

Special Forces vs Robots – OOP2 Project

Students Details

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General Description

This project implements a tower defense game called "Special Forces vs Robots" using C++ with SFML graphics library and Box2D physics engine. The game features strategic unit placement, wave-based robot attacks, economy management, and physics-based combat mechanics. Players must defend their base by strategically placing different types of squad members (Heavy Gunner, Sniper, Shield Bearer) to combat incoming waves of robots with varying abilities.

Design (Architecture)

Core Architecture

The project follows a component-based entity system with clear separation of concerns:

Game Core Objects:

- **Game:** Main game loop controller managing states and core systems
- **GameManager:** Central game logic coordinator handling economy, health, and game state
- **GameObject/MovingObject/StaticObject:** Base entity hierarchy providing common functionality
- **Robot:** Moving entities with AI behavior and collision detection
- **SquadMember:** Static defensive units with attack capabilities and targeting systems
- **Projectile:** Physics-based ammunition system with trajectory calculations

State Management:

- **StateMachine:** Manages game state transitions and rendering stack
- **States (Menu, Play, Pause, Victory, GameOver, Settings):** Individual game screens with specific responsibilities

Managers & Systems:

- **RobotManager:** Handles robot spawning, AI updates, and lifecycle management
- **SquadMemberManager:** Manages unit placement, targeting, and grid-based positioning

- **ProjectileManager:** Controls ammunition firing, collision detection, and physics
- **WaveManager:** Orchestrates enemy waves with dynamic difficulty scaling
- **AudioManager:** Centralized sound and music management
- **ResourceManager:** Asset loading and memory management

Physics Integration:

- **PhysicsWorld:** Box2D integration for realistic collision detection
- **PhysicsContactListener:** Handles collision events between different entity types
- **CollisionCategories:** Defines interaction rules between game objects

Design Patterns Used:

- **Factory Pattern:** RobotFactory, SquadMemberFactory, ProjectileFactory for object creation
- **Singleton Pattern:** Managers for global system access
- **State Pattern:** Game state management
- **Observer Pattern:** Event system for decoupled communication
- **Command Pattern:** Undo/redo functionality for unit placement and bomb deployment

File List

Core System Files

- **main.cpp:** Entry point and exception handling
- **Game.cpp/h:** Main game loop and window management
- **GameManager.cpp/h:** Central game logic and economy system
- **GameObject.cpp/h:** Base entity class with physics integration
- **MovingObject.cpp/h:** Base for entities with physics movement
- **StaticObject.cpp/h:** Base for grid-based static entities
- **Constants.h:** Game constants, enums, and configuration values
- **Timer.cpp/h:** Enhanced timing system with callbacks

Entity Implementation

- **Robot.cpp/h:** Base robot class with AI and combat systems
- **BasicRobot.cpp/h:** Simple melee robot with basic AI

- **FireRobot.cpp/h:** Ranged robot with bullet shooting capabilities
- **StealthRobot.cpp/h:** Fast robot with special movement patterns
- **SquadMember.cpp/h:** Base defensive unit class
- **HeavyGunnerMember.cpp/h:** Standard ranged unit with rapid fire
- **SniperMember.cpp/h:** Long-range high-damage precision unit
- **ShieldBearerMember.cpp/h:** Defensive unit with blocking abilities

Projectile & Explosive System

- **Projectile.cpp/h:** Base projectile class with physics trajectory
- **Bullet.cpp/h:** Standard squad ammunition
- **SniperBullet.cpp/h:** High-damage precision ammunition
- **RobotBullet.cpp/h:** Enemy projectiles with squad member targeting
- **Bomb.cpp/h:** Explosive devices with area-of-effect damage and timer-based detonation

Collectibles & Economy

- **Collectible.cpp/h:** Base collectible class with lifetime management
- **Coin.cpp/h:** Currency drops from defeated robots
- **HealthPack.cpp/h:** Health restoration items

Factory Pattern Implementation

- **RobotFactory.cpp/h:** Creates robots with configuration loading
- **SquadMemberFactory.cpp/h:** Creates squad units with cost calculations
- **ProjectileFactory.cpp/h:** Creates projectiles with physics setup
- **CollectibleFactory.cpp/h:** Creates collectibles with drop rate management

Manager Systems

- **RobotManager.cpp/h:** Robot lifecycle and AI coordination
- **SquadMemberManager.cpp/h:** Unit placement and targeting system
- **ProjectileManager.cpp/h:** Ammunition physics and collision handling
- **WaveManager.cpp/h:** Dynamic wave generation with countdown system
- **AudioManager.cpp/h:** Sound effects and music management
- **ResourceManager.cpp/h:** Asset loading and memory optimization
- **SettingsManager.cpp/h:** Configuration persistence and graphics settings

- **EntityManager.cpp/h**: Template-based entity container system

State Management

- **StateMachine.cpp/h**: State transition and rendering management
- **MenuState.cpp/h**: Main menu with animated UI elements
- **PlayState.cpp/h**: Core gameplay state with level progression
- **PauseState.cpp/h**: Game pause functionality
- **VictoryState.cpp/h**: Victory screen with Box2D confetti physics
- **GameOverState.cpp/h**: Defeat screen with particle effects
- **SettingsState.cpp/h**: Audio and graphics configuration
- **SplashState.cpp/h**: Loading screen with background asset loading

UI Components

- **HUD.cpp/h**: In-game interface with health bars and resource display
- **Button.cpp/h**: Enhanced button class with hover animations
- **GridRenderer.cpp/h**: Visual grid system for unit placement
- **Slider.cpp/h**: Audio volume controls

Physics Integration

- **PhysicsWorld.cpp/h**: Box2D world management and stepping
- **PhysicsContactListener.cpp/h**: Collision event handling
- **PhysicsUtils.h**: Coordinate conversion utilities
- **CollisionCategories.h**: Physics collision filtering system

Animation & Graphics

- **AnimationSystem.cpp/h**: Sprite animation management with callbacks
- **AnimationComponent.cpp/h**: Entity-specific animation control
- **Animation.cpp/h**: Frame-based animation sequences

Command Pattern

- **CommandManager.cpp/h**: Undo/redo system for strategic gameplay
- **PlaceUnitCommand.cpp/h**: Unit placement with rollback capability
- **PlaceBombCommand.cpp/h**: Explosive placement command
- **ICommand.h**: Command pattern interface

Utility Systems

- **ConfigLoader.cpp/h**: INI-based configuration file parsing
- **EventSystem.cpp/h**: Type-safe event publishing and subscription
- **DynamicWaveGenerator.cpp/h**: Procedural wave composition

Key Data Structures

Primary Containers

- **std::vector<std::unique_ptr<T>>**: Entity storage with automatic memory management
- **std::unordered_map**: Fast asset lookup in ResourceManager and configuration systems
- **std::array<std::array<T, N>, M>**: Fixed-size grid for unit placement optimization
- **std::queue**: Event processing in EventSystem
- **std::stack**: State management and command history for undo/redo

Game-Specific Structures

- **WaveComposition**: Dynamic wave generation with robot distribution and spawn ordering
- **AnimationComponent**: Frame-based animation with callback system
- **Timer**: Enhanced timing system with progress callbacks and looping
- **Physics Integration**: Box2D body management with SFML coordinate conversion

Template Usage

- **EntityManager<T>**: Generic entity container with type-safe operations
- **EventSystem**: Template-based type-safe event handling
- **std::unique_ptr/std::shared_ptr**: RAII memory management throughout the project

Notable Algorithms

AI and Pathfinding

- **Robot AI State Machine**: Behavior switching between moving, attacking, and special abilities
- **Squad Member Targeting**: Priority-based target selection (closest, strongest, weakest)
- **Dynamic Wave Generation**: Procedural difficulty scaling based on level progression

Physics and Mathematics

- **Projectile Trajectory Calculation:** Physics-based ballistic computation with Box2D integration
- **Collision Detection Optimization:** Spatial partitioning through Box2D's broad-phase collision
- **Grid-to-World Coordinate Conversion:** Precise mathematical mapping for unit placement

Game Systems

- **Level-Based Economy Scaling:** Mathematical progression for starting resources
- **Animation Frame Interpolation:** Smooth sprite animation with timing calculations
- **Audio Volume Mixing:** Multi-channel audio management with category-based control

Data Processing

- **Configuration File Parsing:** INI format parsing with error handling and validation
- **Resource Loading Pipeline:** Asynchronous asset loading with progress tracking
- **Event Queue Processing:** Type-erased event handling with template specialization

Known Bugs

No known bugs at the moment.

Additional Notes

External Libraries

- **SFML 2.6:** Graphics, audio, and window management
- **Box2D:** Physics simulation and collision detection
- **Standard Template Library:** Extensive use of STL containers and algorithms

Special Features

- **Command Pattern Implementation:** Full undo/redo system for strategic unit placement and bomb deployment
- **Explosive Combat System:** Area-of-effect bombs with timer-based detonation and splash damage
- **Physics-Based Combat:** Realistic projectile trajectories and collision detection

- **Dynamic Difficulty Scaling:** Procedural wave generation that adapts to player progress
- **Configuration System:** External file-based game balancing without recompilation
- **Multi-State Architecture:** Clean separation between menu, gameplay, and settings
- **Level Progression System:** Unlockable units and escalating challenge curves
- **Enhanced UI:** Animated buttons, smooth transitions, and visual feedback systems

Design Patterns Utilized

The project demonstrates extensive use of object-oriented design patterns including Factory for object creation, Singleton for manager access, State for game flow, Observer for event handling, and Command for user actions, showcasing advanced C++ programming techniques.

Video Demo

A gameplay demonstration video has been integrated into the game itself and can be accessed by pressing the "More" button in the main menu, providing an interactive tutorial experience.

Development Approach

The project emphasizes modularity, extensibility, and maintainability through clear separation of concerns, consistent coding standards, and comprehensive configuration systems that allow for easy game balancing and feature expansion.