

AMRITA SCHOOL OF AI, BENGALURU

B. Tech in AIE/AID

Second Semester, Section G, Academic Year: 2024-25

ELEMENTS OF COMPUTING - 2 (23AID113)

PROJECT (phase <u>1</u>)

on

Jump Shift

Presented by

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Overview

- This game falls under Arcade Genre
- The game consist of moving platforms, which change direction at random (the gravity also changes).
- The bottom of the screen is the void, where if the player falls it is game over.
- There is a day and night system which is activated periodically.
- JumpShift is a 16-bit endless runner where the world defies your existence, standing against you pushing you to give up on chasing the stars. Dodge obstacles, jump with precision and reshape the very core of the game's world to your advantage. Master the art of gravity manipulation to defy all odds and survive as long as you can.

Overview

- The player has 5 abilities: Jump, Dash, One time Save and Time Delay.
 - Jump Lets the player jump to next platform
 - Dash Lets the player move a bit forward fast.
 - Stabilize the player can stop falling to the void one time in his playthrough.
 - Time Dilation the player can slow down time for better grasping of the scene
 - Gravity swap Allows the player to swap gravity.
- All the platforms are procedurally generated using persistent rendering method for faster rendering.

Overview -> Backstory

- The game starts with a man running away holding a sword in this right hand. He jumps from objects to objects escaping an unknown shadowy entity. This entity however is not visible to player himself. The game progresses as you keep running away from an entity that you do not see yourself.
- The man is named Claid and he is running relentlessly showcasing his proficiency in running and parkour. He falls many times but he feels no pain doesn't die but the shadowy entity eliminates him. Does he die? No. He simply begins again. Initially he asked himself, "Why am I not dying? Was that a dream?" before he starts running away from the shadowy figure again but over the span of time he has given up. Given up looking for answers about this mysterious world where death and pain doesn't exist.
 - "I am running... running away." that was the last thing in his memory. "But from what?", His throat was dry from the same question, yet no answer ever reached it.

Game Layout



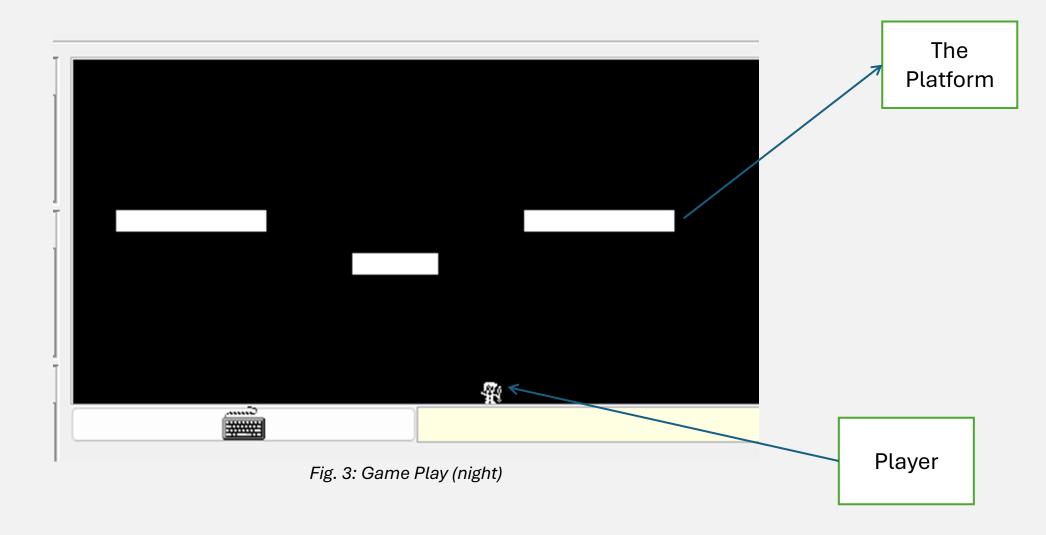
Fig. 1: Game Play (Starting scene)

Game Layout

The Platform Player Fig. 2: Game Play (Day)

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Game Layout



How to play

- The start of the game player must input a random number and hour and minute in 24-hour format.
- The player can press spacebar key for jumping
- The player can press 'F' key for dashing
- The player can press 'R' key for one time save (it will only work one time).
- The Player can press 'G' key to delay time.
- The player must take care of not going out of screen bounds as it will lead to the end of the game.

File details

Main.jack:

- Initializes game controller
- Starts the game.

GameController.jack

- The main brain of the game.
- Delegates task of platform, background, player and ground.
- Responsible for change in gravity, day/night, platform direction, Score maintainance, procedural platform creation and enabling player abilities.

Rd.jack:

- Random function made by us
- Creates random no. between two values

Background.jack:

- Responsible for rendering background sprite.
- Responsible for an easter egg (the true ending)

File details

Ground.jack:

• Responsible for triggering void and end game scene

Platform.jack:

- Stores all the platform created
- Renders the platform using persistent rendering method.
- Handles the display of platform according to the direction.

Player.jack:

- Responsible for stimulating time.
- Responsible for drawing and interacting with player.
- Responsible to enforce gravity onto player.
- Responsible for collision systems.
- Responsible for random gravity and player's abilities.

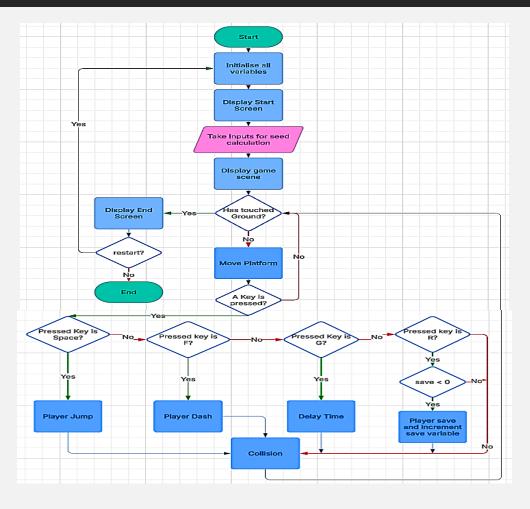


Fig. 5: Flow Chart

Class Diagram

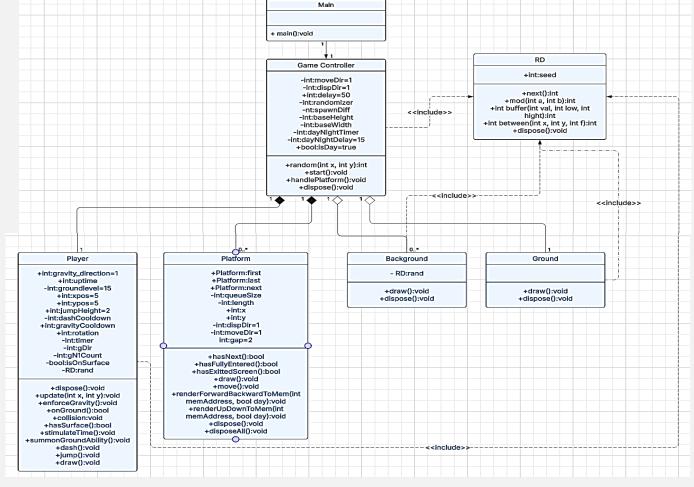


Fig. 4: Class Diagram

Use Case Dlagram

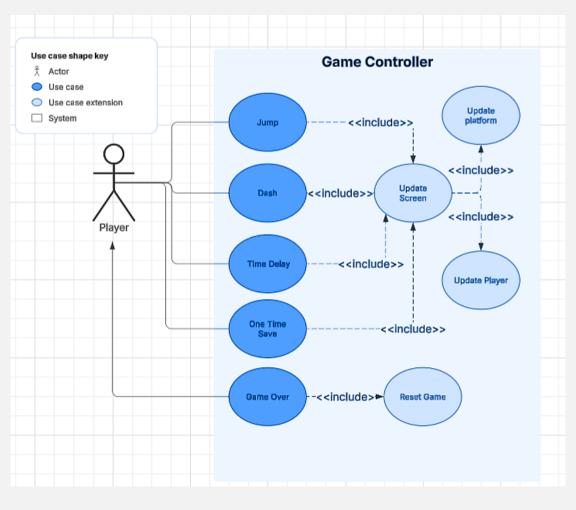


Fig. 5: Use Case Diagram

Implement deque using linked list

- We integrated the features of linked list and deque in the same class Platform.
- 2 static variables (first and last) and 1 local variable next was used to implement the whole idea.
- The Game controller had access to first and last which was used to traverse through the linked list.

Implement tile drawing

- We referred to nand2tetris tutorials[1] to do the basics of tile rendering.
- We used the bitmap editor[2] to draw tile and get corresponding values to put in memory
- We created a x and y coordinate system that is used to locate the position of everything that is rendered on scene.
- We also created code to convert the x and y coordinates to corresponding memory location which can be used by the renderer to put the values of the tiles into memory

Implement persistent rendering

- Just tiling alone increased the no .of draw calls tremendously when rendering the next frame, so a new technique of persistent rendering was introduced.
- In original rendering, the previous tiles were erased and then the next frame tiles were rendered.
- In persistent rendering, only those tiles which had to be changed in the original frame were changed in the next frame leaving the others untouched, this significantly reduced the draw calls hence decreased the lag due to rendering.

Implement day and night

- We created two sets of rendering one for day and one for night.
- We created a timer controlled by the game controller, which changes the mode (day/night) when the timer hits 0.

- Implement direction change
 - We checked if the direction of gravity was changed.
 - When it was changed, we called the specific direction change method depending on the gravity direction
 - The direction change function, clears the screen, adds the mode and background, then spawns in the platform as per direction, and finally spawns the player.

Implement Random

- Time plays a major role in generating true randomness primarily because time is strictly increasing linearly. Jack doesn't have a method to access system's time. To overcome this a local timer was used and stimulate_time kept track of it.
- Random class has a seed which will be update by bitwise operators during runtime.
- The number returned is the buffer of the expression below:
 - mod(mod(seed,range)+(GameController.get_randomizer()+x)+ (GameController.get_randomizer() * Player.get_time()) + f, y);
- The get_randomizer returns a special unique number collected at the start of game from user. Entering the same input may help to get the same playthrough. This is explained soon.
- Buffer is another method which ensures certain number given lies within specified range.

- Implement Random → Randomizer (Seed from user input) vs Seed (Constant manipulators)
 - Randomizer is a number generated from user's input. The input collected is seed and time in real life. However, the Random class is invoked immediately to randomize the collected input. This doesn't ensure fully randomized input but it helps to keep it random. Similar thing is done with the input "time" and their sum is stored in a variable randomizer.
 - Randomizer is used in Random class to manipulate the numbers generated.
 - Seed on the other hand is the constant values stored in each instance of randomizer class to further assist in generating the random numbers.

- Implement Player
 - The biggest class in this project is Player. It handles drawing of player, collision system of player and stimulates time.
 - stimulate_time being the most important feature of player class; It is responsible for the following:
 - Updating time in game
 - Swapping gravity on random instance of time generated by Random class. When the variable timer hits 0 then gravity is swapped randomly.
 - It performs collision checks regularly.
 - It reduces abilities cooldowns.
 - It enforces gravity or jumping of player

- Implement Player → Collision System
 - The collision system is responsible to decide if player is on a surface or not. This decision has various effects in game:
 - If player is not on any solid surface, then they cannot jump and gravity will drag them down
 - If player strikes (collides) any surface before ground them their current position is made as ground
 - When players walks beyond the solid surface under them, the collision system toggles on ground status of players blocking their jump and enforcing gravity on them

- Implement Player → Collision System → Logic
 - Check the pixel right under, above, after and before player depending on the gravity status. If the pixel is having non zero value during day or zero value during night then the player is considered to be on a surface.
 - Constraints:
 - Only apply the checks if player is beyond the default ground level set by gravity directions.

- Implement Player → Drawing
 - Bitmap editor helped to design the player model. There are various models of players stored for different use cases like the negation model during night.
 - The direction of player is influenced by rotation variable which is a 4-digit number as: where all 3 r's determine rotation angle and m determines the mode of operation. If m = 0 then normal model is loaded and if m =1 then model is mirrored vertically.
 - The draw also accepts a Boolean argument which helps to load/clear the model.
 - The wiping method and drawing method varies based on day/night.
 - If the time is night, then the negation model is loaded (White and Black pixels are swapped).

- Implement Player → Drawing → Rotation
 - All the rotated models are obtained from bitmap editor.
 - As mentioned, the variable rotation is a 4-digit number where first 3 digits (from left) gives the angle and the unit digit provides mode of drawing. If mode = 1 then the image is mirrored vertically.
 - The mirrored vertically is better explained as: "Image of player on the axis perpendicular to the foot of player based on his rotation"
 - The set_rotation(18, mode) allows to set mode and set_rotation(angle, mode) allows to set angle and mode.

- Implement Player → on_ground, has_surface, jump and enforce_gravity
 - on_ground: If the player's position is on the pre-determined screen limits based on gravity direction it returns true else false.
 - has_surface: Checks if the player has any means of contact with solid surface be it collision or on ground.
 - enforce_gravity: Clear the player model, update the coordinates based on gravity direction to move the player one step towards ground level and re-draw player. It also effects the on surface status of players.
 - jump: Clear the player model and update the coordinates based on gravity direction to move the player one step away from ground level and re-draw the player. It doesn't effect the on surface status of players. However this makes has_surface return false.

- Implement Player → Abilities
 - Dash: The forward movement coordinates of player is increased by 5 units making the player rapidly teleport forward. Has cooldown of 10 seconds IRL.
 - Gravity swap: Allows players to change gravity. This force updates the gravity direction as specified by player. Has cooldown of 30 seconds IRL.
 - Stabilize (To be implemented): Draws a solid platform under player to stop their fall. Can be used once in a playthrough.
 - Time dilation (To be implemented): Increases delay in the game controller per frame. Has a cooldown of 60 seconds IRL.

Challenges Faced



We needed way to procedurally generate platform and efficiently store them dynamically as to not consume lot of memory and not have predefined no. of platforms:

we used random function for generating platform

We used queue implemented with linked list as our datatype for efficient and dynamic storage of platform.

We dispose unused platform when it exits screen, so it saves lot of memory



We faced issue in random function, most of the random functions online did not have the random element after 3 or 4 calls.

We created our custom random function, which randomizes based on the answer of the user for the first 2 questions.

Challenges Faced

We faced issue while rendering, the first iteration of it was very laggy and not responsive enough

- We then used tile-based rendering to decrease lag.
- Furthermore, we used persistent rendering for platform to reduce the no. of draw calls required to render the shape.

Issues faced with collision system

- The day/night cycle made the collision system render inefficient during night. The code was updated to reflect this.
- The collision system cannot be optimized as one single function due to gravity direction and thus multiple if-else statements were used to take gravity directions into considerations.

Issues with player

• The draw function of player constantly produced player looking in one direction which made a visual inconsistency. Multiple models and conditional draw was used.

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Challenges faced

- Issues with player
 - The day/night cycle broke the jumping animation of player. Including a negation model fixed this.
 - The player was capable of spamming jump to infinitely jump effectively making player fly. This was fixed with the on surface status
 - The player passed through collision objects before collision registered. This was adjusted by calling the collision system after all computations on gravity were done.

Limitations/Bugs







Start Screen not yet implemented.

3rd and 4th ability of player not yet implemented.

Change player position on change direction not yet implemented.

Future Works



ADD EASTER EGG



ADD GOOD SPRITES FOR PLATFORM.

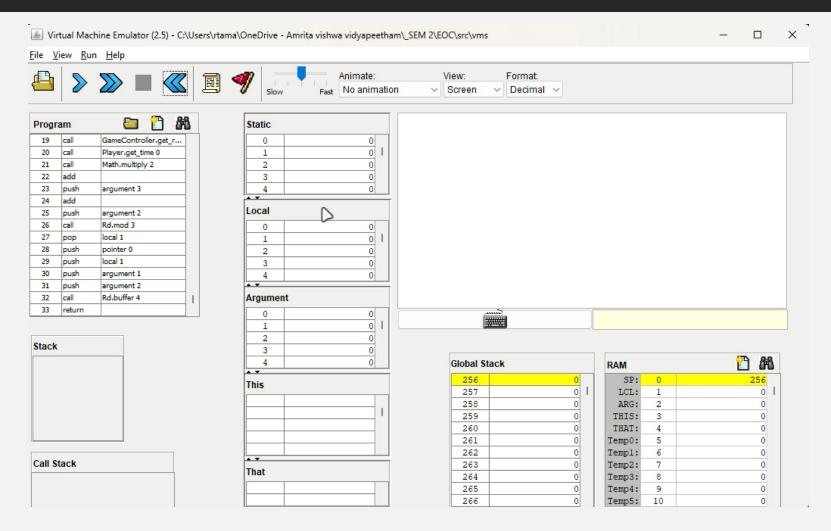


ADD PROPER START AND GAME OVER SCREEN.



IMPLEMENT THE LEFTOVER FEATURES

Game Play



Video 1: Demo video

References

- [1] https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNMIACtpT9BfztU0P92qlw8Gd4vxvvfT1&si=KtaeoIcLFV_MU3E
- [2] Nand2Tetris Bitmap Editor