

Data Structures

Binary Search Trees

CS 225

September 22, 2025

Harsha Tirumala



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Department of Computer Science

Learning Objectives

Tree Search tradeoffs

Extend binary trees into binary *search* trees

Build conceptual and coding understanding of BST

Binary Trees

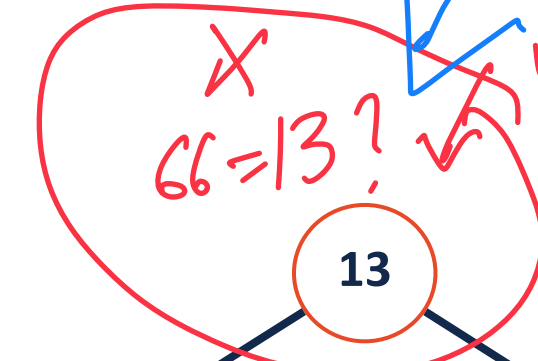
Operation	Implementation	Time complexity
Insert	Can Insert anywhere - so insert as new root with previous root as left/right child	$O(1)$
Remove	Implemented as find and remove - find requires traversal + remove can be done by swap	$O(n)$ for find + remove
Traverse	Can use any tree traversal - pre/in/post/level order	$O(n)$
Find	DFS/BFS	$O(n)$

n

$O(n)$

0(1)

Find(5) + Remove it



Swap with a leaf
delete leaf

Tree Search Tradeoffs

How can we improve our ability to search a binary tree?

~~Choices~~

Order ✓

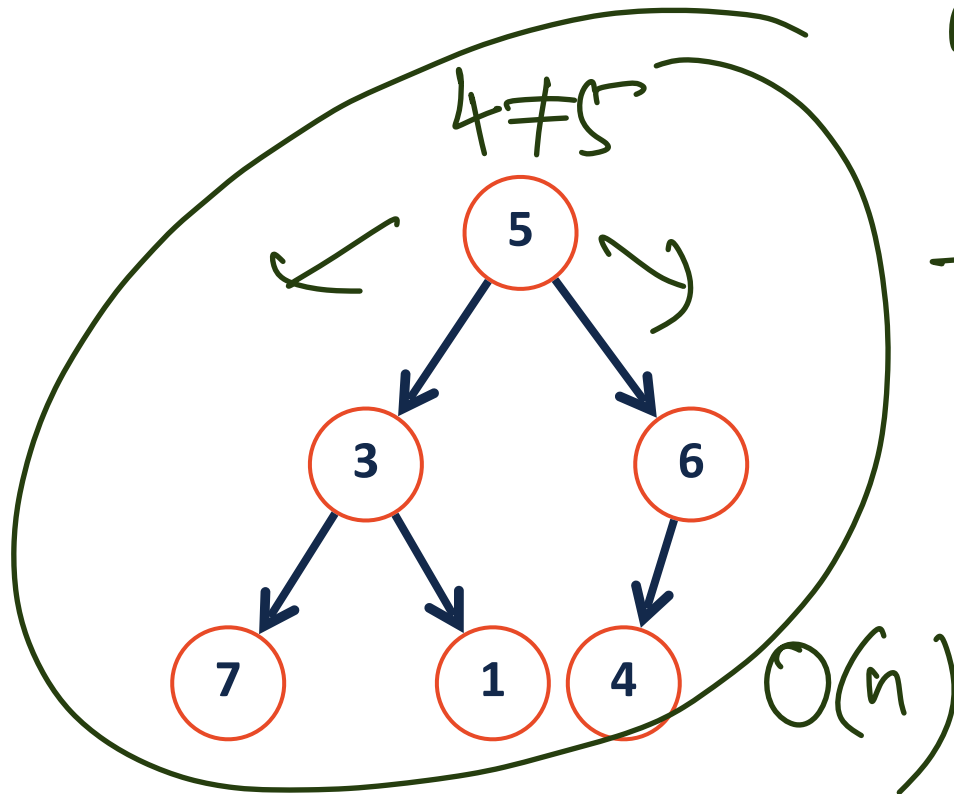
What do we trade in order to do so?

Insert ↑

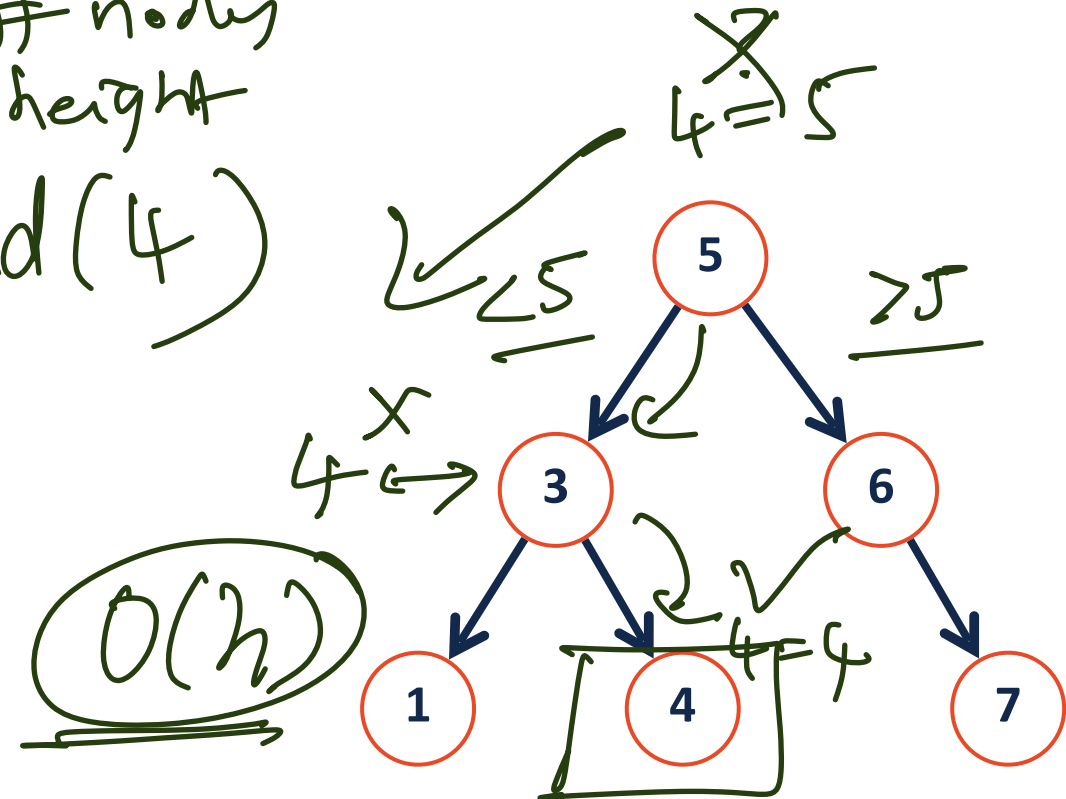
Improved Search - Unstructured vs Structured BT

5	3	6	7	1	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

1	3	4	5	6	7
---	---	---	---	---	---

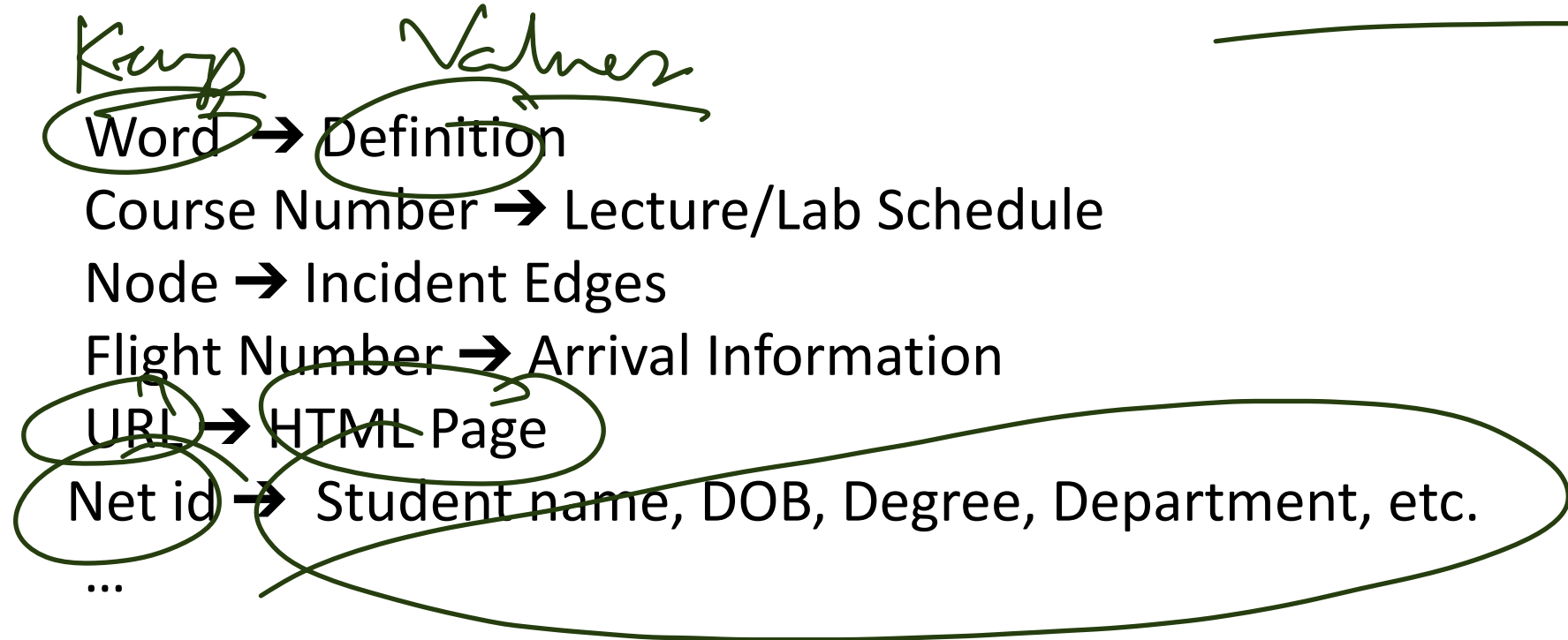


n : # nodes
 h : height
 $\text{find}(4)$



Dictionary ADT

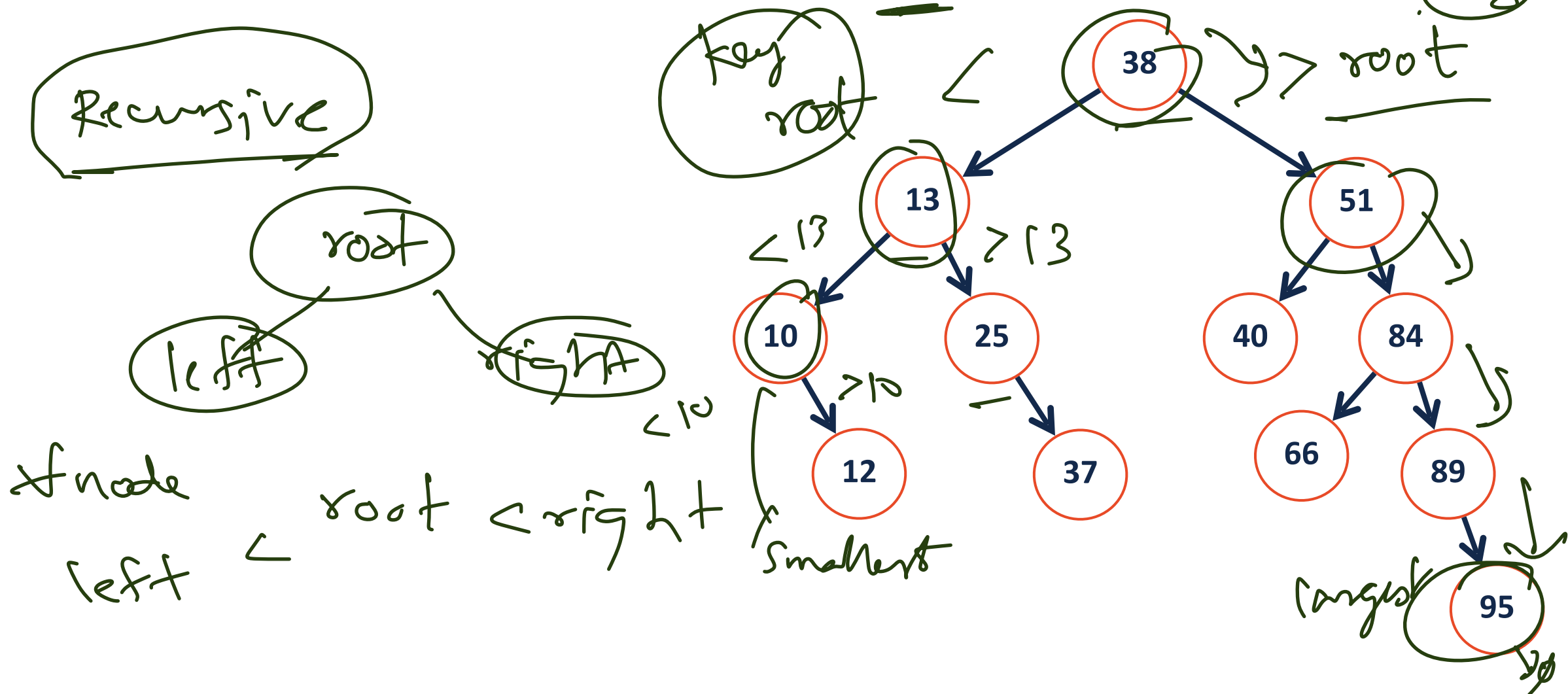
Real (meaningful) Data is often organised into key/value pairs:



Binary Search Tree (BST)

Uniq

A **BST** is a binary tree $T = \text{TreeNode}(\text{key}, T_L, T_r)$ such that:



BST.h

```
1 #pragma once
2
3 template <typename K, typename V>
4 class BST {
5     public:
6         /* ... */
7     private:
8         class TreeNode {
9             K & key;
10            V & value;
11
12            TreeNode *left, *right;
13
14            TreeNode(K & k, V & v) :
15                key(k), value(v),
16                left(NULL), right(NULL) { }
17            };
18
19            TreeNode *root_;
20            /* ... */
21 };
22
23
```

Tree.h

```
1 #pragma once
2
3 template <typename T>
4 class BinaryTree {
5     public:
6         /* ... */
7     private:
8         class TreeNode {
9             T & data;
10
11            TreeNode * left;
12
13            TreeNode * right;
14
15            TreeNode(T & data) :
16                data(data), left(NULL),
17                right(NULL) { }
18
19            };
20
21            TreeNode *root_;
22            /* ... */
23 };

```

Binary Search Tree ADT



requirements

Insert — insert but maintaining structure

Remove — remove but maintain structure

Traverse — pretty much same as Binary Trees.

Find

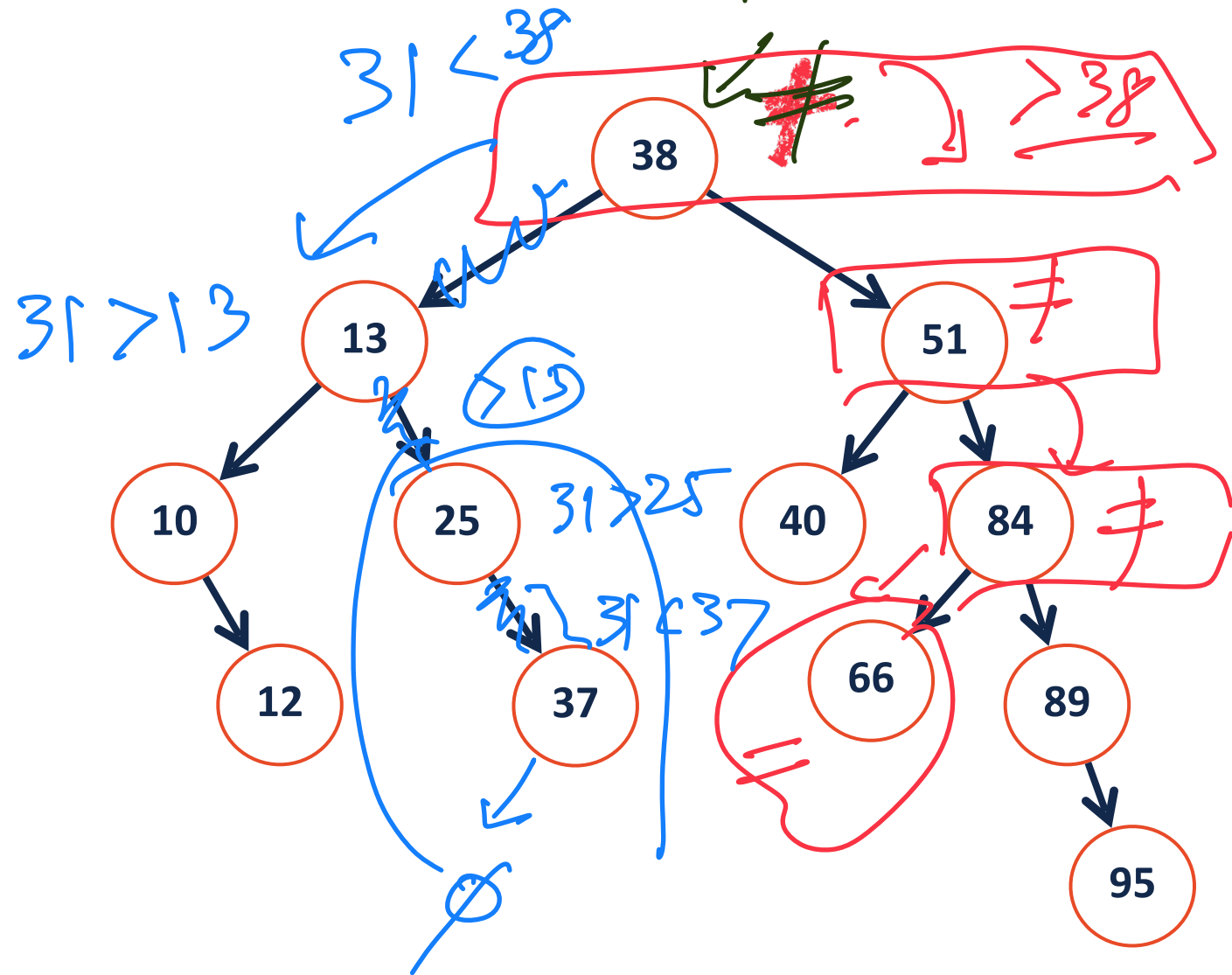
Constructor —

BST Find

find (31)

31 not found

find(66)



BST Find

find(66)

A recursive function based around value of root:

Base Case: If root is null, return root

Let $tmp = root \rightarrow key()$

$tmp == query$, return root

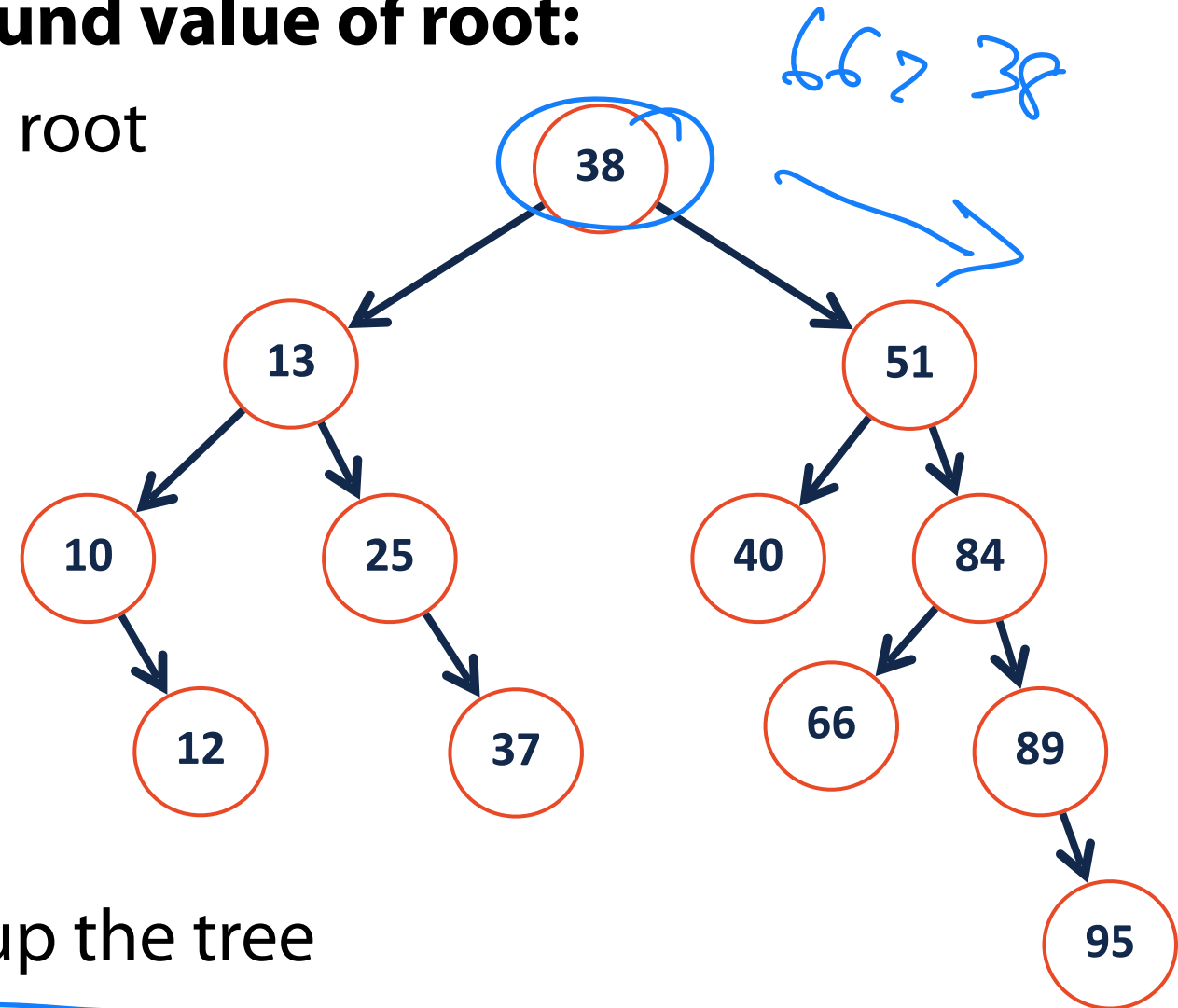
Recursion:

$tmp < query$, recurse right

$tmp > query$, recurse left

Combining:

Return the recursive value back up the tree

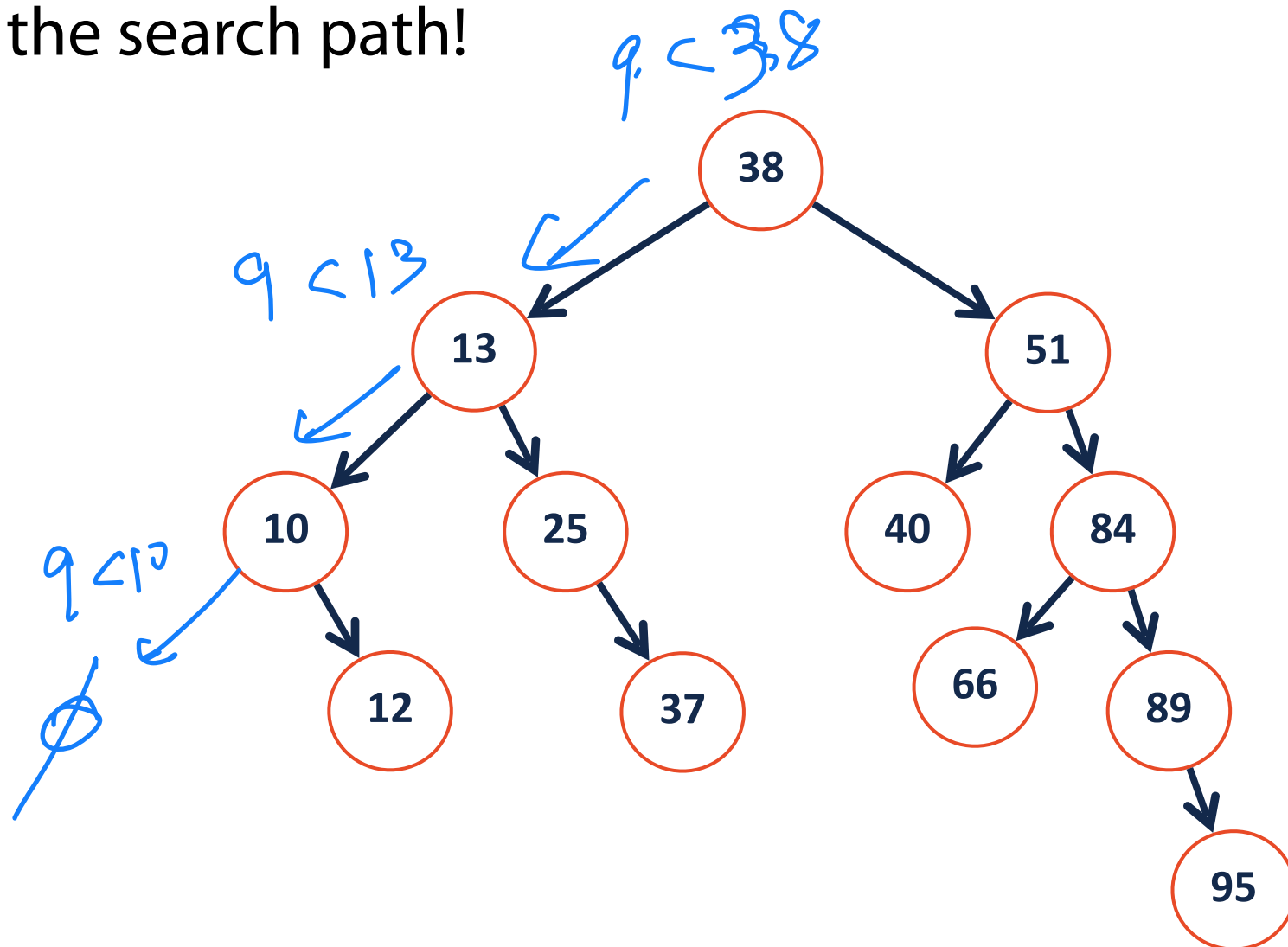


BST Find

Make sure you can follow the search path!

find(9)

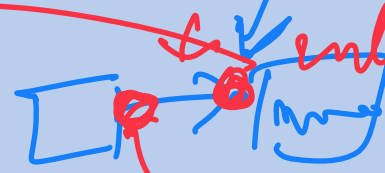
9 X





```
1 template<typename K, typename V>
2
3 TreeNode *& find(TreeNode *& root, const K & key) {
4
5
6 // Base Case
7 if(root == nullptr || root->data == key){
8     return root;
9 }
10
11 // Recursive Step ("Combining step" is 'return')
12 if (root->data > key){
13     return _find(root->left, key);
14 }
15
16 return _find(root->right, key);
17
18 }
19
20
21
22
23
```

can't manipulate
unless



$h: O(n)$

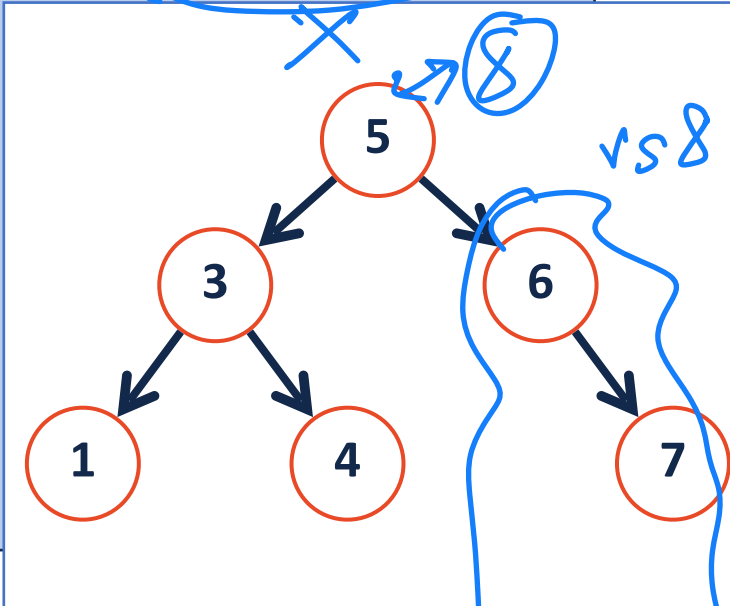
$tmp > query$

$tmp < query$

#nodes n

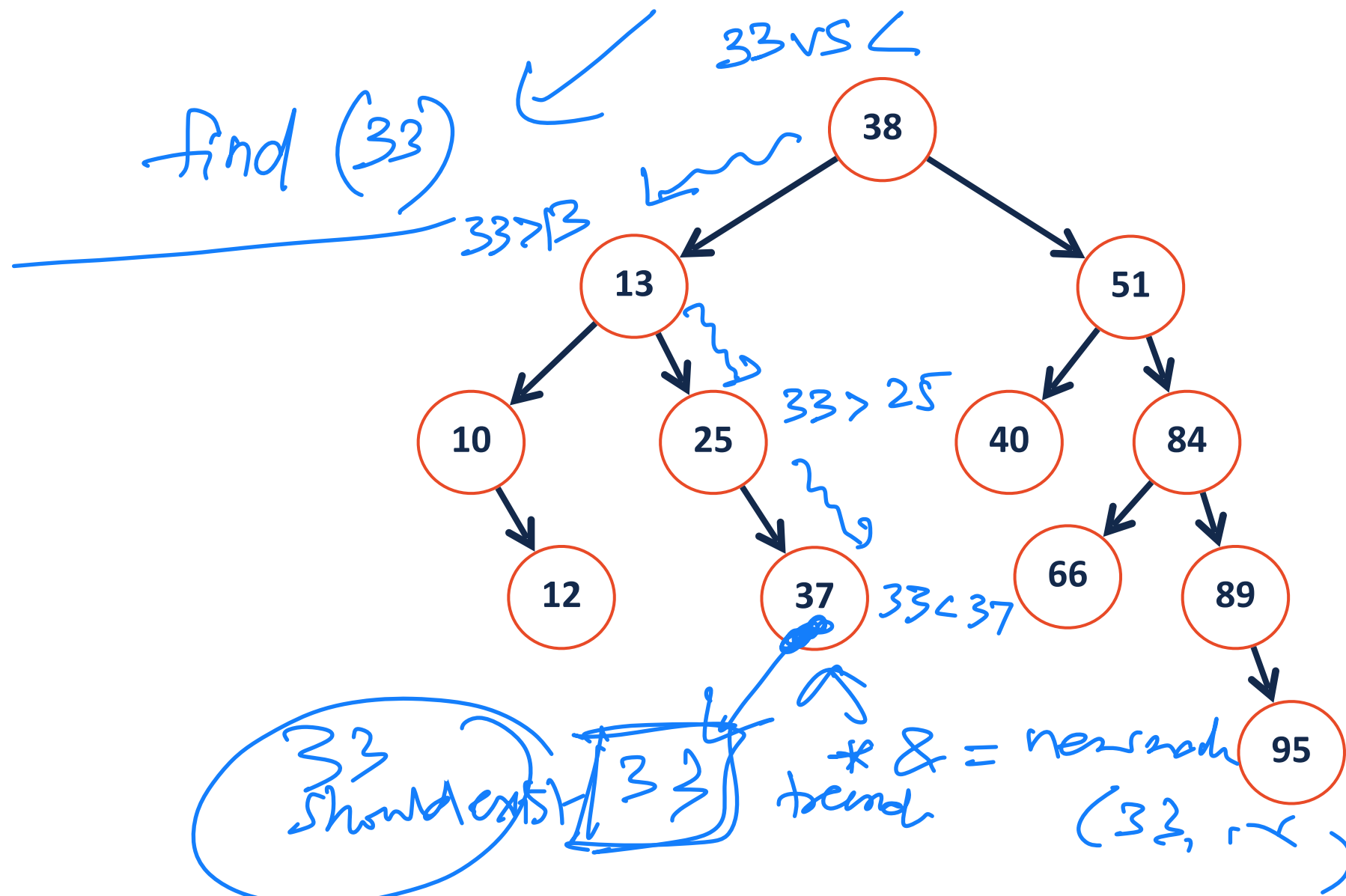
Height: h

Time: $O(h) \Leftrightarrow O(n)$
BST BT



BST Insert

insert(33, v)

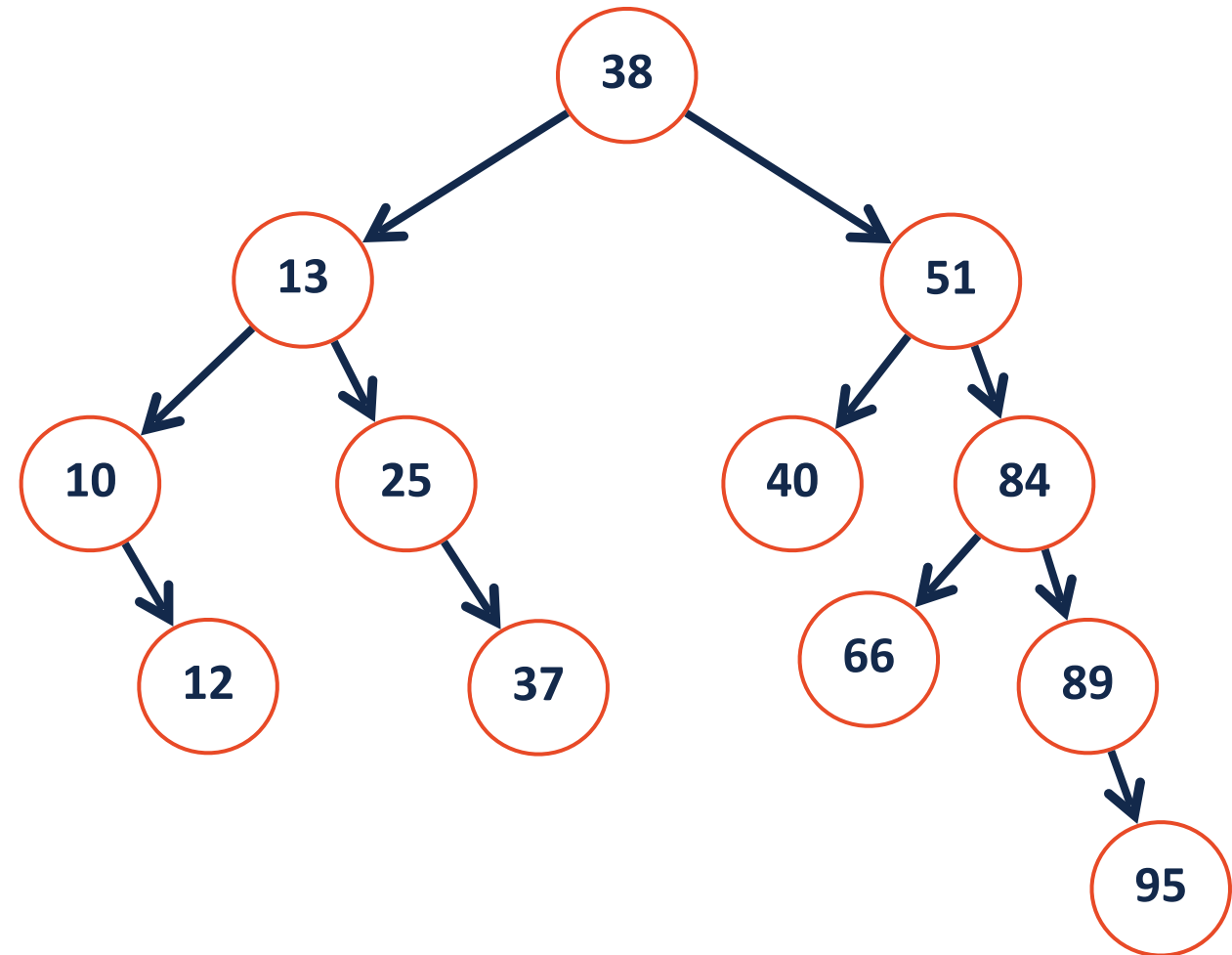


BST Insert

insert(33, v)

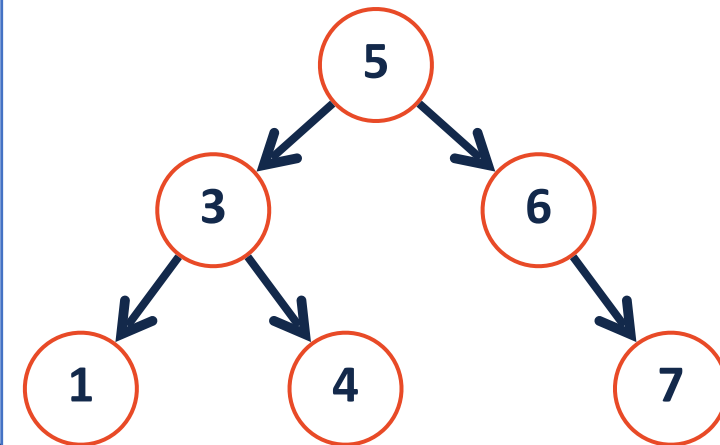
Find the insert location using `_find()`

Trivially insert at location



```
1 template<typename K, typename V>
2
3 void _insert(const K & key, const V & val) {
4
5     return _insert(root, key, val);
6 }
7
```

```
1 template<typename K, typename V>
2
3 void _insert(TreeNode *& root, const K & key, const V & val) {
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16 }
```



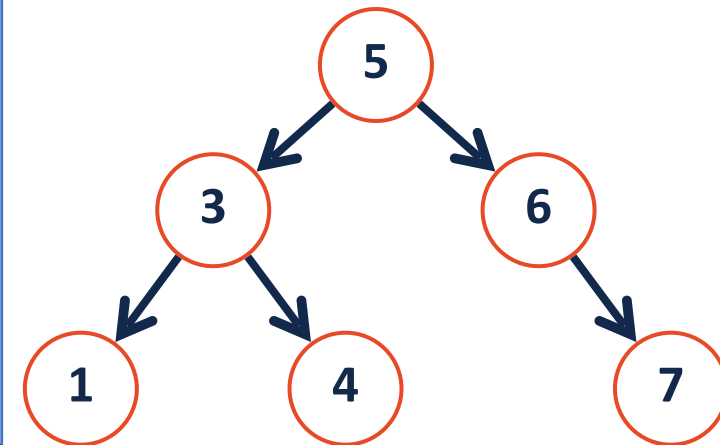


```
1 template<typename K, typename V>
2
3 void _insert(const K & key, const V & val) {
4     return _insert(root, key, val);
5 }
6
7
```

Tree

```
1 template<typename K, typename V>
2
3 void _insert(TreeNode *& root, const K & key, const V & val) {
4
5     TreeNode *& tmp = _find(root, key);
6
7
8     tmp = new treeNode(key, val);
9
10
11
12
13 }
14
15
16
```

exact location to insert
new node



BST Insert

What binary tree would be formed by inserting the following sequence of integers: [3, 7, 2, 1, 4, 8, 0]

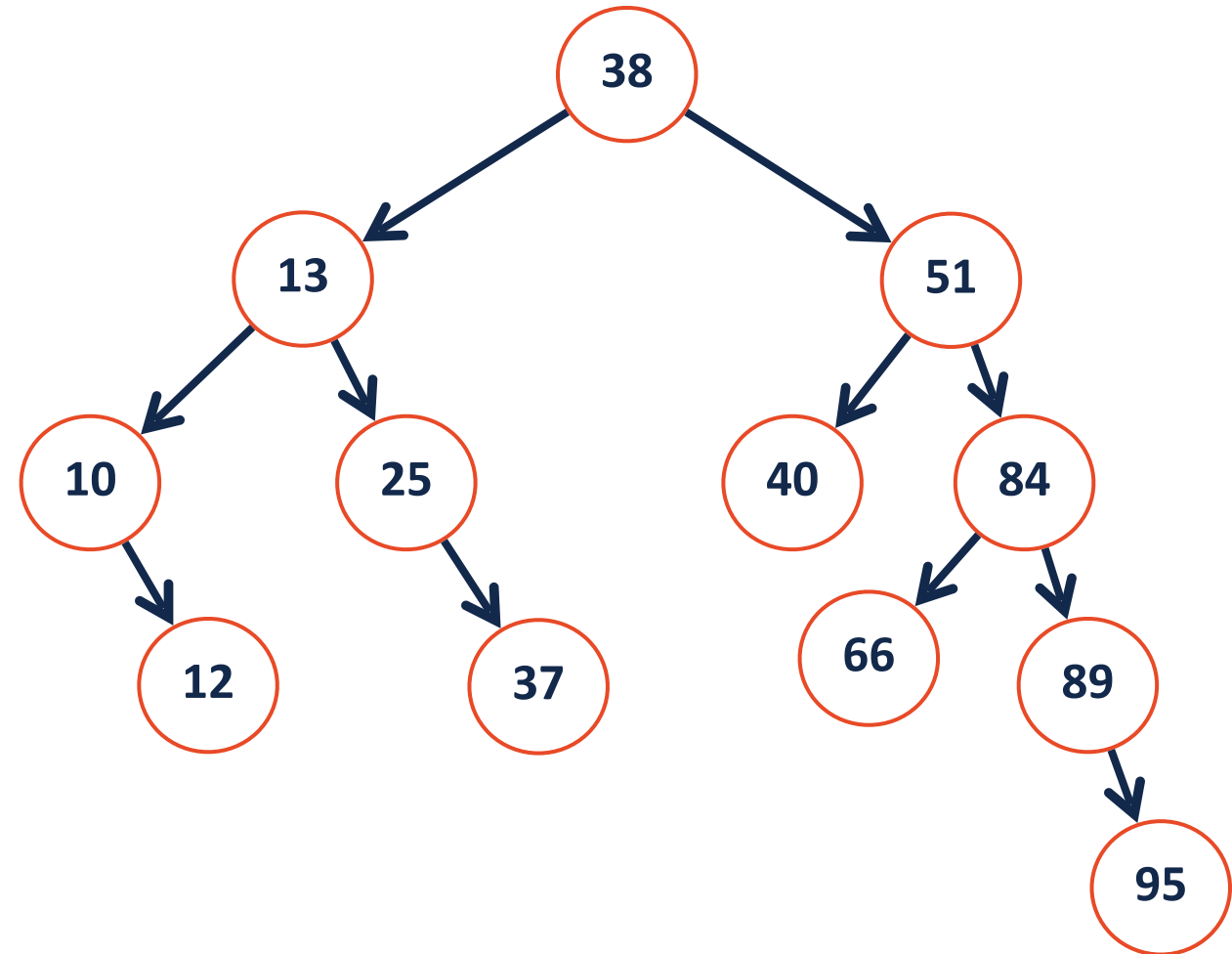
BST Remove

What should our tree look like after the following...

remove (40)

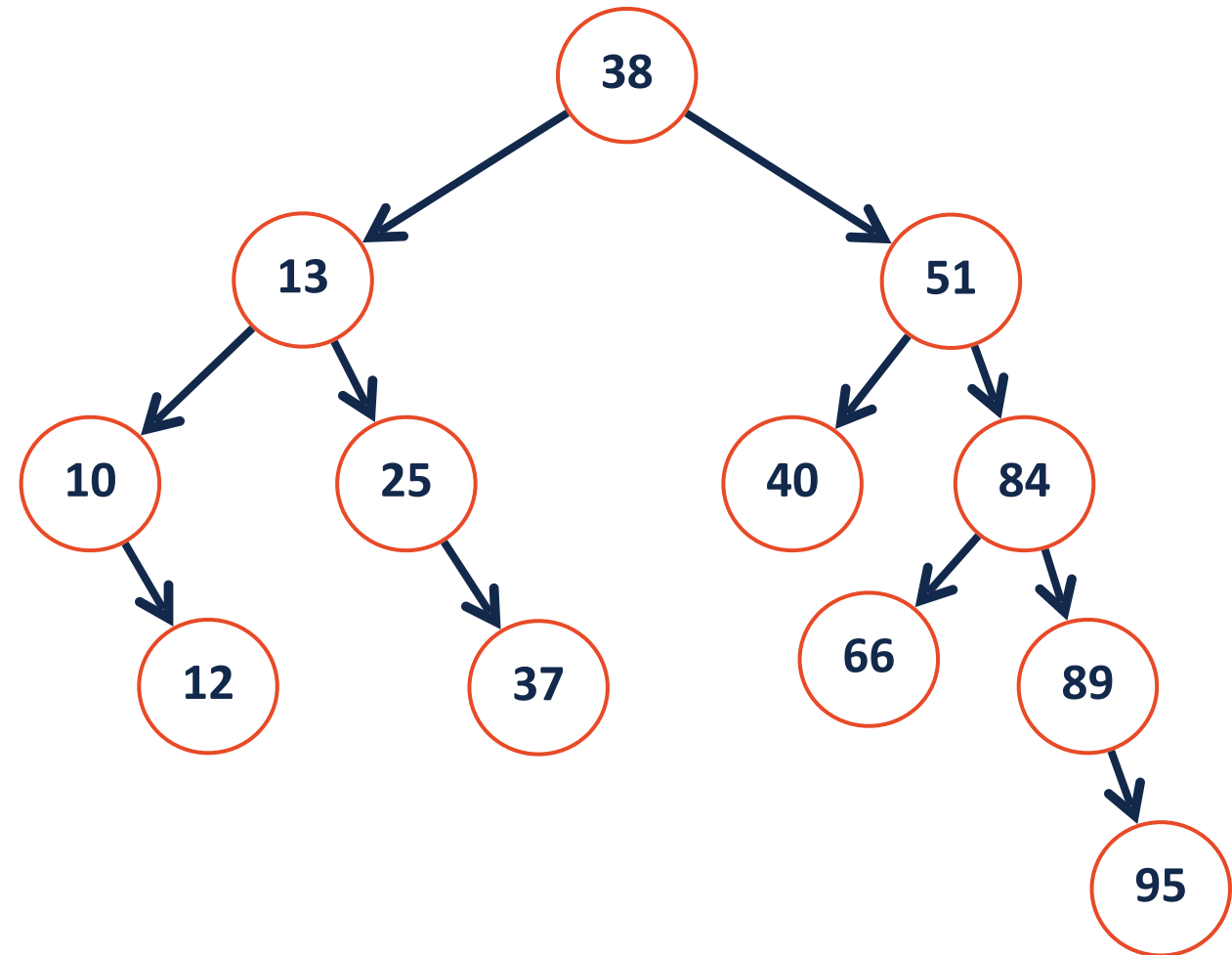
remove (25)

remove (51)



BST Remove

remove (40)



BST Remove

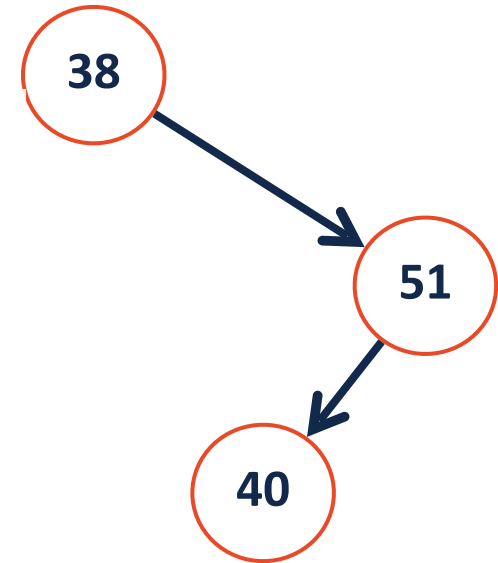
0-Child Case

```
TreeNode *& t = _find(root, 40);
```

```
delete t;
```

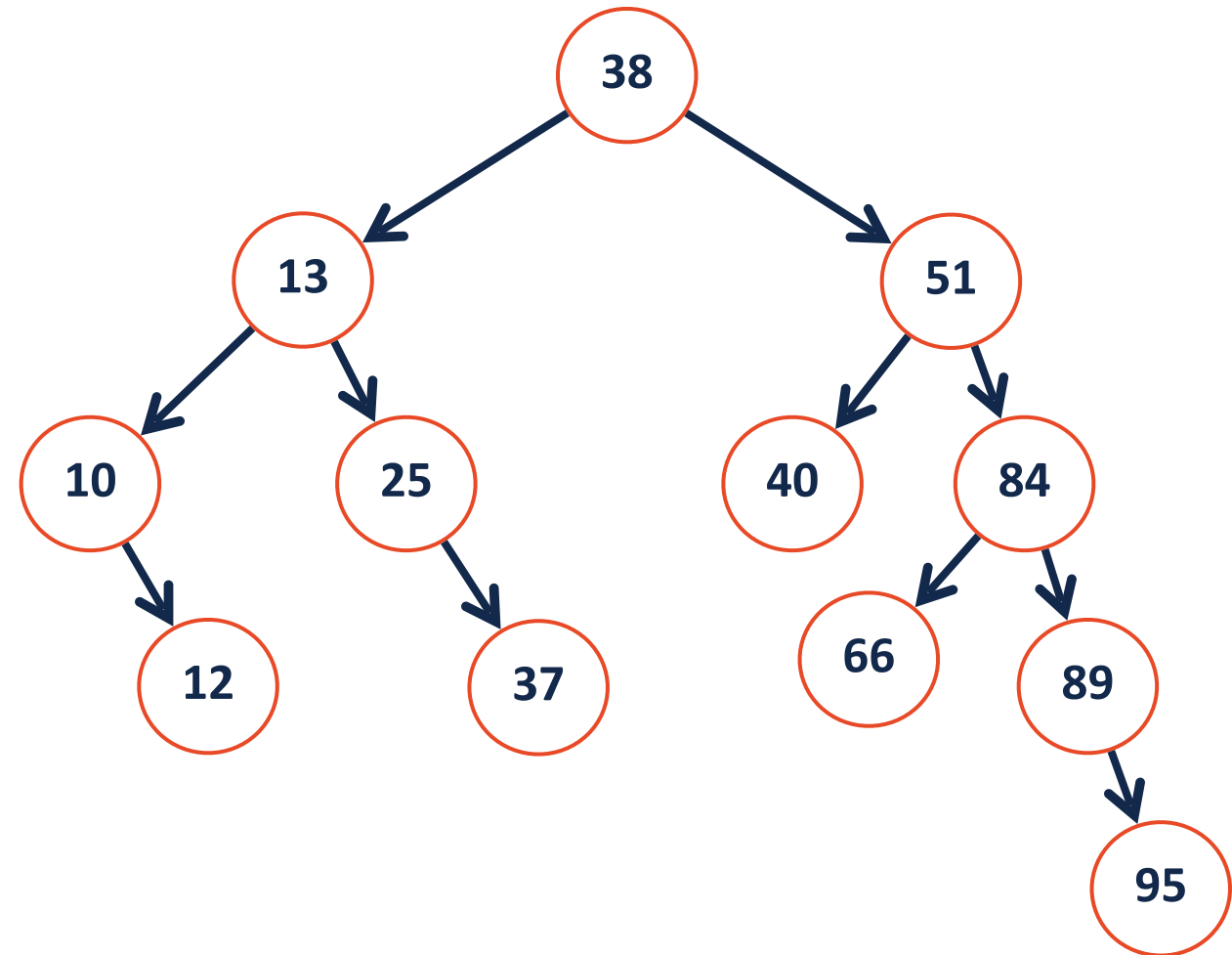
```
t = nullptr;
```

remove (40)



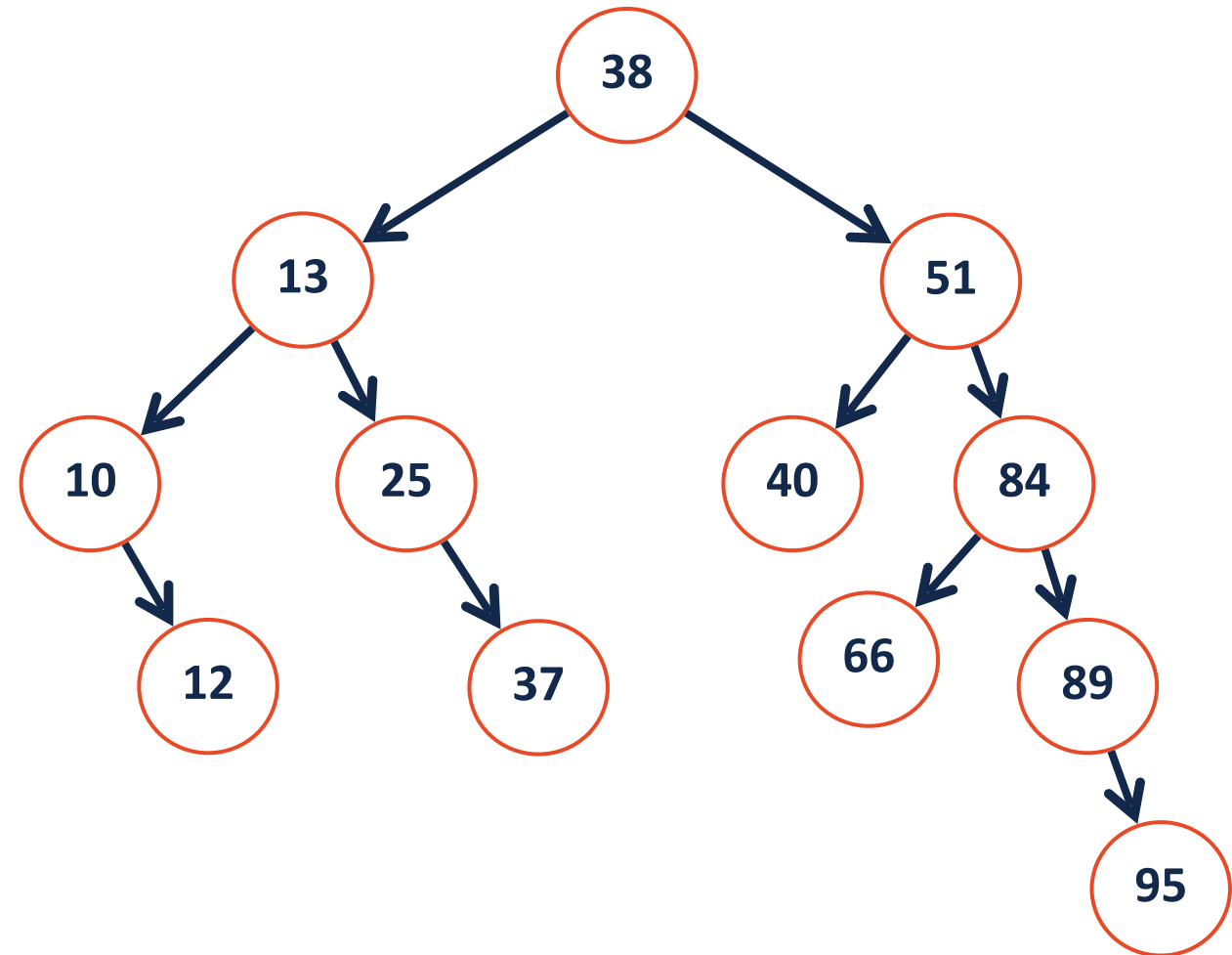
BST Remove

remove (25)



BST Remove

remove (25)



BST Remove

1-Child Case

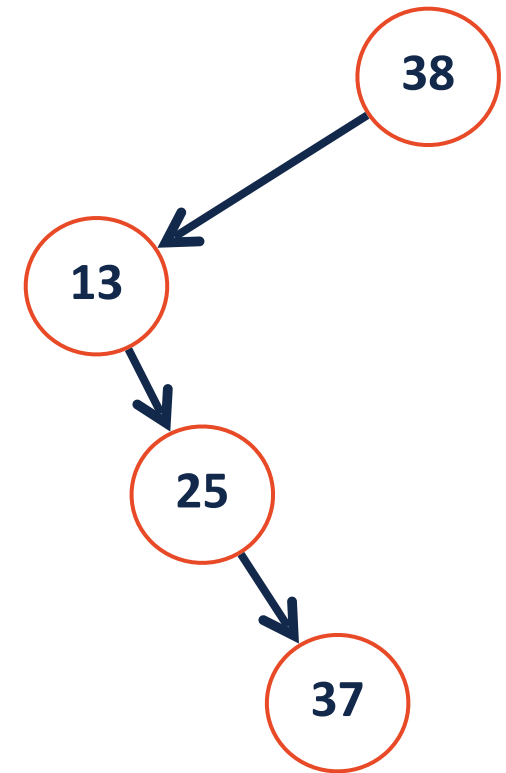
```
TreeNode *& t = _find(root, 25);
```

```
TreeNode * tmp = t;
```

```
t = t->right;
```

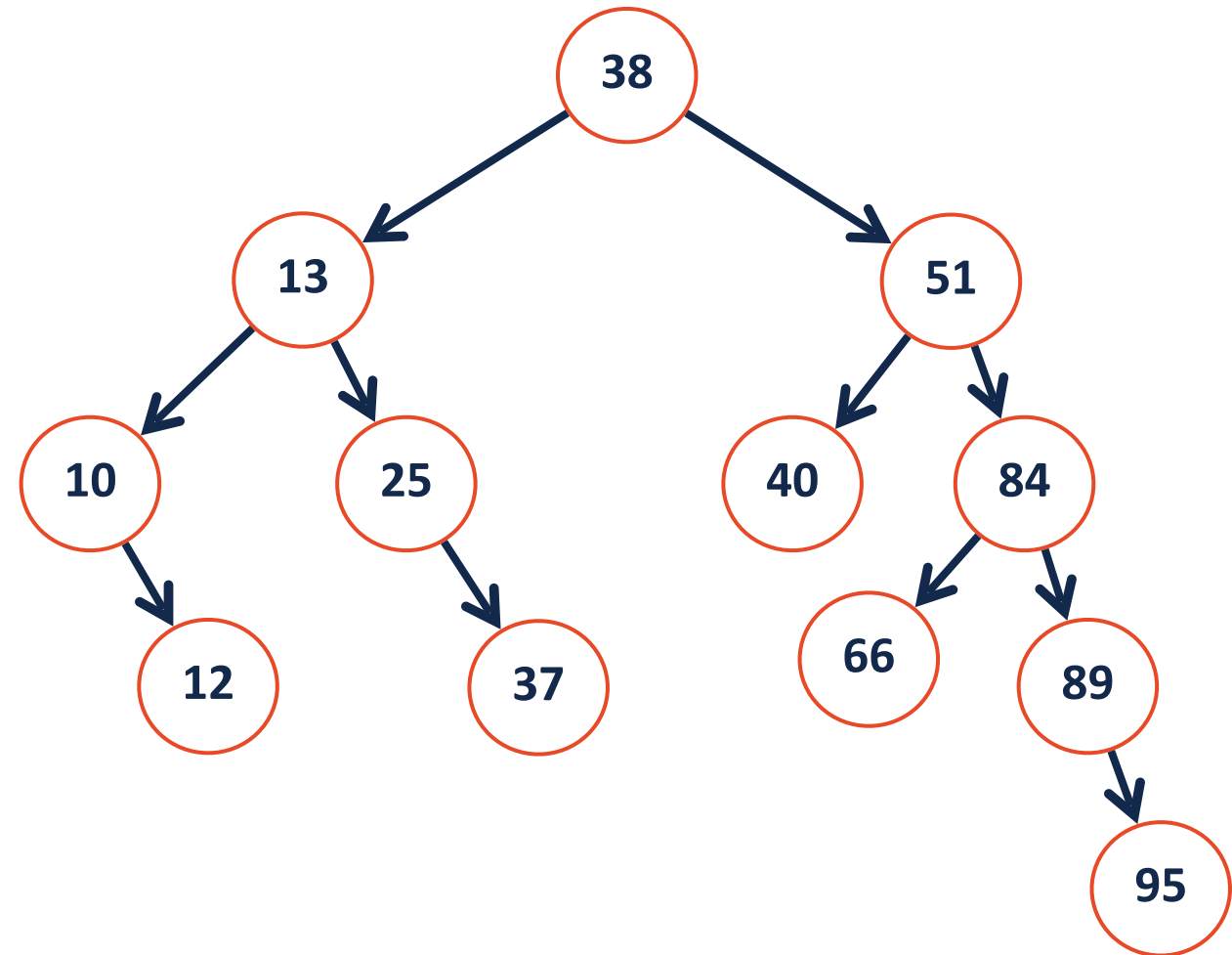
```
delete tmp;
```

remove (25)



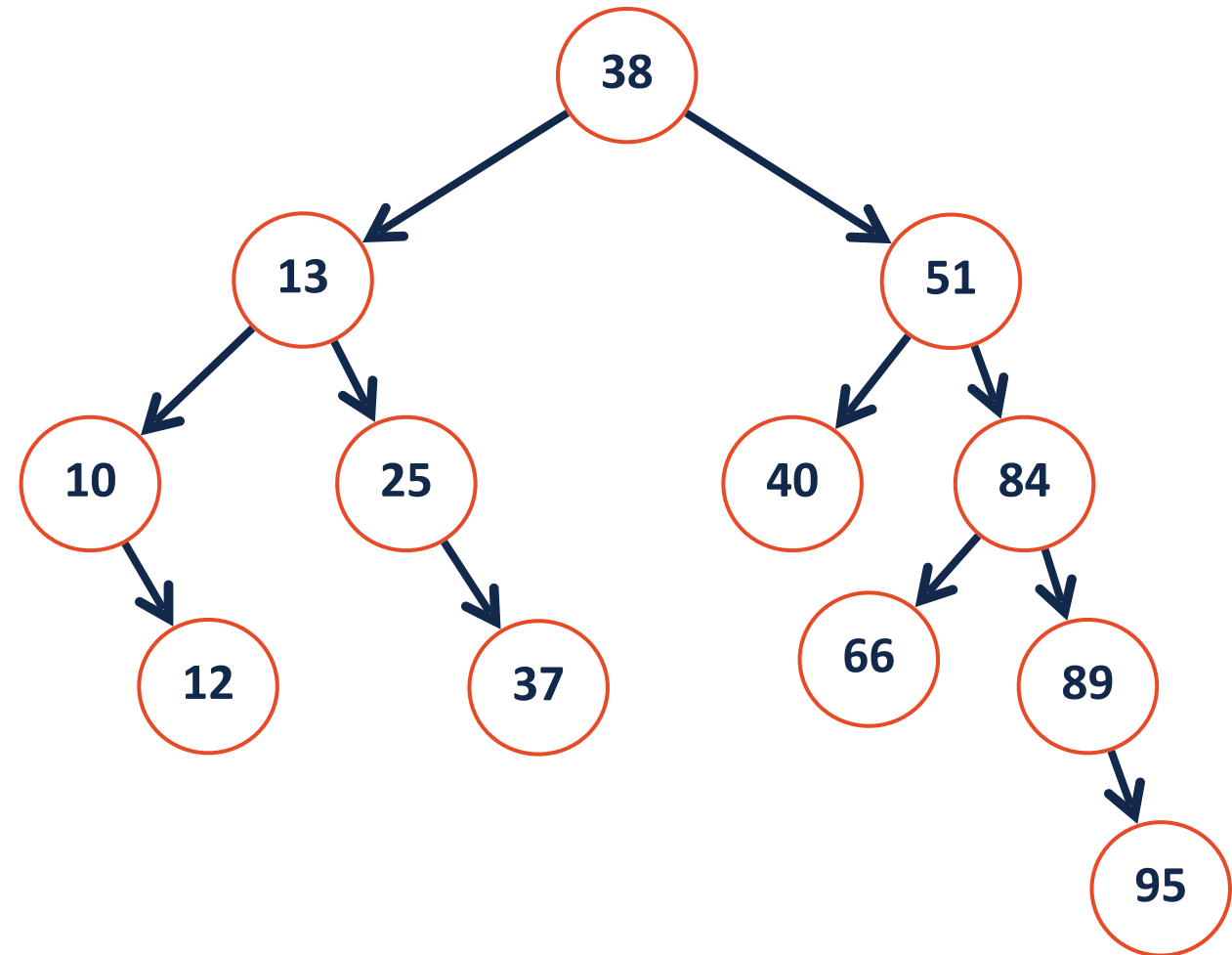
BST Remove

remove (13)



BST Remove

remove (13)



BST In-Order _____

In-Order Predecessor

Rightmost left child

IOP(38) =

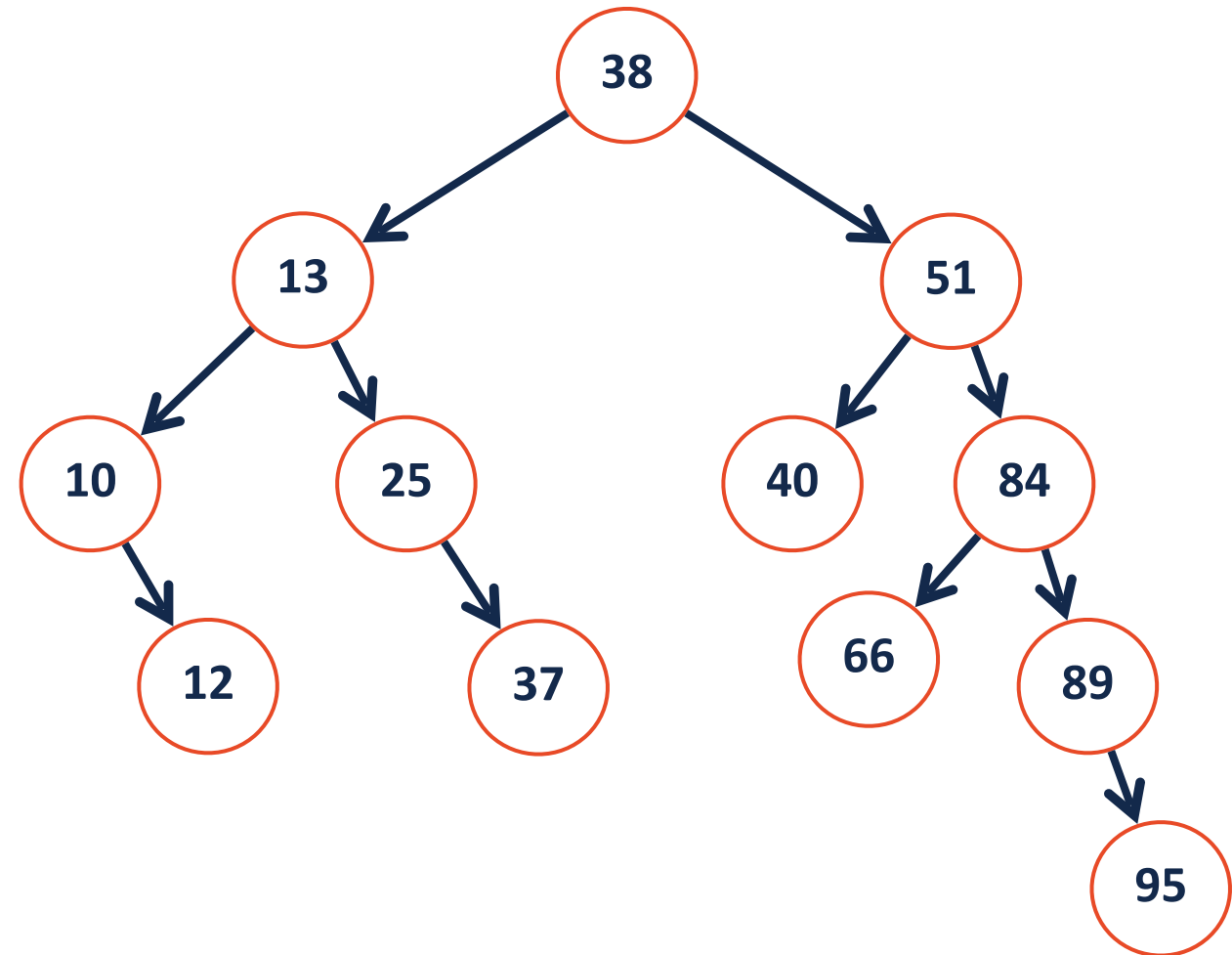
IOP(84) =

In-Order Successor

Leftmost right child

IOS(38) =

IOS(84) =



BST Remove

remove(13) 

2-Child Case

```
TreeNode *& t = _find(root, 13);
```

```
TreeNode * IOP = getIOP(t);
```

```
swap(t, iop);
```

```
remove(13); //starting from t
```

