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Chapter 1

Abstract

This project aim is to create a Souls-Like game with an AI system that allows for in-fighting between creatures based on a food chain. The AI system is at the core of this project and a version of Goal-Oriented Action Planning was used, where a planner creates branching action trees during gameplay and executes those actions leading to novel gameplay moments.

Chapter 2

Introduction

2.1 Problem

The core focus of this project is around the AI system that is implemented to provide realistic interaction between creatures and the player, this most notably includes in-fighting between the different enemies based around a food chain. As well as this, this project also focuses on the different game systems that need to be implemented to get something that can keep the player engaged. This project was created using the Unity Game Engine, which is a very well documented, free to use 3D game engine to use with any genre of games; as this engine is fairly new to the author of this project, Unity specific topics will also be discussed to provide a more thorough overview on the implementation.

2.2 Project Objectives

This project was broken down into two distinct parts, the minimum viable product, where the author is gaining his understanding of the AI system and Unity, and the Main Build, where more gameplay systems are added, the AI is more refined with more randomness to it, and the presentation is much more enhanced. These objectives were been updated since the PDD.

2.2.1 Minimum Viable Product

- 3 foods: a plant, a prey, and a predator
- Simple AI behaviour using Goal-Oriented Action Planning
- HUD elements for the Creatures stats

- Simple Unity Scene/Level to test the different features
- Sword Weapon with a combo system

2.2.2 The Main Product

- Higher utilisation of the AI system
- Meshes and animations for the different creatures/food
- A Ranged Weapon for the player to attack with
- Hunger system with health regeneration
- Stamina usage and regeneration for the player
- Level restart on Player death
- Simple Level
- Heads Up Display to display the different player statistics

The following report is lightly structured to go thoroughly through the different objectives and features that were set out.

2.3 Beneficiaries

The main beneficiary of this project is me (also referred to as the author throughout the project). I will learn how to use a modern fully-featured game engine Unity, learn how to C# and apply it in the context of game scripting; I will learn how to use compositional relationships efficiently and their benefits over using inheritance in different contexts; the main benefit is learning the different styles of AI techniques available and thoroughly gain an understanding of Goal-Oriented Action Planning system of AI and use it to create a simple eco-system of creatures, that are fully animated and rigged up to have rag-doll physics. Overall there are many techniques and challenges that are new to me that I will be facing through this project.

Other beneficiaries would include other students/developers interested in seeing usage of GOAP in a game, this would only come about if I decide to open-source this project after it has been graded. As this is a prototype, most players will not be as engaged as they would be on a fully developed project, however, if they receive any form of enjoyment out of this game, they would also be considered a beneficiary.

Chapter 3

Output Summary

3.1 Unity Project

Found in Appendix D Link to these found in 'Access to Supplementary Material' Appendix D.

3 Builds for macOS, Windows and Linux.

Source Code.

3.2 PDD

Found in Appendix A

Project Definition Document

Project proposal and description created before the start of this project.

3.3 Git Log

Found in Appendix B

A full version control history.

3.4 Installation Document and User Guide

Found in Appendix C

Contains instruction to download and run the builds.

Also contains instructions to build the project via Unity.

User guide has instructions for playing the game.

3.5 Class Diagram

Found in Appendix E

A full class diagram which is in full resolution and can be zoomed into digitally.

Class diagram is also broken down into different packages for easier visibility on print.

Chapter 4

Literature Review

My project focuses on creating a game in the souls-like genre where the enemies act in an eco-system where there is a food-chain hierarchy in which they can fight each other.

An intricate in-fighting system between multiple different AI agents is what I will be focusing on. One of the early examples of in-fighting was seen in the original Doom (1993)[1], where if an enemy-A got attacked by enemy-B, enemy-A will change its target from player to enemy-B, this is a very simple system but offers many gameplay opportunities, many levels were crafted with this in mind where the players would have to manipulate the AI by luring one enemy into another's line of fire. This idea was later expanded by Ubisoft in their later Far Cry games where different clans can combat each other in random events, and animals can also combat each other, combining these together, there are many random events where animals attack enemies that are already mid-combat between you and another clan. In Far Cry Primal they expanded the animal system so that you could tame any animal in the world and make them your companion in gameplay.

This sort of systemic game design is created by making the different game systems aware of each other, and this in-turn invites the player to use their creativity to make plans on how to execute their goals and creating unique experiences. This type of gameplay has been coined as emergent gameplay where complex systems *emerge* from the interaction on relatively simple game mechanics.[4]

There are different types of AI techniques that I could use, the following are the ones that I have looked into: Finite State Machines, Behaviour Trees, Goal Oriented Action Planning and Utility Based AI.

Finite state machines are the most rudimentary AI system, it is a system that I had implemented

in my Advanced Games Tech Project, these are very easy and quick to implement for a simple AI system however it does not suit the complex AI behaviours I would like to build as when adding more complexity to a state machine, the "program flow becomes much more difficult to understand and creates a debugging nightmare" [5].

Behaviour Trees were popularised by Halo 2[6] and are now the most common AI technique used in modern games, this is due to there being a streamlined flow/logic to the readability of the AI, this makes it easier to expand while keeping debugging simple. The design is built using nodes as modules, allowing nodes to be reused with minimal effort. There is also a 'blackboard' where shared knowledge is kept which the AI uses to make 'smarter' decisions while keeping memory usage to a minimum. This all happens while keeping a low computational overhead if implemented correctly. [7]

Goal Oriented Action Planning (GOAP) was originally implemented in a game in F.E.A.R (First Encounter Assault Recon) by Jeff Orkin [8]. It is a system that is made up of many actions, these actions consist of objects, preconditions and effects; an agent will decide on an action to execute based on their current situation and then work backwards through the preconditions to create an efficient plan of executing the actions. This is done using an A* path finding algorithm, the actions have different weightings based on how easy they are to execute from the current state of the agent. This system can be very easy to scale if the groundwork is set up properly as all would have to be done is to add more actions in. Similar to behaviour trees (BT), a blackboard is used to store shared data which the AI can use to make decisions. This system can have performance issues, as goals and plans will have to be calculated for every active agent very frequently, so increasing the number of agents in the scene will have a performance hit. This was an issue when F.E.A.R came out as the rats in the game used the same AI system as the enemies, and once a rat had spawned, it would not be destroyed, and this would accumulate over a long play session and cause performance issues. This system can create novel AI behaviour which isn't seen easily in BT and FSM AI design. This is the system I would like to implement as it would be easier to create AI that seems to behave 'organically' like they do in F.E.A.R.. [10] An example of this is given in Jeff Orkin's 2003 paper on the subject of applying GOAP[9], he talks about a character X running out of ammunition in their weapon, given that their goal is still to eliminate the enemy, the planner will find another way of doing that - in the example, there is a laser that can be activated by both player and enemies - the planner will now find a combination of actions to execute in a particular order for the enemy to activate the laser to eliminate the player. This is a novel idea that the planner came up with by using what was in the environment, behaviour like this would be missed in games using behaviour trees as

that particular course of action was not added into the tree.

Chapter 5

Method

This section will describe a high level overview of what methodologies and techniques were used and why in this project. For a more detailed breakdown into the implementation of these techniques please see the Results section.

5.1 Software Design Methodology

The software design methodology used in this project was a version of scrum, which comes under the agile family of development methods. As you can see in the figure below[23], the agile methodology consists of multiple sprints, where you plan, design, build, test and review; this leads to rapid development and in the short period of time to do this project this was the best methodology to fit the project.

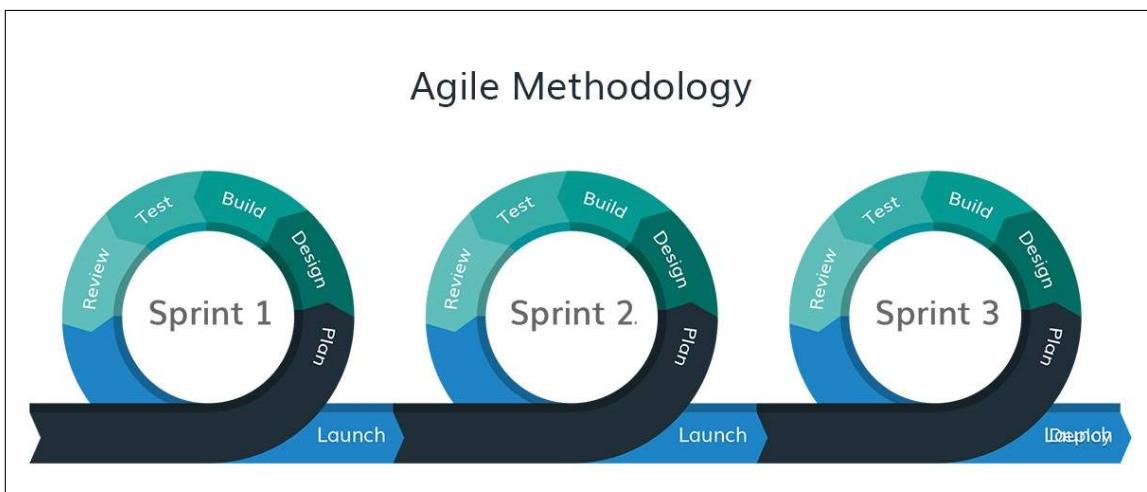


Figure 5.1: Agile Scrum Methodology

Another advantage to using agile is that for the programming pattern that was used(see next section), the project can be broken down into features which then breaks down into entities and components(that do their own specific jobs) in a neat way, making it easier to create a feature early on, test it and then not have to refactor/touch it further into development as everything is highly decoupled.

The project objectives as seen in the introduction are separated into two main sections (sprints), a *Minimum Viable Product*, and then *The Main Product*, which are broken down into multiple objectives, which act like their own sub-sprints going feature by feature).

This methodology avoids having to do a big test of the program at the end of development as all the features are being tested rapidly while being created, so when the final prototype build was created, it works as expected.

5.2 Programming Patterns

The programming paradigm used was based around the Entity Component System (ECS) design where there are Entities in the world (the GameObjects) that are built up of components.

Games in Unity are built around this paradigm, preferring a system of composition over inheritance. It allows for greater flexibility as unlike inheritance where you 'inherit' all features at once, you build the game object using components(C# classes) that you create that are designed to fulfill a very specific purpose. This leads to code being very modular and less coupled, leading to faster development and easier debugging as changing one component will not have a ripple effect on others, which is very much the case when designing a system around inheritance early on and then having to refactor it as you did not have enough foresight for a particular feature.

The following shows the flaws with inheritance for development[18]:

```
ROBOT // parent class
    .drive()
    MurderRobot // inherited class
        .kill()

        CleaningRobot // inherited class
            .clean()

ANIMAL // parent class
    .poop()
    Dog // inherited class
        .bark()
```

```
Cat // inherited class
    .meow()
```

Now the above works great and would serve you through most of the project, but the problem arises if down the line you would like to create a `MurderRobotDog` that can `drive()`, `kill()` and `bark()`, however being a robot it cannot `poop()`. There are only a few solutions around this,

1. you do a multiple inheritance and accept that you will have extra unnecessary functionality,
2. you create a new Robot inherited from `MurderRobot` and duplicate the `bark()` functionality,
3. you create a superclass of both that has a `bark()` functionality, this leads to unnecessary functionality in most instances.

To solve this problem you will have to take time out from creating new features and refactor the codebase to work within good coding standards[17].

If designed using composition, it would look like the following (example from [18]):

ENTITIES	COMPONENTS (in the form of classes)
Dog	: pooper + barker
Cat	: pooper + meower
CleaningRobot	: driver + cleaner
MurderRobot	: driver + killer
MurderRobotDog	: driver + killer + barker

This provides you with the most flexibility to create whatever type of game object you would like while being loosely coupled and avoiding duplication.

Inheritance has its own benefits and was not abandoned, it was used in the places necessary, for example creating the `BaseAIGoap` class.

In Unity, a game object with components attached to it can be saved as a prefab, which can then be reused, an example would be creating an enemy prefab, and then creating an enemy spawner that loads copies of that prefab into the scene.

5.3 Tools

5.3.1 Unity (Game Engine)

Unity[31] was chosen as the game engine, over the other options which was Unreal Engine[30], as the author had some prior (albeit minimal) experience in using it; Unity used C# for scripting

which is a simpler language to write in over C++, with the drawback of providing fine-grain memory control (which was not required in this project). The Unity game engine also performs dramatically better on the hardware and operating system used to create this project.

Godot, an open-source game engine, was another option that could be used however it lacks in maturity for both documentation and feature set for 3D development[29]. As mentioned in the PDD, Unity has an extensive amount documentation available on their website which is easy to understand, they also have a forum site where there is a very active community in helping new-comers with any issues they face; as well as this, there are plenty of tutorials teaching Unity and its plentiful features on their own website and on YouTube.

There is also an asset store built into Unity with many paid and free assets, ranging from scripts, models, materials, shaders, physics systems and more.

All of this combined, it was very difficult for me to not choose Unity as the game engine of choice for my project.

5.3.2 JetBrains Rider (IDE)

JetBrains Rider was the choice of IDE as I had been using JetBrains products since the Programming in Java module in the first year. JetBrains provide a very good set of refactoring and debugging tools with a good amount of community made extensions for the program. Rider was created as a .NET IDE, and now has native Unity support, which is perfect for use with Unity.

My other option was Microsoft's Visual Studio, which I had used in the second and third year Games Tech modules. After using it extensively, it did not provide many of the features that I would expect from an IDE and had installed the plugin ReSharper created by JetBrains to bring some extra functionality required. Given that JetBrains have their own IDE for Unity, I decided to go with that over Visual Studio.

5.3.3 GitHub

GitHub was the choice of version control and backup system as I am very familiar with it. I have used it extensively over my time at the university.

One branch was used as this was not a large project and a commit was made at the end of a notable change. A full Git Log histr can be found in the appendices.

5.3.4 Blender

Blender was the 3D program of choice as it is very intuitive to learn and very simple to use. It is also free and open source leading to very many tutorials and big community around it along with great documentation. It has support for opening most 3D file-types which is very important as assets will be downloaded from different locations; if there is a filetype that is not supported, then there is bound to be an extension for it, due to the many community made extensions available.

5.3.5 Adobe Illustrator

Adobe Illustrator was the choice of vector editor used to design and plan any graphical elements in the game.

5.3.6 diagrams.net

Diagrams.net (formally known as draw.io) was used as the tool to create UML diagrams as it is a lightweight web-application providing all the necessary features and flexibility required in creating a UML document. The feature that came in most useful was the integration with github; I was able to save my diagrams and version them directly in the same repository.

5.4 Software Design

5.4.1 Modelling Actions

The actions for the AI agents were modelled before modelling the class diagrams. This was done so that the preconditions, effects and the goals they fulfil are mapped out and make it much easier to plan out the different classes.

5.4.2 Class Diagrams

Class diagrams are a great to draw out a visual plan of what the system will look like. As the ECS programming pattern is used, the class diagram will mainly consist of many classes (components) with compositional relationships; in unity many of these classes extend 'MonoBehaviour' which contain the Start(), Update() and other many other methods that are related to the game loop, this can be seen in the appendix showing the final class diagram of the project. The class diagram contained a special shape that represents an action that were modelled prior

to this. This class diagrams created are not a one-to-one representation of the code to be implemented, however a guideline to proceed with as there is a plan in mind before implementing it; while implementing, new and better ideas might arise that can and are used, this is only possible as there is structure to the development.

5.4.3 User Interface (UI)

Adobe Illustrator was used to draft out the user interface. Some UI elements will exist within the 3D world space, these are called *spacial* UI elements; these types of UI elements allow the player to receive the information they require without taking up much space on the orthographic canvas where more player related statistics can go[19]. These also help greatly during development to visualise the statistics without looking at the inspector in Unity.

5.5 Project Objectives

The project was created by going through the objectives stated in the introduction and tackling them one at a time, breaking each task down when arriving to it, this way there was focused attention on each feature being added in, being tested and refined before moving on to the next feature.

Chapter 6

Result

Note: There are many code listings in this chapter, explaining some key aspects of the program, the comments on these are different to the ones in the actual code as to explain it thoroughly here, so keep in mind the explanation for methods is done in both *comments and text*.

6.1 Unity Project

This section will provide a brief overview of how Unity works as substantial time was spent understanding this; please note that the screen-grabs in this section are taken after the final build was created to give a better example.

A level in Unity is represented by a 'Scene'. Scenes consists of 'GameObjects' and game objects consists components. 'GameObjects' can be turned into prefabs, which can be used to create multiple instances of a GameObject with the same behaviours.

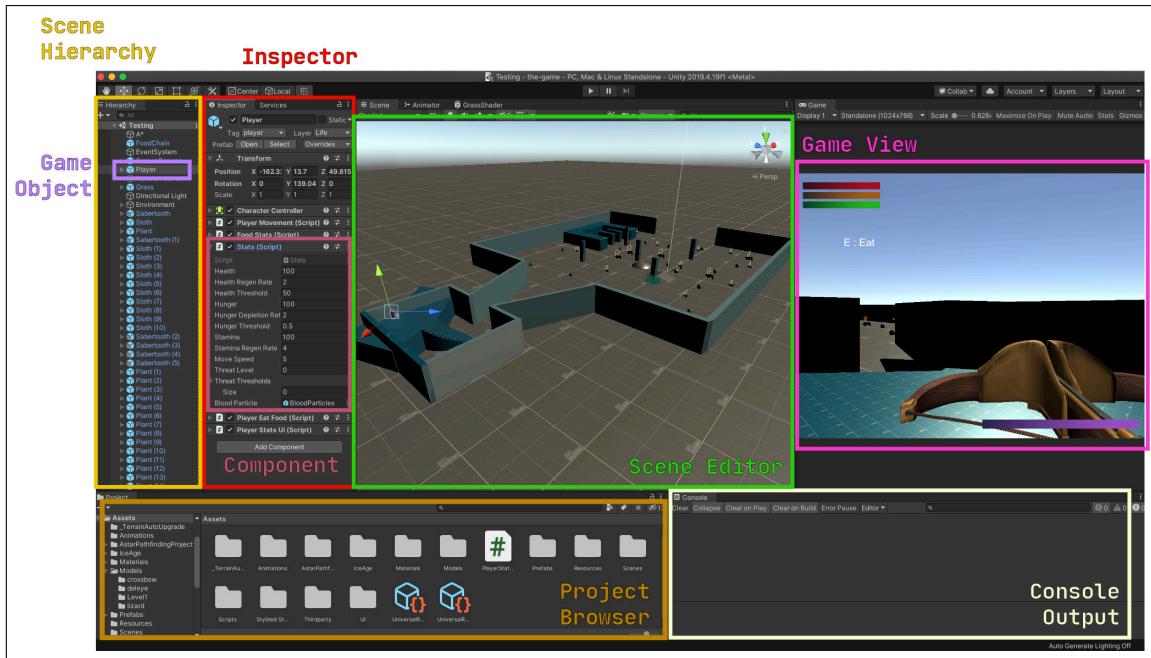


Figure 6.1: Unity's Editor Labeled

In the Scene Editor, the game objects can be placed and moved around. Any game object added to the scene will be visible inside of the scene hierarchy, blue game objects are 'Prefabs', for example, all instances of Sloth have the same components attached to them. In the inspector, components can be attached to a game object, the expanded component is 'Stats' which is the re-used for all creatures, the values can be manipulated here during run time as well. The game view is on the right hand side and provides a view of what the main camera in the scene is seeing.

6.2 Minimum Viable Product

This section goes thoroughly through the steps taken and the output of those steps taken to achieve the objectives set out in the introduction.

6.2.1 Modelling the Actions

The AI system was abstracted into the different actions the AI will be performing and the goals it will use to plan out the course of action. Seen in the figure below is the simple set of actions and goals sufficient for the first build and will have the groundwork to expand upon the next build. The food ready goal and precondition for eat food will be used to add the attacks for the creature's higher in the food chain, like the Lizard, as they should only be able to eat other

creatures if they are dead, i.e. ready to eat.

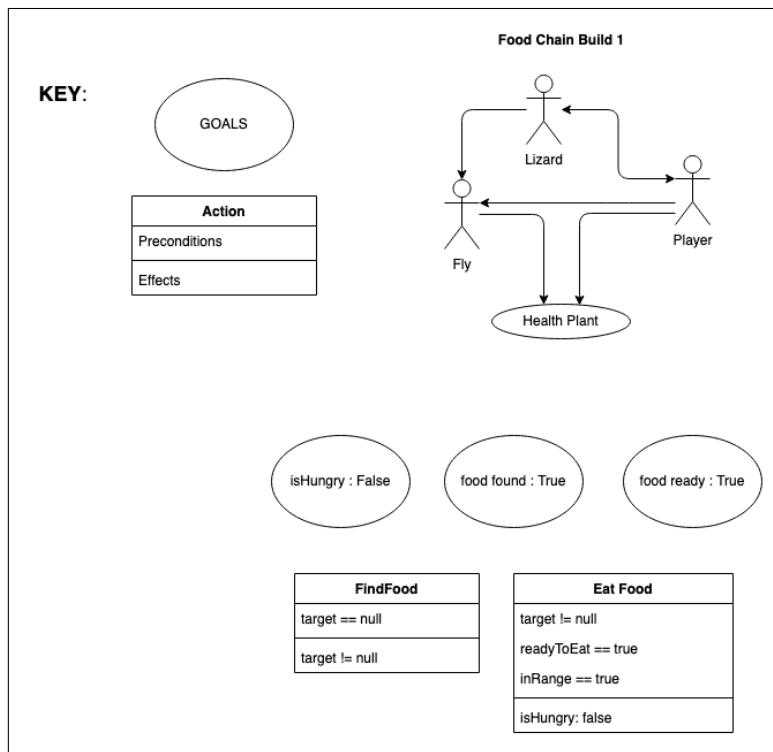


Figure 6.2: Goals and Actions with Food Chain

6.2.2 Class Diagram

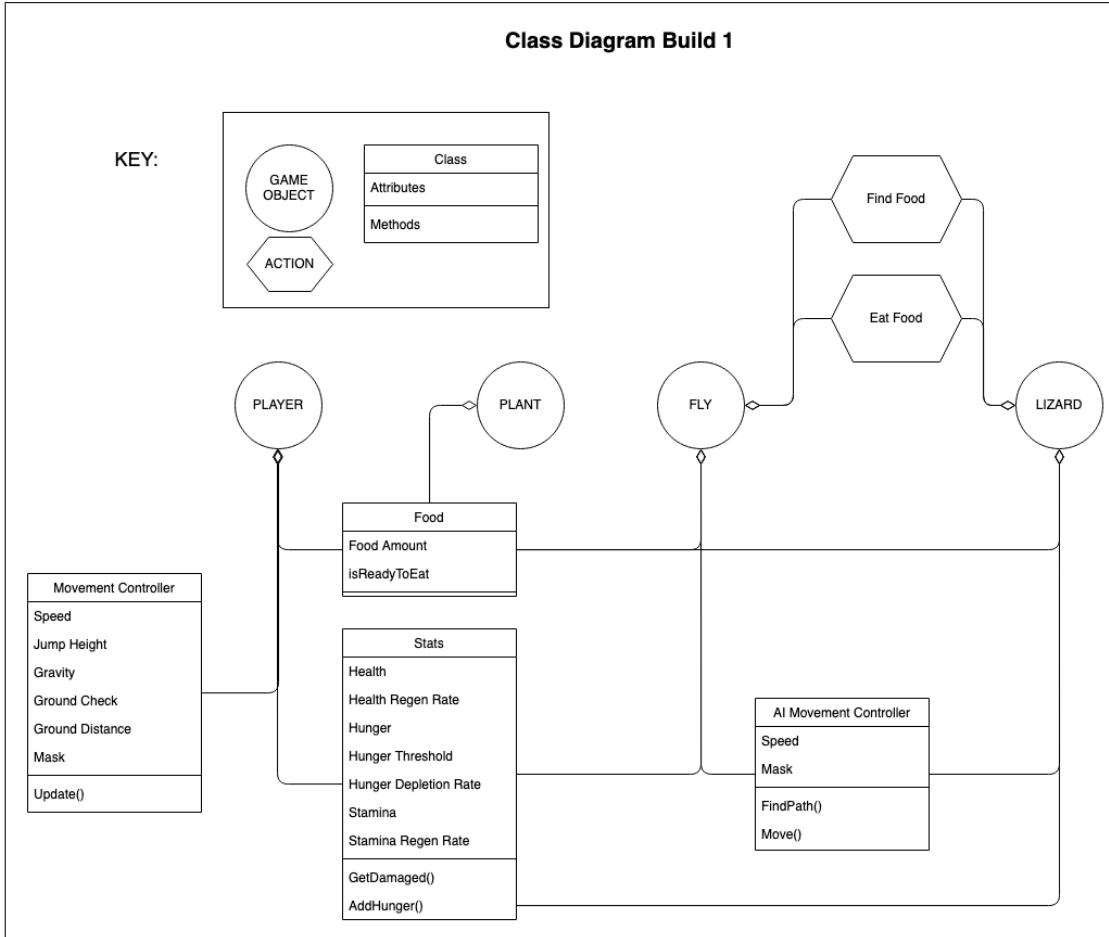


Figure 6.3: Class Diagram build 1

As explained before, Unity uses the Entity Component Paradigm of software design, the circles represent Game Objects which are the entities in our game scene, and there are classes attached to them using compositional relationships, as you can see, one class is being used multiple times, and due to the lack of inheritance, there is very little interdependency. The Actions are represented by hexagons are the actions modelled out in figure 6.1, it had been kept simple at this moment as it was not certain on what methods would be used to create the goal oriented action planning system.

6.2.3 Creatures and AI

Extensive reading through the FEAR SDK[11], that contains the full AI source code, was done to fully understand the implementation of GOAP. Many other implementations of GOAP were also analysed and came to a conclusion that all of them are implemented in a very similar way with mostly only structural differences. Peter Klooster created a multi-threaded GOAP

System for Unity3D which he originally used in his game Basher Beatdown [12]. This is a pretty simple implementation that includes a visualiser for the system as well. Anne from the YouTube channel TheHappieCat did a GOAP implementation in Unity [13] based on the papers by Jeff Orkin and an article by Brent Owens [14] (taking the core system from here). She made a very informative video on the topic as well as walking through the code with a live simple example. On Jeff Orkin's website, there was a reference to ReGOAP by Luciano Ferraro, which is a very generic C# GOAP library, that was used in Unity3D, but its description states it can be used anywhere. Compared to the other implementations, this has been officially released on the Unity Asset store, however the code seems to be quite verbose and is not well commented and documented.

Based on this research, the author started creating a GOAP system from scratch, however, it became very time-consuming to create, and based on the gannt chart created, the project was running behind on schedule; as the main focus of the project is to create the interaction between these different AI agents, and not the core AI system itself.

The author then looked through the different GOAP implementations stated and their example projects and tried to create a simple agent with all three systems, after that, a conclusion was drawn to utilise the implementation provided by Brent Owens [15] which is under the MIT licence. This is a very bare bones implementation only consisting of 6 scripts, and with the video explanation by TheHappieCat this proved to be the simplest one to implement and still have a great amount of flexibility in modifying the code due to its small size in number of scripts.

To add GOAP AI behaviour to an Agent, a script had to be attached that implemented the `IGoap` interface provided by Brent Owens, and then have the `GoapAgent` script attached which uses the `GoapPlanner`. Now actions (inherited from `GoapAction`) can be attached as scripts to the game object and the planner will automatically consider them. The script that inherits `IGoap` → will contain the world state and the desired goal state. The `GoapAction`s will contain their own **preconditions** and **effects** and a **procedural precondition** method that the planner will consider when choosing the plan of action.

```
// inside Creatures : IGoap
// world state
worldData.Add(new KeyValuePair<string, object>("isHungry", (hunger < hungerThreshold
    → )));
// goal
goal.Add(new KeyValuePair<string, object>("isHungry", false));

// For Lizard that inherits creature
```

```

worldData.Add(new KeyValuePair<string, object>("damagePlayer", false));
goal.Add(new KeyValuePair<string, object>("damagePlayer", true));

// inside ActionEatFood.cs
addPrecondition("isHungry", true);
addEffect("isHungry", false);
cost = 1f;

```

This build of the AI was functional however had a few issues. The Lizard enemy would only choose the player and not the fly, and it would eat anything. A food chain was added in the main build to fix this.

As can be seen in figure 6.12 showing the UI for creature, the meshes for the creatures were kept simple to ensure that the AI system worked, the movement system was also a trivial direct vector transformation towards the direction of the target for the same reason.

6.2.4 Player

Movement Controller

The movement controller was implemented with the help from a tutorial by Brakey's on 'First Person Movement in Unity - FPS Controller'[26]. To create this, a Player Empty was created, and a Mesh was added to it, in this case, a simple capsule was used - empties are used to add the components to as it allow the mesh to be swapped out at a later point without any complications; another empty was created that contained a Sphere Collider which checks collision with the ground to notify the Player Movement script that the player is grounded. The Player Movement script takes the Input from Unity's built-in input system and calculates the horizontal and vertical movement and then the script passes the movement data to the Character Controller to move the player. To jump, a check is made to see whether the player is grounded or not, and if so, then check for the Jump button to be pressed down, in this case, it is 'Space'; a velocity is applied to the negative of the gravitational velocity and the player is jumping and no longer grounded. When the player is no longer grounded, a gravitational velocity is applied to the player constantly down.

Now that the player was moving, the main camera had to be placed inside it, along with accepting mouse input to rotate the player and camera. Firstly the cursor is locked into the screen so when moving it, it does not leave the screen; then on every frame, the Mouse X and Y input is taken in, multiplied by the sensitivity and delta time. A rotation value is calculated, and is

clamped (minimum -90° and maximum 90°) to avoid the player able to look behind using vertical mouse movement; this rotation is then applied to both the local rotation of the camera, and the player's body rotation around it's up vector.



Figure 6.4: Character Controller and Player Movement Script components on the player

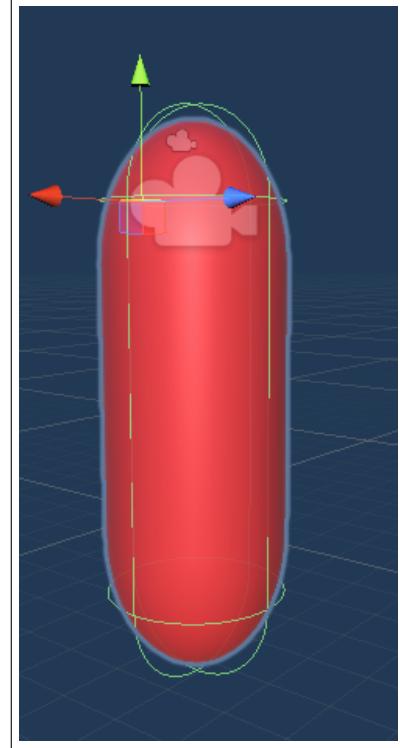


Figure 6.5: The Player with the character controller bounding box and camera

Weapon

For the melee weapon for the player to attack with, a pre-made sword asset was used (please refer to the asset listing) which was then imported into blender and 4 animation states were created.

First the model was rigged using one bone, starting from the hilt of the sword. Then 4 different animations were created using key-framing and Blender's Dope Sheet editor, the idle animation and Attack 1 lasted 30 frames each and the Attack 2 and 3 lasted 20 frames each. This was then exported as an FBX file, which supports animations and textures to be baked into it and imported into Unity.

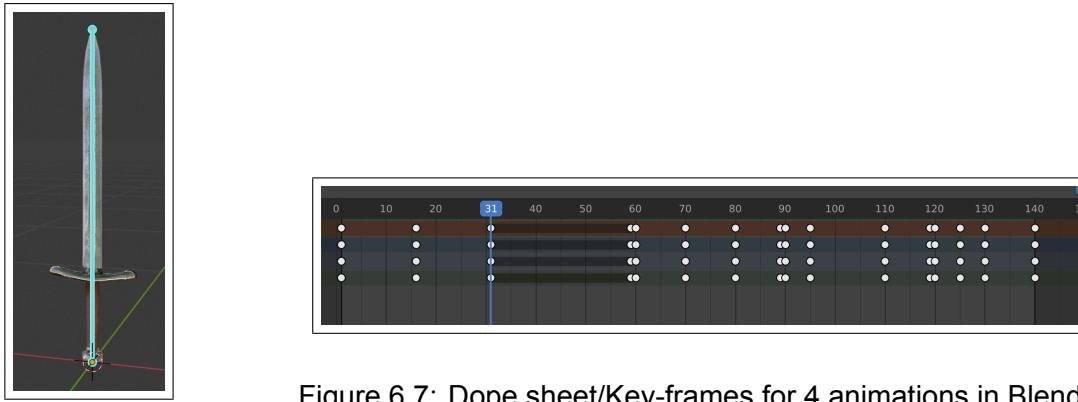


Figure 6.7: Dope sheet/Key-frames for 4 animations in Blender

Figure 6.6: Sword
model rigged with
a single bone

When importing it into Unity, the animations had to be split up into 4 different actions as currently they were all done on one track (this was taken note of and the animations for the creatures were created on different tracks within Blender, allowing an easier import process). In the hierarchy the sword was attached to an Empty called LeftHand to place it in the correct position, and this was parented under the Main Camera, making it so that the sword's transformation follows where the player is looking.

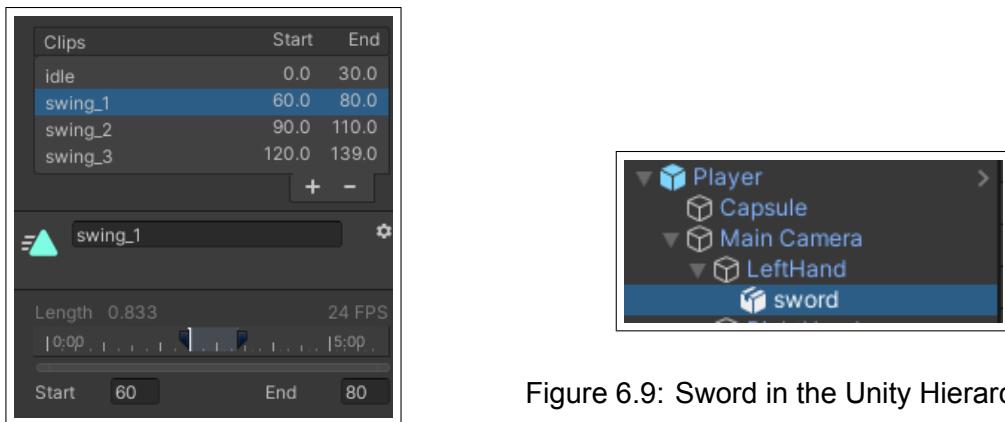


Figure 6.9: Sword in the Unity Hierarchy view

Figure 6.8: Splitting Animations up for the
Sword

An animation controller had to be created to switch between the different animations and create a combo system so a single click will only lead to the first swing, however clicking more than once will add the clicks to a buffer then swing the sword the appropriate number of times.

A tutorial by GRIMOIRE [20] was used to understand how to do this inside of Unity and its

animation system and implemented it in a similar manner.

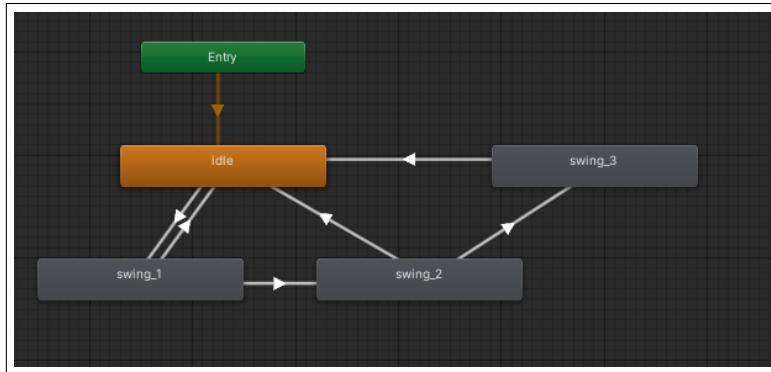


Figure 6.10: Animation Controller attached to the Sword

6.2.5 UI

The first UI designed was for the Creature displaying the stats above their meshes in game. This is one of the spacial UI elements in the game. Below is the initial sketch created in Adobe Illustrator. It represents the three important statistics of the creature in a simple manner.

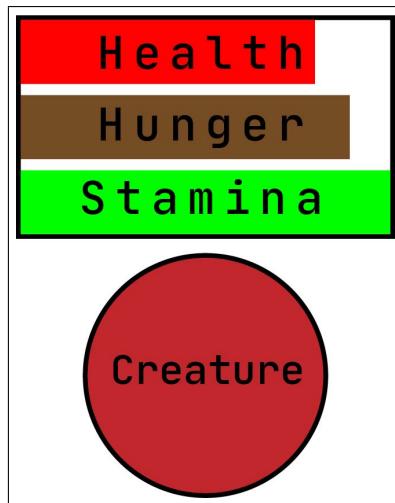


Figure 6.11: Creature UI Sketch

In Unity this was done by creating a canvas with multiple image sprites, these image sprites have a fill amount that goes from 0 to 1 which can be easily interpolated between by dividing the current values of the stat by their max value which in this case is 100 for now.

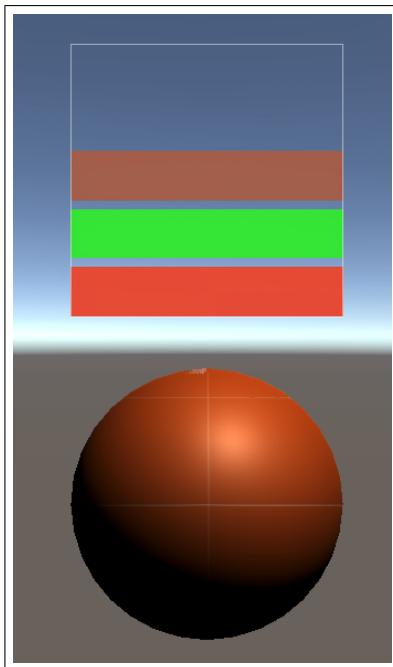


Figure 6.12: Creature UI in Unity

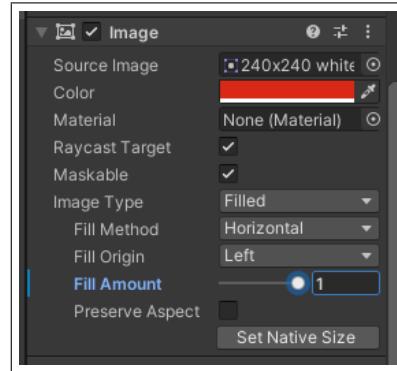


Figure 6.13: Image Component in Unity

This canvas is parented to the Creature and the position is offset on the Y axis, so its transformation will follow its parent.

A script was created to manage the fill amounts, this was done by accessing a reference to the stats component in the parent object and then calculating the fill amount from there (see code snippet below).

```
void FixedUpdate() {
    healthBar.fillAmount = creatureStats.GetHealth() / 100;
    staminaBar.fillAmount = creatureStats.GetStamina() / 100;
    hungerBar.fillAmount = creatureStats.GetHunger() / 100;
    hungerThresholdBar.fillAmount = creatureStats.GetHungerThreshold() / 100;
}
```

6.2.6 Unity Scene / Level

Below is what the first version of the Unity scene looked like after adding the sword and basic AI components in. A very basic level was created to test out the movement controller for the player, along with physics interaction of the sword. The materials applied are a mix of simple self-made materials from the Unity asset store called "Gridbox prototype materials by Ciathyza", (see asset listing).

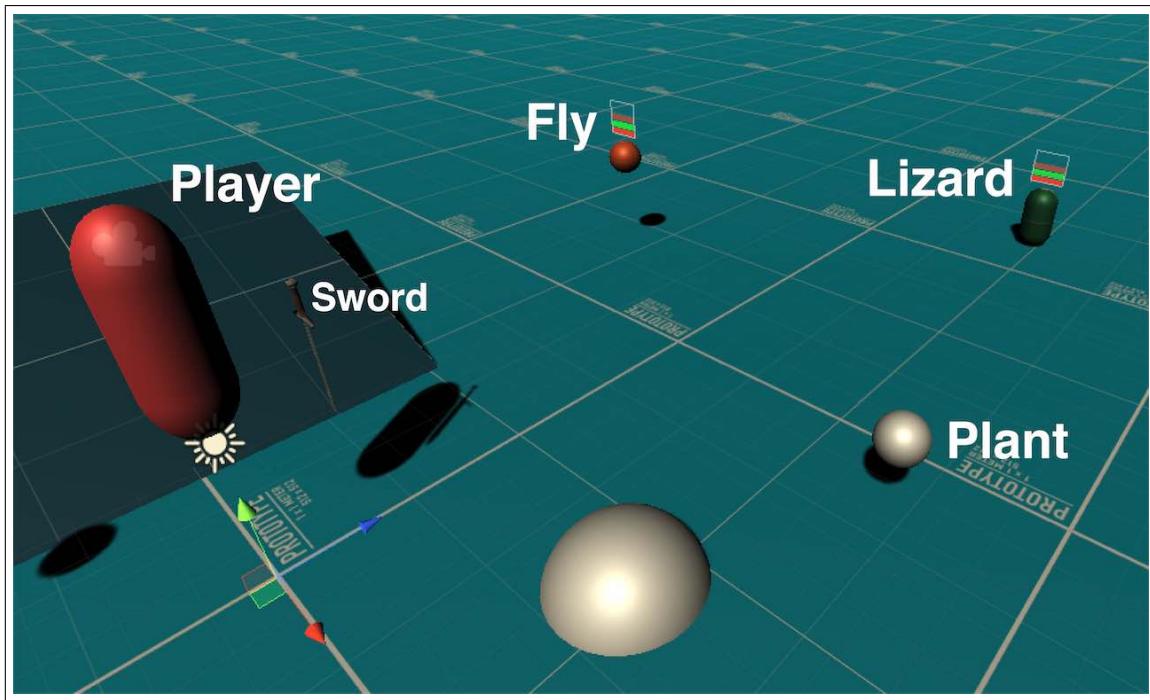


Figure 6.14: Annotated view of Unity Scene

6.3 Main Product

6.3.1 Creatures and AI

Meshes

The meshes of the creatures were changed; a set of animated ice age animal meshes by Riley on itch.io (please see in the asset listing). These were aesthetically pleasing while having a low poly count keeping the file size and performance overhead to a minimum.

The saber-tooth (replacing the lizard in the food chain) had 4 animation states, of which only 3 were required, however the sloth (replacing the fly in the food chain) only had 2 animation states, walk and idle, an additional one for biting was required for when it eats food.

The model was imported into Blender, however the model seemed to have an unnecessary number of bones, most of which did not have an effect to the model. Seeing this, the model had to be rigged again and freshly animated.

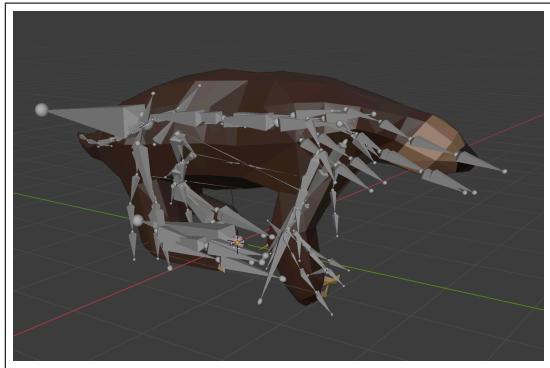


Figure 6.15: Messy Original Sloth Rig

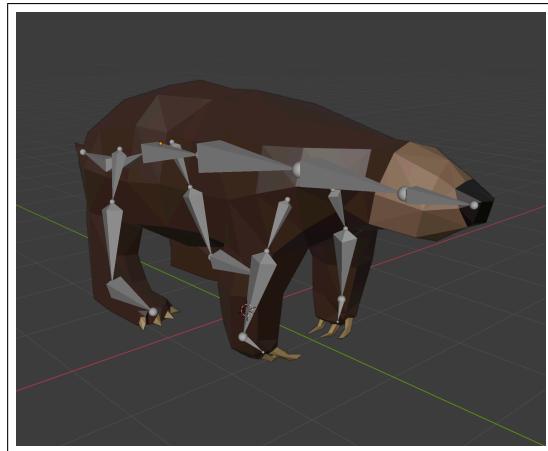


Figure 6.16: Clean New Sloth Rig

The same process was used for animation as the sword but with a higher complexity. As mentioned when creating the sword animation, this time, the different animations were separated into their own action events inside of blender, allowing for easy import into Unity without the need of splitting them on import.

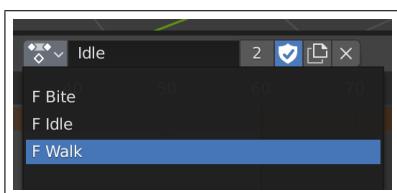


Figure 6.17: Animation Action States in Blender

Clips	Start	End
Armature.001 Bite	0.0	39.0
Armature.001 Idle	0.0	59.0
Armature.001 Walk	0.0	59.0

Figure 6.18: Same Animations on Import in Blender

Class Diagram Updated

The class diagram was updated to add in the Attacks for the lizard enemy, which after finding the meshes was updated to a Sabertooth, the A star game object for the path finding and the food chain game object.

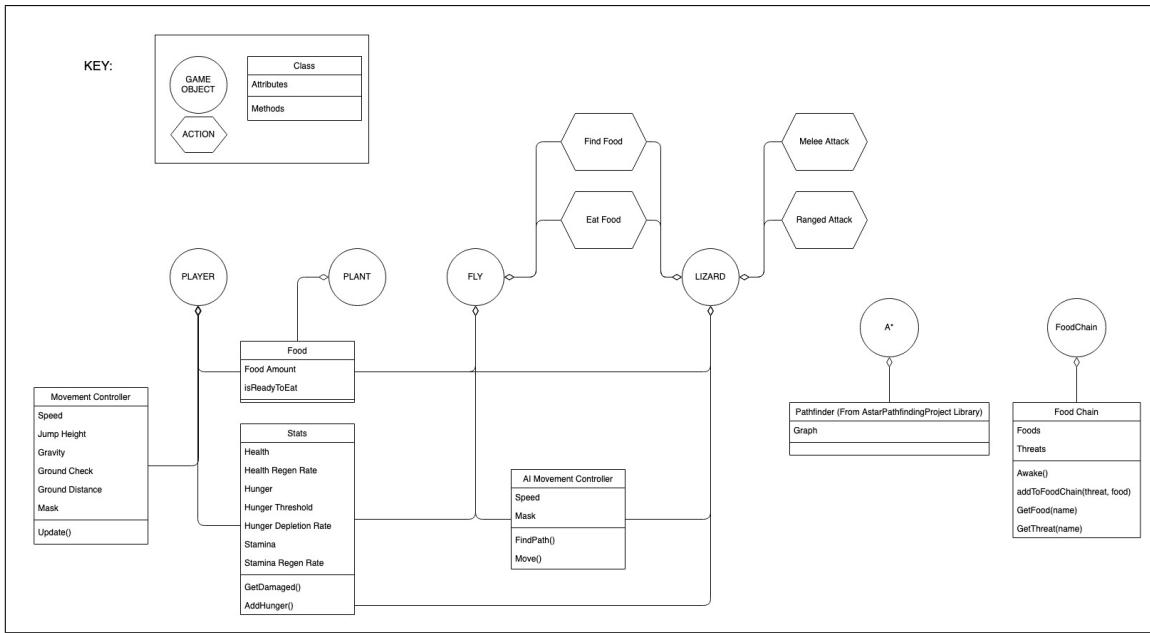


Figure 6.19: Updated Class Diagram

The Food Chain game object is unique in that there is only one required in a scene, and the Find Food action will access it to find out what the state of the food chain is to find food that is appropriate to that creature. Below is the code that is attached to the food chain game object.

On load, it will create a food chain based on the relationships we provide there. There are constant string references to access the names of the creatures in the food chain at any point.

Any game object in the scene can access this food chain and call GetFood(their name) and get the foods that they can eat, and vice versa with what they consider threats.¹

```
// FoodChain.cs : has been abridged to show in report
    // predators
    private Dictionary<String, HashSet<String>> threats = new Dictionary<string,
        ↪ HashSet<string>>();
    // preys
    private Dictionary<String, HashSet<String>> foods = new Dictionary<string,
        ↪ HashSet<string>>();
    // in the awake method create the food Chain
    private void Awake() {
        // Create the food chain
        addToChain("player", "sabertooth");
        addToChain("player", "sloth");
```

¹This was created without the knowledge of Bi-Directional Dictionaries (however is structured similar to one and one might work better), during the final days of this project, an article was found which explains how to create a bi-directional dictionaries using an interface [27].

```

        addToChain("player", "plant");
        addToChain("sabertooth", "player");
        addToChain("sabertooth", "sabertooth");
        addToChain("sabertooth", "sloth");
        addToChain("sloth", "plant");
    }

    private void addToChain(String threat, String food) {
        //add to foods list
        if (foods.ContainsKey(threat))
            foods[threat].Add(food);
        else
            foods.Add(threat, new HashSet<string>() {food});
        // add to threats list
        if (threats.ContainsKey(food))
            threats[food].Add(threat);
        else
            threats.Add(food, new HashSet<string>() {threat});
    }

    // Get the the Set of foods for the given creature
    public HashSet<String> GetFood(String name) {return foods[name];}
    // Get the the Set of threats for the given creature
    public HashSet<String> GetThreat(String name) {return threats[name];}

```

Pathfinding

A path finding system was added (as seen in the updated class diagram) in to facilitate better movement for the AI Agents. The 'A* Pathfinding Project by Aron Granberg' (see asset listings) was used. This is a very well featured and free library that provides the generation of many type of nav meshes, the one used in the game is a 'Grid Graph', which is the 'most straight forward path' and can be updated during runtime if obstacles move, it is not the most performance efficient type of graph as all the nodes in the grid are equidistant from each other, and in a large open space, that amount of detail/resolution in the grid is not required; however for the purposes of this project, this type of graph is more than capable[21].

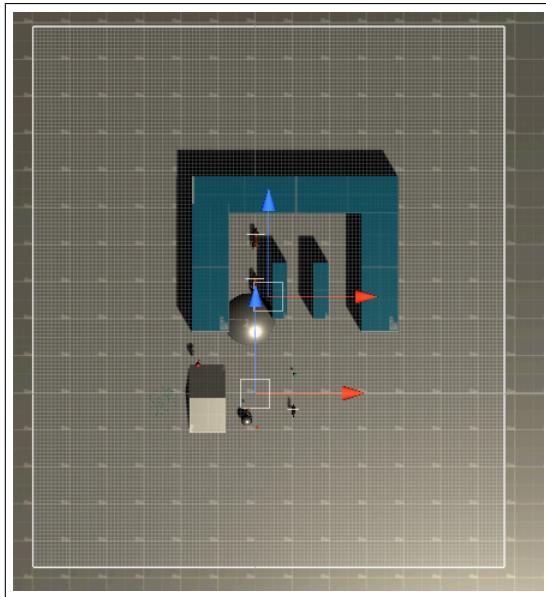


Figure 6.20: A-Star Grid Graph in scene

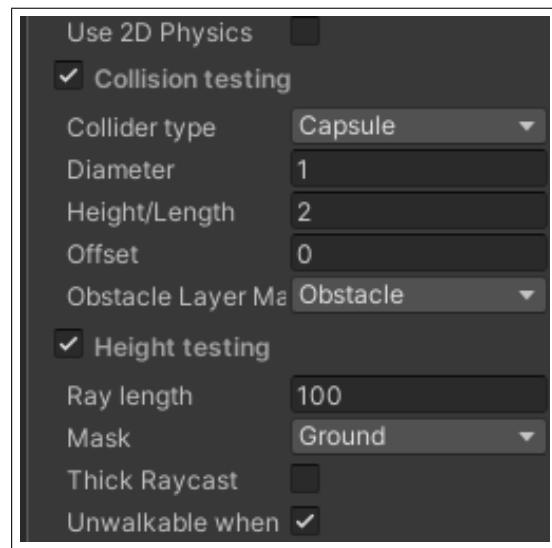


Figure 6.21: Settings for collision testing

In figure 6.20 (left) you can see the graph being scaled appropriately for the level, and in figure 6.21 (right) are the settings for collision testing and removing obstacles as walkable in the nav-graph. Unity provides the ability to assign a layer to game objects. In this case, a layer called **Obstacle** has been applied to the blue boxes seen, so this gets masked out of the scan. As seen in height testing, The **Ground** layer (applied to all grey objects in scene) has been added as the mask to test the height, this avoids any chance of having a floating graph.

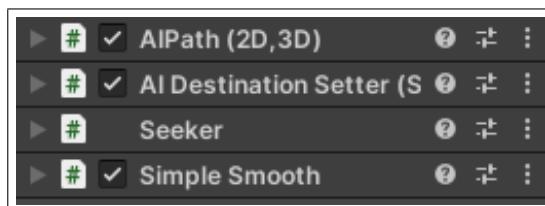


Figure 6.22: Components for Agents to use A Star Pathfinding

Now for the agents to use this graph, a few components provided by the library were attached. As seen in figure 6.22 (above). The **AIPath** contains the movement controller for the agent to move along the discovered path and contains the shape(radius and height) of the agent, to ensure it does not go into the obstacles. The **AI Destination Setter** component contains a **Target** transform property, this is the transform the seeker will use to find a path. The **Seeker** component references this target and traverses the A* Graph to find a possible path, which will be used by the **AIPath** component. **Simple Smooth** is an optional component that takes the path produced by seeker and smoothen it out by a given value.

These set of components are attached to the creatures and the parameters are tweaked accordingly; in this case the smaller prey is faster than the predator, allowing it to flee easier.

Goap AI

The AI system was expanded upon in this build. The action for **Find Food** was refactored to make use of the newly created food chain; changes were also made so that there was a vision cone to what a creature can detect, this is 90° straight in front of the head as seen in the figure below.

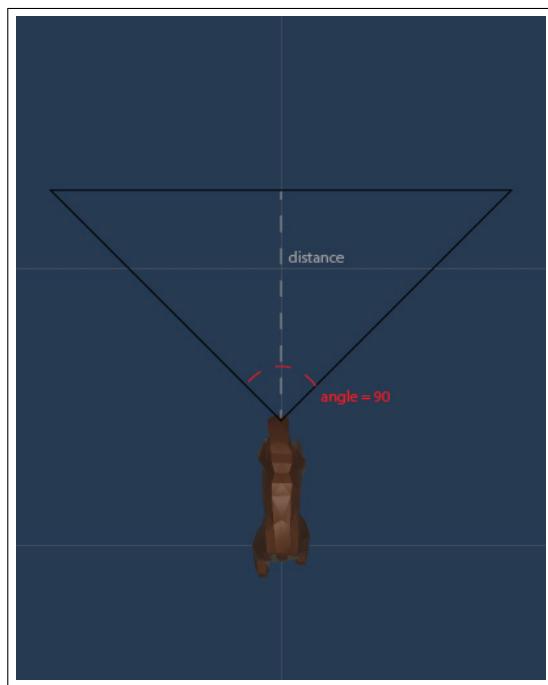


Figure 6.23: Vision Cone Represented

Before this it was a simple distance check and would chase the closest enemy. To implement this vision cone, Unity's built in `Physics.OverlapSphere()` method was used to retrieve all colliders within a certain distance, a layer mask parameter is also used, set to 'Life' to ignore other colliders like the obstacles. Then iterate through these colliders to see whether they are valid food based on the food chain, and pick the closest one from multiple available targets. As mentioned previously, code listings are abridged versions of the ones found in the project.

```
// Action_FindFood.cs -> perform() method
...
// all the colliders in the radius
Collider[] hitColliders = Physics.OverlapSphere(head.position, sphereRadius,
    ↳ lifeLayerMask);
// iterate through colliders
```

```

foreach (Collider collider in hitColliders) {
    // get angle
    Vector3 targetDir = collider.transform.position - head.position;
    float angle = Vector3.Angle(targetDir, head.forward);
    // check the angle
    if (viewAngle < angle) {
        ...
        foreach (var f in validFoods) {
            ...
            // if is a valid food and is closer than the other selected food then
            food = collider.gameObject;
            ...
        }
    }
}

```

Now there is another problem we need to solve, if it cannot find a food in the given vision cone, it will not do anything until something does; to solve this a Roam action was devised, however after attempting to implement it into the system, it was obvious there was no way to interrupt this roam action in mid playback. The solution devised at the time was inspired by a GDC lecture on 'Goal-Oriented Action Planning: Ten Years of AI Programming' by Chris Conway, Peter Higley and Eric Jacopin [32]. In this lecture, Peter Higley mentions to keep GOAP performant, plans should be kept short and logic that can be moved out of the planner into other systems, then it should; based on this a script was created that, when there is no action taking place, it finds a random node on the grid and sets it as the destination in the **AIDestinationSetter** component, while setting can move to true, moving the AI agent towards the random location. At any point in time, if a food target is found, it will take priority and execute an appropriate plan accordingly.

The **Eat Food** action can only be executed now if the food is ready, added as a precondition; to make the food ready, it needs to be killed, and therefore the planner will find and execute the **Melee Attack** attached to the Sabertooth based around the preconditions and effects.

Both these actions were also adjusted slightly to play the animations at the correct moment.

The Creature class from build one was broken down, with less features, into an abstract BaseAIgoap class that inherited the IGoap interface and provided implementation for the methods that log on action complete/fail/etc.; a boolean check was created so that the programmer can disable the logging to the console, as this has a major hit on performance in Unity and also cluttered up the console when multiple agents were active, essentially making it unusable. The **Sabertooth**

and **Sloth** now inherited from this and applied their goal states separately, reducing the coupling and making debugging simpler than when they inherited from a Creature class.

```
// This class inherits IGOAP to provide implementation for methods on finishing the
→ plans.

public abstract class BaseAIGoap : MonoBehaviour, IGoap {
    // if this is true then print output to console
    public bool enableDebugging = true;
    // world state of the agent will be inherited
    public abstract HashSet<KeyValuePair<string, object>> getWorldState();
    // desired goal state of the agent will be inherited
    public abstract HashSet<KeyValuePair<string, object>> createGoalState();
    // implement this method by having a check to print the output or not
    public void planFound(HashSet<KeyValuePair<string, object>> goal, Queue<
        → GoapAction> actions) {
        // found a plan for our goal
        if(enableDebugging)
            Debug.Log(gameObject.name + ": <color=green>Plan found</color> " +
                → GoapAgent.prettyPrint(actions));
    }
    // similar thing applied to following methods
    public void actionsFinished() {...}
    public void planAborted(GoapAction aborter) {...}

    // Move agent exists in IGOAP to move to the object to perform the action
    public abstract bool moveAgent(GoapAction nextAction);
    // this is a method I created which will be different for different agents, it
        → performs all the things to start and stop moving the agent.
    public abstract void StartMoving(bool toMove, Transform target);
}
```

After the adding the pathfinding and the new actions into the game, the agents behaved as expected until **they had not found a target and were hungry**. In this case, the agent would just be in an idle state and not do anything, where it was expected to perform **Find Food** and then **Eat Food**. This was occurring because as the current planning system did not accept partially successful plans (a series of actions that do not fulfill **every** goal state), which was quite unusual as there are many cases where some actions/series of actions do not tick every box, and the correct behaviour in this scenario would be to perform a partial plan if a full plan is not found.

In this particular case, the problem was that **Find Food** did not directly have an effect of **isHungry**.

`gry == null`. This could be mitigated by adding that as an effect of **Find Food**, however this would be lying and would incur in complications and tight coupling further down the line when creating a more complex AI system, where one of the main advantages of GOAP is that it provides a modular, loosely coupled approach to AI.

There were many solutions that came to mind, however most of these lead to heavy refactoring of the AI code, and this was not feasible this late in the development of this project as it would have put a stop on an already tight schedule.

The following is description of the solution that was both a minimal amount of refactoring and provided desirable results in most use cases.

In the **Goap Planner** script, there is a method that is called recursively called `buildGraph()`, which goes through all possible actions and creates a graph of possible plans, it checks if the plan is fully successful by using the `inState()` function; it then compares the *costs* of these plans and picks the lowest cost one.

Based on the above observation, `inState()` had to be somehow changed to let `buildGraph()` know there was a partial match and do something with it. So now `inState()` takes in a boolean by reference called `partial` which is set to true if a partial match is found; and in build graph this is only checked if a full solution was not found.

```
// GoapPlanner.cs
// buildGraph()
.....
Node node = new Node(parent, parent.runningCost + action.cost, currentState, action)
    ↵ ;
partial = false;
// partial gets assigned a value in this call to inState
if (inState(goal, currentState, ref partial)) {
    // a solution is found
    ...
}
// if it is a partial match, then It will scale the cost by 10
else if (partial) {
    // we found a partial solution
    // scale the running cost if it is a partial match, therefore prioritising full
        ↵ matches
    node.runningCost *= 10;
    leaves.Add(node);
    foundOne = true;
}
```

```

else {
    // not at a solution yet, so recursively test all the remaining actions and
    ↪ branch out the tree
    ...
}

.....

```

/**

* Check that all items in 'test' are in 'state'. If just one does not
* match or is not there then this returns false. If it is a partial
* match however, the parameter passed through by reference 'partial'
* will be set to true.

*/

```

private bool inState(HashSet<KeyValuePair<string, object>> test, HashSet<
    ↪ KeyValuePair<string, object>> state, ref bool partialMatch) {
    bool allMatch = true;
    foreach (KeyValuePair<string, object> t in test) {
        bool match = false;
        foreach (KeyValuePair<string, object> s in state) {
            if (s.Equals(t)) {
                match = true;
                // if there is a single match, partial match will be set to true
                partialMatch = true;
                break;
            }
        }
        if (!match)
            allMatch = false;
    }
    return allMatch;
}

```

Ragdolls

When destroyed, there was no state for the creatures to be in, so it was decided that ragdolls would be fun to allow the player to move the body around using the physics based collisions on the sword and the crossbow weapons, and it would also provide a clear indicator that the creature is dead. This adds another level of player interaction into the game world.

Unity has a built-in ragdoll creator, however that only works on humanoids with the appropriate bone structure (for the armatures), so it had to be done manually for each creature. A YouTube

tutorial was used to understand what components were required on what to achieve this effect.

[24]

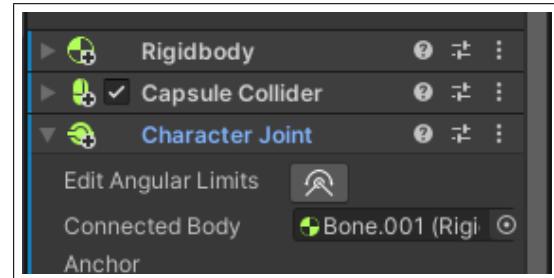
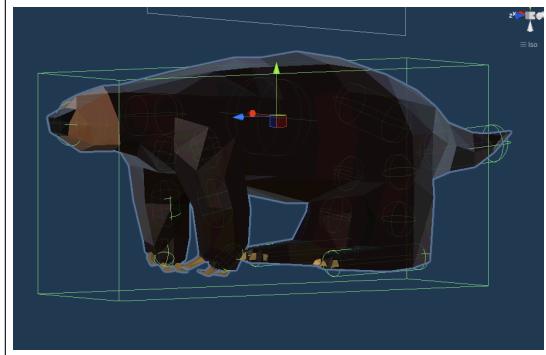


Figure 6.25: Rigidbody, Collider and Character

Figure 6.24: Colliders on the Creature in Green Joint applied to bones in the armature.

There are two groups of colliders applied to the creatures, one is a box collider which is active when the creature is alive, allows simple physics interaction and the player's weapons; the second group are the capsule colliders applied to the necessary joints in the character, a character joint needs to be applied to every child node to tell Unity what bone it is attached to. Both these groups cannot be activated at the same time as overlapping colliders causes rigidbody physics to misbehave.

A Ragdoll Toggle script was created which enables and disables the appropriate colliders.

```
// storing the colliders when the game object is loaded
private void Start(){
    boxCollider = GetComponent<BoxCollider>();
    childrenColliders = GetComponentsInChildren<Collider>();
    childrenRigidbodies = GetComponentsInChildren<Rigidbody>();
}

// method that and enables/disables appropriate colliders
public void EnableRagdoll(bool isActive) {
    // children colliders
    foreach (var collider in childrenColliders) {
        collider.enabled = isActive;
    }
    // children rigidbody
    foreach (var rigidbody in childrenRigidbodies) {
        rigidbody.detectCollisions = isActive;
        rigidbody.isKinematic = !isActive;
    }
    // parent
```

```

        animator.enabled = !isActive;
        boxCollider.enabled = !isActive;
        aiComponent.enabled = !isActive;
    }

    // this is later called in Stats.cs when a creature dies
    private void Death() {
        if (isThereRagdoll) {
            ragdoll.EnableRagdoll(true);
        }
    }
}

```

Particle Effects

Particle Effects were added to improve the presentation value of the game, as well as providing visual feedback to the player that they have damaged another creature or are eating the other creature.

On applying damage via the Stats component, blood particles are spawned, and these blood particles are specified per creature, allowing for different particle effects per enemy type.

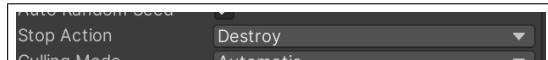
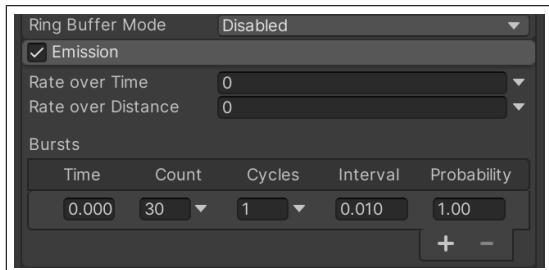


Figure 6.27: Destroy Instance on stop

Figure 6.26: Burst Emission of Particles

For now there one set of blood particles for all enemies. They are set to do a single burst of 30 particles at the beginning, and reduce their size over their lifetime to 0, and when the particle has finished, it will destroy itself. The system has been designed so that new particles for each specific enemy can be added; this has been put to use in the particles for eating.

A similar system was created when a creature or the player eat another creature. Two different materials were created for this, brown particles for eating a flesh based enemy, and green particles for plant based foods, these can be applied per creature, so it is very flexible to replace particles for different enemies.

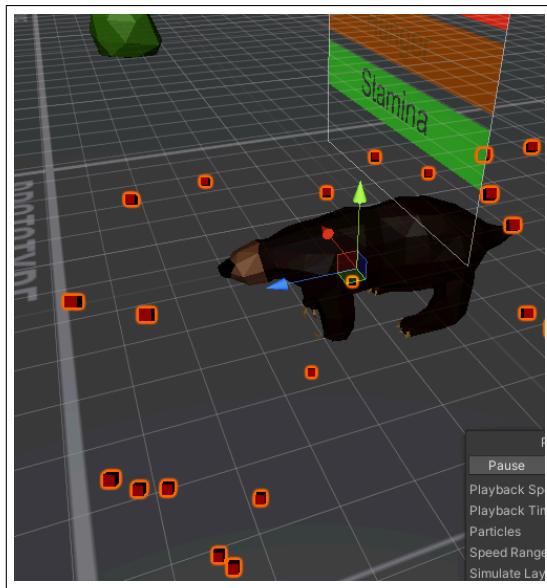


Figure 6.28: Blood Particles

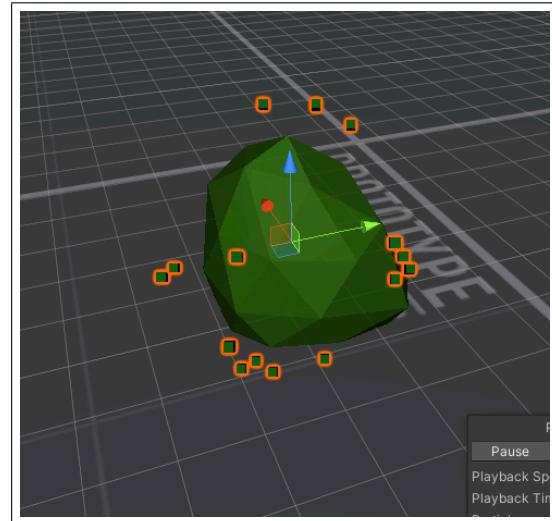


Figure 6.29: Food Particles for Plant

6.3.2 Player

Eating

The ability to eat other creatures was added. This was done by sending a thick ray cast (Sphere Cast in Unity) from the center of the camera's view point to check for any collisions, if this ray cast collides with an entity within the 'Life' layer, and it is ready to eat, the player will be able to press 'E' to eat the food. A HUD element was created to represent the player's ability to interact with the creatures.

```
...
RaycastHit hit; // the point of contact
if (Physics.SphereCast(origin, thickness, direction, out hit, maxDistance,
    ↪ lifeLayerMask)) {
    ...
    if (hit.transform.root.GetComponent<FoodStats>().isReadyToEat) {
        if (Input.GetKeyDown(KeyCode.E)) { // press E
            stats.AddFoodAmount(hit.transform.root.GetComponent<FoodStats>().
                ↪ foodAmount); // add food
            hit.transform.root.GetComponent<FoodStats>().DepleteTotalFoodAmount(hit.
                ↪ transform.position, hit.transform.rotation); // deplete from prey
                ↪ and spawn particles
        }
    }
    ...
}
```

...

Weapons

Two colliders were attached to the sword, a box collider to interact with other physics objects; and a mesh collider that conforms around the sword, which behaves as a trigger with no physics interaction. In Unity, when a "GameObject collides with another GameObject, it calls **OnTriggerEnter**" [22].

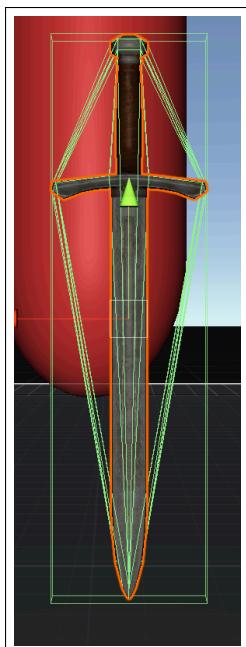


Figure 6.30: Box and Mesh collider in scene.

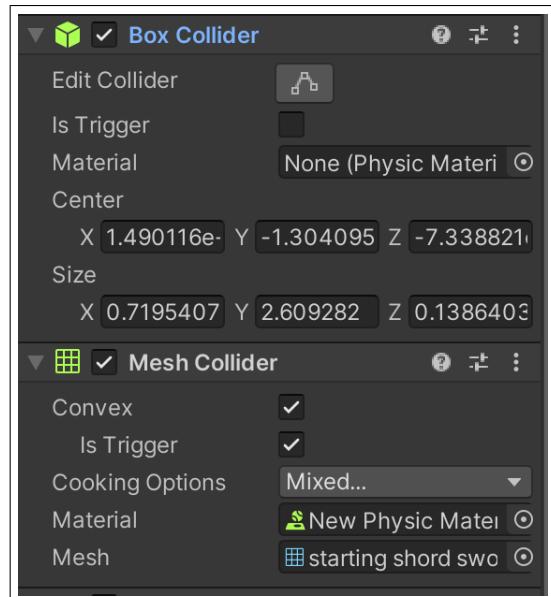


Figure 6.31: Box and Mesh Colliders in the inspector.

When the sword is in a state of attack, there is check in this collision whether it has collided with a game object with a life layer, and apply the damage value to the Stats component that exists on every creature.

```
// on Trigger Enter method, other is a parameter of type Collider
other.gameObject.GetComponent<Stats.Stats>().ApplyDamage(attackDamage, other.bounds.
    ↪ center, other.transform.rotation);

// Apply damage method in Stats.cs
public void ApplyDamage(float damage, Vector3 centerPosition, Quaternion rotation) {
    health -= damage;
    SpawnBloodParticles(centerPosition, rotation);
}
```

```
// spawning the particles on hit
public void SpawnBloodParticles(Vector3 centerPosition, Quaternion rotation) {
    Instantiate(bloodParticle, centerPosition, rotation);
}
```

The ranged weapon ended up being a crossbow that the player can hold right-click to charge up the velocity at which it is release. A model was found on Turbosquid (see asset listing). This was imported into Blender, and the crossbow and arrow were exported out as two different objects, allowing it to be manipulated separately in Unity.

This crossbow and arrow model were placed inside an empty called **RightHand** together and placed in the appropriate position in front of the player. An **arrow** prefab was created that contained the model of the arrow, a box collider, and a script attached to it to **ApplyDamage** on collision with an enemy creature similar to the sword. A script component was attached to the **RightHand** that instantiates an **arrow** prefab and give it a velocity. This was then adjusted to increase the velocity the longer the player holds down right-click up until a maximum velocity, and on release of the mouse button, the arrow gets released from the center of the camera view forwards. A GUI element was added (later refined) to screen space canvas which represents the velocity at which the arrow will be released.



Figure 6.33: Crossbow in game view with GUI

Figure 6.32: Crossbow and arrow in the scene view

6.3.3 Health

When the PDD was created, the health was planned to be refilled using a collectible health resource which both the player and the creatures can pickup; however during development a better idea was formed. The health regeneration would be tied with the hunger, any excess food

the agents or the player eats (excess being over 100) will refill the health for the creature/player. This encourages the player to interact with the game's core system of the food-chain and get into interesting gameplay for more food; an example of an interesting gameplay situation is the player observing that two predators are attacking each other, so to stay out of their vision cone range until they have depleted each-others health to a low amount and finish both off and eat the food. This system is similar to that found in Minecraft [28], where when the player's hunger is above/at max, the health will be regenerated.

6.3.4 Stamina

The stamina system that was created in build one of the 'Stats' component was being put into use now. The player swinging the sword would cost 15 points of stamina, and the regeneration rate is very slow at 2 points per second, with a total limit of 100. The player firing the crossbow would not cost any stamina; to add further distinction between the crossbow and sword, the sword does 50 damage per hit, potentially taking out an enemy in two hits, and the arrow does 10 damage per hit.

This allows for gameplay decisions that the player can make based on their situation, whether to get close, risk getting hurt, but taking the target/s out in 2 hits, or stay at range, spend time aiming and charging the crossbow to fire a weaker shot, low risk, but lower damage hence taking longer to kill the target. The player can also run the risk of getting close, missing the sword swings and being out of stamina with only the crossbow to hit with. It is an interesting trade-off that the player will have to think about.

This was a successful implementation of a small aspect of the type of combat Dark Souls offers (as mentioned in the PDD, this is one of the inspirations for this project).

6.3.5 Hunger

The hunger for all creatures including the player depletes at a constant, albeit low rate; this simply simulates how in real life creatures get hungry over time, the different actions they have are directly tied into the level of hunger they are at, if they are below the threshold they will plan and perform actions to take that number above the threshold.

As mentioned before, the health is now tied into hunger, making it a necessity for the creatures to be above max hunger to refill their health.

6.3.6 User Interface changes

The screen space UI/Heads up display was barren at this point, only including the charge bar for the crossbow. As seen in the PDD and the introduction, the souls-like genre is an influence on this project, based on this, the Head was inspired from the games in that genre[25].



Figure 6.34: Heads up display in Dark Souls

The placement for the health(1) and stamina(2) were used for the health, hunger and stamina bar in this project. As there was no currency in this project, the Souls Possessed(3) positioning is replaced with the charge meter of the crossbow, leaving the bottom left and top right blank.

In the figures below, you can see the sketch for the UI created in Adobe Illustrator and then the implementation of it inside of Unity. The indication to pick up items pops up in the center of the bottom of the screen, which in this project was moved out of the way adjacent the bars on the top left.

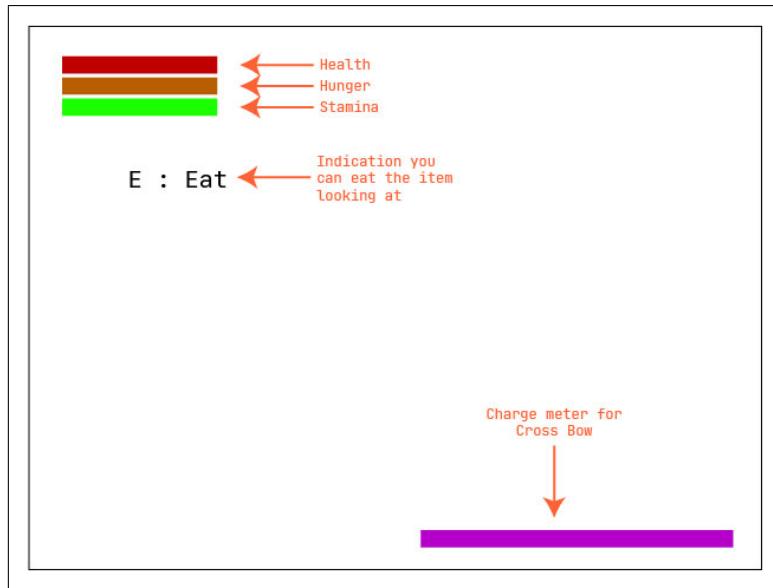


Figure 6.35: Sketch of Player HUD UI

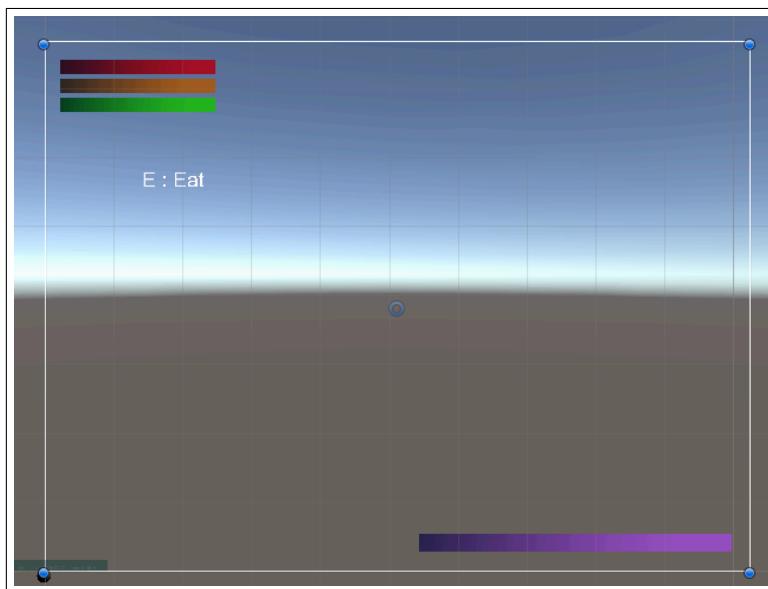


Figure 6.36: Implementation of the Player's HUD in Unity.

6.3.7 Level Creation

These different game systems were being created and tested on the level seen in figure 6.20. After all the systems were created, a larger level was created to accommodate multiple enemies. The main elements of the level were modeled in Blender, then unpacked with a texture applied in Unity; for the pathfinding algorithm to detect these as obstacles, the “Obstacle” layer was applied to these objects. The stairs were built inside of Unity’s ProBuilder, it has a tool to auto generate stairs with custom properties, like the curve added. The creatures and plant were

placed in random places, they all use the same prefab so changing the components in one, will change it in other instances of that game object.

For the objectives of this project, a win state is not necessary, there is however a death state for the player, when the player's life has been depleted, they will respawn, which is the scene is reloaded and the world state is reset to the beginning.

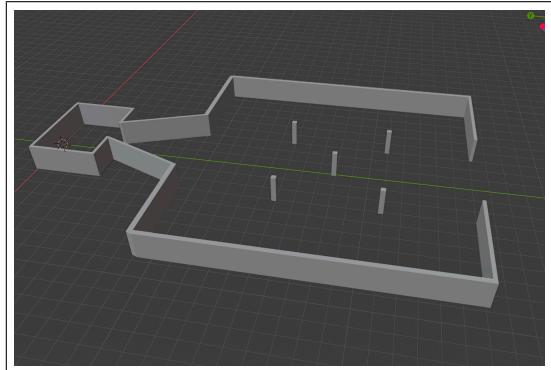


Figure 6.37: Level Modelled inside of Blender

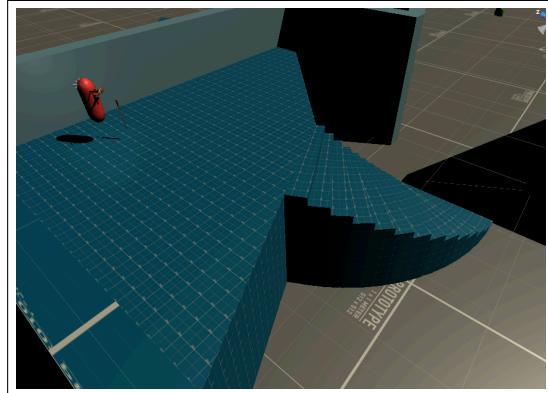


Figure 6.38: Stairs modelled in ProBuilder inside of Unity

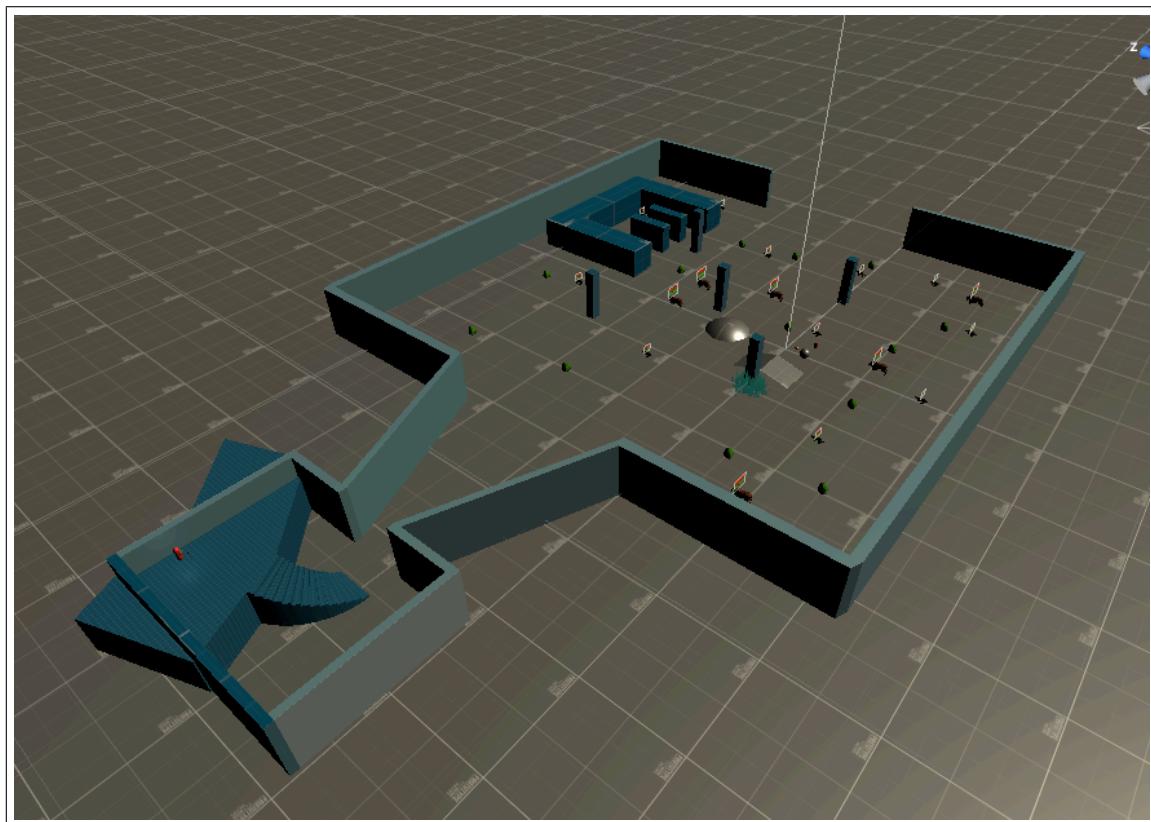


Figure 6.39: Level in Unity

Chapter 7

Conclusion and Discussion

The author will be referring to himself as I in this section for better clarity.

This project was overall a success, it achieved most of the objectives set out and was a great learning experience.

I have now a deeper understanding of GOAP and other AI techniques, I understand more how to have autonomous agents interact with each other in a video game.

One thing I learnt that will carry onto future projects is the compositional design paradigm. In the past I would build my programs around inheritance, however after learning about composition, there are many instances, for example in a game, where this design pattern applies much better.

The only game engines I had used before were the ones provided by City university: City Engine in Java, and a variety of low level C++ engines using OpenGL. These engines were enough for the scale of the projects at the time, and for the purposes of the modules, however using them for fully fledged games can be very tricky as they lack many necessary features. Choosing to use Unity for this project was a great decision as it provided me with all the functionality I require, while being generic enough to allow me to create a game in this genre. The large Unity community, as mentioned before, was a great deal of help, whenever there was anything I did not know about it, a simple google search would lead me to the forums or documentation where most of the answers could be found.

Unity uses C#, which is a language I had not used prior to this project; it was pretty simple to pick up as it is syntactically similar to Java and in the C family of languages, both of which I have prior experience with.

Animation work is something I had not attempted before this project, it was not necessary for

this project, however, to provide a well presented program as my final output, and to use the knowledge in future projects, I deemed it necessary to have some nice animations. I learnt the animation system inside of Unity and how to utilise that to transition/interpolate between different animation states dynamically, and how to create these animation states within Blender.

7.1 Objectives Retrospective

This section will go through the many objectives set out in the introduction and do a brief retrospective on their success.

The main goal for this project, to use GOAP AI techniques to achieve interaction between different AI agents was a success, as can be seen in the demonstration, the creatures attack each other, flee from each other, and use them as resources to re-fill their hunger. Given more time, the depth to which these creatures interact with each other can be greatly increase using something like the stealth system described in the later section.

I am satisfied with meshes used for the different creatures, they provided a consistent low-poly/cartoon style to them, while also being easy to later create new creatures myself as this style is easier to model over something going for realism. The animations are also something I am very happy with, when expanding on this project, more animation states will have to be created and transitions will have to be implemented inside of Unity's animator controller for each individual creature.

As it stands, the player is dual-wielding weapons, with a sword in one hand, and a cross bow in the other, this works great for this demo, and the physics interaction using the ragdolls applied to the creatures is very fun to play around with, however having two weapons on screen at the same time can be very obtrusive on the display; some type of weapon switching system would reduce this visual obstruction and could provide interesting game play opportunity as the player has to be more deliberate with what weapon they have equipped, as changing weapons would cost time and that time loss can cause them taking damage from enemies.

An extra resource can be created that the player can use to create arrows from, and they can hold only a finite number of arrows, having another system for the player to be engaged in.

In terms of the UI for the game, I am quite happy with how it turned out inside of Unity; there is plenty information for the player, based on which they can make their moment-to-moment game play choices. One thing I would change is the UI on top of the creatures, I would make the colour full bars displaying their statistics smaller and would only make them appear when

the player is targeting them (or looking at them). The player's HUD runs the issue of not scaling appropriately to different resolutions, which is something that could definitely be improved in a future build.

The level created to present this game was created in a very short period of time and does not contain well placed enemies; it is the only objective I would say was not a success. The objective had been simplified during the time from the PDD to the Introduction chapter of this project, however it is not a great level to play, examining it from the lens of a video game player. If there was more time that could be dedicated to this project, creating at least 1 decent level, that can present the game systems in a better way would be up on the list.

7.2 Work and time-management

A gannt chart was created before setting off on this project to manage the my time wisely. As the objectives changed, the some items on the gannt chart were replaced with other features, and time spent on it was readjusted. As development of the project went, time time allocated to the AI was quite an underestimated as the complexity of the task was much larger than expected and there were many other elements that also took time as explained in the Results|Creatures and AI.

There was another module running along side this project, and the weeks closer to the presentation deadline for this module were dedicated more to that than this project; this was also an underestimate from the PDD as I expected to only work Thursday's and weekends on that module.

As the version control system used was Git with GitHub, I have a comprehensive contribution graph which display the commit activity over time (this is based around the size and number of commits), this graph can be seen below.



Figure 7.1: Contribution Graph as found on GitHub

7.3 Further Improvements

Changing the GOAP system to have multiple groups of goal states as described in this GDC Lecture [32]. This would allow multiple *groups of goals* to be considered and would be a better solution to completing plans that partially satisfy the desired world state than the solution I had implemented in chapter 6.3.

Better target detection by the AI could be implemented; as it stands it is a very basic vision cone which has 2 states, inside-outside/detected-not detected; this can be replaced with a transition between these states as seen in many stealth games, where the awareness of the AI slowly heightens the longer the target is in the field of view.

More actions could be created for the enemies, allowing them more to do, a ranged attack was planned, however it had to be dropped due to time. This would be quite simple to implement by using the *Melee Attack Action* as a template and having requires in range be false.

New creatures could be created, the food chain is very flexible on adding new creatures at different levels on the food chain.

7.4 Final Words

This has been a great project to work on, and a really eye-opening learning experience and I thank City University for allowing me to work on this project.

Chapter 8

Glossary

8.1 AI

An acronym for Artificial Intelligence; in the context of this project, it refers to 'Game AI' which is different to 'Academic AI'.

8.2 the *Author*

Any reference to 'The Author' is referring to Aum Patel, the author of this project, this is used to avoid using a first person reference 'I' as much as possible as advised by the module leaders.

8.3 Collider

A component that can be applied to a GameObject in Unity that defines the Physics/Trigger bounding box.

8.4 ECS

A design pattern, Unity promotes the usage of this design pattern. Do not confuse this with DOTS/ECS, which is Unity's new way of moving fully away from object orientation to a more Data Oriented Technology Stack (DOTS), this project does not make use of Unity's DOTS in any form.

8.5 GameObject / game object

A game object entity in the context of the Unity game engine.

8.6 GOAP

An acronym that refers to Goal Oriented Action Planning, first implemented in games by Jeff Orkin for the video game F.E.A.R. [8]

8.7 In-fighting

In-fighting is combat between two autonomous AI agents.

8.8 PDD

Referring to the Project Definition Document found in appendix A.

8.9 Ragdoll

"Ragdoll physics is a type of procedural animation used by physics engines, which is often used as a replacement for traditional static death animations in video games and animated films." [33]

8.10 Rigidbody

A component that can be applied to a GameObject in Unity that allows it to interact with physics.

8.11 Unity

The Unity Game Engine.

Chapter 9

Asset Listing

Note: If any assets are not listed here and belong to others, please notify me (the author) and they will be referenced appropriately, there is no intention to present a third-party's work as my own as evident from this asset listing and well sized references section.

9.1 Fonts

Name : **JetBrains Mono**

Usage : Mono-Space font used for this document.

Link : <https://www.jetbrains.com/lp/mono/>

Licence : SIL Open Font License 1.1

9.2 Models

3D Models would include their textures and materials.

Name : **3D Low Poly Trees Grass and Rocks Lite**

Usage : The bush object used as a mesh for the plant objects in the scene.

Link : <https://www.turbosquid.com/3d-models/3d-assets-tree-grass-rocks-1498368>

Licence : Turbosquid - 3D Model License Standard

Name : **stylized crossbow 3D model**

Usage : Used as the Cross Bow weapon that the player uses to shoot arrows

Link : <https://www.turbosquid.com/3d-models/stylized-prop-3d-model-1711570>

Licence : Turbosquid - 3D Model License Standard

Name : **Starter Short Sword 3D**

Usage : Used as the Sword weapon that the player uses to melee attack enemies

Link : <https://www.turbosquid.com/3d-models/worn-sword-3d-1408587>

Licence : Turbosquid - 3D Model License Standard

Name : **Low Poly Ice Age**

Usage : Models and animations used for Creatures

Link : <https://rkuhlf-assets.itch.io/ice-age>

Licence : Creative Commons Zero v1.0 Universal

9.3 Textures

Name : **Gridbox Prototype Materials**

Usage : Prototype Materials for ground, walls and other miscellaneous objects in game.

Link : <https://assetstore.unity.com/packages/2d/textures-materials/gridbox-prototype-materials-129127>

Licence : Unity - Extension Asset

9.4 Code

Name : **A* Pathfinding Project**

Usage : Library used for A* pathfinding and navigation for AI agents

Link : <https://arongranberg.com/astar/>

Licence : Commercial - using the free version

Name : **sploreg/goap**

Usage : The Goal Oriented Action Planning system used, has been changed slightly by me.

Link : <https://github.com/sploreg/goap>

Licence : MIT License

Any other code that has been used from elsewhere has been manipulated and is documented in the code and references are made in this document when mentioning it.

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