

Priority Queues and Huffman Encoding

Introduction to Homework 8

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I Think You Have Some Priority Issues

ER Scheduling. How do we *efficiently* chose the most urgent case to treat next? Patients with more serious ailments should go first.

OS Context Switching. How does your operating system decide which process to give resources to? Some applications are more important than others.

How can we solve these problems with the data structures we know?

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Possible Solution

- Elements sorted in LinkedIntList with min in front.
- Implement addWithPriority that adds given value to the list in the right place
 - Assume list is already sorted by priority

```
public class LinkedIntList {
    private ListNode front;

private static class ListNode {
    public final int data;
    public ListNode next;

    public ListNode(int data, ListNode next) {
        this.data = data;
        this.next = next;
    }
}
```

Possible Solution

- Elements sorted in LinkedIntList with min in front.
- Implement addWithPriority that adds given value to the list in the right place
 - Assume list is already sorted by priority

Priority Queue

Priority Queue

A collection of ordered elements that provides fast access to the minimum (or maximum) element.

public class PriorityQueue<E> implements Queue<E>

PriorityQueue <e>()</e>	constructs an empty queue			
add(E value)	adds value in sorted order to the queue			
peek()	returns minimum element in queue			
remove()	removes/returns minimum element in queue			
size()	returns the number of elements in queue			

```
PriorityQueue<String> tas = new PriorityQueue<String>();
tas.add("Sarah");
tas.add("Halden");
tas.remove(); // "Halden"
```

Priority Queue Example

What does this code print?

```
PriorityQueue<TA> tas = new PriorityQueue<TA>();
tas.add(new TA("Natalie", 7));
tas.add(new TA("Aaron", 3));
tas.add(new TA("Irving", 6));
System.out.println(tas);
```

Prints: [Aaron: 3, Natalie: 7, Irving: 6]

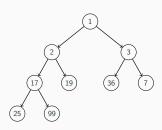
Common Gotchas

- Elements must be Comparable.
- toString doesn't do what you expect! Use remove instead.

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Inside the Priority Queue

- \bullet Usually implemented with a \boldsymbol{heap}
- Guarantees children have a lower priority than the parent so the highest priority is at the root (fast access).
- Take CSE 332 or CSE 373 to learn about how to implement more complicated data structures like heaps!



Homework 8: Huffman Coding

File Compression

Compression

Process of encoding information so that it takes up less space.

Compression applies to many things!

- Store photos without taking up the whole hard-drive
- Reduce size of email attachment
- Make web pages smaller so they load faster
- Make voice calls over a low-bandwidth connection (cell, Skype)

Common compression programs:

- WinZip, WinRar for Windows
- zip



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ASCII

ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange)

Standardized code for mapping characters to integers

We need to represent characters in binary so computers can read them.

• Most text files on your computer are in ASCII.

Every character is represented by a byte (8 bits).

Character	ASCII value	Binary Representation				
. ,	32	00100000				
'a'	97	01100001				
'b'	98	01100010				
'c'	99	01100011				
'e'	101	01100101				
ʻz' 122		01111010				

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ASCII Example

Character	ASCII value	Binary Representation					
4-1	32	00100000					
'a'	97	01100001					
'b'	98	01100010					
'c'	99	01100011					
'e'	101	01100101					
ʻz'	122	01111010					

What is the binary representation of the following String? cab \boldsymbol{z}

Answer

01100011 01100001 01100010 00100000 01111010

Another ASCII Example

Character	ASCII value	Binary Representation				
4 7	32	00100000				
'a'	97	01100001				
ʻb'	98	01100010				
'c'	99	01100011				
'e'	101	01100101				
'z'	122	01111010				

How do we read the following binary as ASCII?

01100001 01100011 01100101

Answer

ace

.

Huffman Idea

Huffman's Insight

Use variable length encodings for different characters to take advantage of frequencies in which characters appear.

- Make more frequent characters take up less space.
- Don't have codes for unused characters.
- Some characters may end up with longer encodings, but this should happen infrequently.

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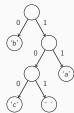
Huffman Encoding

- Create a "Huffman Tree" that gives a good binary representation for each character.
- The path from the root to the character leaf is the encoding for that character; left means 0, right means 1.

ASCII Table

Character	Binary Representation				
4-1	00100000				
'a'	01100001				
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'c'	01100011				
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ʻz'	01111010				

Huffman Tree



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Homework 8: Huffman Coding

Homework 8 asks you to write a class that manages creating and using this Huffman code.

- (A) Create a Huffman Code from a file and compress it.
- (B) Decompress the file to get original contents.

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Part A: Making a HuffmanCode Overview

Input File Contents

bad cab

Step 1: Count the occurrences of each character in file

Step 2: Make leaf nodes for all the characters put them in a PriorityQueue

Step 5: Compress the input file using the encodings
Compressed Output: 1001001101110110

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Step 1: Count Character Occurrences

We do this step for you

Input File

bad cab

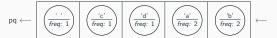
Generate Counts Array:

index	0	1	32		97	98	99	100	101
value	0	0		1	 2	2	1	1	0

This is super similar to LetterInventory but works for all characters!

Step 2: Create PriorityQueue

- Store each character and its frequency in a HuffmanNode object.
- Place all the HuffmanNodes in a PriorityQueue so that they are in ascending order with respect to frequency



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