

# Midterm exam

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**In-class midterm.** 11-12:20pm on Tuesday, October 22.

- Rooms TBA.
- No makeups.

## Rules.

- Closed book, closed note.
- Covers all material thru Lecture 10 (hashing).
- No computers or other computational devices.
- 8.5-by-11 cheatsheet (one side, in your own handwriting).

including associated  
readings and assignments  
(but no serious Java programming)



Even better, warn us by email  
before asking so we can think  
about them ahead of time!

## Midterm preparation.

- **Study guide.** Especially the old midterm and final problems!
  - Form a study group! See “Search for Teammates” on Piazza.
- Leave A level problems to me, Bob or Guna. Some are very hard!
- Bring questions to precept, office hours, or review session.
- No assignment this week specifically so you can start studying!

TBA



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## 3.2 BINARY SEARCH TREES

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- ▶ *BSTs*
- ▶ *deletion*
- ▶ *ordered operations (optional)*
- ▶ *inorder traversal (oops!)*



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## 3.2 BINARY SEARCH TREES

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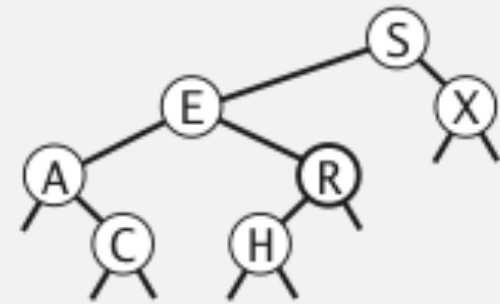
- ▶ *BSTs*
- ▶ *deletion*
- ▶ *ordered operations (optional)*
- ▶ *inorder traversal (oops!)*

# Inorder traversal

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- Traverse left subtree.
- Print key.
- Traverse right subtree.

```
private void inorder(Node x)
{
    if (x == null) return;
    inorder(x.left, q);
    System.out.print(x.key + " ");
    inorder(x.right, q);
}
```



A C E H R S X

## Interpretation:

- Crawl around the graph counterclockwise, and yell when you see the underside of a node.

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



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## 3.3 BALANCED SEARCH TREES

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- ▶ *2-3 search trees*
- ▶ *red-black BSTs*
- ▶ *B-trees*

# Symbol table review

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## Last time:

- BSTs are a huge step forward from an array or linked list.

## Performance issues with BSTs:

- 1:
- 2:

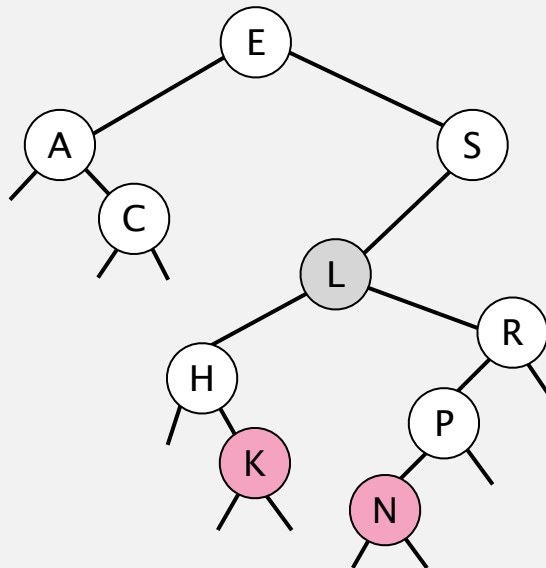
# Hibbard deletion

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

Case 2. [2 children] Delete  $t$  by replacing parent link.

Example. delete(L)



Choosing a replacement.

- Successor: N
- Predecessor: K

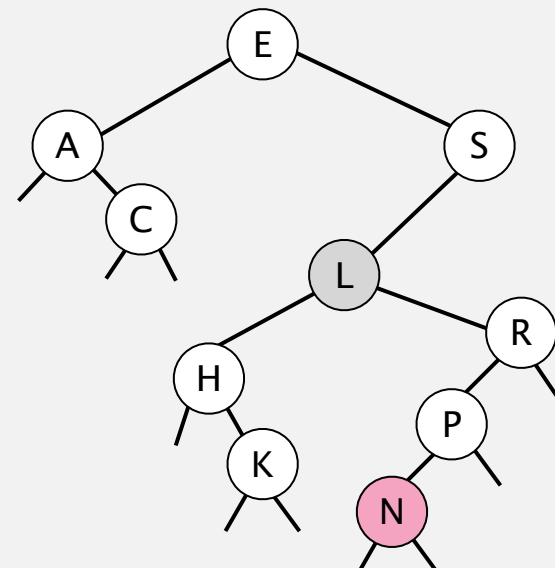
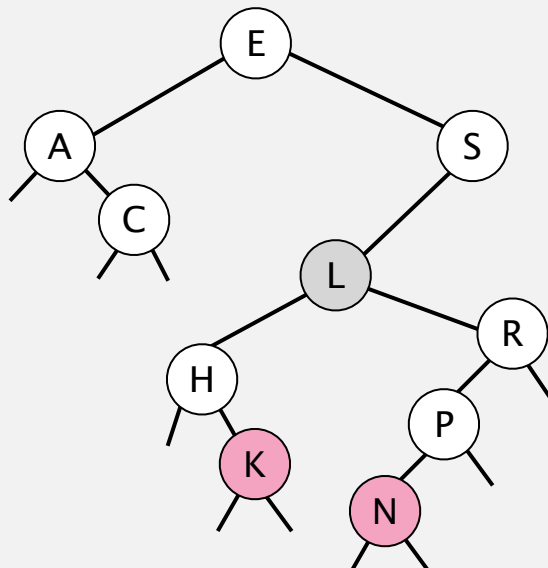
# Hibbard deletion

---

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

Case 2. [2 children] Delete  $t$  by replacing parent link.

Example. delete(L)



Choosing a replacement.

- Successor: N [by convention]
- Predecessor: ~~K~~

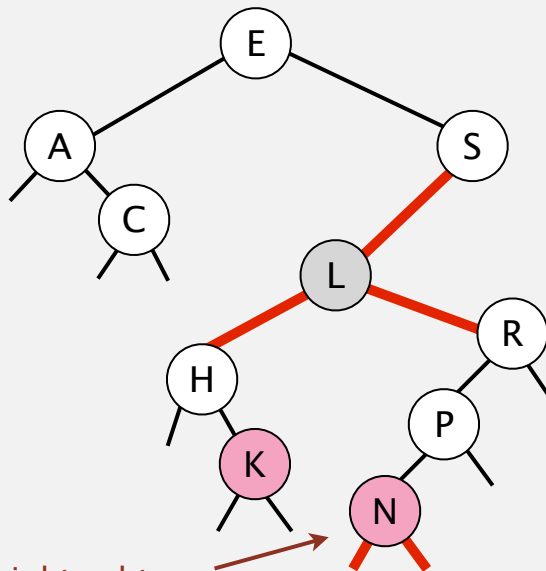


# Hibbard deletion

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

Case 2. [2 children] Delete  $t$  by replacing parent link.

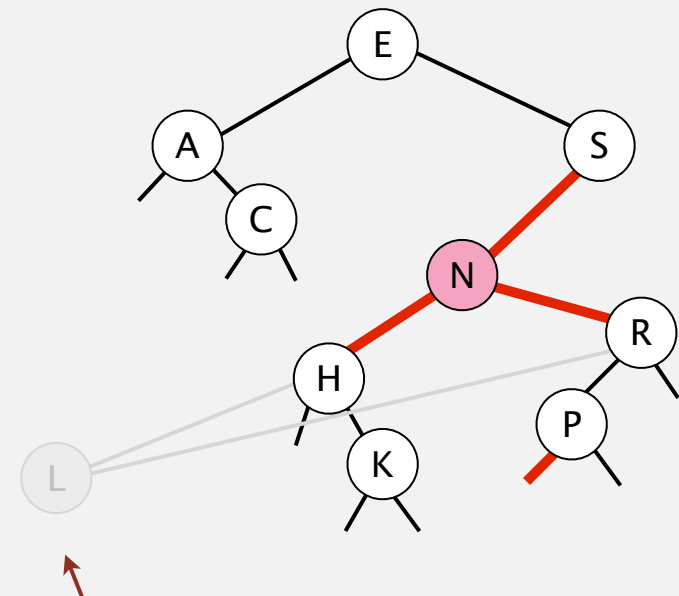
Example. delete(L)



Smallest item in right subtree

Four pointers must change.

- Parent of deleted node
- Parent of successor



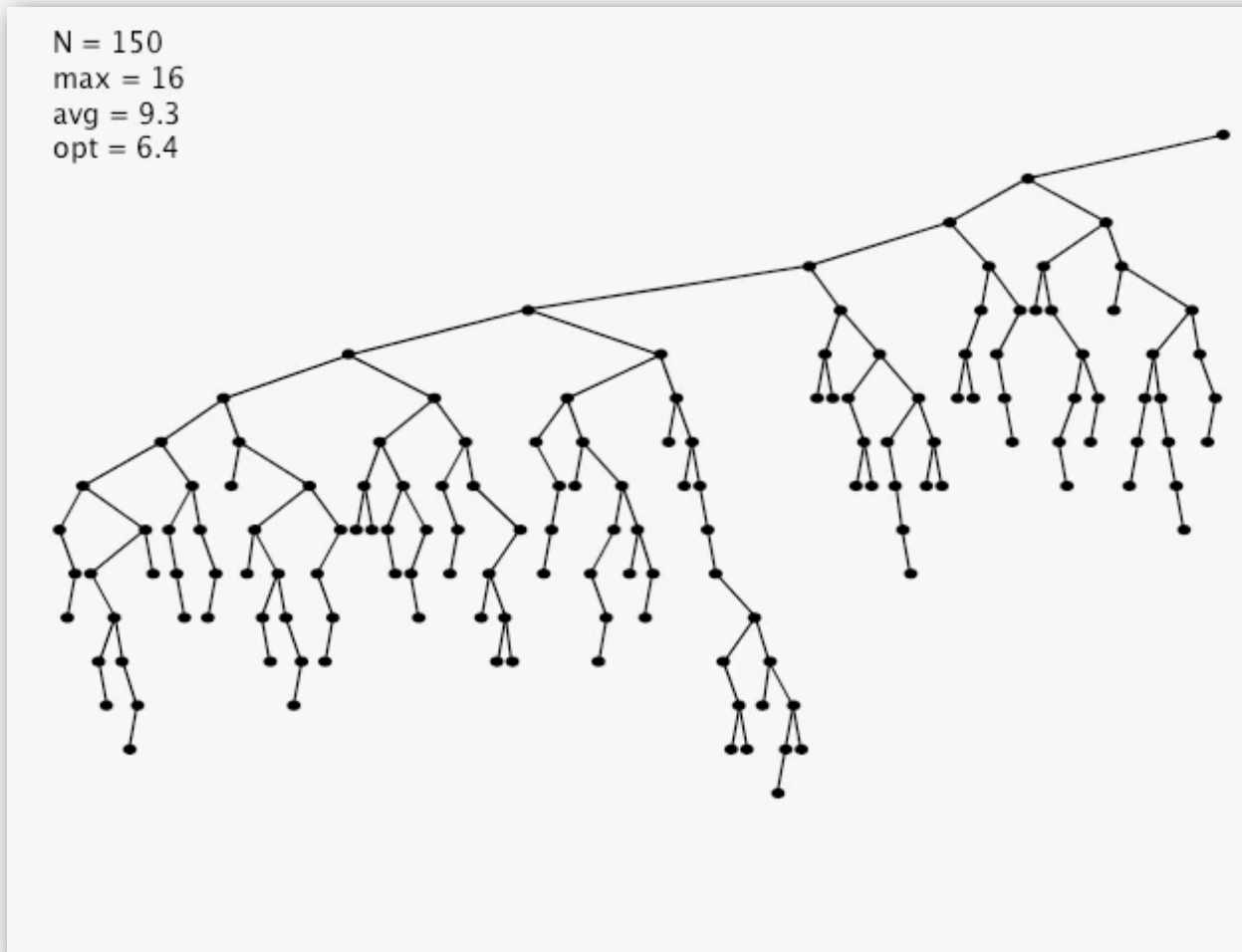
Available for garbage collection

- Left child of successor
- Right child of successor

# Hibbard deletion: analysis

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Unsatisfactory solution. Not symmetric.



Surprising consequence. Trees not random (!)  $\Rightarrow$   $\sqrt{N}$  per op.  
Longstanding open problem. Simple and efficient delete for BSTs.

# Symbol table review

implementation	worst-case cost (after N inserts)			average case (after N random inserts)			ordered iteration?	key interface
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
sequential search (unordered list)	N	N	N	N/2	N	N/2	no	equals()
binary search (ordered array)	lg N	N	N	lg N	N/2	N/2	yes	compareTo()
BST	N	N	N	1.39 lg N	1.39 lg N	?	yes	compareTo()
BST, after many deletes	N	N	N	$\sqrt{N}$	$\sqrt{N}$	$\sqrt{N}$	yes	compareTo()
goal	log N	log N	log N	log N	log N	log N	yes	compareTo()

**Challenge.** Guarantee performance.

**This lecture.** 2-3 trees, **left-leaning red-black BSTs**, B-trees (optional).



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## 3.3 BALANCED SEARCH TREES

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- ▶ *2-3 search trees*
- ▶ *red-black BSTs*
- ▶ *B-trees (optional)*

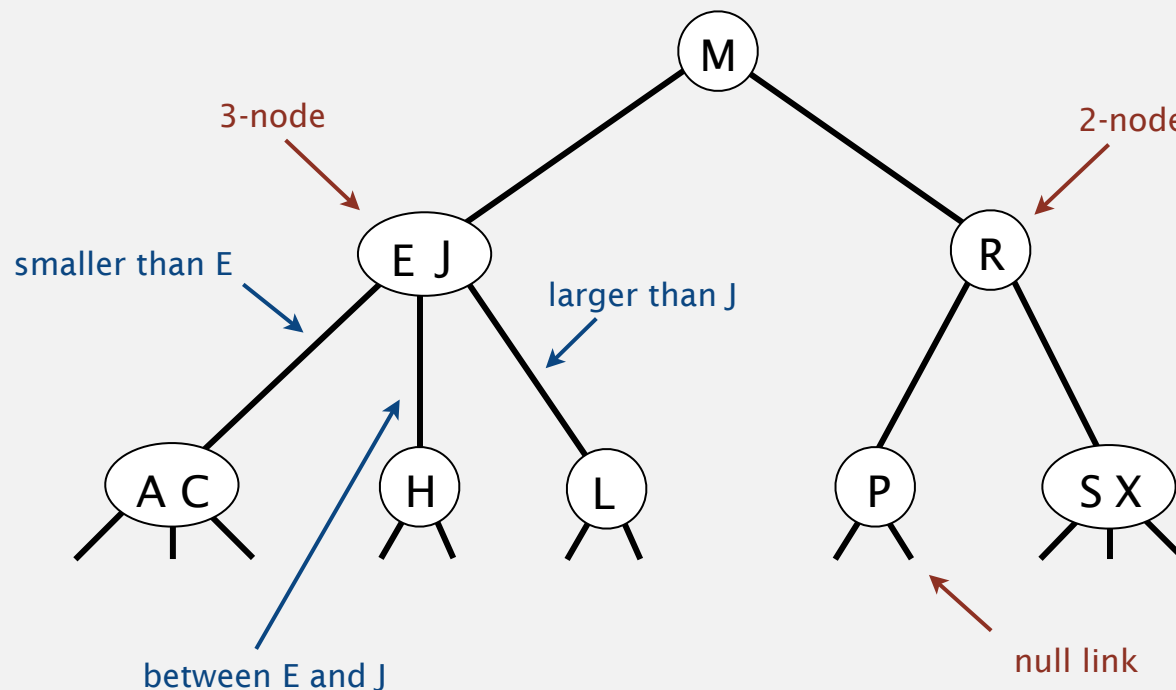
## 2-3 tree

Allow 1 or 2 keys per node.

- 2-node: one key, two children.
- 3-node: two keys, three children.

**Symmetric order.** Inorder traversal yields keys in ascending order.

**Perfect balance.** Every path from root to null link has same length.



How???

All shall be revealed.

## 2-3 tree demo

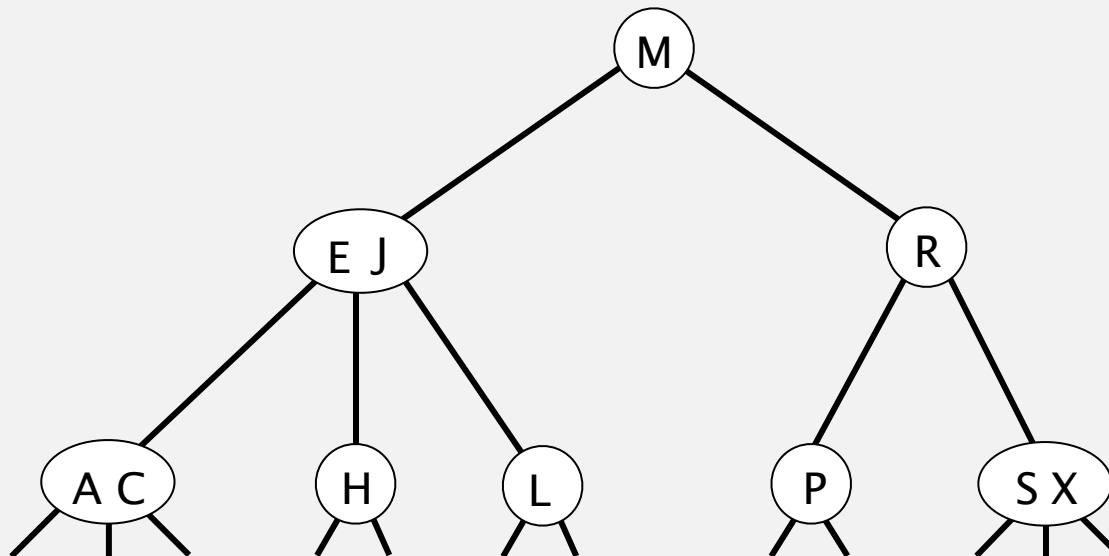
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### Search.

- Compare search key against keys in node.
- Find interval containing search key.
- Follow associated link (recursively).

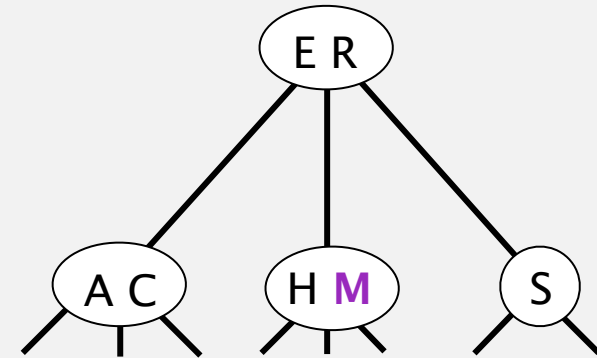
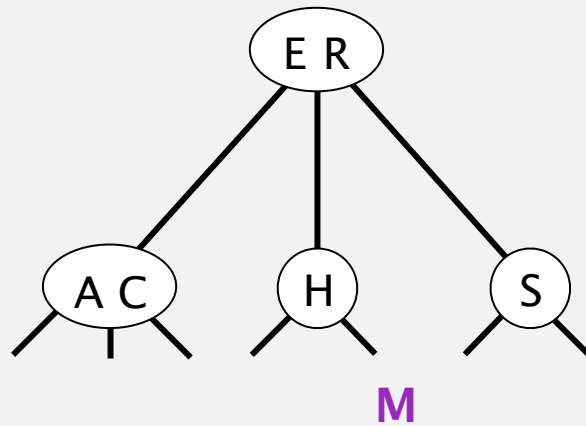


search for H



## 2-3 Trees

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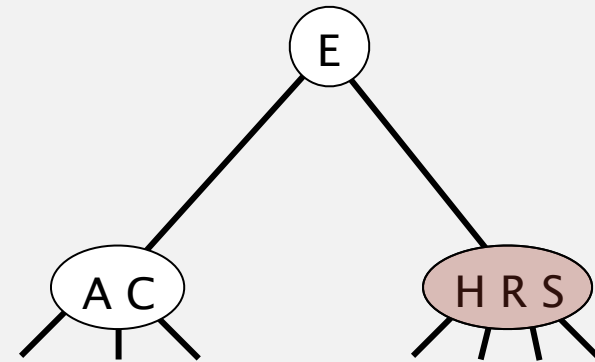
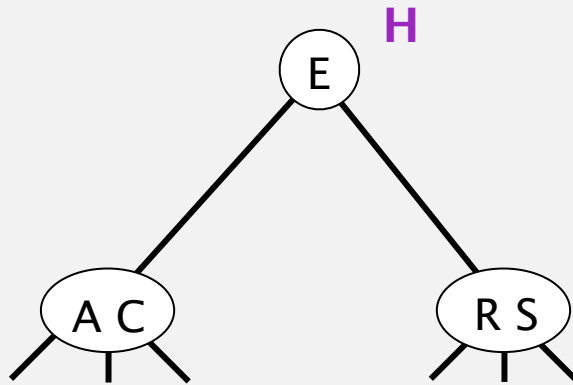


### Insert M (into 2-node)

- M is bigger than H, and H.right is null.
- M joins H.
  - **Important:** Never create new nodes at the bottom!

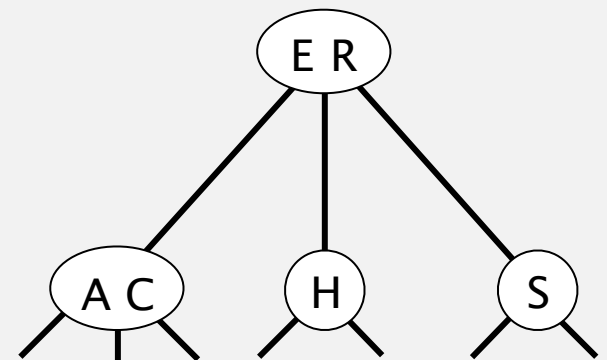
## 2-3 Trees

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### Insert H (into 3-node)

- H joins.
- **[VIOLATION]** 4 node created.
  - Send R to its parent.
  - Create two new 2-nodes from the debris.

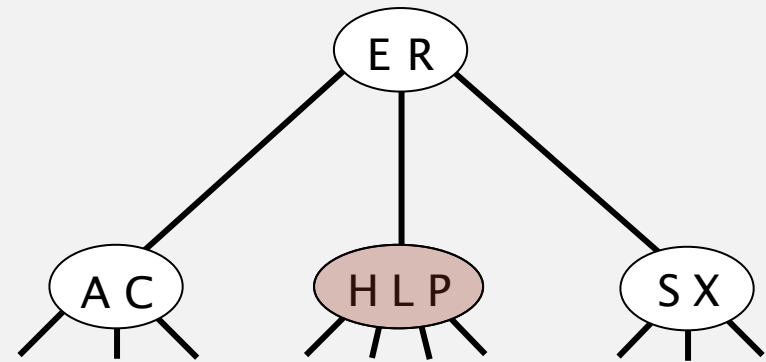
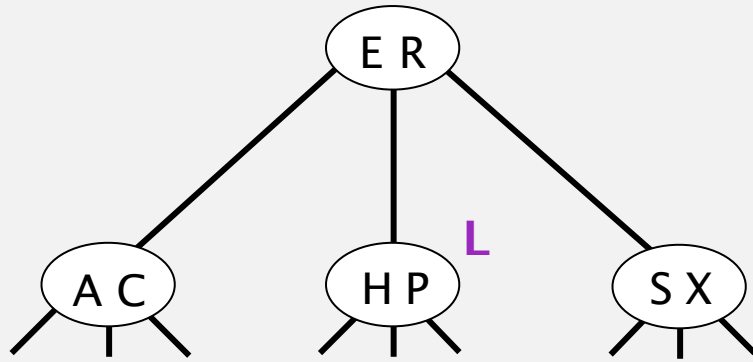


- **Important:** Other than empty tree, only way to make new nodes.



## 2-3 Trees

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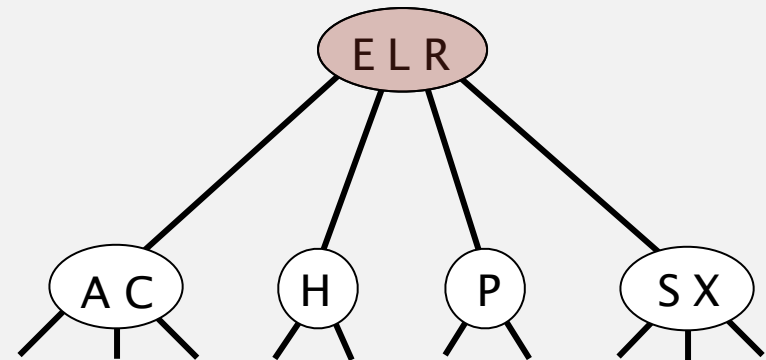
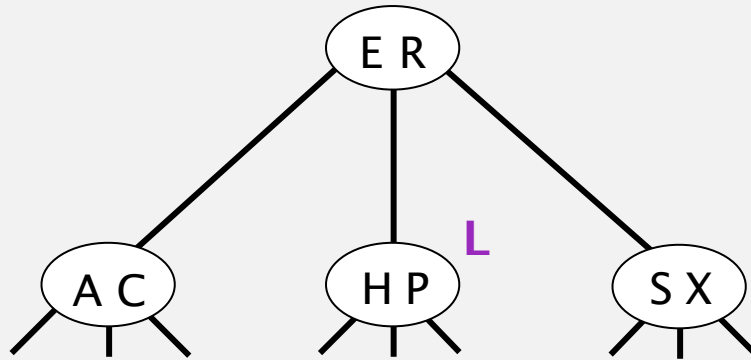


Insert L (into 3-node with 3-node parent)

- [VIOLATION] HLP created.

## 2-3 Trees

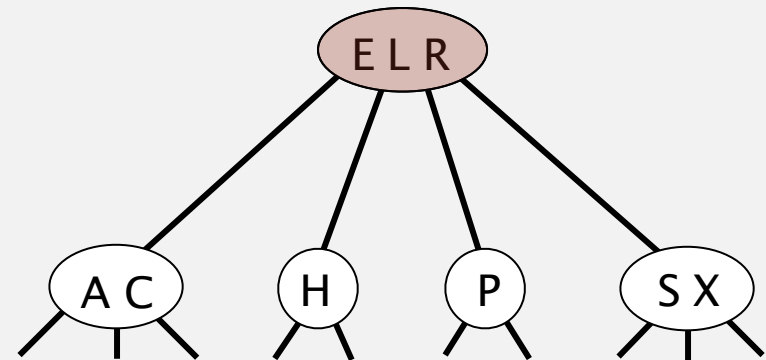
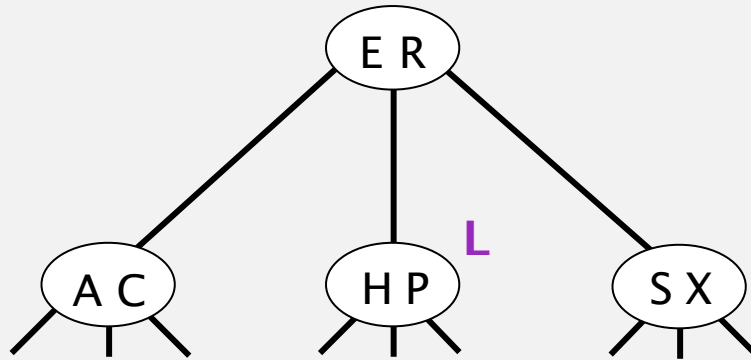
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Insert L (into 3-node with 3-node parent)

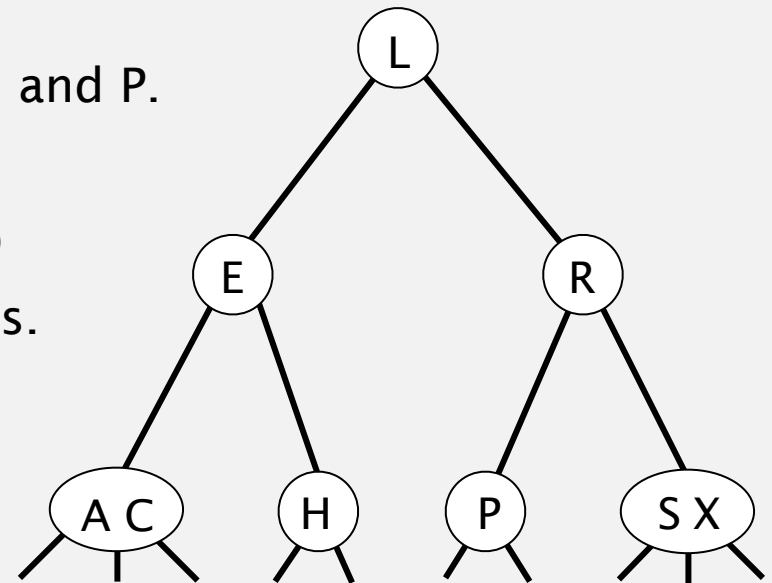
- [VIOLATION] HLP created. Send L up, create H and P.
- [VIOLATION] ELR created.

## 2-3 Trees



### Insert L (into 3-node with 3-node parent)

- [VIOLATION] HLP created. Send L up, create H and P.
- [VIOLATION] ELR created.
- Send L to join parent (no parent, so new root)
  - Create two new 2-nodes E-R from the debris.
  - Each gets custody of two nodes.



- **Important:** Only way to increase tree height is by splitting the root.

## 2-3 tree construction demo

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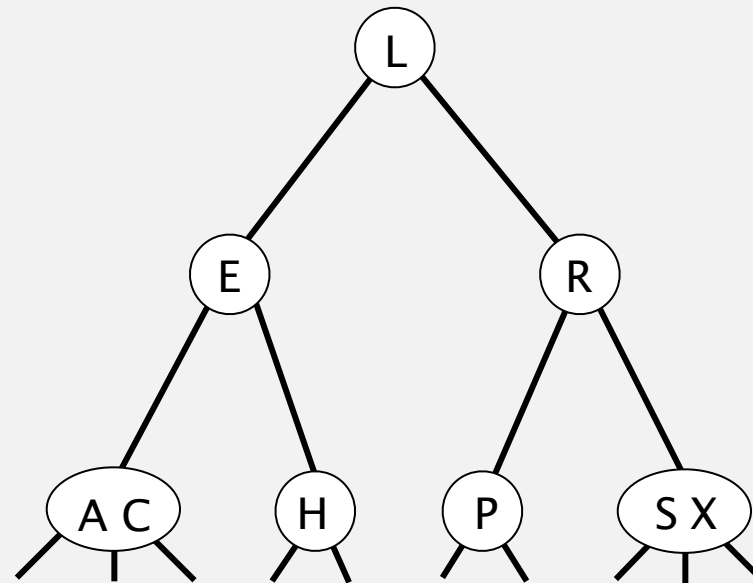
insert S



## 2-3 tree construction demo

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2-3 tree



## 2-3 Tree Construction

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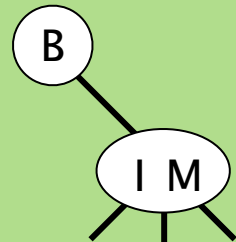
Your turn.

- Insert B, I, M. Which tree do you get?

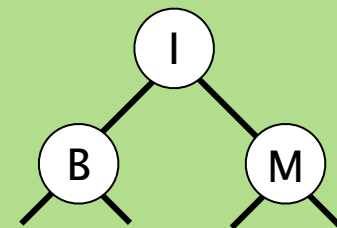
[pollEv.com/jhug](https://pollEv.com/jhug)

text to **37607**

Which is the correct 2-3 tree?



[484710]



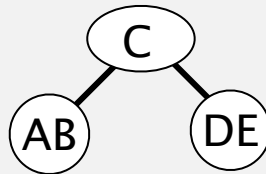
[484711]

## 2-3 Tree Construction

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One more.

- Suppose we insert 5 nodes and get the tree shown below:



[pollEv.com/jhug](https://pollEv.com/jhug)

text to **37607**

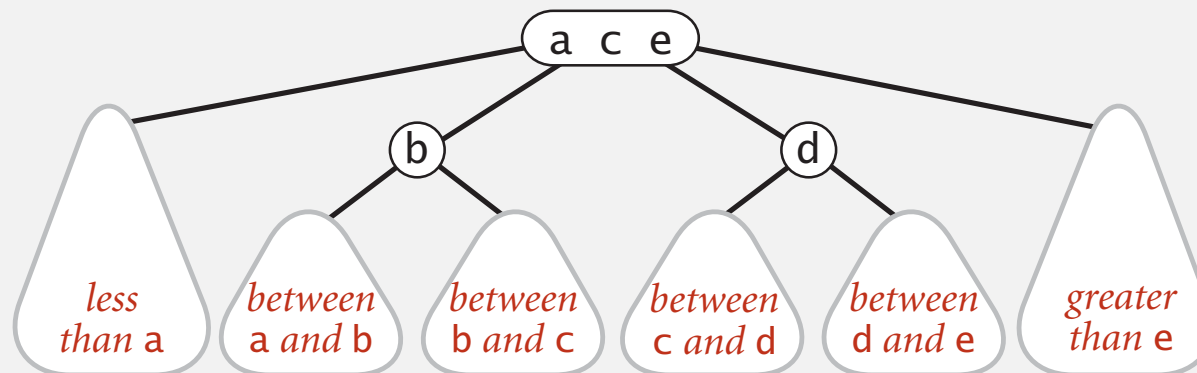
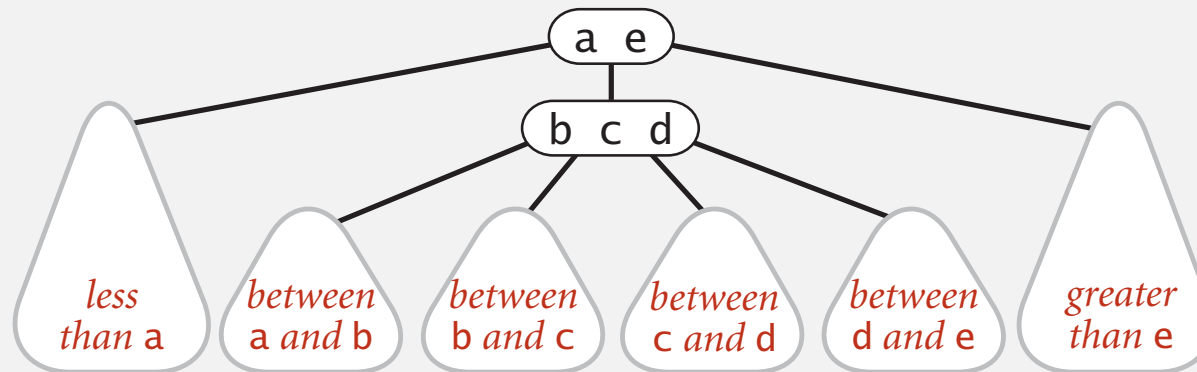
Which insertion sequence resulted in the tree above?

1. ABCDE [489691]
2. CABDE [489700]
3. ACEDB [489895]
4. None of these and the 2-3 tree is valid. [489896]
5. None of these and the 2-3 tree is invalid. [489897]

## Local transformations in a 2-3 tree

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Splitting a 4-node is a **local** transformation: constant number of operations.





# Global properties in a 2-3 tree

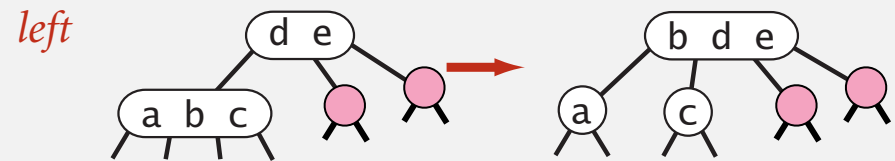
**Invariants.** Maintains symmetric order and perfect balance.

**Pf.** Each transformation maintains symmetric order and perfect balance.

root

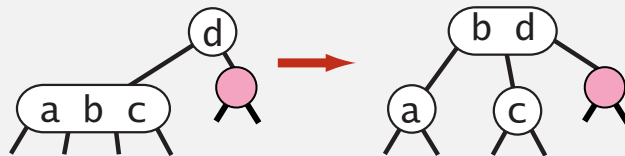


parent is a 3-node

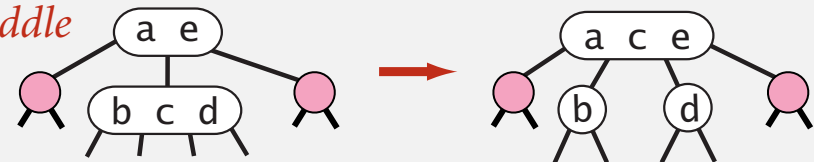


parent is a 2-node

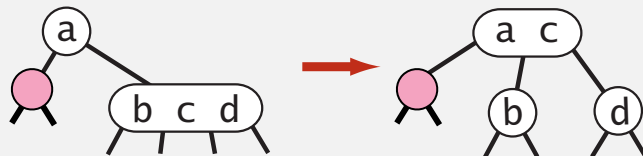
left



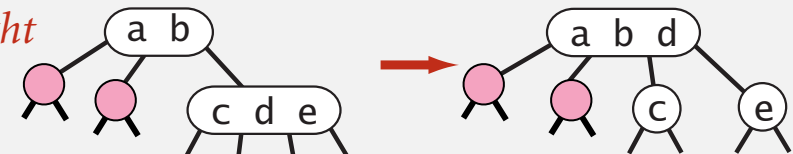
middle



right



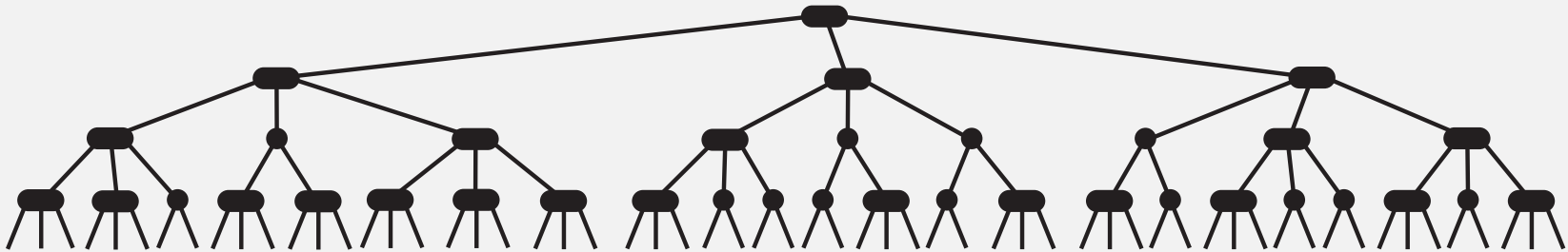
right



## 2-3 tree: performance

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Perfect balance. Every path from root to null link has same length.



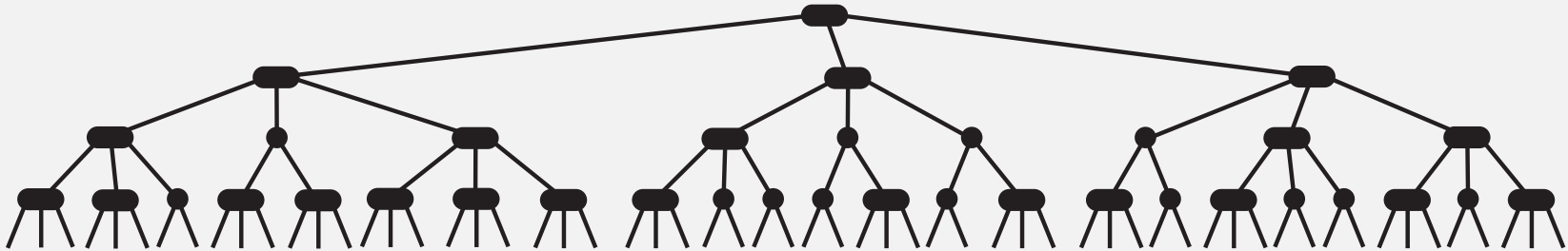
Tree height.

- Worst case:
- Best case:

## 2-3 tree: performance

---

**Perfect balance.** Every path from root to null link has same length.



### Tree height.

- Worst case:  $\lg N$ . [all 2-nodes]
- Best case:  $\log_3 N \approx .631 \lg N$ . [all 3-nodes]
- Between 12 and 20 for a million nodes.
- Between 18 and 30 for a billion nodes.

Guaranteed **logarithmic** performance for search and insert.

# ST implementations: summary

implementation	worst-case cost (after N inserts)			average case (after N random inserts)			ordered iteration?	key interface
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
sequential search (unordered list)	N	N	N	N/2	N	N/2	no	equals()
binary search (ordered array)	lg N	N	N	lg N	N/2	N/2	yes	compareTo()
BST	N	N	N	1.39 lg N	1.39 lg N	?	yes	compareTo()
BST, after many deletes	N	N	N	$\sqrt{N}$	$\sqrt{N}$	$\sqrt{N}$	yes	compareTo()
2-3 tree	$c \lg N$	$c \lg N$	$c \lg N$	$c \lg N$	$c \lg N$	$c \lg N$	yes	compareTo()



constants depend upon implementation

## 2-3 tree: implementation?

---

Direct implementation is complicated, because:

- Maintaining multiple node types is cumbersome.
- Need multiple compares to move down tree.
- Need to move back up the tree to split 4-nodes.
- Large number of cases for splitting.

**fantasy code**

```
public void put(Key key, Value val)
{
    Node x = root;
    while (x.getTheCorrectChild(key) != null)
    {
        x = x.getTheCorrectChildKey();
        if (x.is4Node()) x.split();
    }
    if (x.is2Node()) x.make3Node(key, val);
    else if (x.is3Node()) x.make4Node(key, val);
}
```

**Bottom line.** Could do it, but there's a better way.

## 3.3 BALANCED SEARCH TREES

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- ▶ *2-3 search trees*
- ▶ *red-black BSTs*
- ▶ *B-trees (optional)*

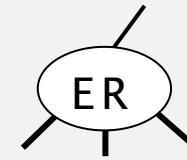


# The problem with 2-3 trees

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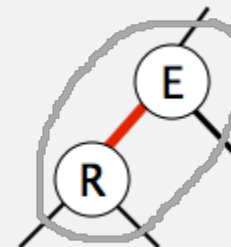
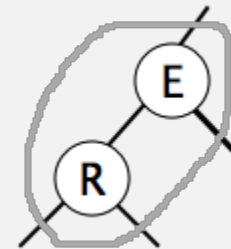
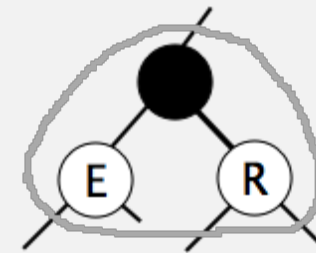
## Hard to implement

- Multiple node types, 2-node, 3-node, 4-node
- Three children (leads to lots more cases)



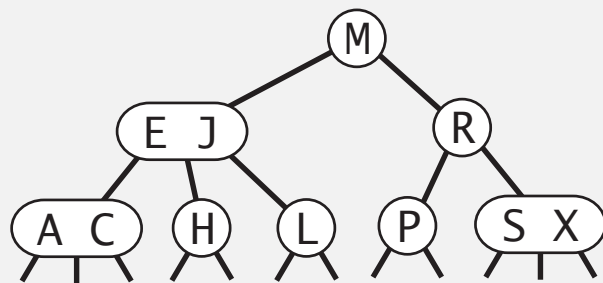
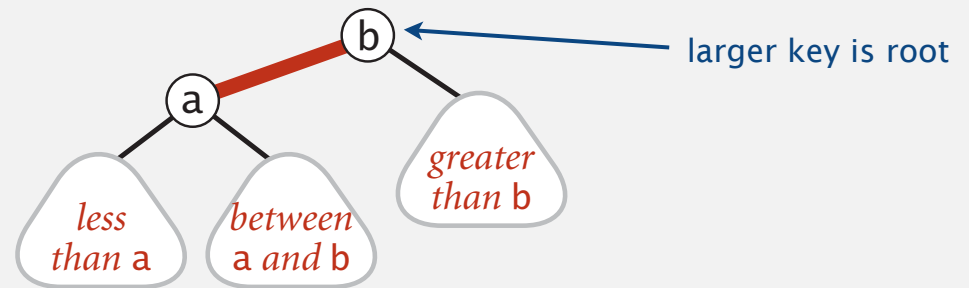
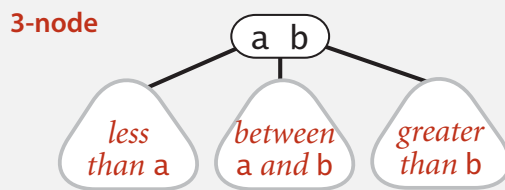
## Goal: Represent as binary tree

- Approach 1: Glue nodes.
  - Wasted space, wasted link.
  - Code probably messy.
- Approach 2: Build a regular BST.
  - Cannot map from BST back to 2-3 tree.
  - No way to tell a 3-node from a 2-node.
- Approach 3: BST with glue links.
  - Used widely in practice.
  - Arbitrary restriction: Red links lean left.



# Left-leaning red-black BSTs (Guibas-Sedgwick 1979 and Sedgwick 2007)

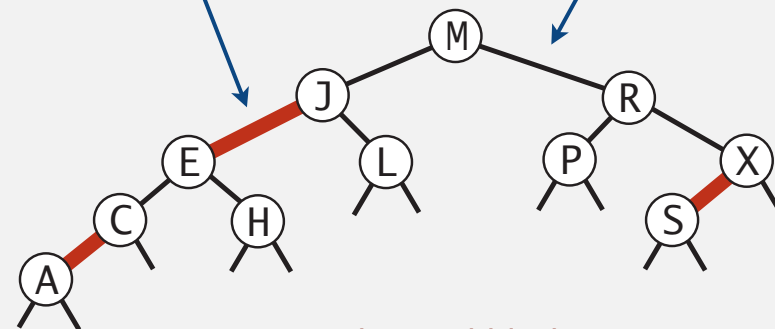
1. Represent 2-3 tree as a BST.
2. Use "internal" left-leaning links as "glue" for 3-nodes.



2-3 tree

red links "glue" nodes within a 3-node

black links connect 2-nodes and 3-nodes



corresponding red-black BST



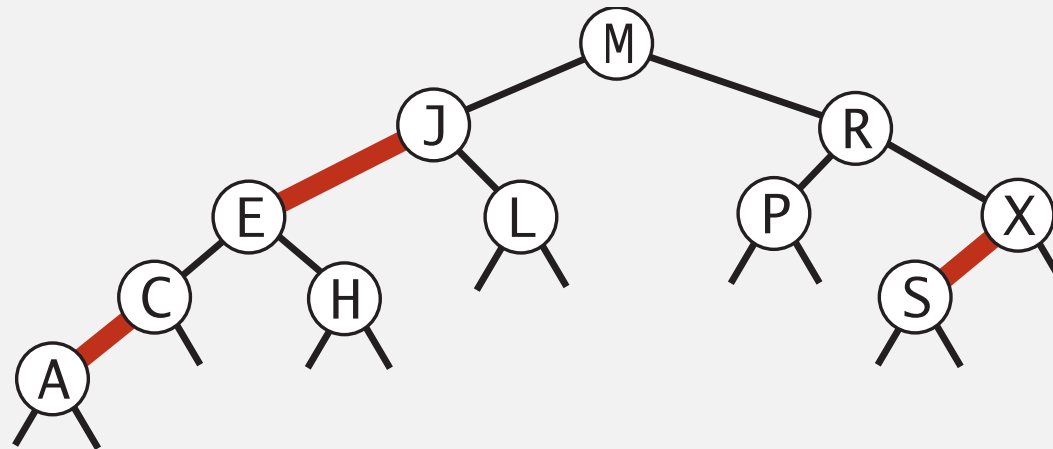
## An equivalent definition

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A BST such that:

- No node has two red links connected to it.
- Every path from root to null link has the same number of black links.
- Red links lean left.

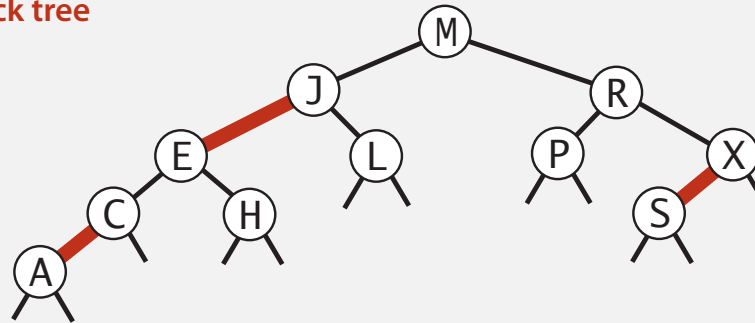
↑  
"perfect black balance"



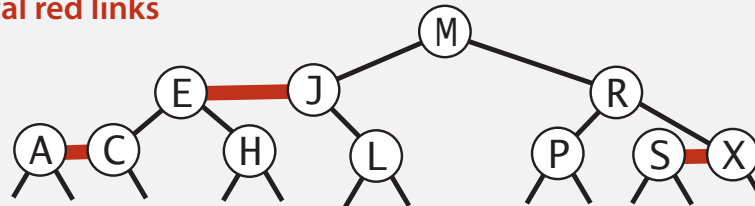
# Left-leaning red-black BSTs: 1-1 correspondence with 2-3 trees

Key property. 1-1 correspondence between 2-3 and LLRB.

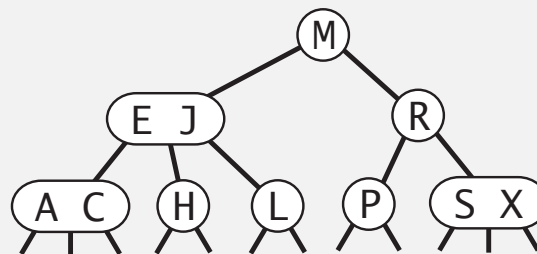
red-black tree



horizontal red links



2-3 tree

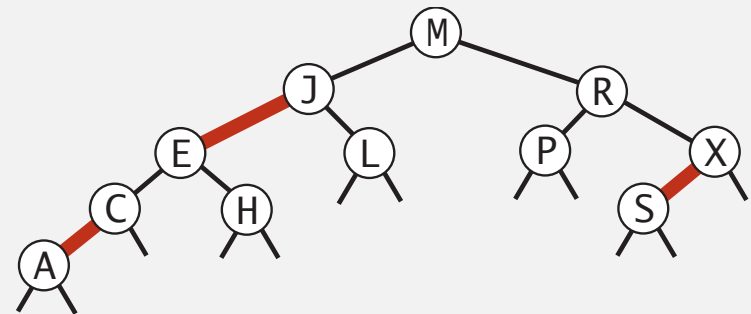


# Search implementation for red-black BSTs

**Observation.** Search is the same as for elementary BST (ignore color).

but runs faster  
because of better balance

```
public Val 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;
}
```



**Remark.** Most other ops (e.g., floor, iteration, selection) are also identical.

# Red-black BST representation

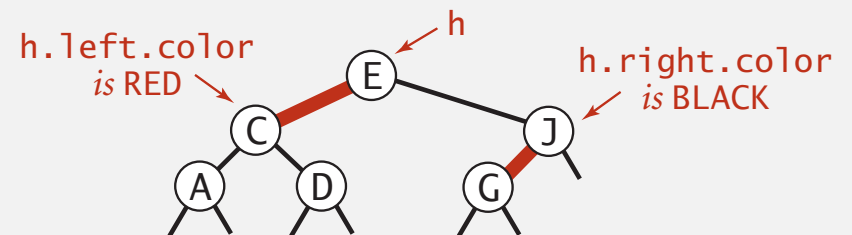
Each node is pointed to by precisely one link (from its parent)  $\Rightarrow$   
can encode color of links in nodes.

```
private static final boolean RED = true;  
private static final boolean BLACK = false;
```

```
private class Node  
{  
    Key key;  
    Value val;  
    Node left, right;  
    boolean color; // color of parent link  
}
```

```
private boolean isRed(Node x)  
{  
    if (x == null) return false;  
    return x.color == RED;  
}
```

null links are black



## Thought experiment on link color for new nodes

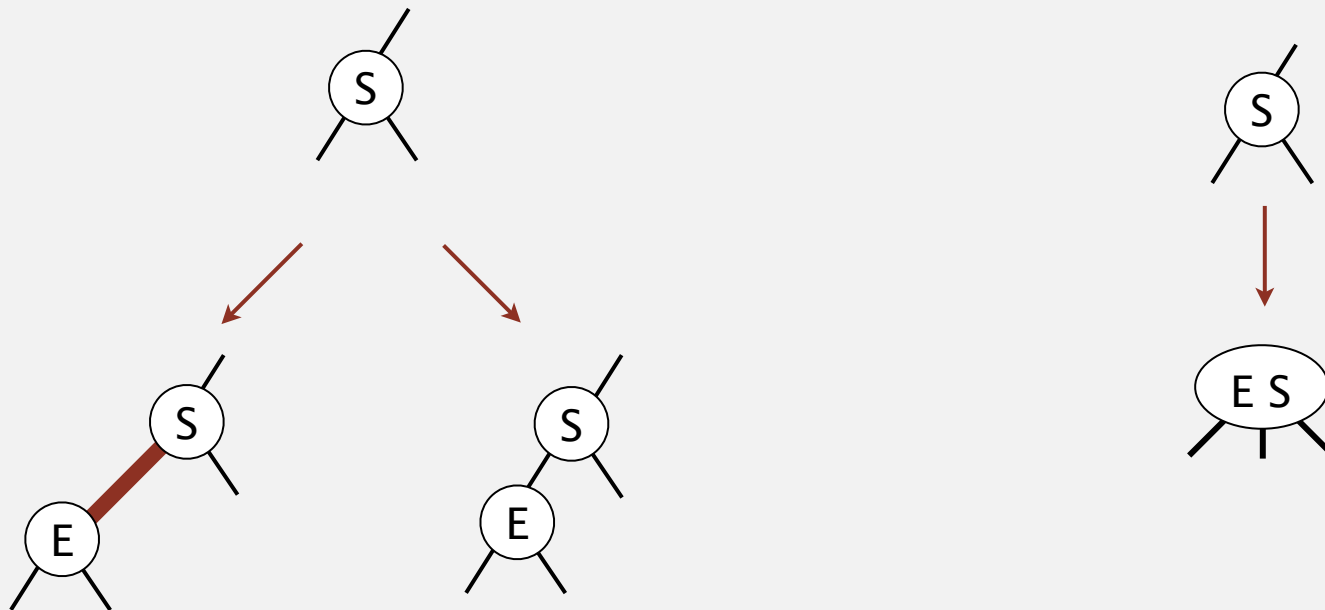
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Should we use a red or a black link when inserting to the left of a 2-node?

- Red link.

What about in other cases (right of a 2-node, into a 3-node)?

- Red link. Because:
  - Never create new nodes in a 2-3 tree except when splitting a 4 node.
  - Every path to null must have the same number of black links.



# Thought experiment on right insertions

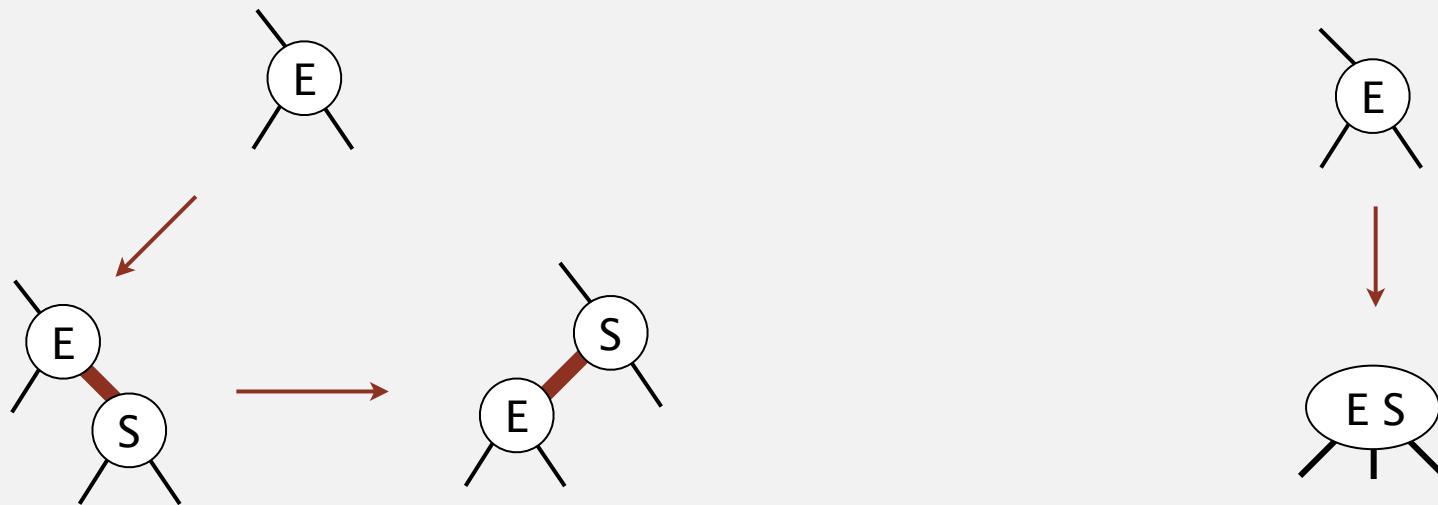
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## What is the problem here?

- Red links must lean left (by definition).

## How do we fix the problem?

- Swap roles of S and E
  - Can generalize role-swapping for non-leaf nodes as *left rotation*.



## Easy Case 2: Inserting to the right of a 2-node

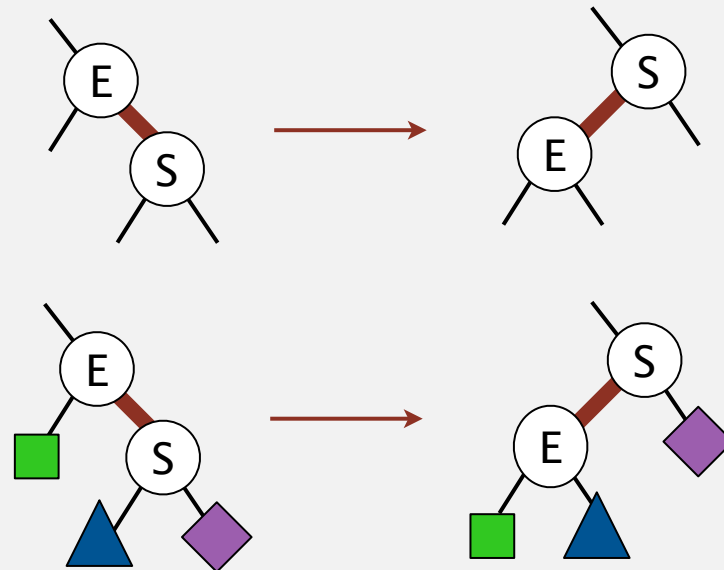
---

What is the problem here?

- Red links must lean left (by definition)

How do we fix the problem?

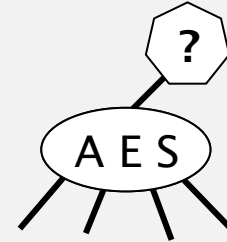
- Swap roles of S and E
  - Can generalize role-swapping for non-leaf nodes as *left rotation*.
  - Usefulness of rotation will become clear.



# More general approach

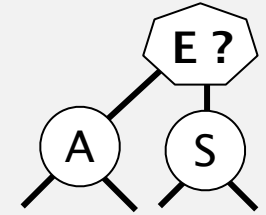
## 2-3 Tree Violations

- Existence of 4-nodes.



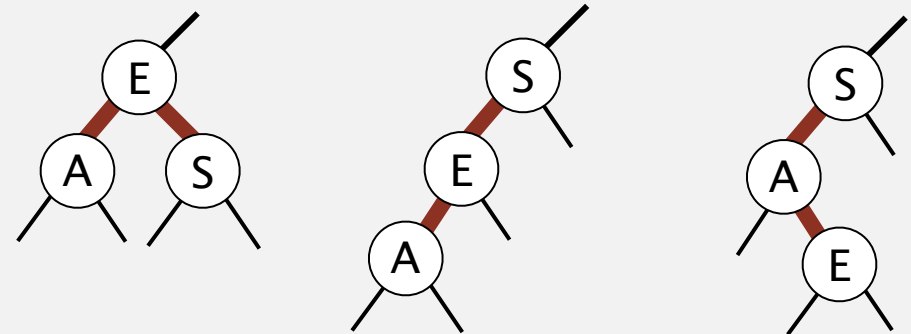
## Operations for fixing 2-3 tree violations

- Splitting a 4 node.



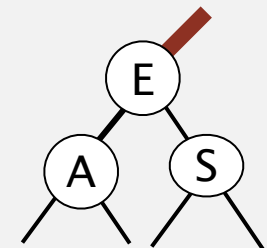
## LLRB Violations

- Two red children.
- Two consecutive red links.
- Right red child (breaks LL rule).



## Operations for fixing LLRB violations

- Left rotation.
- Right rotation.
- Color flipping.



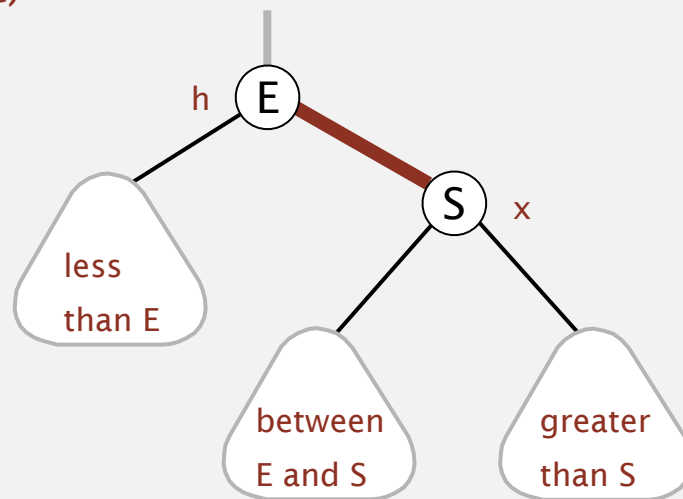
**Overall strategy.** Maintain 1-1 correspondence with 2-3 trees by applying elementary red-black BST operations.



# Elementary red-black BST operations

**Left rotation.** Orient a (temporarily) right-leaning red link to lean left.

rotate E left  
(before)



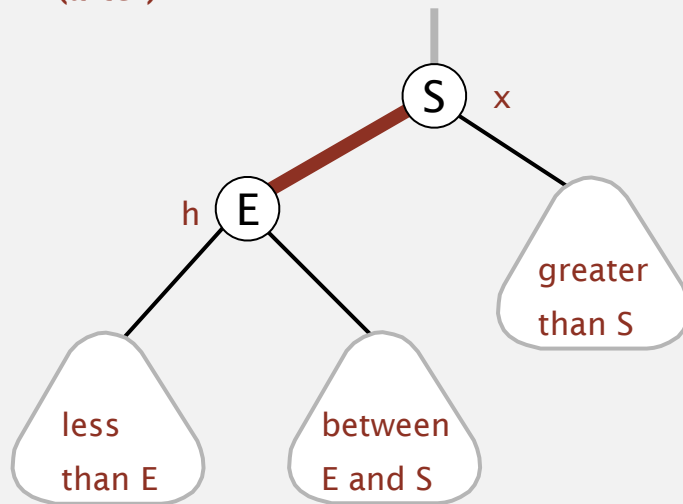
```
private Node rotateLeft(Node h)
{
    assert isRed(h.right);
    Node x = h.right;
    h.right = x.left;
    x.left = h;
    x.color = h.color;
    h.color = RED;
    return x;
}
```

**Invariants.** Maintains symmetric order and perfect black balance.

# Elementary red-black BST operations

**Left rotation.** Orient a (temporarily) right-leaning red link to lean left.

rotate E left  
(after)



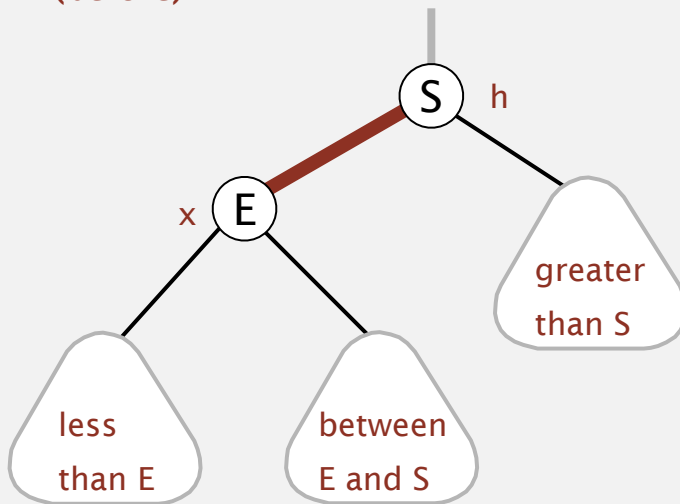
```
private Node rotateLeft(Node h)
{
    assert isRed(h.right);
    Node x = h.right;
    h.right = x.left;
    x.left = h;
    x.color = h.color;
    h.color = RED;
    return x;
}
```

**Invariants.** Maintains symmetric order and perfect black balance.

# Elementary red-black BST operations

**Right rotation.** Orient a left-leaning red link to (temporarily) lean right.

rotate S right  
(before)



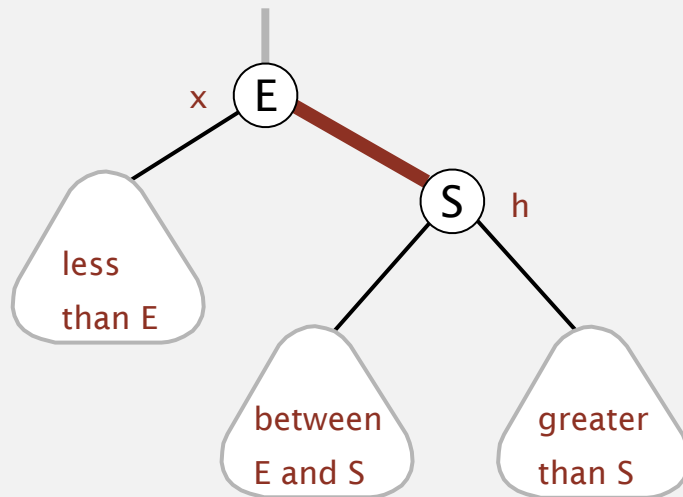
```
private Node rotateRight(Node h)
{
    assert isRed(h.left);
    Node x = h.left;
    h.left = x.right;
    x.right = h;
    x.color = h.color;
    h.color = RED;
    return x;
}
```

**Invariants.** Maintains symmetric order and perfect black balance.

# Elementary red-black BST operations

**Right rotation.** Orient a left-leaning red link to (temporarily) lean right.

rotate S right  
(after)



```
private Node rotateRight(Node h)
{
    assert isRed(h.left);
    Node x = h.left;
    h.left = x.right;
    x.right = h;
    x.color = h.color;
    h.color = RED;
    return x;
}
```

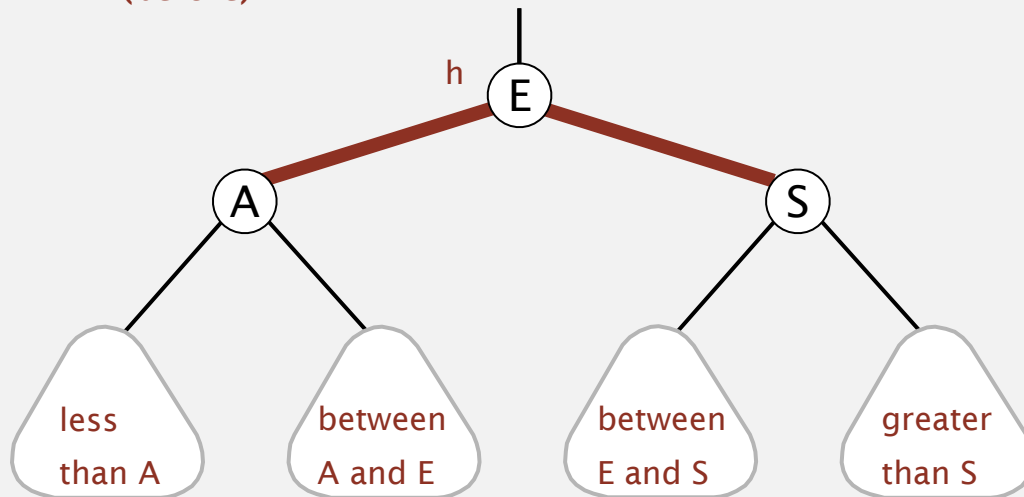
The node being rotated always ends up lower!

**Invariants.** Maintains symmetric order and perfect black balance.

# Elementary red-black BST operations

**Color flip.** Recolor to split a (temporary) 4-node.

flip colors  
(before)

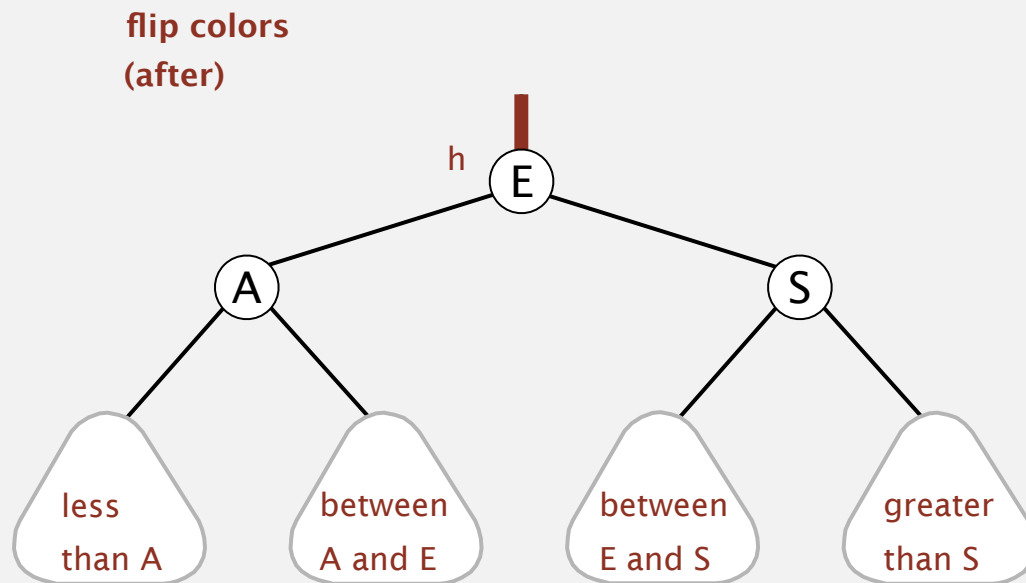


```
private void flipColors(Node h)
{
    assert !isRed(h);
    assert isRed(h.left);
    assert isRed(h.right);
    h.color = RED;
    h.left.color = BLACK;
    h.right.color = BLACK;
}
```

**Invariants.** Maintains symmetric order and perfect black balance.

# Elementary red-black BST operations

**Color flip.** Recolor to split a (temporary) 4-node.

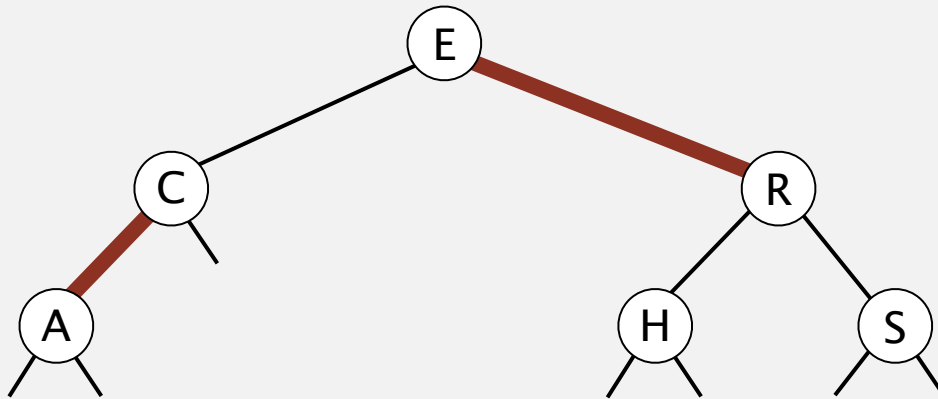


```
private void flipColors(Node h)
{
    assert !isRed(h);
    assert isRed(h.left);
    assert isRed(h.right);
    h.color = RED;
    h.left.color = BLACK;
    h.right.color = BLACK;
}
```

**Invariants.** Maintains symmetric order and perfect black balance.

---

right link red  
(rotate E left)



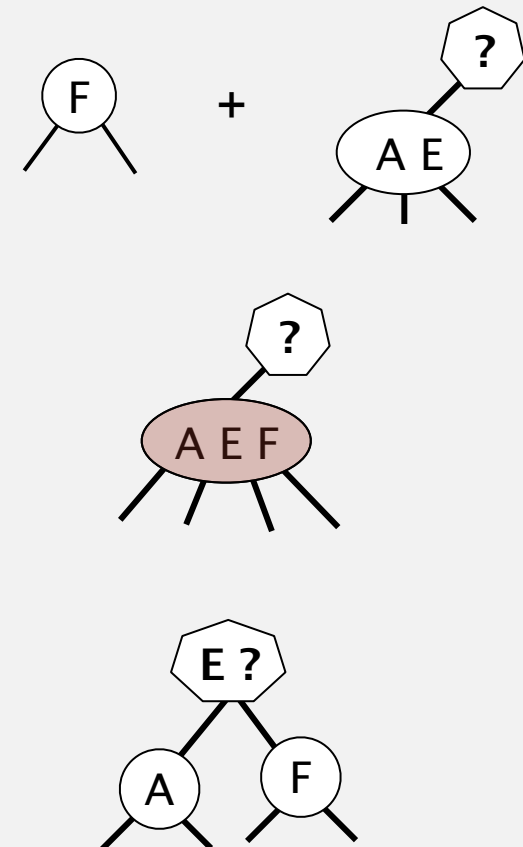
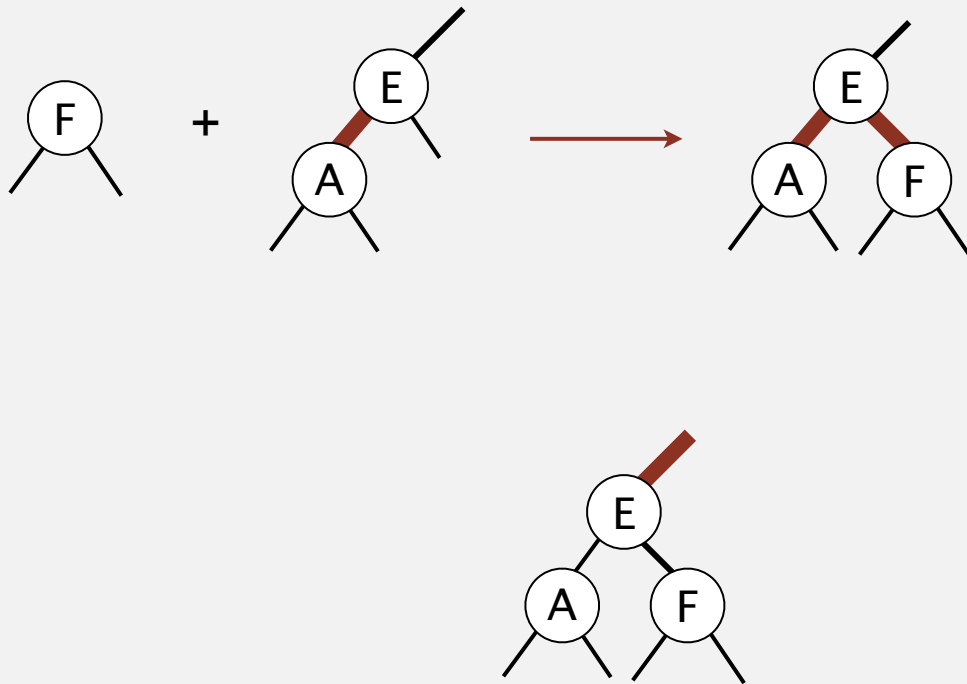
## Case 1: Two red children

What is the problem here?

- [LLRB VIOLATION] Two red links touching a single node.
- [2-3 VIOLATION] 4 node.

How to Resolve?

- Color flip.
- Equivalent to splitting 4 node.





## Case 2: Consecutive red left children

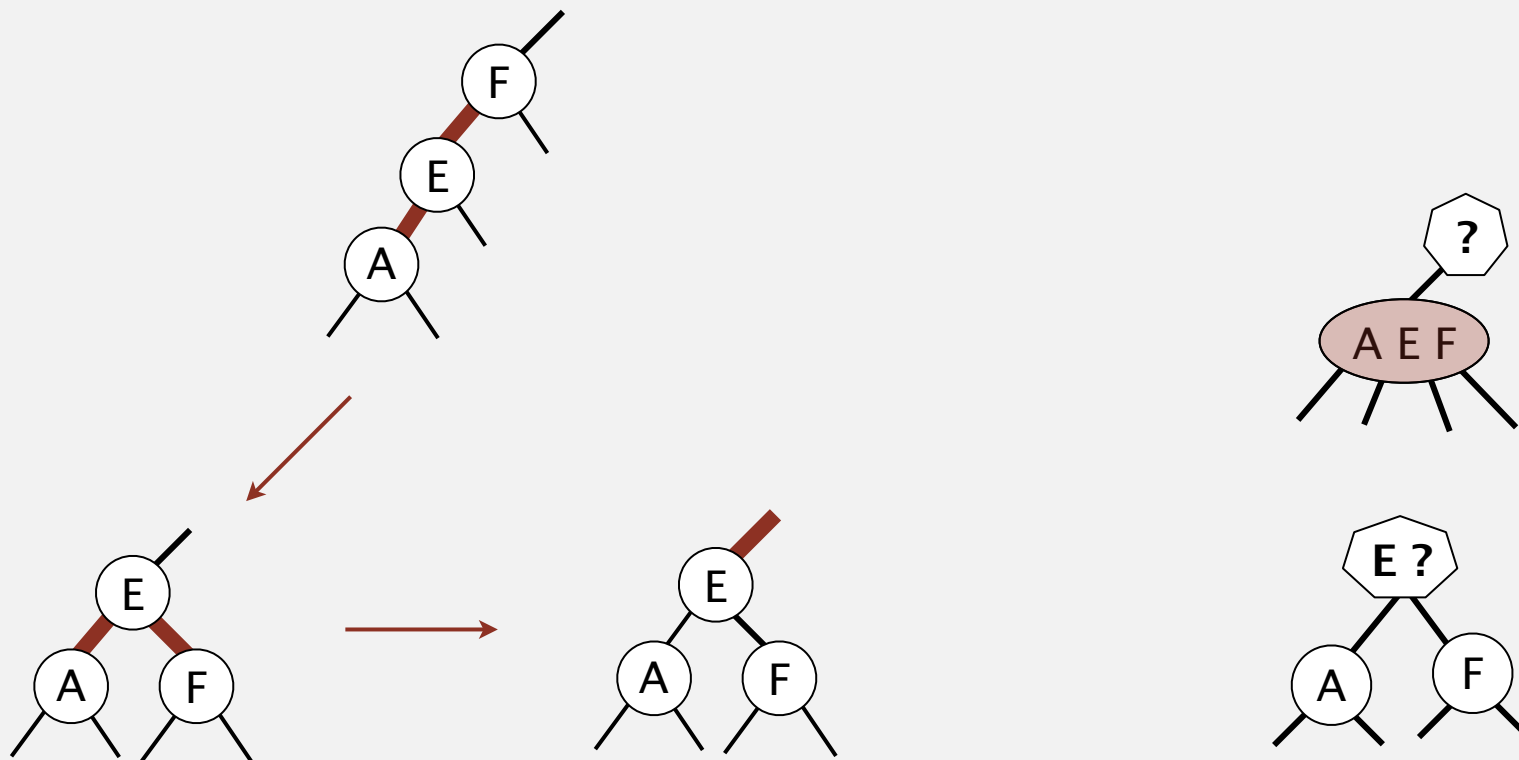
---

What is the problem here?

- [LLRB VIOLATION] Two red links touching a single node.
- [2-3 VIOLATION] 4 node.

How to Resolve?

- Rotate F right (back to case 1: two red children).



## Case 3a: Red right child and black left child (alternate)

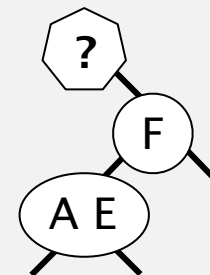
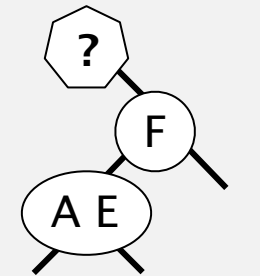
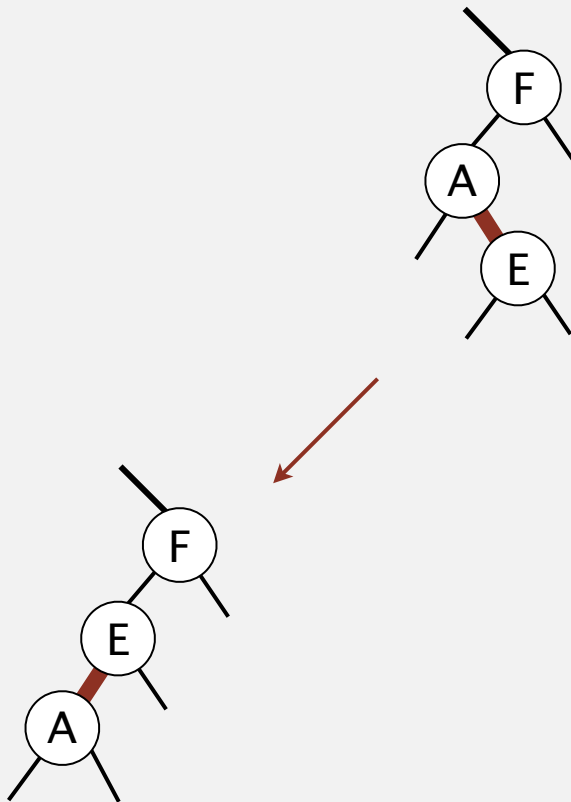
---

What is the problem here?

- [LLRB VIOLATION] Red link leans right.
- No 2-3 violation.

How to Resolve?

- Rotate A left. Done.



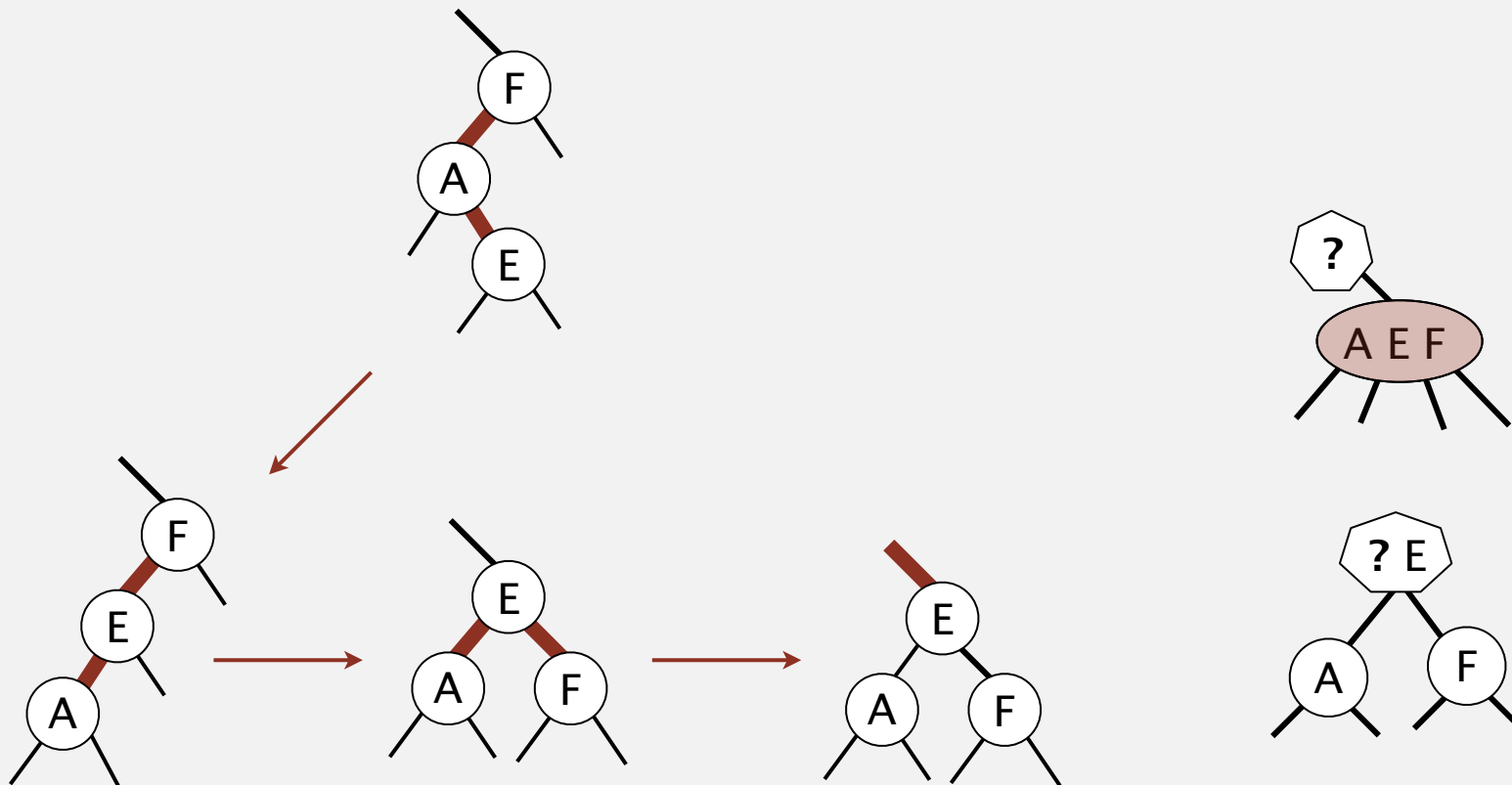
## Case 3b: Red right child and black left child

What is the problem here?

- [LLRB VIOLATION] Two red links touching a single node.
- [2-3 VIOLATION] 4 node.

How to Resolve?

- Rotate A left. Puts us right back into Case 2.



# Red-black BST construction demo

---

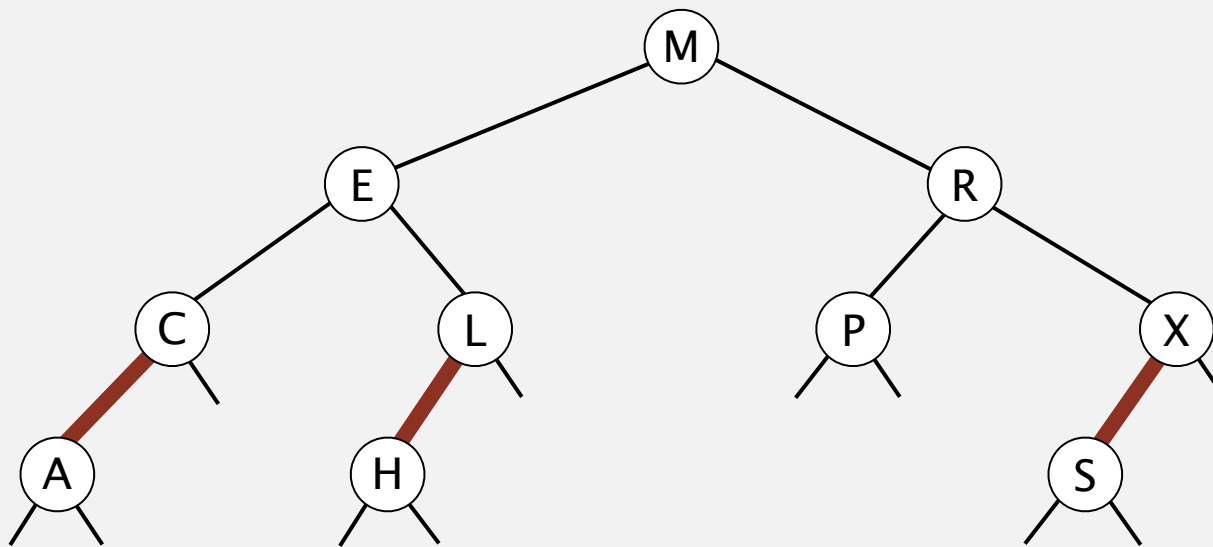
insert S



# Red-black BST construction demo

---

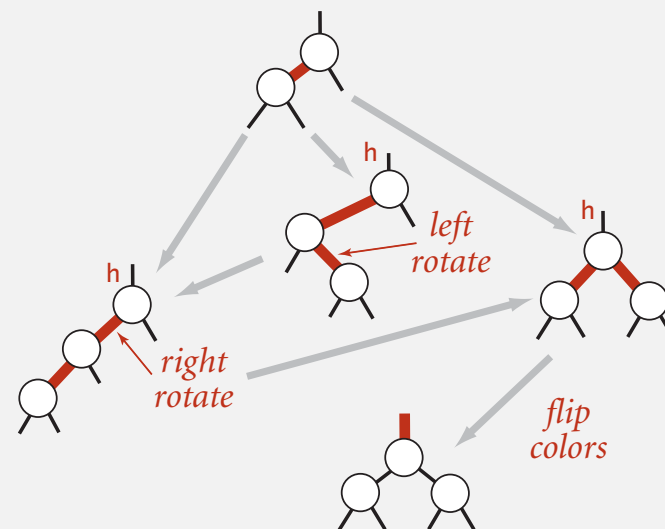
red-black BST



# Insertion in a LLRB tree: Java implementation

Same code for all cases.

- Right child red, left child black: **rotate left**.
- Left child, left-left grandchild red: **rotate right**.
- Both children red: **flip colors**.



```
private Node put(Node h, Key key, Value val)
```

```
{
```

```
    if (h == null) return new Node(key, val, RED);
```

```
    int cmp = key.compareTo(h.key);
```

```
    if (cmp < 0) h.left = put(h.left, key, val);
```

```
    else if (cmp > 0) h.right = put(h.right, key, val);
```

```
    else if (cmp == 0) h.val = val;
```

```
    if (isRed(h.right) && !isRed(h.left)) h = rotateLeft(h);
```

```
    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.left.left)) h = rotateRight(h);
```

```
    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right)) flipColors(h);
```

```
    return h;
```

```
}
```

← insert at bottom  
(and color it red)

← lean left

← balance 4-node

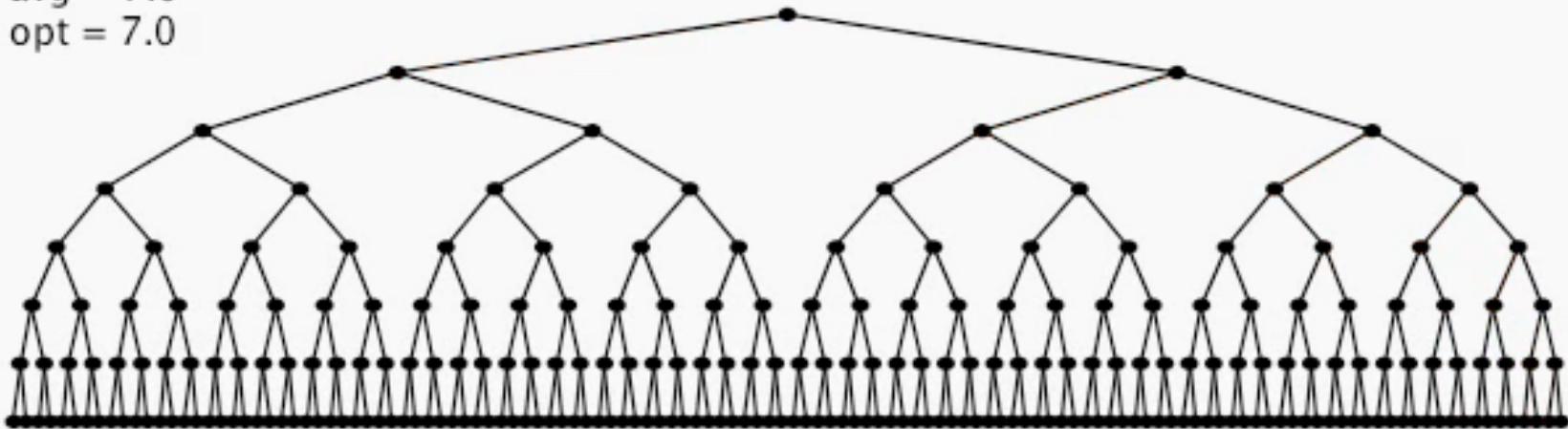
← split 4-node

↑ only a few extra lines of code provides near-perfect balance

# Insertion in a LLRB tree: visualization

---

N = 255  
max = 8  
avg = 7.0  
opt = 7.0

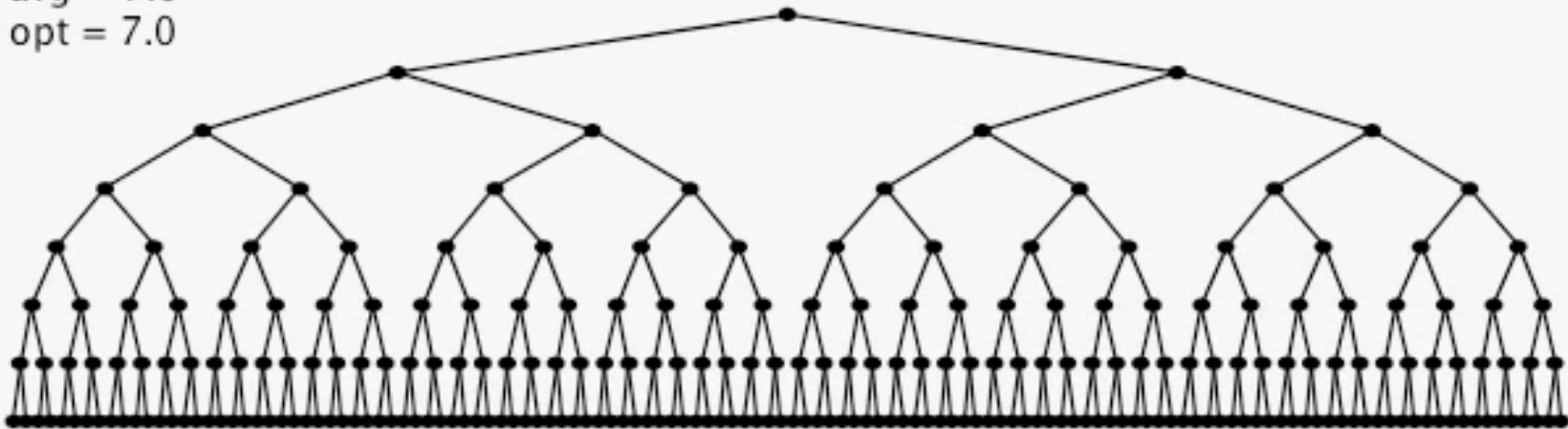


255 insertions in ascending order

# Insertion in a LLRB tree: visualization

---

N = 255  
max = 8  
avg = 7.0  
opt = 7.0



255 insertions in descending order



# Insertion in a LLRB tree: visualization

---

N = 255  
max = 10  
avg = 7.3  
opt = 7.0



255 random insertions

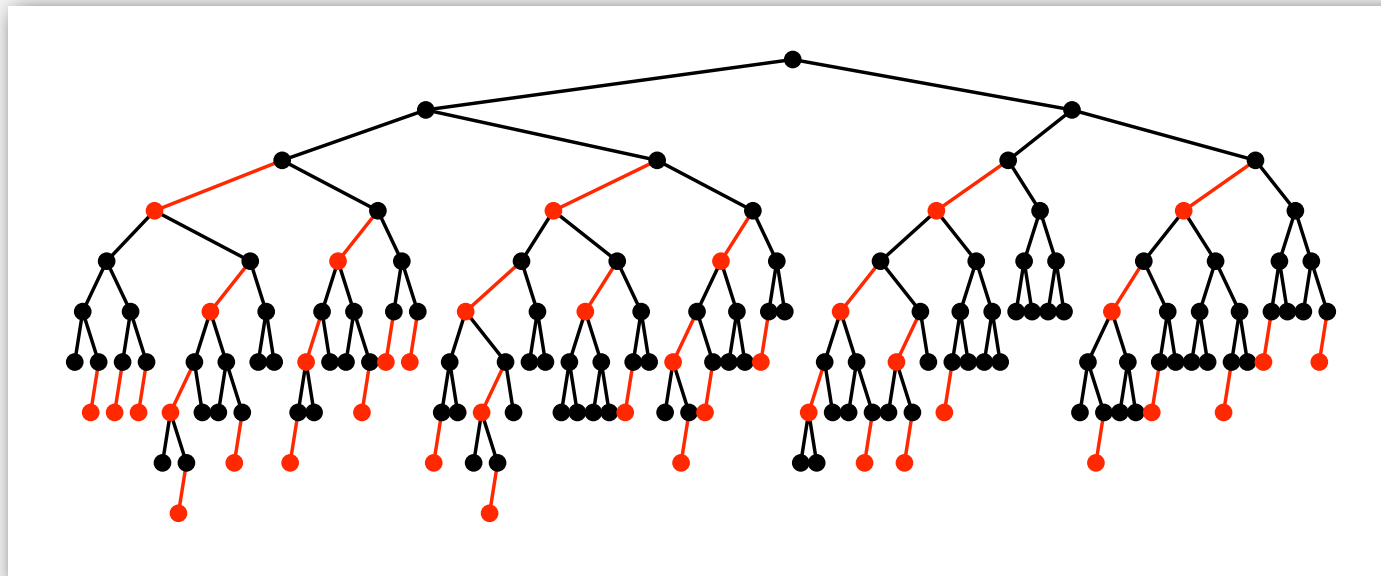
## Balance in LLRB trees

---

**Proposition.** Height of tree is  $\leq 2 \lg N$  in the worst case.

**Pf.**

- Every path from root to null link has same number of black links.
- Never two red links in-a-row.



**Property.** Height of tree is  $\sim 1.00 \lg N$  in typical applications.

# ST implementations: summary

---

implementation	worst-case cost (after N inserts)			average case (after N random inserts)			ordered iteration?	key interface
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
sequential search (unordered list)	N	N	N	N/2	N	N/2	no	equals()
binary search (ordered array)	lg N	N	N	lg N	N/2	N/2	yes	compareTo()
BST (no deletes)	N	N	N	1.39 lg N	1.39 lg N	?	yes	compareTo()
2-3 tree	c lg N	c lg N	c lg N	c lg N	c lg N	c lg N	yes	compareTo()
red-black BST	2 lg N	2 lg N	2 lg N	1.00 lg N *	1.00 lg N *	1.00 lg N *	yes	compareTo()

\* exact value of coefficient unknown but extremely close to 1

# War story: why red-black?

---

## Xerox PARC innovations. [1970s]

- Alto.
- GUI.
- Ethernet.
- Smalltalk.
- InterPress.
- Laser printing.
- Bitmapped display.
- WYSIWYG text editor.
- ...



Xerox Alto

### A DICHROMATIC FRAMEWORK FOR BALANCED TREES

Leo J. Guibas  
*Xerox Palo Alto Research Center,*  
Palo Alto, California, and  
*Carnegie-Mellon University*

and

Robert Sedgwick\*  
Program in Computer Science  
*Brown University*  
Providence, R. I.

#### ABSTRACT

In this paper we present a uniform framework for the implementation and study of balanced tree algorithms. We show how to imbed in this

the way down towards a leaf. As we will see, this has a number of significant advantages over the older methods. We shall examine a number of variations on a common theme and exhibit full implementations which are notable for their brevity. One implementation is examined carefully, and some properties about its

# War story: red-black BSTs

---

Telephone company contracted with database provider to build real-time database to store customer information.

## Database implementation.

- Red-black BST search and insert; Hibbard deletion.
- Exceeding height limit of 80 triggered error-recovery process.

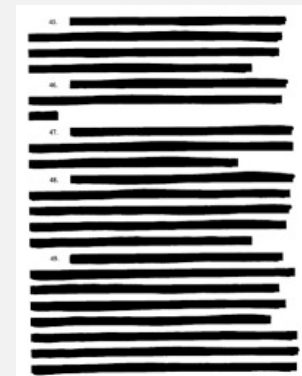
allows for up to  $2^{40}$  keys

## Extended telephone service outage.

Hibbard deletion  
was the problem

- Main cause = height bounded exceeded!
- Telephone company sues database provider.
- Legal testimony:

*“ If implemented properly, the height of a red-black BST with  $N$  keys is at most  $2 \lg N$ . ” — expert witness*





<http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu>

## 3.3 BALANCED SEARCH TREES

---

- ▶ *2-3 search trees*
- ▶ *red-black BSTs*
- ▶ *B-trees (optional)*

# File system model

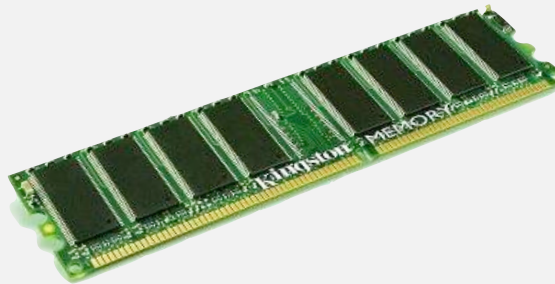
---

**Page.** Contiguous block of data (e.g., a file or 4,096-byte chunk).

**Probe.** First access to a page (e.g., from disk to memory).



slow



fast

**Property.** Time required for a probe is much larger than time to access data within a page.

**Cost model.** Number of probes.

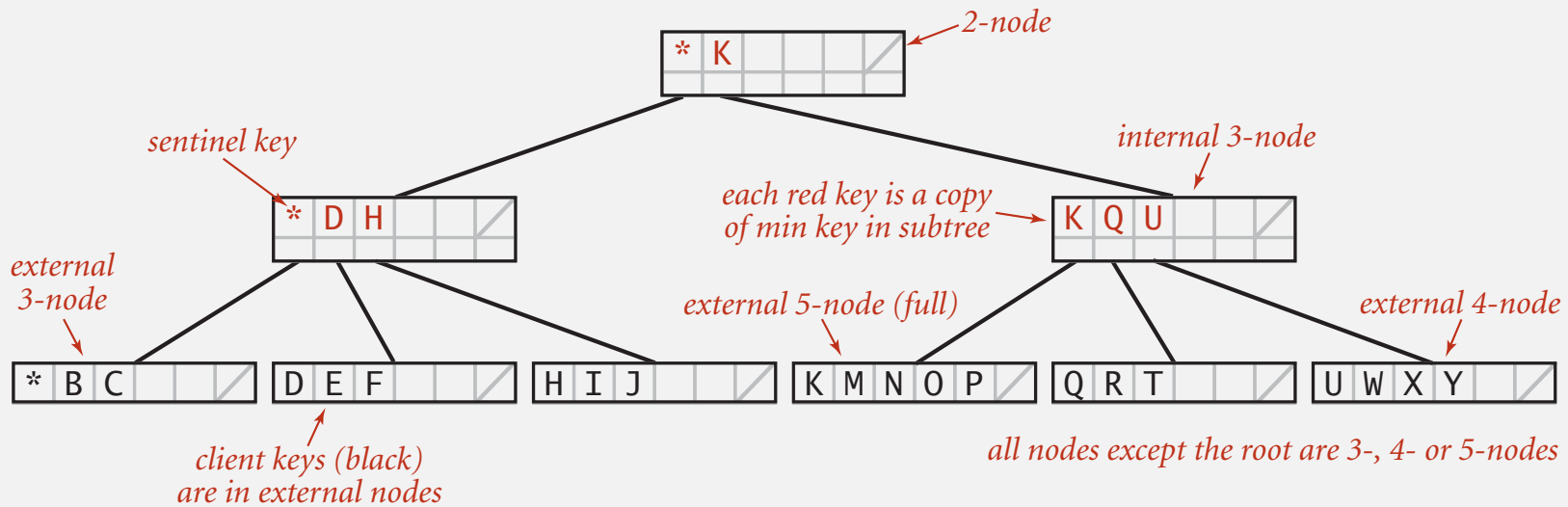
**Goal.** Access data using minimum number of probes.

# B-trees (Bayer-McCreight, 1972)

**B-tree.** Generalize 2-3 trees by allowing up to  $M - 1$  key-link pairs per node.

- At least 2 key-link pairs at root.
- At least  $M / 2$  key-link pairs in other nodes.
- External nodes contain client keys.
- Internal nodes contain copies of keys to guide search.

choose  $M$  as large as possible so that  $M$  links fit in a page, e.g.,  $M = 1024$

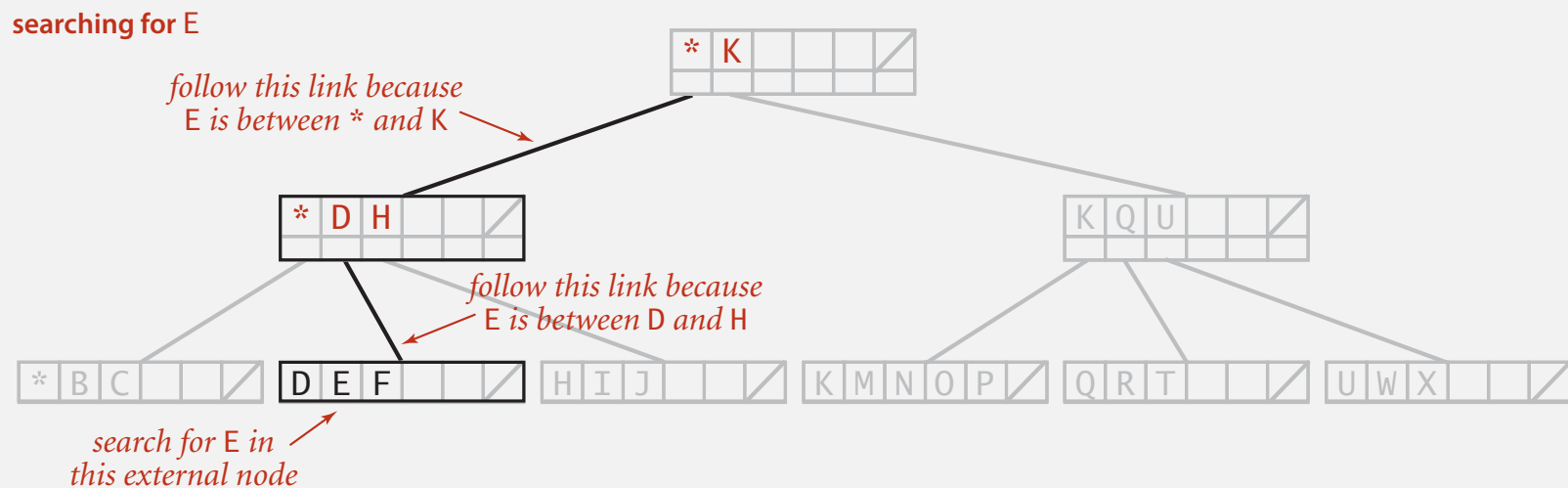


Anatomy of a B-tree set ( $M = 6$ )



# Searching in a B-tree

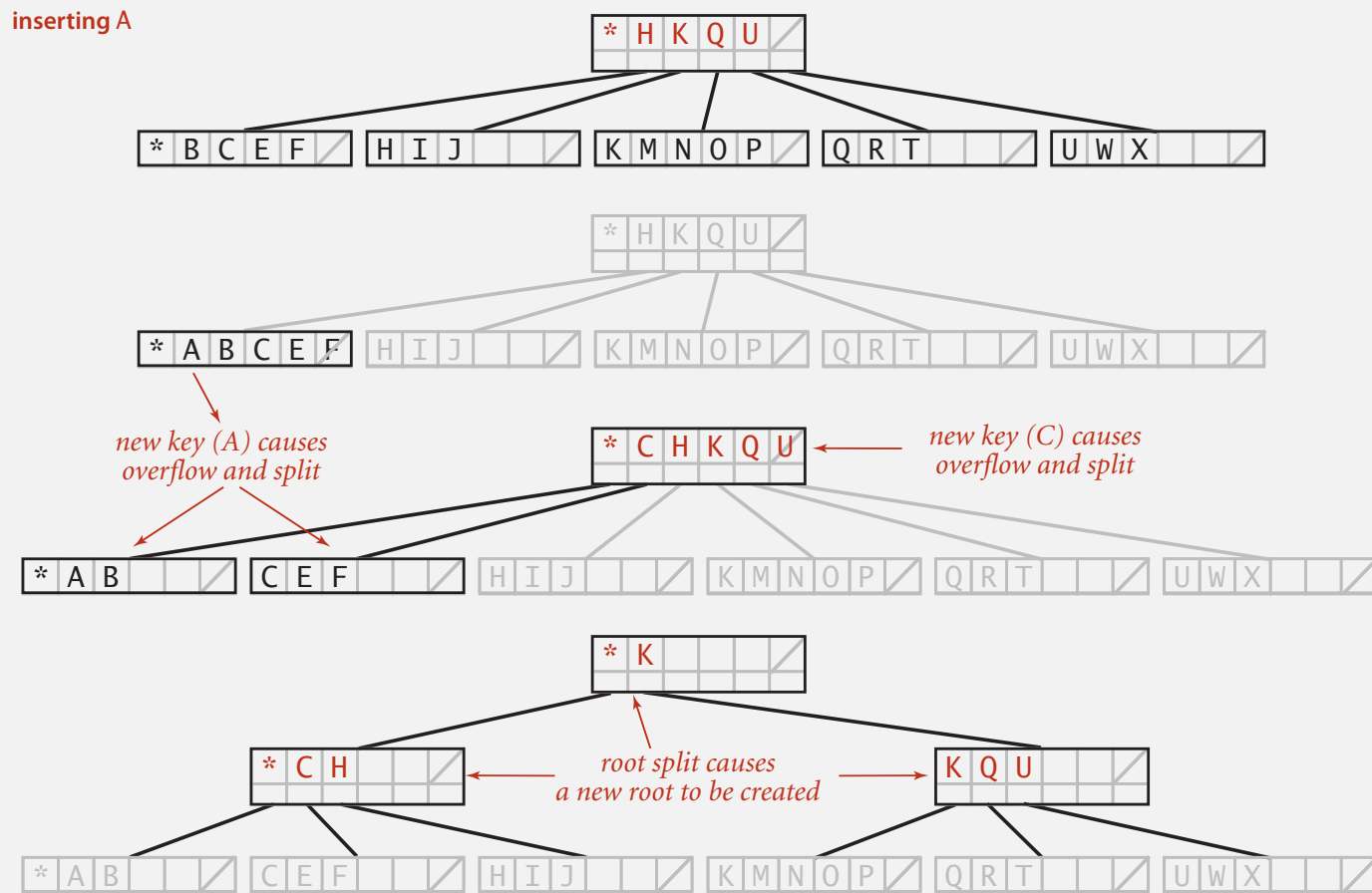
- Start at root.
- Find interval for search key and take corresponding link.
- Search terminates in external node.



Searching in a B-tree set ( $M = 6$ )

# Insertion in a B-tree

- Search for new key.
- Insert at bottom.
- Split nodes with  $M$  key-link pairs on the way up the tree.




Inserting a new key into a B-tree set

## Balance in B-tree

---

**Proposition.** A search or an insertion in a B-tree of order  $M$  with  $N$  keys requires between  $\log_{M-1} N$  and  $\log_{M/2} N$  probes.

**Pf.** All internal nodes (besides root) have between  $M/2$  and  $M - 1$  links.

**In practice.** Number of probes is at most 4.   $M = 1024$ ;  $N = 62$  billion  
 $\log_{M/2} N \leq 4$

**Optimization.** Always keep root page in memory.

# Building a large B tree



## Balanced trees in the wild

---

Red-black trees are widely used as system symbol tables.

- Java: `java.util.TreeMap`, `java.util.TreeSet`.
- C++ STL: `map`, `multimap`, `multiset`.
- Linux kernel: completely fair scheduler, `linux/rbtree.h`.
- Emacs: conservative stack scanning.

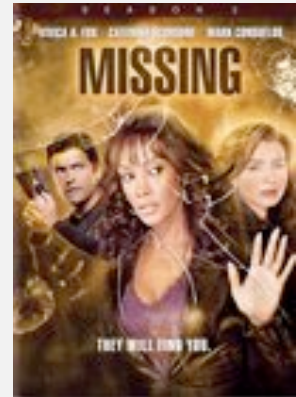
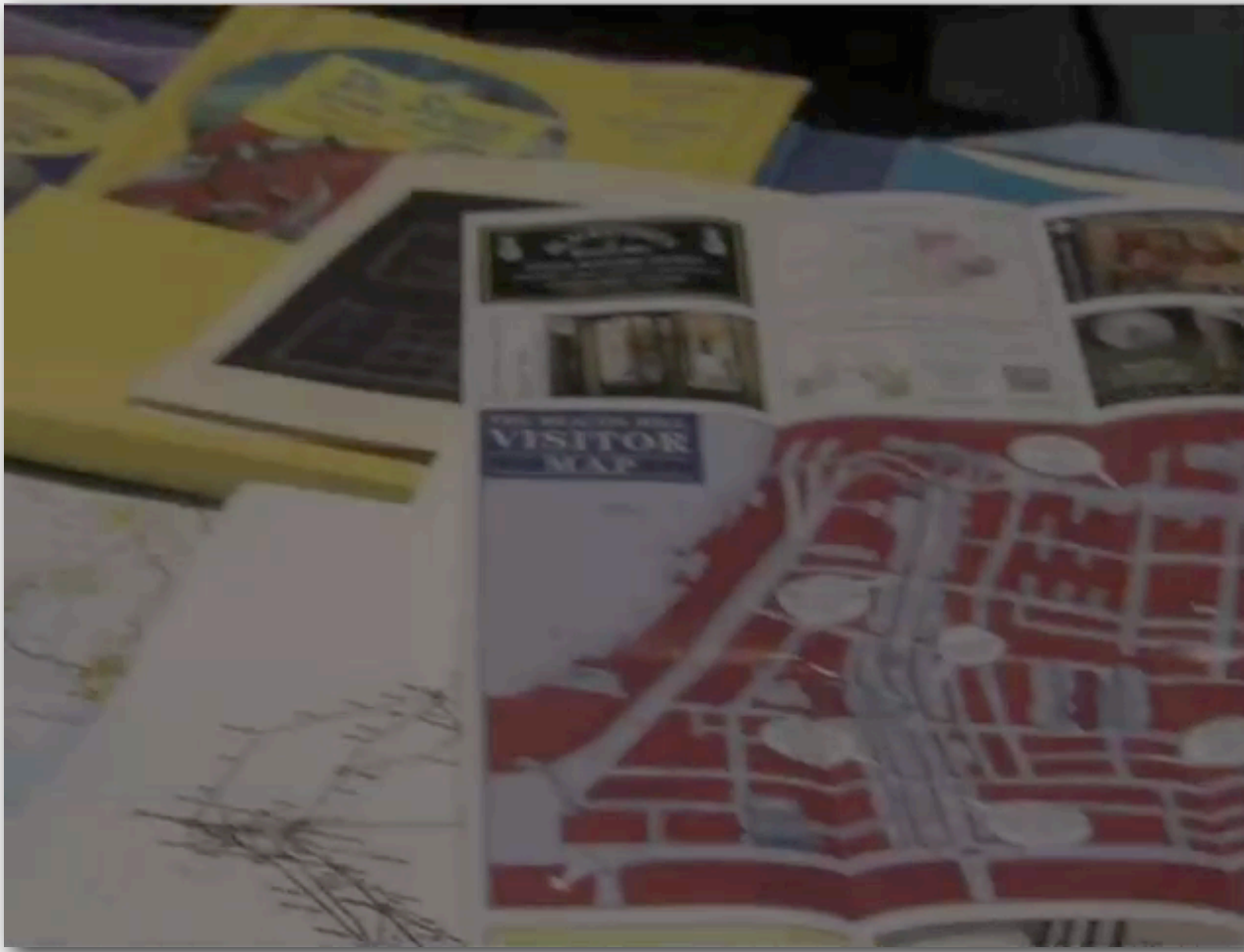
B-tree variants. B+ tree, B\*tree, B# tree, ...

B-trees (and variants) are widely used for file systems and databases.

- Windows: HPFS.
- Mac: HFS, HFS+.
- Linux: ReiserFS, XFS, Ext3FS, JFS.
- Databases: ORACLE, DB2, INGRES, SQL, PostgreSQL.

## Red-black BSTs in the wild

---



*Common sense. Sixth sense.  
Together they're the  
FBI's newest team.*

# Red-black BSTs in the wild

---

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

48 INT. FBI HQ - NIGHT

48

Antonio is at THE COMPUTER as Jess explains herself to Nicole and Pollock. The CONFERENCE TABLE is covered with OPEN REFERENCE BOOKS, TOURIST GUIDES, MAPS and REAMS OF PRINTOUTS.

JESS

It was the red door again.

POLLOCK

I thought the red door was the storage container.

JESS

But it wasn't red anymore. It was black.

ANTONIO

So red turning to black means... what?

POLLOCK

Budget deficits? Red ink, black ink?

NICOLE

Yes. I'm sure that's what it is. But maybe we should come up with a couple other options, just in case.

Antonio refers to his COMPUTER SCREEN, which is filled with mathematical equations.

ANTONIO

It could be an algorithm from a binary search tree. A red-black tree tracks every simple path from a node to a descendant leaf with the same number of black nodes.

JESS

Does that help you with girls?