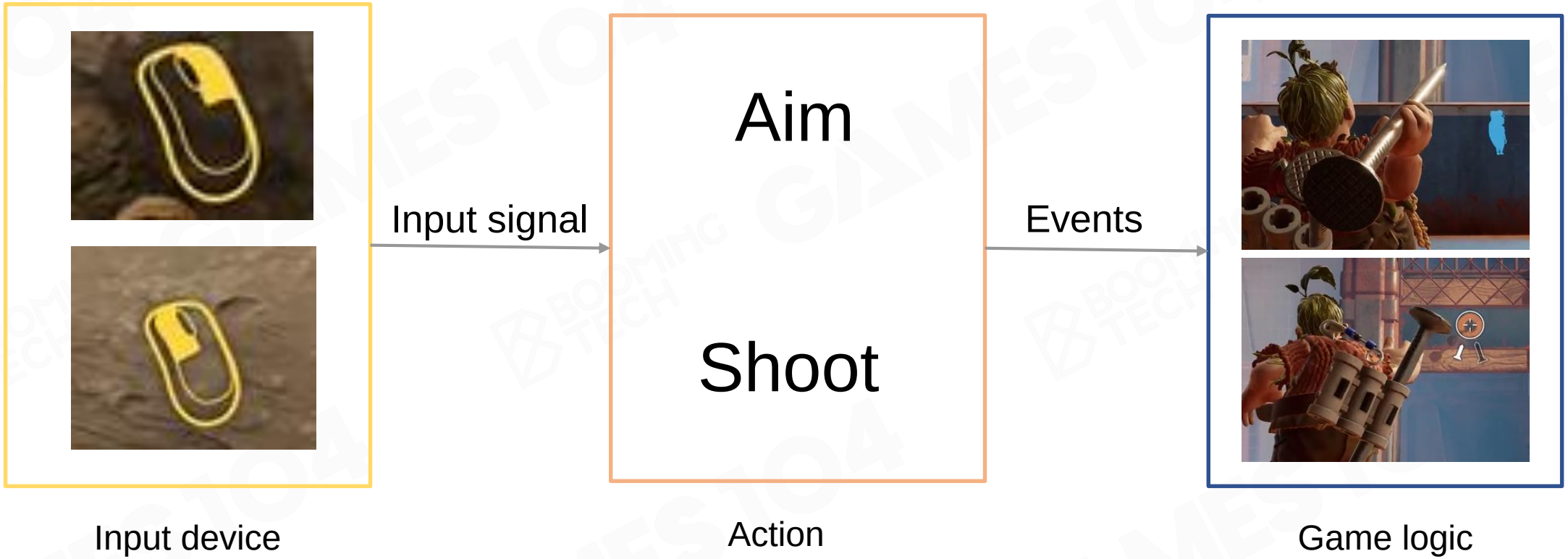


Control

Different input device
Different game play

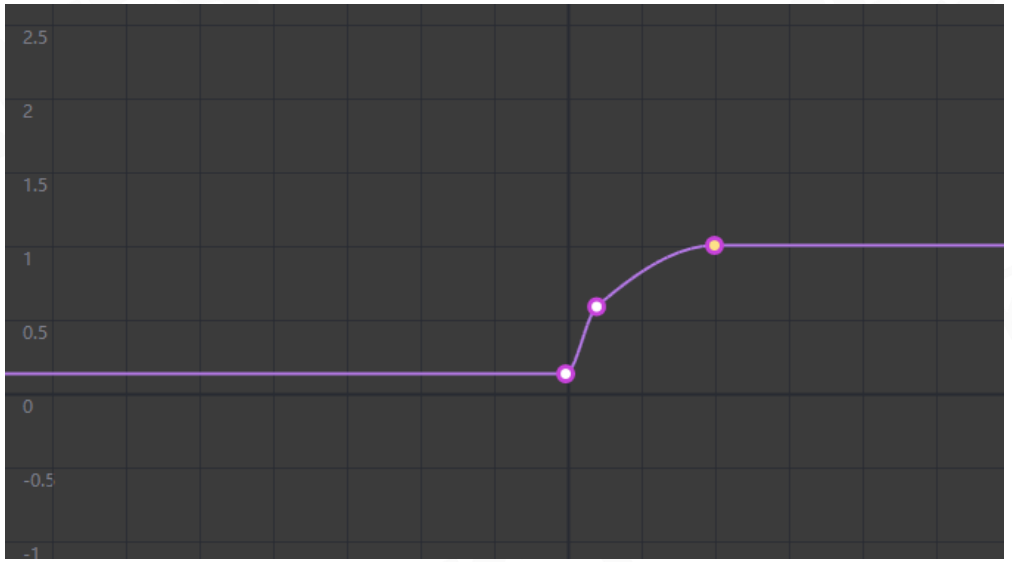
A Good Example of Control

From Input to Game Logic

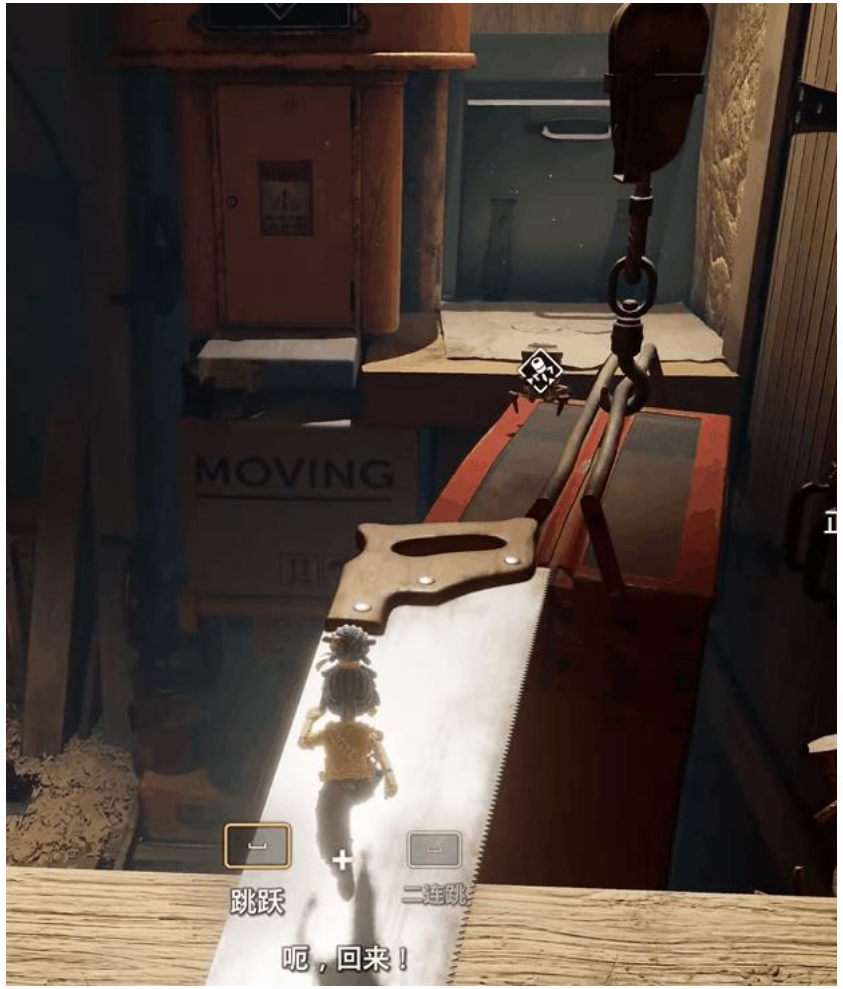


Control: Zoom in and out

Control: Aim Assist



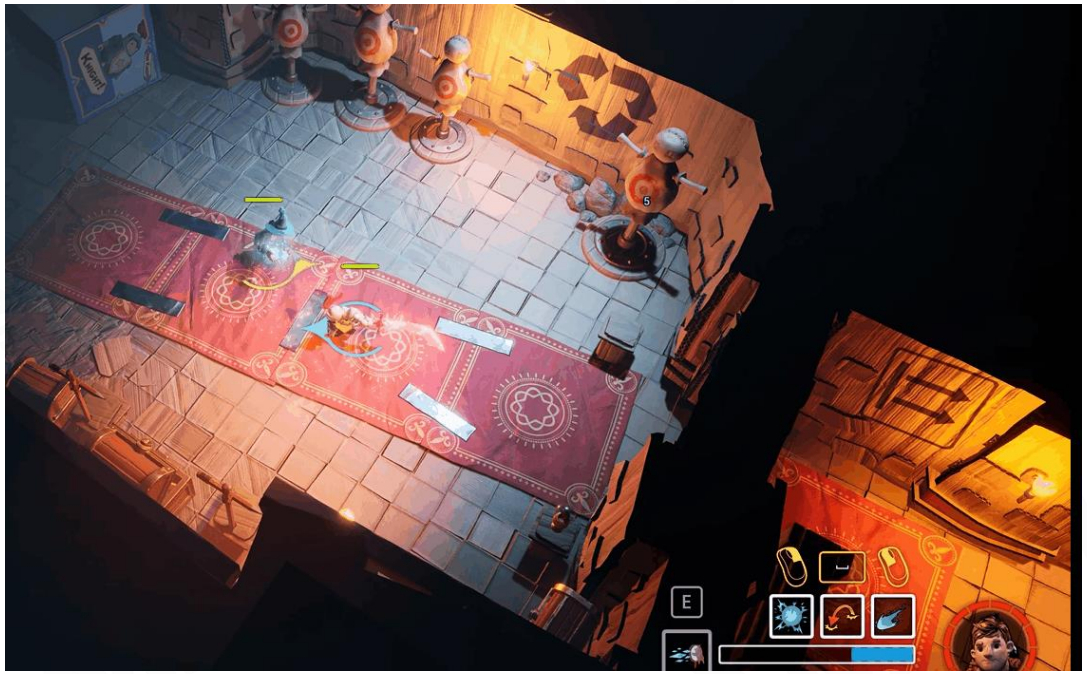
Control: Feedback



Control: Context Awareness

Context-sensitive controls

- The same input button produces different effects in different game scenarios.



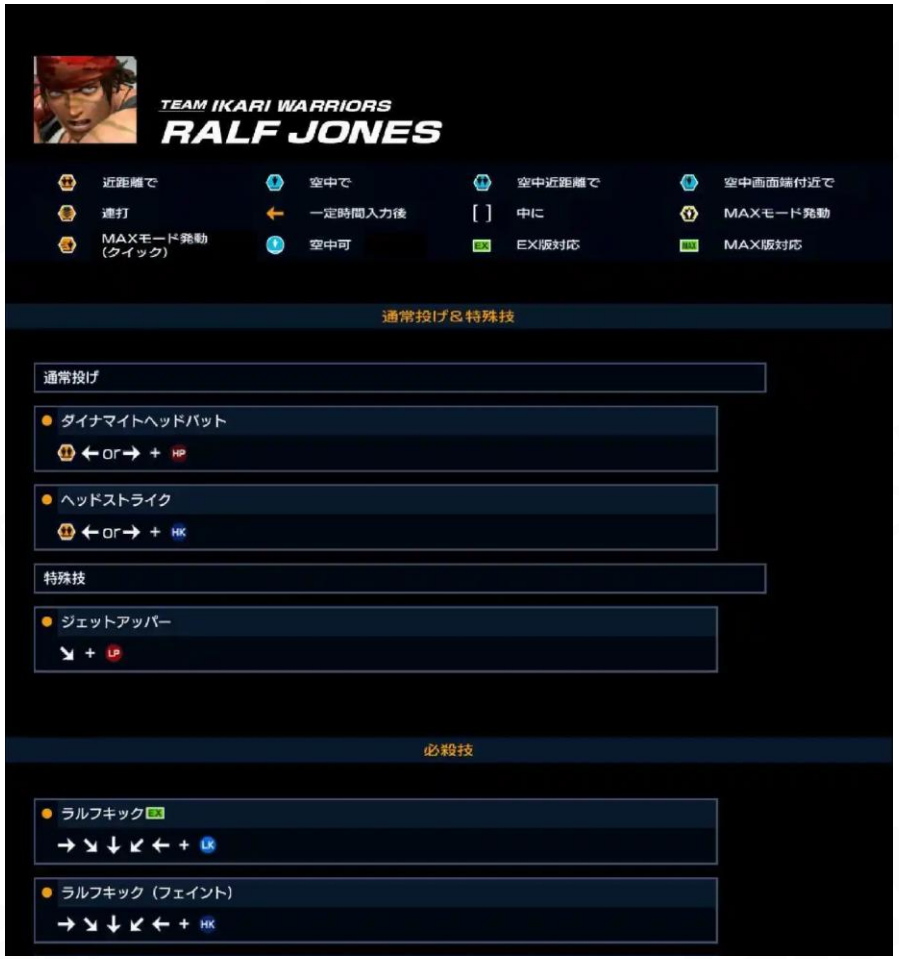
Control : Chord &Key Sequences

Chords

- when pressed at the same time, produce a unique behavior in the game

Key Sequences

- Gesture detection is generally implemented by keeping a brief history of the HID actions performed by the player

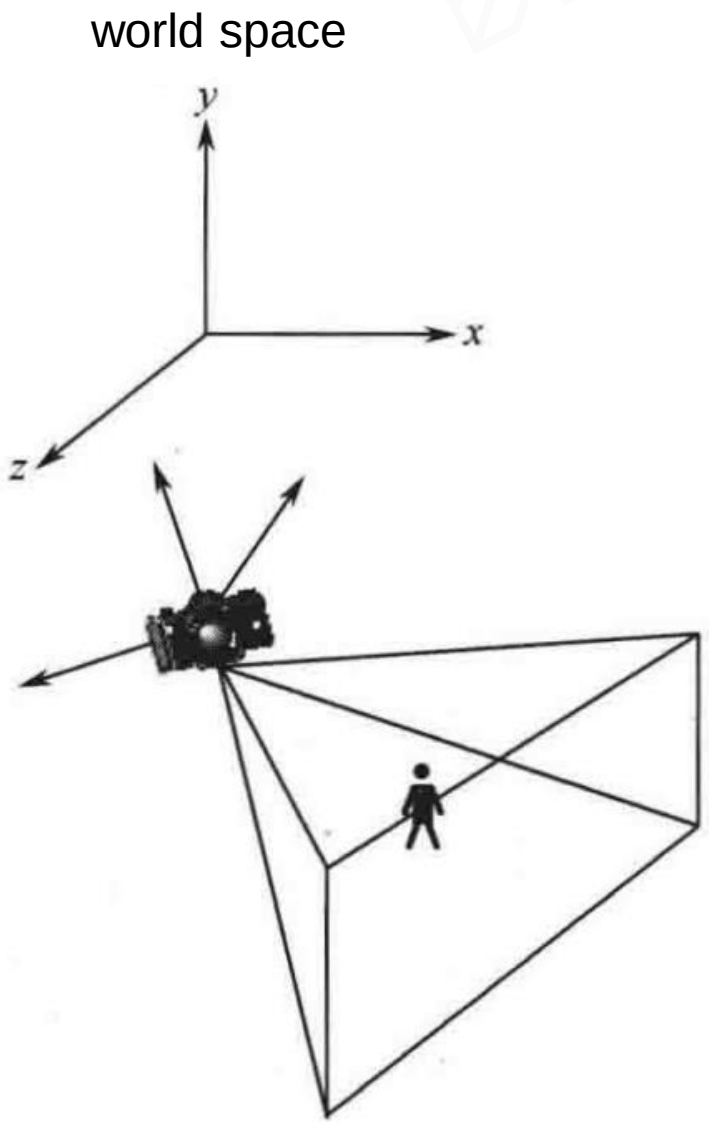


Camera: Subjective Feelings

Camera Basic：POV & FOV

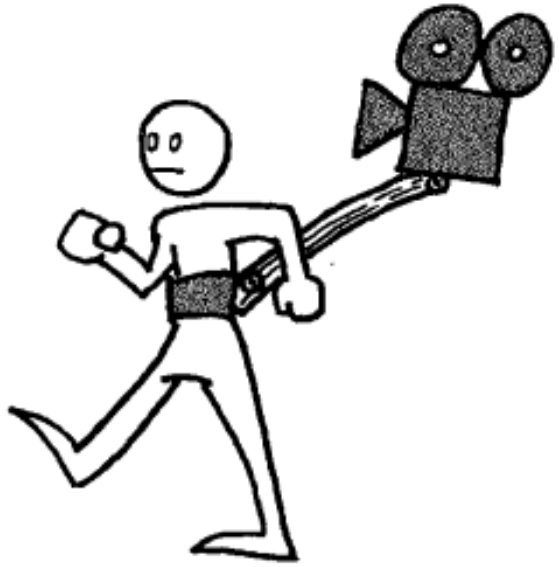
POV (point of view)
- determines the position of the player to observe

FOV (field of view)
- determines the size of the player's viewing Angle



Camera Binding

Using POV and rotation to bind.



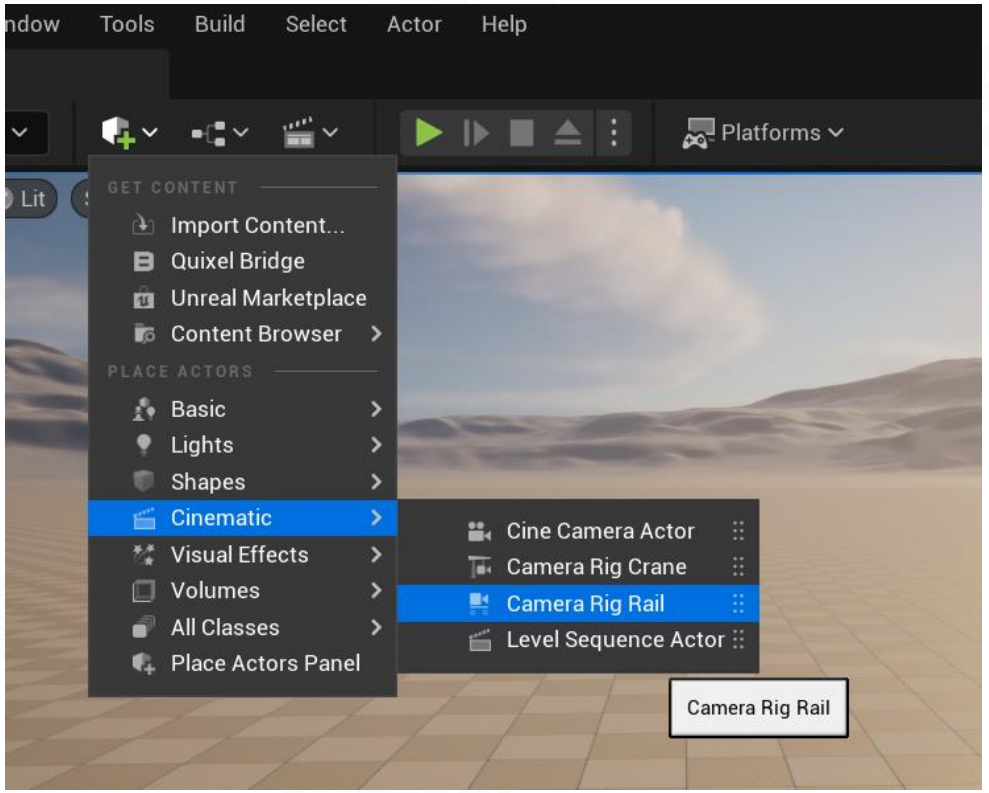
Camera Control

Spring Arm

focusing
FOV&distance Curve

Camera Track

Camera Track



Scene Editor

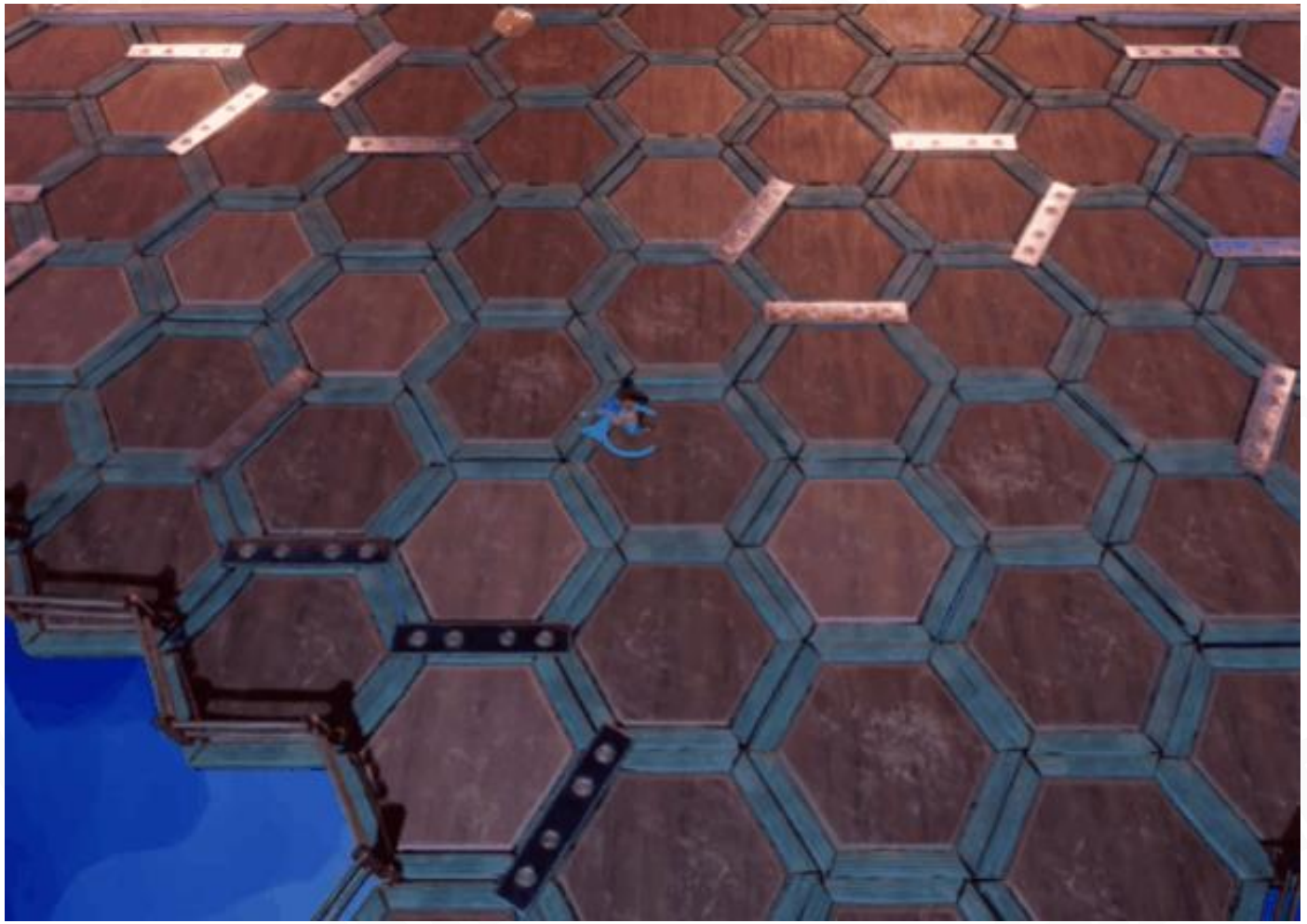
Camera Effects

Provide the camera with more post-visual effects, such as filters and shake.

Camera Shake

Camera Filter

Many Cameras : Camera Manager



Camera Switch

Camera: Subjective Feelings

Complex effects are often achieved by multiple base adjustments.
To create a sense of speed as an example, we can do:

- Add lines in the speed direction
- The character falls backwards
- The dynamic fuzzy
- Zoom in FOV (to speed up changes in screen content)

Speed
Motion blur, magnify FOV

Camera: Subjective Feelings

loose feeling

- Relax camera movement

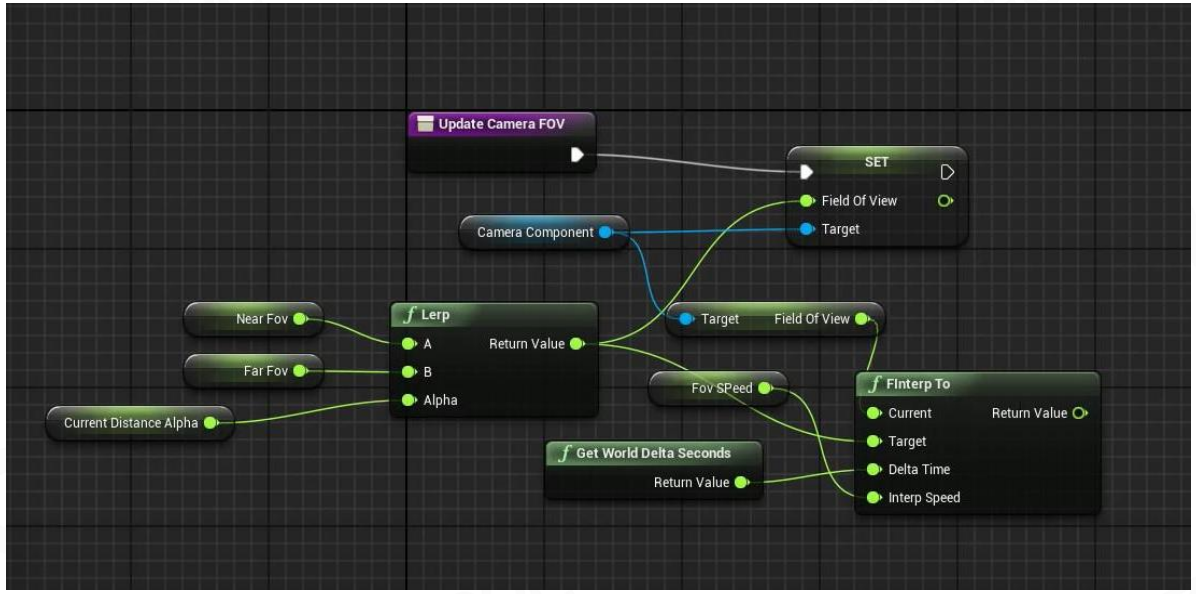
Cinematic

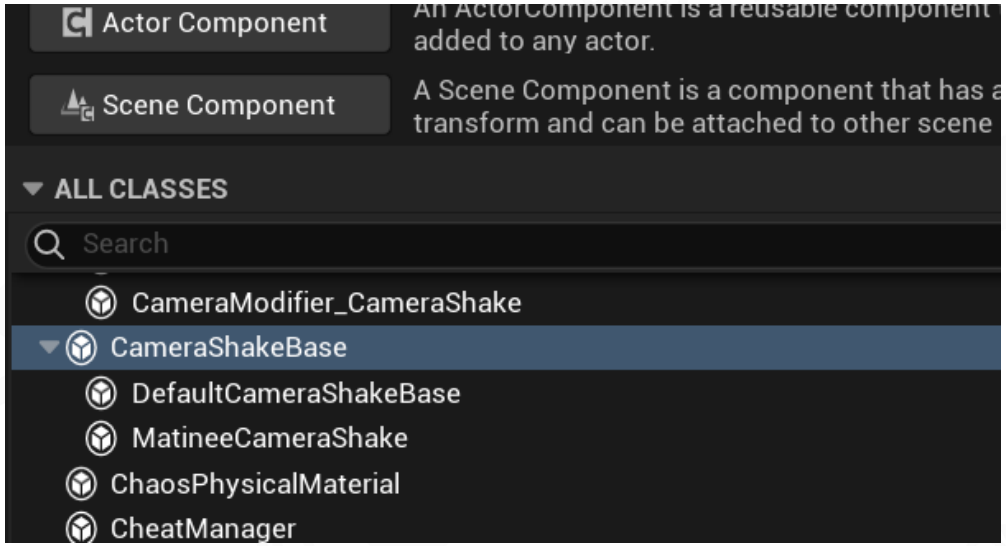
- filter, motion, sound, narrator, model, animation, camera movement,...

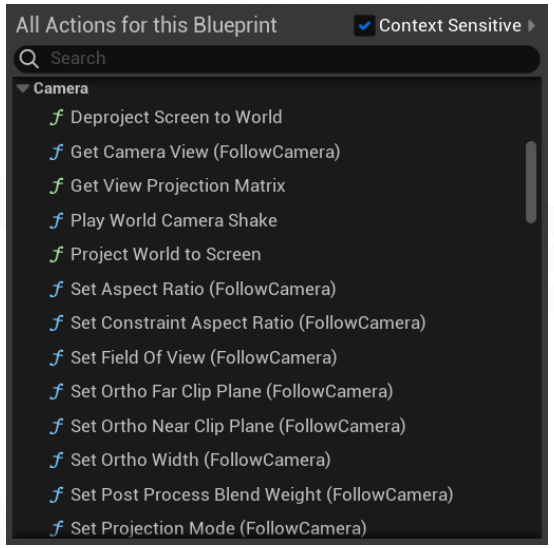
Camera

For artists and designers to optimize the effect:

- Inheritable classes
- Function that can be accessed by Blueprint
- Adjustable parameters








Everything is Gameplay

Lecture 15 Contributor

- 一将
- 蓑笠翁
- 炯哥
- 玉林
- 小老弟
- 建辉
- Hoya
- 爵爷
- Jason
- 砚书
- BOOK
- MANDY
- Unicorn
- 灰灰
- 喵小君
- 果蝇
- 梨叔
- Shine
- 邓导
- Judy
- Leon
- QIUU
- C佬
- 阿乐
- 阿熊
- CC
- 大喷
- 金大壮

Q&A

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