

2.4 PRIORITY QUEUES



- ▶ API
- ▶ elementary implementations
- ▶ binary heaps
- ▶ heapsort
- ▶ event-driven simulation

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- ▶ API
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Priority queue

Collections. Insert and delete items. Which item to delete?

Stack. Remove the item most recently added.

Queue. Remove the item least recently added.

Randomized queue. Remove a random item.

Priority queue. Remove the largest (or smallest) item.

operation	argument	return value
insert	P	
insert	Q	
insert	E	
remove max		Q
insert	X	
insert	A	
insert	M	
remove max		X
insert	P	
insert	L	
insert	E	
remove max		P

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Priority queue API

Requirement. Generic items are Comparable.

```
public class MaxPQ<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
{
    MaxPQ() create a priority queue
    MaxPQ(maxN) create a priority queue of initial capacity maxN
    void insert(Key v) insert a key into the priority queue
    Key max() return the largest key
    Key delMax() return and remove the largest key
    boolean isEmpty() is the priority queue empty?
    int size() number of entries in the priority queue
}
```

API for a generic priority queue

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Priority queue applications

- Event-driven simulation. [customers in a line, colliding particles]
- Numerical computation. [reducing roundoff error]
- Data compression. [Huffman codes]
- Graph searching. [Dijkstra's algorithm, Prim's algorithm]
- Computational number theory. [sum of powers]
- Artificial intelligence. [A* search]
- Statistics. [maintain largest M values in a sequence]
- Operating systems. [load balancing, interrupt handling]
- Discrete optimization. [bin packing, scheduling]
- Spam filtering. [Bayesian spam filter]

Generalizes: stack, queue, randomized queue.

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Priority queue client example

Challenge. Find the largest M items in a stream of N items (N huge, M large).

- Fraud detection: isolate \$\$ transactions.
- File maintenance: find biggest files or directories.

Constraint. Not enough memory to store N items.

```
% more tinyBatch.txt
Turing      6/17/1990    644.08
vonNeumann  3/26/2002    4121.85
Dijkstra    8/22/2007    2678.40
vonNeumann  1/11/1999    4409.74
Dijkstra    11/18/1995   837.42
Hoare       5/10/1993    3229.27
vonNeumann  2/12/1994    4732.35
Hoare       8/18/1992    4381.21
Turing      1/11/2002    66.10
Thompson    2/27/2000    4747.08
Turing      2/11/1991    2156.86
Hoare       8/12/2003    1025.70
vonNeumann  10/13/1993   2520.97
Dijkstra    9/10/2000    708.95
Turing      10/12/1993   3532.36
Hoare       2/10/2005    4050.20
```

```
% java TopM 5 < tinyBatch.txt
Thompson    2/27/2000    4747.08
vonNeumann  2/12/1994    4732.35
vonNeumann  1/11/1999    4409.74
Hoare       8/18/1992    4381.21
vonNeumann  3/26/2002    4121.85
```

↑
sort key

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Priority queue client example

Challenge. Find the largest M items in a stream of N items (N huge, M large).

```
MinPQ<Transaction> pq = new MinPQ<Transaction>();
while (StdIn.hasNextLine())
{
    String line = StdIn.readLine();
    Transaction item = new Transaction(line);
    pq.insert(item);
    if (pq.size() > M)
        pq.delMin();
}
```

use a min-oriented pq

Transaction data type is Comparable

pq contains largest M items

order of growth of finding the largest M in a stream of N items

implementation	time	space
sort	$N \log N$	N
elementary PQ	$M N$	M
binary heap	$N \log M$	M
best in theory	N	M

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- ▶ heapsort
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Priority queue: unordered and ordered array implementation

operation	argument	return value	size	contents (unordered)	contents (ordered)
insert	P		1	P	P
insert	Q		2	P Q	P Q
insert	E		3	P Q E	E P Q
remove max		Q	2	P E	E P
insert	X		3	P E X	E P X
insert	A		4	P E X A	A E P X
insert	M		5	P E X A M	A E M P X
remove max		X	4	P E M A	A E M P
insert	P		5	P E M A P	A E M P P
insert	L		6	P E M A P L	A E L M P P
insert	E		7	P E M A P L E	A E E L M P P
remove max		P	6	E M A P L E	A E E L M P

A sequence of operations on a priority queue

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Priority queue: unordered array implementation

```
public class UnorderedMaxPQ<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
{
    private Key[] pq; // pq[i] = ith element on pq
    private int N; // number of elements on pq

    public UnorderedMaxPQ(int capacity)
    { pq = (Key[]) new Comparable[capacity]; }

    public boolean isEmpty()
    { return N == 0; }

    public void insert(Key x)
    { pq[N++] = x; }

    public Key delMax()
    {
        int max = 0;
        for (int i = 1; i < N; i++)
            if (less(max, i)) max = i;
        exch(max, N-1);
        return pq[--N];
    }
}
```

no generic array creation

less() and exch() as for sorting

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Priority queue elementary implementations

Challenge. Implement all operations efficiently.

order-of-growth of running time for priority queue with N items

implementation	insert	del max	max
unordered array	1	N	N
ordered array	N	1	1
goal	log N	log N	log N

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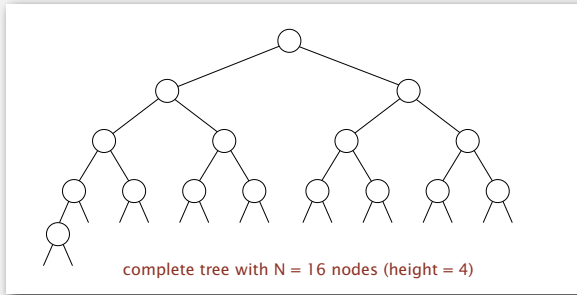
- ▶ API
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- ▶ binary heaps
- ▶ heapsort
- ▶ event-driven simulation

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Binary tree

Binary tree. Empty or node with links to left and right binary trees.

Complete tree. Perfectly balanced, except for bottom level.



Property. Height of complete tree with N nodes is $\lceil \lg N \rceil$.

Pf. Height only increases when N is a power of 2.

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A complete binary tree in nature



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Binary heap representations

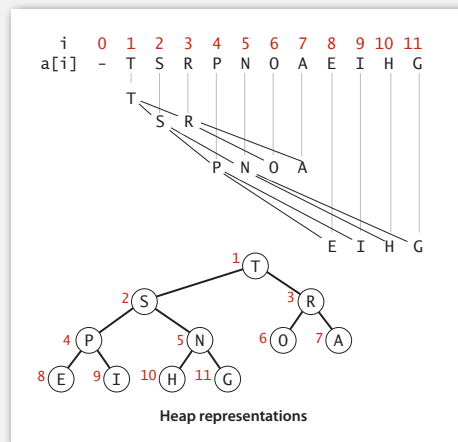
Binary heap. Array representation of a heap-ordered complete binary tree.

Heap-ordered binary tree.

- Keys in nodes.
- No smaller than children's keys.

Array representation.

- Take nodes in **level** order.
- No explicit links needed!



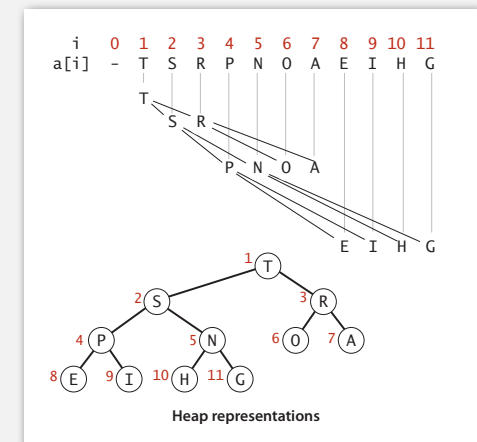
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Binary heap properties

Proposition. Largest key is $a[1]$, which is root of binary tree.

Proposition. Can use array indices to move through tree.

- Parent of node at k is at $k/2$.
- Children of node at k are at $2k$ and $2k+1$.



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Promotion in a heap

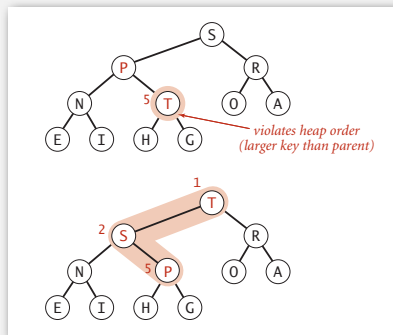
Scenario. Node's key becomes **larger** key than its parent's key.

To eliminate the violation:

- Exchange key in node with key in parent.
- Repeat until heap order restored.

```
private void swim(int k)
{
    while (k > 1 && less(k/2, k))
    {
        exch(k, k/2);
        k = k/2;
    }
}
```

parent of node at k is at k/2



Peter principle. Node promoted to level of incompetence.

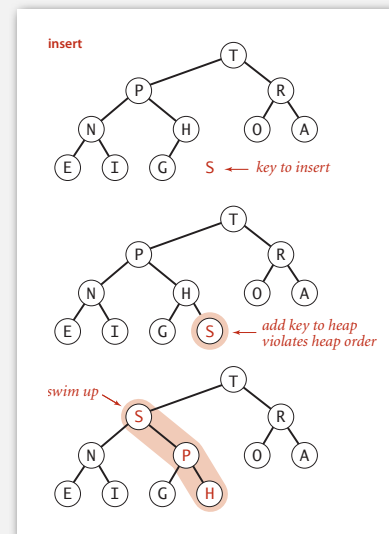
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Insertion in a heap

Insert. Add node at end, then swim it up.

Cost. At most $1 + \lg N$ compares.

```
public void insert(Key x)
{
    pq[++N] = x;
    swim(N);
}
```



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Demotion in a heap

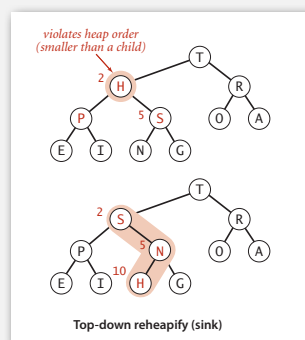
Scenario. Node's key becomes **smaller** than one (or both) of its children's keys.

To eliminate the violation:

- Exchange key in node with key in larger child.
- Repeat until heap order restored.

```
private void sink(int k)
{
    while (2*k <= N)
    {
        int j = 2*k;
        if (j < N && less(j, j+1)) j++;
        if (!less(k, j)) break;
        exch(k, j);
        k = j;
    }
}
```

children of node at k are 2k and 2k+1



Power struggle. Better subordinate promoted.

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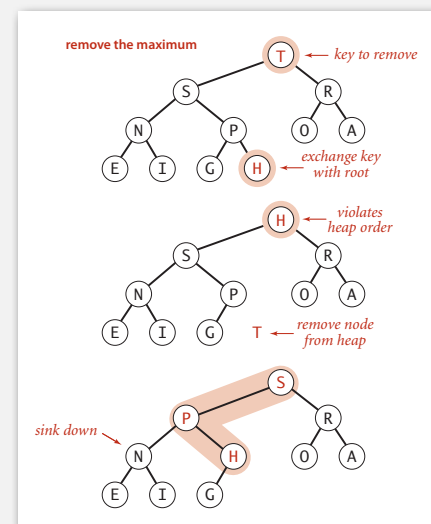
Delete the maximum in a heap

Delete max. Exchange root with node at end, then sink it down.

Cost. At most $2 \lg N$ compares.

```
public Key delMax()
{
    Key max = pq[1];
    exch(1, N--);
    sink(1);
    pq[N+1] = null;
    return max;
}
```

prevent loitering



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```
public class MaxPQ<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
{
    private Key[] pq;
    private int N;

    public MaxPQ(int capacity)
    { pq = (Key[]) new Comparable[capacity+1]; }

    public boolean isEmpty()
    { return N == 0; }
    public void insert(Key key)
    { /* see previous code */ }
    public Key delMax()
    { /* see previous code */ }

    private void swim(int k)
    { /* see previous code */ }
    private void sink(int k)
    { /* see previous code */ }

    private boolean less(int i, int j)
    { return pq[i].compareTo(pq[j]) < 0; }
    private void exch(int i, int j)
    { Key t = pq[i]; pq[i] = pq[j]; pq[j] = t; }
}
```

PQ ops
 heap helper functions
 array helper functions

Priority queues implementation cost summary

order-of-growth of running time for priority queue with N items

implementation	insert	del max	max
unordered array	1	N	N
ordered array	N	1	1
binary heap	log N	log N	1
d-ary heap	log _d N	d log _d N	1
Fibonacci	1	log N †	1
impossible	1	1	1

← why impossible?

† amortized

Binary heap considerations

Immutability of keys.

- Assumption: client does not change keys while they're on the PQ.
- Best practice: use immutable keys.

Underflow and overflow.

- Underflow: throw exception if deleting from empty PQ.
- Overflow: add no-arg constructor and use resizing array.

← leads to log N amortized time per op

Minimum-oriented priority queue.

- Replace less() with greater().
- Implement greater().

Other operations.

- Remove an arbitrary item.
 - Change the priority of an item.
- ← easy to implement with sink() and swim() [stay tuned]

Immutability: implementing in Java

Data type. Set of values and operations on those values.

Immutable data type. Can't change the data type value once created.

```
public final class Vector {  
    private final int N;  
    private final double[] data;  
  
    public Vector(double[] data) {  
        this.N = data.length;  
        this.data = new double[N];  
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)  
            this.data[i] = data[i];  
    }  
  
    ...  
}
```

← can't override instance methods
← all instance variables private and final
← defensive copy of mutable instance variables
← instance methods don't change instance variables

Immutable. String, Integer, Double, Color, Vector, Transaction, Point2D.

Mutable. StringBuilder, Stack, Counter, Java array.

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Immutability: properties

Data type. Set of values and operations on those values.

Immutable data type. Can't change the data type value once created.

Advantages.

- Simplifies debugging.
- Safer in presence of hostile code.
- Simplifies concurrent programming.
- Safe to use as key in priority queue or symbol table.



Disadvantage. Must create new object for each data type value.

“Classes should be immutable unless there's a very good reason to make them mutable... If a class cannot be made immutable, you should still limit its mutability as much as possible.”

— Joshua Bloch (Java architect)



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- ▶ **heapsort**
- ▶ event-driven simulation

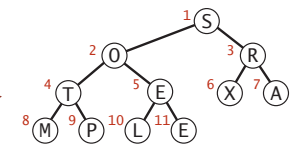
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Heapsort

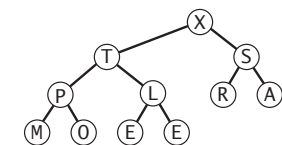
Basic plan for in-place sort.

- Create max-heap with all N keys.
- Repeatedly remove the maximum key.

start with array of keys in arbitrary order



build a max-heap (in place)



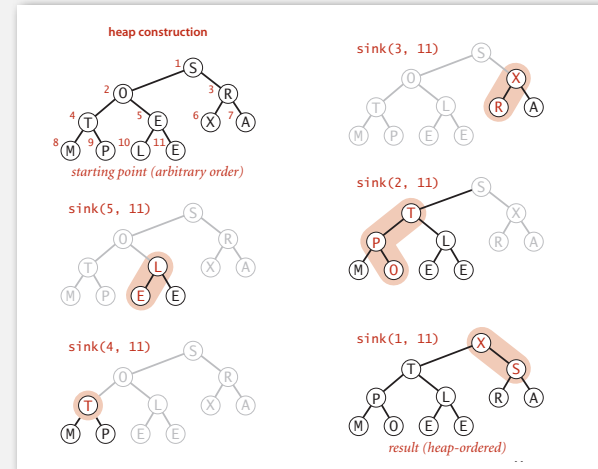
sorted result (in place)



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First pass. Build heap using bottom-up method.

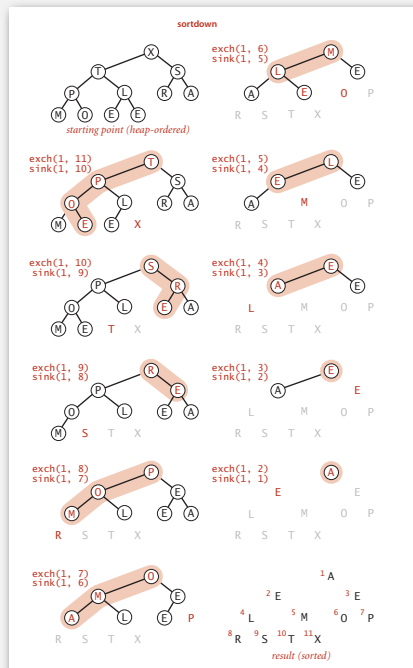
```
for (int k = N/2; k >= 1; k--)
    sink(a, k, N);
```



Second pass.

- Remove the maximum, one at a time.
- Leave in array, instead of nulling out.

```
while (N > 1)
{
    exch(a, 1, N--);
    sink(a, 1, N);
}
```



```
public class Heap
{
    public static void sort(Comparable[] pq)
    {
        int N = pq.length;
        for (int k = N/2; k >= 1; k--)
            sink(pq, k, N);
        while (N > 1)
        {
            exch(pq, 1, N);
            sink(pq, 1, --N);
        }

        private static void sink(Comparable[] pq, int k, int N)
        { /* as before */ }

        private static boolean less(Comparable[] pq, int i, int j)
        { /* as before */ }

        private static void exch(Comparable[] pq, int i, int j)
        { /* as before */ }
    }
}
```

but use 1-based indexing

Heapsort: trace

		a[i]											
N	k	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>initial values</i>		S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E	
11	5	S	O	R	T	L	X	A	M	P	E	E	
11	4	S	O	R	T	L	X	A	M	P	E	E	
11	3	S	O	X	T	L	R	A	M	P	E	E	
11	2	S	T	X	P	L	R	A	M	O	E	E	
11	1	X	T	S	P	L	R	A	M	O	E	E	
<i>heap-ordered</i>		X	T	S	P	L	R	A	M	O	E	E	
10	1	T	P	S	O	L	R	A	M	E	E	X	
9	1	S	P	R	O	L	E	A	M	E	T	X	
8	1	R	P	E	O	L	E	A	M	S	T	X	
7	1	P	O	E	M	L	E	A	R	S	T	X	
6	1	O	M	E	A	L	E	P	R	S	T	X	
5	1	M	L	E	A	E	O	P	R	S	T	X	
4	1	L	E	E	A	M	O	P	R	S	T	X	
3	1	E	A	E	L	M	O	P	R	S	T	X	
2	1	E	A	E	L	M	O	P	R	S	T	X	
1	1	A	E	E	L	M	O	P	R	S	T	X	
<i>sorted result</i>		A	E	E	L	M	O	P	R	S	T	X	

Heapsort trace (array contents just after each sink)

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Heapsort: mathematical analysis

Proposition. Heap construction uses fewer than $2N$ compares and exchanges.

Proposition. Heapsort uses at most $2N \lg N$ compares and exchanges.

Significance. In-place sorting algorithm with $N \log N$ worst-case.

- Mergesort: no, linear extra space. ← in-place merge possible, not practical
- Quicksort: no, quadratic time in worst case. ← $N \log N$ worst-case quicksort possible, not practical
- Heapsort: yes!

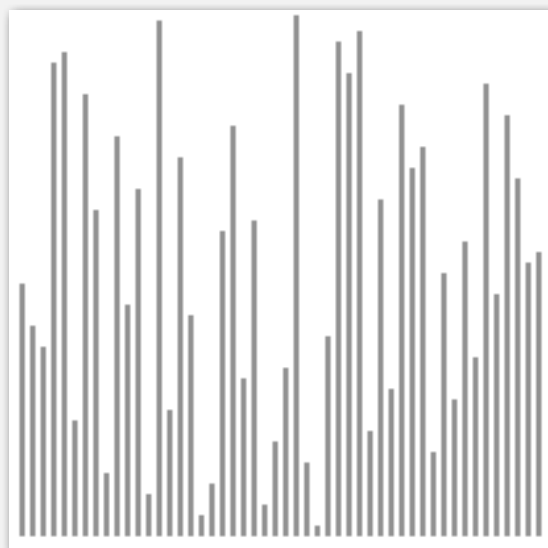
Bottom line. Heapsort is optimal for both time and space, but:

- Inner loop longer than quicksort's.
- Makes poor use of cache memory.
- Not stable.

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Heapsort animation

50 random elements



<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/heap-sort>

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Sorting algorithms: summary

	inplace?	stable?	worst	average	best	remarks
selection	x		$N^2 / 2$	$N^2 / 2$	$N^2 / 2$	N exchanges
insertion	x	x	$N^2 / 2$	$N^2 / 4$	N	use for small N or partially ordered
shell	x		?	?	N	tight code, subquadratic
quick	x		$N^2 / 2$	$2N \ln N$	$N \lg N$	$N \log N$ probabilistic guarantee fastest in practice
3-way quick	x		$N^2 / 2$	$2N \ln N$	N	improves quicksort in presence of duplicate keys
merge		x	$N \lg N$	$N \lg N$	$N \lg N$	$N \log N$ guarantee, stable
heap	x		$2N \lg N$	$2N \lg N$	$N \lg N$	$N \log N$ guarantee, in-place
???	x	x	$N \lg N$	$N \lg N$	$N \lg N$	holy sorting grail

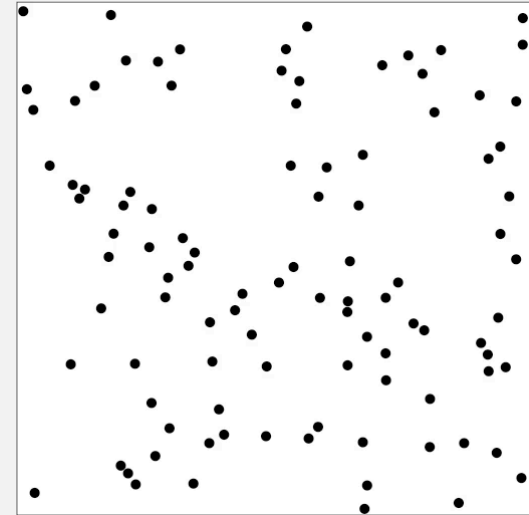
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- API
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- event-driven simulation

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Molecular dynamics simulation of hard discs

Goal. Simulate the motion of N moving particles that behave according to the laws of elastic collision.



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Molecular dynamics simulation of hard discs

Goal. Simulate the motion of N moving particles that behave according to the laws of elastic collision.

Hard disc model.

- Moving particles interact via elastic collisions with each other and walls.
- Each particle is a disc with known position, velocity, mass, and radius.
- No other forces.

temperature, pressure,
diffusion constant

motion of individual
atoms and molecules

Significance. Relates macroscopic observables to microscopic dynamics.

- Maxwell-Boltzmann: distribution of speeds as a function of temperature.
- Einstein: explain Brownian motion of pollen grains.

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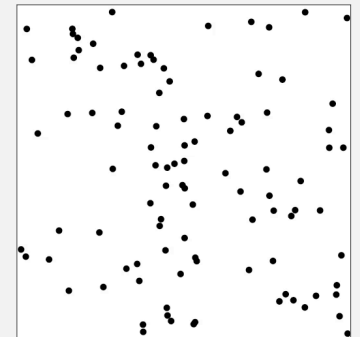
Warmup: bouncing balls

Time-driven simulation. N bouncing balls in the unit square.

```
public class BouncingBalls
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        int N = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
        Ball balls[] = new Ball[N];
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            balls[i] = new Ball();
        while(true)
        {
            StdDraw.clear();
            for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            {
                balls[i].move(0.5);
                balls[i].draw();
            }
            StdDraw.show(50);
        }
    }
}
```

↑
main simulation loop

% java BouncingBalls 100



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Warmup: bouncing balls

```
public class Ball
{
    private double rx, ry;      // position
    private double vx, vy;     // velocity
    private final double radius; // radius
    public Ball()
    { /* initialize position and velocity */ }

    public void move(double dt)
    {
        if ((rx + vx*dt < radius) || (rx + vx*dt > 1.0 - radius)) { vx = -vx; }
        if ((ry + vy*dt < radius) || (ry + vy*dt > 1.0 - radius)) { vy = -vy; }
        rx = rx + vx*dt;
        ry = ry + vy*dt;
    }

    public void draw()
    { StdDraw.filledCircle(rx, ry, radius); }
}
```

check for collision with walls

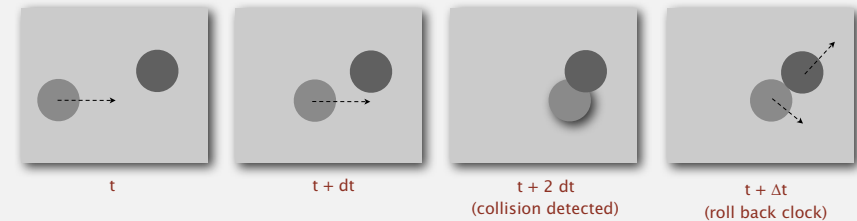
Missing. Check for balls colliding with **each other**.

- Physics problems: when? what effect?
- CS problems: which object does the check? too many checks?

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Time-driven simulation

- Discretize time in quanta of size dt .
- Update the position of each particle after every dt units of time, and check for overlaps.
- If overlap, roll back the clock to the time of the collision, update the velocities of the colliding particles, and continue the simulation.

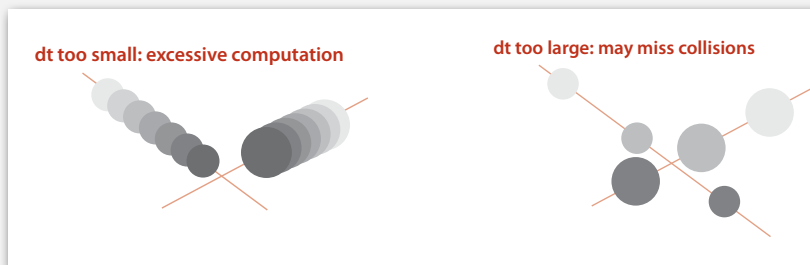


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Time-driven simulation

Main drawbacks.

- $\sim N^2/2$ overlap checks per time quantum.
- Simulation is too slow if dt is very small.
- May miss collisions if dt is too large.
(if colliding particles fail to overlap when we are looking)



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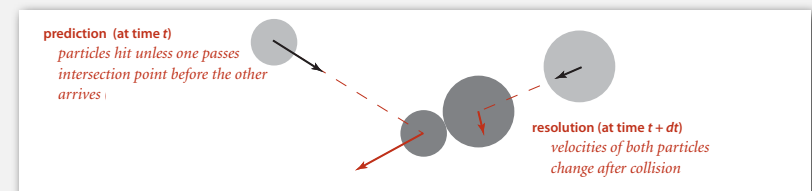
Event-driven simulation

Change state only when something happens.

- Between collisions, particles move in straight-line trajectories.
- Focus only on times when collisions occur.
- Maintain PQ of collision events, prioritized by time.
- Remove the min = get next collision.

Collision prediction. Given position, velocity, and radius of a particle, when will it collide next with a wall or another particle?

Collision resolution. If collision occurs, update colliding particle(s) according to laws of elastic collisions.

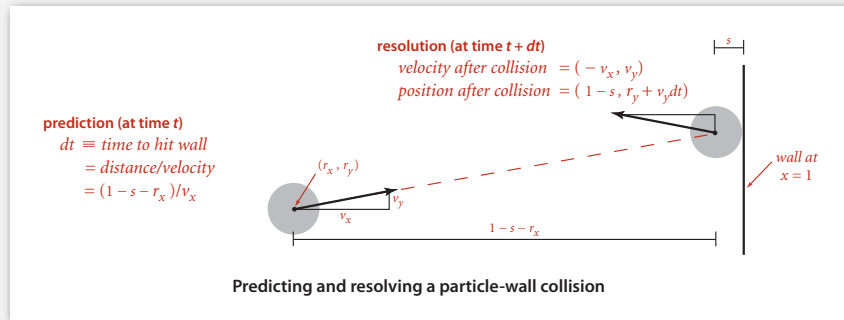


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Particle-wall collision

Collision prediction and resolution.

- Particle of radius s at position (rx, ry) .
- Particle moving in unit box with velocity (vx, vy) .
- Will it collide with a vertical wall? If so, when?

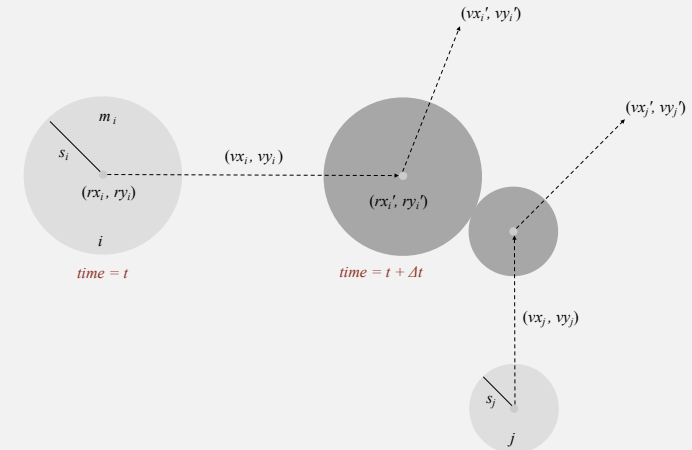


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Particle-particle collision prediction

Collision prediction.

- Particle i : radius s_i , position (rx_i, ry_i) , velocity (vx_i, vy_i) .
- Particle j : radius s_j , position (rx_j, ry_j) , velocity (vx_j, vy_j) .
- Will particles i and j collide? If so, when?



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Particle-particle collision prediction

Collision prediction.

- Particle i : radius s_i , position (rx_i, ry_i) , velocity (vx_i, vy_i) .
- Particle j : radius s_j , position (rx_j, ry_j) , velocity (vx_j, vy_j) .
- Will particles i and j collide? If so, when?

$$\Delta t = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } \Delta v \cdot \Delta r \geq 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } d < 0 \\ -\frac{\Delta v \cdot \Delta r + \sqrt{d}}{\Delta v \cdot \Delta v} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$d = (\Delta v \cdot \Delta r)^2 - (\Delta v \cdot \Delta v)(\Delta r \cdot \Delta r - \sigma^2) \quad \sigma = \sigma_i + \sigma_j$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta v &= (\Delta vx, \Delta vy) = (vx_i - vx_j, vy_i - vy_j) & \Delta v \cdot \Delta v &= (\Delta vx)^2 + (\Delta vy)^2 \\ \Delta r &= (\Delta rx, \Delta ry) = (rx_i - rx_j, ry_i - ry_j) & \Delta r \cdot \Delta r &= (\Delta rx)^2 + (\Delta ry)^2 \\ & & \Delta v \cdot \Delta r &= (\Delta vx)(\Delta rx) + (\Delta vy)(\Delta ry) \end{aligned}$$

Important note: This is high-school physics, so we won't be testing you on it!

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Particle-particle collision resolution

Collision resolution. When two particles collide, how does velocity change?

$$\begin{aligned} vx'_i &= vx_i + Jx / m_i \\ vy'_i &= vy_i + Jy / m_i \\ vx'_j &= vx_j - Jx / m_j \\ vy'_j &= vy_j - Jy / m_j \end{aligned}$$

Newton's second law
(momentum form)

$$Jx = \frac{J \Delta rx}{\sigma}, \quad Jy = \frac{J \Delta ry}{\sigma}, \quad J = \frac{2 m_i m_j (\Delta v \cdot \Delta r)}{\sigma(m_i + m_j)}$$

impulse due to normal force
(conservation of energy, conservation of momentum)

Important note: This is high-school physics, so we won't be testing you on it!

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```
public class Particle
{
    private double rx, ry; // position
    private double vx, vy; // velocity
    private final double radius; // radius
    private final double mass; // mass
    private int count; // number of collisions

    public Particle(...) { }

    public void move(double dt) { }
    public void draw() { }

    public double timeToHit(Particle that) { }
    public double timeToHitVerticalWall() { }
    public double timeToHitHorizontalWall() { }

    public void bounceOff(Particle that) { }
    public void bounceOffVerticalWall() { }
    public void bounceOffHorizontalWall() { }
}
```

predict collision with particle or wall

resolve collision with particle or wall

```
public double timeToHit(Particle that)
{
    if (this == that) return INFINITY;
    double dx = that.rx - this.rx, dy = that.ry - this.ry;
    double dvx = that.vx - this.vx, dvy = that.vy - this.vy;
    double dvdr = dx*dvx + dy*dvy;
    if (dvdr > 0) return INFINITY; // no collision
    double dvdv = dvx*dvx + dvy*dvy;
    double drdr = dx*dx + dy*dy;
    double sigma = this.radius + that.radius;
    double d = (dvdr*dvdr) - dvdv * (drdr - sigma*sigma);
    if (d < 0) return INFINITY;
    return -(dvdr + Math.sqrt(d)) / dvdv;
}

public void bounceOff(Particle that)
{
    double dx = that.rx - this.rx, dy = that.ry - this.ry;
    double dvx = that.vx - this.vx, dvy = that.vy - this.vy;
    double dvdr = dx*dvx + dy*dvy;
    double dist = this.radius + that.radius;
    double J = 2 * this.mass * that.mass * dvdr / ((this.mass + that.mass) * dist);
    double Jx = J * dx / dist;
    double Jy = J * dy / dist;
    this.vx += Jx / this.mass;
    this.vy += Jy / this.mass;
    that.vx -= Jx / that.mass;
    that.vy -= Jy / that.mass;
    this.count++;
    that.count++;
}

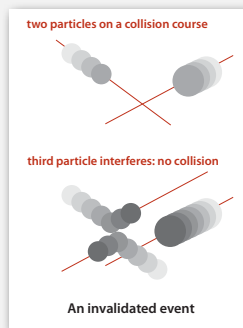
// Important note: This is high-school physics, so we won't be testing you on it!
```

Collision system: event-driven simulation main loop

Initialization.

- Fill PQ with all potential particle-wall collisions.
- Fill PQ with all potential particle-particle collisions.

"potential" since collision may not happen if some other collision intervenes



Main loop.

- Delete the impending event from PQ (min priority = t).
- If the event has been invalidated, ignore it.
- Advance all particles to time t , on a straight-line trajectory.
- Update the velocities of the colliding particle(s).
- Predict future particle-wall and particle-particle collisions involving the colliding particle(s) and insert events onto PQ.

Event data type

Conventions.

- Neither particle null \Rightarrow particle-particle collision.
- One particle null \Rightarrow particle-wall collision.
- Both particles null \Rightarrow redraw event.

```
private class Event implements Comparable<Event>
{
    private double time; // time of event
    private Particle a, b; // particles involved in event
    private int countA, countB; // collision counts for a and b

    public Event(double t, Particle a, Particle b) { } // create event

    public int compareTo(Event that)
    { return this.time - that.time; } // ordered by time

    public boolean isValid()
    { } // invalid if intervening collision
}
```

Collision system implementation: skeleton

```
public class CollisionSystem
{
    private MinPQ<Event> pq; // the priority queue
    private double t = 0.0; // simulation clock time
    private Particle[] particles; // the array of particles

    public CollisionSystem(Particle[] particles) { }

    private void predict(Particle a) // add to PQ all particle-wall and particle-
    { // particle collisions involving this particle
        if (a == null) return;
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        {
            double dt = a.timeToHit(particles[i]);
            pq.insert(new Event(t + dt, a, particles[i]));
        }
        pq.insert(new Event(t + a.timeToHitVerticalWall(), a, null));
        pq.insert(new Event(t + a.timeToHitHorizontalWall(), null, a));
    }

    private void redraw() { }

    public void simulate() { /* see next slide */ }
}
```

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Collision system implementation: main event-driven simulation loop

```
public void simulate()
{
    pq = new MinPQ<Event>();
    for(int i = 0; i < N; i++) predict(particles[i]);
    pq.insert(new Event(0, null, null));

    while(!pq.isEmpty())
    {
        Event event = pq.delMin();
        if(!event.isValid()) continue;
        Particle a = event.a;
        Particle b = event.b;

        for(int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            particles[i].move(event.time - t);
        t = event.time;

        if (a != null && b != null) a.bounceOff(b);
        else if (a != null && b == null) a.bounceOffVerticalWall();
        else if (a == null && b != null) b.bounceOffHorizontalWall();
        else if (a == null && b == null) redraw();

        predict(a);
        predict(b);
    }
}
```

initialize PQ with collision events and redraw event

get next event

update positions and time

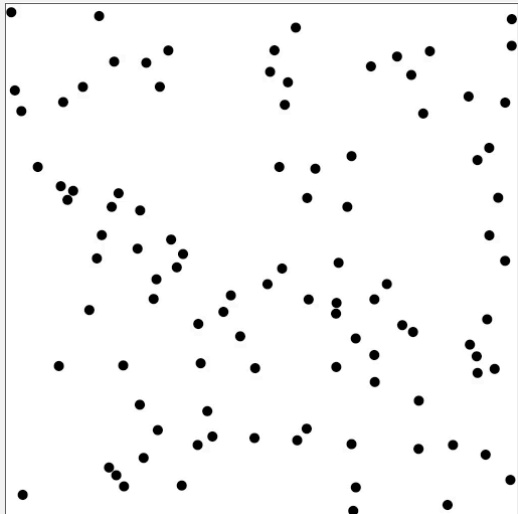
process event

predict new events based on changes

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Simulation example 1

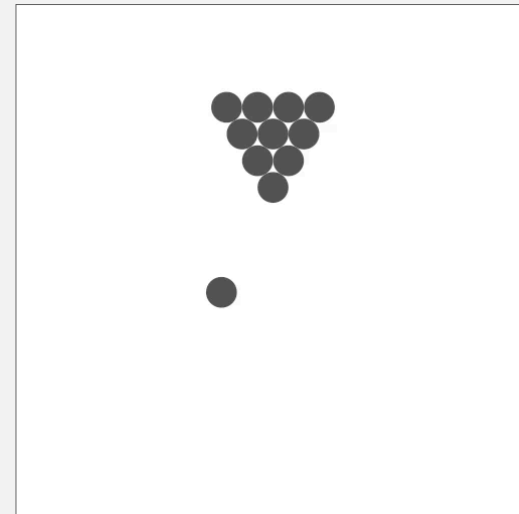
```
% java CollisionSystem 100
```



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Simulation example 2

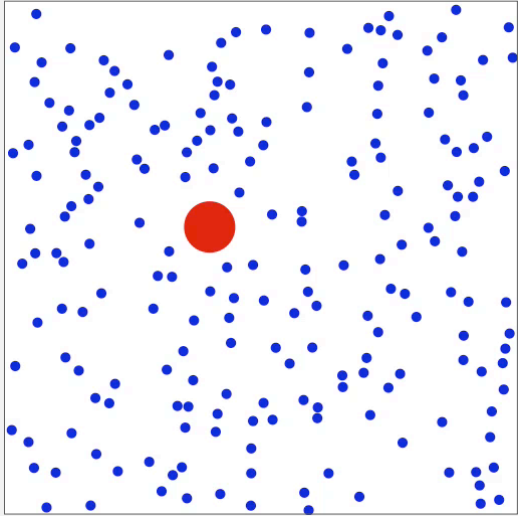
```
% java CollisionSystem < billiards.txt
```



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Simulation example 3

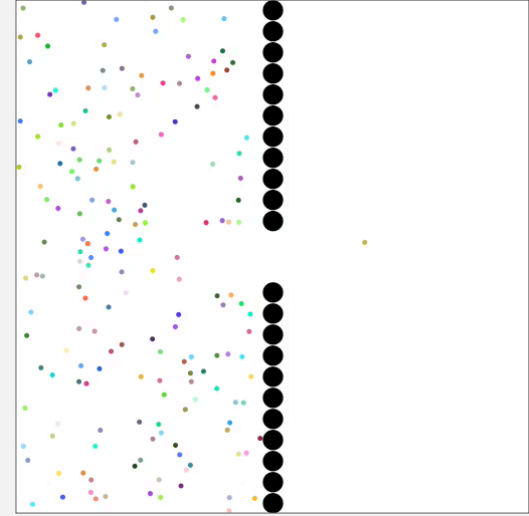
```
% java CollisionSystem < brownian.txt
```



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Simulation example 4

```
% java CollisionSystem < diffusion.txt
```



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