

# B-trees and 2-3-trees

## Last Time

• Binary Search Trees  
Insert, Delete, Search, Min, Max, Successor, Predecessor  $\rightarrow \Theta(h)$

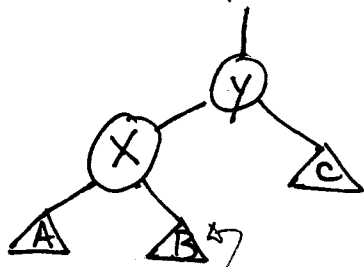
•  $n$  random inserts build BST with height  $\Theta(\lg n)$  on avg

Adversary can still prepare non-random data that leads to unbalanced trees and thus long execution times approaching  $\Theta(n)$

## Idea this time:

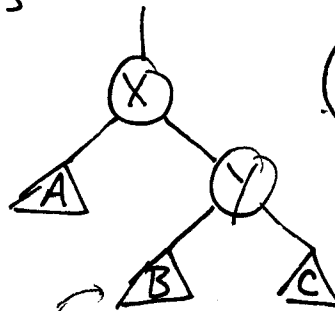
Rebalancing to guarantee height  $\Theta(\lg n)$  deterministically using local rebalancing transformation

## One useful operation: Rotations



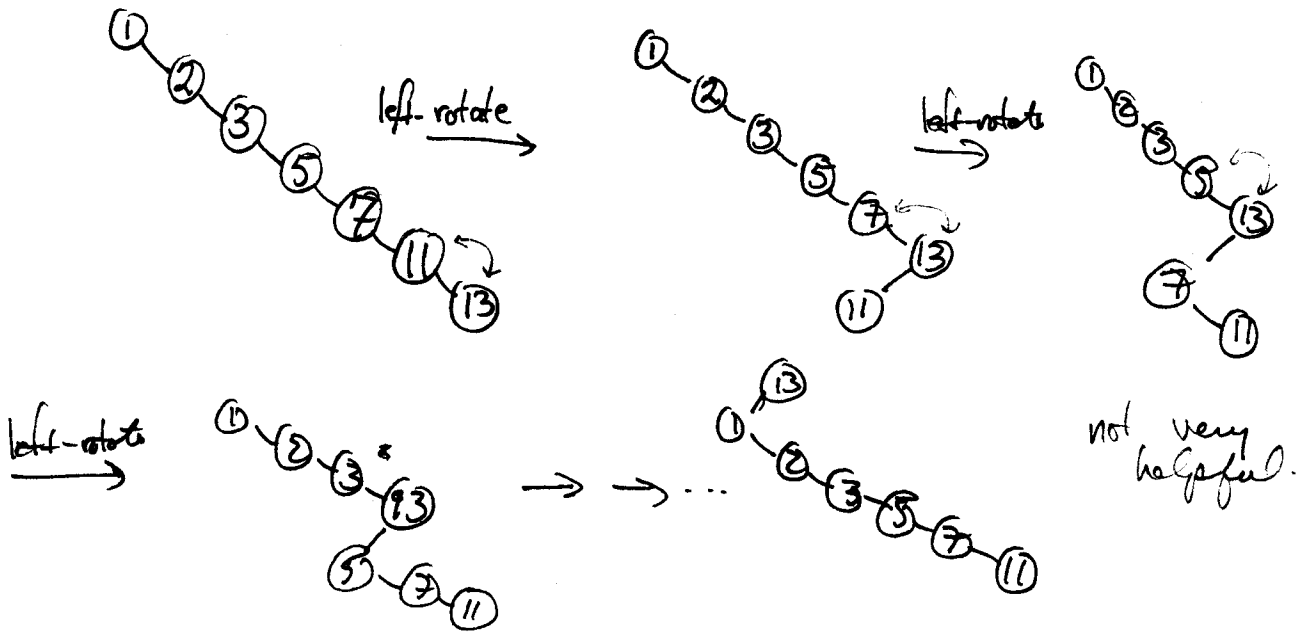
all elements of B are  $\geq X$  and  $\leq Y$  by BST property

right-rotate  
left-rotate



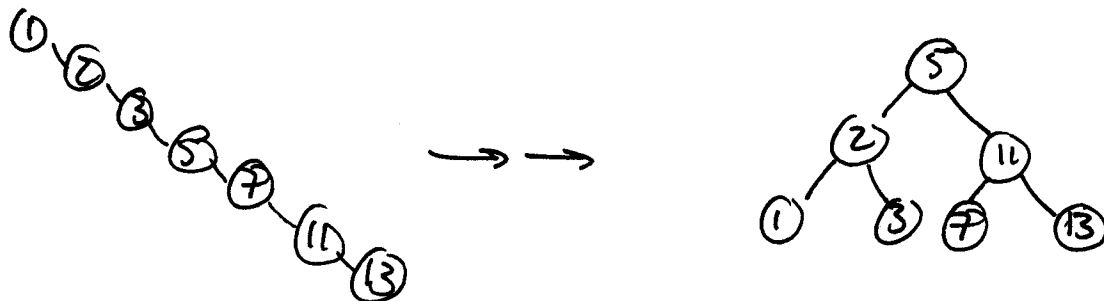
all elements of B are  $\leq Y$  and  $\geq X$

Time:  $\Theta(1)$   
because only involves moving pointers locally  
(Note that all parent-child relationships are preserved)



Questions:

1] What sequence of rotations causes?



2] What is the running time of such an algorithm on a linear tree of length  $n$ ?

3] What is the worst-case running time of an algorithm that, after every insertion or deletion, converts BST into linear sorted array/linear tree and applies rotations as above to create balanced tree?

Attempt at Global Solu

**Another solution (better) Red-Black Trees (CRS chpt 13)**

others: AVL trees, k-neighbor trees, B-trees, AA-trees, scapegoat trees, 2-3-4 trees, treaps, splay trees

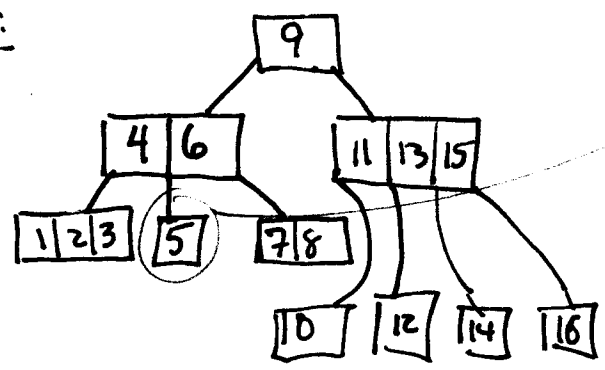
→ Enforce reasonably well balanced trees (difference in longest & shortest path from root to leaf is 2-fold for red-black trees). After ~~then~~ <sup>insert/delete</sup> each insert/delete rebalance using rotations or other operations

⇒  $O(\lg n)$  operations became  $h = O(\lg n)$

**2-3-4 trees use a different idea.**

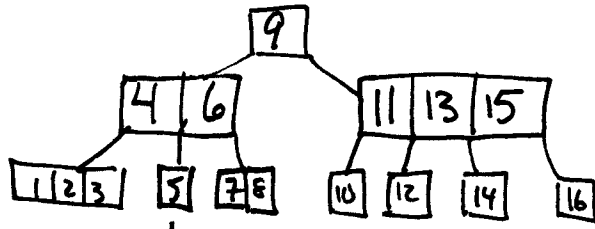
- relax binary constraint
- allow <sup>nodes</sup> nodes to have 2, 3, or 4 children
- force all leaves to be at same depth
- nodes with # children  $C (\leq 4)$  store  $C-1 (\leq 3)$  keys to facilitate search
- leaves can store up to 3 keys also

example:

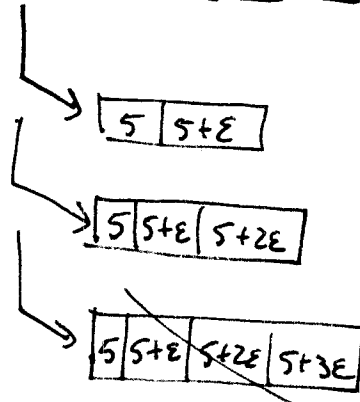


Tree property:

- Each node is a sorted array
- Each child node has keys intermediate in value between pair of elements in parent node.



Search for 12  
 • like binary search,  
 but multi-ary

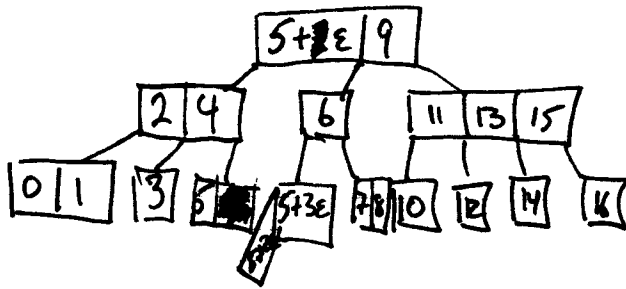
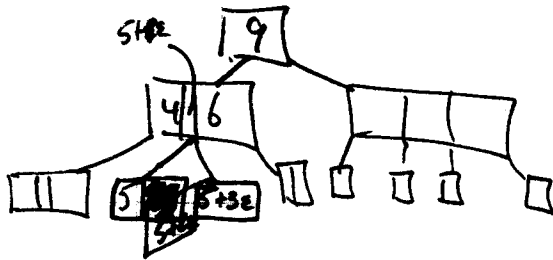


Insert  $5+\epsilon$

Insert  $5+2\epsilon$

Insert  $5+3\epsilon$

Can not have 4 elements in a node  
 Must "split" this node,  
 which includes insertion  
 into parent



Insert 0

- cause double split

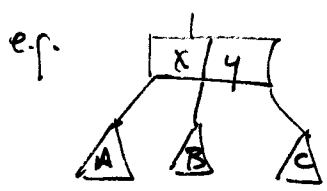
Ideas

- Every node branches until reach leaves, all of same level
  - prevents very uneven ~~tree~~ (unbalanced) trees
- height is  $\Theta(\lg n)$
- variability in branching factor leads to flexibility for fast upgrades
  - worst case involves split at every level of tree and insertion of new root above current root  $\Theta(h) = \Theta(\lg n)$

This is the only way to avoid unbalanced trees

More formal and general class of trees to which B-trees belong:  
B-trees, with parameter  $t \geq 2$  (case of  $t=2 \Rightarrow 2-3-4$  trees)

- Every non-leaf node has  $\geq t$  and  $\leq 2t$  children (except root, which has  $\geq 2$  children) (leaf has 0 children)
- Each non-leaf node stores one key in between every adjacent pair of children
- # keys = # children - 1 in  $\geq t-1$  and  $\leq 2t-1$   
 • this key bound is enforced on leaves, as well



all keys of A  $\leq x \leq$  all keys of B  
 $\leq y \leq$  all keys of C

Lemmas: Height of B-tree =  $O(\log_t n) = O(\lg n)$

Proof: # leaves  $\leq n$   
 branching factor  $\geq t$ , except at root  
 height  $\leq \log_t n + 1$

- root has at least one key  
 - all other nodes have at least  $t-1$  keys

$$n \geq 1 + (t-1) \sum_{i=1}^h 2t^{i-1}$$

$$= 1 + 2(t-1) \left( \frac{t^h - 1}{t-1} \right) = 2t^h - 1$$

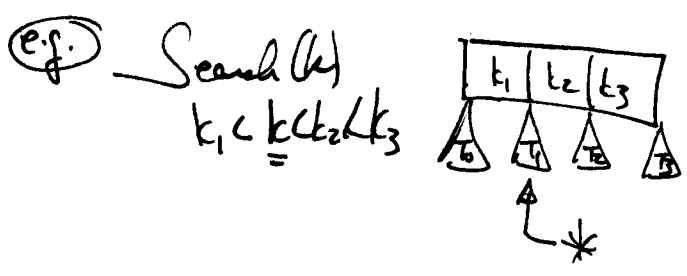
$$h \leq \log_t \left( \frac{n+1}{2} \right)$$

signature of root

# Search

- Visit nodes in root-to-leaf path
- At each node
  - examine all keys
  - if desired key found, done
  - else, find where desired key would fit among the ordered keys and follow that pointer

Could do binary search within node



Time: •  $\Theta(t)$  to visit a node - binary search could make it  $\log t$

• height  $\Theta(\log_2 n)$

$= \Theta(t \log_2 n) \longrightarrow \Theta(\log n)$  for  $t = O(1)$

## Insert (this is where things start to get interesting)

- find leaf where new key belongs (using search)
- if leaf has fewer than  $2t-1$  keys [then room] then add new key to leaf, keeping keys in sorted order  $\rightarrow \Theta(t)$  time & may need to shift data
- else ~~check~~ [leaf is full]
  - insert new key into left or right half ( $\Rightarrow$  overflowing)
  - split node into left, median, right

Notes:

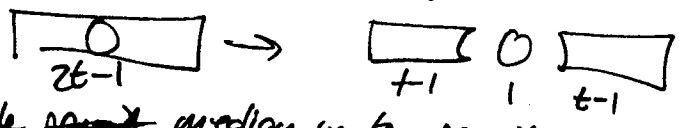
① this is the only way height grows: key from root increments

② back approach where splits occur on way down

promote parent median up to parent node

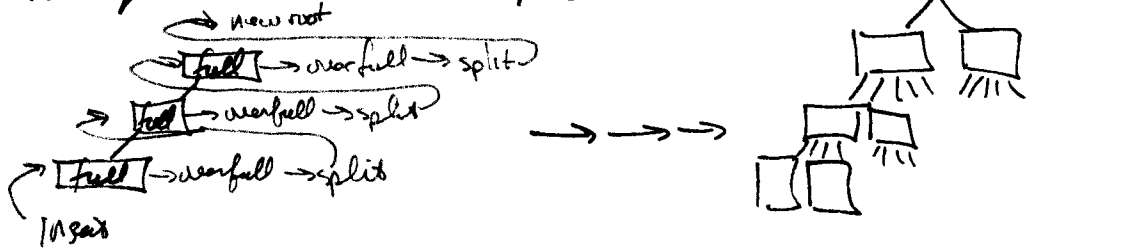
if parent now overflowing, recursively split etc

if root splits, create new root with 2 children & increment height.



Time for Insert:  $\Theta(t \log_t n)$ , same as search

Analysis: at every  $h$  splits



Delete: Worst Case  $\Theta(t \log_t n)$

- if key is not in a leaf, replace it with successor (which is in leaf)

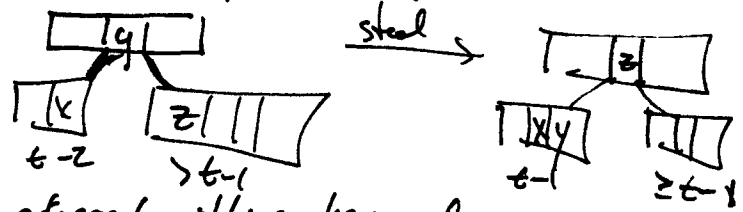
min of node greater than if all keys

- now just delete from leaf
- remove key from leaf
- if leaf still has  $\geq t-1$  keys, then done
- else [underflow] { 2 tricks here }

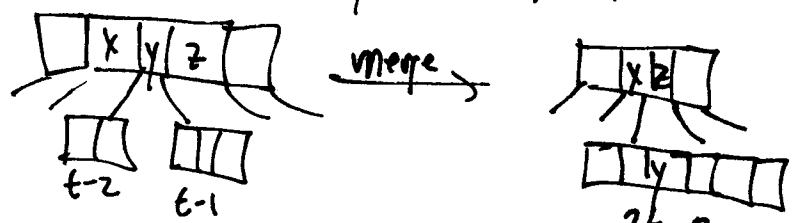
① try to steal from siblings

- if an adjacent sibling has  $> t-1$  keys, then shift through parent

Must maintain B-tree property



② If adjacent siblings have only  $t-1$  keys (close to underflow), then merge with one of them plus and parent key. - essentially reversing a split



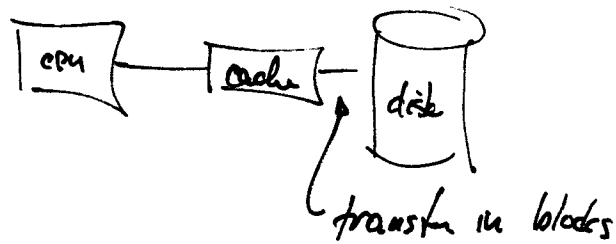
- this can lead to underflow in parent and require propagation up tree to removal of root node.

External Memory

Buttes used to exploit cache & disk, in practice

Model: Can read/write  $B$  elements stored together in one block transfer

one node of B-tree



goal: minimize # block transfers

let  $t = B$  in B-tree

Search/Insert/Delete are  $\Theta(\log_B n)$  block transfers

(& this is optimal for this problem)

CLRS has more to say about this.