

CMPT 225 - AVL Trees

AVL Trees are a kind of "self-balancing" BST.

Their height is always at most $2\log(n)$, where n is number of keys.

An AVL tree is a BST that satisfies the following height-balance invariant

For every node v

$$|\text{height}(\text{left}(v)) - \text{height}(\text{right}(v))| \leq 1$$

We define $\text{height}(\text{left}(v)) = -1$ if left does not exist, and similarly for $\text{right}(v)$.

We are concerned about the height of one side vs the other, not the number of nodes necessarily.

Implementation:

insert, then balance

Uses rotations to balance.

4 cases:

2 outside cases (*one rotation*)

- left left
- right right

2 inside cases (*two rotations*)

- left right
- right left