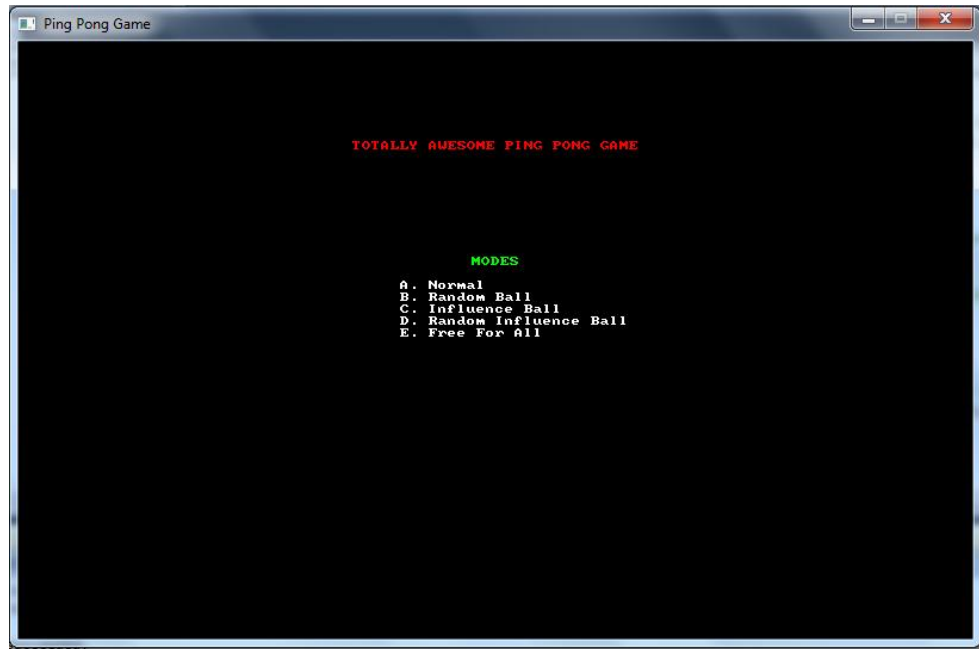


Rich Ung, 003-813-920

Simon Yu, 303-790-516



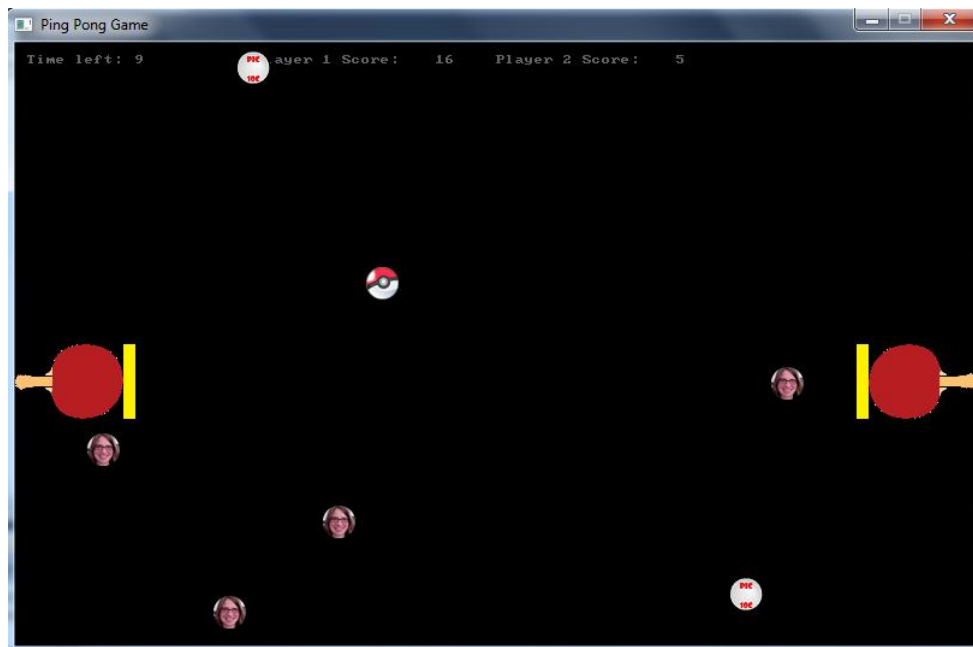
Totally Awesome Ping Pong Game Application

PIC10C Final Project

June 13, 2012

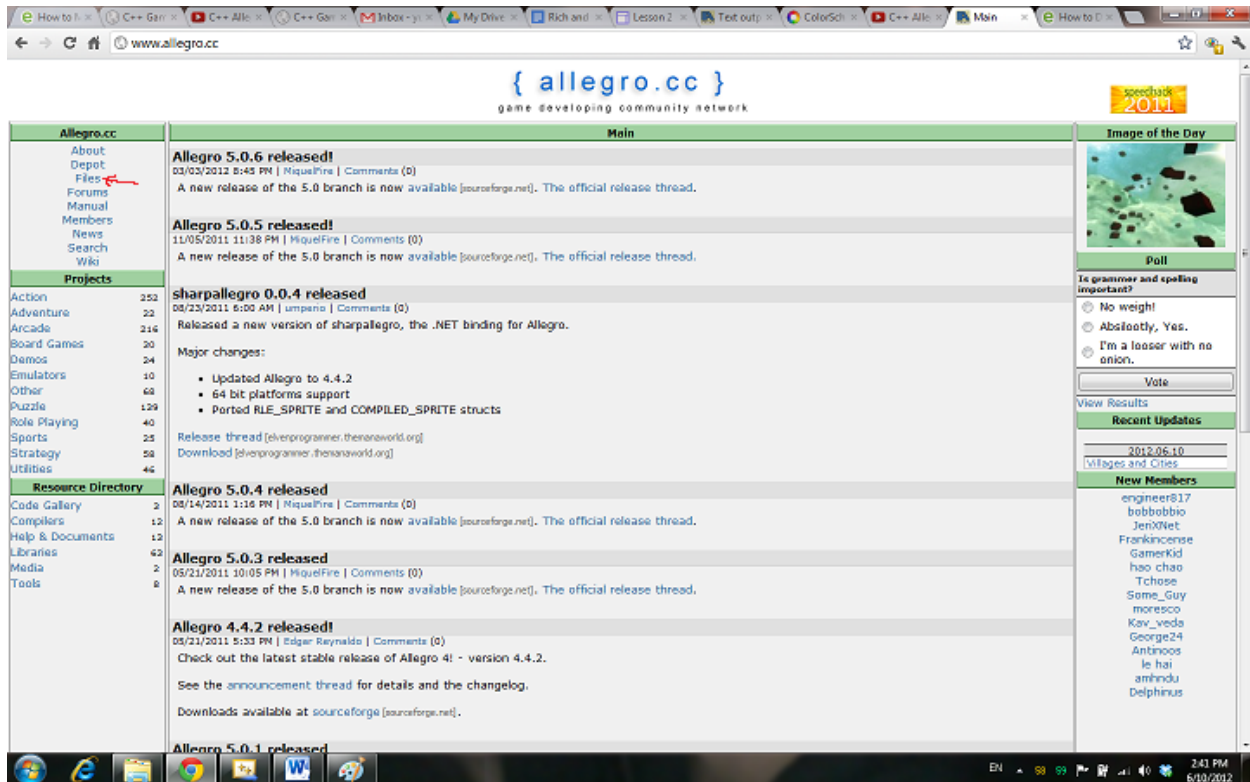
Rich Ung, 003-813-920, ungrich@gmail.com

Simon Yu, 303-790-516, yusimon127@gmail.com



How to install Allegro 4.2 onto Microsoft Visual Studio 2010

- 1) Go to <http://www.allegro.cc>
- 2) Click on Files



The screenshot shows the Allegro.cc website in a web browser. The browser's address bar displays www.allegro.cc. The website has a green header with the logo `{ allegro.cc }` and the tagline "game developing community network".

Left Sidebar:

- Allegro.cc**
 - About
 - Depot
 - Files (highlighted with a red arrow)
 - Forums
 - Manual
 - Members
 - News
 - Search
 - Wiki
- Projects**
 - Action: 252
 - Adventure: 22
 - Arcade: 214
 - Board Games: 20
 - Demos: 24
 - Emulators: 10
 - Other: 68
 - Puzzle: 129
 - Role Playing: 40
 - Sports: 25
 - Strategy: 58
 - Utilities: 46
- Resource Directory**
 - Code Gallery: 2
 - Compilers: 12
 - Help & Documents: 12
 - Libraries: 62
 - Media: 2
 - Tools: 8

Main Content Area:

Allegro 5.0.6 released!
03/03/2012 8:45 PM | NiqueFire | Comments (0)
A new release of the 5.0 branch is now available [sourceforge.net]. The official release thread.

Allegro 5.0.5 released!
11/05/2011 11:38 PM | NiqueFire | Comments (0)
A new release of the 5.0 branch is now available [sourceforge.net]. The official release thread.

sharpallegro 0.0.4 released
08/23/2011 6:00 AM | umpenio | Comments (0)
Released a new version of sharpallegro, the .NET binding for Allegro.

Major changes:

- Updated Allegro to 4.4.2
- 64 bit platform support
- Ported RLE_SPRITE and COMPILED_SPRITE structs

Release thread [eliverprogrammer.thetranworld.org]
Download [eliverprogrammer.thetranworld.org]

Allegro 5.0.4 released
08/14/2011 1:14 PM | NiqueFire | Comments (0)
A new release of the 5.0 branch is now available [sourceforge.net]. The official release thread.

Allegro 5.0.3 released
08/21/2011 10:05 PM | NiqueFire | Comments (0)
A new release of the 5.0 branch is now available [sourceforge.net]. The official release thread.

Allegro 4.4.2 released!
05/21/2011 5:33 PM | Edgar Reynaldo | Comments (0)
Check out the latest stable release of Allegro 4! - version 4.4.2.
See the announcement thread for details and the changelog.
Downloads available at sourceforge [sourceforge.net].

Allegro 5.0.1 released

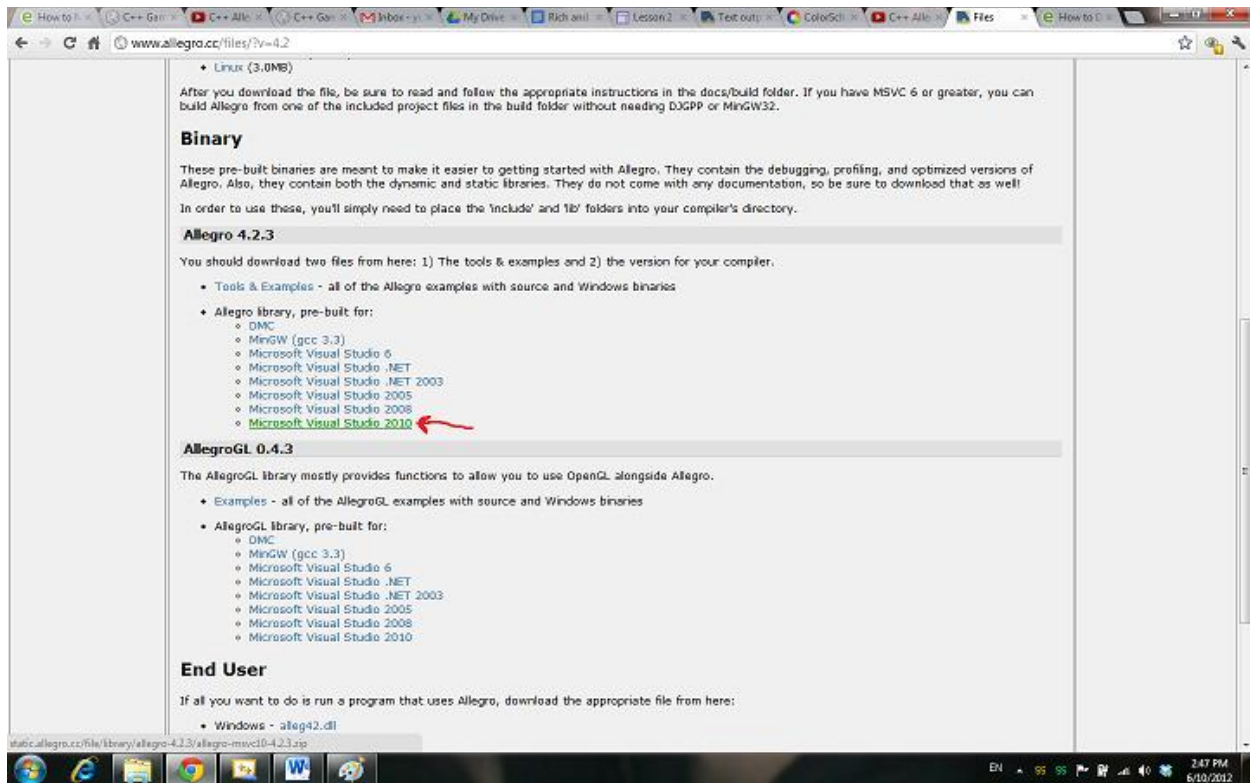
Right Sidebar:

- Image of the Day**
A small image of a game scene.
- Poll**
Is grammar and spelling important?
☐ No weight!
☐ Absolutely, Yes.
☐ I'm a leoser with no onion.
Vote
View Results
- Recent Updates**
2012-06-10
Villages and Cities
- New Members**
engineer817
bobbobbio
Jen00et
Frankincense
GamerKid
hao chao
Tchase
Some_Guy
moresco
Kav_veda
George24
Antinoos
le hai
amindu
Delphinus

3) Click on the 4.2 version of Allegro

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.allegro.cc/files/?v=4.2. The page is the Allegro.cc website, which is a game developing community network. The header features the Allegro.cc logo and a "game developing community network" tagline. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links for "Allegro.cc" (About, Depot, Files, Forums, Manual, Members, News, Search, Wiki) and "Projects" (Action, Adventure, Arcade, Board Games, Demos, Emulators, Other, Puzzle, Role Playing, Sports, Strategy, Utilities). A "Resource Directory" section lists various resources like Code Gallery, Compilers, Help & Documents, Libraries, Media, and Tools. The main content area is titled "Files" and shows a version selector with buttons for 4.2, 4.4, and 5.0. The "Current Version: 4.2.3" is displayed. Below this, the "Overview" section explains that Allegro works with various platforms and compilers and is generally easy to get configured. The "Help & Instructions" section includes a link to the "Installing Allegro" page. The "Reference Manual" section lists the prices for the manual: Paperback (\$12.95), International Paperback (\$18.95), and Hardcover (\$29.95). The "Source" section describes the classic Allegro distribution and provides links to download the source code for DOS/Windows (3.8MB) and Linux (3.0MB). The "Binary" section explains that pre-built binaries are available to make it easier to get started with Allegro. On the right side of the page, there is a "Poll" section titled "Is grammar and spelling important?" with three options: "No weight!", "Absolutely, Yes.", and "I'm a looser with no onion." The "Vote" button is visible, and a "View Results" link is provided below the poll.

4) Scroll down to the Binary section and under Allegro 4.2.3, download the version for Microsoft Visual Studio 2010



5) Use WinRAR to open the file **allegro-msvc10-4.2.3.zip**

6) Double click on **allegro-msvc10-4.2.3**

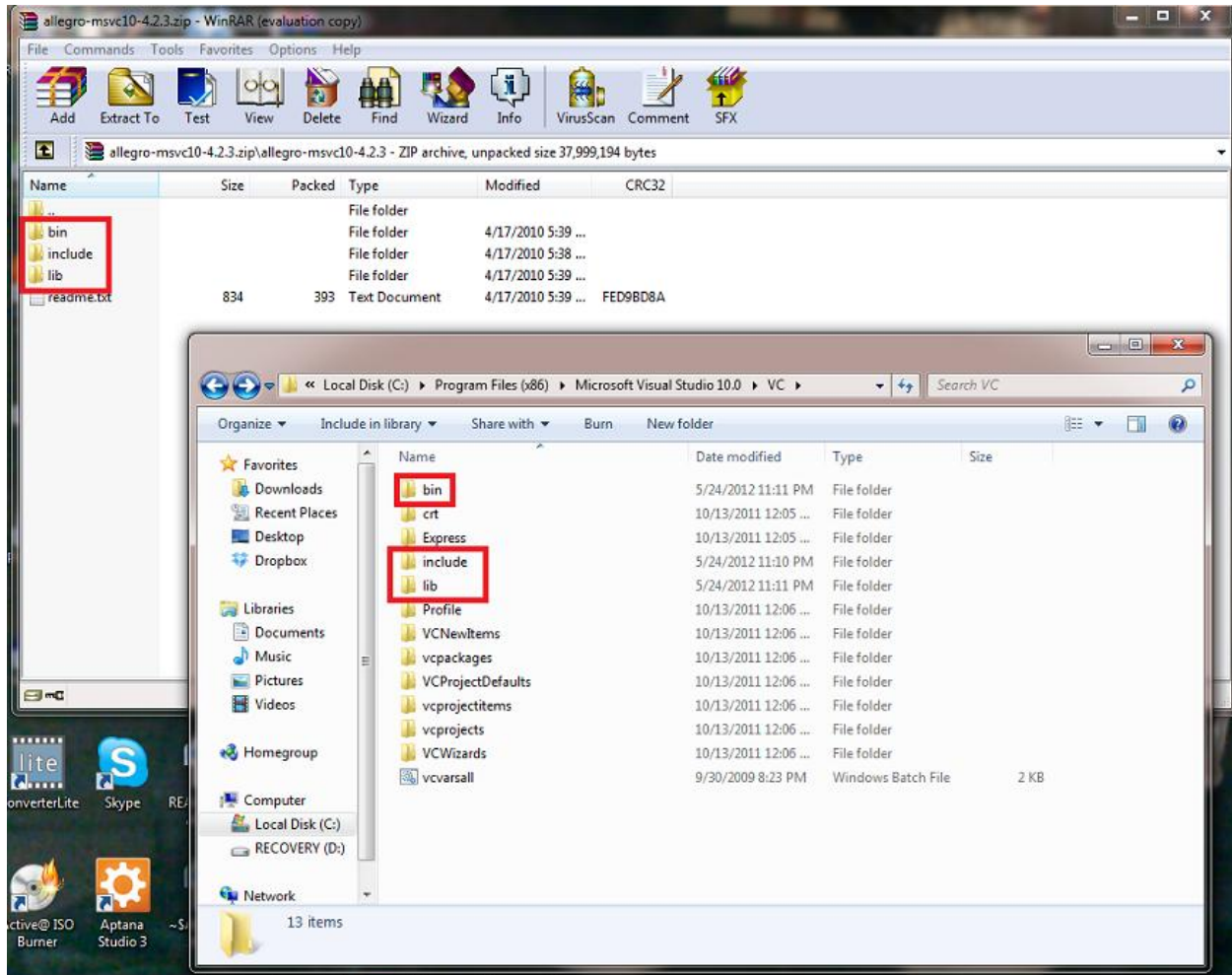
7) Open up the folder where you installed Microsoft Visual Studio 2010

If on windows most likely C:\ Program Files (x86)\ Microsoft Visual Studio 10.0\ VC

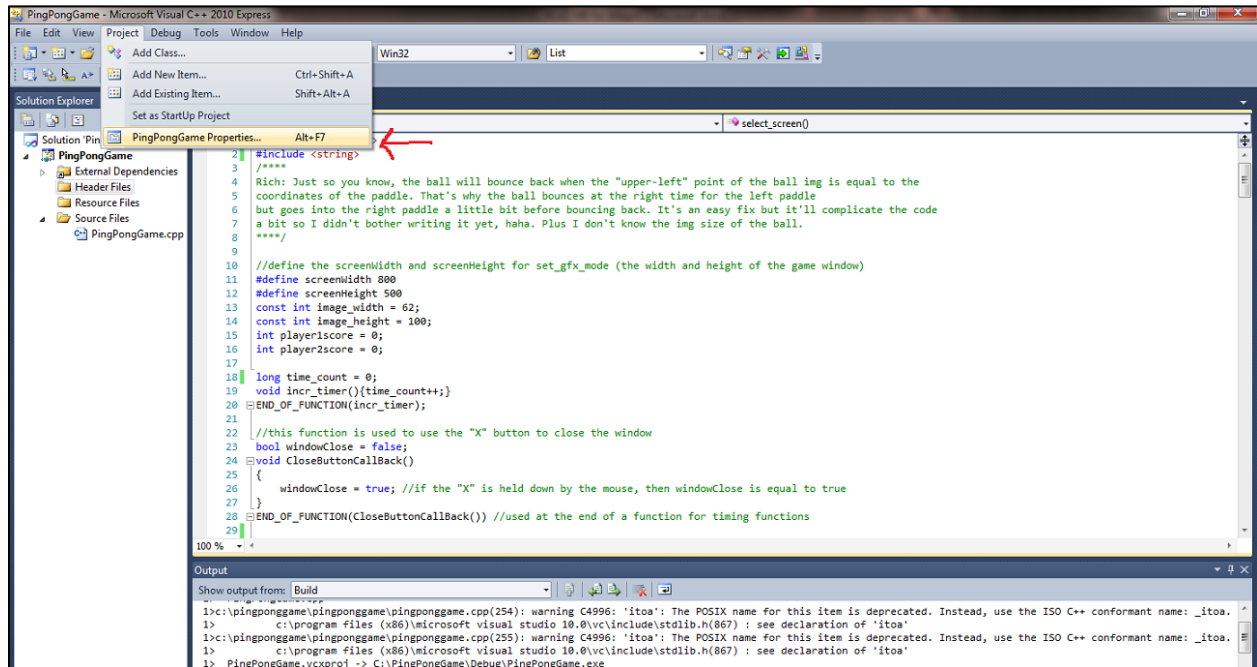
8) Copy the files inside the **bin** folder of the **.zip** file into the **bin** folder of the **VC** folder

Copy the files inside the **include** folder of the **.zip** file into the **include** folder of the **VC** folder

Copy the files inside the **lib** folder of the **.zip** file into the **lib** folder of the **VC** folder

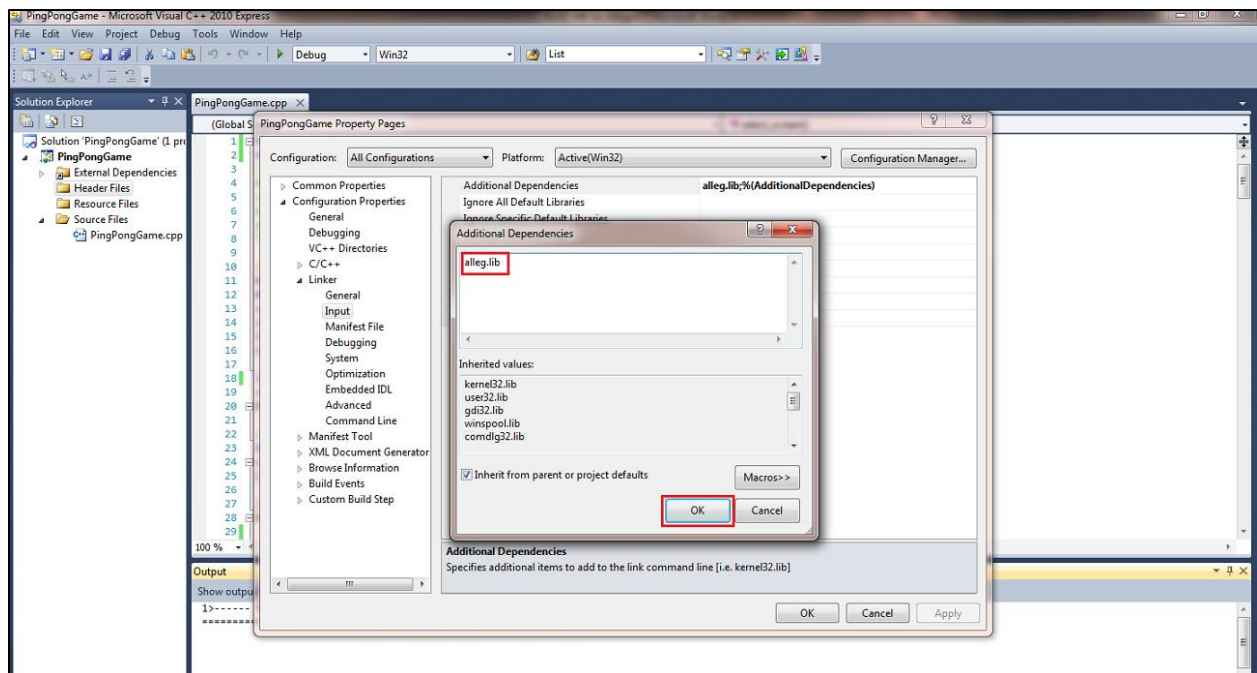
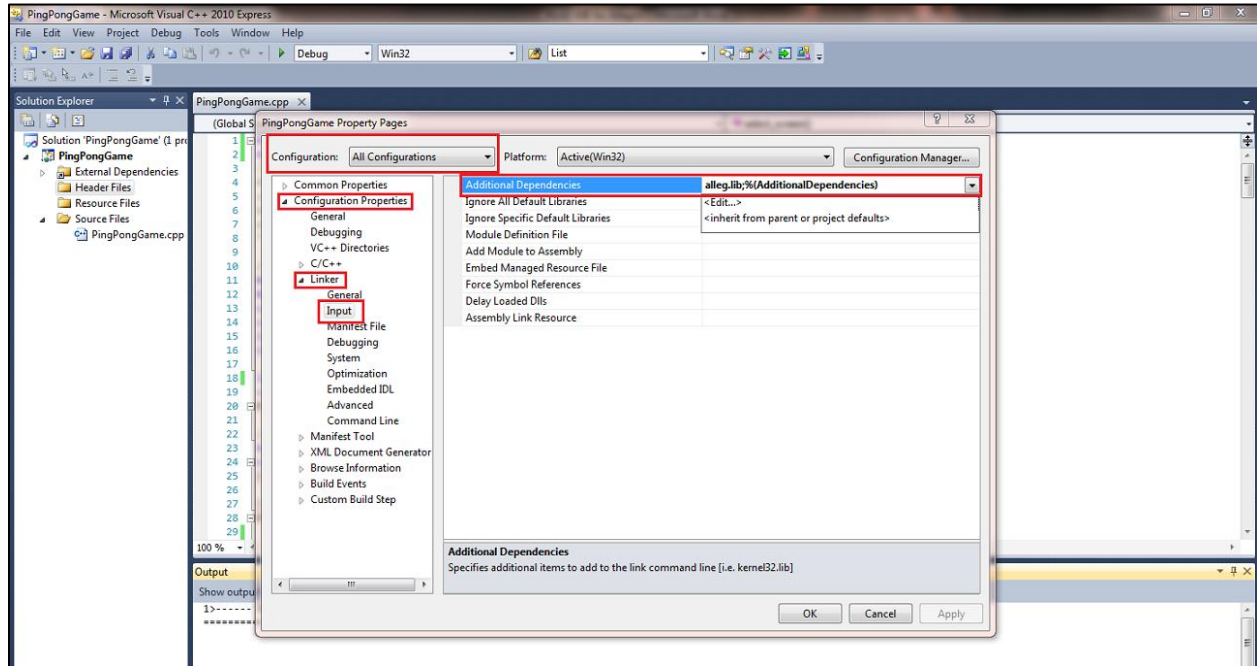


- 9) Open up My Computer and type in **system32** into the search box. Open up your **C:\system32** folder
- 10) Copy the files from the **bin** folder from the **.zip** file into the **system32** folder
- 11) Open up Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 and create a new project.
- 12) Make sure it is a **Win32** project. Click next and make sure **"Empty Project"** is checked. Then click **Finish**.
- 13) Add existing **header (.h)** files that we turned in into the **"Header Files"** folder.
- 14) Add existing **.cpp files** that we turned in into the **"Source Files"** folder.
- 15) We now have to change the project properties. Go to Project -> *ProjectName* Properties



16) Under Configurations, go to “All Configurations”

17) Under Configuration Properties -> Linker -> Input, change the Additional Dependencies by clicking it, then Edit... , and then type in alleg.lib, then click Ok



****NOTE ABOUT RUNNING OUR PROGRAM****

- Make sure to include the image files (.jpg, .bmp, etc) in the same folder as the .h and .cpp files
- In Visual Studio:
 - Put .h files in “header files” of Visual Studio program
 - Put .cpp files in “source files” of Visual Studio program
- The allegro installation .zip file (allegro-msvc10-4.2.3.zip) is included in the .zip file, so you don’t need to download it

The program uses **Allegro 4.2**, not Allegro 5!

Allegro 4.2 Key Terms/Functions

`allegro_init`

- Initializes the allegro environment so that we can use their functions

`install_keyboard`

- Sets up the system so we can do user key input

`install_timer()`

- Sets up the timer routine used for the game loop

`set_color_depth(32)`

- Sets the global pixel color depth

`set_gfx_mode(...)`

- Sets the game window size

`set_window_title(...)`

- Sets the title of the game at the very top

`install_int_ex(incr_timer, BPS_TO_TIMER(60))`

- used to start the timer routine at 60 frames per second

`set_close_button_callback(CloseButtonCallBack)`

- sets up the close "X" button so that when the user clicks "X", the program will exit and close

`allegro_exit()`

- so we completely close and delete everything from the program at the end of main

`END_OF_MAIN`

- to enable cross-platform compatibility

END_OF_FUNCTION, LOCK_FUNCTION, LOCK_VARIABLE

- They all holds the place in memory and prevent it from moving somewhere else when some memory are swapped (avoiding interrupts)

key[KEY_A], key[KEY_B], key[KEY_C], etc

- Allows the user to input a keyboard key into the keyboard buffer

keypressed()

- Returns true if there are keyboard keys waiting in the keyboard buffer

readkey()

- Returns the next keyboard key waiting in the keyboard buffer

clear_keybuf(...)

- Clears the keyboard buffer

textout_centre_ex(...), textout_ex(...)

- Allows the user to output text to the screen

makecol(...)

- A function that make a color, takes in R, G, B colors

create_bitmap(...)

- Creates a sheet that allows programmer to draw and output text on it, load image onto it

draw_sprite(...)

- Draws an image onto the BITMAP

load_bitmap(...)

- Loads an image to the BITMAP

screen

- The main BITMAP screen after one run-through of the game loop

`BITMAP* Buffer`

- A Buffer Is used to hold a BITMAP after the game loop ends and loops back to the beginning. If only screen is used, it will be a tiny delay before the screen loads up again. So we need the Buffer to prevent flickering.

`blit(...)`

- Merges two screens together (used for merging Buffer and screen to prevent flickering)

`clear_bitmap(...)`

- Clears the whole bitmap to a color depth of 0 (which is a black screen)


`Rest(...)`


- Pauses the program for a certain number of milliseconds


Gameplay Instructions


Selection Screen


Press the corresponding key to play the corresponding mode:

A:  Normal (A normal game of ping pong)

B:  RandomBall (The ball moves in a random velocity and acceleration everytime it hits a boundary)

C:  InfluenceBall (By pressing the A and D keys for player 1 or the Left-Arrow and Right-Arrow keys for player 2, you can easily make the ball on the field go faster or slower to harm your opponent)

D:  RandomInfluenceBall (This ball has both characteristics of the RandomBall and InfluenceBall, it moves in a random velocity and acceleration when it hits a boundary and you may use the A/D and Right/Left keys to make the ball move faster/slower)

E:  Free for all (Press the E key to release a RandomBall, the R key to release a InfluenceBall, the T key to release a RandomInfluenceBall, and you may use the A/D and Right/Left keys to make the ball move faster/slower)

High Score Screen

If a player wins, and a score is high enough, you can enter high score screen.

- Enter name.

- The name is outputted to the file "highscore.txt" along with their score.

- NOTE: Cannot press space, or enter a name more than 10 characters long. We threw an exception. =]

- If the name is empty (if the player doesn't enter a name and just presses enter, the name does not get outputted to file.

DO NOT ALTER THE OUTPUT FILE DIRECTLY. IT IS MEANT FOR THE PROGRAM ONLY. YOU CAN OPEN IT, BUT PLEASE DO NOT MODIFY ANYTHING.

Google Doc Notes

Introduction

Instead of a console application, we are going to make a graphics application.

- The graphics application will involve using **Allegro 4.2** to create the program using C++
 - There will be directions on how to install and run the program in our project
- The classes that might will create:
 - pingPongPaddle (to draw the ping pong paddle)
 - pingPongBall (to draw the ping pong ball)
 - Ball class that allows us to move the ball
 - movePaddle functions to move the paddle
 - screen_selection() function to display screen
- We will allow user input by reading:
 - Keyboard arrow keys (Up and Down) for Player 1
 - Keyboard letters (W and S) for Player 2
- By using a time function, we can control the ball's movement as a series of pause frames to give the illusion of continuous movement.

AB's Comments: Looks like a good plan. I like the google doc. How are you planning to divide the work? And you might want to think about starting by using the graphics class from the beginning of our book rather than jumping into the more difficult graphics right away.

Rich: We already looked into the code from the graphics class from the beginning of the book. We thought that we should learn more about how Allegro code works on our own before dividing the work, too.

Google Doc Notes (continued)

Bugs encountered along coding the program

- All of the common memory errors (they are really easy to get when making a list of pointers that requires iterators)
- Having messages from exceptions show properly
- Making sure there is always a virtual destructor for any base class (otherwise you get an error when deleting a base pointer to a derived class)
- Making sure the ball bounces back and does not phase through the paddle

Simon's Contribution

- Constructed main interface of the game
- Made high score output to file & interface
- Made select screen & interface
- Made PDF file on how to install Allegro
- Made Key Terms list to explain Allegro terms

Rich's Contribution

- Made Ball Class & Ball subclasses
- Made Inventory Class
 - Can create different types of balls and play with multiple balls at once
- Compiled list of things to cover

What We Learned

- Making a graphics program on C++ is harder than it looks. x.x
- Maybe we should have taken the final.
- We used passing by reference to make the paddle move, otherwise it won't move at all because the variables of the ball movement speed doesn't change.
- Communication/Comments between code is important. Unlike the homework, the comments need to be clear so we can actually improve the code and understand what everything does. Otherwise we'd have to call and meet up more often.
- Wasted 2 hours on fixing memory leaks to find out that to always put a virtual destructor on the base class, even if it does nothing.
- Learned about `const_iterator` to make an iterator declared as `const` in order to use `const` functions
- Learned that you can waste hours of debugging by forgetting to put `std::` in front of a standard type like `(std::string, std::fstream, std::ofstream, std::ifstream)`
- Creating a BITMAP* Buffer is useful (to prevent flickering), but more complicated than it seems
- char buffers, BITMAP buffers, keyboard buffers, and other buffers to hold temporary data are important in real world programs
- Use of physics to control how to ball moves
- Learned that programming is actually fun, not just textbook homework problems and stuff
- Learned that games involve a lot of rule thinking
- Be sure to erase and destroy anything that is a pointer, including BITMAP* which is native to the Allegro program (we struggled with memory leaks dealing with the Allgero program itself that resulted in crashes)

-We also witnessed using Task Manager and seeing the Memory (Private Working Set) skyrocket up as the program run, which lead to a crash once it hit 22k per second. (and it took a lot of the CPU useage as well)

Requirements

- The final outcome should use all of the sections we have covered. If you decide *not* to use something, you must clarify with me as you go along why you have chosen not to use it.
- The project must have a user's manual (in the form of a readme.txt, or a fancier instruction booklet); this should guide me and any user of any level in how to install necessary software (less than a 10-minute process only) and how to make the project run. It should also include a description of what the project is and what it does. Any project without this, or for which this readme doesn't tell me everything I need to know will receive a C or lower.
- The whole project (all necessary files, the readme, and as much software as is needed) should be included in one folder, and then zipped.
- Each person in the group is to independently document what they personally have contributed to the project, as well as what their group members have contributed. I also want a list of major bugs along the way (even the silly ones) and what you have learned in the process.

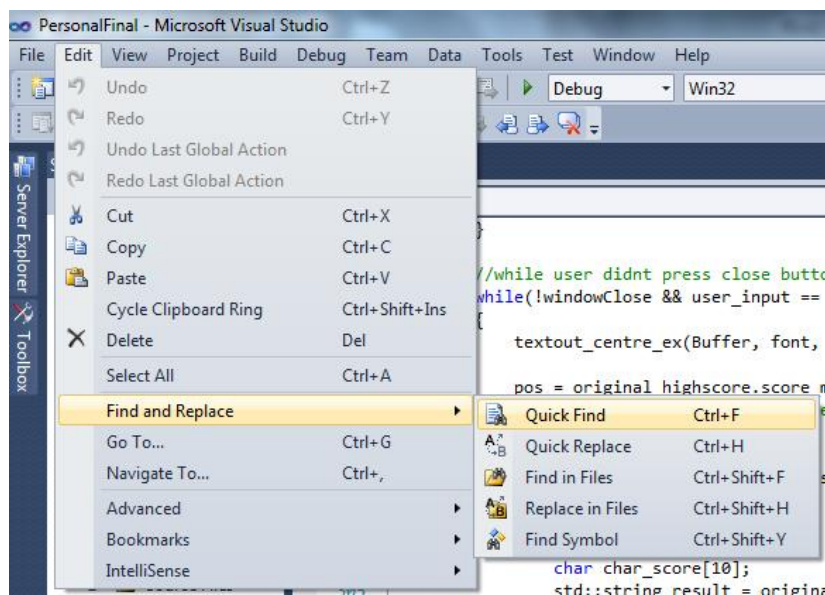
Topics Covered in PIC10C

How to search our project to see if we covered the topics

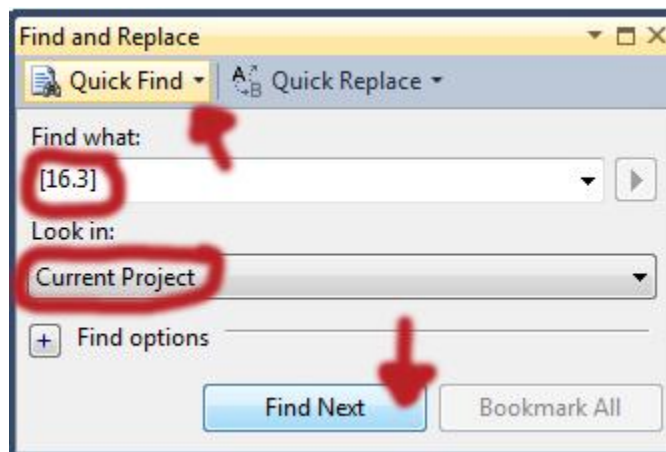
-We allocated every topic covered in class with a bracket reference in bold (i.e. [14.1]) starting on the next page (Source: Last day of class's outline of the course). Every bracket reference is either located in our .h or .cpp files to easily show where we used the concept for our project, or explained below about why we chose to not utilize that particular topic for our final project.

-How to use the bracket reference on Visual Studio 2010:

1) Click on Edit > Find and Replace > Quick Find (or hit Ctrl + F)



2) A "Find and Replace" window will pop up. Make sure "Quick Find" is highlighted, enter the bracket reference you want to look for, and make sure "Current Project" is selected for "Look in:" to search through all of the .h and .cpp files within the project. Click on "Find Next".



Topics Covered in PIC10C

Chapter 14: Operator Overloading

- Overloading
- [14.1] -Simple Arithmetic
 - there was no need to overload the arithmetic operators because it would have made the code harder to read
- [14.2] -Comparison Operator
 - using the .equals function in the highscores.cpp was actually more clear than overloading the comparison (==) operator
- [14.3] -Input / Output
 - highscores.cpp (output operator overloaded)
- [14.4] -Increment and Decrement
 - the ++ and -- operators are ambiguous for our functions (it can do different things), for example, the increase and decrease speed functions (2 for each player)
- [14.5] -Assignment
 - inventory.cpp
- [14.6] -Conversion
 - we didn't need to convert any types to another type (none of our classes require conversion to or from another class)
- [14.7] -Subscript
 - inventory.cpp
- [14.8] -Function Call
 - there was no need to call a function like a Matrix, the subscript operator does the job

Chapter 15: Memory Management

**keep throwing new balls, and when player loses, delete ball

- [15.1] -Categories of Memory
 - Code Memory: the code that we wrote
 - Static Data Memory: we used global variables
 - Most of our functions are allocated in the stack
 - But our balls are dynamically allocated in the heap because they use new/delete.
- [15.2] -Common Memory Errors
 - inventory.cpp (got these errors while coding T.T, stupid list of pointers)
 - Initialization errors
 - we initialized every variable
 - Lifetime errors
 - avoided dangling pointers that points to a location that is no longer valid (make a function that returns a *(pointer) and establishes the address within the function)
 - avoided returning reference to a local variable (make a function that returns a type& and establishes the variable it returns within the function)

- [15.2.3]**
 - Array bounds errors
 - we made sure that we avoid writing past an array
 - Object slicing
 - We avoided this problem using typedef and dynamic casting to make sure objects are never sliced.
 - Memory leaks
 - delete ball objects
 - destroy_bitmap(Buffer)
 - Using invalid memory references
 - we made sure iterators do not access invalid memory such as NULL and others
 - Deleting a value more than once
 - we set pointers to NULL after they are deleted just in case
- [15.3]** - Constructors
 - covered wherever we had classes
- [15.4]** - Destructors
 - inventory.cpp
- [15.5]** - Reference Counting
 - There was no need to reference count different pointers to the same object. While we could do that for the ball class since we dynamically allocated them, there was no purpose to have more than one pointer to one ball.

Chapter 16: Templates

**inventory class takes in different types of balls

- [16.1]** - Template Functions
 - inventory.h
- [16.2]** - Compile-Time Polymorphism
 - inventory.h
- [16.3]** - Template Classes
 - None of our classes needed a template. We already had a class that handles all the balls through a list of pointers and that handled different types of classes.
 - Note: Optional class "obstacle.h" uses this concept
- [16.4]** - Turning a Class into a Template
 - None of our classes needed a template. We already had a class that handles all the balls through a list of pointers and that handled different types of classes.
 - Note: Optional class "obstacle.h" uses this concept
- [16.5]** - Non-type Template Parameters (template <typename T, int N>)
 - None of our classes needed a template. We already had a class that handles all the balls through a list of pointers and that handled different types of classes.
 - Note: Optional class "obstacle.h" uses this concept
- [16.6]** - Setting Behavior Using Template Parameters (ie. passing a function/function object into the template)
 - None of our classes needed a template. We already had a class that handles all the balls through a list of pointers and that handled different types of classes.

NOTE: The multimap class already has one. See pg. 769.
-It was used to automatically sort our high scores.
template< typename K, typename V, typename CMP = less<K> >
class multimap { ... }

Chapter 17: Exception Handling

**select screen, if user inputs wrong key, throw an exception
**outputting file, if user puts in a name too long (>10 characters?), throw an exception

[17.1] - Handling Exceptional Situations

-main.cpp

[17.2] - Alternative Mechanisms for Handling Exceptions

-main.cpp

[17.3] - Exceptions

[17.4] - How to throw them

-main.cpp

[17.5] - Exception inheritance hierarchy

-main.cpp

[17.6] - Rethrowing exceptions (used when dealing with pointers)

-None of our exceptions required us to delete pointers

Chapter 18: Name Scope Management

[18.1] - Encapsulation

-classes have variables (class scope)

-brackets have variables (block scope)

-functions have variables (local scope / bracket scope)

-parameters have variables (local scope)

-global variables (global scope)

[18.2] - Name scopes

-classes have variables (class scope)

-brackets have variables (block scope)

-functions have variables (local scope / bracket scope)

-parameters have variables (local scope)

-global variables (global scope)

[18.3] - Protected scope

-ball.h

[18.4] - Friends

-highscores.h

[18.5] - Nested Classes

-Because we used private inheritance for the HighScoresIterator, and we needed to access the iterator (from outside) the multimap that was initialized in the class, we couldn't set HighScoresIterator as a nested class

[18.6] - Private Inheritance (do not want public interface from base class revealed)

-highscores.h

[18.7] - Namespaces

-highscores.h

Chapter 19: Class Hierarchies

- [19.1]** - Class Inheritance Hierarchies
 - ball.cpp
- [19.2]** - Abstract Classes
 - ball.cpp
- [19.3]** - Obtaining run-time type information
 - inventory.cpp
- [19.4]** - Multiple Inheritance
 - ball.cpp
- [19.5]** - Virtual Inheritance
 - ball.cpp
- [19.6]** - Software Frameworks
 - main.cpp, allegro.h

Chapter 20: STL

****store high scores into a list (10 scores), iterate through the list to display with an iterator**

- [20.1]** - The STL
 - highscores.h (used multimap)
 - inventory.h
- [20.2]** - Iterators
 - inventory.cpp, highscores.cpp
- [20.3]** - Fundamental Containers (vector, list, deque)
 - inventory.h
- [20.4]** - Container Adapters (stack, queue, priority queue)
 - list and multiset were the only necessary containers we needed for our game
- [20.5]** - Associative Containers (set, multiset, map, multimap)
 - highscores.cpp
 - (Not covering 20.6 - 20.10)

Ping Pong Game (Simon Yu's Journal)

Contribution

The ping pong game is a 2-player game that requires keyboard input from both players. Our program uses Allegro (a gaming library). I constructed the main interface of the ping pong game. I tried to make the interface as user-friendly as possible so that even a person that doesn't know how programming works can easily run the program. The program starts off with a selection screen, which I created the interface for as well, that lists the different modes that the user can choose to play. The interface has a layout that is easy to read and understand. If the player presses "A", then a certain mode will be played. If the player presses "B", then another mode will be played. Once the game starts, the 2 players will either use "w" / "s" to move player 1's paddle up and down or up and down arrow to move player 2's paddle up and down. The functionality and movement of the ball was constructed by Rich. In normal mode, the ball goes in random speeds (it's not at constant speed because we want to add some excitement to a ping pong game). In another mode, the 2 users are allowed to add balls or change ball directions or even make the balls go faster. We also included a Barbaro Ball. The third part of the game was the high score screen interface. I basically made it so that if the player's score is higher than the high scores in the past (which are documented in a text file), then they can enter the high score screen, which displays the past high scores and allows the user to input their name. After the user presses enter, user's name and score is updated to the file. I also made a PDF file about how to install Allegro onto a Window's machine, specifically Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 (Express). Since not many people are familiar with Allegro, I also made a list of key terms that explained what each of the functions that we used do. I also grasped better understanding of different kinds of buffers are for and how they are used (including keyboard buffer, BITMAP buffer, and char buffers).

Bugs/Problems along the way

Debugging the code was the most difficult part of programming the interface. Since I never learned Allegro before, dealing with the BITMAP* Buffer was difficult because we had to clear the buffer every time a while loop restarts. I also made a silly mistake, thinking that because we were using Allegro, we can't use `#include <fstream>`, which was for file input and output. However, because I didn't use using namespace std; I couldn't call the ofstream. I totally forgot to instantiate it as `std::ofstream`. Hours later, I figured it out and realized I wasted those hours debugging a simple mistake. I also didn't know how to send a function into a different .cpp file (different from main) because the main.cpp code was getting too long. I learned that you have to declare a prototype of that function into a .h file, and then make a .cpp file to write the code for what the function does. I spent an hour or so trying to figure this out. Also, because we are using Allegro, getting user-inputted text to save into a string variable and display to the screen was a little more difficult. Basically we needed a function to convert the key-press as an ASCII number, which we can use if statements to do the functionalities. We also had to use a Buffer to allow it to stay on the screen without flickering. There was also a major bug when I tried to throw a `length_error` exception, where the message would display forever, or if I try to clear the Buffer after displaying the text, the text will not even display at all. I figured out that I just had to write it to the "screen" instead of "Buffer" 5 hours later.

Ping Pong Game (Rich Ung's Journal)

My Contribution for the Project

For my contribution for the project, I created, designed, and implemented the Ball abstract class and its three derived classes through multiple inheritances, the Inventory class to keep track of all of the Balls through dynamically allocating memory, and the Obstacle template class so that we can show our ability to use templates in the program. Because I created the ball classes, the inventory class, and the obstacle class, I was also in charge of designing the modes and features of the game and making sure each mode is implemented correctly. I was also able to use knowledge gained from my Physics class to make the ball move smoothly and properly by implementing motion equations into the balls' motion. Also since I designed the features that determined the winner of the game, I also broke down the rules and how to implement each ball in the game so that each mode is unique. I implemented a timer class so that the game takes track of time, records and prints the time out, and ends the game after a certain amount of seconds. Furthermore, I helped my partner fix some bugs in the main.cpp file such as inputting/outputting the highscores into a text file and test ran the project multiple times and exposed as many little problems as I possibly could within the game (although I got to admit neither of us were happy when I critiqued some silly bugs and we had to fix them) Alongside the programming aspect of the project, I compiled and broke down the list of topics to cover for the project, designed two of the ball graphics for the game, and helped write a short and simple gameplay page to help explain the rules/features of our Ping Pong game better. I also developed the idea of allocating each topic we covered in class to a bracket reference so we can easily paste the bracket reference onto our code as comments and Quick Find them on Visual Studio 2010 for easy reference.

Major Bugs Learned Along the Way

A lot of the major bugs involved searching through the entire program just to find a few lines of code that created the bug. Personally, I encountered most (if not all) of the common memory errors created by the Inventory class because it dynamically allocated space for each ball through the STL list template. In the beginning, I did not initialize certain variables correctly such as the iterators so that it would always properly point from the beginning to the end of the list. I received a lifetime error just because I accidentally returned a & or a * and returned a value within the function. There was a lot of object slicing because the Inventory class contained a list of pointers of Balls that pointed towards its derived class. In order for me to fix that I had to properly test its typeid and dynamically casted the function when using the copy constructor and assignment operator. There were memory leaks in the Ball objects, although it was not as bad as another memory leak that happened during review and debugging. My partner and I spent a while finding out why the program would randomly crash, and found out through using Task Manager that the program continuously takes up Memory and CPU usage until it hits the max that the computer can handle, thereby crashing the program. Through discovering that we had to destroy the BITMAP* to save memory, we solved the problem but after a long time of searching through code. I also found out the importance of virtual destructors in the base class (even though it may do nothing) after spending 2 hours and to find out that my program would not properly delete ball pointers that pointed to its derived class (because the inventory's list is a pointer of the

abstract, base class, the program crashes by trying to run the destructor on the base class while knowing that the default base class destructor doesn't delete the additional features provided by the derived class.

What I learned

Personally, I learned that the biggest and most annoying errors can be caused by the smallest mistakes. I also learned that using a software framework such as Allegro takes time to learn and some bugs can be made just because we didn't know certain aspects of the framework, such as the `destroy_bitmap` function to save memory space. I also learned that cloud storage such as Dropbox comes in handy to help synchronize files between people and keep the project updated without meeting up in person (up to a point, when the program got too complicated we had problems merging our updates even with Dropbox).