

6.5-4.

Why do we bother setting the key of the inserted node to $-\infty$ in line 2 of MAX-HEAP-INSERT when the next thing we do is increase its key to the desired value?

Answer.

Because when a node is allocated, it has its key unpredictable. Setting the key to $-\infty$ guarantees that any key the client inserts is greater than it. Only this precondition is sufficed can it calls HEAP-INCREASE-KEY to relocate the new node.

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Email address: informlarry@gmail.com