

# ECMM427

# Group Development Project

CA4 Demonstration

LTN Project

# The Team

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# Introduction

- Low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) use traffic calming measures to limit/prevent traffic flowing through certain neighbourhoods
  - These systems use barriers, humps, etc. to regulate/limit traffic
  - Purpose of LTN is to encourage alternative transport
- LTNs are being trialled in Heavitree
  - Has faced pushback/dissatisfaction from local residents
  - Protests and poor press reception in local news



Figure 4: Overview of vehicular access under proposed trial scheme.

# Introduction

- Aim is to understand impact of LTNs *without* impacting residents
  - Create an accurate/realistic simulation to understand impact on traffic
- Our stakeholders/clients include:
  - The RAMM
  - The local council
  - Residents of Heavitree



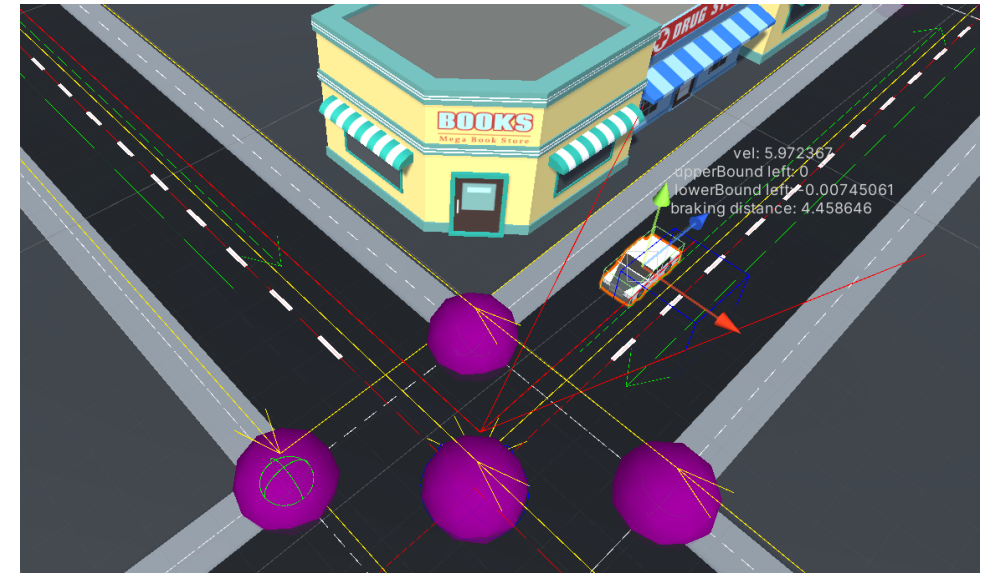
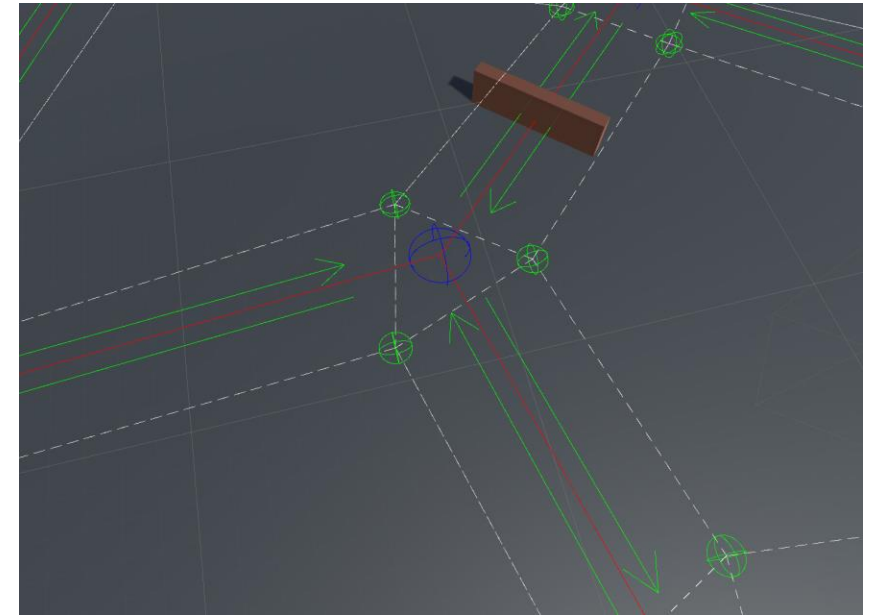
# Current Feature Set of the Program

1. Traffic Simulation
2. Visual Representation of the ongoing simulation
3. Measuring key variables of the simulation
4. Presentation of Statistics



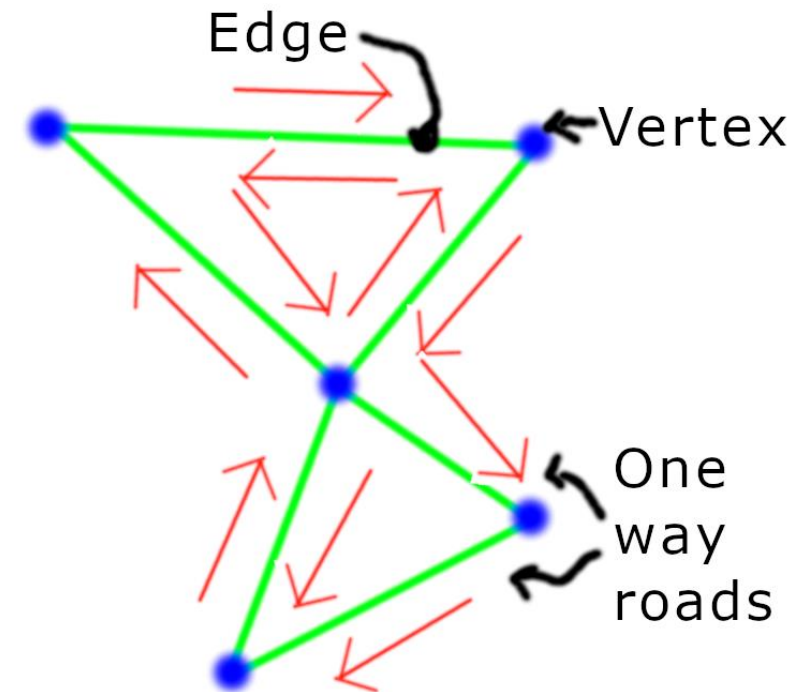
# Traffic Simulation

1. Graph based map
  - Dynamic pavement generation
  - Barriers
2. Agents
  - Dynamic agent velocity
  - Agent collision
  - Braking distance-based separation
3. Agent Manager
  - Stochastic Spawning of Agents
  - Stochastic Destination determination
4. Agent Pathfinding



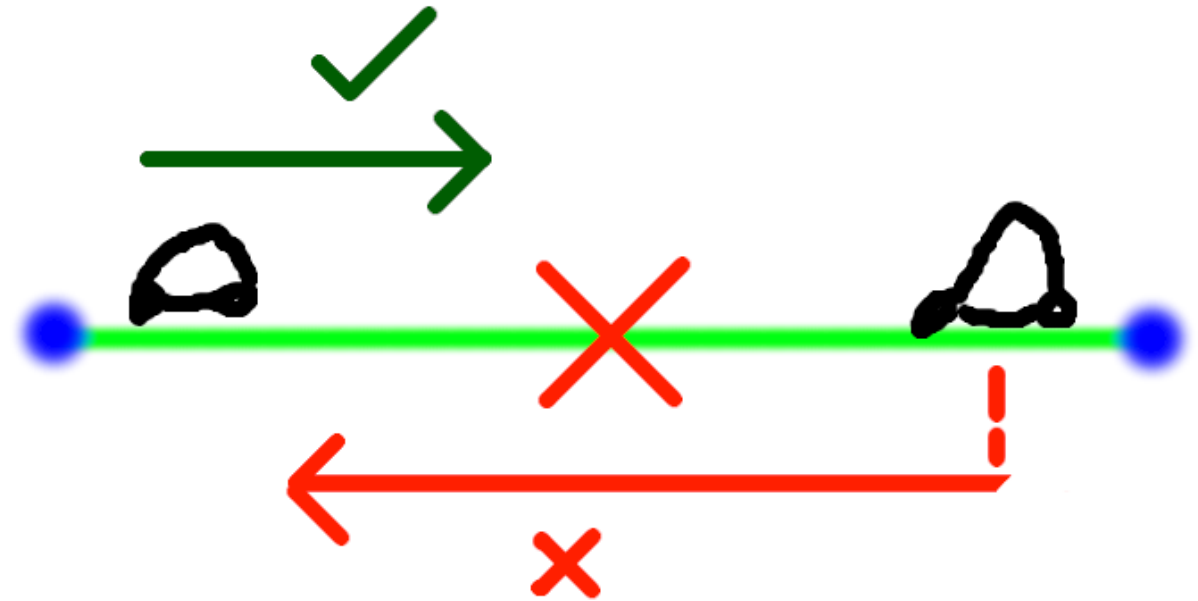
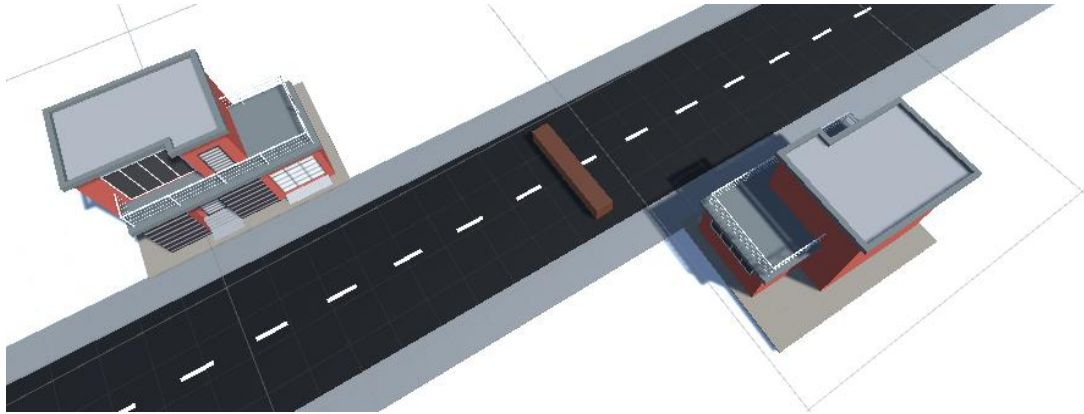
# Graph Based Map

- Map consists of Waypoints (representing junctions) and directed Edges (representing roads)
- Movement along edge is only possible along the direction of the edge
- Nodes are placed at a location of natural junctions and/or dead ends.



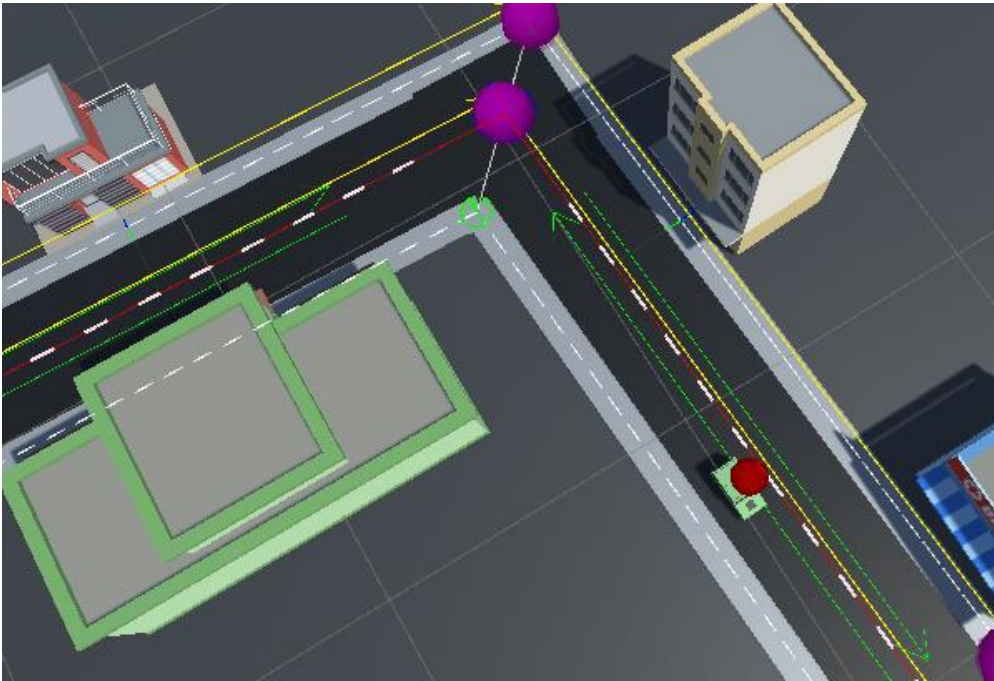
# Barriers

- Edges may be inaccessible to specific forms of traveler.
- Barriers may be placed on edges to prevent travellers from passing through.





# Agent Pathfinding Implementation



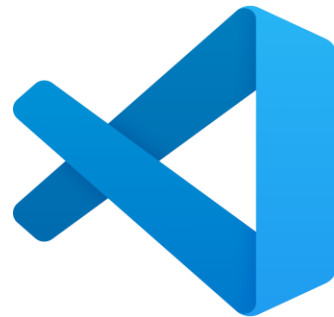
- Agents use Dijkstras Algorithm to decide path to take
  - Path internally represented as a list of waypoints to traverse

During development, we discovered and corrected several edge cases:

- If a barrier is placed on the edge of a road, agents will "take the long way around" to find a destination
- Pedestrians do not consider barriers when deciding path

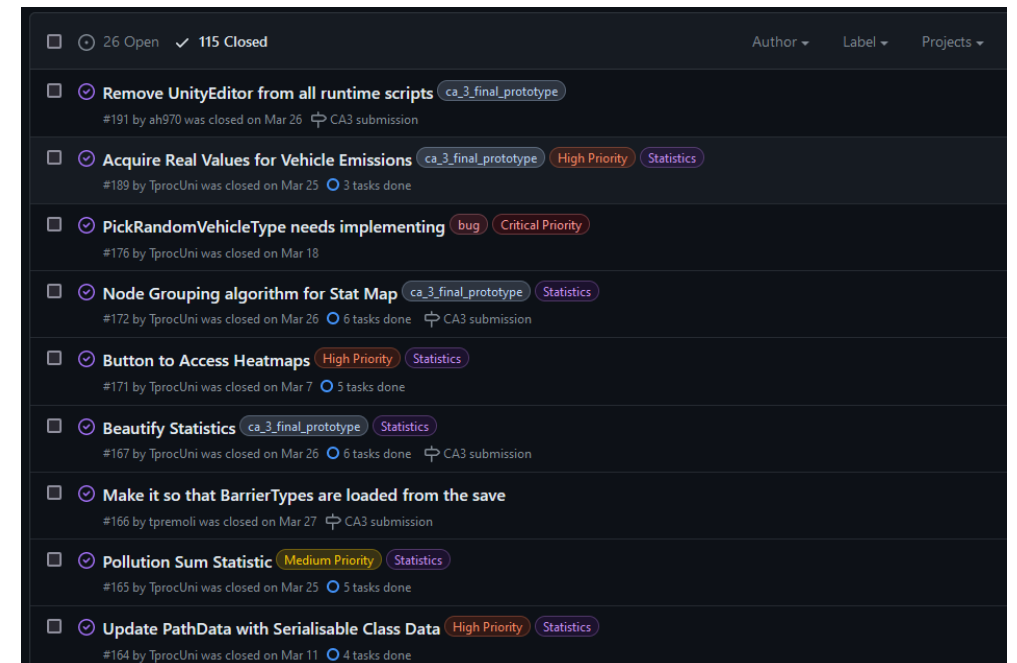
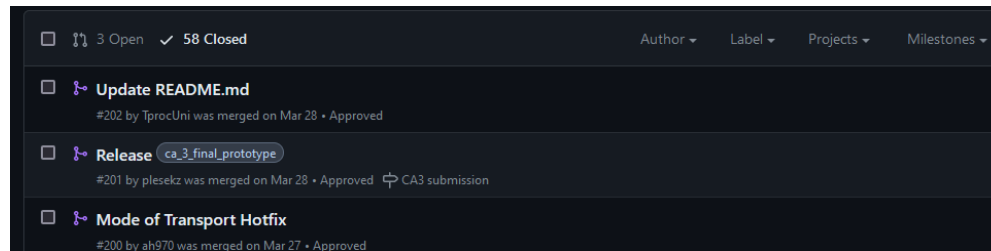
# Development - Tooling

- Unity 3D engine to run simulation
  - Provides runtime and 3D game engine, graphics library, etc.
- VS Code, Git and GitHub used for development
  - Used for asynchronous development of simulation



# Development - Methodology

- Agile methodology used to specify, design, implement and test simulation
- Available under MIT licence



# Operation

- Binaries available from GitHub releases:  
<https://github.com/2023-24-UoE-ECMM427/ltn-demonstrator/releases>
- Thorough documentation covering maintenance and usage guides available:  
<https://github.com/2023-24-UoE-ECMM427/ltn-demonstrator/tree/main/docs>

# Challenges Overcome – Waypoint Mover

- Represents many vehicles
  - different modes of transportation (e.g., pedestrian, car, bicycle) and assigns vehicle types.
- Deals with various constraints
  - Velocity and Movement Constraints
- Manages collisions with other travellers to prevent overlapping and unrealistic entity behaviour
  - Including initial coroutine that waits until there is no immediate collision threat at the traveller's initial position to spawn

# Challenges Overcome – Path Finding

- Dynamic Pathfinding
  - Paths adapt to changes in complexity
    - New edges are added to the graph
    - Blockades added to the graph
- Multi-Component Interaction
  - Manages complex interactions with other movers
  - "Traffic Jams" occur within crowded roads
  - Collision avoidance
- Supports various transport modes (pedestrian, car, bicycle)
  - adjusted movement parameters for realistic behaviour.
- Precise movement along paths
  - considering physical dimensions and movement constraints.
- Path tracing aiding in development and optimization.

# Challenges Overcome – Procedural Graph

- Build using separate materials for roads, dashes, and curbs.
- Utilizes graph data to create roads between waypoints
- Generates intersections at multi-waypoint junctures
- Curbs added to sides and intersections
- Menu options
- Easy loading/clearing of road objects
  - Snap/Rotate Buildings onto the road
  - Integrates unity editor

# Challenges Overcome – Unity3D

- Unity Editor for road building (procedural graph)
- UI Building
- Learning C#
- Interaction between code and runtime testing