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## 2.4 PRIORITY QUEUES

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- ▶ *APIs*
- ▶ *elementary implementations*
- ▶ *binary heaps*
- ▶ *heapsort*
- ▶ *event-driven simulation* ← see videos



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- ▶ *elementary implementations*
- ▶ *binary heaps*
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- ▶ *event-driven simulation*

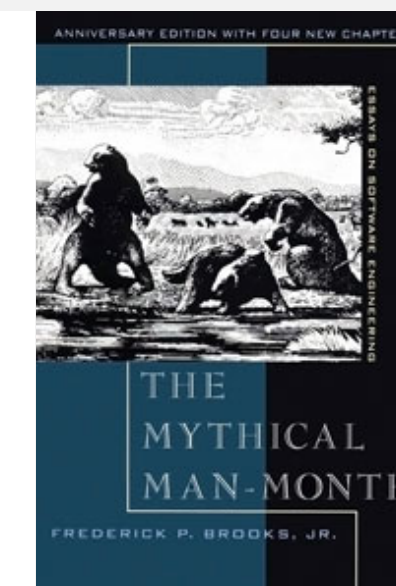
# Collections

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A **collection** is a data type that stores a group of items.

data type	core operations	data structure
<b>stack</b>	PUSH, POP	<i>linked list</i>
<b>queue</b>	ENQUEUE, DEQUEUE	<i>resizing array</i>
<b>priority queue</b>	INSERT, DELETE-MAX	<i>binary heap</i>
<b>symbol table</b>	PUT, GET, DELETE	<i>binary search tree</i>
<b>set</b>	ADD, CONTAINS, DELETE	<i>hash table</i>

*“ Show me your code and conceal your data structures, and I shall continue to be mystified. Show me your data structures, and I won’t usually need your code; it’ll be obvious.” — Fred Brooks*





# Priority queue

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

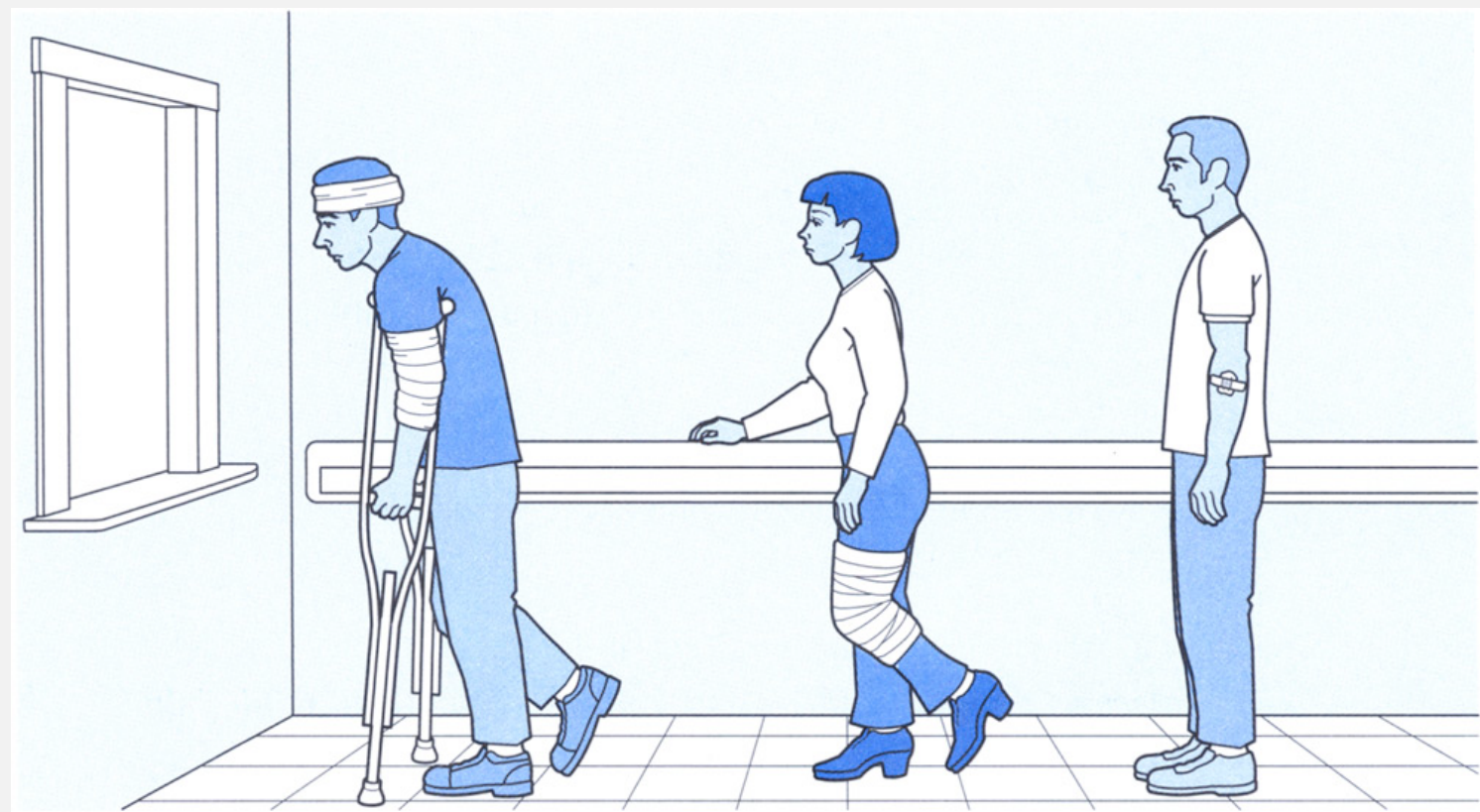
**Stack.** Remove the item most recently added.

**Queue.** Remove the item least recently added.

**Randomized queue.** Remove a random item.

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

**Generalizes:** stack, queue, randomized queue.



**triage in an emergency room**  
(priority = urgency of wound/illness)

<i>operation</i>	<i>argument</i>	<i>return value</i>
<i>insert</i>	P	
<i>insert</i>	Q	
<i>insert</i>	E	
<i>remove max</i>		Q
<i>insert</i>	X	
<i>insert</i>	A	
<i>insert</i>	M	
<i>remove max</i>		X
<i>insert</i>	P	
<i>insert</i>	L	
<i>insert</i>	E	
<i>remove max</i>		P

# Max-oriented priority queue API

---

**Requirement.** Must insert keys of the same (generic) type; moreover, keys must be Comparable.

“bounded type parameter”  
↙

```
public class MaxPQ<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
```

---

MaxPQ()	<i>create an empty priority queue</i>
void insert(Key v)	<i>insert a key</i>
Key delMax()	<i>return and remove a largest key</i>
boolean isEmpty()	<i>is the priority queue empty?</i>
Key max()	<i>return a largest key</i>
int size()	<i>number of entries in the priority queue</i>

**Note.** Duplicate keys allowed; delMax() removes and returns any maximum key.

# Min-oriented priority queue API

---

Analogous to MaxPQ.

```
public class MinPQ<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
```

```
    MinPQ() create an empty priority queue
```

```
    void insert(Key v) insert a key
```

```
    Key delMin() return and remove a smallest key
```

```
    boolean isEmpty() is the priority queue empty?
```

```
    Key min() return a smallest key
```

```
    int size() number of entries in the priority queue
```

**Warmup client.** Sort a stream of integers from standard input.

# Priority queue: applications

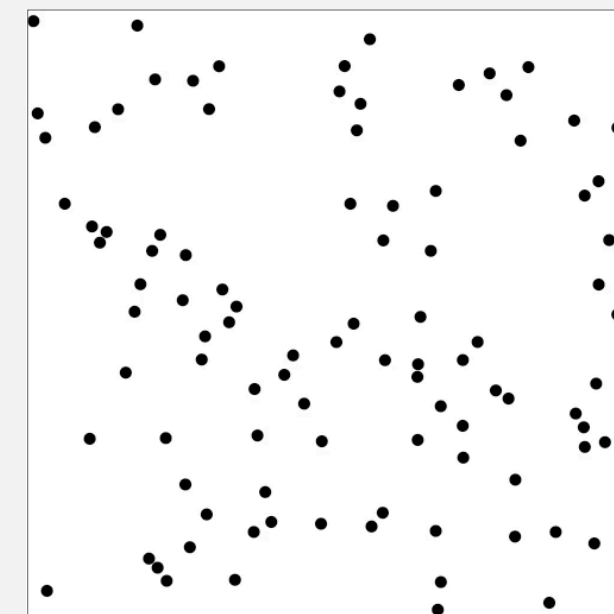
- Event-driven simulation. [ customers in a line, colliding particles ]
- Discrete optimization. [ bin packing, scheduling ]
- Artificial intelligence. [ A\* search ]
- Computer networks. [ web cache ]
- Data compression. [ Huffman codes ]
- Operating systems. [ load balancing, interrupt handling ]
- Graph searching. [ Dijkstra's algorithm, Prim's algorithm ]
- Number theory. [ sum of powers ]
- Spam filtering. [ Bayesian spam filter ]
- Statistics. [ online median in data stream ]



priority = length of  
best known path

8	4	7
1	5	6
3	2	

priority = "distance"  
to goal board



priority = event time





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## 2.4 PRIORITY QUEUES

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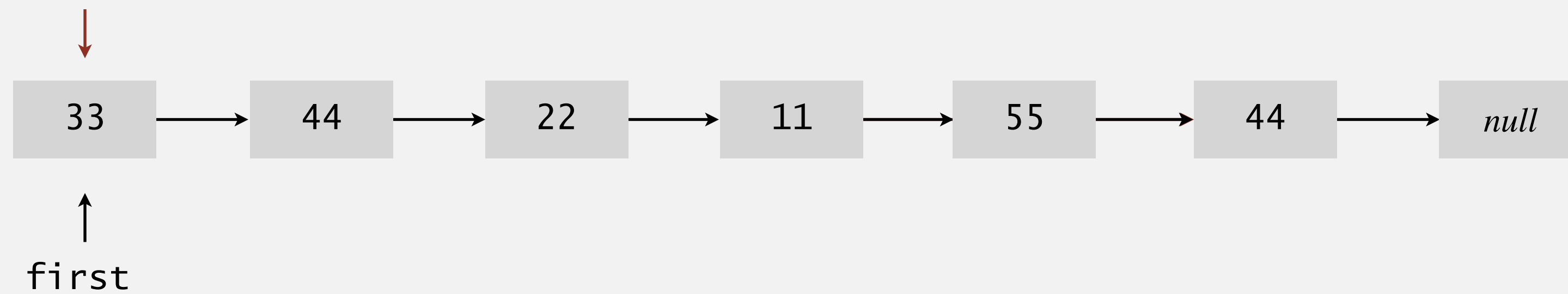
- ▶ *APIs*
- ▶ *elementary implementations*
- ▶ *binary heaps*
- ▶ *heapsort*
- ▶ *event-driven simulation*



# Priority queue: elementary implementations

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Unordered list. Store keys in a linked list.

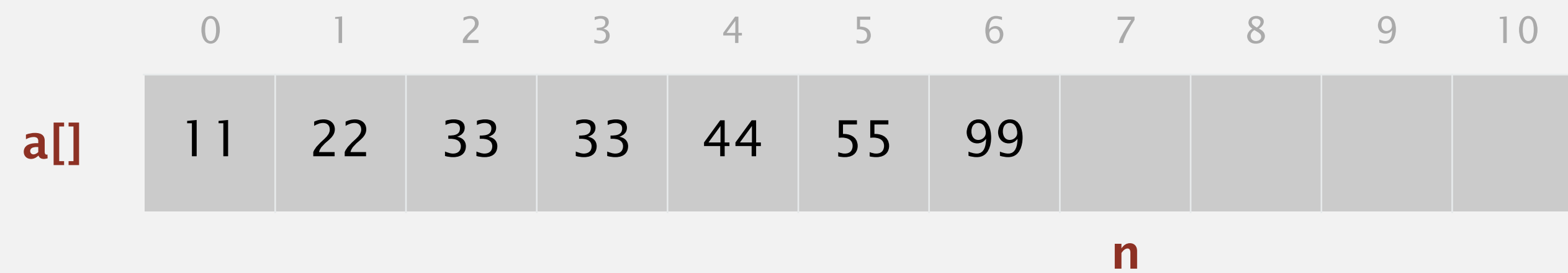


Performance. INSERT takes  $\Theta(1)$  time; DELETE-MAX takes  $\Theta(n)$  time.

# Priority queue: elementary implementations

---

Ordered array. Store keys in an array in ascending (or descending) order.



ordered array implementation of a MaxPQ



What are the worst-case running times for INSERT and DELETE-MAX, respectively, for a MaxPQ implemented with an **ordered array**?

ignore array resizing

- A.  $\Theta(1)$  and  $\Theta(n)$
- B.  $\Theta(1)$  and  $\Theta(\log n)$
- C.  $\Theta(\log n)$  and  $\Theta(1)$
- D.  $\Theta(n)$  and  $\Theta(1)$



ordered array implementation of a MaxPQ

# Priority queue: implementations cost summary

---

Elementary implementations. Either INSERT or DELETE-MAX takes  $\Theta(n)$  time.

implementation	INSERT	DELETE-MAX	MAX
unordered list	1	$n$	$n$
ordered array	$n$	1	1
<b>goal</b>	$\log n$	$\log n$	$\log n$

order of growth of running time for priority queue with  $n$  items

**Challenge.** Implement **both** core operations efficiently.

**Solution.** “Somewhat-ordered” array.





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## 2.4 PRIORITY QUEUES

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





# A complete binary tree in nature

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Hyphaene Compressa - Doum Palm

© Shlomit Pinter



# Binary heap: representation

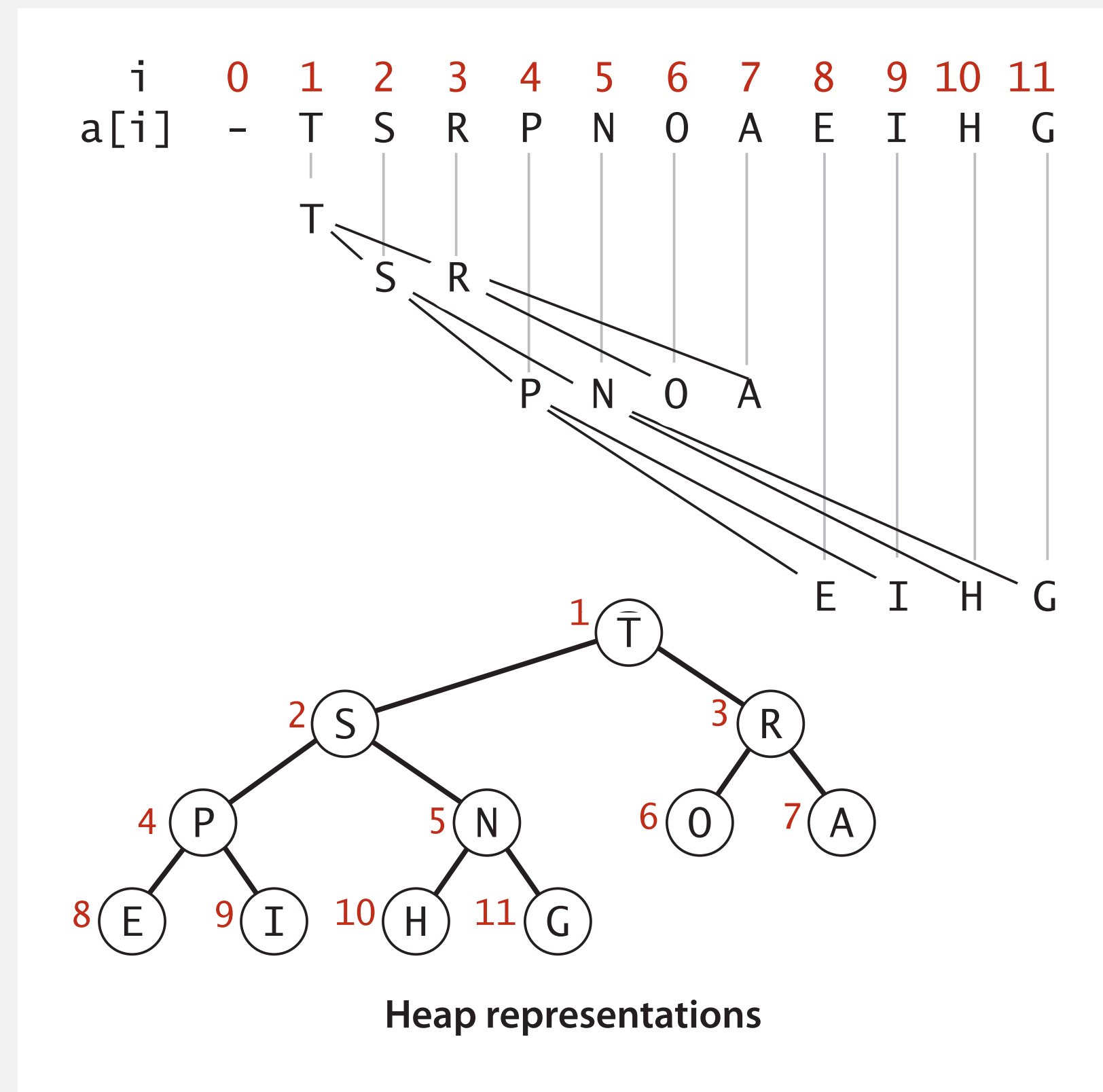
**Binary heap.** Array representation of a heap-ordered complete binary tree.

**Heap-ordered tree.**

- Keys in nodes.
- Child's key no larger than parent's key.

**Array representation.**

- Indices start at 1.
- Take nodes in **level order**.
- No explicit links!

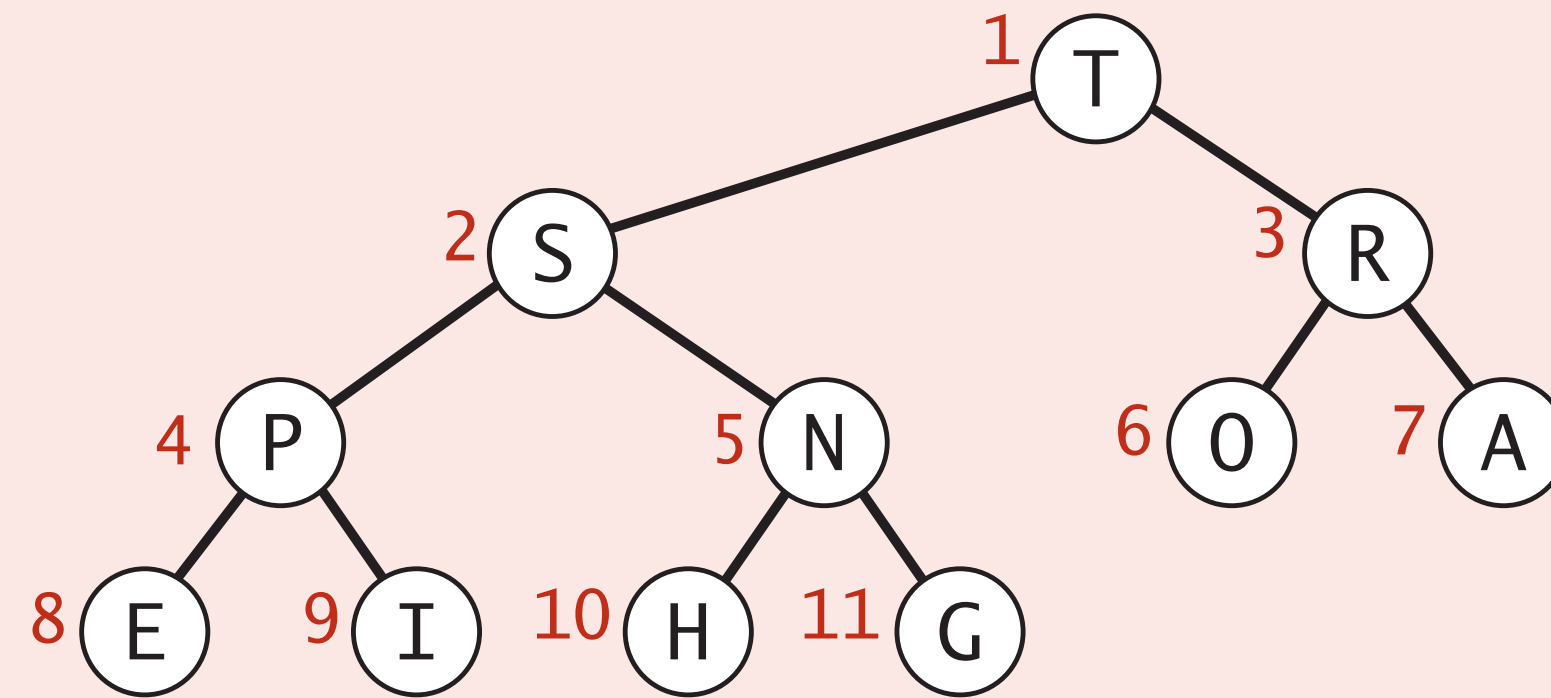






Consider the node at index  $k$  in a binary heap. Which Java expression gives the index of its parent?

- A.  $(k - 1) / 2$
- B.  $k / 2$
- C.  $(k + 1) / 2$
- D.  $2 * k$



$i$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$a[i]$	-	T	S	R	P	N	O	A	E	I	H	G

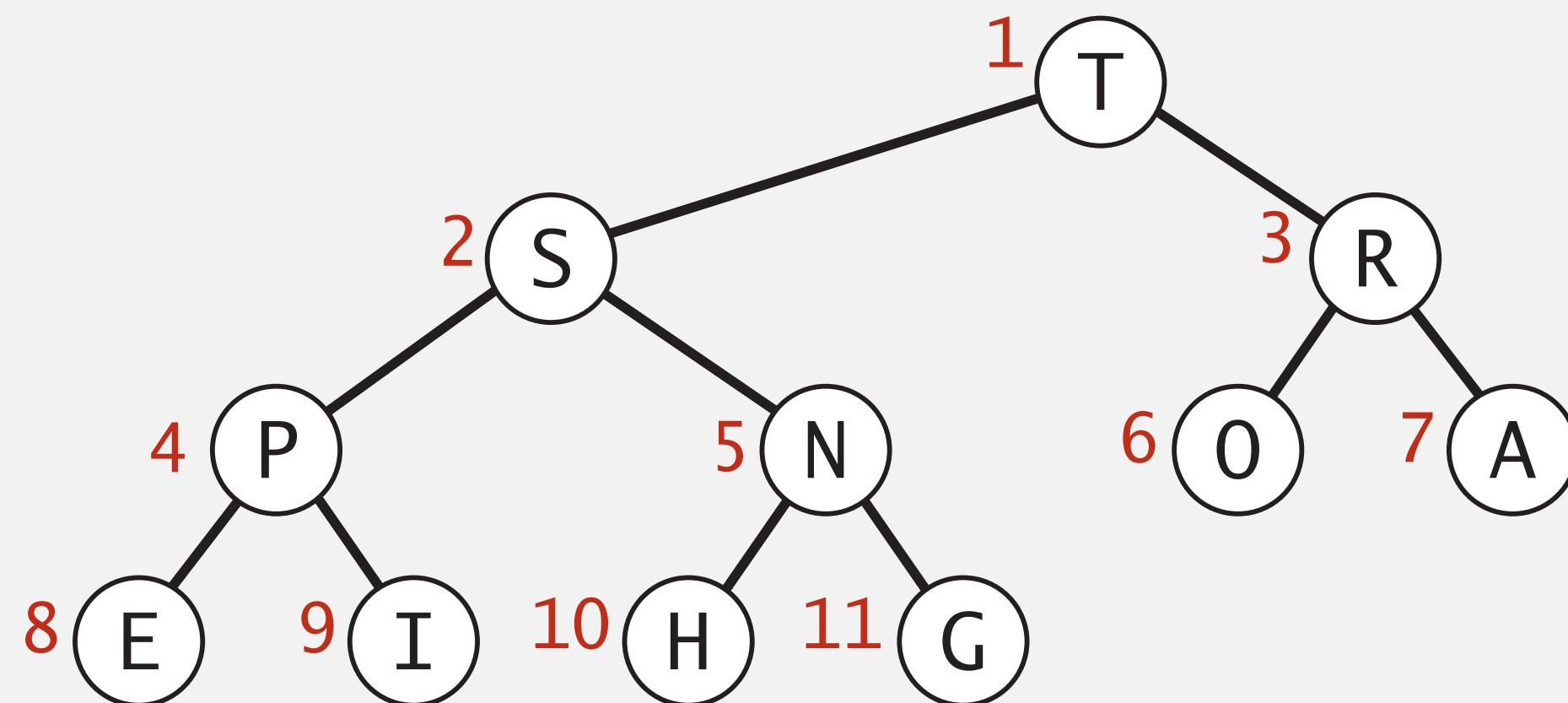
# Binary heap: properties

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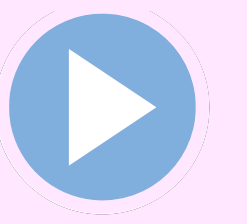
**Proposition.** Largest key is at index 1, which is root of binary tree.

**Proposition.** Can use array indices to move through tree.

- Parent of key at index  $k$  is at index  $k/2$ .
- Children of key at index  $k$  are at indices  $2*k$  and  $2*k + 1$ .



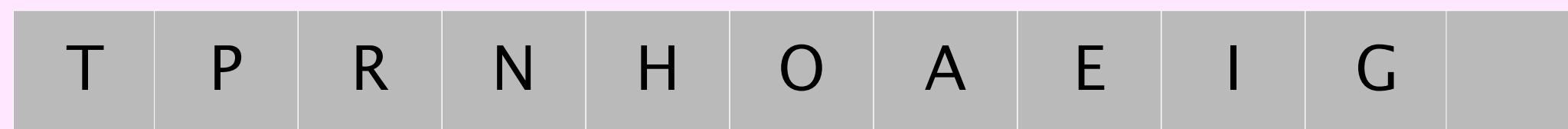
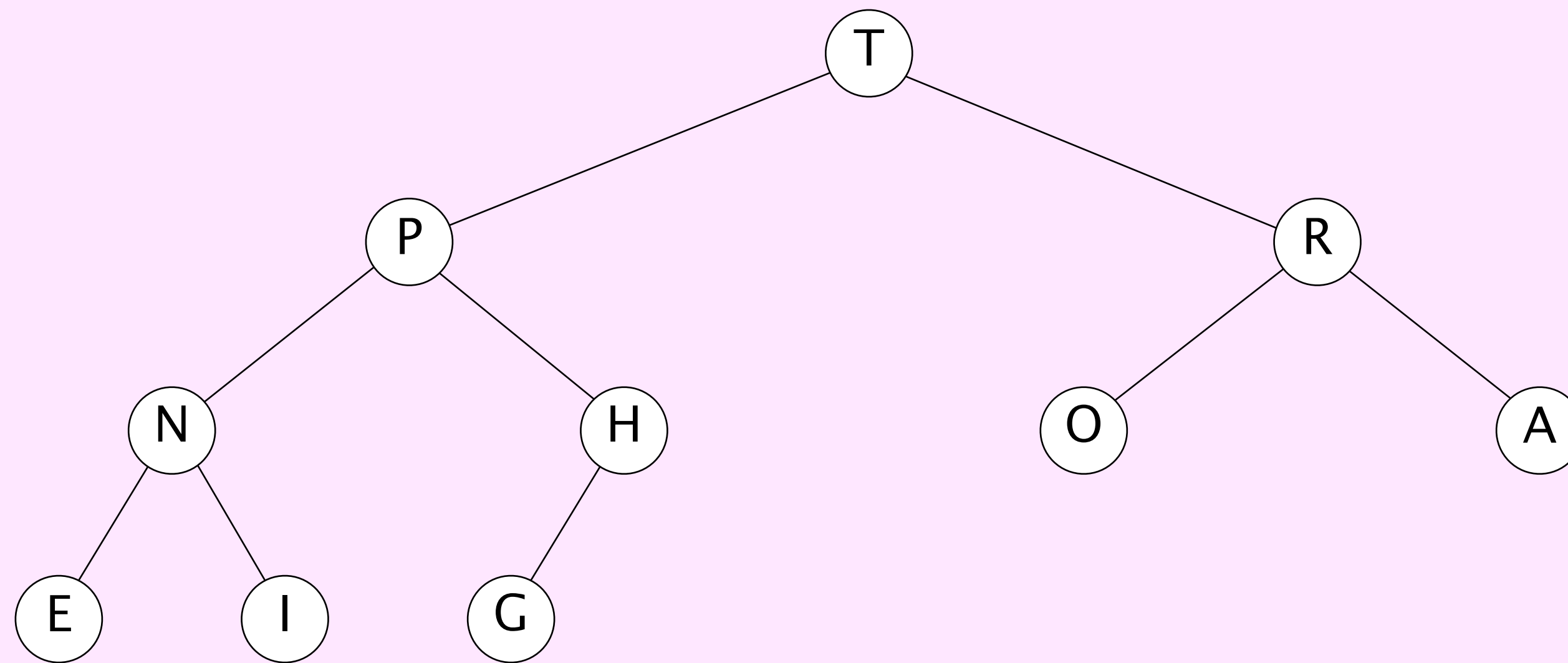
# Binary heap demo



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

**Remove the maximum.** Exchange root with node at end, then **sink** it down.

**heap ordered**



# Binary heap: promotion

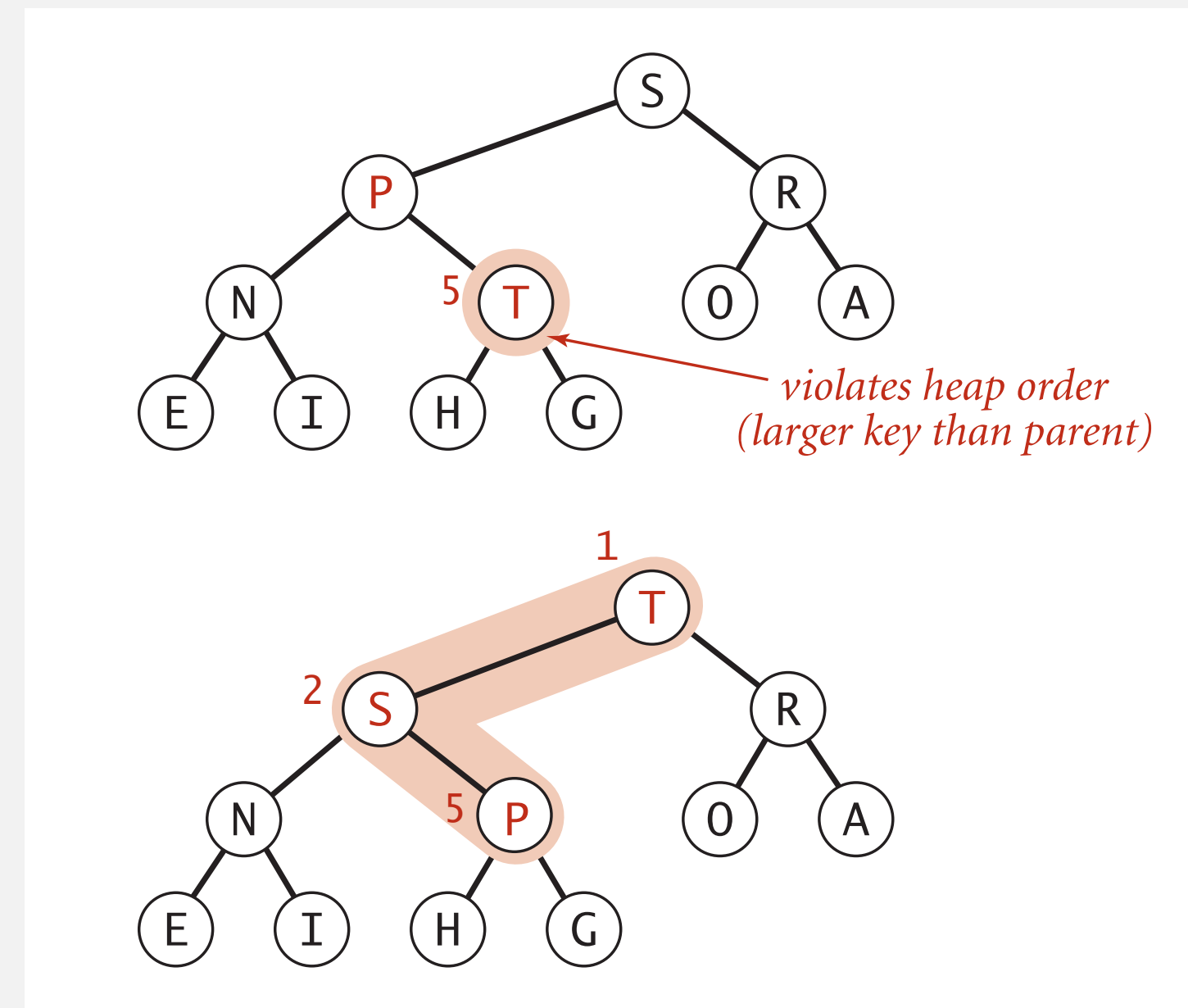
**Scenario.** A key becomes **larger** than its parent's key.

**To eliminate the violation:**

- Exchange key in child 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.

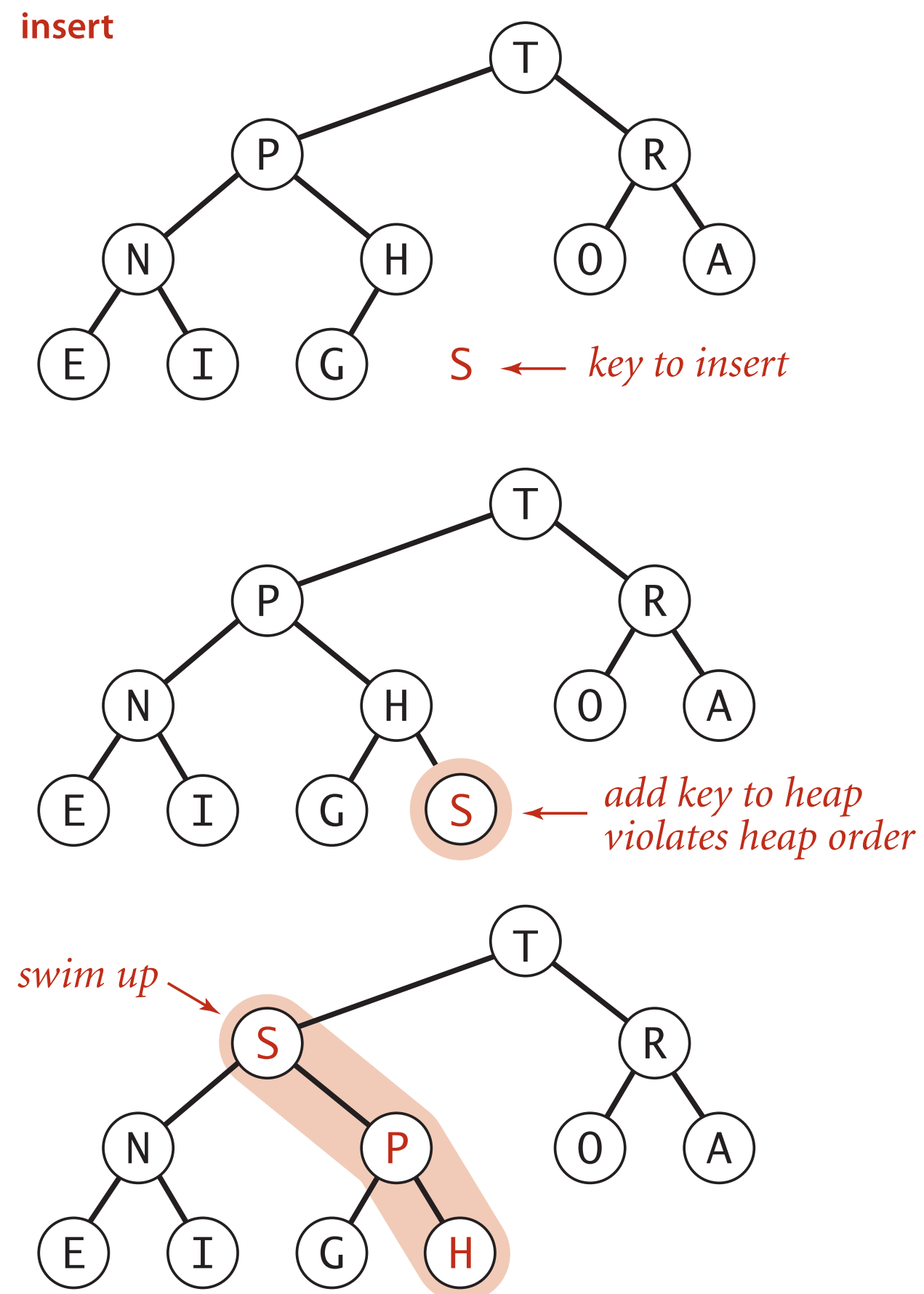


# Binary heap: insertion

**Insert.** Add node at end in bottom level; then, swim it up.

**Cost.** At most  $1 + \log_2 n$  compares.

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



# Binary heap: demotion

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

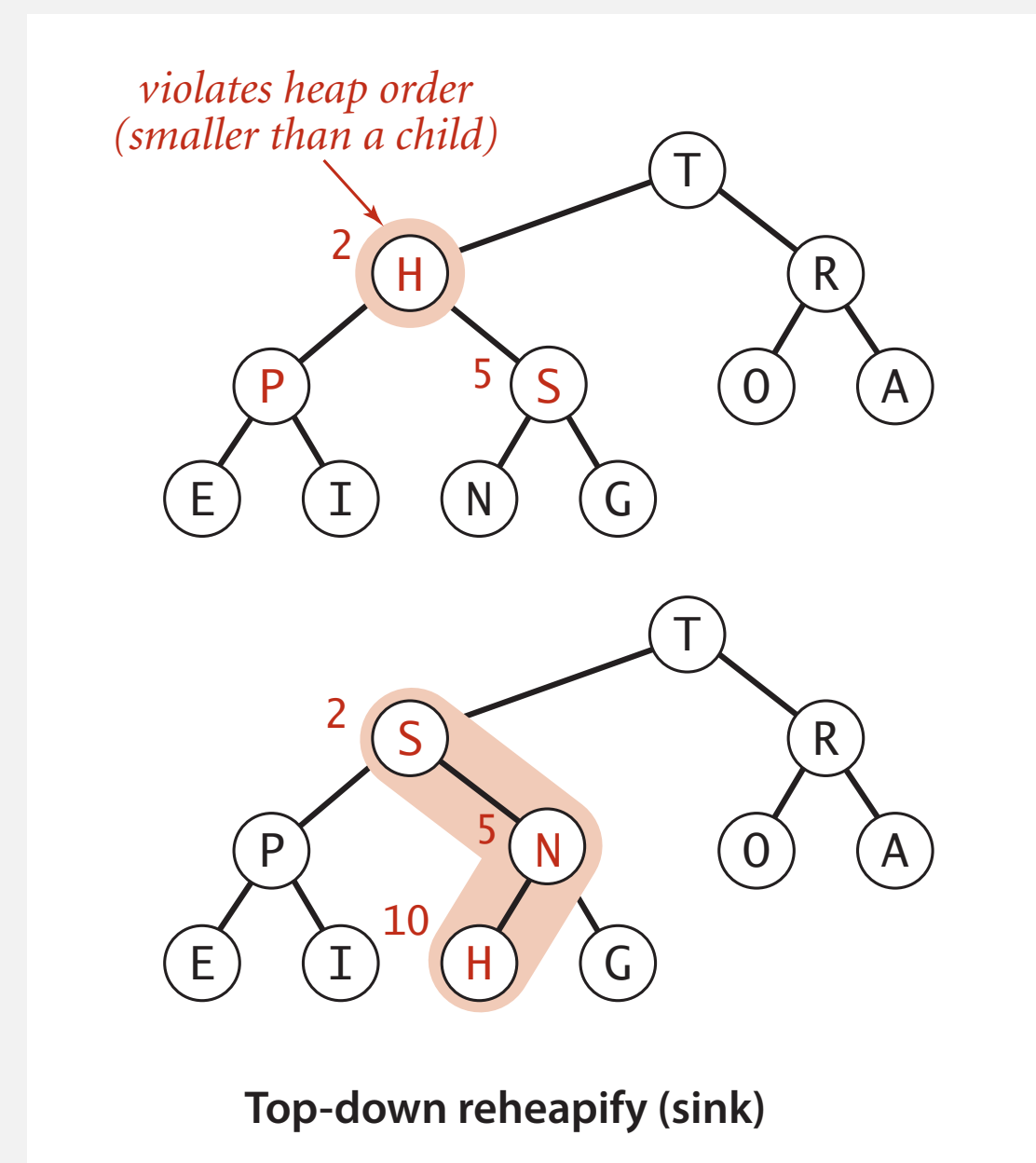
To eliminate the violation:

why not smaller child?

- Exchange key in parent 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 at 2\*k and 2\*k+1



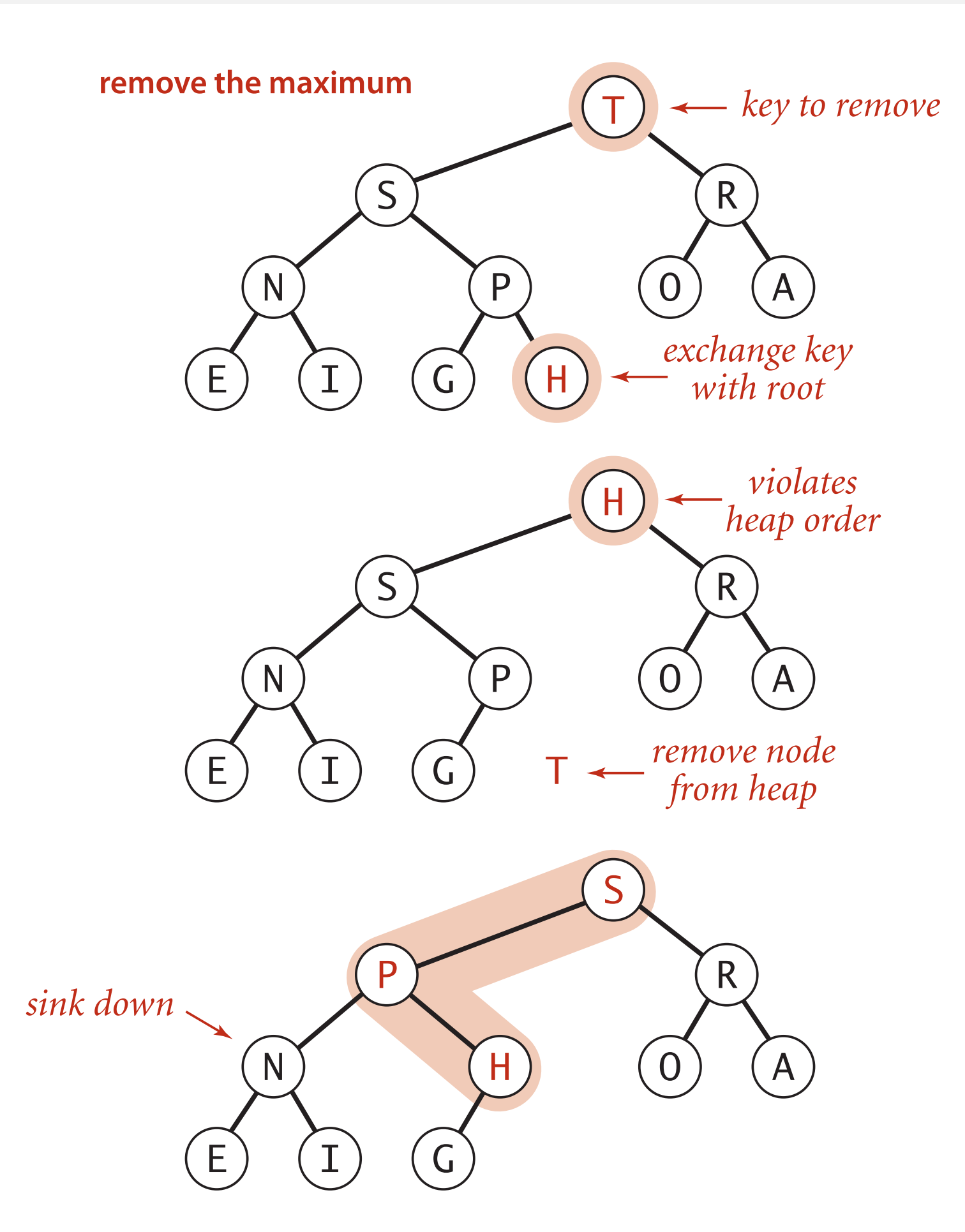
Power struggle. Better subordinate promoted.

# Binary heap: delete the maximum

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

**Cost.** At most  $2 \log_2 n$  compares.

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



# Binary heap: Java implementation

```
public class MaxPQ<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
{
```

```
    private Key[] a;
    private int n;
```

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

← fixed capacity  
(for simplicity)

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

← PQ ops

```
    private void swim(int k) // see previous code
    private void sink(int k) // see previous code
```

← heap helper functions

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

← array helper functions

```
}
```

# Priority queue: implementations cost summary

---

**Goal.** Implement both INSERT and DELETE-MAX in  $\Theta(\log n)$  time.

implementation	INSERT	DELETE-MAX	MAX
unordered list	1	$n$	$n$
ordered array	$n$	1	1
<b>goal</b>	$\log n$	$\log n$	1

order of growth of running time for priority queue with  $n$  items



# Binary heap: considerations

---

## Underflow and overflow.

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

leads to  $\Theta(\log n)$   
amortized time per op  
(how to make worst case?)

## Minimum-oriented priority queue.

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

## Other operations.

- Remove an arbitrary item.
- Change the priority of an item.

← can implement efficiently with `sink()` and `swim()`  
[ stay tuned for Prim/Dijkstra ]

## Immutability of keys.

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

← immutable in Java: `String`, `Integer`, `Double`, ...

# PRIORITY QUEUE WITH DELETE-RANDOM



**Goal.** Design an efficient data structure to support the following API:

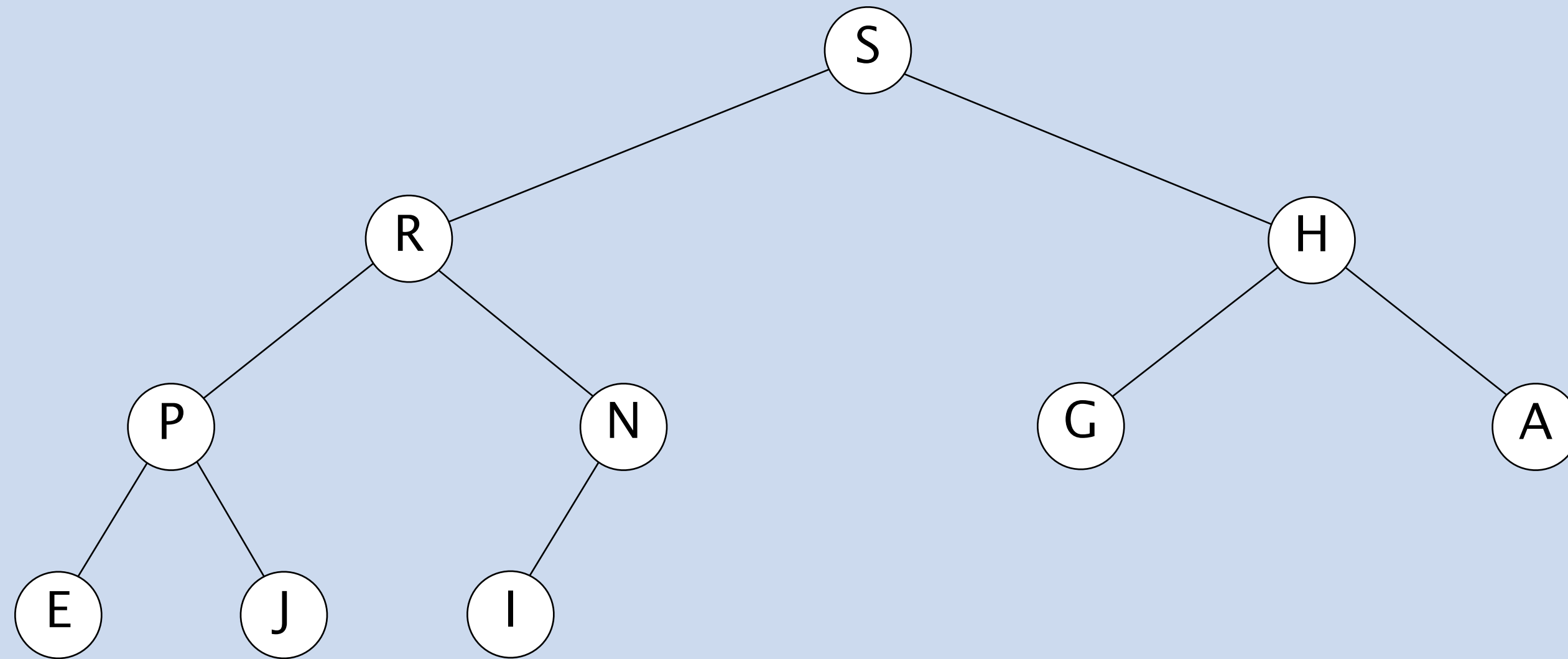
- INSERT: insert a key.
- DELETE-MAX: return and remove a largest key.
- **SAMPLE:** return a random key.
- **DELETE-RANDOM:** return and remove a random key.



# DELETE-RANDOM FROM A BINARY HEAP



**Goal.** Delete a random key from a binary heap in  $O(\log n)$  time.



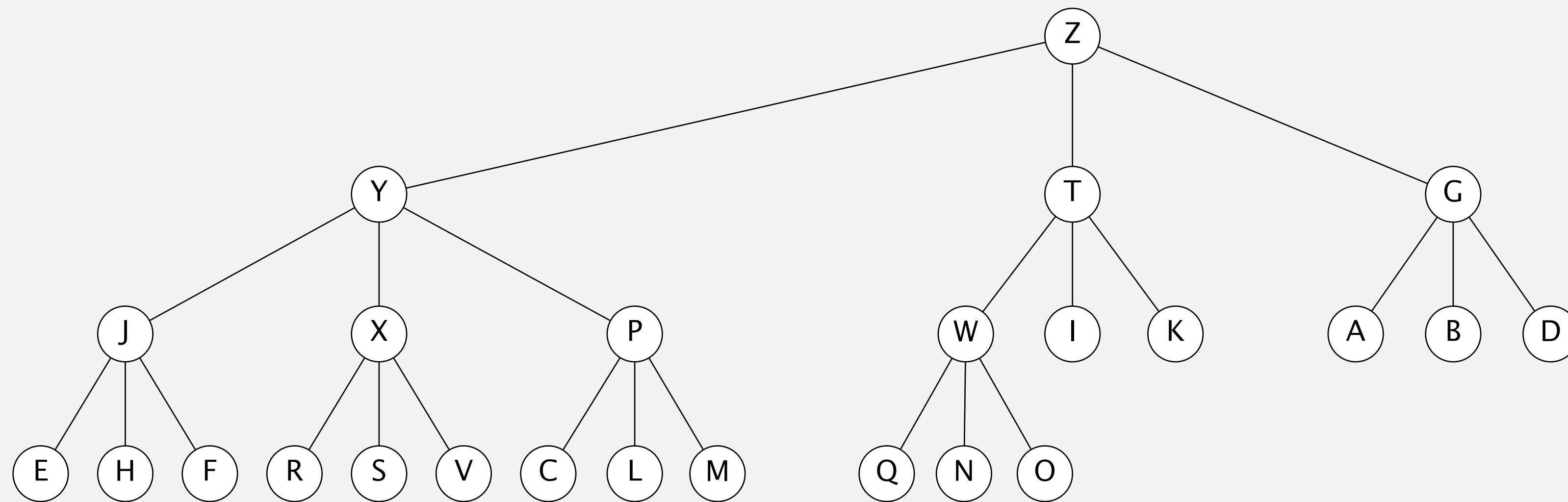
# Multiway heaps

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## Multiway heaps.

- Complete  $d$ -way tree.
- Child's key no larger than parent's key.

**Fact.** Height of complete  $d$ -way tree on  $n$  nodes is  $\sim \log_d n$ .



3-way heap



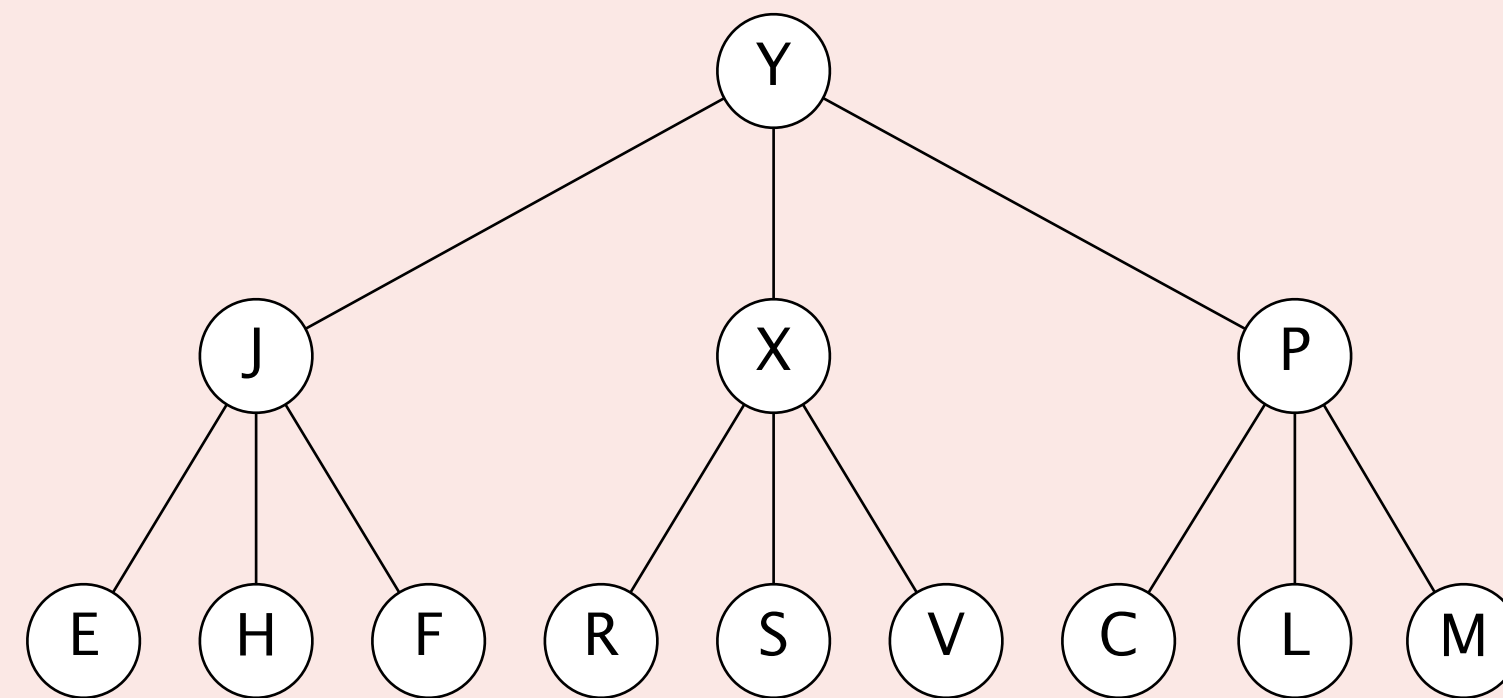
In the worst case, how many compares to **INSERT** and **DELETE-MAX** in a  $d$ -way heap as function of both  $n$  and  $d$ ?

A.  $\sim \log_d n$  and  $\sim \log_d n$

B.  $\sim \log_d n$  and  $\sim d \log_d n$

C.  $\sim d \log_d n$  and  $\sim \log_d n$

D.  $\sim d \log_d n$  and  $\sim d \log_d n$





# Priority queue: implementation cost summary

---

implementation	INSERT	DELETE-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	← sweet spot: $d = 4$
Fibonacci	1	$\log n^\dagger$	1	← see COS 423
Brodal queue	1	$\log n$	1	
impossible	1	1	1	← why impossible?

† amortized

order-of-growth of running time for priority queue with  $n$  items



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## 2.4 PRIORITY QUEUES

---

- ▶ *APIs*
- ▶ *elementary implementations*
- ▶ *binary heaps*
- ▶ ***heapsort***
- ▶ *event-driven simulation*



What are the properties of this sorting algorithm?

```
public void sort(String[] a)
{
    int n = a.length;
    MinPQ<String> pq = new MinPQ<String>();

    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        pq.insert(a[i]);

    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        a[i] = pq.delMin();
}
```

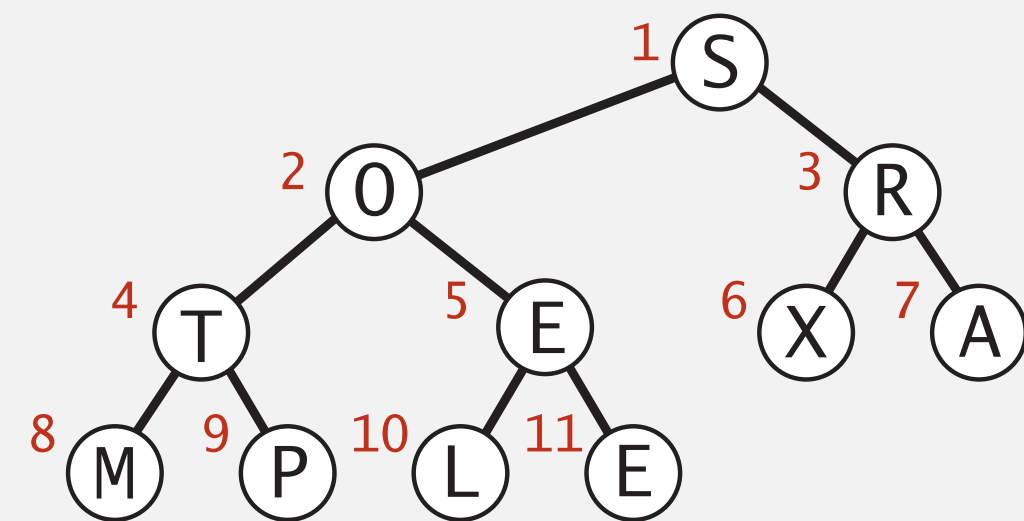
- A.  $\Theta(n \log n)$  compares in the worst case.
- B. In-place.
- C. Stable.
- D. *All of the above.*

# Heapsort

## Basic plan for in-place sort.

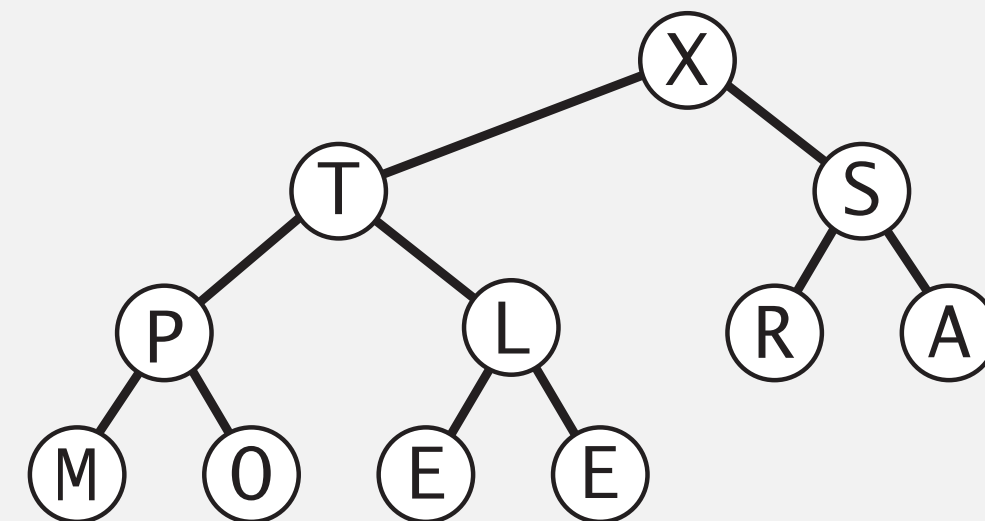
- View input array as a complete binary tree.
- Heap construction: build a **max-oriented** heap with all  $n$  keys.
- Sortdown: repeatedly remove the maximum key.

keys in arbitrary order



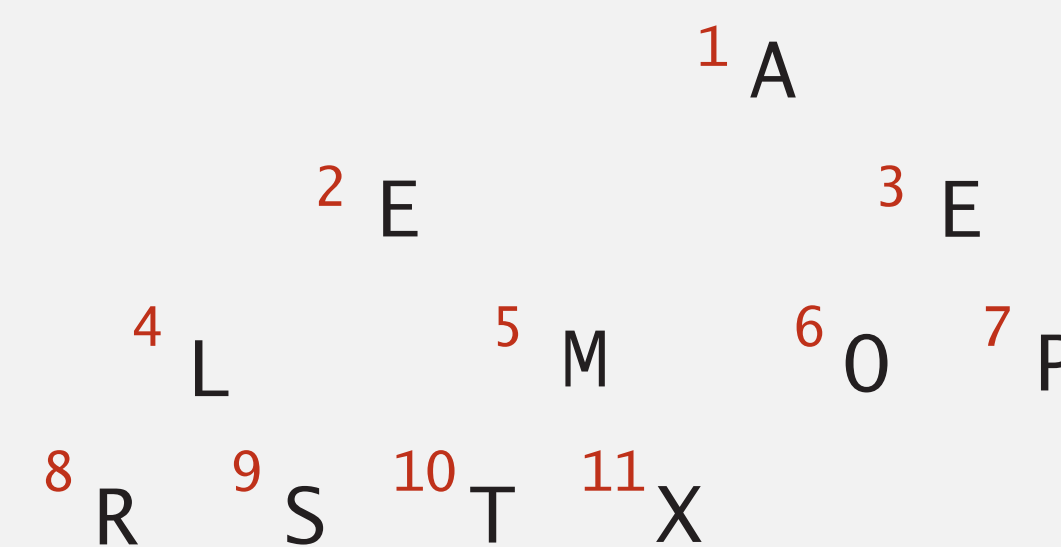
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E

build max heap  
(in place)



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
X	T	S	P	L	R	A	M	O	E	E

sorted result  
(in place)



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	E	E	L	M	O	P	R	S	T	X

# Heap construction

---

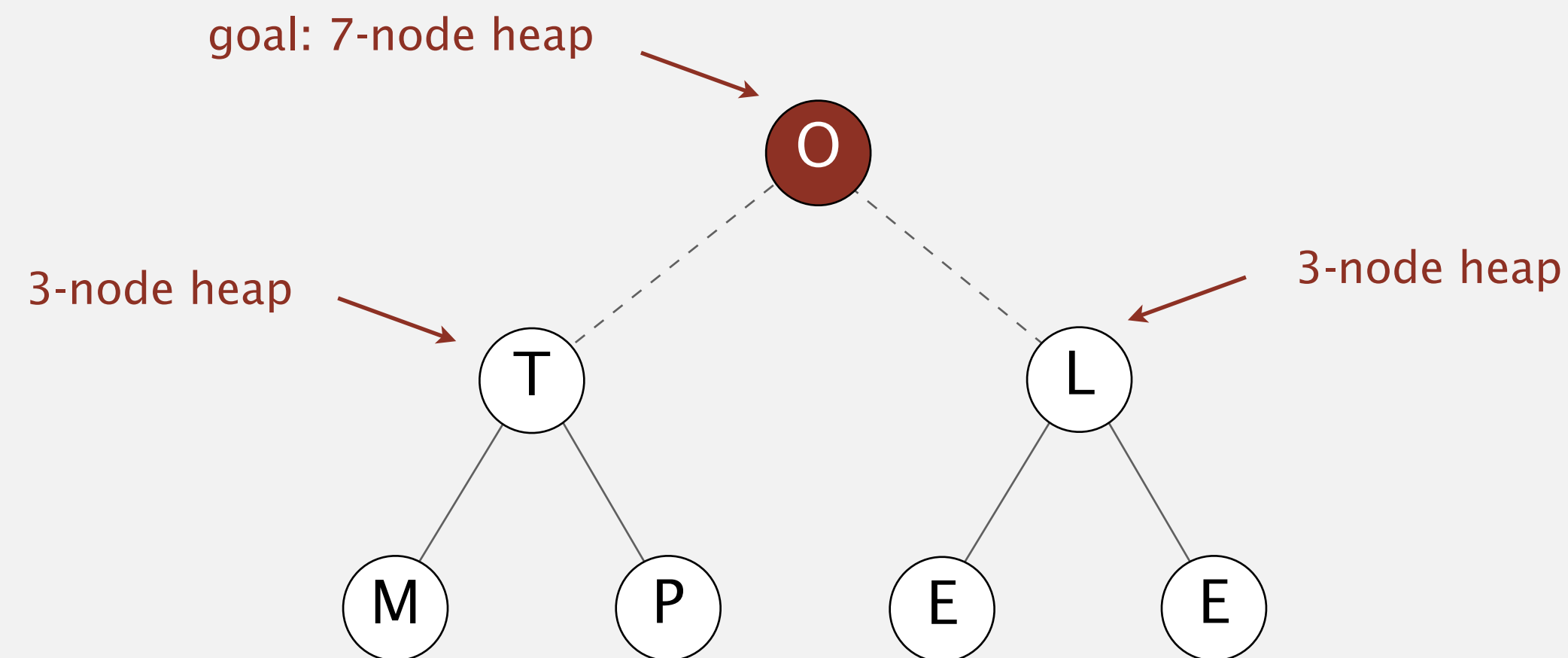
**Top-down approach.** Insert keys into a max-oriented heap, one at a time.

- Intuitive swim-based approach.
- $\Theta(n \log n)$  compares in worst case.

$\log_2 1 + \log_2 2 + \dots + \log_2 n = \log_2(n!) \sim n \log_2 n$

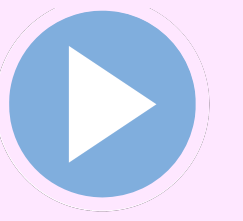
**Bottom-up approach.** Successively build larger heap from smaller ones.

- Clever sink-based alternative.
- $\Theta(n)$  compares. [stay tuned]





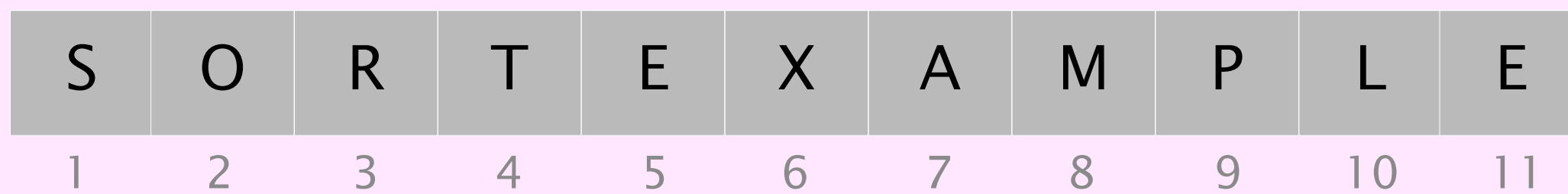
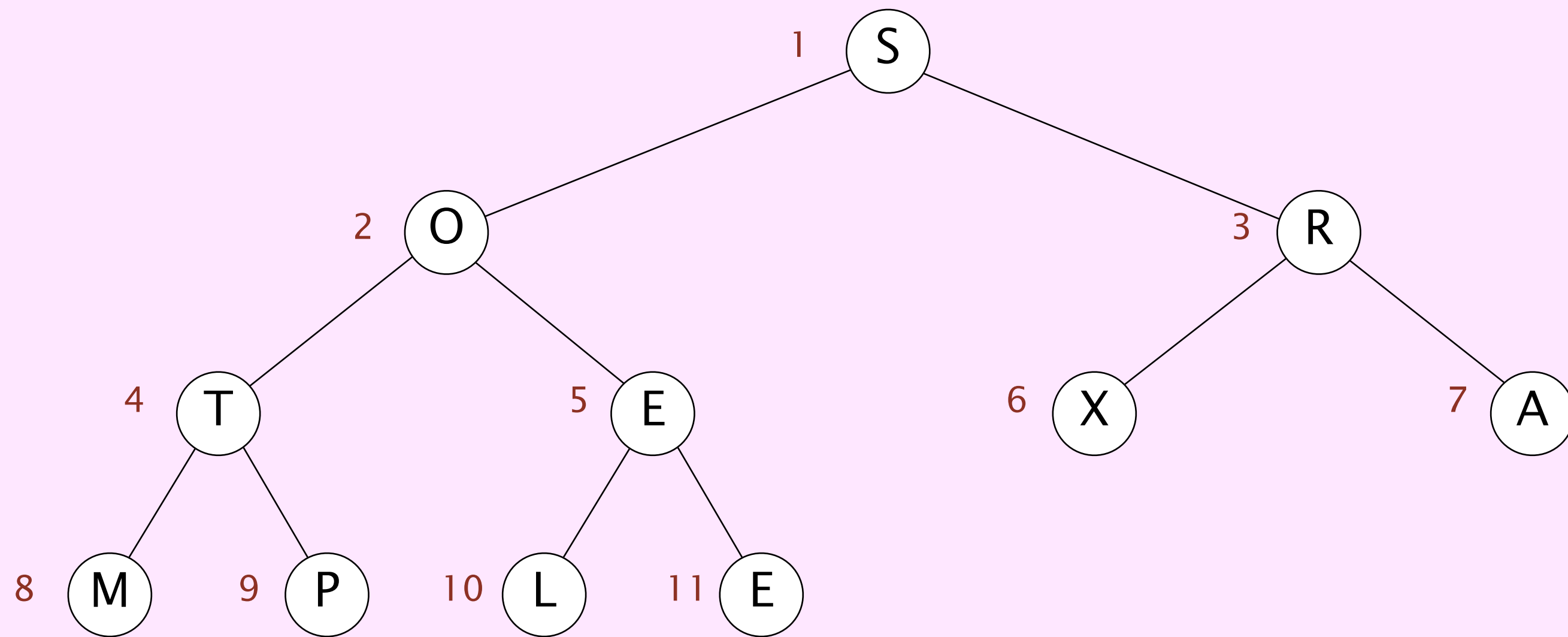
# Heapsort demo



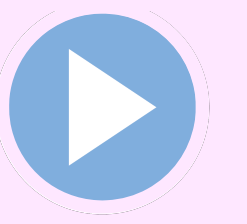
Heap construction. Build max heap using bottom-up method.

for now, assume array entries are indexed 1 to  $n$

array in arbitrary order

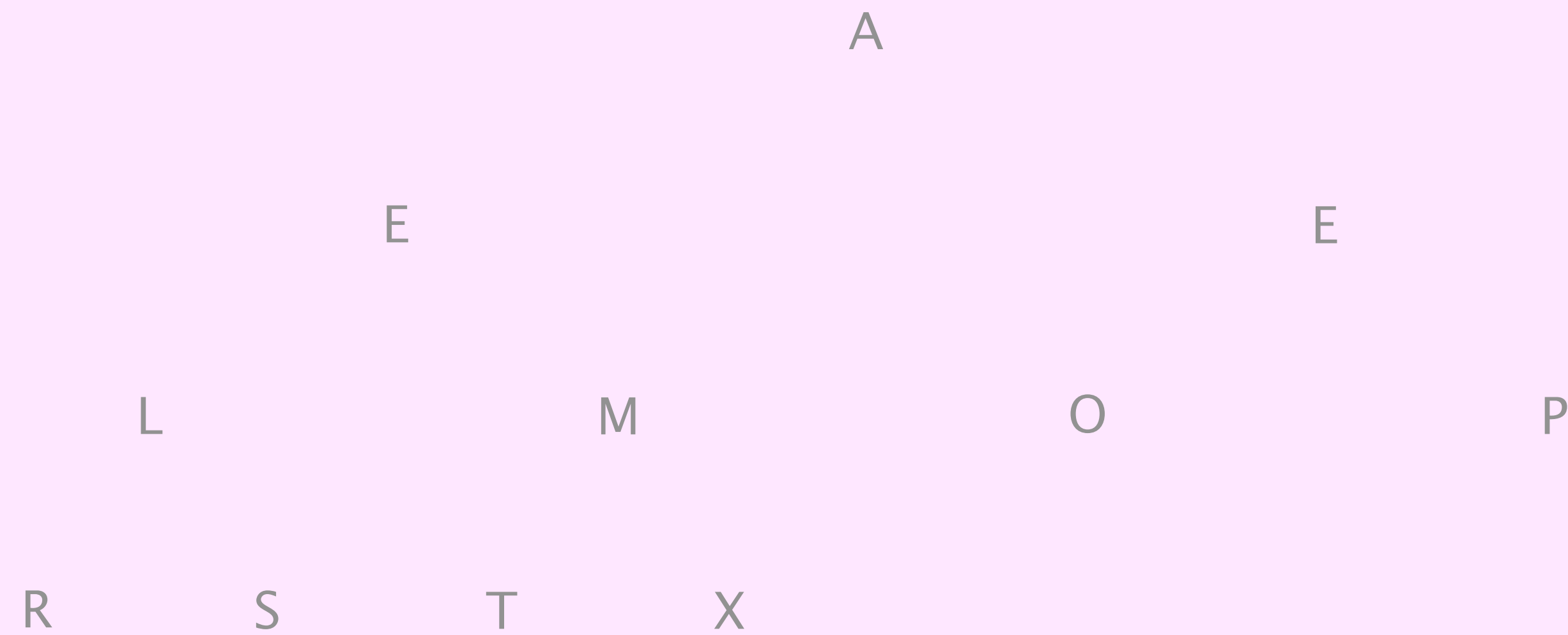


# Heapsort demo



**Sortdown.** Repeatedly delete the largest remaining item.

**array in sorted order**



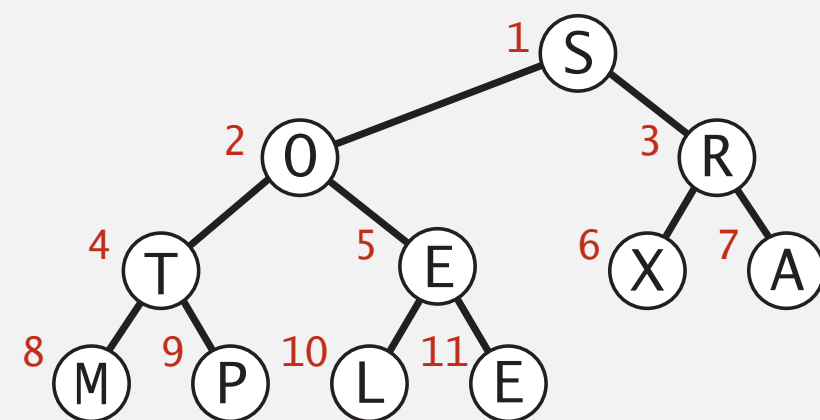
A	E	E	L	M	O	P	R	S	T	X
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

# Heapsort: heap construction

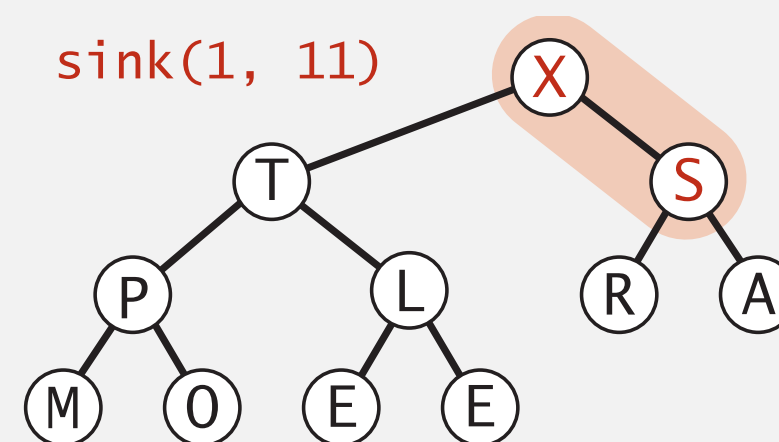
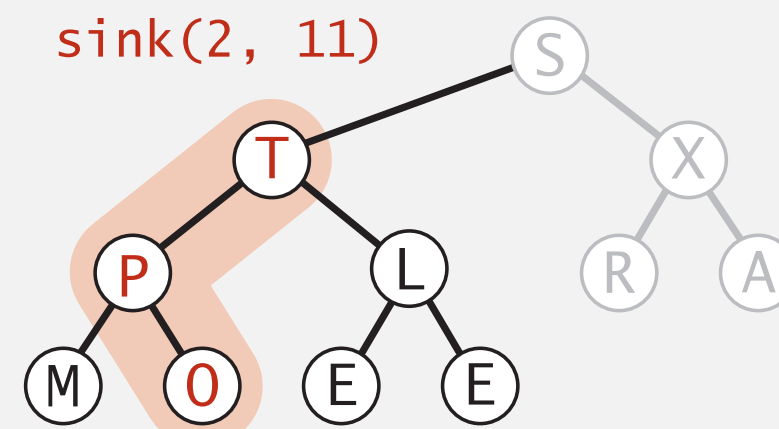
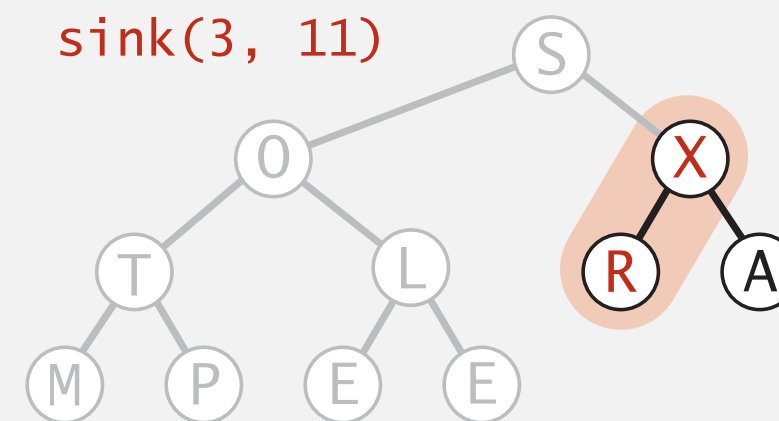
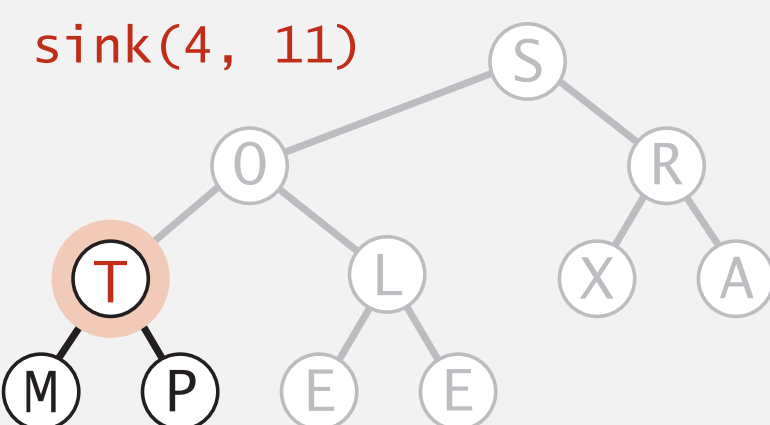
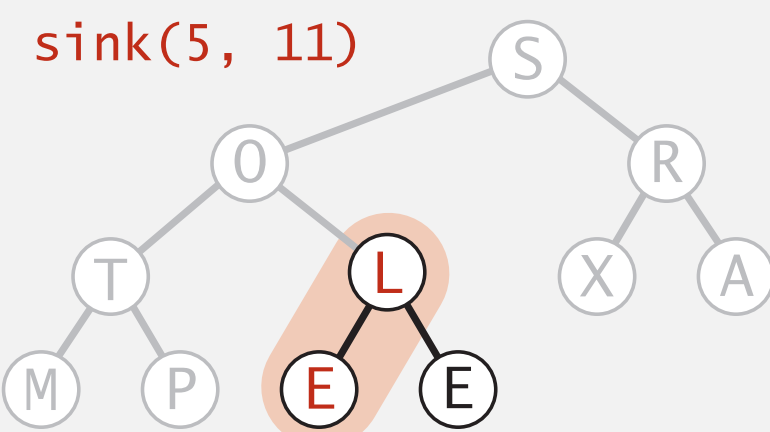
**First pass.** Build heap using bottom-up approach.

**Invariant.** After calling `sink(a, k, n)`, trees rooted at `k` to `n` are heap-ordered.

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



*starting point (arbitrary order)*



*result (heap-ordered)*

# Heapsort: sortdown

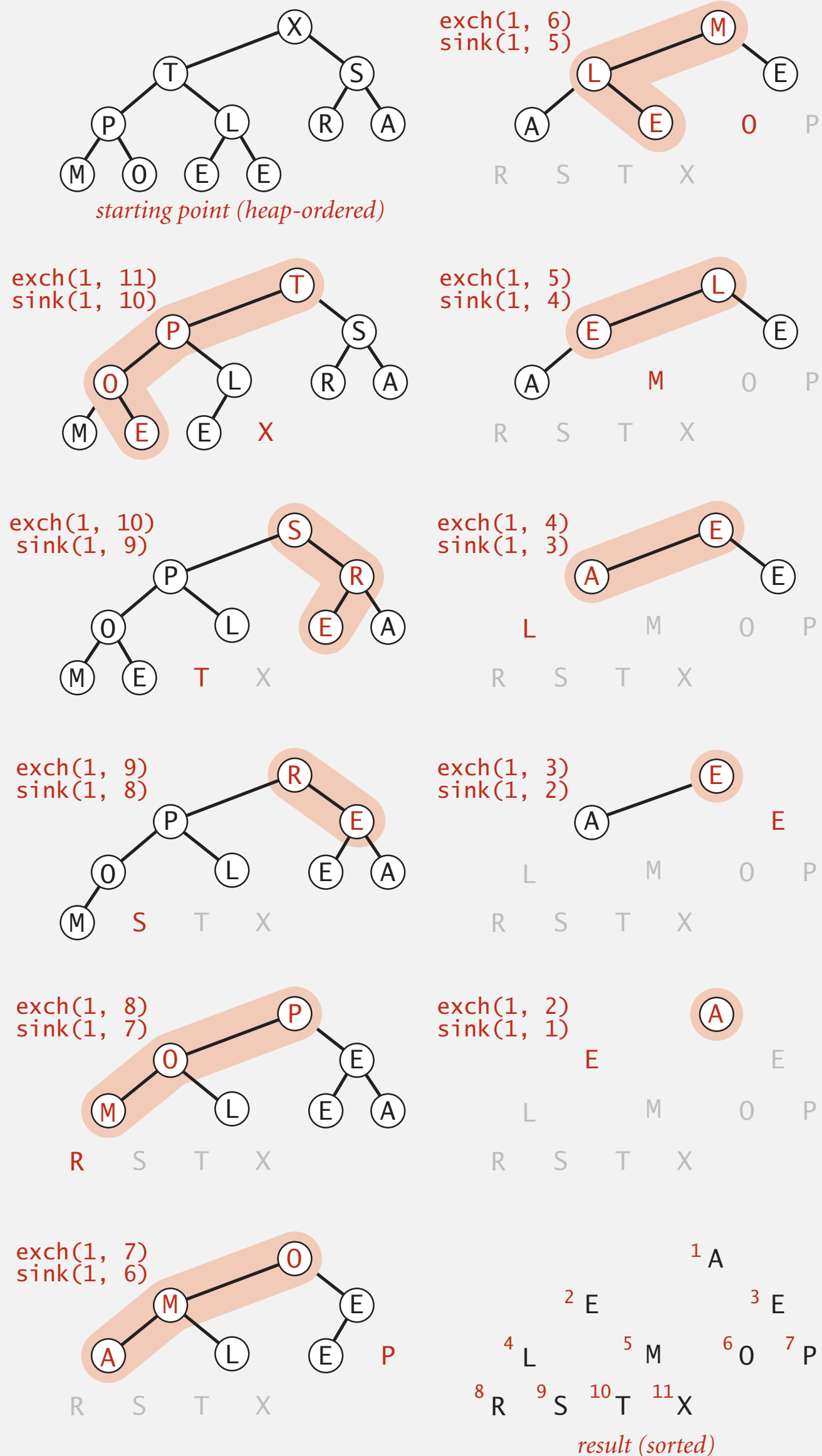
## Second pass.

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

**Invariants.** After calling `sink(a, 1, k)`

- $a[k..n]$  are in final sorted order.
- $a[1..k-1]$  is a heap.

```
int k = n;
while (k > 1)
{
    exch(a, 1, k--);
    sink(a, 1, k);
}
```



# Heapsort: Java implementation

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

```
private static void sink(Comparable[] a, int k, int n)
{ /* as before */ }
```

← but make static (and pass arguments)

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

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

← but convert from 1-based indexing to 0-base indexing



# Heapsort: trace

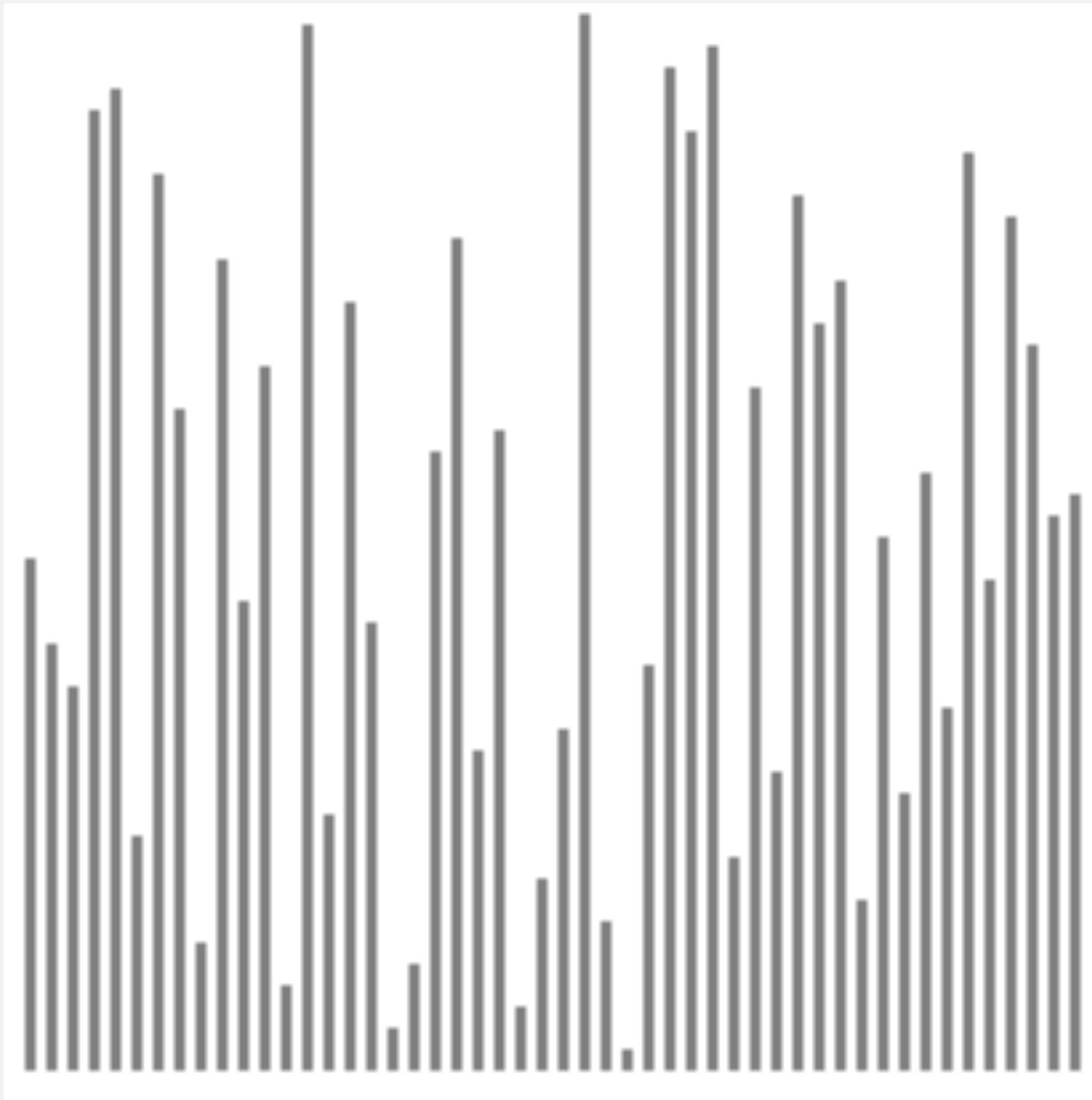
		a[i]											
N	k	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>initial values</i>		S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E	
11	5	S	O	R	T	L	X	A	M	P	E	E	
11	4	S	O	R	T	L	X	A	M	P	E	E	
11	3	S	O	X	T	L	R	A	M	P	E	E	
11	2	S	T	X	P	L	R	A	M	O	E	E	
11	1	X	T	S	P	L	R	A	M	O	E	E	
<i>heap-ordered</i>		X	T	S	P	L	R	A	M	O	E	E	
10	1	T	P	S	O	L	R	A	M	E	E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

# Heapsort animation

---

50 random items



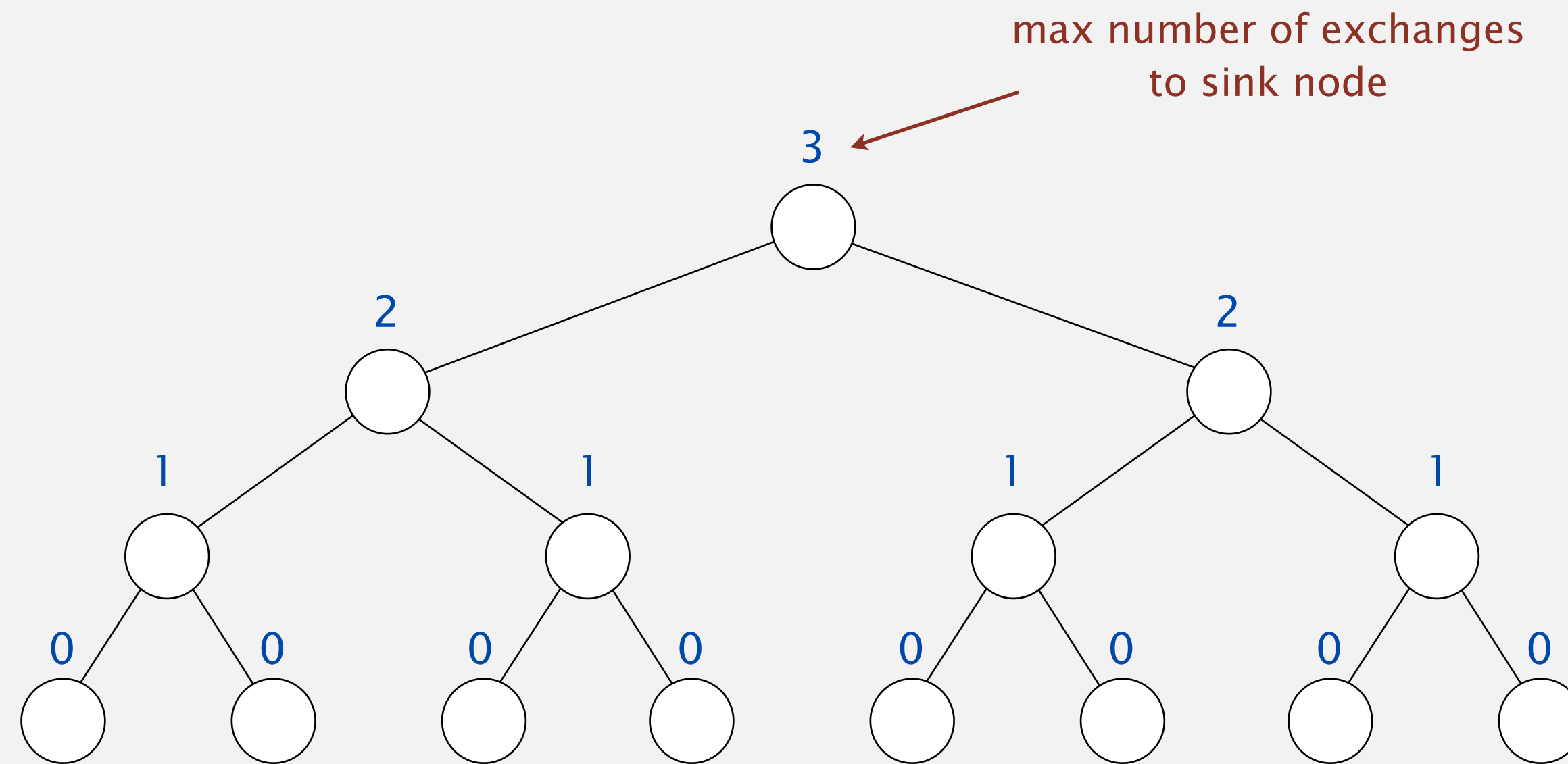
<https://www.toptal.com/developers/sorting-algorithms/heap-sort>

- ▲ algorithm position
- █ in order
- ▬ not in order

# Heapsort: mathematical analysis

**Proposition.** Heap construction makes  $\leq n$  exchanges and  $\leq 2n$  compares.

**Pf sketch.** [assume  $n = 2^{h+1} - 1$ ]



binary heap of height  $h = 3$

$$\begin{aligned}
 h + 2(h - 1) + 4(h - 2) + 8(h - 3) + \dots + 2^h(0) &= 2^{h+1} - h - 2 \\
 &= n - (h - 1) \\
 &\leq n
 \end{aligned}$$

a tricky sum  
(see COS 340)

# Heapsort: mathematical analysis

---

**Proposition.** Heap construction makes  $\leq n$  exchanges and  $\leq 2n$  compares.

**Proposition.** Heapsort makes  $\leq 2n \log_2 n$  compares and exchanges.

↖  
algorithm can be improved to  $\sim n \log_2 n$   
(but no such variant is known to be practical)

**Significance.** In-place sorting algorithm with  $\Theta(n \log n)$  worst-case.

- Mergesort: no,  $\Theta(n)$  extra space. ← in-place merge possible, not practical
- Quicksort: no,  $\Theta(n^2)$  time in worst case. ←  $\Theta(n \log n)$  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.
- Not stable.

↖  
can be improved using  
advanced caching tricks

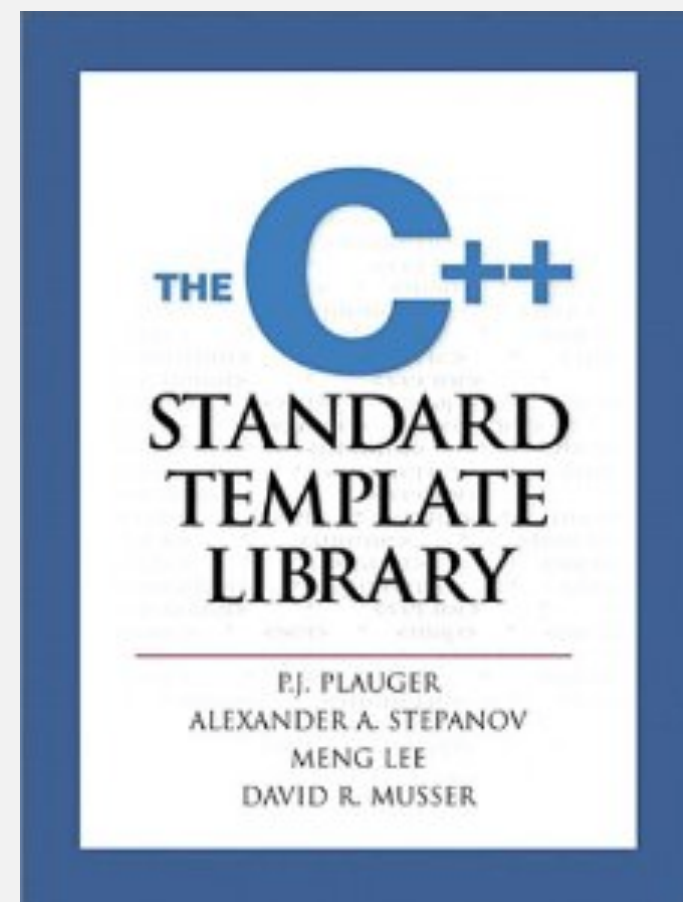
# Introsort

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**Goal.** As fast as quicksort in practice;  $\Theta(n \log n)$  worst case; in place.

## Introsort.

- Run quicksort.
- Cutoff to heapsort if stack depth exceeds  $2 \log_2 n$ .
- Cutoff to insertion sort for  $n = 16$ .



## Introspective Sorting and Selection Algorithms

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### Abstract

Quicksort is the preferred in-place sorting algorithm in many contexts, since its average computing time on uniformly distributed inputs is  $\Theta(N \log N)$  and it is in fact faster than most other sorting algorithms on most inputs. Its drawback is that its worst-case time bound is  $\Theta(N^2)$ . Previous attempts to protect against the worst case by improving the way quicksort chooses pivot elements for partitioning have increased the average computing time too much—one might as well use heapsort, which has a  $\Theta(N \log N)$  worst-case time bound but is on the average 2 to 5 times slower than quicksort. A similar dilemma exists with selection algorithms (for finding the  $i$ -th largest element) based on partitioning. This paper describes a simple solution to this dilemma: limit the depth of partitioning, and for subproblems that exceed the limit switch to another algorithm with a better worst-case bound. Using heapsort as the “stopper” yields a sorting algorithm that is just as fast as quicksort in the average case but also has an  $\Theta(N \log N)$  worst case time bound. For selection, a hybrid of Hoare’s FIND algorithm, which is linear on average but quadratic in the worst case, and the Blum-Floyd-Pratt-Rivest-Tarjan algorithm is as fast as Hoare’s algorithm in practice, yet has a linear worst-case time bound. Also discussed are issues of implementing the new algorithms as generic algorithms and accurately measuring their performance in the framework of the C++ Standard Template Library.

**In the wild.** C++ STL, Microsoft .NET Framework.

# Sorting algorithms: summary

	inplace?	stable?	best	average	worst	remarks
selection	✓		$\frac{1}{2} n^2$	$\frac{1}{2} n^2$	$\frac{1}{2} n^2$	$n$ exchanges
insertion	✓	✓	$n$	$\frac{1}{4} n^2$	$\frac{1}{2} n^2$	use for small $n$ or partially ordered
merge		✓	$\frac{1}{2} n \log_2 n$	$n \log_2 n$	$n \log_2 n$	$\Theta(n \log n)$ guarantee; stable
timsort		✓	$n$	$n \log_2 n$	$n \log_2 n$	improves mergesort when pre-existing order
quick	✓		$n \log_2 n$	$2 n \ln n$	$\frac{1}{2} n^2$	$\Theta(n \log n)$ probabilistic guarantee; fastest in practice
3-way quick	✓		$n$	$2 n \ln n$	$\frac{1}{2} n^2$	improves quicksort when duplicate keys
heap	✓		$3 n$	$2 n \log_2 n$	$2 n \log_2 n$	$\Theta(n \log n)$ guarantee; in-place
?	✓	✓	$n$	$n \log_2 n$	$n \log_2 n$	holy sorting grail

number of compares to sort an array of  $n$  elements



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