CS 310: Priority Queues and Binary Heaps

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Week 14-2
Priority Queues

Queue
What operations does a queue support?

Priority: Number representing importance

- Convention lower is better priority
  
  *Bring back life form. Priority One. All other priorities rescinded.*

- Symmetric code if higher is better

Priority Queue (PQ): Supports 3 operations

- void insert(T x, int p): Insert x with priority p
- T findMin(): Return the object with the best priority
- void deleteMin(): Remove the object with the best priority
Priority

Explicit Priority
insert(T x, int p)
  ▶ Priority is explicitly int p
  ▶ Separate from data

Implicit Priority
insert(Comparable<T> x)
  ▶ x "knows" its own priority
  ▶ Comparisons dictated by x.compareTo(y)

Implicit is simpler for discussion: only one thing (x) to draw
Explicit usually uses a wrapper node of sorts

class PQElem<T> extends Comparable<PQElem>{
    int priority;   T elem;
    public int compareTo(PQElem<T> that){
        return this.priority - that.priority;
    }
}

Exercise: Design a PQ

Discuss

- How would you design PriorityQueue class?
- What underlying data structures would you use?
- Discuss with a neighbor
- Give rough idea of implementation
- Make it as efficient as possible in Big-O sense

Must Implement

- Constructor
- `void insert(T x)`: Insert x, knows its own priority, compare via `x.compareTo(y)`
- `T findMin()`: Return the object with the best priority
- `void deleteMin()`: Remove the object with the best priority, re-arrange if needed
# Exercise Results

Priority Queue implementations based on existing data structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Structure</th>
<th>insert(x)</th>
<th>findMin()</th>
<th>deleteMin()</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sorted Array</td>
<td>O(N)</td>
<td>O(1)</td>
<td>O(1)</td>
<td>Keep min at high index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorted Linked List</td>
<td>O(N)</td>
<td>O(1)</td>
<td>O(1)</td>
<td>Min at head or tail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binary Search Tree</td>
<td>O(height)</td>
<td>O(height)</td>
<td>O(height)</td>
<td>Min at left-most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVL or Red-Black Tree</td>
<td>O(log N)</td>
<td>O(log N)</td>
<td>O(log N)</td>
<td>Height $\approx \log N$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hash Table</td>
<td>O(N)</td>
<td>O(1)</td>
<td>O(1)</td>
<td>Tricky and pointless</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Questions

- Do priority queues implement more or less functionality than Binary Search Trees?
- Can we do better than these operational complexities?
Binary Heap: Sort of Sorted

- Most common way to build a PQ is using a new-ish data structure, the Binary Heap.
- Looks similar to a Binary Search Tree but maintains a different property

**BST Property**
A Node must be bigger than its left children and smaller than its right children

**Binary Min-Heap Property**
A Node must be smaller than its children
Heap and Not Heap

Which of these is a min-heap and which is not?

(a)  
13
21
24
65
21
19
68
31
65
26
32

(b)  
13
21
6
21
31
68
65
26
32

Which of these is a min-heap and which is not?
Trees and Heaps in Arrays

- Mostly we have used trees of linked Nodes
- Can also put trees/heaps in an array

- Root is at 1 (discuss root at 0 later)
- $left(i) = 2 \times i$
- $right(i) = 2 \times i + 1$
Balanced v. Unbalanced in Arrays

Find the array layout of these two trees

- Root is at 1
- \( \text{left}(i) = 2 \times i \)
- \( \text{right}(i) = 2 \times i + 1 \)

Q: How big of array is required?
Balanced v. Unbalanced in Arrays
Complete Trees

- Only "missing" nodes in their bottom row (level set)
- Nodes in bottom row are as far left as possible

Not Complete (Why?)

Complete trees don’t waste space in arrays: no gaps
- Hard for general BSTs, easy for binary heaps…
Trees/Heaps in Array: Keep them Complete

- Storing in arrays: can cost space overhead
- If the tree is complete or nearly so, little wasted space

BSTs in arrays
- Hard to keep tree complete
- BST + balancing property makes it hard
- Rotations may not be constant time anymore
- Trees not usually laid out in arrays: linked nodes much more common

Binary Heaps in arrays
- Very easy to keep tree complete
- Heap Property is more loose, easier to maintain
- No rotations, no worries..
- Binary heaps almost always laid out in arrays
PQ Ops with Binary Heaps

- Use an internal T array[] of queue contents
- Maintain min-heap order in array

Define
Tree-like ops for array[]

root() => 1
left(i) => i*2
right(i) => i*2 + 1
parent(i) => i / 2

T findMin()
Super easy
return array[root()];

insert(T x)
Ensure heap is a complete tree
- Insert at next array[size]
- Increment size
- Percolate new element up

deleteMin()
Ensure heap is a complete tree
- Decrement size
- Replace root with last data
- Percolate root down
Demos of Binary Heaps

Not allowed on exams, but good for studying

**Min Heap from David Galles @ Univ SanFran**
- Visualize both heap and array version
- All ops supported

**Max Heap from Steven Halim**
- Good visuals
- No array
- Slow to load
Operations for Heaps

// Binary Heap, 1-indexed
public class BinaryHeapPQ<T>{
    private T [] array;
    private int size;

    // Helpers
    static int root(){
        return 1;
    }
    static int left(int i){
        return i*2;
    }
    static int right(int i){
        return i*2+1;
    }
    static int parent(int i){
        return i / 2;
    }

    // Insert a data
    public void insert(T x){
        size++;
        ensureCapacity(size+1);
        array[size] = x;
        percolateUp(size);
    }

    // Remove the minimum element
    public void deleteMin(){
        array[root()] = array[size];
        array[size] = null;
        size--;
        percolateDown(root());
    }
}
Percolate Up/Down

Up

```java
void percolateUp(int xdx){
    while(xdx!=root()){[
        T x = array[xdx];
        T p = array[parent(xdx)];
        if(doCompare(x,p) < 0){[
            array[xdx] = p;
            array[parent(xdx)] = x;
            xdx = parent(xdx);
        } else{ break; }
    }
}
```

Down

```java
void percolateDown(int xdx){
    while(true){[
        T x = array[xdx];
        int cdx = left(xdx);
        // Determine which child
        // if any to swap with
        if(cdx > size){ break; } // No left, bottom
        if(right(xdx) < size && // Right valid
            doCompare(array[right(xdx)], array[cdx])
            cdx = right(xdx); // Right smaller
        } else{ break; }
    }
    T child = array[cdx];
    if(doCompare(child,x) < 0){ // child smaller
        array[cdx] = x; // swap
        array[xdx] = child;
        xdx = cdx; // reset index
    } else{ break; }
}
```
PQ/Binary Heap Code

BinaryHeapPQ.java

- Code distribution today contains working heap
- `percolateUp()` and `percolateDown()` do most of the work
- Uses "root at index 1" convention

Text Book Binary Heap

- Weiss uses a different approach in percolate up/down
- Move a "hole" around rather than swapping
- Probably saves 1 comparison per loop iteration
- Have a look in `weiss/util/PriorityQueue.java`
Complexity of Binary Heap PQ methods?

T findMin();
void insert(T x); // x knows its priority
void deleteMin();

Give the complexity and justify for each
Height Again...

Efficiency of Binary Heap PQs

\texttt{findMin()} clearly $O(1)$

\texttt{deleteMin()} worst case height

\texttt{insert(x)} worst case height

Height of a \textbf{Complete Binary Tree} wrt number of nodes $N$?

- Guesses?
- Do some googling if you are feeling cowardly...
This is how rumors get started

**Weiss’s Assertion: insert is \( O(1) \)**

On average the percolation \( [\text{up}] \) terminates early: It has been shown that 2.6 comparisons are required on average to perform the add, so the average add moves an element up 1.6 levels.

- Weiss 4th ed pg 815

Precise results on the number of comparisons and data movements used by heapsort in the best, worst, and average case are given in (Schaffer and Sedgewick).

- pg 839

And how rumors resolve

Binary Heaps DO have $O(1)$ amortized insertion

Empirical Evaluation

- Schaffer/Sedgewick (1991)
- → Carlsson (1987)
- → Porter/Simon (1974): "note pg. 15 in which the average case is stated to be upper-bound by lambda, which computes to 1.606691524"

Students in Fall 2013 did the above, edited Wikipedia to reflect this fact. You should have been there. It was awesome.
Summary of Binary Heaps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Op</th>
<th>Worst Case</th>
<th>Avg Case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>findMin()</td>
<td>$O(1)$</td>
<td>$O(1)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insert(x)</td>
<td>$O(\log N)$</td>
<td>$O(1)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deleteMin()</td>
<td>$O(\log N)$</td>
<td>$O(\log N)$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Notice: No `get(x)` method or `remove(x)` methods
- These would involve searching the whole binary heap/priority queue if they did existed: $O(N)$