

# eees 281 DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS

## Lecture 11: Red-Black Trees

## Red-Black Tree

Designed to represent 2-3-4 tree without the additional link overhead

A Red-Black tree is a **binary** search tree in which each node is colored **red** or black

Red nodes represent the extra keys in 3-nodes and 4-nodes

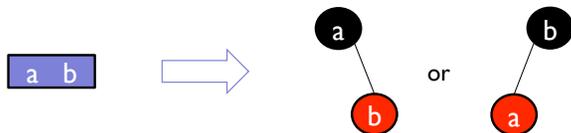
**2-node** = black node



[Brinton,Rosenfeld,Ozbiro]

## Red-Black vs. 2-3-4 Nodes

**3-node** = black node with one **red** child



**4-node** = black node with **two** red children

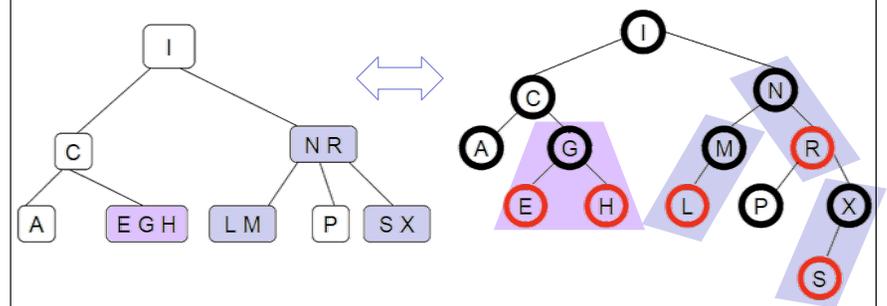
- center value becomes the parent (black) with outside values becoming the children (red)



Red-black trees are not unique, but the corresponding 2-3-4 tree is unique

[Brinton,Ozbiro]

## Red-Black vs. 2-3-4 Trees

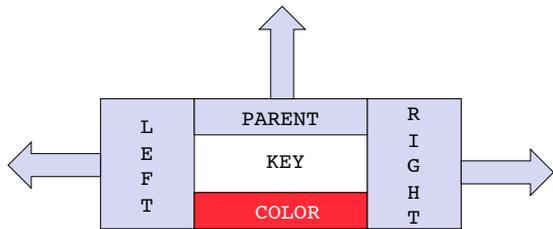


# Red-Black Tree

Red-black trees are widely used:

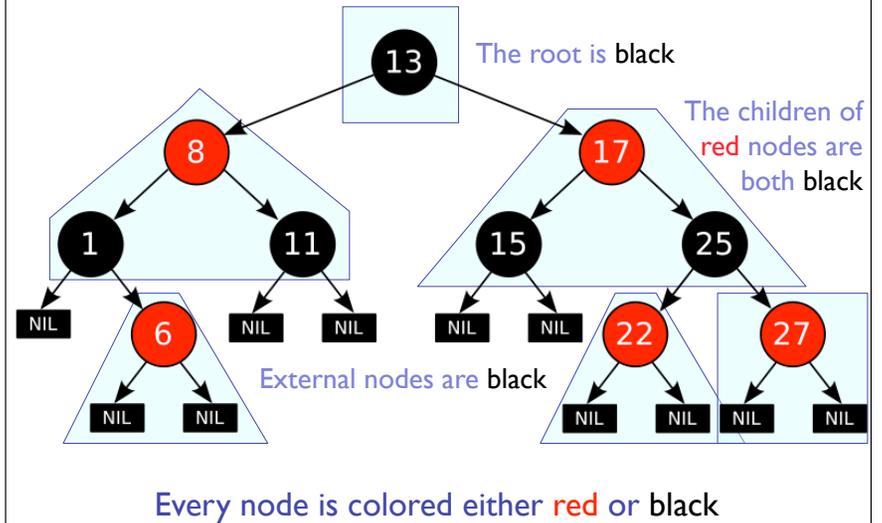
- C++ STL: map, set, multimap, multiset
- Java: java.util.TreeMap, java.util.TreeSet
- Linux kernel: linux/rbtree.h

RBT node representation:



[Brinton,Rosenfeld,Sedgewick,Walter]

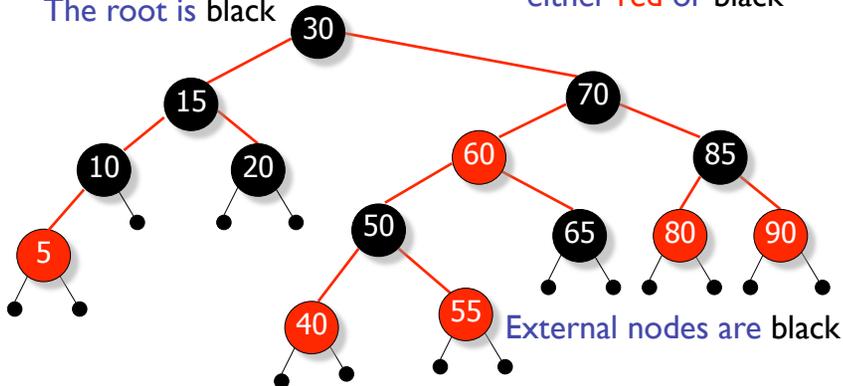
# Red-Black Tree Rules and Properties



[Giabbanelli]

# A Red-Black Tree

The root is black  
Every node is colored either red or black



External nodes are black  
If a node is red, its children must be black

[McCollam]

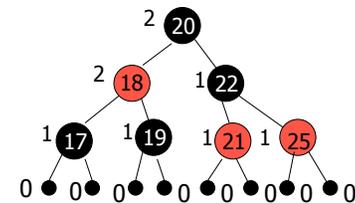
# Black-height $bh(x)$

Black-height of node  $x$  is the number of black nodes on the path from  $x$  to an external node (including the external node but not counting  $x$  itself)

Every node has a black-height,  $bh(x)$

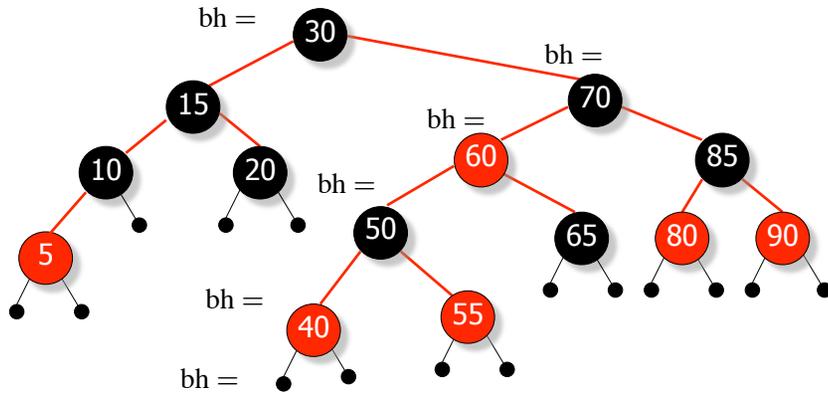
For all external nodes,  $bh(x) = 0$

For root  $x$ ,  $bh(x) = bh(T)$



[Walter]

## Black-height Rule

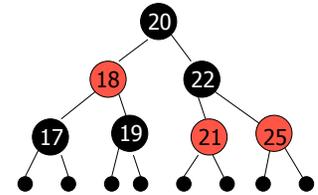


Every path from a node  $x$  to an external node must contain the same number of black nodes = black-height( $x$ )

[McCollam]

## Red-Black Rules and Properties

1. Every node is either **red** or black
2. The root is black [**root rule**]
3. External nodes (nulls) are black
4. If a node is **red**, then **both** its children are black [**red rule**]
5. Every path from a node to a null must have the same number of black nodes (black height) [**black-height rule**]
  - a. this is equivalent to a 2-3-4 tree being a perfect tree: all the leaf nodes of the 2-3-4 tree are at the same level (black-height=1)
  - b. a black node corresponds to a level change in the corresponding 2-3-4 tree

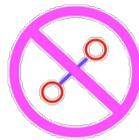


[Walter.Brinton]

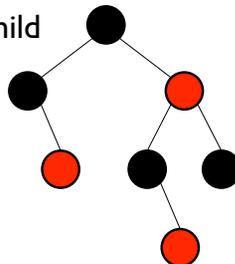
## Implications of the Rules

If a **red** node has any children, it must have two children and they must be black (why?)

- can't have 2 consecutive reds (double red) on a path
- however, any number of black nodes may appear in a sequence



If a black node has only one child that child must be a **red** leaf (why?)



[Scott,Ozbiir]

## Red-Black Tree Height Bound

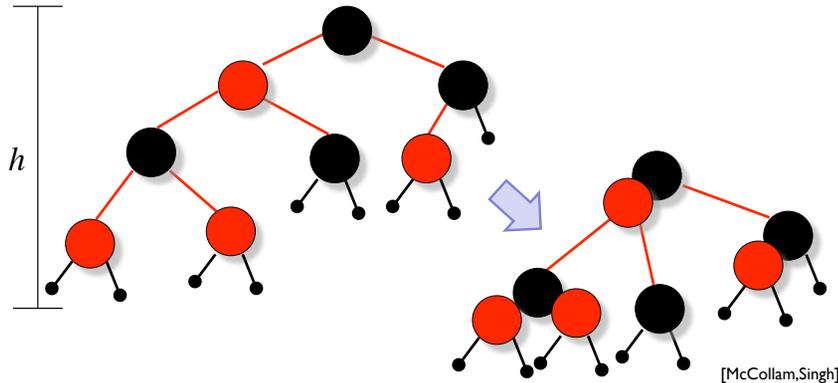
Red-black tree rules constrain the adjacency of node coloring, ensuring that no root-to-leaf path is more than **twice** as long as any other path, which limits how unbalanced a red-black tree may become

**Theorem:** The height of a red-black tree with  $n$  internal nodes is between  $\log_2(n+1)$  and  $2\log_2(n+1)$

[Walter.Brinton,Singh]

## Red-Black Tree Height Bound

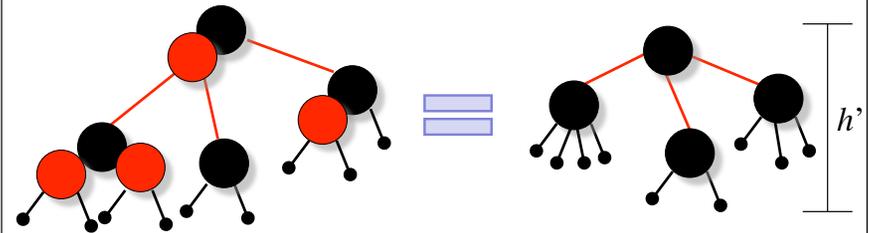
Start with a red black tree with height  $h$   
 (note: *height* here includes the external nodes)  
 Merge all red nodes into their black parents



[McCollam,Singh]

## Red-Black Tree Height Bound

Nodes in resulting tree have degrees between 2 and 4  
 All external nodes are at the same level



It's the equivalent 2-3-4 tree to the red-black tree!  
 Height of the resulting tree is  $h' \geq h/2$

[McCollam,Singh]

## Red-Black Tree Height Bound

Let  $h' \geq h/2$  be the height of the collapsed tree

The tree is tallest if all internal nodes have degree 2, i.e., there were no red-node in the original red-black tree,  $h' = h$ , and number of internal nodes is  $n = 2^{h'} - 1$  and  $h' = 2 \log_2(n+1)$

The tree is shortest if all internal nodes have degree  $> 2$ , and  $h' = h/2$ ; e.g., if all internal nodes have degree 4, the number of internal nodes is  $n = 4^{h'} - 1$  and  $h' = \log_2(n+1)$

In the mixed case,  $\log_2(n+1) \leq h' \leq 2 \log_2(n+1)$

[Singh]

## Red-Black Tree Height Bound (Alternate Proof)

Prove: an  $n$ -internal node RB tree has height  
 $h \leq 2 \log_2(n+1)$

Claim: A subtree rooted at a node  $x$  contains at least  $2^{\text{bh}(x)} - 1$  internal nodes

- proof by induction on height  $h$
- base step:  $x$  has height 0 (i.e., external node)
  - What is  $\text{bh}(x)$ ?
  - 0
  - So...subtree contains  $2^{\text{bh}(x)} - 1$   
 $= 2^0 - 1$   
 $= 0$  internal nodes (claim is TRUE)

[Luebke]

## Red-Black Tree Height Bound (Alternate Proof)

Inductive proof that subtree at node  $x$  contains at least  $2^{\text{bh}(x)} - 1$  internal nodes

- inductive step:  $x$  has positive height and 2 children
  - each child has black-height of  $\text{bh}(x)$  or  $\text{bh}(x)-1$  (Why?)
  - the height of a child = (height of  $x$ ) - 1
  - so the subtrees rooted at each child contain at least  $2^{\text{bh}(x)-1} - 1$  internal nodes by induction hypothesis
  - thus subtree at  $x$  contains  $(2^{\text{bh}(x)-1} - 1) + (2^{\text{bh}(x)-1} - 1) + 1$   
 $= 2 * 2^{\text{bh}(x)-1} - 1 = 2^{\text{bh}(x)} - 1$  nodes

[Luebke]

## Red-Black Tree Height Bound (Alternate Proof)

Thus at the root of the red-black tree:

$$n \geq 2^{\text{bh}(\text{root})} - 1$$

$$n \geq 2^{\text{bh}(\text{root})} - 1 \geq 2^{h/2} - 1 \quad (\text{Why?})$$

$$\log(n+1) \geq h/2$$

$$h \leq 2 \log(n+1)$$

By the **black-height rule**, the additional nodes in paths longer than the black height of the tree can consist only of red nodes

$$\text{Thus } h = O(\log_2 n)$$

By the **red rule**, at least 1/2 of the nodes on any path from root to an external node are black

Since the longest path of the tree is  $h$ , the black-height of the root must be at least  $h/2$

[Luebke,Walter]

## Time Complexity of Red-Black Trees

All non-modifying BST operations (min, max, successor, predecessor, search) run in

$O(h) = O(\log n)$  time on red-black trees

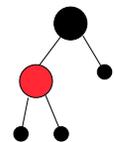
- small storage issue per node to include a color flag (no big deal)

Insertion and deletion must maintain rules of red-black trees and are therefore more complex: still  $O(\log_2 n)$  time but a bit slower empirically than in ordinary BST

[Kelli,Walter]

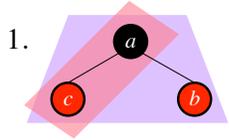
## Red-Black Insert

1. as with BST, insert new node as leaf, must be **red**
  - can't be black or will violate **black-height rule**
  - therefore the new leaf must be **red**
2. insert new node, if inserting into a 2-node representation (black parent), done
3. if inserting into a 3-node, **could** result in **double red** → need to rotate and recolor nodes to represent a 4-node, with a black parent
4. if inserting into a 4-node, "split" 4-node → recolor children black, parent red, and "promote" parent
5. maintain root as black node

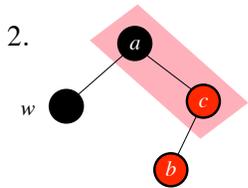


[Brinton]

## Inserting into a 3-node: Two Cases



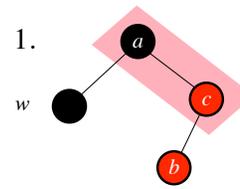
Inserting node  $b$  to a black parent that is part of a 3-node, creating a 4-node, done  
 ⇒ inserting a new node to a black parent is always simple



Inserting node  $b$  to a **red** parent that is part of a 3-node, creating double red  
 → how to recognize that parent and grandparent are part of a 3-node?  
 parent is **red**, grandparent and uncle ( $w$ ) are black  
 → need to **rotate** to create a new 4-node

[Ozbin]

## 3-Node, Red-Parent



Make the new node ( $b$ ) along with parent ( $c$ ) and grandparent ( $a$ ) a 4-node

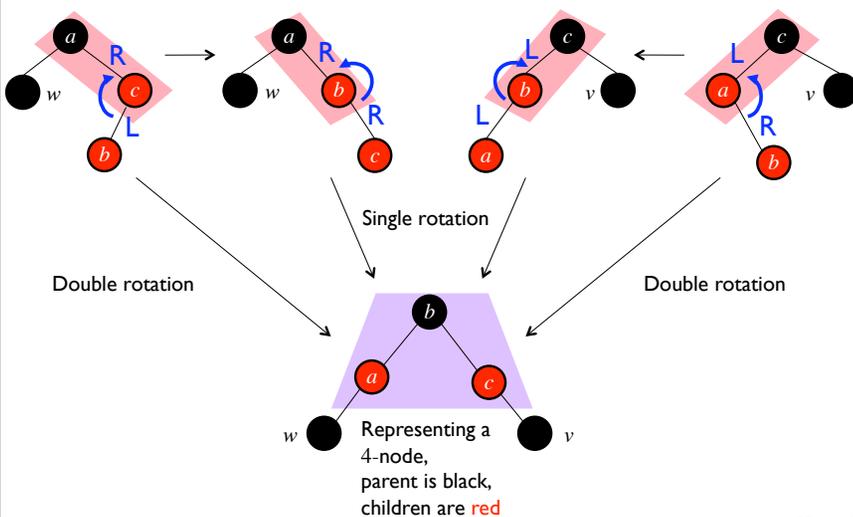
**Rotate** to make parent ( $c$ ) the middle value of the 4-node

There are four possible combinations of  $a, b,$  and  $c$  corresponding to LL, RR, LR, RL rotations (see next slide)

As the middle value of a 4-node, parent ( $c$ ) will be black, and the two outer nodes ( $a$ ) and ( $b$ ) will be red

[Ozbin]

## 3-Node, Red-Parent Rotations



[Ozbin]

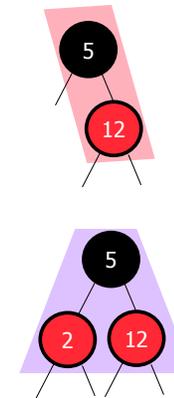
## Inserting into a 3-Node

Insert 2

3-node



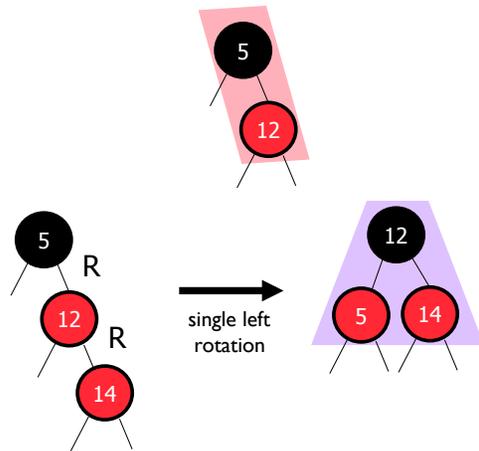
4-node



[Brinton]

## Inserting into a 3-Node

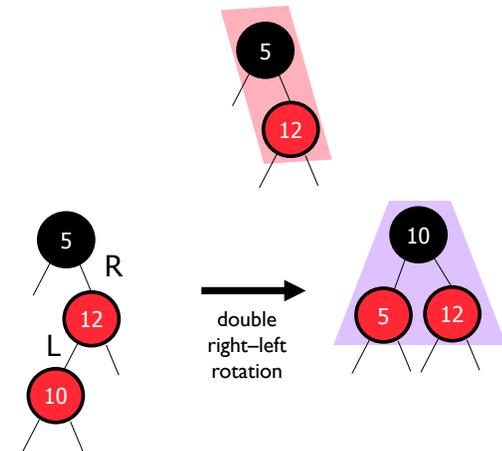
Insert 14



[Brinton]

## Inserting into a 3-Node

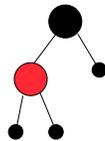
Insert 10



[Brinton]

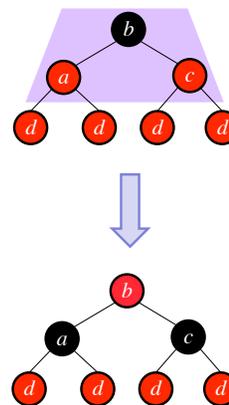
## Red-Black Insert

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  - can't be black or will violate **black-height** rule
  - therefore the new leaf must be red
- insert new node, if inserting into a 2-node representation (black parent), done
- if inserting into a 3-node, **could** result in **double red**
  - need to rotate and recolor nodes to represent a 4-node, with a black parent
- if inserting into a 4-node, "split" 4-node → recolor children black, parent red, and "promote" parent
- maintain root as black node



[Brinton]

## Inserting into a 4-node



Inserting node  $d$  causes double red, and  $d$ 's parent has **red** sibling  $w$

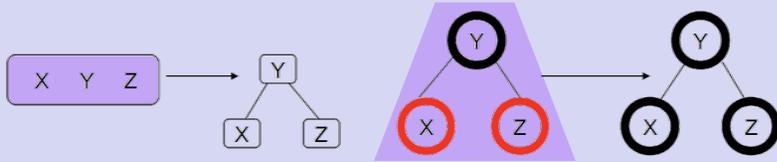
- parent, aunt, and grandparent are part of a 4-node
- need to **recolor**, to split the 4-node and "promote" grandparent
- parent and aunt become black
- grandparent becomes **red**

If grandparent is root, change it back to black  
 Otherwise, insert grandparent to great-grandparent, applying the same insertion rules as before depending on whether great-grandparent is a 2-node, 3-node, or 4-node

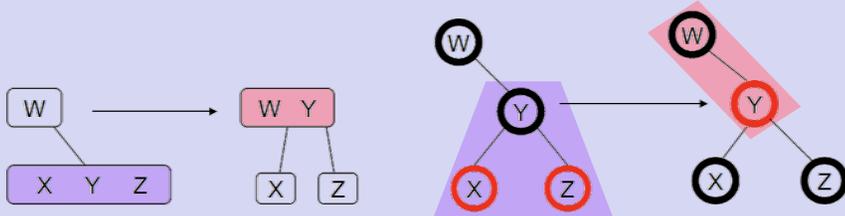
[Ozbin]

## Inserting into a 4-node

Grandparent is root: recolor the two children black

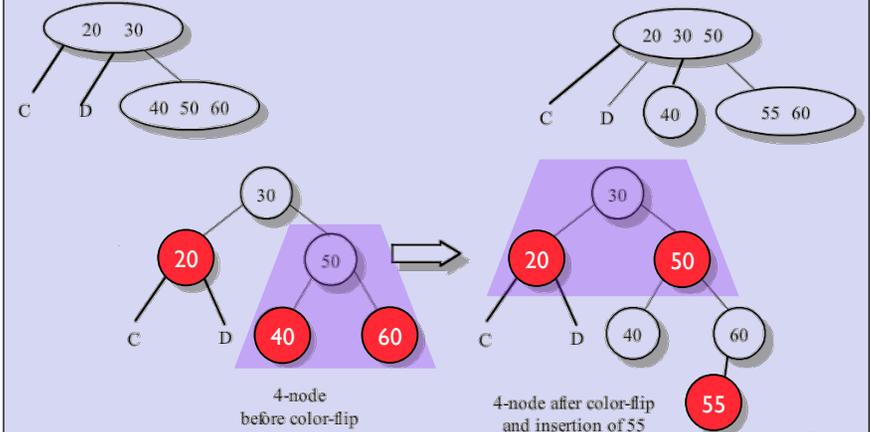


Insert red grandparent into a 2-node great-grandparent:



## Inserting into a 4-node

After inserting 55, promote red grandparent to a 3-node, black great-grandparent:



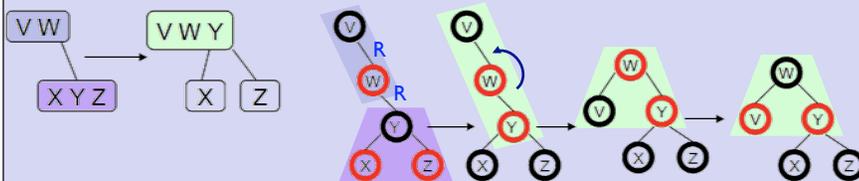
[Brinton]

## Inserting into a 4-node

Promoting red grandparent to a 3-node, red-great grandparent:

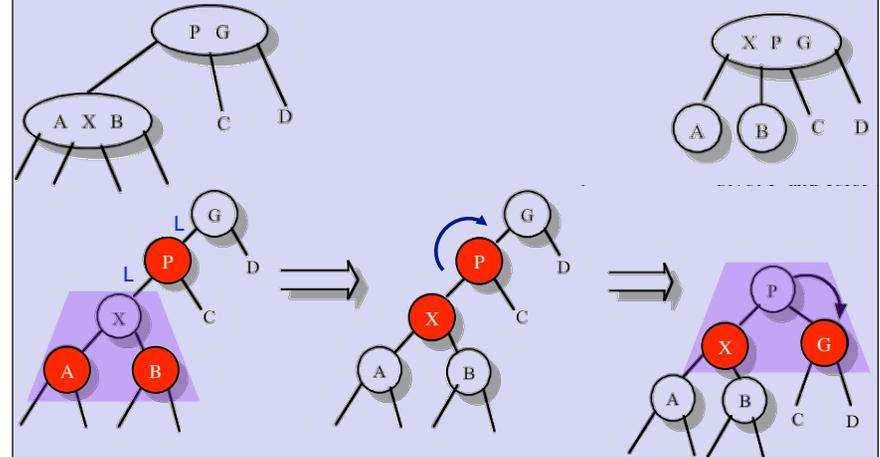
Four cases:

- RR: requiring a single left rotation, e.g.,



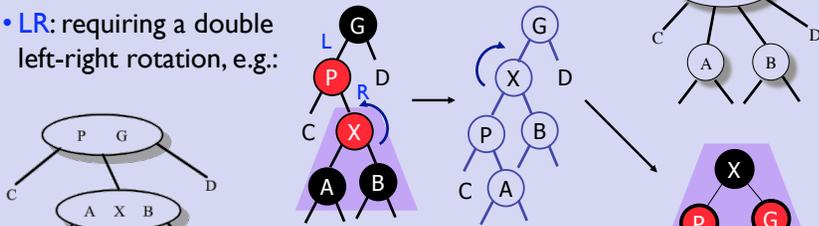
## 3-Node, Red-Great Grandparent

- LL: requiring a single right rotation, e.g.:

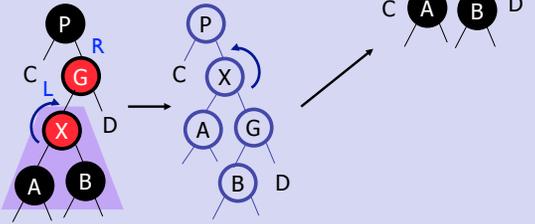


## 3-Node, Red-Great Grandparent

- LR: requiring a double left-right rotation, e.g.:



- RL: requiring a double right-left rotation, e.g.,



## RBT Insertion Examples

Equivalent 2-3-4 tree:



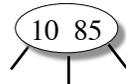
Insert 10 – root, must be black



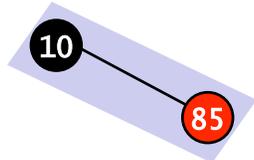
[Rosenfeld]

## RBT Insertion Examples

Equivalent 2-3-4 tree:



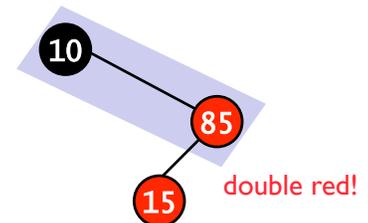
Insert 85 (root is now a 3-node)



[Rosenfeld]

## RBT Insertion Examples

Insert 15



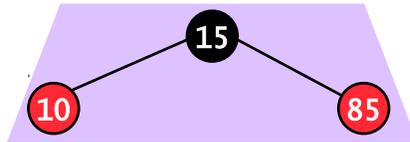
[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

Equivalent  
2-3-4 tree:



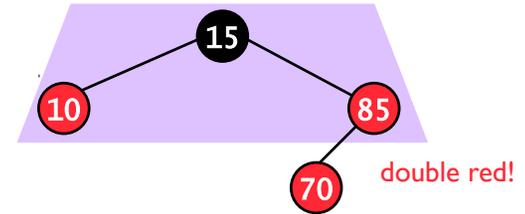
Rotate – Recolor (root becomes a 4-node)



[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

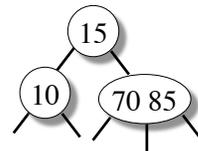
Insert 70 (split the 4-node)



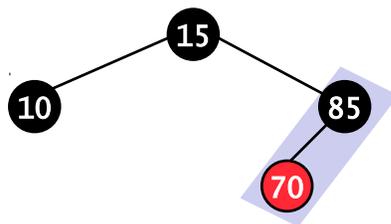
[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

Equivalent  
2-3-4 tree:



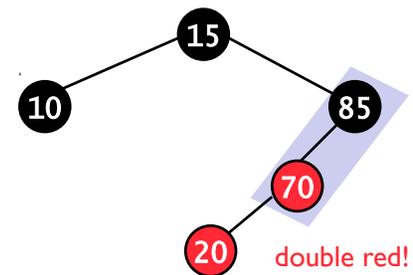
Recolor (root must be black)



[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

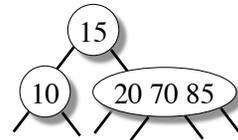
Insert 20 (sibling of parent is black, a 3-node)



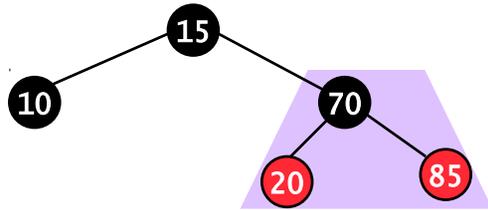
[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

Equivalent  
2-3-4 tree:



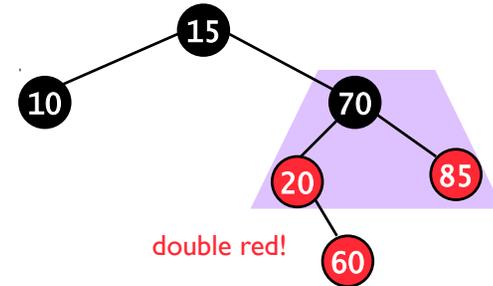
Rotate (becomes a 4-node)



[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

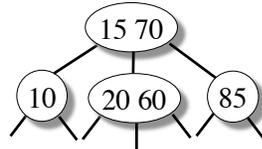
Insert 60 (sibling of parent is red, a 4-node, need to split)



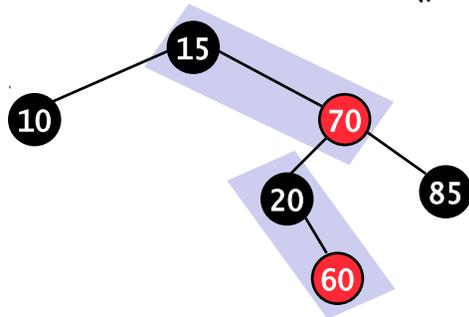
[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

Equivalent  
2-3-4 tree:



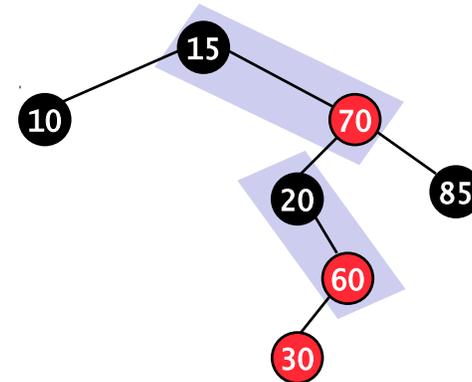
Recolor (promote middle value, 70)



[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

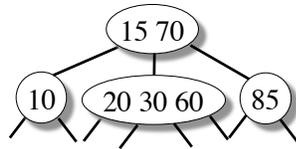
Insert 30 (sibling of parent is black, a 3-node)



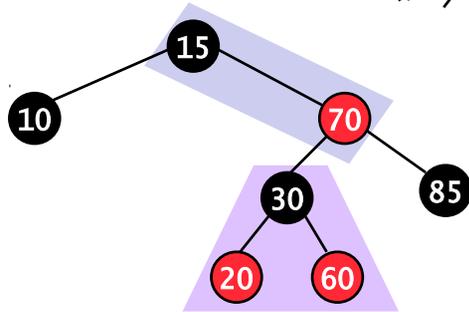
[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

Equivalent  
2-3-4 tree:



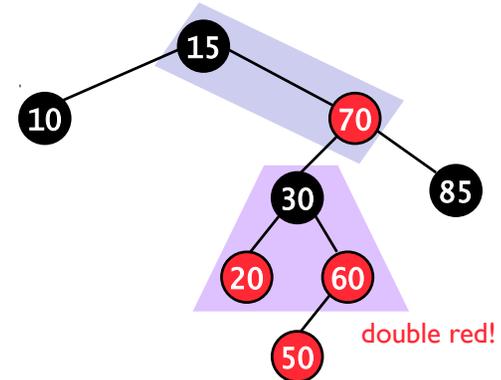
Rotate (made a 4-node)



[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

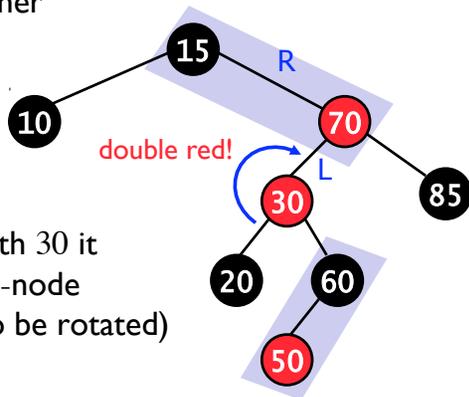
Insert 50 (sibling of parent?)



[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

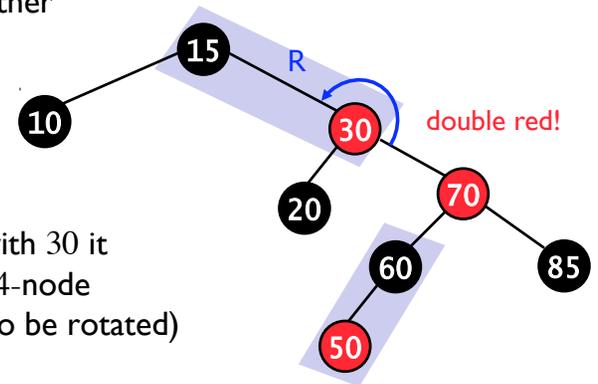
Insert 50 (promote middle value, 30, causing another double red; sibling of 30's parent, 70, is black, → 70 is in a 3-node; with 30 it becomes a 4-node and needs to be rotated)



[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

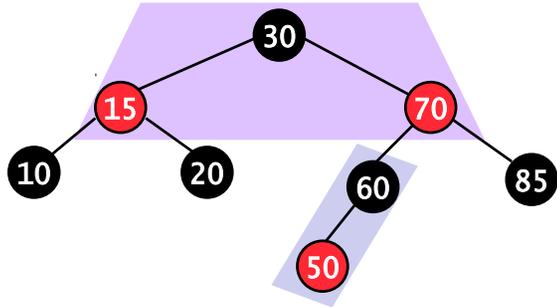
Insert 50 (promote middle value, 30, causing another double red; sibling of 30's parent, 70, is black, → 70 is in a 3-node; with 30 it becomes a 4-node and needs to be rotated)



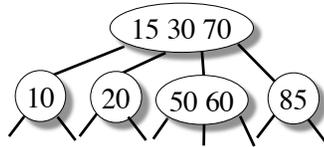
[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Insertion Examples

Double Rotate – Recolor



Equivalent  
2-3-4 tree:



Demo: <http://gauss.eecs.uc.edu/RedBlack/redblack.html>

[Rosenfeld]

# RBT Removal

If we delete a node, what was the color of the node removed?

- Red? easy, since
  - we won't have changed any black heights,
  - nor will we have created 2 red nodes in a row;
  - also, it could not have been the root
- Black?
  - could violate any of root rule, red rule, or black-height rule

[Walter]

# Red-Black Tree Removal

Observations:

- if we delete a red node, tree is still a red-black tree
- a red node is either a leaf node or must have two children

Rules:

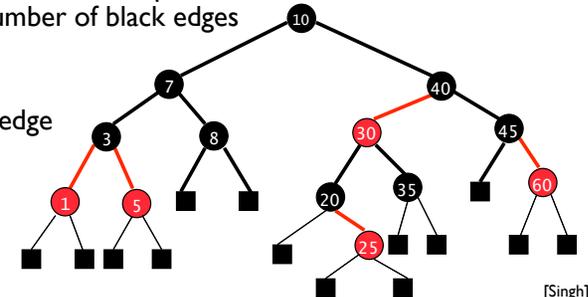
1. if node to be deleted is a red leaf, remove leaf, done
  2. if it is a single-child parent, it must be black (why?); replace with its child (must be red) and recolor child black
  3. if it has two internal node children, swap node to be deleted with its in-order successor
    - if in-order successor is red (must be a leaf, why?), remove leaf, done
    - if in-order successor is a single child parent, apply second rule
- In both cases the resulting tree is a legit red-black tree (we haven't changed the number of black nodes in paths)
4. if in-order successor is a black leaf, or if the node to be deleted is itself a black leaf, things get complicated ...

# RB-Trees: Alternative Definition

Colored edges definition

1. child pointers are colored red or black
2. the root has black edges
3. pointer to an external node is black
4. no root-to-external-node path has two consecutive red edges
5. every root to external node path has the same number of black edges

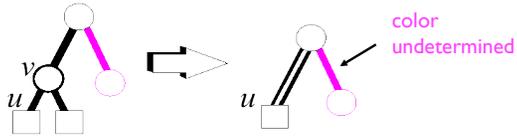
color of node ==  
color of incoming edge



[Singh]

## Black-Leaf Removal

We want to remove  $v$ , which is a black leaf  
 Replace  $v$  with external node  $u$ , color  $u$  **double black**



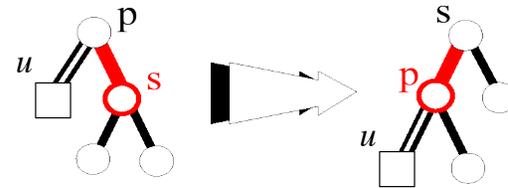
To eliminate **double black** edges, idea:

- find a red edge nearby, and change the pair (**red, double black**) into (black, black)
- as with insertion, we recolor and/or rotate
- rotation resolves the problem locally, whereas recoloring may propagate it two levels up
- slightly more complicated than insertion

[Saltenis]

## Red Sibling

If sibling is **red**, rotate such that a black node becomes the new sibling, then treat it as a black-sibling case (next slides)

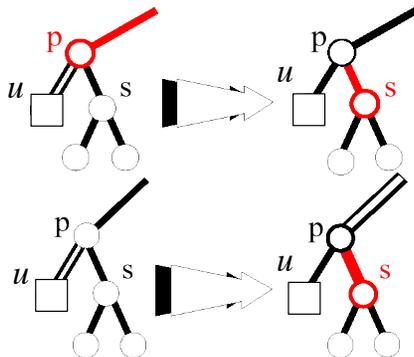


[Saltenis]

## Black Sibling and Nephew/Niece

If sibling and its children are black, recolor sibling and parent

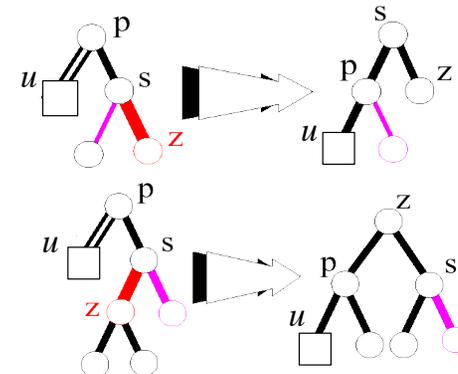
If parent becomes double black, percolate up



[Saltenis]

## Black Sibling but Red Nephew

If sibling is black and one of its children is **red**, rotate and recolor **red** nephew involved in rotation

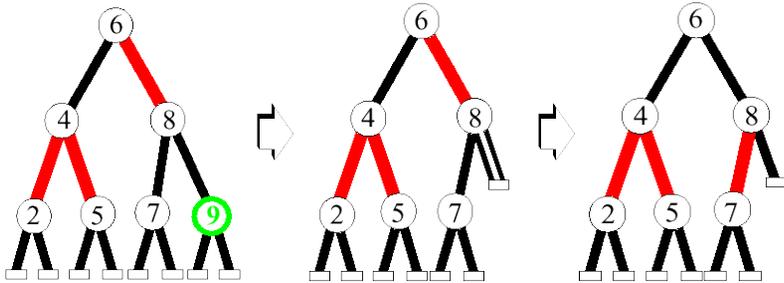


[Saltenis]

## Red-Black Tree Removal Example

Remove 9

sibling and its children are black, recolor sibling and parent

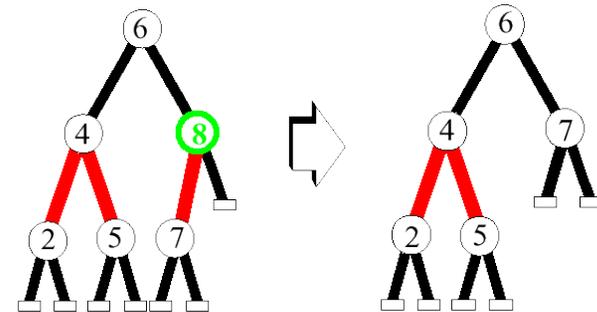


[Saltenis]

## Red-Black Tree Removal Example

Remove 8:

not a black leaf, no double black

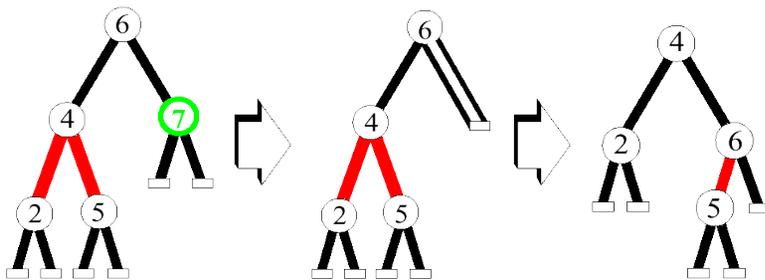


[Saltenis]

## Red-Black Tree Removal Example

Remove 7:

sibling is black and one of its children is red, rotate and recolor red nephew involved in rotation



[Saltenis]

## Efficiency of Red Black Trees

Insertions and removals require additional time due to requirements to recolor and rotate

Most insertions require on average a single rotation: still  $O(\log_2 n)$  time but a bit slower empirically than in ordinary BST

[Kellih]