

# Trees (I)

**Dr. Antonio L. Bajuelos**

**FIU** School of Computing &  
Information Sciences

Note: The most of the information of these slides was extracted and adapted from Weiss's book, "*Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in Java*". They are provided for COP3530 students only. Not to be published or publicly distributed without permission by the publisher.



## COP-3530 - Data Structures



### Module #3: Trees (part I)

#### Outline:

- Generic (rooted) trees.
- Some tree terms.
- Implementation of generic trees.
- Generic tree simple application.
- Tree traversals:
  - Post-order
  - Pre-order

## Nonlinear data structures. Motivation



- One of the disadvantages of using an **array** or **linked list** to store data is the time necessary to search for an item.
- Since both the arrays and Linked Lists are **linear structures** the time required to search a “linear” list is proportional to the size of the data set.
- For example, if the size of the data set is  $n$ , then the number of comparisons needed to find (or not find) an item may be as bad as some multiple of  $n$ . More efficient data structures are needed to store and search data.
- On the other hand there are **many situations in which information has a** hierarchical structure like that found in family trees or organization charts.
- In this module, the goal is to extend the concept of linear structure to a structure that may have multiple relations among its nodes. Such a structure is called a **tree**.

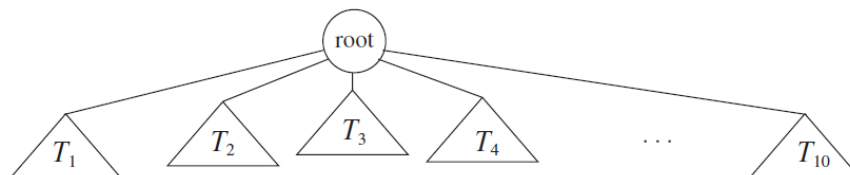
3

## Preliminaries. Generic Trees



### ■ Definition (recursive definition):

- A **tree** is a collection of **nodes**.
- The collection can be **empty**; otherwise, a **tree** consists of a special node  $r$ , called the **root**, and zero or more nonempty **(sub)trees**  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_k$ .
- Each of whose roots are connected by a directed **edge** from  $r$ .
- The root of each **subtree** is said to be a **child** of  $r$ , and  $r$  is the **parent** of each **subtree root**.



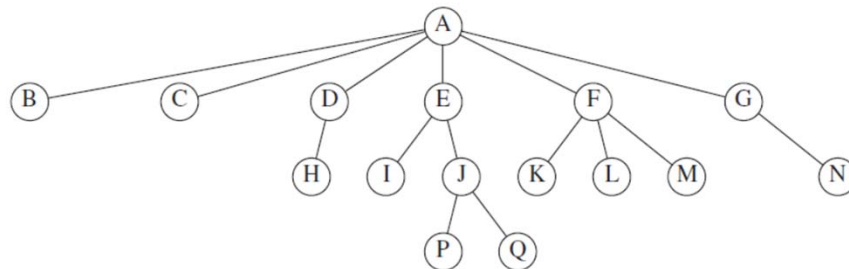
4

## Generic Trees

### ■ Important points:

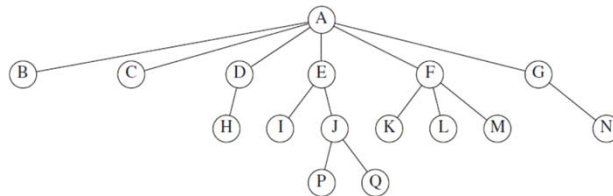
□ **Tree** - collection of  $N$  nodes, one of which is the **root**, and  $N - 1$  edges.

□ That there are  $N - 1$  edges follows from the fact that each edge connects some node to its parent, and every node except the **root** has one parent



5

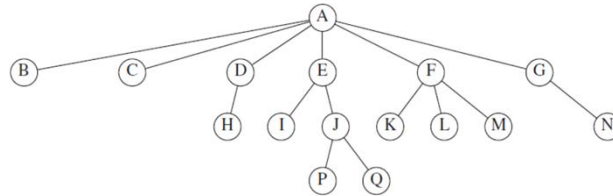
## Some Tree terms



- **Leafs** - Nodes with no children (B,C,H,I,P,Q,K,L,M, and N).
- **Siblings** - Nodes with the same parent (Ex. K,L, and M are all siblings).
- **Grandparent & Grandchild** relations can be defined in a similar manner that siblings.
- A **path** from node  $n_1$  to  $n_k$  is defined as a sequence of nodes  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k$  such that  $n_i$  is the parent of  $n_{i+1}$  for  $1 \leq i < k$ .
- The **length** of this path is the number of edges on the path, namely  $k - 1$ . There is a path of length zero from every node to itself.
- **Notice that in a tree there is exactly one path from the root to each node.**

6

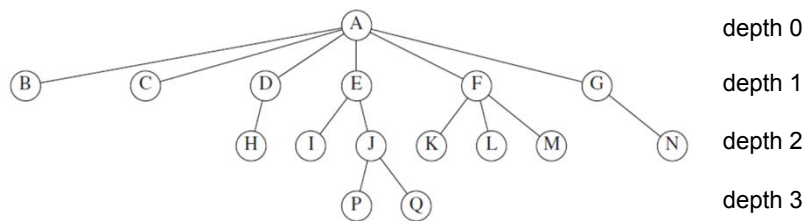
## Some Tree terms (cont...)



- For any node  $n_i$ , the **depth** of  $n_i$  is the **length** of the **unique path** from the root to  $n_i$ . Thus, the root is at depth 0.
- The **height** of  $n_i$  is the **length of the longest path** from  $n_i$  to a leaf. Thus all leaves are at height 0. The height of a tree is equal to the height of the root.
- **Example:**
  - E is at depth 1 and height 2; F is at depth 1 and height 1; the height of the tree is 3.
- **The depth of a tree is equal to the depth of the deepest leaf.**

7

## Some Tree terms (cont...)



Nodes: 16  
 Edges: 15 (Nodes - 1)  
 Root: A  
 Leaves: B, C, H, I, P, Q, K, L, M, N  
 Height = 3

8

## Implementation of generic trees



### ■ Trivial idea:

- To have each node, besides its data, a link to each child of the node.

### ■ But:



- The number of children per node can vary so greatly and is not known in advance!

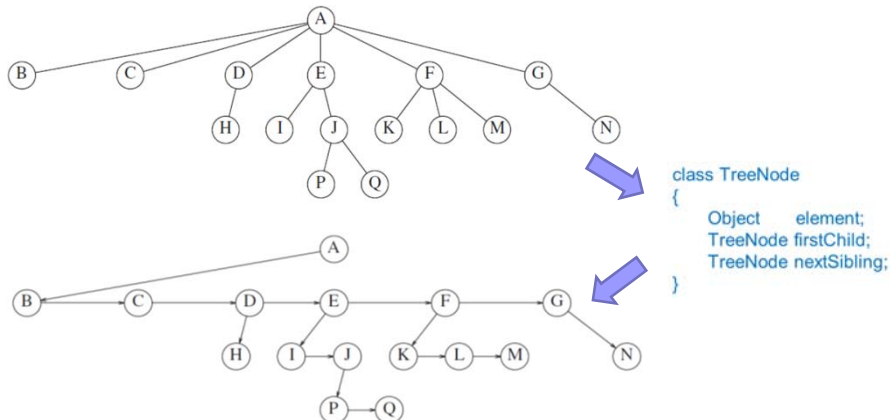
### ■ Simple solution:

- Keep the children of each node in a linked list of tree nodes.

```
class TreeNode
{
    Object    element;
    TreeNode firstChild;
    TreeNode nextSibling;
}
```

9

## Implementation of Trees



- Arrows that point downward are **firstChild links**. Horizontal arrows are **nextSibling links**. Null links are not drawn, because there are too many.
- **Example:** Node E has both a link to a sibling (F) and a link to a child (I), while some nodes have neither.

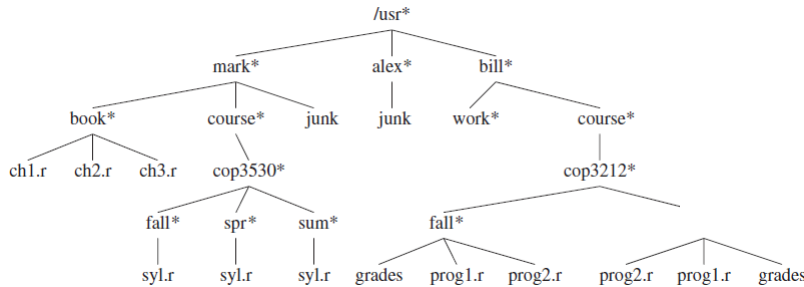
10

## Generic tree simple application



- **Example of application for trees:**

- The directory structure in many common operating systems, including UNIX and DOS.



- The asterisk next to the name indicates that **/usr** is itself a directory.
- The filename **/usr/mark/book/ch1.r** is obtained by following the leftmost child three times. Each / after the first indicates an edge; the result is the full **pathname**.

11

## Generic tree simple application (cont...)

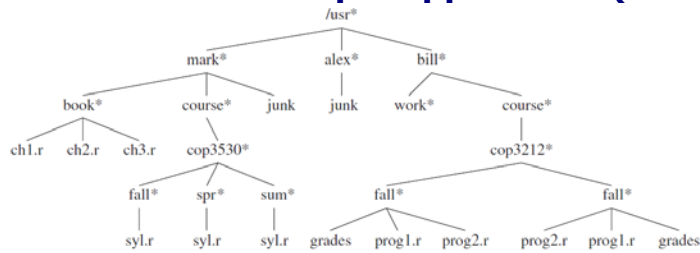


- If we need to list the names of all of the files in the directory. Our output format will be that files that are depth  $d$ , will have their names indented by  $d$  tabs.

```

private void listAll( int depth )
{
    printName( depth ); // Print the name of the object
    If ( isDirectory( ) )
        for each file c in this directory (for each child)
            c.listAll( depth + 1 );
}
public void listAll( )
{
    listAll( 0 );
}
    
```

## Generic tree simple application (cont...)



```
private void listAll( int depth )
{
    printName( depth ); // Print the name of the object
    if( isDirectory( ) )
        for each file c in this directory (for each child)
            c.listAll( depth + 1 );
}
public void listAll( )
{
    listAll( 0 );
}
```

- **Logic:** The name of the file object is printed out with the appropriate number of tabs. If the entry is a directory, then we process all children recursively, one by one. These children are one level deeper and thus need to be indented an extra space.

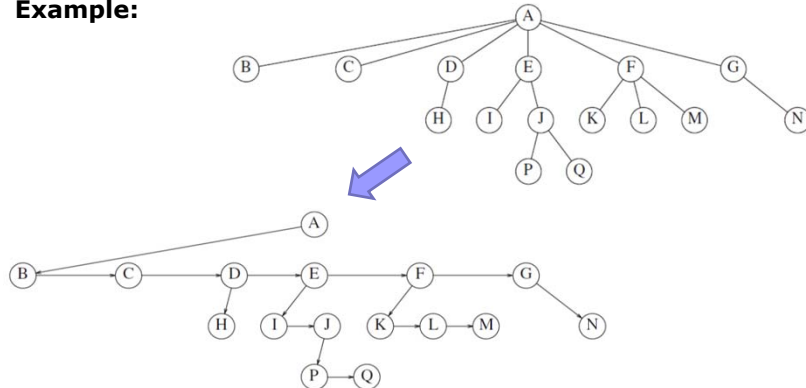
```
/usr
mark
  book
    ch1.r
    ch2.r
    ch3.r
  course
    cop3530
      fall
        syl.r
      spr
        syl.r
      sum
        syl.r
    junk
  alex
  junk
  bill
    work
    course
      cop3212
        fall
          grades
          prog1.r
          prog2.r
        fall
          prog2.r
          prog1.r
          grades
```

## Tree Traversals

- **Tree traversal** is a process to visit all the nodes of a tree and may print their values too.
- Generally, we traverse a tree to search or locate a given item or key in the tree or to print all the values it contains.
- Because, all nodes are connected via edges (links) we always start from the root node. That is, we cannot randomly access a node in a tree.
- For **generic trees** are two ways which we use to traverse a tree:
  - **Preorder Traversal**
  - **Postorder Traversal**

## Tree Traversals – Preorder Traversal

- In a **preorder traversal**, work at a parent is performed **before** (pre) its children are processed.
- **Preorder**: root, most left-subtree, ..., most right-subtree
- **Example:**

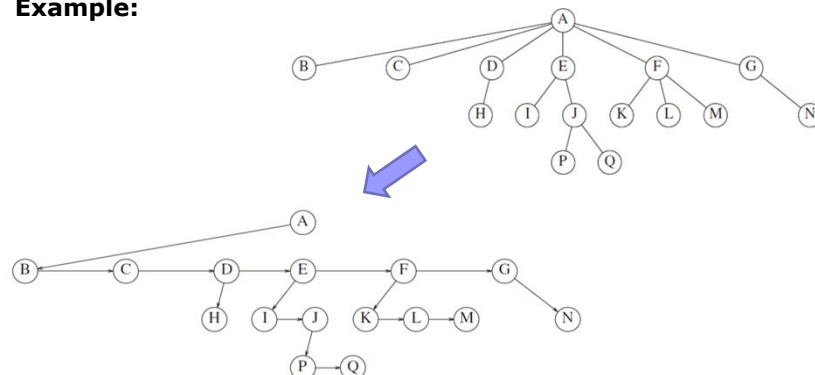


- **Preorder traversal:** A, B, C, D, H, E, I, J, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z
- **The preorder traversal is  $O(N)$**

12

## Tree Traversals – Postorder Traversal

- In a **postorder traversal**, work at a node is performed **after** (post) its children are evaluated.
- **Postorder**: most left-subtree, ..., most right-subtree, root
- **Example:**



- **Postorder traversal:** B, C, H, D, I, P, Q, J, E, K, L, M, F, N, G, A
- **The postorder traversal is  $O(N)$**

13



