**Tree:**

Tree represents the nodes connected by edges. We will discuss binary tree or binary search tree specifically.

Binary Tree is a special data structure used for data storage purposes. A binary tree has a special condition that each node can have a maximum of two children. A binary tree has the benefits of both an ordered array and a linked list as search is as quick as in a sorted array and insertion or deletion operation are as fast as in linked list.



**Important Terms:**

Following are the important terms with respect to tree.

* **Path** − Path refers to the sequence of nodes along the edges of a tree.
* **Root** − The node at the top of the tree is called root. There is only one root per tree and one path from the root node to any node.
* **Parent** − Any node except the root node has one edge upward to a node called parent.
* **Child** − The node below a given node connected by its edge downward is called its child node.
* **Leaf** − The node which does not have any child node is called the leaf node.
* **Subtree** − Subtree represents the descendants of a node.
* **Visiting** − Visiting refers to checking the value of a node when control is on the node.
* **Traversing** − Traversing means passing through nodes in a specific order.
* **Levels** − Level of a node represents the generation of a node. If the root node is at level 0, then its next child node is at level 1, its grandchild is at level 2, and so on.
* **keys** − Key represents a value of a node based on which a search operation is to be carried out for a node.

**Binary Search Tree Representation**

Binary Search tree exhibits a special behavior. A node's left child must have a value less than its parent's value and the node's right child must have a value greater than its parent value.



We're going to implement tree using node object and connecting them through references.

**Tree Node**

The code to write a tree node would be similar to what is given below. It has a data part and references to its left and right child nodes.

struct node {

int data;

struct node \*leftChild;

struct node \*rightChild;

};

In a tree, all nodes share common construct.

**BST Basic Operations**

The basic operations that can be performed on a binary search tree data structure, are the following −

* **Insert** − Inserts an element in a tree/create a tree.
* **Search** − Searches an element in a tree.
* **Preorder Traversal** − Traverses a tree in a pre-order manner.
* **Inorder Traversal** − Traverses a tree in an in-order manner.
* **Postorder Traversal** − Traverses a tree in a post-order manner.

We shall learn creating (inserting into) a tree structure and searching a data item in a tree in this chapter. We shall learn about tree traversing methods in the coming chapter.