Trees

Data Structures and Algorithms for Computational Linguistics III

(ISCL-BA-07)

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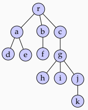
Why study trees

- A tree is a, *hierarchical*, *non-linear* data structure useful in many algorithms
- We have already resorted to descriptions using trees (e.g., recursion trace)
- A tree is a *graph* with certain properties
- It is also very common in (computational) linguistics:
  - Parse trees: representing syntactic structure of sentences
  - Language trees: representing the historical relations between languages
  - Decision trees: a well-known algorithm for machine learning, also used for many NLP problems

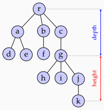
Definitions

- A tree is a set of nodes organized hierarchically with the following properties:
  - If a tree is non-empty, it has a special node root
  - Except the root node, every node in the tree has a unique parent (all nodes except the root are children of another node)
- Alternatively, we can define a tree recursively:
  - The empty set of nodes is a tree
  - Otherwise a tree contains a root with sub-trees as its children



More definitions

- The nodes with the same parent are called siblings
- The nodes with children are called internal nodes
- The nodes without children are the leaf nodes
- A path is a sequence of connected nodes
- Any node in the path from the root to a particular node is its ancestors
- A node is the descendant of its ancestors
- The subtree is a tree rooted by a non-root node
- The depth of a node is the number of edges from root
- The height of a node is the number of edges from the deepest descendant
- The height of a tree is the height of its root



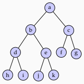
Ordered trees

- A tree is ordered if there is an ordering between siblings. Typical examples include:
  - A tree representing a document (e.g., HTML) structure
  - Parse trees
  - (maybe) a family tree
- In many cases order is not important
  - Class hierarchy in a object-oriented program
  - The tree representing files in a computer

Binary trees

even more definitions

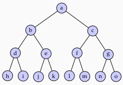
- Binary trees, where nodes can have at most two children, have many applications
- Binary trees have a natural order, each child is either a *left child* or a *right child*
- A binary tree is *proper*, or *full* if every node has either two children or none
- In a *complete* binary tree, every level except possibly the last, is completely filled, and all nodes at the last level is at the left
- A *perfect* binary tree is a full binary tree whose leaf nodes have the same depth



Some properties of binary trees

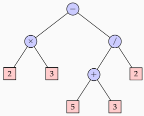
For a binary tree with n_ℓ leaf, n_i internal, n nodes and with height h

- $h + 1 \leqslant n \leqslant 2^{h+1} - 1$
- $1 \leqslant n_\ell \leqslant 2^h$
- $h \leqslant n_i \leqslant 2^h - 1$
- $\log(n + 1) - 1 \leqslant h \leqslant n - 1$
- For any proper binary tree, $n_\ell = n_i + 1$



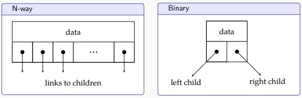
Binary tree example: expression trees

$2 \times 3 + (5 + 3)/2$



Implementation of trees

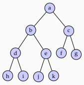
general case: linked data structures

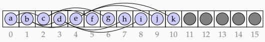


Implementation of trees

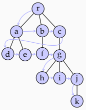
array implementation of binary trees

- Binary trees can also be implemented with arrays:
  - the root node is stored at index 0
  - the left child of the node at index i is stored at $2i + 1$
  - the right child of the node at index i is stored at $2i + 2$
  - the parent of the node at index i is at index $\lfloor (i - 1)/2 \rfloor$
- If the binary tree is complete, this representation does not waste (much) space





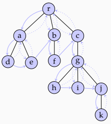
Breadth first traversal (level order)



r a b c d e f g h i j k

```
def breadth_first(root):
    queue = []
    queue.append(root)
    while queue:
        node = queue.pop(0)
        # process the node
        print(node.data)
        for child in node.children:
            queue.append(child)
```

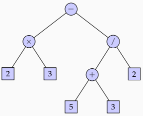

Pre-order traversal



r a d e b f c g h i j k

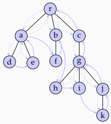
```
def pre_order(node):
    # process the node
    print(node.data)
    for child in node.children:
        pre_order(child)
```

Example: pre-order in an expression tree



$-(\times(2\ 3)\ /(+(5\ 3)\ 2)\ )\ )$

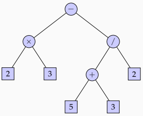
Post-order traversal



d e a f b h i k j g c r

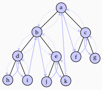
```
def post_order(node):
  for child in node.children:
    post_order(child)
  # process the node
  print(node.data)
```


Example: post-order in an expression tree



$2\ 3 \times 5\ 3 + 2\ / -$

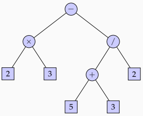
In-order traversal



h d i b j e k a f c g

```
def in_order(node):
  in_order(node.left)
  # process the node
  print(node.data)
  in_order(node.right)
```


Example: in-order in an expression tree



$((2 \times 3) - ((5 + 3) / 2))$

Summary

- Trees are hierarchical data structures useful in many applications
- We will often return to trees and properties of trees in the rest of the course
- Reading on trees: **goodrich2013**, and optionally the chapter on *search trees* (**goodrich2013**)

Next:

- Heaps and priority queues
- Reading: Reading: **goodrich2013**

Acknowledgments, credits, references