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This lecture introduces heaps, which are used in the Priority Queue project of Chapter 11. The lecture includes the algorithms for adding to a heap (including reheapification upward), removing the top of a heap (including reheapification downward), and implementing a heap in a partially-filled array.

Prior to this lecture, the students need a good understanding of complete binary trees. It would also help if they have seen binary search trees and the priority queue class.

Heaps

A <u>heap</u> is a certain kind of complete binary tree.

A heap is a data structure with several applications, including a way to implement Priority Queues, as shown in Chapter 11. The definition of a heap is a special kind of complete binary tree.

You probably recall that a complete binary tree requires that its nodes are added in a particular order...

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The first node of a complete binary tree is always the root...



...the second node is always the left child of the root...



...then the right child of the root...



...and so on. The nodes always fill each level from left-to-right...



...from left-to-right...



...from left-to-right...



...from left-to-right...



...and when a level is filled you start the next level at the left.



So, a heap is a complete binary tree. Each node in a heap contains a key, and these keys must be organized in a particular manner. Notice that this is <u>not</u> a binary search tree, but the keys do follow some semblance of order.

Can you see what rule is being enforced here?



The heap property requires that each node's key is >= to the keys of its children.

This is a handy property because the biggest node is always at the top. Because of this, a heap can easily implement a priority queue (where we need quick access to the highest priority item).



We can add new elements to a heap whenever we like. Because the heap is a complete binary search tree, we must add the new element at the next available location, filling in the levels from left-to-right.

In this example, I have just added the new element with a key of 42.

Of course, we now have a problem: The heap property is no longer valid. The 42 is bigger than its parent 27.

To fix the problem, we will push the new node upwards until it reaches an acceptable location.



Here we have pushed the 42 upward one level, swapping it with its smaller parent 27.

We can't stop here though, because the parent 35 is still smaller than the new node 42.



Can we stop now? Yes, because the 42 is less than or equal to its parent.



In general, there are two conditions that can stop the pushing upward:

- 1. We reach a spot where the parent is >= the new node, or
- 2. We reach the root.

This process is called <u>reheapification upward</u> (I didn't just make up that name, really).



We can also remove the top node from a heap. The first step of the removal is to move the last node of the tree onto the root. In this example we move the 27 onto the root.



Now the 27 is on top of the heap, and the original root (45) is no longer around. But the heap property is once again violated.



We'll fix the problem by pushing the out-of-place node downward. Perhaps you can guess what the downward pushing is called....<u>reheapification downward</u>.



When we push a node downward it is important to swap it with its largest child. (Otherwise we are creating extra problems by placing the smaller child on top of the larger child.) This is what the tree looks like after one swap.

Should I continue with the reheapification downward?



Yes, I swap again, and now the 27 is in an acceptable location.



Reheapification downward can stop under two circumstances:

- 1. The children all have keys that are <= the out-of-place node.
- 2. The out-of-place node reaches a leaf.



This slide shows the typical way that a heap is implemented. For the most part, there is nothing new here, because you already know how to implement a complete binary tree using a partially-filled array. That is what we are doing with the heap.



Following the usual technique for implementing a complete binary tree, the data from the root is stored in the first entry of the array.



The next two nodes go in the next two locations of the array.



and so on.



As with any partially-filled array, we are only concerned with the front part of the array. If the tree has five nodes, then we are only concerned with the entries in the first five components of the array.



With this implementation of a heap, there are no pointers. The only way that we know that the array is a heap is the manner in which we manipulate it.



The manipulations are the same manipulations that you've used for a complete binary tree, making it easy to compute the index where various nodes are stored.

Summary

- A heap is a complete binary tree, where the entry at each node is greater than or equal to the entries in its children.
- To add an entry to a heap, place the new entry at the next available spot, and perform a reheapification upward.
- To remove the biggest entry, move the last node onto the root, and perform a reheapification downward.

A quick summary . . .

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Feel free to send your ideas to: Michael Main main@colorado.edu

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