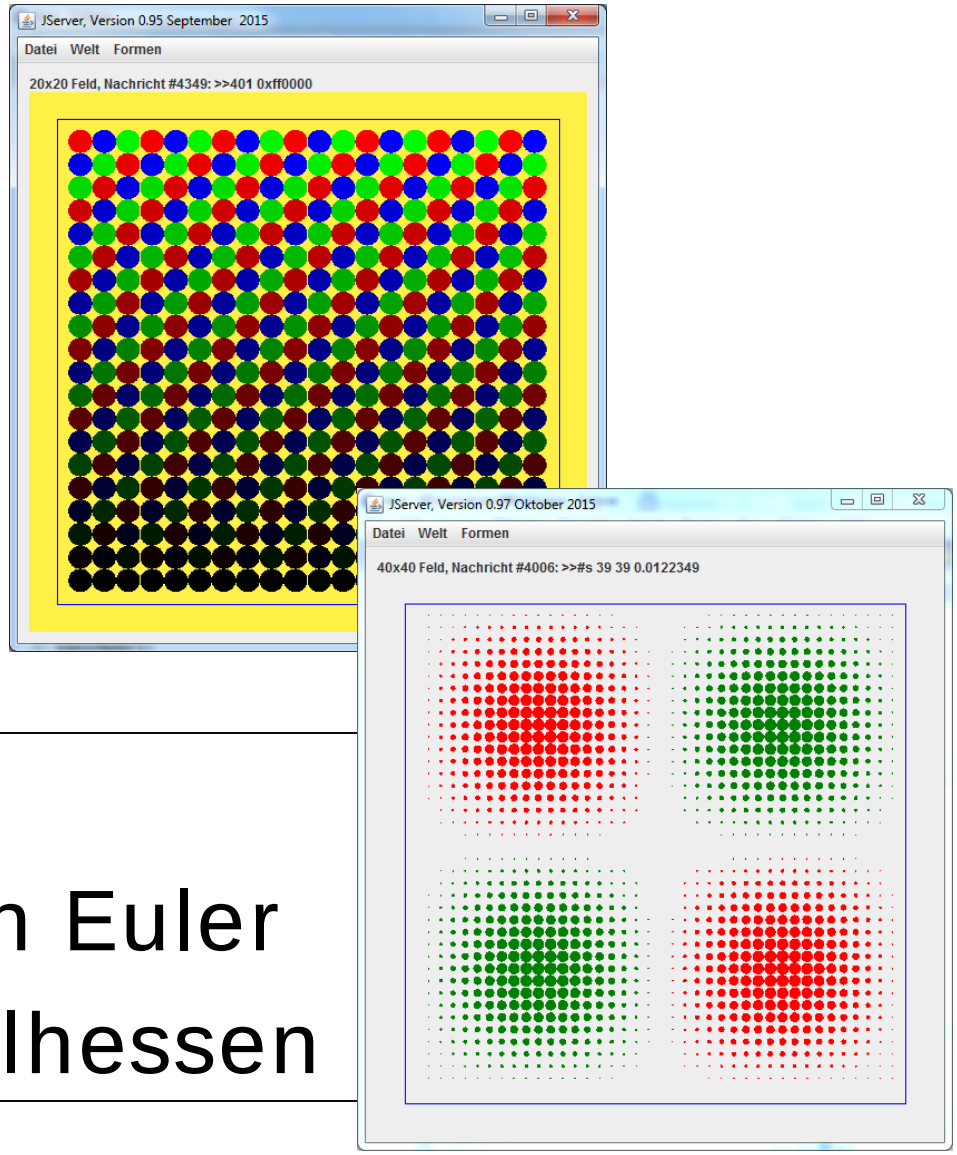
Board of Symbols



Stephan Euler
TH Mittelhessen

Programming:
possibilities and expectations

Programming

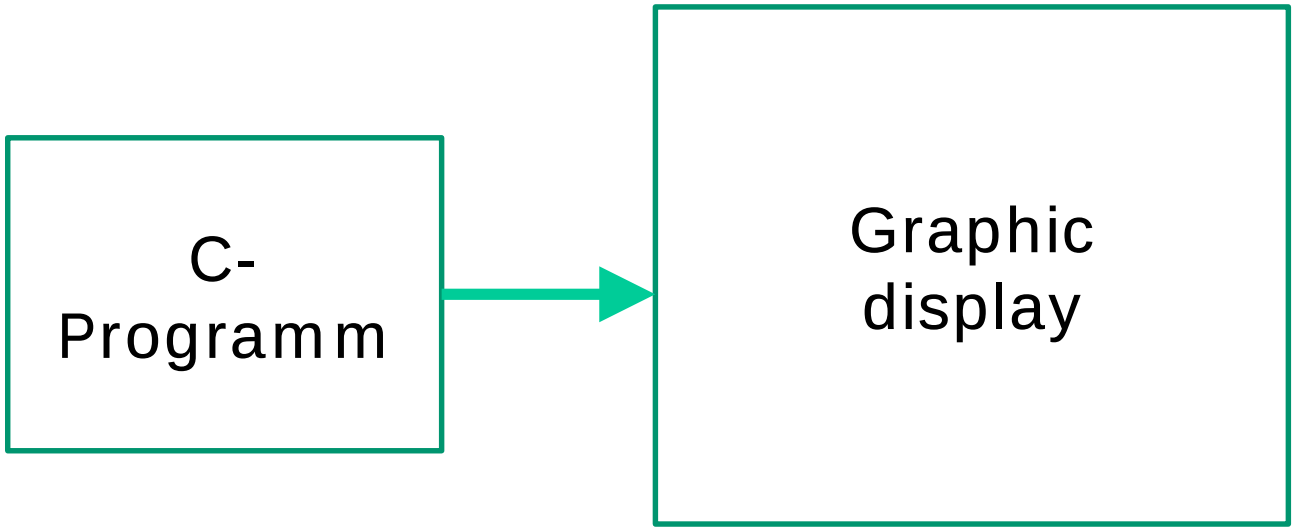
Experience from lectures:

- Many students have problems with programming
- Low motivation

Improvement

- Start with graphical output
- Not only text output in console window

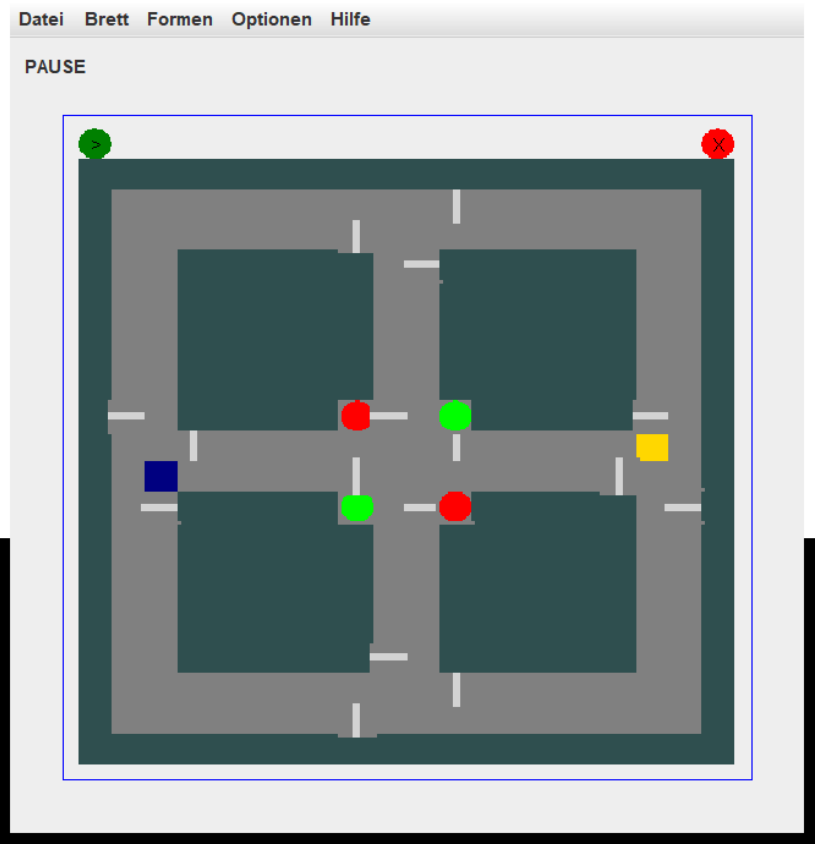
First idea



What we have now

```
            break;
    case (8):
            color = YELLOW;
            form2(x, y, "c");
            hintergrund2(x, y, GRAY);
            break;
    case(9):
            color = RED;
            form2(x, y, "c");
            hintergrund2(x, y, GRAY);
            break;
    default:
```

```
D:\projekte\prog-tools\bos-demo\TrafficLight.exe
Tick 343
Tick 344
Tick 345
Tick 346
Tick 347
Tick 348
Tick 349
Tick 350
Tick 351
Tick 352
Tick 353
PAUSE
```



Requirements

- Easy to use
- Accompany users from an simple entry to fairly challenging projects
- Room for creativity
- Java-based
- Interface to C

Concept

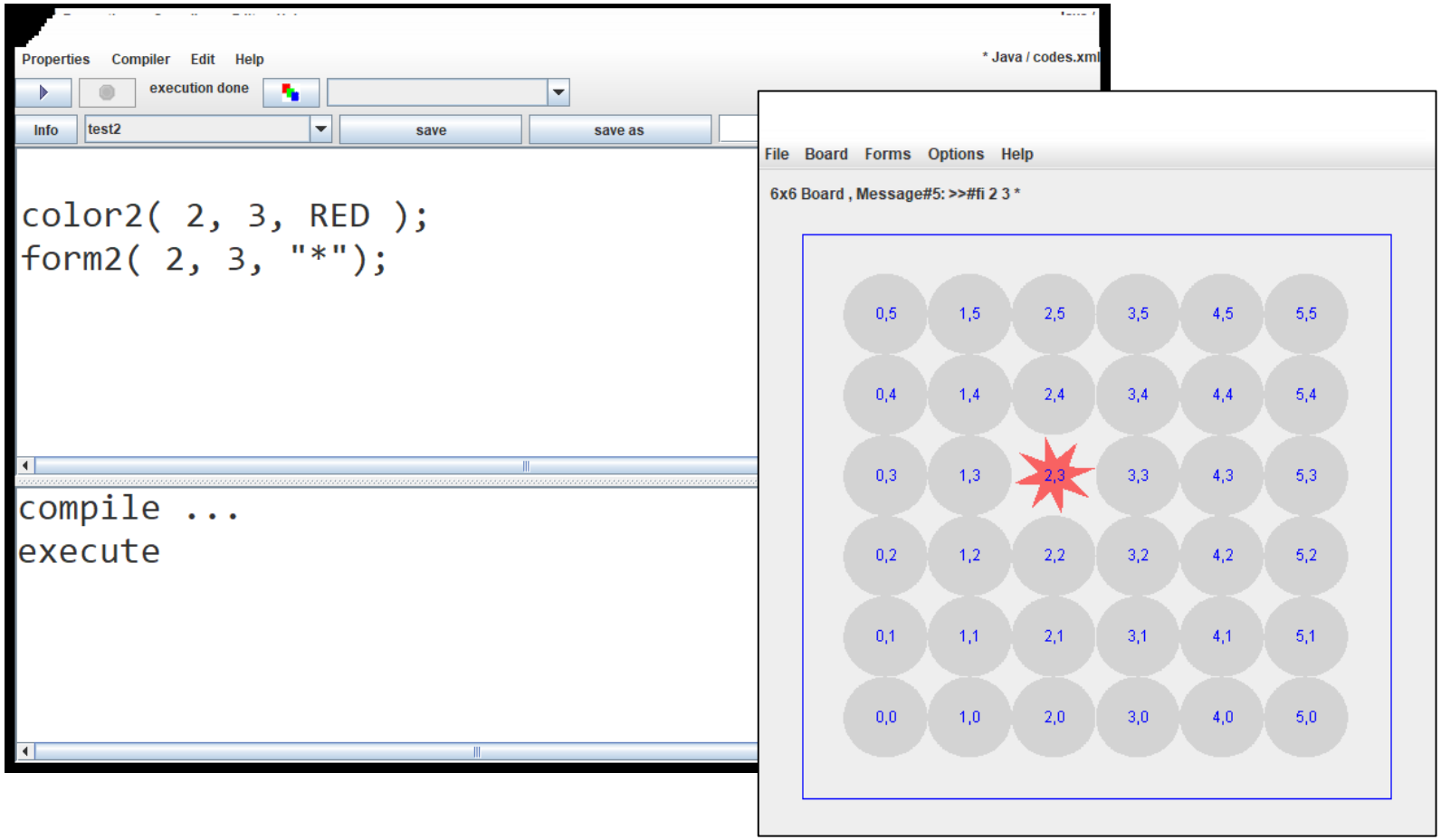
- Board with N x M squares (similar to board in games such as chess or checkers)
- Symbols are placed on squares
- Symbols have
  - Shape
  - Color
  - Background color
  - Size
  - Text content
  - …
- Functions to change symbol properties:

```
color2( x, y, BLUE )
```

Snippet mode

- Build-in editor
- Provides color chooser and function templates
- Adds boilerplate code e. g. to complete Java class with main method
- Stores and retrieves code snippets (XML file)

Example snippet

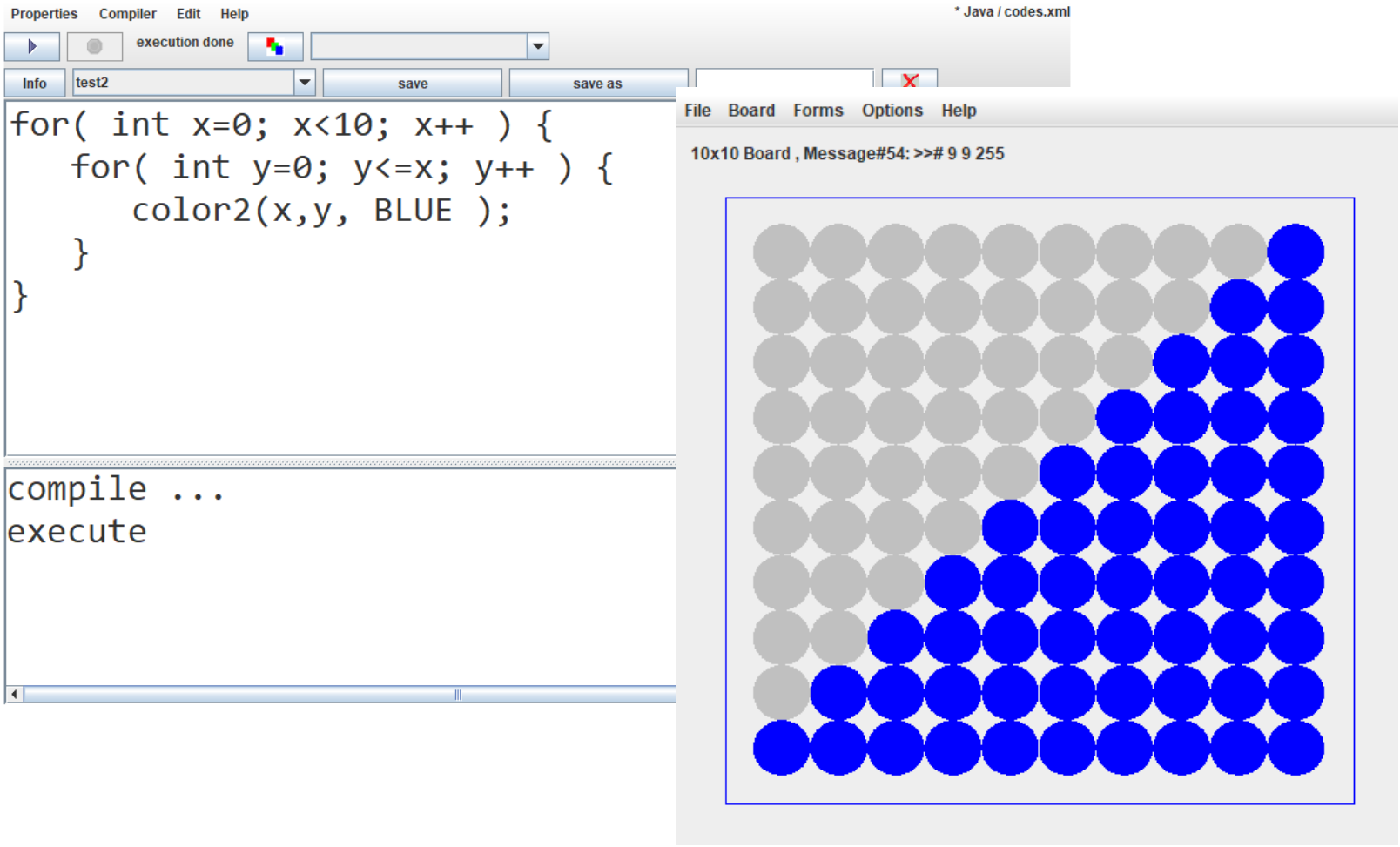


Where we use BoS

Code snippets	Variables, data types, operands
Trainer	Control structures
	Arrays, methods
	algorithms
Application mode	GUI

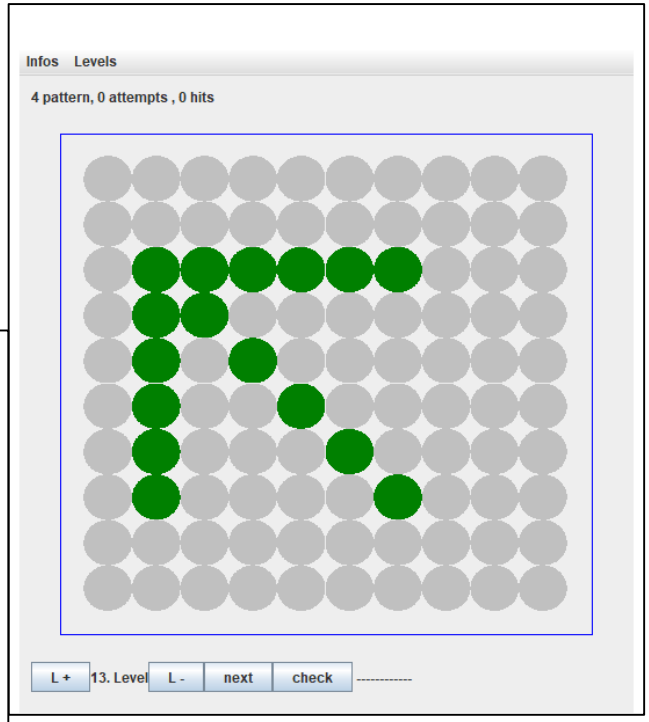
First task: program a letter

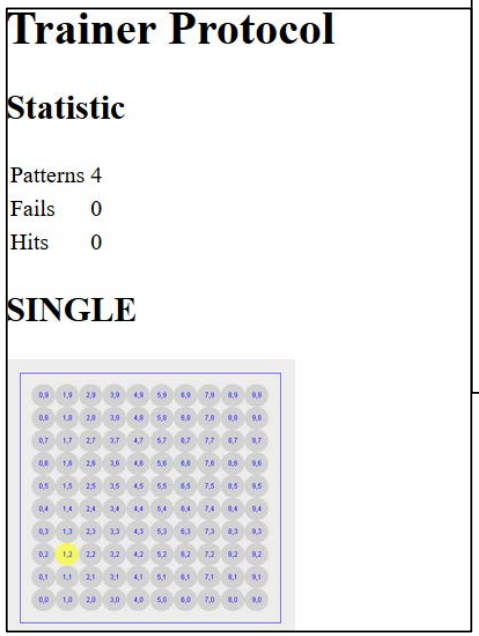
Visualisation of loops



Trainer

- Generates pattern
- Different levels
- Checks solution
- Protocol





Where we use BoS

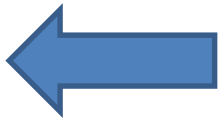
Code snippets — Variables, data types, operands

Trainer — Control structures

Arrays, methods

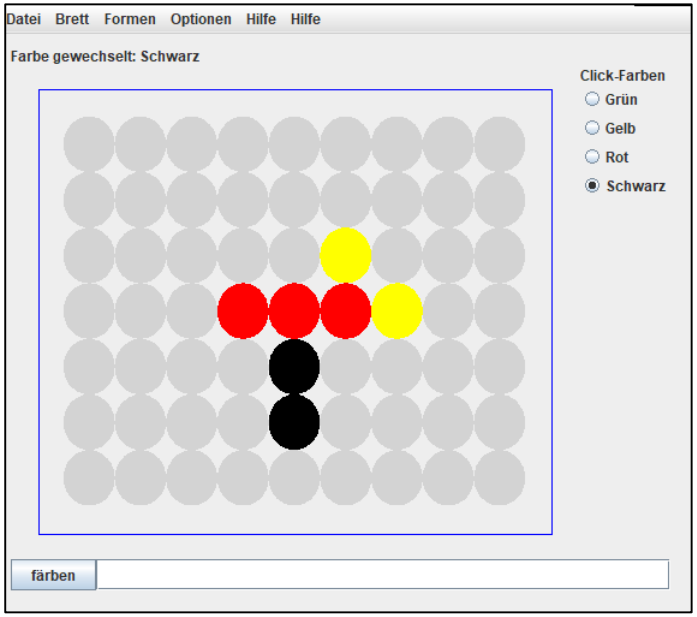
algorithms

Application mode — GUI

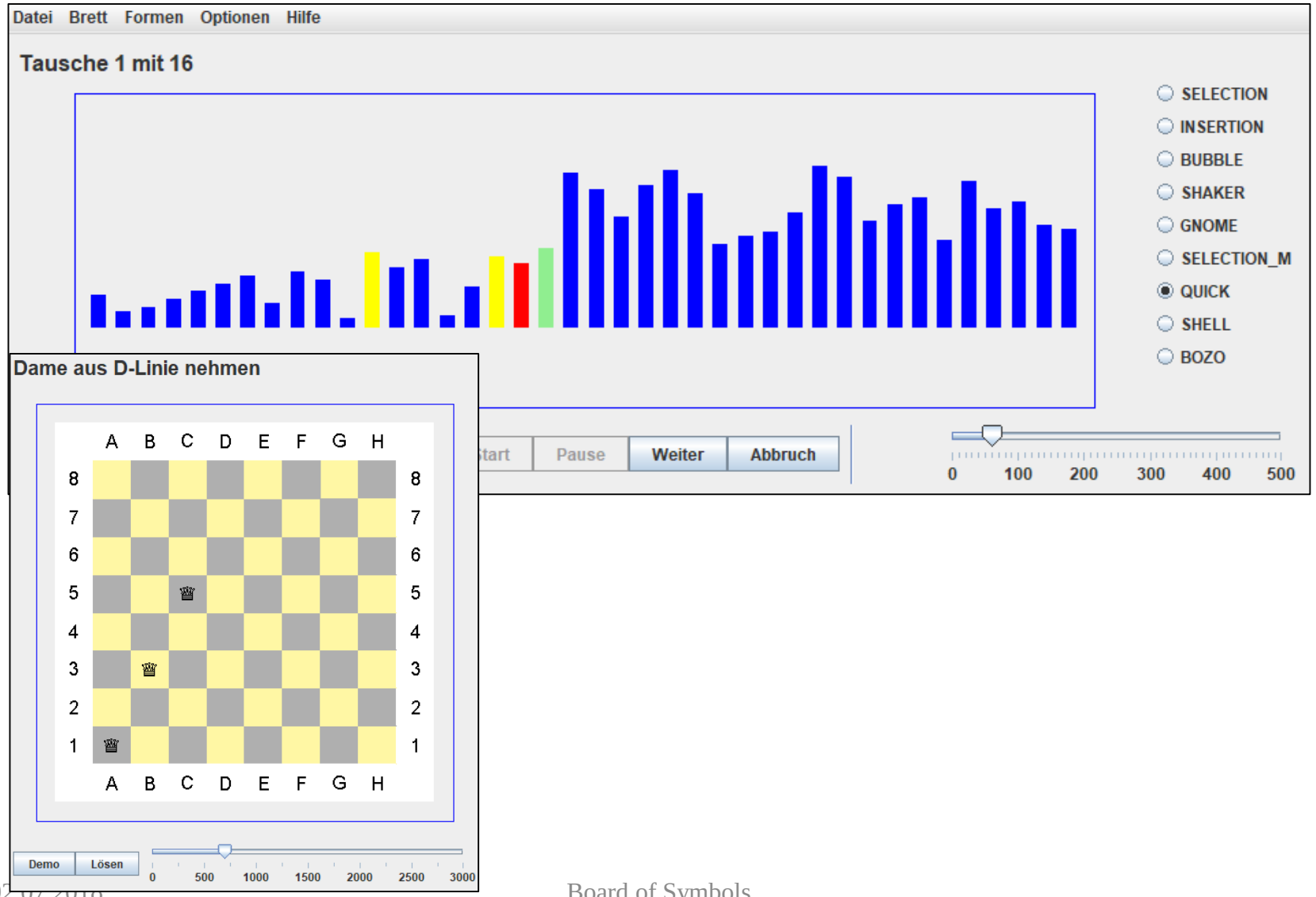


Application mode

- Switch to IDE (eclipse)
- Same API methods as snippets
- Add GUI elements such as labels, buttons, …
- Example board painter



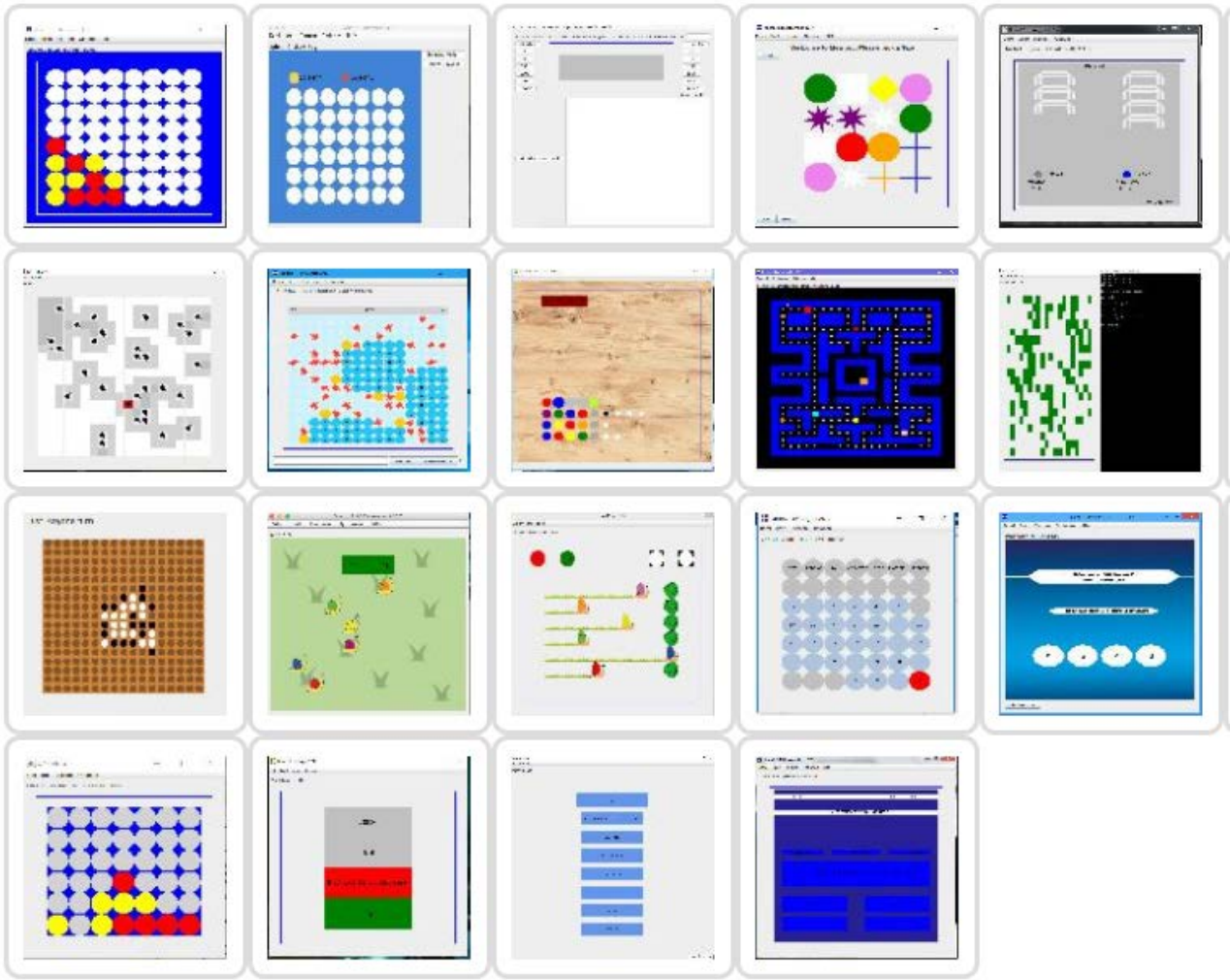
Visualisation of algorithms



Projects

- Games:
  4 in a row, snake, Nim, mine sweeper, …
- Simulations:
  Game of Life, traffic lights, …
- Algorithms:
  Sorting, N-queens problem, …

Projects

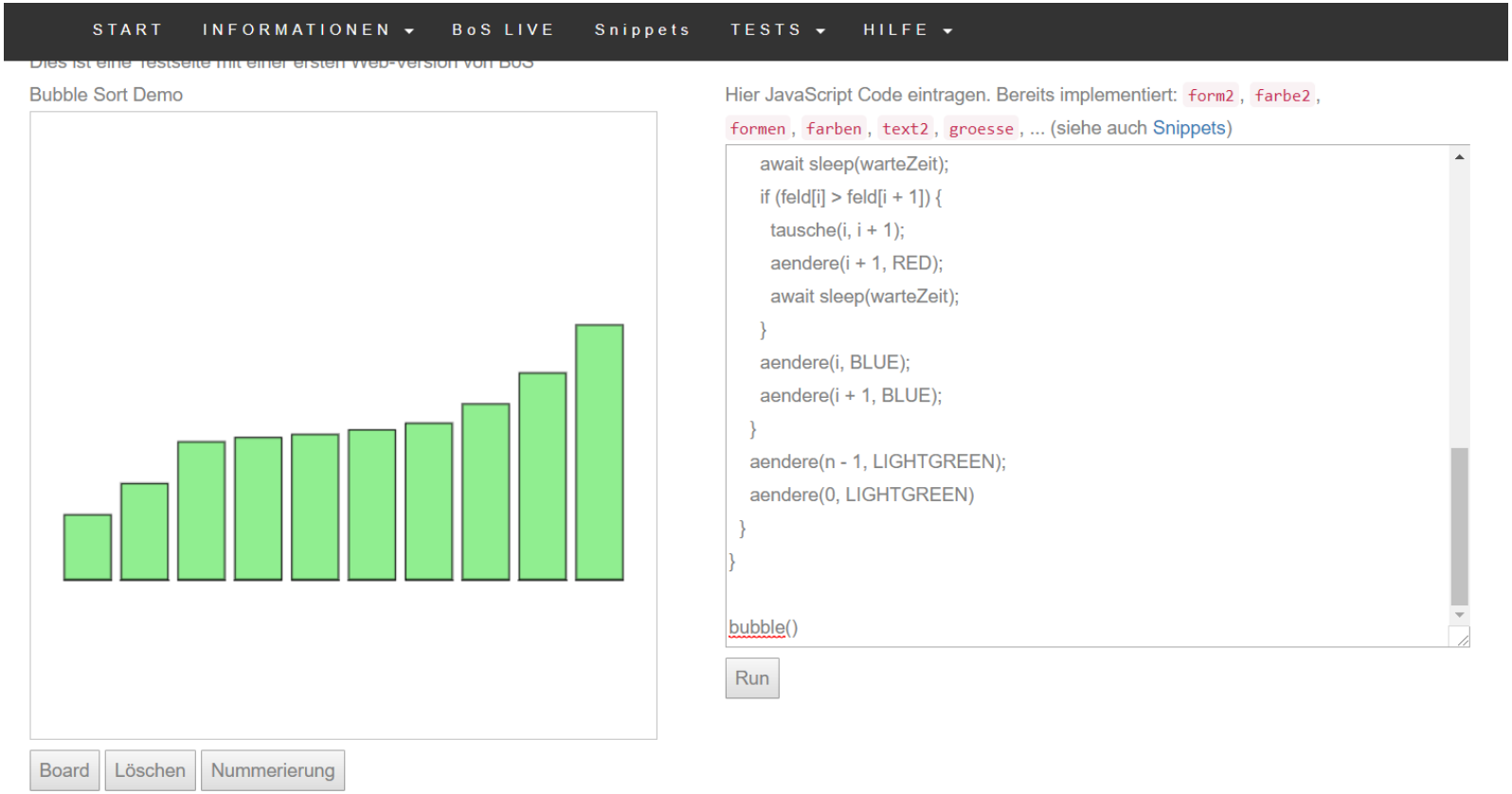


Experiences

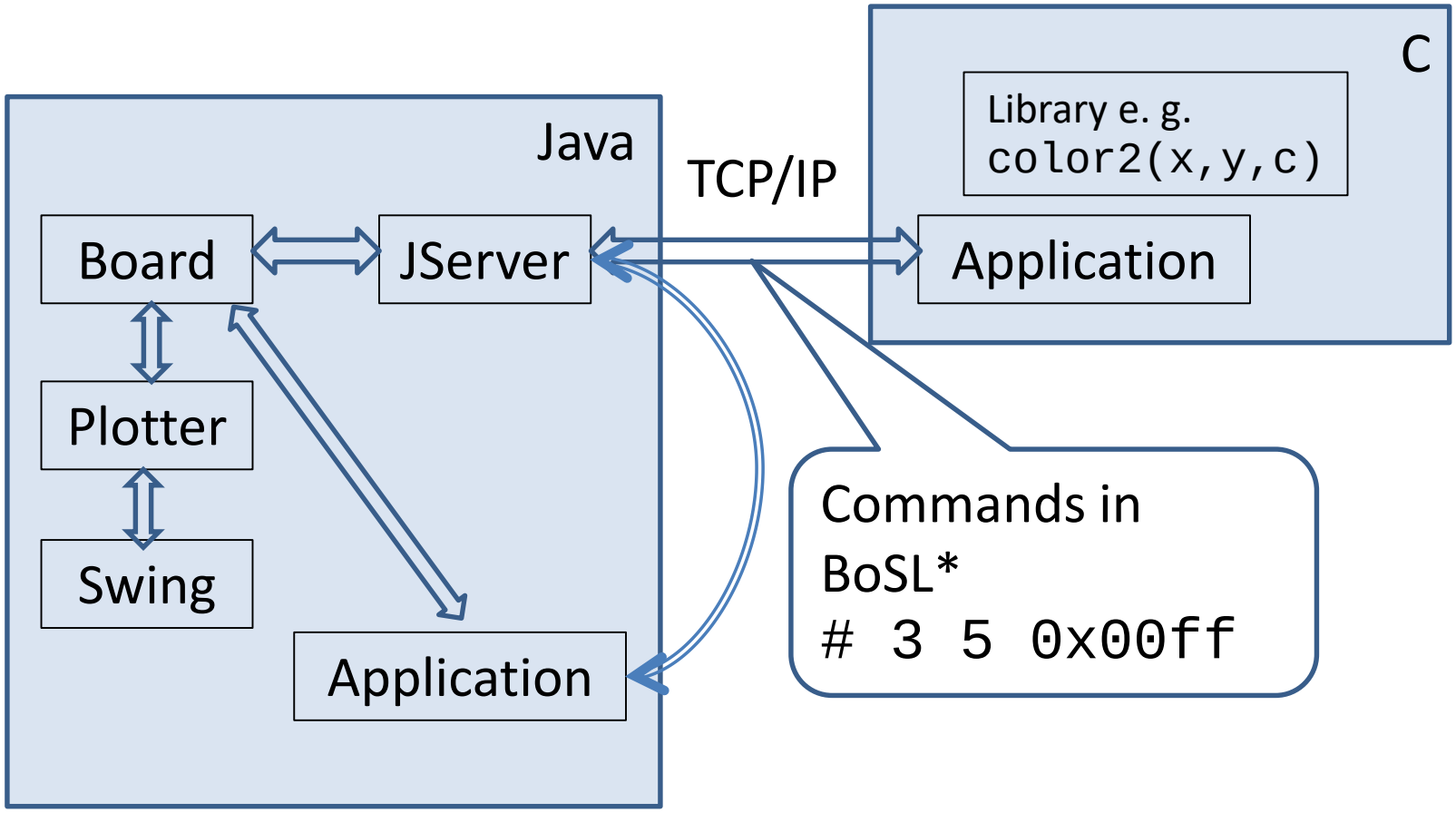
- ☺
  - Quick start
  - Provides room for creativity
  - Nice projects
  - Protection against plagiarism
- ☹
  - Performance problems with increasing number of symbols
  - C: problems with different operating systems / versions

Further work

- Online Version



Architecture



* BoS Language