

CSE 332 Winter 2026

Lecture 4: Algorithm Analysis and Priority Queues

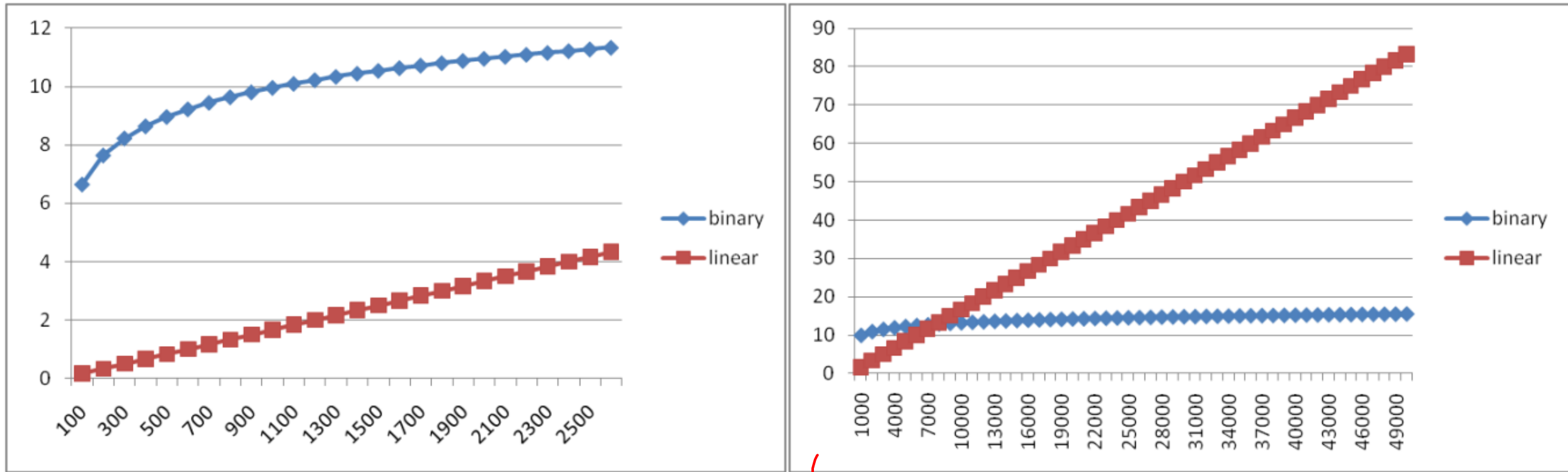
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Goals for Algorithm Analysis

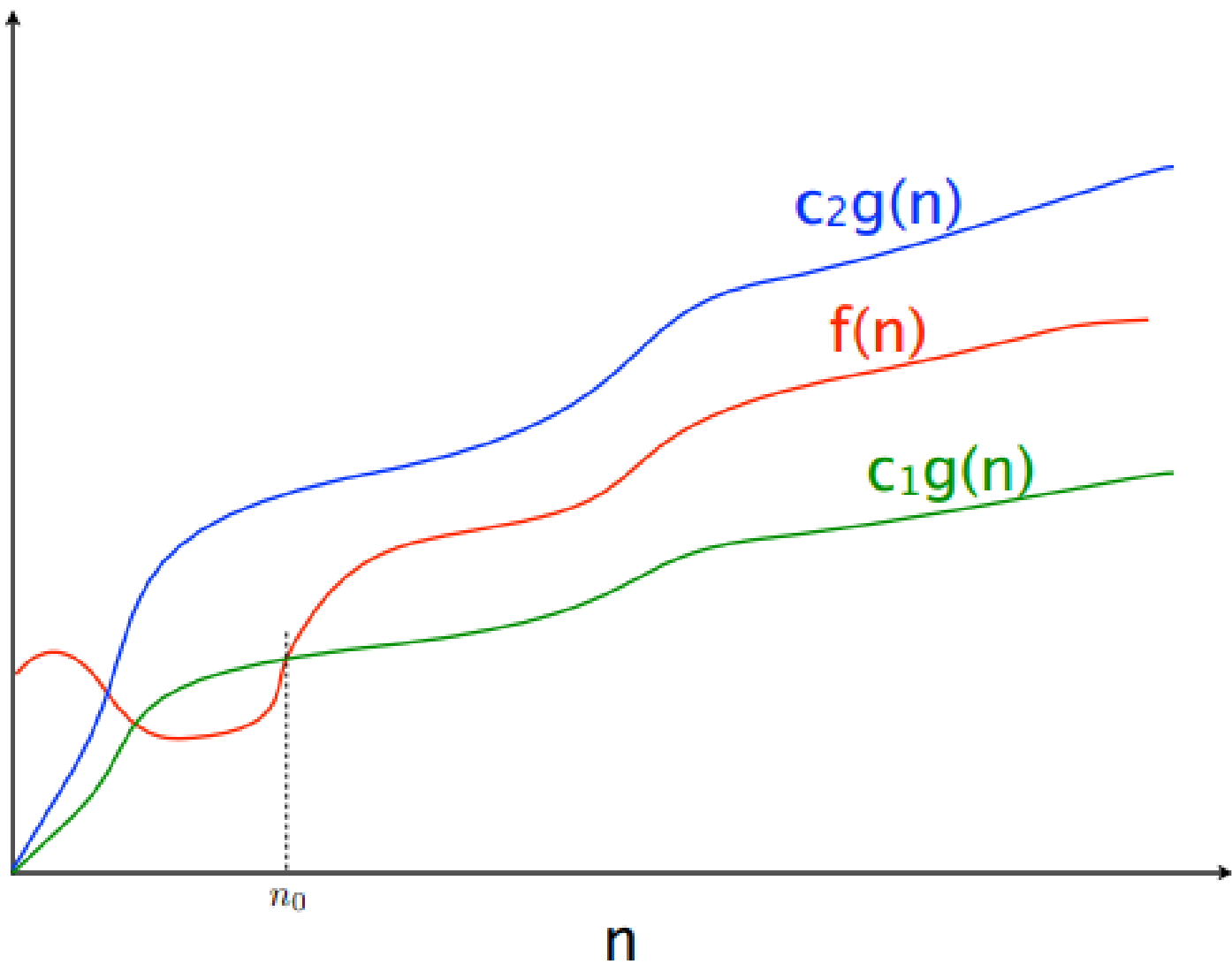
- Identify a *function* which maps the algorithm's input size to a measure of resources used
 - Domain of the function: **sizes** of the input
 - Number of characters in a string, number of items in a list, number of pixels in an image
 - Codomain of the function: **counts** of resources used
 - Number of times the algorithm adds two numbers together, number times the algorithm does a $>$ or $<$ comparison, maximum number of bytes of memory the algorithm uses at any time
- Important note: Make sure you know the “units” of your domain and codomain!
 - Domain = inputs to the function
 - Codomain = outputs to the function

Comparing



Comparing Running Times

- Suppose I have these algorithms, all of which have the same input/output behavior:
 - Algorithm A's worst case running time is $10n + 900$
 - Algorithm B's worst case running time is $100n - 50$
 - Algorithm C's worst case running time is $\frac{n^2}{100}$
- Which algorithm is best?



$f(n) = O(g(n))$

$f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$

$f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$

Asymptotic Notation

1.5
2

- $O(g(n))$
 - The **set of functions** with asymptotic behavior less than or equal to $g(n)$
 - **Upper-bounded** by a constant times g for large enough values n
 - $f \in O(g(n)) \equiv \exists c > 0. \exists n_0 > 0. \forall n \geq n_0. f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$
- $\Omega(g(n))$
 - the **set of functions** with asymptotic behavior greater than or equal to $g(n)$
 - **Lower-bounded** by a constant times g for large enough values n
 - $f \in \Omega(g(n)) \equiv \exists c > 0. \exists n_0 > 0. \forall n \geq n_0. f(n) \geq c \cdot g(n)$
- $\Theta(g(n))$
 - **"Tightly"** within constant of g for large n
 - $\Omega(g(n)) \cap O(g(n))$

Asymptotic Notation Example

- Show: $10n + 100 \in O(n^2)$
 - **Technique:** find values $c > 0$ and $n_0 > 0$ such that $\forall n > n_0. 10n + 100 \leq c \cdot n^2$
 - **Scratch work:**
 - $10n + 100 \leq cn^2$
 - $10n + 100 \leq 10n + 100n \leq cn^2$
 - $110n \leq cn^2$ true when $c \geq 110$
 - $c = 110, n_0 = 1$
 - Let $c = 110, n_0 = 1$, we need to show that $\forall n > n_0. 10n + 100 \leq c \cdot n^2$
 - $10n + 100 \leq 110n^2$
 - When $n > n_0$ we have that $100n \geq 100$
 - So suffices to show $110n \leq 110n^2$ which is equivalent to $110 \leq 110n$, which is true for all $n \geq n_0$

Asymptotic Notation Example

- Show: $10n + 100 \in O(n^2)$
 - **Technique:** find values $c > 0$ and $n_0 > 0$ such that $\forall n \geq n_0. 10n + 100 \leq c \cdot n^2$
 - **Proof:**

Asymptotic Notation Example

- Show: $13n^2 - 50n \in \Omega(n^2)$
 - **Technique:** find values $c > 0$ and $n_0 > 0$ such that $\forall n \geq n_0. 13n^2 - 50n \geq c \cdot n^2$
 - **Scratch work:**
 - $13n^2 - 50n \geq cn^2$
 - $13n - 50 \geq 13n - n$ but we need $n \geq 50$
 - We need $12n \geq cn$
 - We just need $c \leq 12$
 - $c = 12, n_0 = 50$

Asymptotic Notation Example

- Show: $13n^2 - 50n \in \Omega(n^2)$
 - **Technique:** find values $c > 0$ and $n_0 > 0$ such that $\forall n \geq n_0. 13n^2 - 50n \geq c \cdot n^2$
 - **Proof:**

Asymptotic Notation Example

- Show: $n^2 \notin O(n)$
 - We need to show there cannot exist a c and n_0 pair
 - For any choice of c , there's some value of $n \geq n_0$ that breaks the inequality
 - For any choice of n_0 , it's impossible to pick a value of c
 - Suppose (toward contradiction) that we do have a choice of c such that $n^2 \leq cn$
 - Goal: no choice of n_0 works
 - We can find a large choice of n to break the inequality
 - $n^2 \leq cn \equiv n \leq c$
 - The inequality is false for every $n > c$.
 - Contradiction!

Asymptotic Notation Example

Proof by
Contradiction!

- To Show: $n^2 \notin O(n)$
 - **Technique: Contradiction**
 - **Proof:** Assume $n^2 \in O(n)$. Then $\exists c, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $\forall n > n_0, n^2 \leq cn$
Let us derive constant c . For all $n > n_0 > 0$, we know:
 $cn \geq n^2,$
 $c \geq n.$

Since c is lower bounded by n , c cannot be a constant and make this True.

Contradiction. Therefore $n^2 \notin O(n)$.

Gaining Intuition

$$\begin{cases} \log(2^n) = n \cdot c \\ \log(3^n) = n \cdot c' \end{cases}$$

- When doing asymptotic analysis of functions:
 - If multiple expressions are added together, ignore all but the “biggest”
 - If $f(n)$ grows asymptotically faster than $g(n)$, then $f(n) + g(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$
 - Ignore all multiplicative constants
 - $f(n) + c \in \Theta(f(n))$ for any constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$
 - Ignore bases of logarithms
 - Do NOT ignore:
 - Non-multiplicative and non-additive constants (e.g. in exponents, bases of exponents)
 - Logarithms themselves
- Examples:
 - $4n + 5$
 - $0.5n \log n + 2n + 7$
 - $n^3 + 2^n + 3n$
 - $n \log(10n^2)$

$$O(\log n)$$

$$\begin{matrix} n^2 & 2^n \\ n^3 & 3^n \end{matrix}$$

More Examples

- Is each of the following True or False?
 - $4 + 3n \in O(n)$
 - $n + 2 \log n \in O(\log n)$
 - $\log n + 2 \in O(1)$
 - $n^{50} \in O(1.1^n)$
 - $3^n \in \Theta(2^n)$

Common Categories

- $O(1)$ “constant”
- $O(\log n)$ “logarithmic”
- $O(n)$ “linear”
- $O(n \log n)$ “log-linear”
- $O(n^2)$ “quadratic”
- $O(n^3)$ “cubic”
- $O(n^k)$ “polynomial”
- $O(k^n)$ “exponential”

ADT: Queue

- What is it?
 - A “First In First Out” (FIFO) collection of items
- What Operations do we need?
 - Enqueue
 - Add a new item to the queue
 - Dequeue
 - Remove the “oldest” item from the queue
 - Is_empty
 - Indicate whether or not there are items still on the queue

ADT: Priority Queue

- What is it?
 - A collection of items and their “priorities”
 - Allows quick access/removal to the “top priority” thing
- What Operations do we need?
 - insert(item, priority)
 - Add a new item to the PQ with indicated priority
 - Usually, smaller priority value means more important
 - extract
 - Remove and return the “top priority” item from the queue
 - Is_empty
 - Indicate whether or not there are items still on the queue
- Note: the “priority” value can be any type/class so long as it’s comparable (i.e. you can use “<” or “compareTo” with it)

Priority Queue, example

```
PriorityQueue PQ = new PriorityQueue();
```

```
PQ.insert(5,5)
```

```
PQ.insert(6,6)
```

```
PQ.insert(1,1)
```

```
PQ.insert(3,3)
```

```
PQ.insert(8,8)
```

```
Print(PQ.extract) // 1
```

```
Print(PQ. extract) // 3
```

```
Print(PQ. extract) // 5
```

```
Print(PQ. extract) // 6
```

```
Print(PQ. extract) // 8
```

Priority Queue, example

```
PriorityQueue PQ = new PriorityQueue();
```

```
PQ.insert(5,5) // 5
```

```
PQ.insert(6,6) // 6
```

```
PQ.insert(1,1) // 1
```

```
Print(PQ.deleteMin) // 1
```

```
PQ.insert(3,3) // 3, 5, 6
```

```
Print(PQ.deleteMin) // 3
```

```
Print(PQ.deleteMin) // 5
```

```
PQ.insert(8,8)
```

```
Print(PQ.deleteMin) 6
```

```
Print(PQ.deleteMin)
```

Applications?

Thinking through implementations

Data Structure	Worst case time to insert	Worst case time to extract
Unsorted Array		
Unsorted Linked List		
Sorted Array		
Sorted Linked List		
Binary Search Tree		

For simplicity, Assume we know the maximum size of the PQ in advance (otherwise we'd do an amortized analysis, but get the same answers...)

Thinking through implementations

Data Structure	Worst case time to insert	Worst case time to extract
Unsorted Array	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(n)$
Unsorted Linked List	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(n)$
Sorted Array	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(1)$
Sorted Linked List	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(1)$
Binary Search Tree	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(n)$

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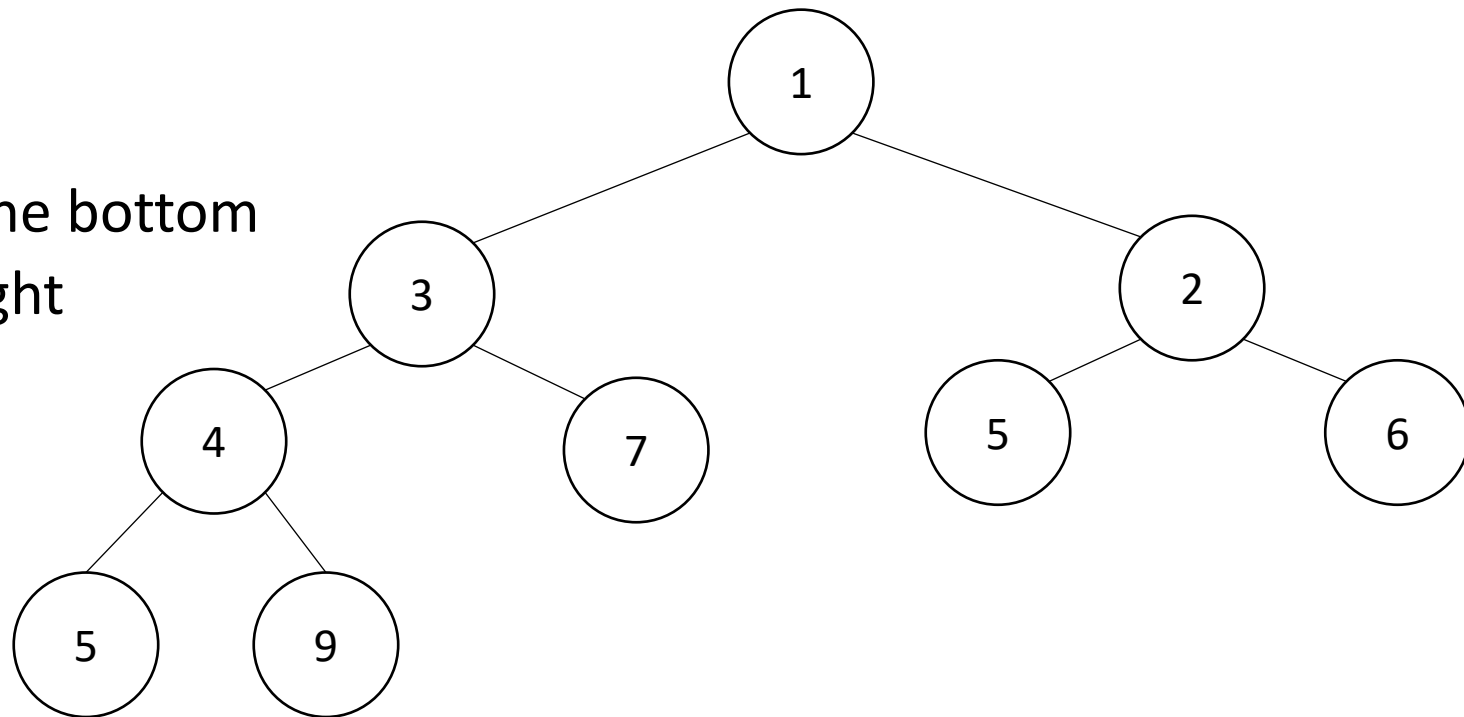
Thinking through implementations

Data Structure	Worst case time to insert	Worst case time to extract
Unsorted Array	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(n)$
Unsorted Linked List	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(n)$
Sorted Array	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(1)$
Sorted Linked List	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(1)$
Binary Search Tree	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(n)$
Binary Heap	$\Theta(\log n)$	$\Theta(\log n)$

For simplicity, Assume we know the maximum size of the PQ in advance (otherwise we'd do an amortized analysis, but get the same answers...)

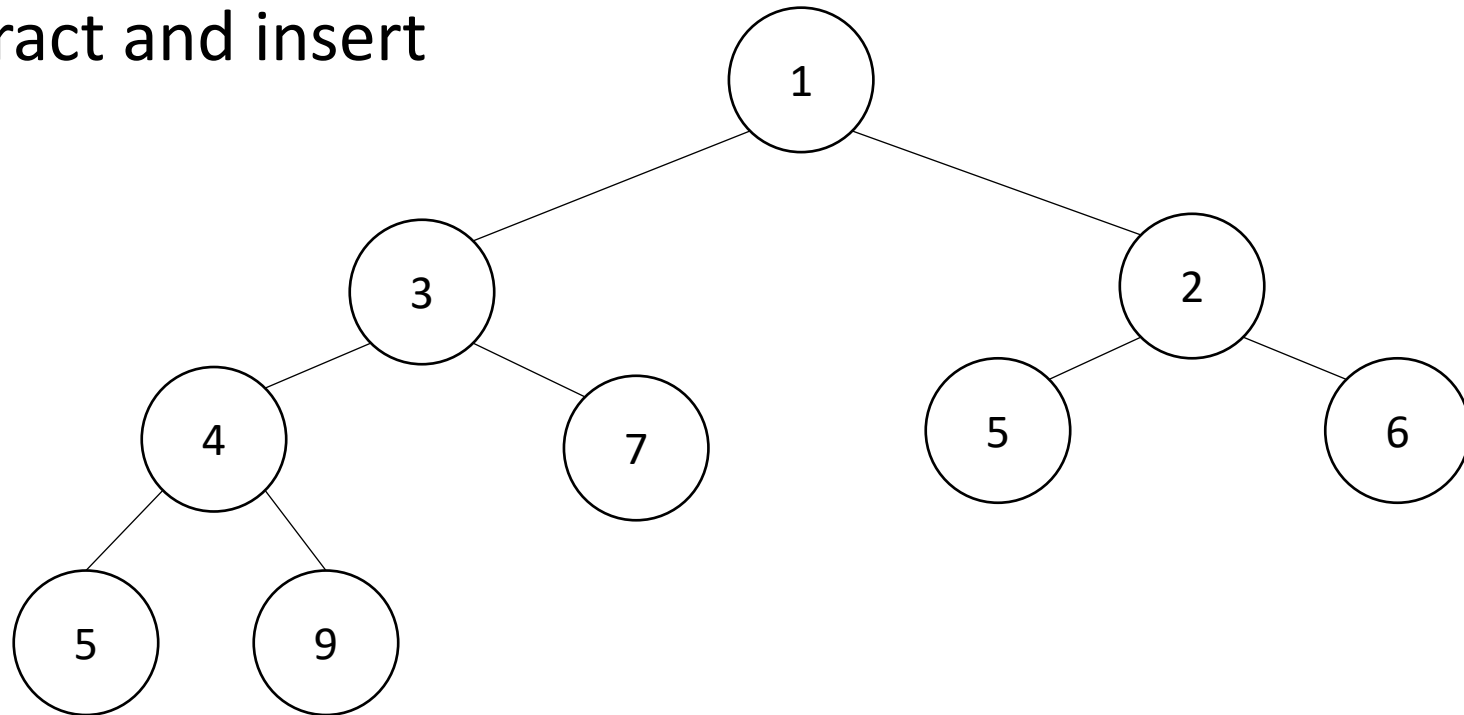
Trees for Heaps

- Binary Trees:
 - The branching factor is 2
 - Every node has ≤ 2 children
- Complete Tree:
 - All “layers” are full, except the bottom
 - Bottom layer filled left-to-right



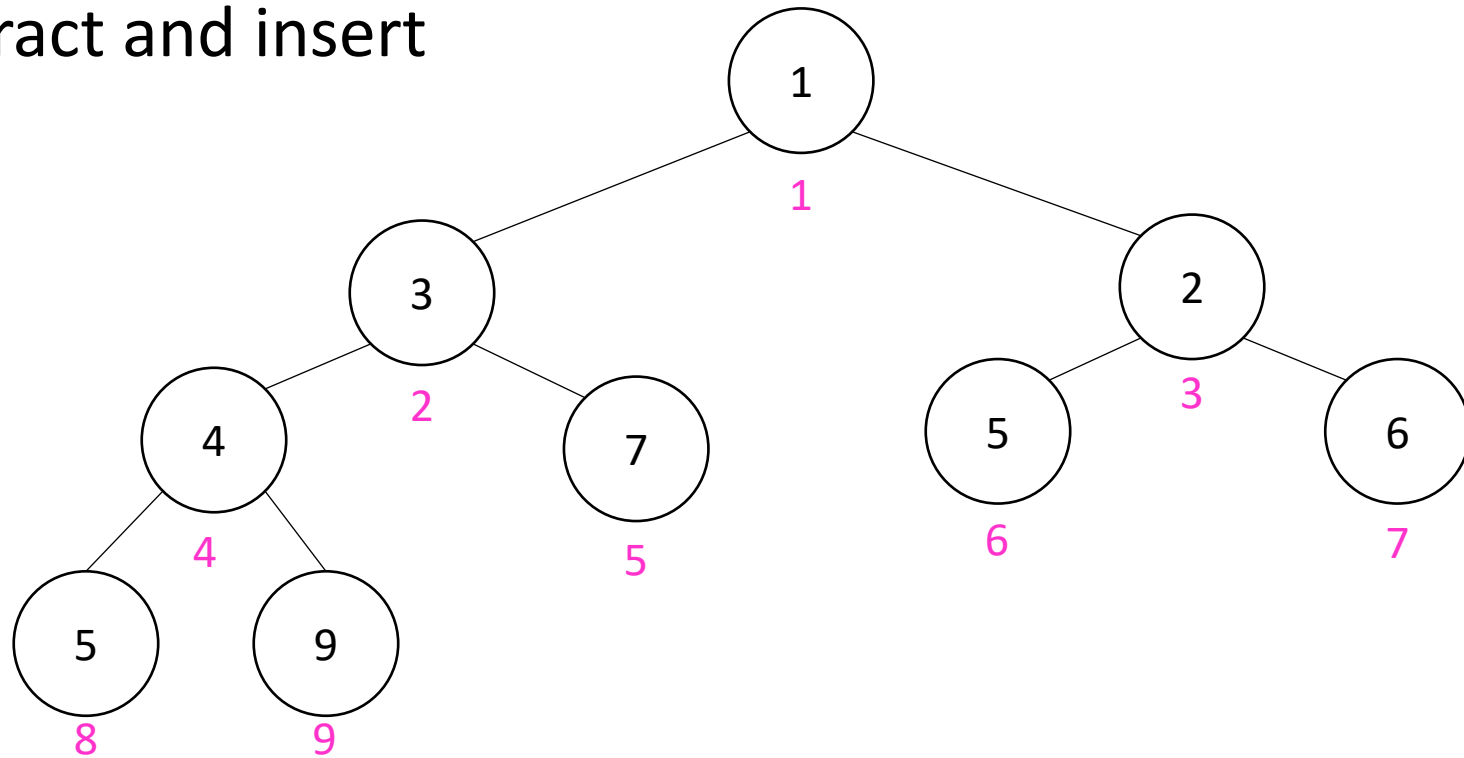
Heap – Priority Queue Data Structure

- Idea: We need to keep some ordering, but it doesn't need to be entirely sorted
- $\Theta(\log n)$ worst case for extract and insert



Heap – Priority Queue Data Structure

- Idea: We need to keep some ordering, but it doesn't need to be entirely sorted
- $\Theta(\log n)$ worst case for extract and insert



Challenge!

- What is the maximum number of total nodes in a binary tree of height h ?
 - $2^{h+1} - 1$
 - $\Theta(2^h)$
- If I have n nodes in a binary tree, what is its minimum height?
 - $\Theta(\log n)$
- **Heap Idea:**
 - If n values are inserted into a complete tree, the height will be roughly $\log n$
 - Ensure each insert and extract requires just one “trip” from root to leaf

(Min) Heap Data Structure

- Keep items in a complete binary tree
- Maintain the “(Min) Heap Property” of the tree
 - Every node's priority is \leq its children's priority
 - Max Heap Property: every node's priority is \geq its children
- Where is the min?
- How do I insert?
- How do I extract?
- How to do it in Java?

