# **Assignment 2: Designing Dodo's moves**

## Algorithmic Thinking and Structured Programming (in Greenfoot)

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Designing I	odo's moves
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#### Introduction

Now that you have become acquainted with the the Greenfoot environment and are able to read some code, make modifications and test them, it's time to start writing your own code using some Java language constructs.

In the following challenges you will develop your own algorithms and try them out in Greenfoot. We will practice working in a structured manner, by first visualising your algorithm in a flowchart, and then translating this into working code, step-by-step.

This assignment's goal is: Design, implement and test solutions

#### Scenario

For this assignment you will use the scenario: 'DodoScenario2'. From now on, you will continue to use the code you write in this assignment.

## **Learning objectives**

After completing this assignment, you will be able to:

- draw a **flowchart** according to its quality criteria;
- devise an algorithm as a solution to a problem by identifying sequences, decisions (or selections)
  and repetitions required for a solution;
- reason about the **correctness** of an algorithm in terms of the **initial and final situations**;
- visualize an algorithm as a combination of a sequence, decision or a repetition in a flowchart;
- transform a flowchart into code;
- combine sub-methods to solve a (complex) problem;
- · design conditional expressions composed of AND, NOT and boolean methods;
- use a return statement in both flowchart and code:
- make modifications in a **structured** and **incremental** manner;
- find and analyse errors in code, interpret error messages and use this to fix problems (debugging).
- · compose and implement a generic algorithm.

#### **Instructions**

For this assignment you will need a new 'DodoScenario2': to be downloaded from the course website<sup>2</sup>. Throughout the assignment you will also need to answer some questions. The following must be handed in:

- All flowcharts: use pencil and paper, or go to https://www.draw.io/;
- Your code: the file MyDodo . jav contains all your code and must be handed in;

<sup>2</sup>http://course.cs.ru.nl/greenfoot/

• The reflection sheet: complete and hand it in.

You must discuss all other answers with a programming partner. Jot down a short answer on (the assignment) paper.

There are three types of challenges:

*	<b>commended</b> . Students who need more practice or with limited programming experience all dcomplete all of these.		
**	Mandatory. Everyone must complete these.		
***	<b>Excelling</b> . More inquisitive tasks, designed for students who completed 2 star tasks and are ready for a bigger challenge.		

Students who skip 1-star challenges should complete all 3-star challenges.

#### A note in advance:

- In this assignment you may only make changes to the MyDodo class;
- You may use methods from the MyDodo or the Dodo class, but not the Actor class;
- Teleportation is not permitted: if Mimi needs to get somewhere, she must walk there!

## **Theory**

## **Theory 2.1: Flowcharts**

An algorithm can be visualized in a flowchart. Subsequently, this can be transformed into code.

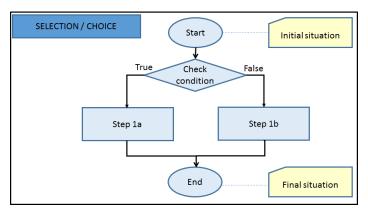


Figure 1: Flowchart

## Decomposing a probleem

Sometimes a problem is very complicated and its solution consists of may steps. If you want to solve such a complex problem, you may not know where to start or end up drowning in details. In both cases the problem may seem bigger than it actually is.

A flowchart can help break down (or decompose) a big problem into smaller subproblems. First you have to think up a high-level roadmap (or plan) of what has to be done, and in what order. By placing those steps in a flowchart you can visualize the solution as a whole. Now, each of the subproblems can be tackled one-by-one, without having to worry about the bigger picture. After solving a particular subproblem and testing the solution, you do not have to worry about its details anymore. You can use the

solution as a building-block in bigger or other problems. This approach, of breaking down a problem, is called divide-and-conquer. Of course, when you are done solving all the subproblems, you must check whether you have solved the problem as a whole.

#### What a flowchart looks like

A flowchart has the following components:



Figure 2: Flowchart components

#### Flowchart criteria

- · Each flowchart has a name.
- There are no loose parts 'floating around' (except the diagram's name). All components are connected by arrows or lines (indicating order).
- There is one initial starting point and one final endpoint, each with a description of its situation.
- An accessor method which yields a result (i.e. gives an answer to a question), has equal initial and final situations.
- · An activity (rectangle) always has one incoming and one outgoing arrow.
- An conditional expression (diamond) has at least one incoming and at least two outgoing arrows. The outgoing arrows are labelled with their corresponding values.
- · The flowchart has no more than seven activities.

#### Steps for drawing a flowchart

To solve a problem using a flowchart, follow the next steps:

- 1. **Initial situation**: Briefly describe (in no more than a few words) what the problem/situation is that is to be solved.
- 2. **Final situation**: When is your problem solved? How do you know that? Describe that in no more than a few words.
- 3. **Solution strategy**: Decide on how you want to resolve the issue. Describe it at a high-level: in no more that seven steps.

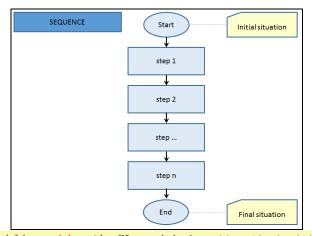
- 4. **Break down** the problem into sub-problems, each of which can further be broken down into smaller sub-subproblems. For each step:
  - Choose a suitable name (meaningful, consisting of verbs, and formulated at a command) to describe it.
  - Determine if you can re-use by calling the sub-method rather than all its steps. s
  - Determine if steps are repeated. If there is a repetition pattern, use a while.
- 5. Draw the flowchart.
- 6. Check:
  - Rules: Check if the flowcharts adheres to the 'Flowchart criteria' (listed above).
  - Quality: Walk-through the flowchart to ensure it is correct.

#### Theory 2.2: Steps for designing code

- 1. Come up with a global plan (or roadmap) for solving the problem.
- 2. Draw a **flowchart** for the solution. Have a look back at "Steps for drawing a flowchart" in Theory 2.1.
- 3. Translate the flowchart into **code**. Pay attention to the naming conventions (discussed in assignment 1).
- 4. Add **comments** to the code.
- 5. **Test** the method by dragging an object into the world, right-clicking on the object, and selecting the method. Using several different situations check if the program does what you expect it to.
- 6. **Debug**. Repair errors. Make sure the code does exactly what the flowchart specifies. If not, adjust your code.
- 7. **Evaluate the solution and reflect on the process**. Has the problem been solved? Which improvements can you suggest? In the process of reaching the solution, what went right? What could have been done better?

#### **Theory 2.3: Sequence of Instructions**

In a sequence, the indicated steps or instructions are performed sequentially, one after the other.



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```
step1 ();  // call method in 1st rectangle
step2 ();  // call method in 2nd rectangle
step...();  // call method in next rectangle
stepN ();  // call method in n-th rectangle
```

#### Theory 2.4: Testing (and debugging)

Test your program after each minor modification to check if it works as expected.

- 1. Try to locate exactly where an error occurs.
- 2. If the program doesn't run at all and you get stuck on compiler errors, have a look back at Theory 1.13).
- 3. Does the program perform incorrectly? Then you must retrace your steps in reverse order:
  - (a) Make sure your code matches your flowchart. You can print values or steps to the console to help trace your code (see Theory 1.14).
  - (b) Make sure your flowchart matches the solution you came up with. If the code corresponds exactly with your flowchart, but the program doesn't do what you expect, then you may have a mistake in your flowchart. Analyze your flowchart to determine where you've made any incorrect assumptions. Return to step 2 in Theory 2.2, modify your flowchart, and follow the proceeding steps again.
- 4. Test different situations. Check that the program deals with unexpected values and boundary situations appropriately.
  - The program such guard for unexpected values: determine what the program should do, like show an error and stop the program. Incorrect values could be negative values or very large values (outside of Mimi's world).
  - Boundary situations are interesting to test, as many mistakes are made in the first and last step. Check for boundary situations such as values 0, 1 or the last step: in front of a border/nest.

For example, for the method <code>jump( int distance )</code>, values for <code>distance can't</code> be just anything. Values to guard for are negative values or a large value which would make Mimi step out of the world. Boundary values are 0, 1, and the edge of the world (the width of the world - 1).

Make it a habit to do this immediately after **each** modification. This will help you find any mistakes much faster.

## **Theory 2.5: Comparing**

#### Is equal to

The comparison operator '==' checks if two values are equal to each other.

#### An example

Using 'a == 4' you can compare if 'a' is equal to '4'. The result is either true or false.

#### Note:

The equals-sign '=' (which you use in mathematics) has a different meaning! In code, using 'a = 4' means 'a becomes 4'.

#### **NOT**

The negation operator '!' means NOT. The result is either true or false.

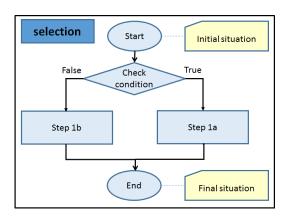
#### **Examples:**

- '! borderAhead ( )' checks if there is NO border in front of Mimi.
- 'a != 4' compares if 'a' is NOT equal to '4'.

#### Theory 2.6: Selections (choices) using if . . then . . else

The flowchart and code below show the use of an if .. then .. else construct for:

"If a conditional expression is true, then do something. Or else, do something else."



## Flowchart and code explained

- If the condition is true, then stepla is executed.
- Otherwise (the condition is false), then step1b is executed.

#### Note:

- If nothing needs to happen when the conditional expression is false, then you can just omit the else-branch.
- All branches must come together before continuing with any other statement.

#### **Theory 2.7: Accessor method**

An accessor method provides information about an object's state. For example, its result can be an int (whole number), boolean ('true' or 'false'), or String (text).

#### Flowchart for accessor method

The following is a flowchart corresponding to a boolean accessor method:

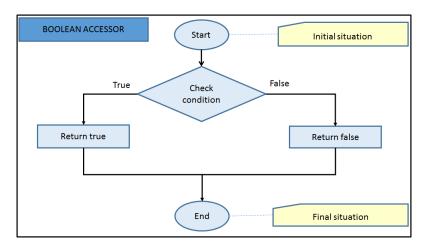


Figure 3: Flowchart for a boolean accessor method

#### The flowchart explained:

- First the conditional expression 'Check condition' in the diamond is checked.
- If the conditional expression is true, then the 'True' arrow on the left will be followed and the result true will be returned.
- If the conditional expression is not true, then the 'False' arrow on the right will be followed and the result false will be returned.
- After returning a result, a method always terminates (is done). A return is always immediately followed by the End.
- In an accessor method, the initial and final situation are always equal to each other.

#### Code for accessor method

The corresponding code looks like this:

#### The code explained:

- First the value of the conditional expression checkCondition ( ) is determined.
- If the conditional expression is true, then true is returned. After that, the method terminates.
- If the conditional expression is not true, then you jump to else. Here false is returned. After that, the method terminates.

- After returning a value, nothing more happens. If you try to execute any code after a return, the compiler will complain with the following error message: "unreachable statement";
- The text to the right of are comments

#### Note

An accessor method provides information about an object. It should not change the situation. Therefore, from now on we agree that the initial and final situations of an accessor method are equal to each other.

#### Theory 2.8: Loading a world from a file

To open a new world within your current scenario follow this example. In the next steps we will open the world 'worldEgg6CellsAhead':

- 1. Right-click on the world (make sure that you click on an empty cell).
- 2. Choose void populateFromFile ( ).



Figure 4: Populating the world

- 3. Go to the folder 'worlds'.
- 4. Choose the corresponding file, in this example 'worldEgg6CellsAhead.txt'.

## Theory 2.9: Repetition is... boring and error-prone: wishing for a generic solution

Have a look at the scenario below. How would you help Mimi find her egg?



Figure 5: Scenario: many moves needed to reach the egg

Naturally, you could solve this problem by merely calling the method move() a certain number of times. However, imagine that Mimi would have to take 1003 steps to get to her egg? As a programmer, you would be very busy typing (or copy-pasting) the move(); statement 1003 times. This strategy has a few drawbacks:

- It's a lot of typing or copy-paste work (which is rather boring).
- You might accidently call the move ( ) method 1004 times instead of 1003 times. The result: your program won't work correctly.
- Your program only works for that one specific situation. It is not flexible or general. For example, it will not work if 42 steps are needed.

To make your program more general and work in several similar situations, you'll have to devise a smarter generic algorithm. What you actually want is a repetition:

"While Mimi has not found her egg, she must take a step."

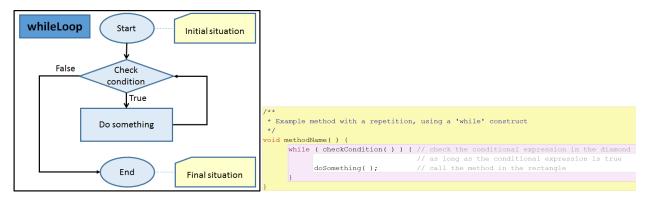
In the final situation, she'll be done when she finds her egg. Note that this description has no ('hard-coded') numbers in it. Such a repetition look is called a while-loop.

A general algorithm which can be used in multiple (initial) situations is called generic. This does not solve one particular problem, but can be used to solve many similar problems. You will learn more about generic algorithms in later assignments.

#### Theory 2.10: Repetition using while

The flowchart and code below show the use of a while construct to repeat a certain block:

"As long as a particular conditional expression is true, repeat something."



## Flowchart and code explained

- If the condition is true, then doSomething is executed.
- Otherwise (the condition is false) the method is done.

#### Note:

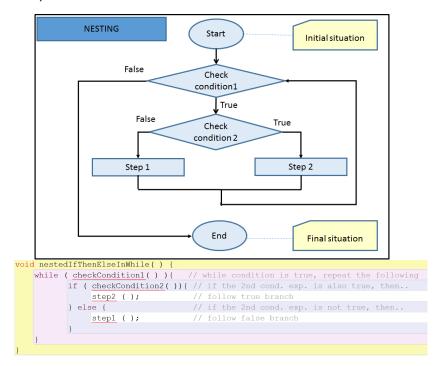
- The condition is tested at the beginning of the loop.
- A "NOT" (negation) is often used in the conditional expression of a while, for example, "NOT border-Ahead". This is consistent with the way in which you would describe the algorithm in the words: "while something is NOT the case, then ...". In code, '!' means NOT, for example! borderAhead().
- The method doSomething ( ) must at some point make the conditional expression become 'false'. At that moment, the method (and thus the repetition) stops. A common mistake when using a while loop is to forget this, the condition remains 'true' and the loop never ends. This is called an infinite loop.
- Using a repetition until a certain condition is met is called a primed sentinel.

#### Theory 2.11: Nesting

The language construct for sequence, selection (choice), and repetition can also be used together in various combinations. They can be used sequentially, one after the other, or nested in each other. A sequence, selection or repetition can be used in any order. Any one of them can also be used within any other one.

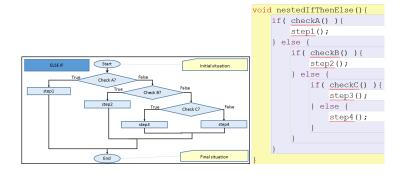
#### Example: if .. then .. else nested in a while loop

The following is an example an if .. then .. else statement (selection) nested in a while loop (repetition).



## **Example: nested** if .. then .. else **statements**

A nested if .. then .. else statement tests several cases simultaneously.



Simplified nested if .. then .. else, using else .. if

This type of if .. then .. else nesting can simplified using an else .. if. The else and the if are combined and becomes:

```
void nestedIfUsingElseIf() {
    if( checkA() ) {
        step1();
    } else if ( checkB() ) {
        step2();
    } else if ( checkC() ) {
        step3();
    } else {
        step4();
    }
}
```

Figure 6: A nested if .. then .. else using else if

- · If 'Check A?' is 'True' then 'step1' is executed;
- Else (so A is 'False'), if 'Check B?' is 'True' then 'step2' will be executed.
- Else (so A and B are both 'False'), if 'Check C?' is 'True' then 'step3' will be executed.
- Else (so A, B and C are all 'False'), then 'step4' will be executed.

**Note:** The last branch can use either an else or an else if (with another condition, say <code>checkD</code>). However, these do have another meaning! The code after an else if will only be executed if <code>checkD</code> returns true.

## **Challenges**



Please read Theory 2.1: Flowcharts.



Please read Theory 2.2: Steps for designing code.



Please read Theory 2.3: Sequence of Instructions.



Please read Theory 2.4: Testing (and debugging).



Challenge 2.1: Sequence of instructions: gotoEgg

Our MyDodo, Mimi, has lost her egg. Can you help her find it?

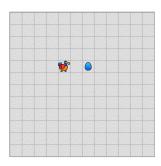
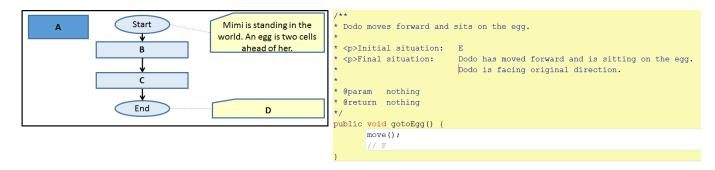


Figure 7: First scenario: Help Mimi find her egg

- a) Right-click on Mimi. Using these methods (not the methods in the inherited lists), develop a strategy for Mimi to go to her egg and sit on it.
- b) Fill in the missing parts A,B,C,D (in the flowchart) and E and F (in the code):



- c) Open the code for MyDodo in the editor. Modify the gotoEgg ( ) method accordingly. Also correctly describe the initial and final situation as (JavaDoc) comments.
- d) Test your method. Tip: If it doesn't work correctly or if you get a compiler-error, then follow the steps described in the 'Debugging' theory block 2.4.



#### Challenge 2.2: A sequence with multiple instructions

In this scenario, Mimi is further away from her egg. Can you help Mimi find her egg this time?



Figure 8: Second scenario: Help Mimi find her egg again

- a) Adjust the world so that it matches figure 8.
- b) Can you help Mimi find her egg this time? (Again, you may not use methods from the inherited list). Modify the flowchart from Challenge 2.1 and corresponding code in MyDodo's gotoEgg() method.
- c) Also change the comments appropriately.
- d) Test your method.



Please read Theory 2.5: Comparing.



Please read Theory 2.6: Selections (choices) using if . . then . . else.



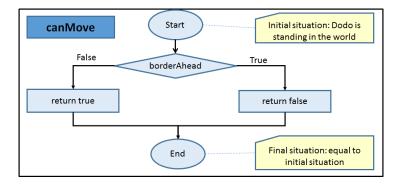
Please read Theory 2.7: Accessor method.



## Challenge 2.3: Mimi can't walk through fences

In assignment I we saw that Mimi can't step outside of the world. We will now have a look at the method boolean canMove() again.

a) Have a look at the following flowchart and corresponding code for canMove():



- b) The way she is now programmed, Mimi doesn't seem to care about the fences. She walks right through them! Place a fence in the world and see for yourself!
- c) Call the boolean fenceAhead ( ) method. What does it do? Call the method with a fence in front of Mimi, and again without a fence in front of Mimi.
- d) Change the conditional expression (the diamond) in the flowchart to ensure that Mimi can't walk through fences and can't step out of the world. Tip: In code 'AND' is written as '&&', 'OR' as ' || ', 'NOT' as '!'.
- e) Modify the code and its comments.
- f) Test your method. Tip: If it doesn't work correctly or if you get a compiler-error, then follow the steps described in the 'Debugging' theory block 2.4.



## Please read Theory 2.8: Loading a world from a file.



#### Challenge 2.4: Writing your own sequence: climbOverFence ( )

We're now going to teach Mimi something new. If she encounters an obstacle (for example a fence), she Mimi should climb over it.

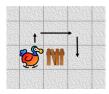


Figure 9: Scenario: Climb over the fence

We do this as follows:

- a) Open the "worldFenceObstructing" world. Tip: To load another world, see Theory 2.8.
- b) Mimi will stop if she encounters a fence. Check this. If Mimi walks right through the fence, then check if you did Challenge 2.3 correctly before continuing.
- c) If Mimi encounters a fence, we want her to climb over it, as in figure 9. Complete the following strategy:

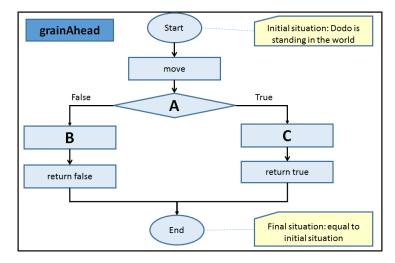
- i. turn to the left
- ii. take a step
- iii. ...
- d) Make sure Mimi is facing East again when she is finished.
- e) Write a method in climbOverFence ( ) which matches your strategy (not using any methods from the inherited list). Describe the initial and final situation in comments.
- f) Test your method.



## Challenge 2.5: Find grain

Mimi is near-sighted. She's hungry and looking for grain. However, she can only spot a grain if she is standing on top of it. Can you help her figure out if there is grain in front of her?

- a) Have a look at the flowchart and code for the method grainAhead ( ). This method returns true if there is a grain in the cell in front of Mimi, and false otherwise. Note that:
  - This accessor method should have a final situation identical to the initial situation. To make it easier to use this method for other tasks, Mimi must return to her original position (and facing the same direction).
  - A return is the very last thing that can be called in a method (the method stops after that). So, Mimi must go back to her initial situation before the return.
  - Parts B, C, E and F in the code and flowchart may consist of more than one statement.



```
/**
 * Test there is a grain in the cell in front of Dodo
 * 
 * Initial situation: Dodo is somewhere in the world
 * Final situation: Same as initial situation
 *
 * @param nothing
 * @return boolean true if there is a grain in the cell in front of Dodo
 * false else otherwise
 */
public boolean grainAhead() {

D_if ( onGrain() ) {
    // Dodo goes back to initial situation before returning value
    E_ return true;
    } else {
        // Dodo goes back to initial situation before returning value
        F_ return false;
    }
}
```

- b) Fill in the blanks A through F (in both the flowchart and the code).
- c) Write and test the method grainAhead ( ).



Please read Theory 2.9: Repetition is... boring and error-prone: wishing for a generic solution.



Please read Theory 2.10: Repetition using while.



Challenge 2.6: Repeating using while: generic gotoEgg()

Your mission is:

"Help Mimi find her egg, no matter how far away she is from it".

Your solution must be generic. The following initial situation is given:

- Mimi is 0 or more cells away from her egg, but you don't know exactly how many;
- Mimi is facing in the correct direction (she does not have to turn, she only has to take a certain number of steps forward);
- There is nothing in between Mimi and her egg (for example, there is no fence blocking her way);
- Mimi has found her egg if she is standing in the same cell as the egg.

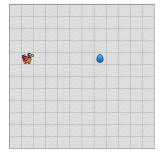


Figure 10: Scenario: a few moves needed to reach the egg

We are going to work on this problem step-by-step:

- a) Open the world named "worldEgg6CellsAhead".
- b) Argue, in terms of a repetition block and conditional expression, that the following generic algorithm is correct:
  - "While Mimi has **not** found her egg, she must step forwards."
- c) Have a look at the flowchart in figure 11. What must be repeated? Fill in B.

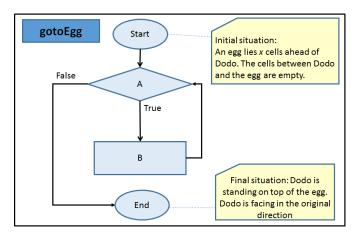


Figure 11: Flowchart "While the egg has not been found, step forwards."

- d) What is the conditional expression in A?
- e) Now modify the code for MyDodo's method gotoEgg() so that it is generic. It should look something like figure 12. Note that '!' in code means **not**. Copy the code and fill in C and D.

```
/**

* Dodo moves forward and sits on the egg.

*

* Initial situation: Somewhere in a cell ahead of Dodo lies a egg.

The cells between Dodo and the egg are empty.

Dodo has moved forward and is sitting on the egg.

*

* @param nothing

* @param nothing

* @return nothing

*/

public void C() {

while ( ! onEgg() ) {

/// D

}
```

Figure 12: Flowchart "While the egg has **not** been found, step forwards."

- f) Modify the comments above the gotoEgg() method accordingly.
- g) Test your program.



#### Challenge 2.7: Walk to the edge of the world

Write a method that makes Mimi walk to any edge of the world. Her initial position is arbitrary: she can be standing anywhere and facing any direction.

- a) Load the world: "worldEmpty" (See Theory 2.8).
- b) Fill in the blanks in the flowchart.

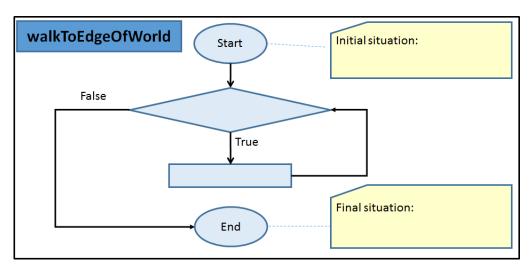


Figure 13: Flowchart for walkToWorldEdge ( )

- c) Write the corresponding method void walkToWorldEdge ( ). Include comments.
- d) Test your method by right-clicking on Mimi. Repeat with Mimi in different positions in the world.
- e) Does your code also work if Mimi is facing any other direction (West or South)? If necessary, modify the comments to properly explain what Mimi can do.



#### Please read Theory 2.11: Nesting.



## Challenge 2.8: Combining sub-methods: walkToWorldEdgeClimbingOverFences ( )

We are now going to combine two of your methods so that Mimi can walk across her world, avoiding any fences she comes across (see figure 14).

- climbOverFence ( ) (from challenge 2.4)
- walkToWorldEdge ( ) (from challenge 2.7)

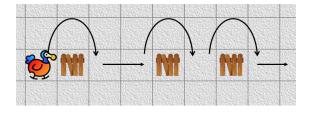


Figure 14: Scenario: Walk to edge of the world, climbing over fences

- a) Modify your flowchart for walkToWorldEdge ( ) (from challenge 2.7) so that Mimi climbs over any fences she encounters. Also rename your flowchart.
- b) Write a method walkToWorldEdgeClimbingOverFences ( ). You may assume there is always an empty cell in between two fences. Tip: You can call your climbOverFence method using: climbOverFence ( );
- c) Test your method.



## **Challenge 2.9: Giving compliments**

When Mimi completes her task, we want to give her a compliment on her job well-done. Modify the code for walkToEdgeOfWorldClimbingOverFences ( ) to show a compliment. Use the method showCompliment ( String compliment ) as follows:



Figure 15: Example code and its result for giving a compliment



#### Challenge 2.10: Pick up grains and print coordinates

Your mission is:

"Have Mimi walk across the row, picking up any grain she finds. Print the coordinates of each of the grains."

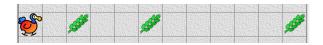


Figure 16: Pick up grains in this row and print their coordinates

- · Load the world 'worldGrainsInRow'.
- In the console, print the coordinates of each of the grains in Mimi's row. Tip: you can use int getX () and int getY () to determine the coordinates of Mimi. Besides, have a look at Mimi's grain-related methods.
- Test your code. Does it also print the coordinates in the last cell?

#### Reflection

In this assignment you have been introduced to algorithms. In an algorithm you describe how a particular task should be done. You explain each step, choice or repetition very precisely. In the last challenge you came up with your own algorithm, visualised it in a flowchart and wrote and tested the code. One of the most important steps in becoming good at anything is to evaluate and reflect on what you did and how it went:

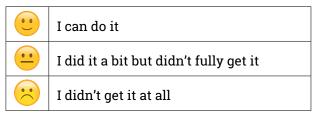
#### Result

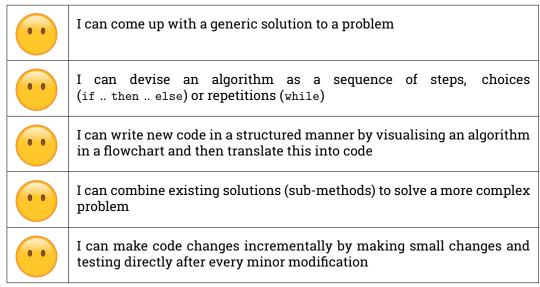
I know my solution works because ...
I am proud of my solution because ...
I could improve my solution by ...

#### **Method**

My approach was good because ... What I could do better next time is ...

Fill the following table with smileys indicating how things went.





## **Diagnostic Test**

- 1. Assume MyDodo has the following method: boolean foundAllEggs ( ), which indicates whether Mimi has found all of her eggs. Which of the following is true?
  - (a) This method has a boolean parameter.
  - (b) The initial and final situations of this method are equal to each other.
  - (c) This method has a boolean as a result.
  - (d) This is a mutator method.
- 2. Name two advantages for using sub-methods.
- 3. Give two reasons for testing immediately after each minor code change.
- 4. Explain, in your own words, what the initial and final situations described in the flowchart are useful in programming.
- 5. Have a look at the flowchart in figure 17. Write the code for this silly walk. For which initial situations will the program stop? Include a description in your (JavaDoc) comments.

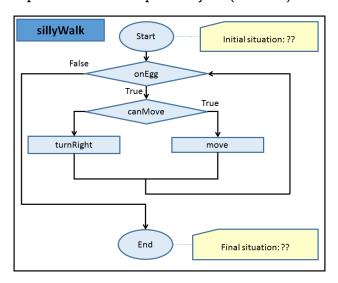


Figure 17: Flowchart for silly walk

## Saving and Handing in

You have just finished the assignment. Save your work! You will need this for future assignments. In the Greenfoot menu at the top of the screen, select 'Scenario' and then 'Save'. You now have all the scenario components in one folder. The folder has the name you chose when you selected 'Save As ...'.

## Handing in

Hand in the following:

- · Your name(s): you and your partner
- Your code: The java file MyDodo . jav;
- Flowcharts: paste (photo's of) your flowcharts in a Word document;
- · The reflection sheet: complete and hand it in.