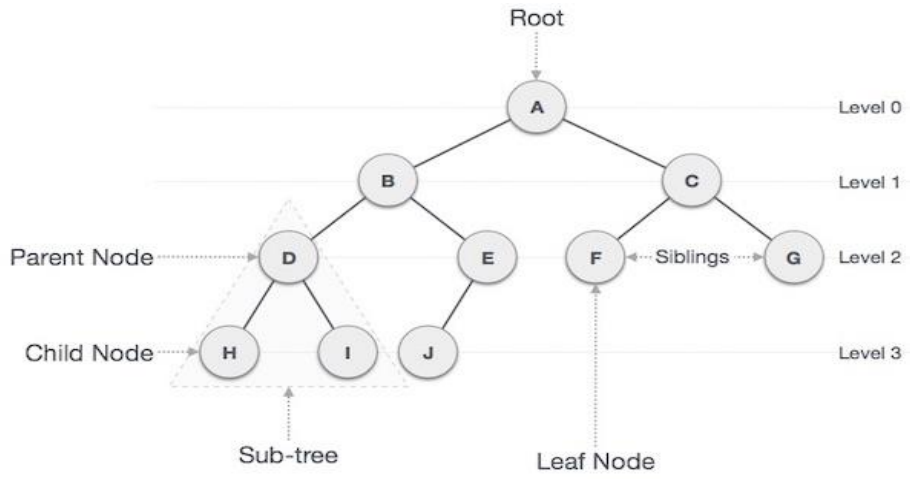
Data Structure and Algorithms – Tree

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

What is Binary Tree Data Structure?

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.



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 Tree Representation

A Binary tree is represented by a pointer to the topmost node of the tree. If the tree is empty, then the value of the root is NULL.

Binary Tree node contains the following parts:

1. Data
2. Pointer to left child
3. Pointer to right child

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.

Basic Operation On Binary Tree:

- Inserting an element.
- Removing an element.
- Searching for an element.
- Traversing an element.

Auxiliary Operation On Binary Tree:

- Finding the height of the tree
- Find the level of the tree
- Finding the size of the entire tree.

Properties of Binary Tree

- At each level of i, the maximum number of nodes is 2^i.
- The height of the tree is defined as the longest path from the root node to the leaf node. The tree which is shown above has a height equal to 3. Therefore, the maximum number of nodes at height 3 is equal to (1+2+4+8) = 15. In general, the maximum number of nodes possible at height h is $(2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 + \ldots 2^h) = 2^{h+1} - 1$.
- The minimum number of nodes possible at height h is equal to **h+1**.
- If the number of nodes is minimum, then the height of the tree would be maximum. Conversely, if the number of nodes is maximum, then the height of the tree would be minimum.

If there are 'n' number of nodes in the binary tree,

The minimum height can be computed as:

As we know that,

$n = 2^{h+1} - 1$

$n+1 = 2^{h+1}$

Taking log on both the sides,

$\log_2(n+1) = \log2(2^{h+1})$

$\log_2(n+1) = h+1$

$h = \log_2(n+1) - 1$

The maximum height can be computed as:

As we know that,

$n = h+1$

$h = n-1$

Types of Binary Tree

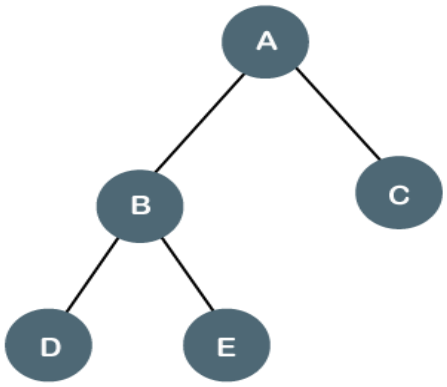
There are four types of Binary tree:

- Full/ proper/ strict Binary tree
- Complete Binary tree
- Perfect Binary tree
- Degenerate Binary tree
- Balanced Binary tree

1. Full/ proper/ strict Binary tree

The full binary tree is also known as a strict binary tree. The tree can only be considered as the full binary tree if each node must contain either 0 or 2 children. The full binary

tree can also be defined as the tree in which each node must contain 2 children except the leaf nodes.



In the above tree, we can observe that each node is either containing zero or two children; therefore, it is a Full Binary tree.

Properties of Full Binary Tree

- The number of leaf nodes is equal to the number of internal nodes plus 1. In the above example, the number of internal nodes is 5; therefore, the number of leaf nodes is equal to 6.
- The maximum number of nodes is the same as the number of nodes in the binary tree, i.e., 2^{h+1} -1.
- The minimum number of nodes in the full binary tree is 2*h-1.
- The minimum height of the full binary tree is **$\log_2(n+1) - 1$.**
- The maximum height of the full binary tree can be computed as:

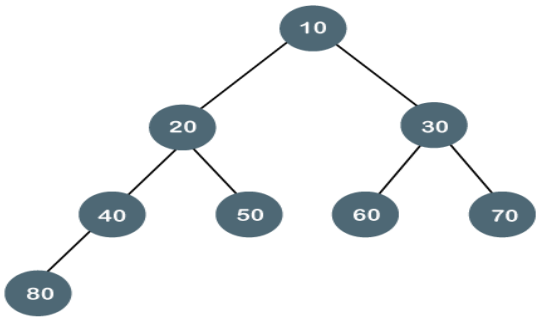
$$n= 2*h - 1$$

$$n+1 = 2*h$$

$$\mathbf{h = n+1/2}$$

Complete Binary Tree

The complete binary tree is a tree in which all the nodes are completely filled except the last level. In the last level, all the nodes must be as left as possible. In a complete binary tree, the nodes should be added from the left.



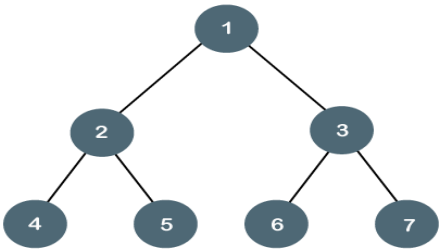
The above tree is a complete binary tree because all the nodes are completely filled, and all the nodes in the last level are added at the left first.

Properties of Complete Binary Tree

- The maximum number of nodes in complete binary tree is $2^{h+1} - 1$.
- The minimum number of nodes in complete binary tree is 2^h.
- The minimum height of a complete binary tree is **$\log_2(n+1) - 1$.**
- The maximum height of a complete binary tree is

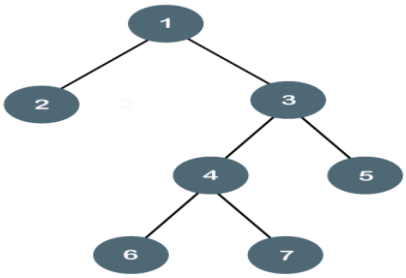
Perfect Binary Tree

A tree is a perfect binary tree if all the internal nodes have 2 children, and all the leaf nodes are at the same level.



Let's look at a simple example of a perfect binary tree.

The below tree is not a perfect binary tree because all the leaf nodes are not at the same level.

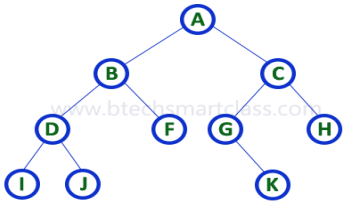


Binary Tree Representations

A binary tree data structure is represented using two methods. Those methods are as follows...

1. **Array Representation**
2. **Linked List Representation**

Consider the following binary tree...



1. Array Representation of Binary Tree

In array representation of a binary tree, we use one-dimensional array (1-D Array) to represent a binary tree. Consider the above example of a binary tree and it is represented as follows...

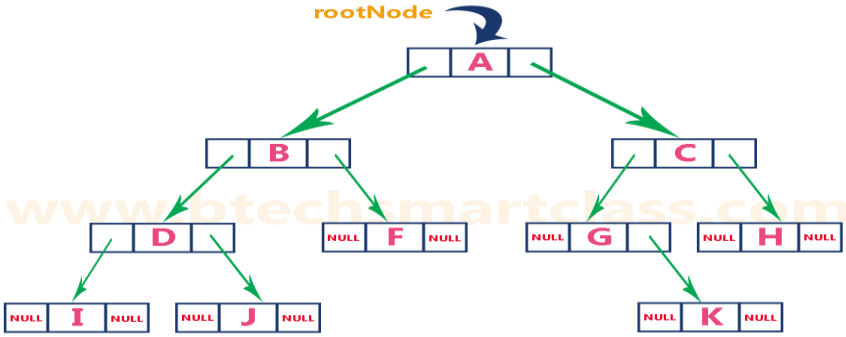
To represent a binary tree of depth '**n**' using array representation, we need one dimensional array with a maximum size of **2n + 1**.

2. Linked List Representation of Binary Tree

We use a double linked list to represent a binary tree. In a double linked list, every node consists of three fields. First field for storing left child address, second for storing actual data and third for storing right child address.

In this linked list representation, a node has the following structure...

The above example of the binary tree represented using Linked list representation is shown as follows...



Data Structure & Algorithms – Tree Traversal

Traversal is a process to visit all the nodes of a tree and may print their values too. Because, all nodes are connected via edges (links) we always start from the root (head) node. That is, we cannot randomly access a node in a tree. There are three ways which we use to traverse a tree −

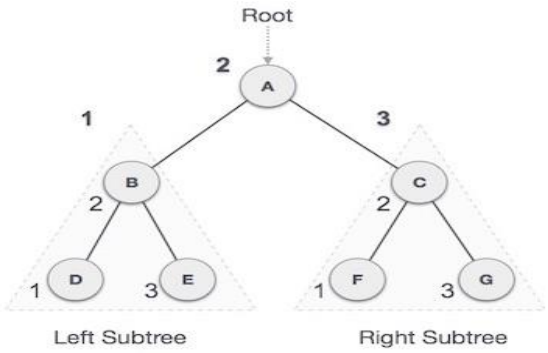
- **In-order Traversal**
- **Pre-order Traversal**
- **Post-order Traversal**

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.

In-order Traversal:

In this traversal method, the left subtree is visited first, then the root and later the right sub-tree. We should always remember that every node may represent a subtree itself.

If a binary tree is traversed **in-order**, the output will produce sorted key values in an ascending order.



We start from **A**, and following in-order traversal, we move to its left subtree **B**. **B** is also traversed in-order. The process goes on until all the nodes are visited. The output of inorder traversal of this tree will be −

$$D \rightarrow B \rightarrow E \rightarrow A \rightarrow F \rightarrow C \rightarrow G$$

Algorithm:

Until all nodes are traversed −

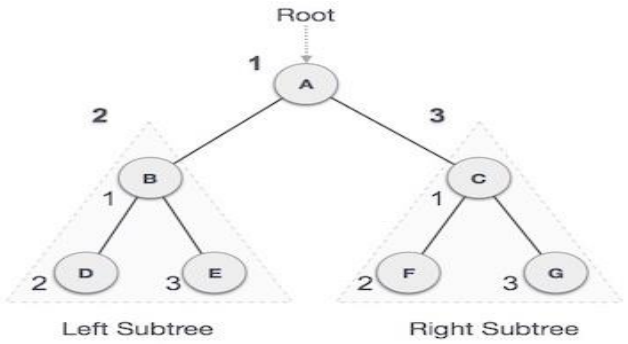
Step 1 − Recursively traverse left subtree.

Step 2 − Visit root node.

Step 3 − Recursively traverse right subtree.

Pre-order Traversal

In this traversal method, the root node is visited first, then the left subtree and finally the right subtree.



We start from **A**, and following pre-order traversal, we first visit **A** itself and then move to its left subtree **B**. **B** is also traversed pre-order. The process goes on until all the nodes are visited. The output of pre-order traversal of this tree will be −

$$A \rightarrow B \rightarrow D \rightarrow E \rightarrow C \rightarrow F \rightarrow G$$

Algorithm

Until all nodes are traversed −

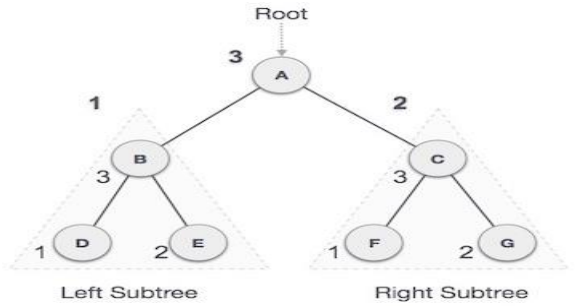
Step 1 − Visit root node.

Step 2 − Recursively traverse left subtree.

Step 3 − Recursively traverse right subtree.

Post-order Traversal

In this traversal method, the root node is visited last, hence the name. First we traverse the left subtree, then the right subtree and finally the root node.



We start from **A**, and following Post-order traversal, we first visit the left subtree **B**. **B** is also traversed post-order. The process goes on until all the nodes are visited. The output of post-order traversal of this tree will be −

$$D \rightarrow E \rightarrow B \rightarrow F \rightarrow G \rightarrow C \rightarrow A$$

Algorithm

Until all nodes are traversed −

Step 1 − Recursively traverse left subtree.

Step 2 − Recursively traverse right subtree.

Step 3 − Visit root node.

Data Structure - Binary Search Tree

A Binary Search Tree (BST) is a tree in which all the nodes follow the below-mentioned properties −

- The value of the key of the left sub-tree is less than the value of its parent (root) node's key.
- The value of the key of the right sub-tree is greater than or equal to the value of its parent (root) node's key.

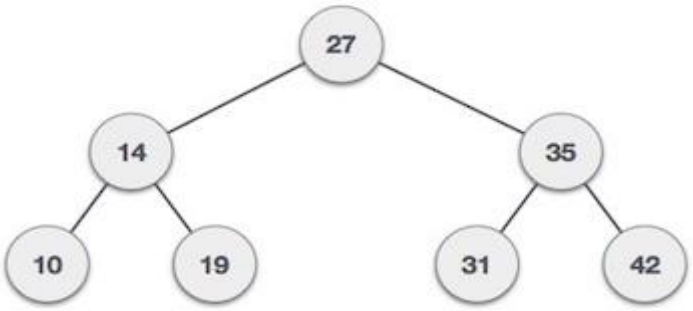
Thus, BST divides all its sub-trees into two segments; the left sub-tree and the right sub-tree and can be defined as −

left_subtree (keys) < node (key) < right_subtree (keys)

Representation:

BST is a collection of nodes arranged in a way where they maintain BST properties. Each node has a key and an associated value. While searching, the desired key is compared to the keys in BST and if found, the associated value is retrieved.

Following is a pictorial representation of BST −



We observe that the root node key (27) has all less-valued keys on the left sub-tree and the higher valued keys on the right sub-tree.

Basic Operations

Following are the basic operations of a tree −

- **Search** − Searches an element in a tree.
- **Insert** − Inserts an element in a tree.
- **Pre-order Traversal** − Traverses a tree in a pre-order manner.
- **In-order Traversal** − Traverses a tree in an in-order manner.
- **Post-order Traversal** − Traverses a tree in a post-order manner.

Node:

Define a node having some data, references to its left and right child nodes.

```
struct node {
int data;
struct node *leftChild;
struct node *rightChild;
 };
```

Search Operation:

Whenever an element is to be searched, start searching from the root node. Then if the data is less than the key value, search for the element in the left subtree. Otherwise, search for the element in the right subtree. Follow the same algorithm for each node.

Algorithm:

```
struct node* search(int data){
   struct node *current = root;
   printf("Visiting elements: ");
   while(current->data != data){
      if(current != NULL) {
         printf("%d ",current->data);
         //go to left tree
         if(current->data > data){
            current = current->leftChild;
         }  //else go to right tree
         else {
            current = current->rightChild;
         }
         //not found
         if(current == NULL){
            return NULL;
         }
      }
   }
   return current;
}
```

Insert Operation:

Whenever an element is to be inserted, first locate its proper location. Start searching from the root node, then if the data is less than the key value, search for the empty location in the left subtree and insert the data. Otherwise, search for the empty location in the right subtree and insert the data.

Algorithm:

```
void insert(int data) {
```

```
struct node *tempNode = (struct node*) malloc(sizeof(struct node));
struct node *current;
struct node *parent;

tempNode->data = data;
tempNode->leftChild = NULL;
tempNode->rightChild = NULL;

//if tree is empty
if(root == NULL) {
   root = tempNode;
} else {
   current = root;
   parent = NULL;

   while(1) {
      parent = current;

      //go to left of the tree
      if(data < parent->data) {
         current = current->leftChild;
         //insert to the left

         if(current == NULL) {
            parent->leftChild = tempNode;
            return;
         }
      }  //go to right of the tree
      else {
         current = current->rightChild;
```

```
        //insert to the right
        if(current == NULL) {
          parent->rightChild = tempNode;
          return;
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Example of creating a binary search tree:

Now, let's see the creation of binary search tree using an example.

Suppose the data elements are - **45, 15, 79, 90, 10, 55, 12, 20, 50**

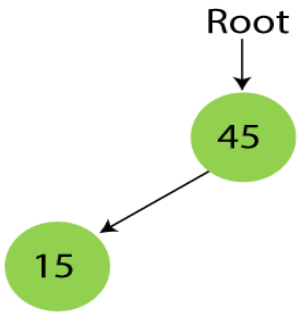
- First, we have to insert **45** into the tree as the root of the tree.
- Then, read the next element; if it is smaller than the root node, insert it as the root of the left subtree, and move to the next element.
- Otherwise, if the element is larger than the root node, then insert it as the root of the right subtree.

Now, let's see the process of creating the Binary search tree using the given data element. The process of creating the BST is shown below -

Step 1 - Insert 45.

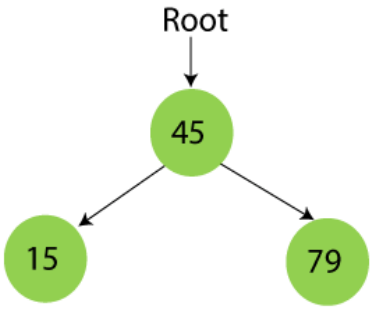
Step 2 - Insert 15.

As 15 is smaller than 45, so insert it as the root node of the left subtree.



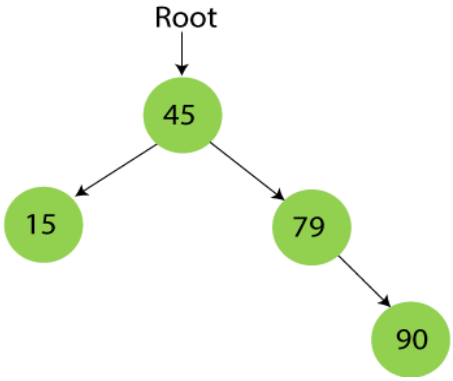
Step 3 - Insert 79.

As 79 is greater than 45, so insert it as the root node of the right subtree.



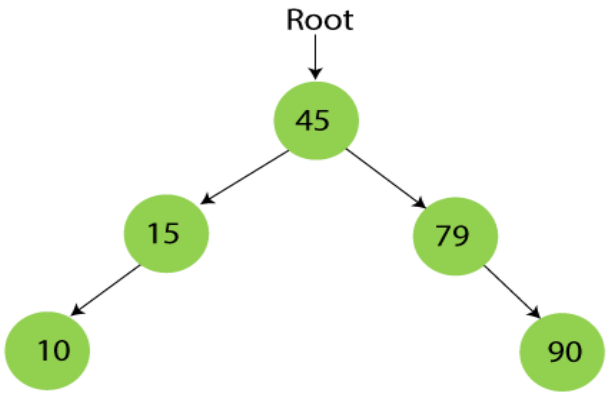
Step 4 - Insert 90.

90 is greater than 45 and 79, so it will be inserted as the right subtree of 79.



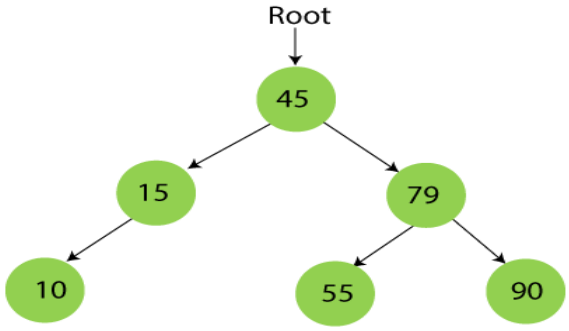
Step 5 - Insert 10.

10 is smaller than 45 and 15, so it will be inserted as a left subtree of 15.



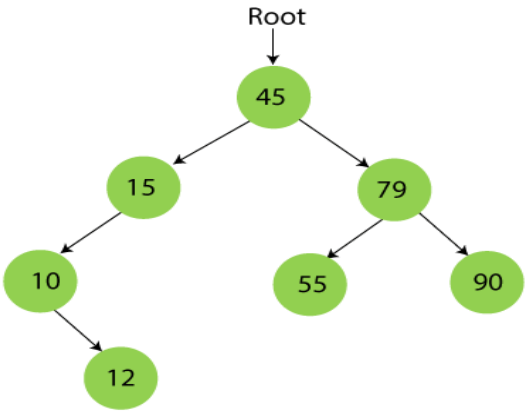
Step 6 - Insert 55.

55 is larger than 45 and smaller than 79, so it will be inserted as the left subtree of 79.



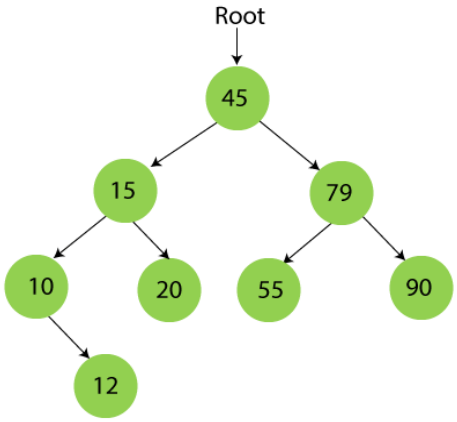
Step 7 - Insert 12.

12 is smaller than 45 and 15 but greater than 10, so it will be inserted as the right subtree of 10.



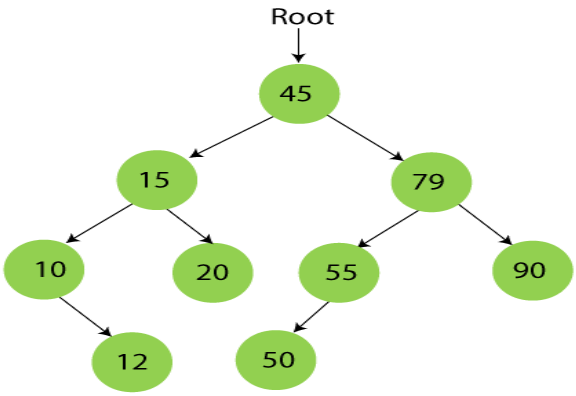
Step 8 - Insert 20.

20 is smaller than 45 but greater than 15, so it will be inserted as the right subtree of 15.



Step 9 - Insert 50.

50 is greater than 45 but smaller than 79 and 55. So, it will be inserted as a left subtree of 55.



Now, the creation of binary search tree is completed. After that, let's move towards the operations that can be performed on Binary search tree.

We can perform insert, delete and search operations on the binary search tree.

Let's understand how a search is performed on a binary search tree.

Searching in Binary search tree:

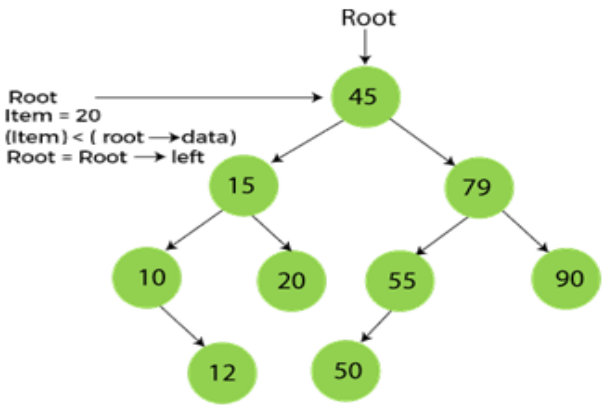
Searching means to find or locate a specific element or node in a data structure. In Binary search tree, searching a node is easy because elements in BST are stored in a specific order. The steps of searching a node in Binary Search tree are listed as follows -

1. First, compare the element to be searched with the root element of the tree.
2. If root is matched with the target element, then return the node's location.
3. If it is not matched, then check whether the item is less than the root element, if it is smaller than the root element, then move to the left subtree.

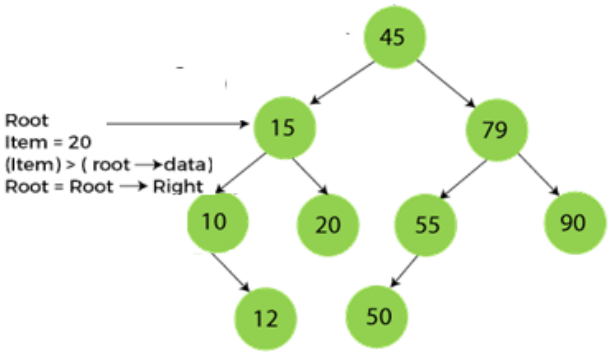
4. If it is larger than the root element, then move to the right subtree.
5. Repeat the above procedure recursively until the match is found.
6. If the element is not found or not present in the tree, then return NULL.

Now, let's understand the searching in binary tree using an example. We are taking the binary search tree formed above. Suppose we have to find node 20 from the below tree.

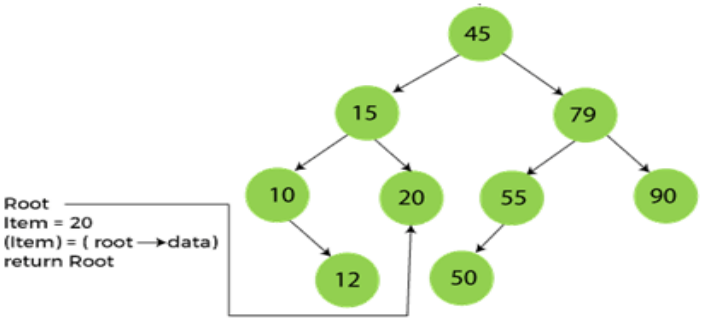
Step1:



Step2:



Step3:



Now, let's see the algorithm to search an element in the Binary search tree.

Algorithm to search an element in Binary search tree:

1. Search (root, item)
2. Step 1 - if (item = root → data) or (root = NULL)
3. return root
4. else if (item < **root** → data)
5. return Search(root → left, item)
6. else
7. return Search(root → right, item)
8. END if
9. Step 2 - END

Now let's understand how the deletion is performed on a binary search tree. We will also see an example to delete an element from the given tree.

Deletion in Binary Search tree:

In a binary search tree, we must delete a node from the tree by keeping in mind that the property of BST is not violated. To delete a node from BST, there are three possible situations occur -

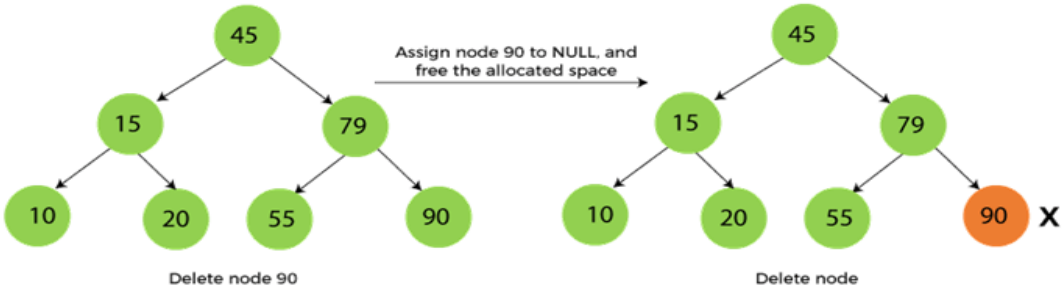
- The node to be deleted is the leaf node, or,
- The node to be deleted has only one child, and,
- The node to be deleted has two children

We will understand the situations listed above in detail.

When the node to be deleted is the leaf node:

It is the simplest case to delete a node in BST. Here, we have to replace the leaf node with NULL and simply free the allocated space.

We can see the process to delete a leaf node from BST in the below image. In below image, suppose we have to delete node 90, as the node to be deleted is a leaf node, so it will be replaced with NULL, and the allocated space will free.

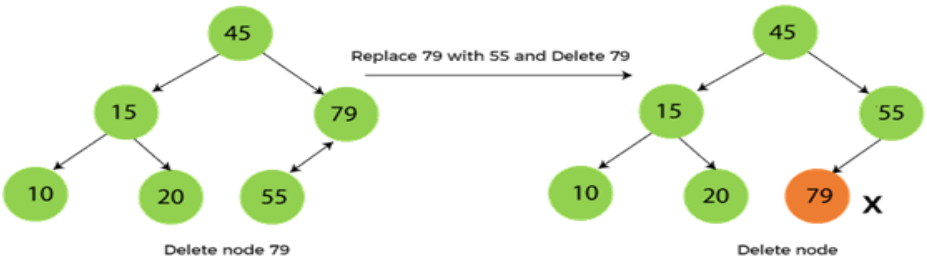


When the node to be deleted has only one child:

In this case, we have to replace the target node with its child, and then delete the child node. It means that after replacing the target node with its child node, the child node will now contain the value to be deleted. So, we simply have to replace the child node with NULL and free up the allocated space.

We can see the process of deleting a node with one child from BST in the below image. In the below image, suppose we have to delete the node 79, as the node to be deleted has only one child, so it will be replaced with its child 55.

So, the replaced node 79 will now be a leaf node that can be easily deleted.



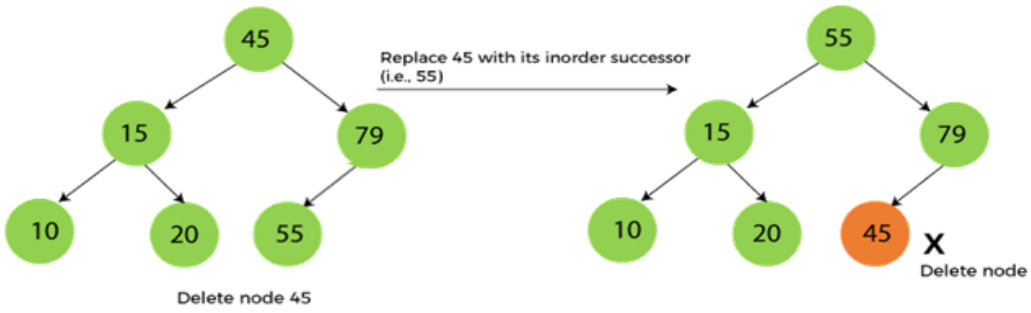
When the node to be deleted has two children:

This case of deleting a node in BST is a bit complex among other two cases. In such a case, the steps to be followed are listed as follows -

- First, find the inorder successor of the node to be deleted.
- After that, replace that node with the inorder successor until the target node is placed at the leaf of tree.
- And at last, replace the node with NULL and free up the allocated space.

The inorder successor is required when the right child of the node is not empty. We can obtain the inorder successor by finding the minimum element in the right child of the node.

We can see the process of deleting a node with two children from BST in the below image. In the below image, suppose we have to delete node 45 that is the root node, as the node to be deleted has two children, so it will be replaced with its inorder successor. Now, node 45 will be at the leaf of the tree so that it can be deleted easily.

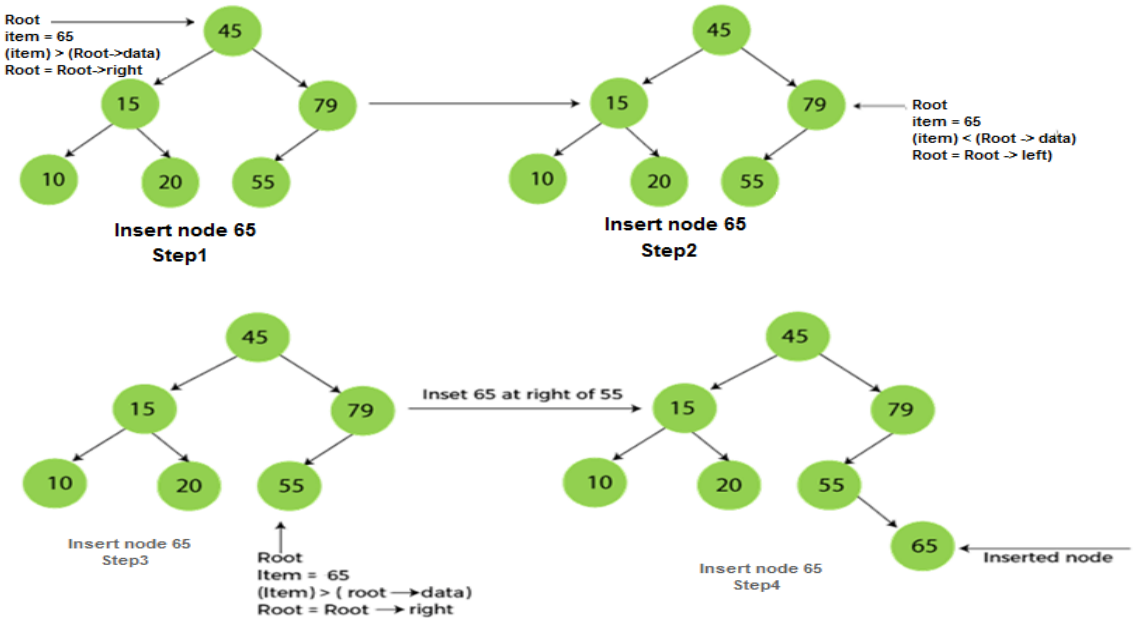


Now let's understand how insertion is performed on a binary search tree.

Insertion in Binary Search tree

A new key in BST is always inserted at the leaf. To insert an element in BST, we have to start searching from the root node; if the node to be inserted is less than the root node, then search for an empty location in the left subtree. Else, search for the empty location in the right subtree and insert the data. Insert in BST is similar to searching, as we always have to maintain the rule that the left subtree is smaller than the root, and right subtree is larger than the root.

Now, let's see the process of inserting a node into BST using an example.



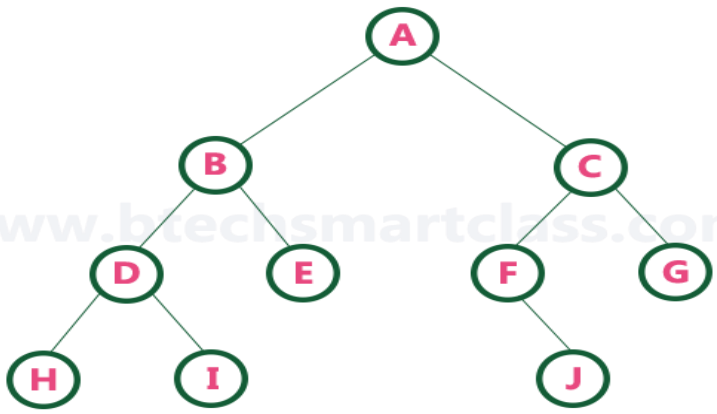
Threaded Binary Trees

A binary tree can be represented using array representation or linked list representation. When a binary tree is represented using linked list representation, the reference part of the node which doesn't have a child is filled with a NULL pointer. In any binary tree linked list representation, there is a number of NULL pointers than actual pointers. Generally, in any binary tree linked list representation, if there are **2N** number of reference fields, then **N+1** number of reference fields are filled with NULL (**N+1 are NULL out of 2N**). This NULL pointer does not play any role except indicating that there is no link (no child). A. J. Perlis and C. Thornton have proposed new binary tree called "***Threaded Binary Tree***", which makes use of NULL pointers to improve its traversal process. In a threaded binary tree, NULL pointers are replaced by references of other nodes in the tree. These extra references are called as ***threads***.

Threaded Binary Tree is also a binary tree in which all left child pointers that are NULL (in Linked list representation) points to its in-order predecessor, and all right child pointers that are NULL (in Linked list representation) points to its in-order successor.

If there is no in-order predecessor or in-order successor, then it points to the root node.

Consider the following binary tree...



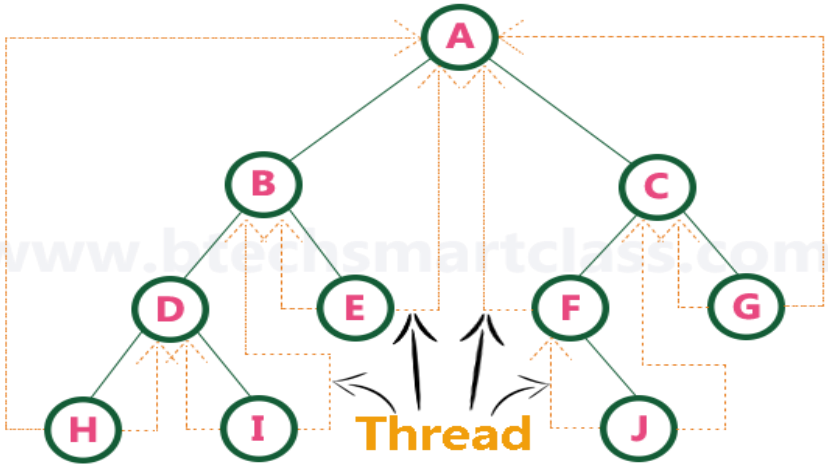
To convert the above example binary tree into a threaded binary tree, first find the in-order traversal of that tree...

In-order traversal of above binary tree...

H - D - I - B - E - A - F - J - C - G

When we represent the above binary tree using linked list representation, nodes **H, I, E, F, J** and **G** left child pointers are NULL. This NULL is replaced by address of its in-order predecessor respectively (I to D, E to B, F to A, J to F and G to C), but here the node H does not have its in-order predecessor, so it points to the root node A. And nodes **H, I, E, J** and **G** right child pointers are NULL. These NULL pointers are replaced by address of its in-order successor respectively (H to D, I to B, E to A, and J to C), but here the node G does not have its in-order successor, so it points to the root node A.

Above example binary tree is converted into threaded binary tree as follows.



In the above figure, threads are indicated with dotted links.