

Binary Search Tree Checking

Given a plain binary tree, examine the tree to determine if it meets the requirement to be a binary search tree. To be a binary search tree, for every node, all of the nodes in its left tree must be \leq the node, and all of the nodes in its right subtree must be $>$ the node. Consider the following four examples...

a. 5 \rightarrow TRUE

```
  /\n 2 7
```

b. 5 \rightarrow FALSE, because the 6 is not ok to the left of the 5

```
  /\n 6 7
```

c. 5 \rightarrow TRUE

```
  /\n 2 7\n /\n 1
```

d. 5 \rightarrow FALSE, the 6 is ok with the 2, but the 6 is not ok with the 5

```
  /\n 2 7\n /\n 1 6
```

For the first two cases, the right answer can be seen just by comparing each node to the two nodes immediately below it. However, the fourth case shows how checking the BST quality may depend on nodes which are several layers apart -- the 5 and the 6 in that case.

1. Code a method `int minValue(struct node* node)`

That given a non-empty binary search tree (an ordered binary tree), returns the minimum data value found in that tree. Note that it is not necessary to search the entire tree. A `maxValue()` function is structurally very similar to this function. This can be solved with recursion or with a simple while loop.

2. Code a method (version 1) `int isBST(struct node* node)` that returns true if a tree is a binary search tree and false otherwise.

Suppose you have helper functions `minValue()` and `maxValue()` that return the min or max int value from a non-empty tree (see problem 1 above). Write an `isBST()` function that returns true if a tree is a binary search tree and false otherwise. Use the helper functions, and don't forget to check every node in the tree. It's ok if your solution is not very efficient.

Rewrite `isBST()` as `int isBSTRecur(struct node* node, int min, int max)` which returns true if the given tree is a binary search tree (this is the efficient version).

Version 1 above runs slowly since it traverses over some parts of the tree many times. A better solution looks at each node only once. The trick is to write a utility helper function `isBSTRecur(struct node* node, int min, int max)` that traverses down the tree keeping track of the narrowing min and max allowed values as it goes, looking at each node only once. The initial values for min and max should be `INT_MIN` and `INT_MAX` (the values will set smaller and narrow at each call)

```
int isBST2(struct node* node) {  
    return(isBSTRecur(node, INT_MIN, INT_MAX));  
}
```

```
/*  
Returns true if the given tree is a BST and its  
values are >= min and <= max.  
*/
```