

# 2-3 trees

*Edited from:*

*<https://cs.mtsu.edu/~jhankins/files/3110/presentations/2-3Trees.ppt>*

# Motivation

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- Binary search trees need  $O(n)$  time for search, insertion and deletion.
- Would like to have a tree which self balances itself with every deletion and insertion to maintain as much a balanced tree as possible wherein all leaves are at the same level

# Properties

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- Each node has either one value or two values
- A node with one value is either a leaf node or **has exactly two children** (non-null).  
 $\text{Val}(\text{left subtree}) < \text{val}(\text{node}) < \text{val}(\text{right subtree})$
- A node with two values is either a leaf node or **has exactly three children** (non-null).

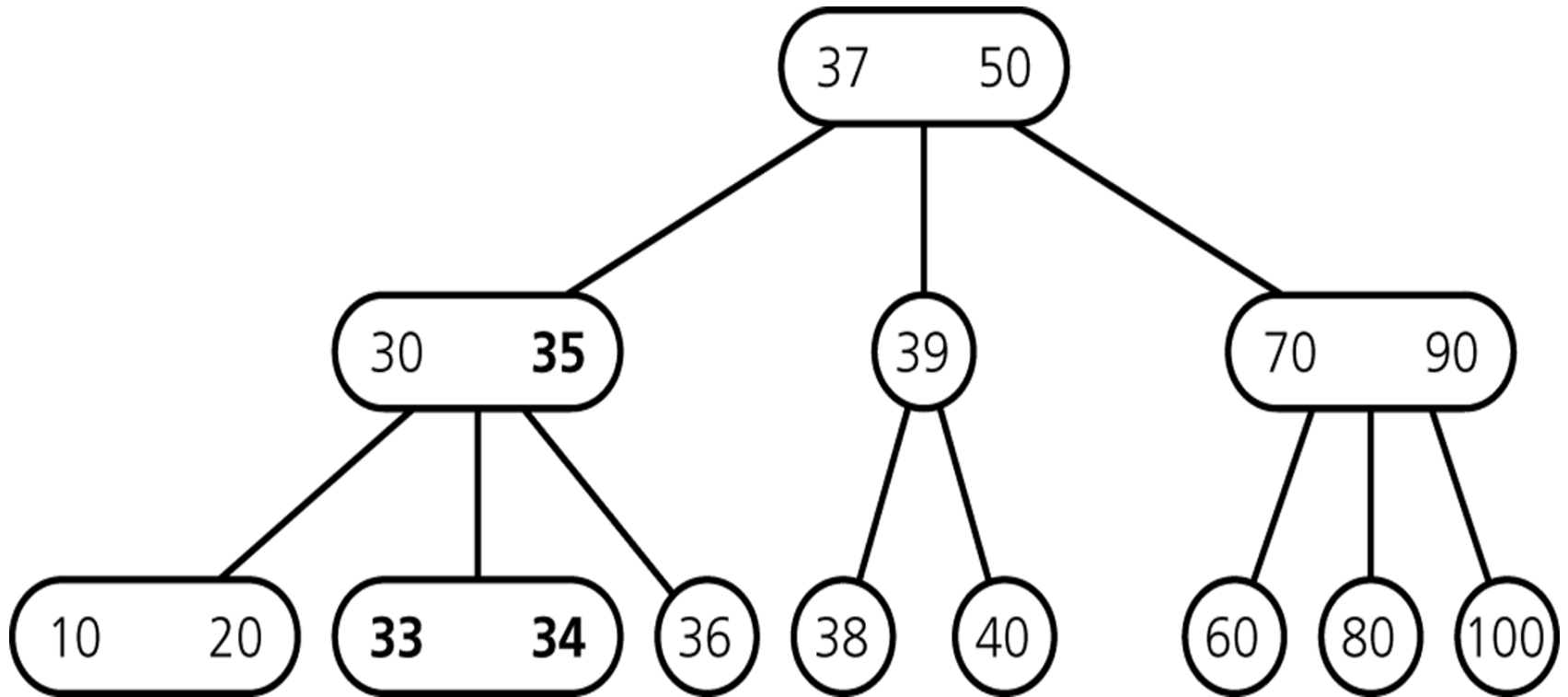
$\text{Val}(\text{left subtree}) < \text{val}(\text{first value in node}) < \text{val}(\text{middle subtree}) < \text{val}(\text{second value in node}) < \text{val}(\text{right subtree})$ .

- All leaf nodes are **at the same level** of the tree

- 23 tree has height  $O(\log n)$ . Why?

# 23 tree

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# Insertion

# Three cases for insertion

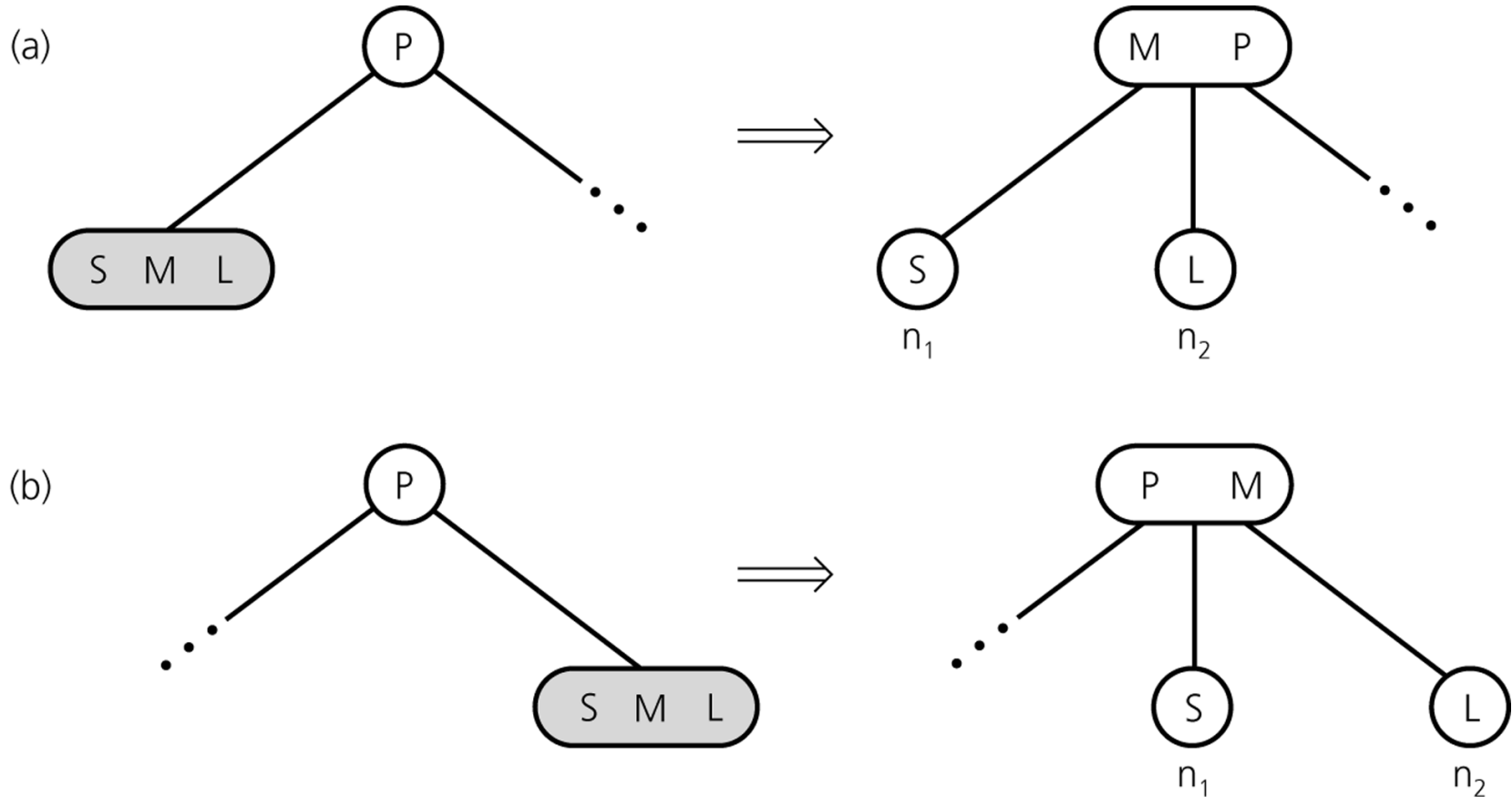
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**Case 1: Insert into a leaf node with space**

**Case 2: Insert into a full leaf with parent with space**

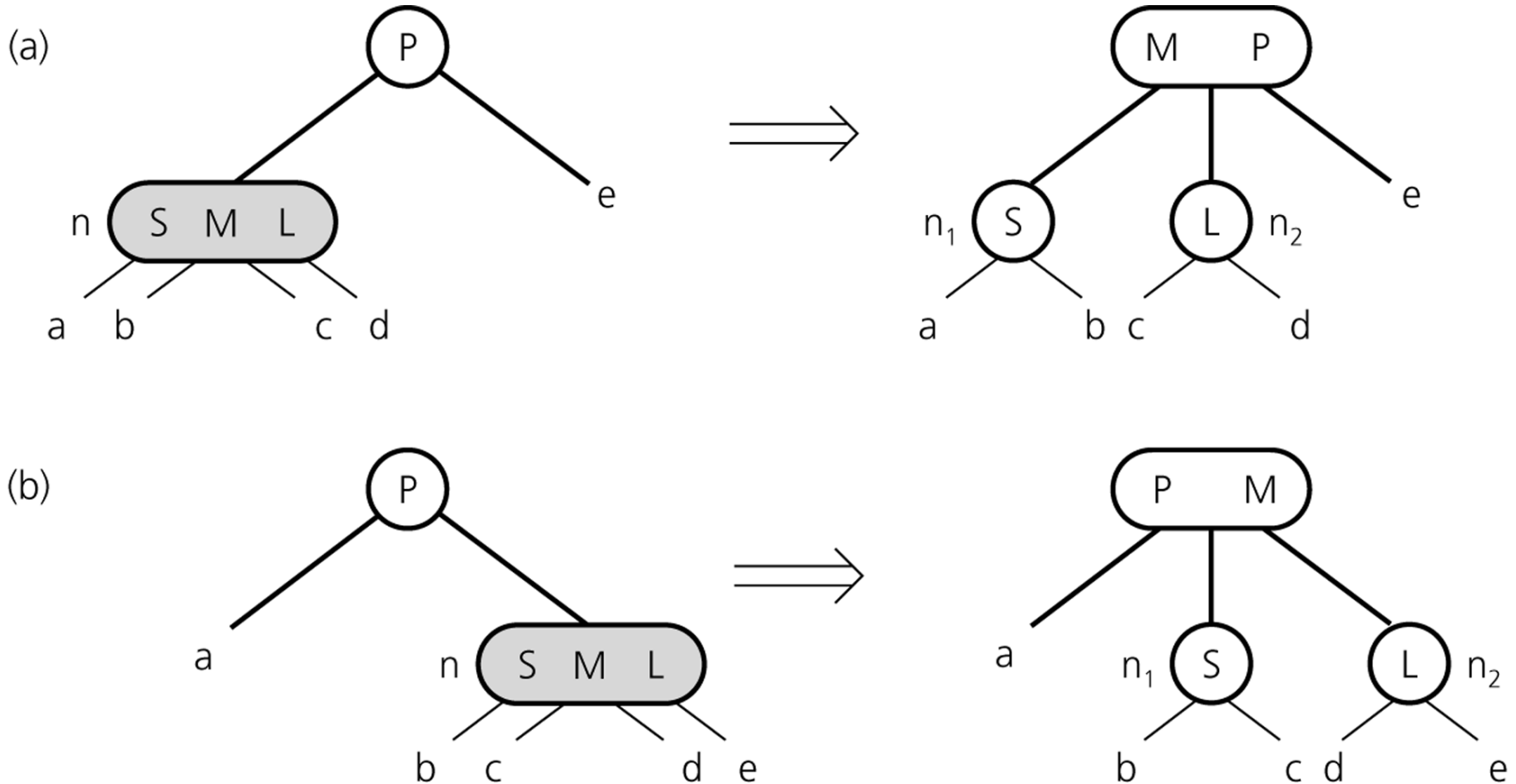
**Case 3: Insert into a full leaf with parent without space.**

# Inserting into full node (Case2)



# Inserting so far(Case 3)

Say node with b,c which was middle child of node with S,L had M inserted. Then M goes up to node SL as shown

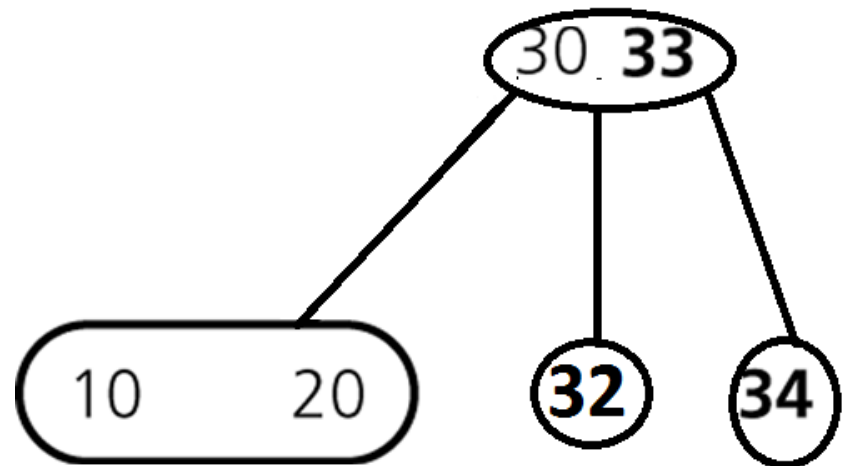
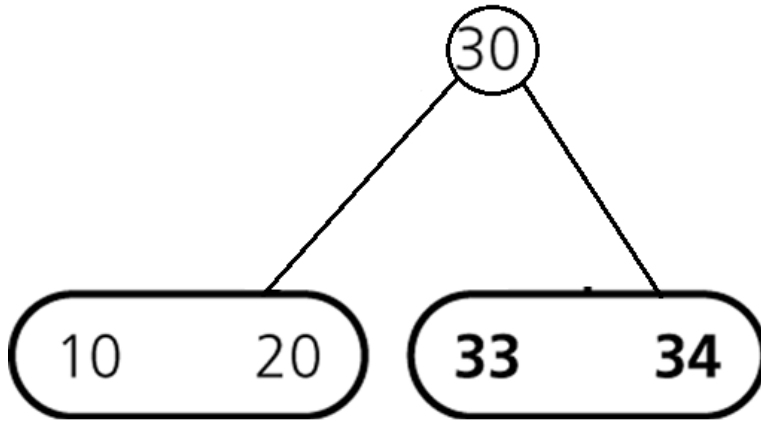




# Inserting Items

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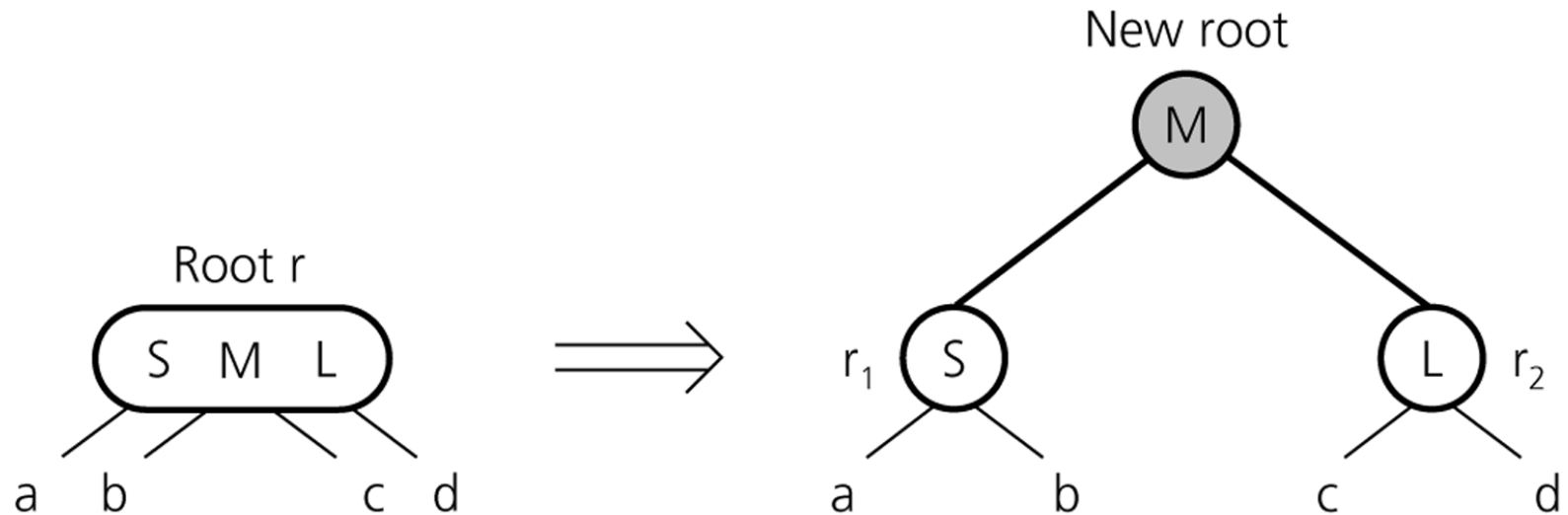
How do we insert 32?



# Inserting Items

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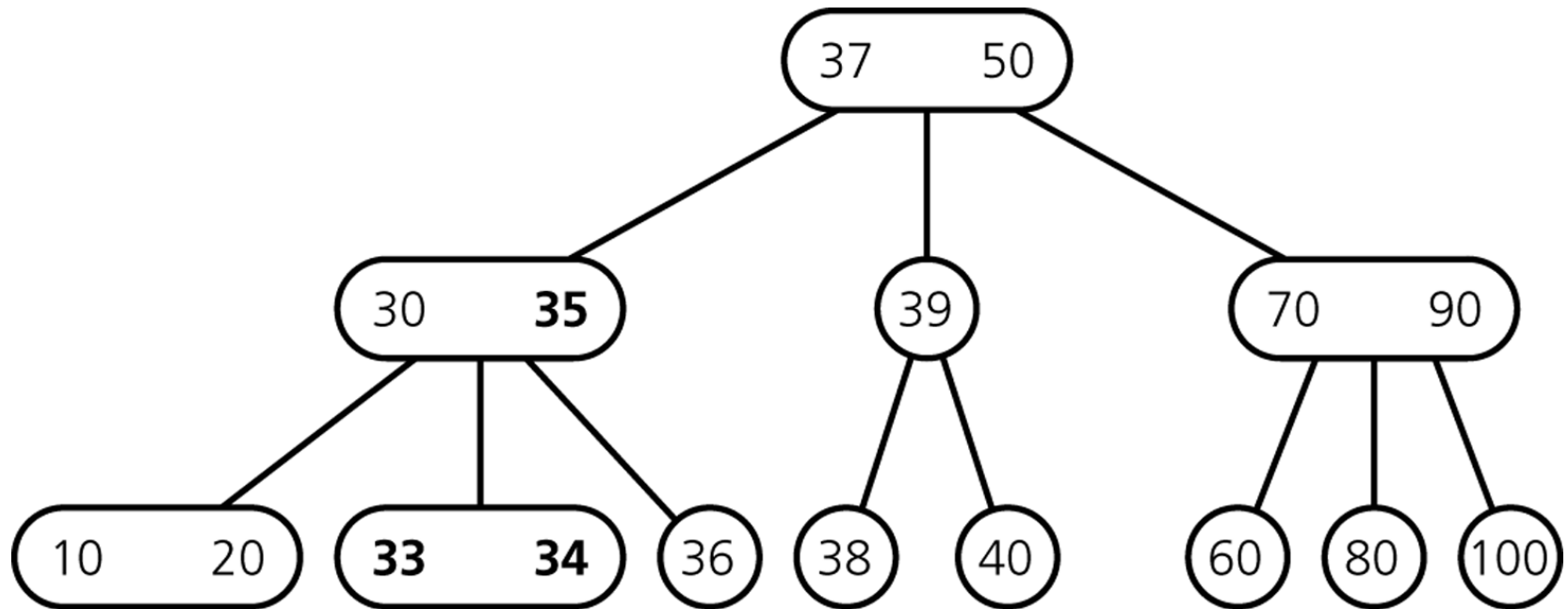
- creating a new root if necessary
- tree grows at the root



# Inserting Items

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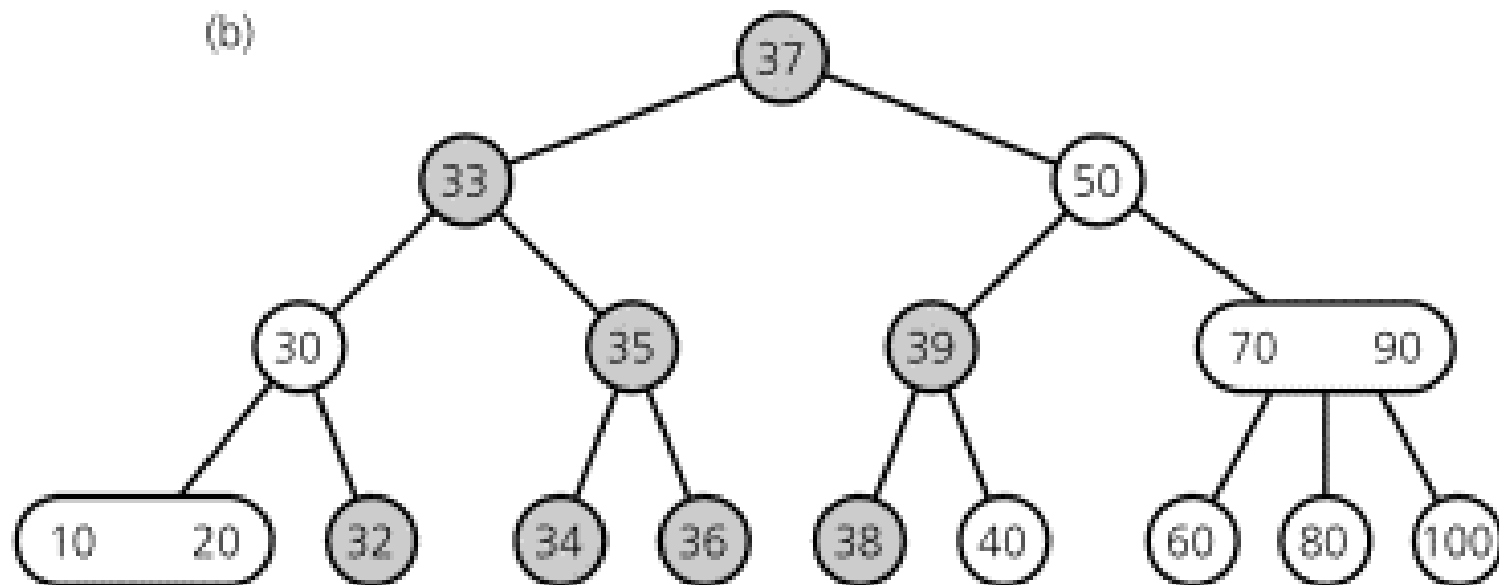
How do we insert 32?



# Inserting Items

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## Final Result



# Insert the following

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**Insert into the 23 tree in the below sequence**

**40 30 34 50 36 80 9 37 20 100 38**

**70 60 39 90 33 35 95**

# Notes

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The height of the 23 tree increases upwards

If a leaf can accommodate the new element then done

Else send the middle element up(iteratively until new root formed)

When an element goes up it takes with it an new pointer to a child increasing the number of children of the parent node from 2 to 3(element found a place) or from 3 to 4 (element splits current node by sending mid element to parent node).

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# Deletion

# Step 1

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Deletion happens at the leaf node.

If the node to be deleted is not on a leaf node:  
swap it with the closest successor.

The node to be deleted is now in a leaf node !!

If tree on deletion is not 23 then you either redistribute or merge.

-Redistribution: When an empty node has a two item sibling(recreates a 23 tree)

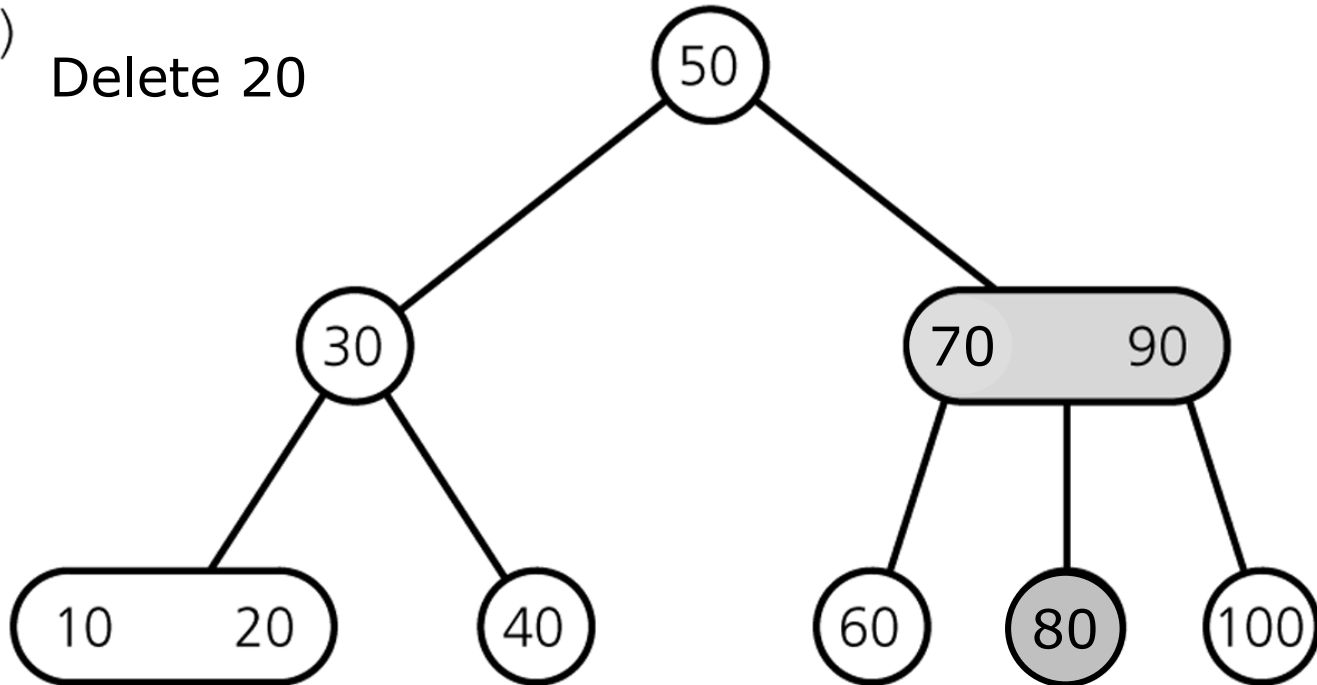
-Merging: When an empty node has a sibling with single item(might need multiple iterations that propagates upwards until a 23 tree is restored)



# Case 1: two keys

If the leaf has two keys

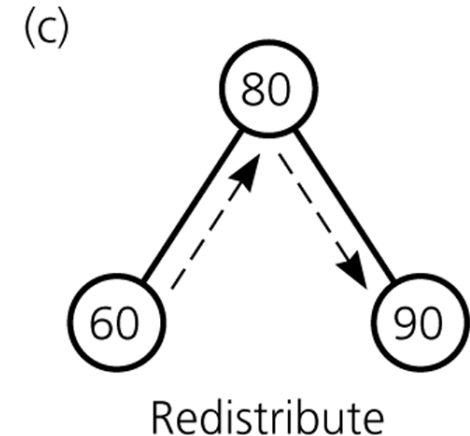
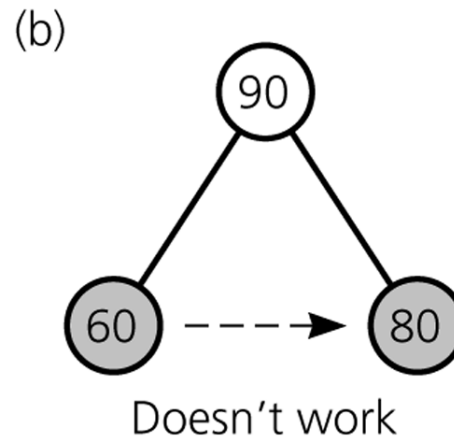
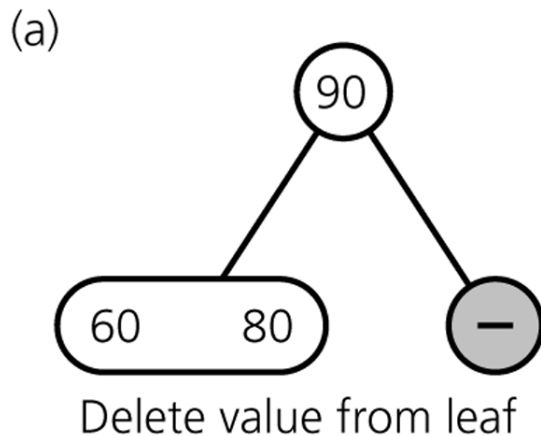
(a) Delete 20



Swap with inorder successor

# Case 2: Redistribution

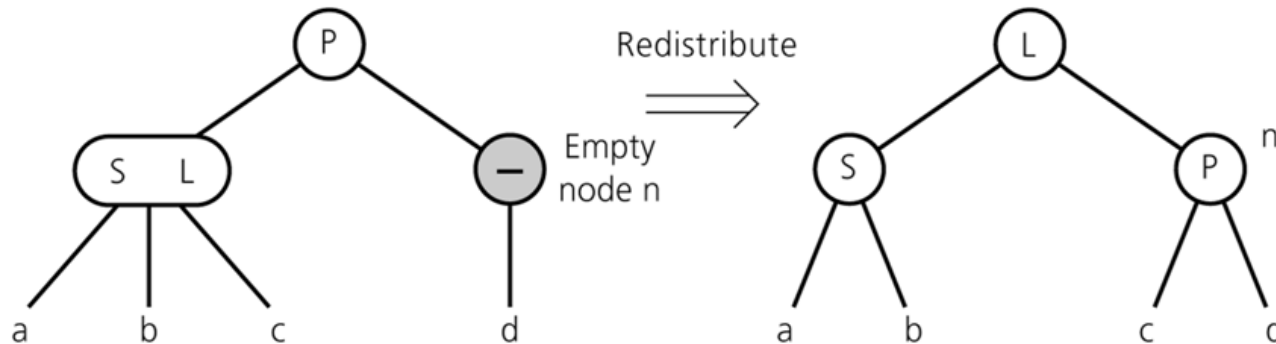
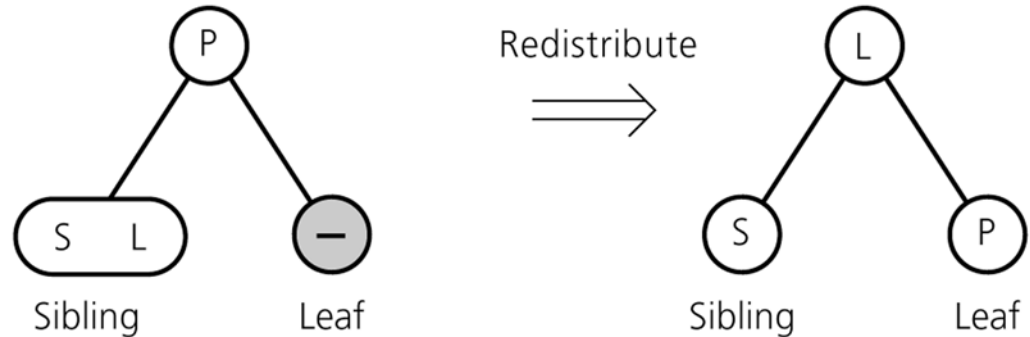
If item to be deleted is a single key and sibling has two keys



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## Redistribution

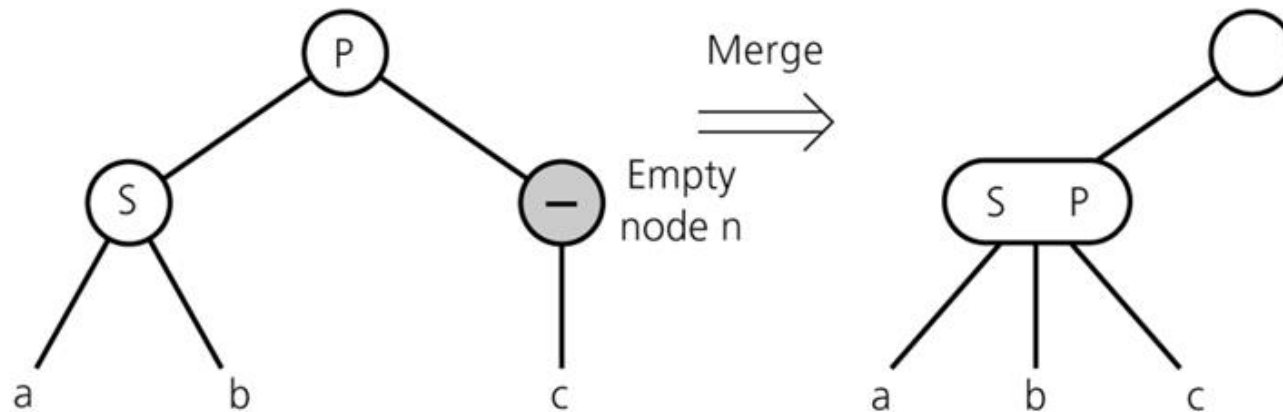
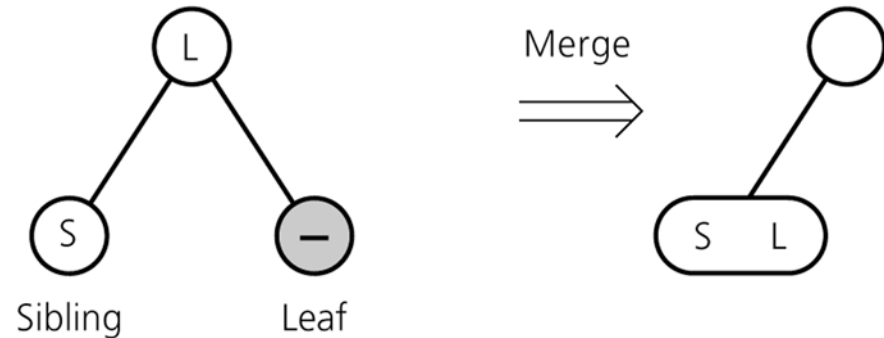
A sibling has 2 items:  
→ redistribute item  
between siblings  
and parent



# Case 3: Merging

When single key node  
to be deleted and sibling  
Has single key

- move item from parent to sibling
- adopt child of  $n$

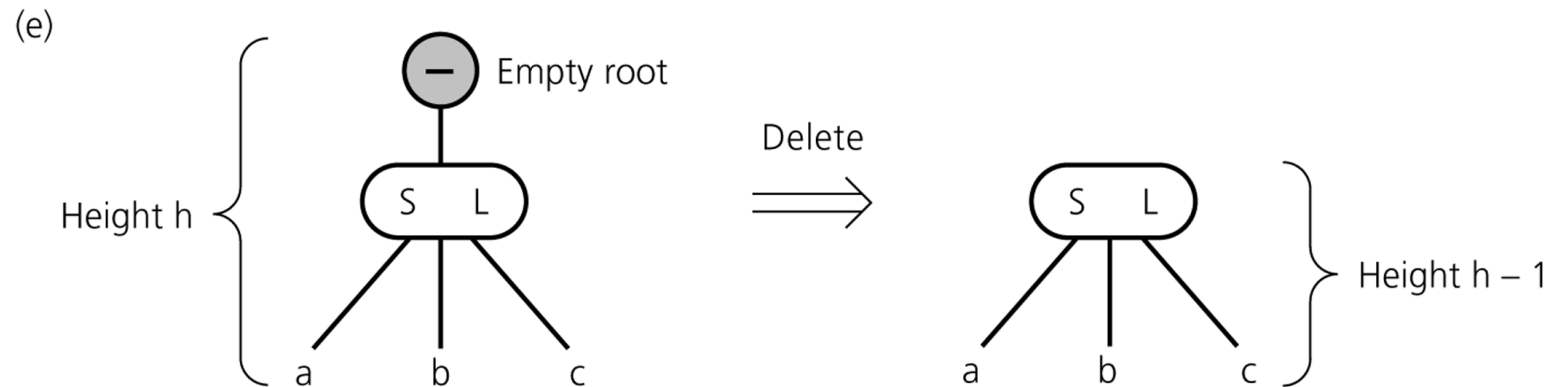


If  $n$ 's parent ends up without item, apply process recursively

# Merging till root

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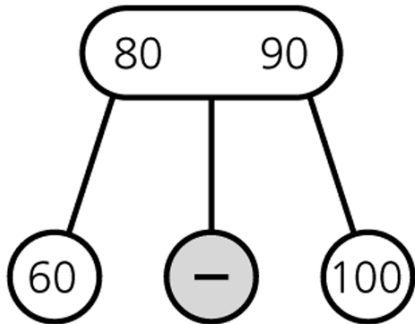
If merging process reaches the root and root is without item  
→ delete root



# Merge with: double key node

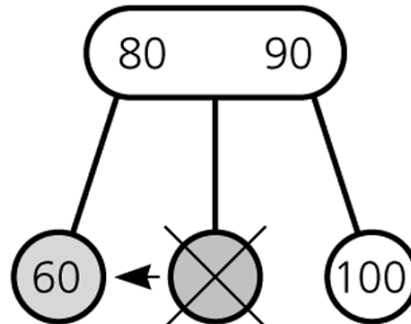
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(b)



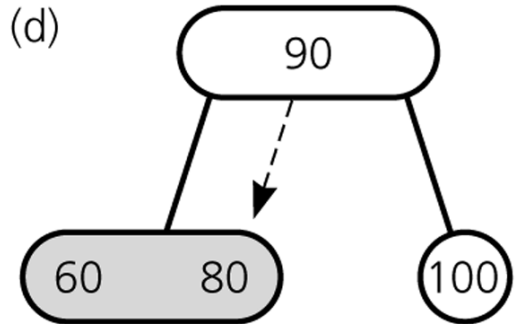
Delete value from leaf

(c)



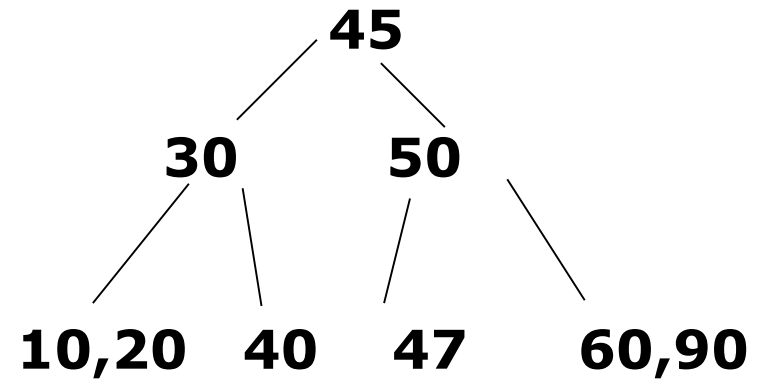
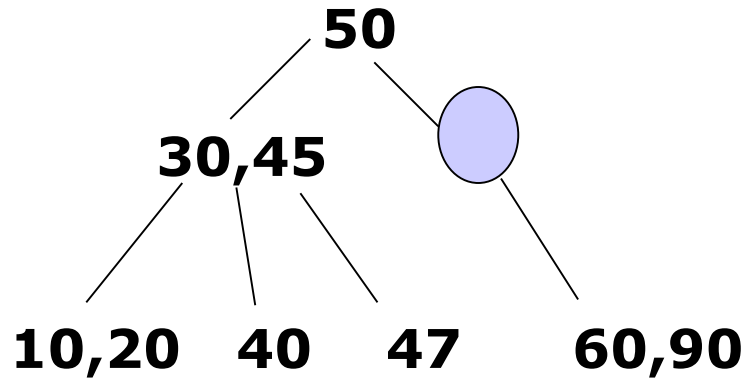
Merge nodes by deleting empty leaf and moving 80 down

(d)



# Try

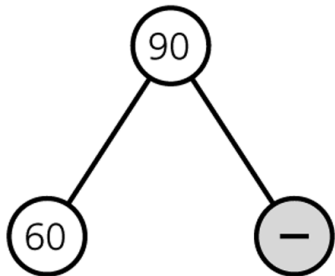
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# Merge with single key sibling -1

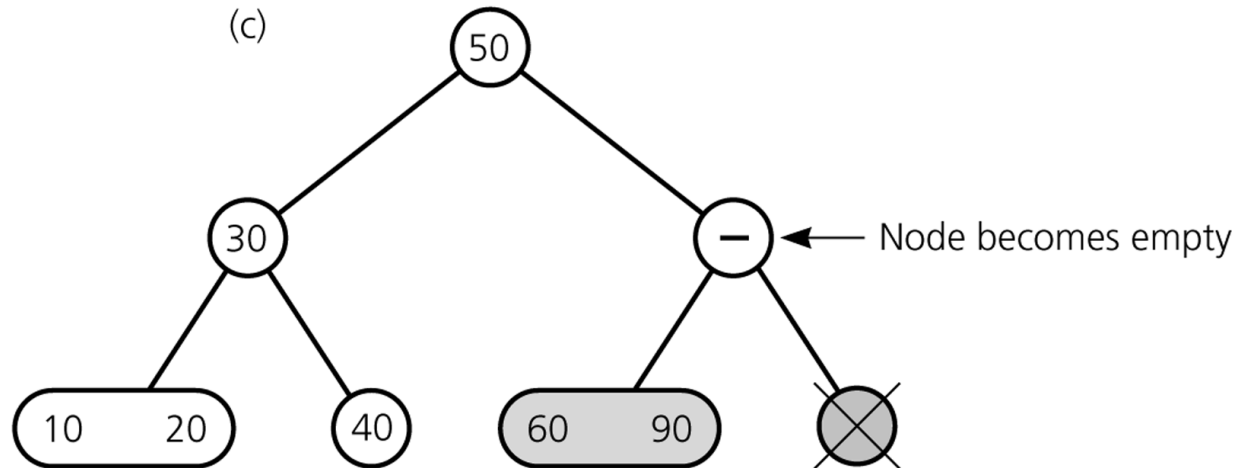
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(b)



Delete value from leaf

(c)

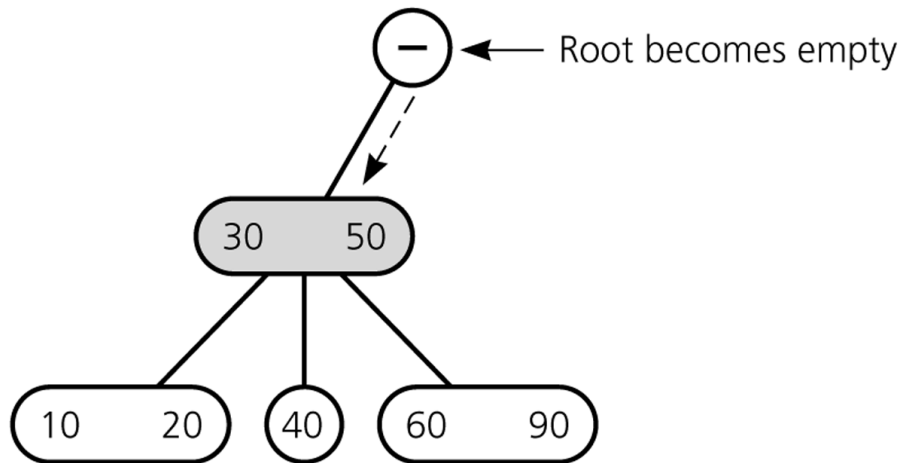


Merge by moving 90 down and removing empty leaf



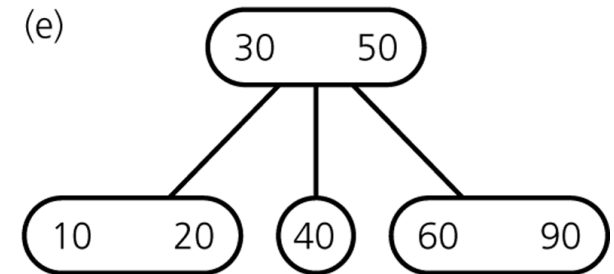
# Example: Merge with single key sibling -continued

(d)



Merge: move 50 down, adopt empty leaf's child, remove empty node

(e)



Remove empty root

# Delete the following

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**After having Inserted the below**

**40 30 34 50 36 80 9 37 20 100 38**

**70 60 39 90 33 35 95**

**Delete 36, 40,60, 70,80,9 ,30**

# Conclusion

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23 tree is a balanced binary tree satisfying three properties

- leaf nodes at same level
- every 2 node must have three children
- every 1 node must have two children

Insertion: Always at leaf. If no space push middle element up which might propagate till root increasing tree height.

Deletion: Starts at leaf. Three methods

- simple delete: removes one out of two elements in leaf node
- redistribution
- merging: but might propagate upwards till root. Can reduce tree height by 1.