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Introduction to Trees

- In computer science, a tree is an abstract model of a hierarchical structure
- A tree consists of nodes with a parent-child relationship to zero or more nodes


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Tree Example


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## Some Applications

- Organizational charts
- Class hierarchy
- Disk directory and subdirectories
- Structure of a program

Scomanex saxe caser css nao


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## Trees are Recursive

- Trees are recursive data structures
- They can be defined as smaller instances of trees
- So, using recursion is a natural approach


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## Linked Lists vs. Trees

- Linked Lists
- linear - accessing all elements is $O(n)$
- nodes can only have one predecessor and/or one successor node
- Trees
- nonlinear and hierarchical
- nodes can have multiple successors but only one predecessor

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Tree Terminology

- Ancestor node
- predecessors
- human-like linage names: parent, grandparent, etc.
- Descendant node
- successors
- e.g. child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc.


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## Tree Terminology

- Branch
- links between nodes
- often unidirectional
- Branching-factor
- max number of branches any node can have
- can be 2 to more


Tree Terminology

- Node
- just like in linked lists, the units of linked data are called nodes
- usually contain data
- Root
- starting point of the tree
- no nodes link to it
- e.g. A


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Tree Terminology

- Depth of a node
- \# of ancestors to the root
- e.g. depth of $F$ is 2
- Height of a tree
- maximum depth of any node
- e.g. this tree is 3


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## Tree Terminology

- Internal node
- node with at least one child
- e.g. A, B, C, G
- Leaf
- aka external node
- node without children
- e.g. D, E, F, H, I, J


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## Tree Traversal

- A tree traversal visits the nodes of a tree in a systematic manner
- Given that trees can be defined into smaller and smaller subtrees, recursion is an eloquent solution



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## Depth First Traversal

- If we continuously follow the tree to the left - this will result in Euler Tour
- We traverse the tree and pass through each node


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Depth First Traversal

- Notice, in this case, that we tend to go do the bottom first
- This is also known depth-first traversal


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## Depth First Traversal

- This approach lends itself to recursion
- How?
- root recurses into its children
- each child recurses into each of its children


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## Depth-first: Preorder

- In a preorder traversal, a node is visited before its descendants
- In the image to the right, nodes will be visited in the order they are numbered



## Depth-first: Preorder

- Notice that each child was visited after its parent
- Some uses...
- print a tree document
- e.g. XML export


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Preorder Traversal Logic

## Depth First: Postorder

- In a postorder traversal, a node is visited after its descendants
- Notice that each child was visited before its parent


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## Some Uses for Postorder

- Compute space used child nodes
- Calculate folder space
- Expression evaluation (an alternative to the stack algorithm)


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## Breadth-first Traversal

- In a breadth-first traversal, nodes are visited by their level in the tree
- So, the traversal, looks at all the nodes at depth 1, then at 2, etc...



## Test Your Might

What is the order the nodes are visited using depth-first pre-order traversal?

ABECFIJGHD


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Test Your Might

What is the order the nodes are visited using depth-first breadth-first traversal?

```
ABCDEFGHIJ
```

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## Binary Trees

- The most common tree used in data structures is in the style of the binary tree
- As the name implies, nodes in a binary tree only have two successors


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## Binary Trees

- Binary Trees are extremely useful in data structures
- The two branches allow for efficient branching and is ideal for binary operations
- Applications:
- storing arithmetic expressions
- decision processes
- searching
- sorting


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Boolean Decision Tree


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## Arithmetic Expression Tree

- It can be evaluated using a depth-first traversal
- ... notice that the node's children need a result before the node can be evaluated



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## Attributes of a Binary Tree

- $v=i+1$
- $n=2 v-1$
- $h \leq i$
- $h \leq(n-1) / 2$
- $v \leq 2 h$
- $h \geq \log _{2} v$

```
        number of nodes
        number of internal nodes
number of internal nodes
number of leaves
height of the tree
```

- $h \geq \log _{2}(n+1)-1$


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Depth-First Traversing

- Because of the simplicity of binary trees, we have a very useful structure for tree traversal
- We can only traverse left and right
- This gives three possibilities for a depth first search


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Binary Pre-order Traversal Logic
function preOrder
this.visit()
if left isn't null then left.preOrder()
if right isn't null then right.preOrder()
end function

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## Binary In-order Traversal Logic

```
function inOrder
    if left isn't null then left.inOrder()
    this.visit()
    if right isn't null then right.inOrder()
end function
```


## In-order Depth-first Traversal

- In an in-order traversal a node is visited after its left branch and before its right branch
- In other words: recurse left, visit, then recurse right


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## Some In-order Applications

- Draw a binary tree
- Heap sorting
- Binary searching O(log n) when sorted


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In-order: Print Expressions

- In-order can be used to easily print an expression stored in a tree
- Print....
- ( then traverse left
- the node's operator
- traverse right then )

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## Binary Post-order Traversal Logic

```
function postOrder
    if left isn't null then left.postOrder()
    if right isn't null then right.postOrder()
        this.visit()
        end function
```

In-order: Print Expressions
unction print()
if this is a leaf
write this.value
else
write "("
left.print()
write this.operator ...can be stored in this.value
right.print()
write ")"
end if
function

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## Post-order Depth-first Traversal

- In a post-order traversal a node is evaluated after its left branch and after its right branch
- In other words: recurse left, recurse right, then visit


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## Post-order: Evaluate Expressions



- A post-order traversal can be used to evaluate the tree
- Each recursive call (left, right) returns a value - the result of its calculation


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