# 2-3-4 trees II: Deletion and alternative forms COMS20010 (Algorithms II) 

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## Summary of a 2-3-4 tree with distinct values (so far)



Finding a value $\boldsymbol{v}$ : Let $x$ be the root. If $v \in x$, return a pointer to $x$. Otherwise, if $x$ is a leaf, return Not Found. Otherwise, let $k$ be such that $x$ is a $k$-node, let $x_{1} \leq \cdots \leq x_{k-1}$ be the values in $x$, let $x_{0}=-\infty$, and let $x_{k}=\infty$; then $x_{i-1}<v<x_{i}$ for some $i$. Let $c$ be the $i$ 'th child of $x$. Then repeat the process from the start, taking $x=c$.

Inserting a value v: First attempt to find $v$ as above, splitting any 4 -nodes encountered (including the root). After reaching a leaf $L$, and splitting it if it is a 4-node, add $v$ to $L$.

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When deleting from a non-leaf, preserving perfect balance is harder.
So let's reduce the problem to deleting from a leaf!


Exercise: If $v$ is not stored in a leaf, then the predecessor $w$ of $v$ - the value just before $v$ in sorted order - will always be in a leaf.

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In general, this will be its own delete operation, and might require fusing/transferring 2-nodes as normal.

## Summary of 2-3-4 tree operations

- Find( $v$ ):
- Descend the tree recursively, using the rule that all children between $x$ and $y$ have values between $x$ and $y$. If you reach a leaf not containing $v$, return Not found.
- Insert( $v$ ):
- Apply Find $(v)$ until reaching the leaf $\ell$ where $v$ would be if it was already in the tree.
- If $\ell$ is a 2 -node or a 3 -node, add $v$ to $\ell$.
- Otherwise, split $\ell$ into 2-nodes and add $v$ to the appropriate new leaf.
- To avoid $\ell$ being a 4-node with a 4-node parent, split 4-nodes on the way down (including the root).
- Delete( $v)$ :
- Apply Find $(v)$ to find the vertex $\ell$ containing $v$.
- If $\ell$ is not a leaf, find $v$ 's predecessor $w$, overwrite $v$ with $w$, and $\operatorname{Delete}(w)$.
- Otherwise, if $\ell$ is a 3-node or a 4-node, delete $v$ from $\ell$.
- Otherwise, if $\ell$ 's left or right sibling is a 3-node or 4-node, transfer from it to make $\ell$ a 3-node, then delete $v$.
- Otherwise, fuse $\ell$ with its 2-node sibling to make $\ell$ a 4-node, then delete $v$.
- To avoid $\ell$ being a 2-node with a 2-node parent, fuse or transfer 2-nodes on the way down (including the root).
All operations take $O(d)$ time and maintain perfect balance. Perfect balance implies that in an $n$-element tree, $d \in O(\log n)$ (exercise!), so we're done.


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