

# COMP9024: Data Structures and Algorithms

Priority Queues and Disjoint Set Union-Find Data  
Structures

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## Contents

- Priority queue ADT
- Heap-based priority queues
- Binomial Heaps
- Disjoint set union-find data structures and algorithms

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## Priority Queue ADT

- A priority queue stores a collection of items.
- Each **item** is a pair (key, value), where key is the priority of the item.
- Main operations of the Priority Queue ADT:
  - `Insert(k, x)`  
Inserts an item with key k and value x.
  - `RemoveMin()` (`RemoveMax()`)  
Removes and returns the item with smallest key (largest key). We consider `RemoveMin()` only. Implementation of `RemoveMax()` is similar.
- Additional operations
  - `Min()` (`Max()`)  
returns, but does not remove, an entry with smallest key (largest key)
  - `Size()`, `IsEmpty()`
- Applications:
  - Standby flyers
  - Auctions
  - Stock market

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## Total Order Relations

- Keys in a priority queue can be arbitrary objects on which a total order is defined.
- Two distinct entries 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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## Priority Queue Sorting

- We can use a priority queue to sort a set of comparable elements:
  1. Insert the elements one by one with a series of **Insert** operations.
  2. Remove the elements in sorted order with a series of **RemoveMin** operations.
- The running time of this sorting algorithm depends on the priority queue implementation.

### Algorithm *PQ-Sort(S)*

**Input** sequence  $S$

**Output** sequence  $S$  sorted in non-decreasing order

```
{ Create an empty priority queue  $P$ ;  
  while ( $\neg \text{IsEmpty}(S)$ )  
  {  $e = \text{RemoveFirst}(S)$ ;  
     $\text{Insert}(P, e)$ ;  
  }  
  while ( $\neg \text{IsEmpty}(P)$ )  
  {  $e = \text{RemoveMin}(P)$ ;  
     $\text{InsertLast}(S, e)$ ;  
  }  
}
```

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## List-based Priority Queue

- Implementation with an unsorted list:



- Performance:

- **Insert** takes  $O(1)$  time since we can insert the item at the beginning or end of the list.
- **RemoveMin** and **Min** take  $O(n)$  time since we have to traverse the entire list to find the smallest key.

- Implementation with a sorted list:



- Performance:

- **Insert** takes  $O(n)$  time since we have to find the place where to insert the item.
- **RemoveMin** and **Min** take  $O(1)$  time, since the smallest key is at the beginning.

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## Selection-Sort

- Selection-sort is a variation of PQ-sort where the priority queue is implemented with an unsorted list.
- Running time of Selection-sort:
  1. Inserting the elements into the priority queue with  $n$  insert 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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## Selection-Sort Example

	<i>List S</i>	<i>Priority Queue P</i>
Input:	(7,4,8,2,5,3,9)	()
Phase 1		
(a)	(4,8,2,5,3,9)	(7)
(b)	(8,2,5,3,9)	(7,4)
..	.. ..	
.	.	
(g)	()	(7,4,8,2,5,3,9)
Phase 2		
(a)	(2)	(7,4,8,5,3,9)
(b)	(2,3)	(7,4,8,5,9)
(c)	(2,3,4)	(7,8,5,9)
(d)	(2,3,4,5)	(7,8,9)
(e)	(2,3,4,5,7)	(8,9)
(f)	(2,3,4,5,7,8)	(9)
(g)	(2,3,4,5,7,8,9)	()

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# Insertion-Sort

- Insertion-sort is the variation of PQ-sort where the priority queue is implemented with a sorted list.
- Running time of Insertion-sort:
  1. Inserting the elements into the priority queue with  $n$  **Insert** 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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## Insertion-Sort Example

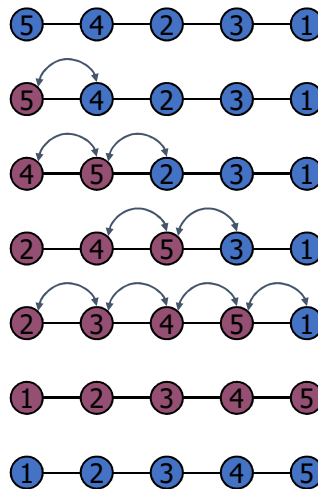
	<i>List S</i>	<i>Priority queue P</i>
Input:	(7,4,8,2,5,3,9)	()
Phase 1		
(a)	(4,8,2,5,3,9)	(7)
(b)	(8,2,5,3,9)	(4,7)
(c)	(2,5,3,9)	(4,7,8)
(d)	(5,3,9)	(2,4,7,8)
(e)	(3,9)	(2,4,5,7,8)
(f)	(9)	(2,3,4,5,7,8)
(g)	()	(2,3,4,5,7,8,9)
Phase 2		
(a)	(2)	(3,4,5,7,8,9)
(b)	(2,3)	(4,5,7,8,9)
..	..	..
.	.	.
(g)	(2,3,4,5,7,8,9)	()

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## In-place Insertion-sort

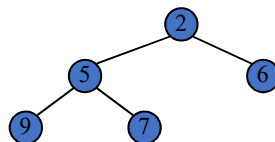
- Instead of using an external data structure, we can implement selection-sort and insertion-sort in-place.
- A portion of the input list itself serves as the priority queue.
- For in-place insertion-sort
  - We keep sorted the initial portion of the list.
  - We can use *swaps* instead of modifying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



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## Heaps



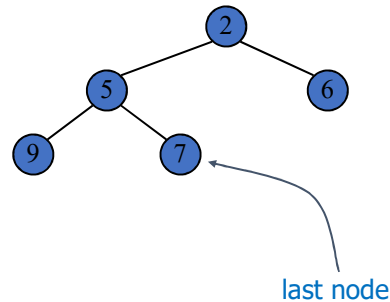
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# Heaps

- A min-heap is a binary tree storing keys at its nodes and satisfying the following properties:
  - **Heap-Order**: for every node  $v$  other than the root,  $key(v) \geq key(parent(v))$
  - **Complete Binary Tree**: let  $h$  be the height of the heap
    - for  $i = 0, \dots, h-1$ , there are  $2^i$  nodes of depth  $i$
    - at depth  $h-1$ , all the nodes are as far left as possible
- The last node of a heap is the rightmost node of depth  $h$ .

- A max-heap satisfies a different heap order property:
  - For every node  $v$  other than the root,  $key(v) \leq key(parent(v))$
- We consider min-heap only

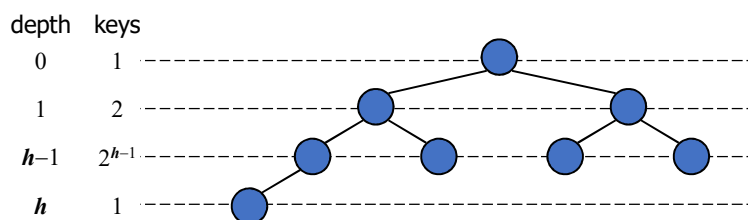


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# Height of a Heap

- **Theorem**: A heap storing  $n$  keys has height  $O(\log n)$ .
- Proof: (we apply the complete binary tree property)
- Let  $h$  be the height of a heap storing  $n$  keys.
  - Since there are  $2^i$  keys at depth  $i = 0, \dots, h-1$  and at least one key at depth  $h$ , we have  $n \geq 1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^{h-1} + 1$ .
  - Thus,  $n \geq 2^h$ , i.e.,  $h \leq \log n$ .

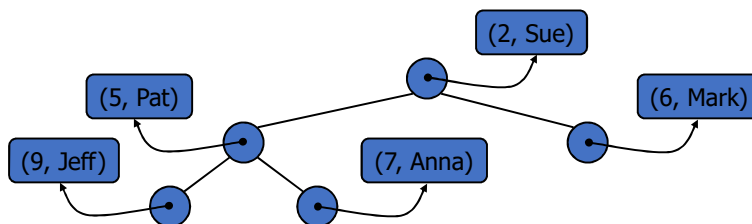


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## Heaps and Priority Queues

- We can use a heap to implement a priority queue.
- We store a (key, element) item at each node.
- We keep track of the position of the last node.
- For simplicity, we show only the keys in the pictures.

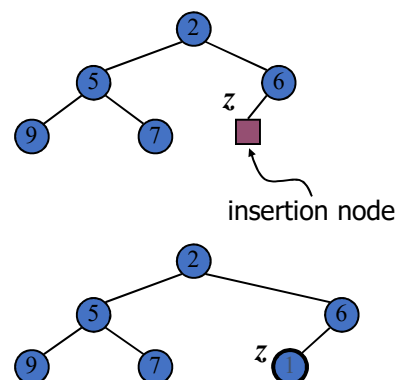


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## Insertion into a Heap

- Operation **Insert** of the priority queue ADT corresponds to the insertion of a key  $k$  to the heap.
- The insertion algorithm consists of three steps:
  - Find the insertion node  $z$  (the new last node)
  - Store  $k$  at  $z$
  - Restore the heap-order property (discussed next)



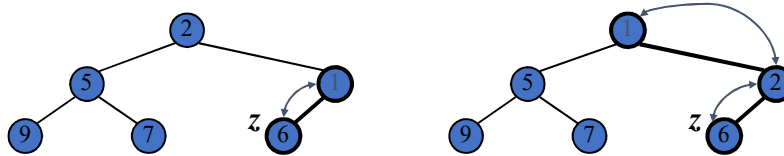
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## Upheap

- After the insertion of a new key  $k$ , the heap-order property may be violated.
- Algorithm upheap restores the heap-order property by swapping  $k$  along an upward path from the insertion node.
- Upheap terminates when the key  $k$  reaches the root or a node whose parent has a key smaller than or equal to  $k$ .
- Since a heap has height  $O(\log n)$ , upheap runs in  $O(\log n)$  time.

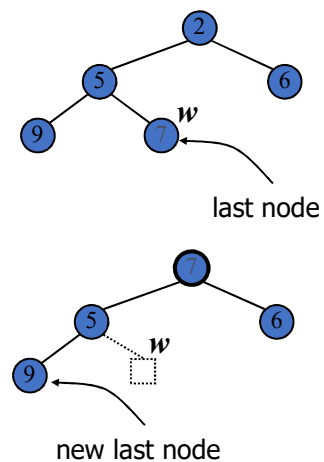


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## Removal from a Heap

- Method RemoveMin of the priority queue ADT corresponds to the removal of the root key from the heap.
- The removal algorithm consists of three steps
  - Replace the root key with the key of the last node  $w$
  - Remove  $w$
  - Restore the heap-order property (discussed next)

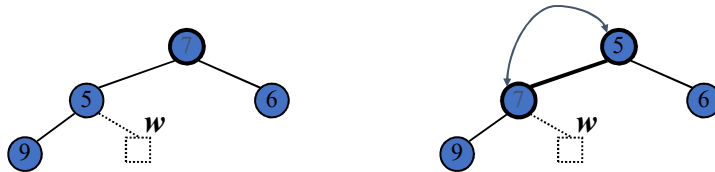


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## Downheap

- After replacing the root key with the key  $k$  of the last node, the heap-order property may be violated.
- Algorithm downheap restores the heap-order property by swapping key  $k$  along a downward path from the root.
- Downheap terminates when key  $k$  reaches a leaf or a node whose children have keys greater than or equal to  $k$ .
- Since a heap has height  $O(\log n)$ , downheap runs in  $O(\log n)$  time.

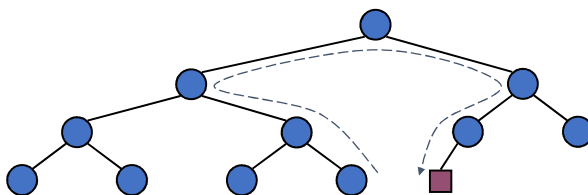


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## Updating the Last Node

- The insertion node can be found by traversing a path of  $O(\log n)$  nodes:
  - Go up until a left child or the root is reached
  - If a left child is reached, go to the right child
  - Go down left until the next node is null.
- Similar algorithm for updating the last node after a removal.



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## Heap-Sort

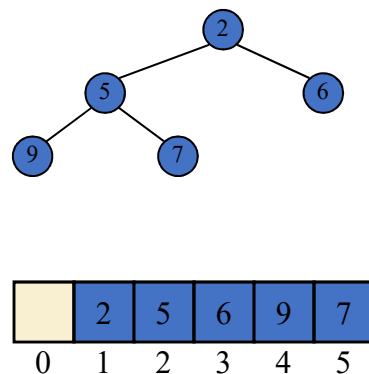
- Consider a priority queue with  $n$  items implemented by means of a heap
  - The space used is  $O(n)$
  - Operations **Insert** and **RemoveMin** take  $O(\log n)$  time
  - Operations **Size**, **IsEmpty**, and **Min** take  $O(1)$  time
- Using a heap-based priority queue, we can sort a sequence of  $n$  items in  $O(n \log n)$  time.
- The resulting algorithm is called heap-sort.
- Heap-sort is much faster than quadratic sorting algorithms, such as insertion-sort and selection-sort.

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## Array-based Heap Implementation

- We can represent a heap with  $n$  keys by means of an array of length  $n + 1$ .
- For the node at rank  $i$ 
  - the left child is at rank  $2i$
  - the right child is at rank  $2i + 1$
- Links between nodes are not explicitly stored.
- The cell of at rank 0 is not used.
- Operation **Insert** corresponds to inserting at rank  $n + 1$ .
- Operation **RemoveMin** corresponds to removing at rank  $n$ .
- Yields in-place heap-sort.

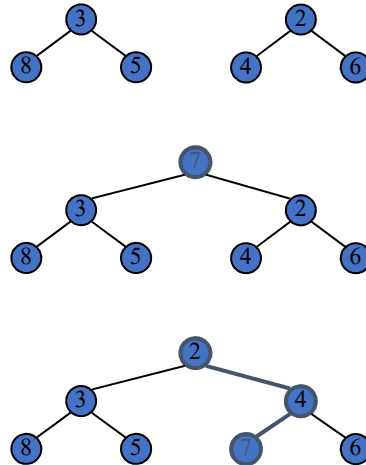


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## Merging Two Heaps

- We are given two two heaps and a key  $k$ .
- We create a new heap with the root node storing  $k$  and with the two heaps as subtrees
- We perform downheap to restore the heap-order property.

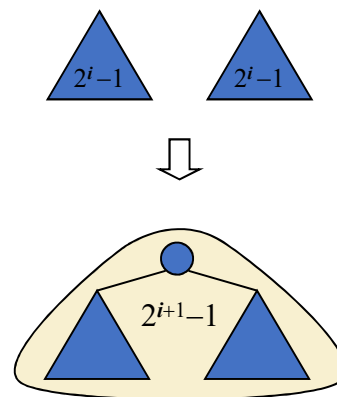


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## Bottom-up Heap Construction

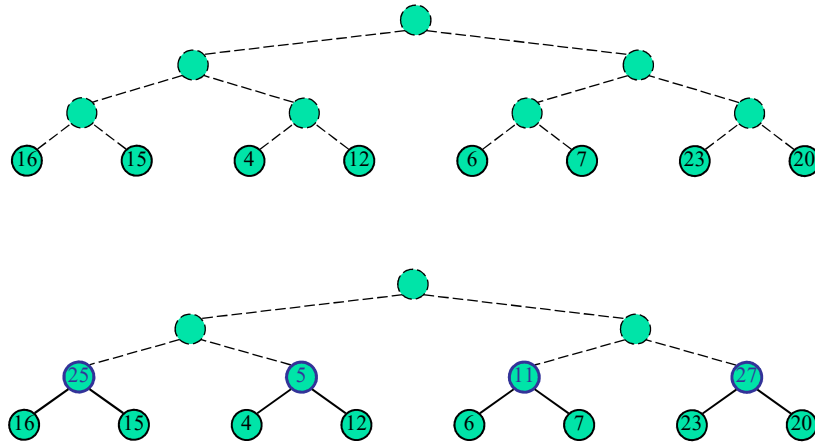
- We can construct a heap storing  $n$  given keys in using a bottom-up construction with  $\log n$  phases.
- In phase  $i$ , pairs of heaps with  $2^i - 1$  keys are merged into heaps with  $2^{i+1} - 1$  keys.



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### Example (1/4)

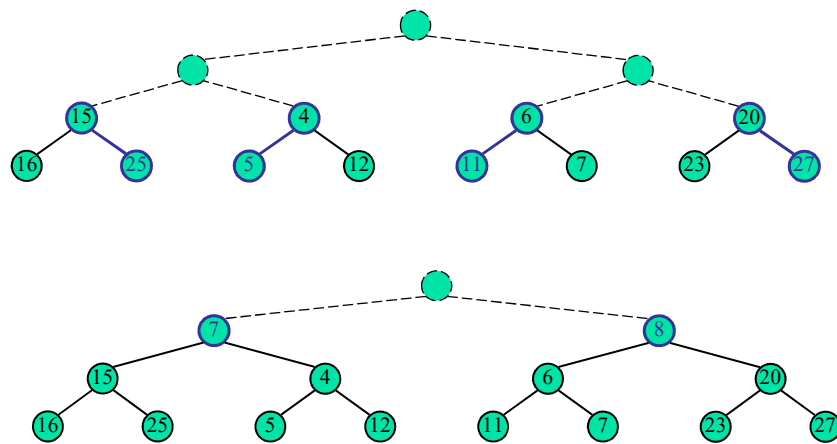


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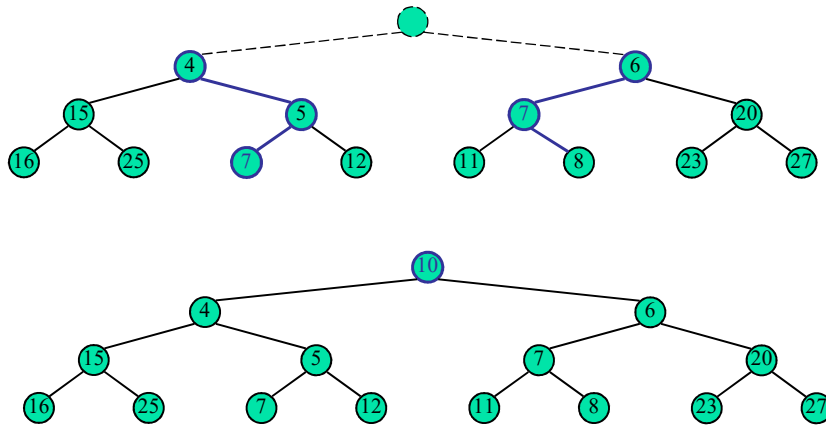
### Example (2/4)



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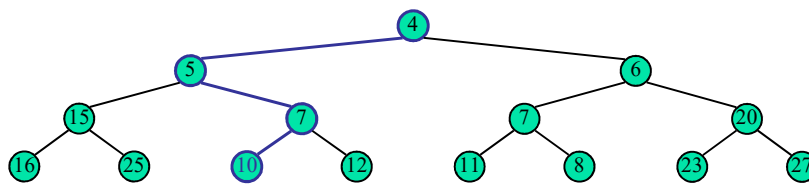
### Example (3/4)



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### Example (4/4)

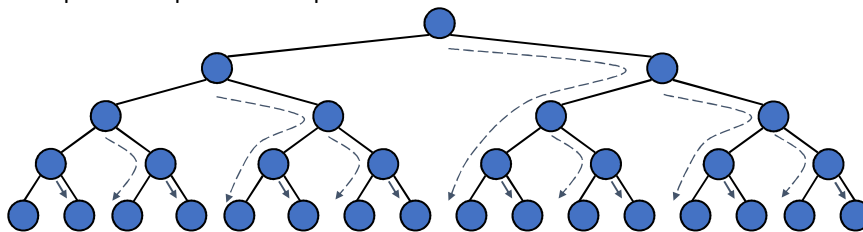


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## Analysis

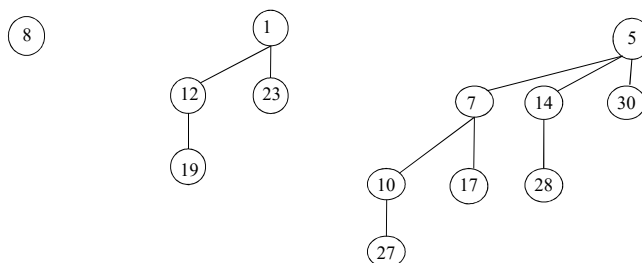
- We visualize the worst-case time of a downheap with a proxy path that goes first right and then repeatedly goes left until the bottom of the heap (this path may differ from the actual downheap path)
- Since each node is traversed by at most two proxy paths, the total number of nodes of the proxy paths is  $O(n)$ .
- Thus, bottom-up heap construction runs in  $O(n)$  time.
- Bottom-up heap construction is faster than  $n$  successive insertions and speeds up the first phase of heap-sort.



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## Binomial Heaps



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## Merge Two Heaps with Different Sizes

**Merge(H1,H2):** Merge two heaps H1 and H2 with sizes m and n.

**Algorithm 1:** Insert each entry from H1 and H2 into a new heap:

Running time:  $O((m+n) \log(m+n))$

**Algorithm 2:** Use the bottom-up heap construction algorithm

Running Time:  $O(m+n)$

Can we merge two heaps in  $O(\log(m+n))$  time?

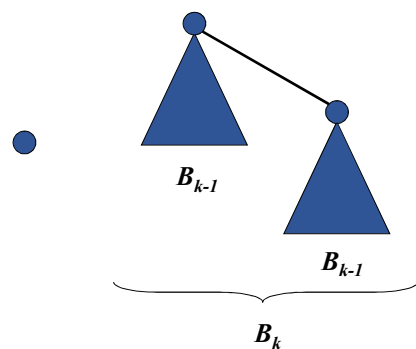
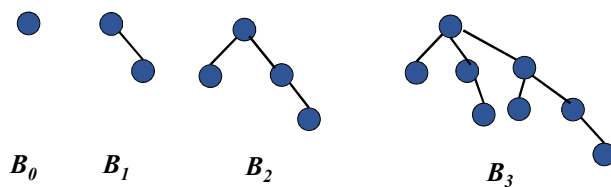
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## Binomial Trees

- Recursive Definition of Binomial tree  $B_k$  of height k:

- $B_0$  = single root node
- $B_k$  = Attach  $B_{k-1}$  to root of another  $B_{k-1}$



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## Properties of Binomial Trees

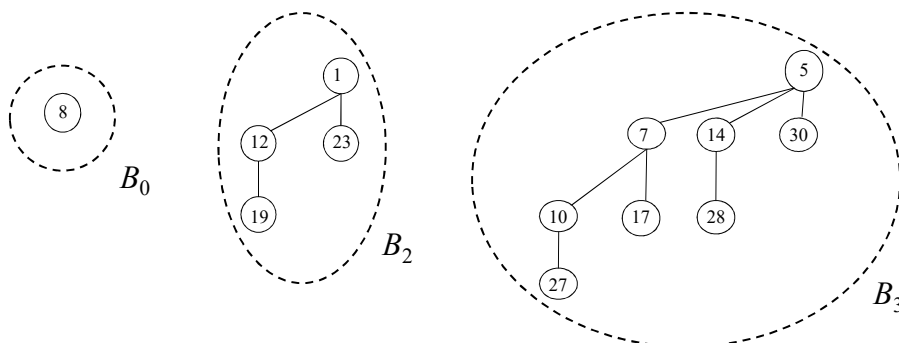
For the binomial tree  $B_k$ :

1. There are  $2^k$  nodes
2. The height of  $B_k$  is  $k$
3. There are exactly  $\binom{k}{i}$  (binomial coefficient) nodes at depth  $i$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, k$

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## Binomial Heaps

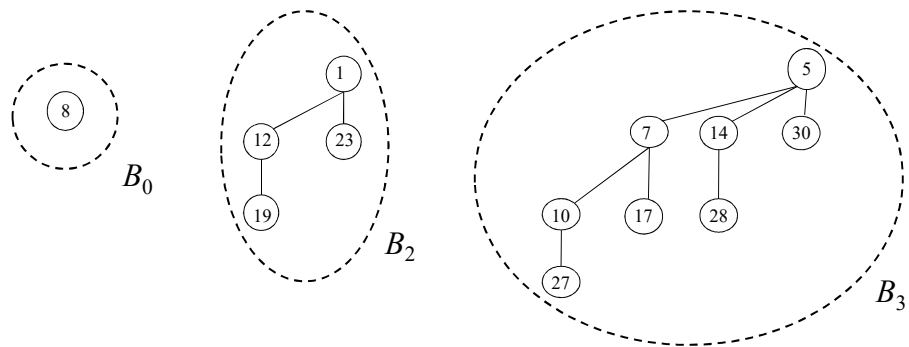
- A binomial heap  $H_k$  is a set of binomial trees  $B_0, B_1, \dots, B_k$  where each binomial tree is heap-ordered:
  - The key of each node  $\geq$  the key of the parent
- The root of each binomial tree in  $H_k$  contains the smallest key in that tree.



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## findMin()

- Traverse all the roots, taking  $O(\log n)$  time



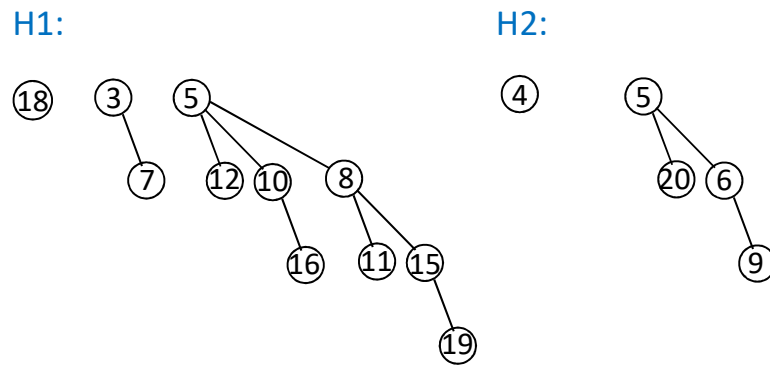
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## Merge Two Binomial Heaps (1/6)

- Key ideas: merge individual pairs of heaps with the same height
- Steps for merging two binomial heaps:
  1. Create a new empty binomial heap
  2. Start with  $B_k$  for the smallest  $k$
  3. If there is only one  $B_k$ , add  $B_k$  to the new binomial heap and go to Step 3 with  $k = k + 1$
  4. Merge two  $B_k$ 's into a new  $B_{k+1}$  by making the root with a larger key the child of the other root. Go to Step 3 with  $k = k + 1$
- Time complexity:  $O(\log(m+n))$ , where  $m$  and  $n$  are the sizes of two heaps.

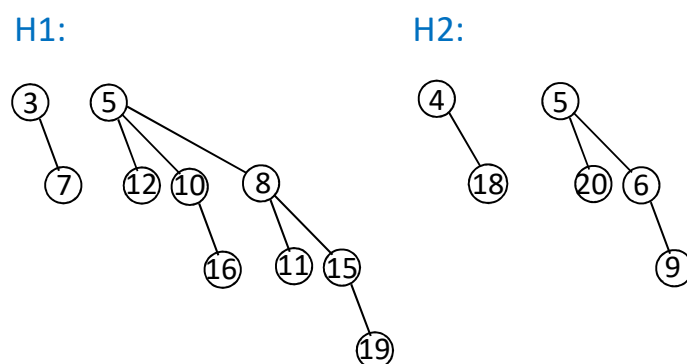
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## Merge Two Binomial Heaps (2/6)



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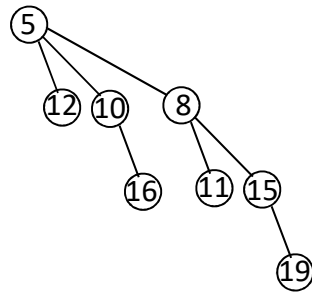
## Merge Two Binomial Heaps (3/6)



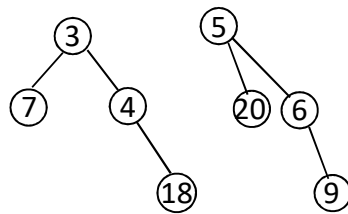
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## Merge Two Binomial Heaps (4/6)

H1:



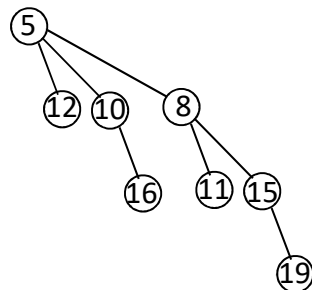
H2:



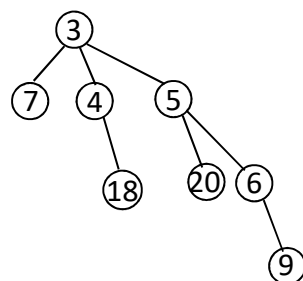
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## Merge Two Binomial Heaps (5/6)

H1:

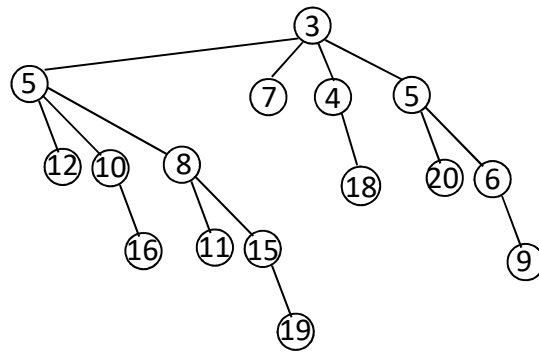


H2:



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## Merge Two Binomial Heaps (6/6)



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## Insertion

- Create a single node tree  $B_0$  with the new item and merge with the existing heap
- Time complexity:  $O(\log n)$

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## How Many Binomial Trees in a Binomial Heap?

Consider a binomial heap with  $n$  nodes

- Convert  $n$  into a binary number  $b_k b_{k-1} \dots b_1 b_0$
- If  $b_i \neq 0$  ( $i=0, 1, \dots, k$ ), the binomial tree  $B_i$  is not empty

Example:  $n=28$ .

- $28=16+8+4=11100$ . So  $k=4$ . The binomial heap consists of  $B_4$  (16 nodes),  $B_3$  (8 nodes) and  $B_2$  (4 nodes).

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## removeMin() (1/4)

Steps:

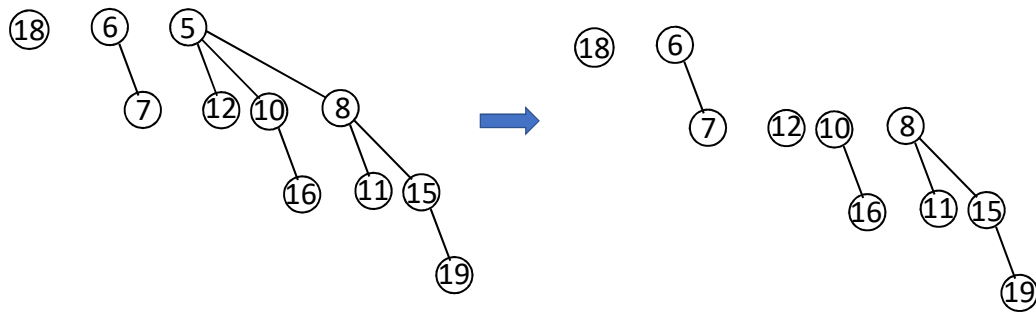
1. Find the tree  $B_k$  with the **smallest** root
2. Remove  $B_k$  from the heap
3. Keep the entry stored at the root of  $B_k$  (return value) and remove the root of  $B_k$  (now we have a new forest  $B_0, B_1, \dots, B_{k-1}$ )
4. Merge this new forest with remainder of the original
5. Return the entry with the min key

Run time analysis:

- Step 1 is  $O(\log n)$ , Step 2 and Step 3 are  $O(1)$ , and Step 4 is  $O(\log n)$
- Total time complexity is  $O(\log n)$

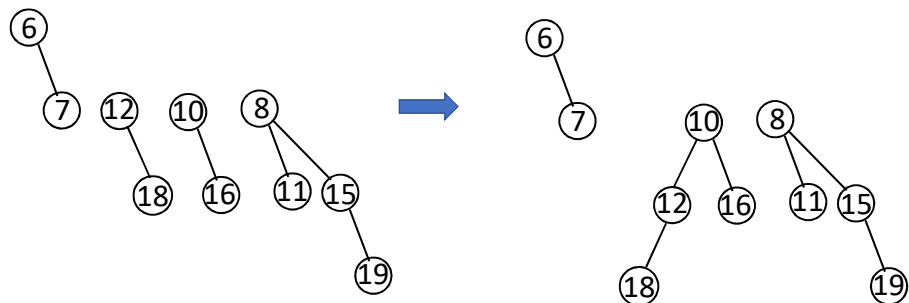
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removeMin() (2/4)



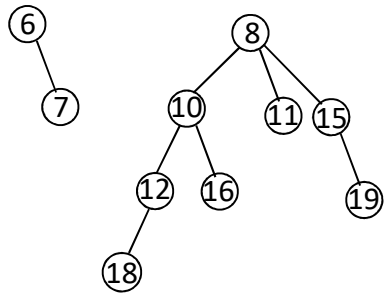
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removeMin() (3/4)



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removeMin() (4/4)



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## Disjoint Set Union-Find Structures



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## Disjoint Set Union-Find Operations

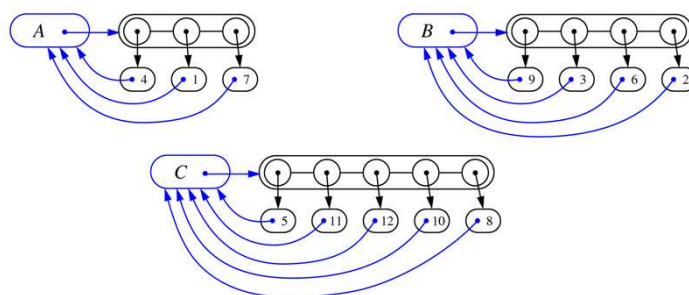
- **MakeSet( $x$ )**: Create a singleton set containing the element  $x$  and return the position storing  $x$  in this set.
- **Union( $A, B$ )**: Return the set  $A \cup B$ , destroying the old  $A$  and  $B$ .
- **Find( $e$ )**: Return the set containing the element  $e$ .

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## List-based Implementation

- Each set is stored in a sequence represented with a linked-list
- Each node should store an object containing the element and a reference to the set name



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## Analysis of List-based Representation

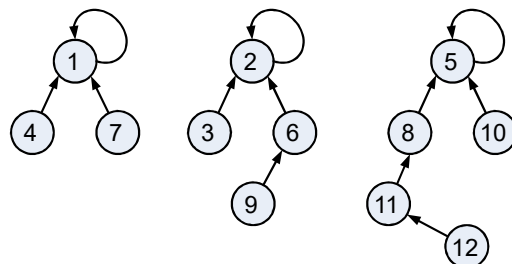
- When doing a union, always move elements from the smaller set to the larger set
  - Each time an element is moved it goes to a set of size at least double its old set
  - Thus, an element can be moved at most  $O(\log n)$  times
- Total time needed to do  $n$  unions and finds is  $O(n \log n)$ .

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## Tree-based Implementation

- Each element is stored in a node, which contains a pointer to a set name
- A node  $v$  whose set pointer points back to  $v$  is also a set name
- Each set is a tree, rooted at a node with a self-referencing set pointer
- For example: The sets "1", "2", and "5":

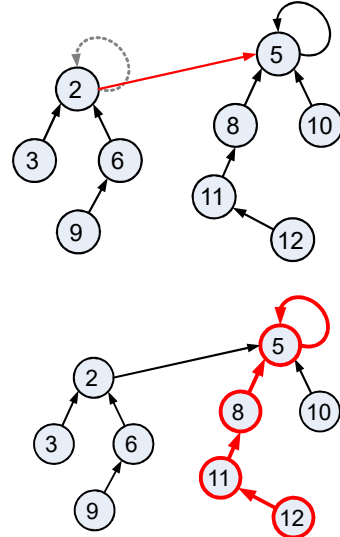


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## Union-Find Operations

- To do a **Union**, simply make the root of one tree point to the root of the other
- To do a **Find**, follow set-name pointers from the starting node until reaching a node whose set-name pointer refers back to itself

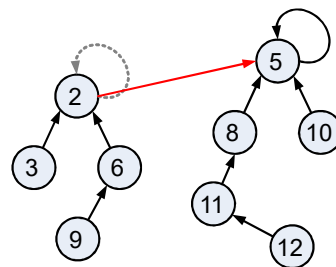


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## Union-Find Heuristic 1

- Union by size:
  - When performing a union, make the root of smaller tree point to the root of the larger
- Implies  $O(n \log n)$  time for performing  $n$  union-find operations:
  - Each time we follow a pointer, we are going to a subtree of size at least double the size of the previous subtree
  - Thus, we will follow at most  $O(\log n)$  pointers for any find.

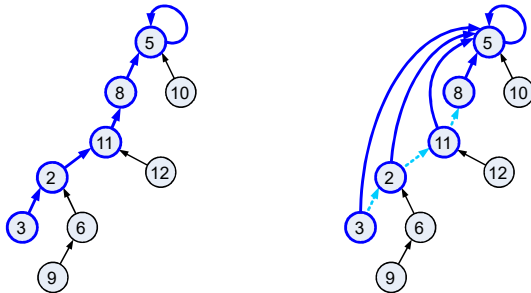


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## Union-Find Heuristic 2

- Path compression:
  - After performing a find, compress all the pointers on the path just traversed so that they all point to the root



- Implies  $O(n \log^* n)$  time for performing  $n$  union-find operations:
  - Proof is somewhat involved.

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## Proof of $\log^* n$ Amortized Time

- For each node  $v$  that is a root
  - define  $n(v)$  to be the size of the subtree rooted at  $v$  (including  $v$ )
  - identified a set with the root of its associated tree.
- We update the size field of  $v$  each time a set is unioned into  $v$ . Thus, if  $v$  is not a root, then  $n(v)$  is the largest the subtree rooted at  $v$  can be, which occurs just before we union  $v$  into some other node whose size is at least as large as  $v$ 's.
- For any node  $v$ , then, define the **rank** of  $v$ , which we denote as  $r(v)$ , as  $r(v) = \lceil \log n(v) \rceil$ :
- Thus,  $n(v) \geq 2^{r(v)}$ .
- Also, since there are at most  $n$  nodes in the tree of  $v$ ,  $r(v) = \lceil \log n \rceil$ , for each node  $v$ .

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## Proof of $\log^* n$ Amortized Time (2)

- For each node  $v$  with parent  $w$ :
  - $r(v) > r(w)$
- **Claim:** *There are at most  $n/2^s$  nodes of rank  $s$ .*
- **Proof:**
  - Since  $r(v) < r(w)$ , for any node  $v$  with parent  $w$ , ranks are monotonically increasing as we follow parent pointers up any tree.
  - Thus, if  $r(v) = r(w)$  for two nodes  $v$  and  $w$ , then the nodes counted in  $n(v)$  must be separate and distinct from the nodes counted in  $n(w)$ .
  - If a node  $v$  is of rank  $s$ , then  $n(v) \geq 2^s$ .
  - Therefore, since there are at most  $n$  nodes total, there can be at most  $n/2^s$  that are of rank  $s$ .

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## Proof of $\log^* n$ Amortized Time (3)

- **Definition:** Tower of two's function:
  - $t(i) = 2^{t(i-1)}$
- Nodes  $v$  and  $u$  are in the same rank group  $g$  if
  - $g = \log^*(r(v)) = \log^*(r(u))$ :
- Since the largest rank is  $\log n$ , the largest rank group is
  - $\log^*(\log n) = (\log^* n) - 1$

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## Proof of $\log^* n$ Amortized Time (4)

- Charge 1 cyber-dollar per pointer hop during a find:
  - If  $w$  is the root or if  $w$  is in a different rank group than  $v$ , then charge the find operation one cyber-dollar.
  - Otherwise ( $w$  is not a root and  $v$  and  $w$  are in the same rank group), charge the node  $v$  one cyber-dollar.
- Since there are most  $(\log^* n)-1$  rank groups, this rule guarantees that any find operation is charged at most  $\log^* n$  cyber-dollars.

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## Proof of $\log^* n$ Amortized Time (5)

- After we charge a node  $v$  then  $v$  will get a new parent, which is a node higher up in  $v$ 's tree.
- The rank of  $v$ 's new parent will be greater than the rank of  $v$ 's old parent  $w$ .
- Thus, any node  $v$  can be charged at most the number of different ranks that are in  $v$ 's rank group.
- If  $v$  is in rank group  $g > 0$ , then  $v$  can be charged at most  $t(g)-t(g-1)$  times before  $v$  has a parent in a higher rank group (and from that point on,  $v$  will never be charged again). In other words, the total number,  $C$ , of cyber-dollars that can ever be charged to nodes can be bound as

$$C \leq \sum_{g=1}^{\log^* n - 1} n(g) \cdot (t(g) - t(g-1))$$

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## Proof of $\log^* n$ Amortized Time (end)

- Bounding  $n(g)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 n(g) &\leq \sum_{s=t(g-1)+1}^{t(g)} \frac{n}{2^s} \\
 &= \frac{n}{2^{t(g-1)+1}} \sum_{s=0}^{t(g)-t(g-1)-1} \frac{1}{2^s} \\
 &< \frac{n}{2^{t(g-1)+1}} \cdot 2 \\
 &= \frac{n}{2^{t(g-1)}} \\
 &= \frac{n}{t(g)}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Returning to C:

$$\begin{aligned}
 C &< \sum_{g=1}^{\log^* n - 1} \frac{n}{t(g)} \cdot (t(g) - t(g-1)) \\
 &\leq \sum_{g=1}^{\log^* n - 1} \frac{n}{t(g)} \cdot t(g) \\
 &= \sum_{g=1}^{\log^* n - 1} n \\
 &\leq n \log^* n
 \end{aligned}$$

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## Summary

- Priority queue ADT
- List-based priority queues
- Heap-based priority queues
- Bottom-up heap construction
- Binomial heaps
- Disjoint set union-find data structures and algorithms
- Suggested reading:
  - Sedgewick, Ch. 1.3, 9.

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