

INTERMEDIATE PROGRAMMING LESSON



JALEXAK ADDED INTRODUCTION TO MY BLOCKS

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EV3 CLASSROOM LESSON
BY EV3LESSONS.COM

Lesson Objectives

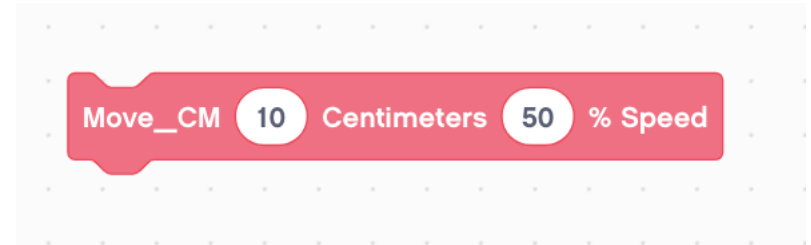
Learn how to make custom blocks in the EV3 Classroom Software (My Blocks)

Learn why a My Block is useful

Learn to construct a My Block with Inputs and Outputs (Parameters)

What is a My Block?

- A My Block is a combination of one or more blocks that you create that can be grouped into a single block
- My Blocks are basically your own custom blocks
- Once a My Block is created, you can use it in multiple programs
- Just like any other block in EV3, My Blocks can have both inputs and outputs (parameters)



The blocks above is an example of a My Block:

- Move_CM tells the robot to move the number of CM we input
- You will create this My Block in the next lesson

When do You Use a My Block?

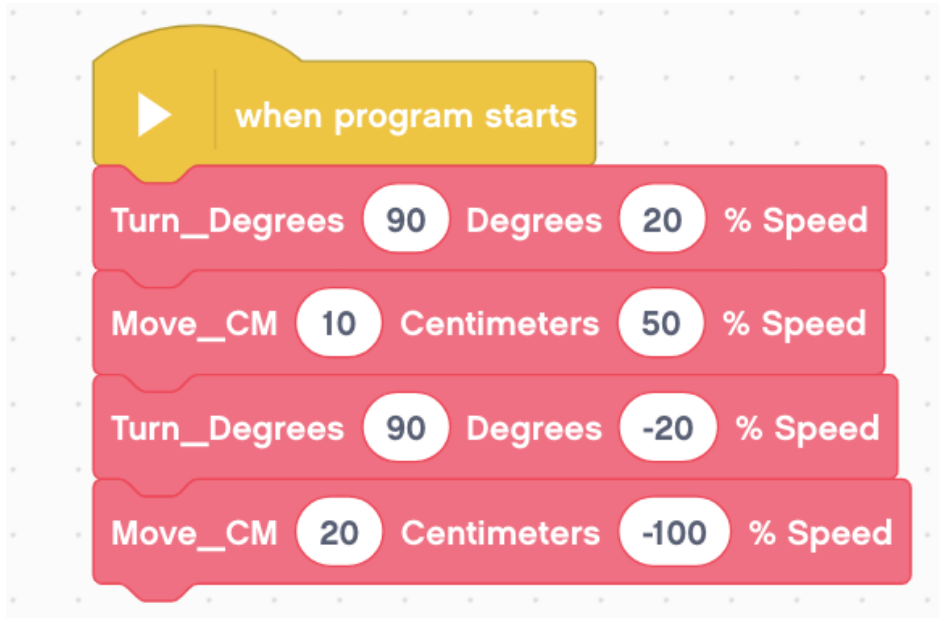
- Whenever the robot is going to repeat an action inside your program
- When code is repeated in a different program
- Organize and simplify your code



Why Should You Bother?

Because of My Blocks, your missions will look like this...

Παρακάτω το robot προχωράει σε 2 πλευρές ενός ορθογωνίου με κατανοητό κώδικα

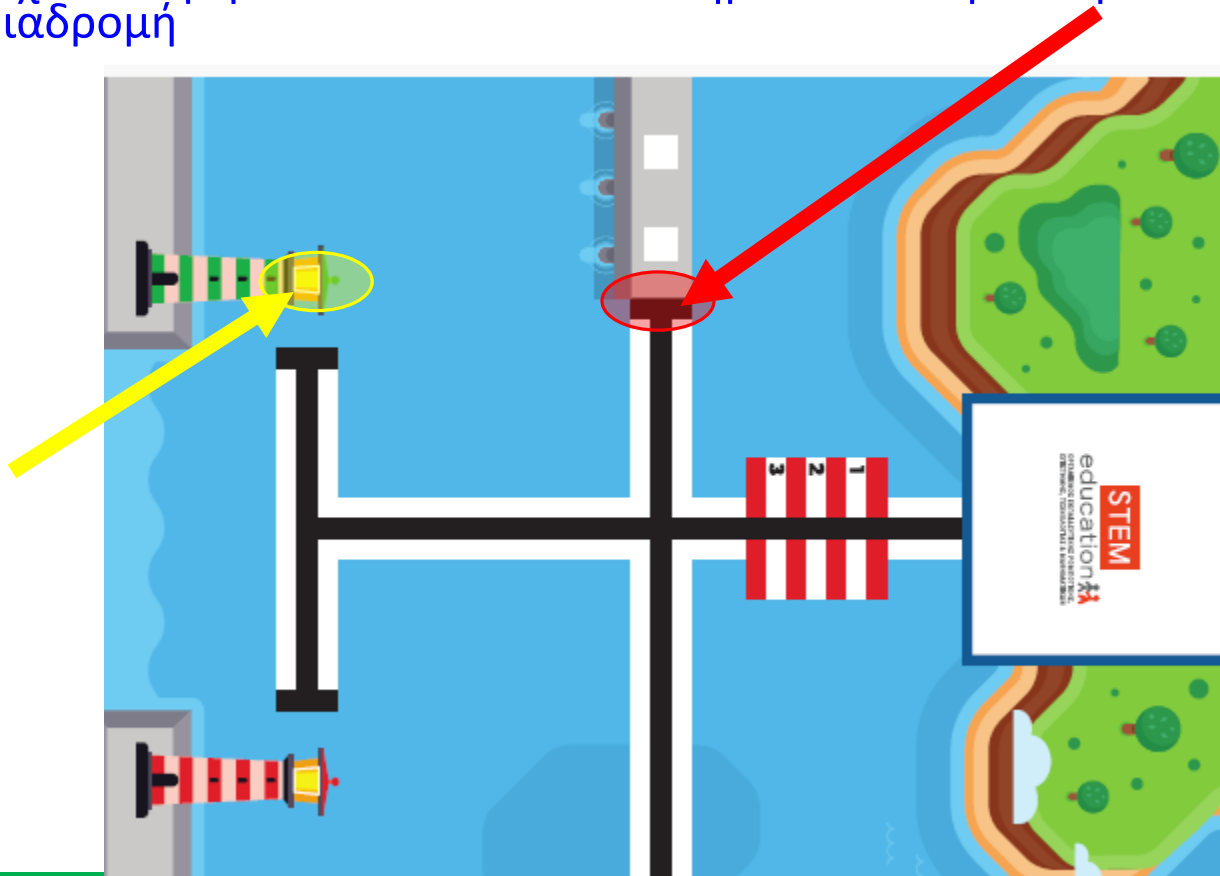


This makes your code easier to read and easier to modify!

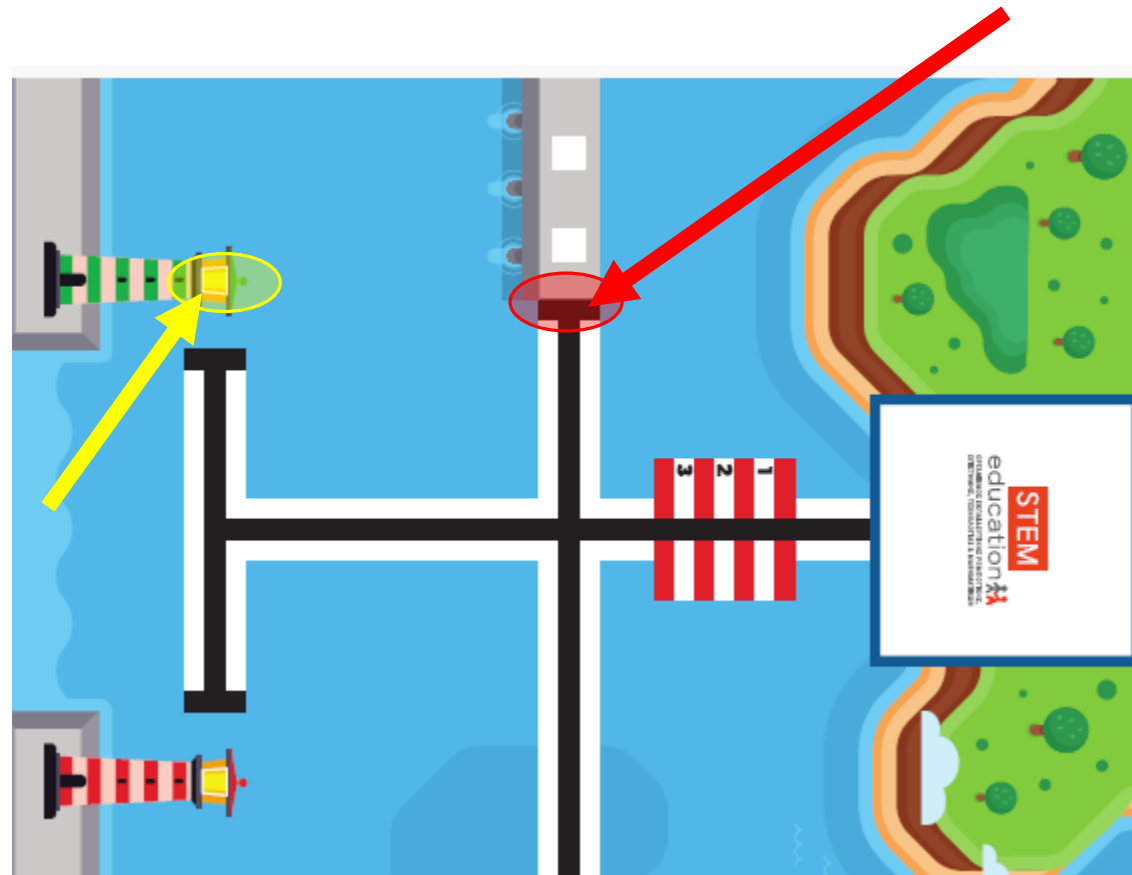
Ας φτιάξουμε block βήμα - βήμα

Στην παρακάτω πίστα (διαγωνισμός STEM 2023-2024) θέλουμε:

Το ρομπότ να ξεκινήσει από την αρχή να πάει στο σημείο του κόκκινου βέλους και στη συνέχεια να γυρίσει και να πάει στο σημείο του κίτρινου βέλους ακολουθώντας πάντα τη διαδρομή



Βήμα 1: Ας φτιάξω τον αλγόριθμο



Κινήσου ευθεία ως τη διασταύρωση

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line μέχρι διασταύρωση

Spin 180

Follow line till cross

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line till cross

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line till cross

Βήμα 2: αλγόριθμος σε κώδικα

Κινήσου ευθεία
ως τη
διασταύρωση

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line μέχρι
διασταύρωση

Spin 180

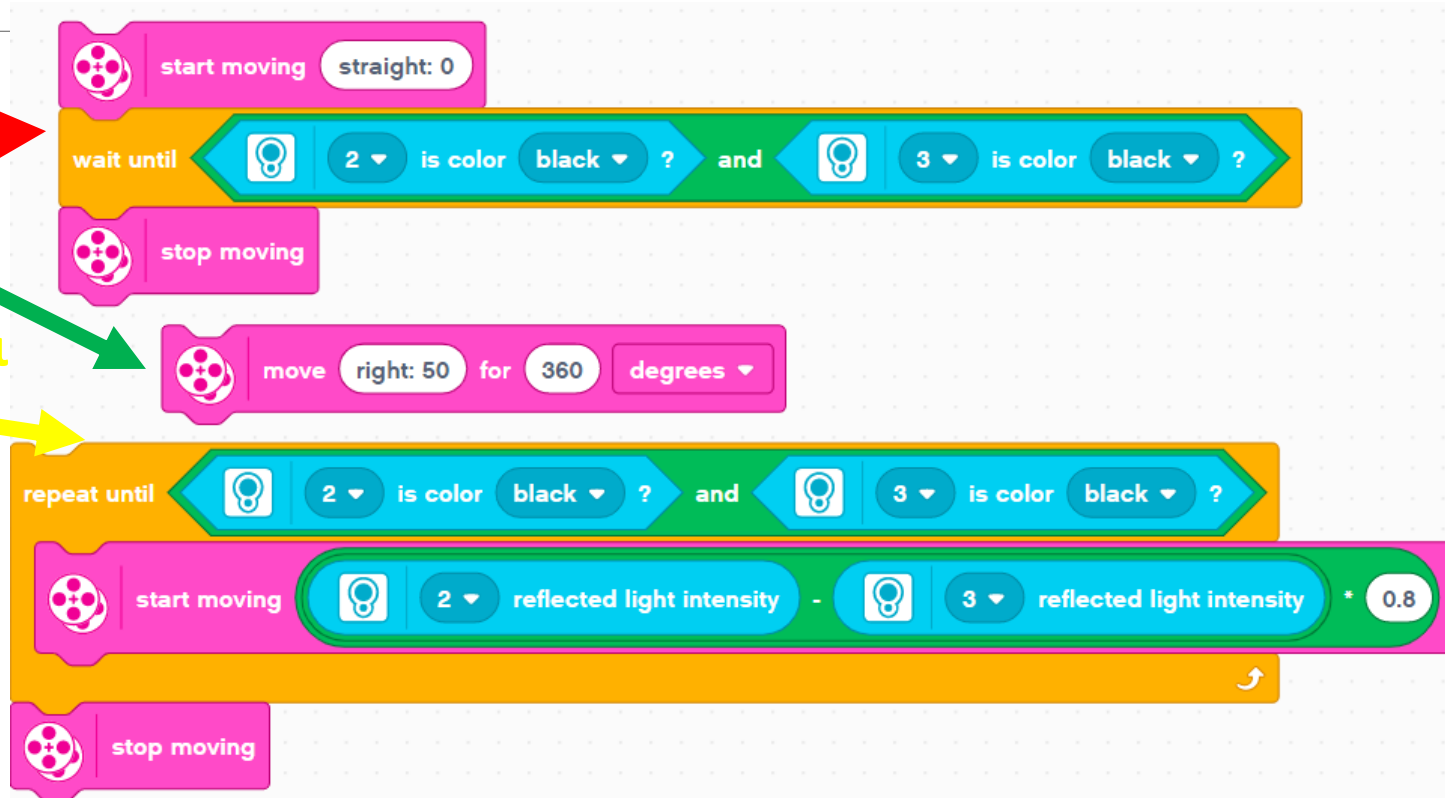
Follow line till
cross

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line till
cross

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line till
cross



Ερώτηση: Μήπως είναι πολύ πιο απλός ο αλγόριθμος από το πρόγραμμα; Άρα μήπως καλύτερα να γράφαμε αλγόριθμο; Αν συμφωνείτε πάμε να φτιάξουμε τις δικές μας εντολές (block) για τον αλγόριθμο.

Βήμα 3: Make blocks

Πήγαινε στο **MyBlocks**

Πάτα **makeblock**

Δώσε όνομα «**go_till_cross**» και πάτα **save**

Βάλε κάτω από το block που φτιάχτηκε τις εντολές

Πρέπει να έχεις το block της παρακάτω εικόνας

The image shows a Scratch code editor with a custom block named 'go_till_cross' defined. The block is a pink rounded rectangle with a 'define' label and the name 'go_till_cross' in a smaller pink box. Below the definition, the block's body consists of four blocks: a pink 'start moving' block with 'straight: 0', a yellow 'wait until' block, a green 'and' block, and a pink 'stop moving' block. The 'wait until' block contains two light blue 'is color' blocks. The first 'is color' block has a dropdown menu set to '2' and the text 'is color black?'. The second 'is color' block has a dropdown menu set to '3' and the text 'is color black?'. The 'and' block is a green arrow pointing right, connecting the two 'is color' blocks.

Βήμα 4: Πίσω στον κώδικα

Κινήσου ευθεία ως τη διασταύρωση

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line μέχρι διασταύρωση

Spin 180

Follow line till cross

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line till cross

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line till cross



Βήμα 5a: Make blocks - παράμετροι

Πολλές φορές όμως τα block θέλουμε να έχουν παραμέτρους. Για παράδειγμα `go_till_cross` με ταχύτητα 30

The image shows a Scratch script on a grid background. It consists of the following blocks:

- define** block: A pink block with a tab labeled `go_till_cross`. It has a parameter field labeled `speed` with the Greek word `ταχύτητα` next to it.
- start moving** block: A pink block with a motor icon. It has a dropdown menu set to `straight: 0`, the text `at`, a parameter field labeled `speed`, and a format string `% speed`.
- wait until** block: A yellow block with a lightbulb icon. It contains two conditions connected by `and`:
 - Condition 1: A dropdown menu set to `2`, followed by `is color`, a dropdown menu set to `black`, and a question mark `?`.
 - Condition 2: A dropdown menu set to `3`, followed by `is color`, a dropdown menu set to `black`, and a question mark `?`.
- stop moving** block: A pink block with a motor icon.
- when program starts** block: A yellow block with a play button icon.
- go_till_cross** block: A pink block with a parameter field set to `30` and the Greek word `ταχύτητα`.

Βήμα 5b: Παράμετροι στα block

Pivot90:

➤ Πόσες μοίρες να στρίψω

➤ Προς ποια κατεύθυνση

➤ Με ποια ταχύτητα;

Φτιάχνω μια εντολή (block) που θα μπορεί να δεχτεί αυτές τις παραμέτρους

The image shows a Scratch script with the following blocks:

- define turn** block with parameters: `direction` (μοίρες=), `moires` (with speed=), and `speed`.
- set movement speed to** block with parameter: `speed` %.
- move** block with parameters: `direction * 50` for `360 / 90 * moires` degrees.
- when program starts** block.
- turn** block with parameters: `-1` μοίρες=, `90` (with speed=), and `30`.

Red arrows point from the Greek text on the left to the 'define turn' block and from the Greek text on the right to the 'turn' block in the 'when program starts' section.

Τη χρησιμοποιώ για να στρίψω pivot αριστερά 90 μοίρες με ταχύτητα 30

Create Blocks

Παρακάτω θα δούμε πως μπορούμε να φτιάξουμε blocks

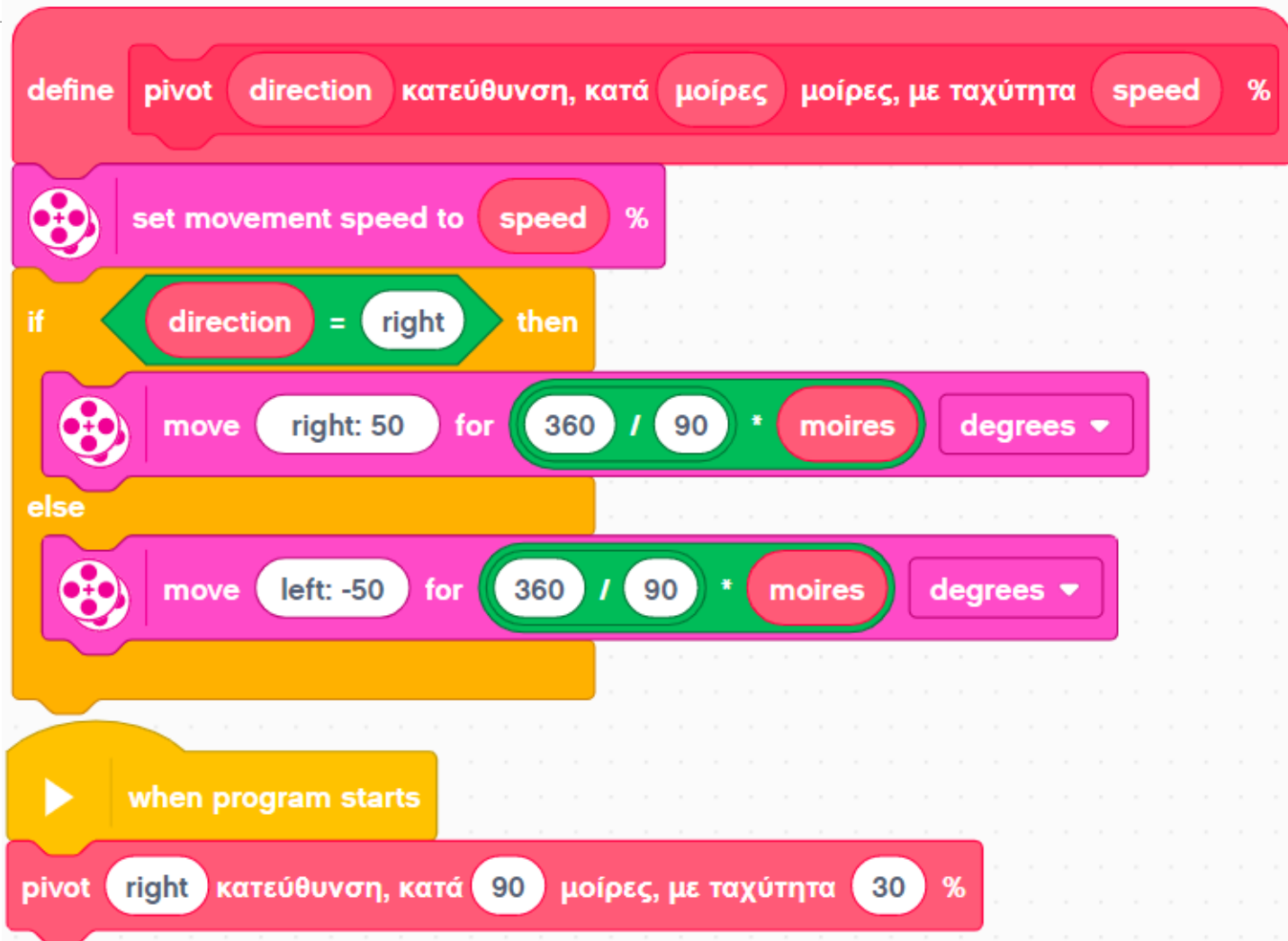
Μπορείτε να συνεχίσετε με την παρουσίαση όπου δείχνει τη δημιουργία blocks με video.

Εναλλακτικά μπορείτε να δείτε τον τρόπο δημιουργίας blocks από το <https://ev3lessons.com/en/Lessons.html?tab=intermediate> και πιο συγκεκριμένα στο pdf

<https://ev3lessons.com/en/ProgrammingLessons/intermediate/scratch-MyBlocksUpdated.pdf>

Βήμα 5c Make and use pivot block

Ας φτιάξουμε το παρακάτω pivot block με παραμέτρους

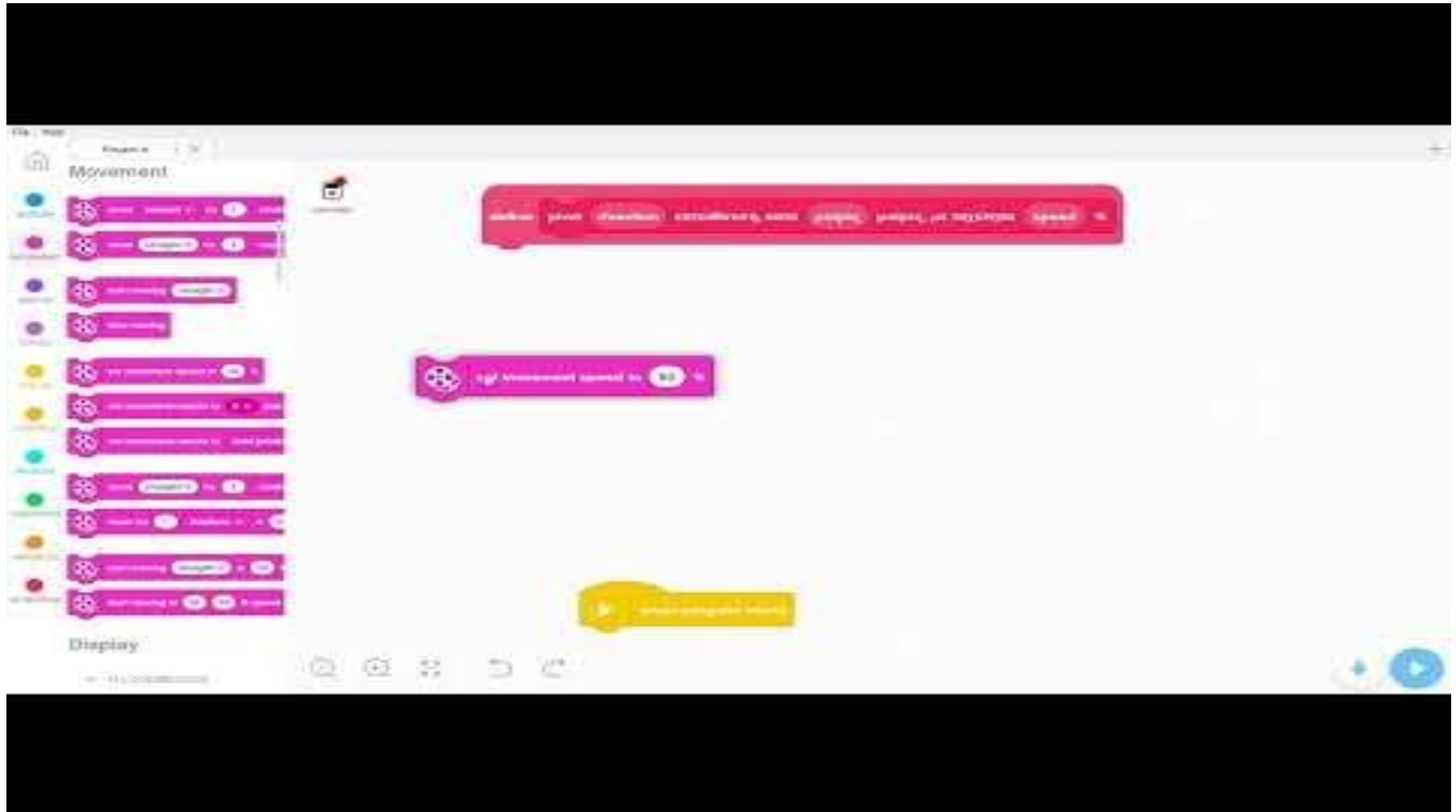


```
define pivot direction κατεύθυνση, κατά μοίρες μοίρες, με ταχύτητα speed %  
  set movement speed to speed %  
  if direction = right then  
    move right: 50 for 360 / 90 * moires degrees  
  else  
    move left: -50 for 360 / 90 * moires degrees  
  end  
when program starts  
pivot right κατεύθυνση, κατά 90 μοίρες, με ταχύτητα 30 %
```

The image shows a Scratch script for a custom block named 'pivot'. The block is defined with three parameters: 'direction' (with a dropdown menu showing 'κατεύθυνση, κατά'), 'μοίρες' (degrees), and 'speed' (with a dropdown menu showing '%'). The script starts with a 'when program starts' block, followed by a 'pivot' block with 'right' for direction, '90' for degrees, and '30' for speed. The 'pivot' block's code includes: setting movement speed to the 'speed' parameter; an 'if' statement checking if 'direction' is 'right'; if true, moving 'right: 50' for a distance of $360 / 90 * \text{μοιρες}$ degrees; if false, moving 'left: -50' for the same distance. The 'else' block ends with 'end'.

Βήμα 5c: Create and use pivot block

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UE1gZnimvok>



Βήμα 5c: Make and use pivot block

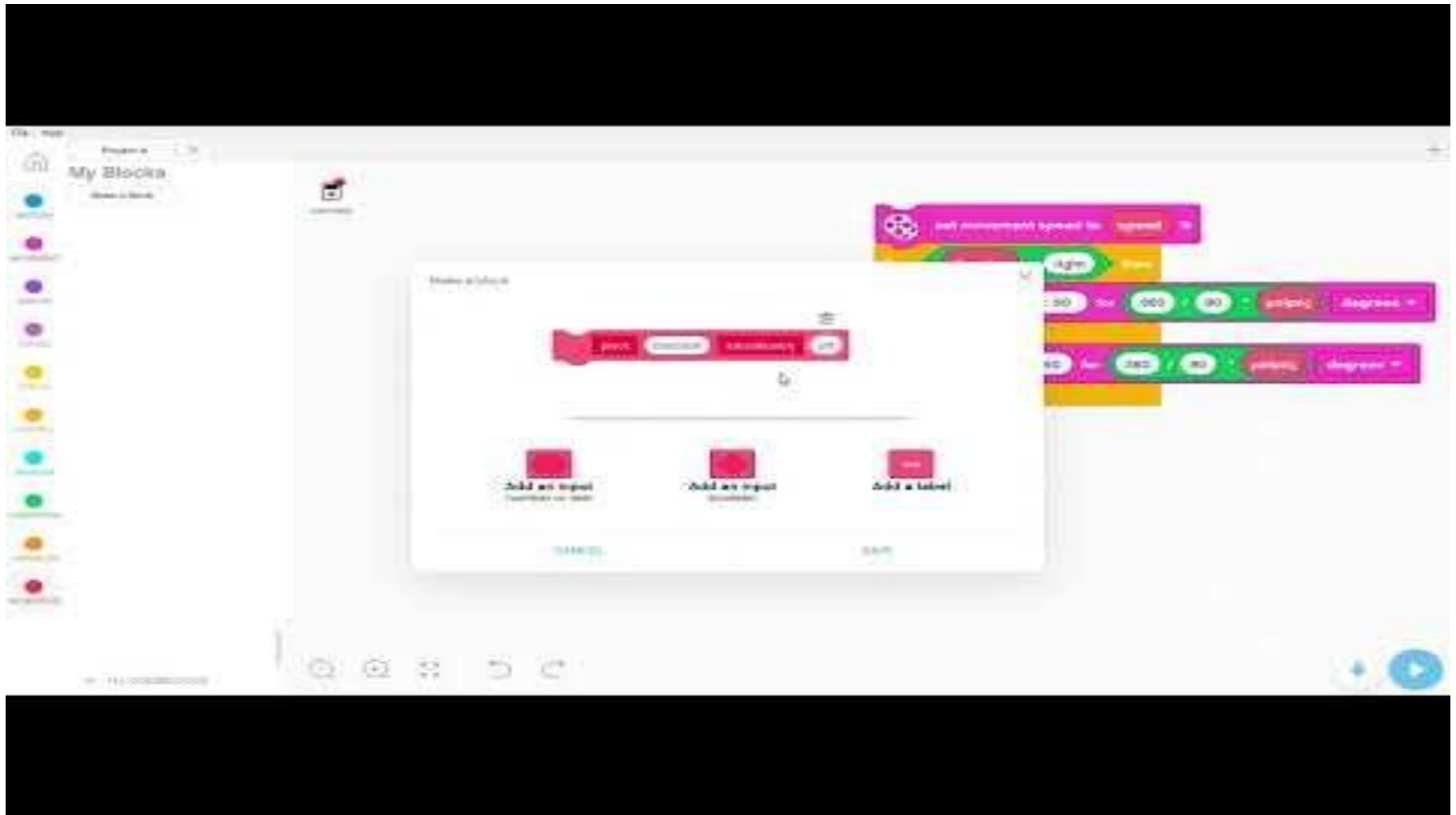
Το ίδιο block με ένα label για κάθε παράμετρο

The image shows a Scratch script for a pivot function. It starts with a 'when program starts' block that calls the 'pivot' function with parameters 'left', '90', and '30'. The 'pivot' function is a 'define' block with three parameters: 'direction' (labeled 'κατεύθυνση'), 'μοίρες' (labeled 'μοίρες'), and 'speed' (labeled 'ταχύτητα'). Inside the function, the movement speed is set to the 'speed' parameter. An 'if' block checks if the 'direction' is 'right'. If true, it moves the character 'right: 50' for a duration calculated as $360 / 90 * \text{μοίρες}$ degrees. If false, it moves the character 'left: -50' for the same duration. Finally, the 'stop moving' block is executed.

```
define pivot direction κατεύθυνση μοίρες μοίρες speed ταχύτητα
  set movement speed to speed %
  if direction = right then
    move right: 50 for 360 / 90 * μοίρες degrees
  else
    move left: -50 for 360 / 90 * μοίρες degrees
  stop moving
when program starts
  pivot left κατεύθυνση 90 μοίρες 30 ταχύτητα
```


Βήμα 5c: Make and use pivot block

Video: <https://youtu.be/X9RNSGIf010>



Βήμα 6: Ο κώδικας με blocks

Κινήσου ευθεία ως τη διασταύρωση

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line μέχρι διασταύρωση

Spin 180

Follow line till cross

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line till cross

Pivot δεξιά 90

Follow line till cross

```
define go_till_cross speed ταχύτητα
```

```
define pivot direction κατεύθυνση μοίρες μοίρες speed ταχύτητα
```

```
define follow_line_till_cross speed ταχύτητα rate πολλαπλασιαστής έντασης στροφών
```

```
define spin direction κατεύθυνση μοίρες μοίρες speed ταχύτητα
```

Άσκηση: Να φτιαχτούν τα αντίστοιχα blocks και να χρησιμοποιηθούν για την αποστολή

Χρήσιμα blocks:

```
define go_till_cross speed ταχύτητα
```

```
define pivot direction κατεύθυνση μοίρες μοίρες speed ταχύτητα
```

```
define follow_line_till_cross speed ταχύτητα rate πολλαπλασιαστής έντασης στροφών
```

```
define spin direction κατεύθυνση μοίρες μοίρες speed ταχύτητα
```

Επίσης πολύ χρήσιμο το :
Οδηγίες στις παρακάτω
διαφάνειες

```
define Move_CM CM centimeters speed % speed
```

Lesson Objectives

1. Create a useful My Block
2. Learn why creating a My Block that takes measurements made with a ruler can be useful
3. Make a Move_CM My Block

Prerequisites: Moving Straight, Port View, My Blocks with Inputs and Outputs, Math Blocks, Variables

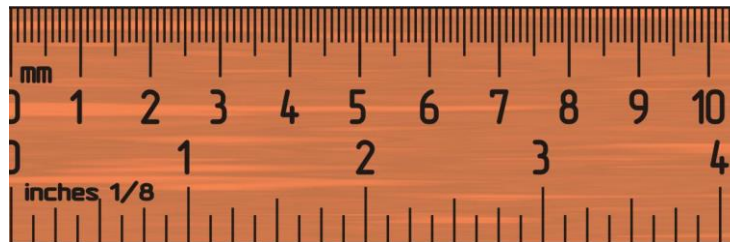
Why a Move Distance My Block?

Built-in move blocks will not take inputs (values) in centimeters or inches.

It is much easier to measure distance with a ruler than degrees or rotations.

If you change your robot design to have bigger or smaller wheels later on, you don't have to re-measure every movement of your robot

- Instead of changing distances in every single block you place, just go into your new Move Distance Block and change the value for how many inches/cm one motor rotation would take.



MOVE_CM IN THREE EASY STEPS

STEP 1: Determine how many motor degrees your robot moves in 1cm

STEP 2: Create a Move_CM My Block with 2 inputs – distance (CM) and speed (%)

STEP 3: Define the Move_CM My Block

Step 1: How Many Degrees Does The Robot Move in 1 CM?

Method 1:

1. Look up the wheel size in mm printed on your tire and divide by 10 to convert to cm (because $1\text{cm}=10\text{mm}$)
2. Multiply the answer in step 1 by π (3.1415...) to compute circumference
3. Divide 360 degrees by value from step 2. This computes degrees in 1cm since you travel one circumference in 1 rotation and 1 rotation is 360 degrees

Example calculation using the standard EV3 Edu 45544 set wheels:

1. EV3 EDU (45544) wheels are 56mm = 5.6cm in diameter
2. $5.6\text{cm} \times \pi = 17.6\text{cm}$ per rotation
3. $360 \text{ degrees} \div 17.6\text{cm} = 20.5$ motor degrees per cm

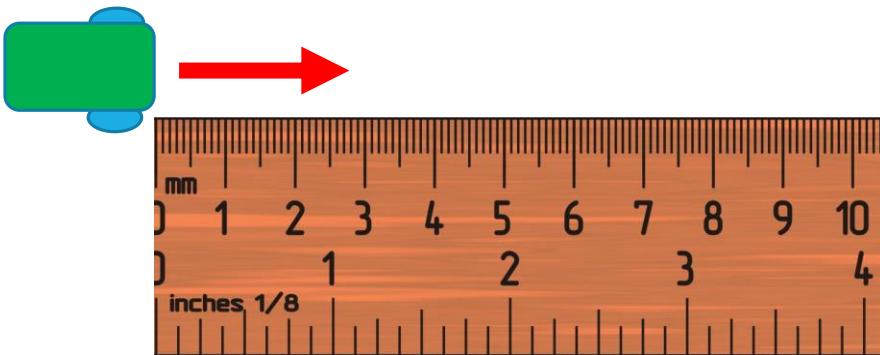
Helpful chart with common LEGO wheels and their diameters.

<http://wheels.sariel.pl/>

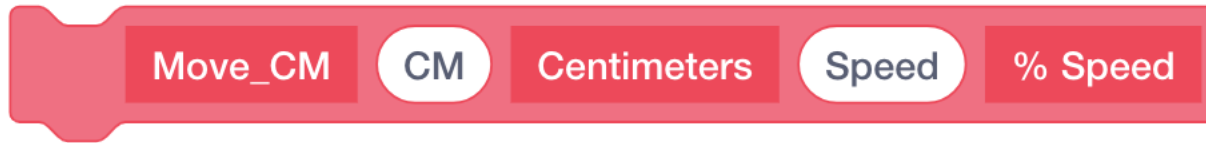
Step 1: Alternative Method

Alternate Method: Use Port View to find the Motor Degrees value. Use this method if you cannot find the diameter value printed on your wheel.

1. Put your ruler next to your wheel/robot at 0 centimeters (whatever part of the robot you use to align with 0, you should use to use to measure distance in step 2)
2. Roll your robot forward any amount of centimeters, making sure your robot does not slip.
3. Take the degree reading you see on the screen for the motor sensor and divide by the number of centimeters you moved (i.e. degrees measured/distance travelled)
4. The answer will be the number of degrees your robot's wheels turn in 1 centimeter.



Step 2: Create a My Block with 2 Inputs



Add an input
number or text



Add an input
boolean



Add a label

Step 3: Define the My Block

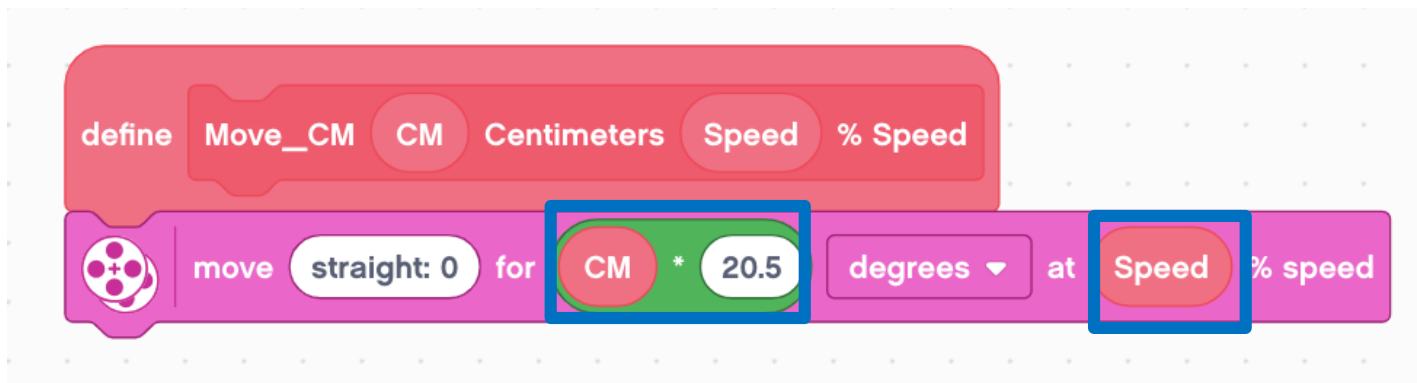
Use a Multiplication Math Block to Calculate the number of degrees the robot will move in 1CM

- Drag the CM input into the first parameter of the math block
- In the second parameter of the math block, enter the number of degrees your robot moves in 1 CM. (For Droidbot, this is 20.5)



Add a Moving Block under the define block

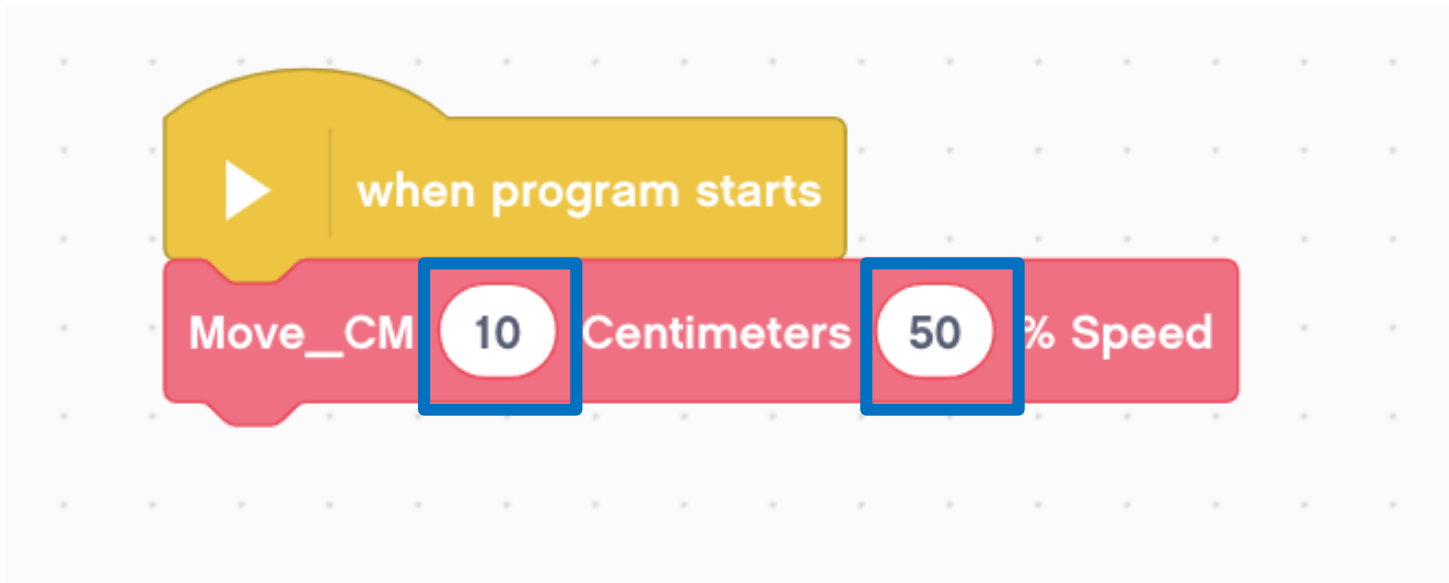
Place the Math Block in the distance parameter and the Speed input in the % Speed Parameter



Step 4: Use the My Block

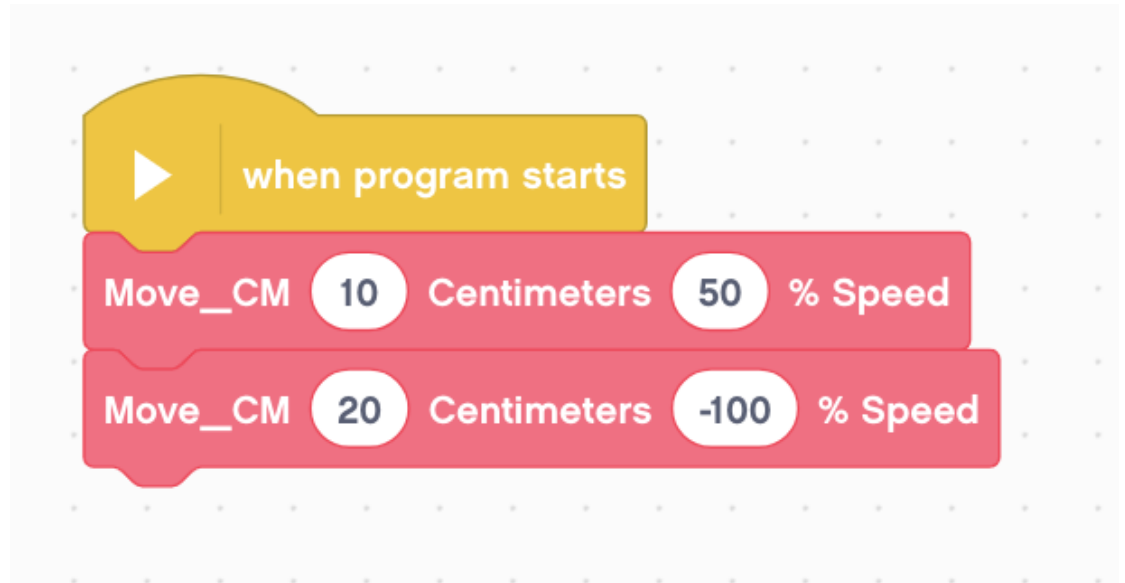
Now, when you drag the block into your programming canvas, you just need to enter the number of CM you want the robot to move and the speed it should move at.

In the example below, the robot will move 10CM at 50% speed



Reusable Move_CM Block

The same Move_CM My Block is used for two different moves. One moves forward 10cm at 50 % speed and the other moves backwards for 20cm at 100 speed. By changing the inputs, we can reuse the My Block.



Discussion

Why is a Move_CM My Block useful?

- You can measure distances in centimeters and input this number into your block instead of programming in degrees or rotations

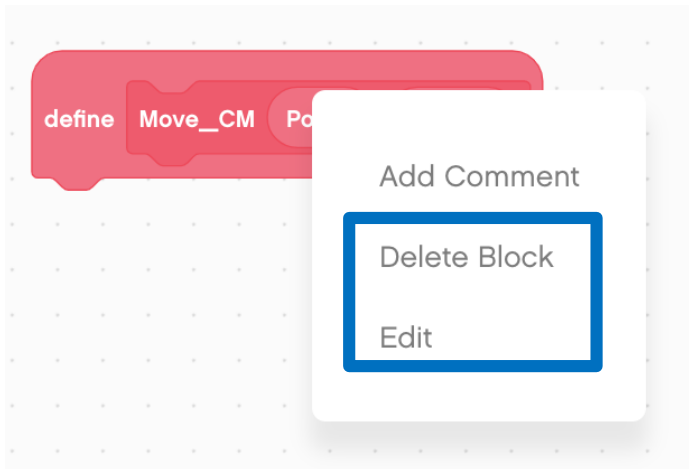
Will changing the inputs in one copy of Move_CM impact another copy of it?

- No. That is exactly why a My Block is useful. You can use the same block multiple times, each time using a different number for power and centimeters (or any other parameter you set up).

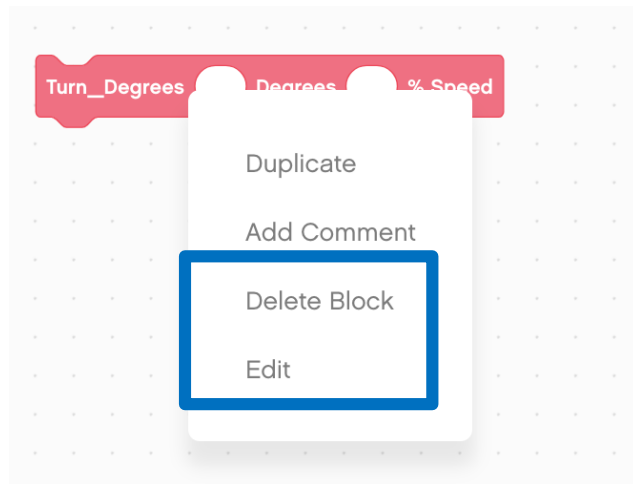
Can you alter a My Block after it is made?

- Yes. Right Click on the My Block and click Edit.

How to Edit or Delete a My Block



- Right Click on a My Block in the Programming Canvas and select “Edit” to edit the My Block.
- This will take you back to the My Block creation screen where you can edit the name, add inputs, or delete inputs.
- To delete, you must first right click and press delete on all uses of the My Block in your program. Then, you can press delete on the definition of the My Block.



What Makes a Useful My Block

Note: Making My Blocks with inputs and outputs can make them far more useful. However, you need to be careful not to make the My Block too complicated.

Question: Look at the list of three My Blocks below. Which ones do you think are useful for to use?

- Move5CM (Moves the robot five centimeters)
- MoveCM with a centimeter and power input
- MoveCM with centimeter, power, angle, coast/brake, etc. inputs

Answer:

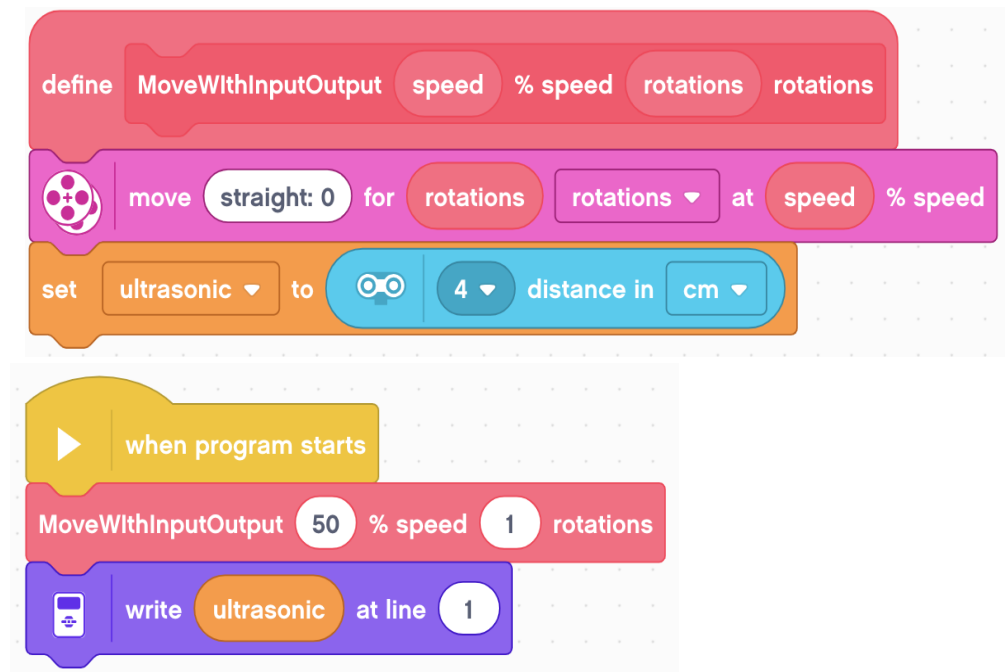
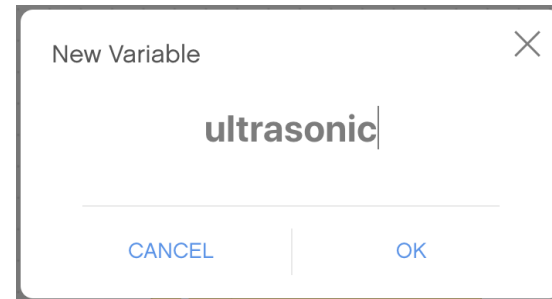
- Move5CM may be used often, but you will be forced to make other My Blocks for other distances. This will not be fixable later.
- MoveCM with centimeters and power as inputs is probably the best choice.
- MoveCM with centimeters, power, angle, coast/brake, etc. might be most customizable, but some of the inputs might never be used.

Adding Outputs

Unlike My Blocks in EV3-G, you cannot define Outputs. Here is a work-around.

1. Define a variable to store the value of your output.
2. Write the data you want to input to the variable inside the My Block.
3. Use the variable in your main code

In the code on the right, the My Block reads the ultrasonic sensor, sets it to a variable. The value can be used later in the program such as print to the screen.



Credits

This tutorial was created by Sanjay Seshan and Arvind Seshan

More lessons are available at www.ev3lessons.com



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