

Priority Queues

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Outline and Reading

- ◆ PriorityQueue ADT (§2.4.1)
- ◆ Total order relation (§2.4.1)
- ◆ Comparator ADT (§2.4.1)
- ◆ Sorting with a priority queue (§2.4.2)
- ◆ Selection-sort (§2.4.2)
- ◆ Insertion-sort (§2.4.2)

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Priority Queue ADT

- ◆ A priority queue stores a collection of items
- ◆ An item is a pair (key, element)
- ◆ Main methods of the Priority Queue ADT
 - `insertItem(k, o)` inserts an item with key *k* and element *o*
 - `removeMin()` removes the item with smallest key and returns its element
- ◆ Additional methods
 - `minKey(k, o)` returns, but does not remove, the smallest key of an item
 - `minElement()` returns, but does not remove, the element of an item with smallest key
 - `size()`, `isEmpty()`
- ◆ Applications:
 - Standby flyers
 - Auctions
 - Stock market

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Total Order Relation

- ◆ Keys in a priority queue can be arbitrary objects on which an order is defined
- ◆ Two distinct items in a priority queue can have the same key
- ◆ Mathematical concept of total order relation \leq
 - Reflexive property: $x \leq x$
 - Antisymmetric property: $x \leq y \wedge y \leq x \Rightarrow x = y$
 - Transitive property: $x \leq y \wedge y \leq z \Rightarrow x \leq z$

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Comparator ADT

- ◆ A comparator encapsulates the action of comparing two objects according to a given total order relation
- ◆ A generic priority queue uses an auxiliary comparator
- ◆ The comparator is external to the keys being compared
- ◆ When the priority queue needs to compare two keys, it uses its comparator
- ◆ Methods of the Comparator ADT, all with Boolean return type
 - `isLessThan(x, y)`
 - `isLessThanOrEqualTo(x, y)`
 - `isEqualTo(x, y)`
 - `isGreaterThan(x, y)`
 - `isGreaterThanOrEqualTo(x, y)`
 - `isComparable(x)`

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Sorting with a Priority Queue

- ◆ We can use a priority queue to sort a set of comparable elements
 1. Insert the elements one by one with a series of `insertItem(e, e)` operations
 2. Remove the elements in sorted order with a series of `removeMin()` operations
- ◆ The running time of this sorting method depends on the priority queue implementation

Algorithm PQ-Sort(S, C)
Input sequence *S*, comparator *C* for the elements of *S*
Output sequence *S* sorted in increasing order according to *C*

```

P ← priority queue with comparator C
while ¬S.isEmpty()
    e ← S.remove(S.first())
    P.insertItem(e, e)
while ¬P.isEmpty()
    e ← P.removeMin()
    S.insertLast(e)
        
```

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Sequence-based Priority Queue

- ◆ Implementation with an unsorted sequence
 - Store the items of the priority queue in a list-based sequence, in arbitrary order
- ◆ Performance:
 - `insertItem` takes $O(1)$ time since we can insert the item at the beginning or end of the sequence
 - `removeMin`, `minKey` and `minElement` take $O(n)$ time since we have to traverse the entire sequence to find the smallest key
- ◆ Implementation with a sorted sequence
 - Store the items of the priority queue in a sequence, sorted by key
- ◆ Performance:
 - `insertItem` takes $O(n)$ time since we have to find the place where to insert the item
 - `removeMin`, `minKey` and `minElement` take $O(1)$ time since the smallest key is at the beginning of the sequence

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Selection-Sort

- ◆ Selection-sort is the variation of PQ-sort where the priority queue is implemented with an unsorted sequence
- ◆ Running time of Selection-sort:
 1. Inserting the elements into the priority queue with n `insertItem` operations takes $O(n)$ time
 2. Removing the elements in sorted order from the priority queue with n `removeMin` operations takes time proportional to $1 + 2 + \dots + n$
- ◆ Selection-sort runs in $O(n^2)$ time

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Insertion-Sort

- ◆ Insertion-sort is the variation of PQ-sort where the priority queue is implemented with a sorted sequence
- ◆ Running time of Insertion-sort:
 1. Inserting the elements into the priority queue with n `insertItem` operations takes time proportional to $1 + 2 + \dots + n$
 2. Removing the elements in sorted order from the priority queue with a series of n `removeMin` operations takes $O(n)$ time
- ◆ Insertion-sort runs in $O(n^2)$ time

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In-place Insertion-sort

- ◆ Instead of using an external data structure, we can implement selection-sort and insertion-sort in-place
- ◆ A portion of the input sequence itself serves as the priority queue
- ◆ For in-place insertion-sort
 - We keep sorted the initial portion of the sequence
 - We can use `swapElements` instead of modifying the sequence

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