

BASIC PROGRAMMING PROJECT REPORT: HYPERSPACE HAZARD

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1. Setting and how to play

a. Story/setting

The Alpha Centauri Conglomerate has received word from a rebel uprising in their mining territories. Suppress this rebellion and DESTROY the rebel MOTHERSHIP in order to render their fleet inoperable. Before you reach the mothership you will have to face many dangers, such as enemy ships and the hostile environment of deep space. Do not even think about taking on the mothership before you have sufficient offensive and defensive capabilities. You can upgrade your shields and weapon systems by fighting and mining your way through the galaxy. Good luck, captain!

b. How to play:

NAVIGATION: Jump to nearby sectors by clicking on the tiles next to your ship. Only the tiles that directly surround your ship are reachable! Your radar can only scan a set radius of sectors around your ship. Most of the map is invisible!

HP: Your ship integrity goes down by taking damage in fights. You die a fiery death when your hitpoints reach zero. Prevent taking damage by upgrading your shields' DEFENSE and having them absorb enemy damage!

FUEL: When navigating the galaxy you will have to make sure you do not run out of fuel. Every jump to a nearby sector consumes some fuel. Additionally, navigating in the neighborhood of BLACK HOLES lowers your fuel level.

OFFENSE: Fight enemy ships by clicking on them when you are near. You can do more damage with increased OFFENSE, you take less damage with increased DEFENSE. BEWARE! Some enemy types are stronger than others!

DEFENSE: Your shields protect you from enemy attacks. They get damaged by radiation from a STAR or by navigating near ASTEROID FIELDS.

EXPERIENCE: Increase your OFFENSE and DEFENSE by upgrading your weapons systems and shields by using experience earned by mining.

MINING: You can mine PLANETS, MOONS and ASTEROIDS by clicking on them when you are near. These have different yields each. You can choose to mine them for FUEL or for EXPERIENCE.

2. Class descriptions

In this section we will give an overview of all classes used in the project. We will briefly describe their functionality without going into too much detail. We designed our project according to the MVC design pattern. The packages View, Controller and Logic correspond to this paradigm and the functionality of classes within these packages adhere to the MVC design as rigidly as possible.

Controller package:

Bootstrap:

This class contains the main method and only initiates the GameController. It is thus the primary class that launches the game.

GameController

GameController is the main controller that coordinates the different GUI elements and the various logic classes that are connected to these GUI elements. It initializes the necessary listeners (StartLogic, GameLogic, and EndGameLogic) and two main GUI elements (StartScreen and GameScreen, both JFrames). It contains methods that create and switch out instantiations of the different GUI classes. It

transfers the necessary information set in the StartScreen to the GameLogic controller class where it can be used to initialize the game. It also contains methods that can be called to update or reset the stats and the gameboard and return to the start screen. The controller thus makes sure that all the parts of the game work seamlessly together.

GameLogic

GameLogic is the controller class that is responsible for coordinating the gameboard GUI and the game logic. It receives StartScreen settings information (passed on by the controller) and uses this to instantiate all the necessary objects of classes in the logic such as: the player object (Player class), the galaxy object (which is an abstract 2D-array representation of the gameboard realized by the Galaxy class), asteroids, enemy ships... In short, it instantiates all the objects that are necessary to play the game. It contains the method CheckGame which continuously checks for win or lose-states. The gameOver method and gameWon methods are called when the player wins or loses, opens an instance of the EndGameScreen GUI class and then goes back to the StartScreen by means of the showStart method (which calls upon the controller to switch between screens). GameLogic also implements the ActionListener that listens to the actual game and provides the necessary steps to be taken after the player has performed an action. After each action it updates the gameboard, score and statspanel (if necessary) with the methods provided.

EndGameLogic

EndGameLogic implements the ActionListener interface and is dedicated to exiting the game and opening the startmenu and the highscores window.

StartLogic

StartLogic implements the Action- and ChangeListener interface for the instance from StartScreen (created in the controller). It coordinates the selected difficulty and skillset and passes this data to the GameController.

WindowHandler:

This class implements the WindowListener interface and adds functionality for closing, activating and opening windows. It is called upon multiple times throughout the entire game by the JFrames and a couple of JDialogs.

Logic package:

Asteroid

This class lends the user the capability to make asteroids and handle them. It contains setters and getters for setting the amount of experience and fuel that can be mined from the asteroid by the player, it also contains methods that allow the player to mine the asteroid.

AsteroidField

The AsteroidField class defines the making and usage of asteroid fields, they can do damage to the shields of the player and the amount of damage can be chosen beforehand.

BlackHole

The BlackHole class delivers objects in the form of black holes. They reduce the fuel of the player when he/she comes to near.

Changeable

The interface Changeable defines a number of methods that have to be implemented by the player class. In this version of the game, only the player class implements changeable, however, if one wishes to expand the game, the EnemyShip class could also implement it.

EnemyShip

The EnemyShip class makes enemy ships that have a certain amount of life, fuel and experience that can be mined by the player once they are defeated. The methods allow it to deal and receive damage as well as be mined after defeat. Higher up in the hierarchy (GameLogic) three instances of this class are made to distinguish between ships of different difficulty.

Fightable

This interface specifies two methods that ought to be implemented by every class that goes into a fight, namely: the Player, EnemyShip, and MotherShip class. The interface specifically demands that objects of a certain class can do damage and receive damage.

Galaxy

Before the game can start, the entire game environment with train tiles has to be build as an abstract non-GUI bound representation. This is done using the Galaxy class. It contains methods to build a galaxy from scratch (every galaxy is filled with galactic objects, see infra) by placing instances of GalacticObjects in a 2D-array; for the moment, every new galaxy is constructed in a random fashion. However, this can easily be adapted if one would want to introduce specific relations between various galactic objects (e.g. moons only occur in the vicinity of planets...). The Galaxy class also allows for updating all the objects it contains later in the game.

GalacticObject

The GalacticObject class contains all the building blocks for building a galaxy with all the terrain it contains (i.e. planets, moons, stars, ships, enemies, black holes, etc.). Every object itself has a few properties, such as visibility, being marked (when a moon is mined, it gets marked so it cannot be mined again). All these are easily adapted using the prescribed methods. It is also here that the requirement of randomness of opponent is met, but in a slightly different way than suggested: our enemy ships can be three different levels with different damage and hitpoints stats associated with each level. The amount of opponents for the three different levels that are generated depend on a random integer.

HighScores

The HighScores class allows for handling everything that has to do with storing and retrieving high scores. It contains methods to write info to a textfile in a specific format up to a certain amount, read and sort the high scores, replace current high scores with new ones, read the entire file and pass on the output to the HighScoreScreen class.

Lowersdef

The Lowersdef interface forces the class that implements it to implement the methods it contains. It specifies that an object from that specific class has the ability to lower the defenses of another object.

Mineable

This interface contains the methods that specify whether and how a certain object can be mined for fuel and/or experience.

Moon

This class lends the user the capability to make moons and handle them. It contains setters and getters for setting the amount of experience and fuel that can be mined from the moon by the player, it also contains methods that allow the player to actually mine the moon.

MotherShip

This class implements the Fightable interface and contains the getters and setters for its stats. It also contains methods for doing damage to the player and taking damage from the player. When the mothership is defeated, the game is won.

Planet

This class implements the Mineable interface and contains method, getters and setters for the amount of fuel or experience it can give to the player.

Player

This class defines all the properties of the player and contains methods for instantiating the player with base stats depending on the chosen difficulty setting and the particular division of skill points chosen in the StartScreen. It also contains methods for increasing and decreasing the stats (offense, defense, fuel) as well as setting and getting the coordinates and for the name of the player and his ship.

ScoreComparator

Implements the `Comparator<Integer>` interface which is a function to order sets. This class is used in the `HighScores` class to sort an array of highscore doubles.

Slowable

Slowable implements an interface with the method `reducesFuel`; that is implemented the `BlackHole` class.

Star

The `Star` class implements the `Lowersdef` interface and contains the constructor for the `Star` class which can do damage to the player and lowers defense.

View package:EndGameScreen

This `View` class makes the `JDialog` that pops up when the game is won or lost and the player has to enter his name and ship's name for saving in the highscores. Exceptionally, we have not separated controller and view in this case. As one can see, two new private classes were created to implement the `CaretListener` and the `ActionListener`. This is done because the `CaretListener` has to listen to two textfields, which gets quite messy to implement when trying to separate logic and view according to the MVC. For simplicity's sake, the `ActionListener` was implemented as a *nested* class as well.

Gamescreen

`GameScreen` is the class that draws the main game `JFrame` containing a panel for the gameboard, a panel for the stats and a panel for the menu buttons in a `BorderLayout` layoutmanager. The method `makeGameBoard` for drawing the game environment defines how the board is made and uses an array of `JButtons` in a `GridLayout`, instantiating a first version of the board. The method `updateGameBoard` draws the gameboard when the controller calls it; it is with this method that the board is initialized and later adapted when necessary. It is backed by an instance of the `Galaxy` 2D-array (matrix) of terrain objects from the game logic as an abstract representation of the game world. `ImageIcons` of corresponding terrain types are placed on `JButtons` with the same coordinates in the grid. The `updateStatsPanel` method is used for displaying the updated stats at any moment during the game.

GenericButton

This class extends `JButton` and contains a constructor for all menu buttons used in the project.

GenericPopUp

This class extends `JDialog` and defines how all pop-ups in the project will behave.

HighScoreScreen

This displays the `JDialog` containing the highscores. The highscores that the player sees are constructed with the methods from the `HighScore` class in the logic.

StartScreen

The `StartScreen` contains all the necessary elements for constructing the start menu and displays the `JFrame` of the start menu containing panels in `GridBagLayout`. We used the `GridBagLayout` manager due to its versatility and flexibility in arranging the panels by using `GridBagConstraints`.

3. Class diagram

In the appendix you find a class diagram that models the whole game and shows the relationships of inheritance, interfaces and method calls between classes. It is generated from the source code using the `ObjectAid` Eclipse plug-in which generates UML class diagrams¹. The diagram included in this

¹ based on the OMG's UML 2.0 specification (see <http://www.omg.org/uml/>).

document is set to be viewed at A3 paper size, but we suggest to view it as the .svg file which we included in to .zip attachment (.svg files can be rendered in a browser).

4. Strengths and weaknesses

Weaknesses:

- It would be rather difficult to implement individuality of the enemy ships so every single ship has its own amount of HP which does not reset when the player forfeits an attack on the ship prematurely. Implementing this would require to make separate objects of the EnemyShip class for each ship on the board, now there is one generic object for every ship of a certain difficulty level.
- Adding new listeners and passing on information between the screens is quite complex, all of this has to be done through the GameController and the right order of instantiating everything is very important and maintaining an overview is hard.
- Generally, adding new screens (GUI elements) and their functionality can become tricky, especially if information has to be passed on between various parts of the game, because everything is separated.

Strengths:

- The MVC model was adhered to where plausible. This lends great flexibility, maintainability and expandability to the code (this is also echoed in some of the following points).
- Due to the (quite) strict MVC implementation, it is very easy to adapt the various screens without affecting any other part of the game.
- The strictly separated GameLogic, StartLogic, and EndGameLogic allow for an easy update of the functionality of the game. For instance, in GameLogic, the complexity of the game can be increased a lot without having to adapt any other classes (e.g. stars also do damage to the player in terms of hit points, enemy ships can be mined for fuel/experience after they have been defeated...).
- Because the entire galaxy is created as a whole every time a new game is started, it is very easy to adapt the method with which it is created. For the moment, objects are placed randomly on the board. However, every possible relationship between objects can be implemented and manipulated easily (e.g. moons occur only in the vicinity of planets, other astronomical realities...).
- We added game mechanics for hitpoints and fighting: something which made the game much more interesting and engaging to play than the initially required game.
- Once again, due to MVC it is quite easy to adapt various functionalities without too much trouble. For instance, the HighScore class can be manipulated to allow for more scores being stored, less scores being returned to the player, another format of storing...
- The current code can quite easily be extended to include save game functionality. Save games that save the an ongoing game's state with enemy positions, instantiations and player stats are quite easy to implement, because all the important objects for the game are instantiated in one class (GameLogic) from where they could be exported to some save file and later reused to jump start the game again.

