

Data Abstraction

Data abstraction is a powerful concept in computer science that allows programmers to treat code as objects. For example, using code to represent cars, chairs, people, and so on. That way, programmers don't have to worry about *how* code is implemented; they just have to know *what* it does.

Data abstraction mimics how we think about the world. If you want to drive a car, you don't need to know how the engine was built or what kind of material the tires are made of to do so. You just have to know how to use the car for driving itself, such as how to turn the wheel or press the gas pedal.

A data abstraction consists of two types of functions:

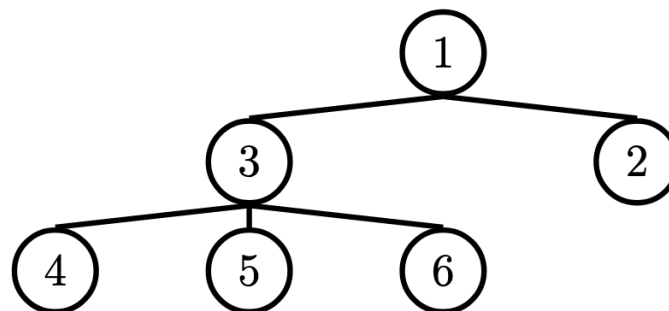
- **Constructors:** functions that build the abstract data type.
- **Selectors:** functions that retrieve information from the data type.

Programmers design data abstractions to abstract away how information is stored and calculated such that the end user does *not* need to know how constructors and selectors are implemented. The nature of *abstraction* allows whoever uses them to assume that the functions have been written correctly and work as described.

Trees

One example of data abstraction is with **trees**.

In computer science, **trees** are recursive data structures that are widely used in various settings and can be implemented in many ways. The diagram below is an example of a tree.



Example Tree

Notice that the tree branches downward. In computer science, the **root** of a tree starts at the top, and the **leaves** are at the bottom.

Some terminology regarding trees:

- **Parent Node:** A node that has at least one branch.
- **Child Node:** A node that has a parent. A child node can only have one parent.
- **Root:** The top node of the tree. In our example, this is the 1 node.
- **Label:** The value at a node. In our example, every node's label is an integer.
- **Leaf:** A node that has no branches. In our example, the 4, 5, 6, 2 nodes are leaves.
- **Branch:** A subtree of the root. Trees have branches, which are trees themselves: this is why trees are *recursive* data structures.
- **Depth:** How far away a node is from the root. We define this as the number of edges between the root to the node. As there are no edges between the root and itself, the root has depth 0. In our example, the 3 node has depth 1 and the 4 node has depth 2.
- **Height:** The depth of the lowest (furthest from the root) leaf. In our example, the 4, 5, and 6 nodes are all the lowest leaves with depth 2. Thus, the entire tree has height 2.

In computer science, there are many different types of trees. Some vary in the number of branches each node has; others vary in the structure of the tree.

Working with Trees

A tree has both a value for the root node and a sequence of branches, which are also trees. In our implementation, we represent the branches as a list of trees. Since a tree is a data abstraction, our choice to use lists is just an implementation detail.

- The arguments to the constructor `tree` are the value for the root node and an optional list of branches. *If no branches parameter is provided, the default value [] is used.*
- The selectors for these are `label` and `branches`.

Remember `branches` returns a list of trees and not a tree directly. It's important to distinguish between working with a tree and working with a **list of** trees.

We have also provided a convenience function, `is_leaf`.

Let's try to create the tree from above:

```
t = tree(1,
  [tree(3,
    [tree(4),
     tree(5),
     tree(6)]),
   tree(2)])
```

Tree Data Abstraction Implementation

For your reference, we have provided our implementation of trees as a data abstraction.

```
def tree(label, branches=[]):
    """Construct a tree with the given label value and a list of branches."""
    return [label] + list(branches)

def label(tree):
    """Return the label value of a tree."""
    return tree[0]

def branches(tree):
    """Return the list of branches of the given tree."""
    return tree[1:]

def is_leaf(tree):
    """Returns True if the given tree's list of branches is empty, and False
    otherwise.
    """
    return not branches(tree)
```

Q1: Tree Abstraction Barrier

Consider a tree `t` constructed by calling `tree(1, [tree(2), tree(4)])`. For each of the following expressions, answer these two questions:

- What does the expression evaluate to?
- Does the expression violate any abstraction barriers? If so, write an equivalent expression that does not violate abstraction barriers.

1. `label(t)`

Evaluates to 1, the label of the entire tree. This is simply using a selector to get the label, which is not violating any abstraction barriers.

2. `t[0]`

This expression evaluates to 1, the label of the entire tree. However, it makes use of the fact that trees are implemented using lists, and violates the abstraction barrier. An equivalent expression is `label(t)`.

3. `label(branches(t)[0])`

This expression evaluates to the label of the first branch of `t`. It is not a violation to index into `branches(t)` because it is given in the description of the ADT that `branches(t)` returns a list of branches.

4. `is_leaf(t[1:][1])`

This expression accesses the branches of `t` by slicing `t`. Although this works because this is technically what `branches(t)` returns, this is an abstraction violation because we cannot assume the implementation of `branches(t)`.

It then accesses the second branch by indexing into the list of branches, which is *not* an abstraction violation because we are allowed to assume that branches is a list. This expression evaluates to `True` because the second branch of `t` is a leaf. An equivalent expression is `is_leaf(branches(t)[1])`.

5. `[label(b) for b in branches(t)]`

This expression uses the `branches` selector to access the branches of `t` and then iterates through it to construct a new list containing the labels of the branches. The result list is `[2, 4]`. It does not violate any abstraction barriers.

6. **Challenge:** `branches(tree(5, [t, tree(3)]))[0][0]`

This expression evaluates to the label of the tree `t`, which is 1. This is because the expression `tree(5, [t, tree(3)])` evaluates to a tree whose first branch is the tree `t` that we constructed above! However, this expression violates the abstraction barrier by indexing into `t` to get its label. An equivalent expression would be `label(branches(tree(5, [t, tree(3)]))[0])`.

Q2: Height

Write a function that returns the height of a tree. Recall that the height of a tree is the length of the longest path from the root to a leaf.

```
def height(t):
    """Return the height of a tree.

    >>> t = tree(3, [tree(5, [tree(1)]), tree(2)])
    >>> height(t)
    2
    >>> t = tree(3, [tree(1), tree(2, [tree(5, [tree(6)]), tree(1)])])
    >>> height(t)
    3
    """
    # Non-list comprehension solution
    if is_leaf(t):
        return 0
    best_height = 0
    for b in branches(t):
        best_height = max(height(b), best_height)
    return best_height + 1

    # List comprehension solution
    if is_leaf(t):
        return 0
    return 1 + max([height(branch) for branch in branches(t)])

    # Alternate solutions
    return 1 + max([-1] + [height(branch) for branch in branches(t)])
    return max([1 + height(b) for b in branches(t)], default=0)
```

[See video walkthrough](#)

Q3: Maximum Path Sum

Write a function that takes in a tree and returns the maximum sum of the values along any path in the tree. Recall that a path is from the tree's root to any leaf.

```

def max_path_sum(t):
    """Return the maximum path sum of the tree.

    >>> t = tree(1, [tree(5, [tree(1), tree(3)]), tree(10)])
    >>> max_path_sum(t)
    11
    """
    # Non-list comprehension solution
    if is_leaf(t):
        return label(t)
    highest_sum = 0
    for b in branches(t):
        highest_sum = max(max_path_sum(b), highest_sum)
    return label(t) + highest_sum

    # List comprehension solution
    if is_leaf(t):
        return label(t)
    else:
        return label(t) + max([max_path_sum(b) for b in branches(t)])

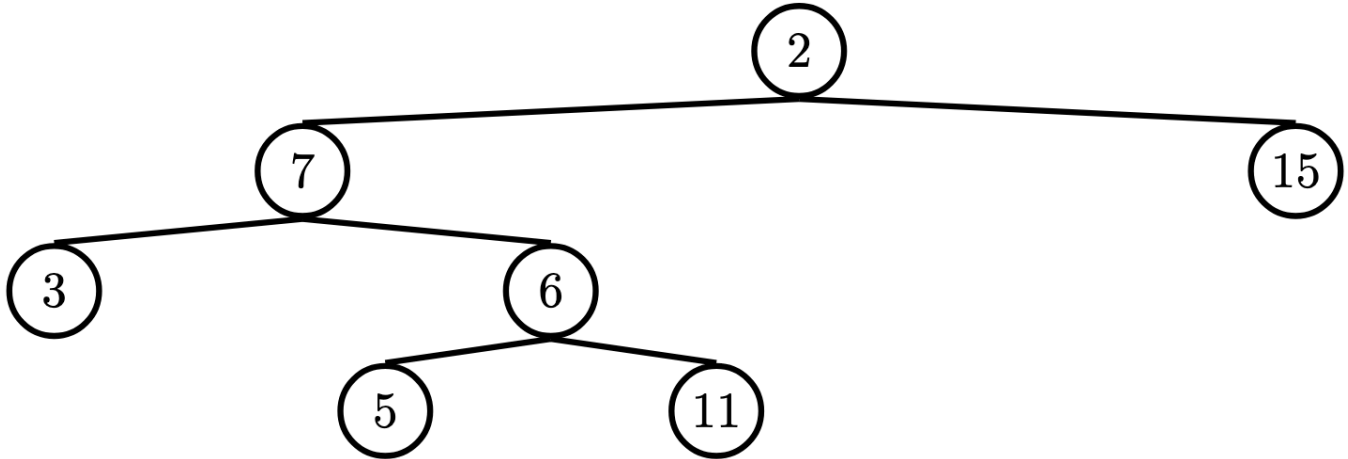
```

Q4: Find Path

Write a function that takes in a tree and a value `x` and returns a list containing the nodes along the path required to get from the root of the tree to a node containing `x`.

If `x` is not present in the tree, return `None`. Assume that the entries of the tree are unique.

For the following tree, `find_path(t, 5)` should return `[2, 7, 6, 5]`



Example Tree

```

def find_path(t, x):
    """
    >>> t = tree(2, [tree(7, [tree(3), tree(6, [tree(5), tree(11)])] ), tree(15)])
    >>> find_path(t, 5)
    [2, 7, 6, 5]
    >>> find_path(t, 10) # returns None
    """
    if label(t) == x:
        return [label(t)]
    for b in branches(t):
        path = find_path(b, x)
        if path:
            return [label(t)] + path
  
```

[See video walkthrough](#)

Q5: Perfectly Balanced

Part A: Implement `sum_tree`, which returns the sum of all the labels in tree `t`.

Part B: Implement `balanced`, which returns whether every branch of `t` has the same total sum and that the branches themselves are also balanced.

Challenge: Solve both of these parts with just 1 line of code each.

```
def sum_tree(t):
    """
    Add all elements in a tree.
    >>> t = tree(4, [tree(2, [tree(3)]), tree(6)])
    >>> sum_tree(t)
    15
    """
    total = 0
    for b in branches(t):
        total += sum_tree(b)
    return label(t) + total

# one line solution
return label(t) + sum([sum_tree(b) for b in branches(t)])
```

```
def balanced(t):
    """
    Checks if each branch has same sum of all elements and
    if each branch is balanced.
    >>> t = tree(1, [tree(3), tree(1, [tree(2)]), tree(1, [tree(1), tree(1)])])
    >>> balanced(t)
    True
    >>> t = tree(1, [t, tree(1)])
    >>> balanced(t)
    False
    >>> t = tree(1, [tree(4), tree(1, [tree(2), tree(1)]), tree(1, [tree(3)])])
    >>> balanced(t)
    False
    """
    for b in branches(t):
        if sum_tree(branches(t)[0]) != sum_tree(b) or not balanced(b):
            return False
    return True

# one line solution
return False not in [sum_tree(branches(t)[0]) == sum_tree(b) and balanced(b) for b in
branches(t)]
```


Q6: Sprout Leaves

Define a function `sprout_leaves` that takes in a tree, `t`, and a list of leaves, `leaves`. It produces a new tree that is identical to `t`, but where each old leaf node has new branches, one for each leaf in `leaves`.

For example, say we have the tree `t = tree(1, [tree(2), tree(3, [tree(4)])])`:

```

  1
 / \
2   3
   |
   4

```

If we call `sprout_leaves(t, [5, 6])`, the result is the following tree:

```

      1
     / \
    2   3
   / \   |
  5  6   4
       / \
      5  6

```

```

def sprout_leaves(t, leaves):
    """Sprout new leaves containing the data in leaves at each leaf in
    the original tree t and return the resulting tree.

    >>> t1 = tree(1, [tree(2), tree(3)])
    >>> print_tree(t1)
    1
     2
     3
    >>> new1 = sprout_leaves(t1, [4, 5])
    >>> print_tree(new1)
    1
     2
      4
      5
     3
      4
      5

    >>> t2 = tree(1, [tree(2, [tree(3)])])
    >>> print_tree(t2)
    1
     2
      3
    >>> new2 = sprout_leaves(t2, [6, 1, 2])
    >>> print_tree(new2)
    1
     2
      3
       6
       1
       2
    """
    if is_leaf(t):
        return tree(label(t), [tree(leaf) for leaf in leaves])
    return tree(label(t), [sprout_leaves(s, leaves) for s in branches(t)])

```

Additional Practice

Q7: Hailstone Tree

We can represent the hailstone sequence as a tree in the figure below, showing the route different numbers take to reach 1. Remember that a hailstone sequence starts with a number n , continuing to $n/2$ if n is even or $3n+1$ if n is odd, ending with 1. Write a function `hailstone_tree(n, h)` which generates a tree of height h , containing hailstone numbers that will reach n .

Hint: A node of a hailstone tree will always have at least one, and at most two branches (which are also

hailstone trees). Under what conditions do you add the second branch?

```
def hailstone_tree(n, h):
    """Generates a tree of hailstone numbers that will reach N, with height H.
    >>> print_tree(hailstone_tree(1, 0))
    1
    >>> print_tree(hailstone_tree(1, 4))
    1
      2
        4
          8
            16
    >>> print_tree(hailstone_tree(8, 3))
    8
      16
        32
          64
            5
              10
    """
    if h == 0:
        return tree(n)
    branches = [hailstone_tree(n * 2, h - 1)]
    if (n - 1) % 3 == 0 and ((n - 1) // 3) % 2 == 1 and (n - 1) // 3 > 1:
        branches += [hailstone_tree((n - 1) // 3, h - 1)]
    return tree(n, branches)

def print_tree(t):
    def helper(i, t):
        print("    " * i + str(label(t)))
        for b in branches(t):
            helper(i + 1, b)
    helper(0, t)
```