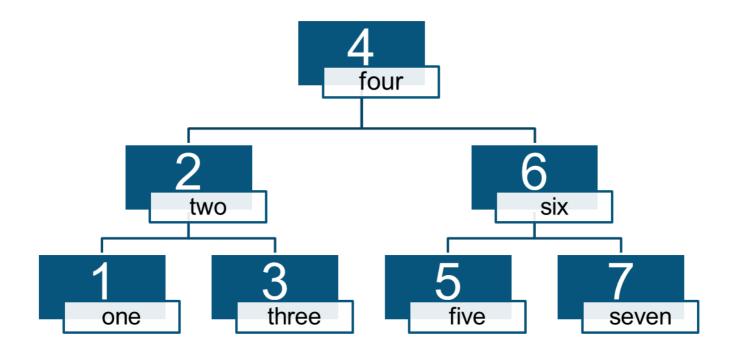
## Maps

Now, we shall look at the features of std::map which make it such a popular container.



std::map is the by far the most frequently used associative container. The
reason is simple. It combines a often sufficient enough performance with a
very convenient interface. You can access its elements via the index operator.
If the key doesn't exist, std:map creates a key/value pair. For the value, the
default constructor is used.

Consider std::map as a generalization of std::vector

Often std::map is called an associative array. Array, because std::map supports the index operator like a sequential container. The subtle

std::vector. Its index can be almost any arbitrary type.

The same observations hold for its namesake std::unordered\_map.

In addition to the index operator, std::map supports the at method. The
access via at is checked. So if the request key doesn't exist in the std::map, a
std::out\_of\_range exception is thrown.