

# CSC207.01 2014S, Class 35: Priority Queues and their Basic Implementation

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## Overview

- Preliminaries.
  - Admin.
  - Questions.
  - HW6.
- A few notes on priorities.
- Lab.

## Preliminaries

### Upcoming work.

- No writeup today!
- No reading for Friday.
- Exam due Friday!

## Admin

- Pop Tarts!
- Consider running for the SEPC.
- Extra credit:
  - Convocation, today, noon: Elizabeth Kolbert (the Sixth Extinction)
  - Technology in the liberal arts symposium on Thursday.
  - CS table Friday: The Performance Contract, which is *highly relevant to this class*.
  - Dance in Chicago this weekend.

## Questions on the exam

*What do you mean by "You can treat the height of the skip list as constant"*

If your algorithm is  $O(\text{height})$ , it's  $O(1)$ . (If you think carefully, height is about  $\log_2(n)$ .)

*How do we call the order comparator in problem 1?*

```
int order = order.compare(val1, val2); if (order < 0) { // Code for "val1 precedes val2" } // (order < 0) else
if (order == 0) { // Code for "the values are the same" } // (order == 0) else // (order > 0) { // Code for
"val1 follows val2" } // (order > 0)
```

*How do we get the last problem to work if we adding/removing elements cause iterators to fail?*

Use `set` rather than `add` or `remove`.

## A Summary of HW6

Implement queues with arrays, with wrapping.

Implement the "pretty output" parenthesis matching algorithm.

Implement an RPN calculator.

- Reverse of Scheme. Operands appear before the operations
  - To add 3 4, "3 4 +"
- Why?
  - Complete unambiguous; no order of operations
  - Incredibly easy to implement with stacks

## A few notes on priorities

- For priority queues, we use comparators to determine what the highest priority element is.
- Hidden assumption that we almost never write as a precondition
  - Transitivity: if  $a < b$  and  $b < c$  then  $a < c$
  - Reflexivity: if  $a < b$  then  $b > a$
  - Complete: Any two elements are comparable

## Lab

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