

Red-Black Trees

Why Even the Inventor Moved On...

Your Name

February 8, 2026

We All Love to Sort Things!

- Organizing bookshelves

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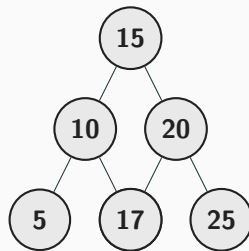
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We All Love to Sort Things!

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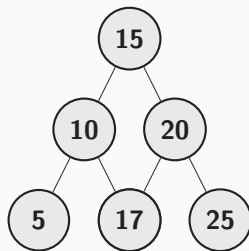
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- **What's a really good way?** 🌲



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Binary Trees are Awesome!

Why Binary Trees Are Good

Beautiful Structure

- Everything has its place
- Search: $O(\log n)$
- Insert: $O(\log n)$
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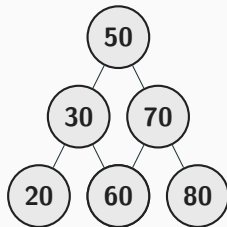
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The Magic

Logarithmic time = **Sports car performance!**



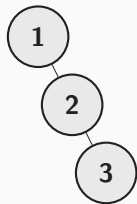
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What happens when we insert: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5?

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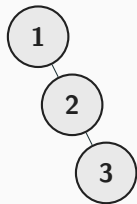
After 1, 2, 3



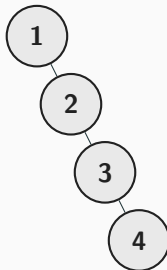
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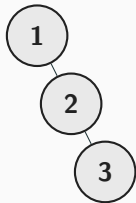
After 4



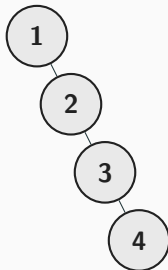
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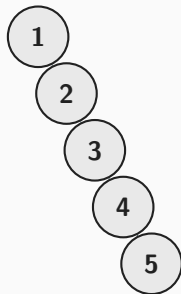
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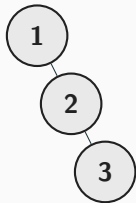
After 5



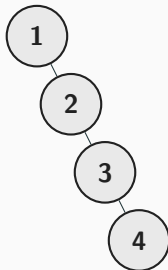
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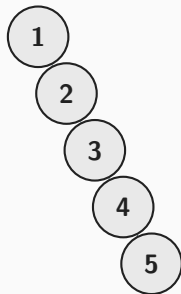
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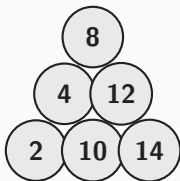


Our tree became a... **LINKED LIST!**

From Sports Car to Bicycle

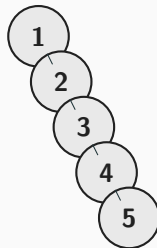
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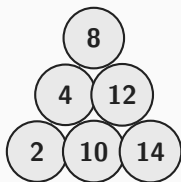
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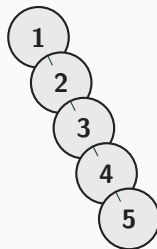
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! Not Great!

We Need Almost Balanced Trees

We want to keep $O(\log n)$ operations **even in the worst case!**

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Red-Black Trees are used EVERYWHERE!

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- Around since the 1970s

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He introduced *Left-Leaning Red-Black Trees* instead.



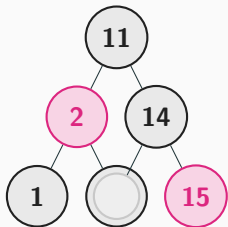
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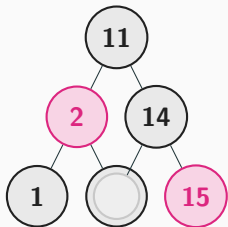
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Let's get started, shall we?

Fundamental properties are better than mathematical definitions!

Everything Has Unique Properties

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Red-Black Trees have 5 properties

Let's see them **one by one**...

The Five Properties

1. Every node is either Red or Black

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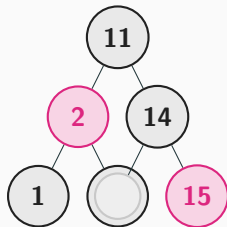
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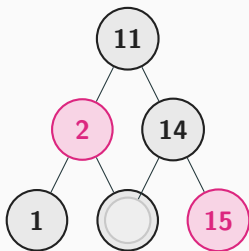
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The **black-height** of a node is the number of black nodes on any path from that node to a leaf (not counting the node itself).

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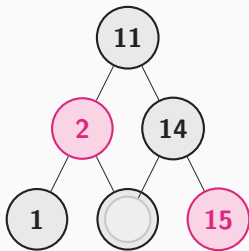
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Why This Matters

This property helps us understand the **balance** of the tree!

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Because of black height, we can prove:

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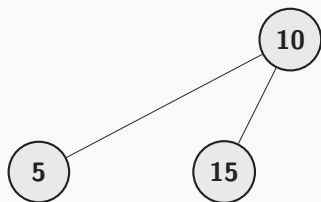
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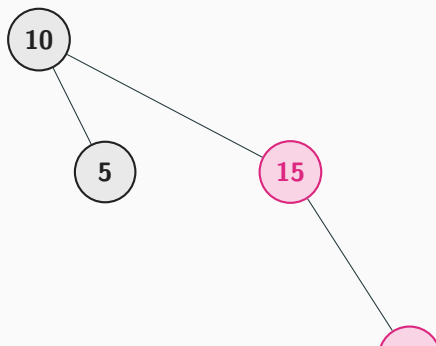
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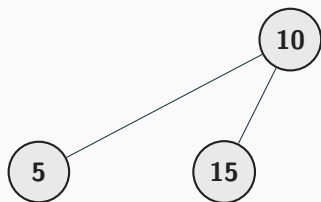
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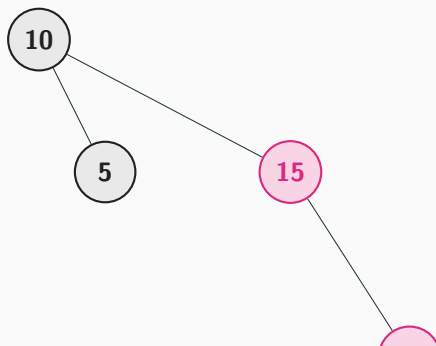
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- Need rotations
- Left rotate, right rotate
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This is where it gets tricky!

But it keeps the tree balanced!

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If deleting RED node

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The key: Maintain black height at all costs!


(We'll skip the gory details - you get the idea!)

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Everywhere!



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**Every time you
use these...**

You're benefiting from
Red-Black Trees!

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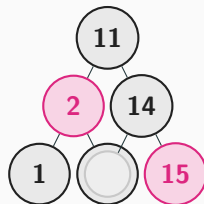
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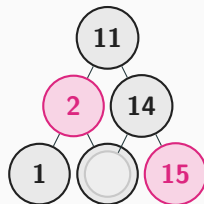
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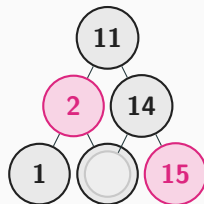
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Any Questions?

