

SWEN30006 Software Modelling and Design

Project 2: Parcel Pickup

School of Computing and Information Systems
University of Melbourne
Semester 1, 2019

Overview

Robotic Mailing Solutions Inc. (RMS) were so happy with your changes and design report for the Automail simulation system, they saw the opportunity to apply your skills to a more challenging task. Wanting to break out of the bounds of delivering only within high rise buildings, they decided to jump on the autonomous vehicle bandwagon and start a parcel service. Right from the start, they recognised that, if they want to go global with their solution, they will need to support different approaches that recognise local conditions.

They have provided you with a simple environment to allow you to demonstrate your design and development skills in controlling a parcel pickup vehicle with software-interfacing sensors and actuators. With your tailor-designed flexible integrated vehicle auto-drive and parcel pickup subsystem, this vehicle will navigate a world of hazards and resources+ to locate and pick up parcels, and take them to the *RMS* delivery depot.

The Map

The area you find yourself in is constructed in the form of a simple grid of tiles consisting only of:

- Roads
- Walls
- Start (one only)
- Exit (requires a sufficient packages to open)
- Traps

Some roads may lead to dead-ends or be impassible due to traps and the health of your vehicle.

The Vehicle

The car you find yourself in includes a range of sensors for detecting obvious properties such as the car's speed and direction, and actuators for accelerating, braking and turning. It has only one speed (in both forward and reverse) and can only turn towards one of the four compass points. The car also includes a sensor that can detect/see four tiles in all directions (that's right, it can see through walls), i.e. a 9x9 area around the car. The car can be damaged by events such as running into walls, or through traps (see below). It has limited health; if the car's health hits zero, you fail (the game). If, however, your software takes the car from the start to a successful exit (at the delivery depot), you win.

The Traps

There are different types of traps which have different effects on your vehicle. The traps are listed by effect with the appearance in square brackets:

- *Damage [Lava]*: damages vehicle, reducing your vehicle health as long as you are in the trap.
- *Health [Ice]*: repairs vehicle, increasing your vehicle health as long as you are in the trap.
- *Health Bonus [Water]*: repairs vehicle once-off, increasing your vehicle health by the bonus amount.
- *Parcel [Hot Rock]*: adds a parcel to the vehicle once-off.

+ Some traps might be avoidable (i.e. can be by-passed), but others will have to be traversed (e.g. to access those which contain packages) with some consideration as to the resulting damage and to where the car ends up.

Note that the vehicle has a fuel level, and uses fuel as it moves around the map. There is no way to increase the amount of available fuel.

The Task

Your task is to design, implement, integrate and test a car autocontroller that is able to successfully traverse the map and its traps.

It must be capable of safely:

1. exploring the map and locating the parcels
2. retrieving the required number of parcels
3. making its way to the exit

As noted above, *RMS* decided that they need to support different approaches that recognise local conditions. For this first version of the autocontroller, they want you to consider two different variations, each focussed on limited the use of a particular resource: fuel or health. They are not looking for complex algorithms that minimise these, but a design that supports two variations, one clearly oriented towards reducing fuel usage and one towards reducing health usage. They have provided you with some flexibility in your implementation and design reporting (see below) in relation to this:

1. You can implement both variations. As you have a concrete representation of each variant, your design report can be more straightforward and reference these variants.
2. You can implement only the health reducing variant. As you have no concrete representation of the fuel reducing variant each variant, your design report will need more detail about how it supports the fuel variant.

A key element is that your design should be modular and extensible, clearly separating out elements of behaviour/strategy that the autocontroller deploys (see Design Rationale below). You should not be trying to optimise your health or fuel reduction behaviours. We do want to see that your general strategy is oriented towards using less health (or less fuel), that it could be improved within the same design structure (you can make this case in your report), and that it gets the car to the exit.

The package you will start with contains:

- The simulation of the world and the car
- The car controller interface
- A car manual controller that you can use to drive around a map
- A simple car autocontroller that can navigate a [maze](#) but ignores traps and can get stuck in a loop if the map is not a 'perfect maze' (if it has circuits).
- Sample maps (created using the map editor [Tiled](#))

If, at any point, you have any questions about how the simulation should operate or the interface specifications are not clear enough to you, it is your responsibility to seek clarification from your tutor, or via the LMS forum. Please endeavour to do this earlier rather than later so that you are not held up in completing the project in the final stages.

Following are more details on specific aspects of your task.

System Design

You have been provided with a design class diagram for the interface to the car controller and other simulation elements on which it depends. Your first task is to understand the provided interface and relevant aspects of the simulation behaviour.

You will then specify your own design for a car autocontroller. As always, you should carefully consider the responsibilities you are assigning to your classes, and in particular, you should apply relevant principles/patterns covered in the subject thus far. You are required to provide formal software documentation in the form of Static and Behavioural Models. Note that you are free to use UML frames to help manage the complexity of any of the design diagrams.

You may build on the existing autocontroller (“SimpleAutoController.java”) or start afresh; either way, you will need to justify the end result (see Design Rationale below).

Static Model

You must provide a Design Class Diagram (DCD) for your implementation of the car autocontroller subsystem, including the interface. This design diagram must include *all* classes required to implement your design including all associations, instance attributes, and methods. It should *not* include elements of the simulation, other than your autocontroller and the interface.

You may use a tool to reverse engineer a design class model as a basis for your submission. However, your diagram model must contain all relevant associations and dependencies (few if any tools do this automatically) and be readable; a model that is reverse engineered and submitted unchanged is likely to reduce your mark.

Behavioural Model

In order to fully specify your software, you must specify the behaviour along with the static components. To do this, you must produce a Communication Diagram (CD) showing how the elements of your subsystem interact, that is, a communication diagram that shows the most important communication between the components within your subsystem. You do not need to show message ordering on this communication diagram.

Design Rationale

Finally, you must provide a design rationale, which details the choices made when designing your autocontroller and, most critically, **why** you made those decisions. In particular it must explain how your design supports the two variants (fuel and health) outlined above. You should refer to GRASP patterns, GoF patterns, or any other techniques that you have learnt in the subject, where relevant, to explain your reasoning. Keep your design rationale succinct; you must keep your entire rationale to between 1000 and 2000 words. (It should be at the longer end if you choose to implement only the health-oriented variant.) You may include diagrams, in addition to the DCD and CD, if that helps with your explanation.

Implementation

You will submit a working implementation of your subsystem “MyAutoController” (stub provided) in the Java package “mycontroller”. You must work to the interfaces provided within the simulation package. Please also note that the simulation and the car controller interface must not be modified to support your submission (though you may wish to add trace or make other similar changes during development to support your testing). Your implementation should be consistent with your submitted final design.

Further, we expect to see good variable names, well commented methods, and inline comments for complicated code. We also expect application of good object oriented design principles and functional decomposition.

Version Control

It is *strongly* recommended that you use *Git* or a similar system for version control. Using a version control system makes it much easier to work as a team on a complex project. The Melbourne School of Engineering runs servers for vanilla [Git](#) and for [Bitbucket](#), and there are [cloud-based bitbucket servers](#) freely available.

If you do use version control, please ensure you have set your repository to **private** so that other students in the subject cannot find and copy your work.

Building and Running Your Program

We need to be able to build and run your program automatically. The entry point must not change, and you must work to the provided interface. You must not change the names of properties in the provided property file or require the presence of additional properties.

Submission Checklist

This checklist provides a list of all items required for submission for this project. Please ensure you have reviewed your submission for completeness against this list. *Instructions for submitting will appear on the LMS, similar to Project 1.*

1. A file called group.txt listing your group number and group members’ names (documents/diagrams should also include your group number)
2. 1 Design Class Diagram (pdf or png)
3. 1 Communication Diagram (pdf or png)
4. 1 Design Rationale (pdf: 1000-2000 words)
5. A folder called “mycontroller” containing your car AutoController:
 - a. all the Java source files for your implementation of “MyAutoController”
 - b. only elements which are defined in the package “mycontroller”

Marking Criteria

This project will account for 20 marks out of the total 100 available for this subject. It will be assessed against the following rubric:

- H1+ [18.5-20] Solves all test maps. Good extended or extendable design/implementation with very consistent, clear, and helpful diagrams. Very clear design rationale in terms of patterns. Very few if any minor errors or omissions (no major ones).
- H1 [16-18] Solves all test maps. Good extended or extendable design/implementation with generally consistent, clear, and helpful diagrams. Clear design rationale in terms of patterns. Few if any minor errors or omissions (no major ones).

- H2(AB) [14-15.5] Solves most test maps. Extended or extendable design/implementation with generally consistent, clear, and helpful diagrams. Fairly clear design rationale in terms of patterns. Few errors or omissions.
- P-H3 [10-13.5] Solves some test maps. Reasonable design/implementation with generally consistent and clear diagrams. Fairly clear design rationale with some reference to patterns. Some errors or omissions.
- F+ [5-9.5] Plausible implementation and reasonable design with related diagrams. Plausible attempt at design rationale with some reference to patterns. Includes errors and/or omissions.
- F [0-4.5] No plausible implementation. Design diagrams and design rationale provided but not particularly plausible/coherent.

We also reserve the right to award or deduct marks for clever or particularly poor implementations on a case by case basis.

On Plagiarism: We take plagiarism and other forms of [academic integrity](#) very seriously in this subject. You are not permitted to submit the work of those not in your group.

Submission Date

This project is due at **11:59 p.m. on Fri 31st of May**. Any late submissions will incur a 1 mark penalty per day unless you have supporting documents. If you have any issues with submission, please email Charlotte at charlotte.pierce@unimelb.edu.au, before the submission deadline.

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