AVL Trees

CSE 373
Data Structures
Lecture 8

Readings and References
• Reading
  › Section 4.4,

Binary Search Tree - Best Time
• All BST operations are O(d), where d is tree depth
• minimum d is $d = \lfloor \log_2 N \rfloor$ for a binary tree with N nodes
  › What is the best case tree?
  › What is the worst case tree?
• So, best case running time of BST operations is O(log N)

Binary Search Tree - Worst Time
• Worst case running time is O(N)
  › What happens when you insert elements in ascending order?
  › Insert: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 into an empty BST
  › Problem: Lack of "balance":
  • compare depths of left and right subtree
  • Unbalanced degenerate tree

Balanced and unbalanced BST

Approaches to balancing trees
• Don't balance
  › May end up with some nodes very deep
• Strict balance
  › The tree must always be balanced perfectly
• Pretty good balance
  › Only allow a little out of balance
• Adjust on access
  › Self-adjusting
Balancing Trees

• Many algorithms exist for keeping trees balanced
  › Adelson-Velskii and Landis (AVL) trees
  › Splay trees and other self-adjusting trees
  › B-trees and other multiway search trees

Perfect Balance

• Want a complete tree after every operation
  › tree is full except possibly in the lower right
• This is expensive
  › For example, insert 2 in the tree on the left and then rebuild as a complete tree

AVL - Pretty Good Balance

• AVL trees are height-balanced binary search trees
• Balance factor of a node
  › height(left subtree) - height(right subtree)
• An AVL tree has balance factor calculated at every node
  › For every node, heights of left and right subtree can differ by no more than 1
  › Store current heights in each node

Height of an AVL Tree

• \( N(h) \) = minimum number of nodes in an AVL tree of height \( h \).
• Basis
  › \( N(0) = 1, N(1) = 2 \)
• Induction
  › \( N(h) = N(h-1) + N(h-2) + 1 \)
• Solution
  › \( N(h) \geq \phi^h \) (\( \phi \approx 1.62 \))

Height of an AVL Tree

• \( N(h) \geq \phi^h \) (\( \phi \approx 1.62 \))
• Suppose we have \( n \) nodes in an AVL tree of height \( h \).
  › \( n \geq N(h) \)
  › \( n \geq \phi^h \)
  › \( \log \phi n \geq h \) (relatively well balanced tree!!)

Node Heights

height of node = \( h \)
balance factor = \( h_{left} - h_{right} \)
empty height = -1
Node Heights after Insert 7

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
4 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 3
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
1 & 5 & 7 & 0 & 6 & 4
\end{array}
\]

height of node = \( h \)
balance factor = \( h_{\text{left}} - h_{\text{right}} \)
empty height = 0

Insert and Rotation in AVL Trees

- Insert operation may cause balance factor to become 2 or -2 for some node
  - only nodes on the path from insertion point to root node have possibly changed in height
  - So after the Insert, go back up to the root node by node, updating heights
  - If a new balance factor (the difference \( h_{\text{left}} - h_{\text{right}} \)) is 2 or -2, adjust tree by rotation around the node

Single Rotation in an AVL Tree

Insertions in AVL Trees

Let the node that needs rebalancing be \( \alpha \).

There are 4 cases:

**Outside Cases** (require single rotation):  
1. Insertion into left subtree of left child of \( \alpha \).  
2. Insertion into right subtree of right child of \( \alpha \).  
3. Insertion into right subtree of left child of \( \alpha \).  
4. Insertion into left subtree of right child of \( \alpha \).  

The rebalancing is performed through four separate rotation algorithms.

AVL Insertion: Outside Case

Consider a valid AVL subtree

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Inserting into X destroys the AVL property at node } j
\end{array}
\]
AVL Insertion: Outside Case

Do a “right rotation”

Outside Case Completed

“Right rotation” done! (‘Left rotation’ is mirror symmetric)

AVL property has been restored!

AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Inserting into Y destroys the AVL property at node j

Does “right rotation” restore balance?

AVL Insertion: Inside Case

“Right rotation” does not restore balance… now k is out of balance

AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Consider a valid AVL subtree

Does a “right rotation” restore balance?

AVL Insertion: Inside Case

“Right rotation” does restore balance… now k is balanced
Consider the structure of subtree Y...

AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Y = node i and subtrees V and W

We will do a left-right "double rotation"...

Double rotation: first rotation

Now do a right rotation

Double rotation: second rotation

Balance has been restored to the universe
Implementation

Single Rotation

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{RotateFromRight}(n: \text{reference node pointer}) \{ \\
&p: \text{node pointer} \\
&p := n.\text{right}; \\
&n.\text{right} := p.\text{left}; \\
&p.\text{left} := n; \\
&n := p;
\}
\end{align*}
\]

Double Rotation

AVL Tree Deletion

Pros and Cons of AVL Trees

Arguments for AVL trees:
1. Search is \(O(\log N)\) since AVL trees are always balanced.
2. The height balancing adds no more than a constant factor to the speed of insertion.

Arguments against using AVL trees:
1. Difficult to program & debug; more space for height info.
2. Asymptotically faster but rebalancing costs time.
3. Most large searches are done in database systems on disk and use other structures (e.g. B-trees).
4. May be OK to have \(O(N)\) for a single operation if total run time for many consecutive operations is fast (e.g. Splay trees).

Double Rotation Solution