CSC 212: Data Structures and Abstractions Balanced trees

Prof. Marco Alvarez

Department of Computer Science and Statistics University of Rhode Island

Spring 2025



From lab session

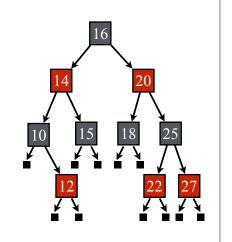
- Assume the dictionary has n keys, and the book has m words (tokens)
 - what is the computational cost of finding all words in the book that are not in the dictionary?
 - dictionary is represented as a BST and assume that $h = O(\log n)$

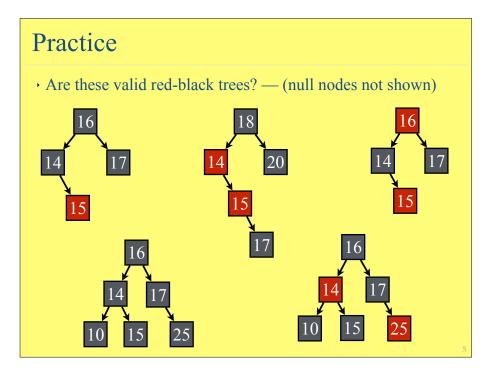
Balanced search trees

- <u>Balanced search trees</u> are a type of search trees that maintain a balanced structure to ensure that the height of the tree is <u>logarithmic</u> in the number of nodes
 - among the most useful data structures in computer science
 - many programming languages have built-in support: e.g. Java's TreeSet and TreeMap, C++'s std::set and std::map
- Examples of balanced trees:
 - ✓ AVL trees, **<u>Red-Black trees</u>**, B-trees, Splay trees, Treaps, etc.

Red-black trees

- Red-black trees are BSTs that maintain a balanced structure by enforcing the following properties on the nodes:
 - each node is colored either red or black
 - ✓ the root node is always **black**
 - red nodes cannot have red children (no two red nodes can be adjacent)
 - ✓ <u>null nodes</u> are considered **black**
 - every <u>root-to-null</u> path must have the same number of **black** nodes





Analysis

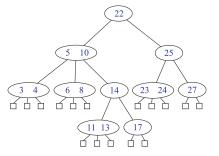
- A red-black tree on *n* nodes has $h = O(\log n)$
 - ✓ after performing an insertion or deletion the tree may become unbalanced
 - to restore balance, we efficiently modify the tree to satisfy the red-black tree properties
 - done by performing a sequence of **rotations** and **recoloring** nodes
- Equivalence to **B-trees**
 - ✓ red-black trees are equivalent to <u>B-trees of order 4</u>
 - · it is <u>easier to understand</u> the complexity analysis and rebalancing operations of red-black trees by thinking of them as B-trees

6

B-Trees (interlude)

Multi-way search trees

- A <u>multi-way search tree</u> is a generalization of a BST that allows nodes to have more keys and more than two children
 - ✓ the keys in each node are **sorted** in increasing order
 - \checkmark the keys in the left subtree of a key k are less than k, and the keys in the right subtree are greater than k

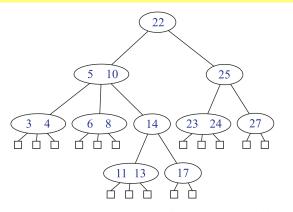


note that null pointers are illustrated as external nodes

nage credit: Data Structures and Algorithms in C++ 2e

Search on a multi-way search tree

- Perform search for 12, 17, 24, and 50 on the following tree
 - note that null pointers are illustrated as external nodes



Assume d denotes the maximum number of children of any node of T, and h denotes the height of T. What is the cost of search?

Image credit: Data Structures and Algorithms in C++ 2e

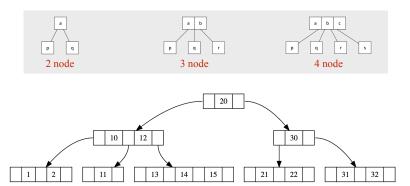
Balanced multi-way search trees

- Balanced multi-way search tree
 - cap the number of children to a fixed number and keep the leaf nodes at the same depth
 - ✓ the tree is always balanced
 - all leave nodes have the same depth
 - search, insertion, and deletion can be performed in $O(\log n)$ time
- <u>B-tree:</u> specific type of a balanced multi-way search tree
 - \checkmark on a B-tree of order m, each node, except the root, must have between $\lceil b/2 \rceil$ and b children
 - note there are differences in terminology (multiple "order" definitions)
 - heavily used in databases and file systems to store large amounts of data (common orders: 1024, 2048, 4096, ...)

10

2-3-4 tree

- A 2-3-4 tree (a.k.a. 2-4 tree) is a <u>B-tree of order 4</u>
 - ✓ each node can have 2, 3, or 4 children
 - · i.e. all nodes must have at least 1 key and at most 3 keys, except the root node that can have 0 keys when the tree is empty



Insertion (2-3-4 tree)

- Steps
 - start at the root and traverse down the tree to find the appropriate leaf node
 - · if the leaf node has less than 3 keys, insert the new key in sorted order
 - ✓ if the leaf node has 3 keys, split it into two nodes and promote the middle key to the parent node
 - insert the new key in the appropriate child node
 - if the parent node also has 3 keys, repeat the splitting process up to the root
- Tree remains balanced after each insertion
 - ✓ all leaf nodes are at the same level

Insert 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100

10

10

20

30

40

40

40

40

90

100

80

90

100

http://ysangkok.github.io/js-clrs-btree/btree.html

1

Practice

- Insert the following sequence into a 2-3-4 tree
 - 15, 10, 25, 5, 1, 30, 45, 60, 100, 70, 80, 40, 35, 90

Practice

- What is the max h of a 2-3-4 tree with n nodes?
 - to maximize the height, we want to minimize the number of keys per node (instance of a worst-case)
 - ✓ draw an example tree and express h in terms of n

- 1

Practice

- What is the cost of search and insert on a 2-3-4 tree?
 - ✓ worst-case scenario

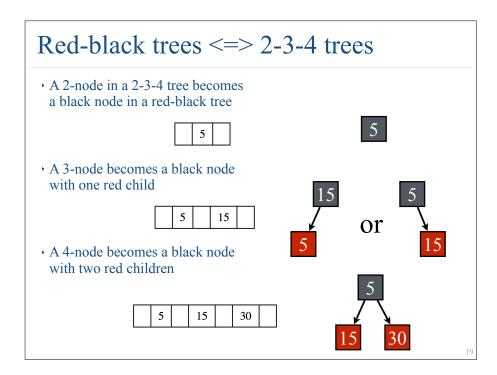
So far ...

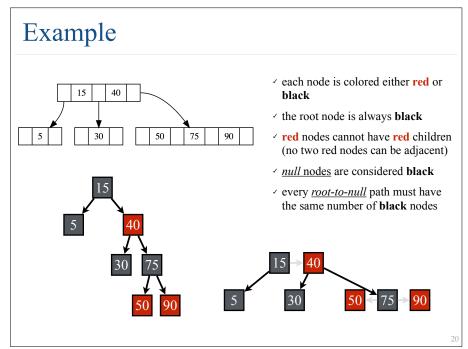
- The cost of operations in a B-tree of order b is $O(b \log_b n)$
 - ✓ insert, search, remove
 - \checkmark small values of b make this cost optimal
- In practice ...
 - · B-trees are widely used in databases and file systems to manage large amounts of data efficiently
 - useful for systems that read and write large blocks of data
 - B-trees can minimize the number of disk accesses required (much larger order values)

16

Red-black trees

Red-black trees are isometric to 2-3-4 trees • Red-black trees are isometric to 2-3-4 trees • the number of black nodes between any root-to-null path in the red-black tree matches the depth of the corresponding 2-3-4 tree • Every red-black tree can be transformed into an equivalent 2-3-4 tree and vice versa 10 12 15 18 22 25 27



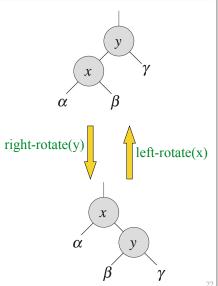


Insertion

- Steps
 - ✓ insert the new node as you would in a regular BST
 - color the new node red
 - (can't color it black otherwise it violates the "root-to-null" rule)
 - ✓ if the parent is **black**, you are done
 - (becomes 3-node or 4-node)
 - ✓ if the parent is **red**, you have a violation of the red-black tree properties
 - (need to fix the violation all the way up to the root)
- Fixing the violation
 - ✓ involves applying **recoloring** and/or **rotation** operations
 - recoloring is trivial and does not change the structure (BST order property)

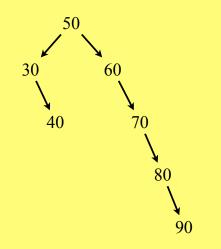
Rotations

- A rotation is a local operation that preserves the BST order property
 - √ two kinds: left and right rotation
 - \checkmark can be done in O(1) time
- Left rotation at node x
 - ✓ assume that its right child y is not null
 - make y the new root of the subtree, with x as y's left child and y's left child as x's right child
- Right rotation at node y
 - assume that its left child x is not null
 - make x the new root of the subtree. with y as x's right child and x's right child as y's left child



Practice

- Perform the following operations in sequence
 - ✓ rotate-left(70)
 - ✓ rotate-left(50)
 - ✓ rotate-left(30)
 - ✓ rotate-right(50)



Insertion (all cases)

- Insert the new node using the standard BST insertion
 - color the new node as red
 - ✓ apply one of the cases below
- Case 1: the parent of the new node is black
 - no violation occurs the tree remains valid
- Case 2: the parent and uncle of the new node are both red
 - change the parent and uncle to black
 - ✓ change the grandparent to red
 - recursively check the grandparent as if it were newly inserted

Insertion (all cases)

- Case 3: the <u>parent</u> is <u>red</u>, the <u>uncle</u> is **black** (or null), and the tree forms a <u>triangle</u>
 - · if the new node is a right child of its parent and the parent is a left child of the grandparent (or vice versa), perform a left rotation on the parent (or right rotation in the other case)
 - √ then apply Case 4
- Case 4: the <u>parent</u> is <u>red</u>, the <u>uncle</u> is **black** (or null), and the tree forms a line
 - if the new node is a left child of its parent and the parent is a left child of the grandparent (or both are right children), perform a right rotation on the grandparent (or left rotation in the other case), then swap the colors of the original parent and grandparent
 - case 4 is terminal (no further work is necessary)
- After applying all cases, the root of the tree is set to **black**

25