

Binary Search Tree (BST) Operations: Time & Space Complexity

Operation	Balanced BST	Skewed BST	Iterative vs Recursive	Best Approach & Why?	Time Complexity	Space Complexity
Insertion	$O(\log N)$	$O(N)$	Iterative	Iteration avoids stack overflow	$O(\log N)$ / $O(N)$	$O(1)$ / $O(N)$
Deletion	$O(\log N)$	$O(N)$	Iterative	Recursion can cause stack overflow	$O(\log N)$ / $O(N)$	$O(1)$ / $O(N)$
Search	$O(\log N)$	$O(N)$	Iterative	Iteration prevents unnecessary stack usage	$O(\log N)$ / $O(N)$	$O(1)$ / $O(N)$
Inorder Traversal	$O(N)$	$O(N)$	Recursive	More natural recursive calls	$O(N)$	$O(N)$
Preorder Traversal	$O(N)$	$O(N)$	Recursive	Easier to implement	$O(N)$	$O(N)$
Postorder Traversal	$O(N)$	$O(N)$	Recursive	Easier to implement	$O(N)$	$O(N)$
Level Order	$O(N)$	$O(N)$	Iterative	Uses Queue instead of recursion	$O(N)$	$O(N)$

When to Use What?

Scenario	Best Approach	Why?
Deep BST with high depth	Iterative	Avoids stack overflow
Shallow BST with small size	Recursive	Easier and more readable
Tree traversal	Recursive	Natural and simple
Level order traversal	Iterative	Queue-based approach is more efficient