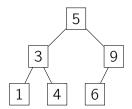
CS 161 (Stanford, Winter 2025)

Lecture 7

Pre-lecture exercises will not be collected for credit. However, you will get more out of each lecture if you do them, and they will be referenced during lecture. We recommend writing out your answers to pre-lecture exercises before class. Pre-lecture exercises usually should not take you more than 30 minutes.

Pre-Lecture Exercises

In this pre-lecture exercise, we'll recall (or see for the first time) binary search trees (BSTs). Here is an example of a binary search tree:

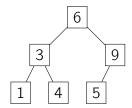


T is a binary search tree.

It is a binary tree, where each node has a key, that has the **BST property:**

For any node n, n.key is larger than all of the keys in the subtree under n's left child, and is smaller than all of the keys in the subtree under n's right child.

For example the following is **not** a BST (why not?):



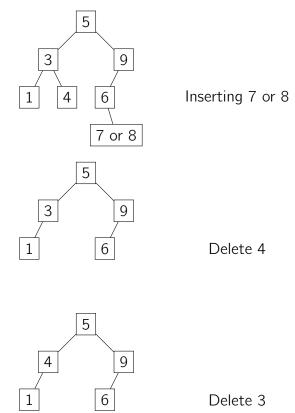
T' is a **NOT** a binary search tree.

If you have never seen binary search trees before, you might want to read up on them ahead of time either in Algorithms Illuminated Part 2 (Section 11) or CLRS (Sections 12.1, 12.2, 12.3) before lecture. Answer the following exercises, which refer to the BST \mathcal{T} drawn above.

- 1. Suppose you wanted to insert a node with key 7 into T. Where should it go? How about a node with key 8? Try to think about how you'd write an algorithm to insert a node with any given key into T.
- 2. Suppose you wanted to delete the node with key 4 from T. What would happen? How about the node with key 3? Try to think about how you'd write an algorithm to delete a node with any given key from T.

You can see solutions on the next page.

SOLUTIONS: Here's how we would insert/delete nodes as required above. (Note, there is *not* a unique way to do this!)



To see how we would implement these operations in pseudocode, see Lecture 7 slides or Algorithms Illuminated or CLRS.