

# *Left-Leaning* **Red-Black Trees**

**Robert Sedgwick**  
**Princeton University**

Original version: Data structures seminar at Dagstuhl (Feb 2008)

- red-black trees made simpler (!)
- full delete() implementation

This version: Analysis of Algorithms meeting at Maresias (Apr 2008)

- back to balanced 4-nodes
- back to 2-3 trees (!)
- scientific analysis

Addendum: observations developed after talk at Maresias

Java code at [www.cs.princeton.edu/~rs/talks/LLRB/Java](http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~rs/talks/LLRB/Java)

Movies at [www.cs.princeton.edu/~rs/talks/LLRB/movies](http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~rs/talks/LLRB/movies)

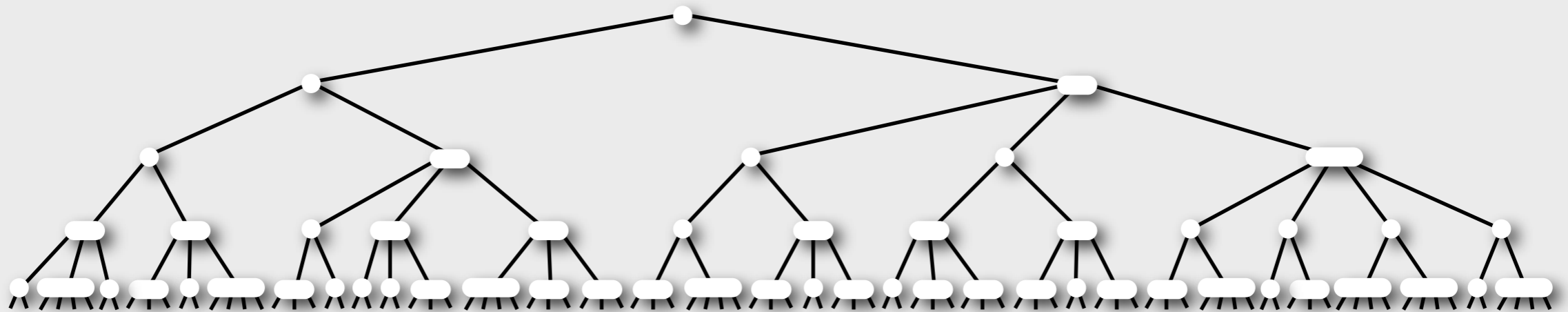
# ***Introduction***

*2-3-4 Trees*

*Red-Black Trees*

*Left-Leaning RB Trees*

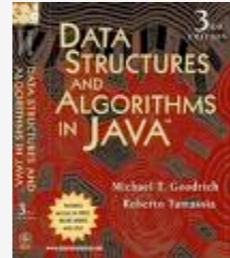
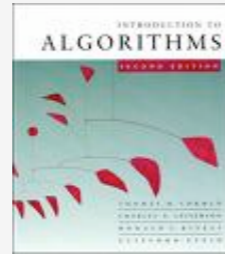
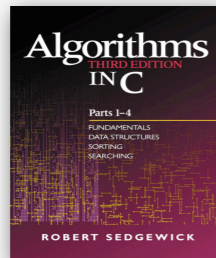
*Deletion*



# Red-black trees

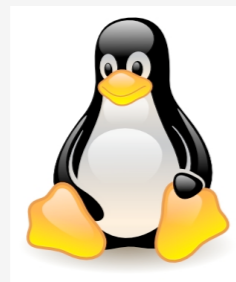
are now found throughout our computational infrastructure

Textbooks on algorithms



...

Library **search function** in many programming environments



...

Popular culture (stay tuned)

Worth revisiting?

# Red-black trees

are now found throughout our computational infrastructure

*Typical:*

```
> ya thanks,  
> i got the idea  
> but is there some other place on the web where only the algorithms  
> used by STL is  
> explained. (that is the underlying data structures etc. ) without  
> explicit reference to the code (as it is pretty confusing if I try to  
> read through).  
>  
> thanks[/color]
```

The standard does not specify which algorithms the STL must use. Implementers are free to choose which ever algorithm or data structure that fulfils the functional and efficiency requirements of the standard.

**There are some common choices however. For instance every implementation of map, multimap, set and multiset that I have ever seen uses a structure called a red black tree. Typing 'red black tree algorithm' in google produces a number of likely looking links.**

john



# Digression:

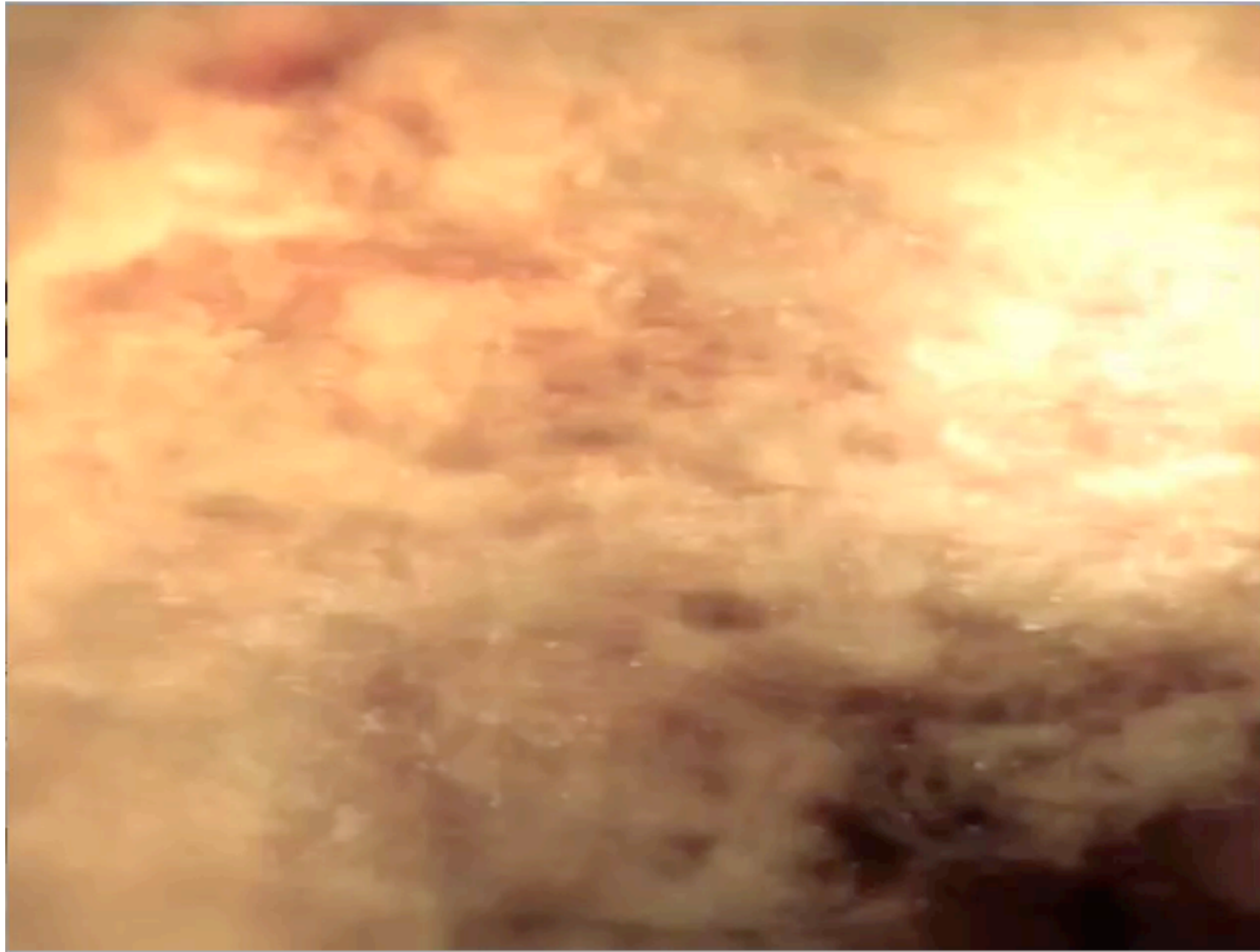
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Red-black trees are found in popular culture??

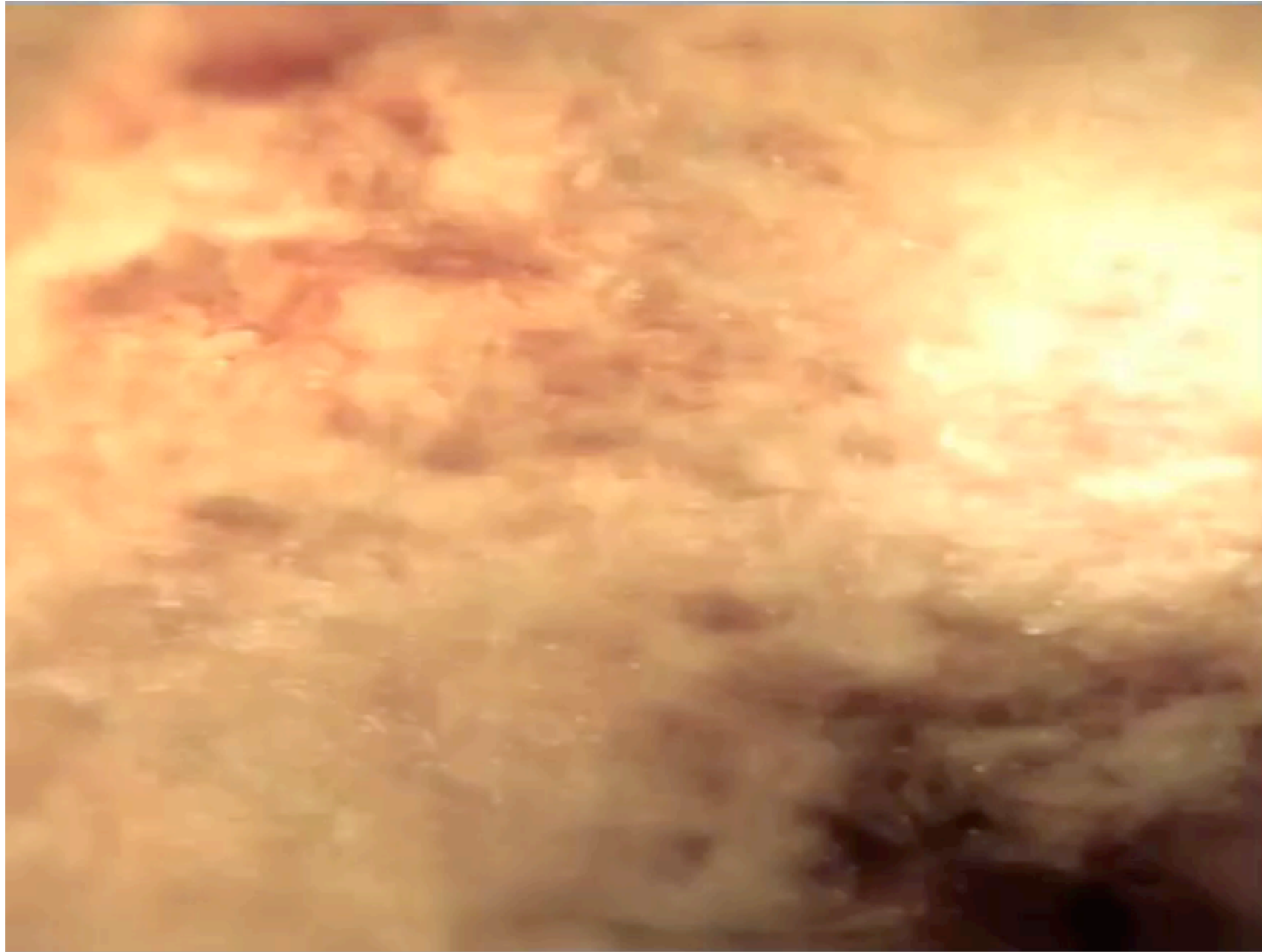
*Introduction*  
*2-3-4 Trees*  
*LLRB Trees*  
*Deletion*  
*Analysis*



Mystery: black door?



Mystery: red door?





An explanation ?



## Red-black trees (Guibas-Sedgwick, 1978)

- reduce code complexity
- minimize or eliminate space overhead
- unify balanced tree algorithms
- single top-down pass (for concurrent algorithms)
- find version amenable to average-case analysis

## Current implementations

- maintenance
- migration
- space not so important (??)
- guaranteed performance
- support full suite of operations

Worth revisiting ?

## Red-black trees (Guibas-Sedgwick, 1978)

- reduce code complexity
- minimize or eliminate space overhead
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- find version amenable to average-case analysis

## Current implementations

- maintenance
- migration
- space not so important (??)
- guaranteed performance
- support full suite of operations

Worth revisiting ? **YES. Code complexity is out of hand.**



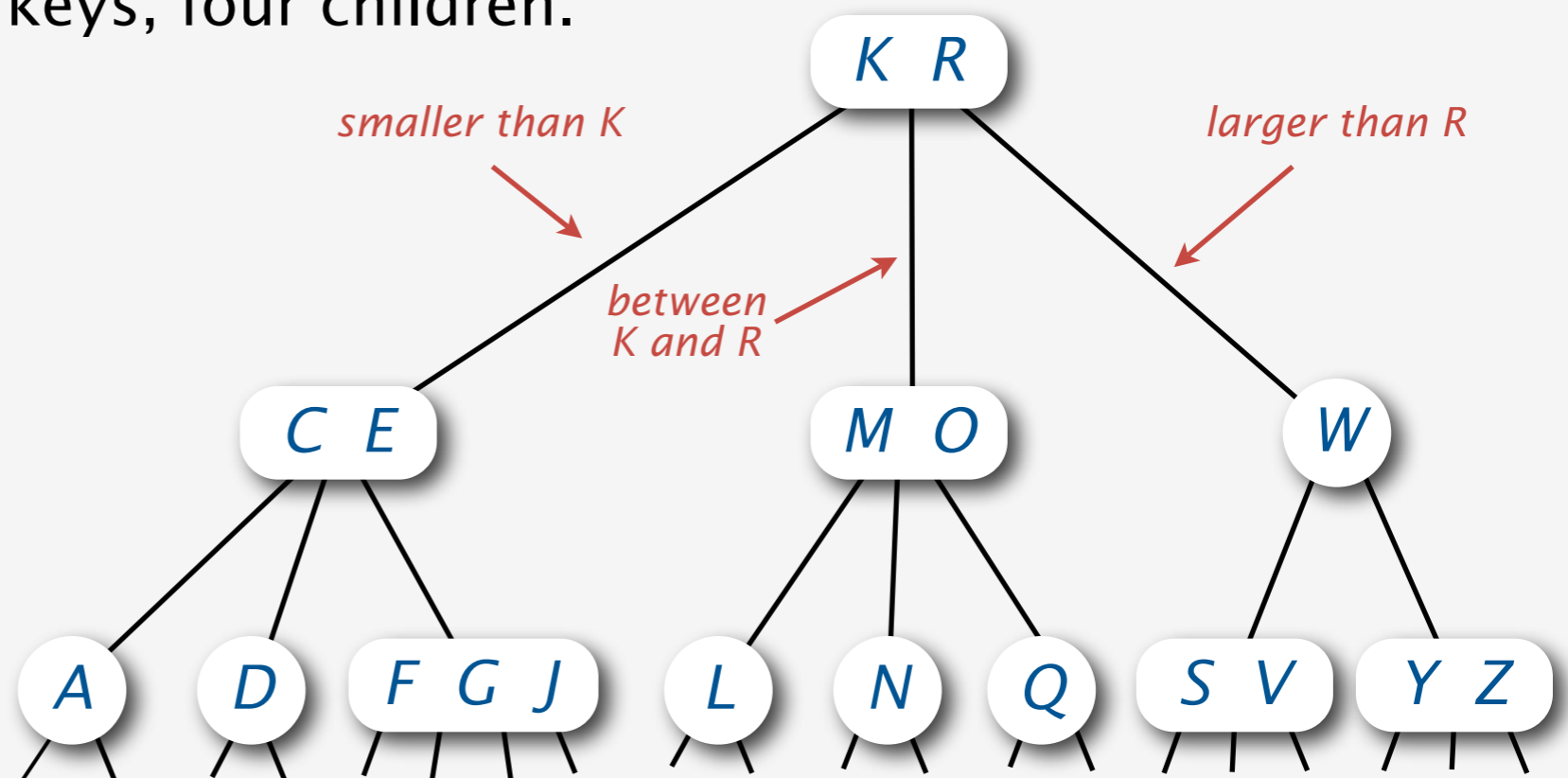
# 2-3-4 Tree

Generalize BST node to allow multiple keys.  
Keep tree in perfect balance.

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

Allow 1, 2, or 3 keys per node.

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





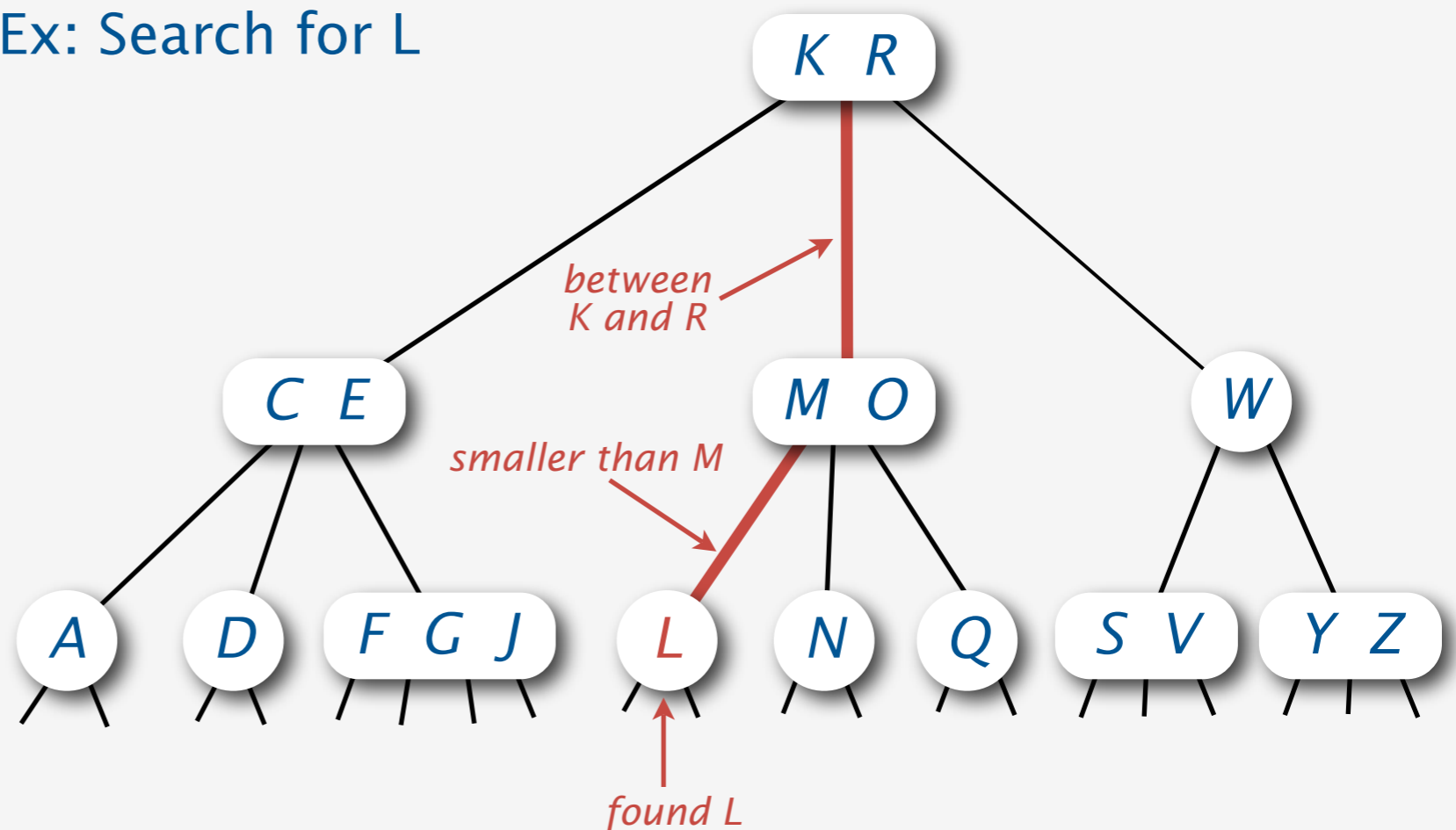
# Search in a 2-3-4 Tree

Compare node keys against search key to guide search.

## Search.

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

Ex: Search for L

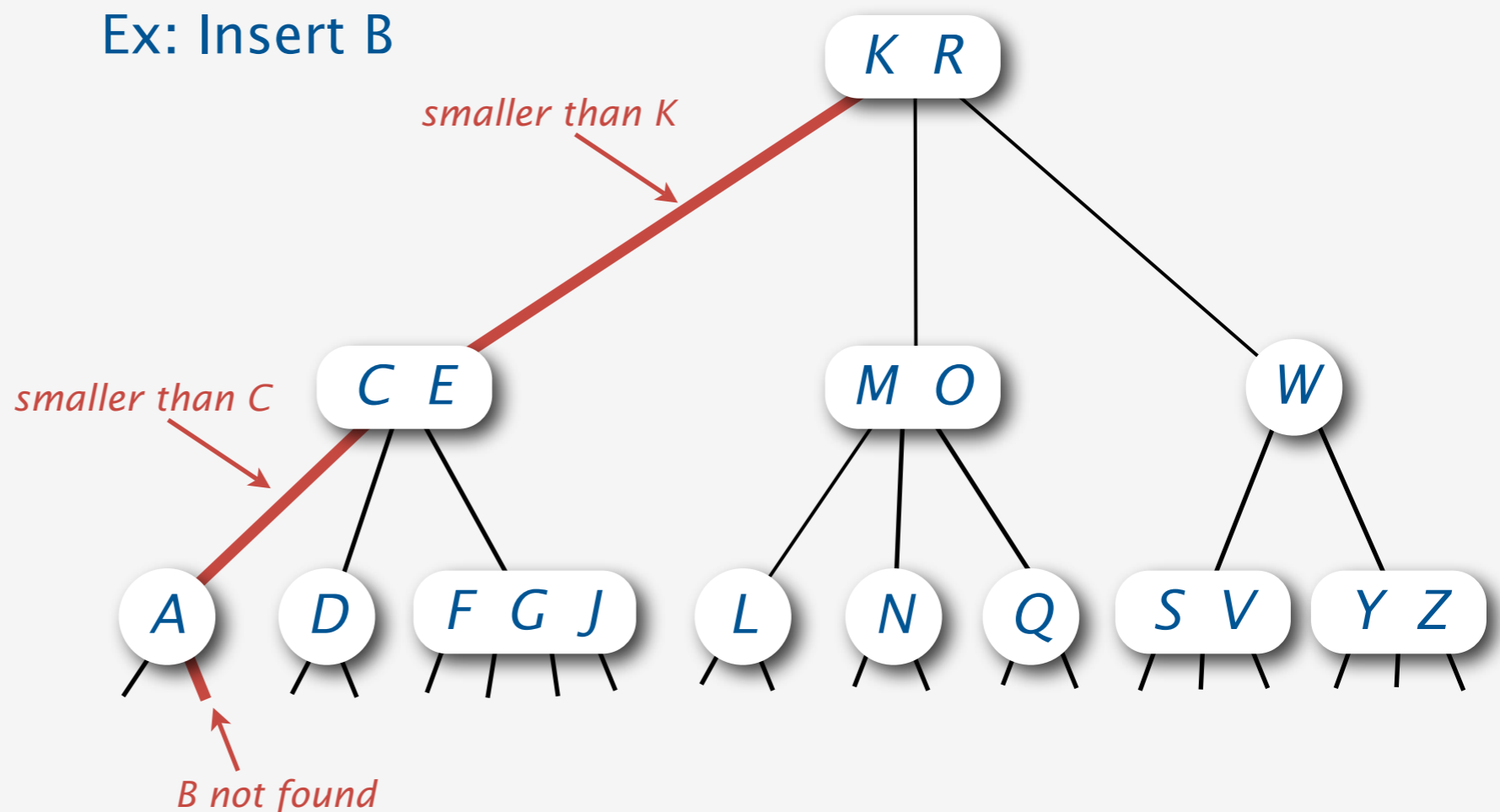


# Insertion in a 2-3-4 Tree

Add new keys at the bottom of the tree.

Insert.

- Search to bottom for key.



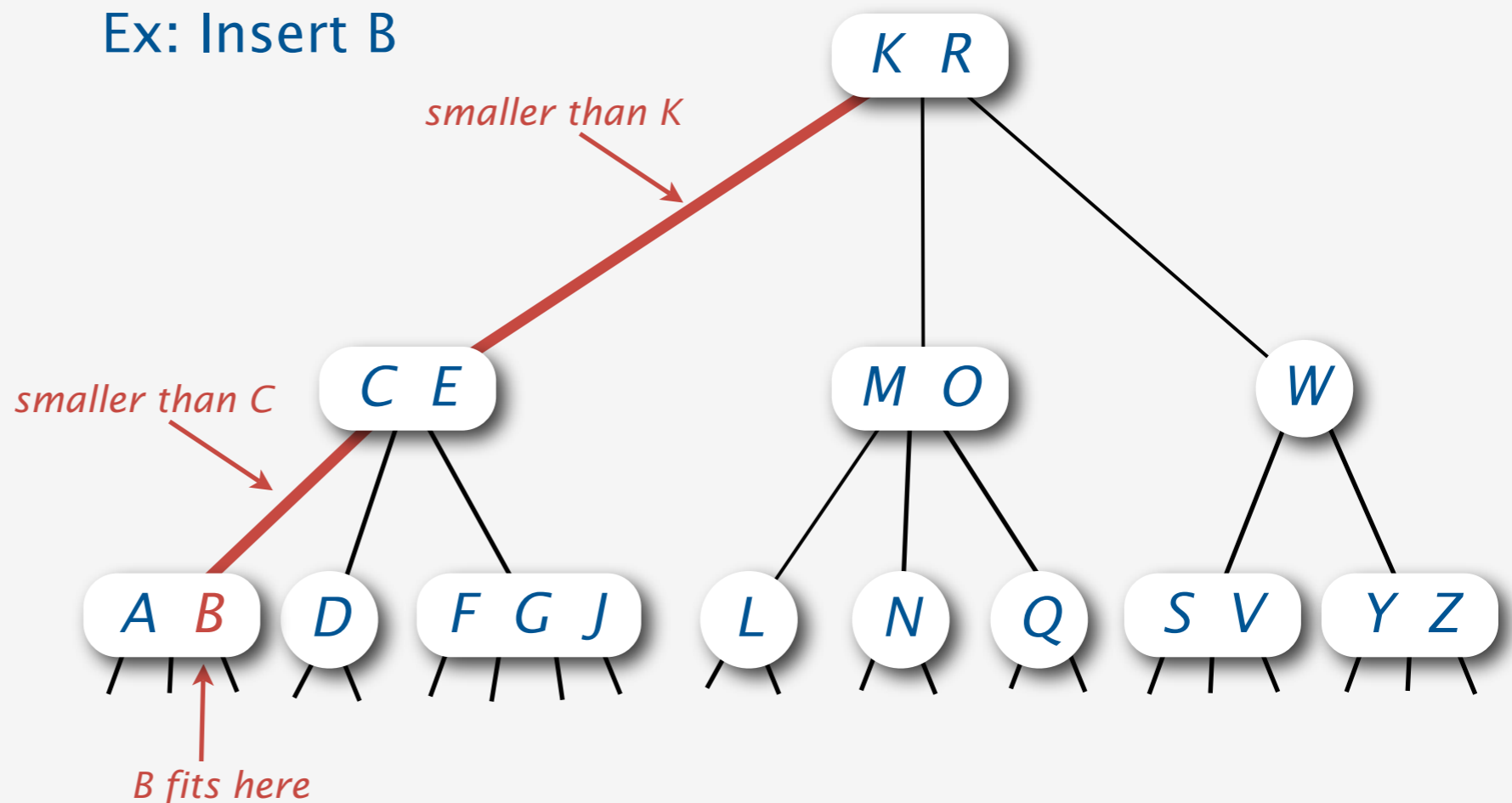
# Insertion in a 2-3-4 Tree

Add new keys at the bottom of the tree.

Insert.

- Search to bottom for key.
- 2-node at bottom: convert to a 3-node.

Ex: Insert B



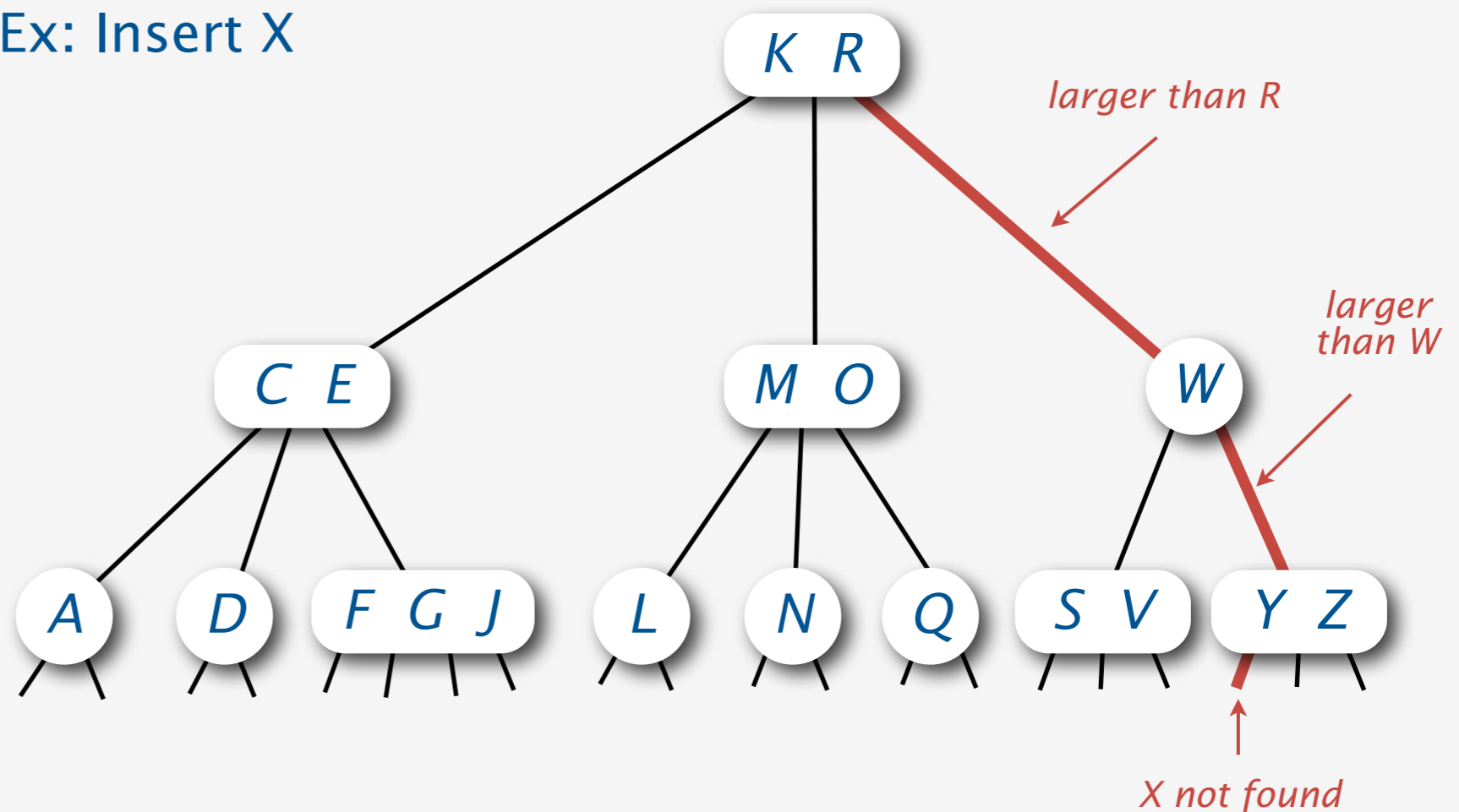
# Insertion in a 2-3-4 Tree

Add new keys at the bottom of the tree.

Insert.

- Search to bottom for key.

Ex: Insert X



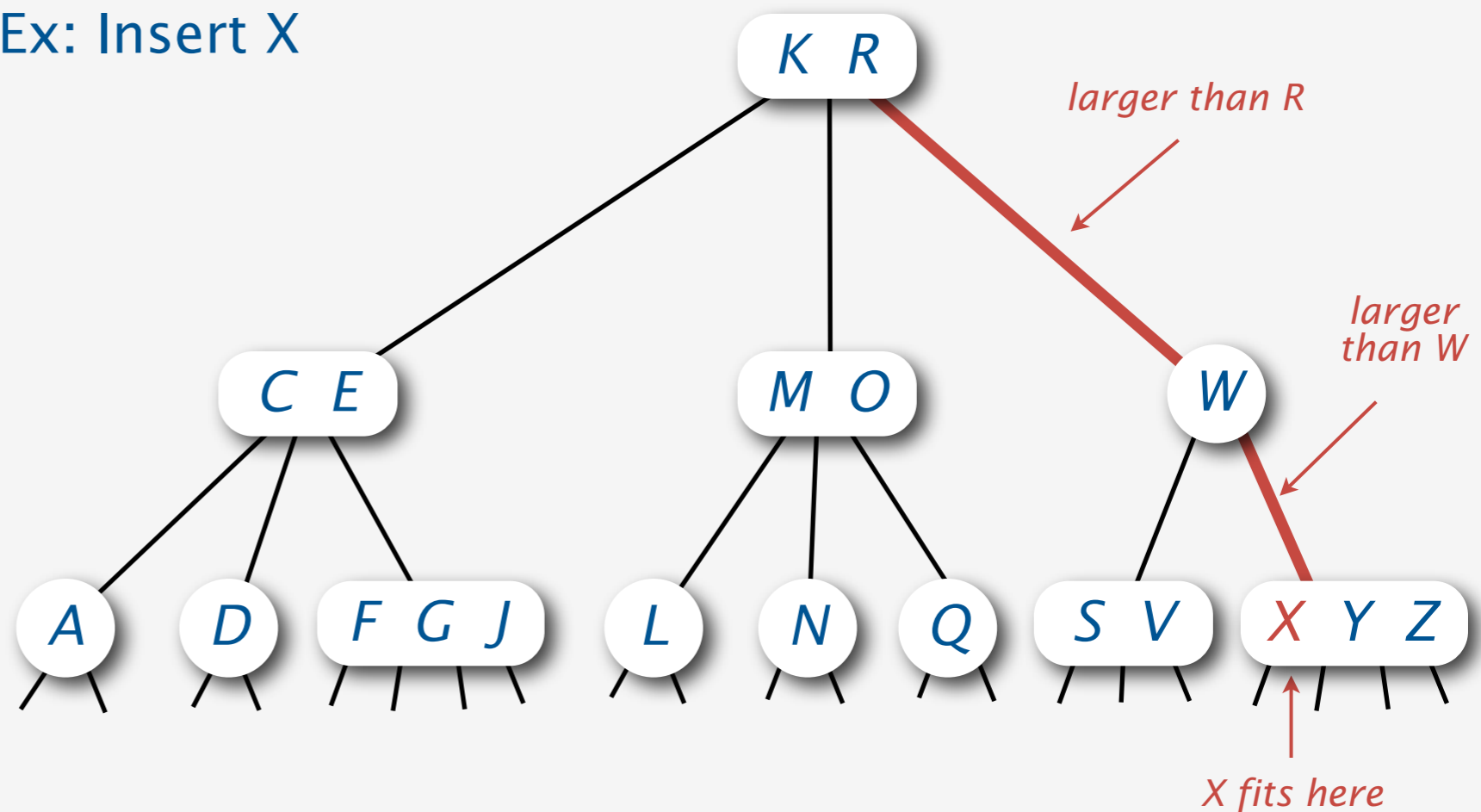
# Insertion in a 2-3-4 Tree

Add new keys at the bottom of the tree.

Insert.

- Search to bottom for key.
- 3-node at bottom: convert to a 4-node.

Ex: Insert X



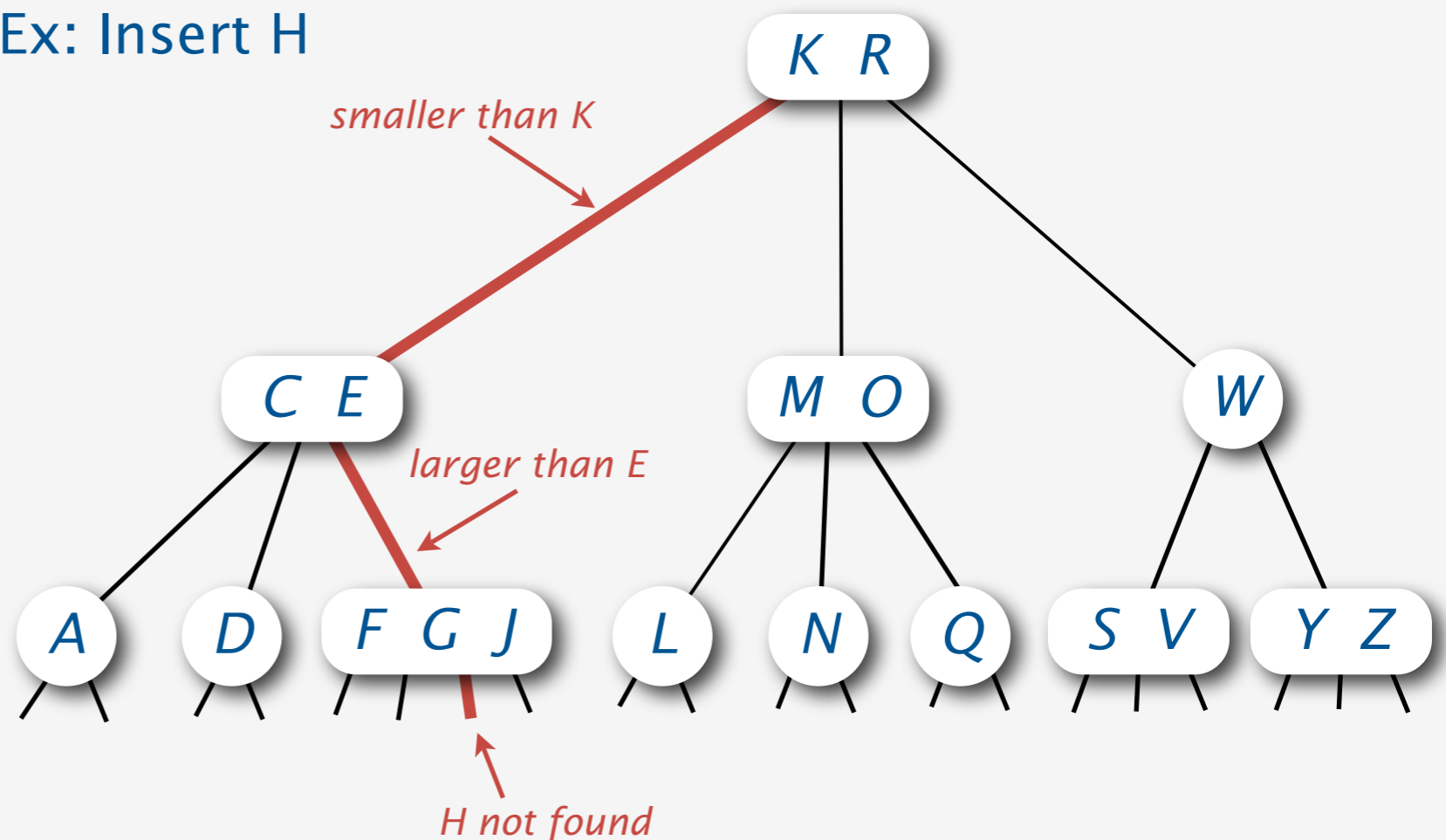
# Insertion in a 2-3-4 Tree

Add new keys at the bottom of the tree.

Insert.

- Search to bottom for key.

Ex: Insert H



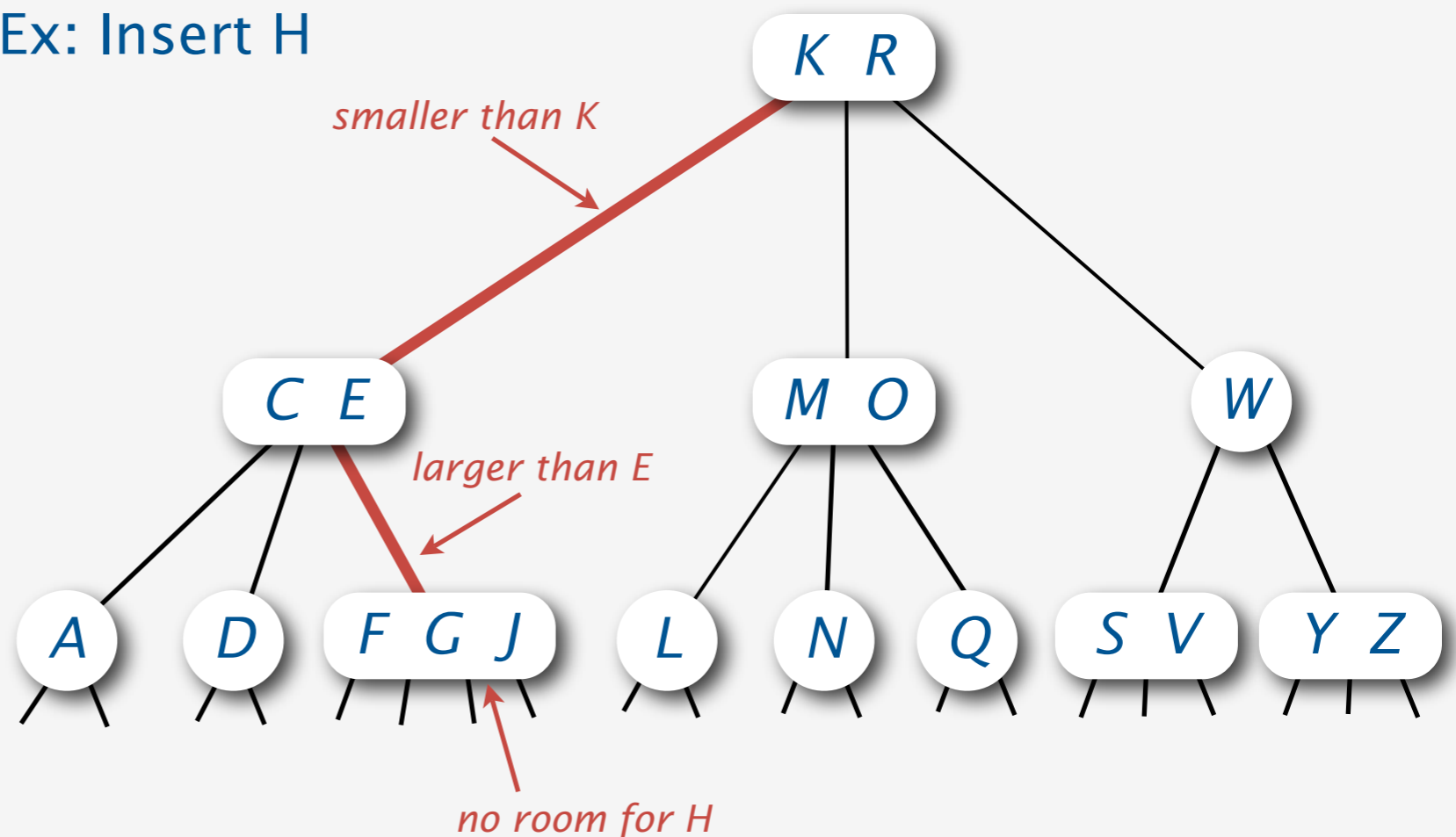
# Insertion in a 2-3-4 Tree

Add new keys at the bottom of the tree.

Insert.

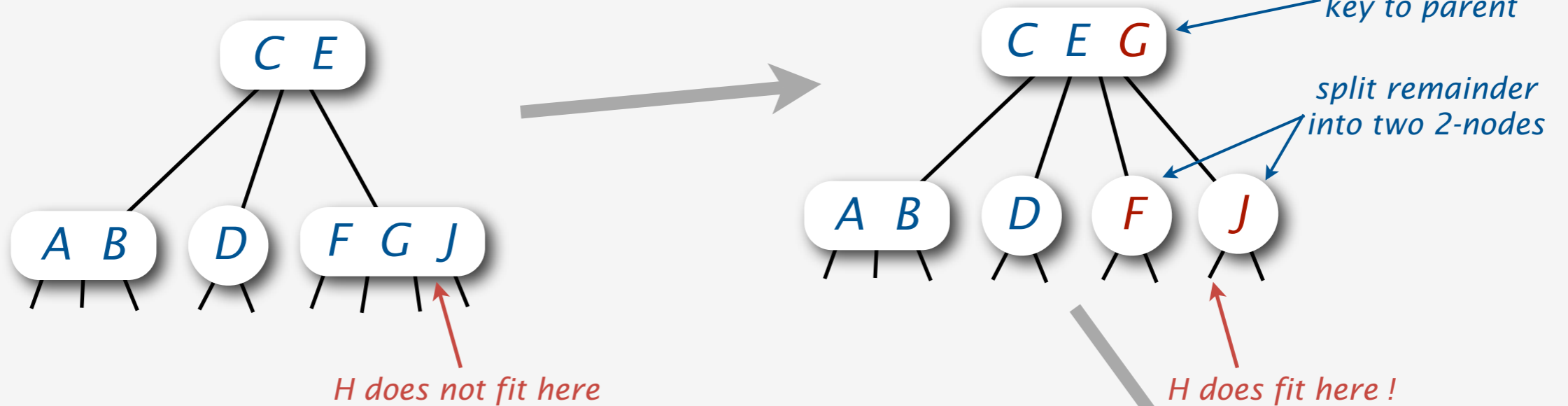
- Search to bottom for key.
- 2-node at bottom: convert to a 3-node.
- 3-node at bottom: convert to a 4-node.
- 4-node at bottom: no room for new key.

Ex: Insert H



# Splitting 4-nodes in a 2-3-4 tree

is an effective way to make room for insertions



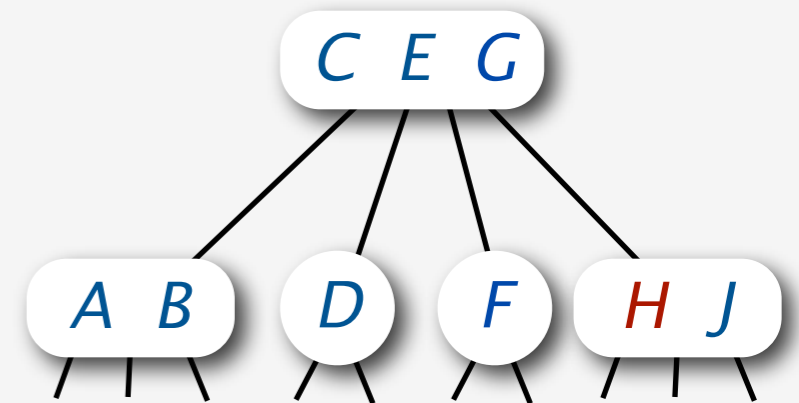
**Problem:** Doesn't work if parent is a 4-node

Bottom-up solution (Bayer, 1972)

- Use same method to split parent
- Continue up the tree while necessary

Top-down solution (Guibas-Sedgwick, 1978)

- Split 4-nodes on the way **down**
- Insert at bottom

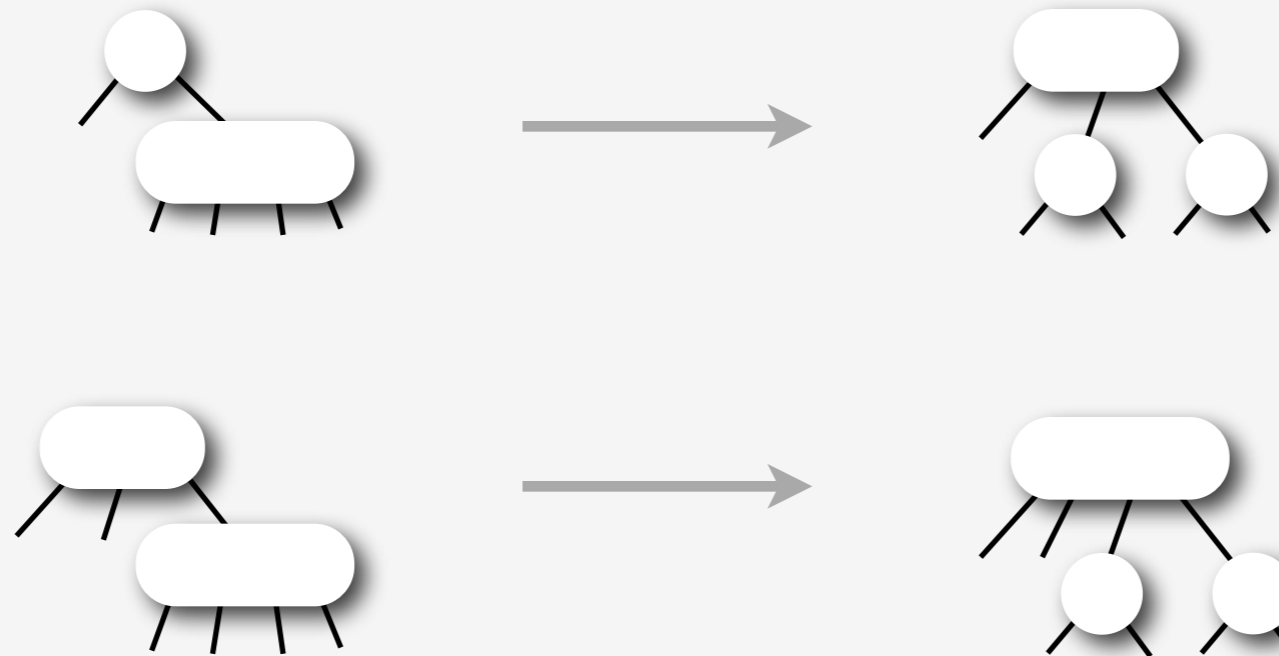




# Splitting 4-nodes on the way down

ensures that the “current” node is not a 4-node

Transformations to split 4-nodes:



*local transformations  
that work **anywhere** in the tree*

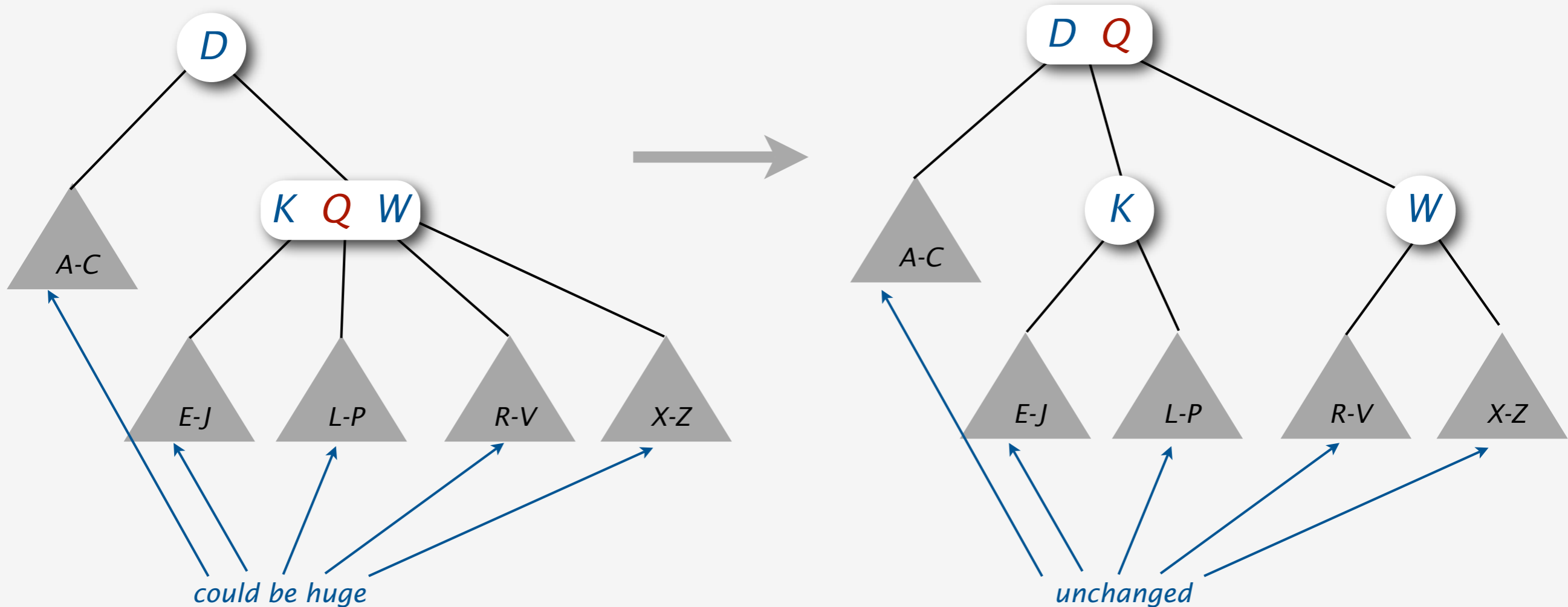
**Invariant:** “Current” node is not a 4-node

**Consequences:**

- 4-node below a 4-node case never happens
- Bottom node reached is always a 2-node or a 3-node

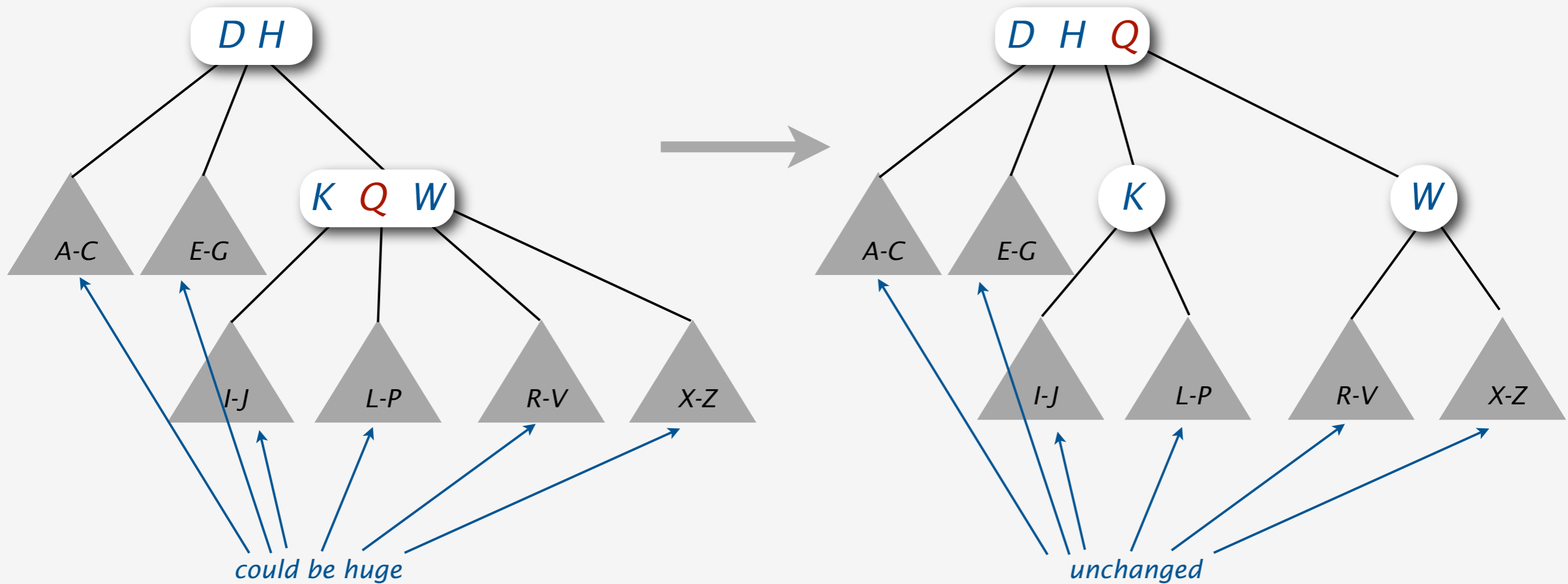
# Splitting a 4-node below a 2-node

is a **local** transformation that works anywhere in the tree



# Splitting a 4-node below a 3-node

is a **local** transformation that works anywhere in the tree



# Growth of a 2-3-4 tree

happens **upwards** from the bottom

*insert A*



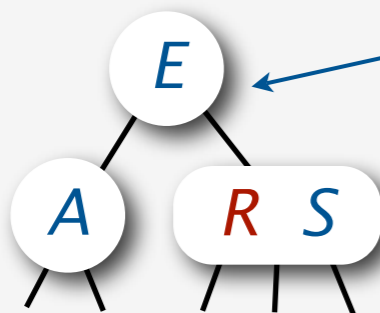
*insert S*



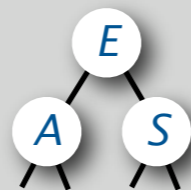
*insert E*



*insert R*



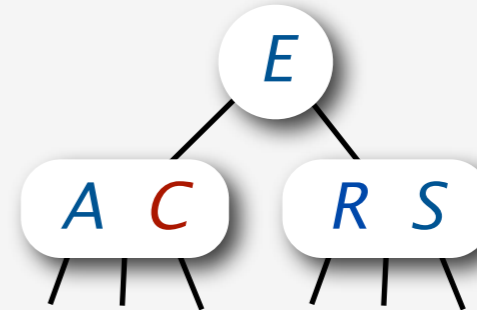
split 4-node to



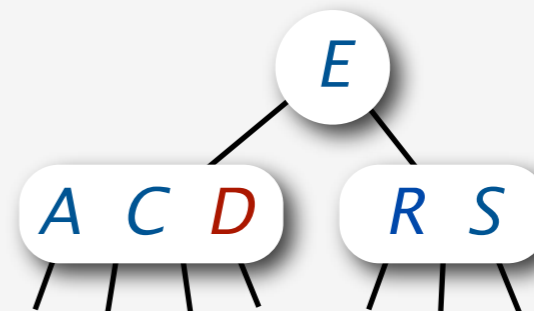
and then insert

↑  
tree grows  
up one level

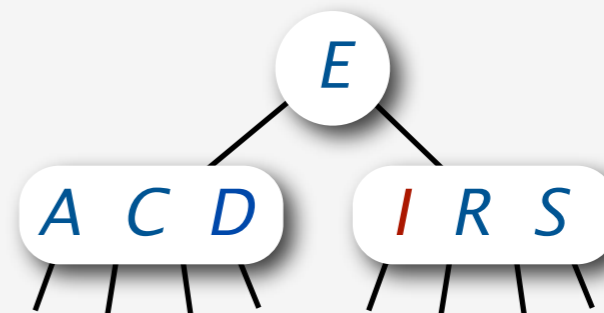
*insert C*



*insert D*

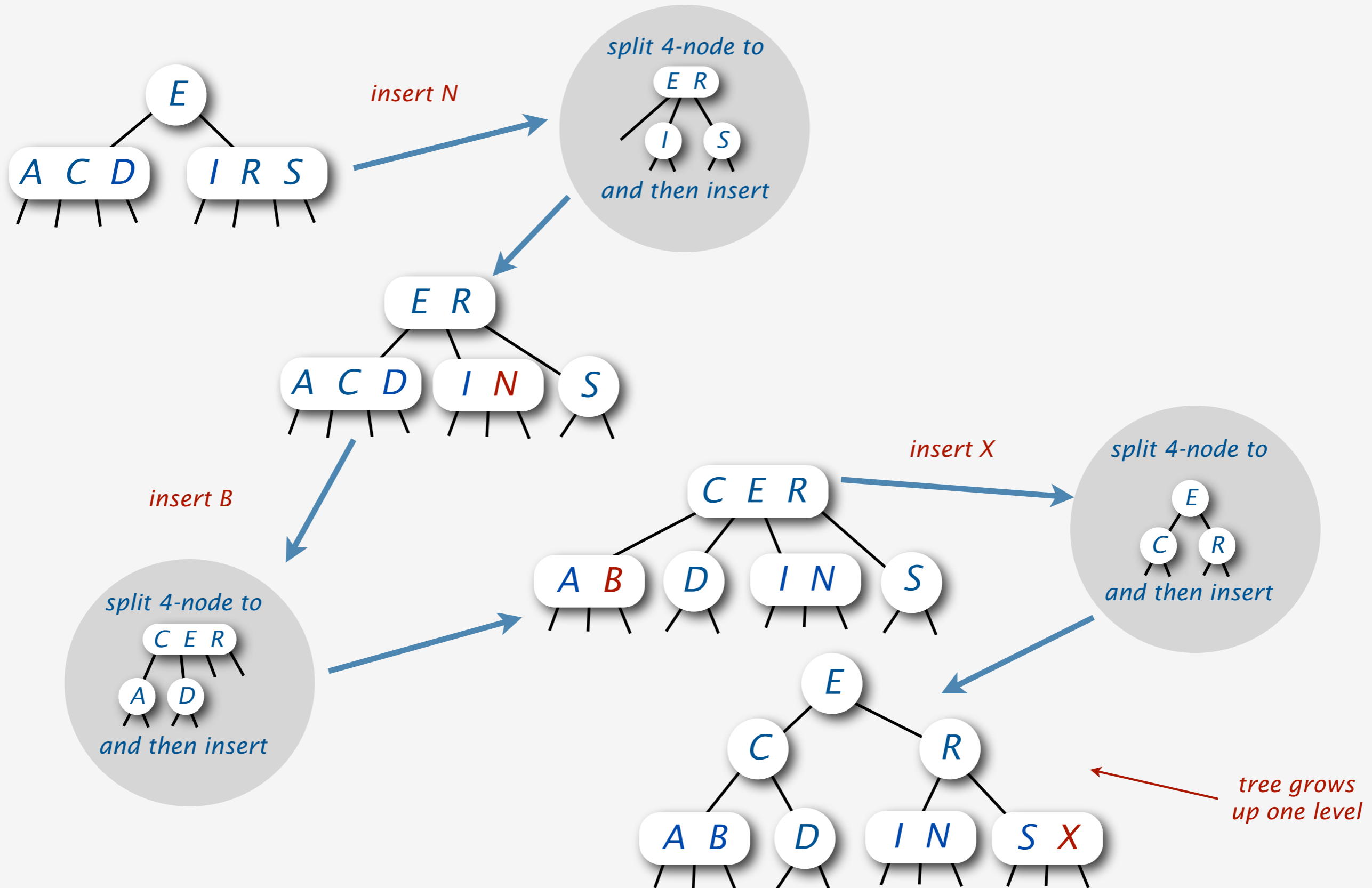


*insert I*



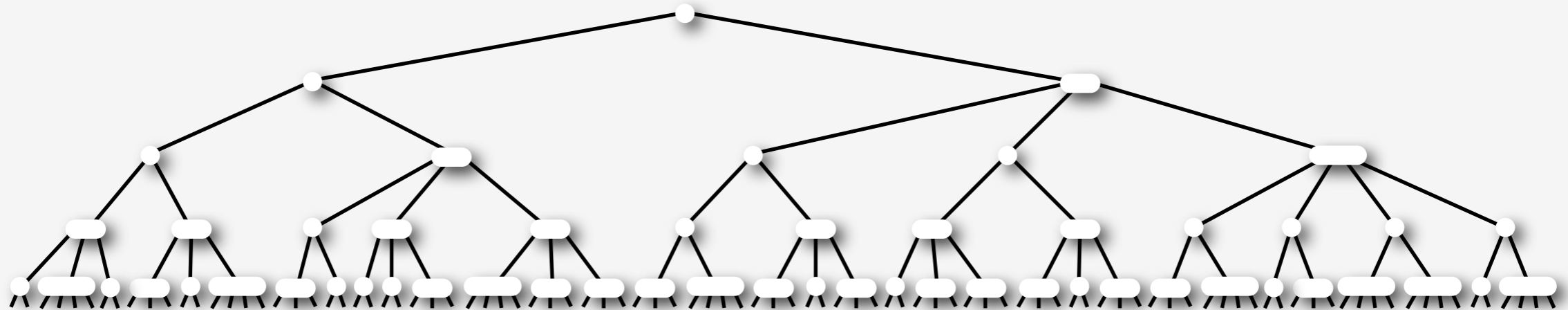
# Growth of a 2-3-4 tree (continued)

happens **upwards** from the bottom



# Balance in 2-3-4 trees

**Key property:** All paths from root to leaf are the same length



## Tree height.

- Worst case:  $\lg N$  [all 2-nodes]
- Best case:  $\log_4 N = 1/2 \lg N$  [all 4-nodes]
- Between 10 and 20 for 1 million nodes.
- Between 15 and 30 for 1 billion nodes.

Guaranteed logarithmic performance for both search and insert.

# Direct implementation of 2-3-4 trees

is complicated because of code complexity.

Maintaining multiple node types is cumbersome.

- Representation?
- Need multiple compares to move down in tree.
- Large number of cases for splitting.
- Need to convert 2-node to 3-node and 3-node to 4-node.

```
private void insert(Key key, Val val) fantasy  
{ code  
    Node x = root;  
    while (x.getTheCorrectChild(key) != null)  
    {  
        x = x.getTheCorrectChild(key);  
        if (x.is4Node()) x.split();  
    }  
    if (x.is2Node()) x.make3Node(key, val);  
    else if (x.is3Node()) x.make4Node(key, val);  
    return x;  
}
```

**Bottom line:** Could do it, but stay tuned for an easier way.

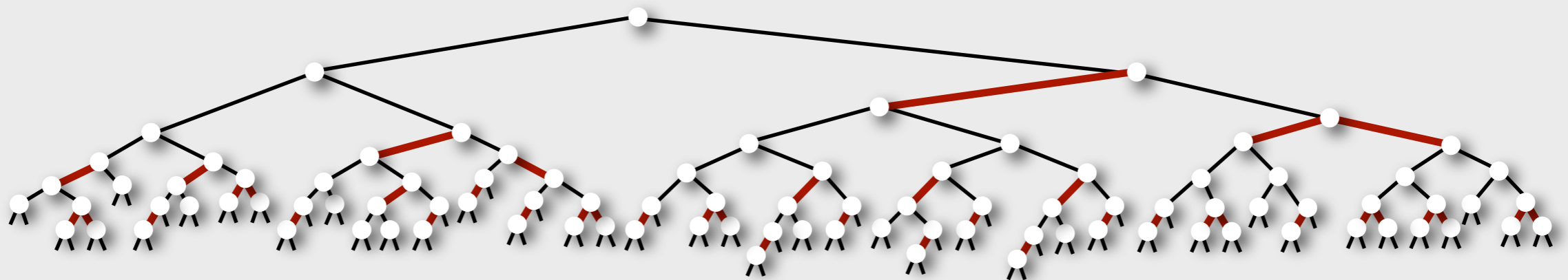
*Introduction*

*2-3-4 Trees*

***LLRB Trees***

*Deletion*

*Analysis*

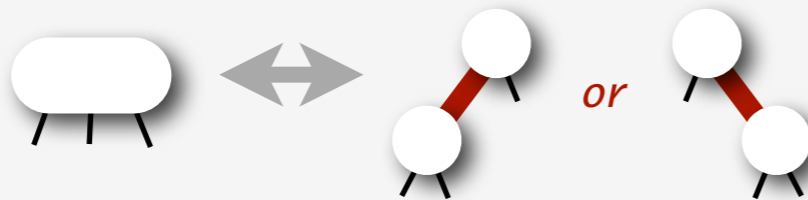




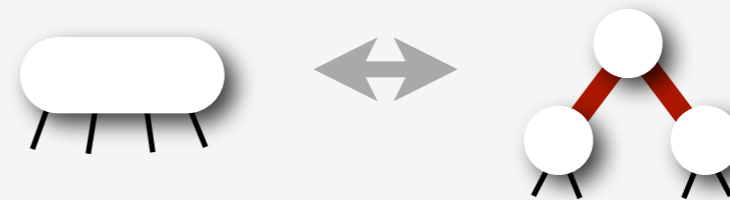
# Red-black trees (Guibas-Sedgwick, 1978)

1. Represent 2-3-4 tree as a BST.
2. Use "internal" **red** edges for 3- and 4- nodes.

3-node

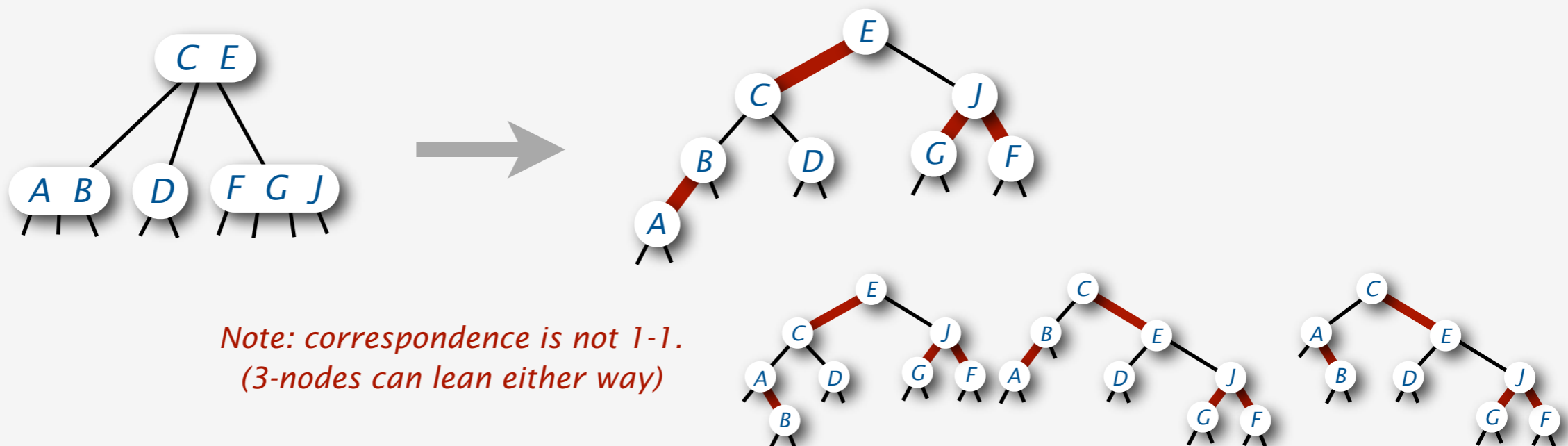


4-node



## Key Properties

- elementary BST search works
- easy to maintain a correspondence with 2-3-4 trees (and several other types of balanced trees)



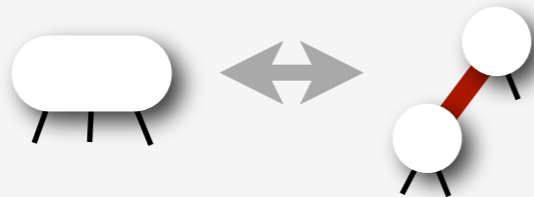
Many variants studied ( details omitted. )

**NEW VARIANT (this talk): Left-leaning red-black trees**

# Left-leaning red-black trees

1. Represent 2-3-4 tree as a BST.
2. Use "internal" red edges for 3- and 4- nodes.
3. Require that 3-nodes be left-leaning.

3-node

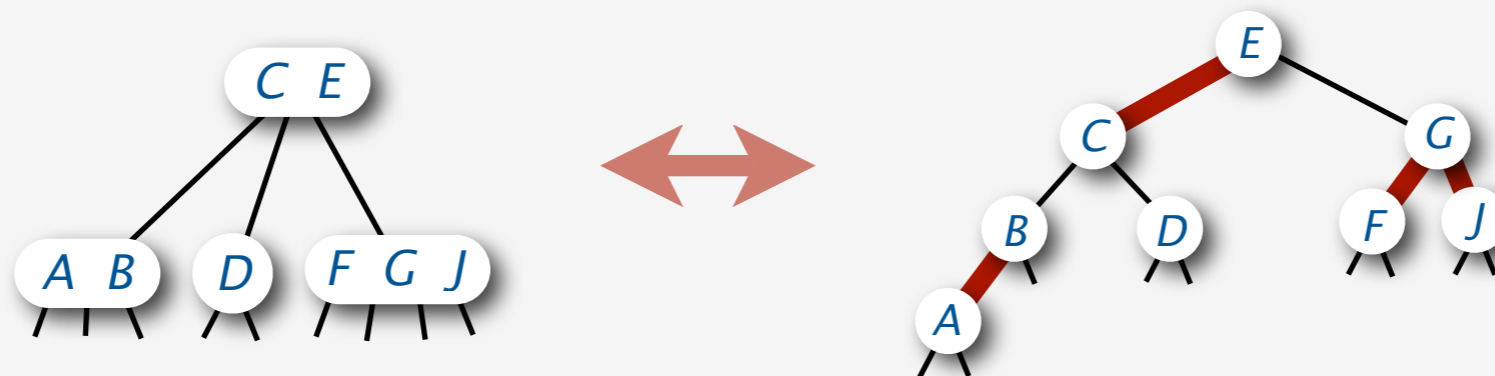


4-node



## Key Properties

- elementary BST search works
- easy-to-maintain **1-1** correspondence with 2-3-4 trees
- trees therefore have perfect black-link balance



# Left-leaning red-black trees

1. Represent 2-3-4 tree as a BST.
2. Use "internal" red edges for 3- and 4- nodes.
3. Require that 3-nodes be left-leaning.

3-node



4-node



## Disallowed

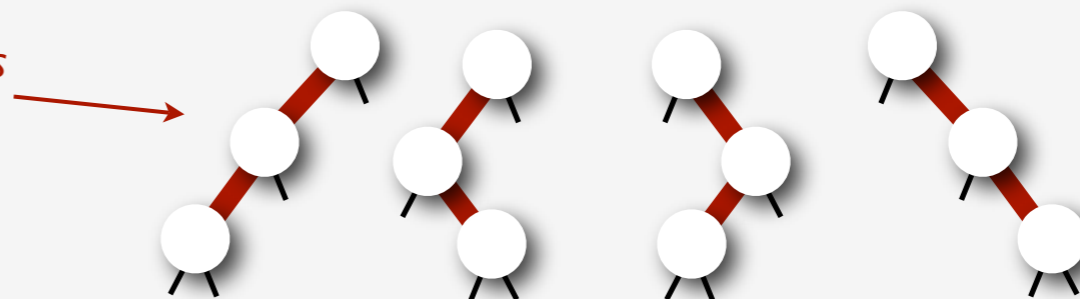
- right-leaning 3-node representation



*standard red-black trees  
allow this one*

- two reds in a row

*original version of left-leaning trees  
used this 4-node representation*



*single-rotation trees  
allow all of these*

# Java data structure for red-black trees

adds **one bit for color** to elementary BST data structure

```
public class BST<Key extends Comparable<Key>, Value>
{
    private static final boolean RED    = true;
    private static final boolean BLACK = false;
    private Node root;

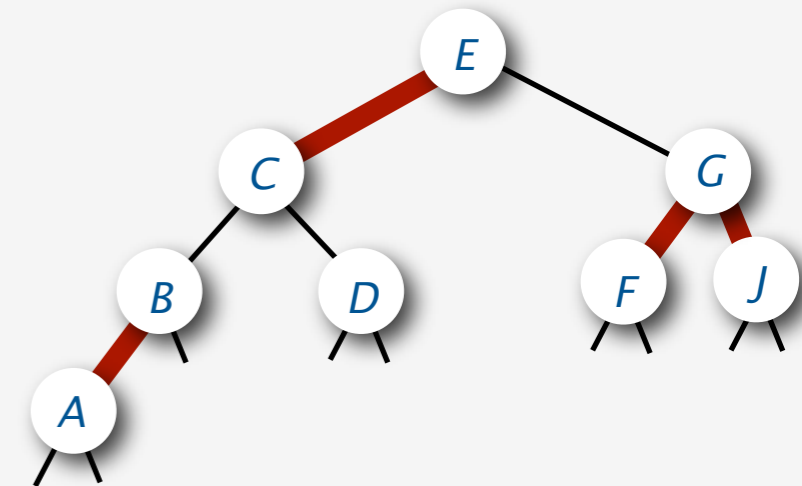
    private class Node
    {
        Key key;
        Value val;
        Node left, right;
        boolean color;
        Node(Key key, Value val, boolean color)
        {
            this.key    = key;
            this.val    = val;
            this.color  = color;
        }
    }

    public Value get(Key key)
    // Search method.

    public void put(Key key, Value val)
    // Insert method.
}
```

*constants*

*color of incoming link*



*helper method to test node color*

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

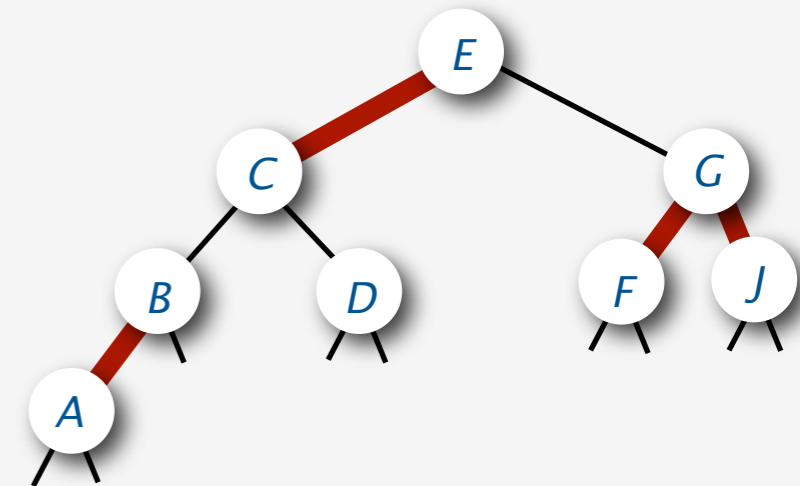
# Search implementation for red-black trees

is **the same** as for elementary BSTs

( but typically runs faster because of better balance in the tree).

## *BST (and LLRB tree) search implementation*

```
public Value get(Key key)
{
    Node x = root;
    while (x != null)
    {
        int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key);
        if (cmp == 0) return x.val;
        else if (cmp < 0) x = x.left;
        else if (cmp > 0) x = x.right;
    }
    return null;
}
```



**Important note:** Other BST methods also work

- order statistics
- iteration

## *Ex: Find the minimum key*

```
public Key min()
{
    Node x = root;
    while (x != null) x = x.left;
    if (x == null) return null;
    else return x.key;
}
```

# Insert implementation for LLRB trees

is best expressed in a **recursive** implementation

*Recursive insert() implementation for elementary BSTs*

```
private Node insert(Node h, Key key, Value val)
{
    if (h == null)
        return new Node(key, val);

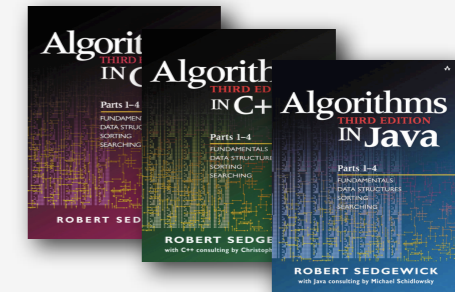
    int cmp = key.compareTo(h.key);
    if (cmp == 0) h.val = val; ← associative model
    else if (cmp < 0) (no duplicate keys)
        h.left = insert(h.left, key, val);
    else
        h.right = insert(h.right, key, val);

    return h;
}
```

*Nonrecursive*



*Recursive*



**Note:** effectively travels down the tree and then up the tree.

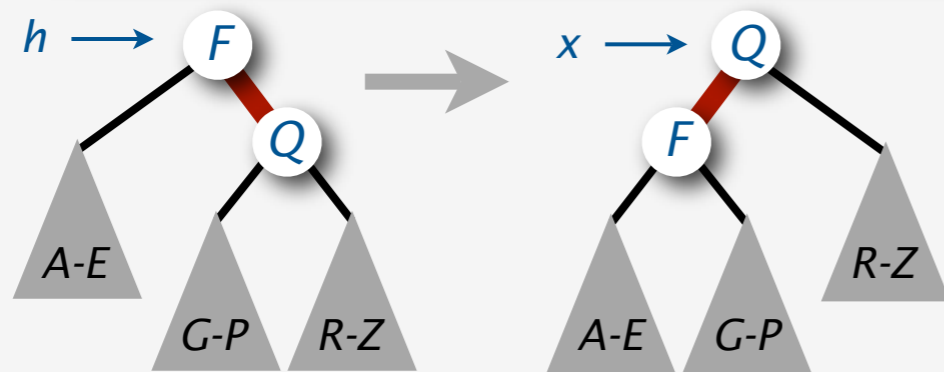
- simplifies correctness proof
- simplifies code for balanced BST implementations
- could remove recursion to get stack-based single-pass algorithm

# Balanced tree code

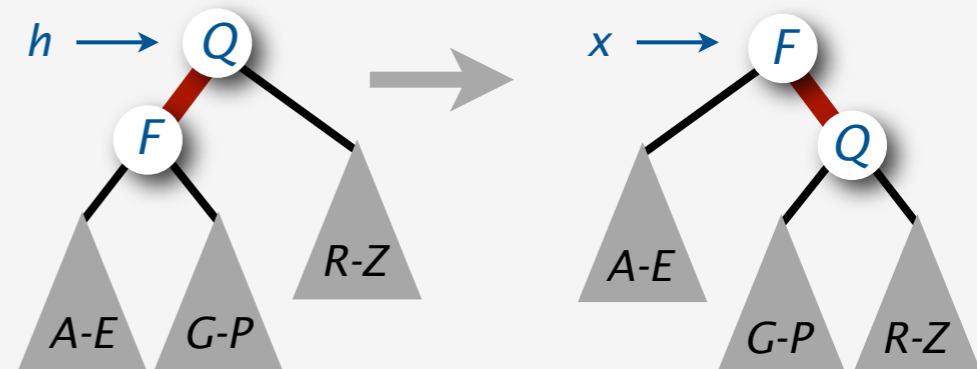
is based on local transformations known as **rotations**

In red-black trees, we only rotate red links  
(to maintain perfect black-link balance)

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



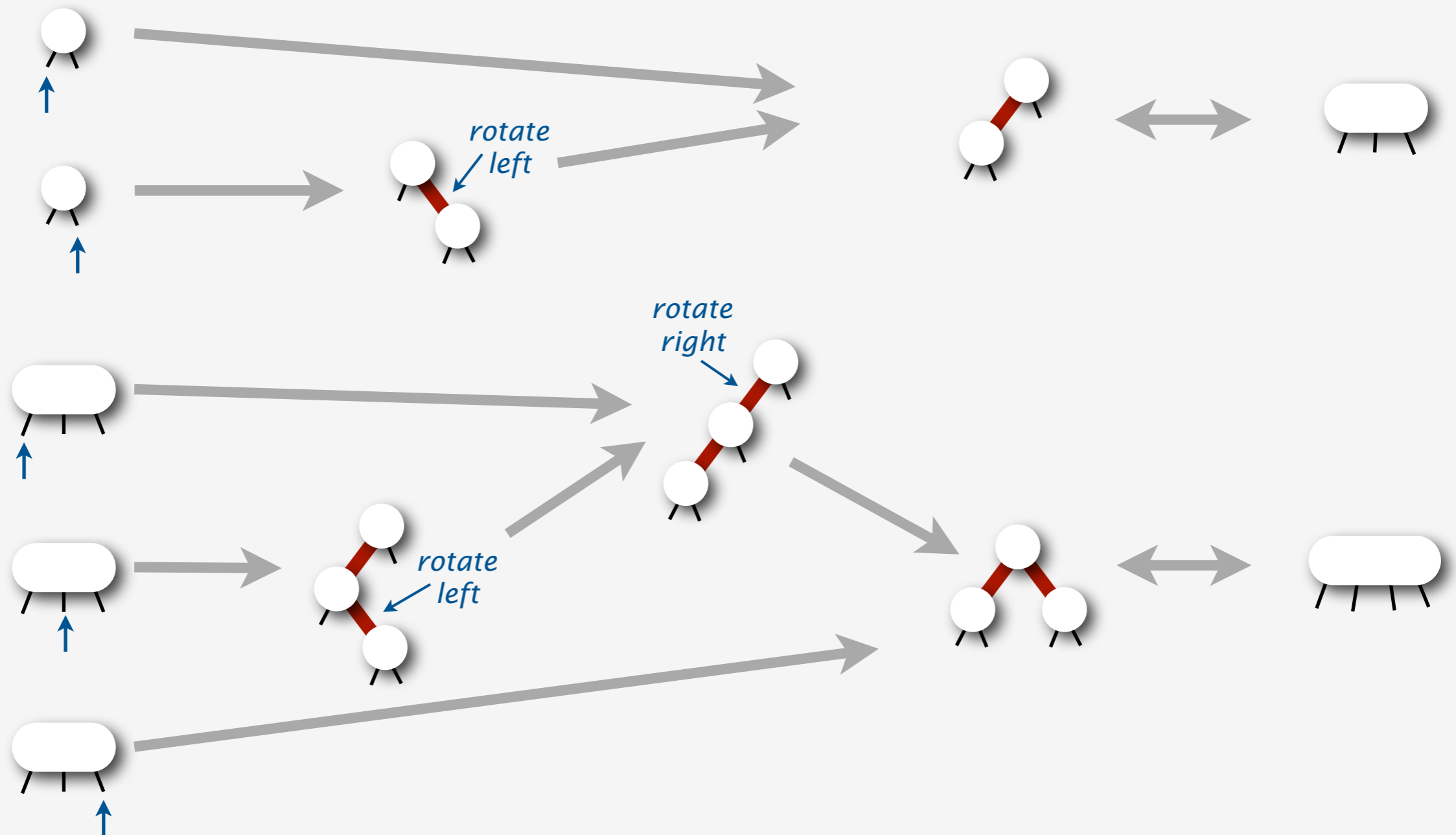
```
private Node rotateRight(Node h)
{
    Node x = h.left;
    h.left = x.right;
    x.right = h;
    x.color = x.right.color;
    x.right.color = RED;
    return x;
}
```



# Insert a new node at the bottom in a LLRB tree

**follows directly** from 1-1 correspondence with 2-3-4 trees

1. Add new node as usual, with **red** link to glue it to node above
2. **Rotate if necessary** to get correct 3-node or 4-node representation



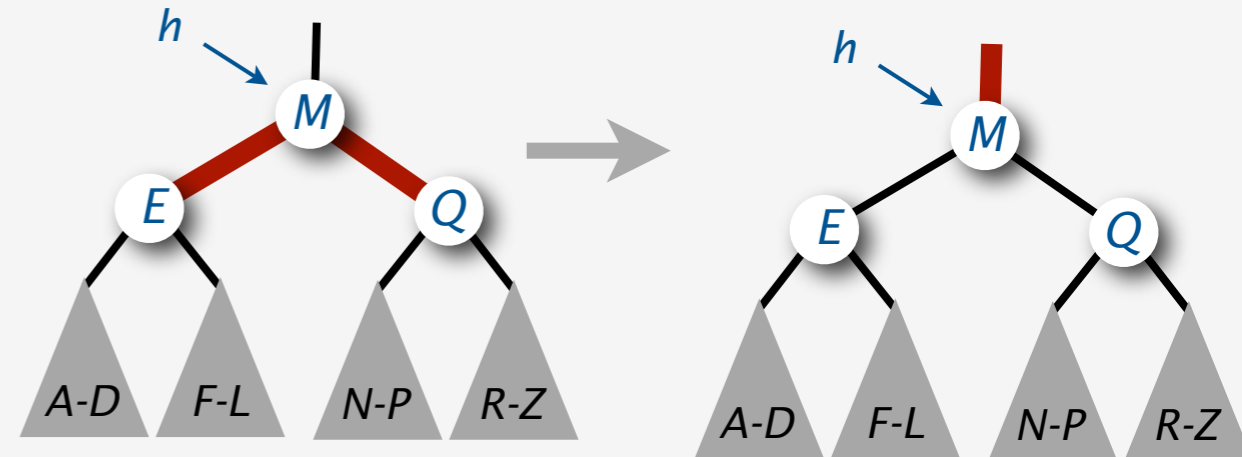


# Splitting a 4-node

is accomplished with a **color flip**

Flip the colors of the three nodes

```
private Node colorFlip(Node h)
{
    x.color      = !x.color;
    x.left.color = !x.left.color;
    x.right.color = !x.right.color;
    return x;
}
```



Key points:

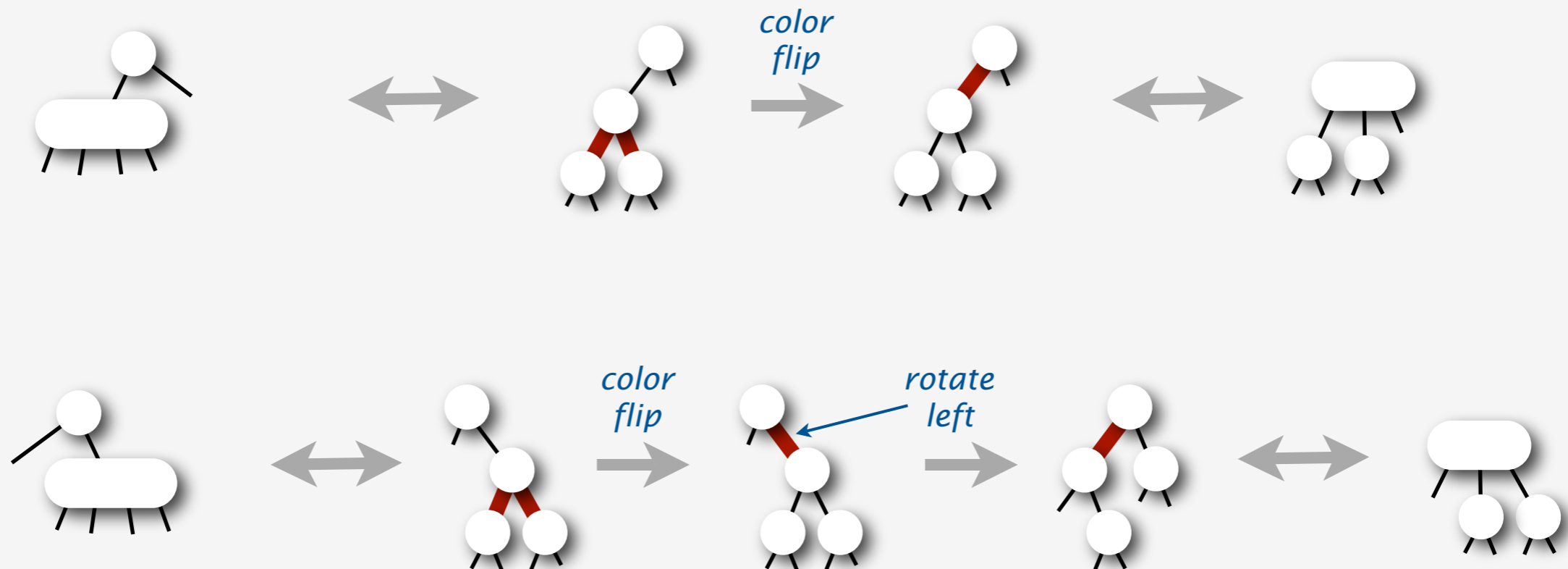
- preserves perfect black-link balance
- passes a **RED** link up the tree
- reduces problem to inserting (that link) into parent

# Splitting a 4-node in a LLRB tree

**follows directly** from 1-1 correspondence with 2-3-4 trees

1. Flip colors, which passes red link up one level
2. Rotate if necessary to get correct representation in parent  
(using **precisely the same transformations** as for insert at bottom)

*Parent is a 2-node: two cases*

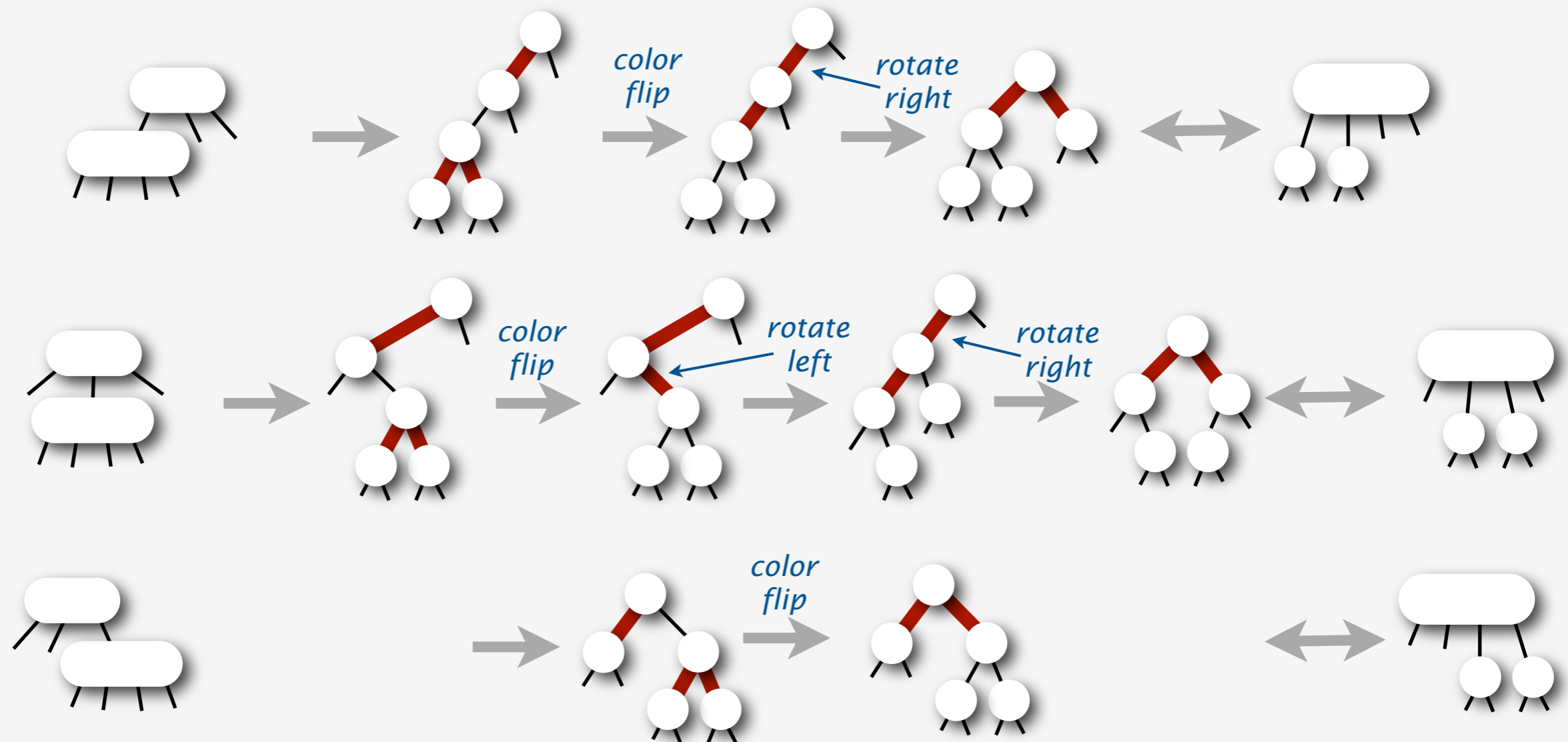


# Splitting a 4-node in a LLRB tree

**follows directly** from 1-1 correspondence with 2-3-4 trees

1. Flip colors, which passes red link up one level
2. Rotate if necessary to get correct representation in parent  
(using **precisely the same transformations** as for insert at bottom)

*Parent is a 3-node: three cases*

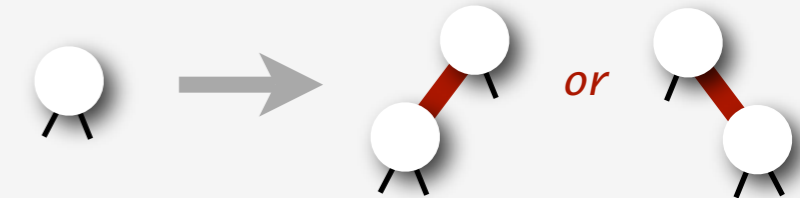


# Inserting and splitting nodes in LLRB trees

are easier when rotates are done on the way **up** the tree.

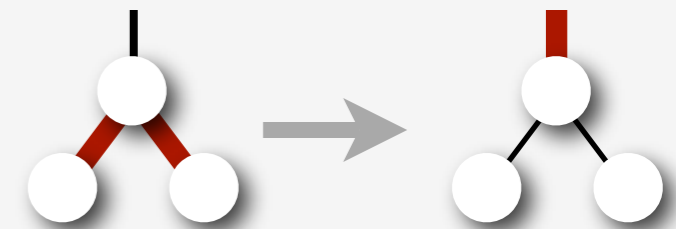
Search as usual

- if key found reset value, as usual
- if key not found insert new red node at the bottom
- might leave right-leaning red or two reds in a row higher up in the tree



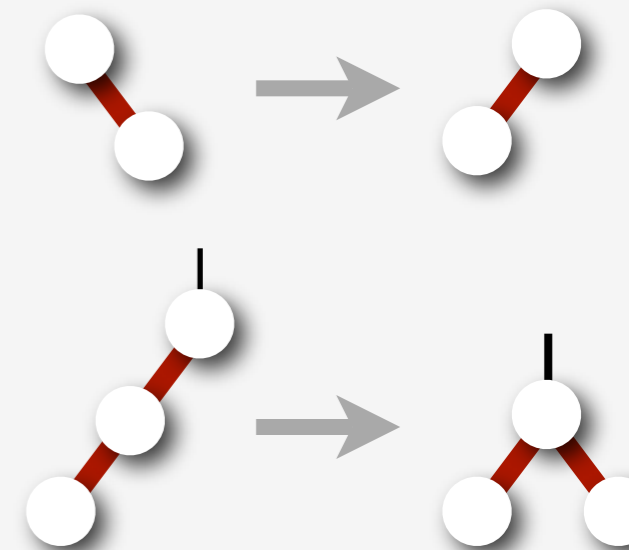
Split 4-nodes on the way down the tree.

- flip color
- might leave right-leaning red or two reds in a row higher up in the tree



**NEW TRICK: Do rotates on the way UP the tree.**

- left-rotate any right-leaning link on search path
- right-rotate top link if two reds in a row found
- trivial with recursion (do it after recursive calls)
- no corrections needed elsewhere



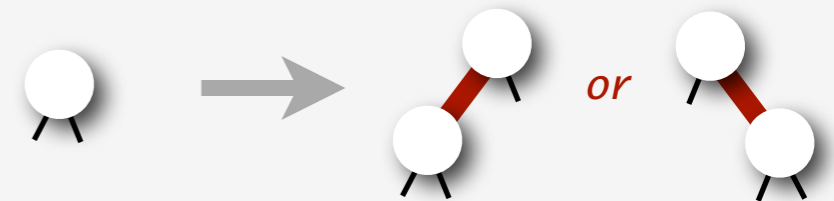
# Insert code for LLRB trees

is based on four simple operations.

## 1. Insert a new node at the bottom.

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

*could be  
right or left*



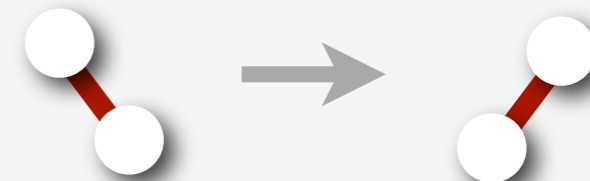
## 2. Split a 4-node.

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



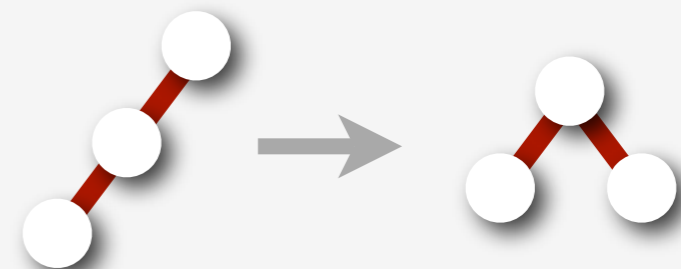
## 3. Enforce left-leaning condition.

```
if (isRed(h.right))
    h = rotateLeft(h);
```



## 4. Balance a 4-node.

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



# Insert implementation for LLRB trees

is a few lines of code added to elementary BST insert

```
private Node insert(Node h, Key key, Value val)
{
    if (h == null)
        return new Node(key, val, RED);

    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right))
        colorFlip(h);

    int cmp = key.compareTo(h.key);
    if (cmp == 0) h.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
        h.left = insert(h.left, key, val);
    else
        h.right = insert(h.right, key, val);

    if (isRed(h.right))
        h = rotateLeft(h);

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

    return h;
}
```

← insert at the bottom

← split 4-nodes on the way down

← standard BST insert code

← fix right-leaning reds on the way up

← fix two reds in a row on the way up

# LLRB (top-down 2-3-4) insert movie

---

*Introduction*  
*2-3-4 Trees*  
*LLRB Trees*  
*Deletion*  
*Analysis*



# A surprise

Q. What happens if we move color flip to the end?

```
private Node insert(Node h, Key key, Value val)
{
    if (h == null)
        return new Node(key, val, RED);

    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right))
        colorFlip(h);

    int cmp = key.compareTo(h.key);
    if (cmp == 0) h.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
        h.left = insert(h.left, key, val);
    else
        h.right = insert(h.right, key, val);

    if (isRed(h.right))
        h = rotateLeft(h);

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

    return h;
}
```



# A surprise

Q. What happens if we move color flip to the end?

```
private Node insert(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.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
        h.left = insert(h.left, key, val);
    else
        h.right = insert(h.right, key, val);

    if (isRed(h.right))
        h = rotateLeft(h);

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

    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right))
        colorFlip(h);

    return h;
}
```

# A surprise

Q. What happens if we move color flip to the end?

A. It becomes an implementation of 2-3 trees (!)

```
private Node insert(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.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
        h.left = insert(h.left, key, val);
    else
        h.right = insert(h.right, key, val);

    if (isRed(h.right))
        h = rotateLeft(h);

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

    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right))
        colorFlip(h);

    return h;
}
```

*Insert in 2-3 tree:*

*attach new node  
with red link*

*2-node → 3-node*

*3-node → 4-node*

*split 4-node*

*pass red link up to  
parent and repeat*

*no 4-nodes left!*

# Insert implementation for 2-3 trees (!)

is a few lines of code added to elementary BST insert

```
private Node insert(Node h, Key key, Value val)
{
    if (h == null)
        return new Node(key, val, RED);
    ← insert at the bottom

    int cmp = key.compareTo(h.key);
    if (cmp == 0) h.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
        h.left = insert(h.left, key, val);
    ← standard BST insert code
    else
        h.right = insert(h.right, key, val);

    if (isRed(h.right))
        h = rotateLeft(h);
    ← fix right-leaning reds on the way up

    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.left.left))
        h = rotateRight(h);
    ← fix two reds in a row on the way up

    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right))
        colorFlip(h);
    ← split 4-nodes on the way up

    return h;
}
```

# LLRB (bottom-up 2-3) insert movie

---

*Introduction*  
*2-3-4 Trees*  
*LLRB Trees*  
*Deletion*  
*Analysis*



# Why revisit red-black trees?

Introduction  
2-3-4 Trees  
LLRB Trees  
Deletion  
Analysis

## Which do you prefer?

```
private Node insert(Node x, Key key, Value val, boolean sw)
{
    if (x == null)
        return new Node(key, value, RED);
    int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key);

    if (isRed(x.left) && isRed(x.right))
    {
        x.color = RED;
        x.left.color = BLACK;
        x.right.color = BLACK;
    }
    if (cmp == 0) x.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
    {
        x.left = insert(x.left, key, val, false);
        if (isRed(x) && isRed(x.left) && sw)
            x = rotR(x);
        if (isRed(x.left) && isRed(x.left.left))
        {
            x = rotR(x);
            x.color = BLACK; x.right.color = RED;
        }
    }
    else // if (cmp > 0)
    {
        x.right = insert(x.right, key, val, true);
        if (isRed(h) && isRed(x.right) && !sw)
            x = rotL(x);
        if (isRed(h.right) && isRed(h.right.right))
        {
            x = rotL(x);
            x.color = BLACK; x.left.color = RED;
        }
    }
    return x;
}
```



```
private Node insert(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.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
        h.left = insert(h.left, key, val);
    else
        h.right = insert(h.right, key, val);

    if (isRed(h.right))
        h = rotateLeft(h);
    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.left.left))
        h = rotateRight(h);
    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right))
        colorFlip(h);

    return h;
}
```

**Left-Leaning  
Red-Black Trees**

Robert Sedgwick  
Princeton University

↑  
*straightforward*

←  
*very  
tricky*

# Why revisit red-black trees?

- Introduction
- 2-3-4 Trees
- LLRB Trees
- Deletion
- Analysis

Take your pick:

TreeMap.java

Adapted from CLR by experienced professional programmers (2004)



150

wrong scale!

## Why revisit red-black trees?

Which do you prefer?

```
private Node insert(Node x, Key key, Value val, boolean sw)
{
    if (x == null)
        return new Node(key, value, RED);
    int cmp = key.compareTo(x.key);
    if (isRed(x.left) && isRed(x.right))
    {
        x.color = RED;
        x.left.color = BLACK;
        x.right.color = BLACK;
    }
    if (cmp == 0) x.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
    {
        x.left = insert(x.left, key, val, false);
        if (isRed(x) && isRed(x.left) && sw)
            x = rotR(x);
        if (isRed(x.left) && isRed(x.left.left))
        {
            x = rotR(x);
            x.color = BLACK; x.right.color = RED;
        }
    }
    else // if (cmp > 0)
    {
        x.right = insert(x.right, key, val, true);
        if (isRed(h) && isRed(x.right) && !sw)
            x = rotL(x);
        if (isRed(h.right) && isRed(h.right.right))
        {
            x = rotL(x);
            x.color = BLACK; x.left.color = RED;
        }
    }
    return x;
}
```



```
private Node insert(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.val = val;
    else if (cmp < 0)
        h.left = insert(h.left, key, val);
    else
        h.right = insert(h.right, key, val);
    if (isRed(h.right))
        h = rotateLeft(h);
    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.left.left))
        h = rotateRight(h);
    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right))
        colorFlip(h);
    return h;
}
```

- Introduction
- 2-3-4 Trees
- Red-Black Trees
- Left-Leaning RB Trees
- Deletion

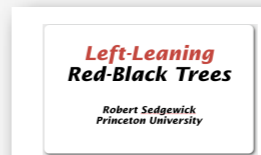


straightforward

very tricky



46



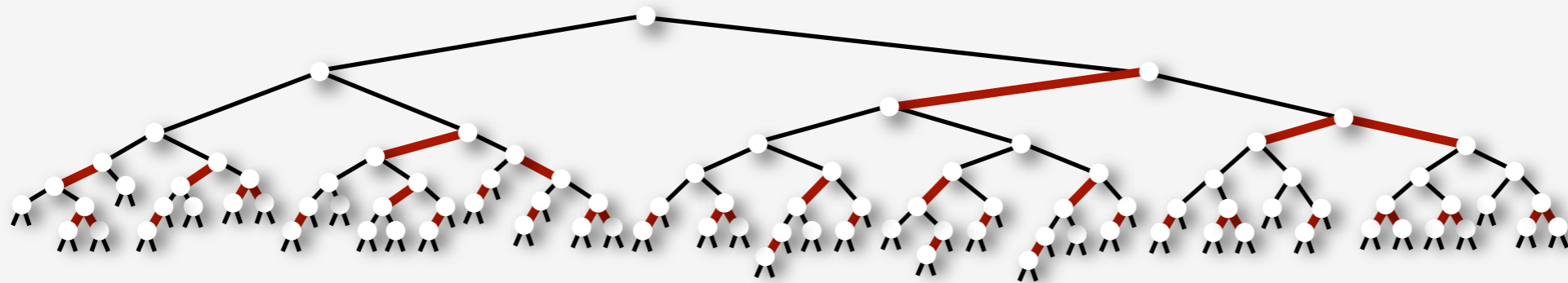
33

← lines of code for insert (lower is better!)

# Why revisit red-black trees?

LLRB implementation is **far simpler** than previous attempts.

- left-leaning restriction reduces number of cases
- recursion gives two (easy) chances to fix each node
- take your pick: **top-down 2-3-4** or bottom-up 2-3



Improves widely used implementations

- AVL, 2-3, and 2-3-4 trees
- red-black trees

Same ideas simplify implementation of other operations

- delete min, max
- arbitrary delete

2008

1978

1972





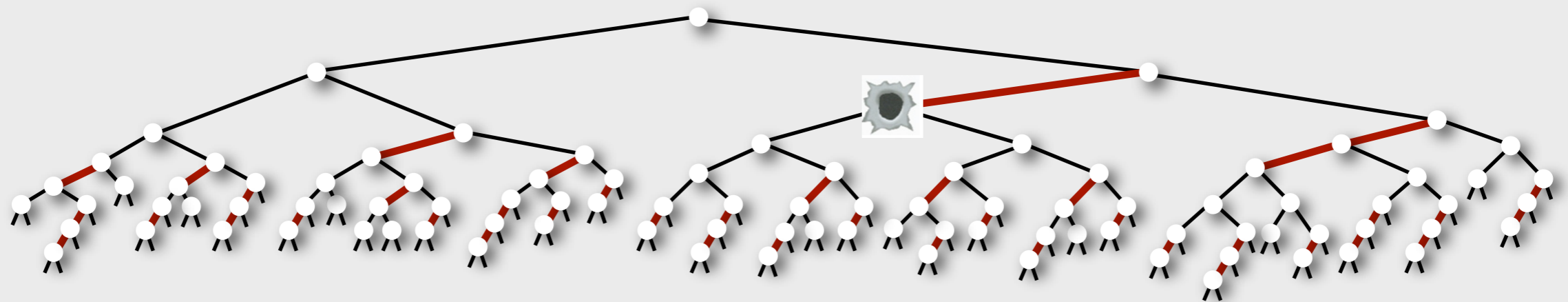
*Introduction*

*2-3-4 Trees*

*LLRB Trees*

**Deletion**

*Analysis*



# Lessons learned from insert() implementation

also simplify delete() implementations

1. Color flips and rotations preserve perfect black-link balance.
2. Fix right-leaning reds and eliminate 4-nodes on the way up.

```
private Node fixUp(Node h)
{
    if (isRed(h.right))
        h = rotateLeft(h);
    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.left.left))
        h = rotateRight(h);
    if (isRed(h.left) && isRed(h.right))
        colorFlip(h);
    return h;
}
```

← rotate-left right-leaning reds

← rotate-right red-red pairs

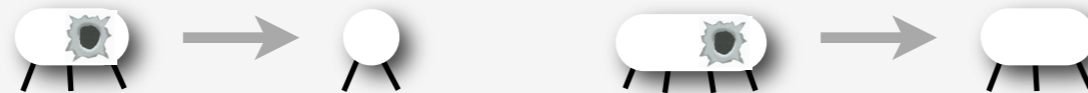
← split 4-nodes

Delete strategy (works for 2-3 and 2-3-4 trees)

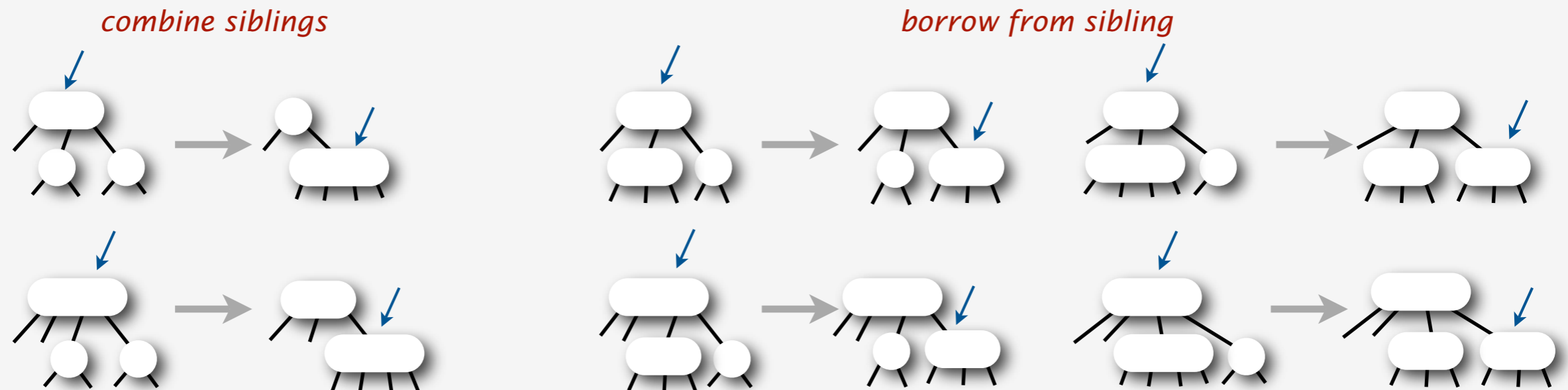
- invariant: **current node is not a 2-node**
- introduce 4-nodes if necessary
- remove key from bottom
- eliminate 4-nodes on the way up

# Warmup 1: delete the maximum

1. Search down the right spine of the tree.
2. If search ends in a 3-node or 4-node: just remove it.



3. Removing a 2-node would destroy balance
  - transform tree on the way down the search path
  - Invariant: **current node is not a 2-node**



**Note:** LLRB representation reduces number of cases (as for insert)

# Warmup 1: delete the maximum

by carrying a red link **down** the right spine of the tree.

Invariant: either **h** or **h.right** is **RED**

Implication: deletion easy at bottom



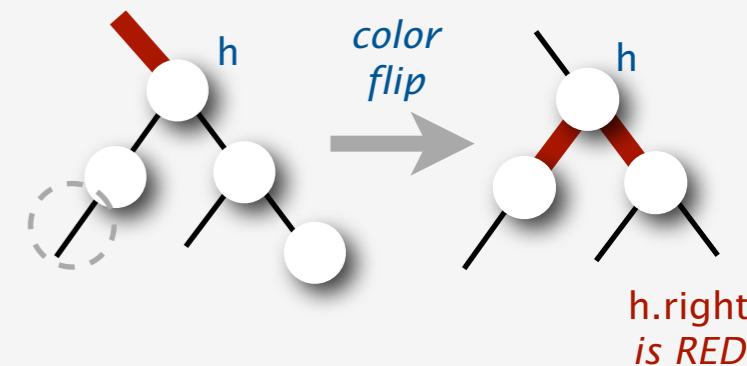
1. Rotate red links to the right



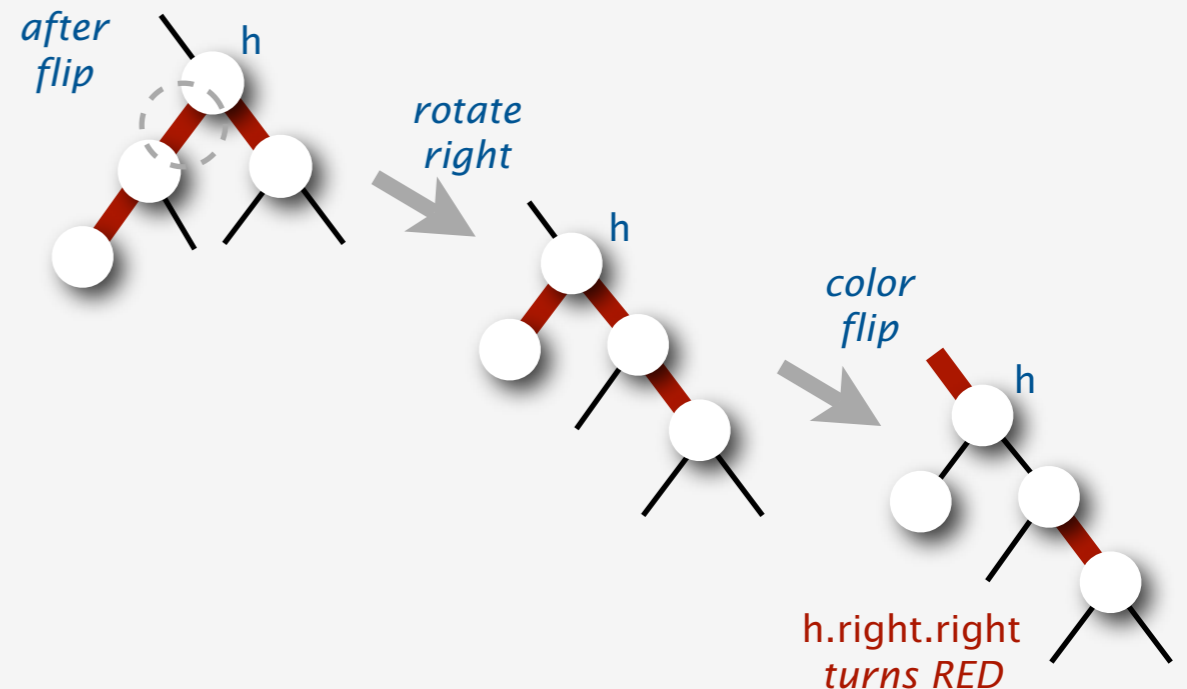
2. Borrow from sibling if necessary

- when **h.right** and **h.right.left** are both BLACK
- Two cases, depending on color of **h.left.left**

Easy case: **h.left.left** is BLACK



Harder case: **h.left.left** is RED



```
private Node moveRedRight(Node h)
{
    colorFlip(h);
    if (isRed(h.left.left))
    {
        h = rotateRight(h);
        colorFlip(h);
    }
    return h;
}
```

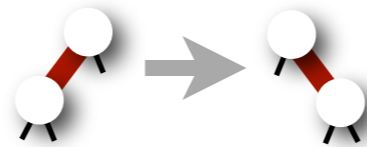
# deleteMax() implementation for LLRB trees

is otherwise **a few lines of code**

```
public void deleteMax()  
{  
    root = deleteMax(root);  
    root.color = BLACK;  
}
```

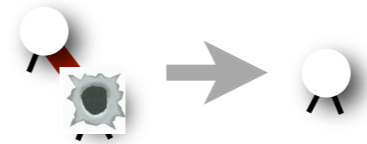
```
private Node deleteMax(Node h)  
{
```

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



*lean 3-nodes to the right*

```
    if (h.right == null)  
        return null;
```



*remove node on bottom level  
(h must be RED by invariant)*

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

*borrow from sibling if necessary*

```
    h.left = deleteMax(h.left);
```

*move down one level*

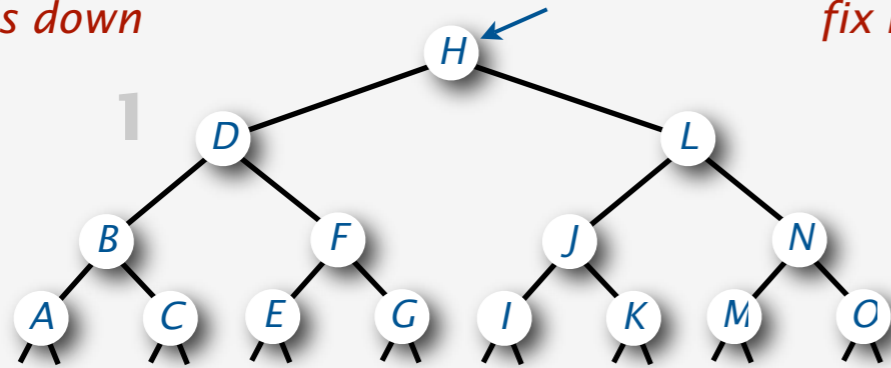
```
    return fixUp(h);
```

*fix right-leaning red links  
and eliminate 4-nodes  
on the way up*

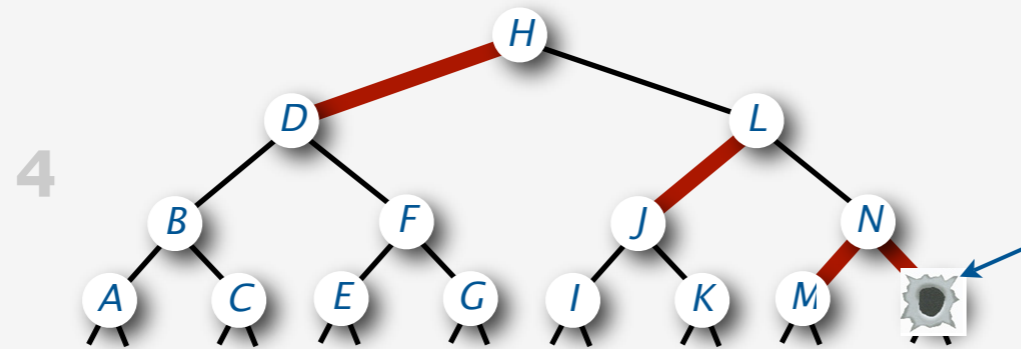
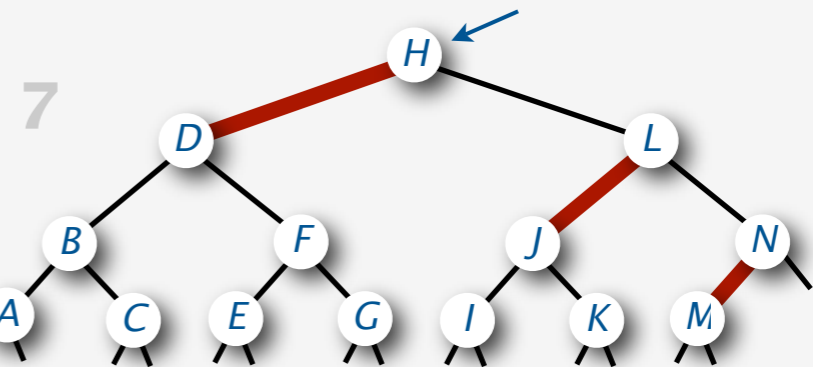
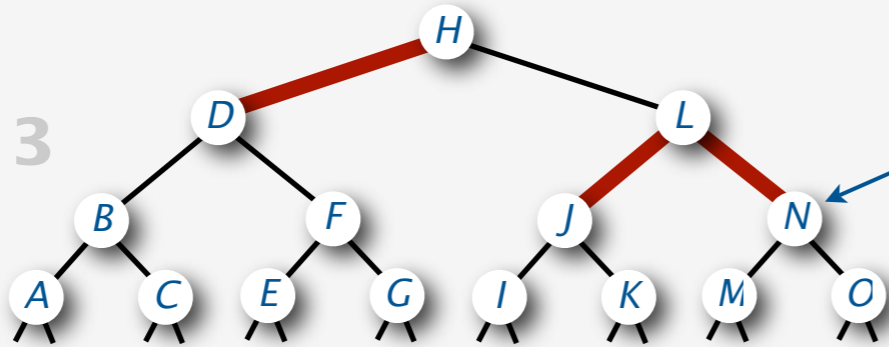
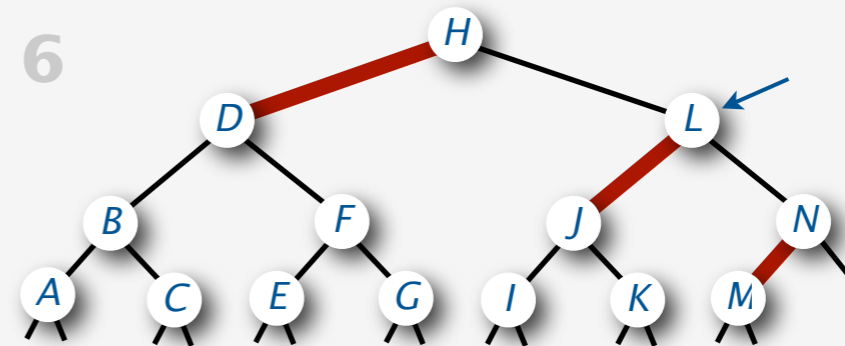
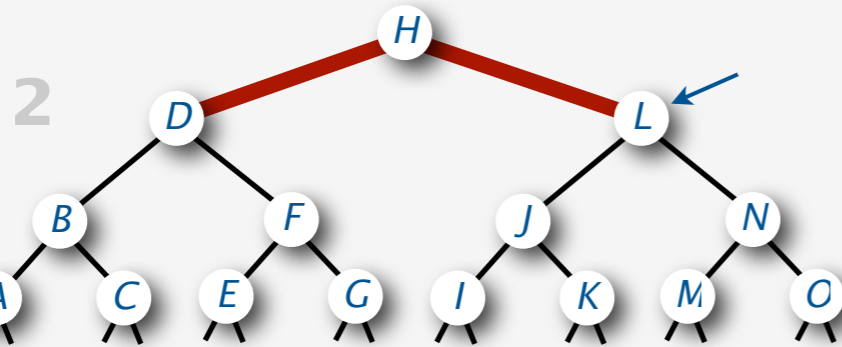
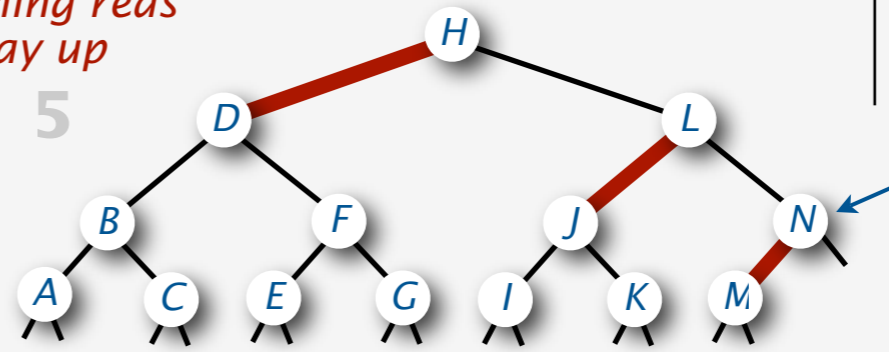
```
}
```

# deleteMax() example 1

*push reds down*

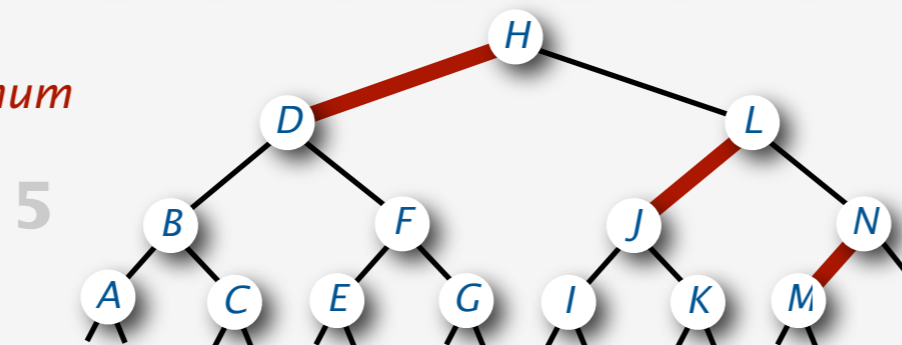


*fix right-leaning reds on the way up*



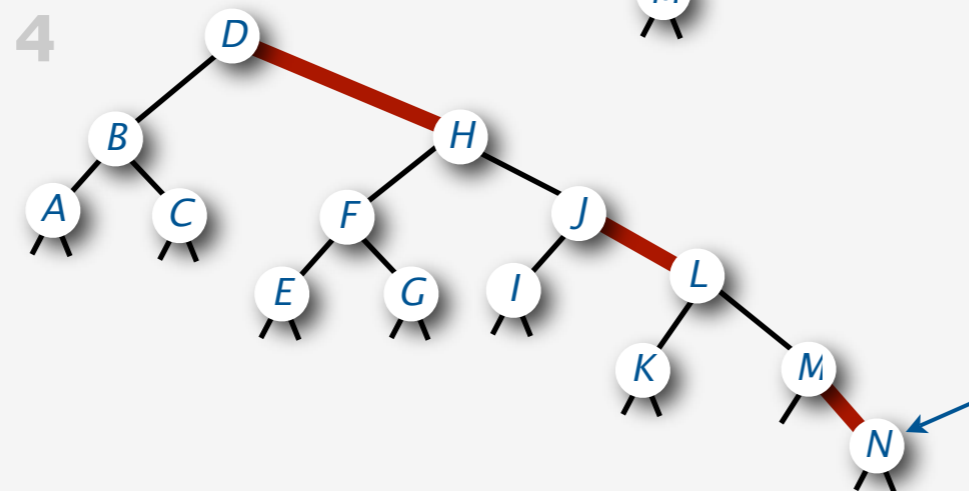
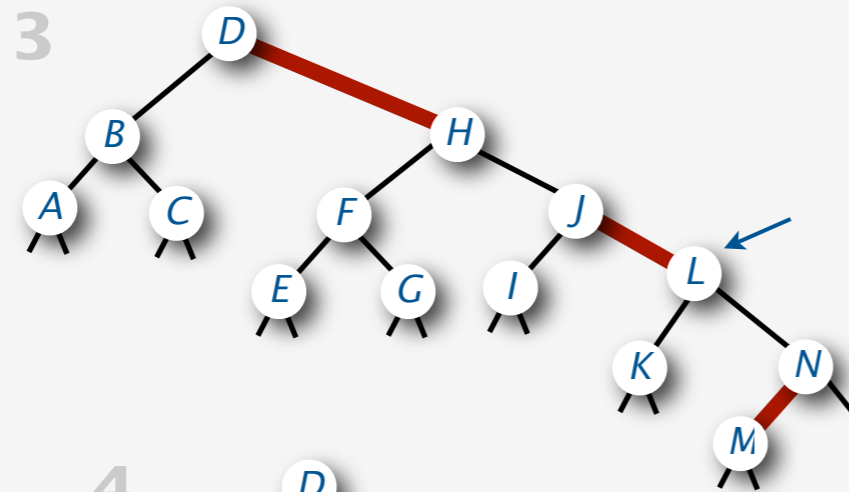
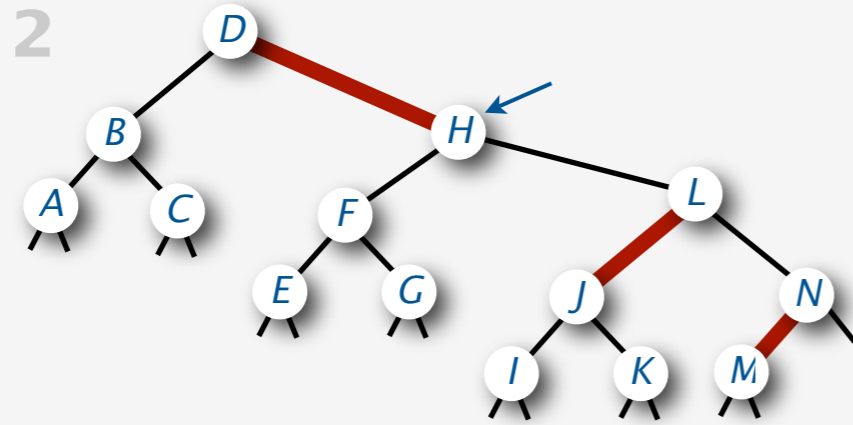
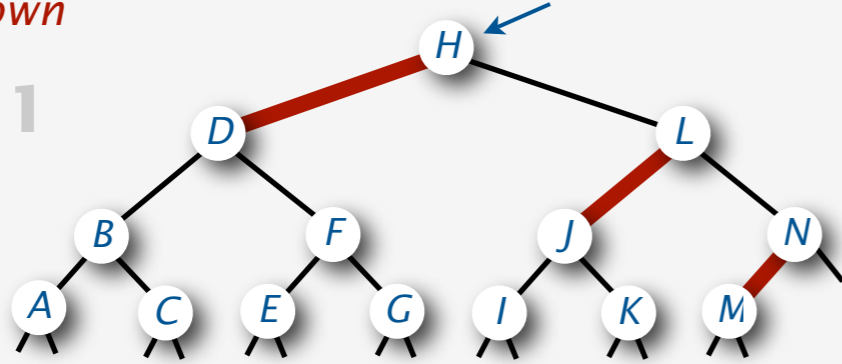
*(nothing to fix!)*

*remove maximum*

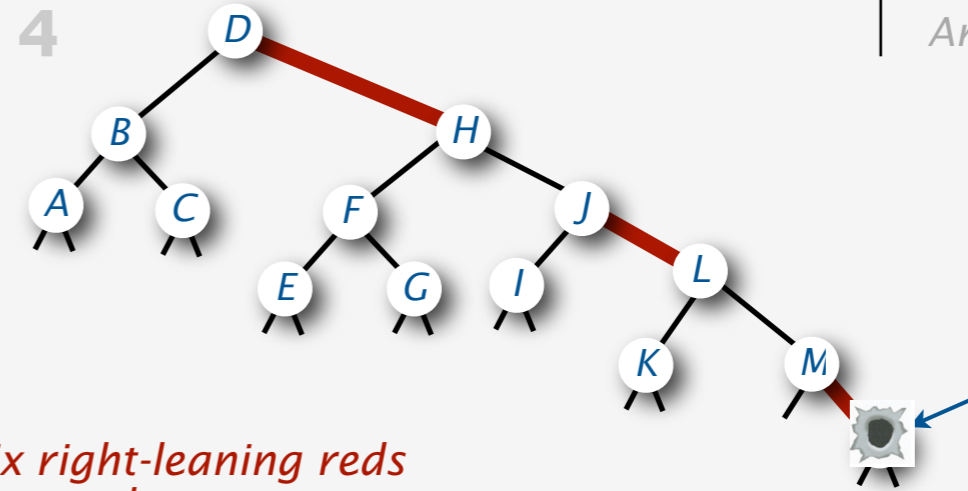


# deleteMax() example 2

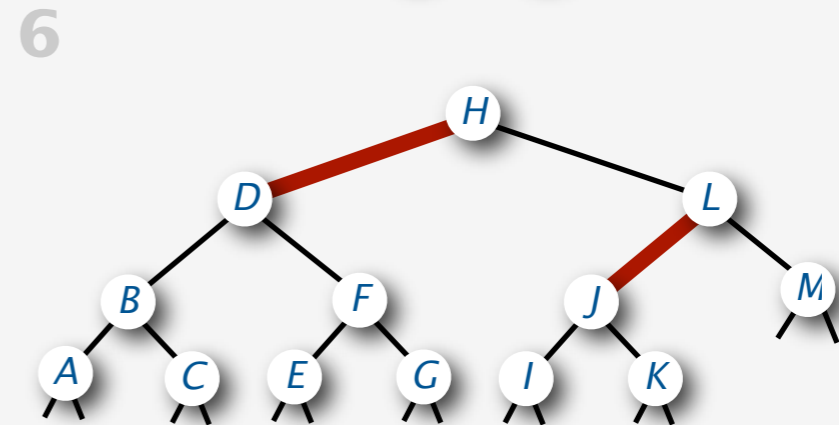
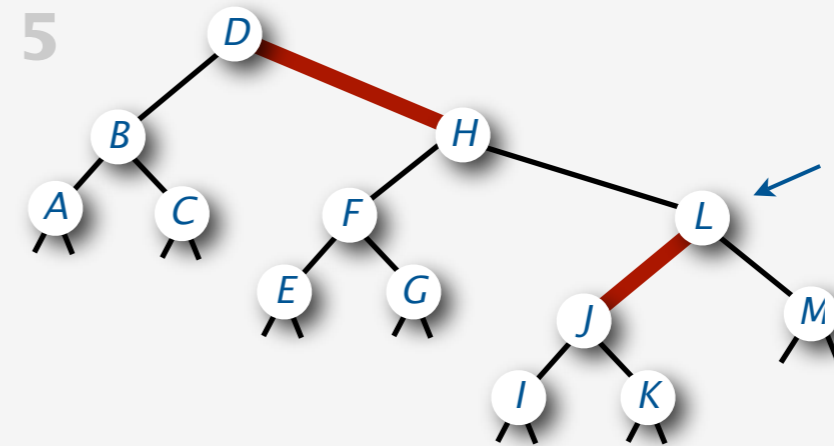
*push reds down*



*remove maximum*



*fix right-leaning reds on the way up*



# LLRB deleteMax() movie

---

*Introduction*  
*2-3-4 Trees*  
*LLRB Trees*  
*Deletion*  
*Analysis*



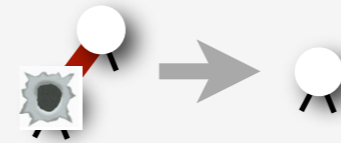


# Warmup 2: delete the minimum

is similar but slightly different (since trees lean left).

Invariant: either **h** or **h.left** is **RED**

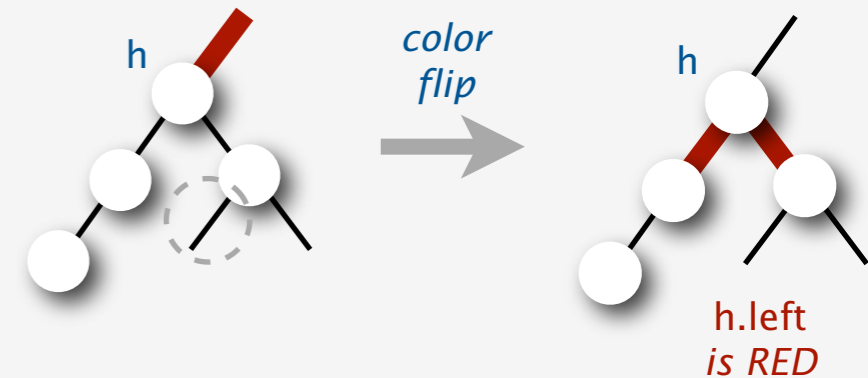
Implication: deletion easy at bottom



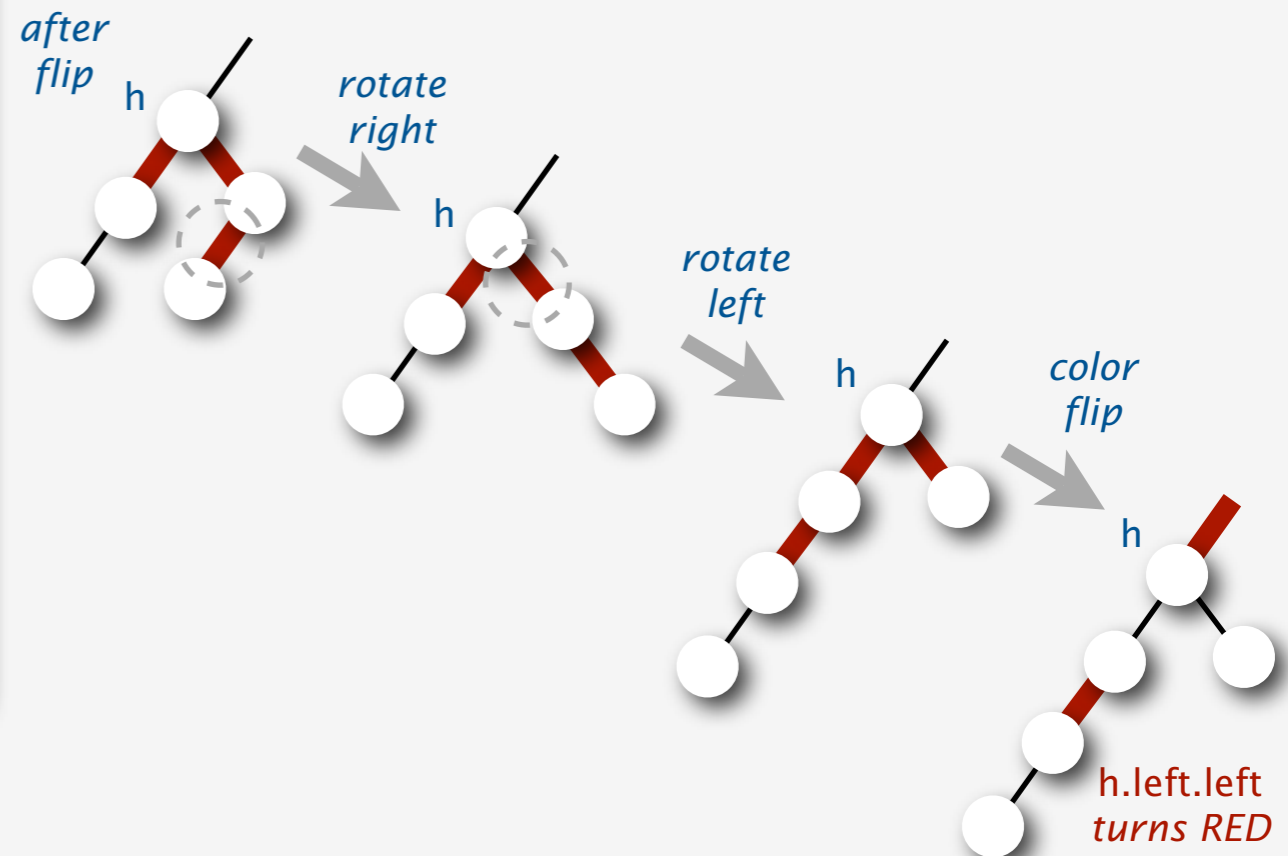
Borrow from sibling

- if **h.left** and **h.left.left** are both BLACK
- two cases, depending on color of **h.right.left**

Easy case: **h.right.left** is BLACK



Harder case: **h.right.left** is RED



```
private Node moveRedLeft(Node h)
{
    colorFlip(h);
    if (isRed(h.right.left))
    {
        h.right = rotateRight(h.right);
        h = rotateLeft(h);
        colorFlip(h);
    }
    return h;
}
```

# deleteMin() implementation for LLRB trees

is a few lines of code

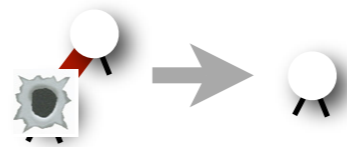
```
public void deleteMin()
{
    root = deleteMin(root);
    root.color = BLACK;
}

private Node deleteMin(Node h)
{
    if (h.left == null)
        return null;

    if (!isRed(h.left) && !isRed(h.left.left))
        h = moveRedLeft(h);

    h.left = deleteMin(h.left);

    return fixUp(h);
}
```



*remove node on bottom level  
(h must be RED by invariant)*

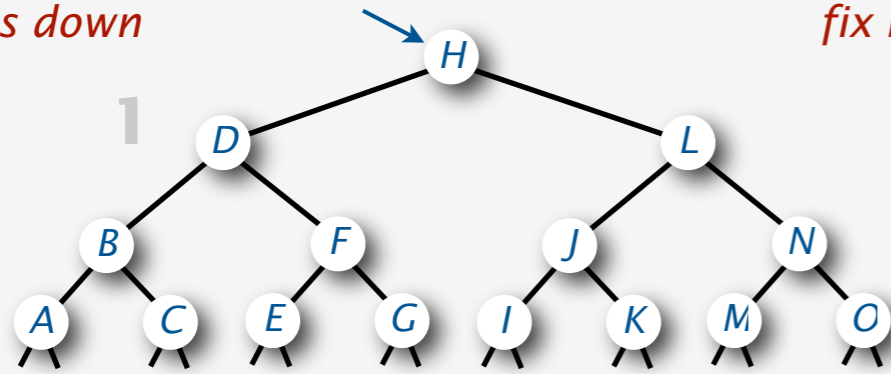
*push red link down if necessary*

*move down one level*

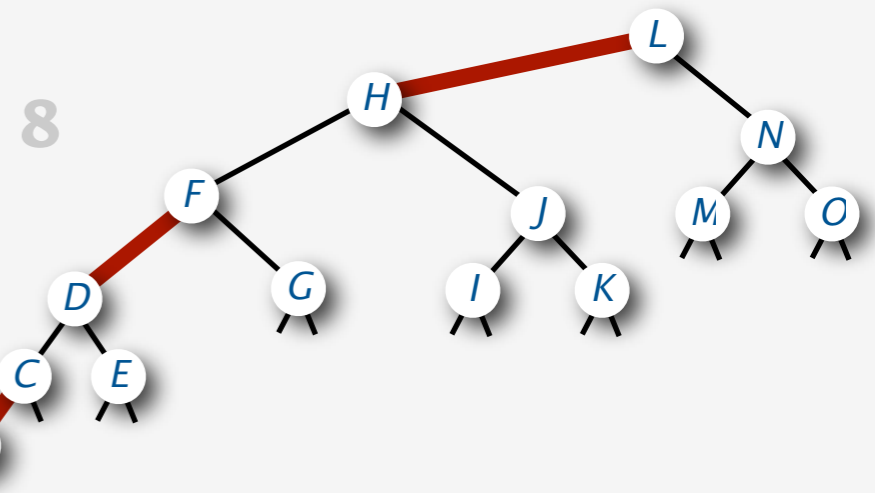
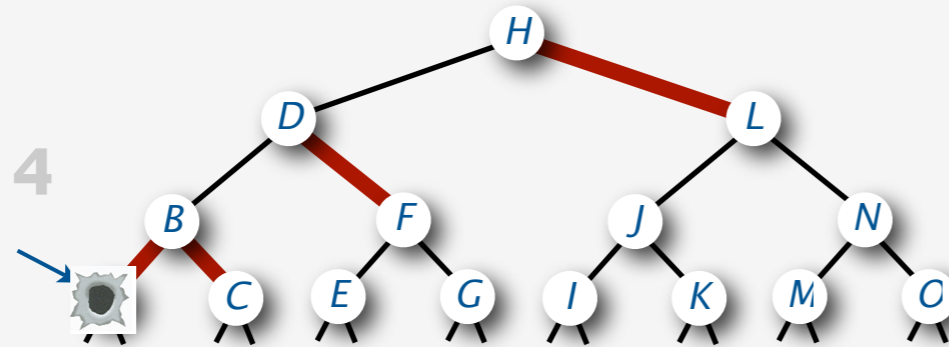
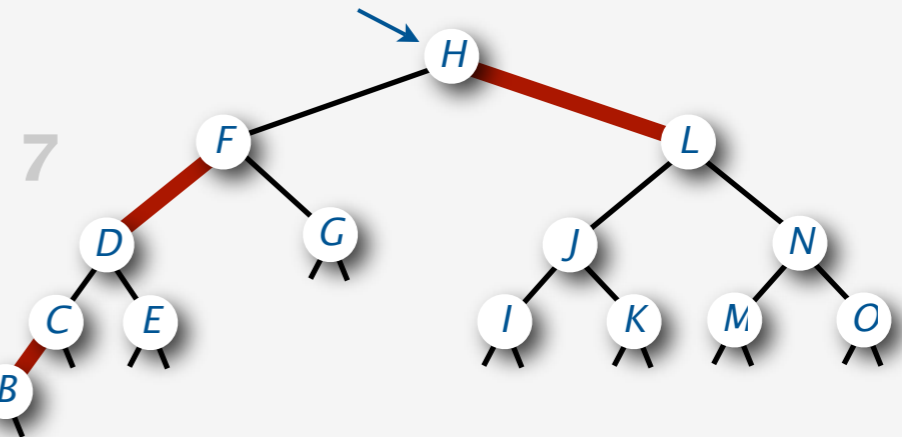
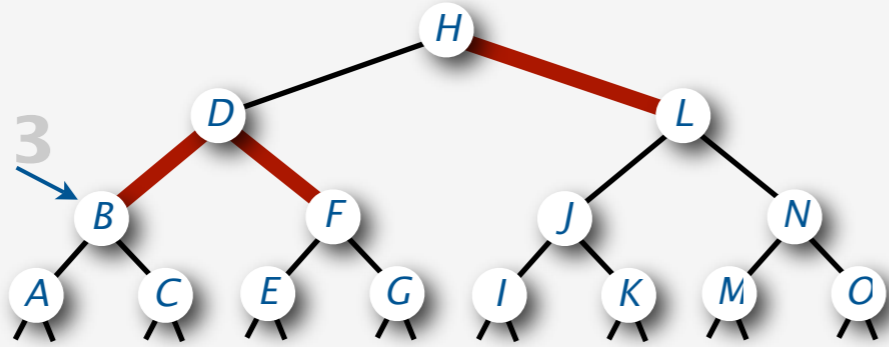
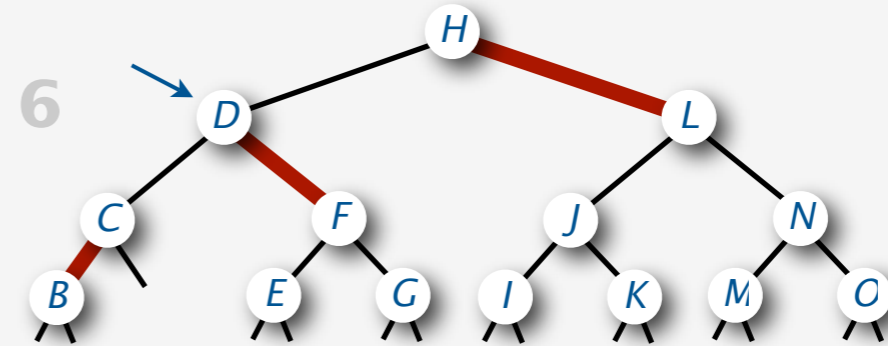
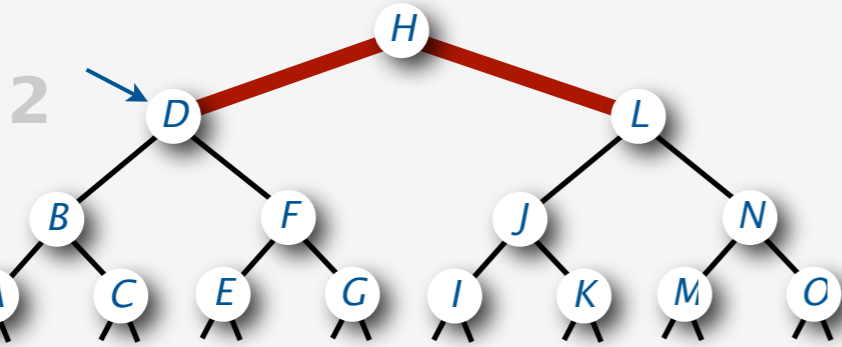
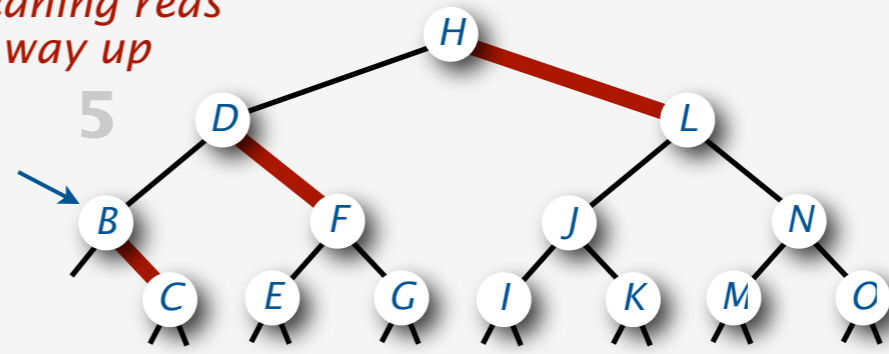
*fix right-leaning red links  
and eliminate 4-nodes  
on the way up*

# deleteMin() example

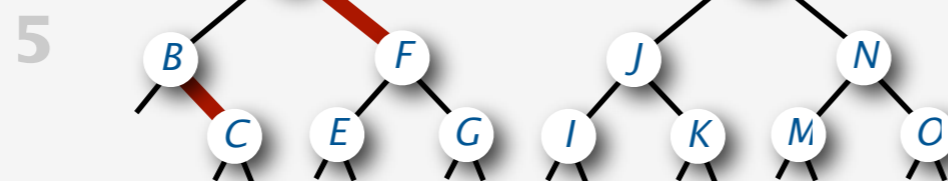
*push reds down*



*fix right-leaning reds on the way up*



*remove minimum*

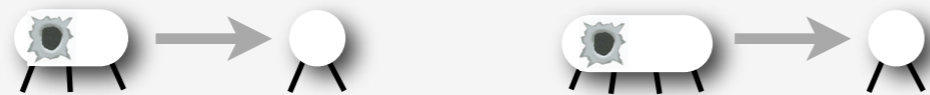




# Deleting an arbitrary node

involves the same general strategy.

1. Search down the left spine of the tree.
2. If search ends in a 3-node or 4-node: just remove it.



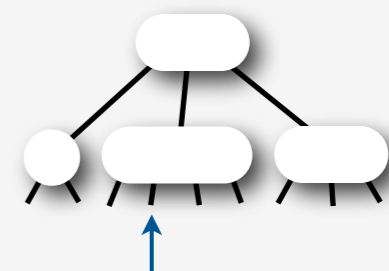
3. Removing a 2-node would destroy balance
  - transform tree on the way down the search path
  - Invariant: current node is not a 2-node

## Difficulty:

- Far too many cases!
- LLRB representation **dramatically** reduces the number of cases.

**Q:** How many possible search paths in **two** levels ?

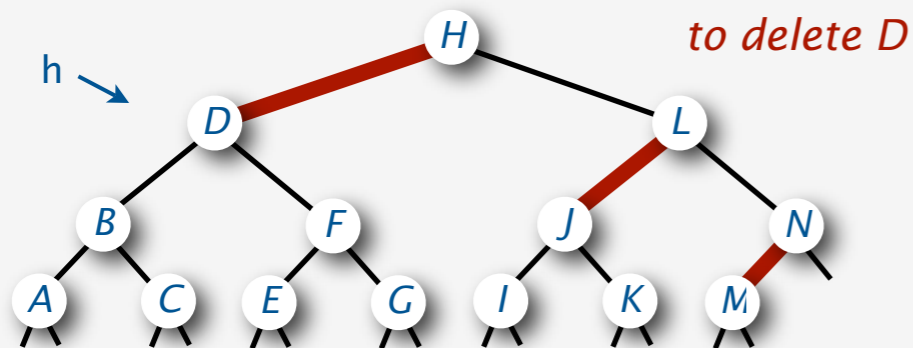
**A:**  $9 * 6 + 27 * 9 + 81 * 12 = 1269$  (!!)



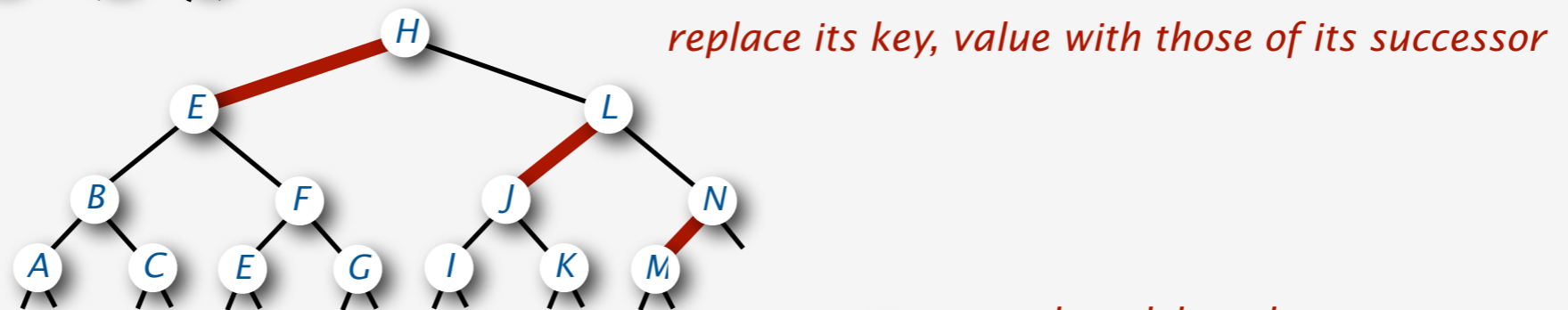
# Deleting an arbitrary node

reduces to deleteMin()

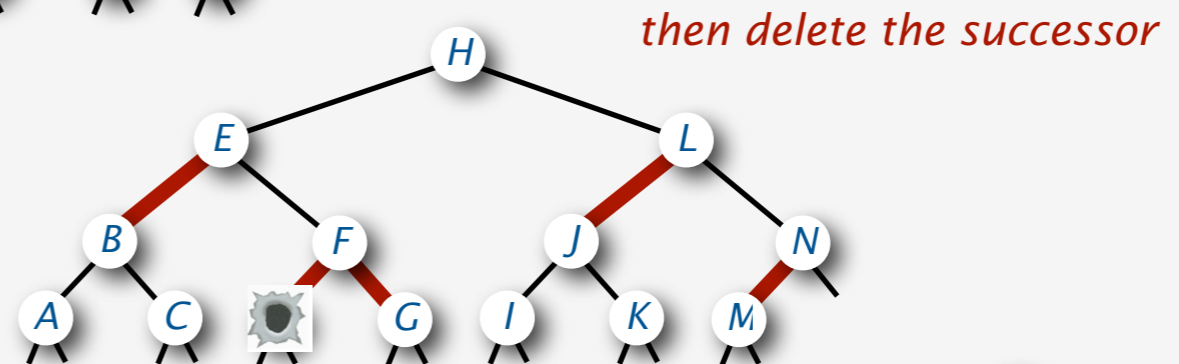
A standard trick:



```
h.key = min(h.right);  
h.value = get(h.right, h.key);  
h.right = deleteMin(h.right);
```

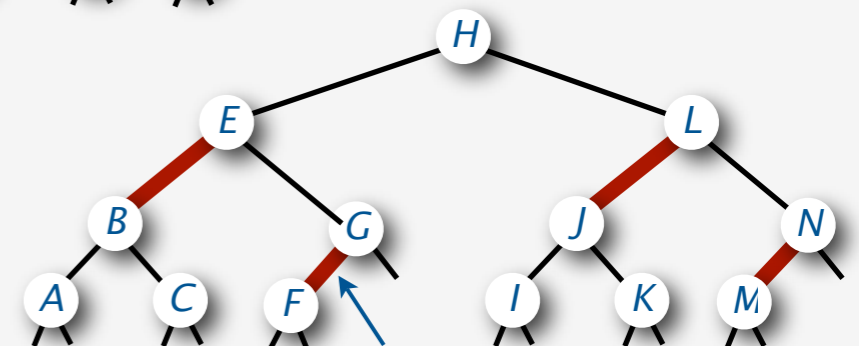


*deleteMin(right child of D)*



*flip colors, delete node*

*fix right-leaning red link*

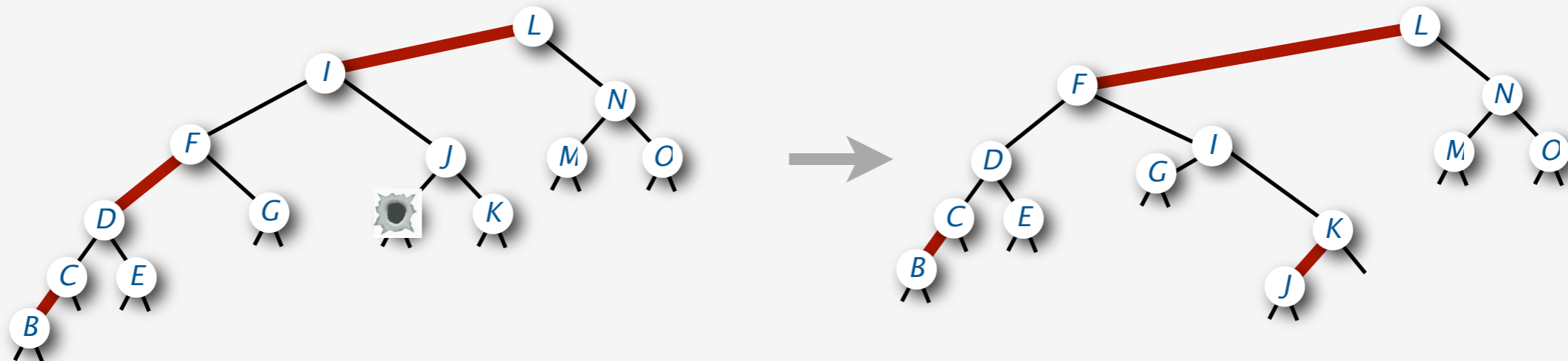


# Deleting an arbitrary node at the bottom

can be implemented with the **same** helper methods used for `deleteMin()` and `deleteMax()`.

Invariant: **h** or one of its children is **RED**

- search path goes left: use `moveRedLeft()`.
- search path goes right: use `moveRedRight()`.
- delete node at bottom
- fix right-leaning reds on the way up



# delete() implementation for LLRB trees

Introduction  
2-3-4 Trees  
LLRB Trees  
Deletion  
Analysis

```
private Node delete(Node h, Key key)
{
    int cmp = key.compareTo(h.key);
    if (cmp < 0)
    {
        if (!isRed(h.left) && !isRed(h.left.left))
            h = moveRedLeft(h);
        h.left = delete(h.left, key);
    }
    else
    {
        if (isRed(h.left)) h = leanRight(h);

        if (cmp == 0 && (h.right == null))
            return null;

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

        if (cmp == 0)
        {
            h.key = min(h.right);
            h.value = get(h.right, h.key);
            h.right = deleteMin(h.right);
        }
        else h.right = delete(h.right, key);
    }

    return fixUp(h);
}
```

*LEFT*

*push red right if necessary*

*move down (left)*

*RIGHT or EQUAL*

*rotate to push red right*

*EQUAL (at bottom)  
delete node*

*push red right if necessary*

*EQUAL (not at bottom)*

*replace current node with  
successor key, value*

*delete successor*

*move down (right)*

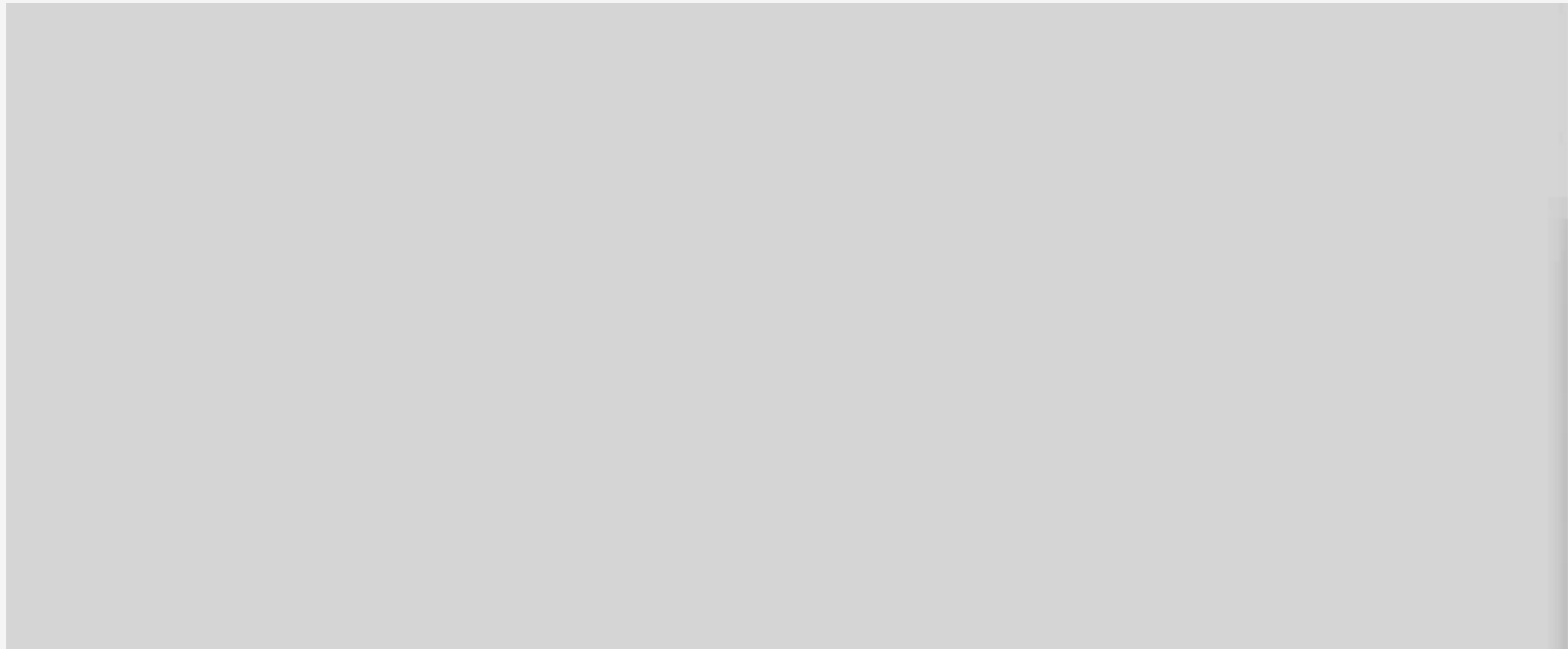
*fix right-leaning red links  
and eliminate 4-nodes  
on the way up*



# LLRB delete() movie

---

*Introduction*  
*2-3-4 Trees*  
*LLRB Trees*  
*Deletion*  
*Analysis*

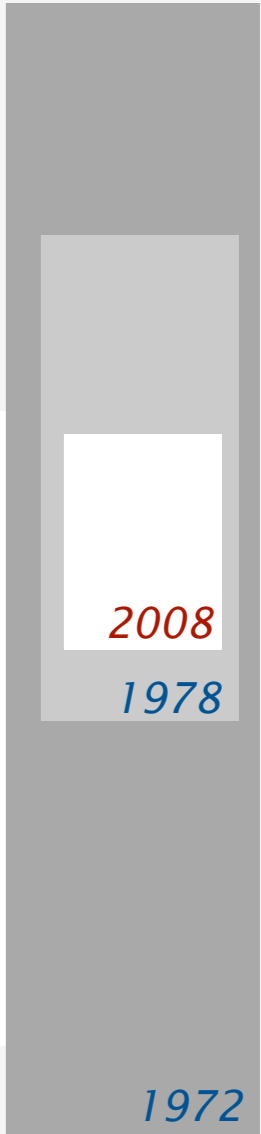


Red-black-tree implementations in widespread use:

- are based on pseudocode with “case bloat”
- use parent pointers (!)
- 400+ lines of code for core algorithms

## Left-leaning red-black trees

- you just saw all the code
- single pass (remove recursion if concurrency matters)
- <80 lines of code for core algorithms
- less code implies faster insert, delete
- less code implies easier maintenance and migration



*insert*

*delete*

*helper*



*insert*

*delete*

*helper*

← *accomplishes the same result with less than 1/5 the code*

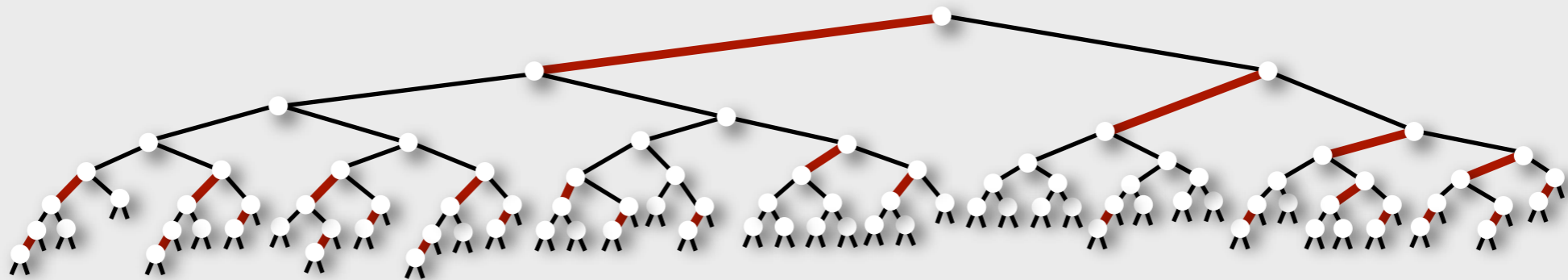
*Introduction*

*2-3-4 Trees*

*LLRB Trees*

*Deletion*

***Analysis***







# Average-case analysis of balanced trees

---

*Introduction*  
*2-3-4 Trees*  
*LLRB Trees*  
*Deletion*  
*Analysis*

deserves another look!

Main questions:

Is average path length in tree built from random keys  $\sim c \lg N$  ?  
If so, is  $c = 1$  ?

# Average-case analysis of balanced trees

deserves another look!

Main questions:

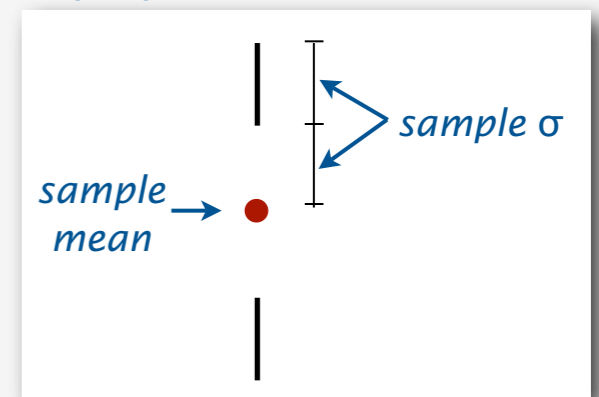
Is average path length in tree built from random keys  $\sim c \lg N$  ?  
If so, is  $c = 1$  ?

Experimental evidence

Ex: Tufte plot of average path length in 2-3 trees

- $N = 100, 200, \dots, 50,000$
- 100 trees each size

Tufte plot



# Average-case analysis of balanced trees

deserves another look!

Main questions:

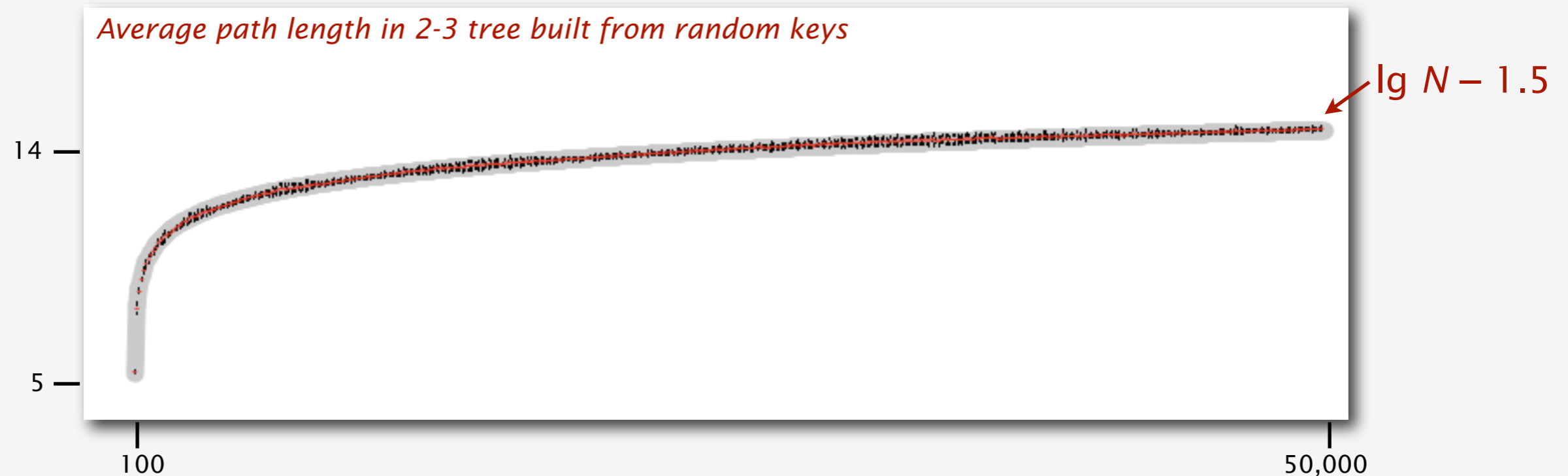
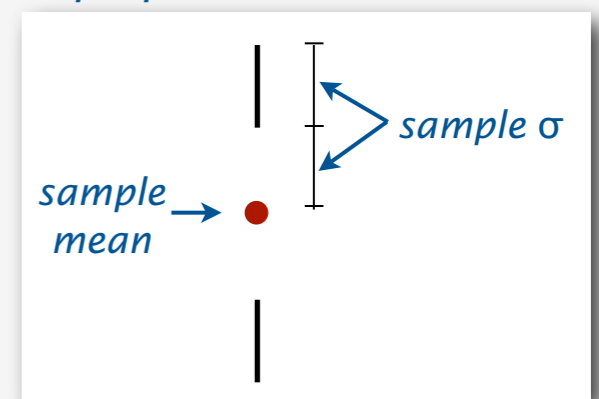
Is average path length in tree built from random keys  $\sim c \lg N$  ?  
If so, is  $c = 1$  ?

Experimental evidence **strongly suggests YES!**

Ex: Tufte plot of average path length in 2-3 trees

- $N = 100, 200, \dots, 50,000$
- 100 trees each size

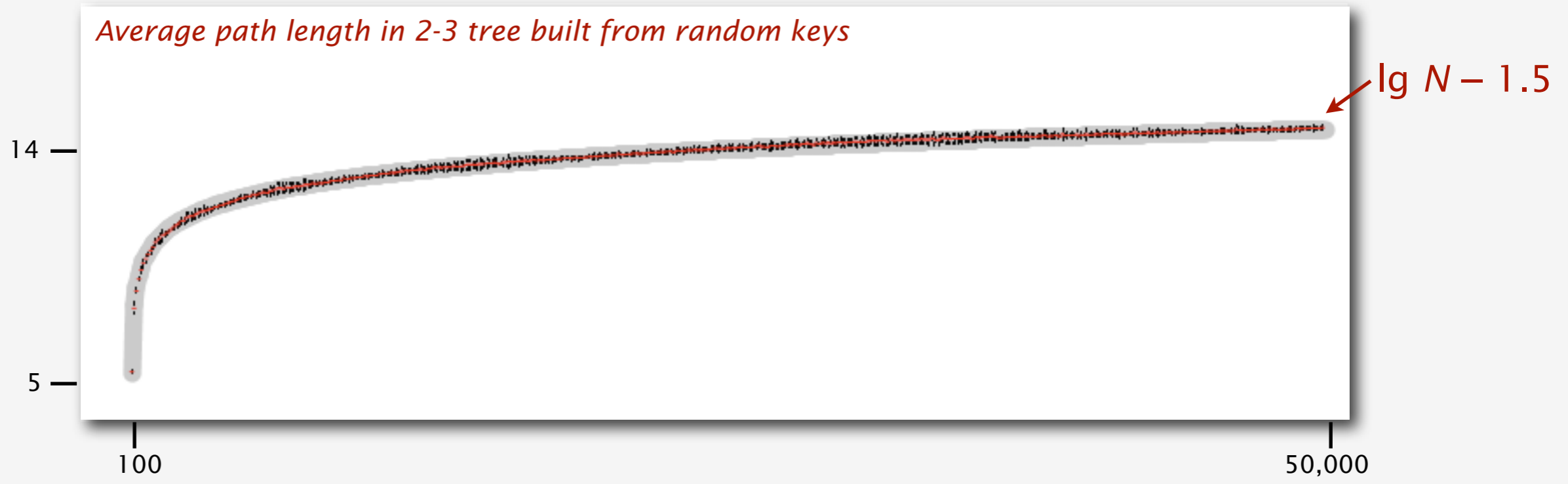
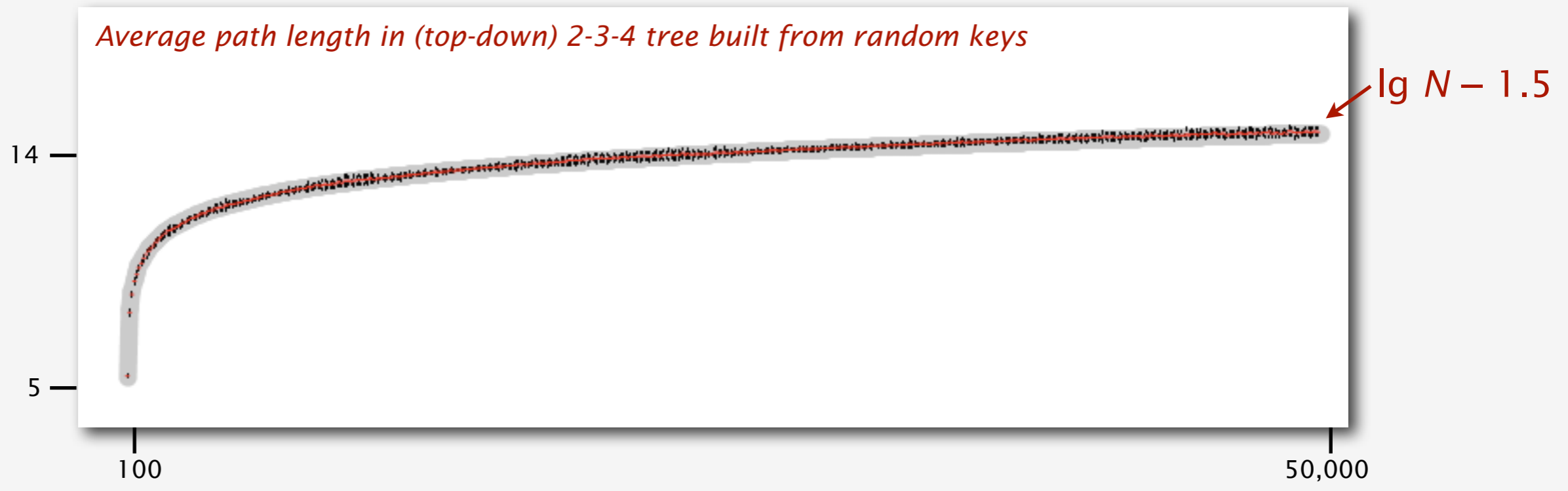
Tufte plot





# Experimental evidence

can suggest and confirm hypotheses



deserves another look!

Main questions:

Is average path length in tree built from random keys  $\sim c \lg N$  ?  
If so, is  $c = 1$  ?

Some known facts:

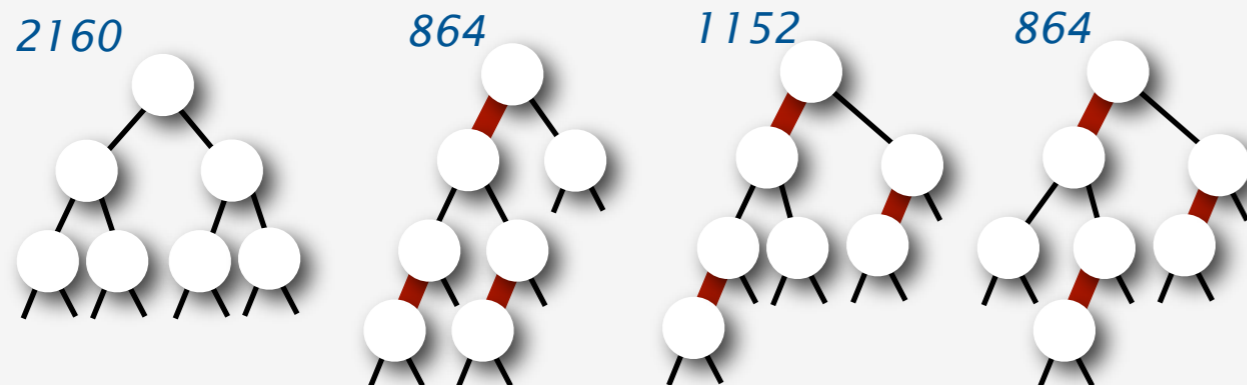
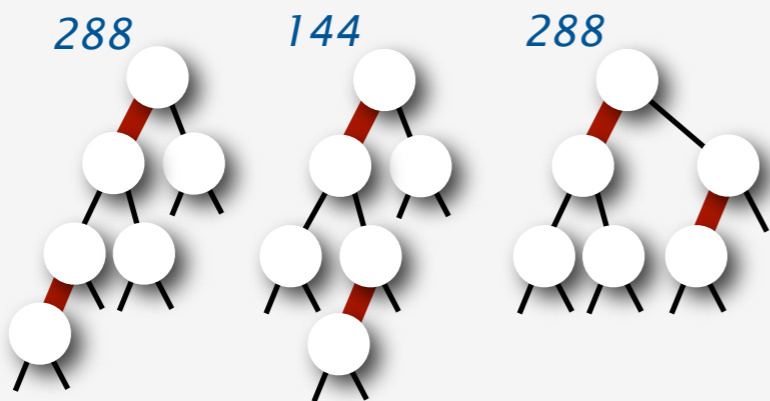
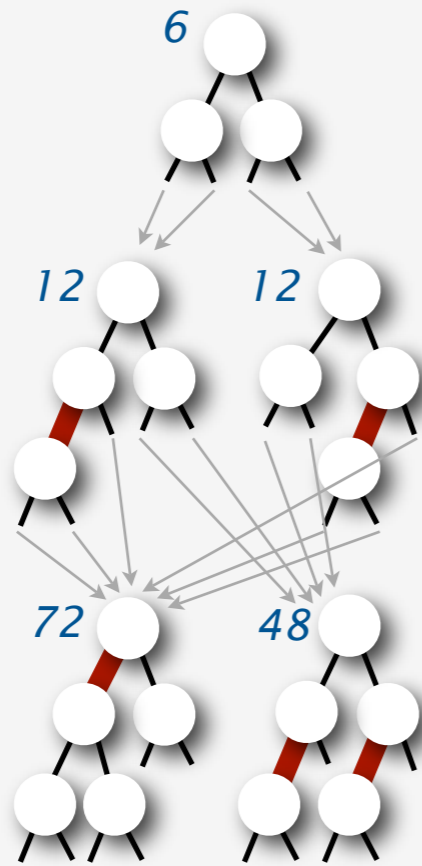
- worst case gives easy  $2 \lg N$  upper bound
- fringe analysis of gives upper bound of  $c_k \lg N$  with  $c_k > 1$
- analytic combinatorics gives path length in random trees

Are simpler implementations simpler to analyze?

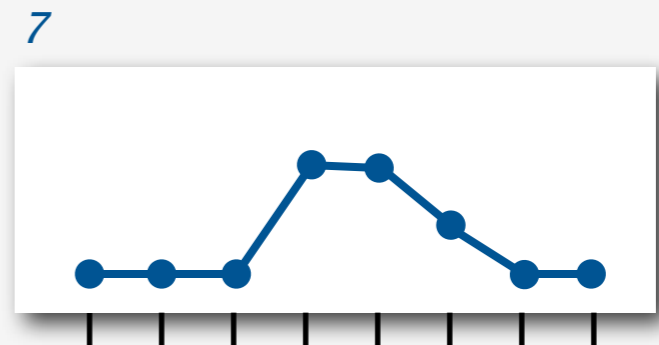
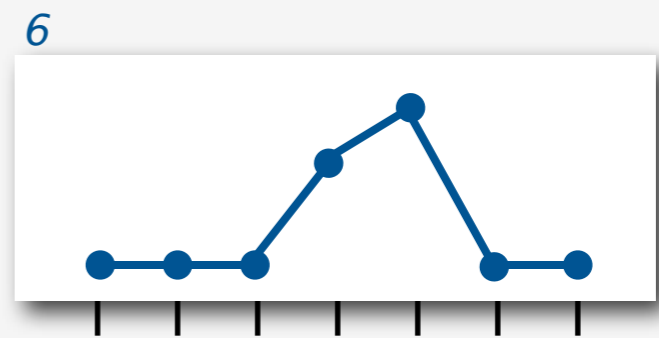
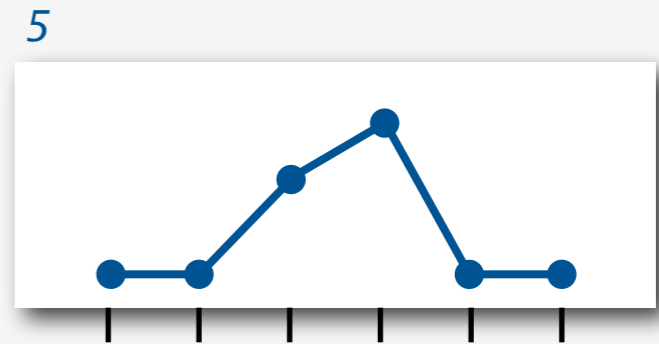
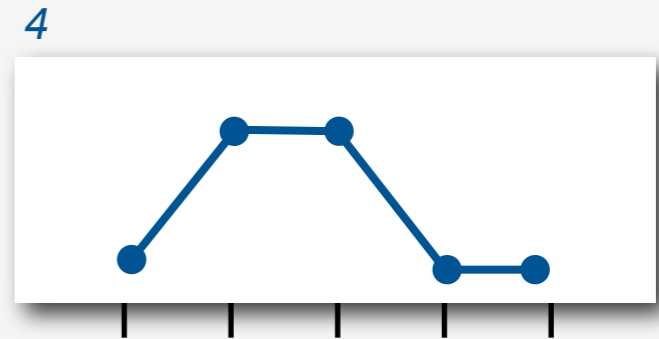
Is the better experimental evidence that is now available helpful?

A starting point: study balance at the root (left subtree size)

# Left subtree size in left-leaning 2-3 trees

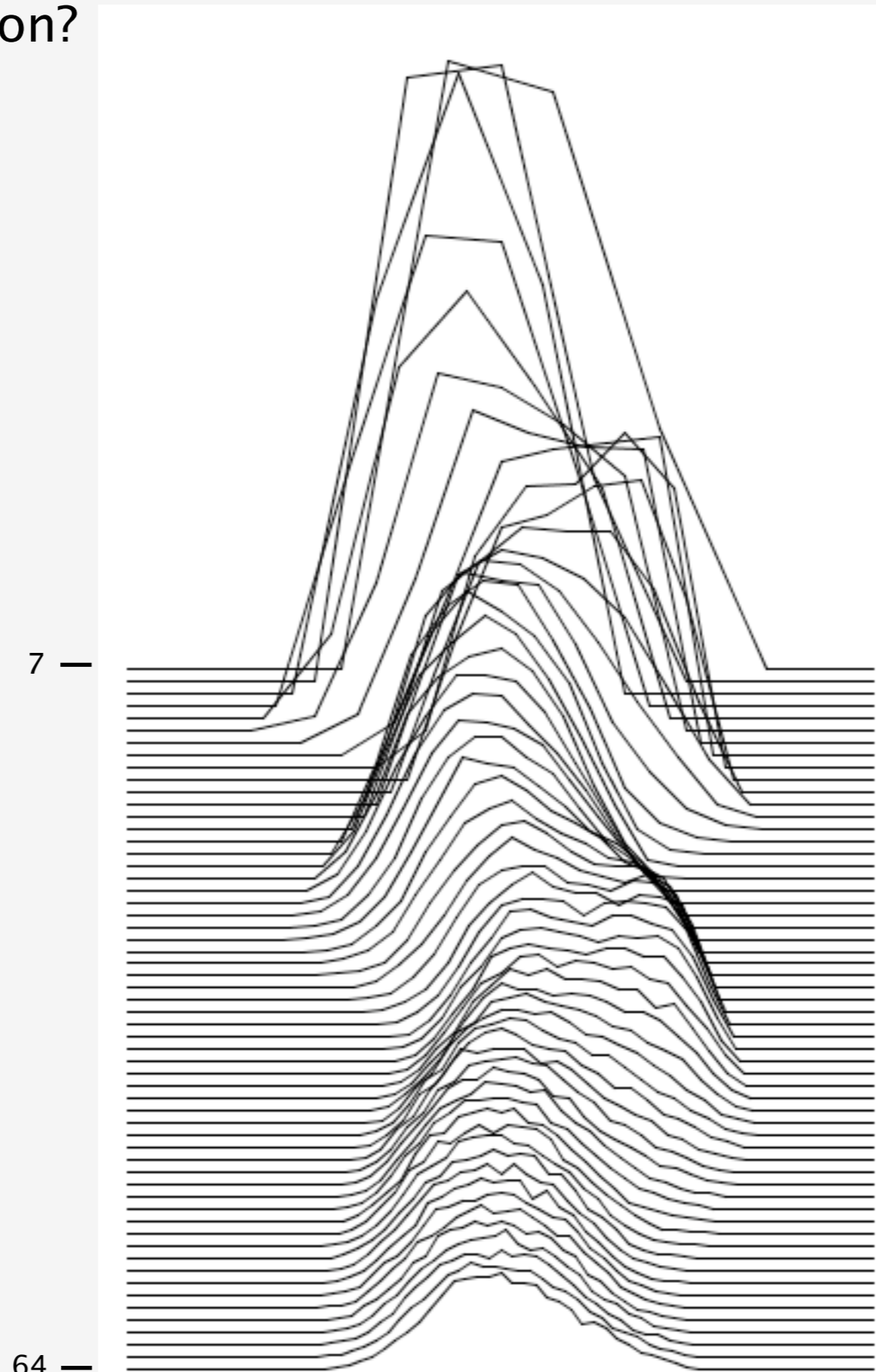


## Exact distributions

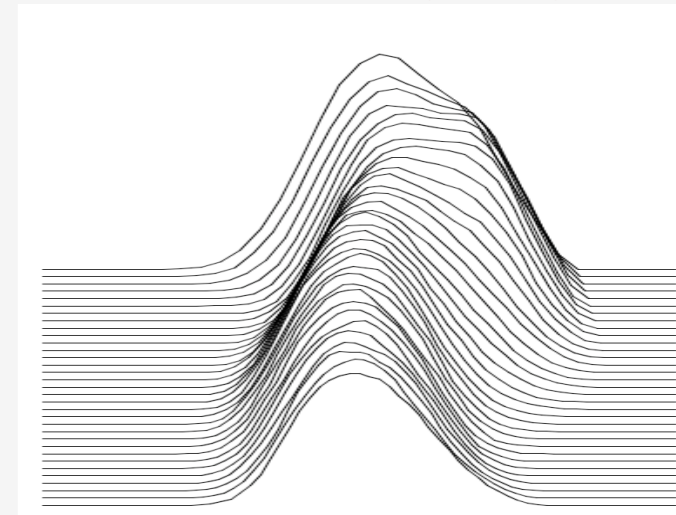


# Left subtree size in left-leaning 2-3 trees

Limiting distribution?

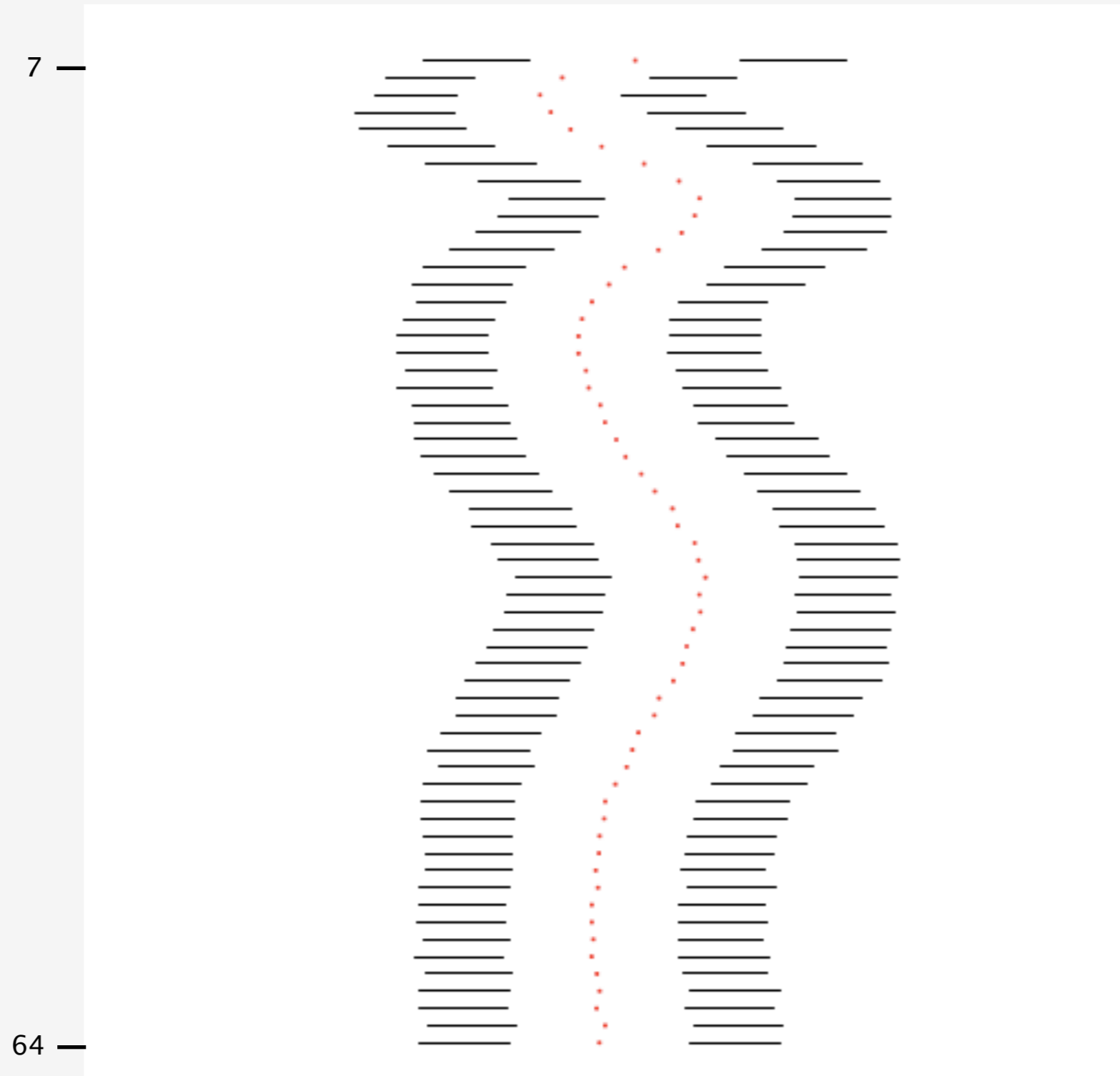


*smoothed version (32-64)*



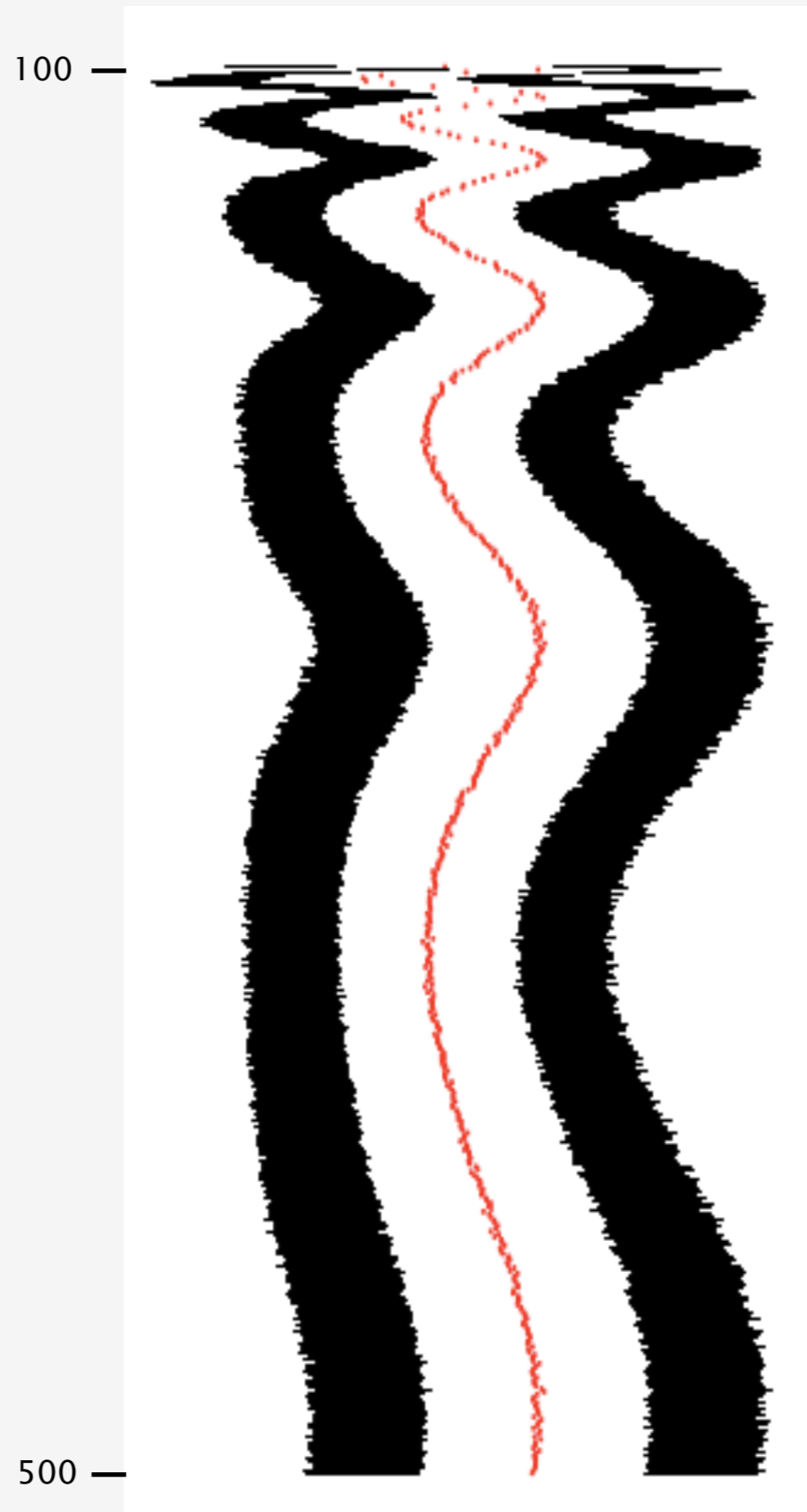
# Left subtree size in left-leaning 2-3 trees

Tufte plot



# Left subtree size in left-leaning 2-3 trees

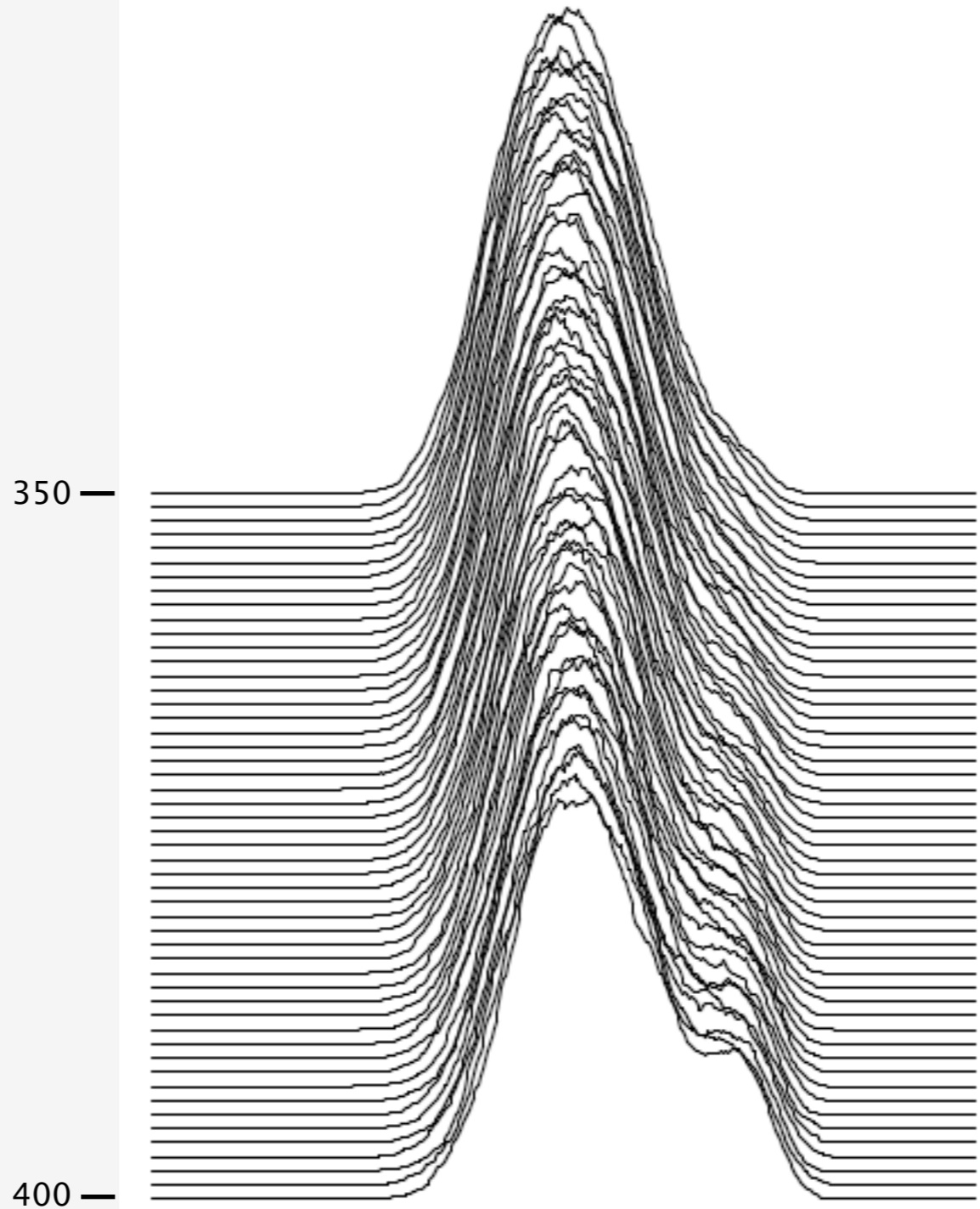
Tufte plot



*view of highway for bus driver who has had one Caipirinha too many ?*

# Left subtree size in left-leaning 2-3 trees

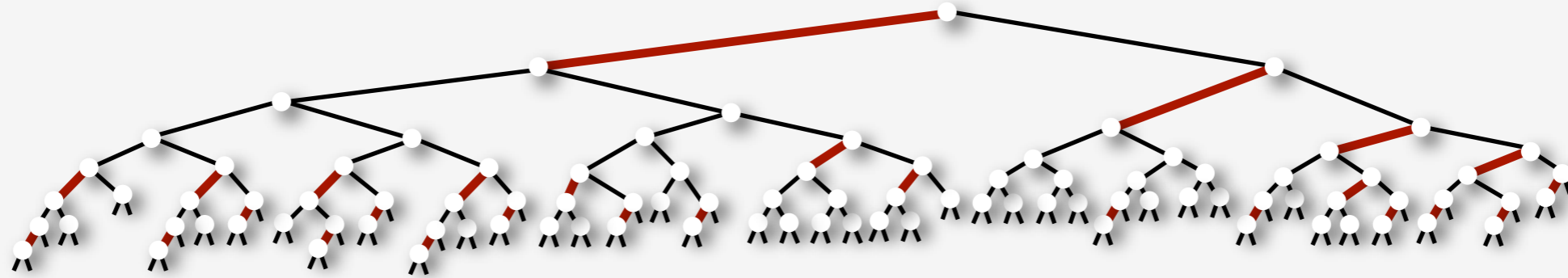
Limiting distribution?



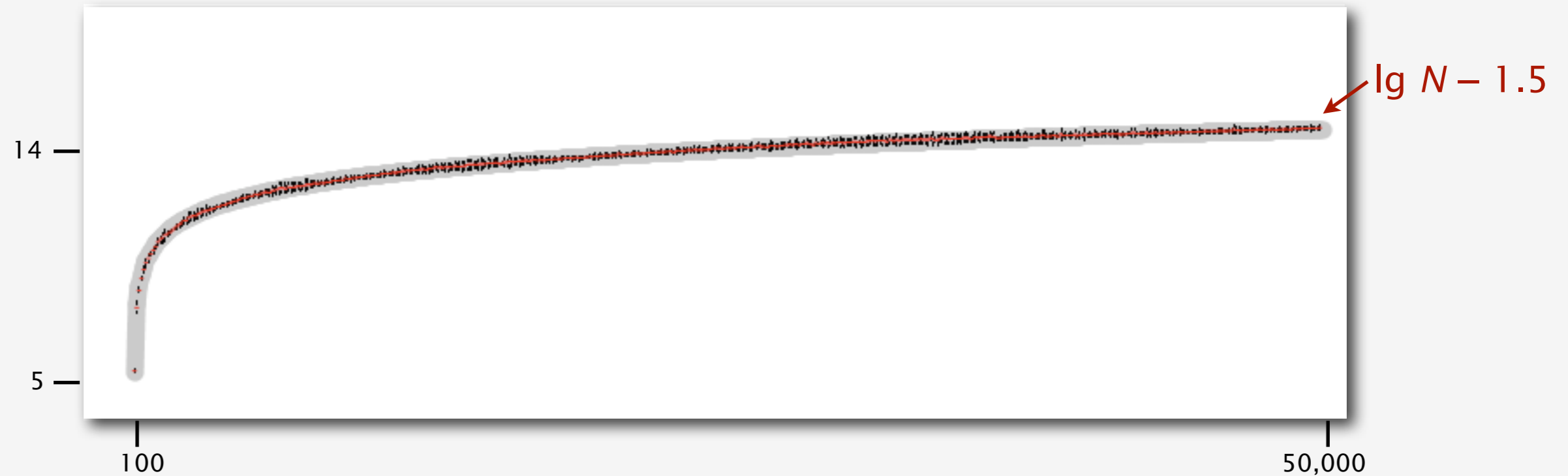
*10,000 trees for each size  
smooth factor 10*

# An exercise in the analysis of algorithms

Find a proof!



*Average path length in 2-3 tree built from random keys*

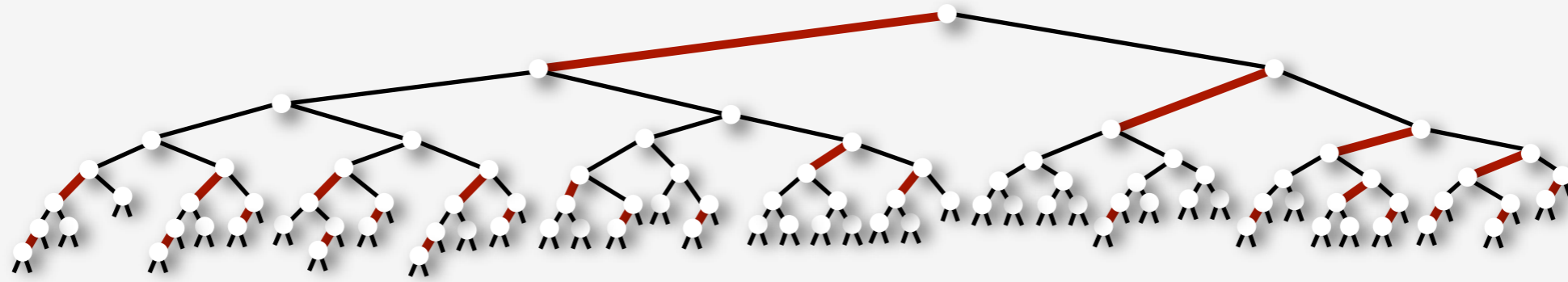




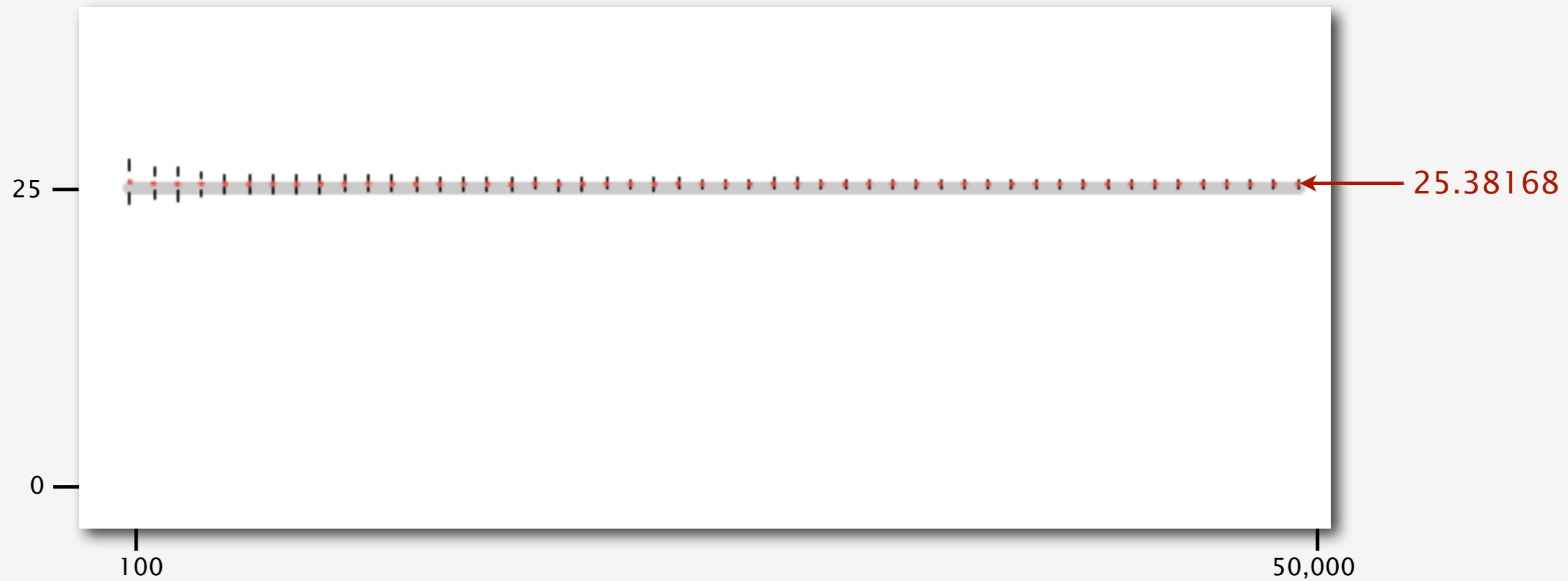
***Addendum:  
Observations***

# Observation 1

The percentage of red nodes in a 2-3 tree is between 25 and 25.5%

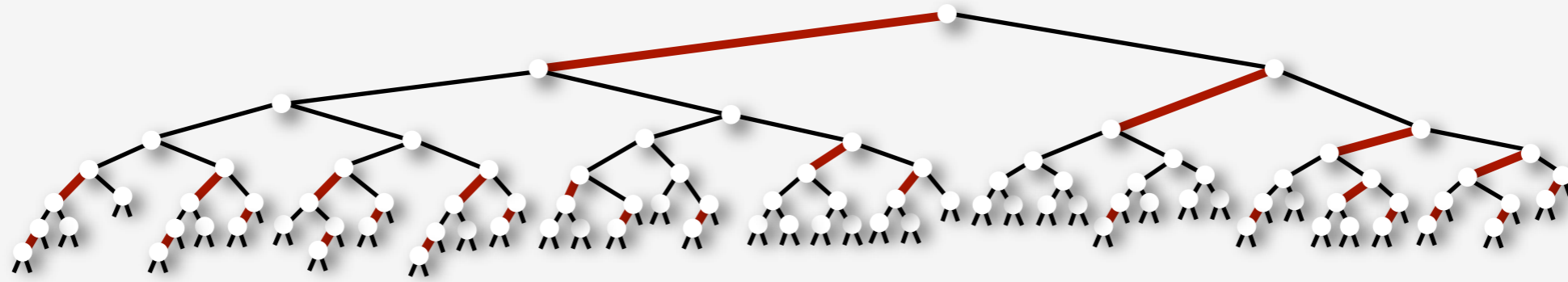


*Percentage of red nodes in 2-3 tree built from random keys*

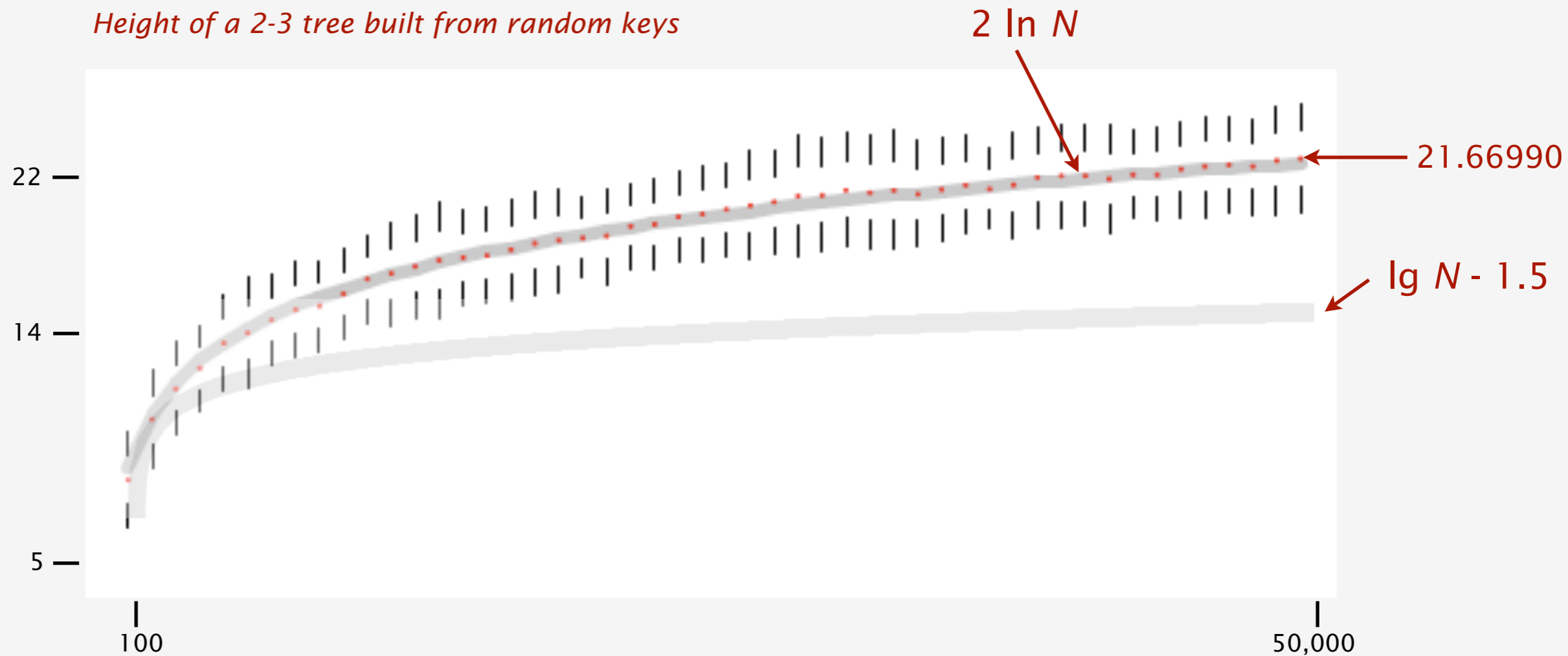


# Observation 2

The **height** of a 2-3 tree is  $\sim 2 \ln N$  (!!!)



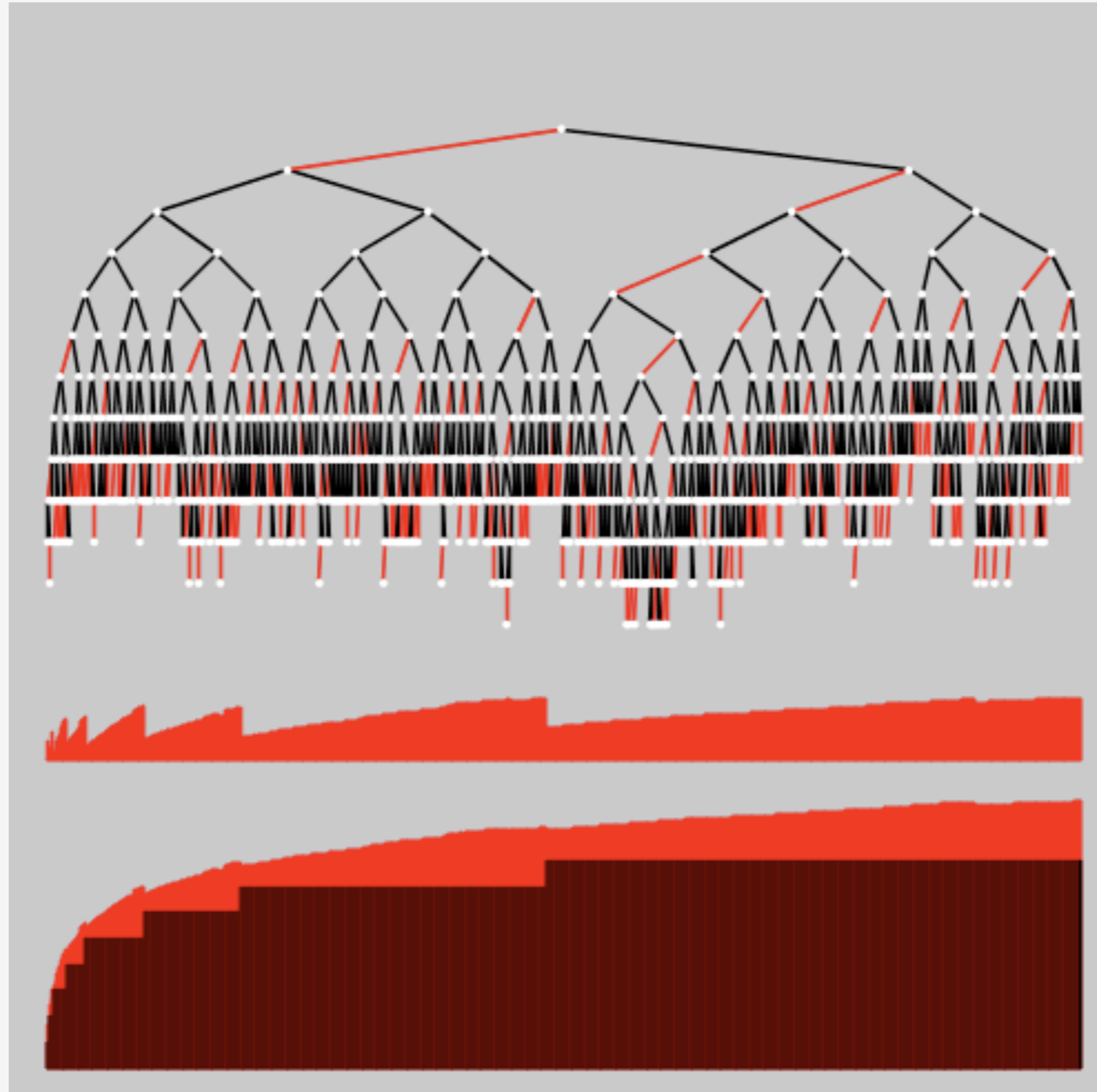
*Height of a 2-3 tree built from random keys*



*Very surprising because the average path length in an elementary BST is also  $\sim 2 \ln N \approx 1.386 \lg N$*

# Observation 3

The percentage of red nodes on each **path** in a 2-3 tree rises to about 25%, then drops by 2 when the root splits



# Observation 4

In aggregate, the observed number of red links per path log-alternates between periods of steady growth and not-so-steady decrease (because root-split times vary widely)

