

# Lecture 32

# Binary Search Trees

FIT 1008&2085  
Introduction to Computer Science



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WARNING

# Objectives

- To understand **Binary Search Trees**
- **Implement** Binary Search Trees:
  - ☐ search
  - ☐ insert
- **Advantages and disadvantages** of Binary Search Trees over sorted lists.

insert

```
>>> a = dict()
>>> a[123465] = "Julian"
>>> a[133123] = "Nicole"
>>> a[982211] = "David"
>>>
>>> a
{123465: 'Julian', 133123: 'Nicole', 982211: 'David'}
>>>
>>>
>>> a[133123]
'Nicole'
```

search

**Python dictionaries are implemented using Hash Tables**  
**You can also use a Binary Search Tree!**

# Why BST when you can hash?

Which of the following tasks might a hash table struggle with?

- A) Search for a given item
- B) Insert a given item
- C) print the contents of the table
- D) find the minimum

# Why BST when you can hash?

Which of the following tasks might a hash table struggle with?

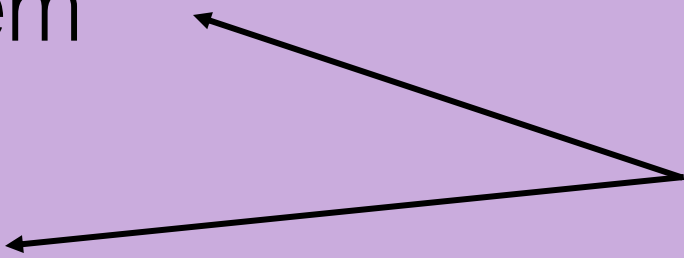
A) Search for a given item

B) Insert a given item

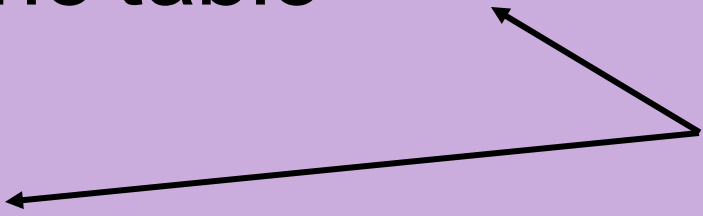
C) print the contents of the table

D) find the minimum

$O(1)$

A diagram consisting of two arrows originating from the text  $O(1)$  and pointing towards the text for options A and B.

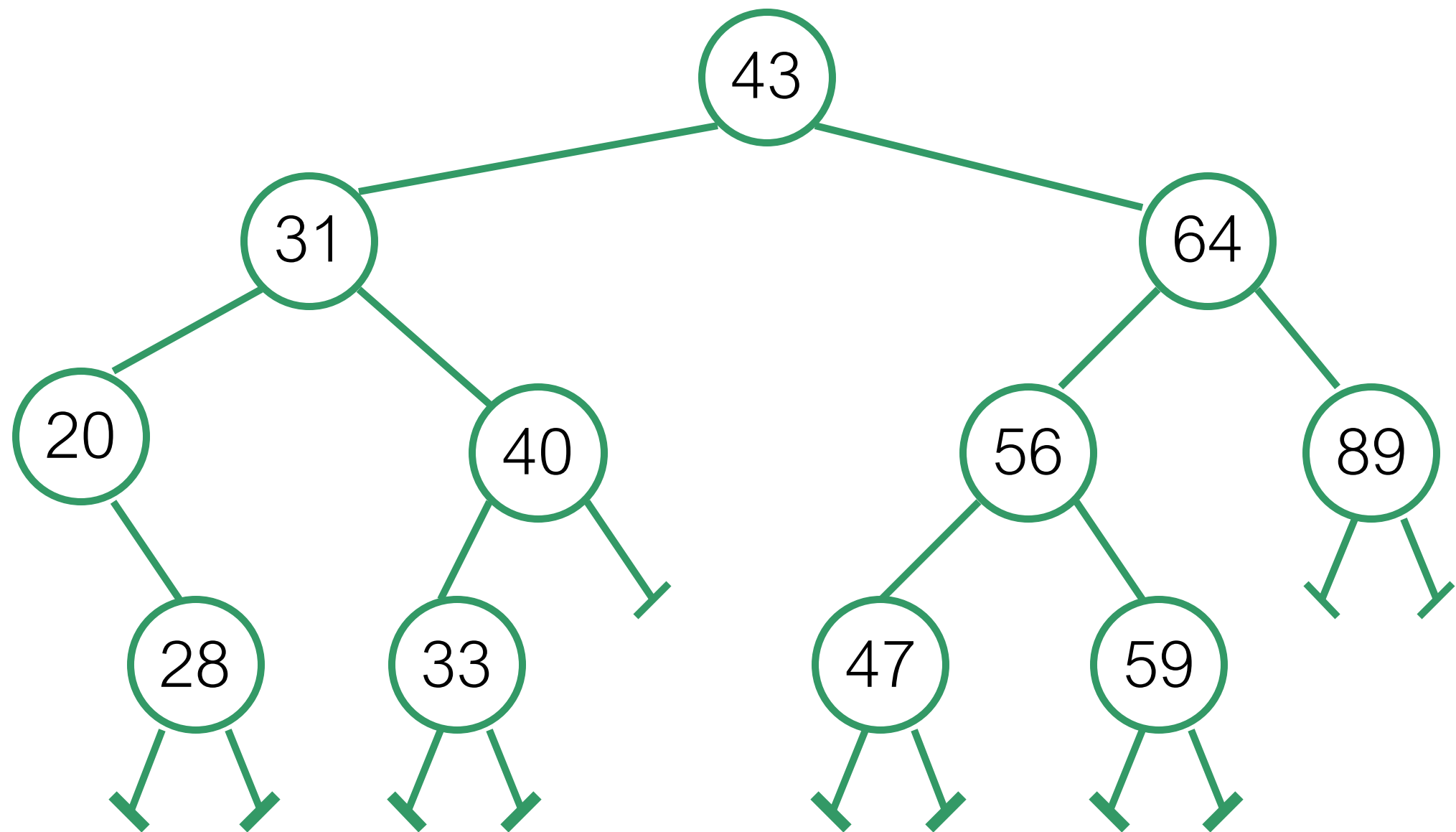
$O(\text{table\_size})$   
 $\text{table\_size} > n$

A diagram consisting of two arrows originating from the text  $O(\text{table\_size})$  and  $\text{table\_size} > n$  and pointing towards the text for options C and D.

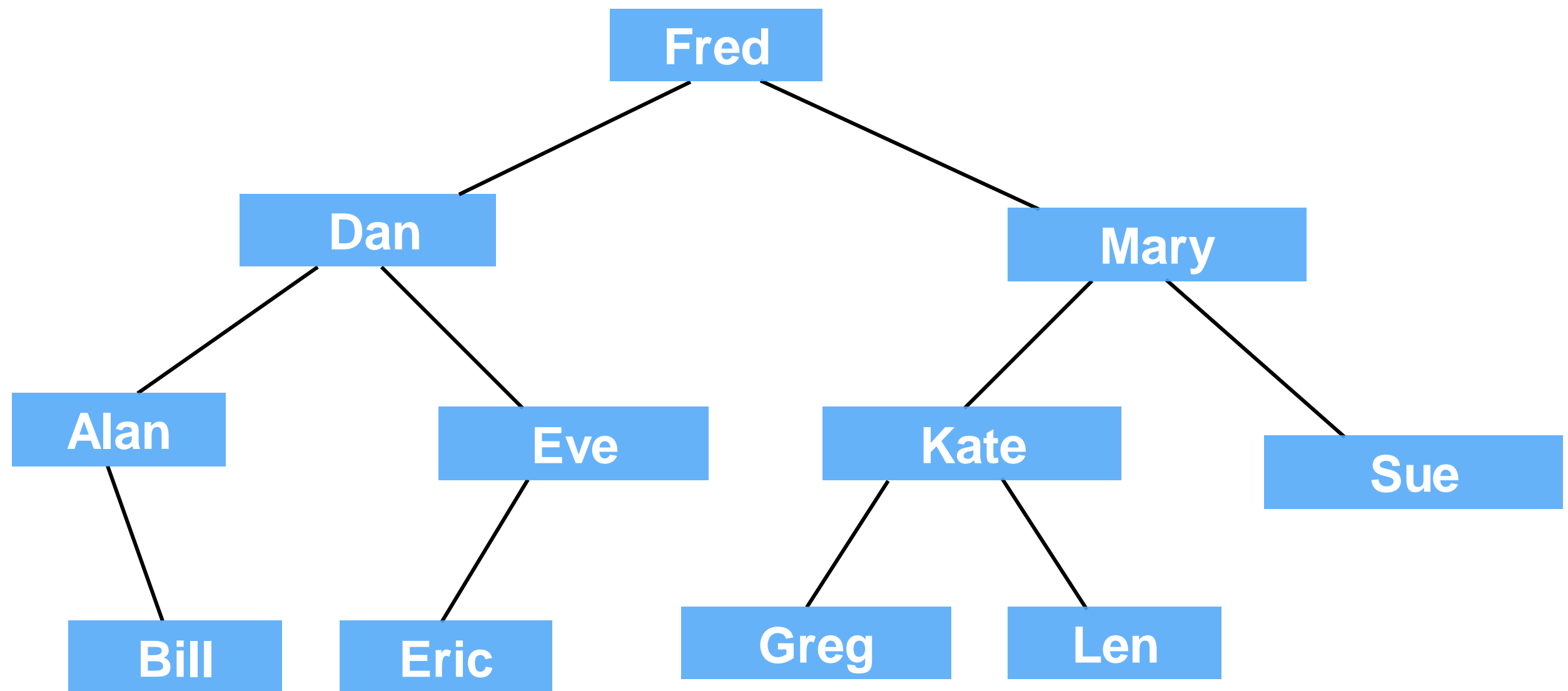
# Binary Search Tree

A Binary Tree such that:

- Every node entry has a **key**
- All **keys** in the **left subtree** of a node are **smaller than** the key of the node
- All **keys** in the **right subtree** of a node are **greater than** the key of the node



**key** is an integer.



**key** is a string

**(here not showing the associated items)**



# Why Binary Search Trees?

## Sorted List Array-based:

- Good for search —  $O(\log N)$  [binary search]
- Bad for inserting/deleting —  $O(N)$  [shuffling things around]

## Linked Sorted List:

- Good for inserting/deleting —  $O(1)$  [modifying links]
- Bad for searching —  $O(N)$  [steps through the list]

## Binary Search Trees:

good for searching **and** good for inserting/deleting

```
class BinarySearchTreeNode:
    def __init__(self, key, item=None, left=None, right=None):
        self.key = key
        self.item = item
        self.left = left
        self.right = right
```

This allows for key value pairs and  
Comparison with new items

```
class BinarySearchTree:
    def __init__(self):
        self.root = None

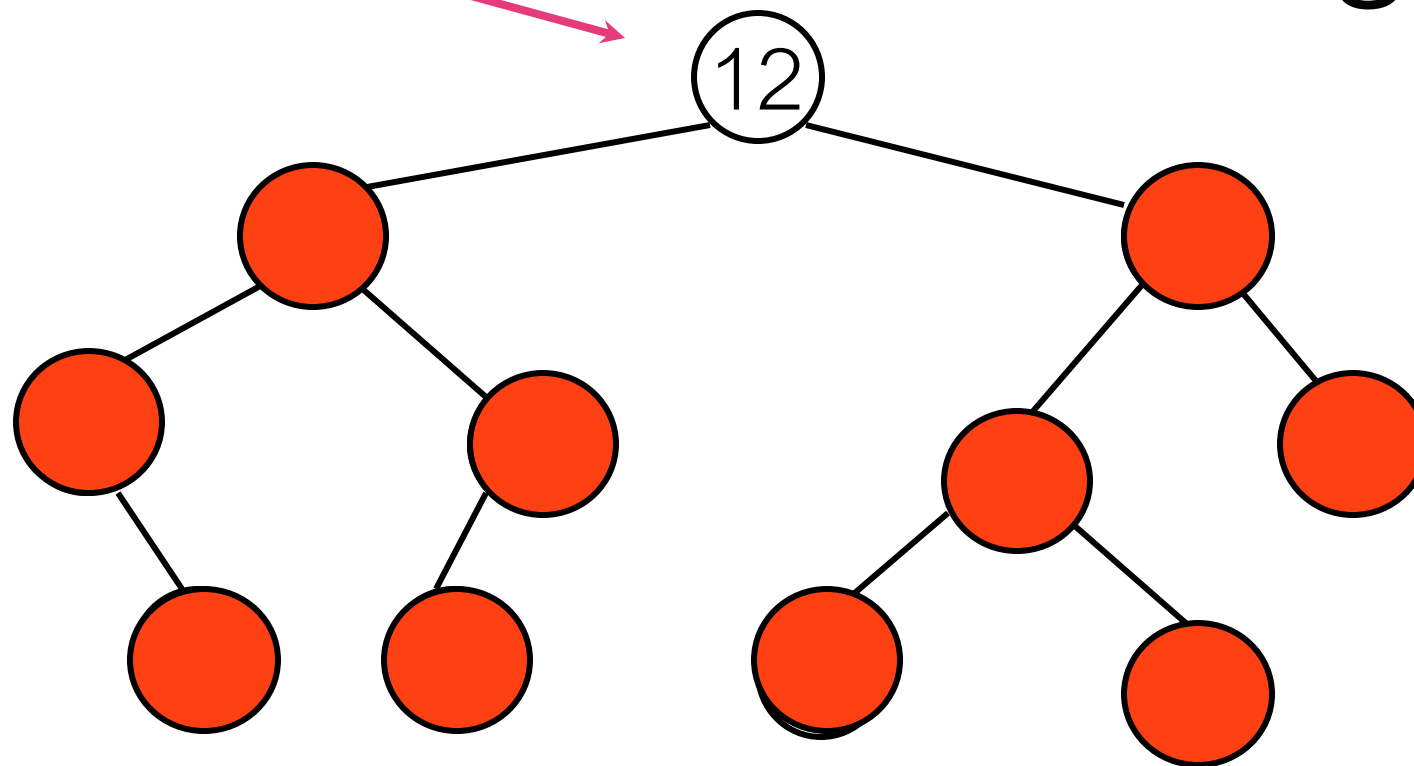
    def is_empty(self):
        return self.root is None
```

# Motivation: Search

# Searching

root

target = 13

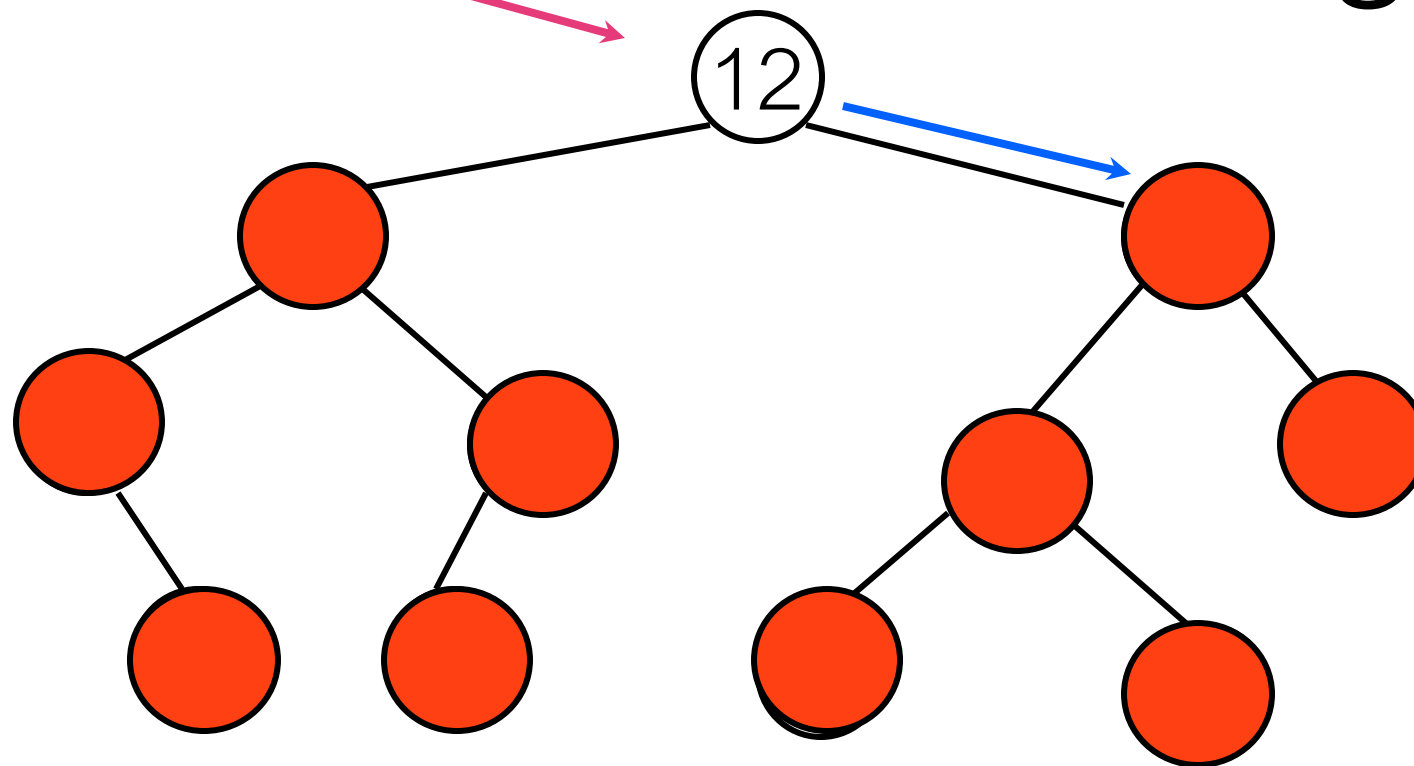


Only showing keys!

# Searching

root

target = 13

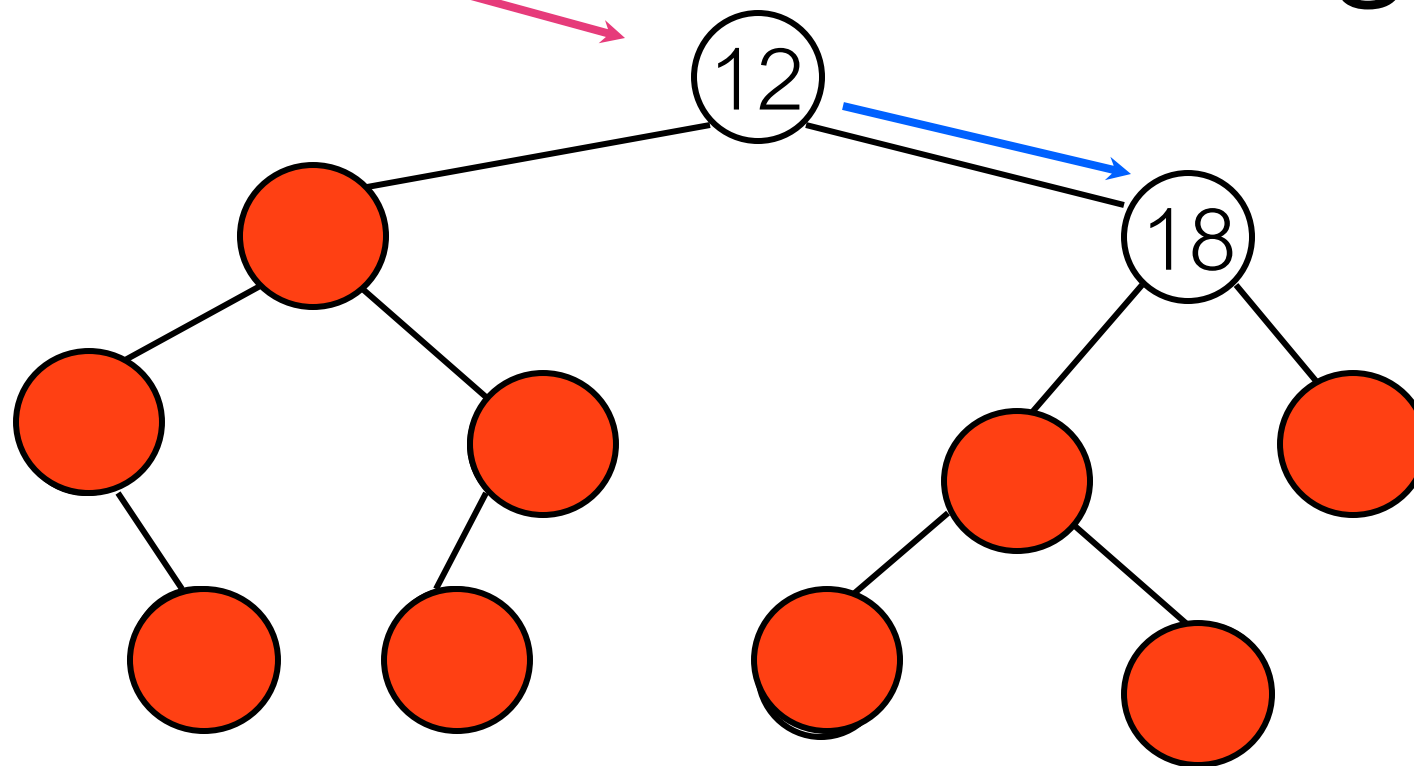


$12 < 13$

# Searching

root

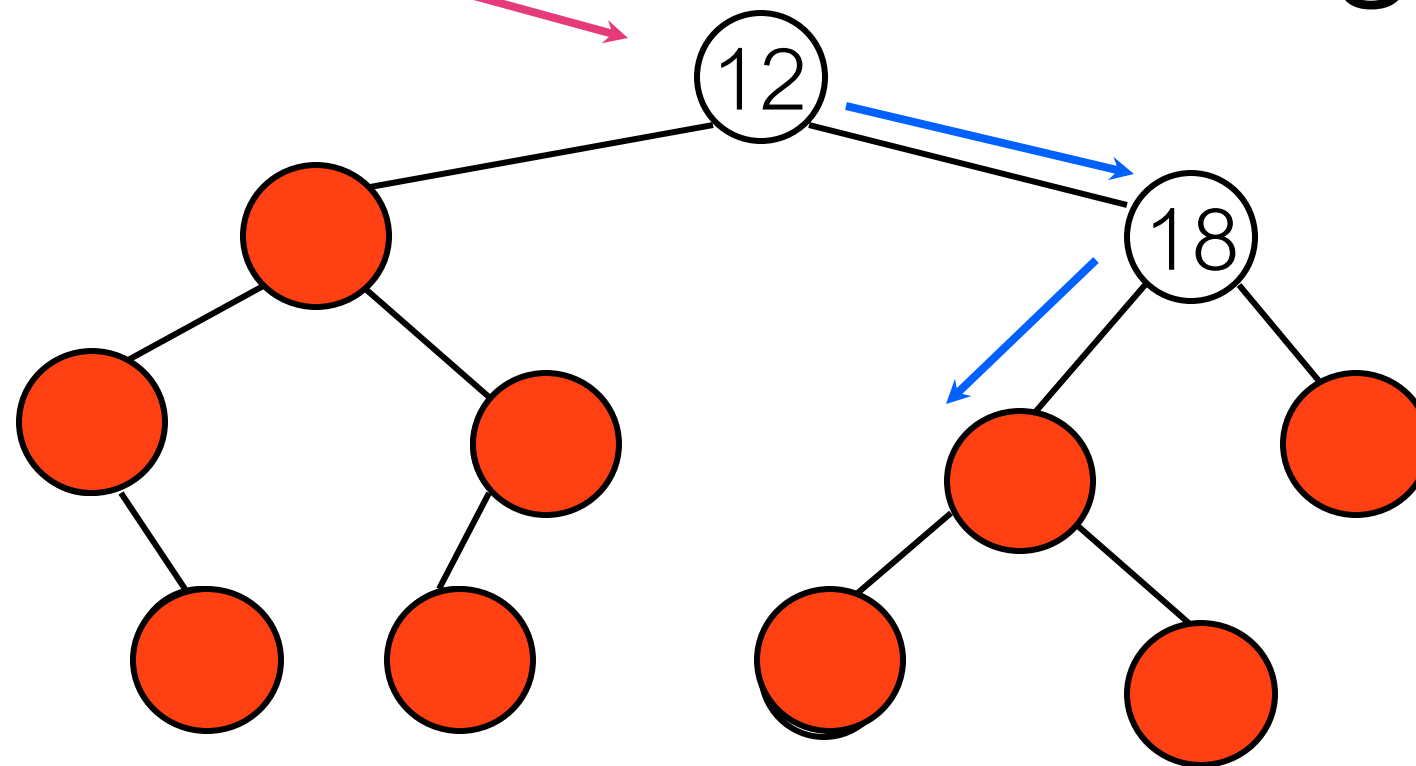
target = 13



# Searching

root

target = 13

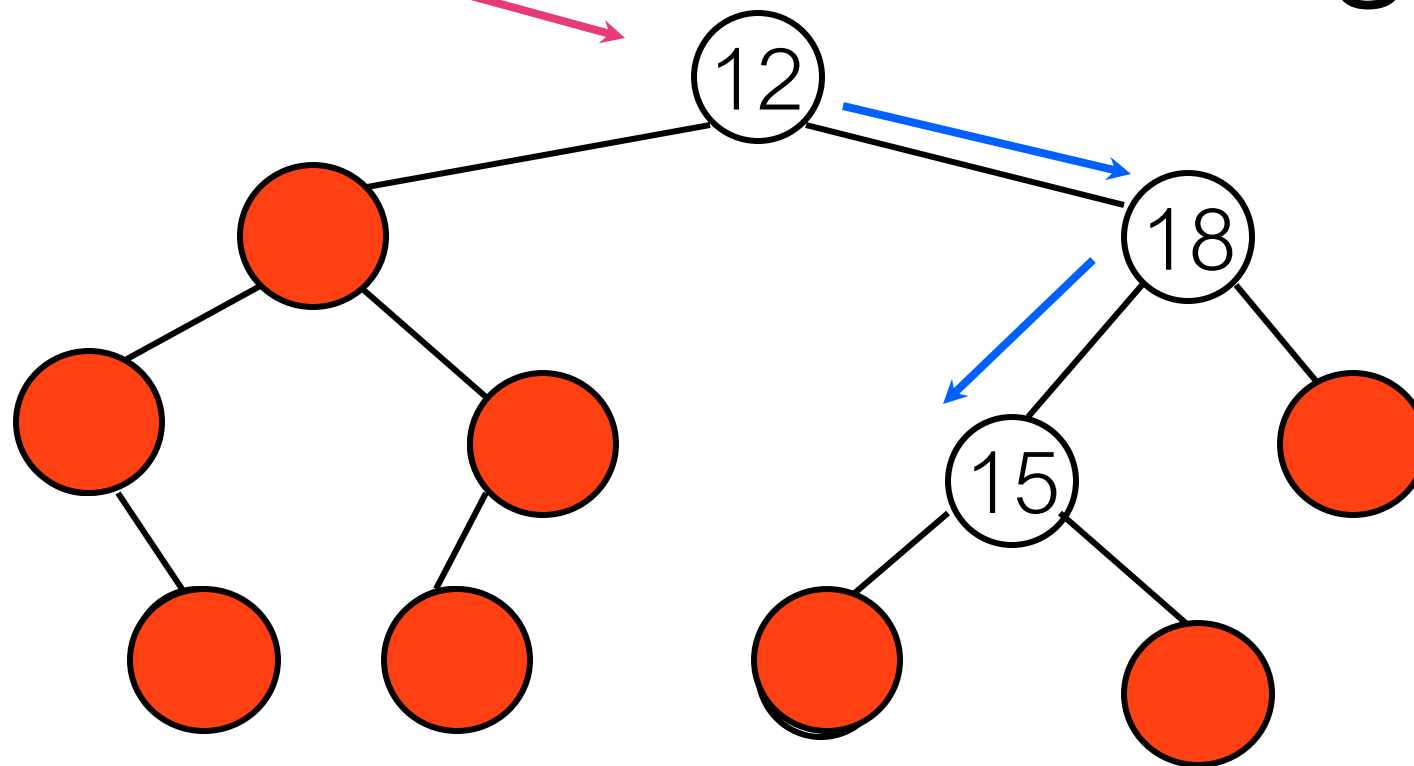


$18 > 13$

# Searching

root

target = 13

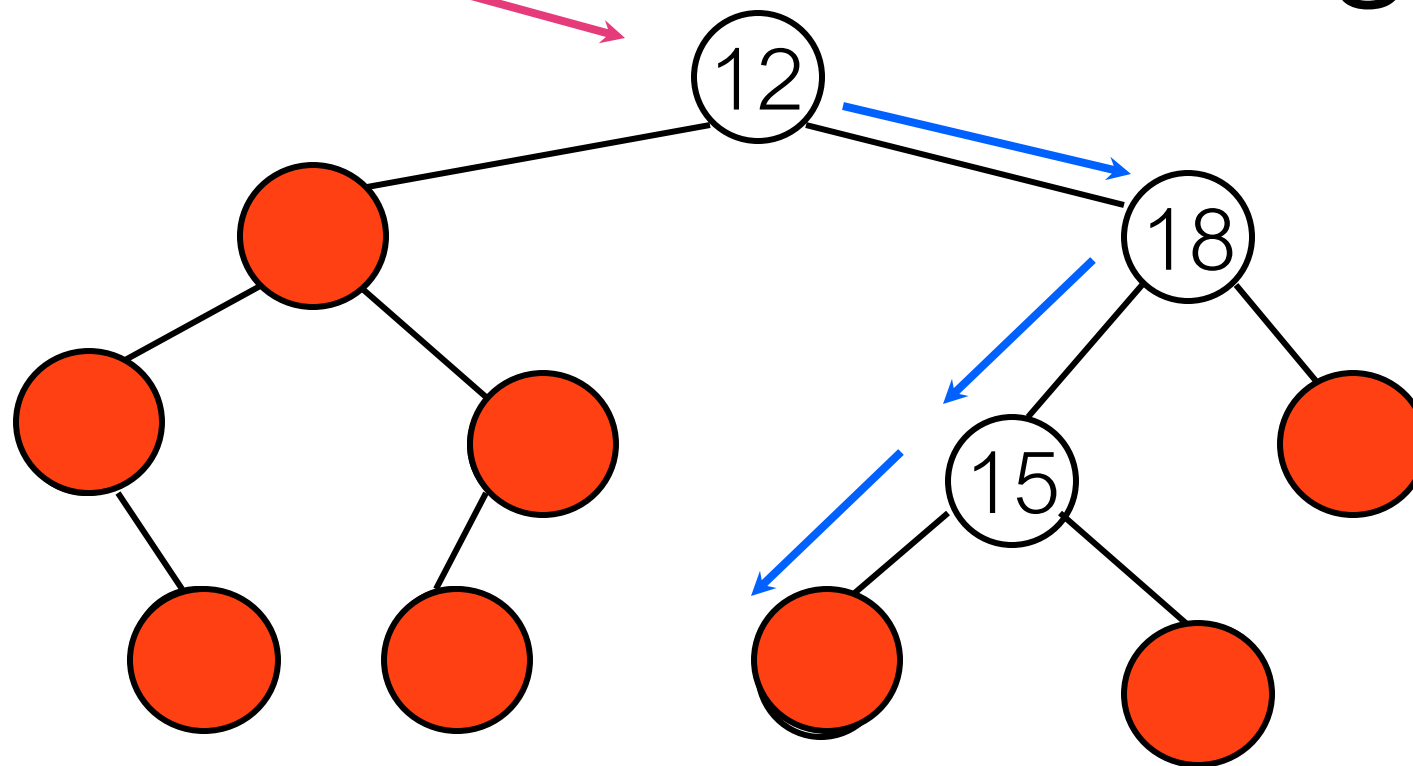




# Searching

root

target = 13

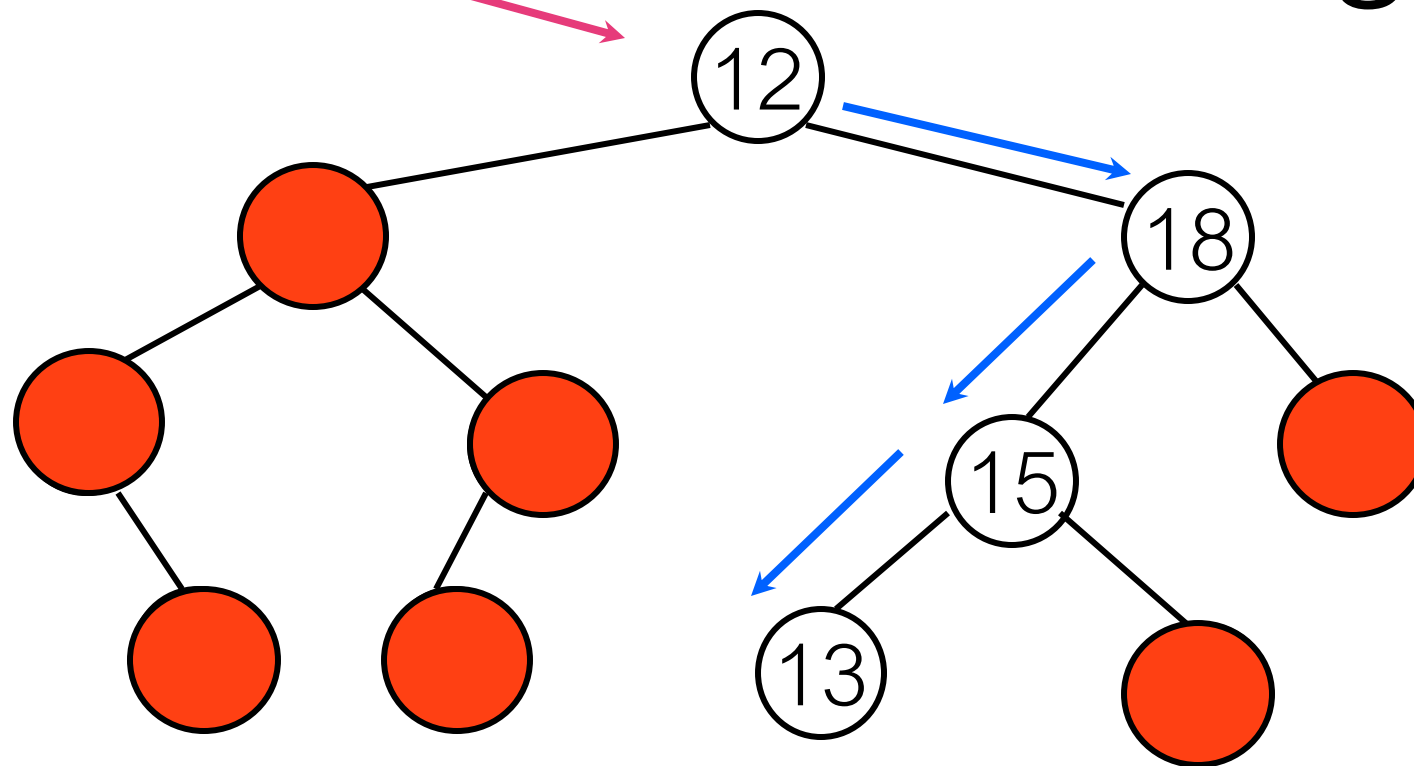


$15 > 13$

# Searching

root

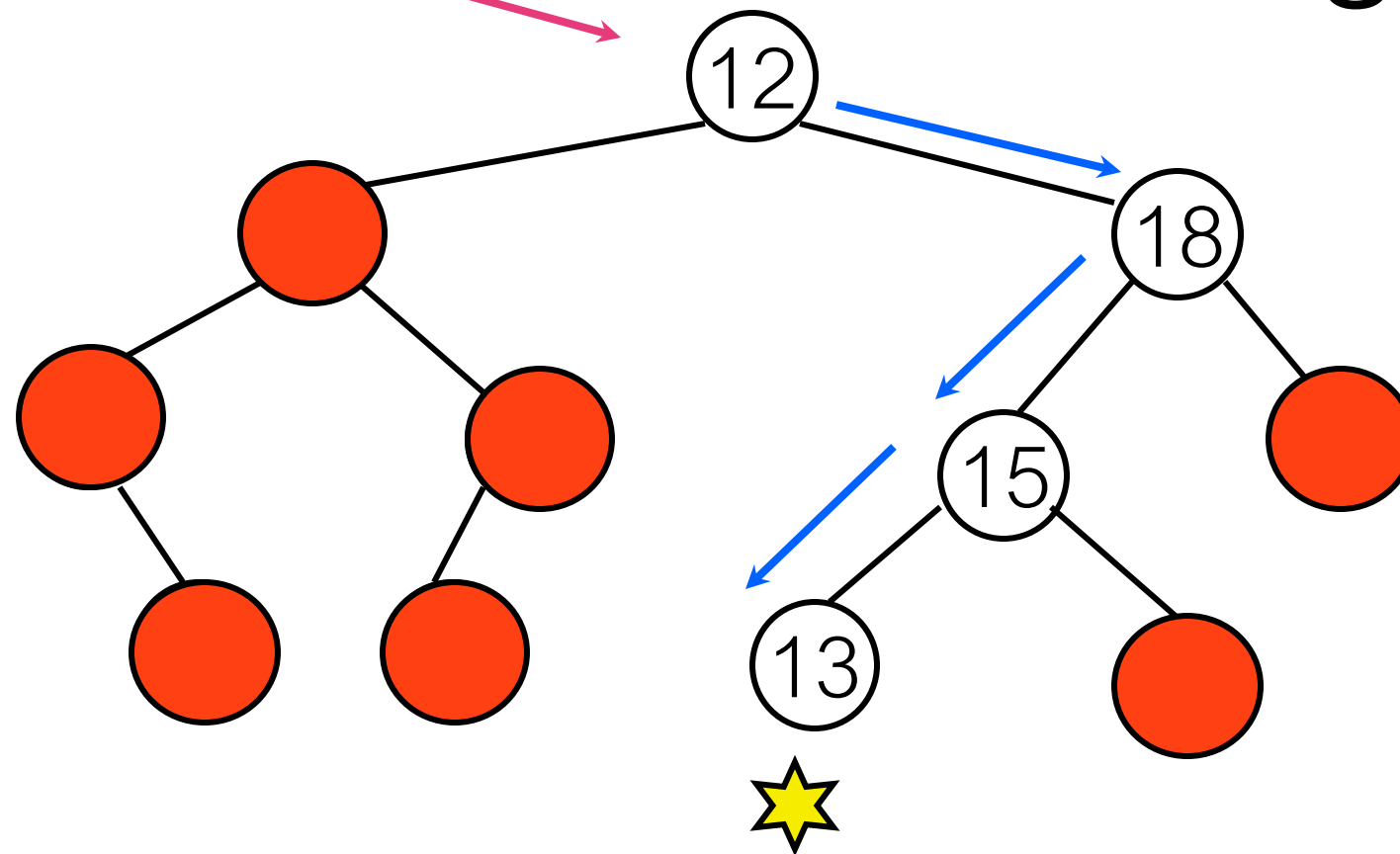
target = 13



# Searching

root

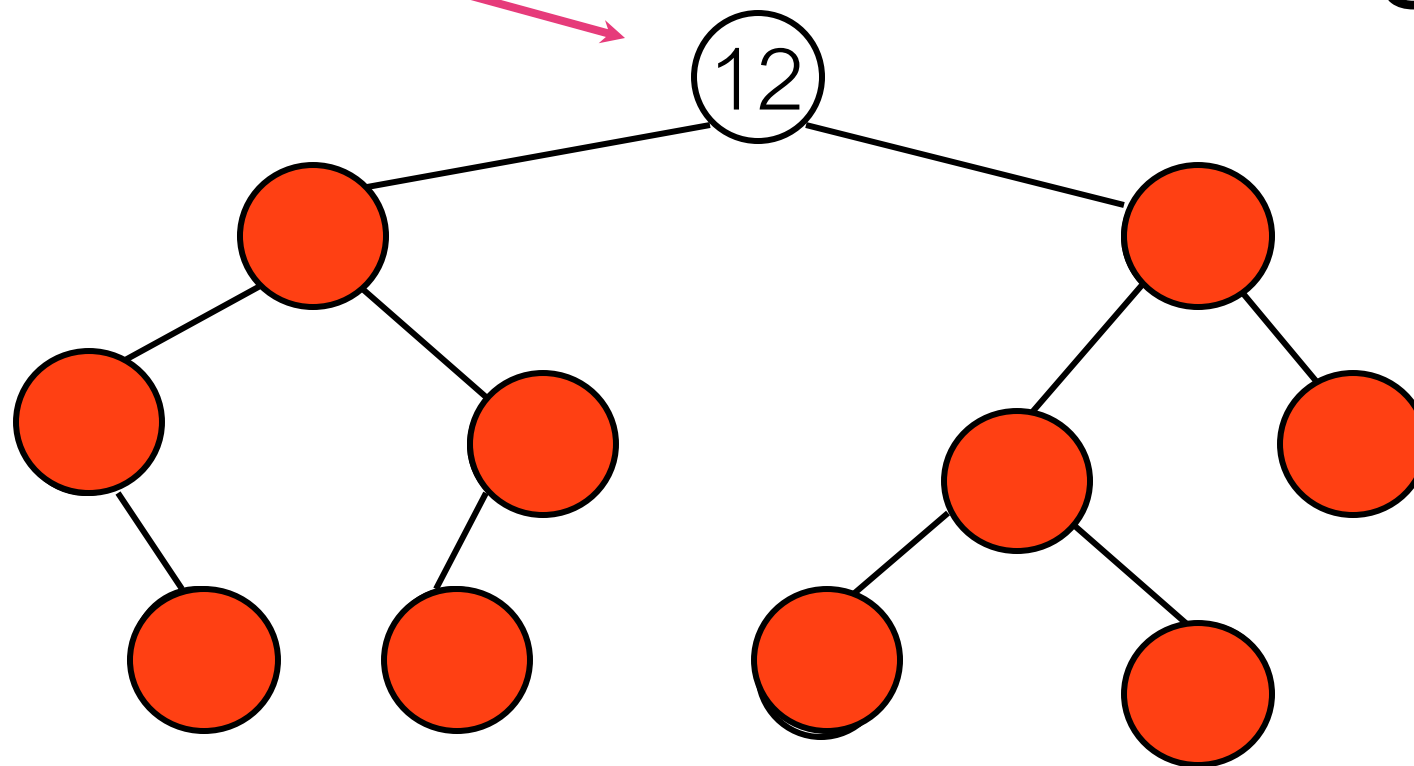
target = 13



# Searching

root

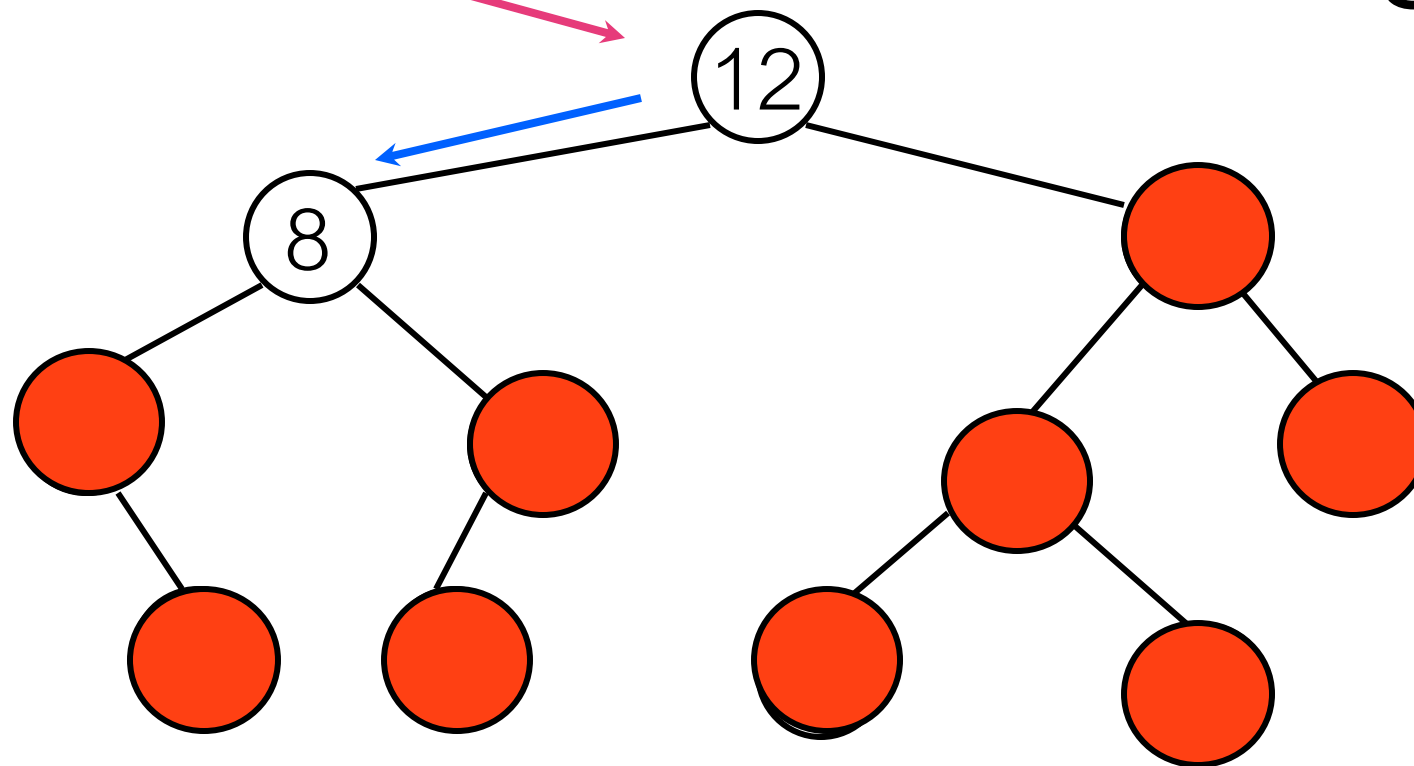
target = 2



# Searching

root

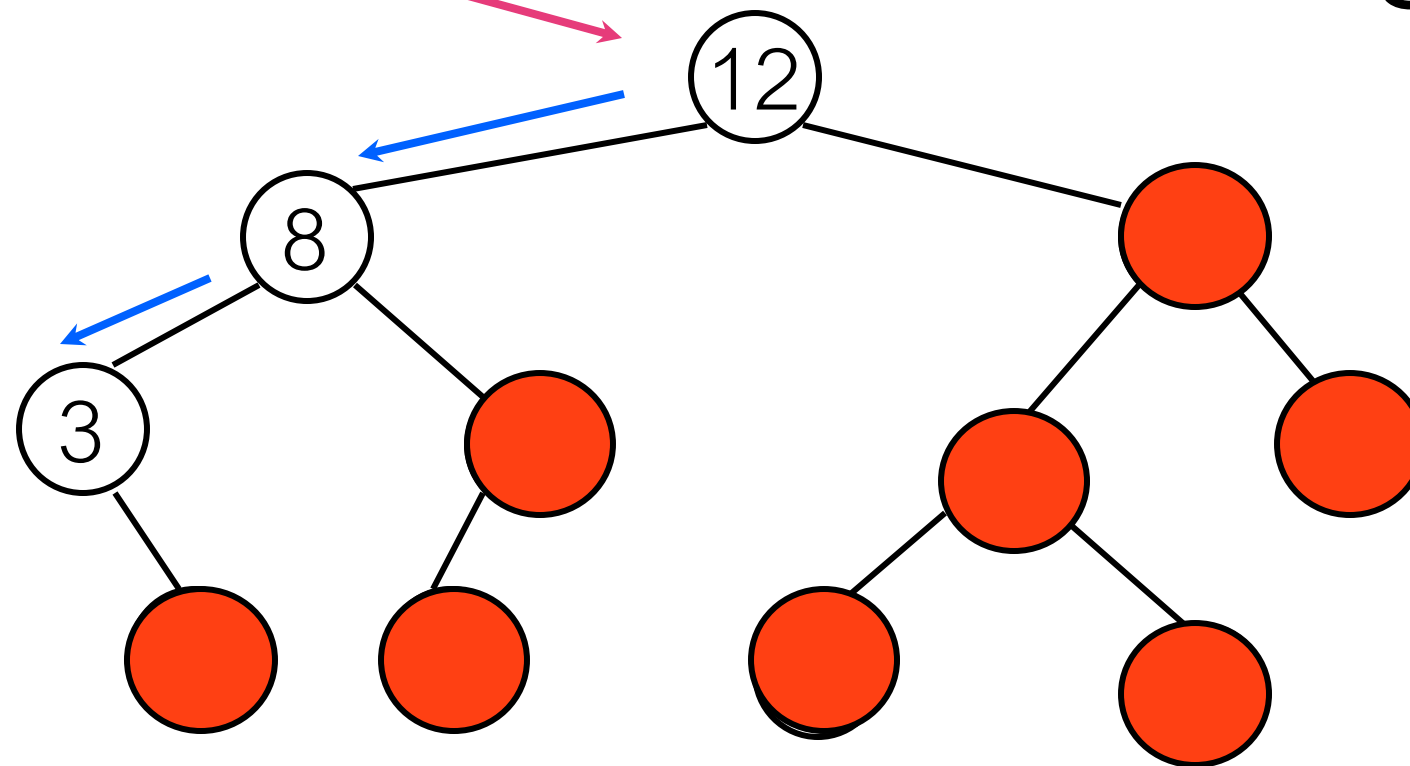
target = 2



# Searching

root

target = 2

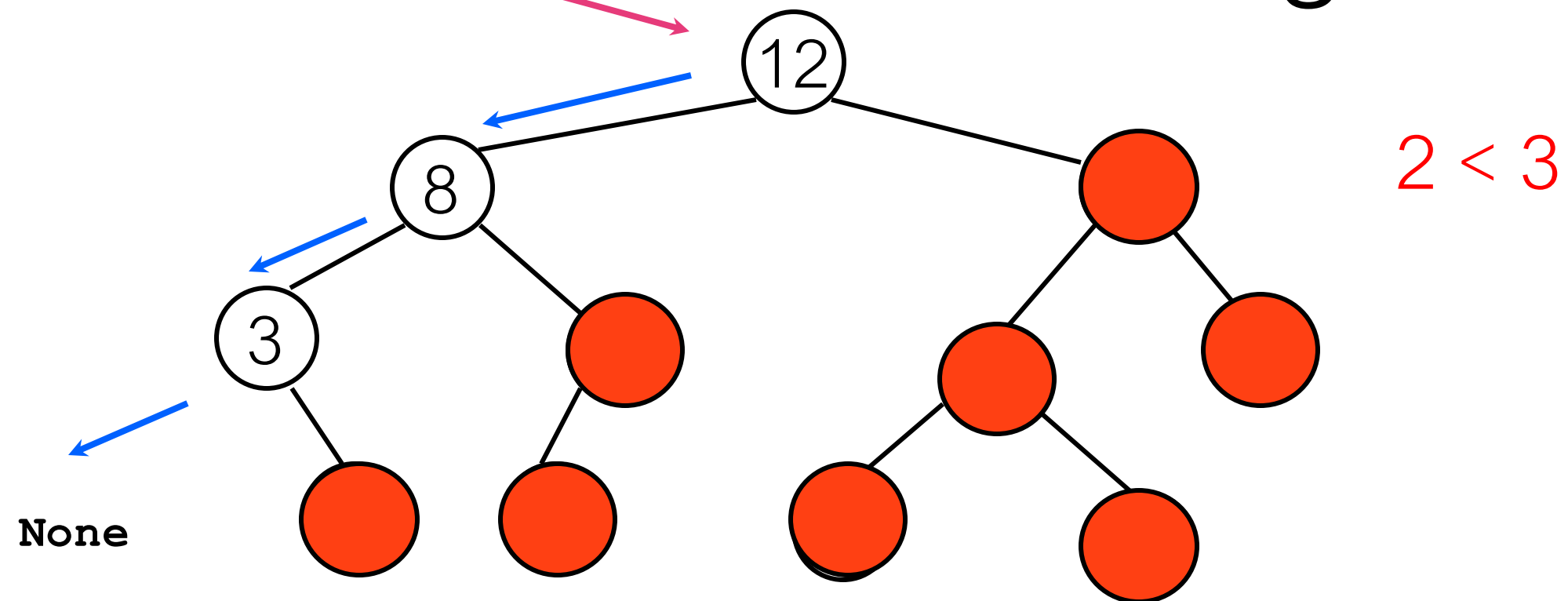


$2 < 8$

# Searching

root

target = 2



Got to a none  
Not found!

The best case time complexity for the **search** algorithm is?

A)  $O(1)$

B)  $O(\log N)$

C)  $O(N)$

D) None of the above.



The best case time complexity for the **search** algorithm is?

**A)  $O(1)$**

B)  $O(\log N)$

C)  $O(N)$

D) None of the above.

Item found on first try

The worst case time complexity for the **search** algorithm is?

A)  $O(1)$

B)  $O(\log N)$

C)  $O(N)$

D) None of the above.

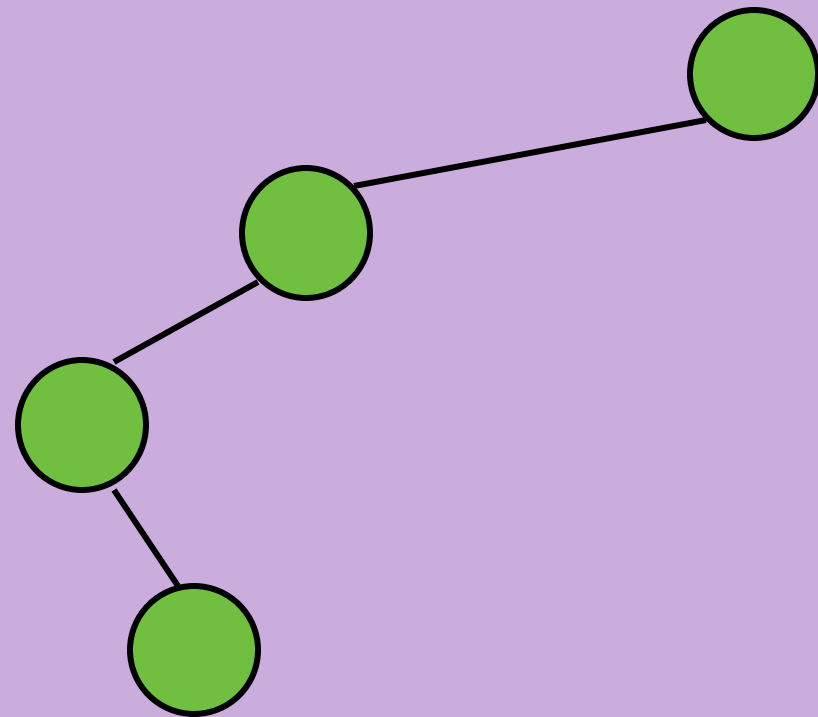
The worst case time complexity for the **search** algorithm is?

A)  $O(1)$

B)  $O(\log N)$

**C)  $O(N)$**

D) None of the above.



Unbalanced tree - item not found!

The worst case time complexity for the **search** algorithm, given that the comparison operation is  $O(M)$ , is...

A)  $O(M)$

B)  $O(M \cdot \log N)$

C)  $O(M \cdot N)$

D) None of the above.

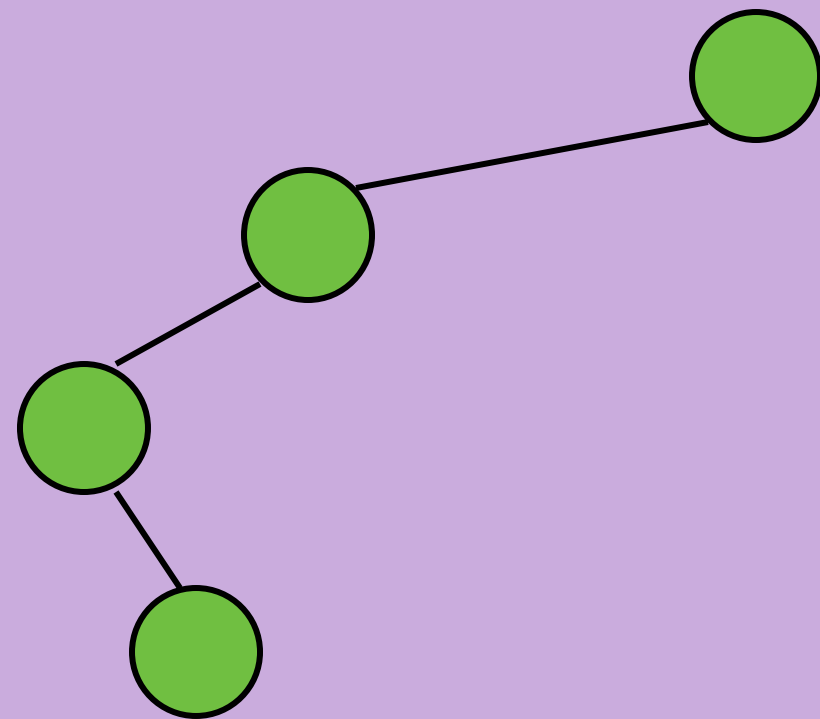
The worst case time complexity for the **search** algorithm, given that the comparison operation is  $O(M)$ , is...

A)  $O(M)$

B)  $O(M \cdot \log N)$

**C)  $O(M \cdot N)$**

D) None of the above.



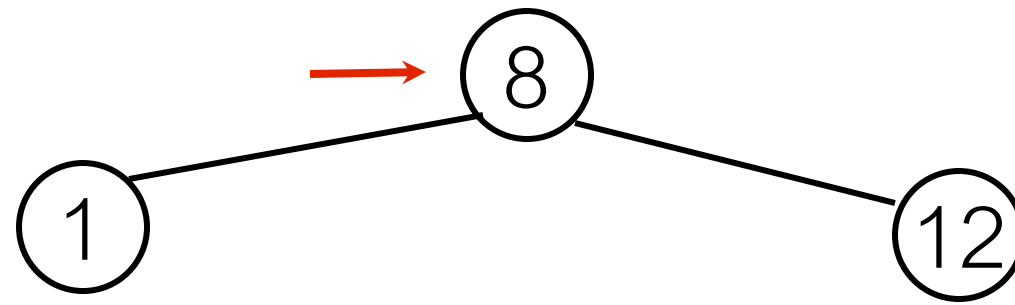
E.g.: Each key is a string...

Unbalanced tree - item not found!

Comparison is not constant!

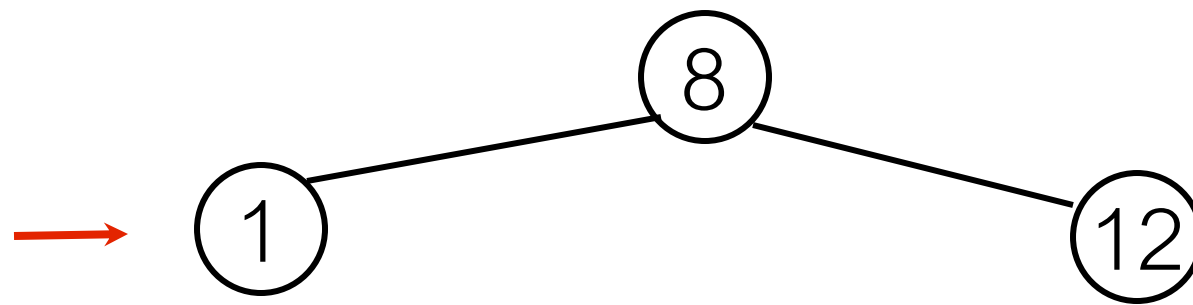
Insert

# Insert 2



2 < 8

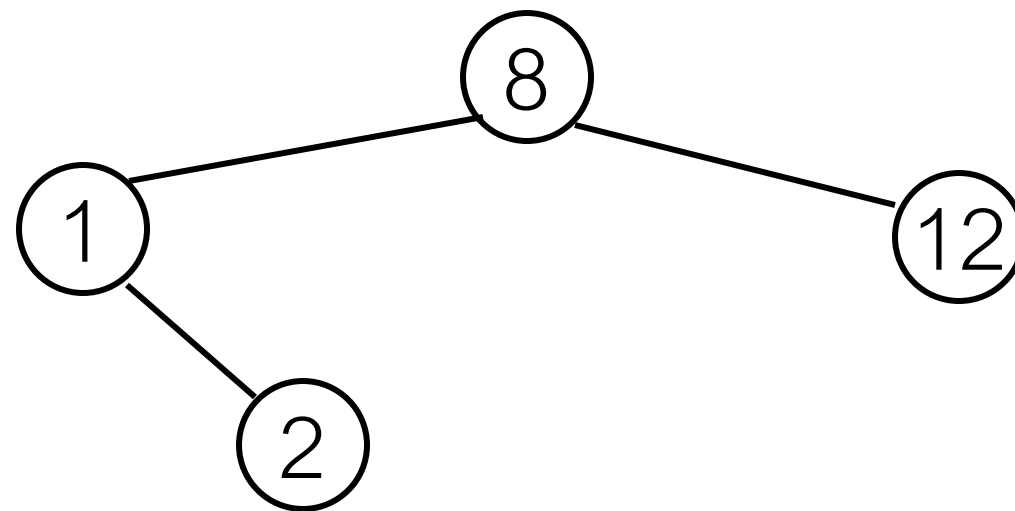
# Insert 2



2 > 1

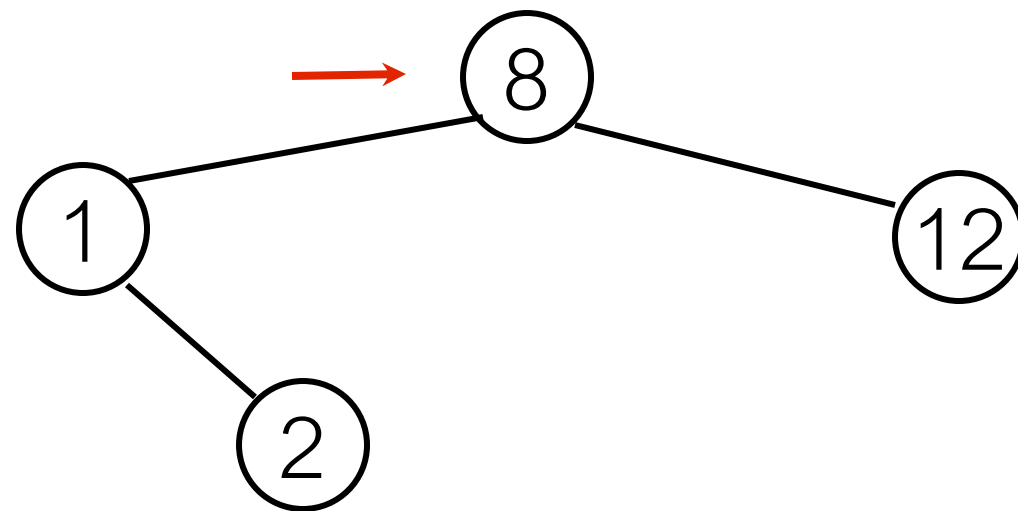


# Insert 2

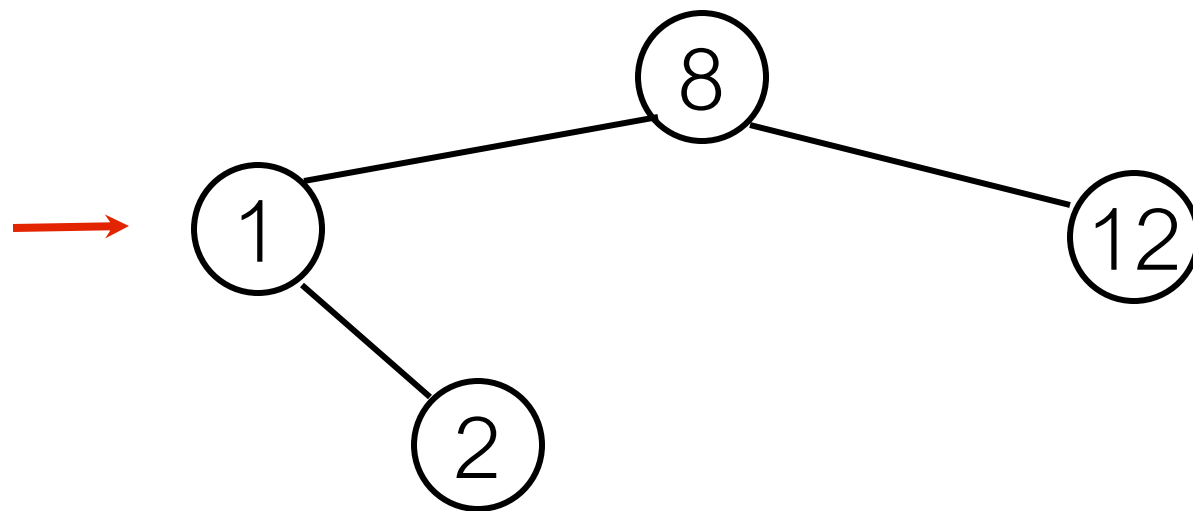


inserted

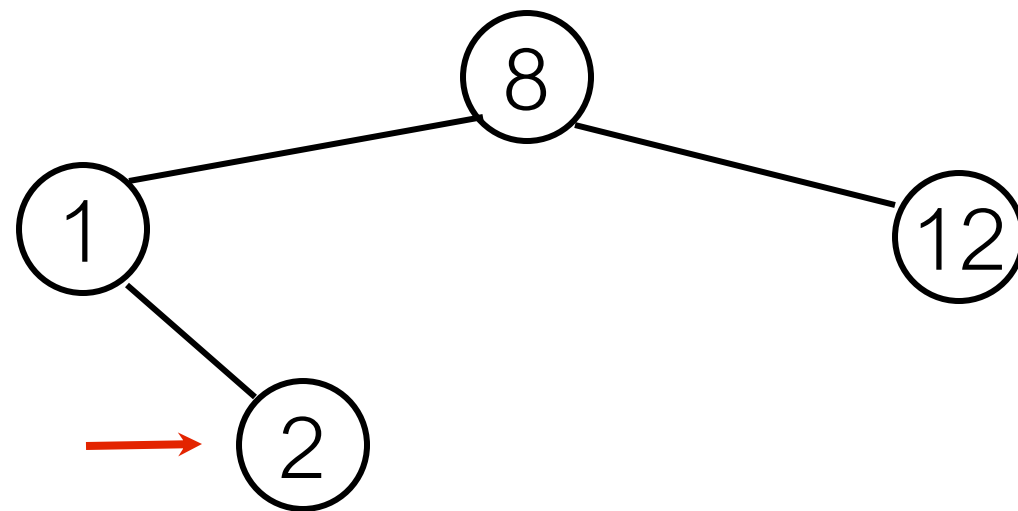
# Insert 7



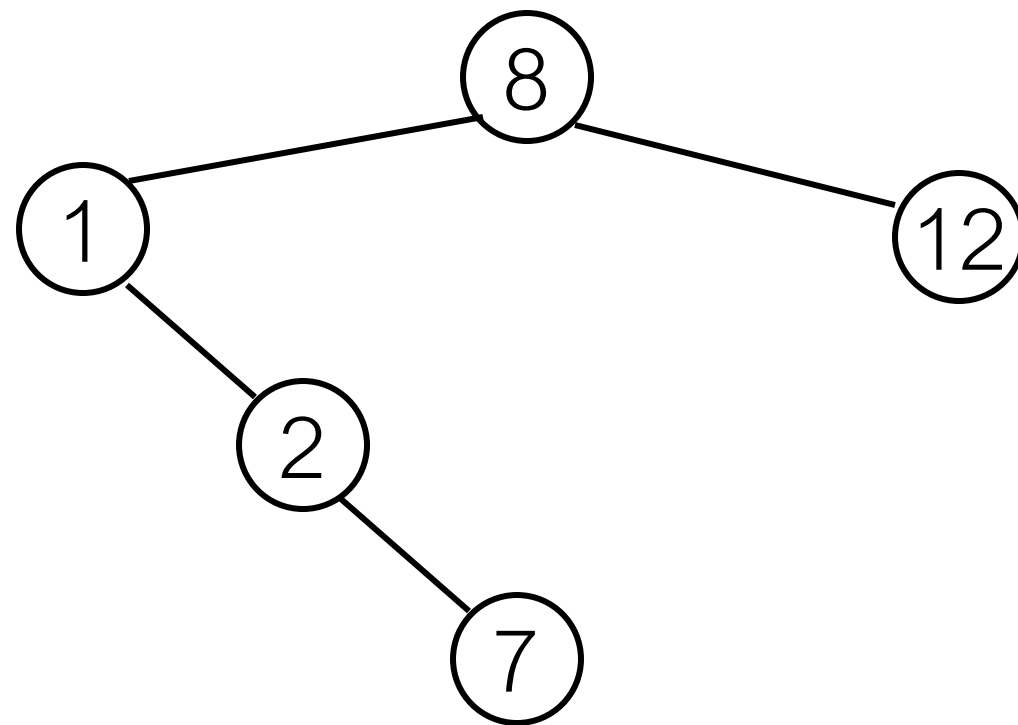
# Insert 7



# Insert 7



# Insert 7



Our BST does not allow for duplicates, so we need to do something if we find the key in the tree...

# Insert algorithm

## **Input:**

key and associated value to insert.

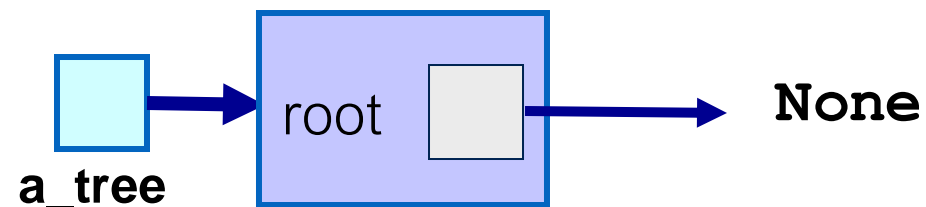
## **Idea:**

Find the right spot (search) then create new node.

- Try to find the key...
  - ⇒ **Found**? Raise an exception, keys must be unique....or replace value.
  - ⇒ **Not found**? parent of **None** should be the parent of new node, which needs to be created.

```
def insert(self, key, item):  
    self.root = self._insert_aux(self.root, key, item)
```

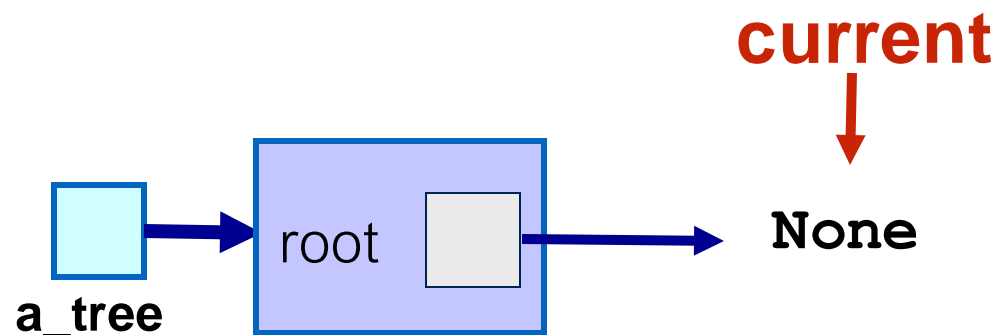
```
def _insert_aux(self, current, key, item):  
    if current is None: # base case: at the leaf  
        current = BinarySearchTreeNode(key, item)  
    elif key < current.key:  
        self._insert_aux(current.left, key, item)  
    elif key > current.key:  
        self._insert_aux(current.right, key, item)  
    else: # key == current.key  
        raise ValueError("Duplicate Item")
```



`a_tree.insert(57, "Coco")`

```
def insert(self, key, item):  
    self.root = self._insert_aux(self.root, key, item)
```

```
def _insert_aux(self, current, key, item):  
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    elif key > current.key:  
        self._insert_aux(current.right, key, item)  
    else: # key == current.key  
        raise ValueError("Duplicate Item")
```



key → 57

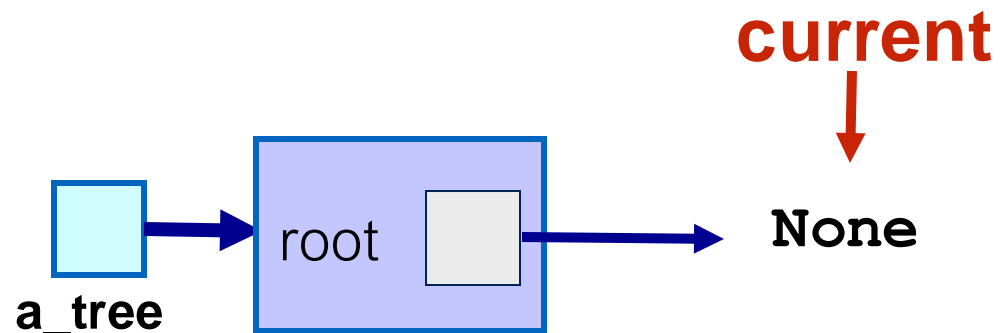
item → "Coco"

`a_tree.insert(57, "Coco")`



```
def insert(self, key, item):  
    self.root = self._insert_aux(self.root, key, item)
```

```
def _insert_aux(self, current, key, item):  
    if current is None: # base case: at the leaf  
        current = BinarySearchTreeNode(key, item)  
    elif key < current.key:  
        self._insert_aux(current.left, key, item)  
    elif key > current.key:  
        self._insert_aux(current.right, key, item)  
    else: # key == current.key  
        raise ValueError("Duplicate Item")
```



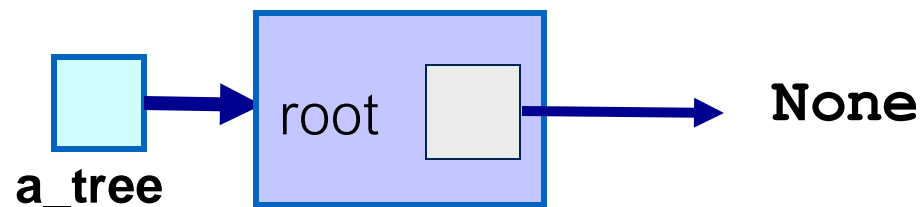
key → 57

item → "Coco"

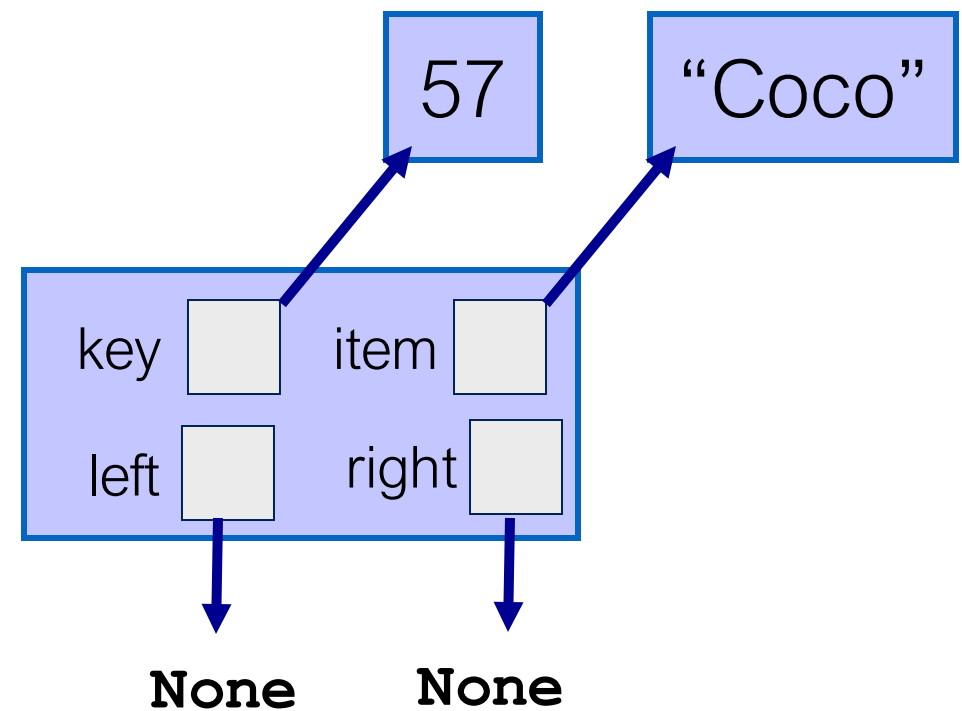
`a_tree.insert(57, "Coco")`

```
def insert(self, key, item):
    self.root = self._insert_aux(self.root, key, item)
```

```
def _insert_aux(self, current, key, item):
    if current is None: # base case: at the leaf
        current = BinarySearchTreeNode(key, item)
    elif key < current.key:
        self._insert_aux(current.left, key, item)
    elif key > current.key:
        self._insert_aux(current.right, key, item)
    else: # key == current.key
        raise ValueError("Duplicate Item")
```



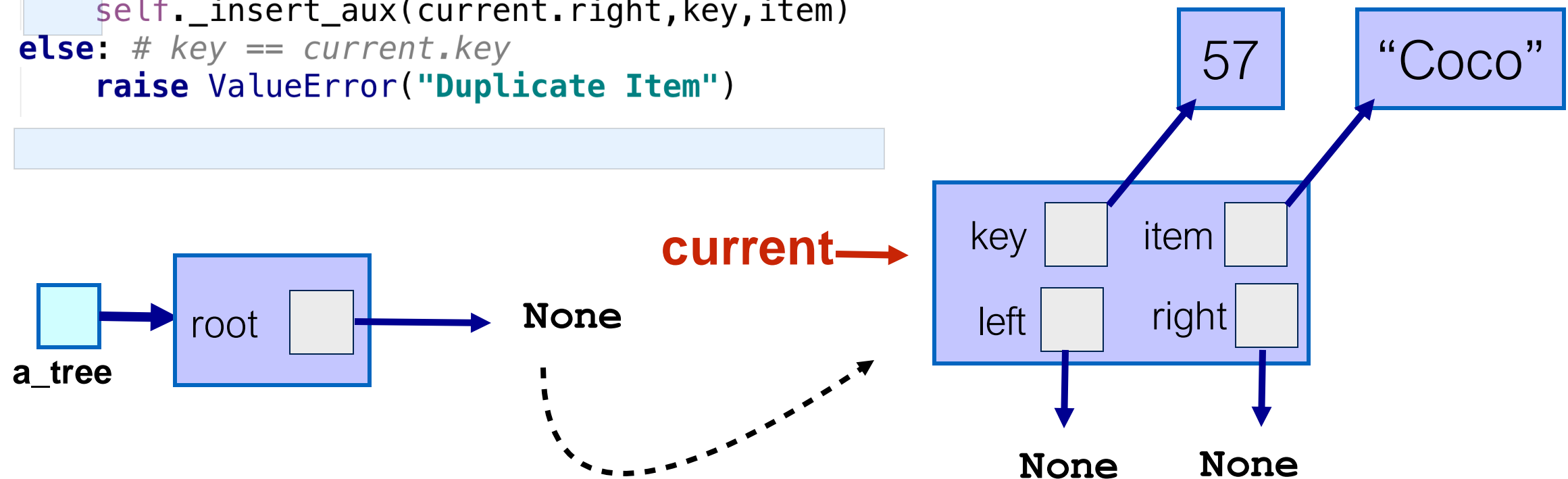
**current** →



`a_tree.insert(57, "Coco")`

```
def insert(self, key, item):
    self.root = self._insert_aux(self.root, key, item)
```

```
def _insert_aux(self, current, key, item):
    if current is None: # base case: at the leaf
        current = BinarySearchTreeNode(key, item)
    elif key < current.key:
        self._insert_aux(current.left, key, item)
    elif key > current.key:
        self._insert_aux(current.right, key, item)
    else: # key == current.key
        raise ValueError("Duplicate Item")
```



missing link!

**current needs to be returned!**

```
def insert(self, key, item):  
    self.root = self._insert_aux(self.root, key, item)
```

```
def _insert_aux(self, current, key, item):
```

```
def insert(self, key, item):  
    self.root = self._insert_aux(self.root, key, item)
```

```
def _insert_aux(self, current, key, item):  
    if current is None: # base case: at the leaf  
        current = BinarySearchTreeNode(key, item)  
    elif key < current.key: Create a node if got to a blank  
        current.left = self._insert_aux(current.left, key, item)  
    elif key > current.key:  
        current.right = self._insert_aux(current.right, key, item)  
    else: # key == current.key Assign new node as child  
        raise ValueError("Duplicate Item")  
    return current
```

*If not a new node, assigning a child to itself*

go left if item to insert goes to left  
Go right if goes to the right

```
def insert(self, key, item):  
    self.root = self._insert_aux(self.root, key, item)
```

```
def _insert_aux(self, current, key, item):  
    if current is None: # base case: at the leaf  
        current = BinarySearchTreeNode(key, item)  
    elif key < current.key:  
        current.left = self._insert_aux(current.left, key, item)  
    elif key > current.key:  
        current.right = self._insert_aux(current.right, key, item)  
    else: # key == current.key  
        raise ValueError("Duplicate Item")  
    return current
```

# \_\_setitem\_\_

```
def __setitem__(self, key, item):  
    self.root = self._setitem_aux_(self.root, key, item)  
  
def _setitem_aux_(self, current, key, item):  
    if current is None: # base case: at the leaf  
        current = BinarySearchTreeNode(key, item)  
    elif key < current.key:  
        current.left = self._setitem_aux_(current.left, key, item)  
    elif key > current.key:  
        current.right = self._setitem_aux_(current.right, key, item)  
    else: # key == current.key  
        current.item = item  
    return current
```

# Search algorithm

- If we reach an empty node, item is not there... return **False**.
- Else, if target key is equal to the current node's key, return **True**
- Else, if target key is **less** than current node's key, **search the left sub-tree**
- Else, if target key is **greater** than current node's key, **search the right sub-tree**



search can be implemented by

**\_\_contains\_\_**

and

**\_\_getitem\_\_**

```
def __contains__(self, key):  
    return self._contains_aux(key, self.root)  
  
def _contains_aux(self, key, current_node):  
    if current_node is None: # base case  
        return False  
    elif key == current_node.key: Found a match  
        return True  
    elif key < current_node.key: Smaller items to the left  
        return self._contains_aux(key, current_node.left)  
    elif key > current_node.key:  
        return self._contains_aux(key, current_node.right)
```

Return later results up

# Keys implement “rich comparison”

```
object.__lt__(self, other)
object.__le__(self, other)
object.__eq__(self, other)
object.__ne__(self, other)
object.__gt__(self, other)
object.__ge__(self, other)
```

These are the so-called “rich comparison” methods. The correspondence between operator symbols and method names is as follows: `x < y` calls `x.__lt__(y)`, `x <= y` calls `x.__le__(y)`, `x == y` calls `x.__eq__(y)`, `x != y` calls `x.__ne__(y)`, `x > y` calls `x.__gt__(y)`, and `x >= y` calls `x.__ge__(y)`.

<https://docs.python.org/3/reference/datamodel.html>

we want to get the item associated to a key...

**`__getitem__`**

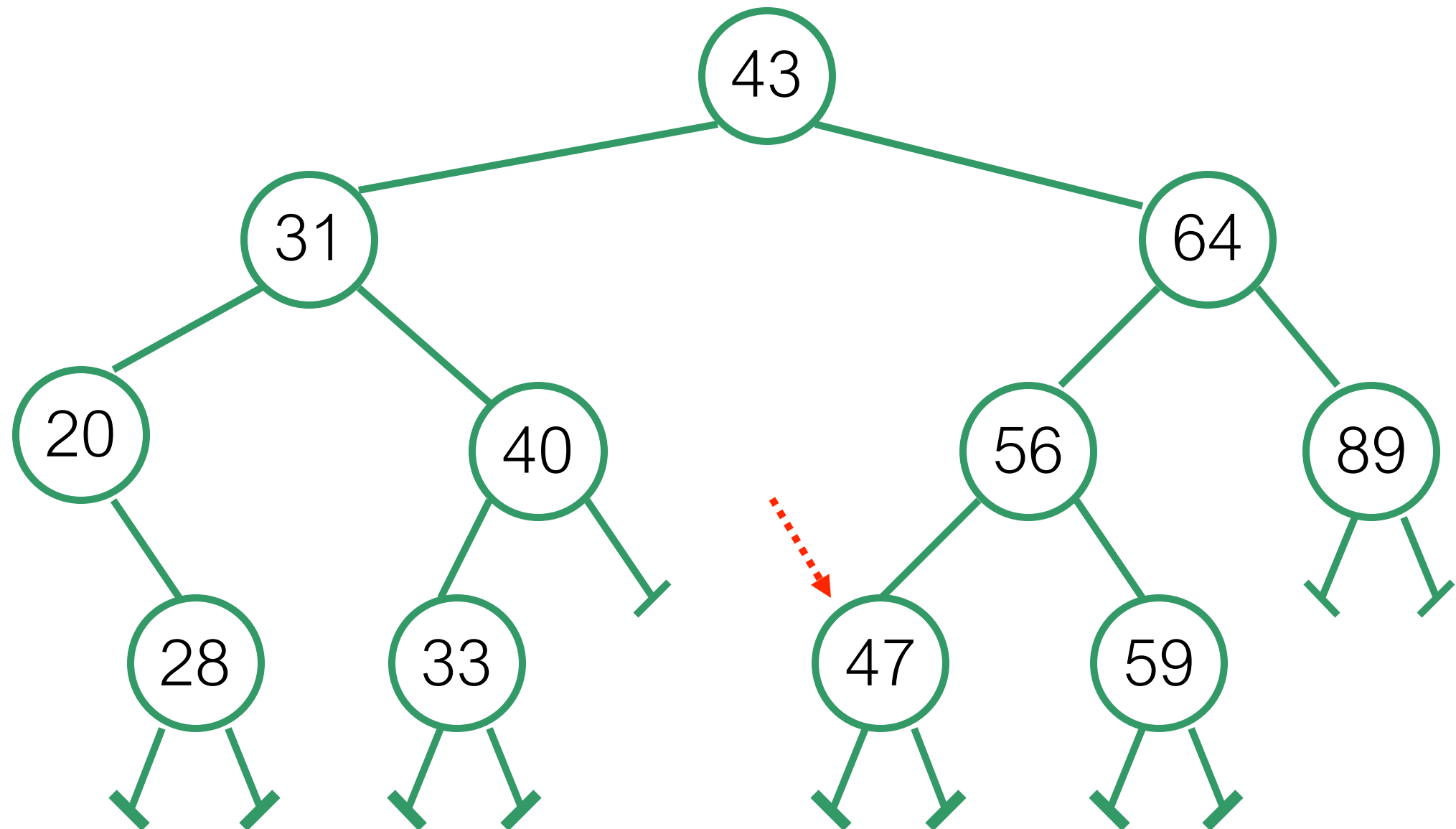
# \_\_getitem\_\_

```
def __getitem__(self, key):  
    return self._getitem_aux(self.root, key)  
  
def _getitem_aux(self, current, key):  
    if current is None: # base case: empty  
        raise KeyError("Key not found")  
    elif key == current.key: # base case: found  
        return current.item  
    elif key < current.key:  
        return self._getitem_aux(current.left, key)  
    else: # key > current.key  
        return self._getitem_aux(current.right, key)
```

Changed compared with `__contains__`

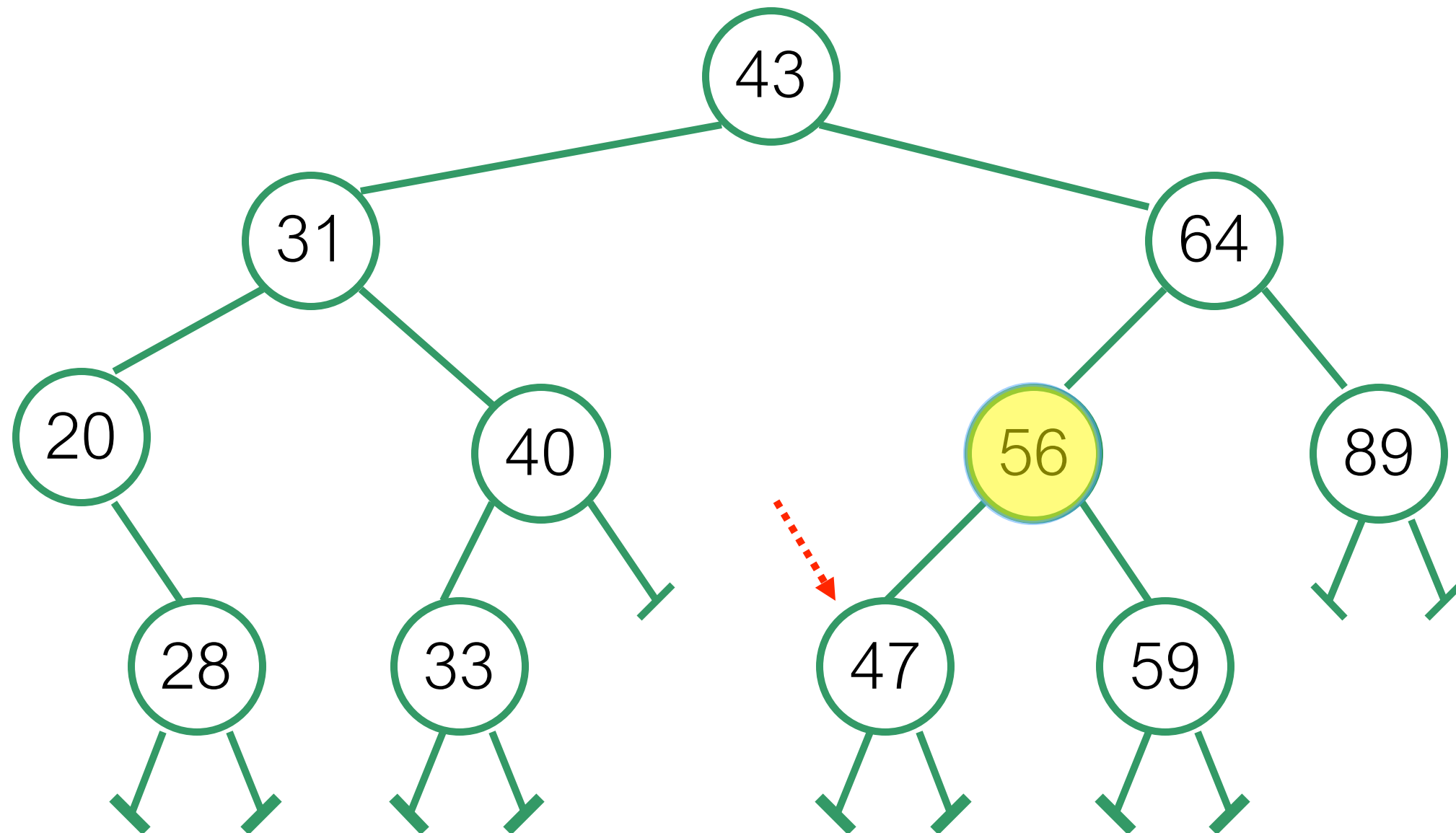
Delete

# Delete 47



only showing **key**

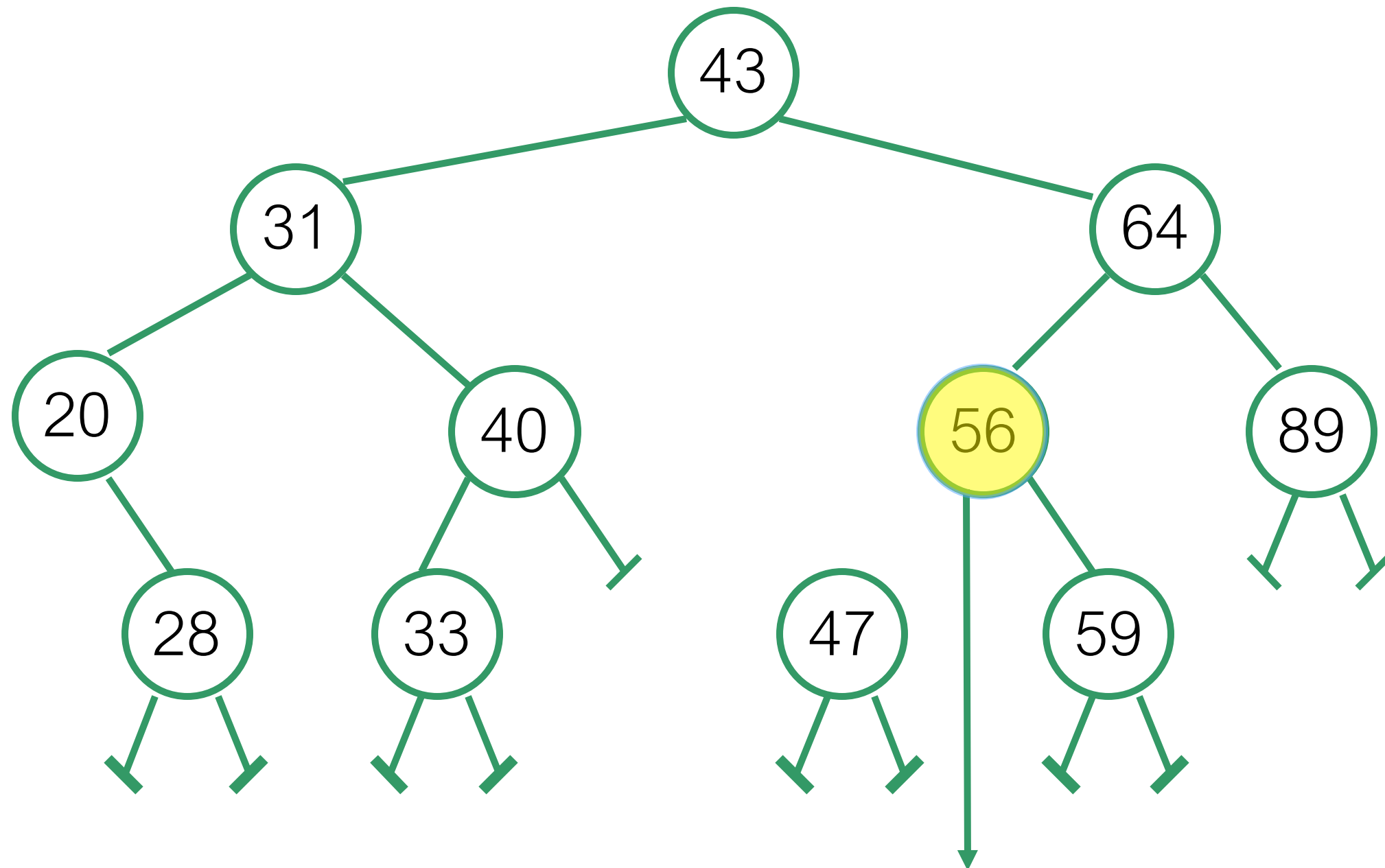
# Delete 47



only showing **key**



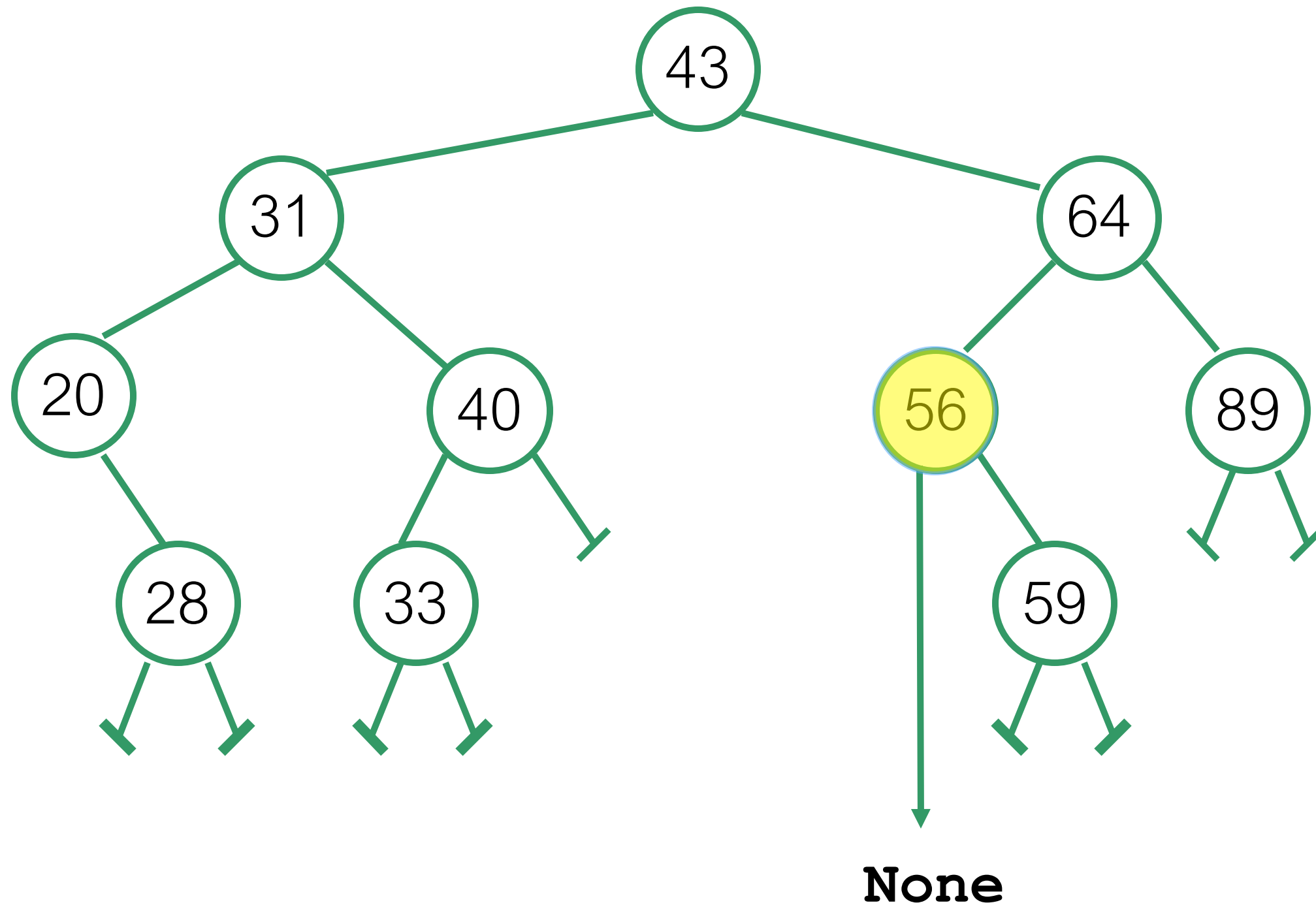
# Delete 47



**None**

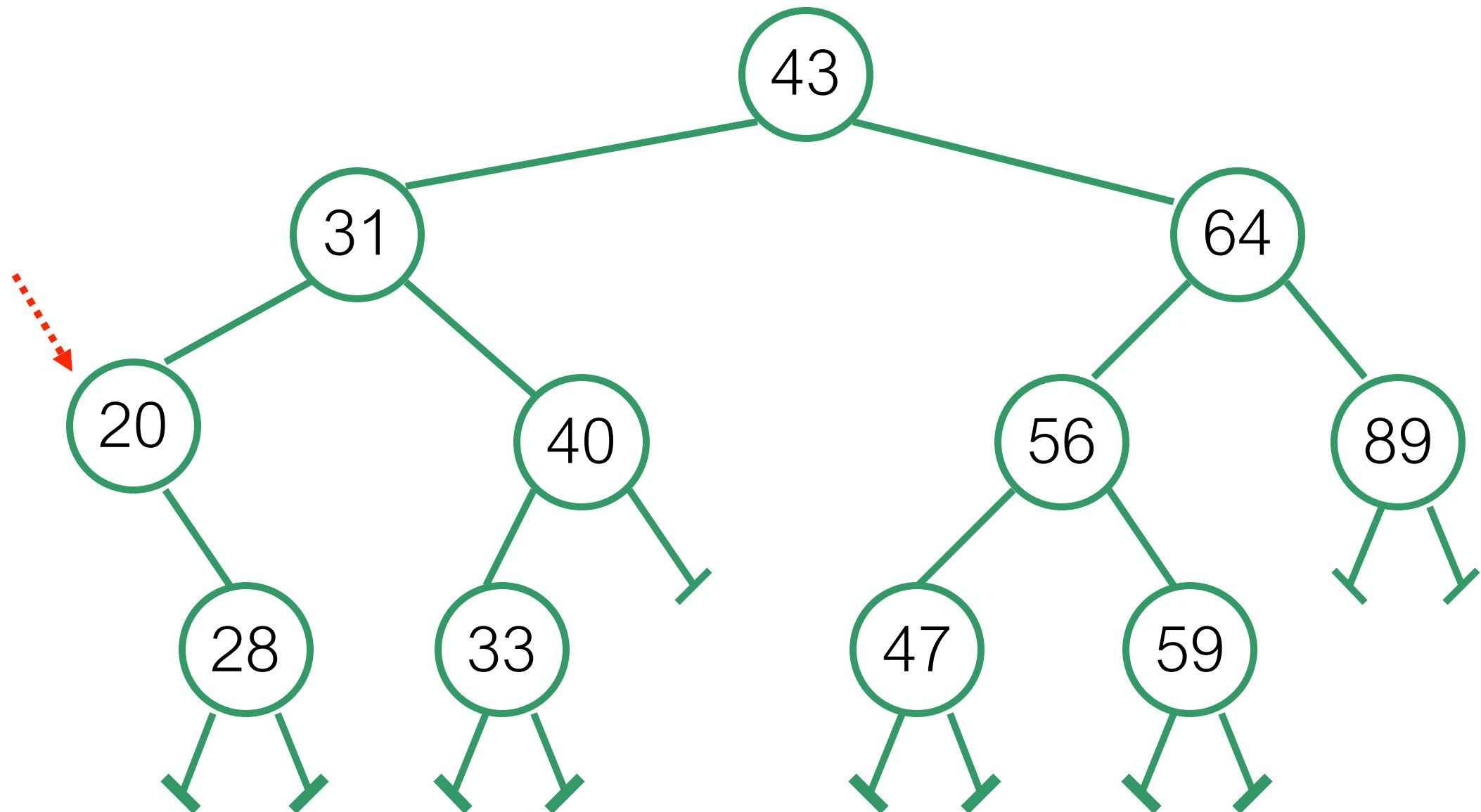
only showing **key**

# Delete 47



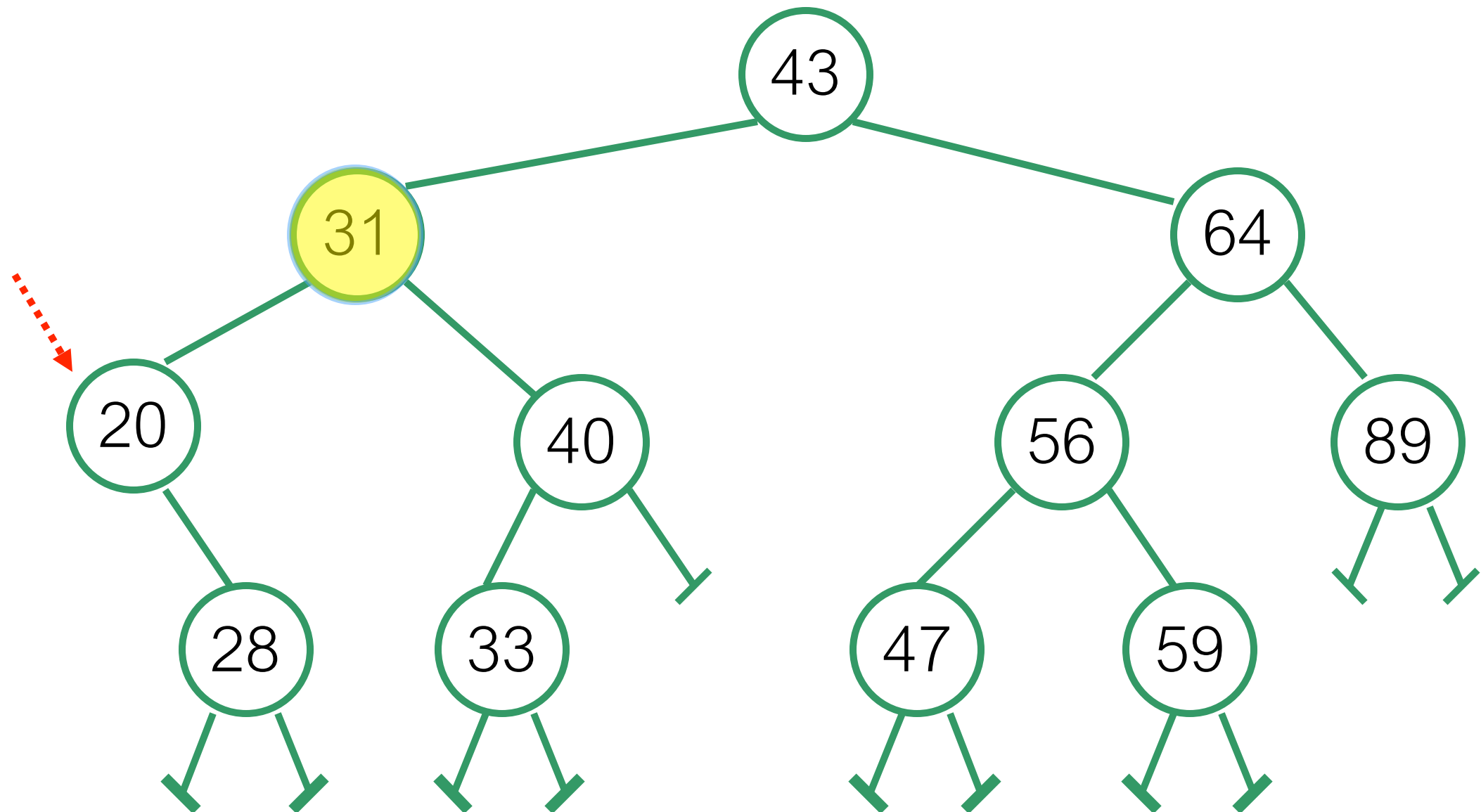
**Node with no children:**  
**Find parent - point to None**

# Delete 20



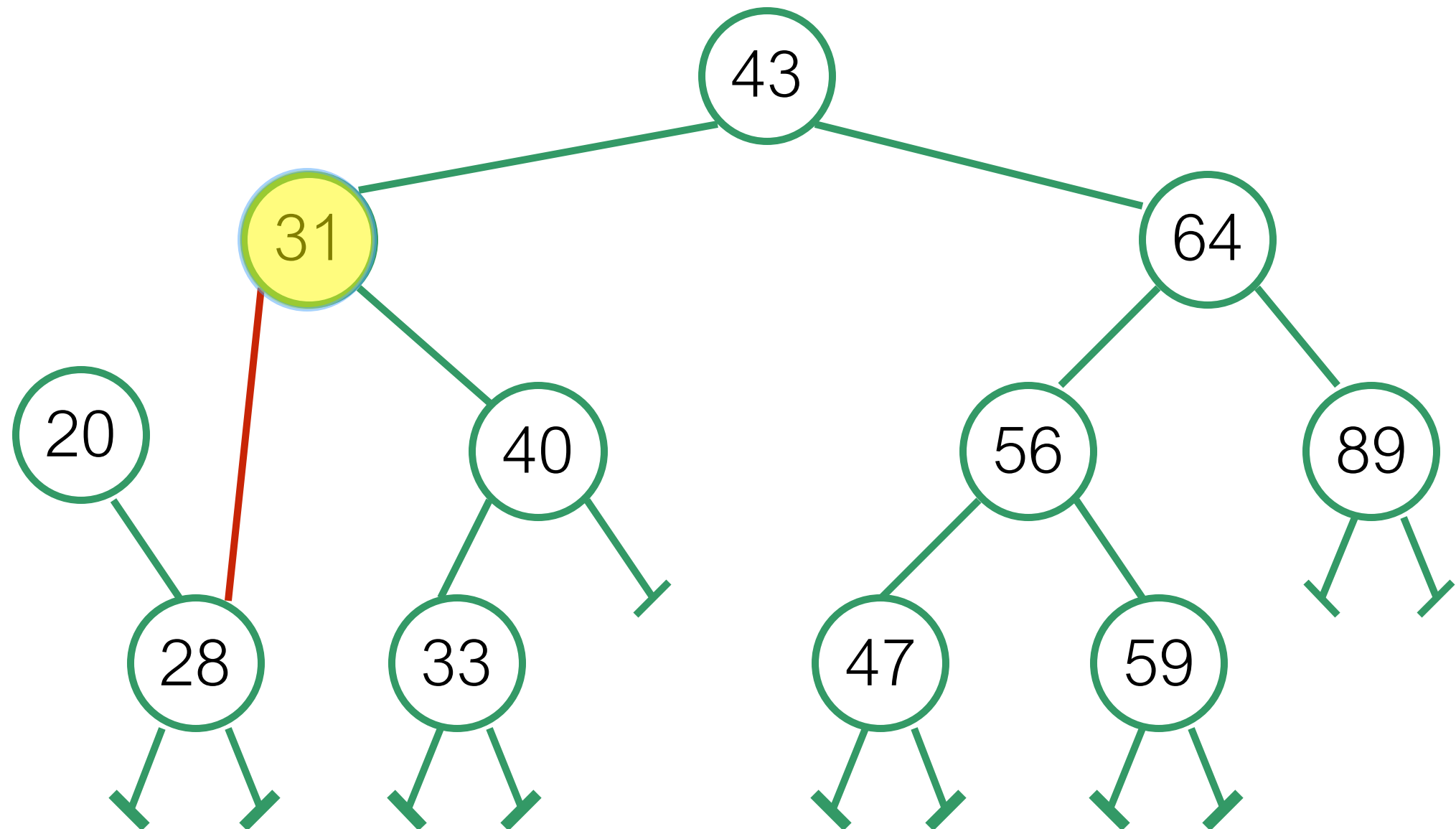
only showing **key**

# Delete 20



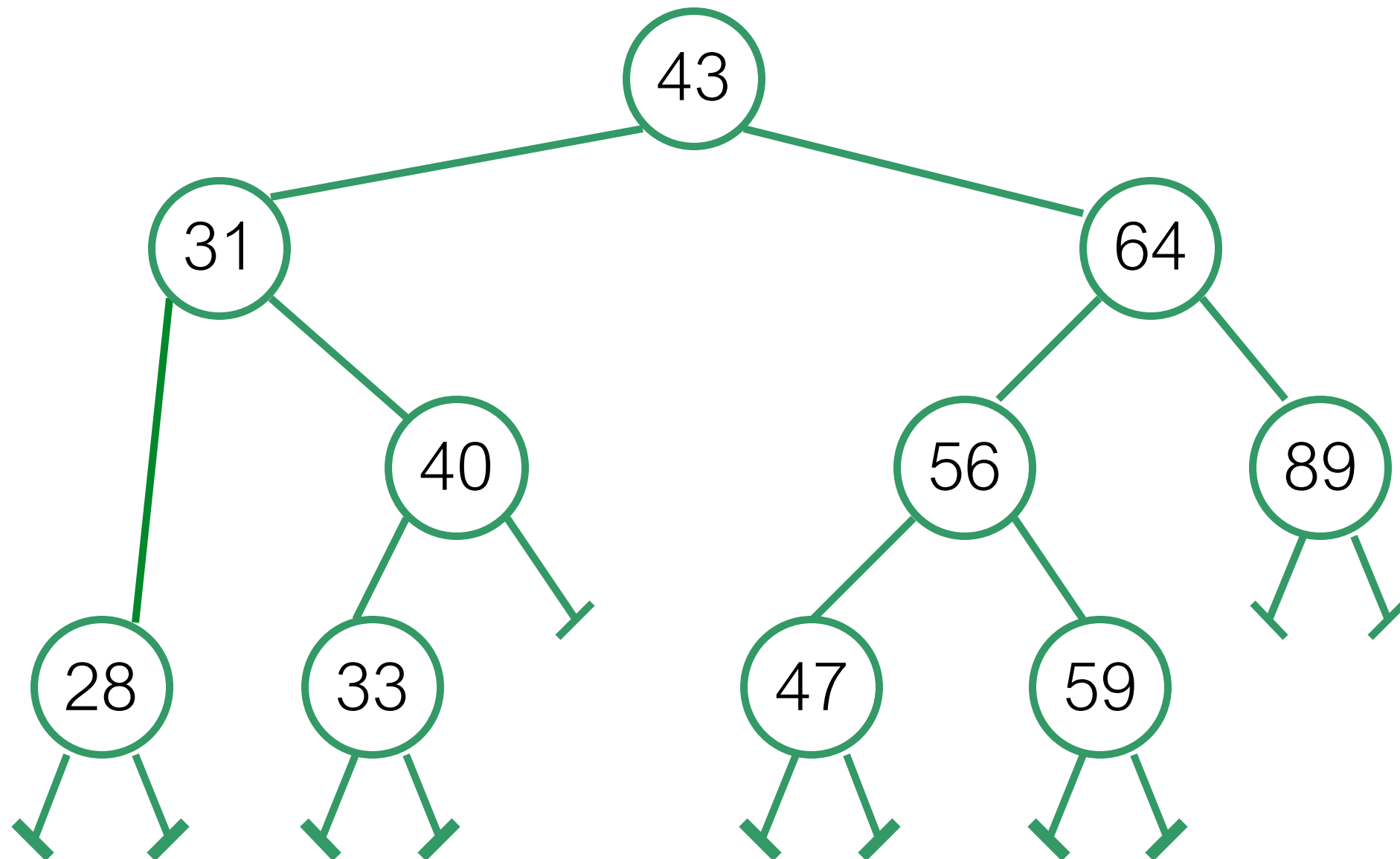
only showing **key**

# Delete 20



only showing **key**

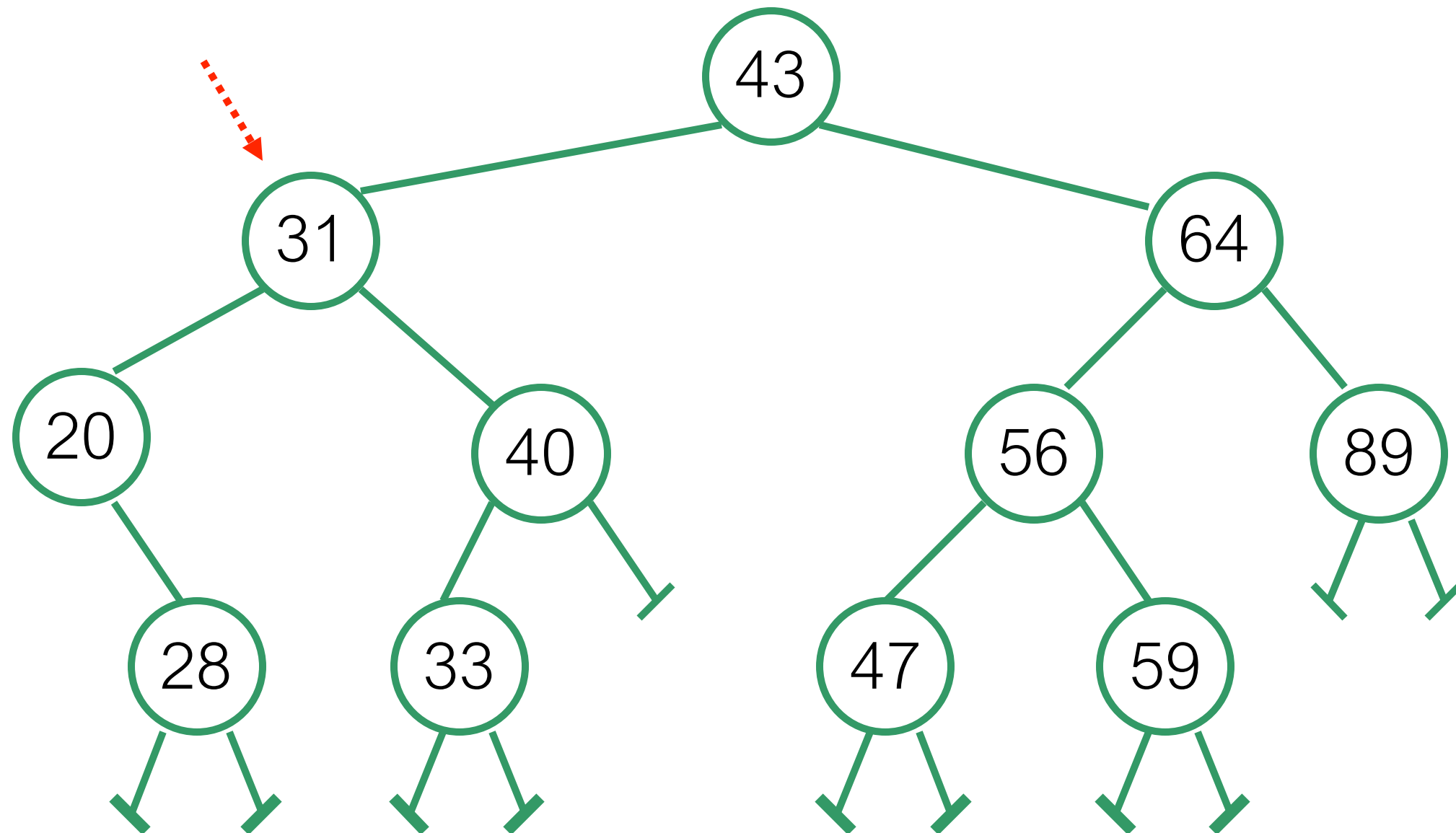
# Delete 20



**Node with one child:**

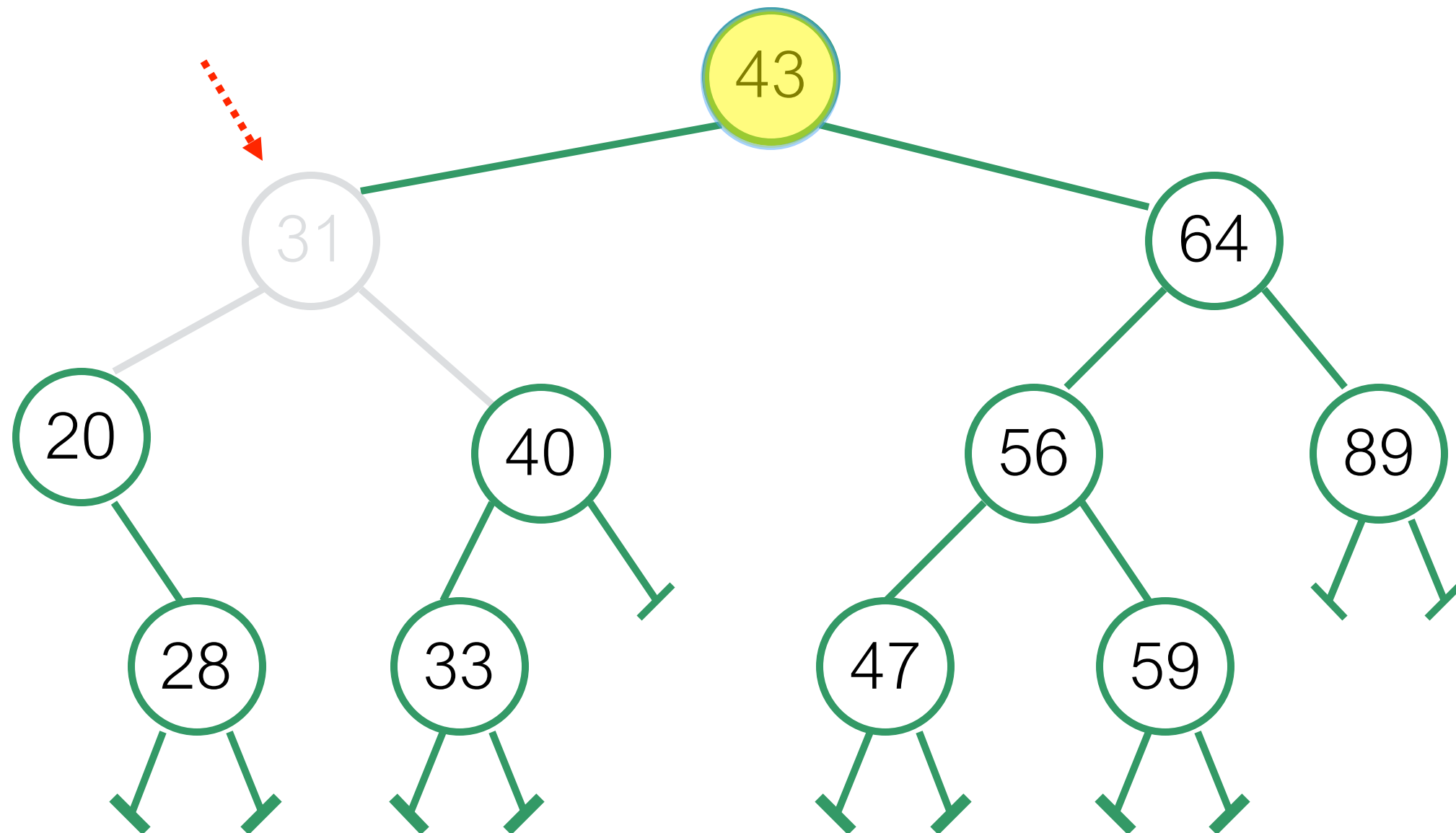
**Find parent - point to child of deleted node**

# Delete 31



only showing **key**

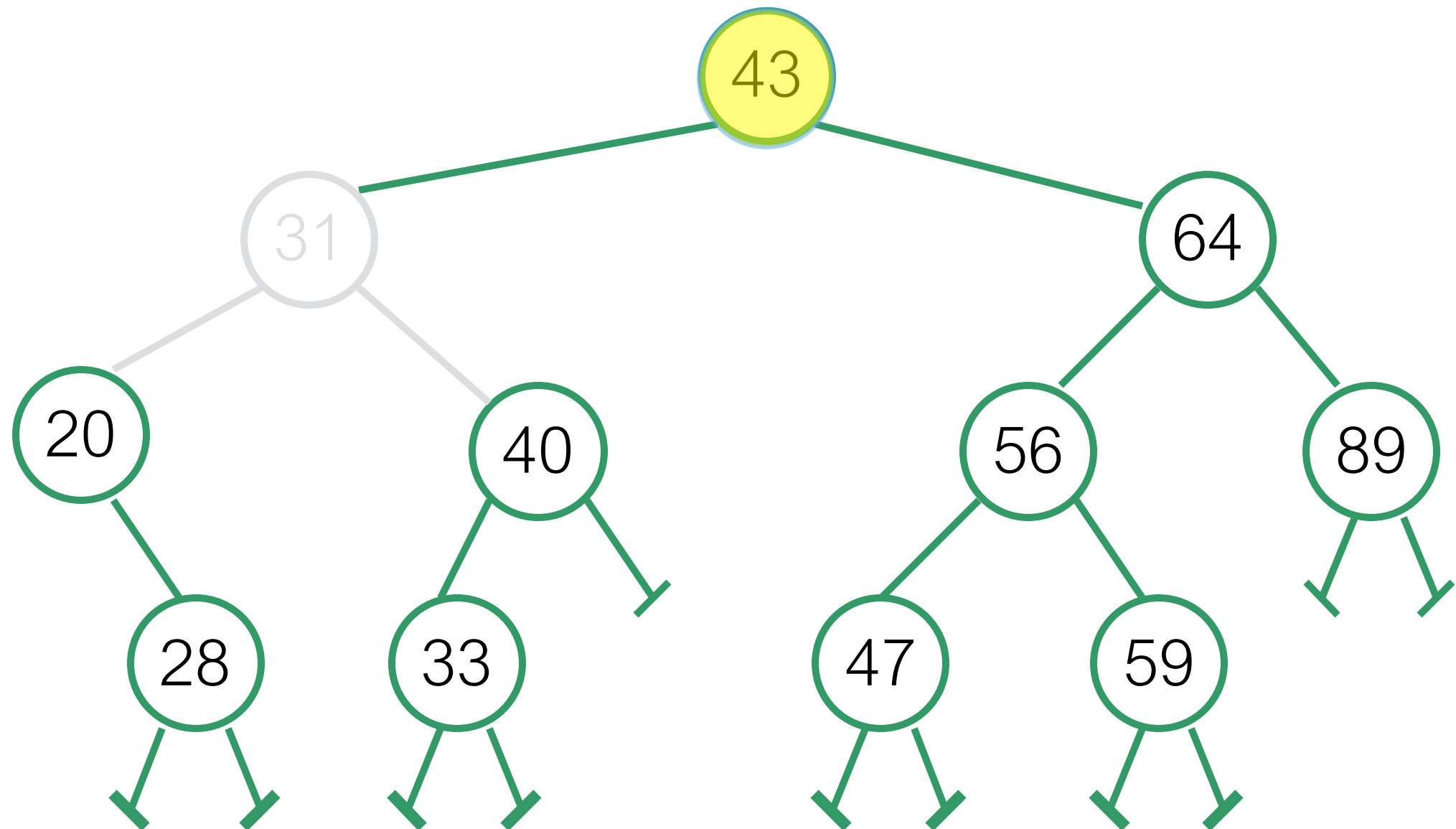
# Delete 31



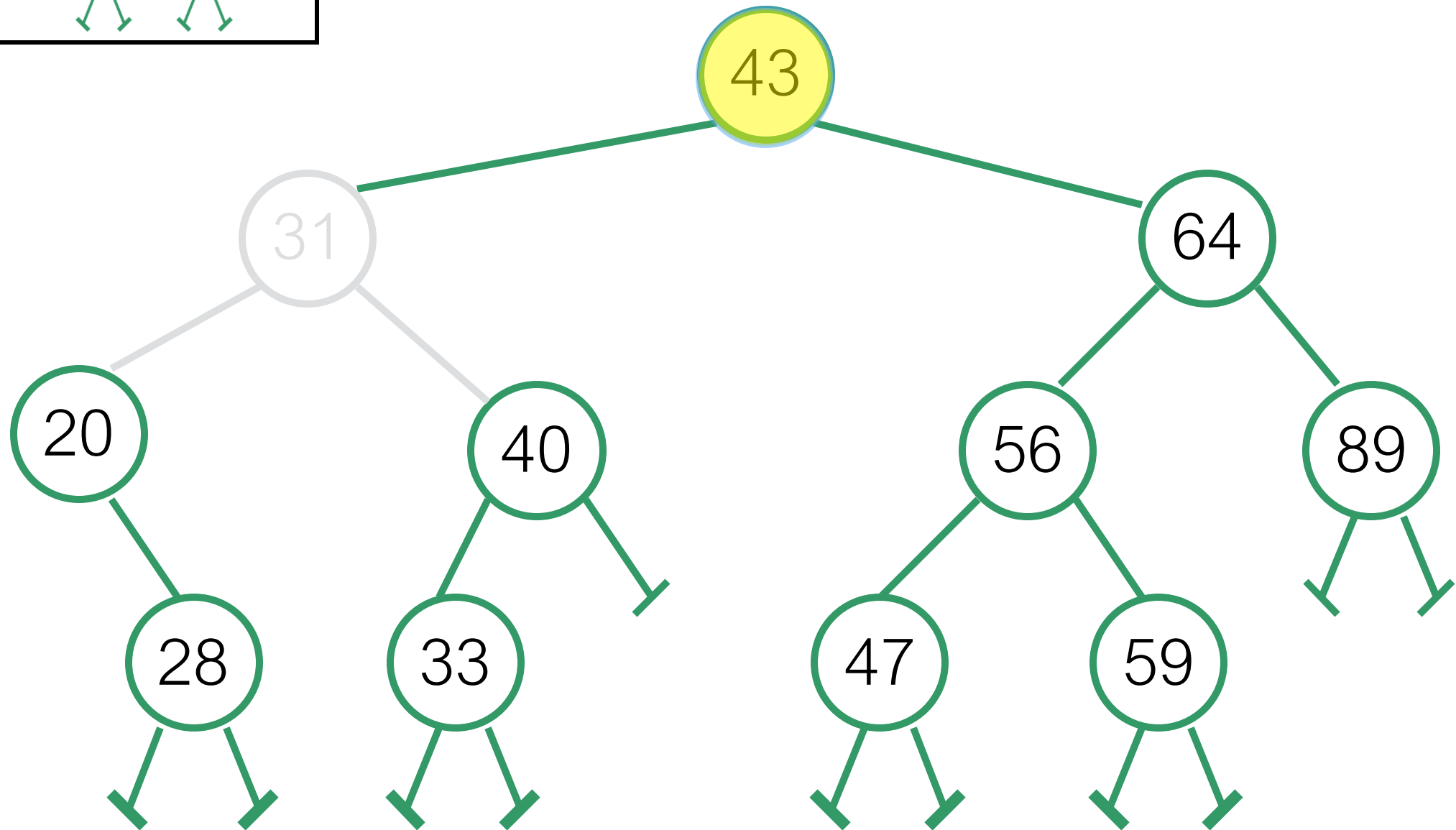
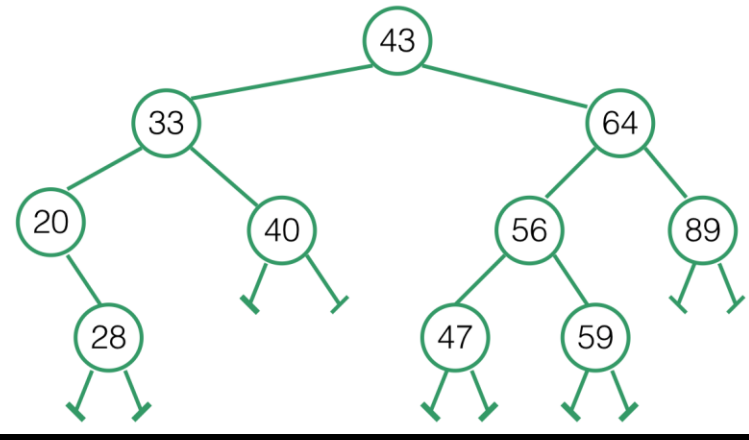
only showing **key**



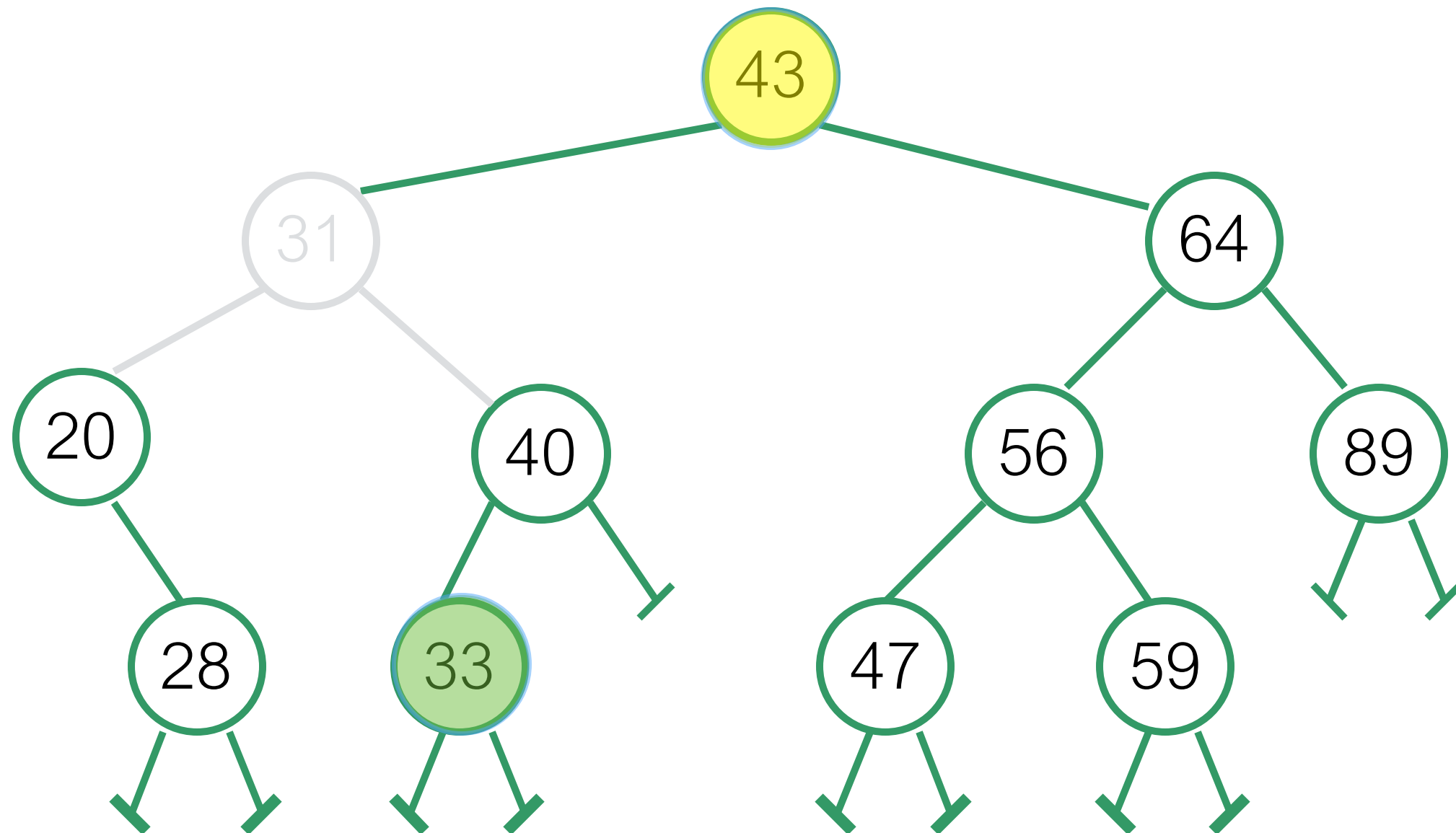
# Delete 31



# Delete 31



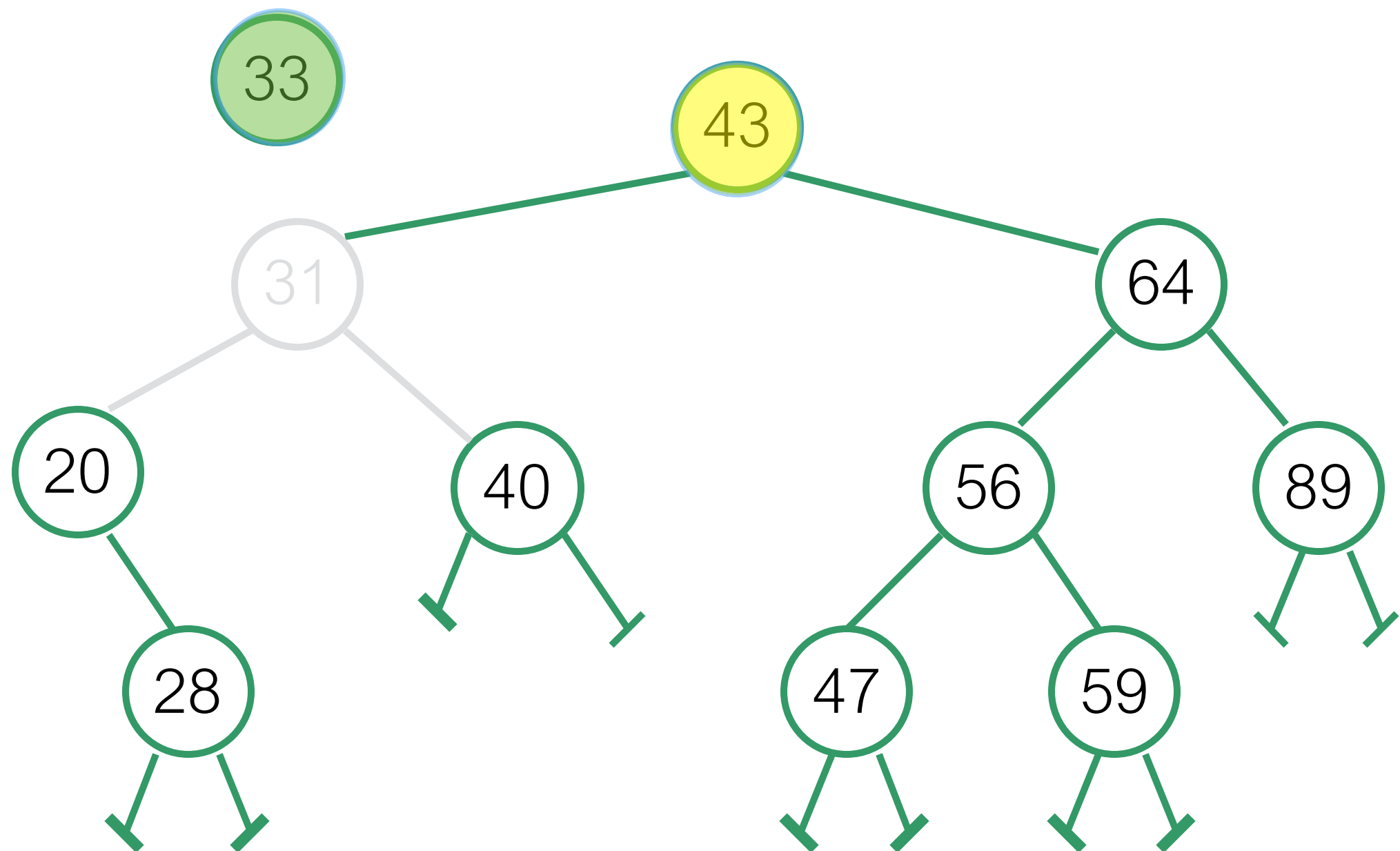
# Delete 31



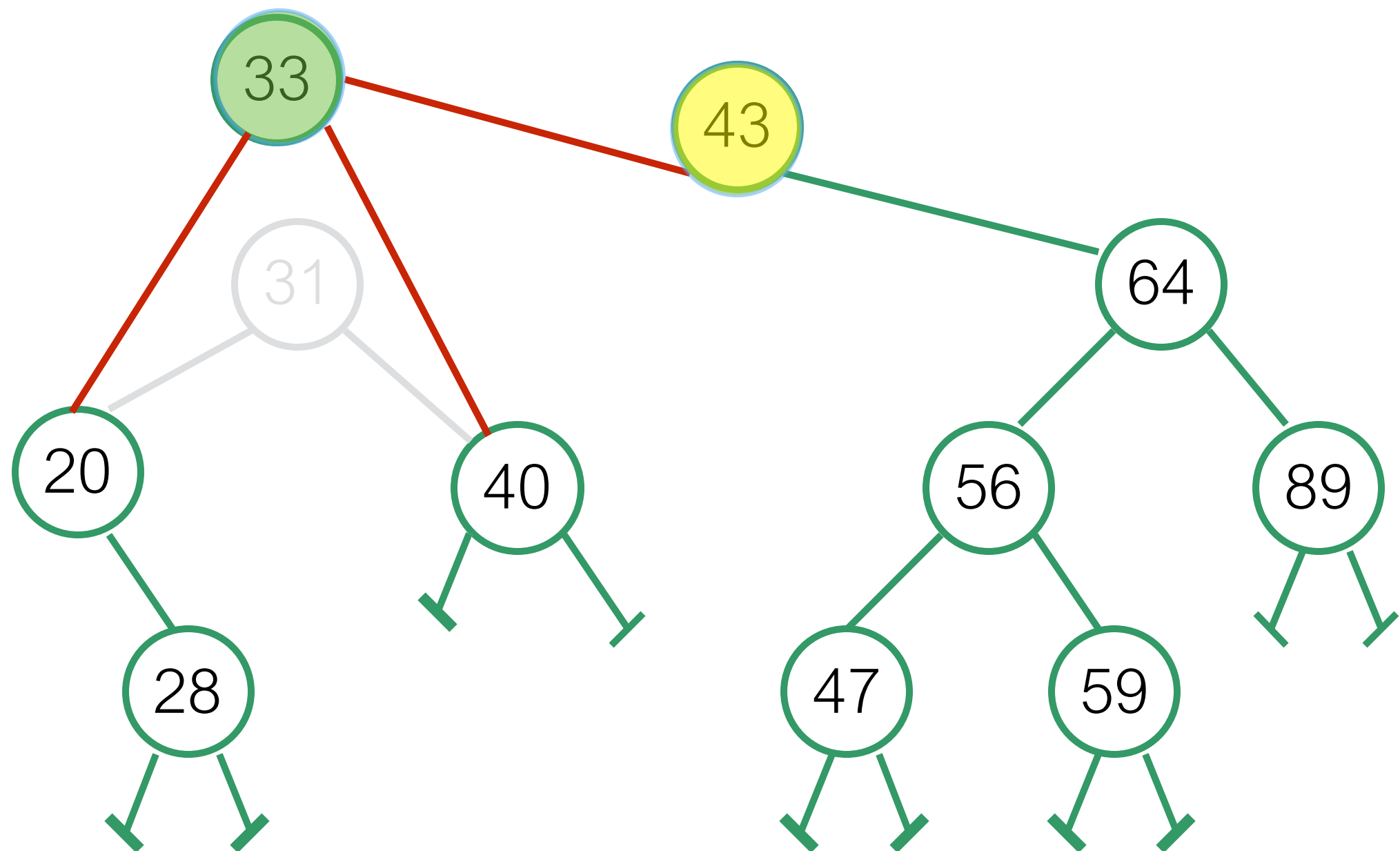
Successor of a node: node with **next** larger key.

Picking predecessor is equally good (e.g. 28 here)

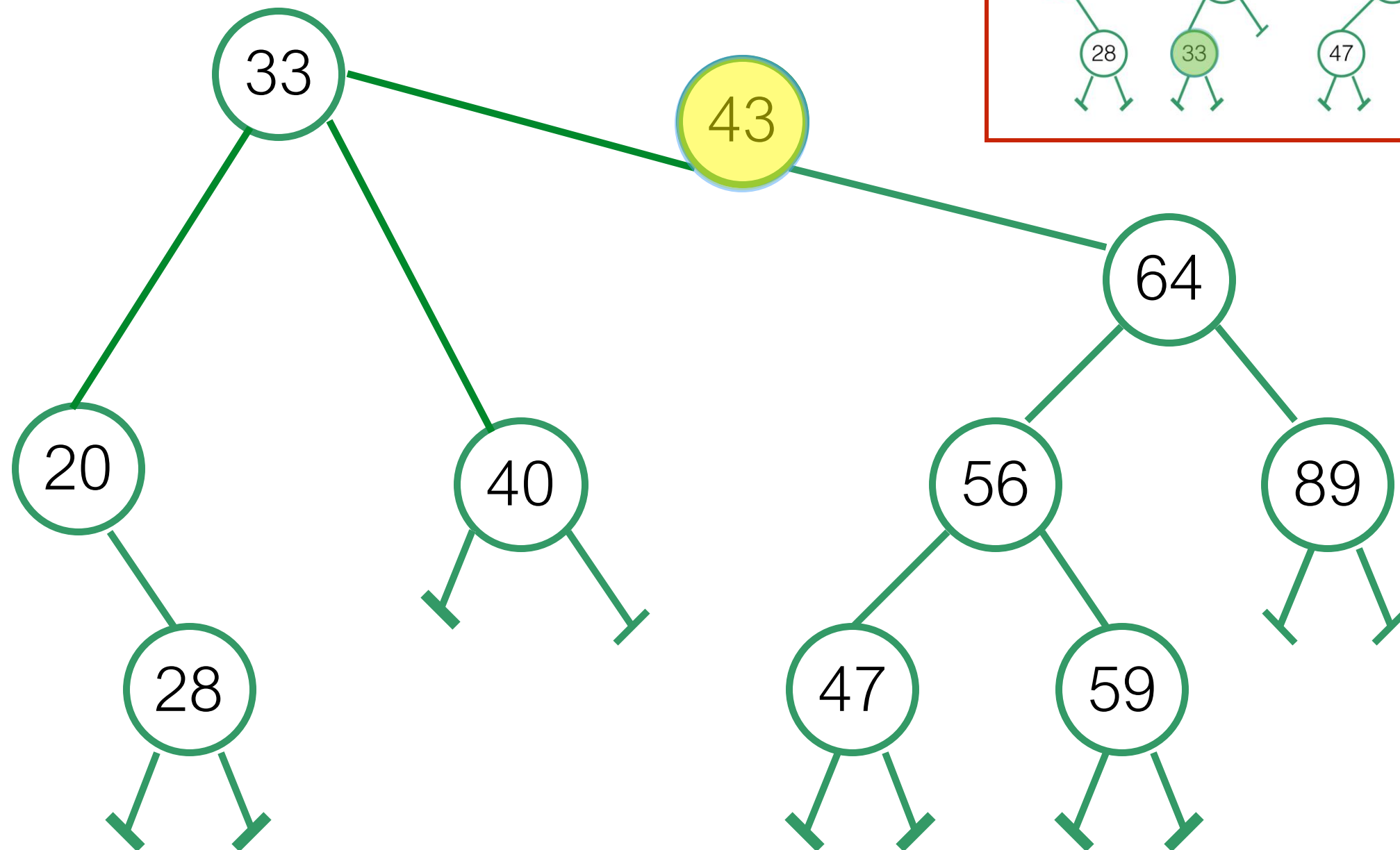
# Delete 31



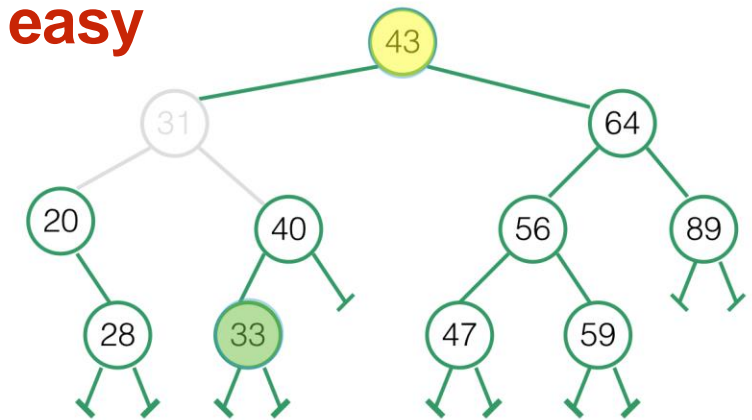
# Delete 31



# Delete 31



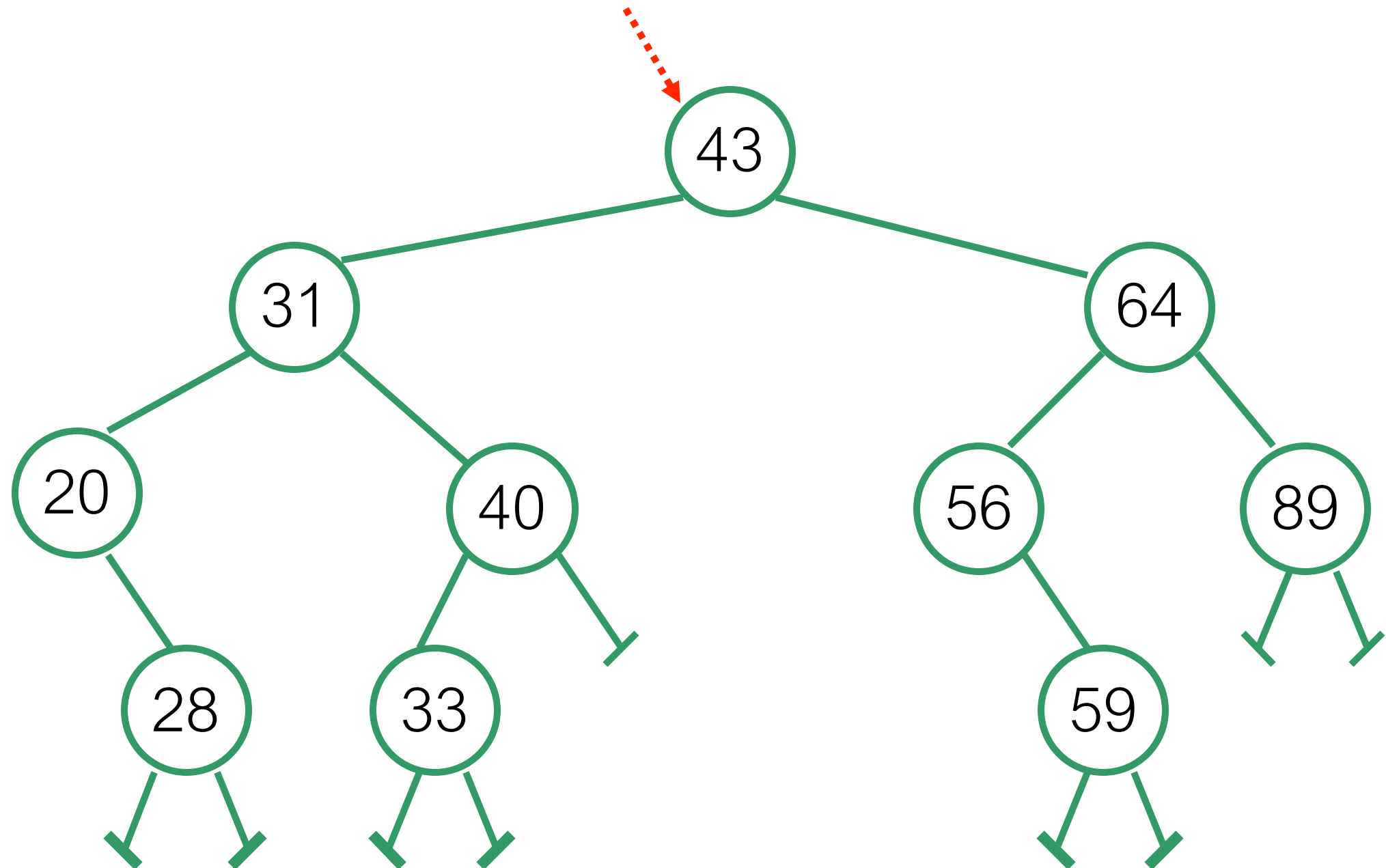
easy



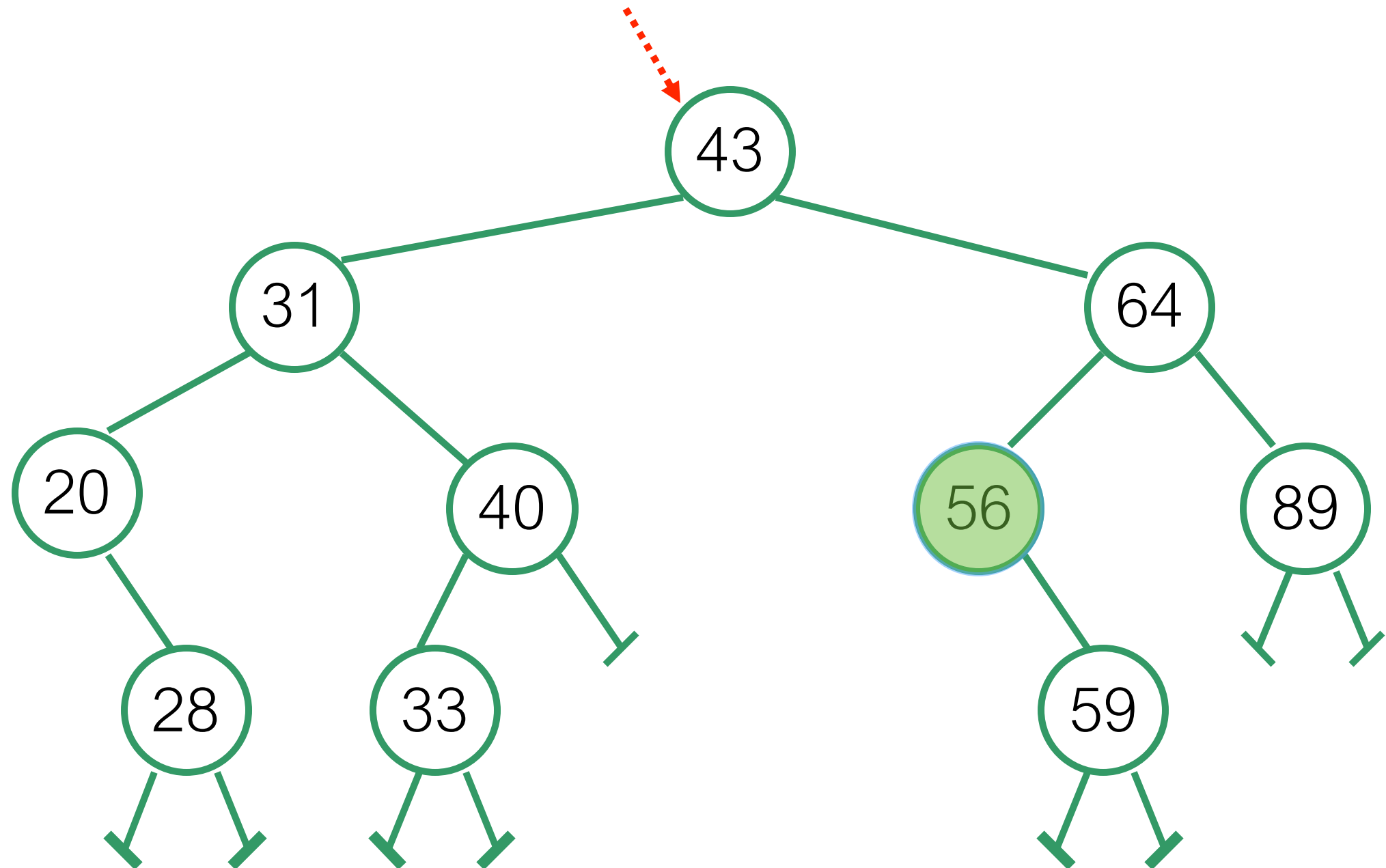
**Node with two children:**

Find parent and successor - successor is the new parent of the (orphan) children

Delete 43

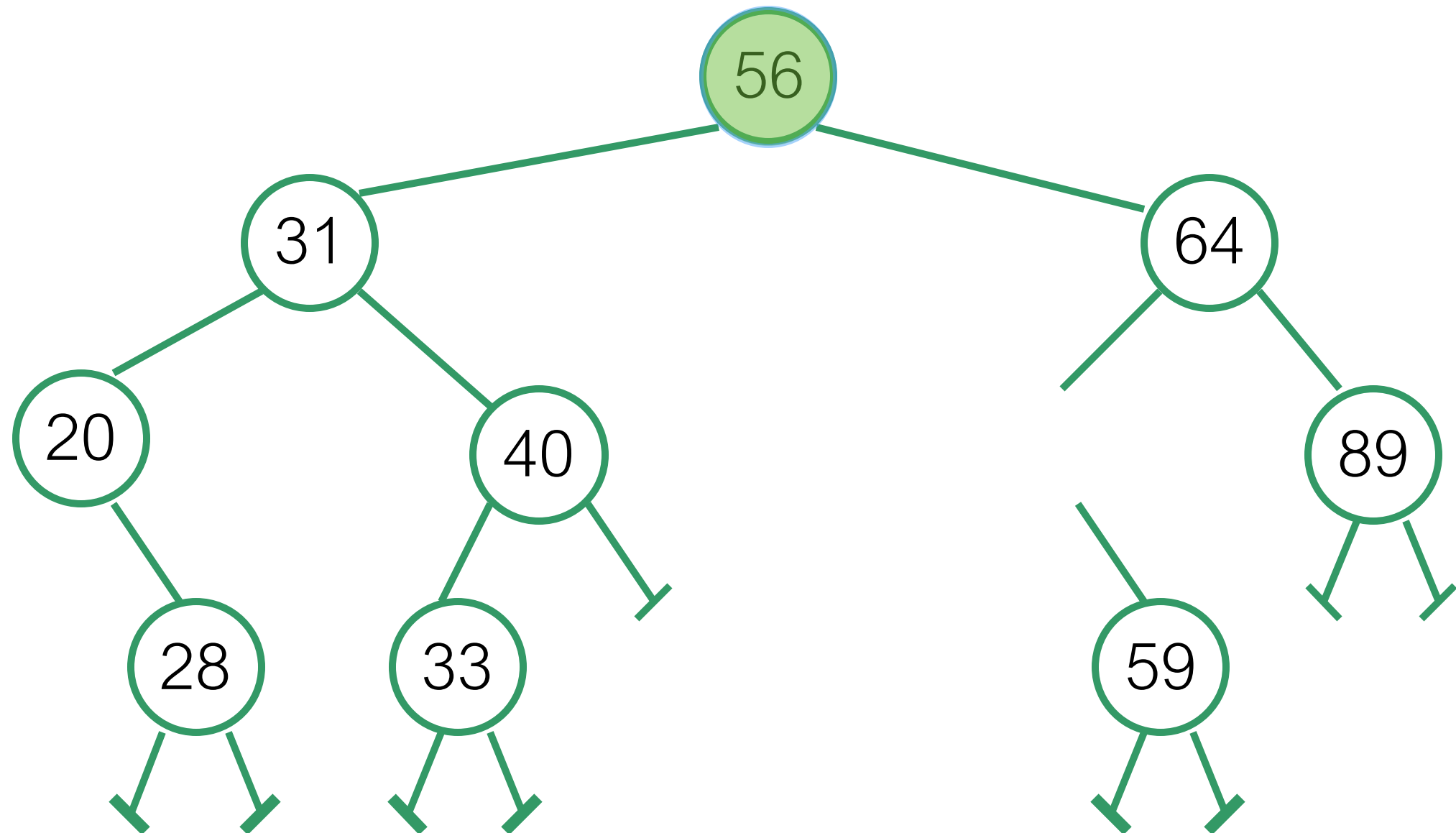


Delete 43

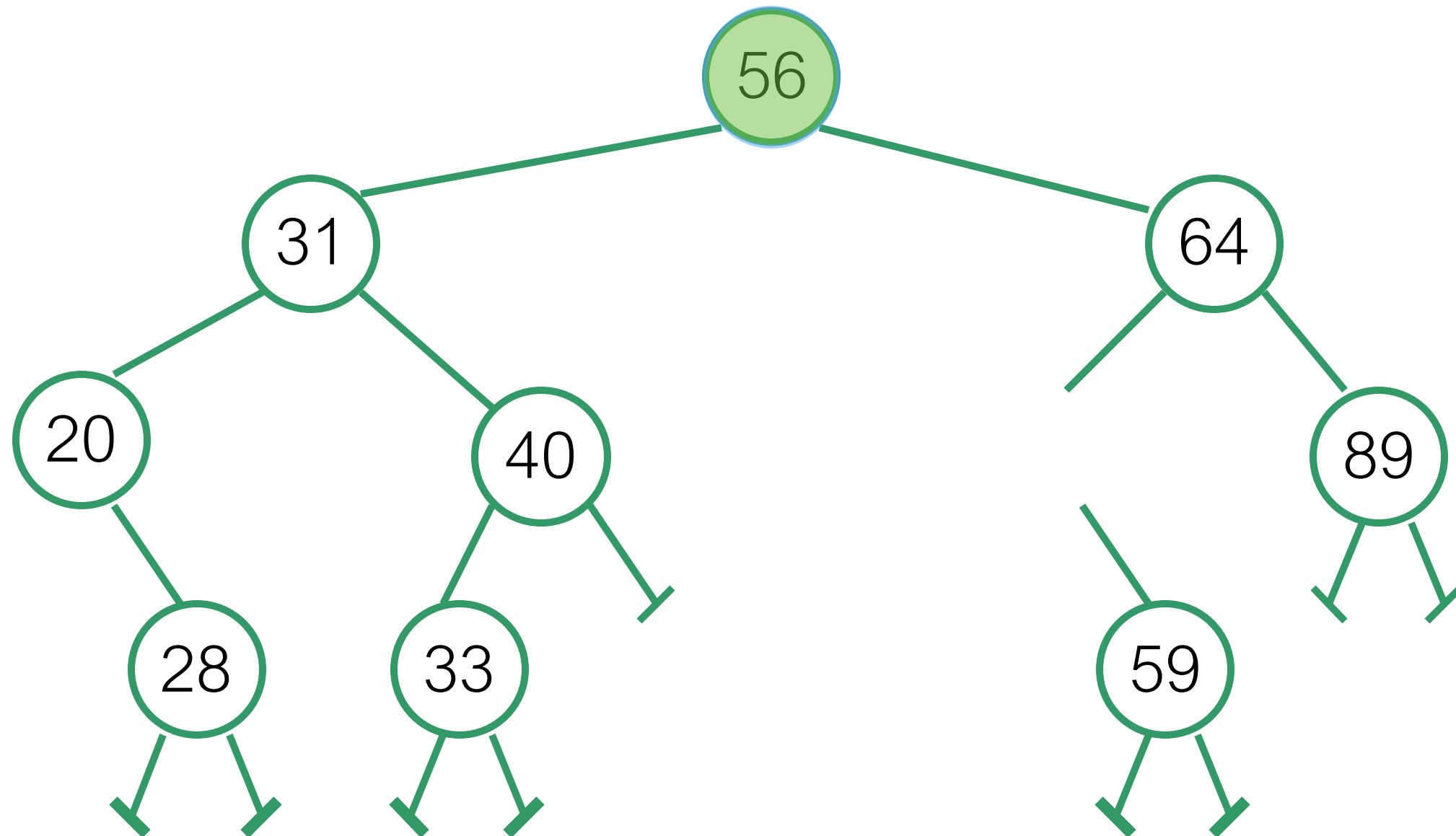




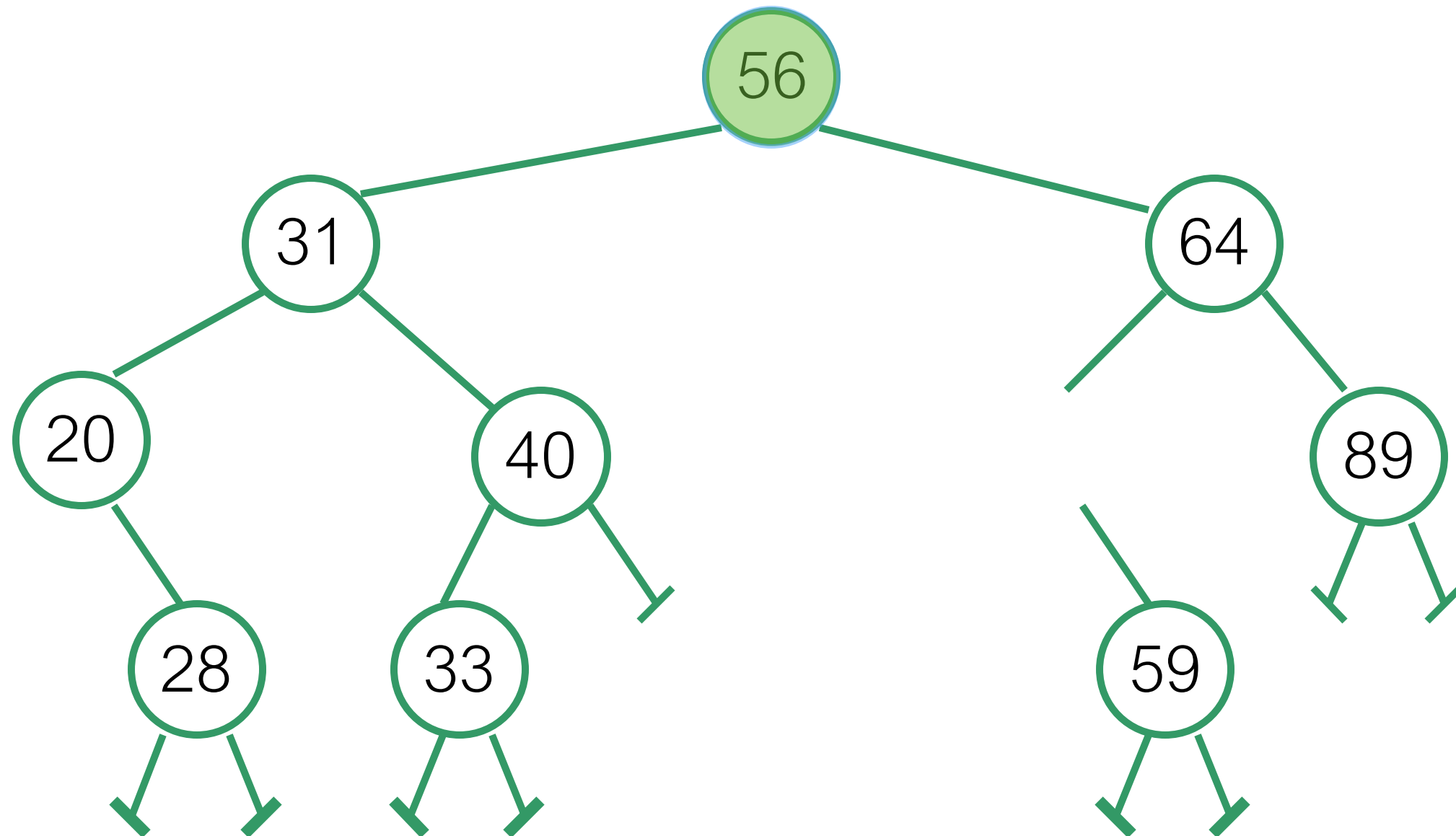
# Delete 43



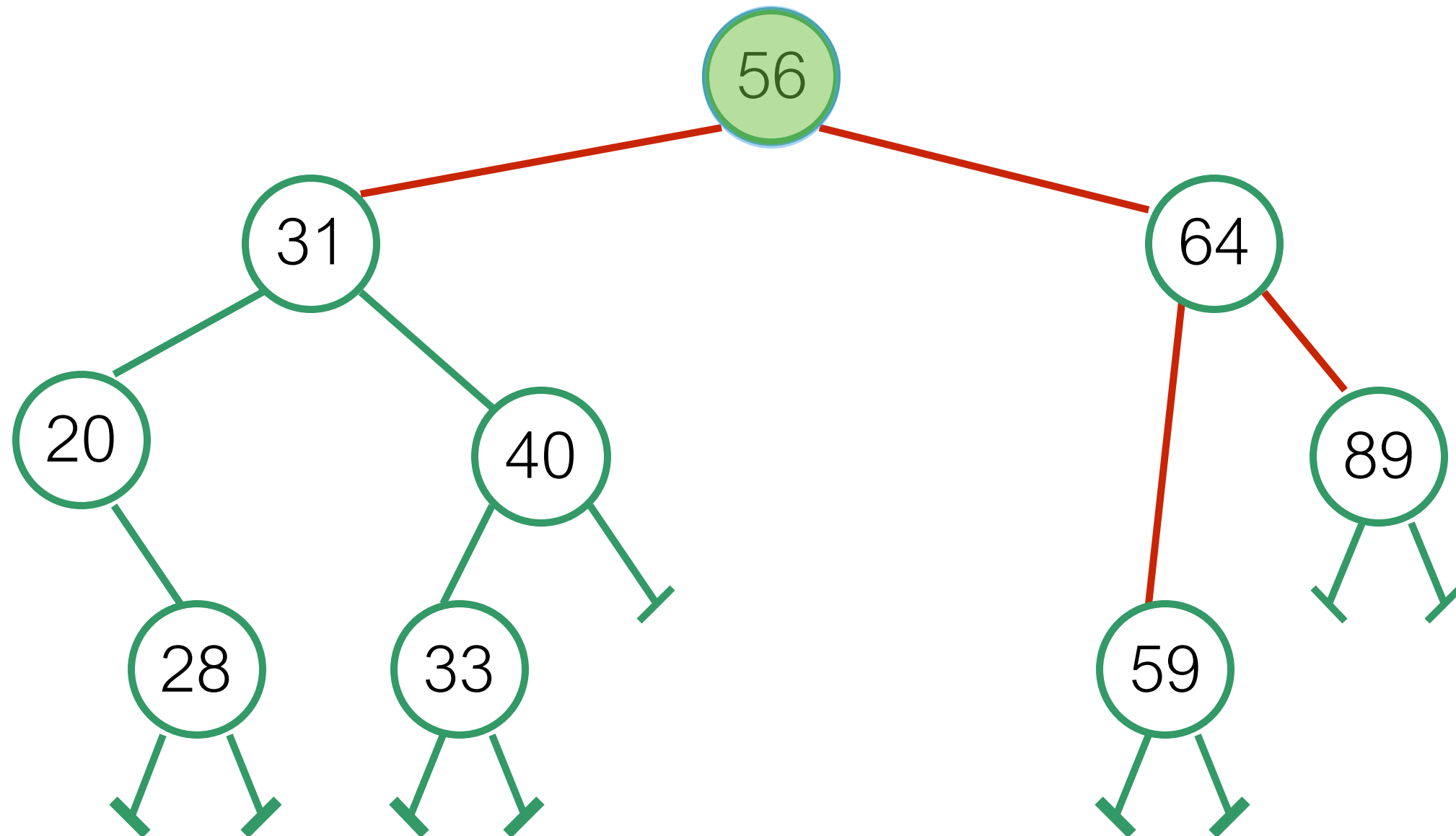
# Delete 43



# Delete 43



# Delete 43



# Delete

**Input:** key of element to delete.

**Idea:** Find key and successor...

- Try to find the key...
  - **If it is a leaf?** Set parent's reference to None
  - **It has one child?** Parent's reference set to child ("bypass").
  - **It has two children?** Find **successor**. Successor takes position of deleted node. **If successor leaves an orphan child, it should be linked to the successor's parent.**

\_\_delitem\_\_

left as an exercise.

(or done now if there's time)

# Summary

- Binary search trees: search, insertion and deletion