

Binary Search Trees (BSTs)

Key Concept:

A **Binary Search Tree (BST)** is a **binary tree** where:

- ✓ Left subtree values $<$ root value.
- ✓ Right subtree values $>$ root value.
- ✓ **Inorder traversal** results in **sorted order**.

BST Operations:

Search:

- Uses **recursive traversal** to locate a key.
- Complexity: **$O(\log n)$** (if balanced).

Insert:

- Adds a node while maintaining BST properties.
- Worst case **$O(n)$** (if unbalanced).

Remove:

- Three cases: **Leaf node**, **One child**, **Two children**.
- Replace with **max left subtree** or **min right subtree**.

BST Efficiency & Balance:

- **Balanced BSTs (AVL, Splay Trees)** $\rightarrow O(\log n)$ operations.
- **Unbalanced BSTs (linked list shape)** $\rightarrow O(n)$ worst-case complexity.
- Maintaining **balance** is crucial for performance.

Takeaway:

BSTs provide **efficient searching, insertion, and deletion**, but balancing techniques (**AVL, 2-3 Trees, Splay Trees**) are needed to **optimize performance** in real-world applications.