

# PycMan

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## Chapter 1

# Project Definition and Analysis

## 1.1 Project Definition



Figure 1.1: Original Pac-Man screen. Source is Reference 1.

As my project, I have decided to present a game written in Python, based around one of its modules - pygame. As I have not had as much time to prepare my project as my colleagues, I have decided that the concept of the game must be simple, yet allowing to demonstrate my programming and computational thinking skills. For this purpose I have decided to mimic the iconic PacMan game. For picture of the original game screen please refer to Figure 1.1

Called PycMan (utilizing the fact that many of Python modules have a prefix 'py' in their name), the game itself strongly resembles the original, yet with some meaningful changes. Like in the original - player can move in four directions (left, right, up and down), collecting coins and avoiding ghosts.

The game develops critical thinking skills and takes effect of human nature of taking risks and tackling unknown - with having more confidence when predicting ghost behavior, the player actually gets better when playing despite problems generally low complexity.

Actually the game itself may be referred as to playing tag in a transparent

maze. Such a play would be very hard for a human to enjoy as analyzing transparent walls while running and predicting opponent's next move is a far too complex problem for human cognition. That's why computational approach on this game is required - where player can see ghosts from above the board whilst ghost may exhibit algorithmically advanced behavior.

## 1.2 Stakeholders

Proposed end user group is really wide. As the game itself can be launched on virtually any device due to Python versatility, it may be used on a spectrum of devices with different controllers, from mobile phones and smart watches through PCs reaching as far as game console emulators mimicking the most authentic PacMan game experience. Such portability should satisfy most users.

The game should grab attention of children - with small challenges that don't require complex thinking and rather promote manual skills and reflex; those who seek quick brainteaser whilst attempting to play with more focus on tactics of ghost avoidance and finally, old gamers who played original PacMan but now they might want to try more modern version with a different approach to critical game mechanisms.

A good example of a stakeholder is my friend, Wojciech Wojtkowski, with whom I have conducted an interview to determine the requirements, see Section 1.4 for reference.

## 1.3 Software Challenges

All software used to develop the game but is not necessarily required to run it:

- Python3
  - Pillow module
  - Pygame module
- Pycharm Professional
- GIMP - GNU Image Manipulation Program
- L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
- TeXstudio
- LibreOffice Draw

The greatest advantage that convinced me to actually use Python for my game was its portability. As an interpretable programming language, the code of the game remains universal throughout different operating systems



and processor architectures. My decision was also influenced by my previous experience with this language and my desire to actually get better around it. It's also free, meaning that everyone can take benefit of my game, without having to buy a license from a third party.

Also, whilst most of my experience was with Python2 I have decided that it's the right time to move on and actually start using Python3, which is reportedly faster and offers more functionality while providing greater stability.

Still, Python does not offer the speed one may expect from a programming language suitable for complex games. Advanced non-optimal solutions need to be thought of and substituted with faster algorithms in order for the game to run smooth on machines lacking processing power.

Happily Python is an objective language - which greatly helped with some designs.

As it's also an interpretable language, it's way easier to debug as one may actually run every single line of code step by step to see variable values changing. Python interpreters also provide a very generous error descriptions greatly helping with bug fixing.

The closest I could get with Python to making a full featured game conveniently was to use pygame. It's a rather good module supplying some basic functionality one may expect from assisted-design library for creating 2D games. Some functions were not supported out of the box, like level storing (suitable for my purpose) and loading and these had to be implemented by myself as an addition.

Pygame also doesn't have a tiling system I wanted for level designs, to make my game resemble original PacMan in terms of design. I had to write such myself. A similar situation occurred when I wanted to implement discrete "Time Segments" (see Section 2.5.1 for reference). For a game such as PacMan I find such solutions to be a very useful optimization and yet these are missing from the pygame module.

Pycharm by JetBrains was used as a Python IDE - it is a really convenient solution and comes with a lot of useful features. It was chosen due to my previous positive experience with it.

GIMP was used to produce graphics resources of the game as well as levels - described later. I found it to be a great deal of overkill for such basic tasks but I am very familiar with it's interface and tools which were of great help especially during the design of semi-transparent ghost graphics.

Libre Office Draw is a free office suite component meant to be used for developing multimedia presentations. I have used it for its great tool for developing flowcharts used in this document. See Figure 2.27 for example of such graphics.

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and Texstudio were used to develop this document. As I identify as a pro-open-source-software person I wanted to use L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X instead of word processors with a far advanced UI, like Microsoft Word. A practical reason

behind this -  $\LaTeX$  provides an absolutely full flexibility. And even when it doesn't have a function I might want to use - I can always write such myself.

All development was done on an Ubuntu-running computer, therefore I must proudly admit that during the entire design process no non-free software was used. All software was either opensource, freeware or free for education.

## 1.4 The Interview

To assess interest and gain insight of the potential market for the game, I have interviewed my fellow schoolmate - Wojciech Wojtkowski on his opinion of my approach to redesigning PacMan.

-Hello Wojciech, may I interest you with my Computer Science project - the PycMan, next generation of the classic PacMan with smarter ghosts and different mechanics?

-Sure mate, go ahead!

-Ok, so these are some concept graphics [first two levels were exhibited]...

...but it looks just like the original!

-Yes, there is a strong resemblance in terms of the graphics, that's what I am aiming for. The biggest difference is how the ghost work.

-Oh, tell me more.

-So, in the classical PacMan, the ghost have their designated area they launch from, A.K.A. "The Ghost House", I want to get rid of that, instead all ghosts will start from predefined locations different for each level.

-That means they will chase you from the exact beginning of the level, isn't that going to make the game harder?

-Yes it will, that is the goal. But that's not the main change. They will be smarter than the originals.

-You mean that the way they move is going to be less predictable?

-That's true, I want to utilize a rather complex algorithm to make them chase player more efficiently.

-Didn't the original have the most efficient solution?

-No, the target machines lacked processing power and memory in the past to actually use that with the game not slowing down. Now, when newer computers are available, I can actually use that.

-So if they were quite stupid then and the game was still hard, won't making them smart render the game impossible to win?

-That's what I am afraid of, I need to find a way to give the player some advantage. Do you, as an experienced gamer, have any idea how to do that?

-I think that making the ghost chase the player indirectly may be the way, how about them tailing the PycMan?

-Yeah, that might be fine but this may eventually lead to them not catching it at all if it doesn't move.

-Oh, that might be the case.

-Actually I have one solution in mind - making them a little bit slower than the player.

-Seems okay, thought I think that one may run away from them, do a risky eating-maneuver then and regain the distance lost. Repeating that will make the game easy and very boring actually.

-Oh, true, I will have to think of these solutions. Probably final version will be designed during beta testing based on player satisfaction with each of these methods.

-Good idea to let the players decide. Actually - on the player-decision thing. One thing that I always wanted with PacMan is to design my own levels. Can you make it possible?

-Yeah, I already have a solution in mind that will make it very easy for anyone to design their own maze, if you say that's going to interest players, I will surely include that.

-Cool! Thanks for letting me know, can I play that game later?

-Of course, as soon as I release the beta.

-Perfect, thank you then, I look forward to playing it.

-Thank you for the talk and insight. Bye.

-Bye.

## 1.5 Requirement specification (success criteria)

For the project to succeed the following criteria must be met:

1. The game must resemble the original PacMan in terms of graphical design and some of the mechanics.
  - (a) Game graphics should be of similar color and shape to the originals.
  - (b) Player sprite is an iconic yellow ball with 'mouth'.
  - (c) Player sprite should rotate with 'mouth' towards the direction of movement.
  - (d) Neither ghosts nor player are to pass through wall or be able to exit board borders.
  - (e) Ghosts chase the player.
  - (f) Player loses a life upon contact with a ghost.
  - (g) Upon losing a life ghosts and the player return to their initial locations.
  - (h) Each ghost behaves in a different way based on its color.
  - (i) Ghosts do not reverse their direction of movement.

- (j) Player progresses through a level with eating 'coins' left throughout some/all accessible places on the map.
  - (k) Upon eating a coin, it disappears and is not to be rendered again.
  - (l) Eating a coin increases point counter.
  - (m) Heart shaped Eatables are left in some places in some of the levels.
  - (n) Eating a heart grants the player extra one life.
  - (o) Upon completing the level (eating all 'coins') new level is loaded.
  - (p) When player has less than one life the game finishes and the player loses.
  - (q) When player completes all the levels, the game finishes and the player wins.
  - (r) Text messages appear whenever a significant change in gameplay is to take place. E.g. Start of the game, level change, player's death, completing entire game.
  - (s) The game must be possible to win.
2. The game must be different from the original in these ways:
- (a) Majority of players must find the PycMan ghosts 'smarter' than the originals.
  - (b) There is no 'ghost house' where ghosts start from. All sprites move from the beginning and ghost chase the player immediately.
  - (c) There are no power-ups in the levels.
  - (d) Ghosts cannot die.
  - (e) Ghost don't change 'modes' and don't become frightened of the player.
  - (f) Player can move faster than the ghosts.
3. Requirements independent from similarities to the original Pac-Man
- (a) Arrow keys used to control player's movement.
  - (b) Spacebar used to dismiss on-screen messages.
  - (c) Player sprite must not move without user input.
4. Game must work smoothly (30 frames per second is considered to be the standard of human perception of fluency) on contemporary medium-class laptop PCs. The following hardware and software requirements are to be met:

- (a) Operating system supporting Python3 interpreter
- (b) Python3 interpreter
- (c) Pillow module (PIL)
- (d) Pygame module
- (e) Color display of resolution of at least 600x600px
- (f) Keyboard
- (g) 500 MB of storage space
- (h) 512 MB of RAM
- (i) 700MHz processor

The game has been tested on described specification machine and has been found to meet fluency criteria. No testing on slower machines has been performed as these are not usually available on the market anymore. Each of the requirements listed is critical to either launch or play the game.

## Chapter 2

# Design

As the game uses Pygame module it obviously derives some solutions natively implemented in it. All display solutions are actually handled using the module. Use of Tkinter was researched for pop-up messages but adding another module that doesn't bring any outstanding functionality above capabilities of Pygame has been ruled as an unnecessary waste of memory.

Having the fact that my main tool will be the pygame module I have divided game design process into following subproblems.

- Preparing window environment for the game
- Preparing board and tiling system
- Creating player and ghost sprites
- Handling player input
- Adding Eatables and walls
- Preparing level storage-loading system
- Wall collision handling
- Eating routines
- Ghost movement system
- Advancing through levels
- Pop-up messaging

## **2.1 Main window layout**

Main game window consists of a board where the actual game takes place. Below the board there is a set of informative counters kept in characteristic PacMan colours of gold-yellow on dark/royal-blue background as per requirement 1a.

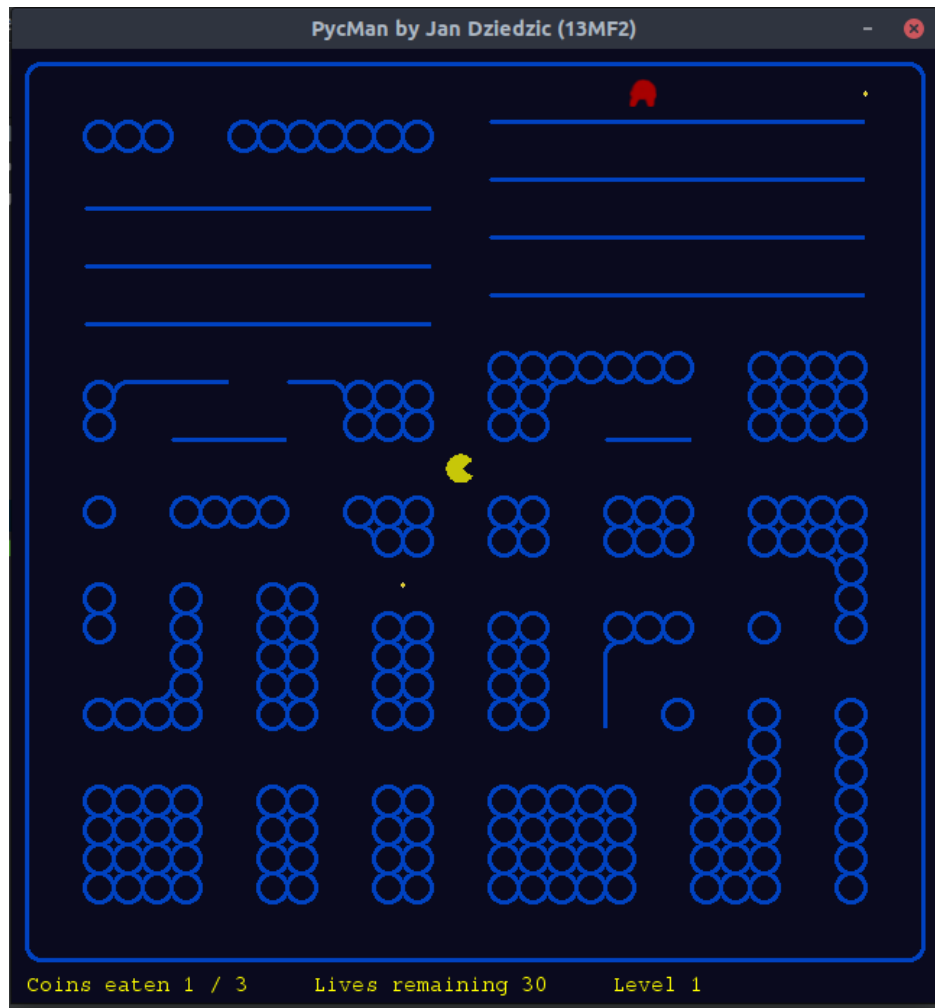


Figure 2.1: Game window rendered in Ubuntu Gnome graphical environment.

### 2.1.1 Board

As each level has a different layout so look of the board may vary. Please refer to Figure 2.2 for an example of such board.



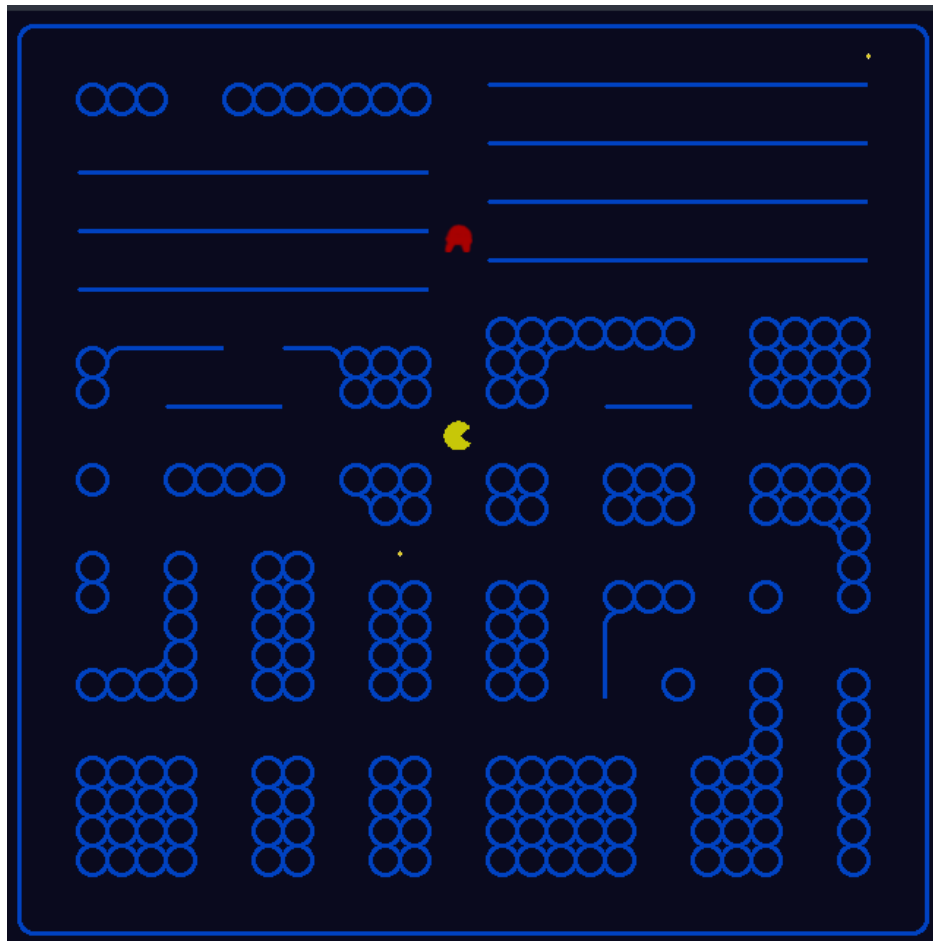


Figure 2.2: Example board. Walls, empty tiles, the player, coins and a red ghost are visible

General idea is that all border tiles of each level (tile system explained later) have to be walls, which creates a nice, outer border of the board with rounded edges.

### 2.1.2 Counters

Directly below the board, counters are located, these provide information on:

1. Number of coins eaten
2. Number of coins that are required to be consumed before progressing to the next level
3. Number of player lives

#### 4. Current level number

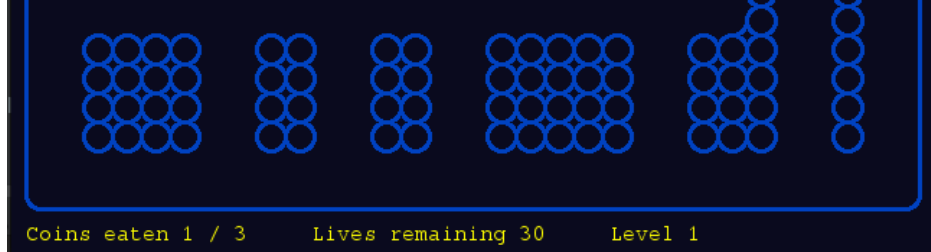


Figure 2.3: Example set of counters with part of the board included for position reference.

Every time the player eats a 'coin' the first counter increases. Throughout the level, this counter cannot decrease as even upon player's death, the already-eaten coins don't respawn.

Number of coins required to progress is constant through the level but may differ between levels. It is worth mentioning that as every coin must be eaten to progress, this acts as a total number of coins allocated in each level map. Coin placing algorithm described later in this document also proves that it equals to  $32^2 - \#_{wall\_tiles} - \#_{empty\_tiles}$ .

Each time a player comes in contact with a ghost (defined later in this document) a life is subtracted and every time the player eats a heart eatable, a life is added.

Level number increases from 1 (easiest level) up to ten (hardest level), as player advances through the levels.

## 2.2 Grid layout

Pygame provides a sprite attribute of its location but as I have decided to use a window of over 500x500px of size, its pixel-accurate positioning would be an overkill and could make programming harder as well as require more processing power to (later mentioned) pathfinding algorithms. Due to this I have turned to the original PacMan solution (as read in Reference 1), the grid system.

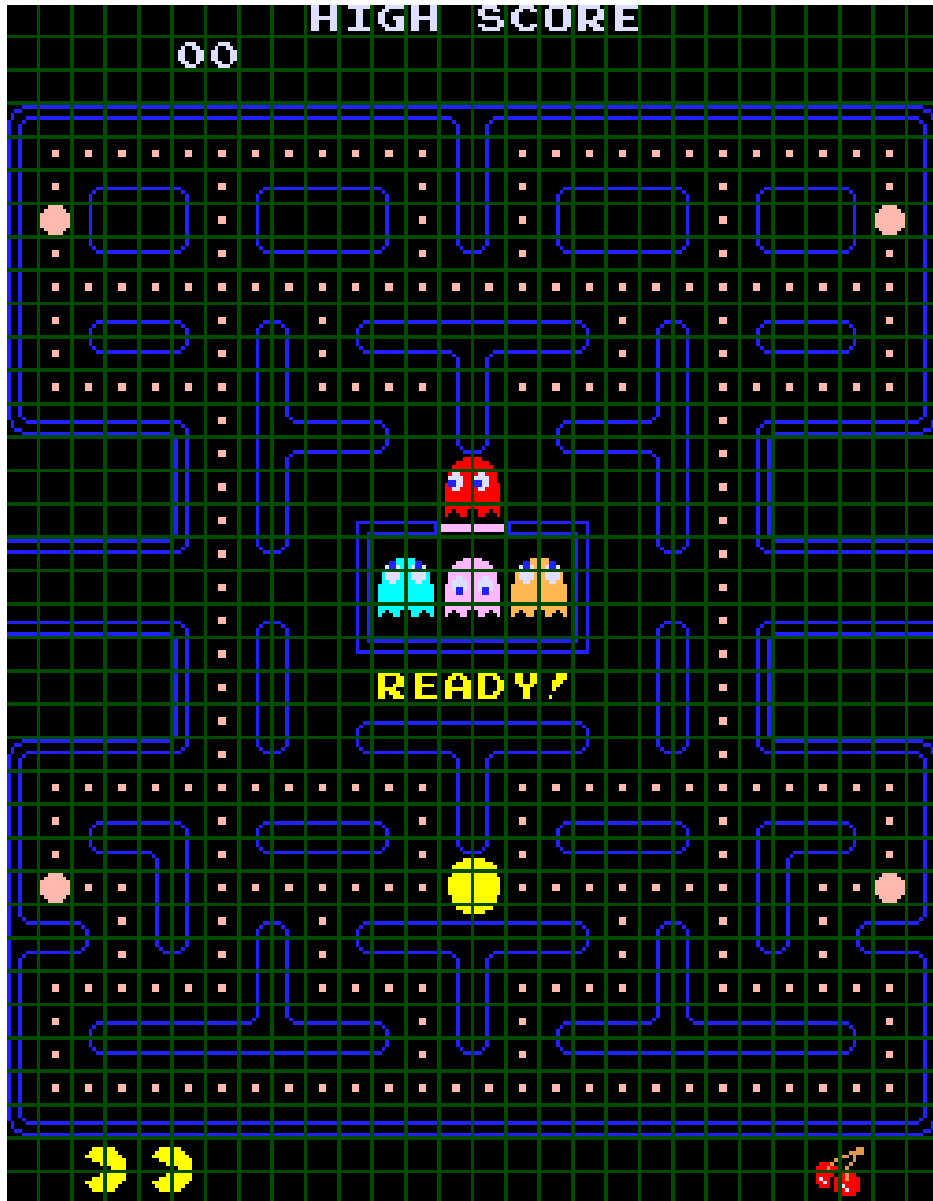


Figure 2.4: Original Pac-Man with grid layout depicted. Source: Reference 1

The PycMan board was initially made as a 64x64 grid, where each piece, namely a tile, was either a wall or a space a sprite may move on. First levels were designed this way and I found the level design a really hard task. Only later I have noticed that the grid of the original PacMan was barely  $\frac{1}{4}^{\text{th}}$  of the size I have used, my board was just to big for a pleasant gameplay.

As I wanted the board to be square I have decided to move to 32x32

grid. Some testing later I have decided that this size not only nicely divides by 2 making perfectly symmetrical or even fractal levels possible to make but also is actually quite the one most similar in terms of number of tiles to the one the original PacMan had (for square boards).

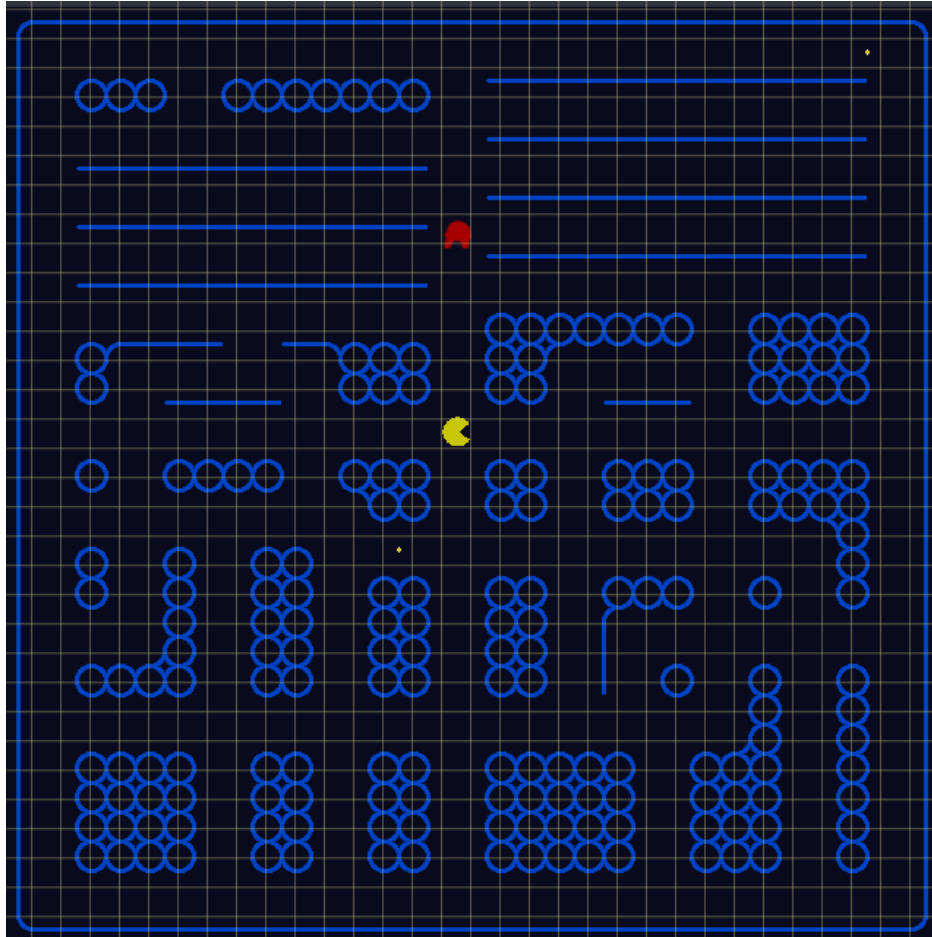


Figure 2.5: Example of a board with a grid applied (note that the grid was added just for demonstrative purposes and is not a part of the game.)

The following section describes types of different tiles used throughout the game.

## 2.3 Types of tiles

### 2.3.1 Walls

As wall tiles have to connect with neighboring (common edge) tiles, they need to be represented by different graphics depending on their surround-

ings. There is a total of 15 graphics depicted below. The system of numbering them is really intuitive, it consists of four digits each of which is either zero or one

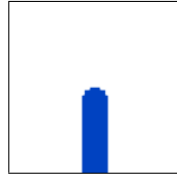


Figure 2.6: Wall 0001

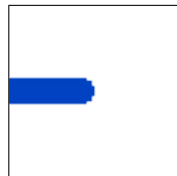


Figure 2.7: Wall 0010

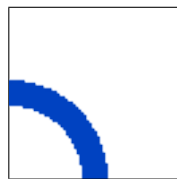


Figure 2.8: Wall 0011

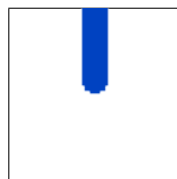


Figure 2.9: Wall 0100

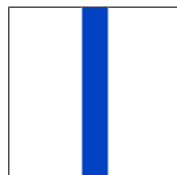


Figure 2.10: Wall 0101

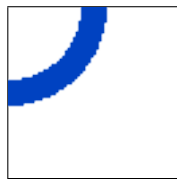


Figure 2.11: Wall 0110

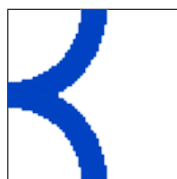


Figure 2.12: Wall 0111



Figure 2.13: Wall 1001

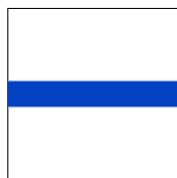


Figure 2.14: Wall 1010



Figure 2.15: Wall 1011

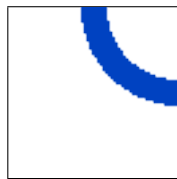


Figure 2.16: Wall 1100



Figure 2.17: Wall 1101

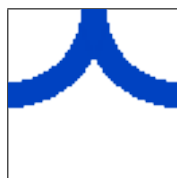


Figure 2.18: Wall 1110



Figure 2.19: Wall 1111

The first bit represents whether connection is to be made on the right, second whether on the top, third whether on the left and fourth whether on the bottom. As wall 0000 would be very small and hard to maneuver around for user, drawing of such is unsupported. I have actually tested moving around such and even my manual and keyboard skills are relatively good, I found it hard to move around such.

Algorithm deciding which type of wall is presented below:

```

1 def walltypecheck(location):
2     r = t = l = b = 0
3     # note that letters correspond to Right Top Left Bottom
4     if location[0] != 0:

```

```

5     if level[location[0]-1][location[1]] == wall:
6         l = 1
7     if location[0] != 31:
8         if level[location[0]+1][location[1]] == wall:
9             r = 1
10    if location[1] != 0:
11        if level[location[0]][location[1]-1] == wall:
12            t = 1
13    if location[1] != 31:
14        if level[location[0]][location[1]+1] == wall:
15            b = 1
16    return str(r) + str(t) + str(l) + str(b)
17

```

For reference of how level data is stored see section 2.4. This algorithm returns type of wall that would fit in the spot location provided as an argument while calling the function. Output format is a string corresponding with wall names described above.

### 2.3.2 Player

Player is represented by an iconic PacMan figure of my own design (to avoid direct copying of work of others). The tile rotates depending on the direction of player's movement so that the 'mouth' is always facing forward as per requirement 1c. Color has been slightly darkened as I find this design a little bit nicer than the original while still complying with requirement 1b.



Figure 2.20: Player sprite

### 2.3.3 Ghosts

There are three types of ghosts in the game, red, green and blue. They are similar in design, though their behavior is different. (described later)



Figure 2.21: Red ghost sprite





Figure 2.22: Green ghost sprite



Figure 2.23: Blue ghost sprite

#### 2.3.4 Eatables

##### Coins

Coin spawning works a little bit different than spawning other tiles, which is described later. They actually appear in every tile **not** designated as 'wall', 'heart' or 'empty'. They are static and their sprites are killed when player enters their tile resulting in coins-eaten counter value increasing.



Figure 2.24: Coin graphics

## Hearts

Hearts are similar to coins in terms of being eaten, but they spawn in designated places and their consumption increases lives counter.

### 2.3.5 Empty tiles

These tiles are actually not drawn. They only act as an abstract concept to hold information that coin is not to be drawn on this particular grid tile. Player and ghost can move through this tile. For user these appear as plain dark blue space - the color of the background.

## 2.4 Levels

### 2.4.1 Permanent storing

It took me a while to actually figure out how to store level blueprints. The container had to be a 32x32 matrix of values. Python lists of lists of vari-

ables would actually be the most efficient way to store types of tiles on each position in the grid. I have actually tried this approach back when my original board was still 64x64 tiles and it didn't take me 10 tiles of brackets and commas to figure out, that maybe this approach is most efficient for storing, but it is absolutely too slow to prepare the level of 4096 tiles. I have decided that I need an editing software for these grids. Then I understood that my levels, grids of values are actually bitmaps. I have prepared an exemplar of a level in GIMP and using my previous experience with Pillow module I have prepared a script to load these bitmaps to my Python program. It all took less time than it would take to fill  $\frac{1}{10}^{\text{th}}$  of that list of lists of values manually.

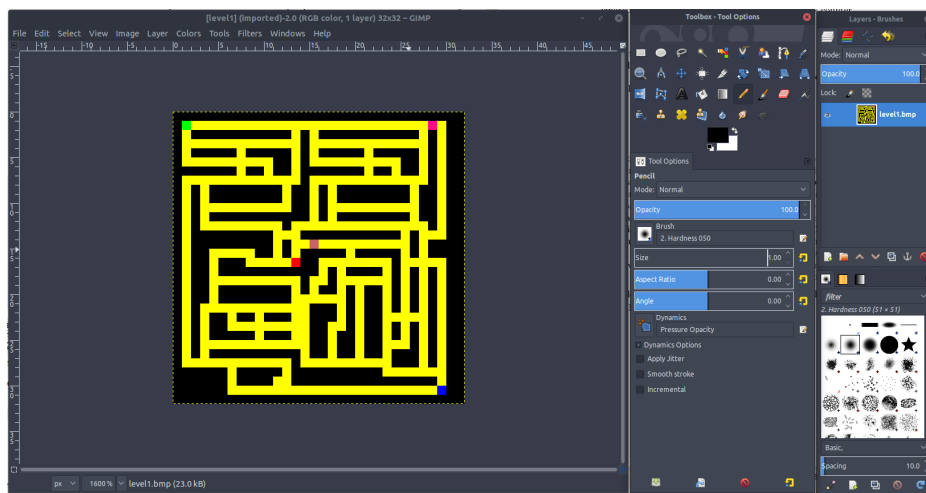


Figure 2.25: An exemplar of a level being edited in the GIMP software

Each tile has its representation in a particular color in RGB notation:

Empty tile	(255, 255, 255)
Wall	(0, 0, 0)
Coin	(255, 255, 0)
Player	(255, 0, 0)
Red Ghost	(200, 100, 100)
Green Ghost	(0, 255, 0)
Blue Ghost	(0, 0, 255)

### 2.4.2 Storing while in game

Do you remember my first concept for the most optimal storage of levels mentioned earlier? Well, that didn't work for storing levels as files... But in game while loaded in RAM - works like a charm. List of lists of integers,

[illegible]

Where every value represents a different type of tile.

Empty tile	0
Wall	1
Coin	2
Player	3
Red Ghost	4
Green Ghost	5
Blue Ghost	6

### 2.4.3 Interpreting



Figure 2.26: First tests of interpretation of level files. Note that coins are formed into letters LU, RU, LB, RB as in words Left, Right, Upper, Bottom to load the tiles in the right orientation. Old 64x64 grid is used.

These tables are then interpreted for program to know where to place which sprites, therefore the following algorithm is used:

```
1 if level[column][row] = wall
2   spawn wall at location column, row
3 elif level[column][row] = player
4   spawn player at location column, row
5 elif level[column][row] = coin
6   spawn coin at location column, row
7 elif level[column][row] = ghost
8   gtype = check ghost color
9   spawn ghost of color gtype at location column, row
10 elif level[column][row] = heart
11   spawn heart at location column, row
12
```

#### 2.4.4 Designing the levels

Process of level design is quite easy and only limitation one needs to remember is that all coin - having tiles must be accessible by a player - not surrounded by a wall. The rest is just a subjective approach to the difficulty. As not all ghosts have to be used, the first few levels have one or two ghosts at most, making them easier. Through alpha testing I have noticed that long passages are traps, as one ghost may approach player from one side and other from the other and there is nowhere to hide. Also it's easier for ghosts to navigate through complex maze and these might be finger-tangling even for advanced players. See Figure 2.25 for a screenshot of a design process.

#### 2.4.5 User-defined levels

As levels can be created using a very basic bitmap editing software, user might actually add their own levels. And use them instead of the built-in ones.

Self-adding levels instruction is available in Appendix X. TODO:reference to right appendix TODO:instruction

#### 2.4.6 Progressing to the next level

When player eats all coins, they advance to the next level, fulfilling Requirement 1j and eventually 1o. At this stage a message screen (described later) appears and all level - loading procedures are called. Also counters of coins eaten and total are reset at this point.

If the level completed was the last level, a congratulations screen is displayed and the game eventually quits.

See Section 2.6 for reference on messages signaling level change and completing the game.

## 2.5 Gameplay scheme

The game works on a concept of a loop, that (when run on a sufficiently fast machine) executes 60 times per second. During that time multiple conditions are checked and different procedures are called.

### 2.5.1 Introduction to the concept of time segments

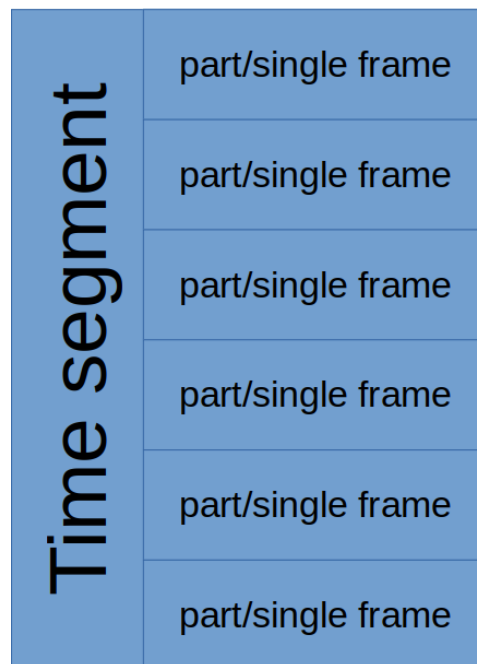


Figure 2.27: Scheme depicting relation between a time segment and parts

It's actually not required to compute some values every each of these 60 loop repetitions per second. An example - ghost moves  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>th</sup> of a tile in that time, it still can't turn so its path to the unchanged player location will remain the same. That's why I have introduced "Time segments". These are discrete representations of time period which is required for a ghost or a player to move a length of one tile. As ghost are slower, they have 5 of these in a second and player has 6.

Whilst processing single frames is still needed, these were called parts, whilst introducing 'part' variable determining which part of time segment is currently executed. See Figure 2.27 for reference.

### 2.5.2 Player movement

Every player's time segment the following code is called:

```
1 # ——— checking pressed keys ———
```

```

2 keys = pygame.key.get_pressed()
3 # ----- wall collision check -----
4 surroundings = walltypecheck(player.location)
5

```

It's worth noting that I have reused `walltypecheck` to look for surroundings of the player for walls. See section 2.3.1 for reference on how this algorithm works.

Then check is performed whether player's move is legit (wall does not obstruct it).

```

1 if left key pressed and tile to the left is not a wall:
2     player.move('left', player_part)
3 elif right key pressed and tile to the right is not a wall:
4     player.move('right', player_part)
5 elif up key pressed and tile above is not a wall:
6     player.move('up', player_part)
7 elif down key pressed and tile below is not a wall:
8     player.move('down', player_part)
9

```

Please note usage of the `player_part` variable. It is the value of frames that have passed since last player segment begun (as described in Section 2.5.1). It's useful to determine whether a new time segment is to be started and for player's moving routine to know at which part of tile it should position player's sprite inducing a fluency of movement.

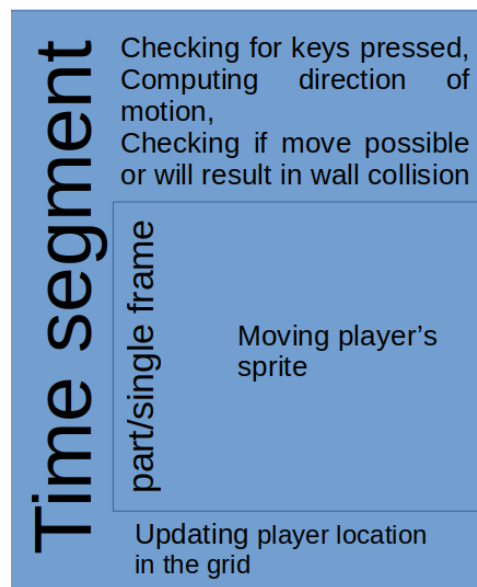


Figure 2.28: Diagram showing how tasks are executed either once per time segment or once per part



### 2.5.3 Ghost movement

Ghost movement is a far more complex algorithm than player's movement though it uses same concept of time segments.

As mentioned in Requirement 2a, I wanted the ghosts to be more intelligent than the originals. I have read (Reference 1) that the original algorithm is really primitive. It checks from which of surrounding tiles ghost will be straight-line closest to the player and moves there.

#### The graph

First idea of mine was to make the ghost actually pick the shortest path to the player. This would both fulfill Requirements 1e and 2a That would have to involve implementation of a graph and a pathfinding algorithm.

As I already had my level-keeping structure in place I have decided to use a similar one to store my graph. It is represented as a list of lists of lists of location tuples. It looks confusing so...

A list (index i) of lists (index j) is used so that all nodes accessible from node of location (i, j) can be stored. Then that next list stores tuples (x, y) of locations accessible from that node. Object is named 'thegraph' throughout the program (as it is the only graph implementation in it). Note that it is a global object.

It's obviously individual for each level and is built every time a level is loaded. Through the following routine:

```
1 def graphbuilder():
2     global level, thegraph
3     thegraph = [[[ for i in range(32)] for j in range(32)]]
4     for i in range(32):
5         for j in range(32):
6             if level[i][j] != wall:
7                 location = [i, j]
8                 if location[0] != 0:
9                     if level[location[0] - 1][location[1]] != wall:
10                        thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0]
11 - 1, location[1]]]
12                     if location[0] != 31:
13                         if level[location[0] + 1][location[1]] != wall:
14                             thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0]
15 + 1, location[1]]]
16                     if location[1] != 0:
17                         if level[location[0]][location[1] - 1] != wall:
18                             thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0],
19 location[1] - 1]]
20                     if location[1] != 31:
21                         if level[location[0]][location[1] + 1] != wall:
22                             thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0],
23 location[1] + 1]]
```

Notably, this algorithm neither adds wall as neighbors of other tiles, nor produces neighbors for wall tiles. This successfully prevents ghosts from moving onto wall tiles, therefore fulfilling Requirement 1d.

## Pathfinding

This part I found actually the hardest. All my previous experience with graphs and pathfinding was actually from old times when my favorite language was C++. Apparently when I switched to Python, my rusty knowledge on the topic had to be refreshed. My first approach (a stupid one) was to use DFS search to check all possible paths and decide which one to use.

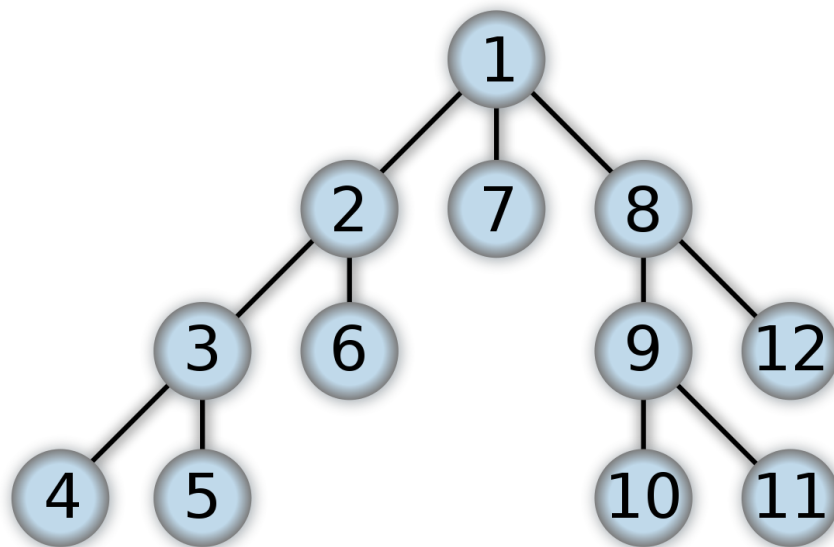


Figure 2.29: Diagram showing order of nodes visits starting from node 1 using DFS algorithm Source: wikipedia.org

It was a rather simple recursion.

```
1 def findpath(start, end, path):
2     append start to path
3     if start == end:
4         return path
5     else:
6         for neighbour in neighbours(start): # neighbours easily
7             obtained from thegraph
8             findpath(neighbour, end, path)
```

That was stupid and very slow, as I have noticed that my graph is not actually a tree and paths may have cycles, this process never actually worked.

And then I realized that a more appropriate solution was to use BFS and implement whether a new node was actually visited before.

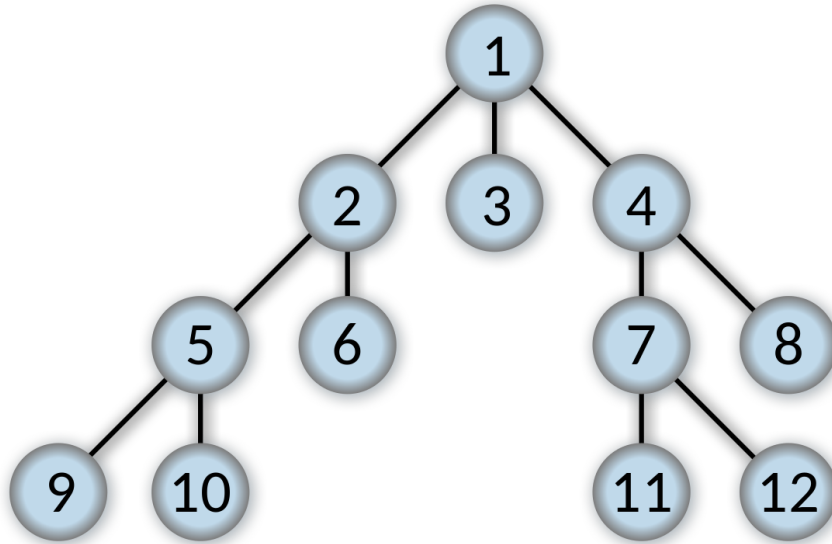


Figure 2.30: Diagram showing order of nodes visits starting from node 1 using BFS algorithm Source: wikipedia.org

I also dropped recursion as advised by online forums... Maybe recursion is a way in C++ but in Python it apparently is really slow. Also my own testing of recursive approach sometimes led to stack overflows, which disqualified this method completely.

A queue of nodes to visit was implemented and new algorithm came to life. It was fast but its output of a complete path to player was actually an overkill - why would I need it if it will become obsolete in the next time segment when player location changes?

The next iteration actually begins BFSing from the player, until it finds any of the tiles surrounding the ghost. It then returns location of such tile - next tile ghost has to move to.

```
1 def find_next_move(start, end, forbidden):
2     visited = []
3     queue = []
4     neighbours = thegraph[start[0]][start[1]].copy()
5     queue.append([end[0], end[1]])
6     visited.append(end)
7     for point in queue:
8         if point not in visited:
9             visited.append(point)
10            if point in neighbours:
```

```

11     return point
12     for node in thegraph[point[0]][point[1]]:
13         if node not in visited:
14             queue.append(node)
15

```

As this approach worked, I was satisfied with its speed and overall performance. Then in alpha testing I found a strange occurrence I haven't noticed in the original PacMan - ghosts could reverse.

I didn't like it, so the algorithm had to exclude ghost's previous location from its neighboring tiles. The next version looked like this:

```

1 def find_next_move(start, end, forbidden):
2     visited = []
3     queue = []
4     neighbours = thegraph[start[0]][start[1]].copy()
5     neighbours.remove([forbidden[0], forbidden[1]])
6     queue.append([end[0], end[1]])
7     visited.append(end)
8     for point in queue:
9         if point not in visited:
10             visited.append(point)
11             if point in neighbours:
12                 return point
13     for node in thegraph[point[0]][point[1]]:
14         if node not in visited and node != [forbidden[0],
15         forbidden[1]]:
16             queue.append(node)

```

## Differences between ghosts

As I have generated some levels and started testing, I found out that if two ghost share location, they effectively become one as their optimal paths will be the same and they will always move the same way. That of course wasn't the effect I wanted, I had to figure out how to make the ghosts behave different. But how to make ghosts both smart and not going straight for the player? Internet for the win, meme pages came with help.



Figure 2.31: Popular meme. Source: pinterest.com

Now enlightened by a piece of digital artwork originating from Star Wars (see Figure 2.31), I decided that my ghosts have to behave like they were to surround the player. How to achieve such effect? I turned to the original PacMan solution - not moving to the exact tile the player occupies. A decision was made to leave the red ghost originally smart while blue and green ghosts were to move to tiles shifted by  $(-2, -2)$  and  $(2, 2)$  vectors from the player. The result was amazing, ghosts seemed to move separately while away from the player, when they approach it, I had a sense that this is not what I programmed, **They hunt in a pack!** I had an authentic experience of ghosts setting a trap, green and blue were blocking my exit routes, when red went straight for me. I put a big green tick mark by the Requirement 1h.

But it sometimes crashed, I wondered what was the case and then I found out that the ghosts were actually trying to go to a tile, which is either a wall (inaccessible) or outside the board (object level was referenced with an invalid index, either negative or exceeding its length). I had to write a piece of algorithm to look for a nearest tile that is actually not wall.

```
1 def find_nearest_not_wall(point):  
2     if point[0] > 31:  
3         point[0] = 31  
4     if point[0] < 0:  
5         point[0] = 0
```

```

6     if point[1] > 31:
7         point[1] = 31
8     if point[1] < 0:
9         point[1] = 0
10    radius = 1
11    if level[point[0]][point[1]] != wall:
12        return point
13    while True:
14        for i in range(point[0]-radius, point[0]+radius):
15            for j in range(point[1]-radius, point[1]+radius):
16                try:
17                    if level[i][j] != wall:
18                        return [i, j]
19                except IndexError:
20                    pass
21        radius += 1
22

```

It first moves the point to the nearest one on the board (lines 2 to 9). Then it checks whether such point is a wall, if not, returns it (lines 11 and 12). If it was a wall it starts searching surroundings of such point in a fixed radius, starting from 1. First point it finds not to be wall is then returned.

Later it had to be implemented in the pathfinding algorithm, which now looks like this:

```

1 def find_next_move(start, end, forbidden):
2     visited = []
3     queue = []
4     end = find_nearest_not_wall(end)
5     neighbours = thegraph[start[0]][start[1]].copy()
6     neighbours.remove([forbidden[0], forbidden[1]])
7     queue.append([end[0], end[1]])
8     visited.append(end)
9     for point in queue:
10        if point not in visited:
11            visited.append(point)
12        if point in neighbours:
13            return point
14    for node in thegraph[point[0]][point[1]]:
15        if node not in visited and node != [forbidden[0],
16        forbidden[1]]:
17            queue.append(node)

```

Note line 4. where final point is substituted with a one closest to it being actually accessible.

### Calling pathfinding algorithm

Now, every ghosts' time segment (note that all ghosts share a single time segment), a new destination tile is calculated for each ghost and pathfinding is called to determine which tile should the ghost move to throughout the time segment.

```

1 for ghost in ghosts_list:
2     if ghost.color == 'red':
3         ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location, player.
4         location, ghost.previouslocation)
5     elif ghost.color == 'blue':
6         ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location,
7                                         [player.location[0] + 2,
8                                         player.location[1] +
9                                         2],
10                                         ghost.previouslocation)
11     elif ghost.color == 'green':
12         ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location,
13                                         [player.location[0] - 2,
14                                         player.location[1] -
15                                         2],
16                                         ghost.previouslocation)

```

Note how `find_next_move` function takes arguments of:

1. Ghost location
2. Target location
3. Previous ghost location - forbidden tile as ghosts can't reverse.

## Ghosts speed

As I had ghosts chasing me, I have figured out that the player actually can't outrun them. And every suboptimal move of the player led to red ghost getting closer and closer. I had the smartest ghost possible, but it had an advantage of having no means of being killed. It was a too powerful opponent. I didn't want to add power-ups for the player to either become faster or to be able to frighten/kill the ghosts. Instead, as derived from the Interview (see Section 1.4), I decided to make the ghosts move at  $\frac{5}{6}$ <sup>th</sup> of the player's speed. I found the gameplay to be quite optimal and actually started playing the game which at this stage was only running from the ghost. But with a stopwatch I was challenged to keep my distance from them for quite a long time. I finally knew that this is what I was aiming for.

### 2.5.4 Handling movement animation

This section is common for both ghosts and a player as it actually derives from the same code. As mentioned in Section 2.5.1, the part part is a smaller piece of time segment. During a single part no routes are computed for ghosts, they only move from one tile to another, being able to actually be rendered in between these tiles to make the Movables (ghosts + player sprites) move fluently.

```

1 def move(direction ,
2           segmentsize ,
3           part):
4     # handling multiple direction formats
5     if direction == 'up' or direction == (0, 1):
6         speed = (0, -1)
7     elif direction == 'down' or direction == (0, -1):
8         speed = (0, 1)
9     elif direction == 'left' or direction == (-1, 0):
10        speed = (-1, 0)
11    elif direction == 'right' or direction == (1, 0):
12        speed = (1, 0)
13    part2 = (part+1) / segmentsize #as parts are numbered from 0
14    #rect parameters of a Movable as implemented in pygame
15    rect.x, rect.y = (location[0] + speed[0] * part2) *
16    tile_width ,
17                        (location[1] + speed[1] * part2) *
18    tile_width
19    if part == segmentsize - 1:
20        #if movement came to the end update location
21        location = location[0] + speed[0] ,
22                    location[1] + speed[1]

```

1. Speed vector is derived from parameter 'direction' (lines 4-12)
2. part2 is calculated - fraction of progress of the movement to be completed in this part (line 13)
3. Movable sprite is moved to new position (lines 14-16)
4. If the actual movement came to an end and a Movable is in a center of a next tile location is updated (lines 17-20)



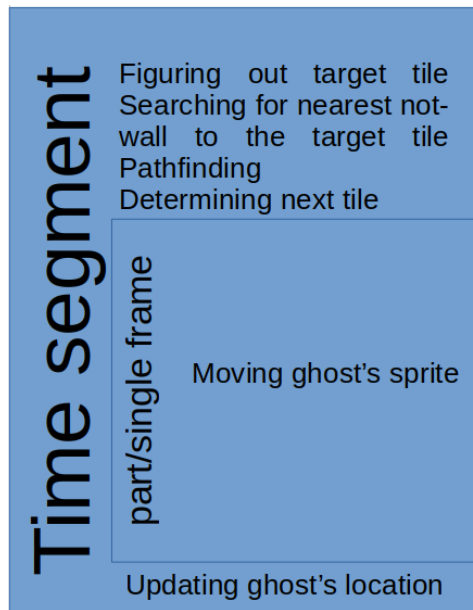


Figure 2.32: Diagram showing how tasks are executed either once per time segment or once per part (for a ghost)  
See Figure 2.28 for the same for player.

### 2.5.5 Eating

Eating of both coins and hearts (Eatables) was easy to implement in terms of detection, but I had to look up how to destroy eaten sprites in the pygame documentation. I found that Sprites may be killed, which seemed to be an optimal solution to that problem. Therefore every player's time segment the following routine is called.

```

1 for eatable in eatables:
2     if eatable.location == player.location:
3         if eatable == heart:
4             lifes += 1
5         if eatable == coin:
6             coins_eaten += 1
7         eatable.kill()
8

```

For every eatable is checked for occupying the same tile as player.  
Then if it is a heart, player gains a life, as per Requirement 1n.  
if it was a coin, coins eaten counter increases, as per Requirement 1l.  
Eatable sprite is killed. This fulfills Requirement 1k.

### 2.5.6 Getting killed

Killing a player is fairly similar to eating... It's just checking for collision with a Ghost instead of an Eatable. It's also called every player's time segment **or** every ghosts' time segment. Following routine is then called:

```
1 for ghost in ghosts:
2     if ghost.location == player.location:
3         lives -= 1
4         if lives == 0:
5             pull Game Over screen
6             Respawn every Movable
7             Reset parts
8             Wait 5s
9             Continue game
10
```

For every ghost a collision with player is checked, if such is detected, process of dying begins.

Life is subtracted from lives counter. (As per Requirement 1f)

If player has no more lives the game ends. (Requirement 1p)

If there are more lives, all movables return to their original position (described in Section 2.5.7) and part counters are reset.

Game waits 5 seconds to let the user cope with the loss, and continues.

### 2.5.7 Respawnning after a loss of life

This is a relatively simple process of putting all Movable to their initial position and making them not preserve their speed. It can be easily described with a following code:

```
1 for Movable in Movables:
2     Movable.location = Movable.initiallocation
3     Movable.speed = (0, 0)
4
```

This process is often referred to as resetting within this document as well as in the corresponding code. This function fulfills the Requirement 1g.

## 2.6 Types of message screens

Messages present throughout the game are displayed in a way that prevents any game event, from occurring unless the message is dismissed by pressing space.

It's done through occupying the main thread with checking for spacebar being pressed.

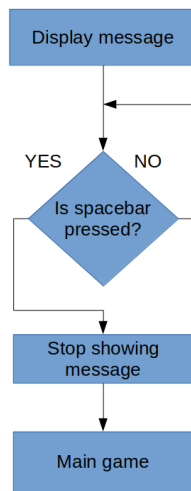


Figure 2.33: Diagram showing how game is halted until message is dismissed using spacebar

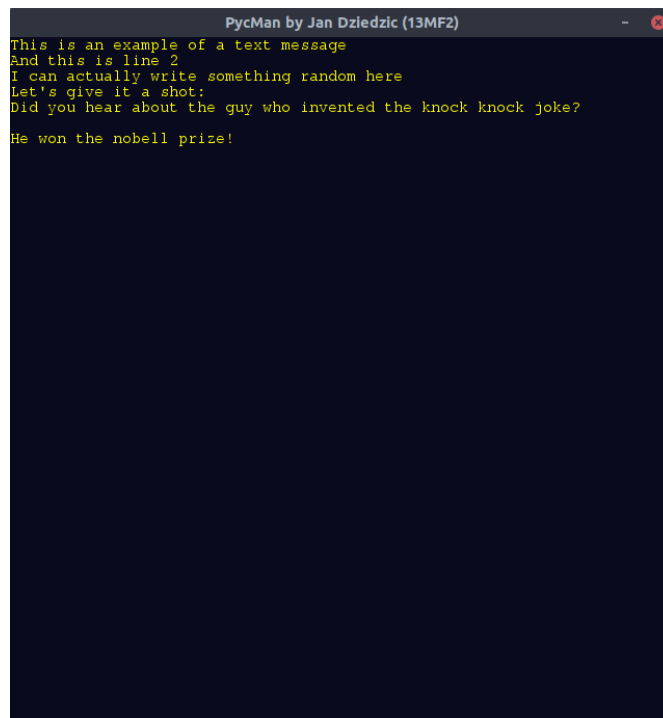


Figure 2.34: Exemplar of the message screen appearing in a window rendered in Ubuntu Gnome graphical environment

### 2.6.1 Tutorial

TODO: Photo of the screen These will be actually completed when I will have time to input actual strings, whilst more critical game parts may be developed earlier.

I remind that I had to make 13 months worth of coursework from 3 subjects in 3 months.

### 2.6.2 Loss of life

TODO: Photo of the screen

### 2.6.3 Completing a level

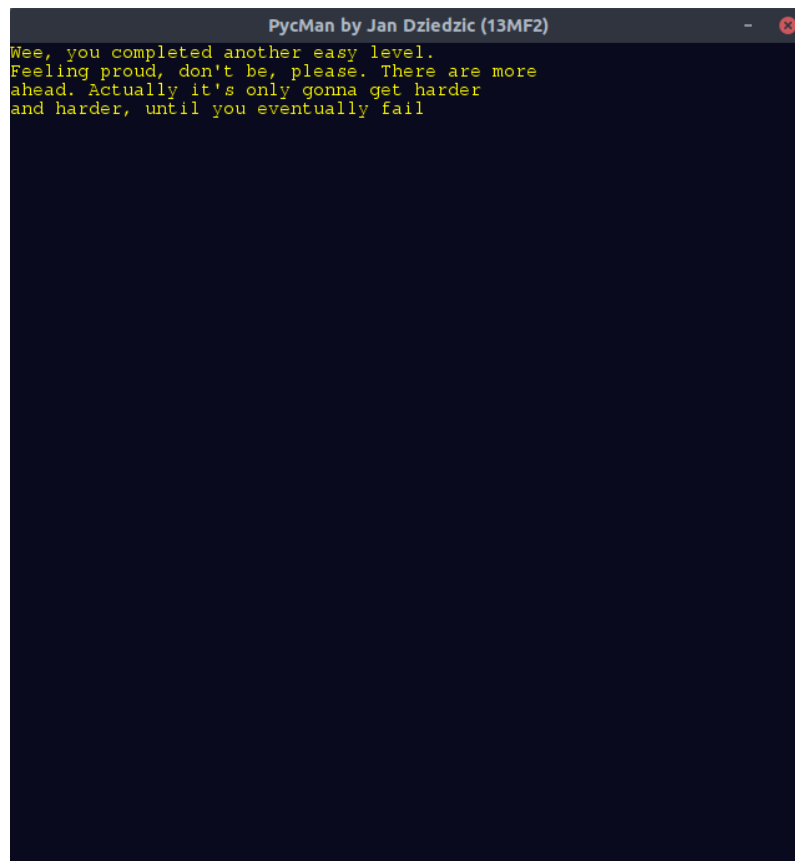


Figure 2.35: Message displayed after completing a level. Shown in a game window rendered in the Ubuntu Gnome graphical environment.

### 2.6.4 Loosing the game

TODO: Photo of the screen

### 2.6.5 Completing the entire game

TODO: Photo of the screen

## 2.7 Testing

I have decided to use three stages of testing, namely zero, alpha ( $\alpha$ ) and beta ( $\beta$ ).

### 2.7.1 zero-testing

This stage was introduced while testing single functions and procedures implemented through the game during the development process. It consisted of mostly running code as-is while writing it using PyCharm. Sometimes I haven't even use debugger in favor of print function to enlist values of variables. This phase commenced until all modules of the game were actually prepared, despite being containing minor bugs that didn't immediately throw an error. At the end of this stage, the game was playable.

### 2.7.2 $\alpha$ -testing

This was the stage of extensively playing the game to see whether all functions appear to be working correctly. Note the use of word 'appear' - code wasn't actually read at this stage in look for bugs, only user experience was assessed. I have tried different approaches at playing, to make the game algorithms experience different user input. From staying perfectly still to going straight for a ghost, I have played the game checking the following:

1. Getting killed by the ghost approaching from different angles.
2. Eating Eatables from different angles.
3. Trying to pass through numerous walls.
4. Moving the player in different directions repeatedly to check if ghosts get confused and the gameplay remains fluent.
5. Manual counting of coins eaten to see if it matches the counter value.
6. Checking whether all graphics render well, by creating each wall type and each possible sprite.
7. Providing program with unexpected input of unassigned keys, mouse clicks and even connecting a gamepad.

### 2.7.3 $\beta$ -testing

This was a stage of testing, during which all major bugs were resolved and the assessment was focused on user experience. Following procedures were performed:

1. Smoothness of animations was checked on different computers, running different OSs.
2. Graphics quality was assessed by an independent body, namely my sister.
3. Actual playing was performed and all levels were played. Each level was actually completed, but never in a single sitting, proving that game indeed can be completed, though it is considerably hard.
4. Different players were used to test the game play.
5. Quality of input controls was assessed.

## Chapter 3

# Implementation

In this section the detailed description of how the game files were created is provided.

### 3.1 Programming tools

Whole development of the game, as mentioned in Section 1.3, was done using a Ubuntu running computer and legally obtained tools I didn't have to pay for, namely opensource, freeware or free for education software.

#### 3.1.1 PyCharm

I used, in my opinion, a brilliant Python IDE called PyCharm. Developed by a company JetBrains and obtained under Free for Education license for the entirety of the project development. The program has a lot of useful functions, which made my work easier and admittedly contributed to me learning how to code more efficiently.

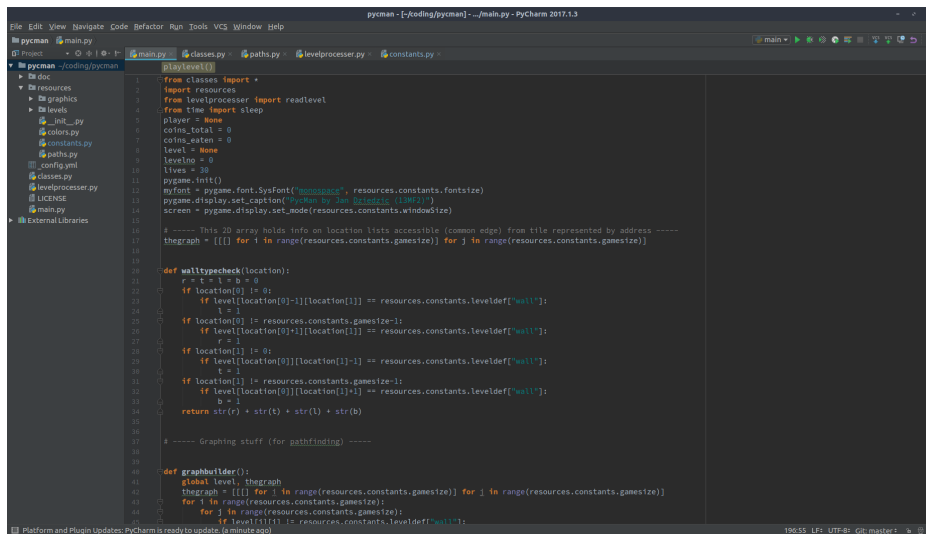


Figure 3.1: Pycharm window rendered in Ubuntu Gnome environment with Pycman project loaded.

### 3.1.2 GIMP

GIMP software was used to develop graphical resources for the game as well as for this document. It's an open source community-developed tool for graphics manipulation, which sometimes is referred as the free alternative to the Adobe Photoshop, with advanced functions and ability to edit images with Alpha channel, resulting in capacity to make ghost images semitransparent. See Figure 2.21 for reference.

### 3.1.3 Git

Git is a popular tool for VCS (Version Control System). My previous experience with programming and mostly teamwork made me use it as an obvious choice for keeping my project files. I used free Github for Education account and github.com servers for storing my files. Admittedly it was really useful when I had to revert some advanced changes or look up how something worked earlier, as it worked better. Basically speaking - it made mistakes less painful.





Figure 3.2: Screenshot of the lists of some of the project commits in the GitHub web interface.

### 3.1.4 TeXstudio

TeXstudio was used to write this document.  $\text{\LaTeX}$  with its excellent reference system as well as professional look was the most appropriate tool in my opinion.

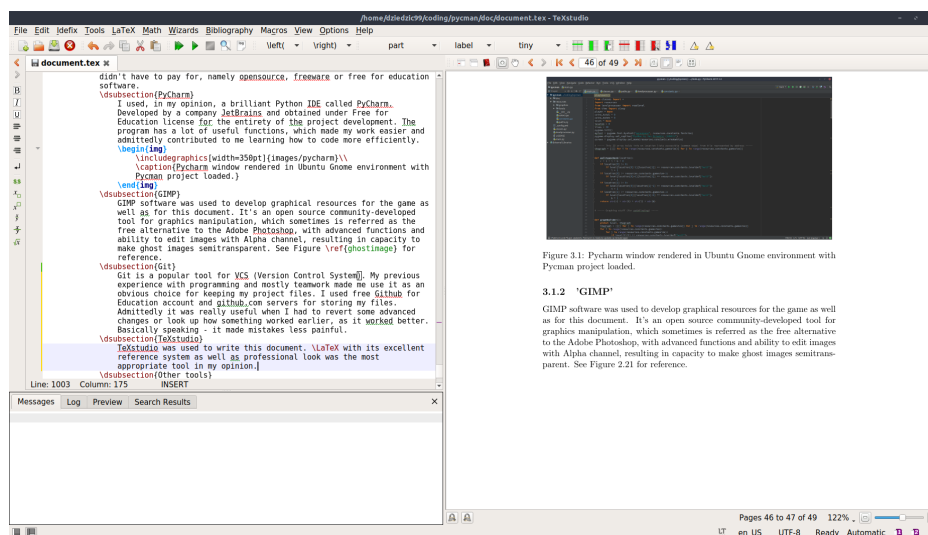


Figure 3.3: TeXstudio window rendered in Ubuntu Gnome environment with this document loaded.

### **3.1.5 Other tools**

Minor other programs were used for writing this documentation, mostly for obtaining screenshots and producing flowcharts.

## **3.2 Interpreter and its modules**

### **3.2.1 Virtual Environment**

To keep my computer clean and my main /usr/bin Python interpreter free of heavy, not often used modules as Pygame I have decided to create a separate interpreter instance using Virtualenv tool.

### **3.2.2 Modules**

Modules used by the game are as follows:

- Pygame - for graphics rendering and input control. Origin of the Sprite class.
- Pillow A.K.A. PIL - for loading level files
- time - origin of the function sleep for delaying certain actions.

## **3.3 Project structure**

I have decided to make the project structure as professionally organized as possible. Therefore I have divided program into resource files and Python files, keeping the first separate in a different folder. Documentation and its resources - graphics are also stored separately.

```

pymc
├── classes.py
├── _config.yml
├── doc
│   ├── document.aux
│   ├── document.log
│   ├── document.pdf
│   ├── document.synctex.gz
│   ├── document.tex
│   └── document.toc
├── images
│   ├── 1_1.png
│   ├── segment-part-relation.png
│   ├── textstudio.png
│   ├── trap.jpg
│   ├── w0001.png
│   ├── w0010.png
│   ├── w0011.png
│   ├── w1101.png
│   ├── w1110.png
│   ├── w1111.png
│   └── window-in-ubuntu.png
├── template_Report.aux
├── template_Report.log
├── template_Report.pdf
├── template_Report.synctex.gz
├── levelprocessor.py
├── LICENSE
├── main.py
├── resources
│   ├── colors.py
│   ├── constants.py
│   ├── graphics
│   │   ├── blueghost.png
│   │   ├── coin.png
│   │   ├── coin.xcf
│   │   ├── greenghost.png
│   │   ├── pinkghost.png
│   │   ├── player.png
│   │   ├── player.xcf
│   │   ├── redghost.png
│   │   ├── redghost.xcf
│   │   ├── w0001.gif
│   │   ├── w1011.gif
│   │   ├── w1100.gif
│   │   ├── w1101.gif
│   │   ├── w1110.gif
│   │   ├── w1111.gif
│   │   ├── wall.png
│   │   └── wall.xcf.xcf
│   ├── __init__.py
│   ├── levels
│   │   ├── 0.bmp
│   │   ├── level0.bmp
│   │   ├── level1.bmp
│   │   ├── test2.png
│   │   ├── tutorial0.png
│   │   ├── tutorial1.bmp
│   │   └── tutorial1.png
│   └── paths.py

```

Figure 3.4: Abbreviated directory structure layout

Reason for additional Python files will be provided within this Chapter.

### 3.4 Classes

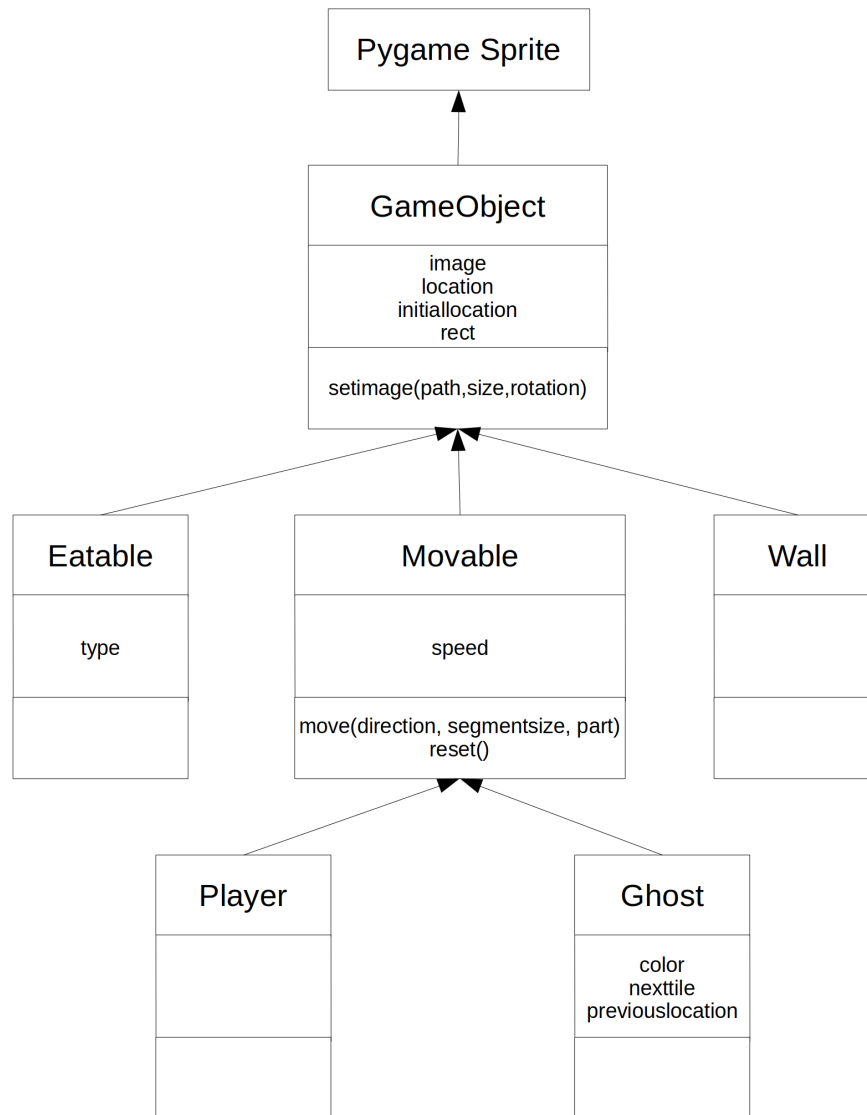


Figure 3.5: Project class diagram

### 3.4.1 GameObject

As whole game is written around pygame environment I have decided to utilize Pygame Sprite class for all objects (excluding text) rendering on the screen. To facilitate some concepts I assumed in the Design stage I had to add a GameObject class.

Class code:

```
1 class GameObject(pygame.sprite.Sprite):
2     def __init__(self, location):
3         super().__init__()
4         self.image = None
5         self.location = location
6         self.initiallocation = location
7         self.rect = None
8
9     def setimage(self, image, size=resources.constants.boxSize,
10                 rotation=0):
11         self.image = pygame.image.load(resources.paths.image[image])
12         self.image = pygame.transform.scale(self.image, size)
13         self.image = pygame.transform.rotate(self.image, rotation)
14         self.rect = self.image.get_rect()
15         self.rect.x, self.rect.y = self.location[0] * resources.
            constants.boxSegmentSize, self.location[1] * resources.
            constants.boxSegmentSize
```

The most important part of the class is the 'location' attribute. It is an (integer, integer) tuple storing information of location of the object in a grid, as described in Section 2.2. Location is passed as a constructor argument. It also provides facilities for easy setting the Sprite image.

### 3.4.2 Eatable

Eatable class is a standard class for Coins and Hearts (see Section 2.3.4 for Coins and Hearts definitions). Its `__init__()` method sets proper image depending on its type, which it takes as an argument.

Class code:

```
1 class Eatable(GameObject):
2     def __init__(self, type, location):
3         super().__init__(location)
4         self.type = type
5         if type == "coin":
6             self.setimage("coin", resources.constants.eatableSize)
7         elif type == "heart":
8             self.setimage("heart", resources.constants.eatableSize)
```

### 3.4.3 Wall

Wall class is fairly simple - during declaration it takes arguments of location in the grid and the type of the Wall. (For reference on types of walls see Section 2.3.1 and Section 2.3.1 for reference on type determination.)

Class code:

```
1 class Wall(GameObject):
2     def __init__(self, location, type):
3         super().__init__(location)
4         self.setimage('w'+str(type))
5
```

### 3.4.4 Movable

Movable is the most complex class deriving from GameObject. It is a blueprint for both Ghosts and the Player, which in contrary to other GameObjects are not static and may move or reset their position to initial (see Section 2.5.7 for information about Movable respawning). It has an additional attribute of 'speed' which is an (integer, integer) tuple with information in which direction (x, y) is the Movable moving. Naturally it has a 'move' method that processes these information accordingly. This method takes following arguments:

- 'direction' - processed to produce a valid 'speed' attribute,
- 'segmentsize' - number of frames per time segment (See Section 2.5.1 for reference.)
- 'part' - part/frame of the movement (See Sections 2.5.1 and Figure 2.27 for reference.)

Method for resetting is fairly straightforward - object initializes itself back in the initial position, exactly how it started, with the same initialization method.

Class code:

```
1 class Movable(GameObject):
2     def __init__(self, location):
3         super().__init__(location)
4         self.image = None
5         self.speed = (0, 0)
6
7     def setimage(self, image, size=resources.constants.movableSize,
8                 rotation=0):
9         super().setimage(image, size, rotation)
10
11     def move(self, direction, segmentsize, part=resources.constants.playerTimeSegmentSize - 1):
12         if direction == 'up' or direction == (0, 1):
```

```

12     self.speed = (0, -1)
13     elif direction == 'down' or direction == (0, -1):
14         self.speed = (0, 1)
15     elif direction == 'left' or direction == (-1, 0):
16         self.speed = (-1, 0)
17     elif direction == 'right' or direction == (1, 0):
18         self.speed = (1, 0)
19     part2 = (part+1) / segmentsize
20     self.rect.x, self.rect.y = (self.location[0] + self.speed[0]
    * resources.constants.speedFactor * part2) * resources.
    constants.boxSegmentSize, (self.location[1] + self.speed[1] *
    resources.constants.speedFactor * part2) * resources.
    constants.boxSegmentSize
21     if part == segmentsize - 1:
22         self.location = self.location[0] + self.speed[0] *
    resources.constants.speedFactor, self.location[1] + self.
    speed[1] * resources.constants.speedFactor
23
24     def reset(self):
25         self.__init__(self.initiallocation)
26

```

### 3.4.5 Player

Descriptively, Player class is the template for the Player's Sprite. I have created a separate class for object that by definition should only exist in one instance for simplicity. If all Movables are to be moved using same routines - so should be the player. It also matches my objective to learn how to program using the 'Object Oriented Programming' paradigm. Class constructor takes argument of location, as per standard Movable and sets Sprite's image as the yellow ball with 'mouth'. Notably this class only overrides Movable.move method in order to account for Player's rotation (see Requirement 1c). The rotation is determined using speed attribute and stored as a degree value in 'rotation' integer variable local to overridden 'move' method. Then, within the same method, parent's parent's (Movable's parent is GameObject) 'setimage' method is invoked with an extra argument, the rotation. This example nicely shows how inheritance works in practice, a great advantage of OOP, which I learned this way.

Class code:

```

1 class Player(Movable):
2     def __init__(self, location):
3         super().__init__(location)
4         self.setimage('player', resources.constants.playerSize)
5
6         def move(self, direction, part=resources.constants.
    playerTimeSegmentSize - 1, partsize=resources.constants.
    ghostTimeSegmentSize):
7             rotation = 0
8             if self.speed == (1, 0):

```

```

9         rotation = 0
10     elif self.speed == (-1, 0):
11         rotation = 180
12     elif self.speed == (0, -1):
13         rotation = 90
14     elif self.speed == (0, 1):
15         rotation = 270
16     super().setimage('player', resources.constants.playerSize,
17                     rotation)
18     super().move(direction, segmentsize=resources.constants.
19                 playerTimeSegmentSize, part=part)

```

### 3.4.6 Ghost

This class is used by all ghost objects. It derives from Movable with some minor differences. During initialization, constructor accepts parameters of grid location and ghost color (as a string). This class has a 'previouslocation' (note it is not 'initiallocation') parameter - this stores grid location of the tile the ghost previously occupied. It is a significant factor for determining ghost's path - as per Requirement 1i - ghosts cannot reverse. This basically means that whenever path of the ghost to its target tile is determined, 'previouslocation' tile is excluded from potential beginnings of such path, which completely satisfies the Requirement. Move method has been overridden to facilitate 'previouslocation' change. So was 'reset' method to allow initialization with the same color. Class code:

```

1 class Ghost(Movable):
2     def __init__(self, location, color):
3         super().__init__(location)
4         self.color = color
5         self.nexttile = None
6         self.setimage(color+'_ghost')
7         self.previouslocation = self.location
8
9         def move(self, direction, part=resources.constants.
10                ghostTimeSegmentSize - 1, partsize=resources.constants.
11                ghostTimeSegmentSize):
12             self.previouslocation = self.location
13             super().move(direction, partsize, part)
14
15     def reset(self):
16         self.__init__(self.initiallocation, self.color)

```



## 3.5 Resources

### 3.5.1 Constants

By now reader of this documentation should notice that Section 3.4 is full of 'resources.constants.NAME' statements. When writing the game I have discovered that I input many hardcoded values in both class definitions and the core program code, all of these were values that could change, worse, I have changed them multiple times, throughout development. When I had to change the size of board - namely substituting 64 with 32 in a few dozens of lines I figured that I need to write all of those constants in a single place.

I added new file to the project - constants.py.

Here is its abbreviated content:

```
1 eatableSize = [20, 20]
2 movableSize = [20, 20]
3 playerSize = [20, 20]
4 speedFactor = 1
5 windowSize = [640, 660]
6 playerTimeSegmentSize = 10
7 ghostTimeSegmentSize = 12
8 tileWidth = 20
9 tileSize = [tileWidth, tileWidth]
10 fps = 60
11 fontsize = 15
12 gamesize = 32
13 scatterSize = 2
14 totallevels = 5
15
16 leveldef = {
17     'nothing': 0,
18     'wall': 1,
19     'coin': 2,
20     'player': 3,
21     'red_ghost': 4,
22     'green_ghost': 5,
23     'blue_ghost': 6,
24 }
25
26 editordef = {
27     'nothing': (255, 255, 255),
28     'wall': (0, 0, 0),
29     'coin': (255, 255, 0),
30     'player': (255, 0, 0),
31     'red_ghost': (200, 100, 100),
32     'green_ghost': (0, 255, 0),
33     'blue_ghost': (0, 0, 255)
34 }
35
```

It consists of numerical constants used throughout the game. This basically serves as settings - if I realize that player's Sprite appears to small to com-

fortably navigate it, I can change its size in a single place without worrying that somewhere in the code I left one value unchanged and, for example player will be able to move through walls. Names of these constants are very descriptive so that core code's readability doesn't suffer from using this method. I even think that it's more readable with constants used rather than hardcoded values.

To use constants within any part of the code following import statement must be used.

```
1 import resources
2
```

To invoke a constant following code must be used: (with an example of an 'fps' constant)

```
1 resources.constants.fps
2
```

Here is a list of most notable constants used in this project:

- `eatableSize` - x, y size of an image of object of class Eatable (in pixels)
- `movableSize` - x, y size of an image of object of class Movable (in pixels)
- `playerSize` - x, y size of an image of object of class Player (in pixels)
- `speedFactor` - integer value that can be used to tune Movables' speed on low performance platforms
- `windowSize` - size of game window in pixels (note, this is not the size of the board)
- `playerTimeSegmentSize` - number of frames/parts per Player's Time Segment (see Section 2.5.1 for reference) This value can be used to tune Player's speed.
- `ghostTimeSegmentSize` - number of frames/parts per Ghosts' Time Segment (see Section 2.5.1 for reference) This value can be used to tune Ghosts' speed.
- `tileWidth` - this is a single integer value representing width of a single tile (see Section 2.2 for reference on tiles) in pixels.
- `tileSize` - this is an iterable size of the tile in x,y format (unit is pixels). For square tiles it is equal to `[tileWidth, tileWidth]`
- `fps` - desired value of Frames Per Second displaying on screen. Can be modified together with `speedFactor` to run the game on slower machines.
- `fontSize` - determines size of the font used in the game in points

- `gamesize` - number of tiles per boards edge. Note that the game has a total of  $gamesize^2$  tiles.
- `scatterSize` - As described in Section 2.5.3 - two of the ghosts don't chase the Player directly, they follow an optimal path to tiles shifted by a specific vector from the Player's location. This constant represents an absolute value of one axis component of this vector. Namely, one ghost's target is shifted by `(scatterSize, scatterSize)` and the other's by `(-scatterSize, -scatterSize)`
- `totallevels` - number of levels available
- `editordef` - dictionary that defines what type of tile is represented by a particular color (see Section 2.4.1 for reference on how levels are stored) in level files. Colors are represented by (Red, Green, Blue) tuples.
- `leveldef` - dictionary that defines what type of tile is represented by a particular integer (see Section 2.4.2 for reference on how level files are processed) in core game program.

Past code example:

```
1 level = [[resources.constants.leveldef['nothing'] for i in range
            (64)] for j in range(64)]
2
```

New code example:

```
1 level = [[resources.constants.leveldef['nothing'] for i in range
            (resources.constants.gamesize)] for j in range(resources.
            constants.gamesize)]
2
```

Notably the code is longer, but the convenience and reliability of this solution justifies having to type extra characters.

### 3.5.2 Paths

As number of resources grew and grew I figured out that hardcoding file paths was as bad as values. Upon developing walls graphics I have noted that including a path to them in every bit of code would be long, inefficient and prone to errors, even typos. I have decided to aggregate all of my path strings into one file, 'paths.py'. Nested under directory 'resources' this file contains path strings to every single resource used through the game. Here is an abbreviated version presented:

```
1 resources = "./resources/"
2 graphics = resources + "graphics/"
3 levels = resources + "levels/"
4
```

```

5 image = {
6     "coin": graphics + "coin.png",
7     "w0001": graphics + "w0001.gif",
8     "w0010": graphics + "w0010.gif",
9     "w0011": graphics + "w0011.gif",
10    "w0100": graphics + "w0100.gif"
11 }
12

```

Presented example shows a part of the 'image' dictionary which resolves filenames to complete paths.

## 3.6 Level processing

### 3.6.1 Reading bitmap files

As mentioned in Section 2.4.1 - levels are stored as bitmaps. To decode these to format that is easily processed (see Section 2.4.2) the following file has been written.

```

1 from PIL import Image
2 import resources
3
4
5 def readlevel(file):
6     level = [[resources.constants.leveldef['nothing'] for i in
7               range(resources.constants.gamesize)] for j in range(resources
8               .constants.gamesize)]
9     im = Image.open(resources.paths.levels + file)
10    im.load()
11    for col in range(0, resources.constants.gamesize):
12        for row in range(0, resources.constants.gamesize):
13            pixel = im.getpixel((col, row))
14            if pixel == resources.constants.editordef["coin"]:
15                level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['coin']
16            elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["wall"]:
17                level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['wall']
18            elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["player"]:
19                level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['player']
20            elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["red_ghost"]:
21                level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['red_ghost']
22            elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["green_ghost"]:
23                level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['green_ghost']
24            elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["blue_ghost"]:
25                level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['blue_ghost']
26    return level

```

As seen, this code uses Pillow A.K.A. 'PIL' Python module to process bitmaps. Resources are also imported to utilize leveldef and editordef dictionaries. Input of the readlevel function is a path of a 32px x 32px bitmap, the output is a 32 x 32 array of integers representing tile types at particular positions on the board.

### 3.6.2 Checking wall type

As walls are displayed as different images (which is extensively described in Section 2.3.1), following function is available to determine wall type.

```

1 def walltypecheck(location):
2     r = t = l = b = 0
3     if location[0] != 0:
4         if level[location[0]-1][location[1]] == resources.constants.
           leveldef["wall"]:
5             l = 1
6     if location[0] != resources.constants.gamesize-1:
7         if level[location[0]+1][location[1]] == resources.constants.
           leveldef["wall"]:
8             r = 1
9     if location[1] != 0:
10        if level[location[0]][location[1]-1] == resources.constants.
           leveldef["wall"]:
11            t = 1
12    if location[1] != resources.constants.gamesize-1:
13        if level[location[0]][location[1]+1] == resources.constants.
           leveldef["wall"]:
14            b = 1
15    return str(r) + str(t) + str(l) + str(b)
16

```

Function walltypecheck takes an input of grid location in (x,y) format and outputs a string of 0s and 1s corresponding with wall name (See Section 2.3.1 for wall names). Note usage of r,t,l,b variables which correspond with this scheme:  
separately.

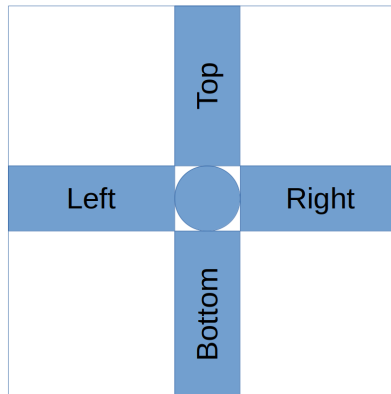


Figure 3.6: Scheme showing which parts of wall are added according to  $r, t, l, b$  values

### 3.6.3 Adding Sprites according to tile types

The following script is used to add Sprites to their respective groups. See section 3.6.4 for reference.

```

1 def loadlevel(file):
2     global level, coins_total, player
3     # level-loading procedure with input of standard 32x32 bitmap
4     # level file
5     level = readlevel(file)
6     for col in range(0, resources.constants.gamesize):
7         for row in range(0, resources.constants.gamesize):
8             box = level[col][row]
9             if box != resources.constants.leveldef["wall"] and box !=
10                resources.constants.leveldef["nothing"]:
11                 eatable = Eatable(0, (col, row))
12                 eatables_list.add(eatable)
13                 coins_total += 1
14             if box == resources.constants.leveldef["wall"]:
15                 wall = Wall((col, row), walltypecheck((col, row)))
16                 walls_list.add(wall)
17             elif box == resources.constants.leveldef["player"]:
18                 player = Player((col, row))
19                 players_list.add(player)
20             elif box == resources.constants.leveldef["red_ghost"]:
21                 ghost = Ghost((col, row), 'red')
22                 ghosts_list.add(ghost)
23             elif box == resources.constants.leveldef["blue_ghost"]:
24                 ghost = Ghost((col, row), 'blue')
25                 ghosts_list.add(ghost)
26             elif box == resources.constants.leveldef["green_ghost"]:
27                 ghost = Ghost((col, row), 'green')
28                 ghosts_list.add(ghost)

```

### 3.6.4 Sprite Groups

Within the main program file the following groups are globally declared.

```
1 eatables_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
2 walls_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
3 players_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
4 ghosts_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
```

Each of them stores Sprites of respective type - a very useful feature of pygame.sprite allowing manipulating multiple objects at once.

## 3.7 Ghost pathfinding algorithm

This section covers the most algorithmically complex part of this project - ghost pathfinding system. As seen in section 2.5.3 the concept is based on BFS graph search. But first there must be a graph to begin with. It's important to note that the graph is stored in 'thegraph' global variable - pretty descriptive, as this is the only graph implementation used in this project.

### 3.7.1 Graph structure

Formally - the graph is a list of lists of lists of lists of integers - notably complex structure. It's easier to imagine it though as a two-dimensional matrix of lists of tile locations - that sounds like something comprehensible by a human mind. Namely - first two iterable arguments are (x,y) coordinates of the tile we want to query for neighboring tiles. If we were to

```
1 print(thegraph[5][5])
2
```

we would see a list of points in [x,y] format, all tiles that a Movable could move to from tile (5,5).

### 3.7.2 Graph building

```
1 def graphbuilder():
2     global level, thegraph
3     thegraph = [[] for i in range(resources.constants.gamesize)]
4     for j in range(resources.constants.gamesize):
5         for i in range(resources.constants.gamesize):
6             # iterating through all tiles in the grid
7             if level[i][j] != resources.constants.leveldef["wall"]:
8                 # taking advantage of the fact that Movable can move on
9                 # all tiles that are not initially marked as walls
10                location = [i, j]
11                # processing location in more suitable format
```

```

11     # and now, iterating through all possible neighbours of
    the processed tile (with checking if it isn't by any chance a
    border tile)
12     if location[0] != 0:
13         if level[location[0] - 1][location[1]] != resources.
            constants.leveldef["wall"]:
14             thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0]
                - 1, location[1]]]
15         if location[0] != resources.constants.gamesize-1:
16             if level[location[0] + 1][location[1]] != resources.
                constants.leveldef["wall"]:
17                 thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0]
                    + 1, location[1]]]
18         if location[1] != 0:
19             if level[location[0]][location[1] - 1] != resources.
                constants.leveldef["wall"]:
20                 thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0],
                    location[1] - 1]]
21         if location[1] != resources.constants.gamesize-1:
22             if level[location[0]][location[1] + 1] != resources.
                constants.leveldef["wall"]:
23                 thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0],
                    location[1] + 1]]
24

```

As seen for every possible neighboring tile the algorithm checks whether it is a wall and if it's not - it adds it to the list of all tiles a Movable may move to. As walls do not move, appear nor disappear this structure remains static throughout the level and must only be processed once upon level loading.

### 3.7.3 Choosing a target tile for each ghost

As described in Section 3.5.1, `resources.constants.scatterSize` governs to how distant tile should green and blue ghost move. But when we add let's say a vector (2,2) to player's location, there is no guarantee that this tile is not a wall. If it was a wall it wouldn't appear on any list of neighbors of surrounding tile - ghost wouldn't be able to move there. Worse, there is no guarantee that this tile is even within the boundaries of the game board. I have discovered it during first tests of ghost chasing - game crashed as internal algorithms tried to fetch neighbors of tile which coordinates were greater than board size - this resulted in `indexError`. Therefore a need for the following function appeared:

```

1 def find_nearest_not_wall(point):
2     if point[0] > resources.constants.gamesize-1:
3         point[0] = resources.constants.gamesize-1
4     if point[0] < 0:
5         point[0] = 0
6     if point[1] > resources.constants.gamesize-1:
7         point[1] = resources.constants.gamesize-1
8     if point[1] < 0:
9         point[1] = 0

```



```

10     if level[point[0]][point[1]] != resources.constants.leveldef['
        wall']:
11         return point
12     radius = 1
13     while True:
14         for i in range(point[0]-radius, point[0]+radius):
15             for j in range(point[1]-radius, point[1]+radius):
16                 try:
17                     if level[i][j] != resources.constants.leveldef['wall']:
18                         return [i, j]
19                 except IndexError:
20                     pass
21             radius += 1
22

```

With a slightly deceiving name - `find_nearest_not_wall` - not only finds the coordinates of the nearest tile that isn't marked as a wall but it finds the nearest tile that isn't marked as a wall **that actually exists**. Within lines 2-9 the location is being confined to the boundaries of the board - then condition in line 10 checks whether the tile in question is a wall - if it isn't - that solves the problem. Else - the actual search begins. With growing radius neighboring tiles are checked for not being a wall. As this algorithm may eventually lead to checking type of a tile outside the board, a try/catch routine is used. By filtering cases of `IndexError`, nonexistent tiles aren't checked. I found this solution cleaner than limiting the borders of search, checking whether radius doesn't extend beyond the board, after all it's only 3 very clean lines. The function eventually returns a nearest existing point not being a wall.

### 3.7.4 Actual pathfinding

After giving it a thought, the ghosts don't really require a complete path to operate. They just need to know where next to move. One single tile location or even a direction. I also figured that running searches from each tile of ghost's neighbors is inefficient. Out of pure reason... What seems faster? Finding one needle in a haystack three times or finding one of three needles in a haystack once? I would go for the second one. Here are two diagrams illustrating the concept:

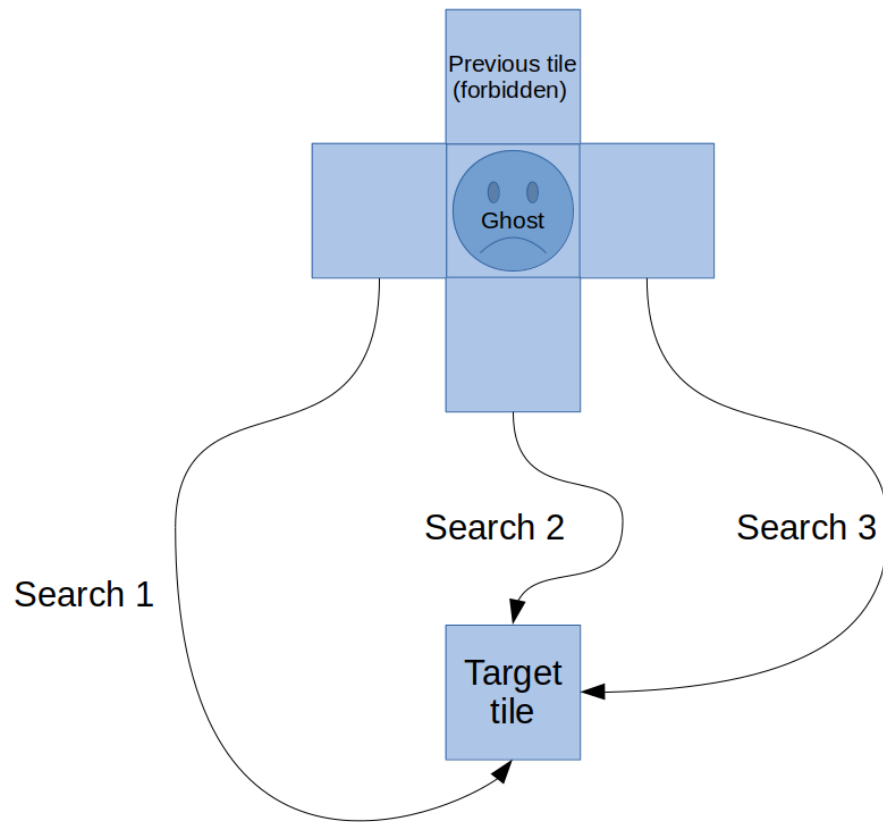


Figure 3.7: Inefficient method of running three searches.

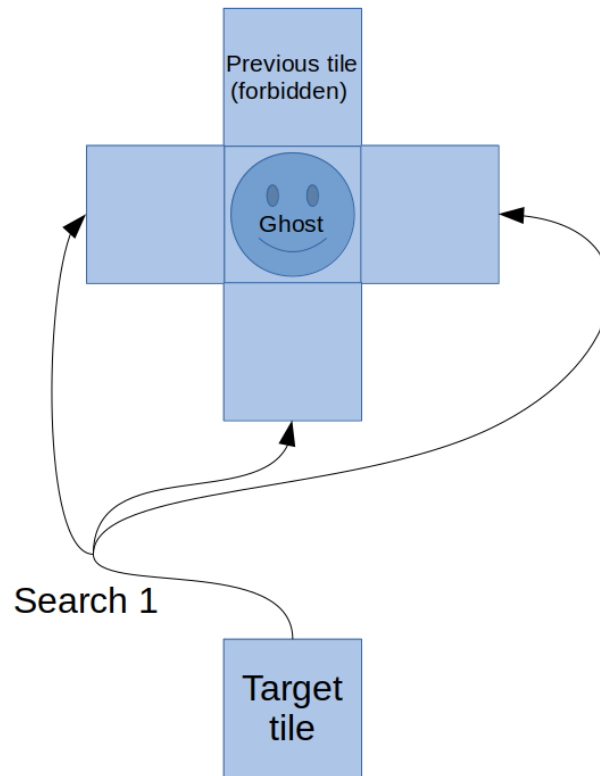


Figure 3.8: Efficient method of running one search.

To keep things simple, my algorithm for pathfinding accepts three arguments: start (ghost position), end(target tile position) and forbidden (tile the ghost moved from - ghost reversing prevention as per requirement 1i). The initial version of the code had the following form.

```

1
2 def find_next_move(start, end):
3     visited = []
4     queue = []
5     end = find_nearest_not_wall(end)
6     # as start is guaranteed not to be wall, both ends are now
7     # places a Movable may move to
8     neighbours = thegraph[start[0]][start[1]]
9     queue.append(end)
10    visited.append(end)
11    for point in queue:
12        if point in neighbours:
13            return point
14        for node in thegraph[point[0]][point[1]]:
15            if node not in visited:

```

```

15         visited.append(node)
16         queue.append(node)
17

```

While this algorithm actually produced solutions in the initial testing stage, it was slow and I realized it didn't comply with Requirement 1i. To address these issues, changes were made and now the code for the main pathfinding function is as follows:

```

1 def find_next_move(start, end, forbidden):
2     visited = []
3     # storing visited nodes
4     queue = []
5     # storing nodes to visit
6     end = find_nearest_not_wall(end)
7     # as start is guaranteed not to be wall, both ends are now
8     # places a Movable may move to
9     neighbours = thegraph[start[0]][start[1]].copy()
10    # preventing corrupting thegraph when excluding forbidden tile
11    try:
12        # try as forbidden tile may be any tile after reset
13        # particularly it may not be in neighbors
14        neighbours.remove([forbidden[0], forbidden[1]])
15        # removing forbidden tile from neighbors
16    except Exception:
17        pass
18    queue.append([end[0], end[1]])
19    # start search from the end (target tile)
20    visited.append(end)
21    # mark end as a visited node
22    for point in queue:
23        if point not in visited:
24            visited.append(point)
25            # mark current point as visited
26            if point in neighbours:
27                return point
28            # if solution is find return next tile for the ghost
29            for node in thegraph[point[0]][point[1]]:
30                if node not in visited and node != [forbidden[0],
31                forbidden[1]]:
32                    queue.append(node)
33                    # add all unvisited neighbors of current node to the
34                    queue

```

Being a rather clean BFS implementation this code returns only the location of one of ghost's neighbors - the tile it has to move to next. It was rewritten from scratch and well commented. Forbidden tile was added and therefore Requirement 1i fulfilled.

## 3.8 Designing resources

Admittedly, my computer graphics skills are quite limited, so are manual. I considered designing graphics on paper, scanning them and importing into game. Following my first sketches I have decided to rather use GIMP instead of paper and pencils. TODO: add mock drawing

As per Requirement 1a, I needed to produce designs similar to those in original PacMan.

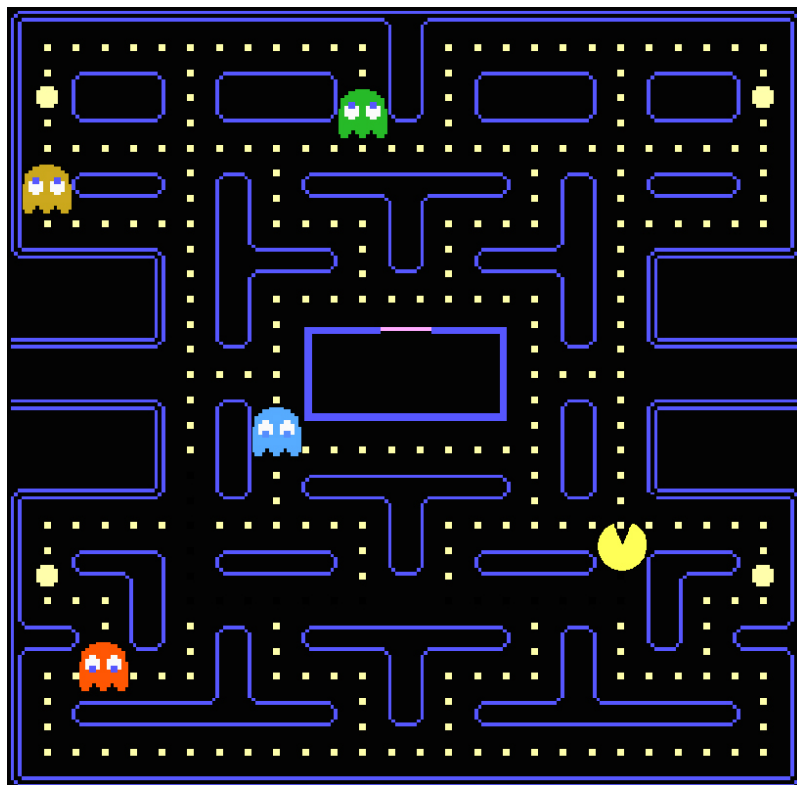


Figure 3.9: Original PacMan graphics. Source: [www.todayifoundout.com](http://www.todayifoundout.com)

### 3.8.1 Walls

These were rather simple. While original PacMan walls were build with a double blue framework, I went for a single framework. There is a clearly justified reason for that - my game was initially bigger and if I were to have double framework walls, player might have become confused, whether some space is accessible or not. After all the game board is a maze. I started with the simplest walls - 1010 and 0101. See pictures in the Design Section 2.3.1. Then I generated a simple 1100 arc. Rest of the arcs were just rotated versions of it. Walls with three 1s and one 0 in their code, resembling letter

T, were just merges of two of those double 1s arcs and wall 1111 was a merger of them all. GIMP offered tools for easy rotation and cop-pasting, which led to the graphics being produced in no time. I had to figure out how to make them transparent so that the game background could be seen from underneath. Again, GIMP offered function "Background to Alpha" which solved the problem instantly. And last, the format - it had to support transparency, be quite compact and readable by Pygame. I turned to GIF as it fitted these requirements perfectly.

### 3.8.2 Ghosts

In my opinion PycMan's greatest advantage is its simplicity - ghosts were created using GIMP's spray tool while pretty randomly stroking laptop's touchpad. This gave them their unique shape. To produce three ghosts of the same shape and different colors I used color manipulation tools available within GIMP to alter RGB channels in the original picture. Again these were exported as GIFs to preserve the partial transparency. For ghost graphic in red see Figure 2.21.

### 3.8.3 Player

The under-appreciated GIMP's ability to create circles of a single color and its unprecedented selection tool were used to create player's graphic of a yellow ball with 'mouth', fulfilling Requirement 1b. Again this was exported as GIF to preserve the Alpha channel.

## 3.9 Core program code

### 3.9.1 Playing a single level

To initialize the game, the core program calls function `playlevel()`, which takes no arguments as it utilizes global variables for reference on which level should be played and on lives remaining.

```
1 def playlevel():
2     global coins_eaten, coins_total, lives, levelno
3     # marking variables as global
4     coins_total = coins_eaten = 0
5     # resetting coin counters
6     prepare_level(resources.paths.levelorder[levelno])
7     # level loading
8     game_on = True
9     # game starter
10    clock = pygame.time.Clock()
11    # clock init
12    eatables_list.update()
13    walls_list.update()
14    players_list.update()
```

```

15     ghosts_list.update()
16     # updating Sprite Groups
17     player_time_segment = resources.constants.
        playerTimeSegmentSize
18     ghost_time_segment = resources.constants.ghostTimeSegmentSize
19     # forcing pathfinding to update
20

```

By this part all initialization is done and the program starts main game loop.

## Main loop

Following code initializes the main while loop. Its execution finishes when some part of the program sets game\_on flag to False.

```

1 # ----- Main game loop -----
2 while game_on:
3

```

## Handling completing the level

```

1 # ----- Level - winning handling -----
2 if coins_eaten == coins_total:
3     levelno += 1
4     game_on = False
5     # ----- stop the level if all coins are eaten -----
6

```

## Handling user input part 1

```

1 if player_time_segment == resources.constants.
    playerTimeSegmentSize:
2     # ----- Handling user input pt1 -----
3     for event in pygame.event.get():
4         if event.type == pygame.QUIT:
5             game_on = False
6
7     # ----- checking pressed keys -----
8     keys = pygame.key.get_pressed()
9     # ----- wall collision check -----
10    surroundings = walltypecheck(player.location)
11

```

## Handling ghost movement part 1

```

1 # ----- ghost movement handling pt 1 -----
2 if ghost_time_segment == resources.constants.
    ghostTimeSegmentSize:
3     # if it's time to update paths update them
4     for ghost in ghosts_list.sprites():
5         if ghost.color == 'red':

```

```

6     ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location, player.
    location, ghost.previouslocation)
7     elif ghost.color == 'blue':
8         ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location,
9         [player.location[0] + resources.constants.scatterSize,
10        player.location[1] + resources.constants.scatterSize],
11        ghost.previouslocation)
12    elif ghost.color == 'green':
13        ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location,
14        [player.location[0] - resources.constants.scatterSize,
15        player.location[1] - resources.constants.scatterSize],
16        ghost.previouslocation)
17

```

### Updating 'part' counters

```

1 # ----- handling some frames/move -----
2 player_part = resources.constants.playerTimeSegmentSize -
    player_time_segment
3 ghost_part = resources.constants.ghostTimeSegmentSize -
    ghost_time_segment
4

```

### Handling input part 2

```

1 # ----- input handling pt 2 / player movement handling -----
2 if keys[pygame.K.LEFT] and surroundings[2] == '0':
3     player.move('left', player_part)
4 elif keys[pygame.K.RIGHT] and surroundings[0] == '0':
5     player.move('right', player_part)
6 elif keys[pygame.K.UP] and surroundings[1] == '0':
7     player.move('up', player_part)
8 elif keys[pygame.K.DOWN] and surroundings[3] == '0':
9     player.move('down', player_part)
10

```

### Handling ghost movement part 2

```

1 # ----- ghost movement handling pt 2 -----
2 for ghost in ghosts_list.sprites():
3     try:
4         ghost.move((ghost.nexttile[0] - ghost.location[0], -ghost.
5         nexttile[1] + ghost.location[1]), ghost_part)
6     except Exception:
7         # if for some unforeseen reason it's impossible to move the
8         ghost just leave it there
9         pass

```

### Handling player dying

```

1 # ----- player dying handling -----
2 for ghost in ghosts_list.sprites():
3     if ghost.location == player.location:

```



```

4     # decrease lives counter
5     lives -= 1
6     reset()
7     # reset the board
8     player_time_segment = resources.constants.
        playerTimeSegmentSize+1
9     ghost_time_segment = resources.constants.
        ghostTimeSegmentSize+1
10    # force game to update ghost paths after respawning
11    if lives <= 0:
12        # if the player is dead for good
13        game_on = False
14        break
15

```

## Drawing

```

1 # ----- Updating sprites position -----
2 eatables_list.update()
3 walls_list.update()
4 players_list.update()
5 ghosts_list.update()
6 # ----- Fill screen with background -----
7 screen.fill(resources.colors.background)
8 # ----- ...and sprites -----
9 eatables_list.draw(screen)
10 walls_list.draw(screen)
11 players_list.draw(screen)
12 ghosts_list.draw(screen)
13

```

## Processing and rendering counters

```

1 # ----- Counter info -----
2 label = myfont.render("Coins eaten " + str(coins_eaten) + " / " +
        str(coins_total) +
3     "    Lives remaining " + str(lives) +
4     "    Level " + str(levelno+1), 1, (255, 255, 0))
5 screen.blit(label, (resources.constants.tileWidth / 2, resources
        .constants.gamesize * resources.constants.tileWidth))
6

```

## Refreshing screen

```

1 # ----- Refresh Screen -----
2 pygame.display.flip()
3
4 # ----- FPS handling -----
5 player_time_segment -= 1
6 ghost_time_segment -= 1
7 clock.tick(resources.constants.fps)
8

```

## Handling eating Eatables

TODO: update for hearts

```
1 # ----- eating handling -----
2 for eatable in eatables_list.sprites():
3     if eatable.location == player.location:
4         eatable.kill()
5         coins_eaten += 1
6         # increasing eaten points counter
7
```

## Initializing new Time Periods

```
1 # ----- initializing new time periods -----
2 if not player_time_segment:
3     player_time_segment = resources.constants.
4     playerTimeSegmentSize
5 if not ghost_time_segment:
6     ghost_time_segment = resources.constants.ghostTimeSegmentSize
```

Development of this piece of code was particularly difficult due to having to simultaneously implement two Time Segment handlers. (See Section 2.5.1 for Time Segment explanation.) My first approach was to implement those within single counter. It worked but there was no way to satisfy Requirement 2f. Another problem I encountered was with the input handling. The player's sprite was jumping around, because player could change moving direction mid-time segment. The obvious choice was to move keypress checking to section that only executes once per time segment, rather than once per frame. My concern was that this will affect overall user input performance, compromising Requirement 3a. My preliminary testing as well as  $\beta$ -testing revealed that with 60fps and player segment size equal to 10, the input rate of 6 key presses per second seemed optimal.

### 3.9.2 Function switching levels

Function named `main()` taking no parameters, iterating through levels and displaying appropriate messages. This is the main function that launches the whole game.

```
1 def main():
2     show_message(resources.constants.tutorialStringList)
3     while lives > 0 and levelno <= resources.constants.totallevels
4         :
5         print(levelno)
6         playlevel()
7         show_message(resources.constants.congratsStringList)
8         if lives > 0:
9             show_message(resources.constants.realCongratsStringList)
10        else:
11            show_message(resources.constants.theEndStringList)
```

When the while loop breaks, either Game Over screen is displayed or a congratulations screen, fulfilling Requirements 1r.

### 3.9.3 Displaying messages

As it's seen in the Section 3.9.2 - the function `show_message` is used to display small text messages on the screen. Those messages include:

- Tutorial screen
- Congratulations on completing a level
- A Game Over screen saying that the player lost
- Congratulations on completing the whole game

TODO: Add this function code after 'press [space] to continue' is implemented.

## Chapter 4

# Code appendix

TODO: update these files before final submission

### 4.1 main.py

```
1 from classes import *
2 import resources
3 from levelprocessor import readlevel
4 from time import sleep
5 player = None
6 coins_total = 0
7 coins_eaten = 0
8 level = None
9 levelno = 0
10 lives = 30
11 pygame.init()
12 myfont = pygame.font.SysFont("monospace", resources.constants.
    fontsize)
13 pygame.display.set_caption("PycMan by Jan Dziedzic (13MF2)")
14 screen = pygame.display.set_mode(resources.constants.windowSize)
15
16 # ——— This 2D array holds info on location lists accessible (
    common edge) from tile represented by address ———
17 thegraph = [[[ for i in range(resources.constants.gamesize)]
    for j in range(resources.constants.gamesize)]]
18
19
20 def walltypecheck(location):
21     r = t = l = b = 0
22     if location[0] != 0:
23         if level[location[0]-1][location[1]] == resources.constants.
            leveldef["wall"]:
24             l = 1
25     if location[0] != resources.constants.gamesize-1:
26         if level[location[0]+1][location[1]] == resources.constants.
            leveldef["wall"]:
27             r = 1
```

```

28     if location[1] != 0:
29         if level[location[0]][location[1]-1] == resources.constants.
            leveldef["wall"]:
30             t = 1
31     if location[1] != resources.constants.gamesize-1:
32         if level[location[0]][location[1]+1] == resources.constants.
            leveldef["wall"]:
33             b = 1
34     return str(r) + str(t) + str(l) + str(b)
35
36
37 # ——— Graphing stuff (for pathfinding) ———
38
39
40 def graphbuilder():
41     global level, thegraph
42     thegraph = [[[] for i in range(resources.constants.gamesize)]
43                 for j in range(resources.constants.gamesize)]
44     for i in range(resources.constants.gamesize):
45         for j in range(resources.constants.gamesize):
46             # iterating through all tiles in the grid
47             if level[i][j] != resources.constants.leveldef["wall"]:
48                 # taking advantage of the fact that Movable can move on
49                 # all tiles that are not initially marked as walls
50                 location = [i, j]
51                 # and now, iterating through all possible neighbours of
52                 # the processed tile (with checking if it isn't by any chance a
53                 # border tile)
54                 if location[0] != 0:
55                     if level[location[0]-1][location[1]] != resources.
                        constants.leveldef["wall"]:
56                         thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0]-
57                             1, location[1]]]
58                 if location[0] != resources.constants.gamesize-1:
59                     if level[location[0]+1][location[1]] != resources.
                        constants.leveldef["wall"]:
60                         thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0]+
61                             1, location[1]]]
62                 if location[1] != 0:
63                     if level[location[0]][location[1]-1] != resources.
                        constants.leveldef["wall"]:
64                         thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0],
65                             location[1]-1]]
66                 if location[1] != resources.constants.gamesize-1:
67                     if level[location[0]][location[1]+1] != resources.
                        constants.leveldef["wall"]:
68                         thegraph[location[0]][location[1]] += [[location[0],
69                             location[1]+1]]
70
71 def find_nearest_not_wall(point):
72     if point[0] > resources.constants.gamesize-1:
73         point[0] = resources.constants.gamesize-1
74     if point[0] < 0:

```

```

68     point[0] = 0
69     if point[1] > resources.constants.gamesize-1:
70         point[1] = resources.constants.gamesize-1
71     if point[1] < 0:
72         point[1] = 0
73     radius = 1
74     if level[point[0]][point[1]] != resources.constants.leveldef['
75         wall']:
76         return point
77     while True:
78         for i in range(point[0]-radius, point[0]+radius):
79             for j in range(point[1]-radius, point[1]+radius):
80                 try:
81                     if level[i][j] != resources.constants.leveldef['wall'
82                 ]:
83                     return [i, j]
84                 except IndexError:
85                     pass
86     radius += 1
87
88 def find_next_move(start, end, forbidden):
89     visited = []
90     # storing visited nodes
91     queue = []
92     # storing nodes to visit
93     end = find_nearest_not_wall(end)
94     # as start is guaranteed not to be wall, both ends are now
95     # places a Movable may move to
96     neighbours = thegraph[start[0]][start[1]].copy()
97     # preventing corrupting thegraph when excluding forbidden tile
98     try:
99         # try as forbidden tile may be any tile after reset
100         # particularly it may not be in neighbors
101         neighbours.remove([forbidden[0], forbidden[1]])
102         # removing forbidden tile from neighbors
103     except Exception:
104         pass
105     queue.append([end[0], end[1]])
106     # start search from the end (target tile)
107     visited.append(end)
108     # mark end as a visited node
109     for point in queue:
110         if point not in visited:
111             visited.append(point)
112             # mark current point as visited
113             if point in neighbours:
114                 return point
115             # if solution is find return next tile for the ghost
116             for node in thegraph[point[0]][point[1]]:
117                 if node not in visited and node != [forbidden[0],
118                 forbidden[1]]:
119                     queue.append(node)

```

```

117         # add all unvisited neighbors of current node to the
118         queue
119
120     # -----
121
122
123 def loadlevel(file):
124     global level, coins_total, player
125     # level-loading procedure with input of standard 32x32 bitmap
126     # level file
127     level = readlevel(file)
128     for col in range(0, resources.constants.gamesize):
129         for row in range(0, resources.constants.gamesize):
130             box = level[col][row]
131             if box != resources.constants.leveldef["wall"] and box !=
132             resources.constants.leveldef['nothing']:
133                 eatable = Eatable('coin', (col, row))
134                 eatables_list.add(eatable)
135                 coins_total += 1
136             if box == resources.constants.leveldef["wall"]:
137                 wall = Wall((col, row), walltypecheck((col, row)))
138                 walls_list.add(wall)
139             elif box == resources.constants.leveldef["player"]:
140                 player = Player((col, row))
141                 players_list.add(player)
142             elif box == resources.constants.leveldef["red_ghost"]:
143                 redghost = Ghost((col, row), 'red')
144                 ghosts_list.add(redghost)
145             elif box == resources.constants.leveldef["blue_ghost"]:
146                 redghost = Ghost((col, row), 'blue')
147                 ghosts_list.add(redghost)
148             elif box == resources.constants.leveldef["green_ghost"]:
149                 redghost = Ghost((col, row), 'green')
150                 ghosts_list.add(redghost)
151
152 eatables_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
153 walls_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
154 players_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
155 ghosts_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
156
157 def prepare_level(levelfile):
158     global eatables_list, walls_list, players_list, ghosts_list,
159     player
160     eatables_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
161     walls_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
162     players_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
163     ghosts_list = pygame.sprite.Group()
164     loadlevel(levelfile)
165     graphbuilder()
166

```

```

167 def show_message(messageboard):
168     screen.fill(resources.colors.background)
169     for i in range(len(messageboard)):
170         label = myfont.render(messageboard[i], 1, (255, 255, 0))
171         screen.blit(label, (0, resources.constants.fontsize * i))
172     pygame.display.flip()
173     sleep(5)
174
175
176 def show_tutorial():
177     show_message(resources.constants.tutorialStringList)
178
179
180 def show_congrats():
181     screen.fill(resources.colors.background)
182     for i in range(len(resources.constants.congratsStringList)):
183         label = myfont.render(resources.constants.congratsStringList
184                                [i], 1, (255, 255, 0))
185         screen.blit(label, (0, resources.constants.fontsize*i))
186     pygame.display.flip()
187     sleep(5)
188
189
190 def show_real_congrats():
191     screen.fill(resources.colors.background)
192     for i in range(len(resources.constants.realCongratsStringList)
193                    ):
194         label = myfont.render(resources.constants.
195                                realCongratsStringList[i], 1, (255, 255, 0))
196         screen.blit(label, (0, resources.constants.fontsize*i))
197     pygame.display.flip()
198     sleep(5)
199
200
201 def show_permanent_death():
202     screen.fill(resources.colors.background)
203     for i in range(len(resources.constants.theEndStringList)):
204         label = myfont.render(resources.constants.theEndStringList[i]
205                                ], 1, (255, 255, 0))
206         screen.blit(label, (0, resources.constants.fontsize*i))
207     pygame.display.flip()
208     sleep(5)
209
210
211
212 def reset():
213     for ghost in ghosts_list.sprites():
214         ghost.reset()
215     player.reset()
216
217
218 def playlevel():
219     global coins_eaten, coins_total, lives, levelno, screen
220     # marking variables as global
221     coins_total = coins_eaten = 0
222     # resetting coin counters

```



```

217     prepare_level(resources.paths.levelorder[levelno])
218     # level loading
219     game_on = True
220     # game starter
221     clock = pygame.time.Clock()
222     # clock init
223     eatables_list.update()
224     walls_list.update()
225     players_list.update()
226     ghosts_list.update()
227     # updating Sprite Groups
228     player_time_segment = resources.constants.
        playerTimeSegmentSize
229     ghost_time_segment = resources.constants.ghostTimeSegmentSize
230     # forcing pathfinding to update
231     # ----- Main game loop -----
232     while game_on:
233         # ----- Level - winning handling -----
234         if coins_eaten == coins_total:
235             levelno += 1
236             game_on = False
237         # ----- stop the level if all coins are eaten -----
238         if player_time_segment == resources.constants.
            playerTimeSegmentSize:
239             # ----- Handling user input pt1 -----
240             for event in pygame.event.get():
241                 if event.type == pygame.QUIT:
242                     game_on = False
243                     exit(0)
244             # ----- checking pressed keys -----
245             keys = pygame.key.get_pressed()
246             # ----- wall collision check -----
247             surroundings = walltypecheck(player.location)
248             # ----- ghost movement handling pt 1 -----
249             if ghost_time_segment == resources.constants.
                ghostTimeSegmentSize:
250                 # if it's time to update paths update them
251                 for ghost in ghosts_list.sprites():
252                     if ghost.color == 'red':
253                         ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location, player
                            .location, ghost.previouslocation)
254                     elif ghost.color == 'blue':
255                         ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location,
256                             [player.location[0] + resources.
                                constants.scatterSize,
257                                 player.location[1] + resources.
                                constants.scatterSize],
258                                 ghost.previouslocation)
259                     elif ghost.color == 'green':
260                         ghost.nexttile = find_next_move(ghost.location,
261                             [player.location[0] - resources.
                                constants.scatterSize,
262                                 player.location[1] - resources.
                                constants.scatterSize],

```

```

263         ghost.previouslocation)
264
265     # —— handling some frames/move ——
266     player_part = resources.constants.playerTimeSegmentSize -
player_time_segment
267     ghost_part = resources.constants.ghostTimeSegmentSize -
ghost_time_segment
268
269     # —— input handling pt 2 / player movement handling ——
270     if keys[pygame.K.LEFT] and surroundings[2] == '0':
271         player.move('left', player_part)
272     elif keys[pygame.K.RIGHT] and surroundings[0] == '0':
273         player.move('right', player_part)
274     elif keys[pygame.K.UP] and surroundings[1] == '0':
275         player.move('up', player_part)
276     elif keys[pygame.K.DOWN] and surroundings[3] == '0':
277         player.move('down', player_part)
278
279     # —— ghost movement handling pt 2 ——
280     for ghost in ghosts_list.sprites():
281         try:
282             ghost.move((ghost.nexttile[0] - ghost.location[0], -
ghost.nexttile[1] + ghost.location[1]), ghost_part)
283         except Exception:
284             # if for some unforeseen reason it's impossible to move
the ghost just leave it there
285             pass
286
287     # —— player dying handling ——
288     for ghost in ghosts_list.sprites():
289         if ghost.location == player.location:
290             # decrease lives counter
291             lives -= 1
292             reset()
293             # reset the board
294             player_time_segment = resources.constants.
playerTimeSegmentSize+1
295             ghost_time_segment = resources.constants.
ghostTimeSegmentSize+1
296             # force game to update ghost paths after respawning
297             if lives <= 0:
298                 # if the player is dead for good
299                 break
300
301     # —— Updating sprites position ——
302     eatables_list.update()
303     walls_list.update()
304     players_list.update()
305     ghosts_list.update()
306     # —— Fill screen with background ——
307     screen.fill(resources.colors.background)
308     # —— ...and sprites ——
309     eatables_list.draw(screen)
310     walls_list.draw(screen)
311     players_list.draw(screen)

```

```

311     ghosts_list.draw(screen)
312
313     # ----- Counter info -----
314     label = myfont.render("Coins eaten " + str(coins_eaten) + " /
315                          " + str(coins_total) +
316                          " Lives remaining " + str(lives) +
317                          " Level " + str(levelno+1), 1, (255, 255, 0))
318     screen.blit(label, (resources.constants.tileWidth / 2,
319                        resources.constants.gamesize * resources.constants.tileWidth)
320                    )
321
322     # ----- Refresh Screen -----
323     pygame.display.flip()
324
325     # ----- FPS handling -----
326     player_time_segment -= 1
327     ghost_time_segment -= 1
328     clock.tick(resources.constants.fps)
329
330     # ----- eating handling -----
331     for eatable in eatables_list.sprites():
332         if eatable.location == player.location:
333             eatable.kill()
334             coins_eaten += 1
335             # increasing eaten points counter
336
337     # ----- initializing new time periods -----
338     if not player_time_segment:
339         player_time_segment = resources.constants.
340         playerTimeSegmentSize
341     if not ghost_time_segment:
342         ghost_time_segment = resources.constants.
343         ghostTimeSegmentSize
344
345     def main():
346         show_message(resources.constants.tutorialStringList)
347         while lives > 0 and levelno <= resources.constants.totallevels
348             :
349                 print(levelno)
350                 playlevel()
351                 show_message(resources.constants.congratsStringList)
352                 if lives > 0:
353                     show_message(resources.constants.realCongratsStringList)
354                 else:
355                     show_message(resources.constants.theEndStringList)
356
357     main()
358
359

```

## 4.2 classes.py

```

1 import pygame

```

```

2 import resources
3
4
5 class GameObject(pygame.sprite.Sprite):
6     def __init__(self, location):
7         super().__init__()
8         self.image = None
9         self.location = location
10        self.initiallocation = location
11        self.rect = None
12
13    def setimage(self, image, size=resources.constants.tileSize,
14                rotation=0):
15        self.image = pygame.image.load(resources.paths.image[image])
16        self.image = pygame.transform.scale(self.image, size)
17        self.image = pygame.transform.rotate(self.image, rotation)
18        self.rect = self.image.get_rect()
19        self.rect.x, self.rect.y = self.location[0] * resources.
20        constants.tileWidth, self.location[1] * resources.constants.
21        tileWidth
22
23 class Eatable(GameObject):
24     def __init__(self, type, location):
25         super().__init__(location)
26         self.type = type
27         if type == "coin":
28             self.setimage("coin", resources.constants.eatableSize)
29         elif type == "heart":
30             self.setimage("heart", resources.constants.eatableSize)
31
32 class Wall(GameObject):
33     def __init__(self, location, type):
34         super().__init__(location)
35         self.setimage('w'+str(type))
36
37 class Movable(GameObject):
38     def __init__(self, location):
39         super().__init__(location)
40         self.image = None
41         self.speed = (0, 0)
42
43    def setimage(self, image, size=resources.constants.movableSize,
44                rotation=0):
45        super().setimage(image, size, rotation)
46
47    def move(self, direction, segmentsize, part=resources.
48            constants.playerTimeSegmentSize - 1):
49        if direction == 'up' or direction == (0, 1):
50            self.speed = (0, -1)
51        elif direction == 'down' or direction == (0, -1):
52            self.speed = (0, 1)

```

```

51     elif direction == 'left' or direction == (-1, 0):
52         self.speed = (-1, 0)
53     elif direction == 'right' or direction == (1, 0):
54         self.speed = (1, 0)
55     part2 = (part+1) / segmentsize
56     self.rect.x, self.rect.y = (self.location[0] + self.speed[0]
57         * resources.constants.speedFactor * part2) * resources.
58         constants.tileWidth,\
59         (self.location[1] + self.speed[1] * resources
60         .constants.speedFactor * part2) * resources.constants.
61         tileWidth
62     if part == segmentsize - 1:
63         self.location = self.location[0] + self.speed[0] *
64         resources.constants.speedFactor,\
65         self.location[1] + self.speed[1] * resources.
66         constants.speedFactor
67
68 def reset(self):
69     self.__init__(self.initiallocation)
70
71 class Player(Movable):
72     def __init__(self, location):
73         super().__init__(location)
74         self.setimage('player', resources.constants.playerSize)
75
76     def move(self, direction, part=resources.constants.
77         playerTimeSegmentSize - 1, partsize=resources.constants.
78         ghostTimeSegmentSize):
79         rotation = 0
80         if self.speed == (1, 0):
81             rotation = 0
82         elif self.speed == (-1, 0):
83             rotation = 180
84         elif self.speed == (0, -1):
85             rotation = 90
86         elif self.speed == (0, 1):
87             rotation = 270
88         super().setimage('player', resources.constants.playerSize,
89             rotation)
90         super().move(direction, segmentsize=resources.constants.
91             playerTimeSegmentSize, part=part)
92
93 class Ghost(Movable):
94     def __init__(self, location, color):
95         super().__init__(location)
96         self.color = color
97         self.nexttile = None
98         self.setimage(color+'_ghost')
99         self.previouslocation = self.location
100
101     def move(self, direction, part=resources.constants.
102         ghostTimeSegmentSize - 1, partsize=resources.constants.

```

```

ghostTimeSegmentSize):
94     self.previouslocation = self.location
95     super().move(direction, partsize, part)
96
97     def reset(self):
98         self.__init__(self.initiallocation, self.color)
99

```

## 4.3 levelprocessor.py

```

1 from PIL import Image
2 import resources
3
4
5 def readlevel(file):
6     # level-loading procedure with input of gamesize^2 bitmap
7     # level file
8     level = [[resources.constants.leveldef['nothing'] for i in
9               range(resources.constants.gamesize)] for j in range(resources
10              .constants.gamesize)]
11     im = Image.open(resources.paths.levels + file)
12     im.load()
13     for col in range(0, resources.constants.gamesize):
14         for row in range(0, resources.constants.gamesize):
15             pixel = im.getpixel((col, row))
16             if pixel == resources.constants.editordef["coin"]:
17                 level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['coin']
18             elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["wall"]:
19                 level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['wall']
20             elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["player"]:
21                 level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['player']
22             elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["red_ghost"]:
23                 level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['
24                 red_ghost']
25             elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["green_ghost"]
26             ]:
27                 level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['
28                 green_ghost']
29             elif pixel == resources.constants.editordef["blue_ghost"]:
30                 level[col][row] = resources.constants.leveldef['
31                 blue_ghost']
32     return level
33

```

## 4.4 paths.py

```

1 resources = "./resources/"
2 graphics = resources + "graphics/"
3 levels = resources + "levels/"
4
5 image = {
6     "coin": graphics + "coin.png",
7     "w0001": graphics + "w0001.gif",

```

```

8      "w0010": graphics + "w0010.gif",
9      "w0011": graphics + "w0011.gif",
10     "w0100": graphics + "w0100.gif",
11     "w0101": graphics + "w0101.gif",
12     "w0110": graphics + "w0110.gif",
13     "w0111": graphics + "w0111.gif",
14     "w1000": graphics + "w1000.gif",
15     "w1001": graphics + "w1001.gif",
16     "w1010": graphics + "w1010.gif",
17     "w1011": graphics + "w1011.gif",
18     "w1100": graphics + "w1100.gif",
19     "w1101": graphics + "w1101.gif",
20     "w1110": graphics + "w1110.gif",
21     "w1111": graphics + "w1111.gif",
22     "player": graphics + "player.png",
23     "red_ghost": graphics + "redghost.png",
24     "blue_ghost": graphics + "blueghost.png",
25     "green_ghost": graphics + "greenghost.png"
26 }
27
28 levelorder = [
29     "level0.bmp",
30     "level1.bmp",
31     "level2.bmp",
32     "level3.bmp",
33     "level4.bmp",
34     "level5.bmp",
35     "level6.bmp"
36 ]
37

```

## Chapter 5

# Levels appendix



## Chapter 6

# References

1. <http://gameinternals.com/post/2072558330/understanding-pac-man-ghost-behavior>
2. <https://www.pygame.org/docs>