

INTRODUCTION TO DATA STRUCTURES  
and  
ALGORITHMS

Rutgers University

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## BINARY SEARCH TREES

- *Symbol Table*
- *BSTs*
- *Ordered operations*
- *Iteration*
- *Deletion*



# BINARY SEARCH TREES

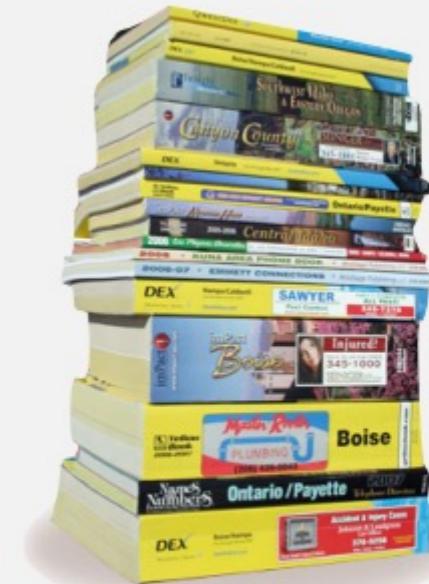
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- *Symbol Table*
- *BSTs*
- *Ordered operations*
- *Iteration*
- *Deletion*

# Motivation – Symbol Table

LO 5.1

Telephone books are obsolete

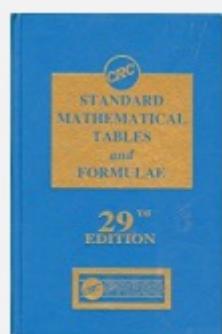


## Unsupported Operations

- Add a new name and associated number
- Remove a given name and associated number
- Change the number associated with a given name

key = name  
value = phone number

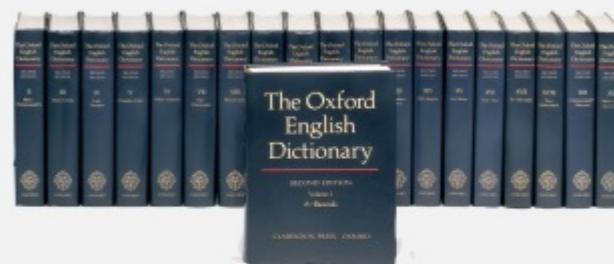
Idea. Store data as (key, value) pairs



key = math function and input  
value = function output



key = term  
value = article



key = word  
value = definition

# A Symbol Table API

LO 5.1

two generic type parameters

```
public class ST<Key extends Comparable<Key>, Value>
```

ST()

*create an empty symbol table*

void put(Key key, Value val)

*insert key-value pair*

← a[key] = val;

Value get(Key key)

*value paired with key*

← a[key]

boolean contains(Key key)

*is there a value paired with key?*

Iterable<Key> keys()

*all the keys in the symbol table*

void delete(Key key)

*remove key (and associated value)*

boolean isEmpty()

*is the symbol table empty?*

int size()

*number of key-value pairs*

An **API** (Application Programming Interface) defines what kind of operations are available to client programs.

# Goal – Design a Symbol Table

LO 5.1



Design a symbol table that can support **ordered** operations

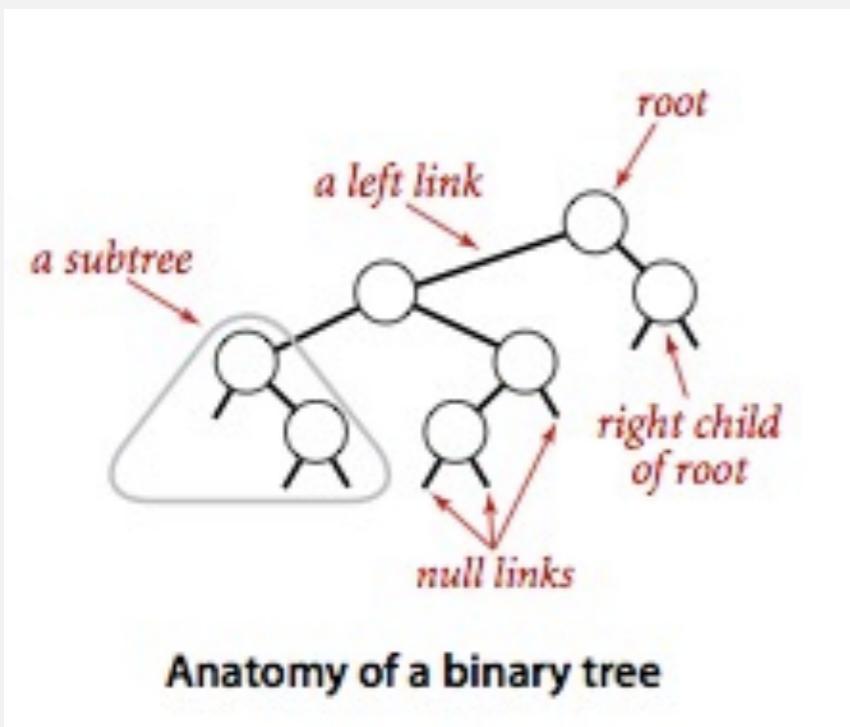
	keys	values
min()	→ 9:00:00	Chicago
	9:00:03	Phoenix
	9:00:13	Houston ← get(9:00:13)
	9:00:59	Chicago
	9:01:10	Houston
floor(9:05:00)	→ 9:03:13	Chicago
	9:10:11	Seattle
select(7)	→ 9:10:25	Seattle
rank(9:10:25) = 7	9:14:25	Phoenix
	9:19:32	Chicago
	9:19:46	Chicago
	9:21:05	Chicago
	9:22:43	Seattle
	9:22:54	Seattle
	9:25:52	Chicago
ceiling(9:30:00)	→ 9:35:21	Chicago
	9:36:14	Seattle
max()	→ 9:37:44	Phoenix

# Ordered Symbol Table API

LO 5.1

<code>public class ST&lt;Key extends Comparable&lt;Key&gt;, Value&gt;</code>	
<code>:</code>	
<code>Key min()</code>	<i>smallest key</i>
<code>Key max()</code>	<i>largest key</i>
<code>Key floor(Key key)</code>	<i>largest key less than or equal to key</i>
<code>Key ceiling(Key key)</code>	<i>smallest key greater than or equal to key</i>
<code>int rank(Key key)</code>	<i>number of keys less than key</i>
<code>Key select(int k)</code>	<i>key of rank k</i>
<code>:</code>	

**Goal.** Implement ordered symbol using appropriate data structure that can support ordered operations, **efficiently**



# BINARY SEARCH TREES

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- ▶ *Symbol Table*
- ▶ ***BSTs***
- ▶ *Ordered operations*
- ▶ *Iteration*
- ▶ *Deletion*

# Binary Search Tree (BST) Motivation (Optional)

Data Structure	Insert		Delete		Search		
	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	
Unsorted	Array	O(1)	O(1)	O(1)	O(n)	O(1)	O(n)
	Linked List	O(1)	O(1)	O(1)	O(n)	O(1)	O(n)
Sorted	Array	O(n)	O(n)	O(1)	O(n)	O(1)	O(log n)
	Linked List	O(1)	O(n)	O(1)	O(n)	O(1)	O(n)

Only if array is kept  
sparse (with empty cells)

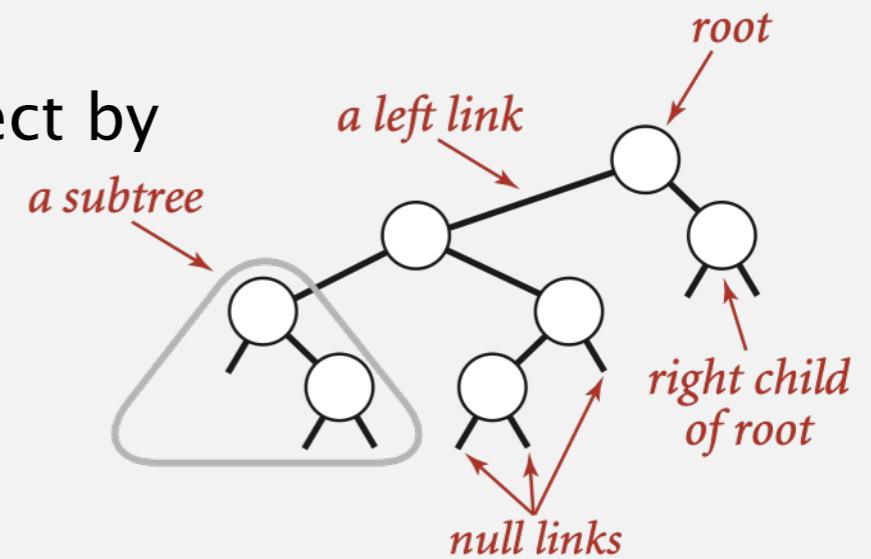
BST is a dynamic structure that combines the *flexibility of insertion in a linked structure* with the *efficiency of search in an ordered array*.

# Binary search tree (BST)

**Definition.** A BST is a **binary tree** in **symmetric order**.

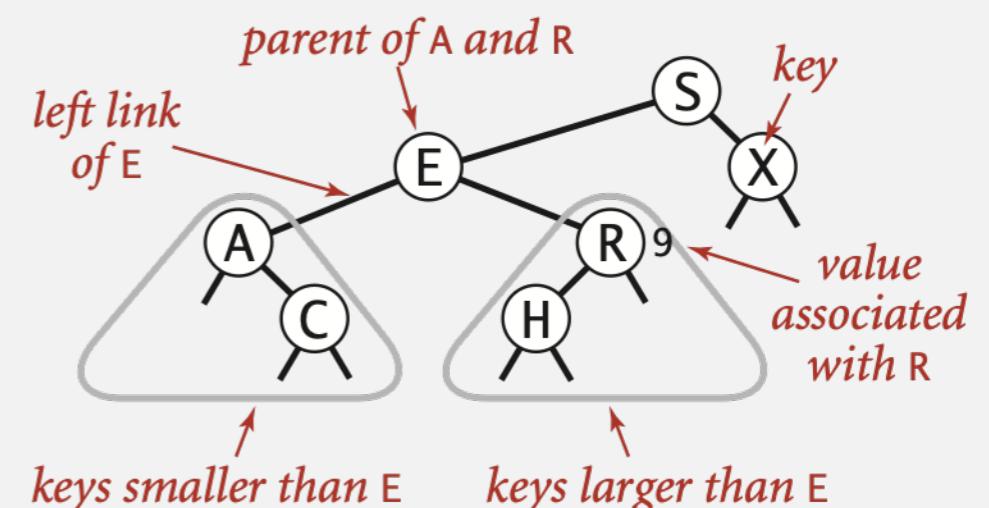
A binary tree is either:

- Empty.
- Two disjoint binary trees (left and right) connect by a root node.



**Symmetric order.** Each node has a key, and every node's key is:

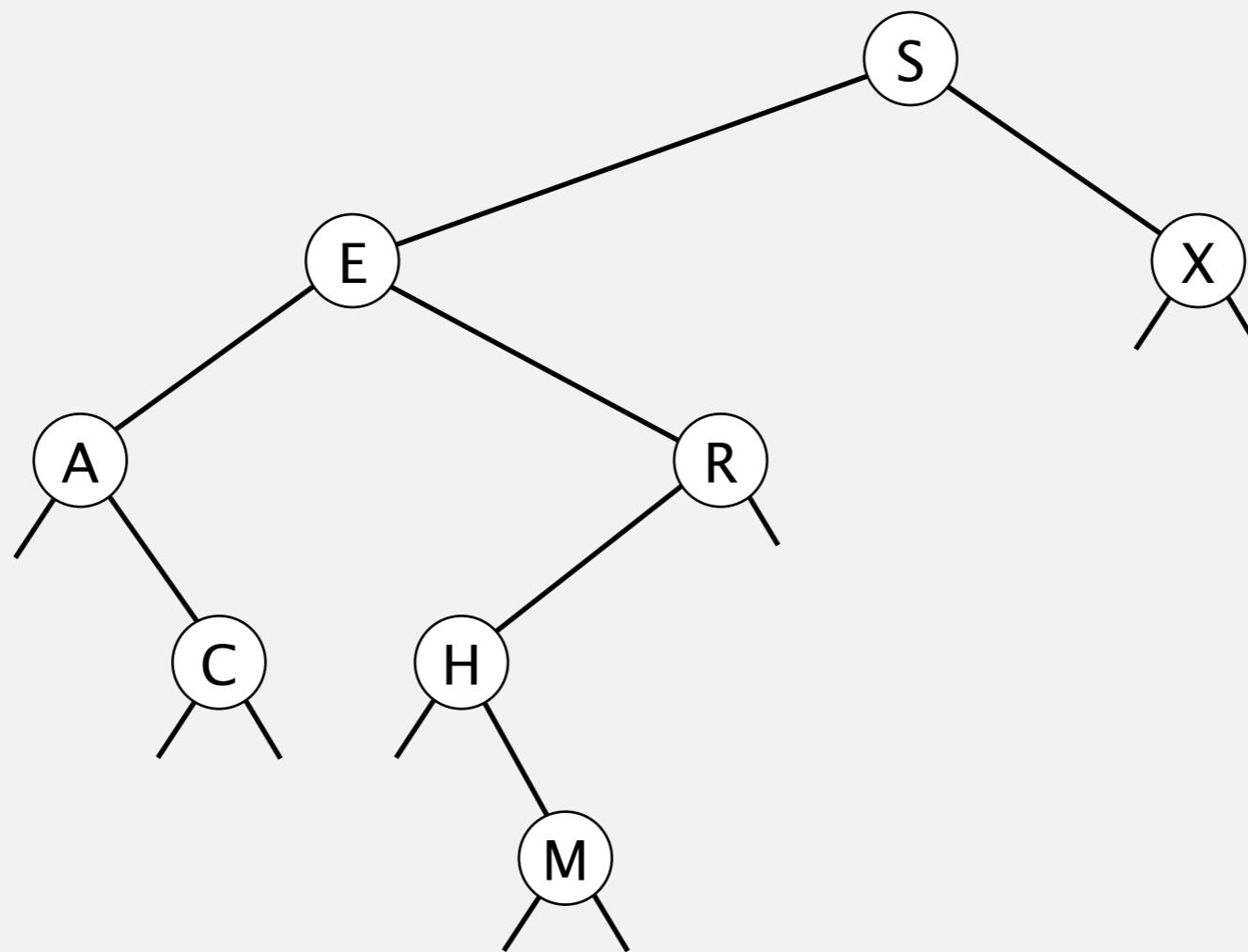
- Larger than all keys in its left subtree.
- Smaller than all keys in its right subtree.



## Search.

Start at the root; If less, go left; if greater, go right; if equal, search hit.

**successful search for H**



# Binary search tree demo

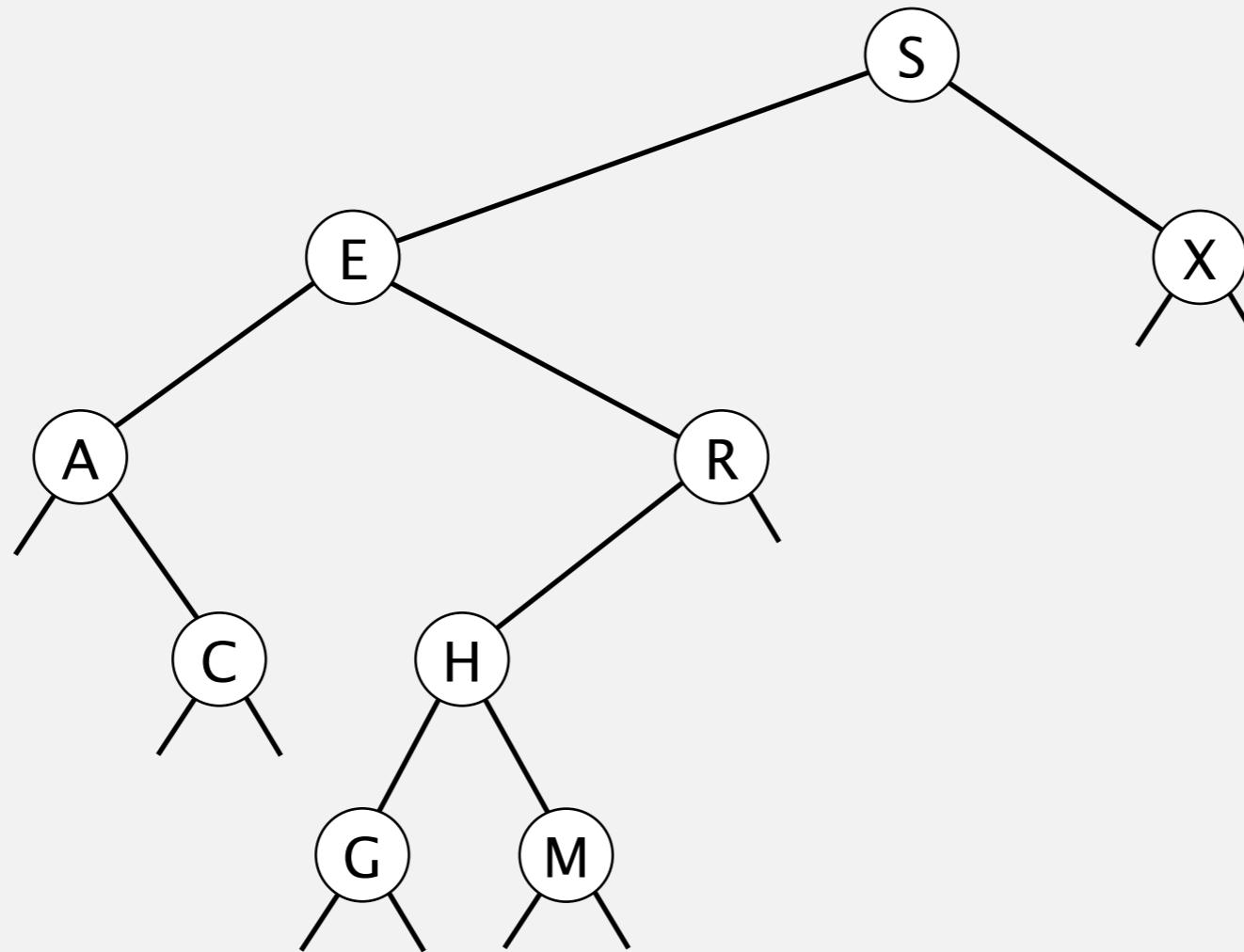
LO 5.3

## Insert.

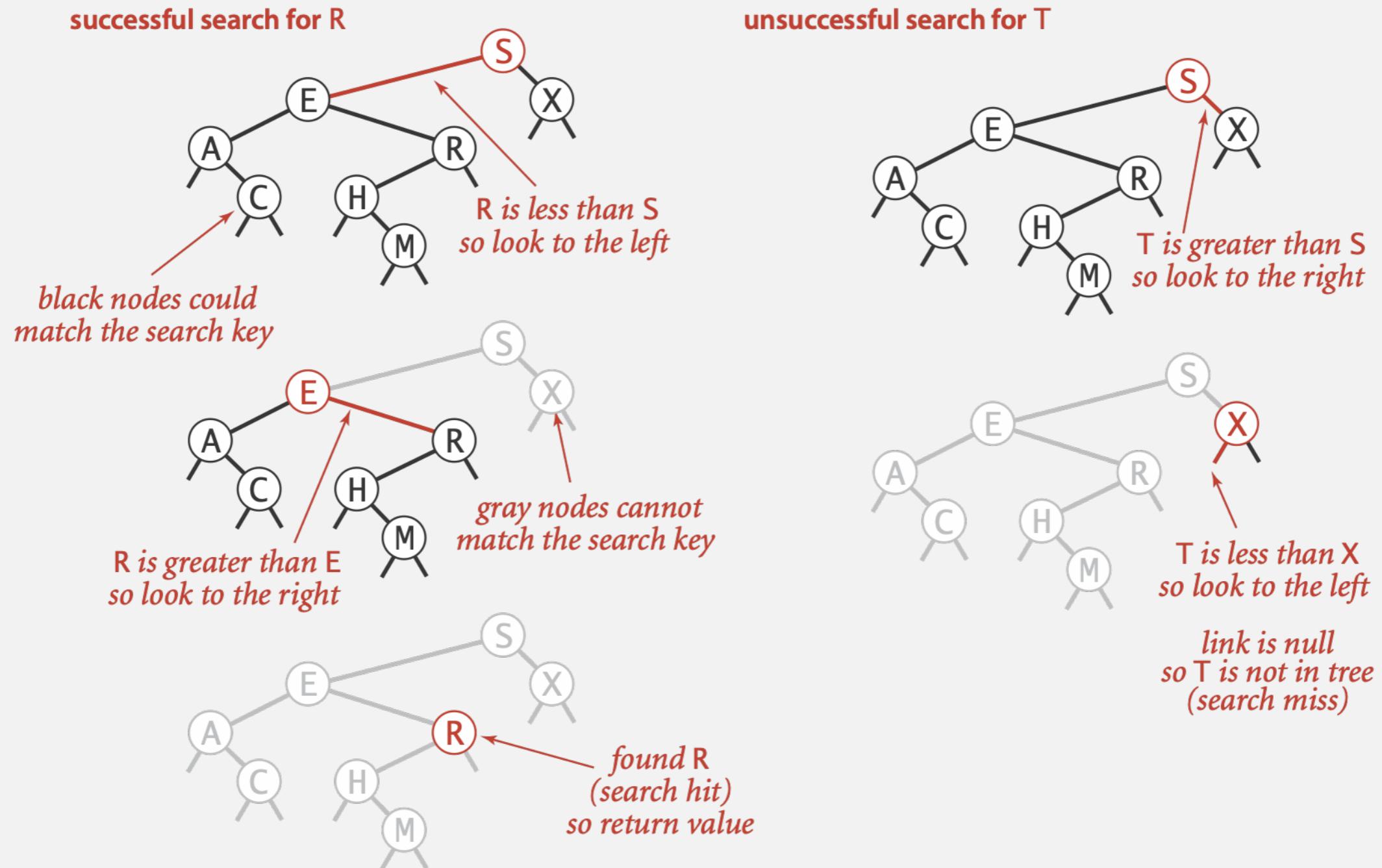
Start at the root; If less, go left; if greater, go right; if null, insert.

Intuition: search until it fails, insert at failure point.

insert G



Get. Return value corresponding to given key, or null if no such key.



Java definition. A BST is a reference to a root Node.

A Node is composed of four fields:

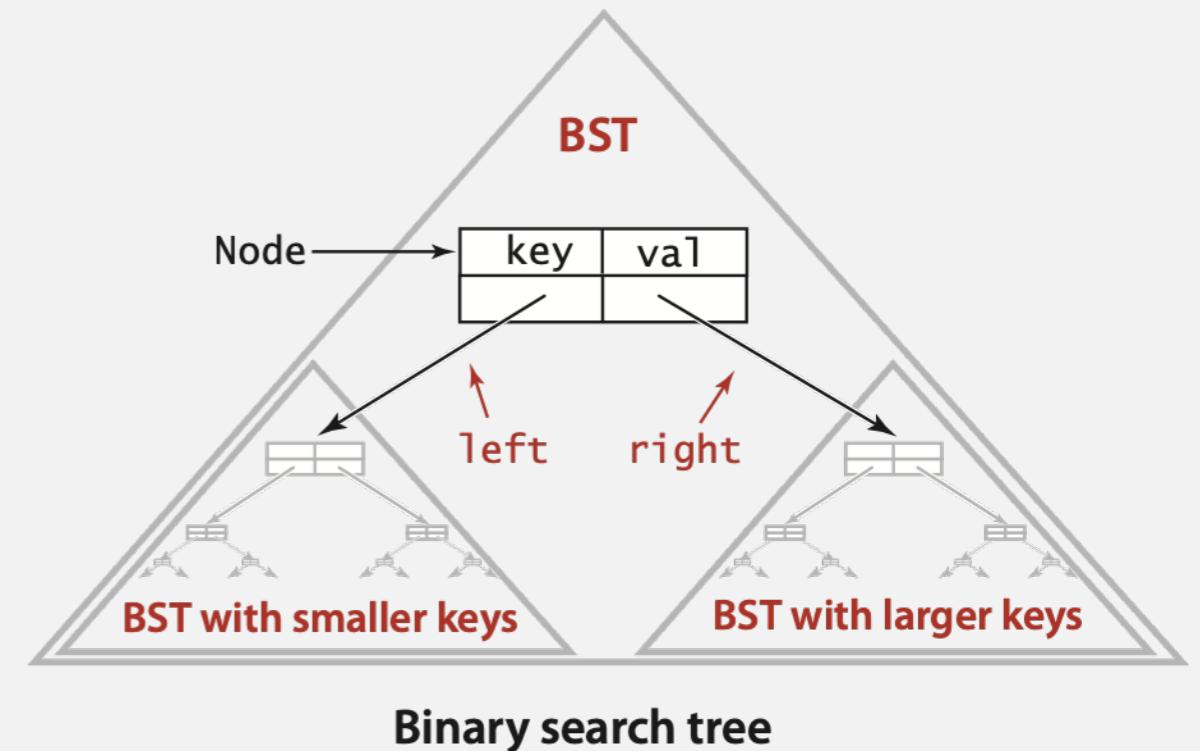
- A Key and a Value.
- A reference to the left and right subtree.



```
private class Node
{
    private Key key;
    private Value val;
    private Node left, right;

    public Node(Key key, Value val)
    {
        this.key = key;
        this.val = val;
    }
}
```

Key and Value are generic types; Key is Comparable



# BST implementation (skeleton)

LO 5.3

```
public class BST<Key extends Comparable<Key>, Value>
{
    private Node root;           ← root of BST

    private class Node
    { /* see previous slide */ }

    public void put(Key key, Value val)
    { /* see next slide */ }

    public Value get(Key key)
    { /* see next slide */ }

    public Iterable<Key> keys()
    { /* see slides in next section */ }

    public void delete(Key key)
    { /* see textbook */ }

}
```

**Get.** Return value corresponding to given key, or null if no such key.

```
public Value get(Key key)
{
    Node x = root;
    while (x != null)
    {
        int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key);
        if      (cmp < 0) x = x.left;
        else if (cmp > 0) x = x.right;
        else if (cmp == 0) return x.val;
    }
    return null;
}
```

key in x is too big  
(so look in left subtree)

key in x is too small  
(so look in right subtree)

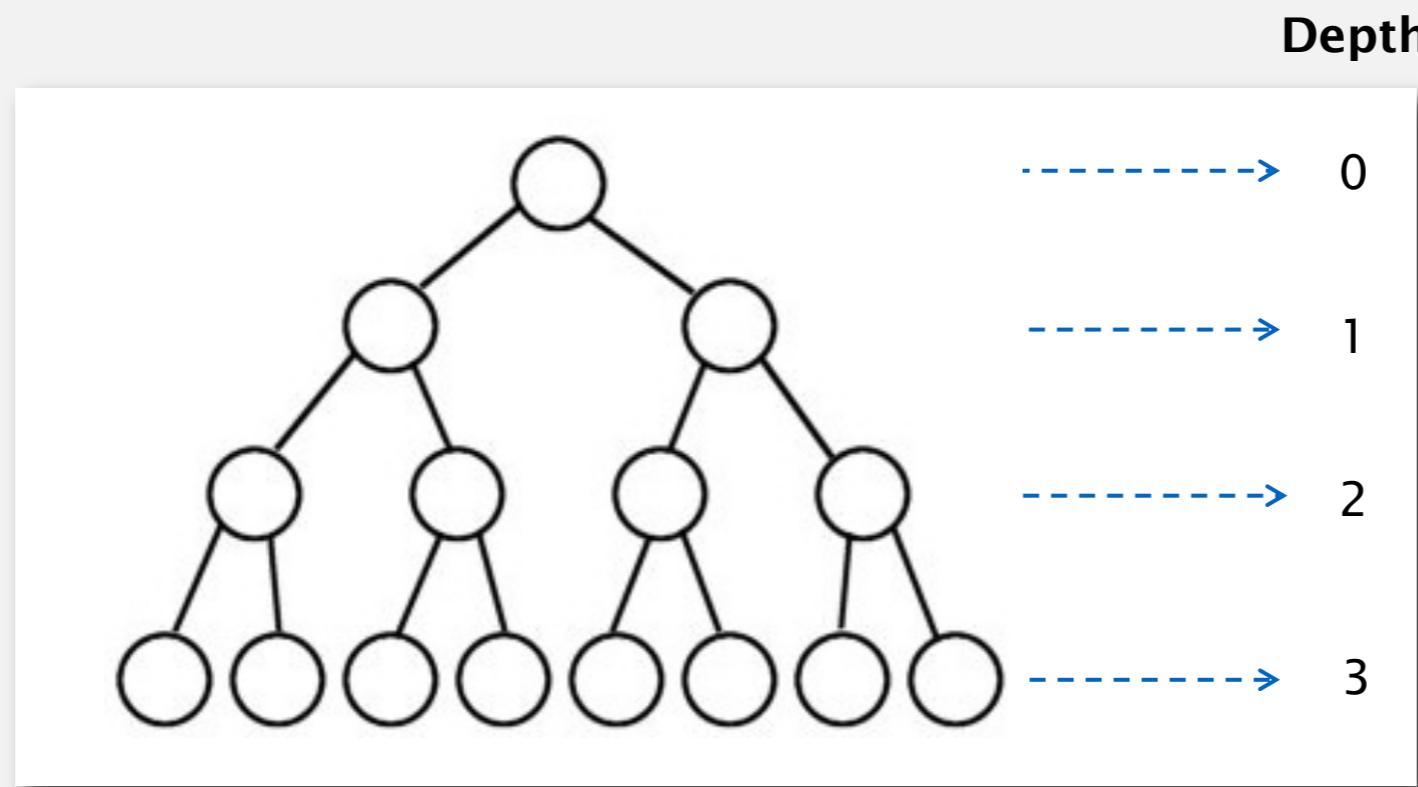
**Cost.** Number of compares = 1 + depth of node.

## Depth of a node in a tree and the height of a tree

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The *depth of a node* is the number of links on the path from it to the root.

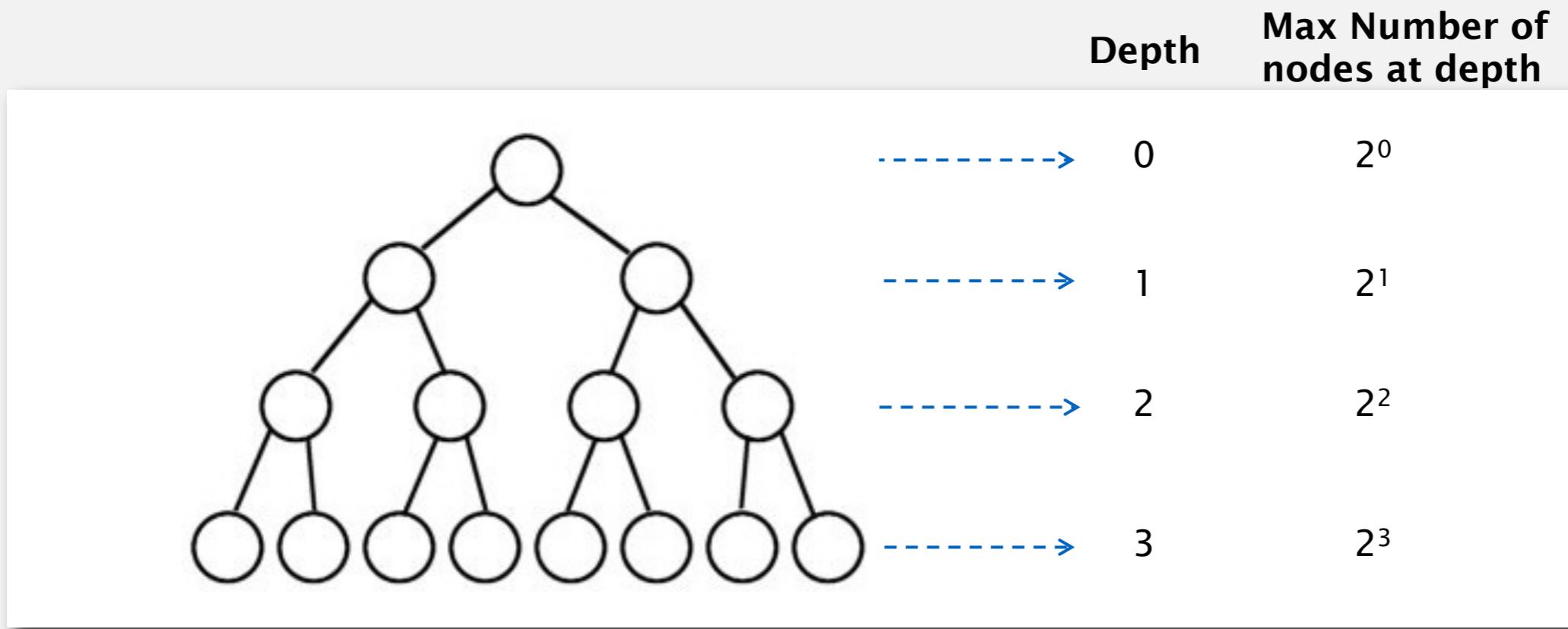
Root's depth is 0



The *height of a tree* is the maximum depth among its nodes.

# Height of a binary tree

The *height ( $h$ ) of a tree* is the maximum depth among its nodes.



Use the maximum number of nodes in the tree to derive its height.

The last level, deepest depth, may have up to  $2^h$  nodes.

Let  $N_{max}$  be the maximum number of nodes in a tree of height  $h$

$$N_{max} = 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^h = 2^{h+1} - 1$$

$$N_{max} + 1 = 2^{h+1}$$

$$h = \log(N_{max} + 1) - 1$$

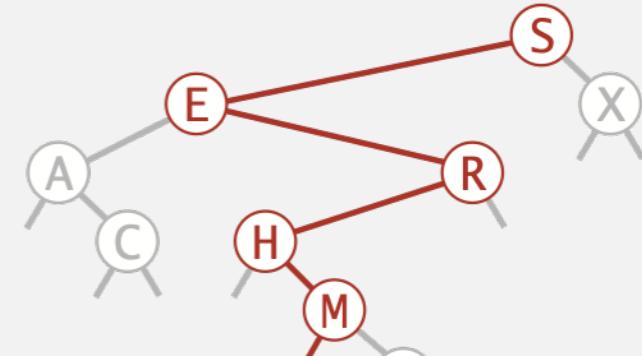
# BST insert

Put. Associate value with key.

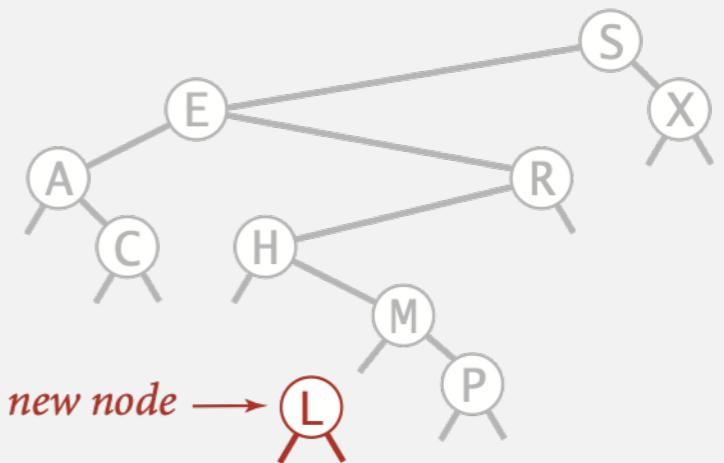
Search for key, then two cases:

- Key in tree  $\Rightarrow$  reset value.
- Key not in tree  $\Rightarrow$  add new node.

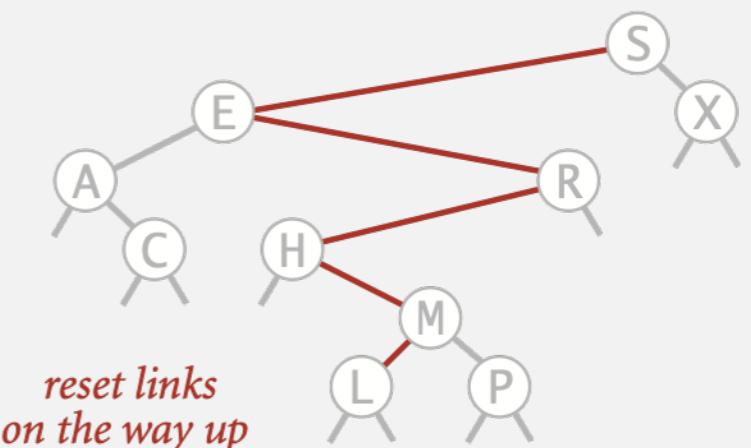
inserting L



*search for L ends  
at this null link*



*create new node → L*



*reset links  
on the way up*

Insertion into a BST

**Put.** Associate value with key.

```
public void put (Key key, Value val)
{ root = put (root, key, val); }

private Node put (Node x, Key key, Value val)
{
    if (x == null) return new Node(key, val);
    int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key);

    if      (cmp < 0) x.left  = put(x.left,  key, val);
    else if (cmp > 0) x.right = put(x.right, key, val);
    else if (cmp == 0) x.val   = val;

    return x;
}
```

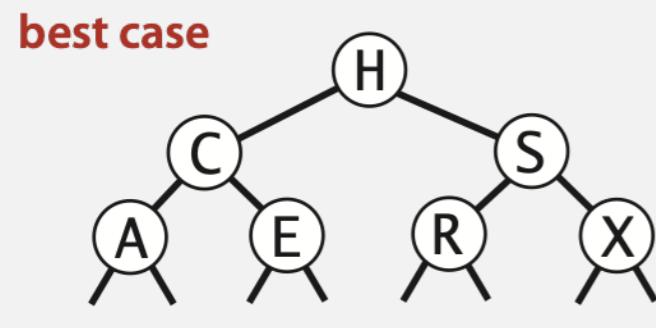
 **Warning: concise but tricky code; read carefully!**

**Cost.** Number of compares = 1 + depth of node.

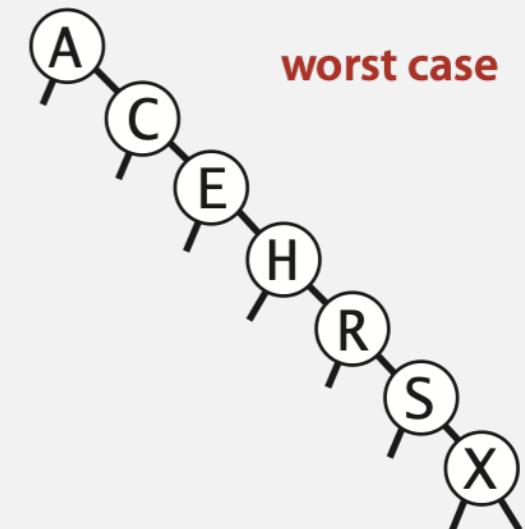
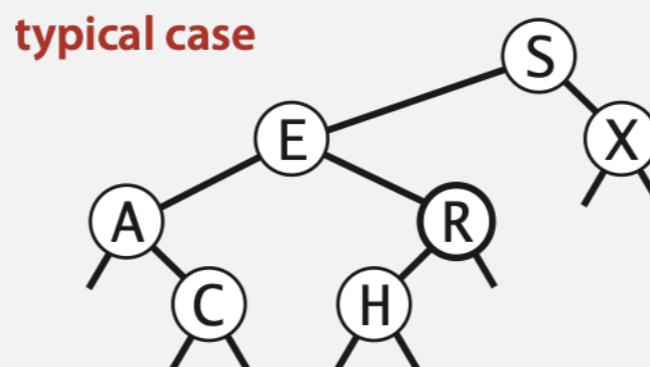
# Tree shape

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- Many BSTs correspond to same set of keys.
- Number of compares for search/insert = 1 + depth of node.
- The worst-case number of compares for search/insert depends on the tree shape:



$O(\log n)$



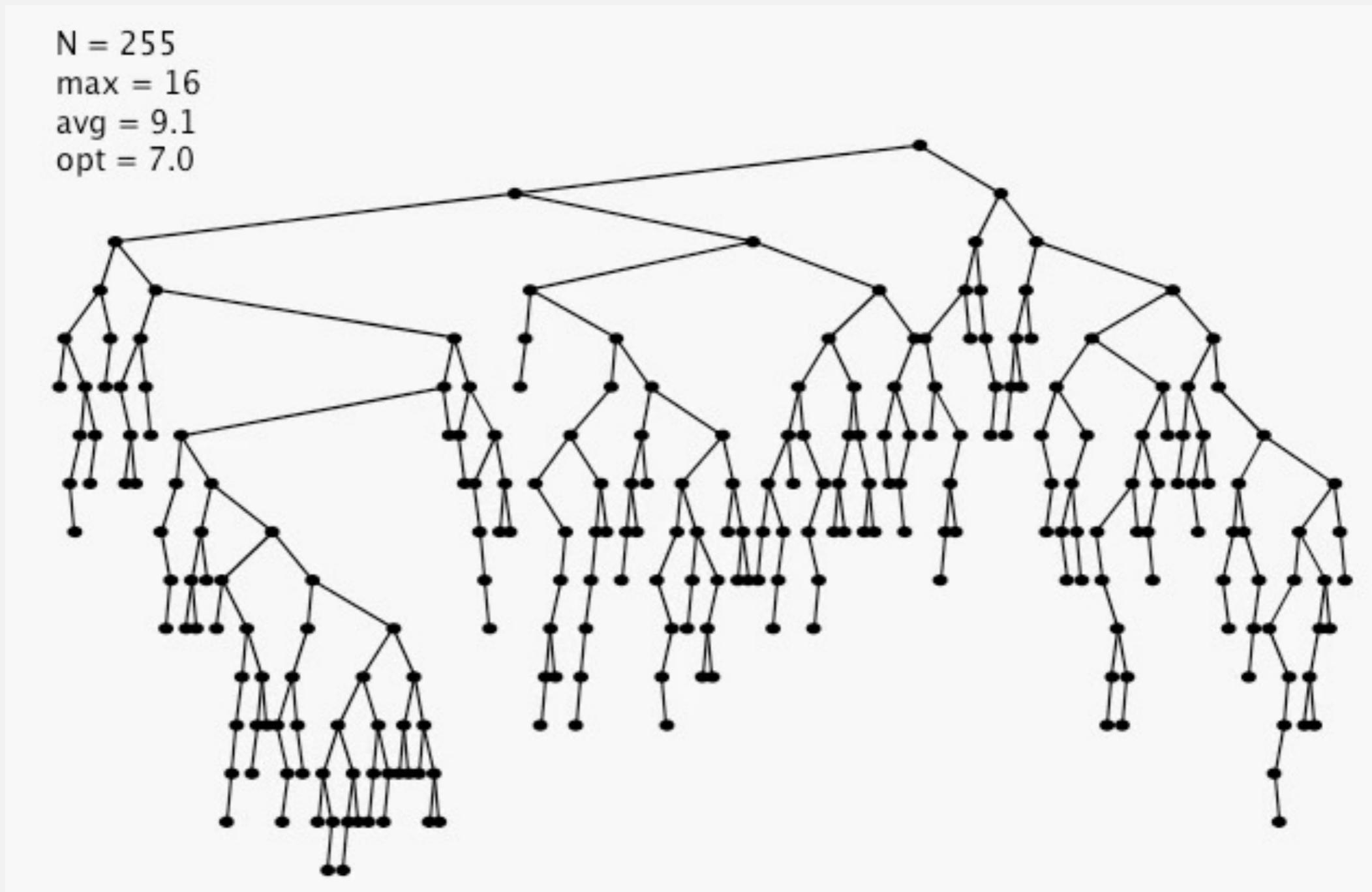
$O(n)$

**Bottom line.** Tree shape depends on order of insertion.

# BST insertion: random order visualization

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Ex. Insert keys in random order.

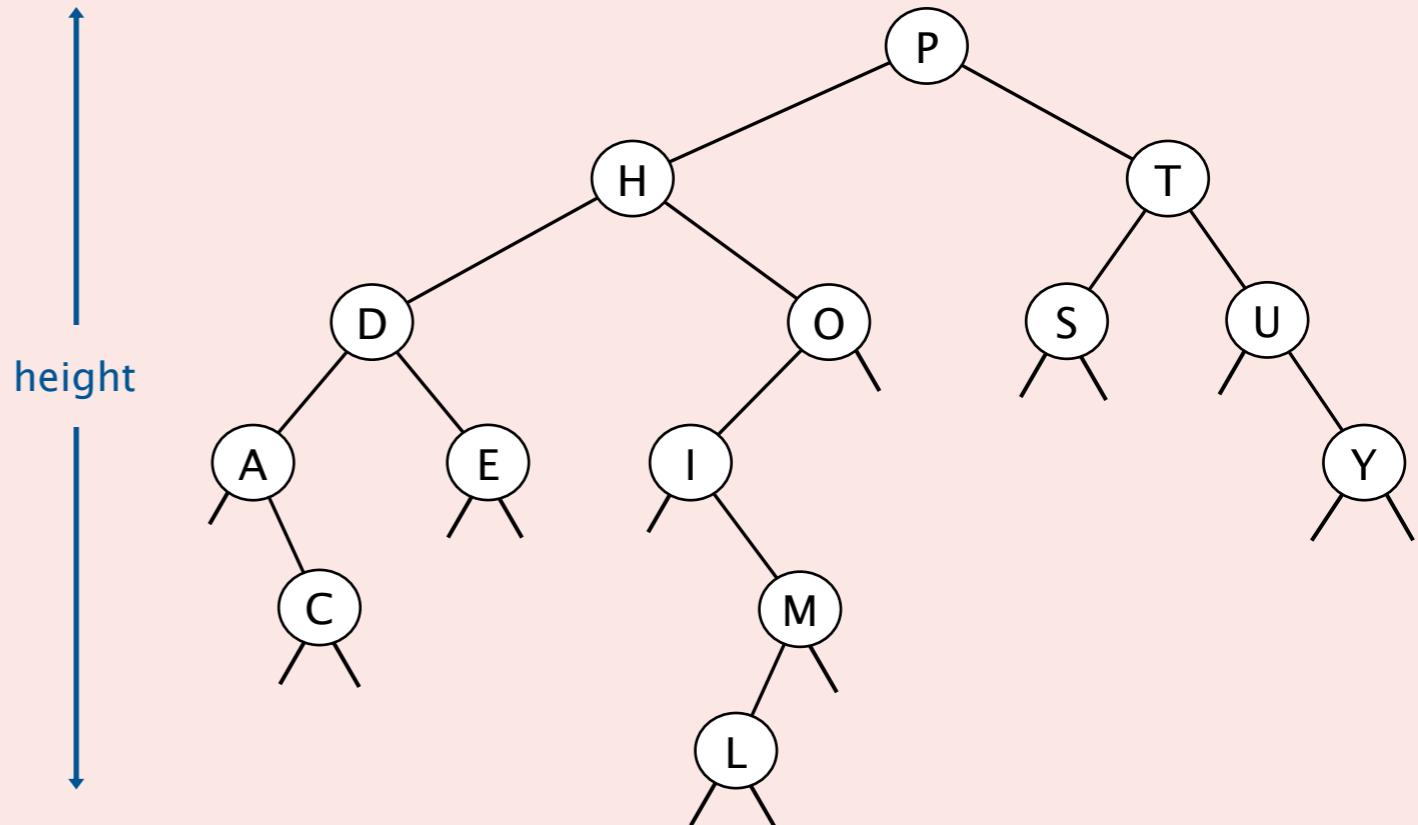


## Binary search trees: quiz 1

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Suppose that you insert  $n$  keys in random order into a BST.  
What is the expected height of the resulting BST?

- A.  $\sim \lg n$
- B.  $\sim \ln n$
- C.  $\sim 2 \lg n$
- D.  $\sim 2 \ln n$
- E.  $\sim 4.31107 \ln n$



## BSTs: mathematical analysis

**Proposition.** If  $n$  distinct keys are inserted into a BST in **random** order, the expected number of compares for a search/insert is  $\sim 2 \ln n$ .

**Pf.** 1-1 correspondence with quicksort partitioning.

**Proposition.** [Reed, 2003] If  $n$  distinct keys are inserted into a BST in random order, the expected height is  $\sim 4.311 \ln n$ .

expected depth of  
function-call stack in quicksort



### How Tall is a Tree?

Bruce Reed  
CNRS, Paris, France  
[reed@moka.ccr.jussieu.fr](mailto:reed@moka.ccr.jussieu.fr)

#### ABSTRACT

Let  $H_n$  be the height of a random binary search tree on  $n$  nodes. We show that there exists constants  $\alpha = 4.31107\dots$  and  $\beta = 1.95\dots$  such that  $E(H_n) = \alpha \log n - \beta \log \log n + O(1)$ . We also show that  $\text{Var}(H_n) = O(1)$ .

**But...** Worst-case height is  $n - 1$ .

[ exponentially small chance when keys are inserted in random order ]

# ST implementations: summary

implementation	no duplicates allowed				operations on keys	
	guarantee		average case			
	search	insert	search hit	insert		
sequential search (unordered list)	$n$	$n$	$n$	$n$	<code>equals()</code>	
binary search (ordered array)	$\log n$	$n$	$\log n$	$n$	<code>compareTo()</code>	
BST	$n$	$n$	$\log n$	$\log n$	<code>compareTo()</code>	



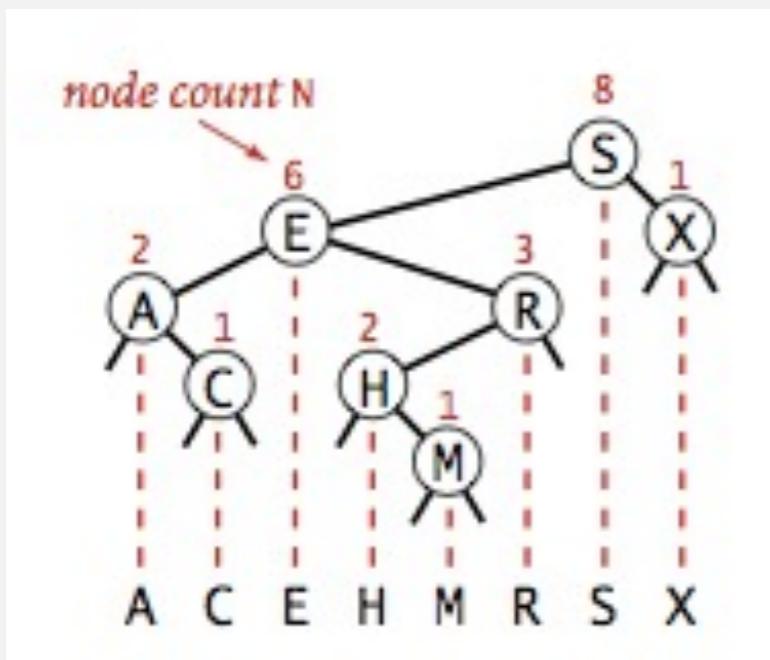
Why not shuffle to ensure a (probabilistic) guarantee of  $\log n$ ?

- 1) Cannot assume all data is available up front
- 2)  $\sim 4.311 \ln n$  is not guaranteed because there is an assumption about the input distribution

# BINARY SEARCH TREES

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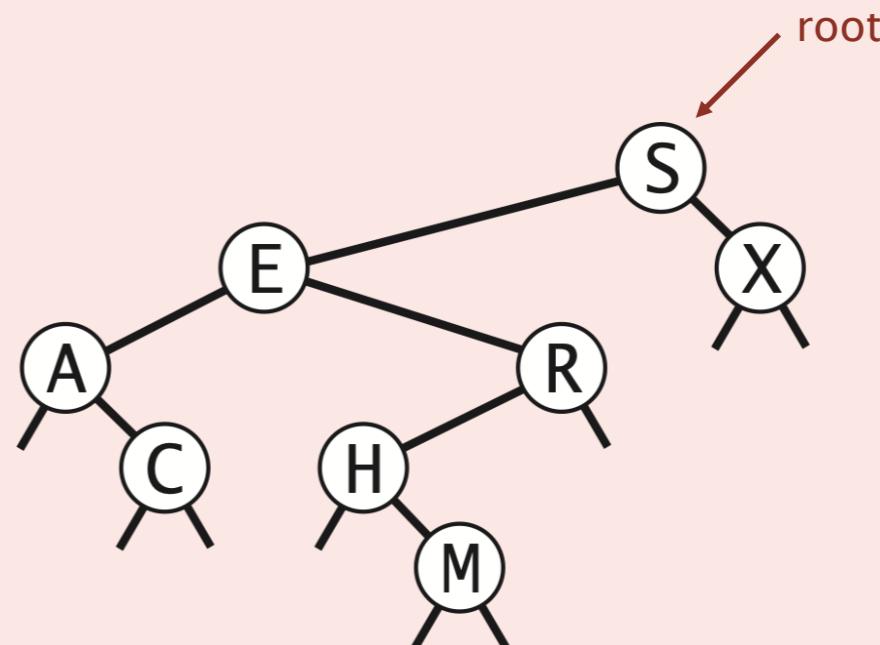
- ▶ *Symbol Table*
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- ▶ *Ordered operations*
- ▶ *Deletion*



In which order does `traverse(root)` print the keys in the BST?

```
private void traverse(Node x)
{
    if (x == null) return;
    traverse(x.left);
    StdOut.println(x.key);
    traverse(x.right);
}
```

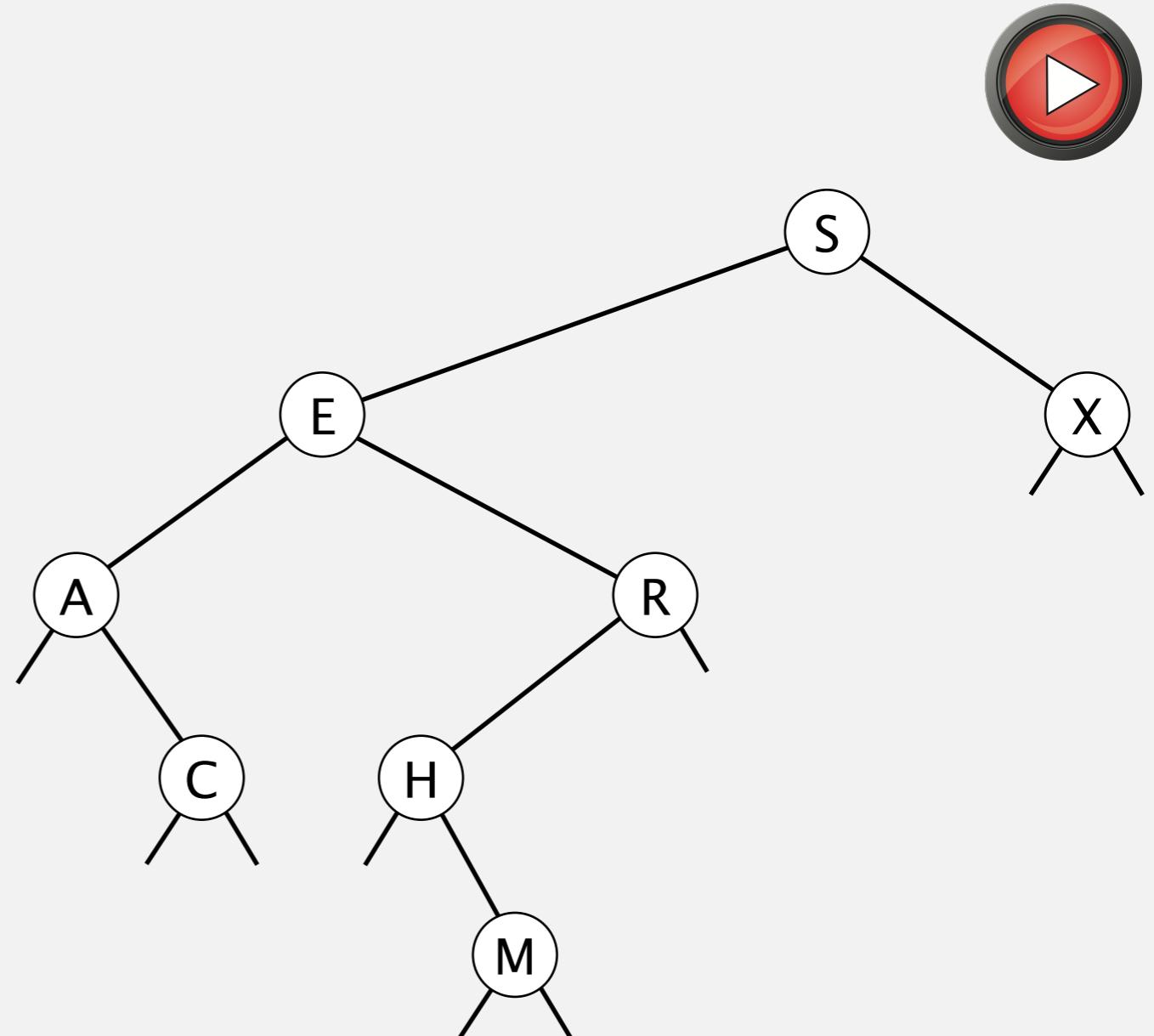
- A. A C E H M R S X
- B. S E A C R H M X
- C. C A M H R E X S
- D. S E X A R C H M



# Inorder traversal

LO 5.8

```
inorder(S)
inorder(E)
inorder(A)
print A
inorder(C)
print C
done C
done A
print E
inorder(R)
inorder(H)
print H
inorder(M)
print M
done M
done H
print R
done R
done E
print S
inorder(X)
print X
done X
done S
```



output: A C E H M R S X



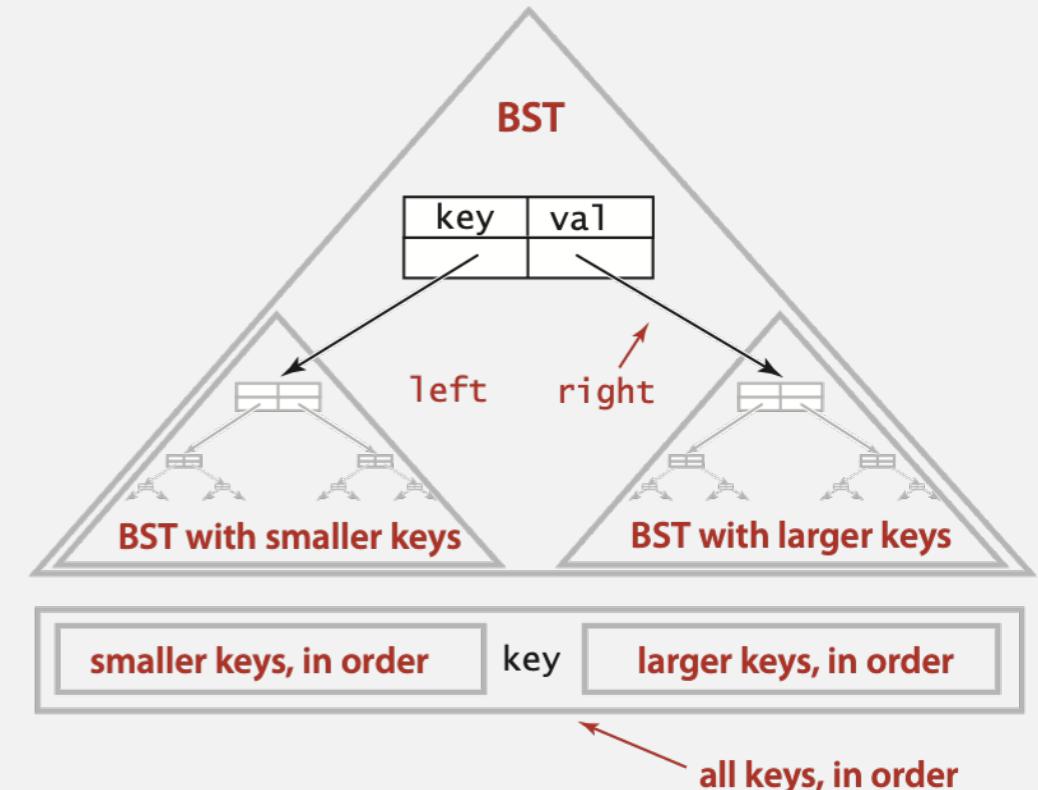
# Inorder traversal

LO 5.8

1. Traverse left subtree.
2. Enqueue key.
3. Traverse right subtree.

```
public Iterable<Key> keys()
{
    Queue<Key> q = new Queue<Key>();
    inorder(root, q);
    return q;
}

private void inorder(Node x, Queue<Key> q)
{
    if (x == null) return;
    inorder(x.left, q);
    q.enqueue(x.key);
    inorder(x.right, q);
}
```



**Property.** Inorder traversal of a BST yields keys in ascending order.

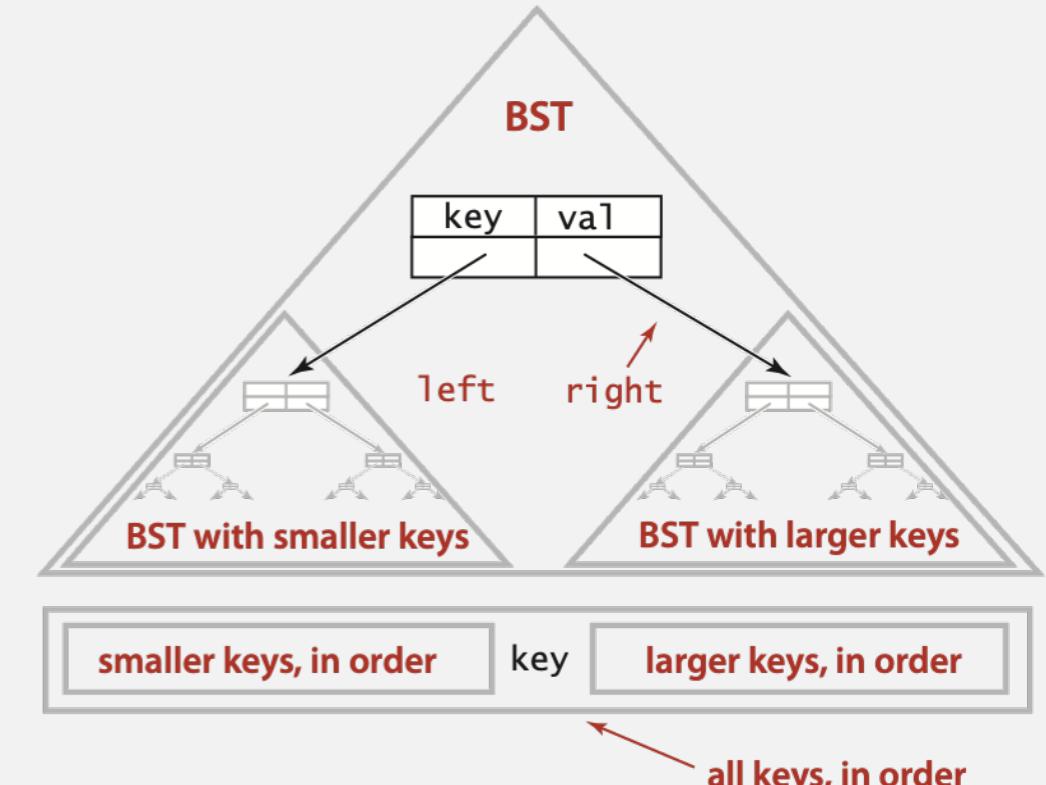
# Preorder traversal

LO 5.8

1. Enqueue key.
2. Traverse left subtree.
3. Traverse right subtree.

```
public Iterable<Key> keys()
{
    Queue<Key> q = new Queue<Key>();
    preorder(root, q);
    return q;
}

private void preorder(Node x, Queue<Key> q)
{
    if (x == null) return;
    q.enqueue(x.key);
    preorder(x.left, q);
    preorder(x.right, q);
}
```



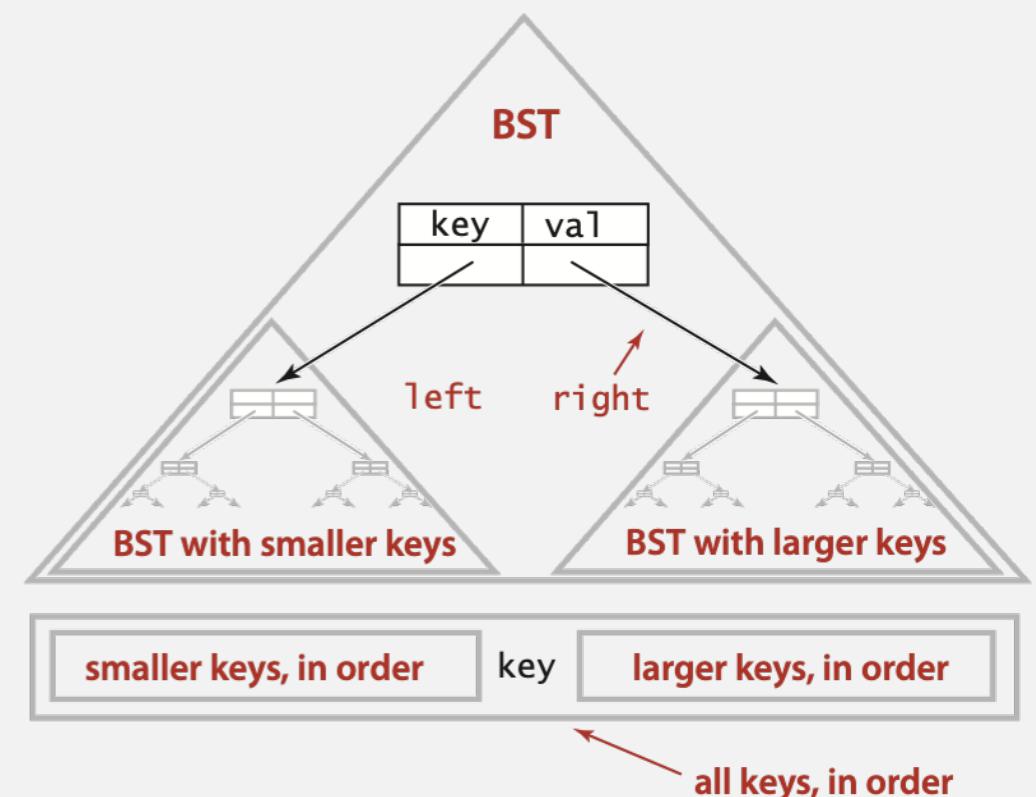
# Postorder traversal

LO 5.8

1. Traverse left subtree.
2. Traverse right subtree.
3. Enqueue key.

```
public Iterable<Key> keys()
{
    Queue<Key> q = new Queue<Key>();
    postorder(root, q);
    return q;
}

private void postorder(Node x, Queue<Key> q)
{
    if (x == null) return;
    postorder(x.left, q);
    postorder(x.right, q);
    q.enqueue(x.key);
}
```



## Running time

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**Property.** Inorder traversal of a BST takes linear time (count the number of times a key is either printed or enqueued).

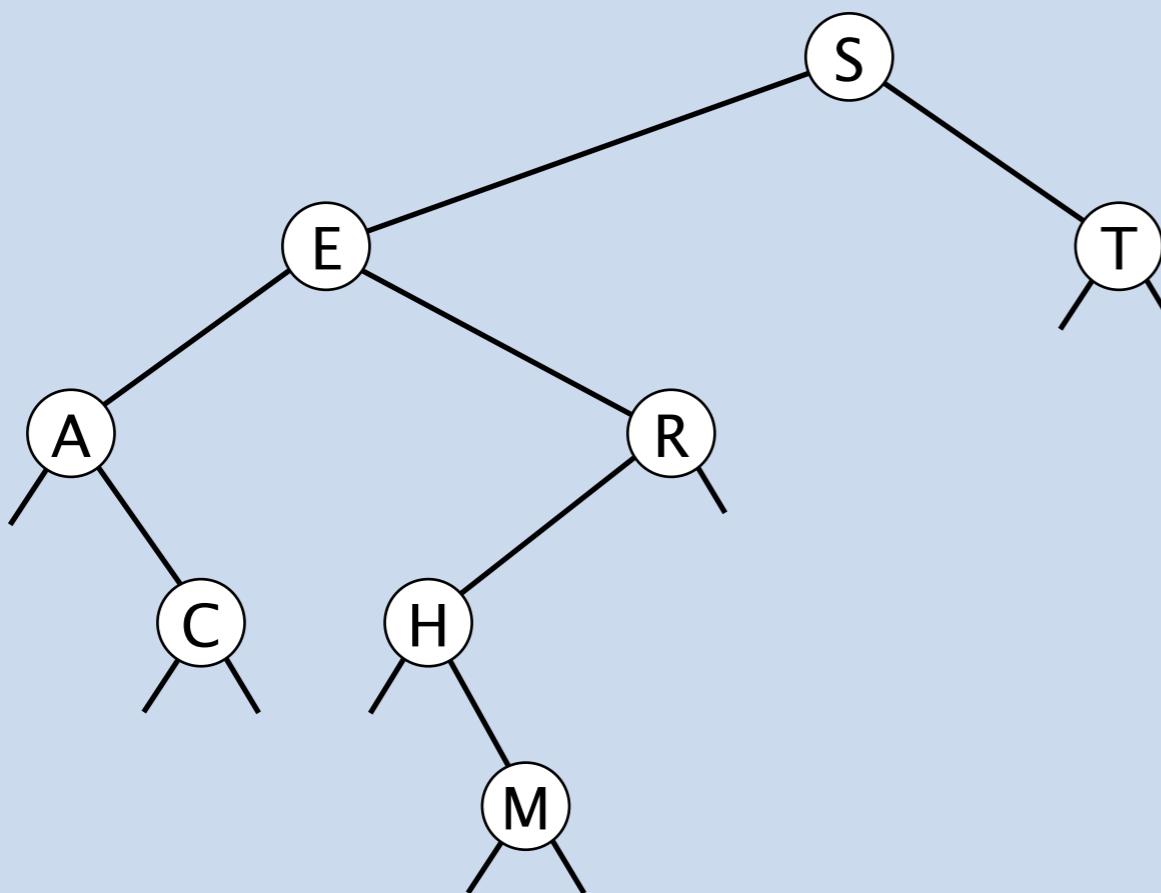


Silicon Valley, Season 4, Episode 5

# LEVEL-ORDER TRAVERSAL

Level-order traversal of a binary tree.

- Process root.
- Process children of root, from left to right.
- Process grandchildren of root, from left to right.
- ...



level-order traversal: **S E T A R C H M**

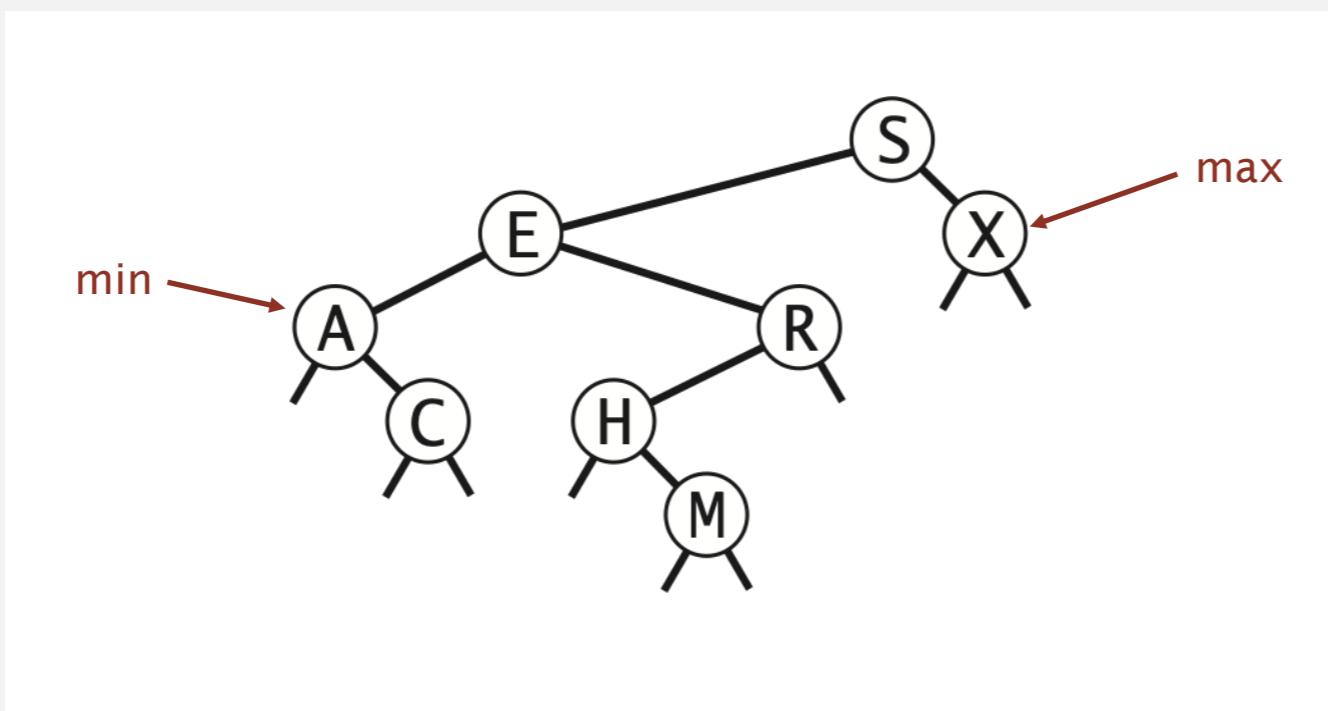
# BINARY SEARCH TREES

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- *Symbol Table*
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**Minimum.** Smallest key in BST.

**Maximum.** Largest key in BST.



**Q.** How to find the min / max?

**A.** Follow leftmost/rightmost spine

# Implementing min() and max()

LO 5.4

```
public Key max() {
    if (isEmpty()) throw new NoSuchElementException("calls max() with empty symbol table");
    return max(root).key;
}

private Node max(Node x) {
    if (x.right == null) return x;
    else                  return max(x.right);
}
```

```
public Key min() {
    if (isEmpty()) throw new NoSuchElementException("calls min() with empty symbol table");
    return min(root).key;
}

private Node min(Node x) {
    if (x.left == null) return x;
    else                  return min(x.left);
}
```

**Floor.** Largest key in BST  $\leq$  query key.

**Ceiling.** Smallest key in BST  $\geq$  query key.

**Q.** How do we find the floor and ceiling?

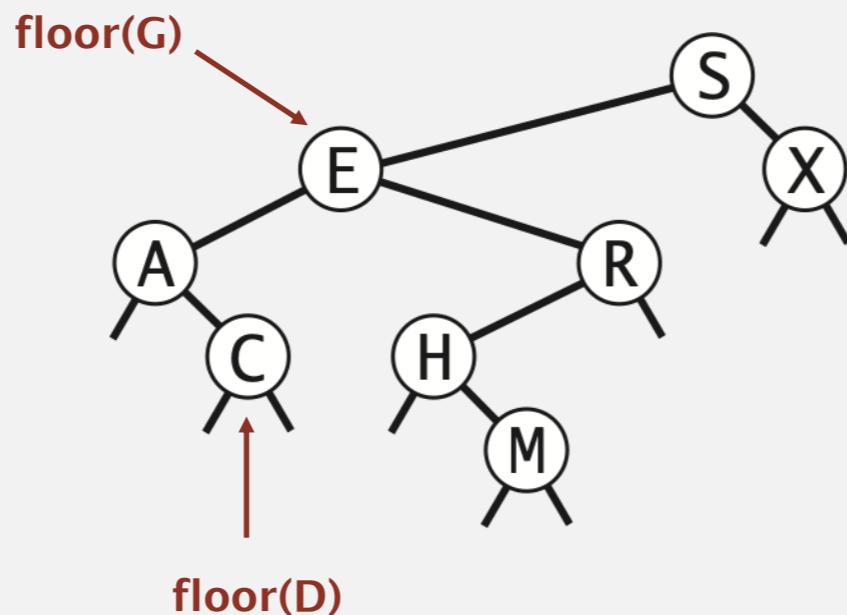
# Computing the floor

LO 5.9

Floor. Largest key in BST  $\leq k$  ?

Key idea.

- To compute  $\text{floor}(\text{key})$ , search for key.
- On search path, must encounter  $\text{floor}(\text{key})$  and  $\text{ceiling}(\text{key})$ . Why?



# Computing the floor

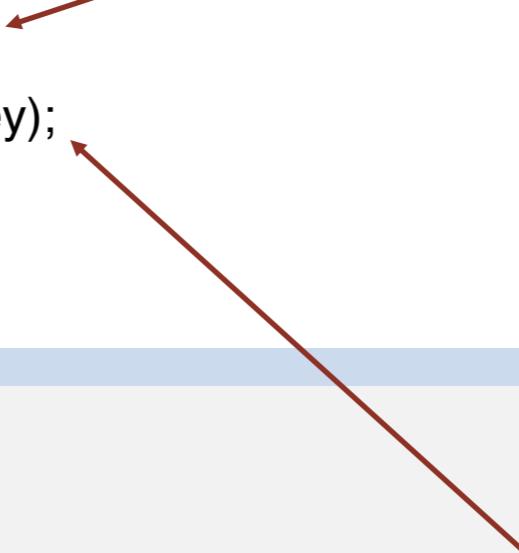
LO 5.9

```
public Key floor(Key key)
{ return floor(root, key, null); }
```

```
private Key floor(Node x, Key key, Key best)
```

```
{
    if (x == null) return best;
    int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key);
    if (cmp < 0) return floor(x.left, key, best);
    else if (cmp > 0) return floor(x.right, key, x.key);
    else if (cmp == 0) return x.key;
}
```

key in node is too big  
(so look in left subtree)



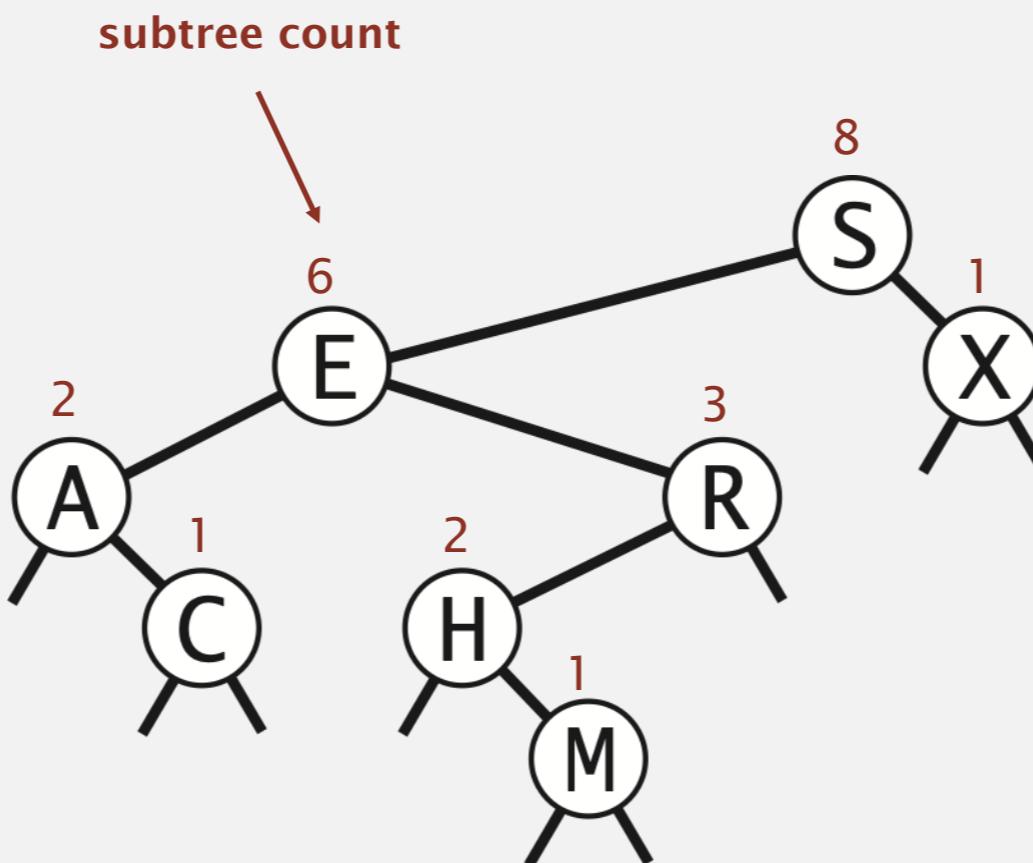
key in node is best candidate for floor  
(but maybe better one in right subtree)

**Rank.** How many keys  $< key$ ?

**Select.** Key of rank  $k$ .

**Q.** How to implement rank() and select() efficiently for BSTs?

**A.** In each node, store the number of nodes in its subtree.



# BST implementation: subtree counts

LO 5.9

```
private class Node  
{  
    private Key key;  
    private Value val;  
    private Node left;  
    private Node right;  
    private int count;  
}
```

```
public int size()  
{ return size(root); }  
  
private int size(Node x)  
{  
    if (x == null) return 0; // ok to call  
    return x.count; // when x is null  
}
```

number of nodes in subtree

```
private Node put(Node x, Key key, Value val)  
{  
    if (x == null) return new Node(key, val, 1); // initialize subtree  
    int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key); // count to 1  
    if (cmp < 0) x.left = put(x.left, key, val);  
    else if (cmp > 0) x.right = put(x.right, key, val);  
    else if (cmp == 0) x.val = val;  
  
    x.count = 1 + size(x.left) + size(x.right);  
  
    return x;  
}
```

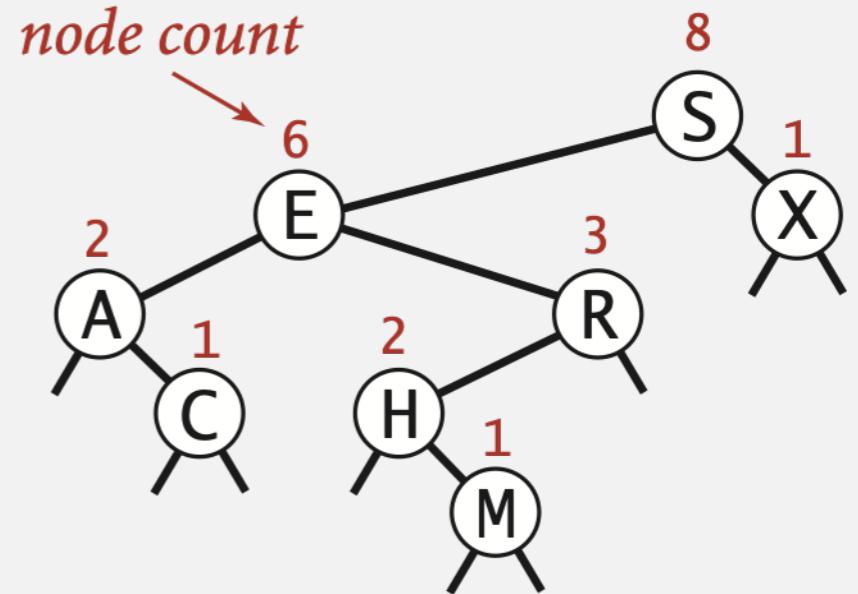
# Computing the rank

LO 5.9

Rank. How many keys  $< key$  ?

Case 1. [  $key < \text{key in node}$  ]

- Keys in left subtree? *count*
- Key in node? 0
- Keys in right subtree? 0



Case 2. [  $key > \text{key in node}$  ]

- Keys in left subtree? *all*
- Key in node. 1
- Keys in right subtree? *count*

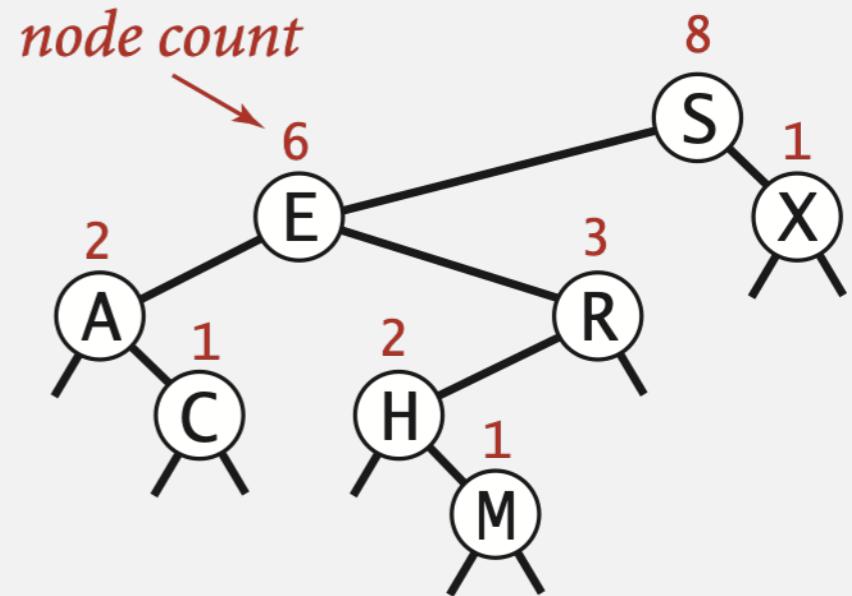
Case 3. [  $key = \text{key in node}$  ]

- Keys in left subtree? *count*
- Key in node. 0
- Keys in right subtree? 0



Rank. How many keys  $< key$  ?

Easy recursive algorithm (3 cases!)



```
public int rank(Key key)
{ return rank(key, root); }

private int rank(Key key, Node x)
{
    if (x == null) return 0;
    int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key);
    if (cmp < 0) return rank(key, x.left);
    else if (cmp > 0) return 1 + size(x.left) + rank(key, x.right);
    else if (cmp == 0) return size(x.left);
}
```

# Selection

LO 5.9

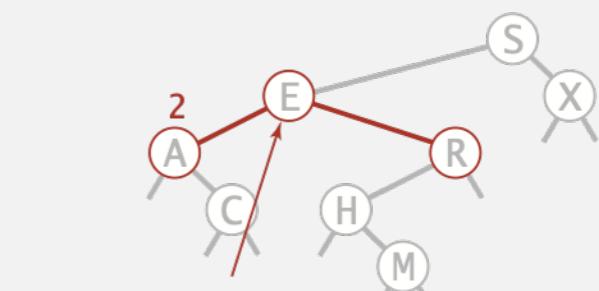
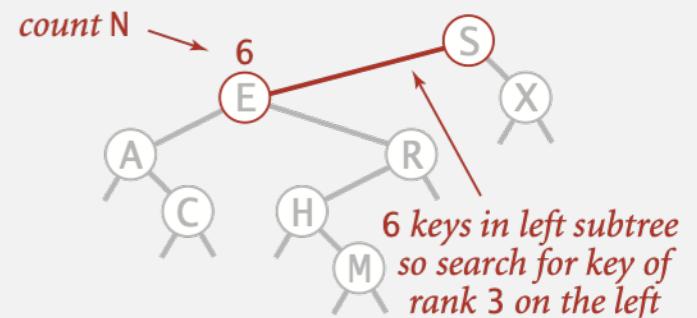
Select. Key in BST of rank.



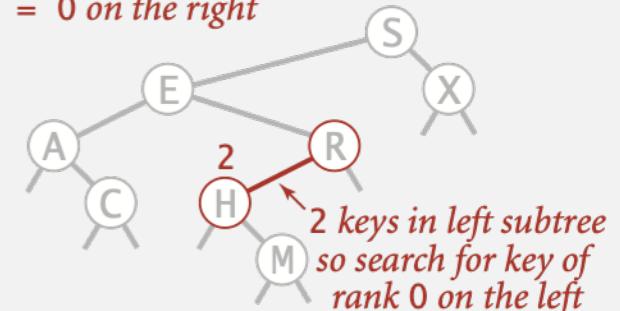
```
public Key select(int k)
{ return select(root, k); }

private Value select(Node x, int k)
{
    if (x == null) return null;
    int t = size(x.left);
    if (t > k) return select(x.left, k);
    else if (t < k) return select(x.right, k-t-1);
    else if (t == k) return x.key;
}
```

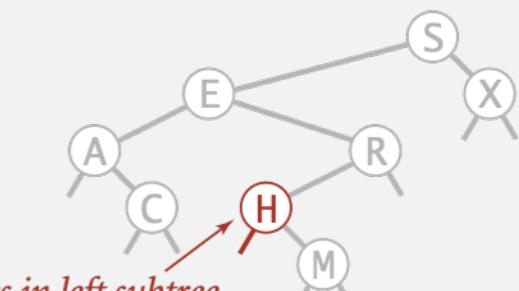
finding select(3)  
the key of rank 3



2 keys in left subtree so  
search for key of rank  
3-2-1 = 0 on the right



2 keys in left subtree  
so search for key of rank  
0 on the left



0 keys in left subtree  
and searching for  
key of rank 0  
so return H

# BST: ordered symbol table operations summary

	sequential search	binary search	BST
search	$n$	$\log n$	$h$
insert	$n$	$n$	$h$
min / max	$n$	1	$h$
floor / ceiling	$n$	$\log n$	$h$
rank	$n$	$\log n$	$h$
select	$n$	1	$h$
ordered iteration	$n \log n$	$n$	$n$

h = height of BST

order of growth of running time of ordered symbol table operations

# ST implementations: summary

---

implementation	guarantee		average case		ordered ops?	key interface
	search	insert	search hit	insert		
<b>sequential search(unordered list)</b>	$n$	$n$	$n$	$n$		<code>equals()</code>
<b>binary search(ordered array)</b>	$\log n$	$n$	$\log n$	$n$	✓	<code>compareTo()</code>
<b>BST</b>	$n$	$n$	$\log n$	$\log n$	✓	<code>compareTo()</code>
<b>red-black BST</b>	$\log n$	$\log n$	$\log n$	$\log n$	✓	<code>compareTo()</code>

Next week. Guarantee logarithmic performance for all operations.

# BINARY SEARCH TREES

---

- *Symbol Table*
- *BSTs*
- *Iteration*
- *Ordered operations*
- *Deletion*

# ST implementations: summary

---

implementation	guarantee			average case			ordered ops?	key interface
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
<b>sequential search(unordered list)</b>	$n$	$n$	$n$	$n$	$n$	$n$		<code>equals()</code>
<b>binary search(ordered array)</b>	$\log n$	$n$	$n$	$\log n$	$n$	$n$	✓	<code>compareTo()</code>
<b>BST</b>	$n$	$n$	$n$	$\log n$	$\log n$	?	✓	<code>compareTo()</code>

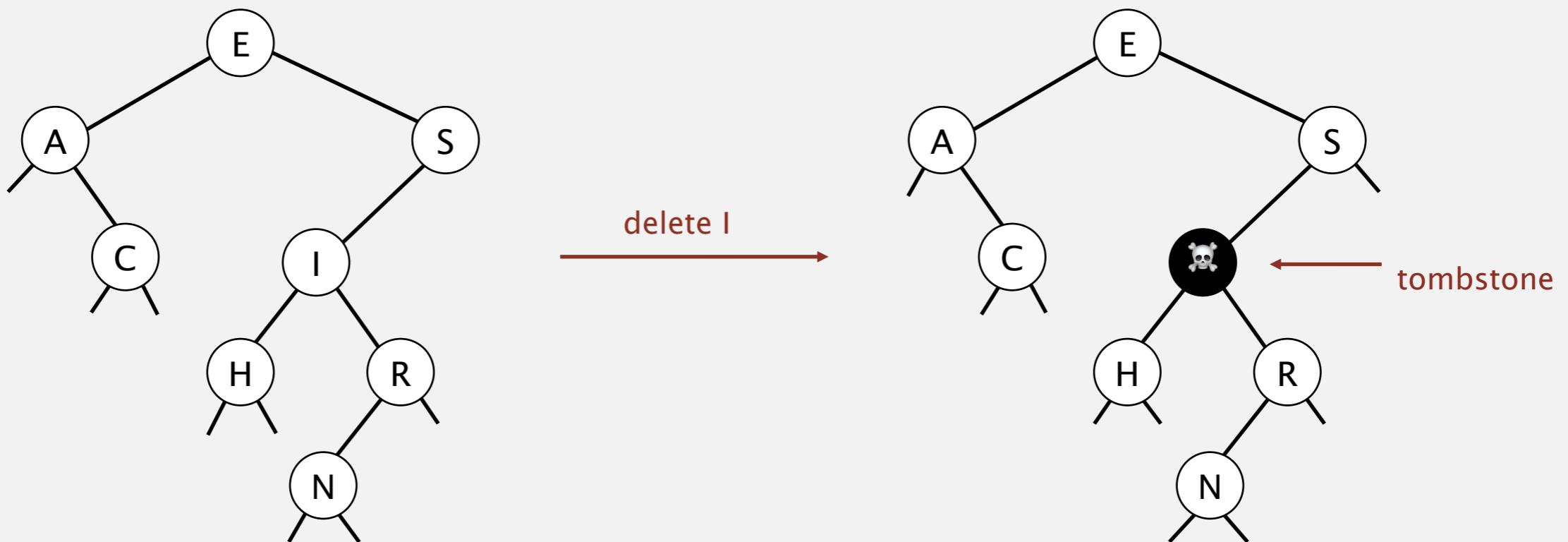
Next. Deletion in BSTs.

# BST deletion: lazy approach

LO 5.3

To remove a node with a given key:

- Set its value to null.
- Leave key in tree to guide search (but don't consider it equal in search).



**Cost.**  $\sim 2 \ln n'$  per insert, search, and delete (if keys in random order), where  $n'$  is the number of key-value pairs ever inserted in the BST.

**Unsatisfactory solution.** Tombstone (memory) overload.

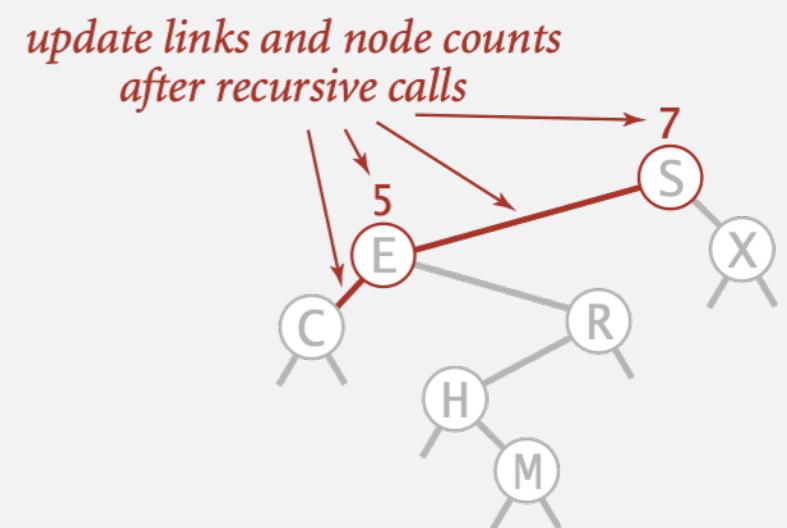
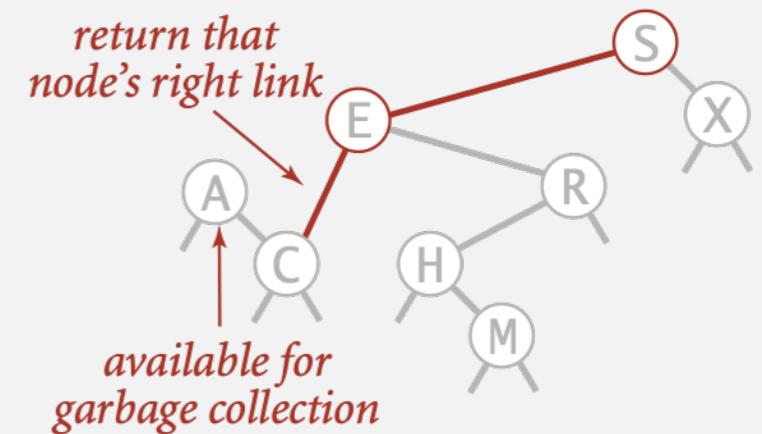
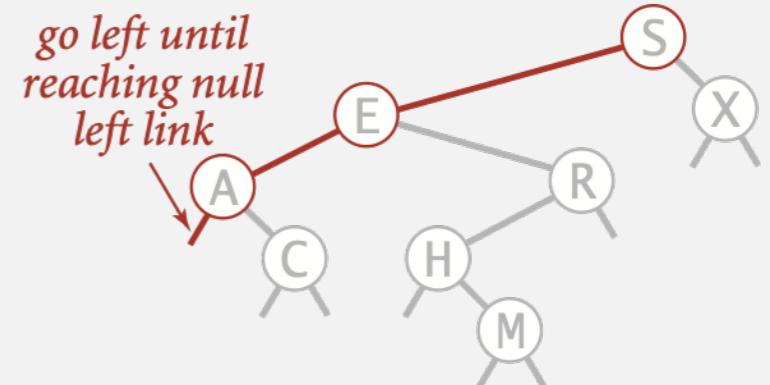
# Deleting the minimum

LO 5.3

To delete the minimum key:

- Go left until finding a node with a null left link.
- Replace that node by its right link.
- Update subtree counts.

```
public void deleteMin()  
{ root = deleteMin(root); }  
  
private Node deleteMin(Node x)  
{  
    if (x.left == null) return x.right;  
    x.left = deleteMin(x.left);  
    x.count = 1 + size(x.left) + size(x.right);  
    return x;  
}
```

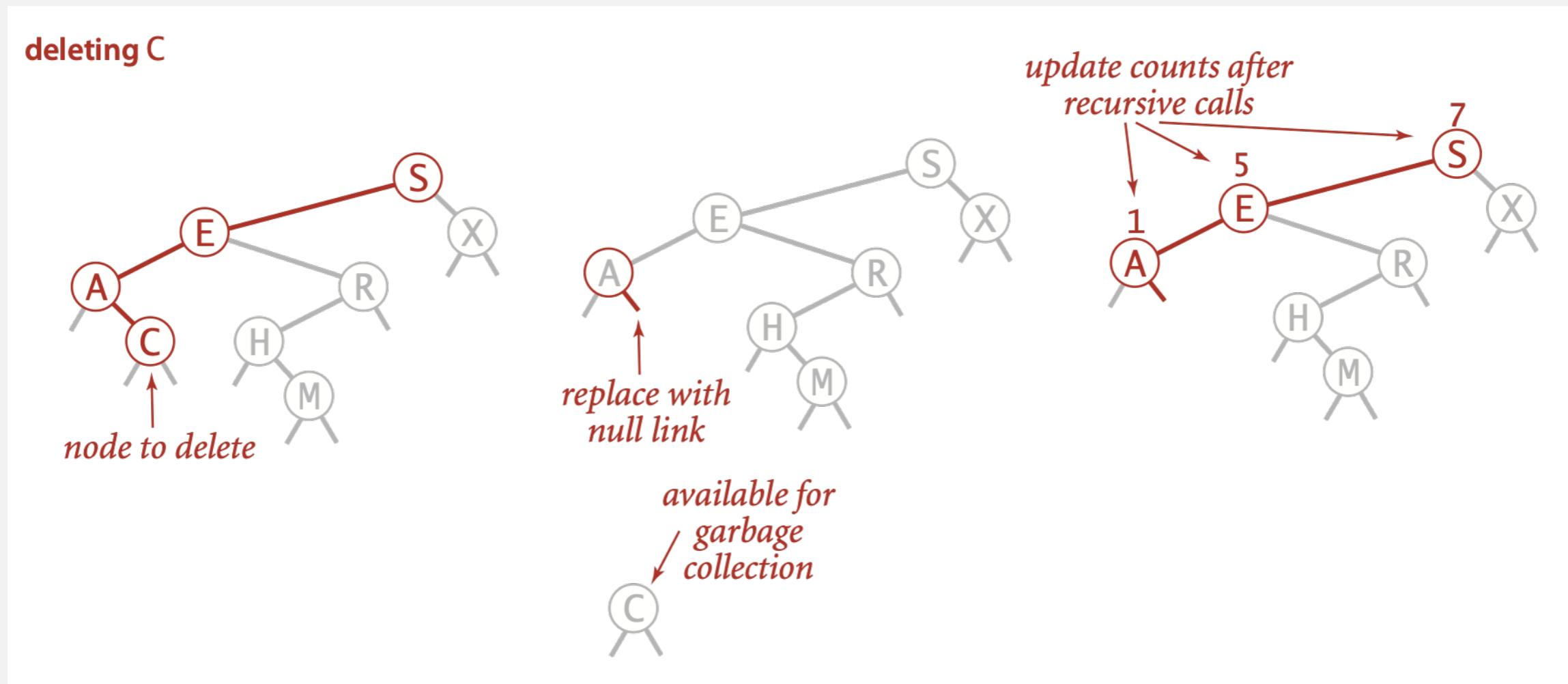


# Hibbard deletion

LO 5.3

To delete a node with key k: search for node t containing key k.

Case 0. [0 children] Delete t by setting parent link to null.

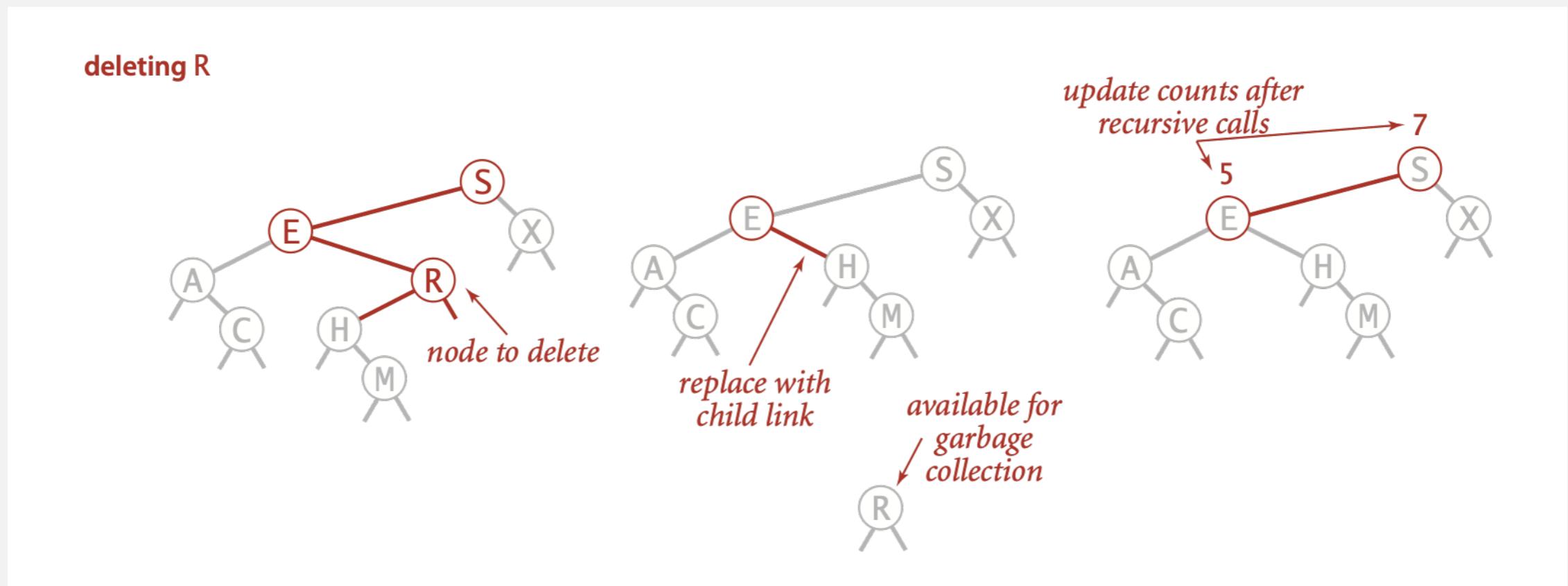


# Hibbard deletion

LO 5.3

To delete a node with key k: search for node t containing key k.

Case 1. [1 child] Delete t by replacing parent link.



# Hibbard deletion

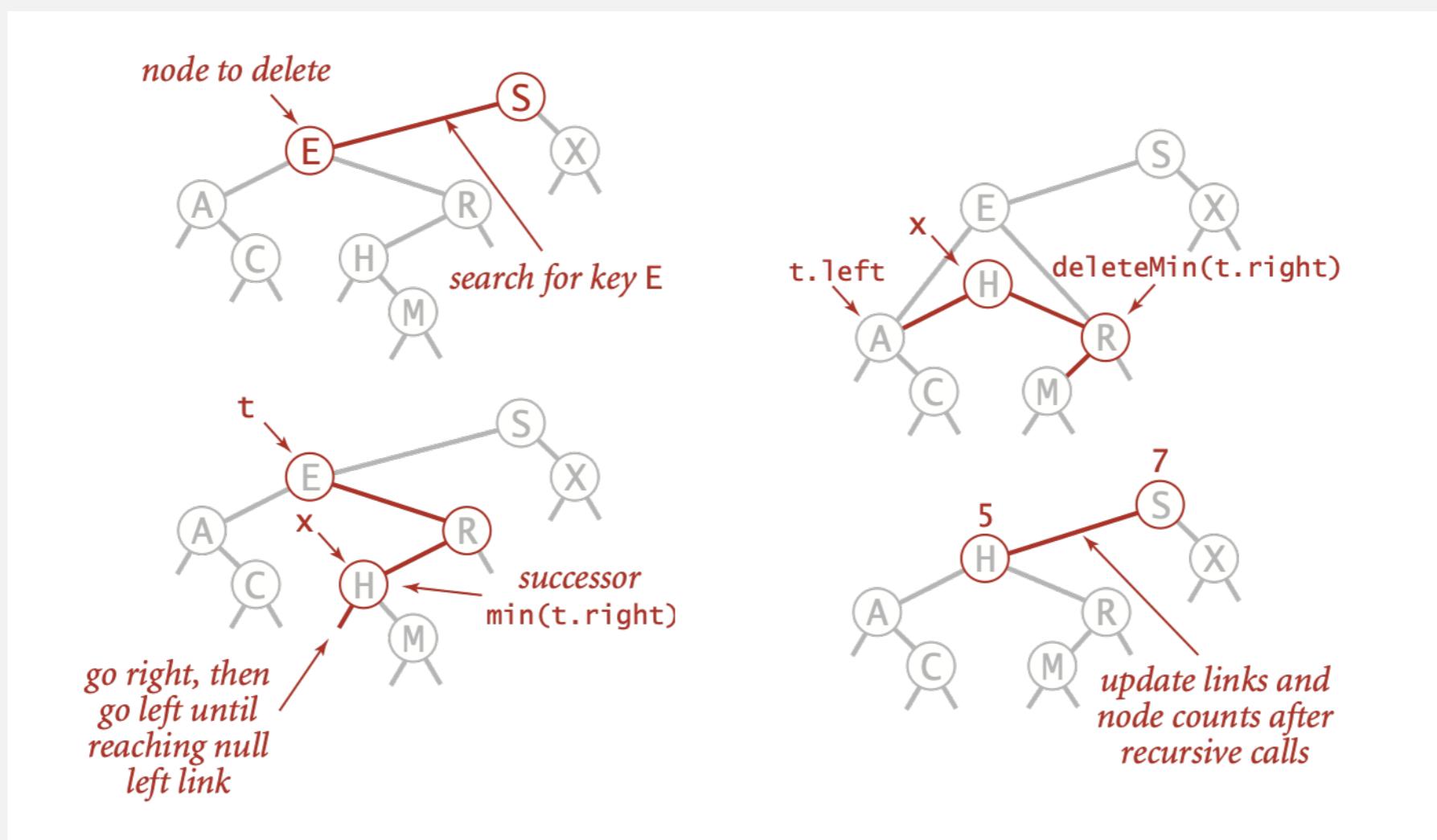
LO 5.3

To delete a node with key  $k$ : search for node  $t$  containing key  $k$ .

## Case 2. [2 children]

- Find successor  $x$  of  $t$ .
- Delete the minimum in  $t$ 's right subtree.
- Put  $x$  in  $t$ 's spot.

←  $x$  has no left child  
← but don't garbage collect  $x$   
← still a BST



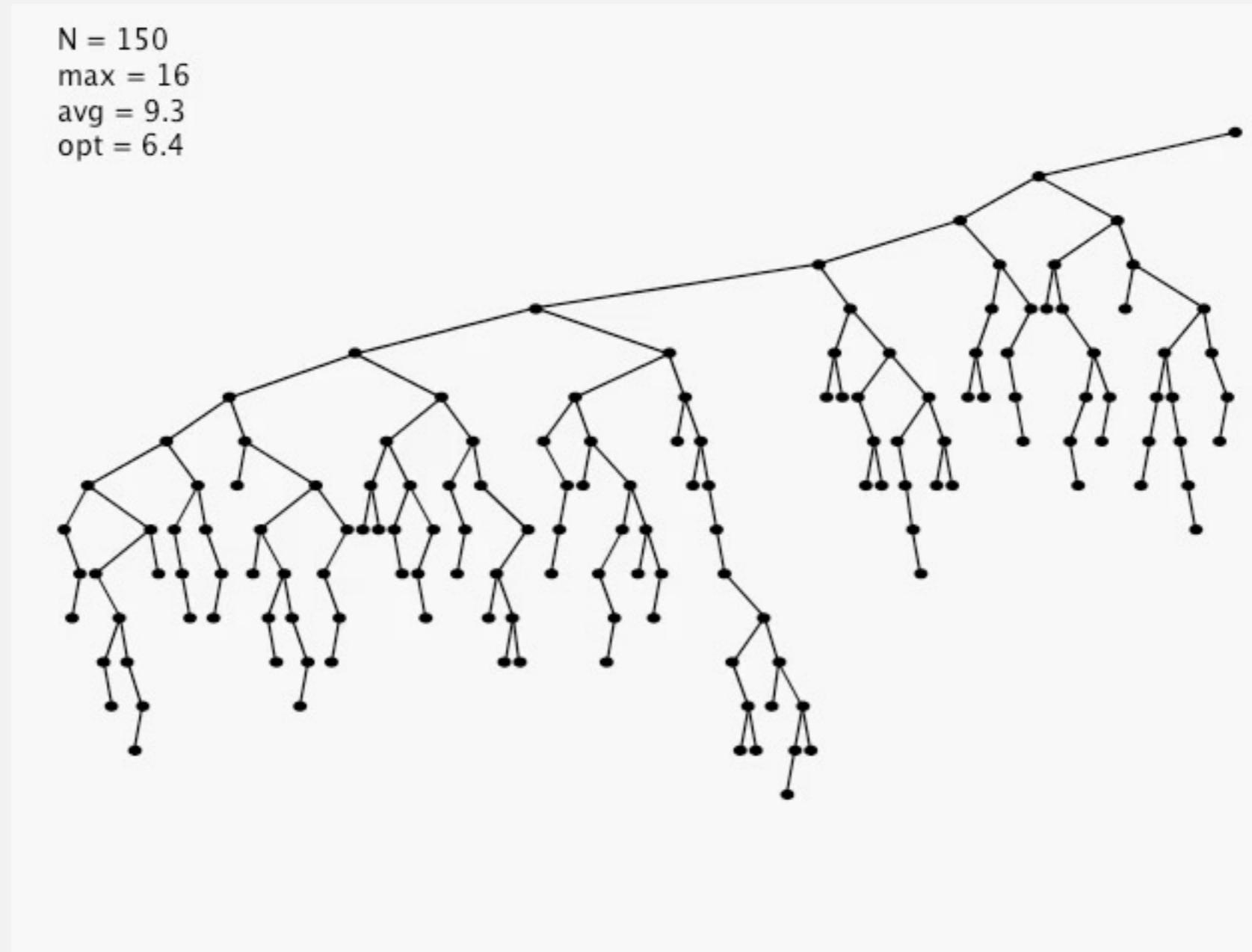
# Hibbard deletion: Java implementation

LO 5.3

```
public void delete(Key key)
{ root = delete(root, key); }

private Node delete(Node x, Key key) {
    if (x == null) return null;
    int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key);           ← search for key
    if (cmp < 0) x.left = delete(x.left, key);
    else if (cmp > 0) x.right = delete(x.right, key);
    else {
        if (x.right == null) return x.left;   ← no right child
        if (x.left == null) return x.right;   ← no left child
        Node t = x;
        x = min(t.right);
        x.right = deleteMin(t.right);         ← replace with
        x.left = t.left;                     successor
    }
    x.count = size(x.left) + size(x.right) + 1; ← update subtree
    return x;                                counts
}
```

Unsatisfactory solution. not symmetric.



Surprising consequence. Trees not random (!)  $\Rightarrow \sqrt{n}$  per op.

Longstanding open problem. Simple and efficient delete for BSTs.

# ST implementations: summary

implementation	guarantee			average case			ordered ops?	key interface
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
<b>sequential search(unordered list)</b>	$n$	$n$	$n$	$n$	$n$	$n$		<code>equals()</code>
<b>binary search(ordered array)</b>	$\log n$	$n$	$n$	$\log n$	$n$	$n$	✓	<code>compareTo()</code>
<b>BST</b>	$n$	$n$	$n$	$\log n$	$\log n$	$\sqrt{n}$	✓	<code>compareTo()</code>

other operations also become  $\sqrt{n}$   
 if deletions allowed

Next lecture. Guarantee logarithmic performance for all operations.

A well formed Balanced Binary Tree (stay tuned) provides a search in the order of  $\log n$

Characteristics of Applications suitable/unsuitable for BST's

1. Applications where data is inserted, updated and deleted dynamically as well as finding max, min, rank etc. For example, maintaining a set of daily bank transactions. (suitable if the tree can be maintained in balanced order)
2. Applications where a large numbers of data records exists are suitable for BST (why?)
3. Applications where small number of records exists, and searching is done rarely are suitable more as a simple array application.

**INTRODUCTION TO DATA STRUCTURES**  
**a n d**  
**ALGORITHMS**  
**R u t g e r s   U n i v e r s i t y**

---

## BINARY SEARCH TREES

- *Symbol Table*
- *BSTs*
- *Ordered operations*
- *Iteration*
- *Deletion*

