

Do You Know?

Set 2

The source code for the BoxBug class can be found in the `boxBug` directory.

1. What is the role of the instance variable `sideLength`?

Answer: The variable `sideLength` defines the maximum number of steps a BoxBug move on each side of its box.

2. What is the role of the instance variable `steps`?

Answer: The instance variable `steps` records the number of steps the BoxBug have already moved on the current side of its box.

3. Why is the `turn` method called twice when `steps` becomes equal to `sideLength`?

Answer: When `steps` becomes equal to `sideLength`, a BoxBug needs to turn right 90 degrees to the next side of its box. Because the `turn` method called once will just make the BoxBug turn 45 degrees, the `turn` method should be called twice.

4. Why can the `move` method be called in the BoxBug class when there is no `move` method in the BoxBug code?

Answer: Since the BoxBug class extends the Bug class which has a public method `move`, it inherits the method `move` from the Bug class.

5. After a BoxBug is constructed, will the size of its square pattern always be the same? Why or why not?

Answer: Yes. When a BoxBug is constructed, the parameter `sideLength` is determined. That is, the size of its square pattern is determined and cannot be changed. So the size of its square pattern always be the same.

6. Can the path a BoxBug travels ever change? Why or why not?

Answer: Yes. When the BoxBug advances the reverse is blocked by Rock or another Bug, the BoxBug will change direction and start a new box path.

7. When will the value of `steps` be zero?

Answer: First, the value of `steps` is zero when a BoxBug is constructed. Second, the value of `steps` will be set to zero when the BoxBug has completed one side of its box path and turn to another side, or when the BoxBug advances the reverse is blocked and has to change direction.

Exercises

In the following exercises, write a new class that extends the Bug class. Override the `act` method to define the new behavior.

1. Write a class `CircleBug` that is identical to `BoxBug`, except that in the `act` method the `turn` method is called once instead of twice. How is its behavior different from a `BoxBug`?

Answer: The shape of a `CircleBug` moves is circle instead of square.

5. Study the code for the BoxBugRunner class. Summarize the steps you would use to add another BoxBug actor to the grid.

Answer: First, create a new BoxBug object with the given length.

BoxBug someone = new BoxBug(4);

Second, add the new BoxBug object to the world.

World.add(new Location(3,8), someone);