## Left-leaning Red-Black Tree Program

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Intro. Red-black trees are self-balancing trees, also know as half-balanced tree, symmetric binary B-trees. By stipulating an additional requirement, namely that red-links always lean left, we gain simplification on insertion and deletion procedures [1, 3]. This data structure is called left-leaning red-black tree. We will maintain a one-to-one correspondence with 2–3 trees [2]. In those trees we have either 2-way or 3-way branching at each node (such nodes are called 2-node and 3-node respectively), and all external nodes appear on the same level. Essentially a left-leaning red-black tree is a 2–3 tree where red links are used to bind nodes together to form 3-nodes. Experimental results show that in a left-leaning red-black 2–3 tree built from N random keys a random successful search examines  $\lg N - 1/2$  nodes [1].

The program will be written in Scheme programming language [10].

```
1a ⟨Left-leaning Red-Black Tree implementation 1a⟩≡
⟨Tree node definition 1b⟩
⟨Helper procedures 2b⟩
⟨Insertion procedure 4a⟩
⟨Remove minimum key procedure 5a⟩
⟨Remove maximum key procedure 7b⟩
⟨Remove procedure 8a⟩
```

Tree node. We will define a tree node in a message passing style, that is, a node will be a procedure that takes one argument and dispatch on its value. A node object will have left and right links, that will point to other nodes, just as in ordinary binary search tree; the node will also have data field to store data associated with key. Node provides getters and setters for each of these fields. Each node will be marked as either red or black, denoting the color of the link that goes from its parent to this node. A newly created node will always have color set to black and both links set to nil.

A dichromatic

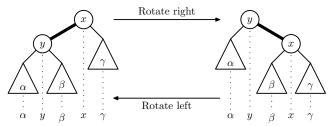
```
1b
        \langle Tree \ node \ definition \ 1b \rangle \equiv
           (define (make-node data key)
              (define (node data key color left right)
                (lambda (m)
                   (cond
                           \langle Getters 1c \rangle
                           \langle Setters 2a \rangle )))
              (node data key 'red '() '()))
        Defines:
           make-node, used in chunk 4a.
        The getters will provide access to left, right, key, and data.
        \langle Getters \ 1c \rangle \equiv
1c
           ((eq? m 'left) left)
           ((eq? m 'right) right)
           ((eq? m 'data) data)
           ((eq? m 'key) key)
           ((eq? m 'color) color)
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>We will use nil to reference an empty list in the text below. It plays a role of a sentinel node.

The setters return another procedures, one for each node's field, that take one argument and bind the corresponding node field to the given argument.

```
2a  \( \langle Setters 2a \rangle \)  \( \langle (\text{eq? m 'set-color}) \)  \( \langle (\text{ambda (x) (set! color x)}) \)  \( \langle (\text{eq? m 'set-data}) \)  \( \langle (\text{ambda (x) (set! data x)}) \)  \( \langle (\text{eq? m 'set-left}) \)  \( \langle (\text{ambda (x) (set! left x)}) \)  \( \langle (\text{eq? m 'set-right}) \)  \( \langle (\text{ambda (x) (set! right x)}) \)
```

**Helpers.** We will employ two simple tree transformations called *rotations* [9, 2, 6]. These transformations preserve symmetric order of the tree nodes (see image below). Such transformations are like applying the associative law to an algebraic formula, replacing  $\alpha(\beta\gamma)$  by  $(\alpha\beta)\gamma$  [4].



We'll start off with rotation to the right procedure. The new-node is set to link to the left child of the current node node (this new-node will eventually replace node). In the image above new-node points to y, and node points to x. Now new-node's right child (i.e.  $\beta$ ) becomes node's left child, and node itself becomes new-node's right child. Then we set new-node color to one that node had, and we set node's—which is now right child of new-node—color to be red (because we are going to rotate 3-nodes only). The procedure returns new-node which is the node to be used instead of node.

```
2b  \( \langle Helper procedures \( 2b \rangle \) \( \text{(define (rotate-right node)} \)
\( \text{(let ((new-node (node 'left)))} \)
\( \text{((node 'set-left) (new-node 'right))} \)
\( \text{((new-node 'set-right) node)} \)
\( \text{((new-node 'set-color) (node 'color))} \)
\( \text{((node 'set-color) 'red)} \)
\( \text{new-node)} \)
\( \text{Defines:} \)
```

rotate-right, used in chunks 2b, 4b, 6, 7, and 9b.

We will define rotation to the left in a symmetrical way. We could go ahead and merge these two procedures into one procedure and then define rotate-right and rotate-left in terms of that procedure by passing in appropriate getters and setters. However, I have chosen not to pursue that path.

We will also need an additional predicate procedure, is-red?, which tests node's color.

Color of nil is considered to be black.

```
3b \langle Helper\ procedures\ 2b\rangle +\equiv  (define (is-red? n) (if (null? n) #f (eq? (n 'color) 'red)))

Defines:
   is-red?, used in chunks 3-7 and 9.
```

A color flip operation inverts color for node and its children. This is essentially a *merge* and *split* operation in terms of 2–3 trees.

```
3c  \( \langle Helper procedures \( 2b \rangle + \equiv \) (define (color-flip node) (define (flip n) ((n 'set-color) (if (is-red? n) 'black 'red))) (flip node) (flip (node 'left)) (flip (node 'right)))

Defines: color-flip, used in chunks 4b, 3, 6a, and 7a. Uses is-red? 3b.
```

4a

**Insertion.** Since it's a binary search tree, we search down the tree as in ordinary BST, and once we hit the bottom, we insert the node [6]. Adding a new node may violate our LLRB tree. (We might get unbalanced 4-nodes, i.e. two red links in a row, or have right-leaning red links.) The tree must be fixed so that is becomes a valid LLRB tree again. We will do that via fix-up procedure. Note that insert procedure takes as argument another procedure, compare, which in turn takes two key values, m and m, and returns m, or m, or m, or m is a respectively.

Yes, fix-up!
Wishful thinking
[10]?

After we have inserted a node we might end up with a tree that is not a LLRB tree. A newly created node is always red. Suppose it was added as right child, then we would have a right-leaning red link now. That can be corrected by rotation to the left. Suppose also that the parent node had been red as well, which means there would have been two red links in a row, making a 4-node. We would have had to split it (in terms of 2–3 trees). That can be achieved by rotation to the right first (i.e. to balance it) and a color flip (i.e. to actually split it). When we correct violations locally we might introduce violations globally, which need further corrections. So we traverse up the tree and do necessary transformations all the way up to the tree root. To recap: if we see a right-leaning red link, we rotate to the left. If we see two red links in a row, we rotate to the right. If both children are red, we do a color flip (i.e. split 4-node).

Uses color-flip 3c, is-red? 3b, rotate-left 3a, and rotate-right 2b.

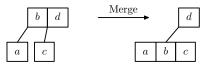
Removing the minimum key. Now let us take a look at how to remove the minimum key from the tree. We will use the same approach that is used for 2–3 trees, namely we will merge nodes on the way down the tree, so that current node is not a 2-node (for more on 2–3 trees see [7, 8]). If we maintain this invariant, once we reached the bottom, we can simply remove the key. When going down the left spine of the tree, we go to the left link each time, by calling remove-min-from recursively, however, before going to the left, we ensure that the invariant holds, i.e. we merge keys from parent nodes to their 2-node children either by taking a key from current 3-node to the child, or by borrowing key from 3-node sibling, when necessary. Again, we may need to fix the tree, and the same fix-up will do. This procedure returns a pair that contains new root of the tree and the removed element.

```
5a
        \langle Remove\ minimum\ key\ procedure\ 5a \rangle \equiv
          (define (remove-min root)
             (define min-elem '())
             (define (remove-min-from node)
               (if (null? (node 'left)) (begin (set! min-elem node) '())
                      \langle Maintain \ invariant \ for \ remove-min \ 5c \rangle
                      ((node 'set-left) (remove-min-from (node 'left)))
                      (fix-up node))))
             (let ((new-root (remove-min-from root)))
               (cons new-root min-elem)))
        Defines:
          remove-min, used in chunks 5 and 9c.
       Uses fix-up 4\mathrm{b} and remove 8\mathrm{a}.
        And this is how we will maintain the invariant: We examine two consecutive left links and if
        they are both black, we move red links to the left. But first, we will define a helper predicate,
        is-black?, so that we could avoid verbose (not (is-red? ...)) expressions.
        \langle Helper\ procedures\ 2b\rangle + \equiv
5b
          (define (is-black? n) (not (is-red? n)))
          is-black?, used in chunks 5 and 7c.
        Uses is-red? 3b.
        Now maintaining the invariant for remove-min is as follows.
        \langle Maintain \ invariant \ for \ remove-min \ 5c \rangle \equiv
5c
          (if (and (is-black? (node 'left))
                     (is-black? ((node 'left) 'left)))
               \langle Move\ red\ link\ to\ the\ left\ 6b \rangle)
        Uses is-black? 5b.
```

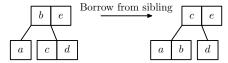
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Moving red link to the left. Let us consider the situation when current node is a 3-node and its first two children are not. In that case we simply merge it, producing a 4-node. Merging is accomplished by color-flip. This situation can be distinguished by looking at current node's left child color. It should be red and its right child's left link should be black:



The second case is more difficult, because b's right child is a 3-node, that is b's right child's left link is red. We rotate b's right child, a 3-node, to the right. Then we rotate b to the left, so that it is substituted with c now. Finally we color-flip to split the node. We get the following transformation:



Note that these transformations still preserve symmetric order of the tree.

Now the transformation procedure is as follows. We do color-flip to merge nodes. Then we check if b's right child is a 2-node by inspecting it's left link. If its red, then this is a 3-node and we do two rotations and flip colors as described above.

The procedure above, move-red-left, may return a different root after transformation. So we need to reset the node after we have applied the procedure. This completes remove-min procedure.

```
6b ⟨Move red link to the left 6b⟩≡
(set! node (move-red-left node))
Uses move-red-left 6a.
```

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Moving red link to the right. We, again, maintain the invariant that current node is not a 2-node by merging and borrowing from sibling. Since the red links lean left move-red-right is even simpler than move-red-left.

```
7a ⟨Helper procedures 2b⟩+≡
(define (move-red-right node)
(color-flip node)
(if (is-red? ((node 'left) 'left))
((set! node (rotate-right node))
(color-flip node)))
node)

Defines:
move-red-right, used in chunks 7 and 9b.
Uses color-flip 3c, is-red? 3b, and rotate-right 2b.
```

Removing the maximum key. This procedure is very like remove-min, except that it goes down the right spine of a tree, and it rotates left-leaning red links to the right.

```
7b ⟨Remove maximum key procedure 7b⟩≡
(define (remove-max node)
(define max-elem '())
(define (remove-max-from node)
(if (is-red? (node 'left)) (set! node (rotate-right node)))
(if (null? (node 'right)) (begin (set! max-elem node) '())
(begin
⟨Maintain invariant for remove-max 7c⟩
((node 'set-right) (remove-max-from (node 'right)))
(fix-up node))))
(let ((new-root (remove-max-from root)))
(cons new-root max-elem)))
Defines:
remove-max, used in chunk 7b.
Uses fix-up 4b, is-red? 3b, remove 8a, and rotate-right 2b.
```

We can detect the situation when we need to move red link to the right by looking at the right link of the current node, and, as opposite to the situation analyzed in remove-min procedure, to the left link of the right child, since the tree leans left. If these are both black, we need to do the move-red-right transformation.

Removing arbitrary key. Removing an arbitrary key is easy once we understood remove-max and remove-min procedures. On searching we do simple BST search except that when we are moving to the right, we move red link to the right when necessary, and when we are moving to the left, we move red link to the left when necessary. We detect these necessities by examining two consecutive links: Two left links in a row when moving to the left, and right and right child's left links when moving to the right. We also save parent's appropriate setter in transplant-proc so that we can transplant the node. That is, if we remove internal node, we substitute it with its successor, i.e. minimum key of the right subtree, via transplant-proc. The remove procedure is quite large, so we will break it into a few modules that will be described separately. Of course, we use fix-up to fix the tree after we have performed removal. Argument compare is the same procedure that we used in insert procedure.

```
8a
       \langle Remove\ procedure\ 8a \rangle \equiv
         (define (remove root key compare)
            (Internal remove procedure definitions 8b)
            (Internal remove procedure helper methods 8c)
            (Definition of go-to-left-subtree 9a)
            ⟨Definition of go-to-right-subtree 9b⟩
            (define (remove-node node)
                (fix-up
                  (if (< (compare key (node 'key)) 0)
                      (go-to-left-subtree node)
                      (go-to-right-subtree node))))
            (let ((new-root (remove-node root)))
              (cons new-root removed-node)))
       Defines:
         remove, used in chunks 8a, 5a, 8, and 7-9.
       Uses fix-up 4b.
```

We will need a couple of variables. One that will be used to reference removed node, and the second to point to the procedure that will set appropriate child links in the parent of a node.

```
8b ⟨Internal remove procedure definitions 8b⟩≡
(define removed-node '())
(define transplant-proc '())
```

We better define a local helper procedure for tree traversal. This procedure will do two things: Set transplant-proc appropriately, and go the given link of a node. Argument link must be either 'right or 'left.

```
8c  \langle Internal remove procedure helper methods 8c\rangle \equiv (define (proceed-with node link) (set! transplant-proc (node link)) ((node (if (eq? link 'left) 'set-left 'set-right)) (remove-node (node link))) node)

Uses remove 8a.
```

Now we will define two separate procedures for left and right subtrees of a node. When we go to the left subtree, we look for two left black links in a row, if there are any, we do move-red-left, in the same way as in remove-min procedure.

If we go to the right subtree of a tree though, we first check, if we are at a 3-node and whether it leans left. If it is a 3-node and it does lean left, we need to rotate it to the right. Next, we check for two reds links in a row. However, now it's not a straight line situation as in go-to-left-subtree, but is a "zig-zag", because our red links lean left. So we check color of right and right child left links. If they are both black, we do move-red-right to ensure that our next node won't be a 2-node. But there's more: We compare keys again. If they match, we remove the node by substituting it with the successor node, that is the minimum node of current node's right subtree. Otherwise we search further, i.e. go the right subtree.

Uses is-red? 3b, move-red-right 7a, and rotate-right 2b.

9c

We use remove-min procedure to get the successor node. It will be removed from the right subtree of the current node. Then we use transplant-proc to correct parent's appropriate link so that it points to the successor. We also set removed-node to the removed node. Then we return, and fix-up fixes the tree. This completes the removal procedure.

**Tree drawing.** Drawing a binary tree is almost trivial, but I have decided to include this little informal description of the algorithm that I came up with for drawing. I didn't need putting key values in the nodes, I just wanted to see the overall structure of a tree. The idea is to generate auxiliary data for METAPOST using which it will be easy to write a loop that draws a tree.

Of course, I could have used a graph visualizations tool like graphviz, but in this particular case I didn't need that heavy machinery. Besides, I didn't like results it produced. The algorithm that I came up with is easy, it's just a few lines of code, and I'm more than happy with the results I got.

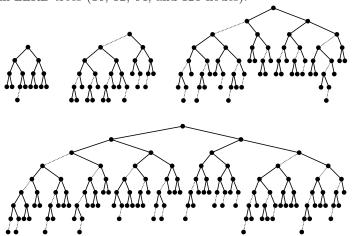
We initialize three numeric arrays of N sizes, where N is the number of nodes in a tree. One of the arrays, d, holds depth values for each node. In other words, d maps a sequence of nodes  $n_0, n_1, \ldots, n_N$ ,  $0 \le k \le N-1$ , gotten from traversing the tree in a symmetrical order, to the depths of those nodes. (Depth of the root node is 0, depths of root's children is 1 etc.) Let  $d_k$  be the depth of the kth node  $n_k$  in that sequence. Using this data we can easily determine location (x, y) of a node  $n_k$ . To determine the x component we simply multiply k by the "width" parameter, w, since k means that there are k nodes to the left (all nodes, not just subtree nodes). The parameter w determines how far nodes are placed from each other. The larger this value the more the tree "breathes". Generally, it should be slightly larger than the width of a node. The y component can be computed easily as well: It's  $d_k$  times parameter h. The parameter h determines how far tree levels are from each other. The larger this value the higher the tree. Initialization of array d is trivial.

Location of any node  $n_k$ ,  $0 \le k \le N-1$ , is  $(k \cdot w, d_k \cdot h)$ , if we have d initialized as described above. But we also need to draw edges. In order to do that we need to know location of node's parent. We introduce another auxiliary array p. It maps node  $n_k$  to its parent node. So we can calculate location of a parent node as  $(p_k \cdot w, d_{p_k} \cdot h)_{p_k}$ ; and we can draw an edge as a line between two points  $(k \cdot w, d_k \cdot h)$  and  $(p_k \cdot w, d_{p_k} \cdot h)$ .

We can initialize p at the same time when traversing the tree and initializing array d. Calculating  $p_k$  for the given  $n_k$  depends on whether  $n_k$  is left or right child of  $n_{p_k}$ . If  $n_k$  is the left child, then we set  $p_k \leftarrow k + (c_r + 1)$ , where  $c_r$  is the number of nodes in the right subtree of  $n_k$ . If, however,  $n_k$  is the right child, then  $p_k \leftarrow k - (c_l + 1)$ , where  $c_l$  is the number of nodes in the left subtree of node  $n_k$ .

Finally, the array c holds colors of the nodes, so that we can draw edges differently, depending on node's color. If  $n_k$  is red then  $c_k = 1$ , and  $c_k = 0$  if it's not.

A few random LLRB trees (16, 32, 64, and 128 nodes):



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## References

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## **Definitions**

```
(Definition of go-to-left-subtree 9a) 8a, 9a
(Definition of go-to-right-subtree 9b) 8a, 9b
\langle Getters 1c \rangle 1b, 1c
\langle Helper\ procedures\ 2b\rangle\ 1a, \underline{2b}, \underline{3a}, \underline{3b}, \underline{3c}, \underline{4b}, \underline{5b}, \underline{6a}, \underline{7a}
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