Announcements

- Read Chapter 4, Section 2 for next time
- Assignment 3 storyboards due Thursday in class
  – World is due next Tuesday night, Feb 3!

What we will do today

- Lecture on Chap 4, Sec 1
- Classwork
  – Create three animations
    • Snowpeople mods including flipping hats
    • Helicopter
    • Cameras moving
  – Get checked off today and for last time

Larger Programs

- Programs start to increase in size – many lines of code
- Games and “real world” applications have thousands, even millions of lines of code
- Want to organize large programs into small manageable pieces
Classes, Objects and Methods

• Object-oriented programming uses classes, objects and methods as basic components
• These components help you
  – Organize large program into small pieces
  – Design and think about an intricate program
  – Find and remove errors (bugs)

In your programs, you’ve used

• Classes
  – In Alice, classes are predefined as 3D models

• Objects
  – An object is an instance of a class
    • Class: Chicken
    • Objects: Chicken, Chicken2

In your programs, you’ve also used

• Built-in (predefined) methods
  – Examples: move, turn to face, say

• World.my first method
  – Example: robot on the moon from chapter 2, wrote code where an alien surprised the robot
  – All the code in World.my first method

Modifying the Program

• Modify program to get robot to try twice to move toward the alien or the alien go up and down twice.
• To make modification, add more lines of code
  – makes the program code longer and more difficult to read and think about
• Show alien world from last time
A Solution

• A solution to the problem is to
  – Define our own method
  – Name the new method surprise

• Then, can drag-and-drop the surprise method into the edit box, just like the built-in methods

Demo: The Solution

• First associate new method with the world
• Select World tile
• Select methods tab
• Click on “create new method”
• Demo

World-level method

• surprise is a world-level method because it
  – Is defined as a method for World
  – Has instructions that involve more than one object (robot, alienOnWheels)

Using the surprise method

• This method is executed by calling (invoking) the method from my first method

• For testing, invoke temporarily when world starts
Why write our own Methods?

- Saves time – can call method again and again without rewriting code
- Reduces code size – call method instead of rewriting same code
- Allows us to think at higher level
  - Think “surprise” instead of “alien moves up, alien says something, robot turns around…”
  - Technical term for “think at a higher level” is abstraction

World.myFirstMethod now

- Move robot forward twice as far by invoking “investigate” twice
Classwork today

• Modify snowpeople to add two methods
  – catchAttention
  – Fliphats
• Move the camera with an object
  – skyride – download from CompSci 4 page
• Create airport/helicopter world with new method
  – circleTower