Priority Queues

Priority Queue ADT

- A priority queue stores a collection of entries
- Each entry is a pair (key, value)
- Main methods of the Priority Queue ADT
  - insert(k, x) inserts an entry with key k and value x
  - removeMin() removes and returns the entry with smallest key
- Additional methods
  - min() returns, but does not remove, an entry with smallest key
  - size(), isEmpty()
- Applications:
  - Standby flyers
  - Auctions
  - Stock market

Total Order Relations

- Keys in a priority queue can be arbitrary objects on which an 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: $x \leq y \wedge y \leq z \Rightarrow x \leq z$

Entry ADT

- An entry in a priority queue is simply a key-value pair
- Priority queues store entries to allow for efficient insertion and removal based on keys
- Methods:
  - getKey: returns the key for this entry
  - getValue: returns the value associated with this entry

- As a Java interface:

```
/**
 * Interface for a key-value
 * pair entry
 **/
public interface Entry<K,V>
  {
   public K getKey();
   public V getValue();
}
```

Comparator ADT

- A comparator encapsulates the action of comparing two objects according to a given total order relation
- A generic priority queue uses an auxiliary comparator
- The comparator is external to the keys being compared
- When the priority queue needs to compare two keys, it uses its comparator

- Primary method of the Comparator ADT
- compare(x, y): returns an integer i such that
  - $i < 0$ if $a < b$,
  - $i = 0$ if $a = b$
  - $i > 0$ if $a > b$
  - An error occurs if a and b cannot be compared.

Example Comparator

- Lexicographic comparison of 2-D points:

```
/** Comparator for 2D points under the
    standard lexicographic order. */
public class Lexicographic implements
    Comparator {
  int xa, ya, xb, yb;
  public int compare(Object a, Object b)
    throws ClassCastException {
     xa = ((Point2D) a).getX();
     ya = ((Point2D) a).getY();
     xb = ((Point2D) b).getX();
     yb = ((Point2D) b).getY();
     if (xa != xb)
          return (xb - xa);
     else
          return (yb - ya);
  }
}
```

- Point objects:

```
/** Class representing a point in the
    plane with integer coordinates */
public class Point2D {
   protected int xc, yc; // coordinates
   public Point2D(int x, int y) {
      xc = x;
      yc = y;
   }
   public int getX() {
          return xc;
   }
   public int getY() {
          return yc;
   }
}
```

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 method depends on the priority queue implementation

Algorithm *PQ-Sort*(*S*, *C*)
    Input sequence *S*, comparator *C* for the elements of *S*
    Output sequence *S* sorted in increasing order according to *C*
    P ← priority queue with
        comparator *C*
    while ¬*S.isEmpty* ()
        e ← *S.removeFirst* ()
        P.insert (*e*, ∅)
    while ¬*P.isEmpty*()
        e ← *P.removeMin*().*getKey*()
        S.addLast(*e*)

Sequence-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 sequence
  - removeMin and min take $O(n)$ time since we have to traverse the entire sequence 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

Selection-Sort

- Selection-sort is the variation of PQ-sort where the priority queue is implemented with an unsorted sequence
- 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

$$1 + 2 + \ldots + n$$

- Selection-sort runs in $O(n^2)$ time

Selection-Sort Example

	Sequence S	Priority Queue P
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)	()

Insertion-Sort

- Insertion-sort is the variation of PQ-sort where the priority queue is implemented with a sorted sequence
- Running time of Insertion-sort:
  1. Inserting the elements into the priority queue with n insert operations takes time proportional to

     $$1 + 2 + \ldots + n$$

  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

Insertion-Sort Example

	Sequence S	Priority queue P
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)	()

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 sequence itself serves as the priority queue
- For in-place insertion-sort
  - We keep sorted the initial portion of the sequence
  - We can use swaps instead of modifying the sequence