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| **Assignment Cover Letter**    **(Individual Work)** |



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**Course Code**  **: COMP6510**  **Course Name**  **: Programming Languages**

**Class** **: L2AC**  **Name of Lecturer(s)** **:** **Jude Joseph Lamug Martinez**

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**Title of Assignment** :

(if any)

**Type of Assignment**  **: Final Project**

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1. Vincentius Gabriel Tandra

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# Name: Vincentius Gabriel Tandra

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# I. Project Specification

# Introduction:

For my Java final project for this semester, I decided to create a Chess program from scratch. The reason I chose to do this is because it satisfies the requirements for the project and I had recently picked up chess so I decided that my app could be a way for myself to learn chess on my own. In the beginning, I was quite clueless as to how to begin, I understood most of how chess worked as a game, the many rules and exceptions and the way each piece worked to win a game. However, I immediately understood that translating my knowledge into Java code would be a difficult task. So I looked for resources online and I found a youtube series for exactly what I was making and decided to use it as reference when I had trouble. I was also planning to make it a proper GUI application similar to a normal chess game. Most of the code was referenced from this playlist, a lot of the code within the videos was dependent on an external library, but I decided that my chess code would be runnable without any dependencies and so I had to change some equations and replaced some functions with pre-existing internal libraries.However, many of the algorithms and variable names were replicated so it was easier for myself to understand. While I would have liked to customise the code more to my own liking, it was difficult to deviate from the rules of chess, epescially creating it from scratch. At the end of the day, I could have changed the variables and functions to suit my own reading but most of the variable names and terms used within the code were already according named specific to chess terms.

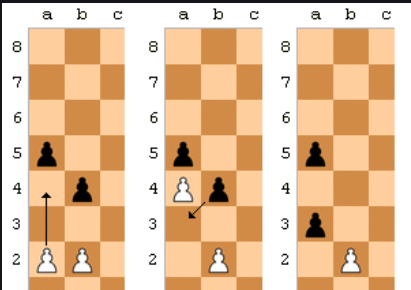
# II.a. Design/Plan

Before we begin with our code, I would like to explain most of the rules within chess so the concepts I use in my code are more easily understood. Within chess two players compete each other in a conquest to conquer the opponent’s king. It is a turn-based game where the two players are assigned a side, a black side and a white side. Each player takes turns moving a piece a turn and outsmarting their opponents by taking their pieces before eventually winning the game. However, chess has many rules that set it apart from its basics. A beginner of the game cannot be so easily compared to a much stronger player such as a grand master and this knowledge of the game is what makes it fun, the manipulation and knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of each piece matters and winning a chess game is not as simple as one might expect. In chess, in order to win, one player must checkmate their opponent’s king. Within chess a check is a type of move where either player’s king is under attack and when a player’s king has nowhere to move after a check it is checkmate and a player wins the game. However, chess has two other outcomes when the game ends. The game can end in a stalemate, where the king is not in check and it is unable to move because it would be attacked in that position and there is also a draw, where both opponents are left with only their kings. In either of these gamestates there is no actual winner and a tie is determined. Now that we have explained the general ruels of chess we can explain each piece and how they work.

**Pawn:**



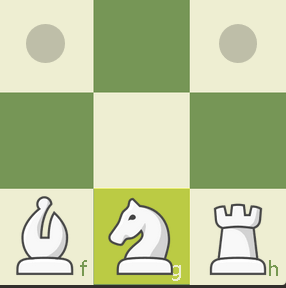
The pawn is at face value, the simplest piece in chess. Either side of the board has 8 pawns at the beginning of the game. In its beginning position it is able to make two moves, a single move forward and it can also skip that tile in order to jump forward, a pawn is also only able to move forward. Once it does this, it is unable to jump again and will only move one tile forward. A pawn can capture any piece within one tile of it’s front diagonal positions, a pawn is special because when it reaches the 8th rank from its position or the opposite end of the baord, it can promote itself into any other piece. The pawn is also able to make a special move known as En Passant, in this move if a pawn jumps from its original positon, it can still be captured like it would be normally despite it not being in the usual attacking position.



En Passant in action ^ ( because it’s really difficult to understand if not visualised.)

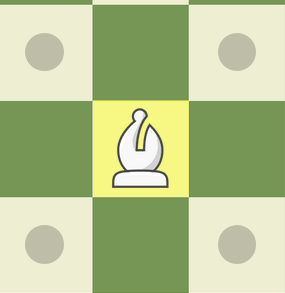
This is why the pawn is actually one of the most special pieces in chess and was the most complex to actually implement.

**Knight:**



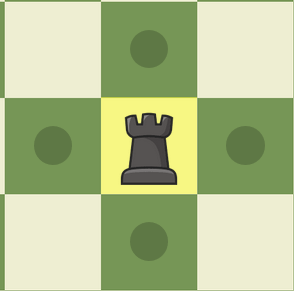
Next we have the knight, the knight has 8 possible moves in L directions from its position, unlike other pieces the knight is able to jump over other pieces in order to capture, it is also able to move forwards and backwards.

**Bishop:**



Next we have the bishop, the bishop is able to move in any direction of its diagonals, uniquely from other pieces, a bishop is limited to the color of its square, so on a chessboard there is a light square bishop as seen above and a dark square bishop.

**Rook:**



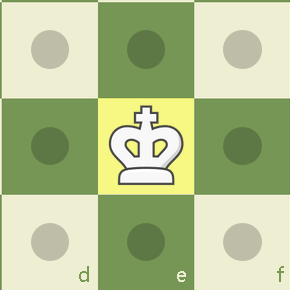
The rook can move in 4 directions in the NSWE directions, to the front and its sides. The rook is able to make a special move that we will define with the king piece knows as a castle. The rook is the second strongest piece on the board.

**Queen:**



The queen is the strongest piece on the board, it is a combinaion of the rook and bishop and is the main attackign force for each side in chess. You can win a game of chess quite easily by taking your opponent’s queen.

**King:**



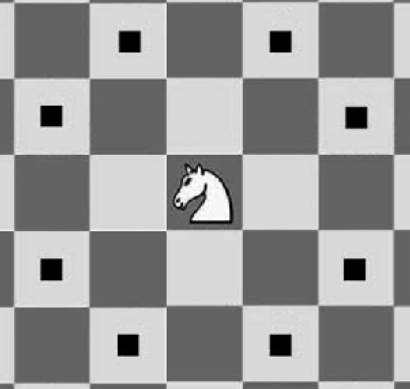
Last but certainly not least, we have chess’ most important piece, the king. The king is the focal point of every game where an attack on the king wins a player the game. The king is able to move in all positions but only by one tile. Its moves can be limited by a check where it is being attacked by another piece. When a check is made, the king under attack must move out of the position or blocked by an allied piece. The king is also able to make a special move known as a castle as we mentioned before. A castle is a move wher the king trades positions with the rook and so it is protected behind it, a castle cannot be made if the king or rook has been moved prior to being able to castle, no pieces must be blocking the king rook and the king cannot be under attack while castling. There are two types of castling moves, a castle with the kign side rook and the queen side rook.The queen side rook takes longer to execute since the queen must be moved from its position.



That’s all about the pieces and the general rules of chess. Lets get into the code!

So I began my chess project with two things in mind, I had to design an 8x8 chessboard, 32 pieces in total and a black side and a white side to compete against each other. We begin by creating our chessboard and initial pieces using the **Board** class and a **Piece** class. Within both classes, our base for the game is designed, we separate the black and the white pieces, determine the position of each piece on the board which we can use later and a way to calculate the amount of legal moves for a certain piece. The **Piece** class is defined as an abstract class which we will use when implementing each othe pieces later, each piece will have their own legal moves due to their differences within the game. For example, a queen will move differently from a knight would and so we must be able to determing the legal moves for each piece. By taking a one dimensional approach to the chessboard, we can assume that since there are 64 tiles on a chess board, we will take the first tile as the top left corner tile and the last tile as the bottom right corner tile, this makes detemining a piece’s position on the board quite easily. However, there is a catch to this one dimensional approach when approaching the movement of certain pieces. Certain moves in very specific positions would not be possible for certain pieces.

For example, we can take the movement of a knight:



As seen here, the knight has these possible moves when at the center of the board. However, if the knight were to be in the right or left border columns of the board the number of moves they have becomes limited. Our approach sees the knight’s movement caculated using offsets based on the current position of the knight. For example, these 8 moves would be the offsets -17, -15, 10,- 6, 6, 10, 15, 17, we know this because from the knight’s current position, if we add any of these numbers to the knight’s position, we will get the position of each of these black dots, these become the possible moves for a knight.



Here is an example where the white knight is on the left corner of the board, if we assumed it’s positon on this board using our dimensional approach, it would be on the tile position numbered 41, if we were to calculate the knight’s possible moves on its left side using our previous offsets, it would end up on the right side of the board, making these moves invalid. This applies to all of the other pieces, which despite having different offsets of movement would have their own exceptions when on these parts of the board, this is what I call an edge case and it is one of the issues of using a one-dimesional approach, these edge cases differ for each piece since they move in different ways but each one of them has their own edge cases. Once we can calculate the moves for each piece and define their exclusions, we are able to create our chessboard and set up the pieces and their default positions through our command line. Next we are going to define the movements of each piece, since we know how a piece needs to move we can determing the kind of moves we can make within our **Move** class. In chess a piece can do two kinds of moves, normal movement and what is known as a capture or an attacking move. Capturing a piece is the act of taking that piece using one of your own. There is a specific way of translating one of these moves into our code. We do this by redrawing the position of a piece when it is moved and checking whether that move is legal or not, after the piece is moved into the position, the condition of each piece is determined and the board is redrawn after the move is made, we do these within our **MoveTransition** and **MoveStatus** classes. This is the backbone of the chess engine and all that’s left is to establish the rest of the rules within the other pieces and exceptions such as En Passant and special game states such as check, checkmate and more. For the GUI section of the game I decided to use Swing. We had a few classes introducing us to GUI using Swing and that’s why I am using it over JavaFX. Most of my time had been spent doing the coding for the chess but the GUI was a nice change and was something I could use as visual feedback to check if my code worked. Within the GUI, a move history tab was implemented and a tab that showed which pieces were now off the board, with the GUI, it is also possible to flip the board to change the player’s perspective and do things such as highlight possible moves or checks. However, I was unable to implement the highlighting features and while I am ultimately disappointed for missing a feature, it just asserts the fact that I still have much to learn about GUI programming and that my inexperience led to this mishap. Many more GUI features could have been added such as a takeback or undo move or possibly an offer draw button, there were more plans for funner additions towards the GUI that didn’t make it into the fnal program. The GUI also enables a game over screen when a player is checkmated or stalemated. Most of the special moves were aso implemented quite well, these include moves such as En Passant and the promotion of a pawn. The caveat is that certain moves such as pawn promotion was limited due to limitations with my own knowledge of my code, I was unable to promote the pawn into any piece I wanted and so I settled on the default promotion to be a queen since that is the most common choice for promoting a pawn, this means that one part of the game is somewhat incomplete and I may return to finish it in the future so it plays properly. But the largest struggle within the code was implementing castling. Despite being one of the most important moves in chess being the difference in a game ending in 10 moves to one in 20 moves. After lots of time debugging and looking for a solution, this is the only special move in the game that I was unable to implement. Initially, I was thinking of implementing an AI opponent for this project since games such as tic tac toe, checkers and other board games can easily implement a computer opponent using what is known as the minimax algorithm. However, due to time limitations, I decided to make it a local player vs player game.

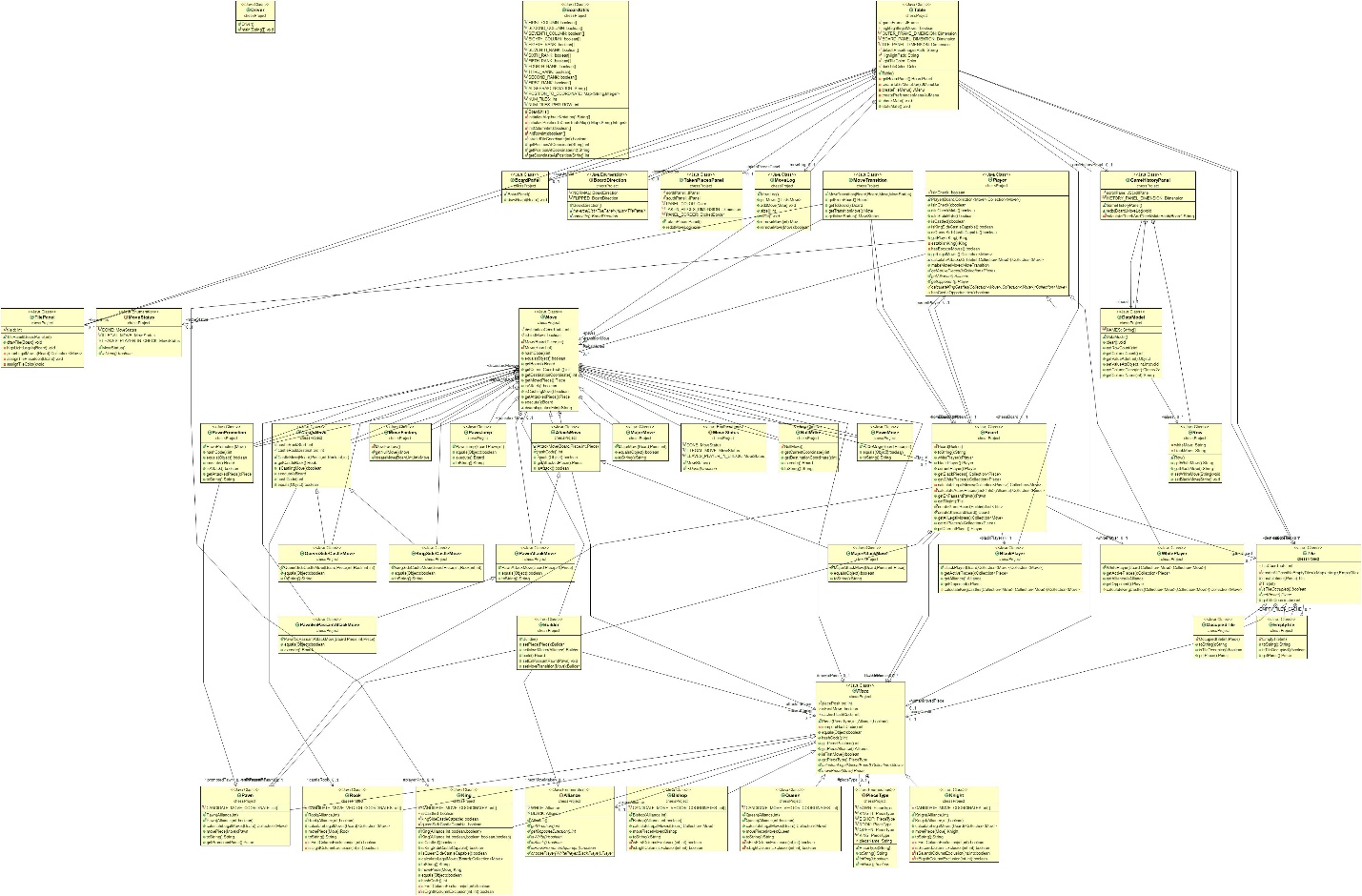
**II.b Code and Class Analysis**

There are a grand total of 21 classes within my project, each with their own different functions. We can take a dive into some of the features of each class and why they may have been designed in a certain way to fit the final product.

Many but not all of the classes will be discussed here.

**II.c Class Diagram**

For clarification, the class diagram shown was autogenerated using an external library, the image can be downloaded on the github link where this project is located



# III.a. Lessons that Have Been Learned

There were many things that I learnt while creating this project. I think that this project was a great learning experience regarding OOP which was taught during a lot of our Programming Languages class. Many of the concepts defined there were difficult to grasp but after numerous exercises it became much easier to understand. I feel like this project was a good test of how well I understood these concepts and how they could be used. Many of the parts of the code required a lot of calculation and I feel like I learnt a lot more about the Java programming language.

One of the things that my resources for this project also taught me was the usage and importance of immutability and constants. This was an important concept I wish I had learnt about previously, I had trouble dealing with my variables in previous projects such as my Python projcet last semester. Lots of the bugs within that code could have been avoided if I had designed my classes with this practice in mind. Within the code is also a large use of the Java Colllections framework and so many of the classes and variables were defined with this in mind.

We were taught a lot about inheritance and abstract classes within class and chess is a perfect example of how you can define each piece using abstract classes since they are all pieces but they work in different ways. It helped me to better understand the concept and why it is important to do so. I also had my fair share of learning about exceptions and how we could use them within our code. There were some applications of try and catch exception handling within the code. However, I felt like exception handling is still my weak link and I still have much more to learn about before I can use it regularly within my code.

Another concept we were taught is the use of overriding functions and within this code, many of the classes defined have simliar functions and just have different uses within each one. Prior to working on this project, my only knowledge of overriding functions was to override the built-in toString() function within Java but here I was able to override different functions within subclasses and built-in functions as well.

One thing I learnt about that was outside of our class topic is the use of the Enum in Java, I would have never thought abut using an enum for the sides within chess. I had initially thought of using a simple boolean value but after being introduced to the enum, the capabilities that you could use to implement such ideas becomes much more vast. This is another weak link for me because I feel like that it might be specific to certain uses but I hope that I could use the enum in future projects since it was so useful in this context.

Overall, I had an enjoyable time creating this project and writing the report. chess has become quite popular online and after I began playing and watching, I enjoyed my progress within my project more and more. However, I had a lot of issues regarding bugs since I had never worked with a project so far outside my comfort zone and I lost motivation at times when my code that I took hours upon hours to write resulted in errors and more errors. Overall, I like to think that stepping outside my zone was something that I really needed to do in order to improve. Even so, there was so much more that could have been added to the code to make it a more interactive engine like the ones so easily found online.

# Resources :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8fSdSUKttk&list=PLOJzCFLZdG4zk5d-1_ah2B4kqZSeIlWtt&index=1>

# <https://stackoverflow.com/>

Chess piece textures courtesy of Chess.com

# IV. Source Code

# All of the code is located at this github link:

# V. Evidence of code (Screenshots)