



# Introduction to Algorithms

Module Code: CELEN086

Lecture 8

(28/11/24)

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# Search in a binary tree

Search in an unsorted list:  $O(n)$  (linear search)

10	3	17	11	14	6	2	18
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Search in a binary tree:  $O(n)$  (Lecture 7)

Comparisons are linearly related to the size of binary tree.

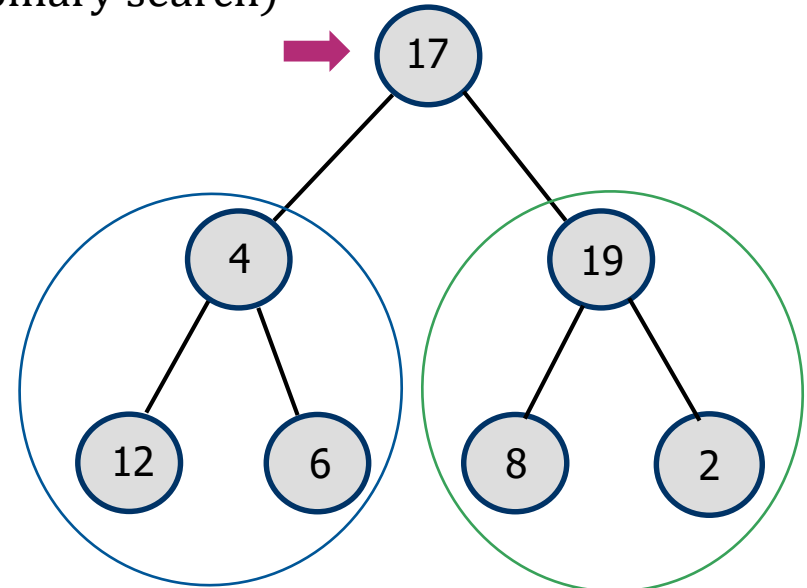
Search in an **sorted** list:  $O(\log_2 n)$  (binary search)

2	3	6	10	11	14	17	18
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Can we make better use of the binary structure in a binary tree?

We need a **sorted** tree:

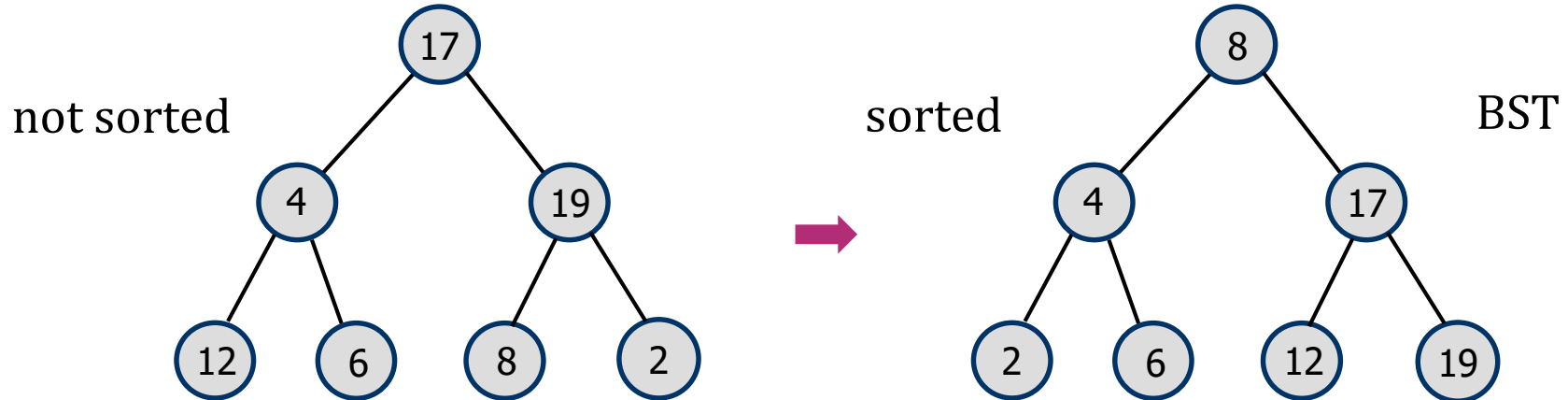
**Binary Search Tree**



# Binary Search Tree

A binary search tree (BST) is a sorted binary tree, such that for the value stored in each node:

- It is greater than all the values stored its left sub-tree
- It is smaller than all the values stored its right sub-tree





# Building a BST from a list

Create a binary search tree (**with minimal height/depth**) to store elements in the list (Seminar 7)

$L = [9, 16, 1, 27, 20, 33, 15, 8, 13, 5]$

Step 1: Sort the list

$[1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 27, 33]$

Step 2: Find the **middle element**, and store it in root node.

Step 3: For left/right sub-lists, find the **middle elements** and store them in the left/right child nodes on next level.

Repeat this process until all elements are stored in the tree.

# Example

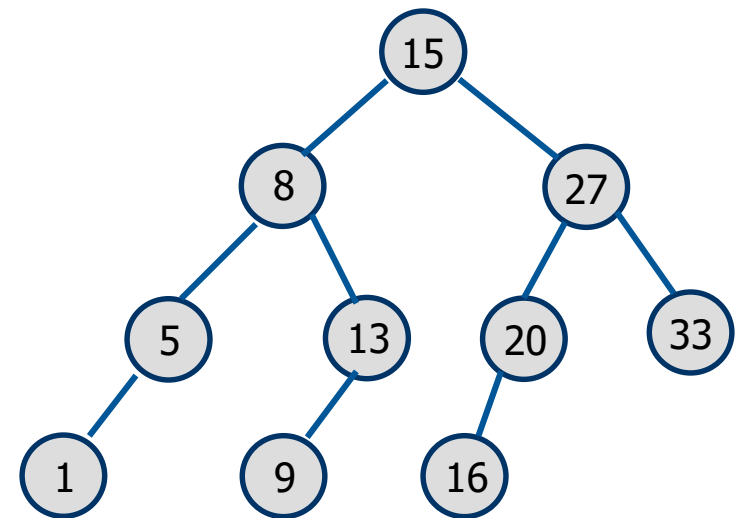
index of middle element:  $N/2+1$

[1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 27, 33]

[1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 27, 33]

[1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 27, 33]

[1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 27, 33]



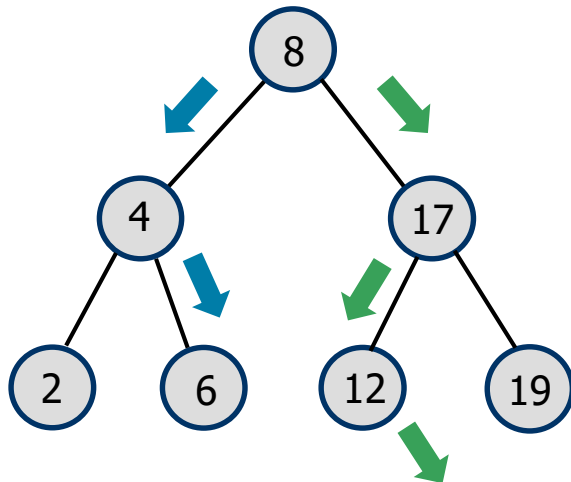
Binary Search Tree

BST with minimal height/depth

# Search in a BST

Search 6 in the BST:

Comparisons	Actions
$6 < 8$	go left
$6 > 4$	go right
$6 == 4$	end



Search 16 in the BST:

$16 > 8$	go right
$16 < 17$	go left
$16 > 12$	go right
<i>leaf</i>	end

Time complexity

$O(\log_2 n)$  or  $O(h)$

$n$ : tree size

$h$ : tree height

# Algorithm: search in BST

Design a recursive algorithm that searches for a node value in a binary search tree.

Algorithm: **search**(x, BST)

Requires: a binary search tree BST and an element x

Returns: True if x occurs in BST; False otherwise

```
1. if isLeaf(BST)
2.     return False // base case
3. elseif x==root(BST)
4.     return True // base case
5. elseif x<root(BST)
6.     return search(x, left(BST)) // recursive call
7. else // x>root(BST)
8.     return search(x, right(BST)) // recursive call
9. endif
```

# Example of BST algorithms

Many algorithms on a binary search tree will take operations that are linearly to the height (or logarithmically to the size).

$O(h)$

$O(\log_2 n)$

- Find minimum/maximum value.

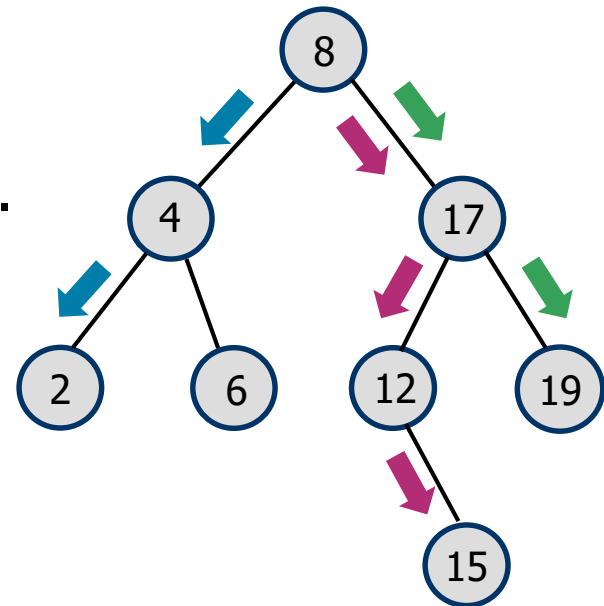
Min: 2

Max: 19

- Insert an element to BST.

e.g., insert 15

Can you design a recursive algorithm for insert(x, BST)?



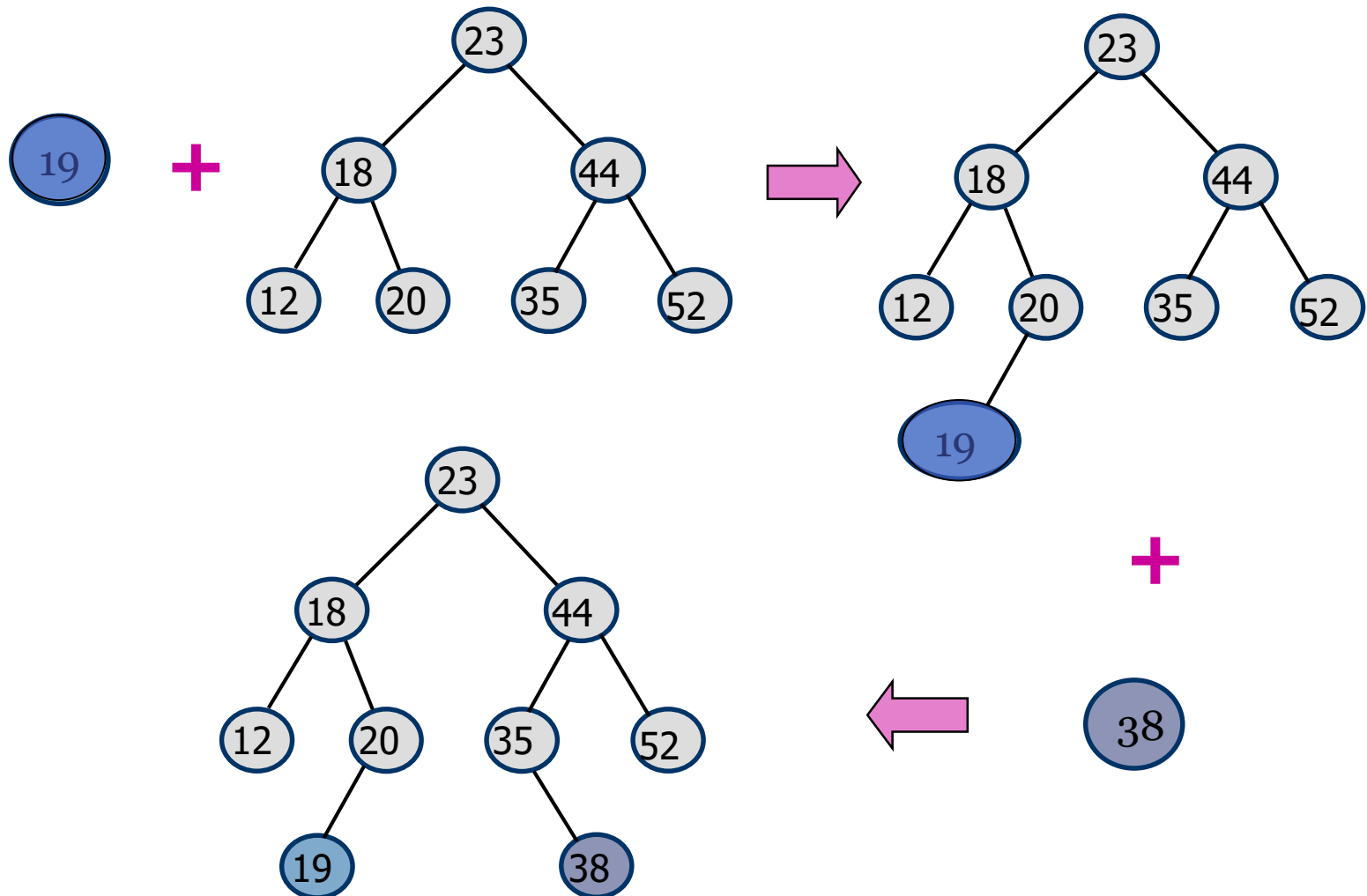




# Insert an element into BST

- Where is the right place to insert?
- Insert algorithm is a lot like search algorithm,
  - but it **keeps going until** it gets to a leaf,
  - and then **adds a new left or right child**, as appropriate.

## BST insertion





**Algorithm : insertBST( $x, t$ )**

**Requires :** a BST  $t$  and an integer  $x$

**Returns :** a BST with node value  $x$  in  $t$

```
1: if isLeaf( $t$ ) then  
2:   Node(leaf,  $x$ , leaf)  
3:   return True  
4: else if  $root(t) == x$  then  
5:   return False  
6: else if  $root(t) < x$  then  
7:   return insertBST( $x, right(t)$ )  
8: else  
9:   return insertBST( $x, left(t)$ )  
10: endif
```

this algorithm has  
a fault – it does  
not attach the  
value to the tree.  
Revise version on  
the next slide

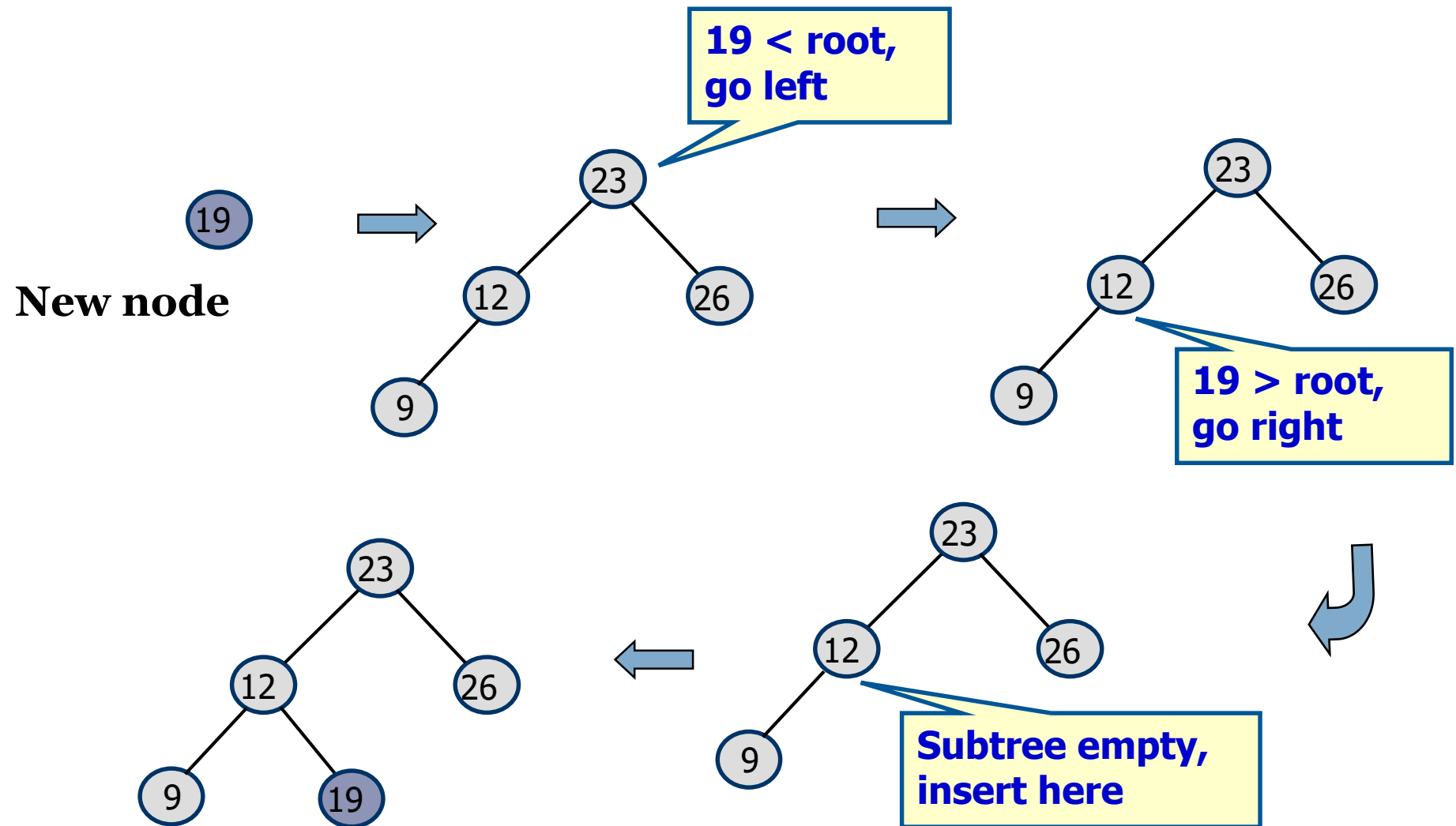
# Revised insertBST

Algorithm: insertBST(  $x, t$  )

**Requires :** a number  $x$  and a Binary Search Tree  $t$

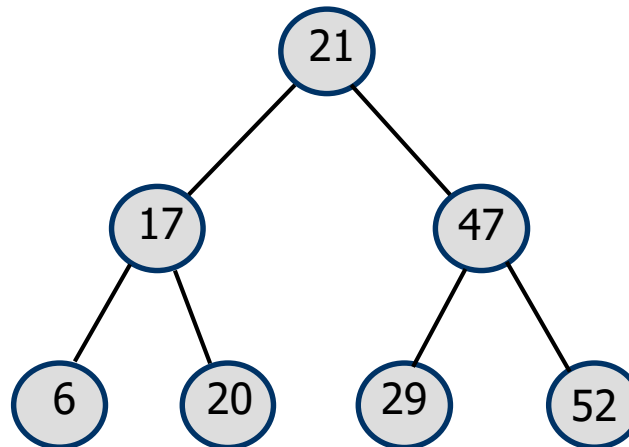
**Returns :** the tree with  $x$  inserted, if the number is not already in the tree; otherwise returns the original tree

1. **if** isLeaf(  $t$  ) **then**
2.     **return** node( leaf,  $x$  , leaf )
3. **else if** root(  $t$  ) ==  $x$  **then**
4.     **return**  $t$
5. **else if**  $x < \text{root}( t )$  **then**
6.     **return** node( insertBST(  $x, \text{left}( t )$  ), root(  $t$  ), right(  $t$  ) )
7. **else**
8.     **return** node( left(  $t$  ), root(  $t$  ), insertBST(  $x, \text{right}( t )$  ) )
9. **end if**



# Practice

- Insert a number 48 into the BST
- show how the algorithm is executed recursively





# Traversal schemes

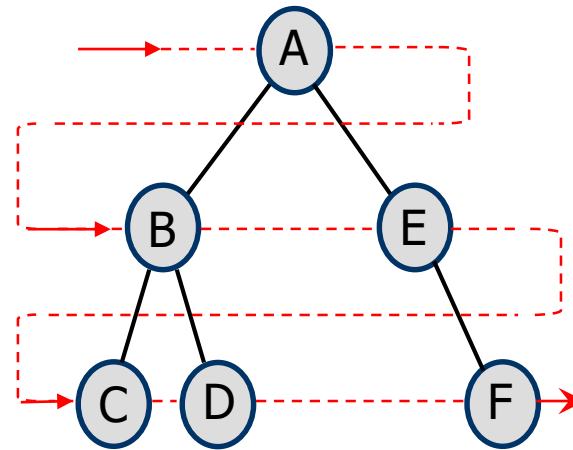
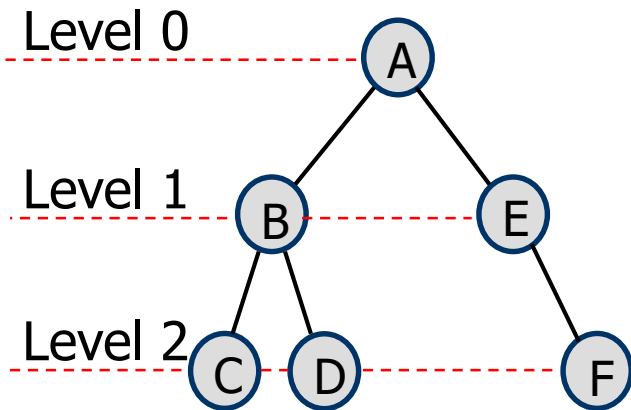
By traversing a tree we visit all the nodes in a particular order and create a list of node values stored in the tree.

Traversal schemes can be classified as:

- Breadth first traversal scheme
- Depth first traversal schemes

# Breadth first

- Each level is completely visited before the next level is started.
- In each level we list the node values from left to right.



[A B E C D F]



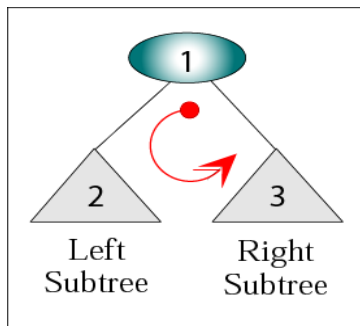
# Depth first

There are three depth first traversal schemes on a binary tree, depending on the orders in which we recursively visit

Node

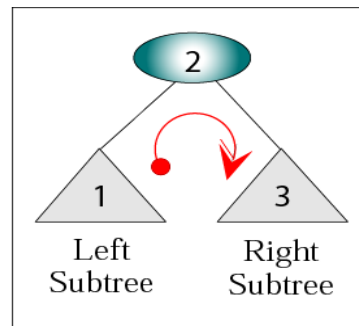
Left subtree

Right subtree



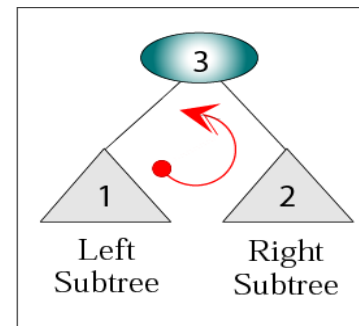
a. Preorder Traversal

(NLR scheme)



b. Inorder Traversal

(LNR scheme)

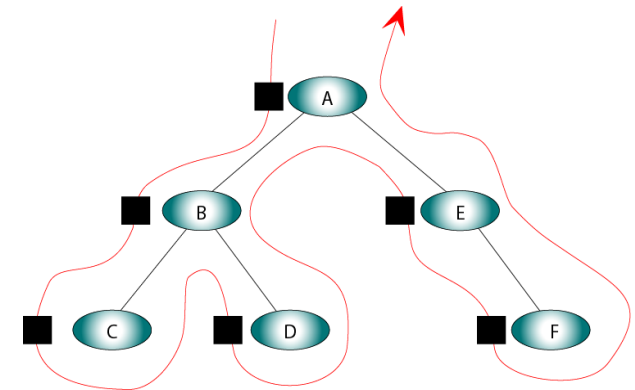
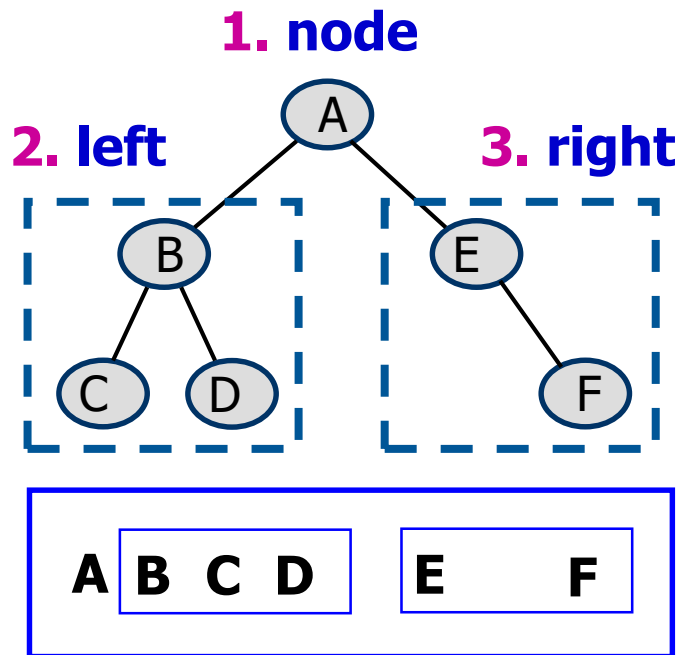


c. Postorder Traversal

(LRN scheme)

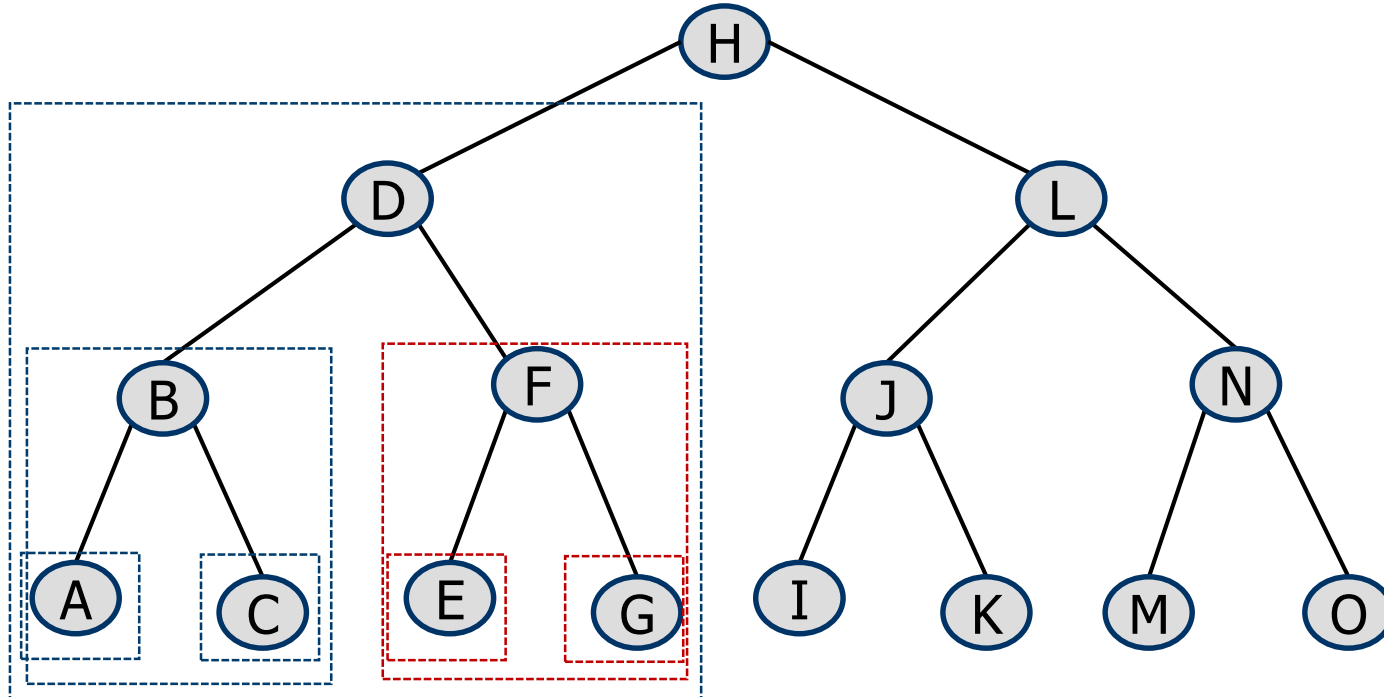
# Preorder traversal (NLR)

Visit root node → Traverse left subtree → Traverse right subtree



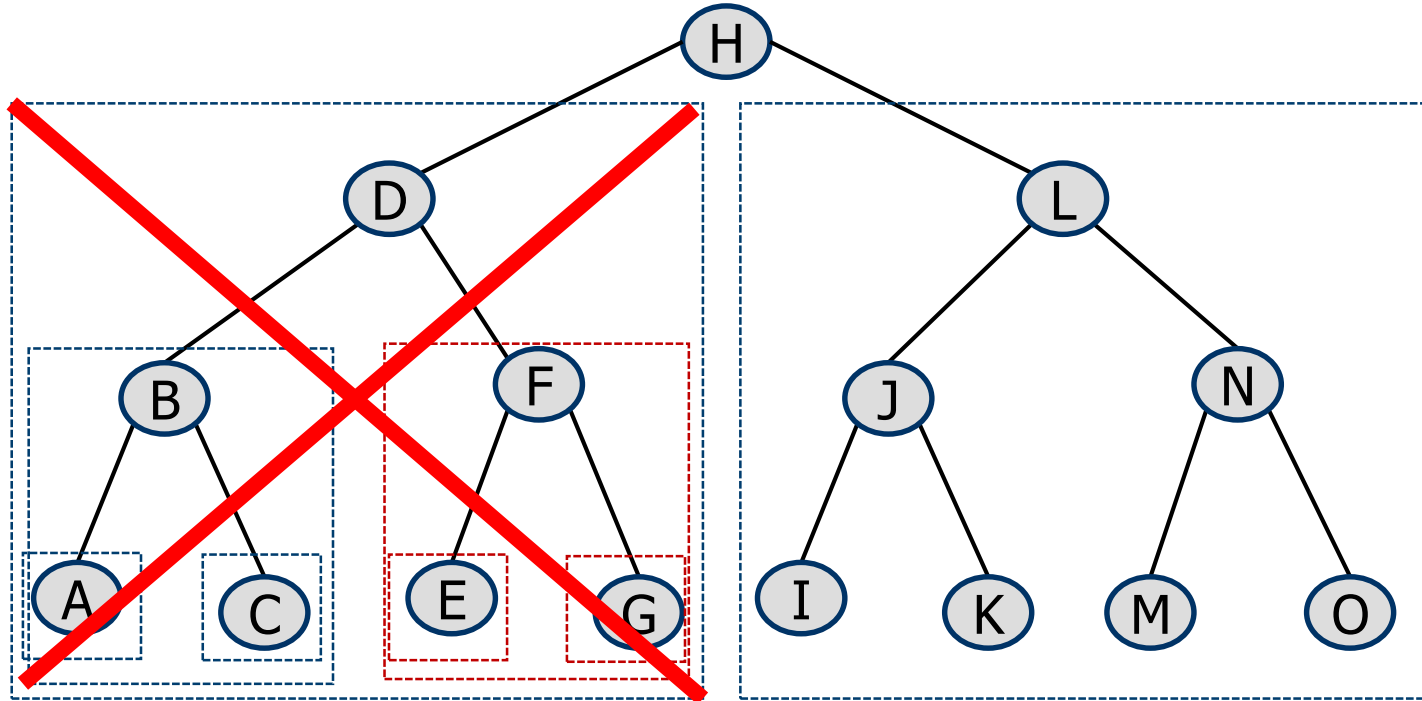


# Preorder (NLR) Example



**H** D B A C F E G

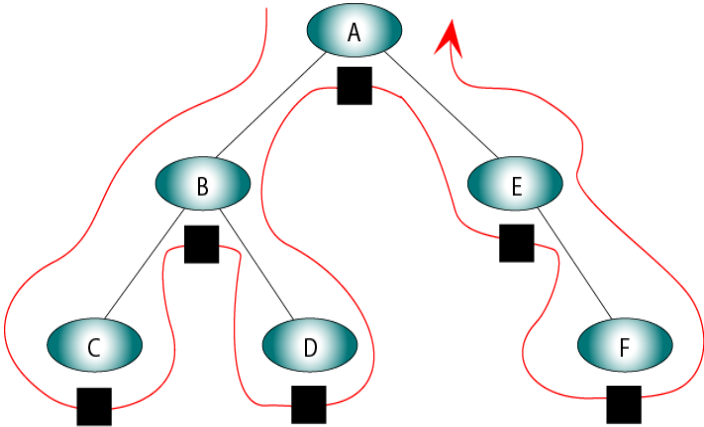
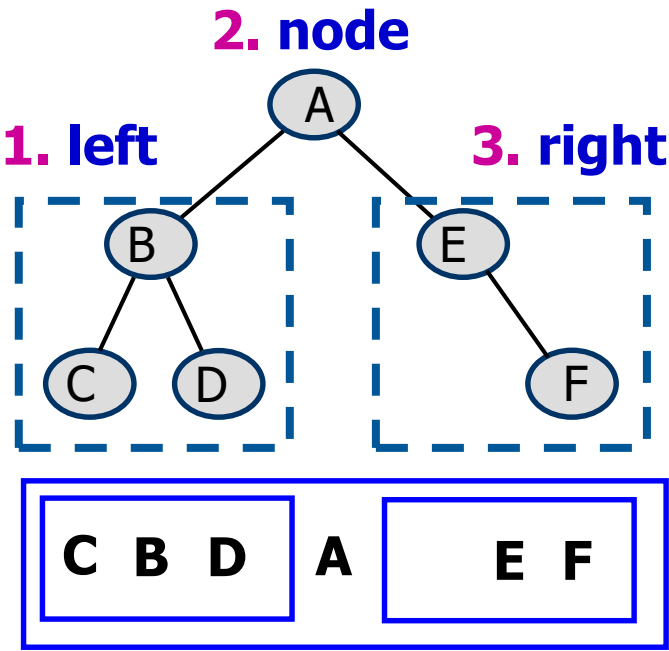
# Preorder (NLR) Example



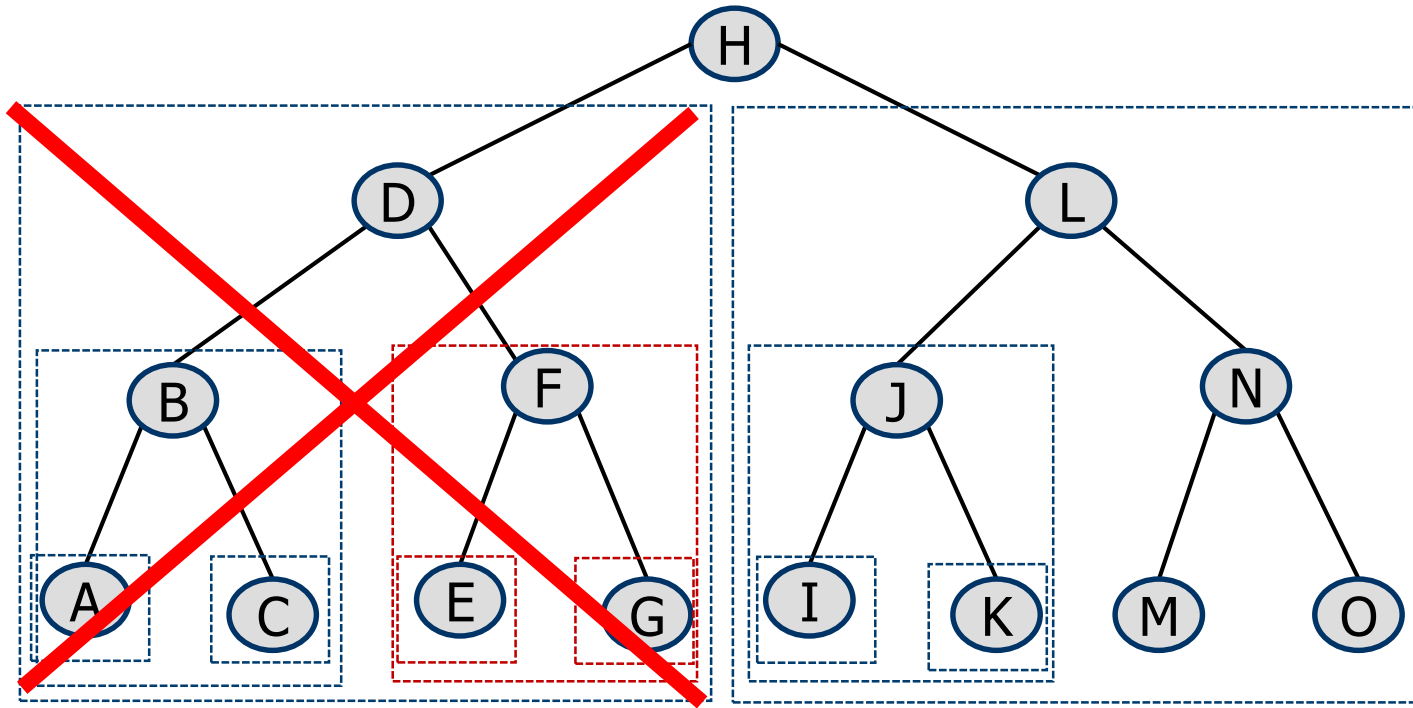
**H D B A C F E G L J I K N M O**

# Inorder traversal (LNR)

Traverse left subtree → Visit root node → Traverse right subtree



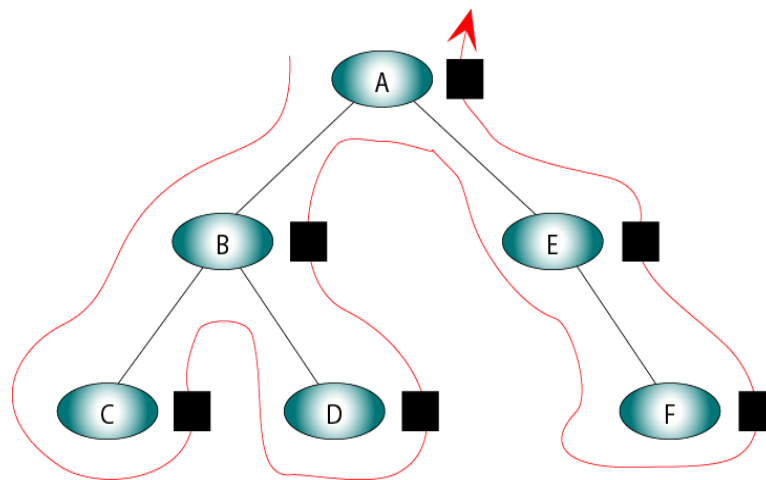
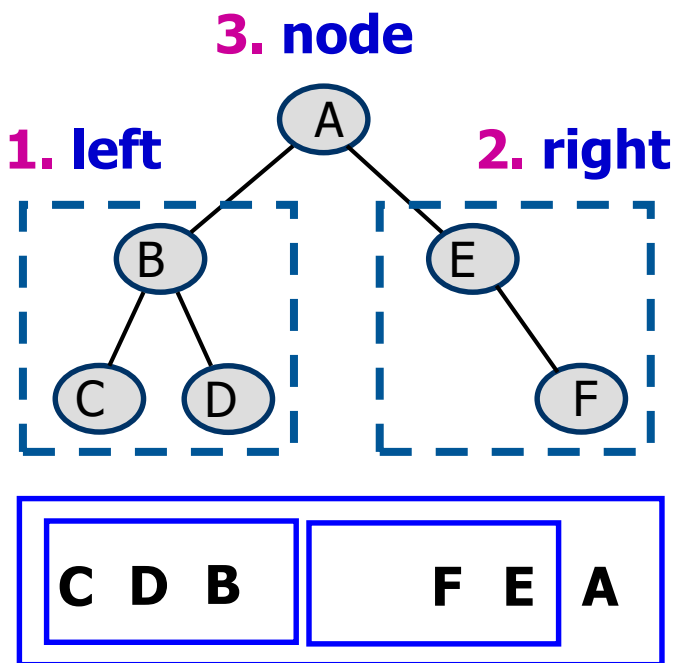
# Inorder (LNR) Example



ABCDEF~~GH~~IJKLMNOP

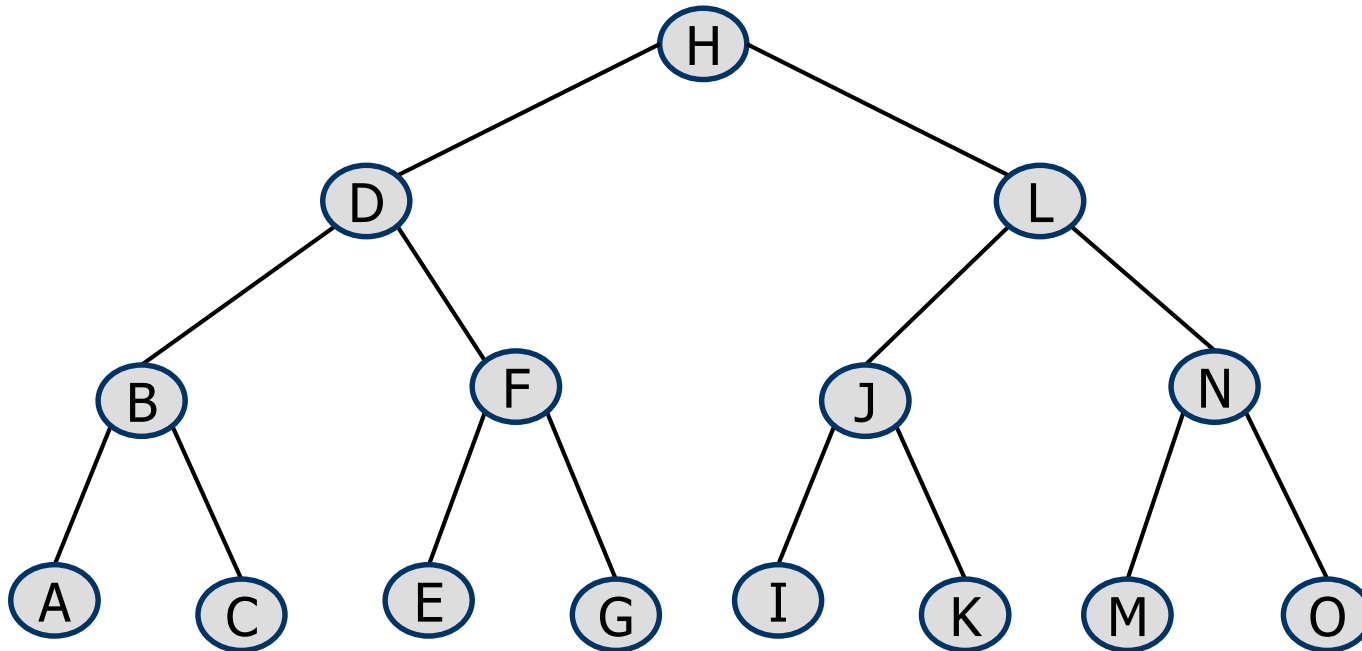
# Postorder traversal (LRN)

Traverse left subtree → Traverse right subtree → Visit root node





# Postorder (LRN) Example



Answer: [A C B E G F D I K J M O N L H]



# Practice

Find the lists obtained by traversing the following **binary search tree** using:

NLR scheme (preorder):

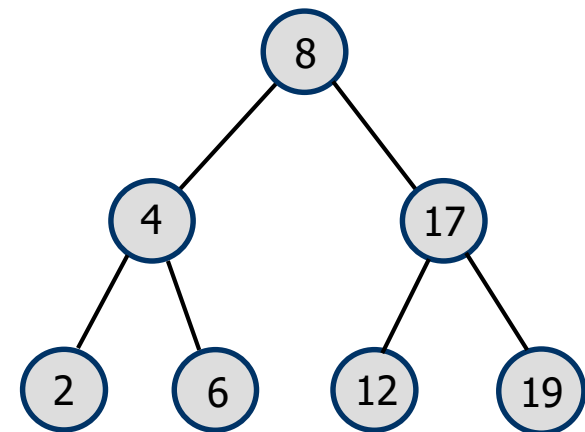
[8, 4, 2, 6, 17, 12, 19]

LNR scheme (inorder):

[2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 17, 19]

LRN scheme (postorder):

[2, 6, 4, 12, 19, 17, 8]



Conclusion:

LNR scheme (**inorder traversal**) returns a **sorted list** from a BST.

# Balanced Binary Search Tree

A binary tree satisfy condition of the Binary search tree and at each node, verify that :

**Absolutedifference**(Height(left(T))–Height(right(T))) $\leq 1$ .

A balanced BST is a binary search tree where the height difference between the left and right subtrees of any node is at most 1.



Balanced BST



Unbalanced BST



# Comparison: Balanced BST and Unbalanced BST

Criteria	Balanced BST	Unbalanced BST
Structure	Spread evenly across nodes	Nodes skewed to one side
Example Values	2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	1, 2, 4, 8
Height Difference	At most 1 for all nodes	Exceeds 1 for some nodes
Height Complexity	$O(\log n)$	$O(n)$ in the worst case

Balanced BSTs are more efficient for search, insertion, and deletion operations because the height of the tree is minimized. Unbalanced BSTs can degrade to linear performance in the worst-case scenarios.



# Binary Search Tree Review

