### The Class Design

We have done the class design for you. Normally in a GUI program it's desirable to separate the part of the program that does the computation and stores data from the part of the program dealing with the display and input. This organization is called the Model-View-Controller design pattern. This way it's easier to change the look and feel of the program without having to touch the code that does the computation: e.g., we could use our Maze class below, unchanged, with a non-graphical, console-based interface. The design given here has that separation. (PA1 also had such a design: the computation happened in CoinTossSimulator, and display of the computation was in CoinSimComponent and a class used by it (Bar).)

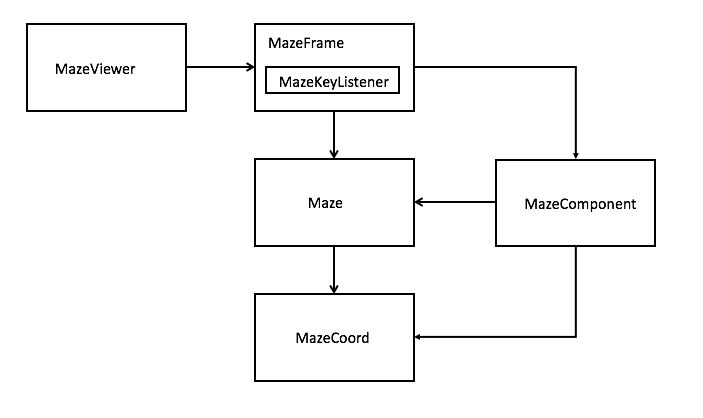
This is an overview of the design, stating which classes are responsible for which part of the program, and what the dependencies are between the various classes:

* MazeViewer class. This class has main. It reads in the maze data and sets up the graphics window with the MazeFrame (passing the maze data to MazeFrame). It depends on the MazeFrame.
* MazeFrame class. This JFrame subclass contains all the display elements and listeners in the program. The main elements are the JLabel for displaying the prompt and other messages, the MazeComponentfor displaying the maze and path, and the listener to get keyboard input from the user. It creates the Maze, MazeKeyListener , and MazeComponent objects. (So it depends on those three other classes.) We wrote this class for you.
* MazeComponent class. This JComponent subclass displays the maze and the maze path. (It should look like the maze shown in the screenshots earlier in this document.) It gets all the information about what to display from the Maze object. Depends on Maze and MazeCoord.

Note: we defined some named constants for you in this class that you should use in your code.

* Maze class. This class has the data about a maze, and knows how to do a maze search. It doesn't do any I/O. Depends on MazeCoord.
* MazeKeyListener class. It has the code that responds to a user's keystrokes. It's created in the MazeFrame constructor. It's an inner class of MazeFrame, so it depends on MazeFrame. We wrote this class for you. Listeners are described in a little more detail below.
* MazeCoord class. Tiny immutable class for storing coordinates for a maze location. (The code is completed for you.) This way we can store a maze path as a single LinkedList object, where each element is a MazeCoord. In addition to accessors, and toString, it also supplies an equals method. Doesn't depend on any other classes.

The simple UML (Unified Modeling Language) diagram below shows these relationships between the classes. An arrow from class A to class B means that class A depends on class B (or put other ways, "has to know about", or "uses"). To keep it simpler, I showed the inner class as contained inside the outer class.



**What's a listener?**A listener is a GUI component that has a function that gets called whenever a certain user action happens (e.g., a mouse click or a key pressed). It's usually associated with a particular component: e.g., the component might be a button, and the listener has the code that gets executed when that button is pressed). The application programmer fills in the body of this function for a subclass of the appropriate Java listener class.

### What happens when we run MazeViewer?

We have written the top-level code for you. This explains the sequence of events that happen when we run the program.

main will read in the maze data from a file specified on the command line. It also sets up the frame (like we did in pa1). Once the frame is set up, the Java GUI system will call paintComponent, which should in turn display the maze (with no path at this point).

The frame also displays a prompt for the user to type a key to initiate the maze search. Once the user types the key, the code inside the keyPressed method in MazeKeyListener gets called.

That code in keyPressed calls the Maze search function, and once search returns, it then calls repaint, which triggers a call to paintComponent, which will display the maze again, this time with the path if there was one. The code also updates the message displayed to let the user know whether the search was successful. You should take a look at the keyPressed method, which is near the bottom of [MazeFrame.java](http://scf.usc.edu/~csci455/curr/assgts/pa3/MazeFrame.java).

Again, the top-level control structure has already been written for you. The only part of the main class (i.e. MazeViewer.java) you will have to write is the code to read in the file. We called and wrote the method header for a method readMazeFile that you'll have to implement to do this. The rest of the code you'll be writing will be the implementations of the Maze and MazeComponent classes.

### Maze: interface

You are required to have the following interface for the Maze class, which will store the internal data for a maze and a path through it, and support the following operations (the starter file for this is [Maze.java](http://scf.usc.edu/~csci455/curr/assgts/pa3/Maze.java)). The parts in square brackets describe where how/where that method will be used.

Maze(boolean[][] mazeData, MazeCoord startLoc, MazeCoord endLoc)

constructs a maze from the data given parameters. More details about these parameters in the Mazeclass comments, and the constructor method comments. [The code to call this constructor has already been written for you in the MazeFrame constructor.]

boolean search()

searches for a path through the maze from the start position to the end position, and saves the path it finds, if it finds one. Client can access the path found via getPath method. Also returns whether or not it found a path. [The call to search has already been written for you in the MazeListener.]

Subsequent calls to search just return whether a path was found. I.e., the path found the first time will be saved.

LinkedList<MazeCoord> getPath()

Returns the path through the maze found by search(), from start to end location. If there was not path, or if this is called before a call to search, returns empty list. [The MazeComponent will use this to get the path to display.]

boolean hasWallAt(MazeCoord loc)

Tells us whether there is a wall at this location. [The MazeComponent will use this to get information about where the walls are.]

int numRows()

int numCols()

The number of rows and number of columns in the maze, respectively. [The MazeComponent will use this.]

MazeCoord getEntryLoc()

MazeCoord getExitLoc()

The entry and exit locations of the maze, respectively. [The MazeComponent will use this.]

Note that a MazeCoord, is a (row,col) pair. This is different than the coordinate system used in Java windows. Besides the units being different, the row (first number) increase vertically, and the columns (second number) increase horizontally. Put another way, in the display, rows change in the y direction and cols change in the x direction.

### Maze: representation/implementation

We're leaving it up to you exactly how to represent your maze inside the Maze object. You will probably use some kind of two-dimensional array or arrays. Some of the design choices are what type of elements should be in the array (ints, chars, booleans), whether you want to pad it with virtual outer walls (more about that in the next paragraph), and whether you keep track of "already visited" locations using a separate array or not. You will also have an instance variable for the path, which gets created by searchand can be accessed with getPath.

When visiting different elements in your 2D array to find a path you might constantly have to check that you're not trying to access a position outside the bounds of the array. An alternate way to handle this issue is to pad the matrix with phantom walls all around it. In this scenario, the matrix you would create would not be the exact size given by the user, but be one bigger on all sides, where the "phantom" locations are all walls, so you'll never create a path through that part. Note: choosing this implementation tactic should not affect how the class operates for the client, since the specification for the class will not have changed. For example, it doesn't change the valid MazeCoord values we can give to hasWallAt, or what numRows()and numCols() would return for a particular maze. Thus, the Maze that is displayed is the input maze, not one with extra walls. You are not required to use this padded array idea.

Whatever representation you choose, don't forget to document it with a representation invariant comment.

#### Detecting cycles

A maze may have a cycle, that is, a way to loop back to a place we've already been while searching for a path. We would end up with infinite recursion if we don't detect that we have already visited a location before. In addition, recognizing that we've visited a location before will enable us to avoid reexploring parts of the maze we have already looked at that led to dead ends, and to avoid going from point a its neighbor, b, and then immediately trying to go from b to a again (a less obvious kind of cycle). There are a few ways to represent this "already visited" information. To make checking whether a location has already been visited fast, it makes sense to use random access in an array. We could use another 2D array visited that keeps track of which positions we've already visited in our search for a path, so we don't go around the cycles more than once. A variation on this involves keeping that information in the "maze" 2D array itself, by storing a special value at locations we have already visited.

#### Recursive Search Algorithm

This kind of problem is called a search problem, even though the meaning here is a little different than when we talked about finding a particular element in a collection (where we used algorithms such as linear or binary search).

You are required to use recursion to solve this problem. The top-level method is called search(). It will call a helper routine (private method) which does the actual recursion. Thus the top-level routine can do any initialization or cleanup that is necessary (only once). The helper routine will search from a particular location. In the pseudo-code below, we assume we have a routine which searches from a location given by row, column coordinates (r,c). if search(r,c) returns true, it means there is a free path from position (r,c) to the end position, o.w. it returns false.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* search (r, c): \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

BASE CASES:

if (r, c) is a wall -- return failure

if (r, c) has already been visited -- return failure

if (r, c) is the final position -- then make (r,c) part of the path and

return success

RECURSIVE CASE(S):

mark (r,c) as visited

for each position, r',c' that is adjacent to r,c:

try to find a path from (r',c') to the end (i.e., make a recursive call).

if that search was successful

make (r,c) part of the path, and return success

else try the next neighbor

if we got through the loop without finding a path, that means that

there is no path from (r,c) -- return failure.

Hint: one of the specifications of the Maze class is that the beginning of the linked list for the path (i.e., what's returned by getPath()) is the start of the path found, and the end of the linked list is the end of the path. If you don't write your search code carefully you may end up with the reverse path instead.

### Data Files

You may assume that the data is in the correct format, as shown earlier in this document. We put a few data files in the directory

~csci455/assgts/pa3/testfiles

Your program will get the name of the maze file from the command line. We have provided the code to get that string from the command line (the args argument to main has command line arguments). Here are a few examples of how to run the program:

java MazeViewer smallest

java MazeViewer ~csci455/assgts/pa3/testfiles/bigMaze

Note: if you are running your program from Eclipse, you set command-line arguments by going to Run Configurations on the Run menu. Then go to the tab Arguments in the dialog box. In the first text box you put the file name. You can change what is the default directory it looks in for that file by changing the Working directory to something other than the Default (set this near the bottom of the dialog box).

The file reading method, readMazeFile (defined in [MazeViewer.java](http://scf.usc.edu/~csci455/curr/assgts/pa3/MazeViewer.java)), can throw an IOException. Your code will throw FileNotFoundException if you attempt to read a file that doesn't exist. (We wrote the handler for this exception for you in main.) This is a subclass of IOException, but we used the more general class in the readMazeFile header so that you wouldn't have to change this interface if you decided to use exception handling for other purposes, namely to detect malformed files. However, error-checking the file format is not a requirement for this assignment.

### Development Hints

You are welcome to add any debugging print statements to be sent to System.out, and leave them in for your final version. Make sure to preface each such line with the string "DEBUG: ". The starter-version of the code has a few of these in the keyPressed method in MazeFrame.java. The only other use of System.out in the current program is for error messages (in MazeViewer.java).

You are also encouraged to write any private helper methods that will make your code clearer. (That's true for any program for this course.)

Here is a possible plan for how you might develop your code:

1. Get the constructor and accessors for the Maze class working before you write or test the search function. You can see that they are working by adding a toString method (the only change to the interface that we will accept), and a MazeTester to use it to create several Maze objects whose data come from hard-coded arrays.
2. You could then proceed to implement your MazeComponent class, so that you can see that you are displaying your maze correctly. You can test this with the existing MazeViewer program, which will necessitate your implementing the file reading part now too, or instead you can test it with hard-coded data (described in more detail in the next step).
3. To test your maze display before writing your file-reading code you can create a very small hard-coded maze 2D array that you can pass into the Maze constructor (and you could have different such maze arrays that you swap in by modifying the code). To fit in with the current structure of the program, to do this you would need to make a new version of MazeViewer, because the maze array data comes from MazeViewer: MazeViewer passes the maze data into MazeFrame (which in turn creates the Maze object from it). So the new version of MazeViewer would use the hard-coded maze data instead of data from a file.
4. You could next implement the file-reading, to make it easier to test your search method on various mazes later. Make sure that these mazes you read are displaying correctly.
5. You could then implement the search method. It's easier to see visually if it's doing the right thing in the context of the graphical program, vs printing out the path as a sequence of locations in a MazeTester program. Also, because in general there are multiple valid paths, you won't know the exact expected output for a search (i.e., to compare with the actual results in a MazeTester). For example, you can get different paths depending on the order that you visit the neighbors. Thus your friend's program might get different results than yours does for a particular maze. However, you could write MazeTester code that tests that the path is valid, that is, that it doesn't go through walls, it only moves in certain directions, and it starts and ends in the right places.

When debugging your search function use very small mazes.

1. You should also use your MazeTester to test creating multiple Maze objects and making multiple calls to the various methods in different orders. Once the constructor is called there is no restriction on the order you can call the other methods.
2. For the case of calling search twice on the same maze, you test this by running the existing MazeViewer program, and typing another key on the keyboard after the first search has been completed. The program should show the same results as when you did the search the first time.
3. Similarly, you can test multiple calls to the accessors by resizing or iconifying and deiconifying the window, since paintComponent should be calling them every time that happens. (Note: unlike pa1, this GUI displays its output fixed-size; it does not resize the diagram when the window resizes.)

### README file / Submitting your program

You will be submitting completed versions of Maze.java, MazeComponent.java, MazeViewer.java, and README. Make sure your name and loginid appear at the start of each file.

Here's a review of what goes in the README: This is the place to document known bugs in your program. That means you should describe thoroughly any test cases that fail for the the program you are submitting. You can also use the README to give the grader any other special information, such as if there is some special way to compile or run your program. You will also be signing the [certification](http://scf.usc.edu/~csci455/curr/assgts/pa3/pa3.html" \l "certification)shown near the top of this document.

If you have downloaded all the files using the command shown near the beginning of this file, you should have a file called Makefile in your directory. You can submit your assignment with the command:

gmake submit

from an aludra directory containing your solution and the Makefile.