# EECS 4101-5101 Advanced Data Structures 

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Topic 2d - Splay Trees \& Dynamic Optimality Conjecture
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Picture is from the cover of the textbook CLRS.

## Self-Adjusting Binary Search Trees

- The input is a set of requests to items in a BST of size $N$.
- The goal is to update the tree to adjust it into patterns in the input.
- There is a lot of locality in the input sequence.
- Can we apply Move-To-Front for trees?



## Splay Trees Idea

- When there is a request to item a, adjust the tree so that a becomes root in the new tree!
- Use tree rotations to 'bubble up' the accessed item.
- We say that we splay a to become root in the adjusted tree
- It is a natural extension of
 Move-To-Front to the lists.


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## Splaying Rotations General Idea

- Consider accessed item $a$, its parent $p$ and grand-parent $g$ (if they exist).
- Reorder $a, p$, and $g$ so that a appears 'above' the other two
- If $a$ is smallest/largest, $p$ and $g$ will be in one side of $a$.
- If $a$ is in between, $p$ and $g$ will be on its left and right.


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- After re-ordering a, $p$, and $g$, 'place' the following four subtrees in their appropriate position to save BST property:
- the two subtrees of a
- the sibling of $a$ in the subtree of $p$
- the sibling of $p$ in the subtree of $g$
- E.g., Access $a=12$

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## Splaying Cases (a bit more formal)

- The accessed node $a$ is either
- Root
- Child of the root
- Has both parent $(p)$ and grandparent ( $g$ ):
- Zig-zig pattern: $g \rightarrow p \rightarrow a$ is left-left or right-right
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- if $x$ is root, do nothing!



## Access child of root

- When $x$ is child of the root, do a single rotation to move it above its parent
- It is called a zig operation



## Access LR or RL grandchild

- When $x$ is left-child (resp. right-child) of $P$ and $p$ is right-child (resp. left-child) of $g$, do a double rotation.
- It is called a zig-zag operation



## Access LL or RR grandchild

- Reverse the order of $a, p$, and $g$.
- It is called a zig-zig operation

- E.g., Access $a=6$
(1)
(2)
(3)


## (4)


(6)

- E.g., Access $a=6$
(1)
(1)

(2)

- E.g., Access $a=6$

- E.g., Access $a=6$
(1)
$\odot$


- E.g., Access $a=4$

- E.g., Access $a=4$

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## Splaying: Intuition

- The accessed node is moved to 'front' (i.e., is now root)
- Let $b$ be a node on the access path from root to the accessed node a. If $b$ is at depth $d$ before the splay, it's at about depth $d / 2$ after the splay.
- 'Deeper nodes' on the access path tend to move closer to the root



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- 'Deeper nodes' on the access path tend to move closer to the root
- Splaying gets amortized $O(\log N)$ amortized time.
- $N$ is the number of nods in the tree



## BST-Update problem

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- E.g., AVL trees, red-black trees have a competitive ratio of $\Omega(\log n)$ (why?)


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- We know the competitive ratio of splay trees is $O(\log N)$
- The best existing algorithm is provided by self-adjusting Tango Trees, and has a competitive ratio of $O(\log \log N)$.

