CSC 212: Data Structures and Abstractions

Binary search trees (part 2)

Prof. Marco Alvarez

Department of Computer Science and Statistics University of Rhode Island

Spring 2025



Problems from lab

• Problem A

→ Problem B

• Problem C

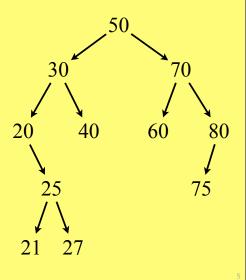
Operations

Contains

- Algorithm
 - ✓ start at root node
 - · if the search key matches the current node's key then found
 - ✓ if search key is greater than current node's key
 - search on right child
 - ✓ if search key is less than current node's
 - search on left child
 - ✓ stop when current node is nullptr (not found)
- Time complexity
 - $\checkmark O(h)$, where h is the height of the tree

Practice

- Search the following keys:
 - 25, 77, 18, 40, 75



Insert

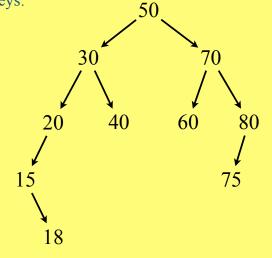
- Algorithm
 - ✓ if tree is empty, create a new node as root, done
 - ✓ if not, start node p at the root, repeat:
 - compare the key to insert with the key of p, if equal, done
 - if the new key is less than the key of p, set p to the left subtree
 - if p is empty, create new node here, done
 - else continue
 - if the new key is greater than the key of p, set p to the right subtree
 - if p is empty, create new node here, done
 - else continue
- Time complexity
 - $\checkmark O(h)$, where h is the height of the tree

6

Practice

• Insert the following keys:

65, 27, 90, 11, 51



Repeated keys

- We assume the tree contains unique keys
 - \checkmark no repeated keys are allowed
- Dealing with repeated keys
 - ✓ if key is in the tree, do nothing, just return
 - depending on the task being solved, may add a counter on each node, and it can be increased every time a repeated key is inserted
 - · if the tree is used as a map or dictionary, may want to update the value of a repeated key

Remove

- Approach
 - ✓ find node to be removed, then apply one of the cases below
 - case 1: node is a leaf
 - trivial, delete node and set parent's pointer to nullptr
 - case 2: node has 1 child
 - set parent's pointer to the only child and delete node
 - case 3: node has 2 children
 - find successor (smallest node in the right subtree)
 - copy successor's data to node

can also use predecessor

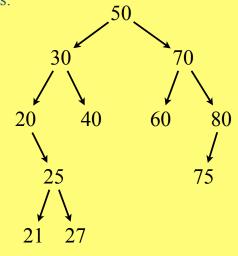
- delete successor

- Time complexity
 - $\checkmark O(h)$, where h is the height of the tree

Analysis

Practice

- Remove the following keys:
 - ²⁷, 40, 80, 20, 30, 50



Practice

- Starting from an empty BST, insert the following keys in the order given
 - 20 10 30 5 15 25 35
 - 10 20 5 15 30 35 25
 - 5 10 15 20 25 30 35
 - Y How is the order of insertion related to the shape of the tree?
 - ✓ How is the height of the tree related to the number of nodes?

Practice

- Complete the following table with rates of growth
 - ✓ as a function of the number of nodes

Operation	Best case	Average case	Worst case
Insert			
Remove			
Search			

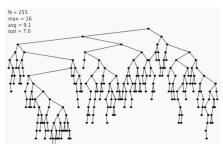
Average case

Proposition

- \checkmark if *n* distinct keys are randomly inserted into a BST, the expected number of compares is $\sim c \log n$
- can be formally justified through probabilistic analysis (not covered in this class)

Implications

 even without explicit balancing mechanisms, randomly built BSTs provide reasonably efficient operations

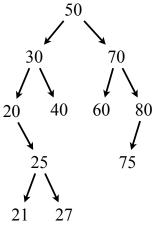


1.4

Traversals

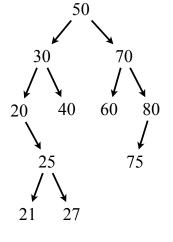
Preorder traversal

- Depth-first traversal that visits the root node first, then recursively visits all subtrees
 - ✓ visit the root node
 - ✓ recursively visit the left subtree
 - ✓ recursively visit the right subtree



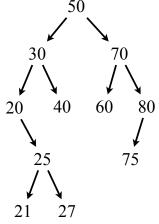
Postorder traversal

- Depth-first traversal that recursively visits all subtrees first, then visits the root node
 - ✓ recursively visit the left subtree
 - ✓ recursively visit the right subtree
 - visit the root node



Inorder traversal

- Depth-first traversal that recursively visits the left subtree first, then visits the root node, and finally recursively visits the right subtree
 - ✓ recursively visit the left subtree
 - visit the root node
 - ✓ recursively visit the right subtree



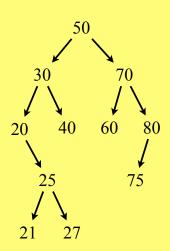
Practice

- Which traversal is best for printing all values in sorted order?
- Which traversal is best for deleting all nodes in a tree?
- What is the time complexity of each traversal?

Practice

• Trace the following algorithm and explain what it does

```
algorithm mistery(root) {
   queue q
   q.enqueue(root)
   while not q.isEmpty() {
      node n = q.dequeue()
      print(n.value)
      if n.left
       q.enqueue(n.left)
      if n.right
       q.enqueue(n.right)
   }
}
```



Collections

Operation	Description	Sequential (unordered)	Sequential (ordered)	BST
search	search for a key	O(n)	O(log n)	O(h)
insert	insert a key	O(n)	O(n)	O(h)
delete	delete a key	O(n)	O(n)	O(h)
min/max	find smallest/largest key	O(n)	O(1)	O(h)
floor/ceiling find predecessor/successor		O(n)	O(log n)	O(h)
rank	count number of keys less than key	O(n)	O(log n)	O(h)