



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Trees

Tree terminology

Tree traversal

Search trees

Analysis

# The adventure thus far...

CPSC 259 topics up to this point

## Abstract data types

Stack

Queue

Dictionary

Linked list

Circular array

Array

Tree

Data structures

## Tools

Pointers

Dynamic memory allocation

Asymptotic analysis

Recursion

Algorithms

# Review: Dictionary ADT

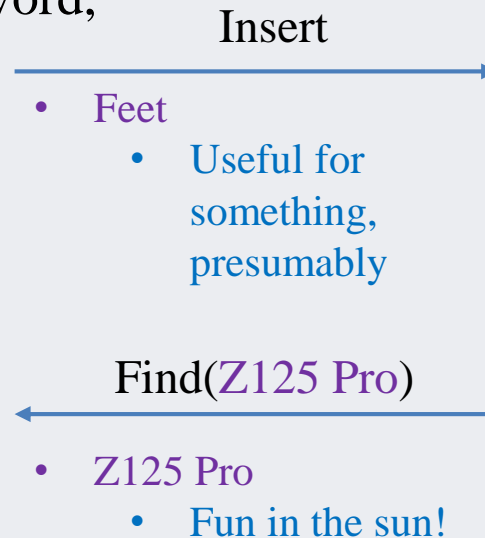
- Abstract data type (ADT) – a mathematical description of an object and a set of operations on the object
  - Alternatively, a collection of data and the operations for accessing the data

- Example: Dictionary ADT

- Stores pairs of strings: (word, definition)

- Operations:

- Insert(word, definition)
- Remove(word)
- Lookup(word)

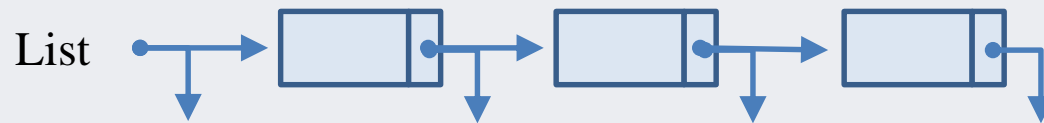


- Super 9 LC
  - Smell like a lawnmower
- Z125 Pro
  - Fun in the sun!
- CB300F
  - For the mild-mannered commuter

data storage implemented with a data structure

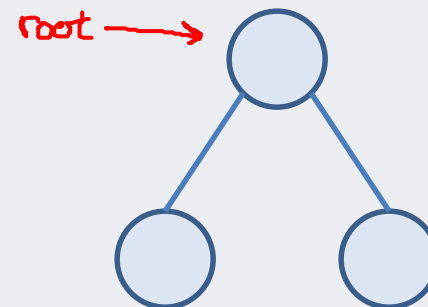
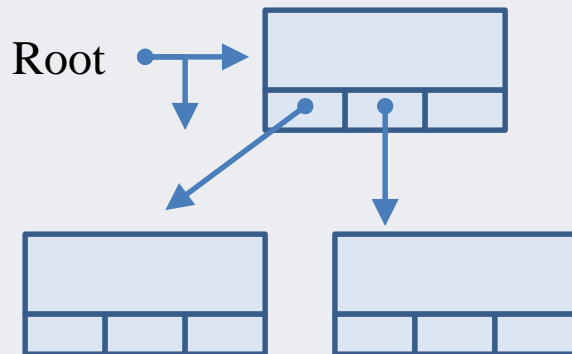
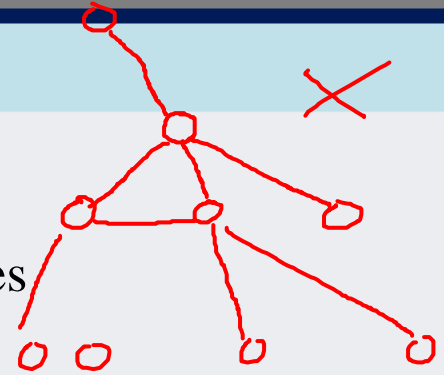
# Review: linked lists

- Linked lists are constructed out of *nodes*, consisting of
  - a data element
  - a pointer to another node
- Lists are constructed as chains of such nodes



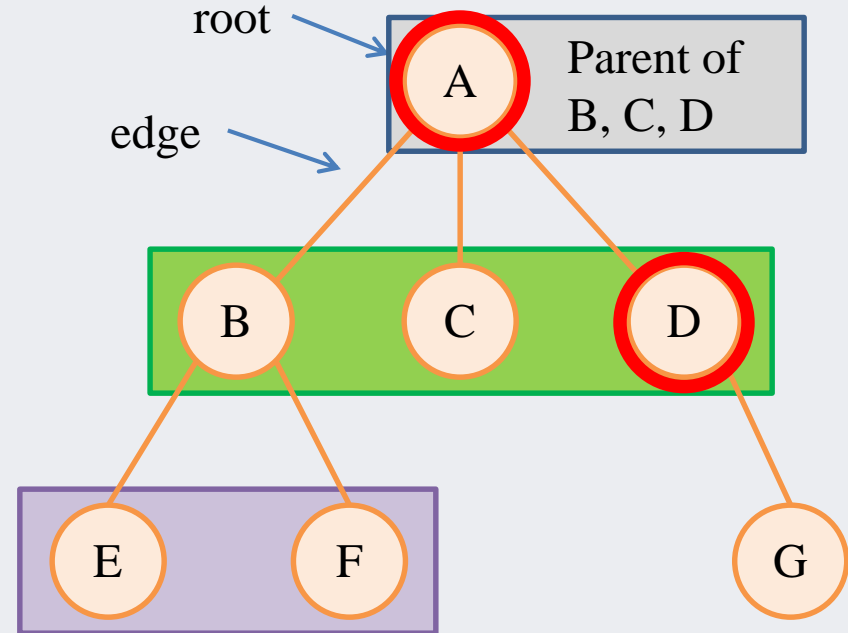
# Trees

- Trees are also constructed from nodes
  - Nodes may now have pointers to one or more other nodes
- A set of nodes with a single starting point
  - called the *root* of the tree (root node)
- Each node is connected by an *edge* to another node
- A tree is a *connected* graph
  - There is a *path* to every node in the tree
  - A tree has one less edge than the number of nodes



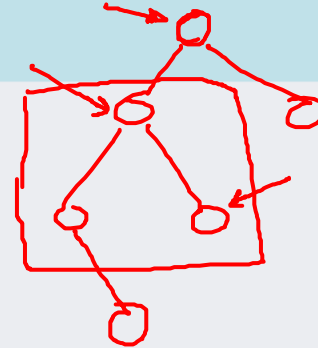
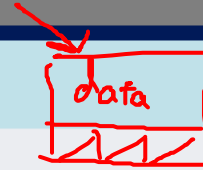
# Tree relationships

- Node  $v$  is said to be a child of  $u$ , and  $u$  the parent of  $v$  if
  - There is an edge between the nodes  $u$  and  $v$ , and
  - $u$  is above  $v$  in the tree,
- This relationship can be generalized
  - E and F are *descendants* of A ✓
  - D and A are *ancestors* of G ✓
  - B, C and D are *siblings* ✓
  - F and G are? ✗



# More tree terminology

- A *leaf* is a node with no children
- A *path* is a sequence of nodes  $v_1 \dots v_n$ 
  - where  $v_i$  is a parent of  $v_{i+1}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ )
- A *subtree* is any node in the tree along with all of its descendants
- The *degree* of a node is the number of children the node has
- *Branching factor*: the maximum degree of any node in the tree
- A *binary tree* is a tree with at most two children per node, i.e. branching factor = 2
  - The children are referred to as *left* and *right*
  - We can also refer to left and right subtrees

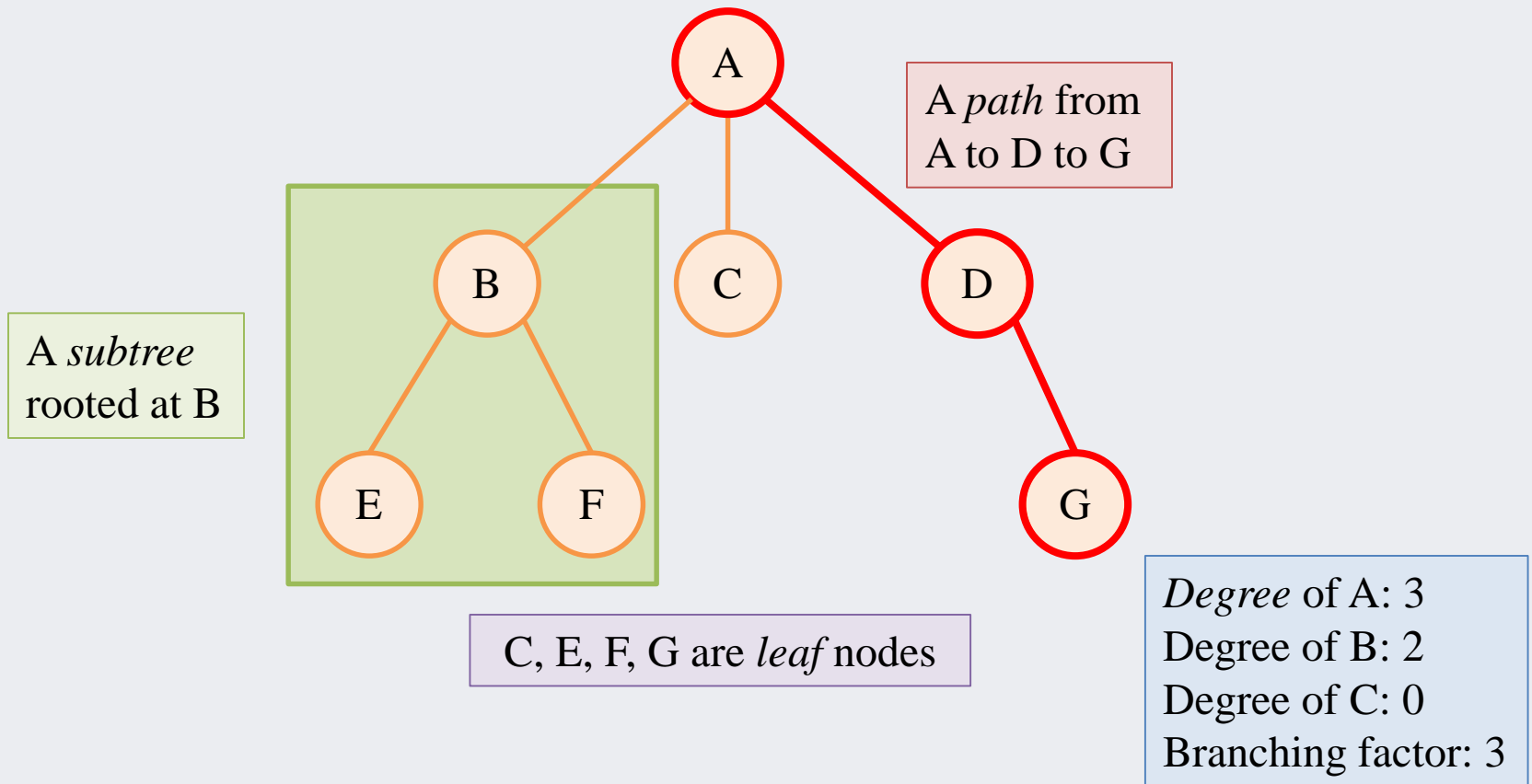


# Tree terminology example

$n$  = number of nodes

7

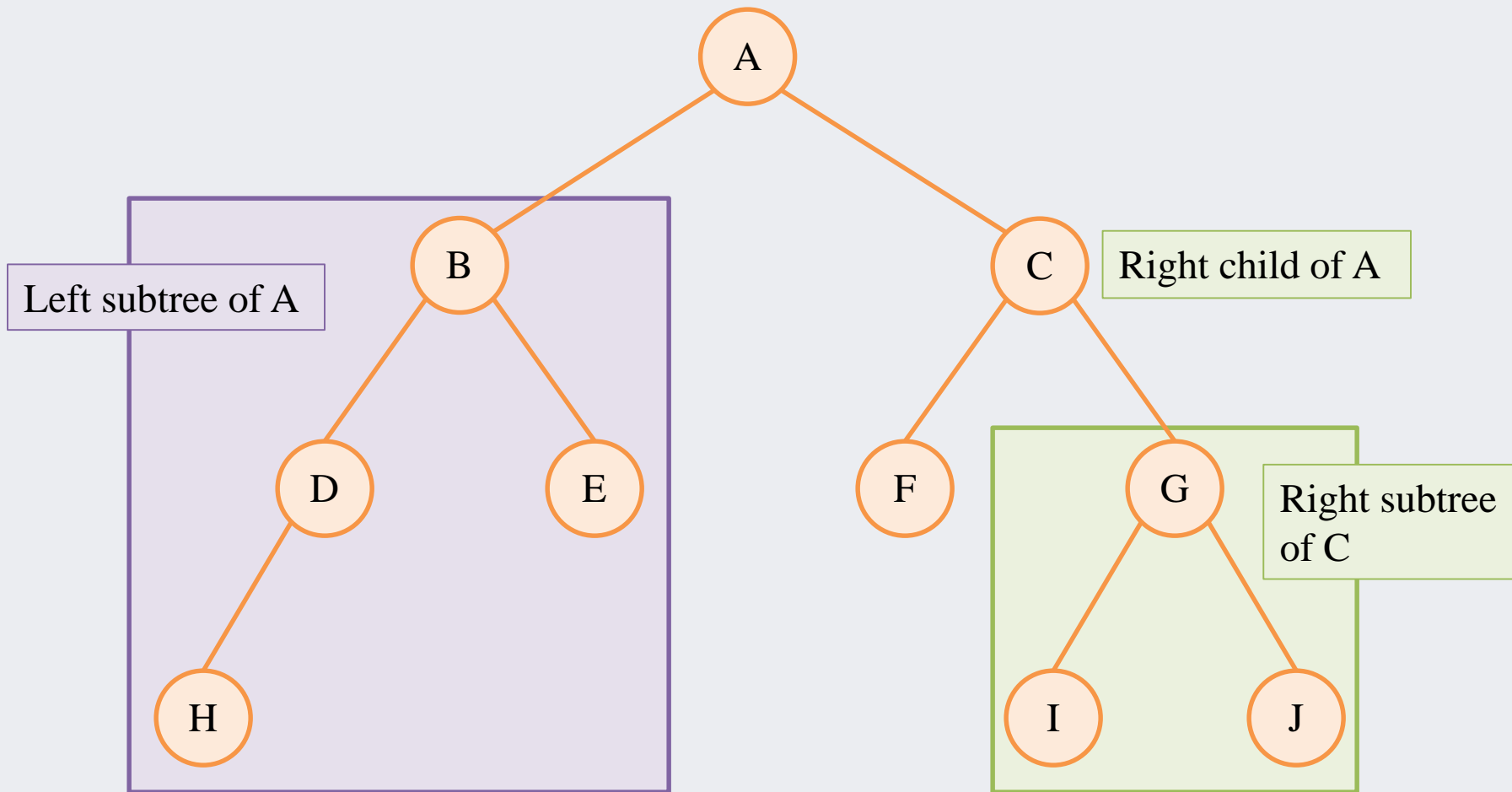
#edges =  $n - 1$





# Binary tree terminology

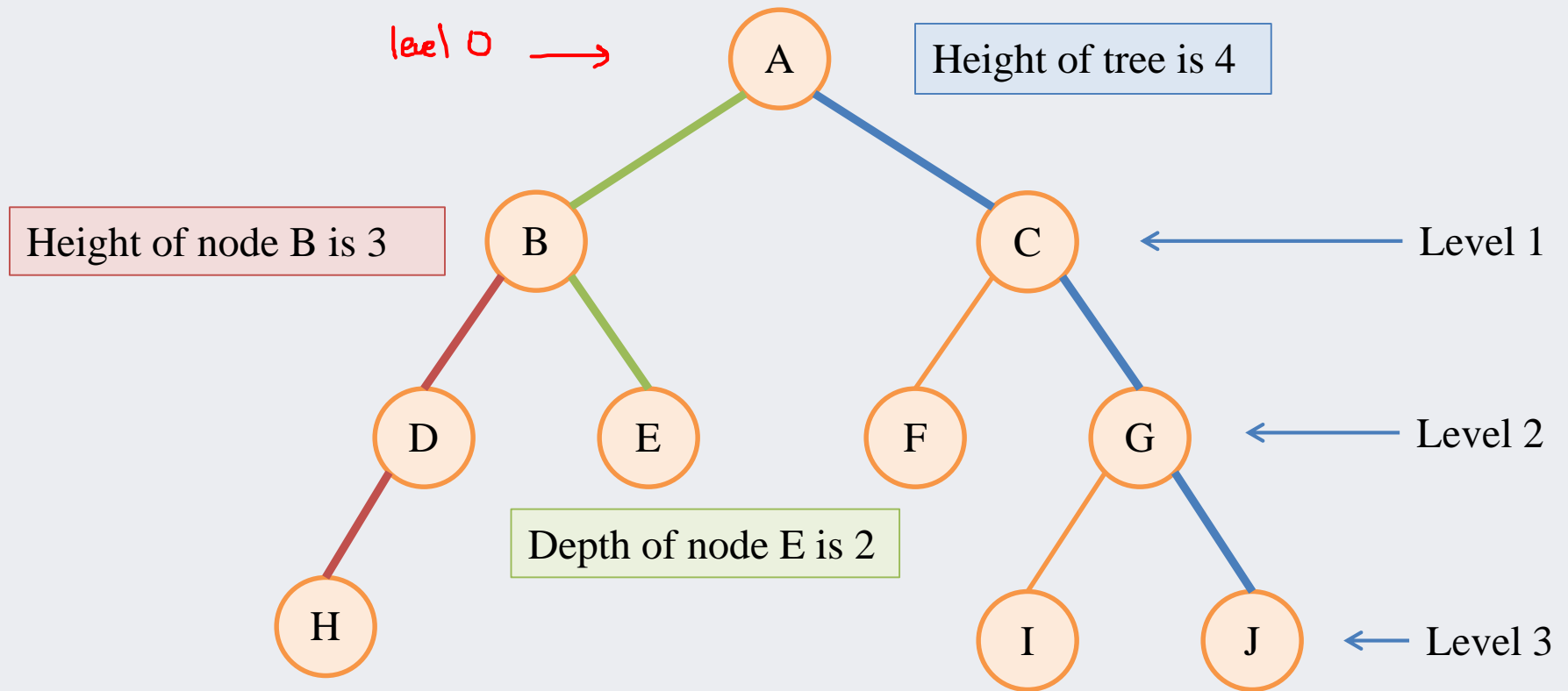
every node has at most 2 children



# Measuring trees

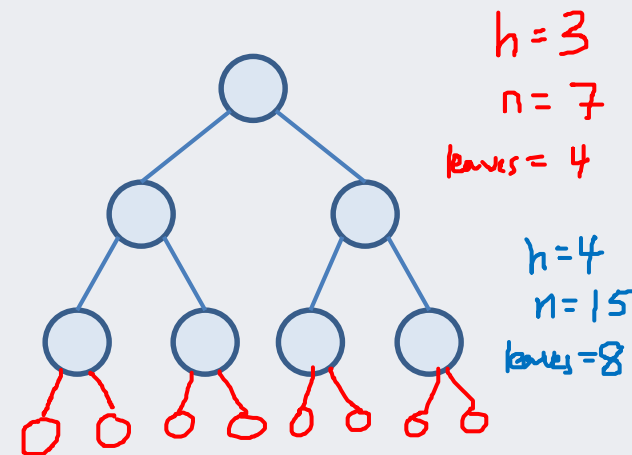
- The *height* of a node  $v$  is the number of nodes in the longest path from  $v$  to a leaf (*the furthest reachable leaf*)
  - The height of the tree is the height of the root
  - ▪ An empty tree has height 0, a tree containing only a root has height 1
- The *depth* of a node  $v$  is the number of edges in the path from  $v$  to the root
  - This is also referred to as the *level* of a node
- Note that there is a slightly different formulation of the height of a tree
  - where the height of an empty tree is  $-1$
  - but for this course we will use the definition of empty tree height is zero

# Tree measurements explained



# Perfect binary trees

- A binary tree is *perfect*, if
  - No node has only one child
  - And all the leaves have the same depth
- A perfect binary tree of height  $h$  has
  - $2^h - 1$  nodes, of which  $2^{h-1}$  are leaves
- Perfect trees are also *complete*



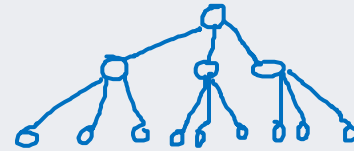
# Height of a perfect tree

binary

height:  $h$

$l = h - 1$

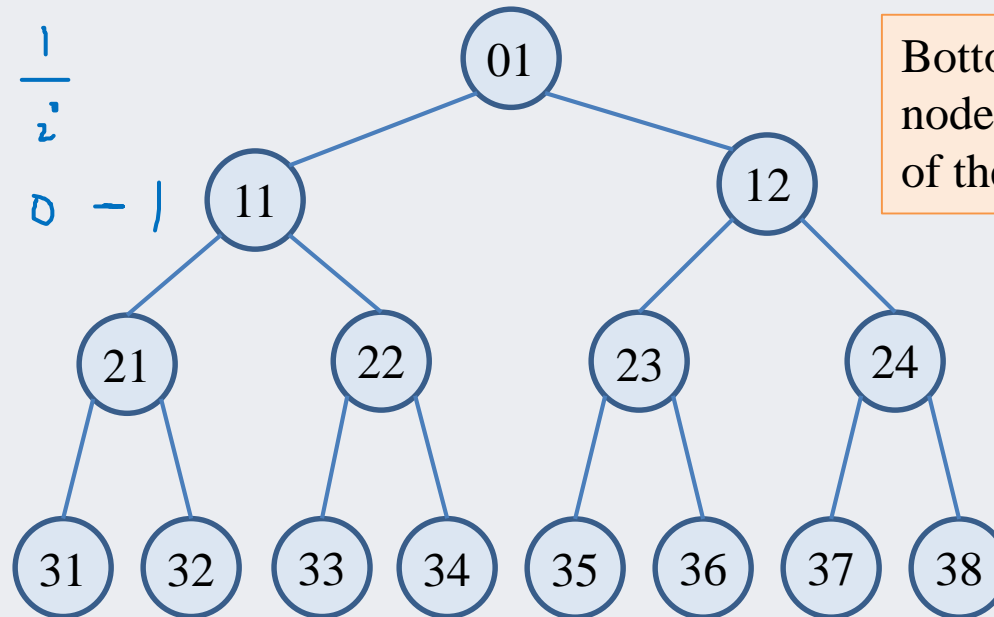
generally,  
a perfect  $K$ -ary  
every node has  $k$   
children,  
all leaves at same  
level



- Each level doubles the number of nodes
  - Level 0 has 1 node ( $2^0$ )
  - Level 1 has 2 nodes ( $2^1$ ) or 2 times the number in Level 0
  - Level 2 has 4 nodes ( $2^2$ )
- Therefore a perfect tree with  $h$  levels has  $2^{h+1} - 1$  nodes

$$\frac{1}{2^4} + \frac{1}{2^3} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2^1} + \frac{1}{2^0}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^5} (0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 1) = \frac{1}{2^5}$$

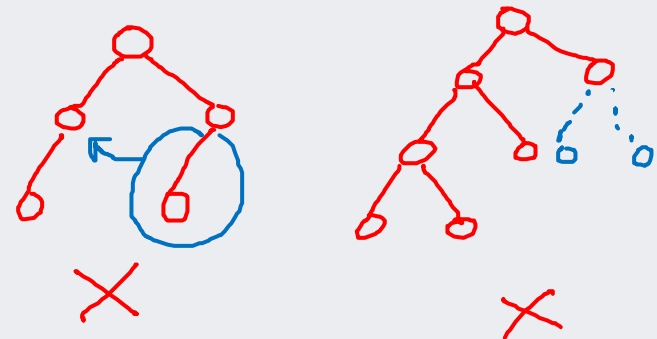
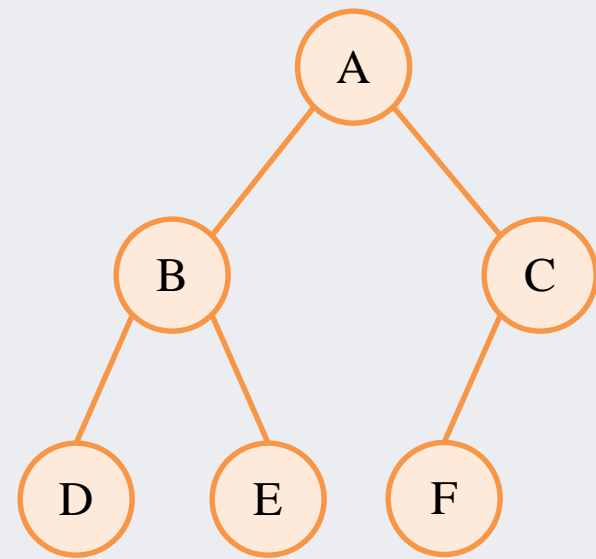
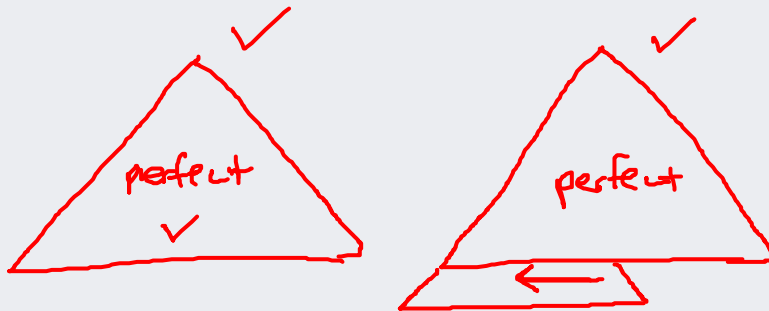


Bottom level has  $2^h$   
nodes, i.e. just over half  
of the nodes are leaves

# Complete binary trees

"almost perfect"

- A binary tree is *complete* if
  - The leaves are on at most two different levels,
  - The second to bottom level is completely filled in and
  - The leaves on the bottom level are as far to the left as possible

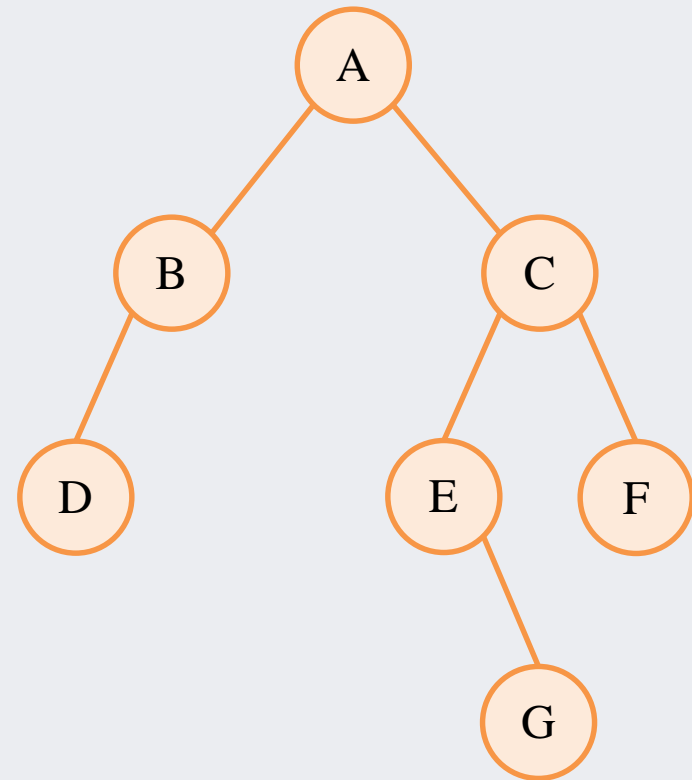
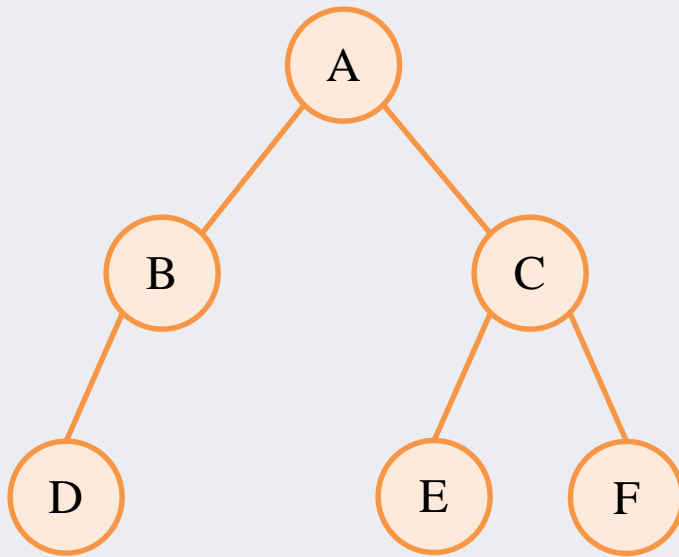


# Balanced binary trees

- A binary tree is *balanced* if
  - Leaves are all about the same distance from the root
  - The exact specification varies
- Sometimes trees are balanced by comparing the height of nodes
  - e.g. the height of a node's right subtree is at most one different from the height of its left subtree (e.g. AVL trees)
- Sometimes a tree's height is compared to the number of nodes
  - e.g. red-black trees

# Balanced binary trees

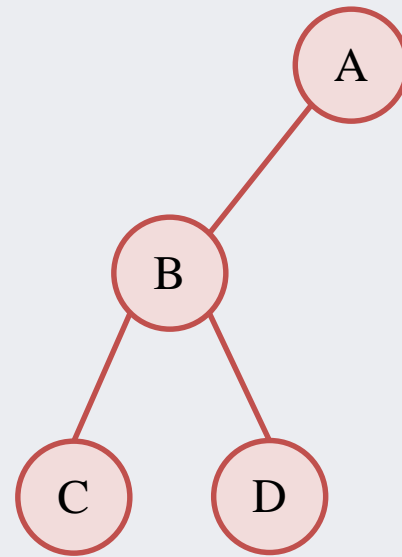
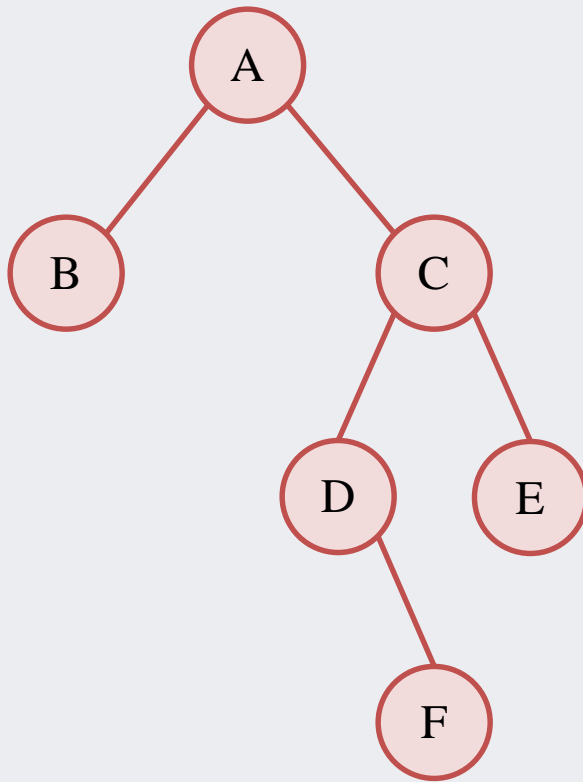
by AVL property :  
L / R subtree heights differing  $\leq 1$





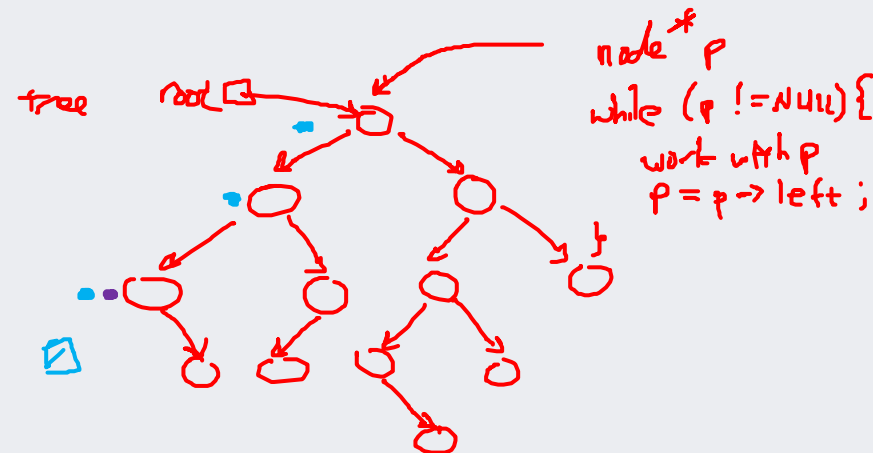
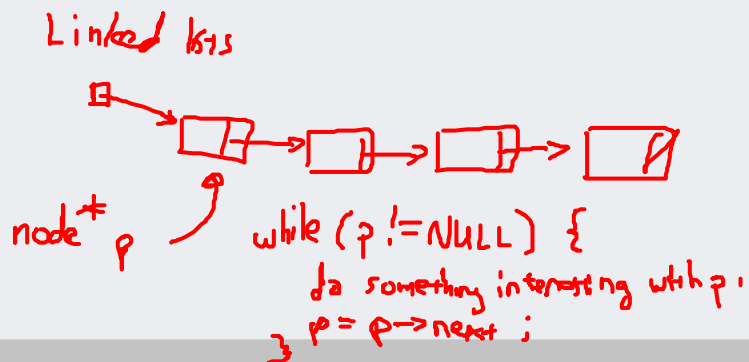
# Imbalanced binary trees

by AVL property



# Binary tree traversal

- A traversal algorithm for a binary tree visits each node in the tree
  - Typically, it will do something while visiting each node!
- Traversal algorithms are naturally recursive
- There are three traversal methods
  - inOrder
  - preOrder
  - postOrder



# inOrder traversal algorithm

```
void inOrder(BNode* nd)
{
    if (nd != NULL)
    {
        inOrder(nd->left);
        visit(nd);
        inOrder(nd->right);
    }
}
```

```
typedef struct BNode
{
    int data;
    struct BNode* left;
    struct BNode* right;
} BNode;
```

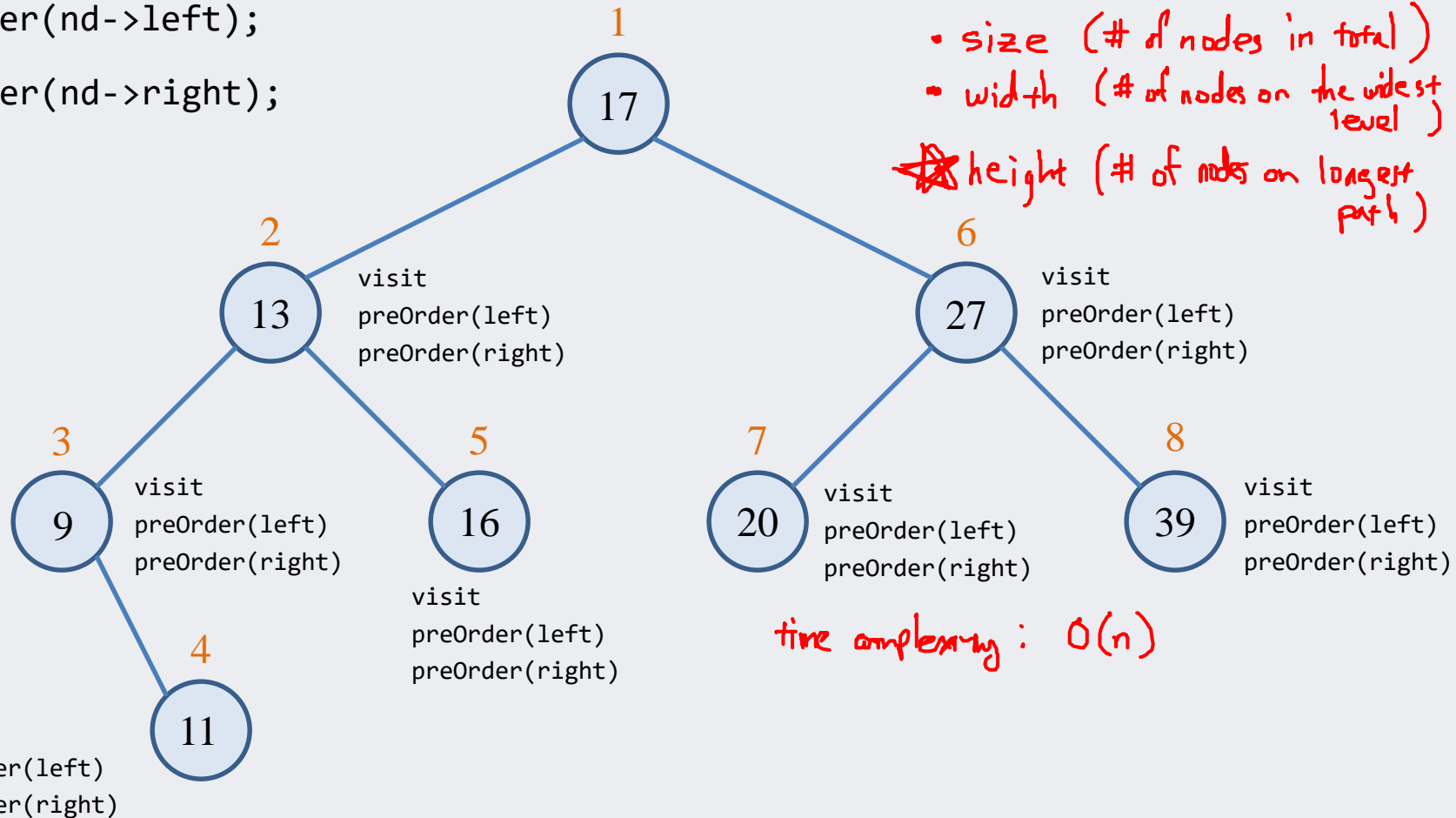
The **visit** function would do whatever the purpose of the traversal is (e.g. print the data value of the node).

## preOrder traversal

```
visit(nd);
```

```
preOrder(nd->left);
```

```
preOrder(nd->right);
```



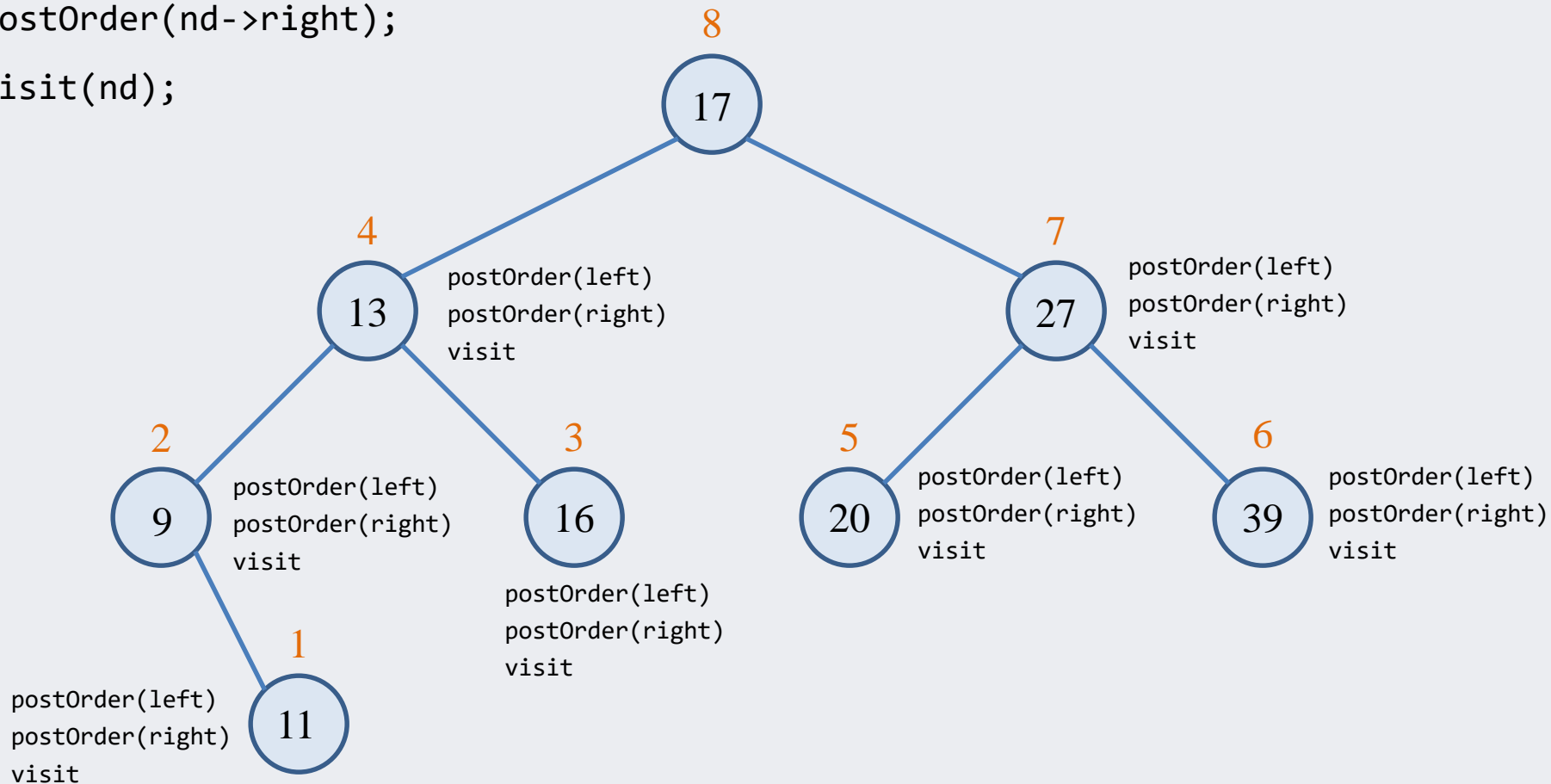
# postOrder traversal

left  
right  
current

```
postOrder(nd->left);
```

```
postOrder(nd->right);
```

```
visit(nd);
```

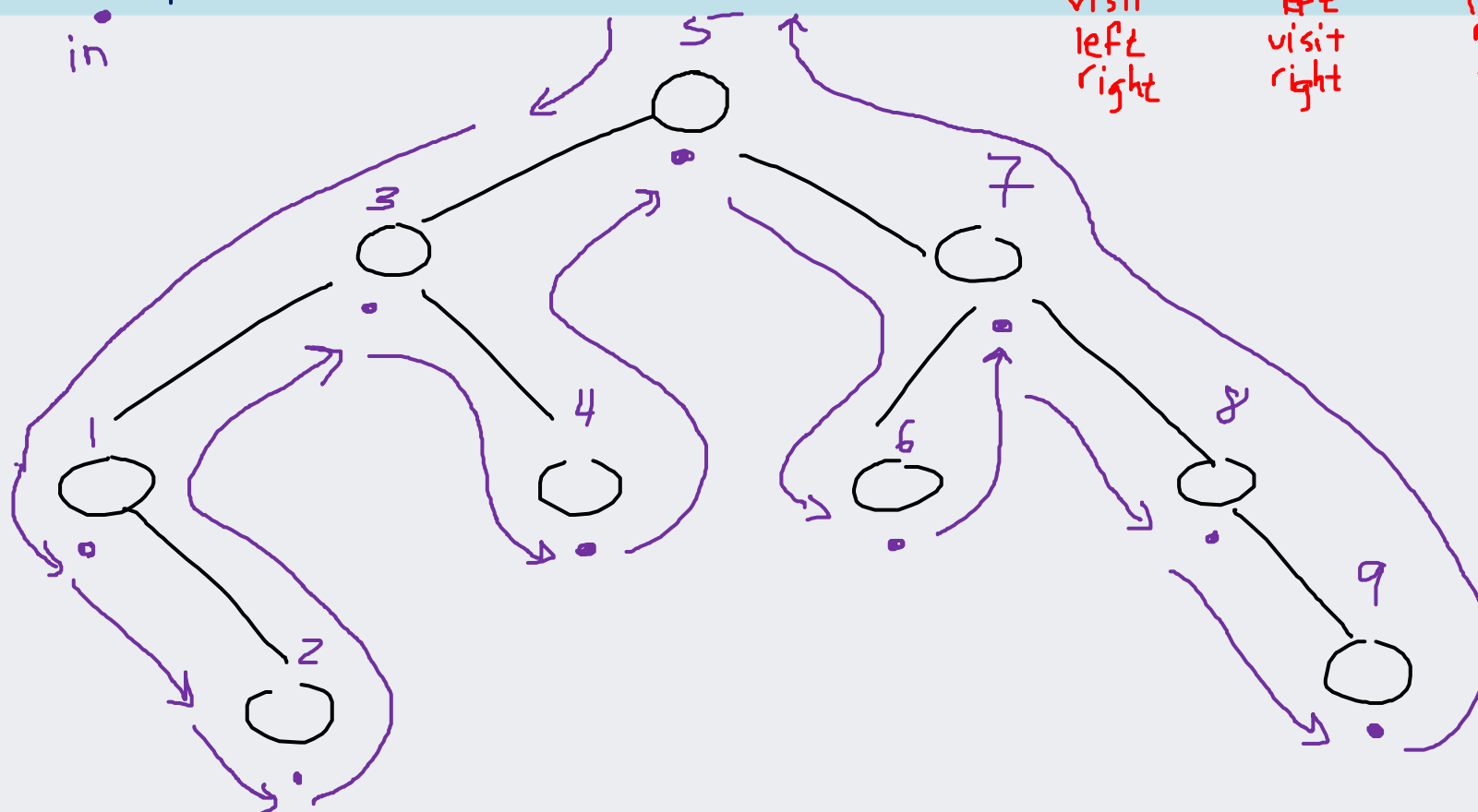


preorder.  post  
in

pre  
visit  
left  
right

in  
left  
visit  
right

post  
left  
right  
visit



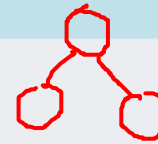
computing the number of nodes in a tree  
counting

```
int count ( BNode* nd ) {  
    if ( nd == NULL )  
        return 0 ;  
    else {  
        int l = count ( nd->left ) ;  
        int r = count ( nd->right ) ;  
        int total = 1 + l + r ;  
        return total ;  
    }  
}
```



post-order  
traversal!

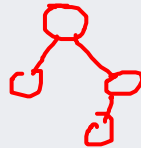
deallocate every node (using free())



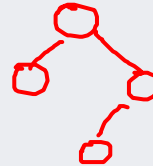
post-order

copy a tree

source tree



copied tree



pre-order

- allocate node
- assign children as recursive return

pre-order

- root of subtree is visited first

post-order

- root of subtree is visited last

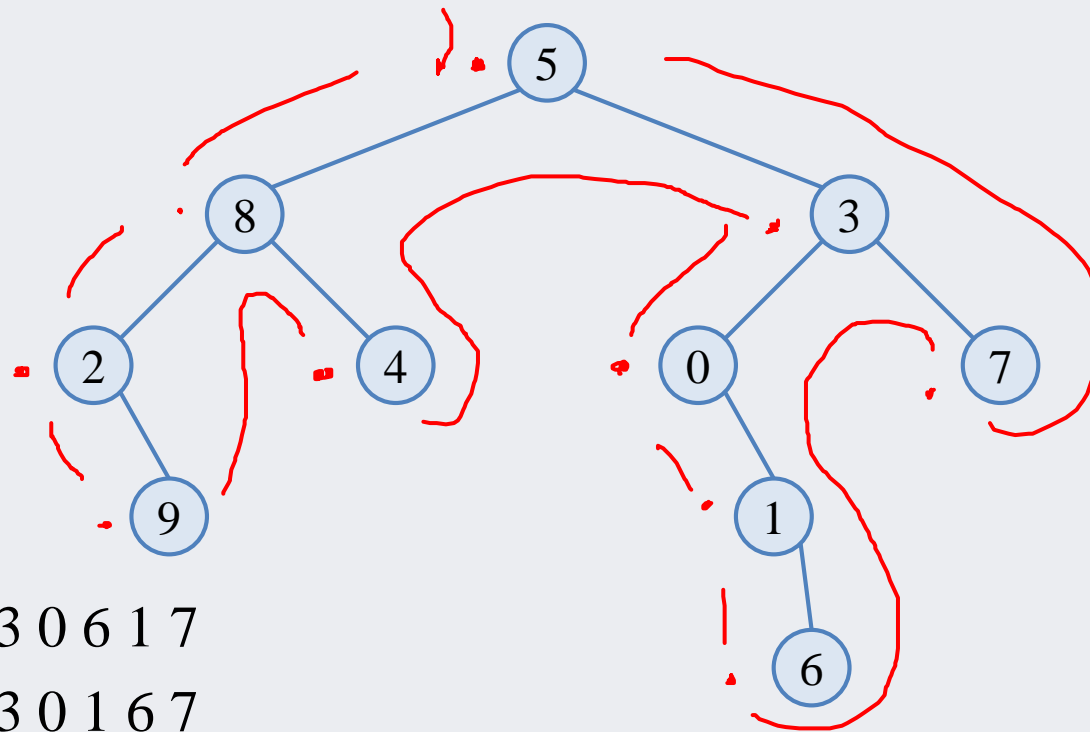
In-order

- structurally, tells left/right positional information



# iClicker 09.1

- What will be the sequence visited by a **pre-order** traversal from the root?



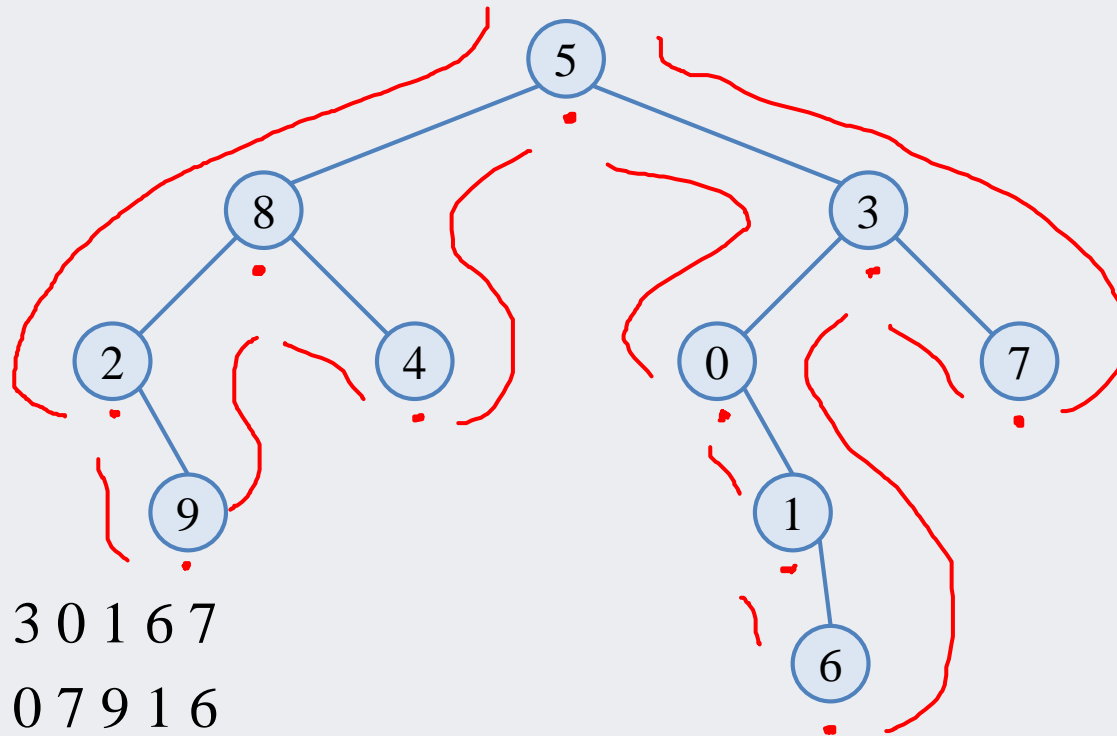
pre-order:  
root  
left  
right

- A. 5 8 9 2 4 3 0 6 1 7
- B. 5 8 2 9 4 3 0 1 6 7**
- C. 5 8 3 2 4 0 7 9 1 6
- D. 6 1 0 7 3 5 9 2 4 8
- E. 9 2 4 8 6 1 0 7 3 5

↓  
5    8 2 9 4    3 0 1 6 7  
      left        right

## iClicker 09.2

- What will be the sequence visited by an **in-order** traversal from the root?



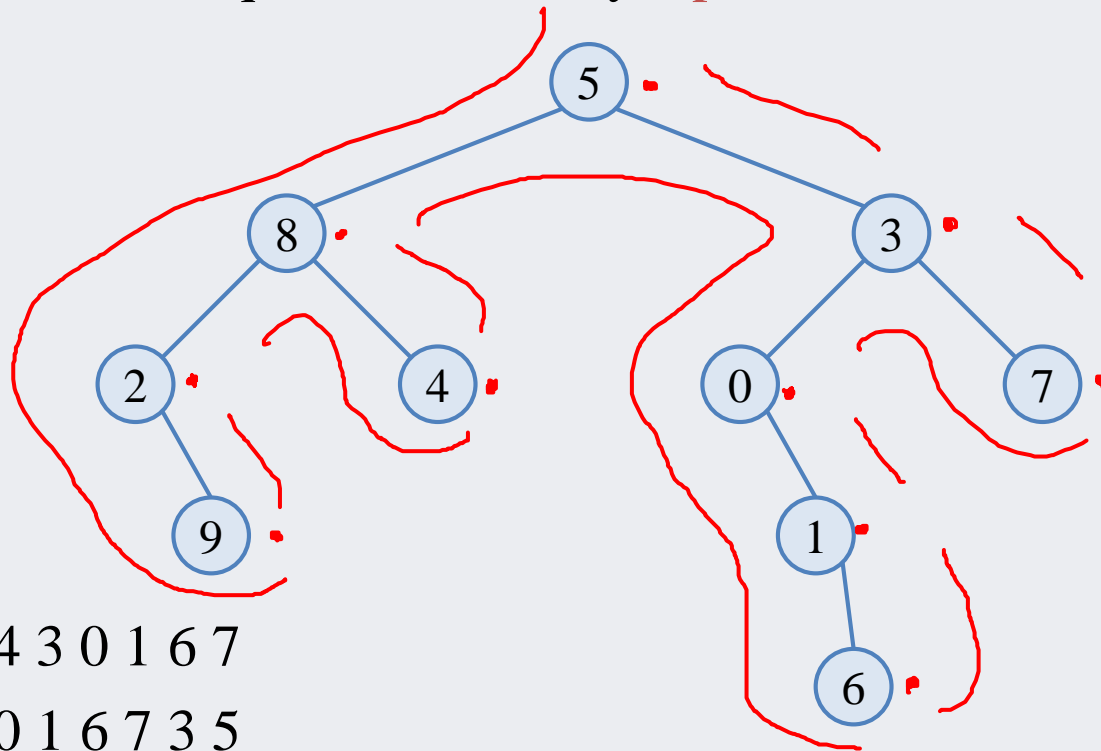
in-order:  
left  
root  
right

- A. 5 8 2 9 4 3 0 1 6 7
- B. 5 8 3 2 4 0 7 9 1 6
- C. 6 1 0 7 3 5 9 2 4 8
- ☒ D. 2 9 8 4 5 0 1 6 3 7
- E. 9 2 4 8 6 1 0 7 3 5

↓  
2 9 8 4 5 0 1 6 3 7  
left right

## iClicker 09.3

- What will be the sequence visited by a **post-order** traversal from the root?



post-order:  
left  
right  
root

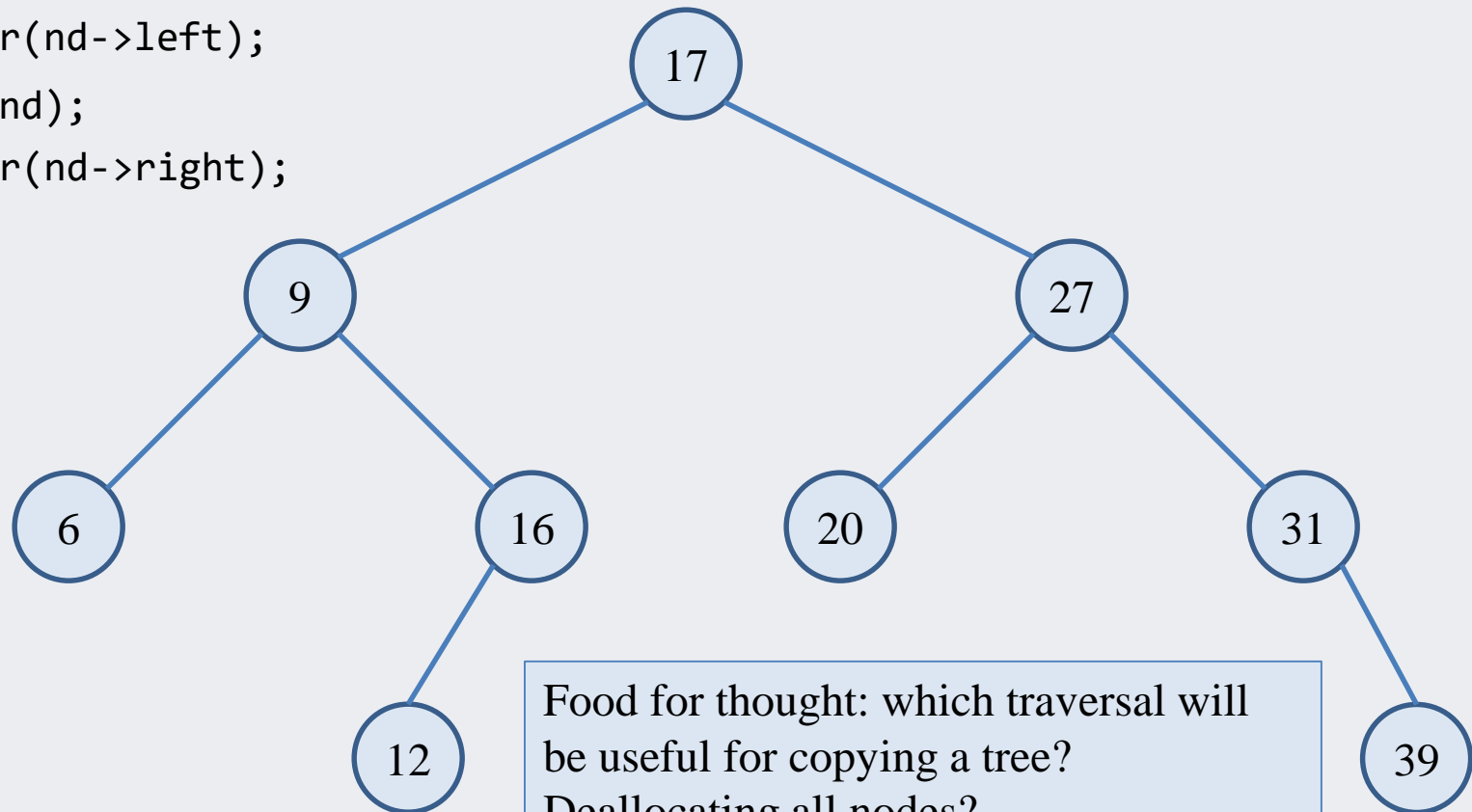
- A. 5 8 2 9 4 3 0 1 6 7
- B. 2 9 8 4 0 1 6 7 3 5
- C. 6 1 0 7 3 5 9 2 4 8
- ☒ D. 9 2 8 4 6 1 0 7 3 5
- E. 2 9 8 4 5 0 1 6 3 7

9 2 4 8    6 1 0 7 3 5  
left                  right

# Exercise

- What will be printed by an in-order traversal of the tree?
  - preOrder? postOrder?

```
inOrder(nd->left);  
visit(nd);  
inOrder(nd->right);
```

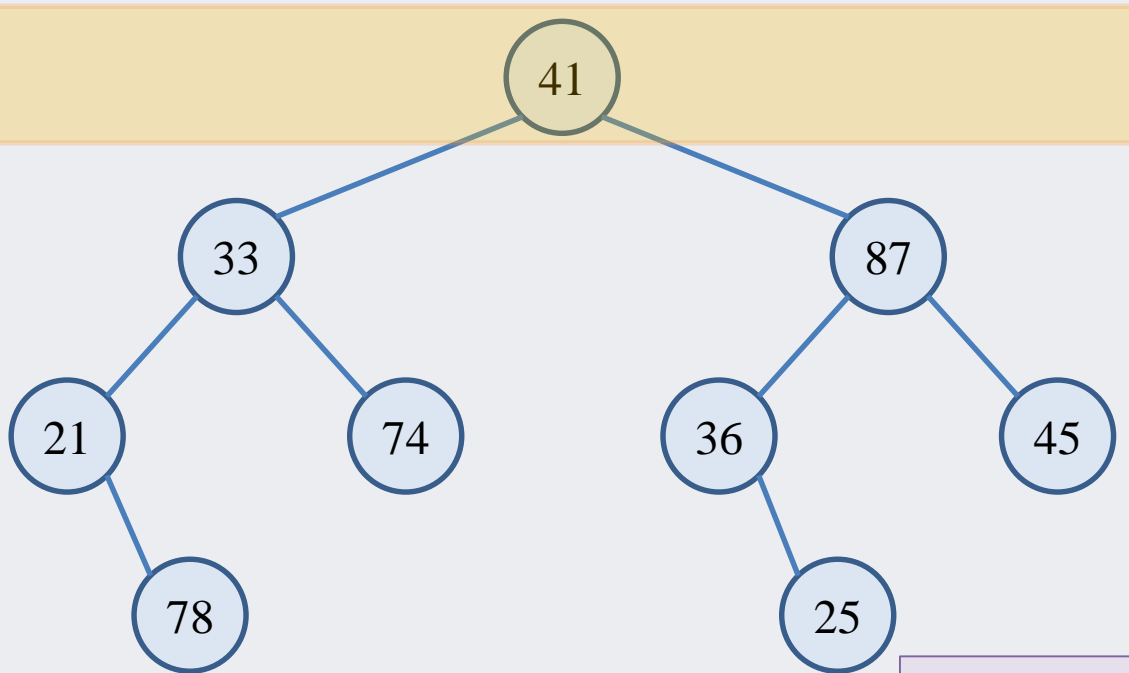


Food for thought: which traversal will be useful for copying a tree?  
Deallocating all nodes?

# Before we move on...

## Another type of tree traversal

- We have seen pre-order, in-order, post-order traversals
- What about a traversal that visits every node in a level before working on the next level?
  - level-order traversal

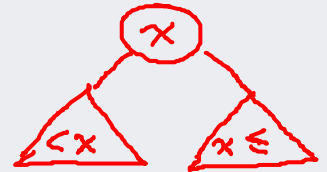


Implement using iteration with a Queue ADT

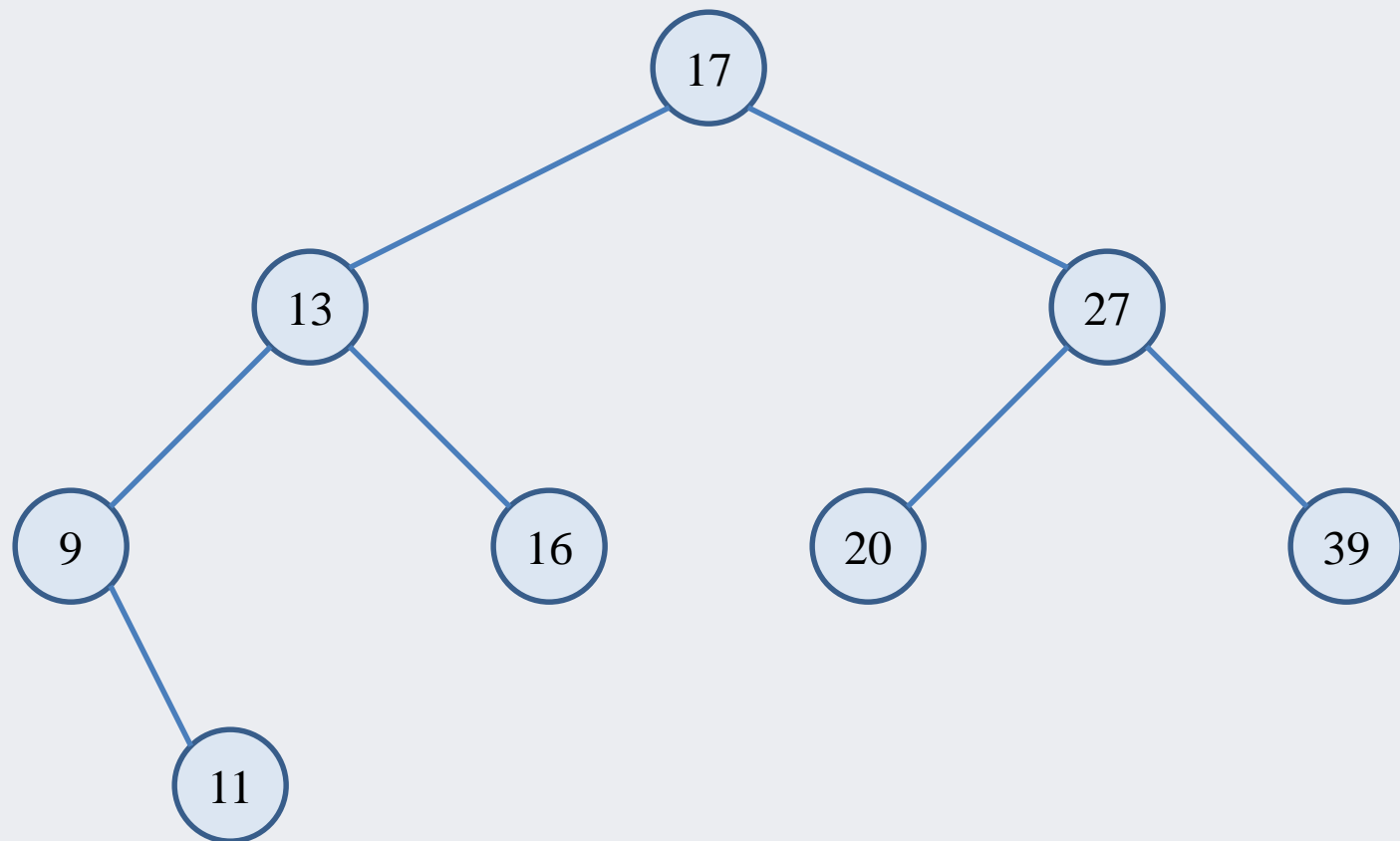
# Binary search trees

A data structure for the Dictionary ADT?

- A binary search tree is a binary tree with a special property
  - For all nodes in the tree:
    - All nodes in a left subtree have labels *less* than the label of the subtree's root
    - All nodes in a right subtree have labels *greater* than or equal to the label of the subtree's root
- Binary search trees are *fully ordered*



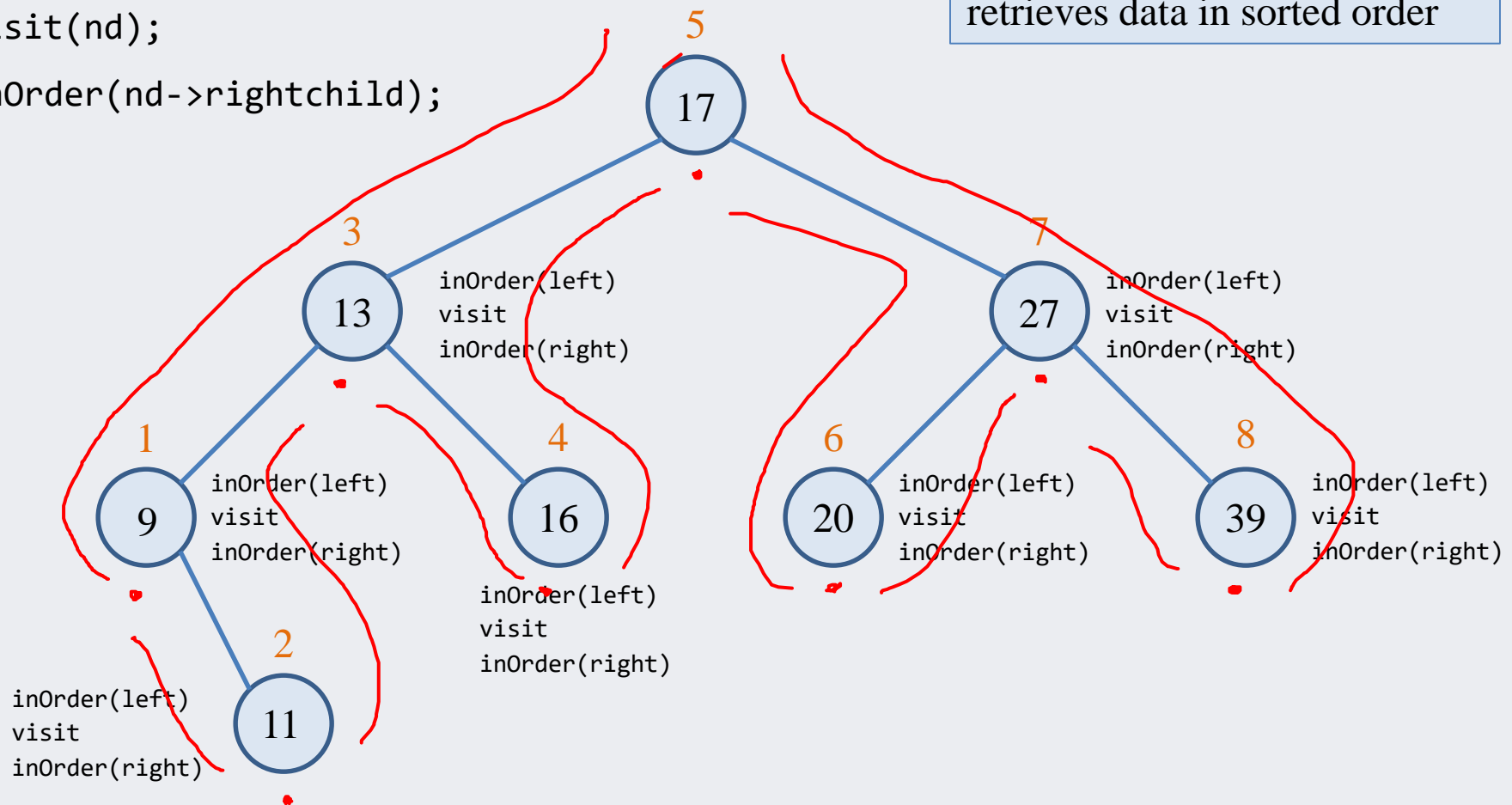
# BST example



# BST inOrder traversal

```
inOrder(nd->leftchild);  
visit(nd);  
inOrder(nd->rightchild);
```

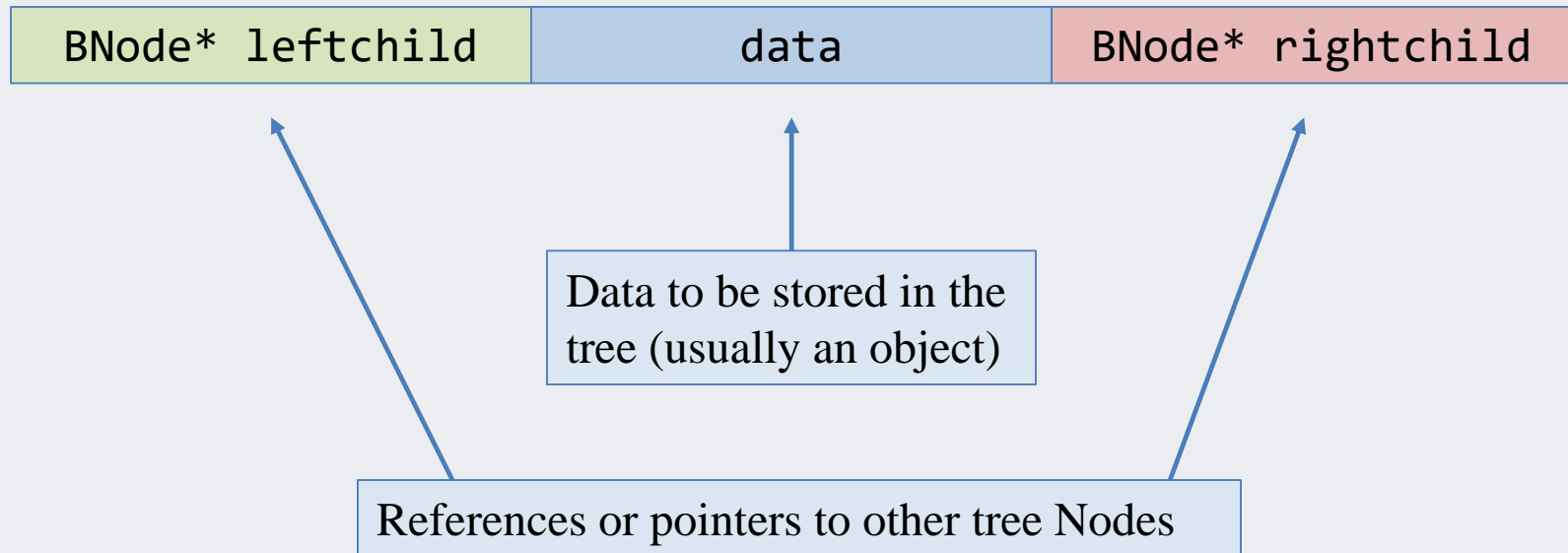
inOrder traversal on a BST  
retrieves data in sorted order





# BST implementation

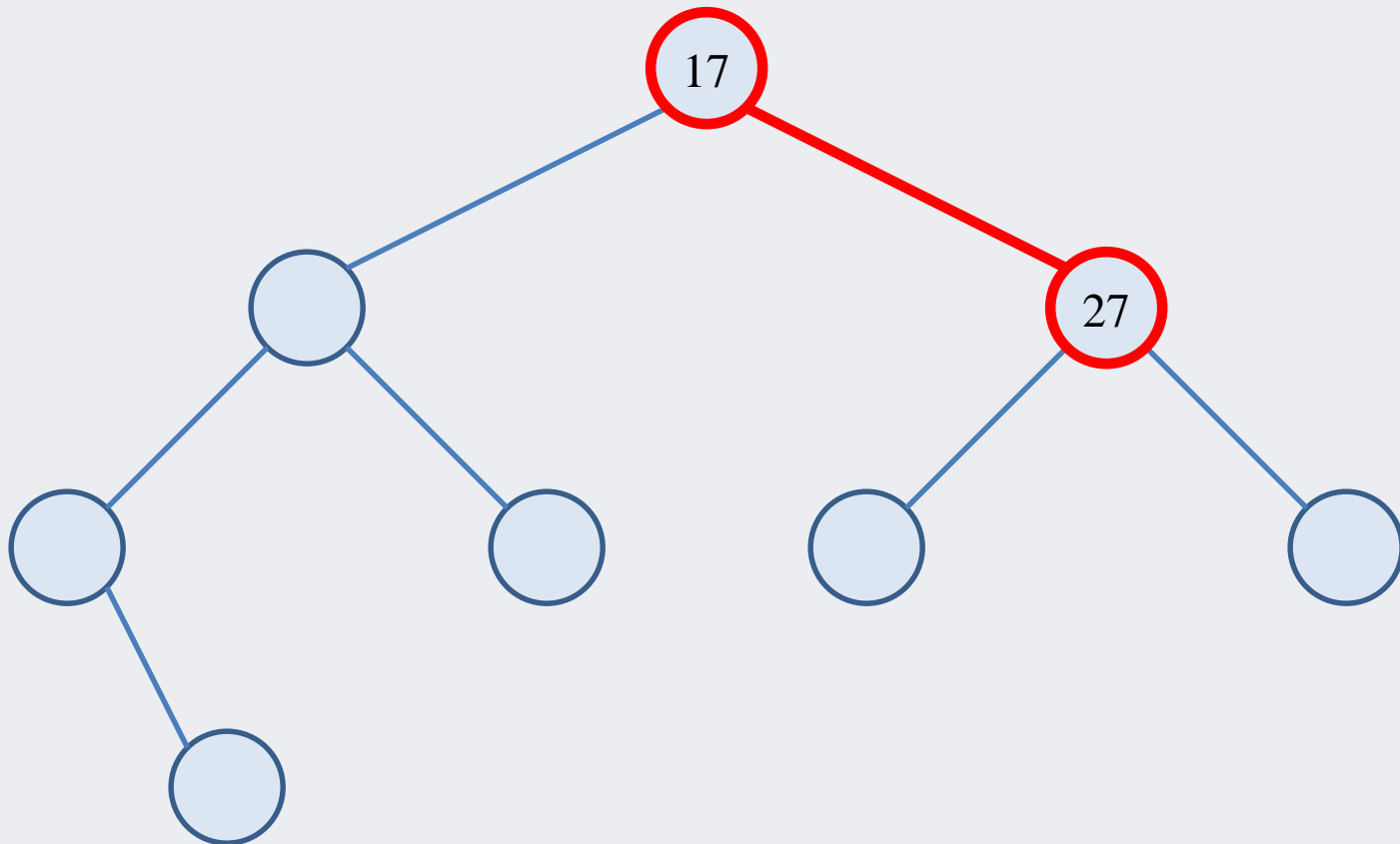
- Binary search trees can be implemented using a reference structure
- Tree nodes contain data and two pointers to nodes



- To find a value in a BST search from the root node:
  - If the target is less than the value in the node search its left subtree
  - If the target is greater than the value in the node search its right subtree
  - Otherwise return true, (or a pointer to the data, or ...)
- How many comparisons?
  - One for each node on the path
  - Worst case: height of the tree + 1

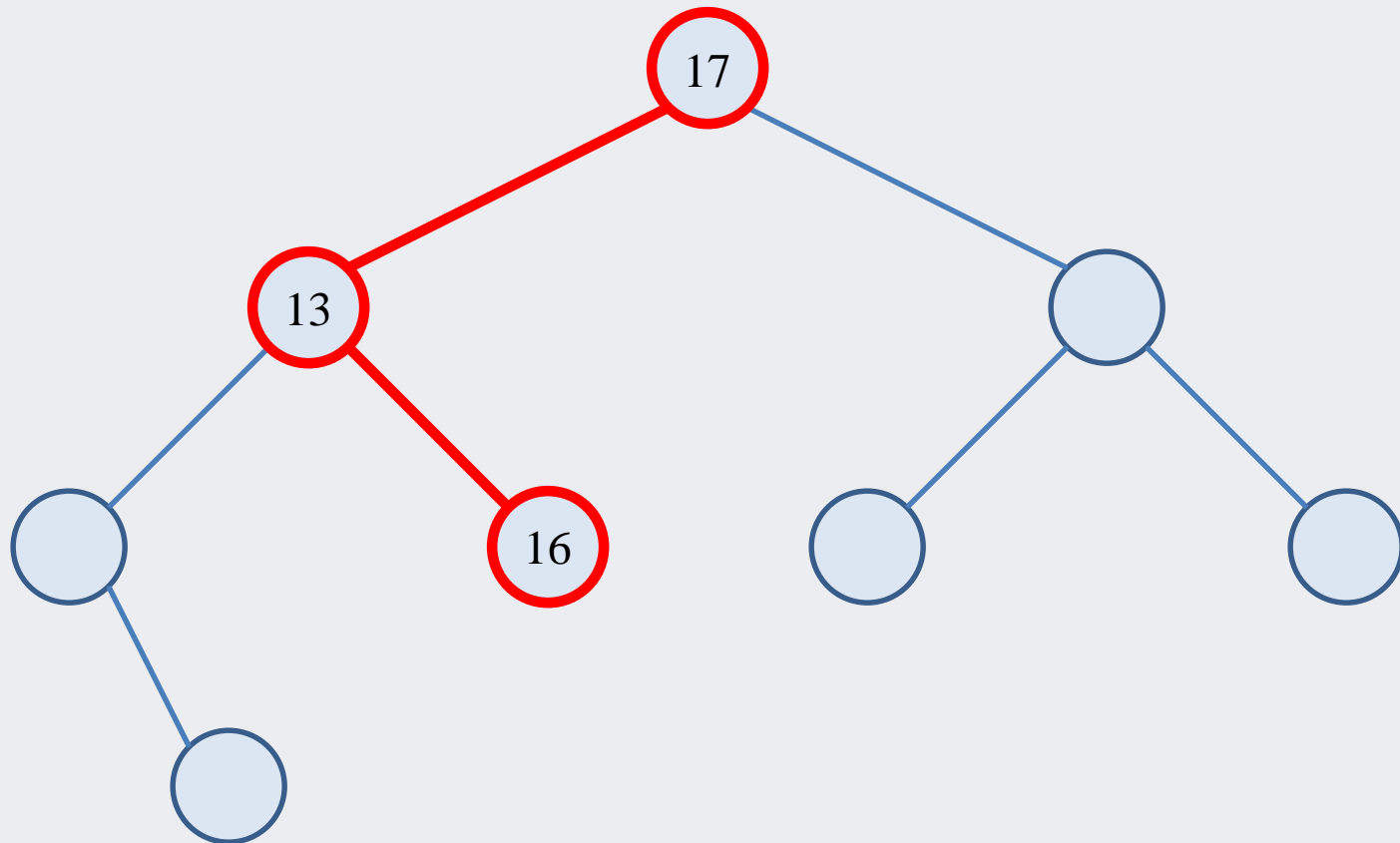
# BST search example

search(27);



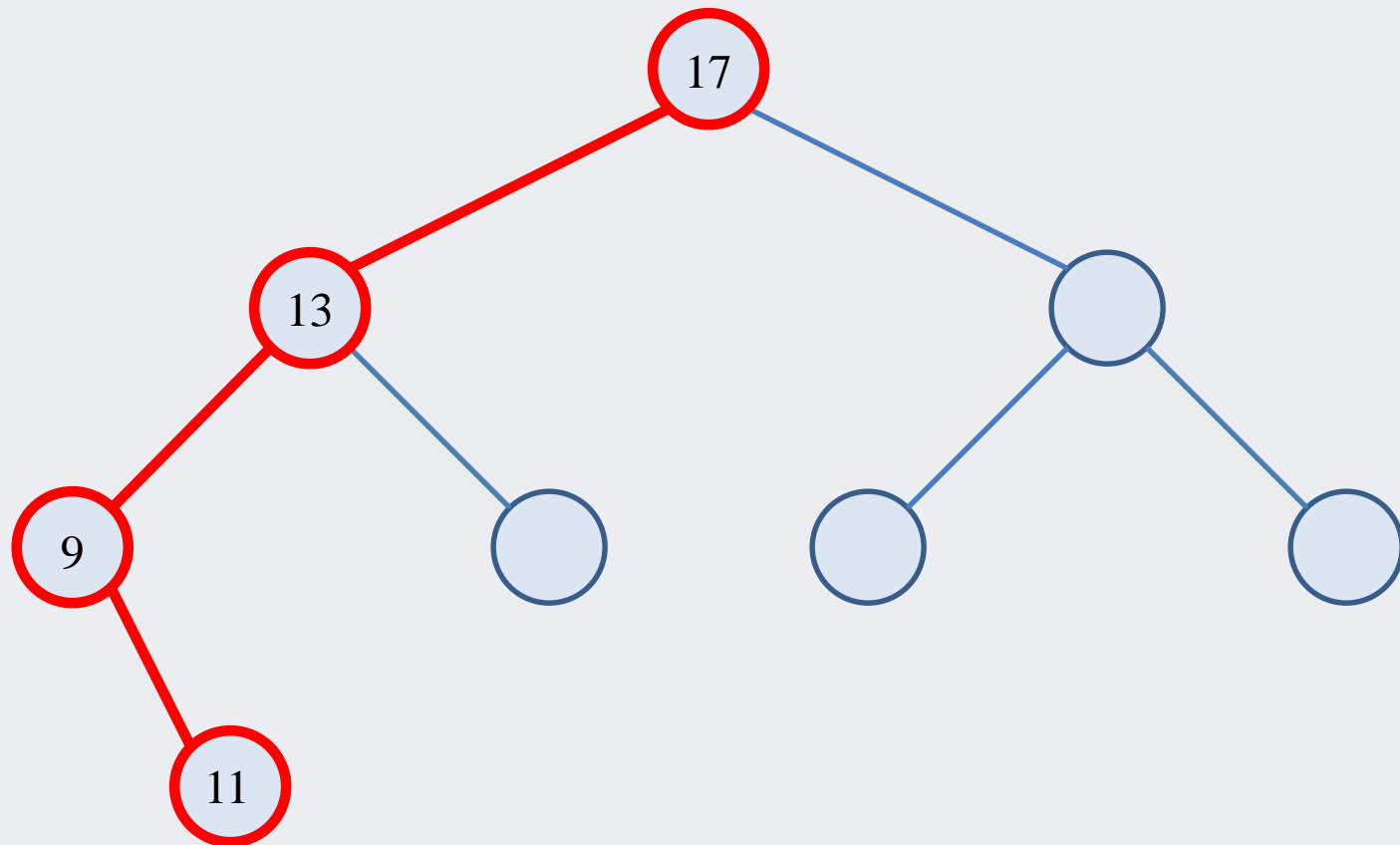
# BST search example

search(16);



# BST search example

```
search(12);
```



# Search implementation

- Search can be implemented iteratively or recursively

```
int search(BNode* nd, int key) {  
    if (nd == NULL) return FALSE;  
    else if (nd->data == key) return TRUE;  
    else {  
        if (key < nd->data)  
            return search(nd->left, key);  
        else  
            return search(nd->right, key);  
    }  
}
```

# BST insertion

- The BST property must hold after insertion
- Therefore the new node must be inserted in the correct position
  - This position is found by performing a search
  - If the search ends at the (null) left child of a node make its left child refer to the new node
  - If the search ends at the right child of a node make its right child refer to the new node
- The cost is about the same as the cost for the search algorithm,  $O(\text{height})$

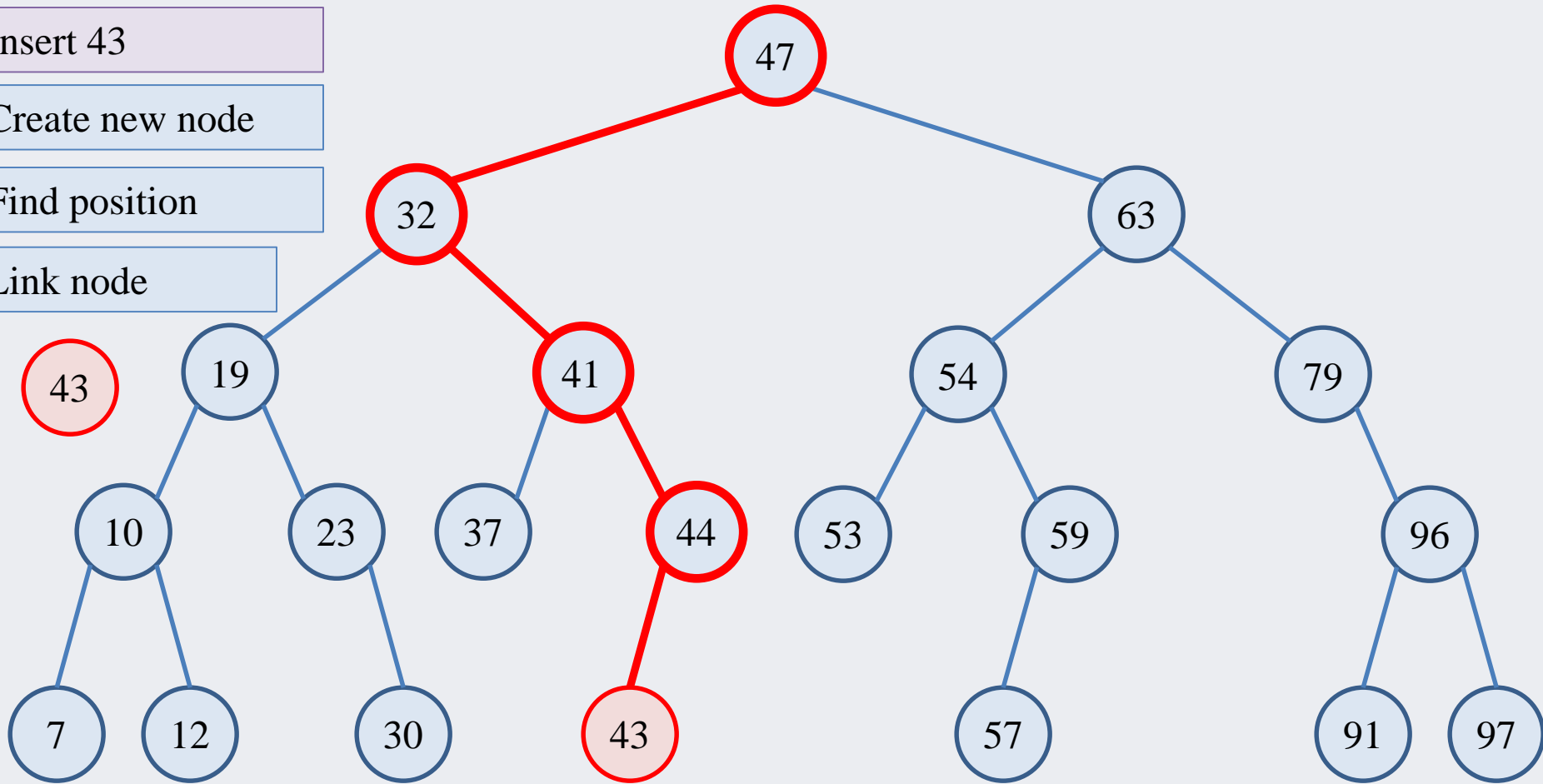
# BST insertion example

Insert 43

Create new node

Find position

Link node





# BST insertion example

Create new BST

Insert 3

Insert 15

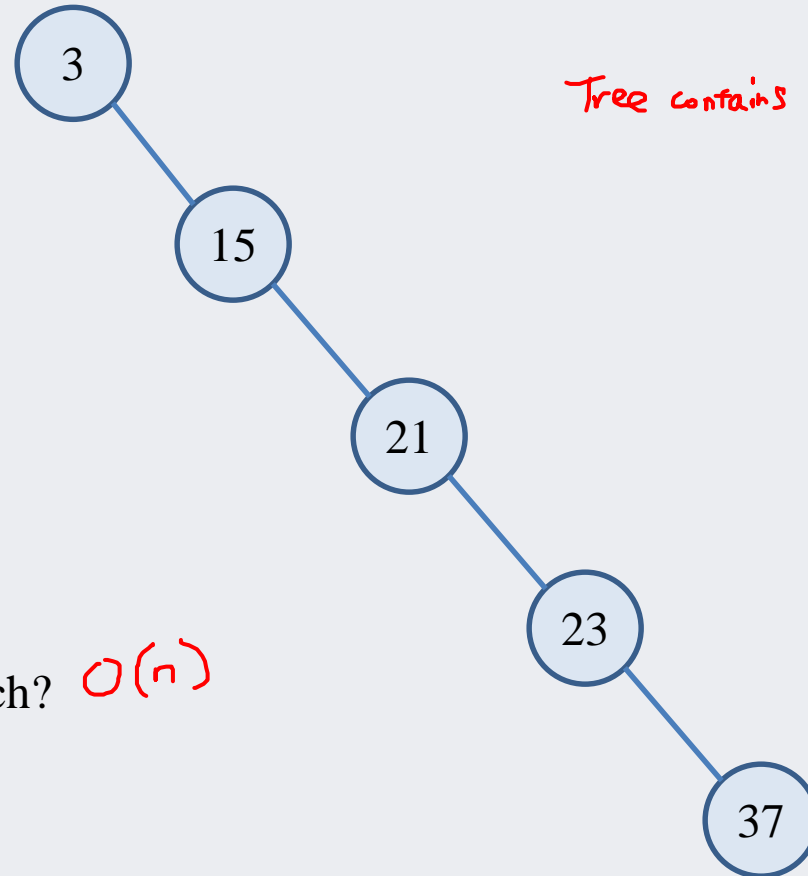
Insert 21

Insert 23

Insert 37

Search 45

How many operations for Search?  $O(n)$   
Complexity?



Tree contains  $n$  keys

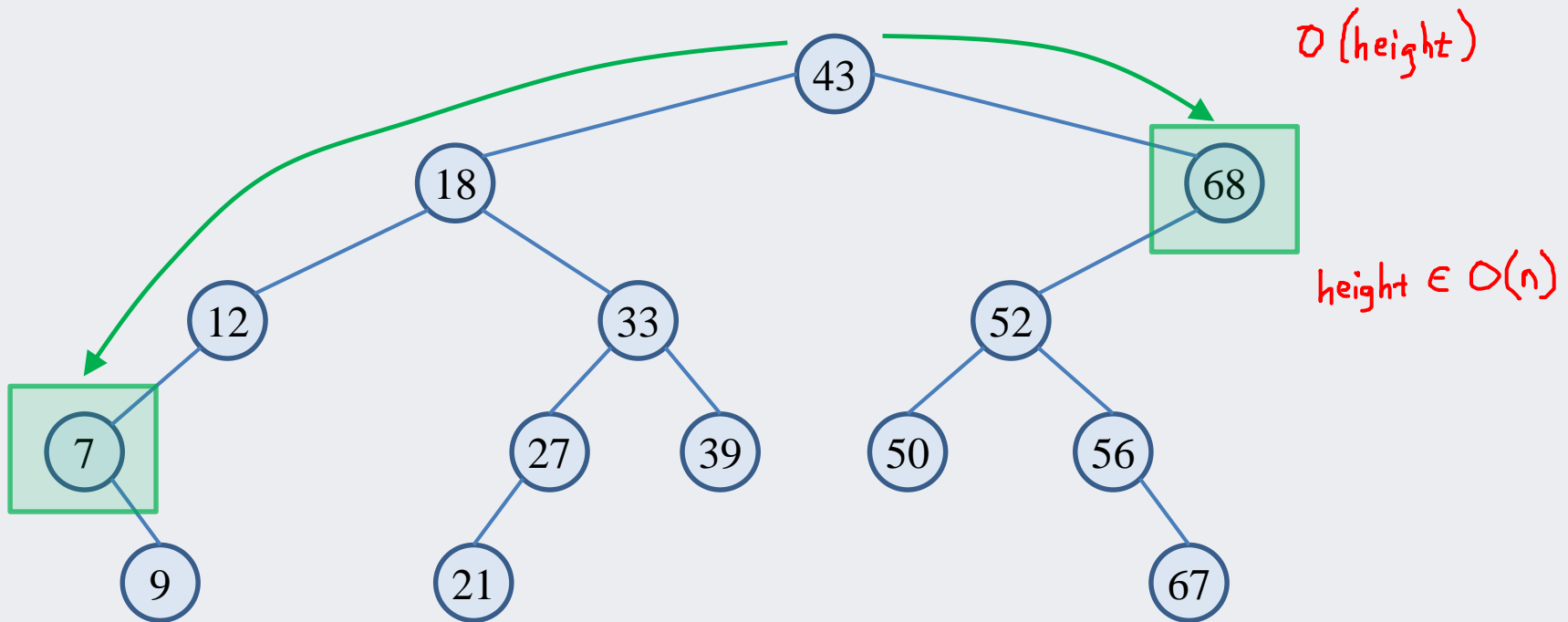
# Insert implementation

- Insert can also be implemented iteratively or recursively

```
BNode* insert(BNode* nd, int key) {
    if (nd == NULL) {
        BNode* newnode = (BNode*) malloc(sizeof(BNode));
        newnode->data = key;
        newnode->left = NULL;
        newnode->right = NULL;
        return newnode;
    }
    else {
        if (key < nd->data)
            nd->left = insert(nd->left, key);
        else
            nd->right = insert(nd->right, key);
        return nd;
    }
}
```

# Find Min, Find Max

- Find minimum:
  - From the root, keep following left child links until no more left child exists (i.e. NULL)
- Find maximum:
  - From the root, follow right child links until no more right child exists



# findMin

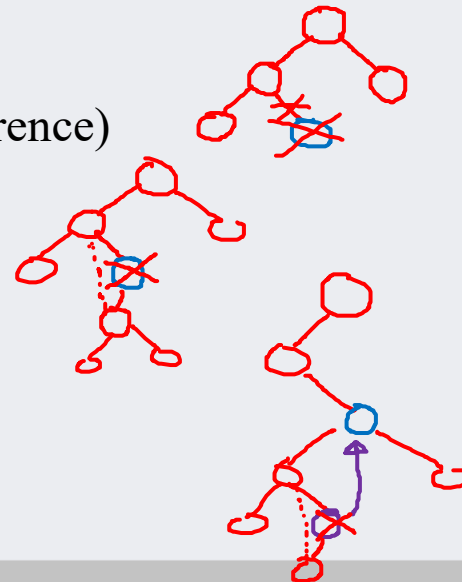
## Iterative implementation

```
int findMin(BNode* nd) {  
    BNode* curr = nd;  
    if (nd == NULL)  
        return -1;  
    else {  
        while (curr->left != NULL)  
            curr = curr->left;  
        return curr->data;  
    }  
}
```

findMax is implemented symmetrically

# BST removal

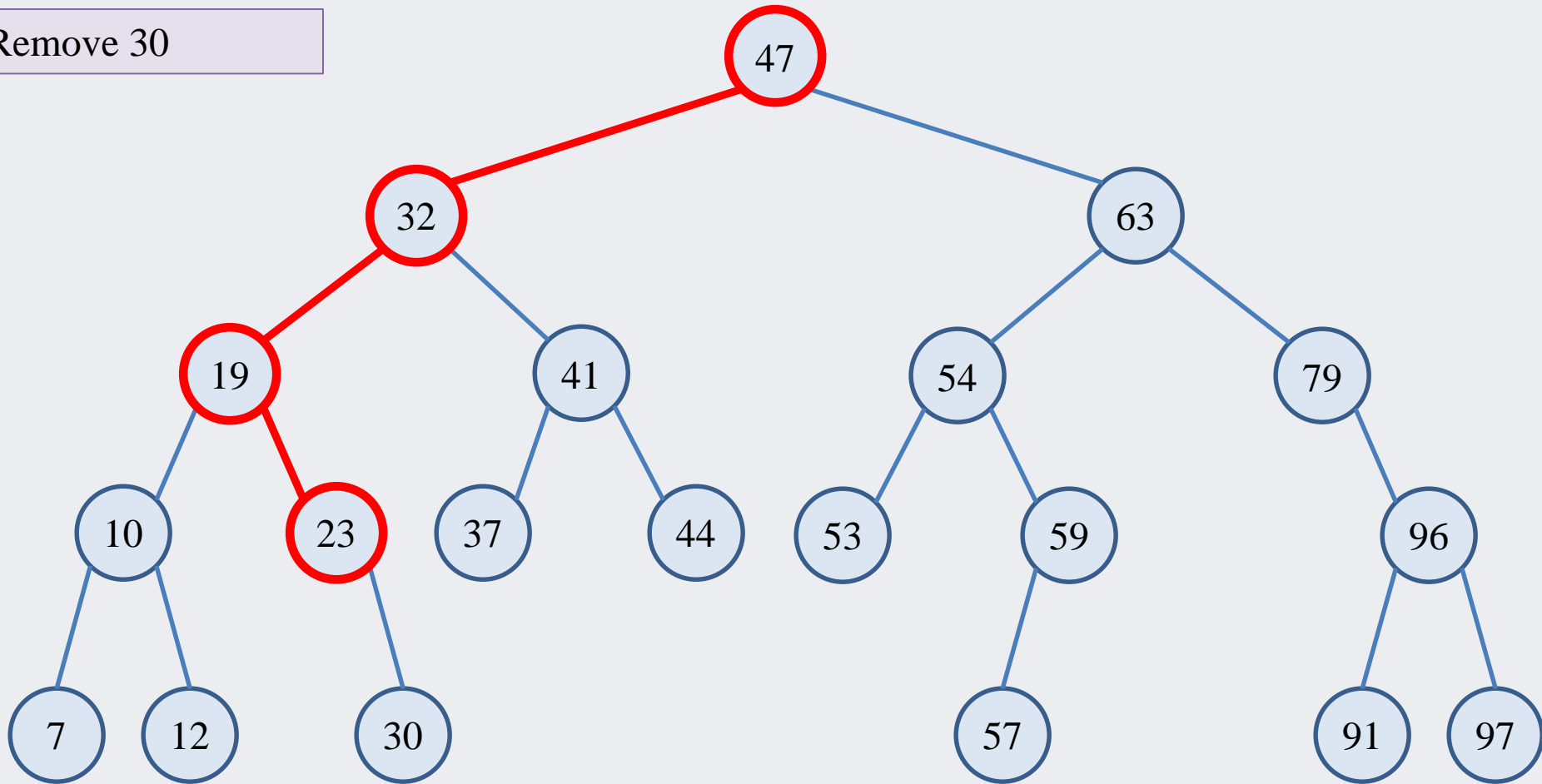
- After removal the BST property must hold
- Removal is not as straightforward as search or insertion
  - With insertion the strategy is to insert a new leaf
  - Which avoids changing the internal structure of the tree
  - This is not possible with removal
    - Since the removed node's position is not chosen by the algorithm
- There are a number of different cases that must be considered
  - The node to be removed has no children
    - Remove it (assigning null to its parent's reference)
  - The node to be removed has one child
    - Replace the node with its subtree
  - The node to be removed has two children
    - ...??



# BST removal

Target is a leaf node (no children)

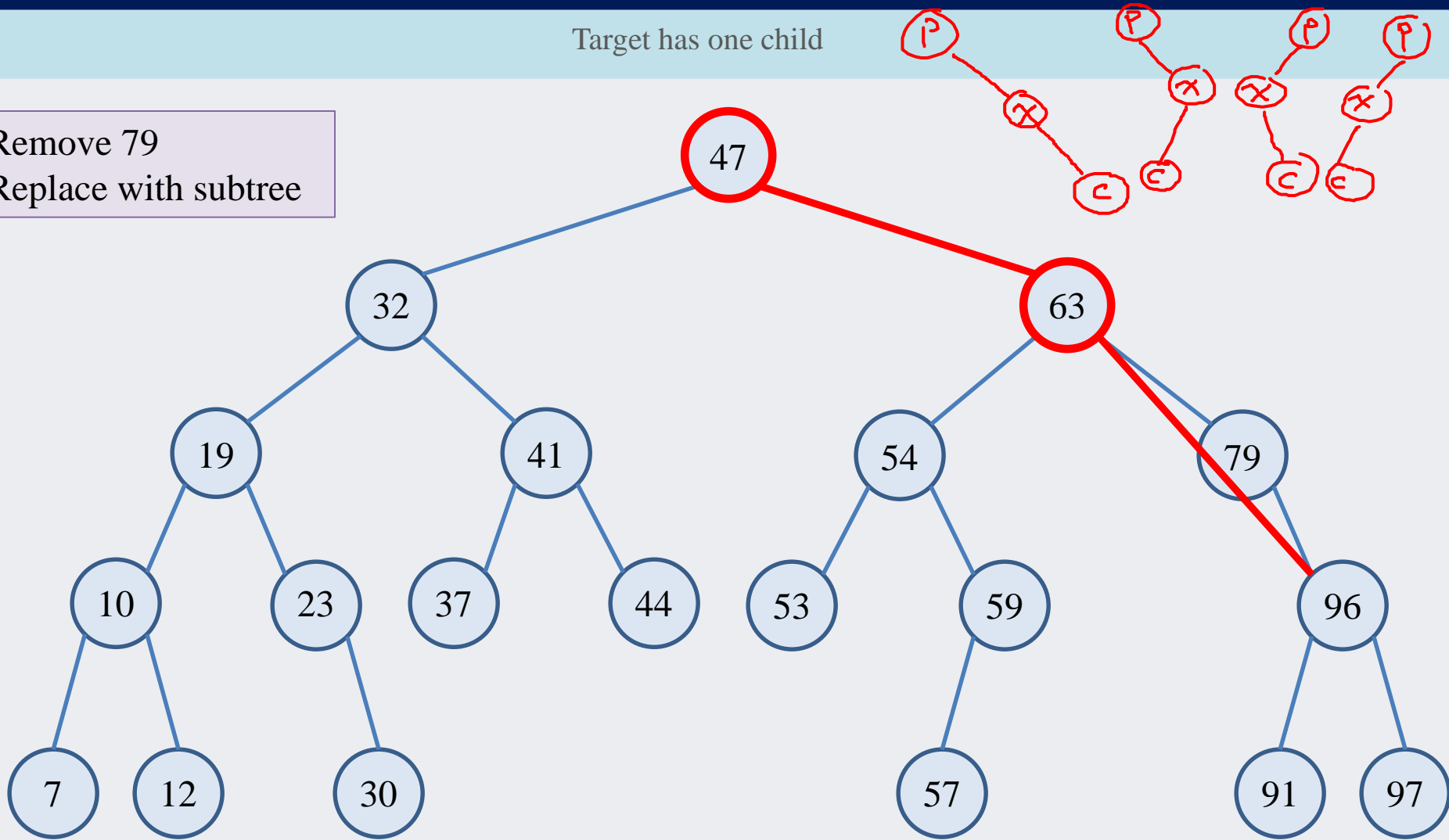
Remove 30



# BST removal

Target has one child

Remove 79  
Replace with subtree



## Looking at the next node

- One of the issues with implementing a BST is the necessity to look at both children
  - And, just like a linked list, *look ahead* for insertion and removal
  - And check that a node is null before accessing its member variables
- Consider removing a node with one child in more detail



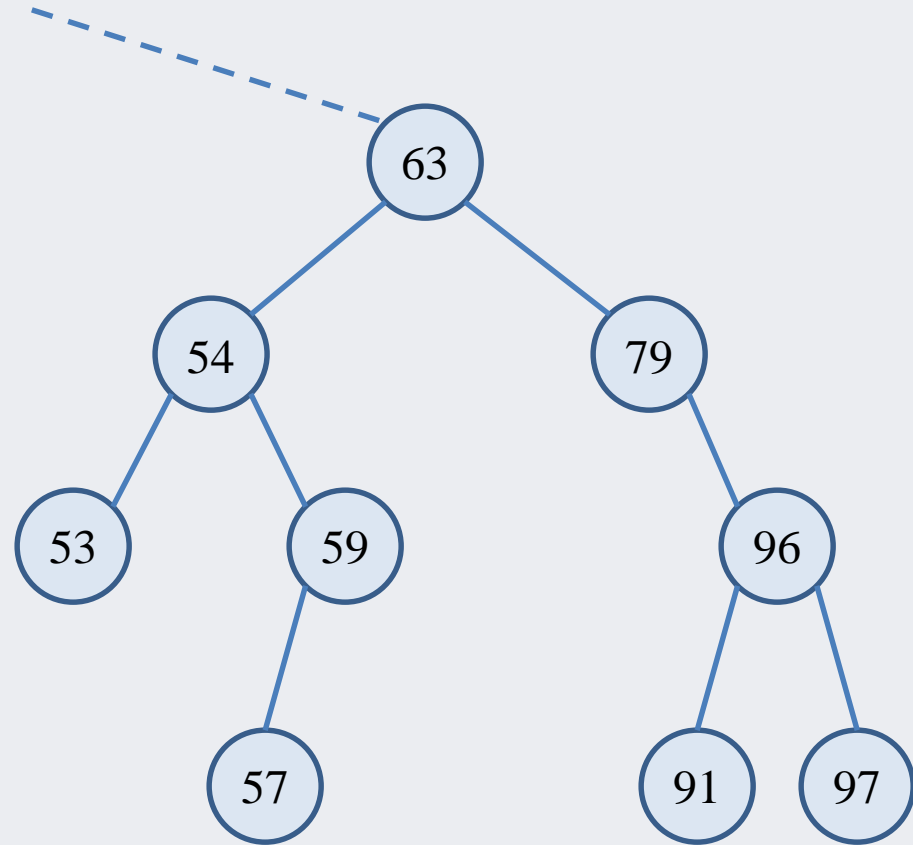
# Looking ahead

Remove 59

Step 1: We need to find the node to remove and its parent

To make the correct link, we need to know if the node to be removed is a left or right child

```
while (nd data != target) {  
    if (nd == NULL)  
        return;  
    if (target < nd->data) {  
        parent = nd;  
        nd = nd->left;  
        isLeftChild = true;  
    }  
    else {  
        parent = nd;  
        nd = nd->right;  
        isLeftChild = false;  
    }  
}
```

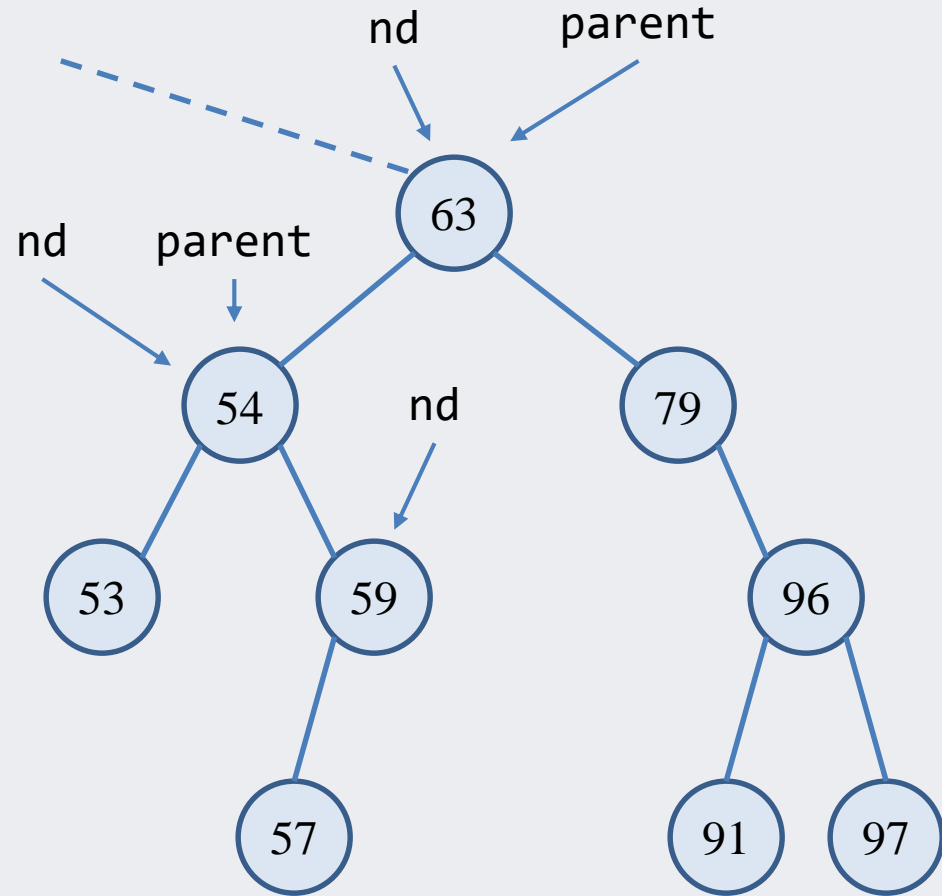


# Left or right?

Remove 59

```
while (nd data != target) {  
    if (nd == NULL)  
        return;  
    if (target < nd->data) {  
        parent = nd;  
        nd = nd->left;  
        isLeftChild = true;  
    }  
    else {  
        parent = nd;  
        nd = nd->right;  
        isLeftChild = false;  
    }  
}
```

Now we have enough information to detach 59, after attaching its child to 54.



isLeftChild = ~~false~~

# Removing a node with 2 children

- The most difficult case is when the node to be removed has two children
  - The strategy when the removed node had one child was to replace it with its child
  - But when the node has two children problems arise
- Which child should we replace the node with?
  - We could solve this by just picking one ...
- But what if the node we replace it with also has two children?
  - This will cause a problem

# Removed node has 2 children

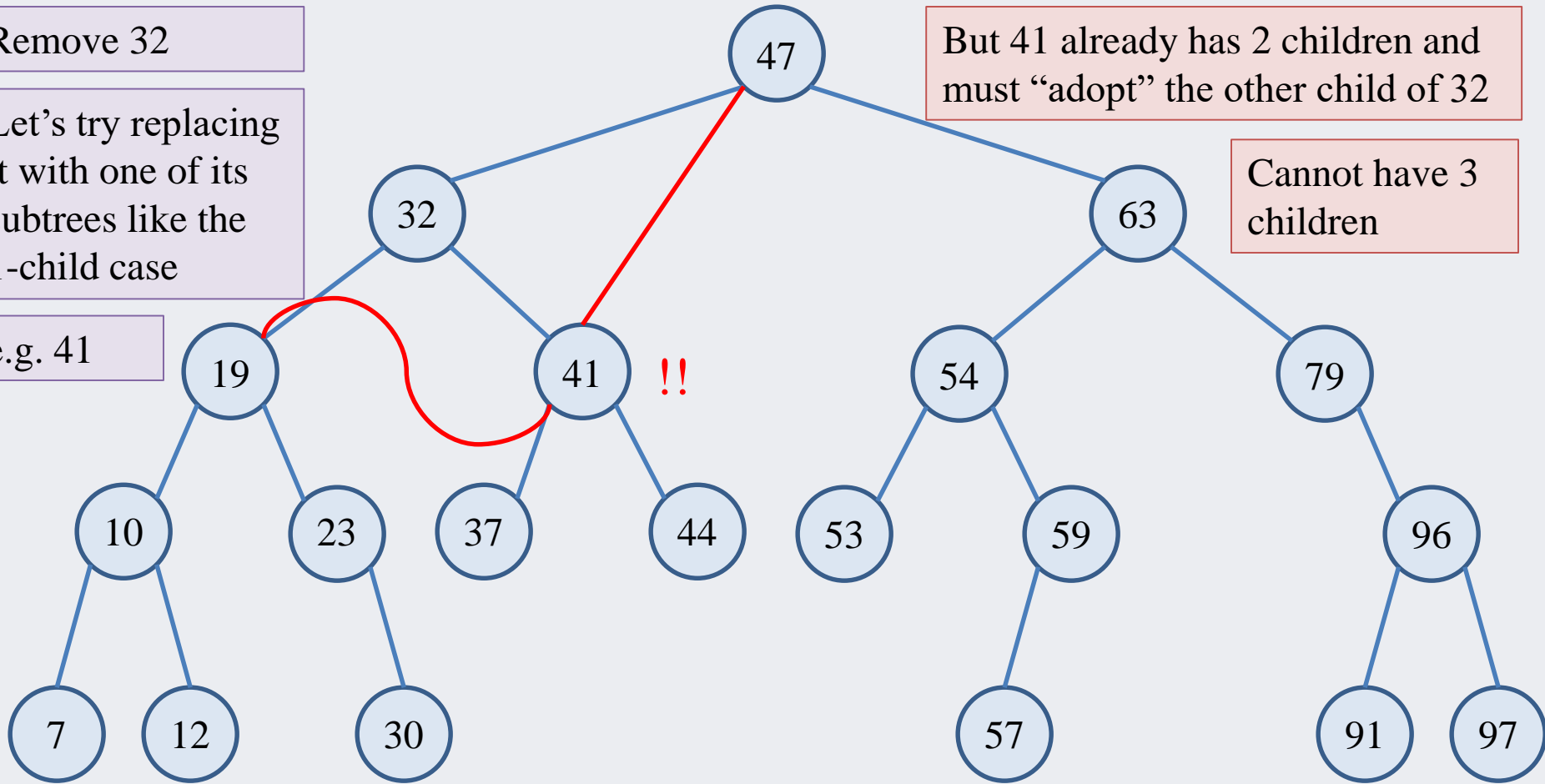
Remove 32

Let's try replacing it with one of its subtrees like the 1-child case

e.g. 41

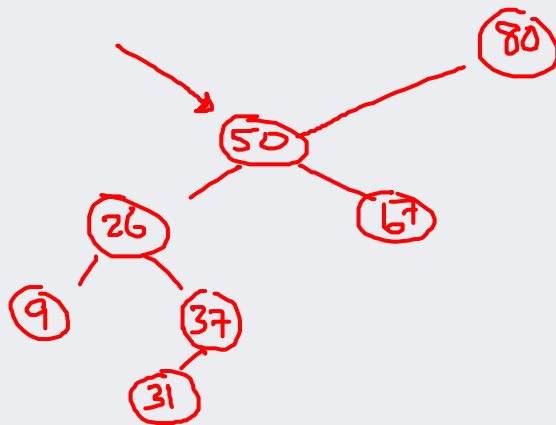
But 41 already has 2 children and must "adopt" the other child of 32

Cannot have 3 children



# Find the predecessor

- When a node has two children, instead of replacing it with one of its children, find its *predecessor*
  - A node's predecessor is the *right most* node of its *left subtree*
  - The predecessor is the node in the tree with the largest value less than the node's value
- The predecessor cannot have a right child and can therefore have at most one child
  - Why?



In-order traversal:

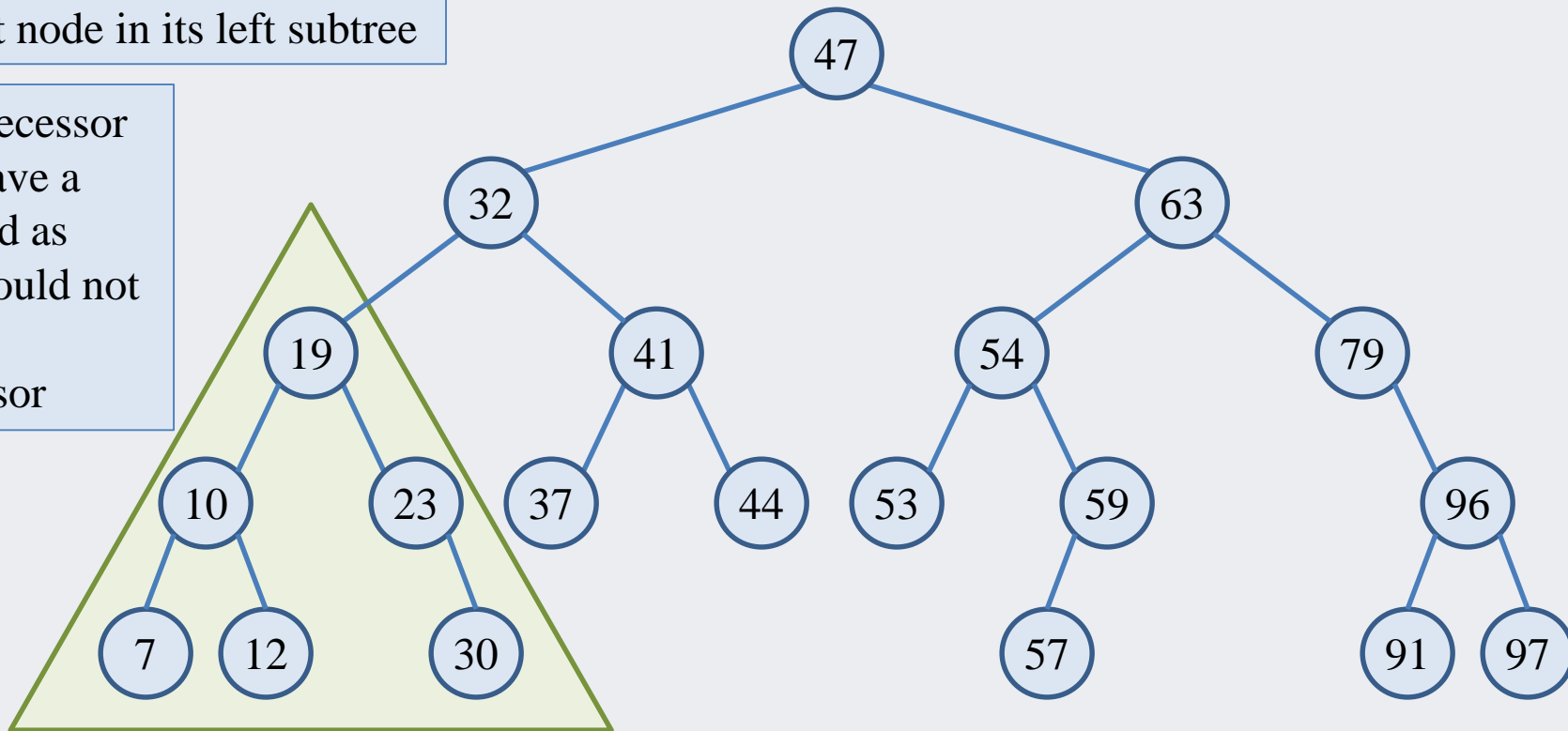
9 26 31 37 50 67 80  
                  ↑

# Predecessor node

32's predecessor

The predecessor of 32 is the rightmost node in its left subtree

The predecessor cannot have a right child as then it would not be the predecessor

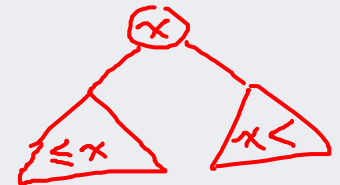


# Why use the predecessor?

- The predecessor has some useful properties
  - Because of the BST property it must be the largest value less than its ancestor's value
    - It is to the right of all of the nodes in its ancestor's *left* subtree so must be greater than them
    - It is less than the nodes in its ancestor's *right* subtree
  - It can have at most only one child
- These properties make it a good candidate to replace its ancestor

# What about the successor?

- The successor to a node is the left most child of its right subtree
  - It has the smallest value greater than its ancestor's value
  - And cannot have a left child
- The successor can also be used to replace a removed node
  - Pick either one, but be consistent!



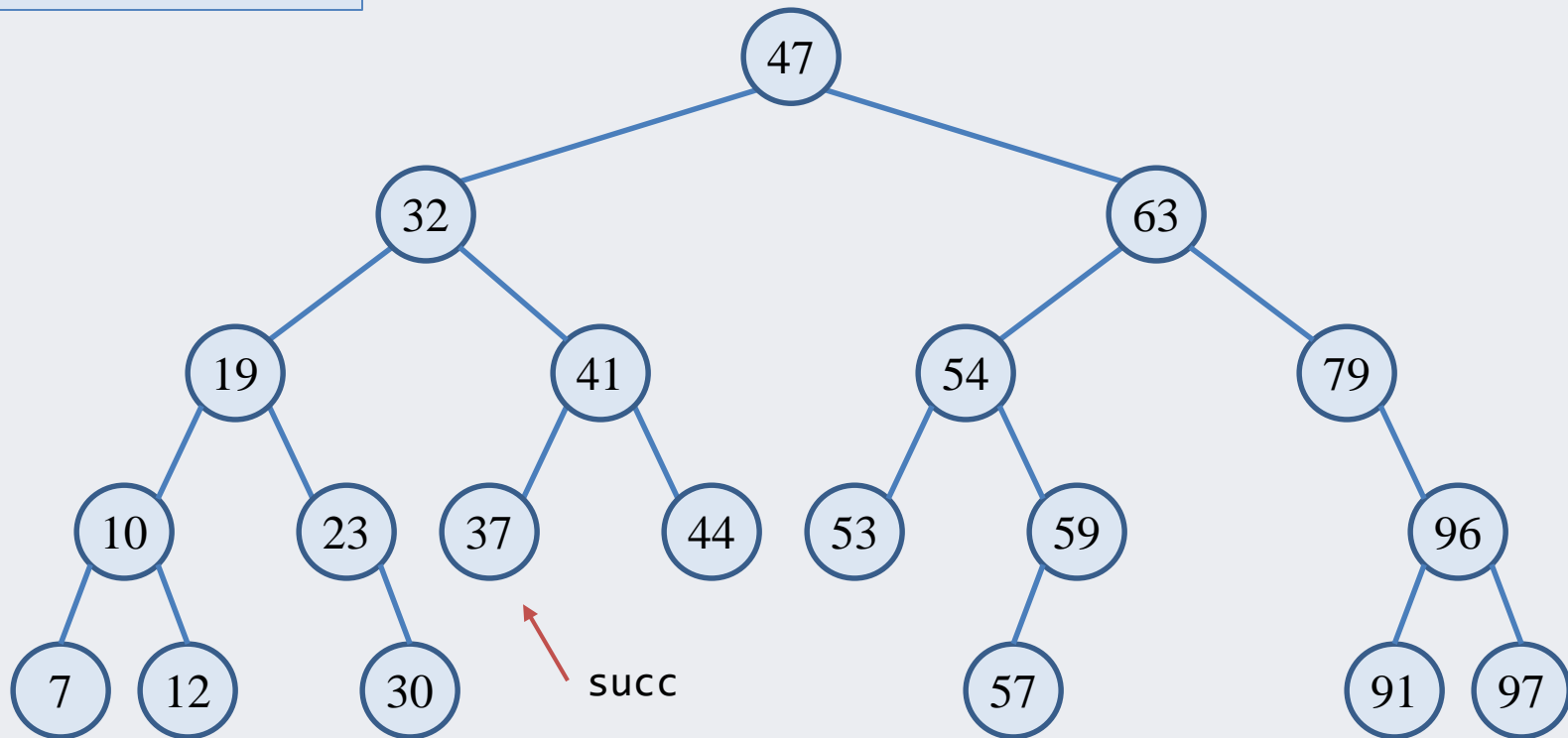


# Removed node has 2 children

Replacement with successor

Remove 32

Find successor and replace data



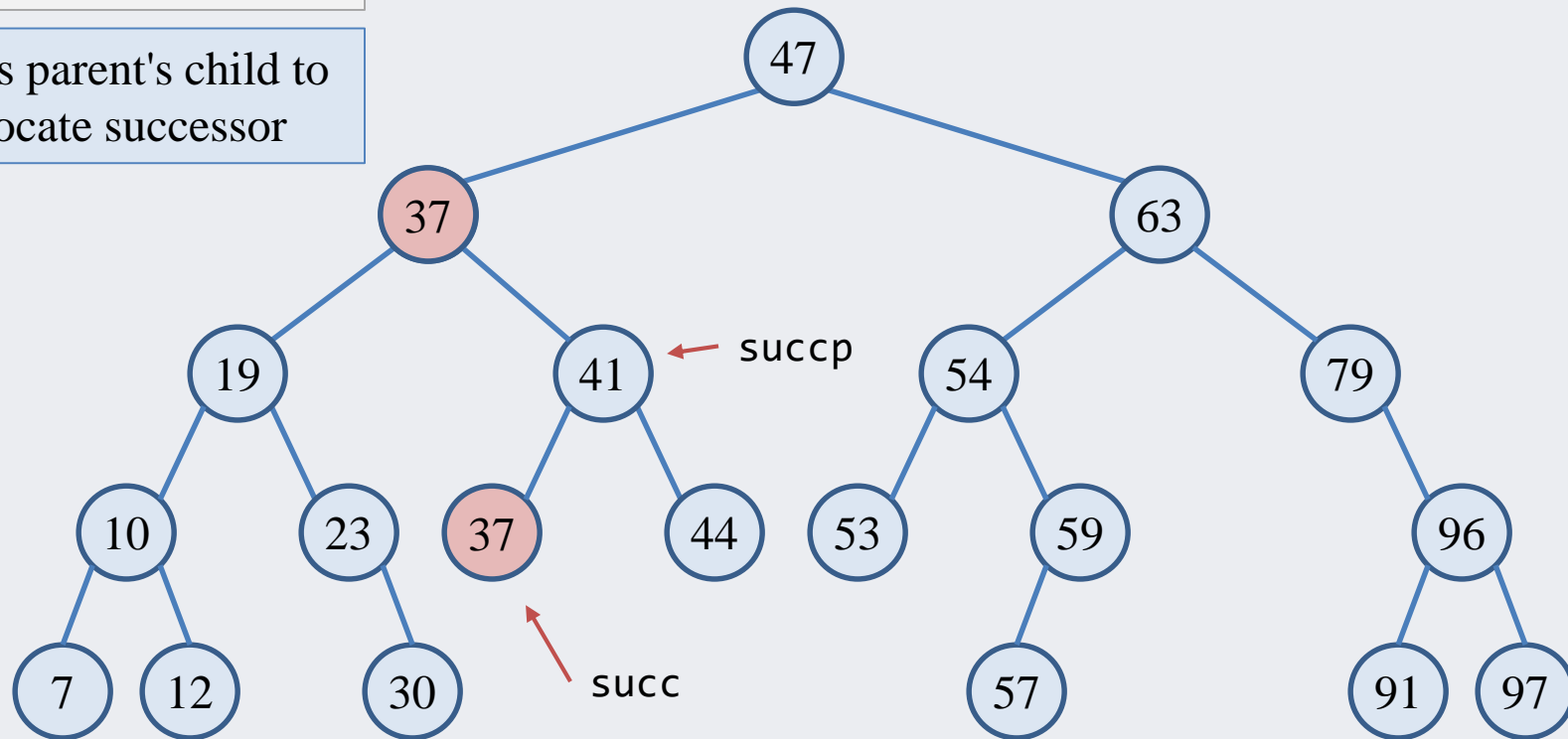
# Removed node has 2 children

Replacement with successor

Remove 32

Find successor and replace data

Set successor's parent's child to null and deallocate successor



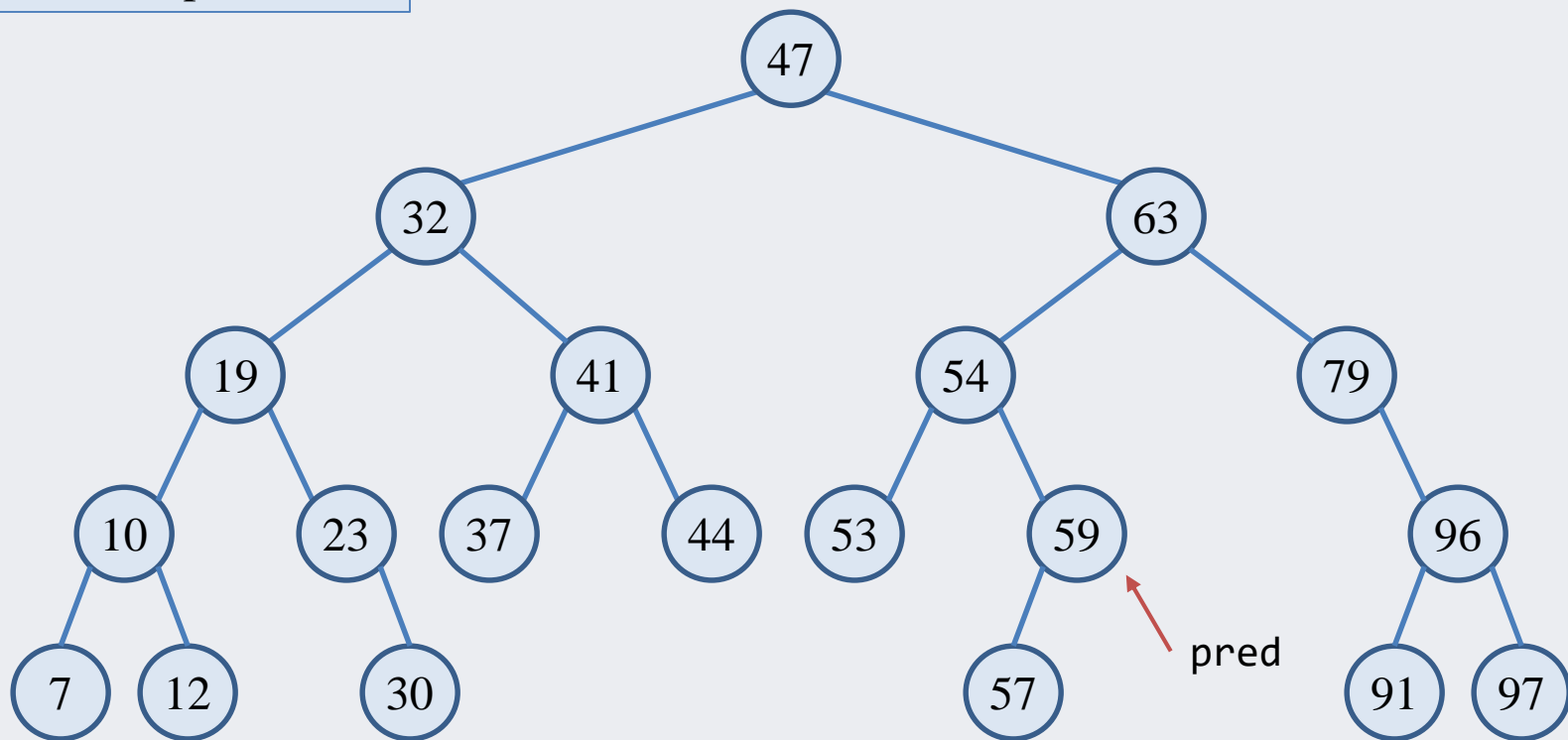
In this example the successor had no subtree

# Removed node has 2 children

Replacement with predecessor

Remove 63

Find predecessor and replace data



# Removed node has 2 children

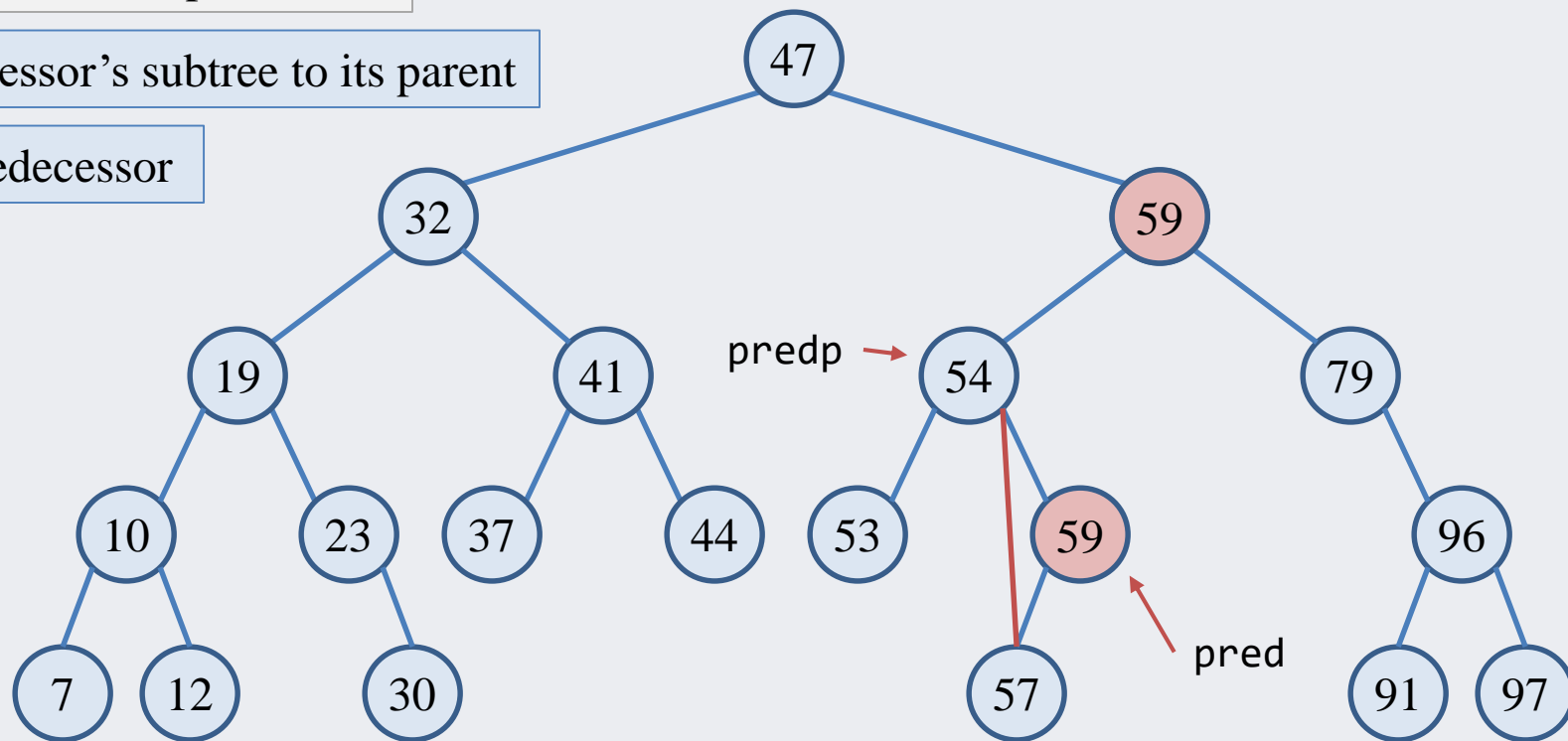
Replacement with predecessor

Remove 63

Find predecessor and replace data

Attach predecessor's subtree to its parent

Deallocate predecessor



# BST efficiency

- The efficiency of BST operations depends on the *height* of the tree
  - All three operations (search, insert and delete) are  $O(\text{height})$
  - If the tree is complete the height is  $\lceil \log(\text{height}) \rceil$
  - What if it isn't complete?

# Height of a BST

Insert 7

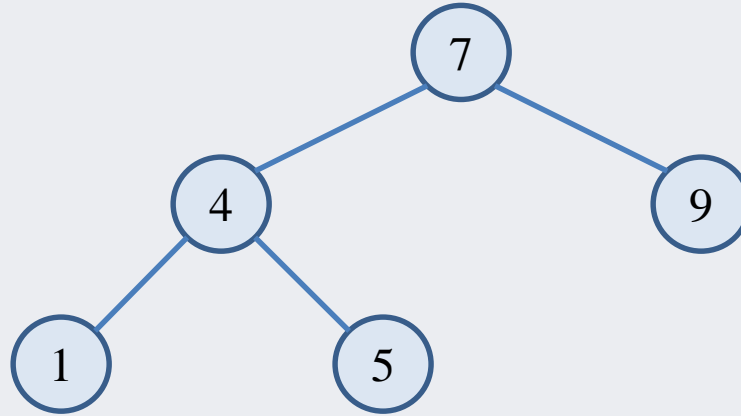
Insert 4

Insert 1

Insert 9

Insert 5

This is a complete BST



$$\text{height} = \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1 = 3$$

# Height of a BST

Insert 9

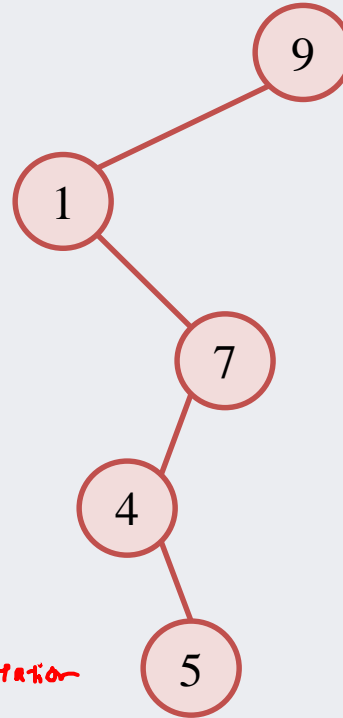
Insert 1

Insert 7

Insert 4

Insert 5

This is a linked list with  
extra unused pointers



height =  $n = 5$

for Dictionary ADT implementation  
worst case

insert	$O(n)$
remove	$O(n)$
search	$O(n)$

for randomly ordered insertions/removals,  
tree tends to have height  $\in O(\log n)$

# Balanced BSTs

- It would be ideal if a BST was always close to complete
  - i.e. balanced
- How do we guarantee a balanced BST?
  - We have to make the structure and / or the insertion and removal algorithms more complex
    - e.g. **red** – **black** trees, AVL trees
    - These structures are outside the scope of this course, but you may read Thareja Chapter 10.4 – 10.5 for interest



# Readings for this lesson

- Thareja
  - Chapter 9.1 – 9.4
  - Chapter 10.1 – 10.2.9