

# ***EE2008: Data Structures and Algorithms***

## ***Recursive Algorithms and Trees***

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**S2.1-B2-06**

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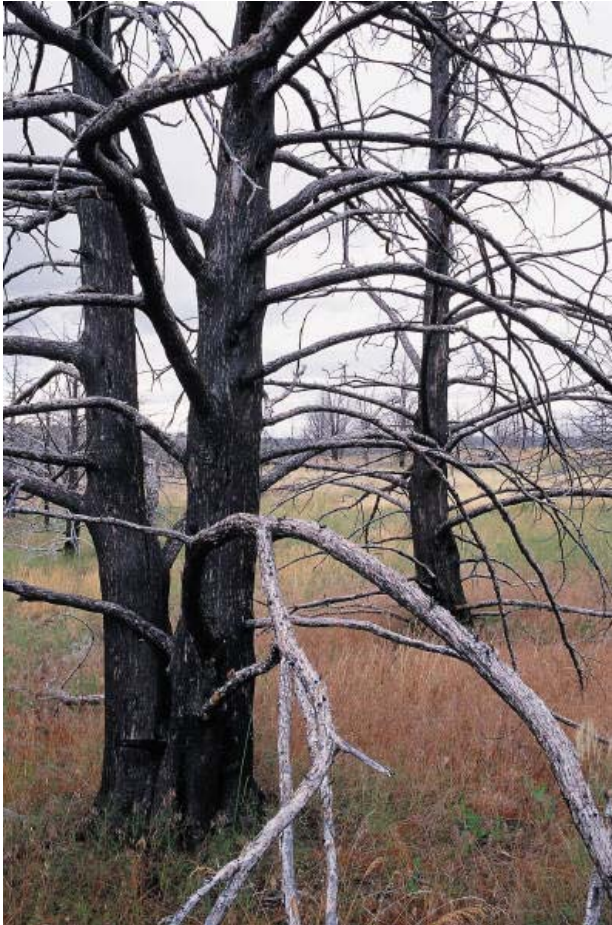
# Topics

- ❑ Recursive Algorithms, Divide and Conquer Algorithms
- ❑ Tree data structures
  - ☞ Binary tree: Binary search trees, AVL trees, Heaps
- ❑ Sorting algorithms
  - ☞ Mergesort
  - ☞ Quicksort
  - ☞ Bucket Sort
  - ☞ Radix Sort
  - ☞ Heap Sort
- ❑ Selection problem and order statistics

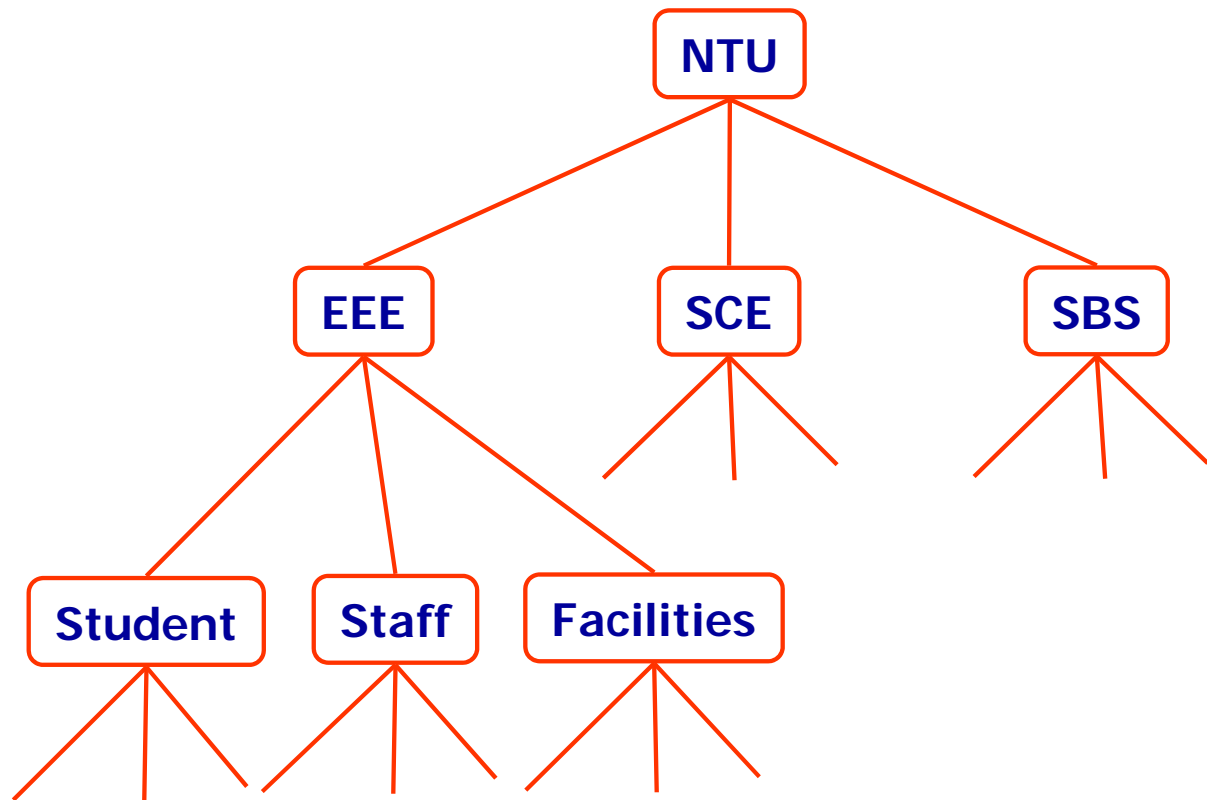


# Data Structures (review)

- ❑ **Definition:** Data structure is a way to store and organize data in order to facilitate access and modifications.
  - ☞ No single data structure works well for all purposes, and so it is important to know the strengths and limitations of different data structures in different applications.
- ❑ Two kinds of information in a data structure
  - ☞ **Structural** (organizational) information (such as “index” for array)
  - ☞ **Data** being organized (such as specific data “5” stored in a array)
- ❑ How do we learn “data structures”: Two key issues
  - ☞ What are distinguishing “structural” **properties** (features)
  - ☞ How to manipulate the structure (**algorithms**)



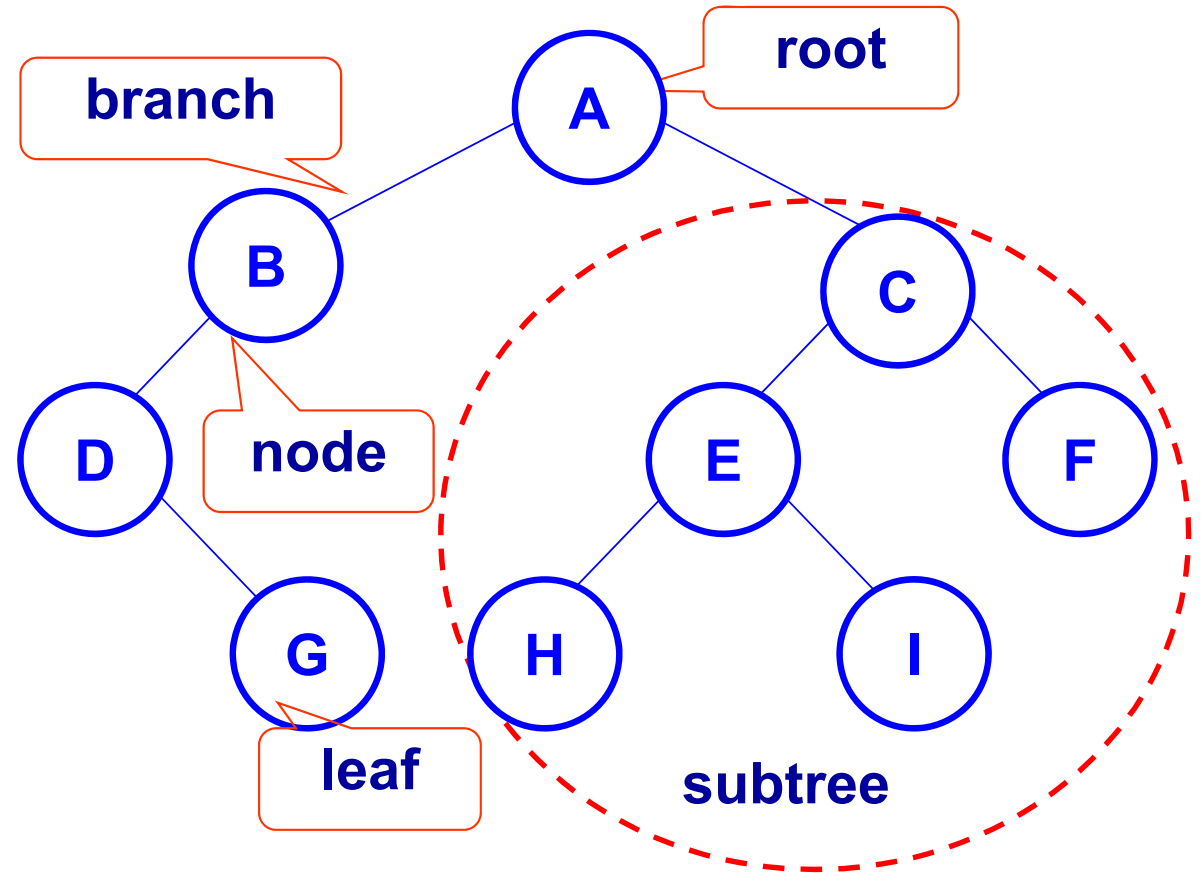
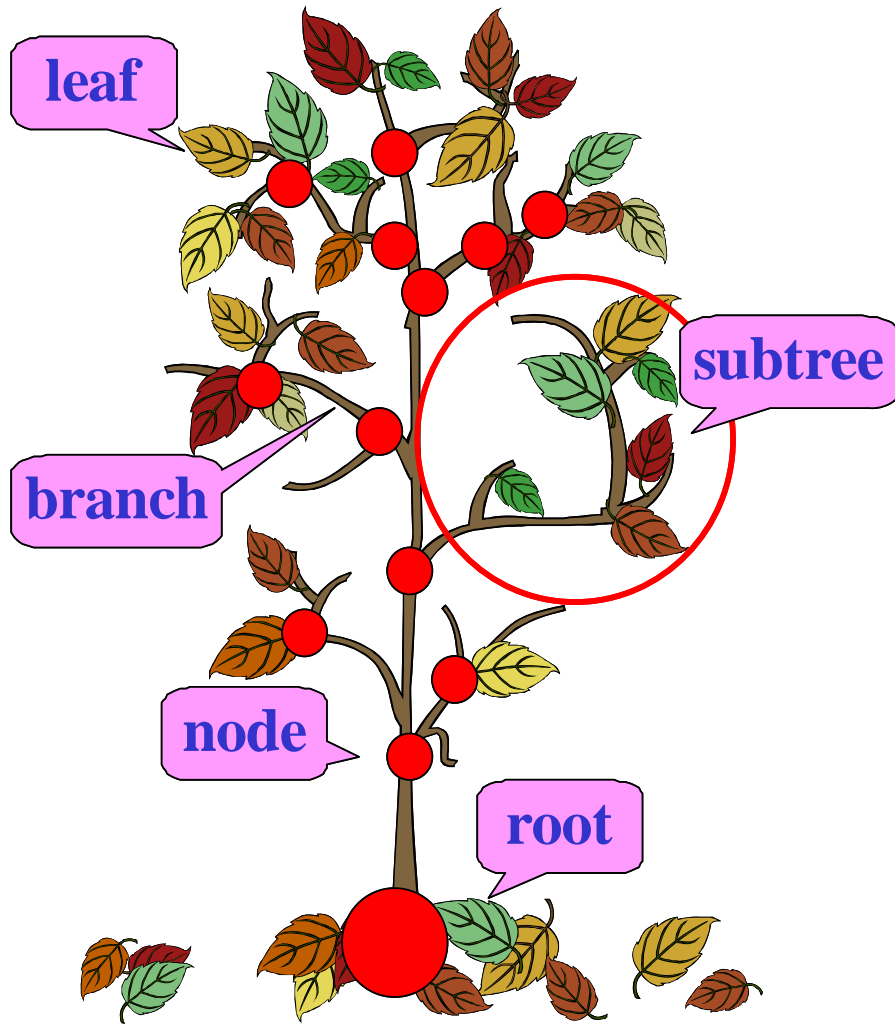
# Trees



# *What is a Tree*

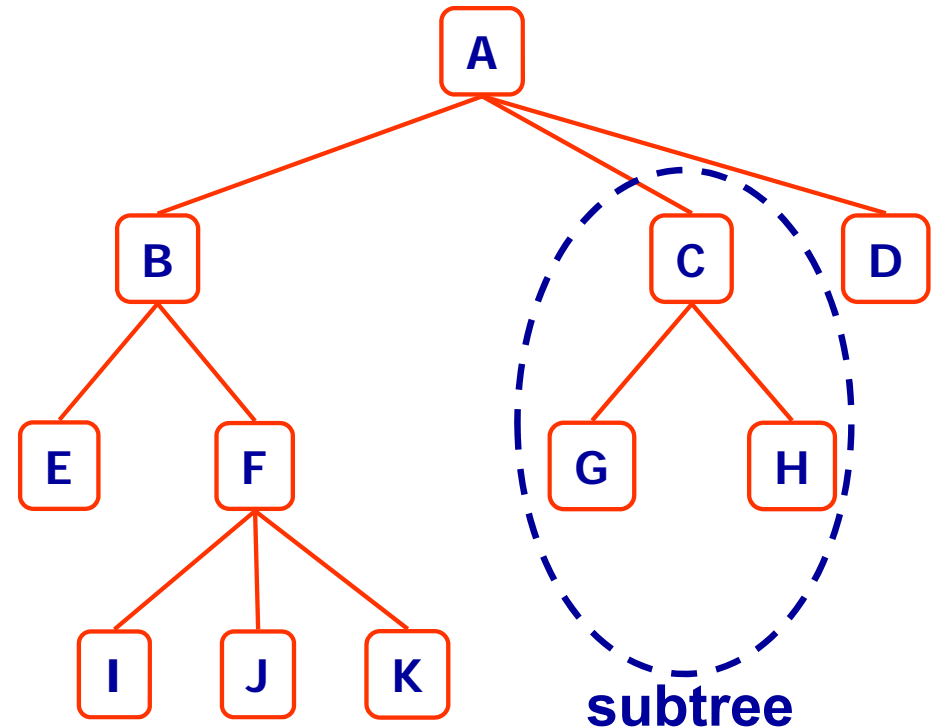
- ❑ In computer science, a tree is an abstract model of a **hierarchical** structure
- ❑ A tree consists of nodes with a **parent-child relation**
- ❑ Applications:
  - ☞ Organization charts
  - ☞ File systems
    - ✓ How to efficiently search a file with specific names/types?

# Trees: Terminology



# Tree Terminology

- ❑ **Root:** node without parent (A)
- ❑ **Internal node:** node with at least one child (A, B, C, F)
- ❑ **External node (a.k.a. leaf):** node without children (E, I, J, K, G, H, D)
- ❑ **Ancestors of a node:** parent, grandparent, grand-grandparent, etc.
- ❑ **Depth of a node:** number of ancestors
- ❑ **Height of a tree:** maximum depth of any node (e.g, 3)
- ❑ **Degree:** The number of children of a node
- ❑ **Subtree:** tree consisting of a node and its descendants



✓ This is a general rooted tree

# Binary Trees

□ A binary tree is a rooted tree in which each node has either no children, one child, or **two** children. --- **Binary**

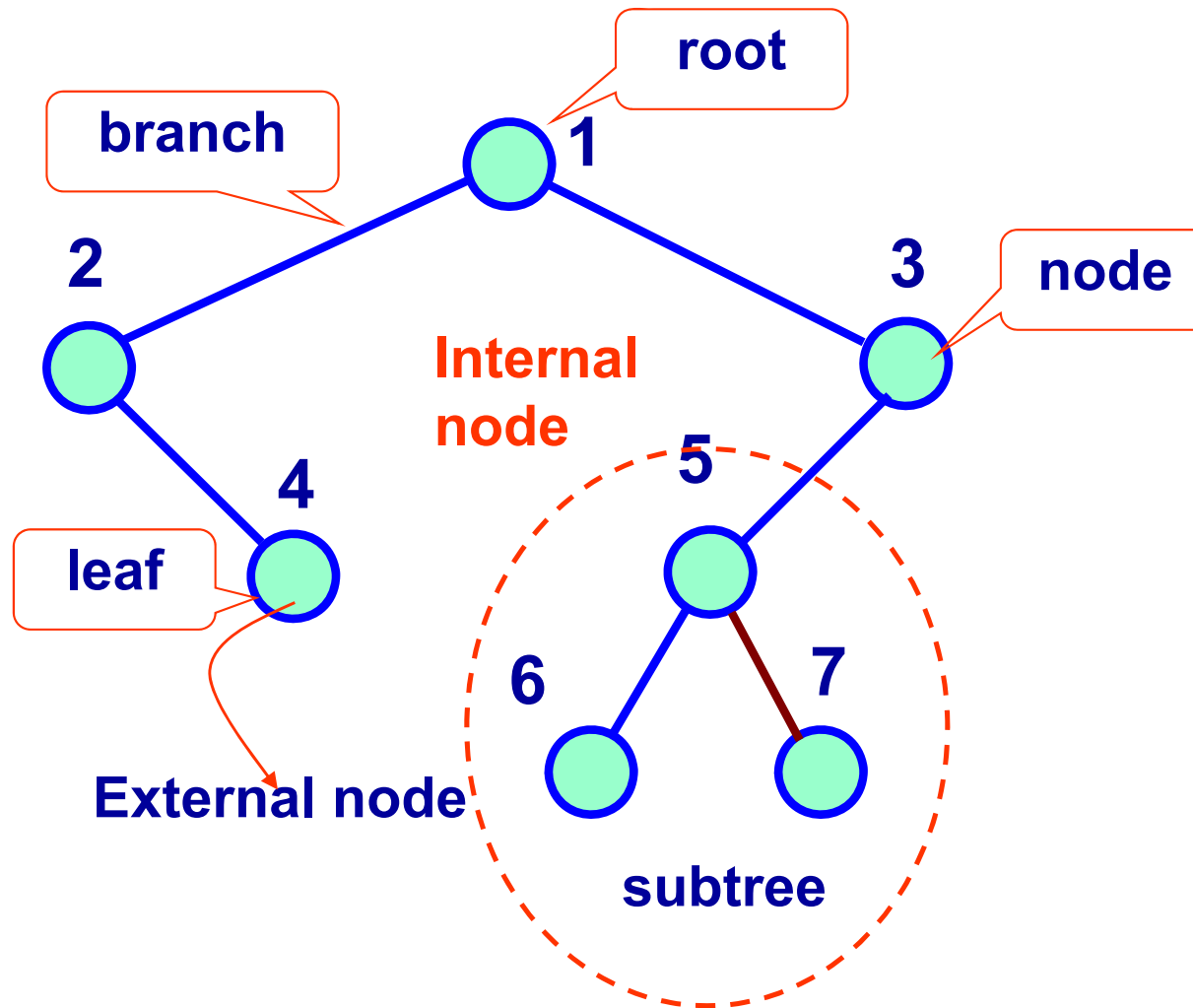
☞ If a node has one child, that child is designated as either a left child or a right child (but not both).

☞ If a node has two children, one child is designated a left child and the other a right child.

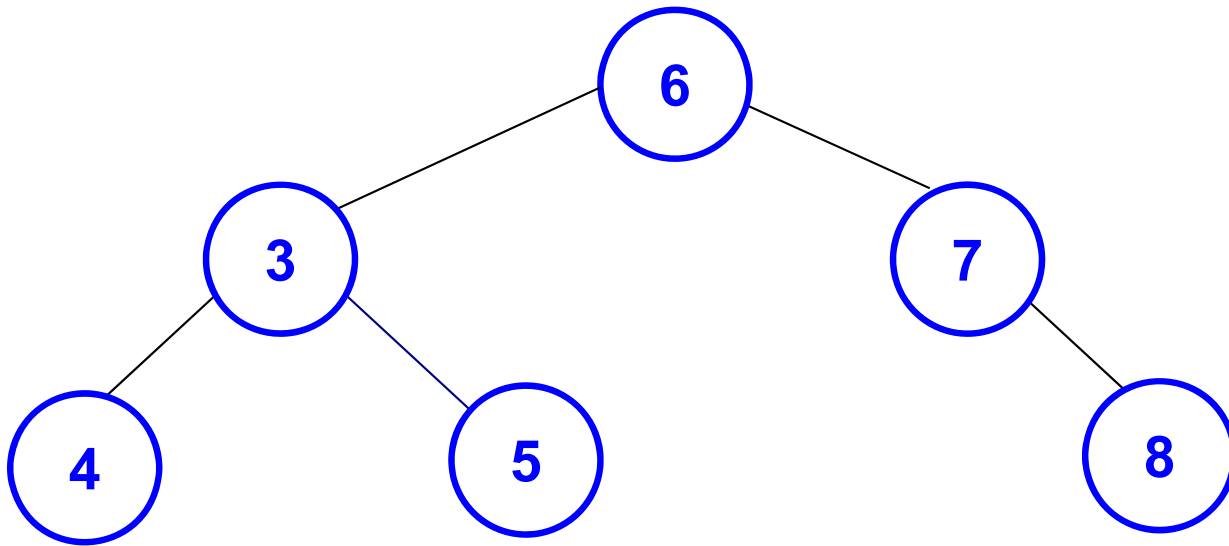
✓ When a binary tree is drawn, a left child is drawn to the left and a right child is drawn to the right.



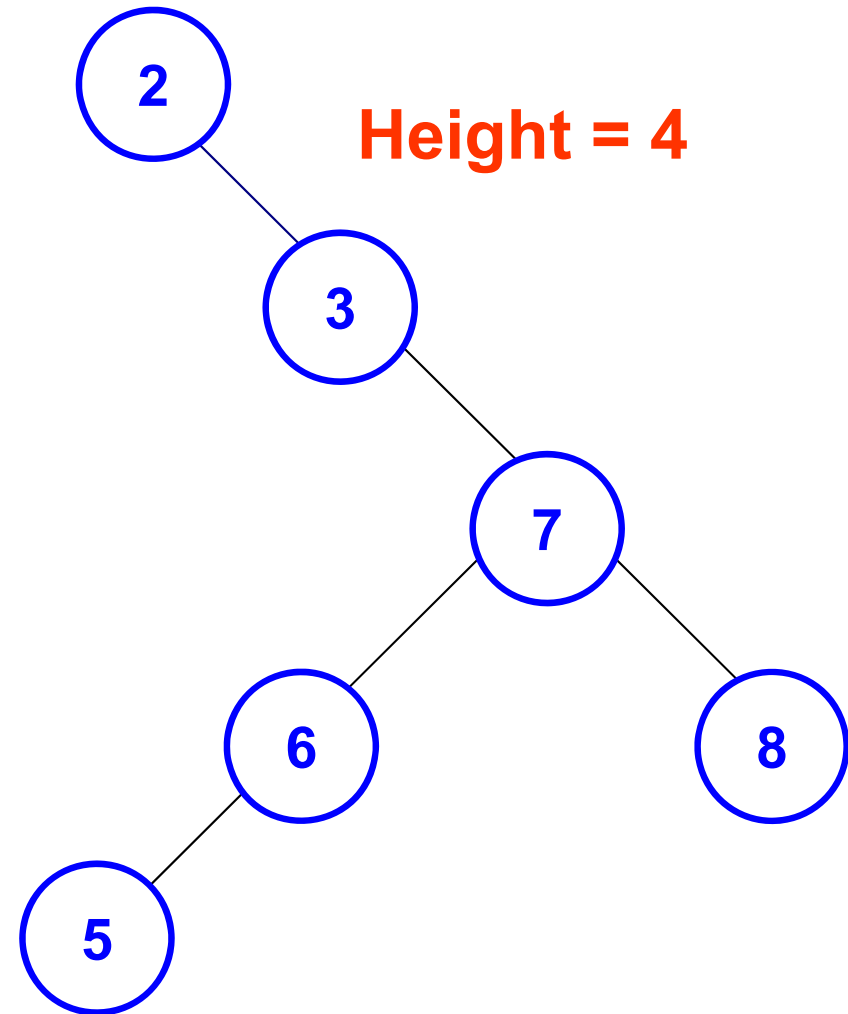
# Binary Tree: Examples



# Binary Tree: Examples



Height = 2



Height = 4

✓ **Height:** Max number of ancestors



An empty tree has height -1  
A tree with a single node has height 0

# Tree: Recursion and recursive

- ❑ Recursion as a technique is extensively used

```
factorial( n )=n*(n-1)*...*2*1
```

- ❑ Familiar recursive function

```
factorial( n ){  
    if n = 1 then return 1  
    else return n * factorial( n-1 )  
}
```

```
factorial(n) {  
    k=1  
    if n>1 then  
        for i=2:n{  
            k=k*i  
        }  
    return k  
}
```

→ factorial(5)	5*factorial(4)	120
↓ factorial(4)	4*factorial(3)	24
↓ factorial(3)	3*factorial(2)	6
↓ factorial(2)	2*factorial(1)	2
↓ factorial(1)	1	



# Recursion and recursive

`factorial( n ) = n * (n-1) * ... * 2 * 1`

**n=5**

```
factorial( n ){  
    if n = 1 then return 1  
    else return n * factorial( n-1 )  
}
```

①

return 24

⑧

**n=4**

```
factorial( n ){  
    if n = 1 then return 1  
    else return n * factorial( n-1 )  
}
```

②

**n=3**

```
factorial( n ){  
    if n = 1 then return 1  
    else return n * factorial( n-1 )  
}
```

③

**n=2**

```
factorial( n ){  
    if n = 1 then return 1  
    else return n * factorial( n-1 )  
}
```

④

**n=1**

```
factorial( n ){  
    if n = 1 then return 1  
    else return n * factorial( n-1 )  
}
```

⑤

⑦ return 6

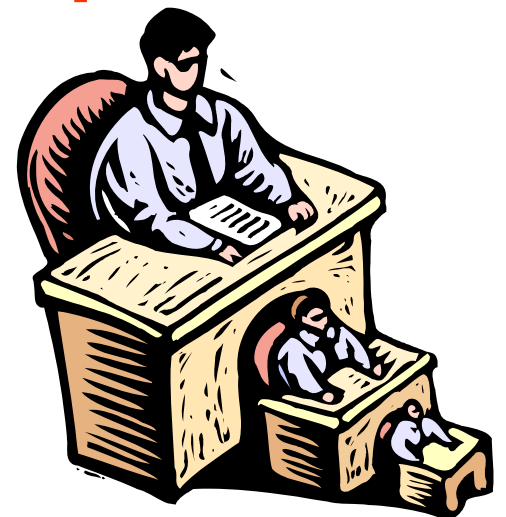
⑥ return 2

⑨

return 120

# *Recursion and recursive*

- ❑ Recursion is the process that a procedure **goes through** when one of the steps of the procedure involves re-running the **entire same procedure**.
  - ☞ A procedure that goes through recursion is said to be **recursive**
- ❑ Simply, a recursive function (definition or algorithm) is one which **calls itself** as **part** of the function body (in a **smaller scale**)



# *Recursive procedure example*

## ❑ How do you study a text book?

☞ Reading a book is a **recursive procedure**

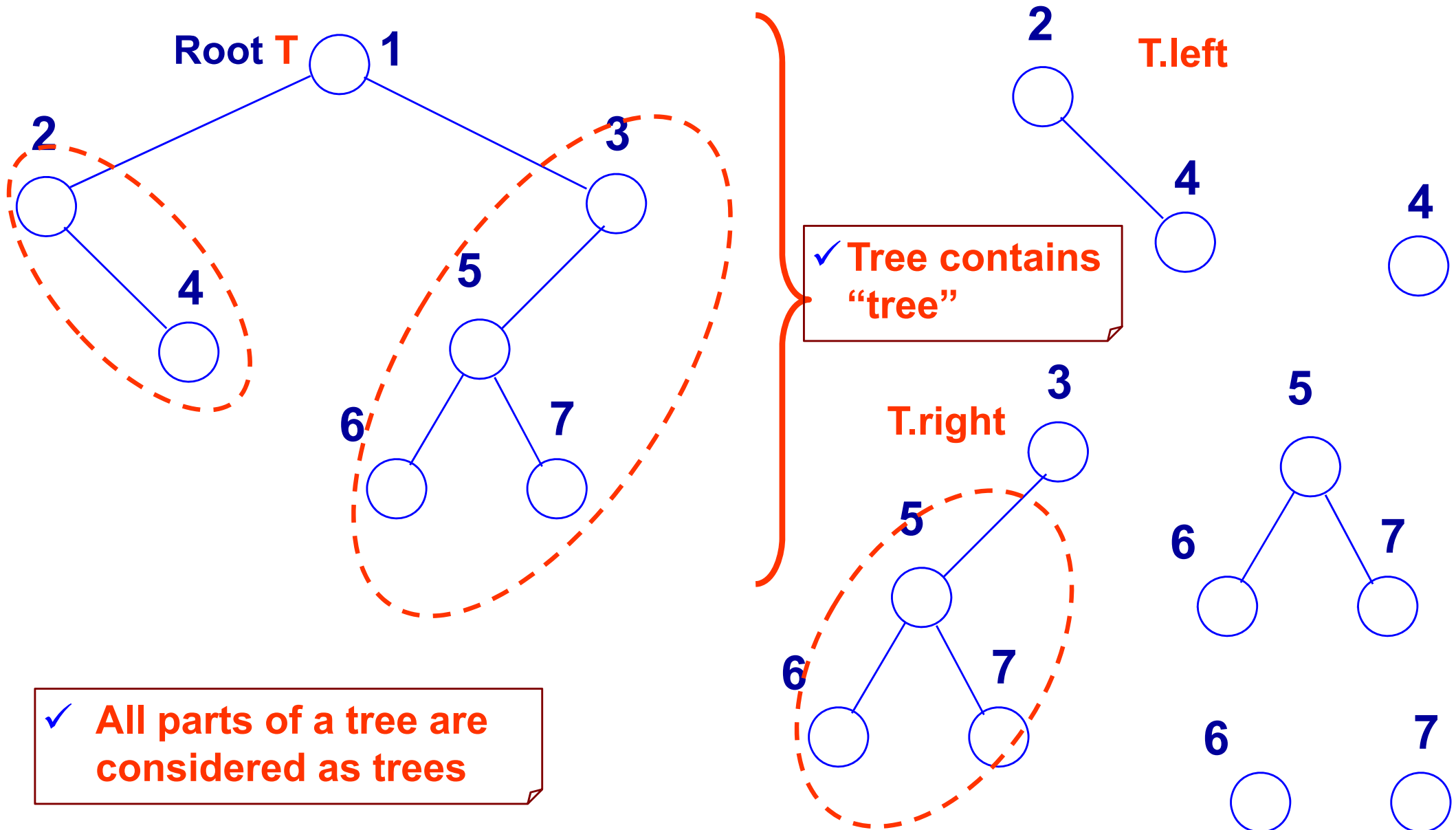
### **Study the book:**

1. If you have reached the end of the book you are done, else
2. Study one page, then **study the rest of the book.**

***Recursive!!***



# Understanding the *recursive* nature of trees



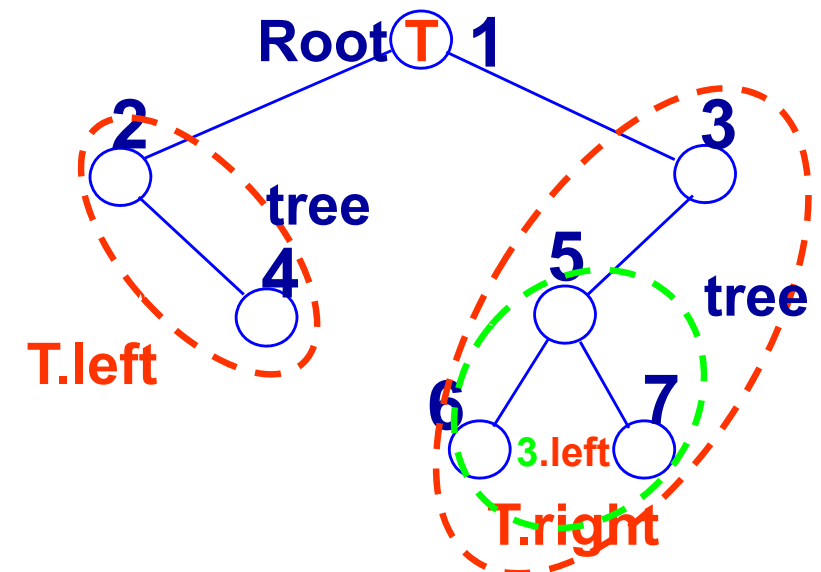
# Binary Tree: Definition

□ A **binary tree** **T** is a structure defined on a finite set of nodes that

**Binary Tree:**

1. Either contains no nodes, or
2. Is composed of **three** disjoint sets of nodes: a root node, its left subtree and its right subtree.
3. Left and right **subtrees are binary tree** (recursive definition)

✓ The binary tree is defined **recursively**.

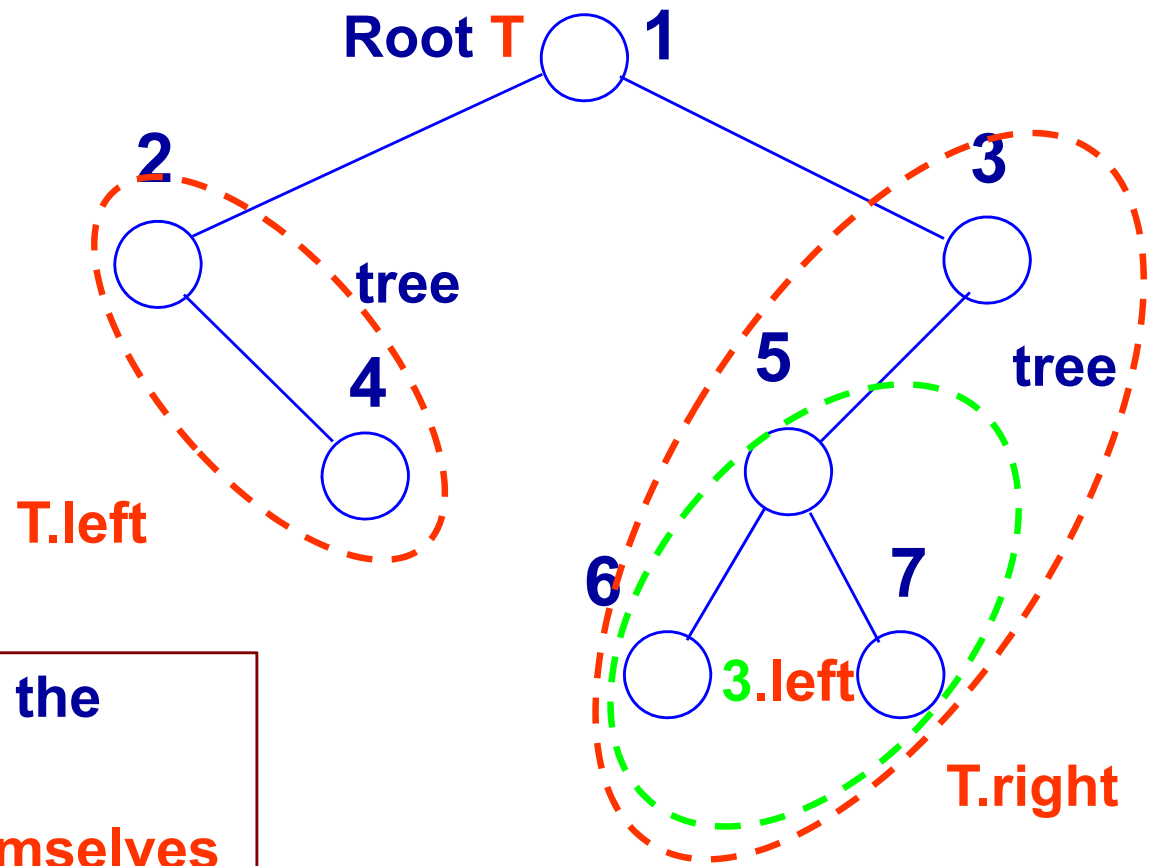




# The recursive nature of trees

□ **Trees** are considered a recursive data structure because trees are said to **contain themselves**

- ✓ Referencing subtree: **dot notation**:
  - ✓ **T.left**
  - ✓ **T.right**



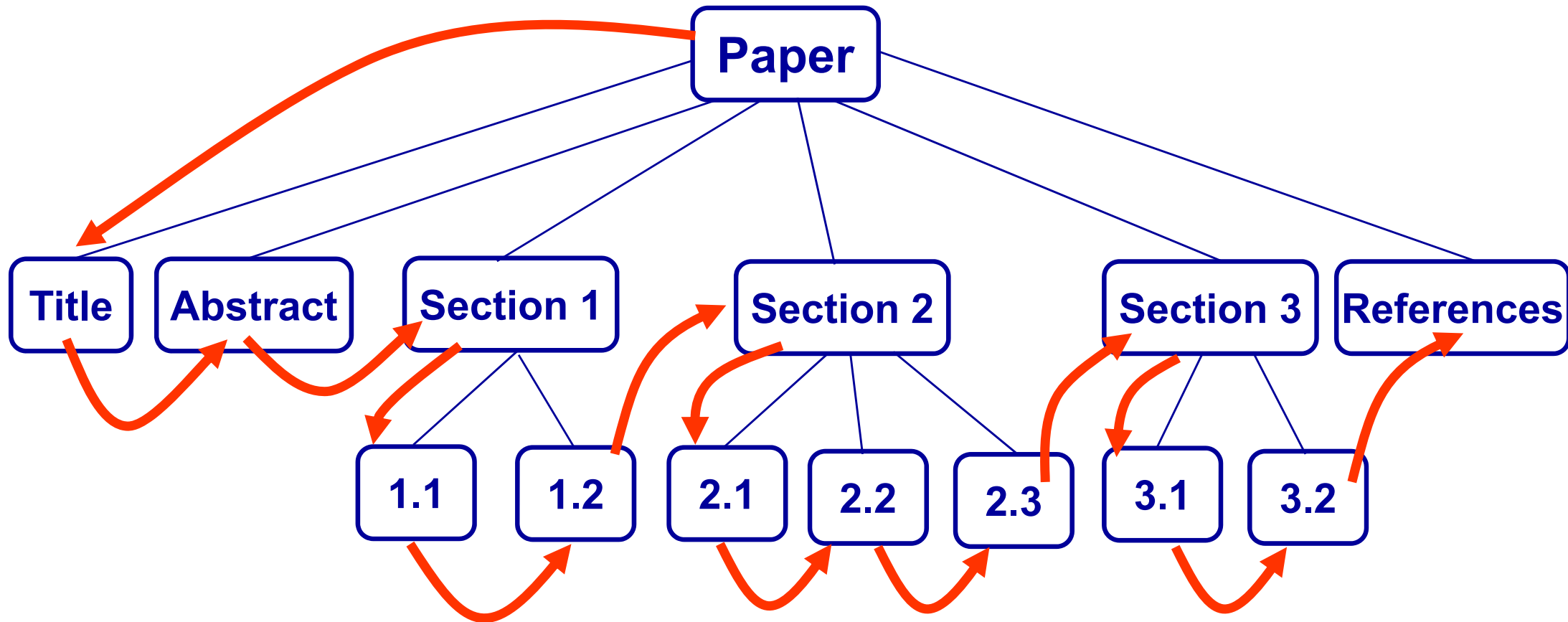
- ✓ Here is a tree that demonstrates the recursiveness of trees;
- ✓ nodes 2, 3 are roots of **trees themselves**

# Binary Tree Traversals

- ❑ To traverse a binary tree is to visit each node in the tree in some *prescribed order*.
  - ☞ Depending on the application, “visit” may be interpreted in various ways.
  - ☞ For example, if we want to print the data in each node in a binary tree, we would interpret “visit” as “print the data.”
- ❑ The three most common traversal orders are *preorder*, *inorder*, and *postorder*.
  - ☞ Each is most easily defined recursively.

# Preorder traversal: Example

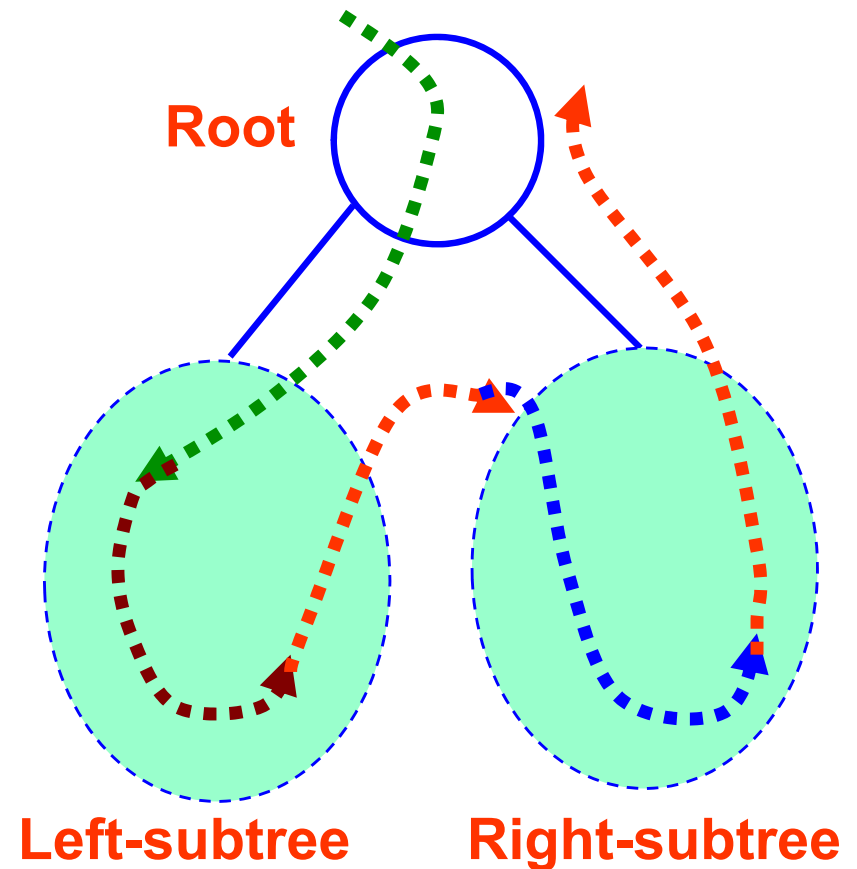
□ If you read an entire paper sequentially ... ..



# Preorder traversal: Definition

□ **Preorder traversal** of a binary tree rooted at **root** is defined by the rules:

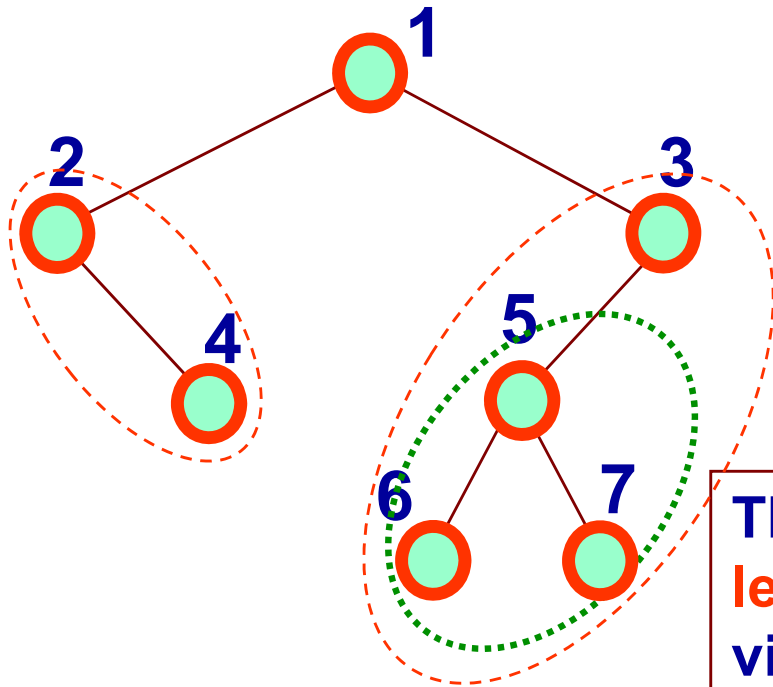
1. If **root** is empty, stop.
2. Visit **root**.
3. Execute **preorder** on the binary tree rooted at the **left** child of the **root**.
4. Execute **preorder** on the binary tree rooted at the **right** child of the **root**.



✓ In a preorder traversal, a node is visited *before* its descendants

✓ In short, **root—left—right**

# Preorder traversal: Example



Beginning with **root** = 1, we visit **1**

We then execute preorder on the subtree rooted at 2 (i.e., the subtree rooted at 1's **left** child)

The order of visitation of this subtree is **2** (**root**), (no **left** subtree), 4 (**right** subtree). The overall order of visitation so far is **1, 2, 4**.

Since we have finished executing preorder on 1's **left subtree**, we next execute preorder on 1's **right subtree**

The order of visitation for this subtree is **3, 5, 6, 7**.

Therefore, the order of visitation for the tree  
**1, 2, 4, 3, 5, 6, 7**.

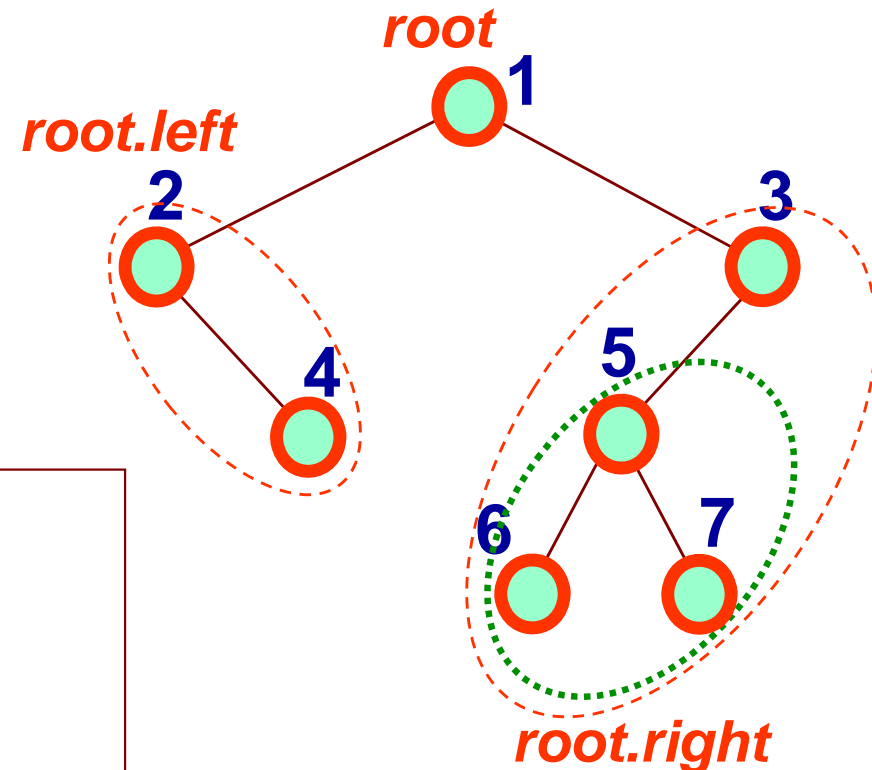
# Algorithm *Preorder*

□ This algorithm performs a preorder traversal of the binary tree with root *root*.

1. If *root* is empty, stop.
2. Visit *root*.
3. Execute *preorder* on the binary tree rooted at the *left* child of the *root*.
4. Execute *preorder* on the binary tree rooted at the *right* child of the *root*.

↓ *pseudo code*

```
preorder(root)    {  
    if (root != null) {  
        visit root;  
        preorder(root.left) ;  
        preorder(root.right) ;  
    }  
}
```



# Counting Nodes in a Binary Tree

□ As an application of the **preorder** algorithm, we adopt it to obtain an algorithm that counts the nodes in a binary tree.

☞ “**Visit node**” is interpreted as “**count node.**”

# Algorithm: Counting Nodes in a Binary Tree

- ❑ This algorithm returns the number of nodes in the binary tree with root *root*

```
Count_nodes (root) {  
    if (root== null)  
        return 0  
    count = 1    // count root  
    // add in nodes in left subtree  
    count = count + count_nodes(root.left)  
    // add in nodes in right subtree  
    count = count + count_nodes(root.right)  
    return count  
}
```

```
preorder(root) {  
    if (root != null) {  
        visit root;  
        preorder(root.left);  
        preorder(root.right);  
    }  
}
```

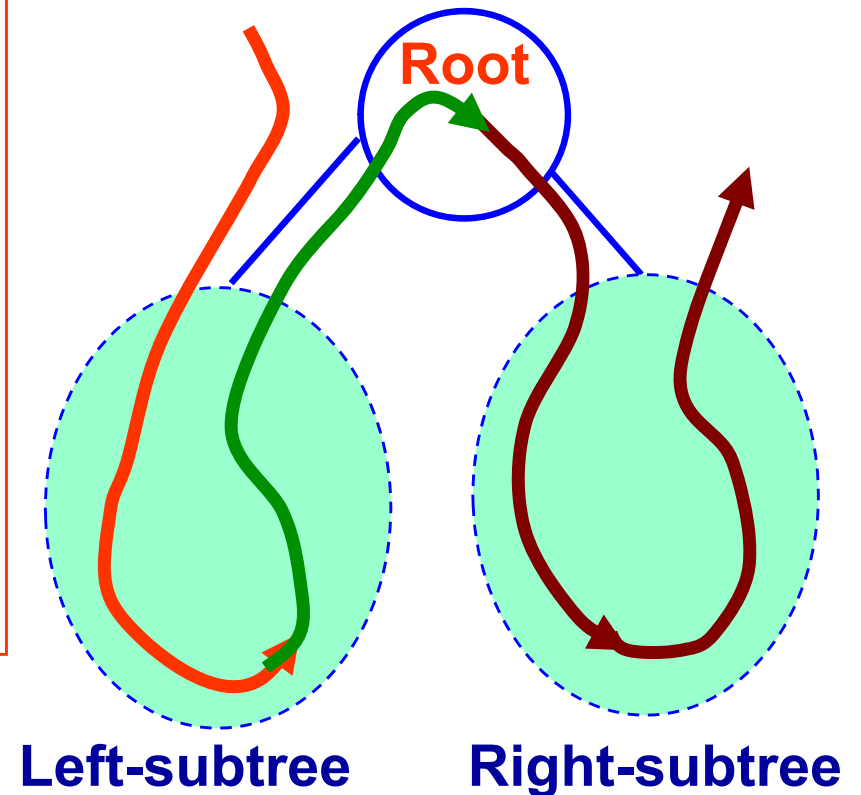


# Inorder Traversal: Definition

□ **Inorder** traversal of a binary tree rooted at **root** is defined by the rules:

1. If **root** is empty, stop.
2. Execute **inorder** on the binary tree rooted at the **left** child of the root.
3. Visit **root**.
4. Execute **inorder** on the binary tree rooted at the **right** child of the root.

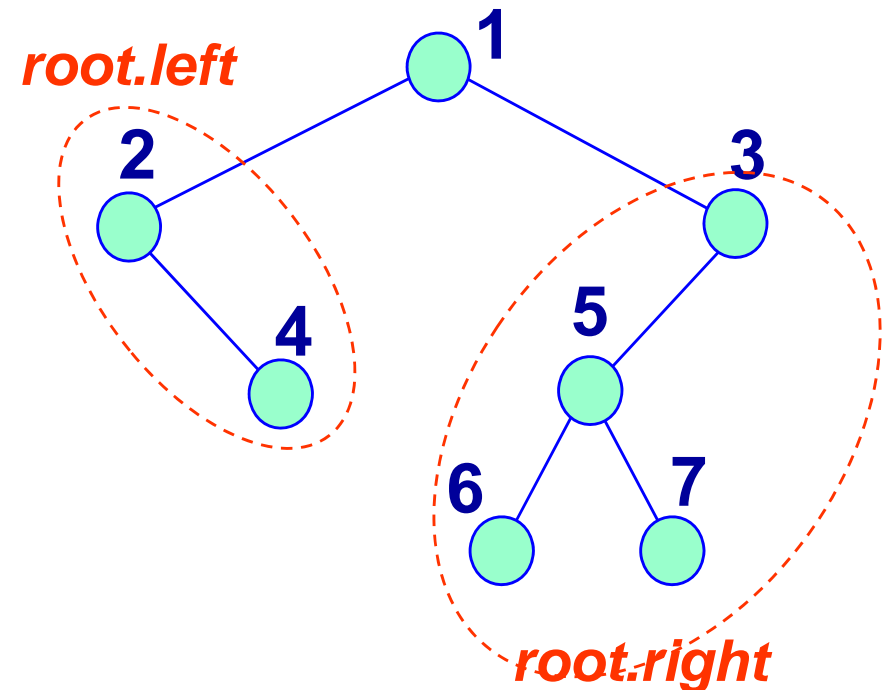
✓ In short, **left—root— right**



# Algorithm Inorder

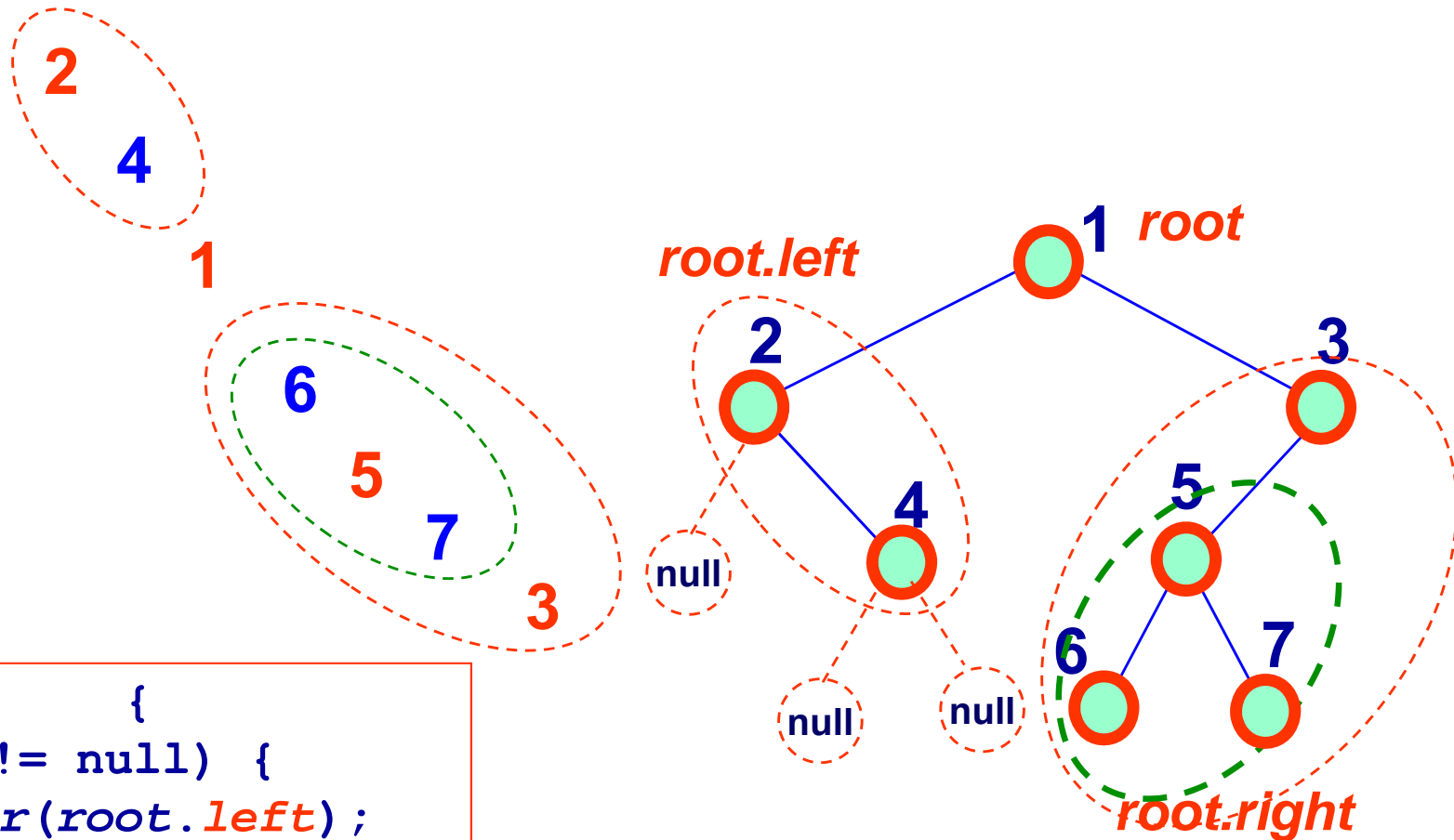
- ❑ This algorithm performs an inorder traversal of the binary tree with root *root*.

```
inorder(root)    {  
    if (root != null) {  
        inorder(root.left) ;  
        visit root ;  
        inorder(root.right) ;  
    }  
}
```



# Inorder Traversal: Example

❑ Inorder visits the nodes of the binary tree in the order

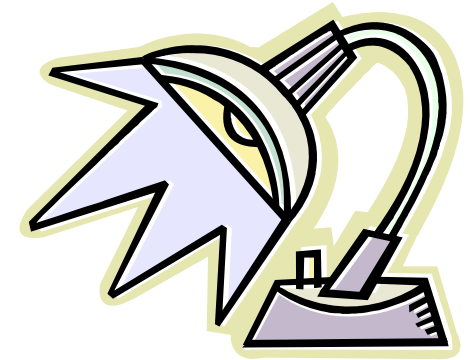
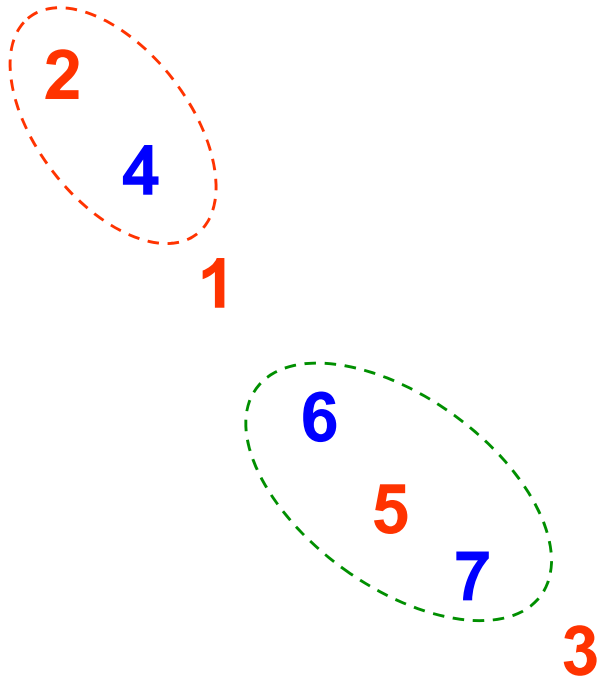


```
inorder(root) {  
    if (root != null) {  
        inorder(root.left);  
        visit root;  
        inorder(root.right);  
    }  
}
```

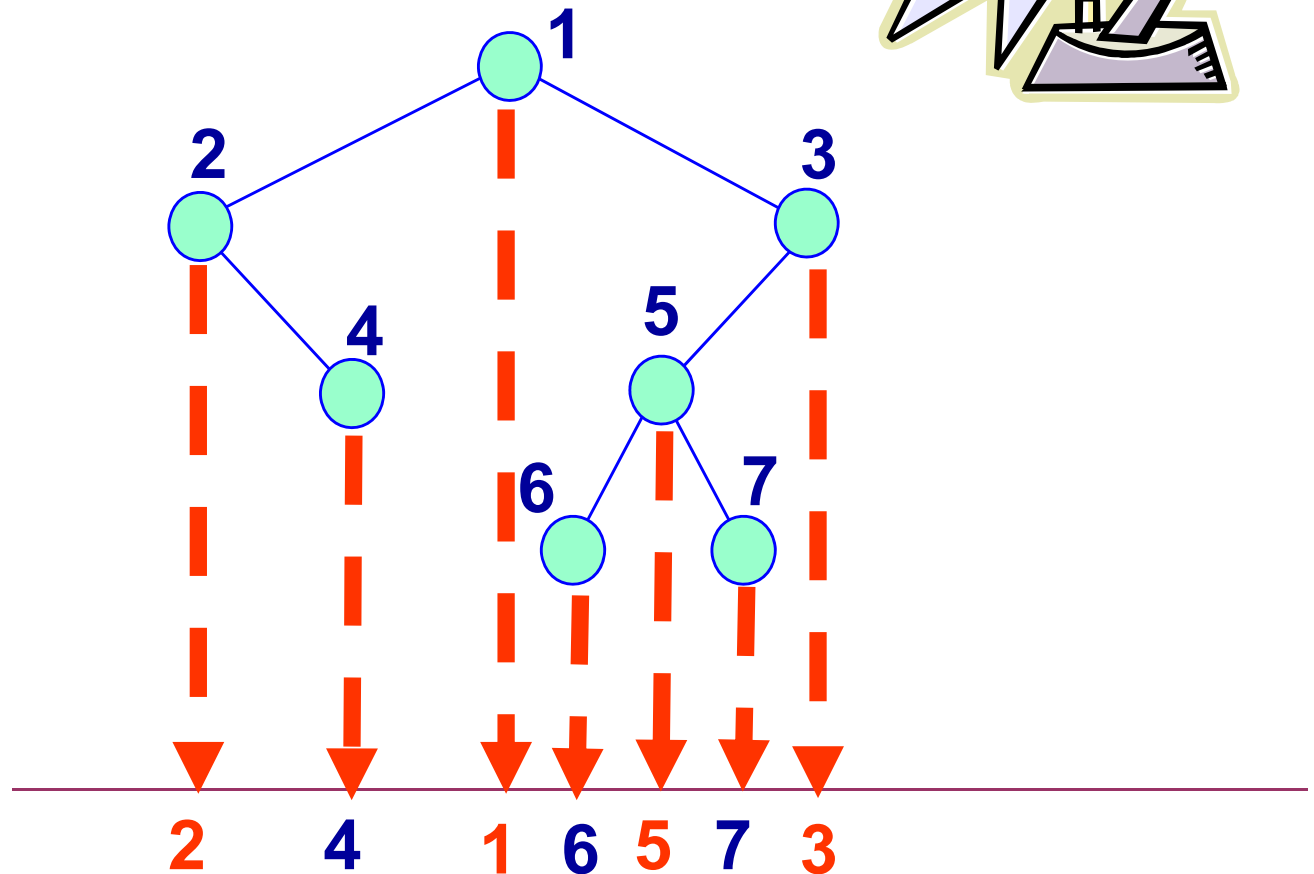
✓ In order of left—root—right

# Inorder Traversal By Projection (Squishing)

□ An easy way ...



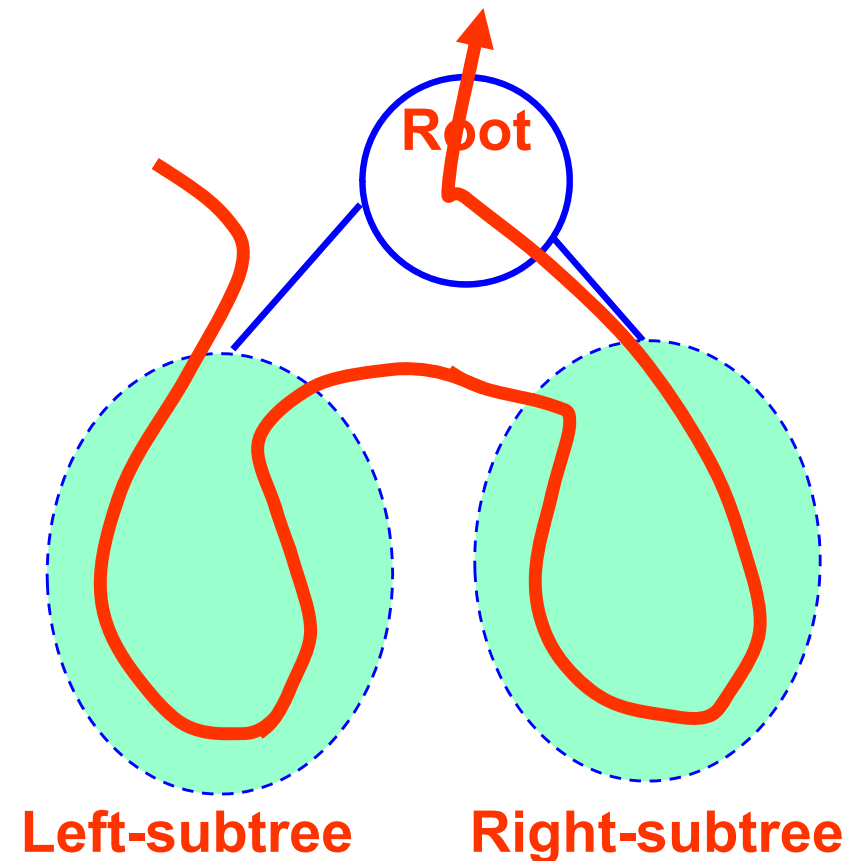
Inorder traversal:



# Postorder traversal: Definition

□ **Postorder traversal** of a binary tree rooted at **root** is defined by the rules

1. If **root** is empty, stop.
2. Execute **postorder** on the binary tree rooted at the **left** child of the root.
3. Execute **postorder** on the binary tree rooted at the **right** child of the root.
4. Visit **root**.

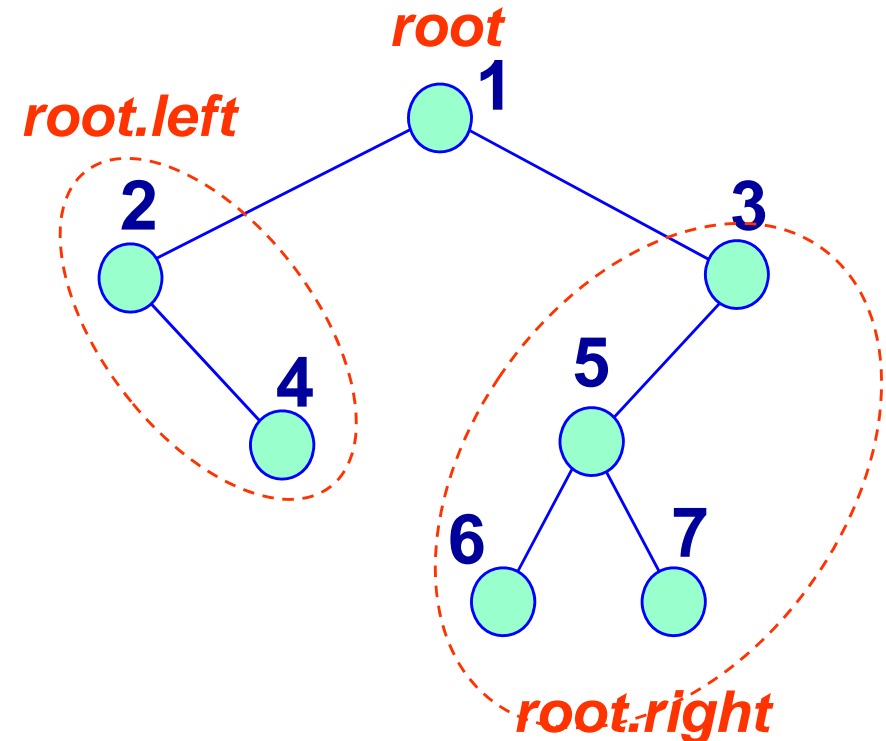


✓ In short, **left—right—root**

# Algorithm Postorder

- ❑ This algorithm performs a **postorder** traversal of the binary tree with root **root**.

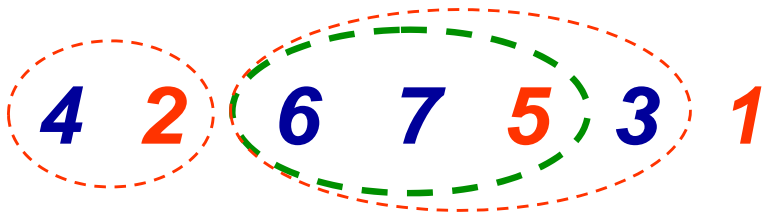
```
postorder(root)    {  
    if (root != null) {  
        postorder(root.left) ;  
        postorder(root.right) ;  
        visit root;  
    }  
}
```



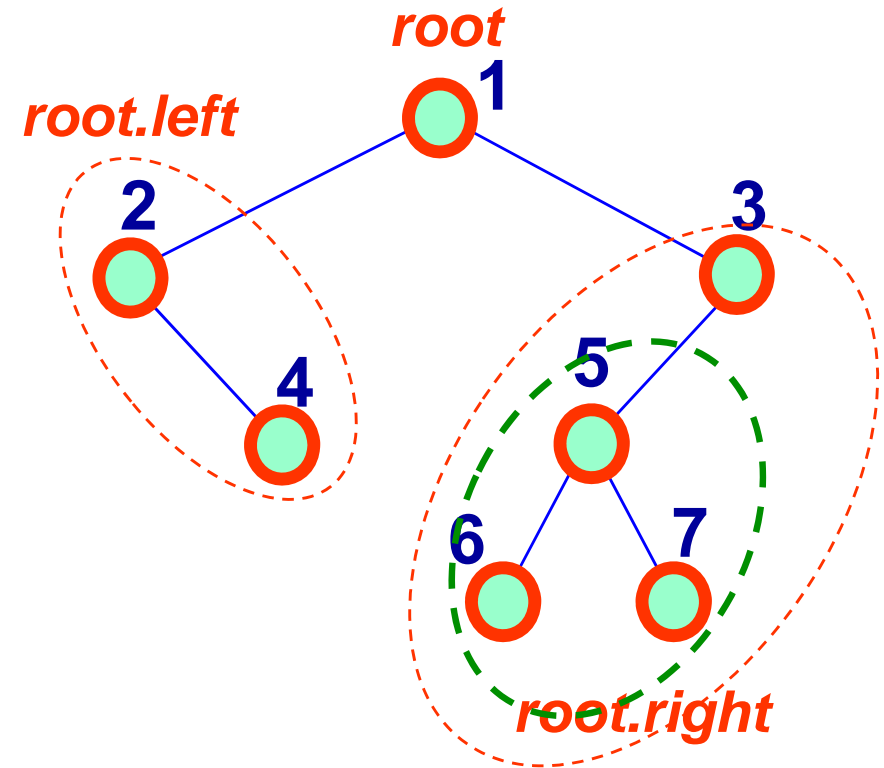
✓ In short, **left—right—root**

# Postorder Traversal: Example

□ **Postorder** visits the nodes of the binary tree in the order

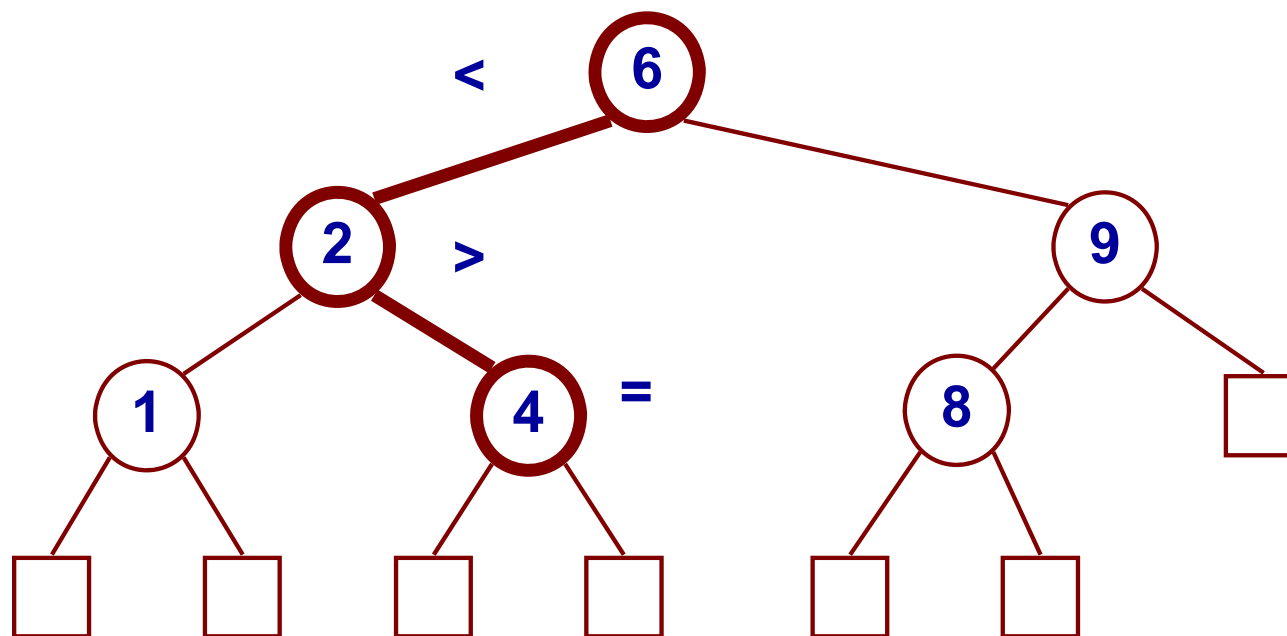


```
postorder(root) {  
    if (root != null) {  
        postorder(root.left);  
        postorder(root.right);  
        visit root;  
    }  
}
```



✓ In short, **left—right—root**

# Binary Search Trees

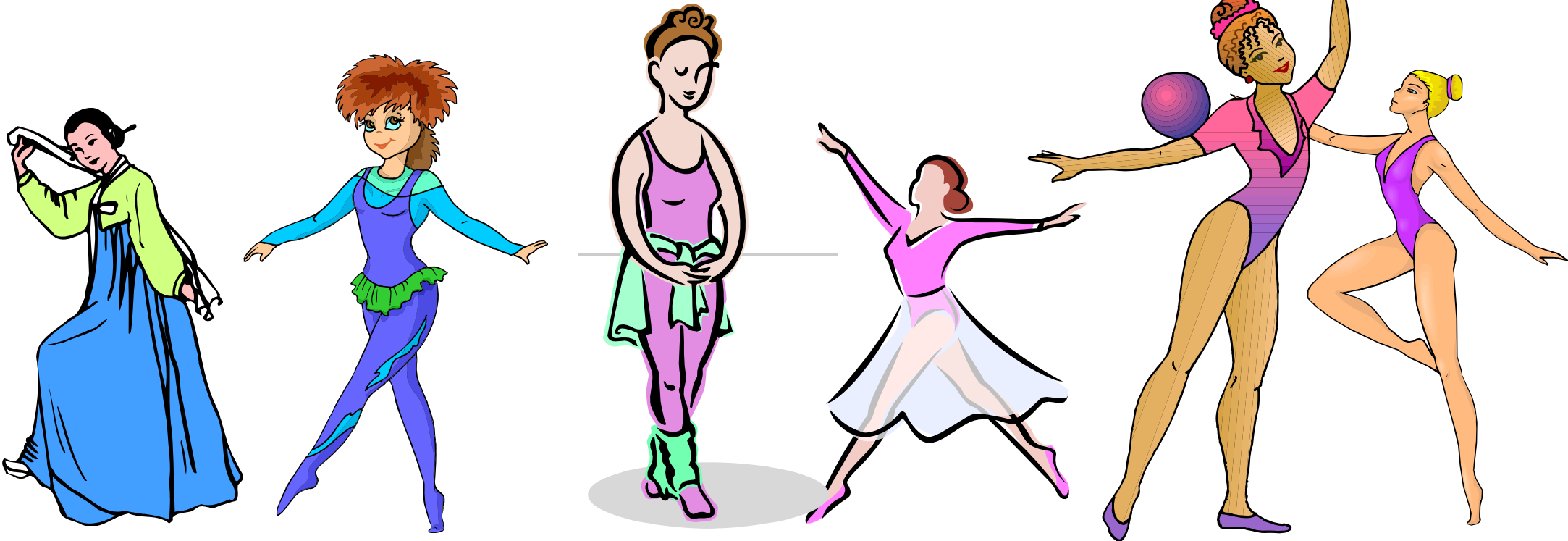




# What is a **Binary Search Tree**

Suppose that you have to sort a group of people by height so that you can easily search for someone by their height later on.

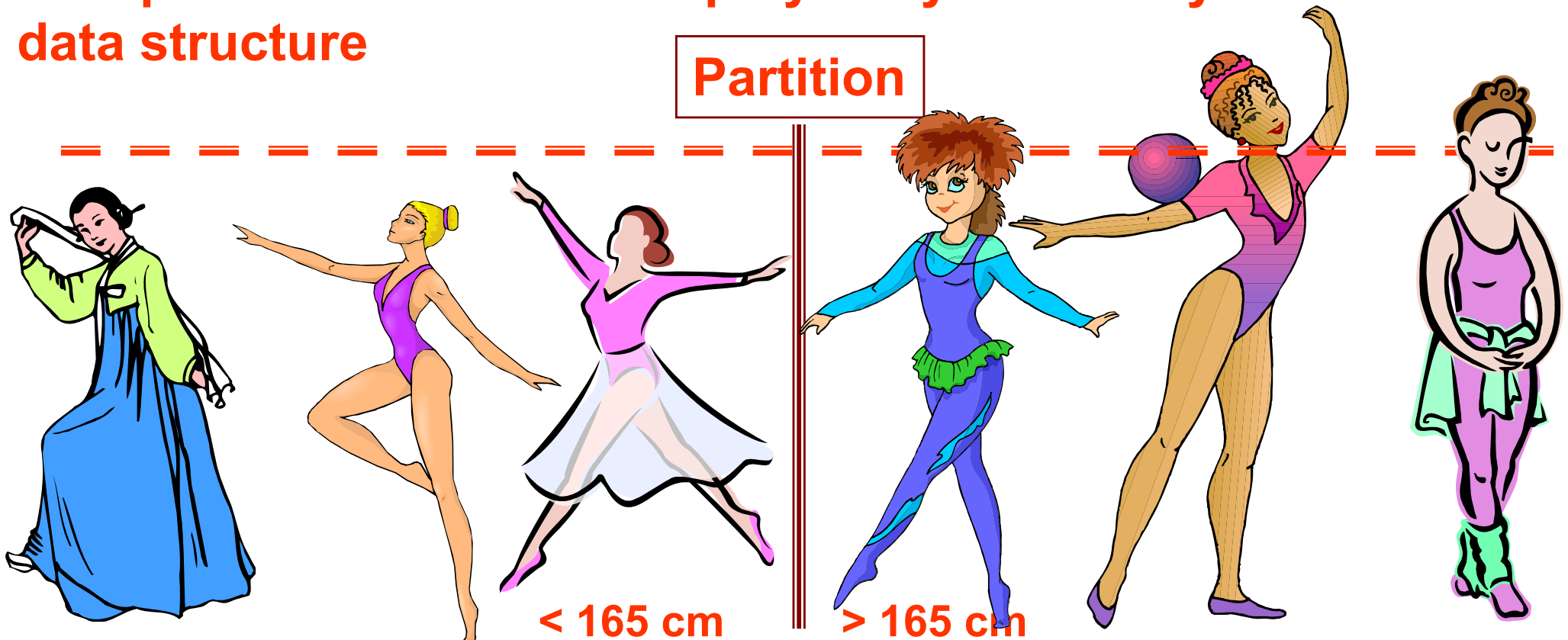
How would you go about doing this **efficiently**?



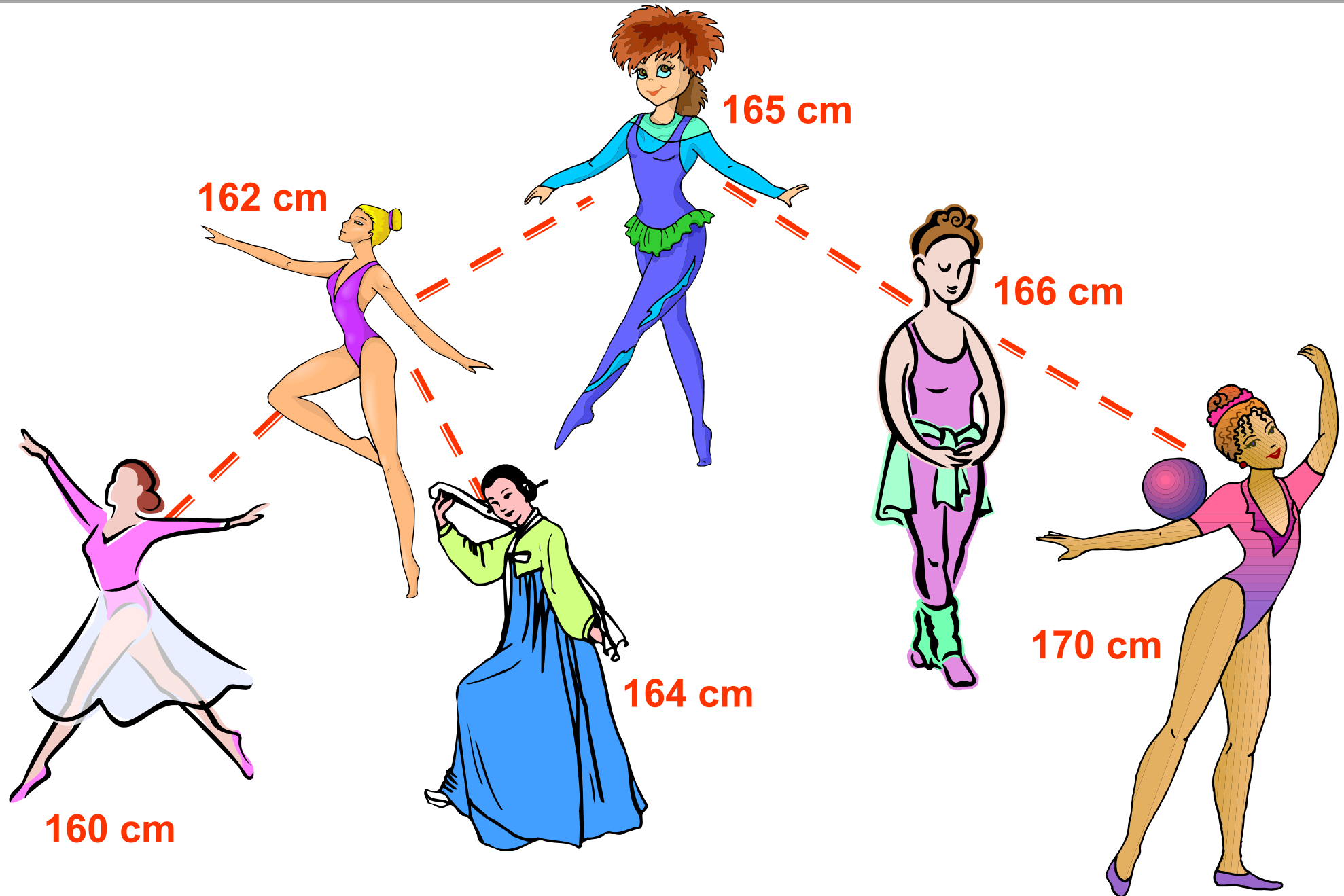
# What is a Binary Search Tree

Pick a midpoint (say, **165cm**) and look at the first person in line. If s/he is below that height, you move him/her to the left, otherwise to the right.

This partition method is employed by the binary search tree data structure



# What is a Binary Search Tree



# *What is a Binary Search Tree*

- ❑ In a binary search tree, data are stored in the nodes.
- ❑ Data items can be **compared**; that is,  $<$ ,  $\leq$ , and so on, are defined on the data
  - 👉 Compare **data of a node** with its **parent**

# What is a Binary Search Tree

- ❑ The data are placed in a binary search tree so that the following “**binary search tree property**” is satisfied:
  - ☞ for every node **v**, each **data item** in **v's left subtree**, if any, is **less than or equal to the data item in v**, and each data item in **v's right subtree**, if any, is greater than the data item in **v**.

✓ That is, the value of **left child** is at most the value of its parent, and a **right child** is at least its parent.

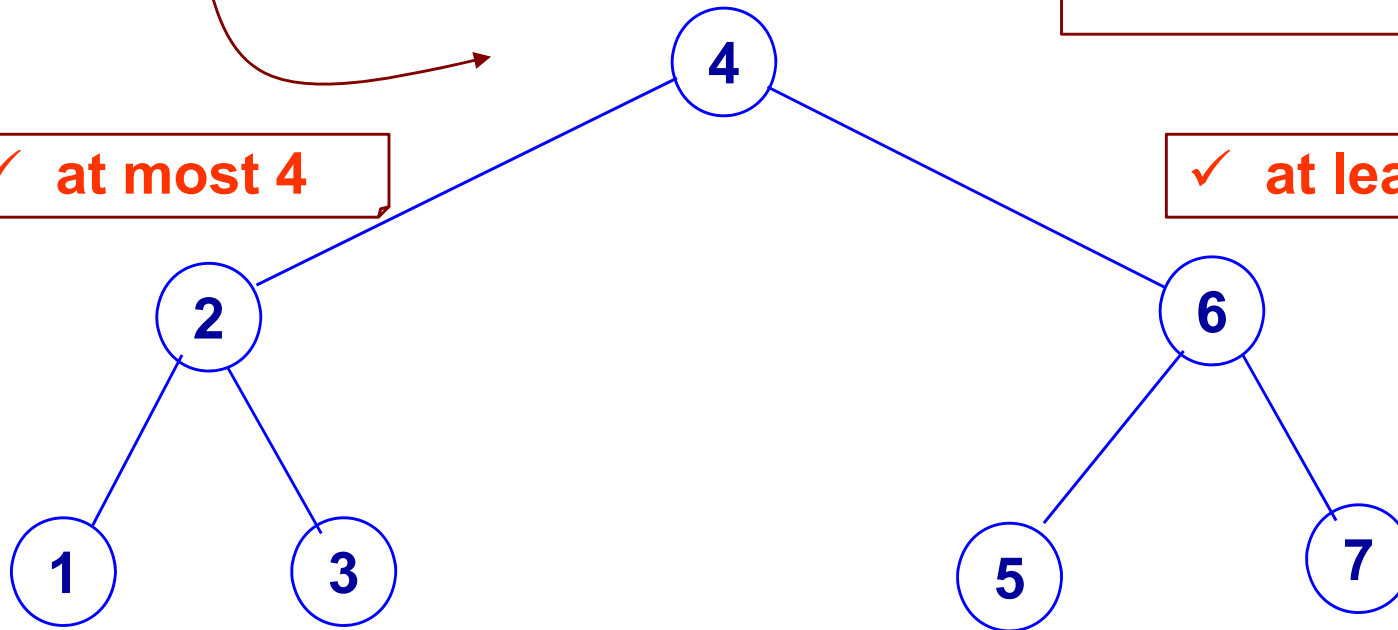
# Binary search trees: Example

4, 2, 6, 5, 1, 3, 7

✓ Building a BST, starting from value 4

✓ at most 4

✓ at least 4



✓ **“Binary search tree property”**: a node’s left child must have a data less than or equal to **its parent**, and a node’s right child must have a data greater than **its parent**

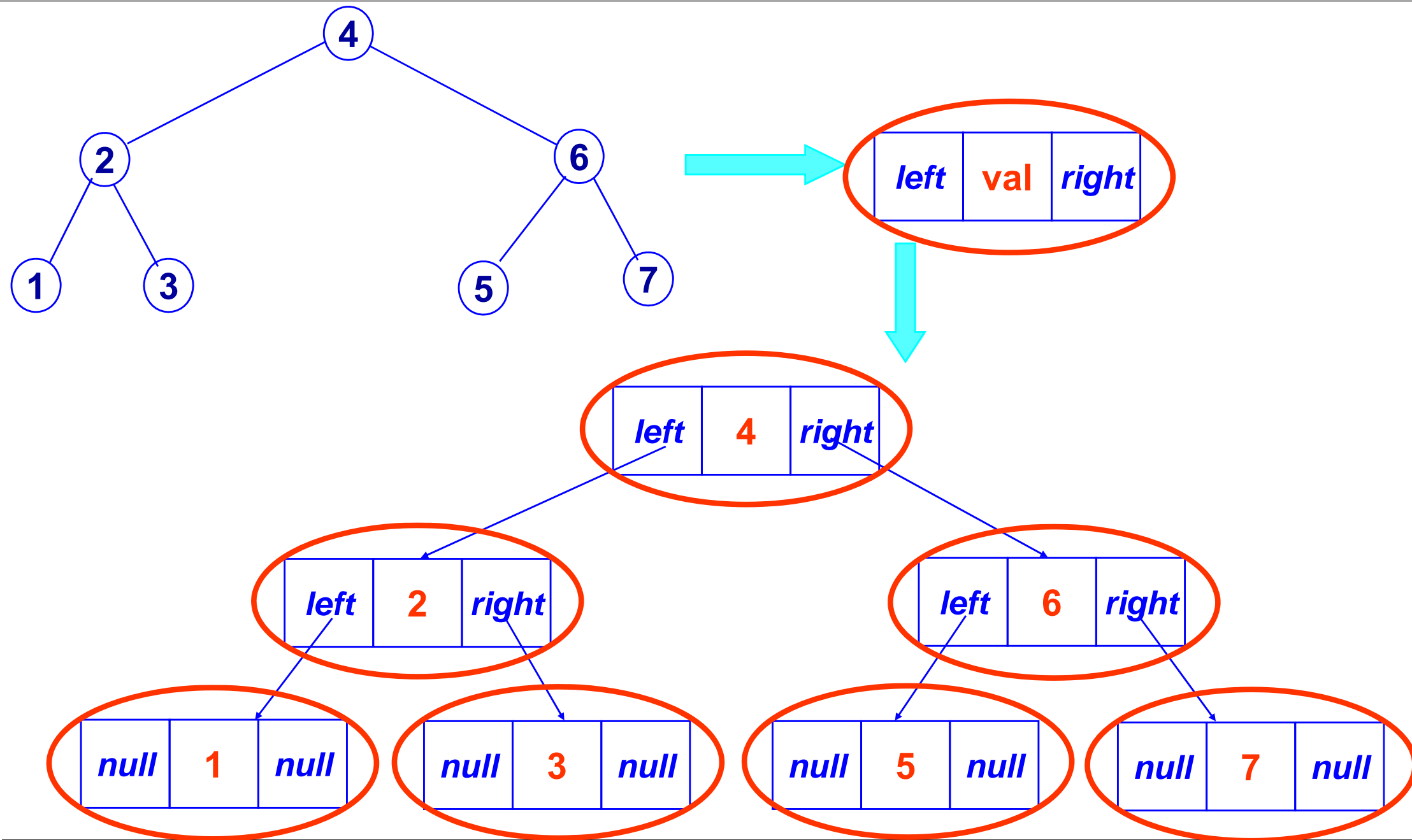
# *Insertion and deletion*

- ❑ The operations of insertion and deletion cause a binary search tree to change
- ❑ This change is done in such a way that the **binary-search-tree property continues to hold.**

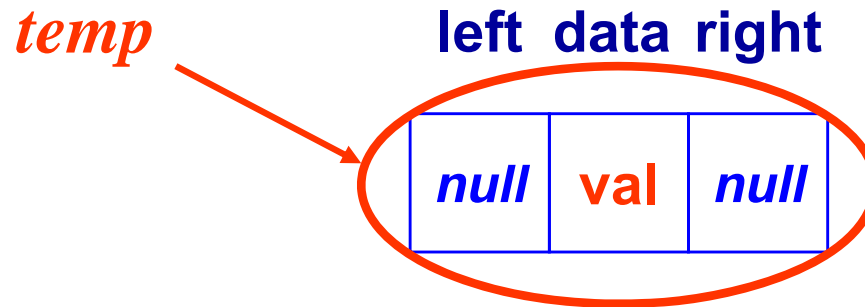
# BST Insertion



# Node Representation



# Set up a node to be inserted to tree



```
// set up node that contains value val to be added to tree
```

```
temp = new node;
```

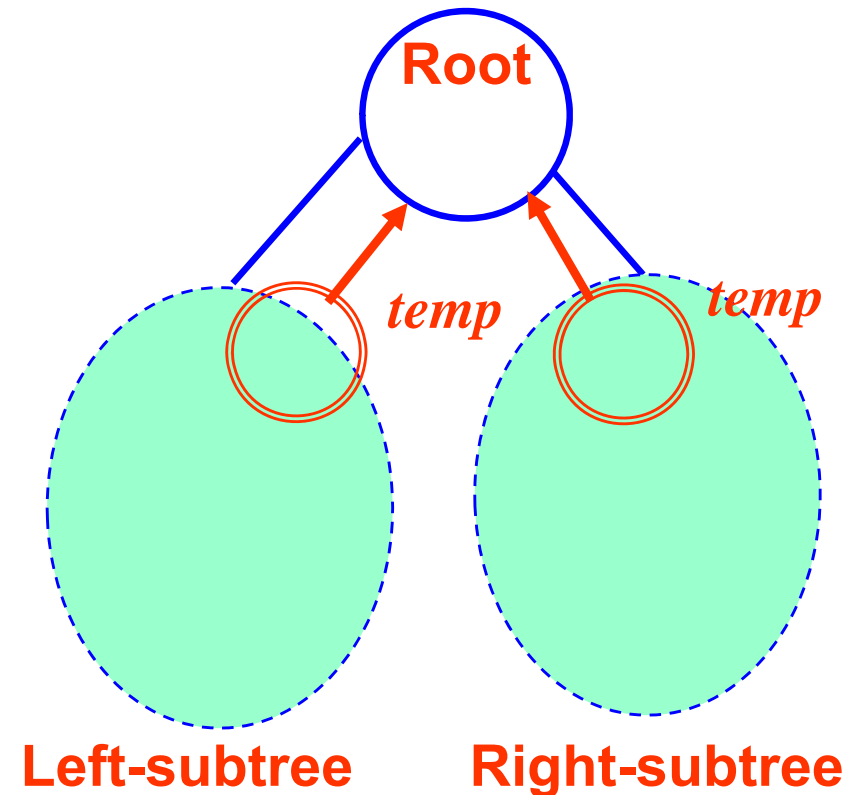
```
temp.data = val
```

```
temp.left = temp.right = null
```

# BST Insertion

## □ *BSTinsert*:

1. If *root* is empty, return *temp* as the root of the BST, stop.
2. Execute *BSTinsert\_rekurs* procedure on tree *root*
  - 2.1 if *temp.data* ≤ *root.data* and left child of *root* is empty, add *temp* as the left child of *root*
  - 2.2 if *temp.data* > *root.data* and right child of *root* is empty, add *temp* as the right child of *root*
  - 2.3 if *temp.data* ≤ *root.data* and left child of *root* is not empty, apply *BSTinsert\_rekurs* in its left subtree.
  - 2.4 if *temp.data* > *root.data* and right child of *root* is not empty, apply *BSTinsert\_rekurs* in its right subtree.



# 5 Insertion Cases

**Case 1: *Insert a node to an empty tree***

**Case 2: *Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree empty***

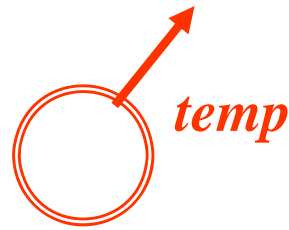
**Case 3: *Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree empty***

**Case 4: *Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree non-empty***

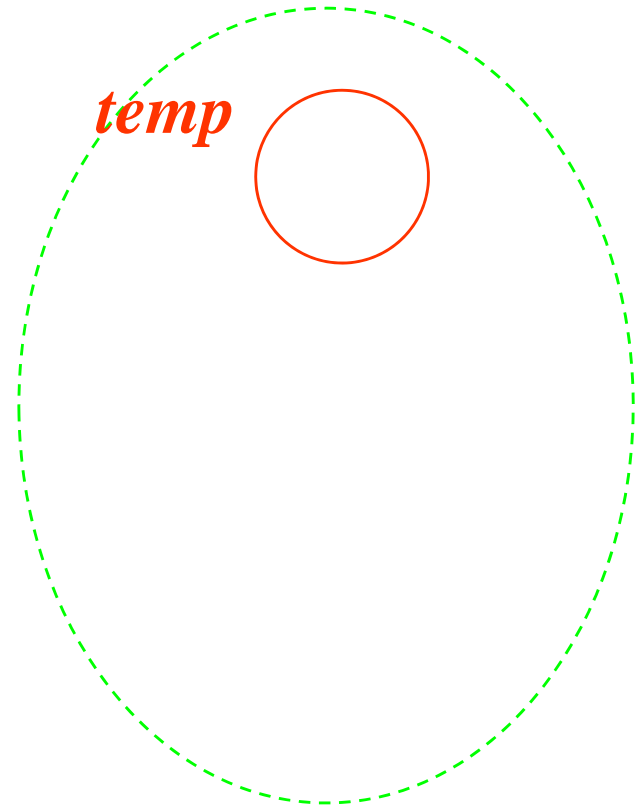
**Case 5: *Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree non-empty***

# Case 1: Insert a node to an empty tree

✓ Since the tree is **empty**, this newly inserted node becomes the root



```
BSTinsert (root, val) {  
    // set up node to be added to tree  
    temp = new node;  
    temp.data = val  
    temp.left = temp.right = null  
  
    // special case: empty tree  
    if (root == null)  
        return temp;  
    else // for all other cases  
        BSTinsert_rekurs (root, temp);  
    return root;  
}
```



Case 1: Insert a node to an empty tree

Case 2: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree empty

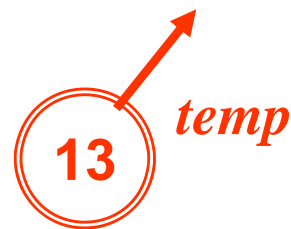
Case 3: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree empty

Case 4: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree non-empty

Case 5: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree non-empty

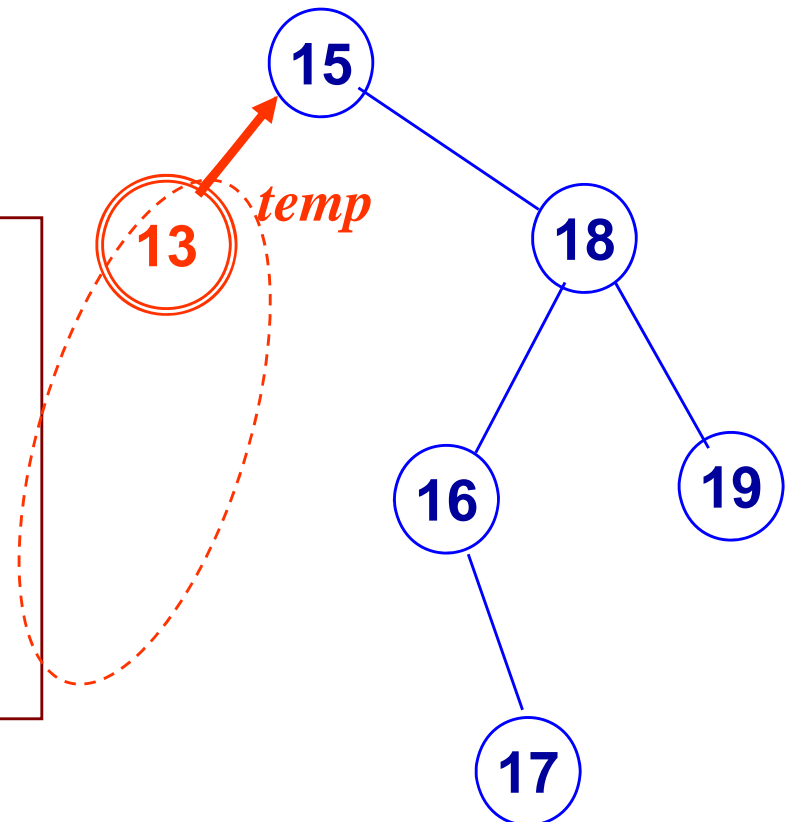
## Case 2: Insert to a non-empty tree (into left subtree)

- 1) Inserted data is **less** than root and
- 2) left subtree is **empty**



```
BSTinsert_rekurs (root, temp) {  
  
    if (temp.data ≤ root.data) {  
        if (root.left == null)  
            root.left = temp;  
    }  
  
}
```

13 < 15



Case 1: Insert a node to an empty tree

Case 2: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree empty

Case 3: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree empty

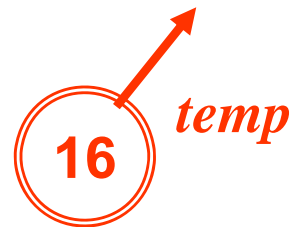
Case 4: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree non-empty

Case 5: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree non-empty

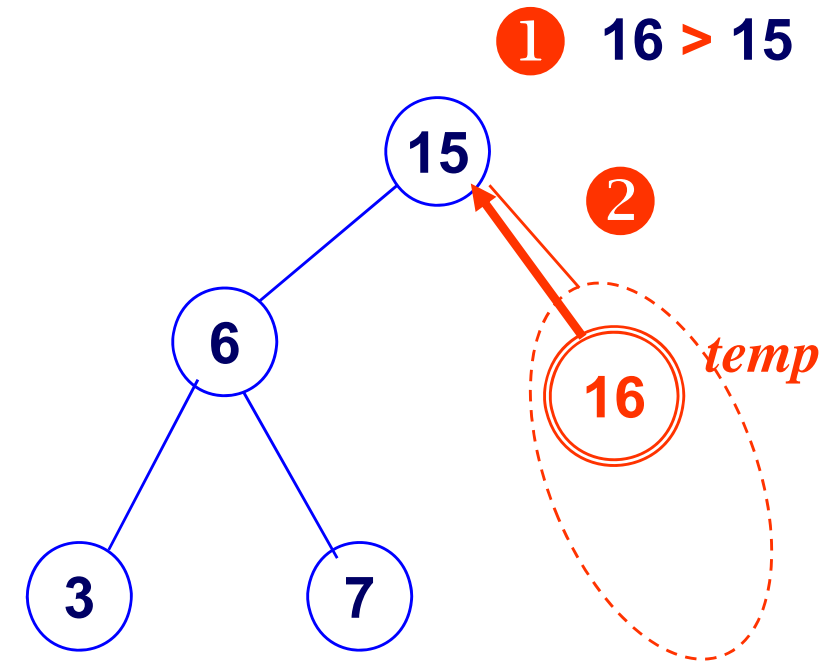
# Case 3: Insert to a non-empty tree (into right subtree)

- 1) Inserted data is **larger** than root and
- 2) **right** subtree is **empty**

✓ Similar to the case for left subtree



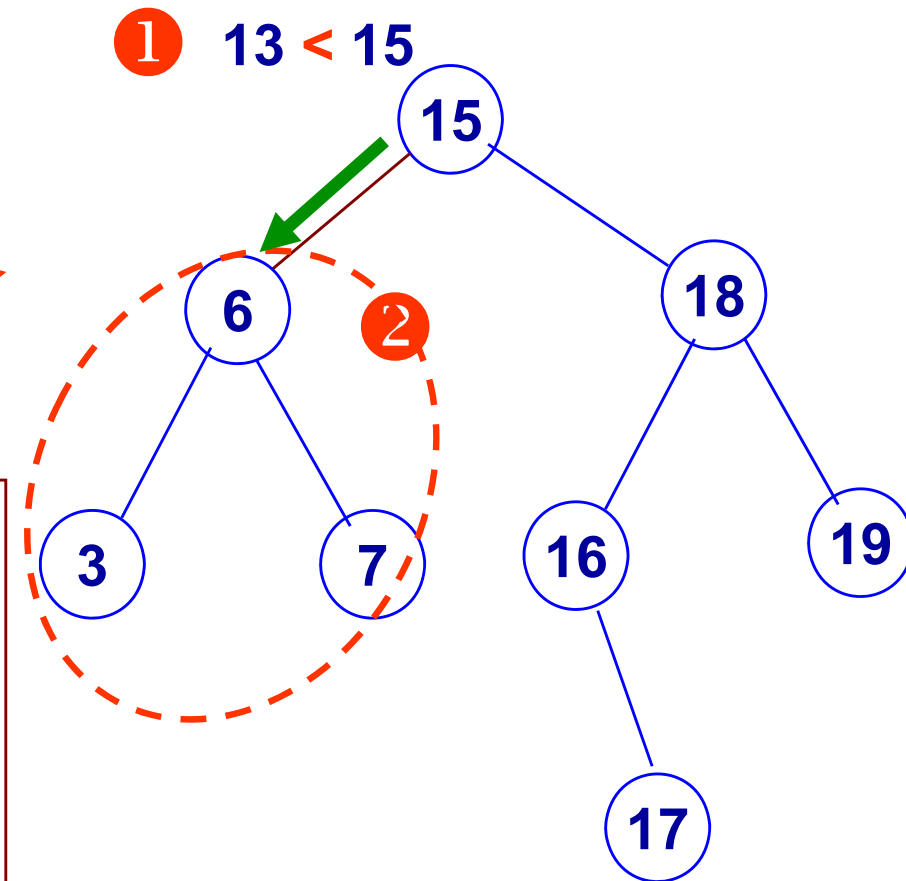
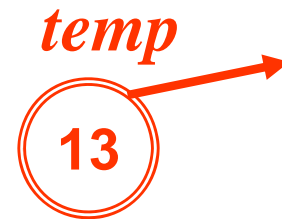
```
BSTinsert_rekurs (root, temp) {  
    if (temp.data ≤ root.data) { ①  
        // insert at left  
    }  
    else { // goes to right  
  
        if (root.right == null) ②  
            root.right = temp; ③  
    }  
}
```



- Case 1: Insert a node to an empty tree  
Case 2: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree empty  
Case 3: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree empty  
Case 4: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree non-empty  
Case 5: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree non-empty

## Case 4: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree non-empty

- 1) Inserted data is **less** than root and
- 2) **left** subtree is **non-empty**



```
BSTinsert_rekurs (root, temp) {  
    if (temp.data ≤ root.data) { ①  
        if (root.left == null)  
            root.left = temp  
        else // non-empty ②  
            BSTinsert_rekurs (root.left, temp);  
    }  
    else { // goes to right  
    }  
}
```

Case 1: Insert a node to an empty tree

Case 2: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree empty

Case 3: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree empty

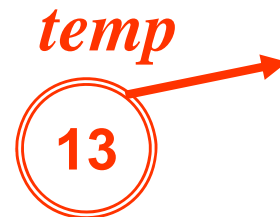
Case 4: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree non-empty

Case 5: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree non-empty

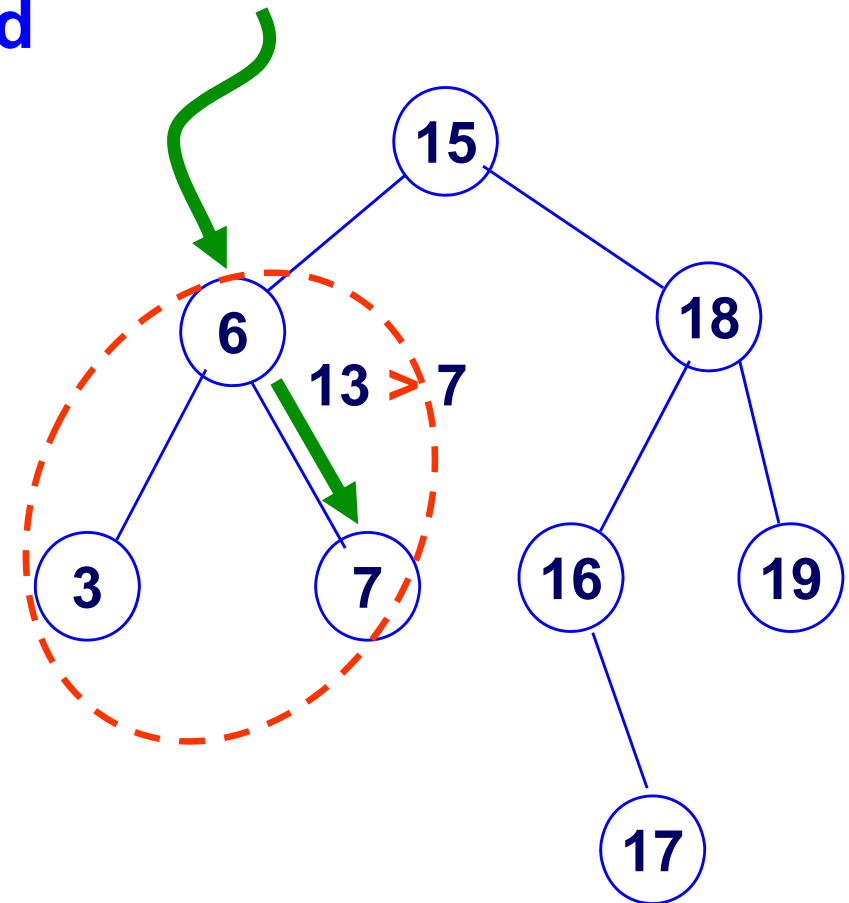


## Case 5: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree non-empty

- 1) Inserted data is **larger** than root and
- 2) **right** subtree is **non-empty**



```
BSTinsert_rekurs (root, temp) {  
    if (temp.data ≤ root.data) {  
        // insert at left  
    }  
    else { // goes to right  
        if (root.right == null)  
            root.right = temp  
        else  
            BSTinsert_rekurs (root.right, temp)  
    }  
}
```



Case 1: Insert a node to an empty tree

Case 2: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree empty

Case 3: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree empty

Case 4: Insert to a non-empty tree, left subtree non-empty

Case 5: Insert to a non-empty tree, right subtree non-empty

# *An exercise*

Write a **general** algorithm that inserts a node into a binary search tree (BST).

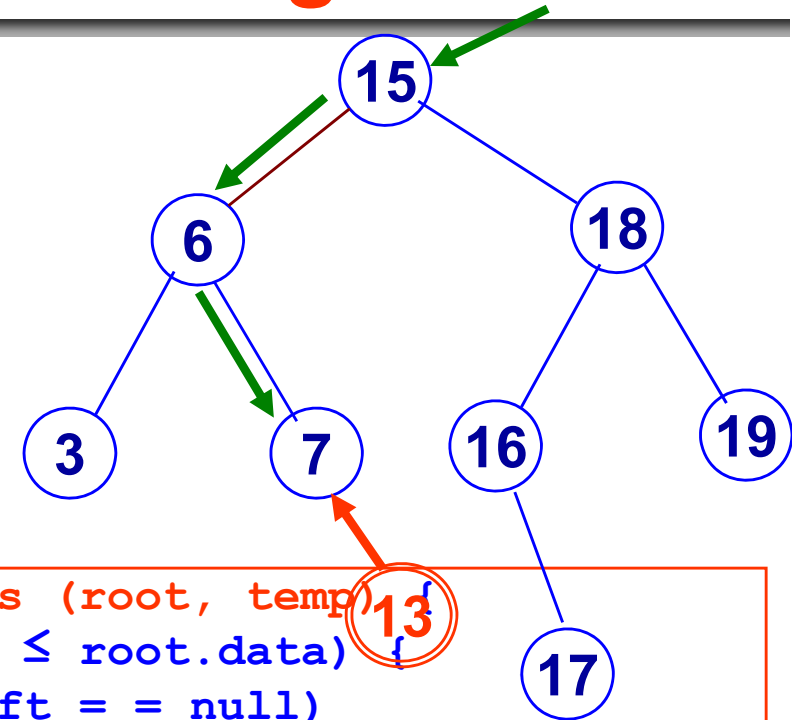
**Hint:**

Put all the code for all five cases previously discussed together.

# BST Insertion Algorithm: *Put all together*

```
BSTinsert (root, val) {  
    // set up node to be added to tree  
    temp = new node;  
    temp.data = val  
    temp.left = temp.right = null  
  
    // special case: empty tree  
→ if (root == null)  
        return temp;  
    else  
        // for all other cases  
→ BSTinsert_rekurs (root, temp);  
    return root;  
}
```

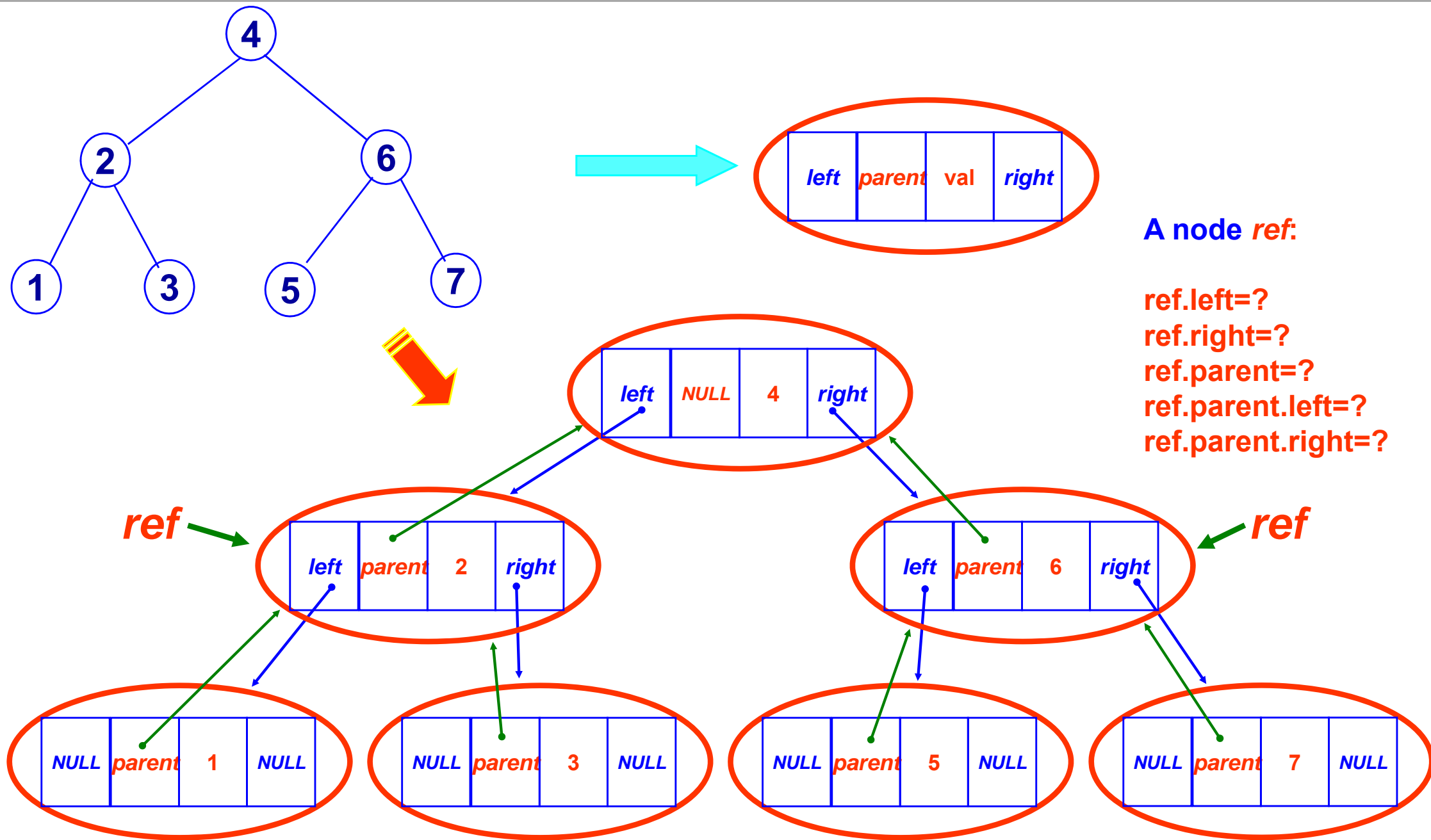
*temp*  
13



```
BSTinsert_rekurs (root, temp)  
→ if (temp.data ≤ root.data) {  
→ if (root.left == null)  
        root.left = temp  
    else  
→ BSTinsert_rekurs (root.left, temp);  
}  
else { // goes to right  
→ if (root.right == null)  
→ root.right = temp  
    else  
→ BSTinsert_rekurs (root.right, temp)  
}  
}
```

# BST Deletion

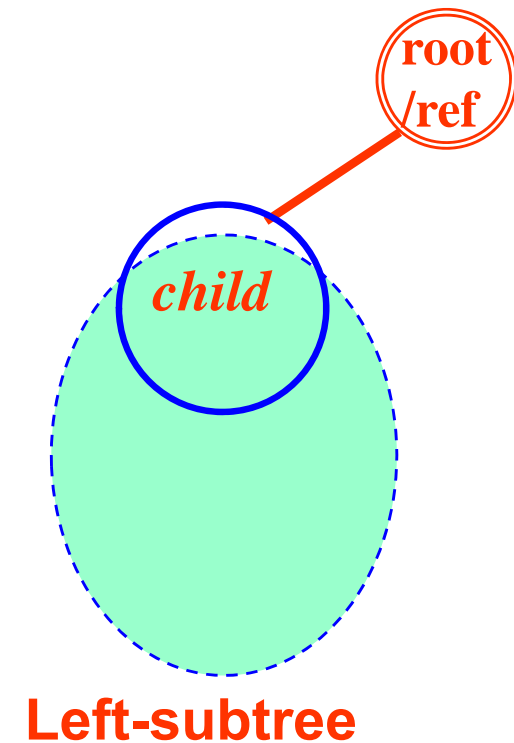
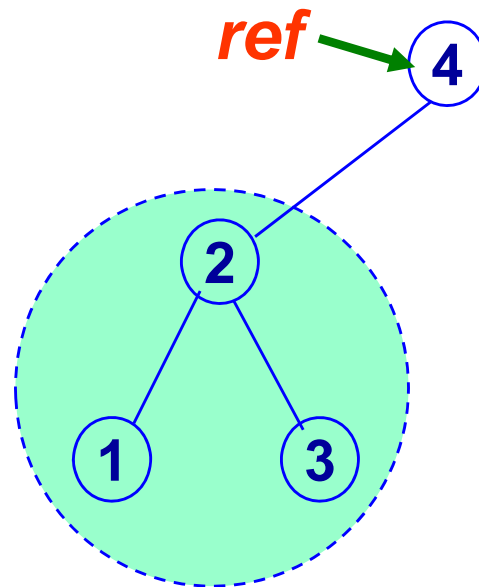
# Node Representation



# BST Deletion

□ ***BSTreplace(root, ref)***: (for the case *ref* has one or no child)

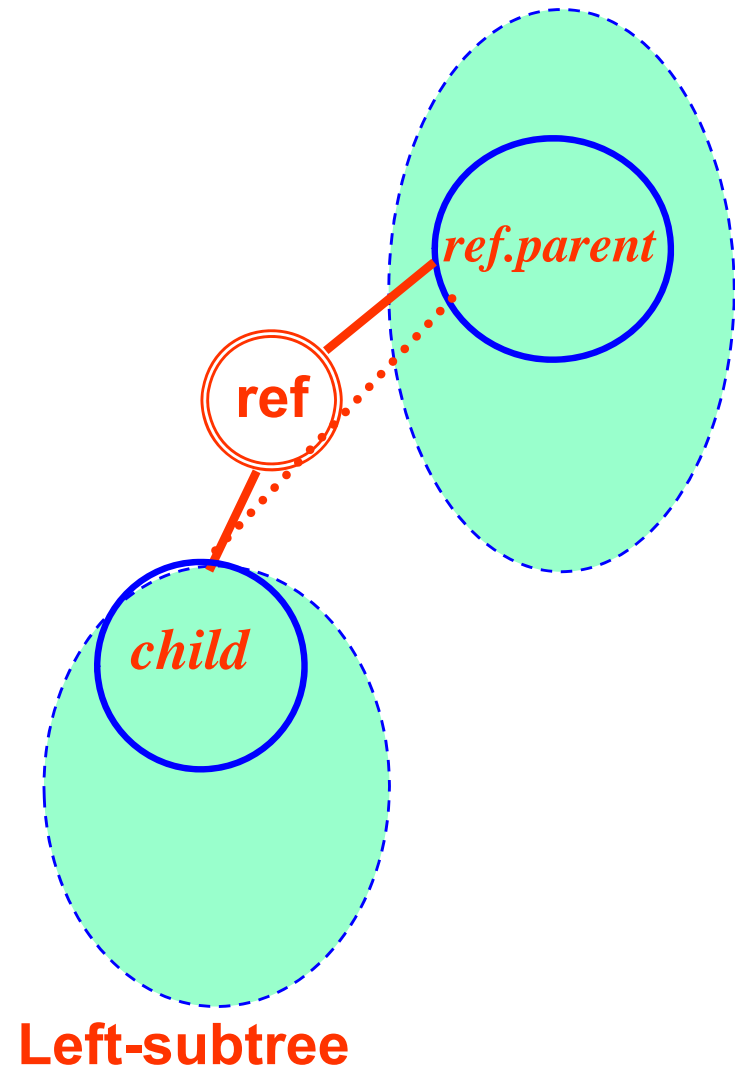
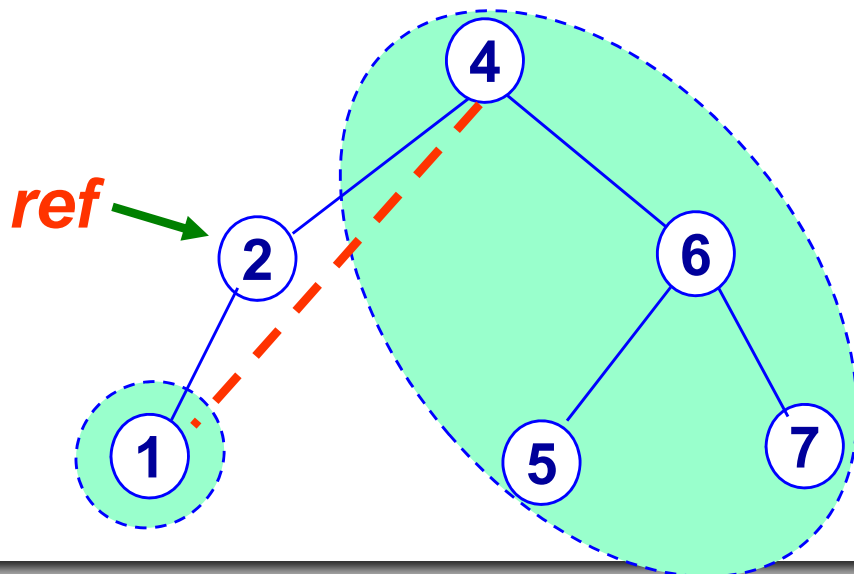
1. If *ref* is *root*, set the child of *ref* as the root, stop.
2. If *ref* is neither *root* nor *leaf*, set the child of *ref* as *ref.parent*'s child, stop.
3. If *ref* is *leaf*, set *ref.parent*'s child NULL, stop.



# BST Deletion

□ ***BSTreplace(root, ref)***: (for the case *ref* has one or no child)

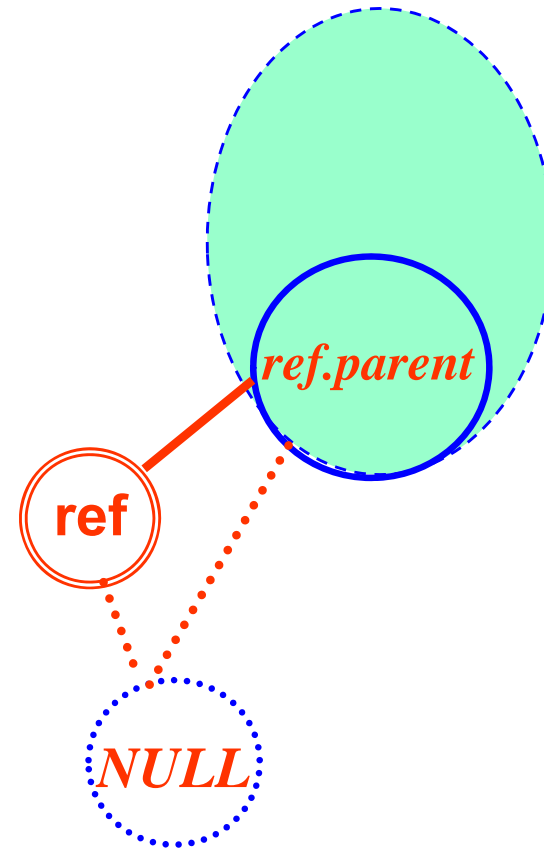
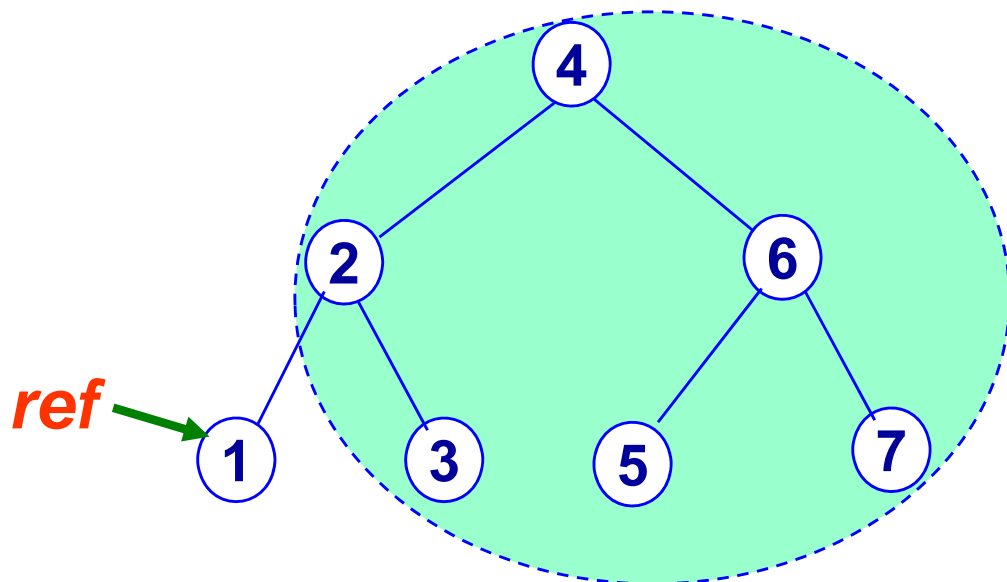
1. If *ref* is *root*, set the child of *ref* as the root, stop.
2. If *ref* is neither *root* nor *leaf*, set the child of *ref* as *ref.parent*'s child, stop.
3. If *ref* is *leaf*, set *ref.parent*'s child NULL, stop.



# BST Deletion

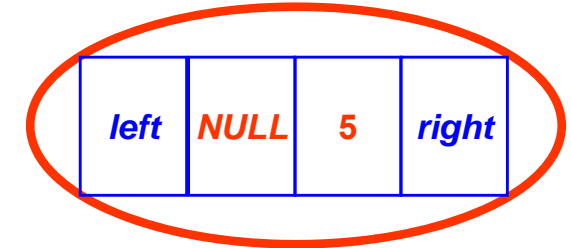
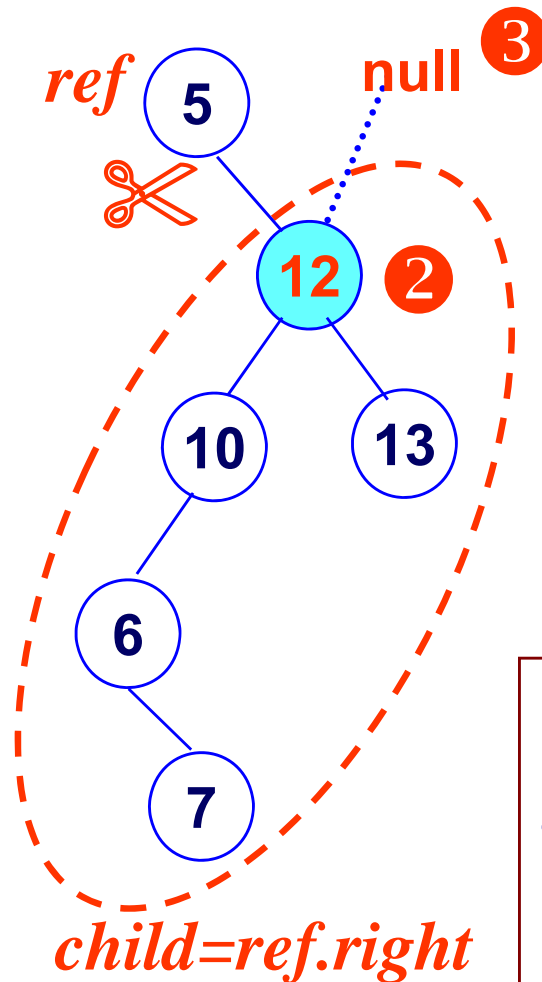
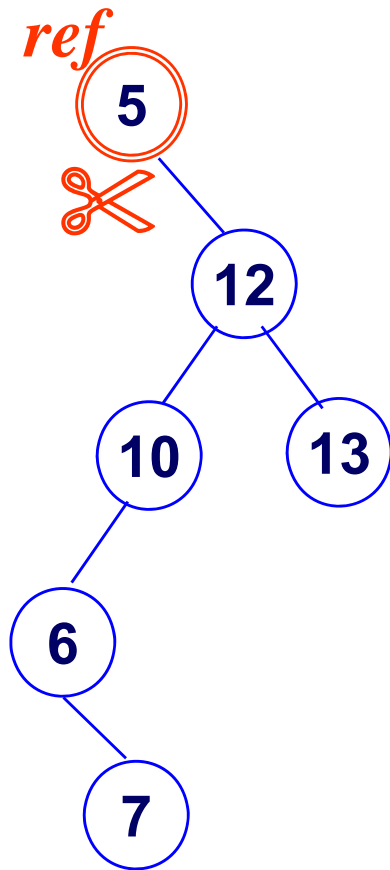
□ ***BSTreplace(root, ref)***: (for the case ***ref*** has one or no child)

1. If ***ref*** is ***root***, set the child of ***ref*** as the root, stop.
2. If ***ref*** is neither ***root*** nor ***leaf***, set the child of ***ref*** as ***ref.parent***'s child, stop.
3. If ***ref*** is ***leaf***, set ***ref.parent***'s child NULL, stop.





# Deletion Example: *only one child* (Delete *root*)



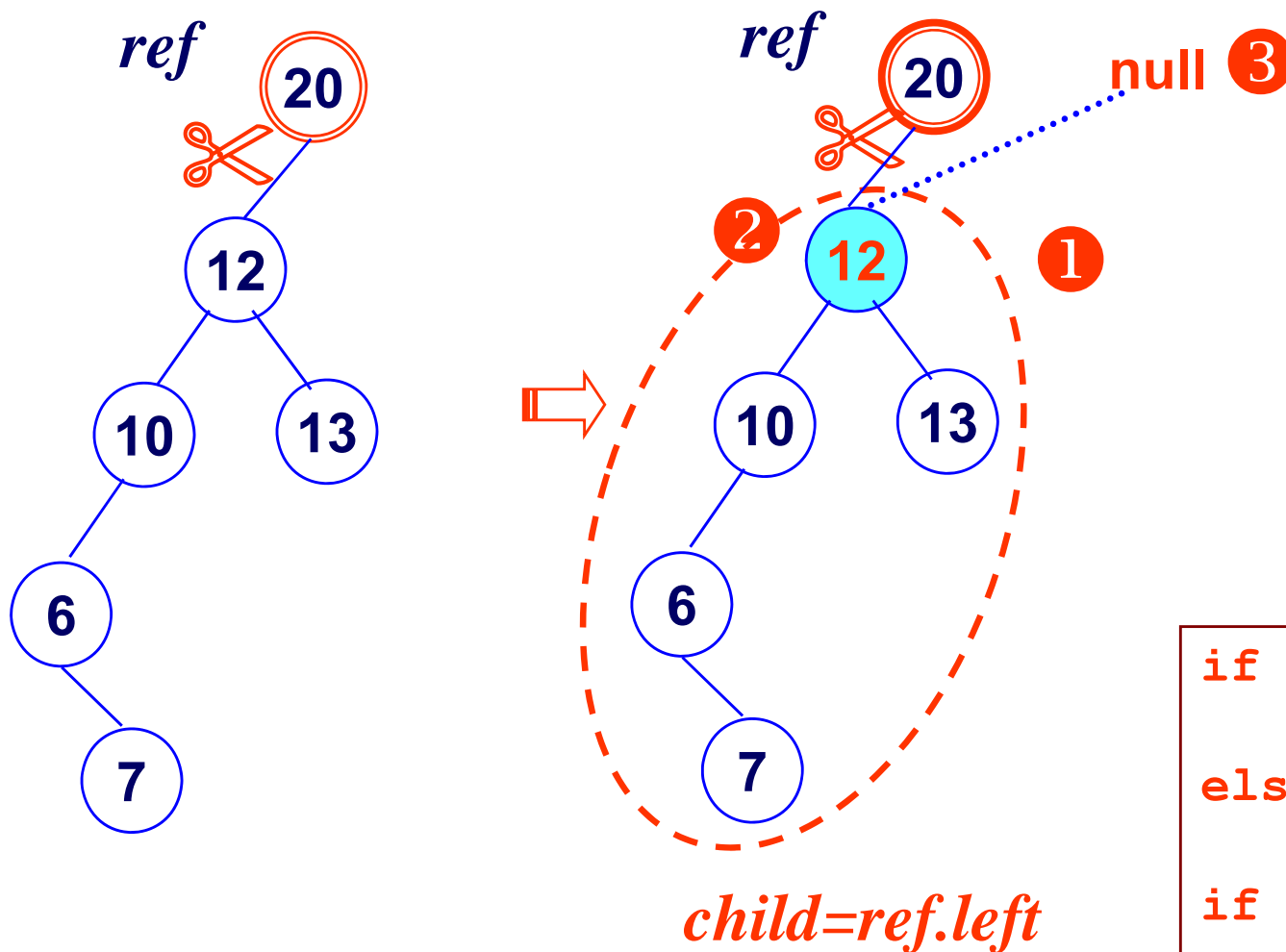
✓ First for the case of right child

- ✓ Keep track its child ①
- ✓ modify its parent `child.parent` with null ③

```
if (ref.left == null) ①
    child = ref.right
else child = ref.left

if (ref == root) {
    if (child != null) ②
        child.parent = null ③
    return child;
}
```

# Deletion Example: only one child (Delete **root**)



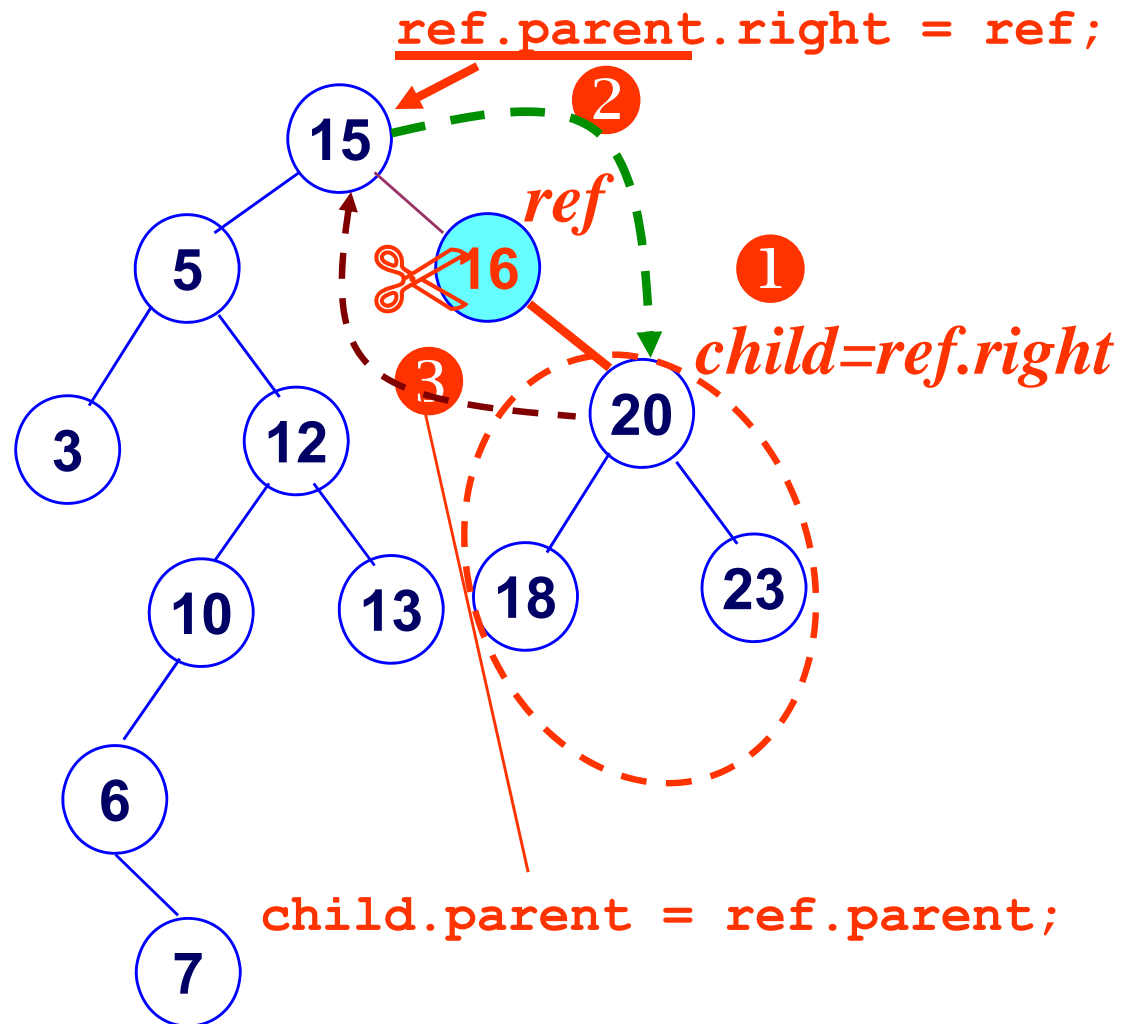
✓ Similarly for the case of left child

- ✓ Keep track its child
- ✓ modify its parent **child.parent** with null

```
if (ref.left == null)
    child = ref.right;
else child = ref.left; ①

if (ref == root) {
    if (child != null) ②
        child.parent = null; ③
    return child
}
```

# Deletion Example: only one child (*not root*)



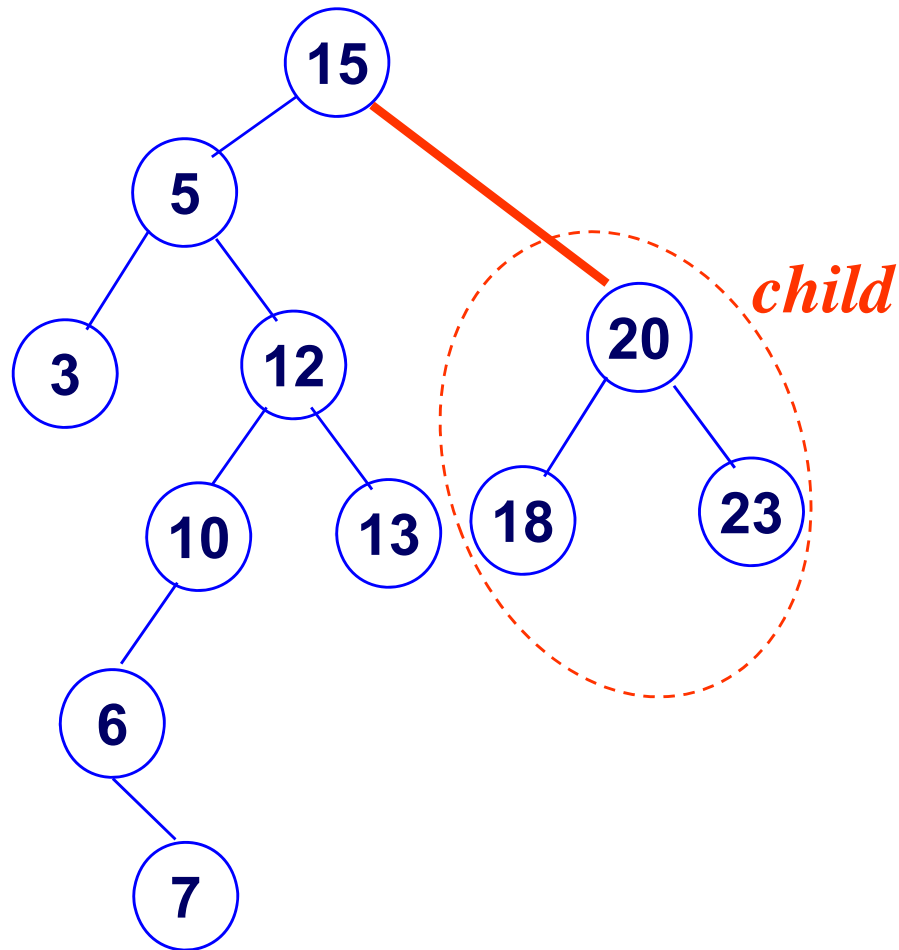
```
if (ref.left == null)
    child = ref.right; ①
else child = ref.left;

// is ref left child
if (ref.parent.left == ref )
    ref.parent.left = child;
else ②
    ref.parent.right = child;

if (child != null) ③
    child.parent = ref.parent;
return root;
```

- ✓ Keep track **its child**
- ✓ modify its parent **child.parent**

# Deletion Example: only one child

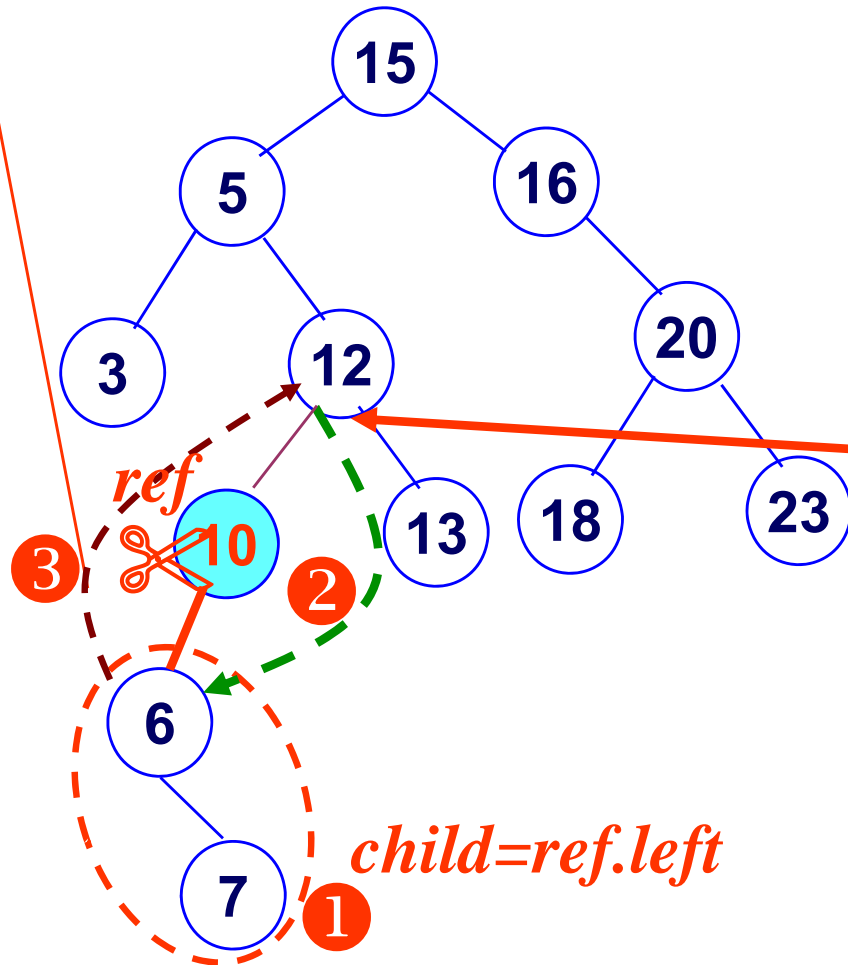


✓ Tide up

✓ That is, if **ref** has only one child, we replace it by its children

***Deletion Example: only one child (not root)***

```
child.parent = ref.parent;
```



```

if (ref.left == null)
    child = ref.right;
else child = ref.left; ①

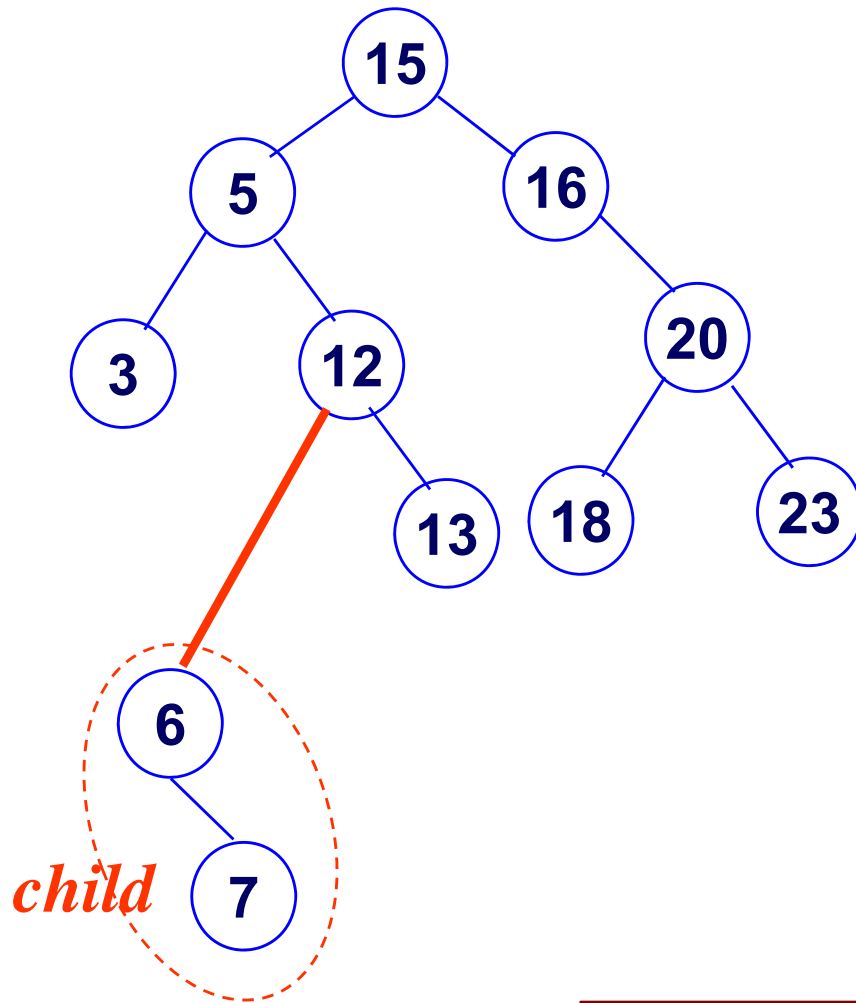
// is ref left child
if (ref.parent.left == ref)
    ref.parent.left = child; ②
else
    ref.parent.right = child;

if (child != null) ③
    child.parent = ref.parent;
return root;

```

- ✓ Keep track **its child**
- ✓ modify its parent **child.parent**

# Deletion Example: only one child



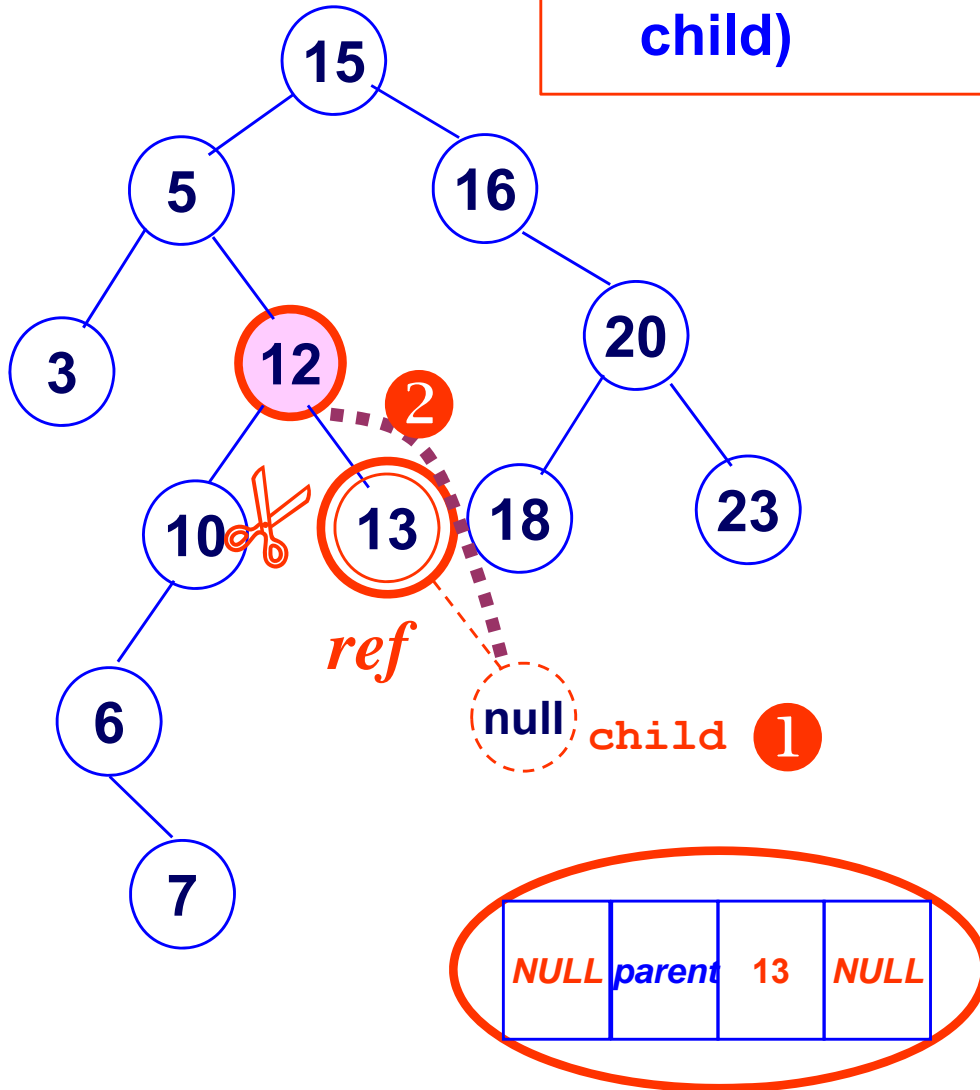
✓ Tide up

✓ That is, if **ref** has only one child, we replace it by its children

***Deletion Example: no children (Delete leaf)***

- ✓ If *ref* has no children, modify its parent *ref.parent* with null as its child (which means, *ref* has a null child)

✓ **ref** is the right child of its parent



```

if (ref.left == null)
    child = ref.right; ❶
else child = ref.left;

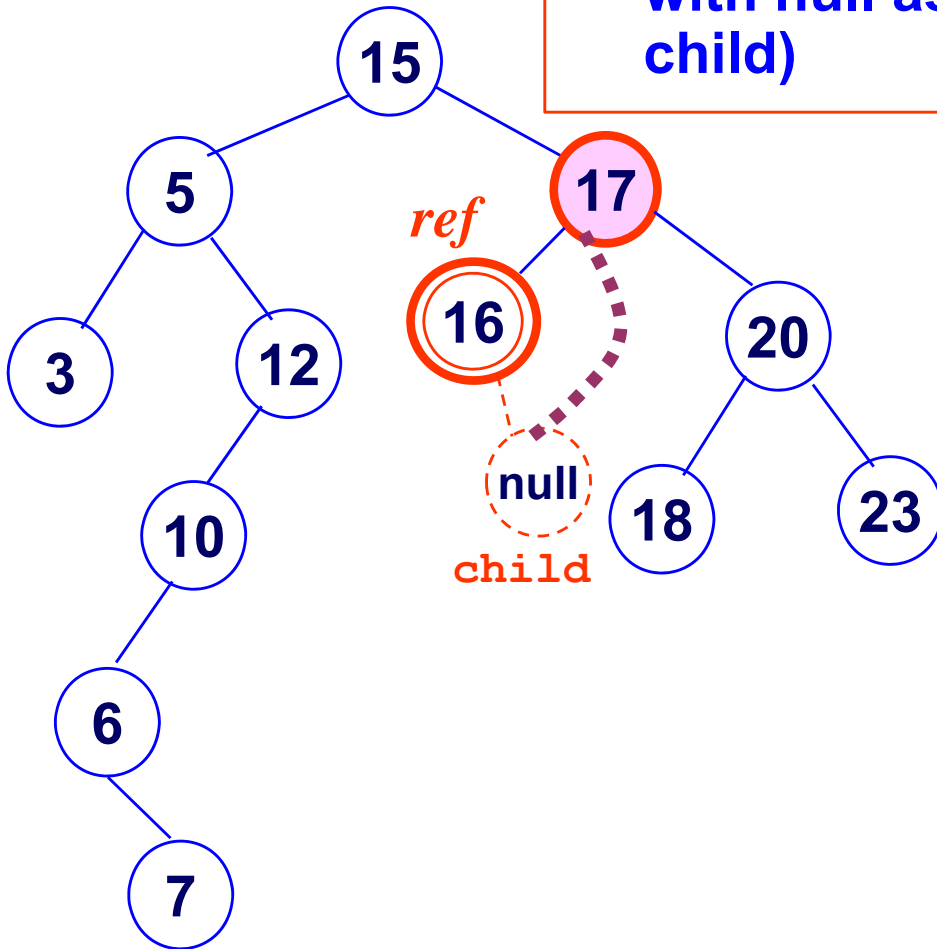
// is ref left child
if (ref.parent.left == ref )
    ref.parent.left = child;
else
    ref.parent.right = child; ❷

if (child != null)
    child.parent = ref.parent;
return root;

```

# Deletion Example: no children (Delete *leaf*)

✓ If *ref* has no children, modify its parent *ref.parent* with null as its child (which means, *ref* has a null child)



✓ *ref* is the left child of its parent

```
if (ref.left == null)
    child = ref.right;
else child = ref.left;

// is ref left child
if (ref.parent.left == ref )
    ref.parent.left = child;
else
    ref.parent.right = child;

if (child != null)
    child.parent = ref.parent;
return root;
```



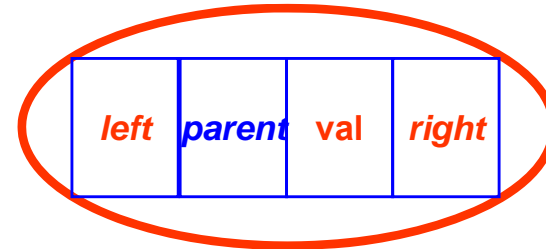
## Put all together-- Deletion: No child or only one child

```
BSTreplace(root, ref) { // ref has only one child
    // set child to ref's child, or null if no child
    if (ref.left == null)
        child = ref.right
    else child = ref.left

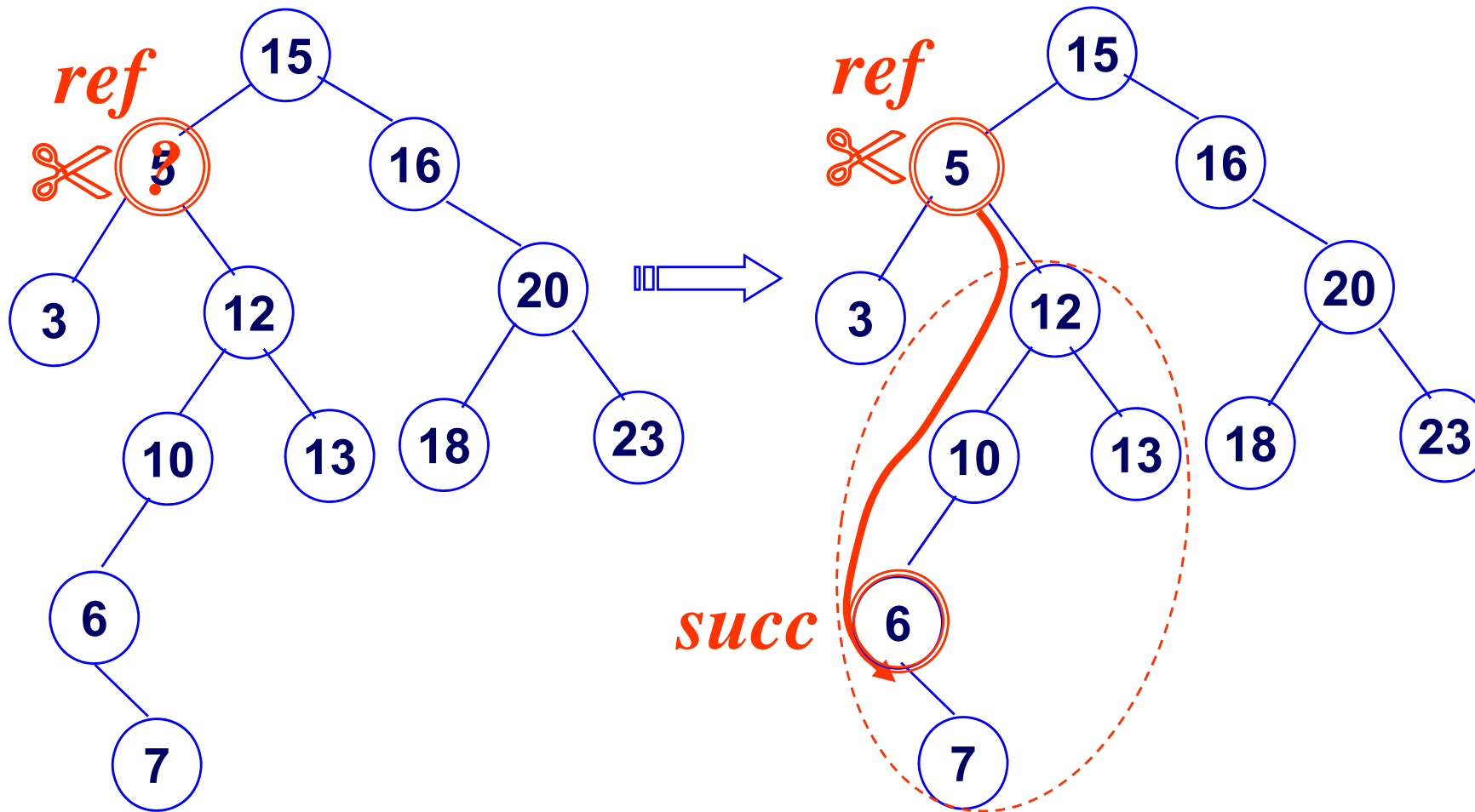
    if (ref == root) { // delete root
        if (child != null)
            child.parent = null
        return child
    }

    if (ref.parent.left == ref ) // is ref left child
        ref.parent.left = child
    else
        ref.parent.right = child

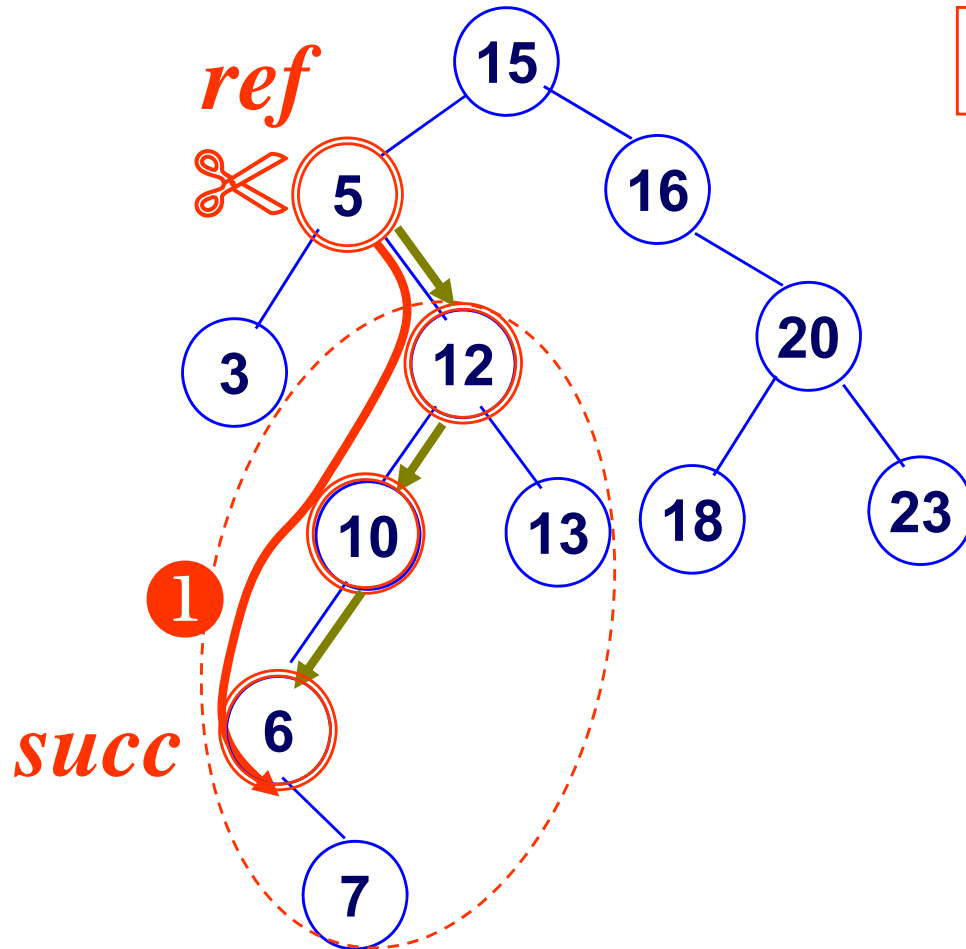
    if (child != null)
        child.parent = ref.parent
    return root
}
```



# Deletion Example: Two children



## ***Deletion Example: Two children***



## Code for step 1:

```

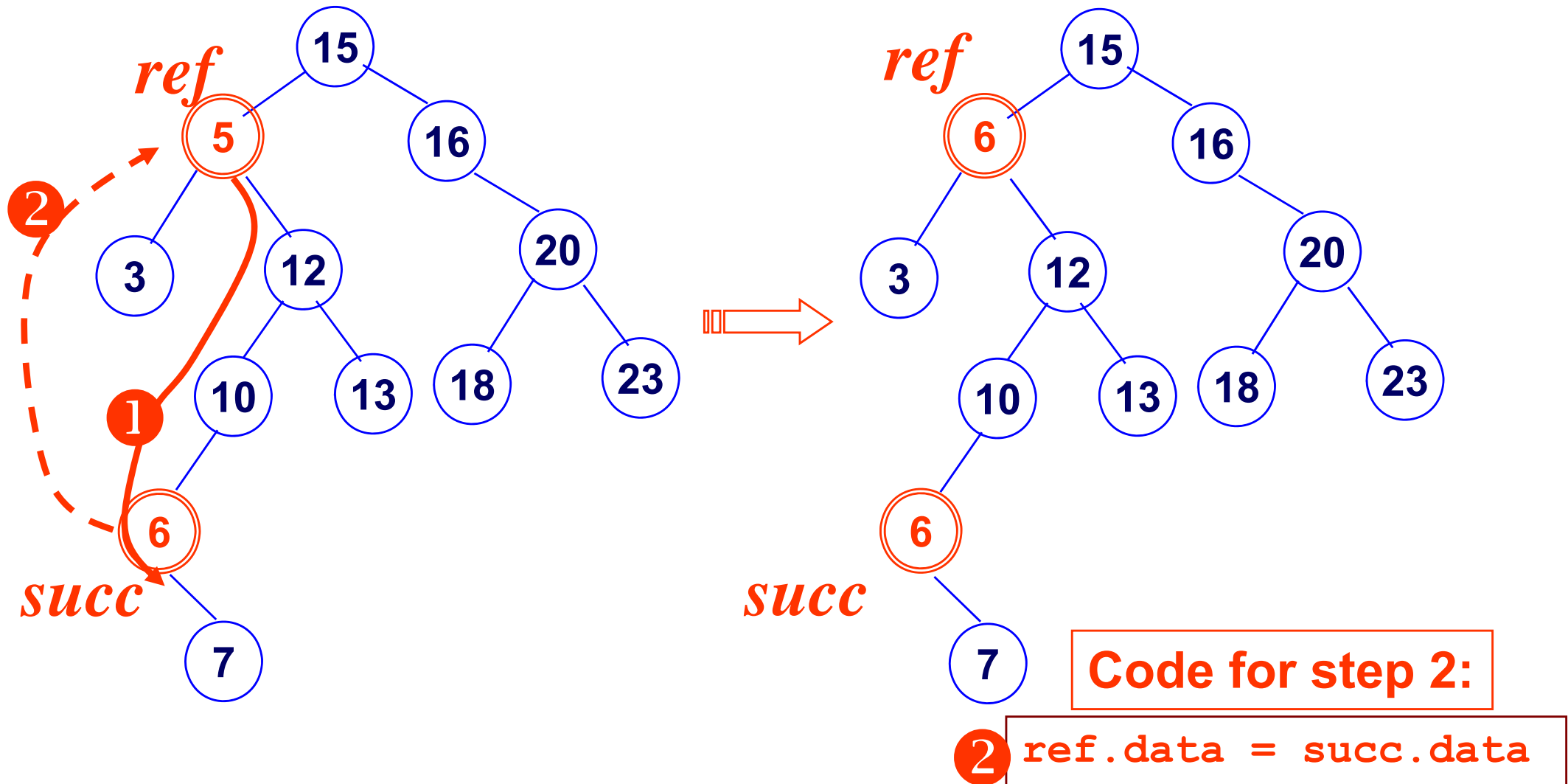
succ = ref.right
while (succ.left ≠ null)
    succ = succ.left

```

The smaller data is on **left subtree**,  
we search for **mini** Until **succ** has  
no left child

1. We locate the node **succ** containing the **mini** data, 6, in its **right subtree**, (**succ** must have no left child)

# Deletion Example: Two children



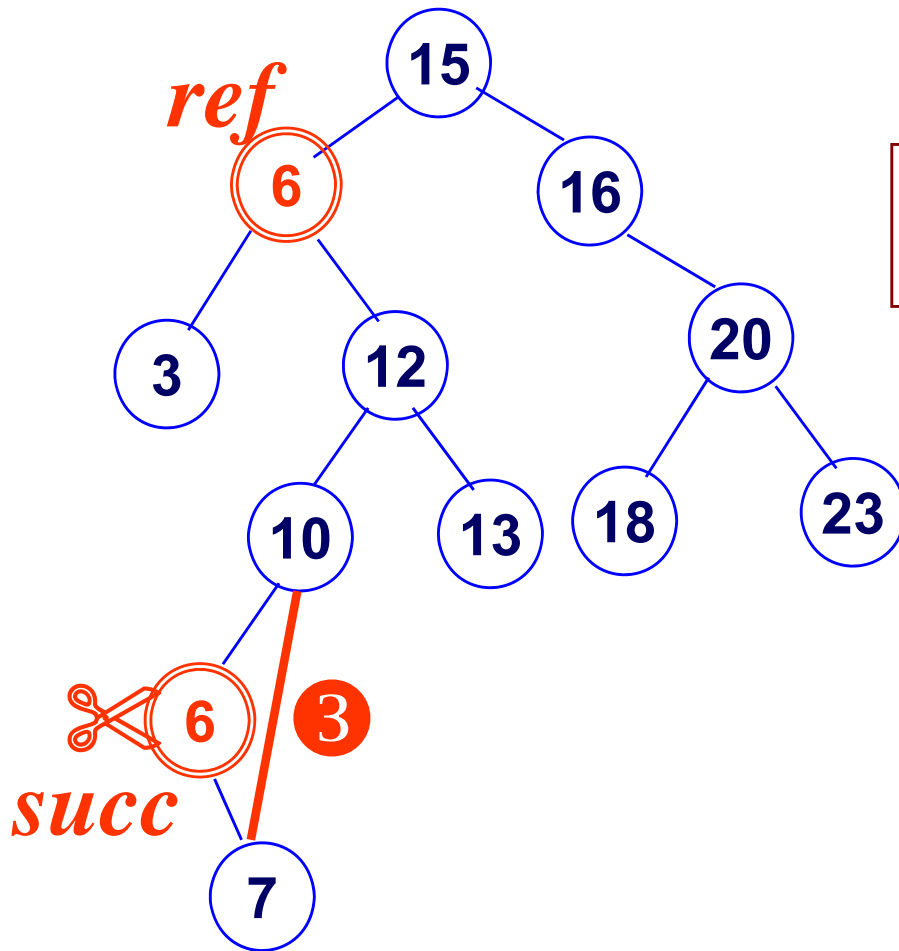
2. Replace the value of the node to be deleted (5) by the minimum value *succ* (6).

# Deletion Example: Two children

## Code for step 3:

```
// delete succ  
return BSTreplace (root, succ)
```

✓ As we discussed early, **BSTreplace** can delete a node in various cases



3. Delete **succ** (**succ** must have no left child) (we have already discussed on how to delete)

# Put all together: Deletion Algorithm

```
BSTdelete(root, ref) {  
    // if zero or one children, use Algorithm BSTreplace  
    if (ref.left == null || ref.right == null)  
        return BSTreplace (root, ref)  
  
    // find node succ containing a minimum data item  
    //    in ref's right subtree  
    succ = ref.right  
    while (succ.left != null)  
        succ = succ.left  
  
    // "move" succ to ref, thus deleting ref  
    ref.data = succ.data  
  
    // delete succ  
    return BSTreplace (root, succ)  
}
```