

# Data structures and Algorithms

## Trees

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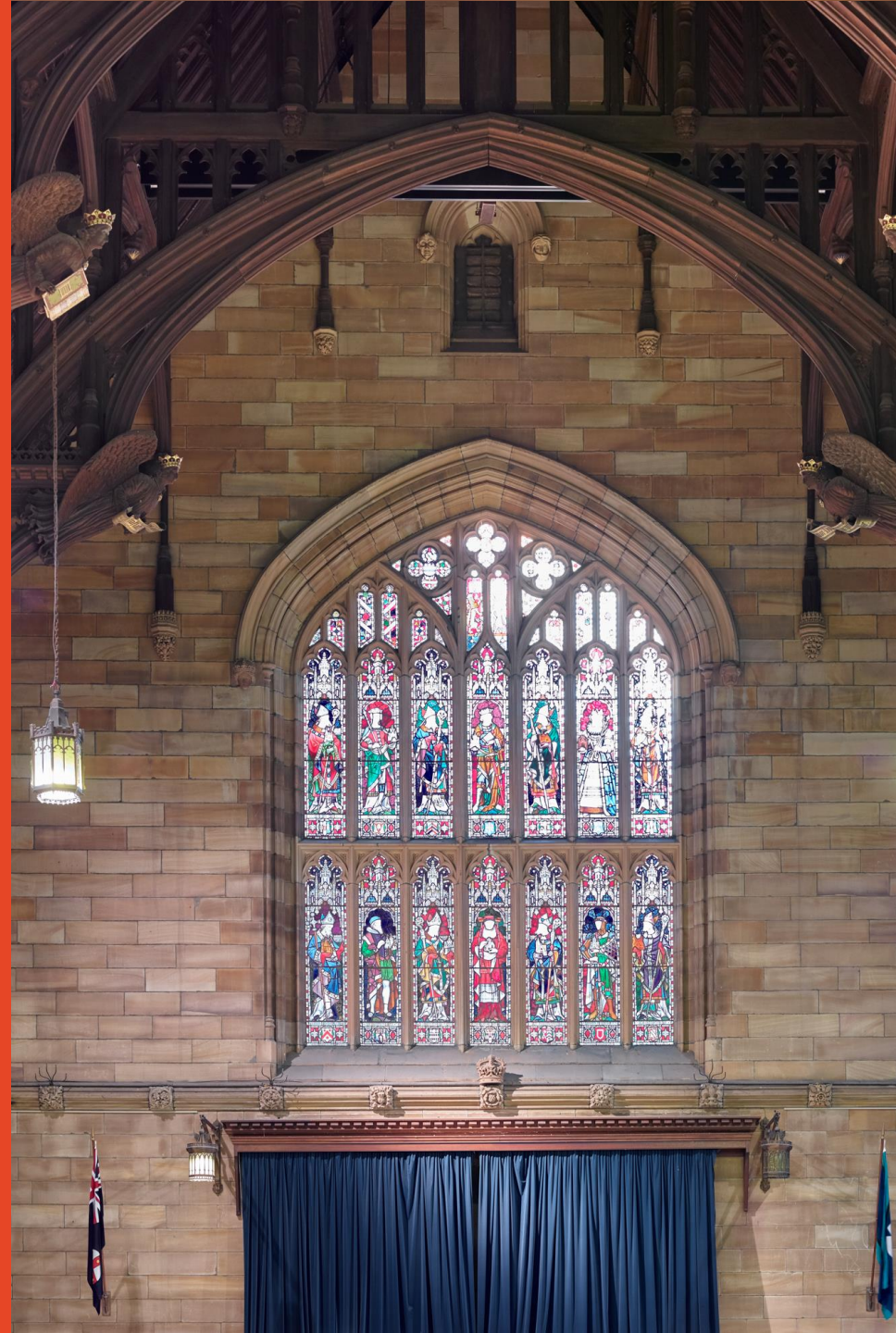
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*Some content is taken from the textbook  
publisher Wiley and previous  
Co-ordinator Dr. Andre van Renssen.*



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# Agenda: Trees

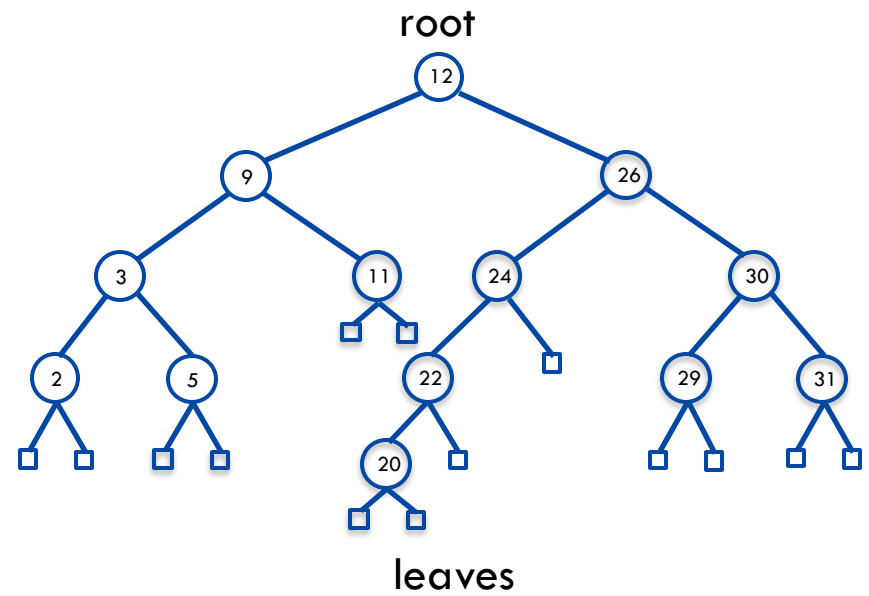
- Definition and terminology
- Applications
- Tree ADT
- Tree traversal algorithms
- Binary trees
- Implementing trees
- Recursive code on trees

# Trees

leaves



root

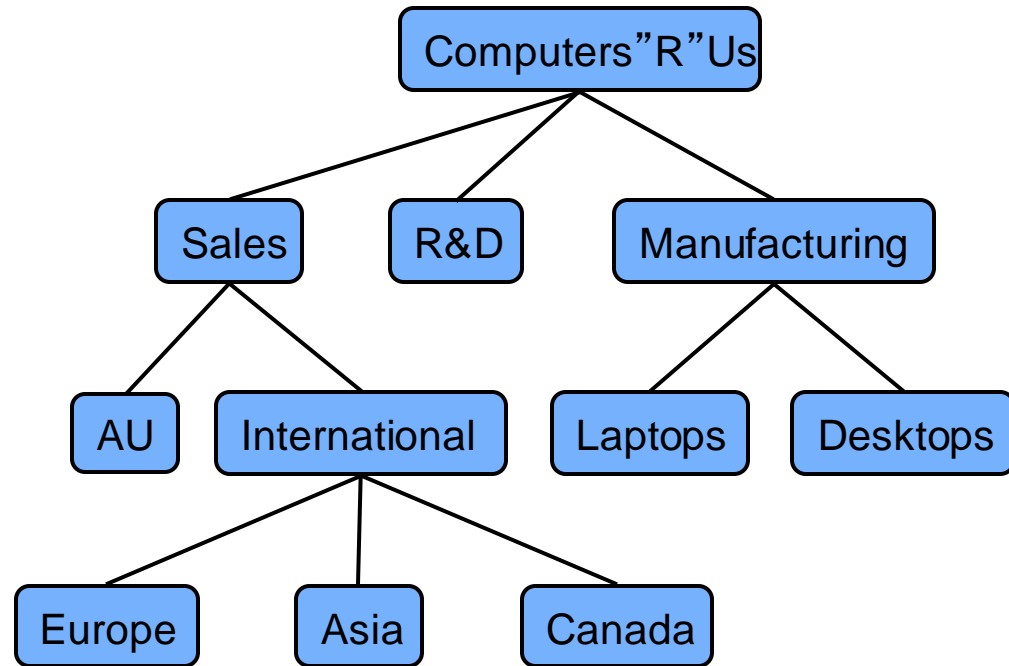


# What is a Tree

In computer science, a tree is an abstract model of a hierarchical structure

A tree consists of nodes with a parent-child relation

- if  $u$  is parent of  $v$ , then  $v$  is a child of  $u$
- a node has at most **one** parent in a tree
- a node can have zero, one or more children



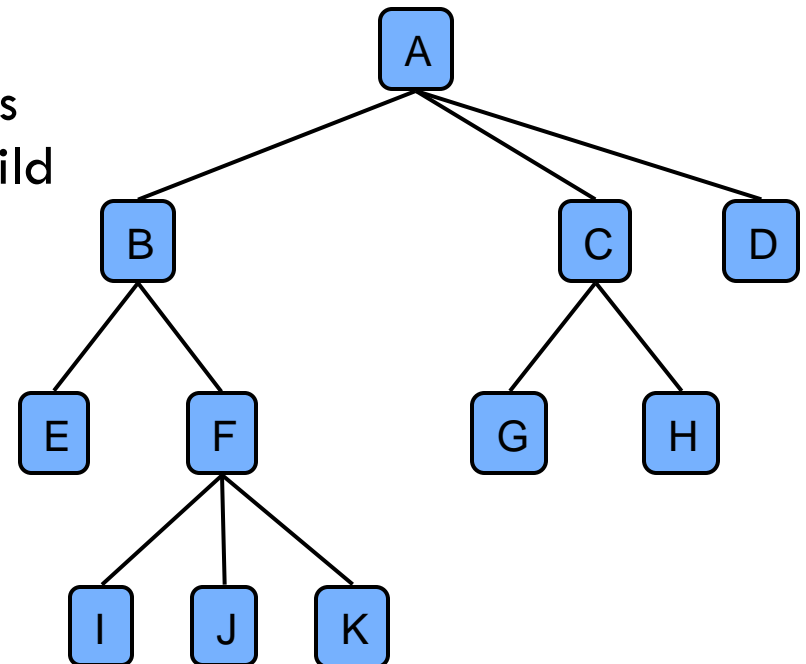
## Applications:

- Organization charts
- File systems
- Phrase structure

# Formal definition

A **tree**  $T$  is made up of a set of **nodes** endowed with **parent-child** relationship with following properties:

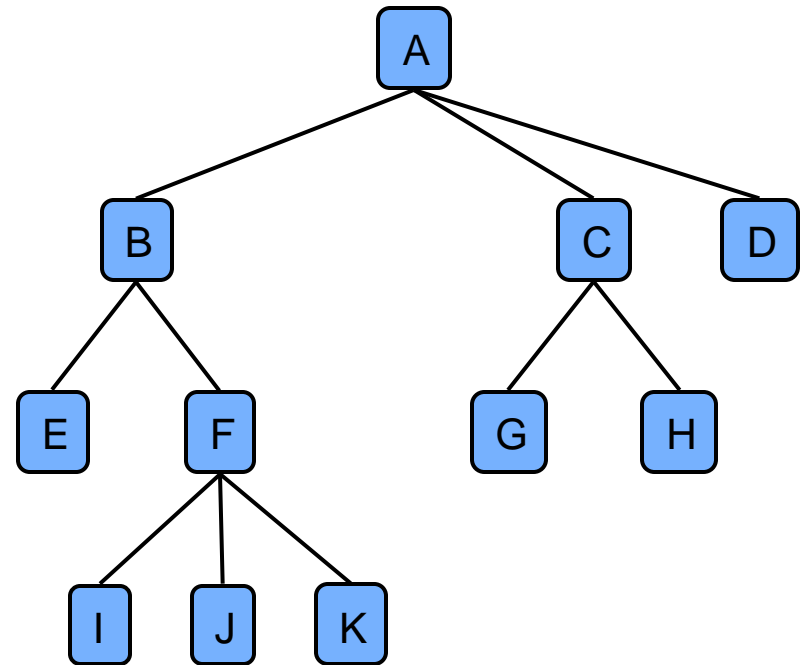
- If  $T$  is non-empty, it has a special node called the **root** that has no parent
- Every node  $v$  of  $T$  other than the root has a unique **parent**
- Following the parent relation always leads to the root (i.e., the parent-child relation does not have “cycles”)



# Tree Terminology

Depending on where they are in the tree, we classify nodes into:

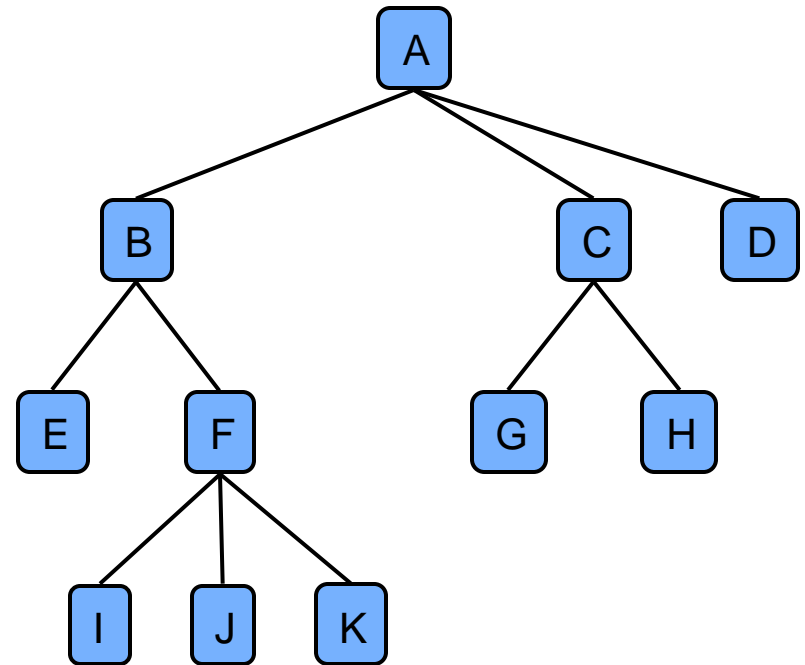
- **Root:** node without parent (e.g., A)
- **Internal node:** node with at least one child (e.g., A, B, C, F)
- **External/leaf node:** node without children (e.g., E, I, J, K, G, H, D)



# Tree Terminology

We can extend the parent-child relation to capture indirect relations:

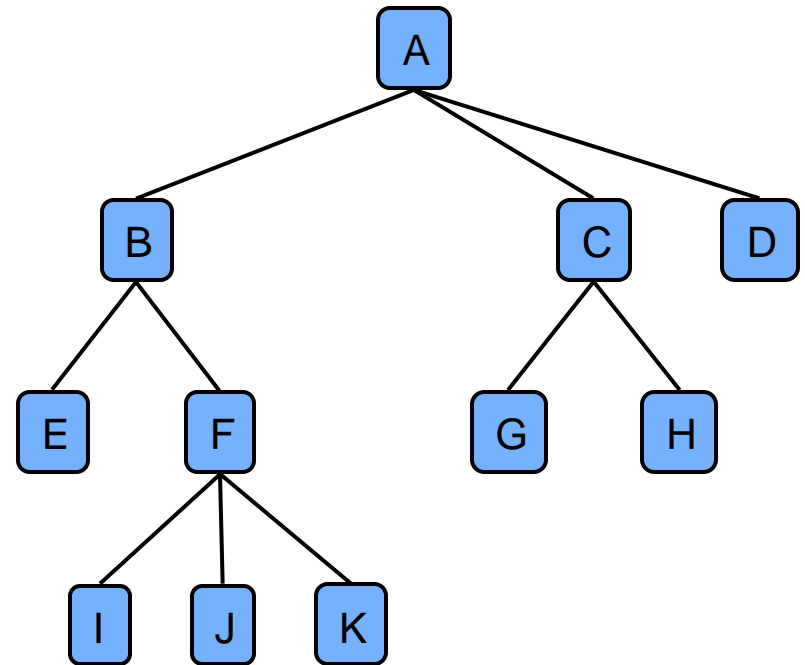
- **Ancestors:** parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc. (e.g., ancestors of F are A, B)
- **Descendants:** child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc. (e.g., descendants of B are E, F, I, J, K)
- Two nodes with the same parent are **siblings** (e.g., B and D)



# Tree Terminology

More fine-grained location concepts:

- **Depth of a node:** number of ancestors not including itself (e.g.,  $\text{depth}(F) = 2$ )
- **Level:** set of nodes with given depth (e.g.,  $\{E, F, G, H\}$  are level 2)
- **Height of a tree:** maximum depth (e.g., 3)

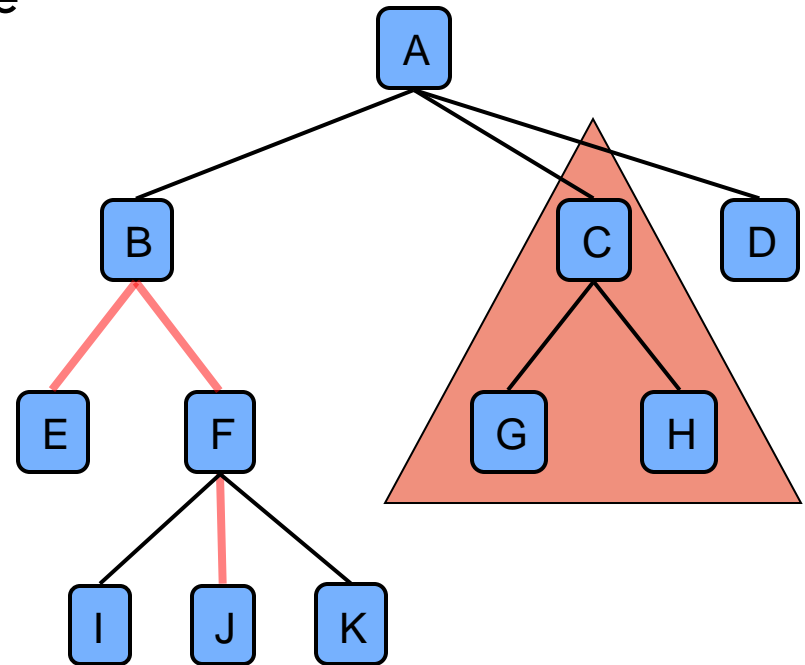




# Tree Terminology

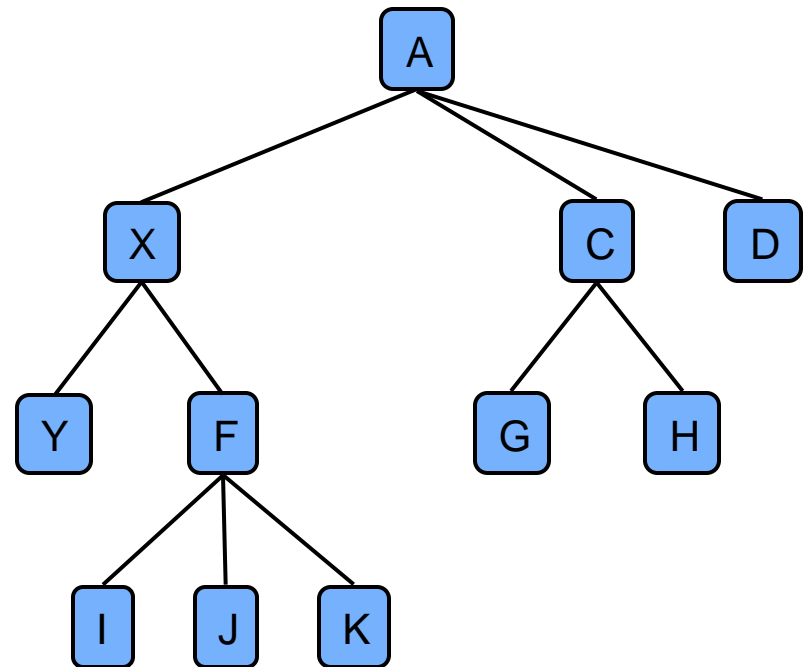
Substructures of a tree:

- **Subtree:** tree made up of some node and its descendants. (e.g., subtree rooted at C is {C, G, H})
- **Edge:** pair of nodes (u, v) such that one is the parent of the other
- **Path:** sequence of nodes such that 2 consecutive nodes in the sequence have an edge (e.g.,  $\langle E, B, F, J \rangle$ ).



# Tree facts

- If node  $X$  is an ancestor of node  $Y$ , then  $Y$  is a descendant of  $X$ .
- Ancestor/descendant relations are transitive
- Every node is a descendant of the root
- There may be nodes where neither is an ancestor of the other
- Every pair of nodes has at least one common ancestor.
- The lowest common ancestor (LCA) of  $x$  and  $y$  is a node  $z$  such that  $z$  is the ancestor of  $x$  and  $y$  and no descendant of  $z$  has that property



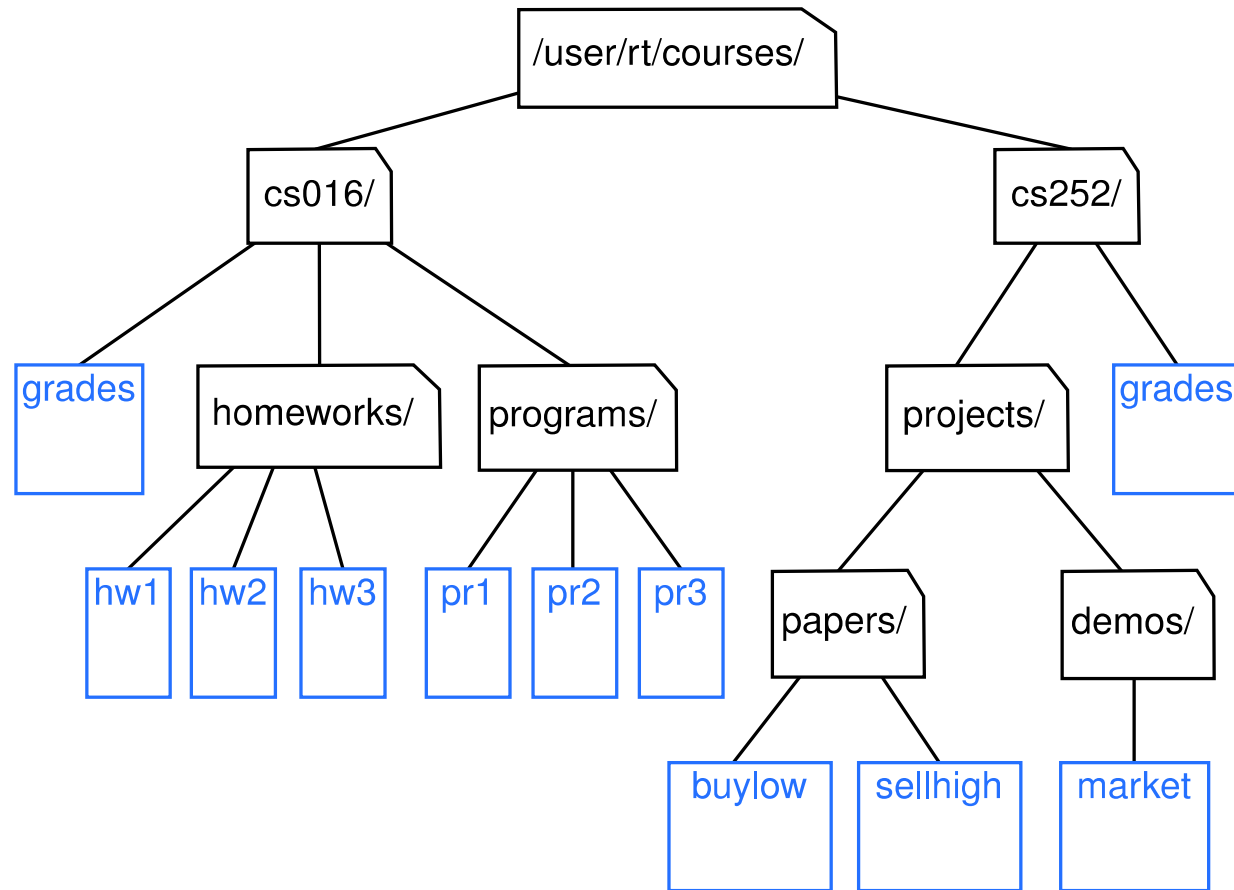
# Ordered Trees

Sometimes order of siblings matter

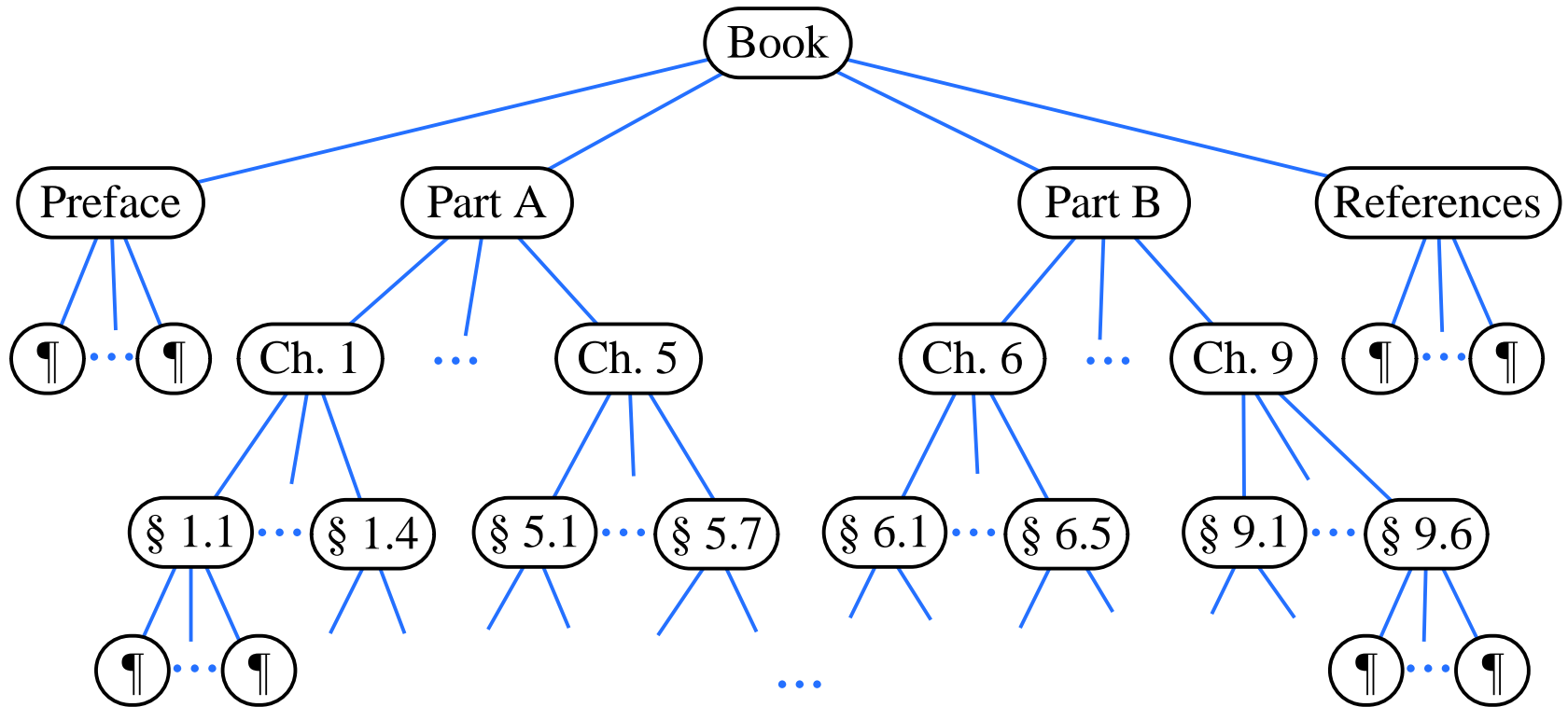
In an **ordered** tree there is a prescribed order for each node's children

In a diagram this ordering is usually represented by the left to right arrangement of the nodes

# Application: OS file structure



# Application: Document structure



# Tree ADT

- Position as Node abstraction
- Generic methods:
  - integer **size()**
  - boolean **isEmpty()**
  - Iterator **iterator()**
  - Iterable **positions()**
- Access methods:
  - Position **root()**
  - Position **parent(p)**
  - Iterable **children(p)**
  - Integer **numChildren(p)**
- ▶ Query methods:
  - ▶ boolean **isInternal(p)**
  - ▶ boolean **isExternal(p)**
  - ▶ boolean **isRoot(p)**
- ▶ Additional update methods may be defined by data structures implementing the Tree ADT

## Node object

Node object implementation typically has the following attributes:

- value: the value associated with this Node
- children: set or list of children of this Node
- parent: (optional) the parent of this Node

```
def is_external(v)
    # test if v is a leaf
    return v.children.is_empty()
```

```
def is_root(v)
    # test if v is the root
    return v.parent == null
```

# Traversing trees

A **traversal** visits the nodes of a tree in a systematic manner

When traversing a simpler structure like a list there is one natural traversal strategy (forward or backwards)

Trees are more complex and admit more than one natural way:

- pre-order
- post-order
- in-order (for binary trees)



# Preorder Traversal

To do a preorder traversal starting at a given node, we visit the node before visiting its descendants

```
def pre_order(v)
    visit(v)
    for each child w of v
        pre_order(w)
```

If tree is ordered visit the child subtrees in the prescribed order

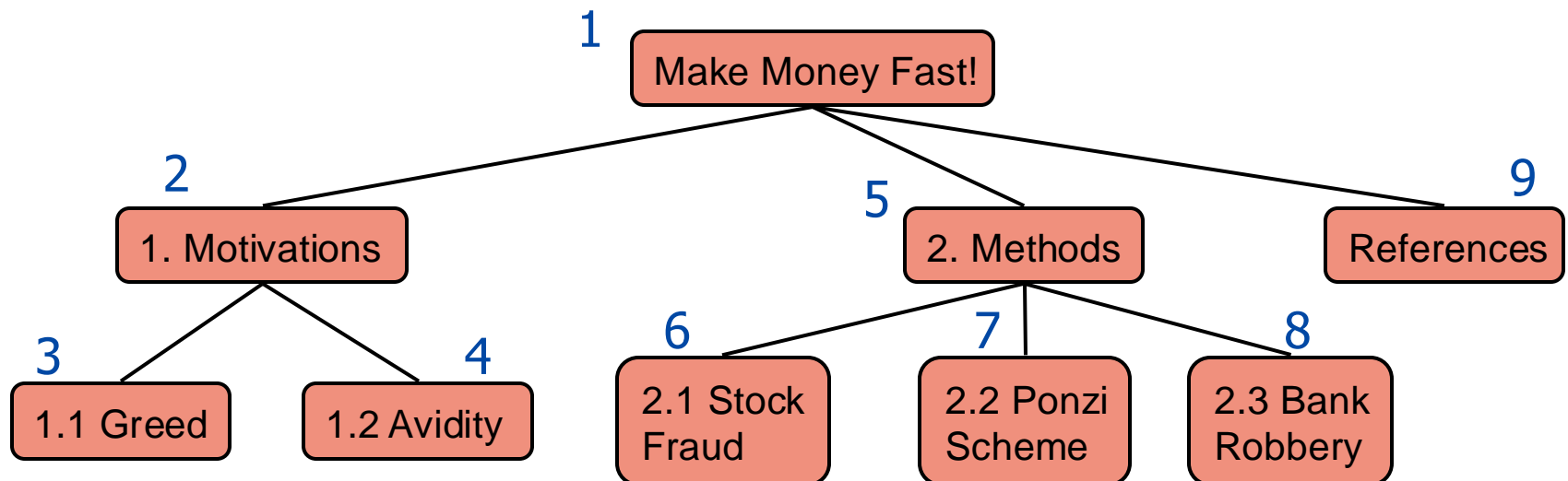
Visit does some work on the node:

- print node data
- aggregate node data
- modify node data

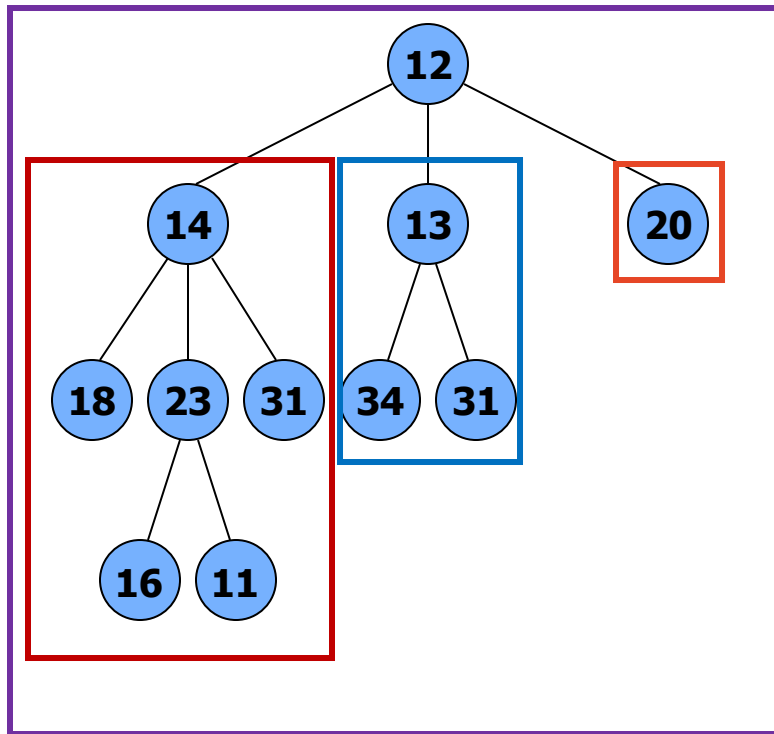
# Preorder Traversal Example

Nodes are numbered in the order they are visited when we call `pre_order()` at the root

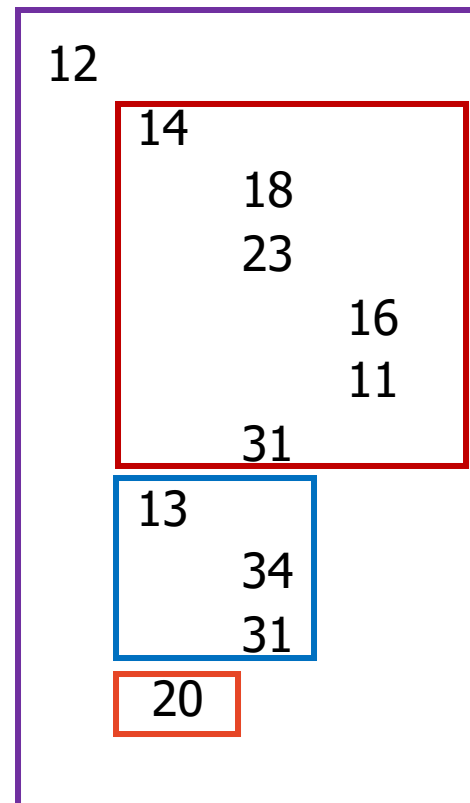
```
def pre_order(v)
    visit(v)
    for each child w of v
        pre_order(w)
```



# Preorder Traversal Example



visit  
order



Preorder  
traversal  
of subtree

# Postorder Traversal

To do a postorder traversal starting at a given node, we visit the node after its descendants

```
def post_order(v)
    for each child w of v
        post_order(w)
    visit(v)
```

If tree is ordered visit the child subtrees in the prescribed order

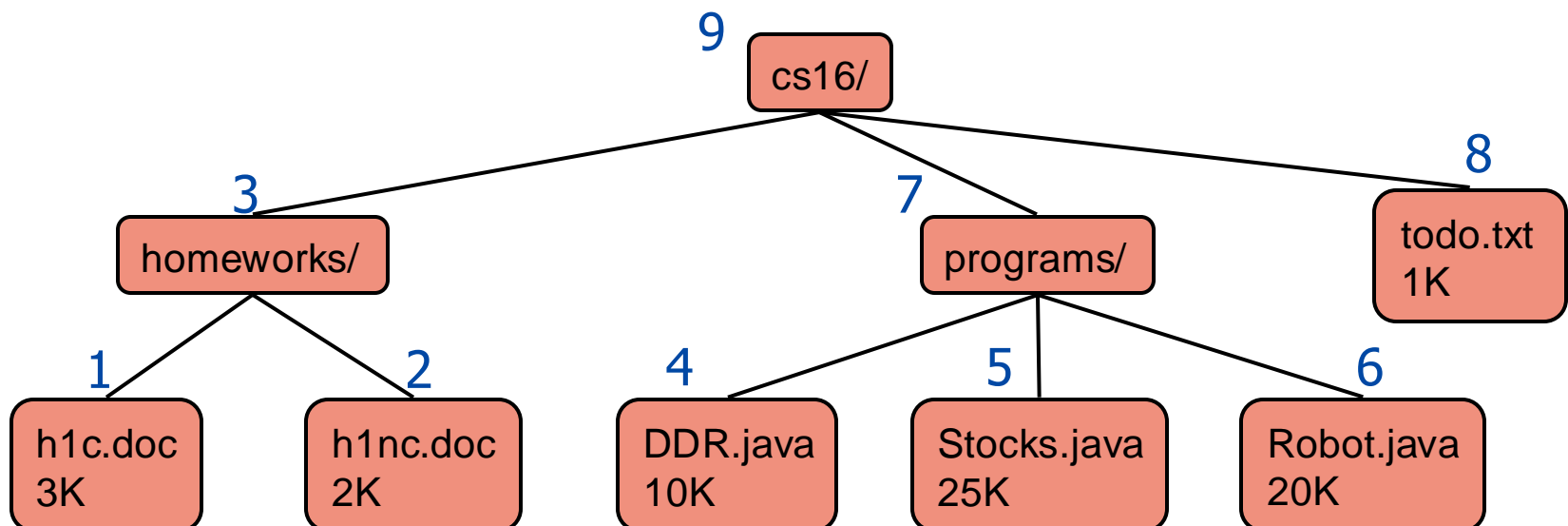
Visit does some work on the node:

- print node data
- aggregate node data
- modify node data

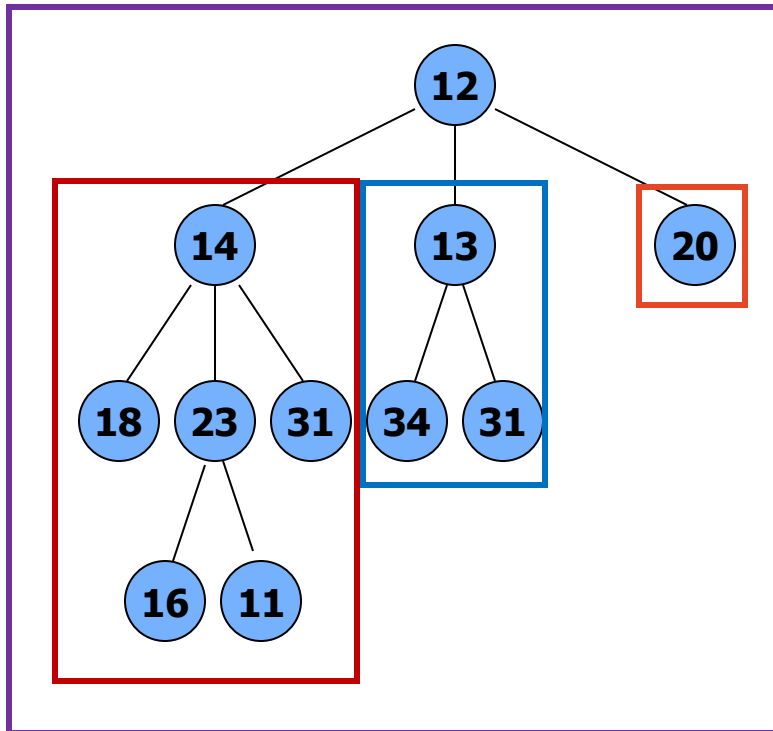
# Postorder Traversal

Nodes are numbered in the order they are visited when we call `post_order()` at the root

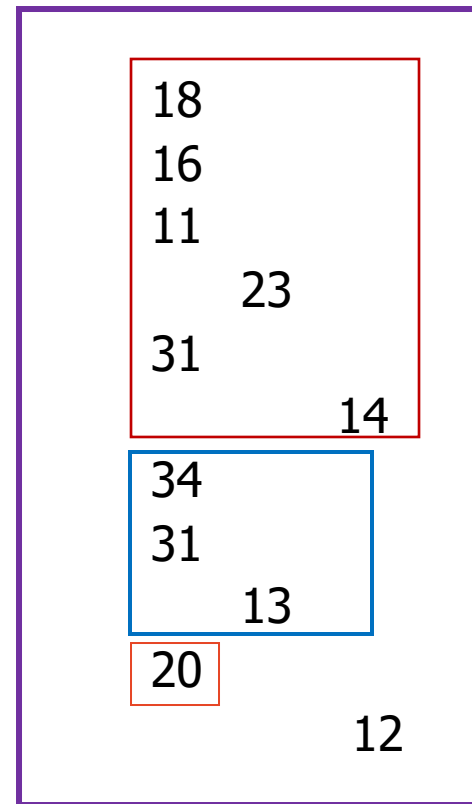
```
def post_order(v)
  for each child w of v
    post_order(w)
  visit(v)
```



# Traversing in postorder



visit  
order



Postorder  
traversal  
of subtree

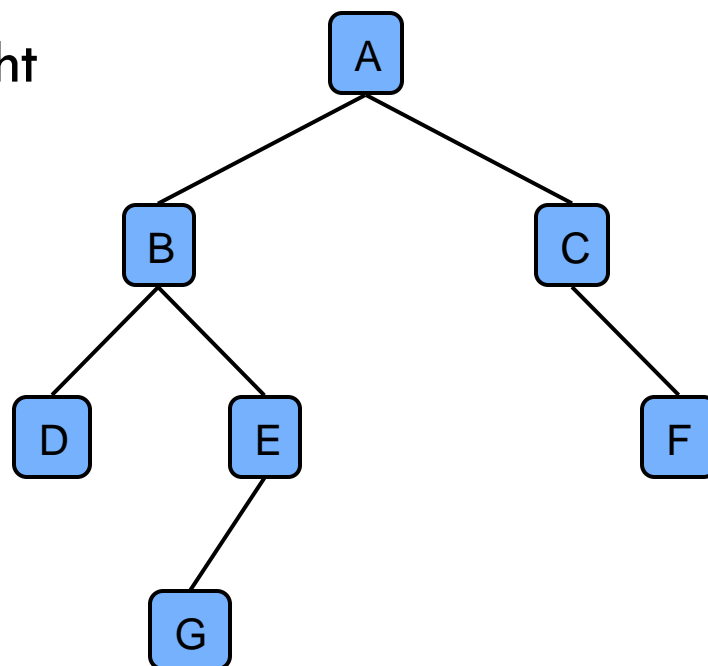
# Binary Trees

A **binary tree** is an ordered tree with the following properties:

- Each internal node has at most two children
- Each child node is labeled as a **left child** or a **right child**
- Child ordering is left followed by right

The right/left subtree is the subtree root at the right/left child.

We say the tree is **proper** if every internal node has two children

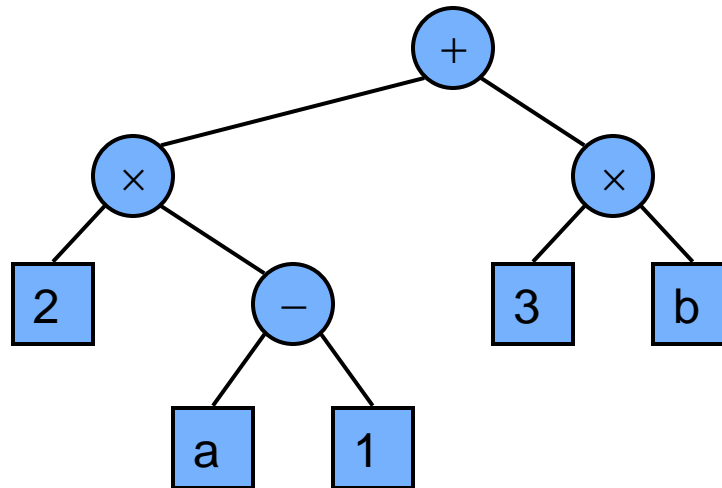


# Binary tree application: Arithmetic expression tree

Binary tree associated with an arithmetic expression

- internal nodes: operators
- external nodes: operands

Example: Arithmetic expression tree for  $(2 \times (a - 1) + (3 \times b))$



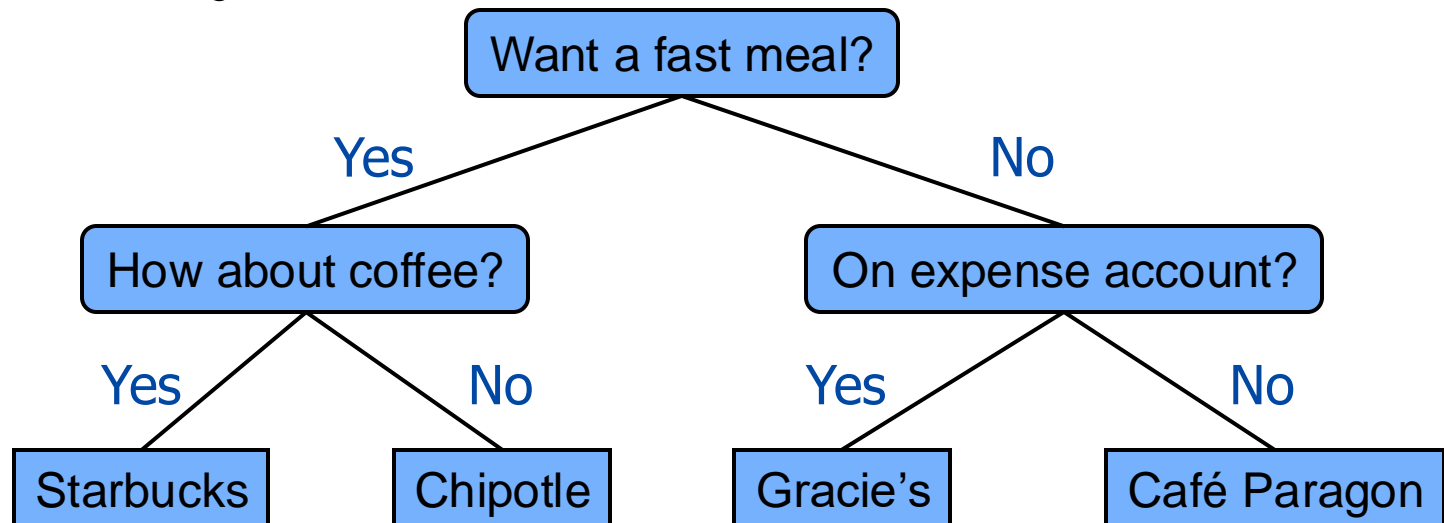


# Binary tree application: Decision trees

Tree associated with a decision process

- internal nodes: questions with yes/no answer
- external nodes: decisions

Example: dining decision



# Binary Tree Operations

- A **binary tree** extends the Tree operations, i.e., it inherits all the methods of a tree.
- Update methods may be defined by data structures implementing the binary tree
- Additional methods:
  - position **leftChild**(p)
  - position **rightChild**(p)
  - position **sibling**(p)

return null when there is no left, right, or sibling of p, respectively

## Node object

Node object implementation typically has the following attributes:

- value: the value associated with this Node
- left: left child of this Node
- right: right child of this Node
- parent: (optional) the parent of this Node

```
def is_external(v)  
    # test if v is a leaf  
    return v.left = null and v.right = null
```

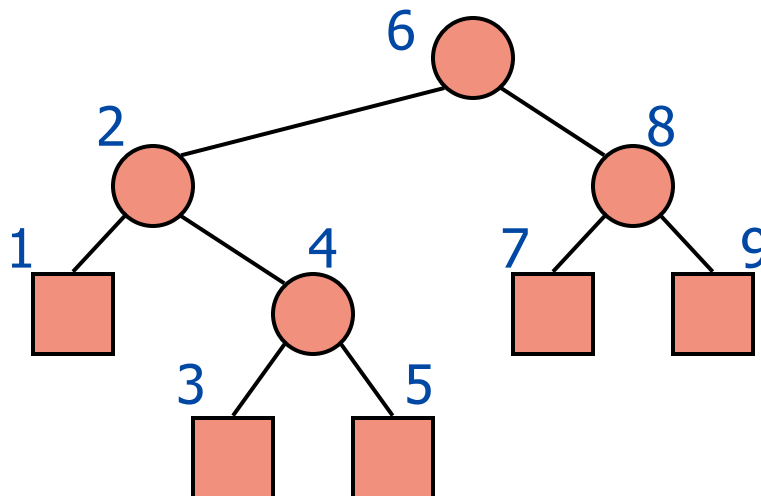
# Inorder Traversal

To do an inorder traversal starting at a given node, the node is visited after its left subtree but before its right subtree

Visit does some work on the node:

- print node data
- aggregate node data
- modify node data

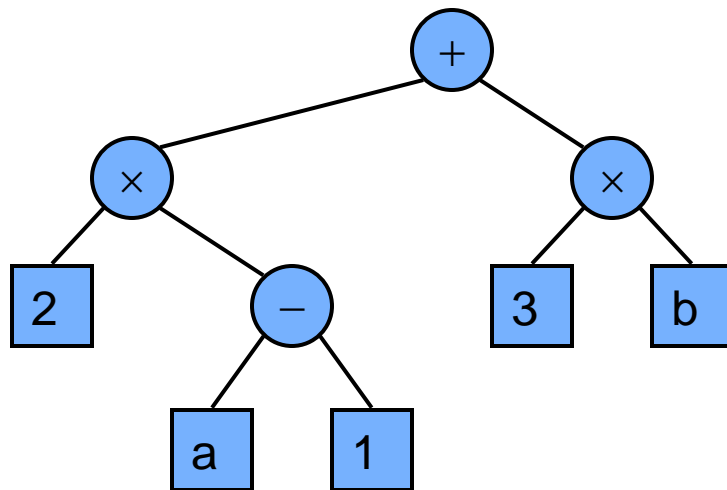
```
def in_order(v)
    if v.left ≠ null then
        in_order(v.left)
    visit(v)
    if v.right ≠ null then
        in_order(v.right)
```



# Print Arithmetic Expressions

Extended inorder traversal:

- print operand or operator when visiting node
- print “(“ before left subtree
- print “)” after right subtree



```
def print_expr(v)
    if v.left ≠ null then
        print("(")
        print_expr(v.left)
    print(v.element)
    if v.right ≠ null then
        print_expr(v.right)
    print(")")
```

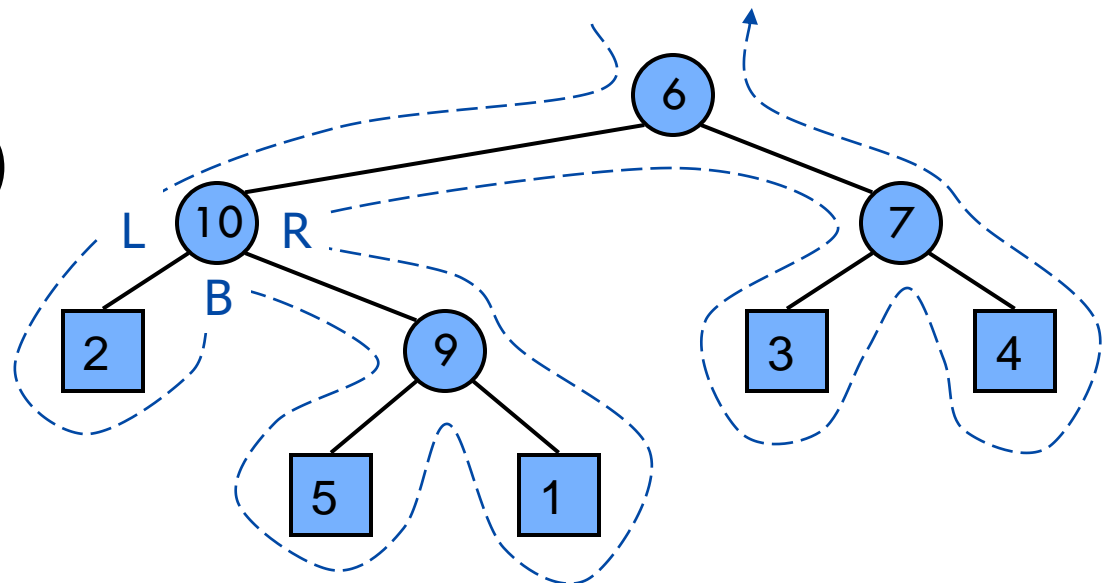
$((2 \times (a - 1)) + (3 \times b))$

# Euler Tour Traversal

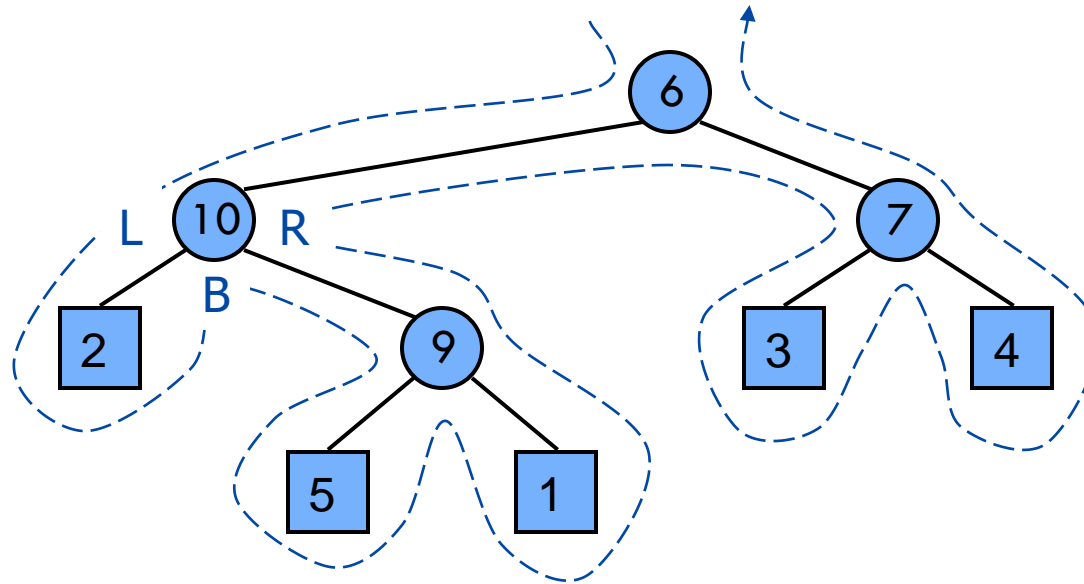
Generic traversal of a binary tree. Includes as special cases the preorder, postorder and inorder traversals

Walk around the tree, keeping the tree on your left, and visit each node three times:

- on the left (preorder)
- from below (inorder)
- on the right (postorder)



# Euler Tour Traversal



6,10,2,2,2,10,9,5,5,5,9,1,1,1,9,10,6,7,3,3,3,7,4,4,4,7,6

Preorder (**first visit**): 6, 10, 2, 9, 5, 1, 7, 3, 4

Inorder (**second visit**): 2, 10, 5, 9, 1, 6, 3, 7, 4

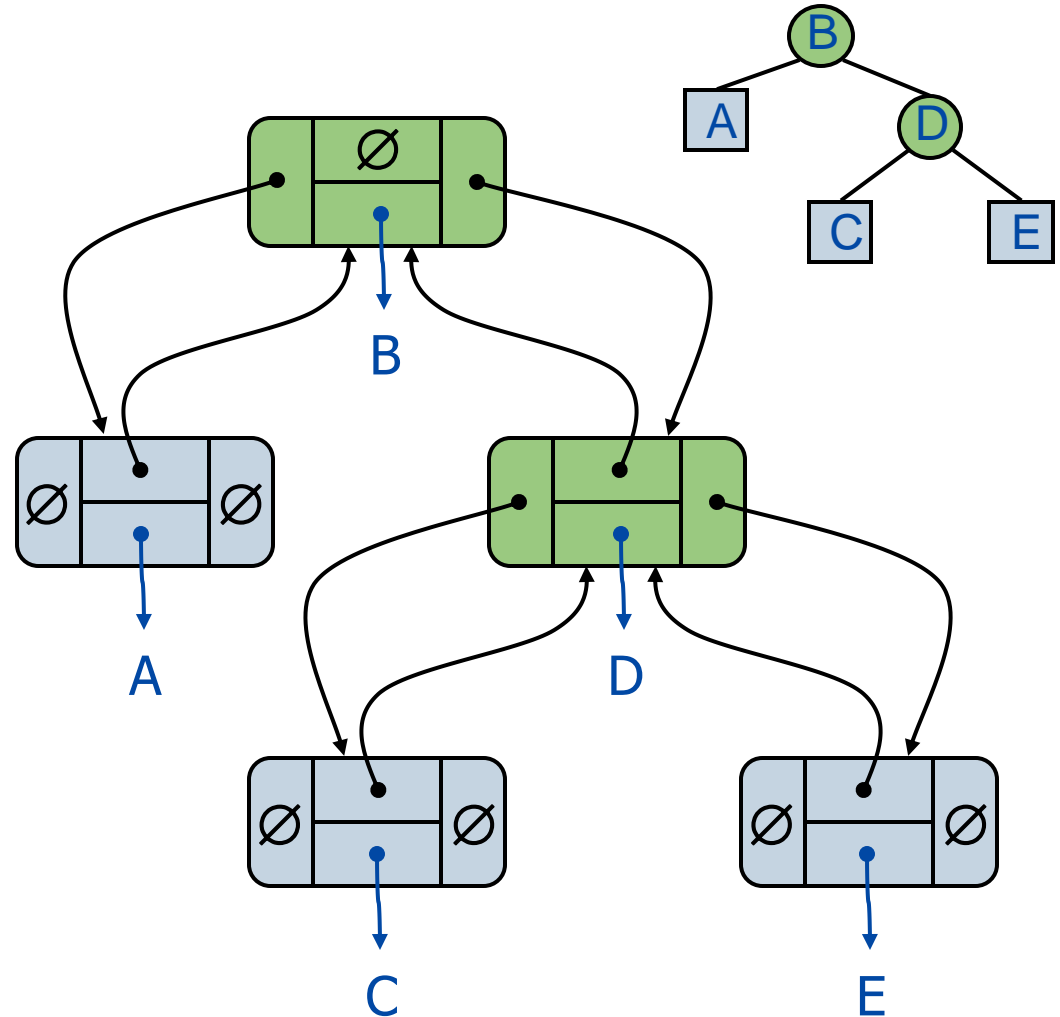
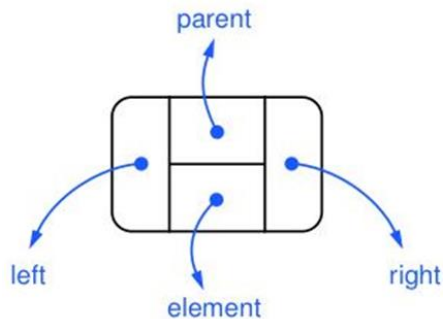
Postorder (**third visit**): 2, 5, 1, 9, 10, 3, 4, 7, 6

# Linked Structure for Binary Trees

A node is represented by an object storing

- Element
- Parent node
- Left child node
- Right child node

Node objects implement the Position ADT



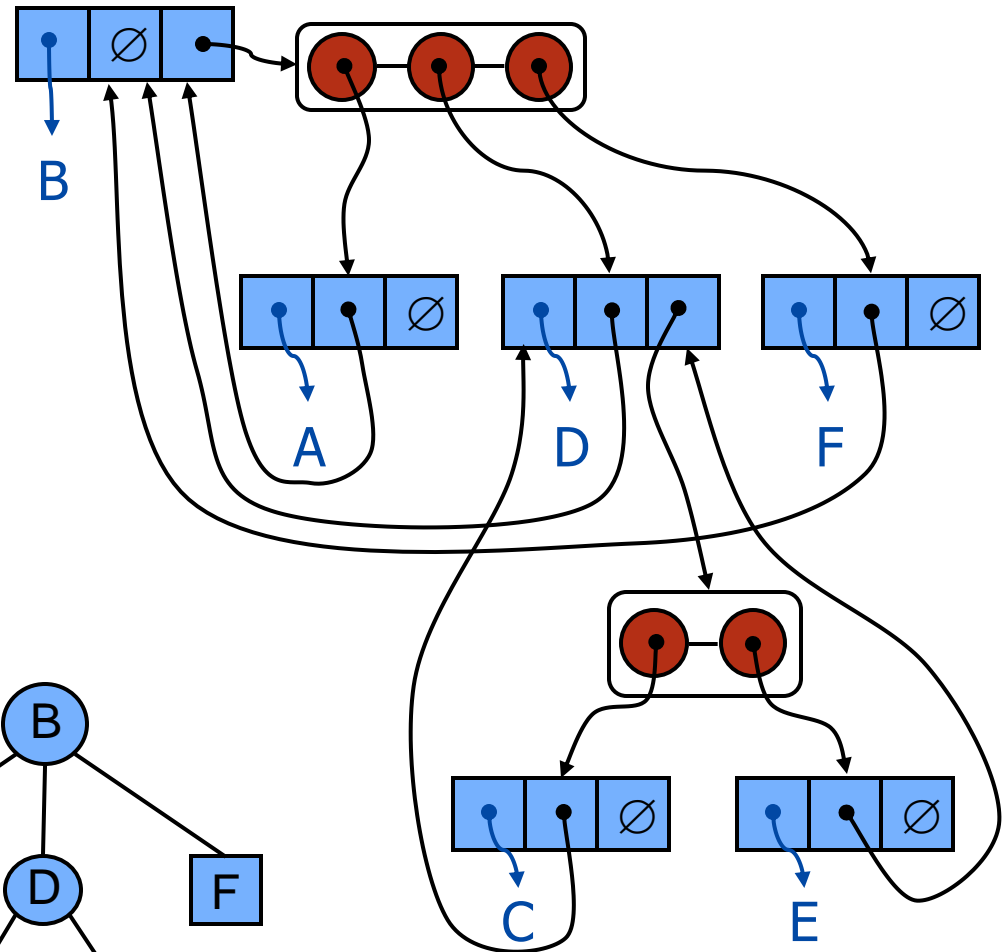
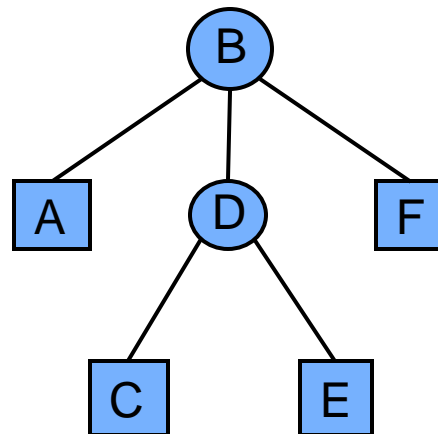
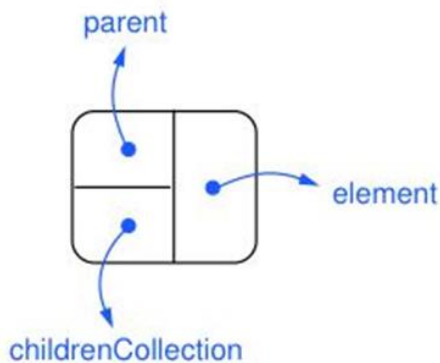


# Linked Structure for General Trees

A node is represented by an object storing

- Element
- Parent node
- Sequence of children

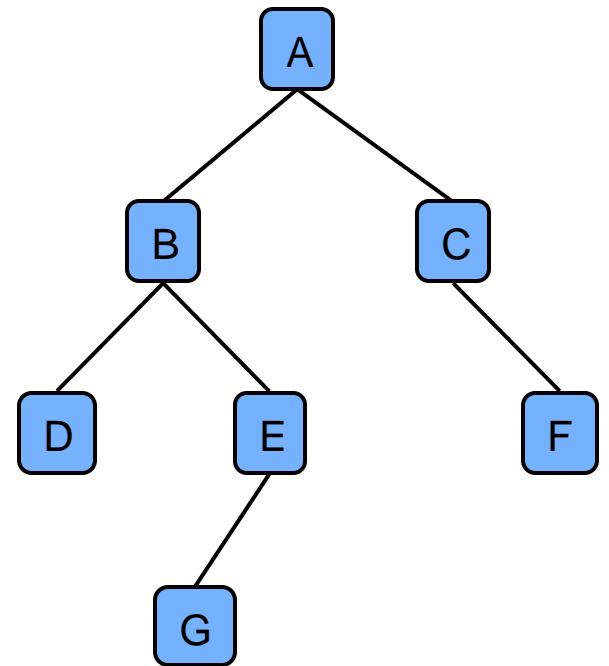
Node objects implement the Position ADT



# Examples of recursive code on trees

```
def depth(v)
    # compute the depth of v

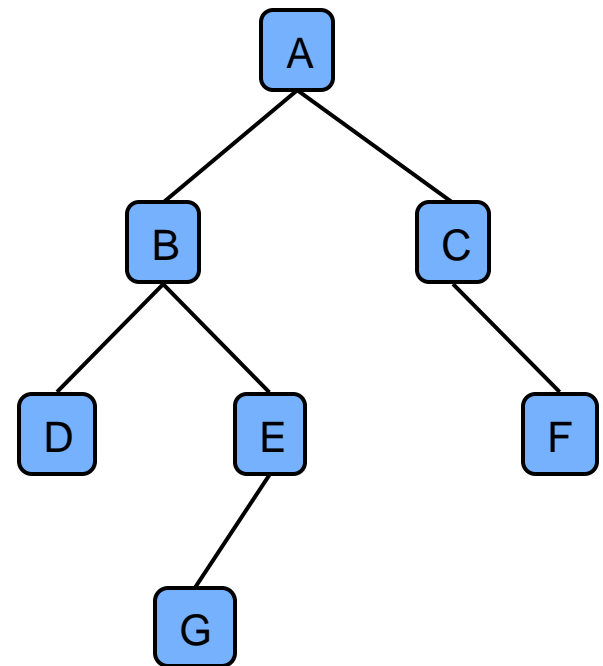
    if v.parent = null then
        # root's depth is 0
        return 0
    else
        return depth(v.parent) + 1.
```



# Examples of recursive code on trees

```
def height(v)
    # compute height of subtree at v

    if v.isExternal() then
        # a leaf's height is 0
        return 0
    else
        h ← 0
        for each child w of v
            h ← max(h, height(w))
        return h + 1
```



# Complexity analysis of recursive algorithms on trees

Sometimes, the method may call itself on all children

- In worst case, do a call on every node
- If the work done, *excluding the recursion*, is constant per call, then the total cost is **linear in the number of nodes**

Sometimes, the method calls itself on at most one child

- In worst case, do one call at each level of the tree
- If the work done, *excluding the recursion*, is constant per call, then the total cost is **linear in the height of the tree**