# Red-Black Trees 

Definitions and
Bottom-Up Insertion

## Red-Black Trees

- Definition: A red-black tree is a binary search tree in which:
- Every node is colored either Red or Black.
- Each NULL pointer is considered to be a Black "node".
- If a node is red, its two children must be black.
- Every path from a node to a NULL contains the same number of Black nodes.
- By convention, the root is Black
- Definition: The black-height of a node, $X$, in a red-black tree is the number of Black nodes on any path to a NULL, not counting X.


A Red-Black Tree with NULLs shown
Black-Height of the tree $($ the root $)=3$
Black-Height of node " $X$ " = 2


A Red-Black Tree with
Black-Height $=3$


Black Height of the tree?
Black Height of X?

## Bottom -Up Insertion

- Insert node as usual in BST
- Color the node Red
- What Red-Black property may be violated?
- Every node is Red or Black?
- NULLs are Black?
- If node is Red, both children must be Black?
- Every path from node to descendant NULL must contain the same number of Blacks?


## Bottom Up Insertion

- Insert node;
- Color it Red
- X is pointer to it to be added to the tree
- Cases

0: X is the root -- color it Black
1: Both parent and uncle are Red -- color parent and uncle Black, color grandparent Red. Point X to grandparent and check new situation.
2 (zig-zag): Parent is Red, but uncle is Black. X and its parent are opposite type children -- color grandparent Red, color X Black, rotate left(right) on parent, rotate right(left) on grandparent
3 (zig-zig): Parent is Red, but uncle is Black. $X$ and its parent are both left (right) children -- color parent Black, color grandparent Red, rotate right(left) on grandparent




## Asymptotic Cost of Insertion

- $O(\lg n)$ to descend to insertion point
- $O(1)$ to do insertion
- $O(\lg \mathrm{n})$ to ascend and readjust $==$ worst case only for case 1
- Total: O(log n)


## Insert 4 into this R-B Tree



Black node

## Insertion Practice

Insert the values 2, 1, 4, 5, 9, 3, 6, 7 into an initially empty Red-Black Tree

## Top-Down Insertion

An alternative to this "bottom-up" insertion is "top-down" insertion.
Top-down is iterative. It moves down the tree, "fixing" things as it goes.

What is the objective of top-down's "fixes"?

Theorem 1 - Any red-black tree with root $\boldsymbol{x}$, has $n \geq 2^{b h(x)}-1$ nodes, where $b h(x)$ is the black height of node $x$.
Proof: by induction on height of $x$.

Theorem 2 - In a red-black tree, at least half the nodes on any path from the root to a NULL must be Black.

Proof - If there is a Red node on the path, there must be a corresponding Black node.

Algebraically this theorem means

$$
b h(x) \geq h / 2
$$

Theorem 3 - In a red-black tree, no path from any node, $X$, to a NULL is more than twice as long as any other path from $X$ to any other NULL.

Proof: By definition, every path from a node to any NULL contains the same number of Black nodes. By Theorem 2, a least $1 / 2$ the nodes on any such path are Black. Therefore, there can no more than twice as many nodes on any path from X to a NULL as on any other path. Therefore the length of every path is no more than twice as long as any other path.

Theorem 4 -
A red-black tree with $\boldsymbol{n}$ nodes has height

$$
\mathrm{h} \leq 2 \lg (n+1)
$$

Proof: Let $h$ be the height of the red-black tree with root $x$. By Theorem 2,

$$
b h(x) \geq h / 2
$$

From Theorem 1, $\boldsymbol{n} \geq 2^{\mathrm{bh}(\mathrm{x})}-1$
Therefore $\mathrm{n} \geq 2^{\mathrm{h} / 2}-1$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& n+1 \geq 2^{h / 2} \\
& \lg (n+1) \geq h / 2 \\
& 2 \lg (n+1) \geq h
\end{aligned}
$$

