

2008 AP® COMPUTER SCIENCE A FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Consider a method of encoding and decoding words that is based on a *master string*. This master string will contain all the letters of the alphabet, some possibly more than once. An example of a master string is "sixtyzipperswerequicklypickedfromthewovenjutebag". This string and its indexes are shown below.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| s | i | x | t | y | z | i | p | p | e | r | s | w | e | r | e | q | u | i | c | k | l | y | p |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| i | c | k | e | d | f | r | o | m | t | h | e | w | o | v | e | n | j | u | t | e | b | a | g |

An encoded string is defined by a list of *string parts*. A string part is defined by its starting index in the master string and its length. For example, the string "overeager" is encoded as the list of string parts [(37, 3), (14, 2), (46, 2), (9, 2)] denoting the substrings "ove", "re", "ag", and "er".

String parts will be represented by the `StringPart` class shown below.

```
public class StringPart
{
    /** @param start the starting position of the substring in a master string
     *  @param length the length of the substring in a master string
     */
    public StringPart(int start, int length)
    { /* implementation not shown */ }

    /** @return the starting position of the substring in a master string
     */
    public int getStart()
    { /* implementation not shown */ }

    /** @return the length of the substring in a master string
     */
    public int getLength()
    { /* implementation not shown */ }

    // There may be instance variables, constructors, and methods that are not shown.
}
```

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The class `StringCoder` provides methods to encode and decode words using a given master string. When encoding, there may be multiple matching string parts of the master string. The helper method `findPart` is provided to choose a string part within the master string that matches the beginning of a given string.

```
public class StringCoder
{
    private String masterString;

    /** @param master the master string for the StringCoder
     *      Precondition: the master string contains all the letters of the alphabet
     */
    public StringCoder(String master)
    {   masterString = master;   }

    /** @param parts an ArrayList of string parts that are valid in the master string
     *      Precondition: parts.size() > 0
     *      @return the string obtained by concatenating the parts of the master string
     */
    public String decodeString(ArrayList<StringPart> parts)
    {   /* to be implemented in part (a) */   }

    /** @param str the string to encode using the master string
     *      Precondition: all of the characters in str appear in the master string;
     *                  str.length() > 0
     *      @return a string part in the master string that matches the beginning of str.
     *              The returned string part has length at least 1.
     */
    private StringPart findPart(String str)
    {   /* implementation not shown */   }

    /** @param word the string to be encoded
     *      Precondition: all of the characters in word appear in the master string;
     *                  word.length() > 0
     *      @return an ArrayList of string parts of the master string that can be combined
     *              to create word
     */
    public ArrayList<StringPart> encodeString(String word)
    {   /* to be implemented in part (b) */   }

    // There may be instance variables, constructors, and methods that are not shown.
}
```

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Question 2: String Coder

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Part A: | decodeString | 4 1/2 points |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|

- +1 traverse parts
 - +1/2 correctly access an element of parts (in context of loop)
 - +1/2 access all elements of parts (lose this if index out-of-bounds)
- +2 retrieve substrings from masterString
 - +1/2 correctly call `getStart()` and `getLength()` on accessed part
 - +1 1/2 extract a substring from masterString
 - +1/2 `masterString.substring(X, Y)`
 - +1 extract correct substring
- +1 1/2 build and return decoded string
 - +1 correctly build string from substrings of masterString
 - +1/2 return built string

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Part B: | encodeString | 4 1/2 points |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|

- +1/2 construct an `ArrayList<StringPart>` (must assign to a variable, generic okay)
- +3 1/2 find, collect string parts, and build list (in context of loop)
 - +1 `findPart(X)`, where X is word or a substring of word
 - +1 calls to `findPart` involve progressively smaller suffixes of word
 - +1/2 add found string part to `ArrayList` of string parts
 - +1 build correct list of string parts (must have used `findPart`)
- +1/2 return `ArrayList` of string parts