

# AVL Trees

CSE 373

Data Structures

# Readings

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- Reading Chapter 10
  - › Section 10.2

# Binary Search Tree - Best Time

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- All BST operations are  $O(d)$ , where  $d$  is tree depth
- minimum  $d$  is  $d = \lfloor \log_2 N \rfloor$  for a binary tree with  $N$  nodes
  - › What is the best case tree?
  - › What is the worst case tree?
- So, best case running time of BST operations is  $O(\log N)$

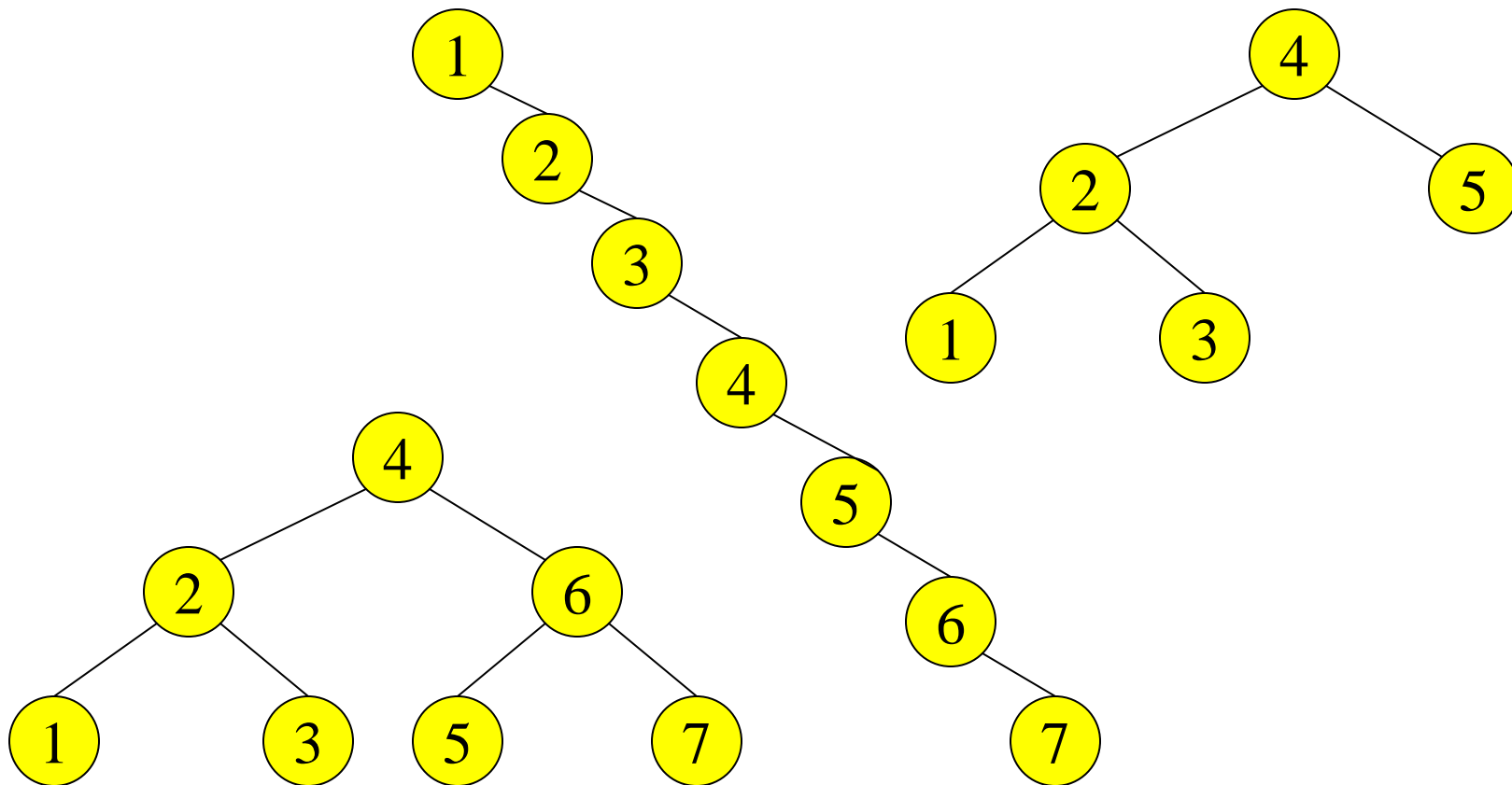
# Binary Search Tree - Worst Time

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- Worst case running time is  $O(N)$ 
  - › What happens when you Insert elements in ascending order?
    - Insert: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 into an empty BST
  - › Problem: Lack of “balance”:
    - compare depths of left and right subtree
  - › Unbalanced degenerate tree

# Balanced and unbalanced BST

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# Approaches to balancing trees

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- Don't balance
  - › May end up with some nodes very deep
- Strict balance
  - › The tree must always be balanced perfectly
- Pretty good balance
  - › Only allow a little out of balance
- Adjust on access
  - › Self-adjusting

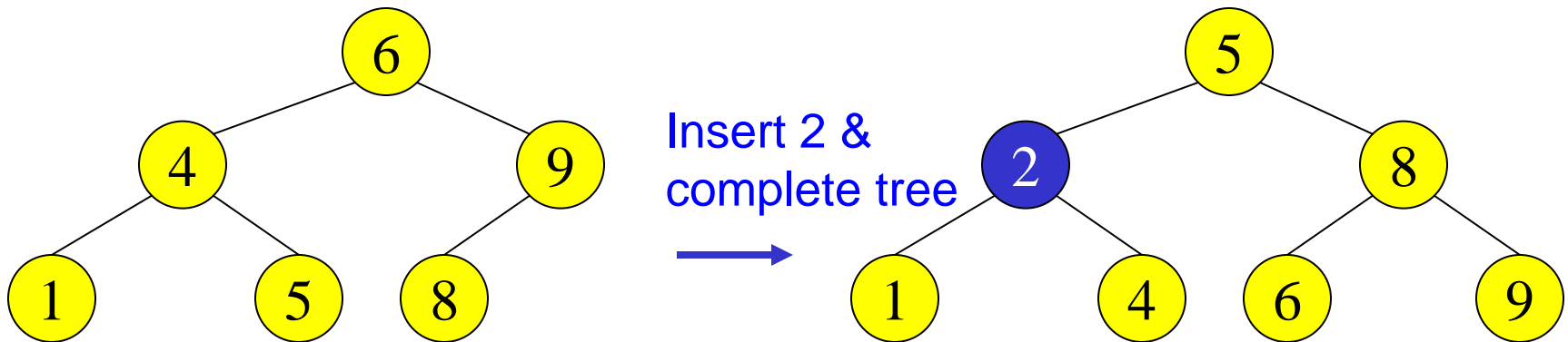
# Balancing Binary Search Trees

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- Many algorithms exist for keeping binary search trees balanced
  - › Adelson-Velskii and Landis (**AVL**) trees (height-balanced trees)
  - › Weight-balanced trees
  - › Red-black trees;
  - › **Splay trees** and other self-adjusting trees
  - › **B-trees** and other (e.g. 2-4 trees) multiway search trees

# Perfect Balance

- Want a **complete tree** after every operation
  - › tree is full except possibly in the lower right
- This is expensive
  - › For example, insert 2 in the tree on the left and then rebuild as a complete tree



AVL Trees



# AVL Trees (1962)

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- Named after 2 Russian mathematicians
- Georgii [Adelson-Velsky](#) (1922 - ?)
- Evgenii Mikhailovich [Landis](#) (1921-1997)



# AVL - Good but not Perfect Balance

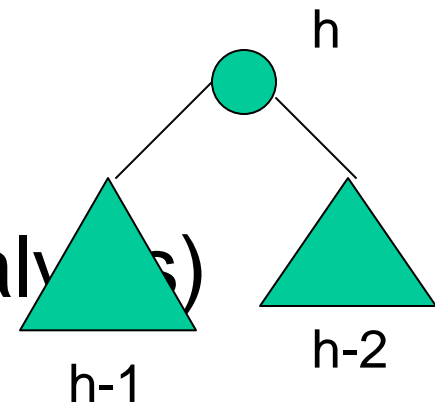
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- AVL trees are height-balanced binary search trees
- Balance factor of a node
  - ›  $\text{height}(\text{left subtree}) - \text{height}(\text{right subtree})$
- An AVL tree has balance factor calculated at every node
  - › For every node, heights of left and right subtree can differ by no more than 1
  - › Store current heights in each node

# Height of an AVL Tree

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- $N(h)$  = minimum number of nodes in an AVL tree of height  $h$ .
- Basis
  - ›  $N(0) = 1, N(1) = 2$
- Induction
  - ›  $N(h) = N(h-1) + N(h-2) + 1$
- Solution (recall Fibonacci analysis)
  - ›  $N(h) \geq \phi^h$  ( $\phi \approx 1.62$ )



# Height of an AVL Tree

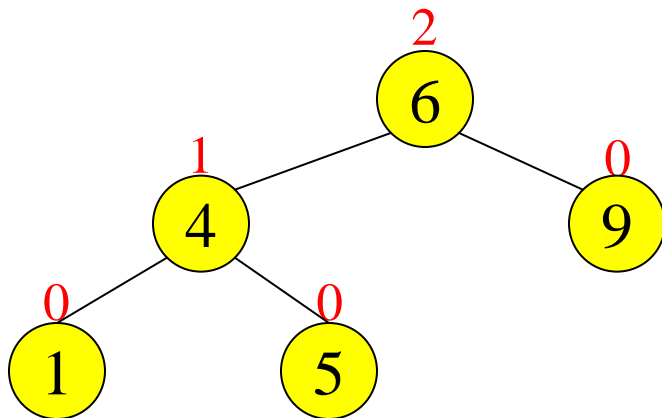
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- $N(h) \geq \phi^h$  ( $\phi \approx 1.62$ )
- Suppose we have  $n$  nodes in an AVL tree of height  $h$ .
  - ›  $n \geq N(h)$
  - ›  $n \geq \phi^h$  hence  $\log_{\phi} n \geq h$  (relatively well balanced tree!!)
  - ›  $h \leq 1.44 \log_2 n$  (i.e., Find takes  $O(\log n)$ )

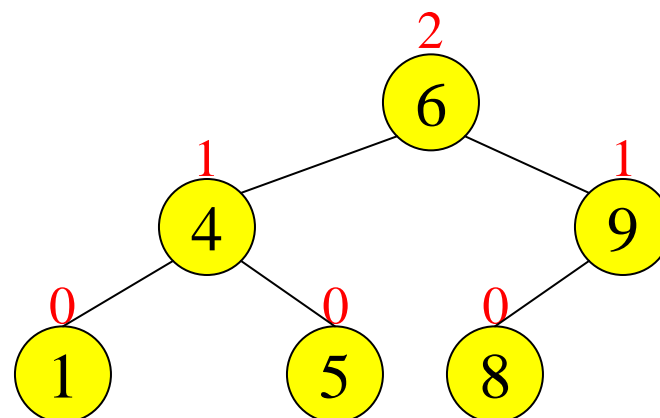
# Node Heights

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Tree A (AVL)



Tree B (AVL)



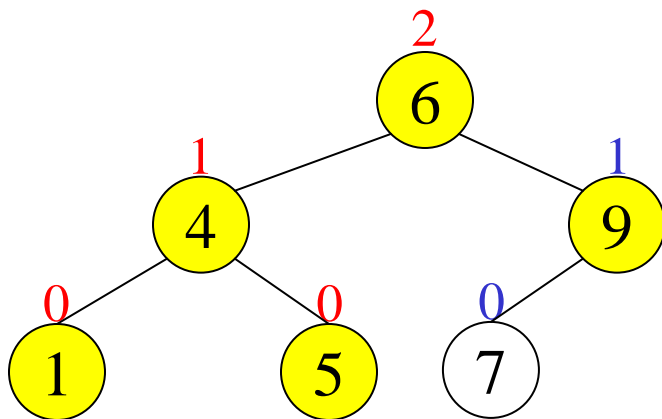
height of node =  $h$

balance factor =  $h_{\text{left}} - h_{\text{right}}$

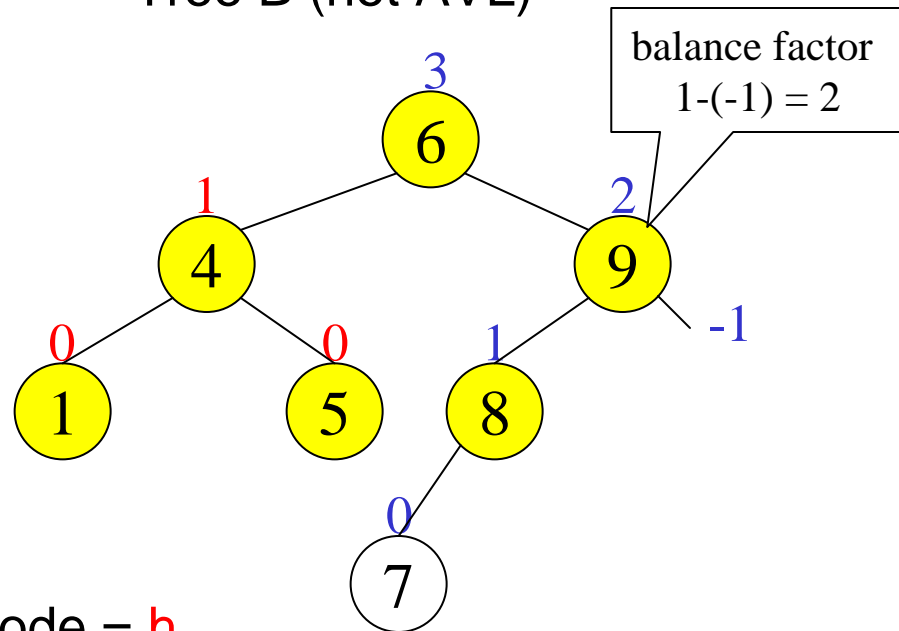
empty height = -1

# Node Heights after Insert 7

Tree A (AVL)



Tree B (not AVL)



height of node =  $h$   
balance factor =  $h_{\text{left}} - h_{\text{right}}$   
empty height = -1

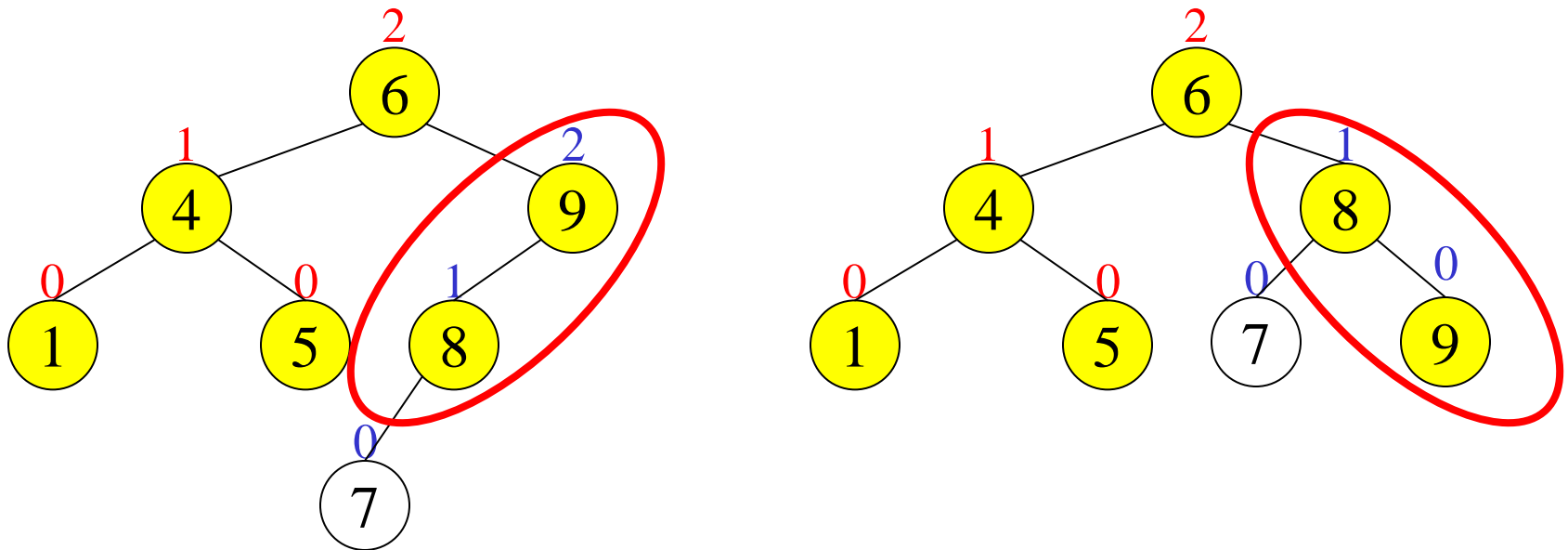
# Insert and Rotation in AVL Trees

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- Insert operation may cause balance factor to become 2 or -2 for some node
  - › only nodes on the path from insertion point to root node have possibly changed in height
  - › So after the Insert, **go back up** to the root node by node, updating heights
  - › If a new balance factor (the difference  $h_{\text{left}} - h_{\text{right}}$ ) is 2 or -2, adjust tree by **rotation** around the node

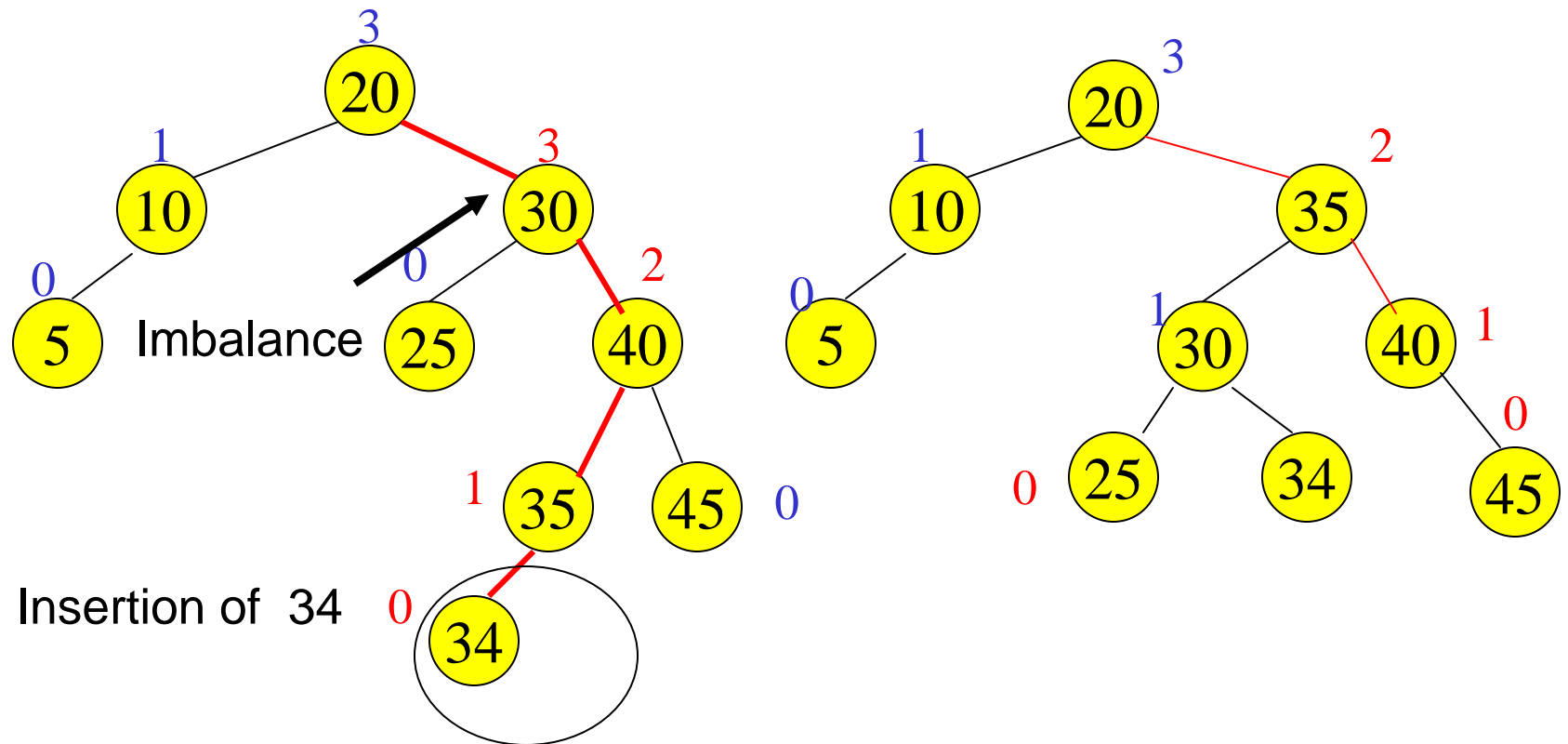
# Single Rotation in an AVL Tree

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# Double rotation



# Insertions in AVL Trees

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Let the node that needs rebalancing be  $\alpha$ .

There are 4 cases:

**Outside Cases** (require single rotation) :

1. Insertion into **left** subtree **of left** child of  $\alpha$ .
2. Insertion into **right** subtree **of right** child of  $\alpha$ .

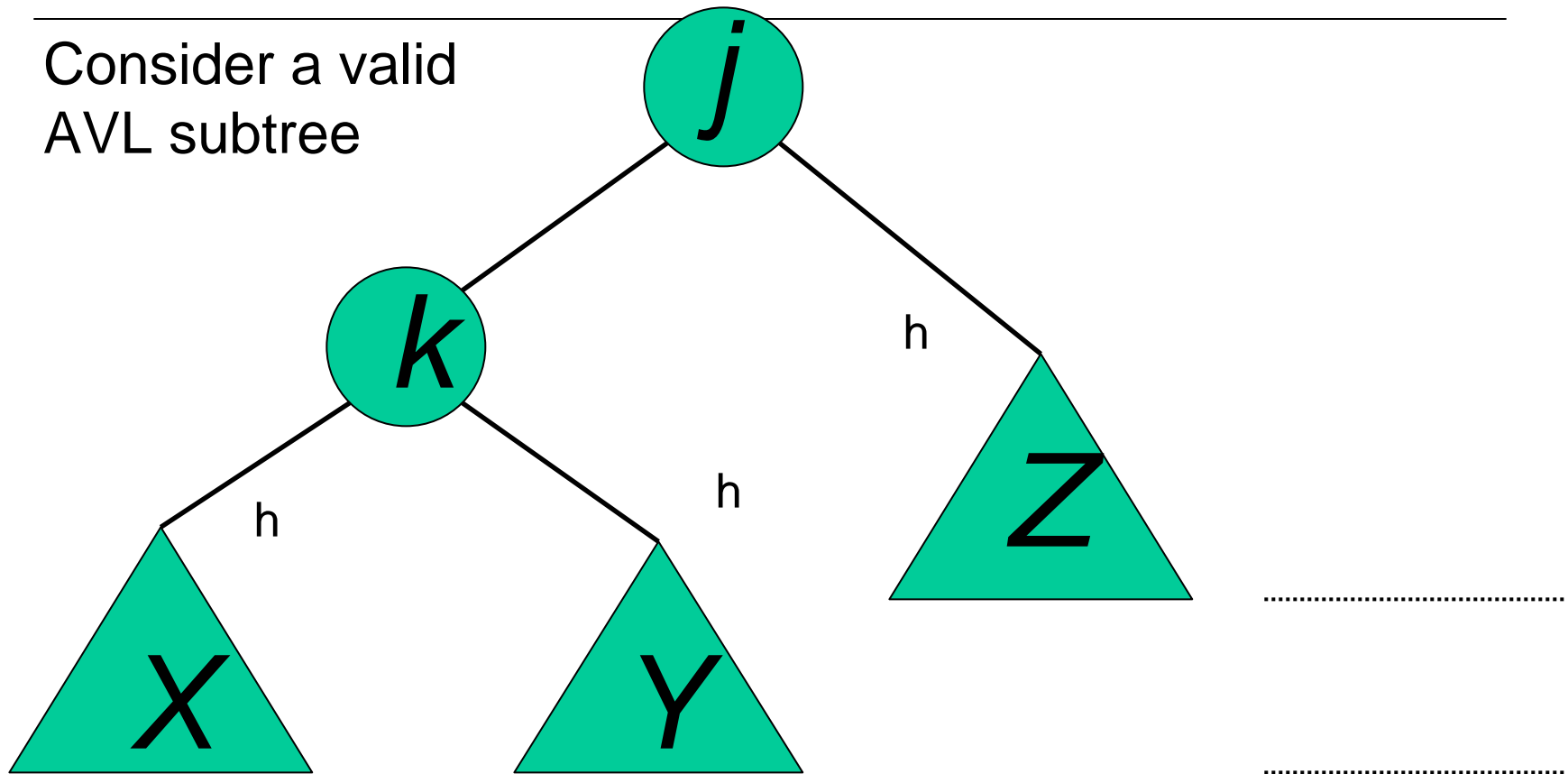
**Inside Cases** (require double rotation) :

3. Insertion into **right** subtree **of left** child of  $\alpha$ .
4. Insertion into **left** subtree **of right** child of  $\alpha$ .

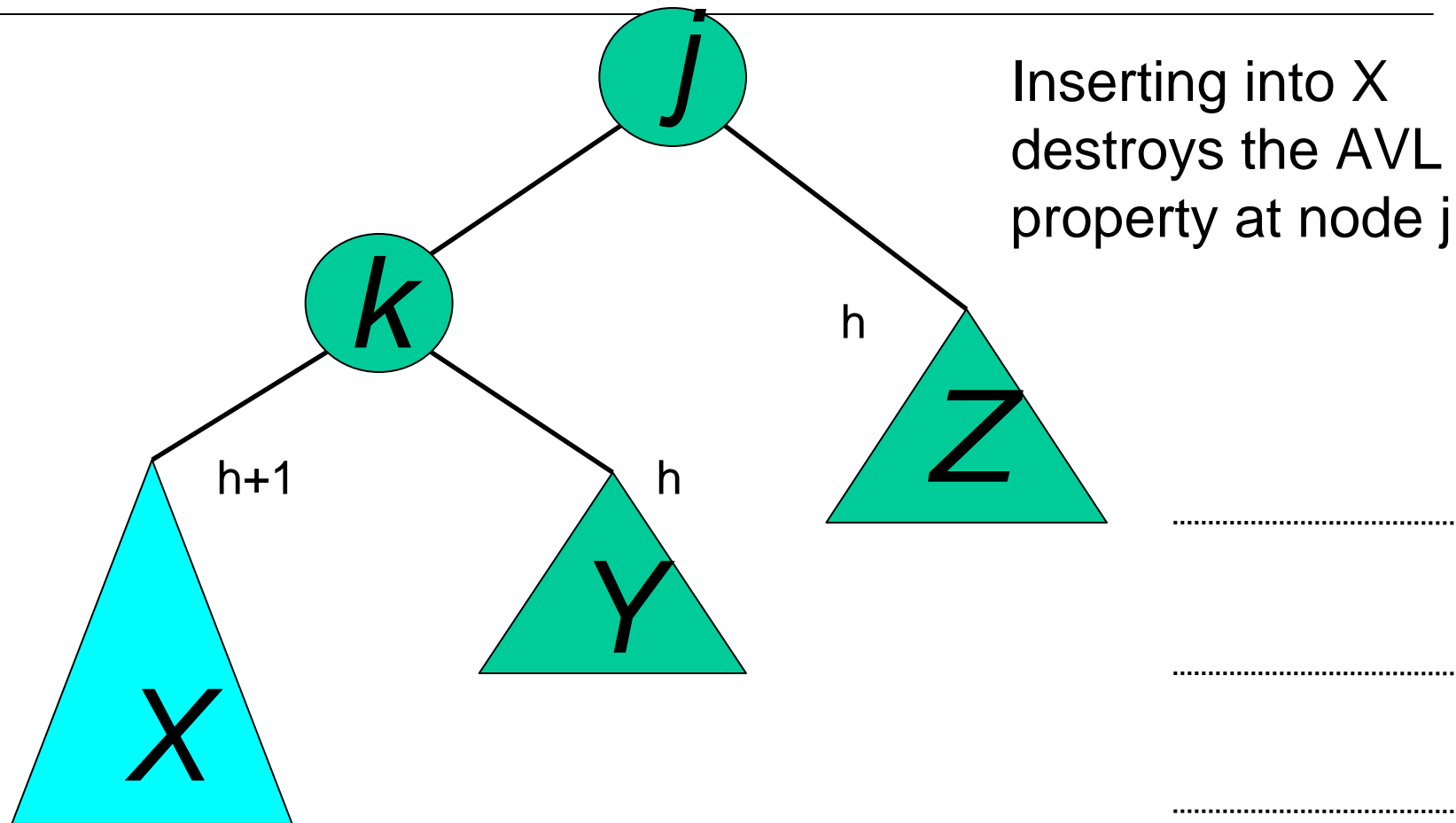
The rebalancing is performed through four separate rotation algorithms.

# AVL Insertion: Outside Case

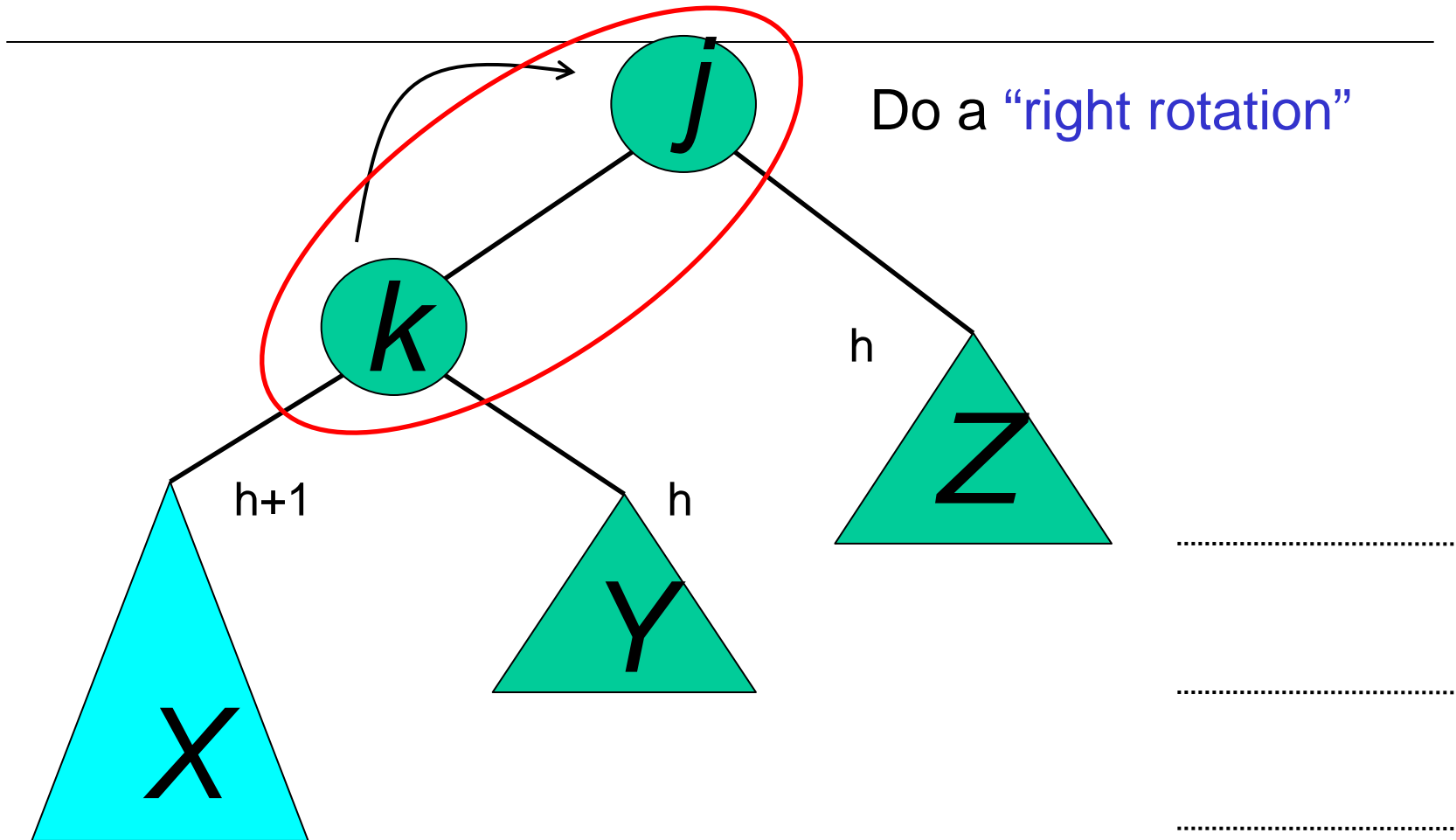
Consider a valid  
AVL subtree



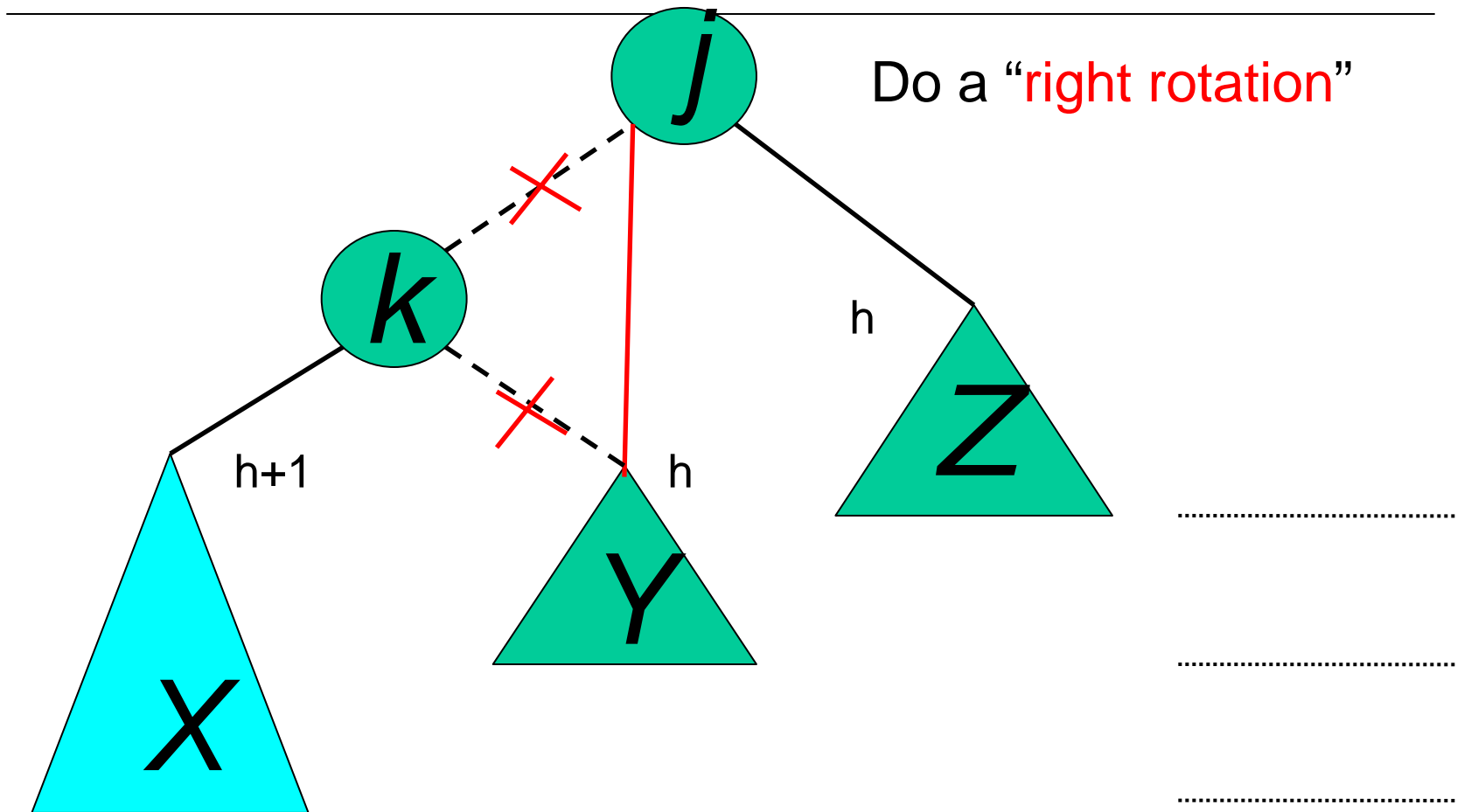
# AVL Insertion: Outside Case



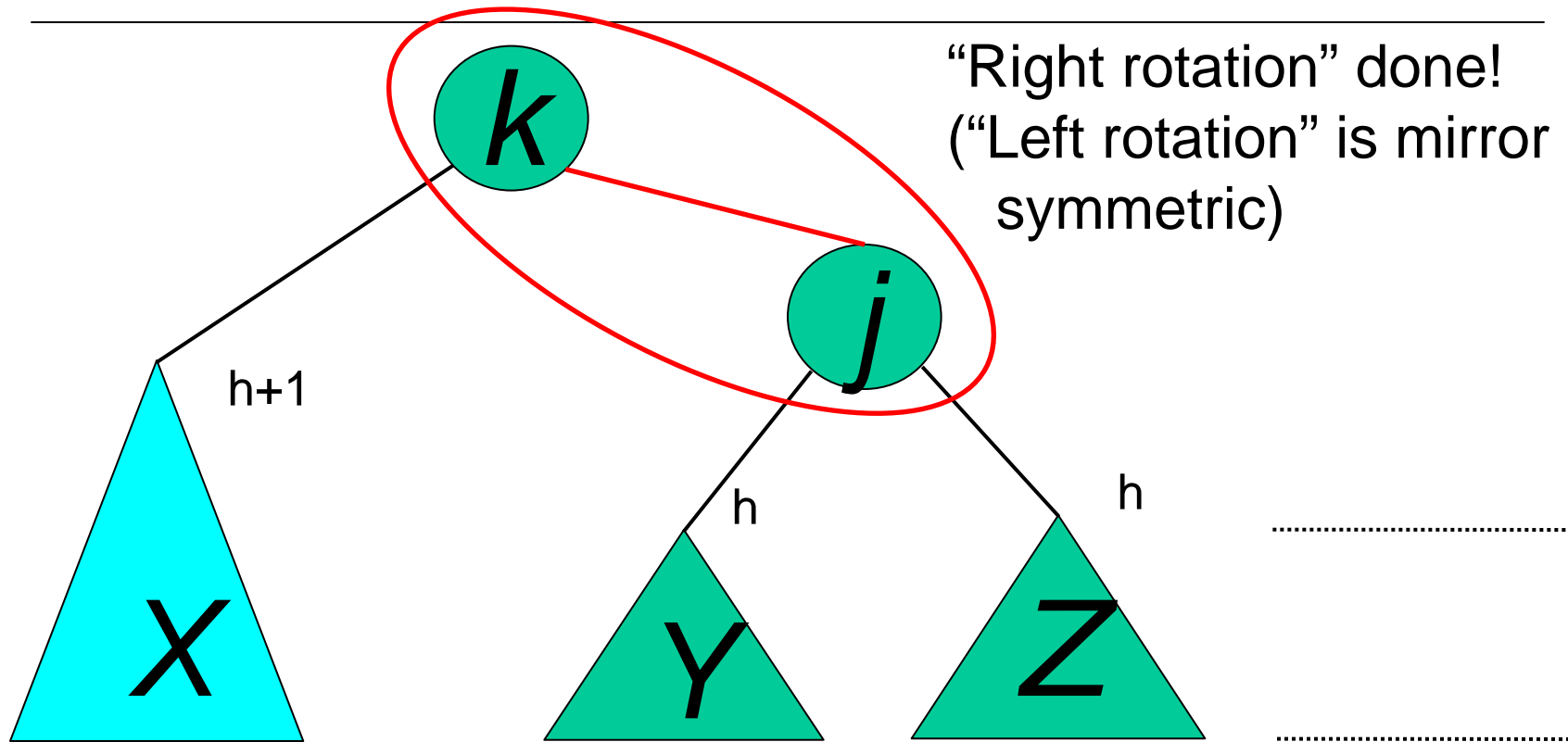
# AVL Insertion: Outside Case



# Single right rotation



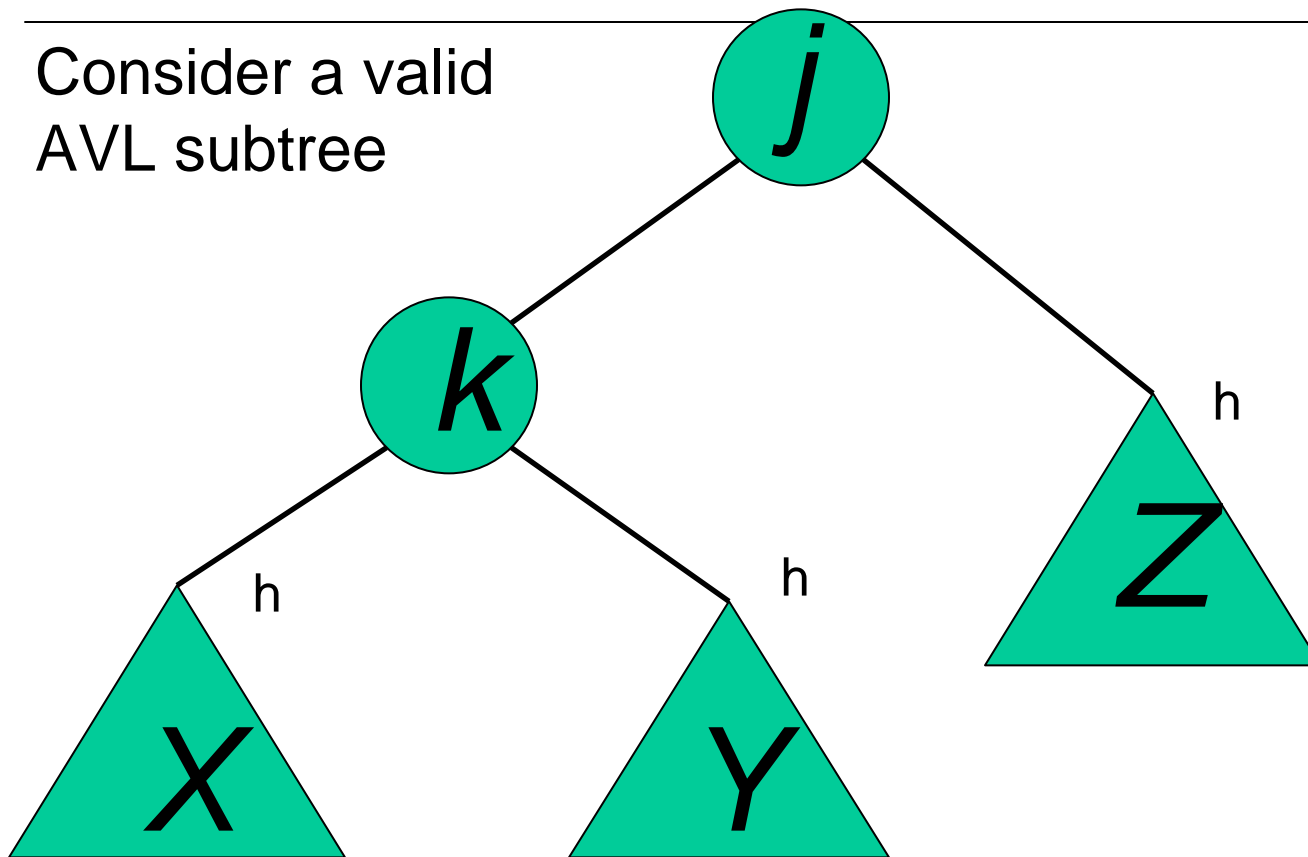
# Outside Case Completed



AVL property has been restored!

# AVL Insertion: Inside Case

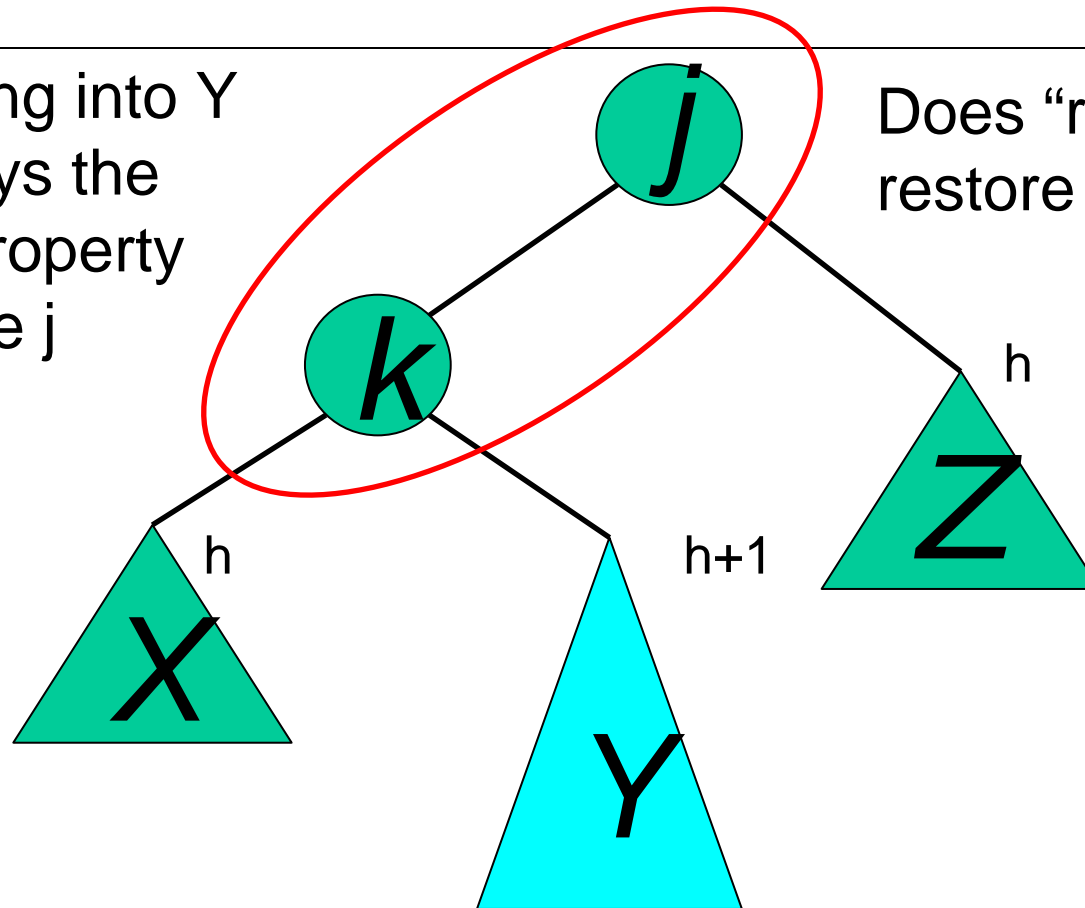
Consider a valid  
AVL subtree



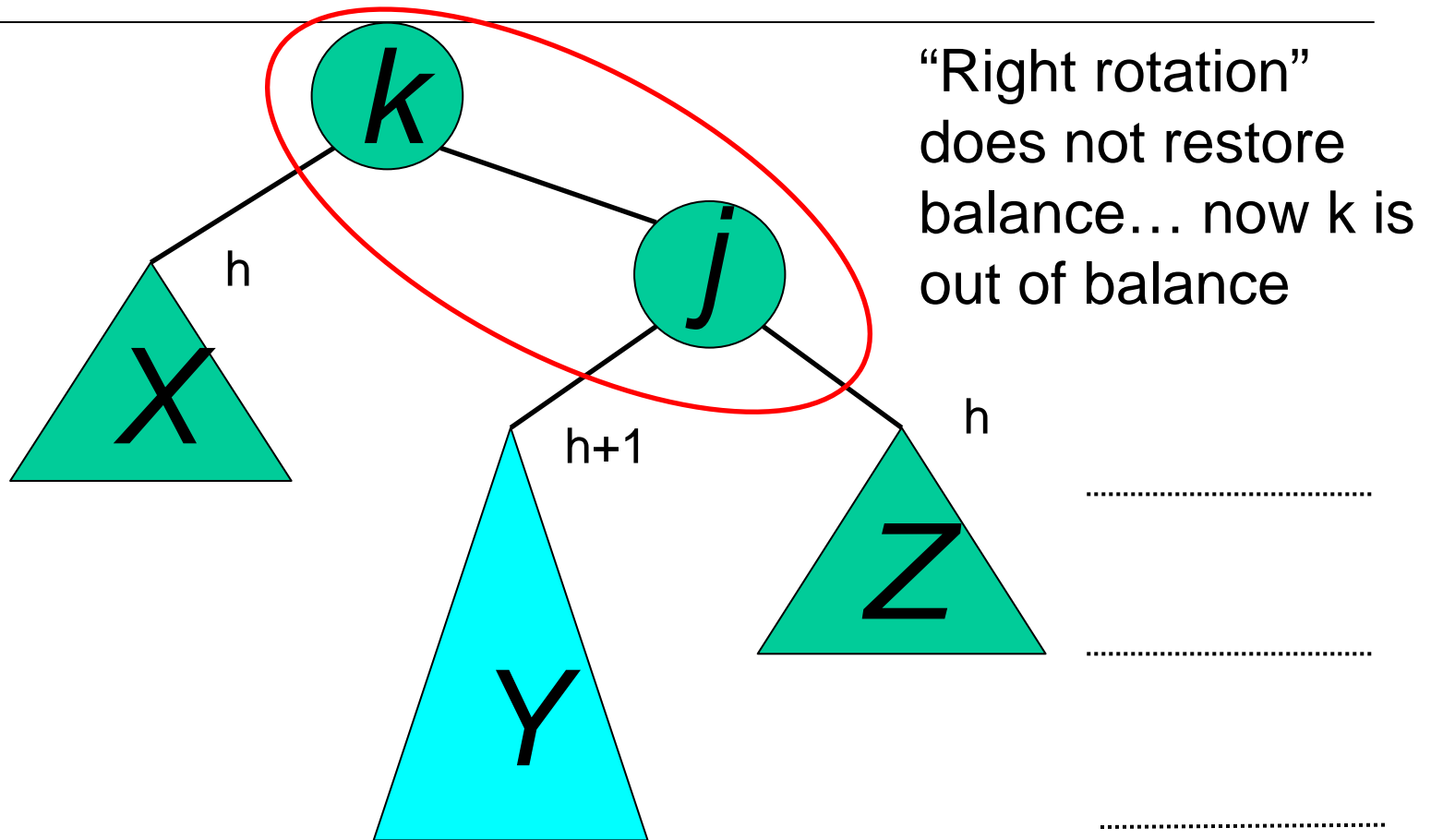


# AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Inserting into Y  
destroys the  
AVL property  
at node j

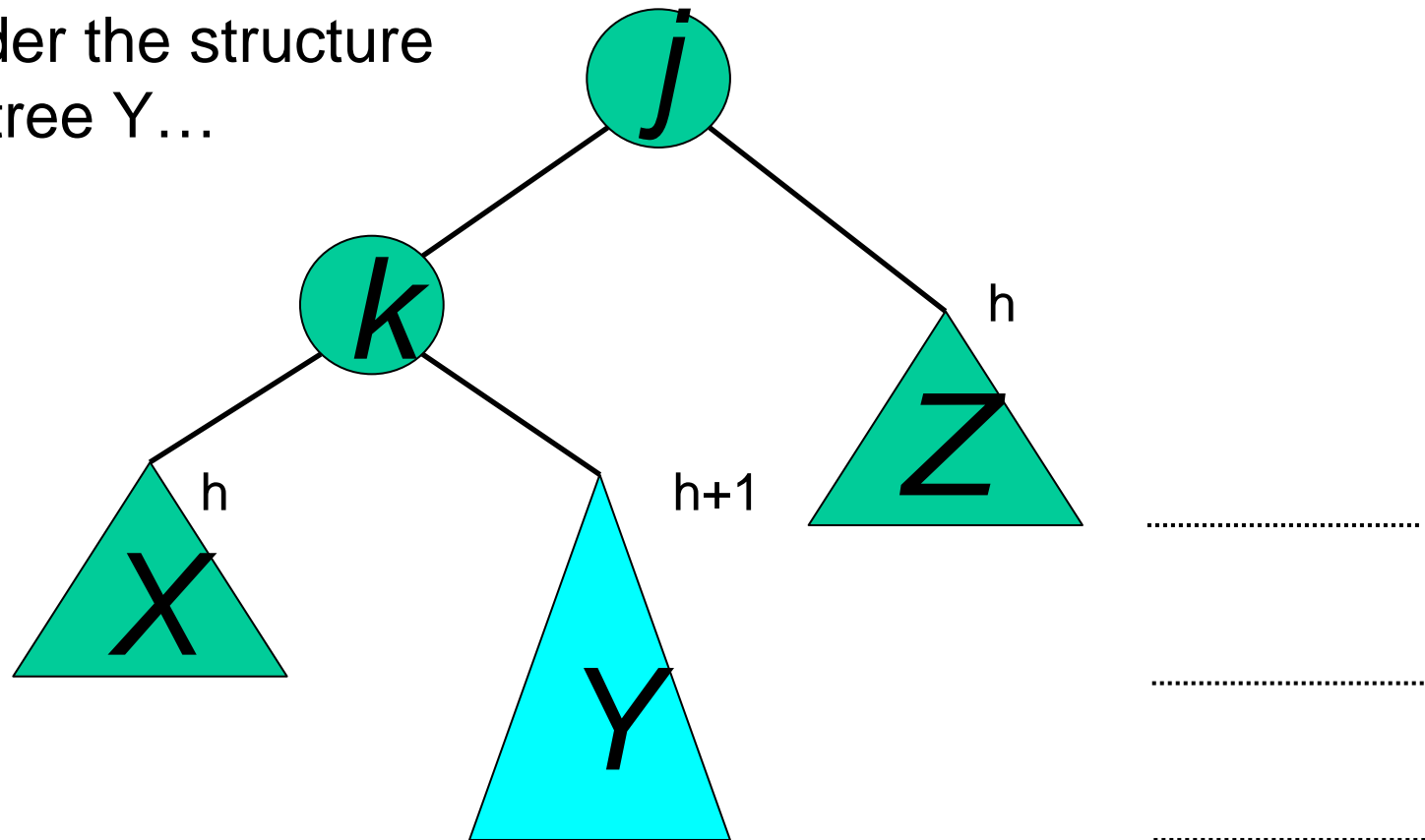


# AVL Insertion: Inside Case



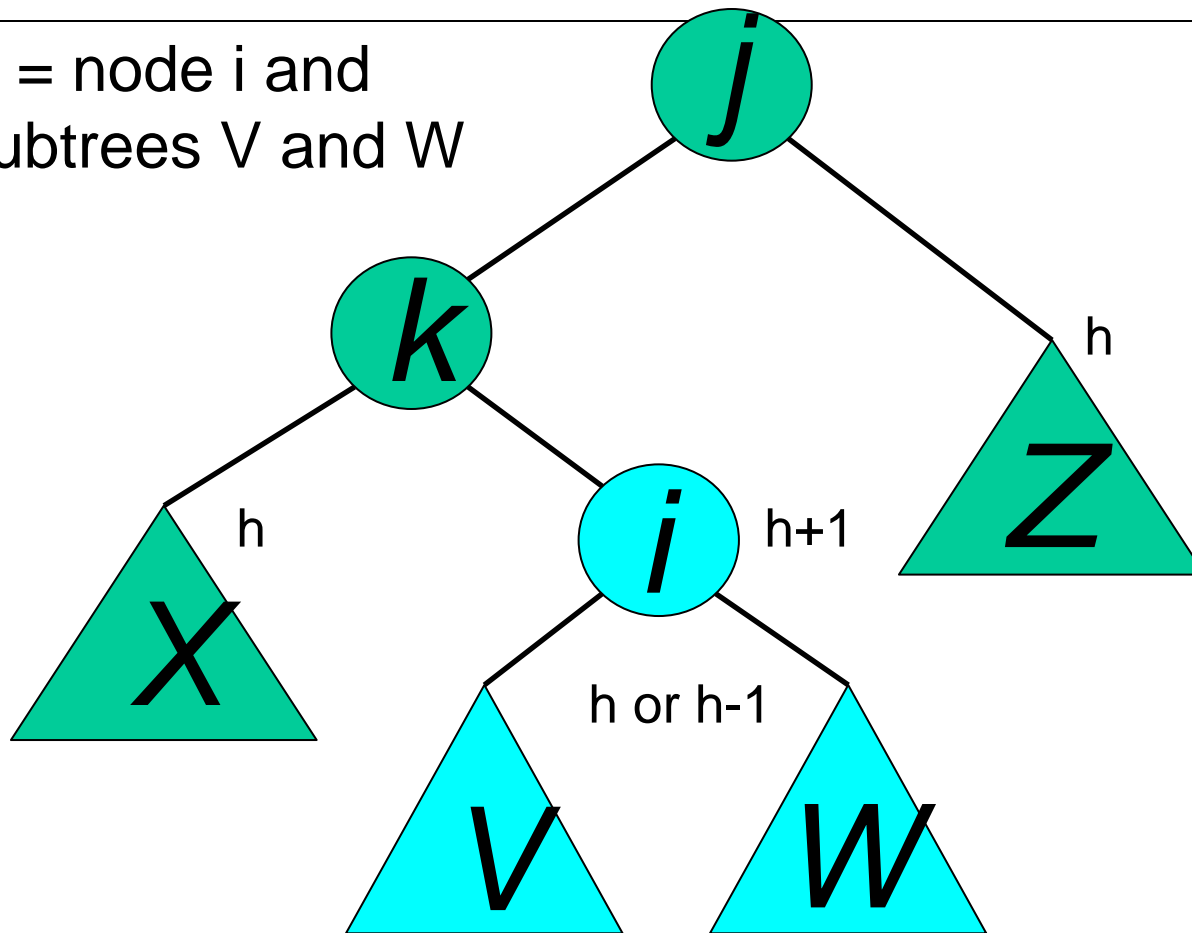
# AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Consider the structure of subtree Y...

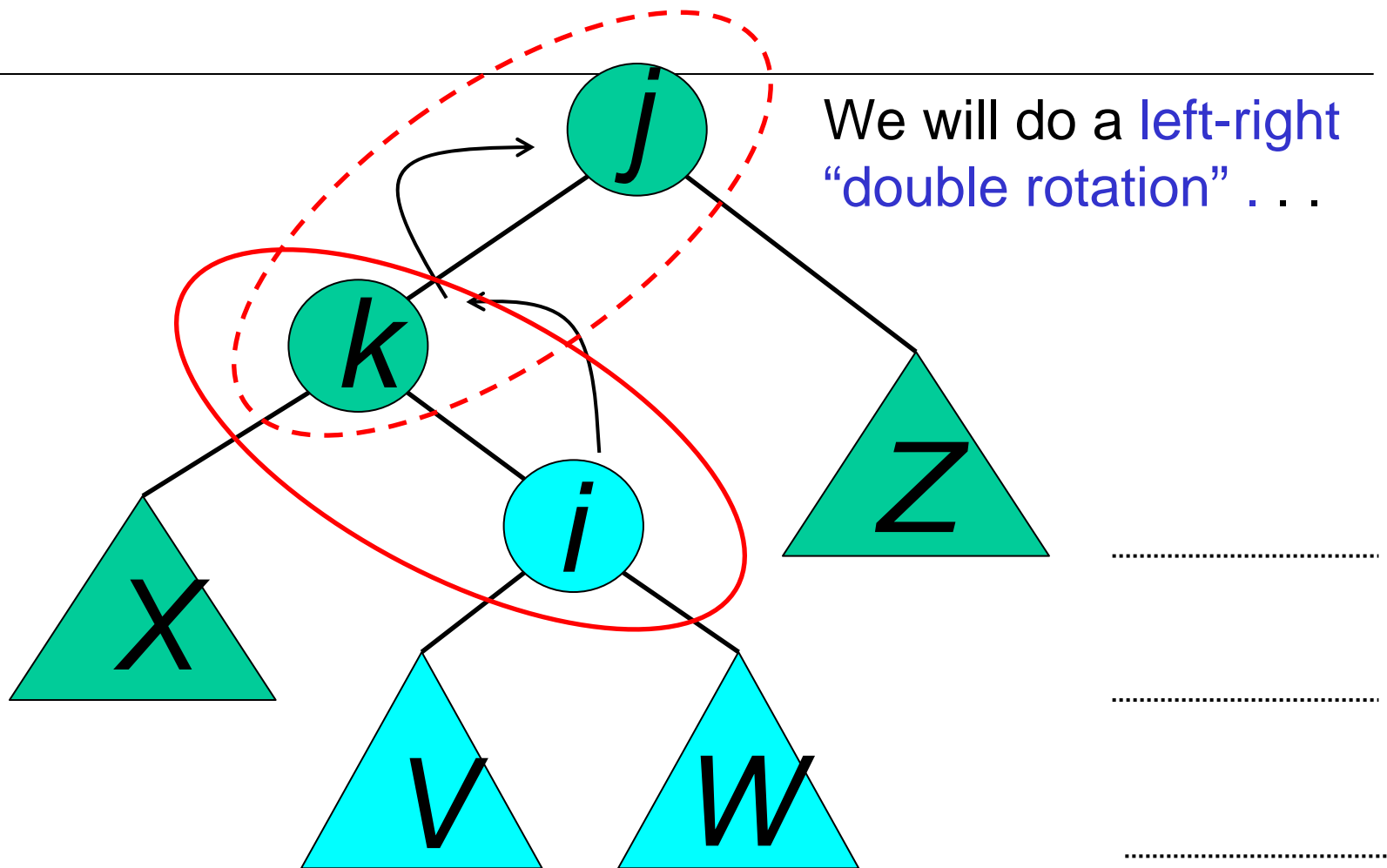


# AVL Insertion: Inside Case

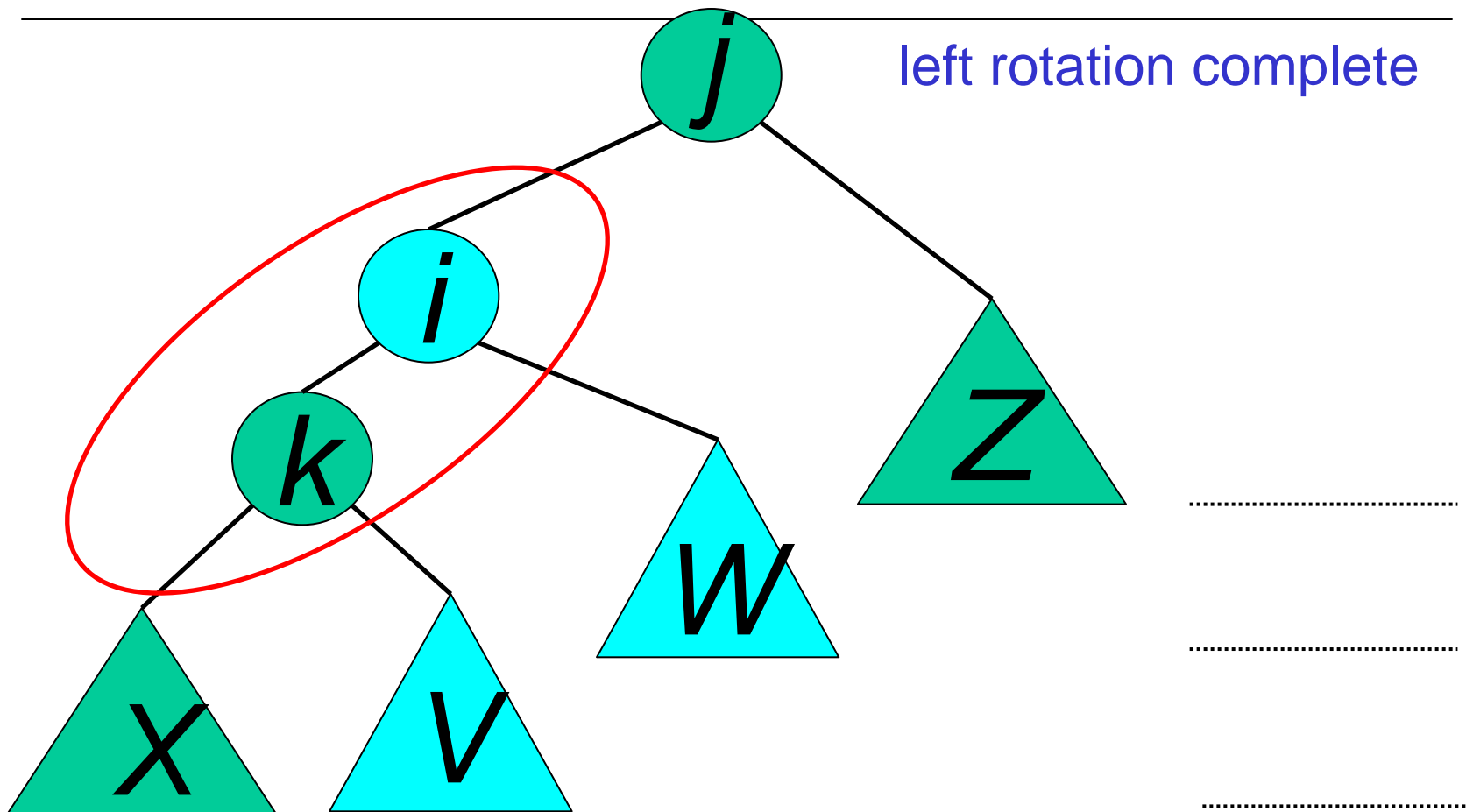
Y = node  $i$  and  
subtrees  $V$  and  $W$



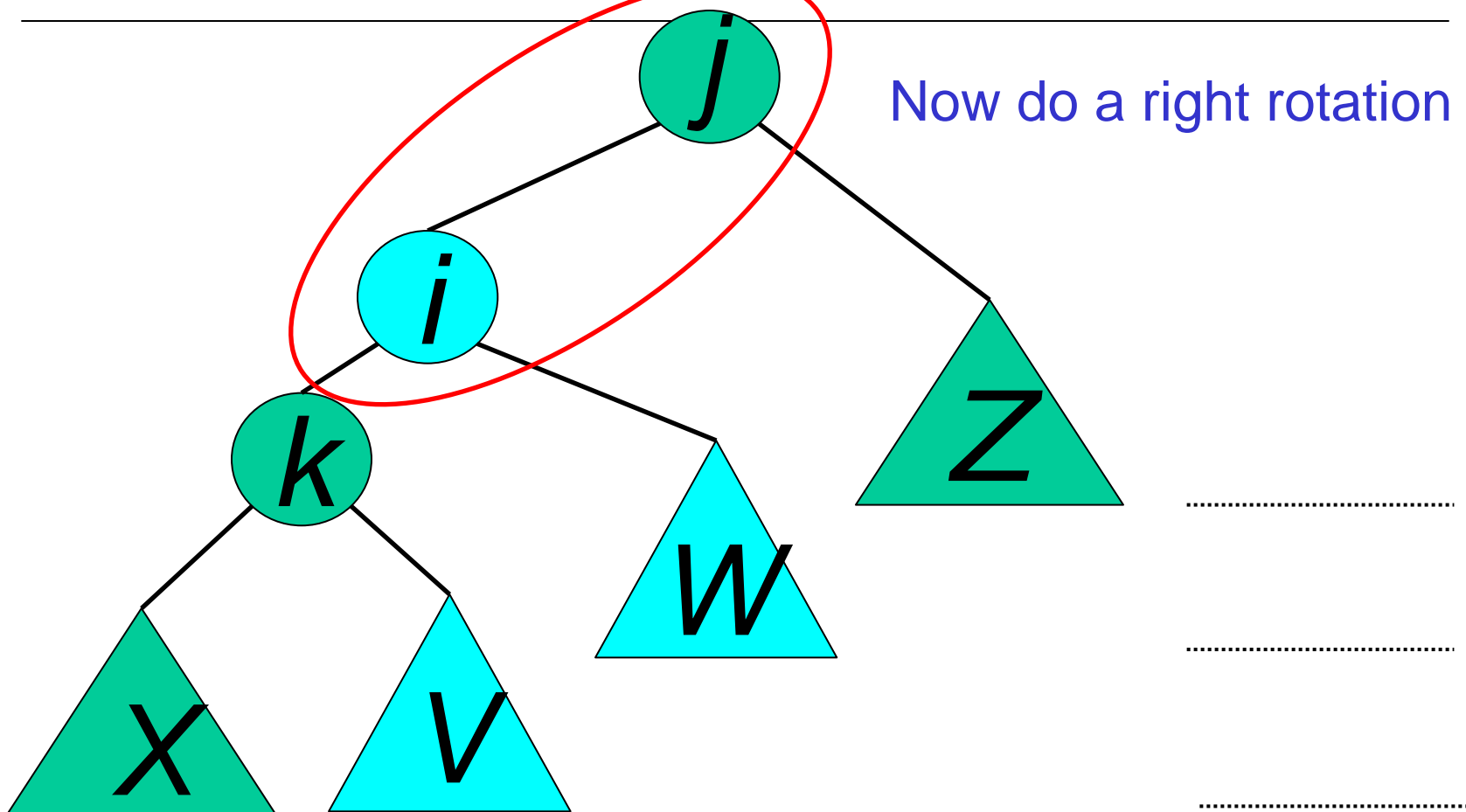
# AVL Insertion: Inside Case



# Double rotation : first rotation



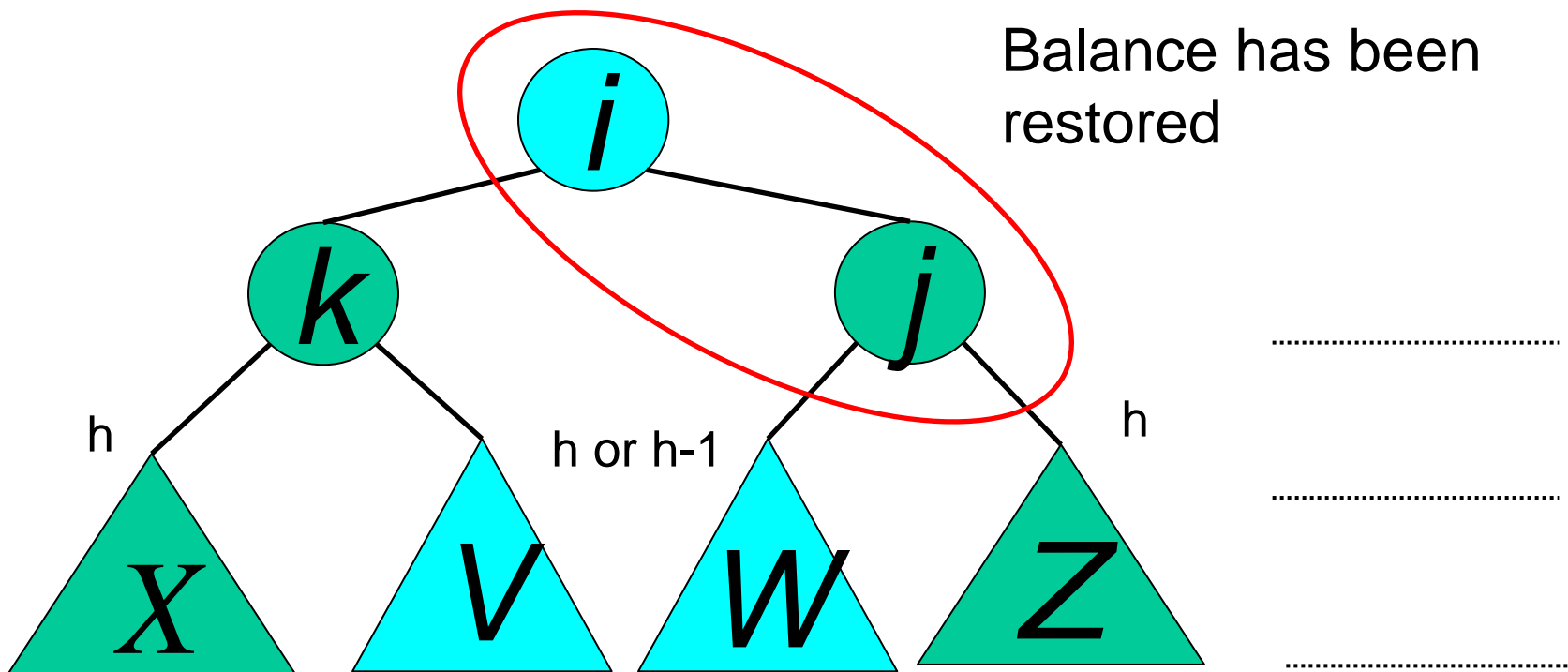
# Double rotation : second rotation



# Double rotation : second rotation

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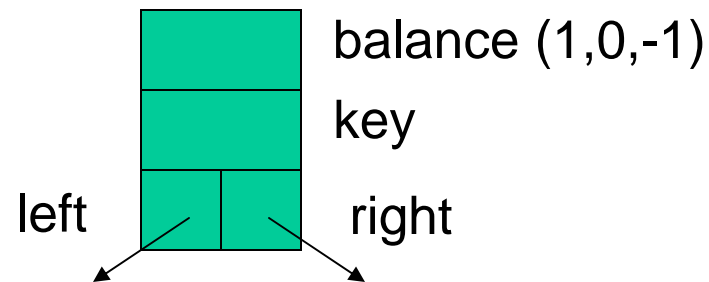
right rotation complete





# Implementation

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You can either keep the height or just the difference in height, i.e. the **balance** factor; this has to be modified on the path of insertion even if you don't perform rotations

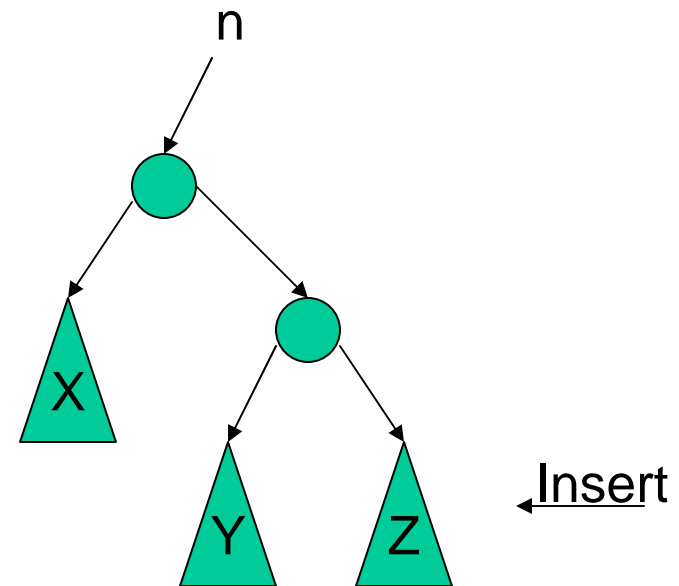
Once you have performed a rotation (single or double) you won't need to go back up the tree

# Single Rotation

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```
RotateFromRight(n : reference node pointer) {  
  p : node pointer;  
  p := n.right;  
  n.right := p.left;  
  p.left := n;  
  n := p  
}
```

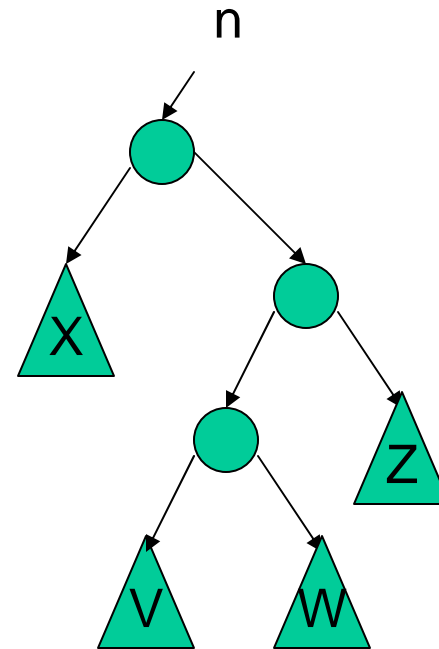
You also need to  
modify the heights  
or balance factors  
of n and p



# Double Rotation

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```
DoubleRotateFromRight(n : reference node pointer) {  
  RotateFromLeft(n.right);  
  RotateFromRight(n);  
}
```



# Insert in AVL trees

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```
Insert(T : tree pointer, x : element) : {
if T = null then
    T := new tree; T.data := x; height := 0;
case
    T.data = x : return ; //Duplicate do nothing
    T.data > x : return Insert(T.left, x);
                    if ((height(T.left)- height(T.right)) = 2){
                        if (T.left.data > x ) then //outside case
                            T = RotatefromLeft (T);
                        else //inside case
                            T = DoubleRotatefromLeft (T);}
    T.data < x : return Insert(T.right, x);
                    code similar to the left case
Endcase
    T.height := max(height(T.left),height(T.right)) +1;
    return;
}
```

# AVL Tree Deletion

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- Similar but more complex than insertion
  - › Rotations and double rotations needed to rebalance
  - › Imbalance may propagate upward so that many rotations may be needed.

# Pros and Cons of AVL Trees

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## Arguments for AVL trees:

1. Search is  $O(\log N)$  since AVL trees are **always balanced**.
2. Insertion and deletions are also  $O(\log n)$
3. The height balancing adds no more than a constant factor to the speed of insertion.

## Arguments against using AVL trees:

1. Difficult to program & debug; more space for balance factor.
2. Asymptotically faster but rebalancing costs time.
3. Most large searches are done in database systems on disk and use other structures (e.g. B-trees).
4. May be OK to have  $O(N)$  for a single operation if total run time for many consecutive operations is fast (e.g. Splay trees).

# Non-recursive insertion or the hacker's delight

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- Key observations;
  - › At most one rotation
  - › Balance factor: 2 bits are sufficient (-1 left, 0 equal, +1 right)
  - › There is one node on the path of insertion, say S, that is “critical”. It is the node where a rotation can occur and nodes above it won't have their balance factors modified

# Non-recursive insertion

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- Step 1 (Insert and find S):
  - › Find the place of insertion and identify the last node S on the path whose  $BF \neq 0$  (if all  $BF$  on the path = 0, S is the root).
  - › Insert
- Step 2 (Adjust BF's)
  - › Restart from the child of S on the path of insertion. (note: all the nodes from that node on on the path of insertion have  $BF = 0$ .) If the path traversed was left (right) set  $BF$  to  $-1$  ( $+1$ ) and repeat until you reach a null link (at the place of insertion)



# Non-recursive insertion (ct'd)

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- Step 3 (Balance if necessary):
  - › If  $BF(S) = 0$  (S was the root) set  $BF(S)$  to the direction of insertion (the tree has become higher)
  - › If  $BF(S) = -1$  (+1) and we traverse right (left) set  $BF(S) = 0$  (the tree has become more balanced)
  - › If  $BF(S) = -1$  (+1) and we traverse left (right), the tree becomes unbalanced. Perform a single rotation or a double rotation depending on whether the path is left-left (right-right) or left-right (right-left)

# Non-recursive Insertion with BF's

