

# IbraFSG™ 5 - Week 9; BSTs and Tree Traversals

Ibrahim Chehab

UTM RGASC

March 18, 2024

# Table of Contents

## 1 Introduction

- Welcome back to IbraFSGs™
- FSG HouseKeeping
- A Recap of the UltraSheet™

## 2 Trees and Recursive Data Structures

- Key Terms

## 3 Practice Problems

- Practice Problem I: TraversalOverflow
- Practice Problem II: TreeTheory

## 4 A Final Challenge

## 5 Conclusion

# Welcome back to IbraFSGs™

- Welcome back to IbraFSGs™! Hello to new people and welcome back to tenured members.
- This week we will be further discussing Trees and Recursive Data Structures, and their relations to *Binary Search Trees* (BSTs) and *Tree Traversals*
- Trees are a main character in the remainder of the course, and will reappear in CSC236 and CSC263.
- There are several types of trees:
  - Binary Trees/Binary Search Trees (BSTs)
  - AVL Trees [Also known as a self-balancing BST]
  - Abstract Syntax Trees (ASTs) [also known as Expression Trees]
  - Heaps
- CSC148 Only Focuses on Binary Trees, BSTs, ASTs, and Traditional Trees
  - On my exam last year, we had a question about cycles
  - The idea is, since you have an introductory idea of basic graphs (through trees), cycles are a natural extension of that - And thus fair game\*

*\*Will they give you a question about cycles? Probably not, but it's good to know the concept.*

- ① **Reminder that a new FSG Session has been added:** *Fridays 12:00-1:00 in IB210*  
*Note: This session is not run by myself, rather another FSG Leader. It is still a very useful resource nonetheless*
- ② **The Second Midterm is coming up!** That's right! The second midterm is approaching us quickly (March 25<sup>th</sup> 2024) Better start studying, maybe with. . .
- ③ **. . . The Second Midterm FSG Is Coming Soon!** Stay tuned for more details!
- ④ **Reminder that FSG Slides Are Posted!** That's right! All FSG Slides are posted on my GitHub page. You can find them here: <https://github.com/IbraTech04/FSG-Slides>

## FSG HouseKeeping (Cont'd)

QR Code for FSG Slides:



*<https://github.com/IbraTech04/FSG-Slides>*

## 6 New Study Session Drop Ins!

Feeling Stressed about exams? Don't know where to start? Drop by the MN3260 for a study skills session!

- **When:** March 20<sup>th</sup> 10-11AM, March 27<sup>th</sup> 3-4PM, and April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-2PM
- **Where:** MN3260

## FSG HouseKeeping (Cont'd)

### Ramadan Kareem to all those observing!

*Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. A commemoration of Muhammad's (pbuh) first revelation, the annual observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next.*



**Figure 1:** Image courtesy of [www.czechleaders.com](http://www.czechleaders.com)

# A Recap of the UltraSheet™

- An *UltraSheet™* is a "cheat sheet" that you compile for **yourself** to review course materials
  - Sharing UltraSheets™ is **counter-productive** and **will not help you learn the material**
  - However, reviewing content in a group and simultaneously updating your UltraSheets™ is a good idea
- It acts like your own personalized textbook chapter
  - It allows you to **regurgitate all the course information in a contiguous, organized manner** and helps you **find gaps in your knowledge**
- UltraSheets™ help with type 1 and 2 questions
  - Can you remember what type 1 and 2 questions are?
  - Can you remember what a *type 3* question is? :troll:



# Key Terms

**Required Key Terms:** The following key terms are required for this week's content. You should be able to define and explain these terms in your UltraSheets™:

- **Pre-order Traversal**
- **Post-order Traversal**
- **Level-order Traversal**
- **In-order Traversal**
  - **Note:** In-order Traversal is the most important traversal for BSTs
  - *Can In-Order Traversal be done on a non-BT? Why or why not?*
- **Binary Search Tree (BST):** A special kind of binary tree that has the following properties: **The four properties of a BST:**
  - The left subtree of a node contains only nodes with keys less than the node's key
  - The right subtree of a node contains only nodes with keys greater than the node's key
  - The left and right subtree each must also be a binary search tree - If the root is not None
  - Each subtree must have **at most** two children
- **Note:** Duplicates in Binary Trees usually depend on the implementation
  - In your case; You would need to check the question carefully to see if duplicates are allowed, and whether or not that will affect your traversal
  - Common Places to check: Preconditions, Rerepresentation Invariants, context-cues in the question

# Key Terms (Cont'd)

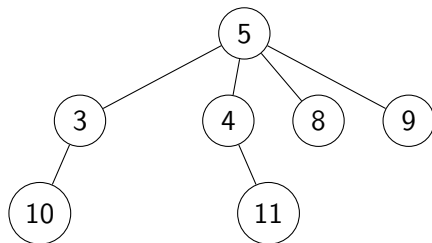
**Suggested Key Terms:** The following key terms are *recommended* for further studying this week's content. Most are out of the scope of the course and are **not** required, but are fun for extra learning:

- **AVL Tree:** A special kind of BST that is self-balancing - Guarantees  $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$  time complexity for all operations
  - **Why is this important?** Keep this in the back of your head for an upcoming activity ;D
- **Balancing Factor:** Useful in CSC263 when talking about *AVL Trees*. Denotes the difference in height between the left and right subtrees of a node, and is used to determine what *rotation* is required to re-balance the tree
  - Don't worry about this if it doesn't make sense;
  - Again, it's out of the scope of the course. Just a fun fact **if** you want to learn more
- **Breadth-first Search (BFS):** A graph traversal algorithm that visits all nodes at the current depth before moving to the next depth
- **Depth-first Search (DFS):** A graph traversal algorithm that visits all nodes in a branch before moving to the next branch

## Practice Problem I: TraversalOverflow

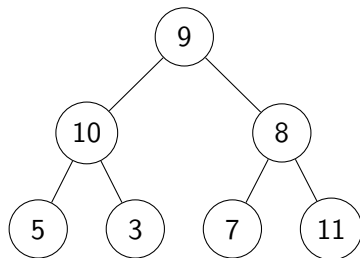
Dipal's computer was hit by a solar flare while he was working on his FSG Homework. As a result, all his trees were converted into their respective list representations. Unfortunately, he doesn't know what kind of traversals were used! He needs your help to match up the list representations with their respective trees.

- ① 5, 3, 10, 7, 11, 8, 9.
- ② 5, 11, 10, 9, 8, 4, 3.
- ③ 10, 3, 11, 7, 8, 9, 5.
- ④ 10, 3, 11, 4, 8, 9, 5.



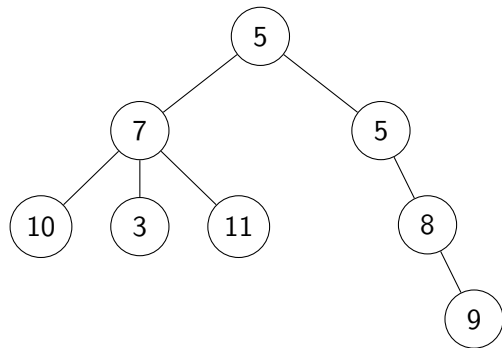
## Practice Problem I: TraversalOverflow

- ① 5, 3, 10, 7, 11, 8, 9.
- ② 9, 10, 8, 5, 3, 7, 11
- ③ 10, 3, 11, 7, 8, 9, 5.
- ④ 10, 3, 11, 4, 8, 9, 5.



## Practice Problem I: TraversalOverflow

- ① 5, 3, 10, 7, 11, 8, 9.
- ② 9, 10, 8, 5, 3, 7, 11
- ③ 10, 3, 11, 7, 8, 9, 5.
- ④ 10, 3, 11, 4, 8, 9, 5.



# TraversalOverflow Debrief

What did you notice with the preorder and postorder traversals of each tree?

- Were they unique?
- Were they bijective?
- Was it possible to determine the tree from the traversal, or did you need to reference the tree first?

What does this tell you about the uniqueness of the pre-order and post-order traversals?

- Are they unique?
- Can you accurately reconstruct the tree from the traversal? Why or why not?
- Is there a bijection between the traversal and the tree?

**Keep this in the back of your head for the next activity**

## Practice Problem II: TreeTheory

**What kinds of questions have I been focusing on during the FSGs?**

*Type 1, 2, or 3?*

## Practice Problem II: TreeTheory

**What kinds of questions have I been focusing on during the FSGs?**

*Type 1, 2, or 3?*

I've mostly been drilling you on *Type 3* questions!

However, Trees have a lot of *Type 1 and Type 2* potential, so this next activity will focus on those.



## Practice Problem II: Tree Theory

### Question:

Consider an arbitrary binary tree of height  $n$ . What is the maximum number of leaves that a binary tree of height  $n$  can have? What is the minimum number of leaves that a binary tree of height  $n$  can have?

*Hint: Consider when the maximum amount of subtrees is achieved, and when the minimum amount of subtrees is achieved.*

## Practice Problem II: Tree Theory

### Question:

Consider an arbitrary Binary Tree of size  $n$ . What is the maximum height  $h_1$  that can be achieved? What is the minimum height  $h_2$  that can be achieved? Justify your answer.

*Hint: Consider modelling a few examples of arbitrary size  $n$  and see if you can find a pattern.*

## Practice Problem II: Tree Theory

### Question:

Consider the search operation for a *Binary Search Tree*. What is the **worst case** time complexity for the search operation? When does it happen? Give an example of a tree that would cause this to happen.

Are BST operations *in general* always  $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ ? Why or why not?

*Hint: Recall our discussion about the Balancing Factor and AVL Trees earlier in the slides.*

## Practice Problem II: Tree Theory

### Question:

You are working on a new sorting algorithm known as *IbraSort*. *IbraSort* works by first inserting all the elements into a *Binary Search Tree*, and then performing an *In-Order Traversal* to retrieve the sorted elements. What is the time complexity of *IbraSort*? Is it ever possible for *IbraSort* to have a complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ ? Why or why not?

## Practice Problem II: Tree Theory

### Question:

Consider an arbitrary *Binary Tree*. Given its preorder traversal and postorder traversal, is it possible to reconstruct the tree? Why or why not? What if we consider a *BST* instead?

# A Final Challenge

**Homework, anyone? :) Does anyone do these anyway?**

We know that given the pre-order and post-order traversals of an arbitrary tree, we **cannot** reconstruct the original tree without additional information. However, as we discovered today, this is not the case with *BSTs*.

## Your Challenge:

Given the *postorder* representation of a *BST*, write a function that reconstructs the original *BST*.

Can the same be done for the *preorder* representation? What about its *in-order* Why or why not?

```
class BinarySearchTree:
    # Implementation omitted, see course notes

def reconstruct_bst(postorder: List[int]) -> BinarySearchTree:
    # TODO: Implement this function
```

*Hint: Consider the properties of postorder traversal, and the properties of a BST.*

*Hint #2: Consider using a helper function to help you recurse through the list.*

*Hint #3: Consider AVL Trees for Pt 3 of this question*

Thank you for coming!



**Figure 2:** Image courtesy of Looney Tunes™ and Warner Bros.™