Building Java Programs

Chapter 9

Lecture 9-2: Interacting with the Superclass (`super`);
Discussion of Homework 9: Critters

reading: 9.2

Calling overridden methods

- Subclasses can call overridden methods with `super`

```
super.method(parameters)
```

  - Example:

```
public class LegalSecretary extends Secretary {
    public double getSalary() {
        double baseSalary = super.getSalary();
        return baseSalary + 5000.0;
    }
    ...
}
```

Inheritance and constructors

- Imagine that we want to give employees more vacation days the longer they've been with the company.
  - For each year worked, we'll award 2 additional vacation days.
  - When an Employee object is constructed, we'll pass in the number of years the person has been with the company.
  - This will require us to modify our `Employee` class and add some new state and behavior.
  - Exercise: Make necessary modifications to the `Employee` class.

Modified `Employee` class

```
public class Employee {
    private int years;

    public Employee(int initialYears) {
        years = initialYears;
    }

    public int getHours() {
        return 40;
    }

    public double getSalary() {
        return 50000.0;
    }

    public int getVacationDays() {
        return 10 + 2 * years;
    }

    public String getVacationForm() {
        return "yellow";
    }
}
```

Problem with constructors

- Now that we've added the constructor to the `Employee` class, our subclasses do not compile. The error:

```
Lawyer.java:2: cannot find symbol
symbol  : constructor Employee()
location: class Employee
public class Lawyer extends Employee {
       ^
```

  - The short explanation: Once we write a constructor (that requires parameters) in the superclass, we must now write constructors for our employee subclasses as well.

  - The long explanation: (next slide)

The detailed explanation

- Constructors are not inherited.
  - Subclasses don't inherit the `Employee(int)` constructor.
  - Subclasses receive a default constructor that contains:

```
public Lawyer() {
    super();            // calls Employee() constructor
}
```

- But our `Employee(int)` replaces the default `Employee()`.
  - The subclasses' default constructors are now trying to call a non-existent default `Employee` constructor.

Calling superclass constructor

```
super(parameters);
```

- Example:

```
public class Lawyer extends Employee {
    public Lawyer(int years) {
        super(years);  // calls Employee constructor
    }
    ...
}
```

- The `super` call must be the first statement in the constructor.

- Exercise: Make a similar modification to the `Marketer` class.

Modified `Marketer` class

```
// A class to represent marketers.
public class Marketer extends Employee {
    public Marketer(int years) {
        super(years);
    }

    public void advertise() {
        System.out.println("Act now while supplies last!");
    }

    public double getSalary() {
        return super.getSalary() + 10000.0;
    }
}
```

- Exercise: Modify the `Secretary` subclass.
  - Secretaries' years of employment are not tracked.
  - They do not earn extra vacation for years worked.

Modified `Secretary` class

```
// A class to represent secretaries.
public class Secretary extends Employee {
    public Secretary() {
        super(0);
    }

    public void takeDictation(String text) {
        System.out.println("Taking dictation of text: " + text);
    }
}
```

- Since `Secretary` doesn't require any parameters to its constructor, `LegalSecretary` compiles without a constructor.
  - Its default constructor calls the `Secretary()` constructor.

Inheritance and fields

- Try to give lawyers $5000 for each year at the company:

```
public class Lawyer extends Employee {
    ...
    public double getSalary() {
        return super.getSalary() + 5000 * years;
    }
    ...
}
```

- Does not work; the error is the following:

```
Lawyer.java:7: years has private access in Employee
        return super.getSalary() + 5000 * years;
                                          ^
```

- Private fields cannot be directly accessed from subclasses.
  - One reason: So that subclassing can't break encapsulation.
  - How can we get around this limitation?

Improved `Employee` code

Add an accessor for any field needed by the subclass.

```
public class Employee {
    private int years;

    public Employee(int initialYears) {
        years = initialYears;
    }

    public int getYears() {
        return years;
    }
    ...
}

public class Lawyer extends Employee {
    public Lawyer(int years) {
        super(years);
    }

    public double getSalary() {
        return super.getSalary() + 5000 * getYears();
    }
    ...
}
```

Revisiting `Secretary`

- The `Secretary` class currently has a poor solution.
  - We set all Secretaries to 0 years because they do not get a vacation bonus for their service.
  - If we call `getYears` on a `Secretary` object, we'll always get 0.
  - This isn't a good solution; what if we wanted to give some other reward to *all* employees based on years of service?

- Redesign our `Employee` class to allow for a better solution.

Improved `Employee` code

- Let's separate the standard 10 vacation days from those that are awarded based on seniority.

```
public class Employee {
    private int years;

    public Employee(int initialYears) {
        years = initialYears;
    }

    public int getVacationDays() {
        return 10 + getSeniorityBonus();
    }

    // vacation days given for each year in the company
    public int getSeniorityBonus() {
        return 2 * years;
    }
    ...
}
```

  - How does this help us improve the `Secretary`?

Improved `Secretary` code

- `Secretary` can selectively override `getSeniorityBonus`; when `getVacationDays` runs, it will use the new version.
  - Choosing a method at runtime is called *dynamic binding*.

```
public class Secretary extends Employee {
    public Secretary(int years) {
        super(years);
    }

    // Secretaries don't get a bonus for their years of service.
    public int getSeniorityBonus() {
        return 0;
    }

    public void takeDictation(String text) {
        System.out.println("Taking dictation of text: " + text);
    }
}
```

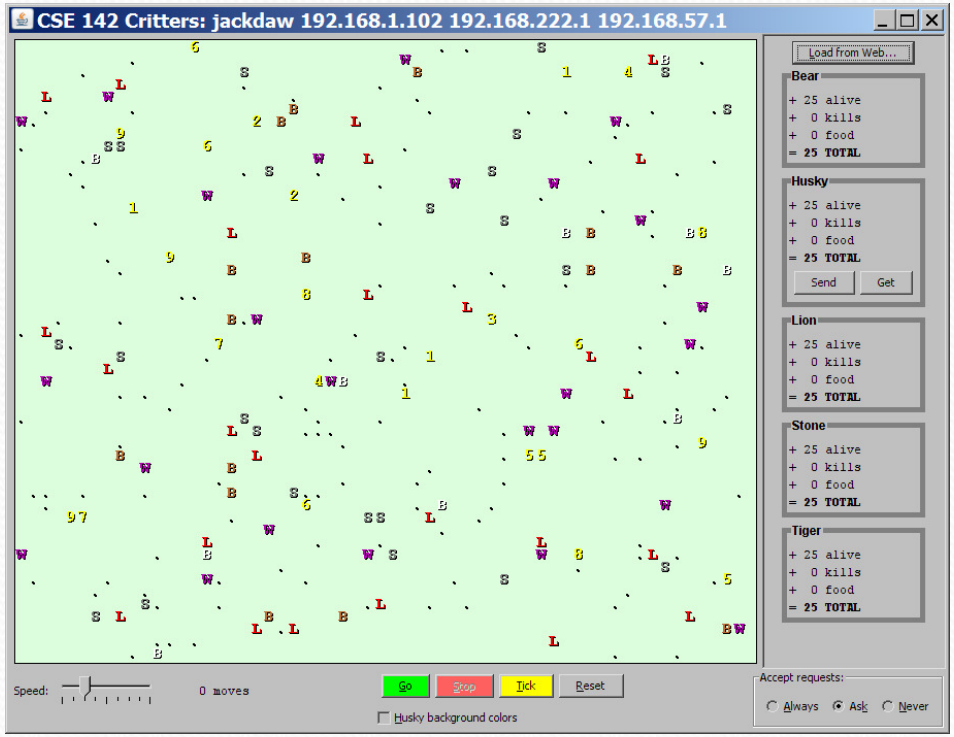
Homework 9: Critters

reading: HW9 spec

CSE 142 Critters

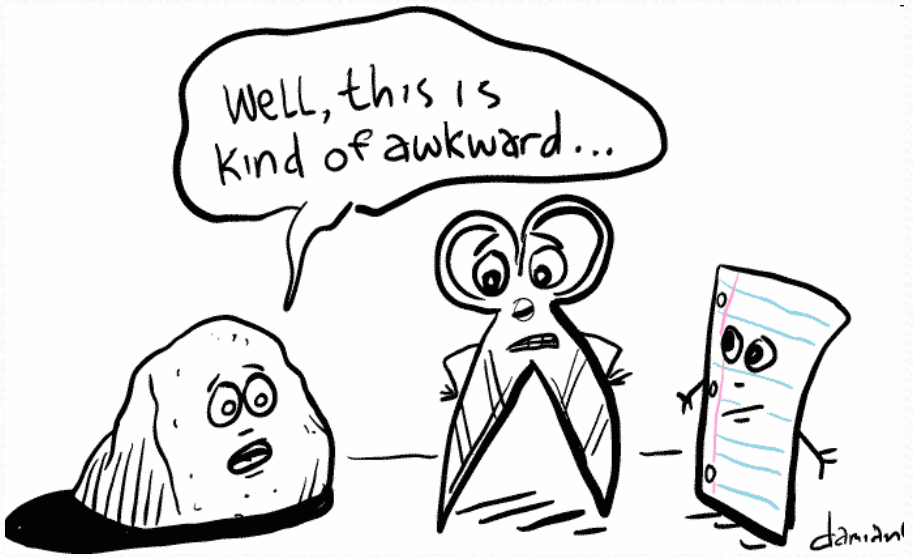
- `Ant`
- `Bird`
- `Hippo`
- `Vulture`
- `Husky` (creative)

- behavior:
  - `eat` eating food
  - `fight` animal fighting
  - `getColor` color to display
  - `getMove` movement
  - `toString` letter to display



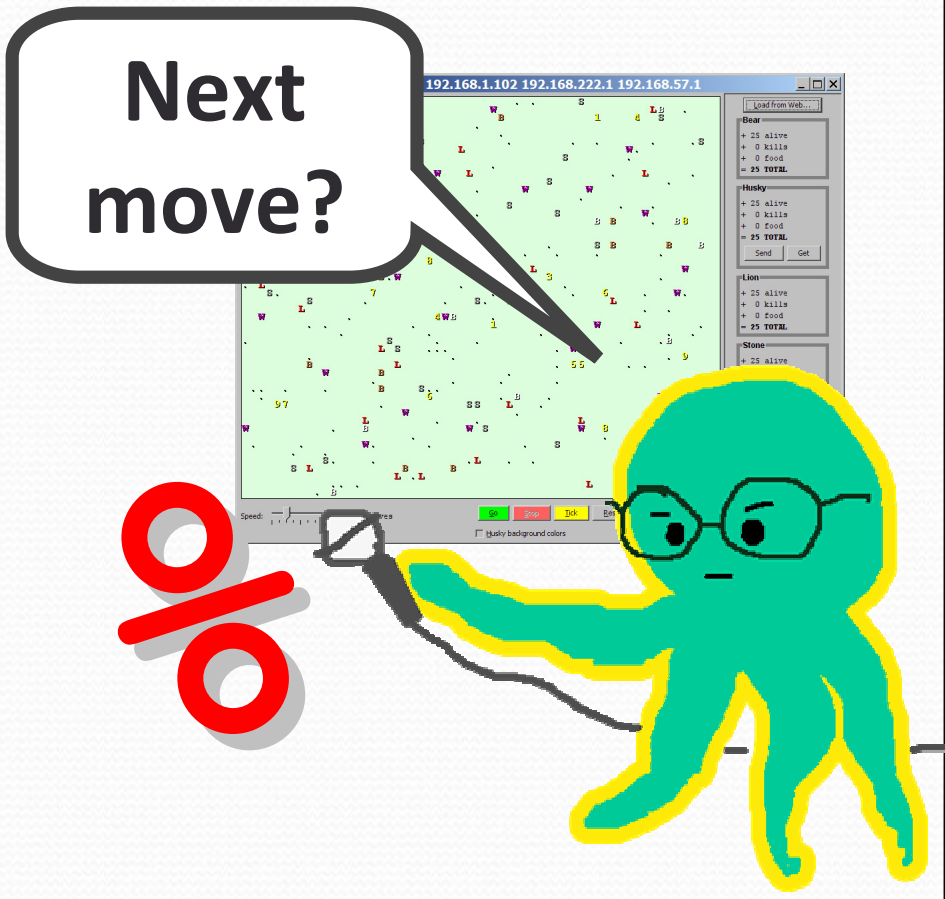
A Critter subclass

```
public class name extends Critter { ... }

public abstract class Critter {
    public boolean eat()
    public Attack fight(String opponent)
            // ROAR, POUNCE, SCRATCH
    public Color getColor()
    public Direction getMove()
            // NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST, CENTER
    public String toString()
}
```



How the simulator works

- "Go" → loop:
  - move each animal (`getMove`)
  - if they collide, `fight`
  - if they find food, `eat`

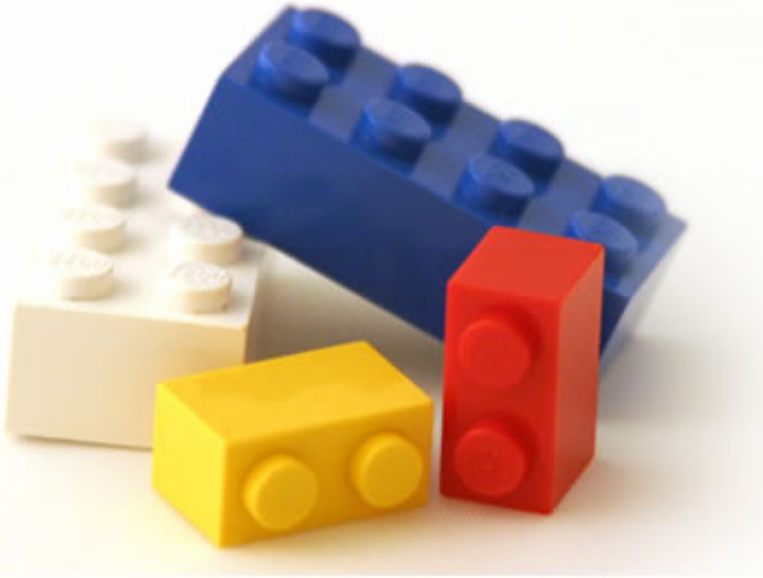


- Simulator is in control!
  - `getMove` is one move at a time
    - (*no loops*)
  - Keep state (fields)
    - to remember future moves

Development Strategy

- Do one species at a time
  - in ABC order from easier to harder (Ant → Bird → ...)
  - debug `println`s

- Simulator helps you debug
  - smaller width/height
  - fewer animals
  - **"Tick"** instead of "Go"
  - **"Debug"** checkbox
  - *new*: drag/drop to move animals



Critter exercise: `Cougar`

- Write a critter class `Cougar` (the dumbest of all animals):

Method	Behavior
constructor	`public Cougar()`
`eat`	Always eats.
`fight`	Always pounces.
`getColor`	Blue if the `Cougar` has never fought; red if he has.
`getMove`	Walks west until he finds food; then walks east until he finds food; then goes west and repeats.
`toString`	`"C"`

Ideas for state

- You must not only have the right state, but update that state properly when relevant actions occur.
- Counting is helpful:
  - How many total moves has this animal made?
  - How many times has it eaten? Fought?
- Remembering recent actions in fields is helpful:
  - Which direction did the animal move last?
    - How many times has it moved that way?
  - Did the animal eat the last time it was asked?
  - How many steps has the animal taken since last eating?
  - How many fights has the animal been in since last eating?

Cougar solution

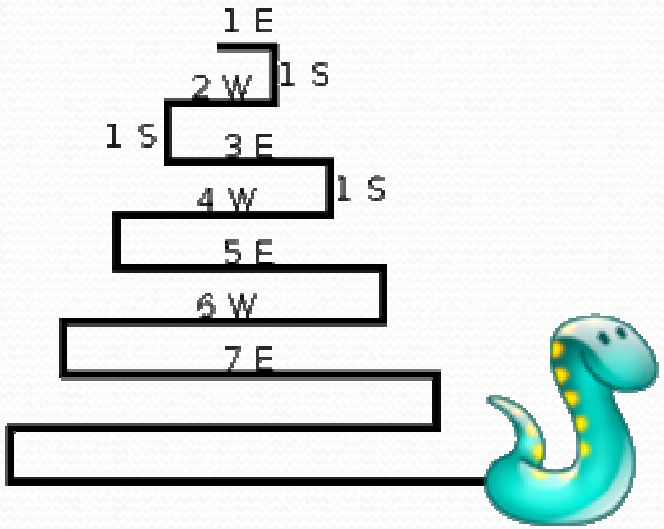
```
import java.awt.*;  // for Color

public class Cougar extends Critter {
    private boolean west;
    private boolean fought;

    public Cougar() {
        west = true;
        fought = false;
    }

    public boolean eat() {
        west = !west;
        return true;
    }

    public Attack fight(String opponent) {
        fought = true;
        return Attack.POUNCE;
    }

    ...
```

Cougar solution

```
    ...

    public Color getColor() {
        if (fought) {
            return Color.RED;
        } else {
            return Color.BLUE;
        }
    }

    public Direction getMove() {
        if (west) {
            return Direction.WEST;
        } else {
            return Direction.EAST;
        }
    }

    public String toString() {
        return "C";
    }
}
```

Critter exercise: `Snake`

Method	Behavior
constructor	`public Snake()`
`eat`	Never eats
`fight`	always forfeits
`getColor`	black
`getMove`	1 E, 1 S; **2** W, 1 S; **3** E, 1 S; **4** W, 1 S; **5** E, ...
`toString`	`"S"`



Determining necessary fields

- Information required to decide what move to make?
  - Direction to go in
  - Length of current cycle
  - Number of moves made in current cycle

- Remembering things you've done in the past:
  - an `int` counter?
  - a `boolean` flag?

Snake solution

```
import java.awt.*;    // for Color

public class Snake extends Critter {
    private int length;   // # steps in current horizontal cycle
    private int step;     // # of cycle's steps already taken

    public Snake() {
        length = 1;
        step = 0;
    }

    public Direction getMove() {
        step++;
        if (step > length) {   // cycle was just completed
            length++;
            step = 0;
            return Direction.SOUTH;
        } else if (length % 2 == 1) {
            return Direction.EAST;
        } else {
            return Direction.WEST;
        }
    }

    public String toString() {
        return "S";
    }
}
```