

An Educational Game for Data Structures

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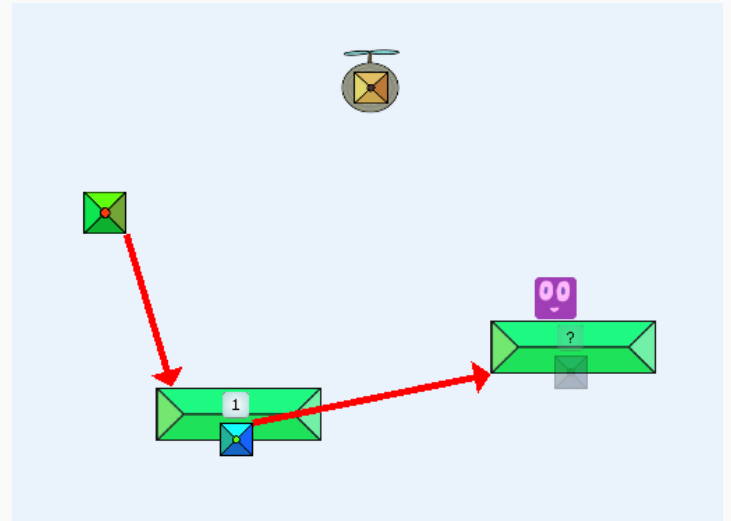
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Overview

Educational game for Computer Science

- Objectives
- Related Work
- Design
- Results
- Future Work



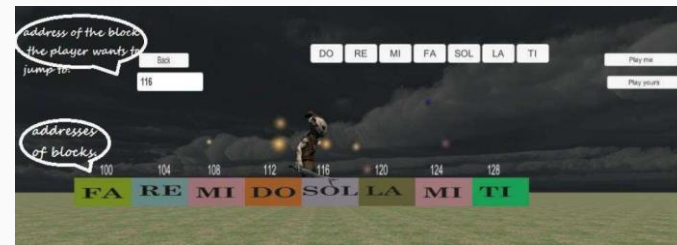
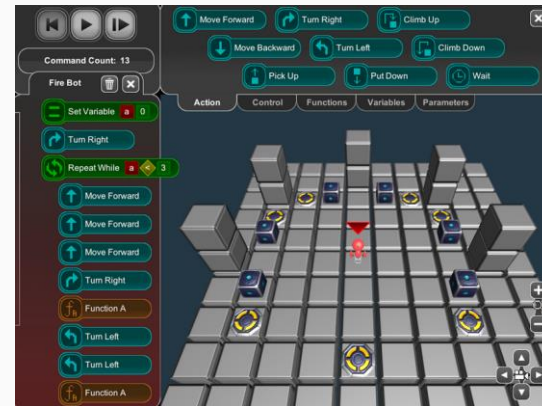
Objectives

- Help CS students understand Data Structures
- Help players develop a Mental Model

Solution: A game with interactive visual representations of Data Structures

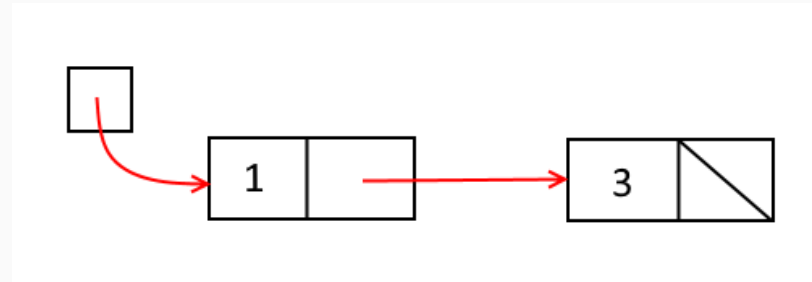
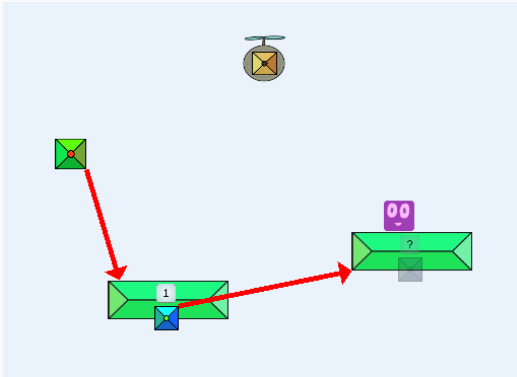
Related Work

- CS Educational games
 - Dong et al. 2017.
 - Dicheva et al. 2018
 - Sharma et al. 2017.
- Virtual Manipulatives (VM)
 - Moyer-Packenham et al. 2013.



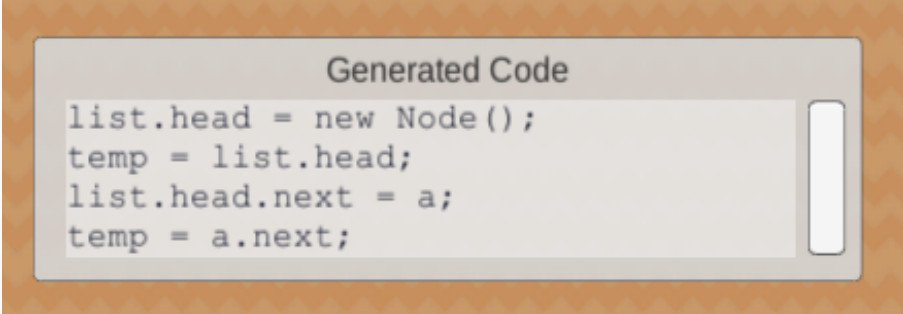
Design - Virtual Manipulatives

- VMs visually represent an abstract concept
- Structurally Similar to Linked Lists
- Solving puzzles requires understanding VM



Design - Analogy Hints

- Generated Code Window
- Info Panels

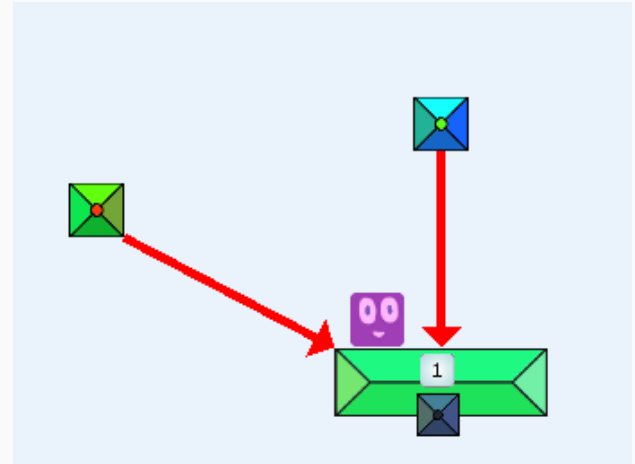


The image shows a screenshot of a software interface window titled "Generated Code". The window has a light gray background and a thin border. Inside the window, there is a text area containing four lines of Java code. To the right of the text area is a vertical scrollbar. The code is as follows:

```
list.head = new Node();  
temp = list.head;  
list.head.next = a;  
temp = a.next;
```

Future work

- Improve Design
- Improve Feedback
- Encourage Open Source Contributions



References

- P. Moyer-Packenham and A. Westenskow, "Effects of Virtual Manipulatives on Student Achievement and Mathematics Learning," *International Journal of Virtual and Personal Learning*, vol. 4, pp. 35–50, 2013
- V. Sharma, R. Musarrat, S. Chimalakonda and Y. Reddy, "Muse: A Musically Inspired Game To Teach Arrays and Linked Lists". *Proceedings of the 25th International Conference on Computers in Education*, pp. 802-807, 2017.
- Y. Dong and T. Barnes, "Evaluation of a Template-based Puzzle Generator for an Educational Programming Game" *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on the Foundations of Digital Games*, pp. 40, 2017.
- D. Dicheva and A. Hodge, "Active Learning through Game Play in a Data Structures Course" *Proceedings of the 49th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education*, pp. 834-839, 2018.
- J. Zhang, M. Atay, E. R. Caldwell and E. J. Jones, "Reinforcing student understanding of linked list operations in a game," *IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference*, pp. 1-7, 2015.

Questions? Comments?