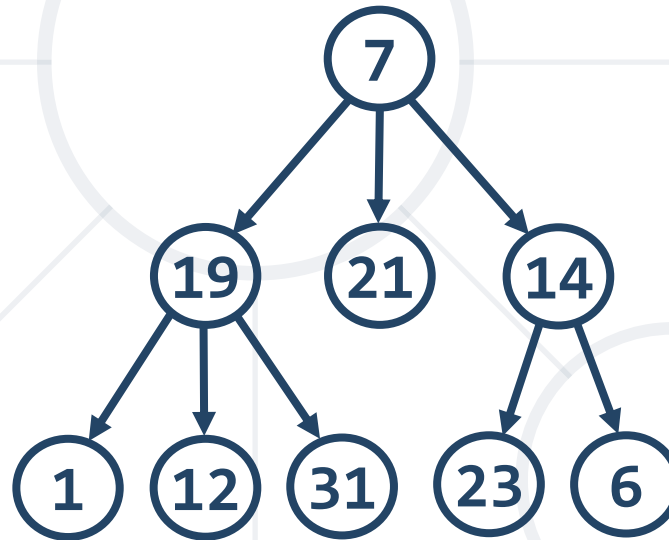


# Trees Representation and Traversal (BFS, DFS)

## Trees Related Terminology and Traversal Algorithms



SoftUni Team  
Technical Trainers



**SoftUni**



Software University

<https://softuni.bg>

## 1. Why Trees?

- Definition and use cases of trees

## 2. Trees and Related Terminology

- Node, Edge, Root, etc.

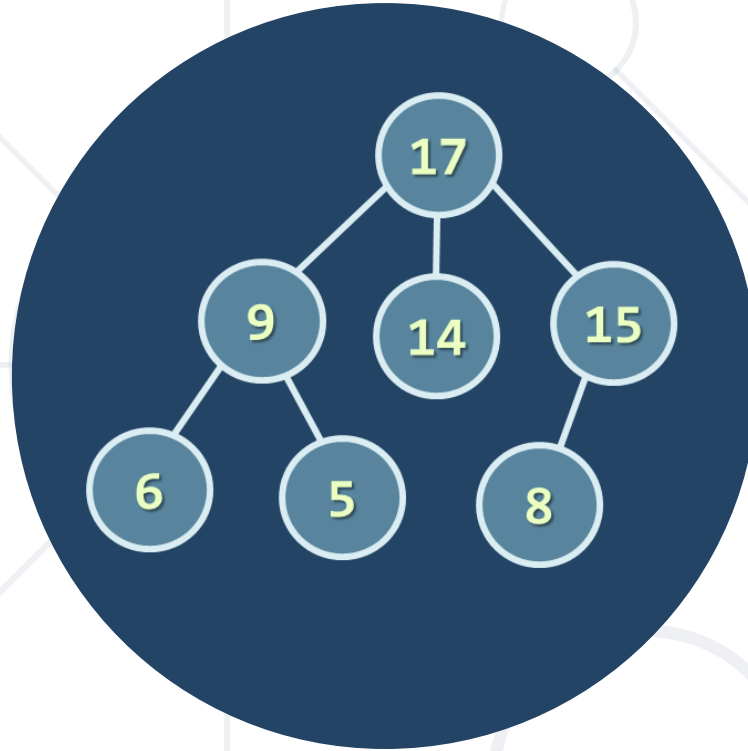
## 3. Implementing Trees

- Recursive Tree Data Structure

## 4. Traversing Tree-Like Structures

- BFS and DFS traversal





# Why Trees?

Definition and use cases of trees

# Why Trees?



- So far we have learned how to implement linear data structures like: List, Queue, Stack, LinkedList etc...
- We did great job and learned how to take the best complexity we can, **was that enough?**
- Actually more of the operations we want to do like **search, insert or remove** are **linear** for **unordered** structures (sometimes we can do  $O(1)$ ) but **not for search**

# Why Trees?

- We used two types of implementation approaches:
  - Atop an **array** – this gave us the ability to **add elements with  $O(1)$** , removing and searching were with  **$O(n)$** . For sorted array we can search with  **$O(\log(n))$**  but we need to **sort each time we add**.
  - By using **Node** implementation – we could **add and remove elements we have pointer to with  $O(1)$** , however every other **operation is  $O(n)$** . This time even if we keep the elements **sorted we can't get search in  $O(\log(n))$  but why?**



# Why Trees?

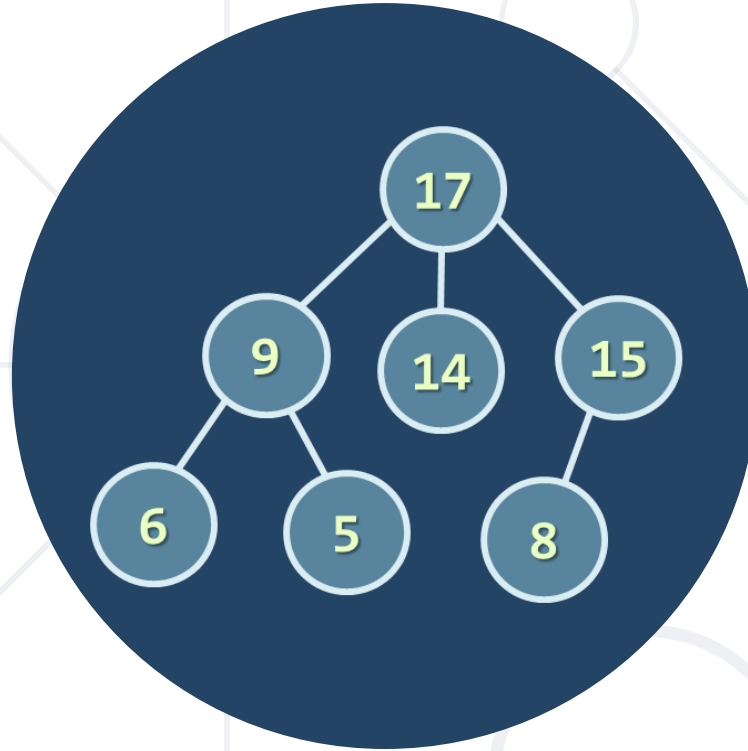
- We want not only to store data **add** or **remove** elements in efficient manner but also to **search** for elements but **can** we do better than  **$O(n)$** ?
- Lets try to get **down** to  **$O(\log(n))$**  by using **trees** and see if we can



# Other Tree Benefits

- By learning how to work with trees you **actually** learn how to **work with**:
  - **Hierarchical** structures like: file system, project structures and code branching, NoSQL data storage etc...
  - **Markup** languages:
    - HTML
    - XML
  - **DFS** and **BFS** algorithms





# Trees and Related Terminology

Node, Edge, Root, etc.



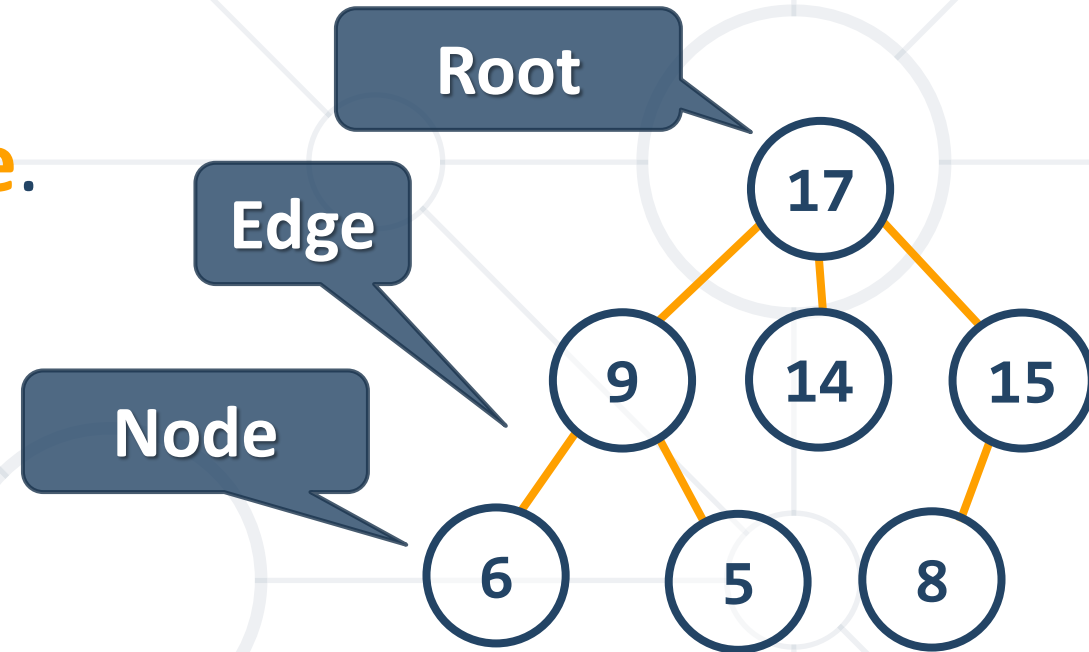
# Tree Definition



- Tree is a widely used **abstract data type** (ADT) that simulates a hierarchical **tree structure**, with a root value and subtrees of children with a **parent node**, represented as a set of linked **nodes**.
- **Recursive definition** – a tree consists of a value and a forest (the subtrees of its children)
- One **reference** can point to **any given node** (a node has at **most** a **single** parent), and **no node** in the **tree point to the root**. Every node (other than the root) **must** have exactly **one parent**, and the **root must** have **no parents**.

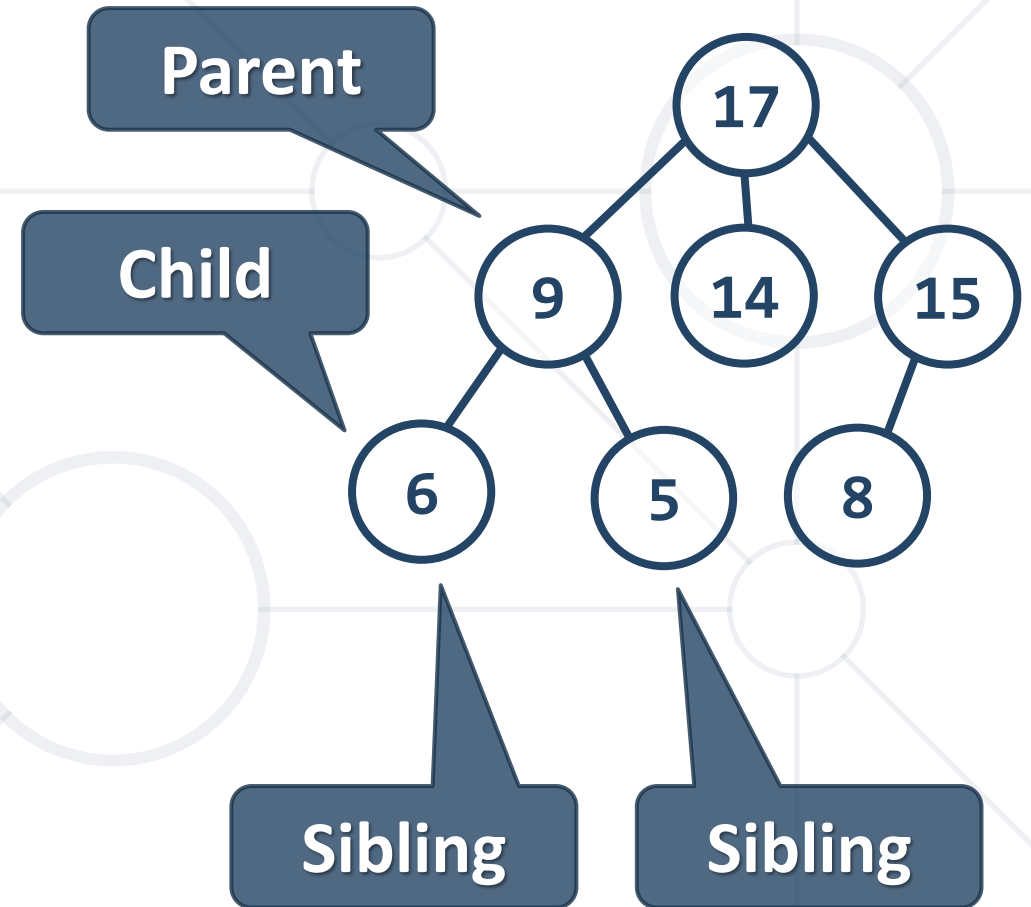
# Tree Data Structure – Terminology

- **Node** – a structure which may contain a **value** or condition, or represent a separate **data structure**.
- **Edge** – the **connection between** one **node** and **another**.
- **Root** – the **top** node in a **tree**, the **prime ancestor**.



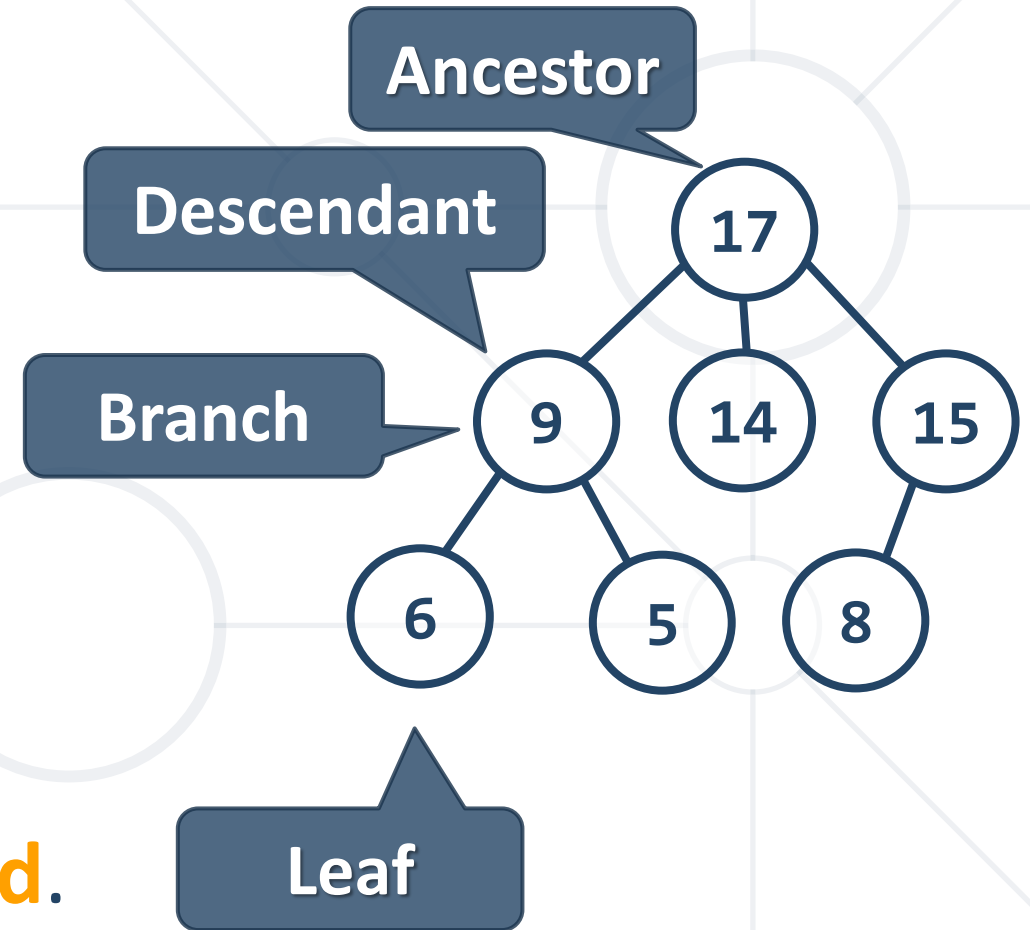
# Tree Data Structure – Terminology

- **Parent** – the **converse** notion of a **child**, an **immediate ancestor**.
- **Child** – node **directly** connected to **another** node when moving **away** from the **root**, an immediate descendant.
- **Siblings** – a **group** of **nodes** with the **same parent**.



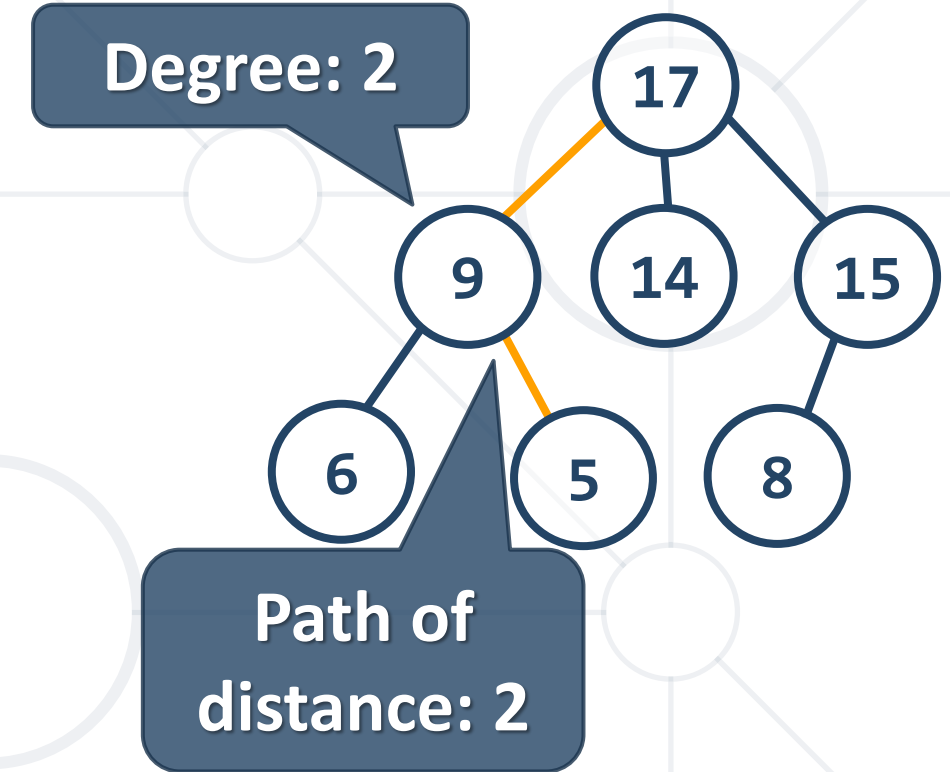
# Tree Data Structure – Terminology

- **Ancestor** – node reachable by repeated proceeding **from child to parent**.
- **Descendant** – node reachable by repeated proceeding **from parent to child**.
- **Leaf** – node with **no children**.
- **Branch** – node with **at least one child**.



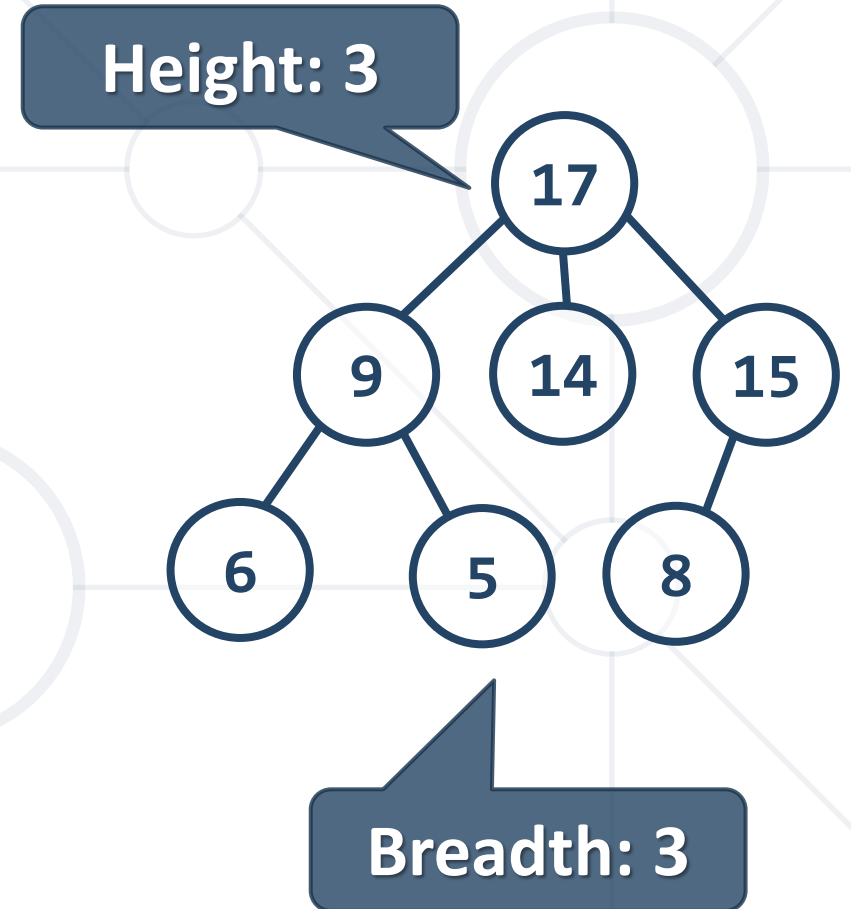
# Tree Data Structure – Terminology

- **Degree** – number of children for node zero for a leaf.
- **Path** – sequence of nodes and edges connecting a node with a descendant.
- **Distance** – number of edges along the shortest path between two nodes.
- **Depth** – distance between a node and the root.



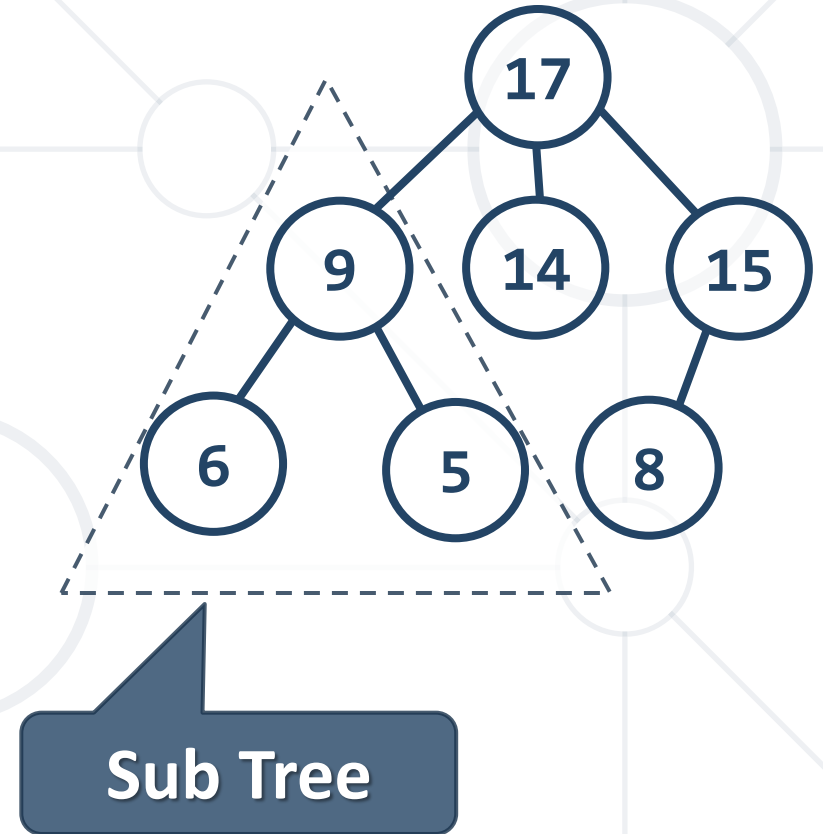
# Tree Data Structure – Terminology

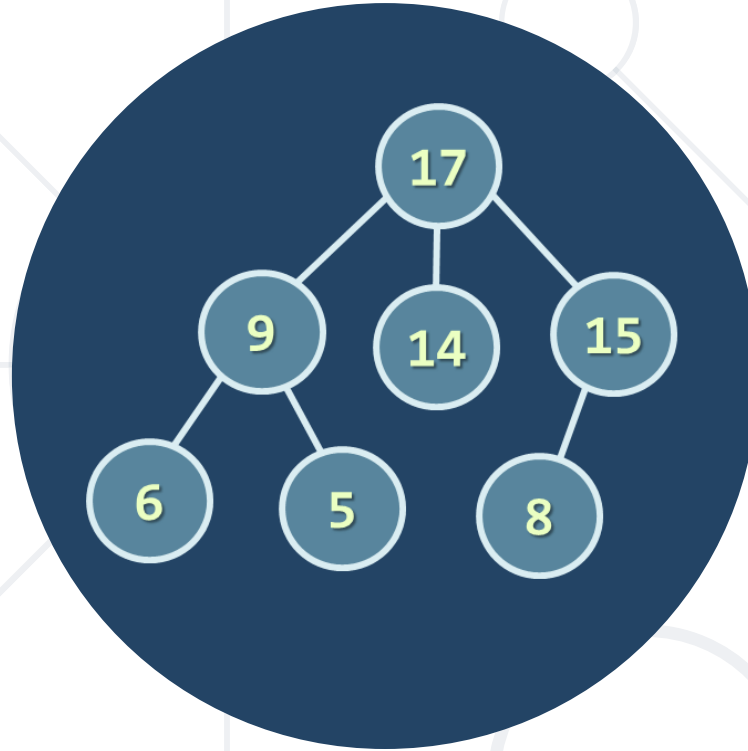
- **Level** – depth + 1.
- **Height** – The number of edges on the longest path between a node and a descendant leaf.
- **Width** – number of nodes in a level.
- **Breadth** – number of leaves.
- **Height** – the maximum level in the tree.



# Tree Data Structure – Terminology

- **Forest** – set of disjoint trees.
  - $\{17\}, \{9, 6, 5\}, \{14\}, \{15, 8\}$
- **Sub Tree** – tree T is a tree consisting of a node in T and all of its descendants in T.





# Implementing Trees

## Recursive Tree Data Structure



# Recursive Tree Definition

- The recursive definition for **tree** data structure:
  - A single node **is a tree**
  - Nodes have **zero or multiple children** that are **also trees**

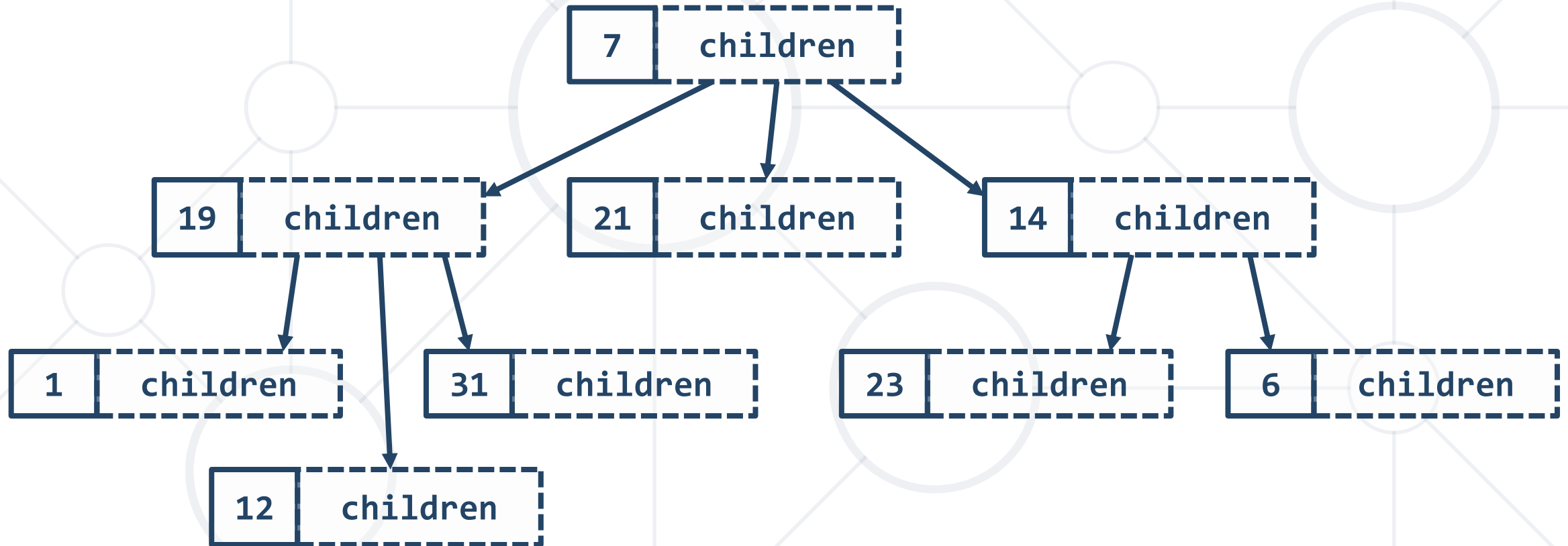
```
public class Tree<E> {  
    private E key;  
    private Tree<E> parent;  
    private List<Tree<E>> children;  
}
```

The stored key

The parent

List of child nodes

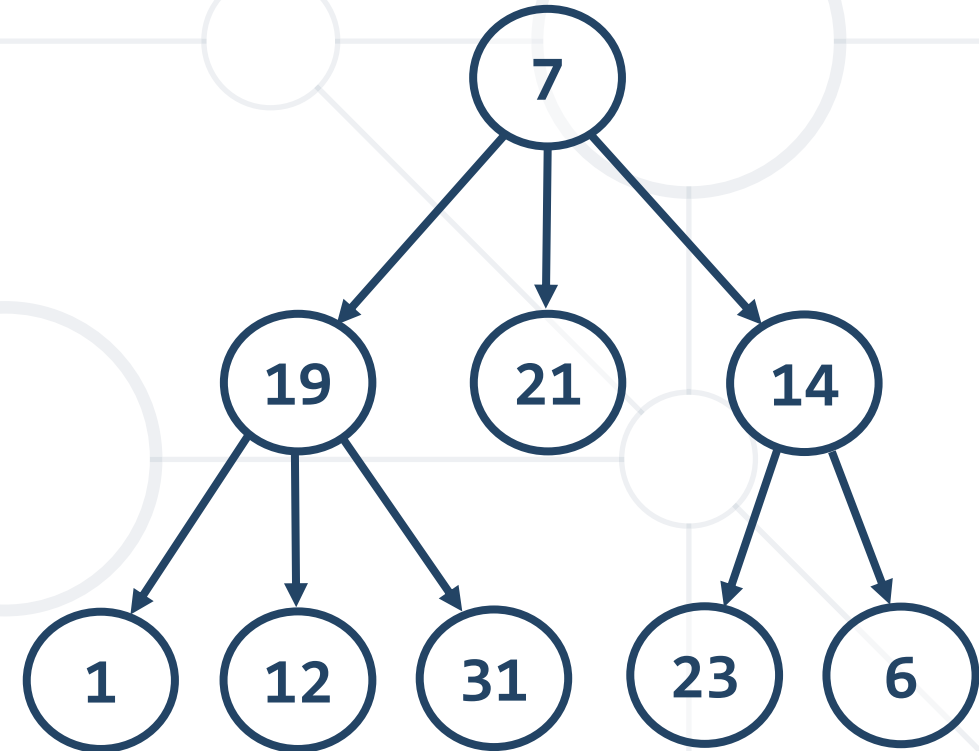
# Tree<Integer> Structure – Example



# Problem: Implement Tree Node

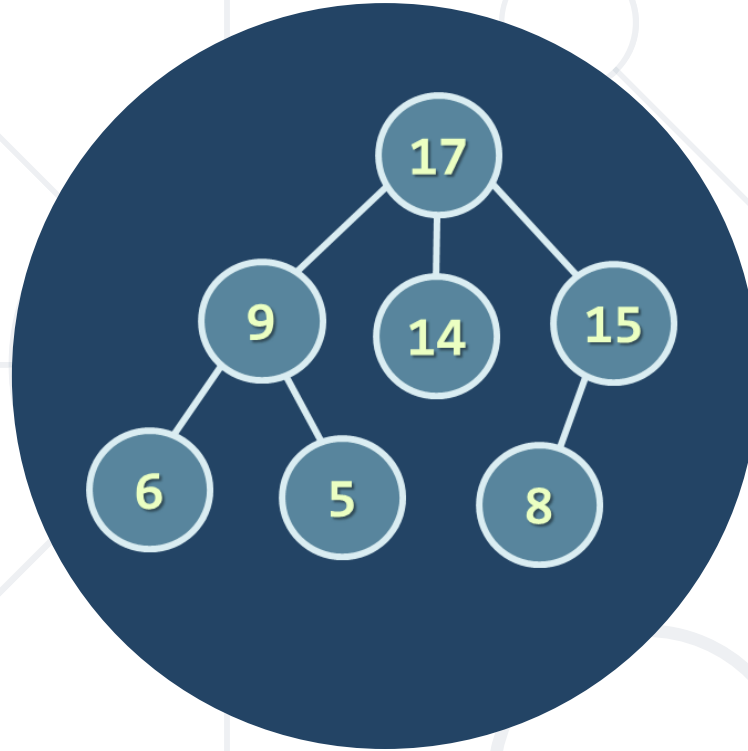
- Create a **recursive tree definition** in order to create trees

```
Tree<Integer> tree =  
    new Tree<>(7,  
        new Tree<>(19,  
            new Tree<>(1),  
            new Tree<>(12),  
            new Tree<>(31)),  
        new Tree<>(21),  
        new Tree<>(14,  
            new Tree<>(23),  
            new Tree<Integer>(6))  
    );
```



# Solution: Implement Tree

```
public class Tree<E> implements AbstractTree<E> {  
    private E key;  
    private Tree<E> parent;  
    private List<Tree<E>> children;  
    public Tree(E key, Tree<E>... children) {  
        this.key = key;  
        this.children = new ArrayList<>();  
        for (Tree<E> child : children) {  
            this.children.add(child);  
            child.parent = this;  
        }  
    }  
}
```



# Traversing Tree-Like Structures

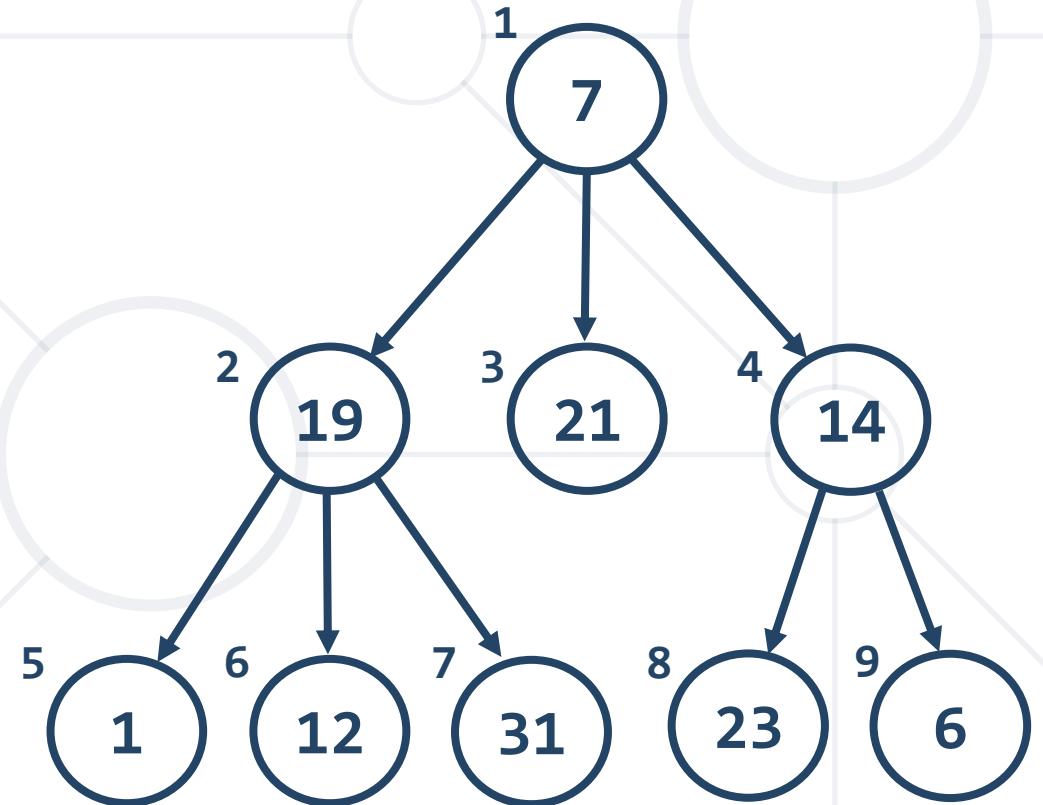
## DFS and BFS Traversals

- **Traversing a tree** means to visit each of its nodes exactly once
  - The **order of visiting nodes** may vary on the traversal algorithm
  - **Depth-First Search** (DFS)
    - Visit node's successors first
    - Usually implemented by recursion
  - **Breadth-First Search** (BFS)
    - Nearest nodes visited first
    - Implemented by a queue

# Breadth-First Search (BFS)

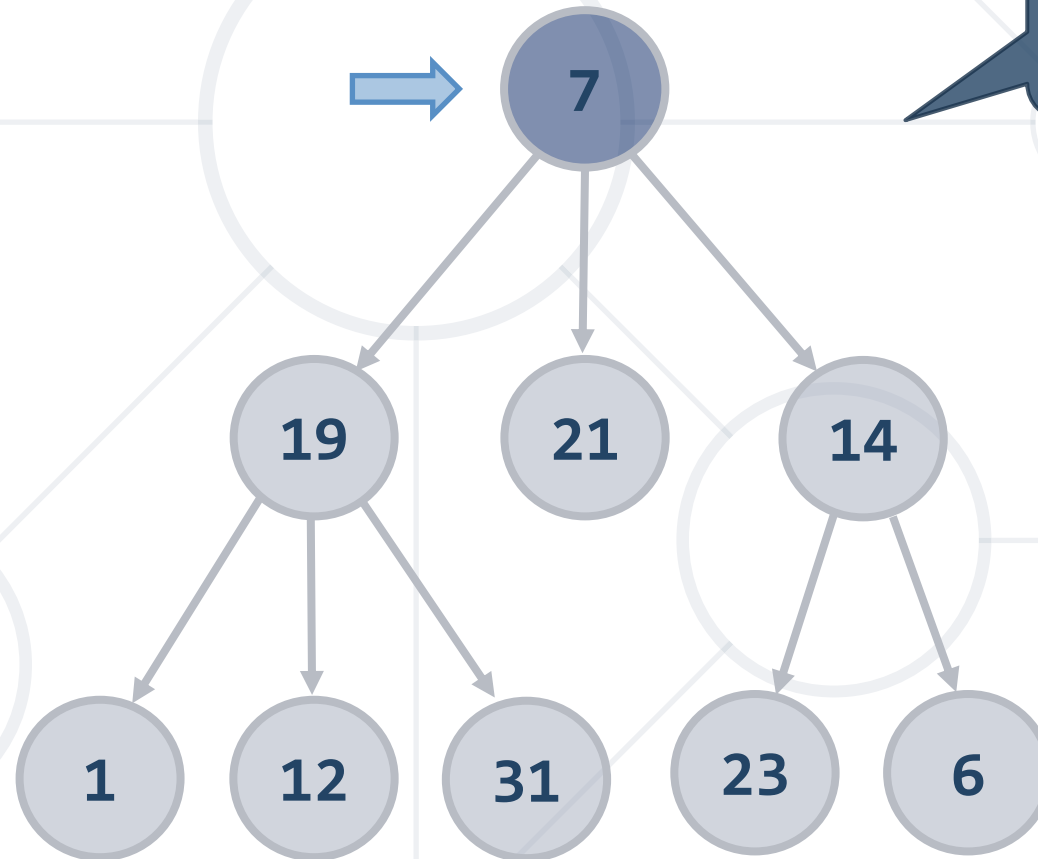
- **Breadth-First Search** (BFS) first visits the neighbor nodes, then the neighbors of neighbors, etc.
- BFS algorithm pseudo code:

```
BFS (node) {  
  queue ← node  
  while queue not empty  
    v ← queue  
    print v  
    for each child c of v  
      queue ← c  
}
```



# BFS in Action (Step 1)

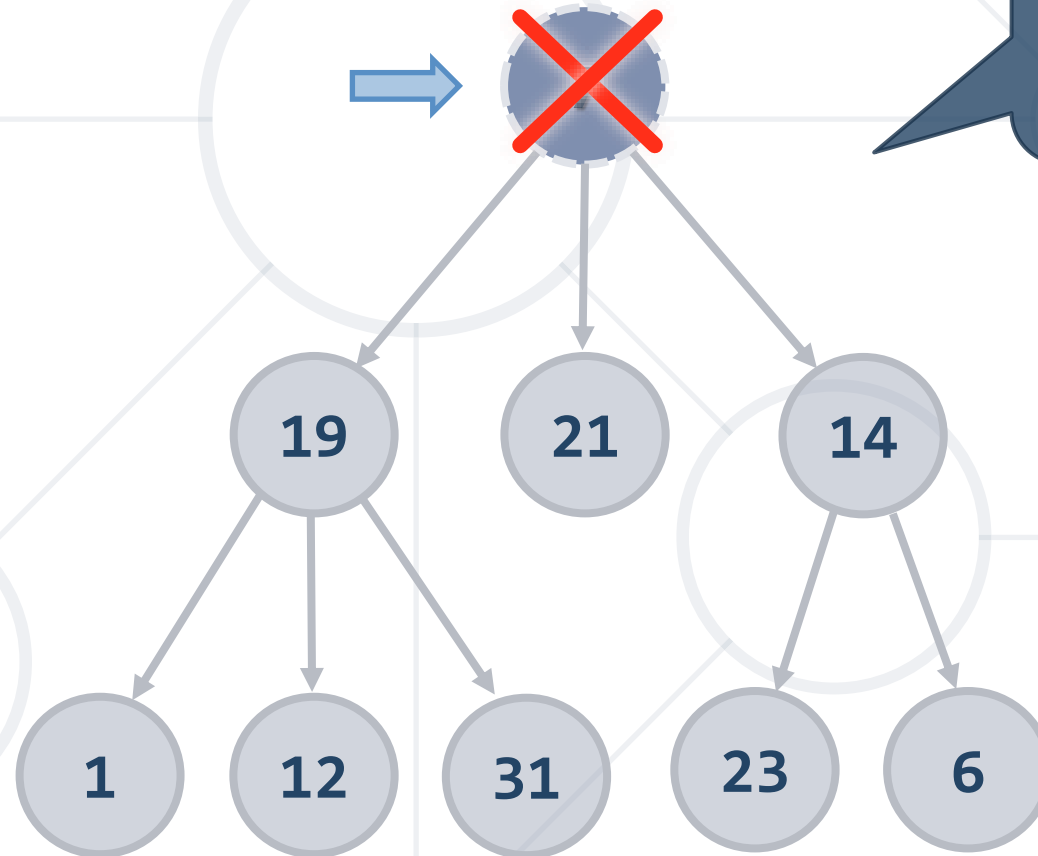
- Queue: 7
- Output:





# BFS in Action (Step 2)

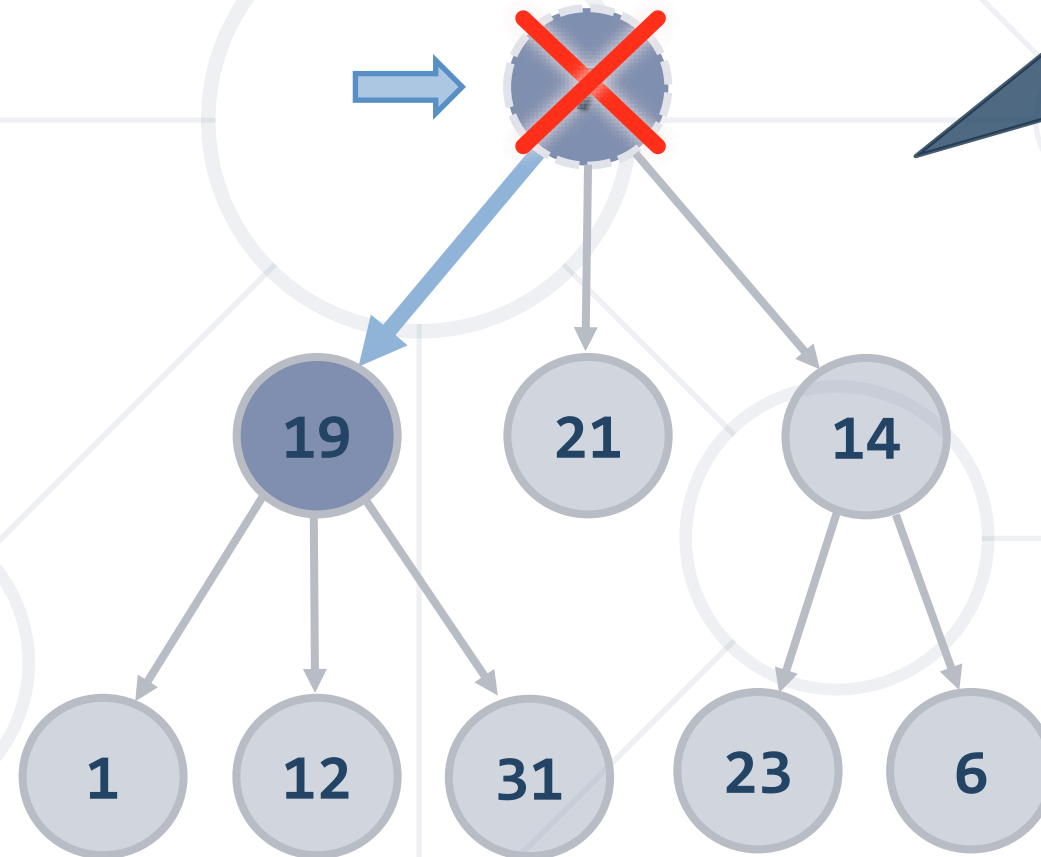
- Queue: ~~7~~
- Output: 7



Remove from the  
queue the next  
node and print it

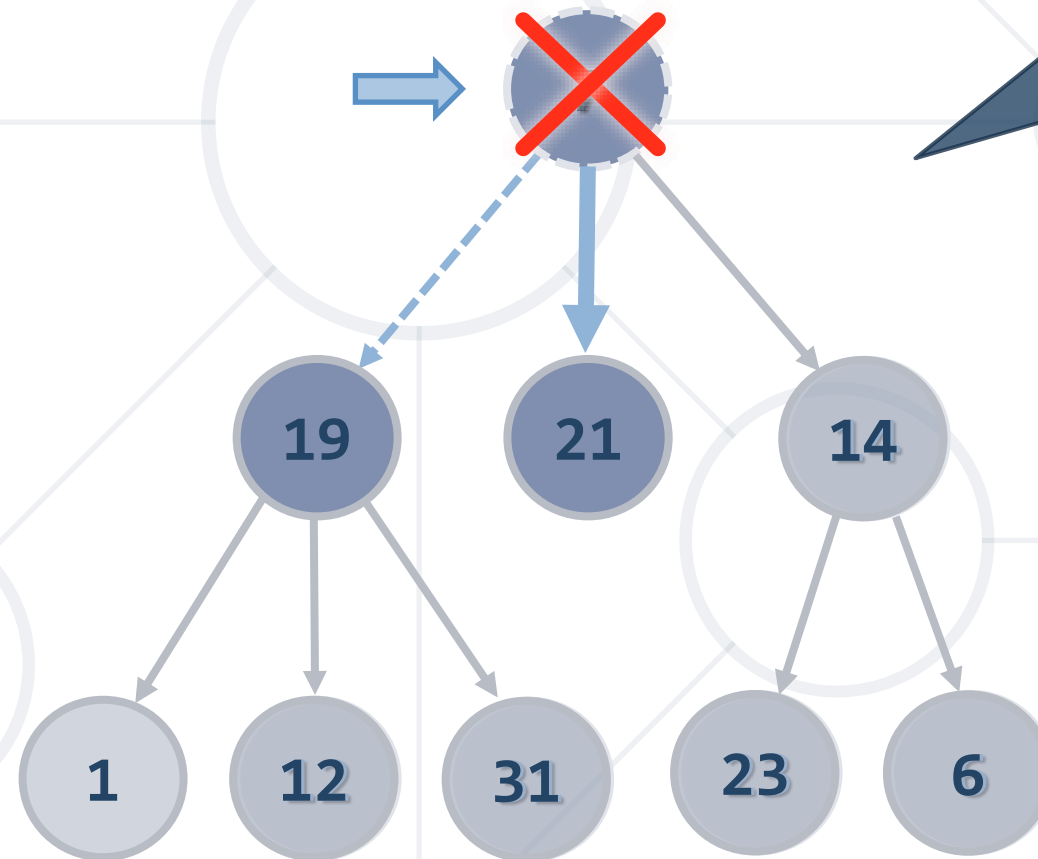
# BFS in Action (Step 3)

- Queue: ~~7~~, 19
- Output: 7



# BFS in Action (Step 4)

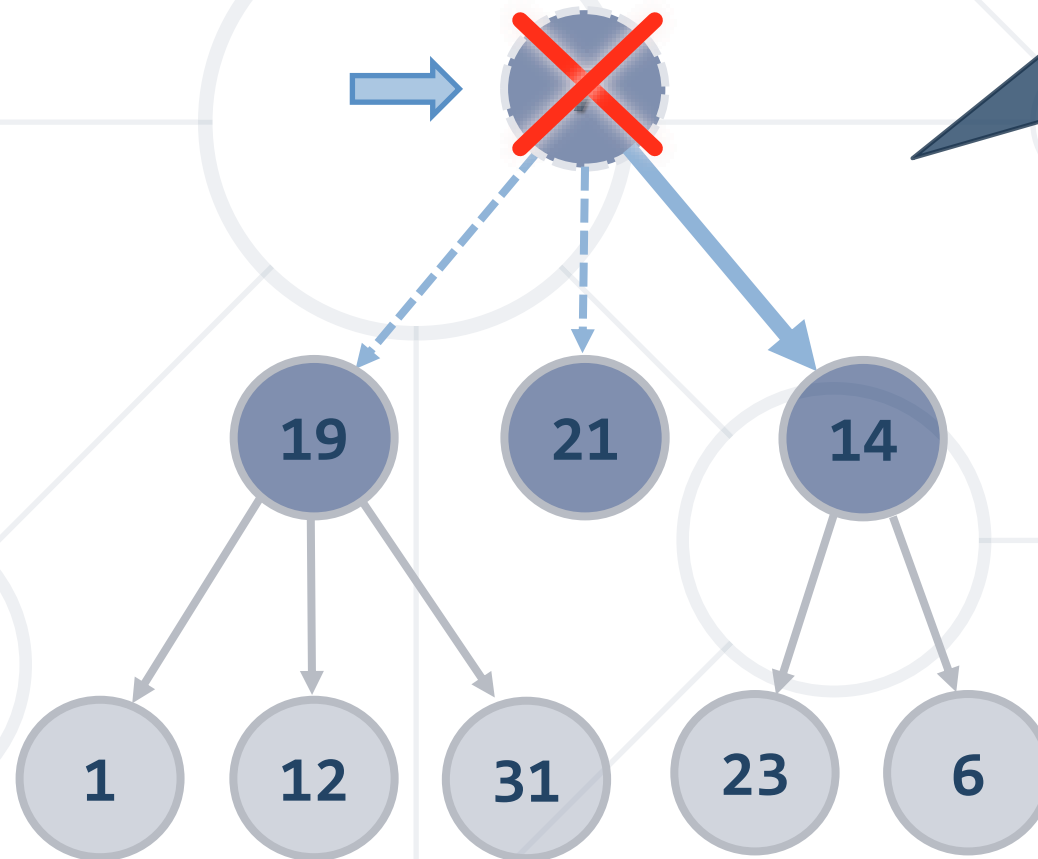
- Queue: ~~7~~, 19, 21
- Output: 7



Enqueue all  
children of the  
current node

# BFS in Action (Step 5)

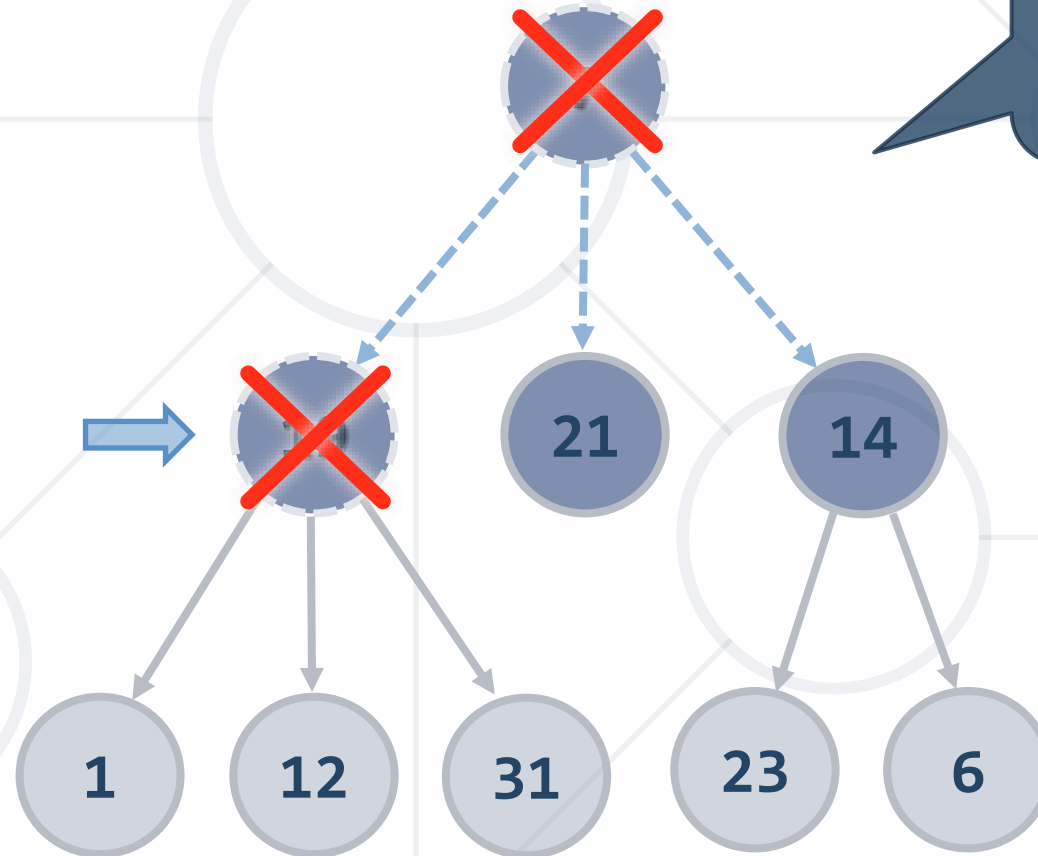
- Queue: ~~7~~, 19, 21, 14
- Output: 7



# BFS in Action (Step 6)

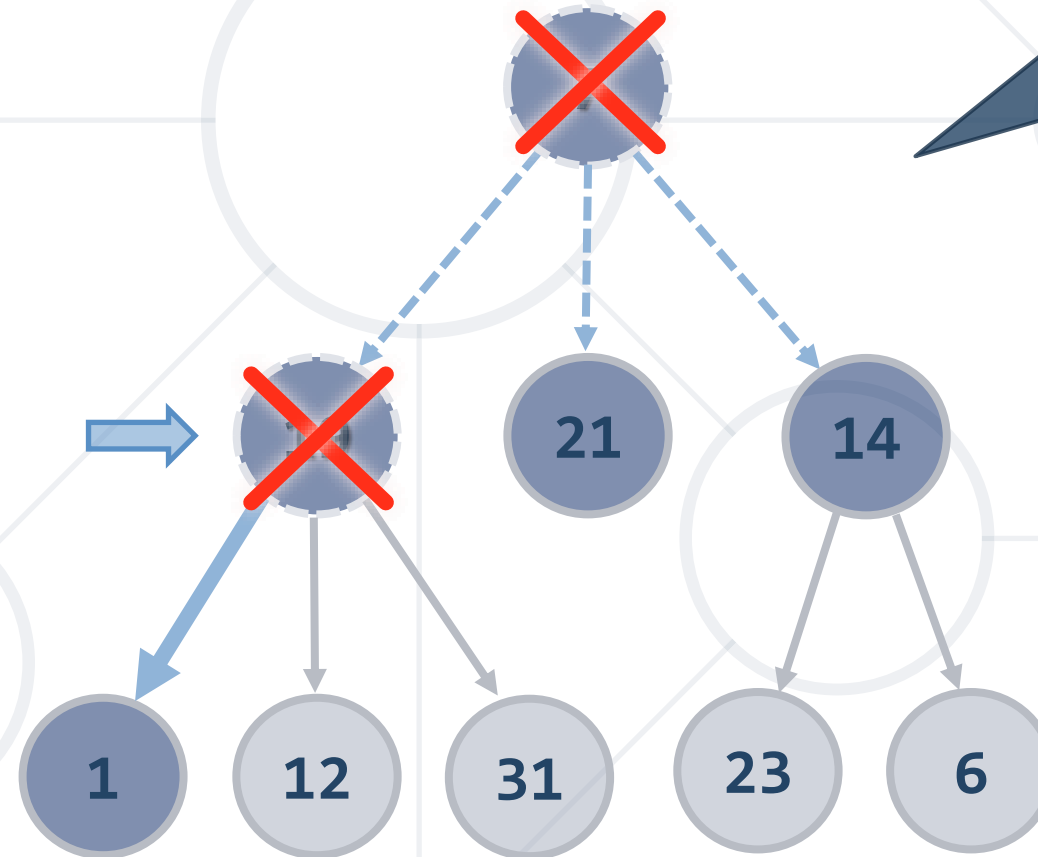
- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, 21, 14
- Output: 7, 19

Remove from the queue the next node and print it



# BFS in Action (Step 7)

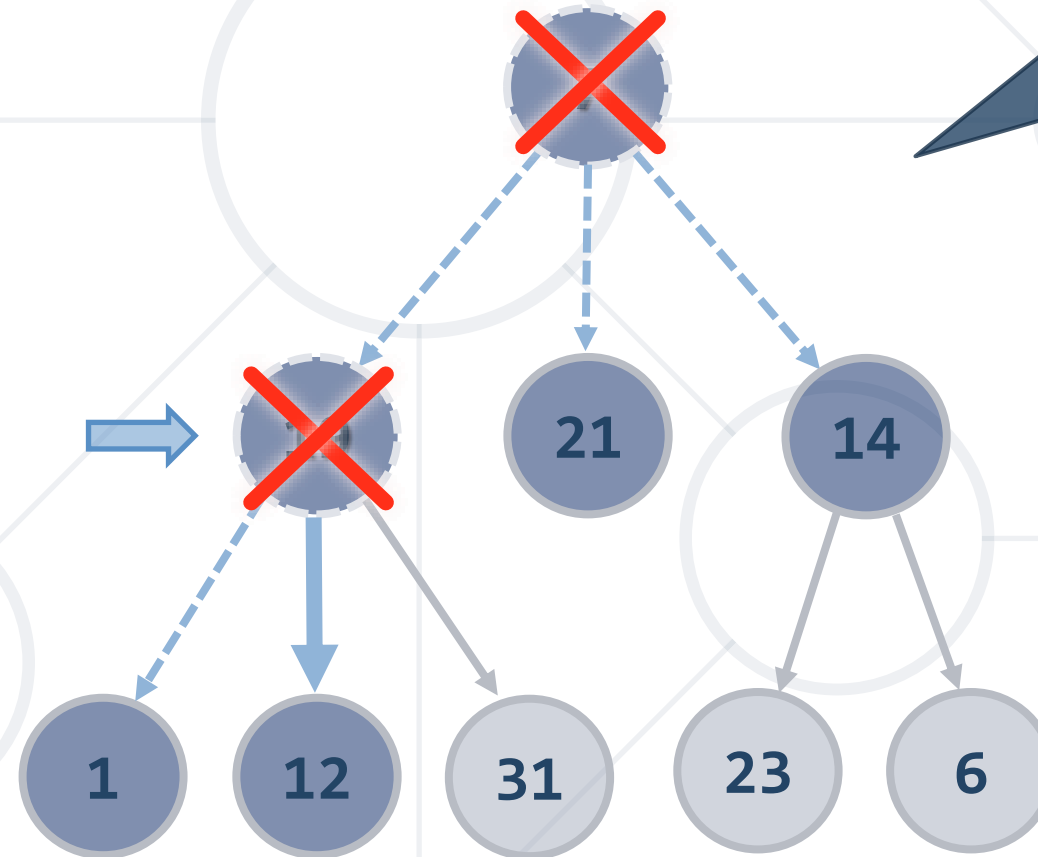
- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, 21, 14, 1
- Output: 7, 19



Enqueue all  
children of the  
current node

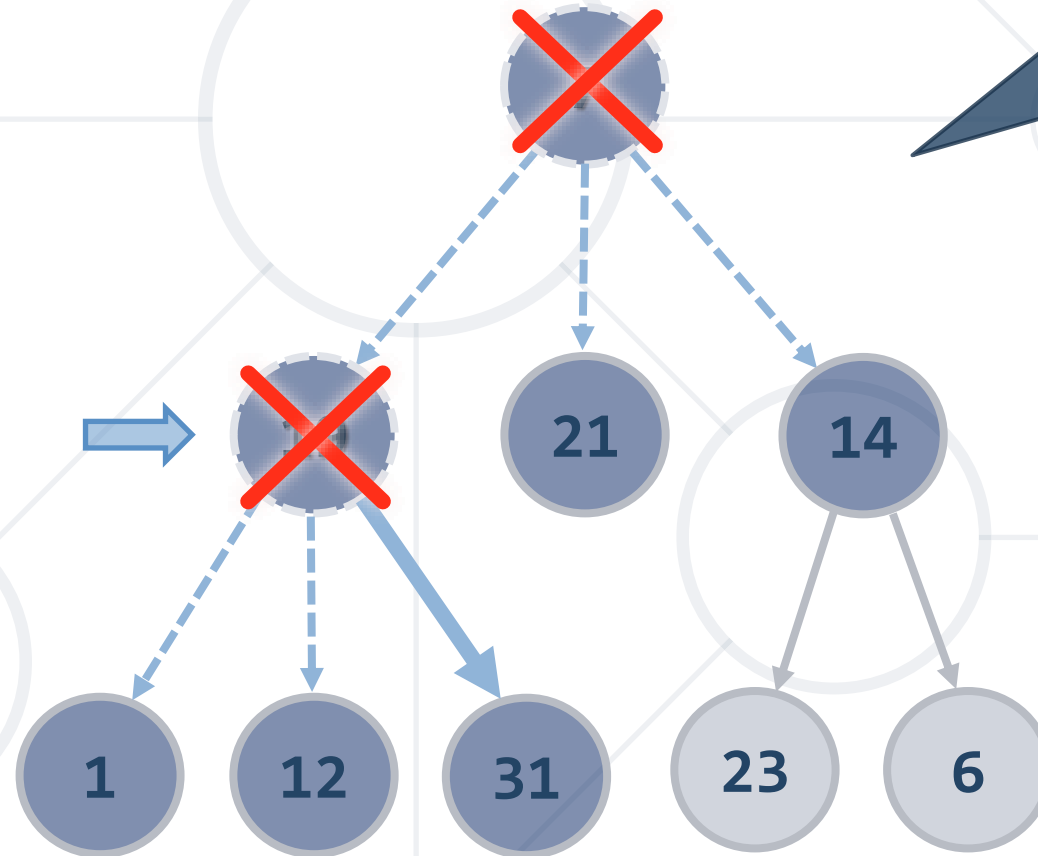
# BFS in Action (Step 8)

- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, 21, 14, 1, 12
- Output: 7, 19



# BFS in Action (Step 9)

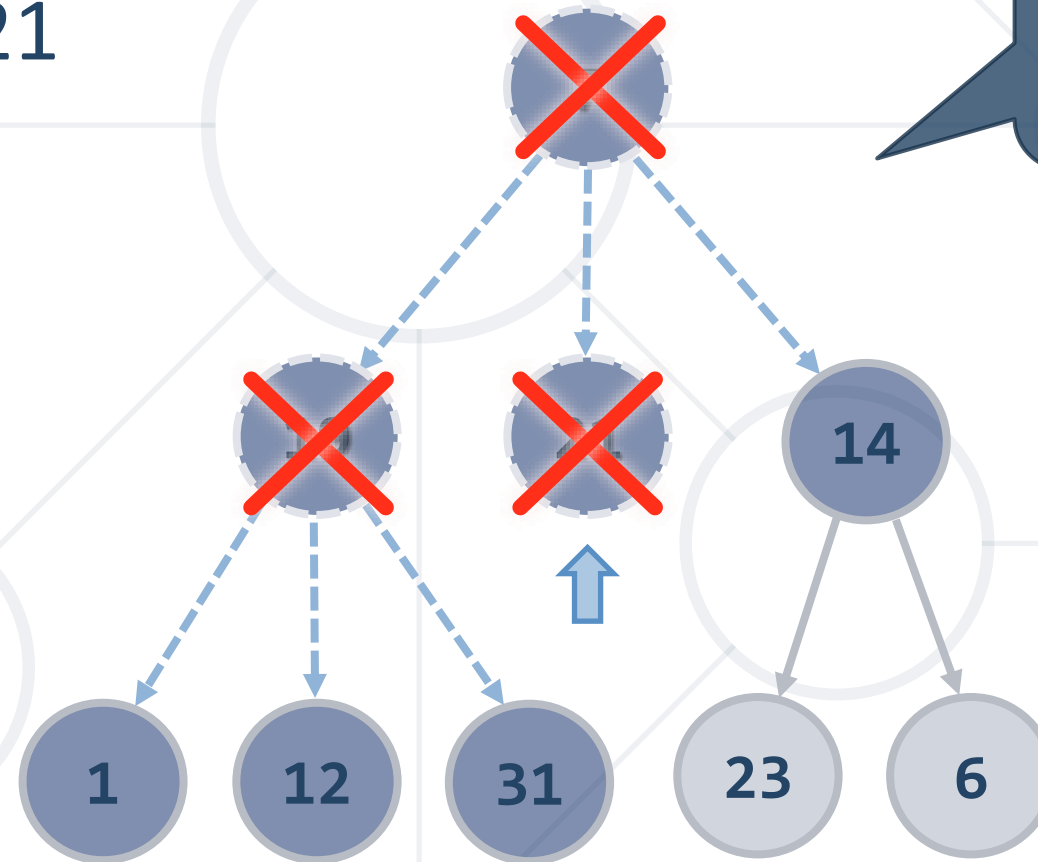
- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, 21, 14, 1, 12, 31
- Output: 7, 19





# BFS in Action (Step 10)

- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, 14, 1, 12, 31
- Output: 7, 19, 21



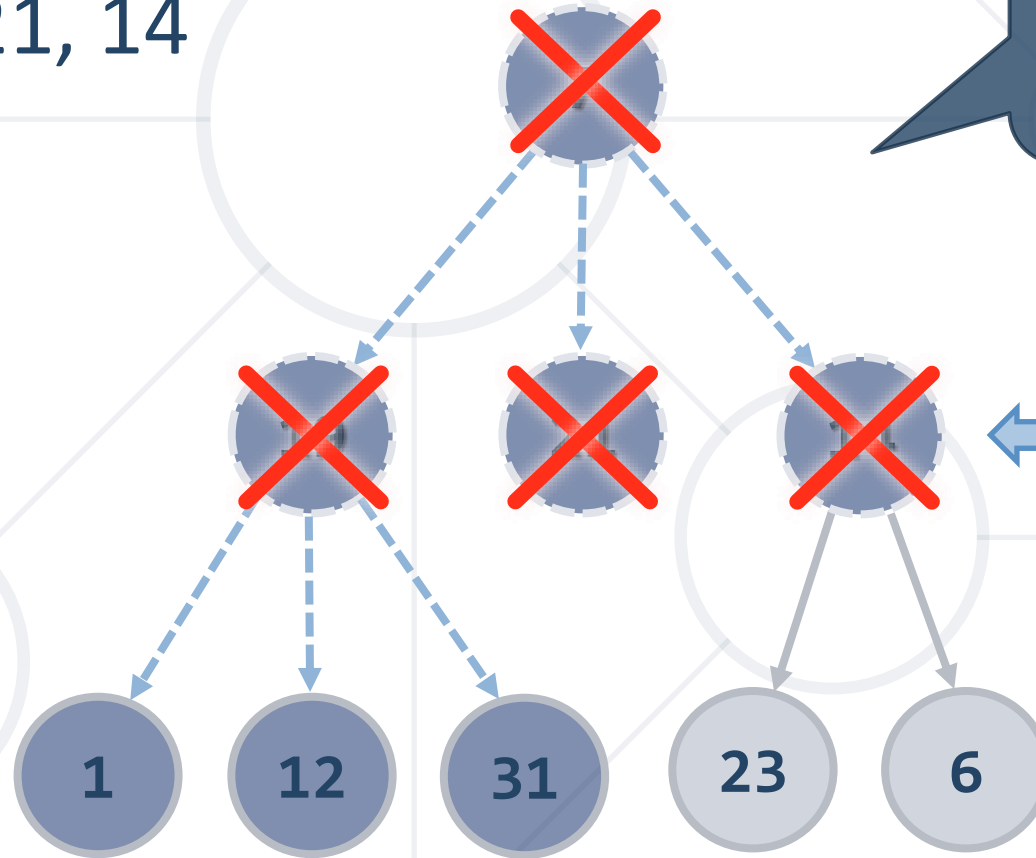
Remove from the queue the next node and print it

No child nodes to enqueue

# BFS in Action (Step 11)

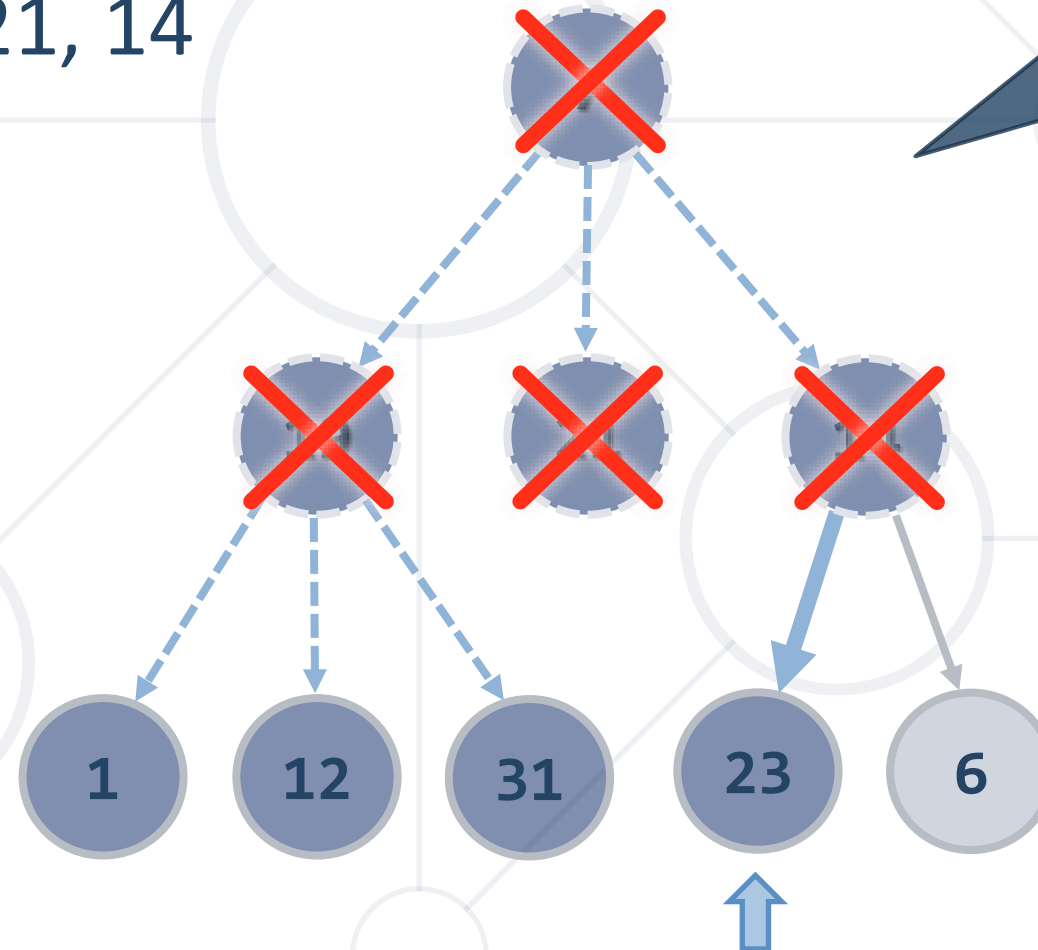
- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, 1, 12, 31
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14

Remove from the  
queue the next  
node and print it



# BFS in Action (Step 12)

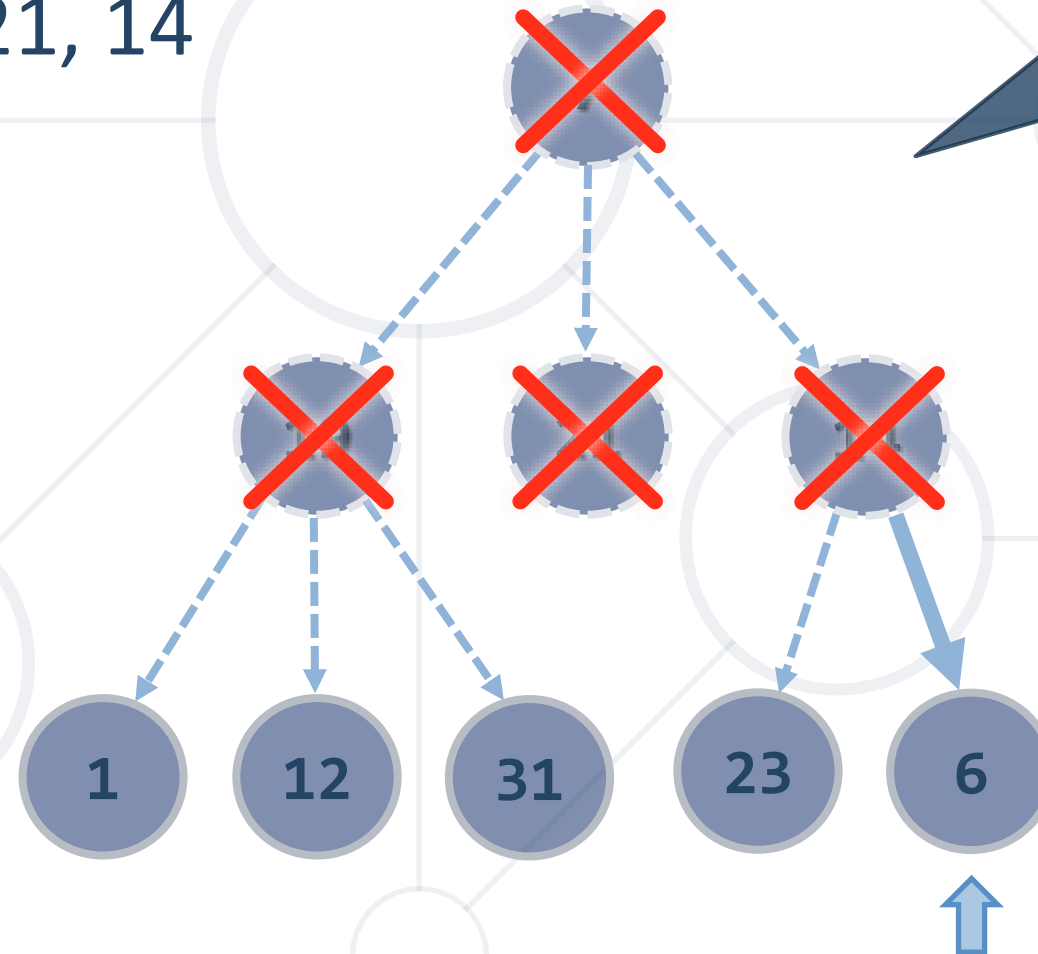
- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, 1, 12, 31, 23
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14



Enqueue all  
children of the  
current node

# BFS in Action (Step 13)

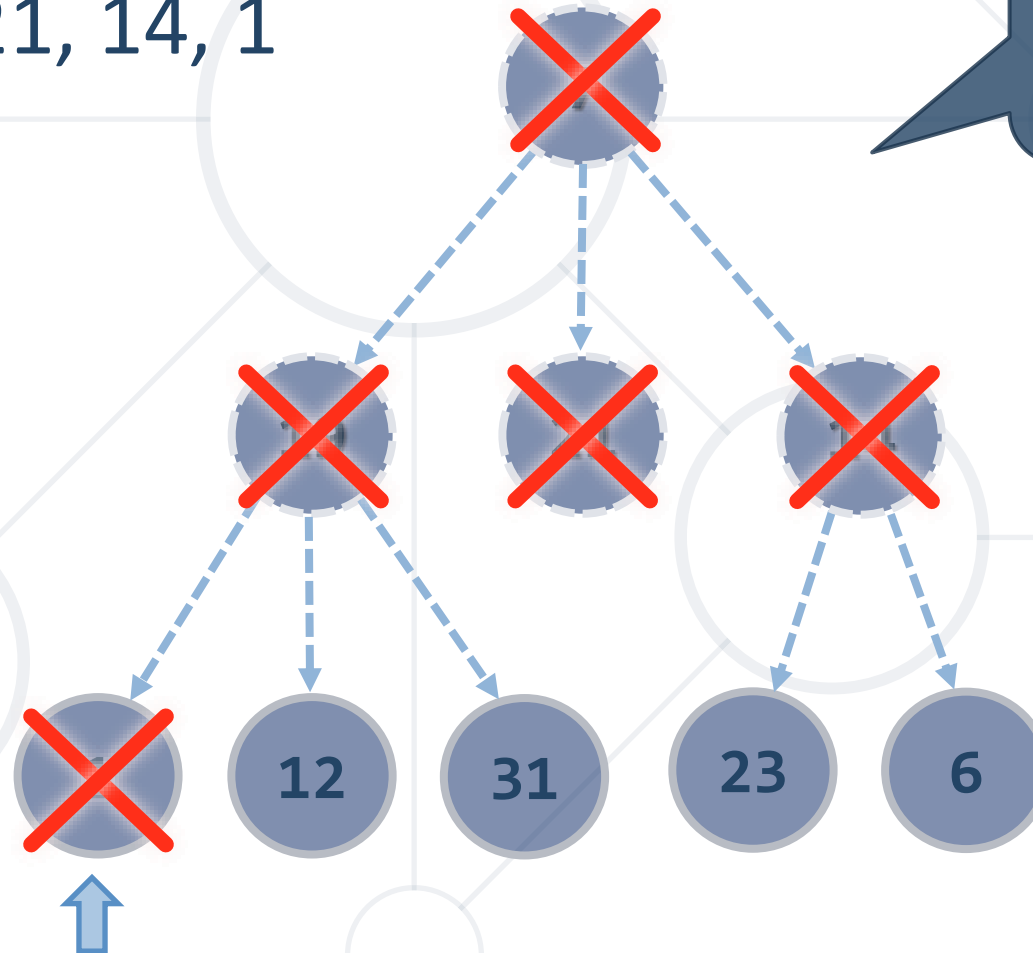
- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, 1, 12, 31, 23, 6
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14



Enqueue all  
children of the  
current node

## BFS in Action (Step 14)

- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, ~~1~~, 12, 31, 23, 6
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14, 1

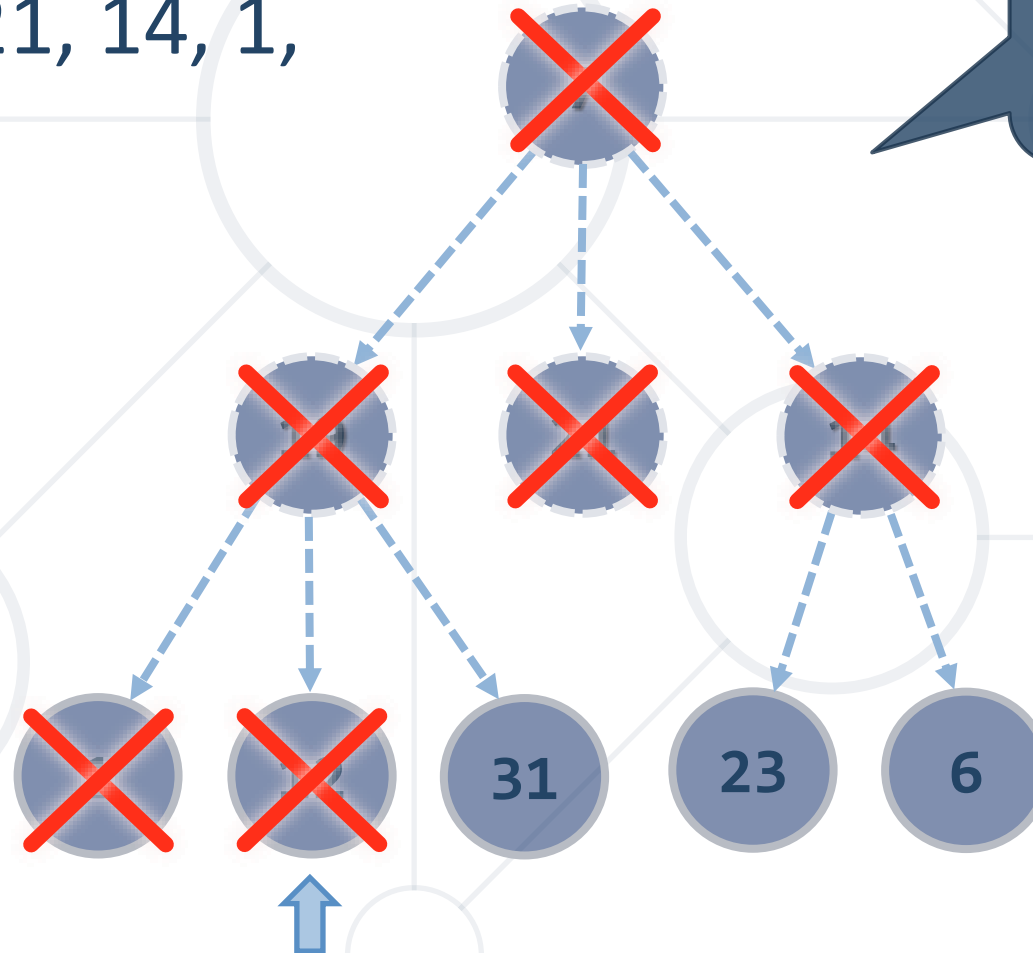


**Remove from the queue the next node and print it**

**No child nodes  
to enqueue**

## BFS in Action (Step 15)

- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, ~~1~~, ~~12~~, 31, 23, 6
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14, 1, 12

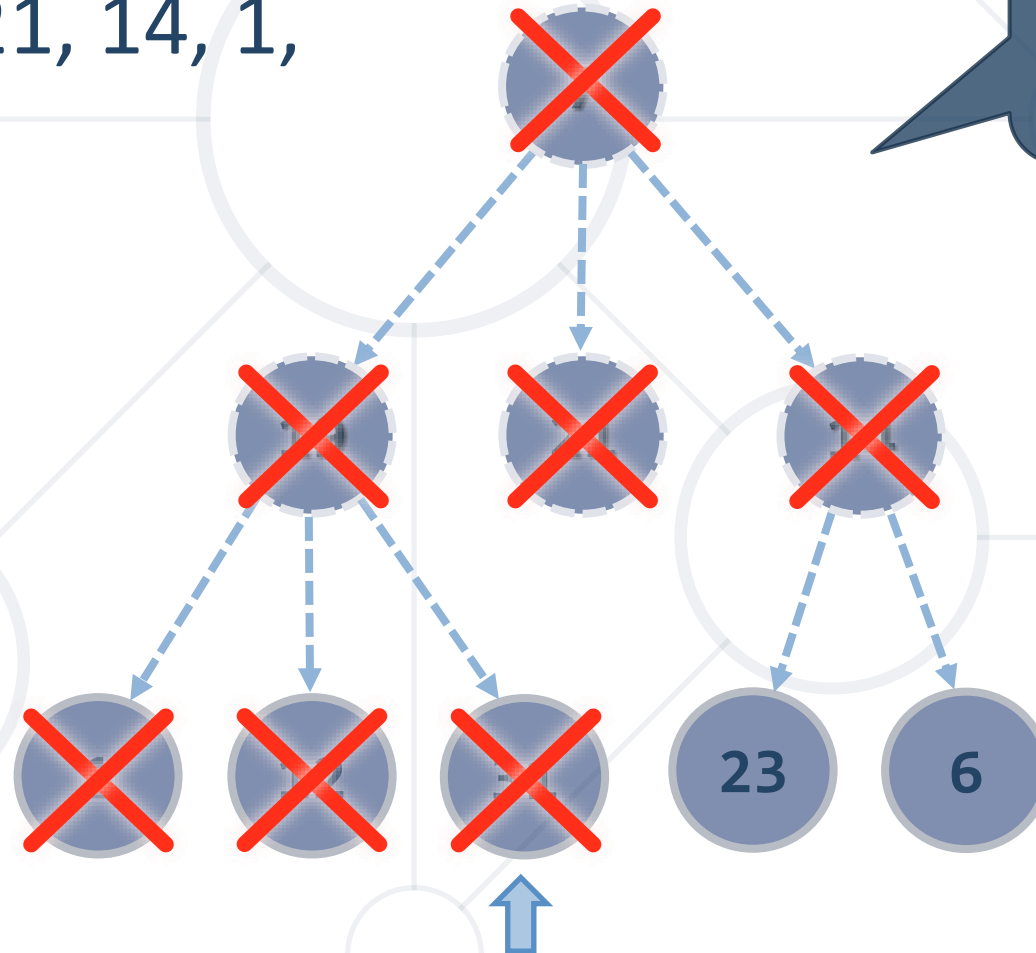


**Remove from the queue the next node and print it**

**No child nodes  
to enqueue**

# BFS in Action (Step 16)

- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, ~~1~~, ~~12~~, ~~31~~, 23, 6
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14, 1, 12, 31

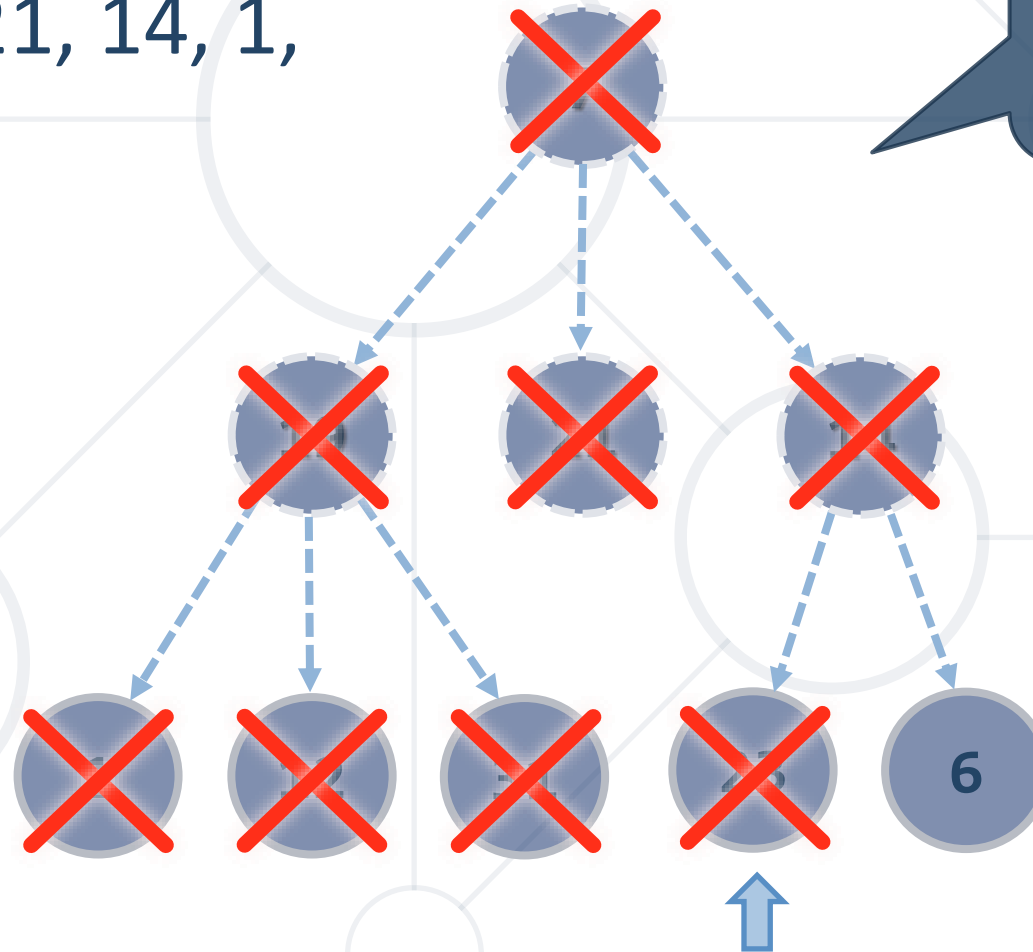


Remove from the  
queue the next  
node and print it

No child nodes  
to enqueue

## BFS in Action (Step 17)

- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, ~~1~~, ~~12~~, ~~31~~, ~~23~~, 6
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14, 1, 12, 31, 23



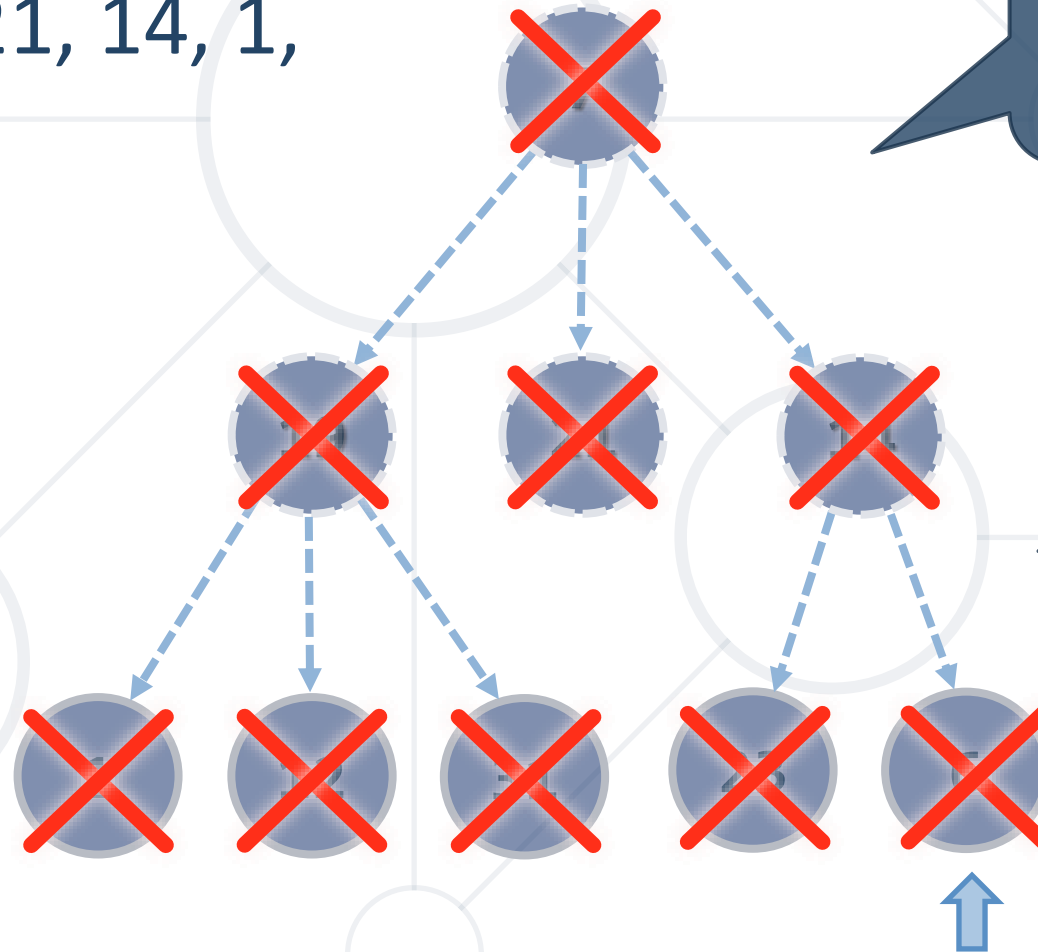
**Remove from the queue the next node and print it**

**No child nodes  
to enqueue**



# BFS in Action (Step 18)

- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, ~~1~~, ~~12~~, ~~31~~, ~~23~~, ~~6~~
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14, 1, 12, 31, 23, 6



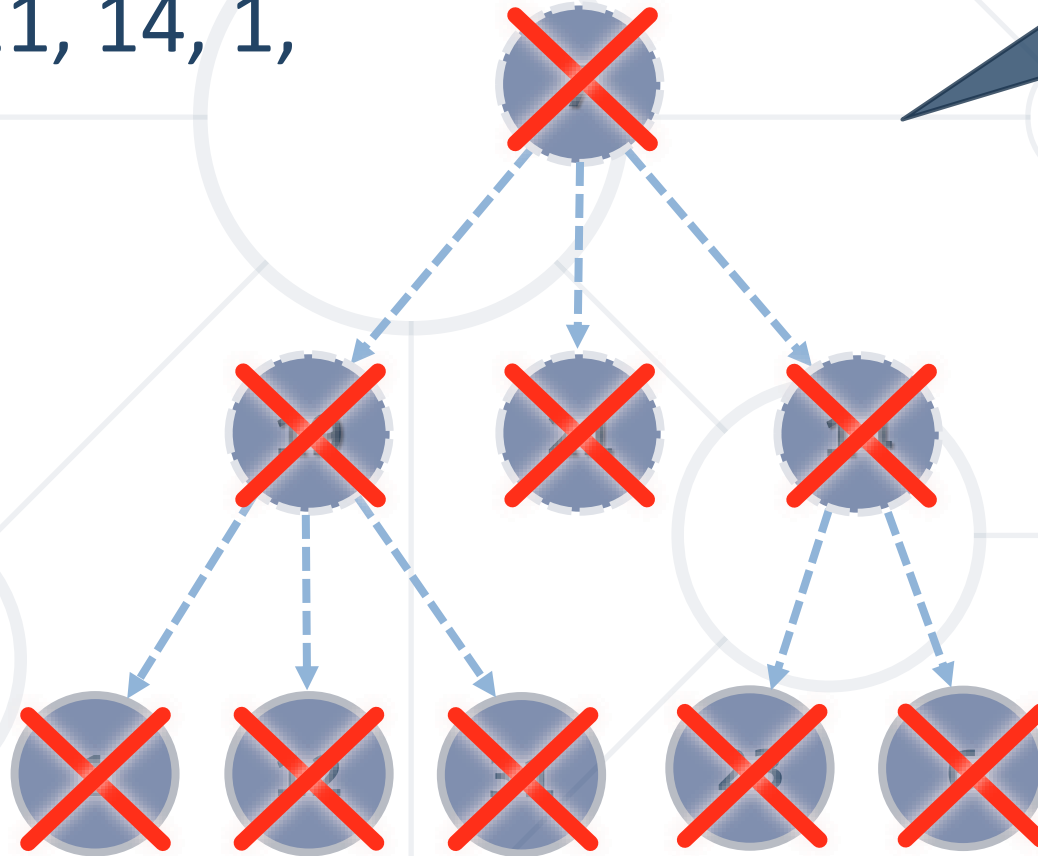
Remove from the queue the next node and print it

No child nodes to enqueue

# BFS in Action (Step 19)

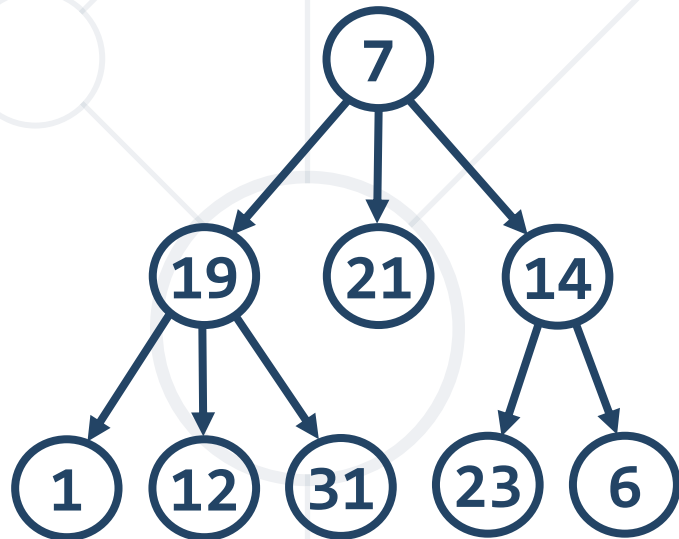
- Queue: ~~7~~, ~~19~~, ~~21~~, ~~14~~, ~~1~~, ~~12~~, ~~31~~, ~~23~~, ~~6~~
- Output: 7, 19, 21, 14, 1,  
12, 31, 23, 6

The queue is  
empty → stop



# Problem: Order BFS

- Given the **Tree<E>** structure, define a method
  - **List<E> orderBfs()**
- That returns elements in order of BFS algorithm visiting them



7 19 21 14 1 12 31 23 6

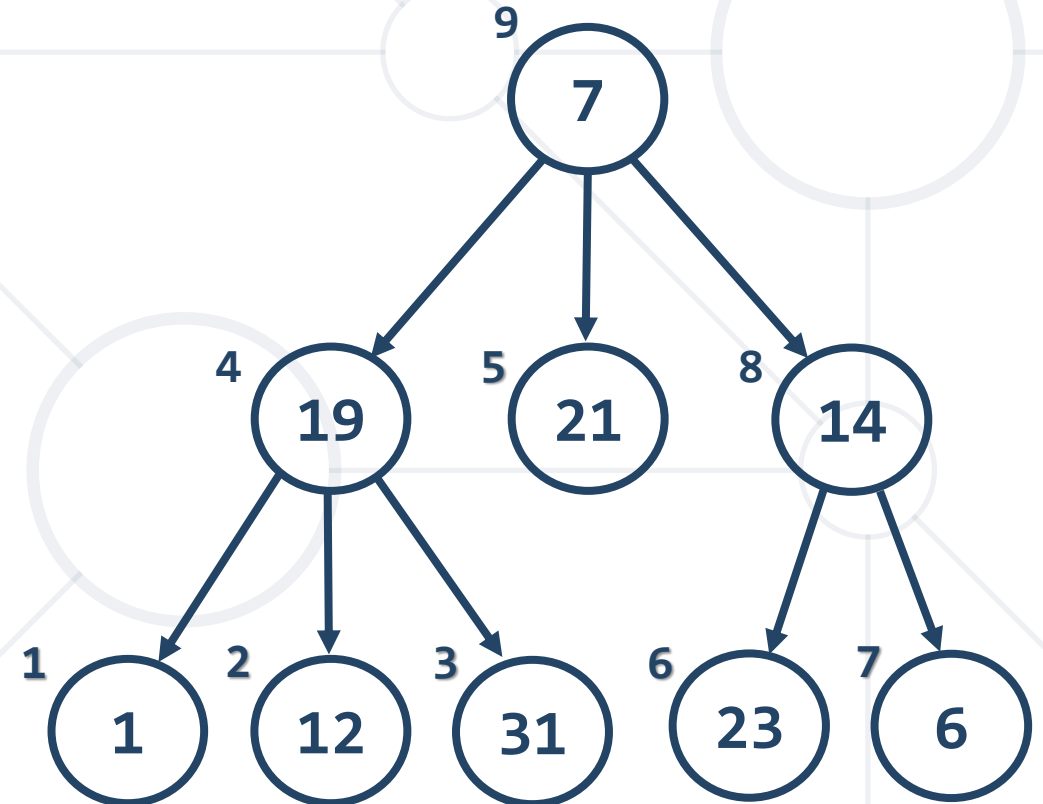
# Solution: Order BFS

```
public List<E> orderBfs() {  
    List<E> result = new ArrayList<>();  
    Deque<Tree<E>> queue = new ArrayDeque<>();  
    queue.offer(this);  
    while (queue.size() > 0) {  
        Tree<E> current = queue.poll();  
        result.add(current.key);  
        for (Tree<E> child : current.children)  
            queue.offer(child);  
    }  
    return result;  
}
```

# Depth-First Search (DFS)

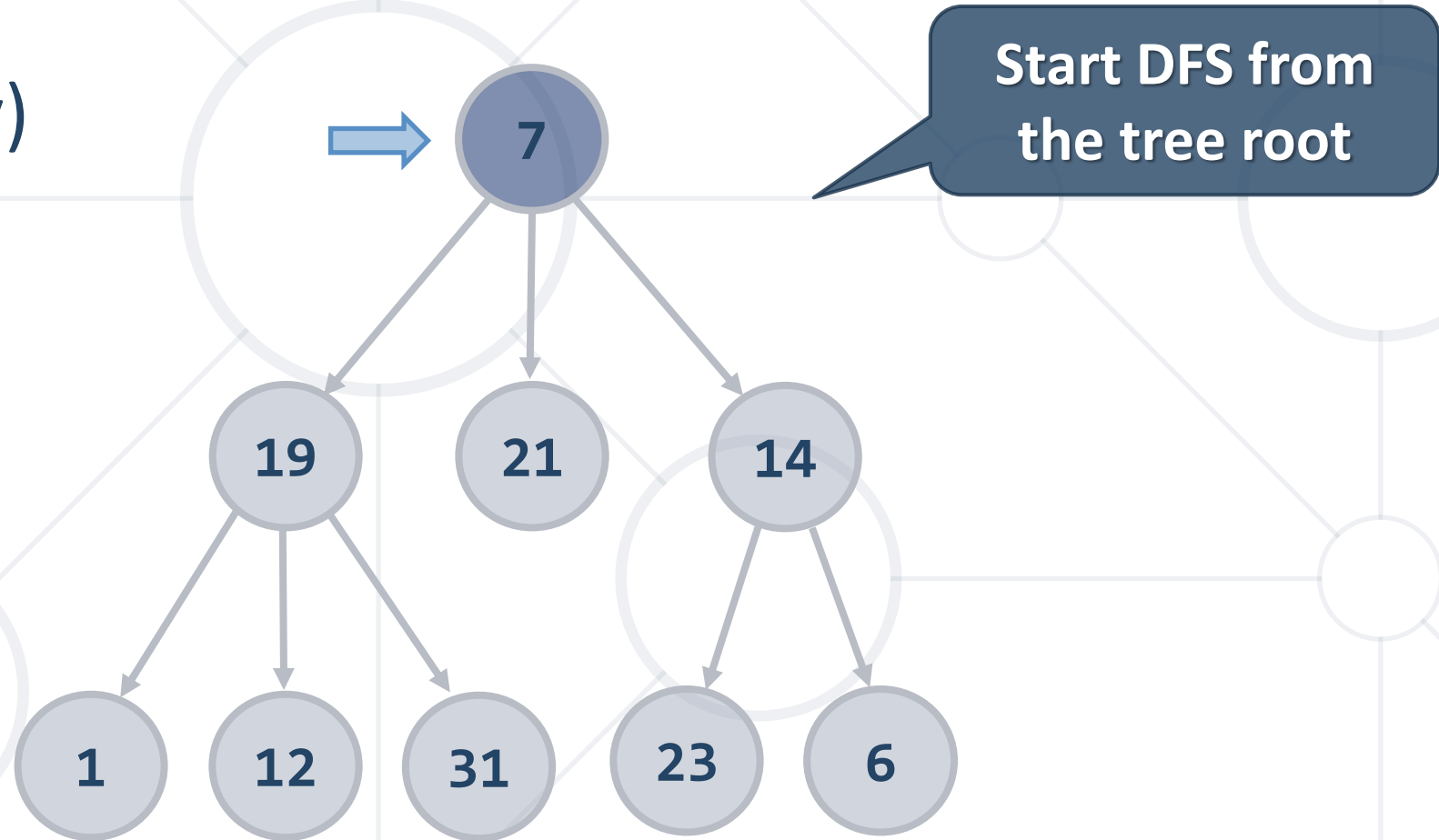
- **Depth-First Search (DFS)** first visits all descendants of given node recursively, finally visits the node itself
- DFS algorithm pseudo code:

```
DFS (node) {  
    for each child c of node  
        DFS(c);  
    print node;  
}
```



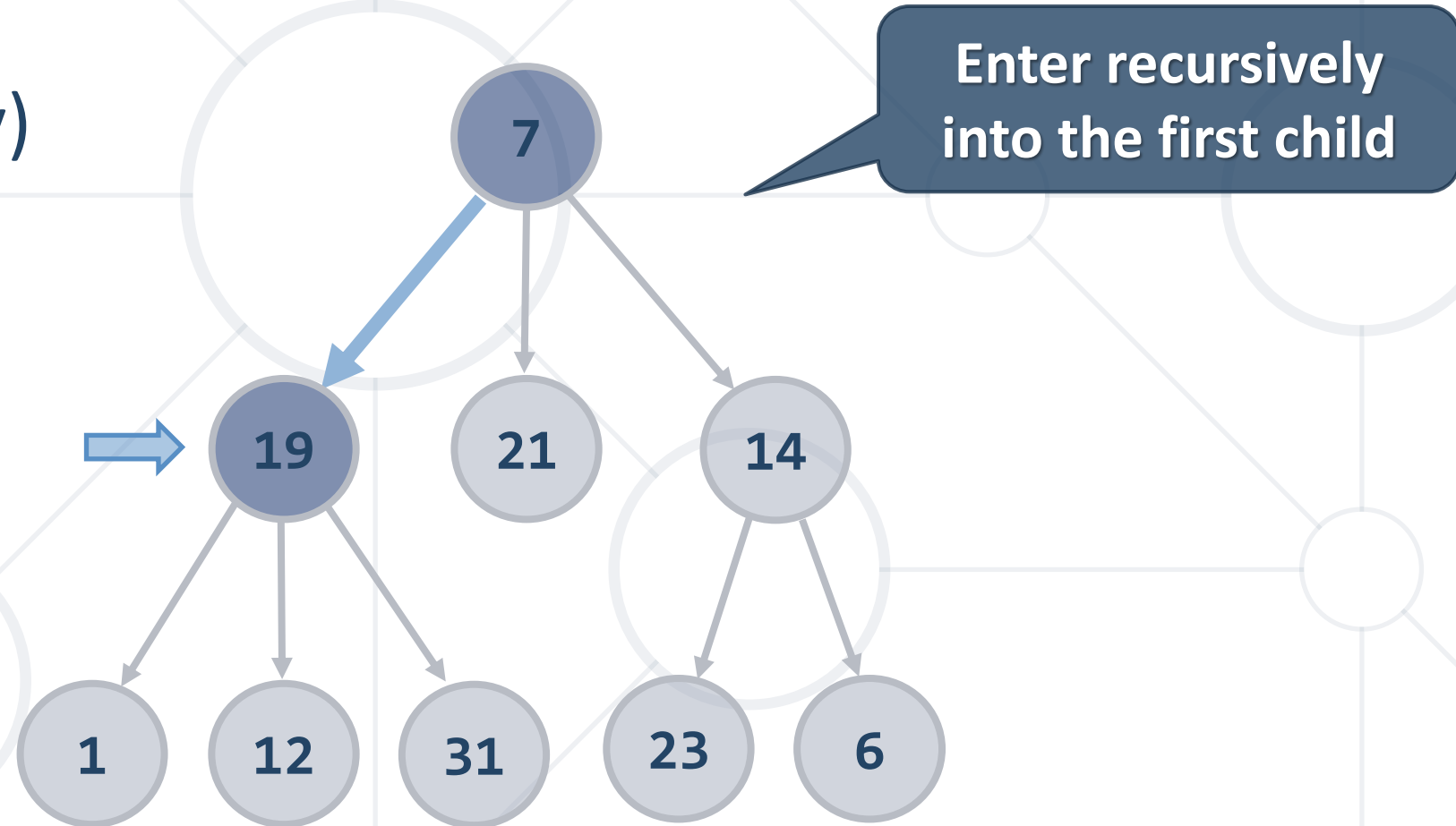
# DFS in Action (Step 1)

- Stack: 7
- Output: (empty)



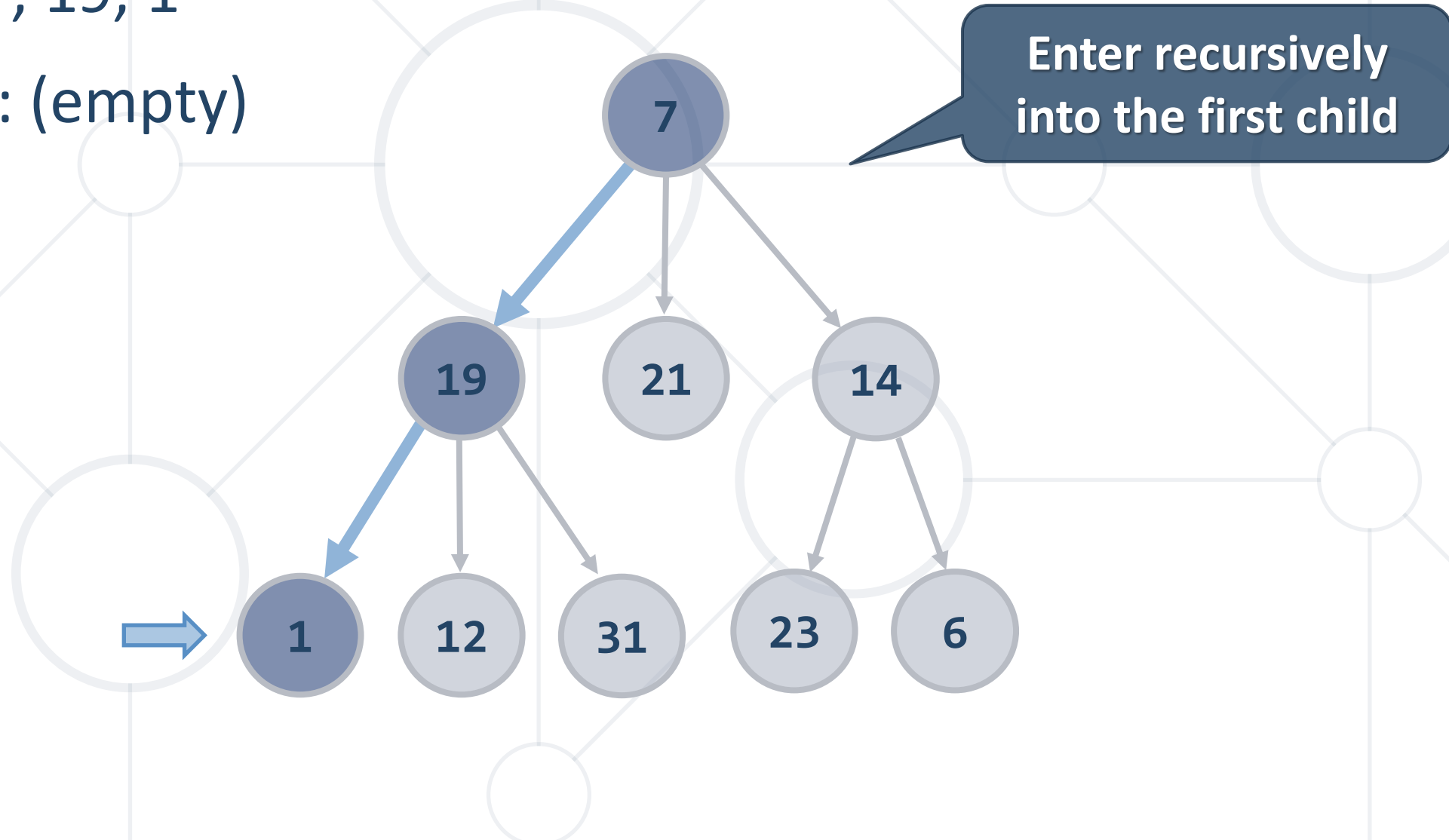
# DFS in Action (Step 2)

- Stack: 7, 19
- Output: (empty)



# DFS in Action (Step 3)

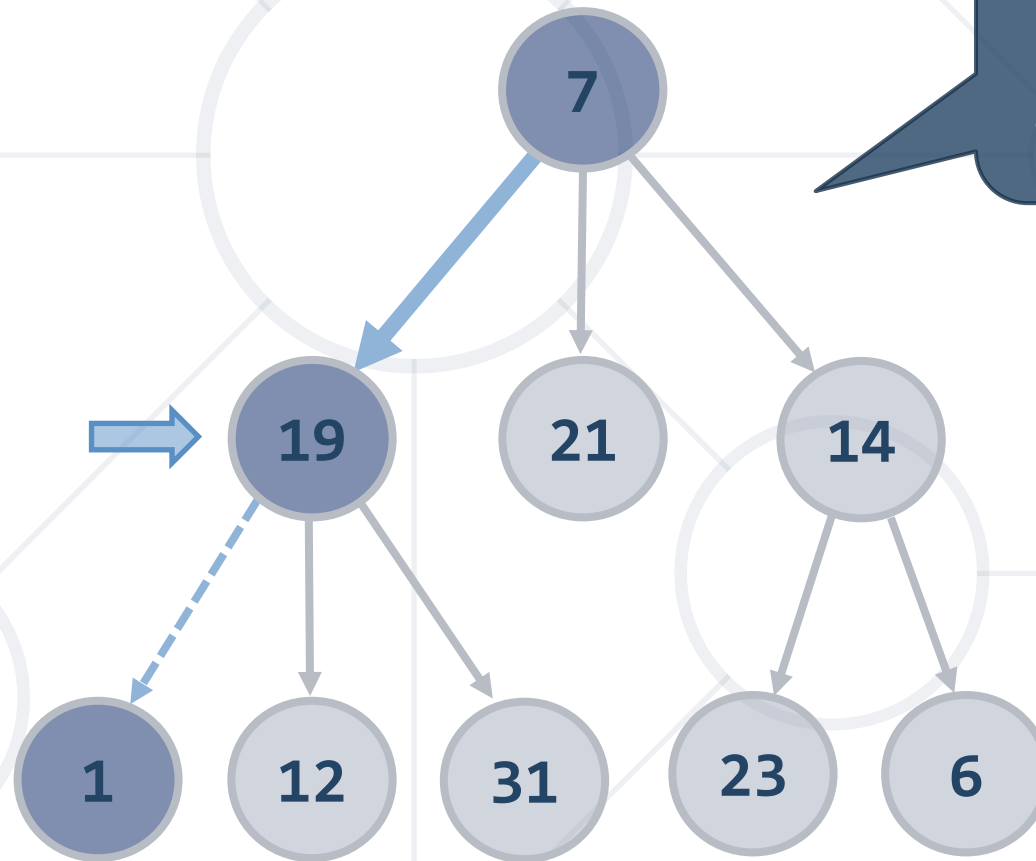
- Stack: 7, 19, 1
- Output: (empty)





# DFS in Action (Step 4)

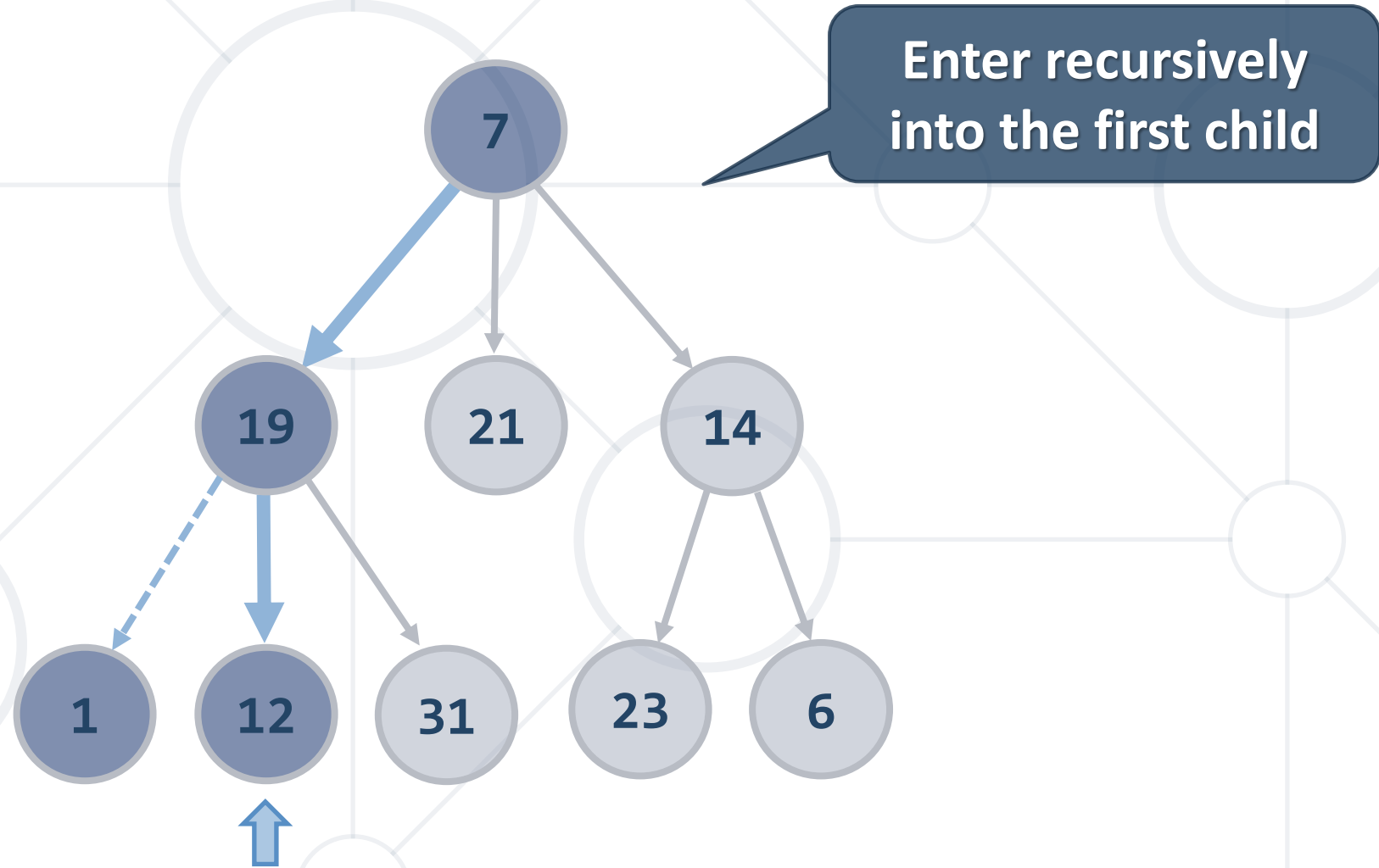
- Stack: 7, 19
- Output: 1



Return back from  
recursion and print  
the last visited node

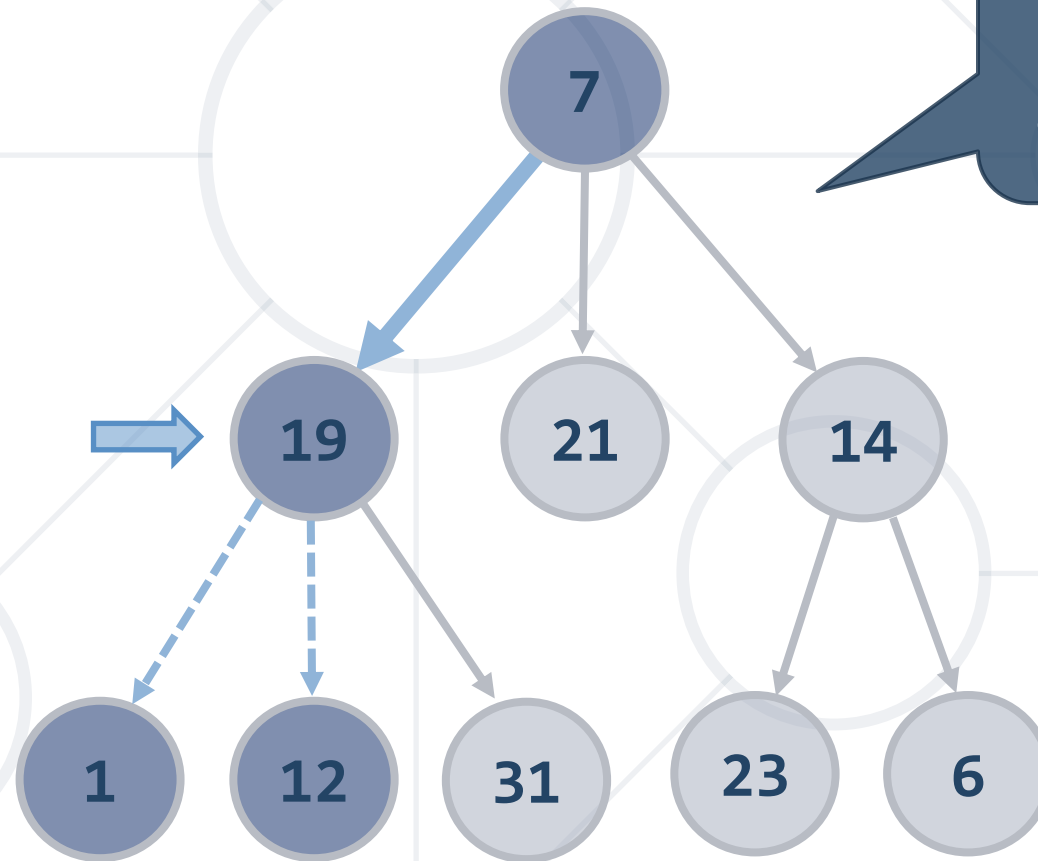
# DFS in Action (Step 5)

- Stack: 7, 19, 12
- Output: 1



# DFS in Action (Step 6)

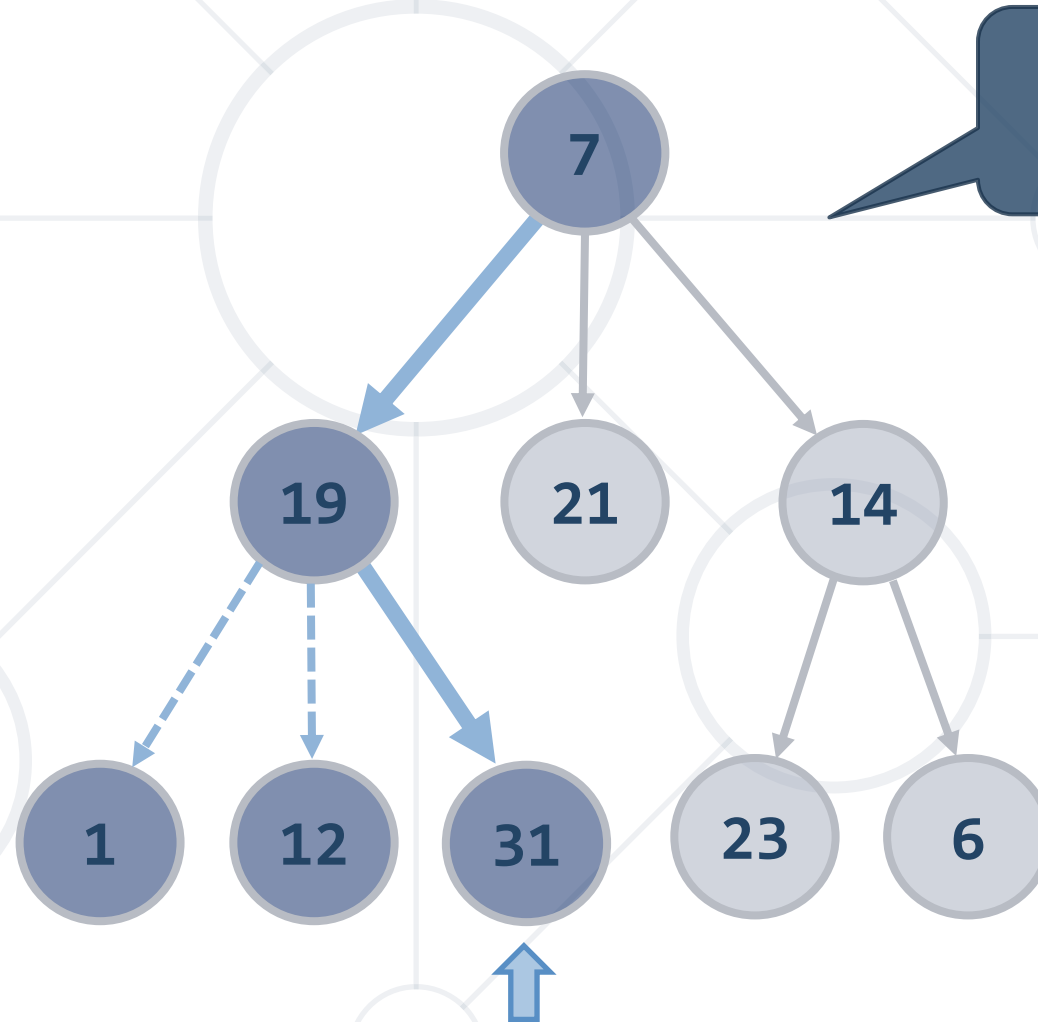
- Stack: 7, 19
- Output: 1, 12



Return back from  
recursion and print  
the last visited node

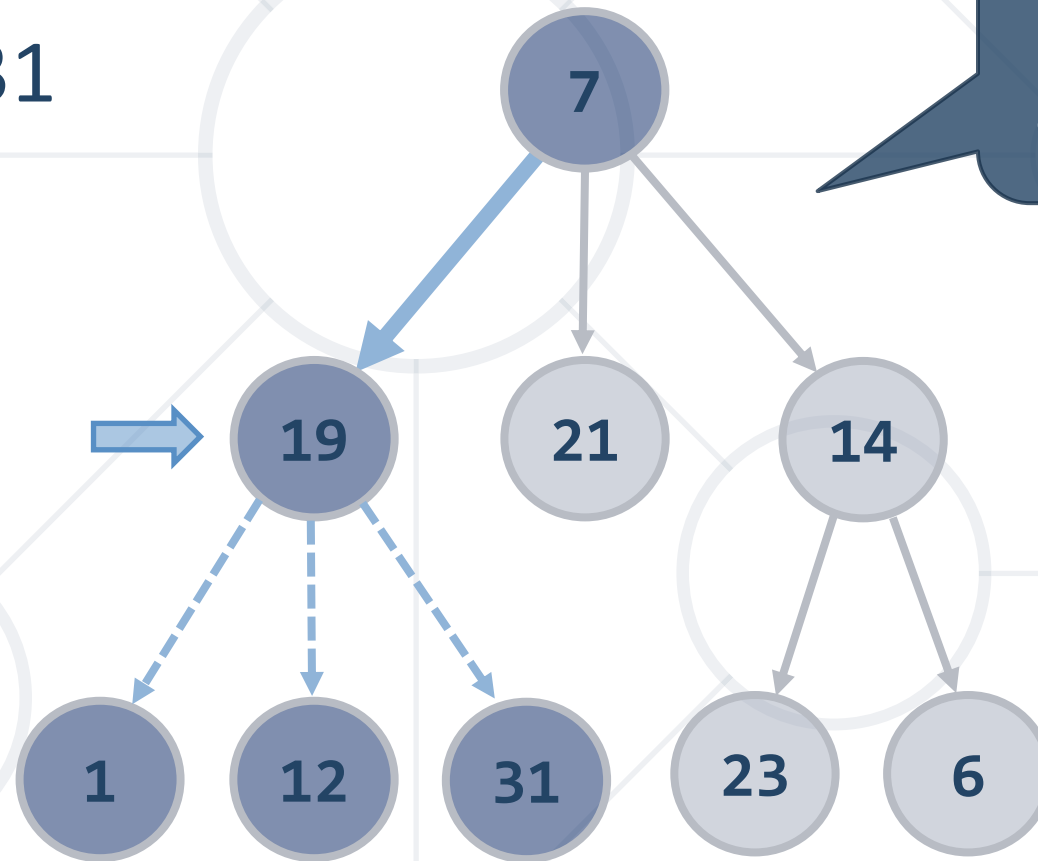
# DFS in Action (Step 7)

- Stack: 7, 19, 31
- Output: 1, 12



# DFS in Action (Step 8)

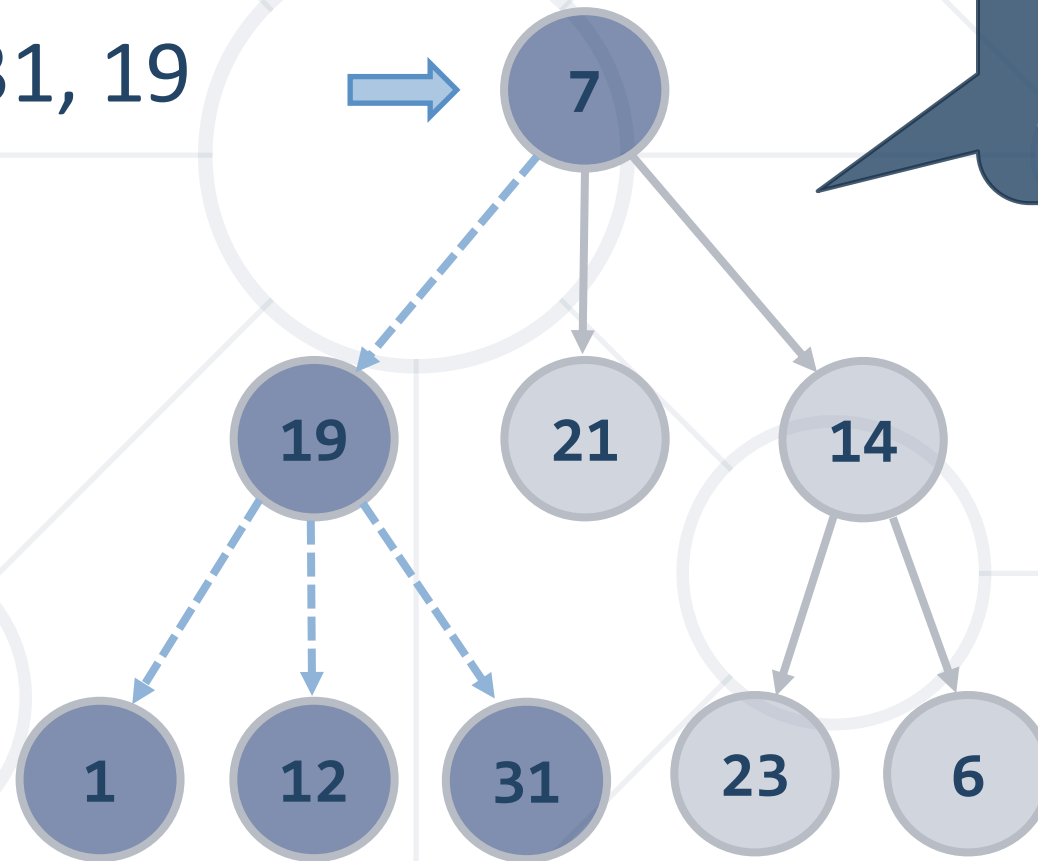
- Stack: 7, 19
- Output: 1, 12, 31



Return back from recursion and print the last visited node

# DFS in Action (Step 9)

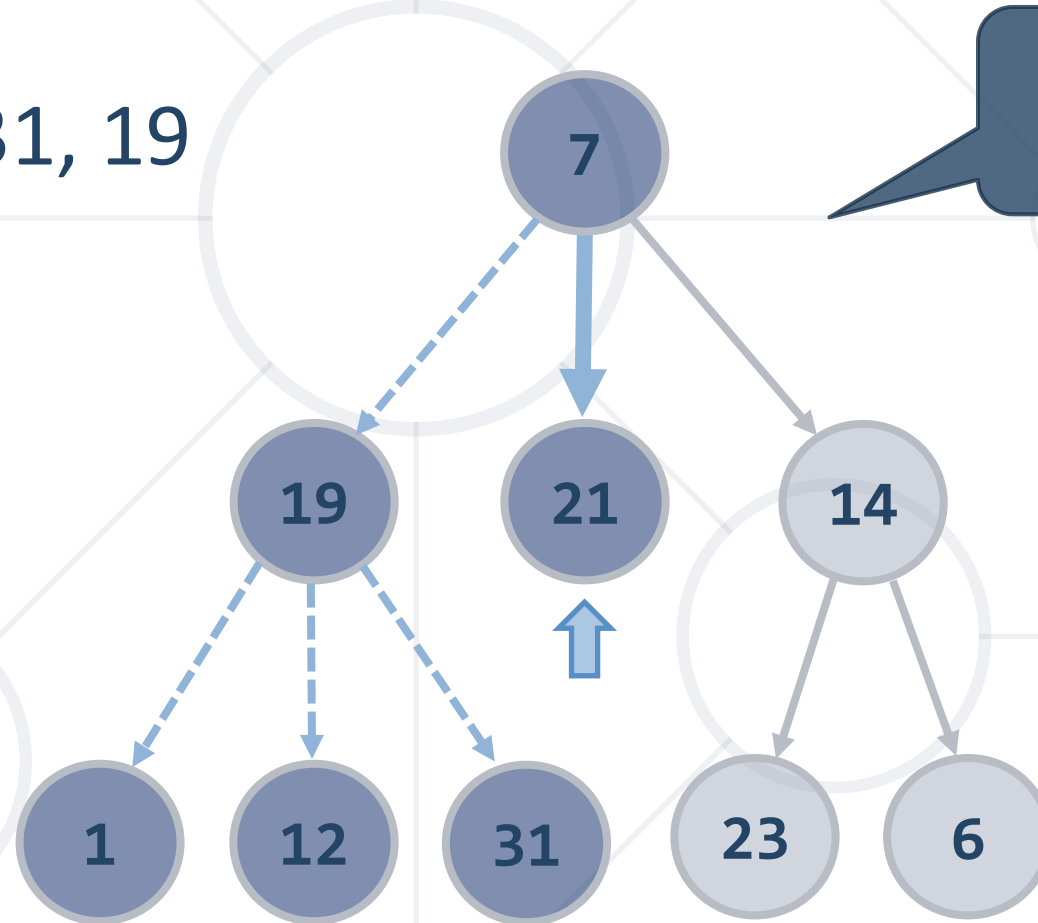
- Stack: 7
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19



Return back from recursion and print the last visited node

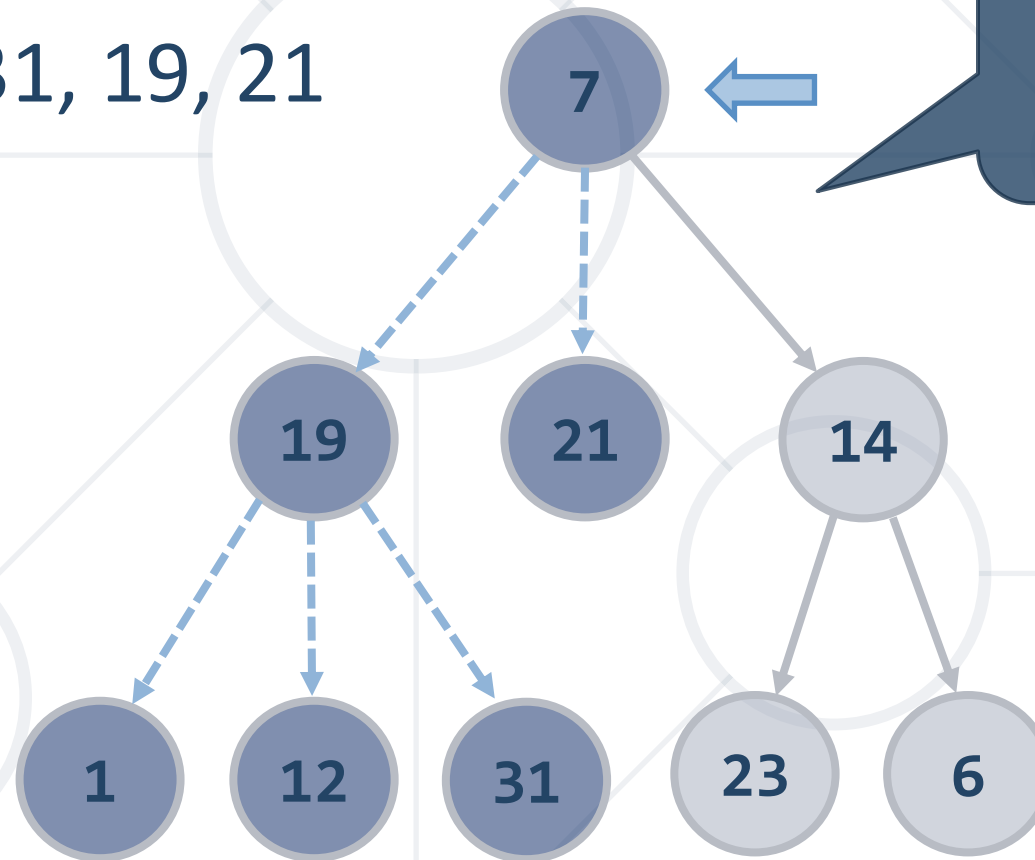
# DFS in Action (Step 10)

- Stack: 7, 21
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19



# DFS in Action (Step 11)

- Stack: 7
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19, 21

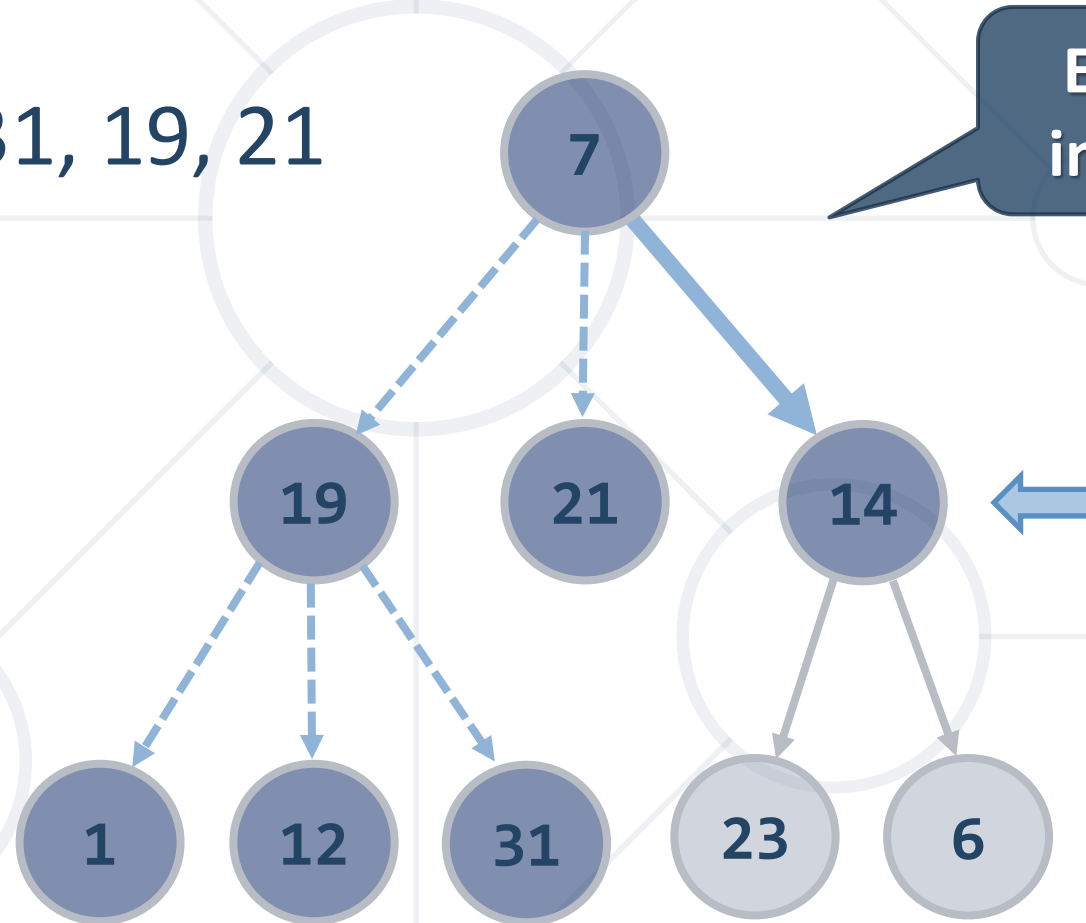


Return back from recursion and print the last visited node



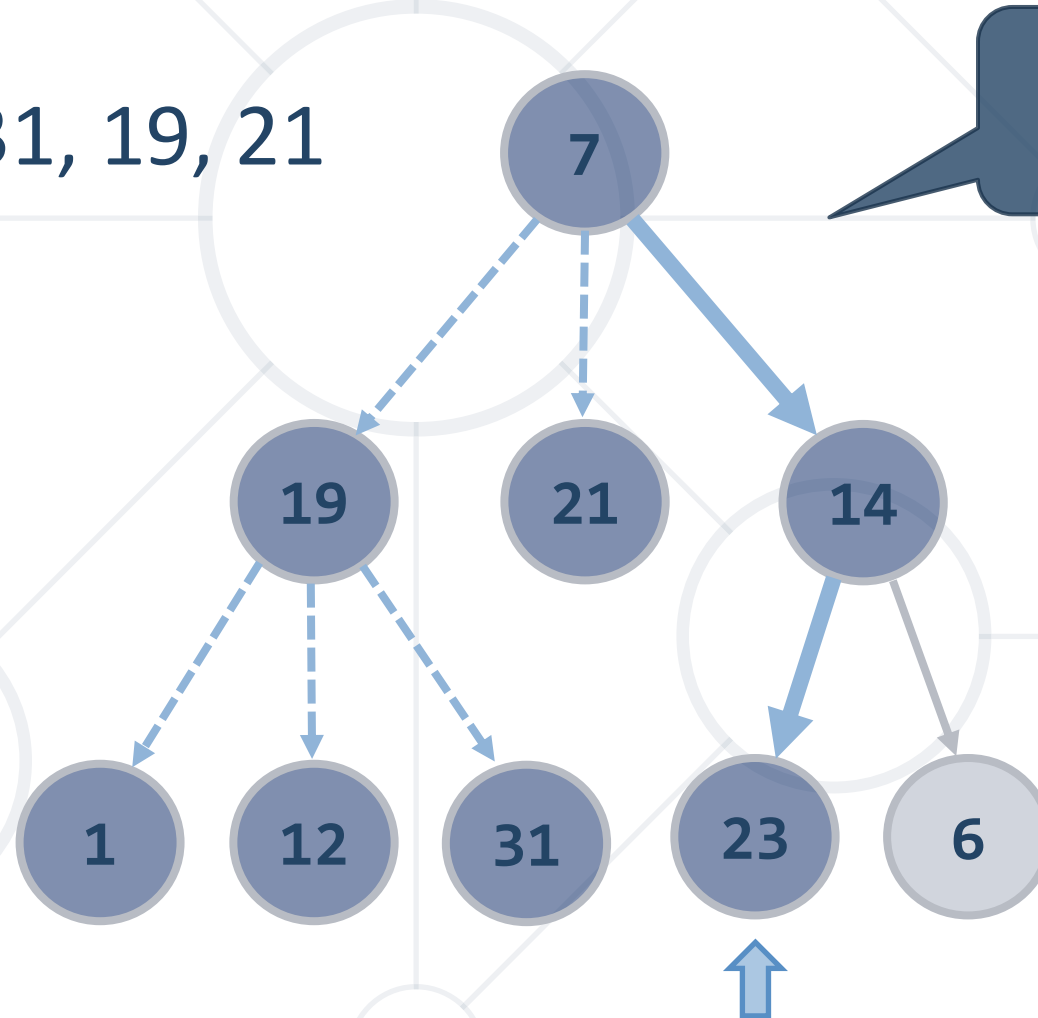
# DFS in Action (Step 12)

- Stack: 7, 14
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19, 21



# DFS in Action (Step 13)

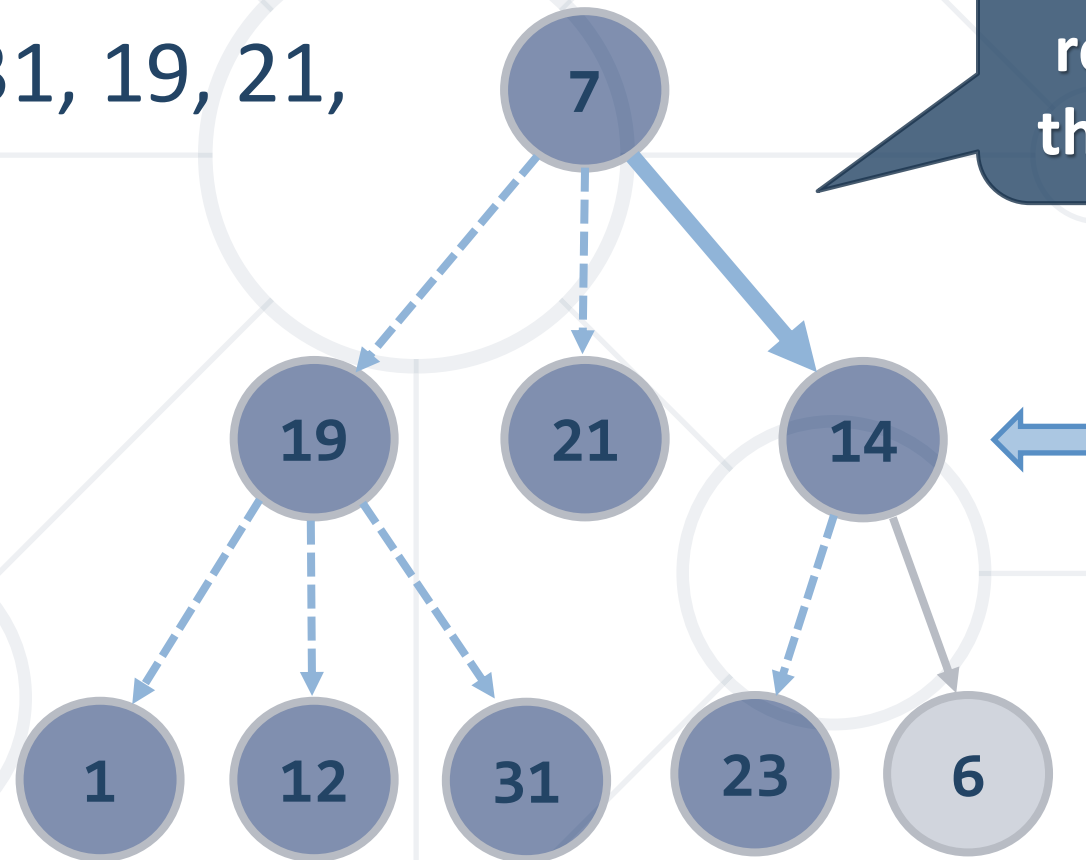
- Stack: 7, 14, 23
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19, 21



Enter recursively  
into the first child

## DFS in Action (Step 14)

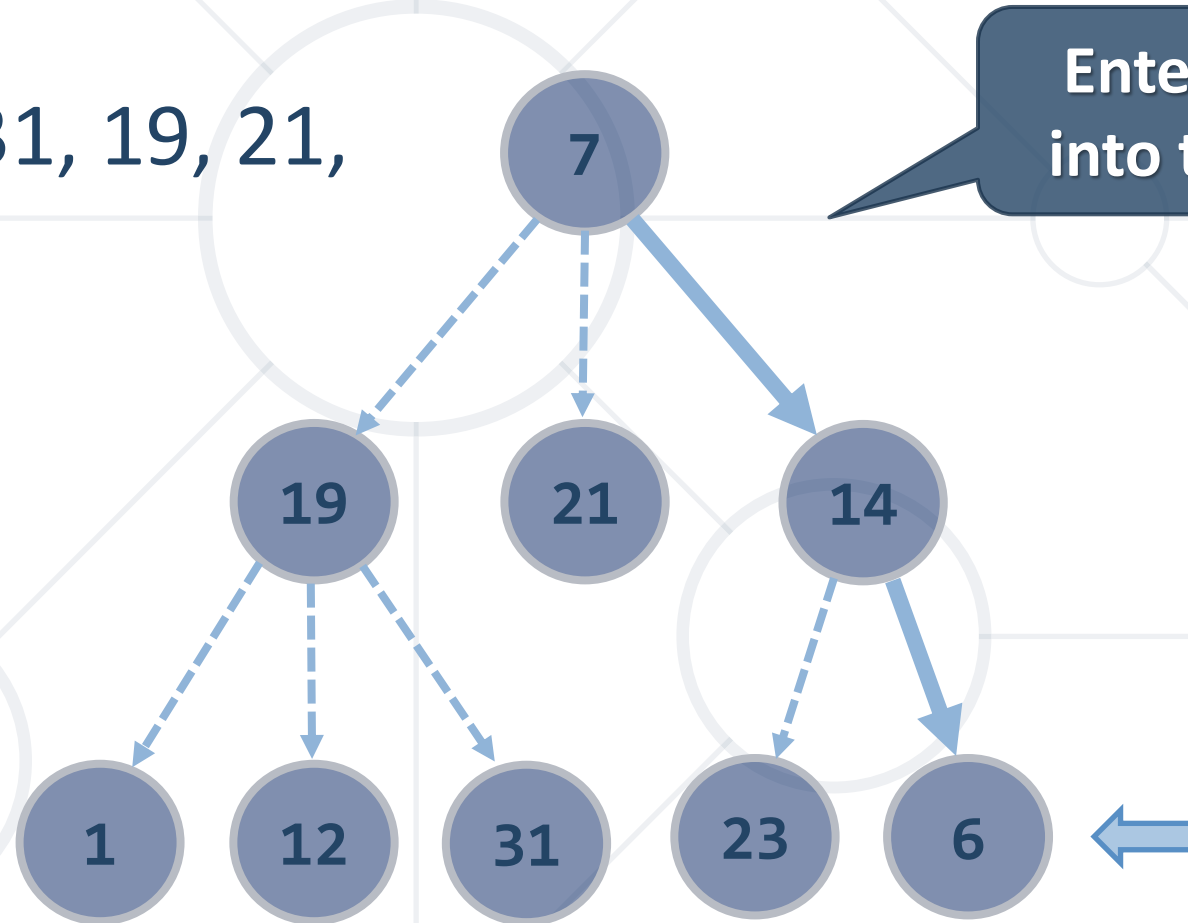
- Stack: 7, 14
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19, 21, 23



**Return back from recursion and print the last visited node**

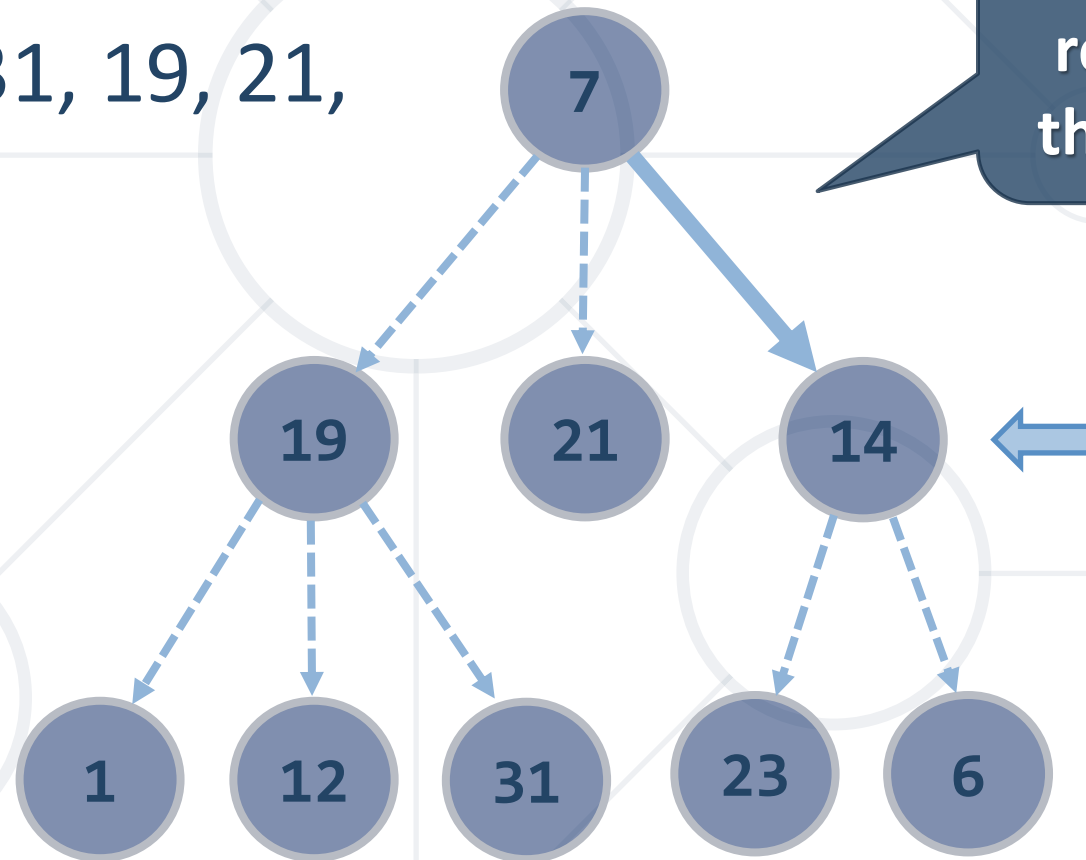
# DFS in Action (Step 15)

- Stack: 7, 14, 6
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19, 21, 23



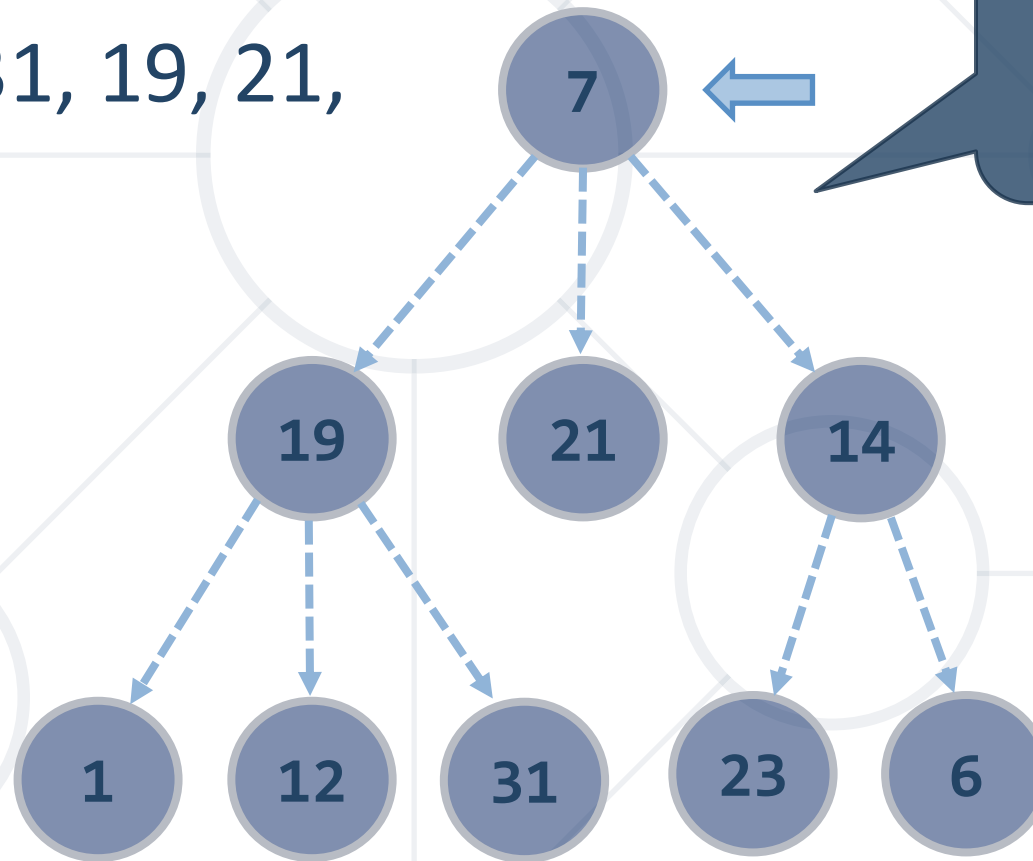
# DFS in Action (Step 16)

- Stack: 7, 14
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19, 21, 23, 6



# DFS in Action (Step 17)

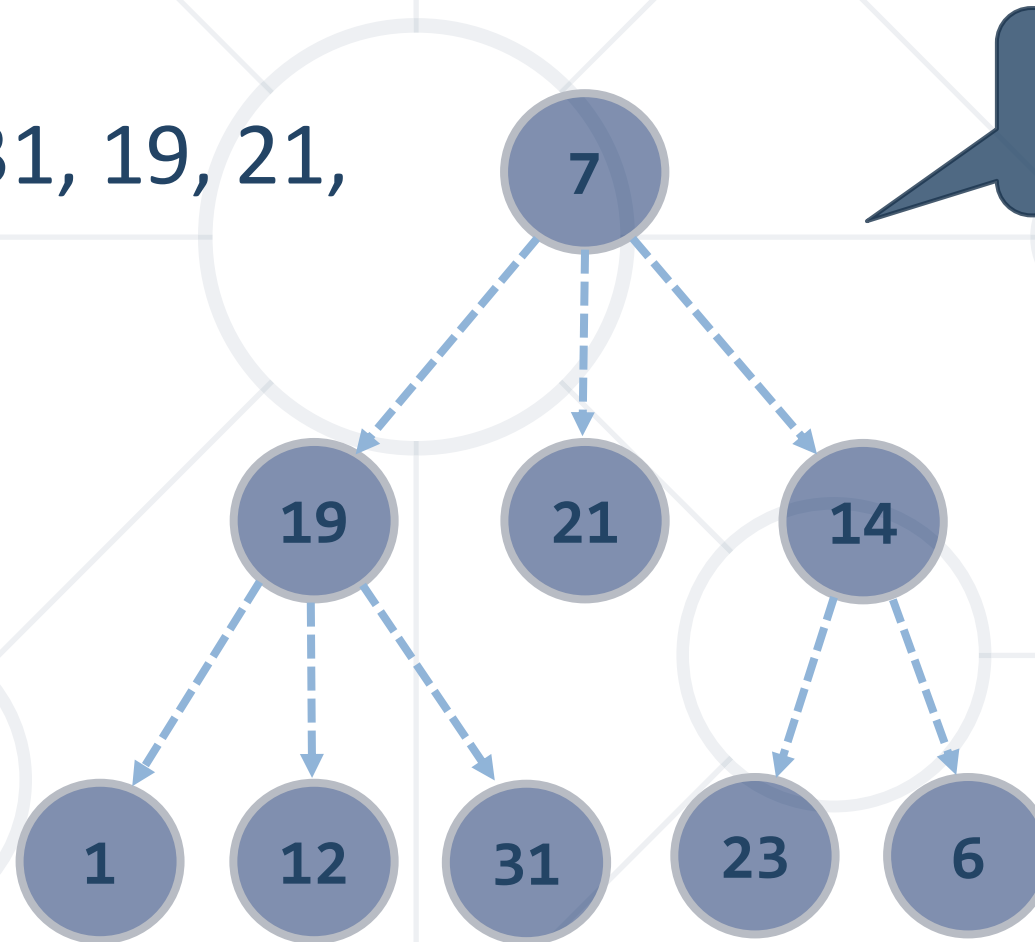
- Stack: 7
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19, 21, 23, 6, 14



Return back from recursion and print the last visited node

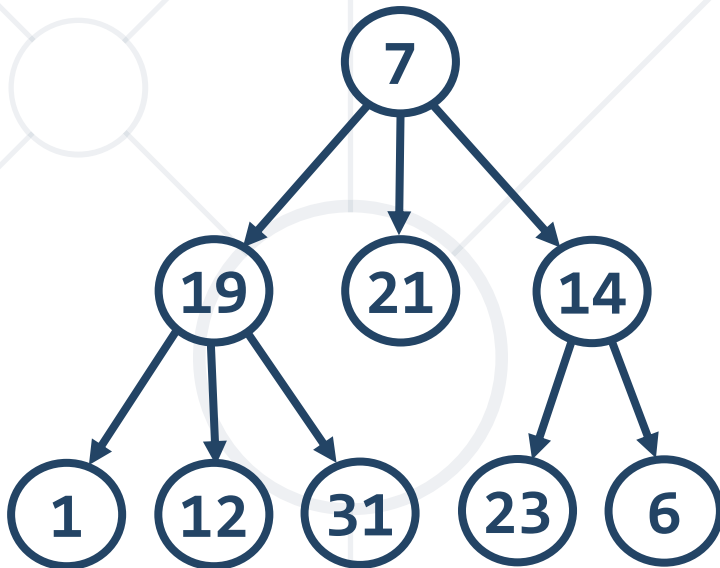
# DFS in Action (Step 18)

- Stack: (empty)
- Output: 1, 12, 31, 19, 21, 23, 6, 14, 7



# Problem: Order DFS

- Given the **Tree<E>** structure, define a method
  - **List<E> orderDfs()**
- That returns elements in order of DFS algorithm visiting them



1 12 31 19 21 23 6 14 7



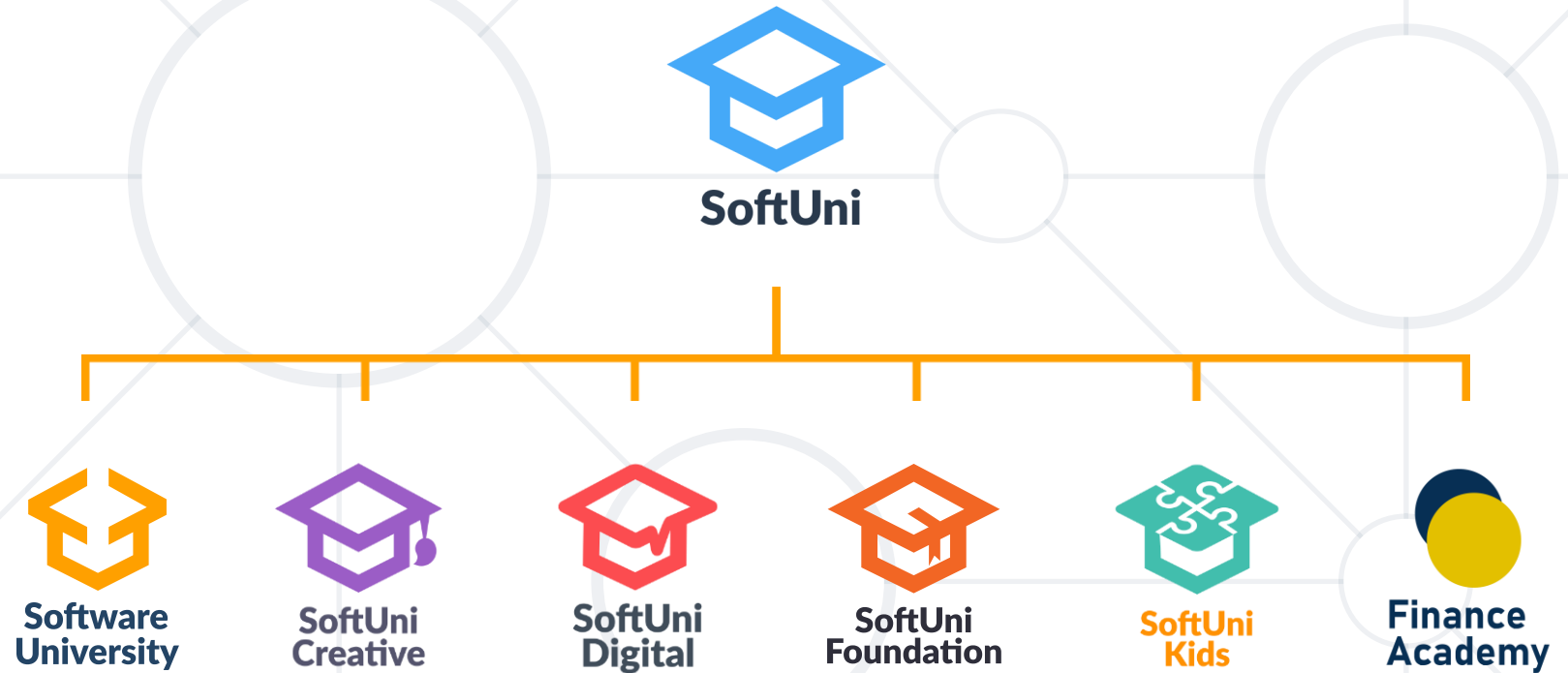
# Solution: Order DFS

```
public List<E> orderDfs() {  
    List<E> order = new ArrayList<>();  
    this.dfs(this, order);  
    return order;  
}  
  
private void dfs(Tree<E> tree, List<E> order) {  
    for (Tree<E> child : tree.children) {  
        this.dfs(child, order);  
    }  
    order.add(tree.key);  
}
```

- **Trees** are recursive data structures
  - A tree is a node holding a set of children (which are also nodes)
  - Edges connect Nodes
- **DFS** → children first, **BFS** → root first



# Questions?



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