

Simulating crowds

Alex Kautz

Architecture

- The design of buildings
- Want to create spaces that are comfortable, even for large groups of people
- Problem: We don't know how well a design will work until after we spend millions creating it



Crowd Simulation

- Problem: We don't know how well a design will work until after we spend millions creating it
- Solution: Simulate how a crowd of people would interact in this space virtually.



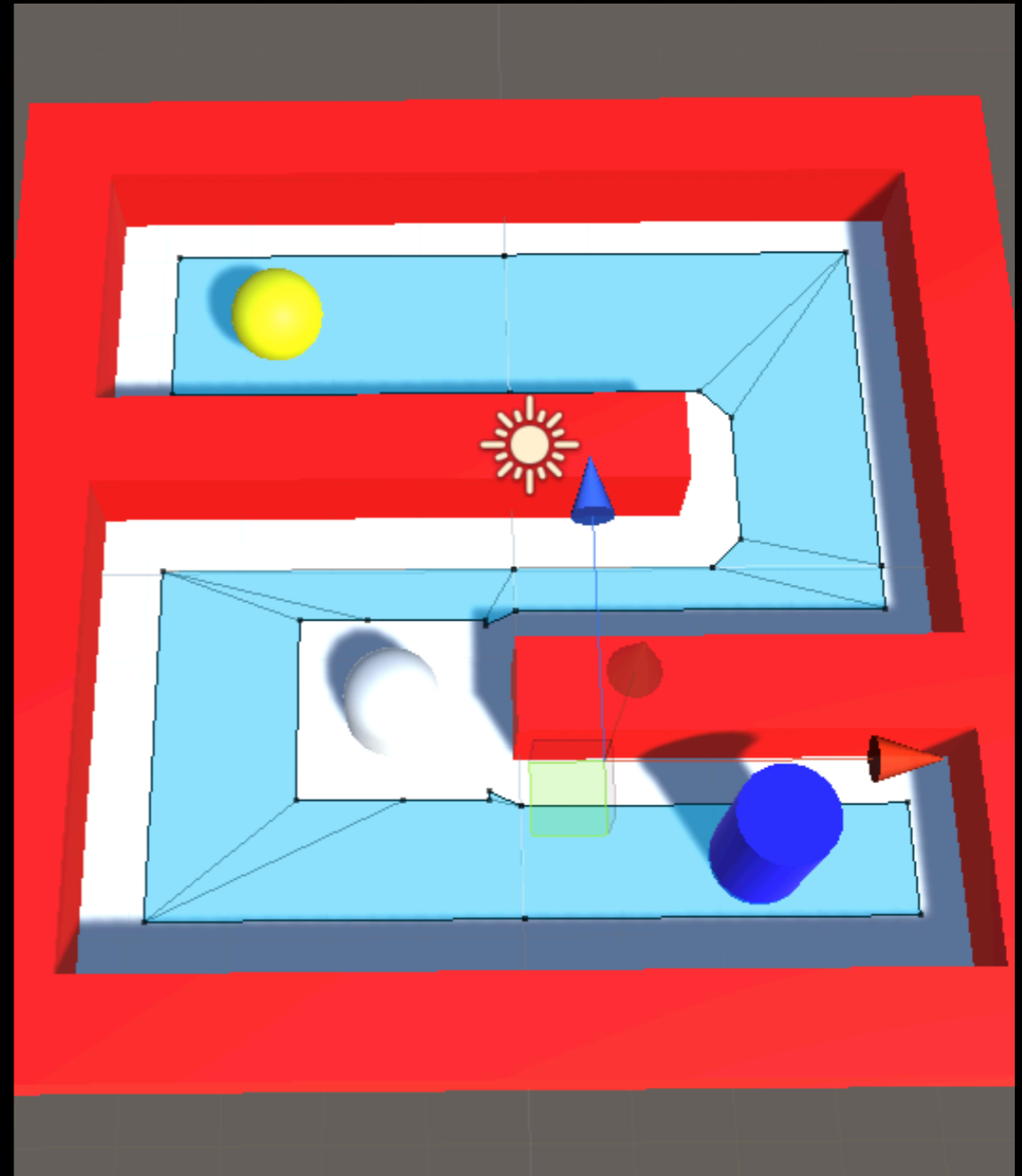
Unity Game Engine

- Navigation Meshes
- Behavior trees



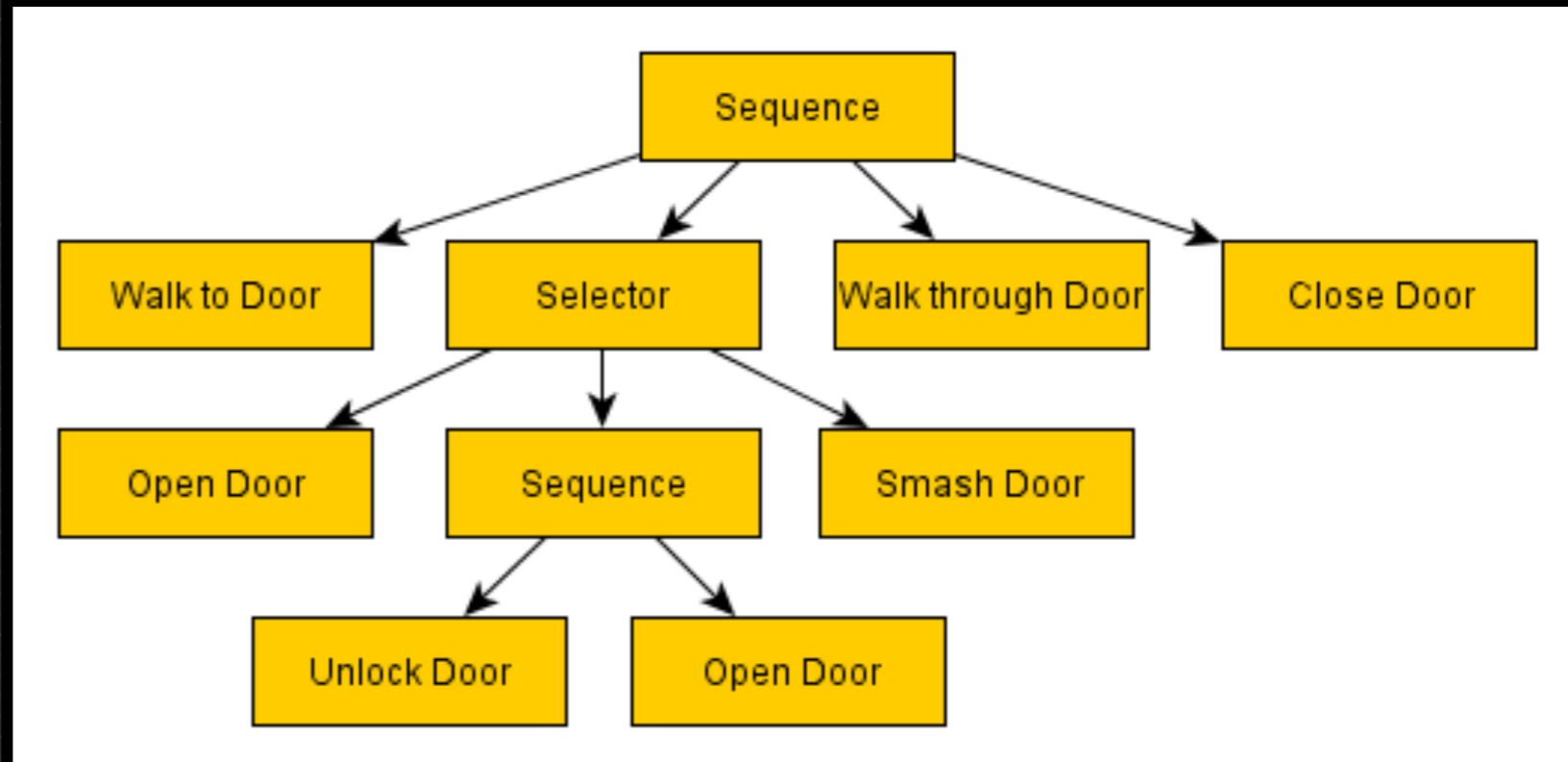
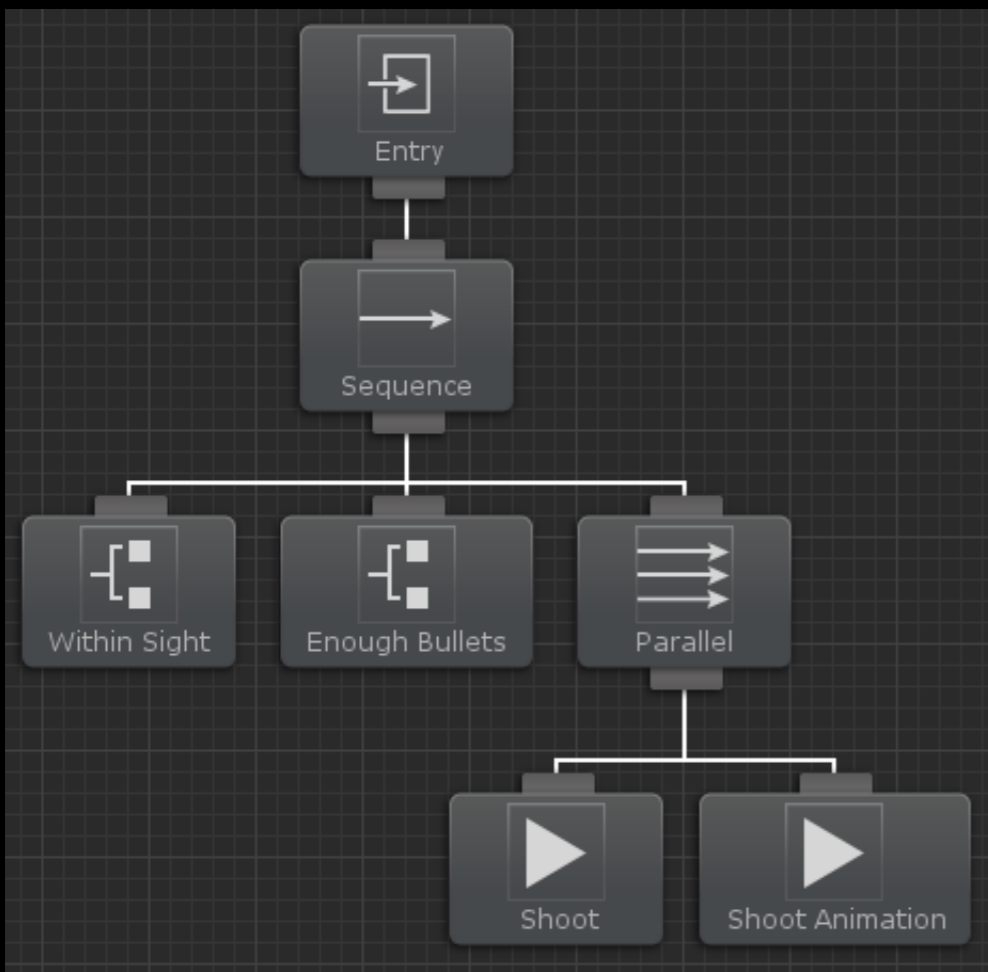
Navigation Meshes

- Allow unity to find efficient paths in a complex space
- Unity handles all the routing, we just call “SetDestination”
- Each “person” becomes a NavMesh agent.



Behavior trees

- Recursively define a behavior as a set of behaviors to be performed in some manner, or as a unitary action.
- Forms a Tree



Future techniques

- Area of influence
- Virtual reality simulation



In summary

- We will use unity 3-D to simulate how crowds react to different environments
- We will take into account not only the effect the space has on individuals, but the effect of different objects using influence areas
- We will use VR to obtain data to help design more accurate simulations

Thank you's

- Prof. Kapadia - overseeing the project
- Davide Schaumann - postdoc who is the head of the project
- Atharva Kench - undergrad at Rutgers, my partner
- NSF grant CCF-1559855 - the source of my funding :)

Sources

- https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sites/default/files/styles/the_breaking_news_image_style/public/why-study-architecture_0.jpg?itok=yr8Uelyq
- <http://www.mobygames.com/images/shots/l/372159-the-sims-3-windows-screenshot-havin-a-party.jpg>
- <https://forum.unity.com/attachments/unity2-png.180372/>
- <https://www.opsive.com/assets/BehaviorDesigner/images/documentation/BehaviorTreeExample.png>