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/**
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 * This is a file that will solve a maze constructed with chars in a text file.
 * this program will find a direct path through the maze and print the maze
 * with the direct path marked by '.'
 * it uses the following methods,
 * makeMazeArray --> uses findingMazeDimensions to make an array the size of the
 * maze and put the maze into a char[][] array
 * findingMazeDimensions --> this is used to find the dimensions of the maze
 * findEntry --> finds the entry point of the maze
 * checkIfSolvable --> checks to see if the maze is solvable
 * treavelingThrough --> creates stacks containing the direct path. It uses
 * getNextBlank to get points in the path and printStack to put '.' in the array
 * at the points that are in the direct path indicated by the coordinates stored
 * in the stacks
 * getNextBlank --> finds the next blank after the one that was just put in the
 * stack and makes sure its also not one of the previous ones so we don't go
 * backwards
 * printStack --> puts the direct path in the array. the direct path is stored
 * as coordinates in the stacks
 * printMaze --> this is used to print the solved maze array to the user
import java.util.Scanner;
import java.util.Stack;
import java.io.File;
import java.io.FileNotFoundException;
public class MazeSolver {
    //files for testing
    private static final String Maze1 = "C:\\Users\\otten\\OneDrive\\Documents"
            + "\\NetBeansProjects\\MazeSolver\\src\\main\\java\\Maze1.txt";
    private static final String Maze2 = "C:\\Users\\otten\\OneDrive\\Documents"
            + "\\NetBeansProjects\\MazeSolver\\src\\main\\java\\Maze2.txt";
    private static final String Maze3 = "C:\\Users\\otten\\OneDrive\\Documents"
            + "\\NetBeansProjects\\MazeSolver\\src\\main\\java\\Maze3.txt";
    private static final String Maze4 = "C:\\Users\\otten\\OneDrive\\Documents"
            + "\\NetBeansProjects\\MazeSolver\\src\\main\\java\\Maze4.txt";
    private static final String CantSolveTest = "C:\\Users\\otten\\OneDrive\\"
            + "Documents\\NetBeansProjects\\MazeSolver\\src\\main\\java\\"
            + "CantSolve.txt";
    /**
     * in main, the file will be created, then a method that turns the file into
     * an array will be used, then a method to check if it is solvable is
     * called, if it isn't solvable the program will end and the user will be
     * told the maze isn't solvable but if it is solvable the method that finds
     * and returns the array with the direct path will be called and if the
     * direct path was found the maze with the direct path will be printed
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* @param args
 */
public static void main(String[] args) {
    File myFile = new File(Maze1); //the maze file
   char[][] mazeArray = makeMazeArray(myFile);//build array that will
    //contain the maze
    if (!checkIfSolvable(mazeArray)) {//checking if maze is solvable
        System.out.println("This maze is not solvable");
    } else {
        mazeArray = travelingThrough(mazeArray);//if the maze has an exit we
        //will try to solve
        if (mazeArray[0][0] == 'N') {
            System.out.println("This maze is not solvable");//if there is
            //a 'N' in the first spot this was a a singal telling us that
            //it wasnt solvable because there was a blockage somewhere in
            //the maze
        } else {
            printMaze(mazeArray);//printing the maze with direct path if it
            //was solved
        }
    }
}//end of main
/**
 * This method takes a file and uses another method to find its width and
 * height to create an array containing the maze in the given file. The
 * dimensions of the new array will be taken from an array calculated by a
 * different method where the first value is the number of rows and the
 * second is the number of cols. once an array has been created with the
 * dimensions that the findingMazeDimensions method found, this method will
 * go row by row through the file containing maze and it will split each row
 * into a char array and then put each char in this array into the
 * corresponding row in the mazeArray.
 * @param myFile the file containing the maze we want to solve
 * @return the char array containing the maze will be returned
public static char[][] makeMazeArray(File myFile) {
    //array that will contiain calculated dimensions
    int[] dimensions = findingMazeDimensions(myFile);
    //making an array with the calculated dimensions storred in the array
    char[][] mazeArray = new char[dimensions[0]][dimensions[1]];
    //making a scanner to put the file into a 2d char array
    Scanner scannerToPutFileInArray;
    try {
        scannerToPutFileInArray = new Scanner(myFile);
    } catch (FileNotFoundException e) {
        System.out.println("ERROR");
        return null;
    }
    //going row by row of the file spliting each row into a char array and
    //putting this new char array into the rows of our array
   while (scannerToPutFileInArray.hasNextLine()) {
        for (int row = 0; row < mazeArray.length; row++) {</pre>
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//new temp array containing the row in a char array
            char[] temp = scannerToPutFileInArray.nextLine().toCharArray();
            for (int col = 0; col < mazeArray[row].length; col++) {</pre>
                mazeArray[row][col] = temp[col];
        }
    }//end of while
    return mazeArray;//return completed array
}//end of makeMazeArray
 * this method calculates the dimensions of our array. it does this by
 * taking the file as a parameter and creating a scanner to move through it.
 * To find the cols the scanner takes the first row and calculates its
 * length. then to find its rows it gets the next row until there is no next
 * row and adds 1 to a counter containing the number of rows the loop that
 * does this starts at 1 because we already got the first row to find the
 * number of cols. these calculated dimensions are returned in an array that
 * contains the number of rows in col 0, and the number of cols in col 1.
 * these dimensions are returned in an array because we cant return 2 ints
 * @param myFile file we are finding the dimensions of
 * @return the dimensions stored in an array will be returned
 */
public static int[] findingMazeDimensions(File myFile) {
    int[] dimensions = new int[2];//array that will stoer dimensions
    //making a scanner that will be used to get the dimensions
    Scanner scannerToFindSize;
    try {
        scannerToFindSize = new Scanner(myFile);
    } catch (FileNotFoundException e) {
        System.out.println("ERROR");
        return null;
    }
    //length of the first row will be counted to get number of cols
    int totalCols = (scannerToFindSize.nextLine().length());
    //to get rows in file
    int totalRows;
    for (totalRows = 1; scannerToFindSize.hasNextLine(); totalRows++) {
        scannerToFindSize.nextLine();
    scannerToFindSize.close();//closing the scanner
   dimensions[0] = totalRows;
   dimensions[1] = totalCols;
   return dimensions; //returning the array that has the dimensions stored
    //in it
}//end of finding dimensions
 * this method finds the entry. it does this by going row by row in the
 * first col and looking for the opening, ' ', spot. The row that the entry
 * is in will be returned. We don't need the col since the entry will always
 * be in col 0. If there is no entry -1 will be returned by default
 * @param mazeArray array containing the maze we are looking at
 * @return the row containing the entry will be returned
 */
public static int findEntry(char[][] mazeArray) {
    int entry = -1; //if this is returned there is no entry
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for (int row = 0; row < mazeArray.length; row++) {</pre>
        if (mazeArray[row][0] == ' ') {
            return row; //row containing entry
    }
    return entry; //this will only happen if there is no entry
}//end of find entry
 * this method checks to see if the maze is solvable. it does this by
 * looking to see if there is an exit. the method finds if there is an exit
 * by looking in the lase col of our array and trying to find if there is a
 ^{\star} ''spot. if there is a ' ' in the last row true will be returned to show
 * that it is solvable, otherwise false will be returned to show that the
 * maze is not solvable
 * @param mazeArray array containing the maze we are looking at
 * @return a boolean will be returned that says true of false to show if the
 * maze is solvable
 */
public static boolean checkIfSolvable(char[][] mazeArray) {
    //going row by row looking for exit
    for (int row = 0; row < mazeArray.length - 1; row++) {</pre>
        //every row in last col
        if (mazeArray[row][mazeArray[0].length - 1] == ' ') {
            return true; //there is a entry
    }
    return false;//there is no entry
}//end of check if solvable
* this is the "main" method that is used to solve the maze. it creates
 * stacks that will contain the direct path and variables that have the row
 * and col last put on the stack, and the ones put on the stack 1 before the
 * current ones. this method starts by pushing the starting position onto
* the stack. From here I push coordinates onto the stack by finding the
 * coordinates of the next ' ' spot after the previous spot (previous spot
 * is stored in the currentRow and currentCol variables) that was pushed
 * into the stack, (i used 2 stacks, one for row one for col) and if they
 * lead to a dead end I pop back to the last spot where there was a choice
 * in what direction to go, blocking off the spots being popped that lead to
 * a dead end with 'w', so it won't try them again, and try a direction that
 * hasn't been blocked off. This continues until the last position put into
 * the stacks is in the same col as the exit. If there is no solution
 * because all paths lead to a dead end, 'N' will be put into the first
 * position in the array to signal back to main that it is not solvable
 * @param mazeArray
public static char[][] travelingThrough(char[][] mazeArray) {
    //these are the points that had been pushed on the stack last
    int currentCol = 0;
    int currentRow = 0;
    int[] rowColArray = new int[3]; //an array that will contain the
    //cordinates of the newx ' ' spot found by the getNextBlank method.
    //if there is a -1 in col 2, it has hit a dead end
    //these are the stacks containing the rows and cols of the direct path.
    //together they hold the coordinates of the direct path
    Stack<Integer> colStack = new Stack<>();
    Stack<Integer> rowStack = new Stack<>();
    currentRow = findEntry(mazeArray); //finds the starting row
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//pushing the starting points onto the stack
colStack.push(currentCol);
rowStack.push(currentRow);
//cordinate before last put onto stack, these are kept so we dont
//start going backwards through the maze at points weve already been
int secondLastRow = 0;
int secondLastCol = 0;
//while hasnt reaches the side with an exit continue
while (currentCol < mazeArray[0].length - 1) {</pre>
    //find the next blank, coordinates of this spot are stored in
    //rowColArray
    rowColArray = getNextBlank(mazeArray, currentRow, currentCol,
            rowColArray, secondLastRow,
            secondLastCol);
    //if there is a -1 in col 3 of the row col array this means we hit a
    //dead end and need to move back until there is a new direction we
    //can go
    if (rowColArray[2] == -1) {
        //go back until no longer at a dead end
        while (rowColArray[2] == -1) {
            mazeArray[currentRow][currentCol] = 'w'; //blocking off the
            //dead end so it doesnt try that spot again
            //moving backwards
            //setting the last spot entered to be the second last
            currentRow = (int) rowStack.pop();
            currentCol = (int) colStack.pop();
            //if we poped all the way back to the start and could not
            //find a path that works there is a blockage in the maze
            //that makes it unsolvable, and the stacks will be empty.
            //setting this N tells main it is unsolvable
            if (colStack.empty()) {
                mazeArray[0][0] = 'N';
                return mazeArray;
            }
            secondLastRow = (int) rowStack.peek();//getting the second
            secondLastCol = (int) colStack.peek();//last coordinate
            //try to get a next spot, if its no longer dead end loop
            //will end, if it is a dead end the loop will continue
            //moving us backwards
            rowColArray = getNextBlank(mazeArray, currentRow,
                    currentCol, rowColArray,
                    secondLastRow, secondLastCol);
        }
        //after the loop has been completed update the stack to contain
        //the condinate that was popped back to last
        rowStack.push(currentRow);//pushing the last into the stack
        colStack.push(currentCol);
    }//end of if
    //if the next spot was not a dead end the if will be skipped
    //set the second last spot to the last spot on the stack
    secondLastRow = (int) rowStack.peek();//getting the second last
    secondLastCol = (int) colStack.peek();
    //update the current variables to contain the cordiante of the new
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//blank
        currentRow = rowColArray[0];
        currentCol = rowColArray[1];
        //push the new blank onto the stack
        rowStack.push(currentRow);
        colStack.push(currentCol);
    }//end of loop that finds the direct path
   mazeArray = printStack(rowStack, colStack, mazeArray);//putting the
    //direct path into the array and removing all 'w'
    return mazeArray;//returning the complete maze
}//end of traveling through
 * this method is used to get the next blank spot.it returns an array with
 * the coordinates of the next blank spot.it does this by "looking" right,
 * down, up and left of the last blank spot for the next blank spot. it does
 * this by looking in a direction from the previous spot and checking if it
 * is also a blank spot and is not a spot we have been to. if there is no
 * spot that meets these requirement then the spot were were trying to move
 * from will be returned along with -1 on the second column
 * @param mazeArray the array containing the maze its trying to solve
 * @param currentRow the row we are looking from
 * @param currentCol the col we are looking from
 * @param oldRowColArray array containing old points
 * @param lastRow the last row, needed so we don't go backwards
 * @param lastCol the last col, needed so we don't go backwards
 * @return an array containing the coordinates of the next spot will be
 * returned. it can also signal that a dead end has been hit and we need to
 * move backwards
 */
public static int[] getNextBlank(char[][] mazeArray, int currentRow,
        int currentCol, int[] oldRowColArray, int lastRow, int lastCol) {
    //getting the old coordinates from the array
    int oldRow = oldRowColArray[0];
    int oldCol = oldRowColArray[1];
    //creating a new array that will store the next blanks coordinates
    int[] rowColArray = new int[3];
    //going right by adding 1 to the col, making sure its a ' ' and that
    //we havent been there
    if (mazeArray[currentRow][currentCol + 1] == ' ' && currentCol
            + 1 != oldCol && currentCol + 1 != lastCol) {
        //if the requierments are met put the coordinates in the array and
        //return the array
        rowColArray[0] = currentRow;
        rowColArray[1] = currentCol + 1;
        return rowColArray;
    }
    //going down by adding 1 to the row, making sure its a ' ' and that
    //we havent been there
    if (mazeArray[currentRow + 1][currentCol] == ' ' && currentRow
            + 1 != oldRow && currentRow + 1 != lastRow) {
        //if the requierments are met put the coordinates in the array and
        //return the array
        rowColArray[0] = currentRow + 1;
        rowColArray[1] = currentCol;
        return rowColArray;
    }
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//going up by subtracting 1 from row, making sure its a ' ' and that
    //we havent been there
    if (mazeArray[currentRow - 1][currentCol] == ' ' && currentRow - 1
            != oldRow && currentRow - 1 != lastRow) {
        //if the requierments are met put the coordinates in the array and
        //return the array
        rowColArray[0] = currentRow - 1;
        rowColArray[1] = currentCol;
        return rowColArray;
    //going left by subtracting 1 from col, making sure its a ' ' and that
    //we havent been there
    if (mazeArray[currentRow][currentCol - 1] == ' ' && currentCol - 1
            != oldCol && currentCol - 1 != lastCol) {
        //if the requierments are met put the coordinates in the array and
        //return the array
        rowColArray[0] = currentRow;
        rowColArray[1] = currentCol - 1;
        return rowColArray;
    } else {
       //if there was no new blank that can be reached send back the current
        //position and set the last col to -1 to singal we need to move back
        rowColArray[0] = oldRow;
        rowColArray[1] = oldCol;
        rowColArray[2] = -1; //signaling that weve hit a dead end
        return rowColArray;
}//end of get next blank
/**
* this method is used after we have the complete stacks that contain the
 * direct path. this method pops the stacks getting the coordinates of the
 * correct path putting '.' at these coordinates in the array until the
 * stacks are empty. then all 'w' are cleared from the array
 * @param rowStack stack containing all rows of the direct path
 * @param colStack stack containing all cols of the direct path
 * @param mazeArray the array containing the maze we want to solve
 * @return the updated mazeArray than now contains the direct path will be
 * returned
 */
public static char[][] printStack(Stack rowStack, Stack colStack,
        char[][] mazeArray) {
    //loop will continue untill there is no more cordinates in the direct
    //path to print
    while (!rowStack.empty()) {
        //getting the "address" of the direct path out of the stacks
        int row = (int) rowStack.pop();
        int col = (int) colStack.pop();
        //putting the path into the array
        mazeArray[row][col] = '.';
    }//end of for loop that puts in the . for the solved path
    //this loop clears all 'w' from the array
    for (int row = 0; row < mazeArray.length; row++) {</pre>
        for (int col = 0; col < mazeArray[row].length; col++) {</pre>
            if (mazeArray[row][col] == 'w') {
                mazeArray[row][col] = ' ';
            }
    }//end of for loops to delete w
    return mazeArray; //the complete maze array will be returned
}//end of print stack
```

```
/**
  * This method can print out any 2d array. It is used to print the array
  * that contains the maze, it it used at the end once the maze is solved.
  * This method goes row by row printing every char in every col
  *
  * @param mazeArray the array that i want to print out
  */
public static void printMaze(char[][] mazeArray) {
  for (int row = 0; row < mazeArray.length; row++) {
    for (int col = 0; col < mazeArray[row].length; col++) {
        System.out.print(mazeArray[row][col]);
    }//col for
    System.out.println();//to seperate rows
  }//row for
}//end of print maze
}//end of class MazeSolver</pre>
```