

# Binary Search Tree (BST)

# Lecture Question

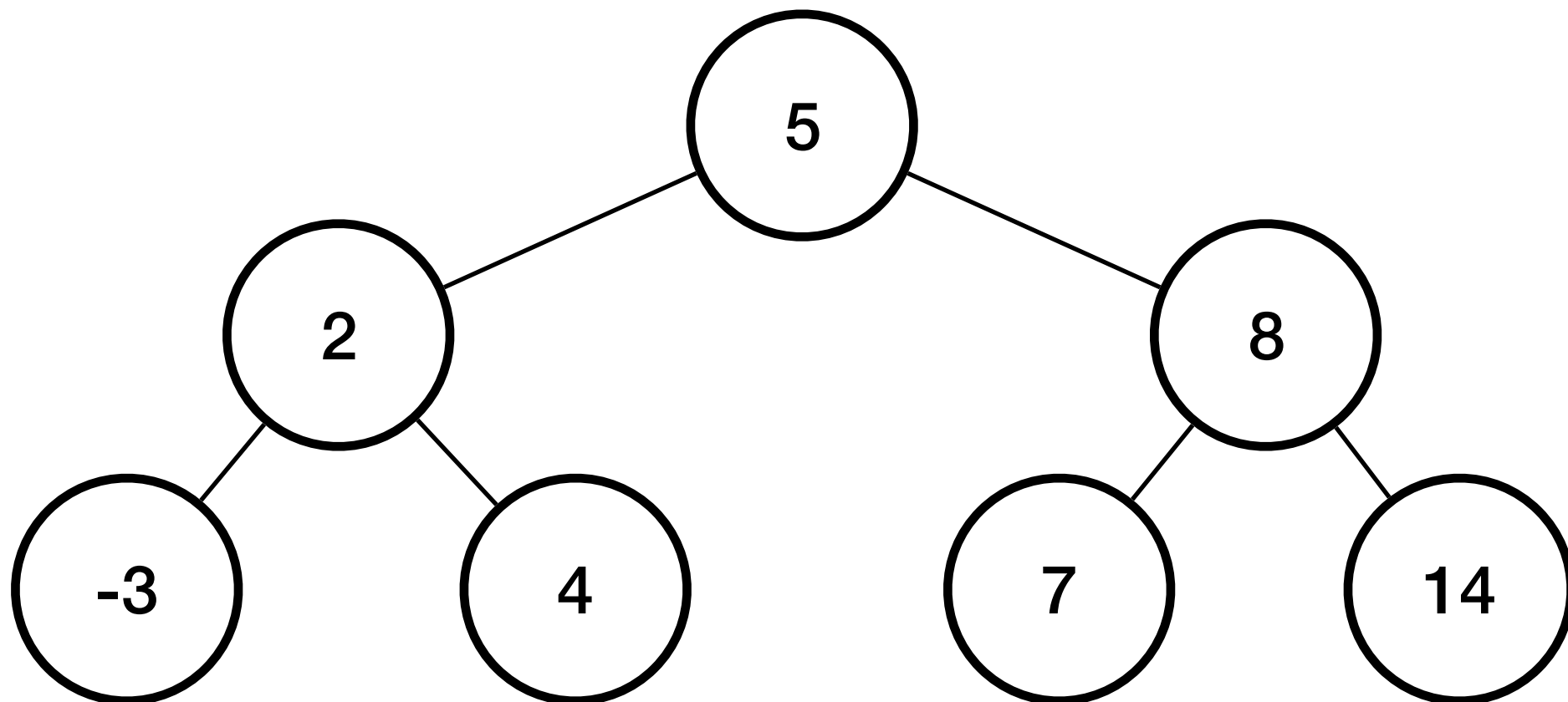
**Task: Write a method to convert a BST to a List**

- In the `week12.BinarySearchTree` class write a method named `toList` that takes no parameters and returns the values of the tree in a List in sorted order

- \* 20 points
- \* Due tomorrow night

# BST - Definition

- For each node:
  - All values in the left subtree are less than the node's value
  - All values in the right subtree are greater than the node's value
  - Duplicate values handled differently based on implementation
    - Sometimes not allowed at all



# BST - Code

- To make the BST generic
  - Take a type parameter
  - Take a comparator to decide the sorted order
- Store a reference to the root node

```
class BinarySearchTree[A](comparator: (A, A) => Boolean) {  
    var root: BinaryTreeNode[A] = null  
  
    def insert(a: A): Unit  
    def find(a: A): BinaryTreeNode[A]  
}
```

# BST - Usage

```
class BinarySearchTree[A](comparator: (A, A) => Boolean) {  
    var root: BinaryTreeNode[A] = null  
  
    def insert(a: A): Unit  
    def find(a: A): BinaryTreeNode[A]  
}
```

```
val intLessThan = (a: Int, b: Int) => a < b  
val bst = new BinarySearchTree[Int](intLessThan)  
bst.insert(5)  
bst.insert(2)  
bst.insert(8)  
bst.insert(4)  
bst.insert(7)  
bst.insert(14)  
bst.insert(-3)  
  
val node = bst.find(4)
```

# BST - Find

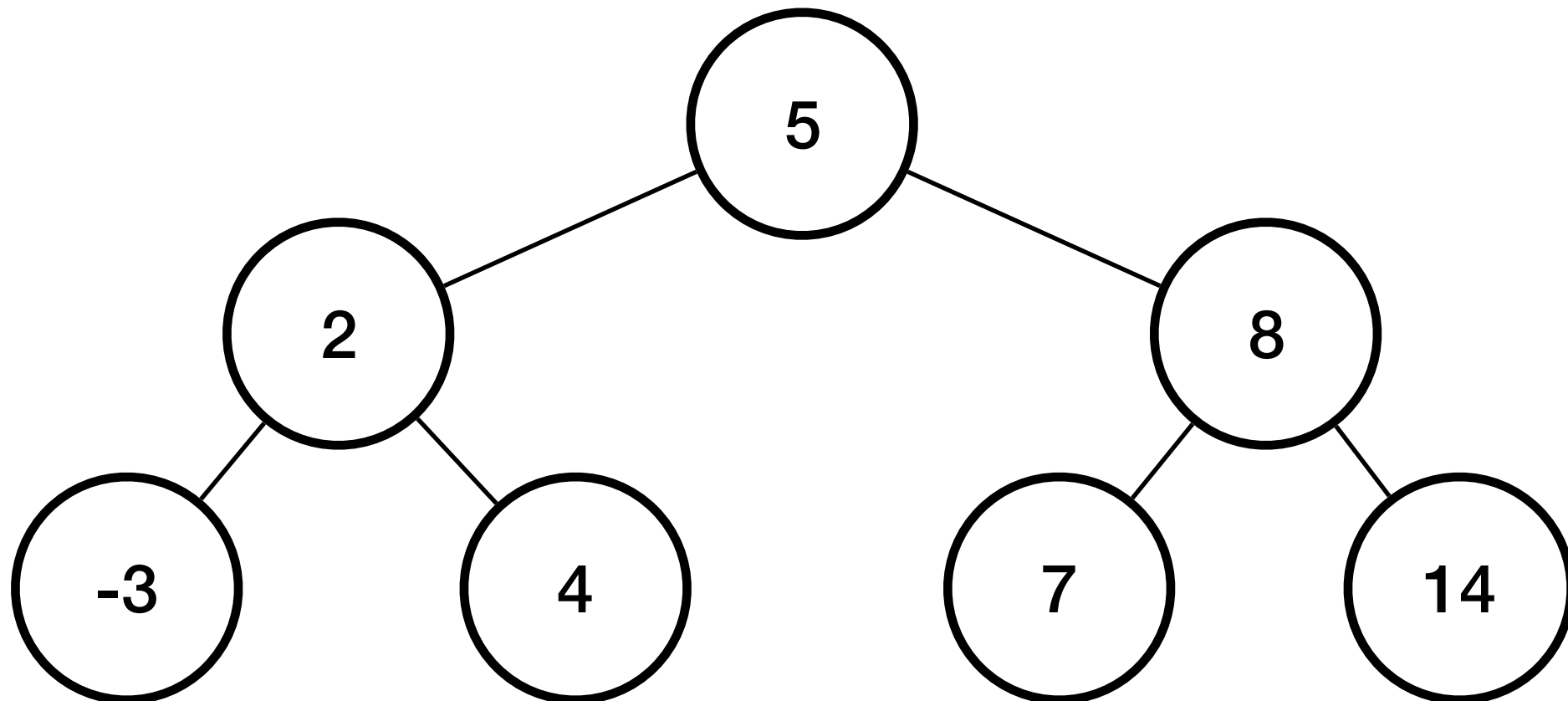
- If the value to find is less than the value of the node - Move to the left child
- If the value to find is greater than the value of the node - Move to right child
- If value is found - return this node

```
def find(a: A): BinaryTreeNode[A] = {  
    findHelper(a, this.root)  
}
```

```
def findHelper(a: A, node: BinaryTreeNode[A]): BinaryTreeNode[A] = {  
    if(node == null){  
        null  
    }else if(comparator(a, node.value)){  
        findHelper(a, node.left)  
    }else if(comparator(node.value, a)){  
        findHelper(a, node.right)  
    }else{  
        node  
    }  
}
```

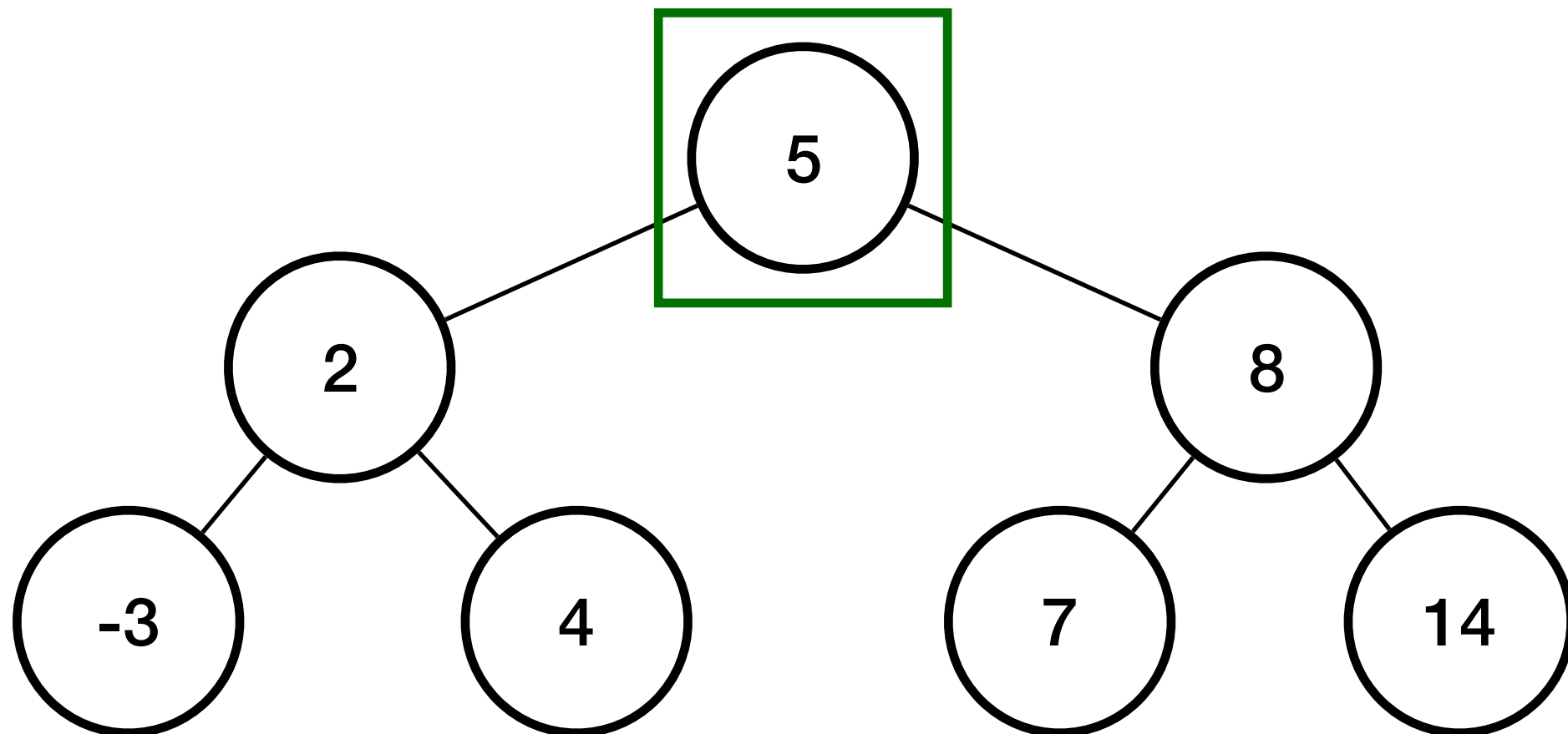
# BST - Find

- Find the value 4



# BST - Find

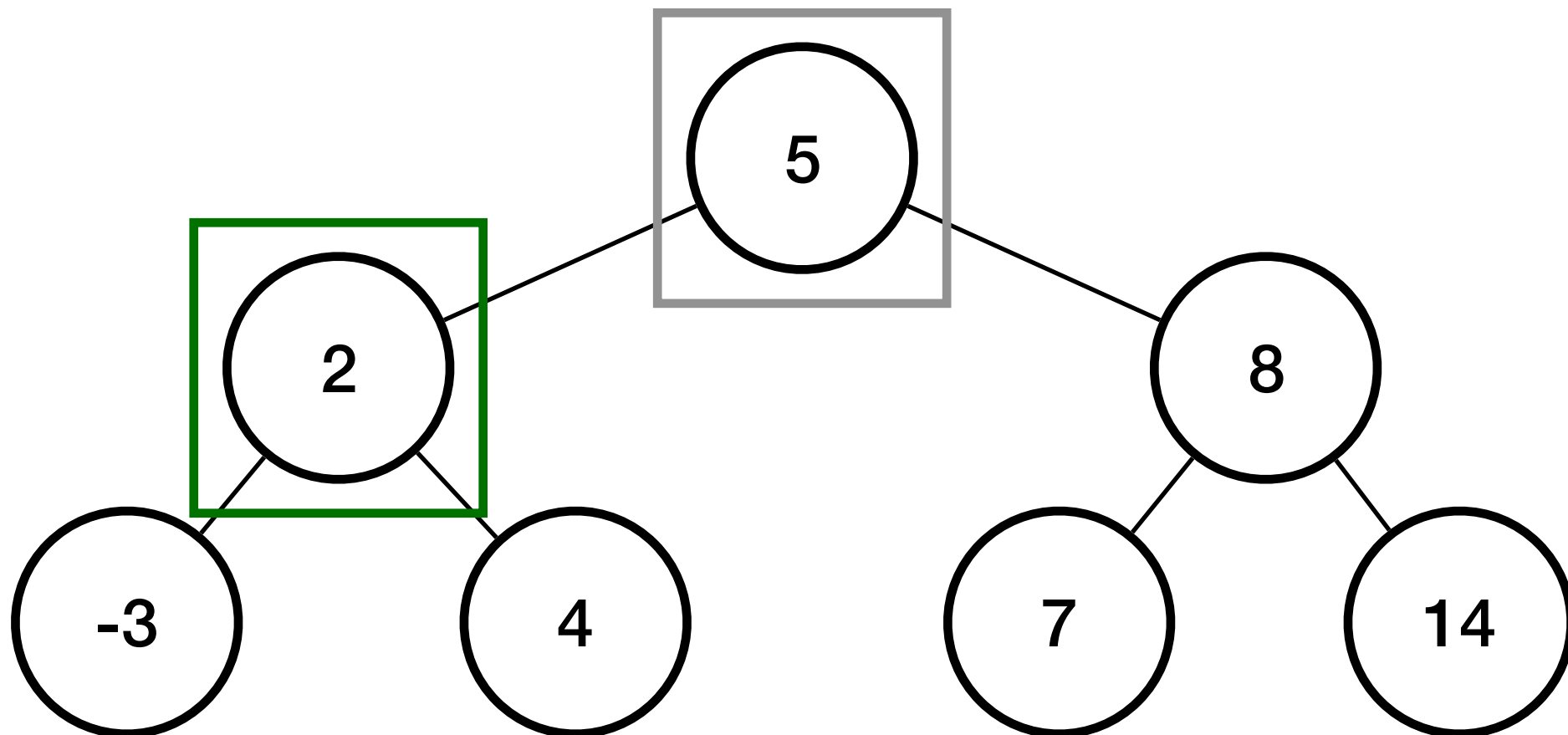
- Find the value 4
- $4 < 5$





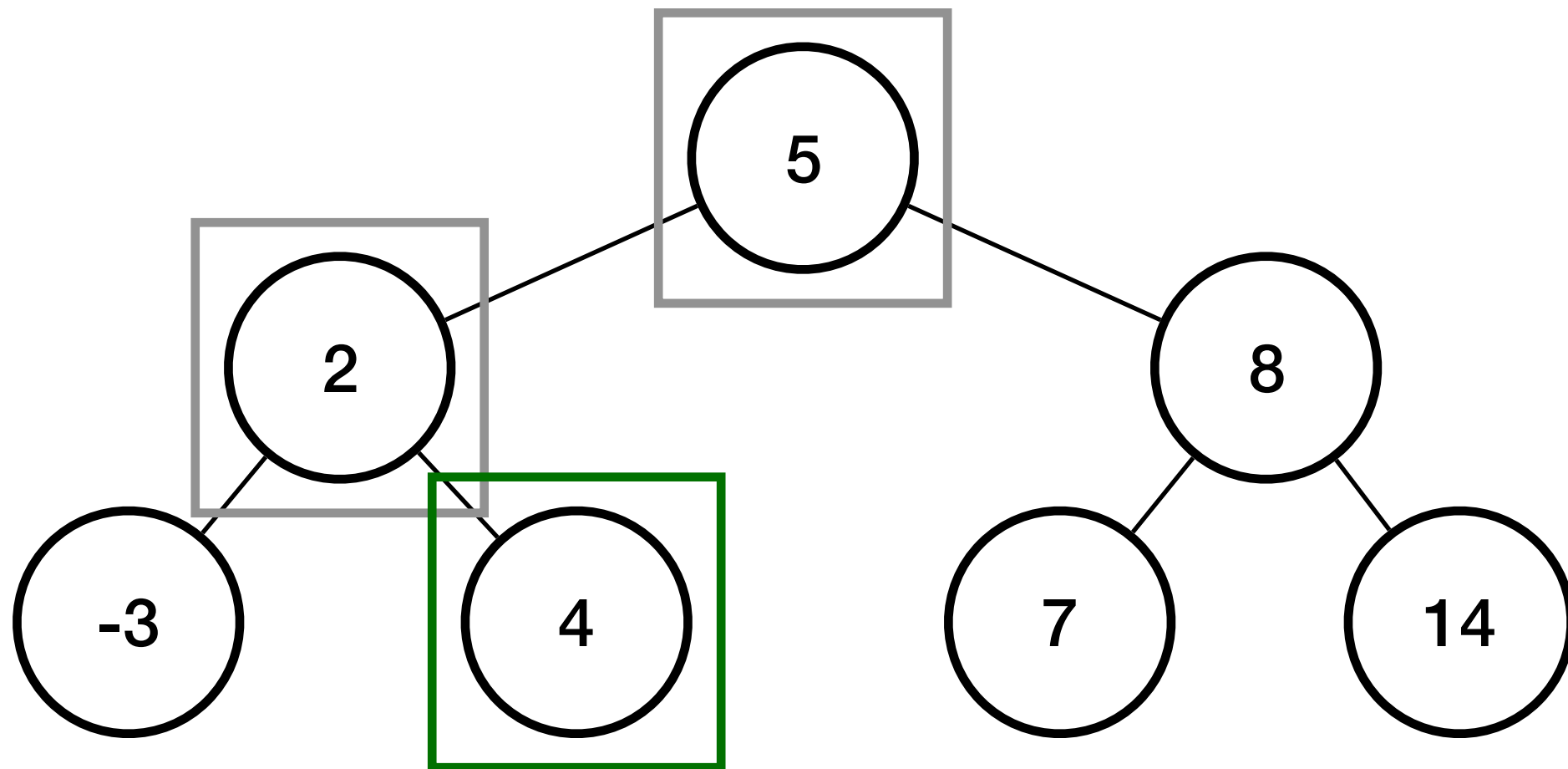
# BST - Find

- Find the value 4
- $4 < 5$
- $4 > 2$



# BST - Find

- Find the value 4
- $4 < 5$
- $2 < 4$
- $4 == 4$  - return this node



# BST - Insert

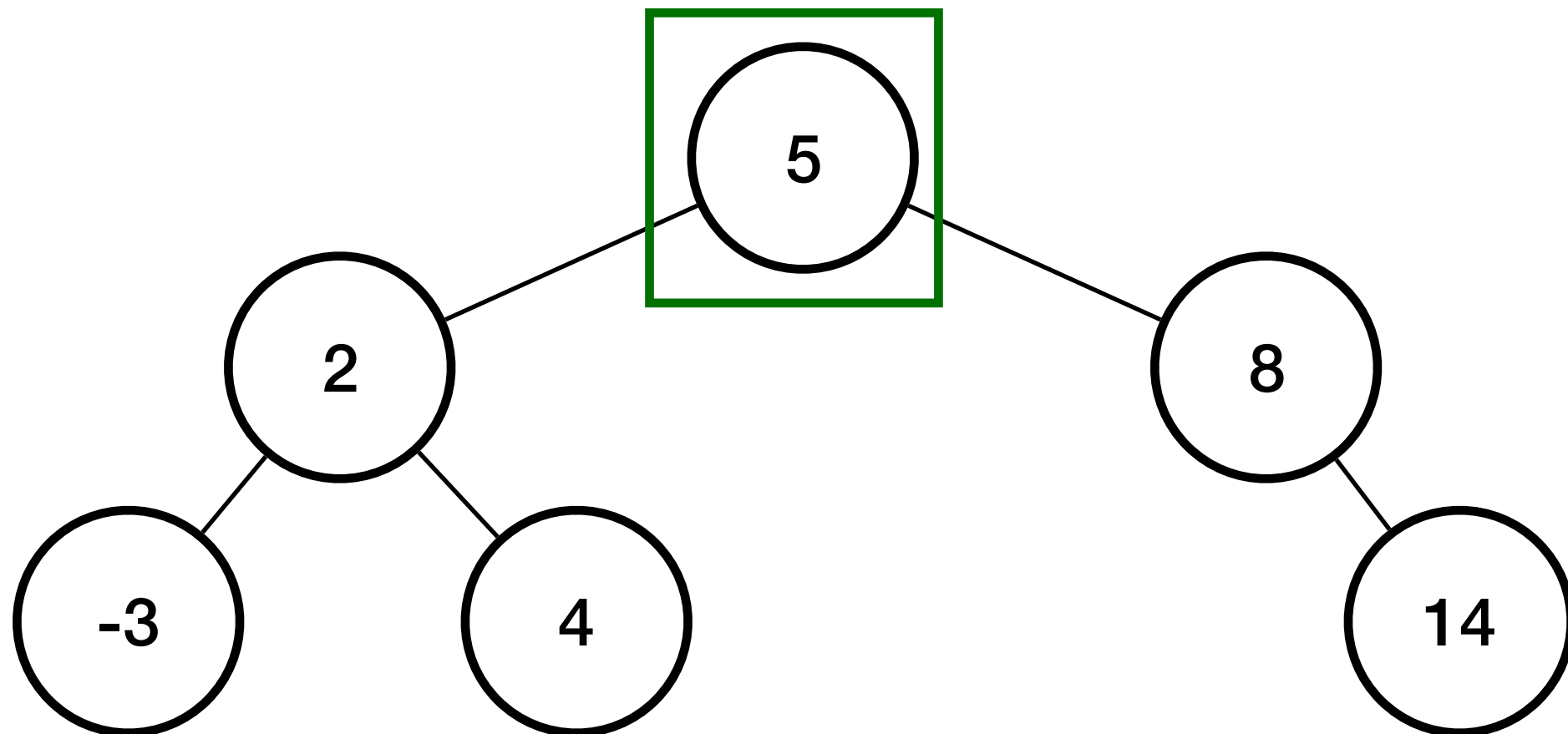
- Run find until a null node is reached - insert new node here
- If value is a duplicate, move to the left

```
def insert(a: A): Unit = {  
  if(this.root == null){  
    this.root = new BinaryTreeNode(a, null, null)  
  }else{  
    insertHelper(a, this.root)  
  }  
}
```

```
def insertHelper(a: A, node: BinaryTreeNode[A]): Unit = {  
  if(comparator(node.value, a)){  
    if(node.right == null){  
      node.right = new BinaryTreeNode[A](a, null, null)  
    }else{  
      insertHelper(a, node.right)  
    }  
  }else{  
    if(node.left == null){  
      node.left = new BinaryTreeNode[A](a, null, null)  
    }else{  
      insertHelper(a, node.left)  
    }  
  }  
}
```

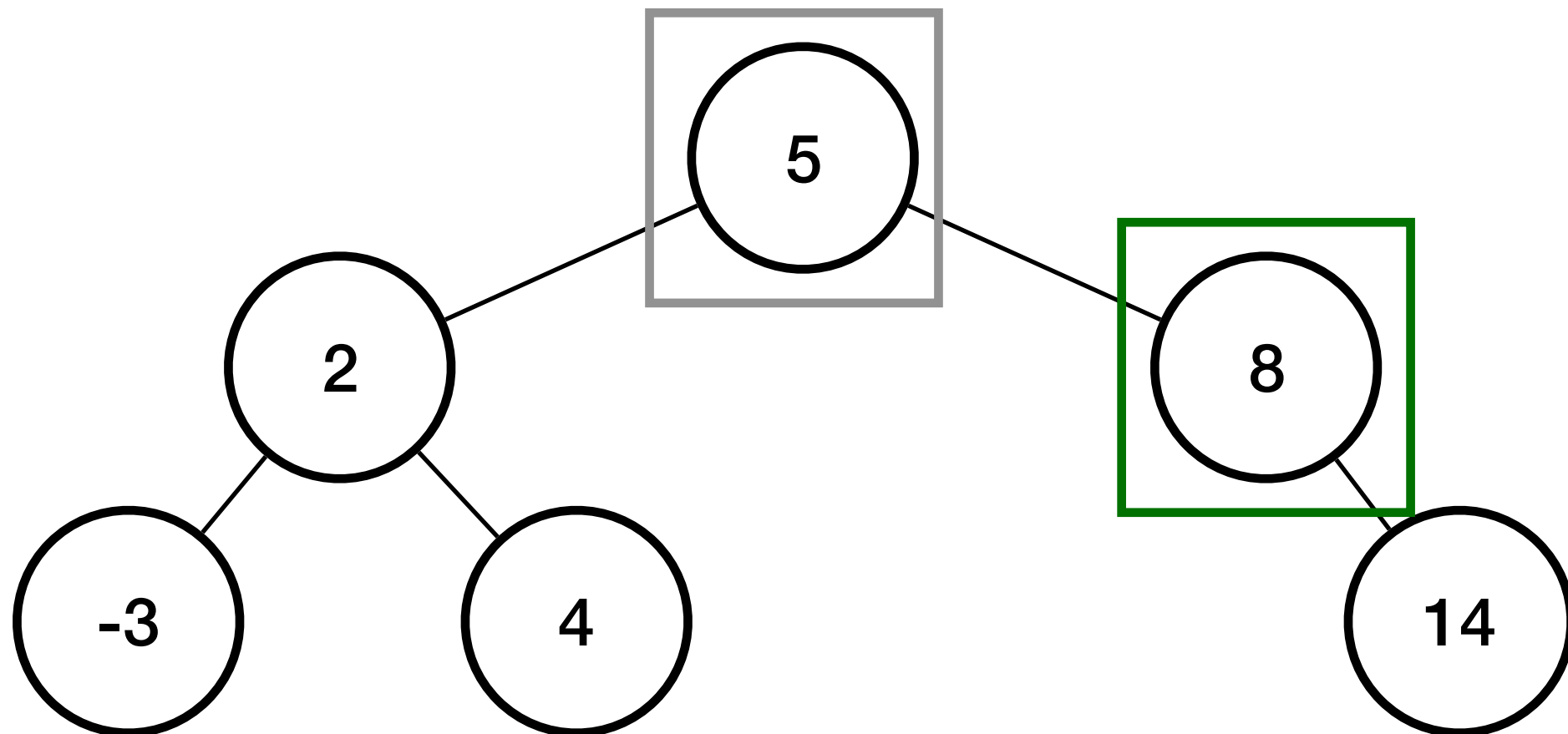
# BST - Insert

- Insert 7



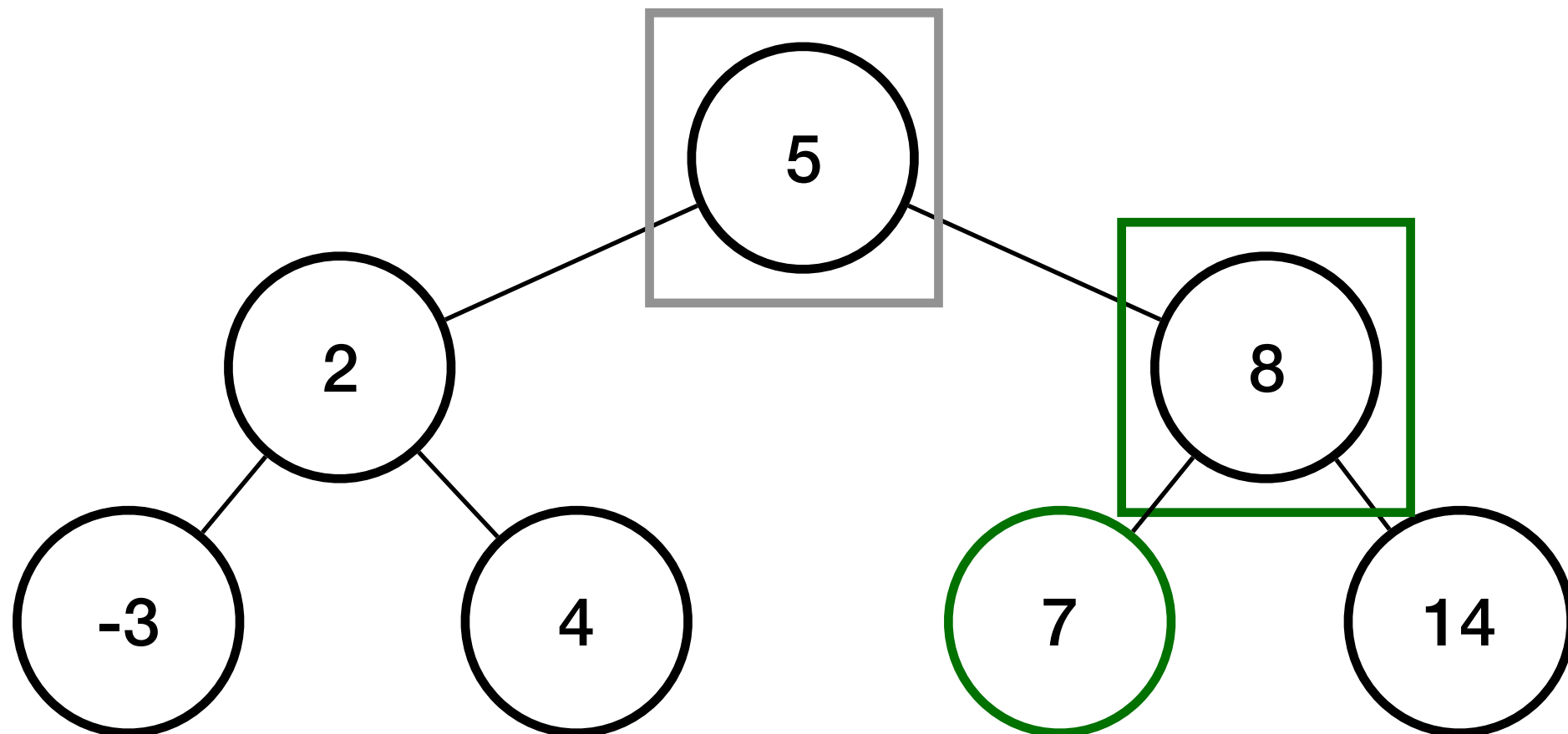
# BST - Insert

- Insert 7
- $5 < 7$



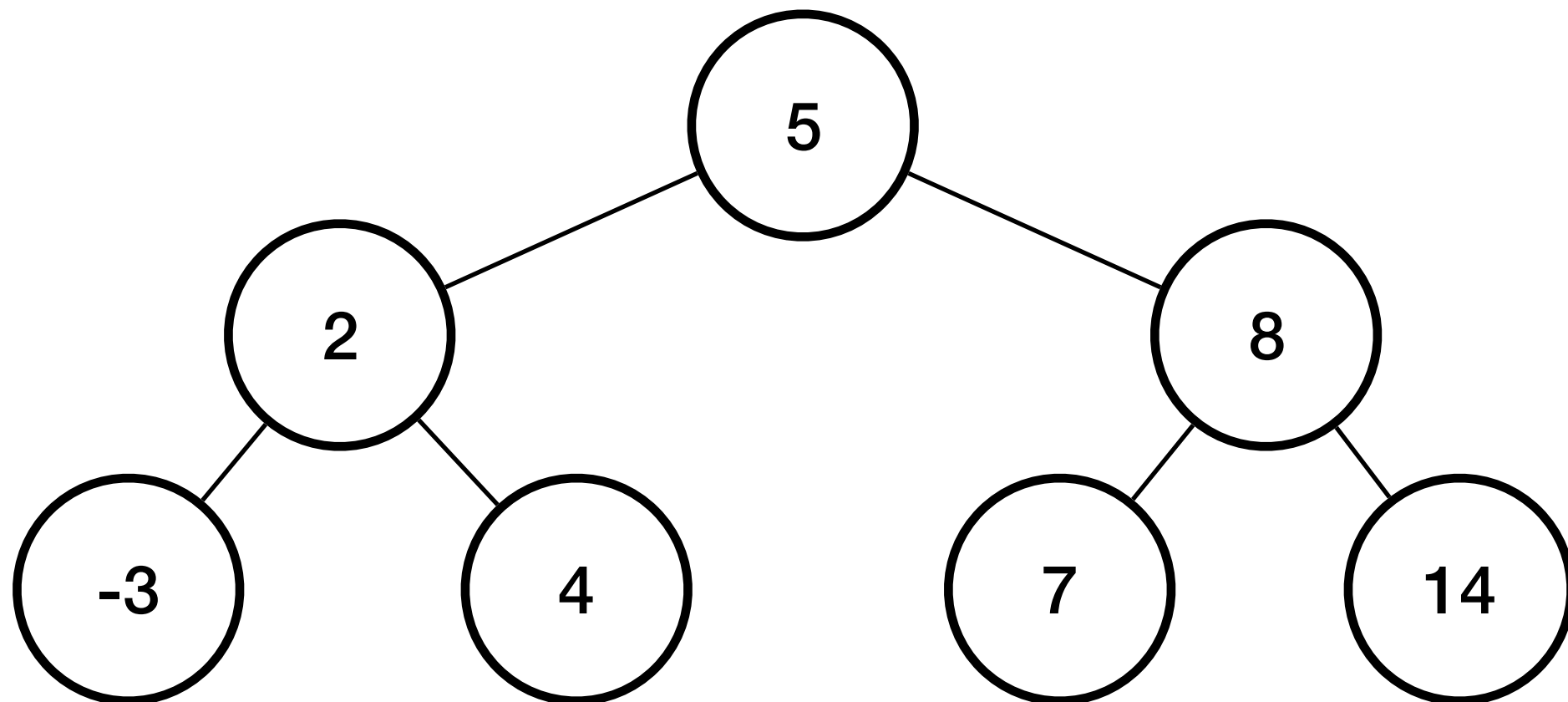
# BST - Insert

- Insert 7
- $5 < 7$
- $7 < 8$  and left child is null - Insert here



# BST - Insert

- Insert 7
- $5 < 7$
- $7 < 8$  and left child is null - Insert here

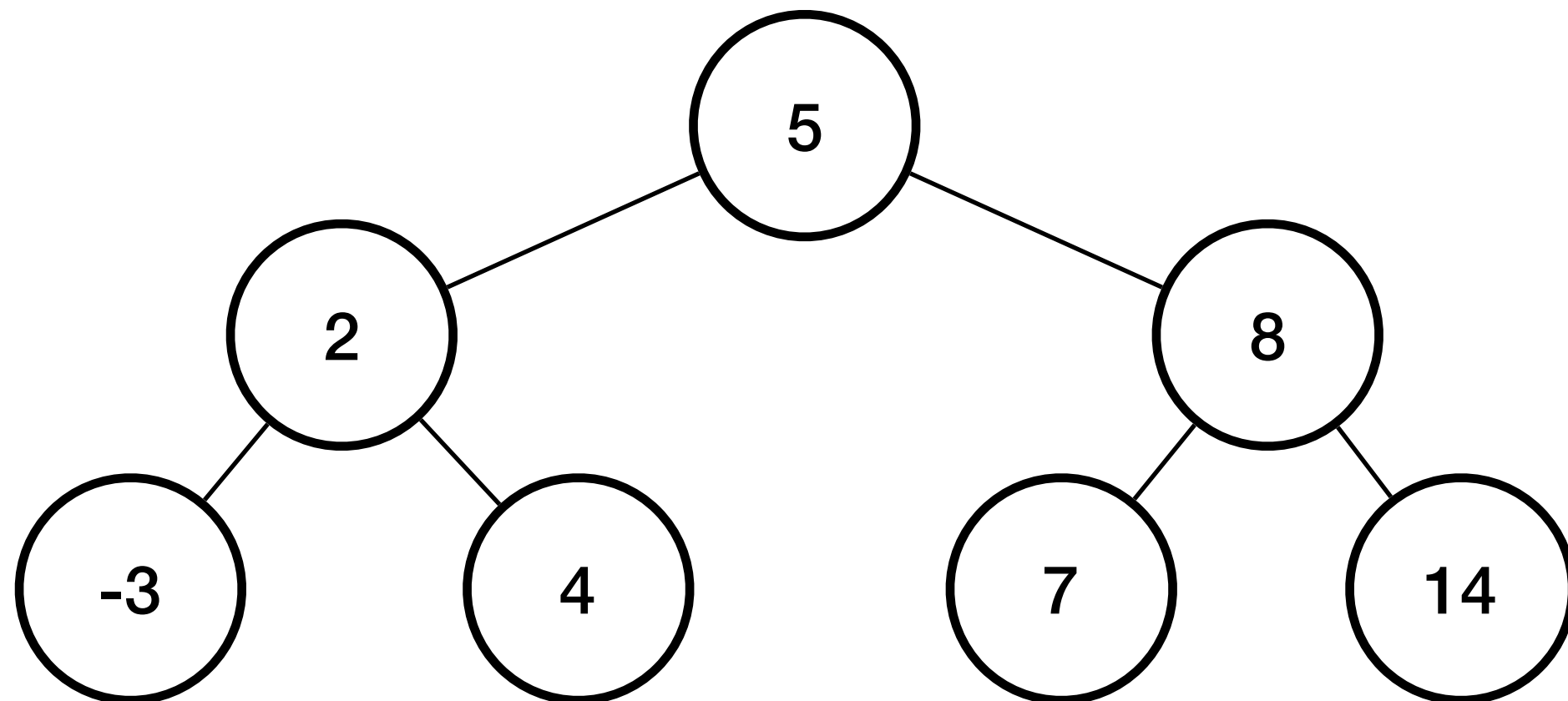


# In-Order Traversal

- In-Order traversal of a BST iterates over the values in sorted order
- Visit all elements of the left subtree
  - Elements less than the node's value
- Visit the node's value
- Visit all elements of the right subtree
  - Elements greater than the node's value

**Printed:**

-3  
2  
4  
5  
7  
8  
14





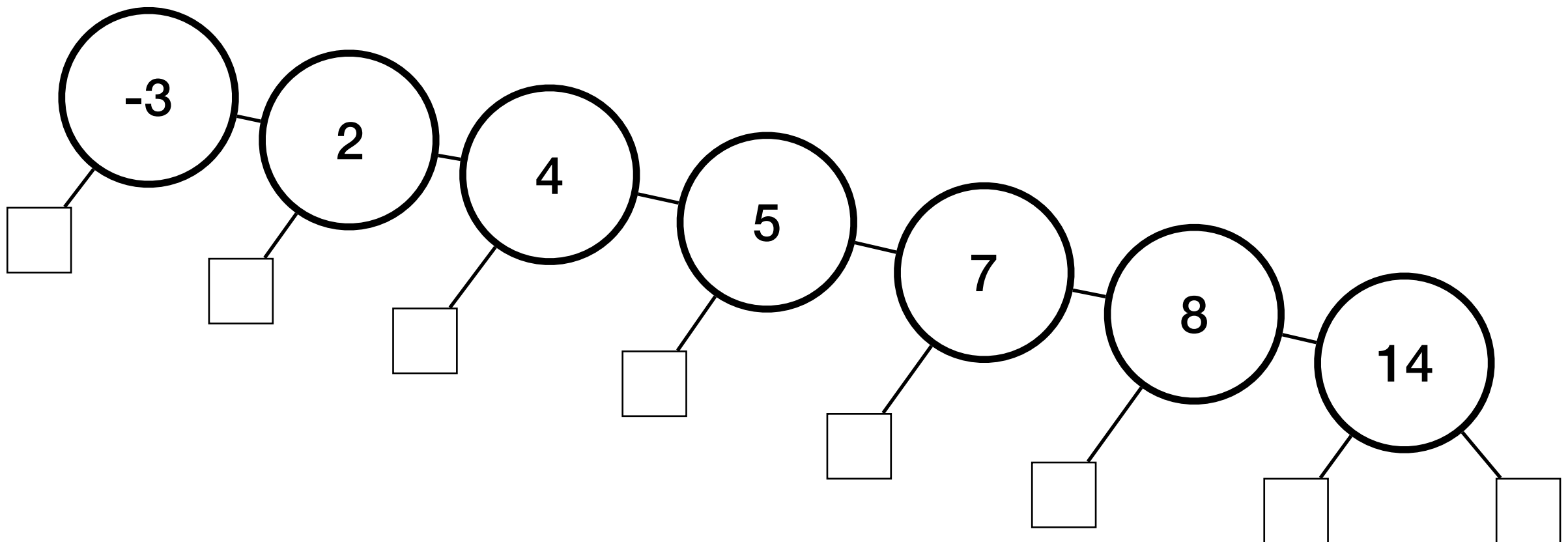
# BST - Efficiency

- Vocab: A tree is balanced if each node has the same number of descendants in its left and right subtrees
- **\* If a BST is balanced \***
- The number of nodes from the root to a leaf - the height of the tree - is  $O(\log(n))$
- Insert and find take  $O(\log(n))$  time
- Inserting  $n$  elements effectively sorts in  $O(n \cdot \log(n))$  time
- Advantage: Sorted order is efficiently maintained as new elements are added in  $O(\log(n))$ 
  - Array takes  $O(n)$  to insert
  - Linked list takes  $O(n)$  to find where to insert

# BST - Inefficiency

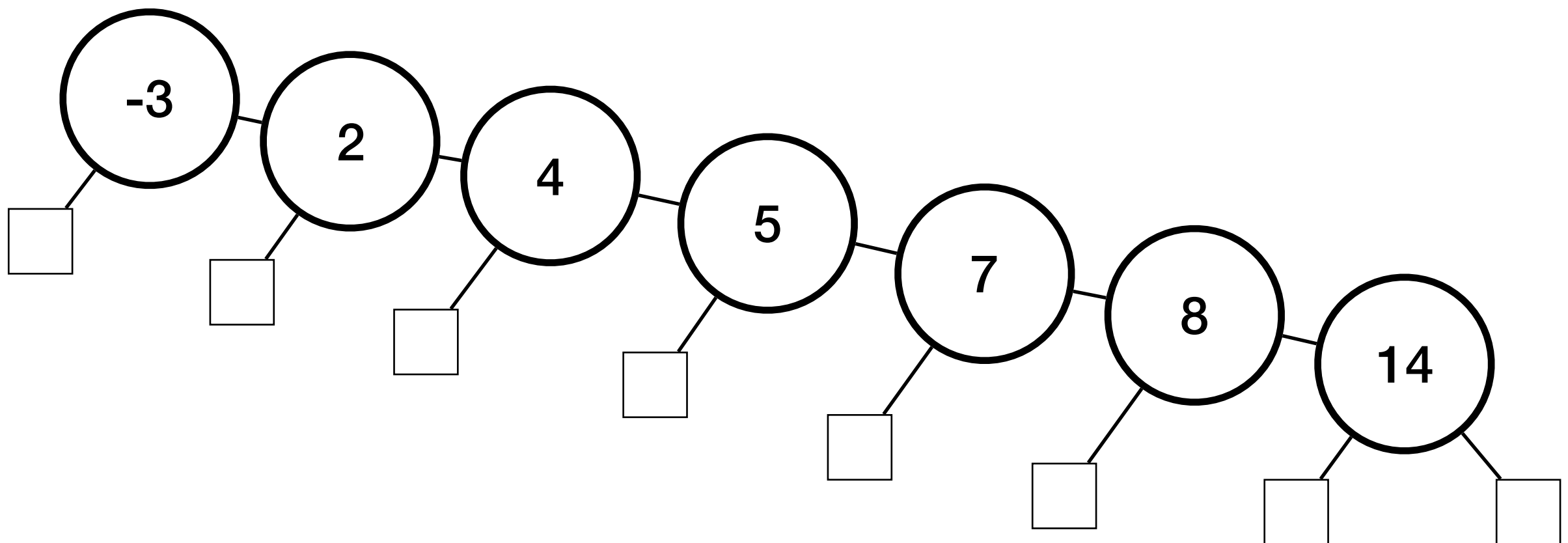
- What if the tree is not balanced?

```
val intLessThan = (a: Int, b: Int) => a < b
val bst = new BinarySearchTree[Int](intLessThan)
bst.insert(-3)
bst.insert(2)
bst.insert(4)
bst.insert(5)
bst.insert(8)
bst.insert(7)
bst.insert(14)
```



# BST - Inefficiency

- If elements are inserted in sorted order
- Tree effectively becomes a linked list
  - $O(n)$  insert and find



# BST for Thought

- How do we keep the tree balanced and still insert in  $O(\log(n))$  time
- How would we remove a node while maintaining sorted order?
- How do we handle duplicate values?
  - Should duplicates even be allowed?
- Answers to these questions and more..
  - In CSE250

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