Building User Interfaces

Chapter 5
Squeak: Object-oriented design with multimedia applications

Story

- What a UI toolkit does: Iteratively building a Clock UI without one
- Pluggable UI in Squeak: MVC and Morphic
- Using Morphic

Challenges of O-O UI Design

- Two key questions:
 - How do you create user interface software that you can maintain, is well object-oriented, is easy to build, and is easy to change?
 - How do you create user interfaces that people can actually use?
- The first is our focus here, and is MUCH easier than the second

MVC: Model-View-Controller

- Key idea in UI Software
 - Models define the world
 - Views are what the users see
 - Controllers handle user input (low-level: mouse, keyboard, etc.)
- Hard to use, but good for engineering
- Other models: Merge all three
 - Easier to build, harder to maintain

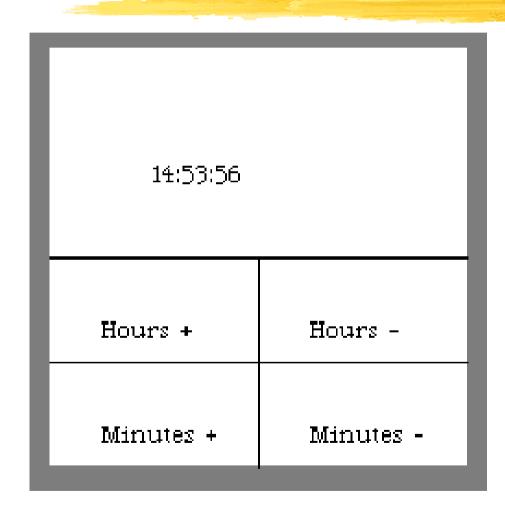
MVC and Morphic

- Squeak supports multiple models of UI building
 - Can do raw polling of Sensor and posting to Display
 - Can code in basic MVC structure
 - Can code in pluggable structure for both MVC and Morphic
 - Can code in Morphic structure
 - Controller embedded in the World.
 - Models and Views can be merged

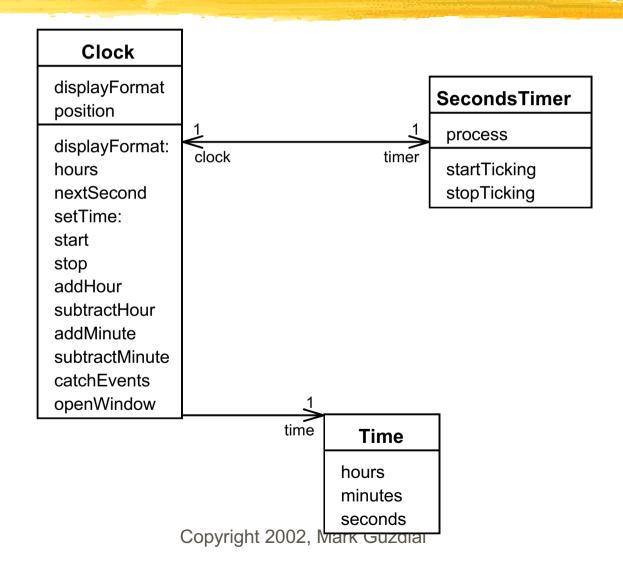
Why we want MVC

- What if you build an interface for Clock, and later want it to be an AlarmClock?
- What if you build a digital clock face, but later want the analog form?
- Can we create a system where:
 - We can swap the model out, and the view stays the same
 - We can change the view, and the model remains the same
- How little do the Model and View have to know of each other?

Clock UI we're going to build



Round #1: Munge it all



Opening a Window

openWindow

```
| pen |
"Open the blank frame"
(Form extent: 200@200) fillWhite
displayAt: position.
```

Opening a Window, Part 2

```
"Draw the Buttons"
  pen := Pen new.
  pen up. pen goto: (position x) @ ((position
  y)+100). pen down.
  pen north. pen turn: 90.
  pen go: 200.
  pen up. pen goto: (position x) @ ((position
  y)+150). pen down.
  pen go: 200.
  pen up. pen goto: ((position x)+100) @ ((position
  y)+100). pen down.
```

Opening a Window, Part 3

```
pen turn: 90.
  pen go: 100.
  'Hours +' displayAt: ((position x)+25) @
    ((position y)+125).
  'Hours -' displayAt: ((position x)+125) @
    ((position y)+125).
  'Minutes +' displayAt: ((position x)+25) @
    ((position y)+175).
  'Minutes -' displayAt: ((position x)+125) @
    ((position y)+175).
```

Displaying Time

nextSecond

time := time addTime: (Time fromSeconds: 1). self timeDisplay.

timeDisplay

' displayAt: position + (50@50). "Erase whatever time was there before" self display displayAt: position + (50 @ 50).

An Event Loop

- Core to most modern user interfaces
- Basically
 - Is there a user event? If so, get it.
 - Who needs it? (focus of control)
 - Pass on the event
- Absolutely critical to shift agency from computer to human

Our First Event Loop

catchEvents

```
| hourPlus hourMinus minutePlus minuteMinus click | "Define the regions where we care about mouse clicks" hourPlus := (position x) @ ((position y)+100) extent: 100@50.
```

```
hourMinus := ((position x)+100) @ ((position y)+100) extent: 100@50.
```

```
minutePlus := (position x) @ ((position y)+150) extent: 100@50.
```

minuteMinus := ((position x)+100) @ ((position y)+150) extent: 100@50.

Our First Event Loop, Part 2

"Enter into an event loop"

[Sensor yellowButtonPressed] whileFalse: "Yellow button press ends the clock"

["Give other processes a chance, and give user a chance to pick up."

(Delay forMilliseconds: 500) wait.

Our First Event Loop, Part 3

(Sensor redButtonPressed) ifTrue: "Red button press could go to a button"

[click := Sensor mousePoint.

(hourPlus containsPoint: click) ifTrue: [self addHour].

(hourMinus containsPoint: click) ifTrue: [self subtractHour].

(minutePlus containsPoint: click) ifTrue: [self addMinute].

(minuteMinus containsPoint: click) ifTrue: [self subtractMinute].]].

Running the Code

c := Clock new.

c position: 100@10.

c setTime: (Time now printString).

c openWindow.

c start.

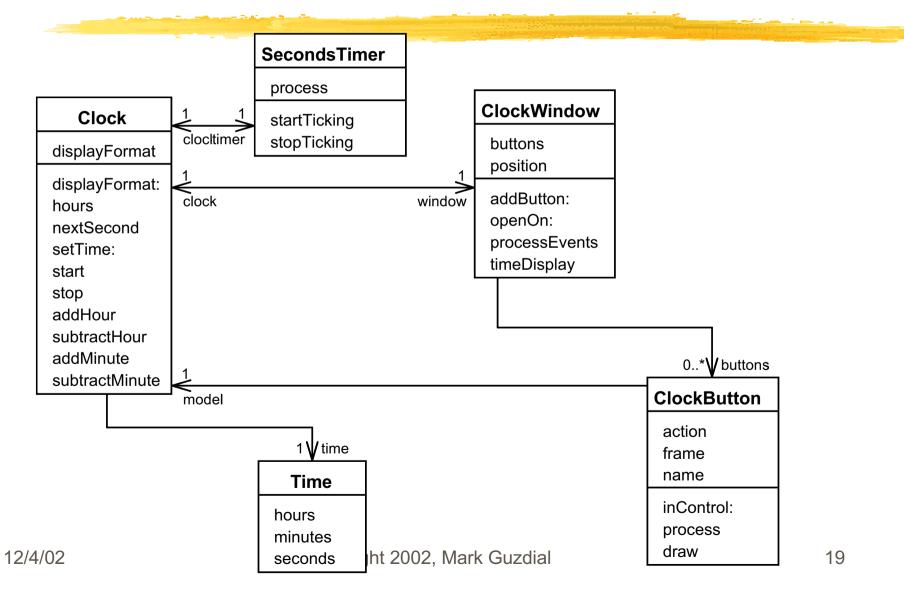
c catchEvents.

"Don't forget c stop!"

Critique of Round #1

- Modified Clock to add user interface
 - Do real clocks have positions on the screen?
- It's impossible to maintain
 - Swap from digital to analog? Start over!
- Clock has too much responsibility
- Absolutely nothing reusable here

Round 2: ClockWindow and ClockButton



Details

- ClockWindow
 - Handles position, timeDisplay, and processEvents from Clock
 - Still needs to know Clock for displaying
- ClockButton
 - Knows its model, action, frame, and name
 - Knows how to draw, process, and whether its inControl.

Opening Windows in Round #2

```
openOn: aModel
| button |
position isNil ifTrue: [self error: 'Must set position first.'].

"Set this model as this window's clock"
clock := aModel.

"Open the blank frame"
(Form extent: 200@200) fillWhite displayAt: position.
```

Opening Windows in Round #2, Part 2

"Draw the Buttons" button := ClockButton ma

```
button := ClockButton make: 'Hours +' at: ((position x) @ ((position y)+100) extent: 100@50) for: aModel triggering: #addHour.
```

self addButton: button.

button := ClockButton make: 'Hours -' at: (((position x)+100) @ ((position y)+100) extent: 100@50) for: aModel triggering: #subtractHour.

self addButton: button.

button := ClockButton make: 'Minutes +' at: ((position x) @ ((position

y)+150) extent: 100@50) for: aModel triggering: #addMinute.

self addButton: button.

button := ClockButton make: 'Minutes -' at: (((position x)+100) @ ((position

y)+150) extent: 100@50) for: aModel triggering: #subtractMinute.

self addButton: button.

Adding a Button, lazily

addButton: aButton

buttons is Nil if True:

[buttons := OrderedCollection new].

buttons add: aButton.

Processing UI Events

processEvents

```
"Enter into an event loop"
```

```
click |
```

[Sensor yellowButtonPressed] whileFalse: "Yellow button pressed ends the clock"

["Give other processes a chance, and give user a chance to pick up."

(Delay for Milliseconds: 500) wait.

(Sensor redButtonPressed) ifTrue: "Red button press could go to a button"

[click := Sensor mousePoint.

buttons do: [:b |

(b inControl: click) ifTrue: [b process]].]].

Making Buttons

make: aName at: aRect for: aModel triggering: aMessage

| newButton |

newButton := self new.

newButton name: aName.

newButton frame: aRect.

newButton model: aModel.

newButton action: aMessage.

newButton draw.

^newButton.

Drawing a Button

draw

```
"Just like Round #1, but now in ClockButton"
| pen |
pen := Pen new.
pen color: (Color black).
pen up. pen goto: (frame origin).
pen north. pen turn: 90. pen down.
pen goto: (frame topRight).
pen turn: 90. pen goto: (frame bottomRight).
pen turn: 90. pen goto: (frame bottomLeft).
pen turn: 90. pen goto: (frame origin).
name displayAt: (frame leftCenter) + (25@-10). "Offset in a bit, and up a bit
for aesthetics"
```

inControl and process

The "hardest" parts are actually the smallest and easiest

inControl: aPoint

"If the point is in the frame, have control"

^frame containsPoint: aPoint

process

"Tell the model to do the action"

model perform: action

Displaying Time is still Yucky

timeDisplay "In ClockWindow"

```
"ClockWindow asks Clock for time"
```

```
' displayAt: position + (50@50). "Erase" (clock display) displayAt: position + (50 @ 50).
```

nextSecond "In Clock"

"Clock tells ClockWindow when"

time := time addTime: (Time fromSeconds: 1).

window timeDisplay.

Running Round #2

c := Clock new.

w := ClockWindow new.

w position: 100@10.

c setTime: (Time now printString).

w openOn: c. c window: w.

c start.

w processEvents.

Critiquing Round #2

- Clearly, much nicer separation between view and model
- ClockWindow and ClockButton (except for the name) are pretty darn generic
- But text update is still a problem
 - Why does Clock need to know its view?
 - Why should the window have hard-coded a request to its clock?

Solution: Dependents and change/update

- A view becomes **dependent** on its model
 - model addDependent: view
- A model can announce a **change** in some aspect of itself
 - self changed: #aspect
- Dependent views are asked if they would like to update based on the given aspect
 - dependents do: [:each | each update: #aspect].

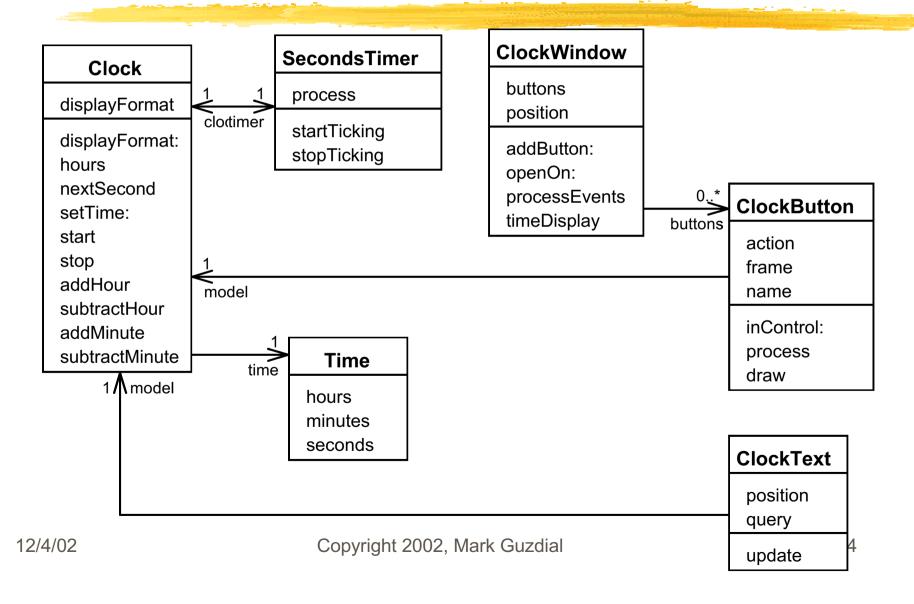
Change/update and Dependents buys us Flexibility

- Can have any number of views on same model
 - E.g., views for Doctors, Nurses, Billing Office all on same Patient model
- Views can update only on aspects they care about
 - self changed: #testResults vs. self changed: #prescription

Decreases information sharing

- Announcing a changed: is cheap
 - Do it often, whether or not a view may care about that aspect
- Models don't have to manage their dependents
 - A general dependents dictionary stored in the system
 - Can subclass Model instead of Object for more efficiency
- Views need to know their model and the aspect of the model that they care about

Round #3: Adding ClockText



Round #3: Notable for What's Gone

- Clock doesn't know window
- ClockWindow doesn't know its clock
 - ClockWindow won't even know its text!
- ClockText and ClockButtons know their models

How a Clock does nextSecond

nextSecond

```
time := time addTime:
```

(Time fromSeconds: 1).

self changed: #time.

ClockText is dependent on its Clock

model

^model

model: aModel

model := aModel.

aModel addDependent: self.

ClockText handles update:

Creating a ClockText

ClockText class method

```
at: aPosition on: aModel for: aQuery
```

```
text |
```

text := self new.

text position: aPosition.

text model: aModel.

text query: aQuery.

^text

Round #3: Opening a Window

```
openOn: aModel
```

button

position isNil ifTrue: [self error: 'Must set position first.'].

"Open the blank frame"

(Form extent: 200@200) fillWhite displayAt: position.

"Setup the textArea"

ClockText at: (position + (50@50)) on: aModel for: #display.

Opening a Window, Part 2

```
"Draw the Buttons"
```

```
button := ClockButton make: 'Hours +' at: ((position x) @ ((position y)+100)
extent: 100@50) for: aModel triggering: #addHour.
self addButton: button.
button := ClockButton make: 'Hours -' at: (((position x)+100) @ ((position
y)+100) extent: 100@50) for: aModel triggering: #subtractHour.
self addButton: button.
button := ClockButton make: 'Minutes +' at: ((position x) @ ((position
y)+150) extent: 100@50) for: aModel triggering: #addMinute.
self addButton: button.
button := ClockButton make: 'Minutes -' at: (((position x)+100) @ ((position
y)+150) extent: 100@50) for: aModel triggering: #subtractMinute.
self addButton: button.
```

Done with Clock UI Rounds!

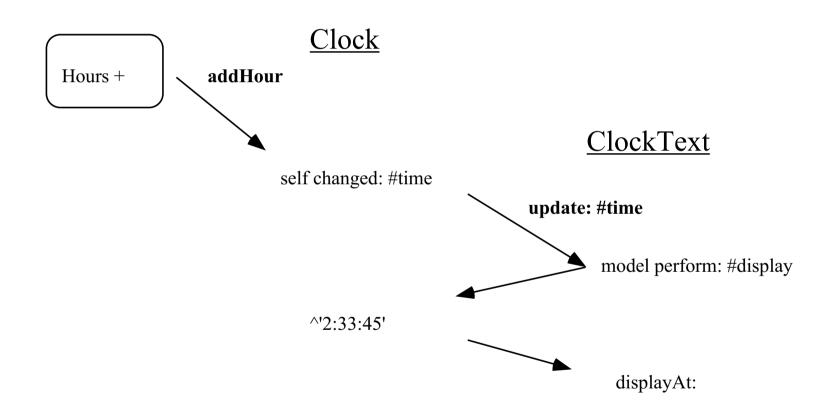
- Note: YOU WILL PROBABLY NEVER NEED TO WRITE CODE LIKE THIS!
 - No update:, but probably changed:
 - Probably never write your own event loop
- But now you know what's inside the toolbooks you use

Strengths and Weaknesses of MVC

Strengths

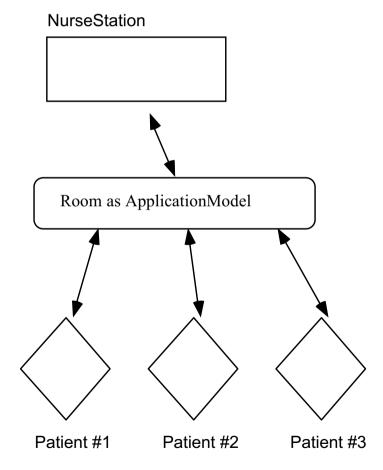
- Clean O-O structure: Minimizes information sharing, easy to maintain
- Can support multiple views on same model
- Weaknesses
 - Inefficient: Trace how an update occurs
 - Especially inefficient for multiple views
 - One view on multiple models breaks down
 - Introduce ApplicationModel
- Research: Maintain the good parts, optimize in

Tracing an MVC Interaction



The Need for ApplicationModels

- When you have a view drawing from multiple models, managing which model did the update is a Responsibility.
- Delegate the Responsibility to a new Model whose role is just that



Pluggable User Interfaces

- ClockButton and ClockText are "pluggable"
 - We simply set the *model* and the *query* and use *perform:*
 - The key parts have become "plugs"
- Pluggable interfaces are easier to use, but less flexible
 - I The decisions of what can be sent between the view and the model have been made for you

Alternative to Pluggable

- The class Button knows how to draw, respond if inControl, and process
 - But process does nothing in the superclass
 - AddHourClockButton defines process as:

```
process
model addHour
```

SubtractMinuteClockButton defines process as:

```
process
model subtractMinute
```

Observation: Only difference is in action message

Pluggable UI Objects in Squeak

- Three key ones: Buttons, Text, and List
- Each defines a set of selectors that can be sent from the view to the model
- Each works in both MVC and Morphic
- All limit you to announce *changed*: to only **defined** selectors.

PluggableButtonView (PluggableButtonMorph)

- Selectors/aspects: state and action
 - Am I on or off?
 - Here's what you should do when I get clicked.

PluggableButtonView Example

From Browser's class button

```
aSwitchView ← PluggableButtonView
        on: self "The browser is the model"
        "It's 'on' if the class messages are being shown"
        getState: #classMessagesIndicated
        "When triggered, class messages should be shown"
        action: #indicateClassMessages.
aSwitchView 8 4 1
        label: 'class': "Label"
        window: (0@0 extent: 15@8); "Size of view"
        "Make sure that no text gets whumped"
        askBeforeChanging: true.
```

PluggableTextView/Morph

- Four selectors/aspects:
 - Retrieve text from model
 - Submits new text to model (nil = Read Only)
 - Current text selection
 - Yellow-button menu

PluggableTextView example

From Celeste:

```
"Set up a StringHolder as a model"
```

textHolder ← StringHolder new .

textHolder contents: initialText. "Set the initial value"

textView ←PluggableTextView

on: textHolder "The textHolder is the model"

text: #contents "Ask for #contents when need the text"

"Send #acceptContents: with the text as an argument to save"

accept: #acceptContents:.

PluggableListView/Morph

- Selectors/aspects:
 - Contents of list
 - Currently selected item
 - Set current selection
 - Yellow-button menu
 - Keystroke handler

PluggableListView example

Browser message category list:

"Browser is the model"

messageCategoryListView ← PluggableListView on: self

"messageCategoryList returns the categories in an array"

list: #messageCategoryList

"messageCategoryListIndex returns an Integer of the current sel"

selected: #messageCategoryListIndex

"when the user changes the selection, messageCategoryListIndex is

sent"

changeSelected: #messageCategoryListIndex:

"MessageCategory has its own menu"

menu: #messageCategoryMenu:.

Simple Text Example Here

- m := MyModel open.
- m gobbledygook "Here is some text."
- m add: 'Here is MORE text.'.
- m changed.

Building a Pluggable Clock: Clock must change slightly

Aspect symbol must equal query message nextSecond

```
time := time addTime: (Time fromSeconds: 1). self changed: #display.
```

ClockWindow openAsMorph for Morphic

```
openAsMorph
    | win component clock |
```

"Create the clock"

clock := Clock new.

clock setTime: (Time now printString).

clock start.

"Create a window for it"

win := SystemWindow labelled: 'Clock'.

win model: self.

openAsMorph, Part 2

```
"Set up the text view and the various pieces"
component := PluggableTextMorph on: clock text: #display accept:
nil.
win addMorph: component frame: (0.3@0.3 extent: 0.3@0.3).
component := PluggableButtonMorph new
     model: clock;
     action: #addHour;
     label: 'Hours +';
     borderWidth: 1.
win addMorph: component frame: (0@0.6 extent: 0.5@0.2).
```

openAsMorph, part 3

```
"Rest of Buttons..."

component := PluggableButtonMorph new

model: clock;
action: #stop;
label: 'STOP';
borderWidth: 1.

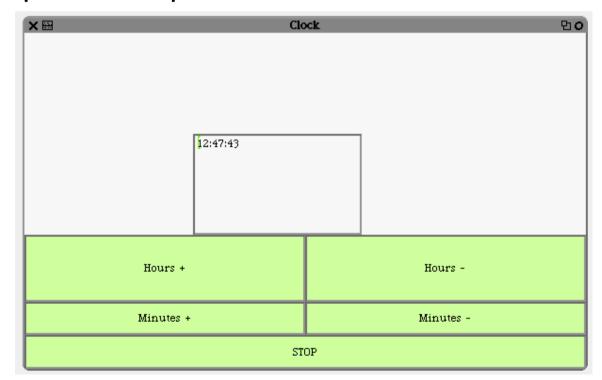
win addMorph: component frame: (0@0.9 extent: 1@0.1).

win openInWorld.

^win
```

Pluggable Clock UI in Morphic

- w := ClockWindow new.
- w openAsMorph.

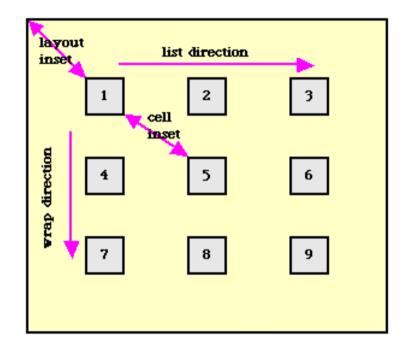


What if you want to control where things go?

- Every Morph has a LayoutPolicy (set with layoutPolicy:)
 - SystemWindows by default use a ProportionalLayout (layoutPolicy: (ProportionalLayout new)) which allows for fractional positioning
 - Any Morph can also use a TableLayout (layoutPolicy: (TableLayout new)) which can lay things out dynamically.
 - AlignmentMorphs provide some default class methods for creating well-formed layouts, like columns and rows.

More on TableLayouts

- Table layouts dynamically position things as they're added
- They are inset from the edges (layoutInset:) and from each other (cellInset:)
- They define adding in onedimension (listDirection:
 #leftToRight) and twodimensions (wrapDirection:
 #topToBottom)



Picture by Andreas Raab

Sizing in TableLayouts

- Sizing of objects is controlled by vResizing: and hResizing:
- Most common options:
 - #shrinkWrap—fit tightly around submorphs
 - #spaceFill—take up as much space as owner allows
 - #rigid—no automatic resizing
- Can also control listCentering: (#topLeft, #center, etc.)
- Lots of other options, e.g., spaceFillWeight which gives one object precedence over others

Using an AlignmentMorph for positioning

```
openAsMorph2
    | win component filler clock |
    "Create the clock"
   clock := Clock new.
   clock setTime: (Time now printString).
   clock start.
   "Create a window for it"
   win := SystemWindow labelled: 'Clock'.
   win model: self.
    "Set up the text view and the various pieces"
   filler := AlignmentMorph newRow.
   filler listCentering: #center.
   win addMorph: filler frame: (0@0 extent: 1.0@0.6).
   component := PluggableTextMorph on: clock text: #display accept: nil.
   filler addMorph: component.
```

Menus in Pluggable Interfaces

CustomMenu "From Celeste"

labels:

'again\undo\copy\cut\paste\format\accept\cancel compose\reply\forward' withCRs "Turn \$\ into CR"

lines: #(2 5 6 8)

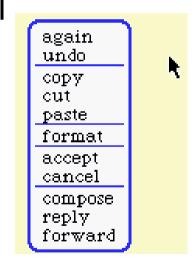
selections: #(again undo

copySelection cut paste format accept

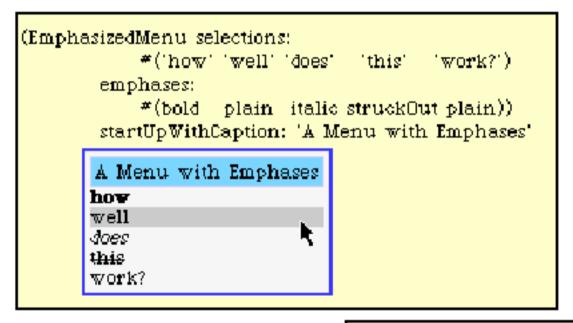
cancel compose reply forward)

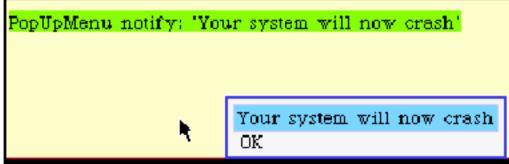
"Send startUp to get it to appear.

Selection is returned."



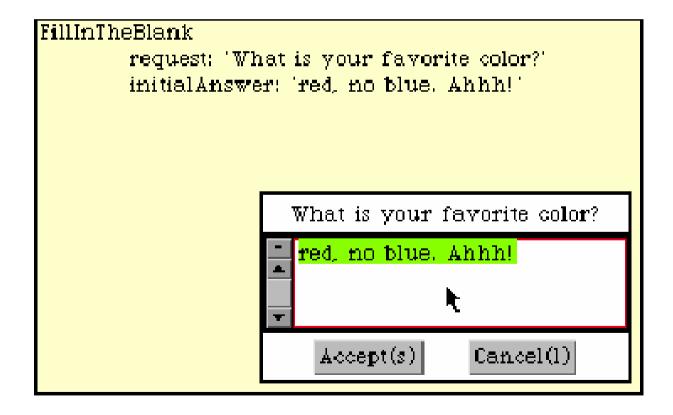
Other and Simpler Menus





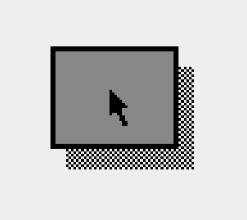
Simple Dialog

FillInTheBlank



Introduction to Morphic

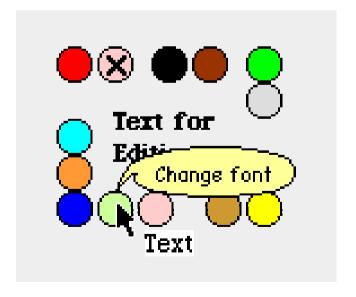
- Any object can be a window
 - All on-screen objects are subclass of *Morph* so common behavior is assured
 - For example, moving things leaves a shadow
 - Morphic objects are:
 - Concrete
 - Uniform
 - Flexible



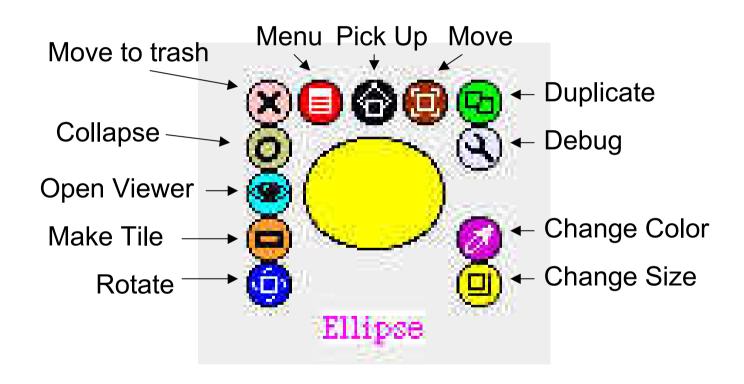
Select Any Morph to Manipulate In Standard Ways

| System | Morphic Selection |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Macintosh | Command-Click |
| Windows | Control-Alt-Click |
| UNIX | Right-Click |





Description



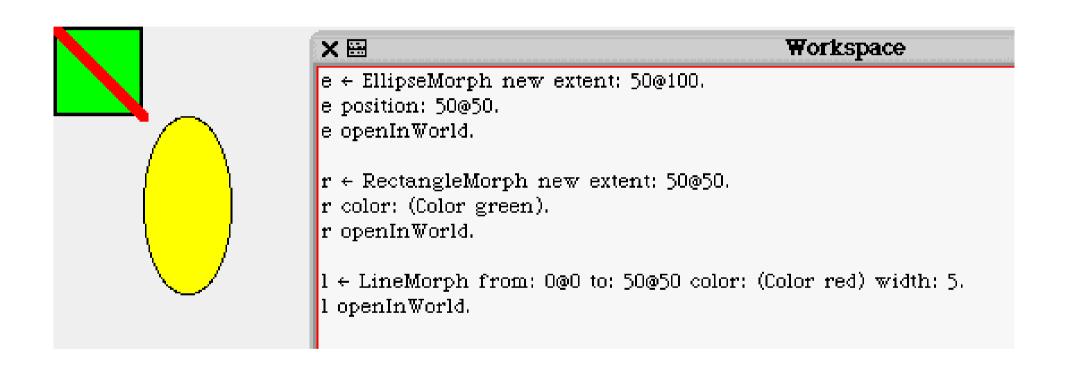
Morphs can be composed

- Morphic-select something.
 - Repeat to walk through owners and submorphs
 - Shift-Morphic-Select to go inner-toouter
- Find submorphs also by inspecting or exploring
 - Available through debug options in Red-Halo Menu

Creating Morphs

- Use the Objects menu from World menu
- Grab them from the flaps (Supplies, Widgets)
- Use the New Morph menu
- Send "new openInWorld" to Morph class

Some Example Morphs



Programming Morphic from the Viewer Framework

Develop the Falling Object Simulation to these:

```
Rectangle script1
                                       X
                      mouseDown
Rectangle make sound 🗣 clink
Ellipse's 🗣 y ← Ellipse's y 🗣+ 🗣100 🕨
Ellipse's 🏺 velocity 🔫 🏺 0 🕨
                                 X
       Ellipse fall ticking
     Ellipse's 🗣 velocity 🛨 🗣 1 👇 + Ellipse's | velocity 🕨
     Ellipse forward by Ellipse's velocity
```

Class-based vs. Prototypebased Inheritance

Class-based

- You create a class that defines data structure and behavior
- Instances are made of that class

Prototype-based

- You create an instance and give it data and behavior
- You can create instances off the instance
- Some things get inherited, others may not

Prototype-based Inheritance

- Strengths
 - Easier to get started and build something
 - Works well for rapid prototyping
- Weaknesses
 - Harder to maintain

Programming in Morphic

- Key instance variables and properties that Morphs share
 - Both Morph and MorphExtension
- Handling Morphic Events
- Animating Morphs
- Providing menus to Morphs
- Structure of Morphic
- Programming a Morphic Falling Object

Overall Structure of Morphic

- All morphs in a project live in the World (instance of PasteUpMorph)
 - Worlds have a Canvas that handles display of all morphs
- The World contains one or more Hands (cursor)
 - Hands interpret user events and pass them on to morphs (e.g., event loop)
 - Hands also deal with generation of menus as needed
- The World sends step messages at regular intervals to morphs to allow updating over time

Instance Variables and Properties

- bounds: Rectangle defining shape of the morph. Change it resize or move.
- owner: Containing morph.
- submorphs: Contained morphs (addMorph: to change)
- color
- name
 - Well, not actually...

The Morph annex: extension

- MorphExtension knows
 - balloonText, balloonTextSelector
 - visible
 - locked: Locked morphs can't be selected (lock and unlock)
 - sticky: Sticky morphs can't be moved (toggleStickiness)
 - otherProperties: A Dictionary to store more

Morphic Events

- When the Hand Morph detects an event:
 - Create a MorphicEvent
 - Can't poll it, but can ask it redButtonPressed
 - Appropriate MorphicEvent is passed to object under the Hand by sending the corresponding message

Handling Morphic Events

- To handle mouse down:
 - Have a method handlesMouseDown which inputs MorphicEvent and returns true
 - Have a method named mouseDown: which takes a MorphicEvent and processes it
- MouseUp/MouseOver
 - handlesMouseUp:/mouseUp:
 - handlesMouseOver:/mouseOver:

More Event Handling

- MouseEnter/MouseLeave
 - handlesMouseOver: returns true
 - mouseEnter:/mouseLeave:
- MouseMove (within the morph)
 - handlesMouseDown:
 - mouseMove:
- Keystrokes
 - Return *true* for *hasFocus*
 - Accept events in keyStroke:
 - keyboardFocusChange: will tell you of change

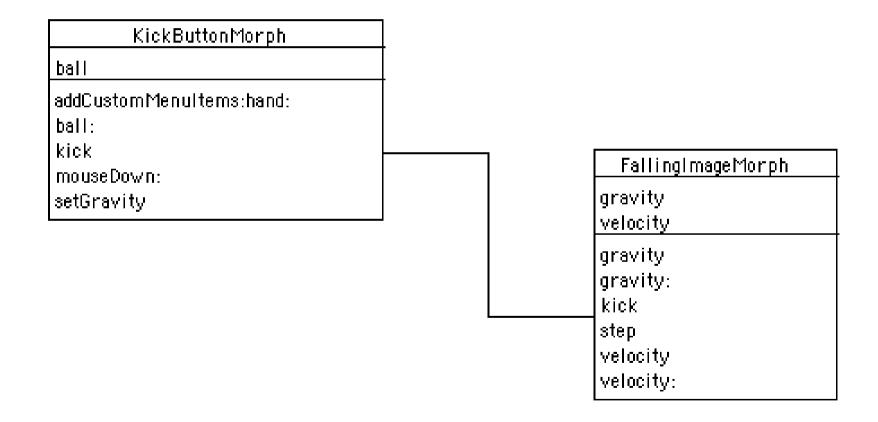
Animation

- Morphic interfaces are designed to animate
- step is sent to all morphs
- stepTime is interval for step (number in milliseconds)

Custom Menus in Morphic

- addCustomMenuItems: aCustomMenu hand: aHandMorph
 - Called when red-halo (menu halo) or controlclick menu is requested
 - You can add with add:action: or others
 - First, do super addCustomMenuItems: aCustomMenu hand: aHandMorph

Falling Object in Morphic



Subclassing

(Could use SimpleButtonMorph, but too easy)

```
ImageMorph subclass: #FallingImageMorph instanceVariableNames: 'velocity gravity' classVariableNames: " poolDictionaries: " category: 'Morphic-Demo' RectangleMorph subclass: #KickButtonMorph instanceVariableNames: 'ball' classVariableNamesa: " poolDictionaries: " category: 'Morphic-Demo'
```

Making the Falling Object fall

step

```
velocity := velocity + gravity. "Increase velocity
by gravitational constant"
self bounds: (self bounds translateBy:
(0@(velocity))).
```

stepTime

"Amount of time in milliseconds between steps" ^1000

Kicking the object

kick

```
velocity := 0. "Set velocity to zero" self bounds: (self bounds translateBy: (0@(100 negated))).
```

Initializing the Falling Object

initialize

super initialize. "Do normal image."

velocity := 0. "Start out not falling."

gravity := 1. "Acceleration due to gravity."

Implementing the Kicker

handlesMouseDown: evt

"Yes, handle mouse down"

^true

mouseDown: evt

self kick.

kick

ball kick.

Initialize to make it Button-ish

initialize

```
| myLabel |
super initialize. "It's a normal rectangle plus..."
```

myLabel := StringMorph new initialize.

myLabel contents: 'KickTheBall'.

self extent: (myLabel extent). "Make the rectangle big enough for the label"

self addMorph: myLabel.

self center: (Sensor mousePoint). "Put it wherever the mouse is."

Allowing changing gravity

```
addCustomMenuItems: aCustomMenu hand: aHandMorph
```

super addCustomMenuItems: aCustomMenu hand: aHandMorph. "Do normal stuff"

aCustomMenu add: 'set gravity' action: #setGravity.

setGravity

"Set the gravity of the ball"

newGravity |

newGravity := FillInTheBlank request: 'New gravity' initialAnswer: ball gravity printString.

ball gravity: (newGravity asNumber).

Running the Simulation

aBall := FallingImageMorph new initialize.

aBall newForm: (Form fromUser).

aKicker := KickButtonMorph new initialize.

aKicker ball: aBall.

aBall openInWorld.

aKicker openInWorld.

Morphic vs. MVC

- MVC (world-view, not paradigm)
 - Is faster than Morphic
 - Is less elegant
 - Doesn't support multimedia like Morphic
- Morphic
 - Is slower
 - Is better looking, more flexible, more powerful
 - Can do multimedia

Can we do MVC (paradigm) in Morphic?

- In terms of changed-update and dependencies, SURE!
- We can't really do controllers in Morphic
 - They're built-in to the World
- But most Morphic interfaces either:
 - Combine model and view
 - Or use *step* to poll the model