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61.2 Lab 3: Heap Sort

Heap sort is one of three major sorting algorithms: merge sort, quick sort, and heap sort. Two, merge sort and heap sort, sort in $O(n \log n)$. Quick sort averages $O(n \log n)$ but in some cases takes $O(n^2)$.

A heap is an array (list) representation of a binary tree that implements a priority queue. The root of the heap, heap [0] is the highest priority (aka first) element in the queue. Furthermore, both children of the root (and so on, recursively to the leaves) are also priority queues.

Conceptually, heap sort takes an unordered list and creates a heap, an O(n log n) operation. It then removes each element, one by one, from the heap (from the root), while maintaining the heap (priority queue) property of the heap. The process of keeping the heap in order is typically called *heapify*ing, or *up-heap bubbling*, and has a cost O(log n). Doing it n times has cost O(n log n). Thus heap sort is O(n log n) as it has 2 stages, each of cost O(n log n).

This week's assignment is to implement heap sort. Write a function heapsort (hlist), which takes a list of integers as its argument and returns a new list, which is the sorted version (smallest to largest integer) of the list.

A few basic rules:

- heapsort (None) returns None
- heapsort([]) returns[]
- hlist may have duplicate entries, such as [7, 4, 3, 1, 7]. heapsort (hlist) should include the duplicates (in this case 7 and the return value should be [1,3,4,7,7]
- hlist should not be changed after a call to heapsort ().

You **must not** use the Python sorted() routine or any other publicly available sorting or heap-building routine in your solution but you may wish to use them in debugging your code.

Python Tips

None for this assignment.

More on Heap Sort

Heap sort is discussed in the textbook in chapter 9 (which is part of your reading). I find the presentation in Cormen easier to understand and have arranged for that to be placed in the course reserves (see Module 0 in Canvas).

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