

B-Trees Rules for Deletion Summary:

Source: Cormen Introduction to Algorithms 3rd edition

Rule 1: If the key k is part of a leaf node x , then just delete the key.

Rule 2A: If the key k belongs to an internal node x .

If the child y that precedes k in a node x has at least t keys, then find the predecessor k' of k in the subtree rooted at y . Recursively delete k' and replace k by k' in x .

Rule 2B: If the key k belongs to an internal node.

If y has fewer than t keys, then, symmetrically, examine the child z that follows k in node x . If z has at least t keys, then find the successor k' of k in the subtree rooted at z . Recursively delete k' and replace k by k' in x .

Rule 2C: If the key k belongs to an internal node x .

Otherwise, if both y and z have only $t - 1$ keys, merge k and all of z into y , so that x loses both k and the pointer to z , and y now contains $2t - 1$ keys. Then free z and recursively delete k from y .

Rule 3A: If the key k is not part of the internal node x , take $x.c_i$ the root of the subtree that must contain k (if k is in the tree). If $x.c_i$ has only $t - 1$ keys,

If $x.c_i$ has an immediate sibling with greater than or equal to t keys, then give $x.c_i$ an extra key by:

- Moving a key from x to $x.c_i$
- Moving a key from $x.c_i$'s immediate left or right sibling up x
- Moving the appropriate child pointer from the sibling into $x.c_i$

Rule 3B: If the key k is not part of the internal node x , take $x.c_i$ the root of the subtree that must contain k (if k is in the tree).

If both $x.c_i$'s immediate sibling have $t - 1$ keys, merge $x.c_i$ with one sibling, which involves moving a key from x down into the new merged node to become the median for that node