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Ajala Kenyatta

envision.uas@gmail.com



Ajala Kenyatta

enspire.ai@gmail.com

Heap and Priority Queue in Python

Difficulty Level : Medium • Last Updated : 01 Oct, 2020

Heaps are widely used tree-like data structures in which the parent nodes satisfies any one of the criteria given below.

- The value of the parent node in each level is less than or equal to its children's values – **min-heap**.
- The value of the parent node in each level higher than or equal to its children's values – **max-heap**.

The heaps are complete binary trees and are used in the implementation of the priority queues. The min-heaps play a vital role in scheduling jobs, scheduling emails or in assigning the resources to tasks based on the priority.

Priority queues

These are abstract data types and are a special form of queues. The elements in the queue have priorities assigned to them. Based on the priorities, the first element in the priority queue will be the one with the highest priority. The basic operations associated with these priority queues are listed below:

- **is_empty**: To check whether the queue is empty.
- **insert**: To insert an element along with its priority. The element will be placed in the order of its priority only.



pop: To pop the element with the highest priority. The first element will be the

The priority queues can be used for all scheduling kind of processes. The programmer can decide whether the largest number is number will be considered as the highest then they appear in the order in which the

heapq module

Heapq module is an implementation of heap in which the property of min-heap is preserved. It rearranges it such that they satisfy the following criteria of min-heap:



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envision.uas@gmail.com



Ajala Kenyatta

enspire.ai@gmail.com



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- The parent node in index ' i ' is less than or equal to its children.
- The left child of a node in index ' i ' is in index ' $(2*i) + 1$ '.
- The right child of a node in index ' i ' is in index ' $(2*i) + 2$ '.

Priority queues using heapq module

The priority queue is implemented in Python as a list of tuples where the tuple contains the priority as the first element and the value as the next element.

Example : [(1, 2), (2, 3), (4, 5), (6, 7)]

consider (1,2) :

• **Priority : 1**

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Example:

Consider a simple priority queue implementation for students based on their roll number. Here is the code to present. Since it is a min-heap, roll number

Python3

```
# import modules
import heapq as hq

# list of students
list_stu = [(5, 'Rina'), (1, 'Anish'), (3, 'Moana'), (2, 'cathy'), (4, 'Lucy')]

# Arrange based on the roll number
hq.heapify(list_stu)
```



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envision.uas@gmail.com



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enspire.ai@gmail.com



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The order of presentation is :


```
1 : Anish
2 : cathy
3 : Moana
5 : Rina
4 : Lucy
```


Example 2:

Now let us implement a simple scheduler that assigns the jobs to the processor. The priority queue is used by the scheduler to decide which task has to be performed. Apart from the tasks, there will be interrupts approaching the scheduler. So the scheduler has to decide whether to execute the interrupt or the existing task. If the interrupt has a higher priority, it is executed first otherwise, once all the jobs are completed, the


interrupt will be serviced. To implement this the heapq module is used. The approach is

- The tasks to be executed are assigned with priorities. The element that has '1' as priority is considered to be the most important.
- All the tasks are in a priority queue and are served in order of their priority.
- The tasks are serviced and while in process, an execution log stating which task is in process is printed.
- The interrupts along with their priorities are also added to the priority queue.
- The interrupts are pushed into the priority queue along with their priorities.
- The task/interrupt with the highest priority is the first element in the queue.
- Once a task/interrupt is serviced, it is popped out from heap queue.


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Ajala Kenyatta
 envision.uas@gmail.com



Ajala Kenyatta
 enspire.ai@gmail.com

Python3

```
import time
import heapq as hq

# jobs to be executed
jobs = [(2, 'task_1'), (5, 'task_2'), (1, 'task_4'),
        (4, 'task_5'), (3, 'task_3'), (1, 'task_8')]

# interrupts
interrupts = [(1, 'intr_1'), (2, 'intr_2'), (13, 'intr_3')]

i, j = 0, 0

# Arranging jobs in heap
hq.heapify(jobs)

print(jobs, "\n\n")

# scheduling the tasks
while len(jobs) != 0:

    # printing execution log
    print("The ", jobs[0][1], " with priority ",
          jobs[0][0], " in progress", end="")

    # servicing the tasks
    for _ in range(0, 5):

        print(".", end="")
        time.sleep(0.5)


    # pop the job that completed
```


```
# adding interrupts
if j < len(interrupts):

    hq.heappush(jobs, interrupt
    print("\n\nNew interrupt ar
    print()
    j = j+1


# job queue after arrival of in
print("\n Job queue currently :
print("\n")
```

```
print("\nAll interrupts and jobs completed!")
```

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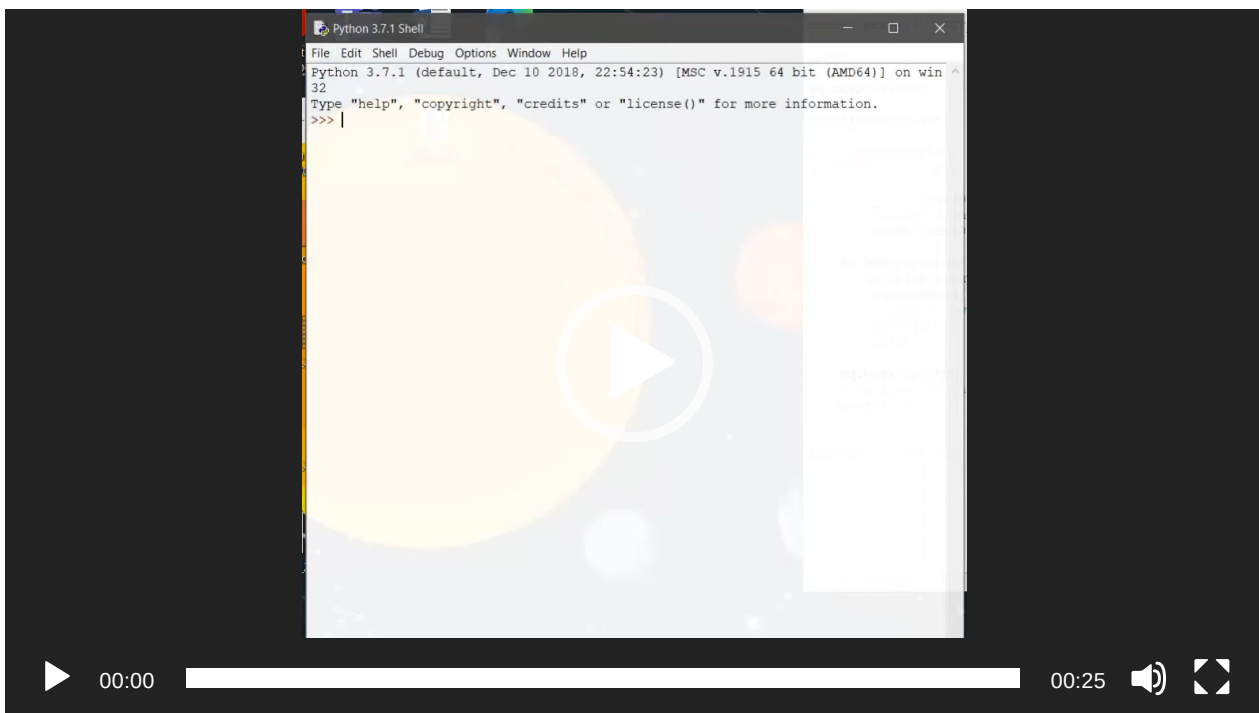


Ajala Kenyatta
 envision.uas@gmail.com



Ajala Kenyatta
 enspire.ai@gmail.com

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envision.uas@gmail.com



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Ajala Kenyatta

envision.uas@gmail.com



Ajala Kenyatta

enspire.ai@gmail.com

Article Contributed By :



erakshaya485

@erakshaya485

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