



# Binary Search Tree Insertion (Implementation)

In this chapter, we'll study the implementation of Binary Search Tree insertion in Python through the iterative and recursive approaches.

## We'll cover the following



- Introduction
- Insert Implementation (Iterative)
  - Explanation
- Insert Implementation (Recursive)
  - Explanation

## Introduction #

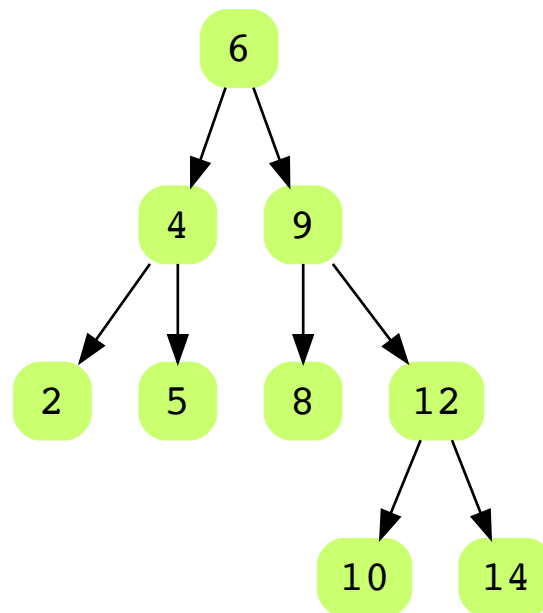
There are two ways to code a BST insert function

- *Iteratively*
- *Recursively*

We will be implementing *both* in this lesson. We'll end up with the following tree once we implement the BST insert function and insert the elements

`[6,4,9,5,2,8,12,10,14]` .





## Insert Implementation (Iterative) #

main.py

BinarySearchTree.py

Node.py

```
1 from Node import Node
2 from BinarySearchTree import BinarySearchTree
3 import random
4
5
6 def display(node):
7     lines, _, _, _ = _display_aux(node)
8     for line in lines:
9         print(line)
10
11
12 def _display_aux(node):
13     """
14     Returns list of strings, width, height,
15     and horizontal coordinate of the root.
16     """
17     # No child.
18     if node.rightChild is None and node.leftChild is None:
19         line = str(node.val)
```

```
20         width = len(line)
21         height = 1
22         middle = width // 2
23         return [line], width, height, middle
24
25     # Only left child.
26     if node.rightChild is None:
27         lines, n, p, x = _display_aux(node.leftChild)
28         s = str(node.val)
```



## Explanation #

The `insert(val)` function takes an integer value and if the root exists, it calls the `Node` class's `insert` function on it; otherwise, it makes the root the value to be inserted. The `Node` class's `insert()` function takes care of the meat of the algorithm. Now, while you *can* write an insert function in the `BinarySearchTree` class itself, it's better to write it as part of the `Node` class as it *usually* makes the code cleaner and easier to maintain.

The `insert(val)` function starts from the root of the tree and moves on to the left or right sub-tree depending on whether the value to be inserted is less than or greater than or equal to the node. While traversing, it stores the parent node of each current node and when the current node becomes empty or `None`, it inserts the value there. It does so by making the value to be inserted the current node (which is `None`)'s parent's child. In other words, the value is inserted in place of the current node.

## Insert Implementation (Recursive) #

main.py

BinarySearchTree.py







Node.py

```
from Node import Node

class BinarySearchTree:
    def __init__(self, val):
        self.root = Node(val)

    def insert(self, val):
        if self.root:
            return self.root.insert(val)
        else:
            self.root = Node(val)
            return True
```



## Explanation #

This implementation starts with the root and calls the insert function on its left child if **val** is less than the value at the root, and calls it on its right child if **val** is greater than or equal to the value at the root. This continues until a **None** node is reached. At that point, a new node is created and returned to the previous leaf node, which is now the parent of the new node that we just created.

In the next lesson, we will see how BST search works and we'll also implement it in Python.

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