

Responding to the mouse

- Sliders, buttons, and other widgets, have built-in ways of responding to movements of the mouse, and to clicks of the mouse button when the cursor is positioned over them
- We may need to program an application to respond to such events occurring when the cursor is not positioned over any displayed widgets
 - For example: In a garden layout design program we may need to click at all the places where we want trees planted (that is, displayed)
- There are two groups of mouse events and event handlers:
 - The **MouseListener** mechanism (mainly click events)
 - The **MouseMotionListener** mechanism (moving and dragging)

The MouseListener mechanism

- The program implements **MouseListener**, and registers itself in **createGUI** as interested in mouse events within the drawing panel using:
`panel.addMouseListener(this);`
- Then it must contain definitions of five event handling methods
- Here are three obvious ones:
 - Called when the mouse button has been pressed and released without moving ("clicked"):
`public void mouseClicked(MouseEvent e) { }`
 - Called when a mouse button has been pressed:
`public void mousePressed(MouseEvent e) { }`
 - Called when a mouse button has been released:
`public void mouseReleased(MouseEvent e) { }`
- Note: The empty method bodies {} must be filled in as needed

- There are two others, of less general use:
 - Called when the mouse moves over the window:
`public void mouseEntered(MouseEvent e) { }`
 - Called when the mouse moves off the window:
`public void mouseExited(MouseEvent e) { }`
- So, we can fine-tune the way our programs respond to mouse clicks in quite a detailed way
 - We can choose *which* events the program responds to by adding event handling code to the appropriate method body(ies)
 - But *all* method definitions *must* be present in at least the minimal forms above
- Within the methods we can obtain the coordinates of the cursor when the event occurred using library methods:

```
x = e.getX();      // Both ints
y = e.getY();
```

Example: Message jumps to mouse click location (outline)

```
private int x = 50, y = 50;

// In createGUI
panel.addMouseListener(this);

public void mouseClicked(MouseEvent e) {
    x = e.getX();
    y = e.getY();
    Graphics g = ...;
    paintScreen(g);
}

private void paintScreen(Graphics g) {
    g.drawString("Hello World", x, y);
}
```

Note: So x, y
are relative
to the panel



The MouseMotionListener mechanism

- The program **implements MouseMotionListener**, and registers itself in **createGUI** as interested in mouse events using:

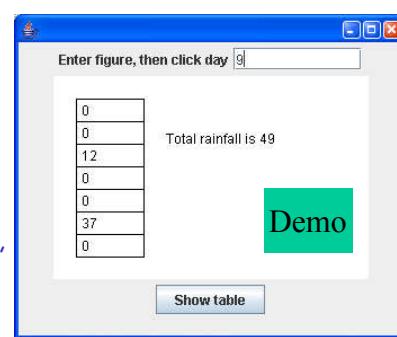

```
addMouseMotionListener(this);
```
- It *must* contain definitions of *two* event handling methods:
 - Called when the mouse is moved a little with no buttons held down:


```
public void mouseMoved(MouseEvent e) { }
```
 - Called when the mouse is moved a little with a button held down:

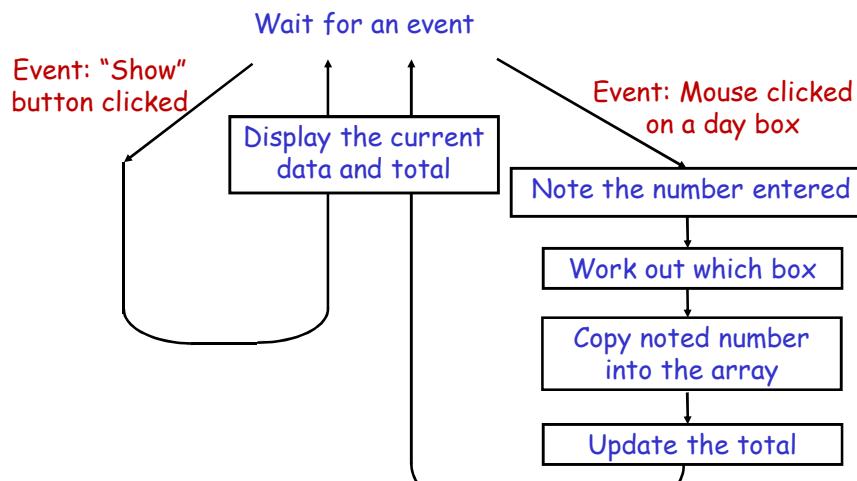

```
public void mouseDragged(MouseEvent e) { }
```
- If the mouse is moved/dragged continuously, then these events happen repeatedly (and frequently!)
- Other details are as for **MouseListener**

Example: The Rainfall program

- This program manages a list of seven integers representing the rainfall on the seven days in a week:
 - Data is entered by typing a number into the text field, then clicking on a day box
 - The total rainfall for the week is always on display
- The day boxes are *drawn* - they are not widgets
- The program makes use of a one-dimensional array, a text field, and a **mouseClicked** event handler
- (There is also a "Show table" button to force initial display of the table)



- Apart from the `main` launch, there are only *two* relevant events, so the behaviour design is like this:



Mouse handling
© University of Stirling

7

The Rainfall program

(focusing on the array and mouse aspects)

```

public class Rainfall extends JFrame
    implements MouseListener, ActionListener {

    // Size constant and array creation
    private final int tableSize = 7;
    private int[] rain = new int[tableSize];
    private int sum;           // For the total

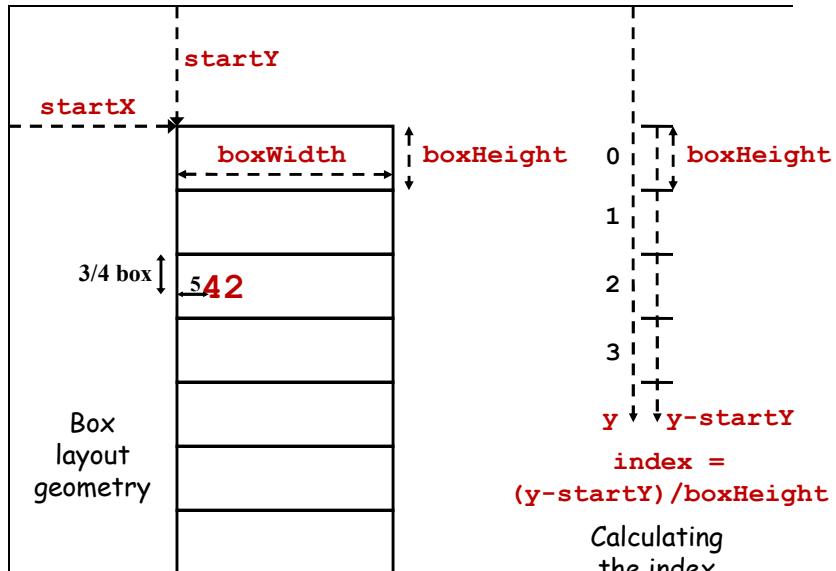
    private void createGUI() {
        // Initialize array to 0s and set up GUI
        for (int day = 0; day < tableSize; day++)
            rain[day] = 0;
        sum = 0;

        ... (usual window set up) ...
        panel.addMouseListener(this);
    } // createGUI
  
```

Mouse handling
© University of Stirling

8

`paintScreen` draws the following box layout:



```
public void mouseClicked(MouseEvent e) {
    // Get data and y coord
    int newValue = Integer.parseInt(value.getText());
    int y = e.getY();
    if (startY <= y && // Check validity of y
        y <= startY+tableSize*boxHeight) {
        // OK, calculate index of box
        int index = (y - startY)/boxHeight;
        rain[index] = newValue;      // Insert into array
    }
    value.setText("");           // Clear the text field
    addValues();                 // Recompute total
    ... (redraw the screen) ...
} // mouseClicked
```

Ideally we should also check that the x coordinate of the mouse click is in the correct range from `startX` to `startX+boxWidth`

End of lecture