

## Red-black trees

Carola Wenk

Slides courtesy of Charles Leiserson with small changes by Carola Wenk



**Abstract data type (ADT) Dictionary**  
(also called **Dynamic Set**):

A data structure which supports operations

- Insert
- Delete
- Find

Using **balanced binary search trees** we can implement a dictionary data structure such that each operation takes  $O(\log n)$  time.

## Balanced search trees

**Balanced search tree:** A search-tree data structure for which a height of  $O(\log n)$  is guaranteed when implementing a dynamic set of  $n$  items.

- AVL trees
- 2-3 trees
- 2-3-4 trees
- B-trees
- Red-black trees

### Examples:



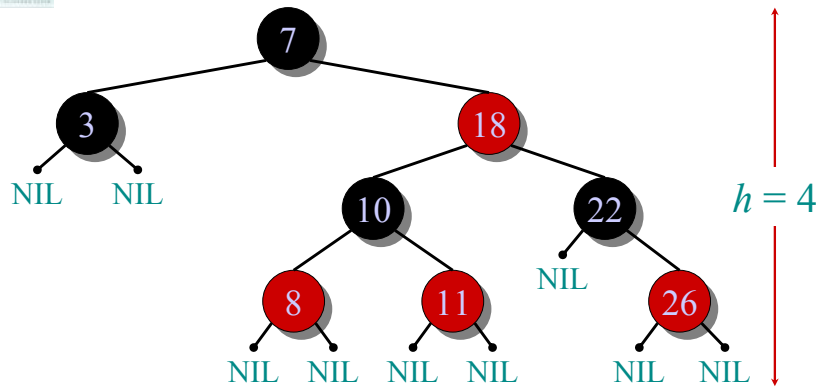
## Red-black trees

This data structure requires an extra one-bit **color** field in each node.

### Red-black properties:

1. Every node is either red or black.
2. The root is black.
3. The leaves (**NIL**'s) are black.
4. If a node is red, then both its children are black.
5. All simple paths from any node  $x$  to a descendant leaf have the same number of black nodes = **black-height**( $x$ ).

## Example of a red-black tree

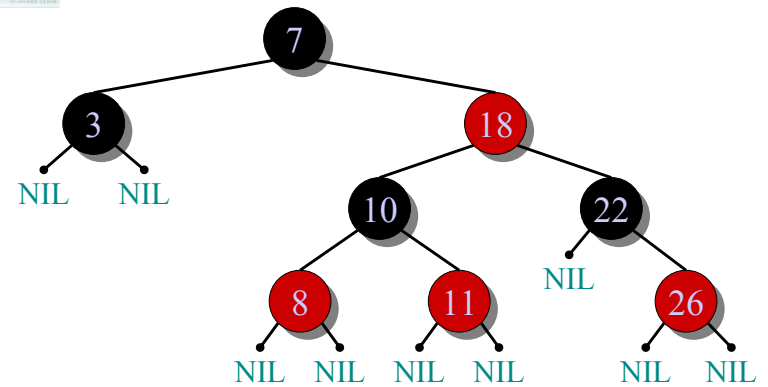


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## Example of a red-black tree



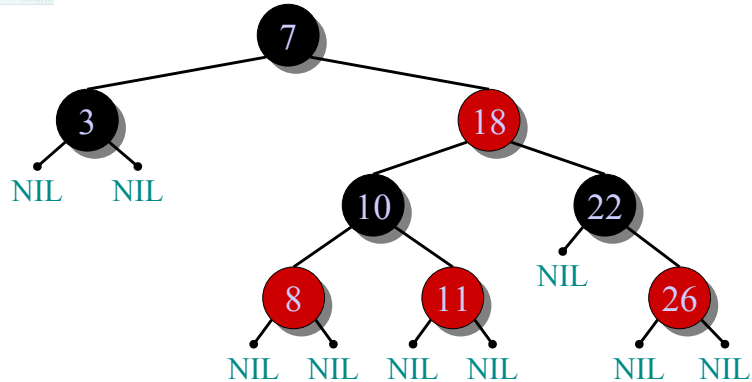
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## Example of a red-black tree



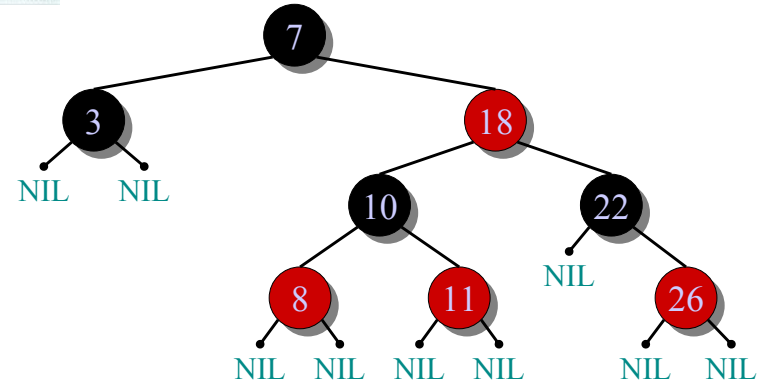
- 2., 3. The root and leaves (NIL's) are black.

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## Example of a red-black tree



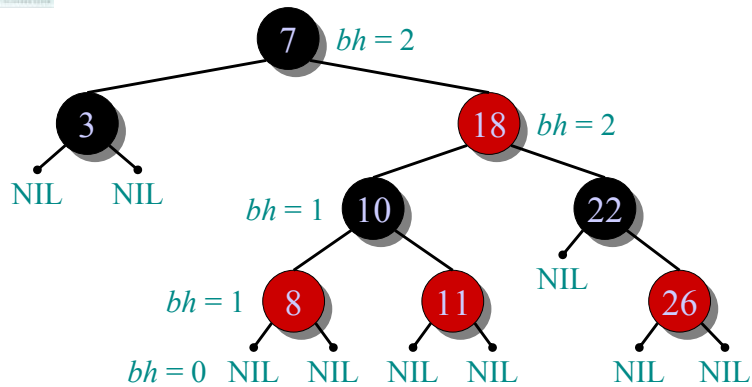
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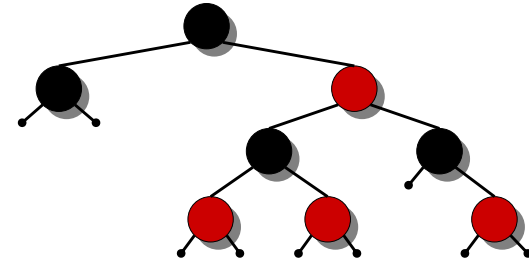
## Height of a red-black tree

**Theorem.** A red-black tree with  $n$  keys has height  $h \leq 2 \log(n + 1)$ .

*Proof.* (The book uses induction. Read carefully.)

**INTUITION:**

- Merge red nodes into their black parents.



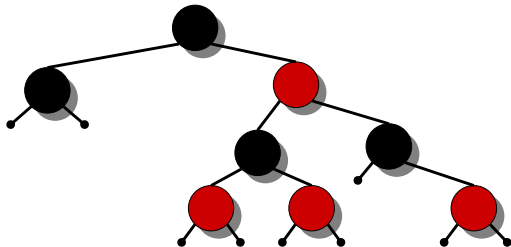
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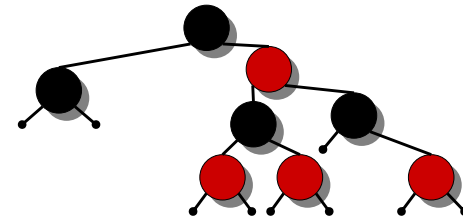
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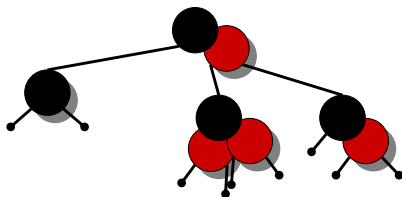
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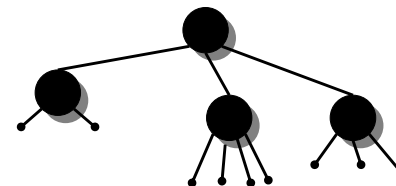
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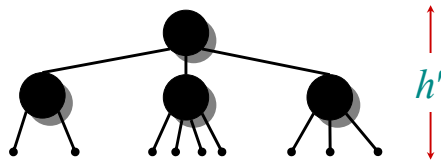
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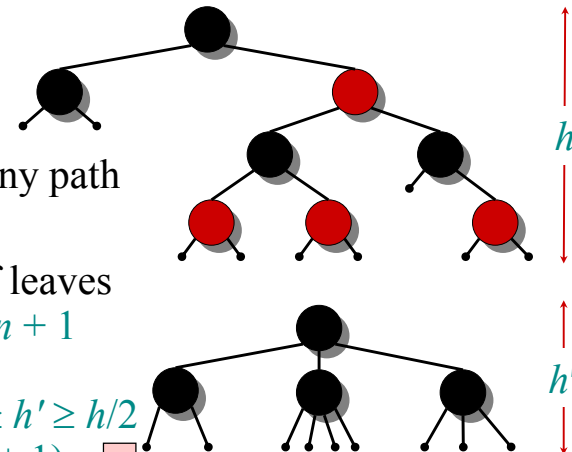
**INTUITION:**

- Merge red nodes into their black parents.
- This process produces a tree in which each node has 2, 3, or 4 children.
- The 2-3-4 tree has uniform depth  $h'$  of leaves.



# Proof (continued)

- We have  $h' \geq h/2$ , since at most half the leaves on any path are red.
- The number of leaves in each tree is  $n + 1$ 
  - $\Rightarrow n + 1 \geq 2^{h'}$
  - $\Rightarrow \log(n + 1) \geq h' \geq h/2$
  - $\Rightarrow h \leq 2 \log(n + 1)$ . □



# Query operations

**Corollary.** The queries SEARCH, MIN, MAX, SUCCESSOR, and PREDECESSOR all run in  $O(\log n)$  time on a red-black tree with  $n$  nodes.

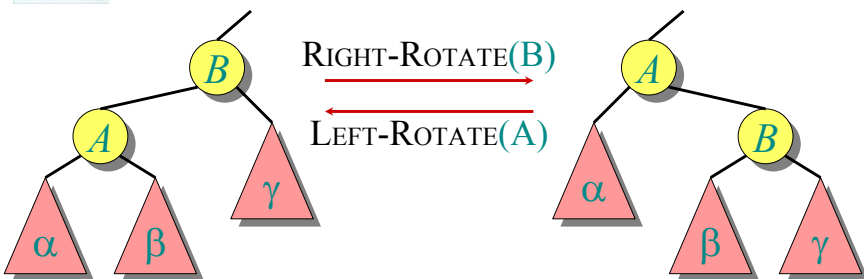


# Modifying operations

The operations INSERT and DELETE cause modifications to the red-black tree:

- the operation itself,
- color changes,
- restructuring the links of the tree via “rotations”.

# Rotations



Rotations maintain the inorder ordering of keys:

- $a \in \alpha, b \in \beta, c \in \gamma \Rightarrow a \leq A \leq b \leq B \leq c$ .

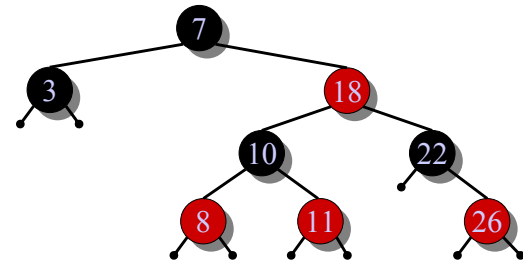
A rotation can be performed in  $O(1)$  time.



# Insertion into a red-black tree

**IDEA:** Insert  $x$  in tree. Color  $x$  red. Only red-black property 4 might be violated. Move the violation up the tree by recoloring until it can be fixed with rotations and recoloring.

**Example:**

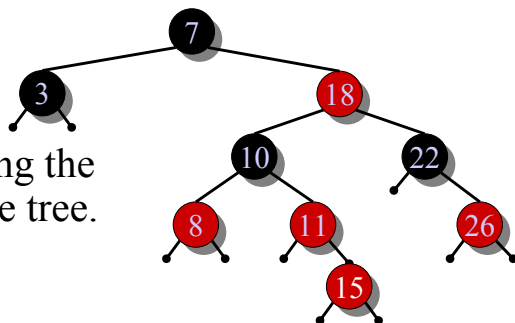


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### Example:

- Insert  $x = 15$ .
- Recolor, moving the violation up the tree.

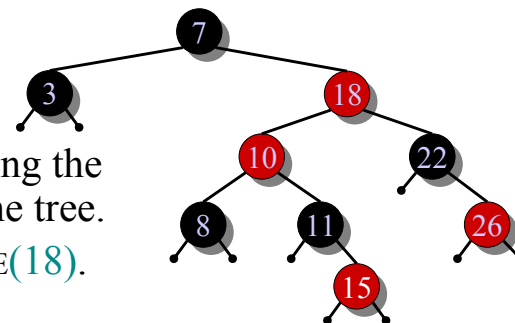


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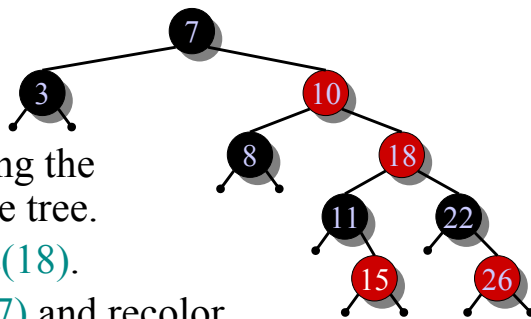


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- LEFT-ROTATE(7) and recolor.

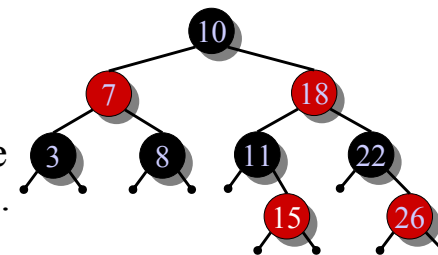


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# Pseudocode

```

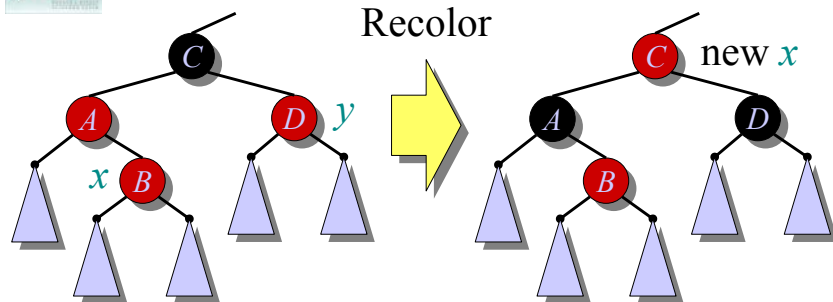
RB-INSERT( $T, x$ )
  TREE-INSERT( $T, x$ )
   $color[x] \leftarrow RED$   $\triangleright$  only RB property 4 can be violated
  while  $x \neq root[T]$  and  $color[p[x]] = RED$ 
    do if  $p[x] = left[p[p[x]]]$ 
      then  $y \leftarrow right[p[p[x]]]$   $\triangleright y = \text{aunt/uncle of } x$ 
      if  $color[y] = RED$ 
        then <Case 1>
      else if  $x = right[p[x]]$ 
        then <Case 2>  $\triangleright$  Case 2 falls into Case 3
        <Case 3>
      else <"then" clause with "left" and "right" swapped>
     $color[root[T]] \leftarrow BLACK$ 
  
```

# Graphical notation

Let  denote a subtree with a black root.

All 's have the same black-height.

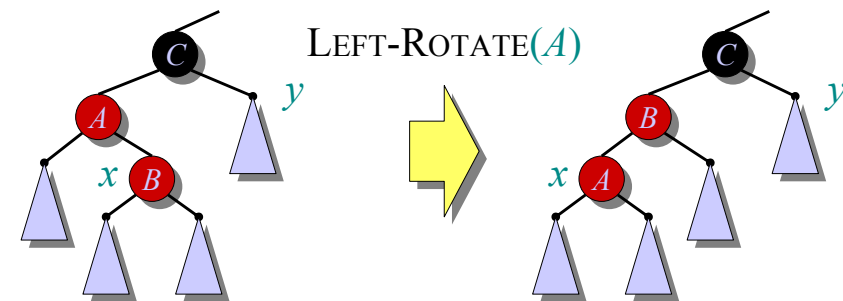
## Case 1



(Or, children of  $A$  are swapped.)

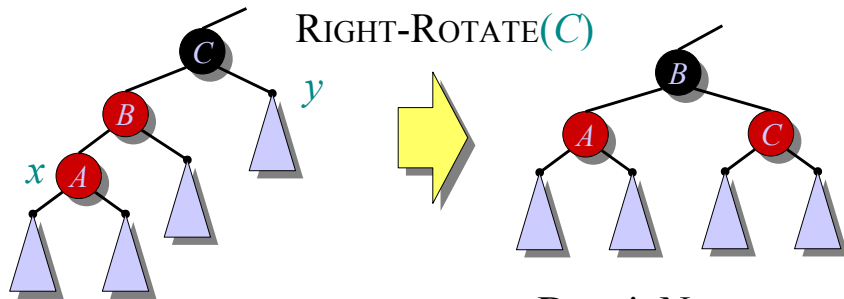
Push  $C$ 's black onto  $A$  and  $D$ , and recurse, since  $C$ 's parent may be red.

## Case 2



Transform to Case 3.

## Case 3



Done! No more violations of RB property 4 are possible.



## Analysis

- Go up the tree performing Case 1, which only recolors nodes.
- If Case 2 or Case 3 occurs, perform 1 or 2 rotations, and terminate.

**Running time:**  $O(\log n)$  with  $O(1)$  rotations.

RB-DELETE — same asymptotic running time and number of rotations as RB-INSERT (see textbook).