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## Introduction

A splay tree is a self-adjusting binary search tree. Although other data structures such as AVL trees and Red Black trees are also self-balancing, the uniqueness of a splay tree is defined by its ability to splay. Splaying is a concept where left and right rotations occur to bring an element to the root. Through splaying, more Useful elements in a tree can be brought closer to the root of the tree to increase operations.

## Splaying

Rotations in a splay tree are somewhat similar to an AVL tree. In total of six rotations are possible in a splay tree.

- Zig (right) rotation.
- Zag (left) rotation.
- Zig zag (right then left).
- Zag zig (left then right).
- Zig zig (right then right again).
- Zag zag (left then left again).

## Operations on a Splay Tree

A splay tree contains operations such as insertion, deletion, searching, and splaying

## Advantages of a Splay Tree

- In an AVL tree, we need to store the balance factor to determine when to make rotations. In Red Black Tree, we store the color of each node. In a splay tree, no balance factor or color is needed to be stored for splaying.
- Splay tree is similar to a binary search tree to some extent. However, it is significantly faster than a binary search tree. In fact, it is the fastest version of a binary search tree.
- Search time on a splay tree is reduced due to having more important nodes closer to the root. So, data access is much faster.

## Disadvantages of a splay tree

Splay tree is not strictly balanced. It is roughly balanced. For this reason, if we consider the worst case when tree is linear, its time complexity will be  $O(n)$ .

### Code

```
1  #include<iostream>
2  using namespace std;
3
4  class node{
5  public:
6      int key;
7      node *left, *right;
8  };
9
10 node *TreeNode(int key)
11 {
12     node *Node = new node();
13     Node->key = key;
14     Node->left = Node->right = NULL;
15     return (Node);
16 }
17
18 node *right_rotate(node *x)
19 {
20     node *y = x->left;
21     x->left = y->right;
22     y->right = x;
23     return y;
24 }
25
26 node *left_rotate(node *x)
27 {
28     node *y = x->right;
29     x->right = y->left;
30     y->left = x;
31     return y;
32 }
33
34 node *splay(node *root, int key)
35 {
36
37     if (root == NULL || root->key == key)
38         return root;
39
40     if (root->key > key)
41     {
42
43         if (root->left == NULL)
44             return root;
45     }
```

```

46     if (root->left->key > key)
47     {
48
49         root->left->left = splay(root->left->left, key);
50
51         root = right_rotate(root);
52     }
53     else if (root->left->key < key)
54     {
55         root->left->right = splay(root->left->right, key);
56
57         if (root->left->right != NULL)
58             root->left = left_rotate(root->left);
59     }
60
61     return (root->left == NULL) ? root : right_rotate(root);
62 }
63
64 else
65 {
66     if (root->right == NULL)
67         return root;
68
69     if (root->right->key > key)
70     {
71
72         root->right->left = splay(root->right->left, key);
73
74         if (root->right->left != NULL)
75             root->right = right_rotate(root->right);
76     }
77
78     else if (root->right->key < key)
79     {
80
81         root->right->right = splay(root->right->right, key);
82         root = left_rotate(root);
83     }
84
85     return (root->right == NULL) ? root : left_rotate(root);
86 }
87 }
88
89 node *bstSearch(node *root, int key)
90 {
91     return splay(root, key);
92 }

```

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## Complexity Analysis

In the case of a binary search tree, the time complexity for the worst case for insertion, deletion, and search operations is  $O(n)$ . For the average case, complexity is  $O(\log n)$ . The objective of

the splay tree was to reduce the cost of operations significantly. A splay tree conducts insertion, deletion, and search operations in  $O(\log n)$  amortized time.

## Useases of a Splay tree

### Problem

We are required to find the median from an ordered data stream containing integers when subsequent integer values are getting added to the stream.

For example,

in a stream of (2, 3, 4), the median is 3

in a stream of (2, 3), the median is 2.5

### Solution

In this problem, we can use splay tree to find an efficient solution in  $O(\log n)$  time complexity.