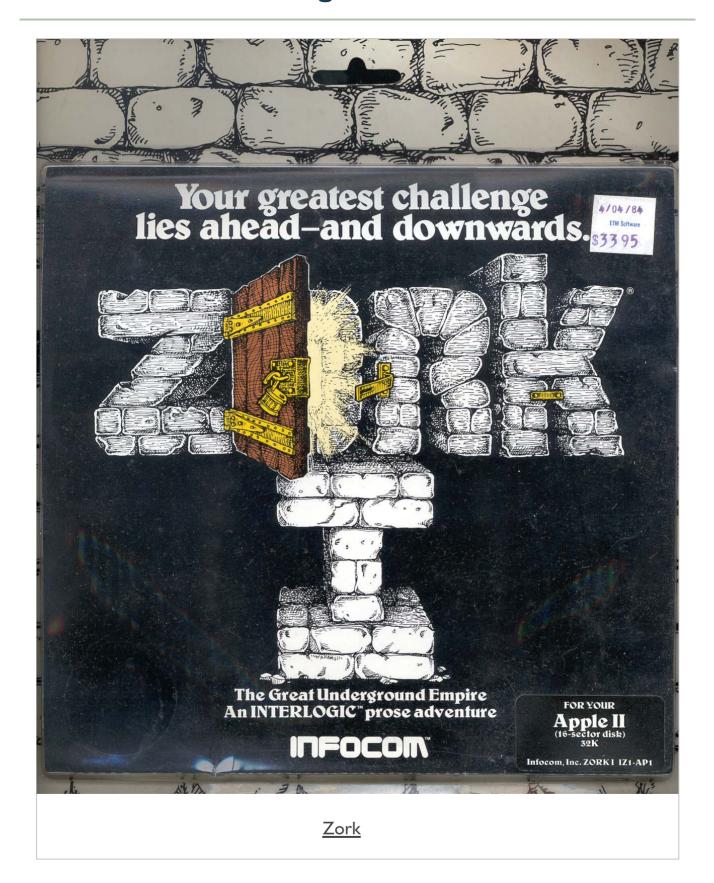
# Comp 388/488 - Game Design and Development

Spring Semester 2019 - Week 4

Dr Nick Hayward

# Image - Zork



# **Games and planning**

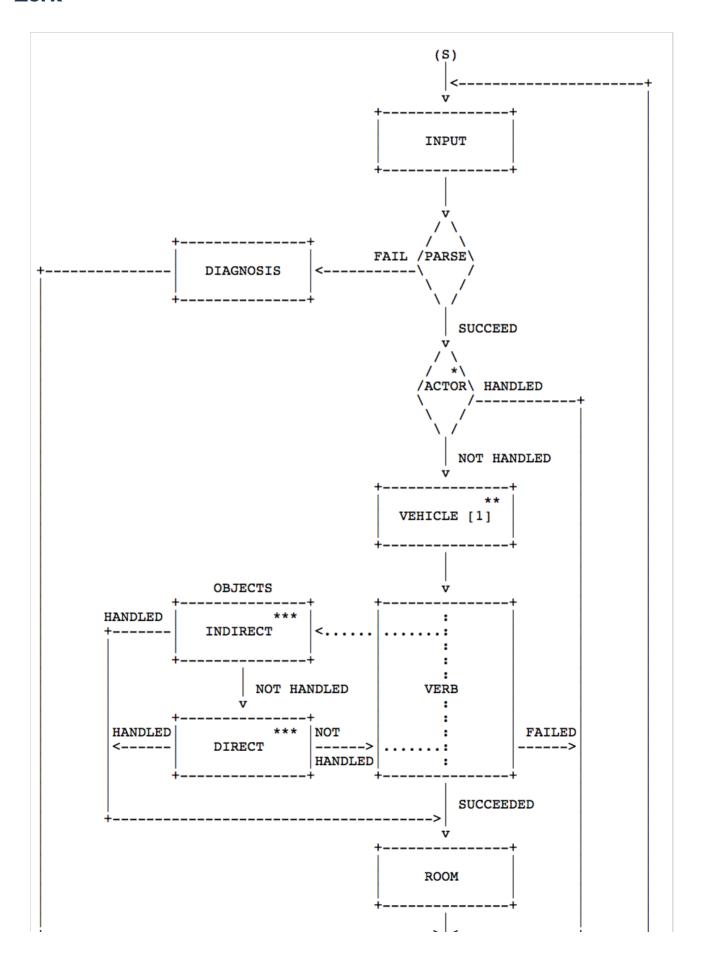
#### Zork

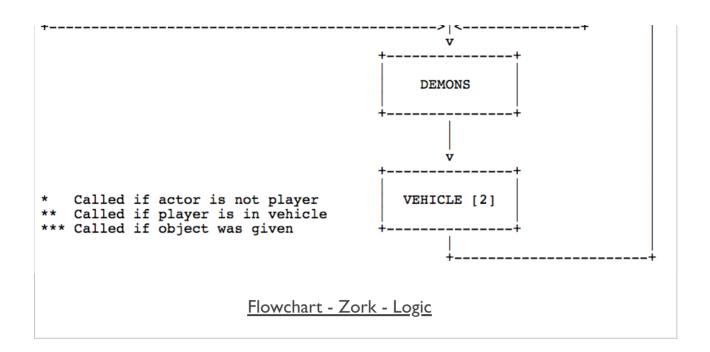
- **Zork**, one of the best known text-based adventure games
  - written in 1977 for the PDP-10 mainframe computer
  - second text-based adventure game ever written first was Colossal Cave Adventure
    - written in 1976 for the PDP-10
  - both games were interactive fiction
  - set in the ruins of an ancient empire lying far underground
- player's character is simply an anonymous adventurer
  - who is venturing into this dangerous land in search of wealth and adventure
- primary goal of this game is to return alive
  - from exploring the "Great Underground Empire"
- a victorious player will earn the title of Dungeon Master
- game's dungeons include a variety of objects...
- interesting and unusual creatures, objects, and locations
- best known creature is the ferocious but light-fearing grue
  - a term for a fictional predatory monster that dwells in the dark
- ultimate goal of Zork I is to collect the Twenty Treasures of Zork
  - and install them in the trophy case
- finding the treasures requires solving a variety of puzzles
  - such as the navigation of two complex mazes
- end of Zork I becomes the entrance, and beginning to the world of Zork II
- fantastic text-based game
  - feels part fantasy, part classical mythology, and part sci-fi...
- Download the Zork games for Mac and Dos/Windows at the following URL,

• Infocom - Zork

# **Image - Flowchart - Example 2**

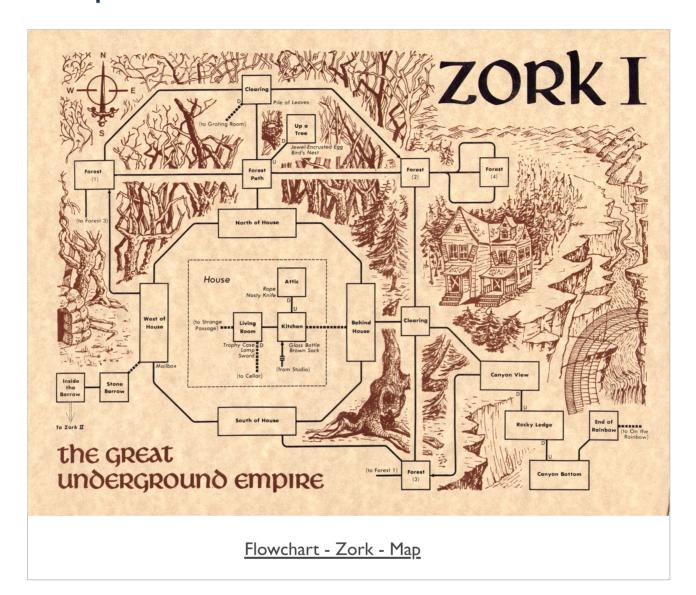
#### Zork





# **Image - Flowchart - Example 3**

### Zork Map



# **Games and planning**

#### A bit of fun - Zork

- MS-DOS https://archive.org/details/msdos\_Zork\_I\_ \_The\_Great\_Underground\_Empire\_1980
- Playstation example https://archive.org/details/psx\_zork
  - released in 1996 in Japan

One leader, and three advisors...

# **Python and Pygame**

#### intro

- a brief consideration of development, specifically with Python and Pygame
- install instructions for Python 3.x and Pygame
  - Python & Pygame setup OS X
  - Python & Pygame setup Windows 10
- Pygame is a powerful and useful set of modules to help develop and create games with Python
- best place to start is simply by visiting the website for the Pygame modules
  - Pygame Getting Started

# Python and Pygame - game development

#### game template - intro

- we may create a template file for starting our Pygame based projects
  - a number of ways to setup a template for such game based development
- there are a few common requirements we may start to add to a template, e.g.
  - import required modules
    - o e.g. þygame, sys...
  - define default settings for a Pygame window
  - initialise Pygame
  - setup the required game loop
  - o logic executed for each frame in our game...
  - process inputs
    - listen for events within the game
    - o track events with Pygame
  - update the game for any required changes...
  - rendering of the game and its graphics
    - $\circ\;$  draw the game to the Pygame window
  - monitor frames per second (FPS)
    - o optional for template
    - where applicable for a given game...

#### part I - import

- start by importing Python modules
  - e.g. þygame module

```
# import modules for pygame template
import pygame
```

- we may also import the sys module
  - may use as a way to exit the game

```
# import modules for pygame template
import sys
import pygame
```

#### part 2 - window defaults

- then add some defaults for a window in Pygame
  - defining our variables as follows

```
# variables for pygame
winWidth = 800
winHeight = 600
FPS = 30
```

- we're setting the default window size width and height
  - and the frames per second for the game
- FPS may be added for applicable game types
  - sets how fast the game will update per second on each system
  - may update this value for each game's requirements
- game loop will then reflect the number of frames per second
  - loop will now run 30 times per second
  - e.g. each loop is set to 1/30 of a second

#### part 3 - initialise

- then add general initialisation for our game's initial settings
  - start by initialising Pygame, and the sound mixer
  - sound mixer allows us to play back sound at various points in our game
- then create our screen or window for the game
  - and add a brief caption for this window
- if we're going to define the FPS for our game
  - we also need to define a clock
- clock helps us track how fast the game is going
  - allows us to ensure that we're maintaining the correct FPS

```
# initialise pygame settings and create game window
pygame.init()
pygame.mixer.init()
window = pygame.display.set_mode((winWidth, winHeight))
pygame.display.set_caption("game template")
clock = pygame.time.clock()
```

#### part 4 - game loop

- now setup and initialised the basics for our template
  - need to add a basic game loop to our Pygame template
- game loop is one of the key requirements for developing a game
  - including with Python and Pygame
- Game loop is executed for every frame of the game
  - three processes will happen as part of this loop

### processing inputs (aka events)

- responding to interaction from the player with the game
- e.g. keyboard press, mouse, game controller...
- listening for these events, and then responding accordingly in the game's logic

#### updating the game

- updating, modifying anything in the game that needs a change
  - o e.g. graphics, music, interaction &c.
- a character moving need to work out where they might be moving &c.
- characters, elements in the game collide
  - what happens when they collide? &c.
  - o i.e. responding to changes in state and modifying a game...

### rendering to the screen

- drawing modifications, updates, &c. to the screen
- we've worked out what needs to change
- we're now drawing (rendering) those changes

### if using FPS for game type

- may also need to consider how many times this game loop repeats
- i.e. frames per second that this loop repeats
- FPS may be important to ensure game is not running too fast or too slow

#### part 5 - add game loop

- we'll need to add a game loop to control and manage this pattern
  - we're listening for inputs, events...
  - then updating the game
  - and finally rendering any changes for the user
- we can add a standard while loop as a our primary game loop

```
# define boolean for active state of game
active = True
# create game loop
while active:
    # 'processing' inputs (events)
    # 'updating' the game
    # 'rendering' to the screen
```

- loop will follow defined pattern
  - processing inputs (events)
  - updating the game
  - rendering to the screen
- boolean active allows us to monitor the active state of the game loop
  - as long as the value is set to True it will keep running
  - update this value to False and we may exit the game loop
  - we'll also see other ways of handling this exit...

#### part 6 - process inputs

- as the game is running
  - a player should be able to interact with the game window
  - e.g. clicking the exit button, perhaps a keyboard, mouse or controller button...
- if we consider the nature of a while loop
  - we may initially see an issue with the underlying logic
  - e.g. the loop is either updating or rendering
  - what happens if a user clicks a button on the keyboard?
- we need to be able to listen and record all events for our game
  - regardless of the current executed point in the while loop
- if not, only able to listen for events at the start of the loop
  - as part of the processing logic
- thankfully, Pygame has a solution for this issue

#### part 7 - Pygame event tracking

- Pygame is able to keep track of each requested event
  - from one executed iteration of the game loop to the next
- it remembers each and every event
  - as the the game's while loop executes the updating and rendering logic
- as the while loop executes the processing logic
  - · we're able to check if there have been any new events
- e.g. now add a simple for loop
  - check for each and every event that Pygame has saved

```
for event in pygame.event.get():
...
```

- start by checking for an event registered as clicking on the exit button
  - a user request to close the current game window

```
for event in pygame.event.get():
    # check for window close click
    if event.type == pygame.QUIT:
        # update boolean for running
        active = False
```

- checking for a saved event
  - simply indicates the user wants to close the current game window
- update the value of the boolean for the active game
  - setting the value of the active variable to False
  - game loop, our while loop, will now exit
- then add a call to quit Pygame at the end of our current Python file. e.g.

```
pygame.quit()
```

■ game will now exit, and the Pygame window will close

#### part 8 - double buffering

- as we start to render colours, lines, shapes &c. to our Pygame window
  - need to be careful not to re-render everything for each update
  - if not, our game will become **very** resource intensive...
- we can use an option known as double buffering
- in Pygame, this uses a concept of pre-drawing
  - then rendering as and when the drawing is ready to be viewed by the player
  - drawing is flipped to show the rendering to the player
  - e.g. we can the following to our template

```
# flip our display to show the completed drawing

pygame.display.flip()
```

- **n.b.** flip must be the last call after drawing
  - if not, nothing will be displayed to the game's player

#### part 9 - monitor FPS

- game loop may also need to monitor and maintain setting for our game's FPS
- currently FPS set to 30 frames per second
- within the logic of our game loop

```
# check game loop is active
while active:
    # monitor fps and keep game running at set speed
    clock.tick(FPS)
...
```

- Pygame is now able to keep our game running at the defined frames per second
- as the loop runs
  - it will always ensure that the loop executes the required 1/30 second
- as long as the loop is able to process, update, and render
  - within this defined time period of 30 fps, rendering will be smooth
  - if not, usually the update is taking too long
  - our game will run with lag, appear jittery to the player
  - may need to consider optimisation for code and logic...

#### part 10 - finish the template

- as we're only listening for the exit event on the game window
  - we don't currently have any game content to update
- our current template has set up a game window, and environment
  - to test initial setup and initialisation
  - then allow a player to exit the game and window
  - e.g.

```
# quit the Pygame window, exiting the game
pygame.quit()
...
```

#### another example template

```
# import modules for pygame template
import pygame, sys
# variables for pygame
winWidth = 800
winHeight = 600
# variables for commonly used colours
BLUE = (0, 0, 255)
# initialise pygame settings and create game window
pygame.init()
window = pygame.display.set mode((winWidth, winHeight))
pygame.display.set_caption("game template")
# define game quit and program exit
def gameExit():
    pygame.quit()
    sys.exit()
# create game loop
while True:
    # 'processing' inputs (events)
    for event in pygame.event.get():
        if event.type == pygame.QUIT:
            gameExit()
    # 'updating' the game
    # 'rendering' to the window
    window.fill(BLUE)
    # 'flip' display - always after drawing...
    pygame.display.flip()
```

# Python and Pygame - basic drawing

#### extra notes

Extra notes are available for drawing with Python and Pygame.

# For example,

- drawing with rect to create various shapes
- working with RGB and colours
- drawing with circle, ellipse, & creating custom shapes

# Notes include,

- drawing basic
- colours

# **Python and Pygame**

#### extras

- more Python and Pygame examples
  - more drawing, animation, interaction and controllers...
  - game demo
- latest extra notes on Python and Pygame include
  - animation colour scale
  - colours
  - control and move
  - drawing basic
  - drawing moving shapes
  - events interaction
  - getting started
- check course GitHub account for
  - extra notes, various documents notes
  - examples & templates source

#### procedures

- player's consideration and perspective of gameplay and objectives
- predicated on a clear understanding of procedures and rules
- for example,
  - to be able to act as the player in the chosen game
  - to actually know what they can and can't do to complete defined objectives
- procedures allow us as designers and developers to clearly define
  - how the player may interact with the game
  - and modify the interactive nature of the game
- e.g. in *Draughts*, each player is allowed to
  - pick up their own pieces
  - then physically move them around the board
  - they may also stack pieces
  - remove their opponents pieces...
- e.g. in Space Invaders, each player may interact with a physical device
  - to control their spaceship
  - fire their cannon
  - select game options...
- such procedures may be abstracted from the game specific rules

#### rules

- a game's rules may be simple or complex
  - sometimes to the point of a short novel
  - but their intention still remains the same
- creating a set of clearly defined parameters
  - what a player can and cannot do to achieve the game's objectives
- rules may also be used to clarify
  - what does and does not happen when patterns are matched in a game
- e.g. in *Draughts*, by completing a certain move
- e.g. in Space Invaders, by successfully killing all of the advancing aliens
- some of these rules may be used to define objects
  - such as the pieces in Draughts or the weapons in Space Invaders
- others may deal with gameplay concepts
- the very nature of procedures and rules infers a sense of authority
  - they still require additional structures to enforce them within the game

#### **boundaries**

- boundaries help us enforce certain procedures and rules
- using boundaries, to some extent, we may ensure that players of our game
  - need to adhere to rules to be able complete their objectives
- e.g. in Space Invaders, such boundaries may be physical or digital
  - restricting the player to a given interaction option
  - or certain scope or movement in a game's level
- such boundaries are creating the imaginary realm of the game
  - where the rules apply to affect the game's objectives.
- boundaries help us create the immersive nature of the game
- consider VR and AR
  - we start to see how new boundaries modify our perceptions
  - perceptions of procedures, rules, and gameplay itself

#### conflict, challenge, battle...

- conflict will often be an active part of playing a game
  - due to certain objectives within our game
  - an indirect consequence of rules we define for the game
- may also occur in both single player and multi-player games
  - it will necessarily manifest in different ways
- we may create such conflict using defined structures of the game
  - challenging the player with the underlying procedures and rules
- as a player masters a given part of the game
  - the conflict will then start to diminish
  - or simply be replaced by another problem or situation to resolve
- e.g. in *Draughts*, initially faced with a direct conflict between players
  - by simply moving and positioning pieces one player against another
  - then, one player starts taking another player's pieces...
- rules of the game have created the potential for conflict
  - each player directly challenges the other by leveraging available rules
- such conflict is another useful tool for modifying gameplay
  - then modifying difficulty and challenges as a player progresses through a game
- objectives of a player often conflict with the rules and procedures
  - may often intentionally limit and guide behaviour within a game
- by resolving such conflict
  - a player is able to achieve their desired objectives
  - hopefully, the game's overall object as well

#### outcome, end result...

- another noticeable similarity between games
  - the simple opportunity for an outcome
- may include a defined winner, a loser, a draw...
  - even the simple fixed ending of a story, saga or quest
- some games may represent such an outcome and end result as either
  - stay alive and win or die and lose
- such outcomes may often be a natural conclusion to the defined rules
  - and the primary, over-arching objective of the game itself
- however, it doesn't always need to be so clear cut
  - the end of one adventure, but the beginning of another
  - Tolkien-esque in scope and consideration
- also clear distinction between a game's various objectives and defined outcome
- e.g. in Space Invaders, we may see many objectives for a player
  - destroying aliens, maintaining lives, advancing through different levels...
- in Space Invaders, the single outcome is to
  - successfully complete each level to complete the game
- how we use such objectives towards the overall outcome
  - is an option we can use to modify gameplay itself
  - and the overall experience of our game
- in multi-player games, a key component of a game's outcome
  - includes the palpable sense of uncertainty
- as we increase conflict and competition
  - uncertainty will likewise be increased

•	becomes a	key factor in	encouraging	player's to	return to a	game	

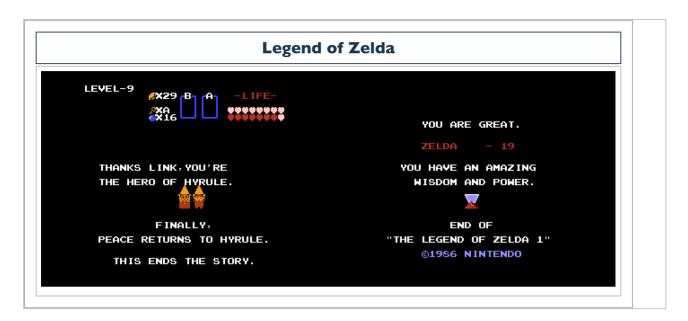
# **Image - Create a memorable ending**

#### Super Mario Bros. vs Castlevania



# Image - Create a memorable ending

#### **Legend of Zelda**



# **Game example - Space Invaders**

#### a classic bit of fun...

- Space Invaders Sega and Taito
  - close fidelity example from 1985 graphics almost identical to original 1979 version released in Japan
  - streaming version of game
- Draughts/Checkers
  - playable version

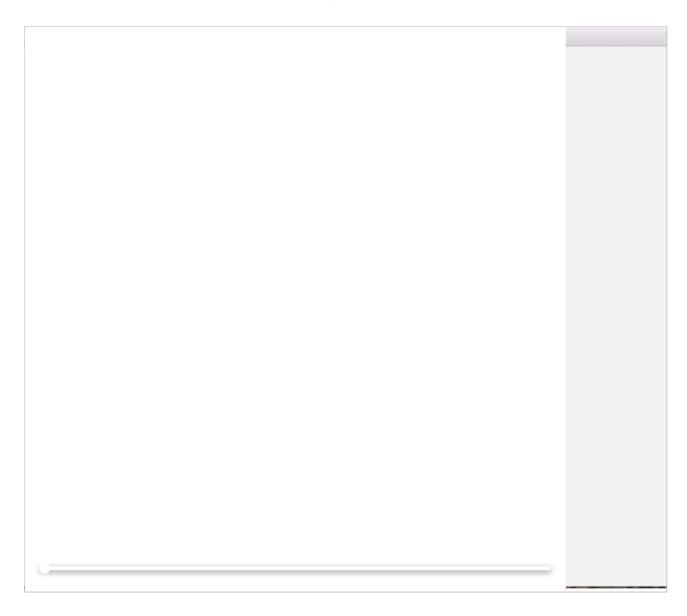
# Python and Pygame - moving shapes

#### basic animation - to the right

- add some variables for the rectangle we want to animate
  - set the X and Y coordinates to the centre of the window
- then modify the game loop
  - add 4 pixels to the X coordinate of the rectangle per update
- then draw the rectangle to the game window as part of the rendering
- either update or flip the game window to show animation

# **Video - Moving Shapes**

### basic animation - move to the right



# Python and Pygame - moving shapes

#### basic animation - different directions...

- make the rectangle move to the left side of the screen
  - again, modify the value of the rectX variable
  - need to remove pixels to make it go to the left

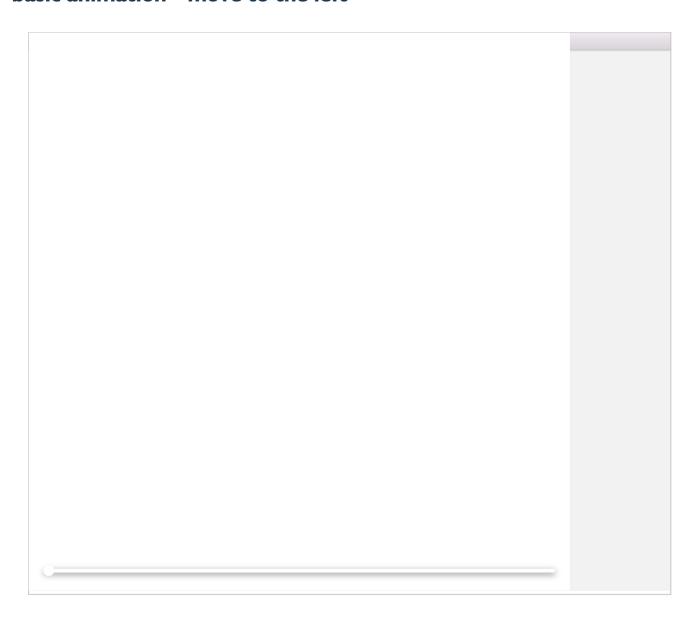
```
# modify rectX by 4 pixels
rectX -= 4
```

- also make our rectangle move at an angle
- might want to move it an angle down the screen
  - add a variable for the vertical X and Y coordinates
  - incrementally modify to create the angle of animation down to the right

```
# modify rect coordinates to create angle...to the right and down
rectX += rectVX
rectY += rectVY
rectVX += 0.2
rectVY += 0.2
```

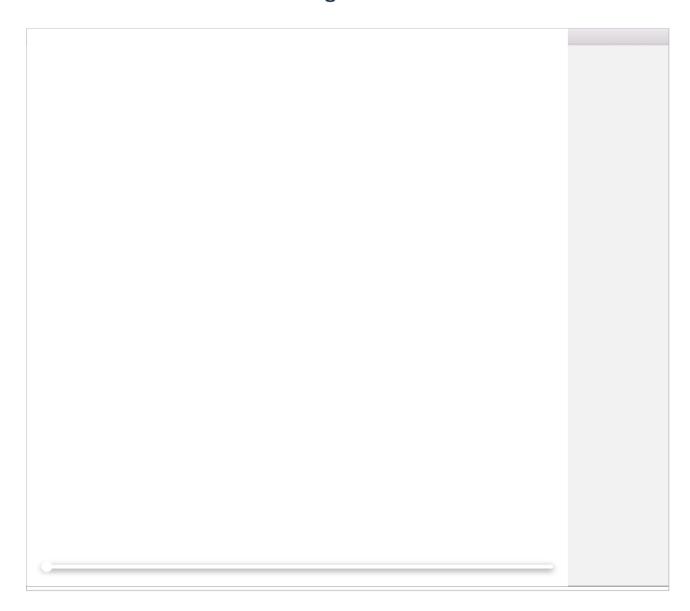
# **Video - Moving Shapes**

### basic animation - move to the left



# **Video - Moving Shapes**

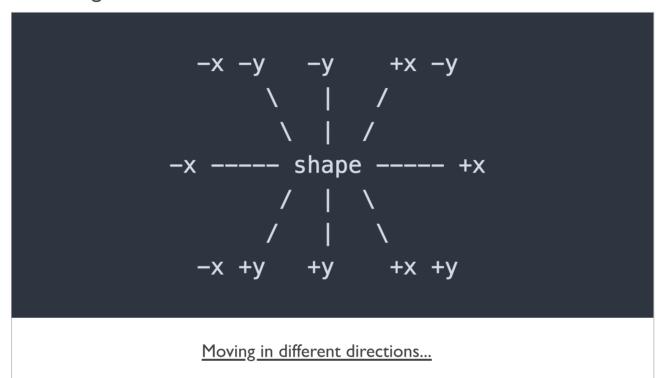
### basic animation - move at an angle



# **Python and Pygame - moving shapes**

#### basic animation - different directions...

- modify coordinates using the following pattern
- enough directions for our shapes to be able to recreate many classic games



## Python and Pygame - moving shapes

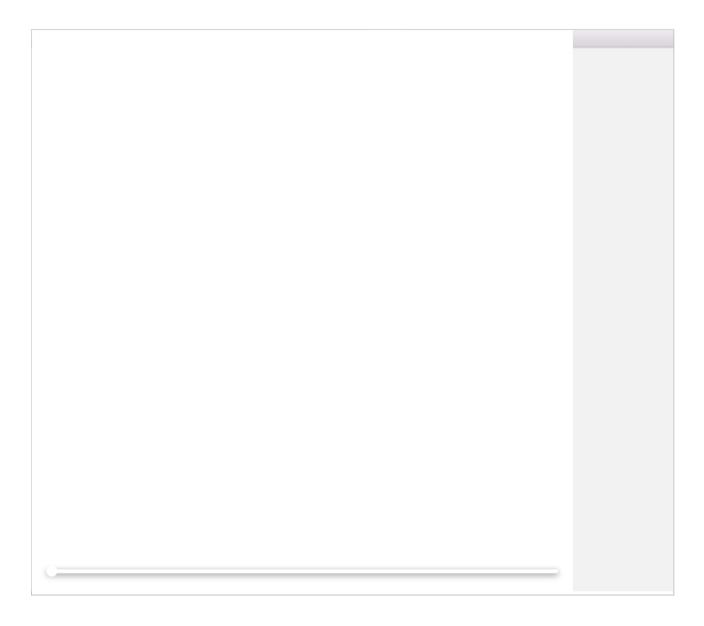
#### basic animation - check position

- as our shape moves across the screen
  - may want to check that it doesn't simply disappear from one side
- add a check for the position of the shape
  - then reset its coordinates
- e.g. if we animate our shape from the left side to the right side
  - we may want it to keep moving from one side to the other
  - add a simple check for the value of the shape's X coordinate
    - o add to the update section of the game loop

```
# check position of rectX
if rectX > winWidth:
    rectX = 0.0
```

# **Video - Moving Shapes**

### basic animation - move from side to side



## **Python and Pygame**

#### extras

- more Python and Pygame examples
  - more drawing, animation, interaction and controllers...
  - game demo
- latest extra notes on Python and Pygame include
  - animation colour scale
  - colours
  - control and move
  - drawing basic
  - drawing moving shapes
  - events interaction
  - getting started
- check course GitHub account for
  - extra notes, various documents notes
  - examples & templates source

## Games and engagement - learning to play again

#### concept & premise

- formal structures for a game may also benefit from a concept or premise
  - helps frame or wrap the general gameplay
- we're creating an underlying reason for a given game
- something we hope our players will enjoy
  - and consider worthy of their time and investment
- a concept or premise is a great way to hook our players into a game
- player needs a valid reason to play the game
  - rarely just the mechanics...
- **Space Invaders** has a simple hook for the game and play
- for **Mario** games, Miyamoto uses a simple premise to wrap the mechanics and gameplay
  - progress through varied levels to save the Princess
  - a means of showcasing each game's formal structures

## Games and engagement - learning to play again

#### story and characters

- development of video games includes a shift in design and story telling
  - e.g. towards a consideration of characters
- character development has been growing since the earliest games
  - a useful, fun part of developing a premise for a game
  - Mario, Donkey Kong, Sonic, Pac Man...
- each character development acted as a tool to help engage players
- characters help a player to become engaged and immersed
  - in the general premise of a game
  - a specific story in particular
- characters act as a direct link and interaction
  - between a game's narrative and its player
- designers and developers may also use characters
  - a means to manipulate stories, and general gameplay...
- a player may impart their own characteristics and personality on a game character
  - need to be careful not to restrict a character too much
- players often deeply invested in a game due to characters
  - they form an attachment with characters...
  - conventions and cosplay continue to grow in popularity
- story and characters may fulfill a dramatic context within our game
  - depends how far we wish to push such elements within our game

## Games and engagement - learning to play again

#### pushing boundaries

- many examples we may reference as archetypal games
- many games break this mould
  - may even push the standard perception of a game
- recent development in games is towards the use of immersive environments
  - simply promote calm and relaxation.
- gaming to reduce stress by exploration
  - instead of high paced action and adventure
- a natural progression from earlier games, e.g. Civilization, Age of Empires...
  - to a new audience and emerging genres
  - Abzu, Journey, Proteus...
- annual Games for Change festival in New York
  - considers games in a broader social context
  - Games for Change
- boundaries are also being pushed with indie development and experimental gaming concepts
- Independent Games Festival
  - a great place to start exploring such ideas and concepts
  - Independent Games Festival
- IndieCade festival, the International Festival of Independent Games
  - IndieCade

## Video - Abzu



Source - Abzu trailer - YouTube

#### Enter the Mummy's Tomb - objects, attributes...

- in our earlier game, Enter the Mummy's Tomb, we introduced three initial characters
  - explorer (our Egyptologist)
  - high priest
  - scary pharaoh
  - the mummy
- objects may include known characteristics and attributes from real world, e.g.
  - name
  - health
  - current value & status, lives, regeneration...
  - physical characteristics
  - height, speed, strength, vision...
  - skills
  - fighting, shooting, intelligence (problem solving &c.) ...
  - motion
  - e.g. walking, running...
  - actions
  - pick-up, throw, move, drop...
- each character possesses such attributes, to a greater or lesser extent...
- may also reuse such attributes as a definition, template
  - help guide the subsequent development of other characters
- new characters might include
  - earth-bound creatures
    - o horse, scarab beetle, snake...
  - Egyptian gods
  - e.g. Anubis, Osiris, Isis, Horus, Ma'at, Sekhmet, Seth...

- enemies
- allies...
- other explorers...

#### Enter the Mummy's Tomb - attributes...

- consider attributes useful and applicable to each of our main characters
  - characteristics and actions our characters may need and use in the game

explorer	rer high priest scary pharaoh/mummy		
name	name	name	
health	health	health	
fight/attack		fight/attack	
	help/aid		
info	info	info	
retreat		retreat	

- list of attributes is not exhaustive, and it may grow as we develop a game
- may also find it useful to combine some of these attributes into a given class
  - fight and health attributes may only apply for an **attack** method
- may also consider the tombs as an additional object within our game
  - attributes may include, e.g.

tomb	
name/number (e.g. KV17)	
owner	
owner type	
find treasure	
info	

may start to see common attributes and characteristics

- create methods to help us structure and call such characteristics within a given class
  - e.g. a class for the explorer
- owner of each tomb is unknown until we randomly pick a character
  - may be an instance of the high priest or the mummy class
- owner type may end up either helping or attacking the explorer

#### Enter the Mummy's Tomb - initial structure

- many of these objects share common traits and attributes
  - explorer, high priest, and mummy may use inheritance
- allows us to create a useful superclass/parent class
  - this will be our initial **GameCore**
- *GameCore* may include the following:
  - attributes
    - o name
    - owner
    - o health
  - methods
    - fight/attack
    - o help/aid
    - o info
    - o retreat
- add to the GameCore as we build out our current game
  - each of the characters may inherit from this GameCore class
  - each character class may also override default methods
- for example
  - give the explorer enhanced options to fight/attack
  - perhaps the mummy will have a higher initial health value
- a tomb may also inherit certain default attributes from the GameCore
  - including name and info
- each tomb will also contain, or be composed of, another object
  - such objects may be used to perform specific tasks
  - perhaps an owner composed of a high priest or mummy

#### quick exercise

# consider the following 4 characters:

- poet / bard
- archer
- scout
- knight

# then outline the following:

- abstract objects and attributes for all of these characters
- show developer pattern from abstract to specific character
- show relationship between character objects and attributes
- similarities and differences between developer and player updates
- for abstract and specific characters...

### **Games**

- Abzu
- Journey
- Proteus
- Zork Downloads
- Zork original version for PDP
- Zork I Apple 2e version
- Zork I walkthrough very useful

### References

- Suits, B. The Grasshopper: Games, Life and Utopia. Broadview Press.
   3rd Edition. 2014.
- Pygame
- pygame.event
- pygame.locals
- Wikipedia
- Draughts
- Space Invaders
- Zork

### **Videos**

Abzu trailer - YouTube