

Process

I decided to develop the model and the UI in tandem rather than starting solely with the model. This allowed me to test the model visually.

My first goal was to have a pass-and-play version of the game.

The first day I worked on the project I developed the UI and model up to the point that was swapping was possible. I made the recyclerview for the player's tiles and a button for swapping tiles, as well as developing the onClickListeners for selecting tiles.

Next I made an expandable board and made tiles placeable on this board, followed by implementing a very basic check for valid tiles. As time went on, I added more and more checks in the model until placements followed the rules perfectly.

Once a pass-and-play game was possible, I made my server, using the chat client server from our lectures as my guideline and inspiration.

After many, many exceptions being thrown I finally got the multiplayer functionality working for games of only two players.

Now I made a results screen and implemented it for both the local and multiplayer versions of the game.

Now that the app was basically working, I added sounds to polish it off and gave it to my brother and girlfriend to test. Immediately, my girlfriend tried to drag the tiles that I only had onClickListeners attached to. Thus my final addition to the app was allowing drag-and-drop functionality on my tiles.

Design decisions

I have a separate board activity for networked games. I could have had the same activity for both local and networked games but I decided for my own ease of use I would separate them. There is therefore a lot of repeated code shared by these two activities but reading the separate classes is a lot easier. Some of the shared methods were removed and put in a Controller class to minimise the repeated code.

After semester test 2 I decided to implement my own version of the Tile class that we made use of in the practical version of our test.

What worked – and what didn't

- I was very keen on the idea of an expandable grid, but wasn't sure how to go about it. I wanted to work with a 2D array as these are familiar to me, so I thought I'd store the grid in a

215 x 215 array and only display the necessary tiles on screen. However, this took way too long to generate and so I scrapped that idea.

- ✓ After our second semester test, I decided to implement the Tile class we worked with during the practical section of the test. This worked a lot better and allowed my grid to expand as wanted.
- I wanted zoom functionality on my board. I added the appropriate buttons and achieved some functionality, but I believe the nature of the layouts and views I was using was not conducive to easy zooming. Pressing these buttons messed up the whole UI, making it unplayable.
- ✓ I put the grid in a horizontal scroll view in a vertical scroll view. This allows players to see the whole board upon scrolling.
- I tried to use Instants to get the time between someone starting an online game and the next player joining. This this did not work out for me like I wanted it to as I kept getting a difference of 6 or 7 seconds between players joining, even though I waited over 30 seconds to join.
- ✓ I instead made it so that it doesn't matter how long you take to join, as long as no moves have been made you can still join the game.

The connection process

When 'Connect' is pressed, a connection is made to the server using the provided server address. If this connection is successful, the connection is cancelled, the waiting screen opens, and the connection is re-established.

The client send a WaitingForGame message to the server.

The server adds the client to the first Game that has less than 4 people and that has not had any moves made yet. If the model associated with that Game has at least 2 people, the model is sent to all players in that Game.

Upon receiving a model from the server, the board is populated using this model's information.

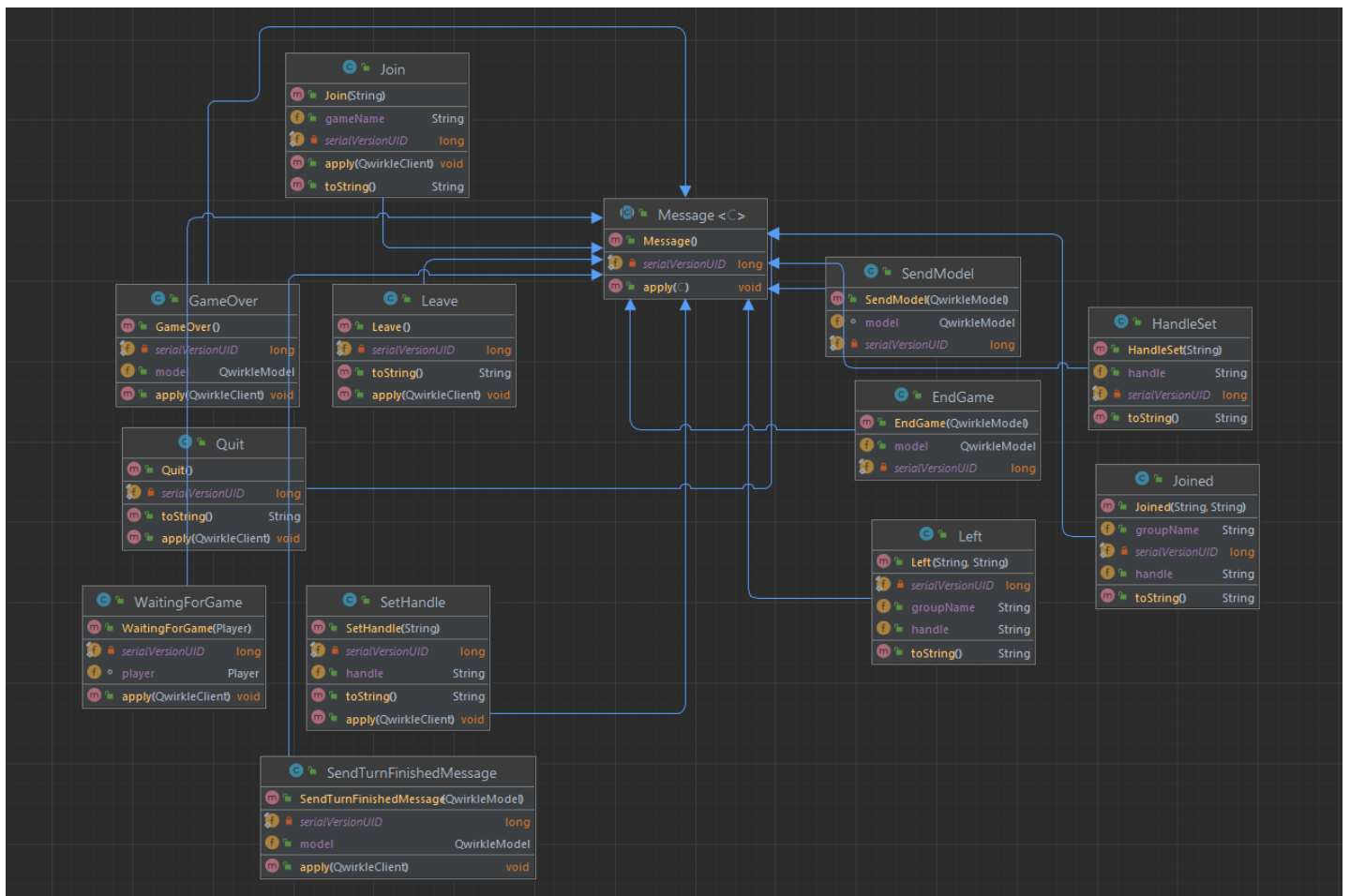
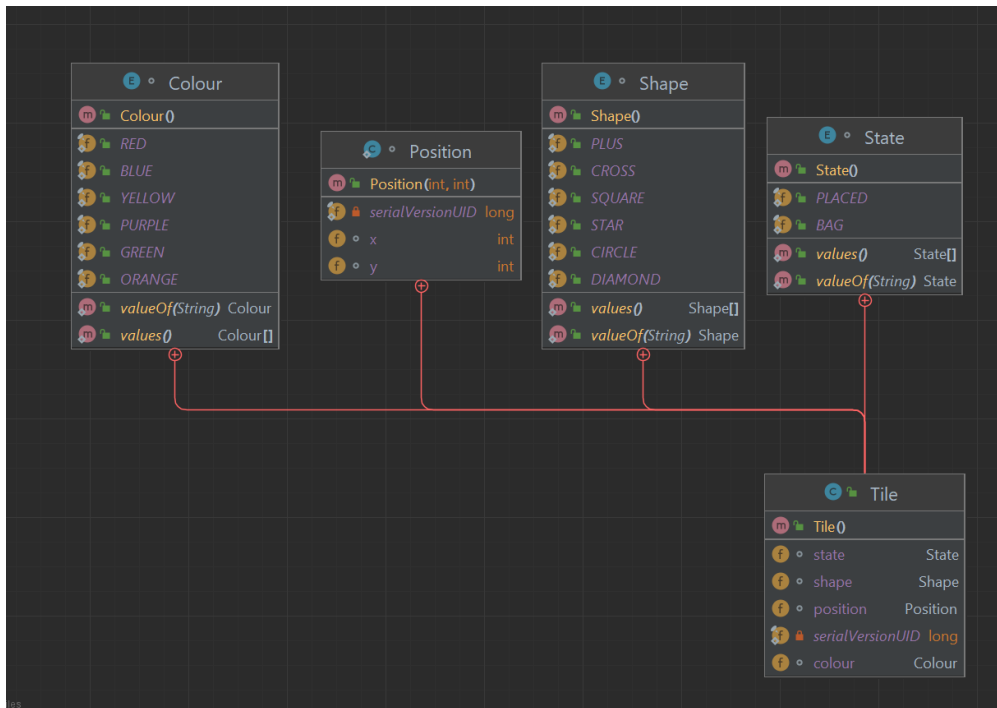
Every time a tile is placed or the turn is ended, a TurnFinishedMessage is send to the server, which then sends out this model to all players.

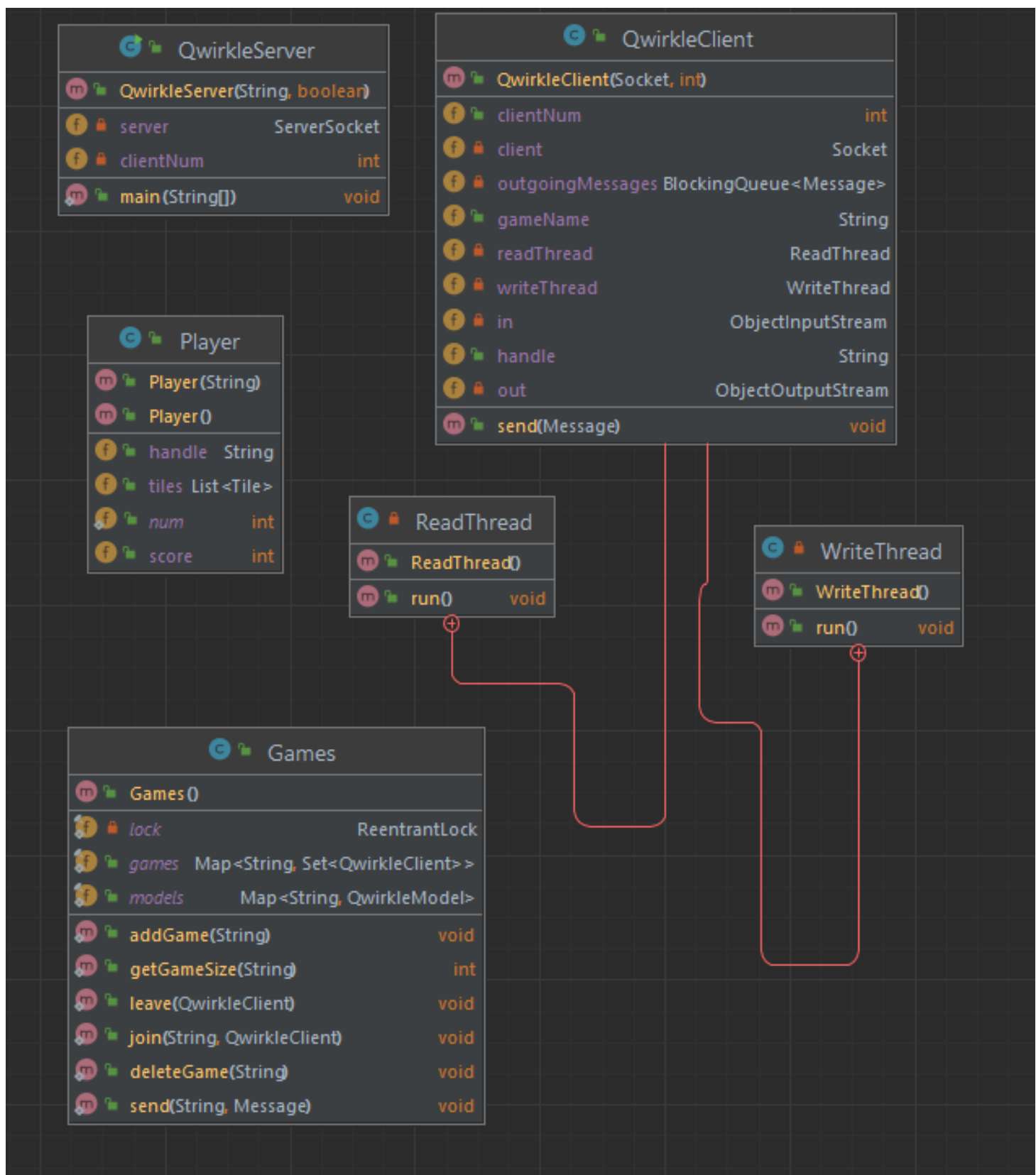
If the game is over at the end of a turn, the client send a GameOver message to the server.

Upon receiving a GameOver message, the server notifies all the clients of that Game and those clients are sent to the results activity.

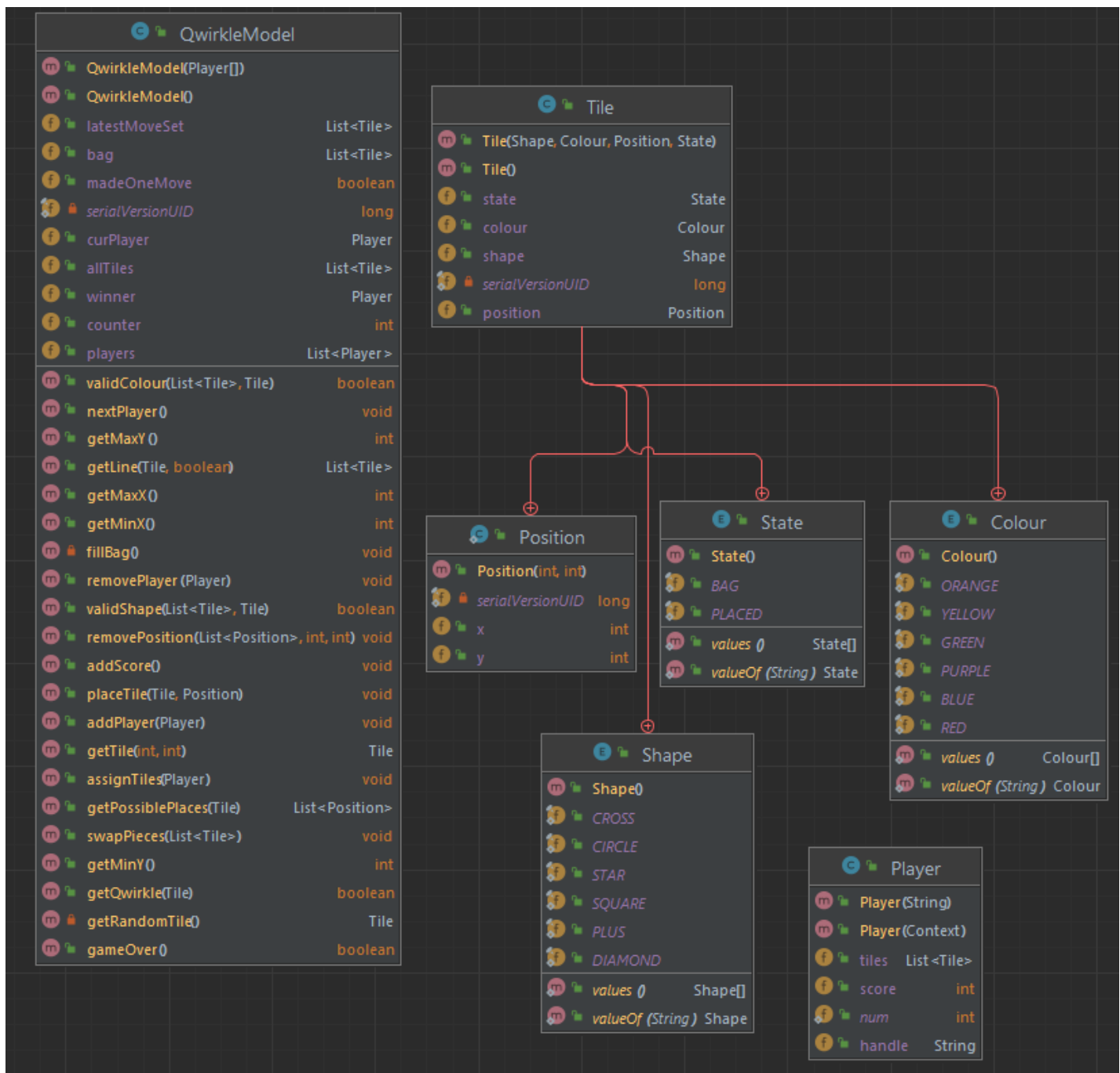
UML Diagrams

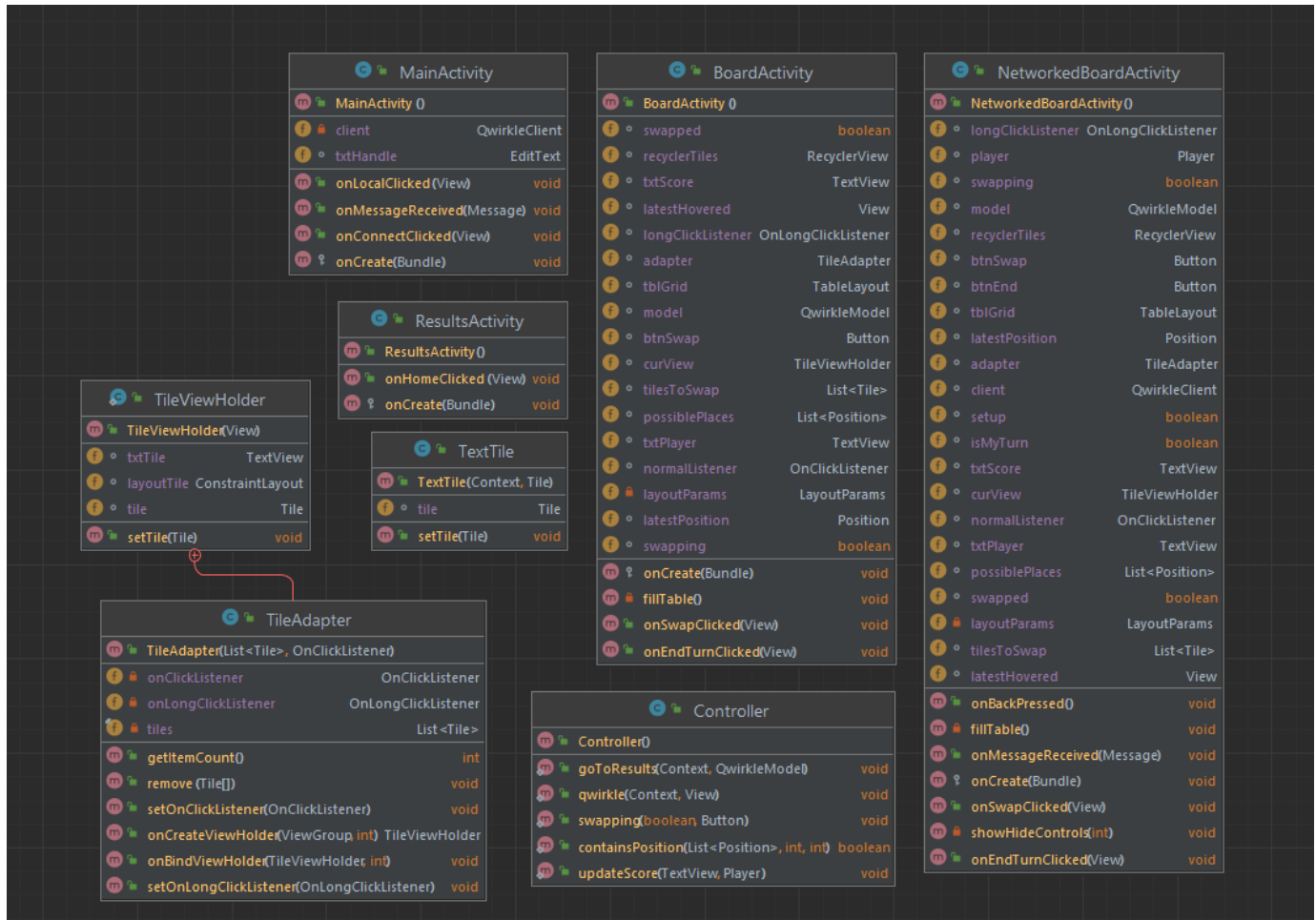
Server

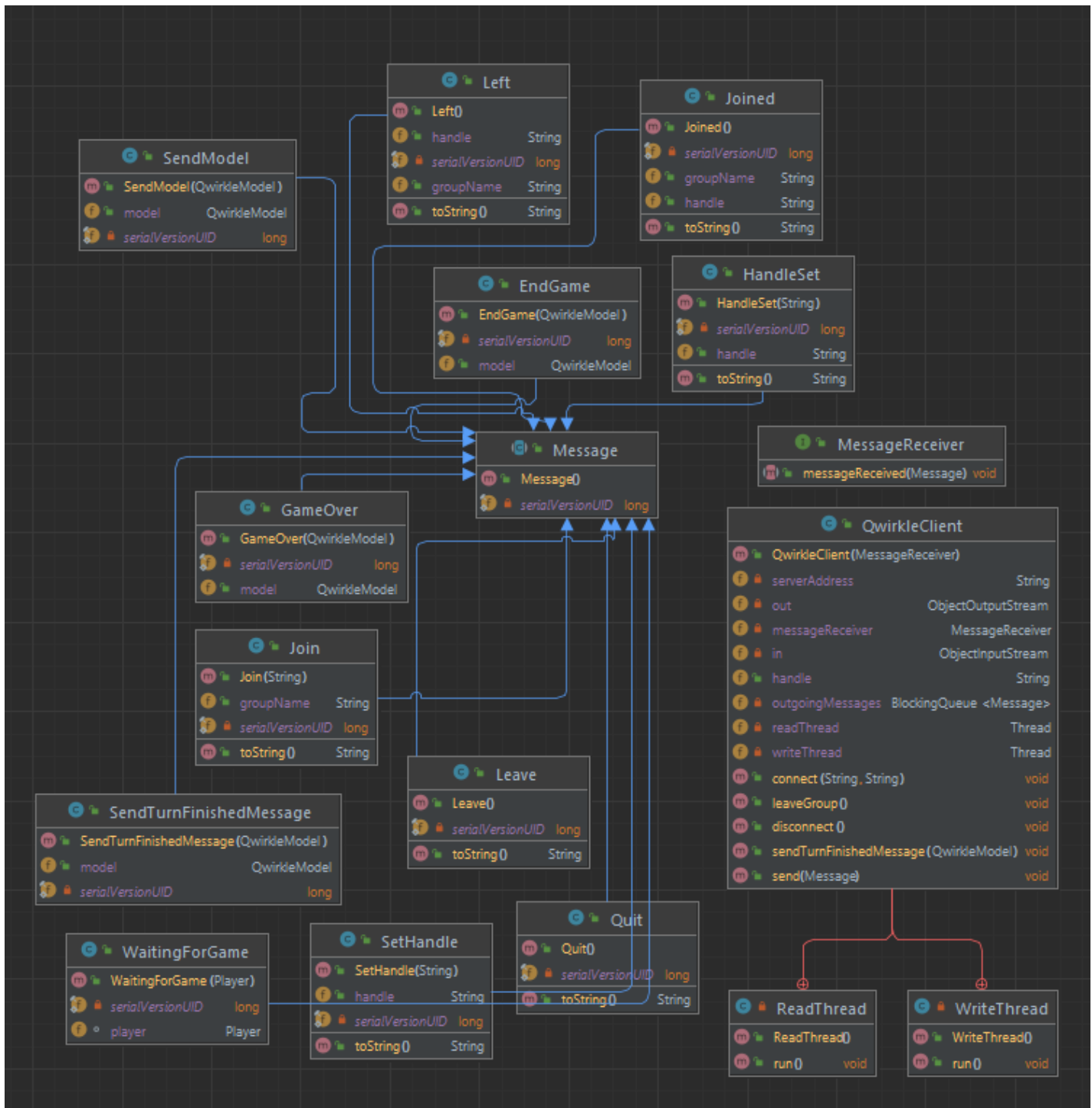




Client







Extra functionality

The game is fully translatable to Afrikaans.