





- Class for binary tree cells class TreeCell { protected Object datum; protected TreeCell left; protected TreeCell right; public TreeCell(Object o) { datum = o; } public TreeCell(Object o, TreeCell I, TreeCell r) { datum = o; left = I; right = r; methods called getDatum, setDatum, getLeft, setLeft, getRight, setRight
- with obvious code }

- in example, height of tree = 2



Applications of trees

- Most languages (natural and computer) have a recursive, hierarchical structure.
- This structure is implicit in ordinary textual representation.
- Recursive structure can be made explicit by representing sentences in the language as trees: abstract syntax trees (AST's)
- AST's are easier to optimize, generate code from, etc. than textual representation.
- Converting textual representations to AST: job of parser





Recursion on trees

- Recursive methods can be written to operate on trees in the obvious way.
- In most problems

- base case: empty tree

- sometimes base case is leaf node
- recursive case: solve problem on left and right sub-trees, and then put solutions together to compute solution for tree

Tree search

- Analog of linear search in lists: given tree and an object, find out if object is stored in tree.
- Trivial to write recursively; harder to write iteratively.



Some useful routines

//determine is a TreeCell is a leaf node

public static boolean isLeaf(TreeCell t) {
 return (t != null) && (t.getLeft() == null) && (t.getRight() == null);
}
//compute height of tree using post-order walk
public static int height(TreeCell t) {
 if (t == null) return -1; //height is undefined for empty tree
 if (isLeaf(t)) return 0;
 else return 1 + Math.max(height(t.getLeft()), height(t.getRight()));
}
//compute number of nodes in tree using post-order walk
public static int nNodes(TreeCell t) {
 if (t == null) return 0;
 else return 1 + nNodes(TreeCell t) {
 if (t == null) return 0;
 else return 1 + nNodes(t.getLeft()) + nNodes(t.getRight());
}

Example

· Generate textual representation from AST.

public static String flatten(TreeCell t) {
 if (t == null) return "";
 if (isLeaf(t)) return t.getDatum();
 else return "(" + flatten(t.getLeft()) + t.getDatum() + flatten(t.getRight()) + ")";



Useful facts about binary trees

- Maximum number of nodes at depth d = 2^d
- If height of tree is h,
 - minimum number of nodes it can have = h+1
 - maximum number of nodes it can have is =
 - $2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{h} = 2^{h+1} 1$
- Full binary tree of height h:
 all levels of tree upto depth h are completely filled.



maximum number of nodes



minimum number of nodes

Tree with header element As in case of lists, some authors prefer to have an explicit Tree class which contains a reference to the root of the tree. With this design, methods that operate on trees can be made into instance methods in this class, and the root of the tree does not have to be passed in explicitly to method.

• Feel free to use whatever works for you.



Summary

- Tree is a recursive data structure built from TreeCell class.
 - special case: binary tree
- Binary tree cells have both a left and a right "successor"
 - called children rather than successors
 - similarly, parent rather than predecessor
 - generalization of parent and child to ancestors and descendants
- Trees are useful for exposing the recursive structure of natural language programs and computer programs.