

## Heaps and Priority Queues

Computer Science S-111  
Harvard University

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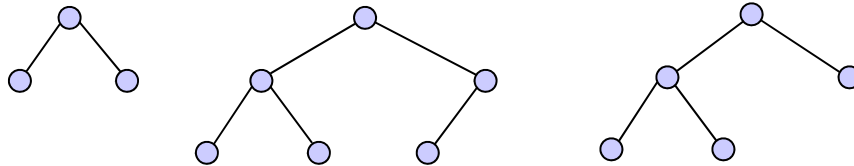
### Priority Queue

- A *priority queue* (PQ) is a collection in which each item has an associated number known as a *priority*.
  - ("Ann Cudd", 10), ("Robert Brown", 15), ("Dave Sullivan", 5)
  - use a higher priority for items that are "more important"
- Example application: scheduling a shared resource like the CPU
  - give some processes/applications a higher priority, so that they will be scheduled first and/or more often
- Key operations:
  - *insert*: add an item (with a position based on its priority)
  - *remove*: remove the item with the highest priority
- One way to implement a PQ efficiently is using a type of binary tree known as a *heap*.

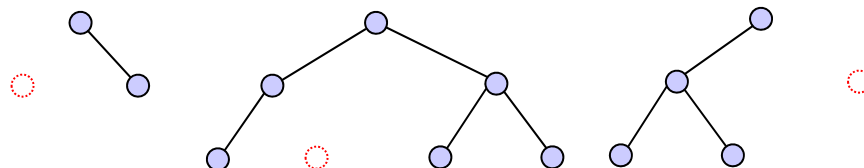
## Complete Binary Trees

- A binary tree of height  $h$  is *complete* if:
  - levels 0 through  $h - 1$  are fully occupied
  - there are no “gaps” to the left of a node in level  $h$

- Complete:

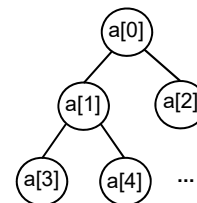


- Not complete (○ = missing node):

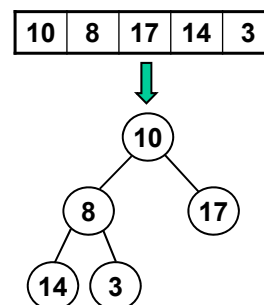
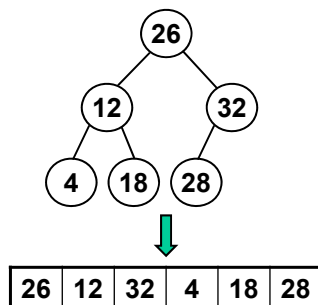


## Representing a Complete Binary Tree

- A complete binary tree has a simple array representation.
- The tree's nodes are stored in the array in the order given by a level-order traversal.
  - top to bottom, left to right

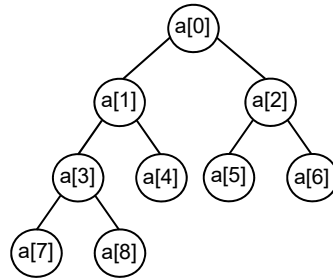


- Examples:



## Navigating a Complete Binary Tree in Array Form

- The root node is in  $a[0]$
- Given the node in  $a[i]$  :
  - its left child is in  $a[2*i + 1]$
  - its right child is in  $a[2*i + 2]$
  - its parent is in  $a[(i - 1)/2]$  (using integer division)



- Examples:
  - the left child of the node in  $a[1]$  is in  $a[2*1 + 1] = a[3]$
  - the left child of the node in  $a[2]$  is in  $a[2*2 + 1] = a[5]$
  - the right child of the node in  $a[3]$  is in  $a[2*3 + 2] = a[8]$
  - the right child of the node in  $a[2]$  is in \_\_\_\_\_
  - the parent of the node in  $a[4]$  is in  $a[(4 - 1)/2] = a[1]$
  - the parent of the node in  $a[7]$  is in \_\_\_\_\_

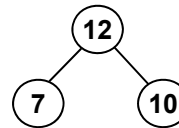
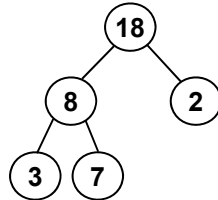
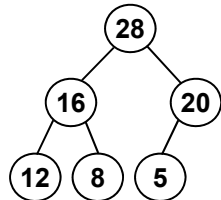
## What is the left child of 24?

- Assume that the following array represents a complete tree:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	12	32	24	18	28	47	10	9

## Heaps

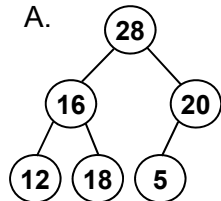
- Heap: a complete binary tree in which each interior node is greater than or equal to its children
  - examples:



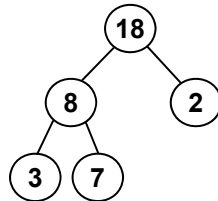
- The largest value is always at the root of the tree.
- The smallest value can be in *any* leaf node - there's no guarantee about which one it will be.
- We're using *max-at-top* heaps.
  - in a *min-at-top* heap, every interior node  $\leq$  its children

## Which of these is a heap?

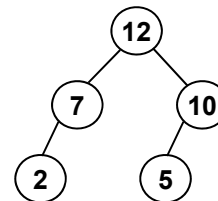
• A.



B.



C.

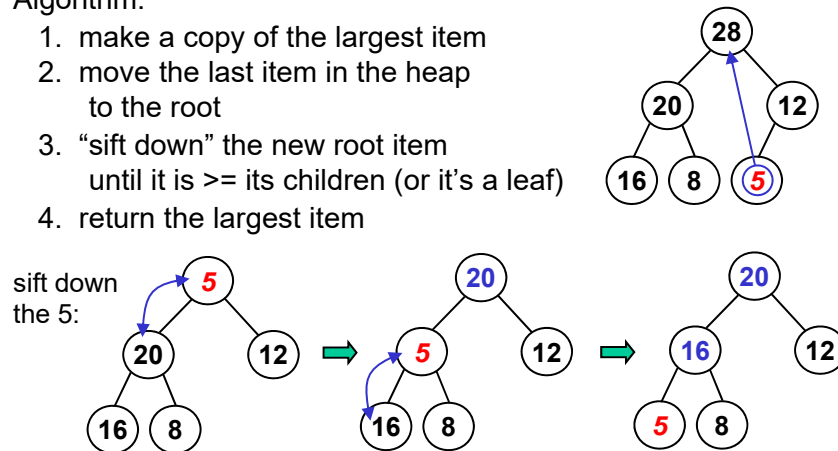


D. more than one (which ones?)

E. none of them

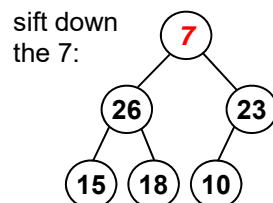
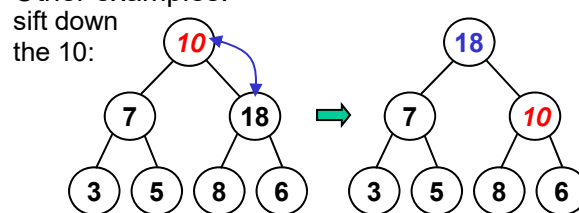
## Removing the Largest Item from a Heap

- Remove and return the item in the root node.
- In addition, need to move the largest remaining item to the root, while maintaining a complete tree with each node  $\geq$  children
- Algorithm:
  - make a copy of the largest item
  - move the last item in the heap to the root
  - "sift down" the new root item until it is  $\geq$  its children (or it's a leaf)
  - return the largest item



## Sifting Down an Item

- To sift down item  $x$  (i.e., the item whose key is  $x$ ):
  - compare  $x$  with the larger of the item's children,  $y$
  - if  $x < y$ , swap  $x$  and  $y$  and repeat
- Other examples:

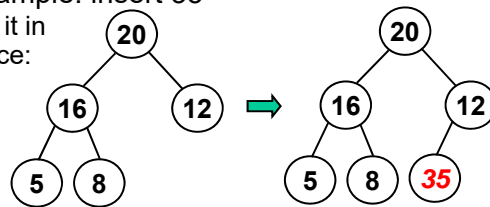


## Inserting an Item in a Heap

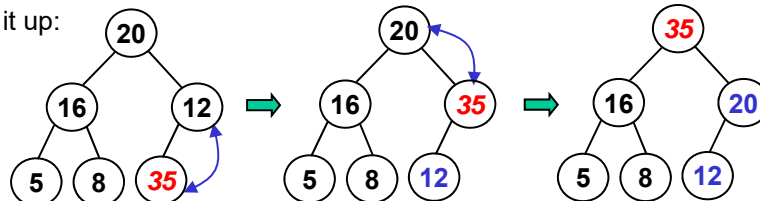
- Algorithm:
  1. put the item in the next available slot (grow array if needed)
  2. "sift up" the new item until it is  $\leq$  its parent (or it becomes the root item)

- Example: insert 35

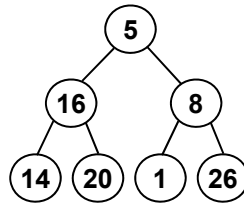
put it in place:



sift it up:



## Time Complexity of a Heap



- A heap containing  $n$  items has a height  $\leq \log_2 n$ . Why?
- Thus, removal and insertion are both  $O(\log n)$ .
  - remove: go down at most  $\log_2 n$  levels when sifting down; do a constant number of operations per level
  - insert: go up at most  $\log_2 n$  levels when sifting up; do a constant number of operations per level
- This means we can use a heap for a  $O(\log n)$ -time priority queue.

## Using a Heap for a Priority Queue

- Recall: a *priority queue* (PQ) is a collection in which each item has an associated number known as a *priority*.
  - ("Ann Cudd", 10), ("Robert Brown", 15), ("Dave Sullivan", 5)
  - use a higher priority for items that are "more important"
- To implement a PQ using a heap:
  - order the items in the heap according to their priorities
    - every item in the heap will have a priority  $\geq$  its children
    - the highest priority item will be in the root node
  - get the highest priority item by calling `heap.remove()`!

## Using a Heap to Sort an Array

- Recall selection sort: it repeatedly finds the smallest remaining element and swaps it into place:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	16	8	14	20	1	26

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	16	8	14	20	5	26

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	5	8	14	20	16	26

...

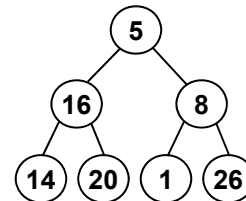
- It isn't efficient, because it performs a linear scan to find the smallest remaining element ( $O(n)$  steps per scan).
- Heapsort is a sorting algorithm that repeatedly finds the *largest* remaining element and puts it in place.
- It *is* efficient, because it turns the array into a heap.
  - it can find/remove the largest remaining in  $O(\log n)$  steps!

## Converting an Arbitrary Array to a Heap

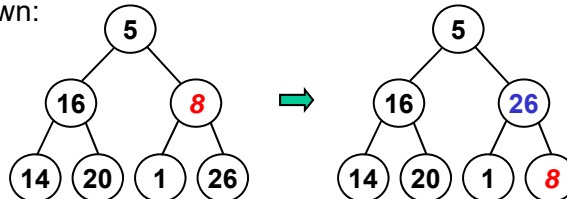
- To convert an array (call it contents) with  $n$  items to a heap:
  - start with the parent of the last element:  
 $\text{contents}[i]$ , where  $i = ((n - 1) - 1) / 2 = (n - 2) / 2$
  - sift down  $\text{contents}[i]$  and all elements to its left

- Example:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	16	8	14	20	1	26

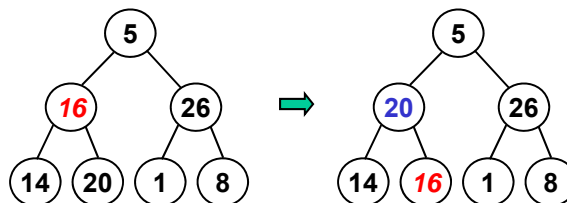


- Last element's parent =  $\text{contents}[(7 - 2) / 2] = \text{contents}[2]$ .  
Sift it down:

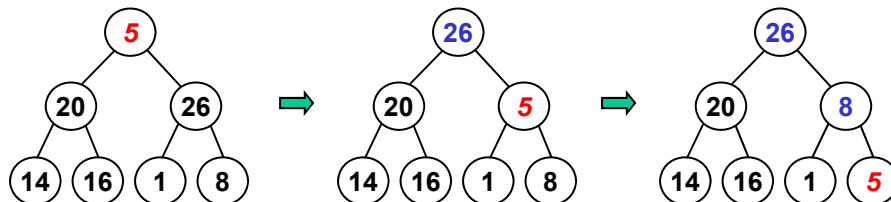


## Converting an Array to a Heap (cont.)

- Next, sift down  $\text{contents}[1]$ :



- Finally, sift down  $\text{contents}[0]$ :





## Heapsort

- Pseudocode:

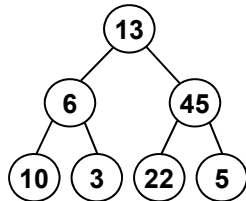
```
heapSort(arr) {  
    // Turn the array into a max-at-top heap.  
    heap = new Heap(arr);  
    endUnsorted = arr.length - 1;  
    while (endUnsorted > 0) {  
        // Get the largest remaining element and put it  
        // at the end of the unsorted portion of the array.  
        largestRemaining = heap.remove();  
        arr[endUnsorted] = largestRemaining;  
        endUnsorted--;  
    }  
}
```

## Heapsort Example

- Sort the following array: 

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
13	6	45	10	3	22	5

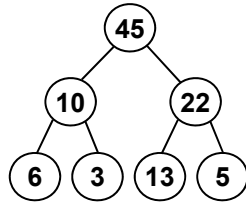
- Here's the corresponding complete tree:



- Begin by converting it to a heap:

## Heapsort Example (cont.)

- Here's the heap in both tree and array forms:



0	1	2	3	4	5	6
45	10	22	6	3	13	5

endUnsorted: 6

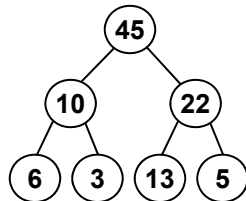
- We begin looping:

```

while (endUnsorted > 0) {
    // Get the largest remaining element and put it
    // at the end of the unsorted portion of the array.
    largestRemaining = heap.remove();
    arr[endUnsorted] = largestRemaining;
    endUnsorted--;
}
  
```

## Heapsort Example (cont.)

- Here's the heap in both tree and array forms:

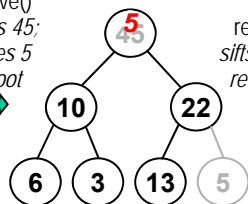


0	1	2	3	4	5	6
45	10	22	6	3	13	5

endUnsorted: 6

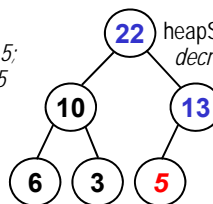
- Remove the largest item and put it in place:

remove()  
copies 45;  
moves 5  
to root



toRemove: 45

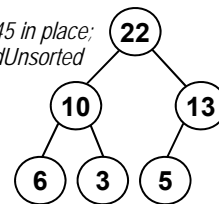
remove()  
sifts down 5;  
returns 45



0	1	2	3	4	5	6
22	10	13	6	3	5	5

endUnsorted: 6  
largestRemaining: 45

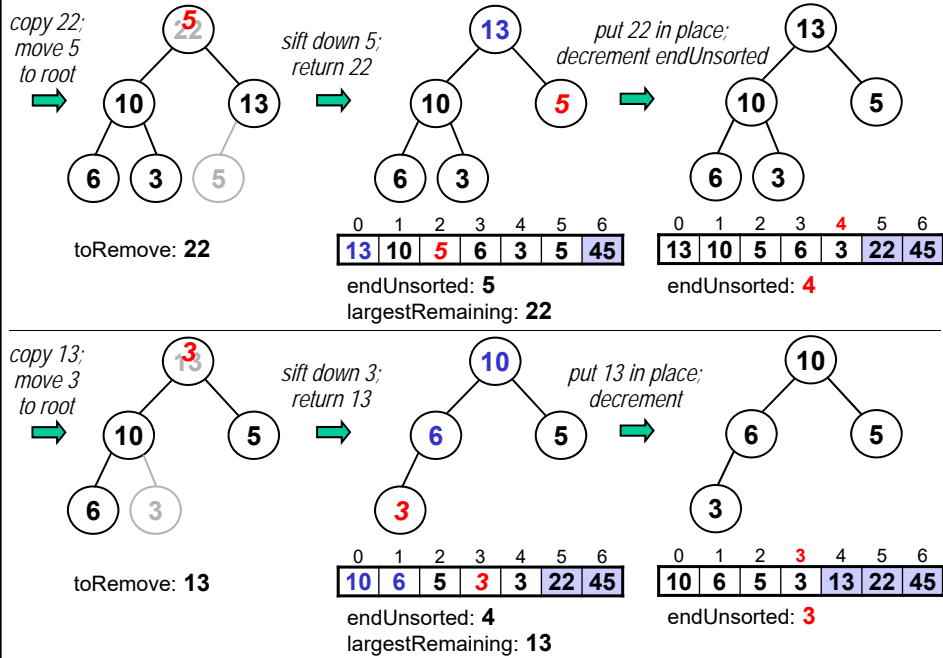
heapSort() puts 45 in place;  
decrements endUnsorted



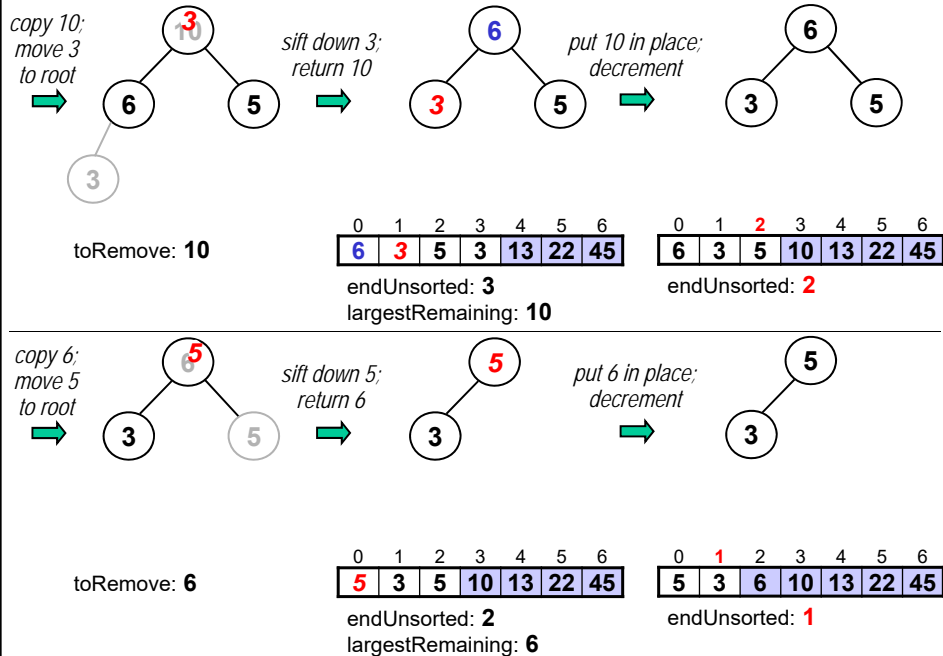
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
22	10	13	6	3	5	45

endUnsorted: 5

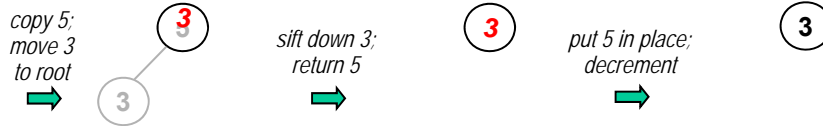
## Heapsort Example (cont.)



## Heapsort Example (cont.)



## Heapsort Example (cont.)



toRemove: 5

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	3	6	10	13	22	45

endUnsorted: 1  
largestRemaining: 5

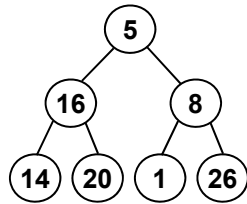
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	5	6	10	13	22	45

endUnsorted: 0

- And now we terminate the loop:

```
while (endUnsorted > 0) {
    // Get the largest remaining element and put it
    // at the end of the unsorted portion of the array.
    largestRemaining = heap.remove();
    arr[endUnsorted] = largestRemaining;
    endUnsorted--;
}
```

## Time Complexity of Heapsort



- Time complexity of creating a heap from an array?
- Time complexity of sorting the array?
- Thus, total time complexity = ?

## How Does Heapsort Compare?

algorithm	best case	avg case	worst case	extra memory
selection sort	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(1)$
insertion sort	$O(n)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(1)$
Shell sort	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n^{1.5})$	$O(n^{1.5})$	$O(1)$
bubble sort	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(1)$
quicksort	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(\log n)$ worst: $O(n)$
mergesort	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n)$
heapsort	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(1)$

- Heapsort matches mergesort for the best worst-case time complexity, but it has better space complexity.
- Insertion sort is still best for arrays that are almost sorted.
  - heapsort will scramble an almost sorted array before sorting it!
- Quicksort is still typically fastest in the average case.