

# Binary Search Trees: Search

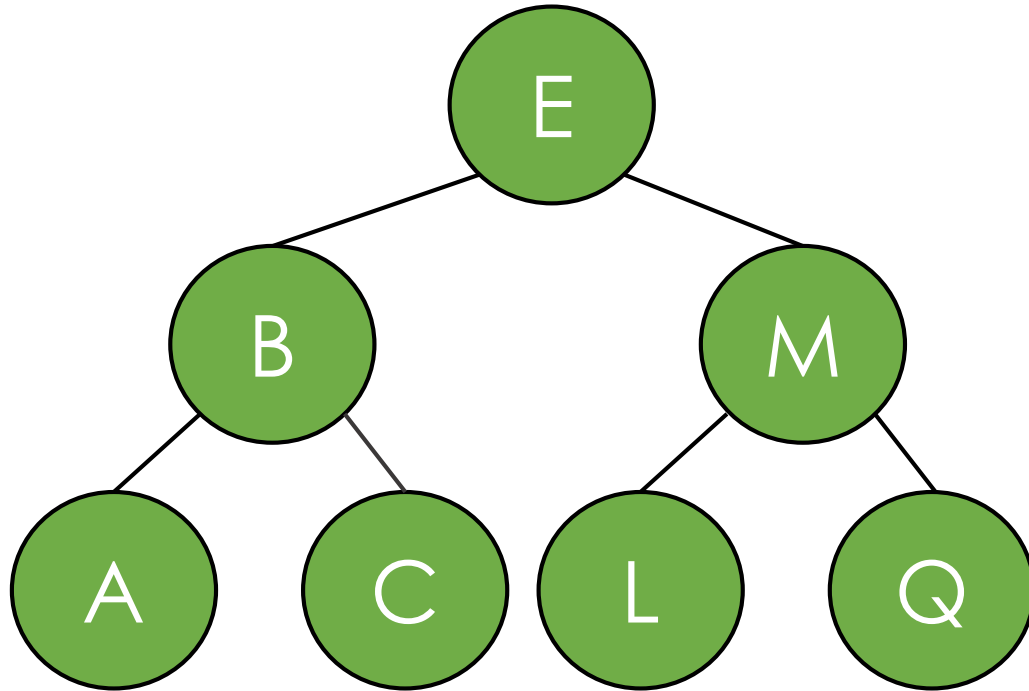


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by Christine Alvarado, Mia Minnes, and Leo Porter, 2015.

**By the end of this video you will be able to...**

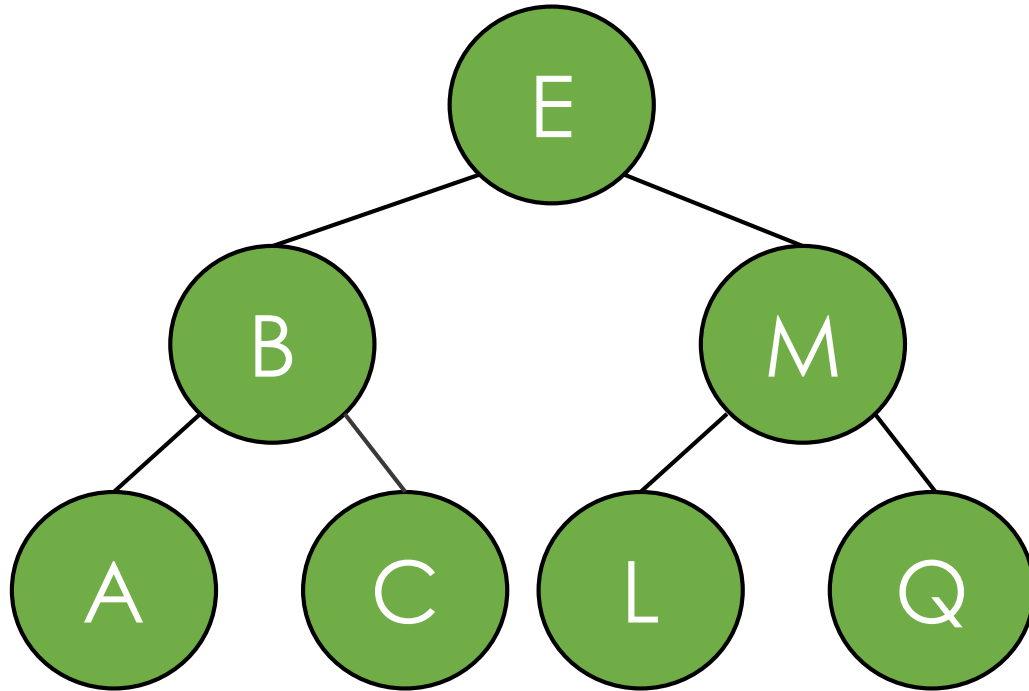
- Perform Search in a Binary Search Tree

# Binary Search Tree - Searching



**Same fundamental  
idea as binary search  
of an array**

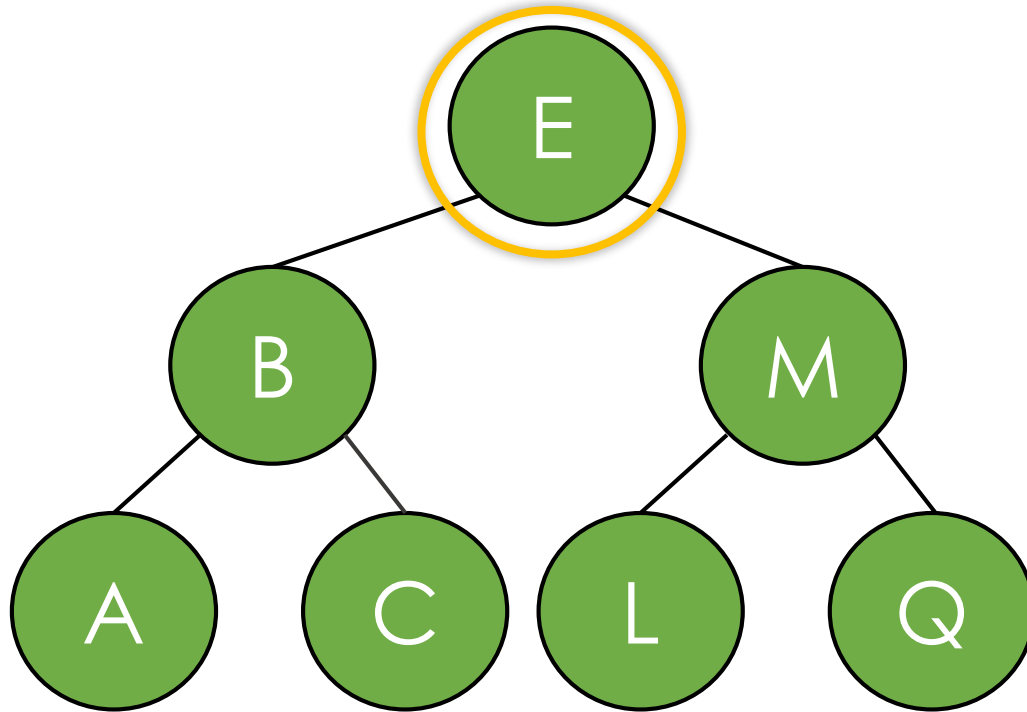
# Binary Search Tree - Searching



toFind

c

# Binary Search Tree - Searching

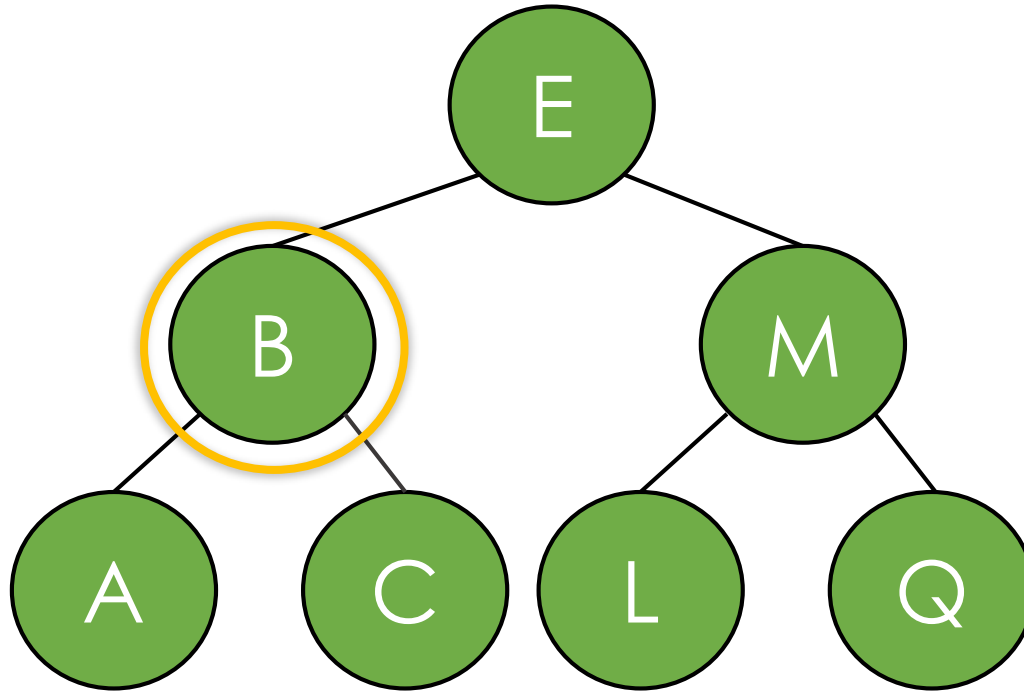


toFind

C

Compare: E and C

# Binary Search Tree - Searching

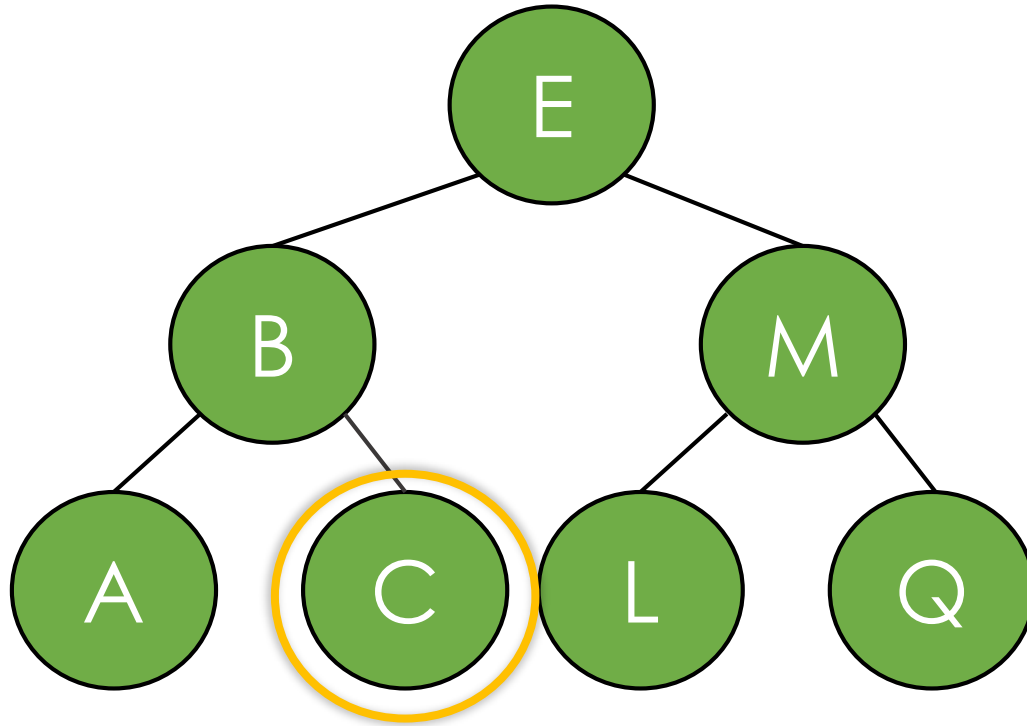


toFind

C

Compare: B and C

# Binary Search Tree - Searching

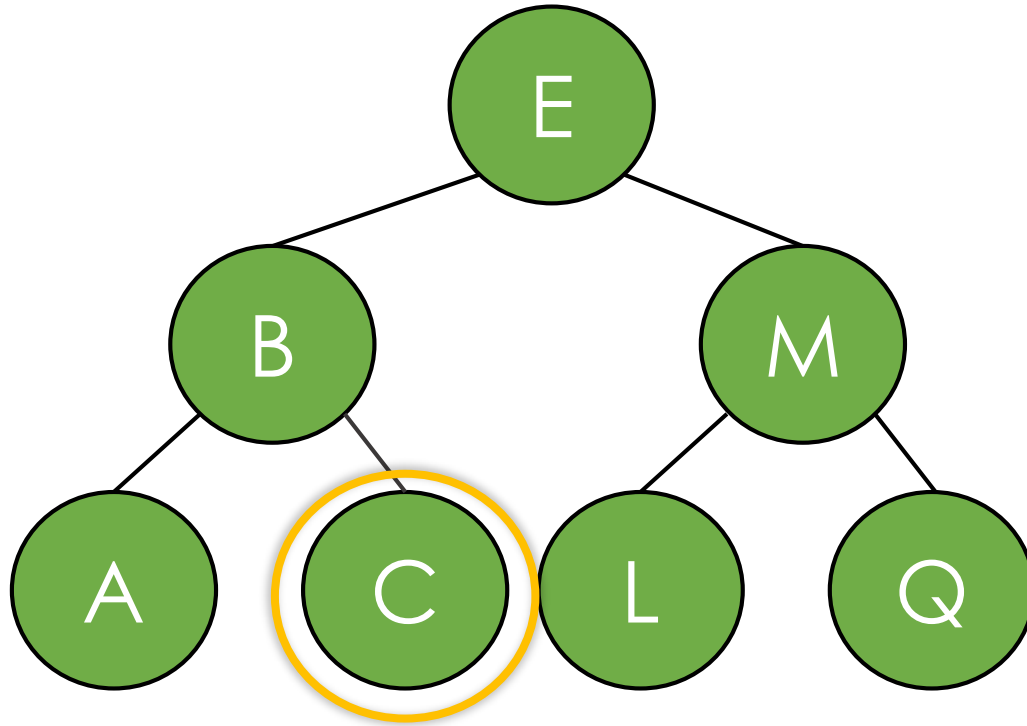


toFind

c

Compare: C and C

# Binary Search Tree - Searching



toFind

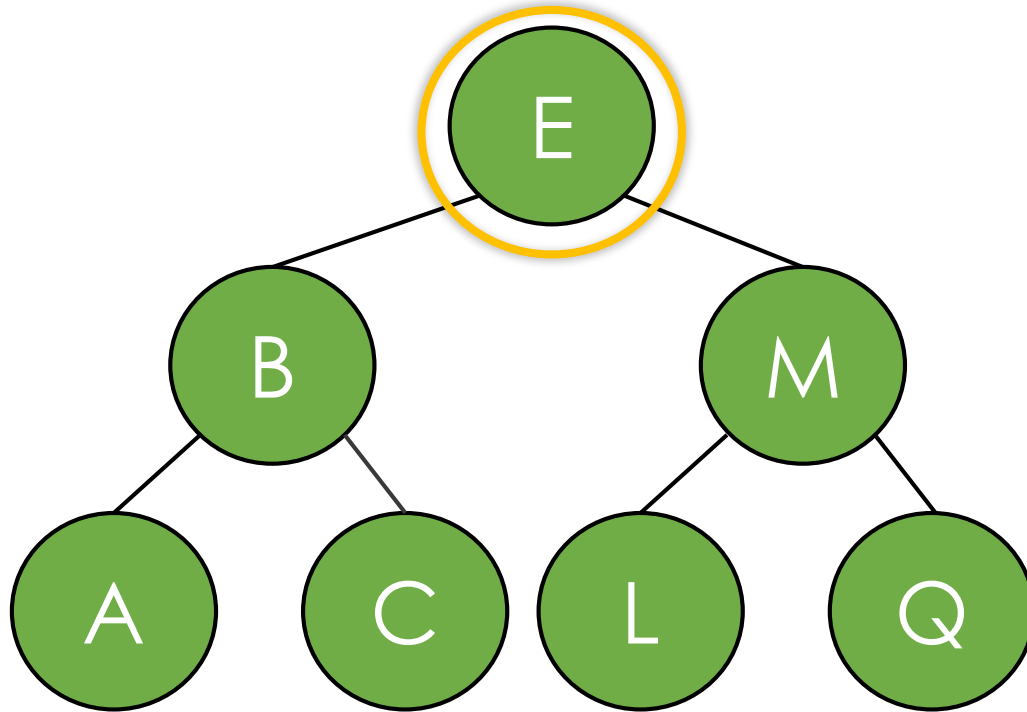
c

Compare: C and C

**Found it!**



# Binary Search Tree - Searching

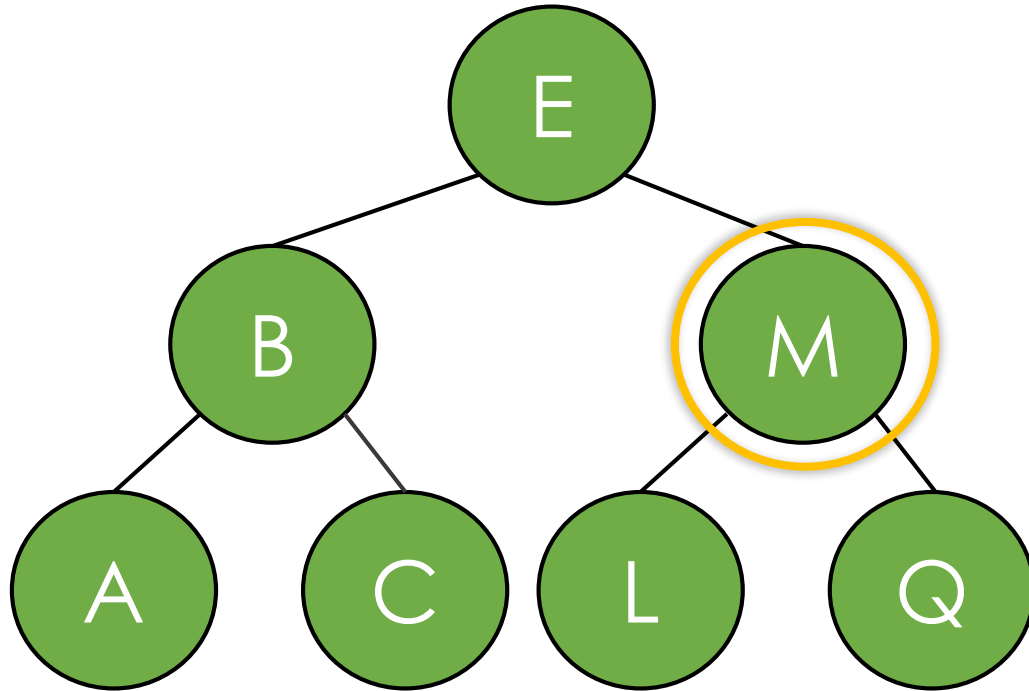


toFind

P

Compare: E and P

# Binary Search Tree - Searching

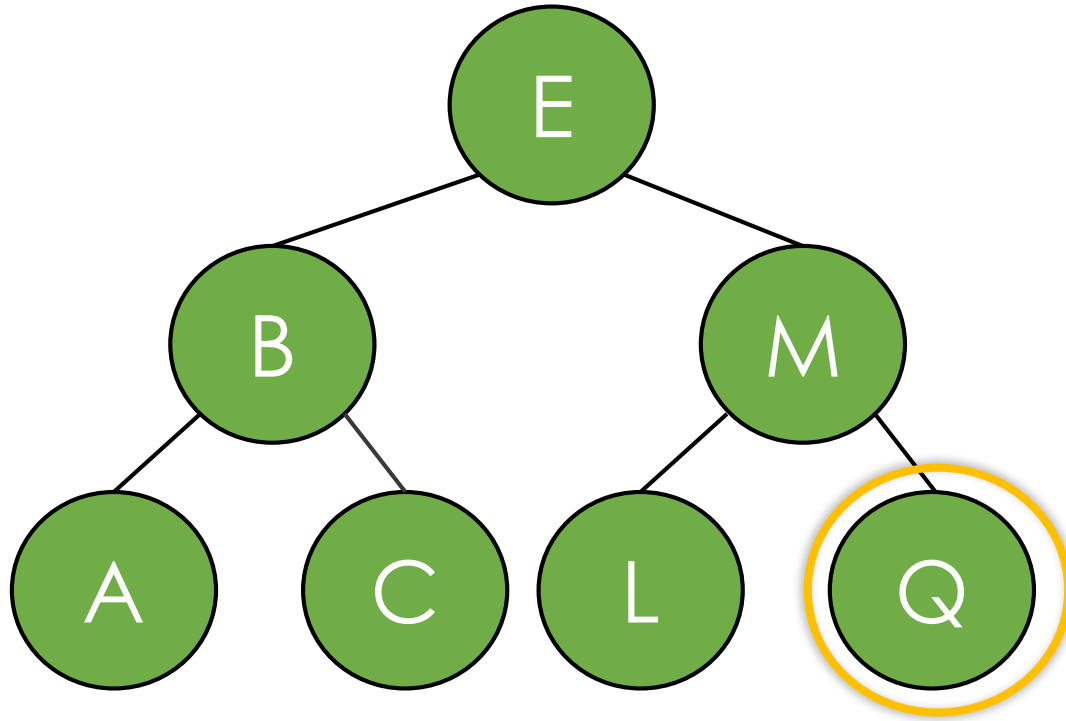


toFind

P

Compare: M and P

# Binary Search Tree - Searching

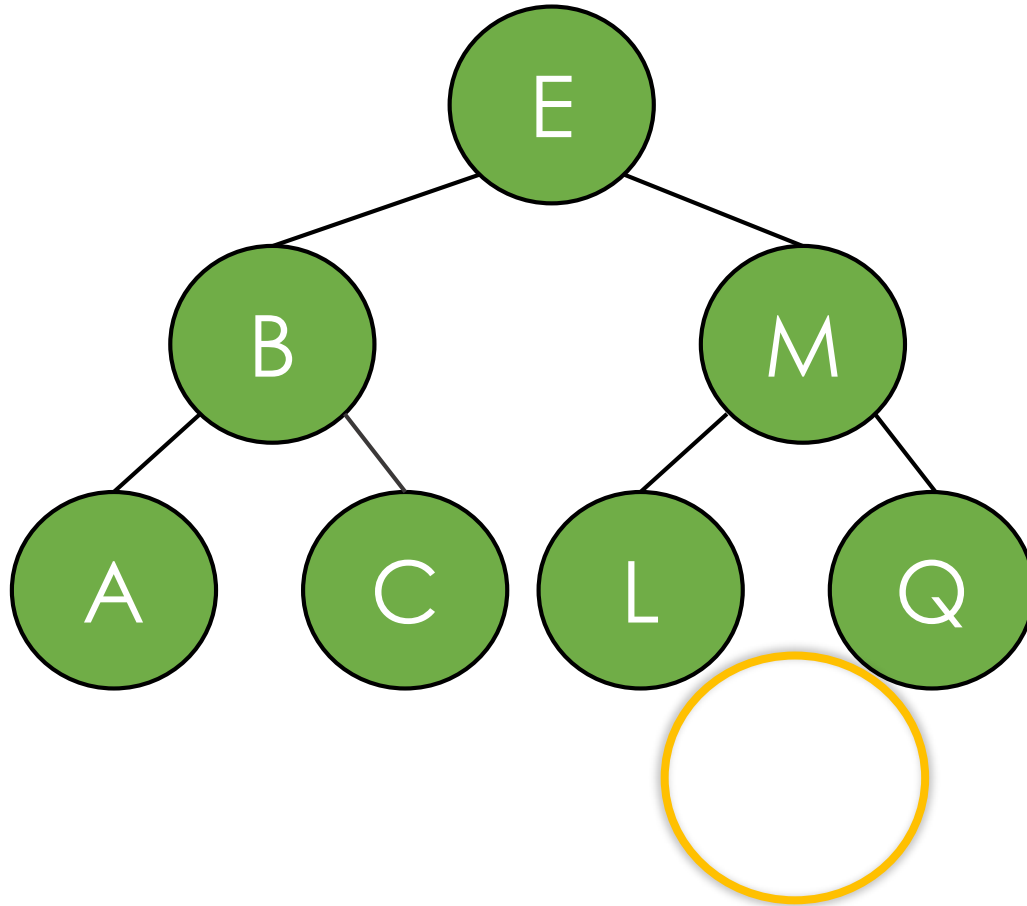


toFind

P

Compare: P and Q

# Binary Search Tree - Searching



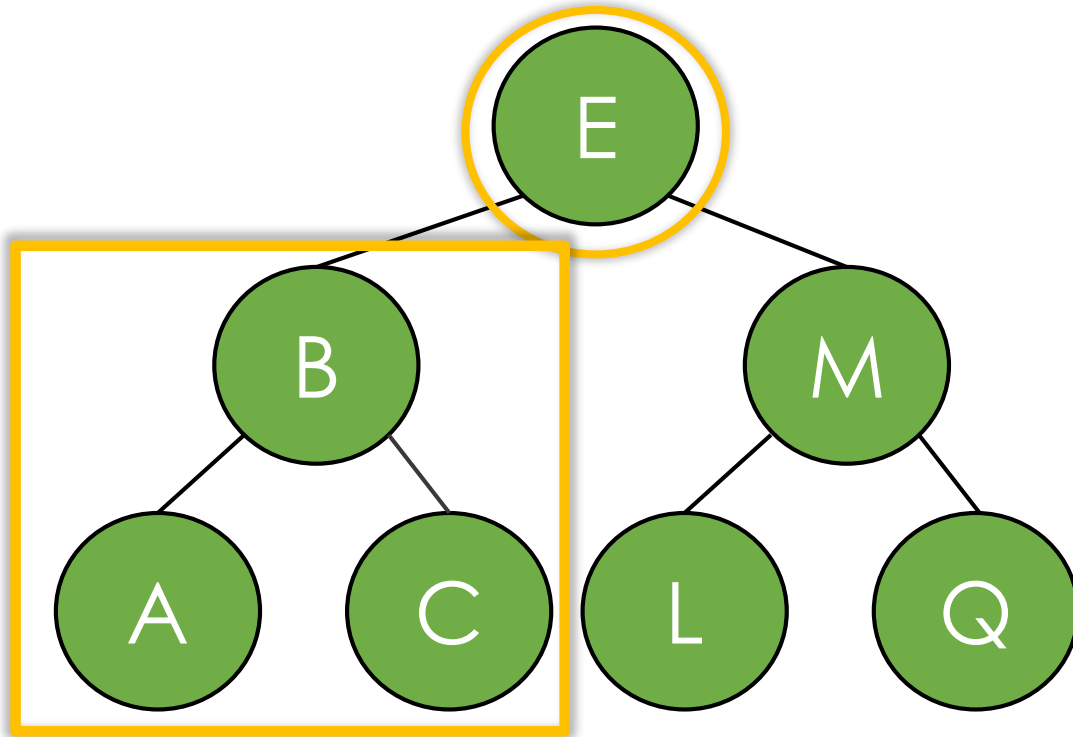
toFind

P

Node is null

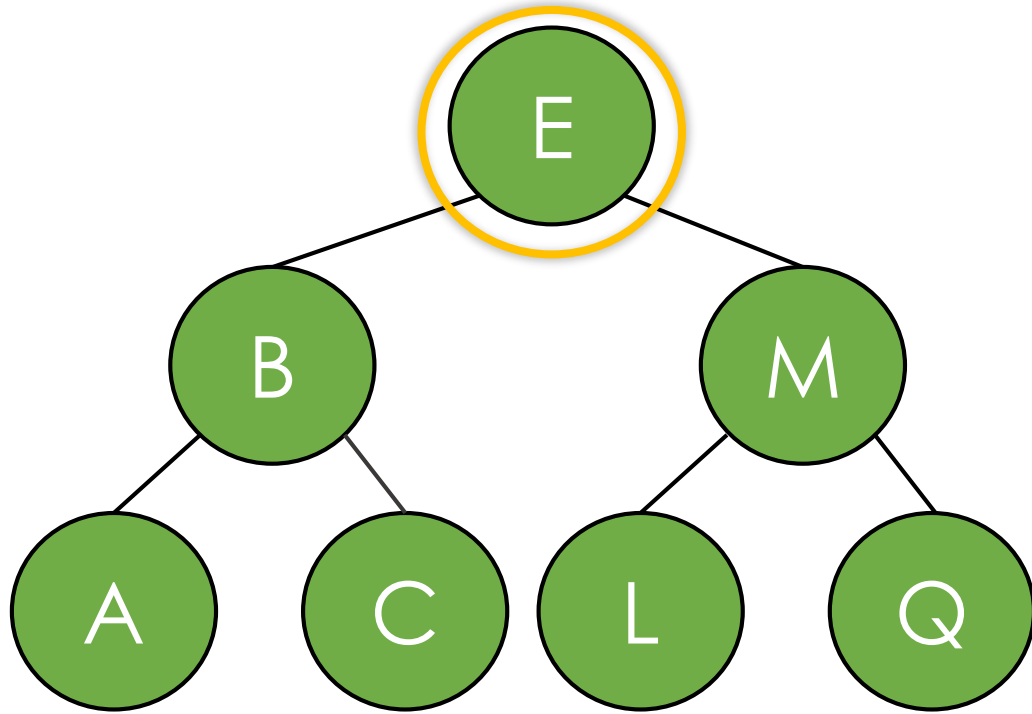
**Not Found!**

# Binary Search Tree - Searching



**You could solve this  
with recursion.**

# Binary Search Tree - Searching



**You could also solve it with iteration by keeping track of your current node.**

**If you want more help, we walk through this in a support video.**

## Next step

- Insertion and deletion in a BST

# BST: Contains Algorithm

// Return if item is in the tree

// rooted at node

**contains(item):**

**curr = root**

**Start at root**

**while (curr != null) {**  
    **if (node.val == item)**

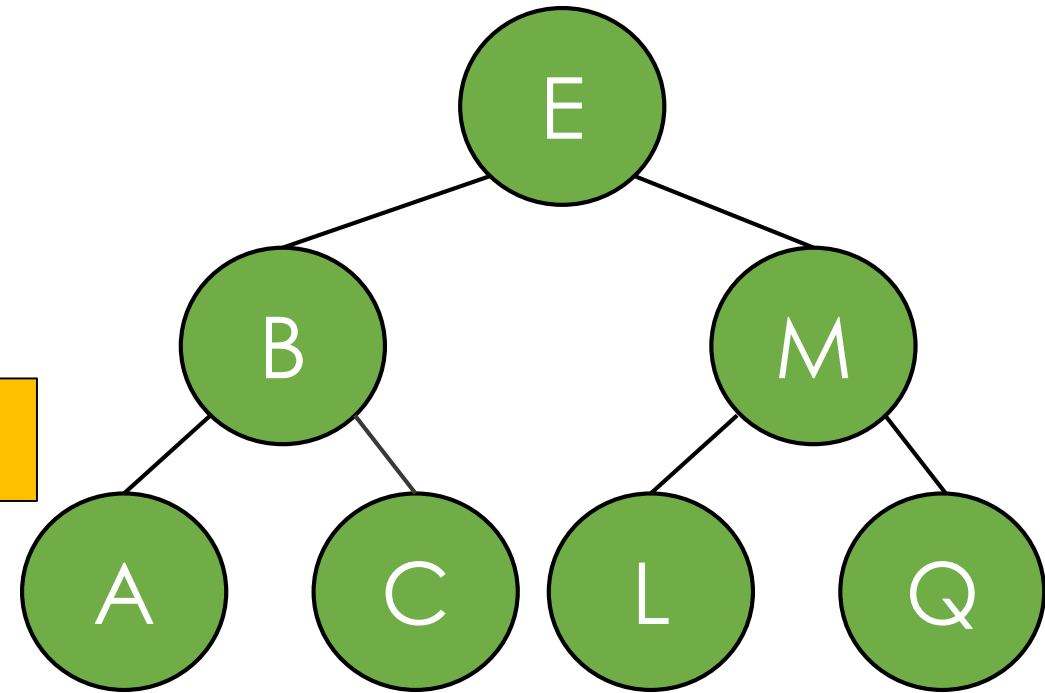
**return true**

**else if (node.val < item)**

**curr = node.right**

**else // node.val > item**

**curr = node.left**





# BST: Contains Algorithm

```
// Return if item is in the tree
```

```
// rooted at node
```

```
contains(item):
```

Start at root

```
    curr = root
```

```
    while (curr != null) {
```

```
        if (node.val == item)
```

```
            return true
```

```
        else if (node.val < item)
```

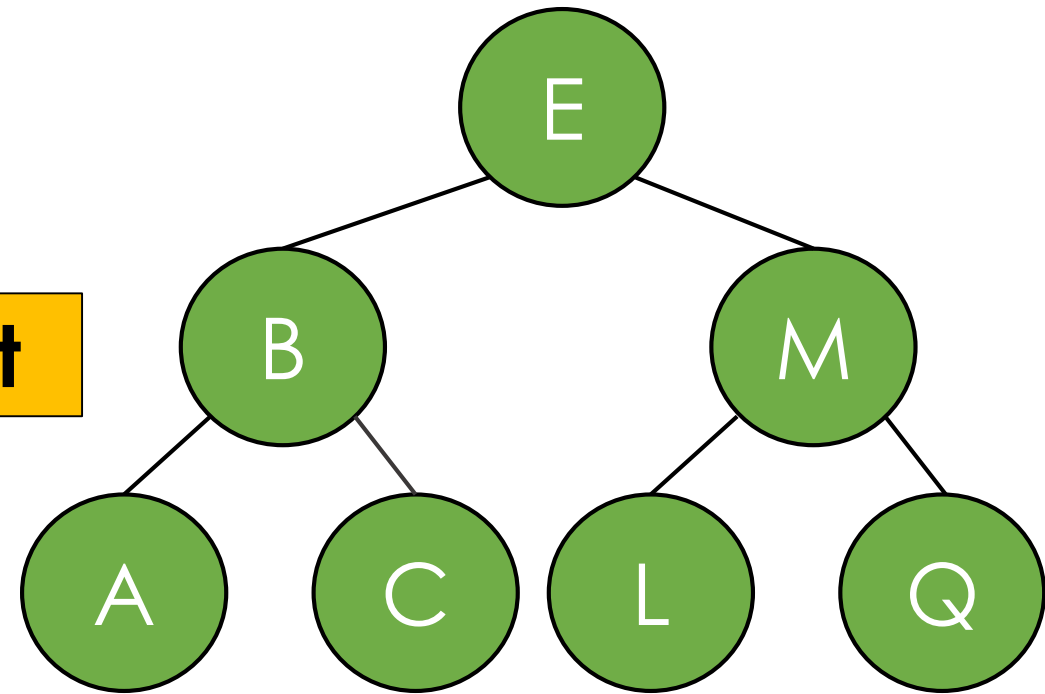
```
            curr = node.right
```

```
        else // node.val > item
```

```
            curr = node.left
```

```
    }
```

```
    return false
```



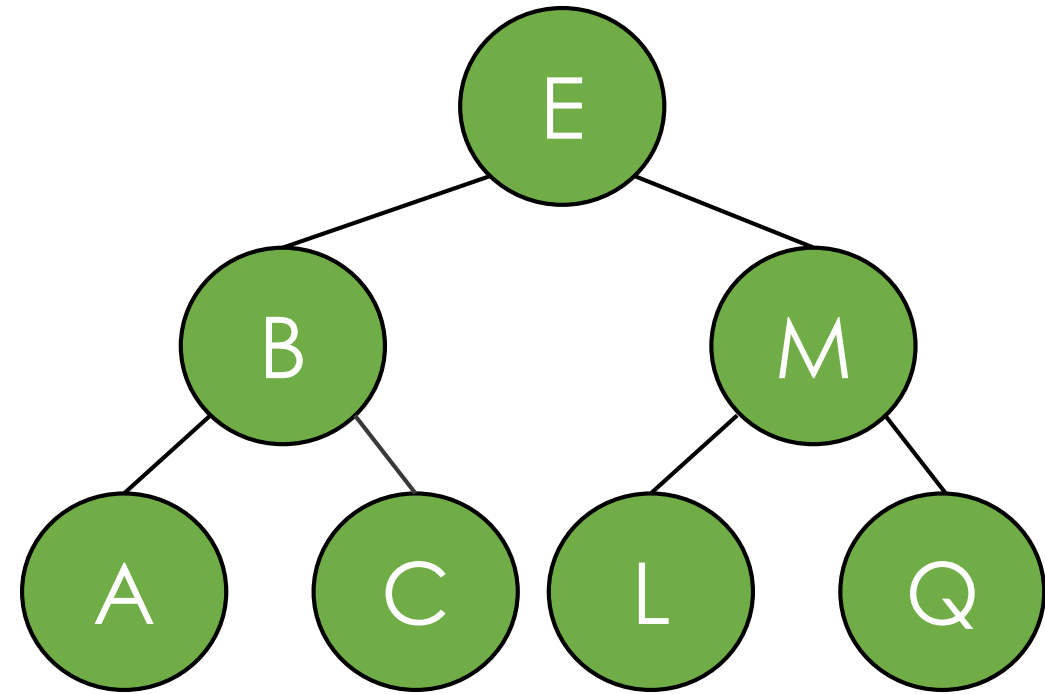
# BST: Contains Algorithm

```
// Return if item is in the tree  
// rooted at node
```

**contains(item):**

**curr = root**

```
while (curr != null) {  
    if (node.val == item)  
        return true  
    else if (node.val < item)  
        curr = node.right  
    else // node.val > item  
        curr = node.left  
}
```



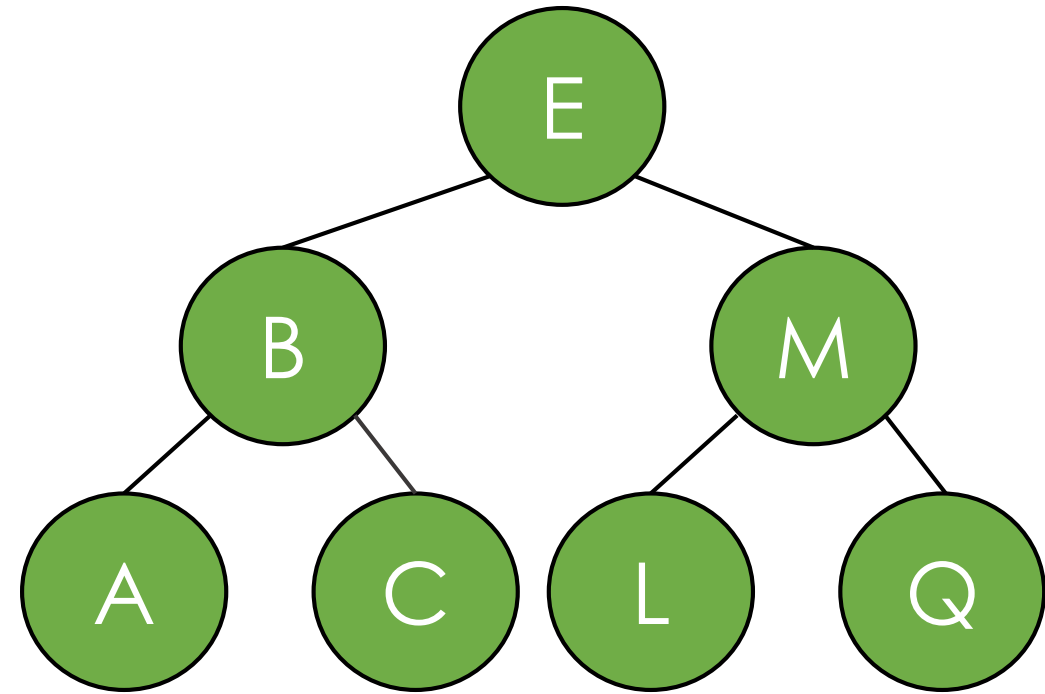
# BST: Contains Algorithm

```
// Return if item is in the tree  
// rooted at node
```

**contains(item):**

**curr = root**

```
while (curr != null) {  
    if (node.val == item)  
        return true  
    else if (node.val < item)  
        curr = node.right  
    else // node.val > item  
        curr = node.left  
}
```



# BST: Contains Algorithm

```
// Return if item is in the tree  
// rooted at node
```

**contains(item, node):**

**if (node == null)**

**return false**

**else if (node.val == item)**

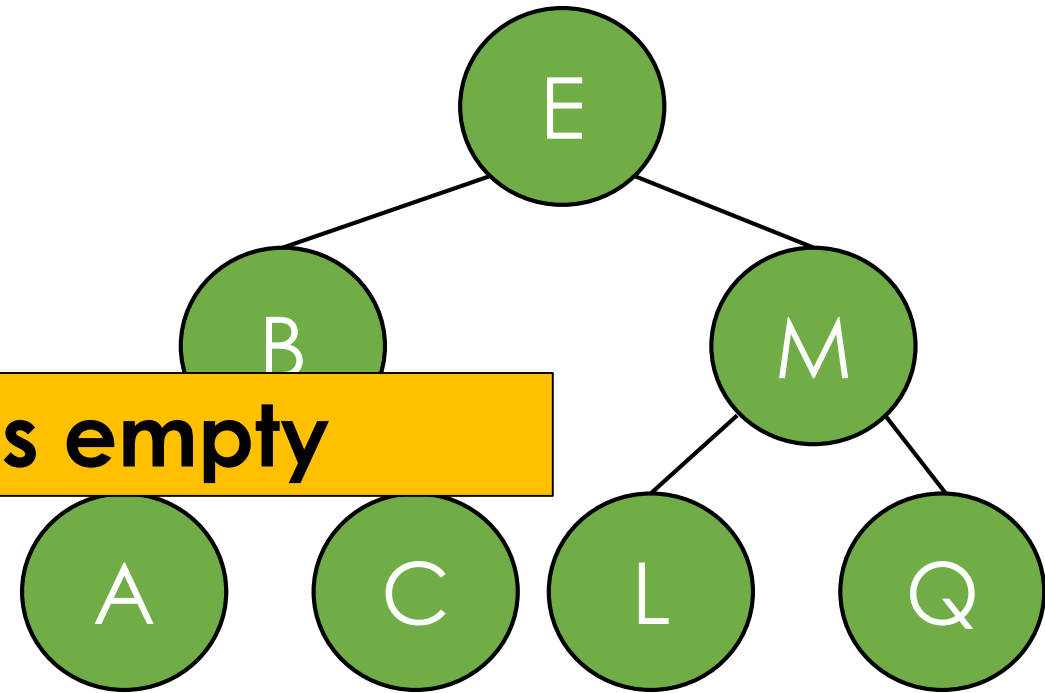
**return true**

**else if (node.val < item)**

**return contains(item, node.right)**

**else // node.val > item**

**return contains(item, node.left)**



# BST: Contains Algorithm

// Return if item is in the tree

// rooted at node

**contains(item, node):**

if (node == null)

return false

else if (node.val == item)

return true

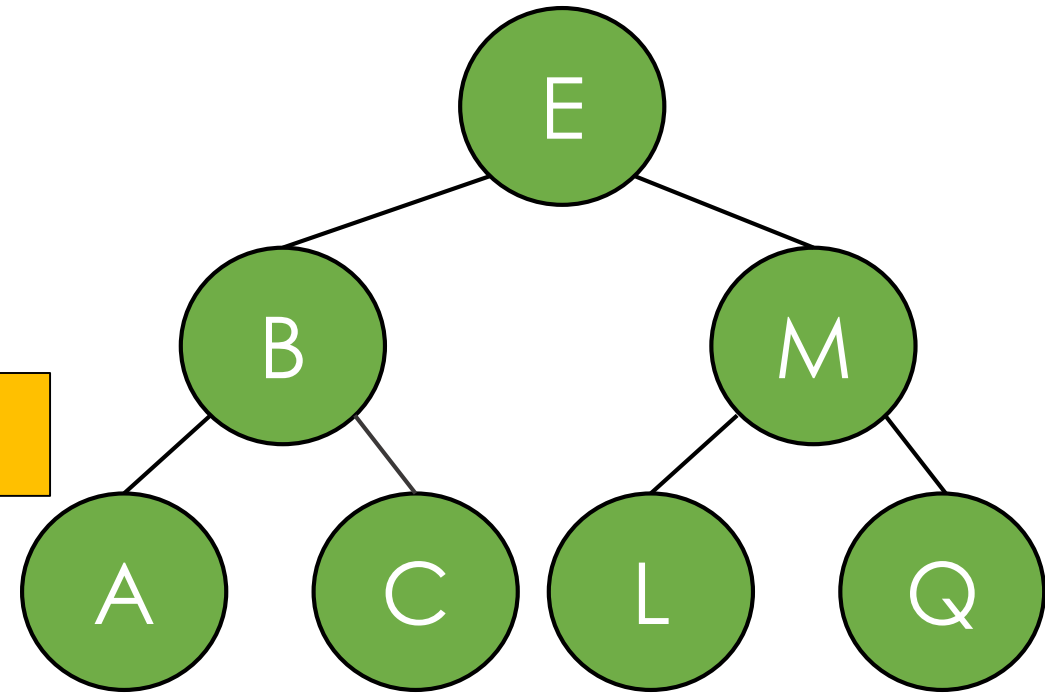
else if (node.val < item)

return contains(item, node.right)

else // node.val > item

return contains(item, node.left)

**Found it!**



# BST: Contains Algorithm

```
// Return if item is in the tree  
// rooted at node
```

**contains(item, node):**

**if (node == null)**

**return false**

**else if (node.val == item)**

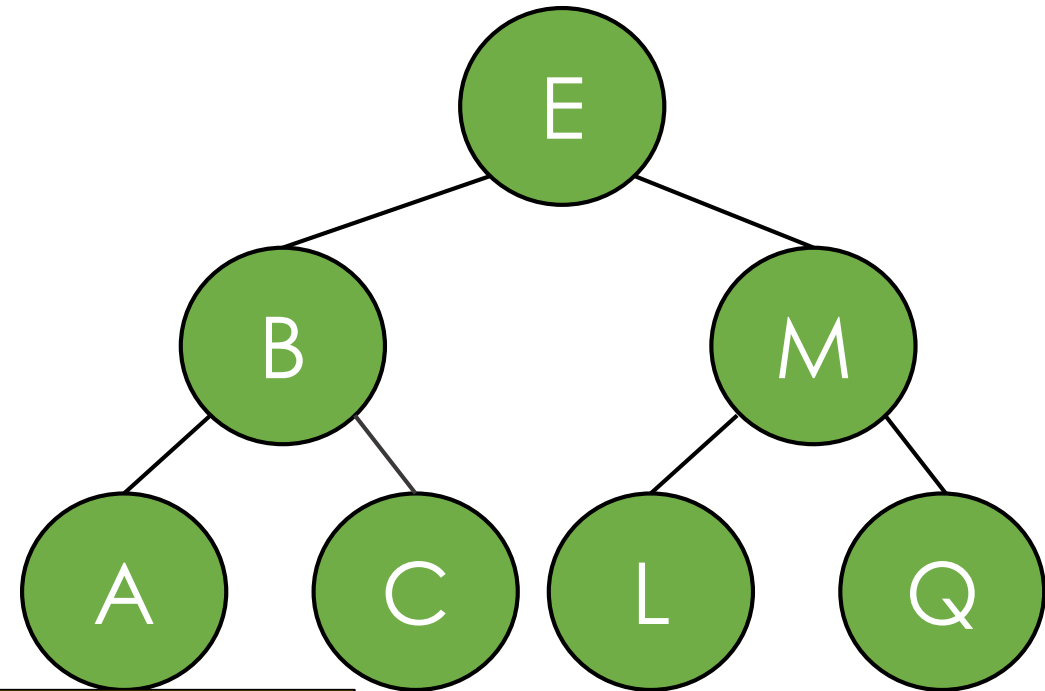
**return true**

**else if (node.val < item)**

**return contains(item, node.right)**

**else // node.val > item**

**return contains(item, node.left)**



**Look right**

# BST: Contains Algorithm

```
// Return if item is in the tree  
// rooted at node
```

```
contains(item, node):
```

```
    if (node == null)
```

```
        return false
```

```
    else if (node.val == item)
```

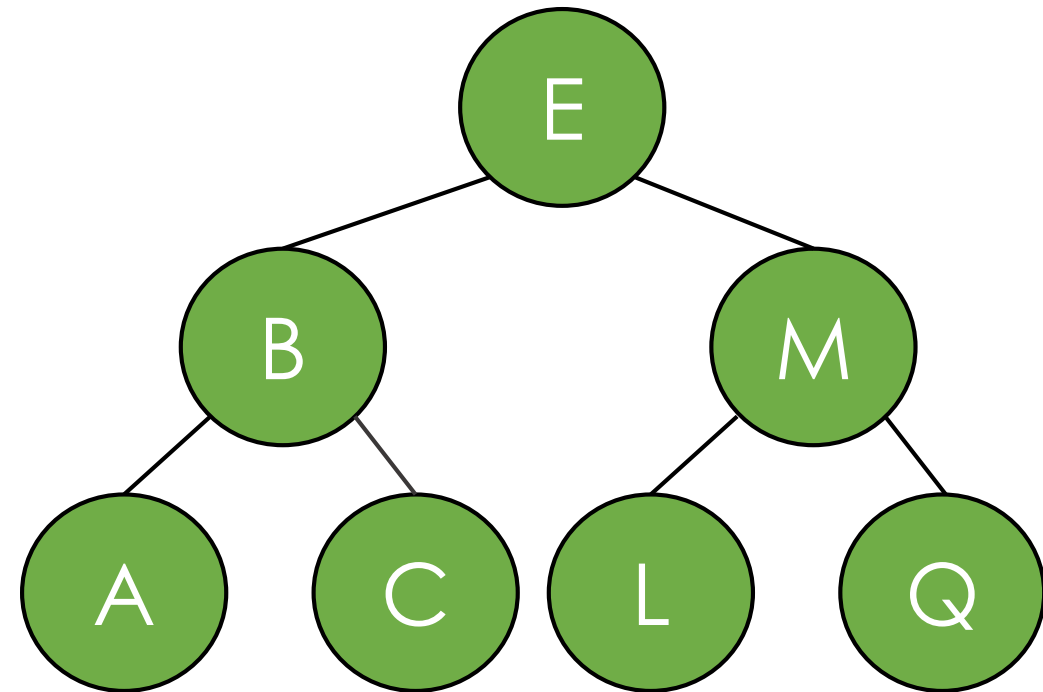
```
        return true
```

```
    else if (node.val < item)
```

```
        return contains(item, node.right)
```

```
    else // node.val > item
```

```
        return contains(item, node.left)
```



Look left