# Red-Black Trees CMSC 420

#### 2-3 Trees

Perfectly balanced, which is nice

How do we implement them?

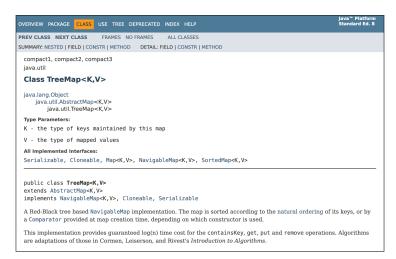
One way is to use red-black binary search trees

Specifically, we will use *left-leaning* RBBSTs

Don't trust the online simulators! Trust Sedgewick and Wayne

#### I think I've red about those somewhere...

#### Red-Black Trees appear somewhat frequently



#### The Basic Idea

We will split a 3-node into two 2-nodes with a special red link

All 2-3 tree links will be black links

We can re-use all of our BST search mechanisms unmodified!

We get top-down insertion (with some changes)

We'll have to sacrifice a little efficiency, but it's worth it

## Some Things to Note

We are discussing *Left-Leaning* Red-Black Trees

Easier to implement than traditional RBBSTs

Same theoretical properties

Unlike 2-3 Trees, Red-Black Trees do not implement key rotations

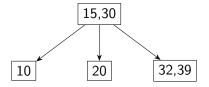
#### **Deleting Deletions**

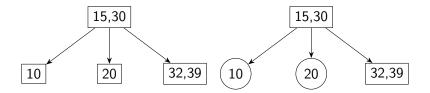
We could do *hard* deletions, where we remove nodes from the data structure

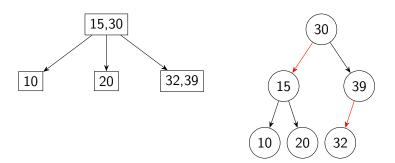
- This is very difficult for RBBSTs
- We're not going to do it!

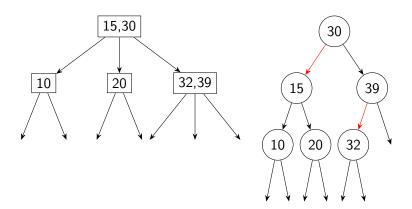
Instead, we will do soft deletion

- ▶ a.k.a. "Mark-and-Sweep"
- Set a "deleted" bit
- Periodically create a new tree with only the "live" nodes
- Same approach taken by ArrayList and lots of garbage collectors









#### Advantages

Your existing BST code will work just fine for searching

Could override an existing class

Make any inner node classes protected

# Disadvantages

Taller trees, thanks to red links

AVL Tree 
$$[\log_2 n, \log_2 n + 1]$$
  
RBBST  $[\log_2 n, 2 \log_2 n]$ 

Best case, 2-3 tree with only 2-nodes (ie, a BST) will be a perfectly balanced binary tree with no red links  $(\log_2 n)$ 

Worst case, 2-3 tree with only 3-nodes will have as many red left links as black left links  $(2 \log_2 n)$ 

#### **RBBST Nodes**

#### What do we need?

- Links to children
- Comparable data field
- Color of the link from our parent
- Implementation that's visible in subclasses

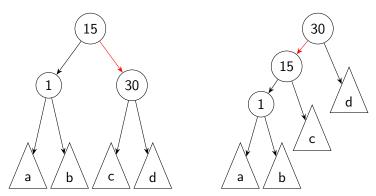
```
protected enum Color {
   RED, BLACK;
}

protected class Node {
   Node left, right;
   T data;
   Color color;
}
```

# Right-Leaning Red Links

We'll occasionally see right-leaning red links

These are not allowed, so we have to fix them

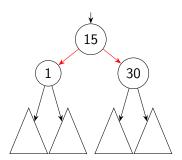


We need a rotateLeft(Node n) method! Take a few minutes to write one

#### Two Red Links

We'll see cases where a node has two red links

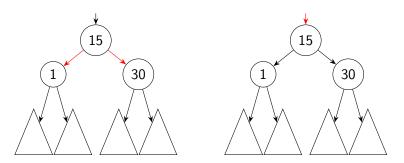
This also is not allowed



#### Two Red Links

We'll see cases where a node has two red links

This also is not allowed



Write another method flipColors(Node n) to do the operation shown above

#### Red-Black Tree Invariants

This is for a left-leaning RBBST that models a 2-3 tree

- 1. The root is always Black
- 2. All red links point to the left
- 3. Any given node has at most one red link inbound or outbound
- 4. All leaf nodes are the *same* number of black links from the root (perfect black link balance)

Root is Black

This one is easy

Every time we insert an item, we end by setting the root to  $\mathsf{BLACK}$ 

```
public void insert(Key k) {
   root = insert(root, k);
   root.color = BLACK;
}
```

All Red Links Point Left

#### All insertions are made with red links

This means we will have red links pointing to the right

These must be rotated to become left-leaning red links

Only One Red Link per Node

If we have 2 red links, we have a 4-node

We will see three ways to fix this

Ultimately, this will involve splitting the 4-node, since we don't have key rotations

Black Link Balance

This should be easy

All of our operations should preserve this property

If not, we have a bug

Note: Adding new items with red links helps us preserve this!

2-3 Tree

**Red-Black Tree** 

We start with an empty tree





#### **Red-Black Tree**



Adding our first node is easy



Now we add a second node, which creates a 3-node, but a right-leaning red link



We rotate left, to fix the link direction



Adding 90 creates a 4-node, and a second red link off of 80



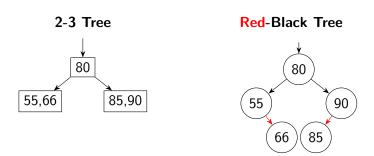
That means we have to flipColors



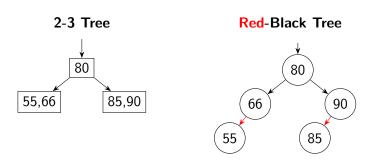
I see a red root and I want it painted black



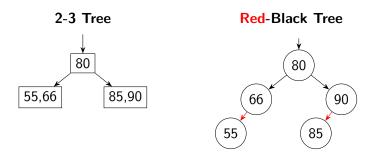
Inserting 85 is easy, it's just a 3-node/left-leaning red link



Inserting 66 adds another right-leaning red link



So we have to rotate it

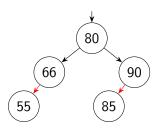


Now, we'll look at three separate cases for inserting into 55,66

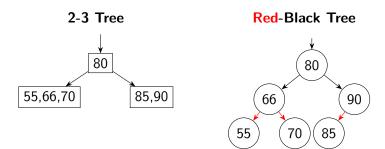
2-3 Tree

| 80 | 85,90 |

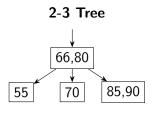
#### **Red-Black Tree**



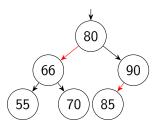
Let's insert 70



Let's insert 70 This creates two red links from 66



#### **Red-Black Tree**

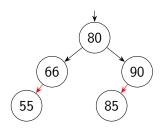


Let's insert 70 This creates two red links from 66 flipColors fixes this!

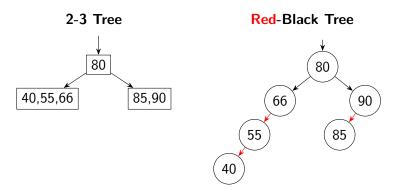
2-3 Tree

| 80 | 85,90 |

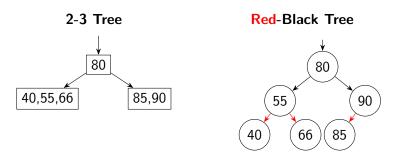
#### **Red-Black Tree**



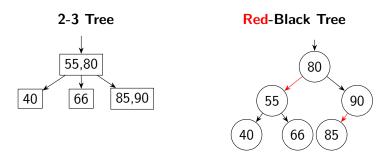
Let's insert 40



Let's insert 40 We have two red links connected to 55



Let's insert 40 We have two red links connected to 55 A right rotation makes both red links children of 55

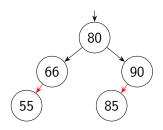


Let's insert 40
We have two red links connected to 55
A right rotation makes both red links children of 55
Then a flipColor restores the one-left-leaning-red-link requirement at 55

2-3 Tree

| 80 | 85,90 |

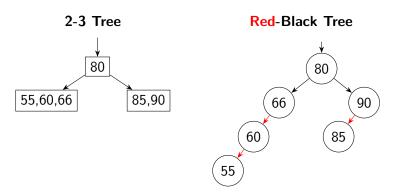
#### **Red-Black Tree**



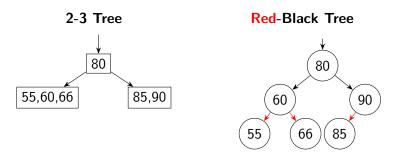
Let's insert 60

# 2-3 Tree Red-Black Tree 80 55,60,66 85,90 66 90 66 60

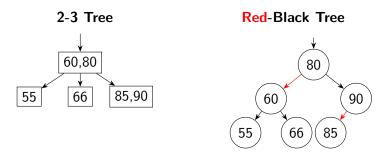
Let's insert 60 Once again, we have two red links at 55



Let's insert 60 Once again, we have two red links at 55 Start with a left rotation (remember AVL trees?)



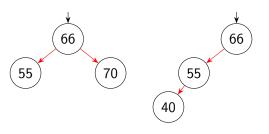
Let's insert 60
Once again, we have two red links at 55
Start with a left rotation (remember AVL trees?)
Then a right rotation



Let's insert 60
Once again, we have two red links at 55
Start with a left rotation (remember AVL trees?)
Then a right rotation
A call to flipColors does the rest!

# Comparing Insertions in a 3-Node

#### Costs can vary greatly



flipColors

- 1. rotateRight
- flipColors

60

66

- rotateLeft
- 2. rotateRight
- flipColors

# (Too) "Hard" Deletion

This refers to the process of removing the node from the tree

We've seen this in BSTs, AVL Trees, and 2-3 Trees

We haven't actually implemented it

Even at the conceptual level, this is very hard in RBBSTs

See the exercise in 3.3 of Sedgewick and Wayne if you're interested

#### "Soft" Deletion

We'll perform a Mark-and-Sweep

Key deletion does not remove a node now

Instead, we set a bit indicating it's available for garbage collection

We might re-use the node before it's garbage-collected (make sure to un-set the bit!)

Periodically, we run a sweeping phase

- Create a new tree
- Insert "live" nodes into the new tree
- Move the reference to the root to the new tree
- Delete all of the original nodes

## **RBBST Theory**

Red-Black Trees have perfect black link balance

- All null pointers are the same number of black links from the root
- ▶ If we could ignore red links, we'd have worst-case  $log_2$  n search

Classic BSTs are  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  for unit cost of pointer dereference

RBBSTs are  $\mathcal{O}(\log_2 n)$  for any insertion order (even if that constant factor is 2)

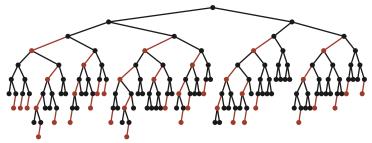
AVL Trees are also  $\mathcal{O}(\log_2 n)$ , with a constant of essentially 1

# RBBST Height

 $2\log_2 n$  height is rare

It happens when we have a lot of red links

In practice, this is more typical:



#### AVL vs. Red-Black Trees

AVL Trees		Red-Black Trees	
Pro	Con	Pro	Con
$\mathcal{O}(\log_2 n)$ height	Spatial overhead	$\mathcal{O}(\log_2 n)$ height	Worst-case
			2 log <sub>2</sub> n height
Reasonably easy		Practical imple-	Hard deletions
hard deletions		mentation for	difficult to
		2-3 and 2-3-4	implement
		Trees	