Data Structures AVL Trees - 2

CS 225 Harsha Tirumala October 3, 2025



Learning Objectives

Review why we need balanced trees

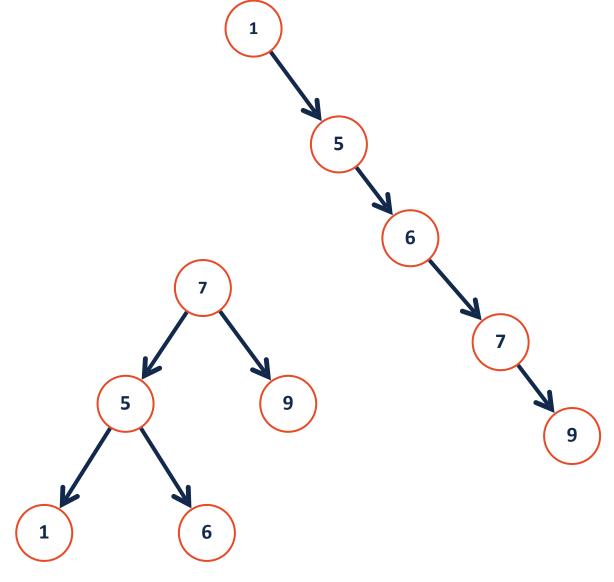
Review what an AVL rotation does

Review the four possible rotations for an AVL tree

Explore the implementation of AVL Tree

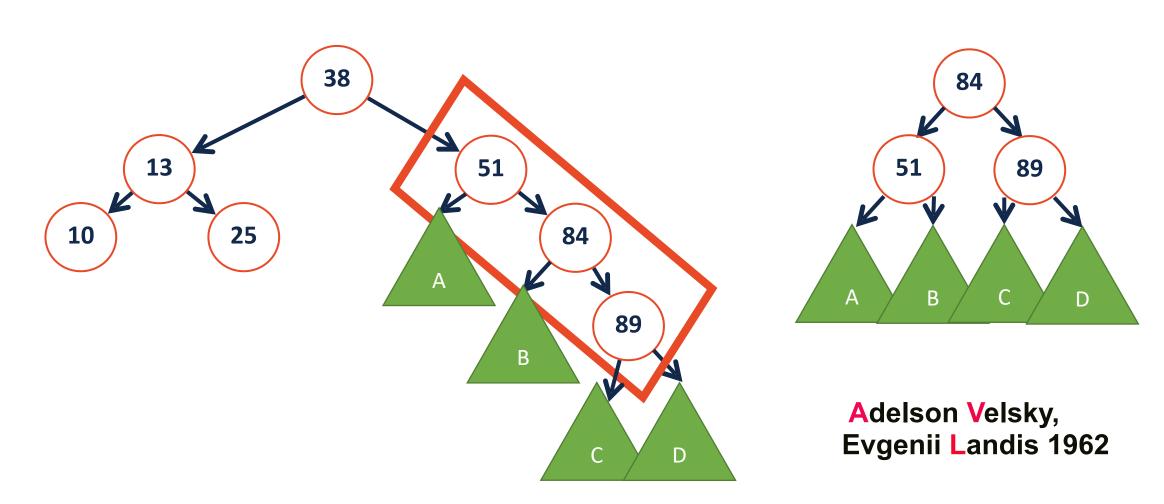
BST Analysis – Running Time

	BST Worst Case	
find	O(h)	
insert	O(h)	
delete	O(h)	
traverse	O(n)	



AVL-Tree: A self-balancing binary search tree

Rather than fixing an insertion order, just correct the tree as needed!



BST Rotations (The AVL Tree)

We can adjust the BST structure by performing **rotations**.

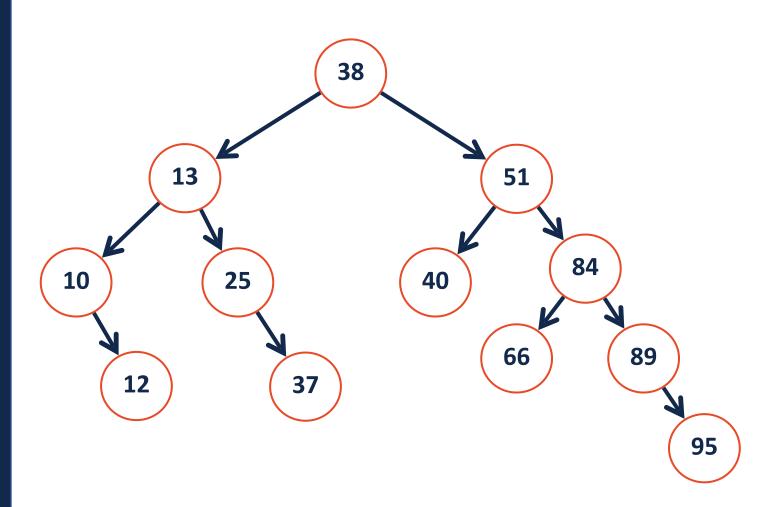
These rotations, when used correctly:

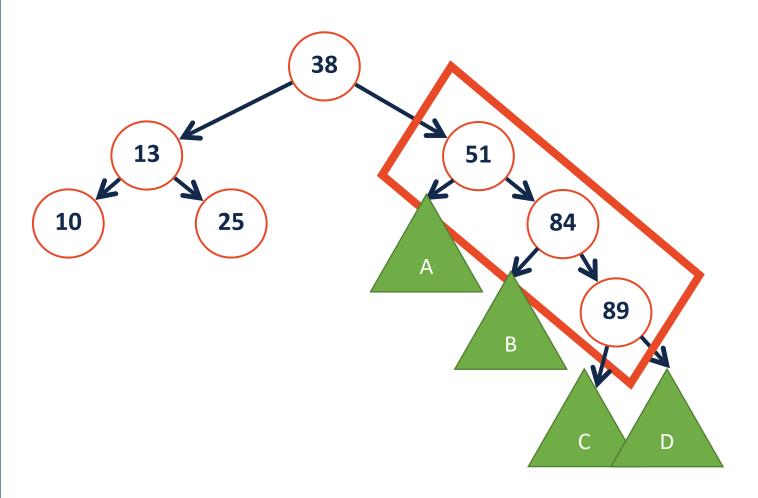
1. Modify the arrangement of nodes while <u>preserving BST property</u>

2. Reduce tree height by one

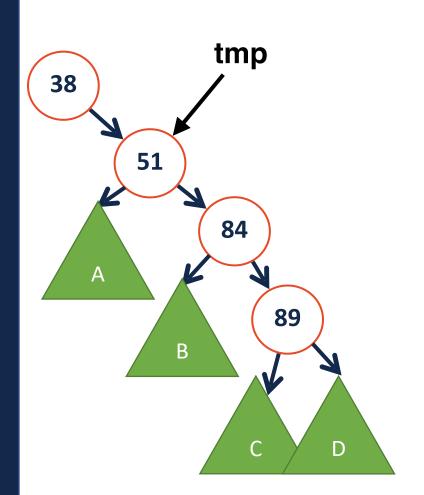
BST Rotations (The AVL Tree)

To begin, lets find the imbalance in the following tree:

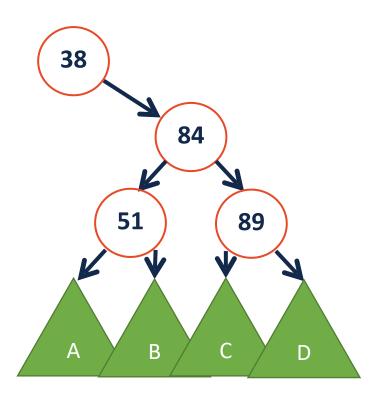




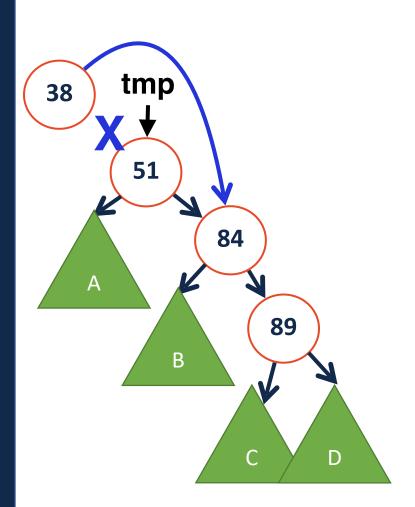
1) Create a tmp pointer to root



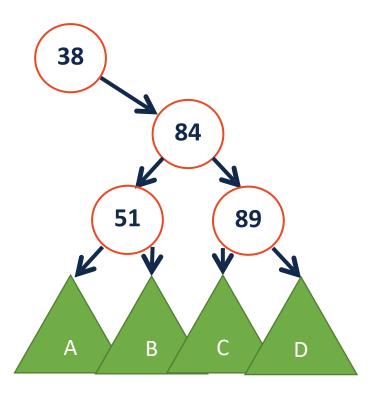


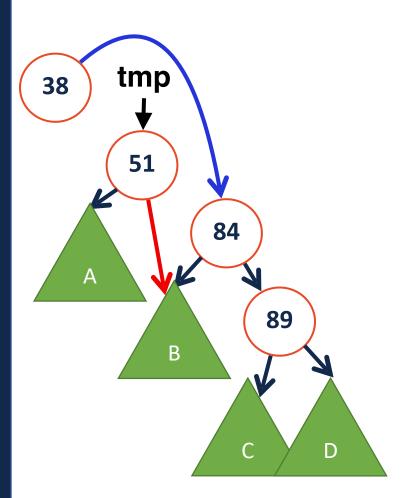


- 1) Create a tmp pointer to root
 - 2) Update root to point to mid

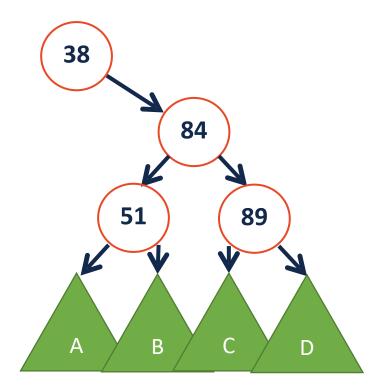


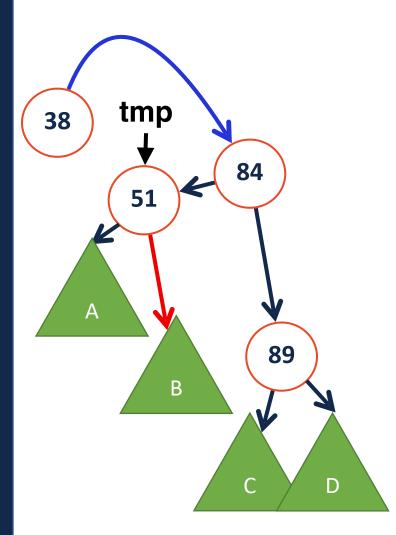






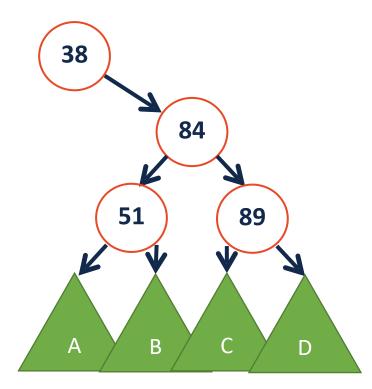
- 1) Create a tmp pointer to root
 - 2) Update root to point to mid
 - 3) tmp->right = root->left

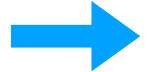




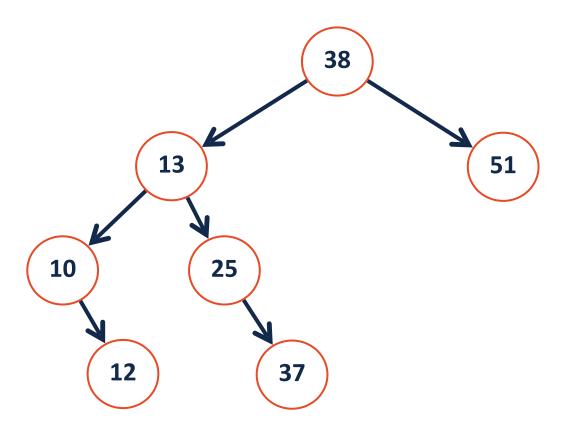


- 1) Create a tmp pointer to root
- 2) Update root to point to mid
- 3) tmp->right = root->left
- 4) root->left = tmp

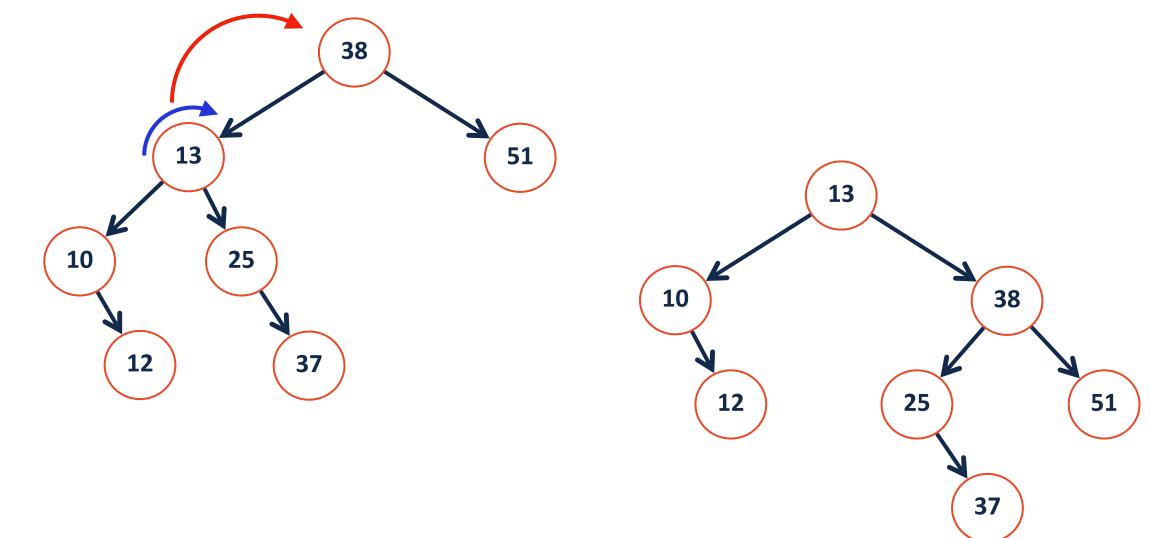




Right Rotation



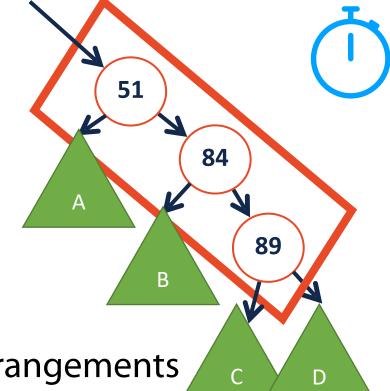
Right Rotation



Coding AVL Rotations

Two ways of visualizing:

1) Think of an arrow 'rotating' around the center



2) Recognize that there's a concrete order for rearrangements

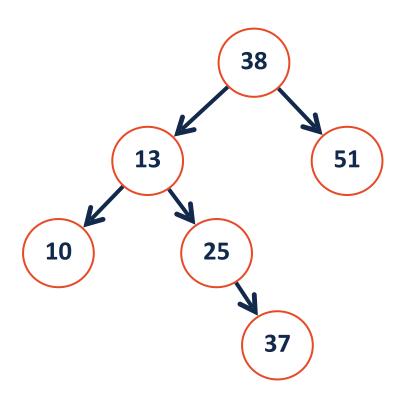
Ex: Unbalanced at current (root) node and need to rotateLeft?

Replace current (root) node with it's right child.

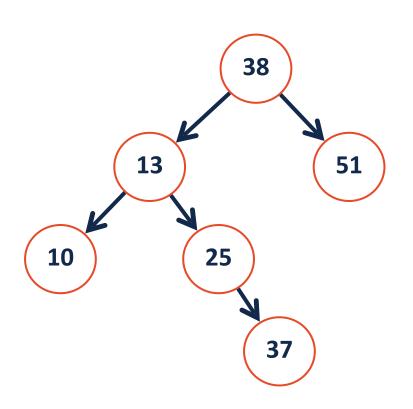
Set the right child's left child to be the current node's right

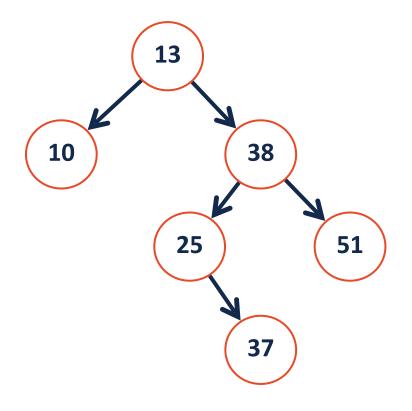
Make the current node the right child's left child

AVL Rotation Practice



AVL Rotation - Problems





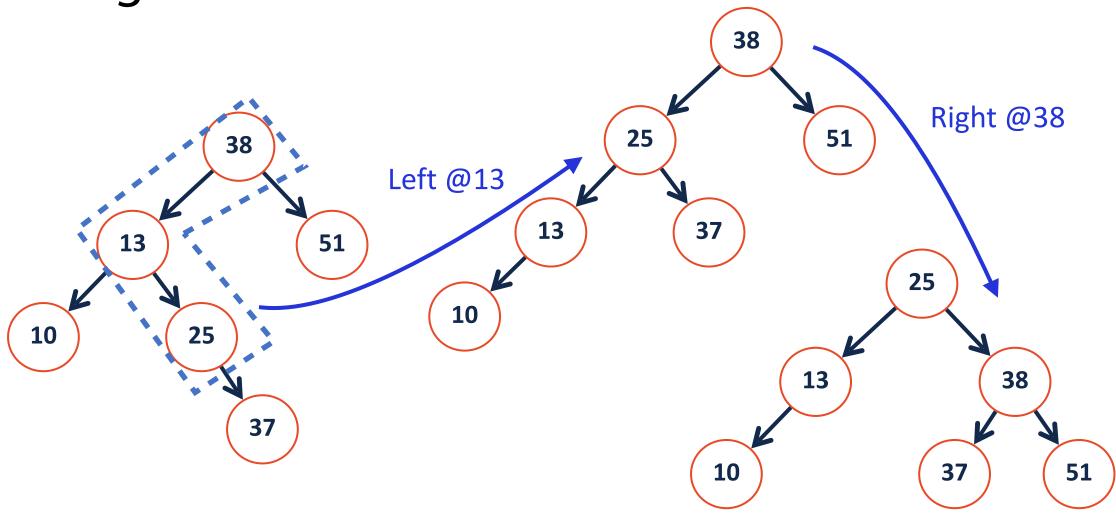
Somethings not quite right...

LeftRight Rotation

13 51

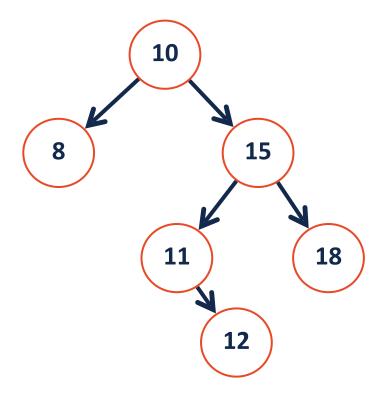
right heavy left imbalance

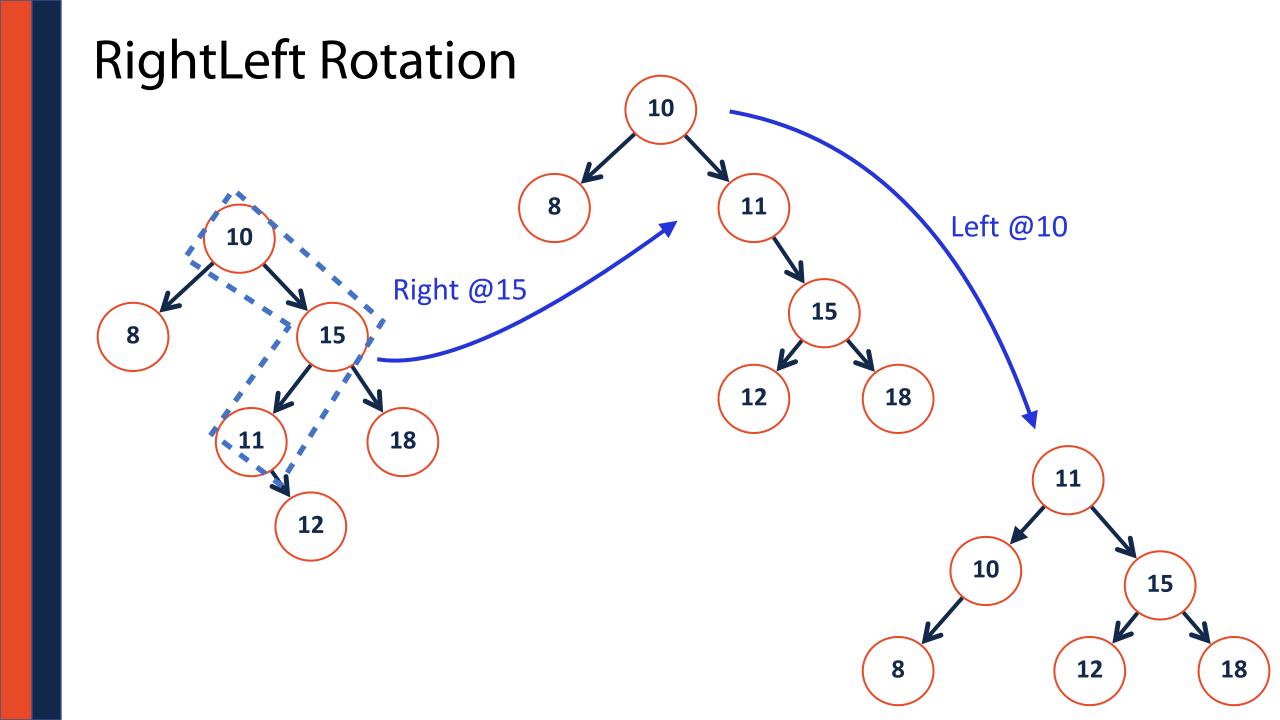
LeftRight Rotation



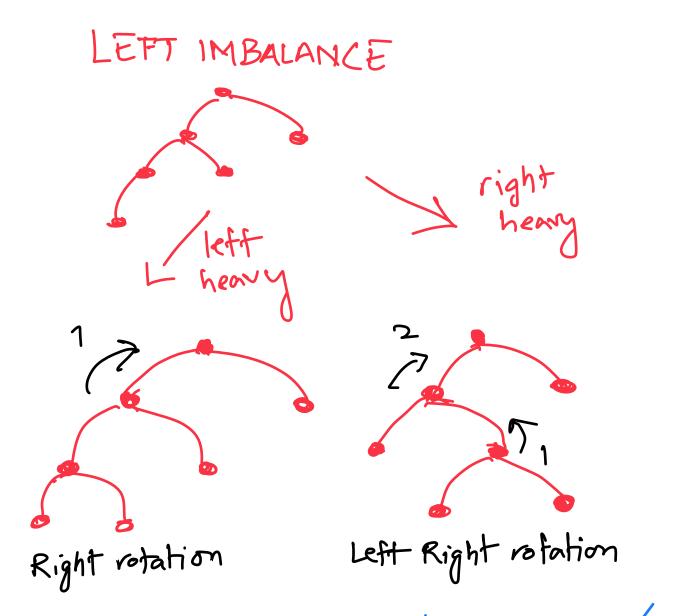
RightLeft Rotation

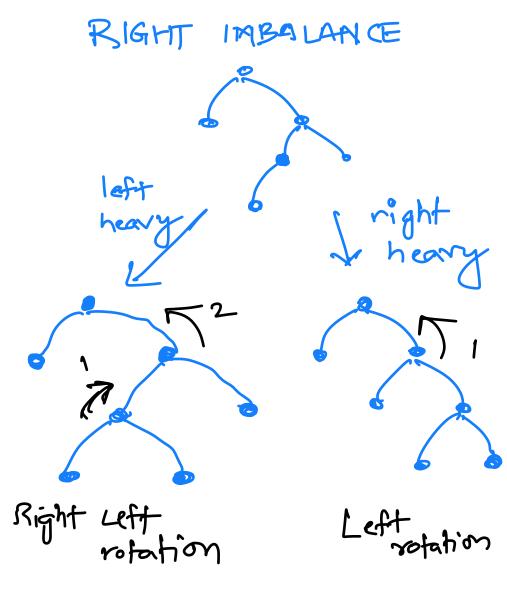
Left heavy right imbalance





AVL Rotations - types (diagram)





AVL Rotations - types

3. Left-Right Rotation

1. Right Rotation

4. Right-Left Rotation



Four kinds of rotations: (L, R, LR, RL)

- 1. All rotations are local (subtrees are not impacted)
- 2. The running time of rotations are constant
- 3. The rotations maintain BST property

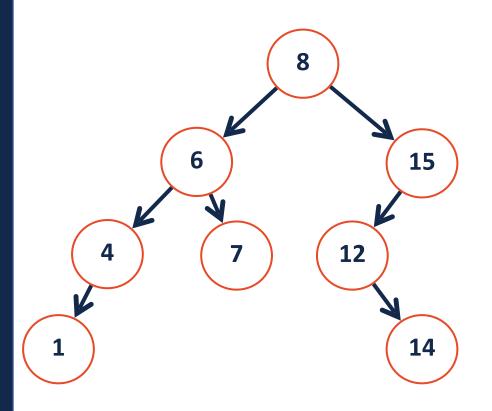
Goal:

Produce trees of height = O(log n) so that all our major operations (find, insert, remove) are O(log n) time.

AVL Rotations - steps

- 1. Identify nodes with |height balance| >= 2
- 2. In a bottom up manner, fix nodes with |hb| >= 2
- 3. Identify the type of rotation to apply by considering heights and balance of (heavier) child.
- 4. Execute rotation and return to parent in a bottom up manner until the entire tree is balanced.

AVL Rotation Practice

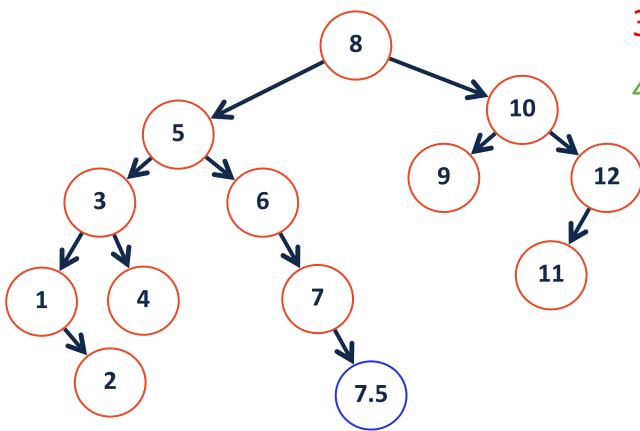


AVL vs BST ADT

The AVL tree is a modified binary search tree that rotates when necessary

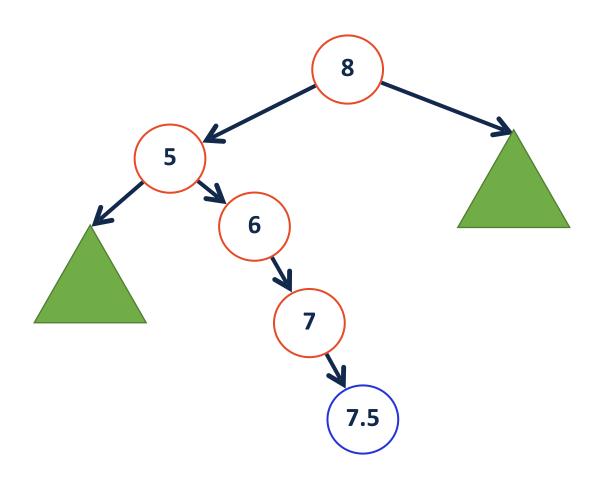
How does the constraint on balance affect the core functions?

Operation		AVL tree h = O(log n)
Find	O(h)	O(log n)
Insert	O(h)	O(log n)
Remove	O(h)	O(log n)

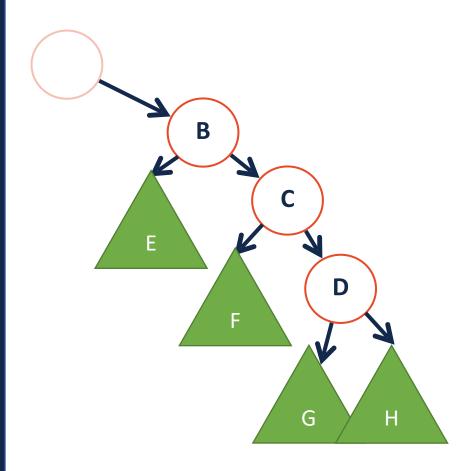


- 1) Create a tmp pointer to root
- 2) Update root to point to mid
- 3) tmp->right = root->left
- 4) root->left = tmp

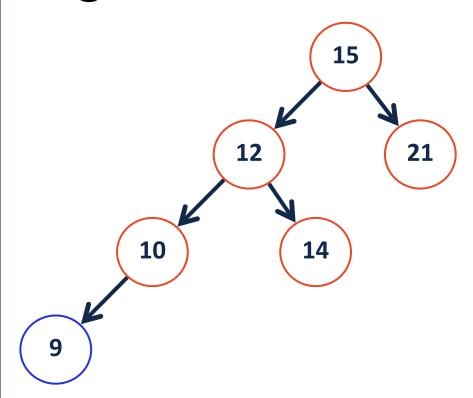
All rotations are local (subtrees are not impacted)



All rotations preserve BST property

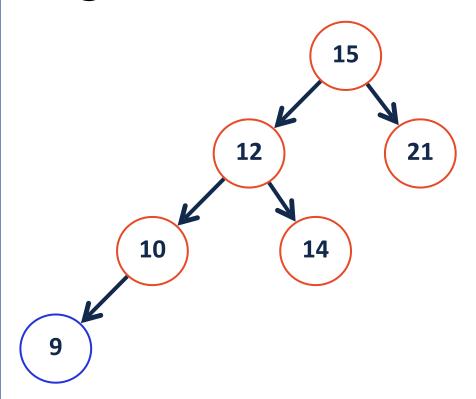


Right Rotation

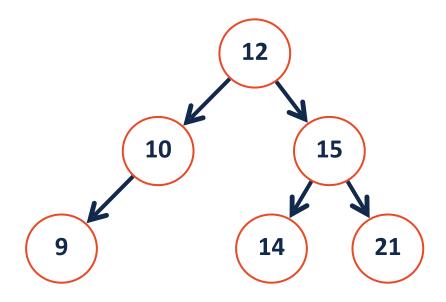


- 1) Create a tmp pointer to root
- 2) Update root to point to mid
- 3) tmp->left = root->right
- 4) root->right = tmp

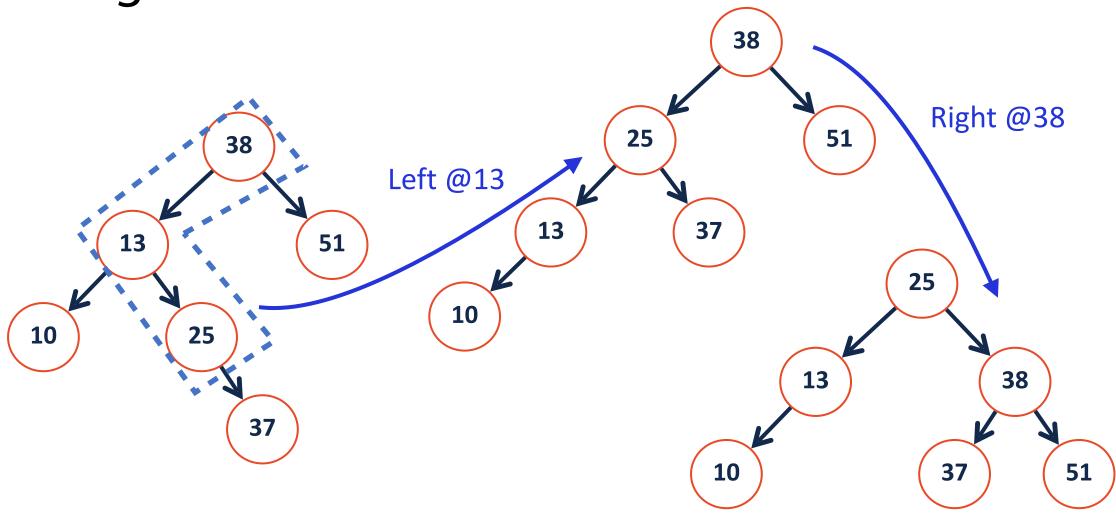
Right Rotation

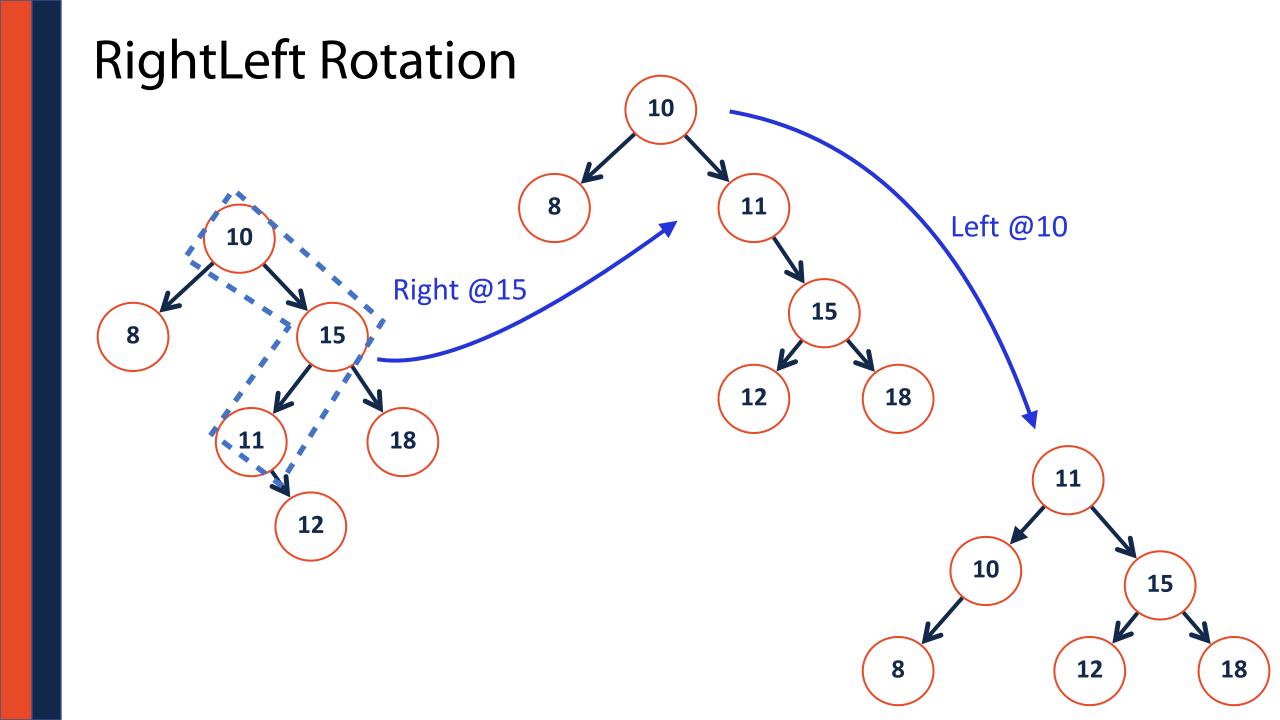


- 1) Create a tmp pointer to root
- 2) Update root to point to mid
- 3) tmp->left = root->right
- 4) root->right = tmp



LeftRight Rotation



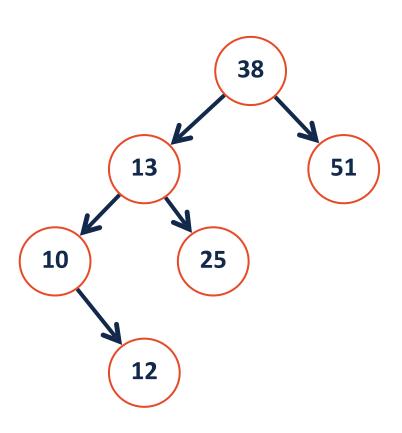


Four kinds of rotations: (L, R, LR, RL)

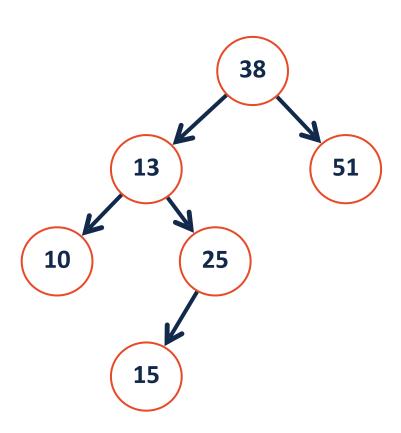
- 1. All rotations are local (subtrees are not impacted)
- 2. The running time of rotations are constant
- 3. The rotations maintain BST property

Goal:

We can identify which rotation to do using **balance**



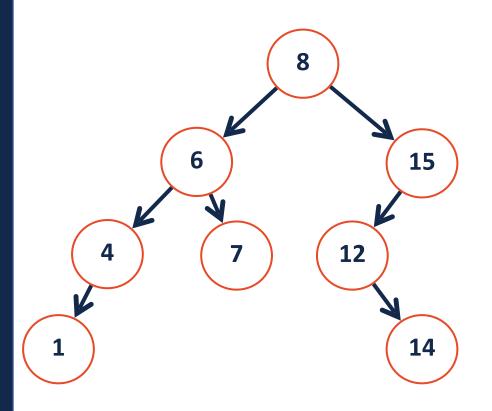
We can identify which rotation to do using **balance**



AVL Rotations

RightLeft Right Left LeftRight Root Balance: Child Balance:

AVL Rotation Practice



AVL vs BST ADT



The AVL tree is a modified binary search tree that rotates when necessary

```
1 struct TreeNode {
2   T key;
3   unsigned height;
4   TreeNode *left;
5   TreeNode *right;
6 };
```

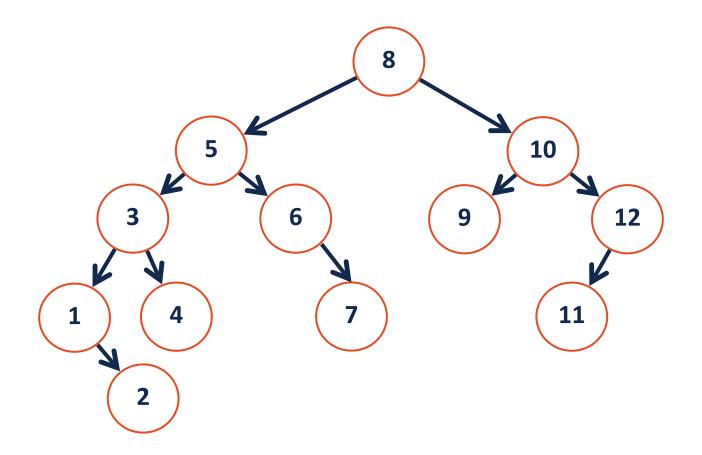
How does the constraint on balance affect the core functions?

Find

Insert

Remove

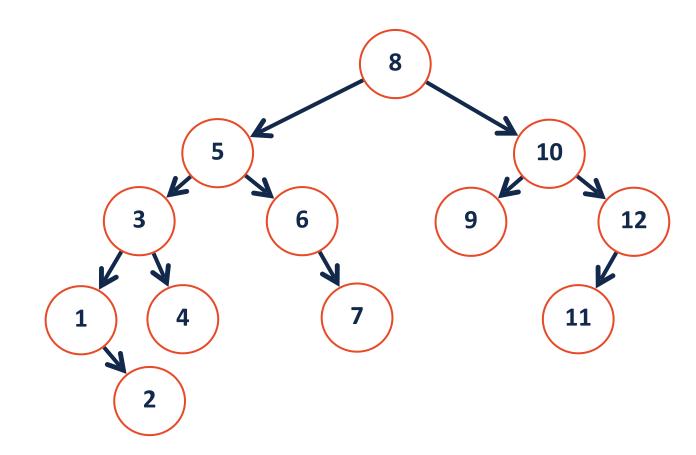
AVL Find __find(7)



insert(6.5)

AVL Insertion

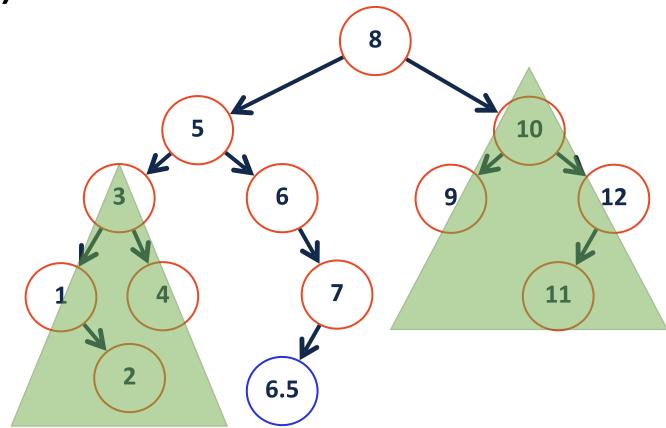
```
1 struct TreeNode {
2   T key;
3   unsigned height;
4   TreeNode *left;
5   TreeNode *right;
6 };
```



Insert (recursive pseudocode):

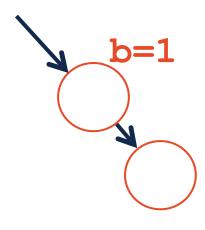
- 1. Insert at proper place
- 2. Check for imbalance
- 3. Rotate, if necessary
- 4. Update height

```
1 struct TreeNode {
2   T key;
3   unsigned height;
4   TreeNode *left;
5   TreeNode *right;
6 };
```

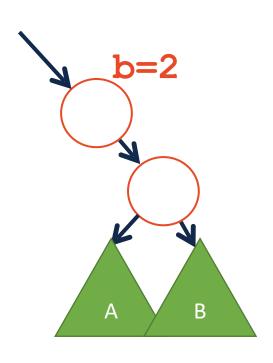


```
119
   template <typename K, typename V>
120
   void AVL<K, D>:: ensureBalance(TreeNode *& cur) {
121 // Calculate the balance factor:
122
    int balance = height(cur->right) - height(cur->left);
123
124
    // Check if the node is current not in balance:
125
    if (balance == -2) {
126
    int l balance =
          height(cur->left->right) - height(cur->left->left);
    if ( l balance == -1 ) { ______; }
127
128
    else
    } else if ( balance == 2 ) {
129
130
       int r balance =
           height(cur->right->right) - height(cur->right->left);
    if( r balance == 1 ) {
_____; }
131
132
       else
133
134
135 updateHeight(cur);
136
```

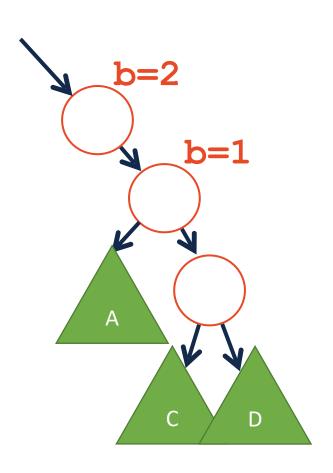
Given an AVL is balanced, insert can create at most one imbalance



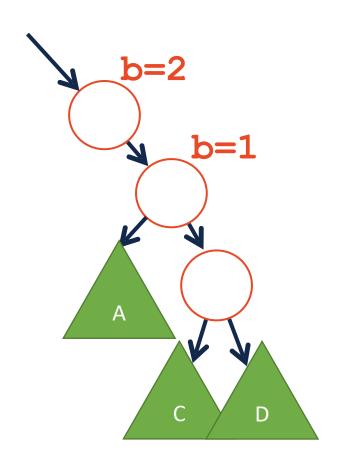
Given an AVL is balanced, insert can create at most one imbalance

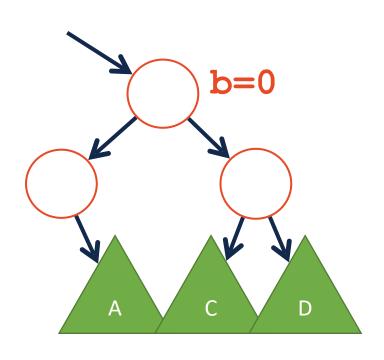


If we insert in B, I must have a balance pattern of 2, 1



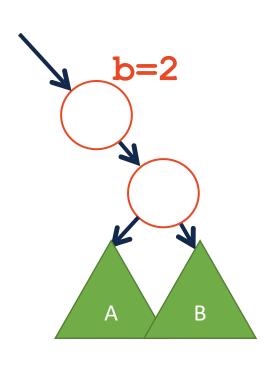
A **left** rotation fixes our imbalance in our local tree.



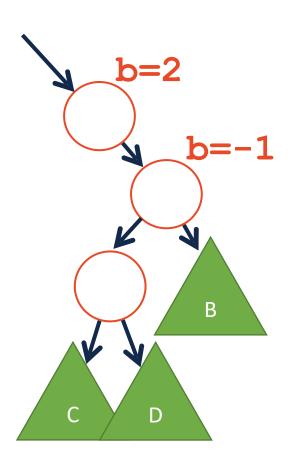


After rotation, subtree has **pre-insert height**. (Overall tree is balanced)

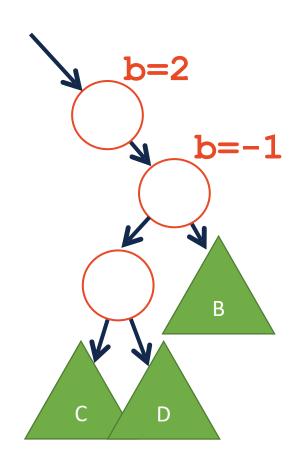
If we insert in A, I must have a balance pattern of 2, -1

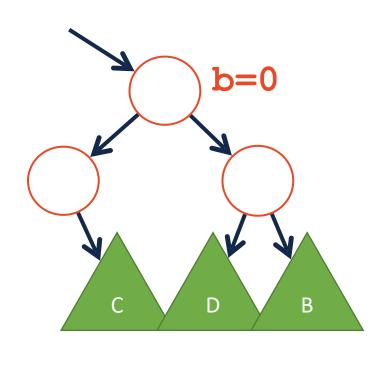


If we insert in A, I must have a balance pattern of 2, -1

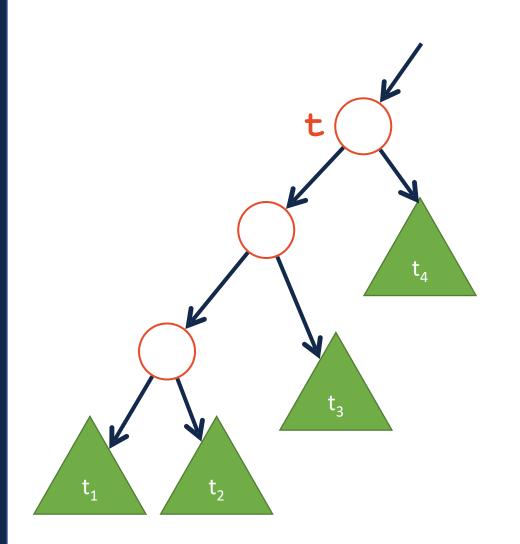


A **rightLeft** rotation fixes our imbalance in our local tree.





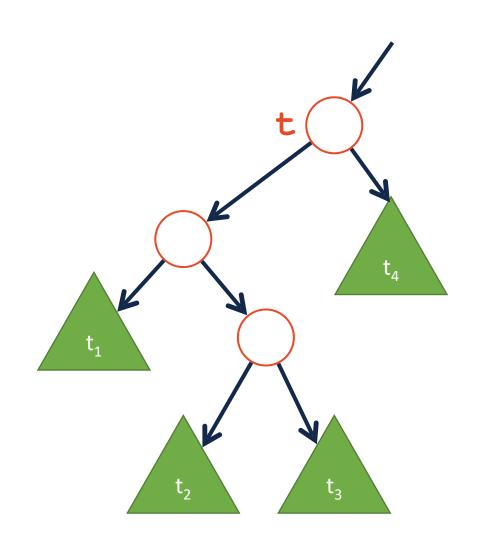
After rotation, subtree has **pre-insert height**. (Overall tree is balanced)



Theorem:

If an insertion occurred in subtrees t_1 or t_2 and an imbalance was first detected at t, then a _____ rotation about t restores the balance of the tree.

We gauge this by noting the balance factor of **t is** ____ and the balance factor of **t->left** is .



Theorem:

If an insertion occurred in subtrees t_2 or t_3 and an imbalance was first detected at t, then a _____ rotation about t restores the balance of the tree.

We gauge this by noting the balance factor of **t is** ____ and the balance factor of **t->left** is ____.



We've seen every possible insert that can cause an imbalance

Insert may increase height by at most:

A rotation reduces the height of the subtree by:

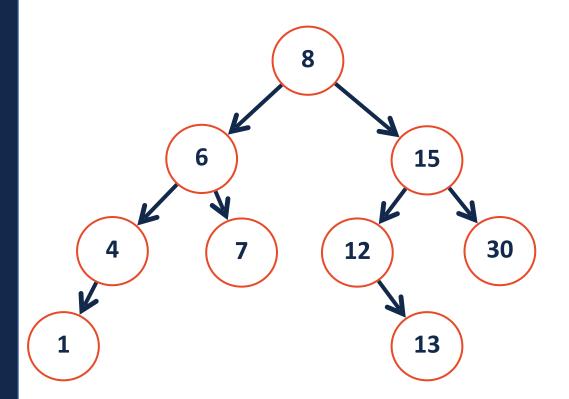
A single* rotation restores balance and corrects height!

What is the Big O of performing our rotation?

What is the Big O of insert?

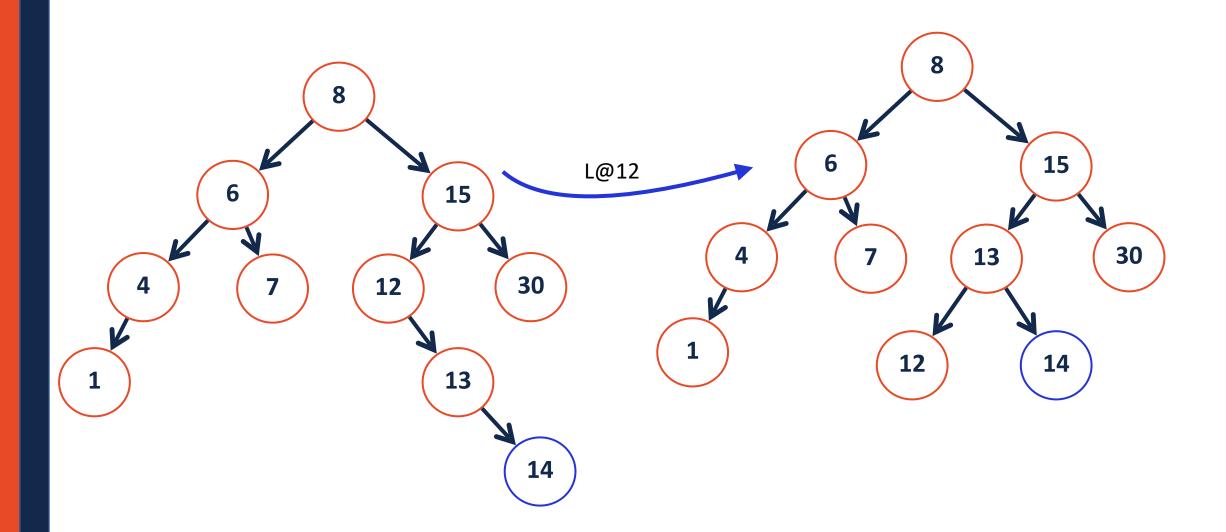
AVL Insertion Practice

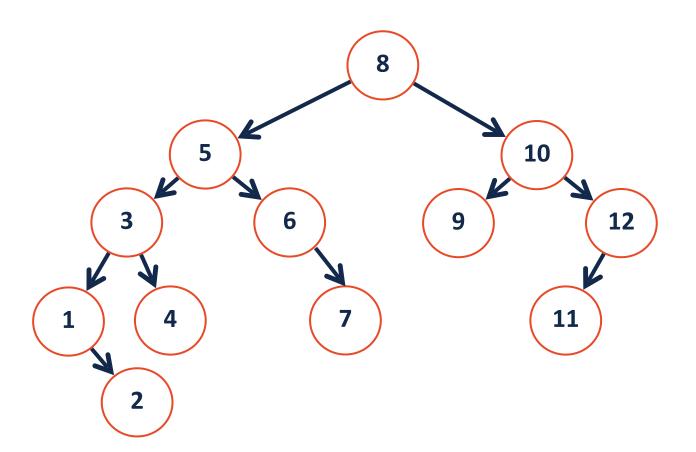
_insert(14)

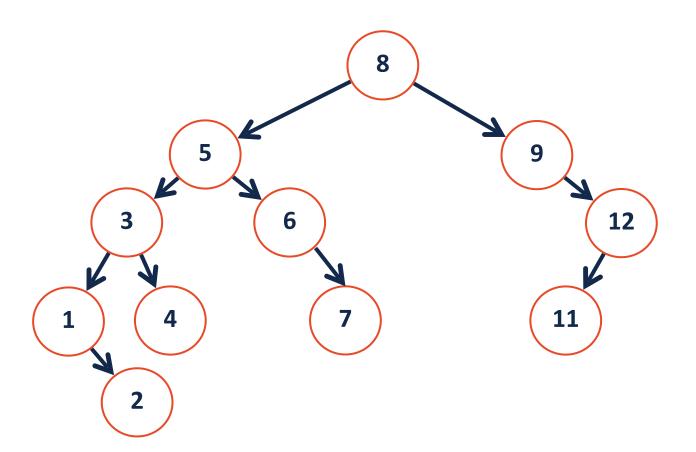


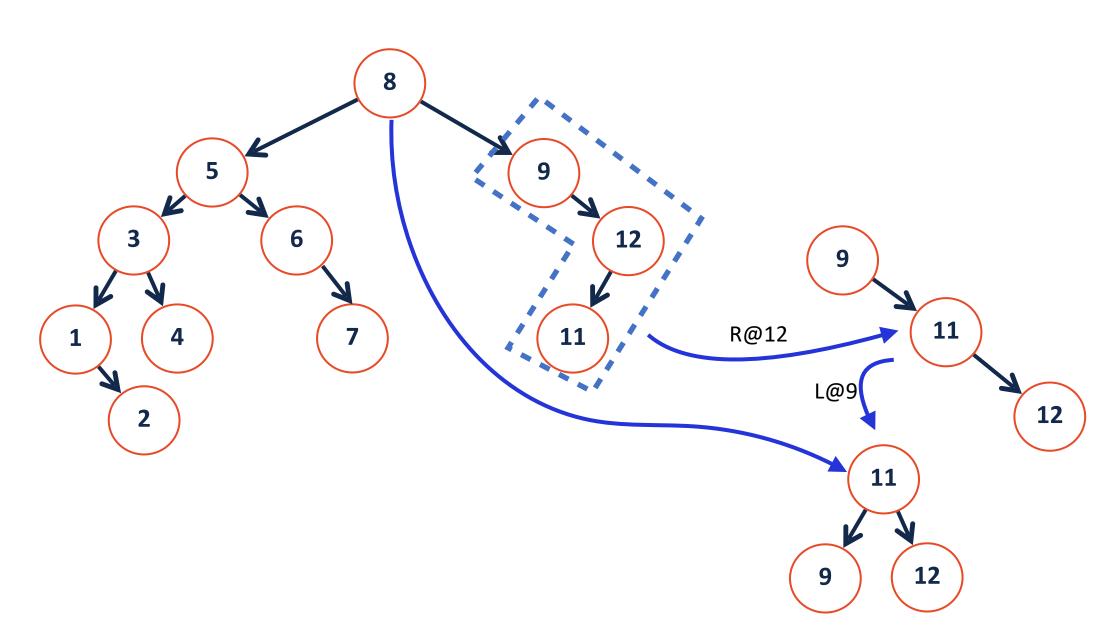
AVL Insertion Practice

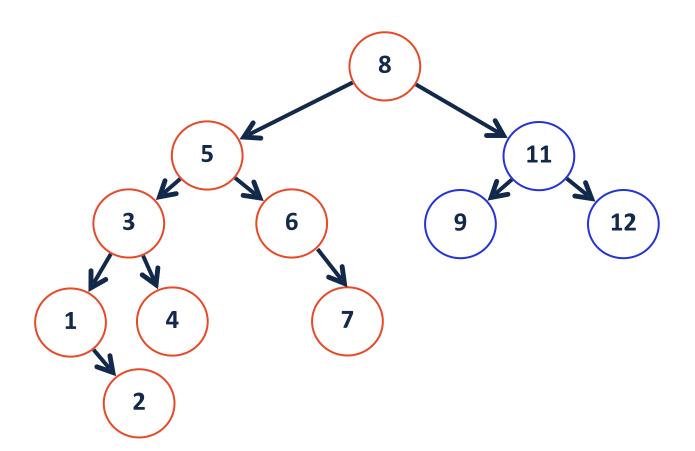
_insert(14)

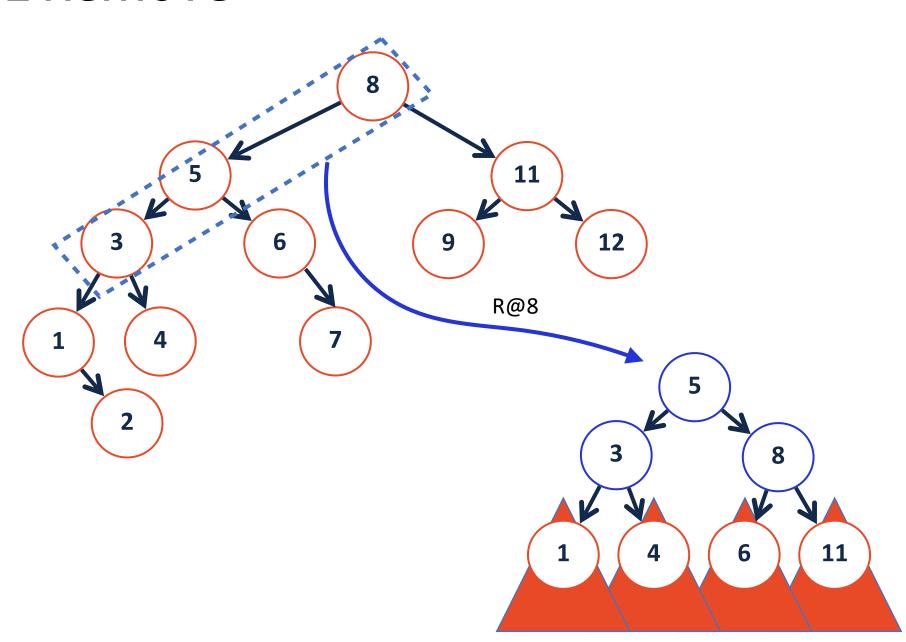






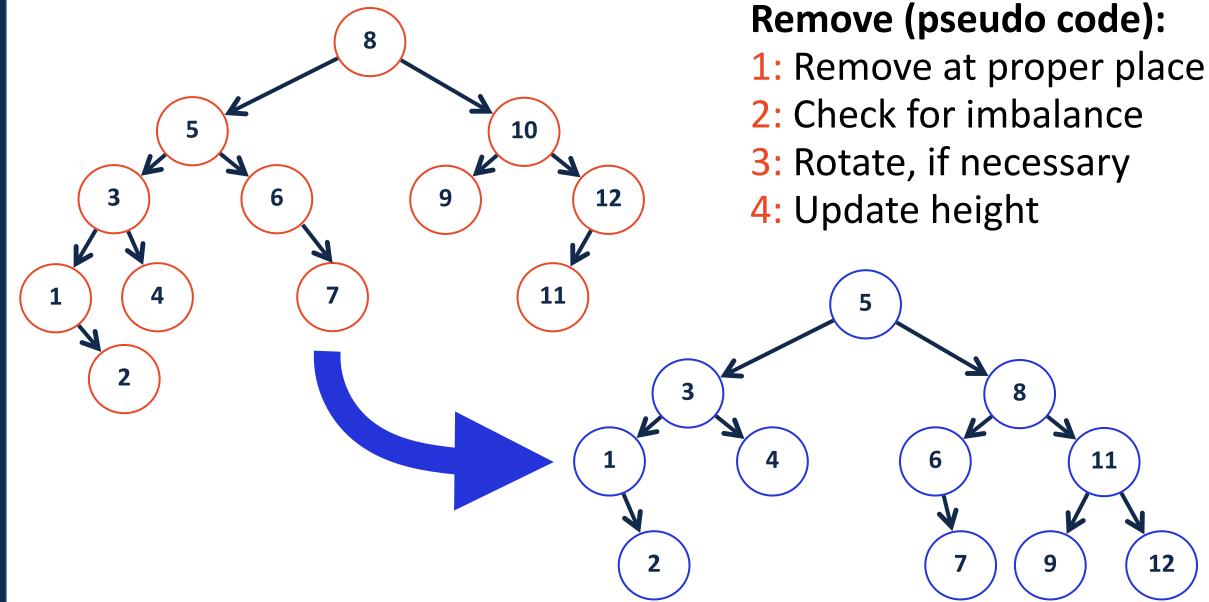


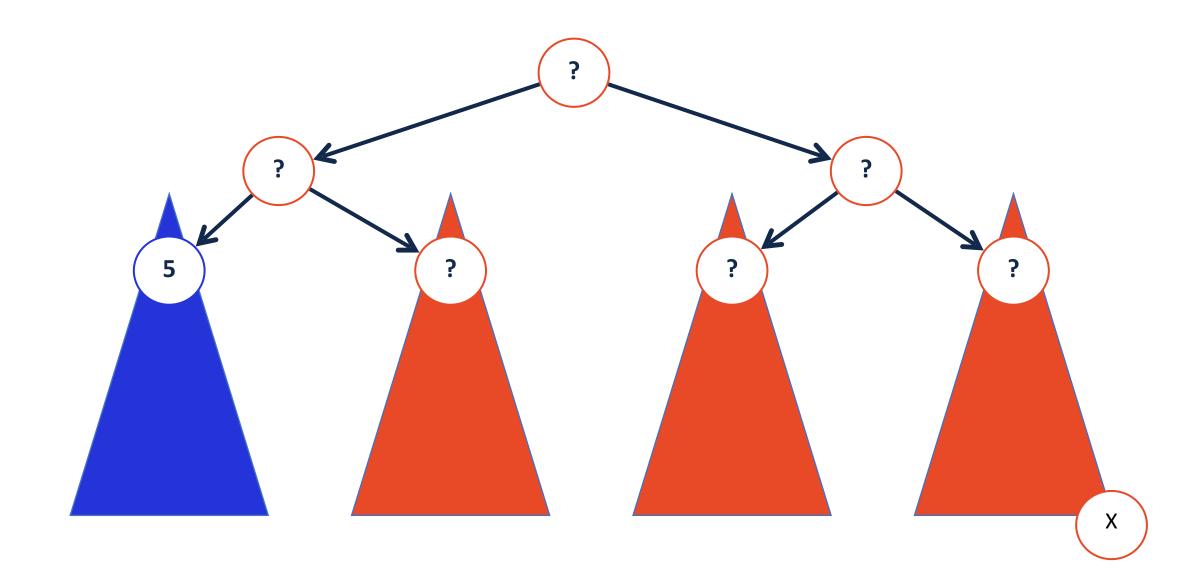














An AVL remove step can reduce a subtree height by at most:

But a rotation *reduces* the height of a subtree by one!

We might have to perform a rotation at every level of the tree!

AVL Tree Analysis

For an AVL tree of height h:

Find runs in: _____.

Insert runs in: ______.

Remove runs in: ______.

Claim: The height of the AVL tree with n nodes is: ______.