Software Design Document

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose

This software design document describes the architecture and system design of a system that tabulates election ballots and produces election results following the rules of two types of election: Instant Runoff (IR) and Closed List Party (CPL). It will give details of the system design, including the architecture of the object oriented programming (OOP) classes that will compose the system, details of these classes, and data storage and flow. It also explains the features of the system, the primary modes of user interaction, and proposed formats for the user interface and outputs in high-level details, allowing the readers to understand how the components of this system work and interact with each other more easily. Finally, it will show how the system design meets the requirements given in the software requirements specification (SRS) document.

As such, the primary audience for this document is the development team and QA team. The development team will use it to guide the implementation of the system described here. The QA team will use it to ensure testability and also to ensure that proper test cases are written.

1.2. Scope

- This system is an electronic tool to tabulate ballots and to determine the winner(s) in a few common types of election.
- A CSV file containing the election results will be given to the system by the user.
- The system reads and uses the provided data to tabulate and finalize the elections.
- The methodology of how the calculations are done depends on the chosen election type.
- The process is automated to substantially reduce the potential for user error and to decrease the amount of time required for tabulation.

1.3. Overview

The following sections of this document will focus on describing the architectural design of the Voting Tabulating System, as well as the interactions between its high-level components. There will be several diagrams being represented throughout the document, from the most general to more in-depth, along with detailed descriptions to help the reader comprehend the flow of this system more easily.

Section 2 includes an overview of the nominal operation flow of this system, and the election algorithms that will be implemented. Section 3 includes detailed diagrams of the system architecture in the format of UML class diagrams, as well as details of the IR and CPL diagrams in the form of process and sequence diagrams, respectively. Section 4 focuses on details of the data storage and processing for ballot information. Section 5 expands upon the classes presented in Section 3 in more detail, with function descriptions of class methods. Section 6 shows details of the planned user interface. Finally, Section 7 shows how the system design meets the system requirements via a requirements matrix.

1.4. Reference Materials

- Software Requirements Specification
 - o Title: Software Requirements Specification for Voting Tabulation System
 - o Author(s): Andrew Brevick, Brian Bianchi, Cuong Ha
 - o Organization: University of Minnesota Twin Cities
 - Publication: Spring 2023
 - o Source: https://github.umn.edu/umn-csci-5801-01-S23/repo-Team21/blob/main/SRS/SRS_Team21.pdf
- Main Project Description
 - o Title: Project 1 Waterfall Methodology
 - o Author(s): Shana Watters
 - o Organization: University of Minnesota Twin Cities
 - o Publication: Spring 2023
 - o Source:

https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/355321/pages/updated-waterfall-election-system-description-with-fixed-cpl-file-formatting?module_item_id=9728200

- SDD Project Description
 - o Title: Project 1 Waterfall Methodology
 - o Author(s): Shana Watters
 - o Organization: University of Minnesota Twin Cities
 - Publication: Spring 2023
 - o Source: https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/355321/assignments/3090481
- Learn more about Google Style Guide here
 - o Source: https://google.github.io/styleguide/cppguide.html
- Learn more about UML here
 - Source: https://www.uml-diagrams.org/
- SDD Template can be downloaded from here
 - o Title: Software Design System
 - Publisher: IEEEPublication: 1998
 - o Source: https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/355321/assignments/3090481

1.5. Definitions and Acronyms

- IR: Instant Runoff Voting Method
- CPL: Closed Party List Voting Method
- Election officials: authorized people in charge of initiating the system and finalizing the results
- Tie-breaker: method(s) to determine the winner between two or more candidates who have the same amount of votes

2. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

This system is a tool used by the election officials to tabulate ballots, finalize the results, and determine the winner(s) following the rules of Instant Runoff method and Closed Party List method.

The standard operating flow of the system is as follows:

- 1. User inputs User enters required information including file path to ballot file and election date
- 2. **Header import** System parses the ballot file header for information including election type, candidate count and names, and ballot count. Information is verified by the user.
- 3. **Ballot processing** Ballots are read into the system and tabulated according to the rules of a particular election type. See the following subsections for these details.
- 4. **Results generation** The election winners and other results information is displayed to the user.
- 5. **Audit file generation** An audit file containing all necessary information to replicate and/or verify the election is generated.

Instant Runoff Algorithm

The first voting method this system follows is the Instant Runoff. This method works entirely with individual candidates, and will continuously move on to the next round until a winner is determined. The algorithm of this method can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Determine if the number of candidates who are still in the race.
 - a. If there are two candidates and they are tied, flip a fair coin to decide the winner.
- 2. Determine if there is a candidate whose vote count accounts for 50% or more of the total number of votes.
 - a. If there is one, that candidate will immediately be declared as the winner.
 - b. If there is none, the candidate(s) with lowest number of votes will be eliminated, and their votes will be transferred to the candidates of the next preferences of their voters.
- 3. Recount the number of votes each candidate (excluding the eliminated candidate(s)).
- 4. Return to step 1.

Closed Party List Algorithm

Another voting method that this system follows is the Closed Party List. This method involves working with parties as a whole, rather than individual candidates. The algorithm of this method can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Calculate the quota by dividing the total number of ballots by the total number of seats
- 2. Divide the number of votes each party has by the quota, round the result down to the nearest whole number, allocate the seats corresponding to the calculated numbers to them. During the allocation, if a party runs out of available candidates, the remaining seats will be equally allocated to any of the other parties.
- 3. Once the first allocation is done, the number of votes each party receives will be recounted by subtracting the original number by the product of the quota and the number of seats that has been allocated to them.
- 4. Recount the total number of seats.
- 5. Equally allocate the remaining seats to the parties with the most vote counts. The logic within this procedure will be the same as step 2.

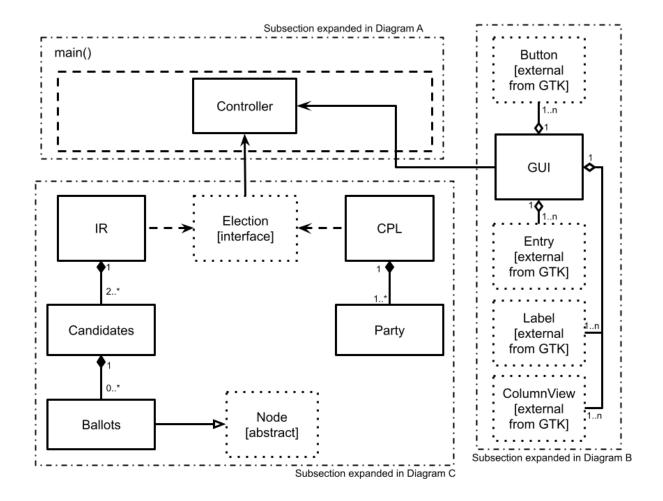
3. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

3.1. Architectural Design

The highest level of our proposed architecture is a class named Controller which is instantiated in the main() call of the program. This class handles interaction between two subgroups of classes -those relating to the graphical user interface and those relating to the logical processing of ballot data to produce election results. The class diagram below shows the interaction between each class in these groups.

Within the election processing subgroup, the strategy programming pattern will be used, where an Election class serves as an interface which is inherited by IR and CPL, implementation classes. This allows for a standardized interaction with the Controller class, while accounting for the significant differences between the election types. The two child classes, IR and CPL, have their own unique rules and logic to determine the winning candidate (for IR) or to determine the number of seats assigned to each political party (for CPL). Also, they contain different sets of classes for data storage and processing, as shown in the following diagrams. Details of data structure are in section 4.1

Note that the first diagram shows the entire system, while omitting class details in the interest of space. Following diagrams expand to the full UML class diagram level of detail. The detailed diagrams are labeled in the overall diagram.



Details of each class are shown in the following diagrams:

Diagram A:

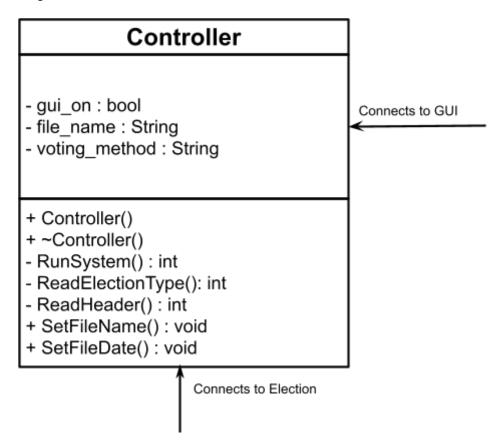


Diagram B:

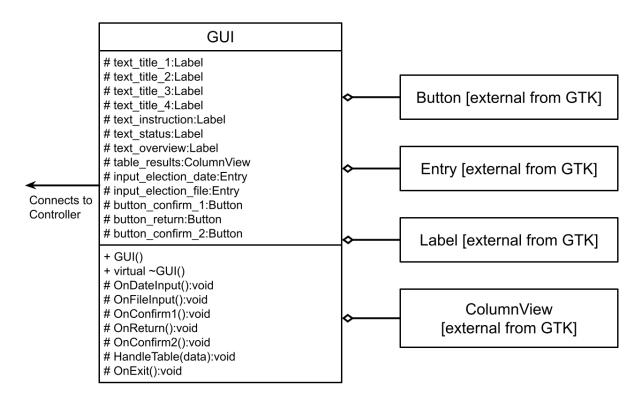
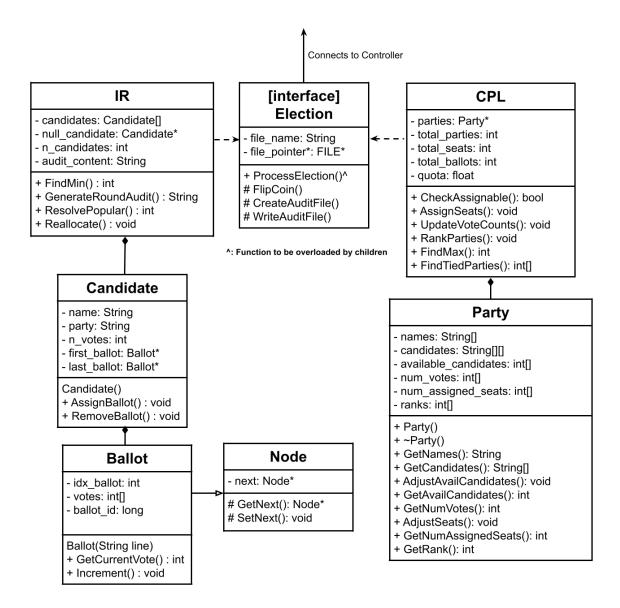


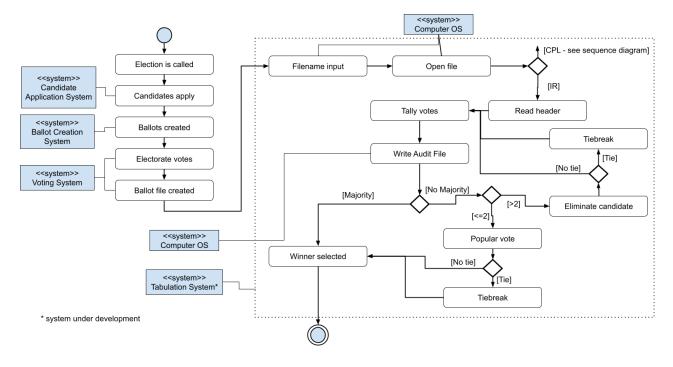
Diagram C:



3.2. Decomposition Description

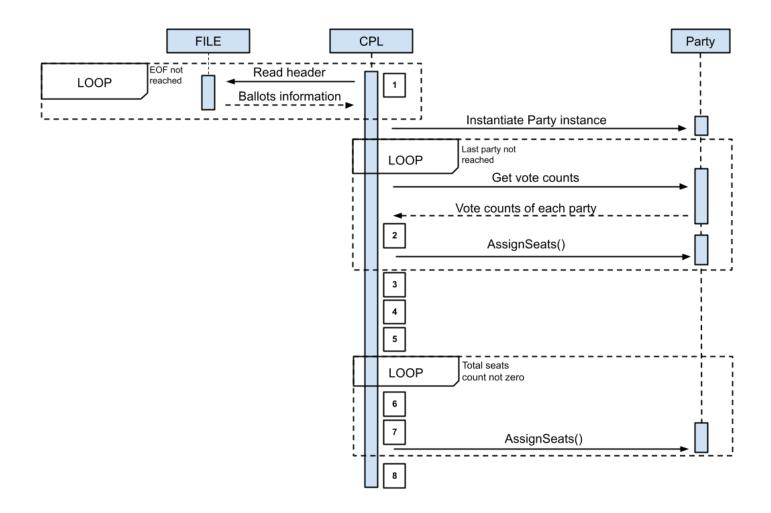
The following diagram is an activity diagram of the Instant Runoff portion of the election tabulation system. The diagram shows the steps from an election being called to the determination of a winner. Points where systems interact with process steps are identified, including both external systems and the ballot tabulation system described by this document. There is

a step in the process where activities branch between IR and CPL. The CPL branch is described in the following sequence diagram and is therefore omitted.



The following sequence diagram gives a general view of how the CPL process works and what classes are interacting with each other throughout the process. The diagram predicts the timestamp after the results file has already been brought into the system, from the point of gathering information from the files and storing it, to calculating necessary parameters, to allocating seats to the parties, and to creating an audit file showing the information of the parties in terms of how the seats are allocated to them over two attempts. The following ideas will give more information about the diagram along with the arrows:

- 1. Read header and store the given information into CPL attributes and temporary arrays for future instantiation of Party object
- 2. Calculate seats amount to assign
- 3. Update seats count after first assignment
- 4. Call RankParties function to rank the parties based on their remaining vote counts
- 5. Keep track of the number of parties per rank
- 6. Check availables candidates of current rank
- 7. If not enough, move on to next rank
- 8. Randomly choose a party of currently rank
- 9. Write into audit file



3.3. Design Rationale

There was considerable deliberation about the structuring of the election classes, and how they would interact with both the controller and the actual GUI. In the end, it was decided that the controller would be the core class to handle top-down functionality, and that we would use the Strategy Pattern to best handle the different kinds of elections. In employing the Strategy pattern, we create a general election interface which has references for all key functions of elections. The controller is able to make these calls to the instantiated interface generically, without distinction between which kind of election is being employed. The election types themselves are specified on instantiation of the interface. This provides for a clear functional flow and minimizes the impact of changing details of election type implementation and adding any potential future election types.

The GUI then primarily interacts with the Controller class; Controller passes data received from the election interface to GUI as needed, and follows instructions/resolves inputs from GUI. This reduces the need to directly connect more classes (for example, if GUI needed to connect directly with the election instance AND Controller to provide functionality) and allows for a degree of separation between the GUI and the actual functionality of the code (which is useful, considering the existence of the non-GUI command line mode).

Another decision of importance is the splitting of election handling at all. Feasibly both types could be processed from the same class. This would provide considerable difficulty to testing, bug fixing, and any sort of future feature addition or alteration, however, which is not ideal. As such, the methods for each election were split, and then even more they were shaped to the Strategy Pattern as described above.

We had many choices for data and variable types with this project, so here are a few of the decisions made and why:

- Default "int" At worst on a modern system, this is a 32 bit signed integer, which reaches a number well in excess of any nation's population on Earth today (approximately 2.1 billion). These numbers are sufficiently large.
- IR uses linked lists for certain things that CPL uses standard arrays for. This is intentional and has to do with the data scope of each election type. CPL does not need as elaborate a data type to handle many of its details, as there is no instant runoff process to contend with that expands the details of a ballot.

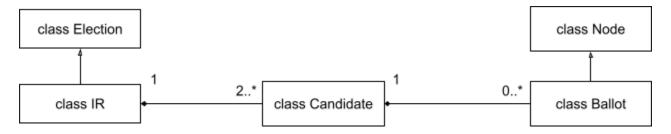
4. DATA DESIGN

4.1. Data Description

The primary data structure of this system is storing ballot information. Due to significant differences in the election process, data will be stored differently for each election type. Note that some variables describe indexes for ballots and candidates. These variables are integers, which means that the maximum number of ballots or candidates will be 2^{31} -1, or roughly 2 billion. This is significantly larger than the population of the United States.

Instant Runoff

The primary data structure for Instant Runoff implementation will have two tiers, as shown in the following diagram. Within the IR election class will be an array of pointers to instances of the class Candidate. Each candidate will contain a singly linked list of ballot objects. This form of storage is efficient in two senses. The size of the linked list for each candidate adapts to the number of ballots and the memory does not need to be preallocated. Also, the process of moving ballot data from one candidate to another can be done by reassigning pointers, and does not require further manipulation of the data itself.



The classes IR, Candidate, and Ballot include relevant attributes described in section 4.2. Note that the attributes not related to ballot data storage are omitted for brevity.

Closed Party List

Unlike the Instant Runoff method, Closed Party List method does not require ballots to be handled in a high-level way. Since the number of parties remains unchanged, the ballot elements will also remain unchanged, even though their tallies can still be adjusted. As such, it is not necessary for this approach to utilize a dedicated Ballot class to store the ballots information. Therefore, a data structure allowing easy access and modification like an array is more than sufficient for this implementation.

4.2. Data Dictionary

1. Class Ballot

ATTRIBUTE NAME	ATTRIBUTE TYPE	NOTE
ballot_id	int	Index of ballot in ballot file
idx_ballot	int	Index of current active vote
votes	int[]	Content of a ballot

2. Class Candidate

ATTRIBUTE NAME	ATTRIBUTE TYPE	TTRIBUTE TYPE NOTE	
first_ballot	Ballot*	Pointer to first ballot in linked list	
last_ballot	Ballot*	Pointer to last ballot in linked list	
n_votes	int	Number of votes a candidate has	
name	String	Name of a candidate	
party	String	Political party a candidate belongs to	

3. Class CPL

ATTRIBUTE NAME	ATTRIBUTE TYPE	NOTE
parties	Party*	Pointer to an instance of Party class
quota	float	The quota ratio determined by dividing the total vote counts by the number of available seats
total _parties	int	Number of parties
total_ballots	int	Number of ballots received
total_seats	int	Number of available seats

4. Class IR

ATTRIBUTE NAME	ATTRIBUTE TYPE	NOTE
candidates	Candidate[]	Array of pointers to candidate instances
n_candidates	int	
null_candidate	Candidate*	Pointer to candidate instance for storing ballots which no longer belong to any

5. Class Party

ATTRIBUTE NAME	ATTRIBUTE TYPE	NOTE	
available_candidates	int[]	Number of free candidates of each of the parties	
candidates	String[][]	Names of the candidates of each of the parties	
names	String[]	Names of each of the parties	
num_assigned_seats	int[]	Number of seats that each of the parties is possessing	
num_votes	int[]	Vote counts of each of the parties	
ranks	int[]	Rank of each of the parties based on their vote counts	

[•] See Section 5 for detailed description of functions and their implementations.

5. COMPONENT DESIGN

Controller

```
Instantiate Election class of correct election type
     <Election>.ProcessElection()
     On completion of election processing, update interface (GUI if enabled) to
     display results
ReadElectionType()
     Open file
     Read first line
     Parse into election type
ReadHeader()
     Read head file, using election type to determine line count
SetFileName(String name)
     Updates file name to name
SetFileDate(String date)
     Updates file name to have appropriate date
Election
FlipCoin(int num)
     srand(time(0))
     Return (rand() % (num + 1)) - 1
CreateAuditFile()
     file pointer = fopen("file name")
WriteAuditFile()
     Write the information saved in class Election into the file
Instant Runoff Strategy
ProcessElection()
     // Read all ballot files into class
     ballot* temp
     While (lines exist)
          Line = read line()
           Temp = ballot(line)
           idx cand = temp.GetCurrentVote()
```

candidates[idx cand].AssignBallot(temp)

// Begin round loop

```
// Each round includes
           // check break cases
           If (candidate has majority)
                Break and set winner
           Else if (candidate count = 2)
                Break and go to popularity vote
           // find min
           Idx min = FindMin()
           // write audit
           Audit_string = GenerateRoundAudit()
           WriteAuditFile(audit_string)
           // reallocate
           Reallocate()
ResolvePopular(int idx 1, int idx 2) : int index
     Compare vote counts
     If tied, call BreakTie()
     Return index of winner
FindMin()
     Min = candidate 1
     For candidate in candidates
           If (candidate.ballot_count < min.ballot_count ) &&</pre>
(candidate.ballot count > 0)
                Min = candidate
     Return min.index
Reallocate(idx rm)
     For ballot in candidates[idx rm].ballots
           idx new = ballot.increment()
           // Move ballot to new candidate
           candidate[idx new].assign ballot(ballot)
           candidate[idx rm].remove ballot(idx ballot)
AssignBallot(ballot)
     last ballot.set next(ballot)
     Last ballot = ballot
     Ballot.set next = null
RemoveBallot(ballot)
```

```
ballot* prev, next
prev = ballot->prev;
prev->next = ballot->next;
```

Closed Party List (CPL)

```
ProcessElection()
     // Function containing the main logic of CPL
     // Initial round
     Loop through each party:
          Get vote counts and calculate the number of seats this party will be
          assigned
          Assign the seats to this party by using function AssignSeats
          // In AssignSeats function:
          // Party information is updated
              Tie checking and coin flipping happen multiple times if this
     party runs out of available candidates
               Assign all the remaining seats to other parties following the
     previous step
          Update the total number of seats
     // Remainder round
     Rank the parties based on their remaining number of votes
     Loop until the total number of seats reaches zero:
          Find all the parties that have the same rank
          If no parties in one rank have enough candidates for seats
     assignment:
                Move to the next rank
          Flip the coin to choose a lucky party among the said parties
          Assign the seats to this party using function AssignSeats
          // The steps in this function will be the same as in initial round
     Return
GetQuota()
     Return the quota
AssignSeats()
     // Helper function used in ProcessElection function to assign seats to
     given party
     Loop until the given number of seats reaches zero:
          Verify availability of candidates using CheckAssignable function
          If available:
                Update the number of seats this party possesses
                Update the number of available candidates of this party
          Else:
```

```
Flip the coin to assign the seats to the another party
                Update the given number of seats
          Update the total number of seats
     Return
CheckAssignable()
     // Helper function used in AssignSeats function
     Return whether this party has enough candidates for seats assignment
UpdateVoteCounts()
     // Helper function used in ProcessElection function to modify and store
     the latest number of votes of each party
     Loop through each party:
          Subtract the vote counts of this party by the product of the quota
          and the number of seats allocated
     Return
RankParty()
     // Helper function used in ProcessElection function to find rank the
     parties
     upper bound = infinity
     rank index = 0
     desired rank = 1
     Loop until reaching the end of order counts array:
          Set value of upper bound to be the value returned by FindMax function
          Loop through the vote counts array:
                Get indexes of the parties that have the same value as
                upper bound
                Fill in the cells at those indexes in the ranks array with the
                value of desired rank
     Return
FindMax()
     largest = vote counts array at the first index
     Loop through the vote counts array:
          If the vote counts at index is larger than at largest but smaller
          than given upper bound:
                Set largest to be index
     Return vote counts at largest
FindTiedParties()
     // Helper function used in ProcessElection function to find all the
     parties that are tied
     Loop through the array containing the numbers of votes:
          If the vote counts at this index is equal to a desired value:
```

```
Add this index to the array containing all the parties that are tied

Increase the number of tied parties

Return
```

GUI

```
GUI Class inheriting from Gtk::Window
     public:
          GUI()
                Initialize all Gtk elements
                Configure GUI settings (border with, etc.)
                Connect input election date with on date input()
                Connect input election file with on file input()
                Connect button confirm 1 with on confirm 1()
                Connect button return with on return()
                Connect button confirm 2 with on confirm 2()
                Connect table resutls with handle table()
                Add first elements into container
          virtual ~GUI()
     Protected:
          Gtk::Label text_title_1
          Gtk::Label text title 2
          Gtk::Label text title 3
          Gtk::Label text title 4
          Gtk::Label text instruction
          Gtk::Label text status
          Gtk::Label text overview
          Gtk::ColumnView table results
          Gtk::Entry input election date
          Gtk::Entry input election_file
          Gtk::Button button confirm 1
          Gtk::Button button return
          Gtk::Button button confirm 2
          void OnDateInput()
                Signals Controller to handle inputted data
          void OnFileInput()
                Signals Controller to handle inputted data
          void OnConfirm1()
                Signals Controller to handle confirmation
          void OnReturn()
```

```
Signals Controller to handle return

void OnConfirm2()
   Signals Controller to handle confirmation

void HandleTable(data)
   Parses data into table_results

void OnExit()
   Handles exiting of program to gently close audit file
```

6. HUMAN INTERFACE DESIGN

6.1. Overview of User Interface

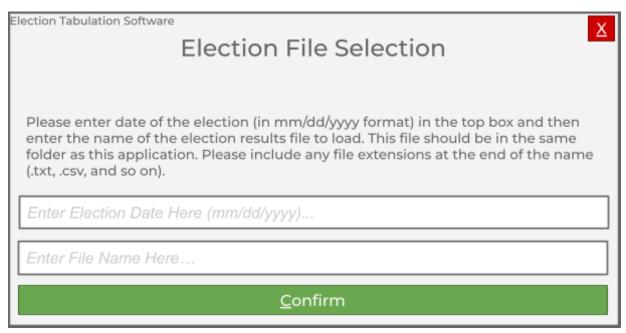
Describe the functionality of the system from the user's perspective. Explain how the user will be able to use your system to complete all the expected features and the feedback information that will be displayed for the user.

- There will be two "modes" for the software:
 - Standard mode: contains a GUI made using GTK, and is accessible for all users.
 - Maintenance mode: contains exclusively command line interface, and is manually accessible by the programmers and testers on launch with command line arguments.
- The interface for both will need to provide visual output and at designated times take user input.
- Any windows along the way generated for the GUI will have standard OS controls (minimize and close) which will be handled appropriately.
- The command line interface will provide similar functionality to the GUI, but any displayed content will be plaintext, and any inputs will be entered via the command line.
 - File path entry becomes a command line entry.
 - Confirmation buttons become (y)es/(n)o text entries.

Details of the GUI:

- 1. Once the system is launched, there will be two text entry boxes for election date (in mm/dd/yyyy format) and file name. Entering the file path to the desired file and clicking "Confirm" (shortcut *c*) will bring the user to the next interface. (*see Figure 1*)
- 2. After the user enters and confirms the file path, a small information text box containing the header information of the file will be shown to the user, or an error message will be displayed if something is wrong. The user can confirm the validity of the file (shortcut *C*) or revert back to the previous interface (shortcut *B*) if they opened the wrong file. If confirmed, the system will proceed to the next step and direct the user to the next interface. (*See Figure 2*)
- 3. In this interface, the system will notify the user that it is tabulating the ballots. (See Figure 3)
- 4. When tabulation is complete, it will display a results screen showing certain information as text to the user. (*See Figure 4*)

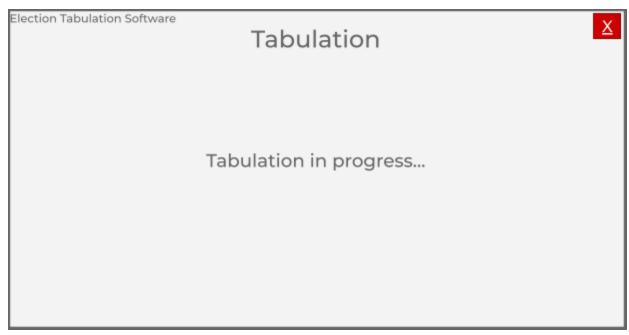
6.2. Screen Images



(Figure 1)



(Figure 2)



(Figure 3)



(Figure 4)

6.3. Screen Objects and Actions

A discussion of screen objects and actions associated with those objects.

These objects only exist for the GUI. The command line mode will only feature text for user IO and as such would not have graphical "objects".

Breakdown of the GUI:

- The most basic screen object that will be present and unchanged for the entire operation of the software is the background window/panel itself.
 - The panel will utilize standardized OS control features such as the "close" button, minimize, etc. this is automatic to the environment and tools used, and do not require our explicit implementation.
- There will be four different window layouts (see figures 1-4) for the different "phases" of the software.
- Each layout will have title text indicating the phase of the software (Election File Selection, Election Information, Tabulation, and Results).
- Layout 1 will additionally feature:
 - A text display box with instructions for the user.
 - A text input entry box for the user to enter the election date.
 - A text input entry box for the user to enter the election file name.
 - A button for confirmation of information. When pressed, the text in each entry box will be scanned and processed for further progression to Layout 2.
- Layout 2 will additionally feature:
 - A text display box with information about the selected election file.
 - A button to return to the file selection page (Layout 1).
 - A button for user confirmation which proceeds to Layout 3.
- Layout 3 will additionally feature:
 - A text display box with a message that tabulation is in progress. There is no user input to this Layout; when calculation is complete, the system will automatically move to Layout 4.
- Layout 4 will additionally feature:
 - A text display box with overview election information such as the election type, winning candidate(s), number of seats for the election, and total ballots tabulated.
 - A text display table which features the results for each candidate and/or party on a sorted table, with details such as place in the election, candidate name, party name, votes received, and percentage of total votes said votes account for.

7. REQUIREMENTS MATRIX

Provide a cross reference that traces components and data structures to the requirements in your SRS document. Use a tabular format to show which system components satisfy each of the functional requirements from the SRS. Refer to the functional requirements by the numbers/codes that you gave them in the SRS.

SYSTEM COMPONENTS	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS	ID
- Controller	Load ballot file	UC_001
- Controller	Read ballot file header	UC_002
- IR - CPL	Process election	UC_003

- IR - CPL	Break a tie	UC_004
- Controller - GUI	Display result page	UC_005
- Election	Create audit file	UC_006
- IR	Tabulate IR	UC_007
- CPL	Tabulate CPL	UC_008
- Election	Name audit file	UC_009
- IR	Resolve inconclusive IR as popularity vote	UC_010
- GUI - Controller	Extract additional information from the user	UC_011
- IR - CPL	Read ballot file	UC_012
- Controller	File name input as command line argument	UC_013

8. APPENDICES

Nothing of note added in this document, see the SRS for anything not covered here.