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Sahina Anjum
CSE Department, Accurate
Institute of Management &
Technology, Greater Noida,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Naseem Zaidi
CSE Department, Accurate
Institute of Management &
Technology, Greater Noida,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Correspondence
Sahina Anjum
CSE Department, Accurate
Institute of Management &
Technology, Greater Noida,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Venturing into future frontiers in galactic exploration

Sahina Anjum and Naseem Zaidi

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Abstract

The Solar System Game is an educational game developed using C++, Unity, and spline for 3D modeling. The game aims to provide an interactive learning experience for players of all ages to explore the wonders of the Solar System. Players can explore each planet in the Solar System by controlling a virtual spaceship, moving through the vast expanse of space, and landing on each planet to learn more about its unique characteristics. The game features detailed 3D models of each planet, including their size and distance from the sun. One of the unique features of the game is the sound clues. When players land on a planet and hover their spaceship over specific features, they will hear a sound clue that explains more about the planet's characteristics.

Keywords: Educational game, simulation, 3D modelling, planet, virtual, gameplay and mechanics

Introduction

The Solar System Game is an exciting and innovative approach to learning about the utter wonders of our universe. By combining cutting-edge technology with engaging gameplay, educational content, and sound clues, this game offers a unique and immersive way to explore the mysteries of the Solar System. Video games are essentially an escape from reality. The yellow the player to become immersed in another world, Whether it's through captivating storytelling, incredible graphics and scenery or the intriguing game mechanics themselves. The point is that games have so much to offer, and therefore come in all figurative shapes and sizes, otherwise known as genres and sub-genres.

Simulation games being one of them.

Simulation games allow players to take on the role of a character or entity and experience a simulated environment, often based on real-world scenarios. The Solar System Game takes this concept to a whole new level by simulating the vastness of space and allowing players to explore our solar system in a fun and educational way. By seamlessly integrating educational content into the game, players can learn about the planets, asteroids, comets, and other celestial bodies that make up our solar system. The sound clues add an extra layer of engagement and immersion, making the learning experience even more enjoyable. Whether you're an astronomy enthusiast or simply curious about our universe, The Solar System Game is an excellent way to expand your knowledge while having fun at the same time. So, get ready to launch your spacecraft and embarking thrilling journey through the cosmos!

History of simulation games

a. In past years

Simulation games have been around for decades, with the irrupts racing back to the 1980s when personal computers were becoming more prevalent. One of the earliest examples of a simulation game was SimCity, released by Maxis in 1989, which allowed players to build and manage a virtual city. The game was a huge success and spawned numerous quells and spin-offs As technology advanced, so did simulation games. The late 1990s saw the rise of flight simulators, such as Microsoft Flight Simulator, which of fered players are alistic flying experience. Other simulation games emerged, including racing simulators like Gran Turismo, and life' simulation games like The Sims. In recent years, simulation games have continued to evolve, with more sophisticated graphics, more complex gameplay mechanics, and a

greater emphasis on realism. Games like Euro Truck Simulator and Farming Simulator allow players to experience the daily life of a truck driver or farmer, while space simulation games like Elite Dangerous and No Man's Sky take players on a journey through the stars. Simulation games have become a beloved genre for many gamers, offering a unique and immersive experience that can be both educational and entertaining.

b. Popularity of Simulation Games

1. In recent years, the popularity of simulation games has skyrocketed. From farming simulations to city-building games, people have been increasingly drawn to the immersive and detailed worlds that these games offer.
2. One reason for the rising popularity of simulation games is the growing interest in escapism and immersive experiences. In today's fast-paced world, many people are looking for ways to unwind and disconnect from the stresses of everyday life. Simulation games offer a unique way to do this by allowing players to step into a different world and take on a new role. Whether it's managing a farm, building acuity, or running a business, simulation games provide an escape from reality and a chance to immerse one self in a different world.
3. Another factor contributing to the popularity of simulation games is the growing sophistication of game technology. With advances in graphics, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality, developers are able to create increasingly detailed and realistic worlds that are more engaging an immersive than ever before. This has allowed simulation games to become more complex and realistic, making them even more appealing to players who are looking for a challenge and a sense of accomplishment.
4. Additionally, the rise of social media and online gaming communities has created a culture of sharing and collaboration around simulation games. Players can connect with others who share their interests and learn from each other, sharing tips and strategies sand even collaborating on projects with in the game. This sense of community and collaboration adds another layer of enjoyment to the game experience and has helped to drive the popularity of simulation game seven further.
5. In conclusion, simulation games have become increasingly popular in recent years due to a number of factors, including the growing interesting escape man immersive experiences, the sophistication of game technology, and the rise of social media and online gaming communities. As these trends continue to evolve and new technologies emerge, it is likely that simulation games will continue to grow in popularity and become an even more important part of the gaming landscape.

c. Impact of simulation games

1. Simulation games have been growing in popularity over the past few years, and with good reason. These games provide players with the opportunity to experience a virtual world that closely mimics real-life scenarios. From driving simulators to city-building games, simulation games have a significant impact on players in a variety of ways.

2. One of the most significant impacts of simulation games is their ability to provide players with valuable knowledge and skills. For instance, driving simulators allow players to practice driving in a safe and controlled environment, which can help them gain confidence and improve their skills behind the wheel. Similarly, city-building games teach players about urban planning, budgeting, and resource management, all of which are valuable skills that can be applied in real-life scenarios.
3. Simulation games can also have a positive impact on mental health. These games can provide an escape from the stresses of everyday life, allowing players to relax and unwind. Additionally, they can provide a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, as players work to complete tasks and achieve goals with in the game.
4. Another significant impact of simulation games is their ability to foster creativity and innovation. Game like Mine craft, for example, allow players to build and create whatever they can imagine, encouraging them think outside the box and come up with unique and innovative solutions to challenges.
5. Simulation games can also have a social impact, as they provide players with opportunities to connect and collaborate with others. Multiplayer games like The Sim sand Animal Crossing allow players to interact with each other in virtual worlds, building friendships and communities that can extend beyond the game itself.
6. Despite their many positive impacts, simulation games are not without their drawbacks. Some critics argue that these games can lead to addiction and excessive screen time, which can have negative effects on physical and mental health. Additionally, some games may promote unrealistic or harmful ideas or behaviors, such as violence or excessive materialism.

d. Space simulation Games

Space simulation games have been popular for decades, allowing players to explore the mysteries of the universe from the comfort of their own homes. These games have a significant impact on players, both in terms of their understanding of space and their fascination with-it.

One of the most significant impacts of space simulation games is their ability to educate players about space and the universe. Games like Kerbal Space Program provide players with a realistic simulation of space exploration, allowing them to learn about orbital mechanics, rocket design, and other aspects of spaceflight. This can inspire players to pursue careers in STEM fields or to simply develop deeper appreciation for space and its wonders.

Space simulation games can also have a positive impact on mental health. These games can provide a sense of wonder and awe, as players explore vast and beautiful virtual worlds. Additionally, they can promote a sense of accomplishment and pride, as player success fully navigate complex missions and overcome difficult challenges.

Another significant impact of space simulation games is their ability to promote creativity and innovation. Games like No Man's Sky allow players to explore procedurally generated universes, encouraging them to think creatively and come up with new ways to approach challenges. Additionally, some games allow players to design and build their own spacecraft, promoting innovation and experimentation.

Space simulation games can also have a social impact, as they provide players with opportunities to connect and collaborate with others. Multiplayer games like *Elite Dangerous* allow players to join together to explore the universe, build communities, and share their experiences.

e. Educational games

Educational games are games designed specifically for the purpose of teaching and learning. These games are designed to engage and motivate learners, while also helping them to acquire knowledge and skills in a particular subject area.

There are many different types of educational games, ranging from simple puzzle games to complex simulations and role-playing games. These games can be designed for different age groups and subject areas, and can be used in a variety of educational settings, from classrooms to home learning environments.

One of the key benefits of educational games is that they can make learning more engaging and interactive. By incorporating game mechanics such as points, rewards, and feedback, educational games can motivate learners to engage with the material and to continue learning overtime. Games can also provide a safe and low-risk environment for learners to experiment, make mistakes, and learn from their experiences.

Another benefit of educational games is that they can be customized to meet the needs and interests of individual learners. Games can be designed to adapt to the learner's level of knowledge and skill, and to provide targeted feedback and support to help learners overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

Educational games can also be used to teach a wide range of subjects and skills, from language and math to science and social studies. By combining game mechanics with educational content, these games can help learners to develop a deeper understanding of complex concepts and to apply their knowledge in real-world contexts.

There are many examples of successful educational games, such as *Minecraft: Education Edition*, which teaches coding and problem-solving skills, and the popular math game, *Math Blaster*, which helps children to develop math skills in a fun and engaging way.

Tools Used

The tools used to make games vary depending on the specific game development process and the type of game being created. However, there are some common tools and technologies used in the game development industry:

- a. **Game Engines:** Game engines are software frameworks that provide a range of tools and functionalities to develop and create video games. They often include features like 3D graphics, physics, scripting languages, and audio support. Popular game engines include Unity, Unreal Engine, and Cry Engine.
- b. **Programming Languages:** Game developers use programming languages to write the code that powers the game. Some commonly used languages include C++, Java, and C#. These languages are used to create the game's logic, AI, and user interfaces.
- c. **Graphic Design Software:** Graphic design software is used to create 2D and 3D models, textures, and other visual elements for the game. Popular software includes Adobe Photoshop, Autodesk 3ds Max, and Blender.

- d. **Audio Editing Software:** Audio editing software is used to create and edit music and sound effects for the game. Popular software includes Pro Tools, Audacity, and FL Studio.
- e. **Version Control Software:** Version control software is used to manage changes to the game's source code, assets, and other files. This software helps developers work collaboratively and track changes made to the game over time. Popular version control software includes Git, Subversion, and Perforce.
- f. **Integrated Development Environments (IDEs):** IDEs are software applications that provide a range of tools for coding, debugging, and testing games. Popular IDEs include Visual Studio, Eclipse, and Xcode.

These are just some of the many tools and technologies used in the game development process. Game developers often use a combination of these tools, along with other specialized software and hardware, to create immersive and engaging video games.

A. Spline

Spline is a 3D modelling software developed by the German company, MAXON. It is a powerful tool for creating complex and detailed models with smooth curves and surfaces.

One of the key features of Spline is its intuitive user interface, which allows users to create and manipulate curves and shapes with ease. The software includes a range of tools for drawing and editing curves, such as Bezier and B-spline curves, and offers precise control over the shape and position of each point.

Spline also includes a range of tools for creating and editing surfaces, including lofting and extruding tools, which allow users to create complex shapes and structures from simple curves. Additionally, Spline offers a range of modelling tools, such as subdivision surfaces and deformers, which allow users to add detail and complexity to their models.

Another feature of Spline is its compatibility with other 3D modelling software, such as Cinema 4D, which

allows users to import and export models between different software applications. This makes it easy to incorporate a model created in Spline into a larger project workflow.

Spline also offers a range of rendering options, allowing users to create high-quality images and animations for their models. The software includes support for global illumination, ambient occlusion, and other advanced rendering techniques, allowing users to create realistic and visually stunning images.

B. Photoshop

Photoshop is a popular image editing software developed by Adobe Systems. It is widely used by graphic designers, photographers, and digital artists to create, edit, and manipulate images.

Photoshop offers a wide range of features and tools that allow users to adjust the color, brightness, contrast, and other properties of an image. It also includes tools for cropping, resizing, and rotating images, as well as a range of filters and effects that can be applied to images.

One of the key features of Photoshop is its layer system, which allows users to work on different parts of an image independently. This makes it easy to make changes to specific elements of an image without affecting the rest of

the image. Layers can be rearranged, merged, and blended together to create complex compositions.

Photo shop also includes arrange of selection tools, which allow users to selects pacific part so fan image and apply changes only to those parts. These selection tools include the Magic Wand, Lasso, and Marquee tools, as well as more advanced tools like the Quick Selection and Pen tools.

Another feature of Photoshop is its support for masks, which allow users to hide or reveal parts of an image. Masks can be created based on selections or by painting directly on to the mask layer.

Photoshop also includes support for 3D graphics, allowing users to create and manipulate 3D models with in the software. It includes tools for creating 3D objects, applying textures and materials, and adding lighting and shadows.

C. Text to speech converter

Text-to-speech (TTS) is a technology that converts written text into spoken words. It is a form of assistive technology that can help people with visual or reading disabilities to access written content more easily. TTS technology can also be used for language translation and for creating voice overs for videos and presentations.

TTS works by analyzing the text and converting it into phonemes, which are the basic units of sounding language. The phonemes are then combined to form words, and the words are spoken using a synthesized voice. The synthesized voice can be customized to sound like a particular gender or age, or to have a specific accent or tone. TTS technology has advanced significantly in recent years, with the development of more natural-sounding voices and improved algorithms for analyzing and processing text. Many TTS systems also include features for adjusting the speed and pitch of the synthesized voice, and for highlighting the words as they are spoken.

TTS technology has a wide range of applications, from accessibility tools for people with disabilities to language learning and voiceover production. It can be used to read aloud books and articles, to provide navigation instructions in cars and other vehicles, and to generate automated voice responses for customer service applications.

D. Github

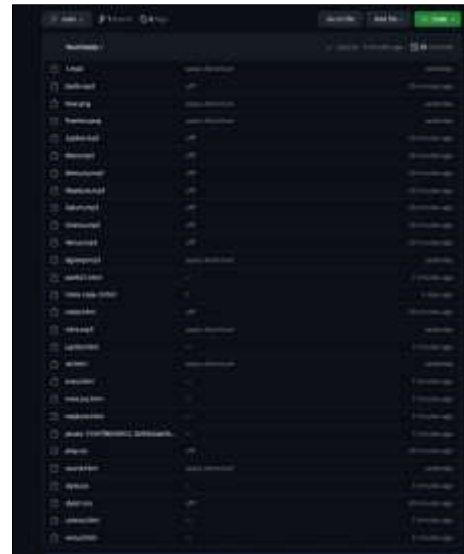
GitHub is a web-based platform that provide saver is on control system for developers to collaborate on software development projects. It was launched in 2008 and has become one of the most popular platforms for managing and sharing code.

GitHub allows users to create and host repositories, which are collection so code and other files that makeup a software project. Users can also clone, or copy, repositories from other users to their own account, and contribute to these repositories by making changes or additions to the code.

One of the key feature so GitHub is its version control system, which allows developers to track changes to their code over time, collaborate on code with others, and rollback to previous versions of the code if needed. GitHub also provides tools for code review, issue tracking, and Project management, making it a valuable platform for software development teams to work together on projects.

GitHub also supports integration with many popular tools and services, such as continuous integration and deployment (CI/CD) tools, project management tools like Trello and Asana, and chat platforms like Slack.

In addition to hosting code repositories, GitHub also hosts a vast library of open-source projects that are free for any one to use or contribute to. This has made it a popular platform for open-source developers to collaborate and share their work with the wider community.



E. Gameplay

Gameplay is the term used to describe the experience of playing a video game. It encompasses all of the elements that contributed other player's experience, including mechanics, controls, story, graphics, and sound.

- The mechanic so far gamer refer to the rules and systems that govern how the game is played. This can include things like movement controls, combat mechanics, resource management, and level design. Good mechanics are essential to creating a game that is both engaging and challenging, and that keeps players coming back for more.
- Controls are another important as of gameplay, as they are them earns by which players interact with the game world. Well-designed controls should be intuitive and responsive, allowing players to quickly and easily execute the actions they want to take.
- Story is another key component of gameplay, as it provides context and motivation for the player's actions. A good story can help to immerse the player in the game world, and make them care about the characters and their motivations.
- Graphics and sound are also important elements of gameplay, as they contribute to the overall look and feel of the game. Good graphics can help to create a sense of immersion, while sound effects and music can help to set the tone and create a more engaging experience.
- One of the key aspects of good gameplay is balance. A game that is too easy or too difficult can quickly become boring or frustrating, and players are likely to lose interest. A well-balanced game should challenge players just enough to keep them engaged, without becoming over whelming.
- Another important aspect of gameplay is replay ability. A game that can be played again and again, with different outcomes and experiences each time, is likely to have longer viand appeal to players.

F. Implementation

Implementing a solar system game can be a fun and challenging project that requires a good understanding of game development and astronomy. Here are some steps to consider when creating a solar system game:

- **Research:** Start by researching the planets in our solar system and their respective characteristics, such as size, distance from the sun, and number of moons. This information will be crucial when designing the game mechanics.
- **Game Design:** Next, decide on the type of game you want to create. Will it be a strategy game, a simulation game, or an action game? Determine the game mechanics, objectives, and how players will interact with the solar system.
- **Development Environment:** Choose a game engine that supports 3D graphics and physics simulations, such as Unity, Unreal Engine, or Godot. You can also use libraries like Three.js or Babylon.js if you prefer to develop a web-based game.
- **Modelling:** Create 3D models of the planets, their moons, and the sun. You can use free 3D modelling software like Blender or Sketch Up to create your models, or you can purchase premade models from online marketplaces.
- **Programming:** Write the code for the game mechanics, including the physics engine and player controls. Ensure that the game runs smoothly and the planet and moons move realistically.
- **Testing:** Test the game to ensure that it functions correctly and is enjoyable to play. Get feedback from friends and colleagues and make necessary adjustments.
- **Publish:** Once you have tested the game and are satisfied with the final product, publish it to the desired platform. You can publish to PC, mobile, or console platforms, depending on your target audience.

G. Research

Space simulation games are a popular genre that has been around for decades. Here are some brief overview of a few notable space simulation games:

- **Elite Dangerous:** Elite Dangerous is a space exploration, trading, and combat game that was released in 2014. The game is set in a massive open-world galaxy with over 400 billion star systems. Players can explore the galaxy, trade goods, engage in combat, and even become pirates or bounty hunters.
- **No Man's Sky:** No Man's Sky is a space exploration game that was released in 2016. The game features a procedurally generated universe with over 18 quintillion planets that players can explore. The game has a heavy emphasis on exploration, with players discovering new planets, species, and resources.
- **Star Citizen:** Star Citizen is a massively multi player online game that has been in development since 2011. The game is set in a massive open-world universe with multiple star systems and planets. Players can engage in combat, trade, and exploration in the game.
- **Kerbal Space Program:** Kerbal Space Program is a space flight simulation game that was released in 2011. The game has players take control of a space program, designing and launching rockets and spacecraft to explore the solar system. The game has a realistic

physics engine, making rocket design and flight challenging and rewarding.

- **EVE Online:** EVE Online is a massively multi player online game that was released in 2003. The game is set in a science fiction universe where players can engage in trading, combat, and exploration. The game features a complex player-driven economy and a reputation system that affects how players interact with one another.

H. Design

In terms of design, space simulation games typically have a 3D environment that allows players to navigate and explore space. They often feature realistic depictions of space phenomena such as stars, planets, asteroids, and black holes. Some games also include space craft customization and building options, which can add an element of creativity and strategy to gameplay.

Sound design also plays a crucial role in space simulation games, as it helps to create an immersive atmosphere. Many space games feature ambient music and sound effects that enhance the feeling of being in space.

Overall, the design of space simulation games is varied, and there is a game out there for every type of space enthusiast. Whether you prefer realism, action, strategy, role-playing, or multiplayer gameplay, there is a space simulation game that caters to your interests.

I. Environment

Space simulation games often feature various environments and landscapes that players can explore. Some popular environments include:

- **Planets:** Many space simulation games feature planets as explore able environments. These planets often have unique terrain, weather patterns, and ecosystems, making them interesting to explore.
- **Moons:** Moons are another common environment in space simulation games. They often have different properties than planets, such as lower gravity or different atmospheric conditions.
- **Asteroid fields:** Asteroid fields are often featured in space simulation games as a hazard or obstacle for players to navigate. They can be filled with resources to mine or hostile alien ships to avoid.
- **Space stations:** Space stations are common environments in space simulation games where players can dock, trade, and interact with other characters or players.
- **Nebulas:** Nebulas are colorful, glowing clouds of gas and dust that can be found in space simulation games. They often contain rare resources or dangerous phenomena that players must navigate around.
- **Black holes:** Black holes are one of the most extreme environments in space simulation games. They often have intense gravity that can pull players in and destroy their ship, or they can be used as a shortcut for travel across vast distances.

J. Modelling

Spline is a 3D modeling and animation software that allows users to create complex and realistic 3D models, including planets and other celestial bodies.

To create a planet in Spline, users can start by creating as here and adjusting its size, shape, and surface properties such as texture, color, and bump mapping.

They can then use various tools and techniques to add details such as craters, mountains, and other geological features, and create a realistic atmosphere with clouds and other effects.

One of the key features of Spline is its procedural modeling capabilities, which allow users to generate complex structures and patterns automatically based on customizable algorithms. This can be used to create realistic terrain features, such as mountain ranges and river systems, without having to manually sculpt each individual detail.

Spline also offers a range of tools for animation and simulation, which can be used to create realistic planetary motions and other celestial events. For example, users can create accurate presentations of the solar system with planets orbiting around a central star, or simulate astronomical phenomena such as eclipses and meteor showers.

Overall, Spline is a powerful tool for creating realistic and visually impressive 3D models of planets and other celestial bodies, and its procedural modeling capabilities make it a popular choice for both amateur and professional 3D artists and game developers.

K. Programming explanation

This is a HTML file with embedded CSS and Java Script code. Let's go through each part of the code:

- The first few lines define the HTML document, including the language (English), character set (UTF-8), and view port settings.
- The CSS styles define the layout and appearance of the page, including setting the height of the body to 100%, removing highlighting on mobile devices, and positioning a watermark in the bottom-right corner of the page.
- The title and favicon links are specified in the head of the HTML file.
- The module preload link specifies the Java Script module required for the code to run.
- The body of the HTML file includes a div element with the ID "e1", which contains a button that triggers a Java Script function called "play Audio()" when clicked. The function plays two audio files, "1.mp3" and "intro.mp3", and removes the button and div element from the page, revealing a canvas element with the ID "canvas3d" underneath.
- The canvas element specifies a 3D engine (three.jsr149) and dimensions for the canvas.

The script tags include two JavaScript functions: "on Load()" and "play Audio()". "on Load()" is empty, but could be used to define actions to take when the page loads. "play Audio()" defines two audio variables, "x" and "y", and a function that plays those audio files, removes the button and div element from the page, and enables pointer event on the canvas element.

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