CuteBot Instructions

The Internet of Things for Precision Agriculture
an NSF Engineering Research Center

Objectives: SWBAT

1. Program the CuteBot to follow a line or track
2. Program the CuteBot to avoid collision with objects

Your Kit

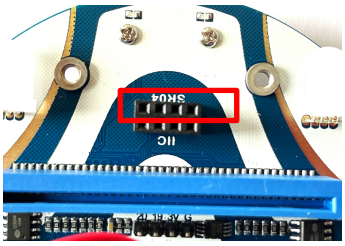
Battery Pack

USB Cable

Assembled Smart Cutebot Robot *

Micro:Bit Microcontroller

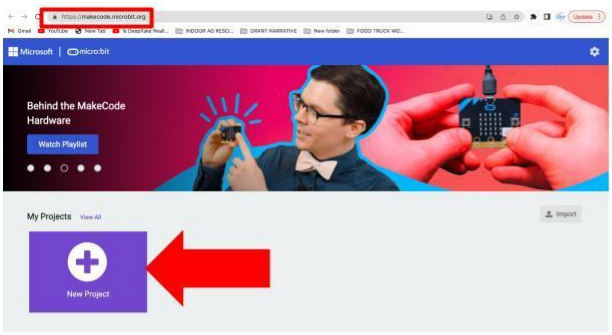
* **Make sure cutebot eyes are placed in the front row of pin sockets**



See your name in lights / Give your project a name

Programming your Microbit

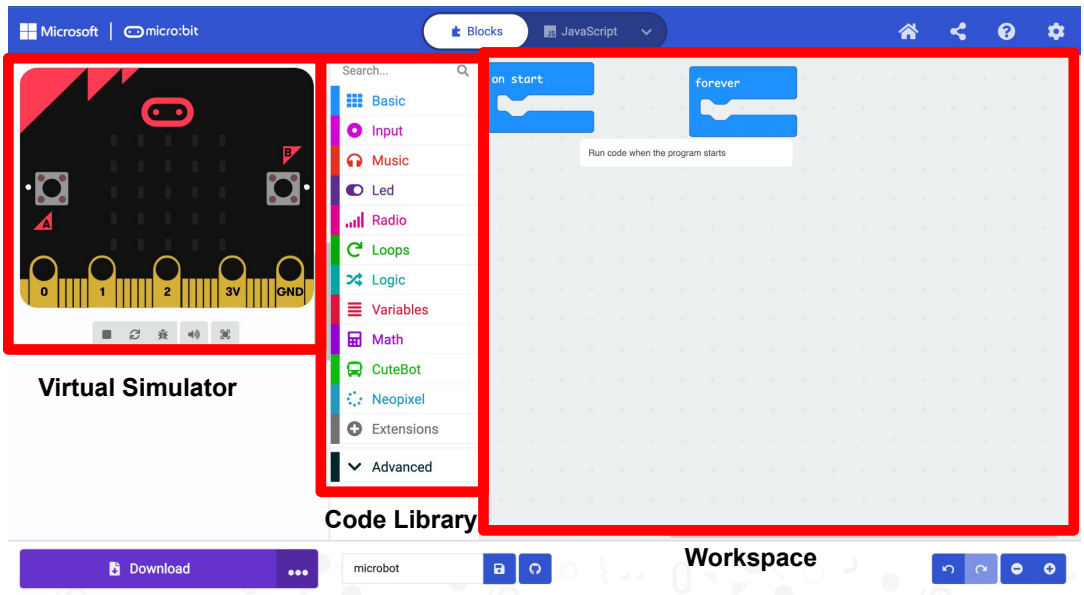
1. You can program the microbit by going to https://makecode.microbit.org
2. Click on "+ New Project".
3. Give your project a name in the dialog box.



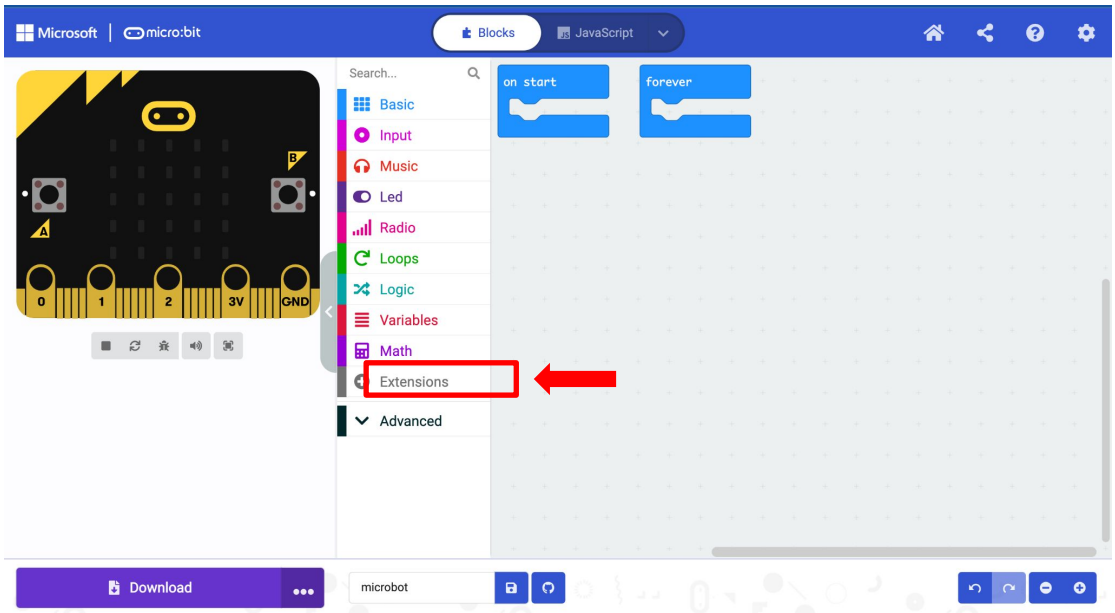
For the Code Options, you can select “Blocks, JavaScript or Python”. For this activity select “Blocks.”

Then click “Create”.

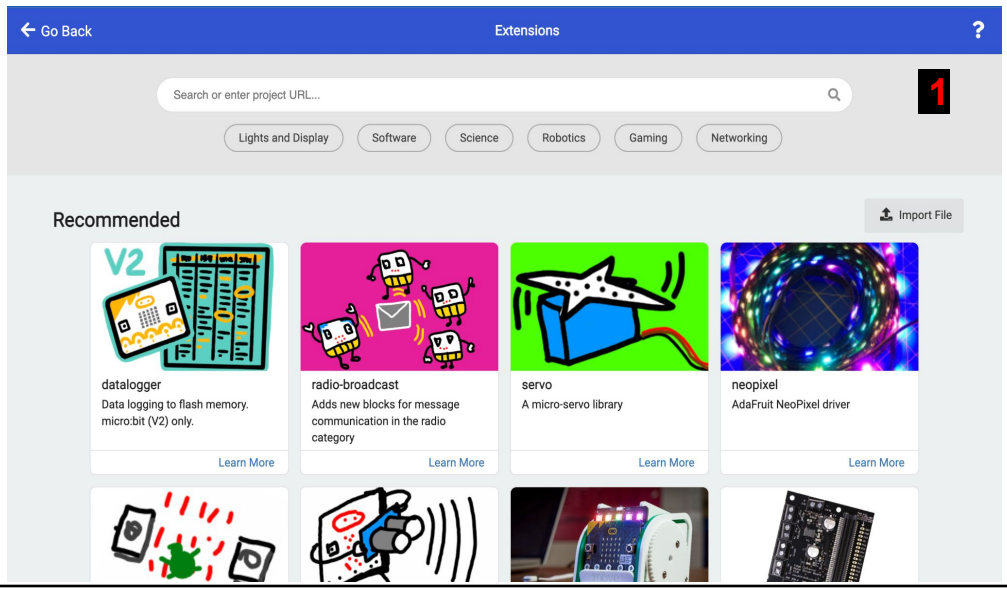
Your New Project Looks Like This



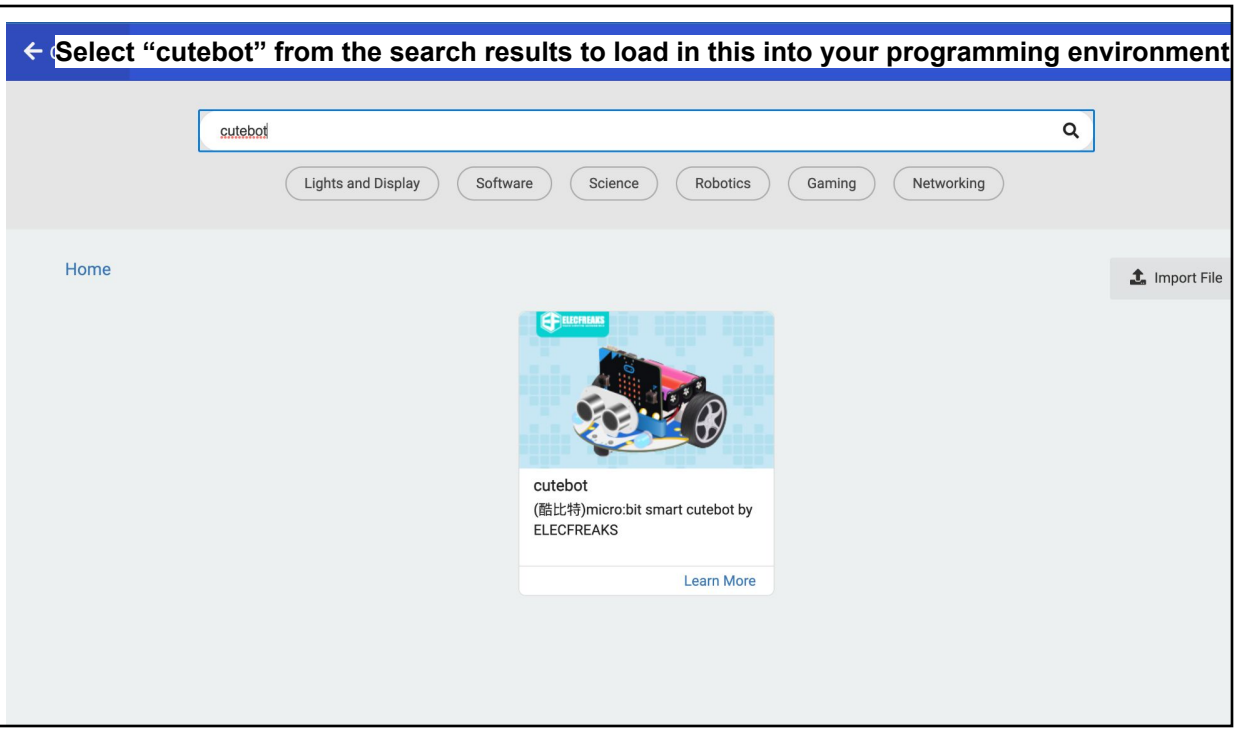
Next, you need to add in the Extension pack for the CuteBot. To do this, click“Extensions” from this menu.



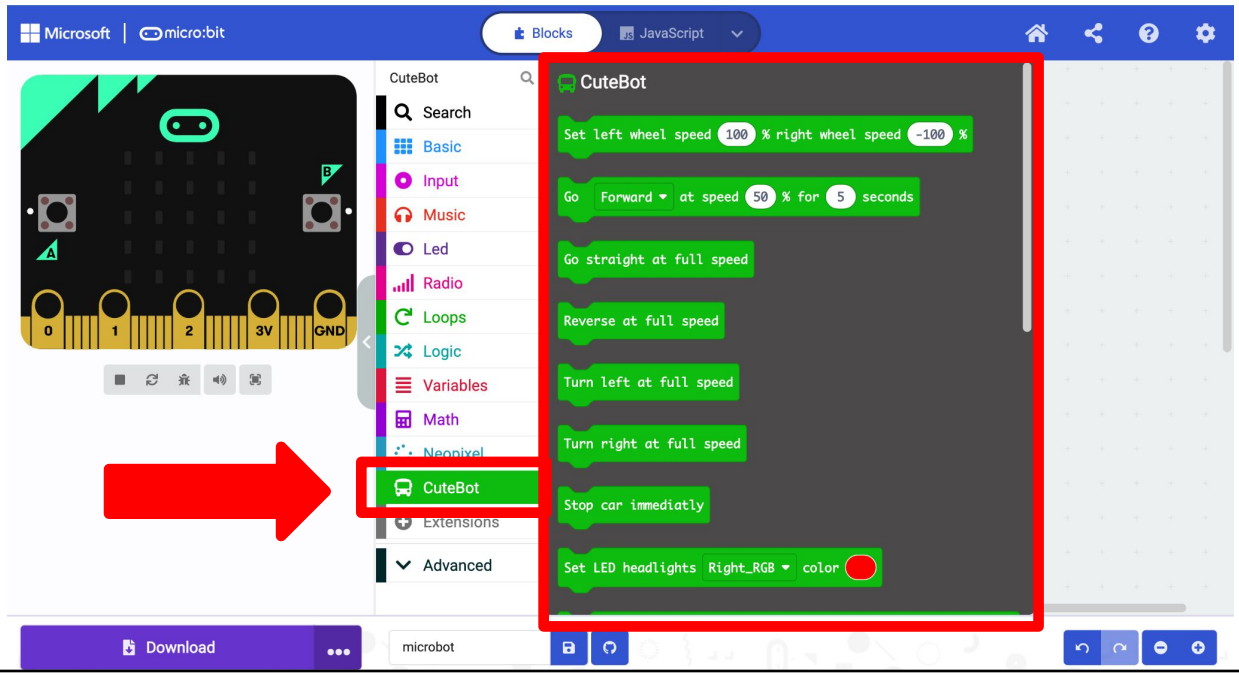
You will now be at a page where you can search for extensions for many different projects. Type in “CuteBot” in the search bar and hit return.



Select “cutebot” from the search results to load in this into your programming environment

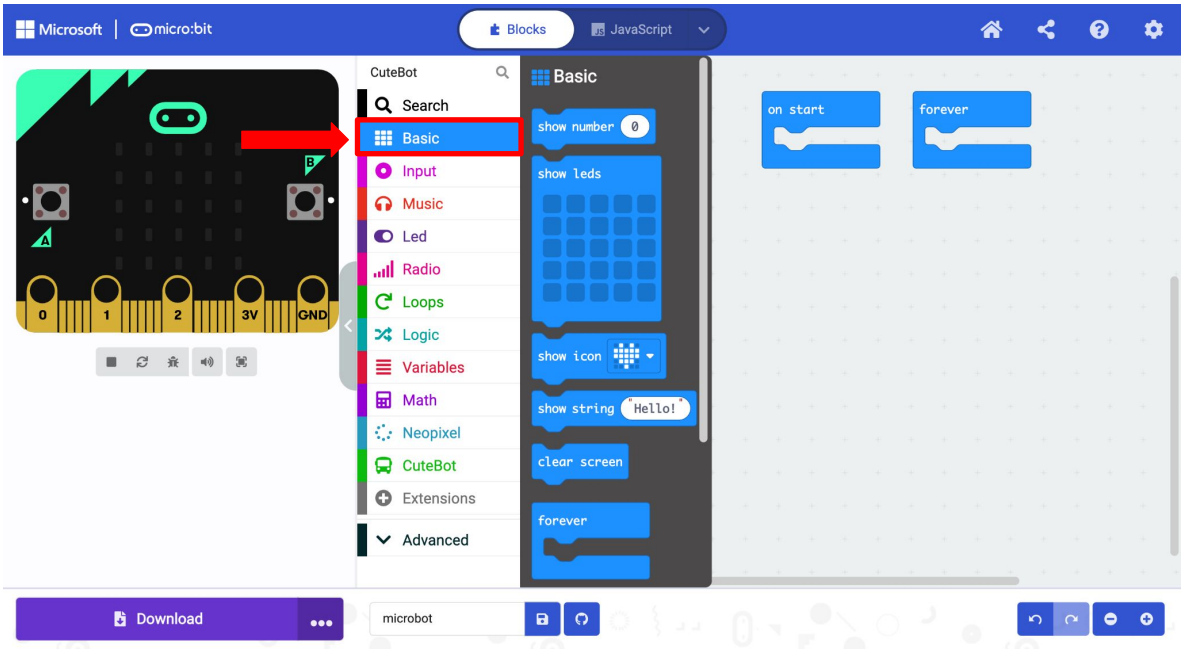


After select the CuteBot Extensions, you will now have CuteBot functions to choose from in your code library.

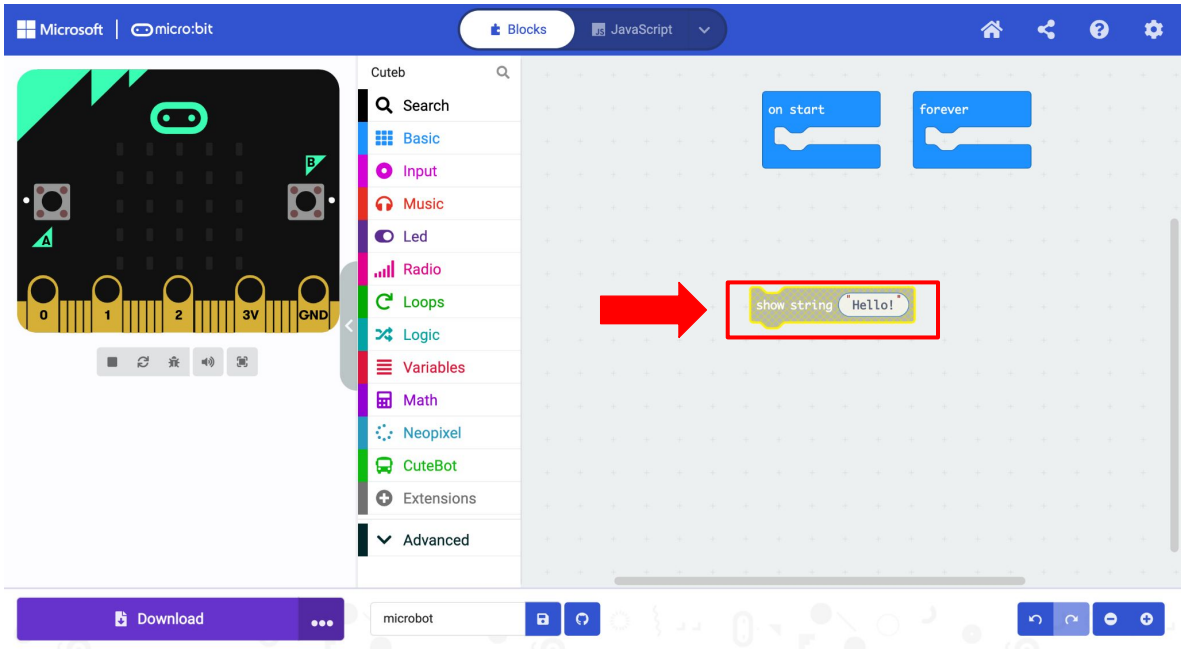


Now we can create a program to test the micro:bit and CuteBot. It displays text on the LED screen of the micro:bit at start up and drives the CuteBot forwards and backwards four times.

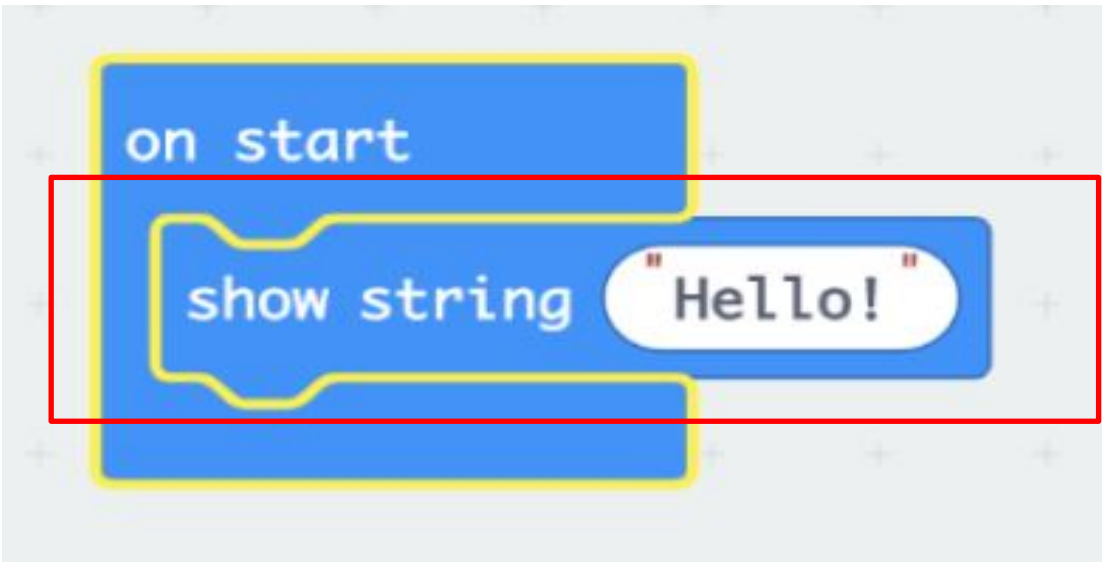
Start by clicking on the “Basic” from the code library.



Select the “Show String” block and drag it to the program environment.

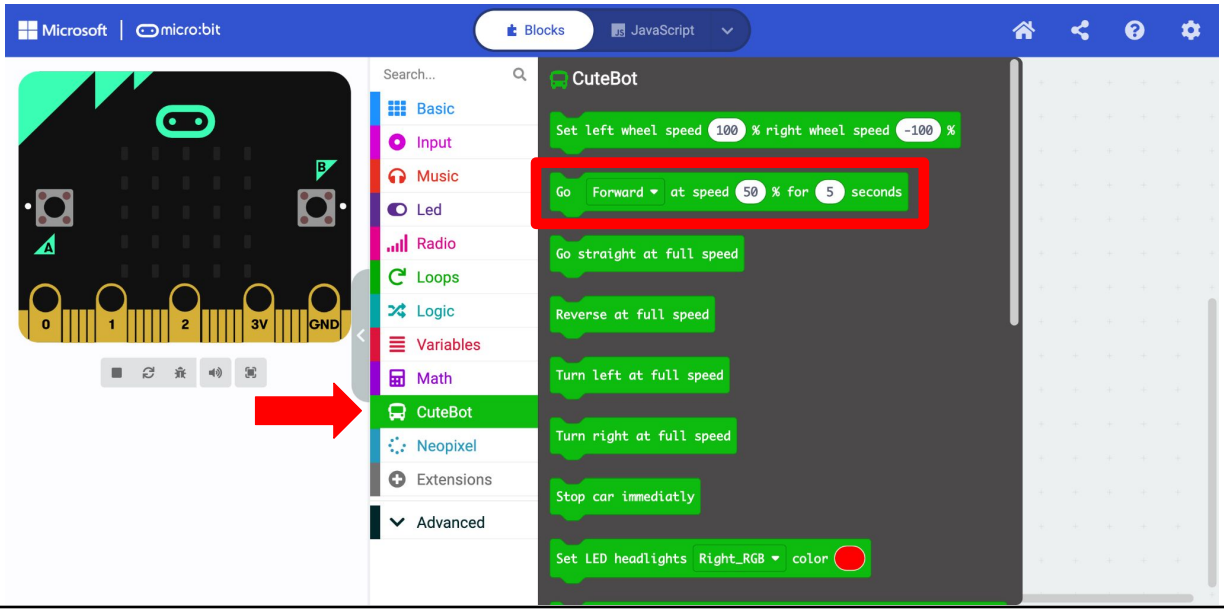


Move it inside the “On start” block and it will turn blue showing that there are no errors.

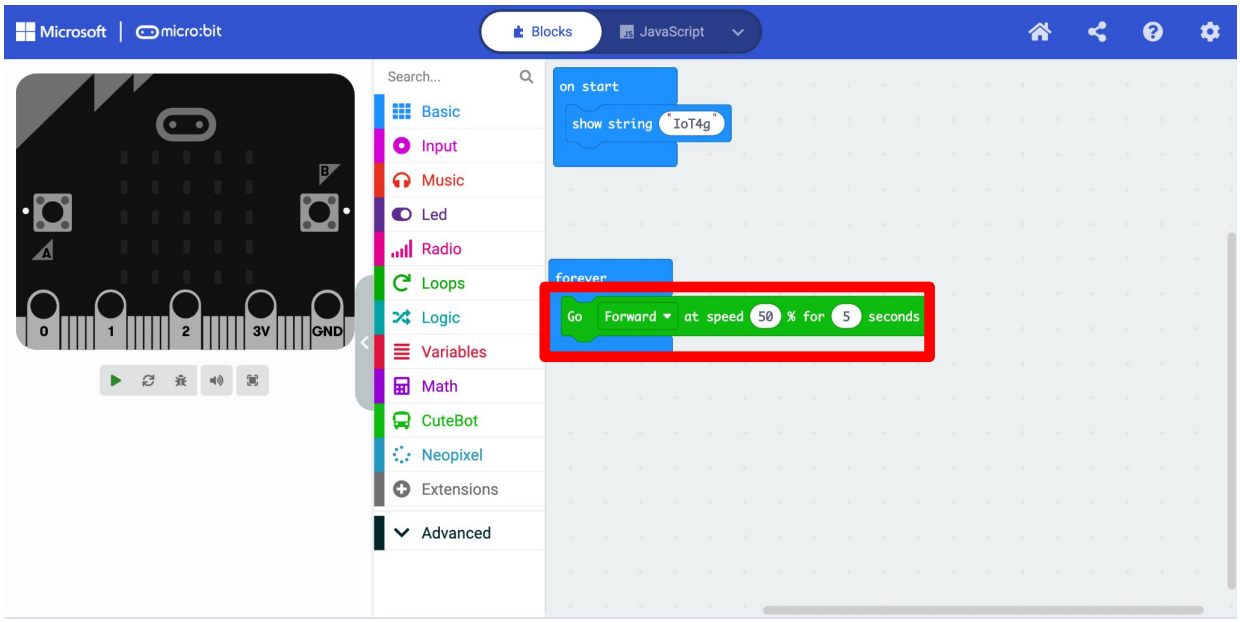


Double-click the text “Hello!” and change to “IoT4Ag!”

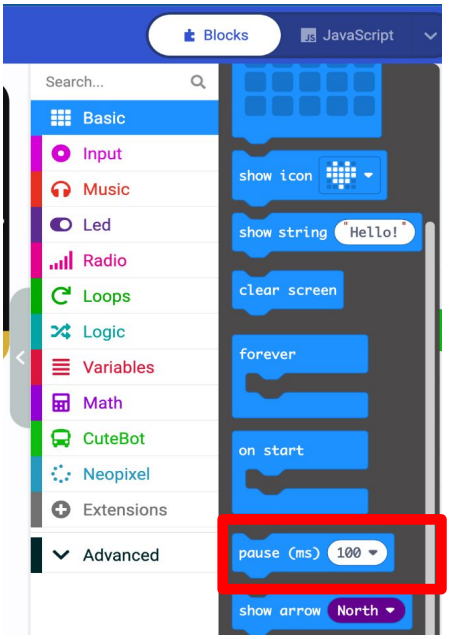
Next, go to the CuteBot menu from the code library and drag out the “go forward at speed 50 for 5 seconds” block.



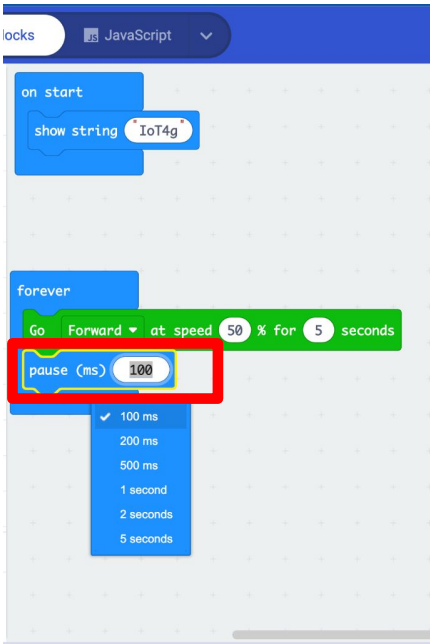
Drag it into the forever block.



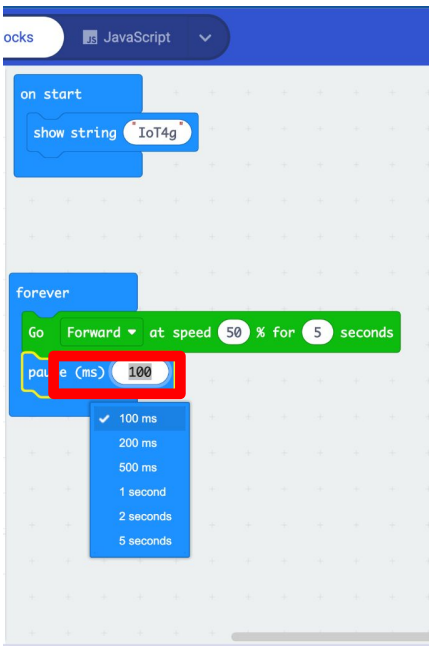
Then go to the Basic menu and drag out a “pause (ms)” block.



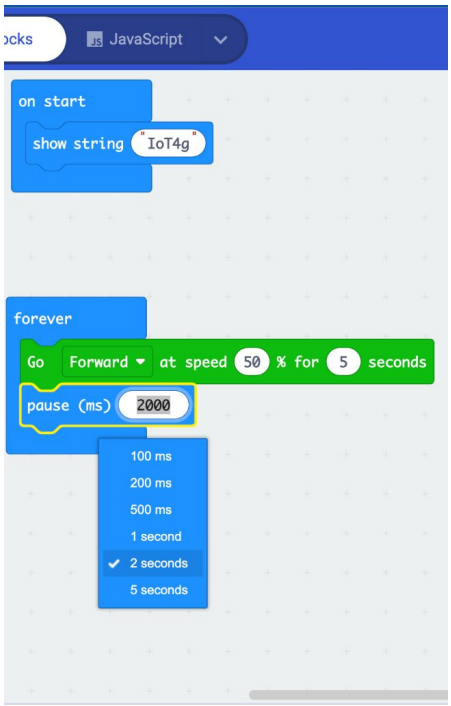
Insert it inside the forever block after the "go forward..." block.



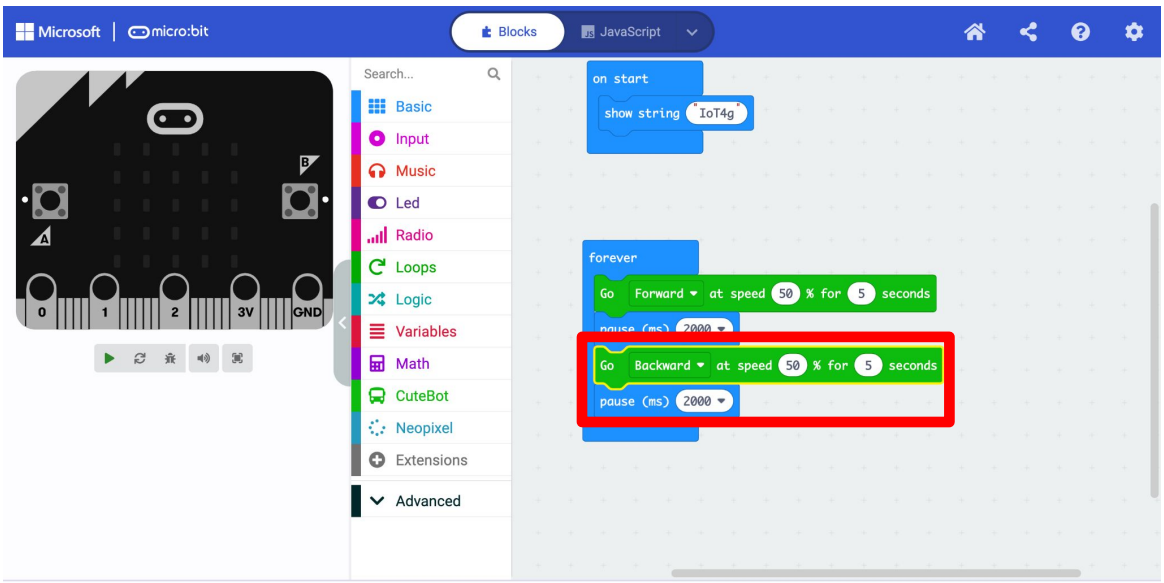
Once it is in the forever block, click the "100" value and change it to 2 seconds.



It will show up as “2000” since it is units of milliseconds (ms).



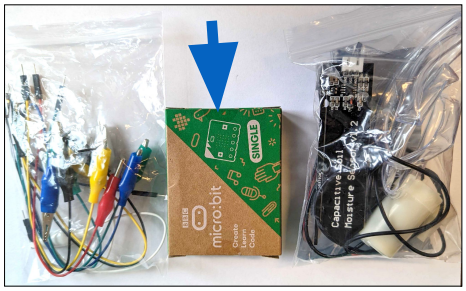
Select another “go forward at speed 50 for 5 seconds” block and drag it into the forever block under the pause block. Now, change the “forward” to “backward” in this new block. Add another pause block for 2 seconds after the “go backward...” block.



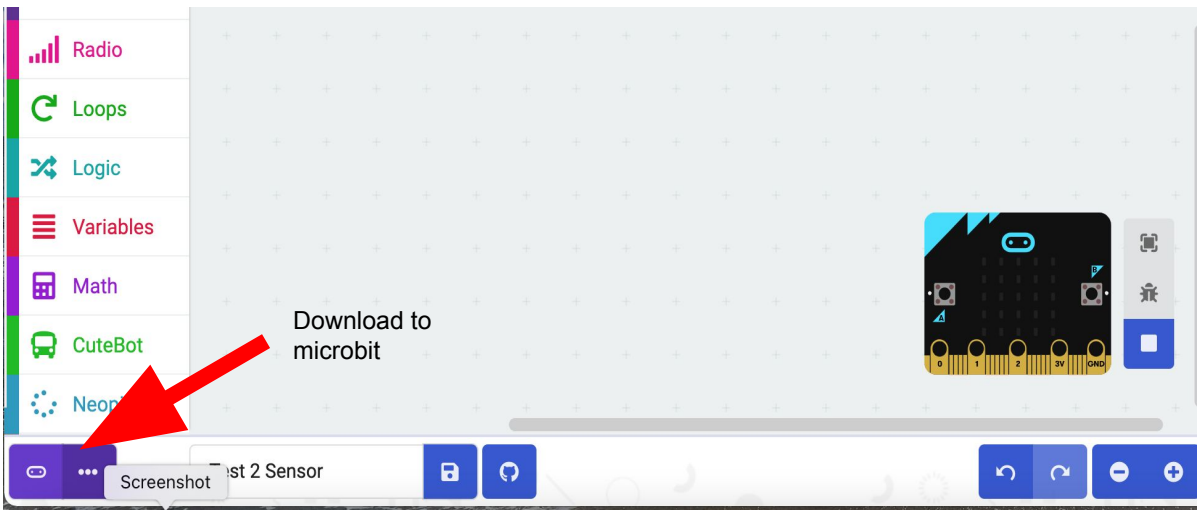
The program is now complete.
It is time to plug the USB cable into the micro:bit and connect it to the computer.

Be careful to be gentle when making this connection.

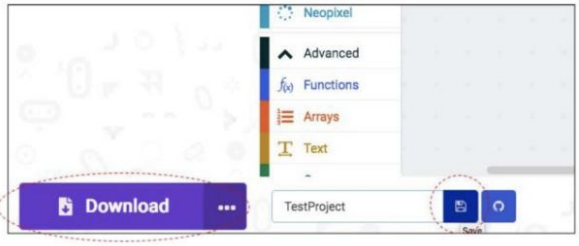
Note: when you plug in the micro:bit to the computer for the first time it will run it's default greeting program that will buzz and flash its LEDs and say "hello".

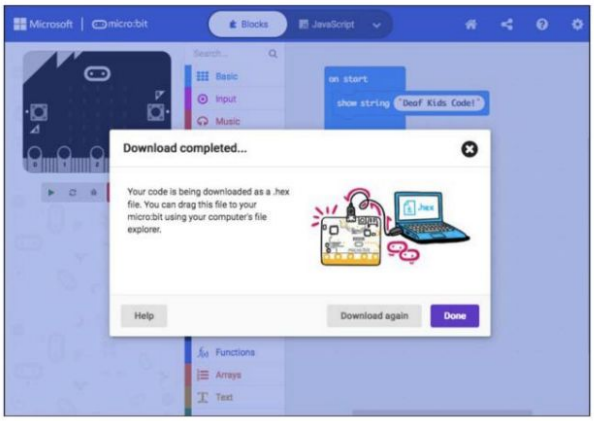


Save your "message" code to the micro.bit (The short way)

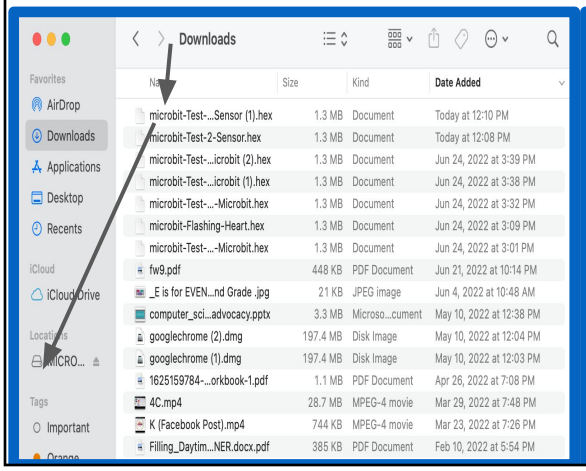


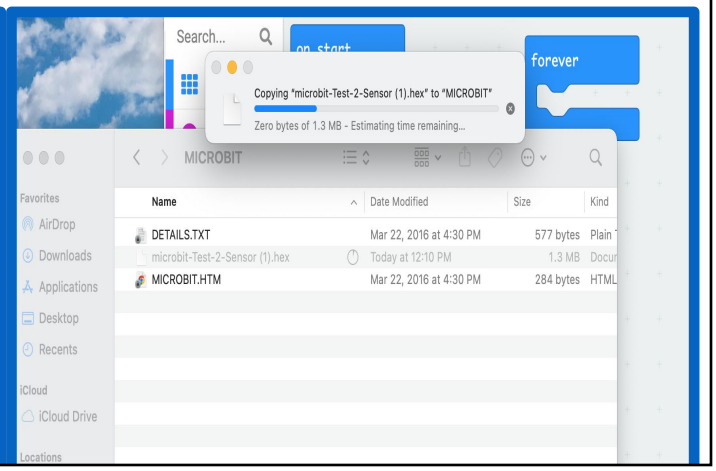
Once plugged into the USB port on the computer, click the “save” button next to the program name or the “Download” button on the bottom left. You will see a dialog box pop up that says your program is being downloaded as a .hex file. You can drag this file to your micro:bit using your computer’s file explorer. Once you do this and the program loads, the LEDs on the micro:bit should display “IoT4Ag!” scrolling by while still plugged into the computer.



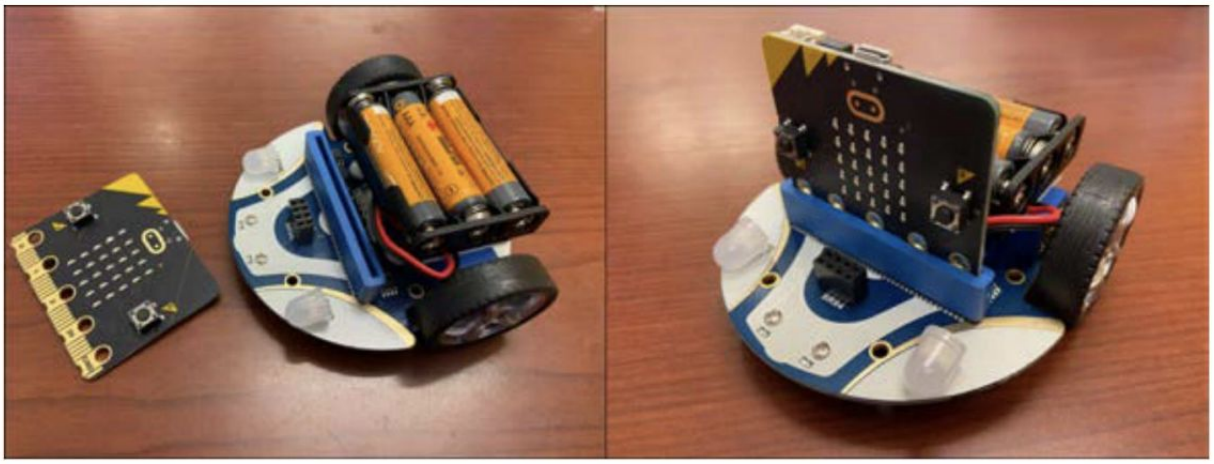


(The long way): Go to “File” select “Downloads”
In the Finder, drag the latest download to the Micro.bit Processor attached to your computer.

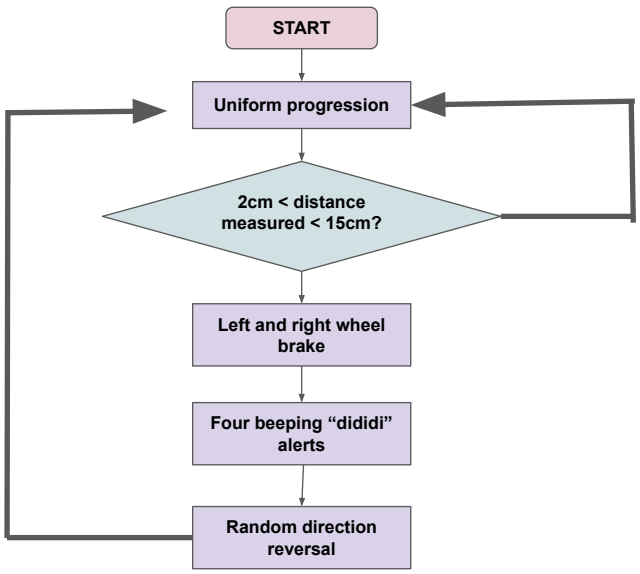




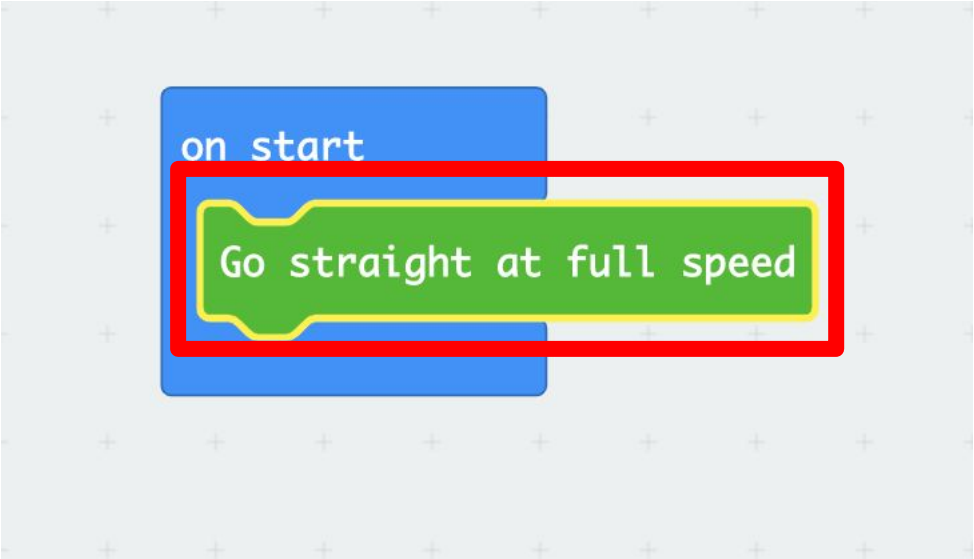
Unplug the micro:bit from the computer and insert it into the CuteBot with the LED side facing out. Make sure to push it down all the way in its connector. Flip the power switch to the ON position and watch the CuteBot go!



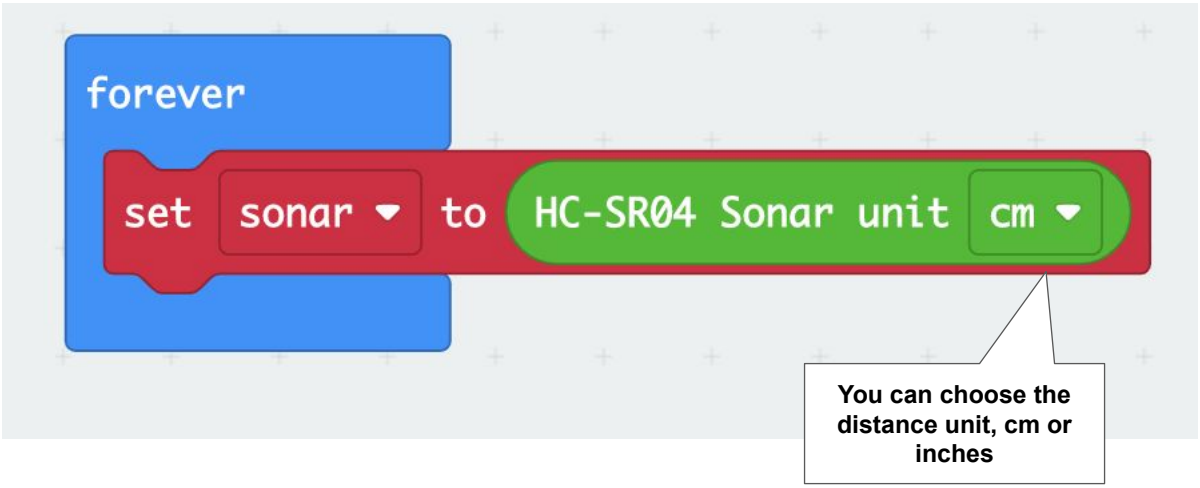
Automatic Collision Avoidance



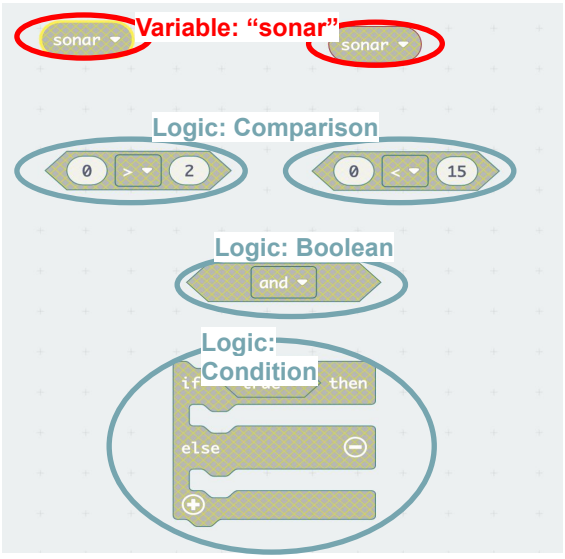
Step 1: Move forward at **full speed** by selecting the block from the **CuteBot** menu and adding it to “on start”.

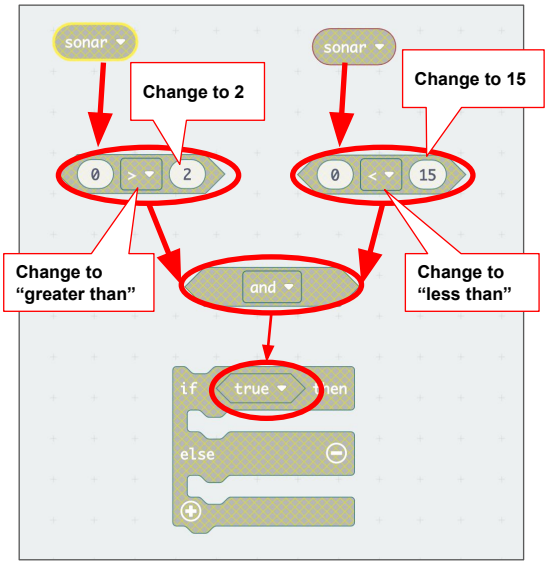


Step 2: Make a **“sonar” variable** and set it to the detected **“HC-SR04 Sonar unit”** in cm within “forever”.

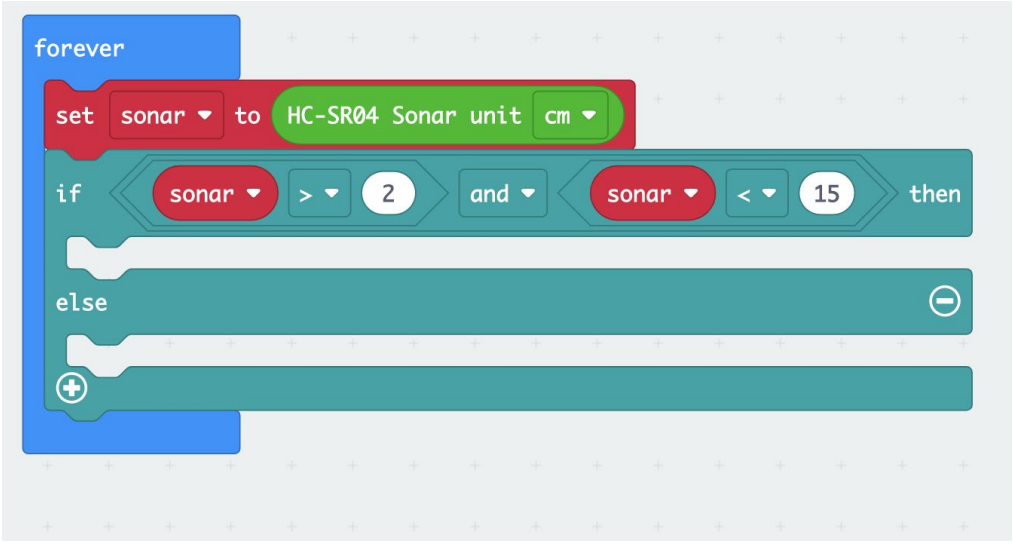


Step 3: Check if the distance measured by the ultrasonic sensor (now saved in our "**sonar**" variable) is between 2cm and 15cm by using various functions identified below.



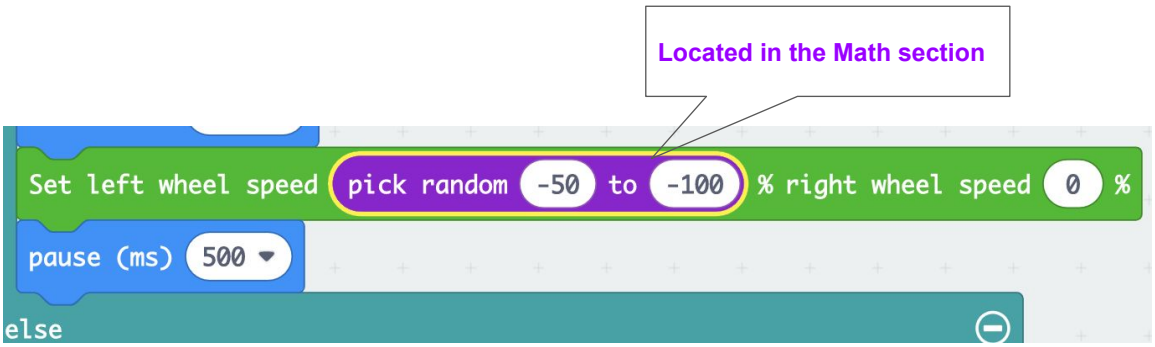


Your code should look like this.

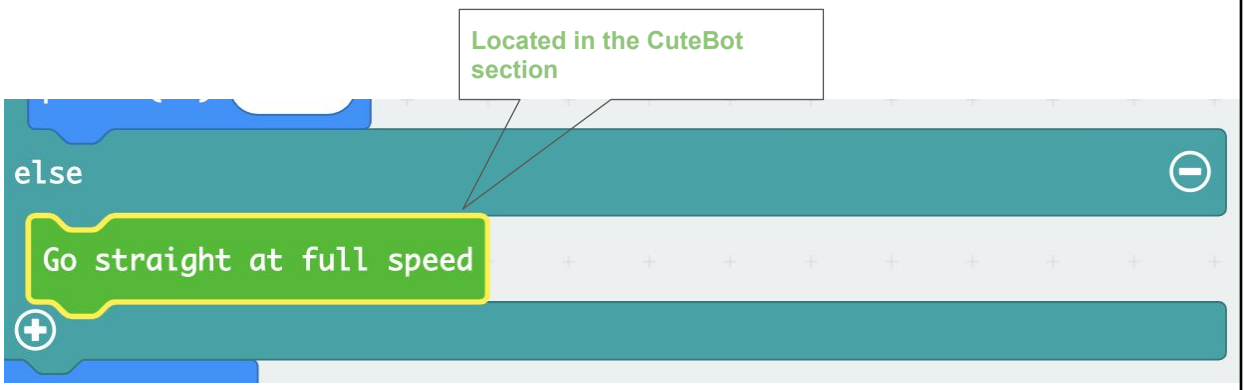


Step 4: If the **"sonar"** value is between 2cm and 15cm, **set the speed of both wheels to 0 to stop the cutebot from moving,** then it **alarms four times**. Then **pause for 2 seconds**. Use the image below to create the code. Use the labels to help locate the code in the code library.

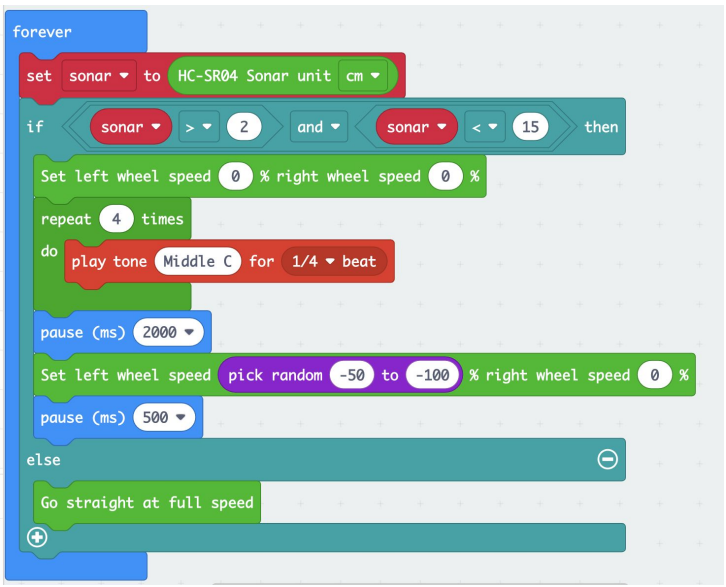
Step 5: **Set the left wheel speed** to a **random** value between -50 to -100. The CuteBot backs up and turns its direction. Then **pause** 500ms.



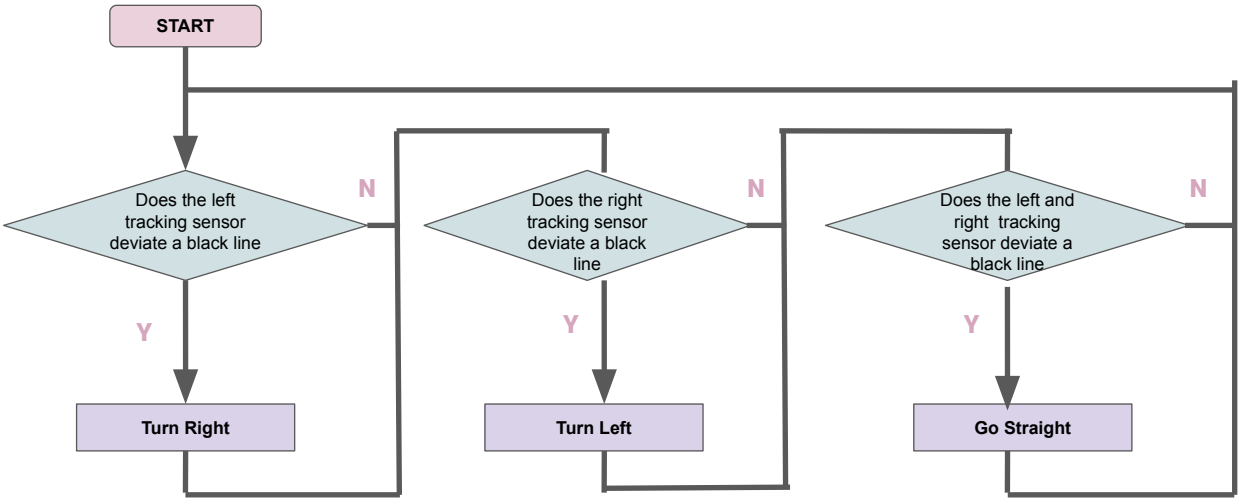
Step 6: Move the CuteBot ahead at **full speed** if the distance measured in the fourth step is not between 2 to 15 cm away from the CuteBot.



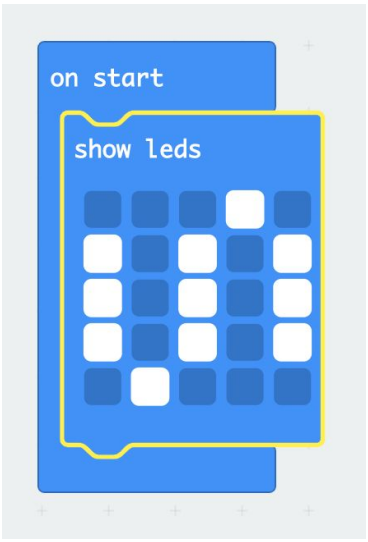
Your code should look like this.



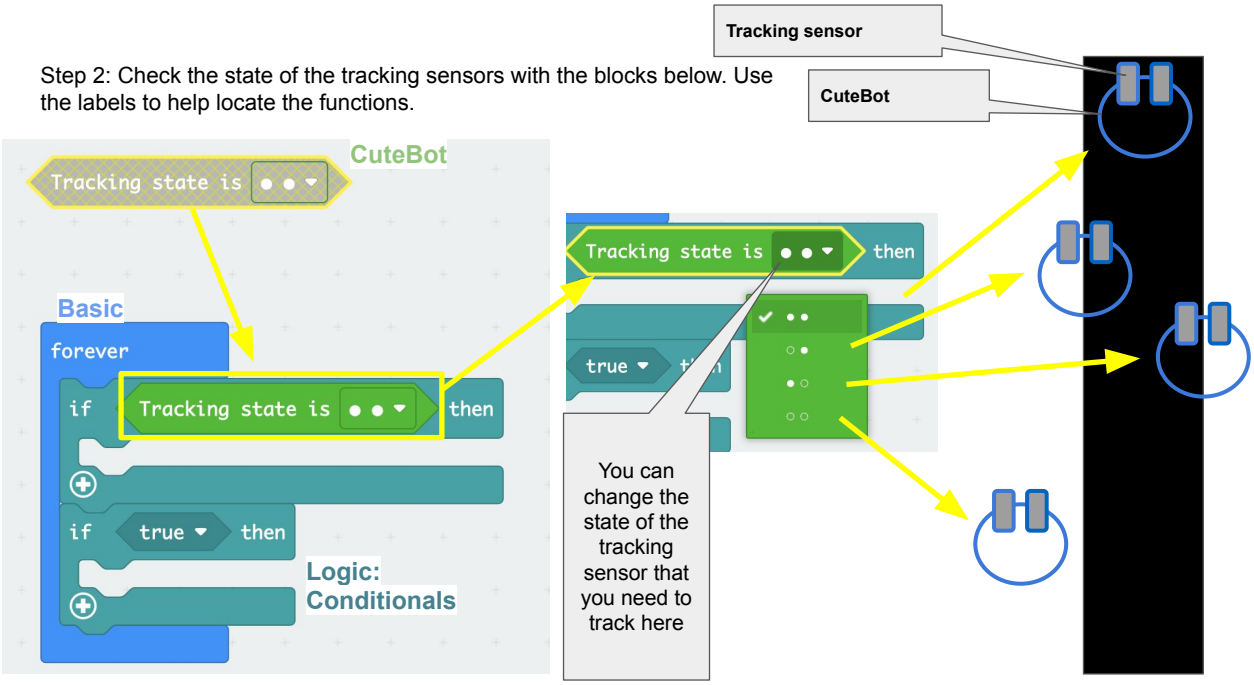
Line-tracking



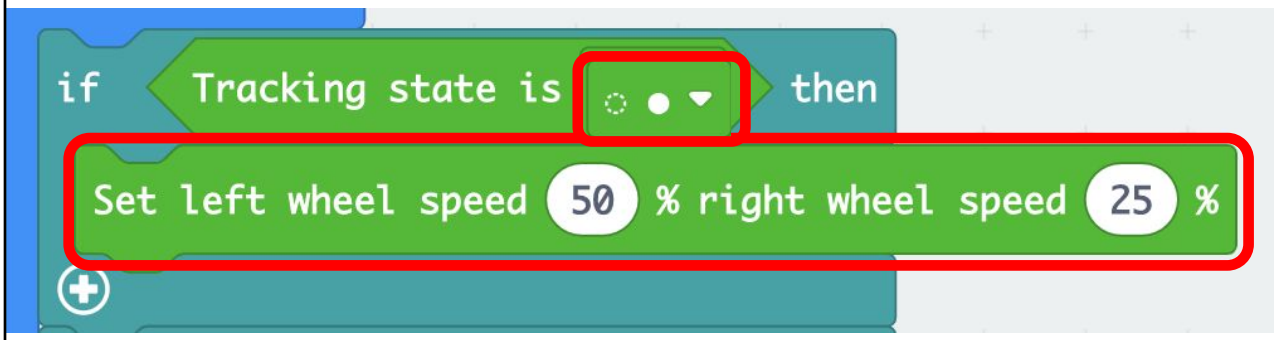
Step 1: Display a “S” shape on start using the **Basic “show leds”** function.



Step 2: Check the state of the tracking sensors with the blocks below. Use the labels to help locate the functions.

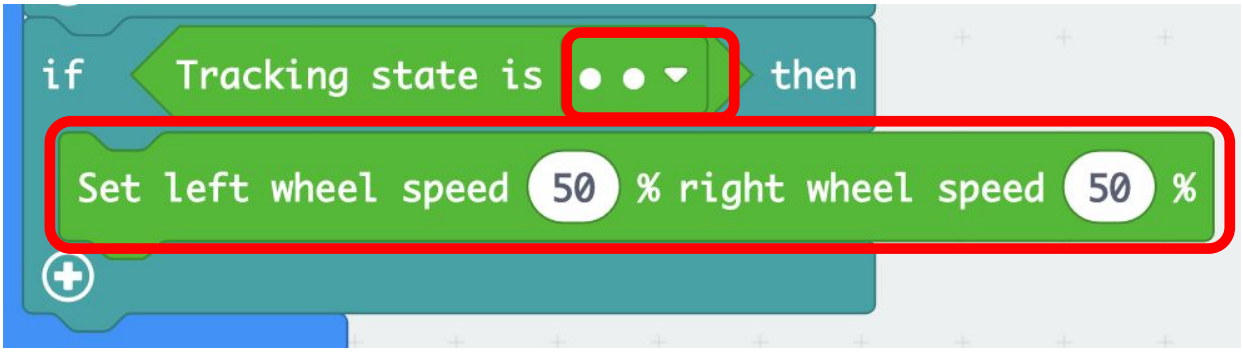


Step 3: When the **tracking sensor on the left side** detects no black line, **set the speed of the left wheel to be faster than that of the right wheel** to correct its movement.

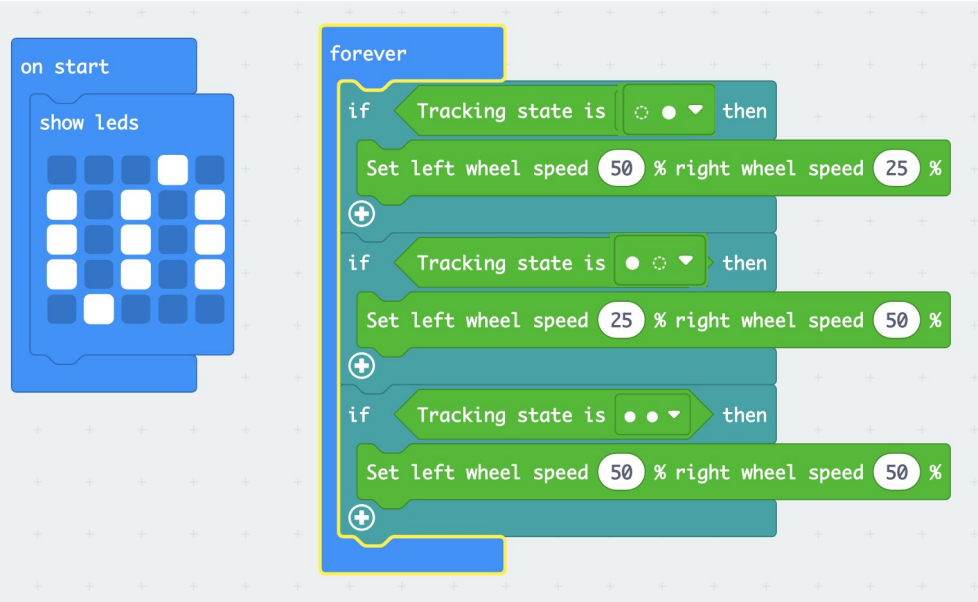


Step 4: When the **tracking sensor on the right detects** no black line, the **speed of the right wheel has to be adjusted slower than that of the left** in the same way as you did in the third step.

Step 5: When both **tracking sensors detect black lines**, **move forward at an even speed.**

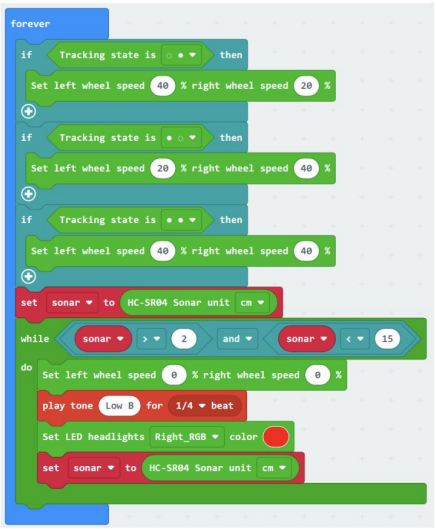


Your code should look like this.



Activity: Combine line following with collision avoidance

Combine the previous two activities to make the CuteBot follow the black line, and come to a stop and turn on a buzzer and an LED when you place an obstacle in its path. The CuteBot should resume moving along a line when you remove the obstacle.



Questions!

1. What happens when you increase or decrease the speed of the robot?
2. Try and create a separate function that performs obstacle detection, and call the function in the main (forever) loop. (Tip: Search for function blocks in the search bar for easy access)

3.4. Open ended challenge: Combine sensor interfacing with line following and automatic collision avoidance

In this activity, you will make the CuteBot stop at every obstacle (cup of soil) on the path, and measure temperature, humidity and soil moisture at that obstacle.

Manually place the soil moisture sensor in the cup, make the bot display a Red or Green LED to indicate moisture level, remove the soil moisture sensor, and then continue moving to another obstacle – repeat.