### **Self-Balancing Binary Search Trees**



EECS3101 E: Design and Analysis of Algorithms Fall 2025

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#### **Learning Outcomes of this Lecture**

This module is designed to help you understand:

- When the Worst-Case RT of a BST Search Occurs
- *Height-Balance* Property
- Review: Insertion & Deletion on a BST
- Performing Rotations to Restore Tree Balance



#### Implementation: Generic BST Nodes

```
public class BSTNode<E> {
 private int kev: /* kev */
 private E value: /* value */
 private BSTNode<E> parent; /* unique parent node */
 private BSTNode<E> left: /* left child node */
 private BSTNode<E> right; /* right child node */
 public BSTNode() { ... }
 public BSTNode(int key, E value) { ... }
 public boolean isExternal() {
   return this.getLeft() == null && this.getRight() == null;
 public boolean isInternal() {
   return !this.isExternal():
 public int getKev() { ... }
 public void setKey(int key) { ... }
 public E getValue() { ... }
 public void setValue(E value) { ... }
 public BSTNode<E> getParent() { ... }
 public void setParent(BSTNode<E> parent) { ... }
 public BSTNode<E> getLeft() { ... }
 public void setLeft(BSTNode<E> left) { ... }
 public BSTNode<E> getRight() { ... }
 public void setRight(BSTNode<E> right) { ... }
```



### Implementing BST Operation: Searching

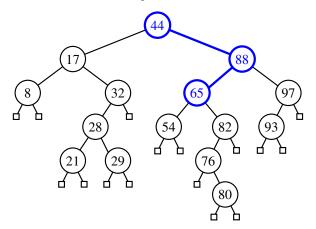
Given a BST rooted at node p, to locate a particular **node** whose key matches k, we may view it as a **decision tree**.

```
public BSTNode<E> search(BSTNode<E> p, int k) {
 BSTNode < E> result = null:
 if(p.isExternal()) {
  result = p; /* unsuccessful search */
 else if (p. qetKev() == k) {
  result = p; /* successful search */
 else if (k < p.getKev()) {
   result = search(p.getLeft(), k); /* recur on LST */
 else if (k > p.qetKev()) {
   result = search(p.getRight(), k): /* recur on RST */
 return result;
```



### **Visualizing BST Operation: Searching (1)**

A **successful** search for **key 65**:

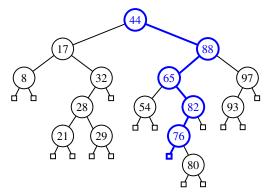


The *internal node* storing key 65 is <u>returned</u>.



### **Visualizing BST Operation: Searching (2)**

An unsuccessful search for key 68:



The **external**, **left child node** of the **internal node** storing **key 76** is **returned**.

<u>Exercise</u>: Provide keys for different external nodes to be returned.

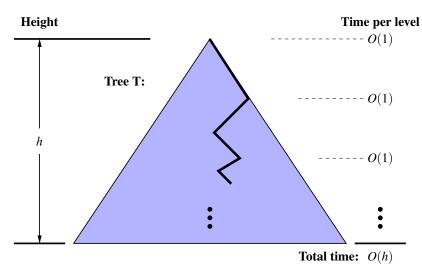


### **Testing BST Operation: Searching**

```
@Test
public void test binary search trees search() {
 BSTNode<String> n28 = new BSTNode<>(28, "alan");
 BSTNode<String> n21 = new BSTNode<>(21. "mark"):
 BSTNode<String> n35 = new BSTNode<>(35, "tom");
 BSTNode<String> extN1 = new BSTNode<>();
 BSTNode<String> extN2 = new BSTNode<>();
 BSTNode<String> extN3 = new BSTNode<>();
 BSTNode<String> extN4 = new BSTNode<>();
 n28.setLeft(n21); n21.setParent(n28);
 n28.setRight(n35); n35.setParent(n28);
 n21.setLeft(extN1); extN1.setParent(n21);
 n21.setRight(extN2); extN2.setParent(n21);
 n35.setLeft(extN3); extN3.setParent(n35);
 n35.setRight(extN4); extN4.setParent(n35);
 BSTUtilities<String> u = new BSTUtilities<>():
 /* search existing keys */
 assertTrue(n28 == u.search(n28, 28));
 assertTrue(n21 == u.search(n28, 21));
 assertTrue(n35 == u.search(n28, 35));
 assertTrue(extN1 == u.search(n28, 17)); /* *17* < 21 */
 assertTrue(extN2 == u.search(n28, 23)); /* 21 < *23* < 28 */
 assertTrue(extN3 == u.search(n28, 33)); /* 28 < *33* < 35 */
 assertTrue(extN4 == u.search(n28, 38)); /* 35 < *38* */
```



## RT of BST Operation: Searching (1)





#### RT of BST Operation: Searching (2)

- Recursive calls of search are made on a path which
  - o Starts from the root
  - o Goes down one *level* at a time

RT of deciding from each node to go to LST or RST?

[ *O*(1) ]

 Stops when the key is found or when a *leaf* is reached *Maximum* number of nodes visited by the search?

[ **h** + 1 ]

- ∴ RT of **search on a BST** is O(h)
- Recall: Given a BT with n nodes, the height h is bounded as:

$$log(n+1)-1 \leq h \leq n-1$$

Best RT of a binary search is O(log(n))

[ balanced BST ]

Worst RT of a binary search is O(n)

[ ill-balanced BST ]

• Binary search on non-linear vs. linear structures:

	Search on a BST	Binary Search on a Sorted Array
START	Root of BST	Middle of Array
Progress	LST or RST	Left Half or Right Half of Array
BEST RT	O(log(n))	O(log(n))
Worst RT	O(n)	

#### **Sketch of BST Operation: Insertion**



To *insert* an *entry* (with **key** *k* & **value** *v*) into a BST rooted at *node n*:

- Let node p be the return value from search (n, k).
- ∘ If *p* is an *internal node* 
  - $\Rightarrow$  Key k exists in the BST.
  - $\Rightarrow$  Set p's value to v.
- If p is an external node
  - $\Rightarrow$  Key k deos **not** exist in the BST.
  - $\Rightarrow$  Set p's key and value to k and v.

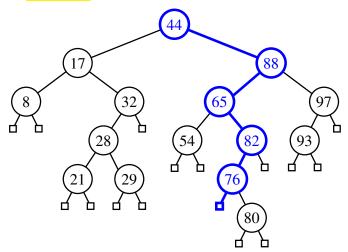
Running time?

O(h)



#### **Visualizing BST Operation: Insertion (1)**

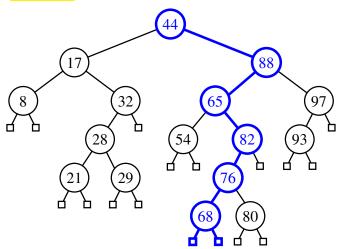
Before *inserting* an entry with *key 68* into the following BST:





#### **Visualizing BST Operation: Insertion (2)**

After *inserting* an entry with *key 68* into the following BST:





#### **Exercise on BST Operation: Insertion**

<u>Exercise</u>: In BSTUtilities class, implement and test the void insert(BSTNode<E> p, int k, E v) method.





To **delete** an **entry** (with **key** k) from a BST rooted at **node** n:

Let node p be the return value from search (n, k).

- Case 1: Node p is external.
  - k is not an existing key  $\Rightarrow$  Nothing to remove
- Case 2: Both of node p's child nodes are external.
  - No "orphan" subtrees to be handled  $\Rightarrow$  Remove p
- Case 3: One of the node p's children, say r, is *internal*.

  - r's sibling is **external**  $\Rightarrow$  Replace node p by node r
- [Still BST?]

[Still BST?]

- Case 4: Both of node p's children are internal.
  - Let r be the right-most internal node p's LST.
    - $\Rightarrow$  r contains the *largest key s.t.* key(r) < key(p).
  - **Exercise**: Can r contain the **smallest key s.t.** key(r) > key(p)?
  - Overwrite node p's entry by node r's entry.

[ Still BST? ]

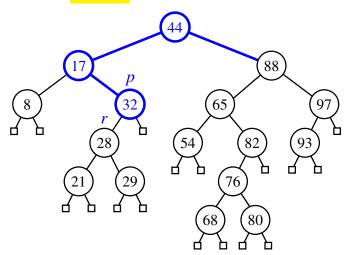
- r being the *right-most internal node* may have:
  - ⋄ Two external child nodes  $\Rightarrow$  Remove r as in Case 2.
  - $\diamond$  An *external*, *RC* & an *internal LC*  $\Rightarrow$  Remove *r* as in **Case 3**.

Running time?



### **Visualizing BST Operation: Deletion (1.1)**

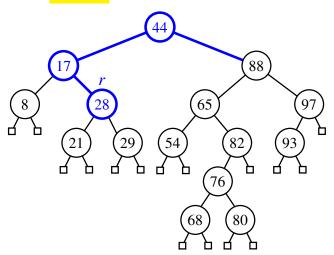
(Case 3) Before *deleting* the node storing *key 32*:





### **Visualizing BST Operation: Deletion (1.2)**

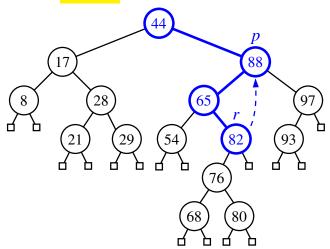
(Case 3) After deleting the node storing key 32:





### **Visualizing BST Operation: Deletion (2.1)**

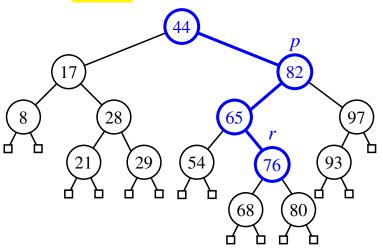
(Case 4) Before deleting the node storing key 88:





#### **Visualizing BST Operation: Deletion (2.2)**

(Case 4) After deleting the node storing key 88:





#### **Exercise on BST Operation: Deletion**

<u>Exercise</u>: In BSTUtilities class, implement and test the void delete(BSTNode<E> p, int k) method.



### **Balanced Binary Search Trees: Motivation**

- After *insertions* into a BST, the worst-case RT of a search occurs when the height h is at its maximum: O(n):
  - $\circ\,$  e.g., Entries were inserted in an <u>decreasing order</u> of their keys  $\langle 100, 75, 68, 60, 50, 1 \rangle$ 
    - ⇒ One-path, left-slanted BST
  - $\circ$  e.g., Entries were inserted in an <u>increasing order</u> of their keys (1,50,60,68,75,100)
    - ⇒ One-path, right-slanted BST
  - e.g., Last entry's key is <u>in-between</u> keys of the previous two entries (1,100,50,75,60,68)
    - ⇒ One-path, side-alternating BST
- To avoid the worst-case RT (: a *ill-balanced tree*), we need to take actions as soon as the tree becomes unbalanced.

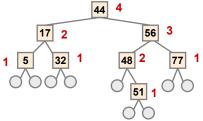
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## **Balanced Binary Search Trees: Definition**

Given a node p, the height of the subtree rooted at p is:

$$height(p) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \text{ is } external \\ 1 + MAX \left( \left\{ \begin{array}{c} height(c) \mid parent \ (c) = p \end{array} \right\} \right) & \text{if } p \text{ is } internal \end{cases}$$

A balanced BST T satisfies the height-balance property:
 For every internal node n, heights of n's child nodes differ ≤ 1.



Q: Is the above tree a balanced BST?

Q: Will the tree remain balanced after inserting 55?

Q: Will the tree remain balanced after inserting 63?

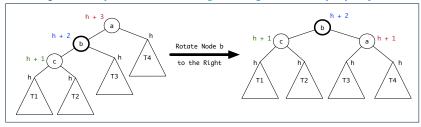
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#### **Fixing Unbalanced BST: Rotations**

A tree **rotation** is performed:

- When the latest <u>insertion</u>/<u>deletion</u> creates <u>unbalanced</u> nodes, along the <u>ancestor path</u> of the node being inserted/deleted.
- To change the shape of tree, restoring the height-balance property



- **Q**. An *in-order traversal* on the resulting tree?
- **<u>A</u>**. Still produces a sequence of **sorted keys**  $\langle T_1, c, T_2, b, T_3, a, T_4 \rangle$
- After **rotating** node b to the <u>right</u>:
  - Heights of *descendants* (b, c, T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>) and *sibling* (T<sub>4</sub>) stay *unchanged*.
  - Height of *parent* (a) is *decreased by 1*.
    - ⇒ **Balance** of node a was **restored** by the **rotation**.

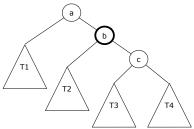


## After Insertions: Trinode Restructuring via Rotation(s)

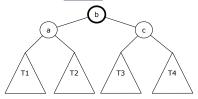
#### After *inserting* a new node *n*:

- Case 1: Nodes on n's ancestor path remain balanced.
  - ⇒ No rotations needed
- Case 2: At least one of n's ancestors becomes unbalanced.
  - Get the <u>first/lowest</u> unbalanced node a on n's ancestor path.
  - **2.** Get a's child node b in n's ancestor path.
  - 3. Get b's child node c in n's ancestor path.
  - **4.** Perform rotation(s) based on the *alignment* of *a*, *b*, and *c*:
    - Slanted the *same* way ⇒ *single rotation* on the <u>middle</u> node *b*
    - Slanted *different* ways ⇒ *double rotations* on the *lower* node *c*

# Trinode Restructuring: Single, Left Rotation LASSONDE



After a *left rotation* on the middle node b:



**BST** property maintained?

 $\langle T_1, a, T_2, b, T_3, c, T_4 \rangle$ 

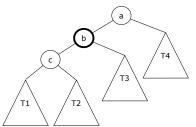
#### **Left Rotation**



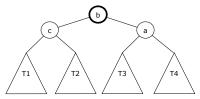
• *Insert* the following sequence of nodes into an <u>empty</u> BST:

- Is the BST now balanced?
- Insert 100 into the BST.
- Is the BST still balanced?
- Perform a *left rotation* on the appropriate node.
- Is the BST again balanced?

## Trinode Restructuring: Single, Right Rotation SSONDE



After a *right rotation* on the <u>middle</u> node *b*:



**BST property** maintained?

 $\langle T_1, a, T_2, b, T_3, c, T_4 \rangle$ 

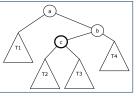
#### **Right Rotation**



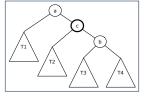
• *Insert* the following sequence of nodes into an empty BST:

- Is the BST now balanced?
- Insert 46 into the BST.
- Is the BST still balanced?
- Perform a <u>right rotation</u> on the appropriate node.
- Is the BST again balanced?

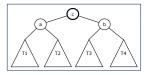
# Trinode Restructuring: Double, R-L Rotation



Perform a Right Rotation on Node c



Perform a Left Rotation on Node c



After Right-Left Rotations

**BST property** maintained?

 $\langle T_1, a, T_2, c, T_3, b, T_4 \rangle$ 

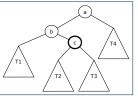
#### **R-L Rotations**



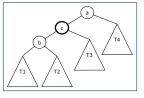
• *Insert* the following sequence of nodes into an empty BST:

- Is the BST now balanced?
- Insert 85 into the BST.
- Is the BST still balanced?
- Perform the **R-L rotations** on the appropriate node.
- Is the BST again balanced?

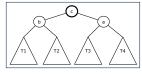
# Trinode Restructuring: Double, L-R Rotation



Perform a Left Rotation on Node c



 $\underline{\mathsf{Perform}}$  a  $\underline{\mathsf{\textit{Right Rotation}}}$  on Node c



After Left-Right Rotations

**BST** property maintained?

 $\langle T_1, b, T_2, c, T_3, a, T_4 \rangle$ 

#### **L-R Rotations**



• *Insert* the following sequence of nodes into an empty BST:

- Is the BST now balanced?
- Insert 54 into the BST.
- Is the BST still balanced?
- Perform the **L-R rotations** on the appropriate node.
- Is the BST again balanced?



# **After Deletions: Continuous Trinode Restructuring**

- <u>Recall</u>: <u>Deletion</u> from a BST results in removing a node with <u>zero</u> or <u>one</u> <u>internal</u> child node.
- After *deleting* an existing node, say its child is *n*:

**Case 1**: Nodes on *n*'s *ancestor path* remain *balanced*.  $\Rightarrow$  No rotations

Case 2: At least one of n's ancestors becomes unbalanced.

- 1. Get the <u>first/lowest</u> <u>unbalanced</u> node a on *n*'s <u>ancestor path</u>.
- 2. Get a's taller child node b.

[ b ∉ n's ancestor path ]

- **3.** Choose *b*'s child node *c* as follows:
  - b's two child nodes have different heights ⇒ c is the taller child
  - b's two child nodes have **same** height  $\Rightarrow$  a, b, c slant the **same** way
- **4.** Perform rotation(s) based on the *alignment* of *a*, *b*, and *c*:
  - Slanted the same way ⇒ single rotation on the middle node b
  - Slanted *different* ways ⇒ *double rotations* on the <u>lower</u> node <u>c</u>
- As n's unbalanced ancestors are found, keep applying Case 2, until Case 1 is satisfied.
   [O(h) = O(log n) rotations]



#### **Single Trinode Restructuring Step**

Insert the following sequence of nodes into an empty BST:

(44, 17, 62, 32, 50, 78, 48, 54, 88)

- Is the BST now balanced?
- **Delete** 32 from the BST.
- Is the BST still **balanced**?
- Perform a left rotation on the appropriate node.
- Is the BST again balanced?

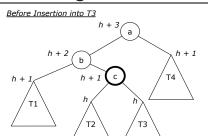


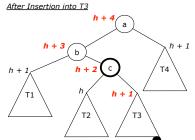
### **Multiple Trinode Restructuring Steps**

- Insert the following sequence of nodes into an empty BST:
   (50, 25, 10, 30, 5, 15, 27, 1, 75, 60, 80, 55)
- Is the BST now balanced?
- Delete 80 from the BST.
- Is the BST still balanced?
- Perform a right rotation on the appropriate node.
- Is the BST now balanced?
- Perform another <u>right rotation</u> on the appropriate node.
- Is the BST again balanced?

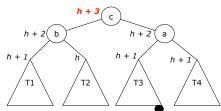






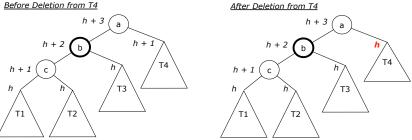


After Performing L-R Rotations on Node c: Height of Subtree Being Fixed Remains h + 3

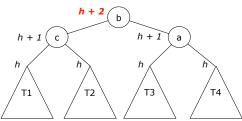


#### **Restoring Balance from Deletions**





After Performing Right Rotation on Node b: Height of Subtree Being Fixed Reduces its Height by 1!





#### Restoring Balance: Insertions vs. Deletions LASSON

- Each *rotation* involves only *POs* of setting parent-child references.
  - ⇒ O(1) running time for each tree rotation
- After each insertion, a trinode restructuring step can restore the balance of the subtree rooted at the first unbalanced node.
  - $\Rightarrow$  O(1) rotations suffices to restore the balance of tree
- After each deletion, one or more trinode restructuring steps may restore the balance of the subtree rooted at the first unbalanced node.
  - $\Rightarrow$  May take  $O(\log n)$  rotations to restore the balance of tree



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**Balanced Binary Search Trees: Definition** 

Fixing Unbalanced BST: Rotations



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L-R Rotations

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