Binary Tree ADT

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Why (proper) binary trees?

- binary trees are a very common type of tree
- proper simplifies the implementation and is not limiting
- in a proper binary tree, every non-leaf node has exactly two children
- can have *dummy leaves* (no element is stored there)
- BinaryTree ADT / implementation ideas can easily be extended to general trees
- can implement general trees in terms of binary trees











Working With Trees – Patterns

Three main ways of moving through trees:

moving up the tree

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- loop with current node being updated to parent until the root is reached
- moving down the tree, interested in only one child
 - loop with current node being updated to child until leaf is reached
- moving down the tree, interested in both children

 recursion (left child and right child), with leaf as base case

(note – these are general patterns; modify specifics like starting or ending point as needed for a particular task)





Working With Trees – Patterns









Implementing BinaryTree – TreeNode





