CSCI 201: Data Structures Spring 2025





Middlebury

Lecture 8M: Trees

Goals for today:

- What are **trees**? Why are they important in computer science?
- Use appropriate tree terminology: nodes, edges, internal, leaf, parent, sibling nodes, path.
- Identify properties of trees and nodes: k-ary, height, degree, level, depth, full, complete.
- **Represent** binary trees in a computer.
- Visit/process nodes in a binary tree using **preorder, in-order, post-order** traversal.





Trees are useful to represent hierarchy in data.

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Trees are also useful for representing expressions.





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binary_expression_tree



$$rac{5+z}{-8}\cdot 4^2$$

Terminology: nodes (root, internal, leaf), parent, siblings.

A rooted tree is a set of nodes based on a parent-child relationship.





k-ary trees: maximum number of children of any node is k.

The **degree** of a node is the number of children.

degree of tree is the maximum degree of any node





Paths, level, depth and height of a node.

- A path is the unique, shortest sequence of edges from a node to an ancestor.
- The depth (also level) of a node is the length of the path from the root to the node.
- The height of a node is the length of the longest path from that node to a leaf.



to an ancestor. In the root to the node. I at node to a leaf. height (null): -1 height (leaf): 0 height (node): 1+ max (height(L), height(R))

=left height R = right С heio G D height Е В

Properties of binary trees.

- Full: every node is either an internal node with 2 children or a leaf node (0 children).
- Balanced: height of left and right subtrees of any node differ by at most 1.
- Complete: all levels are filled except the last level, and nodes on the last level are as far left as possible. For a tree of height h, all levels except possibly level h are full. Nodes at level h filled from left to right.





full not complete

(https://opendsa-server.cs.vt.edu/ODSA/Books/sbu/cse214/fall-2022/CSE214/html/BinaryTree.html)

not full complete





n nodes n-1 edges height = n-1

Limits on the height of a binary tree. $\log_2(n+1) - 1 \le height \le n-1$ $h = log_2(n+1) - l$ # nodes at a porticular level/depth: 2 depth + otal # nodes: 2°+2'+22 + ···+2h (height h) geometric series r=2 $2^{h+1}-1$ $= 2^{h+1}-1 = n \rightarrow h+1=\log_2(n+1) \langle \rangle$

Representing trees with a computer.

1	<pre>class TreeNode<e> { private E data:</e></pre>	1	public publi
3	<pre>public TreeNode<e> left:</e></pre>	3	
4	<pre>public TreeNode<e> right:</e></pre>	4	publi
5		5	roc
6	<pre>public TreeNode(E data) {</pre>	7	3
7	this.data = data;	8	publi
8	left = null;	9	11
9	right = null;	10	Bir
10	}	11	
11		12	tre
12	<pre>public E get() {</pre>	13	Tre
13	return data;	15	tre
14	}	16	tre
15	}	17	11
		18	}
		19	}

Two things to consider: (1) building the tree, (2) traversing the tree.



```
c class BinaryTree<E> {
ic TreeNode root;
ic BinaryTree() {
oot = null;

.ic static void main(String[] args) {
   For now, we'll build the tree explicitly.
.naryTree<String> tree = new BinaryTree<>();
ree.root = new TreeNode<String>("R");
reeNode<String> f = new TreeNode<>("F");
reeNode<String> c = new TreeNode<>("C");
ree.root.left = f;
ree.root.right = c;
```



Exercise: finish manually building up this tree.





Traversing trees: pre-order, in-order, post-order, level-order.

- **Pre-order:** process current node, then left node (and children), then right node (and children).
- In-order: process left node (and children), then current node, then right node (and children).
- **Post-order:** process left node (and children), then right node (and children), then current node.
- Level-order: all nodes at level i are processed before moving to nodes at level i + 1.





h), then right node (and children). , then right node (and children). (and children), then current node. to nodes at level i + 1.

Traversing trees: pre-order, in-order, post-order, level-order.

• Pre-order: process current node, then left node (and children), then right node (and children).



pre-order, R,F,J,M,P,A,T,X,C,D,G,B,E



Traversing trees: pre-order, in-order, post-order, level-order.

- **Pre-order:** process current node, then left node (and children), then right node (and children).
- In-order: process left node (and children), then current node, then right node (and children).

inorder: M, J, P, F, T, A, X, R, D, C, B, G, E





Traversing trees: pre-order, in-order, post-order, level-order.

- Pre-order: process current node, then left node (and children), then right node (and children).
- In-order: process left node (and children), then current node, then right node (and children).
- Post-order: process left node (and children), then right node (and children), then current node.

Post order : M, P, J, T, X, A, F, D, B, E, G, C, R



n), then right node (and children). , then right node (and children). (and children), then current node.



Traversing trees: pre-order, in-order, post-order, level-order.

- **Pre-order:** process current node, then left node (and children), then right node (and children).
- In-order: process left node (and children), then current node, then right node (and children).
- **Post-order:** process left node (and children), then right node (and children), then current node.
- Level-order: all nodes at level i are processed before moving to nodes at level i + 1.





Exercise: works in pairs and complete the **height** method to compute the height of a tree.





```
public int height() {
   return height(root);
}
private int height(TreeNode<E> node) {
   if (node == null) return -1;
   int leftHeight = height(node.left);
   int rightHeight = height(node.right);
   return 1 + Math.max(leftHeight, rightHeight);
}
```

Exercise: works in pairs and write code to verify the pre-order, in-order and post-order traversal results we had earlier.



```
public String visitPreOrder() {
1
 2
       return visitPreOrder(root);
 3
     }
 4
    private String visitPreOrder(TreeNode<E> node) {
 5
      String result = "";
6
      if (node == null) return result;
7
      result += node.get() + " ";
8
       result += visitPreOrder(node.left);
9
       result += visitPreOrder(node.right);
10
11
       return result;
12
    }
13
```





Printing the tree using pre-order traversal.

```
1 private String toStringHelper(String padding, TreeNode<E> node) {
     if (node == null) {
 2
       return "";
 3
 4
     }
 5
 6
     String result = padding + "└──(" + node.toString() + ")" + "\n";
 7
     padding += "
                     ";
 8
     result += toStringHelper(padding, node.left);
 9
     result += toStringHelper(padding, node.right);
10
11
12
     return result;
13 }
```





insipired by: https://www.baeldung.com/java-print-binary-tree-diagram



Reminders:

- Homework 6 due Thursday 4/10: implement a calculator (using a stack) & mid-semester check-in.
- Next class: variant of queues where elements have a *priority*.
- No lab meetings on Friday 4/11 -- attend the Spring Student Symposium.

