CMP 304 Unit 1 Assessment

AI Comparison

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Introduction

During this assessment two Al's were explored: the Rule Based System Al algorithm and the Finite State Machine Al algorithm.

This was completed using a base project that would usually be played by a human, a game of Snake. This beloved game is a grid with 4 walls that holds a snake. The snake must traverse left, right, up and down the grid in the pursuit of fruit. The greedy snake will continue to eat fruit, getting larger every time they consume, until they are too large to fit in the box. The snake can move, eat fruit, hit a wall or hit itself. The last two would cause the game to end.

The first AI implemented was the Rule Based System. This was used first as it allows for a limited amount of actions to be converted into rules and for the AI to decide which suits the current situation best and since the snake only has 4 directions of movement this maps over to a Rule Based System quite well.

The second AI implemented was a Finite State Machine. This maps the snake into multiple states. A switch is then used to respond depending on which state the snake is in. This should work well for this problem as each move the snake takes will either be clear; meaning there are no obstacles or blocked; meaning the snake has to work around obstacles to get to their target, the fruit.

Some of metrics used to compare these will be statistics such as moves; the amount of left, right, up and down moves the snake makes and score; the amount of fruit eaten by the snake. The Al's will also be compared on how 'well' they place snake compared to how a human would play.

Methodology

Base Snake Program

During development a GitHub repository was created. Frequent commits were made in order to track the progress of the project and document development. This can be accessed here: <u>GitHub Link</u>.

To compare the two Al's first a game of snake had to be implemented as demonstrated below, this is not in huge detail as the Al implementation's importance is greater. Firstly the functions that allow text to be drawn on the console were implemented (*Figure 1*).

```
void initialiseDisplay() // This sets up the display to have text displayed on it
  COORD console_size = { 110, 30 }; // Sets size of console
  hConsole = CreateFile(TEXT("CONOUT$"), GENERIC_WRITE | GENERIC_READ,
      FILE_SHARE_READ | FILE_SHARE_WRITE,
     OL, OPEN_EXISTING, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL, OL);
  SetConsoleScreenBufferSize(hConsole, console_size);
  GetConsoleScreenBufferInfo(hConsole, &consoleInfo);
  \  \, \text{void draw(int x, int y, string s)} \ // \ \text{For drawing anything on the screen (position x, position y, string output)} 
  COORD cursorPos; // Creates a variable to hold the coordinates
  cursorPos.X = x;
  cursorPos.Y = y + scrollNumber;
  SetConsoleCursorPosition(hConsole, cursorPos);
  cout << s:
}
void setColor(int fcolor, int bcolor = 0) // Allows the colour of the text being printed to be set
  SetConsoleTextAttribute(hConsole, (WORD)((bcolor << 4) |</pre>
      fcolor));
void clearScreen(void) // Clears the display by manually overwriting with spaces
  setColor(15, 0); // Selects colour to reset with (white foreground and black background)
  for (int index = 0; index <= 30; index++) { // Goes through all the lines and wipes them
     draw(0, scrollNumber, "
}
```

Figure 1: initialiseDisplay, draw, setColor and clearScreen functions.

These functions would allow the game to have a simple user interface that updates for each move of the snake and to display the current score. The next step was to create the structures to hold the data:

```
int moveDir = 0; // 1 = right, 2 = down, 3= left, 4 = up
int scrollNumber = 0;
int snaketrix[20][20]; // Like matrix, but a snake

// Why a matrix?

// -> a matrix allows for a 2 dimenstional grid structure to be easily represented. This can be accessed
// using the coordinates and will hold the contents of each space. Eg. if the space is snake, empty or fruit.

struct coordinates { int x, y; }; // This struct is used anytime coordinates on the snaketrix are needed
std::deque<coordinates> body; // A double ended queue is used to hold the snake positions

// Why a deque?

// -> A deque allows for both ends of the queue to be read and popped. A deque works best for snake
// as when the snake moves a new position is added for where the head is moving at the back of the
// queue and the end of the snake can be popped from the front of the queue as the snake leaves
// that space.
```

Figure 2: set up of data types.

As shown above (*Figure 2*) a 2 dimensional array matrix was used to hold the status of each position in the grid and a double ended queue used to hold the position of each body part of the snake. The next step was to then get the input from the human user. This is one of the two main functions later on adapted to the make game playable by an AI.

Another function was then created to output the bounds of the grid that the game takes place in (*Figure 3*).

```
void drawSnakeFrame() // Draws the box that the snake is confined to
  stringstream ss; // Creates a string stream variable to allow characters to be converted into strings for output
  draw((5), (1), "#########
                               ########");
  setColor(2); // Green
  draw((15), (1), "SNAKE");
  setColor(5); // Purple
  draw((5), (2), "###############");
  setColor(1); // Blue
  draw((5), (2), "#");
  draw((28), (2), "#");
  for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) { // Loop for center section
     setColor(1); // Blue
     draw((5), (3 + i), "#");
     setColor(5); // Purple
     draw((6), (3 + i), "#
                                            #");
     setColor(1); // Blue
     draw((28), (3 + i), "#");
  setColor(5); // Purple
  draw((5), (13), "###############");
  setColor(1); // Blue
  draw((5), (13), "#");
  draw((28), (13), "#");
  draw((5), (14), "###############");
  draw((0), (15), "
                                                               ");
```

Figure 3: drawSnakeFrame function.

The next function implemented draws the starting grid (*Figure 4*).

```
void drawGrid() { // This draws the contents of the snake game by checking content of snaketrix
  for (int outer = 0; outer < 20; outer++) {</pre>
     for (int inner = 0; inner < 10; inner++) {</pre>
       if (snaketrix[outer][inner] == 0) { // Empty space. Even empty spaces must be redrawn
// each move because the snake could have been here and moved
           setColor(1); // "Blue"
           draw((outer+7), (inner+3), " ");
        else if (snaketrix[outer][inner] == 1) { // Snake
           setColor(2); // Green
           draw((outer+7), (inner+3), "S");
        else if (snaketrix[outer][inner] == 3) { // Fruit
           setColor(5); // Purple
           draw((outer + 7), (inner + 3), "0");
     }
  }
  draw((0), (15), "
                                  "); // This moves the cursor to bottom after drawing
```

Figure 4: drawGrid function.

Another function was added initialise the grid as either empty or containing the start of the snake (*Figure 5*).

```
void initialiseGrid() { // Sets up the snaketrix
   for (int outer = 0; outer < 20; outer++) { // Fills whole snaketrix with empty spaces
     for (int inner = 0; inner < 20; inner++) {</pre>
        snaketrix[outer][inner] = 0;
      }
   }
   srand(time(NULL)); // Sets random
   int startX = rand() % 18; // Starting x decided
   int startY = rand() % 9; // Starting y decided
   snaketrix[startX][startY] = 1; // Creates snake head part 1 here
   coordinates headXY; // Sets head position as space above
   headXY.x = startX;
   headXY.y = startY;
   body.push_back(headXY);
   snaketrix[startX+1][startY] = 1; // Creates first part of body one to the right
   headXY.x = startX+1;
   body.push_back(headXY);
}
```

Figure 5: initialiseGrid function.

A function was also required to add new fruit when the old fruit is eaten (*Figure 6*).

```
int newFruit() { // Adds a new fruit to snaketrix
    srand(time(NULL));
    int fruitSet = 0;
    int endCheck = 0;

while (fruitSet == 0) { // Uses while loop to detect when a new space is found
        int startX = (rand() % 20); // Chooses random space for new fruit
        int startY = (rand() % 10);
        endCheck++; // Increases the amount of spaces checked

    if (endCheck == 200) { // If all but one spaces are full of snake or fruit then the game is won
            return 1; // Returns end game code
    }

    if ((snaketrix[startX][startY] != 1) and (snaketrix[startX][startY] != 3)) { // Checks if space is fruit or snake
            snaketrix[startX][startY] = 3; // If space is empty then fruit is added
            setColor(5); // Purple
            draw((startX + 7), (startY + 3), "0"); // Draws fruit
            fruitSet = 1; // Ends while loop
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Figure 6: newFruit function.

The most complicated part of the base program was moving the snake as the matrix had to be updated, the new position had to be checked and then the end of the snake had to be updated. This all then had to be reflected on the image of the grid in the console as shown below (only one of four cases is shown as they are all identical but adapted depending on how the snake moved) (*Figure 7*).

```
int moveSnake(int moveDir) { // This is the second main element of the game, where the snake is moved.
  coordinates headXY; // Coordinates to hold current head of snake
  switch (moveDir) { //This switches what code to use base on chosen move direction
  case 1:
     \textbf{headXY = body.back(); } \textit{// Sets current position of head to the body item at back of queue (front of snake)}
     headXY.x = headXY.x + 1; // Sets new position of head right one space
     body.push_back(headXY); // Pushes new head position onto queue
     setColor(2); // Green
     draw((headXY.x + 7), (headXY.y + 3), "S"); // Draws new snake head
     if (snaketrix[headXY.x][headXY.v] == 1) { // Checks the space of the new head is not already snake
        return 1; // Returns end game code
     if (snaketrix[headXY.x][headXY.y] == 3) { // Checks if space of the new head contains fruit
        snaketrix[headXY.x][headXY.y] = 1; // Sets fruit space to now contain snake
        return 3; // Returns fruit hit code
     // This code runs when the new space is empty
     snaketrix[headXY.x][headXY.y] = 1; // Sets new space to be snake
     headXY = body.front(); // Changes head holder to back of snake in order to draw over space and pop front of queue
     draw((headXY.x + 7), (headXY.y + 3), ""); // Draws empty space over old tail of snake
      snaketrix[headXY.x][headXY.y] = 0; // Sets position of old tail in snaketrix to empty
     body.pop_front(); // Pops old tail from queue
     break:
[.....]OTHER CASES[.....]
  headXY = body.back(); // Sets holder to head of snake to check if in bounds of game area
  if ((headXY.x >= 20 or headXY.x < 0) or (headXY.y >= 10 or headXY.y < 0)) { // Checks snake has not hit wall
     return 1; // Returns game over code
  return 0:
```

This was all called by the main function. This program is easily adaptable for Al's as it is broken down into smaller functions and has one main function that reflects a move of the snake that can easily have an Al algorithm added into (Figure 8).

```
int main() {
   int dir = 1;
   int result;
  int moves = 0;
   int score = 0;
   initialiseDisplay(); // Initialises display
   clearScreen(); // Clears any text on screen
   drawSnakeFrame(); // Draws frame for snake
   initialiseGrid(); // Sets up the snaketrix
   drawGrid(); // Draws main game contents
   newFruit(); // Adds starting fruit onto snaketrix and draws
   while (1) { // Loops until game ends
     dir = moveLoop(); // Gets direction from AI or user
      result = moveSnake(dir); // Moves snake
     moves++; // Increments move counter
      if (result == 1) { // If game over code is returned from snake move then game over
        break; // End game
      if (result == 3) { // If fruit is hit by the snake increase score and add new fruit
         int endCheck = newFruit(); // New fruit
        if (endCheck == 1) { // If game over code is returned from new fruit (snaketrix full)
           return 0; // End game
        score++; // Increment score counter
      updateScore(to_string(score), to_string(moves)); // Reprints score
   endScreen(to_string(score), to_string(moves)); // Displays end screen once game loop is broken
   return 0; // End
}
```

Figure 8: main function.

The functions are all prototyped in game.h and interact with each other through the source file by passing data back to the main function and using global variables to store the snaketrix. Below you can see the contents of game.h where each function is prototyped (*Figure 9*).

```
void initialiseDisplay();
void draw(int x, int y, string s);
void setColor(int fcolor, int bcolor);
void clearScreen(void);
void drawSnakeFrame();
void initialiseGrid();
void drawGrid();
int moveLoop();
int moveSnake(int moveDir);
int newFruit();
void endScreen(string score, string moves);
void updateScore(string score, string moves);
```

Figure 9: game.h.

Al 1: Rule Based System

The first AI that was implemented was the Rule Based System. In order to implement the AI a new function was created. This held the rule based structure in the form of if statements. Since the Rule Based System is a simple one the algorithm consists of a loop that finds the target position and 8 if statements that take the current surrounding spacers of the snaketrix into account and returns which direction the snake should move.

Firstly the function creates two new variables to hold the position of the target and the head of the snake. The target position is then initialised with 0 and the snake head variable with the back item in the snake body queue. The function then loops through the snaketrix to find the fruit and the position is set as the target as shown below (*Figure 10*).

```
coordinates targetXY;
coordinates ruleHeadXY;

targetXY.x = 0;
targetXY.y = 0;

ruleHeadXY = body.back();

for (int outer = 0; outer < 20; outer++) { // Lopps through snaketrix to find fruit
    for (int inner = 0; inner < 20; inner++) {
        if (snaketrix[outer][inner] == 3) {
            targetXY.x = outer;
            targetXY.y = inner;
            break;
        }
    }
}</pre>
```

Figure 10: Start of Rule Based System function.

The second part of the function is the collection of if statements that decides which direction the snake should move in and then returns it to the main function (*Figure 11*).

```
if ((targetXY.x < ruleHeadXY.x) and (snaketrix[(ruleHeadXY.x)-1][ruleHeadXY.y] != 1)) {</pre>
// If target is left and left is not snake go left
  return 3;
} else if ((targetXY.x > ruleHeadXY.x) and (snaketrix[(ruleHeadXY.x) + 1][ruleHeadXY.y] != 1)) {
// If target is up and up is not snake go up
  return 1;
} else if ((targetXY.y < ruleHeadXY.y) and (snaketrix[ruleHeadXY.x][(ruleHeadXY.y) - 1] != 1)) {</pre>
// If target is down and down is not snake go down
  return 4:
} else if ((targetXY.y > ruleHeadXY.y) and (snaketrix[ruleHeadXY.x][(ruleHeadXY.y) + 1] != 1)) {
// If target is right and right is not snake go right
  return 2;
} else if (snaketrix[(ruleHeadXY.x) - 1][ruleHeadXY.y] == 2) { // If space left is empty go left
  return 3;
} else if (snaketrix[(ruleHeadXY.x) + 1][ruleHeadXY.y] == 2) { // If space right is empty go right
} else if (snaketrix[ruleHeadXY.x][(ruleHeadXY.y) - 1] == 2) { // If space up if empty go up
  return 4;
} else if (snaketrix[ruleHeadXY.x][(ruleHeadXY.y) + 1] == 2) { // If space down is empty go down
  return 2;
} else {
  return 5;
}
```

Figure 11: Collection of if statements in the Rule Based System.

The first four if statements check the position to the left, up, down and right to see if the target position is in their direction and checks that the position is not a snake. Then the second four if statements check left, right, up and down to see if they are empty and moves in that direction.

Al 2: Finite State Machine

The second AI implemented was a finite state machine. The finite state machine is much more structured then the rule based system. Where the rule based system is just a list of if statements looking for a condition to be met the finite state machine is more of a hierarchal tree using classes and subclasses to decide how the snake will move. In the same manor as the Rule Based System a function was created to take information from the snaketrix and decide how to react then return the direction to move in. The finite state machine is made of three parts. First a class called SnakeState is created. This holds the state of the snake as either clear or blocked (*Figure 12*).

```
enum class SnakeStates { clear, blocked }; // Class that holds the state of the snake
class SnakeSurroundings { // Class that holds the state of surrounding spaces
public:
    bool up;
    bool upRight;
    bool right;
    bool downRight;
    bool down;
    bool downLeft;
    bool left;
    bool upLeft;
};
```

Figure 12: SnakeStates and SnakeSurroundings classes.

The second part of the finite state machine is the set of if statements that look at the snaketrix and decides what the current state of the snake is. If all of the spaces around the snake in the snaketrix are empty then the snakes status is set as clear. If any of the spaces have an obstacle such as the edge of the grid or another part of the snake then the status of the snake is set as blocked (*Figure 13*).

```
if ((snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x)][(finiteHeadXY.y) - 1] == 2) or (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x)][(finiteHeadXY.y) - 1] == 3)) {
// Checks if space up is clear
                 snake_surroundings.up = false; // Sets space up as clear in class
         if ((snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) - 1] == 2) or (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) - 1] == 3)) {
// Checks if space up and right is clear
                  snake_surroundings.upRight = false; // Sets space up and right as clear in class
         if ((snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 2) or (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3)) {
// Checks if space right is clear
                  snake_surroundings.right = false; // Sets space right as clear in class
          if ((snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 2) or (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3)) {
// Checks if space down and right is clear
                 snake_surroundings.downRight = false; // Sets space down and right as clear in class
         if ((snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x)][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 2) or (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x)][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3)) {
// Checks if space down is clear
                 snake_surroundings.down = false; // Sets space down as clear in class
          \text{if } ((snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 2) \text{ or } (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3)) } \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 2) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x] + 1][(snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x] + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x] + 1][(snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x] + 1] == 3) \} \\ \{ 
// Checks if space down and left is clear
                 snake_surroundings.downLeft = false; // Sets space down and left as clear in class
          \text{if } ((snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 2) \text{ or } (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3)) } \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 2) \\ \text{ or } (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3)) } \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 2) \\ \text{ or } (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3)) } \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 2) \\ \text{ or } (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3)) } \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3) \\ \text{ or } (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3) \\ \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3) \\ \text{ or } (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3) \\ \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3) \\ \text{ or } (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y)] == 3) \\ \} \\ \{ (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finit
// Checks if space left is clear
                  snake_surroundings.left = false; // Sets space left as clear in class
         if ((snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) - 1] == 2) or (snaketrix[(finiteHeadXY.x) - 1][(finiteHeadXY.y) - 1] == 3)) {
// Checks if space up and left is clear
                 {\tt snake\_surroundings.upLeft = false;} \ // \ {\tt Sets \ space \ up \ and \ left \ as \ clear \ in \ class}
        }
```

Figure 13: If statements checking status of each direction in snaketrix.

The third part is a switch that takes in the snakes current status and responds accordingly (*Figure 14*). If the snakes status is clear then it moves on space in the direction of the target (the fruit). If the snakes status is blocked then it uses if statements to check how to respond. Each nest of if statements in the code checks the direction of the target, then checks if that direction is clear. If that direction is clear it moves in that direction. If that direction is not clear then it works its way around the obstacle.

```
if (targetXY.x < finiteHeadXY.x) { // If target is left
   if (snake_surroundings.left == false) { // Checks if left is clear
      return 3;
} else if (snake_surroundings.up == false) { // If left is not clear and up is clear
      return 4;
} else if (snake_surroundings.down == false) { // If left and up are not clear and down is clear
      return 2;
} else if (snake_surroundings.right == false) { // If left, up and down are not clear and right is clear
      return 1;
}
}
[REPEATED FOR ALL FOUR DIRECTIONS]</pre>
```

Figure 14: If statements deciding which direction to move.

Results

Al 1: Rule Based System

The first AI created was the rule based system. This system works well initially. It manages to move in the direction of the fruit and hone in on it, collect in and move on to the next one. The AI starts to struggle when it has to negotiate avoiding itself. The snake struggles to get around itself and struggles to see into the future due to how simple it is. Eventually the snake seems to always find itself stuck in a square and when none of its if statements hit eventually it eats itself as shown below (*Figure 15*).

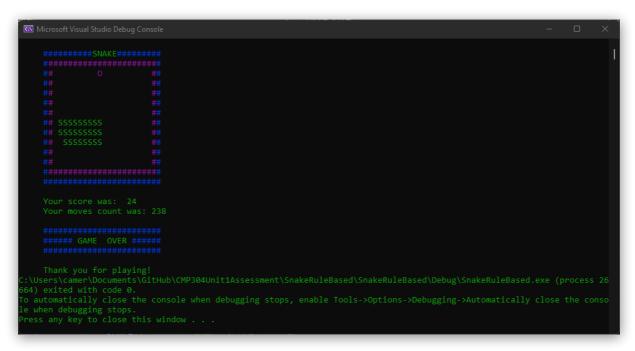


Figure 15: Rule based system snake hitting itself.

Please see the appendix for a full set of results containing the score, moves and end game trigger of each test that was run (*Appendix: Results*).

Al 2: Finite State Machine

The second Al implemented, the finite state machine has a few improvements over the rule based system. The finite state machine is better at over coming obstacles as it is smarter. The finite state machine is fully aware of its surroundings before is decides which direction to move in. Since the finite state machine uses classes it has two states: clear or blocked. This allows it to know if it has to work around obstacles when moving. If it does have to work around obstacles it is much smarter in the way it does it since it checks if the space is an obstacle then works around it where the rule based system just goes in another direction. The finite state machine does have a strange issue where it gets confused and hits the wall of the game. Many attempts have been made to fix this issue but It happens in about every one of three attempts as shown below (Figure 16).

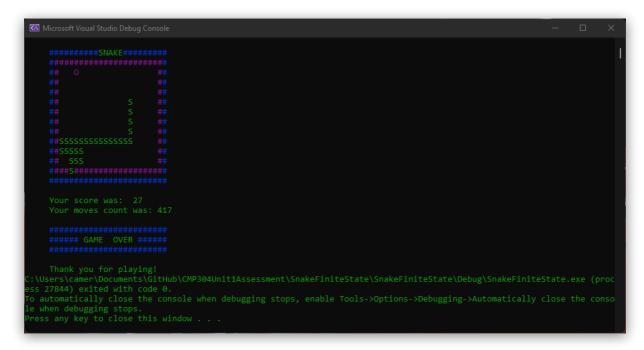


Figure 15: Finite state machine snake hitting wall.

Please see the appendix for a full set of results containing the score, moves and end game trigger of each test that was run (*Appendix: Results*).

Conclusion

Overall the finite state machine does a better job than the rule based system when playing snake. Both Al's lack foresight which is their main downfall but the finite state machine is smarter in the way it approaches obstacles. The rule based systems main downfall is how limited it is. The Al uses a list of 9 if statements, the first 4 checking if a nearby space is not a snake, then moving and the second 4 making the snake move and the last if ending the game. The finite state machine actually checks status of the snake, wether it is clear or blocked. If clear it moves closer to the target and if blocked if avoids obstacles. If the snake has to avoid obstacles it checks which general direction it must move in and then if the space in that direction is blocked it moves in the direction most likely to get it around the obstacle.

If more time was spent on the project an effective next step would be to implement a path finding algorithm such as A* into both of the Al's. This would give them foresight and allow them to choose a path that would avoid any obstacles and go straight for the target, allowing them to survive longer.

To test the solutions each was allowed to run through the game until it reached an end point by either hitting the side of the box or hitting itself. The score and moves were then recorded along with the reason for the game ending.

As shown in the results given in the previous section, a higher average score was achieved by the finite state machine. This is due to its better ability to get around obstacles. The finite state machine did also require more moves though. To compare the two programs the lower, middle and average quartiles were calculated from test data. Perhaps most interesting about the result of this is that the Finite state machines averages grew further apart the higher the result. For example the RBS had a Q1 of 18.60 and the FSM had a Q1 of 22.76 which is a difference of 4.16 but the RBS had a Q3 of 29.44 and the FSM had a Q3 of 35.76 which is a difference of 6.32 (*Figure 16*). So as illustrated by the graph on the next page below (*Figure 17*) the two datasets grow apart as the FSM was achieving higher results.

Comparison

| | Rule Based System | Finite State Machine | Difference |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Lower Quartile | 18.6 | 22.76 | 4.16 |
| Median Quartile | 24.02 | 29.26 | 5.24 |
| Upper Quartile | 29.44 | 35.76 | 6.32 |

Figure 16: Comparison of the two Al's average results.

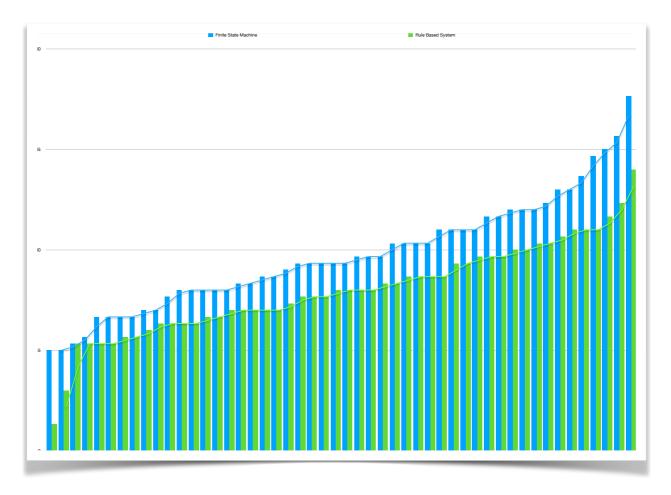


Figure 16: Graph comparison of the rule based system and the finite state machine that shows spread of data with moving average line.

As shown from this conclusion the finite state machine snake comes out on top despite hitting the wall in 44% of the test runs versus 0% for the rule based system. On average the FSM lasted 5.24 moves longer than the RBS so is the better implemented solution. If more time was spent on the project hopefully the wall hitting issue would have been resolved.

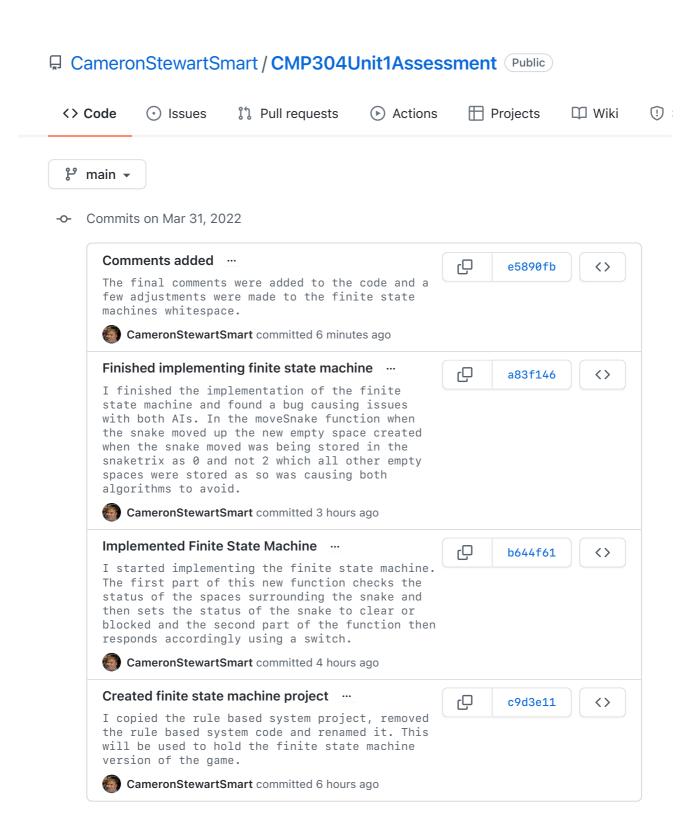
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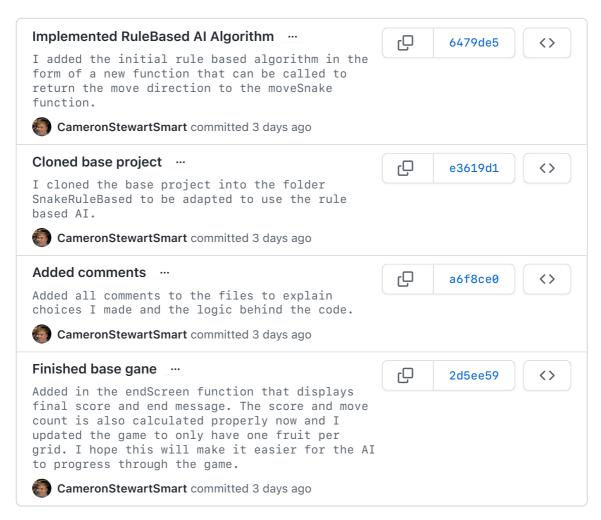
Appendix

GitHub Commits

GitHub Link



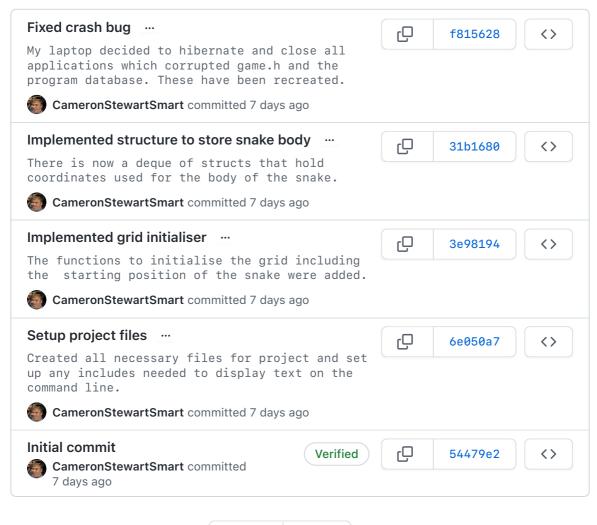
-**O**- Commits on Mar 28, 2022



-o- Commits on Mar 25, 2022



-**O**- Commits on Mar 24, 2022



Newer Older

Result Data

| Rule Based System | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|--|--|
| Score | Moves | End | | |
| 4 | 24 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 9 | 83 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 16 | 160 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 16 | 125 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 16 | 124 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 16 | 175 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 17 | 182 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 17 | 147 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 18 | 203 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 19 | 183 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 19 | 176 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 19 | 242 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 19 | 200 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 20 | 224 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 20 | 246 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 21 | 268 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 21 | 219 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 21 | 222 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 21 | 207 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 21 | 266 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 22 | 271 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 23 | 307 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 23 | 233 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 23 | 235 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 24 | 266 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 24 | 313 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 24 | 307 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 24 | 366 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 25 | 227 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 25 | 348 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 26 | 289 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 26 | 271 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 26 | 250 | | | |
| 26 | 329 | | | |
| 28 | 219 | | | |
| 28 | 323 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 29 | 358 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 29 | 395 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 29 | 382 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 30 | 325 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 30 | 407 | | | |
| 31 | 338 | | | |
| 31 | 388 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 32 | 317 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 33 | 337 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 33 | 460 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 33 | 406 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 35 | 415 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 37 | 450 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 42 | 431 | Snake ate itself | | |
| 42 | 431 | Chanc are noth | | |

Finite State Machine

| | inite State Machin | e |
|-------|--------------------|------------------|
| Score | Moves | End |
| 15 | 116 | Snake ate itself |
| 15 | 204 | Snake ate itself |
| 16 | 187 | Snake hit wall |
| 17 | 232 | Snake hit wall |
| 20 | 222 | Snake hit wall |
| 20 | 213 | Snake ate itself |
| 20 | 183 | Snake hit wall |
| 20 | 283 | Snake ate itself |
| 21 | 198 | Snake ate itself |
| 21 | 296 | Snake hit wall |
| 23 | 214 | Snake ate itself |
| 24 | 251 | Snake hit wall |
| | | |
| 24 | 267 | Snake hit wall |
| 24 | 262 | |
| 24 | 284 | Snake ate itself |
| 24 | 271 | Snake hit wall |
| 25 | 325 | Snake ate itself |
| 25 | 281 | Snake ate itself |
| 26 | 259 | Snake ate itself |
| 26 | 606 | Snake hit wall |
| 27 | 272 | Snake ate itself |
| 28 | 344 | Snake ate itself |
| 28 | 342 | Snake hit wall |
| 28 | 306 | Snake ate itself |
| 28 | 701 | Snake hit wall |
| 28 | 367 | Snake ate itself |
| 29 | 301 | Snake hit wall |
| 29 | 248 | Snake hit wall |
| 29 | 403 | Snake ate itself |
| 31 | 336 | Snake ate itself |
| 31 | 496 | Snake hit wall |
| 31 | 449 | Snake ate itself |
| 31 | 192 | Snake ate itself |
| 33 | | Snake hit wall |
| 35 | | Snake hit wall |
| | | Snake ate itself |
| 35 | | |
| 36 | 555 | Snake hit wall |
| 36 | 417 | Snake ate itself |
| 36 | 522 | Snake hit wall |
| 37 | 443 | |
| 39 | | Snake hit wall |
| 39 | | Snake ate itself |
| 41 | 520 | Snake hit wall |
| 44 | 579 | Snake ate itself |
| 45 | 808 | Snake ate itself |
| 47 | 410 | Snake ate itself |
| 53 | 653 | Snake hit wall |
| | | |