

# Binary Trees



Computer Science Department  
University of Central Florida

*COP 3502 – Computer Science I*



# Outline

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- Tree Stuff
  - Trees
  - Binary Trees
  - Implementation of a Binary Tree
- Tree Traversals – Depth First
  - Preorder
  - Inorder
  - Postorder
- Breadth First Tree Traversal
- Binary Search Trees



# Tree Stuff

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- Trees:
  - Another Abstract Data Type
  - Data structure made of nodes and pointers
    - Much like a linked list
      - The difference between the two is how they are organized.
    - A linked list represents a linear structure
      - A predecessor/successor relationship between the nodes of the list
    - A **tree** represents a **hierarchical relationship** between the nodes (ancestral relationship)
      - A node in a tree can have several successors, which we refer to as children
      - A nodes predecessor would be its parent



# Tree Stuff

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## ■ Trees:

### ■ General Tree Information:

- Top node in a tree is called the **root**
  - the root node has no parent above it...cuz it's the root!
- Every node in the tree can have “children” nodes
  - Each child node can, in turn, be a parent to its children and so on
- Nodes having no children are called **leaves**
- Any node that is not a root or a leaf is an **interior node**
- The **height** of a tree is defined to be the length of the longest path from the root to a leaf in that tree.
  - A tree with only one node (the root) has a height of zero.

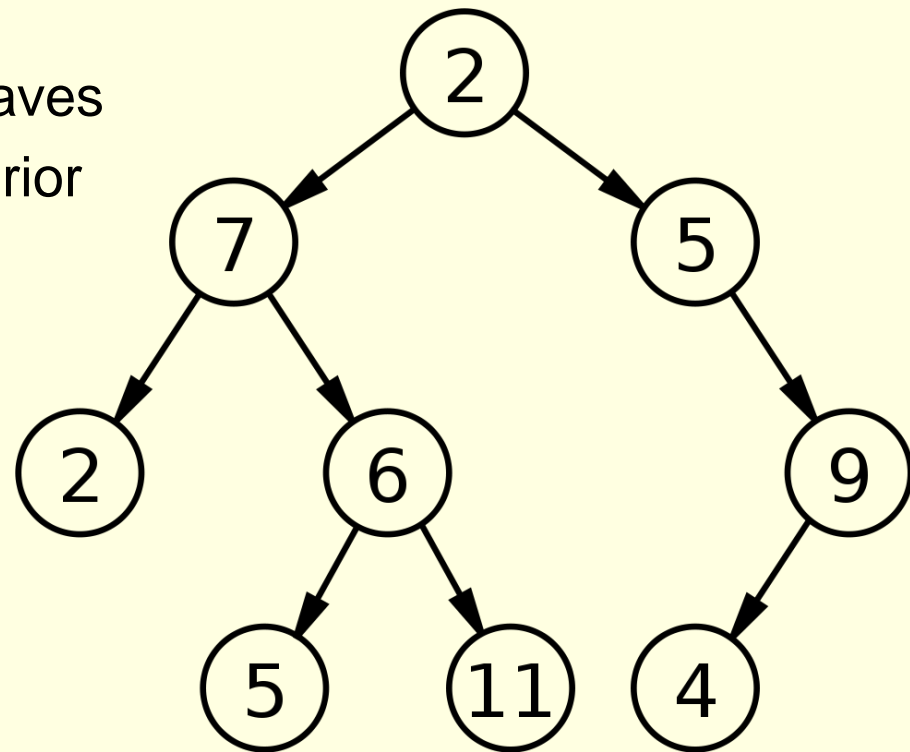


# Tree Stuff

- Trees:

- Here's a purty picture of a tree:

- 2 is the root
- 2, 5, 11, and 4 are leaves
- 7, 5, 6, and 9 are interior nodes



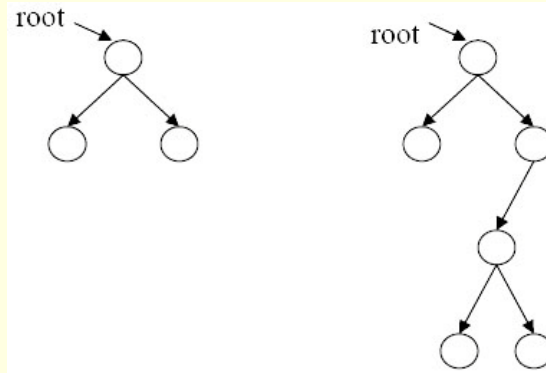


# Tree Stuff

## ■ Binary Trees:

- A tree in which each node can have a maximum of two children
  - Each node can have no child, one child, or two children
  - And a child can only have one parent
  - Pointers help us to identify if it is a right child or a left one

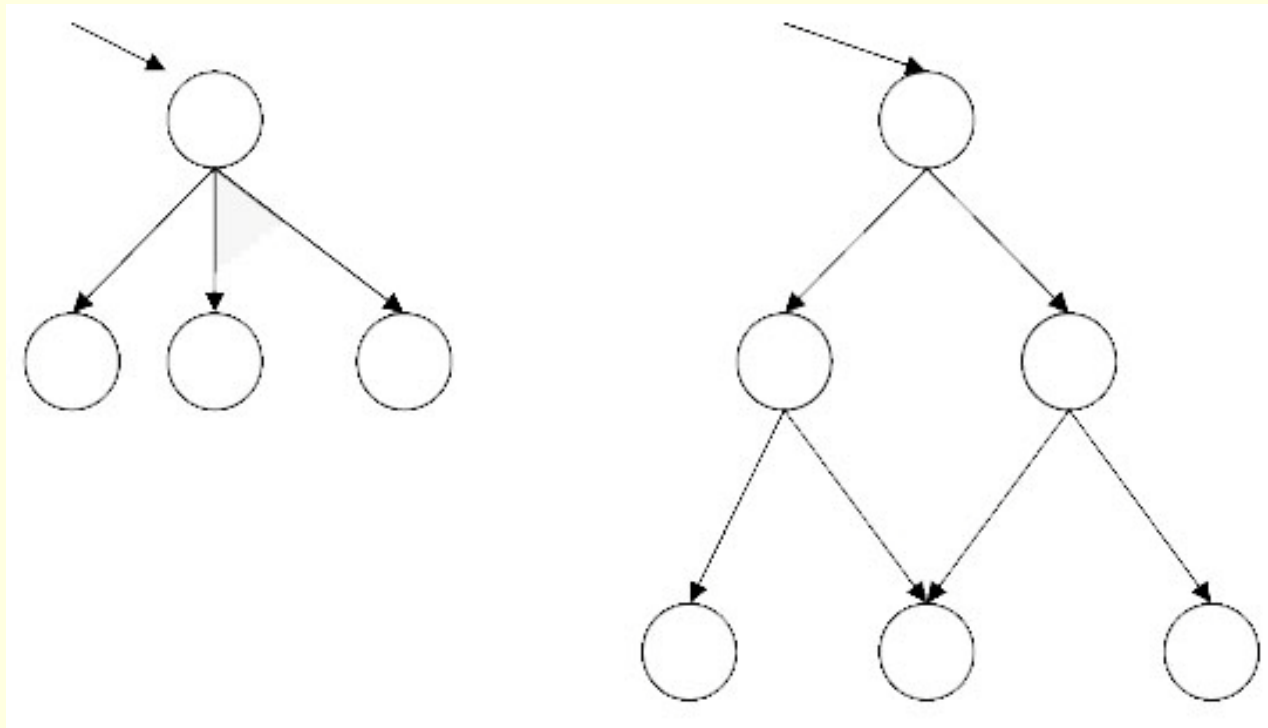
### Examples of two Binary Trees:





# Tree Stuff

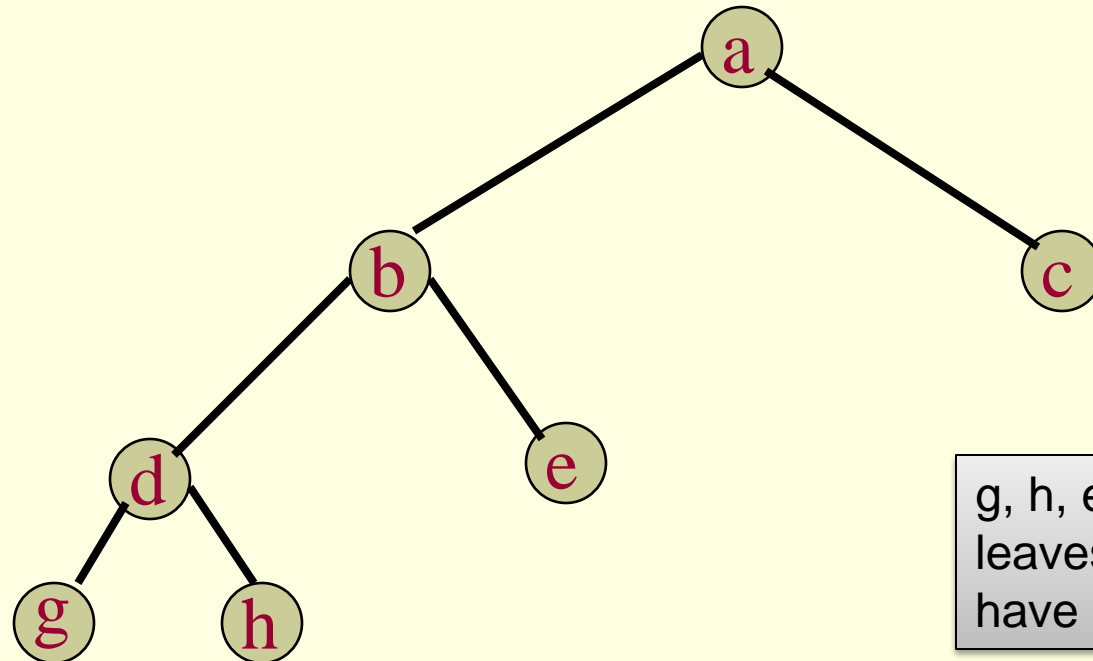
- Examples of trees that are NOT Binary Trees:





# Tree Stuff

- More Binary Tree Goodies:
  - A **full** binary tree:
    - Every node, other than the leaves, has two children



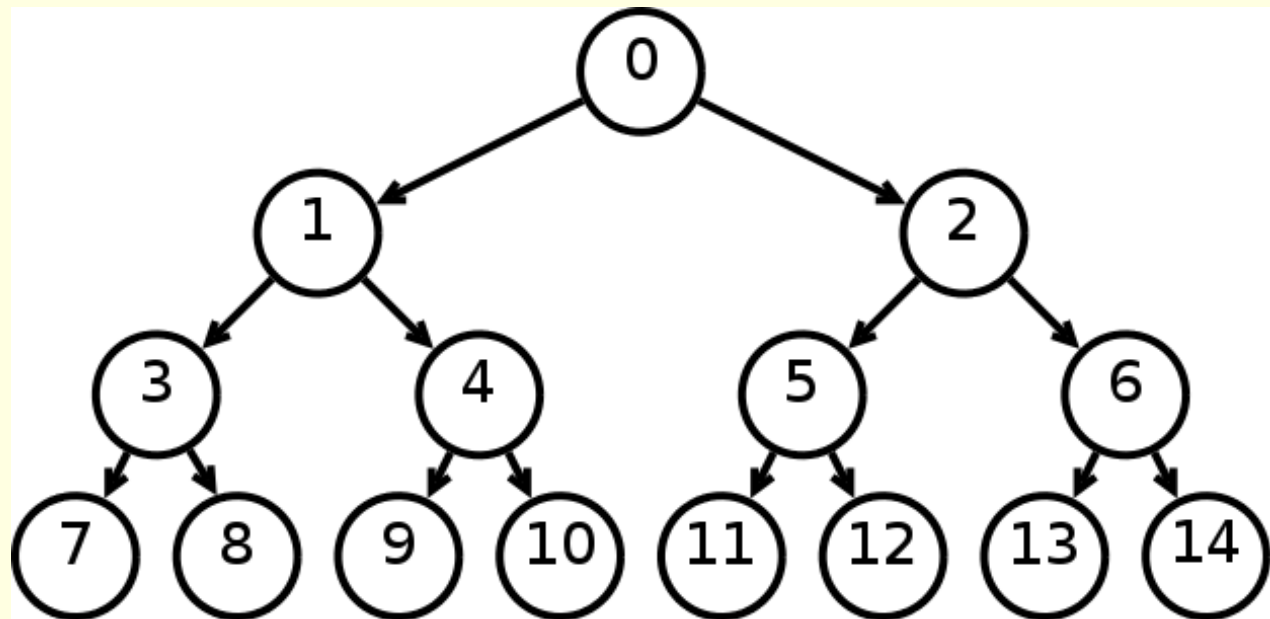
g, h, e, and c are leaves: so they have no children.





# Tree Stuff

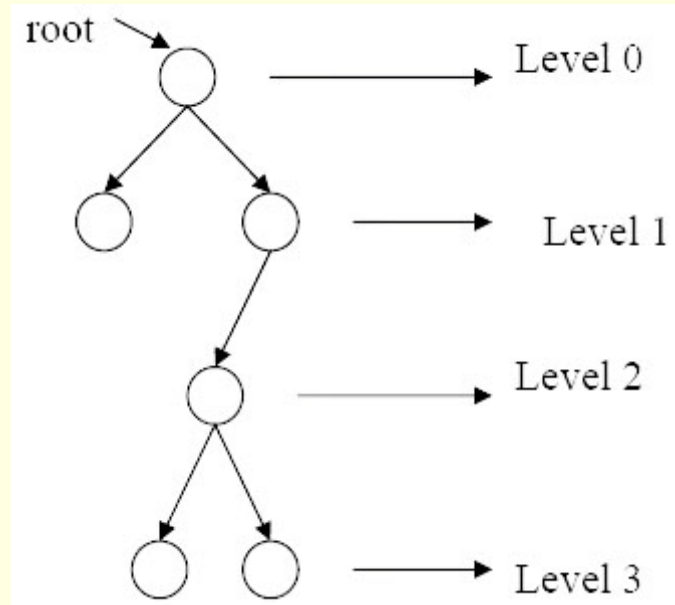
- More Binary Tree Goodies:
  - A **complete** binary tree:
    - Every level, except possibly the last, is completely filled, and all nodes are as far left as possible.





# Tree Stuff

- More Binary Tree Goodies:
  - The root of the tree is at level 0
  - The level of any other node in the tree is one more than the level of its parent
  - Total # of nodes ( $n$ ) in a complete binary tree:
    - $n = 2^{h+1} - 1$  (maximum)
  - Height ( $h$ ) of the tree:
    - $h = \log((n + 1)/2)$
    - If we have 15 nodes
    - $h = \log(16/2) = \log(8) = 3$

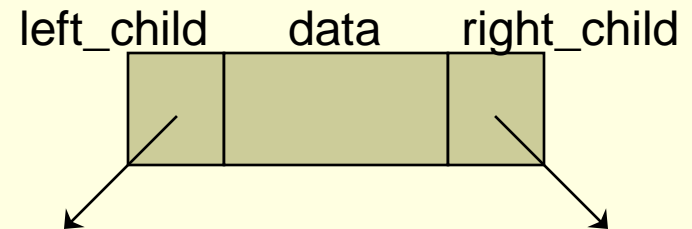




# Tree Stuff

- Implementation of a Binary Tree:
  - A binary tree has a natural implementation using linked storage
  - Each node of a binary tree has both left and right subtrees that can be reached with pointers:

```
struct tree_node {  
    int data;  
    struct tree_node *left_child;  
    struct tree_node *right_child;  
}
```





# Tree Traversals – Depth First

## ■ Traversal of Binary Trees:

- We need a way of zipping through a tree for searching, inserting, etc.
  - But how can we do this?
  - If you remember...
    - Linked lists are traversed from the head to the last node ...sequentially
    - Can't we just “do that” for binary trees.?.
      - NO! There is no such natural linear ordering for nodes of a tree.
- Turns out, there are **THREE** ways/orderings of traversing a binary tree:
  - Preorder, Inorder, and Postorder



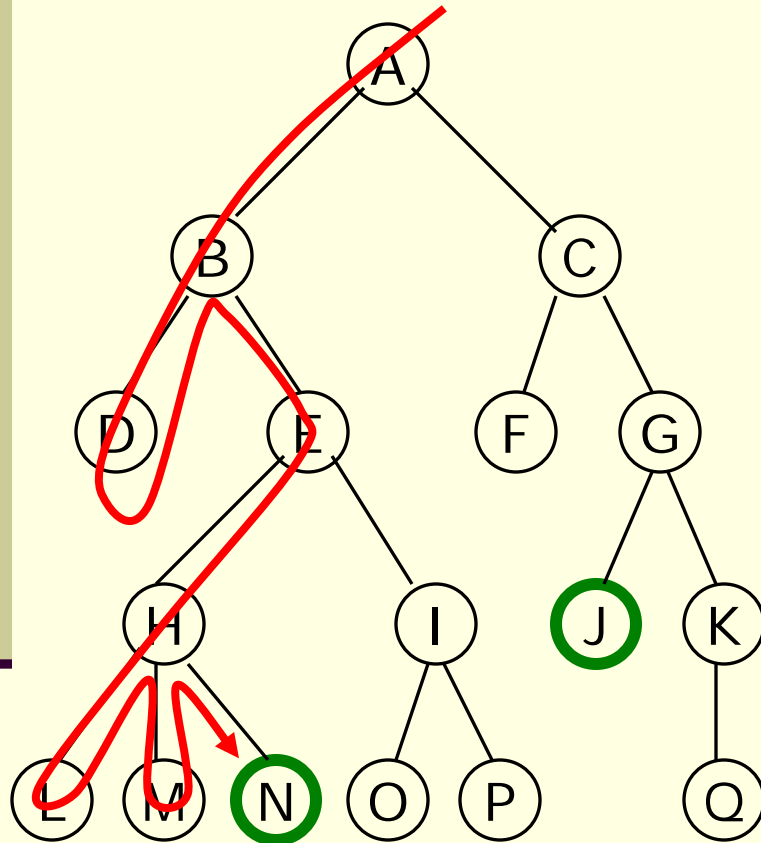
# Tree Traversals – Depth First

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But before we get into the nitty gritty of those three, let's describe..



# Tree Traversals – Depth First



- A depth-first search (DFS) explores a path all the way to a leaf before backtracking and exploring another path
- For example, after searching **A**, then **B**, then **D**, the search backtracks and tries another path from **B**
- Node are explored in the order **A B D E H L M N I O P C F G J K Q**
- **N** will be found before **J**



# Tree Traversals – Depth First

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- Traversal of Binary Trees:
  - There are 3 ways/orderings of traversing a binary tree (all 3 are depth first search methods):
    - Preorder, Inorder, and Postorder
    - These names are chosen according to the step at which the root node is visited:
      - With **preorder** traversal, the root is visited before its left and right subtrees.
      - With **inorder** traversal, the root is visited between the subtrees.
      - With **postorder** traversal, the root is visited after both subtrees.



# Tree Traversals - Preorder

## ■ Preorder Traversal

- the root is visited before its left and right subtrees
  - For the following example, the “**visiting**” of a node is **represented by printing** that node
- Code for Preorder Traversal:

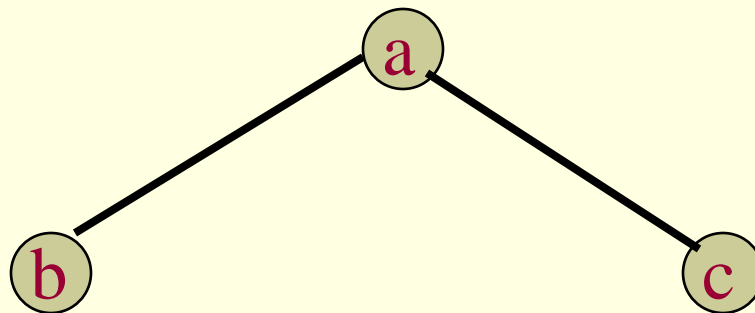
```
void preorder (struct tree_node *p) {
    if (p != NULL) {
        printf("%d ", p->data);
        preorder(p->left_child);
        preorder(p->right_child);
    }
}
```





# Tree Traversals - Preorder

- Preorder Traversal – Example 1
  - the root is visited before its left and right subtrees

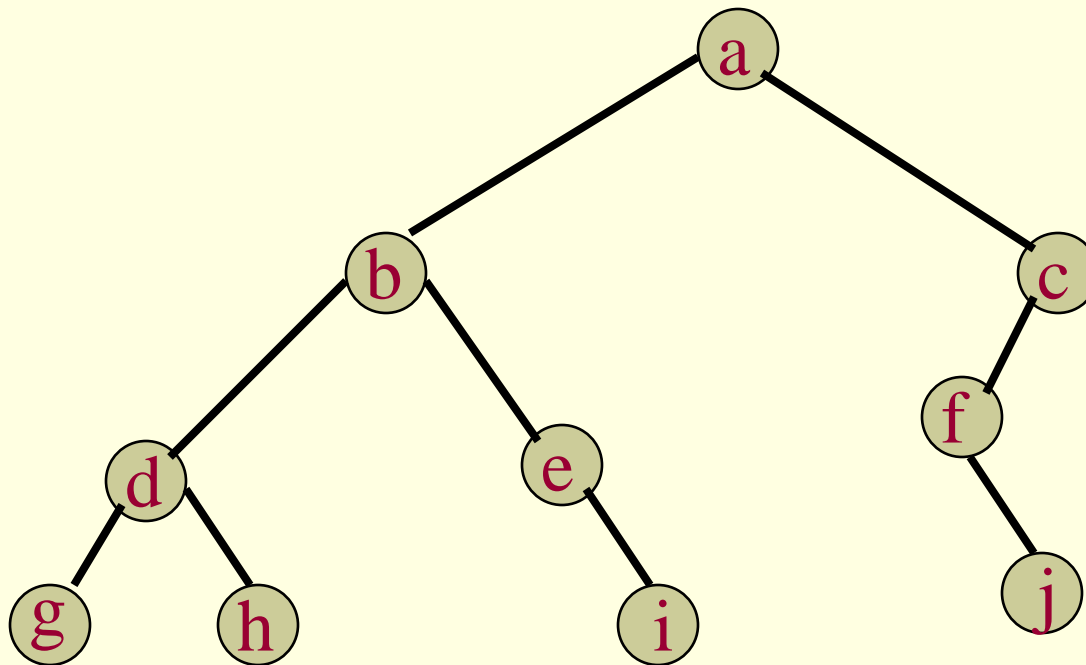


a b c



# Tree Traversals - Preorder

## ■ Preorder Traversal – Example 2



Order of Visiting Nodes: **a b d g h e i c f j**



# Tree Traversals - Inorder

## ■ Inorder Traversal

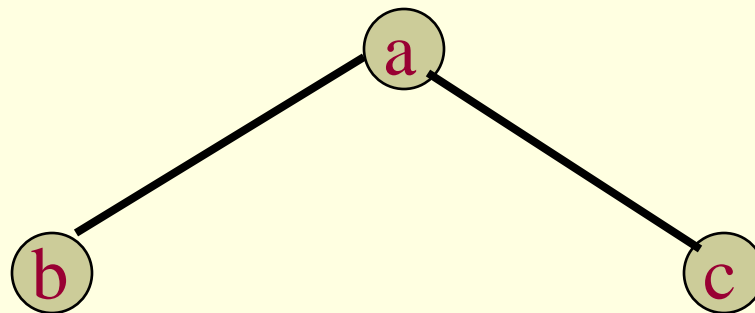
- the root is visited between the left and right subtrees
  - For the following example, the “**visiting**” of a node is **represented by printing** that node
- Code for Inorder Traversal:

```
void inorder (struct tree_node *p) {
    if (p != NULL) {
        inorder(p->left_child);
        printf("%d ", p->data);
        inorder(p->right_child);
    }
}
```



# Tree Traversals - Inorder

- Inorder Traversal – Example 1
  - the root is visited between the subtrees

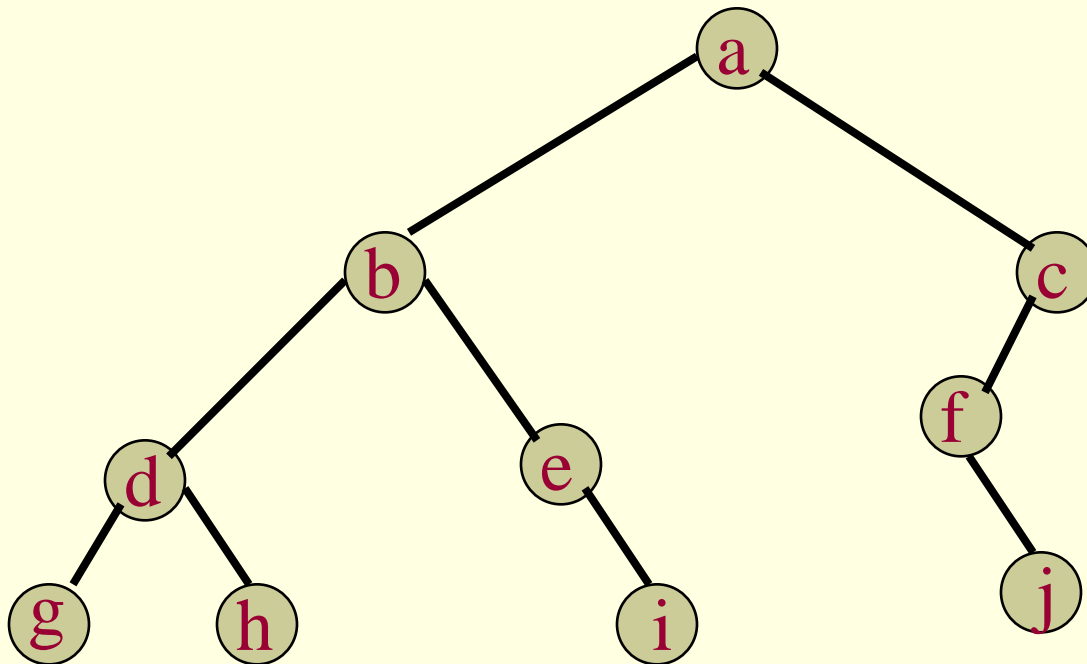


b a c



# Tree Traversals - Inorder

## ■ Inorder Traversal – Example 2



Order of Visiting Nodes: **g d h b e i a f j c**



# Tree Traversals – Postorder

## ■ Postorder Traversal

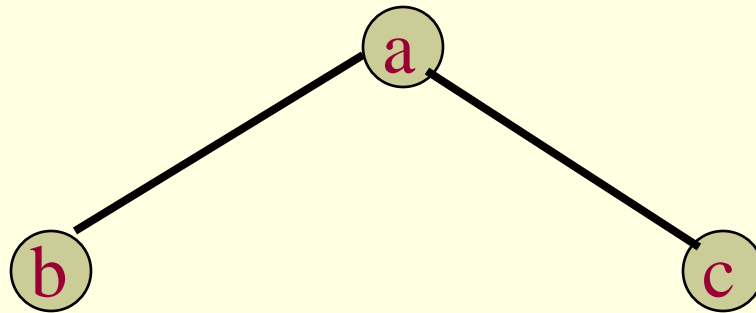
- the root is visited after both the left and right subtrees
  - For the following example, the “**visiting**” of a node is **represented by printing** that node
- Code for Postorder Traversal:

```
void postorder (struct tree_node *p) {
    if (p != NULL) {
        postorder(p->left_child);
        postorder(p->right_child);
        printf("%d ", p->data);
    }
}
```



# Tree Traversals – Postorder

- Postorder Traversal – Example 1
  - the root is visited after both subtrees

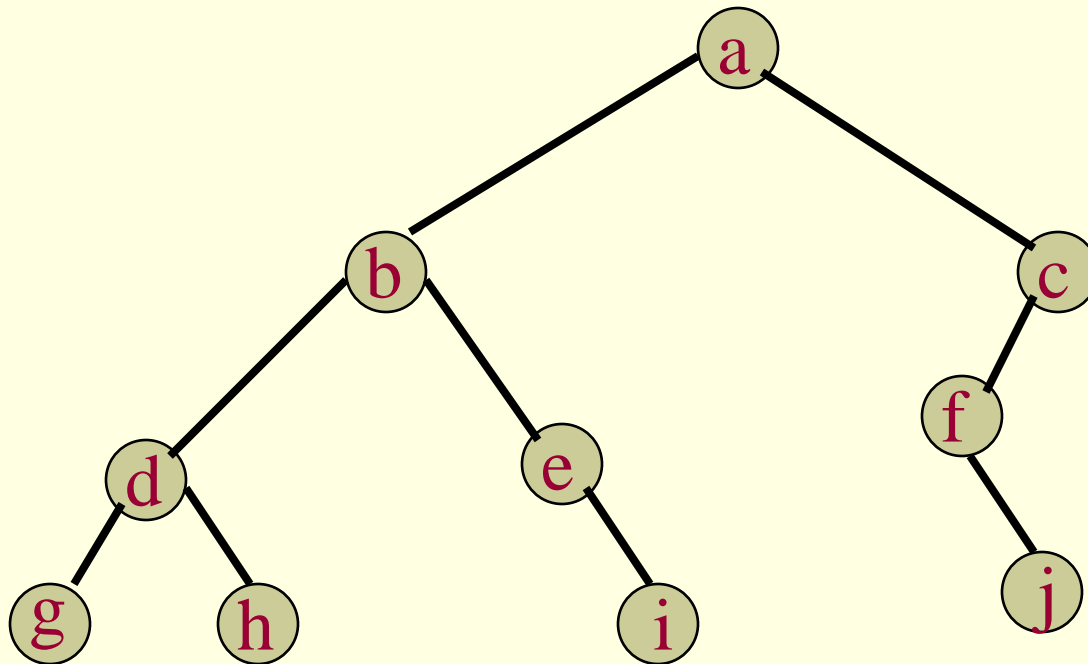


b c a



# Tree Traversals – Postorder

## ■ Postorder Traversal – Example 2



Order of Visiting Nodes: **g h d i e b j f c a**

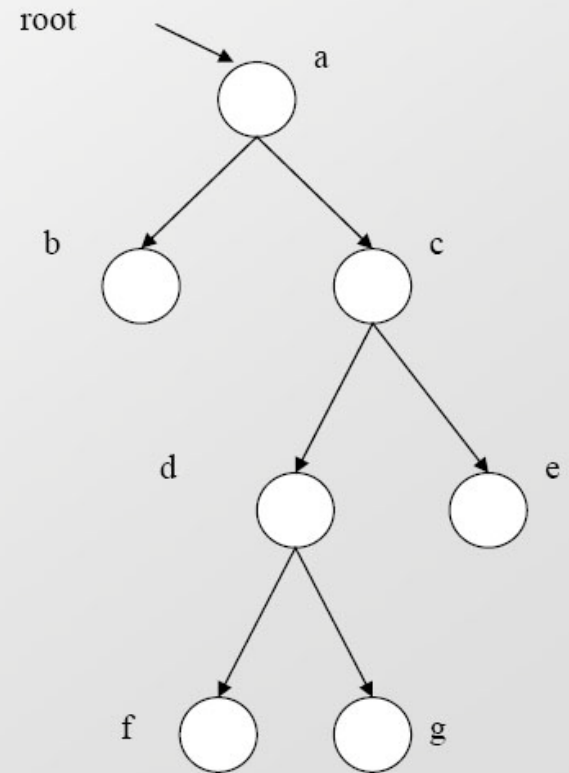




# Tree Traversals

## ■ Final Traversal Example

- Preorder: a b c d f g e
- Inorder: b a f d g c e
- Postorder: b f g d e c a





# Daily UCF Bike Fail

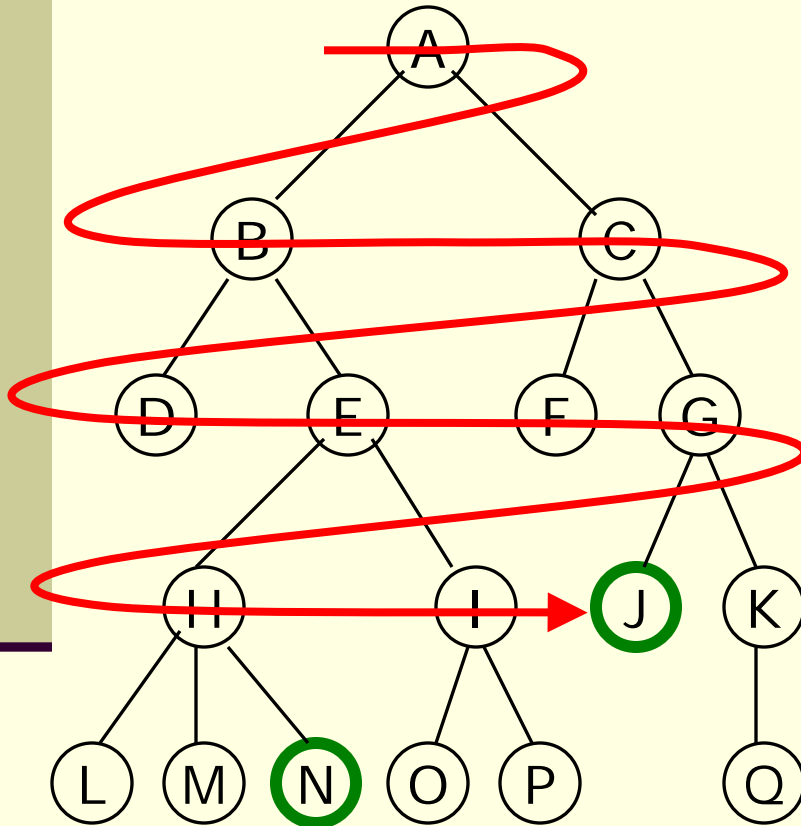
Unfortunately, this was here at UCF near the Student Union.



Picture courtesy of Joe Gravelle.



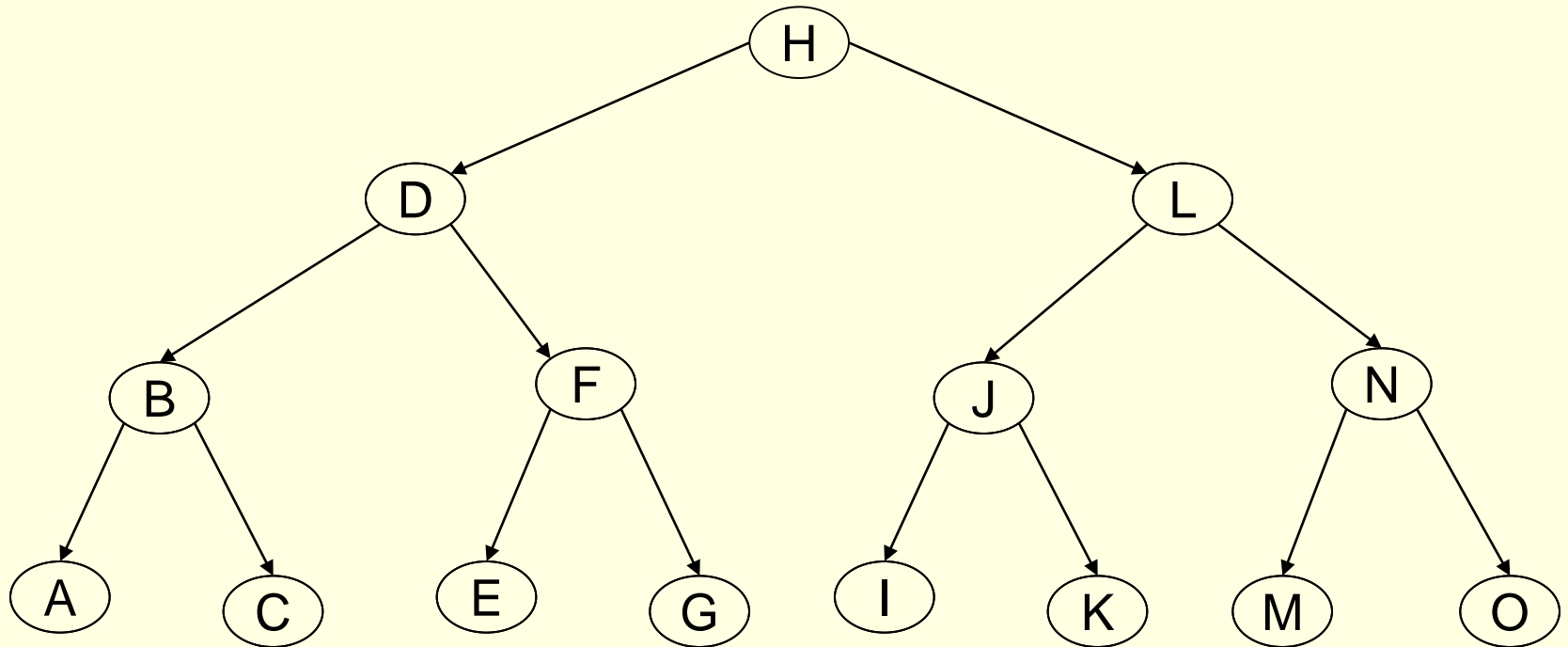
# Breadth-First Traversal



- A **breadth-first** search (BFS) explores nodes **nearest the root** before exploring nodes further away
- For example, after searching **A**, then **B**, then **C**, the search proceeds with **D**, **E**, **F**, **G**
- Node are explored in the order **A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q**
- **J** will be found before **N**



# Breadth-First Traversal



H	D	L	B	F	J	N	A	C	E	G	I	K	M	O
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



# Breadth-First Traversal

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## ■ Coding the Breadth-First Traversal

- Let's say you want to Traverse and Print all nodes?
  - Think about it, how would you make this happen?
  - SOLUTION:
    - 1) Enqueue the root node.
    - 2) while (more nodes still in queue) {
      - Dequeue node at front (of queue)
      - Print this node (that we just dequeued)
      - Enqueue its children (if applicable): **left then right**
      - ...continue till no more nodes in queue

}



# Binary Search Tree

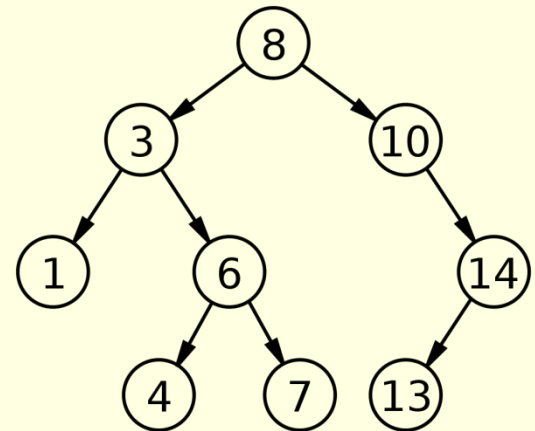
## ■ Binary Search Trees

- We've seen how to traverse binary trees
- But it is not quite clear how this data structure helps us

- What is the purpose of binary trees?

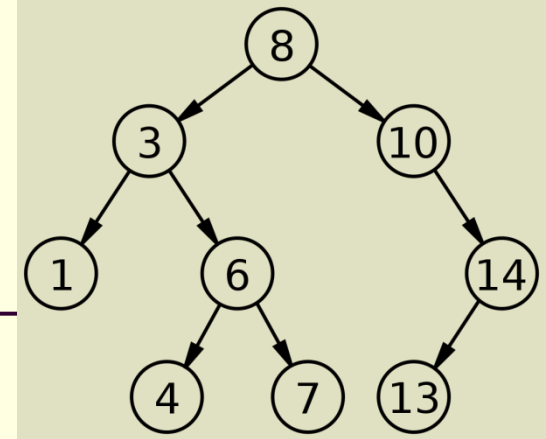
- What if we added a restriction...

- Consider the following binary tree:



- What pattern can you see?

# Binary Search Tree



## ■ Binary Search Trees

### ■ What pattern can you see?

- For each node  $N$ , all the values stored in the left subtree of  $N$  are LESS than the value stored in  $N$ .
- Also, all the values stored in the right subtree of  $N$  are GREATER than the value stored in  $N$ .
- Why might this property be a desirable one?
  - **Searching for a node is super fast!**
- Normally, if we search through  $n$  nodes, it takes  $O(n)$  time
- But notice what is going on here:
  - This **ordering property** of the tree **tells us where to search**
  - We choose to look to the left **OR** look to the right of a node
  - We are **HALVING** the search space ...  **$O(\log n)$**  time



# Binary Search Tree

## ■ Binary Search Trees

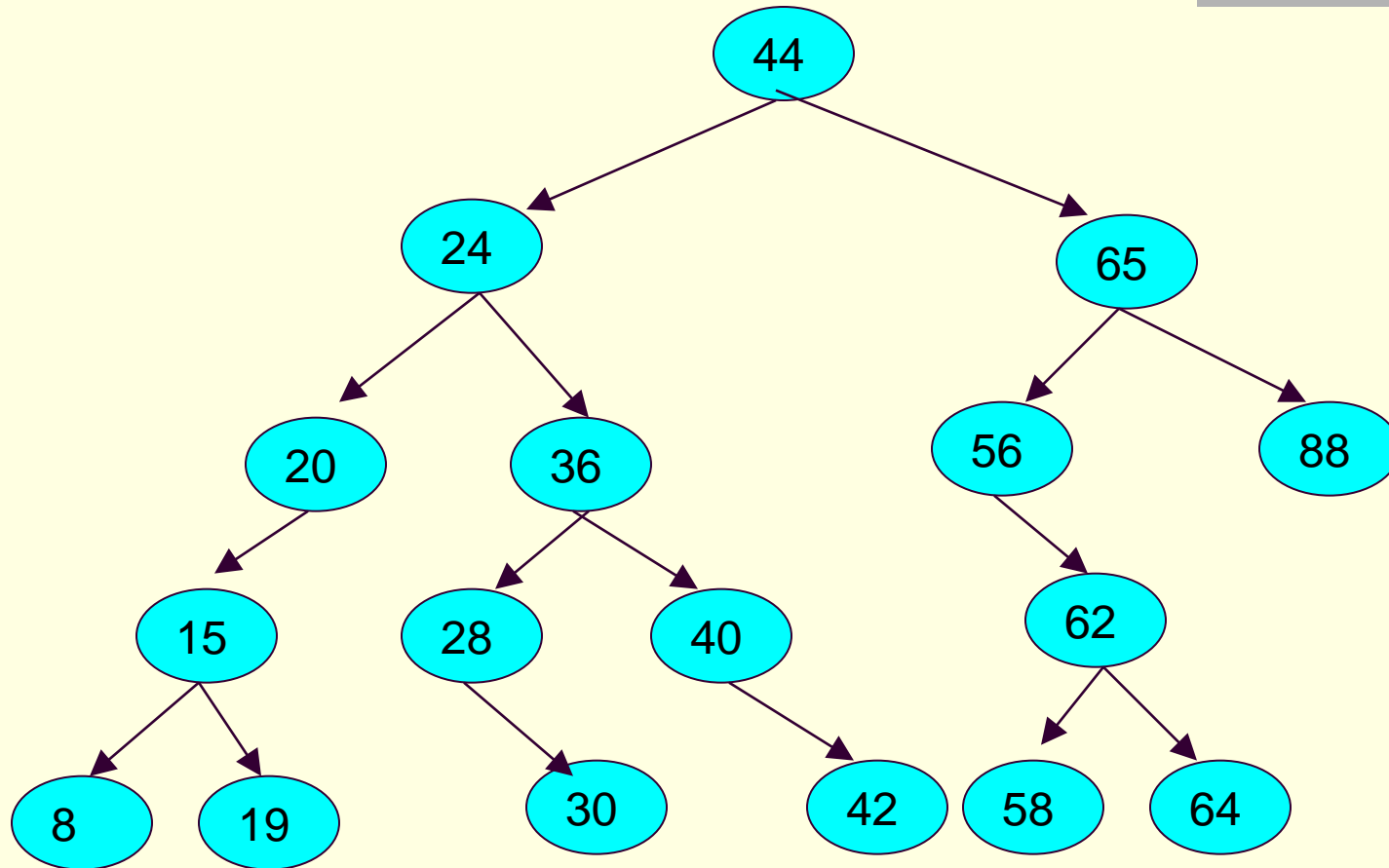
### ■ Details:

- ALL of the data values in the left subtree of each node are **smaller** than the data value in the node itself (root of said subtree)
  - Stated another way, the value of the node itself is larger than the value of every node in its left subtree.
- ALL of the data values in the right subtree of each node are **larger** than the data value in the node itself (root of the subtree)
  - Stated another way, the value of the node itself is smaller than the value of every node in its right subtree.
- Both the left and right subtrees, of any given node, are themselves binary search trees.





# Binary Search Tree



A Binary Search Tree



# Binary Search Tree

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## ■ Binary Search Trees

### ■ Details:

- A binary search tree, commonly referred to as a **BST**, is **extremely useful for efficient searching**
- Basically, a BST amounts to embedding the binary search into the data structure itself.
  - Notice how the root of every subtree in the BST on the previous page is the root of a BST.
- This ordering of nodes in the tree means that insertions into a BST are not placed arbitrarily
- Rather, there is a specific way to insert
- ...and that is for next time



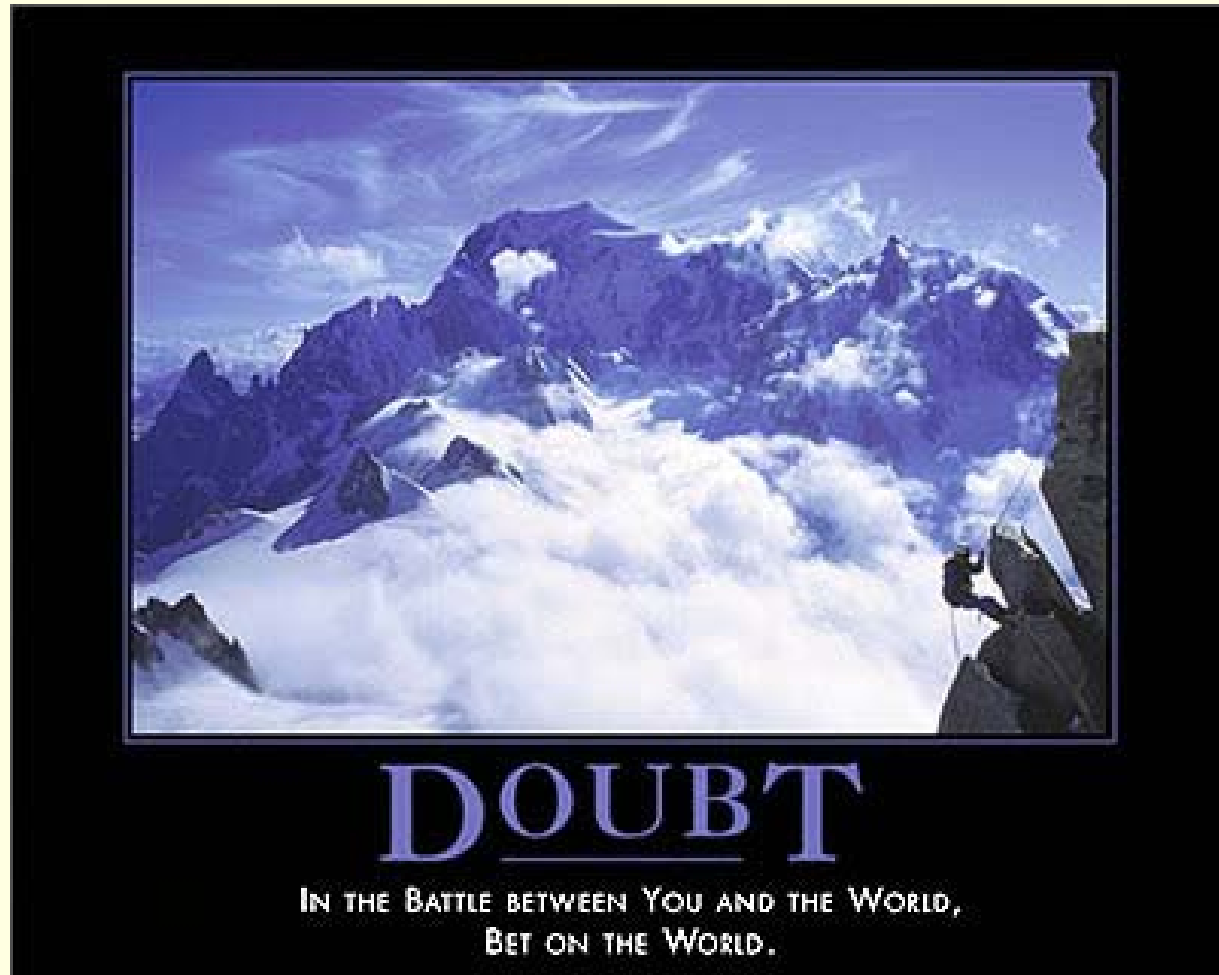
# Binary Trees

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**WASN'T  
THAT  
HISTORIC!**



# Daily Demotivator



# Binary Trees



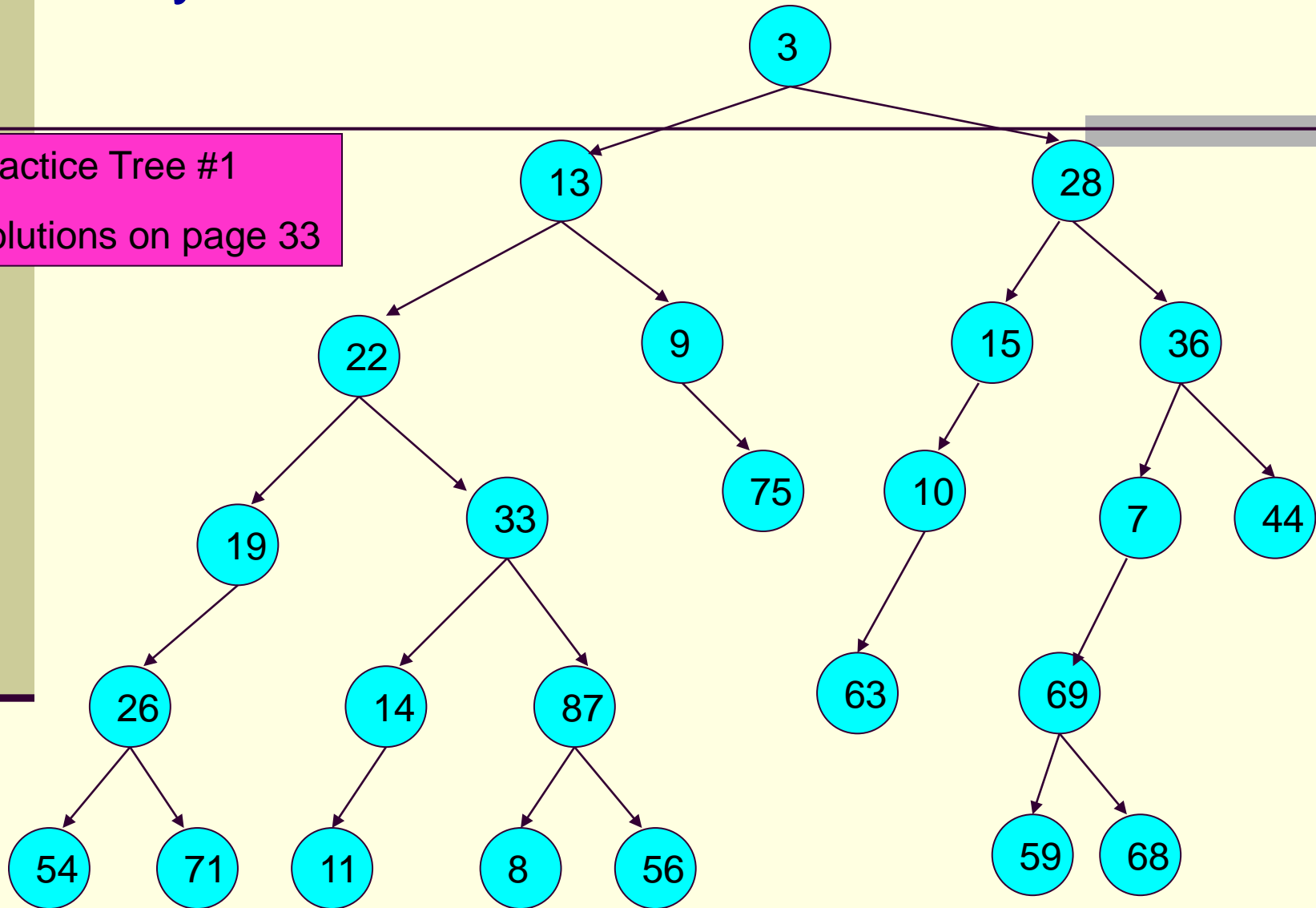
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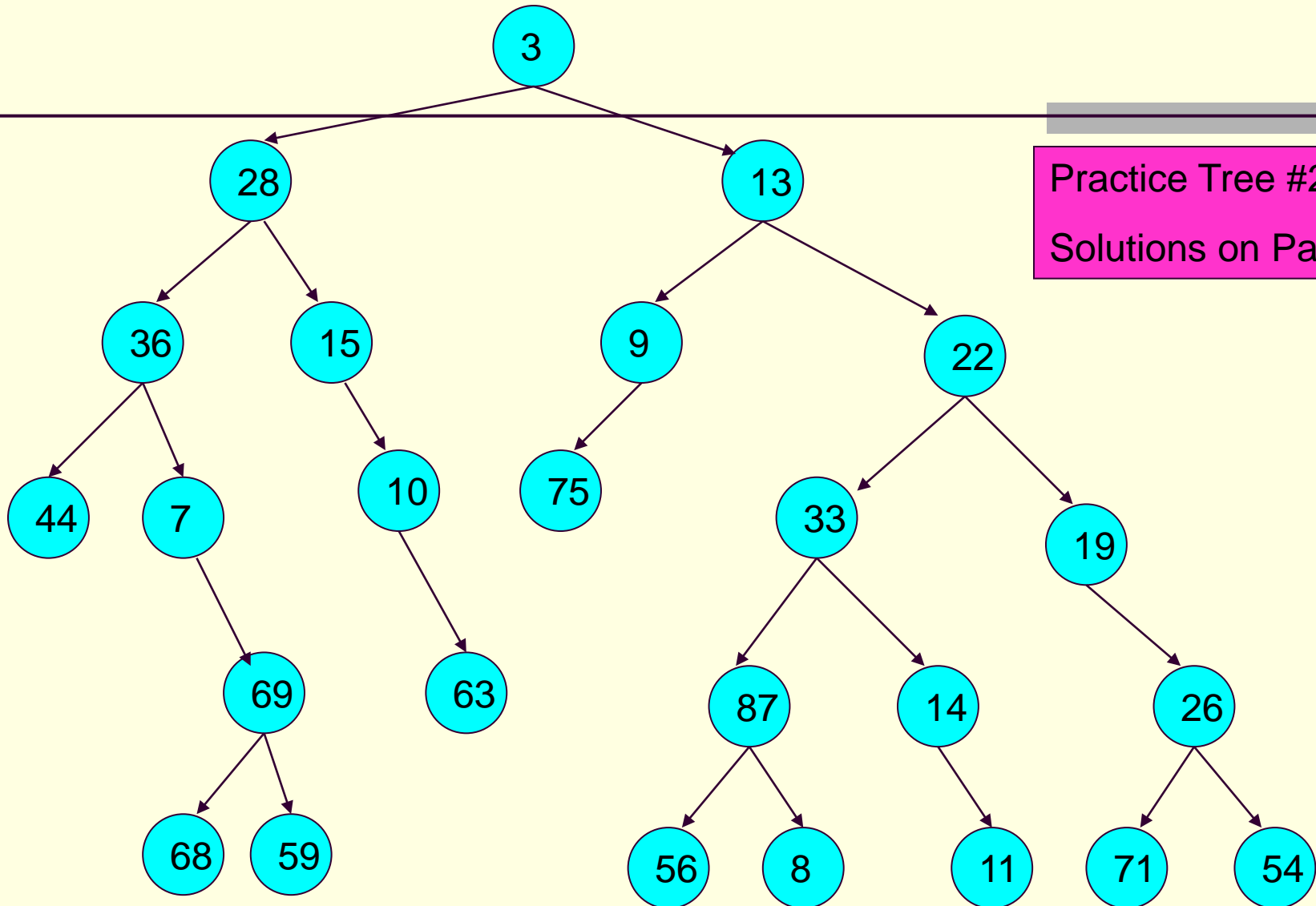
# Binary Tree Traversals – Practice Problems

Practice Tree #1  
Solutions on page 33





# Binary Tree Traversals – Practice Problems



Practice Tree #2  
Solutions on Page 34



# Practice Problem Solutions – Tree #1

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- Preorder Traversal:

3, 13, 22, 19, 26, 54, 71, 33, 14, 11, 87, 8, 56, 9, 75, 28, 15, 10, 63, 36, 7, 69, 59, 68, 44

- Inorder Traversal:

54, 26, 71, 19, 22, 11, 14, 33, 8, 87, 56, 13, 9, 75, 3, 63, 10, 15, 28, 59, 69, 68, 7, 36, 44

- Postorder Traversal:

54, 71, 26, 19, 11, 14, 8, 56, 87, 33, 22, 75, 9, 13, 63, 10, 15, 59, 68, 69, 7, 44, 36, 28, 3





# Practice Problem Solutions – Tree #2

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## ■ Preorder Traversal:

3, 28, 36, 44, 7, 69, 68, 59, 15, 10, 63, 13, 9, 75, 22, 33, 87, 56, 8, 14, 11, 19, 26, 71, 54

## ■ Inorder Traversal:

44, 36, 7, 68, 69, 59, 28, 15, 10, 63, 3, 75, 9, 13, 56, 87, 8, 33, 14, 11, 22, 19, 71, 26, 54

## ■ Postorder Traversal:

44, 68, 59, 69, 7, 36, 63, 10, 15, 28, 75, 9, 56, 8, 87, 11, 14, 33, 71, 54, 26, 19, 22, 13, 3