Programming Assignment 5: Burrows-Wheeler Data Compression

Implement the Burrows-Wheeler data compression algorithm. This revolutionary algorithm outcompresses gzip and PKZIP, is relatively easy to implement, and is not protected by any patents. It forms the basis of the Unix compression utililty bzip2.

The Burrows-Wheeler compression algorithm consists of three algorithmic components, which are applied in succession:

1. *Burrows-Wheeler transform.* Given a typical English text file, transform it into a text file in which sequences of the same character occur near each other many times.

2. *Move-to-front encoding.* Given a text file in which sequences of the same character occur near each other many times, convert it into a text file in which certain characters appear more frequently than others.

3. *Huffman compression.* Given a text file in which certain characters appear more frequently than others, compress it by encoding freqently occuring characters with short codewords and rare ones with long codewords.

The final step is the one that compresses the message: it is particularly effective because the first two steps result in a text file in which certain characters appear much more frequently than others. To expand a message, apply the inverse operations in reverse order: first apply the Huffman expansion, then the move-to-front decoding, and finally the inverse Burrows-Wheeler transform. Your task is to implement Burrows-Wheeler and move-to-front components efficiently.

Binary input and binary output. To enable that your programs work with binary data, you will use the libraries BinaryStdIn.java and BinaryStdOut.java described in *Algorithms, 4th edition*. To display the binary output when debugging, you can use HexDump.java, which takes a command-line argument N, reads bytes from standard input and writes them to standard output in hexadecimal, N per line.

```
% more abra.txt
ABRACADABRA!

% java HexDump 16 < abra.txt
41 42 52 41 43 41 44 41 42 52 41 21
96 bits
```

Note that in ASCII, 'A' is 41 (hex) and '!' is 21 (hex).

Huffman encoding and decoding. Huffman.java (Program 5.10 in *Algorithms, 4th edition*) implements the classic Huffman compression and expansion algorithms.

```
% java Huffman - < abra.txt | java HexDump 16
50 4a 22 43 43 54 a8 40 00 00 01 8f 96 8f 94
120 bits

% java Huffman - < abra.txt | java Huffman +
ABRACADABRA!
```

You will not write any code for this step.

Move-to-front encoding and decoding. The main idea of *move-to-front* encoding is to maintain an ordered sequence of all of the characters in the alphabet, and repeatedly read in a character from the input message, print out the position in which that character appears, and move that character to the front of the sequence. As a simple

example, if the initial ordering over a 6-character alphabet is A B C D E F, and we want to encode the input CAAABCCCACCF, then we would update the move-to-front sequences as follows:

```
move-to-front    in   out
-------------    ---  ---
 A B C D E F      C    2
 C A B D E F      A    1
 A C B D E F      A    0
 A C B D E F      A    0
 A C B D E F      B    2
 B A C D E F      C    2
 C B A D E F      C    0
 C B A D E F      C    0
 C B A D E F      A    2
 A C B D E F      C    1
 C A B D E F      C    0
 C A B D E F      F    5
 F C A B D E
```

If the same character occurs next to each other many times in the input, then many of the output values will be small integers, such as 0, 1, and 2. The extremely high frequency of certain characters makes an ideal scenario for Huffman coding.

- *Move-to-front encoding.* Your task is to maintain an ordered sequence of the 256 extended ASCII characters. Initialize the sequence by making the *i*th character in the sequence equal to the *i*th extended ASCII character. Now, read in each 8-bit character c from standard input one at a time, output the 8-bit index in the sequence where c appears, and move c to the front.

  ```
  % java MoveToFront - < abra.txt | java HexDump 16
  41 42 52 02 44 01 45 01 04 04 02 26
  96 bits
  ```

- *Move-to-front decoding.* Initialize an ordered sequence of 256 characters, where extended ASCII character *i* appears *i*th in the sequence. Now, read in each 8-bit character *i* (but treat it as an integer between 0 and 255) from standard input one at a time, write the *i*th character in the sequence, and move that character to the front. Check that the decoder recovers any encoded message.

  ```
  % java MoveToFront - < abra.txt | java MoveToFront +
  ABRACADABRA!
  ```

Name your program MoveToFront.java and organize it using the following API:

```
public class MoveToFront {
   // apply move-to-front encoding, reading from standard input and writing to standard output
   public static void encode()

   // apply move-to-front decoding, reading from standard input and writing to standard output
   public static void decode()

   // if args[0] is '-', apply move-to-front encoding
   // if args[0] is '+', apply move-to-front decoding
   public static void main(String[] args)
}
```

The running time of move-to-front encoding and decoding should be proportional to $R N$ in the worst case and proportional to N in practice on inputs that arise when compressing typical English text, where N is the number of characters in the input and R is the alphabet size.

Circular suffix array. To efficiently implement the key component in the Burrows-Wheeler transform, you will use a fundamental data structure known as the *circular suffix array*, which describes the abstraction of a sorted array of the N circular

suffixes of a string of length N. As an example, consider the string "ABRACADABRA!" of length 12. The table below shows its 12 circular suffixes and the result of sorting them.

i	Original Suffixes	Sorted Suffixes	index[i]
0	A B R A C A D A B R A !	! A B R A C A D A B R A	11
1	B R A C A D A B R A ! A	A ! A B R A C A D A B R	10
2	R A C A D A B R A ! A B	A B R A ! A B R A C A D	7
3	A C A D A B R A ! A B R	A B R A C A D A B R A !	0
4	C A D A B R A ! A B R A	A C A D A B R A ! A B R	3
5	A D A B R A ! A B R A C	A D A B R A ! A B R A C	5
6	D A B R A ! A B R A C A	B R A ! A B R A C A D A	8
7	A B R A ! A B R A C A D	B R A C A D A B R A ! A	1
8	B R A ! A B R A C A D A	C A D A B R A ! A B R A	4
9	R A ! A B R A C A D A B	D A B R A ! A B R A C A	6
10	A ! A B R A C A D A B R	R A ! A B R A C A D A B	9
11	! A B R A C A D A B R A	R A C A D A B R A ! A B	2

We define `index[i]` to be the index of the original suffix that appears *ith* in the sorted array. For example, `index[11] = 2` means that the 2*na* original suffix appears 11*th* in the sorted order (i.e., last alphabetically).

Your job is to implement the following circular suffix array API, which provides the client access to the `index[]` values:

```
public class CircularSuffixArray {
   public CircularSuffixArray(String s)  // circular suffix array of s
   public int length()                    // length of s
   public int index(int i)                // returns index of ith sorted suffix
}
```

Your data type must use linear space; the methods `length()` and `index()` must take constant time. Prior to Java 7, Update 6, the array of circular suffixes could be constructed in linear space using the `substring()` method. It now takes quadratic space—*do not explicitly generate the N suffixes*. Instead, precompute and store the `index[]` array, which requires only linear space.

Burrows-Wheeler transform. The goal of the Burrows-Wheeler transform is not to compress a message, but rather to transform it into a form that is more amenable to compression. The transform rearranges the characters in the input so that there are lots of clusters with repeated characters, but in such a way that it is still possible to recover the original input. It relies on the following intuition: if you see the letters `hen` in English text, then most of the time the letter preceding it is `t` or `w`. If you could somehow group all such preceding letters together (mostly `t`'s and some `w`'s), then you would have an easy opportunity for data compression.

- *Burrows-Wheeler encoding.* The Burrows-Wheeler transform of a string s of length N is defined as follows: Consider the result of sorting the N circular suffixes of s. The Burrows-Wheeler transform is the last column in the sorted suffixes array `t[]`, preceded by the row number `first` in which the original string ends up. Continuing with the "ABRACADABRA!" example above, we highlight the two components of the Burrows-Wheeler transform in the table below.

i	Original Suffixes	Sorted Suffixes	t	index[i]
0	A B R A C A D A B R A !	! A B R A C A D A B R	A	11
1	B R A C A D A B R A ! A	A ! A B R A C A D A B	R	10
2	R A C A D A B R A ! A B	A B R A ! A B R A C A	D	7
*3	A C A D A B R A ! A B R	A B R A C A D A B R A	!	*0
4	C A D A B R A ! A B R A	A C A D A B R A ! A B	R	3
5	A D A B R A ! A B R A C	A D A B R A ! A B R A	C	5
6	D A B R A ! A B R A C A	B R A ! A B R A C A D	A	8
7	A B R A ! A B R A C A D	B R A C A D A B R A !	A	1

```
 8    B R A ! A B R A C A D A     C A D A B R A ! A B R A    4
 9    R A ! A B R A C A D A B     D A B R A ! A B R A C A    6
10    A ! A B R A C A D A B R     R A ! A B R A C A D A B    9
11    ! A B R A C A D A B R A     R A C A D A B R A ! A B    2
```

Since the original string ABRACADABRA! ends up in row 3, we have `first` = 3. Thus, the Burrows-Wheeler transform is

```
3
ARD!RCAAAABB
```

Notice how there are 4 consecutive As and 2 consecutive Bs—these clusters make the message easier to compress.

```
% java BurrowsWheeler - < abra.txt | java HexDump 16
00 00 00 03 41 52 44 21 52 43 41 41 41 41 42 42
128 bits
```

Also, note that the integer 3 is represented using 4 bytes (00 00 00 03). The character 'A' is represented by hex 41, the character 'R' by 52, and so forth.

- *Burrows-Wheeler decoder.* Now, we describe how to invert the Burrows-Wheeler transform and recover the original input string. If the *jth* original suffix (original string, shifted *j* characters to the left) is the *ith* row in the sorted order, we define `next[i]` to be the row in the sorted order where the (*j* + 1)*st* original suffix appears. For example, if `first` is the row in which the original input string appears, then `next[first]` is the row in the sorted order where the 1*st* original suffix (the original string left-shifted by 1) appears; `next[next[first]]` is the row in the sorted order where the 2*nd* original suffix appears; `next[next[next[first]]]` is the row where the 3*rd* original suffix appears; and so forth.

  - *Decoding the message given t[], first, and the next[] array.* The input to the Burrows-Wheeler decoder is the last column `t[]` of the sorted suffixes along with `first`. From `t[]`, we can deduce the first column of the sorted suffixes because it consists of precisely the same characters, but in sorted order.

    ```
     i      Sorted Suffixes     t      next
    --    ---------------------      ----
     0    ! ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A        3
     1    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? R        0
     2    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? D        6
    *3    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? !        7
     4    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? R        8
     5    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? C        9
     6    B ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A       10
     7    B ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A       11
     8    C ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A        5
     9    D ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A        2
    10    R ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? B        1
    11    R ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? B        4
    ```

    Now, given the `next[]` array and `first`, we can reconstruct the original input string because the first character of the *i*th original suffix is the *i*th character in the input string. In the example above, since `first` = 3, we know that the original input string appears in row 3; thus, the original input string starts with 'A' (and ends with '!'). Since `next[first]` = 7, the next original suffix appears in row 7; thus, the next character in the original input string is 'B'. Since `next[next[first]]` = 11, the next original suffix appears in row 11; thus, the next character in the original input string is 'R'.

  - *Constructing the next[] array from t[] and first.* Amazingly, the information

contained in the Burrows-Wheeler transform suffices to reconstruct the next[] array, and, hence, the original message! Here's how. It is easy to deduce a next[] value for a character that appears exactly once in the input string. For example, consider the suffix that starts with 'C'. By inspecting the first column, it appears 8*th* in the sorted order. The next original suffix after this one will have the character 'C' as its last character. By inspecting the last column, the next original appears 5*th* in the sorted order. Thus, next[8] = 5. Similarly, 'D' and '!' each occur only once, so we can deduce that next[9] = 2 and next[0] = 3.

```
 i      Sorted Suffixes     t      next
--    ----------------------      ----
 0    ! ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A        3
 1    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? R
 2    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? D
*3    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? !
 4    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? R
 5    A ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? C
 6    B ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A
 7    B ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A
 8    C ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A        5
 9    D ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? A        2
10    R ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? B
11    R ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? B
```

However, since 'R' appears twice, it may seem ambiguous whether next[10] = 1 and next[11] = 4, or whether next[10] = 4 and next[11] = 1. Here's the key rule that resolves the apparent ambiguity:

> *If sorted row i and j both start with the same character and i < j, then next[i] < next[j].*

This rule implies next[10] = 1 and next[11] = 4. Why is this rule valid? The rows are sorted so row 10 is lexicographically less than row 11. Thus the ten unknown characters in row 10 must be less than the ten unknown characters in row 11 (since both start with 'R'). We also know that between the two rows that end with 'R', row 1 is less than row 4. But, the ten unknown characters in row 10 and 11 are precisely the first ten characters in rows 1 and 4. Thus, next[10] = 1 and next[11] = 4 or this would contradict the fact that the suffixes are sorted.

Check that the decoder recovers any encoded message.

```
% java BurrowsWheeler - < abra.txt | java BurrowsWheeler +
ABRACADABRA!
```

Name your program BurrowsWheeler.java and organize it using the following API:

```
public class BurrowsWheeler {
   // apply Burrows-Wheeler encoding, reading from standard input and writing to standard output
   public static void encode()

   // apply Burrows-Wheeler decoding, reading from standard input and writing to standard output
   public static void decode()

   // if args[0] is '-', apply Burrows-Wheeler encoding
   // if args[0] is '+', apply Burrows-Wheeler decoding
   public static void main(String[] args)
}
```

The running time of your Burrows-Wheeler encoder should be proportional to $N + R$ in the worst case, excluding the time to construct the circular suffix array. The running time of your Burrows-Wheeler decoder should be proportional to $N + R$ in the worst case.

Analysis (optional). Once you have `MoveToFront.java` and `BurrowsWheeler.java` working, compress some of these text files; then, test it on some binary files. Calculate the compression ratio achieved for each file and report the time to compress and expand each file. (Here, compression and expansion consists of applying `BurrowsWheeler`, `MoveToFront`, and `Huffman` in succession.) Finally, determine the order of growth of the running time of each of your encoders and decoders, both in the worst case and on typical Englist text inputs.

Deliverables. Submit `MoveToFront.java`, `BurrowsWheeler.java`, and `CircularSuffixArray.java` along with any other helper files needed to run your program (excluding those in `stdlib.jar` and `algs4.jar`). Your may not call any library functions other than those in `java.lang`, `java.util`, `stdlib.jar`, and `algs4.jar`.