Laura Peña

Life is full of experiences, and I have to say that this was quite an exceptional one. Programming a game has allowed me to not only work with others, but to push myself and see how far I can go in terms of coding. I never imagined I would end up as a code monkey, but in the end, I’m glad that I had this opportunity because it gave me a lot of practice writing code. As a group, we’ve had our challenges, headaches, and slightly sleepless nights. But overall, I believe we persevered and came out victorious.

As the code monkey for our team, I designed the skeleton of our game (literally). I created the classes for the mallets and puck, the particle class to add a little flair, the bonus class, and the main code for the game. My job was to ensure that everything was ready for use, such as the arrow and WASD keys for mallet movement, and the function that checks whether or not the mallet and pucks are touching. I was essentially the person who set everything up in terms of functions of each class. I wrote the update function in the puck class and the bounce function in the mallet class. Although I was code monkey, I also made sure to help in other areas (fixing small glitches, graphics) when my group members needed my input, because I believe that it’s all for one and one for all when it comes to such projects.

Finally, in retrospect, I had a great time doing this project, although it was quite stressful. It was difficult trying to come up with the game and logic for it since I’m not fluent in code, but I have gained so much from this experience. I feel more confident coding now. As for my peers themselves, they were absolutely great. Sure, there would be a slight difference of opinion every now and then because people have different tastes, but we managed to compromise well. There were also some major merging issues, but with a little help and patience, we were able to fix it. All in all, I am grateful that this project was assigned, and it was a better hands-on learning experience than simply being taught the knowledge in the classroom.