

GO :: FA22 :: A1 :: RainMaker Specification ↕

Assignment 1 :: A first Version of RainMaker

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Introduction

This term we will be studying object-oriented graphics programming and design. Simple video games provide a good platform for understanding these concepts and you will be developing successively more complex variants of a simple 2D top-down video game over the course of the term.

This term our game is called **RainMaker**. RainMaker is set in the near future where endless drought is wreaking havoc in the central valley. Ponds and lakes are drying up and birdlife has virtually disappeared. With your specially equipped helicopter you will roam the skies of the central valley seeking clouds to seed using your custom designed *rainmaker* helicopter attachment. The rainmaker has several modes of operation and can either seed clouds from above or shoot at them from the

sides. The seed from above approach is less effective, however, it does not harm birdlife. You will have to carefully choose your cloud seeding strategies in order to prevent harm to birdlife.

As you seed clouds, their color changes as they become more ready to bring more rain to the central valley. In this first version of the game, we will keep things simple and have just a single level with just two clouds to seed, a single pond, and only the top-down cloud seeding apparatus, and no birds or fuel concerns. The level is completed when the pond level returns to an acceptable level and the helicopter safely lands on the helipad. Future versions of the game we will ramp up the complexity with the need for mid-air refueling via fueling blimps, returning flocks of birds that increase the challenge of seeding clouds, wind that keeps the clouds moving, and more complex helicopter mechanics. As the game increases in complexity over the term you will have to avoid other objects and manage your fuel and other resources carefully in order to win the game.

The goal of this first assignment is to develop a simple version of the game and to develop the basic OOP framework using the JavaFX API. You will be building on this for the remainder of the semester and refactoring your code continuously. To that end, we are not hyper concerned about getting everything right the first time around. It's far more important that you get it working and then work on improving your working solution by continuously refactoring to cleaner code as we progress through the term.

For this version we will use the keyboard to control a single helicopter in a simplified graphical display that uses the entire screen. In later versions we will add additional screen components and controls as we learn how to build more complex GUI interfaces.

High Level Program Structure

We're going to start out with a basic structure that we will build on over the course of the remainder of the term. Some of this structure will remain in place throughout the project, other parts of it you will change and adapt. Don't be afraid of this, refactoring is an important part of good coding.

Pay close attention to the structure description below. If class names are specified specifically in this document, then you are required to use those exact class names in your project. We may refactor this structure in future assignments, do not be afraid of change.

Class **GameApp**

At the highest level we have the class **GameApp**. This class extends the JavaFX Application class. The purpose of this class is to manage the high-level aspects of our application and setup and show the initial Scene for your application. The **GameApp** class sets up all keyboard event handlers to invoke public methods in **Game**.

Class **Game**

For this first version all game logic and object construction belong in the **Game** class. All of the rules in our game are implemented in the **Game**. This class holds the state of the game and determines

win/lose conditions and instantiates and links the other *Game Objects*. The **Game** does not know anything about where user input comes from or how it is generated. The Game class extends the JavaFX class Pane. This allows the Game class to be the container for all game objects. For this version of the game we will not have a separate game object collection. This may change in a future revision.

At this stage we are not overly concerned that we are purely and properly implementing any particular application pattern, e.g., MVC. We do, however, want to start thinking about separation of concerns.

The interaction of these classes is discussed further later in the document.

Game Object Classes

In addition to the classes described above you will have some additional classes that represent game objects. In this version of this project, you will build a simple hierarchy of game objects. Because we want to inherit the properties of JavaFX Node objects, our game object class will extend the JavaFX **Group** class. This alleviates us from having to setup a number of different properties that each object needs, for example, the object's location in the world.

Later in this document I will discuss the basics of object behaviors and private data, but for now, let's jump into the various classes that will represent the game objects.

Class GameObject

The abstract **GameObject** class is the base of our object hierarchy. It contains methods and fields that manage the common aspects of all game objects in our program. Any state or behavior in this class should apply to all game object this. For example, the helicopter can move, while a pond cannot. Consequently, you would not include anything regarding movement in this class.

Class Pond

This class represents a pond or lake in the Central Valley. For this first version of the project, we will abstract the pond as a simple blue circle placed at random such that it does not intersect any other ground based object.

Class Cloud

This class represents a cloud in the skies of the Central Valley. For this first version of the project, we will abstract the cloud as a simple, initially white, circle placed at random anywhere other than fully directly over the helipad.

Class Helipad

This class represents the starting and ending location of this first game. The helicopter will take off from the helipad and after seeding all of the clouds will have to land back on the helipad in order to

end the game. For this game there is no actual notion of altitude. A helicopter is landed on the helipad whenever it is contained within the bounds of the helipad and not moving.

The helipad is represented on screen by a gray square with a gray circle centered within the square. There should be a gap between the circle's edge and the square edge. The exact relationship is not strict and you may adjust for taste. However, the circle must be centered and there must be a clear and visible gap between the circle and the square. The helipad should be centered along the width of the screen and should be roughly one half of its width above the bottom edge of the screen. Feel free to adjust slightly to make sure that your Helicopter fuel readout is clearly visible on startup.

Class Helicopter

This class is the most complex game object and represents the main *player character* of this version of the game. The helicopter is represented as a small filled yellow circle with a line emanating from the center of the circle pointing in the direction of the helicopter's heading.

In this project the heading of an object is the compass heading specified in degrees. Note: When the helicopter is initially placed on the map it is placed facing a heading of zero degrees, or, due north, and a speed of zero. There are some complications relating to compass heading that are discussed later in this document. As the heading changes the line must rotate to point in the direction of the new heading. As with the helipad, you should derive the size of the helicopter object from the dimensions of the screen. More on this later. As long as it looks reasonably similar to the drawing and behaves as described herein, you will be fine.

Below the helicopter you must display the current fuel, as shown above. These move with the helicopter but remain in the same position relative to the helicopter body. The Helicopter is initially centered on the Helipad so it is a good idea to pass the necessary coordinates into the Helicopter's constructor. You must pass in the center of the helipad. You may want to think about the order in which you create the objects to avoid issues here. Note, you cannot derive the coordinates of the helipad based on its placement rules for this game. In other words, if the location of the helipad changes, no changes to the helicopter code should have to be made. You are allowed to compute any adjustments necessary to center the helicopter on the helipad based on the center of the helipad that is passed in. If this doesn't make sense at the moment, then just go ahead and use whatever you think will work and you should be able to immediately see what needs to be done. This leads us to some additional advice that you would do well to heed throughout this course:

Don't be afraid to experiment and try things out. More importantly, give yourself enough time for this experimentation as it is an important part of the discovery and learning process.

The fuel properties of the helicopter are integer values. The initial fuel value is set for playability at 25000 and must be specified in the Game class. You should adjust the rest of your constants to make your game playable in a similar timeframe as the demo. The helicopter also has a speed that is initially set to zero. The helicopter speed increases and decreases with brake and acceleration commands, but, for now, there is a maximum speed of 10 and a minimum speed of -2. The helicopter

will ignore requests to go faster than the maximum speed or slower than the minimum. Note that negative speeds fly the helicopter backwards and that the speed transitions smoothly from forward to reverse direction.

We will discuss all of these objects further in a later section on game behavior. For now, let's take a look at all of the commands that we need to play this first version of the game.

Class Pond and Cloud

This class represents a single pond or cloud on the abstract map of the central valley. The Pond is represented on the screen by a blue circle and the cloud is represented by a white circle. Both display a percentage text in the center. For the pond the percentage is of the normal radius of the pond, for the cloud it is the percentage of saturation. For this version of the game, you will only one of each place at random in the upper two thirds of the screen. Each of your objects must have some slight random variation in both size and position when placed so that each time you play the game both the position and size are slightly different. It is your job to manage this variation so that the game is fun and playable. This will be a recurring theme throughout this course and it should be among your first lessons in the following idea:

Just because the code works does not mean that the project is complete.

As long as the pond's percentage is less than 100% you must make it rain by seeding the cloud. You seed the cloud by flying over the cloud and pressing the space bar rapidly, or, holding the space bar down. Every press of the space bar increases the saturation by 1%. As the cloud becomes more saturated, the color turns to gray. Simply decrease all RGB values by the amount of saturation. A fully saturated cloud would thus have the color `rgb(155,155,155)`. When the saturation reaches 30% the rainfall will start to fill the pond at a rate proportional to the cloud's saturation. The rainfall must increase the area, not the radius. In future versions of the game, we will adapt this further. The cloud will automatically lose saturation when it's not being seeded at a rate that allows the percentage to drop about 1%/second. For this version of the game, you will just need to adjust this experimentally. In future versions we will make this depend on frame rate so that we can be consistent.

We will use interfaces to define small slices of behavior and as a type for iteration purposes as needed. You will need the following interfaces. While there may be other interfaces going forward, you will want to define each class above with the following interfaces as necessary.

Interface Updatable

For this version of the game, we will only have this single interface. Updatable classes are dynamic and implement a callback, `update()` method that is invoked from the main game timer. Note that for this version of the game, not all game objects are updatable. For example, the helipad has no dynamic behavior at this time.

Game Commands

For this version of the game all of the game input is via keyboard commands. Later on in the course we will talk in detail about things like command objects and event driven operation. For now, we are just going to use these features as given below. I will give you a basic explanation of the behavior and some boiler plate code to implement the commands.

The Commands

Left Arrow Changes the heading of the helicopter by 15 degrees to the left.

Right Arrow Changes the heading of the helicopter by 15 degrees to the right.

Up Arrow Increases the speed of the helicopter by 0.1.

Down Arrow Decreases the speed of the helicopter by 0.1.

'i' Turns on the helicopter ignition.

'b' [optional] shows bounding boxes around objects.

'r' Reinitializes the game

For each command in our game, we want to add a key listener in our GameApp class. Note in JavaFX these are constants and you do not need to define them in terms of any integer or character constants. See the following URL:

<https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/javafx/api/javafx/scene/input/KeyCode.html> 

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Game Mechanics

You should have watched the game play demo video to get a basic idea of the gameplay for this version of the game. Note, we will be changing both the game play as well as the win/lose conditions throughout the term. At each stage the gameplay will reflect the learning goals for the module.

Game Play Overview

The game begins with the helicopter stopped and resting on the pad. For this version of the game the engine is not running and will need to be started by pressing the 'i' key. Up until the helicopter is running, it does not consume fuel. As soon as you start the helicopter it consumes fuel on every cycle. The player will use the navigation keys to move the helicopter towards the cloud. At the cloud the helicopter will slow down and seed the cloud by pressing the space bar rapidly. The helicopter may leave the cloud at any time, however, the saturation level is always decreasing and the single pond will need to reach 100% capacity in order to avoid a loss.

The complete the game, the player must return to the landing pad and bring the speed of the helicopter back to zero and turn off the ignition. The game ends when the win conditions are met or the helicopter runs out of fuel, whichever comes first. Once this happens the game will end and a dialog box will appear to report the player's score which is defined as the remaining fuel, and to give the player an opportunity to play again. If at any time during the mission the player runs out of fuel then the game is over and a dialog box will appear letting the player know that they have lost the game and, again, giving them an opportunity to play the game again.

Helicopter Mechanics

The helicopter is somewhat more complex and will evolve significantly over the course of the term. For this assignment we want to focus on simple movement and firefighting mechanics. The **Helicopter** object has a number of properties in addition to the location property. The helicopter's state includes fields for heading, speed, fuel, and water. Make sure that you review the section on object-oriented programming in this assignment before you start coding setters and getters arbitrarily.

Movement

The helicopter moves forward with increasing speed as the up arrow is pressed. You should define a maximum speed that the helicopter does not exceed. For this version of the game, increase the speed by 0.1 for each press of the up arrow and implement a max speed of 10 and a minimum speed of -2. Adjust all other timing factors to work with these choices. Pressing the down arrow reduces the speed and will begin to move the helicopter backwards as the speed becomes negative. In later versions of the game, we will adjust this behavior somewhat. In addition to more realistic flight mechanics, we will link the speed change to the device's refresh rate so that the game plays well on both fast and slow devices.

The right and left arrow keys will adjust the *heading* of the helicopter. In this first version we will keep this very simple and simply change the heading by fifteen degrees to the left or to the right based on which key was pressed. A heading of zero degrees represents due north and you will want to make sure that your code respects this convention. It is very important to realize, however, that most of calculations that you will need to execute will expect that zero degrees lies along the X axis. Moreover, the various trigonometric functions such as sine and cosine expect the argument to be in radians, and not degrees. Finally, because we are not using the standard device coordinates that causes the Y axis values to increase in a downward direction, a *turnLeft()* and *turnRight()* will work as expected in terms of direction. In order to achieve this easily, you will want to implement a Y scaling of (-1) in your main Game class (Pane).

Turning or changing speed has no immediate effect on the helicopter's movement. These actions merely change the state of the helicopter by updating the helicopter's speed and heading fields. The helicopter's position is updated when its *move()* method is invoked from the *update()* method in the Game class.

Detailed Program Structure

Before we start talking about the internal structure of this project, let's clarify some things about programming in Java related to common misconceptions as well as some unusual requirements for this assignment.

Just One File Please!

While this will likely change with the very next assignment, for this assignment, I want you to put all of your code in a single Java file called **GameApp.java**. It is a common misconception that each Java

source file can contain only one class. This has never been true. It used to be the case that there could be only one **public** class in each file, but even this requirement doesn't hold anymore under certain conditions. Nonetheless, we will adhere to that for this project.

There are several reasons for doing it this way this time that will not apply later. First, I want you to have a constant sense of how much code that you're writing over time for this first assignment. My example version of this project was about 550 lines of java. I want you to keep that in mind. If you've written 2000 lines of java, you're overdoing it. If you haven't written 100 lines before we get to the end of the week, you are very far behind. Second, adding more files adds cognitive load that is more easily managed once you have the structure of the program in your mind. I often start small projects this way and it can save you time at first. Part of the reason for this is that deleting classes that you don't want doesn't involve removing files. Finally, you may be doing peer review of the work of others and this will help to speed that up for you and your class mates.

Constants and Static Methods

Create final static constants in your Game class for anything that needs to be easily changed, for example, the GAME_HEIGHT and GAME_WIDTH which should initially be 800 and 400 respectively.

Screen Origin and Coordinate System

The origin, (0,0), of the screen is located, by default, in the upper left-hand corner with positive values increasing to the right and down. We will invert this by scaling the main pane by (-1). This will also require us to scale all text by (-1) to avoid mirroring. I suggest that you use a GameText class to achieve this easily.

Game Structure

The Game class provides the model for our game. It manages the changing state of our game as we interact with it. Your Game must declare and initialize all other game objects, manage the initialization of the game, determine when the game is won or lost, and create all of the objects in the game world by placing them in the scene graph. Your Game must have an init() method that is distinct from the constructor. The init() method is invoked whenever a new game must be played. It is perfectly reasonable to simply recreate all of the game objects in this init() method. The init() method creates all of the new state of the world including the positioning of each of the game objects. Don't forget to clear all children out of the Pane before initializing new objects.

As we have seen from the Game class structure, GameWorld has an update() method that is called to update the state of the game. In this method you need to move your helicopter and check the win/lose status of the game.

If the game has reached either a win or lose condition, the game should invoke a *modal dialog box* as shown in the demo video to offer to quit or replay.

You may create helper methods as necessary but they should not be public unless required. Later we may move these methods to a separate class,

OOP concerns for this Project

Private Data and Setters and Getters

In this course, all mutable, i.e., settable, fields must be private. This means that you may need setters and getters to obtain the value of this data externally or to set the value of this data. You do not always need setters or getters, however, and it's important to try to think in terms of behaviors. As discussed in class, you should not assume that it's best to just add setters and getters for each variable. This is unnecessary and is reasonably equivalent to just making the data public.

Unnecessary setters and getters indicate lower quality code and may negatively impact your grade.

Coding Standards

Many of the required coding standards for this project have been defined throughout this document. In addition, you must adhere to the following. Note, these are only starter guidelines and you should have learned these in your previous courses. You will be learning the basics of Clean Coding in this course and your grade will, in part, reflect the degree to which you adopt those standards.

1. Class names always start with an upper-case letter
2. Variable names always start with a lower-case letter
3. Non-Constant identifiers use camel case
4. Constant identifiers use upper snake case
5. All code is neat and properly indented
6. You are restricted to an **80-character width**
 - a. I want you to break habits that you may have developed of writing very long lines of Java code. You must learn to limit your width to aid readability.
 - b. Java allows you to break lines in places you might not have thought about. Learn to structure your code more vertically with carefully placed line breaks that do not change the semantics of the Java language.
 - c. The reason that it's so important for this first project is that it makes peer review and grading easier. Lines longer than 80 characters will break in speed-grader making your code less readable.
 - d. ***You WILL lose points for not adhering to this requirement.***

In the clean code discussion, the authors will warn you that commenting is a code smell. I'm quite sure that your other instructors have told you to comment excessively. We will be focusing in this

course on writing clean and self-documenting code. However, this is not always possible and, where necessary, you must communicate your intent with comments.

Meta-Comments

For this submission I definitely want you to leave meta-comments. These are communications to your instructor about what your intent and choices were. Tell me about your thought process while writing your code. This should be a natural part of your coding. If you practice this while you're coding, then you will learn to develop text that can go in documentation at a later time. For future versions of the project, you will most likely have to submit a writeup that includes much of this discussion. You definitely want to practice communicating about your design process now!

Submission

Submission standards are changing for this semester. For now, just get started with your coding, I will discuss submission mechanisms in class. In short, you will be submitting your work, in progress, every week on Monday. You will be expected to show constant improvement in your code over the remainder of the term and you will be expected to meet specific milestones. This approach is intended to keep you on track while allowing you some flexibility. If you miss too many milestones then it is possible to fail the project.