

*Reading: Section 1-3 of paper by Hinze and Paterson*

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# Finger Tree

Lecture 130 of Advanced  
Programming

Nov 29, 2018

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*Finger trees:  
a simple general-purpose data structure*

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ROSS PATERSON

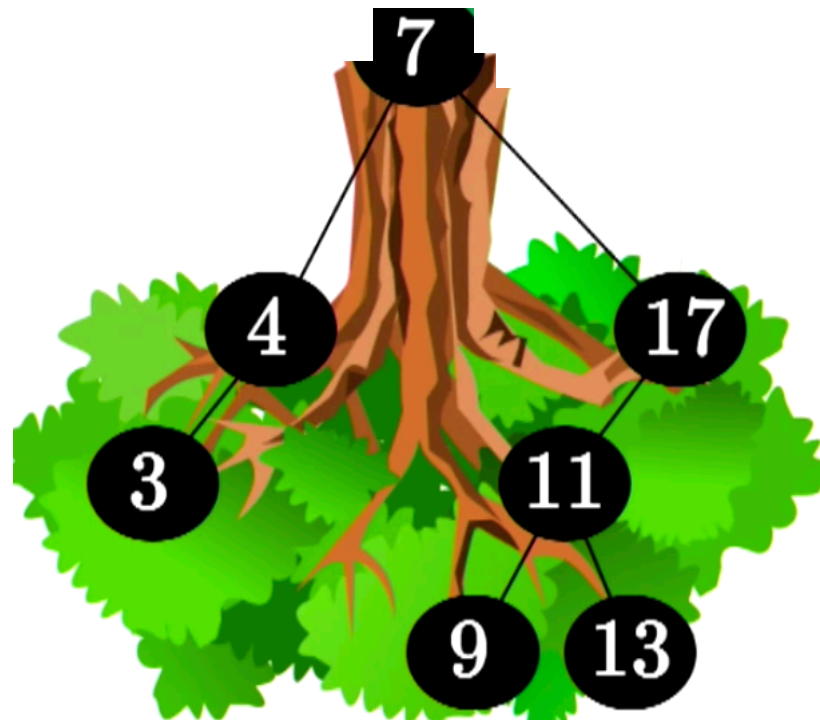
Department of Computing, City University  
London EC1V OHB, UK  
(*e-mail*: `ross@soi.city.ac.uk`)

What is a tree?



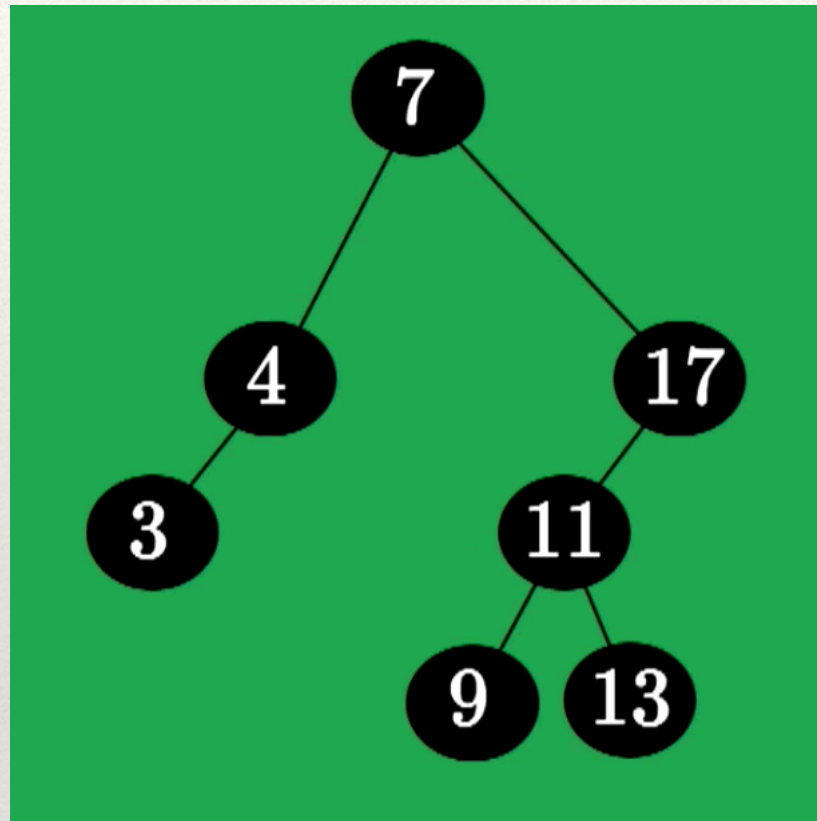
Material from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C\\_q5ccN84C8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_q5ccN84C8)





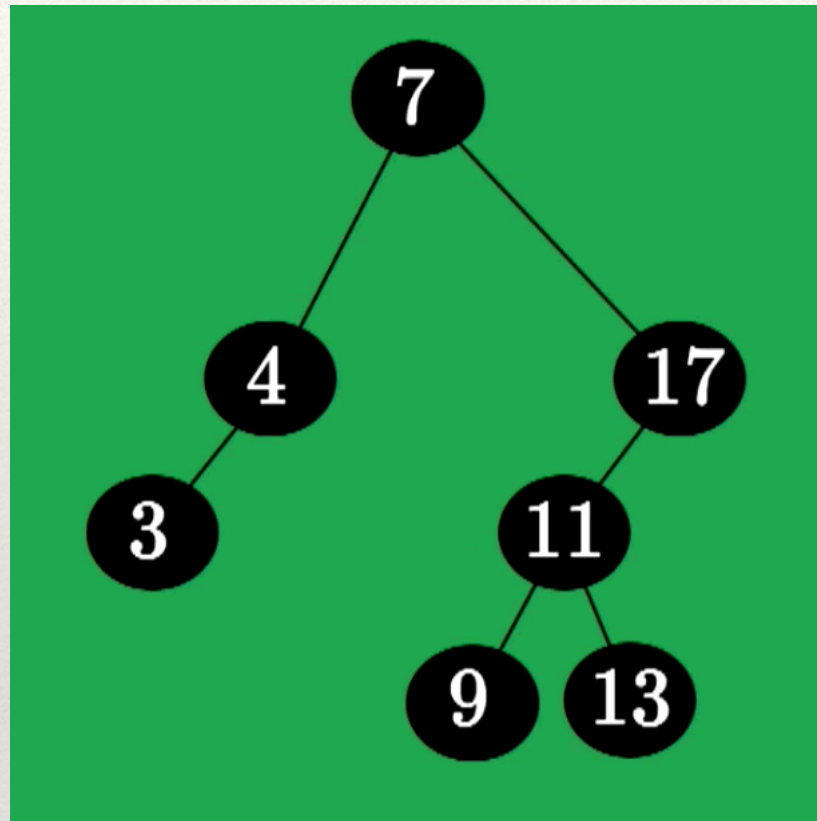
Tree: structure for data storage and retrieval





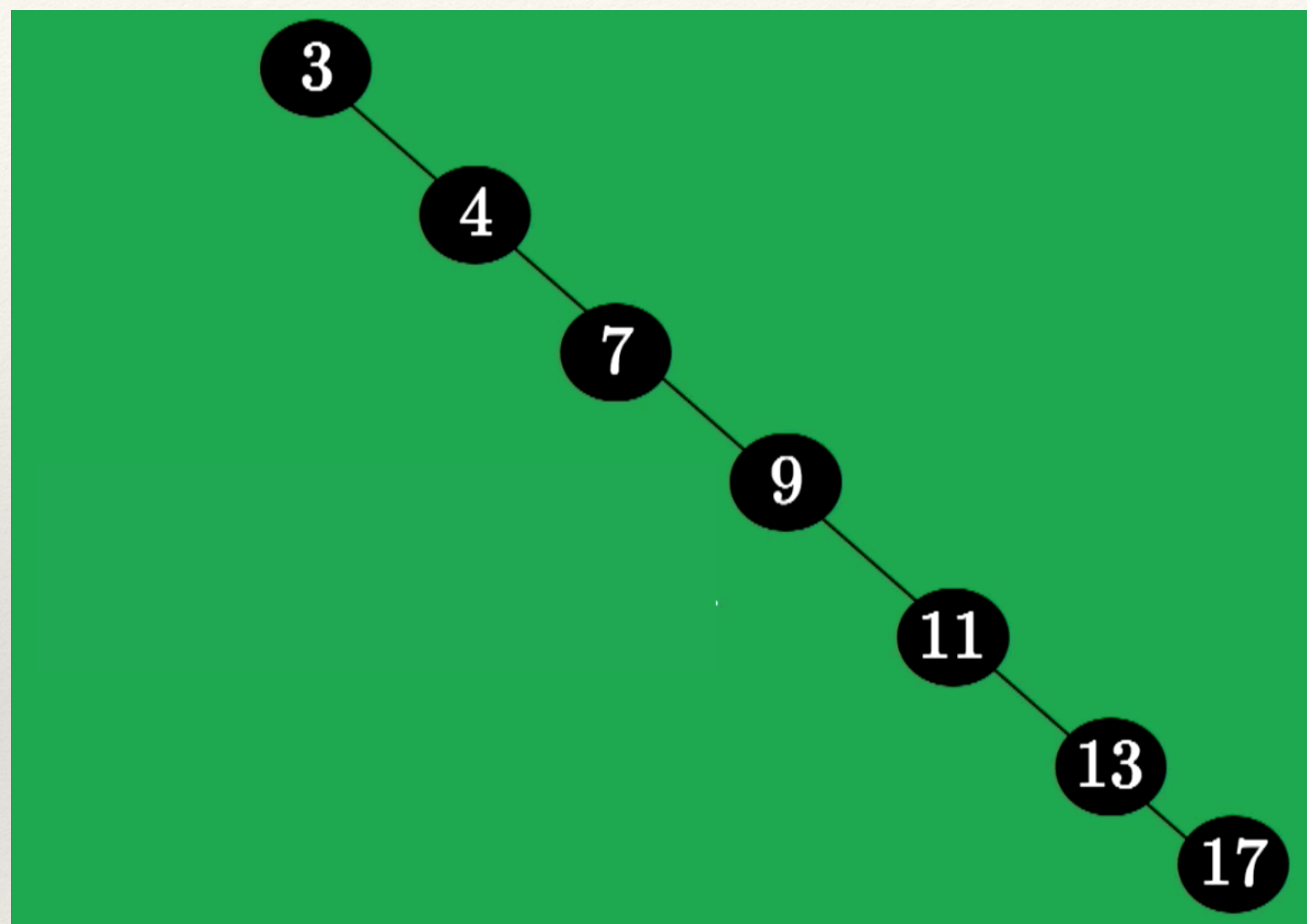
Binary search tree:





Question: complexity for inserting an element?





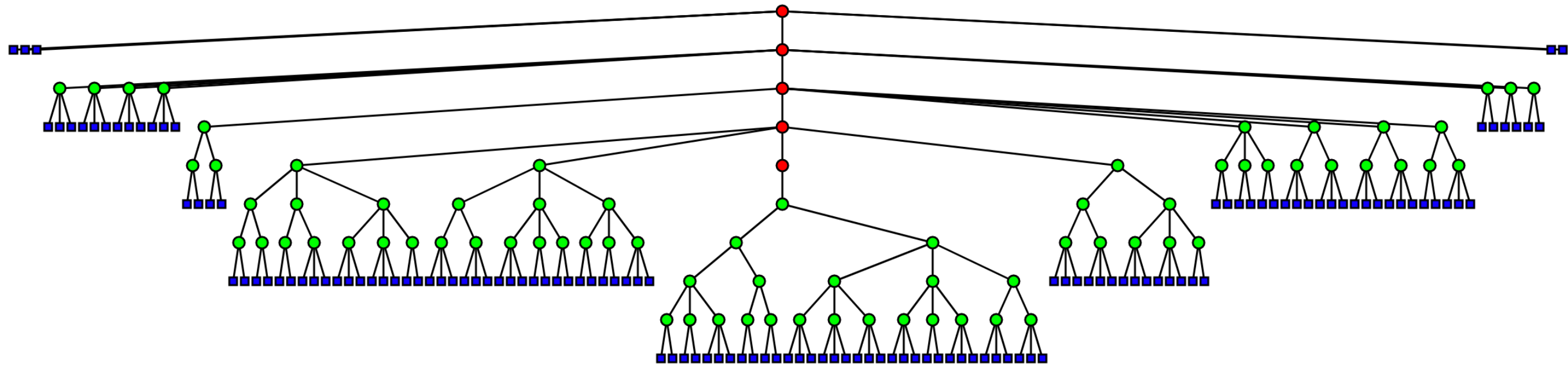
Worst case :  $O(n)$



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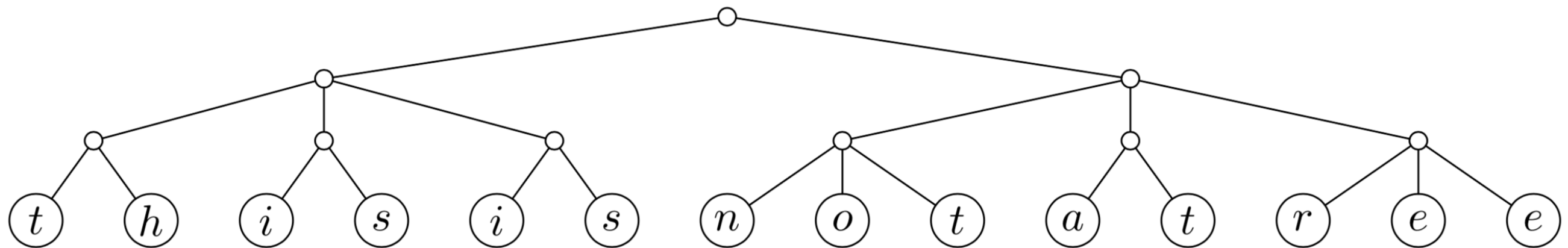
# We want to reduce $O(n)$ to $O(1)$

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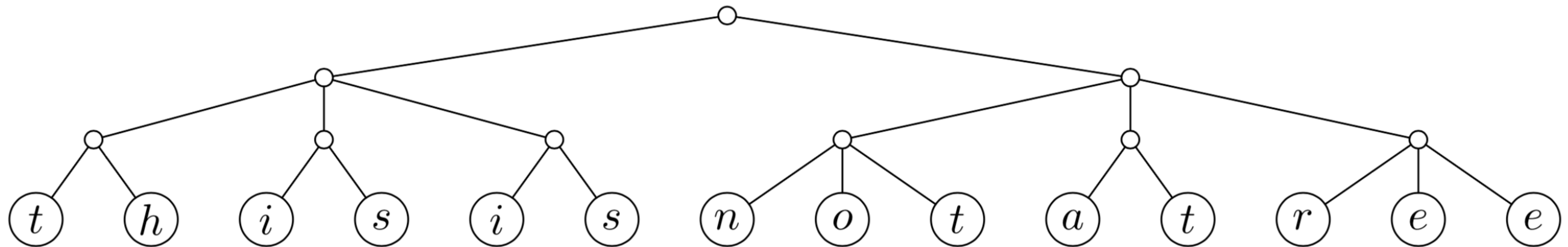
- ❖ Balanced.
- ❖ Nodes of Finger Tree — spine
- ❖ Nodes of 2-3 Tree
- ❖ Nodes of Digits — fingers

# Prerequisite: 2-3 Tree



- ❖ Node has two or three leaves
- ❖ All leaves at the same level
- ❖ Naive representation: **Node a = Node2 a a | Node3 a a a**

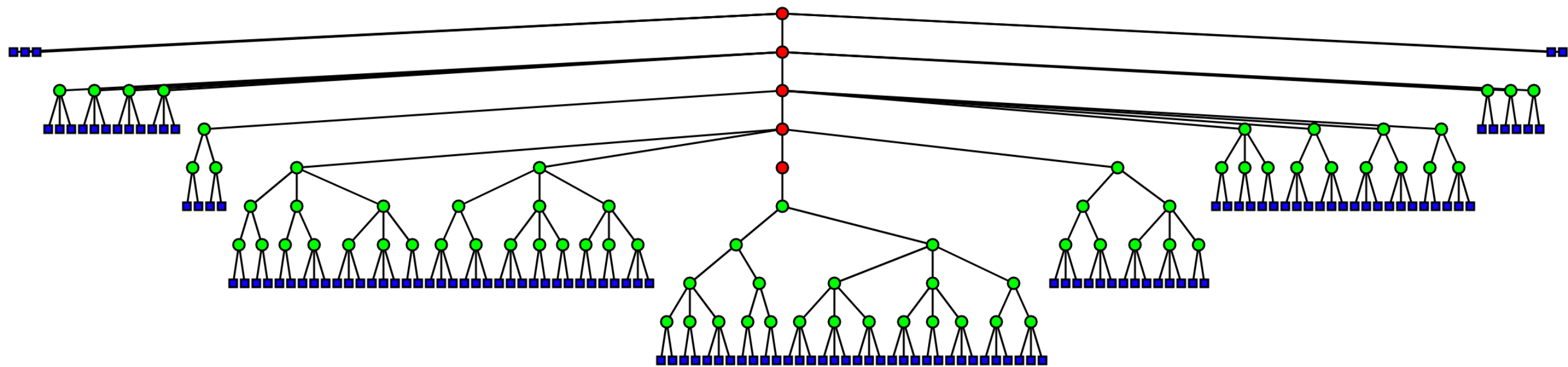
# Prerequisite: 2-3 Tree

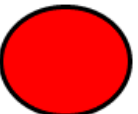


- ❖ Naive representation: **Node a = Node2 a a | Node3 a a a**
- ❖ On-class exercise
  - ❖ Create the tree above with the naive representation
  - ❖ Point out the issue of this naive representation

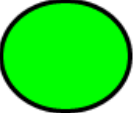



# Finger Tree




`data FingerTree a = Empty`  
                                   `| Single a`  
                                   `| Deep (Digit a) (FingerTree (Node a)) (Digit a)`

(none) `data Digit a = One a | Two a a | Three a a a | Four a a a a`


`data Node a = Node2 a a | Node3 a a a`


 elements of arbitrary type

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# Implementation (use Haskell as in the paper)

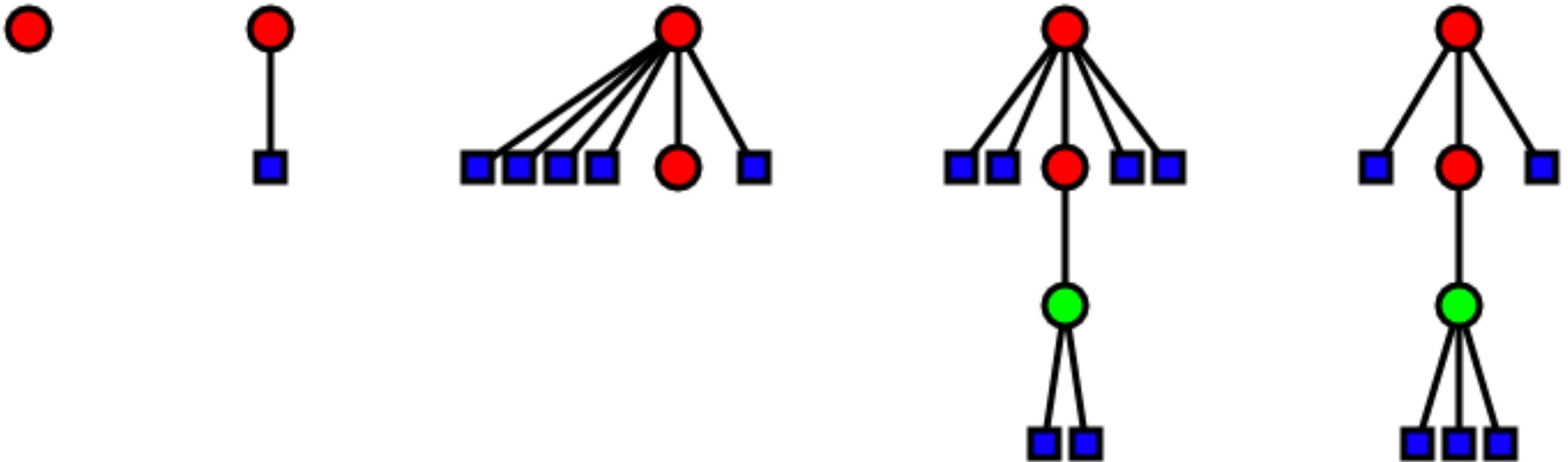
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```
-- As usual, the type parameter represents what type
-- of data is stored in this finger tree.
data FingerTree a
  = Empty      -- We can have empty trees.
  | Single a   -- We need a special case for trees of size one.

  -- The common case with a prefix, suffix, and link to a deeper tree.
  | Deep {
    prefix :: Digit a,      -- Values on the left.
    deeper :: FingerTree (Node a), -- The deeper finger tree, storing deeper
    2-3 trees.
    suffix :: Digit a      -- Values on the right.
  }
```

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# Examples



```
data FingerTree a = Empty
                  | Single a
                  | Deep (Digit a) (FingerTree (Node a)) (Digit a)
```

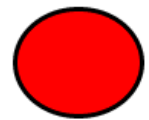
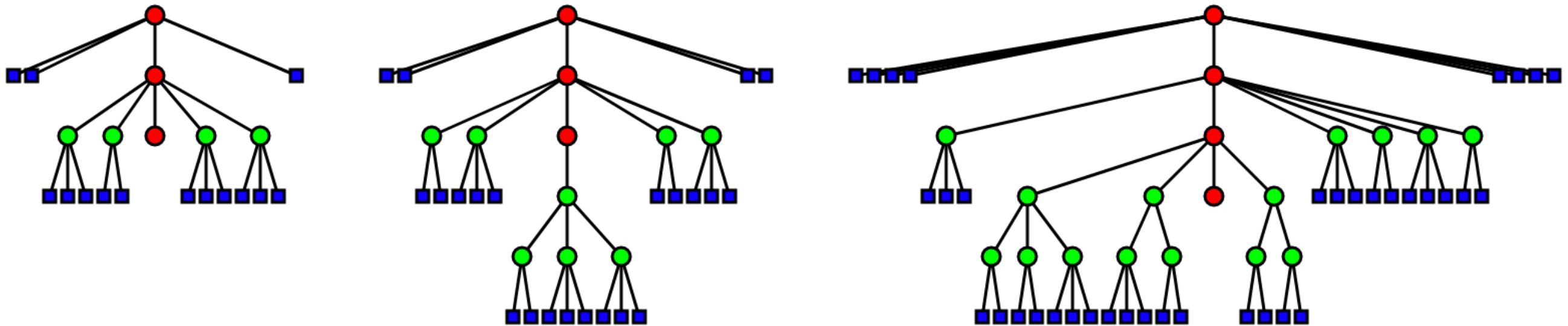
```
data Digit a      = One a | Two a a | Three a a a | Four a a a a
```

```
data Node a       = Node2 a a | Node3 a a a
```

elements of arbitrary type



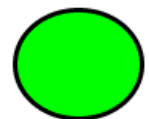
# On-class Exercises: Create these Finger Trees



```
data FingerTree a = Empty
                  | Single a
                  | Deep (Digit a) (FingerTree (Node a)) (Digit a)
```

(none)

```
data Digit a      = One a | Two a a | Three a a a | Four a a a a
```



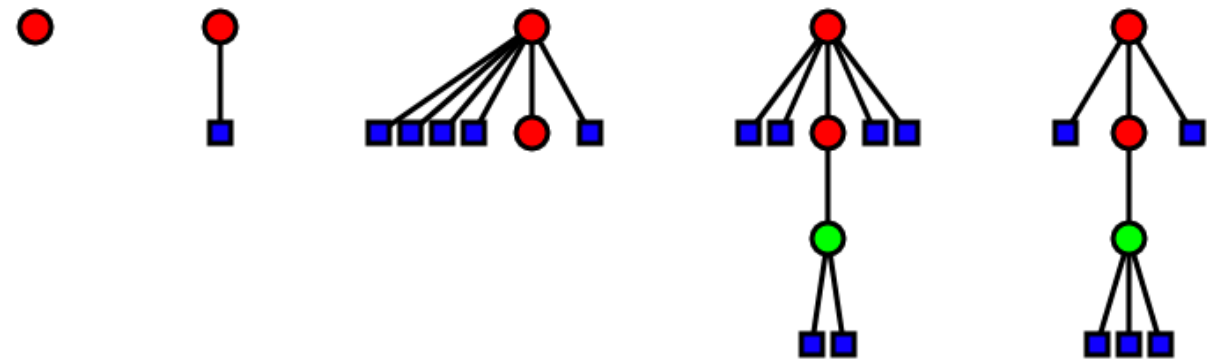
```
data Node a       = Node2 a a | Node3 a a a
```



elements of arbitrary type

# Finger Tree as List

- ❖ The motivation behind finger tree was to have an efficient List-like data structure.
- ❖ A finger tree can be transformed to list of prefix, deep, and suffix recursively.
- ❖ What about operations?

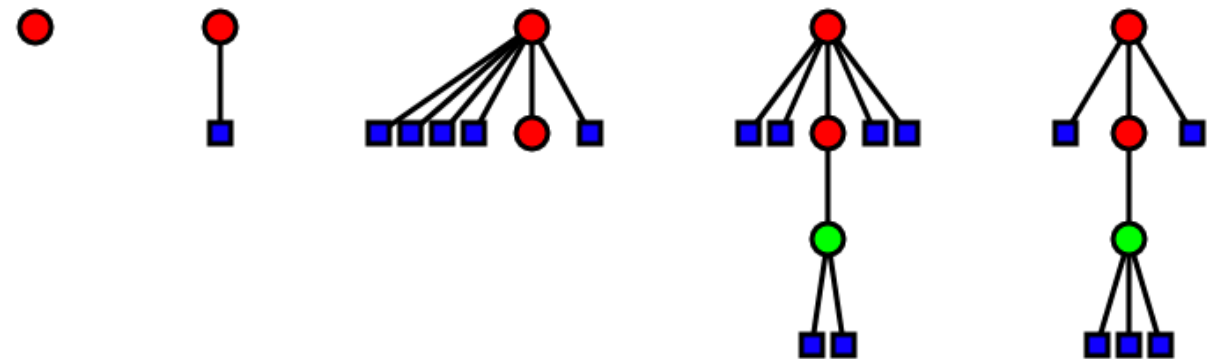


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# Prepend: Add an element to the front of a Finger Tree

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- ❖ Ideally, prepending to the left hand side finger
- ❖ But it would *not* work on four-element fingers
- ❖ The trick is to *split*





# How to Prepend

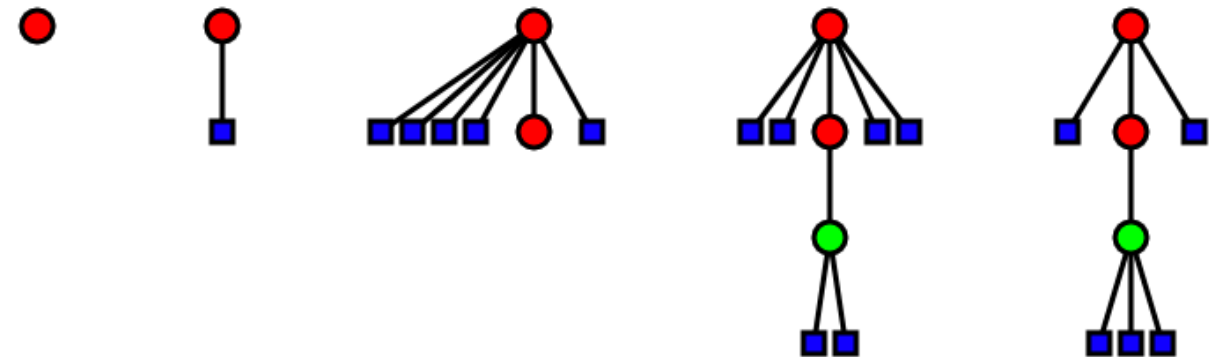
```
-- Use <| to prepend. It's the finger tree analogue of : for lists.
infixr 5 <|
(<|) :: a -> FingerTree a -> FingerTree a

-- Base case #1: If this is an empty finger tree, make it one element.
x <| Empty = Single x

-- Base case #2: For a single tree, upgrade it to a deep one.
-- Remember that the list syntax is actually creating 'Affix a' values.
x <| Single y = Deep [x] Empty [y]

-- Recursive case: if we have a prefix with four elements, we have to
-- use the last 2 elements with the new one to create a node, and then
-- we prepend that node to the deeper finger tree which contains nodes.
x <| Deep [a, b, c, d] deeper suffix = Deep [x, a] (node <| deeper) suffix
  where
    node = Node3 b c d

-- Non-recursive case: we can just prepend to the prefix.
x <| tree = tree { prefix = affixPrepend x $ prefix tree }
```



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# Example (blackboard)

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- ❖ Starting from Empty, prepend 1,2,3, until 9

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# At the very beginning

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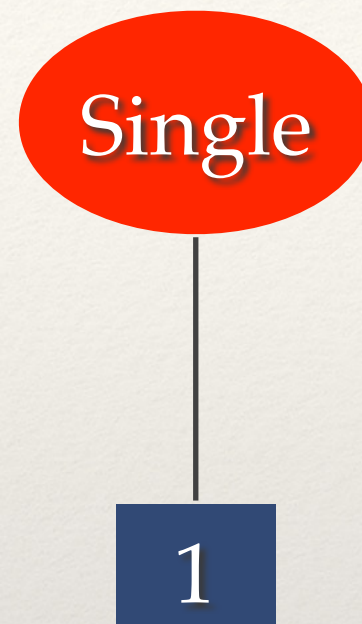
Empty



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Prepending 1 =>  
Single(1)

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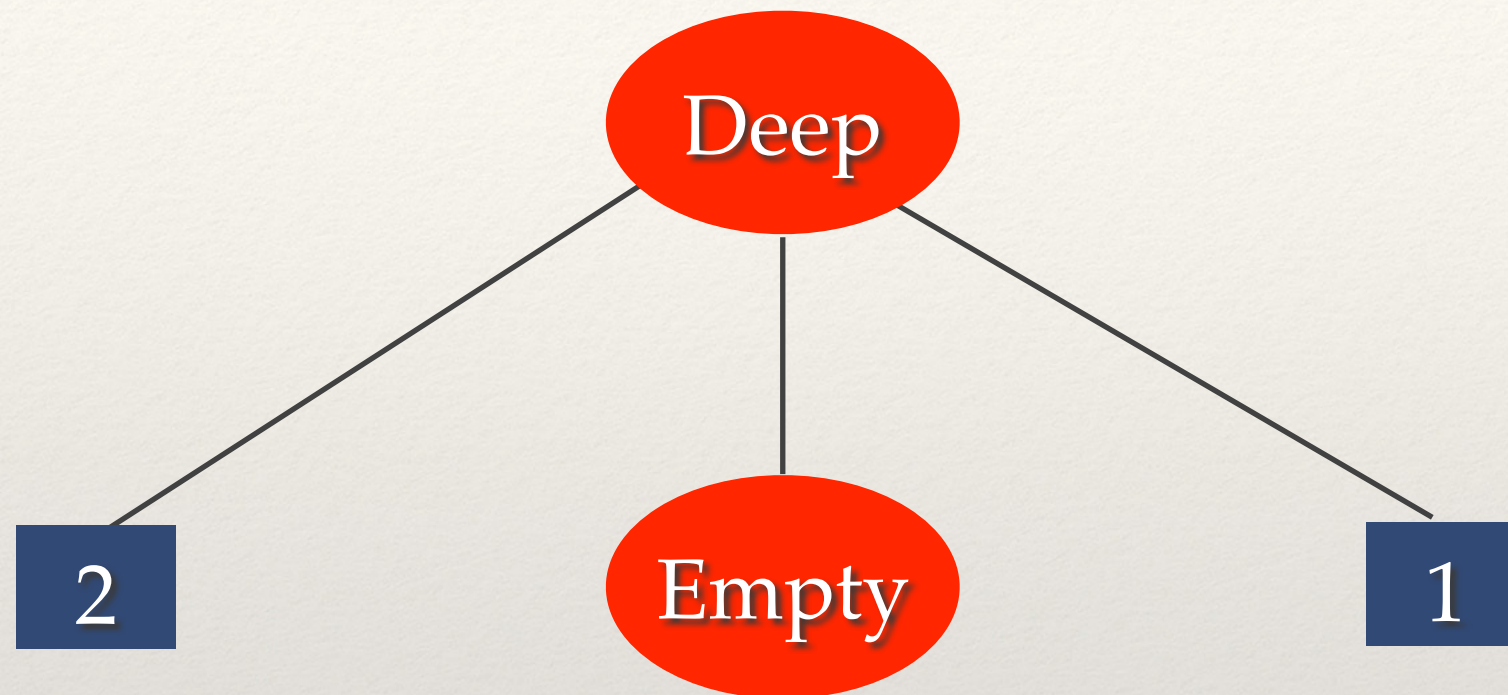
```
-- Base case #1: If this is an empty finger tree, make it one element.  
x <| Empty = Single x
```



---

Prepending 2 =>  
Deep(One(2),Empty,One(1))

---



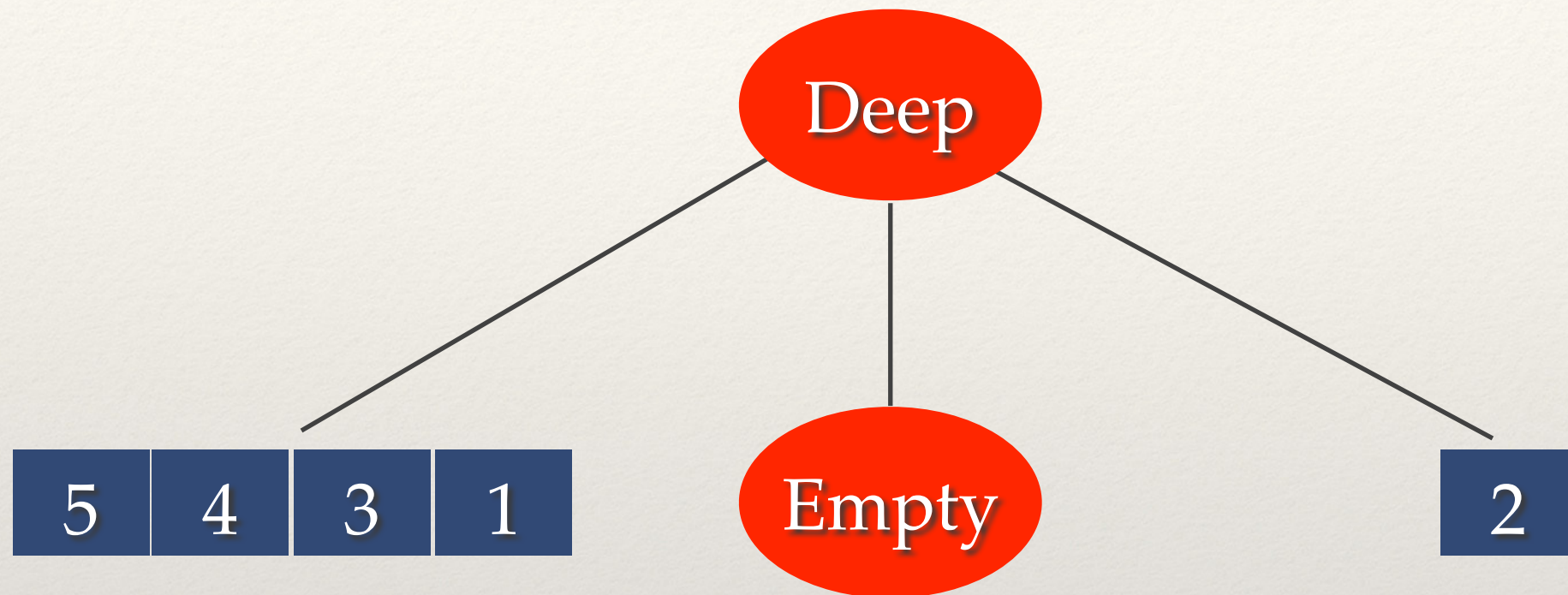
```
-- Base case #2: For a single tree, upgrade it to a deep one.  
-- Remember that the list syntax is actually creating 'Affix a' values.  
x <| Single y = Deep [x] Empty [y]
```



---

Prepending 3,4,5 =>  
Deep(Four(5,4,3,2),Empty,One(1))

---



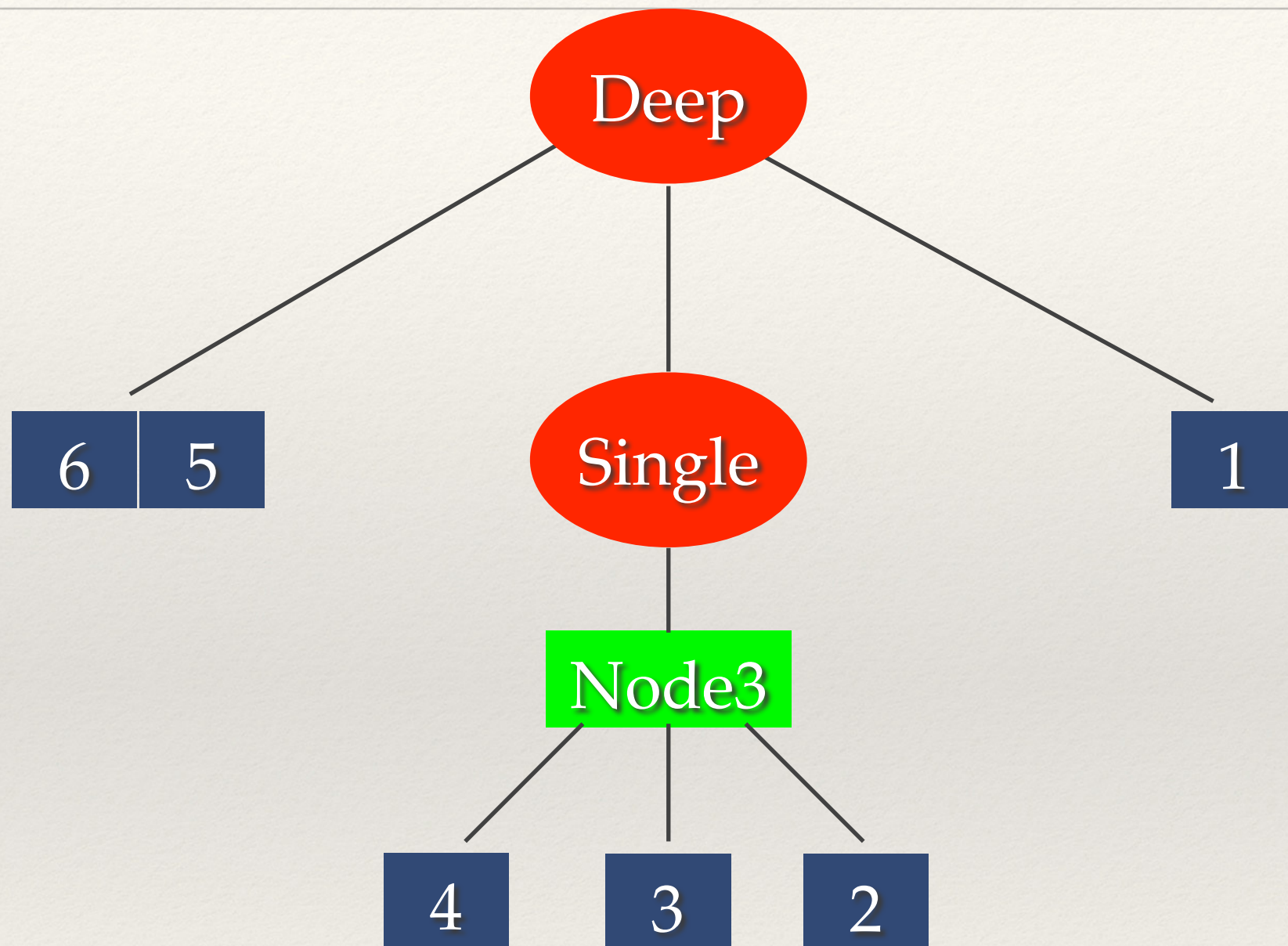
```
-- Non-recursive case: we can just prepend to the prefix.  
x <| tree = tree { prefix = affixPrepend x $ prefix tree }
```



---

Prepending 6 =>  
Deep(Two(6,5),Single(Node3(4,3,2)),One(1))

---



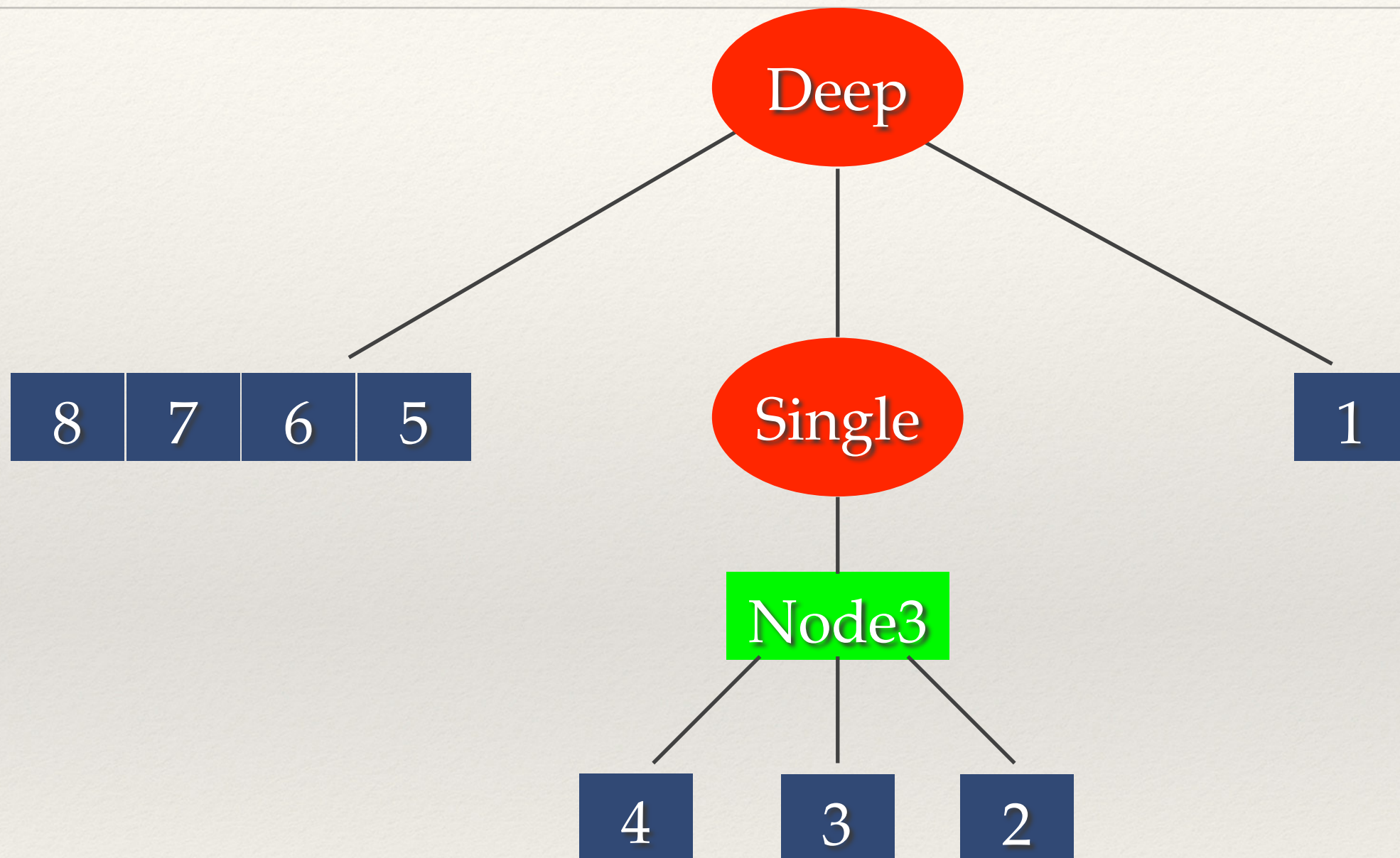
```
-- Recursive case: if we have a prefix with four elements, we have to
-- use the last 2 elements with the new one to create a node, and then
-- we prepend that node to the deeper finger tree which contains nodes.
x <| Deep [a, b, c, d] deeper suffix = Deep [x, a] (node <| deeper) suffix
where
  node = Node3 b c d
```



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Prepending 7,8 =>  
Deep(Four(8,7,6,5),Single(Node3(4,3,2)),One(1))

---

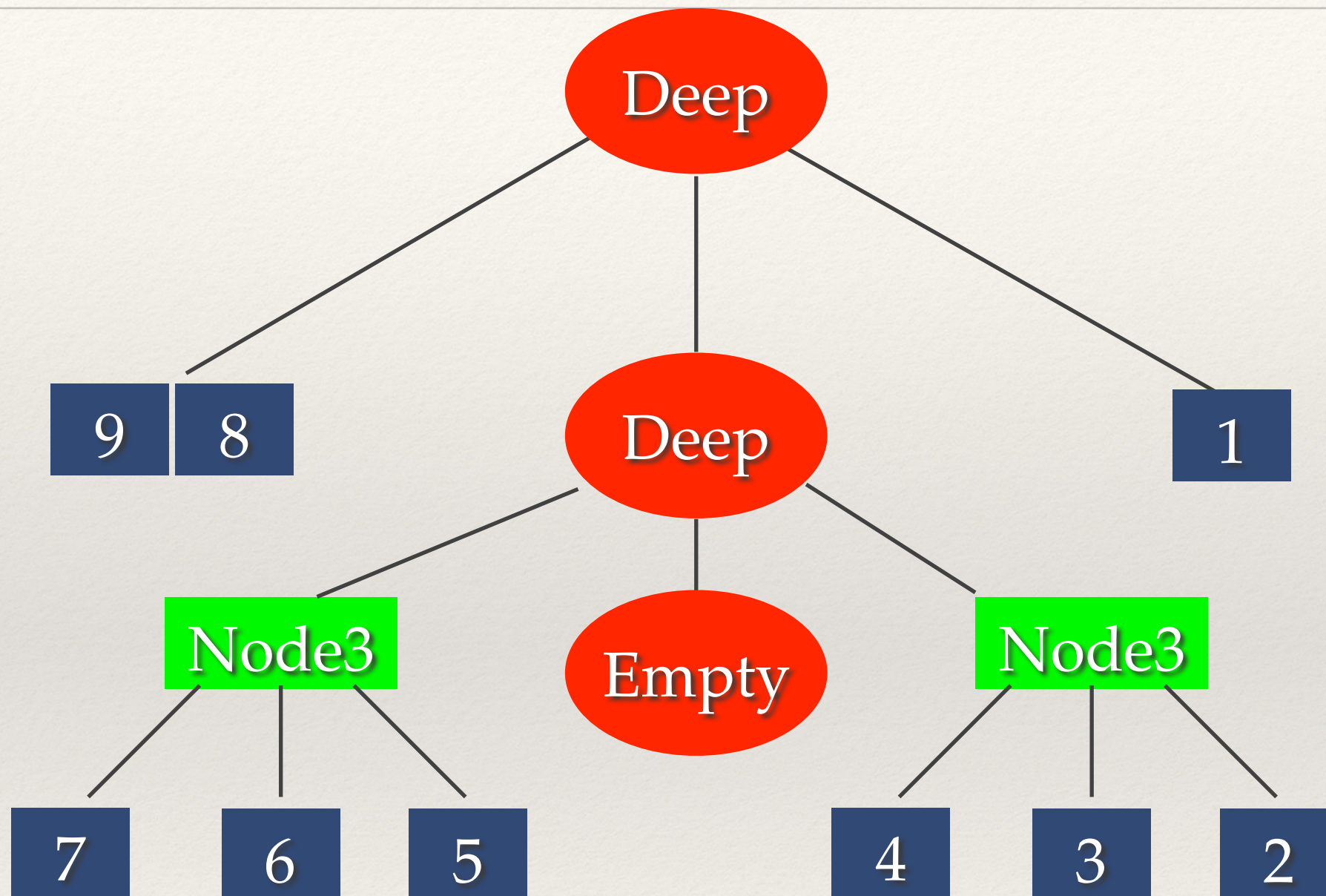


```
-- Non-recursive case: we can just prepend to the prefix.  
x <| tree = tree { prefix = affixPrepend x $ prefix tree }
```



Prepending 9 =>

Deep(Two(9,8),Deep(One(Node3(7,6,5)),Empty,One(Node3(4,3,2))),One(1))



```
-- Recursive case: if we have a prefix with four elements, we have to
-- use the last 2 elements with the new one to create a node, and then
-- we prepend that node to the deeper finger tree which contains nodes.
x <| Deep [a, b, c, d] deeper suffix = Deep [x, a] (node <| deeper) suffix
where
  node = Node3 b c d
```

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# Complexity

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- ❖ An insertion can only propagate to the next level if the Digit is full
- ❖ **At most half operations descend one level**
- ❖ In n operations  $1 + 1/2 + 1/4 + \dots + 1/2^n \dots \leq 2$
- ❖  $\implies$  *Amortized* cost is constant.

❖

# Conclusion

Finger Tree:

An efficient and general-purpose data structure