

C++ PROGRAMMING
(OCSE-306T)
PROJECT REPORT



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Car Racing Game

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Abstract

The "Car Racing Game" is a 2D racing simulation developed using C++ and SFML (Simple and Fast Multimedia Library). It simulates a simple car racing environment where multiple AI-controlled cars navigate a race track defined by a set of checkpoints, while the player controls one car using keyboard inputs. The game emphasizes movement physics, path-following AI, and basic collision detection, providing an interactive simulation of autonomous and player-driven cars in a racing context.

Objectives

- Develop a functional 2D car racing game using C++ and SFML.
- Implement autonomous movement for AI-controlled cars using pathfinding logic.
- Integrate player controls for a manually driven car using real-time keyboard inputs.
- Simulate realistic movement and turning mechanics including acceleration, deceleration, and angular motion.
- Create a visually interactive environment with smooth animations and sprite handling.
- Introduce simple collision detection to avoid car overlapping during motion.

Project Overview and Description

This project is a 2D car racing simulation game developed in C++ using the SFML (Simple and Fast Multimedia Library). The game allows a player to control a car in a top-down environment, racing alongside AI-driven opponents who follow a path marked by predefined checkpoints.

Game Overview

This game simulates a basic 2D racing scenario where:

- One player-controlled car is maneuvered using keyboard arrow keys.
- Four AI-controlled cars follow a series of predefined checkpoints (waypoints).
- The race track is rendered using a 2x scaled background image and dynamic sprite rendering.
- The game runs in a window using SFML's rendering engine, supporting frame rate limiting and real-time updates.

Features

- Realistic motion using physics-based calculations
- AI cars with dynamic pathfinding through checkpoints
- Keyboard controls for intuitive player input
- Collision handling to maintain spatial realism
- Camera tracking for enhanced player experience
- Distinct sprite rendering with unique colors for each car

Core Mechanics

- Smooth 2D car movement using realistic physics with sin and cos for angle-based motion.
- Player controls for acceleration, deceleration, and turning (red car starts at a fixed position).
- AI cars use `findTarget()` to compute angles to the next waypoint and move accordingly.
- Collision detection and resolution prevent car overlaps using positional adjustments.
- Camera smoothly follows the player's car to keep it centered on the screen.
- Cars have individual speed, turning radius, and angular movement

How the game works ?

- Start: Player launches the game; a 640x480 window opens.
- Initial Scene: A road map background appears, with 5 colored cars.
- Player Control:
 - Up Arrow: Accelerate
 - Down Arrow: Brake/Reverse
 - Left/Right Arrows: Steer left/right
 - Esc: Exit the game window
- AI Behavior: Other cars follow a route defined by 8 waypoints.
- Real-Time Rendering: Cars move and rotate based on angle and speed.
- Collision Handling: Prevents car overlaps via simple spatial corrections.
- Camera Tracking: The screen follows the player's car, giving a smooth experience.

System Requirements

- Operating System: Windows / Linux / macOS
- Compiler: C++17 compatible (e.g., g++, MSVC)
- Libraries: SFML 2.5+ (Graphics, Window, System, Audio, Network)
- Build System: CMake 3.10 or higher

Code Structure Overview

- main.cpp: Core game logic
 - Initializes cars, loads textures
 - Handles input, movement, and rendering
- Car struct:
 - Stores car position, speed, angle, and checkpoint index
 - Handles movement and AI target finding
- CMakeLists.txt:
 - Manages build settings and SFML dependencies

1. Header Files

cpp

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```
#include <cmath>
```

```
#include <SFML/Graphics.hpp>
```

Used for trigonometric calculations and SFML graphics handling.

2. Constants and Waypoints

cpp

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```
const int num=8;
```

```
int points[num][2] = { ... };
```

Defines 8 checkpoints for AI navigation.

3. Car Structure

cpp

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```
struct Car {
```

```
    float x,y,speed,angle;
```

```
    int n; // Current checkpoint index
```

```
    Car() {speed=2; angle=0; n=0;}
```

```
    void move();    // Moves the car forward
```

```
void findTarget(); // Adjusts angle towards the next checkpoint };
```

Encapsulates car data and behavior. Each car has:

- Position (x, y)
- Speed
- Angle of direction
- Checkpoint tracking

4. Main Function

cpp

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```
int main() {  
    RenderWindow app(VideoMode(640, 480), "Car Racing Game!");  
    ...  
}
```

Key components:

- Window Initialization: Sets frame rate and loads background/car textures.
- Car Initialization:

cpp

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```
const int N=5;  
Car car[N];  
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) ...
```

Initializes 5 cars at different starting positions and speeds.

- User Input: Keyboard arrow keys control the player's car.
- Movement Update:
 - Applies physics (acceleration, deceleration).
 - Updates position using move() method.
 - AI cars use findTarget() to follow checkpoints.
- Collision Detection:

cpp

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```
for(int i=0;i<N;i++)
```

```
for(int j=0;j<N;j++)
```

Prevents cars from overlapping using a basic repulsion method.

- Camera Offset: Keeps the player's car centered by adjusting the background and car drawing positions.
- Drawing: Renders the background and car sprites with different colors.

CMake Configuration

```
cmake
```

```
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```

```
project(Racing)
```

```
find_package(SFML REQUIRED network audio graphics window system)
```

```
file(COPY "${CMAKE_CURRENT_SOURCE_DIR}/images" DESTINATION  
"${CMAKE_CURRENT_BINARY_DIR}")
```

```
add_executable(racing main.cpp)
```

```
target_link_libraries(racing PRIVATE sfml-system sfml-window sfml-graphics sfml-network  
sfml-audio)
```

This configuration:

- Sets the project name as Racing.
- Finds and links the SFML libraries required for multimedia handling.
- Ensures the images directory is copied to the build directory.
- Compiles and links the main.cpp file to build the final executable.

How to Build and Run

- **Step 1: Clone or download the project.**

```
git clone <repository_url>  
cd Racing
```

- **Step 2: Install SFML**

- On Linux: `sudo apt-get install libsFML-dev`
- On Windows: Download binaries from SFML Downloads and configure paths accordingly

- **Step 3: Build the project using CMake**

```
mkdir build && cd build
cmake ..
make
./racing
```

Deployment Guide

- **Windows:**

1. Bundle racing.exe with the images/ folder
2. Include SFML .dll files in the same directory
3. Use a tool like Inno Setup to create an installer

- **Linux:**

1. Make the binary executable
2. Package it with images/ in a tarball:
tar -czvf racing_game.tar.gz racing images/
3. Include SFML runtime libraries or list them in dependencies

- **Cross-platform:**

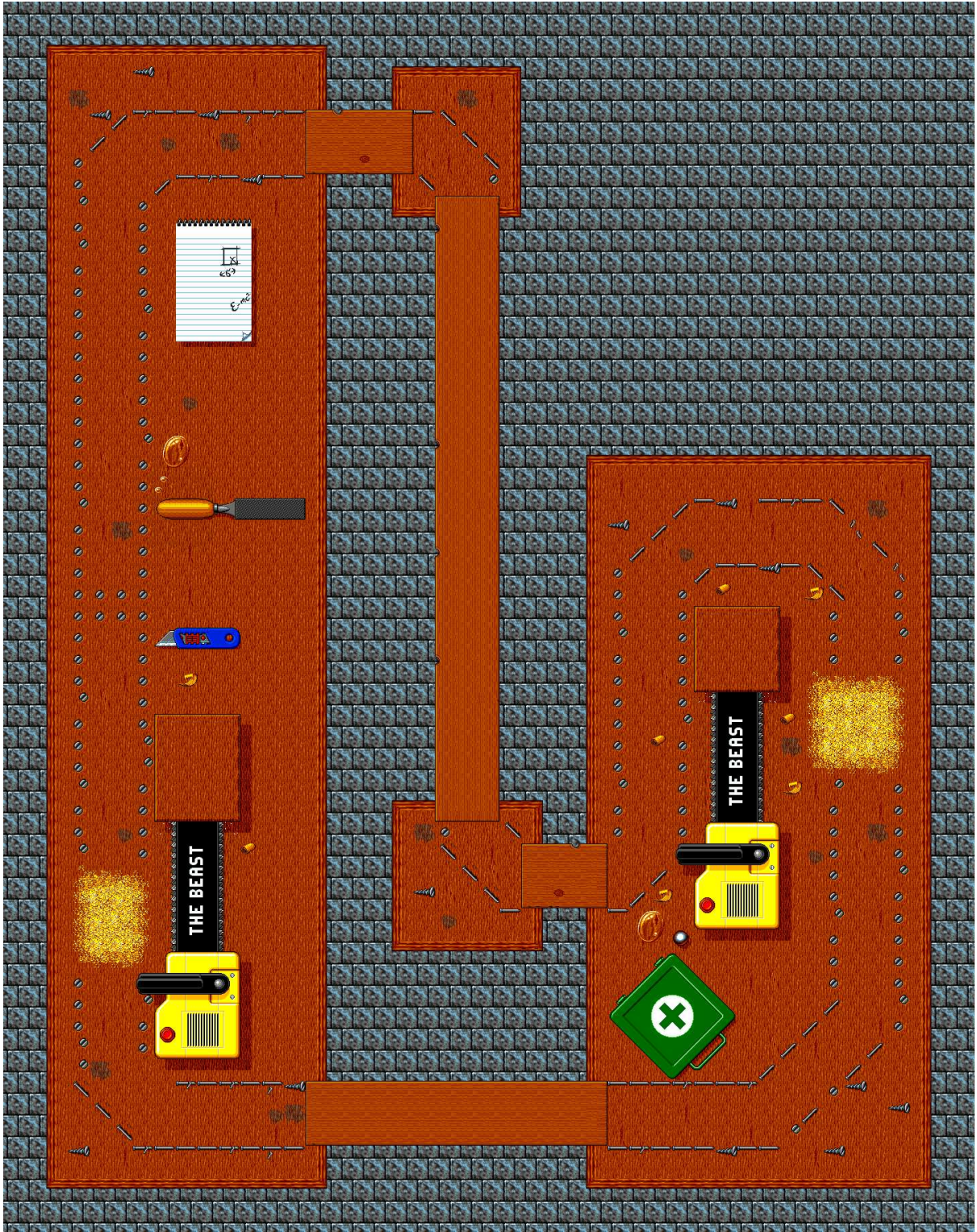
1. Use tools like CMake + CPack to create OS-specific packages

Sample Output (Gameplay Snapshot)

Imagine the following scene:

- A map with long background track with twists and turns.
- 5 cars of different colors:
 - Red: Player car
 - Green, Magenta, Blue, White: AI cars
- The red car in the center is controlled by you using arrow keys.
- Other cars move smoothly along the path, adjusting angles at checkpoints.
- Camera scrolls and follows as your car moves.
- Smooth sprite rotation based on movement direction.
- Collision between cars causes slight repulsion.

Gameplay feels dynamic, and responsive, and gives a good foundation for further enhancements like scoring, laps, or obstacle placement.



Possible Enhancements

- Add lap timing and scoreboards.
- Implement obstacles and track boundaries.
- Include sound effects and background music.
- Add power-ups, nitro boosts, or damage mechanics.
- Create levels or different maps.
- Add UI (speedometer, lap timer)
- Track boundary limits and crash effects
- Multiplayer support (local or network)

Conclusion

This project successfully demonstrates the basics of C++ programming of a simple car racing game. It provided hands-on experience with loops, conditionals, and user interaction. The project was useful in practicing both logic implementation and user experience design within the constraints of a terminal-based application.

License

This project is released under the MIT License.

Appendix: Full Source Code

The full source code of the game can be found at:

https://github.com/samarthkhanna2741/Car_Racing_game.git