

Data Structures

Tree Traversal

CS 225

September 16, 2026

Brad Solomon



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Department of Computer Science

Extra Credit Reminder

MP submission on PL has two separate submissions

The extra credit portion will only test part 1

Completion of the extra credit portion by the following
Monday is worth 4 points

Learning Objectives

Review and expand on foundational tree terminology

Discuss the tree ADT

Explore tree implementation details

Binary Tree

Join Code: 225



Lets review our understanding of binary tree terminology!

How many leaves are there in a perfect tree of height?

A) h leaves

C) 2^{h-1} leaves

B) 2^h leaves

D) h^2 leaves

Binary Tree

Join Code: 225



Lets review our understanding of binary tree terminology!

What is the lowerbound on # of nodes in a height h complete tree?

A) $2^{h+1} + 1$ nodes

C) $2^h + 1$ nodes

B) 2^h nodes

D) $2^{h+1} - 1$ nodes

Binary Tree

Join Code: 225



Lets review our understanding of binary tree terminology!

What is the upperbound on # of nodes in a height h complete tree?

A) $2^{h+1} + 1$ nodes

C) $2^h + 1$ nodes

B) $2^h - 1$ nodes

D) $2^{h+1} - 1$ nodes



Tree ADT

Insert

Remove

Traverse

Find

Constructor

List.h

```
1 #pragma once
2
3 template <typename T>
4 class List {
5     public:
6         /* ... */
7     private:
8         class ListNode {
9             T & data;
10
11             ListNode * next;
12
13
14             ListNode(T & data) :
15                 data(data), next(NULL) { }
16         };
17
18         ListNode *head_;
19         /* ... */
20
21 };
```

Tree.h

```
1 #pragma once
2
3 template <typename T>
4 class BinaryTree {
5     public:
6         /* ... */
7     private:
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19 };
20
21     TreeNode *root_;
22     /* ... */
23 };
```

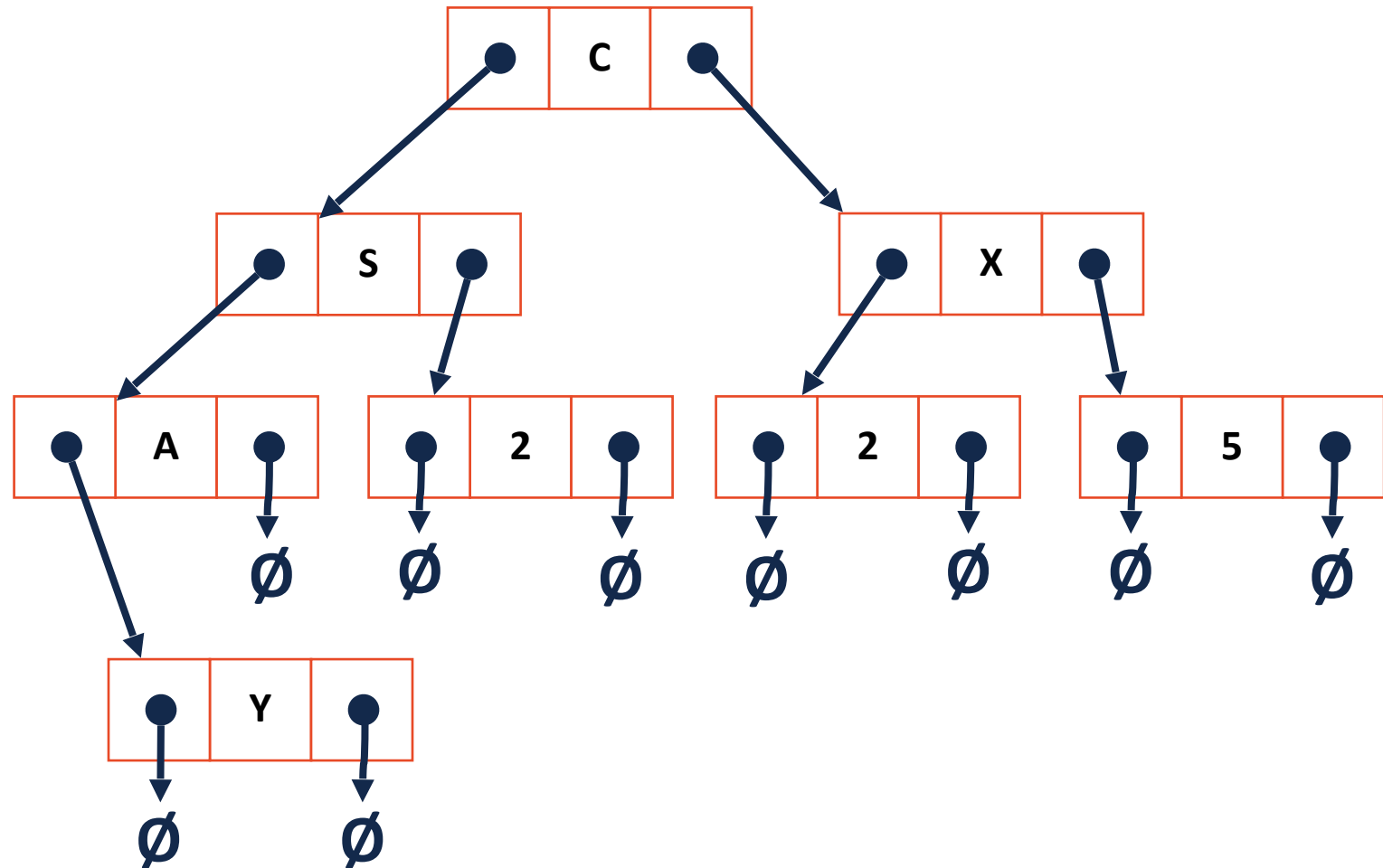
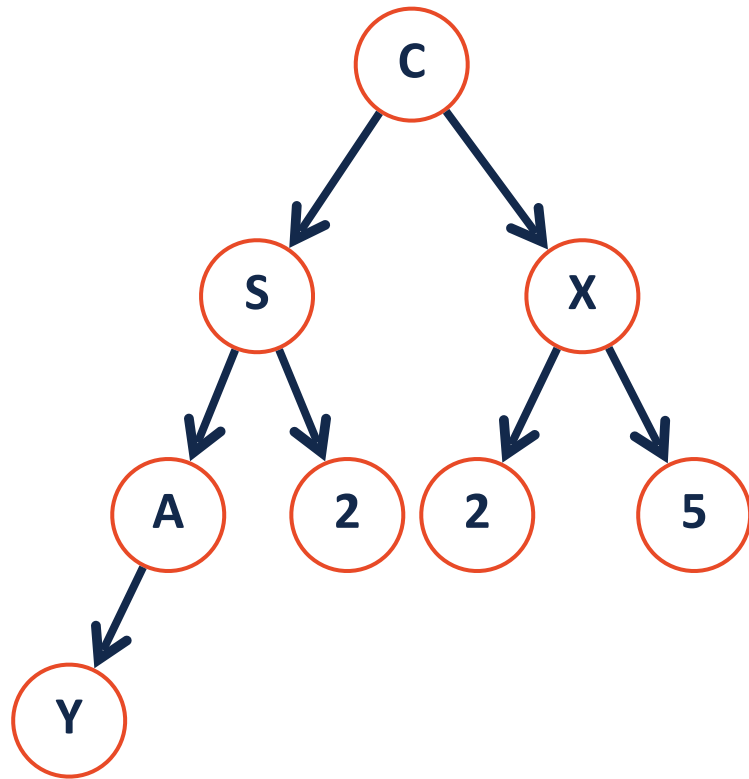
List.h

```
1 #pragma once
2
3 template <typename T>
4 class List {
5     public:
6         /* ... */
7     private:
8         class ListNode {
9             T & data;
10
11             ListNode * next;
12
13
14             ListNode(T & data) :
15                 data(data), next(NULL) { }
16         };
17
18
19         ListNode *head_;
20         /* ... */
21 };
```

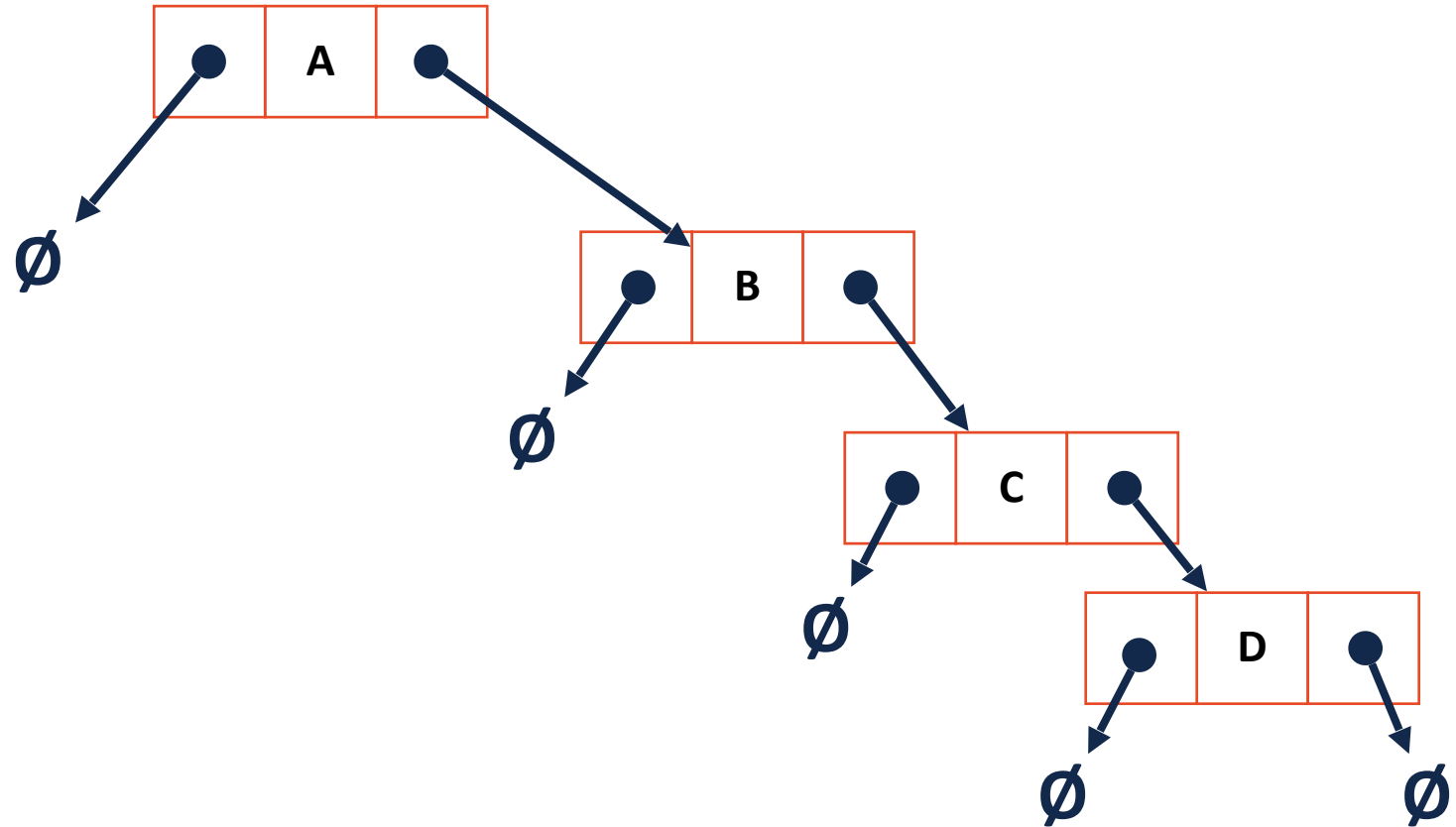
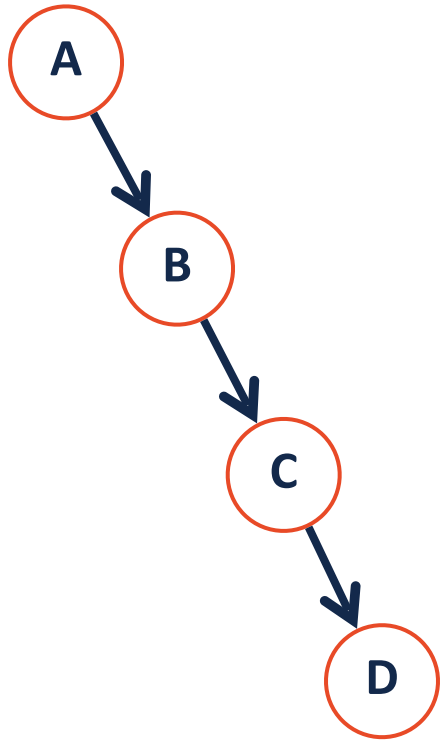
Tree.h

```
1 #pragma once
2
3 template <typename T>
4 class BinaryTree {
5     public:
6         /* ... */
7     private:
8         class TreeNode {
9             T & data;
10
11             TreeNode * left;
12
13             TreeNode * right;
14
15             TreeNode(T & data) :
16                 data(data), left(NULL),
17                 right(NULL) { }
18
19             };
20
21         TreeNode *root_;
22         /* ... */
23 };
```

Visualizing trees

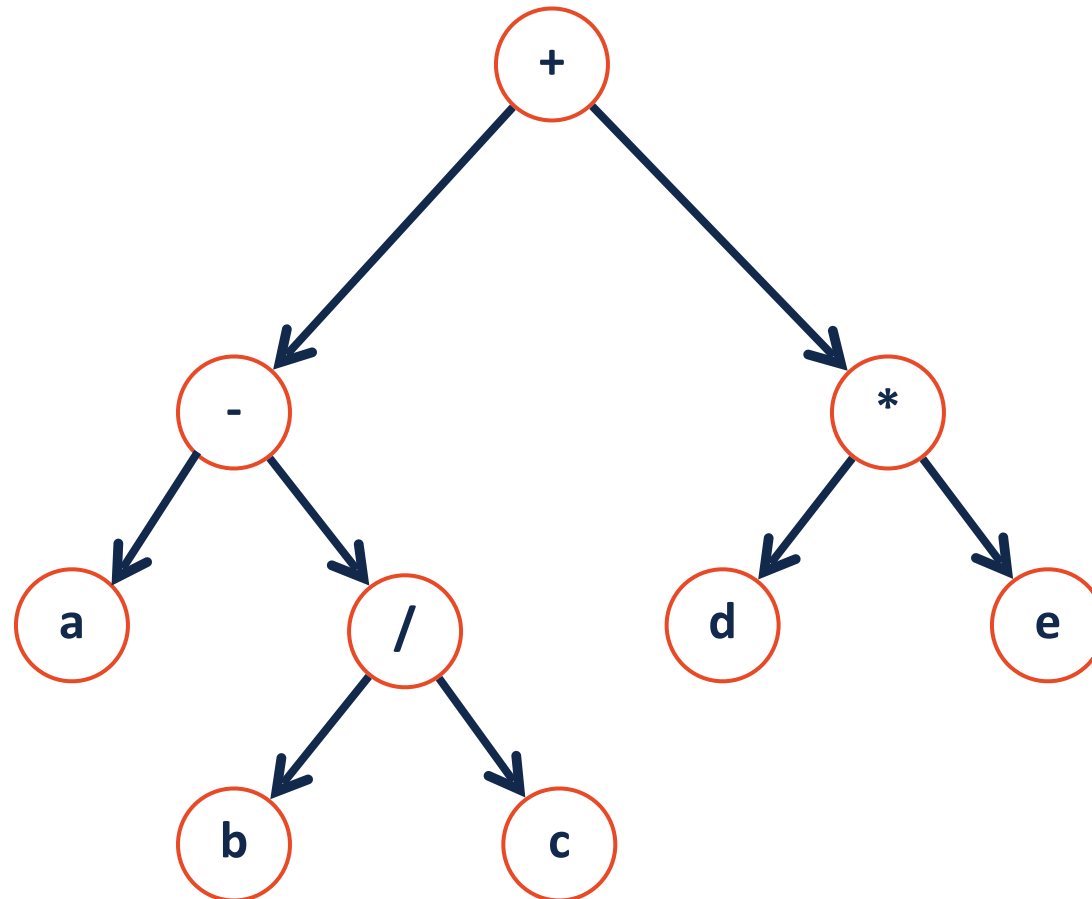


Tree Insert / Remove acts like Linked List

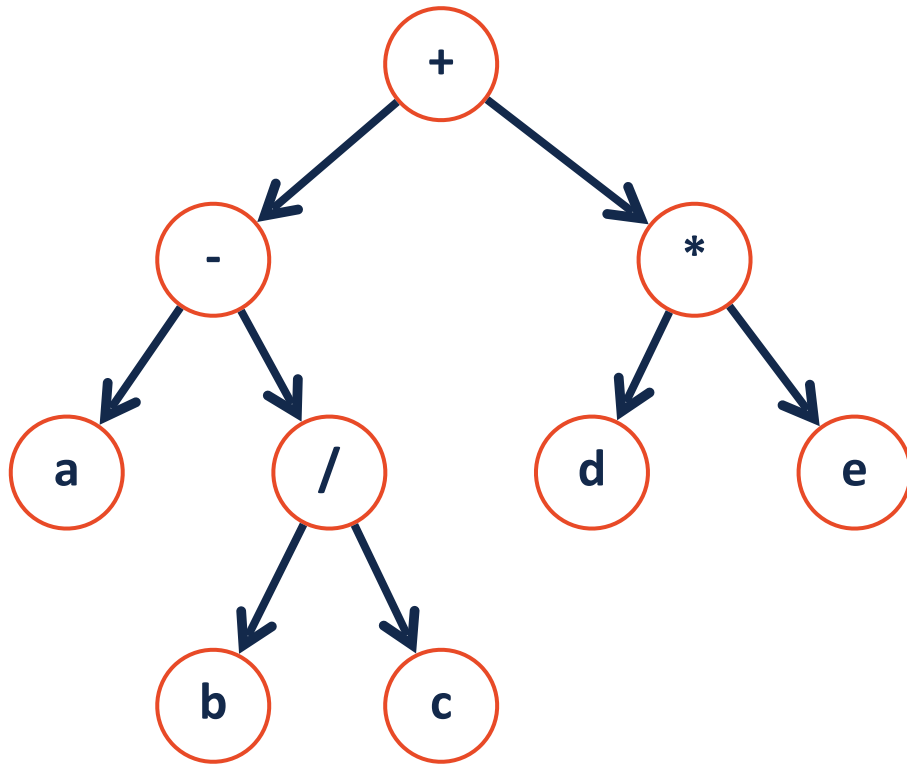


Tree Traversal

A **traversal** of a tree T is an ordered way of visiting every node once.

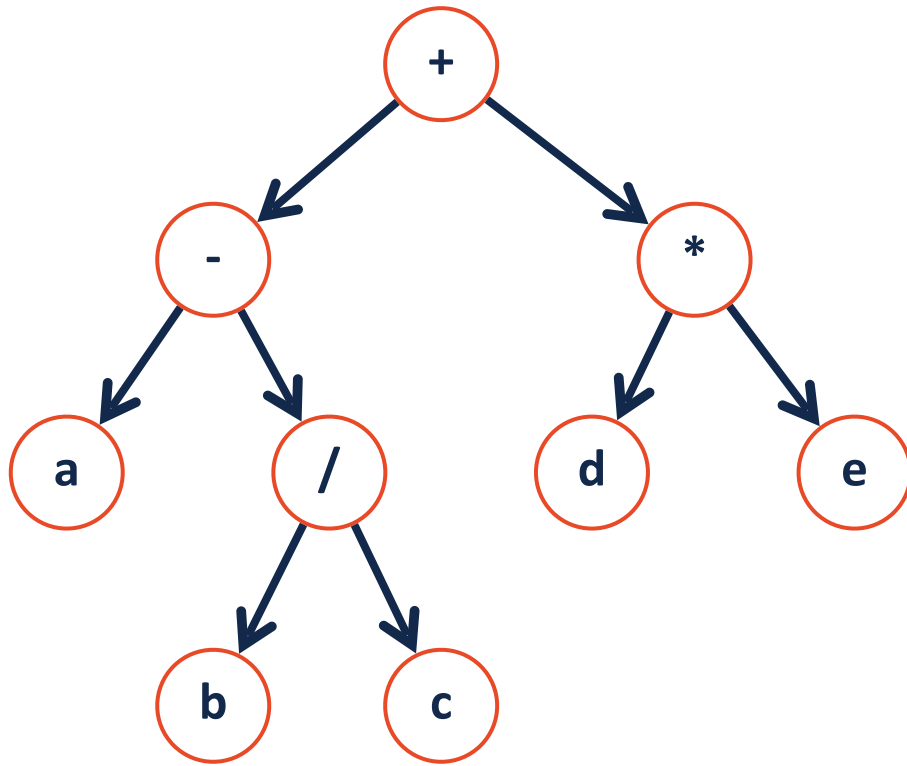


Traversals



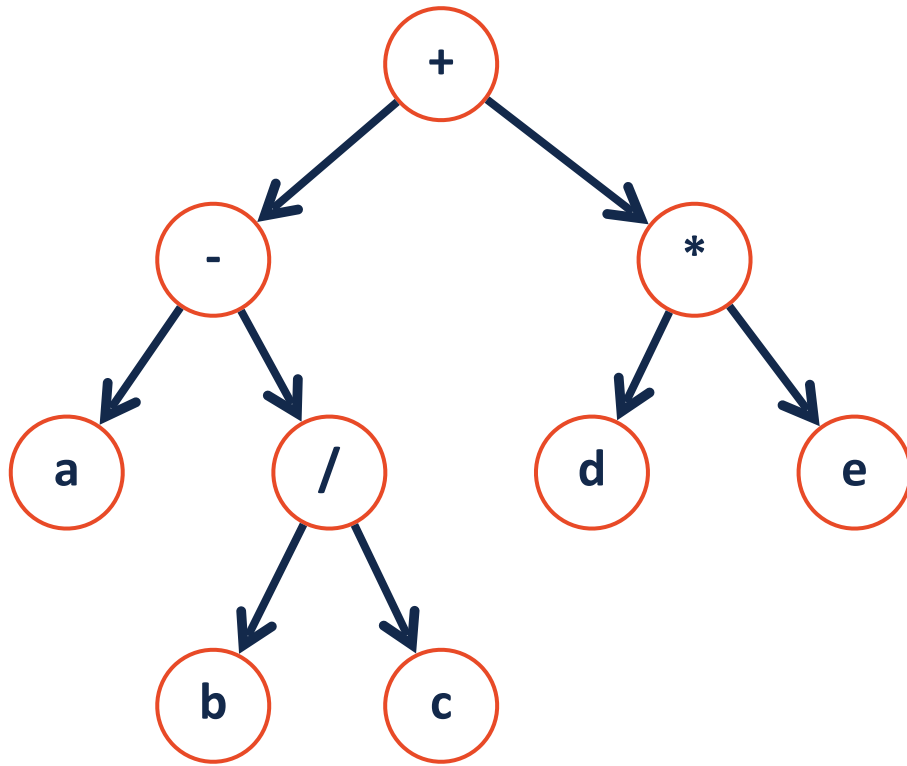
```
1  template<class T>
2  void BinaryTree<T>::____Order(TreeNode * root)
3  {
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21 }
```

Traversals



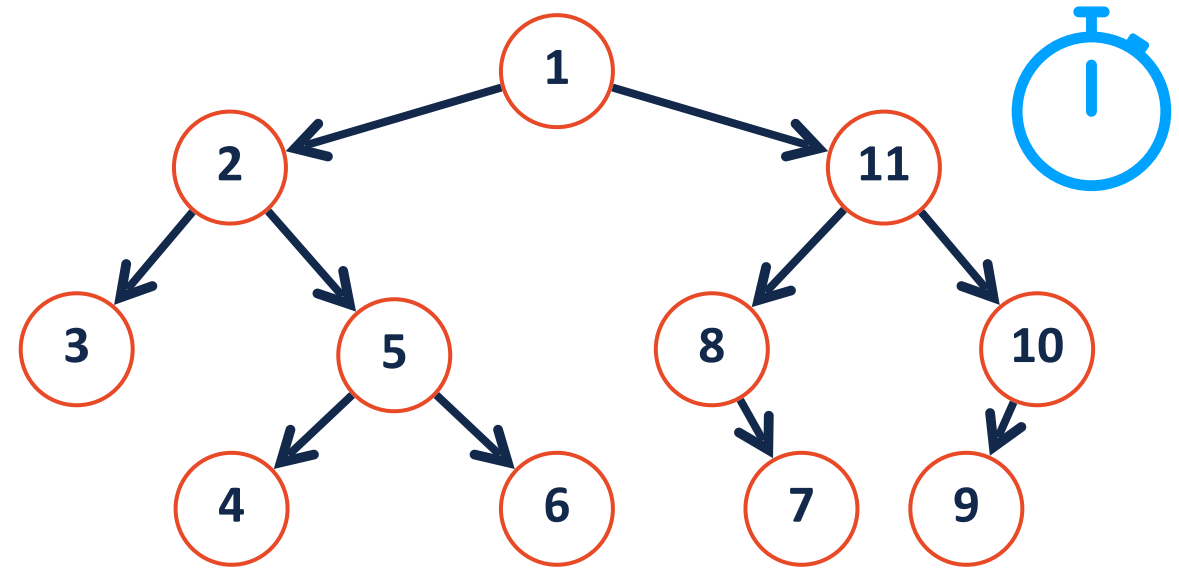
```
1 template<class T>
2 void BinaryTree<T>::____Order(TreeNode * root)
3 {
4
5     if (root) {
6
7         _____;
8
9         ____Order(root->left) ;
10
11         _____;
12
13         ____Order(root->right) ;
14
15         _____;
16
17     }
18
19
20
21 }
```

Traversals



```
1 template<class T>
2 void BinaryTree<T>::____Order(TreeNode * root)
3 {
4
5     if (root) {
6
7         _____;
8
9         ____Order(root->left) ;
10
11         _____;
12
13         ____Order(root->right) ;
14
15         _____;
16
17     }
18
19
20
21 }
```

Tree Traversals

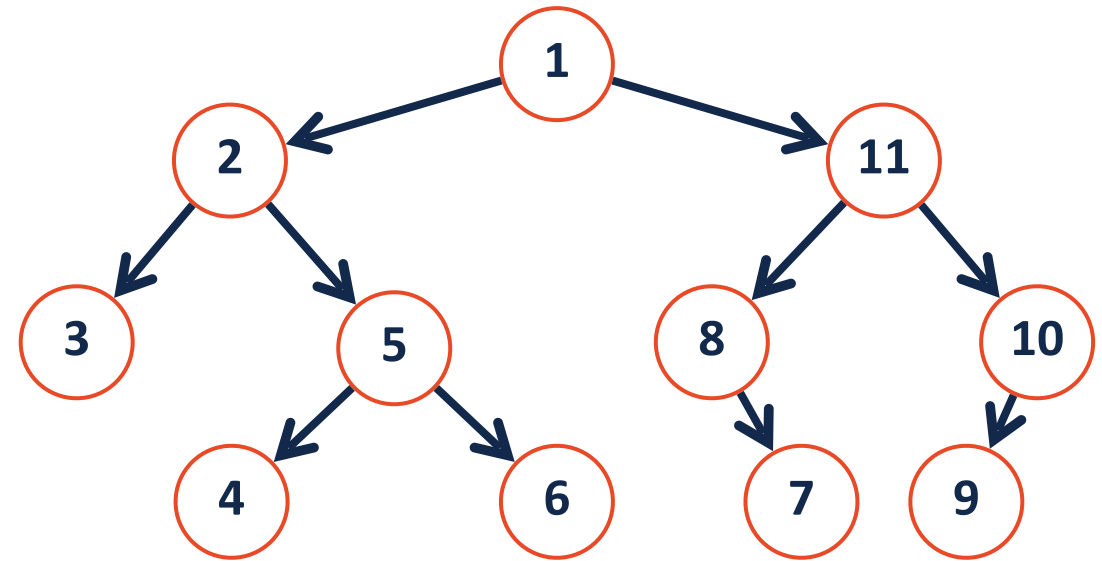


Pre-order:

In-order:

Post-order:

Tree Traversals (Solution)



Pre-order: **1** 2 3 5 4 6 11 8 7 10 9

Tip: Preorder always starts with root!

In-order: **3** 2 4 5 6 **1** 8 7 11 9 10

Tip: Inorder always starts with leftmost node. Root is after all left nodes!

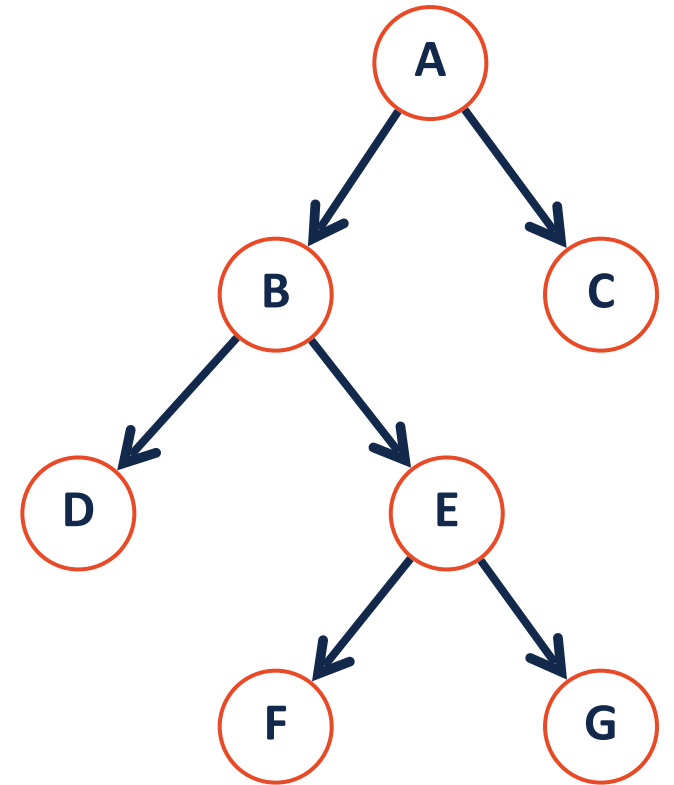
Post-order: **3** 4 6 5 2 7 8 9 10 11 **1**

Tip: Post always starts with leftmost node. Root is always LAST node!

Traversal vs Search

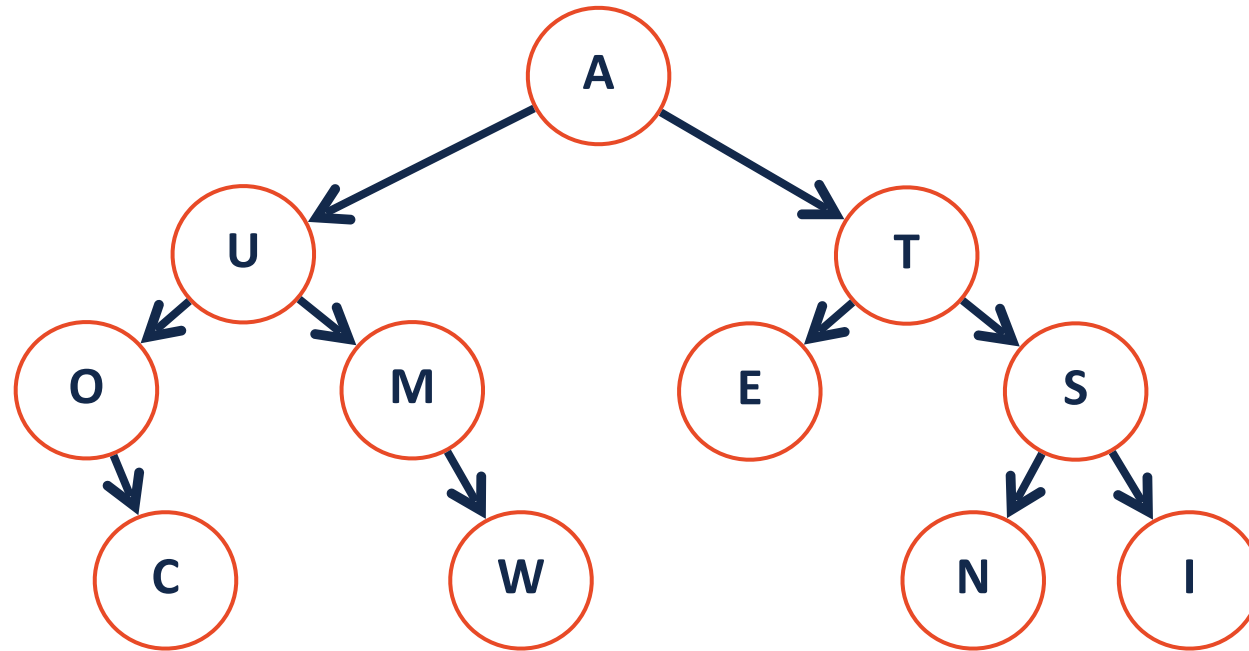
Traversal

Search



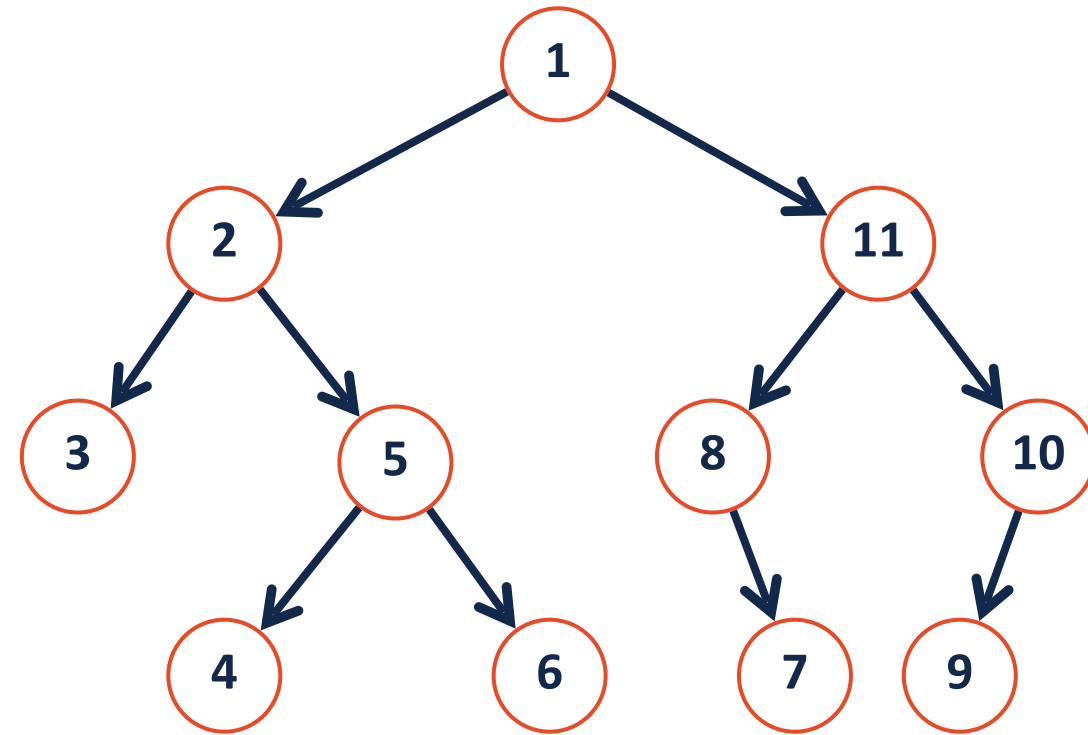
Tree Search

There are two main approaches to searching a binary tree:



Depth First Search

Explore as far along one path as possible before backtracking



Depth First Search

Explore as far along one path as possible before backtracking

Make a stack initialized with root

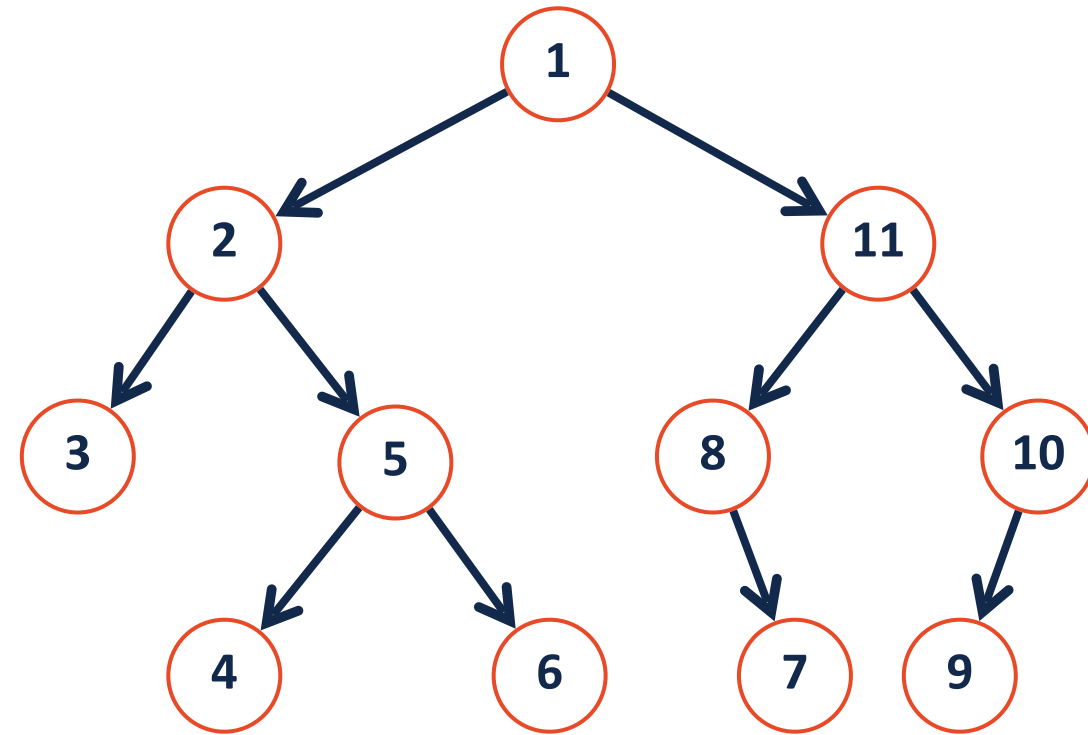
While stack isn't empty:

- Pop top element (as tmp)

- Check if tmp is query (visual: 'print')

- Push tmp->right to stack

- Push tmp->left to stack



Stack: 1, 11, 2, 5, 3, 6, 4, 10, 8, 7, 9

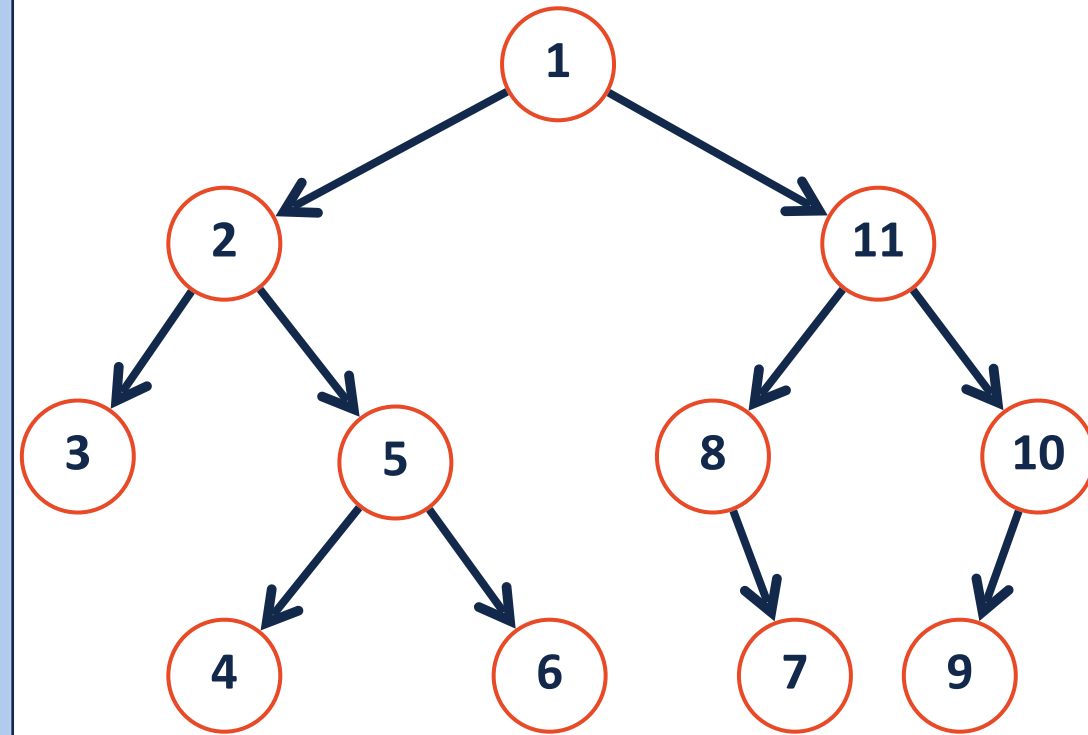
Print: 1, 2, 3, 5, 4, 6, 11, 8, 7, 10, 9

Depth First Search



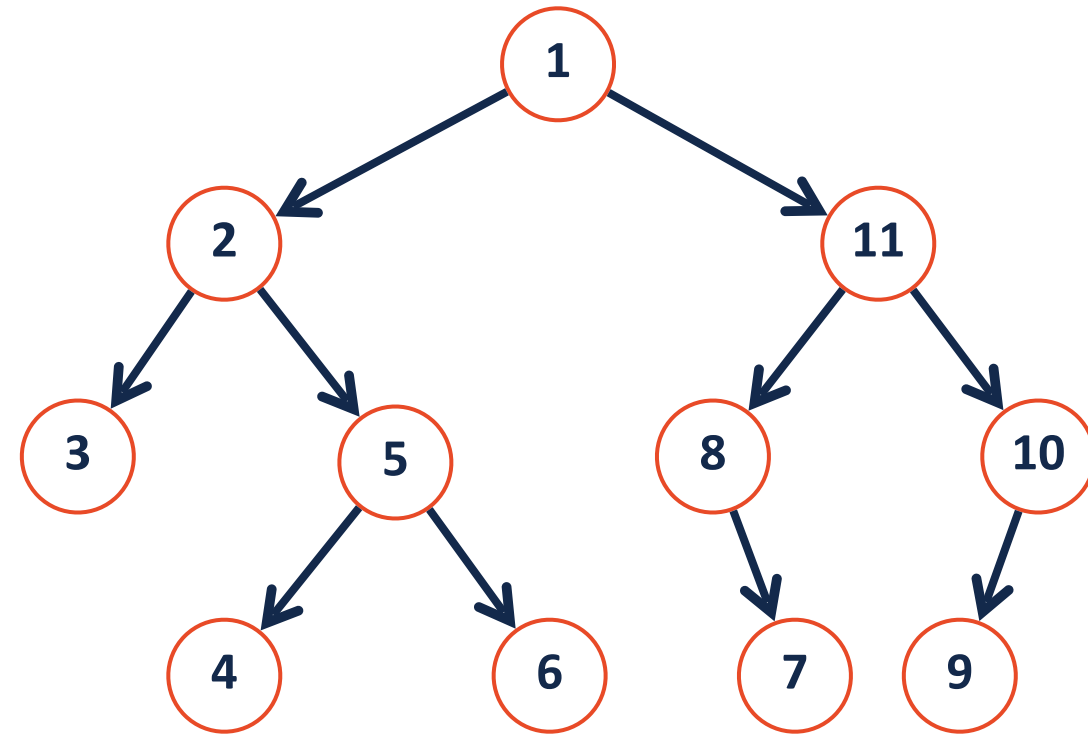
Explore as far along one path as possible before backtracking

```
1 template<class T>
2 bool BinaryTree<T>::DFS_search(TreeNode*
   root, T& query)
3 {
4     if (root) {
5         if (process(root->data, query)) {
6             return true;
7         }
8         if (DFS_search(root->left, query)) {
9             return true;
10        }
11        if (DFS_search(root->right, query)) {
12            return true;
13        }
14    }
15    return false;
16 }
17
18
```



Breadth First Search

Fully explore level i before exploring level $i+1$



Breadth First Search

Fully explore level i before exploring level $i+1$

Make a queue initialized with root

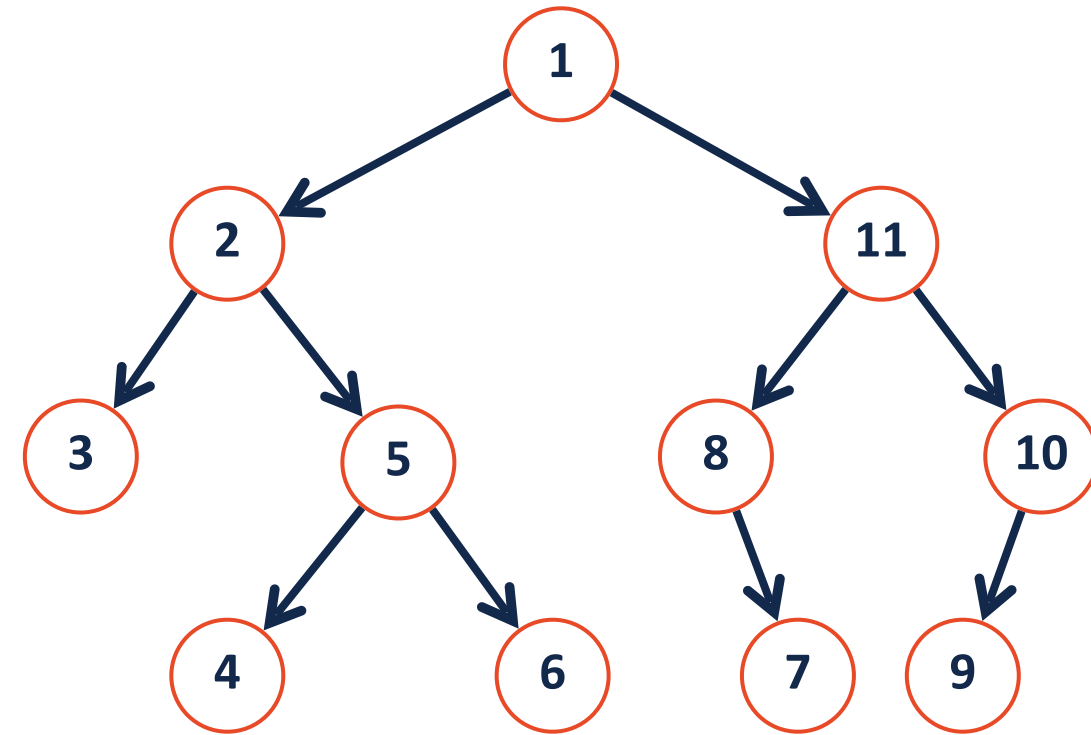
While queue isn't empty:

- Dequeue front element (as tmp)

- Check if tmp is query (visual: 'print')

- Enqueue tmp->left

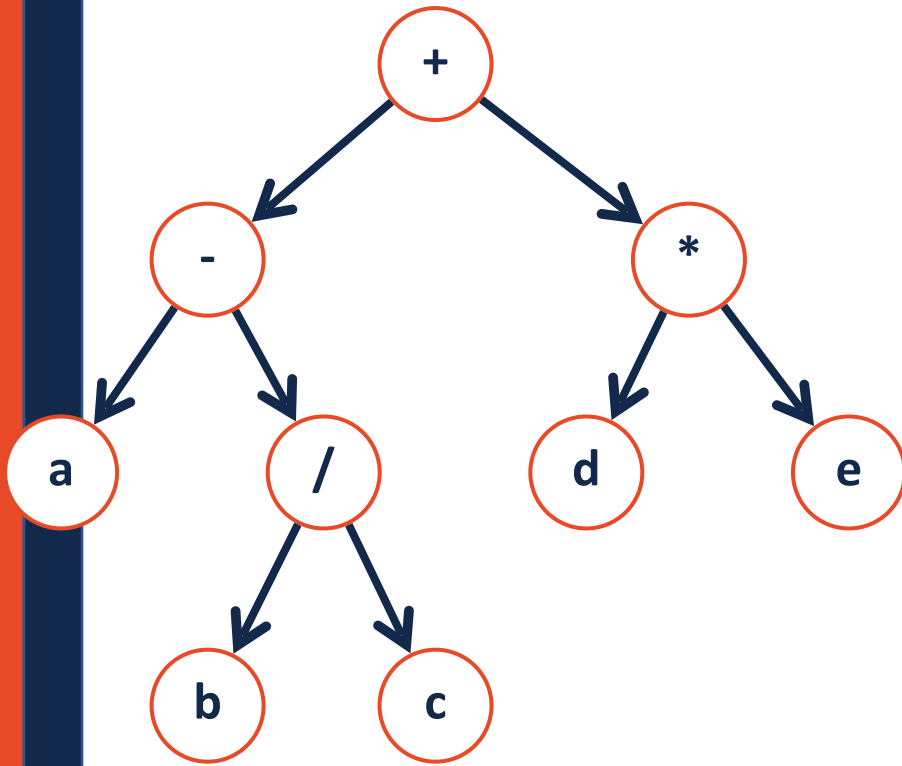
- Enqueue tmp->right



Queue: 1, 2, 11, 3, 5, 8, 10, 4, 6, 7, 9

Print: 1, 2, 3, 5, 4, 6, 11, 8, 7, 10, 9

Level-Order Traversal



```
1 template<class T>
2 bool BinaryTree<T>::BFS_search(TreeNode* root, T&
  query)
3 {
4     if (!root) return false;
5
6     std::queue<TreeNode*> q;
7     q.push(root); // enqueue == push
8
9     while (!q.empty()) {
10         TreeNode* temp = q.front();
11         q.dequeue();
12
13         if (proc(temp->data, query)) return true;
14
15         if (temp->left) q.enqueue(temp->left);
16         if (temp->right) q.enqueue(temp->right);
17     }
18
19     return false;
20 }
```

Tree Search Tradeoffs

How can we improve our ability to search a binary tree?

What do we trade in order to do so?

Tree Search

How can we improve our ability to search a binary tree?

What do we trade in order to do so?