Game Physics

Game and Media Technology
Master Program - Utrecht University

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Collision detection

The story so far

- We have rigid bodies moving in space according to forces applied on them
- We have seen when and how to apply gravity, drag *etc.*
- But reaction forces occur when a rigid body is in contact with another body
- So we need to be able to detect that event and to apply the correct reaction force
  - Collision detection
  - Collision solving

Collisions and geometry

- Now is finally where we need the geometry of the object
  - A point (*e.g.* COM) is not enough anymore
  - We must know where the objects are in contact to apply the reaction force at that position

CryEngine 3 (BeamNG)

Collision detection algorithm

- Collision detection occurs in three phases
  - Broad phase
    - disregard pairs of objects that cannot collide
    - ➢ model and space partitioning
  - Mid phase
    - determine potentially colliding primitives
    - ➢ movement bounds
  - Narrow phase
    - determine exact contact between two shapes
    - ➢ Gilbert-Johnson-Keerthi algorithm

Broad phase

Collisions and geometry

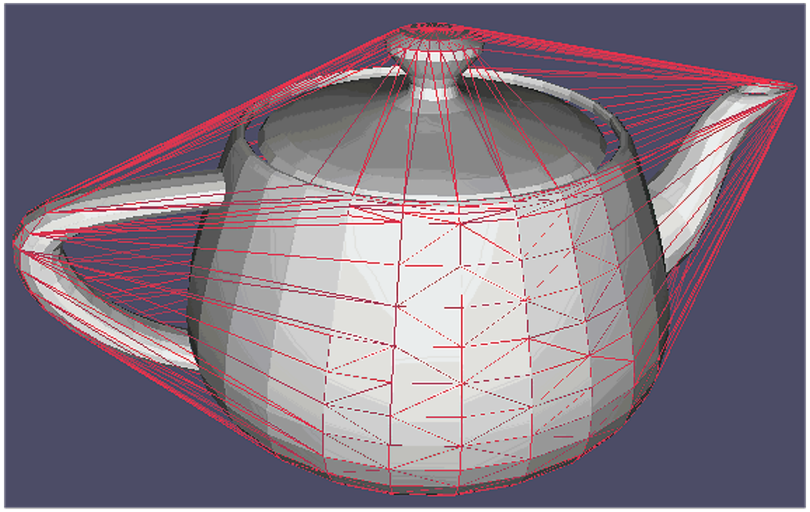
- Game physics engines use a simplification of the geometry
  - To compare ‘every vertex of every mesh’ at each frame is usually not possible in real-time
  - As primitive shapes are used to estimate the inertia, primitive shapes are also used to estimate the collisions
  - Collision shapes do not have to be the same as inertia shapes

Model partitioning

- Technique used to make complex objects fast and easy to check by approximating an object using bounding volumes
- These volumes have the following properties
  - It should fit as tight as possible the object
  - Overlap tests should be fast
  - It should be described with little parameters
  - Fast to recalibrate under transformation
- What primitives to use so that it is fast and accurate?

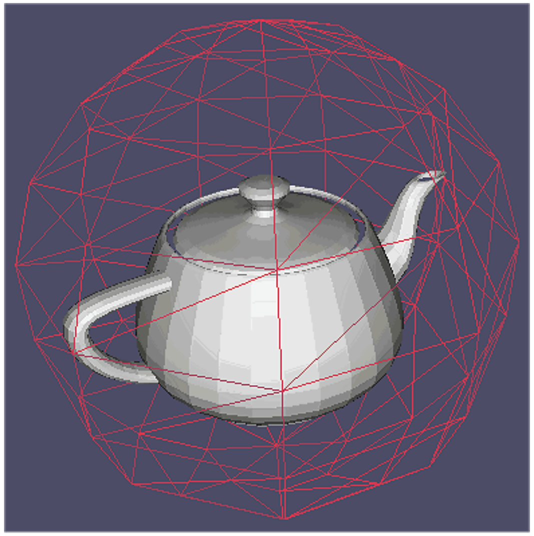
Convex Hull

- Create the smallest convex surface/volume enclosing the object
  - Good representation of all convex objects
  - Create false positive collisions for concave objects
  - Can still be very complex, so costly detection



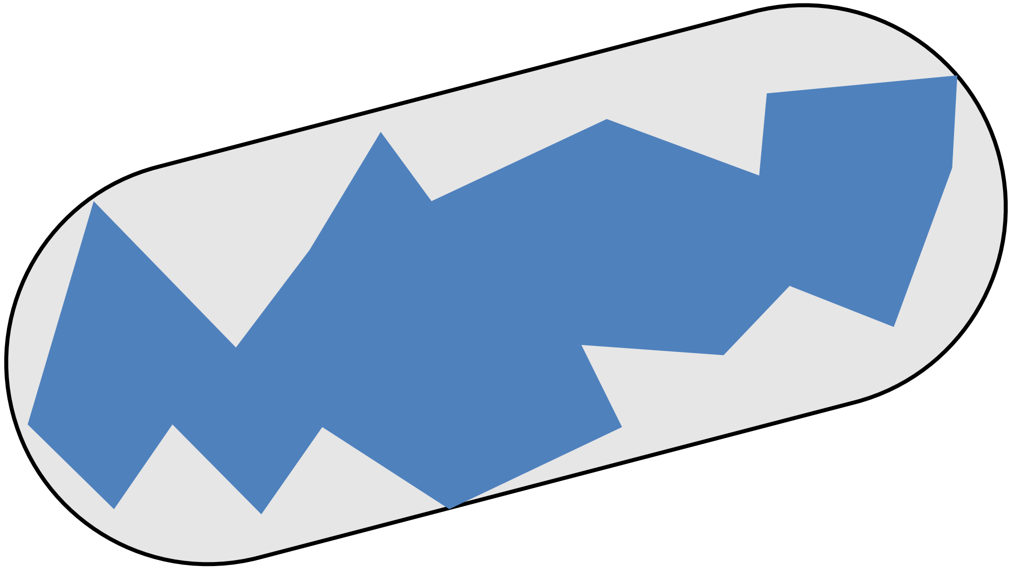
Bounding Sphere

- Create the minimal sphere enclosing the object
  - Usually poor fit of the object (*e.g.* pipe), many false positive collisions
  - Stored in only 4 scalars, collision detection between spheres is very fast (11 prim. op.)
  - Trivial to update under rotation...



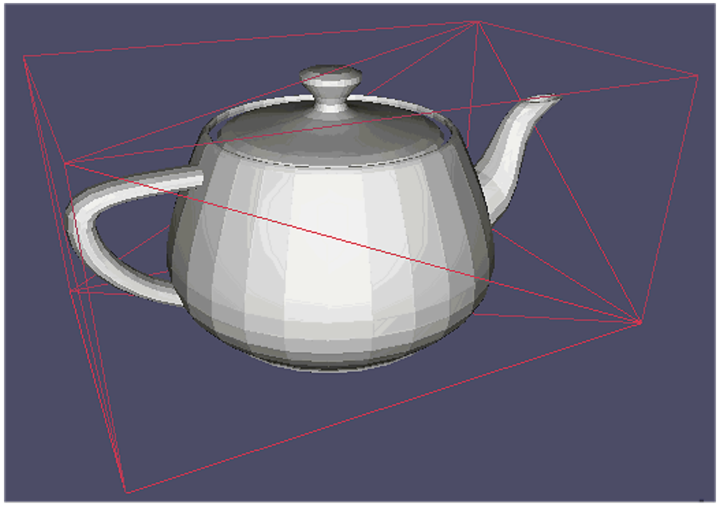
Bounding Capsule

- The minimal swept bounding sphere enclosing the object
  - Better fit than bounding sphere
  - Collision detection still quite fast (bounding sphere with a distance to segment)



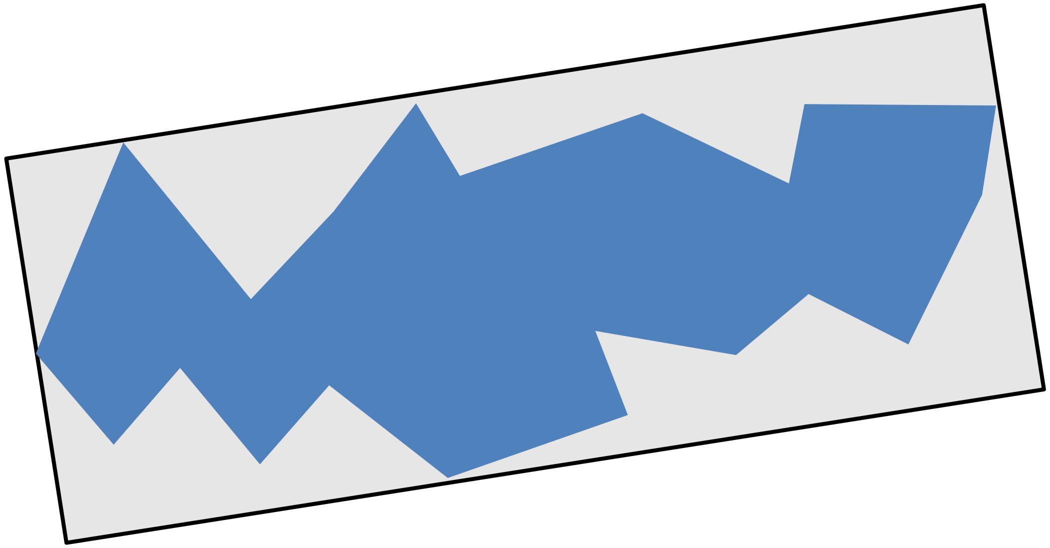
Axis Aligned Bounding Box

- Create a box which dimensions are aligned with the axes of the world coordinate system
  - Usually poor fit of the object (*e.g.* diagonal box), many false positive collisions, recalculation after rotation
  - Stored in 6 scalars, collision detection between AABBs is very fast (6 prim. op.)



Oriented Bounding Box

- The general minimal bounding box (no preferred orientation), abbreviated as OBB
  - Better fit than AABB, but worse than convex hull (*e.g.* triangle)
  - Stored in 9+6 scalars, collision detection slower than AABB (200 prim. op.), but much faster than convex hull
  - Similar to bounding capsule with sharp ends



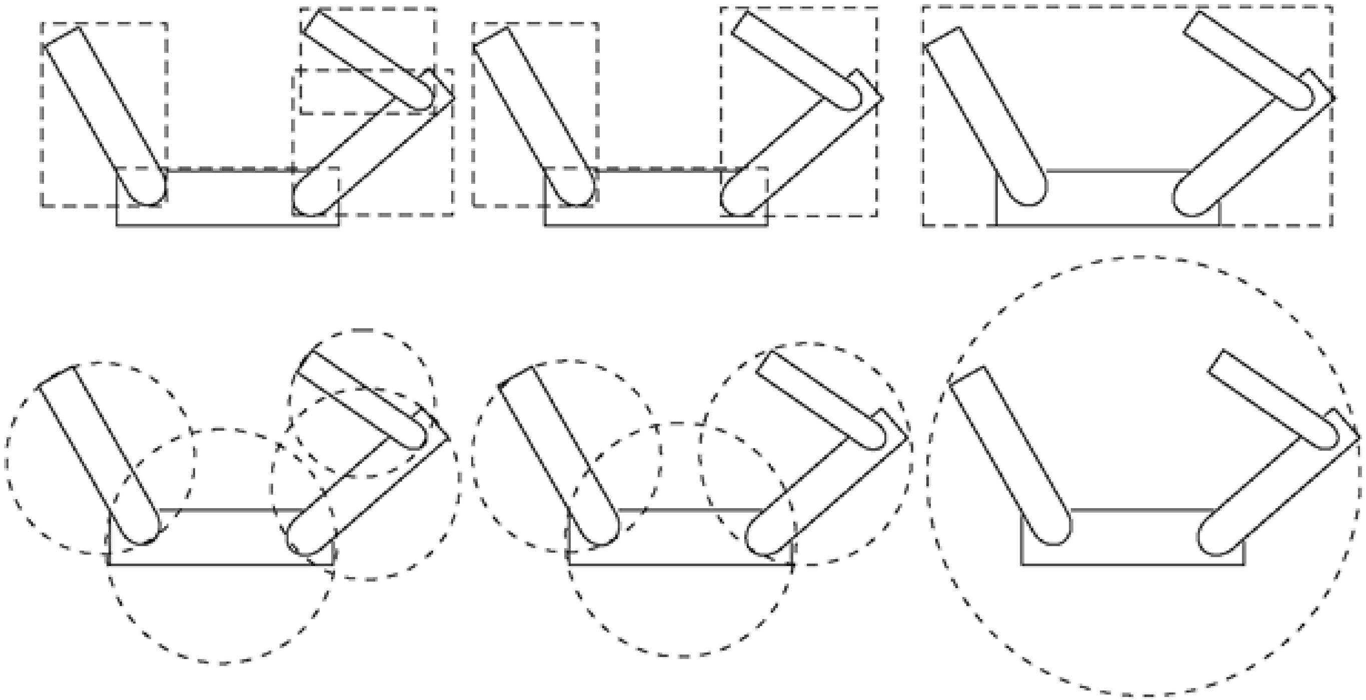
Other primitives

- You can imagine using almost any primitive or combination of primitives
- As soon as the detection is faster than on the object itself there is an interest
  - Bounding cylinder
  - Bounding ellipsoid
  - *etc.*

Bounding hierarchies

- Since one bounding volume is often not enough to get good performance, we build a hierarchy
- Called Bounding Volume Hierarchies (BVHs), based on previous primitive bounding volumes
- Has a tree structure with primitive volumes as leaves and enclosing volumes as nodes
- During collision detection, the hierarchies are traversed and child bounding volumes are checked only when necessary
  - children do not have to be examined if their parent volumes do not intersect

Bounding hierarchies

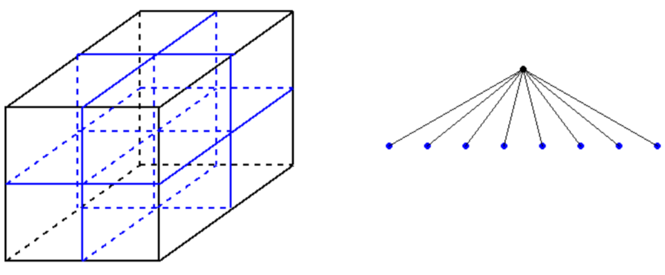


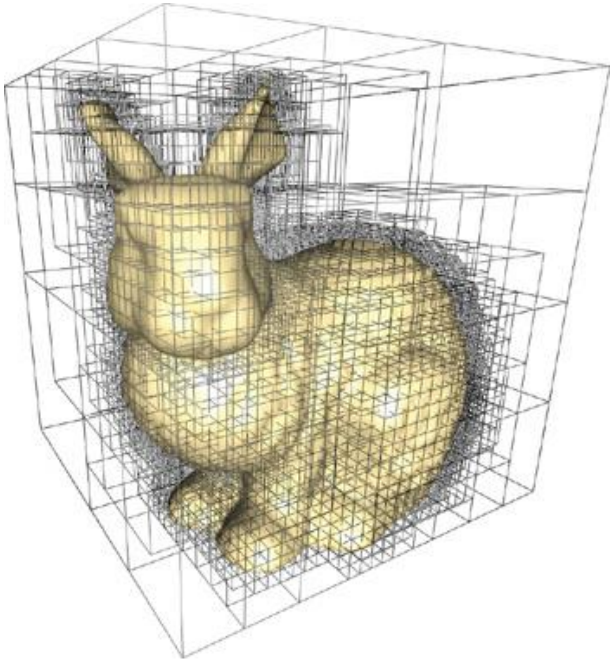
Space partitioning

- Used to make the fast selection of which models to test for collision
- Based on the spatial configuration of the scene
- Associate together objects that are physically close to each other
- Only need to test collision with objects in the same partition
- Quickly disregards many unnecessary tests

Octree

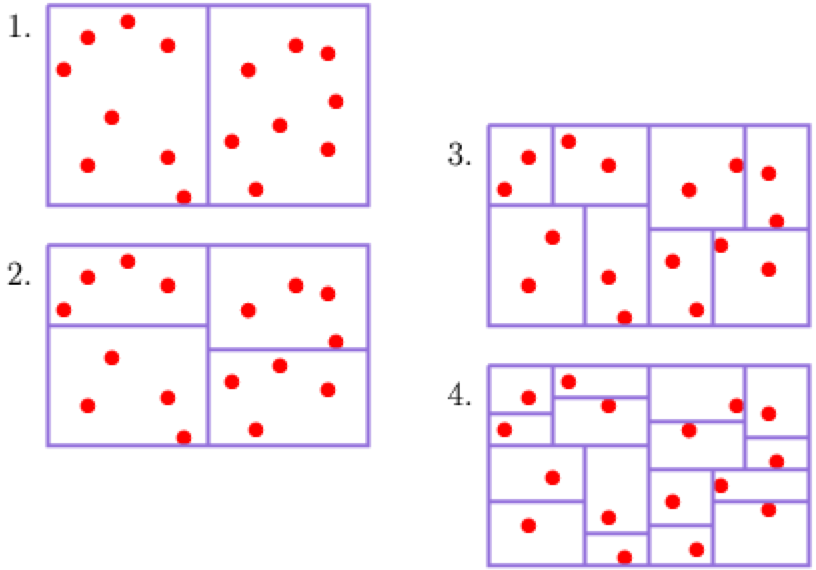
- An octree is a tree data structure in which each node has exactly eight children
- Partition the space in eight cubes (called octants) of equal volume along the dimensions of the space





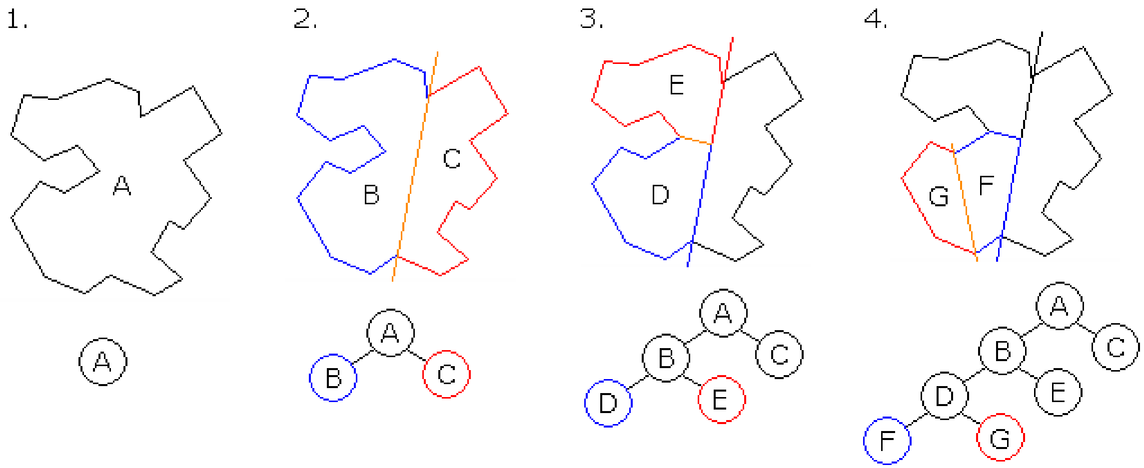
Kd-tree

- A kd-tree (k-dimensional) is a binary tree where every node is alternately associated with one of the k-dimensions
- Usually the median hyperplane is chosen at each node

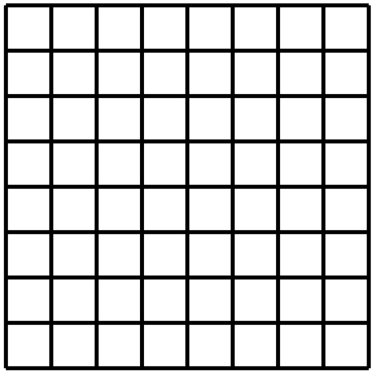


Binary space partitioning

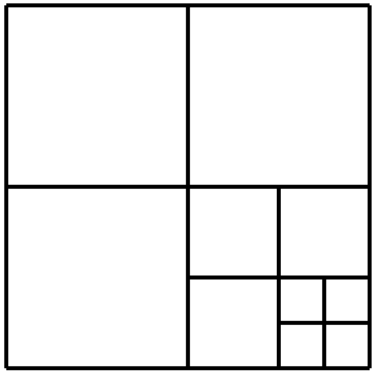
- Binary space partitioning (BSP) creates BSP trees
- Hyperplanes recursively partition space into two volumes but the planes can have any orientation
- Hyperplanes are usually defined by polygons in the scene



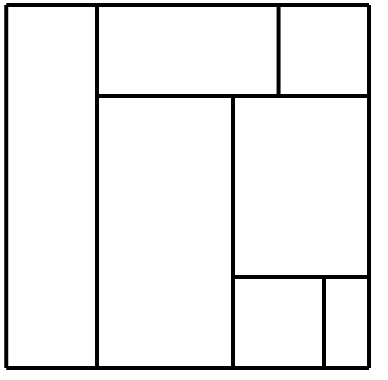
Space partitioning summary



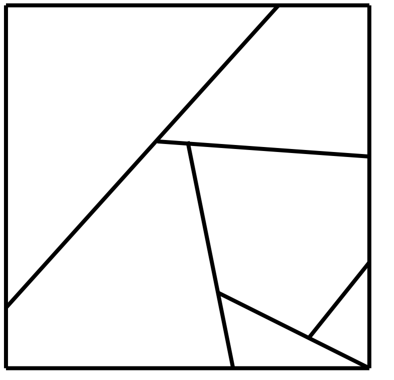
Uniform spatial subdivision



Quadtree
Octree



Kd-tree



BSP-tree

Mid phase

Collision between primitives

- You can imagine representing different objects with different primitives according to their original geometry
  - A simple convex object => convex hull
  - A spherical object like a ball => bounding sphere
  - A body part => bounding capsule
  - A box sliding on the floor => AABB
  - A box-like object that can translate and rotate => OBB
- Ideally you have to implement detection algorithms for every possible combination of primitives
  - Some are easier to implement than others

Sphere-Sphere

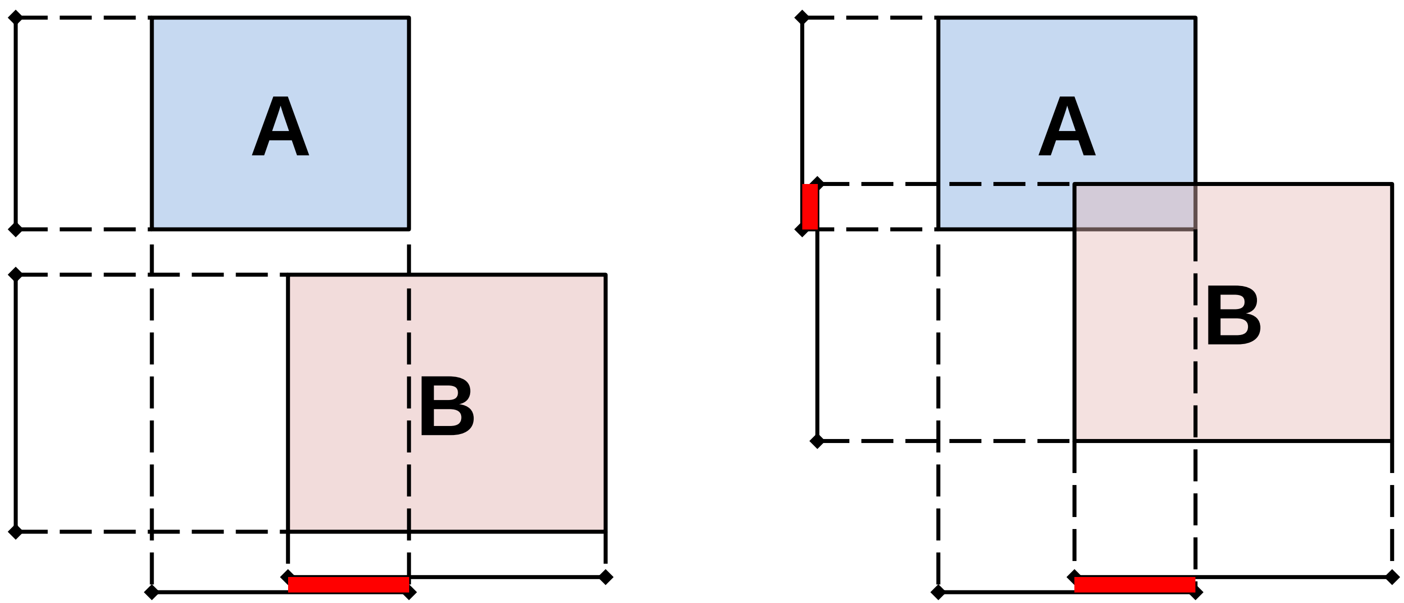
- For two spheres A and B to intersect, the distance between their centers c_A and c_B should be smaller than the sum of their radii r_A and r_B

$$A \cap B \neq \emptyset \Leftrightarrow \|c_A - c_B\| \leq r_A + r_B$$

- Distance between two non-intersecting spheres
$$d(A, B) = \max(\|c_A - c_B\| - (r_A + r_B), 0)$$
- Penetration depth of two intersecting spheres
$$p(A, B) = \max(r_A + r_B - \|c_A - c_B\|, 0)$$

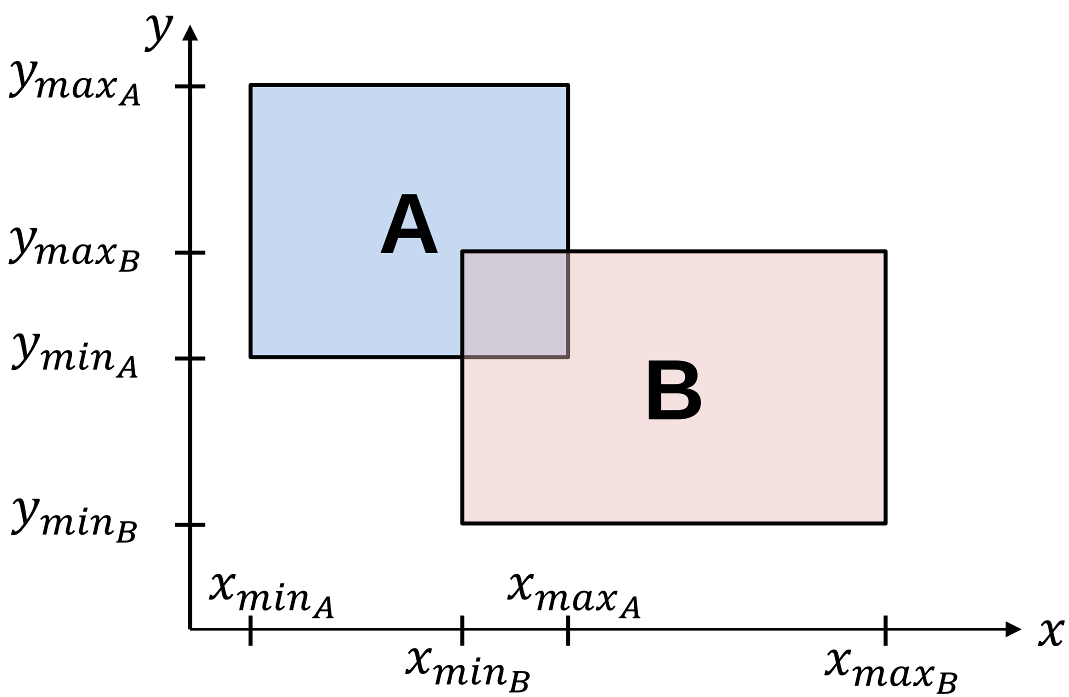
AABB-AABB

- Project the boxes onto the axes, you will obtain two intervals per box, the two boxes collide if both intervals overlap



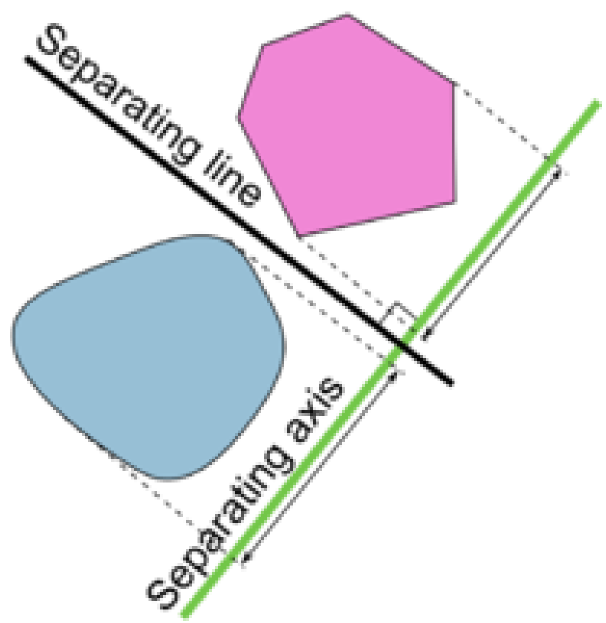
AABB-AABB

$$A \cap B = \emptyset \Leftrightarrow$$
$$x_{max\,A} < x_{min\,B} \lor y_{max\,A} < y_{min\,B} \lor$$
$$x_{min\,A} > x_{max\,B} \lor y_{min\,A} > y_{max\,B}$$



Separating Axis Theorem

- Given two convex shapes, if we can find an axis along which the projections of the two shapes do not overlap, then the shapes do not collide



Separating Axis Theorem

- In 2D, each of these potential separating axes is perpendicular to one of the edges of each shape
  - We solve our 2D overlap query using a series of 1D queries
  - If we find an axis along which the objects do not overlap, we don't have to continue testing the rest of the axes, we know that the objects don't overlap
- As in a game it is more likely for two objects to **not** overlap than to overlap, this capability speeds up calculations

Separating Axis Theorem

- For AABB-AABB it is easy to apply as the possible separating axes on which we have to project the object are the main axes
- Equivalent to our previous collision checking of overlap of intervals

Separating Axis Theorem

- For non-axis-aligned shapes, we have to project our objects on the axes perpendicular to the edges

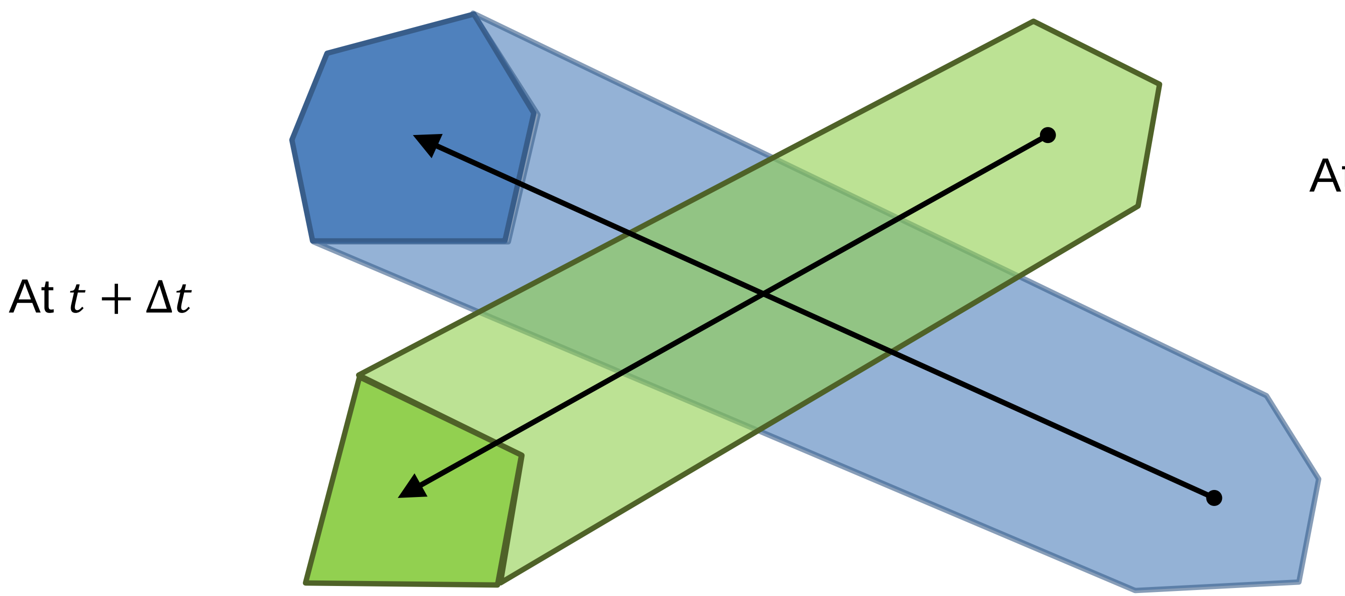
Box-Polygon

Box-Curve

Circle-Polygon

The time issue

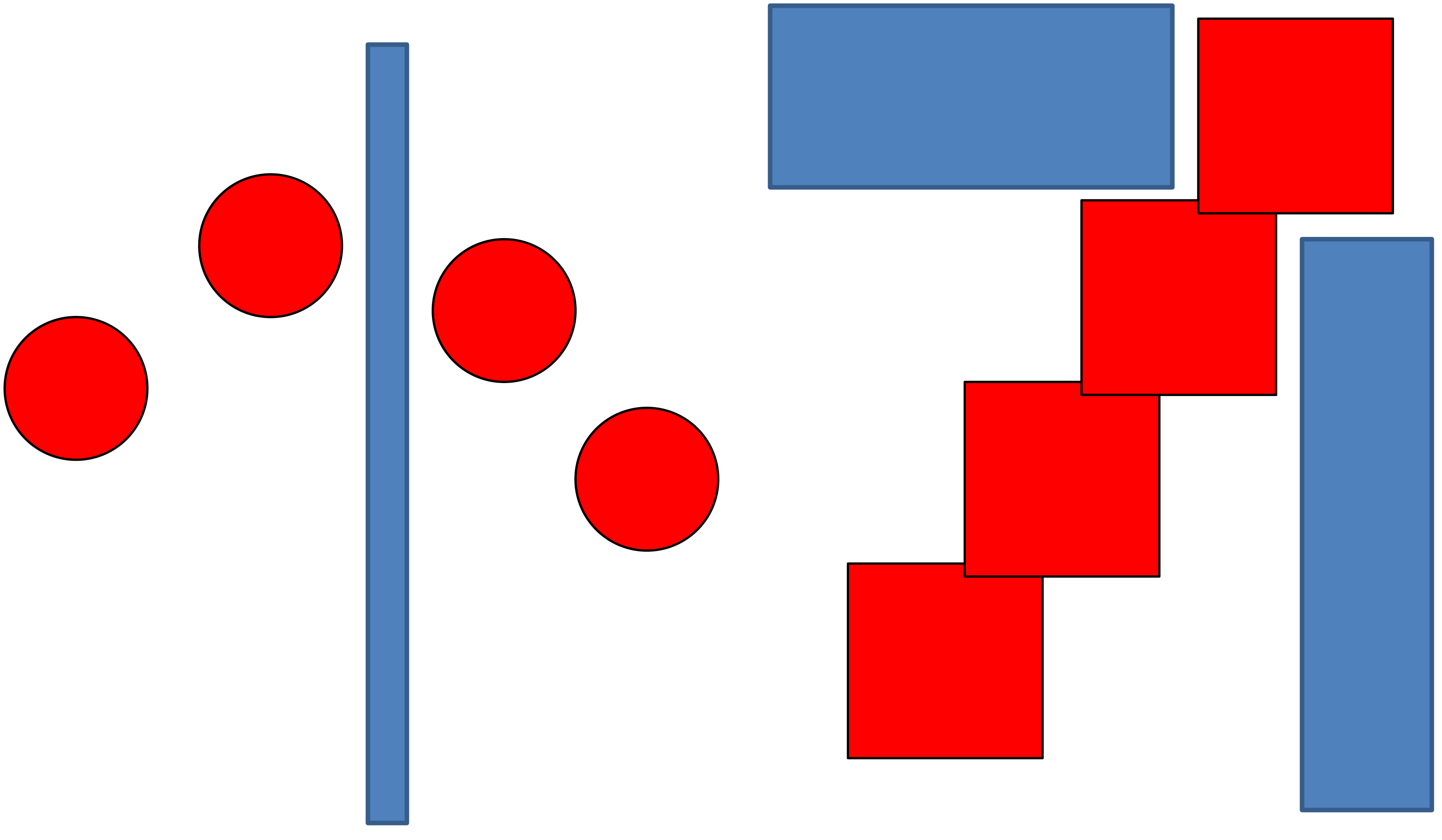
- Looking at uncorrelated sequences of positions is not enough
- Our objects are in motion and we need to know when and where they collide
  - as we want to react to the collision *e.g.* bouncing



Tunneling

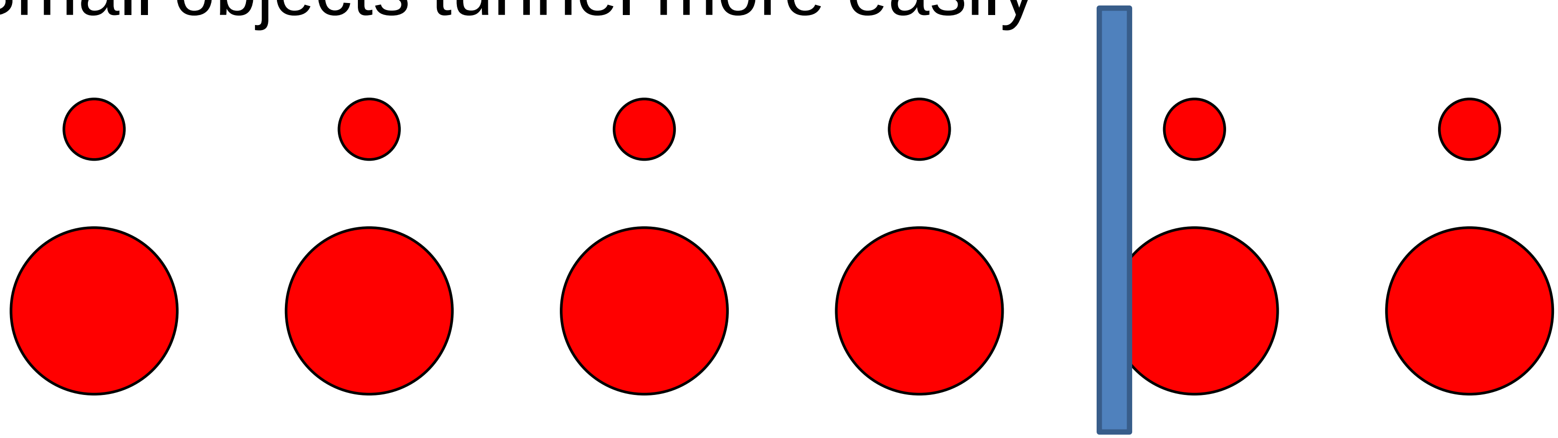
- Collision in-between steps can lead to tunneling
  - Objects pass through each other
    - They did not collide at t and do not collide either at $t + \Delta t$
    - But they did collide somewhere in between
  - Lead to false negatives
- Tunneling is a serious issue in gameplay
  - Players getting to places they should not
  - Projectiles passing through characters and walls
  - Impossibility for the player to trigger actions on contact events

Tunneling

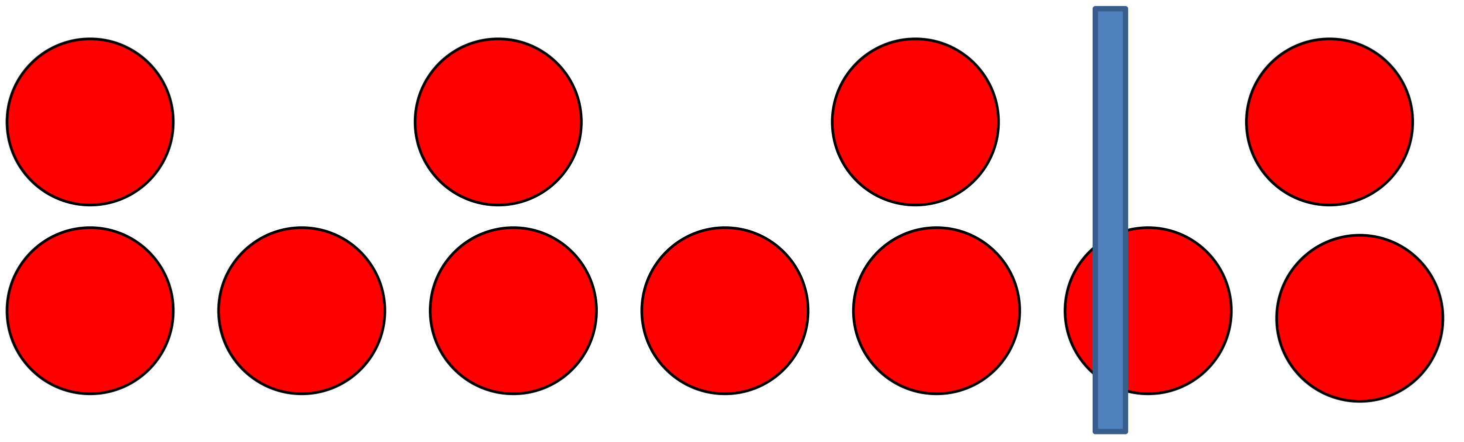


Tunneling

- Small objects tunnel more easily



- Fast moving objects tunnel more easily



Tunneling

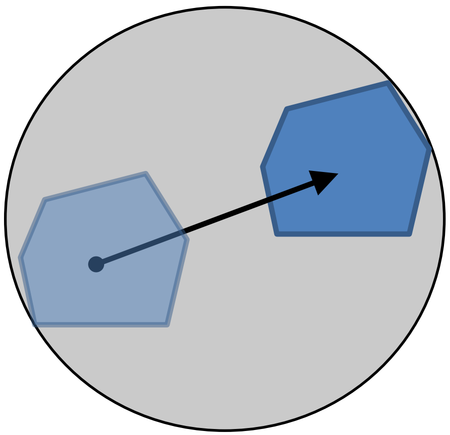
- Possible solutions
  - Minimum size requirement?
    - Fast object still tunnel
  - Maximum speed limit?
    - Small and fast objects not allowed (*e.g.* bullets...)
  - Smaller time step?
    - Essentially the same as speed limit
- We need another approach to the solution

Movement bounds

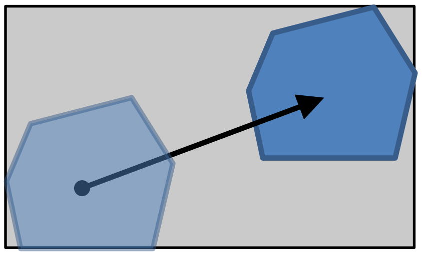
- Bounds enclosing the motion of the shape
  - In the time interval Δt, the linear motion of the shape is enclosed
  - Again, convex bounds are used, so the movement bounds are themselves primitive shapes

Movement bounds

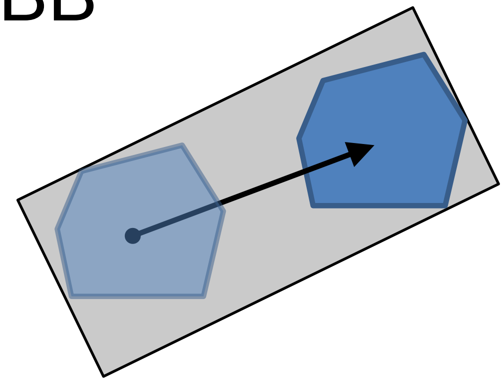
- Sphere



- AABB

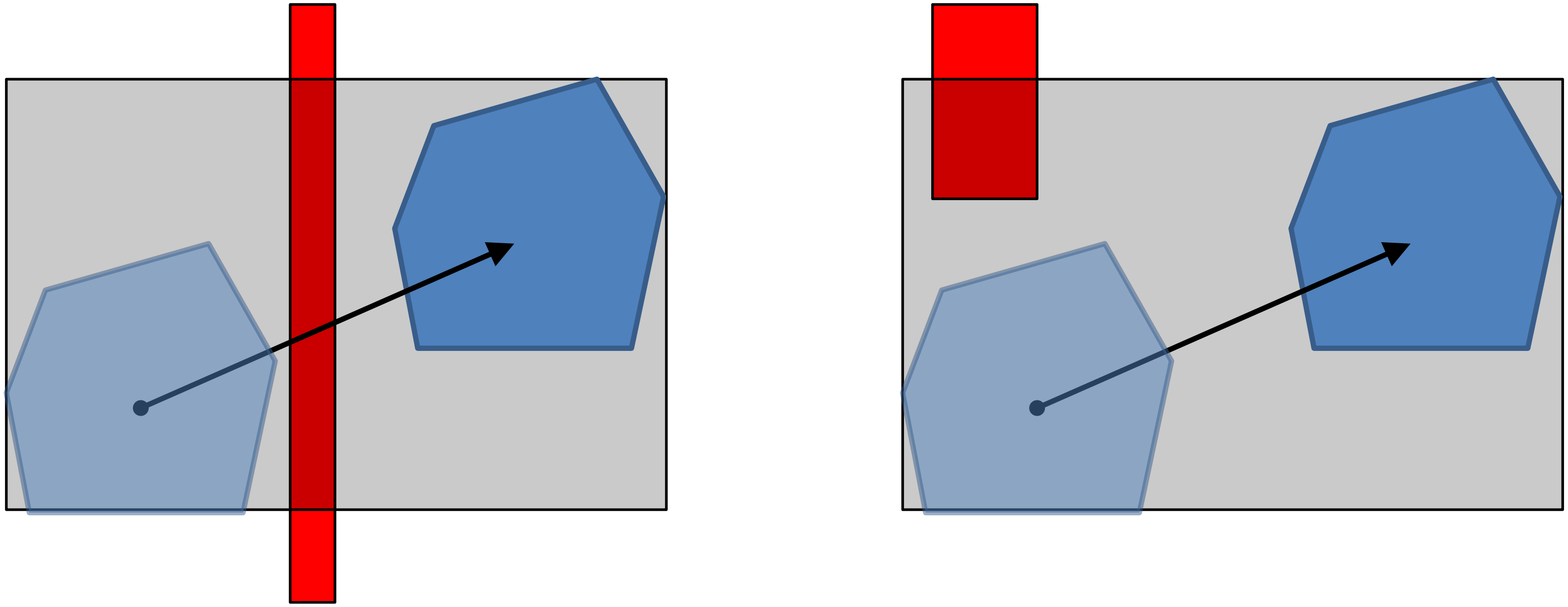


- OBB



Movement bounds

- If movement bounds do not collide, there is no collision
- If movement bounds collide, there is possibly a collision

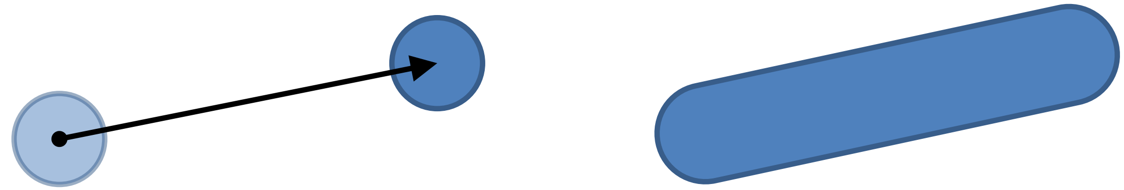


Swept bounds

- As primitive based movement bounds do not have a really good fit, we can use swept bounds
  - More accurate, but more costly to calculate collisions
- A swept bound (or swept shape) is constructed from the union of all surfaces (volumes) of a shape under a transformation
  - we use the transformation from t to $\mathrm{t} + \Delta t$

Swept bounds

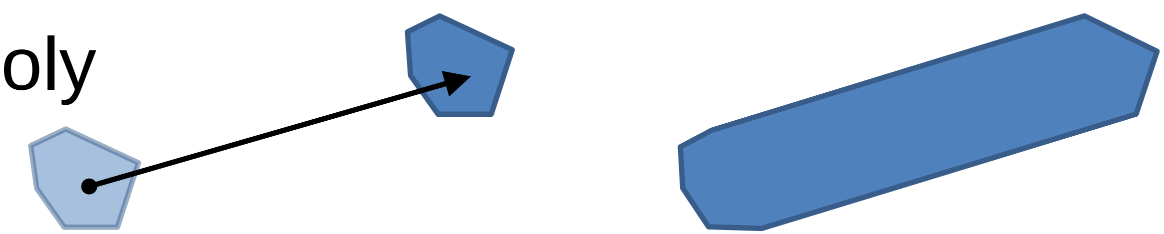
- Swept sphere
  - capsule



- Swept AABB
  - convex poly

- Swept triangle
  - convex poly

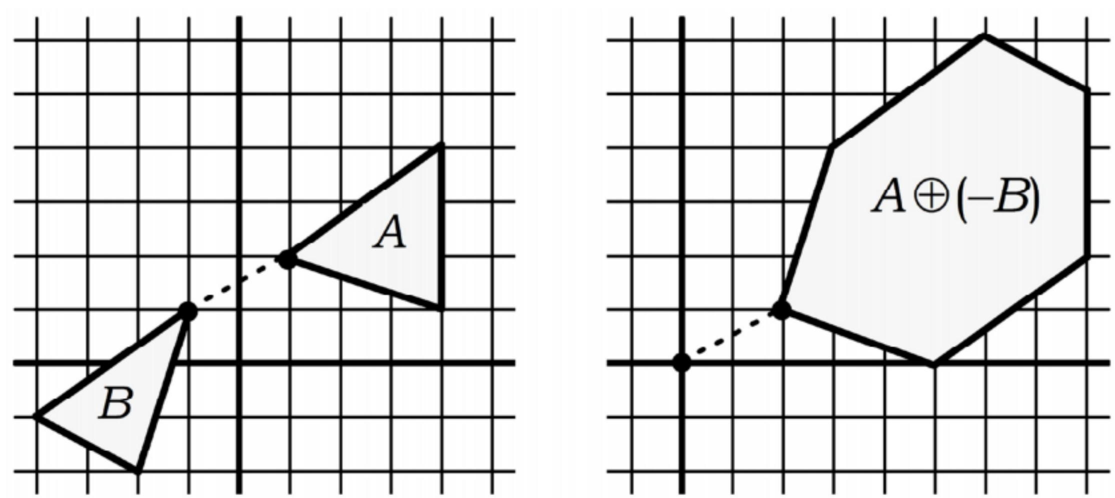
- Swept convex poly
  - convex poly



Narrow phase

GJK algorithm

- This algorithm effectively determines the intersection between polyhedra by computing the Euclidean distance between them
- Based on the property that the distance is the same as the shortest distance between their Minkowski difference and the origin

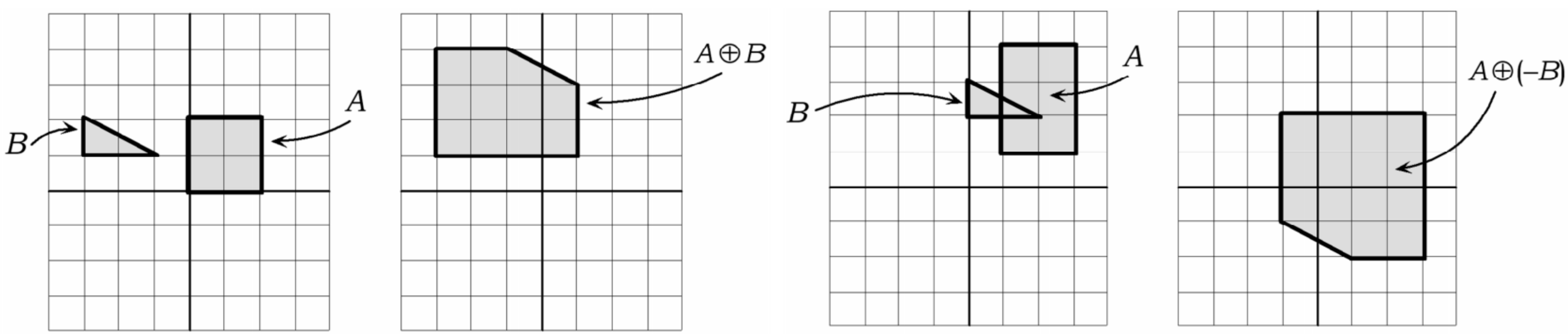


GJK algorithm

- Two new problems
  - Calculate the Minkowski difference between two objects
  - Calculate its distance to the origin (*i.e.* coordinate of the closest point to origin)

Minkowski difference

- The Minkowski difference $A \ominus B = A \oplus (-B)$ is obtained by adding A to the reflection of B about the origin
- Addition here means the swept bound of B using A
- If A and B collide, $A \ominus B$ contains the origin

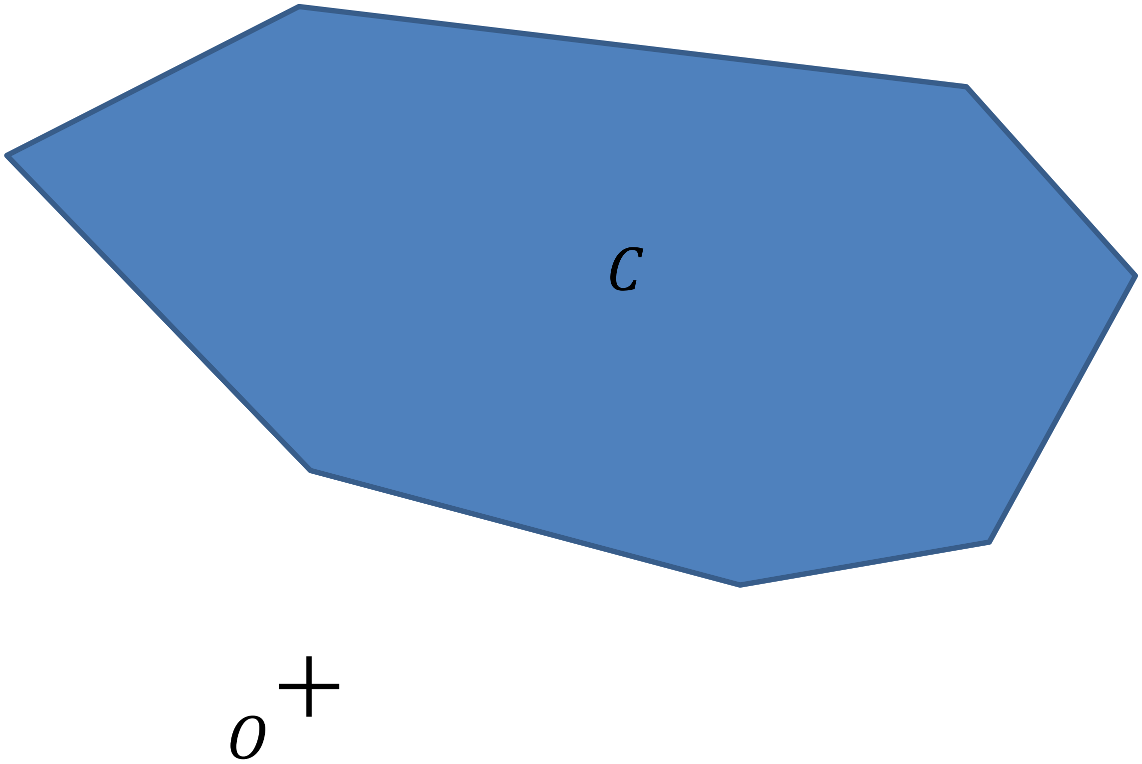


GJK algorithm

- To calculate the shortest distance to the origin, the following algorithm is used
  1. Initialize the simplex set Q with up to $d + 1$ points from the Minkowski difference object C
  2. Compute the point P of minimum norm of the convex hull $CH(Q)$
  3. If P is the origin, then return a distance null
  4. Reduce Q to the smallest subset Q' of Q such that $P \in CH(Q')$
  5. Let $V = S_c(-P)$ be a supporting point in direction $-P$
  6. If V has no other extreme in direction $-P$ than P, then return $||P||$
  7. Add V to Q and go to step 2

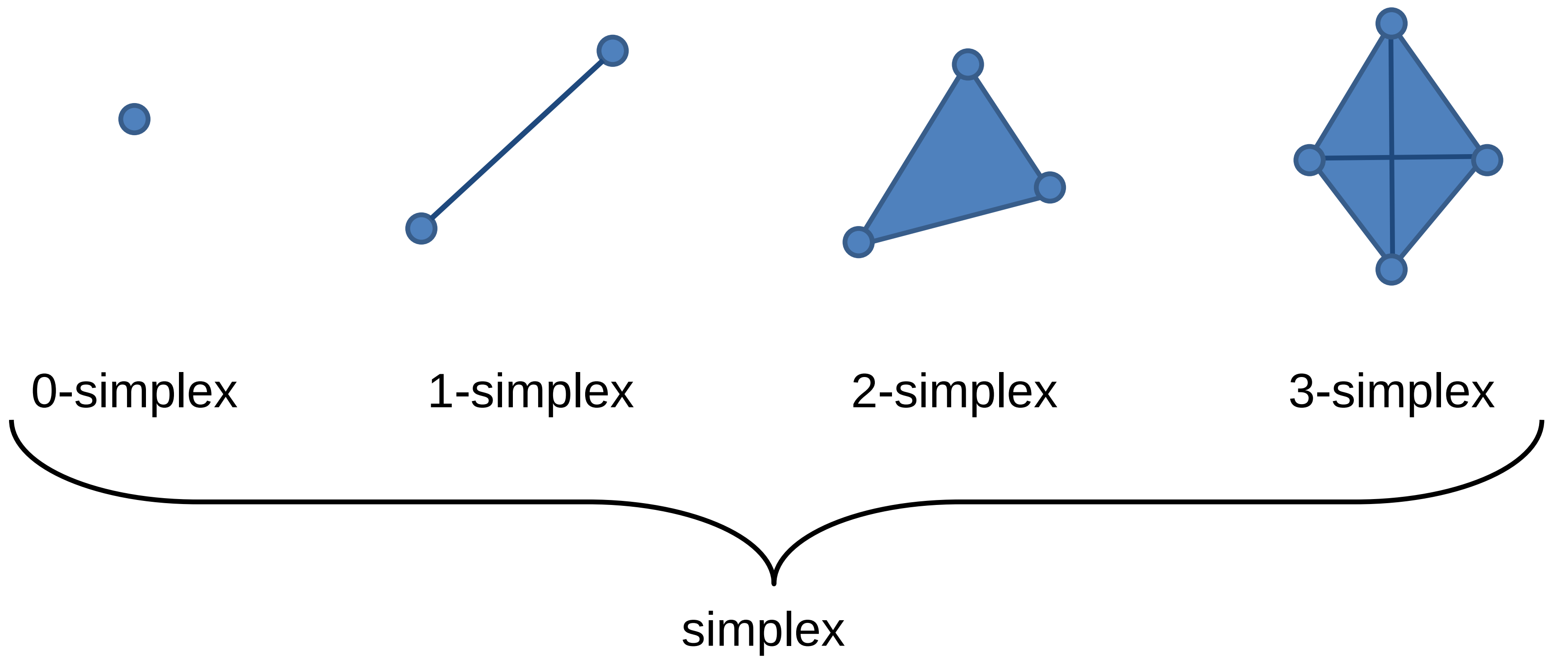
GJK algorithm example

- Imagine the following Minkowski difference object C and origin O



GJK algorithm example

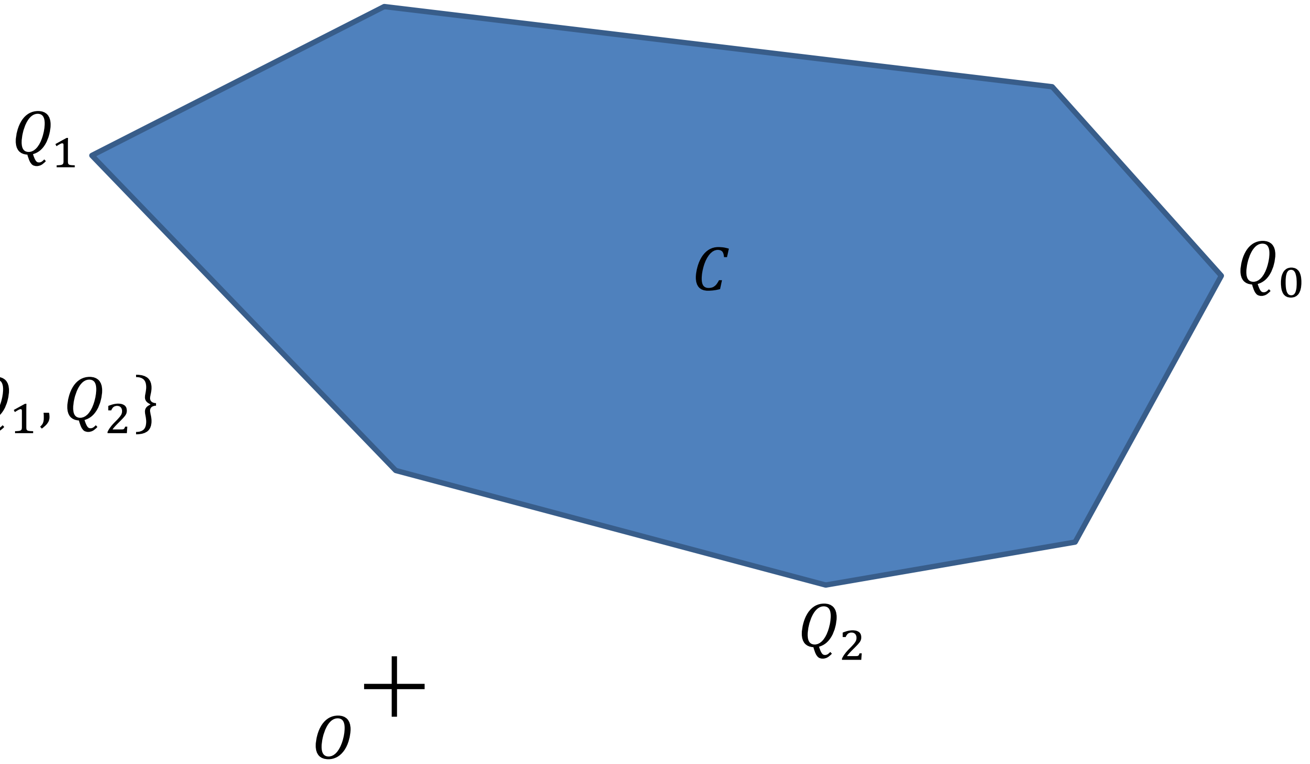
1. Initialize the simplex set Q with up to d+1 points from the Minkowski difference object C



GJK algorithm example

1. Initialize the simplex set Q with up to d+1 points from the Minkowski difference object C

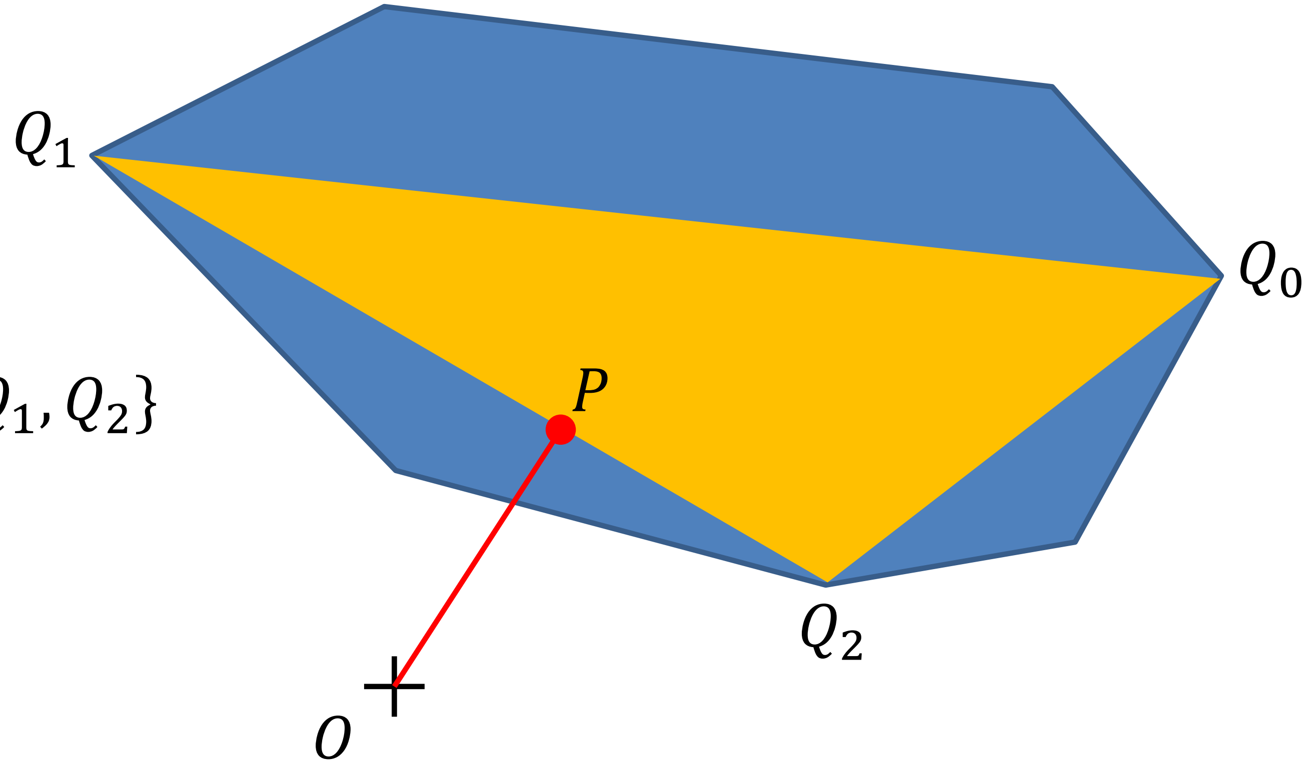
$Q = \{Q_0, Q_1, Q_2\}$



GJK algorithm example

2. Compute the point P of minimum norm of the convex hull $CH(Q)$

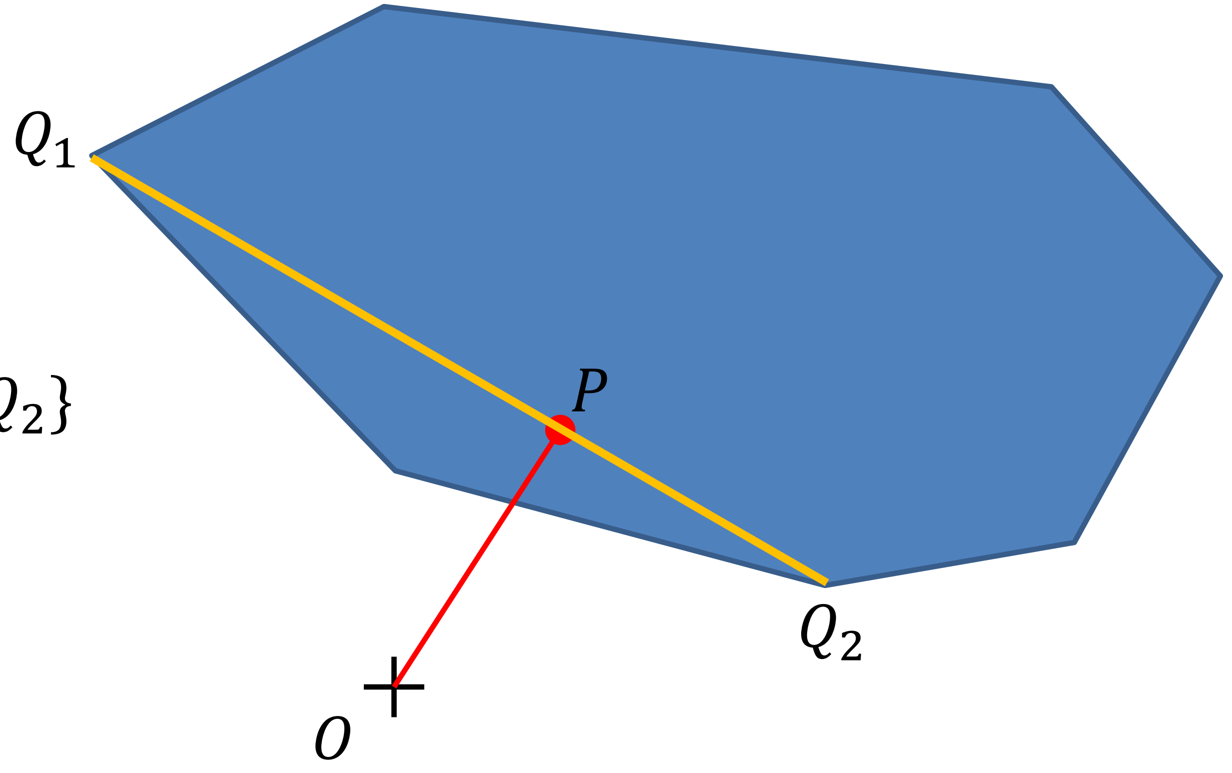
$Q = \{Q_0, Q_1, Q_2\}$



GJK algorithm example

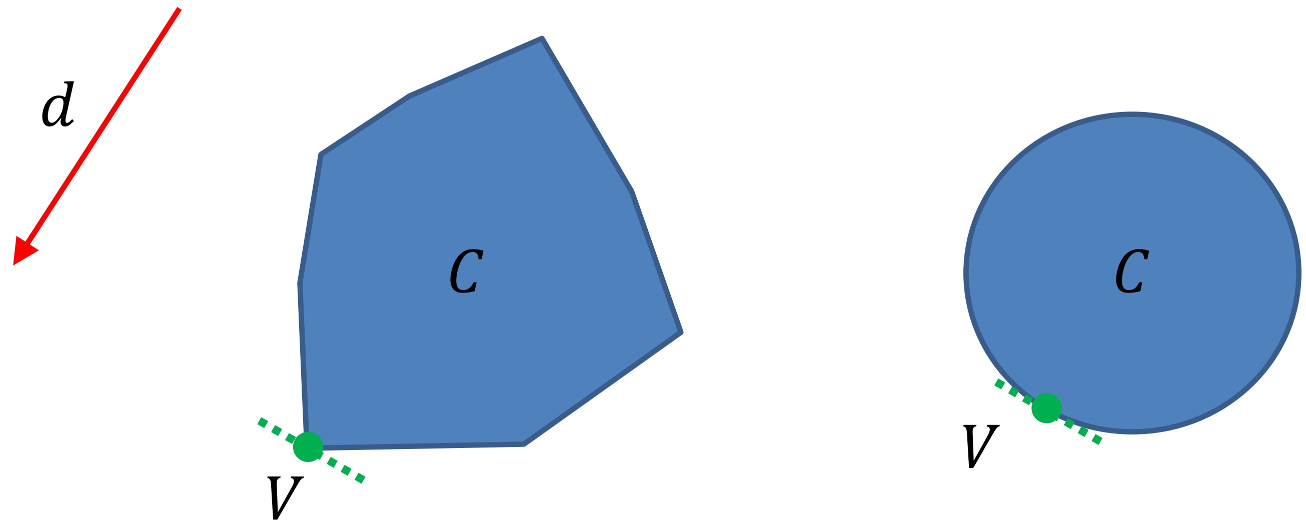
3. If P is the origin, then return a distance null
4. Reduce Q to the smallest subset Q' of Q such that $P \in CH(Q')$

$Q = \{Q_1, Q_2\}$



GJK algorithm example

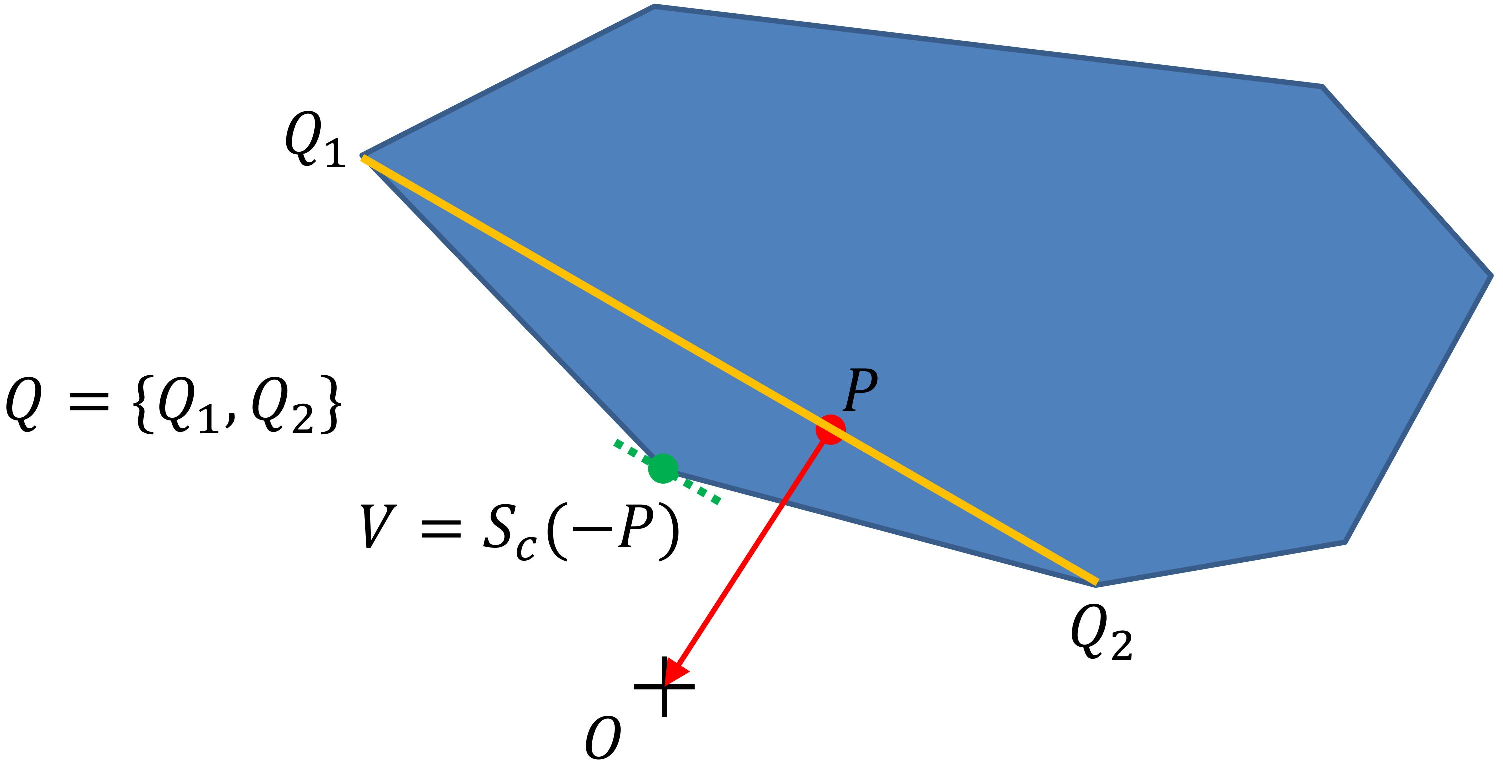
5. Let $V = S_c(-P)$ be a supporting point in direction $-P$



Supporting point V for a direction d returned by support mapping function $S_c(d)$

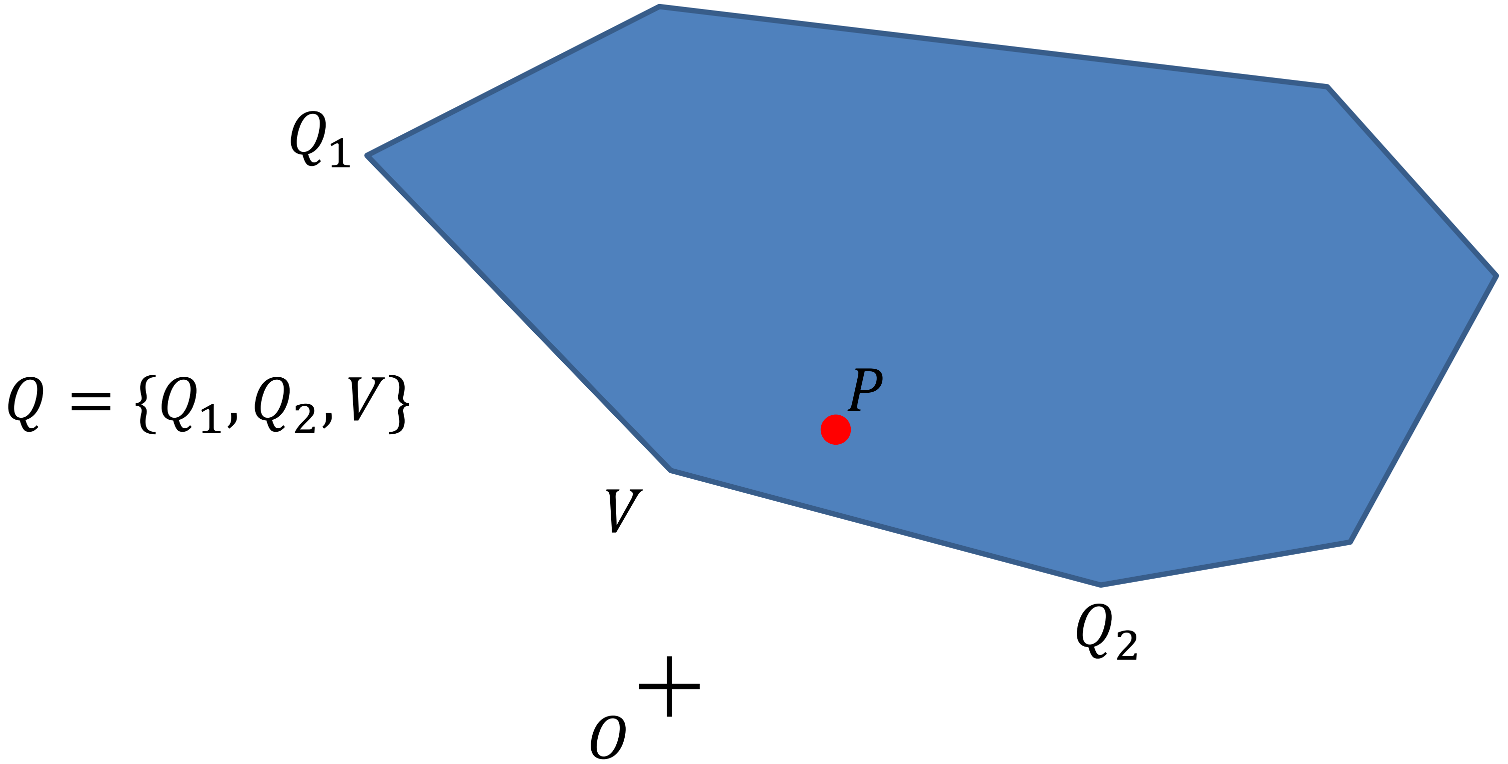
GJK algorithm example

5. Let $V = S_c(-P)$ be a supporting point in direction $-P$



GJK algorithm example

6. If V has no other extreme in direction $-P$ than P, then return $||P||$
7. Add V to Q and go to step 2



GJK algorithm example

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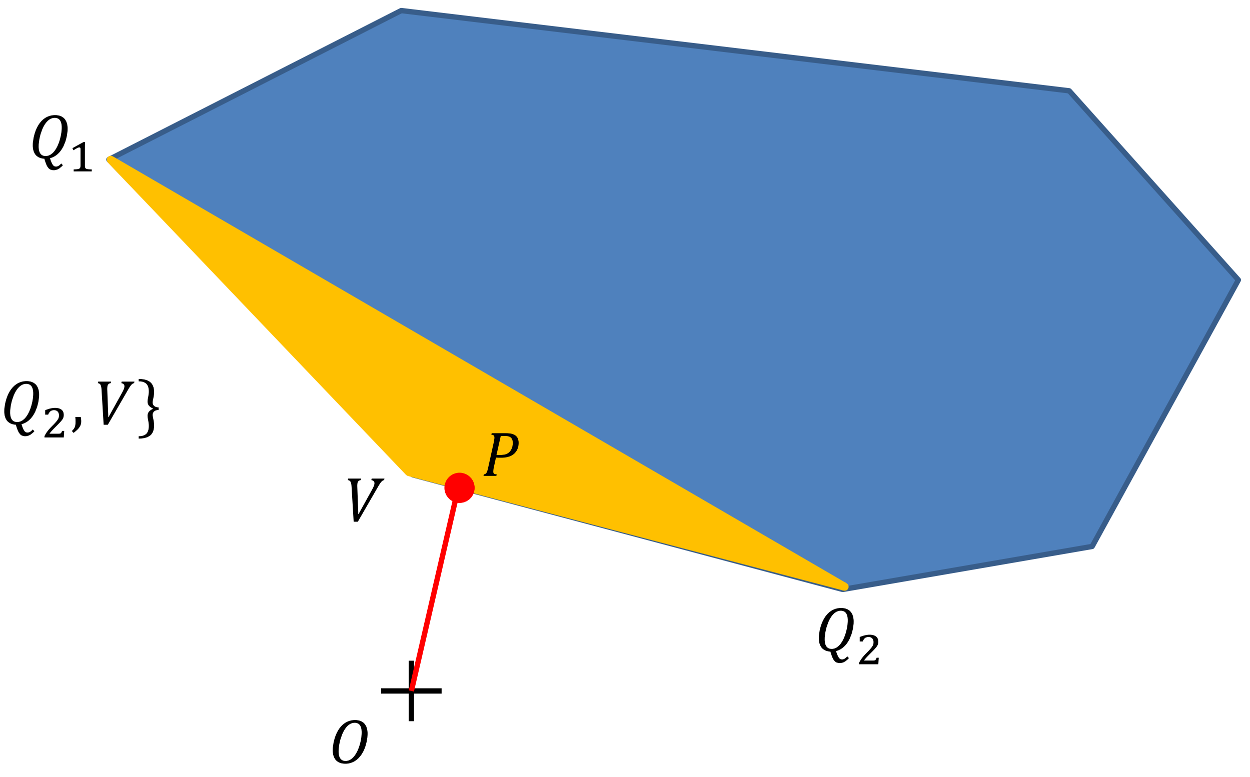
$$Q = \{Q_1, Q_2, V\}$$



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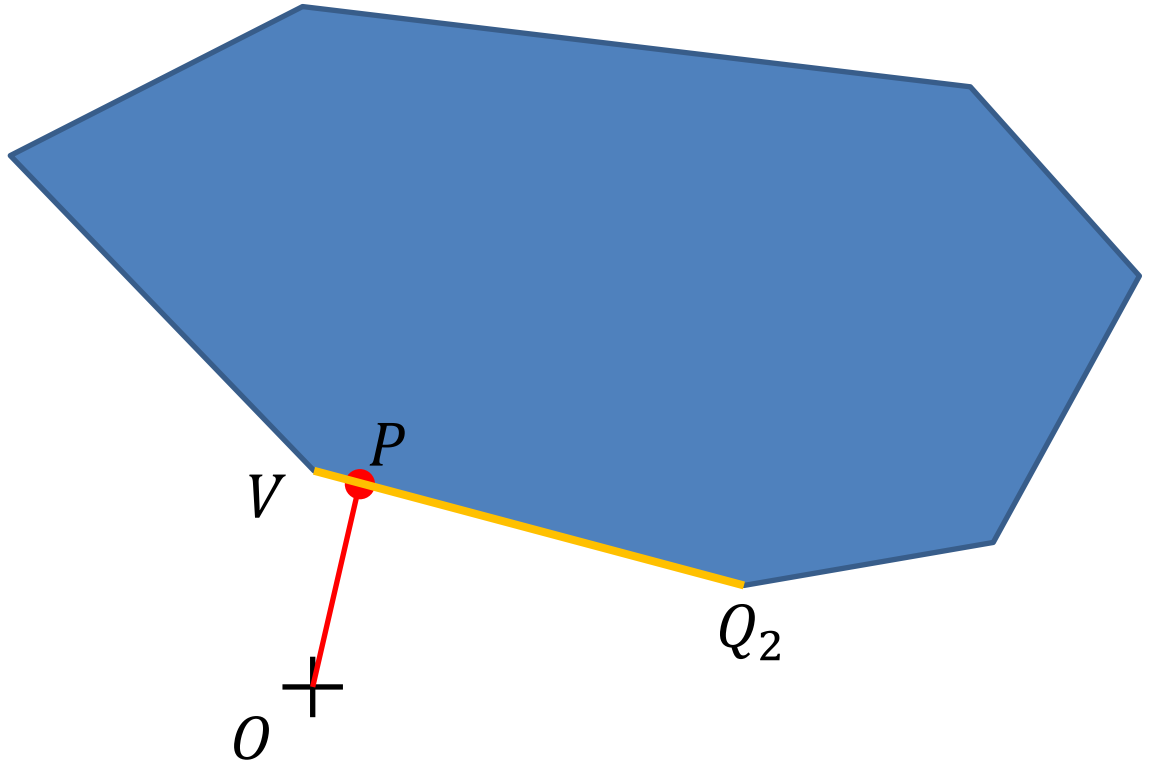

GJK algorithm example

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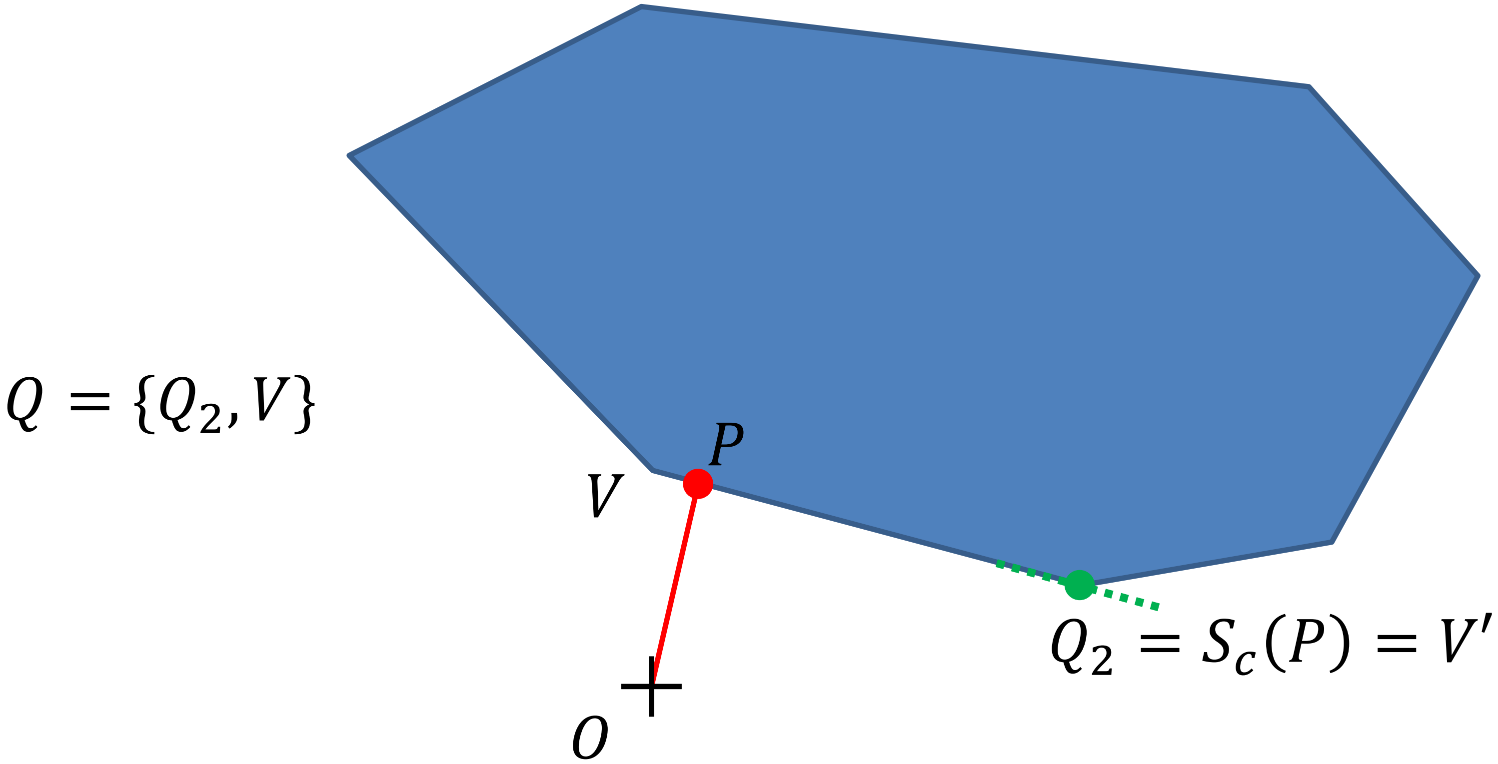

GJK algorithm example

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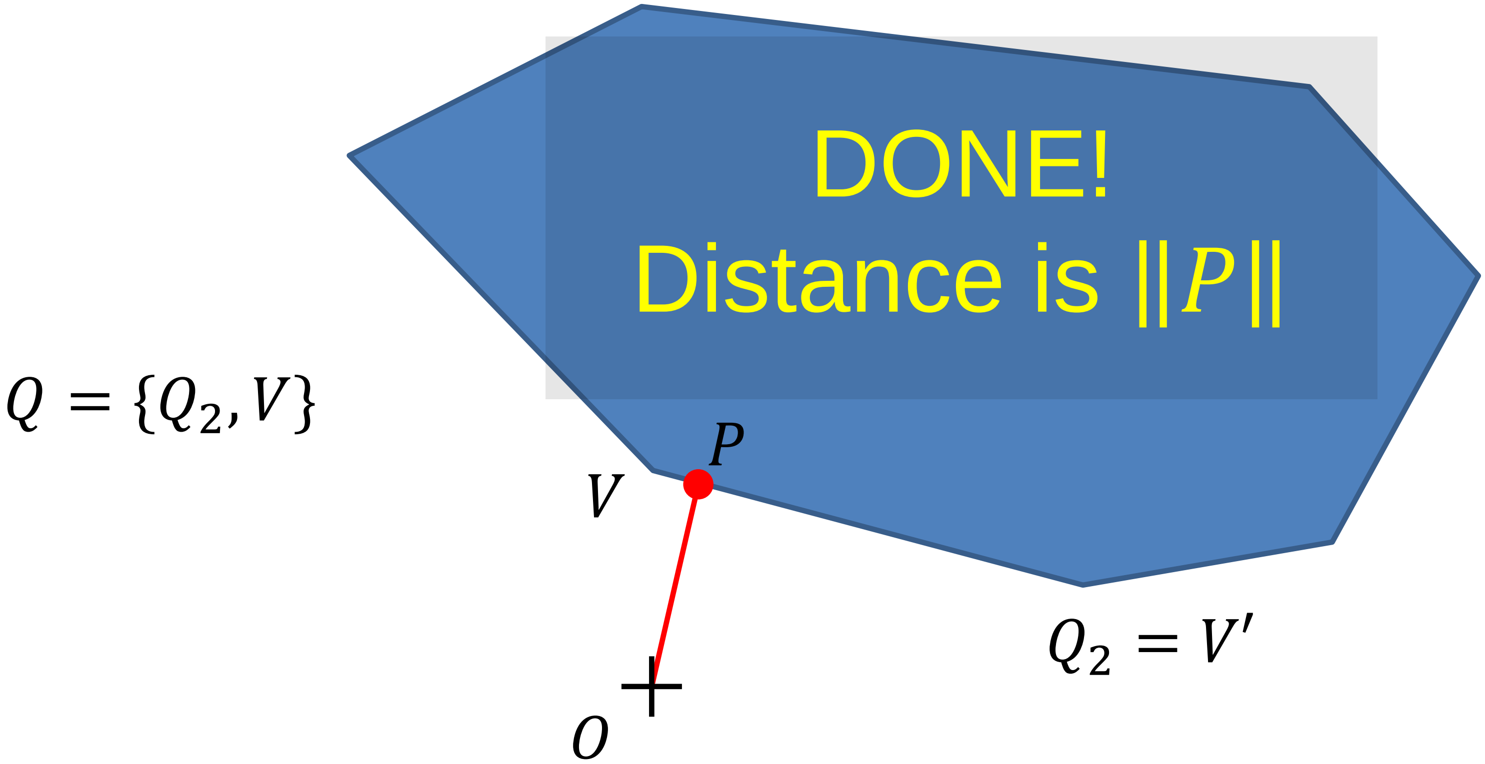

Supporting point

- In step 5 we had to find the supporting point of C in the direction $-P$
- It was intuitive an our example but how can we automatically calculate that point in any given situation?
  - we need the actual definition of a supporting point

Supporting point

- A supporting point V of a convex set C in a direction d is one of the most distant points along d
- In other words V is a supporting point if
$$d \cdot V = \max\{d \cdot X : X \in C\}$$
  - that is, V is a point for which $d \cdot V$ (its projection on V) is maximal
  - supporting points are sometimes called extreme points, and are not necessarily unique
  - for a polytope, one of the vertices can always be selected as a supporting point for a given direction

Support mapping

- A support mapping $S_C(d)$ is a function that maps the direction d into a supporting point of C
- For simple convex shapes, support mappings can be given in closed form
  - Sphere centered at c of radius r

$$S_C(d) = c + r\frac{d}{||d||}$$

  - AABB centered at c with extend vector $e = (e_x, e_y, e_z)$

$$S_C(d) = c + \left(sign(d_x)e_x, sign\left(d_y\right)e_y, sign(d_z)e_z\right)$$

    where $sign(\alpha) = -1$ if $\alpha < 0$ and 1 otherwise
  - Formulas exist for cylinder, cone *etc.*

Support mapping

6.1

- Convex shapes of higher complexity require the support mapping function to determine a support point using numerical methods
- For a polytope of n vertices, a supporting vertex is trivially found in $O(n)$ by searching over all vertices
- A greedy algorithm can be used to optimize the search by exploring the polytope through a simple hill-climbing algorithm (using the $d \cdot X_i$ values)
  - with extra optimizations we can design an algorithm in $O(\log n)$
  - we can also use frame coherency for determining the starting point, and then in practice we observe a performance almost insensitive to the complexity of the objects!

Collision detection algorithm

- Remember the collision detection algorithm
  - Broad phase
    - disregard pairs of objects that cannot collide
    - ➢ model and space partitioning
  - Mid phase
    - determine potentially colliding primitives
    - ➢ movement bounds
  - Narrow phase
    - determine exact contact between two shapes
    - ➢ Gilbert-Johnson-Keerthi algorithm

End of
Collision detection

Next

Collision resolution