

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF COMPUTER ANIMATION	1
1.2 MOTIVATION.....	3
1.3 OUTLINE OF THE THESIS.....	5
CHAPTER 2 A REVIEW OF COMPUTER ANIMATION.....	6
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	6
2.2 THE TRADITIONAL ANIMATION	6
2.3 2-D COMPUTER ANIMATION	7
2.4 OVERVIEW OF 3-D COMPUTER ANIMATION.....	7
2.4.1 <i>Animation Motion Control</i>	8
Key-frame Animation.....	8
Algorithmic Animation	8
2.4.2 <i>Zeltzer's Control Levels</i>	9
2.4.3 <i>Animation Methods</i>	10
The Dynamic Method.....	10
The Kinematic Method	11
2.4.4 <i>World Modelling</i>	11
Particle Systems.....	11
Stick Models.....	12
Wire Frames	12
Polyellipsoids Display.....	12
Constructive Solid Geometry (CSG).....	12
2.5 PREVIOUS WORK ON AUTONOMOUS MOTION CONTROL	13
2.5.1 <i>Sensor-effector Approach</i>	13
The Artificial Fishes of Tu	13
2.5.2 <i>The Predefined Environment Approach</i>	14
The Director's Apprentice System.....	14
2.5.3 <i>The Behaviour Rule Approach</i>	15
The Paradise System.....	16
The PetWorld System	16
The Relation Approach	18
NSAIL: Behavioural Animation using Constraint-Based Reasoning.....	19
2.5.4 <i>Other Related Work</i>	20

Actor Systems	20
Animation of Multiple Actors.....	21
Knowledge-Based Systems.....	22
The Instruction Approach.....	22
A Blackboard Approach	23
2.6 ESPLANADE.....	24
2.7 SUMMARY	25

CHAPTER 3 CONCEPTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	26
3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	26
3.2 AI NOMENCLATURE	26
3.3 REASONING ABOUT ACTIONS.....	27
3.4 PLAN SYNTHESIS	31
3.4.1 <i>Non-hierarchical Planning</i>	31
3.4.2 <i>Hierarchical Planning</i>	32
3.4.3 <i>Script-based Planning</i>	33
3.4.4 <i>Opportunistic Planning</i>	34
3.5 KNOWLEDGE-BASED SYSTEMS.....	35
3.6 KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTATION.....	36
3.6.1 <i>Literals</i>	36
3.6.2 <i>Variables</i>	37
3.6.3 <i>Predicates</i>	37
3.6.4 <i>Semantic Networks</i>	37
3.6.5 <i>Frames</i>	38
Inheritance.....	39
Instances.....	40
3.6.6 <i>Production Rules</i>	40
3.6.7 <i>Procedures</i>	41
3.7 THE REASONING PROCESS.....	42
3.7.1 <i>Rule Chaining</i>	42
3.7.2 <i>Conflict Resolution</i>	44
3.8 FRAMEWORKS IN KBS	45
3.8.1 <i>Expert Systems</i>	45
3.8.2 <i>Blackboard Systems</i>	46
3.9 SUMMARY	49

CHAPTER 4 THE BASIC ANIMATION SYSTEM.....	50
4.1 INTRODUCTION.....	50
4.2 THE HUMAN FIGURE.....	51
4.2.1 <i>The Representation of Articulated Bodies as a Chain of Links</i>	51
4.2.2 <i>Representation of the Human Figure</i>	53
4.2.3 <i>Motion in Articulated Bodies</i>	53
4.2.4 <i>The Skeleton as Data Type Structure</i>	54
4.2.5 <i>The Representation of a Limb Data Type</i>	55
4.2.6 <i>Motion Representation</i>	56
4.2.6.1 The Interpreted Mode.....	57
4.2.6.2 The Procedural Mode.....	57
4.3 COMPONENTS OF THE ANIMATION SYSTEM.....	58
4.3.1 <i>The Decor Controller</i>	59
4.3.2 <i>The Cast Controller</i>	60
4.3.2.1 The Active Objects.....	60
4.3.2.2 The Static Objects	61
4.3.3 <i>The Visualisation Component</i>	61
4.3.4 <i>The Structure of Executing Motion</i>	62
4.3.5 <i>Goal-directed Motion</i>	63
4.3.6 <i>Goal-directed Arm Reach</i>	65
4.3.7 <i>Holding and Releasing an Object</i>	67
4.3.8 <i>The Locomotion of the Human Figure</i>	68
4.3.8.1 The Walking Motion	69
First Stage: Leg Lifting and Change of Direction	70
Second Stage: Step Forward	71
Second Stage: Step Sidewards	71
Third Stage: Straightening Up	72
4.3.9 <i>Gestures</i>	72
4.4 PATH PLANNING	72
4.4.1 <i>The Segment Sub-division Approach</i>	73
4.5 CONCLUSIONS	76
CHAPTER 5 THE ANIMATION FRAMEWORK	77
5.1 INTRODUCTION.....	77
5.2 THE ANIMATION SYSTEM.....	78
5.3 THE ANIMATION CONTROLLER	79
5.3.1 <i>The Blackboard Data Structure</i>	81

<i>5.3.2 The Knowledge Sources</i>	81
<i>5.3.3 Control</i>	82
5.4 THE EXAMPLE OF ANIMATION SCENARIO: BAR	83
5.5 THE ANIMATION ENTITIES	85
5.6 THE AGENT ENTITY	87
5.7 CONCLUSIONS	88
CHAPTER 6 THE INSTRUCTION	89
6.1 INTRODUCTION.....	89
6.2 THE INSTRUCTION CONCEPT	90
6.3 PLANNING IN THE INSTRUCTION	91
6.4 INSTRUCTION OPERATION	93
6.5 THE INSTRUCTION FRAME.....	93
6.6 THE ROOT FRAME REPRESENTING PROCESS	94
6.7 THE INSTRUCTION PARAMETER TEMPLATE	95
6.8 THE PLAN REPRESENTATION	96
6.9 PLAN SELECTION	97
6.10 CONTEXT IDENTIFICATION	99
6.11 PLAN INSTANTIATION	101
<i>6.11.1 Forward binding</i>	102
<i>6.11.2 Backwards binding</i>	104
6.12 GROUPING INSTRUCTIONS	104
6.13 RECURSION IN INSTRUCTION PLANNING	105
6.14 PLAN EXECUTION	106
<i>6.14.1 The Instruction Knowledge Source</i>	107
<i>6.14.2 Failure Control State</i>	109
6.15 EXAMPLES OF INSTRUCTION PARAMETERS	112
6.16 EXAMPLE OF AN INSTRUCTION - <i>CLEAR_COUNTER</i>	112
6.17 SUMMARY	115
CHAPTER 7 THE MESSAGE CONCEPT.....	116
7.1 INTRODUCTION.....	116
7.2 A BRIEF BACKGROUND.....	117
<i>7.2.1 Applications in Computer Animation</i>	117
<i>7.2.2 Robotics</i>	118
<i>7.2.3 AI</i>	118
7.3 THE MESSAGE EXCHANGE SCHEME	118

7.4 OPERATION OF THE MESSAGE MECHANISM	120
7.5 CHAINING TWO MESSAGES	123
7.6 SUMMARY	124

CHAPTER 8 THE TASK CONCEPT.....125

8.1 INTRODUCTION.....	125
8.2 THE OPERATION OF TASK CONTROL ENTITY.....	126
8.3 THE TASK FRAME.....	127
8.4 ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.....	127
8.5 PRIORITY TO ACCESS RESOURCES.....	129
8.6 CALLING PROCESSES BACK TO ACTIVITY.....	130
8.7 THE TASK SPECIFIC PROCESS	131
8.7.1 <i>Data Retrieval and Checking Constraints</i>	133
8.7.2 <i>Associated Actions</i>	133
8.7.3 <i>Database Update</i>	133
8.8 TASK CONTROL STATES.....	135
8.9 EXAMPLE	136
8.10 SUMMARY	138

CHAPTER 9 SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS.....139

9.1 INTRODUCTION.....	139
9.2 OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEDULING STAGE	140
9.3 CATEGORIES OF MOVEMENTS.....	141
9.3.1 <i>Primary Instructions</i>	142
9.3.2 <i>Secondary Movements</i>	142
9.3.3 <i>Signalling Movements</i>	143
9.4 SOURCES OF INSTRUCTIONS.....	143
9.4.1 <i>The Animation Script</i>	144
9.4.2 <i>Actions Triggered by the System</i>	145
9.4.2.1 Actions requested through Messages	145
9.4.2.2 Task Generated Actions.....	146
9.4.2.3 Default Motion.....	148
9.5 SCHEDULING OF PRIORITIES	148
9.6 TIMING-OUT PROCESSES.....	150
9.7 EXAMPLE OF “FORKING” PARALLEL ACTIONS.....	150
9.7.1 <i>Motion Continuation</i>	152
9.7.2 <i>Intermediate Motions</i>	153

9.7.3 Coordinating Multiple Interleaved Actions	153
9.7.4 Conclusions	155
9.8 SUMMARY	156
CHAPTER 10 CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK.....	157
10.1 CONCLUSIONS	157
10.2 FUTURE WORK: THE ANIMATOR'S INTERFACE.....	160
10.3 FUTURE WORK: COORDINATION OF ACTIONS	162
BIBLIOGRAPHY	164
APPENDIX A	176
A.1 ANIMATION SCENARIO: BAR	176
A.2 AN EXAMPLE OF A SCRIPT	177
A.3 GOAL-DIRECTED ACTIONS DERIVED FROM THE SCRIPT	180
A.4 EXAMINING INSTANCES DURING RUNTIME.....	181
A.5 THE DETAILED SCRIPT	184
A.6 THE ANIMATED SCENE.....	190

TABLE OF FIGURES

FIGURE 2-1: INTERACTION AND ABSTRACTION	9
FIGURE 2-2: PLANNING THE MOTION OF ACTORS ON A STAGE.....	15
FIGURE 2-3: PET'S BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS DEFINED BY RULES.....	17
FIGURE 2-4: HIERARCHY OF A DECISION TREE. BOLDER LINES INDICATE TRAVERSAL OF THE HIERARCHY THROUGH SELECTED BRANCHES OF THE TREE UNTIL THE LIFT ACTION IS SELECTED.	17
FIGURE 2-5: EXAMPLE OF RELATIONS.	19
FIGURE 2-6: ACTOR MESSAGE OPERATORS	21
FIGURE 2-7: SCHEMATIC PRESENTATION OF ACTORS'S PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS.	21
FIGURE 2-8: ZELTZER'S FRAME EXAMPLE.	22
FIGURE 2-9: KARP AND FEINER'S FILM STRUCTURE.....	25
FIGURE 3-1: A TYPICAL STRIPS OPERATOR.	29
FIGURE 3-2: CHANGES IN JOHN'S WORLD STATE AS HE ACCOMPLISHES AN ACTION.....	30
FIGURE 3-3: APPLICABILITY OF SINGLE AND MULTIPLE OPERATORS CASES.....	31
FIGURE 3-4: EXAMPLE OF THE NON-HIERARCHICAL PLANNING APPROACH.	32
FIGURE 3-5: EVOLUTION OF A PLAN IN AN HIERARCHICAL MODEL.....	33
FIGURE 3-6: EXAMPLE OF SCRIPT-BASED PLANNING.	34
FIGURE 3-7: EXAMPLE OF OPPORTUNISTIC PLANNING.	35
FIGURE 3-8: TYPICAL COMPONENTS OF A KNOWLEDGE-BASED SYSTEM.	36
FIGURE 3-9: FRAGMENT OF A SEMANTIC NETWORK.	38
FIGURE 3-10: FRAME.....	39
FIGURE 3-11: FRAME INHERITANCE: ARROWS POINT TO NEW INHERITED CLASSES.....	40
FIGURE 3-12: PROLOG CLAUSE AS RULE.	42
FIGURE 3-13: EXAMPLE OF FORWARD CHAINING PROCESS.....	43
FIGURE 3-14: EXAMPLE OF BACKWARD CHAINING FROM A GOAL.....	44
FIGURE 3-15: BACKWARD-CHAINING: (A) DEPTH FIRST ORDER; (B) BREADTH FIRST ORDER.....	44
FIGURE 3-16: EXPERT SYSTEM EXECUTION CYCLE.....	46
FIGURE 3-17: NII'S GENERIC BLACKBOARD FRAMEWORK.	48
FIGURE 3-18: THE GENERAL FORMAT OF A KNOWLEDGE SOURCE.....	48
FIGURE 4-1: CHAIN OF LINKS.	51
FIGURE 4-2: THE HUMAN BODY AS AN HIERARCHICAL CHAIN.	53
FIGURE 4-3: THE FIX OPERATOR AVOIDS THE "SLIPPING" EFFECT.....	54
FIGURE 4-4: CASES OF BEND AND PIVOT OPERATORS APPLIED TO THE KNEE.	54
FIGURE 4-5: THE HUMAN OBJECT TYPE.	55
FIGURE 4-6: A LIMB DATA STRUCTURE.	56

FIGURE 4-7: REPRESENTATION OF SKILLS IN THE INTERPRETED MODE	57
FIGURE 4-8: REPRESENTATION OF SKILLS IN THE PROCEDURAL MODE.....	58
FIGURE 4-9: ORGANISATION OF THE ANIMATION SYSTEM.	59
FIGURE 4-10: COORDINATE OF THE SKELETON IN RESTING POSITION.	60
FIGURE 4-11: GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF MOTION DURING EXECUTION.	63
FIGURE 4-12: KOREIN'S APPROACH TO REACHING A POINT GOAL.	64
FIGURE 4-13: KOREIN'S ALGORITHM FOR THE REACH APPROACH.	64
FIGURE 4-14: CONFIGURATIONS OF AN ARM.....	66
FIGURE 4-15: PHASES OF THE WALKING IN TIME AND DISTANCE.	68
FIGURE 4-16: PROCEDURE IMPLEMENTING RIGHT LEG SWING OF THE WALKING MOTION.....	69
FIGURE 4-17: TURN 50 DEGREES TO THE LEFT, SWINGING RIGHT LEG.....	70
FIGURE 4-18: TURN 50 DEGREES TO THE RIGHT, SWINGING RIGHT LEG.....	70
FIGURE 4-19: TURNING THE DIRECTION OF WALK.....	71
FIGURE 4-20: WALKING STRIDE AS A COMPASS GAIT.....	71
FIGURE 4-21: POTENTIAL FIELD USED TO GUIDE A ROBOT.	73
FIGURE 4-22: MARKING THE VISIBLE CELLS WITH DISTANCE TO THE TARGET.....	73
FIGURE 4-23: PATH DETERMINATION WITH OBSTACLES.....	74
FIGURE 4-24: DETERMINATION OF ALTERNATIVE POINT.	75
FIGURE 4-25: DETERMINATION OF ALTERNATIVE POINT FOR A RECTANGLE.	75
 FIGURE 5-1: ANIMATION FRAMEWORK COMPOSED BY TWO INTERACTING BLOCKS.	78
FIGURE 5-2: ORGANISATION OF THE ANIMATION CONTROLLER.	80
FIGURE 5-3: THE THREE CONTROL STAGES OF PROCESS.	81
FIGURE 5-4: A VIEW OF THE BAR SCENARIO FROM THE TOP.	85
FIGURE 5-5: EXAMPLE OF HIERARCHY OF AN ANIMATION CAST.	86
FIGURE 5-6: THE PERSON FRAME.	87
FIGURE 5-7: EXAMPLE OF STATE MACHINE FOR THE WALK MOTION.....	88
 FIGURE 6-1: CONTRAST OF GOALS: STATE ORIENTED AND ACTION ORIENTED.	90
FIGURE 6-2: TWO ABSTRACTIONS FOR THE SAME PLAN.	92
FIGURE 6-3: PLANNING WITH EXISTING ACTIONS.....	92
FIGURE 6-4: ACTIVITY OF AN INSTRUCTION INSTANCE.....	93
FIGURE 6-5: DERIVATION OF AN INSTRUCTION FRAME FROM THE GENERIC FORM.	94
FIGURE 6-6: ROOT FRAME.....	95
FIGURE 6-7: LINKING AGENT, ROOT, AND PLAN TREE.	95
FIGURE 6-8: INSTRUCTION AS A "BLACK BOX"	96
FIGURE 6-9: RULESET FOR PLAN SELECTION ASSOCIATED TO AN INSTRUCTION.....	98
FIGURE 6-10: USE OF RELATIONS IN A CONTEXT IDENTIFICATION.	100
FIGURE 6-11: AN EXAMPLE OF A PLAN SELECTOR, FOR THE <i>PICK_UP</i> INSTRUCTION.....	101

FIGURE 6-12: PLAN INSTANTIATION AND PARAMETERISATION.....	102
FIGURE 6-13: EXAMPLE OF PARAMETER BINDING.....	103
FIGURE 6-14: INSTRUCTION AS A COLLECTION OF ACTIVITIES.....	105
FIGURE 6-15: TWO TYPICAL TYPES OF INSTRUCTION PLANS.....	106
FIGURE 6-16: INSTRUCTION PLAN AS PRODUCTION RULES.....	106
FIGURE 6-17: CONTRASTING KNOWLEDGE WITH GOAL.....	107
FIGURE 6-18: INSTRUCTION CONTROL SCHEME.....	109
FIGURE 6-19: STRUCTURE OF THE FAILURE CONTROL.....	110
FIGURE 6-20: PARTIAL CODING FOR FAILURE HANDLING.....	111
FIGURE 6-21: PARTIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE <i>BARMAN</i> AND <i>GLASS</i> FRAMES. (SLOTS WITHOUT "DEFAULT" ARE EXAMPLES OF INSTANTIATED VALUES.).....	113
FIGURE 6-22: DEVELOPING AN INSTANCE OF <i>CLEAR_COUNTER</i> INSTRUCTION.....	115
FIGURE 7-1: EQUIVALENCE OF PLAN TO TWO PARTIAL PLANS WITH MESSAGE.....	119
FIGURE 7-2: GENERAL MESSAGE EXCHANGE SCHEME.....	120
FIGURE 7-3: MESSAGE FRAME.....	121
FIGURE 7-4: MESSAGE CONTROL.....	122
FIGURE 7-5: MESSAGE COMMUNICATION PROCESS.....	123
FIGURE 7-6: MULTIPLE MESSAGE EXCHANGE.....	124
FIGURE 8-1: TASK CONTROLLER SCHEME.....	126
FIGURE 8-2: THE GENERAL TASK FRAME.....	127
FIGURE 8-3: PROCESS CALLBACK SCHEME.....	131
FIGURE 8-4: MESSAGE CALL TO BAS.....	132
FIGURE 8-5: SCHEME.....	132
FIGURE 8-6: THE TASK KS.....	135
FIGURE 8-7: THE DRINK TASK PROCEDURE.....	136
FIGURE 8-8: BLENDING STATES FOR TASK CONTROL.....	137
FIGURE 8-9: SCHEDULING MOTION COMMANDS TO THE ANIMATION SYSTEM.....	137
FIGURE 9-1: OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEDULER CONTROL.....	141
FIGURE 9-2: SOURCE OF ACTIVITIES.....	144
FIGURE 9-3: THE EVENT "JOHN ENTERING A NEW AREA" CAUSES REACTIONS FROM OTHERS.....	148
FIGURE 9-4: PRIORITY ACCORDING TO SOURCE OF ACTION.....	149
FIGURE 9-5: TWO VERSIONS OF PLANS FOR THE "COLLECT GLASS" ACTION.....	151
FIGURE 9-6: PARALLEL TASK HOLD GLASS IS INITIATED AND TERMINATED WITHIN THE SAME PLAN.....	152
FIGURE 9-7: THE ACTION OF CHEERING OCCURS OPPORTUNISTIC WHILE THE AGENT IS HOLDING A GLASS.	152
FIGURE 9-8: CONTINUOUS AND INTERRUPTED SEQUENCES OF MOTIONS.....	153
FIGURE 9-9: EXAMPLE OF PARALLEL TASKS DEVELOPED BY THE DRINK INSTRUCTION.....	154
FIGURE 9-10: SET OF RULES IMPLEMENTING THE DRINK INSTRUCTION.....	155

FIGURE A.1: LAYOUT OF THE ANIMATION SCENARIO WITH 9 CAMERA VIEWING POSITIONS.	176
FIGURE A.2: THE ANIMATOR'S SCRIPT.	180
FIGURE A.3: GOAL-DIRECTED ACTIONS GENERATED BY THE ANIMATION SYSTEM IN RESPONSE TO THE ANIMATOR'S SCRIPT.	181
FIGURE A.4: INSTANCES OF THE ACTIVE AGENTS FRAMES.	182
FIGURE A.5: THE ACTIONS HIERARCHIES.	183
FIGURE A.6: TWO SUB-ACTIONS INTERNAL TO THE CORRESPONDENT GOAL-DIRECTED ACTIONS.	183
FIGURE A.7: TWO PROCESSES CORRESPONDENT TO THE GOAL-DIRECTED ACTIONS.....	183
FIGURE A.8: PRINTOUT OF INSTANCES OF SOME OF THE ANIMATED OBJECTS.	184
FIGURE A.9: DETAILED SCRIPT GENERATED BY THE CONTROLLER AND SET TO THE BAS.	189
FIGURE A.10: SELECTED FRAMES OF THE ANIMATED SCENE. (CONT.)	191