

# COMP2521 25T2

## Binary Search Trees

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trees  
binary search trees  
binary search tree operations

## Trees

- Examples
- Binary Trees
- BSTs
- Insertion
- Search
- Traversal
- Join
- Deletion
- Exercises



## Trees

Examples

Binary Trees

BSTs

Insertion

Search

Traversal

Join

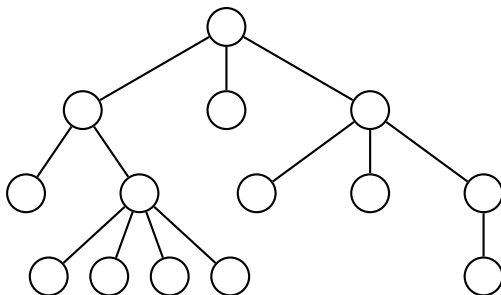
Deletion

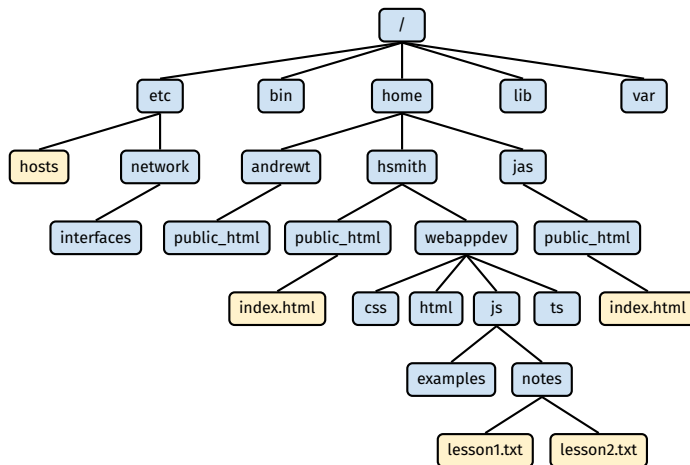
Exercises

A tree is a hierarchical data structure  
consisting of a set of connected nodes where:

Each node may have multiple other nodes as children  
(depending on the type of tree)

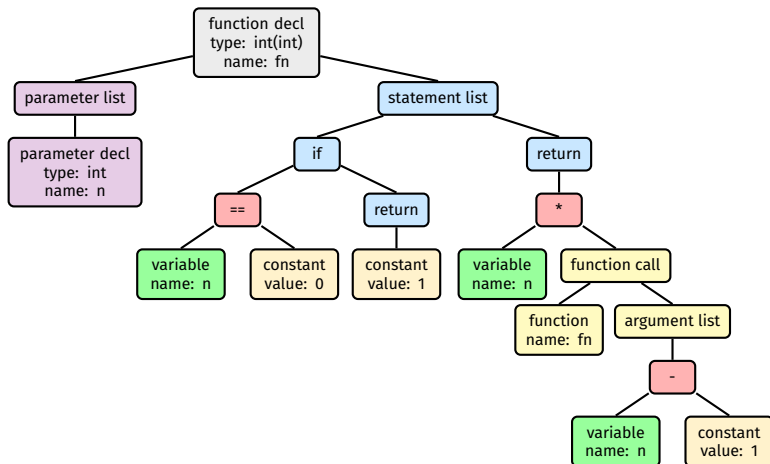
Each node is connected to one parent *except* the root node





Source: <https://www.openbookproject.net/tutorials/getdown/unix/lesson2.html>

## Example - Abstract Syntax Tree



Trees

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Insertion

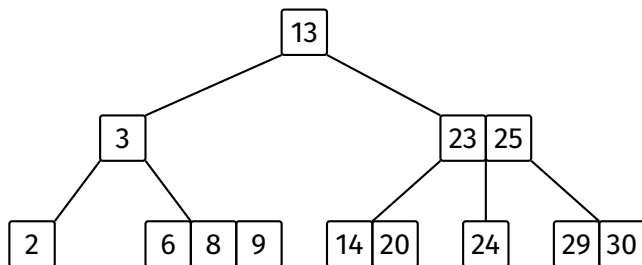
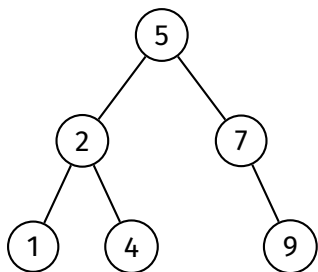
Search

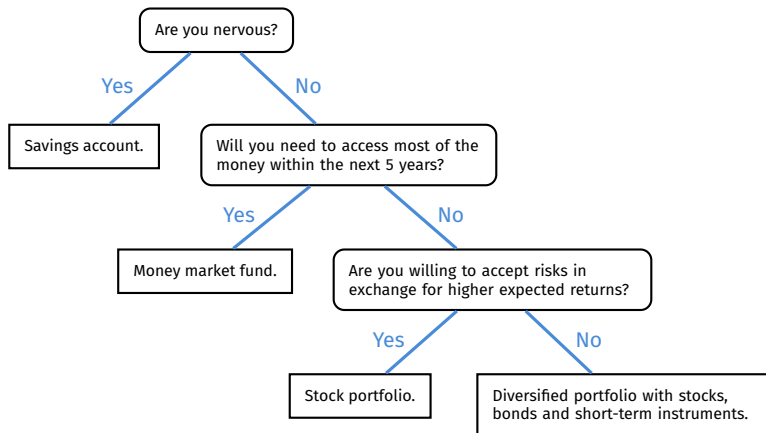
Traversal

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Deletion

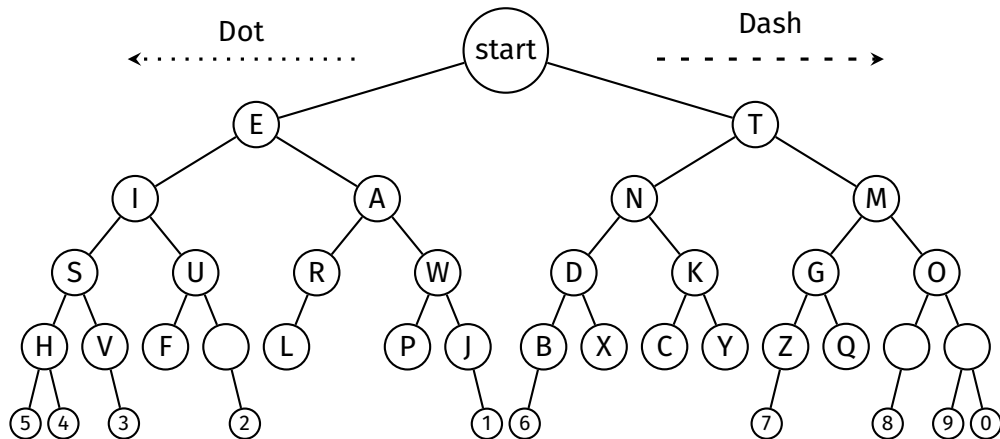
Exercises





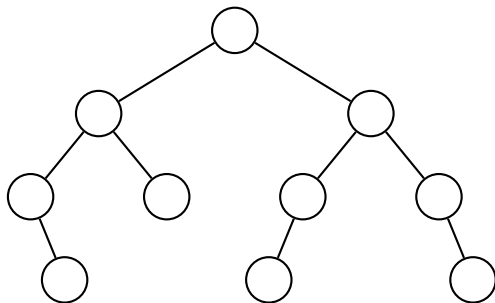
Source: "Data Structures and Algorithms in Java" (6th ed) by Goodrich et al.

## Example - Decoding Morse Code



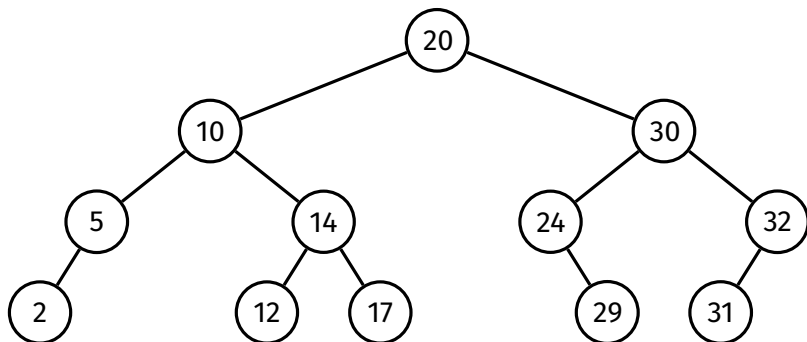


A **binary tree** is a tree where each node can have up to two child nodes, referred to as the **left** child and the **right** child.



A **binary search tree** is an ordered binary tree, where *for each node*:

- All values in the left subtree are less than the value in the node
- All values in the right subtree are greater than the value in the node



We need a more efficient way to search and maintain large amounts of data.

We have already explored some approaches:

	Ordered array	Ordered linked list
Searching/finding the insertion/deletion point	$O(\log n)$	$O(n)$
Inserting/deleting after finding the insertion/deletion point	$O(n)$	$O(1)$

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Binary search trees are efficient to search *and* maintain:

- Searching in a binary search tree is similar to how binary search works
- A binary search tree is a linked data structure (like a linked list), so there is no need to shift elements when inserting/deleting

Binary trees are typically represented by node structures

- Where each node contains a value and pointers to child nodes

```
struct node {  
    int item;  
    struct node *left;  
    struct node *right;  
};
```

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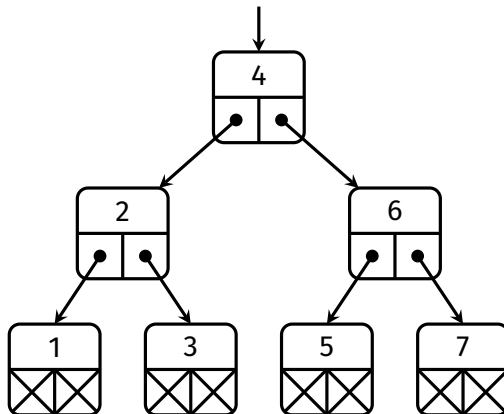
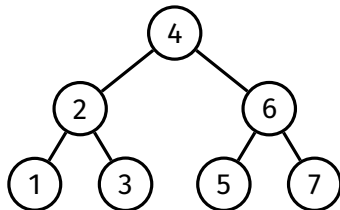
Search

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Deletion

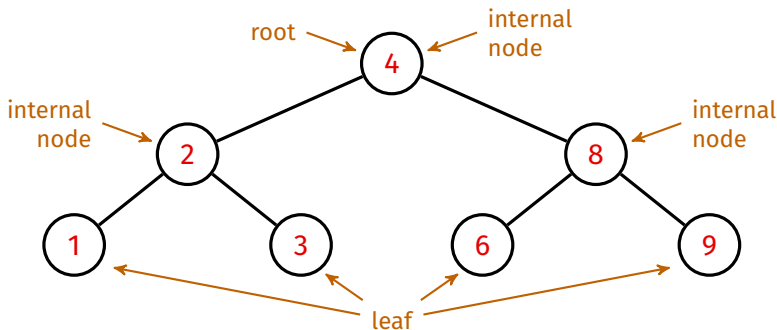
Exercises



The **root** node is the node with no parent node.

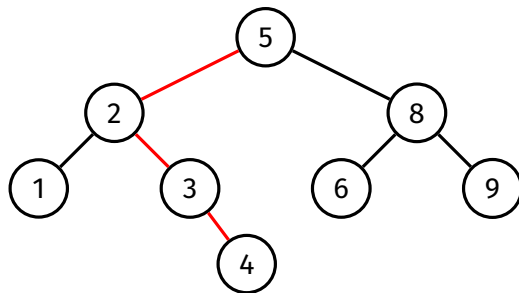
A **leaf** node is a node that has no child nodes.

An **internal** node is a node that has at least one child node.



**Height** of a tree: Maximum path length from the root node to a leaf

- The height of an empty tree is considered to be -1
- The height of the following tree is 3





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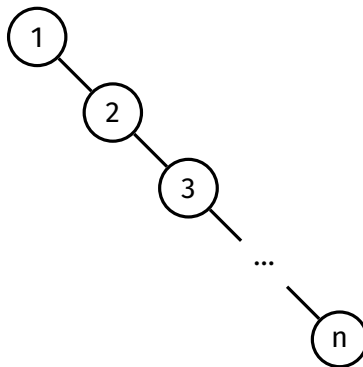
Join

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Exercises

For a tree with  $n$  nodes:

The maximum possible height is  $n - 1$



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
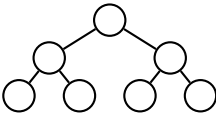
Traversal

Join

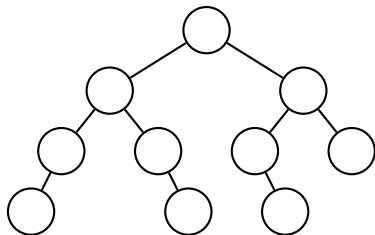
Deletion

Exercises

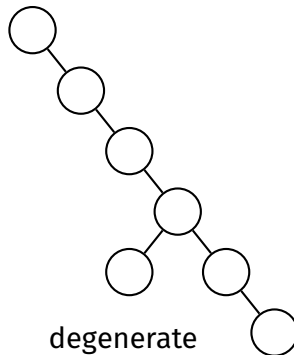
For a tree with  $n$  nodes:The minimum possible height is  $\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor$ 

$n$	minimum height = $\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor$	tree
1	0	
2-3	1	
4-7	2	
...	...	...

For a given number of nodes, a tree is said to be **balanced** if its height is minimal (or close to minimal), and **degenerate** if its height is maximal (or close to maximal).



balanced



degenerate

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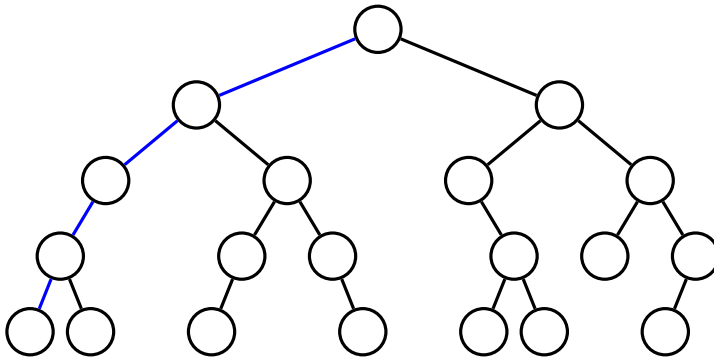
Deletion

Exercises

## Key operations on binary search trees:

- Insert
- Search
- Traverse
- Join
- Delete

The height  $h$  of a binary search tree determines the efficiency of many operations, so we will use both  $n$  and  $h$  in our analyses.

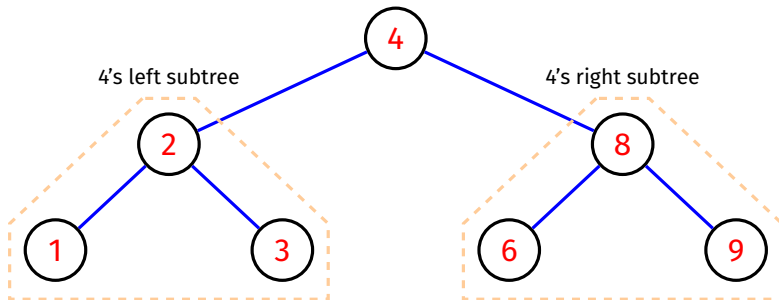


$$n = 20 \quad h = 4$$

Many BST operations can be implemented recursively.

A binary search tree is either:

- empty; or
- consists of a node with two subtrees
  - ...which are also binary search trees



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## Insertion

 $\text{bstInsert}(t, v)$ 

Given a BST  $t$  and a value  $v$ ,  
insert  $v$  into the BST  
and return the root of the updated BST

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Insertion is straightforward:

- Start at the root
- Compare value to be inserted with value in the node
  - If value being inserted is less, descend to left child
  - If value being inserted is greater, descend to right child
- Repeat until...  
you have to go left/right but current node has no left/right child
  - Create new node and attach to current node



## Recursive method:

- $t$  is empty  
 $\Rightarrow$  make a new node with  $v$  as the root of the new tree
- $v < t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  insert  $v$  into  $t$ 's left subtree
- $v > t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  insert  $v$  into  $t$ 's right subtree
- $v = t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  tree unchanged (assuming no duplicates)

**EXERCISE** Try writing an iterative version.

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Insert the following values into an empty tree:

4 2 6 5 1 7 3

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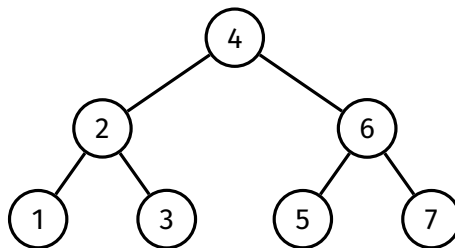
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Exercises

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4 2 6 5 1 7 3



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Insert the following values into an empty tree:

5 6 2 3 4 7 1

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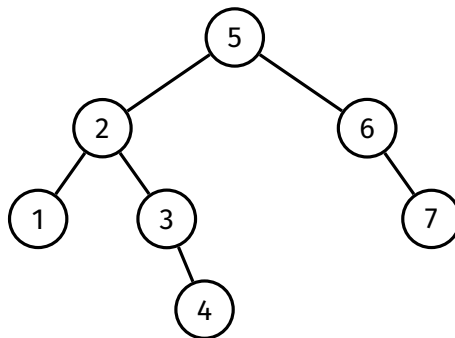
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Insert the following values into an empty tree:

5 6 2 3 4 7 1



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Insert the following values into an empty tree:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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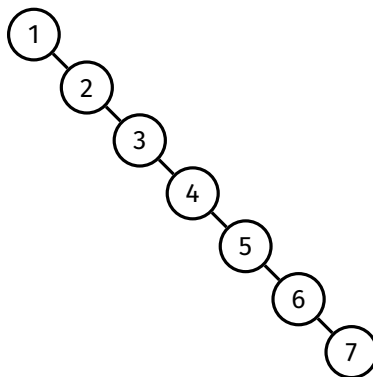
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Exercises

Insert the following values into an empty tree:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



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```
bstInsert(t, v):
```

```
    Input: tree t, value v
```

```
    Output: t with v inserted
```

```
    if t is empty:
```

```
        return new node containing v
```

```
    else if v < t->item:
```

```
        t->left = bstInsert(t->left, v)
```

```
    else if v > t->item:
```

```
        t->right = bstInsert(t->right, v)
```

```
    return t
```



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## Analysis:

- At most one node is visited per level
- Number of operations performed per node is constant
- Therefore, the worst-case time complexity of insertion is  $O(h)$  where  $h$  is the height of the BST

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## Search

$\text{bstSearch}(t, v)$

Given a BST  $t$  and a value  $v$ ,  
return true if  $v$  is in the BST  
and false otherwise

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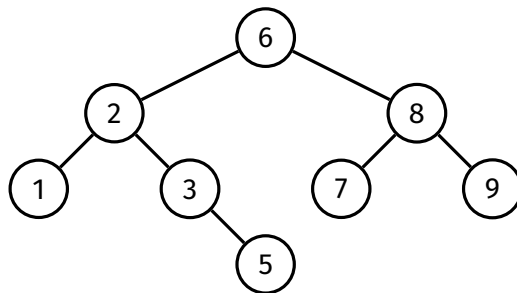
Exercises

## Recursive method:

- $t$  is empty:  
 $\Rightarrow$  return false
- $v < t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  search for  $v$  in  $t$ 's left subtree
- $v > t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  search for  $v$  in  $t$ 's right subtree
- $v = t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  return true

**EXERCISE** Try writing an iterative version.

Search for 4 and 7 in the following BST:



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```
bstSearch( $t$ ,  $v$ ):
```

```
    Input: tree  $t$ , value  $v$ 
```

```
    Output: true if  $v$  is in  $t$   
             false otherwise
```

```
    if  $t$  is empty:
```

```
        return false
```

```
    else if  $v < t \rightarrow \text{item}$ :
```

```
        return bstSearch( $t \rightarrow \text{left}$ ,  $v$ )
```

```
    else if  $v > t \rightarrow \text{item}$ :
```

```
        return bstSearch( $t \rightarrow \text{right}$ ,  $v$ )
```

```
    else:
```

```
        return true
```

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## Analysis:

- At most one node is visited per level
- Number of operations performed per node is constant
- Therefore, the worst-case time complexity of search is  $O(h)$  where  $h$  is the height of the BST

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## Traversal

Given a BST,  
visit every node of the tree

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There are 4 common ways to traverse a binary tree:

- 1 Pre-order (**NLR**):  
visit root, then traverse left subtree, then traverse right subtree
- 2 In-order (**LNR**):  
traverse left subtree, then visit root, then traverse right subtree
- 3 Post-order (**LRN**):  
traverse left subtree, then traverse right subtree, then visit root
- 4 Level-order:  
visit root, then its children, then their children, and so on

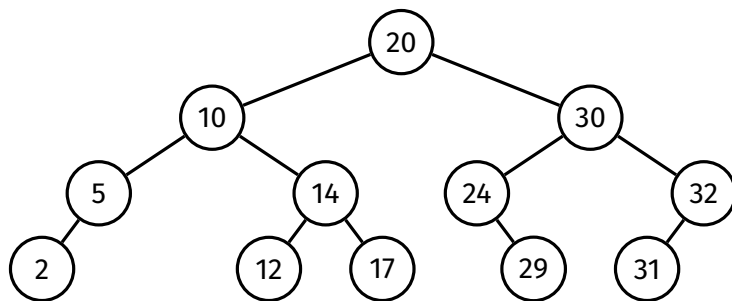


## Pseudocode:

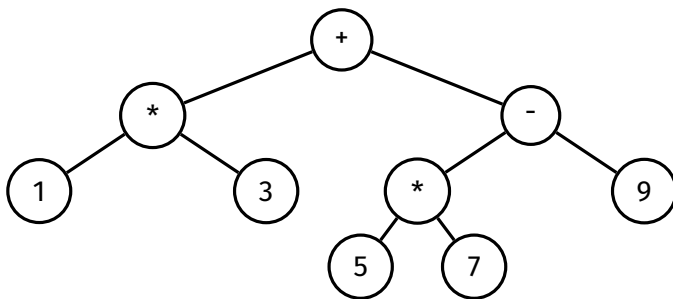
**preorder( $t$ ):****Input:** tree  $t$ **if**  $t$  is empty:  
**return** $\text{visit}(t)$   
 $\text{preorder}(t \rightarrow \text{left})$   
 $\text{preorder}(t \rightarrow \text{right})$ **inorder( $t$ ):****Input:** tree  $t$ **if**  $t$  is empty:  
**return** $\text{inorder}(t \rightarrow \text{left})$   
 $\text{visit}(t)$   
 $\text{inorder}(t \rightarrow \text{right})$ **postorder( $t$ ):****Input:** tree  $t$ **if**  $t$  is empty:  
**return** $\text{postorder}(t \rightarrow \text{left})$   
 $\text{postorder}(t \rightarrow \text{right})$   
 $\text{visit}(t)$ 

## Note:

Level-order traversal is difficult to implement recursively.  
It is typically implemented using a queue.



<b>Pre-order</b>	20 10 5 2 14 12 17 30 24 29 32 31
<b>In-order</b>	2 5 10 12 14 17 20 24 29 30 31 32
<b>Post-order</b>	2 5 12 17 14 10 29 24 31 32 30 20
<b>Level-order</b>	20 10 30 5 14 24 32 2 12 17 29 31

Expression tree for  $1 * 3 + (5 * 7 - 9)$ **Pre-order**    + \* 1 3 - \* 5 7 9**In-order**     1 \* 3 + 5 \* 7 - 9**Post-order**    1 3 \* 5 7 \* 9 - +

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Pre-order traversal:

- Useful for reconstructing a tree

In-order traversal:

- Useful for traversing a BST in ascending order

Post-order traversal:

- Useful for evaluating an expression tree
- Useful for freeing a tree

Level-order traversal:

- Useful for printing a tree

## Analysis:

- Each node is visited once
- Hence, time complexity of tree traversal is  $O(n)$ , where  $n$  is the number of nodes

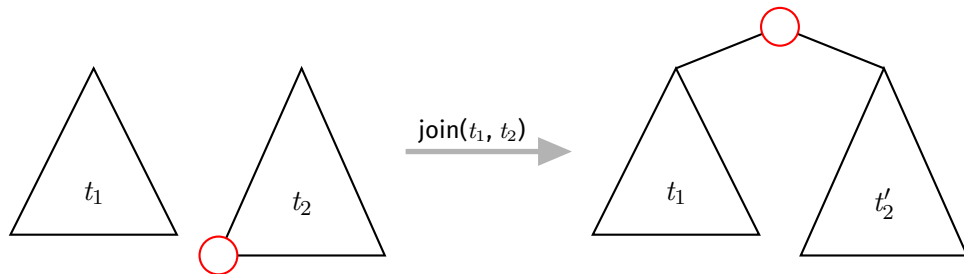
## Join

 $\text{bstJoin}(t_1, t_2)$ 

Given two BSTs  $t_1$  and  $t_2$   
where  $\max(t_1) < \min(t_2)$   
return a BST containing all items from  $t_1$  and  $t_2$

## Method:

- 1 Find the minimum node  $\text{min}$  in  $t_2$
- 2 Replace  $\text{min}$  by its right subtree (if it exists)
- 3 Elevate  $\text{min}$  to be the new root of  $t_1$  and  $t_2$



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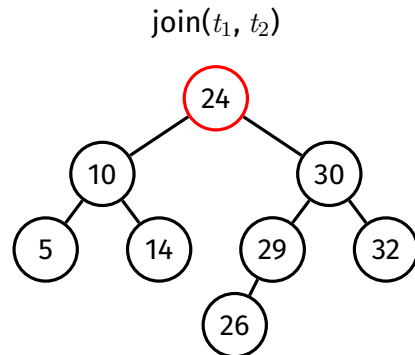
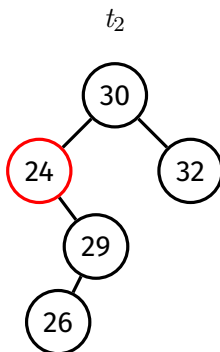
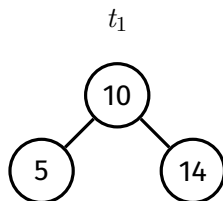
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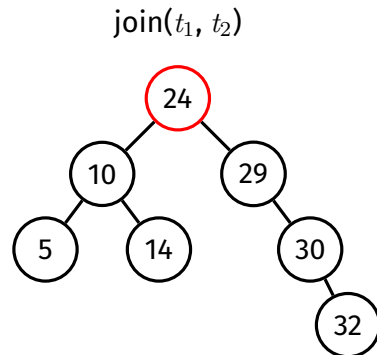
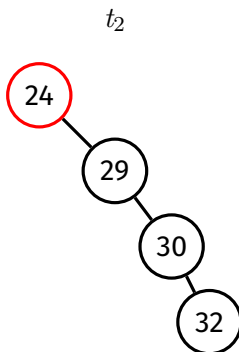
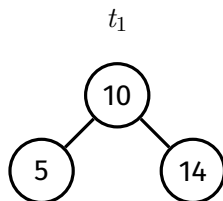
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```
bstJoin( $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ):  
    Input: trees  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$   
    Output:  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  joined together  
  
    if  $t_1$  is empty:  
        return  $t_2$   
    else if  $t_2$  is empty:  
        return  $t_1$   
    else if  $t_2 \rightarrow \text{left}$  is empty:  
         $t_2 \rightarrow \text{left} = t_1$   
        return  $t_2$   
    else:  
        curr =  $t_2$   
        parent = NULL  
        while curr  $\rightarrow$  left  $\neq$  NULL:  
            parent = curr  
            curr = curr  $\rightarrow$  left  
  
        parent  $\rightarrow$  left = curr  $\rightarrow$  right  
        curr  $\rightarrow$  left =  $t_1$   
        curr  $\rightarrow$  right =  $t_2$   
        return curr
```

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## Analysis:

- The join algorithm simply finds the minimum node in  $t_2$
- Thus, at most one node is visited per level of  $t_2$
- Therefore, the worst-case time complexity of join is  $O(h_2)$  where  $h_2$  is the height of  $t_2$

## Deletion

`bstDelete( $t$ ,  $v$ )`

Given a BST  $t$  and a value  $v$   
delete  $v$  from the BST  
and return the root of the updated BST

## Recursive method:

- $t$  is empty:  
 $\Rightarrow$  result is empty
- $v < t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  delete  $v$  from  $t$ 's left subtree
- $v > t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  delete  $v$  from  $t$ 's right subtree
- $v = t \rightarrow \text{item}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  three sub-cases:
  - $t$  is a leaf  
 $\Rightarrow$  result is empty tree
  - $t$  has one subtree  
 $\Rightarrow$  replace with subtree
  - $t$  has two subtrees  
 $\Rightarrow$  join the two subtrees

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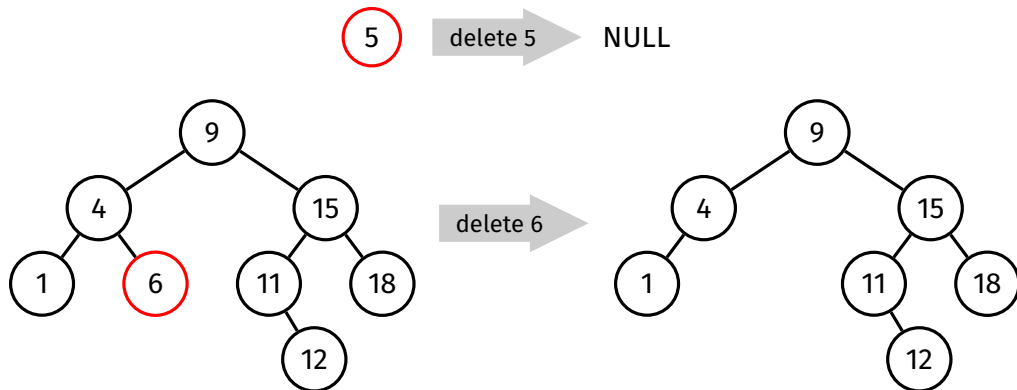
Examples

Pseudocode

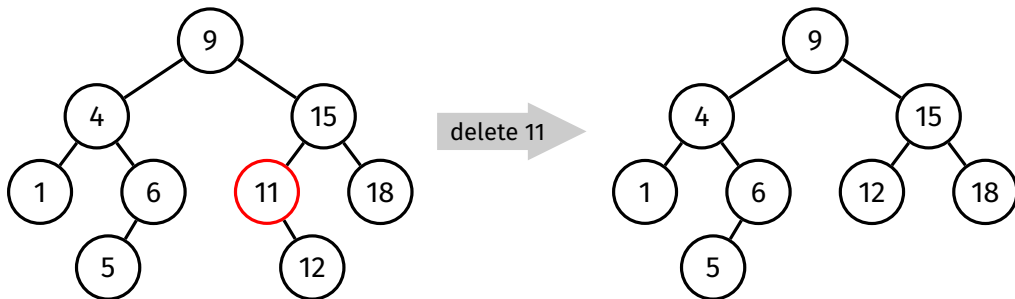
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If the node being deleted is a leaf, then the result is an empty tree



Node to be deleted has one subtree



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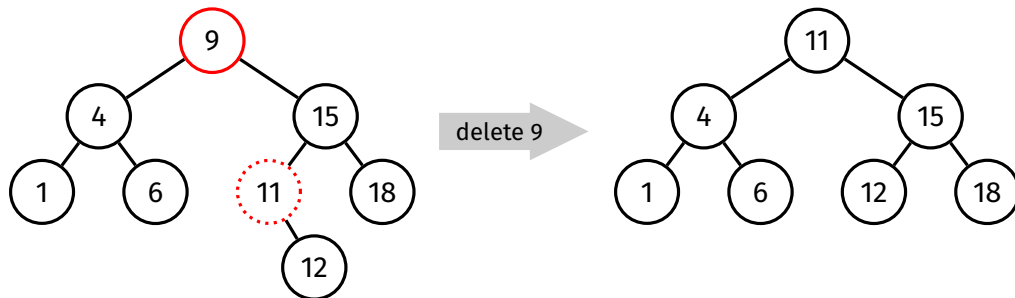
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Node to be deleted has two subtrees





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```
bstDelete(t, v):  
    Input: tree t, value v  
    Output: t with v deleted  
  
    if t is empty:  
        return empty tree  
    else if v < t->item:  
        t->left = bstDelete(t->left, v)  
    else if v > t->item:  
        t->right = bstDelete(t->right, v)  
    else:  
        if t->left is empty:  
            new = t->right  
        else if t->right is empty:  
            new = t->left  
        else:  
            new = bstJoin(t->left, t->right)  
  
    free(t)  
    t = new  
  
    return t
```

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Join

Deletion

Method

Examples

Pseudocode

Analysis

Exercises

## Analysis:

- The deletion algorithm traverses down just one branch
  - First, the item being deleted is found
  - If the item exists and has two subtrees, its successor is found
- Thus, at most one node is visited per level
- Therefore, the worst-case time complexity of deletion is  $O(h)$  where  $h$  is the height of the BST

Trees

BSTs

Insertion

Search

Traversal

Join

Deletion

Exercises

- `bstFree`  
free all nodes of a tree
- `bstSize`  
return the size of a tree
- `bstHeight`  
return the height of a tree
- `bstPrune`  
given values  $lo$  and  $hi$ , remove all values outside the range  $[lo, hi]$