LEGO MINDSTORMS PROGRAMMING CAMP

Robotics Programming 101 Camp Curriculum





Instructor Notes

- Every day of camp, we started with a short video showing FLL robots, real robots or something relevant to the day's lesson
- We switched between using powerpoint slides and showing the actual EV3 software environment
- We created some add-on challenges for students who finished early
- We created a new project each day
- We did not show the challenge solution slide unless someone needed help.

What is a robot?

Robots are machines in factories, play soccer, are in research labs, behave like animals....

We will use the LEGO MINDSTORMS



Lego Mindstorms Robots

You can place a video of your choice here to introduce FLL/Lego robotics





Dos and Do Nots this week

- Share the laptop and the robot
- Work together in your group
- Help each other finish each challenge
- Lift the robot by the handle
- **7** Take Turns
- Do not drop, throw, push on the robot they are very expensive
- Treat your computer well they are expensive

What will we do this week?

- Learn basic EV3-G Programming
- Make a Mindstorms robot follow your instructions
- Learn how to make your robot move straight, turn, repeat actions, choose between actions and follow lines
- Have FUN with robots and get inspired to learn more!!

Instructor Notes

- We use the CyberBot NXT design please note the location of the color sensor
- We use the NXT brick but program with the EV3 software. The NXT brick has less memory.
 - You will have to delete the files often (at the end of every session)
 - Students who create and use a lot of sound files will fill in the brick faster.
- We asked students to make a new project file each day for their programs.

BEGINNER EV3 PROGRAMMING Lesson: Introduction

Topics Covered: NXT Basics Introduction to the NXT Brick and EV3 Software





Lesson Objectives

- 1. Learn how the NXT brick operates
- 2. Learn about the main components of the EV3 software

The "Brick" Buttons

- 7 1 = Left, Right → Navigate menus
- 7 2 = Center Button →
 Select options
 Run Program
 Turn robot on
- 3 = Back →
 Undo
 Stop Program
 Turn robot off



The "Brick" Screen



Menus on Screen

My Files
 Find programs you downloaded

2. Use left/right

buttons to find other menus such as "View"

Ports, Sensors, motors



EV3 Software



EV3 Software: Saving your project



EV3 Software: Starting A new program

		Create a Project
Opened	Project* × +	 Opened Program
Projects	🖌 🗔 Program 🗙 🔣	Create a Program
Project Properties	Project Title: Project 1 PROJECT PICTURE 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION Image: Chain Mode Daisy-Chain Mode Image: Chain Mode Image: Chain Mode	
	Programs Images Sounds My Blocks Variables Exporta	ble Items
	Type Name Program.ev3p	Show Teacher Only
List of programs	7	
	Copy Paste Delete Import Export	

EV3 Software: Naming your program



PROJECTS VS. PROGRAMS

- You will start by creating a PROJECT which has a .ev3 extension. You change the name of a project by using the Save Project As option from the the File menu.
- You will write many PROGRAMS as part of each PROJECT file. You change the name of a program within a project by doubling clicking on the program's tab and typing in a new name.
- Note: If there is an * next to the project name, you have made changes to the project and you have not yet saved yet.
- There is a "x" next to project and program names. Clicking on it simply closes the file (it does not get deleted).

EV3 Software: Programming screen

Click on a program tab to bring up the programming canvas.



EV3 Blocks: Colored Tabs

ACTION BLOCKS Move, Large & Medium Motor, Display... 1 FLOW BLOCKS Start, Wait, Loop, Switch, Loop Interrupt 2 SENSOR BLOCKS Brick Buttons, Gyro, Color, Ultrasonic 3



DATA OPERATIONSADVANCED BLOCKSMY BLOCKSVariables, Array, Logic,
Math, Compare...Data Logging, Unregulated
Motor...Custom Blocks you create
6

Adding Blocks To Your Program





STEP 1: Green Block Tab, Click and hold any block and drag to programming area



STEP 2: Drop next to the Start Block (green arrow) (See animation)

Beginner Lesson: Moving Straight





Lesson Objectives

1. Learn how to make your robot go forward and backwards

- 2. Learn how to use the Move Steering block
- 3. Learn how to read sensor values using View



How do you Move Straight?





STEP 1: Green Block Tab, Click and hold Move Steering and drag to programming area



STEP 2: Drop next to the Start Block (green arrow) (See animation)

CHALLENGE 1: Move Straight







STEP 1: Green Block Tab, Click and hold Move Steering and drag to programming area

STEP 2: Drop next to the Start Block (green arrow)

STEP 3: Connect USB cable to NXT and Laptop.

STEP 4: Download to NXT

Move STEERING Block



NEGATIVE & POSITIVE POWER: BACKWARD & FORWARD



CHALLENGE 2: Move Straight (3 SECONDS)





STEP 1: Green Block Tab, Click and hold Move Steering and drag to programming area

STEP 2: Drop next to the Start Block (green arrow)

STEP 3: Select Options. Move "3 Seconds"

STEP 4: Connect USB cable to NXTand Laptop.

STEP 5: Download to NXT

Move Straight: Seconds vs. degrees vs. rotations

- CHALLENGE: Move your robot forward from the start line to the finish line (1) and back to the start (2).
- Try mode SECONDS, DEGREES or ROTATIONS and adjust duration/distance
- Try different speeds



MOVE STRAIGHT discussion

Did you guess and check a lot?

Yes. Programming with seconds, rotations and degrees using guess and check takes a lot of time and effort.

Did changing the speed matter?

Yes. When you move in seconds your speed will matter.

Do you think the wheel size will matter? Why?

Wheel size affects degrees/rotations.

Do you this the battery level will matter? Why?

When you move in seconds, battery levels change the power.

CHALLENGE SOLUTION



• There is a better way (go to next slide) to solve this challenge

SOLUTION: Use View

- Try "view" on brick (instruction below)
 - Move your robot with your hand from your start line to your end line
 - Read how many degrees your robot moved
 - Use this number in the Move Steering Block to move the correct distance.



Browse menu using arrows.

Look for the 'View' option. Browse for 'Mot Select with orrange button. degrees' option

Sepecify the Port on NXT Have fun with your digital that is connected to the sensor.

Beginner Lesson: Turning





Lesson Objectives

- 1. Make a robot baseball player
- 2. Learn how to make the robot turn





PIVOT Vs. SPIN Turns

180 Degree Pivot Turn



Notice where the robot ends in both pictures after a 180 degree turn.

In the Spin Turn, the robot moves a lot less and that makes Spin Turns are great for tight positions. Spin turns tend to be a bit faster but also a little less accurate.

So when you need to make turns, you should decide which turn is best for you!

How to Make Pivot and Spin turns



Change Steering value here

Measuring Turns

Turns are measured in degrees


Making a Pivot turn for 90 Degrees



Program your robot to turn 90 degrees....Does the robot actually turn 90 degrees if you just pick 90 degrees for distance? Ans. NO!

> This makes the wheel turn 90 degrees. The correct solution on next page

How do you make the robot turn 90 degrees?

Ans. Try using the port view to measure the turn and then input the correct number of degrees.







38

TURNING CHALLENGES

Challenge 1

- Your robot is a baseball player who has to run to all the bases and go back to home plate.
- Can you program your robot to move forward and then turn left?
- Use a square box or tape



Challenge 2

- Your robot baseball player must run to second base, turn around and come back to first.
- Go straight. Turn 180 degrees and return to the same spot.



Class Discussion Guide

- Did you try PIVOT and SPIN turns? What did you discover? Pivot turns were fine for Challenge 1, but for Challenge 2, if we used Pivot turns, we were farther away from the base.
- What situations would one work better than the other? Spin turns are better for tight turns (places where there is not enough space) and you stay closer to your original position.

CHALLENGE SOLUTIONS

Challenge 1

You probably used a combination of move steering to go straight and do pivot turns to go around the box.



Challenge 2

You probably used a spin turn because it is better for tighter turns and gets you closer to the starting point!



Review



- What do these programs do?
- What are the names of these blocks

Beginner Lesson: Display Blocks





By: Droids Robotics

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- 1. Make the robot display some fun faces while moving!
- 2. Learn to use the Display Block to display text and images
- 3. Understand why the Display Block can be useful in programming



Display Block

- The Display Block to show information and pictures on the screen
- You can control the location and size of text
- You can use this same block to display sensor readings and instructions.
- Located in Green Tab



More on Display Blocks

- **7** Two modes to display
- Pixel mode (Use for displaying images or text)
 - Gives fine control over placement of image/text
- Grid mode (Easier to use, only works for text mode)
 - Accuracy of a single "line"
- Click on top left of block to preview



Displaying Text in Grid Mode

Step 1: Pick Display Block

Step 2:

Click on "Switch Modes" icon and hover over "text". Then click on "grid". The icon will change into a square with dots.

Step 3:

Use the box on the top right to enter the text you want to display



DISPLAY BLOCK: CHALLENGE 1

- Can you write a program to display text in the middle of the screen?
 - Display "Hello World"

How do we get the text to stay on the screen longer?
Need to make the program "wait" before exiting

Wait Blocks

- Wait blocks make your program pause for some time (or until something happens) before moving to the next step
- For now, we are just going to wait for time



DISPLAY BLOCK: CHALLENGE 2

- Can you write a program to display text in the middle of the screen?
 - Display "Hello World"

Make the display block run for 3 seconds



DISPLAY BLOCK: CHALLENGE 3

- Can you write a program to display text in the middle of the screen?
 - Display "Hello World"

Make the display block run for 3 seconds

Can you also move while doing this?

A tip for Move Steering Blocks With Wait Blocks

- Leaving the motor "on" and "off"
- Why use the "on" instead of "degrees"?
 - May want the program to do other tasks while moving





Challenge 3 solution



Displaying an image in PIXEL Mode





Step 1: Pick Display Block

Step 2:

Click on the "Select Mode" which has a folder icon and pick "image"

Step 3:

Use the empty box on the top right to pick the image you want to display

Note: the image you choose may not show up correctly on a NXT

DISPLAY BLOCK CHALLENGE 4

- Can you display eyes on the screen while moving? Alternate eyeballs that look left and right.
 - Use the Display Block, Motor On and Wait Block
- Feel free to have fun with this challenge and make it yours!







CHALLENGE 4 Solution



Discussion Guide update?

- Why might you want to know how to use the display block?
 - You might want to know what the sensor value your robot is seeing
 - You might have to program a robot to stop when the robot reaches a red line but it stops before
 - Does the robot see the same thing you see?
 - You can display the value on the screen and check

It's a great debugging tool. You can learn more about debugging code in one of our Intermediate lessons.

BEGINNER EV3 PROGRAMMING: Lesson Touch Sensor





Lesson Objectives

- Make a robot that wanders the room bumps into walls and turns around
- 2. Learn how to use the Touch Sensor
- 3. Learn the difference between the Wait For Block and the Sensor Blocks



What is a sensor?

- A sensor lets an EV3 program measure and collect data about is surroundings
- The EV3 sensors include:
 - Color measures color and darkness
 - Ultrasonic measures distance to nearby surfaces
 - Touch measures contact with surface



WHAT IS A TOUCH SENSOR?

- Touch Sensor can detect when the sensor's red button has been pressed or released
- With this information, you can program an action when the sensor is:
 - Currently Pressed
 - Currently Released
 - Pressed and Released Just Before (Bumped)
- When might you use this sensor?
 - Useful for programming "moving until touch sensor is pressed/released/bumped"
 - You can also have your program start or stop when a touch sensor is pressed.

		1	
No 11	ار آ	<u>! </u>	
	Ľ	~	
0	+1		
1	+I	I	
2	++		

How do you program with the Touch Sensor?

There is a Touch Sensor Block in the Yellow Tab, but there is a Wait for Touch in the Orange Tab. What is the difference!!????!



Yellow Sensor Tab: Sensor Blocks

Used to Read and Compare Sensor Values



Orange Flow Tab: Wait for Block

Used to wait for a sensor reading (or time)



In this lesson, we will use the Wait For Block

Reminder: A tip for Move Steering Blocks With Sensors

- Leaving the motor "on" and "off"
- Why use the "on" instead of "degrees"?
 - May want the program to do other tasks such as reading a sensor while moving





CHALLENGE 1

Program your robot to move straight until you tap the sensor with your hand.







Hint: You will combine: Move Steering + Wait Block

Challenge 1 Solution

The goal of this program is to make your robot move straight until you touch the sensor with your hand.



CHALLENGE 2

Program your robot to move until it hits the edge of a wall. Then back up and turn right 90 degrees.







Hint: You will combine Move Steering + Turning + Wait Block



Challenge 2 Solution

The goal of this program is to make your robot move until it hits the edge of a wall. Then back up and turn right 90 degrees



DISCUSSION

- Why did you use MOTOR ON for these challenges?
 - You want to read the sensor while the motor is on.
- Why do we use the WAIT FOR BLOCK in these challenges?
 - We need to program to wait for the correct reading
- What is the difference between PRESSED, RELEASED and BUMPED?
 - PRESSED = pushed in, RELEASED = not pushed, BUMPED = pressed and released recently
- What are some situations you might want to use each of these for?
 - PRESSED = running into a wall, BUMPED = tapped by hand RELEASED = no longer touching a wall

BEGINNER EV3 PROGRAMMING Lesson: Color Sensor





Lesson Objectives

- 1. Make the robot move up to the green line without doing any measurement!
- 2. Learn how to use the Color Sensor
- 3. Learn about Coast and Brake



What is the color sensor?

- What are they? Sensors that detect the intensity of light that enters it
- Three modes: Color, Reflected Light Intensity and Ambient Light Intensity
 - Color Mode: Recognizes 7 colors (black, brown, blue, green, yellow, red, white) and No Color
 - Reflected Light: Measures the intensity of the light reflected back from a lamp that emits a red light. (0=very dark and 100=very light)
 - Ambient Light: Measures the strength of the light that enters the sensor from the environment. (0=very dark and 100=very light)

- USES:
 - Move until a line
 - **才** Follow a line



We will use COLOR MODE in this Lesson

COLOR SENSOR CHALLENGE

- How do you make the robot move up to a green line using the color sensor?
- Step 2: Use the color sensor in COLOR MODE
- Hint: You will use Move Steering (think about motor on and off) and Wait for "Color"


Color Sensor Challenge Solution



Wait until Color is Green (#3)



BEGINNER EV3 PROGRAMMING Lesson: Loops





Lesson Objectives

- 1. Can we improve our baseball robot by just programming it to go to the "next" base and repeating this action?
- 2. Learn how to repeat an action
- 3. Learn how to use Loop Blocks



Repeating an Action

- How can we move around bases using the commands we already know?
 - (move + turn) + (move + turn) + (move + turn)



Loops make repeating a task multiple times easy

Is there an easier way?





- Loops make repeating a task multiple times easy
 - KEEP GOING....Forever, for a Count, Until touch (or something else)



LOOP CHALLENGE

Challenge: Write a program to go around bases until touched.
 You must use a LOOP



Loop CHALLENGE Solution



BEGINNER EV3 PROGRAMMING Lesson: Switches





Lesson Objectives

- 1. Get the robot to show a happy face when you press its button and a sad face when you don't
- 2. Learn how to make your robot decide what to do out of different choices
- 3. Learn how to use a Switch Block



Switch Blocks



- Asking the robot a question and doing something different based on the answer
 - Example: Does the robot see a line? Or not?
- Basically a YES/NO QUESTION
- Switch blocks are found in the orange/flow tab

The question being asked: is the touch sensor pressed

Run this code if

the answer is yes

Run this code if the answer is no

Big smile

Switch Block CHALLENGE 1

- Challenge: Write a program that changes the display based on if the touch sensor is pressed or not pressed.
- If pressed, your EV3 is happy!
 Display a smiley face. If not pressed, the EV3 is sad!
 Display a sad face.
- Hint: You will need to use the display block, loops and switch blocks!



Challenge 1 SOLUTION



Switch Block Challenge 2

Can you write a program that display big eyeballs if you touch it once and a sad face if you touch it a second time and toggles back and forth.

Challenge 2 solution



BEGINNER EV3 PROGRAMMING Lesson: Ultrasonic Sensor





LESSON OBJECTIVES

- 1. Make a robot that follows you around like a dog
- 2. Learn about the Ultrasonic Sensor
- 3. Learn how to use Wait Until Ultrasonic Block
- 4. Learn the difference between the Wait Until Ultrasonic Block and the Ultrasonic Block



ULTRASONIC

- An ultrasonic sensor measures distance.
- You use it when you need to make sure you are a certain distance away from a target.
- The distance can be measured in inches or centimeters.
 VS.
- To read the ultrasonic sensor, you use the Ultrasonic Block. To use the ultrasonic to do an action until a distance, you use "Wait Until"





Ultrasonic Challenge 1

- Challenge: Make the robot move until it is 5 inches away from the wall.
- **7** Step 1: Make a new program
- Step 2: Set move to "on"
- Step 3: Set wait block to use the Ultrasonic
- Step 4: Set move block to "off"



Challenge 1 solution



Challenge 2: Dog Follower

- If the robot is closer than 5 inches away from your hand move backward, otherwise move forward.
- Step 1: Drag a loop from the orange tab
- Step 2: Drag switch inside loop
- Step 4: Set move steering block to ON and place in TRUE
- Step 4: Set move steering block to OFF and place in FALSE



Challenge 2 Solution



BEGINNER PROGRAMMING Lesson: Basic Line Follower





LESSON OBJECTIVES

- 1. Learn how to make a robot follow a line
- 2. Learn how to get a robot to follow a line using Color Mode on the EV3 Color Sensor
- 3. Learn how to follow a line until a sensor is activated
- 4. Learn how to follow a line for a particular distance
- 5. Learn how to combine sensors, loops and switches

Instructor Notes

- We used CyberBot (see EV3Lessons.com Robot Design page)
 - CyberBot has color sensors behind the wheel
 - Therefore, students will have to line follow backwards (negative power)
- Programming a line follower on an NXT brick with an EV3 requires some adjustments
 - We found that Move Steering with an angle does not work with the NXT for pivot turns
 - Therefore, the code uses Large Motor blocks instead for turning

FOLLOW THE MIDDLE?

- Humans want to follow the line in the middle.
- Let's have the robot do the same thing using the Color Sensor
- What type of questions can we ask using this sensor
 - Are you on line or not?





2. If we are on white, turn left to get back to the line

Seems to work fine here...



1. If we are on black, keep going straight 2. If we are on white, turn left to get back to the line OH NO... my robot is running away.... When the robot leaves the left side of the line, the program no longer works!

Line Following: ROBOT STYLE

Why could the Human follow the middle?:

- ↗ They can see ahead.
- They can see the whole line and its surroundings
- They see both sides and which side they left

- Why can't the Robot do the same thing?:
 - Can't tell right or left side of the line
 - How do we make sure the robot always veers off on the SAME SIDE of the line?
 - Instead of the middle, could the robot follow the "edge"?
 - **↗** So now the robot will fall off only the same side.
 - We will now show you how this works!

ROBOT LINE FOLLOWING Happens on the edges

Left side line following If on black, turn left. If on white turn right.

The robot has to choose which way to turn when the color sensor sees a different color.

The answer depends on what side of the line you are following!



Right side line following

Starting the robot on the correct side



Line Follower challenge 1

- Step 1: Write a program that follows the RIGHT edge of a line.
- 1. If your sensor sees black, turn right
- 2. If your sensor sees white, turn left
- 3. Use loops and switches!
- 4. You will need to use Large Motor block in "ON" Mode.
- 5. You will need to control each motor (B and C) separately.
- Step 2: Try it out on different lines.



Line Following challenge Solution



Q. Does this program follow the Right or Left side of a line?A. The robot is following the Right Side of the line.

CHALLENGE 1 SOLUTION



Q. This line follower goes forever. How do we make this stop? A. Change the end condition on the loop.

Line follower challenge 2

Part 1: Make a line follower that stops when you press the touch sensor

Part 2: Make a line follower that stops after it travels a particular distance

Challenge 2 SOLUTION: Sensor



Challenge 2 Solution: Particular distance


DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Why is it important for the robot to follow the same side of the line?
- The robot only knows to check if it is on or off the line.
- This is a basic line follower. What are some things that were not good about this line follower? Do you think the line follower can be improved?
- It wiggles a lot. Smoother line followers are described in the Advanced lessons.
- What sensor measures how far you have travelled?
- The rotation sensor used in Challenge 2 solution measures how much the wheels have turned.
- How would you write a line follower that will stop when it sees a line? Or another color?
- Change the loop exit condition to use the color sensor.

Final Challenge





Using EV3Lessons Training Mats



- Line follower races
- Try your robot on different lines

- Black line follower
- Red line follower
- Move until a certain color
- Drive over all the colors and have the robot name the color
- Have robots follow each other around the track, but stay 5inches away





- Line follower until green
- Line follow black then white
- Go around the box
- Start in green box and end in red without knocking over box (place light box in black rectangle)

CREDITS

- This tutorial was created by Sanjay Seshan and Arvind Seshan
- More lessons are available at www.ev3lessons.com



This work is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution-</u> <u>NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License</u>.