

Lecture 8

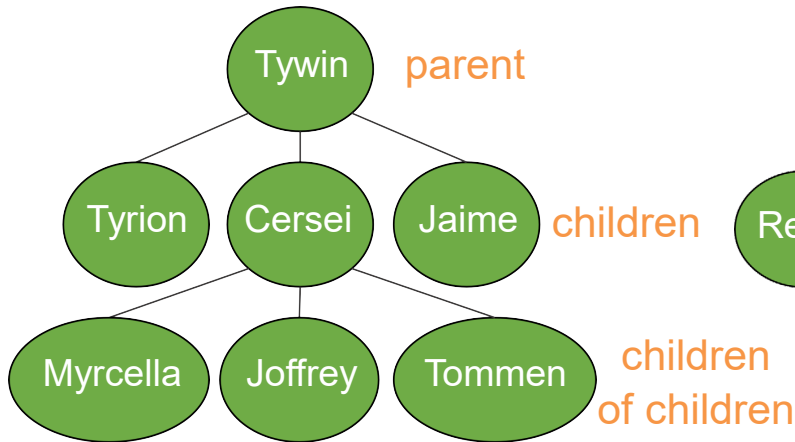
Binary Search Tree

Department of Computer Science
Hofstra University

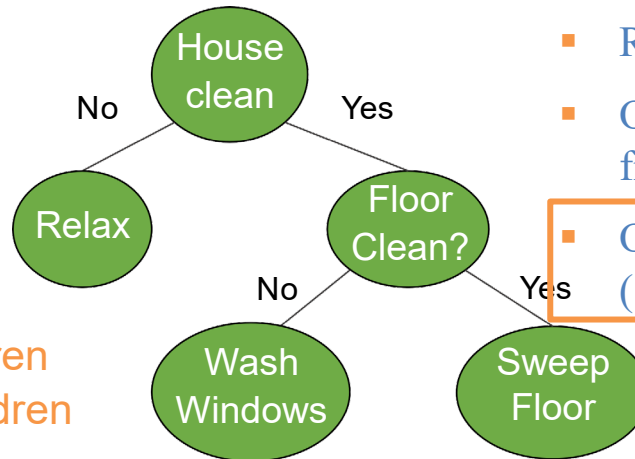
Lecture Goals

- Describe the **value** of trees and their data structure
- Explain the need to visit data in different **orderings**
- Perform pre-order, in-order, post-order and level-order **traversals**
- Define a **Binary Search Tree**
- Perform **search, insert, delete** in a Binary Search Tree
- Explain the running time **performance** to find an item in a BST

Different Trees in Computer Science



Family Trees

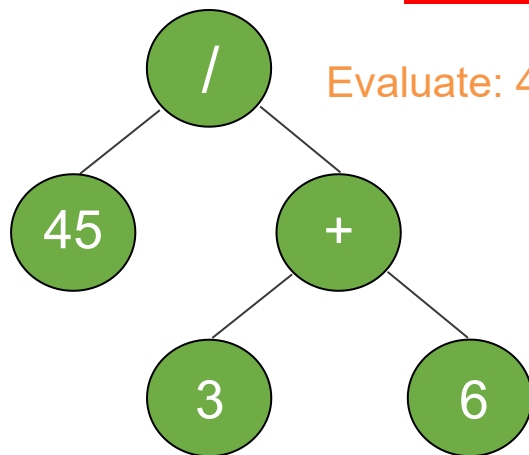


Decision Trees

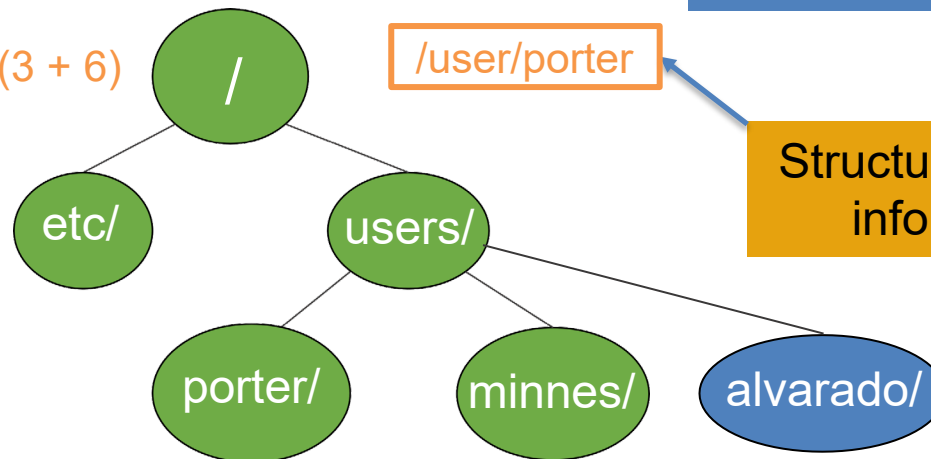
- Root is most important (Heap)
- Organized by character frequency (Huffman Tree)
- Organized by node ordering (Search Trees)
- Etc...

Why trees?

Different Organizations
→ Different Trees



Expression Trees



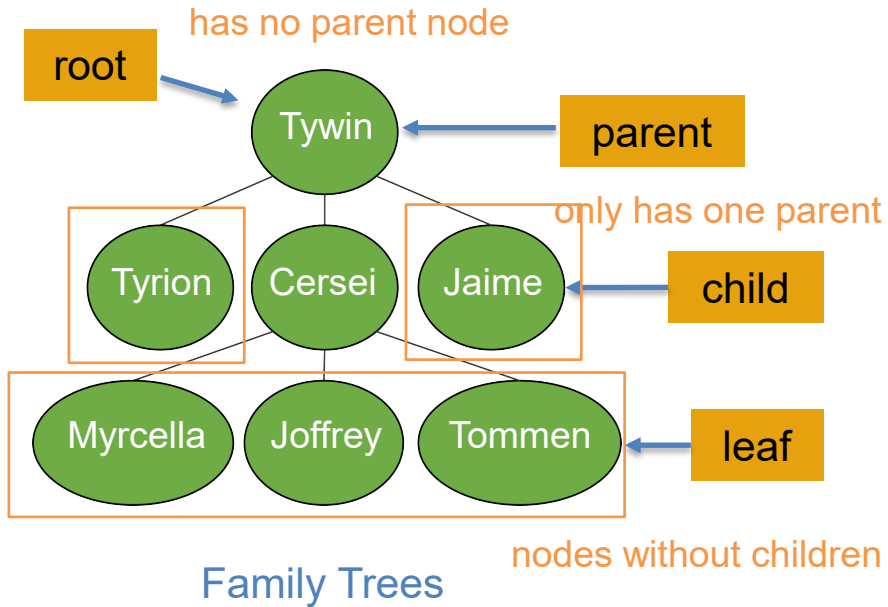
File System

/user/porter

Structure conveys
information

Dynamic Data Structure

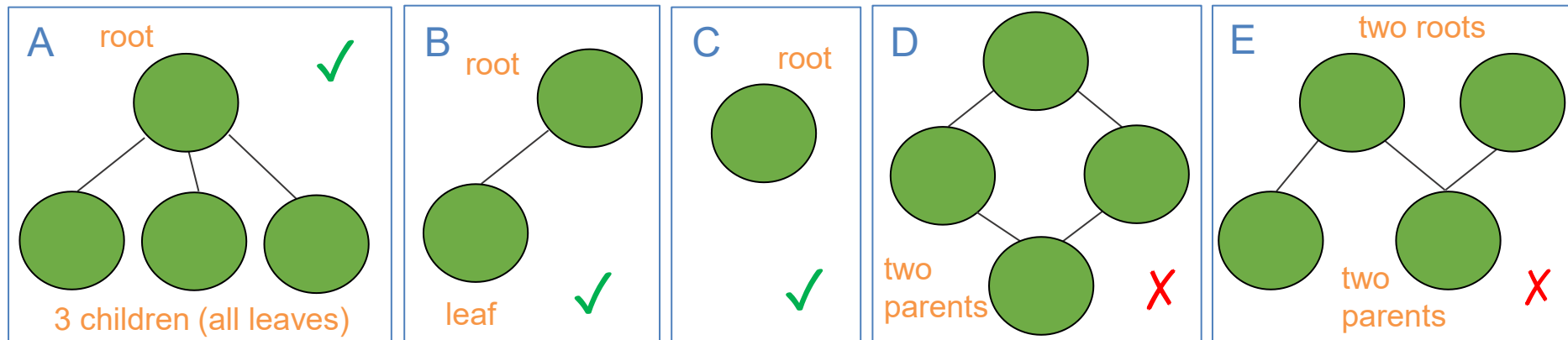
Defining Trees



What defines a tree?

- Single root
- Each node can have only one parent (except for root)
- No cycles in a tree

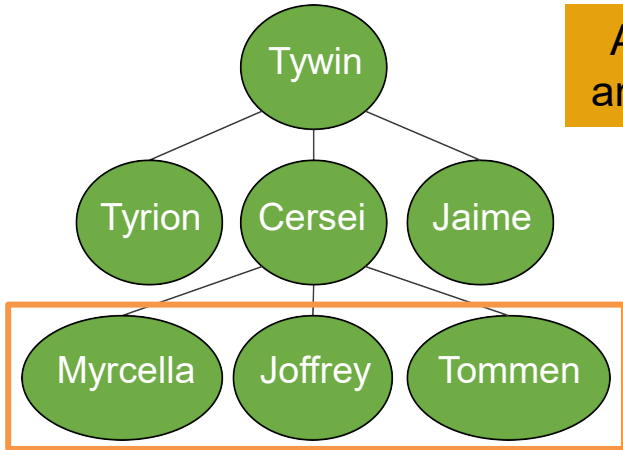
Which are trees?



Cycle: two different paths
between a pair of nodes

Binary Trees

Generic Tree



Any Parent can have any number of children

How would a general tree node differ?

A general tree would just have a list for children

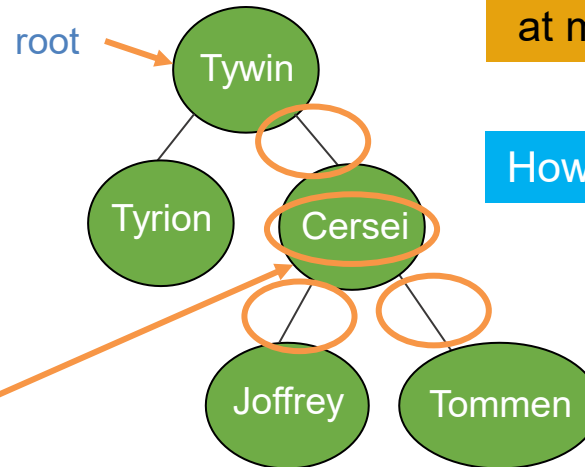
A tree just needs a root node

like the head and tail for linked list

Each node needs:

1. A value
2. A parent
3. A left child
4. A right child

Binary Tree



Any node can have at most two children

How do we construct a tree?

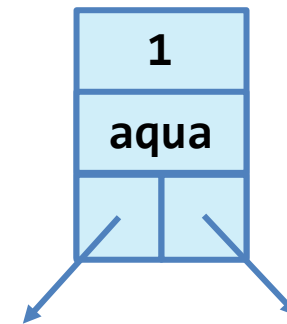
Like Linked Lists, Trees have a "Linked Structure"

nodes are connected by references

Tree Node

- Each node represents a key/value pair.

```
public class Node<K, V> {  
    K key;  
    V value;  
    Node<K, V> left;  
    Node<K, V> right;  
}
```

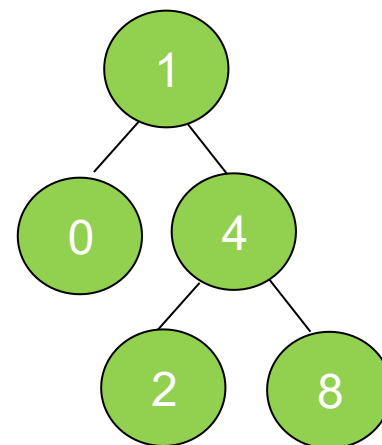
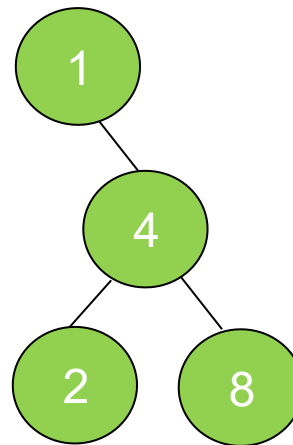
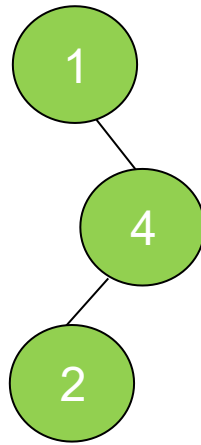
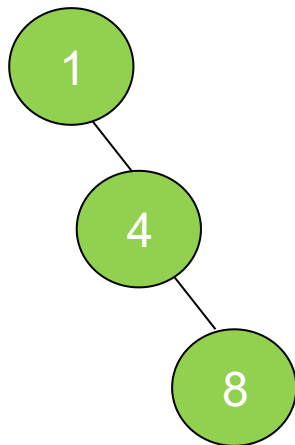


A node with key 1
and value "aqua"

- For simplicity, we focus on keys and omit the values in the discussions
 - Keys determine where the nodes go

Definitions

- Root node: the single node with no parent at the top of the tree.
Leaf node: a node with no children
- Subtree: a node and all its descendants
- Height of a tree: defined as the number of edges in the longest path from the root node to a leaf node.
 - A tree with only a root node has height of 0.
 - The trees below all have height of 2.

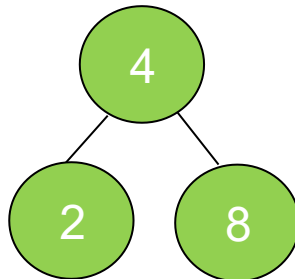


Full Binary Tree

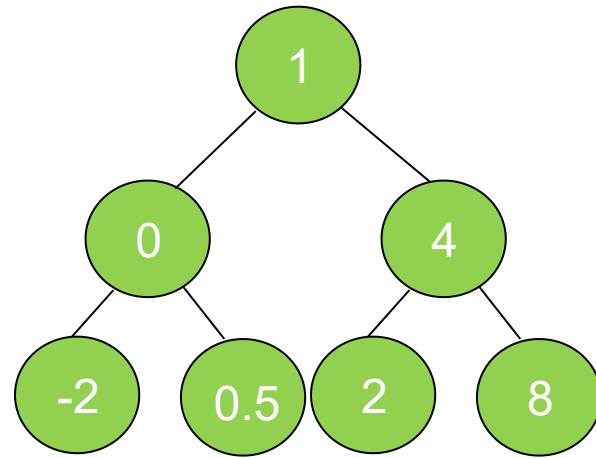
- A full binary tree with height h has total number of leaves 2^h , and total number of nodes: $n = 2^{h+1} - 1$
- In a full binary tree, each level is completely filled. The number of nodes at each level l is 2^l . Therefore, the total number of nodes is the sum of nodes at all levels from 0 to h , which is a geometric series: $n = 1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^h = 2^{h+1} - 1$
- This means that for a full binary tree, the total number of nodes grows exponentially with the height of the tree
 - $h=0$: $n = 2^1 - 1 = 1$
 - $h=1$: $n = 2^2 - 1 = 3$
 - $h=2$: $n = 2^3 - 1 = 7$



$h=0$



$h=1$



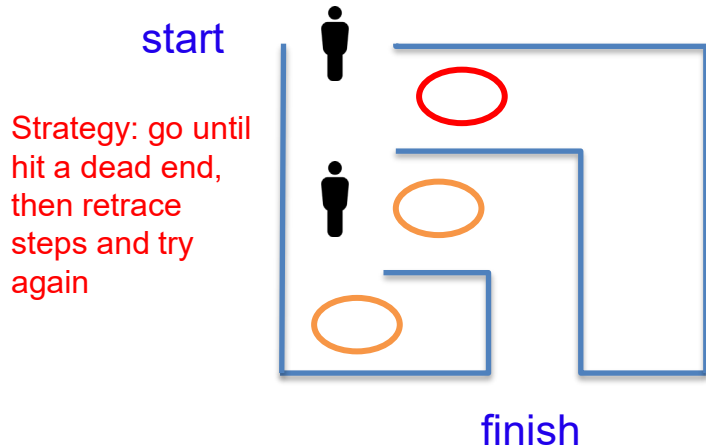
$h=2$

Height of a Binary Tree

- For a binary tree with n nodes, the height h is bounded by:
$$\lceil \log_2(n+1) \rceil - 1 \leq h \leq n - 1$$
 - The lower bound represents a perfectly balanced tree, and the upper bound represents a degenerate tree (essentially a linked list).
 - The minimum height of a binary tree with n nodes is $\lceil \log_2(n+1) \rceil - 1$, which occurs in the most balanced configuration, where $\lceil \cdot \rceil$ is the ceiling operator, e.g., $\lceil 1.0 \rceil = 1$, $\lceil 1.3 \rceil = 2$.
 - The maximum height of a binary tree with n nodes is $n-1$, which occurs in the case of a skewed tree (a linear chain or linked list).

Tree Traversal - Motivation

Warning: These first examples are really graphs. We'll visit graphs in detail in the next course. Here they are used as motivating examples



Maze Traversal

Suppose you have a list of your friends and each of your friends have lists

How closely are you connected with D?

What's my next step?

Strategy: look at all of your friends first, and then branch out.

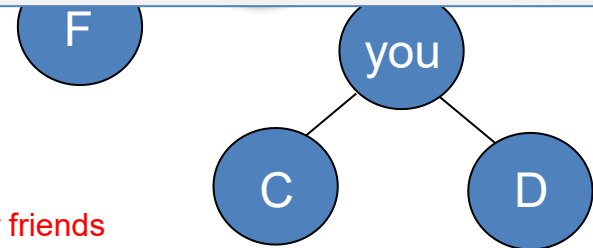
This problem benefits from "Breadth First Traversals"

Imagine this is a hedge maze

What's my next step?

Mazes benefit from "Depth First Traversals"

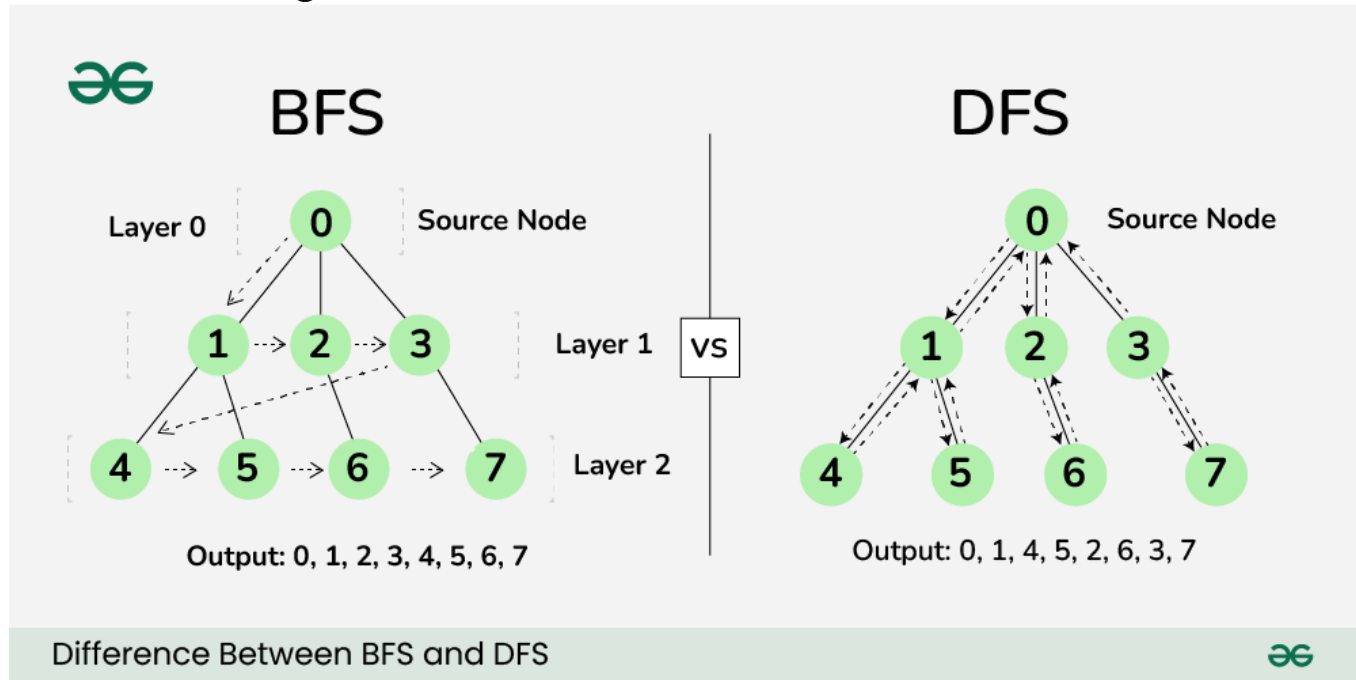
Bottom line: Order we visit matters and we'll make choices based on our needs



Social Network

BFS vs. DFS

- Breadth-First Search (BFS) and Depth-First Search (DFS) are two fundamental algorithms used for traversing or searching graphs and trees
 - BFS traversal explores all the neighboring nodes at the present depth prior to moving on to the nodes at the next depth level.
 - DFS uses backtracking. The deepest node is visited and then backtracks to its parent node if no sibling of that node exists



Breadth First Search (BFS) Animations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUfEOCOEKkc>

Depth First Search (DFS) Animations

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_NMDJkmvLo

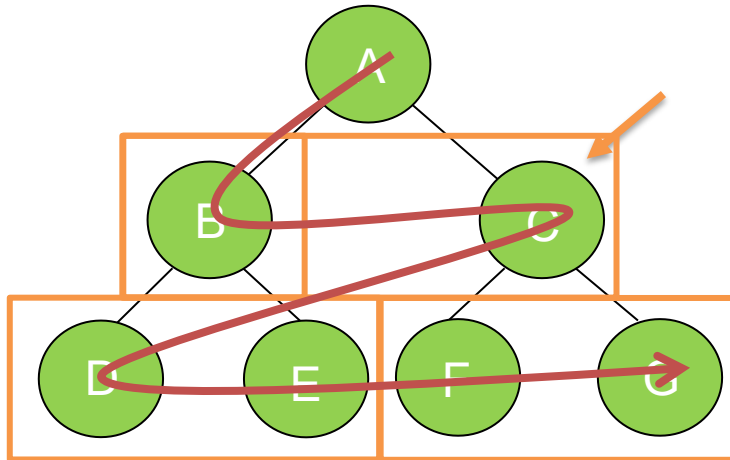
Traversal Order for Binary Trees

- Breadth First Traversal with BFS
 - Level Order Traversal
- Depth First Traversals with DFS
 - Pre-order Traversal (Root-Left-Right)
 - In-order Traversal (Left-Root-Right)
 - Post-order Traversal (Left-Right-Root)

Graph Traversal with BFS: Level-order Traversal (Contd.)

Visit:

A B C D E F G



Challenging: When we finish B, how do we go to C next?

Idea: Keep a list and keep adding to it and removing from start.

Visit: A B C D E F G

List: ~~A~~ ~~B~~ ~~C~~ ~~D~~ ~~E~~ ~~F~~ ~~G~~

We used this list like a "Queue"

- Add to the end
- Remove from the front
- First-In, First-Out (FIFO)



Summary: Nested | Field | Constr | Method Detail: Field | Constr | Method

java.util

Interface Queue<E>

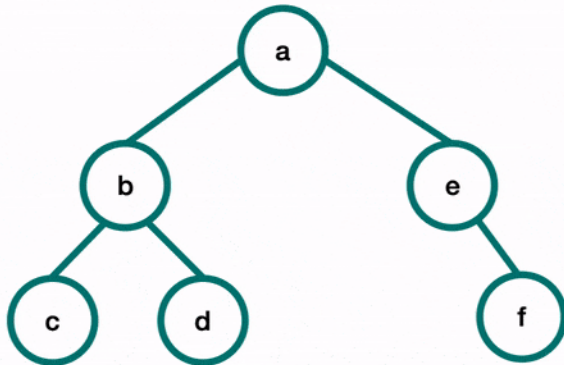
	Throws exception
Insert	add(e)
Remove	remove()
Examine	element()

look at the first element

Tree traversals with DFS: pre-order, in-order, post-order

```
function preOrderTraversal(node) {  
  if (node !== null) {  
    visitNode(node);  
    preOrderTraversal(node.left);  
    preOrderTraversal(node.right);  
  }  
}
```

Pre-Order Traversal



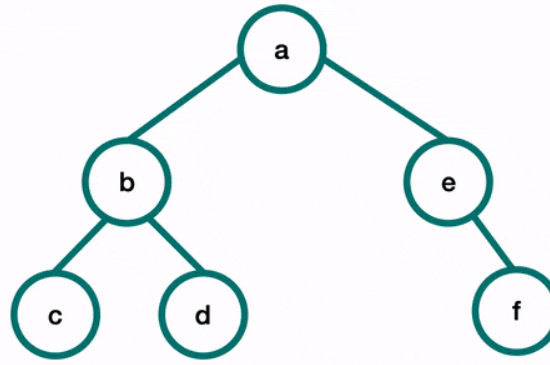
Print ""

abcdef

Preorder Traversal in Binary Tree Animations
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLx7Px7IEzg>

```
function inOrderTraversal(node) {  
  if (node !== null) {  
    inOrderTraversal(node.left);  
    visitNode(node);  
    inOrderTraversal(node.right);  
  }  
}
```

In-Order Traversal



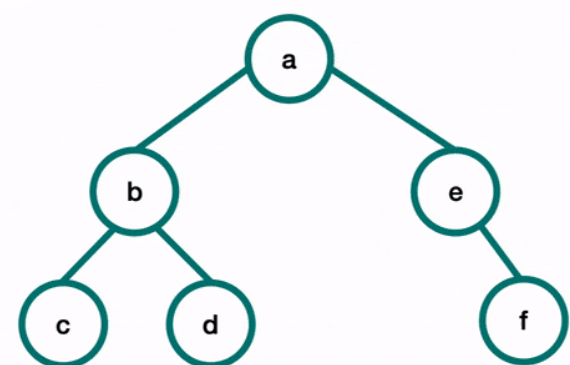
Print ""

cbdaef

Inorder Traversal in Binary Tree Animations
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne5OomYdWGw>

```
function postOrderTraversal(node) {  
  if (node !== null) {  
    postOrderTraversal(node.left);  
    postOrderTraversal(node.right);  
    visitNode(node);  
  }  
}
```

Post-Order Traversal



Print ""

cdbfea

Postorder Traversal in Binary Tree Animations
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8kmbuNm8Uo>

Summary of Tree Traversals with DFS

- **Pre-order traversal:**

- 1) Visit the node itself.
 - 2) Traverse the left subtree.
 - 3) Traverse the right subtree.
- Begins at the root, ends at the right-most node.

- **In-order traversal:**

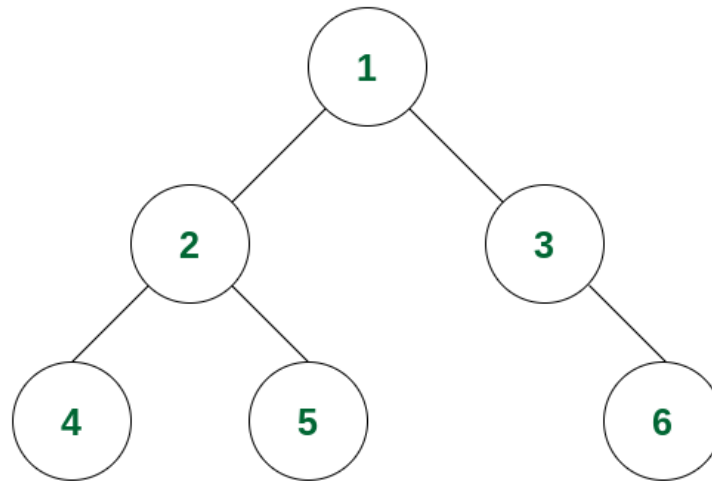
- 1) Traverse the left subtree.
 - 2) Visit the node itself.
 - 3) Traverse the right subtree.
- Begins at the left-most node, ends at the rightmost node.

- **Post-order traversal:**

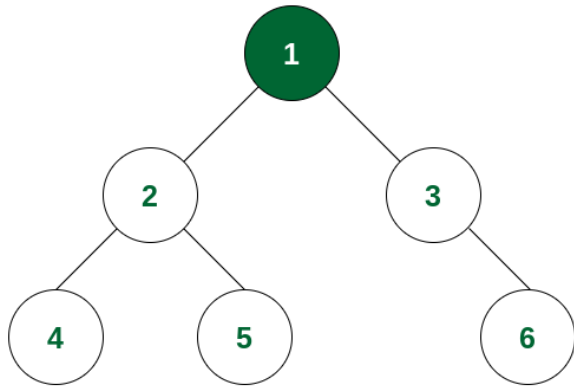
- 1) Traverse the left subtree.
 - 2) Traverse the right subtree.
 - 3) Visit the node itself.
- Begins with the left-most node, ends with the root.

Geeks for Geeks Tutorials

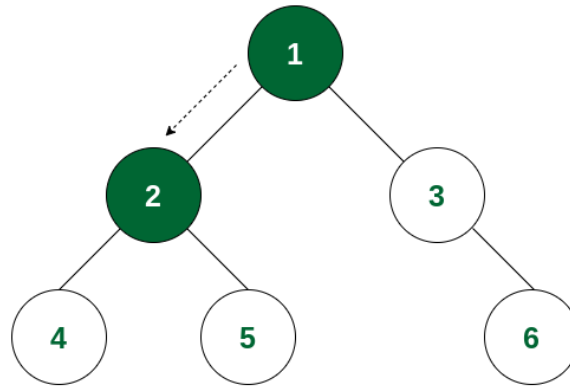
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/bfs-vs-dfs-binary-tree/>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/preorder-traversal-of-binary-tree/>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/inorder-traversal-of-binary-tree/>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/postorder-traversal-of-binary-tree/>
- Running Example



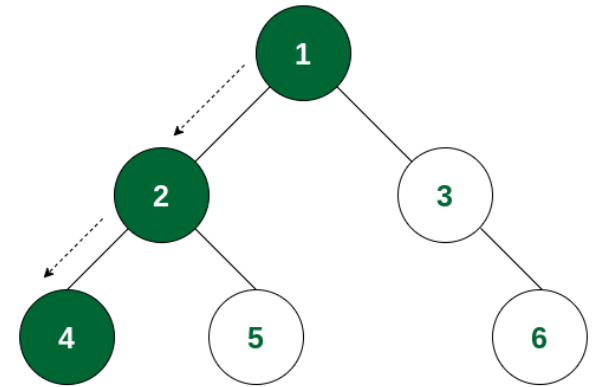
Pre-order traversal of nodes is 1 -> 2 -> 4 -> 5 -> 3 -> 6



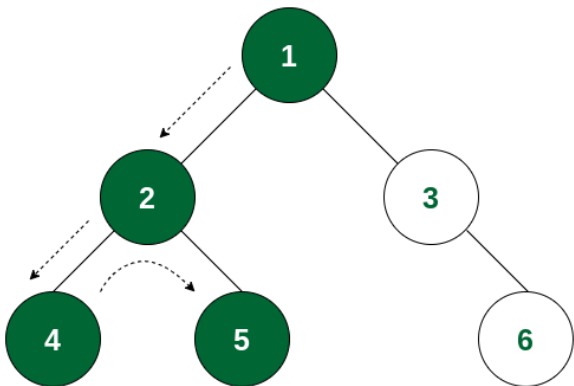
Root of the tree (i.e., 1) is visited



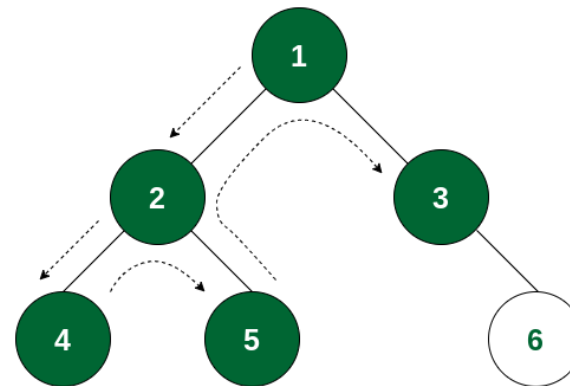
Root of left subtree of 1 (i.e., 2) is visited



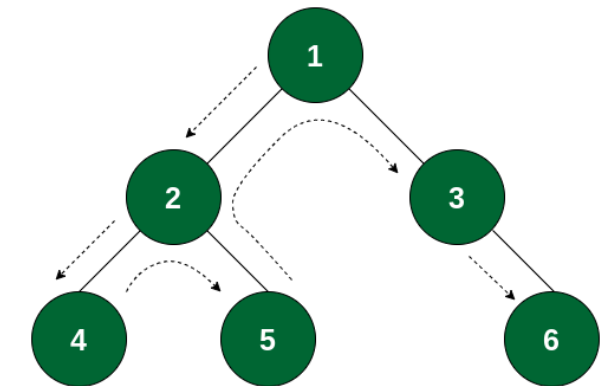
Left child of 2 (i.e., 4) is visited



Right child of 2 (i.e., 5) is visited

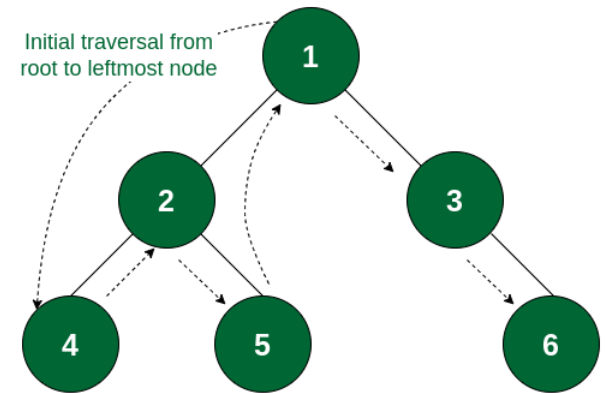
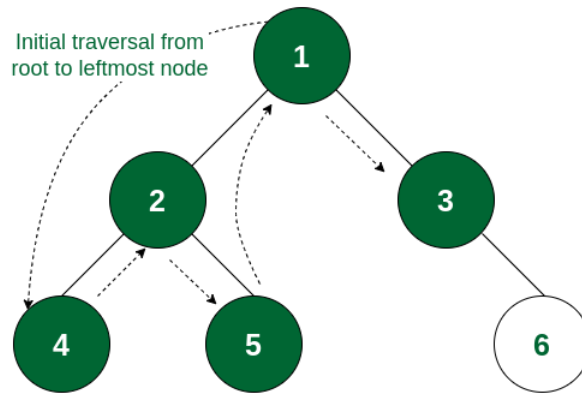
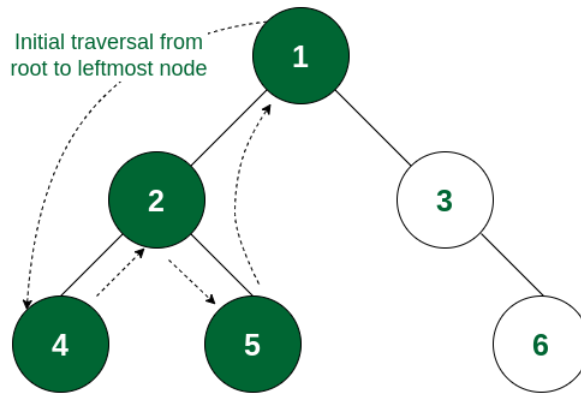
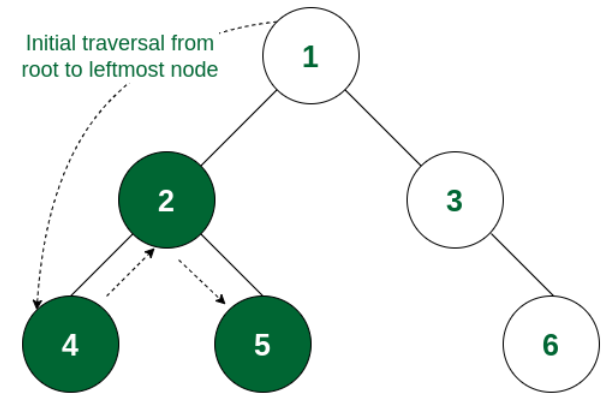
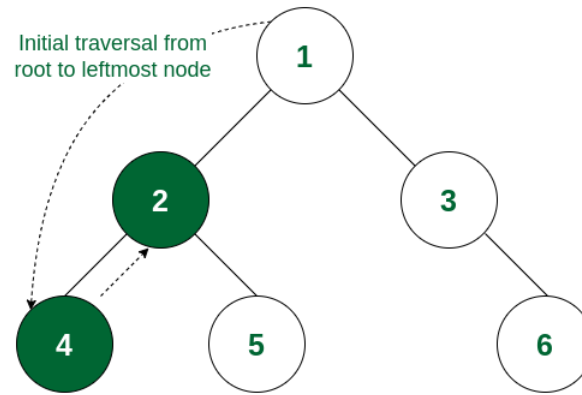
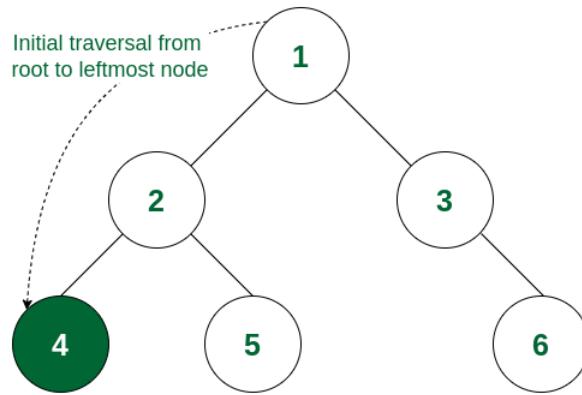


Root of right subtree of 1 (i.e., 3) is visited



3 has no left subtree. So right subtree is visited

In-order traversal of nodes is 4 -> 2 -> 5 -> 1
-> 3 -> 6.

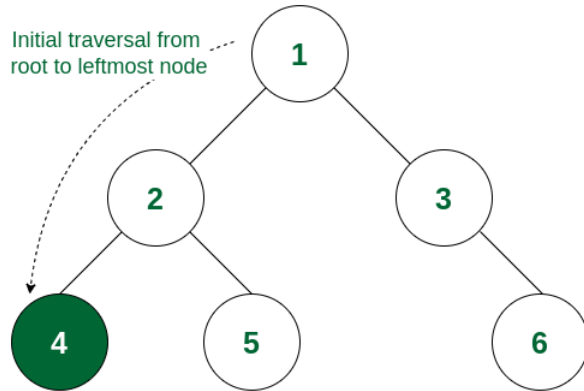


Left subtree of 1 is fully traversed. So 1 is visited next

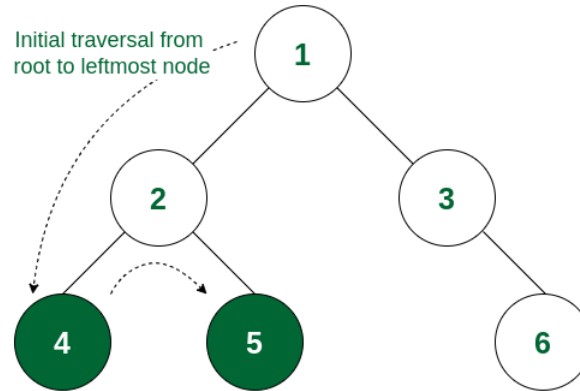
3 has no left subtree, so it is visited

Right Child of 3 is visited

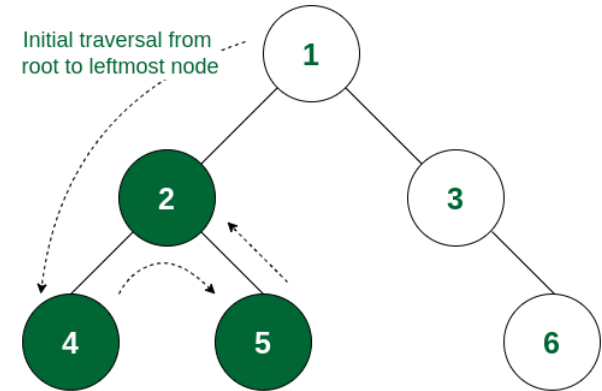
Post-order traversal of nodes is 4 -> 5 -> 2 -> 6 -> 3 -> 1



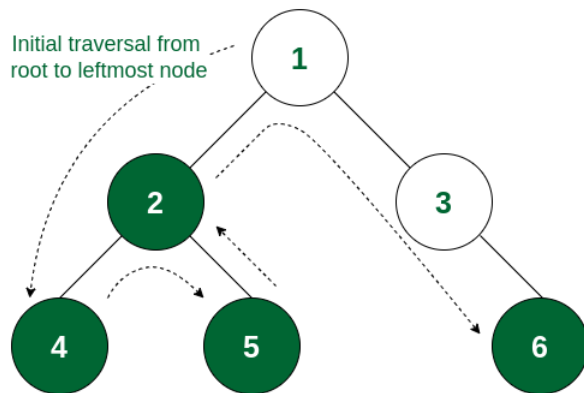
The leftmost leaf node (i.e., 4) is visited first



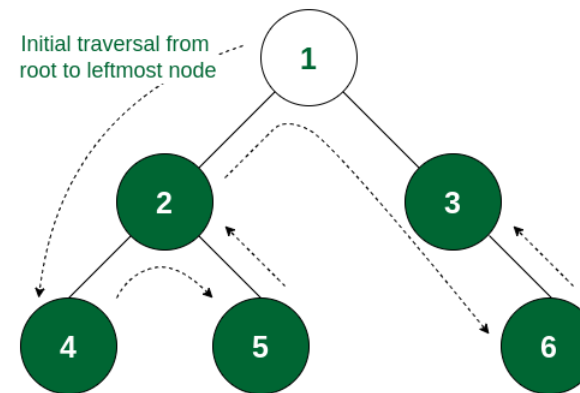
Left subtree of 2 is traversed. So 5 is visited next



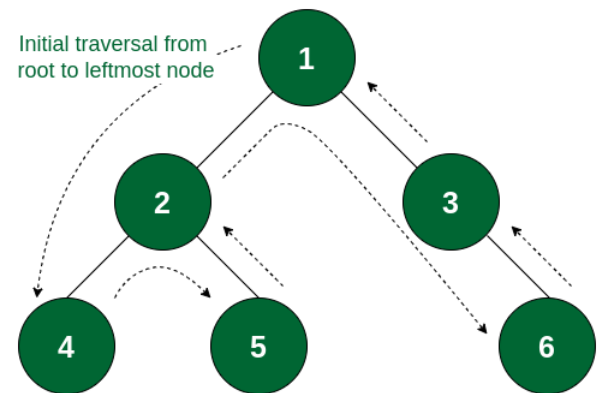
All subtrees of 2 are visited. So 2 is visited next



6 has no subtrees. So it is visited



3 is visited after all its subtrees are traversed



The root of the tree (i.e., 1) is visited

Motivation for Binary Search Tree

Agra	Beijing	Chicago	Essen	Lagos	Montreal	Quito
------	---------	---------	-------	-------	----------	-------



Binary Search - $O(\log n)$ search:
get rid of half each time

toFind

Chicago

Sorted arrays are good for search,
but bad for insertion/removal

root

Essen

Beijing

Montreal

Agra

Chicago

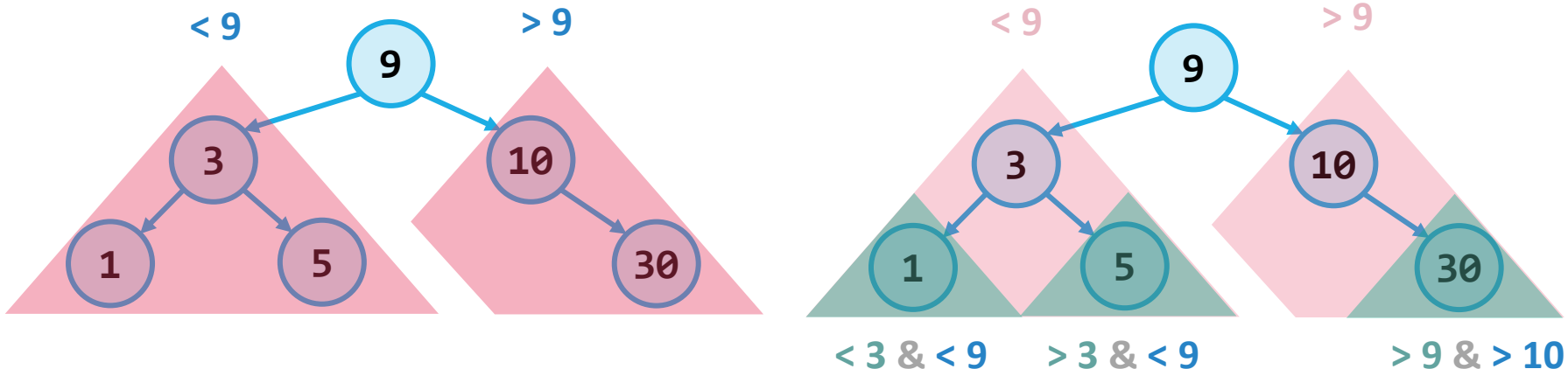
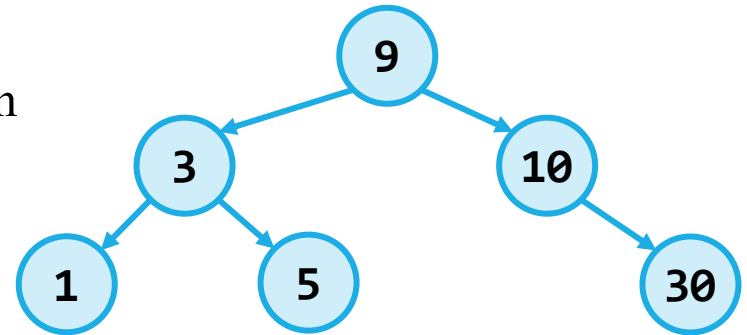
Lagos

Quito

So now we can do the same kind of fast searching we did within an array, but we can also get the benefit of a fast insert and a fast removal that a tree provides.

Binary Search Tree (BST)

- A BST is an ordered, or sorted, binary tree, with the following invariants:
- For every node with key k :
 - The left subtree has only keys smaller than k
 - The right subtree has only keys greater than k
 - This invariant applies recursively throughout tree



Searching for a Key: Binary Tree vs. Binary Search Tree

```
public boolean containsKeyBT(node,
key) {
    if (node == null) {
        return false;
    } else if (node.key == key) {
        return true;
    } else {
        return
            containsKeyBT(node.left) ||
            containsKeyBT(node.right);
    }
}
```

** explores left, if not found then explores right*

Best Case:

- finds value at overallRoot (random value)

Worst Case:

- doesn't find value, has to check every node

```
public boolean containsKeyBST(node, key) {
    if (node == null) {
        return false;
    } else if (node.key == key) {
        return true;
    } else {
        if (key <= node.key) {
            return containsKeyBST(node.left);
        } else {
            return containsKeyBST(node.right);
        }
    }
}
```

** explores either left or right at each level*

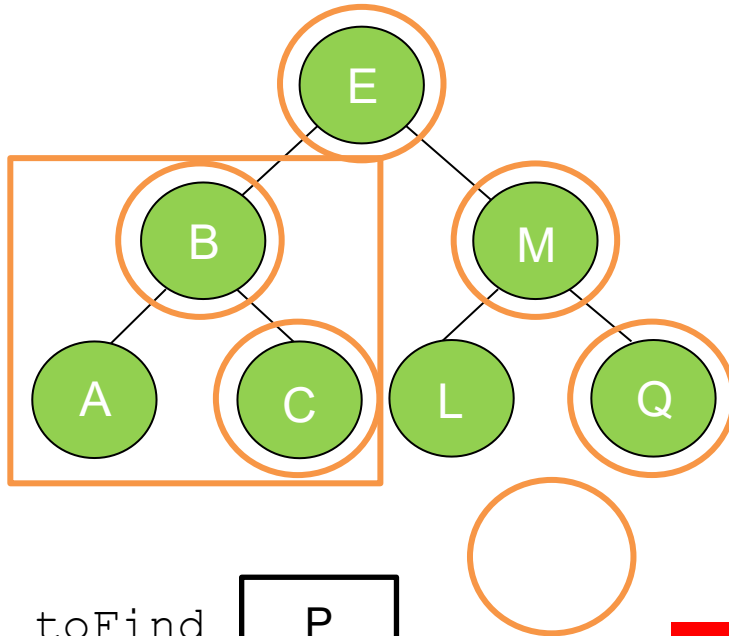
Best Case:

- finds value at overallRoot (middle value)

Worst Case:

- doesn't find value, has to check one path

Searching a BST



Compare: E and P
Compare: M and P
Compare: Q and P
Node is null

Not Found!

Same fundamental idea as
binary search of an array

toFind

C

Compare: E and C

Compare: B and C

Compare: C and C

Found it!

How to implement this?

You could solve this with **recursion**.

You could also solve it with **iteration** by
keeping track of your current node.

Searching a BST Iteratively

```

public class BinaryTree<E> {
    <E extends Comparable<? super E>> {
        TreeNode<E> root;
        public boolean search(E toSearch) {
            TreeNode<E> curr = root;
            while (curr != null) {
                int comp = toSearch.compareTo(curr.getValue());
                if (comp < 0)
                    curr = curr.getLeftChild();
                else if (comp > 0)
                    curr = curr.getRightChild();
                else // comp = 0
                    return true;
            }
            return false;
        }
    }
}

```

It means that either the class E itself or one of its super classes implements Comparable

Doesn't work with objects

Do NOT change root pointer!

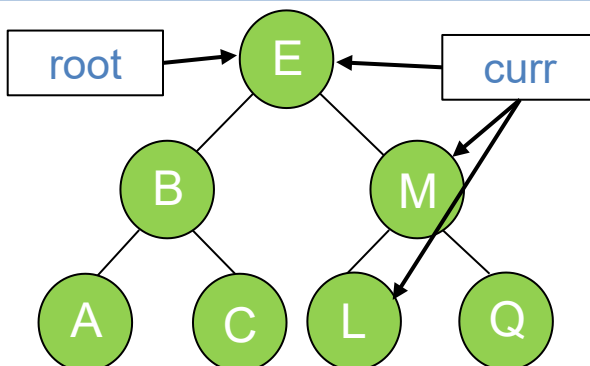
We need to do this over and over if not found

if calling object is less than parameter, compareTo returns a value < 0

if calling object is greater than parameter, compareTo returns a value > 0

if calling object is equal to parameter, compareTo returns 0

Are we done?



t.search('L')

Traverse down tree until:

- a) end is reached
- b) element is found

Searching a BST Recursively

```
public class BinaryTree<E extends Comparable<? super E>> {  
    TreeNode<E> root;
```

Root of the tree we look at

```
    private boolean search(TreeNode<E> p, E toSearch) {
```

```
        if (p == null)
```

```
            return false;
```

Tree is empty

```
        int comp = toSearch.compareTo(p.getValue());
```

```
        if (comp == 0)
```

```
            return true;
```

Found it!

```
        else if (comp < 0)
```

```
            return search(p.left, toSearch);
```

look left

```
        else // comp > 0
```

```
            return search(p.right, toSearch);
```

look right

```
    }
```

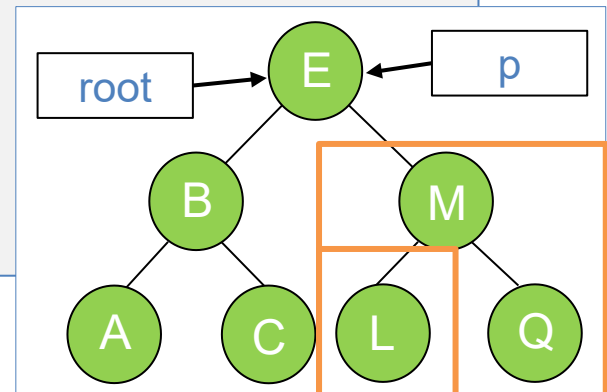
```
    public boolean search(E toSearch) {
```

```
        return search(root, toSearch);
```

```
    }
```

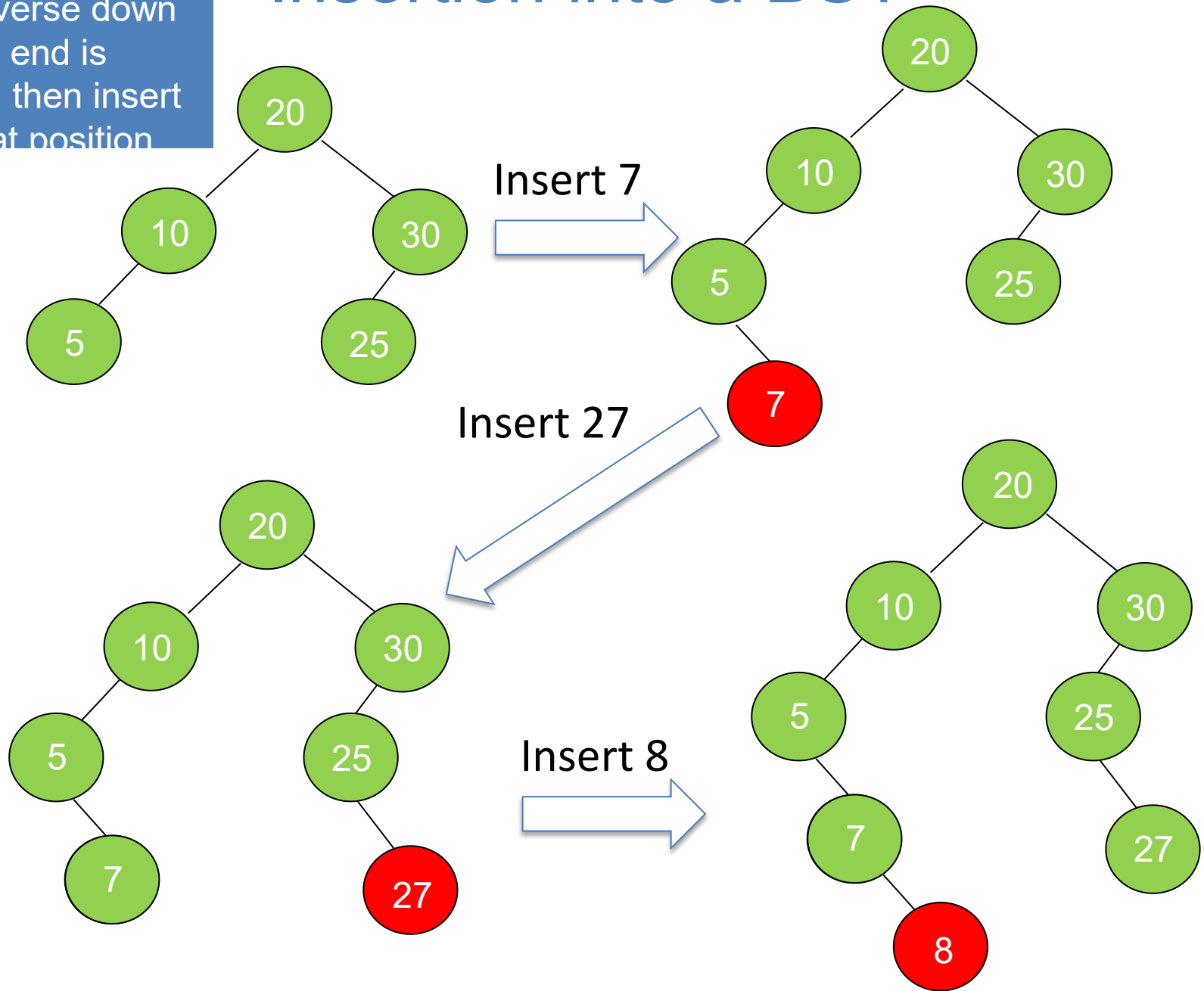
```
}
```

```
t.search('L')
```

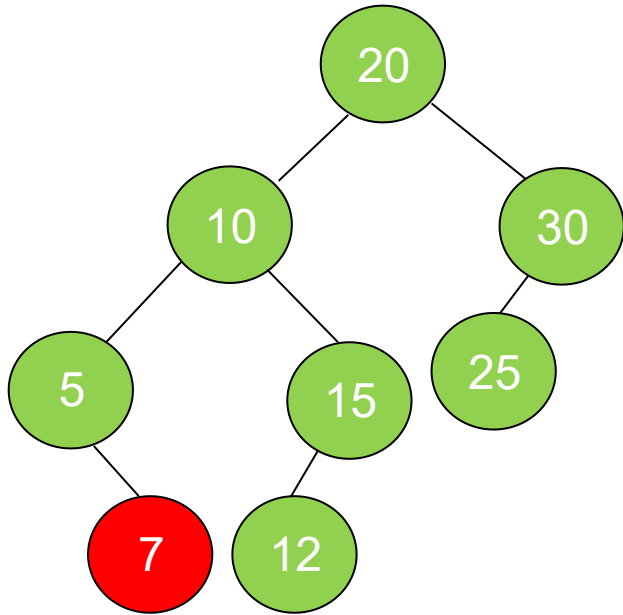


Insertion into a BST

Run BST search
algo, traverse down
tree until end is
reached, then insert
it into that position



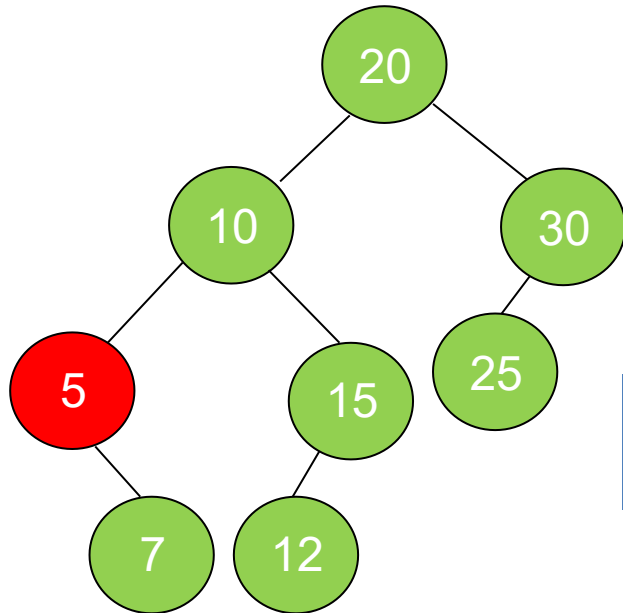
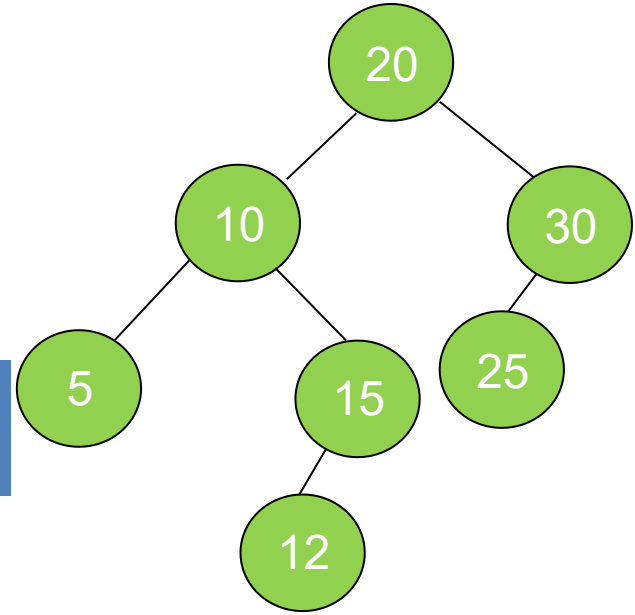
Deletion from a BST



Delete 7



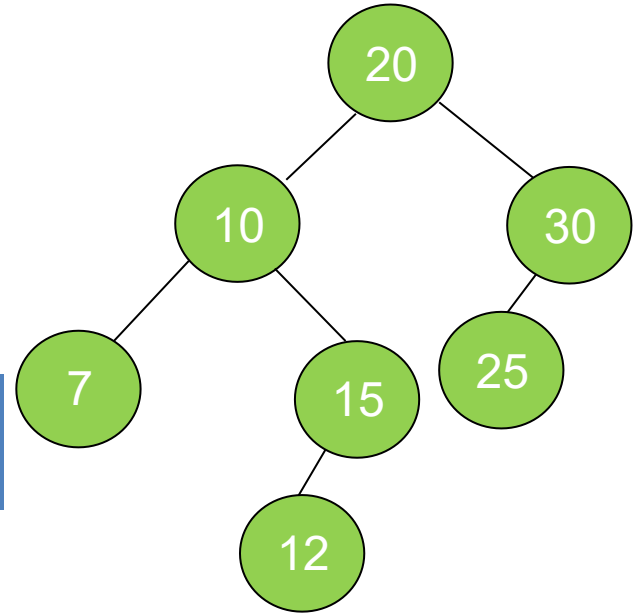
If leaf node:
delete it directly



Delete 5

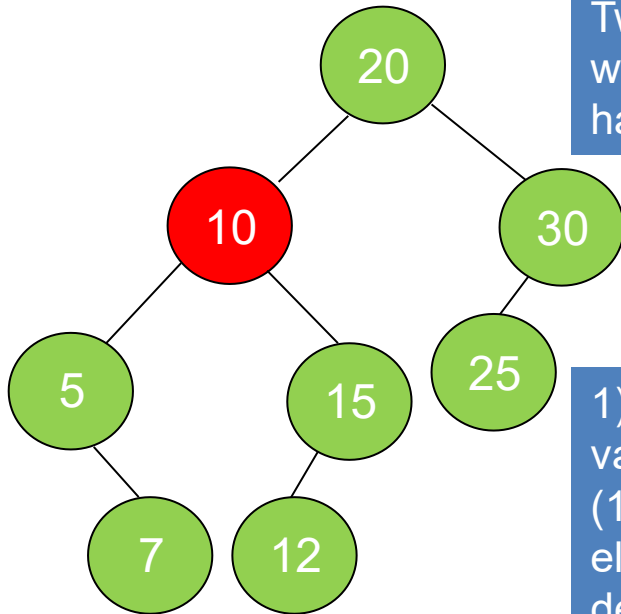


If only one child:
hoist child



Deletion from a BST

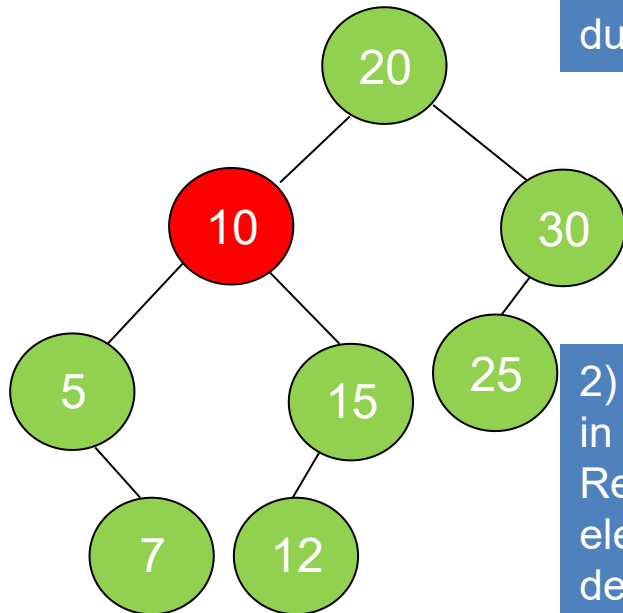
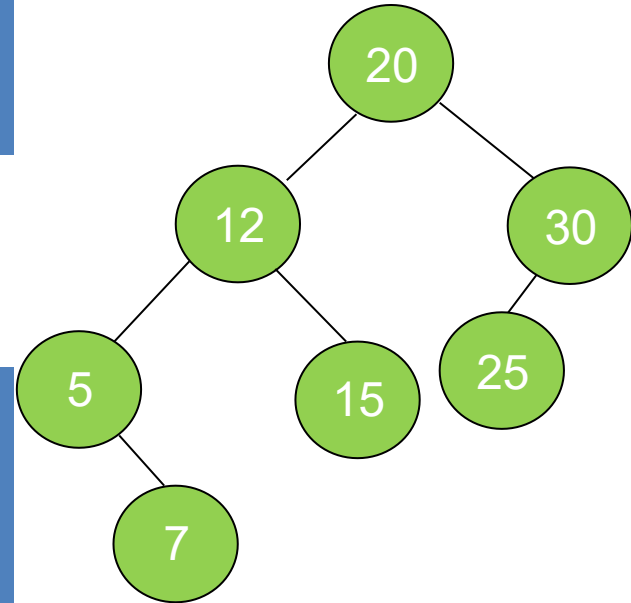
Two alternatives
when a deleted node
has two children.



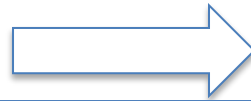
Delete 10



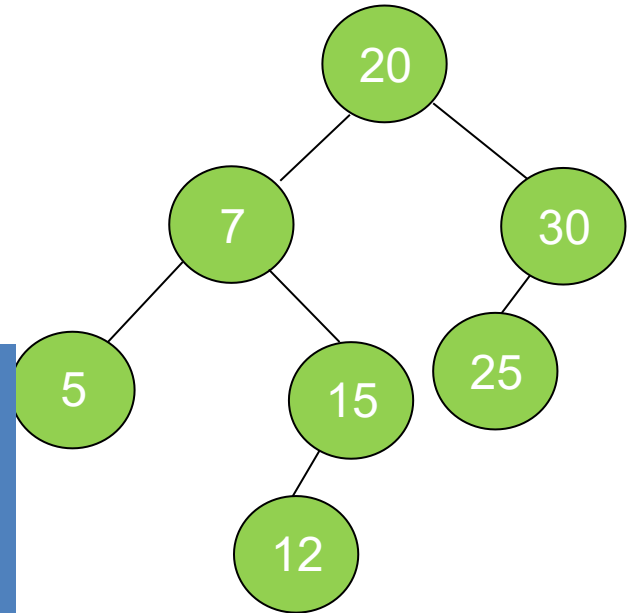
1) Find smallest value in right subtree (12). Replace deleted element with it, then delete right subtree duplicate.



Delete 10



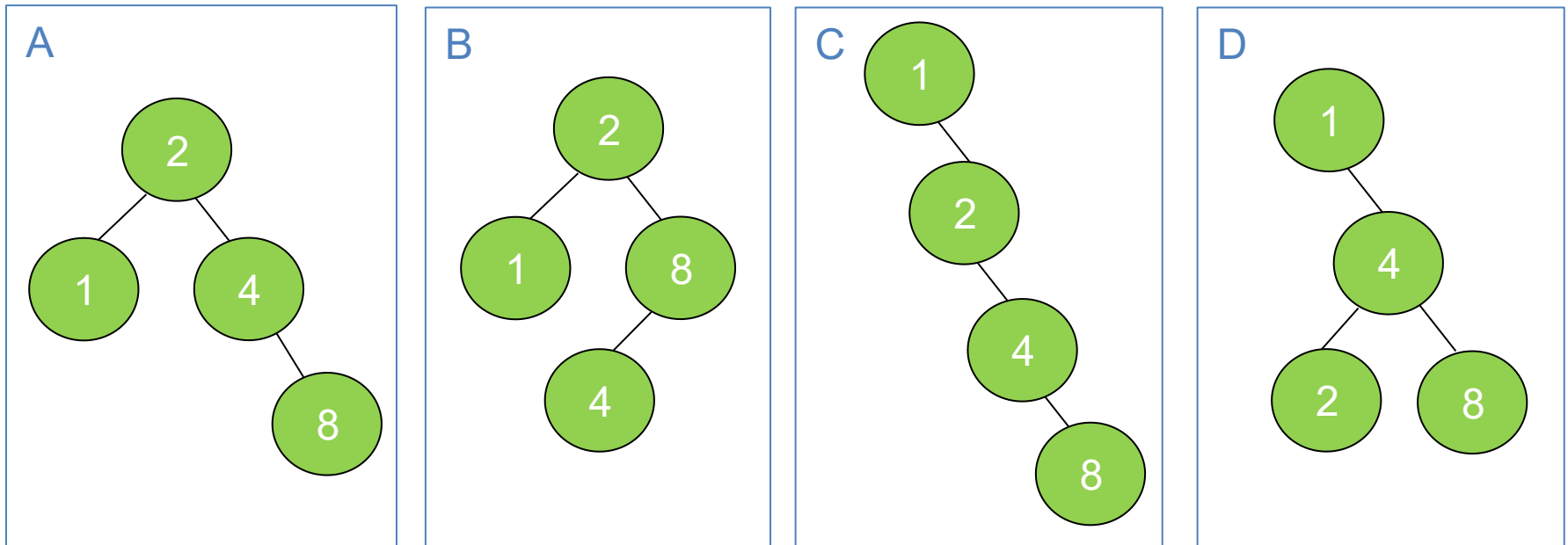
2) Find largest value in left subtree (7). Replace deleted element with it, then delete left subtree duplicate.



Binary Search Tree Shape

The following are all valid BSTs resulting from adding elements: 1, 2, 4, and 8 in some order.

The order in which we put elements into a BST impacts the shape, and the shape of a BST has a huge impact on the performance of operations.



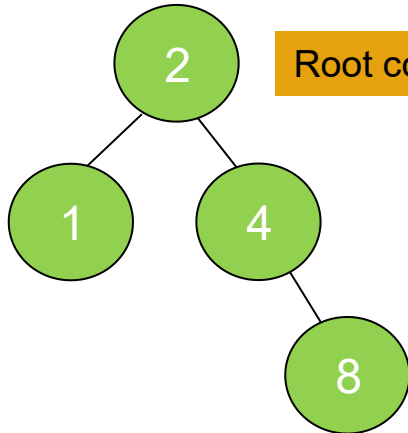
Binary Search Tree Shape (Contd.)

Inserting a node means making it a child of an existing node

A



Insert nodes as leaves



Root comes first

8 needs to be inserted AFTER 4



2

2

4

1

8

2

1

4

8

2

4

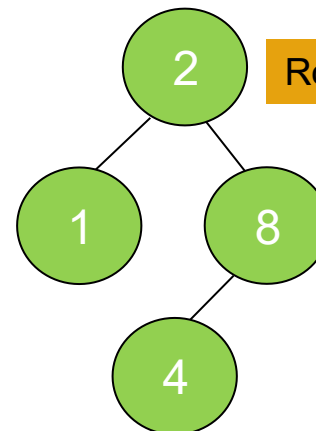
8

1

B

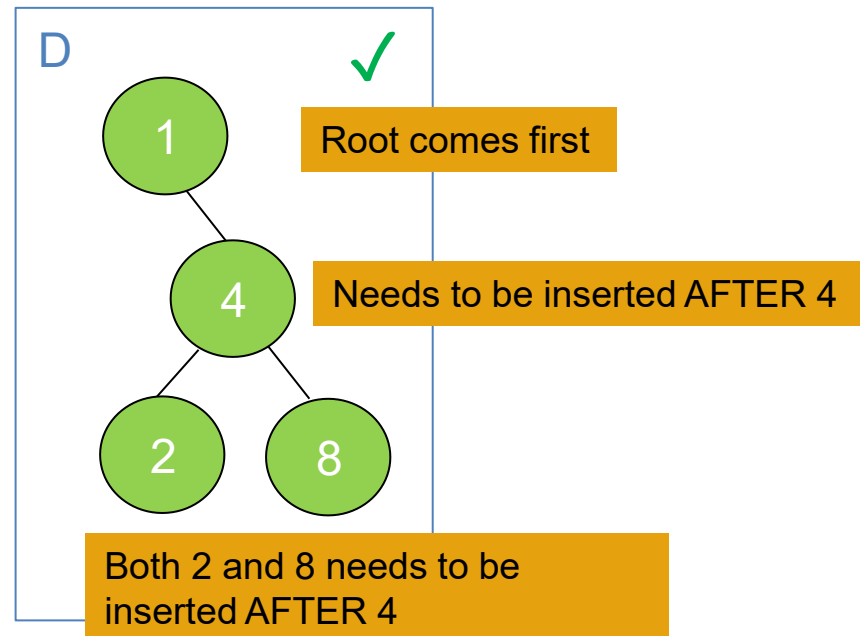
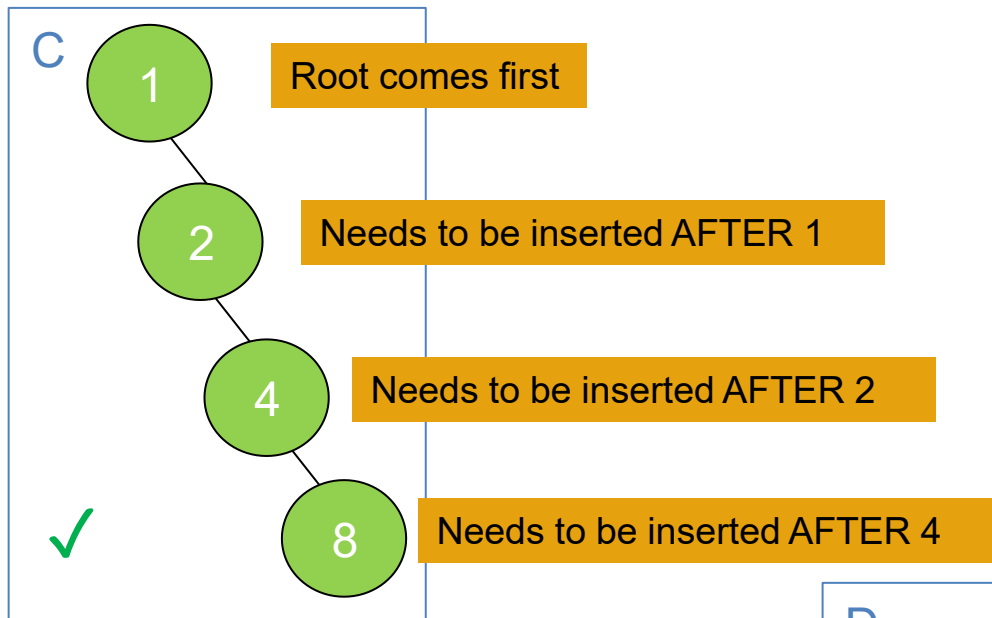


Root comes first



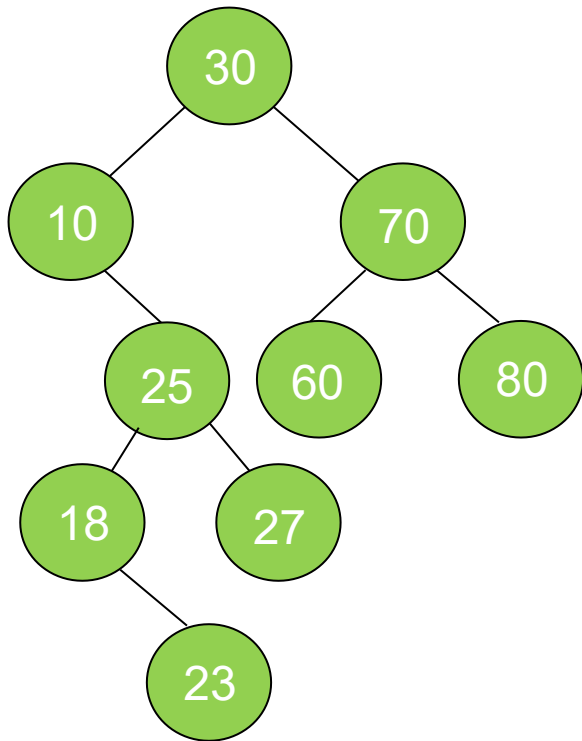
4 needs to be inserted AFTER 8

Binary Search Tree Shape (Contd.)



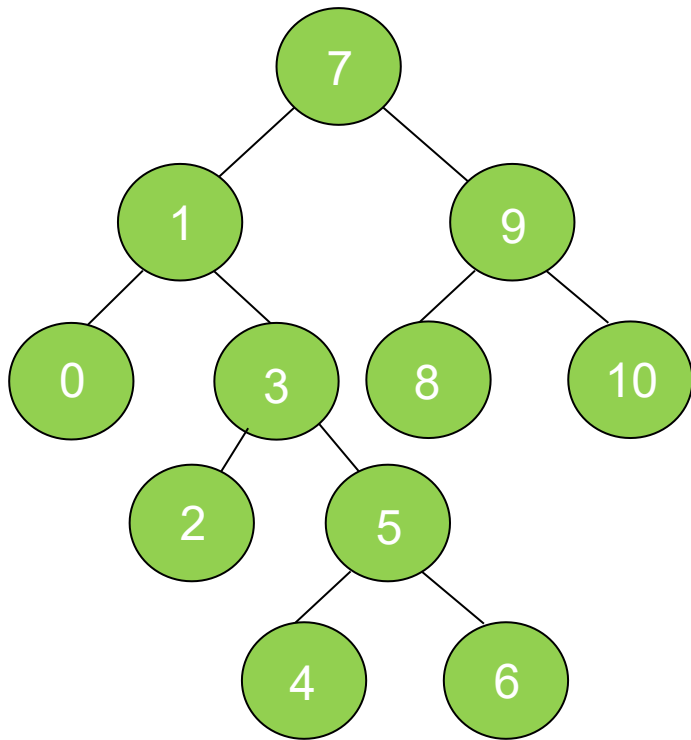
Traversal of a BST: Example I

- When we perform **in-order traversal** on a binary search tree, we get the **ascending order** array.



- Pre-order traversal:**
- Traversal sequence: 30, 10, 25, 18, 23, 27, 70, 60, 80
- In-order traversal:**
- Traversal Sequence: 10, 18, 23, 25, 27, 30, 60, 70, 80
- Post-order traversal:**
- Traversal sequence: 23, 18, 27, 25, 10, 60, 80, 70, 30

Traversal of a BST: Example II



- **Pre-order traversal:**
 - Begins at the root (**7**), ends at the right-most node (**10**)
 - Traversal sequence: 7, 1, 0, 3, 2, 5, 4, 6, 9, 8, 10
- **In-order traversal:**
 - Begins at the left-most node (**0**), ends at the rightmost node (**10**)
 - Traversal Sequence: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- **Post-order traversal:**
 - Begins with the left-most node (**0**), ends at the root (**7**)
 - Traversal sequence: 0, 2, 4, 6, 5, 3, 1, 8, 10, 9, 7

In-Order Traversal of a BST

- In-order traversal of a BST visits the nodes in ascending order of their values, i.e., from smallest to largest.
 - BST Property: In a BST, for any given node:
 - Values in the left subtree are less than the value of the node.
 - Values in the right subtree are greater than the value of the node.
 - In-order Traversal:
 - 1) Traverse the left subtree.
 - 2) Visit the node itself.
 - 3) Traverse the right subtree.
 - Resulting Order: By first visiting all nodes in the left subtree (which are smaller), then the root, and finally all nodes in the right subtree (which are larger), in-order traversal naturally outputs the nodes in non-decreasing order.
- This property makes in-order traversal particularly useful for retrieving data from a BST in sorted order.

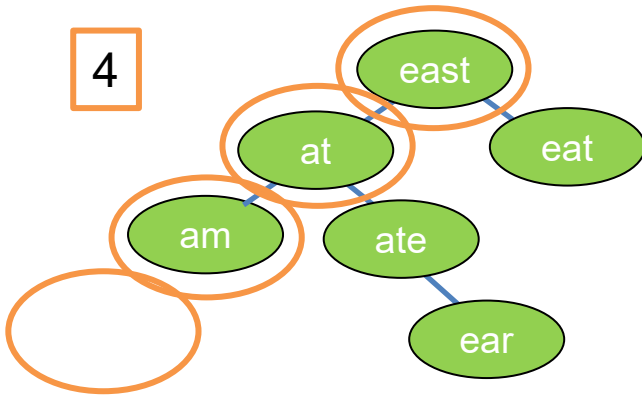
Performance Analysis of BST

Storing a dictionary as a BST

{ am, at, ate, ear, eat, east }

Structure of a BST depends on the order of insertion

4

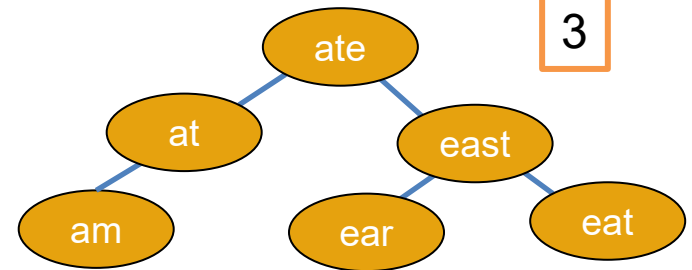


`containsKey(root, east)`

Best case: $O(1)$

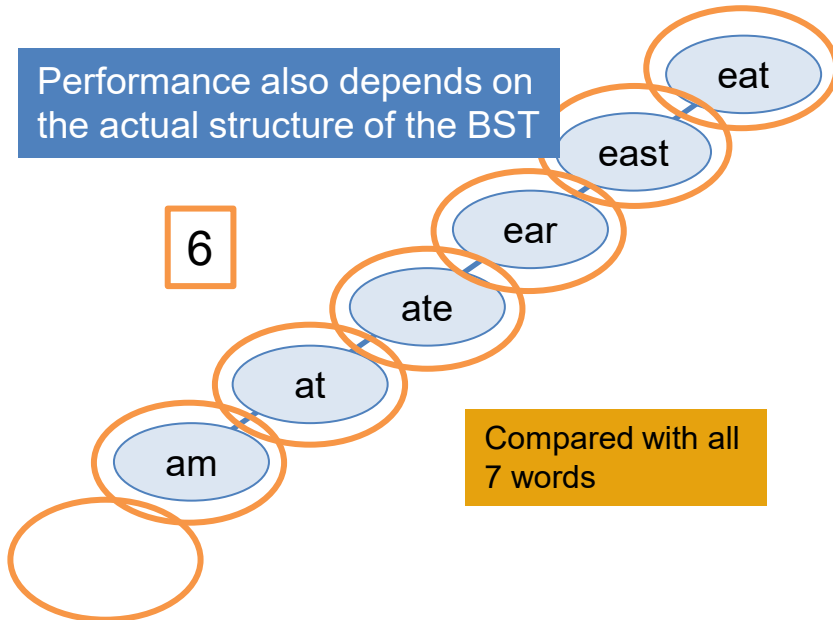
Compared with 3 out of 7 words

3



Performance also depends on the actual structure of the BST

6



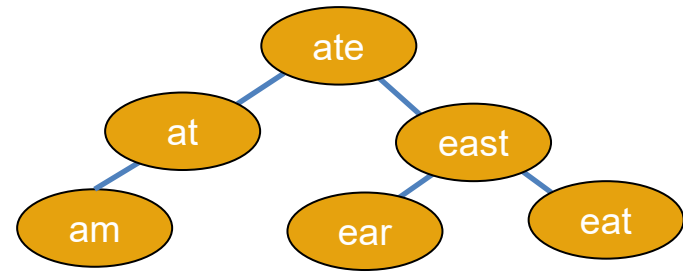
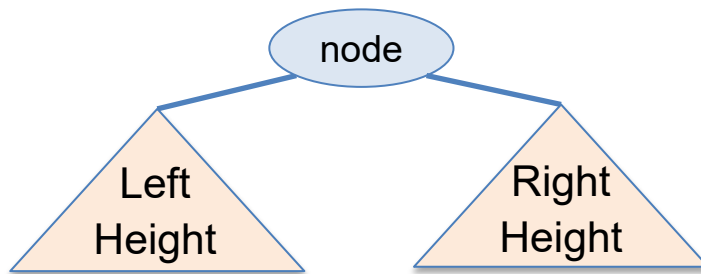
Compared with all 7 words

How does the performance scale with input size n ?

```
public boolean containsKey(node, key) {  
    if (node == null) {  
        return false;  
    } else if (node.key == key) {  
        return true;  
    } else {  
        if (key <= node.key) {  
            return containsKey(node.left);  
        } else {  
            return containsKey(node.right);  
        }  
    }  
}
```

AVL Tree

AVL Tree: A balanced BST that maintains the invariant: $|\text{LeftHeight} - \text{RightHeight}| \leq 1$ for all nodes in the tree. It minimizes the BST height. (discussed in next lecture.)



height $\approx \log(n)$

Inserting elements into BST in order results in a linked list!

	Best case	Average case	Worst case
Linked List	$O(1)$	$O(n)$	$O(n)$
BST	$O(1)$	$O(\log n)$	$O(n)$
AVL Tree	$O(1)$	$O(\log n)$	$O(\log n)$

containsKey(root, key)

BST vs. Hash Table

- Time Complexity

- Average case:

- Hash Tables generally offer $O(1)$ average time complexity for insertion, deletion, and search operations.
 - BSTs provide $O(\log n)$ time complexity for these operations, assuming the tree is balanced.

- Worst case

- Hash Tables can degrade to $O(n)$ performance in cases of poor hash function design or many collisions.
 - BSTs maintain $O(\log n)$ performance even in the worst-case for self-balancing BST.

- Ordered Operations

- BSTs excel at operations requiring ordered data
 - In-order traversal yields sorted elements.
 - Efficient range searches (e.g., finding all keys within a range)
 - Hash Tables do not inherently maintain order, making these operations more difficult.

Video Tutorials

- Tree Traversal Algos // Michael Sambol
 - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9xmBV_5YoZO1JC2RgEi04nLy6D-rKk6b
- Binary Search Tree : Overview
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6I3evyt9ApA>
- Binary Search Tree : Insert Overview
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkEnuK-2Ymc>
- Binary Search Tree: Deletion Overview
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkOswl0k7s4>
- Binary Search Tree Removal
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8K7EO7s_iFE
- Binary Search Trees (BST) Explained in Animated Demo
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtvbVLK5xDQ>