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## 2.4 PRIORITY QUEUES

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



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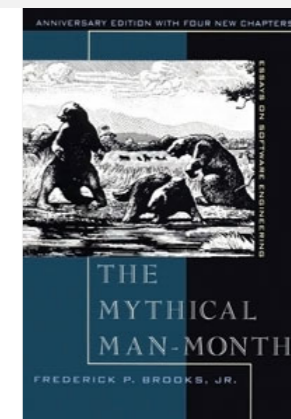
# Collections

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A **collection** is a data types that store groups of items.

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


<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

# Priority queue API

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**Requirement.** Generic items are Comparable.

Key must be Comparable  
(bounded type parameter)



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

```
    MaxPQ()
```

*create an empty priority queue*

```
    MaxPQ(Key[] a)
```

*create a priority queue with given keys*

```
    void insert(Key v)
```

*insert a key into the priority queue*

```
    Key delMax()
```

*return and remove the largest key*

```
    boolean isEmpty()
```

*is the priority queue empty?*

```
    Key max()
```

*return the largest key*

```
    int size()
```

*number of entries in the priority queue*

# Priority queue applications

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

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

# Priority queue elementary implementations

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**Challenge.** Implement **all** operations efficiently.

implementation	insert	del max	max
<b>unordered array</b>	1	$N$	$N$
<b>ordered array</b>	$N$	1	1
<b>goal</b>	$\log N$	$\log N$	$\log N$

**order of growth of running time for priority queue with  $N$  items**



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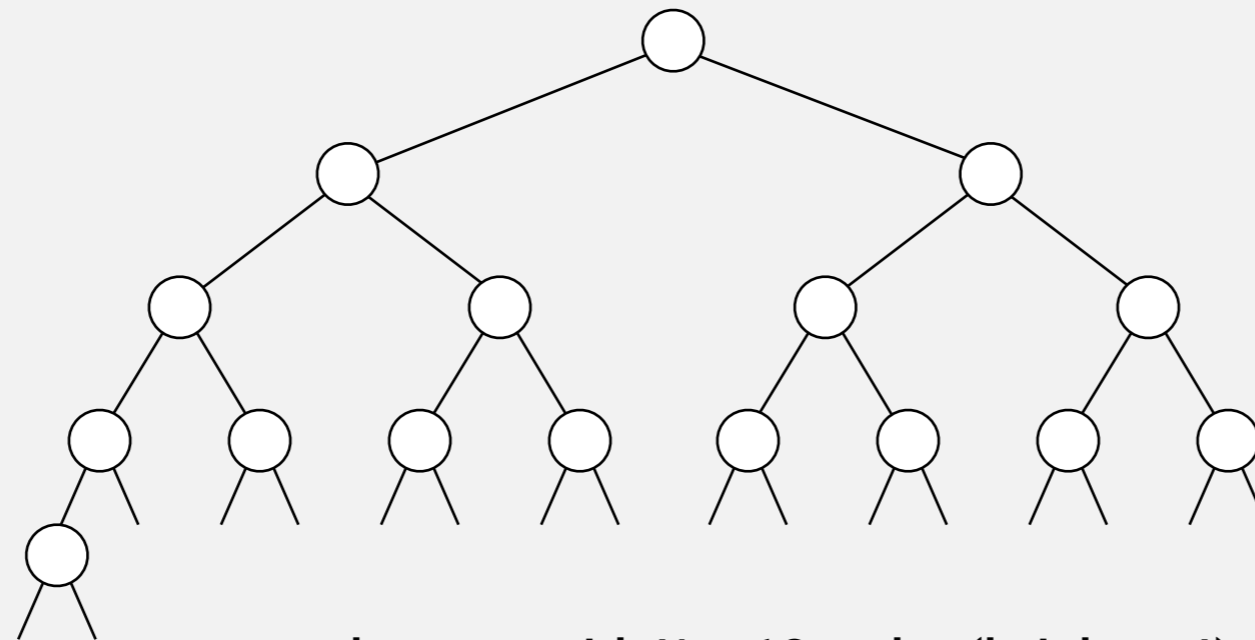


# Complete binary tree

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**Binary tree.** Empty **or** node with links to left and right binary trees.

**Complete tree.** Perfectly balanced, except for bottom level.



complete tree with  $N = 16$  nodes (height = 4)

**Property.** Height of complete tree with  $N$  nodes is  $\lfloor \lg N \rfloor$ .

**Pf.** Height increases only when  $N$  is a power of 2.

# A complete binary tree in nature

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Hyphaene Compressa - Doum Palm

© Shlomit Pinter

# Binary heap representations

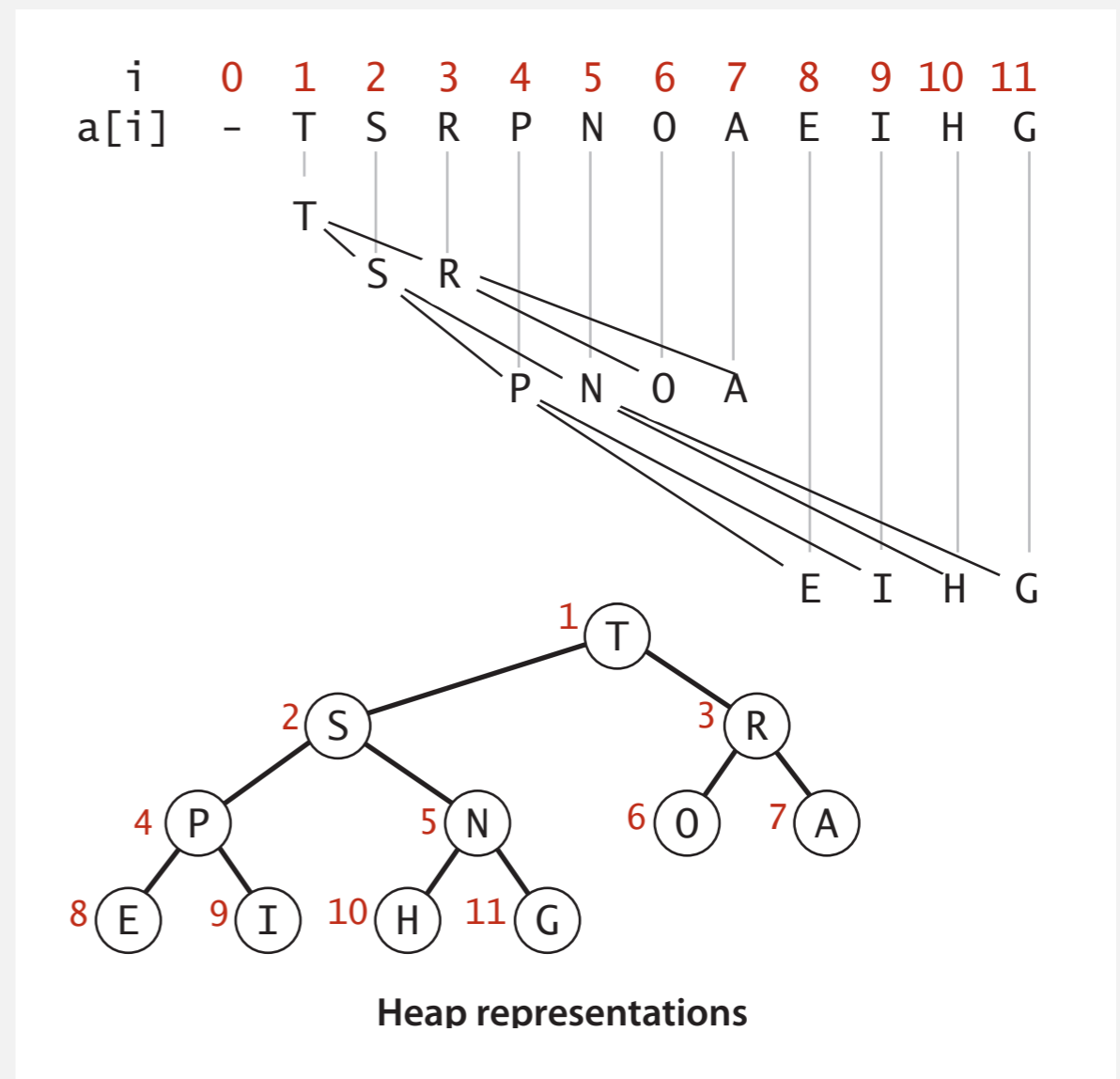
**Binary heap.** Array representation of a heap-ordered complete binary tree.

**Heap-ordered binary tree.**

- Keys in nodes.
- Parent's key no smaller than children's keys.

**Array representation.**

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

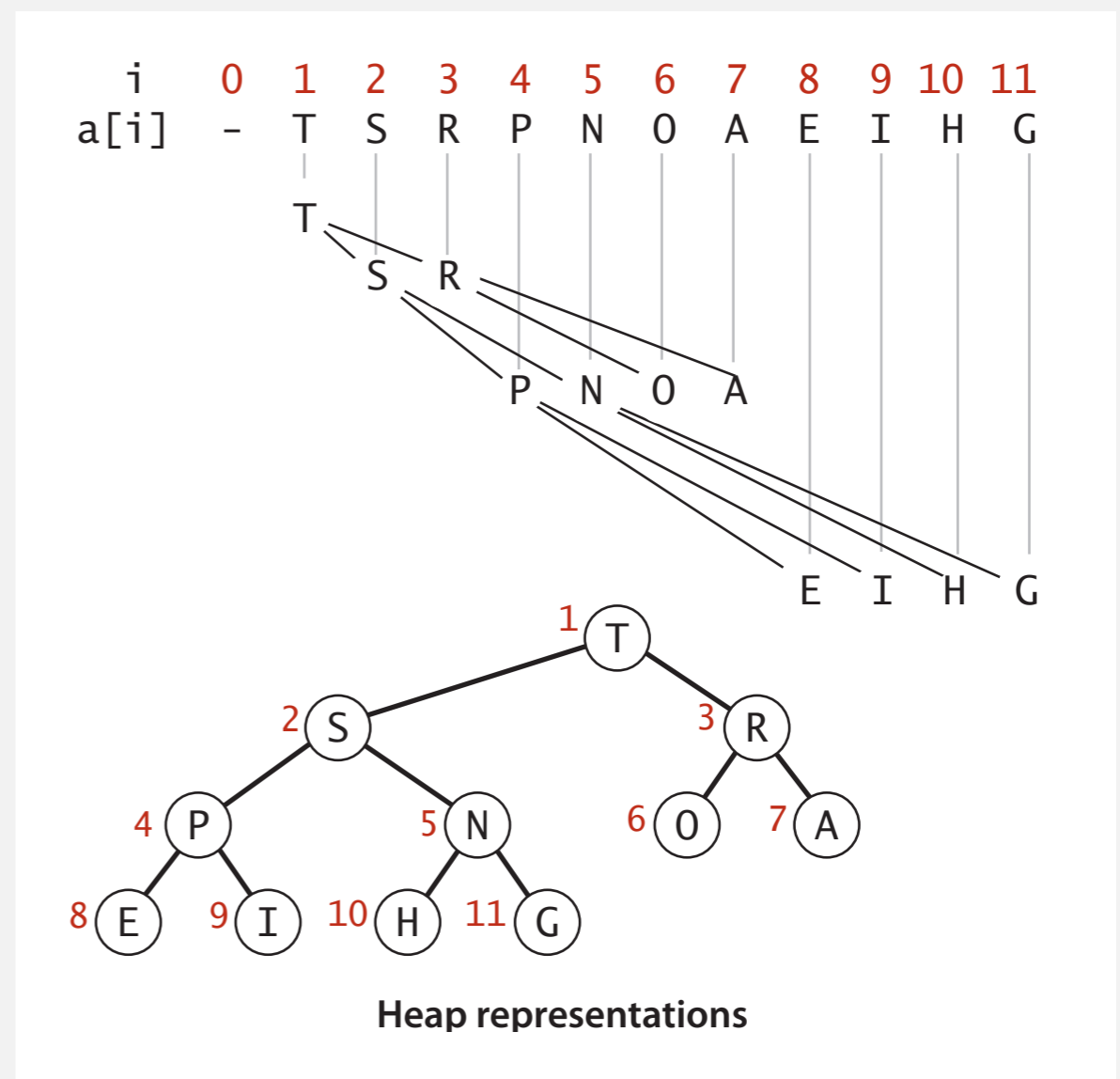


# Binary heap properties

**Proposition.** Largest key is  $a[1]$ , which is root of binary tree.

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

- Parent of node at  $k$  is at  $k/2$ .
- Children of node at  $k$  are at  $2k$  and  $2k+1$ .



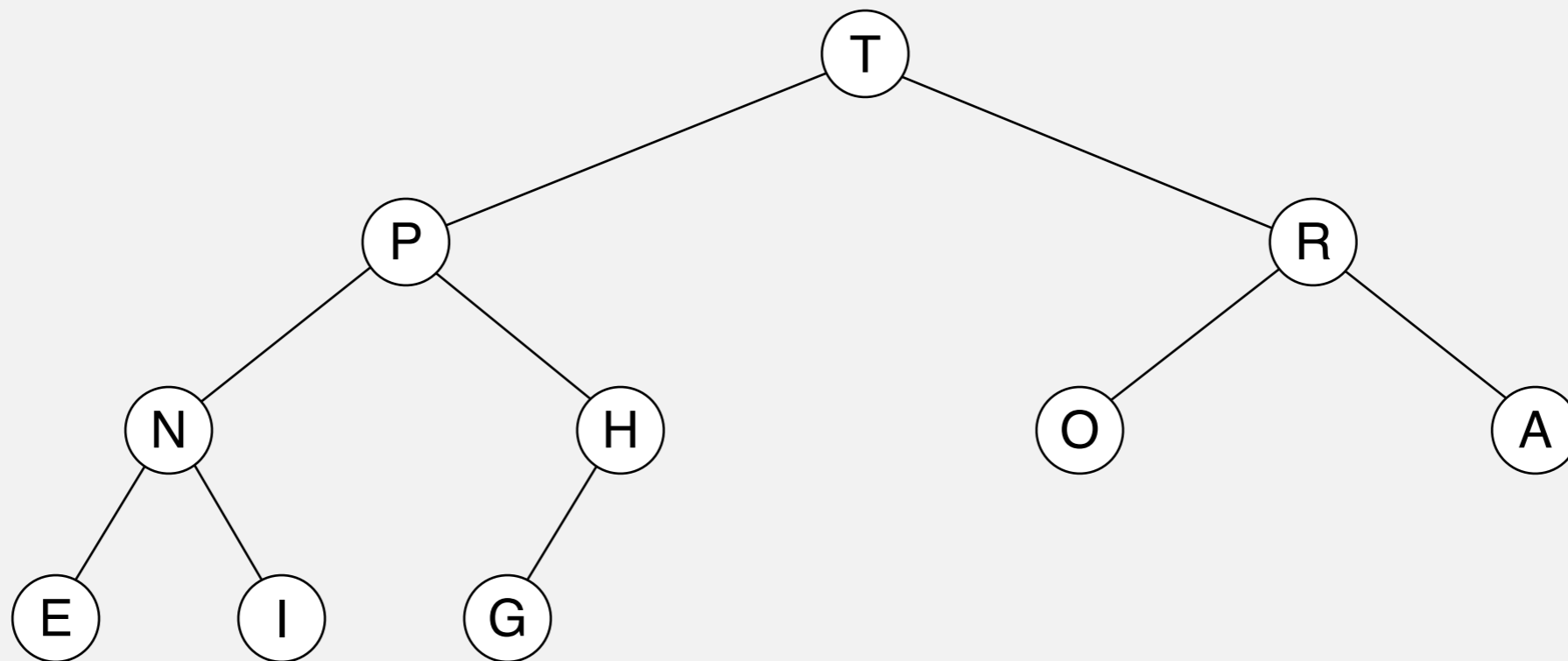
# Binary heap demo

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

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

heap ordered



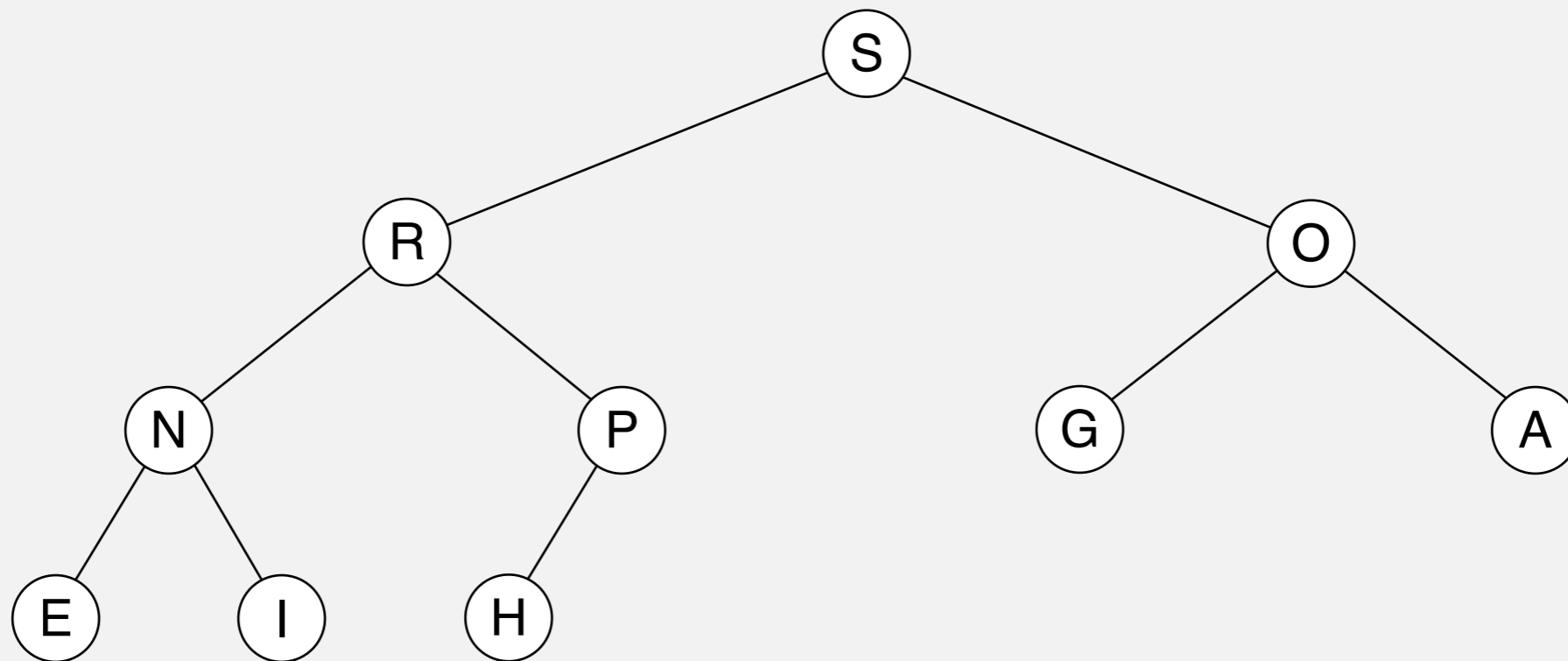
# Binary heap demo

---

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

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

heap ordered



# Promotion in a heap

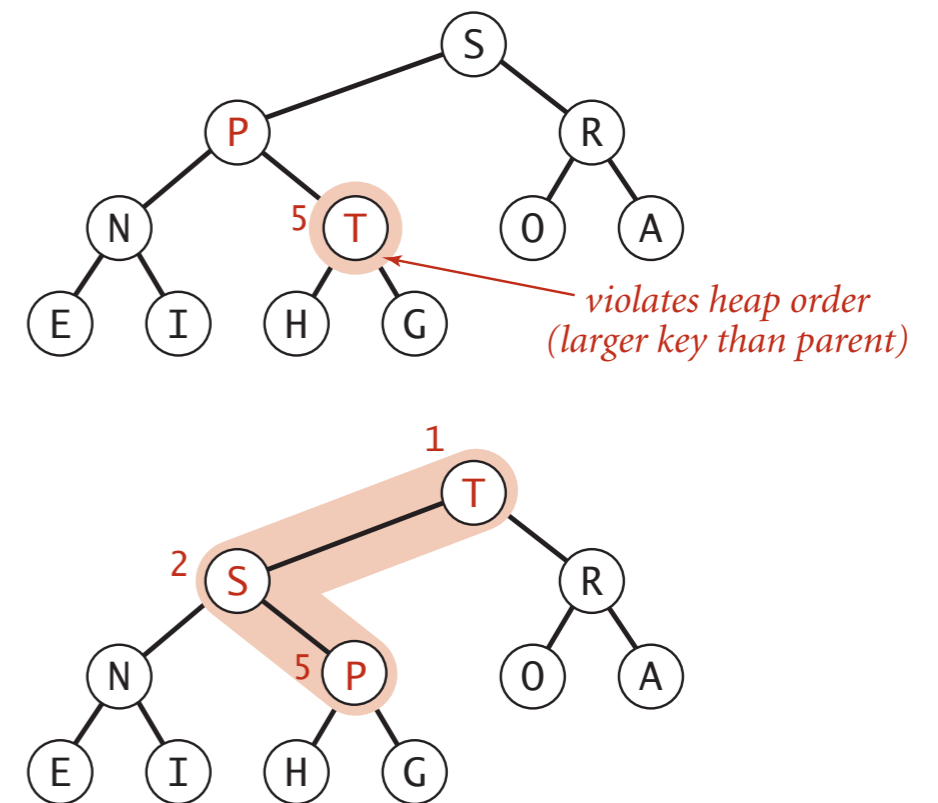
**Scenario.** Child's key becomes **larger** key than its parent's key.

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



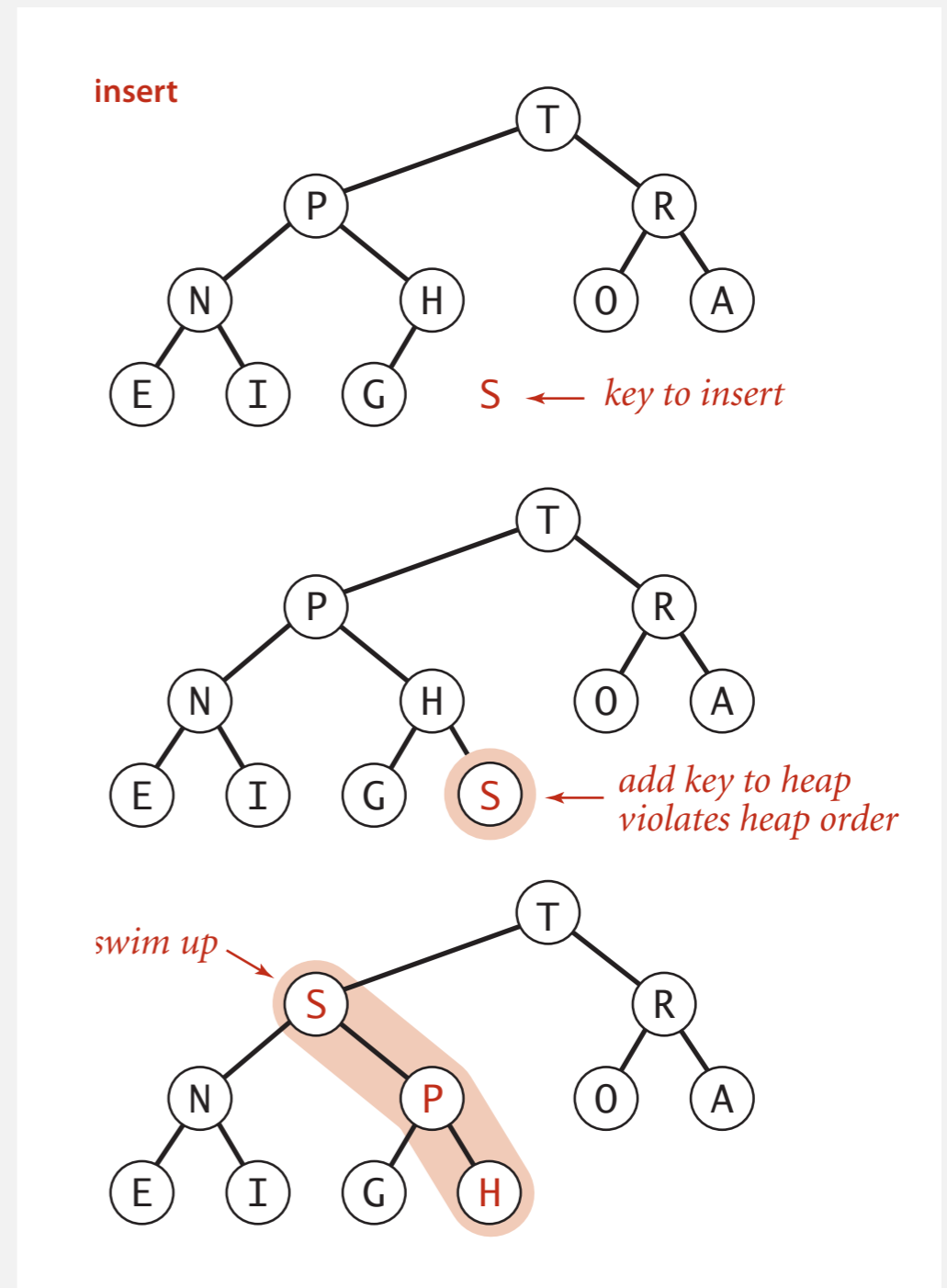
**Peter principle.** Node promoted to level of incompetence.

# Insertion in a heap

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

**Cost.** At most  $1 + \lg N$  compares.

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





# Demotion in a heap

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

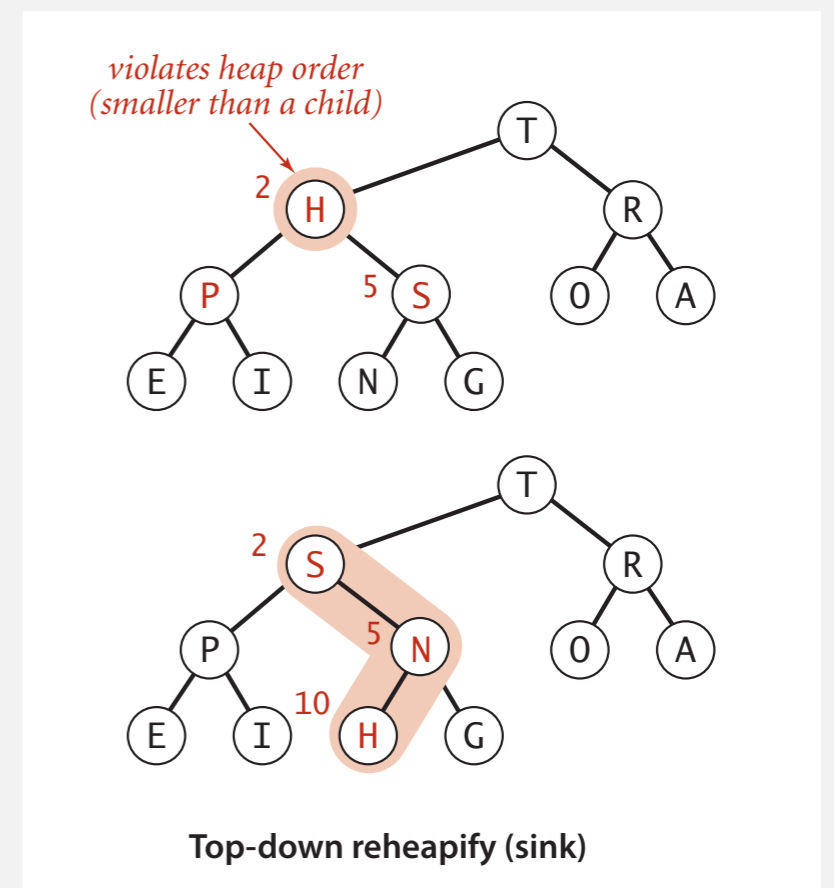
To eliminate the violation:

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  
 $2k$  and  $2k+1$



**Power struggle.** Better subordinate promoted.

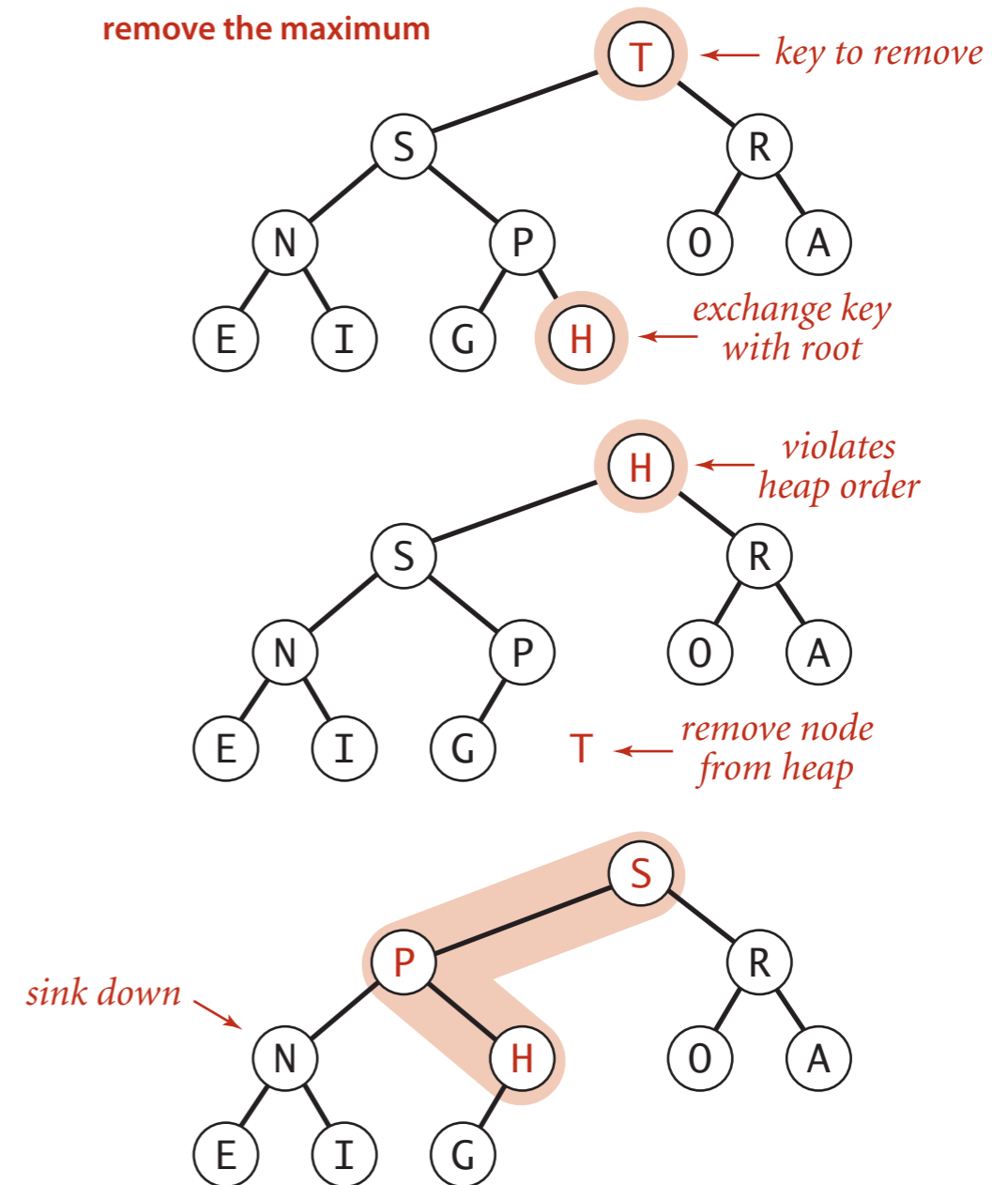
# Delete the maximum in a heap

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

**Cost.** At most  $2 \lg N$  compares.

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

← prevent loitering



# Binary heap: Java implementation

---

```
public class MaxPQ<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
{
    private Key[] pq;
    private int N;
```

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

← fixed capacity  
(for simplicity)

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

← PQ ops

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

← heap helper functions

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

← array helper functions

```
}
```

# Priority queues implementation cost summary

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implementation	insert	del max	max
<b>unordered array</b>	1	$N$	$N$
<b>ordered array</b>	$N$	1	1
<b>binary heap</b>	$\log N$	$\log N$	1

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