



# Let's take a second...

•Congrats, you're past the halfway point in the quarter!

 Take a second to pat yourself on the back. This is hard stuff, and you're doing great ☺

Stack Efron, CS106B alum, congratulating on a job well done so far!

### The Breakdown:

- Warmups Two exercises in which you learn more helpful tips about using the debugger. We highly recommend paying close attention to these in the handout, because debugging the PQ assignment is historically quite difficult – these were designed to help!
- 2. Part 1: PQ Sorted Array Implement enqueue() in a self-sorting priority queue!
- 3. Part 2: Streaming Top-K Using a priorityqueue, what kinds of powerful things can you do?
- 4. Part 3: Heap PQ Implement a **priorityqueue** using a binary min-heap!

### Warmup Debrief

In this week's warmups, you'll first examine a bouncing balls program to learn about debugging objects. You'll also learn how to set conditional breakpoints, breakpoints that only trigger when the program is at a pre-defined state.



### Warmup Debrief

- In the second half of the warmups, you'll work with debugging arrays in c++.
- As you can see, you'll be using a new data structure called a
   DataPoint. It's pretty simple – you can see its contents to the right!

}

•The above code is buggy, and you'll need to step through it in the debugger in order to expose its **memory errors!** 

```
PROVIDED_TEST("Test valid use of array, allocate/access/deallocate") {
    DataPoint* shoppingList = new DataPoint[6]; // allocate
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
    shoppingList[i].name = "eggs"; // set struct field by field
    shoppingList[i].priority = 10 + i;
}
shoppingList[0].priority += 5;
delete[] shoppingList; // deallocate</pre>
```

```
struct DataPoint {
    string name;
    int priority;
}
```

# What's a priority queue?

 A priority queue, or a pq as lazy computer scientists like to say, is a queue-like data structure (think enqueue() and dequeue()), but it has a cool extra feature!

- All elements in a pq are assigned a priority upon enqueue(), and that priority determines the order that they will be dequeue()'d in!
- For this assignment, your **pq** will store **DataPoint**'s, which have an internal priority value!
- A pq can either prioritize high priorities or low priorities, meaning that the element dequeue()'d will always be the one with the highest or lowest priority.
  - We'll be very clear about which magnitude we care about each time ☺.



A "max" priotiy queue. Notice how the structure doesn't have to be sorted, so long as the "highest priority element" is always next to be dequeue()'d

•For this first part, we're giving you **almost fully implemented priority queue** .h and .cpp files!

- •The data structure that stores the pq is **an array of elements**, much like you've seen in lecture and section examples!
  - In this particular array, all elements are sorted from high to low priorities (front to back), and the smallest value priority element will be dequeue()'d first!
  - That makes this pq a **min** priority queue!

•How does this queue work?

PQ.enqueue(10);

Disclaimer: to simplify things, I'll represent **DataPoints** simply as their **priorities** 







### PQ.enqueue(7);







### PQ.enqueue(5);







### PQ.dequeue();



PQ.dequeue();



### PQ.dequeue();



### PQ.enqueue(20);













•In this part of the assignment, you'll be asked to implement a single method in the pqsortedarray.cpp file: the enqueue(DataPoint element) method!

- •The rest of the pqsortedarray.cpp pqsortedarray.h are completed for you!
- •You are responsible for **inserting** the provided element in the correct place in the array to preserve the sorted order.
  - If you are not appending to the end of the array, you will have to **shift** the contents of the array over in order to accommodate this new element.
  - If you attempt the enqueue() an element when the array is full, you are responsible for resizing the array. We recommend doubling the current capacity.

 Because verifying the internal state of your array can be tricky, we've also written you a function header called validateInternalState() that you can call after your shiny new enqueue() method.

- This function can traverse your array to verify that it's in sorted order after you enqueue a DataPoint.
- We **strongly** recommend that you implement this helper method it'll make your debugging life a lot easier!

Helpful hints:

- •You might want to make the resize() method a private helper method it makes for a cleaner implementation.
- •Apart from enqueue() and validateInternalState(), **you may not** modify any other functions. Adding helpers is okay, though!
- •Not sure how to resize an array? Take a look at Section 5's RBQueue example!
- •Debugging this one can be tricky, because there can be subtle edge cases. To expose these bugs, **stepping through with the debugger** and **using validateInternalState()** will be helpful!

### **Questions about Part 1?**



THE AUTHOR OF THE WINDOWS FILE COPY DIALOG VISITS SOME FRIENDS.

This xkcd isn't actually relevant to the material, but as a proud Windows user, this hits a little too close to home.

- •In this part of the assignment, you will be a **client**, or a user, of the pq class.
- •With a pq, you can do some really powerful things! The code to the right sorts a vector using just **enqueue!** and **dequeue()!** Take a second to see why this works.
- •You'll make a big-O guess about this sorting algorithm and then time it to verify your prediction!
- Follow up question: Would this still work if your priority queue was <u>not</u> backed by a <u>sorted</u> array?

```
void pqSort(Vector<DataPoint>& v) {
    PQSortedArray pq;
    /* Add all the elements to the priority queue. */
    for (int i = 0; i < v.size(); i++) {</pre>
        pq.enqueue(v[i]);
    }
    /* Extract all the elements from the priority queue. Due
     * to the priority queue property, we know that we will get
     * these elements in sorted order, in order of increasing priority
     * value.
     */
    for (int i = 0; i < v.size(); i++) {</pre>
        v[i] = pq.dequeue();
```

•For the next step, you'll be implementing the function Vector<DataPoint> topK(istream& stream, int k);

- An istream is a special abstraction that acts like a massive data structure. Streams allow you to move around massive amounts of memory because they don't need to hold the data in your computer's memory all at once – as you read data from the stream, the stream can read more data from its source – a file on disk for example!
  - You won't need to worry about the inner-workings of streams in this class, but it's important to know that **streams** can store huge amounts of data.
- In the above function, your job is harness the power of the PQ in order to return a Vector<DataPoint> of the k highest-priority points in the stream.
- You must do so in O(k) space, meaning you can only store k elements in your priority queue at any given time.

•You will need to return the *k* largest elements in a Vector<DataPoint> sorted in **largest to smallest** order.

- Note that it's very easy to get this backwards! pq.dequeue() returns the SMALLEST element in the queue, which should go at the END of the vector.
- The vector .reverse() method might be helpful here 😊

Tips / Tricks

- Here's how you can loop through every DataPoint in the stream ->
- Because you can only store k elements at a time, how can you use the priority queue to your advantage?
  - When your pq has k elements in it, what's special about the element returned by pq.peek()?

```
DataPoint point;
while (stream >> point) {
    /* do something with point */
}
```

### **Questions about Top-K?**



streaming Netflix

streaming Top-K

•In this final part, you'll be implementing a full priority queue using a binary min heap!

- In this case, we mean that the "most prioritized" element is the element with the smallest value.
  - Just like on the sorted array part!
- In order to keep that property in your queue, you will be using a min heap like you've seen in lecture!
- •The lecture from 7/21 is an excellent source for all you'll need to know about how to implement one of these heaps!
- •Moreover, the non heap-related code you have may end up looking quite a bit like the code already written for you in PQSortedArray!
- •Let's go over a few key points

•Let's talk about enqueue()!

• To enqueue an element, first add it to the end of your pqueue!

#### pq.enqueue(3);

-2	5	7	10	
0	1	2	3	4

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#### •Let's talk about enqueue()!

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- Next, bubble the element up (if a parent exists!) Compare it with its parent at index (i-1)/2. Swap if your element **is less than** its parent!

#### bubbleUp()



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bubbleUp()		index is now 1!			
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- Repeat this process until either your parent is smaller than you, or you're at the top of the heap!



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•Let's talk about dequeue()!

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•Let's talk about dequeue()!



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•Let's talk about dequeue()!



- To start, swap your first and last elements and reduce your size by 1 (you could also just overwrite root!)
- Next, you want to bubble down the root element to its correct place. Compare it with its children, who live at indices (2 \* i + 1) and (2 \* i + 2), and swap your element with the smaller of the children.



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Disclaimer: I'm just using 'i' to represent the index of the element we're bubbling down; it has nothing to do with for loops ③

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Our friend the face is back!

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- Repeat this process until you are smaller than **both** of your children, or you have no more children left!



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- Repeat this process until you are smaller than **both** of your children, or you have no more children left!



Helpful hints:

- •I recommend writing a **swap**() method and **bubbleUp()** and **bubbleDown()** methods.
- •dequeue() is a little more heap-y than enqueue(), so I'd recommend doing enqueue() first to get your feet wet!
- •Don't worry too much about ties swapping identical elements effectively does nothing.
- •The debugger and validateInternalState() can be life-savers here!
- •Notice that validateInternalState() might be trickier to write here you now have to verify that your state is a correct heap state, not a sorted array state...

One particular edge case I want to point out:

- •In dequeue(), be cognizant of the fact that it's possible to only have one child within the bounds of the array!
  - In this case, the second child should be ignored. If you don't check for this, your bubble down will read in a potentially bogus value that can cause wacky behavior in your program.

### **Questions about Part 3?**

