

# CS101 Algorithms and Data Structures

Red-Black Trees  
Textbook Ch 13



# Outline

In this topic, we will cover:

- The idea behind a red-black tree
- Defining balance
- Insertions and deletions
- The benefits of red-black trees over AVL trees

# Red-Black Trees

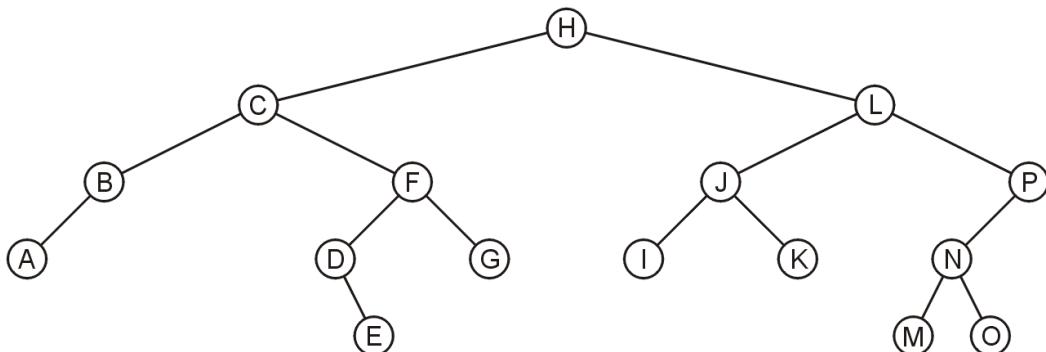
A red black tree “colours” each node within a tree either red or black

- This can be represented by a single bit
- In AVL trees, balancing restricts the difference in heights to at most one
- For red-black trees, we have a different set of rules related to the colours of the nodes

# Red-Black Trees

Define a *null path* within a binary tree as any path starting from the root where the last node is not a full node

– Consider the following binary tree:



# Red-Black Trees

All null paths include:

(H, C, **B**)

(H, C, F, **D**)

(H, L, J, **I**)

(H, L, **P**)

(H, C, B, **A**)

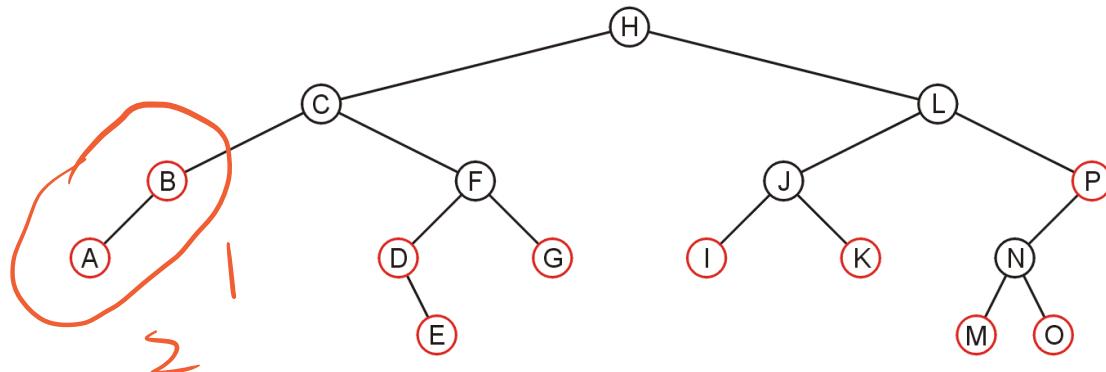
(H, C, F, D, **E**)

(H, L, J, **K**)

(H, L, P, N, **M**)

(H, C, F, **G**)

(H, L, P, N, **O**)



# Red-Black Trees

The three rules which define a red-black tree are

1. The root must be black,
2. If a node is red, its children must be black,  
and
3. Each null path must have the same  
number of black nodes



Red 5 黑

1. root B

2. red parent, black

4. any path  
start from  
root end at

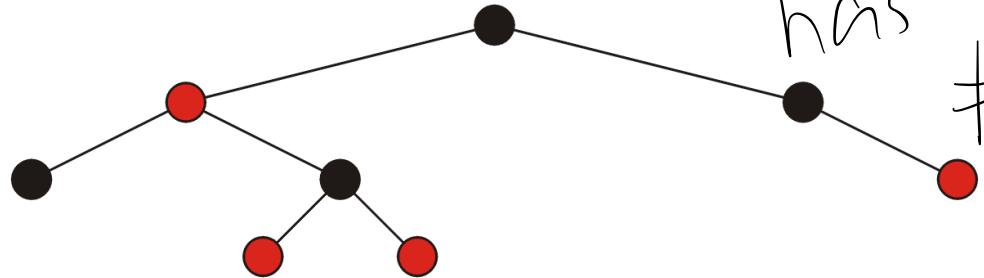
} - Children

not full

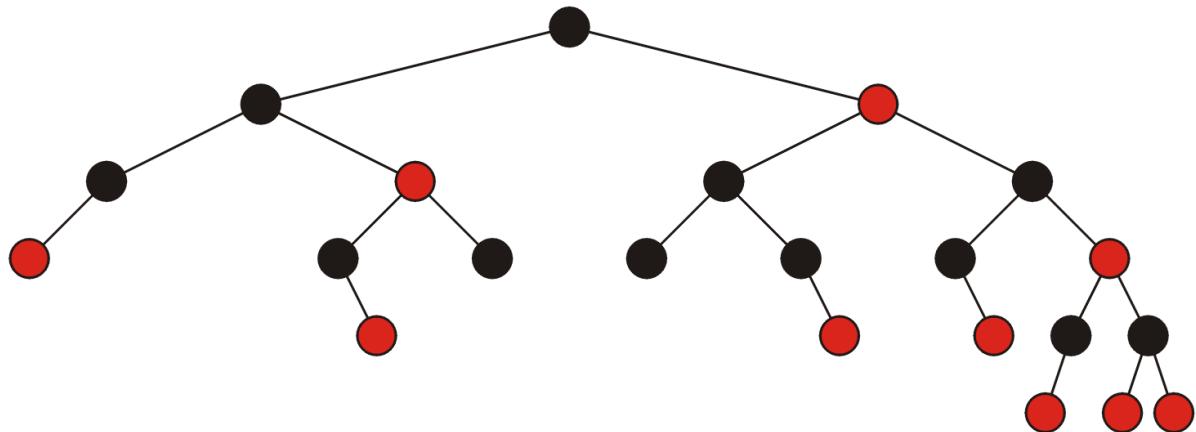
## Red-Black Trees

root

These are two examples of red-black trees:



has  
same  
# of Black



# Red - full / leaf Red-Black Trees

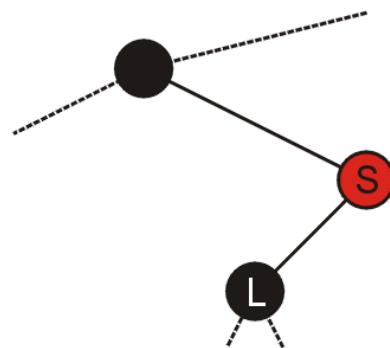
Theorem:

- Every red node must be either
- A full node (with two black children), or
  - A leaf node

Proof:

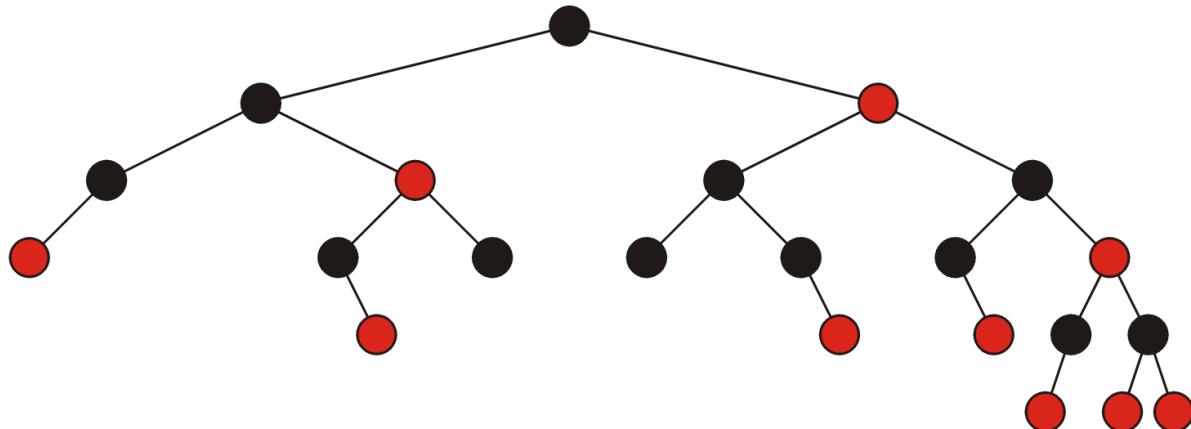
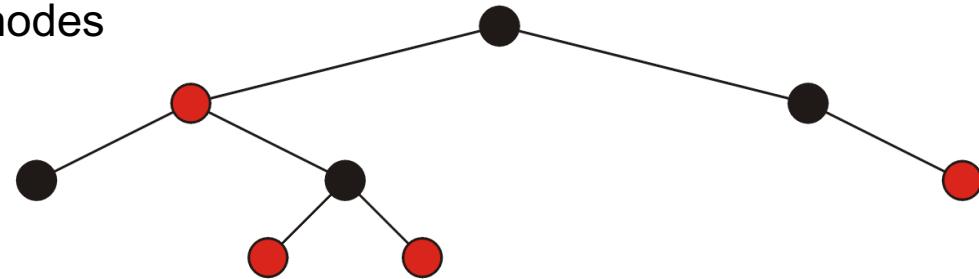
Suppose node **S** has one child:

- The one child **L** must be black
- The null path ending at **S** has  $k$  black nodes
- Any null path containing the node **L** will therefore have at least  $k+1$  black nodes



# Red-Black Trees

In our two examples, you will note that all red nodes are either full or leaf nodes



# 1. Red leaf

## Red-Black Trees

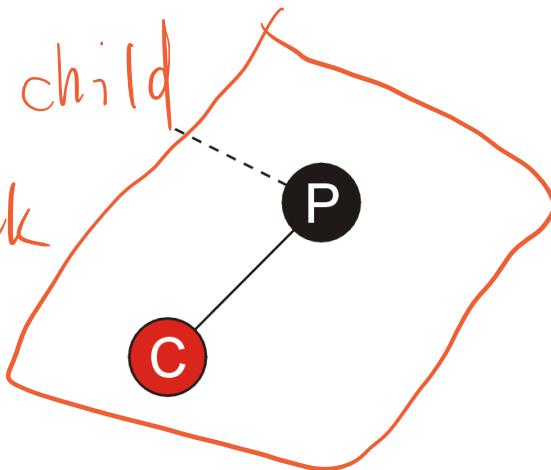
Another consequence is that if a node P has exactly one child:

- The one child must be red,
- The one child must be a leaf node, and
- That node P must be black

A has  
leaf 1 child

1. Red leaf child

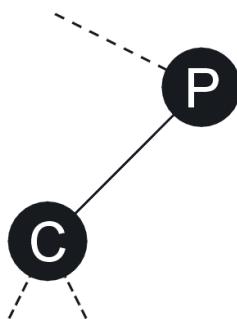
2. A black



# Red-Black Trees

Suppose that the child is black

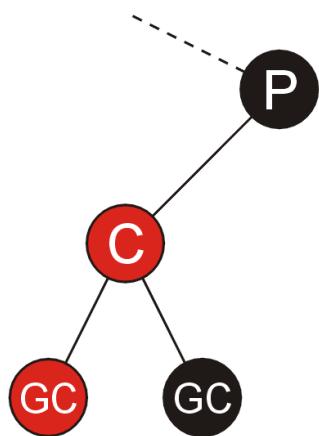
- then the null path ending in P will have one fewer black nodes than the null path passing through C
- this contradicts the requirement that each null path has the same number of black nodes
- therefore the one child must be red



# Red-Black Trees

Suppose the child is not a leaf node:

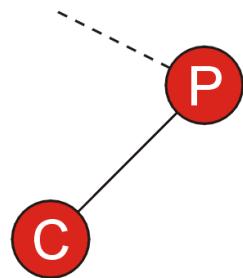
- Since it is red, its children:
  - cannot be red because that would contradict the requirement that all children of a red node are black, and
  - cannot be black, as that would cause any leaf node under the child to have more black nodes than the null path ending in P
- Contradiction, therefore the child must be a leaf node



# Red-Black Trees

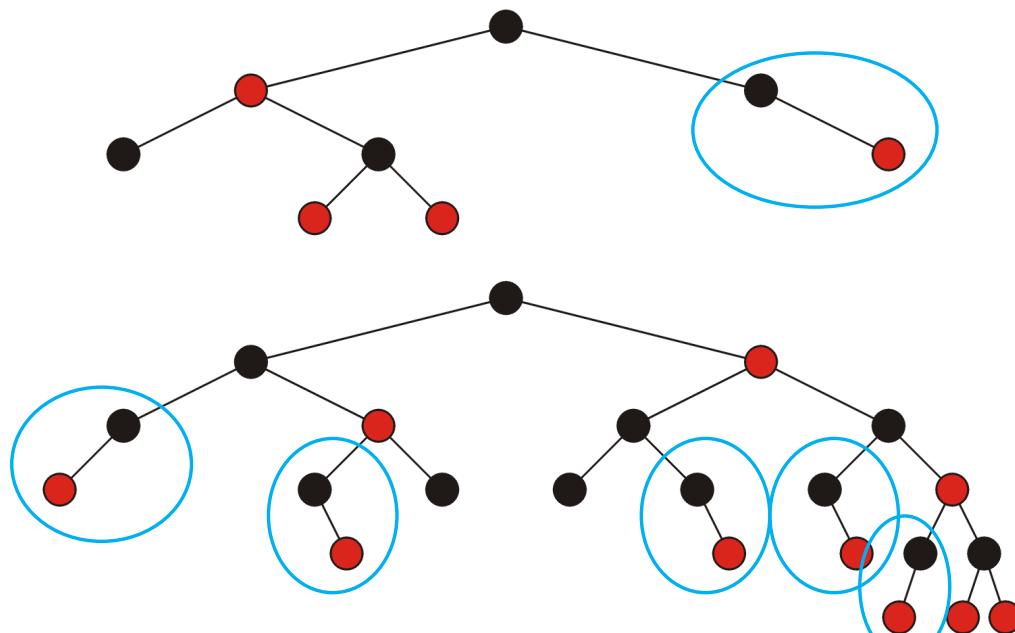
Since the one child is red and it must be a leaf node, the parent P must be black

- otherwise, we would contradict the requirement that the child of a red node must be black



# Red-Black Trees

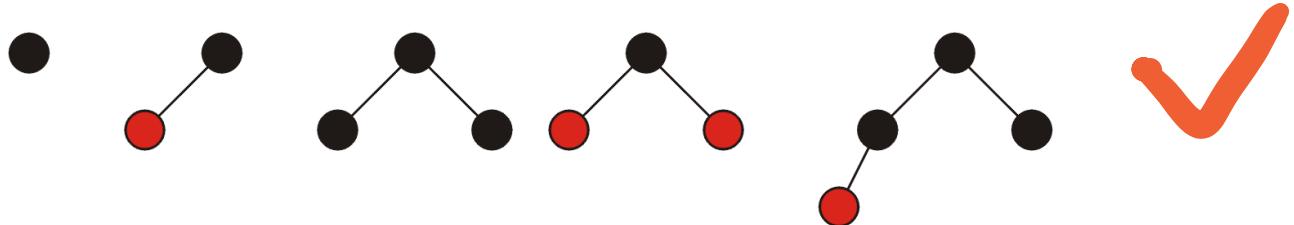
Again, in our examples, the only nodes with a single child are black and the corresponding children are red



A. 1 child Black have Red leaf

## Red-Black Trees

All red-black trees with 1, 2, 3, and 4 nodes:

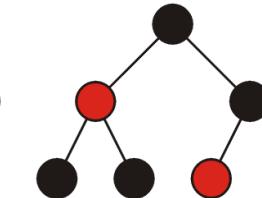
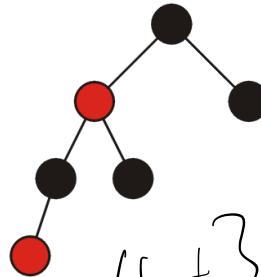
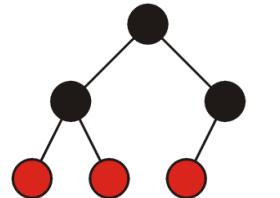
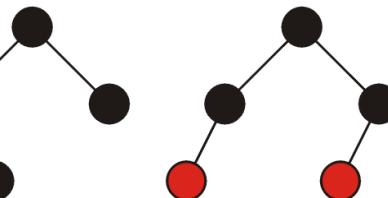
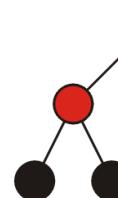
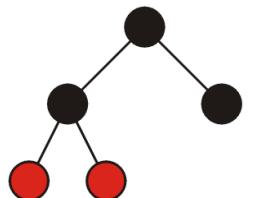


# Red-Black Trees

$3 \times 2$



All red-black trees with 5 and 6 nodes:

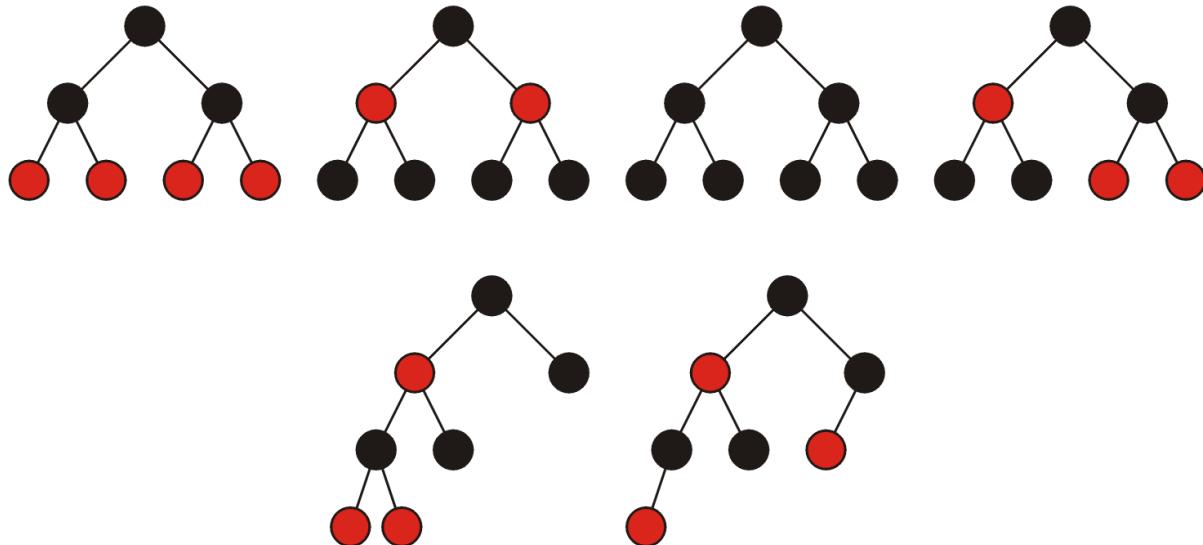


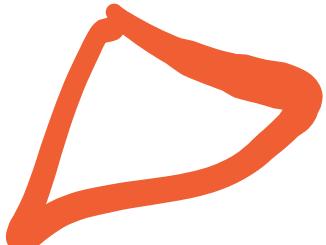
$3 \times 4$

$4 \times 3$

# Red-Black Trees

All red-black trees with seven nodes—most are shallow:





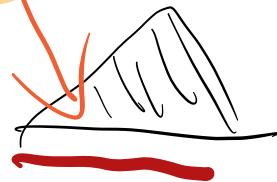
## Red-Black Trees

Every perfect tree is a red-black tree if each node is coloured black

A complete tree is a red-black tree if:

- each node at the lowest depth is coloured red, and
- all other nodes are coloured black

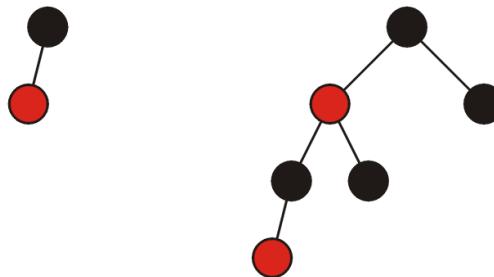
What is the worst case?



# Red-Black Trees

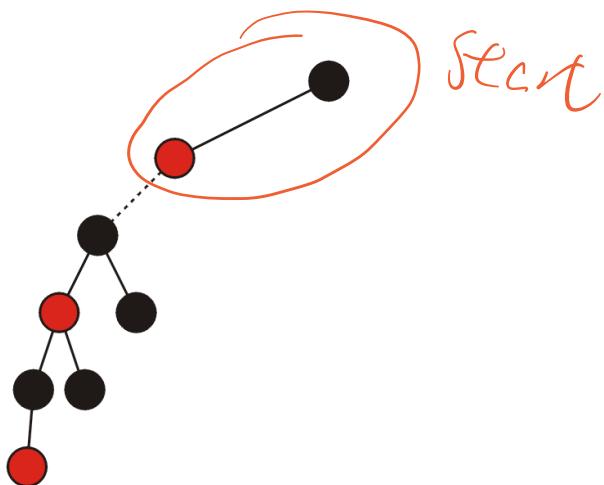
Any worst-case red-black tree must have an alternating red-black pattern down one side

The following are the worst-case red-black trees with 1 and 2 black nodes per null path (*i.e.*, heights 1 and 3)



ex: Worst case of  $N$  black per  
Red-Black Trees Path

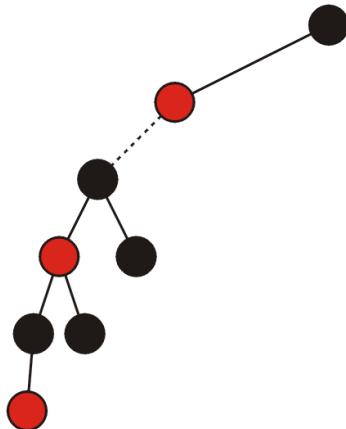
To create the worst-case for paths with 3 black nodes per path, start with a black and red node and add the previous worst-case for paths with 2 nodes



# Red-Black Trees

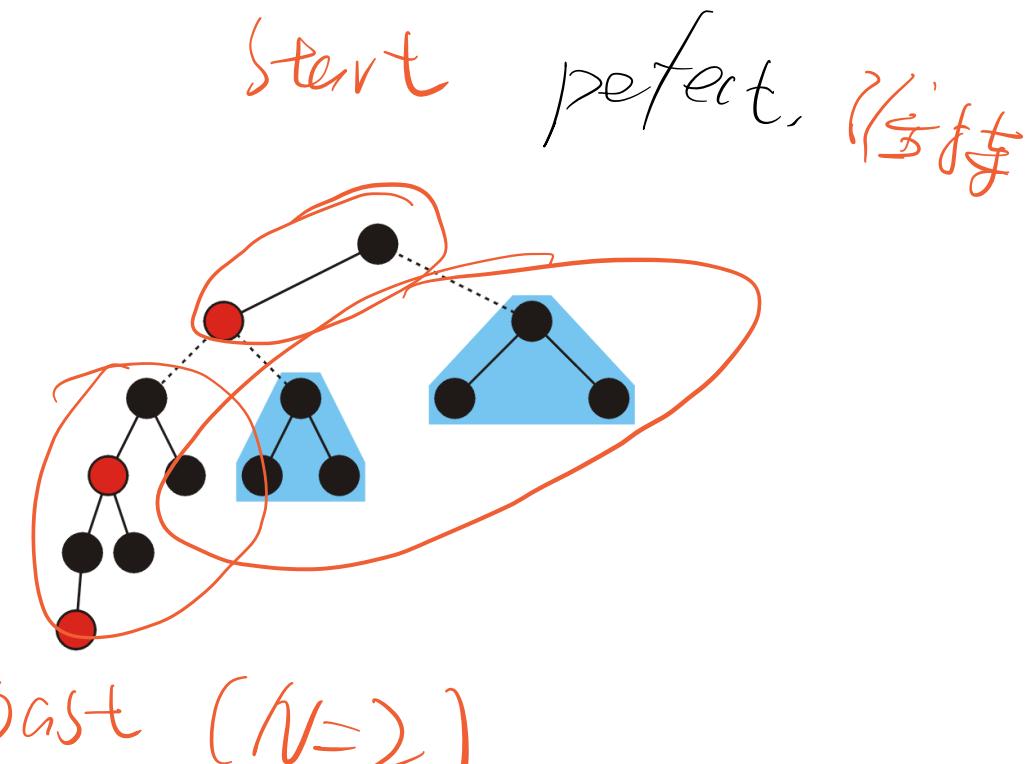
This, however, is not a red-black tree because the two top nodes do not have paths with three black nodes

- To solve this, add the optimal red-black trees with two black nodes per path



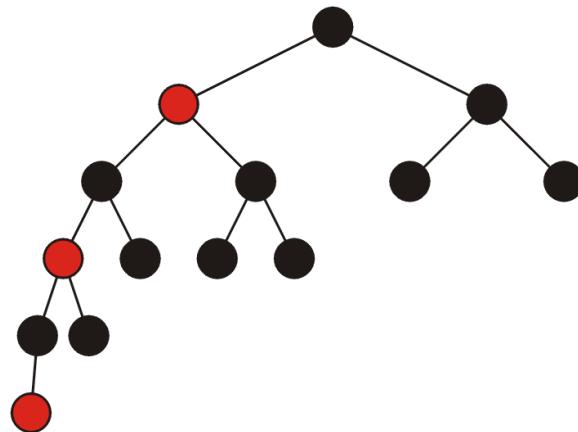
# Red-Black Trees

That is, add two perfect trees with height 1 to each of the missing sub-trees



# Red-Black Trees

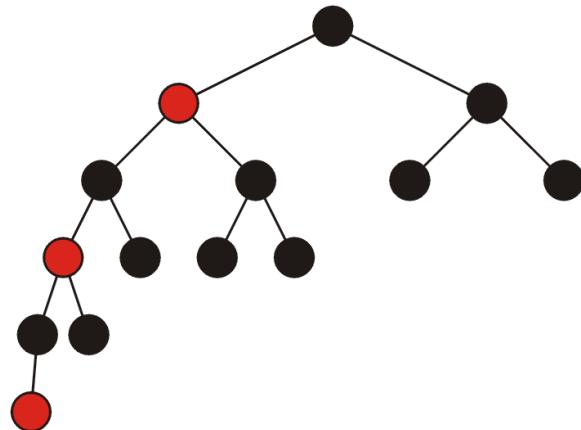
Thus, we have the worst-case for a red-black tree with three black nodes per path (or a red-black tree of height 5)



# Red-Black Trees

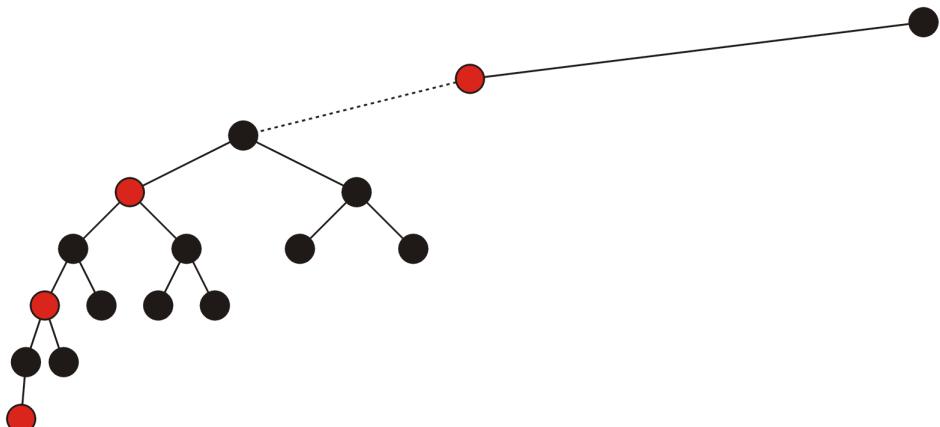
Note that the left sub-tree of the root has height 4 while the right has height 1

- Thus suggests that AVL trees may be better...



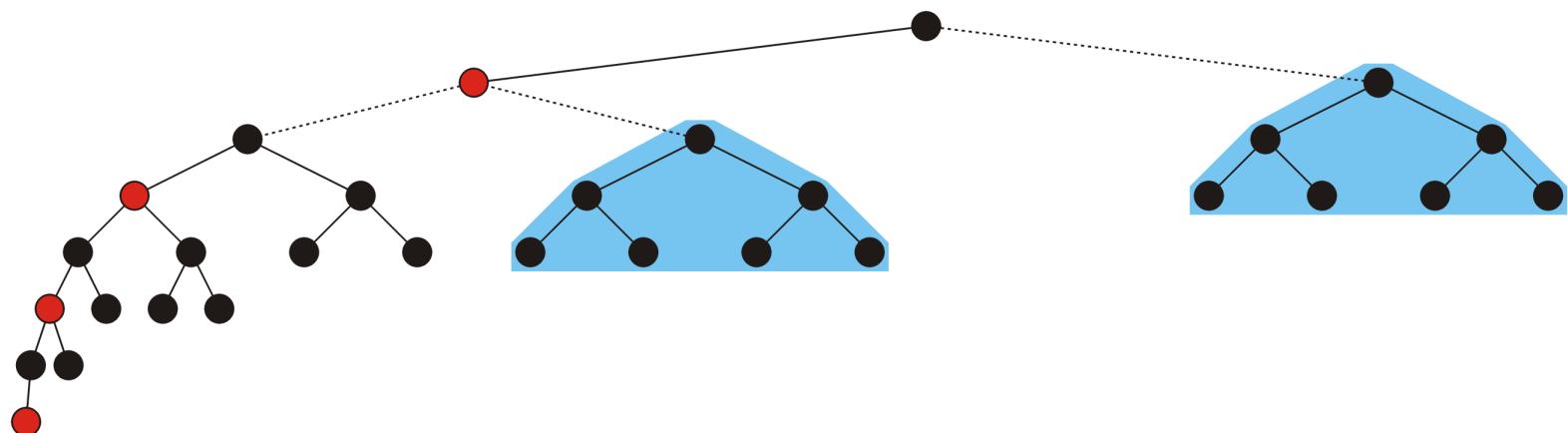
# Red-Black Trees

To create the worst-case scenario for red-black trees with 4 black nodes per null path (*i.e.*, height 7), again, start with two nodes and add the previous worst-case tree:



# Red-Black Trees

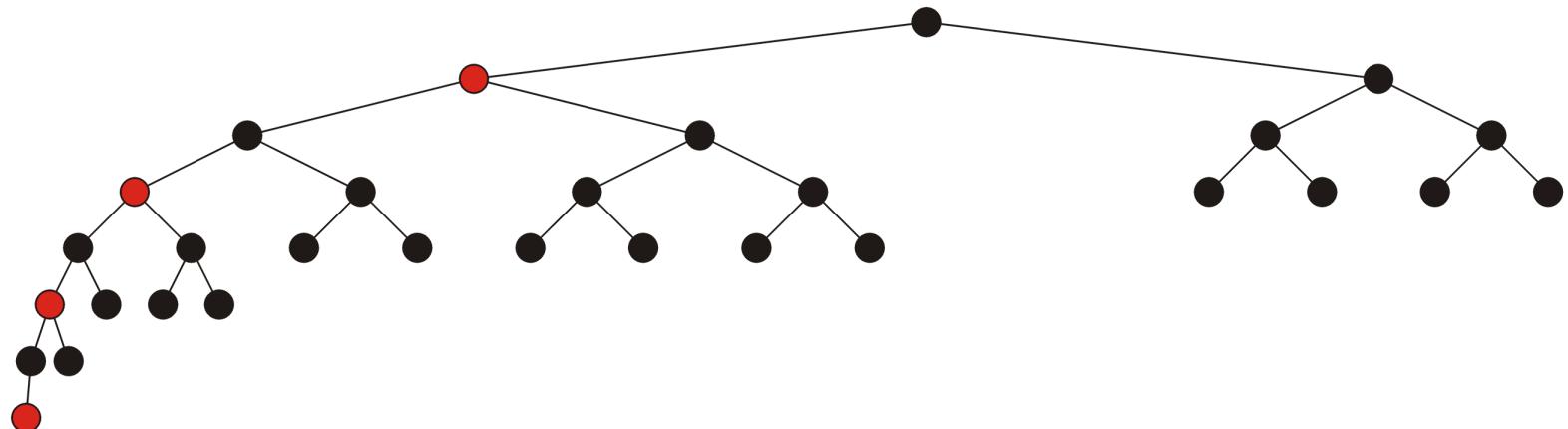
To satisfy the definition of the red-black tree, add two perfect trees of height 2:



# Red-Black Trees

Thus, with 30 nodes, the worst case red-black tree has height 7

- The worst-case AVL tree with 33 nodes has height 6...



# Red-Black Trees



Let  $k$  represent the number of black nodes per null path and  $h = 2k - 1$  represent the height of the worst-case tree

To determine  $F(k)$ , the number of nodes in the worst-case tree, we note that  $F(1) = 2$  and:

$$F(k) = F(k-1) + 2 + 2(2^{k-1} - 1)$$

the number of nodes in the worst-case red-black tree with  $k-1$  black nodes per null path

the two extra nodes

two perfect trees of height  $k-2$

# Red-Black Trees

Use Maple:

```
> rsolve( {F(1) = 2, F(k) = 2 + F(k-1) + 2^(2^(k-1)-1)}, F(k) );
```

$$2^{2^k-2}$$

```
> solve( {h = 2*k - 1}, k ); # solve equation for k
```

$$\{k = \frac{h}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\}$$

```
> eval( 2*2^k - 2, % ); # evaluate at k = h/2 - 1/2
```

$$2^{2^{\left(\frac{h}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right)} - 2}$$

```
> solve( {n = %}, h ); # solve for h
```

$$\left\{h = \frac{2 \ln\left(\frac{n}{2} + 1\right) - \ln(2)}{\ln(2)}\right\}$$

# Red-Black Trees

A little manipulation shows that the worst-case height simplifies to

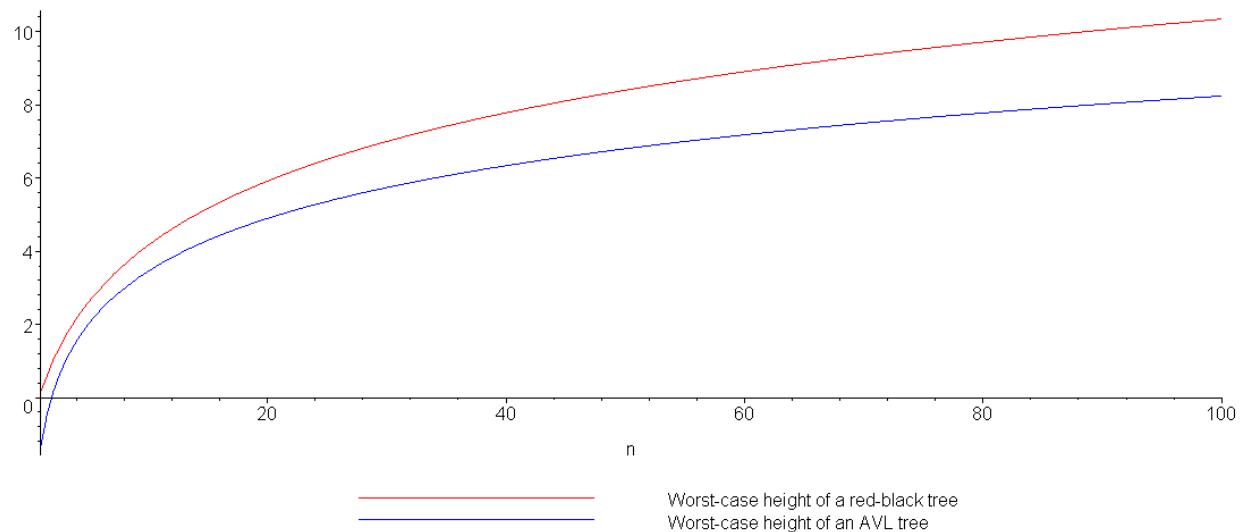
$$h_{\text{worst}} = 2 \lg(n+2) - 3$$

This grows quicker than the worst-case height for an AVL tree

$$h_{\text{worst}} = \log_2(n) - 1.3277$$

# Red-Black Trees

Plotting the growth of the height of the worst-case red-black tree (red) versus the worst-case AVL tree (blue) demonstrates this:



# Red-Black Trees

This table shows the number of nodes in a worst-case trees for the given heights

Thus, an AVL tree with 131070 nodes has a height of 23 while a red-black tree could have a height as large as 31

| Height | AVL Tree | Red-Black Tree |
|--------|----------|----------------|
| 1      | 2        | 2              |
| 3      | 7        | 6              |
| 5      | 20       | 14             |
| 7      | 54       | 30             |
| 9      | 143      | 62             |
| 11     | 376      | 126            |
| 13     | 986      | 254            |
| 15     | 2583     | 510            |
| 17     | 6764     | 1022           |
| 19     | 17710    | 2046           |
| 21     | 46367    | 4094           |
| 23     | 121492   | 8190           |
| 25     | 317810   | 16382          |
| 27     | 832039   | 32766          |
| 29     | 2178308  | 65534          |
| 31     | 5702886  | 131070         |
| 33     | 14930351 | 262142         |

# Red-Black Trees

Comparing red-black trees with AVL trees, we note that:

- Red-black trees require one extra bit per node
- AVL trees require one byte per node (assuming the height will never exceed 255)
  - aside: we can reduce this to two bits, storing one of -1, 0, or 1 indicating that the node is left heavy, balanced, or right heavy, respectively

# Red-Black Trees

AVL trees are not as deep in the worst case as are red-black trees

- therefore AVL trees will perform better when numerous searches are being performed,
- however, insertions and deletions will require:
  - more rotations with AVL trees, and
  - require recursions from and back to the root
- thus **AVL trees will perform worse in situations where there are numerous insertions and deletions**

AVL      search

RB      insert      delete

# Insertions

We will consider two types of insertions:

- bottom-up (insertion at the leaves), and
- top-down (insertion at the root)

The first will be instructional and we will use it to derive the second case

# Bottom-Up Insertions

After an insertion is performed, we must satisfy all the rules of a red-black tree:

1. The root must be black,
2. If a node is red, its children must be black, and
3. Each path from a node to any of its descendants which are not a full node (*i.e.*, two children) must have the same number of black nodes

The first and second rules are local: they affect a node and its neighbours

The third rule is global: adding a new black node anywhere will cause all of its ancestors to become unbalanced

# Bottom-Up Insertions

Thus, when we add a new node, we will add a node so as to not break the global rule:

- the new node must be red

We will then travel up the tree to the root fixing the requirement that the children of a red node must be black

# Bottom-Up Insertions

If the parent of the inserted node is already black, we are done

- Otherwise, we must correct the problem

(Parent of inserted is red)

We will look at two cases:

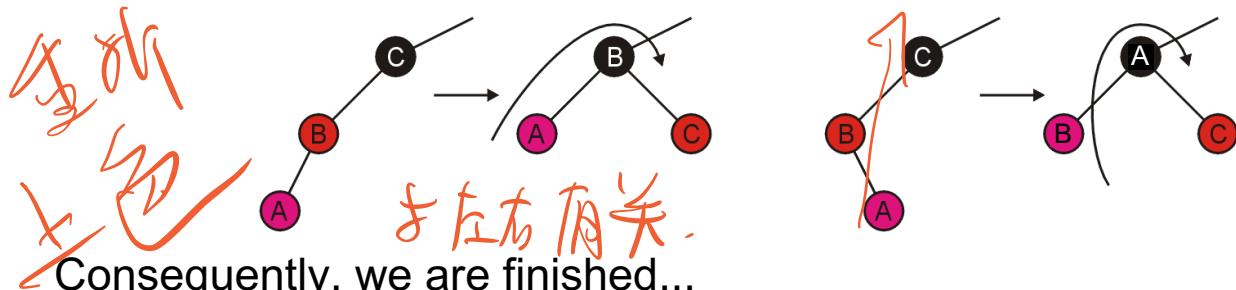
- the initial insertion, and
- the recursive steps back to the root

# Bottom-Up Insertions

For the initial insertion, there are two possible cases:

- the grandparent has one child (the parent), or
- the grandparent has two children (both red)

Inserting A, the first case can be fixed with a rotation:

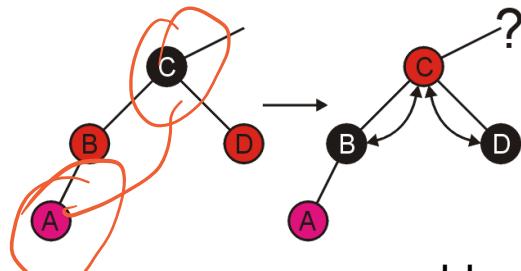


G 1 R child

# SWAP COLOR

## Bottom-Up Insertions

The second case can be fixed more easily, just swap the colours:



Unfortunately, we now may cause a problem between the grandparent and the great grandparent....

G > R C

# Bottom-Up Insertions

Fortunately, dealing with problems caused within the tree are identical to the problems at the leaf nodes

Like before, there are two cases:

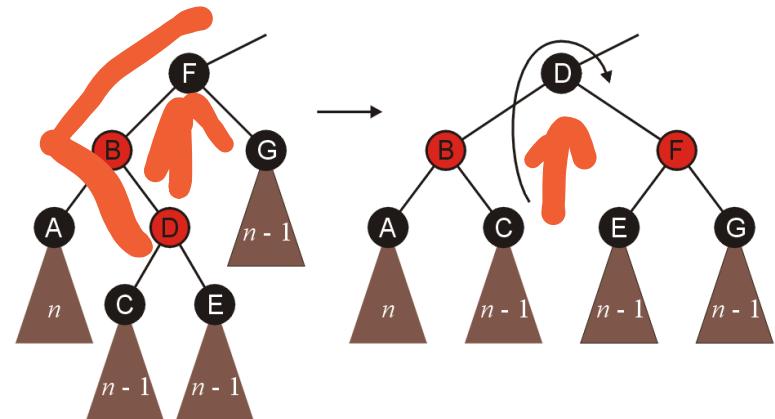
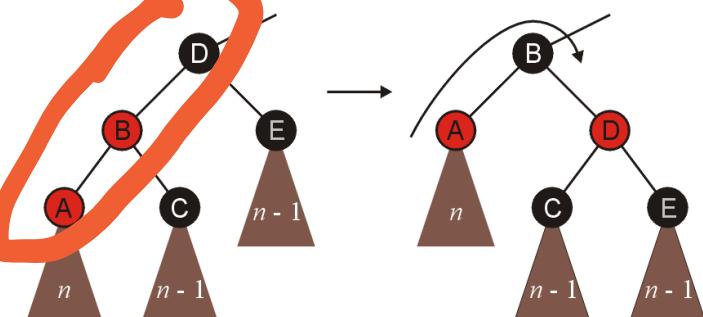
- the grandparent has one child (the parent), or
- the grandparent has two children (both red)



# Bottom-Up Insertions

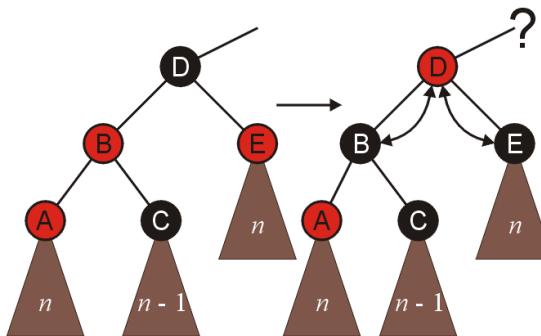
Suppose that A and D, respectively were swapped

In both these cases, we perform similar rotations as before, and we are finished



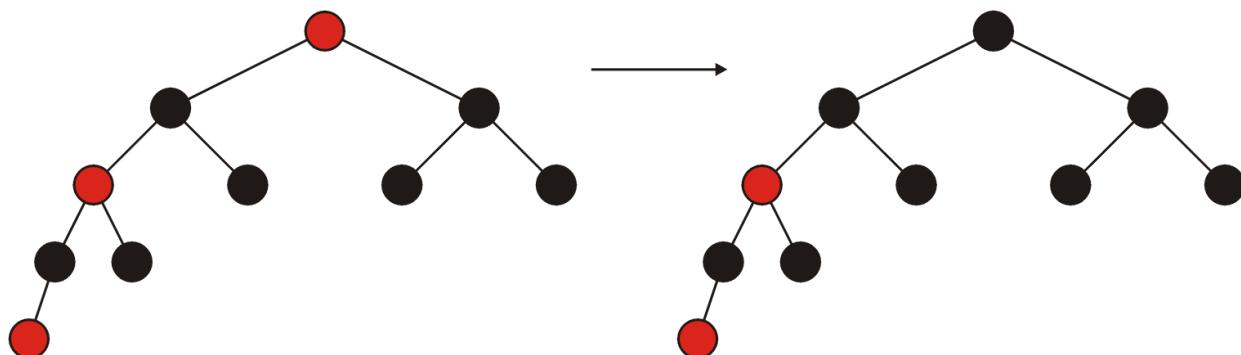
## Bottom-Up Insertions

In the other case, where both children of the grandparent are red, we simply swap colours, and **recurs back to the root**



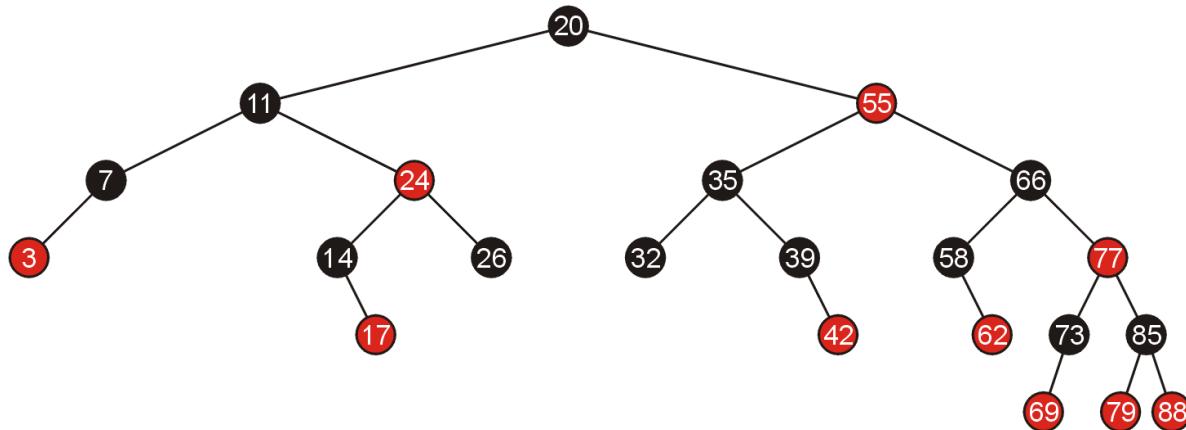
# Bottom-Up Insertions

If, at the end, the root is red, it can be coloured black



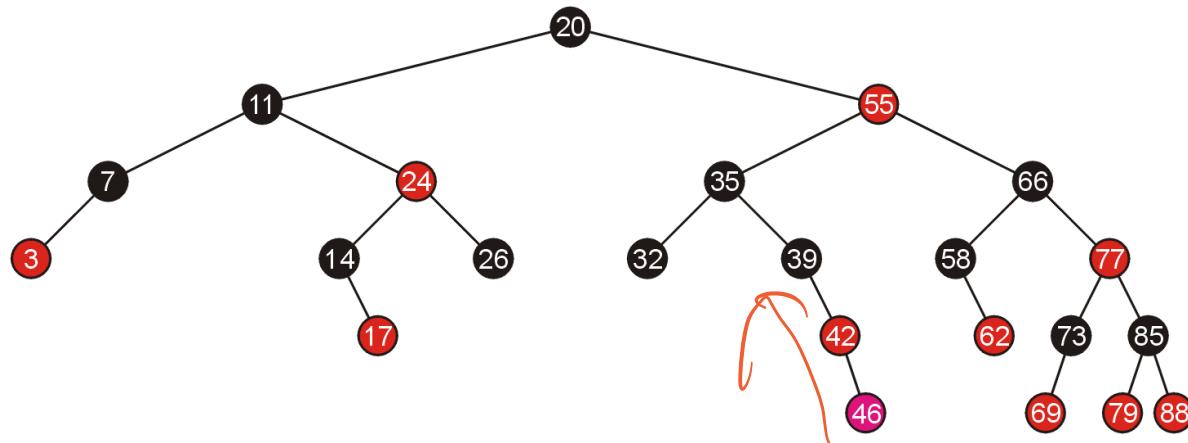
# Examples of Insertions

Given the following red-black tree, we will make a number of insertions



# Examples of Insertions

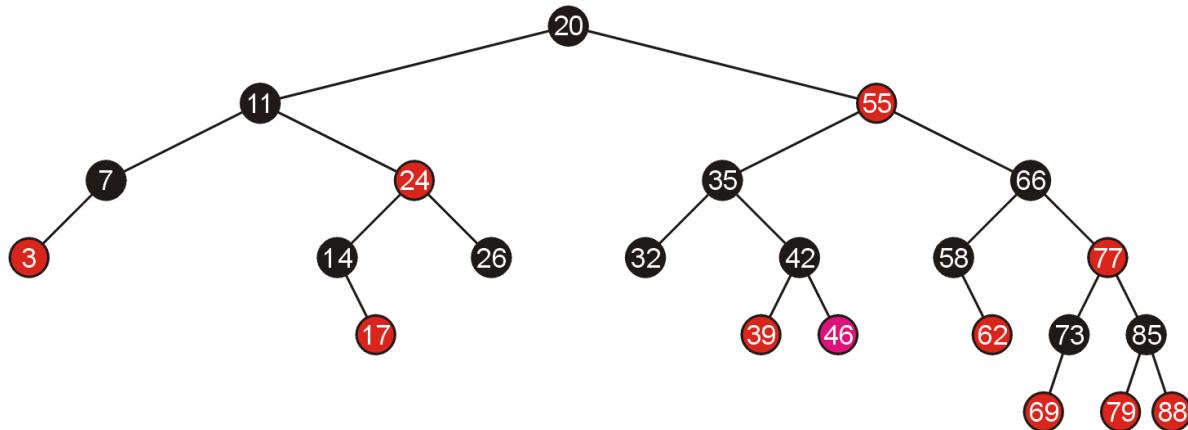
Adding 46 creates a red-red pair which can be corrected with a single rotation



插入後維持了 AVL  
特點

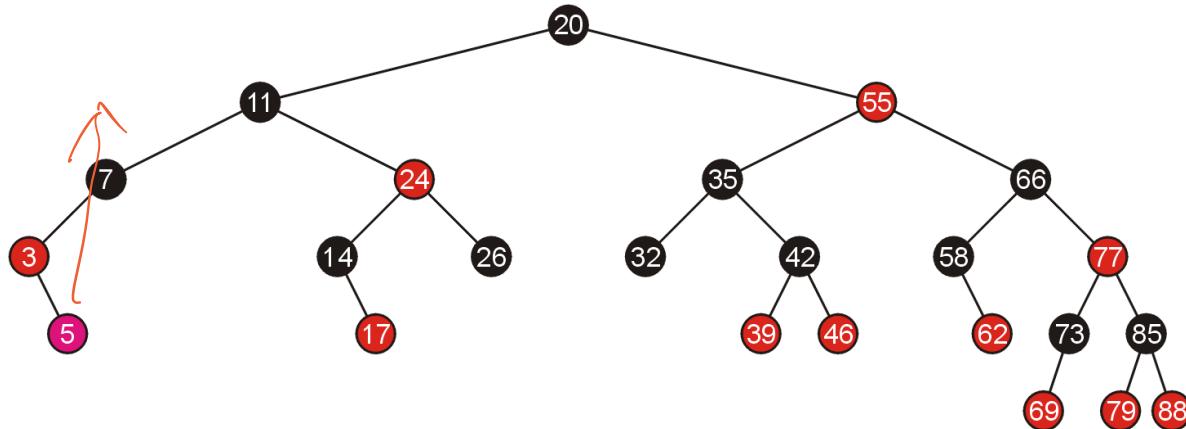
# Examples of Insertions

Because the pivot is still black, we are finished



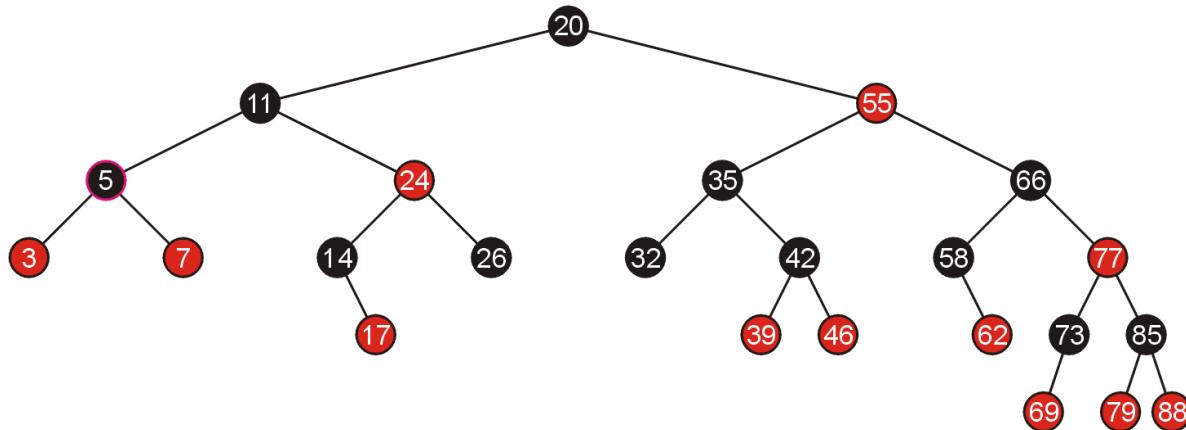
# Examples of Insertions

Similarly, adding 5 requires a single rotation



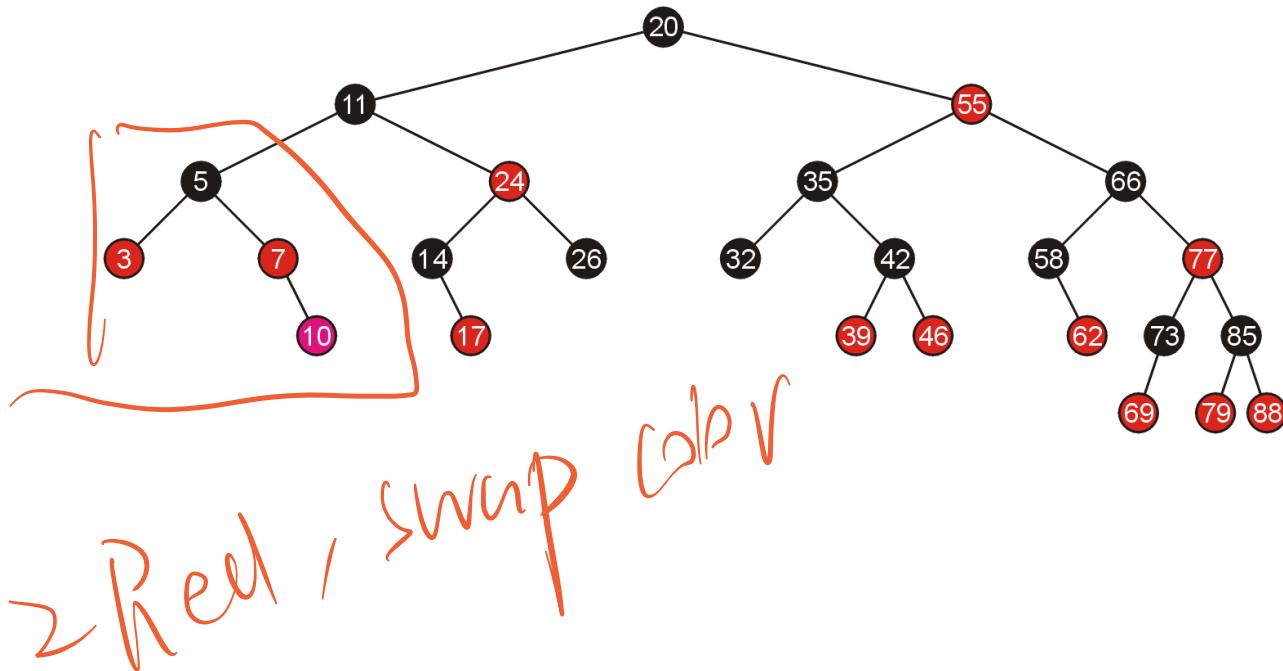
# Examples of Insertions

Which again, does not require any additional work



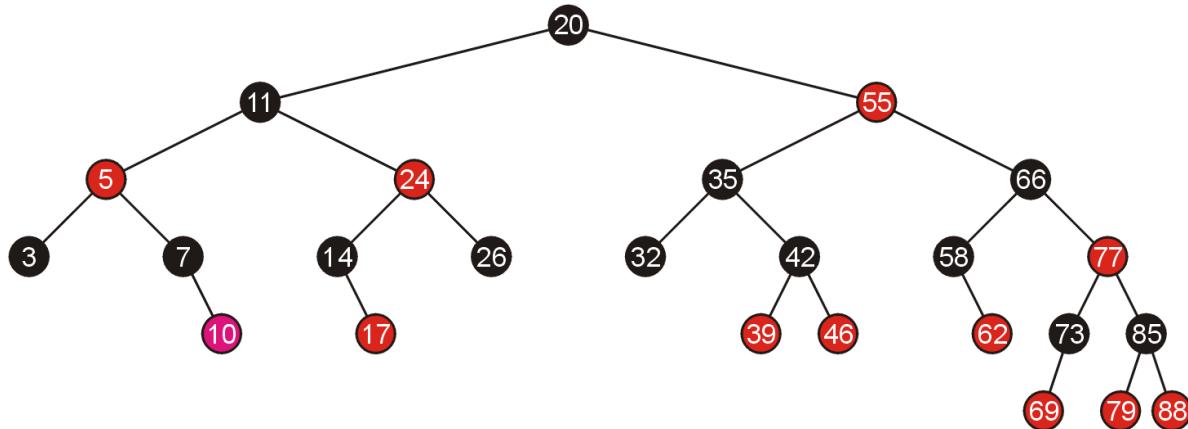
# Examples of Insertions

Adding 10 allows us to simply swap the colour of the grand parent and the parent and the parent's sibling



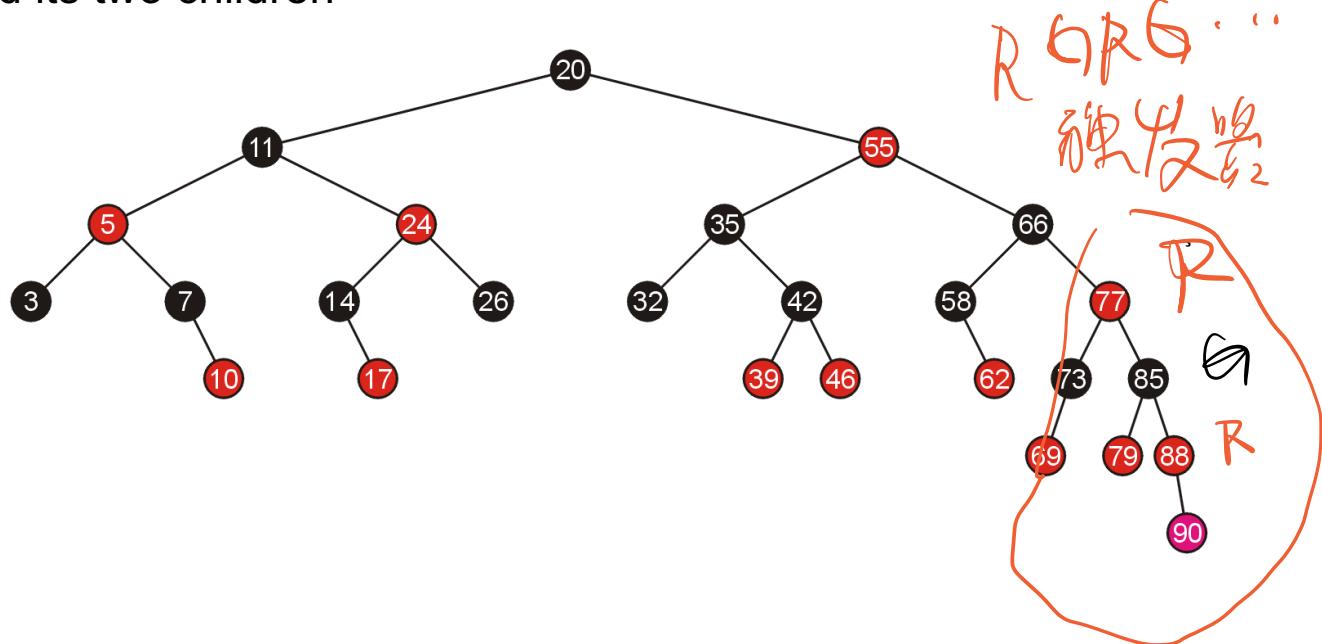
# Examples of Insertions

Because the parent of 5 is black, we are finished



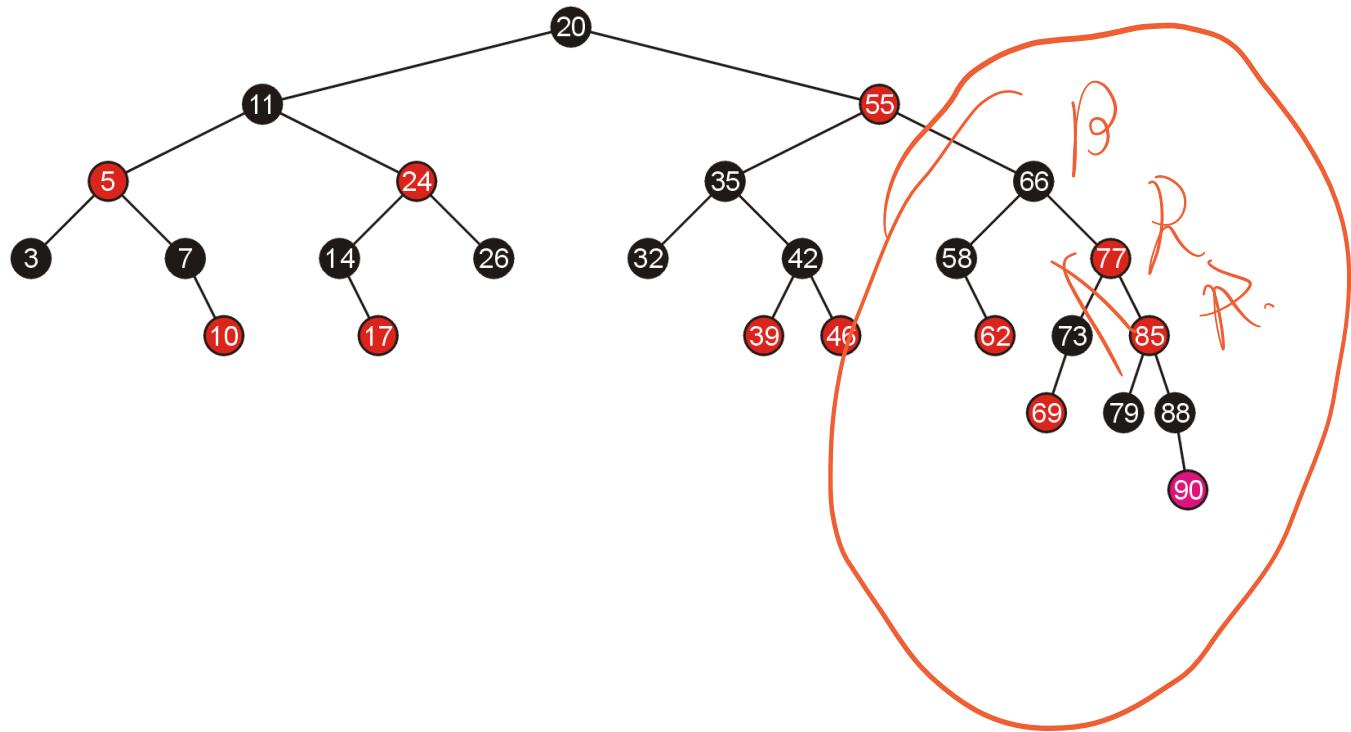
# Examples of Insertions

Adding 90 again requires us to swap the colours of the grandparent and its two children



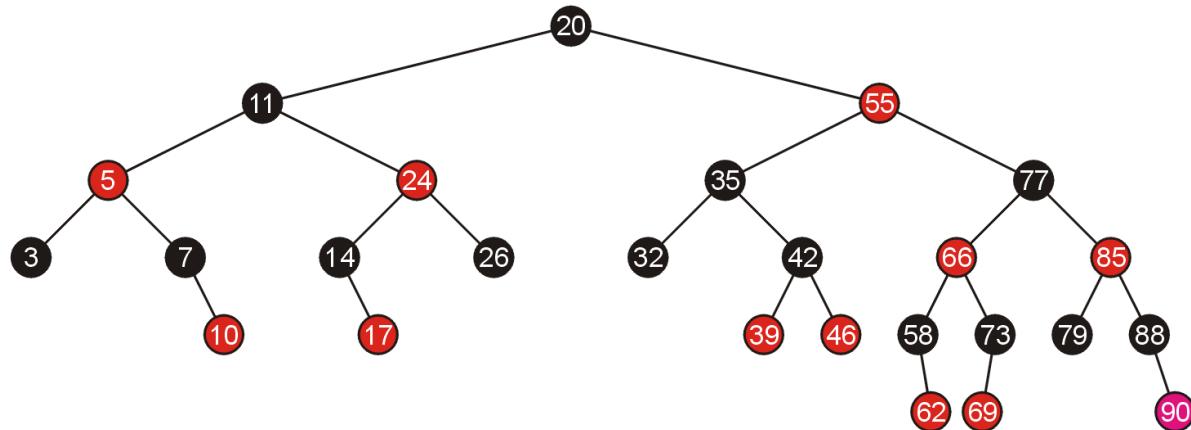
# Examples of Insertions

This causes a red-red parent-child pair, which now requires a rotation



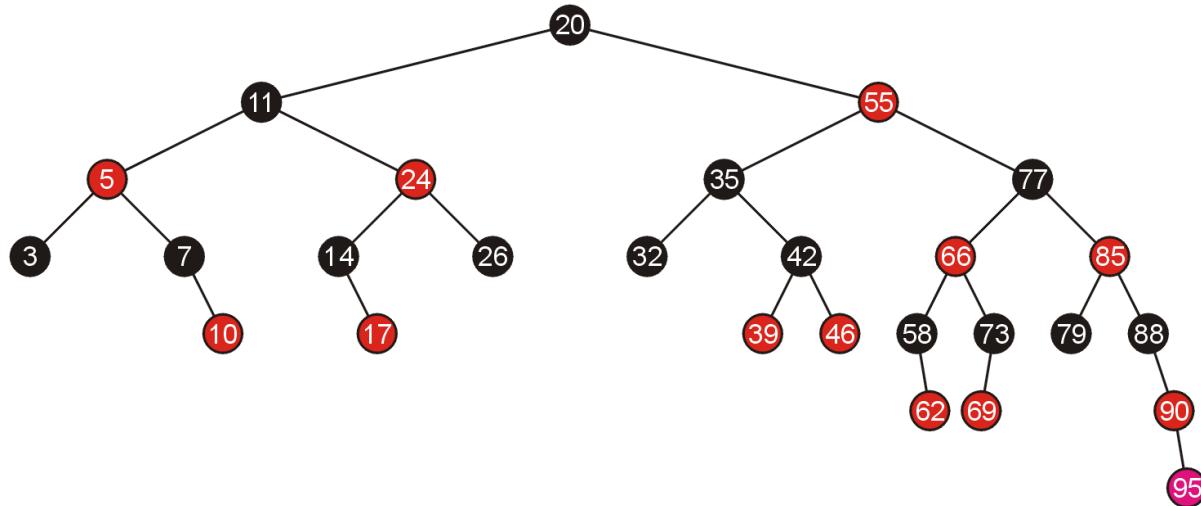
# Examples of Insertions

A rotation does not require any subsequent modifications, so we are finished



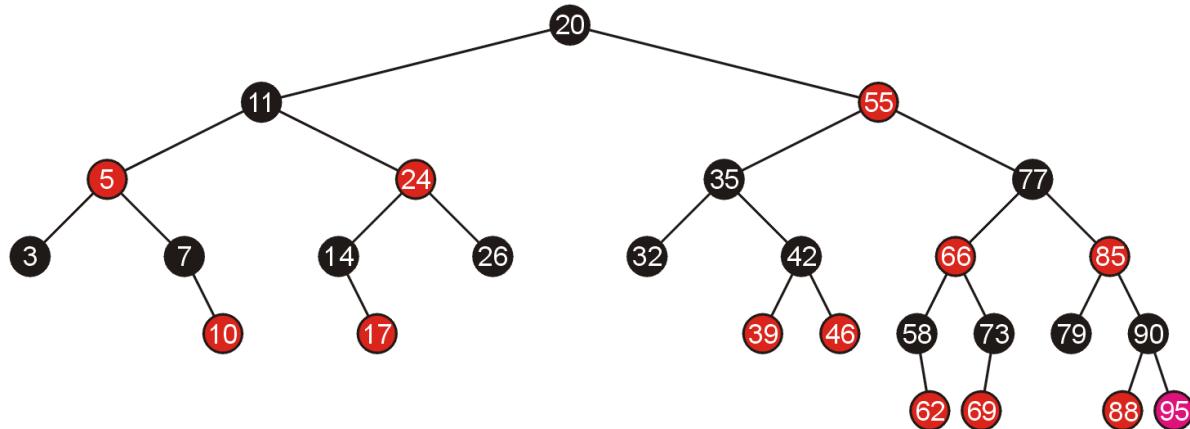
# Examples of Insertions

Inserting 95 requires a single rotation



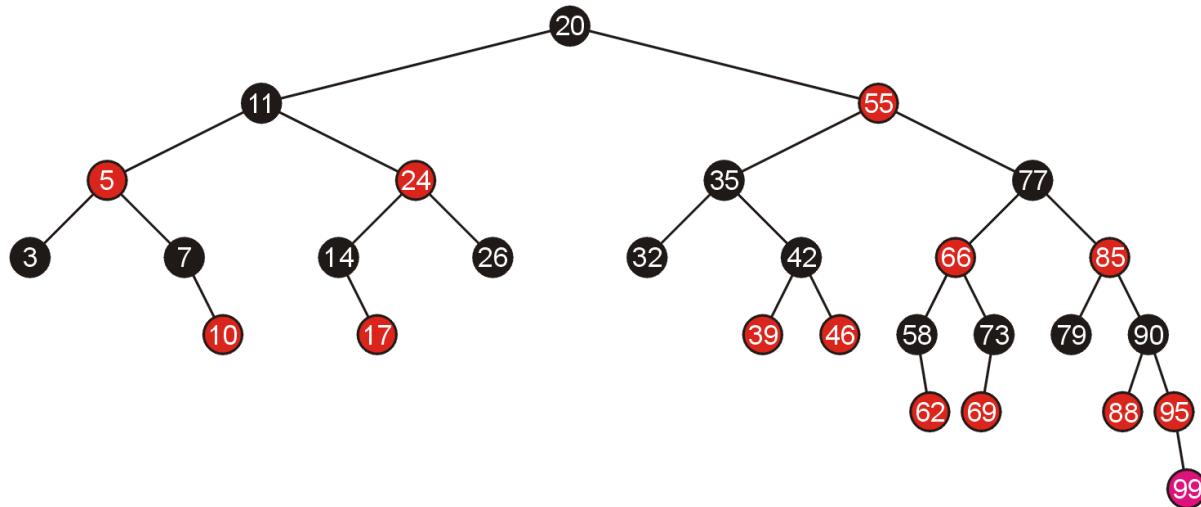
# Examples of Insertions

And consequently, we are finished



# Examples of Insertions

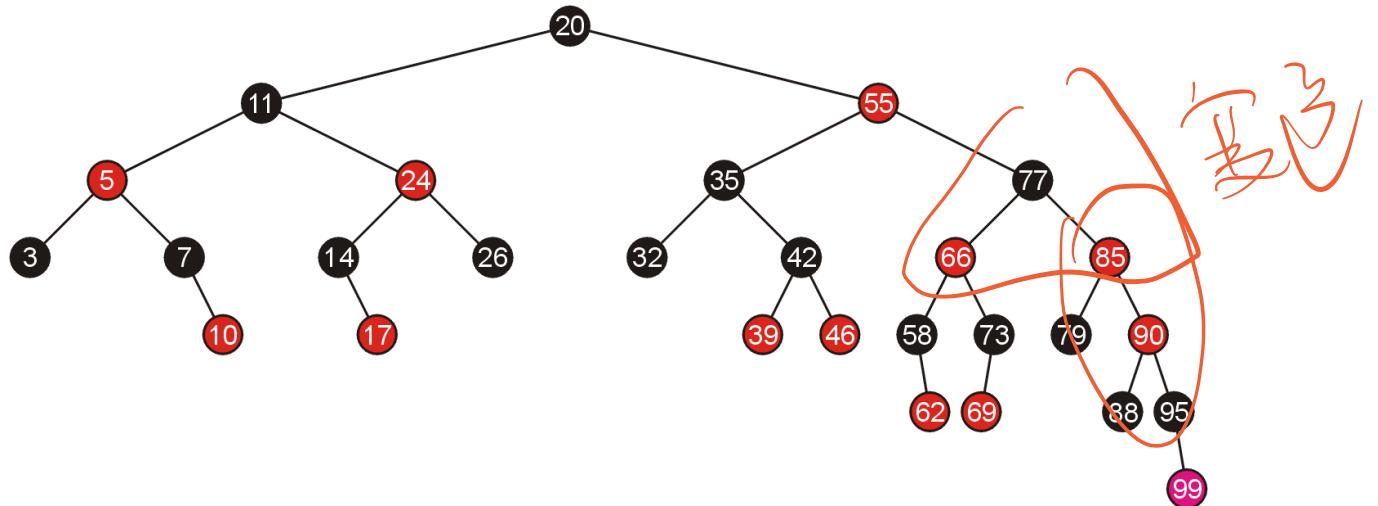
Adding 99 requires us to swap the colours of its grandparent and the grandparent's children



# Examples of Insertions

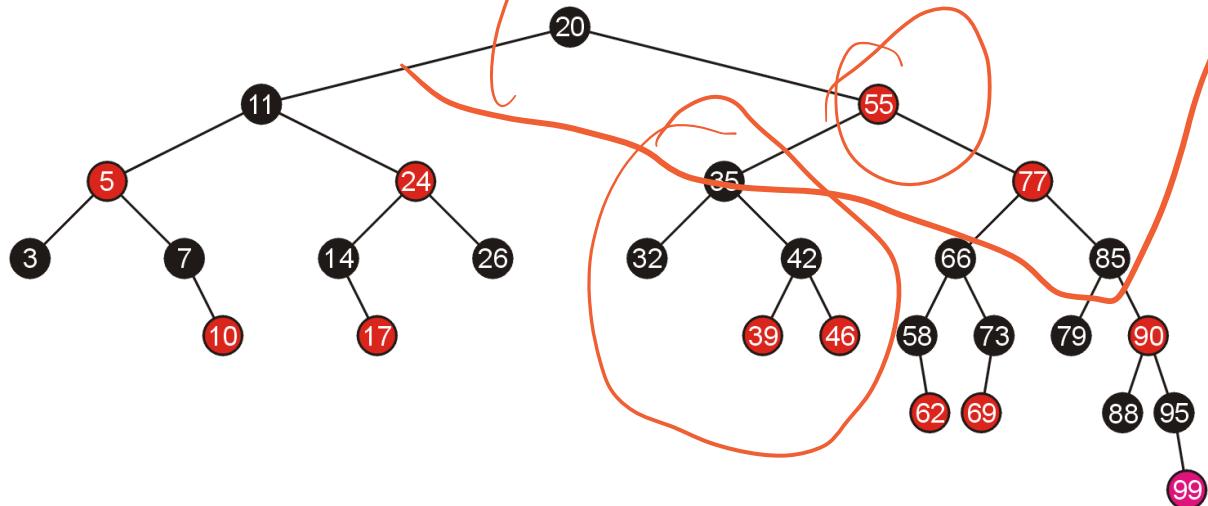


This causes another red-red child-parent conflict between 85 and 90 which must be fixed, again by swapping colours



# Examples of Insertions

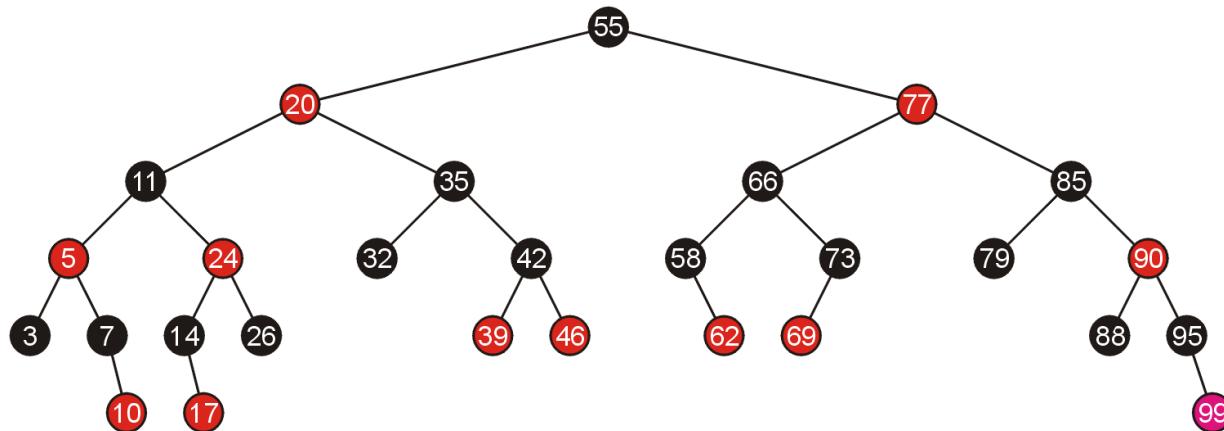
This results in another red-red parent-child conflict, this time, requiring a rotation



插入红色冲突的右子树 - 右左旋转

# Examples of Insertions

Thus, the rotation solves the problem



# Top-Down Insertions and Deletions

With a bottom-up insertion, it is first necessary to search the tree for the appropriate location, and only then recurs back to the root correcting any problems

- This is similar to AVL trees

With red-black trees, it is possible to perform both insertions and deletions strictly by starting at the root, but not requiring the recurs back to the root

# Top-Down Insertions

The important observation is:

- swapping may require recursive corrections going back all the way to the root
- rotations do not require recursive steps back to the root

Therefore, while moving down from the root, automatically swap the colours of any black node with two red children

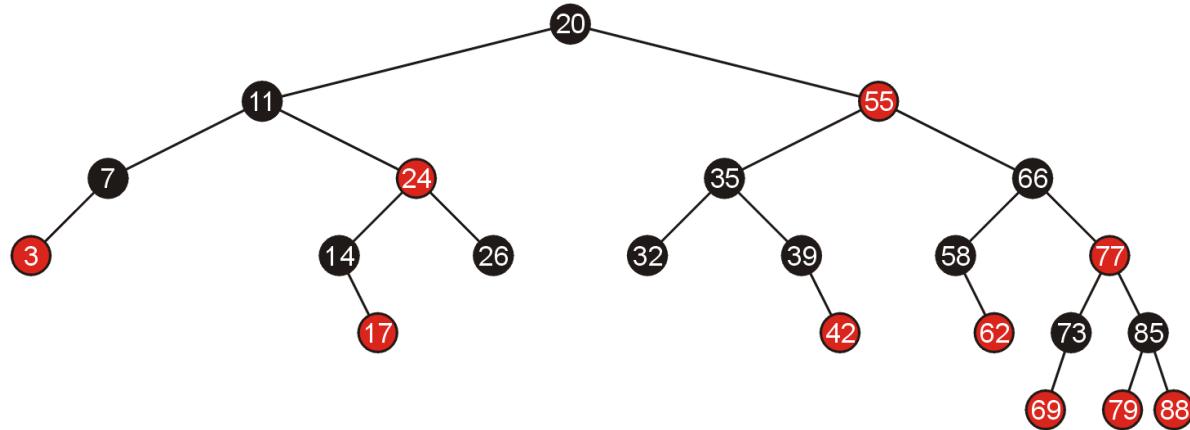
- this may require at most one rotation at the parent of the now-red node

S 2 R

K k b w

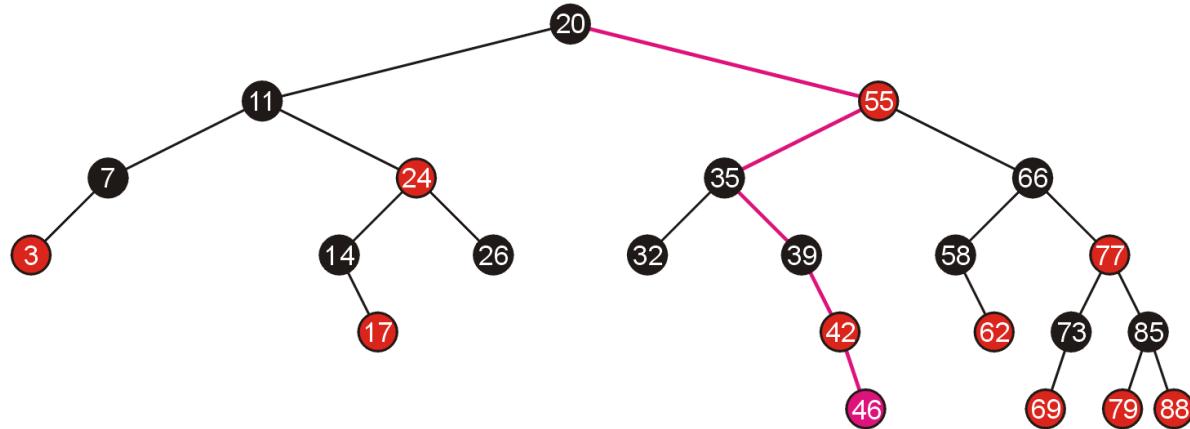
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

We will start with the same red-black tree as before, but make top-down insertions (no recursion):



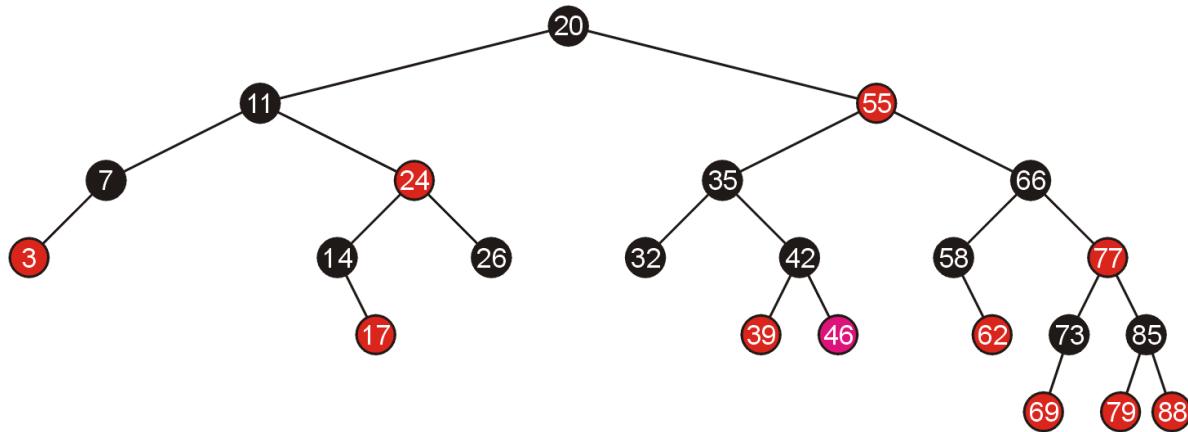
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

Adding 46 does not find any (necessarily black) parent with two red children



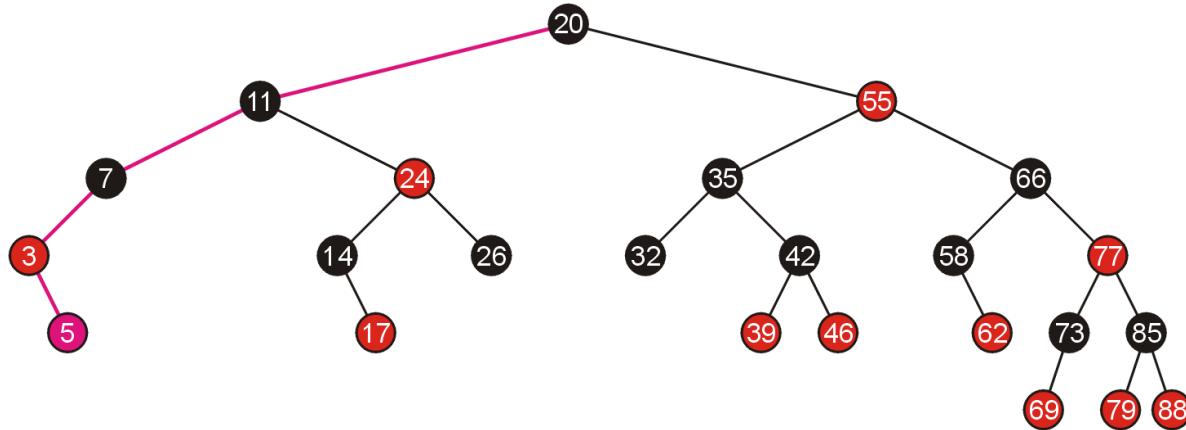
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

However, it does require one rotation at the end



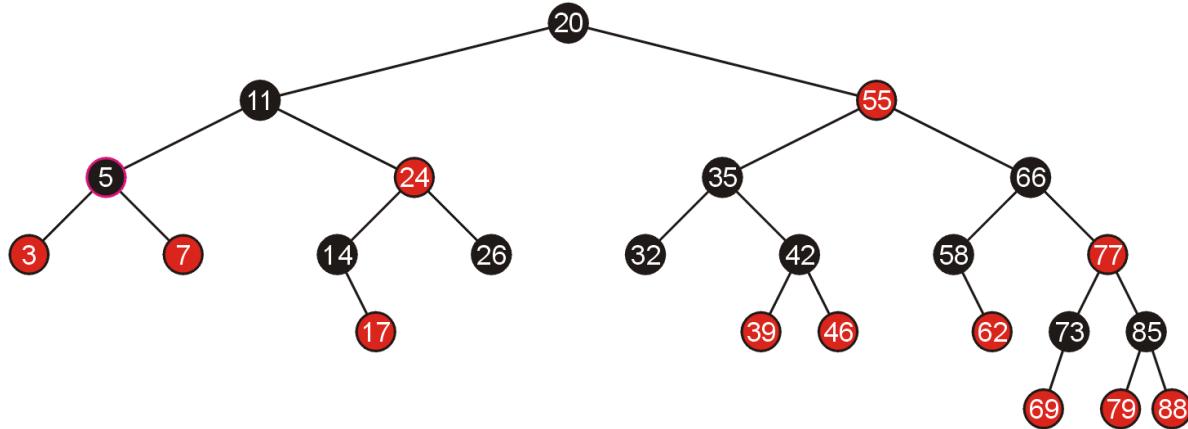
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

Similarly, adding 5 does not meet any parent with two red children:



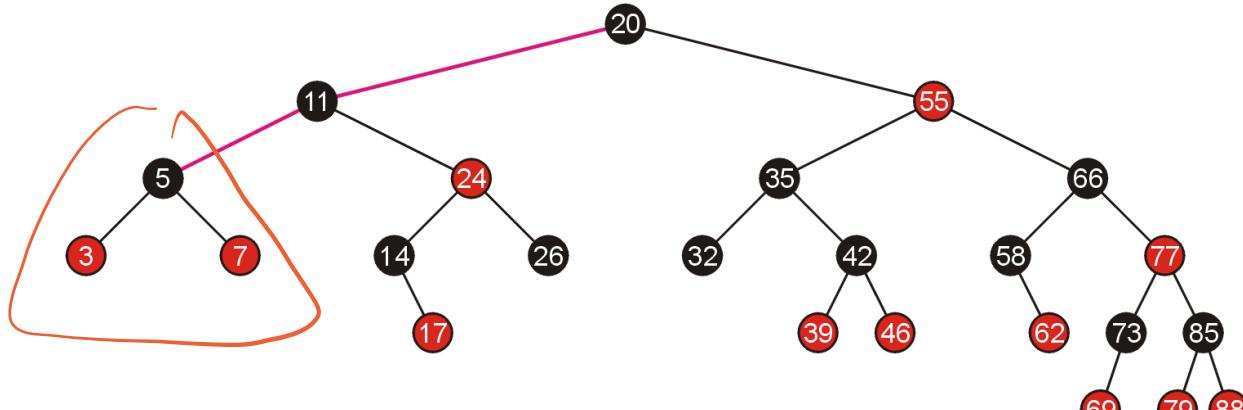
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

A rotation solves the last problem



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

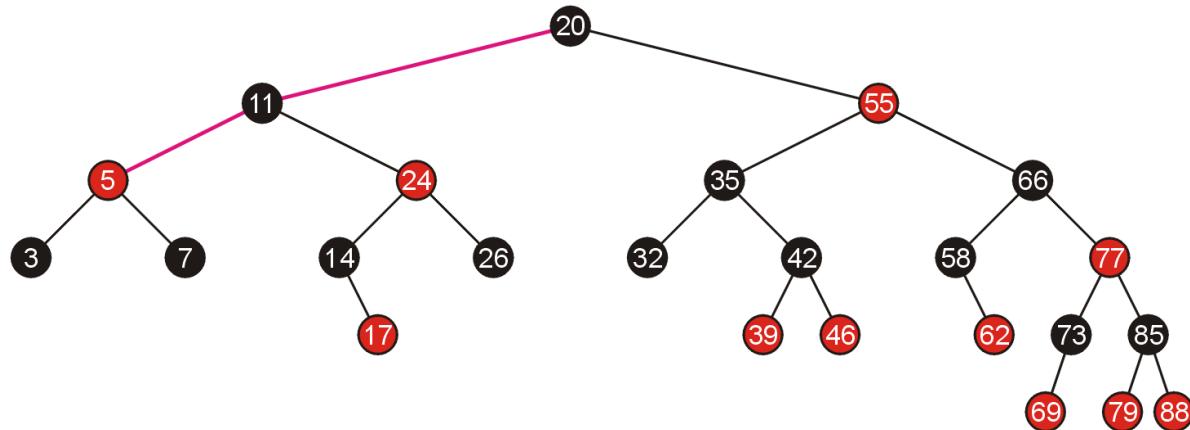
Adding 10 causes us to search down two edges before we meet node 5 with two red children



Swap

# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

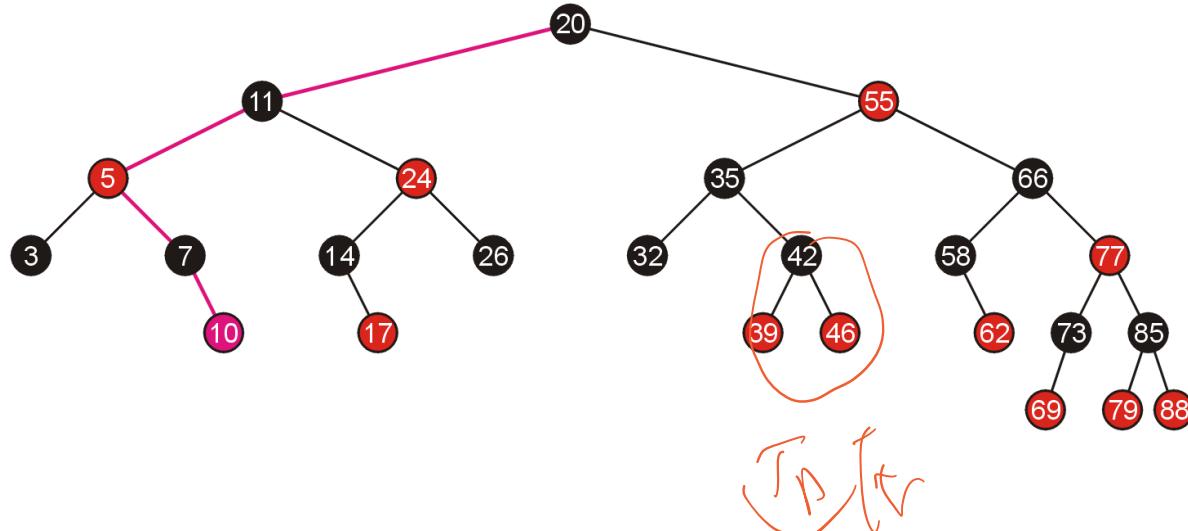
We swap the colours, and this does not cause a problem between 5 and 11



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

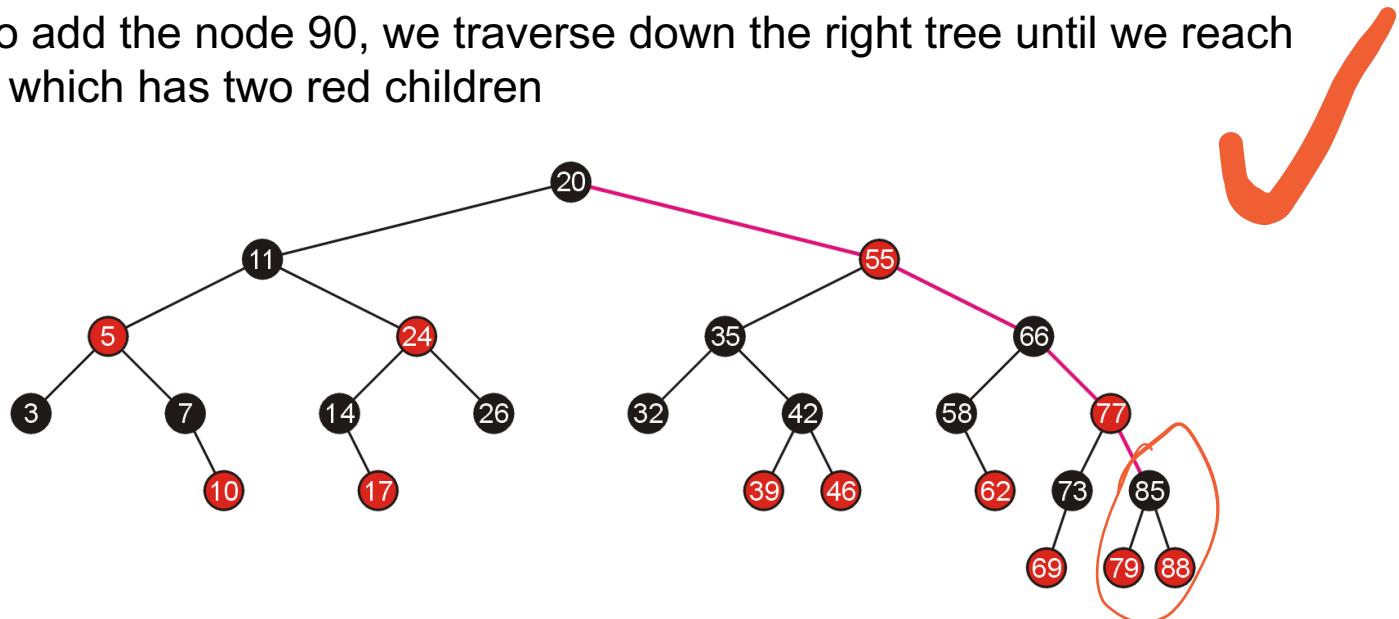
We continue and place 10 in the appropriate location

- No further rotations are required



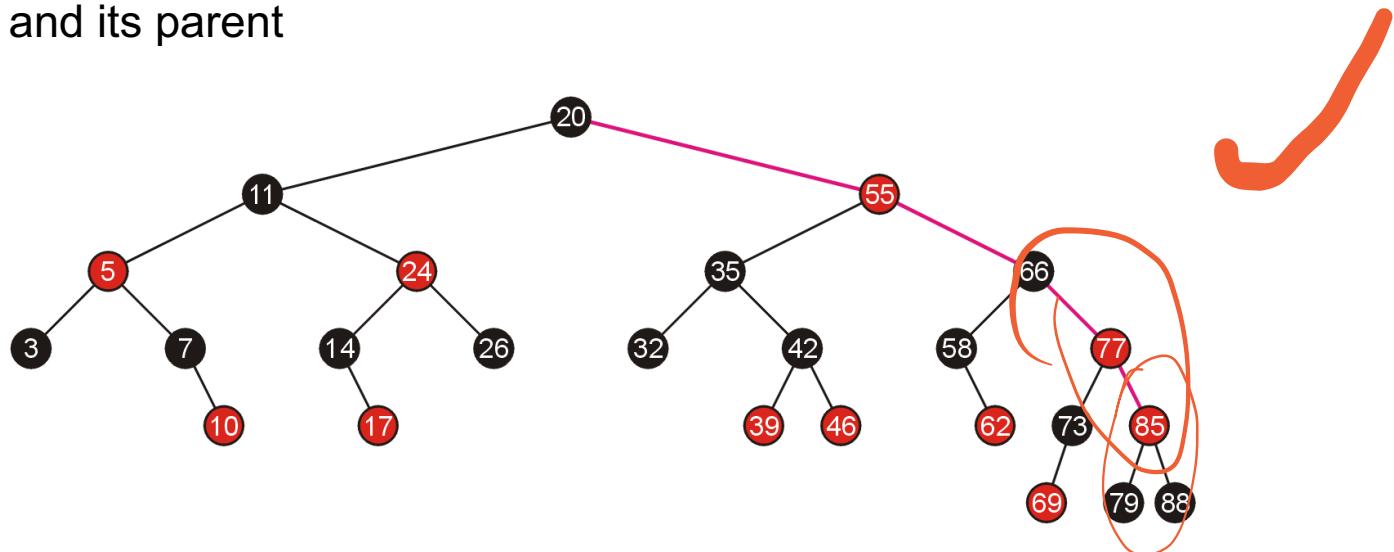
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

To add the node 90, we traverse down the right tree until we reach 85 which has two red children



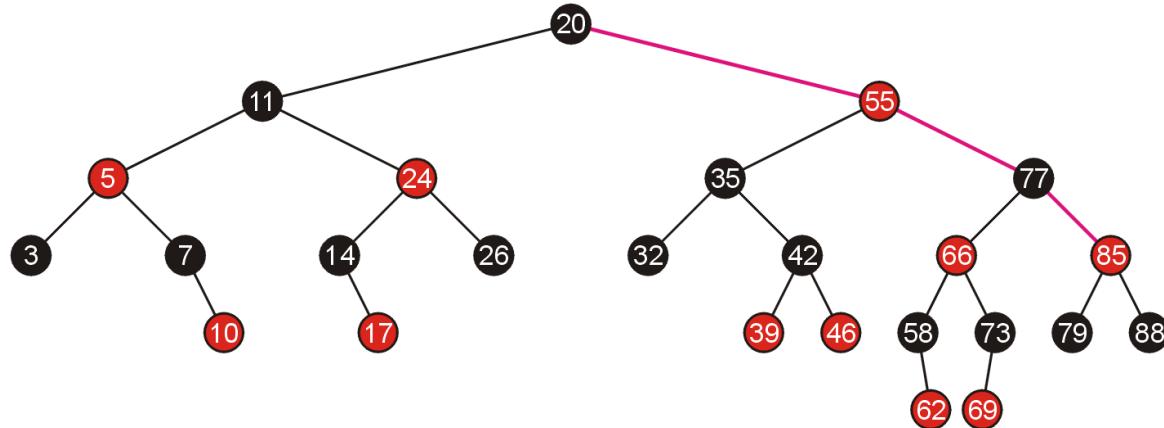
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

We swap the colours, however this creates a red-red pair between 85 and its parent



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

We require only one rotation to solve this problem, and we are guaranteed that this will not cause any problem for its parents

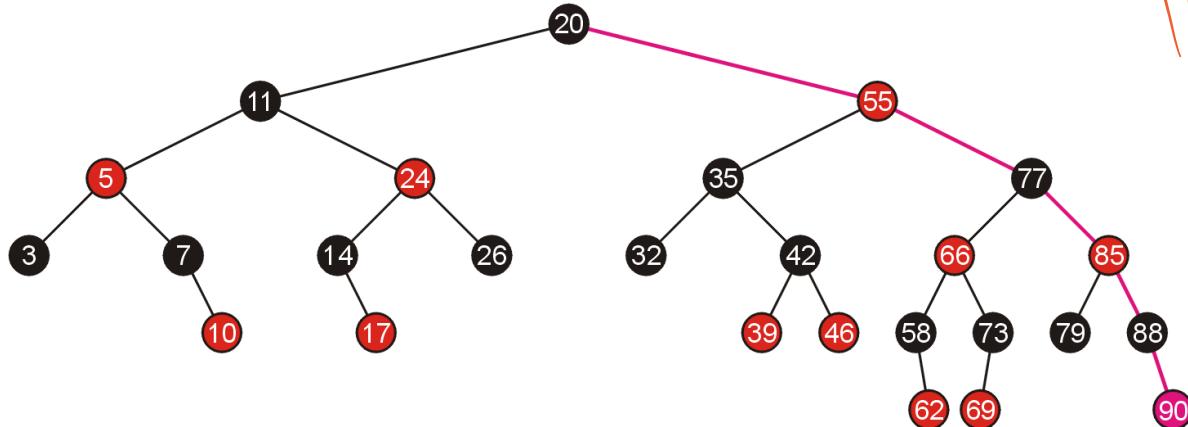




# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

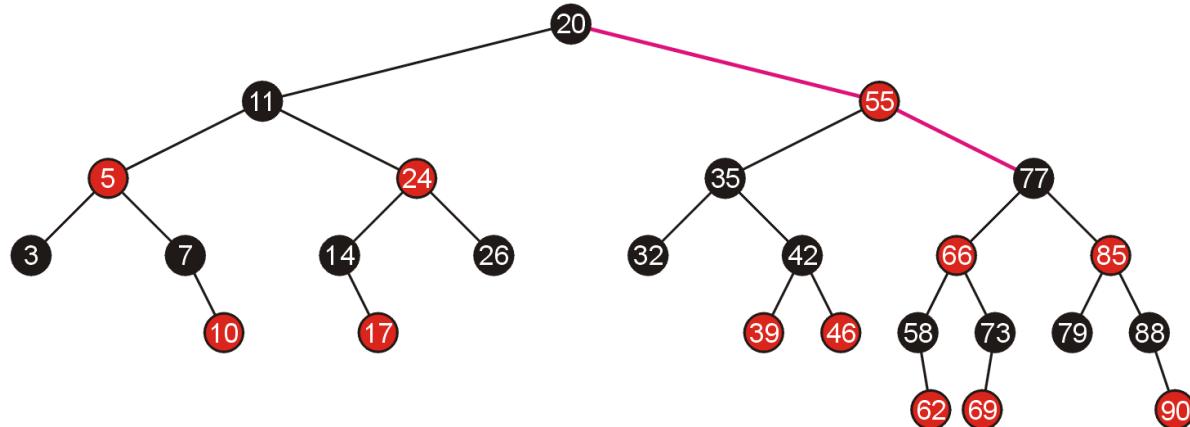
We continue to search down the right path and add 90 in the appropriate location—no further corrections are required

last



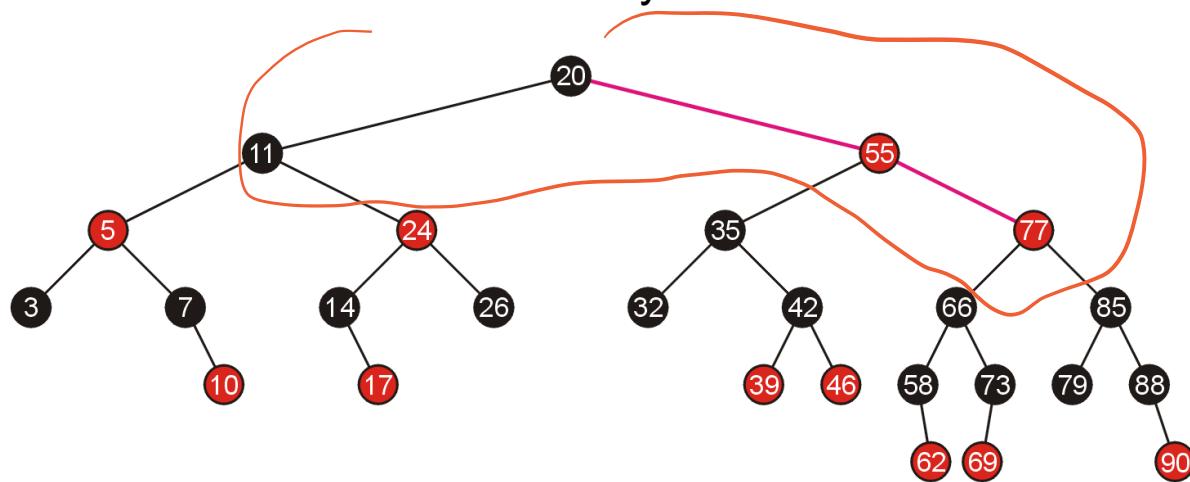
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

Next, adding 95, we traverse down the right-hand until we reach node 77 which has two red children



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

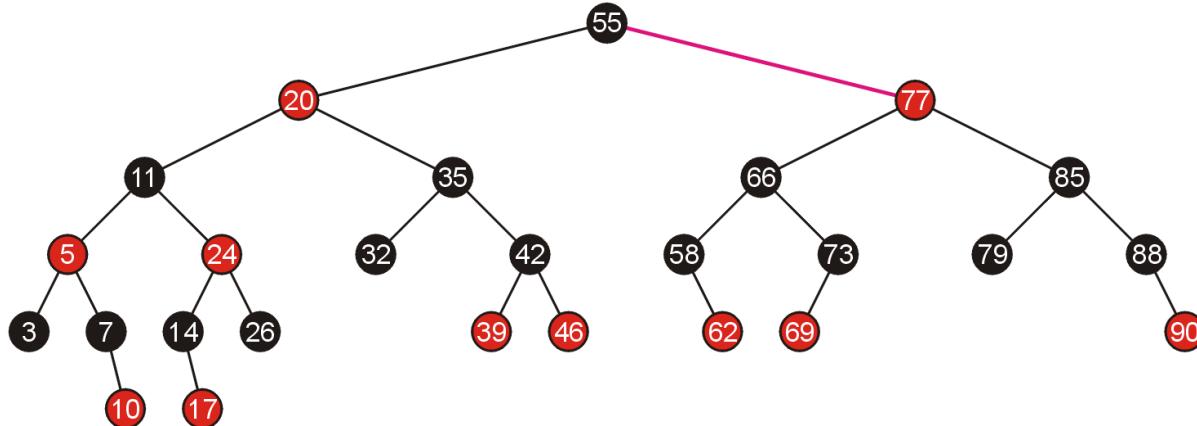
We swap the colours, which causes a red-red parent-child combination which must be fixed by a rotation



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

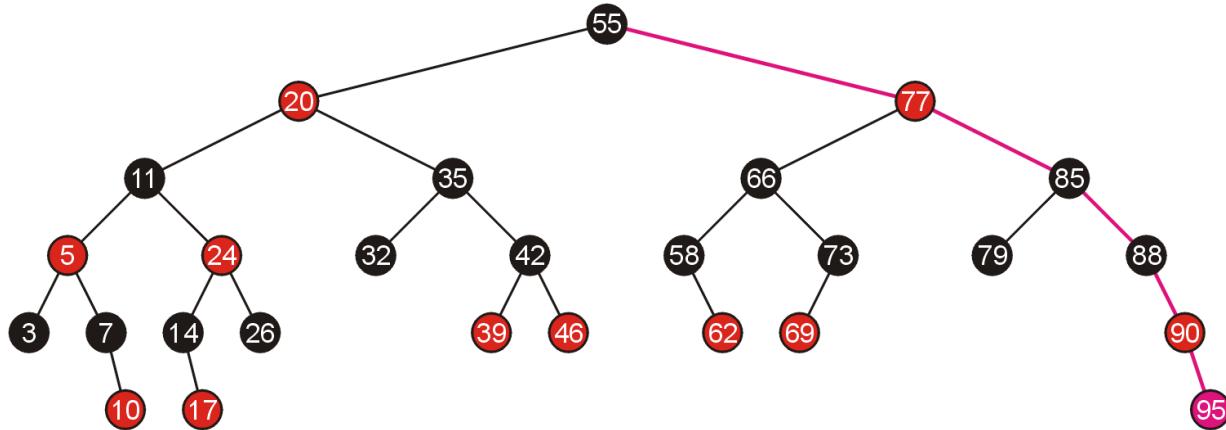
The rotation is around the root

- Note this rotation was not necessary with the bottom-up insertion of 95



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

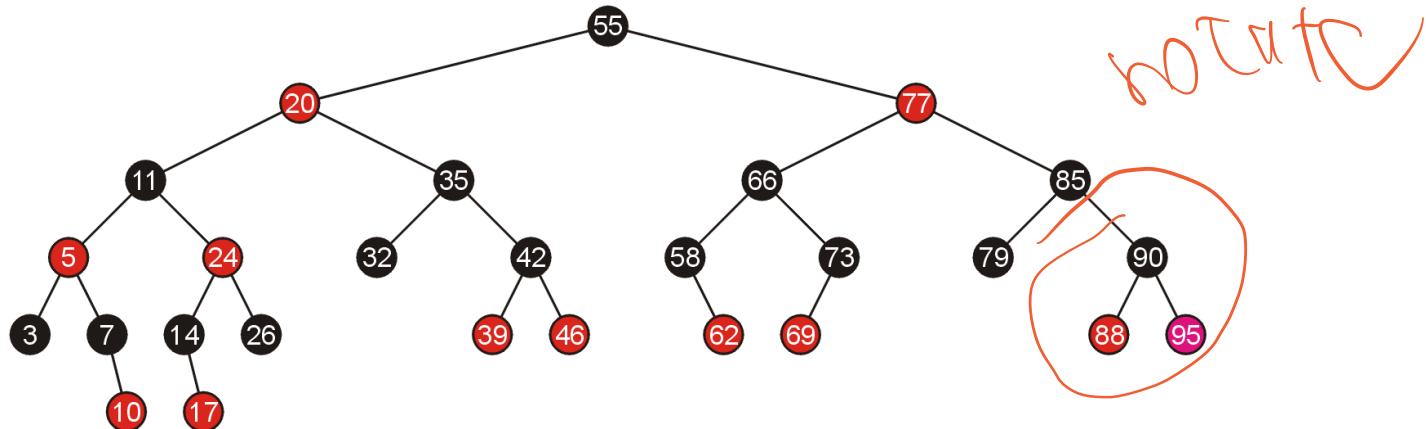
We can now proceed to add 95 by following the right-hand branch, and the insertion causes a red-red parent-child combination



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

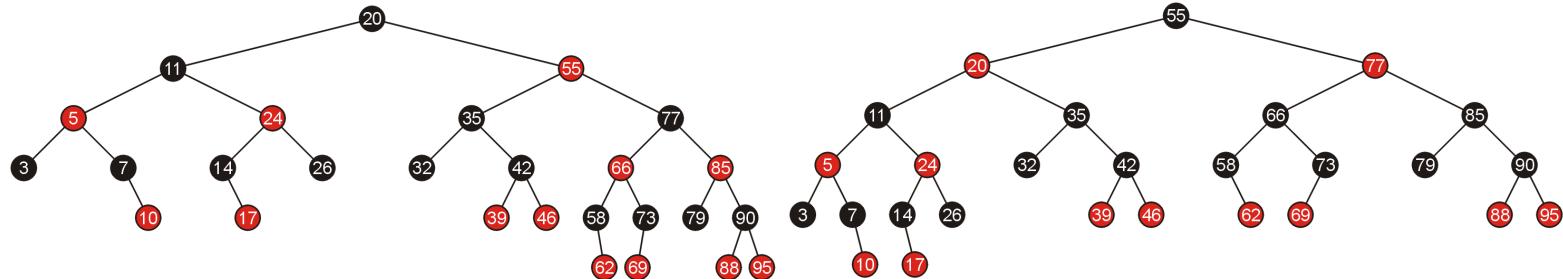
This is fixed with a single rotation

- We are guaranteed that this will not cause any further problems



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

If we compare the result of doing bottom-up insertions (left, seen previously) and top-down insertions (right), we note the resulting trees are different, but both are still valid red-black trees

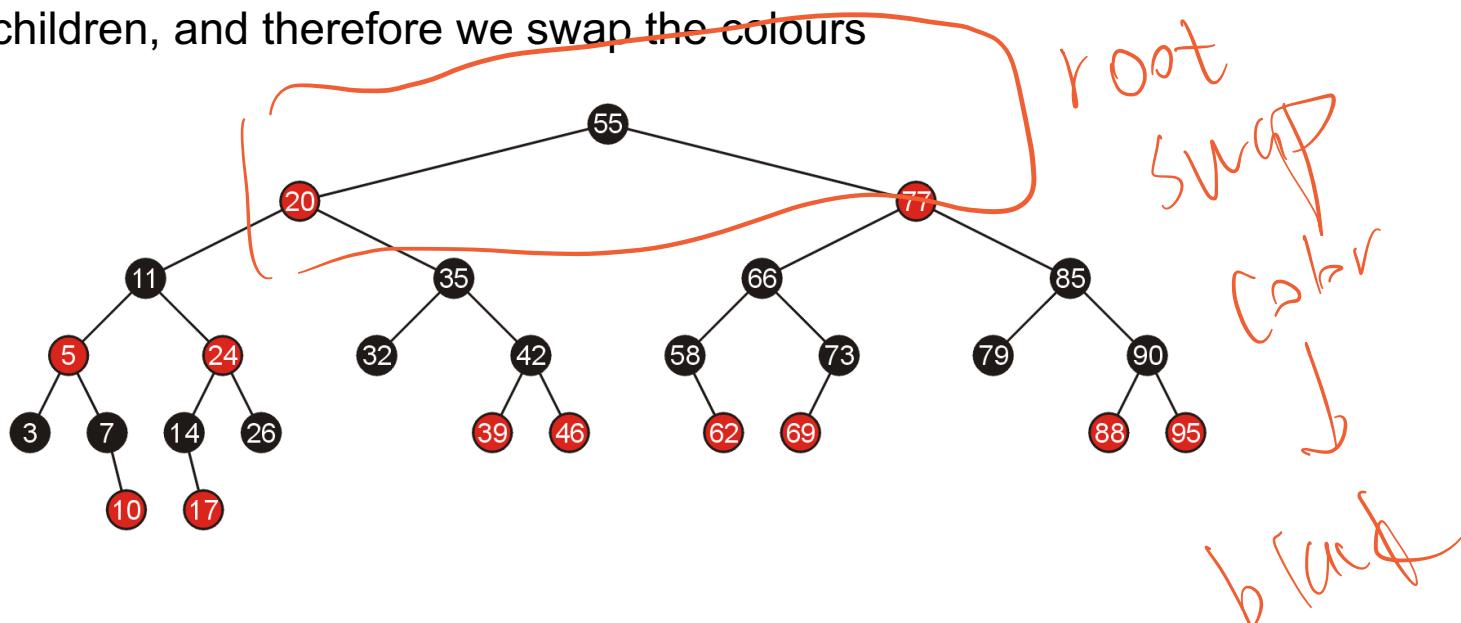


bottom up

top down

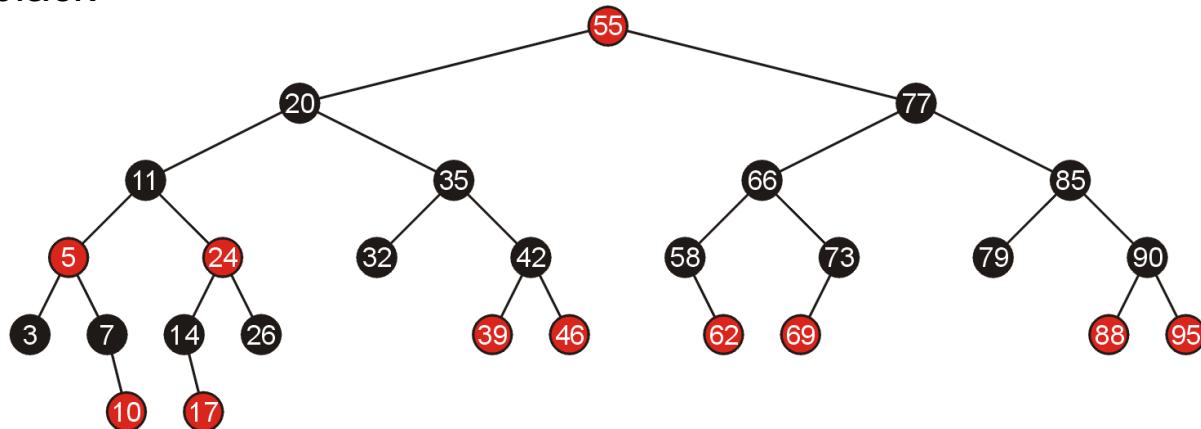
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

If we add 99, the first thing we note is that the root has two red children, and therefore we swap the colours



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

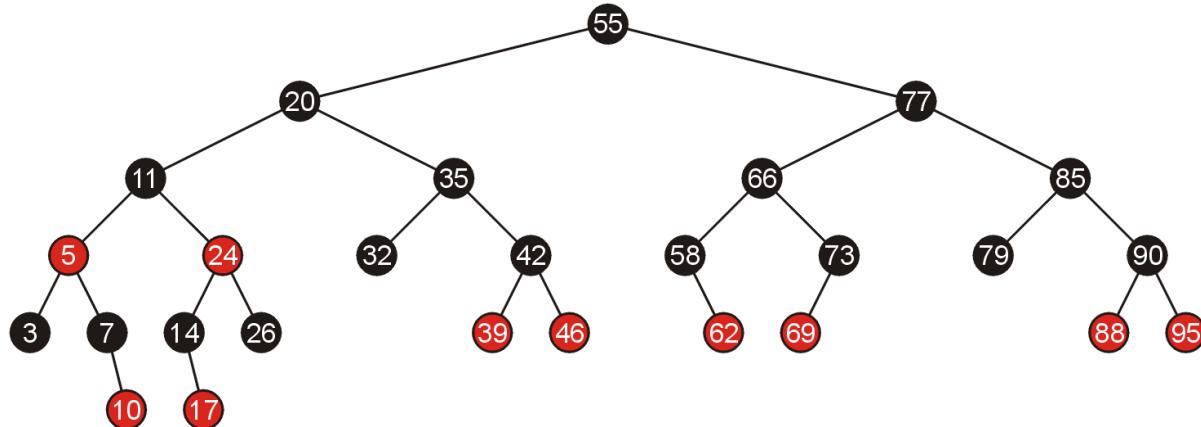
At this point, each path to a non-full node still has the same number of black nodes, however, we violate the requirement that the root is black



# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

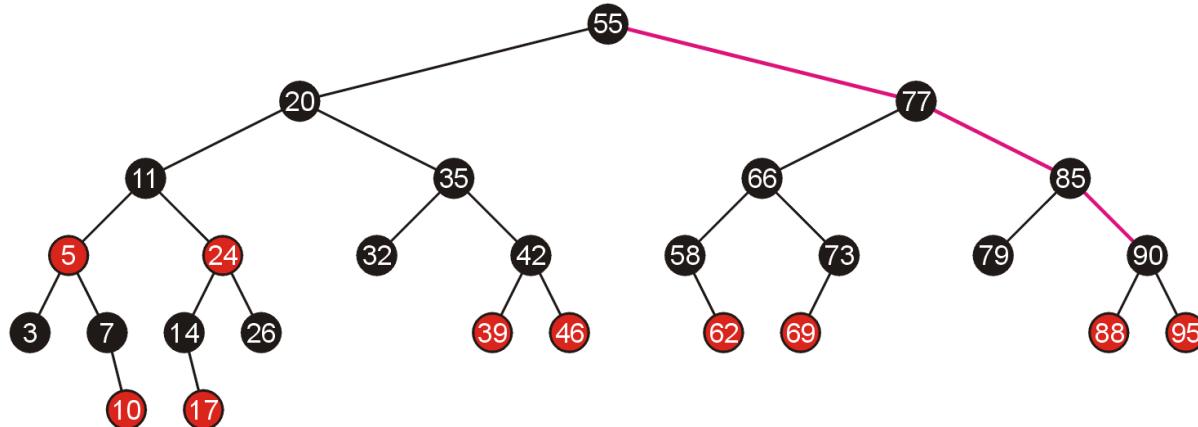
We change the colour of the root to black

- This adds one more black node to each path



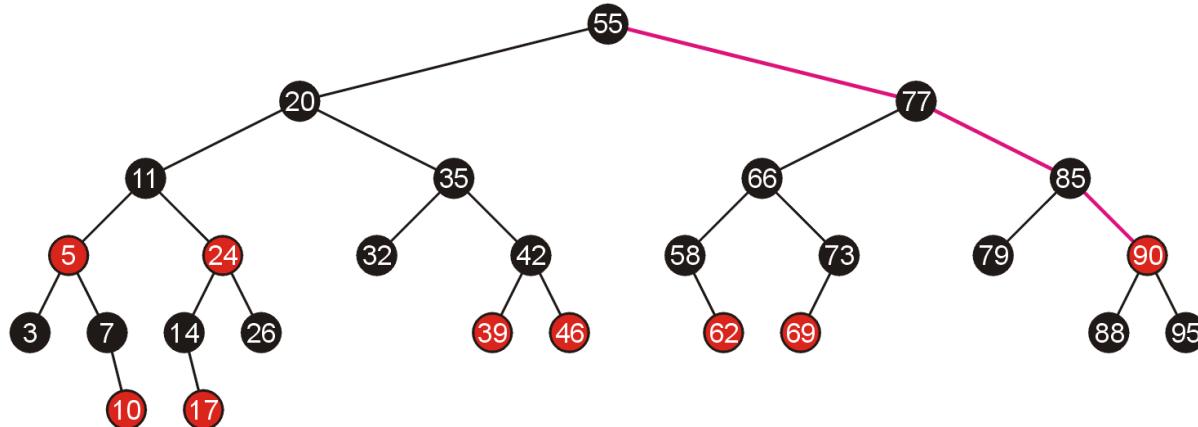
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

Moving to the right, we now reach node 90 which has two red children and therefore we swap the colours



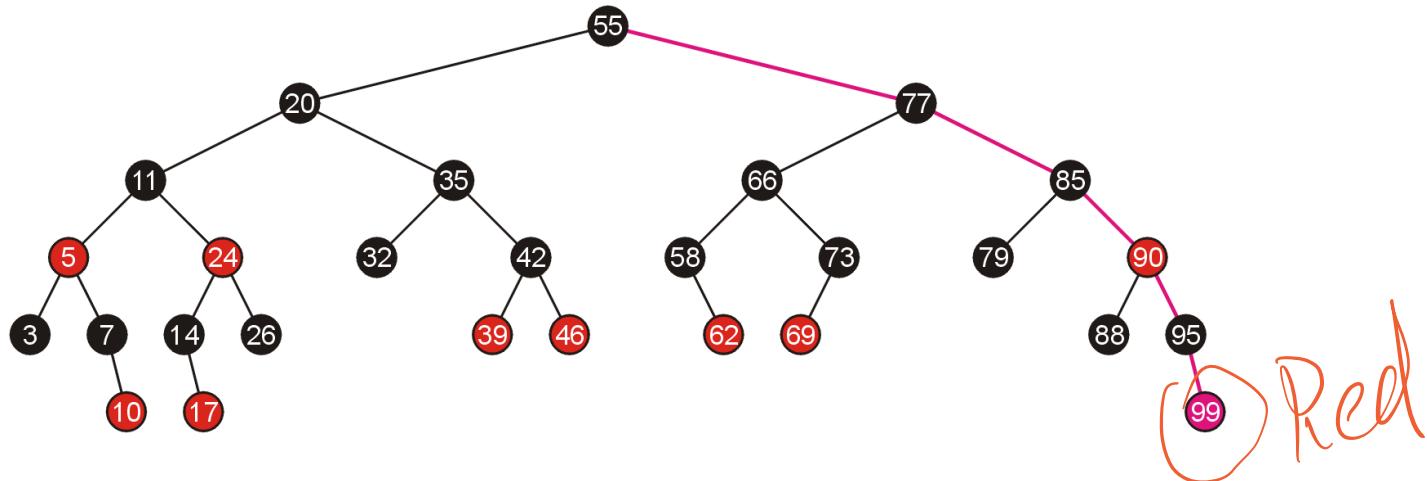
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

We continue down the right to add 99



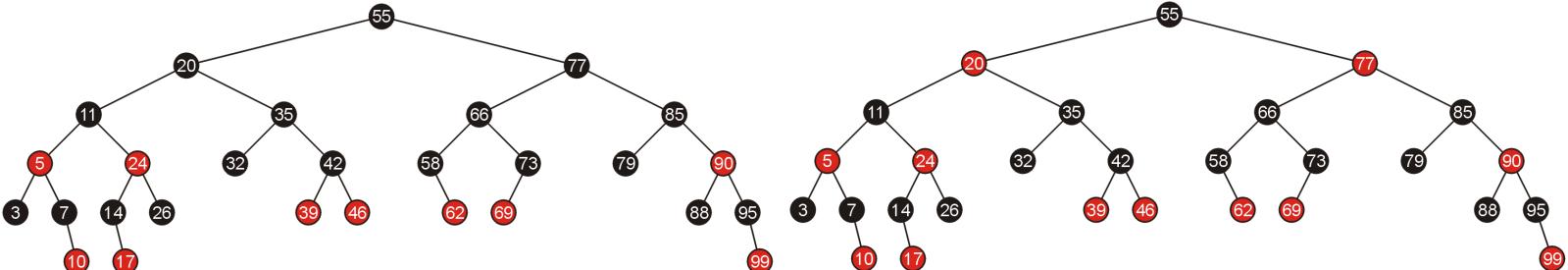
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

This does not violate any of the rules of the red-black tree and therefore we are finished



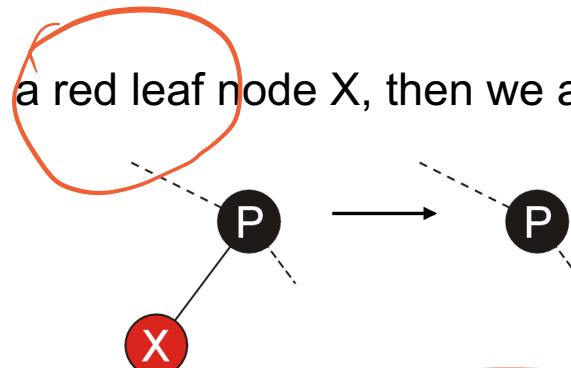
# Examples of Top-Down Insertions

Again, comparing the result of doing bottom-up insertions (left) and top-down insertions (right), we note the resulting trees are different, but both are still valid red-black trees

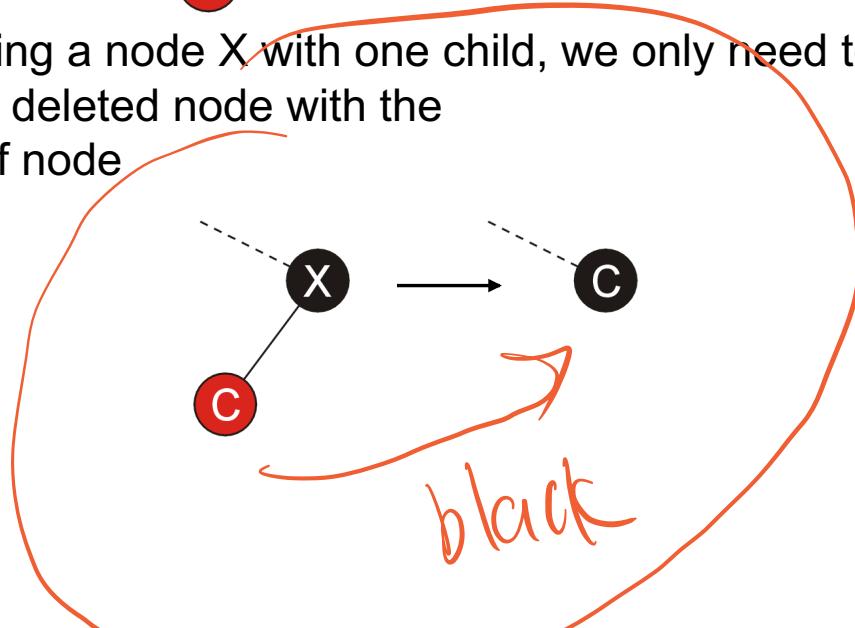


# Top-Down Deletions

If we are deleting a red leaf node X, then we are finished



If we are deleting a node X with one child, we only need to replace the value of the deleted node with the value of the leaf node



# Top-Down Deletions

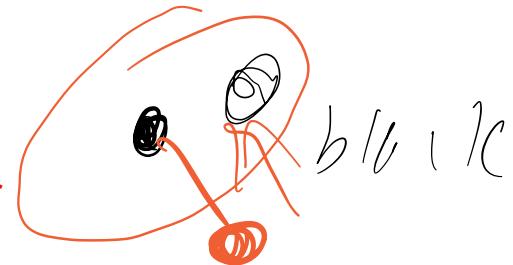
If we are deleting a full node, we use the same strategy used in standard binary search trees:

- replace the node with the minimum element in the right sub-tree
- then delete that element from the right sub-tree

# Top-Down Deletions

That minimum element must be either:

- a red leaf node,
- a black node with a single red leaf node, or
- a black leaf node



The first two cases are solved, consequently, we need only deal with the possibility that the leaf node we are deleting is black

black leaf delete

## Top-Down Deletions

Similar to top-down insertions, we will adopt a strategy which ensures that the leaf node being deleted is not black (check textbook Ch13)

# Red-Black Trees

In this topic, we have covered red-black trees

- simple rules govern how nodes must be distributed based on giving each node a colour of either red or black
- insertions and deletions may be performed without recursing back to the root
- only one bit is required for the “colour”
- this makes them, under some circumstances, more suited than AVL trees

# References

- [1] Cormen, Leiserson, and Rivest, *Introduction to Algorithms*, McGraw Hill, 2009, Ch.13, p.308-338.
- [2] Weiss, Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in C++, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., Addison Wesley, §12.2, p.525-34.

# References

Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hash\\_function](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hash_function)

- [1] Cormen, Leiserson, and Rivest, *Introduction to Algorithms*, McGraw Hill, 1990.
- [2] Weiss, Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in C++, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., Addison Wesley.

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