Responding to events (in Java)

• An event is a mouseclick, a mouse movement into or out of a window, a keystroke, etc.

• To "listen to" (and hence react to) an event:
  1. Write a method that will listen to the event.
  2. Let Java know that the method is defined in the class
  3. Register with the component of interest (a JButton or JTextField, for example) an instance of the class that contains the method as a listener for the event happening to that component.

The reason for this tripartite structure is that we want to use the ActionListener interface.

Interface java.awt.event.ActionListener

From the API:

The class that is interested in processing an action event [step 2 from previous slide] implements [ActionListener], and the object created with that class is [step 3] registered with a component, using the component's addActionListener method.

When the action event occurs, that object's [step 1] actionPerformed method is invoked.

For CS1110, think of ActionListener as an abstract class ---except we write "extends implements ActionListener"--- with abstract procedure actionPerformed(ActionEvent e), which we must override.
public class StockQuoteGUI extends JFrame implements ActionListener {
    // step 2

    /** Respond to user (giving a ticker symbol) and hitting "return" */
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent ae) {
       symbol = symbolEntry.getText();
       lastQuote = StockQuote.getQuote(symbol); 
    }

    /** Constructor: a new StockQuoteGUI */
    public StockQuoteGUI() {
       symbolEntry.addActionListener(this); // step 3
    }
}

Question: how do we display (update) the newest "last quote"?
   - We need to "overwrite" the previous quote, not just add a new one.
   
Solution: keep a JLabel in the desired location, and just change that JLabel's text:

lastQuoteDisplay.setText(s + " " + lq + " @ " + dateFormat.format(lqtime));
repaint();

Caveat re: A7

In some sense, the ACM package hides some of this machinery "under the hood".
Read the assignment handout carefully when it comes to making the paddle respond to the mouse.