



Little Astronaut: A Space Adventure Game using Unity Game Engine

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Abstract: The paper is here to give the reader a brief introduction to the grand development process for Little Astronaut: A Space Adventure, which is one amazing 3D action-adventure game that uses the tools of Unity and Blender. This web of complex interactions made in the course of the adventures is actually a cocktail of research, survival, and fighting which handsomely gives the player very unusually exciting opportunities – to become an astronaut crashed onto the hostile surface of one of the far planets. In that scenario, you start the repair of a broken spacecraft of an astronaut. There you mend it hard, search for parts, and deal with different enemies in the face of which you seek support from a very advanced AI assistant that guides you in your work by telling what you are to do next. This paper fully embraces and explains the major design decisions, module focus in the design, and the minute details of designing game play and technology issues which needed to be dealt with and resolved. This will also shed light on some improvement suggestions to be taken in a certain area and throw light on a number of future works that could be taken up.

Keywords: Space Astronaut, Space Adventure, Space Adventure Game, etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the last ten years, the picture game revenues have multiplied, and analysts estimate earnings from the market of video games, to amount to more than \$300 billion. There is a growing need from the players for even more interesting games and features which pushes the game developers into experimenting with both the art and the technology. Modern players expect interactive gameplay, where apart from the beautiful graphics, one can master plotting, characters, and mechanics of gameplay [1].

Three-dimensional (3D) game engine, namely Unity 3D, was very helpful in the development of "Little Astronaut: A Space Adventure," since it provided an opportunity to build an exciting and visually entertaining interface. As it is widely known development environment like this worth it simply because helps in developing modern games quickly. Such modern game engines enable developers to create and integrate unique and changeable dynamics such as physics interactions, AI strategies for enemies, and movement around game space, into the game. Along with the Blender, a significant 3D modelling and animation program, the game contains the work of accurately modelled figures, creatures, and environment. The work was equally challenging with many of the animation techniques in Blender as they were essential in designing the game's alien worlds and the actions of the people especially the Astronaut and the monsters that he faced [2].

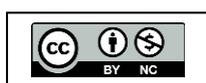


There was a better service possible, one that could take advantage of the integration of both Unity and Blender which is why Little Astronaut: A Space Adventure was developed. Imagine being able to go from battle to the surface of an unknown planet and back, the game excels at this and is able to give more to the immersive gameplay. The game uses the qualities of real-time rendering, user-friendly operations and large-scaled animation to provide an uninterrupted gameplay to the players that are technologically reformed according to new prospects in the gaming industry [3].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Table 1: Literature Survey

Sr. No	Publisher	Year	Name of the Paper	Objective	Methodology	Advantages	Future Scope	Limitations
1	IEEE	2024	Development of a Motion-Based Video Game for Postural Training: A Feasibility Study on Older Adults with Adult Degenerative Scoliosis	To develop and evaluate a motion-based video game for postural training in older adults with Adult Degenerative Scoliosis (ADS).	Six primary markers were attached to the participant's body to track movement and calculate body alignment. The game provided real-time visual feedback on posture through the character's speed and position on the screen.	1.Real-Time Feedback 2. Cost-Effective 3. Safe and Non-Invasive	1.Larger and More Diverse Studies 2. Long-Term Impact and Daily Life Transfer 3. Home-Based Biofeedback Systems	Small sample size No control group for comparison Didn't evaluate the transfer of learned posture to daily life
2	Lahti University of Technology LUT	2024	INDIE GAME TESTING TECHNIQUES AND METHODS	Analyse the current state of indie game testing practices. Address the challenges faced by indie game developers in testing their games.	Various testing techniques were identified and categorized based on their purpose and approach, such as unit testing, end-to-end testing, ad-hoc testing, exploratory testing, and automated testing.	1. Focus on Applicable Testing Methods. 2. Insight into Current Challenges 3. Application of Manual and Automated Testing	1. Development of Automated Testing Tools for Indie Games 2. Inclusion of Non-Functional Testing 3. Standardized Framework for Indie Game Testing	Research primarily focused on the mechanical aspects of game testing, neglecting other important areas like player experience and enjoyment.
3	ResearchGate	2023	Sound Design Impacts User Experience and Attention in Serious Game	To assess the impact of different sound design elements (soundscapes, sound effects, and auditory notifications) on player	Focused on designing effective auditory notifications (ear cons) to signal correct and incorrect answers in the game's quizzes. Researchers calculated	1.Attention Retention and Focus 2. Positive Emotional Impact	1. Systematic Analysis of Earcon Attributes 2. Impact of Ambient Sounds and Sound Effects	The study involved a relatively small sample size (23 participants). The study only explored sound design elements;





				experience in a serious game called Venci's Adventures.	descriptive statistics (averages and standard deviations) for user ratings.	3. Consistency in Skill Perception	3. Broader Application to Other Game Genres	other factors influencing experience weren't considered.
4	SagePub	2022	Level Design Processes and Challenges: A Cross Section of Game Development	Investigate the nature of level design in game development studios. Understand the processes and challenges surrounding level design.	Semi-structured interviews with developers at two game companies. Thematic analysis of collected data	1. Understanding Interdisciplinary Collaboration 2. Proposed Solutions for Improvement	1. Broader Research on Diverse Studios 2. Longitudinal Studies on Level Design	Limited access to companies (findings may not generalize) Focus on specific companies and projects
5	IEEE	2022	Action Games Evolution Analysis: A Case Study Using the God of War Series	Analyse the evolution of boss battles in the God of War series using the Game Refinement (GR) theory and its extension, "Motion in Mind."	Data is likely collected from analysing gameplay footage or player actions within boss battles. Metrics derived from the GR theory and "Motion in Mind" are then applied to this data	1. In-Depth Analysis of Boss Battles 2. Application of Game Refinement Theory 3. Impact of Platforms on Gameplay	1. Broader Game Element Analysis 2. Longitudinal Studies on Game Evolution	The analysis focuses on boss battles, neglecting how other gameplay elements might contribute to player entertainment.
6	ResearchGate	2021	Automatic generation of graphical game assets using GAN	Develop a method to automatically generate realistic-looking game icons.	Trained a GAN model on a dataset of fantasy and science fiction game icons	1. Automation of Graphic Creation 2. Quality Parity with Human-Made Art	1. Exploration of Conditional GANs 2. Cross-Disciplinary Applications	FID metric may not be suitable for evaluating abstract images like game icons.
7	arXiv	2021	A Survey of Video Game Testing	Understand how game developers test their games	Analysed academic literature (papers, theses) and grey literature (presentations, blog posts, postmortems). Examined the limitations and challenges of current testing practices.	1. Identification of Current Testing Practices 2. Emphasis on Early Testing 3. Encouragement for Open-Source Initiatives	1. Development of Testing Frameworks 2. Game Type-Specific Strategies 3. Integration of AI in Testing	Relied on existing literature and may not reflect the latest practices. Didn't consider the specific needs of different game genres.
8	USJICT	2020	Unity Game Development Engine: A Technical Survey	to provide a comprehensive overview of the Unity game development engine,	A content analysis technique was used to identify relevant themes within the collected data, such as benefits, challenges, and best	1. Accessible for All Background 2. Qualitative Research Insights	1. Comparative Analysis 2. Industry Case Studies	The paper's methodology relies on secondary data and may not capture all nuances or





				focusing on its benefits, challenges, and best practices for developers.	practices for Unity developers.	3. Cost-Effectiveness	3. Learning Resources Assessment	recent developments in the Unity game development landscape.
9	ABC Journal of Advanced Research,	2020	Blender and Unreal Engine Character Design and Behaviour Programming for 3D Games	Evaluate the current state of research on game development software engineering	The review focused on the different phases of the game development software engineering process lifecycle.	1. Multidisciplinary Approach 2. Focus on Software Engineering Principles	1. Post-Production Research 2. Expansion to Diverse Genres	The paper acknowledges that most research has focused on the production phase of game development. The pre-production and post-production phases haven't received as much attention.
10	IEEE	2020	Player Satisfaction Model and Its Implication to Cultural Change	Explore the link between game refinement theory and reinforcement schedules to understand player satisfaction and cultural changes in gaming experiences.	utilize the concept of variable-ratio reinforcement schedules (VR) from reinforcement learning theory.	1. Integration of Game Refinement Theory and Psychology 2. Quantifiable Measures of Enjoyment 3. Understanding Reward Dynamics	1. Exploration of Challenge Dynamics 2. Player Modelling 3. Integration of AI in Game Design	The paper primarily focuses on board games, sports data, and fighting video games.

These papers examined the design and efficacy of an activity video game designed to enhance posture in older adults with degenerative scoliosis. The video game captures body movements from optical sensors and gives real-time feedback for the correction of unsoundly sitting and standing postures. Across six weeks, the subjects showed significant changes in sagittal alignment, especially forward head and upper body shift. While some positive changes did not persist, the game was useful in providing education in correct posture as well as promoting good alignment habits. This novel treatment approach highlights active play as a valuable rehabilitation tool in enhancing postural control and symptoms in the elderly [1].

The paper "Indie Game Testing Techniques and Methods" is research into different game testing techniques and measures the suitability of certain techniques to indie game development, comparing





methods used by AAA studios and contrasts the challenges faced by indie developers, including limited resources and personnel. Though indie games are typically tested sufficiently, there are still some very suggestive areas of improvement, such as adopting structured testing plans and reusable test cases. It further mentions that most AAA techniques have adaptations toward indie use, but automated testing is utterly out of reach. The scope for improvement in the future is for standardized processes in testing, tools tailored specifically for indie developers, and integrating more advanced methodologies like unit testing and automated regression tests that would deepen quality control within the given resource constraints [2].

The document "Sound Design Impacts User Experience and Attention in Serious Game" focuses on the sound design, such as soundscapes, sound effects, and ear cons which are part of auditory notifications, and sees how they affect user experience and attention in the context of the serious game Vinci's Adventures-gaming for cybersecurity awareness. Three sound approaches will be tested: no sound, standard sound design, and standard sound with ear cons. This study finds that sound design considerably enhances player immersion, flow, and competence for good while ear cons enhance attention and feedback during educational segments. Future suggestions might include more research in the sound parameters themselves, pitch, and timbre. More varied soundscape and finer, more based on the sound feel can further help with focus, without too much distraction from the game activity [3].

The paper "Level Design Processes and Challenges: A Cross Section of Game Development" covers the interdisciplinary levels of level design in game studios and the cross-functional nature of the jobs between game designers, artists, writers, and sound engineers. The primary challenges include role ambiguity, management of creativity, and the need for well-defined narratives that keep the design process coherent and moving forward. Inconsistent communication and planning will show inefficiencies when simply trying to strike a balance between creativity and production demands. To have better processes, it recommends interdisciplinary communication improvement and clearer role definitions, as well as ensuring early narrative development. Implementing structured task forces, for instance, could enhance coordination, and creative ownership will cultivate cooperation. Developing tools that uphold ideas both in terms of creativity and economic goals may streamline the design process [4].

The paper discusses action game evolution, with special interest in the God of War series, and how technology has influenced gameplay, focusing particularly on boss battles, those of more complex elements. The work uses GR theory and the "motion in mind" concept to try to analyse trends in challenge, anticipation, and unpredictability throughout the different GOW titles. The above features are helpful in the study of the importance of a design of a narrative with several suggestions towards its future enhancement, like incorporating more puzzle-solving and crafting elements and advanced collection of data to further refine game design and player experience [5].





"Automatic Generation of Graphical Game Assets using GAN" It's an article that researches the method of automatic generation of realistic game icons for fantasy and science fiction games using generative adversarial networks (GANs) without requiring extensive hand-designed effort to produce images of close to the same quality as those produced by artists. The research study, tested against metrics such as Fetched Inception Distance (FID) and visual evaluations, found 69% of the images to be realistic and therefore suggested the potential of GANs in cost reduction and sped-up asset development. Future development includes improvement of the training data set, the employment of Conditional GANs to enable further control on the generated graphics, and the addition of post-processing steps to ensure good quality icons, which would make the process efficient and commercially viable [6].

The paper "A Survey of Video Game Testing" outlines some of the challenges in video game testing, which heavily rely on manual play-testing and scant use of automated techniques for video game testing. It underscores the importance of testing in providing quality games, particularly for mega projects, as bugs can have tremendous effects on user experience and sales. In contrast to more typical application testing, game test efforts must assess such specific elements as gameplay balance and the "fun factor." Efficiencies in automation would obviously be harder to realize primarily because games are inherently complex and inherently unpredictable. Possible future developments include sophisticated automated tool development, an earlier integration of testing into the development process, and more intimate cooperation between the software testers and the gameplay testers in order to improve test coverage and align practices throughout the various types of games [7].

Among the documents is "Unity Game Development Engine: A Technical Survey", which gives a comprehensive view of the very expansive, widely used tool for creating 2D, 3D, AR, and VR games across more than 20 platforms. Key advantages of Unity are cross-platform compatibility, ease of use, rich asset store, and a capacity to run rapid prototypes, both for small and big projects. But the survey also reflects some grave issues, which are a couple of features for AAA games, outdated documentation, and licenses priced too high on advanced features. The paper therefore suggested that documentation, memory management, and stability should improve in the case of larger games so that better real-time performance tools can merge into the mobile, with enhanced features in the PhysX engine. Last but not least, licensing costs and adaptation of new technologies such as AR and VR are vital to keep Unity on the path of success [8].

The document "Blender and Unreal Engine Character Design and Behaviour Programming for 3D Games" considers the integration between Blender and Unreal Engine when developing games in three dimensions. The discussion of character design and behaviour programming reveals uses of Unreal's root motion technology, Blender's keyframe animation, and Unreal's Anim Graph when it comes to streamlining character animations but also adds realism or complexity using masks, additive animations, and cached poses. It also features the behaviour of configuration of NPC with behaviour trees. Workflows for importing assets between Blender and Unreal have been outlined, taking into





account the challenges associated with unit measurements in different systems, and optimization strategies include instancing and Levels of Detail (LOD) to enhance the performance. Further improvements could include automation of the entire process, enhancement of the physics and animation integration and the employment of AI-driven tools in order to make the environments more dynamic, thus leading to better game optimization and cross-platform compatibility [9].

The paper discusses the Player Satisfaction Model by applying Game Refinement Theory, relating gaming sophistication to player satisfaction and reinforcement schedules. It develops new ways of measuring enjoyment in games and progresses on the reflection of cultural tendencies and historical developments within the games. This work suggests how game design impacts quality of life and further improvements, including the need for further exploration of the challenge-addiction link, making use of tailored reward schedules to meet players' psychological needs, and tailoring game experiences based on player modelling [10].

III. MOTIVATION

The motivation behind Creation of the game titled "Little Astronaut: A Space Adventure" originate from personal interest and enthusiast in space and sci-fi which is passions of the players and gaming societies. The limitless and still uncharted terrain of Space is well suited for an adventure that comprises exploration, and survival and discovery. This project targets to take advantage of the current and growing market for exploration games in which the player is granted a high level of choices in the game where he explores vast unexplored spaces and solve mysteries, all within the framework of the narrative.

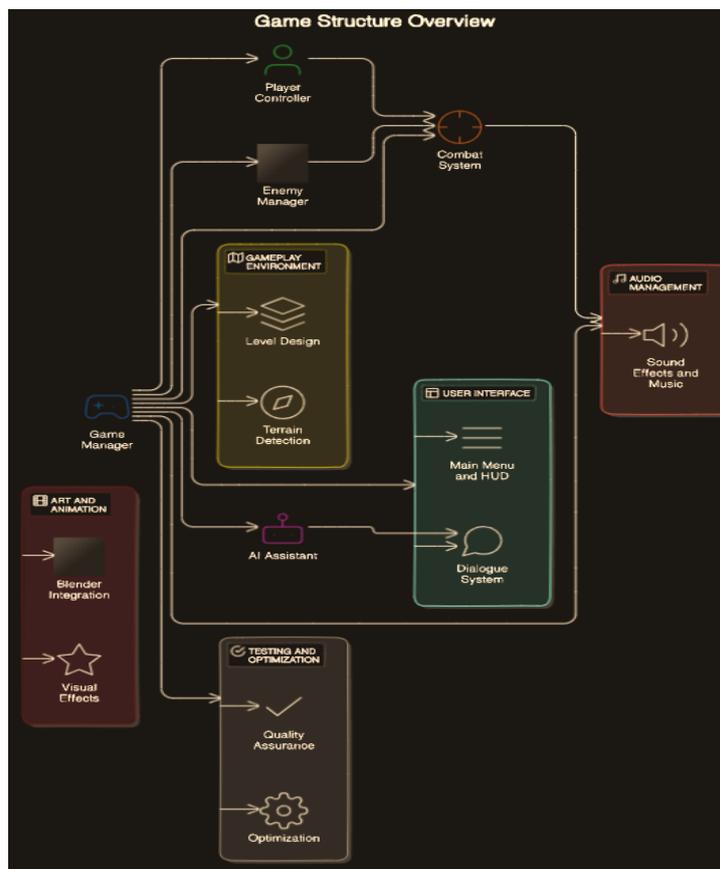
Also, the project is also personalized and can act as a learning ground for learning new technologies. In creating the game with Unity, this project can apply the highly current application called Unity with the animations using Blender. When interactive storytelling and higher-level game mechanics converge, enhanced technical competence is within range alongside the creation of an emotionally invested user environment. In the end, the desire is to bring passion and career development together to foster innovation that will help develop the newly emerging field of adventure exploration games with challenging narratives and gameplay mechanics.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM DESIGN

The architecture of "Little Astronaut: A Space Adventure" is composed with the goal of allowing comprehensibility, ease of management and [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.] expansion, during the process of development of the game. Game Manager or the Game Control Element serves as the nucleus of the architecture, where it regulates the status of the game, handles the loading of various levels, keeping track of player's progress, and changing the modes of the game as the player goes through the stages from main menu to gameplay to pause to game over and so on.



The Player Controller is in charge of the music control, the shooting and jumping, the movement of the character and the objects and the way the character interacts with other objects or characters making it easy to manipulate the actions of the astronaut. The AI Assistant enhances the play experience and acts as a supporting character to the player by means of a narrative, objectives, and warning the player of danger and useful items which are not too far from the player. The Enemy Manager is the one that manages enemy's Amm units, Allied attack behaviour, and fighting mechanics such as different types of enemies and bosses.



Main Architecture Diagram

This is in relation to the Combat System, which concerns the player's weapons mechanism, damage dealing, and their interfaces with enemies. This system is also responsible for all the visual and auditory combat feedback to immerse players during the combat. The Level Design of the game is carried out with the help of Unity by integrating ready-made libraries with 3D skeletal animations developed in the Blender application. The levels include different biospheres, alien terrains and extreme weather conditions. The Terrain Detection System is augmented reality capabilities which allow players to scan through the terrain using physics and terrain tools in Unity to easily locate and identify significant objects and resources.



Blender is responsible for character model design and animation which is later imported to Unity to provide life to the characters and environment of the game. The UI and HUD Module allocates the portion of the screen that contains the game interface in which essential details for the player meaning health, direction and mission objectives are portrayed. The Dialogue System enhances the lore even more through messages provided by the AI assistant. For audio, the Audio Manager varies the volume of the background soundtrack as well as sound effects depending on the scenes being played for an immersive effect. Lastly, the architecture puts a lot of emphasis on Testing and Optimization, with test case scenarios as well as built in tools of Unity ensuring consistent functional performance of the game on all devices. Such architecture is modular and well planar which facilitates the introduction of changes and the incorporation of new enhancements leading to the high quality of the game for the enjoyment of the users.

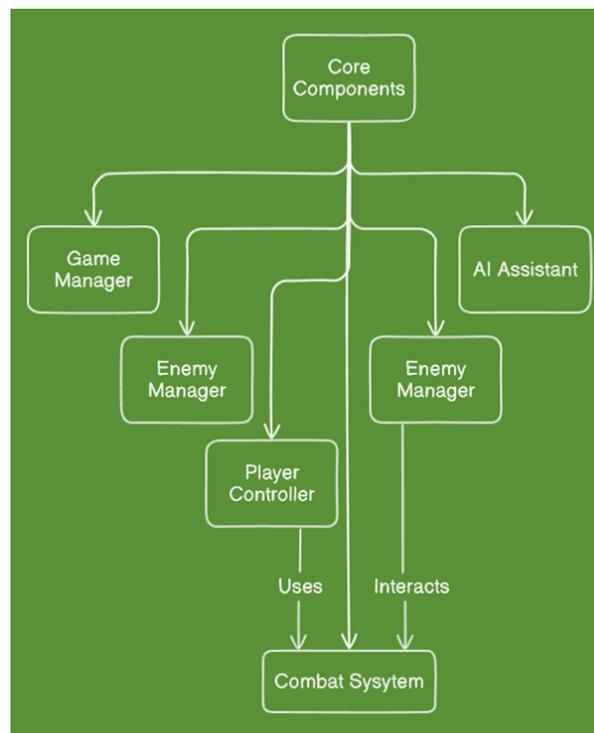


Figure 1: Main Architecture Diagram

Figure 1 displays the primitive features of the game structure responsible for controlling the various game phases. The "Game Manager" is at the head of diagram and plays a central role controlling the general flow of the game through the conversion of various game states that comprise; starting, playing, pause, and end. Beside that goes the "AI Assistant", probably with the task to oversee the behaviour of AI characters, like NPCs, or automated reactions of the system in the game. These would hold the "Enemy Manager" link to the management of those enemy units, spawn, moving around, and at fight behaviour. "Player Controller" should interpret all that info coming from the player and translate it into actual actions within the game, such as movement, interaction, or even combat.

The player and enemy systems feed into the "Combat System" wherein all interactions of attacks, defences, and damage calculation happen. This architecture makes sure that there would surely be a well-organized flow between player action, enemy behaviour, and management of game state; this leads to a smooth gaming experience.

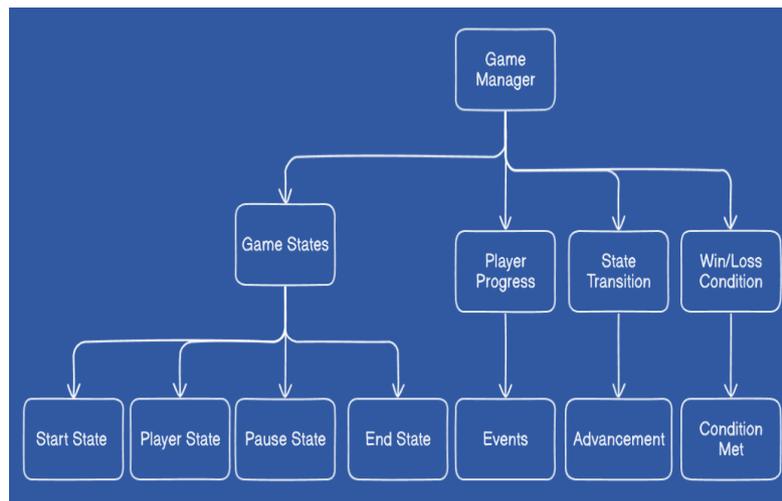


Figure 2: Game Manager

In Figure 2, the role of "Game Manager" is important in managing the game flow and process. The management of the different kinds of Game States indicates a lot about different stages by which the game has moved through-the starting stage, play stage, pause, and terminate. At these states, the game makes it easy to shift among them without losing sense and order of the experience. Another thing the Game Manager tracks is "Player Progress", keeping track of all the events and advancements that the player achieves throughout playing. This may include recording of completed levels, achieved objectives, or other types of progress measurements showing how far the player has advanced. Also, "State Transitions" would allow smooth state change.

The system should seamlessly transition out of the play state when the player clicks the pause button or to the end state if the game is over. Lastly, "Win/Loss Conditions" consider some criteria by which the game result must be determined. This can be achieved by winning on specific terms or through losing on specific conditions to incorporate a loss. In summary, the Game Manager may culminate in everything needed for tracking a player's travels and state changes with results that could be defined along an axis of performance within the game.

With Figure 3, The System the "Player Controller" should be that accepts every player input and maps it to actions in the game. It acts like a kind of bridge between the game and the player such that commands of the player are reflected appropriately in the game world. The controller controls many of the most core actions that the player does. Movement lets the player get moving around in the 'Movement', 'Shooting', 'Jumping' and interacting with the game's surroundings through 'Environment Interaction'. The basis of play revolves around in what way the player is able to engage with the world.



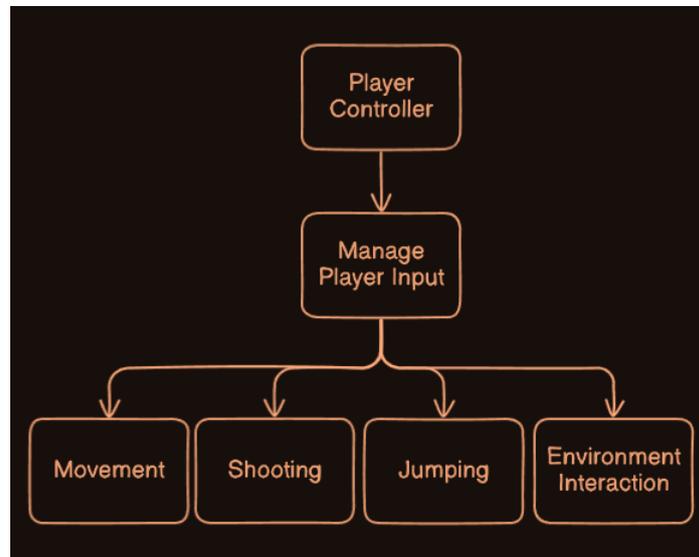


Figure 3: Player Controller

The Player Controller makes sure that the player's actions get an immediate non-immersive response during the processing of inputs - each movement or button pressed immediately at real time is translated to appropriate on-screen actions. When running around the map, making such attempts to shoot at an enemy or to jump over obstacles or manoeuvre objects in space, the Player Controller provides fluid and accurate feedback, making it fluid and intuitive at play. It is very important in the building of an interactive experience as this system directly governs how players experience and control their in-game avatars.

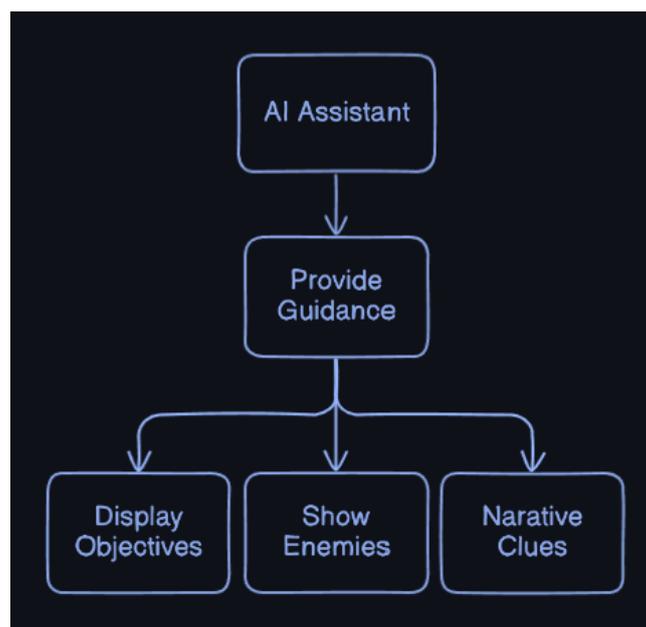


Figure 4: AI Assistant

The Figure 4, shows the architecture of an "AI Assistant" in a game environment that is target to dynamically improve step by step the game experience. At the core of that part is the AI assistant as it provides relevant information that allows the gamer to go through the game world. Three crucial areas fall under these 'Objectives', 'Including enemies' and 'Narrative clues. Let the objectives expose to AI, so that a player will always know what to do and what to achieve. Mission-based workloads are placed in action based on the goals of the exploration, putting the right track to move and point towards progress. More to that, the AI Assistant suggests threats might exist when the enemies are discovered; this gives a player some very vital information on the type of things lurking in his or her perimeter. This may help players plan strategy for avoiding or engaging with those enemies. It also builds up the features of storytelling in a game: the AI Assistant provides narrative clues related to the game storyline. They will be very important towards providing critical points of the deeper immersing the player will make within the plot- subtle hints or storyline details enriching the scope of perception of the game world and the player's role within it. Thereby, the AI assistant would guide and narrate the journey of the player in a unique blend of practical information with great narrative elements.

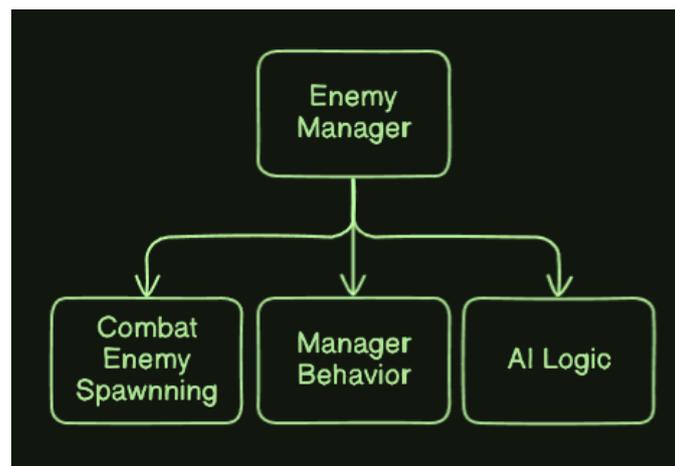


Figure 5: Enemy Manager

The Figure 5, is that of the "Enemy Manager" system showing the tracking and controlling of all issues relating to enemies in the game. Fundamentally, the Enemy Manager ensures that enemies dynamically spawn into the game world through what can be termed as combat enemy spawning. This determines where and when the enemies will appear, then makes a balanced challenge for the player by placing foes in strategic positions or sometimes at specific moments so that their encounters would be natural and following. It fills not only the game space with enemy characters but also determines their actions based on a series of predefined behaviours called 'Manager behaviour'. Each one of these behaviours is responsive to the actions of the player, like adjusting, planning, or responding according to what the player would do-attack, hide behind an object, or retire from battle. These behaviours are founded on 'AI logic', thereby forming the basis of the decision-making process of the enemy. It includes complex algorithms in an attempt to explain how enemies think and act, simulating an intelligent form of decision making that makes the game much tougher and exciting. Thus, the Enemy

Manager controls enemy interaction as an engine with the power of making sure they respond in such a dynamic way that makes for interesting gameplay experiences.

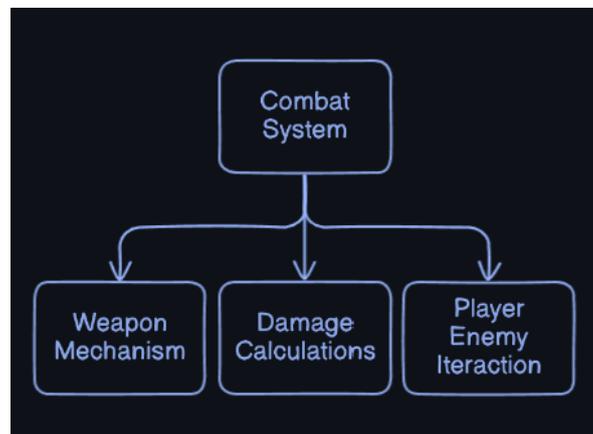


Figure 6: Combat System

In Figure 6, "Combat System" can be regarded as in-game core mechanism, which means, a planning mechanism in regard to the battles between the player and his enemies. This is one field that will create all the fight complexity; therefore, it was placed at the core of gameplay. There are three basic parts of the Combat System: mechanisms of 'weapons', 'calculations of damage deals' and interaction between the 'player and the enemy'. The mechanism of the weapon defines the several ways the player's weapons work, including the different types of weapons available, how they work, and their exact specificity regarding the aspects of range, speed, or power. This element ensures that the players would use an expansive arsenal aligned with different combat situations and richly bases the game depth and strategy. The system even deals with damage calculations; it calculates the quantum of damage being meted out to the player or his enemies in the fray. For example, how much damage from a given type of weapon hits an enemy, and the enemy's defences, critical hits, or special abilities, to name but a few, all affect the damage output in order to come up with the correct and balanced result. Finally, player versus enemy interaction provides a standpoint for the dynamic fights between the two and incorporates all action taken in a fight, including attacks, defences, counterattacks, reactions, etc. This interaction also means that combat should be fluid and responsive with enemies reacting to whatever the player does and vice versa. This system, to an extent, enables the Combat System to command the technical aspects of fighting as well as the excitement of the game as a whole by easing the fight, yet being thrilling and strategical.

V. RESULT AND CONCLUSION

It would, then finally be a game that will eventually become exciting and interesting with such issues of exploration, combat, and survival in a coherent and absorbing way. Gameplay will feature some beautiful graphics in motion both on environment and characters, and really highly thrilling gameplay that would be very interesting as the astronaut ventures out. The full strategy of the intersecting



action experience uses Unity for powers of game mechanics and Blender for 3D modelling and animation, making for an exciting experience by combining the application of narrative elements with AI-driven interactions, dynamic combat systems, etc.

In conclusion, the project aims to provide concise, meaningful, content sound games through visuals and storyline resonate well with the players and provide experience that enables scalability with areas for future enhancement in the modular architecture built and very advanced tools and technologies to ensure that the performance level is at its best with smooth interaction. It should be a declaration of the developer's skills and creativity because such an opportunity rewards the gaming community.

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