# Table of Content: Dodger Game in JavaScript & Phaser Library

Topic	Description	Page
Introduction	Learning Objectives: JavaScript OOP, Phaser library, Single Page Apps	3
OOP Design	Develop a Roadmap: Plan Full Featureset, Identify MVP, Divide Task into Dev Cycles, Goals, & Milestones	4
Dev Cycle 1:  Core Version  MVP Features	Goal 1: Set-up & Launch (Empty) Phaser Game Project Goal 2: Stub a (Empty) Phaser Game Scene Goal 3: Scene with a Background Goal 4: Add Player into Scene Goal 5: Move Player with Inputs & Physics Goal 6: Add Enemies into Scene Goal 7: Move Enemies in Scene with Physics Goal 8: Collision Detections & Game Over	
Dev Cycle 2: Full Version Buildout Features	Enhancement 1: Customize Player Hitbox Enhancement 2: Scrolling Background Enhancement 3: Player/Enemy Walk Animation Enhancement 4: Top Score Challenge Enhancement 5: Player Projectiles Enhancement 6*: Enemy Projectiles Enhancement 7*: Power-ups	
Conclusion	Final Comments - Future Improvement - Submission - Module 2 Project	

# Lab Introduction

### Introduction

In this lab, you will build a complete, fast-paced "Dodger" game from the ground up. This isn't just about learning game development; it's about mastering core software engineering principles in a fun, hands-on way.

You'll see firsthand how powerful concepts like Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) allow you to take a professional-grade framework like Phaser and extend it with your own custom, modular code. By the end, you'll have a fully functional game and a much deeper understanding of how modern JavaScript applications are built.

### What You Will Build & Learn

Your goal is to build a complete Dodger Game that runs in a browser. Along the way, you will learn to:

- Structure a Project: Organize code and assets for a clean, manageable web application.
- Master the Phaser Game Loop: Understand and use the preload, create, and update methods that form the foundation of a Phaser game scene.
- **Define Custom Game Objects**: Build your Player, Enemy, Projectile and PowerUp as JavaScript classes, each with its own properties and behaviors.
- Leverage Inheritance: Extend core Phaser classes like Phaser. Scene and Phaser. Physics. Arcade. Sprite to make your custom objects work seamlessly within the game engine.
- **Manage Game State:** Handle dynamic events like spawning enemies, creating animations, and managing player power-ups.
- **Implement an Agile Workflow:** Build complex features in small, testable milestones, mirroring a modern agile development process.

# Requirements

### Knowledge:

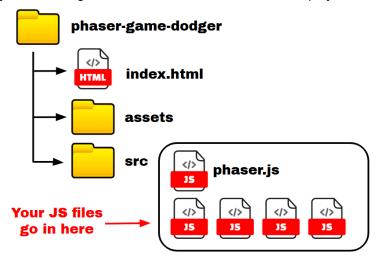
- A solid understanding of basic JavaScript.
- Familiarity with Object-Oriented Programming concepts, including:
  - Classes and Objects (instances)
  - Constructors
  - Properties and Methods
  - Inheritance (extends)

### Tools:

- A modern web browser (Google Chrome is recommended).
- A local web server to run the project. A simple tool like http-server for Node.js is perfect.

# **Project Architecture:**

Start this project by downloading the starter files from GitHub. See the project structure below.



### **Download Starter files:**

https://github.com/scalemailted/phaser-game-dodger

# **Core Concepts: How a Phaser Game Works**

Before we write any code, let's establish a simple mental model of the Phaser framework. Understanding this core structure is the key to everything we'll build.

# The Big Picture

Phaser organizes your game into a clear hierarchy:

- **The Game:** This is the top-level object that manages the entire application window and launches your game. We will only create this once.
- **Scenes**: A game is made up of one or more Scenes. A scene can be a main menu, a level, a game-over screen, or the main gameplay area. Our dodger game will use a single PlayScene for all the action.
- **Game Objects**: These are the things that live inside a Scene, like the player, enemies, bullets, and power-ups.

# The Scene Lifecycle: The Heart of Your Game

Every Scene in Phaser follows a critical, predictable lifecycle. You will write your own custom code for three main methods that Phaser calls automatically:

- preload(): Phaser calls this first. Its only job is to load all the assets your Scene needs (images, sounds, etc.) into memory before the Scene begins.
- create(): Once everything is preloaded, Phaser calls this method. Here, you will set up the
  initial state of your Scene by creating your Game Objects (like the player and enemies) and
  defining things like collision rules.
- update(): This method is a loop that runs on every single frame (typically 60 times per second). All of your real-time game logic - like checking for keyboard input and moving characters - will go here.

# **Inheritance: Your Superpower**

The "magic" of working with a framework like Phaser comes from inheritance. Instead of writing rendering and physics code from scratch, we will create our own custom classes (like Player) that extend built-in Phaser classes.

For example, our Player class will extend Phaser's Physics.Arcade.Sprite. By doing this, our Player object instantly "inherits" all the features of a sprite - it can be rendered, have physics applied to it, and work with the entire Phaser engine, all with just one line of code.

# **OOP Design in JS**

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

### **Game Objective:**

Our mission is to build a fast-paced, high-score "Dodger" game. You will control a player who must dodge waves of enemies and their projectiles. We will build this game from the ground up using Object-Oriented principles to create clean, reusable code that integrates perfectly with the powerful Phaser 3 game engine.

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

# Step 1: Define the Core Gameplay & Feature

First, let's identify the key objects in our game from the player's point of view. We'll split the features for each object into a Minimal Viable Product (MVP) - the simplest playable version - and the Full feature set we'll build out later.

### **Game Objects (from Player Perspective):**

	Player character (MVP) - Can move up, down, left, and right. (FULL) - Can fire projectiles and collect power-ups.
	Enemy character (MVP) - Spawns periodically and moves across the screen. (FULL) - Can fire projectiles at the player.
0	Projectile (FULL) - A pellet fired by the Player or Enemiest
	PowerUp - Projectile (FULL) - A collectible that increases the size of the Player's projectiless
	PowerUp - Slay (FULL) - A collectible that destroys all enemies and their projectiles

Step 2: Map Gameplay to Code Classes

Next, let's translate those game concepts into the actual JavaScript classes and files we will create. This is our technical blueprint.

### Overview of Classes/Files (from Developer's Perspective):

Class/File	Responsibility
game	The entry point. This script creates the main Phaser Game configuration and tells it which Scene to launch first
PlayScene	The heart of our game. This class will manage all the game objects, handle spawning, process collisions, and contain the main game loop (preload, create, update).
Player	Defines the Player character. This class will handle keyboard input for movement and firing projectiles.
Enemy	Defines a single Enemy. This class will manage its movement and, eventually, its attack patterns.
Projectile	Defines a Projectile. A simple class that moves in a straight line after being fired.
PowerUp	Defines a collectible PowerUp. It will have a specific type (e.g., 'slay') that determines its effect when the player touches it

# Step 3: Define Our Development Roadmap

A key principle of modern software development is to build iteratively. We won't try to build everything at once. Instead, we'll first build the **MVP** (**Goals 1-8**) to get a simple, playable game. After that, we will add the remaining features as a series of **Enhancements.** 

This roadmap will be our guide for the entire lab.

MVP Features - Core Build - Roadmap	Buildout features - Full Build - Roadmap
Goal 2: Stub an Empty Phaser Scene Goal 3: Scene with a Background Goal 4: Add a Player into Scene Goal 5: Move Player with Inputs & Physics Goal 6: Add Enemies into Scene	Buildout Feature 1: Customize Player Hitbox Buildout Feature 2: Scrolling Background Buildout Feature 3: Player Walk Animation Buildout Feature 4: Top Score Challenge Buildout Feature 5: Player Projectiles Buildout Feature 6: Power-ups Buildout Feature 7: Enemy Projectiles

# Dev Cycle 1: Core Version - MVP Features

# Part 1: Building the Minimal Viable Product (MVP)

It's time to write some code. In this first major section of the lab, we will build a complete **Minimal Viable Product (MVP)** from scratch.

The goal here is to create a barebones but fully playable version of our game. This is a core principle of agile development: build a simple, working foundation first, then add the cool features (the "enhancements") later.

# **Your Objective for Part 1**

By the end of this section, you will have a simple but operational dodger game. The final result will include:

- A game scene that renders a background and game objects.
- A player character that you can move in all four directions with keyboard input.
- Enemies that spawn periodically and move across the screen.
- A complete game loop: a collision between the player and an enemy will trigger a "Game Over" and restart the scene.

### **Table of Contents**

- Goal 1: Set-up & Launch (Empty) Phaser Game Project
- Goal 2: Stub an Empty Phaser Scene
- Goal 3: Scene with a Background
- Goal 4: Add a Player into Scene
- Goal 5: Move Player with Inputs & Physics
- Goal 6: Add Enemies into Scene
- Goal 7: Enemies move with Physics
- Goal 8: Collision Detections & Game Over

# Goal 1: Set-up & Launch (Empty) Phaser Game Project

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

Our first step is to create the basic file and folder structure for a simple, non-modular Phaser project.

The project root directory will contain.

- assets/: directory to hold all of the game's art
- src/: directory to hold all of the game's code
- index.html: file that launches your game in the browser

Goal: Successfully set up the project files and launch an empty, black 640x480 Phaser game window.

### **API References:**

https://photonstorm.github.io/phaser3-docs/Phaser.Game.html

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### Step 1: Create the index.html File

Since JavaScript files can't be opened directly in a browser, we need an HTML file to load them. Create index.html in your project's root directory. This file will load the Phaser library (phaser.js) and our main game script (game.js).

Important: The order of the <script> tags matters. Since game.js will use code from the Phaser library, phaser.js must be loaded first.

### index.html

```
<html>
<head>
<script src="./src/phaser.js"> </script>
<script src="./src/game.js"> </script>
</head>
<body></body>
</html>
```

### Step 2: Create the game.js File

To initialize a Phaser game, we need to provide it with a configuration object. Create a game.js file inside the src/ directory.

This script defines a config object that, at a minimum, specifies the width and height of the game screen. We then create a new instance of the Phaser. Game class, passing our configuration to it. This single line is what starts the game.

### $src/ \rightarrow game.js$

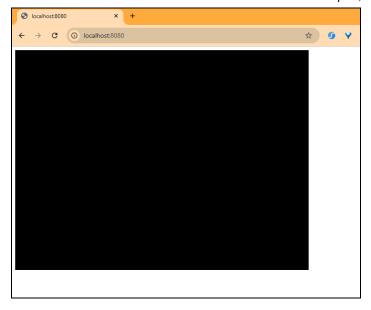
# 'Assess' → Test phase

### **Test Instructions:**

- 1. Launch an HTTP server to host the index.html from the project via the HTTP protocol.
- 2. Open the browser to the specified URL with the port #, in my case it's localhost:8080

### **Expected Output (Viewport):**

A 640x480 resolution black screen should render in the viewport, successfully launching an empty Phaser game



### **Expected Output (Devtools Console):**

The console should display that Phaser is successfully launched with its version # and its A/V rendering settings



# Goal 2: Stub a (Empty) Phaser Game Scene

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

Our empty game window isn't very useful yet. We need to add a **Scene**, which is the container for all of our game's objects, logic, and state.

We will use **inheritance** to create our own custom PlayScene class that extends Phaser's base Phaser. Scene class. This allows our custom scene to plug directly into the Phaser engine. As a best practice, our scene will include the four core lifecycle methods: constructor, preload, create, and update.

### **API References:**

https://photonstorm.github.io/phaser3-docs/Phaser.Scene.html

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### Step 1: Create the PlayScene.js Class

Create a new file named PlayScene.js inside the src/directory. This file will define our main game scene. A Phaser Scene has four distinct phases:

- constructor(): Called when the scene is first created.
- preload(): Used to load all necessary assets (images, audio).
- create(): Used to set up the initial state of the scene (create the player, enemies, etc.).
- update(): The main game loop, called on every frame.

The super('play') call in the constructor is important; it registers this scene with Phaser's Scene Manager using the unique key 'play'.

### src/ → PlayScene.js

### Step 2:

Now that our PlayScene class is defined, we need to tell our main game instance to use it. Open game . js and add the scene property to the configuration object. The scene property should be an array of all the scenes your game will use. For now, it will just contain our PlayScene.

### $src/ \rightarrow game.js$

### Step 3:

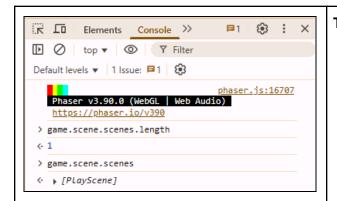
Every new JavaScript file must be loaded by our index.html. Open it and add a new <script> tag for PlayScene.js. The order is critical: PlayScene.js must be loaded after phaser.js (because it extends a Phaser class) but before game.js (because game.js references it).

### index.html

# 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

The Scene we've added has no visual elements yet, so the game will still appear as a black screen. However, we can use the browser's developer tools to verify that Phaser has successfully loaded our scene. Use the console logging from the screenshot to verify this goal is complete.



### **Test Instructions:**

- 1. Open the devtools console
- 2. Access the Phaser game object in memory
- 3. Verify the length of the scenes list is 1
- 4. Verify PlayScene is defined in the scenes' list
  - o The length of list is 1
  - o The element is PlayScene

# Goal 3: Scene with a Background

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

Now that our Scene is running, let's give it a visual backdrop. We'll refactor the PlayScene to load a background image and display it, which will be the first visible asset in our game.

To do this, we'll use two key features of a Phaser Scene:

- The Loader (this.load): Used in the preload method to load assets like images from our assets/ folder.
- The GameObject Factory (this.add): Used in the create method to add game objects, like our background image, to the Scene.

### **API References:**

- https://photonstorm.github.io/phaser3-docs/Phaser.Scene.html#add
- https://photonstorm.github.io/phaser3-docs/Phaser.GameObjects.GameObjectFactory.html#image

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### Step 1: Preload the Background Image

First, we need to tell Phaser to load our image file into memory. We do this inside the preload() method. By setting this.load.path, we tell Phaser the default directory for all assets. Then, this.load.image() queues the image for loading. We give it a unique key ('background') which we'll use to reference it later, and the filename ('background.png').

Phaser will not proceed to the create() method until all assets in the preload() queue have finished loading.

### PlayScene.js → preload()

### **Step 2: Create a Helper Method for the Map**

As our game grows, the <code>create()</code> method can become very cluttered. It's a good practice to organize creation logic into smaller, well-named helper methods. We'll create a <code>create\_map()</code> helper to handle setting up our background. The main <code>create()</code> method's only job for now is to call this new helper.

### PlayScene.js → create()

```
//Create Game World
create(){
   this.create_map();  // create level
}
```

### Step 3: Add the Image to the Scene

Now, implement the create\_map() helper method. Inside it, we use this.add.image() to create an image game object and add it to our scene's display list.

The three arguments are the **x-coordinate**, the **y-coordinate**, and the **asset key** for the image we loaded in preload(). By default, Phaser treats the x/y coordinates as the center point of the image, so (640/2, 480/2) will perfectly center our background in the game window.

### PlayScene.js → create\_map()

```
//Load level
create_map() {
         this.add.image(640/2, 480/2, 'background');
}
```

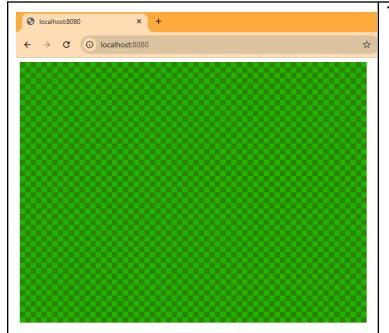
# 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

- 1. Make sure you have a background.png file inside your assets/ directory.
- 2. Launch your local server and open the game in your browser.

### **Expected Output (Viewport):**

Your background image should now be rendered, filling the entire 640x480 game screen.



### **Test Instructions:**

- 1. Launch an HTTP server to host game
- 2. Open HTML in browser from Server

### **Expected Output (viewport):**

 A background image should now render for the Scene

# Goal 4: Add Player into Scene

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

Let's add our first interactive game object: the Player. The player will need to be a visible sprite that can also participate in Phaser's physics system for movement and collisions.

To achieve this, we will create a custom Player class that inherits from Phaser.Physics.Arcade.Sprite. This gives our player all the built-in rendering and physics capabilities of a standard Phaser sprite, which we can then extend with our own custom properties and behaviors.

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### Step 1: Preload the Player Image

Just like with the background, the first step is to load the player's image asset in the preload() method of our PlayScene.

### src/→ PlayScene.js → preload()

### Step 2: Create the Player.js Class

Next, create a new file at Player. js. This class will define our player.

The constructor is the most important part:

- extends Phaser.Physics.Arcade.Sprite: This establishes the inheritance.
- super(scene, 300, 200, 'player'): This calls the parent sprite's constructor to set up the essential properties: the scene it belongs to, its starting x/y position, and the texture key to use.
- this.depth = 2: We set a custom depth property. A higher depth value means this sprite will be drawn on top of sprites with a lower value, ensuring the player appears in front of the background.
- scene.add.existing(this): This is a crucial step. It tells the scene to add this newly created Player object to its display and update lists, making it visible and active in the game. It's a common pattern for custom game object classes to handle adding themselves to the scene.

### src/ → Player.js

```
class Player extends Phaser.Physics.Arcade.Sprite {
    constructor(scene) {
        super(scene, 300, 200, 'player');
        this.depth = 2;
        this.speed = 200;
        scene.add.existing(this);
    }
}
```

### Step 3: Add a create\_player Helper Method

In PlayScene.js, we'll continue our pattern of using helper methods. Add a call to this.create\_player() within your create() method.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create()

### **Step 4: Instantiate the Player**

Now, implement the create\_player() helper method. Inside it, we create a new instance of our Player class. We store it in a scene property, this.player, so we can easily access it later. Notice we pass this (a reference to the Player constructor, which is required by its constructor(scene) signature.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create\_player()

### Step 5: Load the New Player.js File

Finally, we need to load our new Player.js file in index.html. The order is very important. Since PlayScene.js creates a new Player(), the Player.js file must be loaded before PlayScene.js.

### index.html

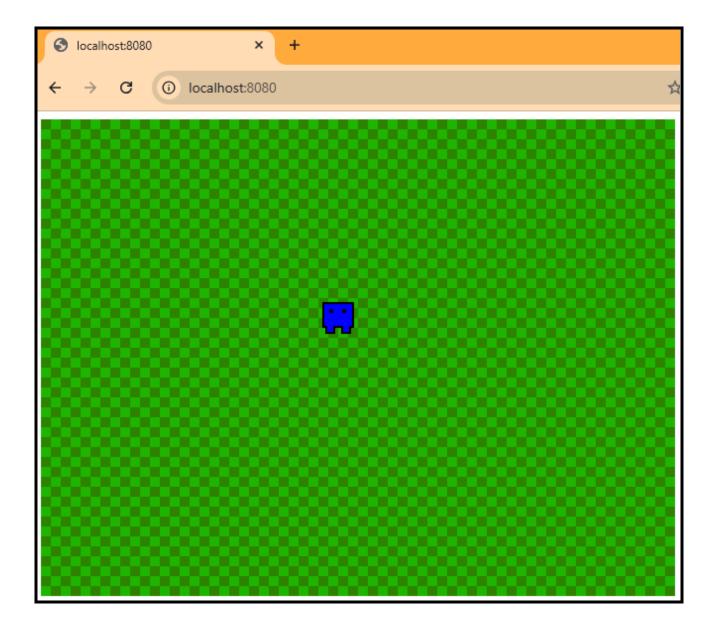
'Assess' → Test phase

### **Test Instructions:**

- 1. Make sure you have a player.png file inside your assets/ directory.
- 2. Launch your local server and open the game in your browser.

### **Expected Output (Viewport):**

The player sprite should now be rendered on the screen, appearing on top of the background image.



# **Goal 5: Move Player with Inputs & Physics**

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

Let's make our game interactive by allowing the player to move. We'll use the arrow keys for input and leverage Phaser's built-in **Arcade Physics** engine to handle the movement.

First, we'll enable the physics system for our entire game. Then, we'll give our Player object a physics "body," which allows the engine to control its position via **velocity**. Velocity is a vector with x and y components. A positive x-velocity moves the object right, negative moves it left. A positive y-velocity moves it down, and negative moves it up. By changing the player's velocity based on keyboard input, we can bring it to life.

# 'Apply' → Do phase

### **Step 1: Enable Arcade Physics**

In src/game.js, we need to add a physics property to our main game configuration. This tells Phaser to start the physics engine and make it available to all scenes.

```
src/ → game.js
```

### Step 2: Add a Physics Body to the Player

Now, let's update the Player constructor.

- scene.physics.add.existing(this): This gives our Player sprite a physics body, allowing it to have properties like velocity.
- this.setCollideWorldBounds(true): This method prevents the player from moving outside the boundaries of the game screen.
- scene.input.keyboard.addKeys(...): We use the scene's input manager to create a cursor keys
  object that we can poll to check if the arrow keys are being pressed. We store this in this.buttons for easy
  access.

### $src/ \rightarrow Player.js \rightarrow constructor()$

### Step 3: Create the Player's move Method

This new method in the Player class will contain all of its movement logic. This is a great example of **encapsulation** - the Player object is responsible for knowing how it should move. The logic follows a simple "reset and check" pattern on every frame:

- 1. First, set the player's velocity to zero. This ensures the player stops moving if no key is pressed.
- 2. Then, check each arrow key. If a key isDown, set the velocity accordingly.

### $src/ \rightarrow Player.js \rightarrow move()$

```
//move player
move() {
    // reset velocity.x = 0;
    this.body.velocity.y = 0;

    // take care of character movement
    if ( this.buttons.up.isDown ) {
        this.body.velocity.y = -this.speed;
    }
    if ( this.buttons.down.isDown ) {
        this.body.velocity.y = this.speed;
    }
    if ( this.buttons.left.isDown ) {
        this.body.velocity.x = -this.speed;
    }
    if ( this.buttons.right.isDown ) {
        this.body.velocity.x = -this.speed;
    }
}
```

### Step 4: Call the Player's Logic from the Scene's update Loop

The PlayScene is the orchestra conductor of our game. Its main update loop is responsible for telling all the game objects what to do on each frame. This is a design principle called **Separation of Concerns**.

First, add a call to a new helper method, update\_player(), from the main update() loop.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → update()
```

```
//update game state
update() {
    this.update_player();
}
```

### Step 5: Implement the update\_player Helper

Finally, implement the  $update_player()$  helper. Its only job is to call the move() method on our player instance. This delegates the responsibility of movement from the scene to the player itself.

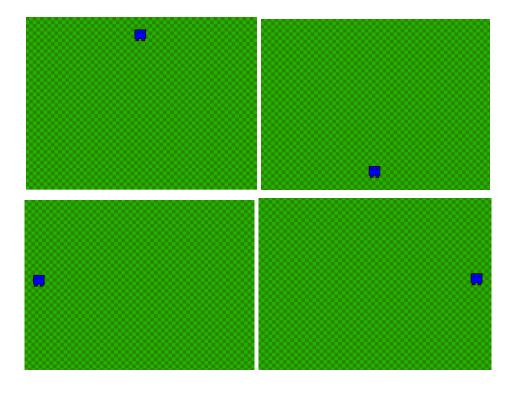
src/ → PlayScene.js → update()

```
//update game state
update_player() {
    this.player.move();
}
```

# 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

- The player object should remain stationary when no arrow button is pressed
- The player object should move when any arrow button is pressed
- The player object should stop after the arrow button is stopped being pressed
- When you press the up-arrow butto,n the player object should move up
- When you press the down-arrow button, the player object should move down
- When you press the right-arrow button the player object should move right
- When you press the left-arrow button, the player object should move left
- When you press both a horizontal arrow and vertical arrow, the player object should move diagonally



# Goal 6: Add Enemies into Scene

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

A dodger game isn't much fun without things to dodge. Let's add enemies to the scene. We will define an Enemy class that will serve as a blueprint for all enemy instances. Like our Player, the Enemy will need to be a visible, physics-enabled sprite, so it will also inherit from Phaser. Physics.Arcade.Sprite.

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### Step 1: Preload the Enemy Image

In PlayScene.js, add a line to the preload() method to load our enemy's image asset.

### src/→ PlayScene.js → preload()

### Step 2: Create the Enemy.js Class

Create a new file at src/Enemy.js. This class will be simpler than our Player class. Its constructor will take the scene and a position object ( $\{x, y\}$ ) as arguments, create the sprite, and add itself to the scene.

### src/ → Enemy.js

```
class Enemy extends Phaser.Physics.Arcade.Sprite {
   constructor(scene, position) {
      super(scene, position.x, position.y, 'enemy');
      this.depth = 2;

      scene.add.existing(this);
   }
}
```

### Step 3: Add the create\_enemies Helper Method

In PlayScene.js, add a call to a new helper method,  $create\_enemies()$ , from within the main create() method.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create()

### **Step 4: Create a Timed Event to Spawn Enemies**

Implement the create\_enemies() helper. Instead of creating all enemies at once, we want them to spawn continuously. We'll use Phaser's **Time Manager** (this.time) to create a looping event.

First, we'll create an array, this.enemies, to keep track of all active enemy instances. Then, we'll configure a timed event to call a spawn\_enemy function every 200 milliseconds.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create\_enemies()

```
create_enemies() {
    this.enemies = [];

const event = new Object();
    event.delay = 200;
    event.callback = this.spawn_enemy;
    event.callbackScope = this;
    event.loop = true;

this.time.addEvent(event, this);
}
```

### Step 5: Implement the spawn\_enemy Callback

Now, create the spawn\_enemy() function that the timer will call. This function's job is to:

- 1. Determine a random x/y position on the screen.
- 2. Create a new Enemy() at that position.
- 3. Add the new enemy instance to our this.enemies tracking array.

### $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.is \rightarrow spawn enemies()$

```
spawn_enemy() {
   const position = {};
   position.x = Phaser.Math.Between(0, 640);
   position.y = Phaser.Math.Between(0, 480);

   const monster = new Enemy(this, position);
   this.enemies.push(monster);
}
```

### Step 6: Load the New Enemy.js File

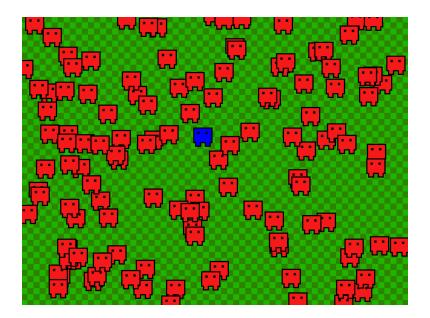
Finally, load our new Enemy.js file in index.html. Since PlayScene.js creates instances of Enemy, the Enemy.js file must be loaded before PlayScene.js.

### index.html

# 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

Make sure you have an enemy.png file in your assets/ folder. Launch the game. Enemies should begin appearing randomly all over the screen at a rapid pace..



# **Goal 7: Move Enemies in Scene with Physics**

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

Our enemies currently spawn randomly all over the screen and don't move, which isn't very challenging. Let's refactor our code so that all enemies spawn just off the right edge of the screen and move horizontally to the left at a random speed.

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### Step 1: Encapsulate Movement Logic in the Enemy Class

A core principle of Object-Oriented Programming is **encapsulation** - an object should be responsible for its own data and behavior. We'll make our Enemy class responsible for its own movement.

In the Enemy constructor, we will:

- Add the enemy to the physics system using scene.physics.add.existing(this). This gives it a
  physics body.
- 2. Immediately set the x component of its body's velocity to a random negative number. This will cause the enemy to start moving left the instant it is created.

### src/ → Enemy.js

```
class Enemy extends Phaser.Physics.Arcade.Sprite {
   constructor(scene, position) {
      super(scene, position.x, position.y, 'enemy');
      this.depth = 2;

      scene.add.existing(this);
      scene.physics.add.existing(this);
      this.body.velocity.x = -Phaser.Math.Between(120, 300);
   }
}
```

### **Step 2: Update the Spawning Position**

Now, we need to change where the enemies are created. In PlayScene.js, refactor the spawn\_enemy method so that it no longer spawns enemies at a random x-coordinate.

Instead, we will set a fixed  $\times$  value of 640 + 32. This will cause the enemy to spawn 32 pixels beyond the right edge of the screen, giving it a moment to appear before it flies into view. The y position will remain random.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → spawn\_enemy()

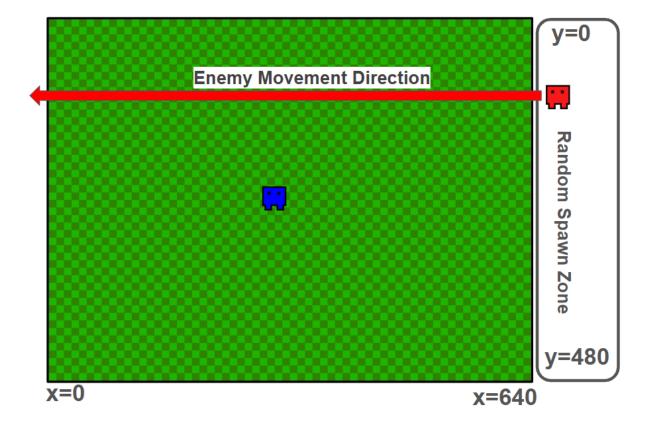
```
spawn_enemy() {
   const config = {};;
   config.x = 640 + 32;
   config.y = Phaser.Math.Between(0, 480)

   const monster = new Enemy(this, config);
   this.enemies.push(monster);
}
```

# 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

Launch the game. All enemies should now spawn from a random vertical position just off the right side of the screen and travel horizontally to the left at varying speeds. For now, they will pass harmlessly over the player, as we have not yet implemented collision detection.



# **Goal 8: Collision Detections & Game Over**

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

This is the final goal to complete our MVP. We will use Phaser's physics system to detect when the Player and an Enemy overlap. When a collision occurs, it will trigger a "Game Over" state. In our arcade-style game, the only lose condition is the player touching an enemy, which will cause the scene to flash and then restart, creating a complete and playable game loop.

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### **Step 1: Create a Collision Setup Method**

In PlayScene.js, add a call to a new helper method, create\_collisions(), from the main create() method. This continues our pattern of keeping the create() method clean and readable.

### $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.js \rightarrow create()$

### Step 2: Add a Physics Overlap Check

Now, implement the create\_collisions() helper. Inside, we'll use this.physics.add.overlap() to tell Phaser to constantly check for collisions between two objects.

This method takes several arguments: (object1, object2, callback, processCallback, context).

- object1: The first object/group to check. We'll use this.player.
- object2: The second object/group. We'll use this.enemies, our array of all active enemies.
- callback: The function to call when an overlap happens. We'll name it game\_over.
- processCallback: An optional function to run first; we don't need it, so we pass null.
- context: The value of this inside the callback. We pass this so it refers to our PlayScene.

### $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.js \rightarrow create\_collisions()$

```
//sets up overlap collisions behaviors
create_collisions() {
    this.physics.add.overlap(this.player,this.enemies,this.game_over,null,this);
}
```

### Step 3: Implement the game\_over Callback Function

Finally, create the <code>game\_over</code> method. This function will be executed the moment a player-enemy collision is detected.

- this.cameras.main.flash(): We'll use the scene's primary camera to create a brief white flash. This provides instant visual feedback to the player that something bad happened.
- this.scene.restart(): We'll use the scene's manager to restart the current scene. This effectively resets the game to its initial state, completing our game loop.

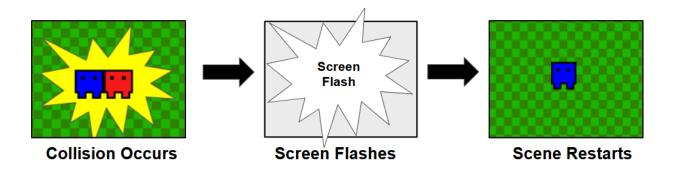
```
src/ → PlayScene.js → game_over()
```

```
game_over() {
    this.cameras.main.flash();
    this.scene.restart();
}
```

# 'Assess' → Test phase

### **Testing:**

Launch the game. Move the player into the path of an oncoming enemy. When the two sprites overlap, the screen should flash white for a moment, and then the scene should immediately restart, with the player back at their starting position and new enemies beginning to spawn.



# Dev Cycle 2: Full Version - Buildout Features

### **Full version Goal:**

Congratulations on building a complete Minimal Viable Product! You now have a solid, working foundation. In this next section, we will transform that simple MVP into a polished and exciting game by adding a series of "enhancements."

These are the features that will add depth, challenge, and visual flair to make your game feel complete.

# **Our Enhancement Roadmap**

We will add the following features, building upon the MVP you just completed. While many of these could be done in any order, we recommend following this sequence as they build upon each other logically.

Enhancement 1: Customize Player Hitbox

**Enhancement 2: Scrolling Background** 

Enhancement 3: Player/Enemy Walk Animation

Enhancement 4: Top Score Challenge

Enhancement 5: Player Projectiles

Enhancement 6: Power-ups

**Enhancement 7: Enemy Projectiles** 

(Note: There is one key dependency: Enhancement 6 (Power-ups) requires the player to be able to fire projectiles, which are implemented in Enhancement 5.)

# **An Important Note on Applying Changes**

Each enhancement guide will show you the new code to **add or change**, starting from the completed MVP. However, as you complete each enhancement, you are modifying your new, feature-rich codebase.

Be careful not to accidentally delete or overwrite the code you added in a previous enhancement. For example, when you start Enhancement 2, make sure you don't remove the hitbox code you added in Enhancement 1.

**Pro Tip:** This is why version control systems like Git are essential in professional development. A great habit is to save a backup of your project folder or make a Git commit after successfully completing each enhancement.

# The Final Result (Deliverable)

By the end of this section, you will have a complete, feature-rich version of the game that realizes all of our initial design goals, including animations, scoring, power-ups, and more.

By Ted Holmberg (eholmber@uno.edu)

# **Enhancement 1: Customize Player Hitbox**

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

A small but high-impact improvement we can make is to customize the player's **hitbox**. The hitbox is the invisible, physics-based shape used for collision detection. By default, it perfectly matches the size of the sprite's image.

We will make the hitbox slightly smaller than the visual art. This is a common technique in arcade-style games to make the movement feel more responsive and forgiving, as it reduces frustrating "unfair grazes" where the edge of a sprite seems to get clipped.

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### Step 1: Shrink the Physics Body

In Player. js, find your constructor method. After the line that adds the physics body, add a new line to resize it.

We'll use the this.body.setSize() method. It takes three arguments: (width, height, center).

- We'll set the new width and height to be 16 pixels smaller than the sprite's actual dimensions.
- We'll pass true as the third argument to automatically re-center the new, smaller hitbox within the sprite.

### $src/ \rightarrow Player.js \rightarrow constructor$

# 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

Launch the game. You should now be able to fly the player so that the edge of its sprite slightly overlaps with an enemy sprite without triggering a "Game Over." The collision will only register when the smaller, invisible hitboxes touch.





# **Enhancement 2: Scrolling Background**

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

In the MVP, our static background makes the player feel stationary. We'll introduce a scrolling background to create a sense of forward motion and travel. The goal is to give the game a constant feeling of movement, allowing the player to focus on dodging enemies. We will achieve this by replacing our static image with a seamlessly tileable texture that loops continuously. (Optionally, multiple layers scrolling at different speeds - parallax - can add depth.)

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

### Step 1: Replace the Image with a TileSprite

In PlayScene.js, we need to refactor our create\_map method. Instead of using a static this.add.image, we will use this.add.tileSprite.

A TileSprite is a special type of image object designed for creating scrolling backgrounds. Its key feature is that it repeats its texture seamlessly, as if the edges were glued together. This allows us to modify its tilePosition property later to create a continuous scroll. For this to work, your background.png file must be a tileable texture, meaning its left and right edges match up perfectly.

We'll store the created TileSprite in a new this.background property so we can access it in our update loop.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → create_map()
```

```
//Load level
create_map() {
    this.background = this.add.tileSprite(640/2, 480/2, 640, 480, 'background');
}
```

### Step 2: Add a Helper Method to the update Loop

To maintain the clean structure of our core update method, we will add a call to a new helper method, update\_background(). This continues our pattern of using update as a high-level "conductor" that delegates tasks to more specific functions.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → update()
```

```
update(){
    this.update_player();
    this.update_background();
}
```

### Step 3: Animate the Background in the update Loop

Now, create the update\_background() helper method. Inside this function, we will animate the background by accessing the background object and modifying its tilePositionX property on every frame.

By adding a small number to this property, we shift the texture, creating a smooth, leftward scrolling effect. The value 3 determines the speed in pixels per frame; feel free to change it to see how it affects the scroll rate.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → update_background()
```

```
update_backgtround(){
    this.background.tilePositionX += 3;
}
```

# 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

Launch the game. The background image should now be continuously scrolling from right to left at a steady speed. Because it's a TileSprite using a tileable texture, the pattern should repeat seamlessly with no visible gaps

# Shifts left on update

# **Enhancement 3: Player/Enemy Walk Animation**

# 'Approach' → Plan phase

Animating characters is a high-impact visual upgrade. We'll build a simple, two-frame looping walk animation for both the Player and the Enemy.

A key concept in Phaser is that its **Animation Manager is global**. This means we only need to **register** each animation once (in our PlayScene), and then any sprite instance (like a Player or Enemy) can simply play that pre-defined animation. We'll build this feature in two small, testable milestones.

# 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

# Milestone 1: Player Animation

### **Step 1: Preload the Animation Frames**

In PlayScene.js, update the preload() method to load the two individual image frames that will make up our player's walk animation.

### $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.js \rightarrow preload()$

```
preload() {
    this.load.path = 'assets/';
    this.load.image( 'background', 'background.png' );
    this.load.image( 'player', 'player.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy', 'enemy.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy', 'enemy.png' );
    this.load.image( 'player-0', 'player-0.png' );
    this.load.image( 'player-1', 'player-1.png' );
    //Load walk frame 0
    this.load.image( 'player-1', 'player-1.png' );
}
```

### **Step 2: Create an Animation Helper Method**

In the PlayScene's <code>create()</code> method, we'll add a call to a new helper, <code>create\_animations()</code>. It's important to call this before we create the player or enemies so that the animations are registered and ready to be used.

### $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.js \rightarrow create()$

### **Step 3: Register the Player Animation**

Implement create\_animations() in PlayScene and register animations with the Scene's Animation Manager (this.anims). Build a small config object with the standard fields—key (animation id), frames (ordered array of { key: <textureKey> }), frameRate (frames per second), and repeat (use -1 to loop)—then pass it to this.anims.create(config). This defines the animation once globally; later, sprites just call this.anims.play(key, true) to use it without recreating it. We also safe-gaurd against adding the same animation key if it already exists in the animation manager.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create\_animations

### Step 4: Play the Animation on the Player

In Player constructor play the registered animation. The second arg (true) is ignoreIfPlaying. It tells Phaser not to restart the animation if it's already playing - handy when you call play repeatedly (e.g., in update) so the clip doesn't snap back to frame 0 every frame.

### src/ → Player.js → constructor

### (Milestone 1) Testing:

Make sure you have the player-0.png and player-1.png files in your assets/ folder. Launch the game and verify that the player sprite is now animated, cycling between the two frames.

# **Milestone 2: Enemy Animation**

Now we'll repeat the same pattern for the Enemy.n

### **Step 1: Preload the Enemy Frames**

Refactor the preload method to add the enemy frames into the load manager

### $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.js \rightarrow preload()$

```
preload() {
    this.load.path = 'assets/';
    this.load.image( 'background', 'background.png' );
    this.load.image( 'player', 'player.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy', 'enemy.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy', 'enemy.png' );
    this.load.image( 'player-0', 'player-0.png' );
    this.load.image( 'player-1', 'player-1.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy-0', 'enemy-0.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy-0', 'enemy-0.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy-1', 'enemy-1.png' );
    //Load walk frame 0
    this.load.image( 'enemy-1', 'enemy-1.png' );
    //Load walk frame 1
}
```

### **Step 2: Register the Enemy Animation**

Refactor the create\_animations method to configure the enemy move animation using similar properties and then register it into the global animation manager. We safe-gaurd against adding the same animation if it already exists.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create\_animation

```
//create animations
create_animations(scene){
   if ( !this.anims.exists('player-move') ){
       const anim player move = new Object();
       anim_player_move.key = 'player-move';
                                                                          //key to register into phaser
       anim_player_move.frames = [{key: 'player-0'}, {key: 'player-1'}]; //list of image keys for anim
       anim player move.frameRate = 6;
                                                                          //speed to play animation
       anim_player_move.repeat = -1;
                                                                          //-1 for infinite loop
       this.anims.create(anim_player_move);
                                                                          //facotory creates anim obj
   if ( !this.anims.exists('enemy-move') ){
       const anim_enemy_move = new Object();
       anim_enemy_move.key = 'enemy-move';
                                                                         //key to register into phaser
       anim_enemy_move.frames = [{key: 'enemy-0'}, {key: 'enemy-1'}];
                                                                        //list of image keys for anim
       anim_enemy_move.frameRate = 6;
                                                                         //speed to play animation
       anim_enemy_move.repeat = -1;
                                                                         //-1 for infinite loop
       this.anims.create(anim enemy move);
                                                                         //facotory creates anim obj
```

### **Step 3: Play the Animation on the Enemy**

In Enemy constructor play the registered animation. The second arg (true) is ignoreIfPlaying.

### $src/ \rightarrow Enemy.js \rightarrow constructor()$

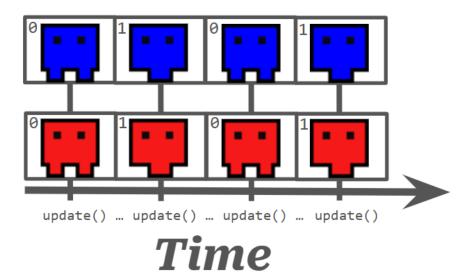
#### (Milestone 2) Testing:

Make sure you have the enemy-0.png and enemy-1.png files. Launch the game and verify that both the player and all spawned enemies are now animated.

## 'Assess' → Test phase

## Testing:

Open the index.html file within the browser using an HTTP server. The player and enemy images should continually update with the animation sequence given the appearance of the characters moving their legs.



# **Enhancement 4: Top Score Challenge**

## 'Approach' → Plan phase

Our game currently has a lose condition but no goal. We can significantly improve player engagement by adding a high-score challenge. This gives the player a clear objective: beat the top score.

We will build a Heads-Up Display (HUD) to show the player's current score, which will increase as they play. We will also track the top score that persists between playthroughs (but not page reloads) and even ask for the top-scoring player's name.

## 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

## Milestone 1: Add a Current Score Display

Add Score counter for the current game that continually increases, and reset score when the player dies.

### Step 1: Create the HUD

Refactor the create() method to invoke a new helper method responsible for creating the scene's HUD.

## $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.js \rightarrow create()$

```
create() {
   this.create_map();
                                               //create map
   this.create player()
                                               //create player
   this.create_enemies();
                                               //create enemies
    this.create_collisions();
                                               //create physics
    this.create hud();
                                               //create hud
```

### Step 2: Implement create hud

Now, implement the create\_hud() method. Here, we'll:

- 1. Initialize a this.score property to 0. This will track the score for the current run.
- 2. Create a Text object using this.add.text() to display the score. We'll store it in this.score\_text.
- 3. Set its depth to a high number to ensure it renders on top of all other game objects.

#### $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.js \rightarrow create\_hud()$

```
create_hud() {
   this.score = 0;
    this.score_text = this.add.text(32, 32, "");
    this.score_text.depth = 3;
    this.score_text.setColor( 'rgb(255,255,255)' );
```

### Step 3: Add Scoring Logic

Let's give the player points. A simple way is to award one point for every enemy that spawns. In spawn\_enemy(), add a line to increment this.score.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → spawn\_enemy()

```
spawn_enemy() {
   const config = {};
   config.x = 640 + 32;
   config.y = Phaser.Math.Between(0, 480)

const monster = new Enemy(this, config);
   this.enemies.push(monster);
   this.score +=1;
}
```

### Step 4: Invoke helper update\_score() in Scene's update()

To make the score on the screen update continuously, we need to update its text on every frame. We'll create a new helper method, update\_hud(), and call it from our main update() loop.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → update()
```

```
update() {
    this.update_player();
    this.update_score();
}
```

### Step 5: Update the Score Display

Finally implement the update\_score method by using the setText method of the score\_text with the current numerical value from score.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → update_score()
```

```
update_score() {
    this.score_text.setText("Score: " + this.score);
}
```

### (Milestone 1) Testing:

Launch the game. You should see "Score: 0" in the top-left corner. The score should increase rapidly as enemies spawn. When you collide with an enemy, the game should restart and the score should reset to 0.

## Milestone 2: Add a Persistent Top Score

Add a Top Score counter that tracks the highest score for all games played this session.

#### **Step 1: Initialize Persistent State in the Constructor**

Refactor the PlayScene's constructor method to intialize a top\_score instance variable to 100. The constructor for PlayScene is only called when the game is initially launched -- so this won't reset the top\_score as the scene restarts between playthroughs. We default to 100 so that the player has a minimal threshold score they must first achieve to be awarded a top-score.

```
src/ → PlayScene → constructor
```

```
constructor(){
    super('play');
    this.top_score = 100;
}
```

### **Step 2: Display the Top Score**

Refactor the create\_hud() method to add a game text object and initialize it into a top\_score\_text instance variable. The top score text's origin will be in the top-right corner of screen. Set the z-index depth to render above all other objects. We want to right-align the text so it stays anchored from right-most position. setOrigin(x, y) sets the object's anchor/pivot in normalized coordinates (0-1)—where (0,0) is top-left and (1,1) bottom-right—which determines how its position, rotation, and scaling are applied.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create\_hud()

#### **Step 3: Update the Top Score Displa**

Refactor the update\_score helper method to update the top\_score\_text on each tick of the game loop.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → update_score()
```

```
update_score() {
    this.score_text.setText("Score: " + this.score);
    this.top_score_text.setText("Top Score: " + this.top_score);
}
```

### Step 4: Check for a New High Score

Refactor the game\_over() method to check if the current score is higher than the top score and set it if so.

## src/ → PlayScene.js → game\_over()

```
game_over() {
    if ( this.score >= this.top_score) {
        this.top_score = this.score;
    }
    this.cameras.main.flash();
    this.scene.restart();
}
```

#### (Milestone 2) Testing:

Play a game and get a score. When you die, the "Top Score" should update to reflect your score. Play again; the top score should remain, and only update if you beat it.

## Milestone 3: Get Name of the Top Score Winner

When a new top score is awarded, prompt the player for their name and save it until either the page is refreshed or a new score beats it.

### **Step 1: Add a Persistent winner Property**

Refactor the PlayScene constructor to include an instance variable to store the winner's name and default it to 'Top Score'. This is placed in scene's construtor so we won't overwrite it between restarts.

```
constructor() {
    super('play');
    this.top_score = 0;
    this.winner = 'Top Score';
}
```

### Step 2: Prompt the User for Their Name

Let's make our game\_over logic more interactive. When a new high score is achieved, we will:

- 1. Pause the physics engine to freeze the game.
- 2. Use the browser's prompt() function to ask the user for their name.
- 3. Resume the game by restarting the scene.

Important Note: prompt() is a simple tool for tutorials, but it completely freezes the browser tab. This is why we pause the physics first.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → game\_over()

### **Step 3: Update the Persistent winner Property**

Refactor the update\_score method to set both the winner and the top score in the HUD text. We use a string template formatting to make this easier and cleaner to read.

## src/ → PlayScene.js → update\_score()

```
update_score() {
    this.score_text.setText("Score: " + this.score);
    this.top_score_text.setText( `${this.winner}: ${this.top_score}`);
}
```

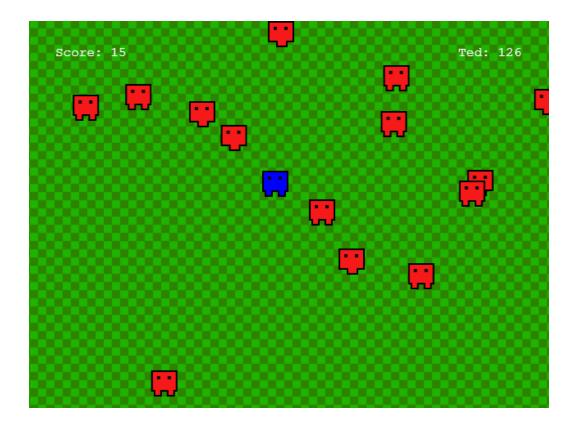
## (Milestone 3) Testing:

Try running the game after these changes and verify that when a new top score is achieved that the game prompts the player for their name and it updates the HUD text along with their top score.

# 'Assess' $\rightarrow$ Test phase

## Testing:

After completing all the milestones for this enhancement -- the game should have a HUD that displays the current score on the left and the top score along with the winner's name on the right.



# **Enhancement 5: Player Projectiles**

## 'Approach' → Plan phase

A common upgrade to the dodger-styled game mechanics is to provide the player with additional actions rather than simply to reactively dodge. Dodging is a reaction which makes the player feel powerless, constantly running for their lives without being able to act. In this enhancement, we will provide the player a new action-drive interaction which is to emit a projectile that can remove enemies. This enhancement will be fully realized across three milestones. The final goal is to create a new javascript class that represents projectiles and create one whenever the player presses or holds the spacebar. Both the projectile and an enemy are destroyed if they collide.

## 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

## Milestone 1: Fire projectiles from Player

The first task is to implement projectiles and trigger their creation based on a player action hitting the spacebar.

### **Step 1: Preload the Projectile Asset**

As with all our other game objects, the first step is to load the required image asset. In the PlayScene's preload() method, add a line to load projectile.png and assign it the unique key 'projectile'.

## $src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.is \rightarrow preload()$

```
preload() {
    this.load.path = 'assets/';
    this.load.image( 'background', 'background.png' );
    this.load.image( 'player', 'player.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy', 'enemy.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy', 'enemy.png' );
    this.load.image( 'projectile', 'projectile.png' );
    //Load projectile image
}
```

#### Step 2: Create the Projectile Class

Create a new file at src/Projectile.js. This class will serve as a blueprint for all bullets. The constructor is designed to be flexible: it takes a scene, a starting position, and a velocity as arguments. This allows us to spawn projectiles anywhere, moving in any direction. Inside the constructor, it adds itself to the scene and the physics system, then immediately sets its body's velocity.

### src/ → Projectile.js

```
class Projectile extends Phaser.Physics.Arcade.Sprite {
   constructor(scene, position, velocity)v{
      super(scene, position.x, position.y, 'projectile');
      this.depth = 1;

      scene.add.existing(this);
      scene.physics.add.existing(this);
      this.body.velocity.x = velocity.x;
      this.body.velocity.y = velocity.y;
}
```

### Step 3: Add a Projectile Manager to the Scene

Back in PlayScene.js, we need a central place to manage all active projectiles. Following our established pattern, add a call to a new helper method, create\_projectiles(), from within the main create() method. It's important to call this before create\_player() so that the projectile system is ready when the player is created.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create()

## **Step 4: Initialize the Projectile Array**

Now, implement the create\_projectiles helper. Its job is to initialize an empty array on the scene, this.player\_projectiles. This array will serve as our master list to keep track of every active projectile the player has fired, which we will need for collision checks in the next milestone.

### src/ → PlayScene.js → create\_projectiles()

```
create_projectiles(){
   this.player_projectiles = [];
}
```

### Step 5: Connect the Player to the Projectile System

To allow the player to fire, we need to make two changes to its constructor. First, add 'space' to the string passed to addKeys so we can listen for spacebar presses. Second, we'll give the player a reference to the scene's player\_projectiles array so it knows which list to add new projectiles to.

### $src/ \rightarrow Player \rightarrow constructor()$

```
constructor(scene) {
    super(scene, 300, 200, 'player');
    this.depth = 2;
    this.speed = 200;
    this.projectiles = scene.player_projectiles;

scene.add.existing(this);
    scene.physics.add.existing(this);
    this.setCollideWorldBounds(true);
    this.body.setSize(this.width-16, this.height-16);
    this.buttons = scene.input.keyboard.addKeys('up,down,left,right,space');
    this.anims.play('player-move',true);
}
//don't leave map
//16x16 for 32x32
//add space key
//play move animation
```

### Step 6: Implement the Player's attack Method

This new attack method contains the core logic for firing and is a great example of **encapsulation**. It checks if the spacebar is currently held down. If it is, it creates a new Projectile instance at the player's current location with a hardcoded forward velocity. The newly created projectile is then added to the projectiles array we referenced in the constructor.

### $src/ \rightarrow Player \rightarrow attack()$

```
attack() {
    if( this.buttons.space.isDown ) {
        const position = {x:this.x, y:this.y};
        const velocity = {x:300, y:0};
        const projectile = new Projectile(this.scene, position, velocity);
        this.projectiles.push(projectile);
    }
}
```

### Step 7: Call attack from the Scene's Update Loop

To make the player check for firing on every frame, we need to call its new attack() method from the game's main update loop. Following our principle of **Separation of Concerns**, we'll add this call inside the PlayScene's update\_player helper method, right after the call to this.player.move(). The Scene "conducts" the update, while the Player handles its own logic.

## src/ → PlayScene.js → player\_update()

```
player_update() {
   this.player.move();
   this.player.attack();
}
```

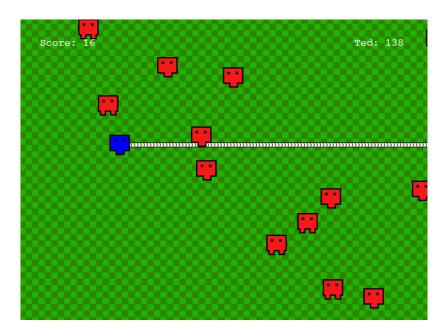
#### Step 8: Load the New Projectile.js File

Finally, we must load our new Projectile.js file by adding a <script> tag to index.html. The order is critical: since the Player class creates instances of Projectile, Projectile.js must be included before Player.js to prevent a "class not defined" error.

#### index.html

## (Milestone 1) Testing:

Try running the game after these changes and verify that player triggers projectiles. However, it generates projectiles for every tick of the game loop.



## Milestone 2: Collisions between Projectiles and Enemies

#### Milestone Goal

Now that projectiles are firing, we need to make them interact with enemies. We'll add a physics overlap check that triggers an action whenever a projectile touches an enemy, destroying both objects upon impact.

### **Step 1: Create the Collision Callback Function**

First, we need to define the logic that will run *when* a collision occurs. We do this by creating a **collision callback** function. Phaser will automatically call this function for us, passing in the two specific game objects that collided (in this case, a projectile and an enemy). Inside this function, we simply call .destroy() on both objects to remove them from the scene.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → slay_enemy()
```

```
slay_enemy(projectile, enemy) {
    enemy.destroy();
    projectile.destroy();
}
```

### Step 2: Add the Physics Overlap Check

Now that we have our callback logic, we need to tell Phaser's physics engine to use it. In the <code>create\_collisions</code> method, we add another <code>this.physics.add.overlap()</code> check. This is the "glue" that connects our game objects to our logic. We tell Phaser to constantly watch for overlaps between the <code>this.player\_projectiles</code> array and the <code>this.enemies</code> array, and to execute our <code>slay\_enemy</code> function whenever it finds one.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → create_collisions()
```

```
//create physics and collisions
create_collisions(){
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player,this.enemies,this.game_over,null,this);
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player_projectiles,this.enemies,this.slay_enemy,null,this);
}
```

### (Milestone 2) Testing:

#### **Test Instructions:**

Launch the game and fire at the enemies.

### **Expected Outcome:**

When one of your projectiles hits an enemy, both the projectile and that specific enemy should instantly disappear from the screen.

#### **Key Observation & What's Next:**

Notice that you can fire an endless stream of projectiles, which is very overpowered and doesn't feel balanced. This is a "game feel" problem. In the next milestone, we will address this by implementing a firing rate cooldown.

## Milestone 3: Set a Timed Firing Rate for Projectiles

#### **Milestone Goal:**

Currently, the player can fire a continuous stream of projectiles, which is unbalanced. To fix this, we'll implement a **cooldown** to limit the firing rate. We'll achieve this by tracking the time between shots using a high-precision timestamp that Phaser provides in its update loop.

### Step 1: Pass the Timestamp to the update\_player Method

Phaser's update(time) method gives us access to a constantly running clock (in milliseconds). To use this clock in our Player's attack method, we need to pass the time value down through the chain of function calls: from update() to update\_player(), and finally to player.attack().

```
src/ \rightarrow PlayScene.js \rightarrow update()
```

```
update(time) {
   this.update_player(time);
}
```

### Step 2: Pass the Timestamp to the attack Method

Add parameter into update so that phaser passes us the timestamp for this call on the update method, then pass that value to the player attack method.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → update_player()
```

```
update_player(time) {
    this.player.move();
    this.player.attack(time);
}
```

#### Step 3: Initialize a Cooldown Timer

To track the cooldown, the Player needs a state variable to remember when it last fired. In the Player's constructor, create a new property called this.last\_fired. We initialize it to 0 to ensure the player can fire their very first shot without any delay.

#### $src/ \rightarrow Player.js \rightarrow constructor$

### Step 4: Implement the Cooldown Logic

Now, refactor the attack(time) method to use our new timer. We add a second condition to the if statement: the expression time - this.last\_fired > 400 checks if at least 400 milliseconds have passed since the last shot. If both conditions (spacebar down AND cooldown passed) are true, we fire a projectile and then immediately update this.last\_fired = time; to record the timestamp of the new shot, effectively resetting the timer for the next one.

### $src/ \rightarrow Player.js \rightarrow attack()$

```
attack((time) {
    if( this.buttons.space.isDown && time - this.last_fired > 400 ) {
        const position = {x:this.x, y:this.y};
        const velocity = {x:300, y:0};
        const projectile = new Projectile(this.scene, position, velocity);
        this.projectiles.push(projectile);
        this.last_fired = time;
    }
}
```

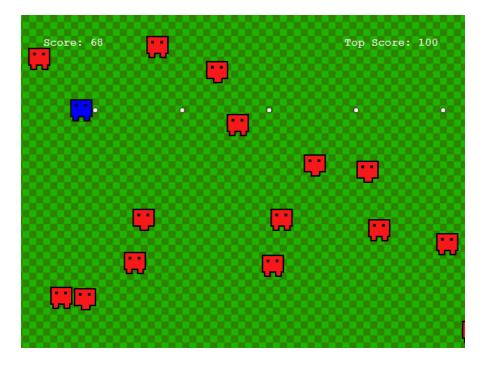
### (Milestone 3) Testing:

#### **Test Instructions:**

Launch the game and hold down the spacebar.

#### **Expected Outcome:**

Projectiles should now fire at a steady, controlled rate (roughly two shots per second) instead of a continuous stream.



## Milestone 4: Rapid Fire on Spacebar Clicks

#### **Milestone Goal:**

Our current cooldown works well for holding down the spacebar, but it feels unresponsive to rapid tapping. We will now refine the logic to ensure that the first press of the spacebar after a release always fires a projectile instantly, rewarding players with guick reflexes.

### Step 1: Reset the Cooldown Timer on Key Release

The solution is to add a second if statement to our attack(time) method. This new block checks if the spacebar isUp. When the player releases the key, we reset the last\_fired timer back to 0.

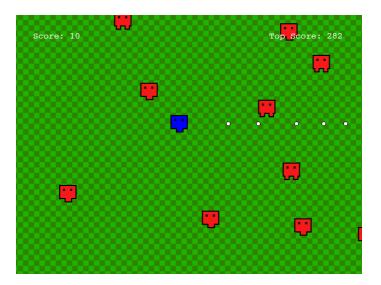
This means that the next time the player presses the spacebar, the cooldown check (time - this.last\_fired > 400) will always be true, guaranteeing that the first shot of a new press is always instant. This gives us the best of both worlds: a controlled rate for holding the button down, and instant responsiveness for single taps.

## $src/ \rightarrow Player.js \rightarrow attack()$

```
attack((time) {
   if( this.buttons.space.isDown && time - this.last_fired > 400 ) {
      const position = {x:this.x, y:this.y};
      const velocity = {x:300, y:0};
      const projectile = new Projectile(this.scene, position, velocity);
      this.projectiles.push(projectile);
      this.last_fired = time;
   }
   if( this.buttons.space.isUp ) {
      this.last_fired = 0;
   }
}
```

#### (Milestone 4) Testing:

The player should fire projectiles as quickly as they can press the spacebar.



## 'Assess' → Test phase

## Testing:

### **Test Instructions:**

Launch the game and try both firing styles:

- Hold the spacebar down.
- Tap the spacebar as rapidly as you can.

### **Expected Outcome:**

Holding the spacebar should still result in a controlled, timed firing rate. Tapping the spacebar, however, should now feel much more responsive, with each distinct press firing a projectile instantly.

# **Enhancement 6\*: Enemy Projectiles**

## 'Approach' → Plan phase

Dodger games become more challenging when the enemies can shoot projectiles towards the player. If the player is given the capability of projectiles then enemies should as well otherwise the challenge factor of the game is lopsided to the player since they have the advantage of distance attacks. To make the game more challenging and balanced its important that enemies also have that capability. Note if you do not give the player projectiles, then giving enemies projectiles might make the game too difficult and unbalanced. The key to good game design is finding the right balance. With this enhancement, enemies will be able to attack, but at a much slower pace than the player.

NOTE: this enhancment assumes you have included the player projectiles -- you can implement without it -- but then there are instructions in enhancement 5 that would need to be included in this implementation.

## 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

## Milestone 1: Fire projectiles from Enemies

The first task is to implement projectiles and trigger their origin from the enemy units

## Step 1:

Refactor create\_projectiles method to initialize an enemies projectiles list.

```
src/ → PlayScene.js → create_projectiles()
```

```
create_projectiles(){
   this.player_projectiles = [];
   this.enemy_projectiles = [];
}
```

#### Step 2:

Refactor Enemy constructor to save a reference to the scene's enemy\_projectiles to push into it during gameplay. Also Enemies will have random-based time-triggered projectile actions

```
src/ \rightarrow Enemy \rightarrow constructor()
```

```
constructor(scene, position) {
    super(scene, position.x, position.y, 'enemy');
    this.depth = 1;
    this.last_fired = 0;
    this.projectiles = scene.enemy_projectiles;

    scene.add.existing(this);
    scene.physics.add.existing(this);
    this.body.velocity.x = -Phaser.Math.Between(120, 300);
    this.attack_duration = Phaser.Math.Between(2000, 4000);
}
```

### Step 3:

Implement attack method. Safe guard to ensure is an active enemy. If more time elapsed than this enemy's attack duration then intialize a new Projectiles object centered at origin of enemy and velocity toward right direction. Push the projectile into the scene's list of enemy projectiles and reset last fired value with current time and make new random attack duration for next time.

### $src/ \rightarrow Enemy \rightarrow attack()$

```
attack(time) {
   if (!this.active || !this.body || !this.scene) return;

if( time - this.last_fired > this.attack_duration ) {
     const position = { x:this.x, y:this.y };
     const velocity = { x:this.body.velocity.x-100, y:0 };
     const projectile = new Projectile(this.scene, position, velocity);
     this.projectiles.push(projectile);
     this.last_fired = time;
     this.attack_duration = Phaser.Math.Between(2000, 4000);
}
```

### Step 4:

Implement a helper method responsible for updating the enemies which iterates through all enemies and causes them to attack.

## src/ → PlayScene → update\_enemies()

```
update_enemies(time) {
    this.enemies.forEach(enemy => enemy.attack(time));
}
```

#### Step 5:

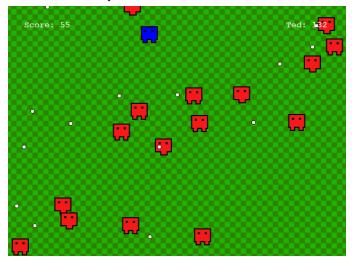
Refactor the update method to invoke the update\_enemies helper method

```
src/ → PlayScene → update()
```

```
//Update game data
update(time) {
    this.update_player(time);
    this.update_enemies(time);
}
```

## (Milestone 1) Testing:

Try running the game after these changes and verify that enemies emit projectiles. However, projectiles do not have collision behaviors yet.



## Milestone 2: Collisions between Projectiles and Player

Add a collider in the scene's physics system that triggers an action whenever a projectile touches the player. We can invoke the game\_over method same as enemy overlaps

### Step 1:

Add overlap detection in physics system between projectiles & players, if an overlap occurs, invoke the the game\_over method.

## src/ → PlayScene.js → create\_collisions()

```
//create physics and collisions
create_collisions(){
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player,this.enemies,this.game_over,null,this);
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player_projectiles,this.enemies,this.slay_enemy,null,this);
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.enemy_projectiles,this.player,this.game_over,null,this);
}
```

### (Milestone 2) Testing:

Try running the game after these changes and verify that enemies projectiles trigger a game over

## 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

Verify that the culmination of all milestones translates into a full realization for this enhancement feature goal.

# **Enhancement 7\*: Power-ups**

## 'Approach' → Plan phase

In game design, a sense of **player progression** ("leveling up") keeps play engaging by granting new power or efficiency over time. In dodger-style games, that progression is typically delivered through **power-ups** - temporary or stackable boosts the player collects mid-run.

We'll add two collectible power-ups:

- Slay wipes all enemies (and their bullets) on screen.
- Projectile increases the player's projectile size up to a cap.

## 'Apply' $\rightarrow$ Do phase

## Milestone 1: Spawn & Display Power-ups

Powerup objects are very similar to Enemy objects except for what happens when the player touches them..

### Step 1:

Preload image for power up and create a class that represents a powerup object.

## PlayScene.js → preload()

```
preload() {
    this.load.path = 'assets/';
    this.load.image( 'background', 'background.png' );
    this.load.image( 'player', 'player.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy', 'enemy.png' );
    this.load.image( 'enemy', 'enemy.png' );
    this.load.image( 'powerup-projectile', 'powerup-1.png' );
    this.load.image( 'powerup-slay', 'powerup-2.png' );
    //Load projectile image
}
```

### Step 2:

Define a class to model a powerup object with a constructor to instantiate it.

#### PowerUp.js

```
class PowerUp extends Phaser.Physics.Arcade.Sprite {
   constructor(scene, config) {
      super(scene, config.x, config.y, config.type );
      this.depth = 1;

      scene.add.existing(this);
      scene.physics.add.existing(this);
      this.body.velocity.x = -300;
    }
}
```

#### Step 3:

Refactor create method to invoke helper method to create powerups

### PlayScene.js → create()

```
create(){
     this.create_map();
     this.create_player()
     this.create_enemies();
     this.create_powerups();
     this.create_collisions();
}
```

### Step 4:

Implement helper method that creates two types of powerups and defines two list - one for each type of powerups

## PlayScene.js → create\_powerups()

```
create_powerups() {
    this.powerups_projecticles = [];
    this.powerups_slay = [];

    var event = new Object();
    event.delay = 3000;
    event.callback = this.spawn_powerup;
    event.callbackScope = this;
    event.loop = true;

    this.time.addEvent(event, this);
}
```

## Step 5:

The spawn\_powerup function uses chained probability checks to decide if and what to spawn. There's a 1-in-5 chance to spawn a 'powerup-projectile'. If that fails, there's another 1-in-5 chance to spawn a 'powerup-slay'. For a successful spawn, it configures the power-up to appear at a random height just off the screen's right edge, instantiates it, and adds it to the correct tracking array.

### PlayScene.js → spawn\_powerups()

```
spawn_powerup() {
    if ( Phaser.Math.Between(0,4) === 0 ) {
        const config = new Object();
        config.y = Phaser.Math.Between(0, 480);
        config.x = 640+32;
        config.type = 'powerup-projectile'

        const potion = new PowerUp(this, config);
        this.powerups_projectile.push(potion);
    }
    else if (Phaser.Math.Between(0,4) === 0 ) {
        const config = new Object();
        config.y = Phaser.Math.Between(0, 480);
        config.x = 640+32;
        config.type = 'powerup-slay'

        const potion = new PowerUp(this, position);
        this.powerups_slay.push(potion);
    }
}
```

### Step 6:

Refactor the index.html file to import the PowerUp.js file so that its available to the JavaScript environment.

#### index.html

## (Milestone 1) Testing:

Try running the game after these changes and verify that powerups randomly spawn

## Milestone 2: PowerUp 'Slay'

We will now implement the entire functionality for the 'Slay' power-up, from its collision logic to its effect, and test it to ensure it works perfectly before we even begin thinking about the next power-up. This mirrors the agile practice of completing one user story before starting another.

### Step 1

This method iterates through all enemies and their projectiles, destroying them. It also removes the power-up itself and triggers a brief camera flash

## PlayScene.js → get\_powerup\_slay()

```
get_powerup_slay(player, powerup){
    this.enemies.forEach( monster => monster.destroy() );
    this.enemy_projectiles.forEach( bullet => bullet.destroy());
    powerup.destroy();
    this.cameras.main.flash();
}
```

### Step 2

Refactor create\_collisions to add a physics overlap check between the player and the powerups\_slay array, linking it to the callback get\_powerup\_slay.

## PlayScene.js → create\_collisions()

```
create_collisions(){
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player, this.enemies, this.game_over, null, this);
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player, this.powerups_slay, this.get_powerup_slay, null, this);
}
```

#### (Milestone 2) Testing:

Launch the game. The 'Projectile' power-up will spawn but do nothing. Wait for a 'Slay' power-up to appear. Verify that collecting it immediately clears the screen of all enemies and enemy projectiles. **Do not proceed until this feature is working as expected.** 

## Milestone 3: PowerUp 'Projectile'

With the 'Slay' power-up fully functional and tested, we can now begin our next discrete unit of work: the 'Projectile' power-up. We will follow the same pattern: implement all necessary code, wire it up, and test it in isolation.

#### Step 1

This power-up requires the Player to track its bullet size. First, add a projectileScale property to the Player's constructor, initializing it to 1.

## Player.js → constructor()

```
constructor(scene) {
    super(scene, 300, 200, 'player');
    this.depth = 2;
    this.speed = 200;
    this.last_fired = 0;
```

```
this.projectiles = [];
this.projectileScale = 1;

scene.add.existing(this);
scene.physics.add.existing(this);
this.setCollideWorldBounds(true); //don't go out of the map
this.body.setSize(this.width-16, this.height-16);

this.buttons = scene.input.keyboard.addKeys('up,down,left,right,space');
this.setup_animations(scene);
}
```

### Step 2

Next, refactor the attack method. After creating a projectile, use setScale() to modify its visual size based on this.projectileScale. Critically, you must also update the physics body with body.setSize() to match the new visual scale.

## Player.js → attack()

```
attack(time) {
   if( this.buttons.space.isDown && time - this.last_fired > 400 ) {
      const position = { x:this.x, y:this.y };
      const velocity = { x:300 ,y:0 };
      const projectile = new Projectile(this.scene, position, velocity);
      // scale the sprite you see #POWERUP
      projectile.setScale(this.projectileScale);
      // make the physics hitbox match what you see (minimal + effective) #POWERUP
      projectile.body.setSize(projectile.displayWidth, projectile.displayHeight, true);
      this.projectiles.push(projectile);
      this.last_fired = time;
   }
   if( this.buttons.space.isUp ) {
      this.last_fired = 0;
   }
}
```

#### Step 3

Now, create the get\_powerup\_projectile function in PlayScene. This method will increase the player's projectileScale property (using Math.min to cap it at a maximum of 3x) and destroy the collected power-up.

#### PlayScene.js → get\_powerup\_projectile()

```
get_powerup_projectile(player, powerup){
    this.player.bulletScale = Math.min(this.player.bulletScale + 1, 3);
    powerup.destroy();
}
```

#### Step 4

Finally, add the last overlap check to create\_collisions to connect the player and the powerups\_projectile array to your new callback.

#### PlayScene.js → create collisions()

```
create_collisions(){
  this.physics.add.overlap(this.player, this.enemies, this.game_over, null, this);
  this.physics.add.overlap(this.player, this.powerups_slay, this.get_powerup_slay, null, this);
```

this.physics.add.overlap(this.player, this.powerups\_projectile, this.get\_powerup\_projectile, null, this);

## (Milestone 3) Testing:

Launch the game again. The 'Slay' power-up should still work as before. Now, verify that collecting the 'Projectile' power-up causes your bullets to fire at a larger scale.

## 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

This is the final integration test where we confirm that all previous milestones work together to deliver the complete power-up feature. Launch the game and perform a full playtest to verify the following behaviors:

power-up lea	ature. Laurich the game and perform a full playtest to verify the following behaviors.
Spawning:	both 'Slay' and 'Projectile' power-ups appear periodically from the right side of the screen?
Wh	r-up Functionality: en you collect the 'Slay' power-up, are all enemies currently on screen instantly destroyed? e all enemy projectiles also destroyed? es the screen flash briefly upon collection? es the power-up icon disappear after being collected?
Wh Tes	Power-up Functionality: en you collect the 'Projectile' power-up, do your fired bullets become visibly larger? et the Cap: Collect the 'Projectile' power-up multiple times. Confirm that the bullet size increases with the cond and third collection, but stops increasing after the third. es the power-up icon disappear after being collected?

If you can check all of these boxes, you have successfully implemented the entire power-up enhancement.

## Milestone 2: Define behaviors for Powerups & Add collisions

Now that power-ups appear on screen, we need to make them actually do something when the player collects them. This milestone involves two key parts:

- Writing the Callback Functions: We'll create the specific functions that contain the logic for each power-up's effect (e.g., "make bullets bigger" or "destroy all enemies").
- 2. **Setting Up Physics Overlaps**: We'll tell Phaser's physics engine to monitor the player and the power-ups, and to run our callback functions the moment they touch.

## Step 1

Implement

## PlayScene.js → get\_powerup\_projectile()

```
get_powerup_projectile(player, powerup){
    this.player.bulletScale = Math.min(this.player.bulletScale + 1, 3);
    powerup.destroy();
}
```

### Step 2

Implement

## PlayScene.js → get\_powerup\_slay()

```
get_powerup_slay(player, powerup){
    this.enemies.forEach( monster => monster.destroy() );
    this.enemy_projectiles.forEach( bullet => bullet.destroy());
    powerup.destroy();
    this.cameras.main.flash();
}
```

#### Step 3

Implement

### PlayScene.js → create\_collisions()

```
create_collisions(){
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player, this.enemies, this.game_over, null, this);
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player, this.powerups_projectile, this.get_powerup_projectile, null,
this);
   this.physics.add.overlap(this.player, this.powerups_slay, this.get_powerup_slay, null, this);
}
```

#### Player.js $\rightarrow$

```
constructor(scene) {
   super(scene, 300, 200, 'player');
   this.depth = 2;
   this.speed = 200;
   this.last_fired = 0;
   this.projectiles = [];
```

### Player.js →

```
attack(time) {
    if( this.buttons.space.isDown && time - this.last_fired > 400 ) {
        var position = new Object()
        position.x = this.x;
        position.y = this.y;
        var velocity = new Object();
        velocity.x = 300;
        velocity.y = 0;
        var bullet = new Projectile(this.scene, position, velocity);
        // scale the sprite you see
                                       #POWERUP
        bullet.setScale(this.bulletScale);
        // make the physics hitbox match what you see (minimal + effective) #POWERUP
        bullet.body.setSize(bullet.displayWidth, bullet.displayHeight, true);
        this.projectiles.push(bullet);
        this.last fired = time;
    if( this.buttons.space.isUp )
        this.last_fired = 0;
}
```

### (Milestone 2) Testing:

Try running the game after these changes and verify that powerups randomly spawn and apply powers to the player

# 'Assess' → Test phase

### Testing:

TBD

# **Conclusions**

### **Final Comments**

This lab was multifaceted -- as it focused on multiple concepts regarding web development.

- 1. Learned to use OOP Javascript to extend our code into a Popular JavaScript Framework/Library
- 2. Learned to use the Phaser library and how to use its documentation -- a transferable skill for using any type of JavaScript library or framework
- 3. Learned to use software engineering techniques to break a complex project into dev cycles (version-oriented) -- sprints (goal-oriented) -- milestones (task-oriented) to iteratively design and implement a complex project through small achievable and testable outcomes.
- 4. Delivered a final and complete dodger game that is feature-rich and visually nice with animations, and player given multiple interactions, gameplay is challenging, and a sense of level progression via powerups. So it hits all the marks in the rubric for a well-desined game

## **Future Improvements** (Beyond the Scope of this Lab)

- Use the browser's LocalStorage to save the highscore between sessions
- Add more enemy types with different behaviors and patterns
- Add multiple levels
- Add more powerups, gear, equipment
- Add collectibles
- Add boss battles.
- Triggered Animations that start and stop.
- Parallax scrolling.

### Lab Submission

Push all of your lab files into your forked repository and close this Lab in your github issues. Mark it as complete.

## **Module 2 - Project:**

Create your own front-end browser app with JavaScript & Canvas API / Phaser or modifies the DOM.

## **Project Bonus:**

Showcase bonus. You can receive up to 20 bonus points if your project is outstanding and novel. I'll publish all showcase projects as a demo for future students. You should reference such projects on your resume or CV.