



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

An agent based architecture for constructing Interactive Simulation Systems

Zhao, Z.

Publication date
2004

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Zhao, Z. (2004). *An agent based architecture for constructing Interactive Simulation Systems*.

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Acknowledgments

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody I have worked with and met during the period of my Ph.D. journey. Without the help from them, this thesis would not come true.

First, I want to thank my promoter, professor Peter Sloot, for bringing me into the exciting field of interactive simulation and high performance computing, and for offering me opportunity to work in his group. Not only the knowledge in modelling and simulation, but also the open mind and critical attitude in science, Peter taught me many things, which I think will be invaluable wealth for my future life. Thanks Peter for all your support.

Without the enormous amount of help from my co-promoter, dr. Dick van Albada, the thesis would not look like this and at least I would have spent much longer time in wandering around the subject. Thanks Dick, for the patience you always had for me during the discussions, and also for the time you spent checking my thesis and preparing a Dutch summary.

Of course I will not forget how my life started in Amsterdam, that was in a cold raining evening, the airplane was delayed, and my luggage was lost. It was Alfons who picked me up in that middle night from the airport and settled me down. Thanks Alfons, also for the help you gave me during my first year in the SCS group.

I want to acknowledge many people for their help when I was working on the subject of Virtual Reality and Scientific Visualisation, although I have latterly shifted a lot from there. Piet Kommers, my former supervisor in University of Twente, invited me as a visiting scholar to work with him for the project of Virtual Reality and distance education. This opportunity turns a new page of my life in the Netherlands. Thanks Piet for all your help. In SCS group, I learned a lot from dr. Jaap Kaandorp about Scientific Visualisation and enjoyed in assisting him for giving courses. I am grateful to Robbert Belemman for all the help of VR related techniques and for valuable suggestions on my research. More importantly, without him, I would not get chance to access some nice software (you knows what I mean, Rob). Thanks Elena for nice discussions on human computer interaction. Thanks Demetty, Vladimir and other Russian colleagues helped me in some experiments in CAVE for studying human behaviour. In particular, I would like to thank Dennis for customising his desktop VRE

program for my thesis experiments and Romman for measuring the performance of his NT software and for allowing me to use it in my paper.

I am grateful to all co-authors of my publication and their pleasant co-operation, in particular Alfredo and Katarzyna.

I would like to thank other members (past and present) of the SCS group as well. As the most stable user of room 219, I have sit in that office for more than 5 years. I really enjoyed the atmosphere of multi culture from all present and former officemates: Artoli is from Sudan, Judi is from Indonesia, David is from Holland, Tomarc is from Poland, Yordi is from Spain, Yeve is from Cameroon and Maxim is from Russia. SCS is a group whose members often work on substantially different subjects, for instance, Micro, Alessia, Evghenii and Mark work on Astronomy, Michel works on medical applications, Kamil works on discrete event simulation, Lilit works on flow simulation and Jiangjun works on biological simulation; however, we can always be perfectly glued by the cozy air of lunch chatting. Although Roeland, Peiro, Martine, Benno, Arijn and Edvin left this group, and Lera does not physically work here so often, I will certainly not forget them. Specially, thanks Zeger for helping me to move. Thanks other colleagues Breannán, Walter, Simon, Drona, Berry and Bas for help. I wish you all the best, and good luck with your work and research.

I also received help from friends from the other groups. I am grateful to Huang Zhisheng- an expert in artificial intelligent-for giving me critical and very helpful comments on my Prolog programming and on my understanding on agent technologies. And I appreciate all types of help received from Alban, Ersin and Frank.

I want to express my sincerely appreciation to the members of my reading committee for their invaluable comments and help on improving the quality of the manuscript: Maarten Boasson, France Brazier, Chengzheng Sun, Zhiwei Xu, Harmidy Afsarmanesh and Marian Bubak.

Of course, I will not forget the help from the people at the secretariat, system support group, personnel and financial department and the library: Erik, Coco, Marianne, Virginie, Saskia, Frans, Heleen and many others.

The Chinese community constitutes an important part of my social life. I am grateful to Mrs Xue Hanqing, I always learn lots of educational things from her about how to live and work abroad. I get appreciated support from Mr. Tong Guangwu, Mr. Dong Huiqing and Mr. Wu Liansheng for organising the social events for Chinese students. Dai Jiawei, Mang Rui, Yang Xiaoxian, Ni Yongfeng, Wang Chao, Wu Wenhua, Hu Xiaofeng, He Qiong, Zhou Yinwei, Li Ting, Wang Jing, Pang Jun, Qiu Huaning, Qing Fang and many others friends gave me great support when I run the Chinese student association. Thanks all of you!

I am grateful to Renate and Petra for their help during my stay in their house, thanks for giving me the feeling of a family. Thanks Zilei for designing the cover of the thesis. And thanks Emmy, Angélique and Pauline for the help when receiving Chinese CCTV crew, and Fris and Rena for helping the photo competition of the student community.

When in hard time of my life, my parents Zhao Jun and He Fengbao, and my parents in law Xu Fukang and Zhang Hongping always support and encourage me and let me feel I am the best. My wife, Yan, quitted her job and joined my life in Holland; without her help, I will not possibly manage all the things of the thesis. I appreciate all the support from Gu Jingliang, Zhao Chunlan, Xuan Xiaofeng and Zhao Zhihua. I really miss Xuan Yi and Gu Xian.

Thanks many other friends who have not been listed.

Zhiming Zhao
Amsterdam, October 23, 2004

