

Galak-Z, Forever: Building Space-Dungeons Organically

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GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE

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The 4th Cave



How Systems Will Save Us

- Potential for control mastery
- Complex interaction of simple systems
- Ambience and aesthetics of dungeon regions
- Exploration of unknown spaces

Cellular Automata



Glider





Cellular Automata





Cellular Automata







Cool! We're done, right?





Binary Space Partitioning





Minimum Spanning Tree





Coords Z-Value Z(0,0) =0 Z(1,0) = 1Z(0,1) = 2Z(1,1) = 3Z(3,3) =15 Z(7,7) =63

Hilbert Curves

6

7





2 3 5 0 4 1

0

2

3

5

6



0 2

```
//convert (x,y) to d
int xy2d (int n, int x, int y) {
  int rx, ry, s, d=0;
  for (s = n/2; s > 0; s /= 2) {
     rx = (x \& s) > 0;
     ry = (y \& s) > 0;
     d += s * s * ((3 * rx) ^ ry);
     rot(s, &x, &y, rx, ry);
  }
  return d;
//convert d to (x,y)
void d2xy(int n, int d, int *x, int *y) {
  int rx, ry, s, t = d;
  *x = *y = 0;
  for (s = 1; s < n; s^* = 2) {
     rx = 1 \& (t / 2);
     ry = 1 \& (t ^ rx);
     rot(s, x, y, rx, ry);
     *x += s * rx;
     *y += s * ry;
     t /= 4;
```

Hilbert Curves



Hilbert Curves

- Increase curve dimension to next power of 2
- Randomly offset the dungeon grid
- Start at d = 0 and walk the curve until it lies within the grid
- If the curve goes off the grid, pick up where it comes back on
- If the curve cannot rejoin the main path when it reenters the grid, discard the lost cells



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Dead Ends



Back to rooms

- Smaller grids (17x17)
- Fixed exits
- Terrain adjustments
- Object nodes
- Metadata



Room Template Editor

- Layer-based pixel painting
- Build button for quick previews



Like an onion

Ŋ	Adjustments	•		Waypoints	
	Waypoints 📃 🔵	•		Patrol Paths	
	Bugs			🗸 Enemy Patrol	Edit
	Deco			Closed Path	\checkmark
	Interactables			Reaper	
$\mathbf{\nabla}$	Floaters				+
$\mathbf{\nabla}$	Obstacles				÷
$\mathbf{\nabla}$	Barricades				
	Loot				
	Key Items				
	Lava				
	Foreground				

Room Previews





Dungeon Zones



Dungeon Zones

- Directional light color / intensity
- Background deco objects
- Interactable / obstacle prefabs
- Enemy types
- Loot types
- Max room count

Blocks to rocks





The Final Product



Space Hulks







Pirate Bases



Tips

- Use consistent frames of reference
- Draw pictures and keep them nearby
- Clear delegation of responsibilities

Tips

- Externalize as much data as possible
- Begin with a small, hand-crafted level
- Refactor when your working memory is exhausted
- Don't be afraid to experiment and fail spectacularly



Thank you!

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