



Further abstraction techniques

Abstract classes and interfaces



Main concepts to be covered

- Abstract classes
- Interfaces
- Multiple inheritance



Simulations

- Programs regularly used to simulate real-world activities:
 - city traffic;
 - the weather;
 - nuclear processes;
 - stock market fluctuations;
 - environmental impacts;
 - space flight.



Simulations

- They are often only partial simulations.
- They often involve simplifications.
 - Greater detail has the potential to provide greater accuracy.
 - Greater detail typically requires more resource:
 - Processing power;
 - Simulation time.



Benefits of simulations

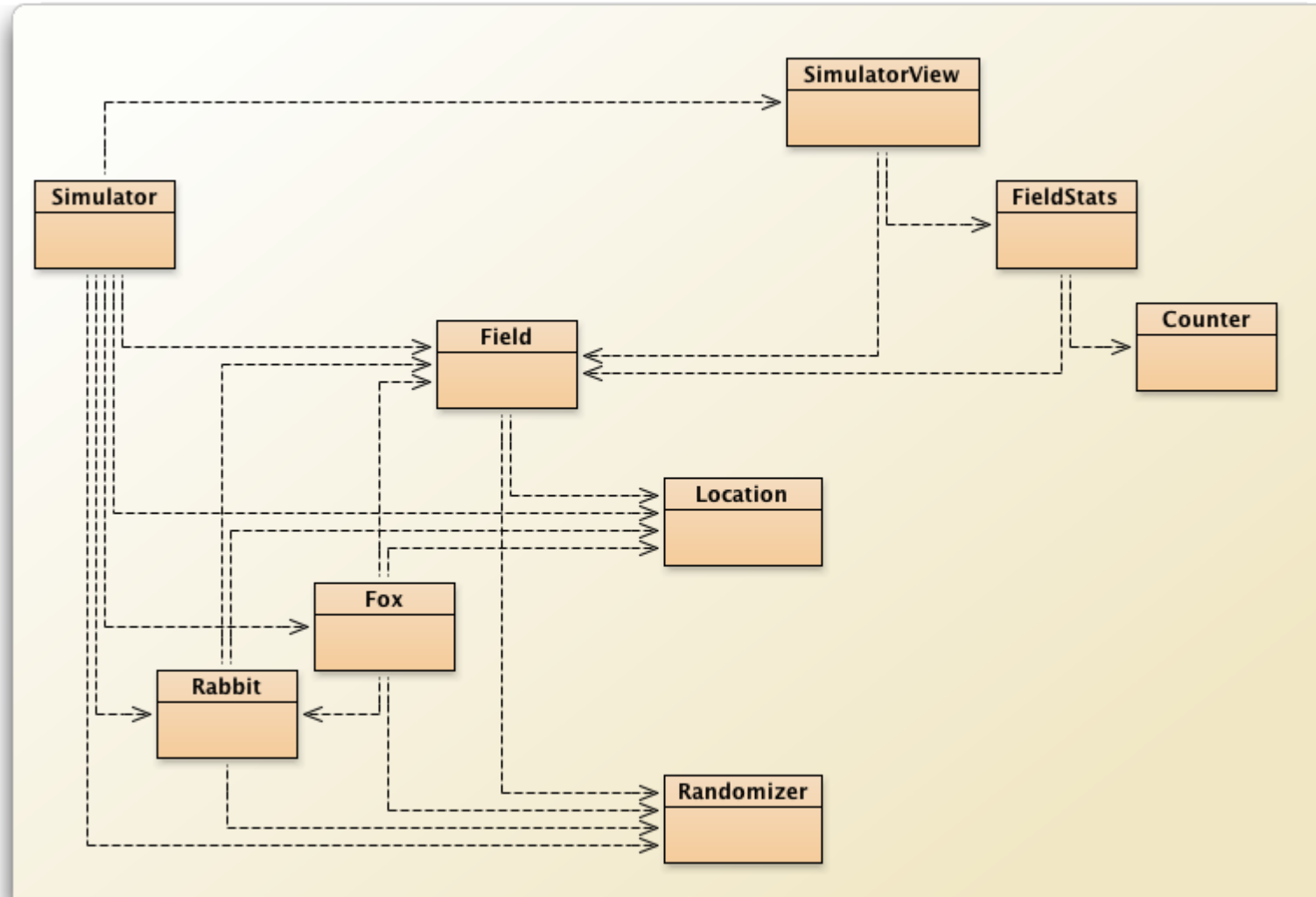
- Support useful prediction.
 - E.g., the weather.
- Allow experimentation.
 - Safer, cheaper, quicker.
- Our example:
 - ‘How will the wildlife be affected if we cut a highway through the middle of this national park?’



Predator-prey simulations

- There is often a delicate balance between species.
 - A lot of prey means a lot of food.
 - A lot of food encourages higher predator numbers.
 - More predators eat more prey.
 - Less prey means less food.
 - Less food means ...

The foxes-and-rabbits project





Oppgave!

- Åpne *foxes-and-rabbits-v1*-prosjektet.
- Finn ut hvordan du kan simulere 50 steg.
- Simulér 50 steg.
- Noter hvor mange kaniner og rever du har.
- Forsøk å resette simuleringen og kjør de 50 første stegene på nytt. Får du samme antall rever og kaniner som sist?



Regression testing

- Kap 9.4: “Regression testing involves rerunning tests that have previously passed, to ensure that the new version still passes them.”



Main classes of interest

- **Fox**
 - Simple model of a type of predator.
- **Rabbit**
 - Simple model of a type of prey.
- **Simulator**
 - Manages the overall simulation task.
 - Holds a collection of foxes and rabbits.



Modeling the environment

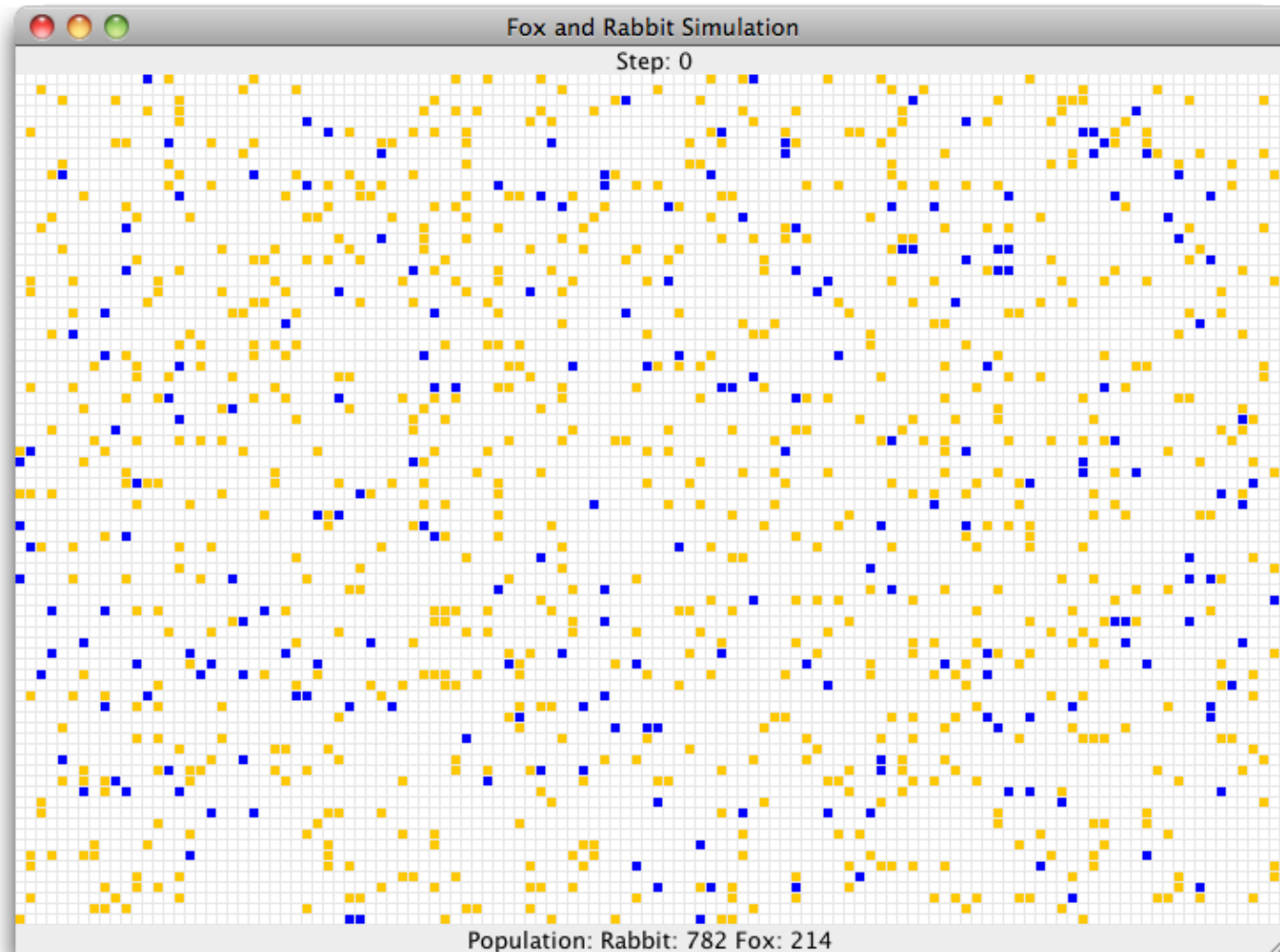
- **Field**
 - Represents a 2D field.
- **Location**
 - Represents a 2D position in the environment.



Monitoring the simulation

- **SimulatorView**
 - Presents a view of the environment.
- **FieldStats, Counter**
 - Maintain statistics.
- **Randomizer**
 - Supports reproducibility.

Example of the visualization



A Rabbit's state

```
public class Rabbit
{
    Static fields omitted.

    // Individual characteristics (instance fields).

    // The rabbit's age.
    private int age;
    // Whether the rabbit is alive or not.
    private boolean alive;
    // The rabbit's position
    private Location location;
    // The field occupied
    private Field field;

    Methods omitted.
}
```



A Rabbit's behavior

- Managed from the `run` method.
- Age incremented at each simulation 'step'.
 - A rabbit could die at this point.
- Rabbits that are old enough might breed at each step.
 - New rabbits could be born at this point.



Rabbit simplifications

- Rabbits do not have different genders.
 - In effect, all are female.
- The same rabbit could breed at every step.
- All rabbits die at the same age.
- Others?

A Fox's state

```
public class Fox
{
    Static fields omitted

    // The fox's age.
    private int age;
    // Whether the fox is alive or not.
    private boolean alive;
    // The fox's position
    private Location location;
    // The field occupied
    private Field field;
    // The fox's food level, which is increased
    // by eating rabbits.
    private int foodLevel;

    Methods omitted.
}
```



A Fox' s behavior

- Managed from the **hunt** method.
- Foxes also age and breed.
- They become hungry.
- They hunt for food in adjacent locations.

A close-up photograph of a fox's face and paws. The fox has light-colored fur with a dark stripe around its eye. Its paws are visible as it grips a rough, brown tree branch. The background is blurred, showing more of the branch and some foliage.

Configuration of foxes

- Similar simplifications to rabbits.
- Hunting and eating could be modeled in many different ways.
 - Should food level be additive?
 - Is a hungry fox more or less likely to hunt?
- Are simplifications ever acceptable?



The Simulator class

- Three key components:
 - Setup in the constructor.
 - The **populate** method.
 - Each animal is given a random starting age.
 - The **simulateOneStep** method.
 - Iterates over separate populations of foxes and rabbits.
 - Two **Field** objects are used: **field** and **updatedField**.

The update step

```
for(Iterator<Rabbit> it = rabbits.iterator();
    it.hasNext(); ) {
    Rabbit rabbit = it.next();
    rabbit.run(newRabbits);
    if(! rabbit.isAlive()) {
        it.remove();
    }
}
...
for(Iterator<Fox> it = foxes.iterator();
    it.hasNext(); ) {
    Fox fox = it.next();
    fox.hunt(newFoxes);
    if(! fox.isAlive()) {
        it.remove();
    }
}
```



Iterator

- Fra forrige semester: Iterere over en samling av elementer der vi kanskje skal endre samlingen underveis... (Kap 4.12.2)



Room for improvement

- **Fox** and **Rabbit** have strong similarities but do not have a common superclass.
- The update step involves similar-looking code.
- The **Simulator** is tightly coupled to specific classes.
 - It ‘knows’ a lot about the behavior of foxes and rabbits.



The Animal superclass

- Place common fields in **Animal**:
 - **age, alive, location**
- Method renaming to support information hiding:
 - **run** and **hunt** become **act**.
- **Simulator** can now be significantly decoupled.

Revised (decoupled) iteration

```
for(Iterator<Animal> it = animals.iterator();  
    it.hasNext(); ) {  
    Animal animal = iter.next();  
    animal.act(newAnimals);  
    // Remove dead animals from simulation  
    if(! animal.isAlive()) {  
        it.remove();  
    }  
}
```



The `act` method of `Animal`

- Static type checking requires an `act` method in `Animal`.
- There is no obvious shared implementation.
- Define `act` as abstract:

```
abstract public void act(List<Animal> newAnimals) ;
```



Abstract classes and methods

- Abstract methods have **abstract** in the signature.
- Abstract methods have no body.
- Abstract methods make the class abstract.
- *Abstract classes cannot be instantiated.*
- Concrete subclasses complete the implementation.

The Animal class

```
public abstract class Animal
{
    fields omitted

    /**
     * Make this animal act - that is: make it do
     * whatever it wants/needs to do.
     */
    abstract public void act(List<Animal> newAnimals);

    other methods omitted
}
```




Review

- Abstract methods allow static type checking without requiring implementation.
- Abstract classes function as incomplete superclasses.
 - No instances.
- Abstract classes support polymorphism.



Øving

- Skjer på Fjerdingen (sjekk TimeEdit).
- Nå: Kahoot😊