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Project 3

User Guide

Download the zipped folder and extract the code to a user accessible folder (i.e. `c:\Users\<UserName>\Desktop`). This guide was developed using VSCode as the IDE. I will focus on use from within that IDE, but all methods can be implemented in other tools. Once the code is extracted, open the folder in VSCode.

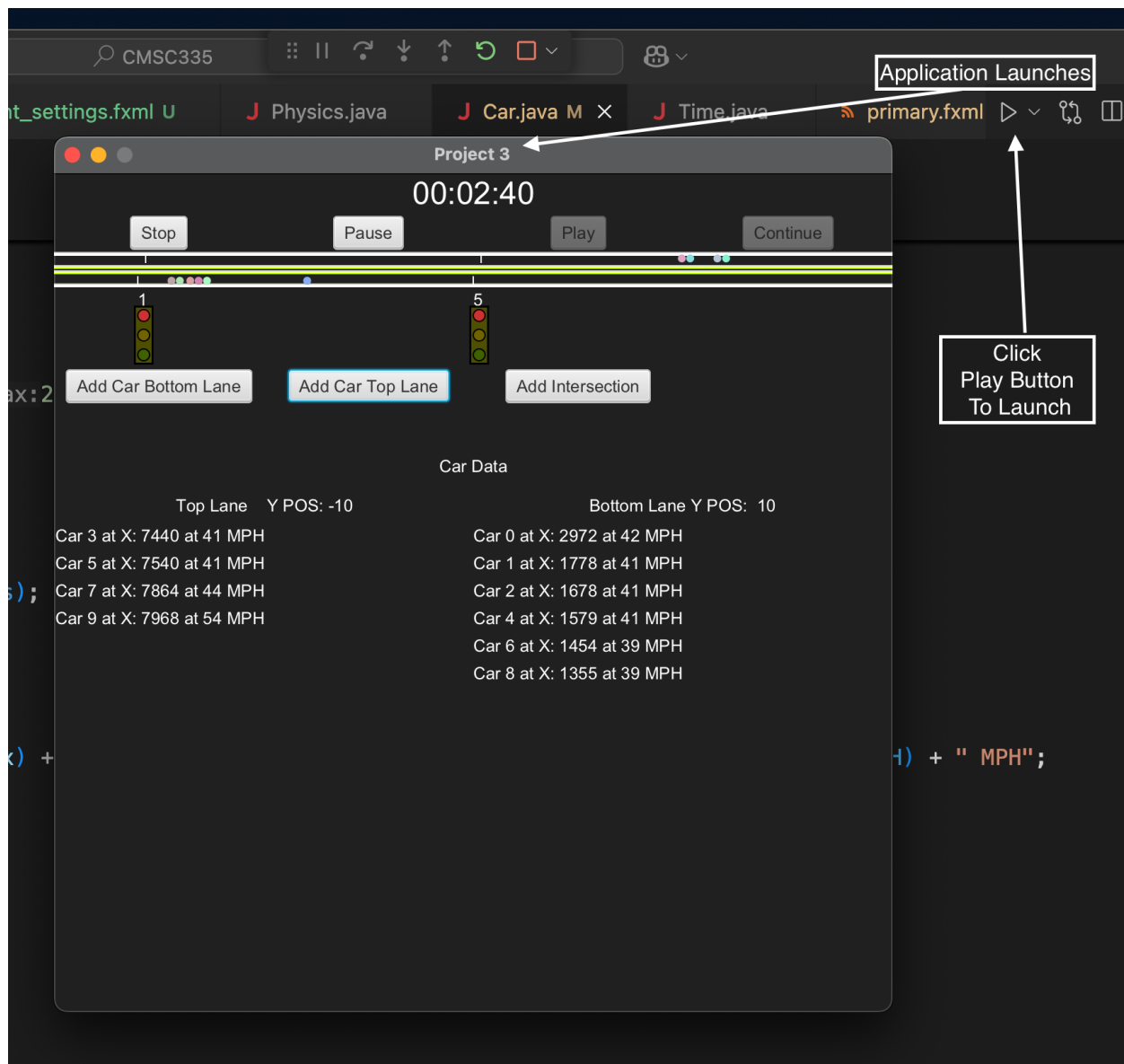
Once opened, install the Extension Pack for Java (v0.29.0) extension. The environment utilized to create and test this project is below.

- Mac macOS 12.7.6
- Java Open-JDK : 21.0.6

You can select the play button on the top right of VSCode to start the project and select project 3 from the bar at the top if asked, see the image below.

Figure 1

Starting project in VSCode



Simulation Design

I chose to create this simulation using only a few threads. The main thread, the UI thread, a time keeping thread, and a physics thread. The time and physics threads operate using the observer pattern. The timekeeper thread sends out notifications on the second. The physics thread operates on 16ms intervals, giving a physics update of roughly 60 frames per second. Each physics listener is notified every tick and they will perform their physics calculations, collision checks, and intersection polling then send their UI updates to the UI thread for

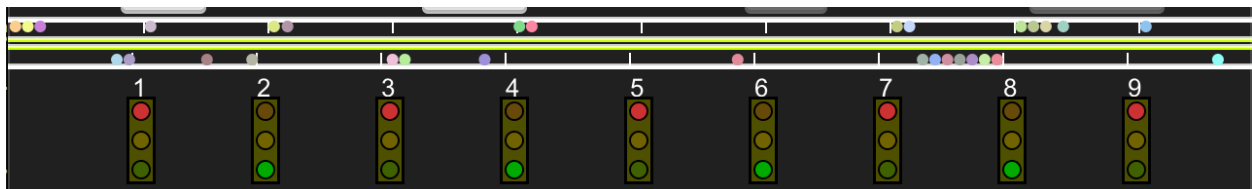
processing. The road in my simulation covers 10,000 meters (6.22 miles), possibly giving the appearance the cars are slow.

Cars can be added to a lane heading left to right (bottom) or right to left (top). Cars will get a random speed assigned at instantiation between 35 and 55 MPH. They will look ahead in their lane to locate the next vehicle and poll it per physics calculation to determine if they need to slow down to avoid collision. Cars will also poll the next intersection to determine if the light is red. I added the ability to allow the application to add cars on a random interval in a random direction. This can be toggled by a checkbox in the UI.

Lights are physics objects as well. They required a fine-tuned constant time that was not aligned with seconds. Using physics delta time to calculate time since last light change, the lights are able to operate on any time scale. Light timings can be adjusted by double clicking and editing the timings. A light can be removed by right clicking on it or in the setting menu by clicking the remove button. Lights will be added with a pattern that tries to half a section. The pattern is 5, 1, 9, 3, 7, 4, 6, 2, 8 with these numbers aligning to the lights in the image. If a light is removed and a new one added, the new light will be added to the first available slot in the pattern above.

Figure 2

Light numberings to show matchup of next to be enabled



Assumptions

- The road is not to scale. Lane width is magnitudes larger to allow for the huge cars that allow users to see the simulation. The length of the road is 10,000 meters and the road is 640 pixels, making one pixel roughly 16 meters. This means a car moving at 35 miles per hour will travel ~ 0.261 meters per frame, at times it may appear cars are not moving at low speeds they may need several frames to move one pixel.
- Cars are not to scale, the scale is so users can see them, they would be almost 100 meters long at this scale
- Cars maintain a 100-meter distance, unrealistic but this prevents them from appearing to occupy the same space at the same time
- Cars can start and stop without G forces or Earth based physics applied

Usage

Launch the application in your editor. Once the application is running the simulation will be in a stopped state. Press the play button to start the simulation. By default, the simulation will add cars automatically. You can press the add car to “X” lane button to add cars to the road manually. You can disable the auto add feature by clicking the Auto Add checkbox, shown below.

Figure 3

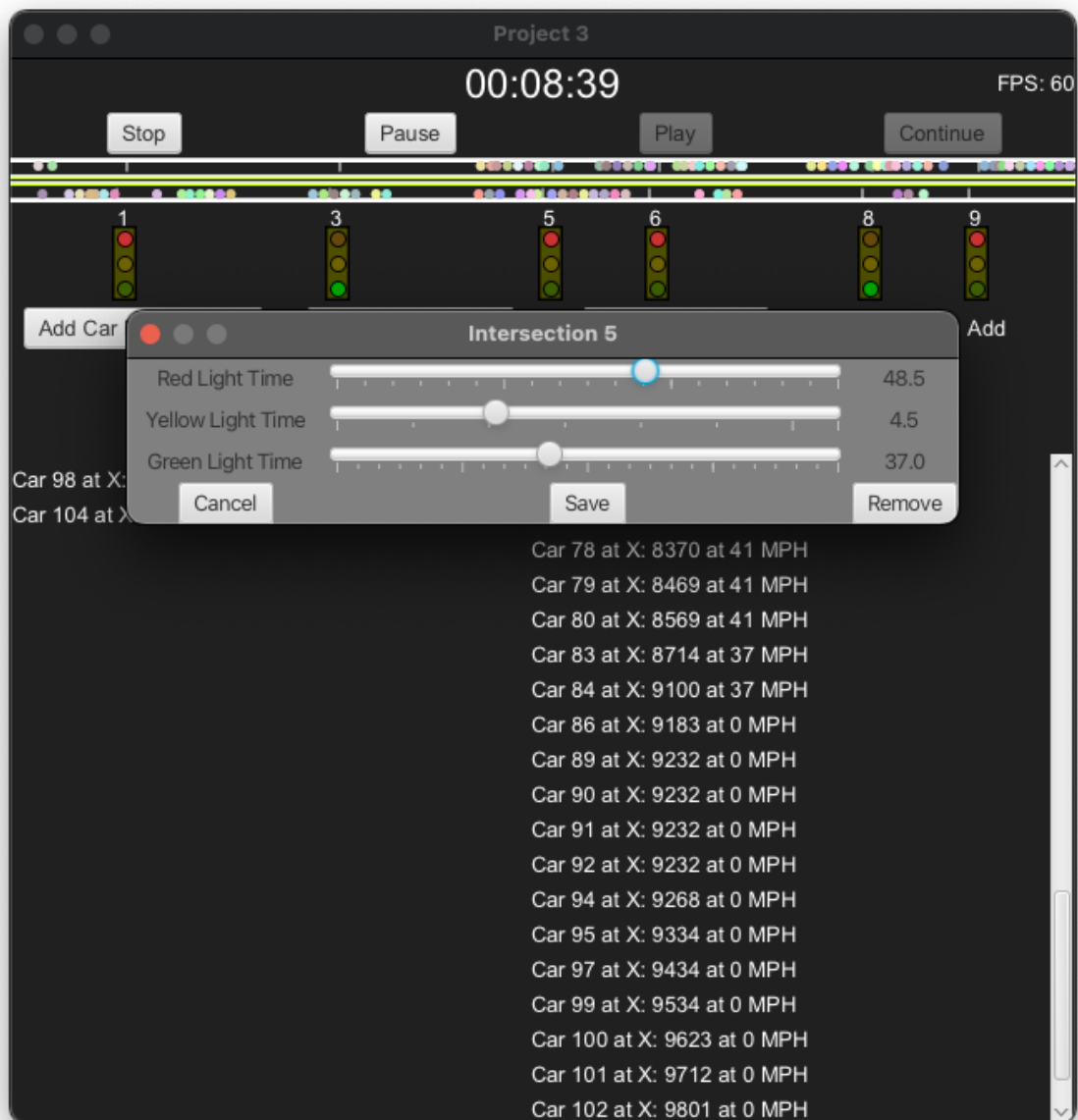
Menu buttons to modify simulation entities



You can add up to 9 intersections to the simulation with the add intersection button. To remove an intersection, right click it or you can also remove it using the settings menu. If you wish to edit an intersection's light timing, double click on the light.

Figure 4

Editing an intersection light timing



Note: The simulation above is running six lights and over 100 cars and while maintains 60 frames per second.

The controls for the simulation allow users to Play, Pause, Continue or Stop the simulation. The following are the definitions for this applications buttons:

- Play – Starts a new simulation from a stopped state; all data is new.
- Pause – Halt the timing and physics of a simulation maintaining all the data
- Continue – Only from a pause state! Resumes the simulation from where it was paused.
- Stop – Reset the simulation, erasing all the data.

Figure 5

Simulation currently running, only pause and stop are available

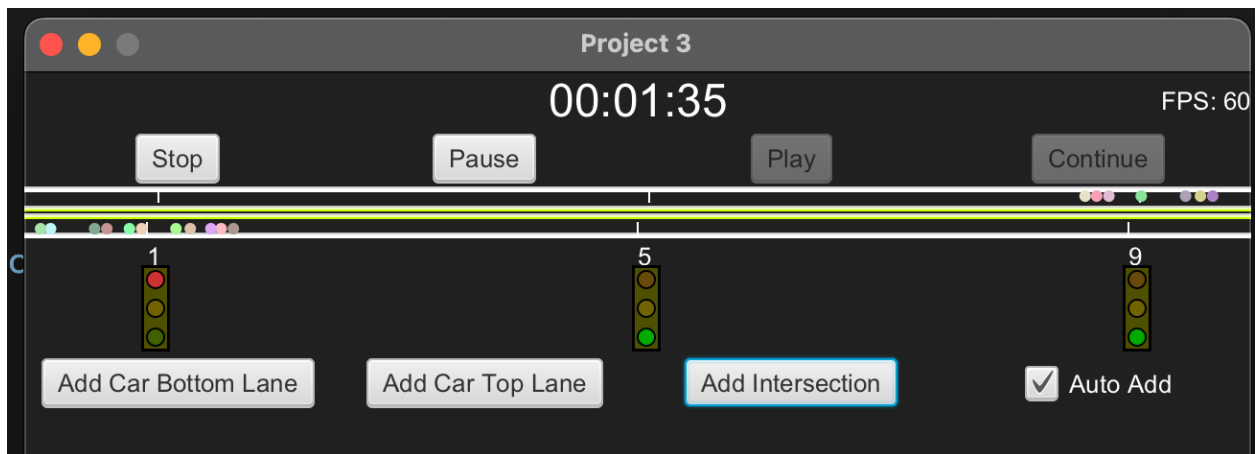
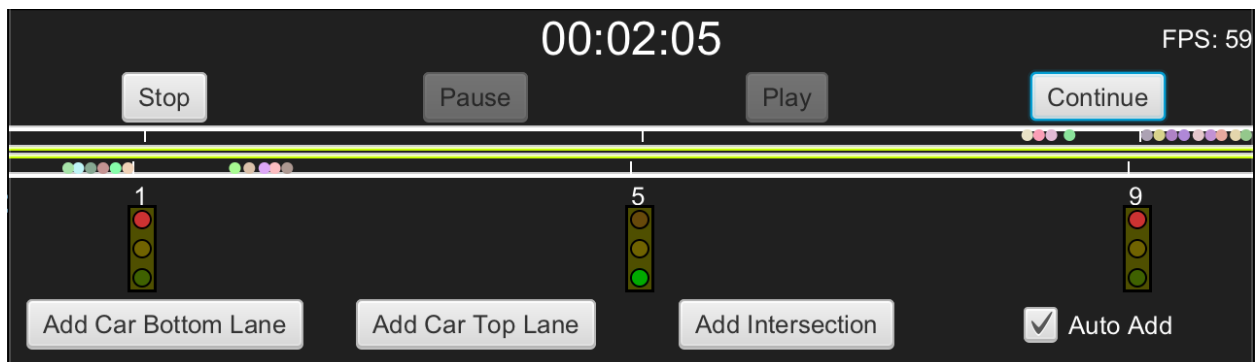


Figure 6

Simulation in pause state, notice the enabled buttons (continue and stop)

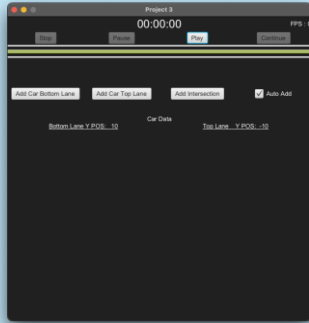
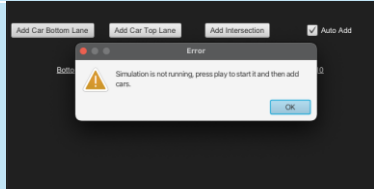


Test Plan

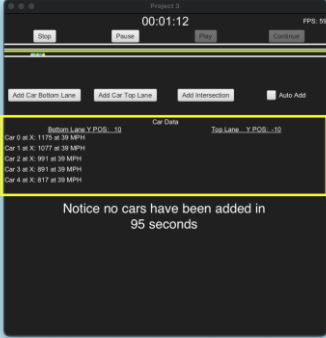
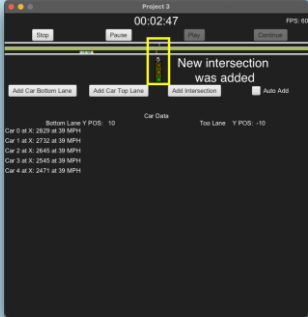
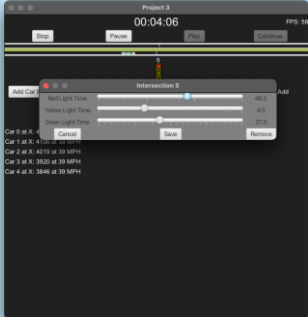
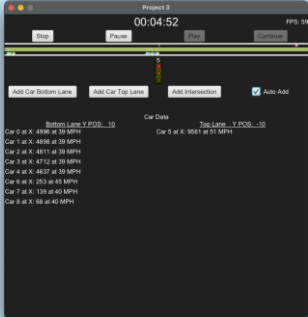
Due to the interactive nature of this application, I chose to do the testing manually. I tried to assist the user during the design process and stop them from having the ability to perform improper actions. In the testing notice that some cases are there to show that the blocking worked, whether disabling buttons when in a specific state or using modals to lock the user into a specific set of actions. For timing tests, I changed the light timing and snapped a screenshot when the light changed and waited for the specified time and snapped another screenshot. In these cases, I did the math for my situation and placed it in the description.

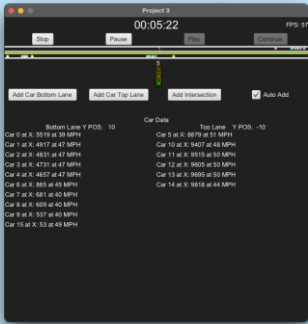
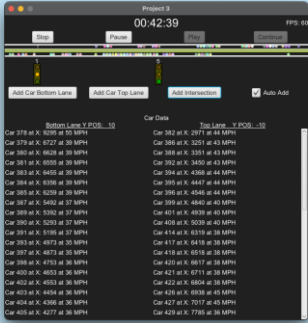
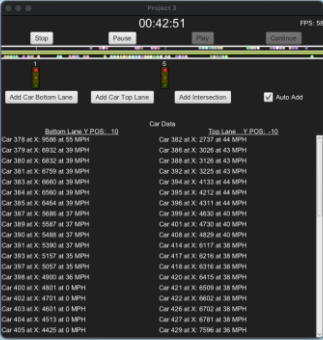
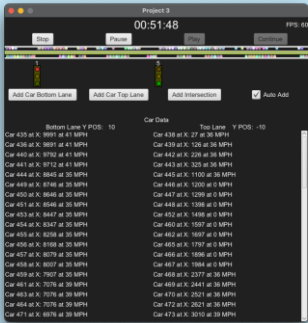
Table 1

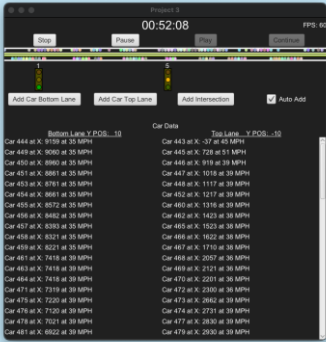
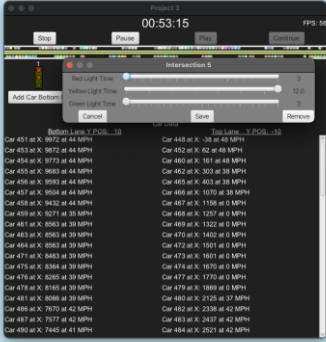
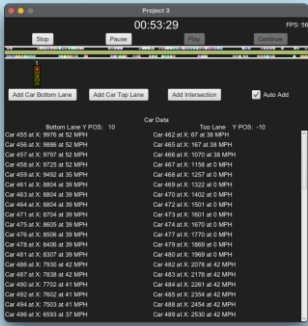
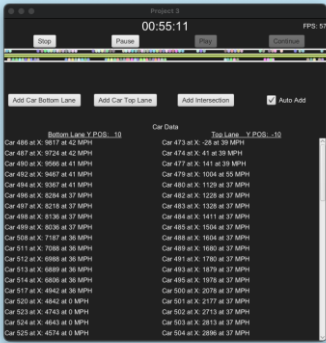
Project3 Manual Testing

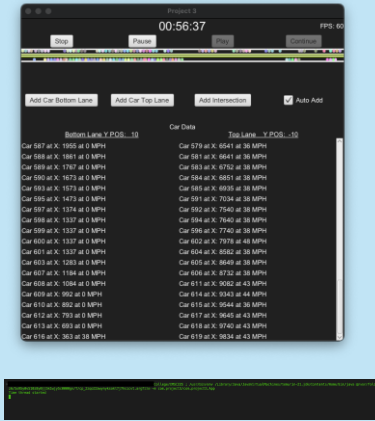
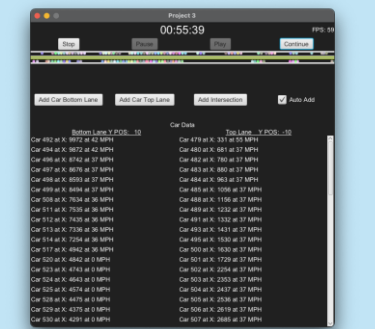
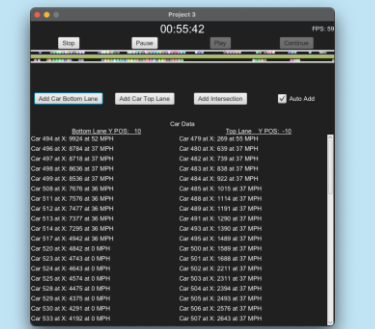
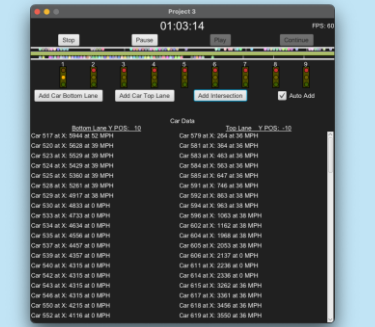
Test #	Description	Screenshot	Pass/Fail
1	Launch Project 3 Program		PASS
2	Ensure program is in stop state	Checked buttons from above, while in stop state only the play button should be available	PASS
3	Attempt to add car to bottom lane (Should Be Denied)		PASS

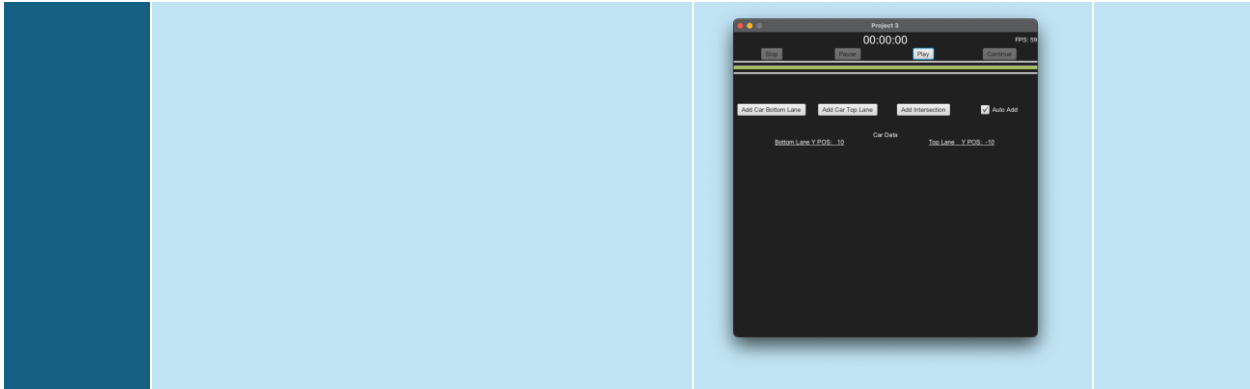
4	Attempt to add car to top lane (Should Be Denied)		PASS
5	Attempt to add intersection (Should Be Denied)		PASS
6	Press play and check that timer ticks		PASS
7	Watch auto add cars, car should be added around 5 seconds		PASS
8	Disable Auto Add, no cars should be added. Notice the time difference and no cars were added.		PASS

			
9	Add Intersection		PASS
10	Double click Intersection to edit settings		PASS
11	Set Red light time to 30, watch for changes Set to 30 seconds $322-292=30$		PASS

			
12	Set Yellow Light Time to 12, watch for changes Set to 12 seconds $51-39 = 12$	 	PASS
13	Set Green Light Time to 20, Watch for changes Set to 20 seconds : $3128 - 3108 = 20$		PASS

			
14	Remove Intersection from menu Open menu for intersection 5, clicked remove. Intersection is removed.	 	PASS
15	Remove intersection by right click Right click on intersection one. Intersection is removed		PASS

16	<p>Allow simulation to run for extended time and watch for errors and warnings</p> <p>Simulation has run for almost one hour</p> <p>Notice that 600+ cars have been simulated</p> <p>Second image shows console output, no errors or warnings after all this time</p>		PASS
17	<p>Pause the simulation ensure: Cars, intersections, and timer stop.</p> <p>Notice the pause action is no longer available and continue is.</p> <p>Resume by pressing continue, simulation continues</p>		PASS
18	<p>Resume the simulation ensure: Everything remains in same state and cars, intersections, and timer start again</p>		PASS
19	<p>Stop the simulation ensure: All cars and intersections are removed</p> <p>Pressed stop and see all cars and intersections are removed.</p>		PASS



Lessons Learned

This project taught me a ton. I have worked in multithreaded environments before but Java, despite all the tools they expose to the developers, has created their own challenges to contend with. One such challenge for me was adding listeners to the list of physics or timer listeners for the observer to call. In the physics loop, each tick iterates through the list of listeners. If an iterator is doing the iteration process and you attempt to add an element, you hit a `ConcurrentModificationException`. The way I got around this is to cache the additions and removals. At the end of each physics tick I lock the list and perform additions and removals then return control of the list to the physics loop. Had I waited for the reading in week 6, synchronized methods could have been used to allow me to do this without all the manual elbow grease.