

# **An Introduction to the Contraction Method**

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Institute for Mathematics  
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# Bucket Selection

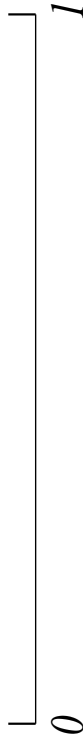
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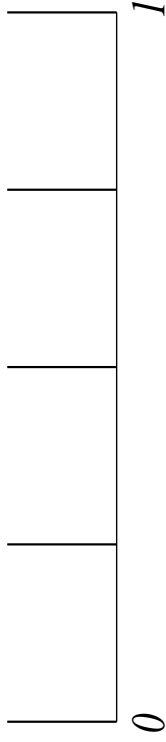
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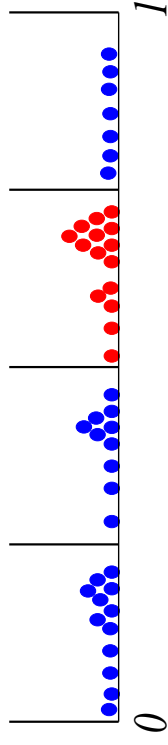
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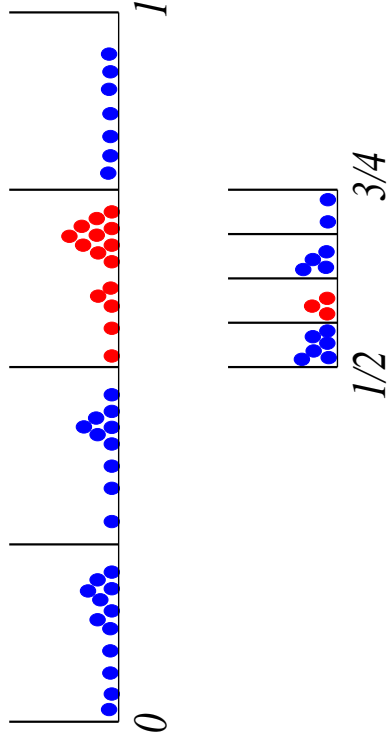
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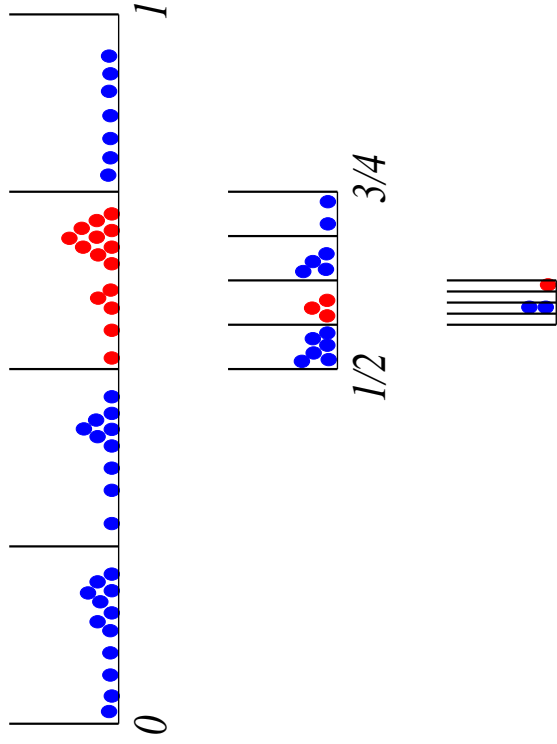
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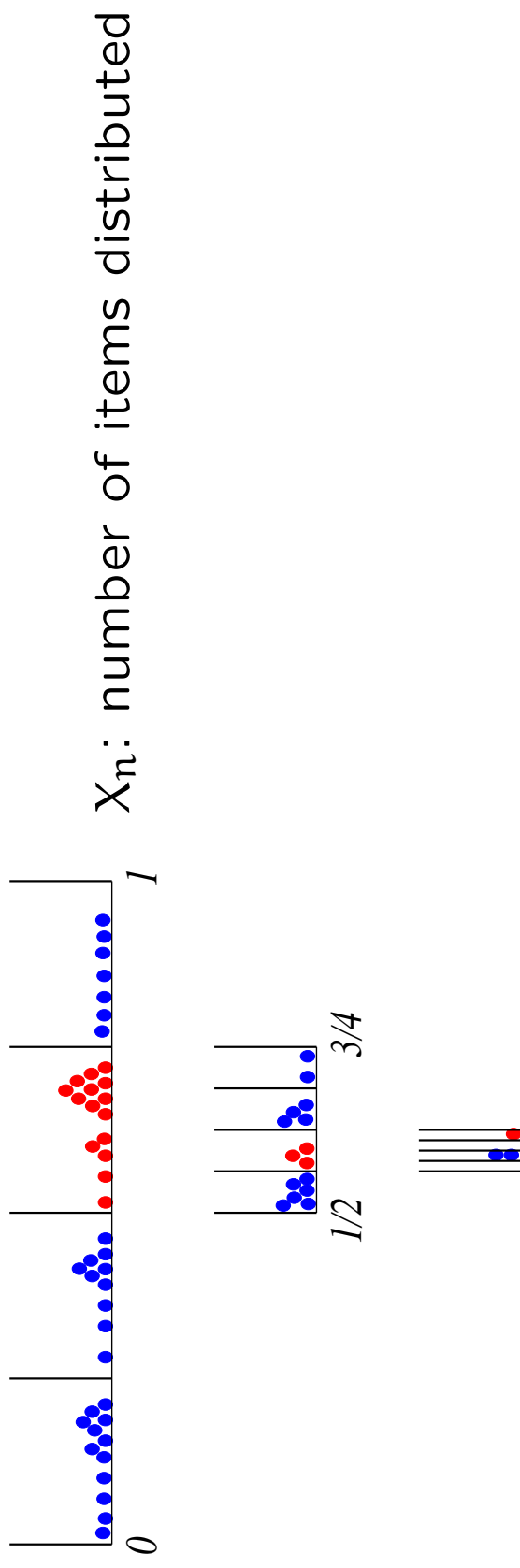
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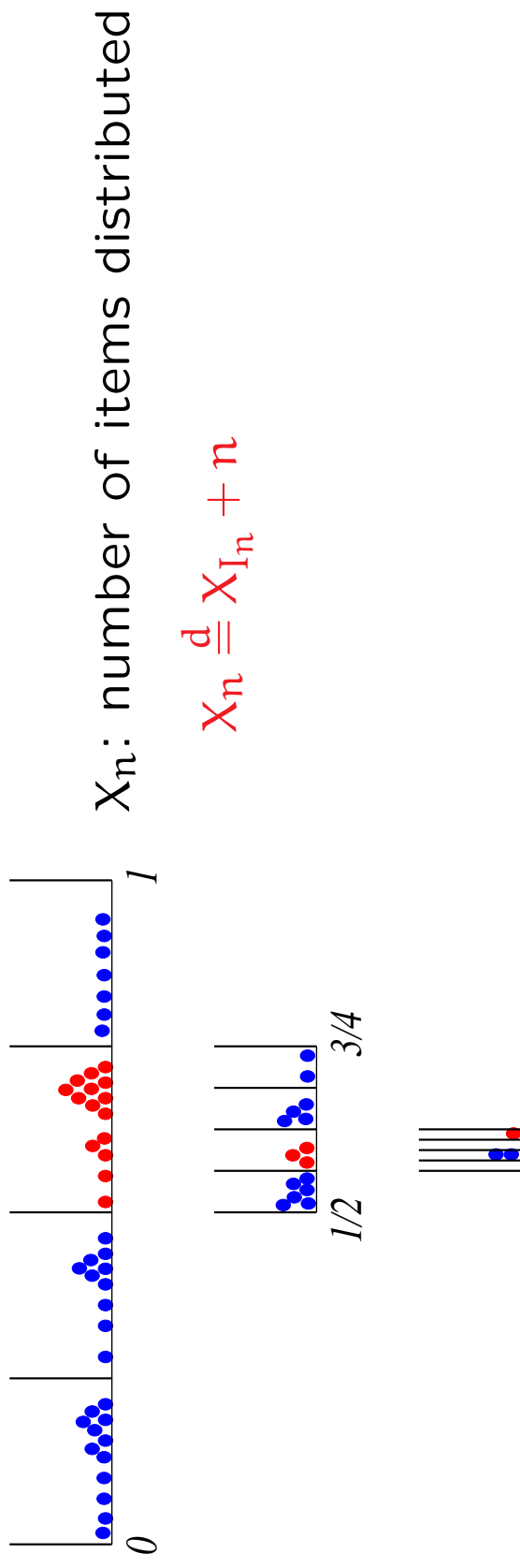




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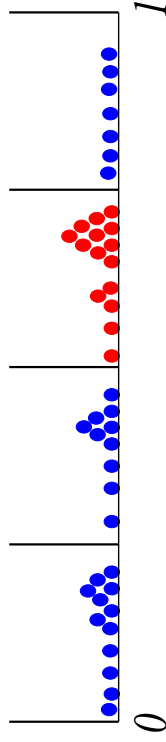
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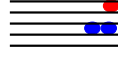
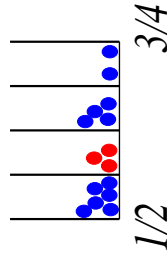
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$X_n$ : number of items distributed

$$X_n \stackrel{d}{=} X_{I_n} + n$$

$I_n = \#$  items in relevant bucket



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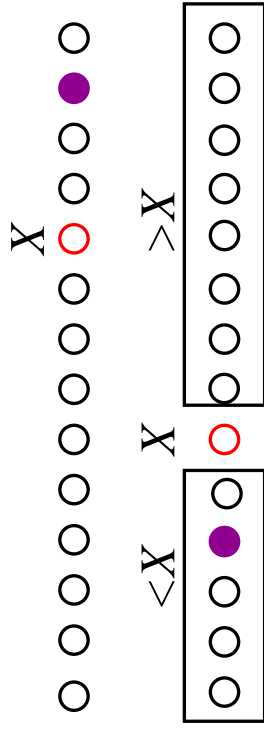
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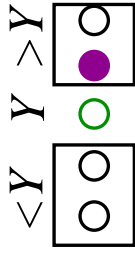
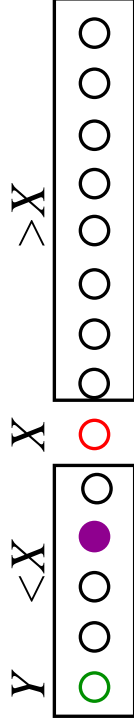




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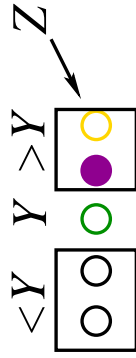
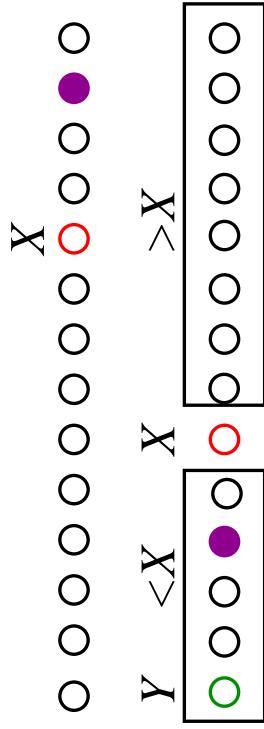




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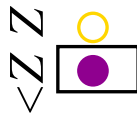
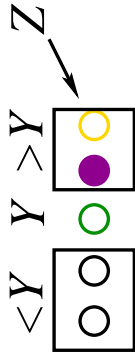
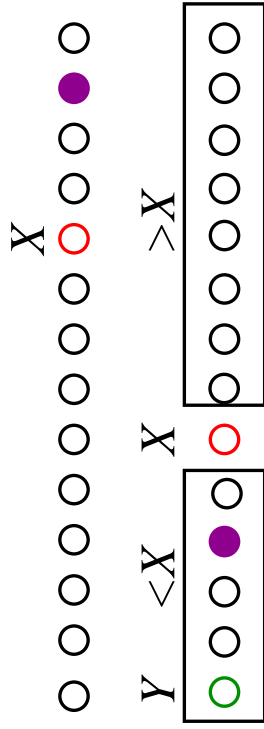
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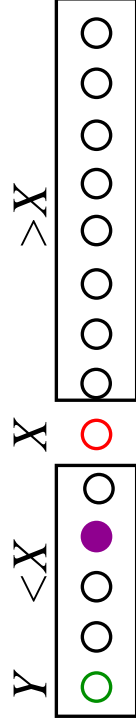
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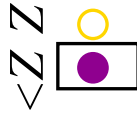
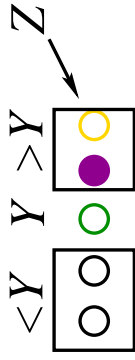
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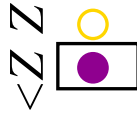
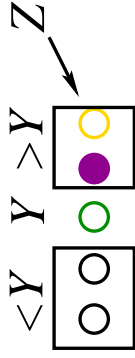
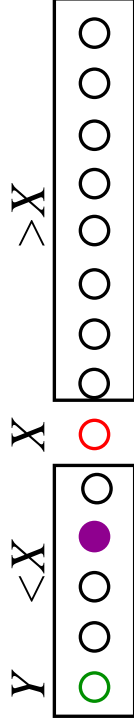
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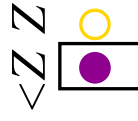
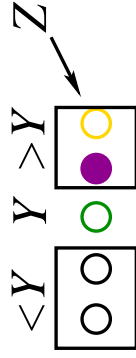
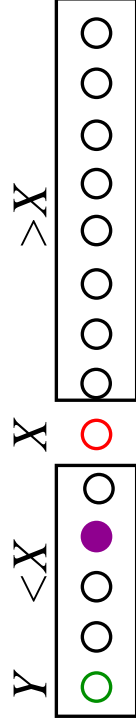
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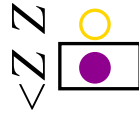
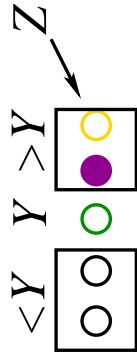
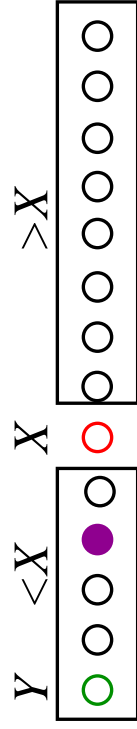
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For  $k = 1$ :  $I_n \stackrel{d}{=} \text{unif}\{0, \dots, n - 1\}$

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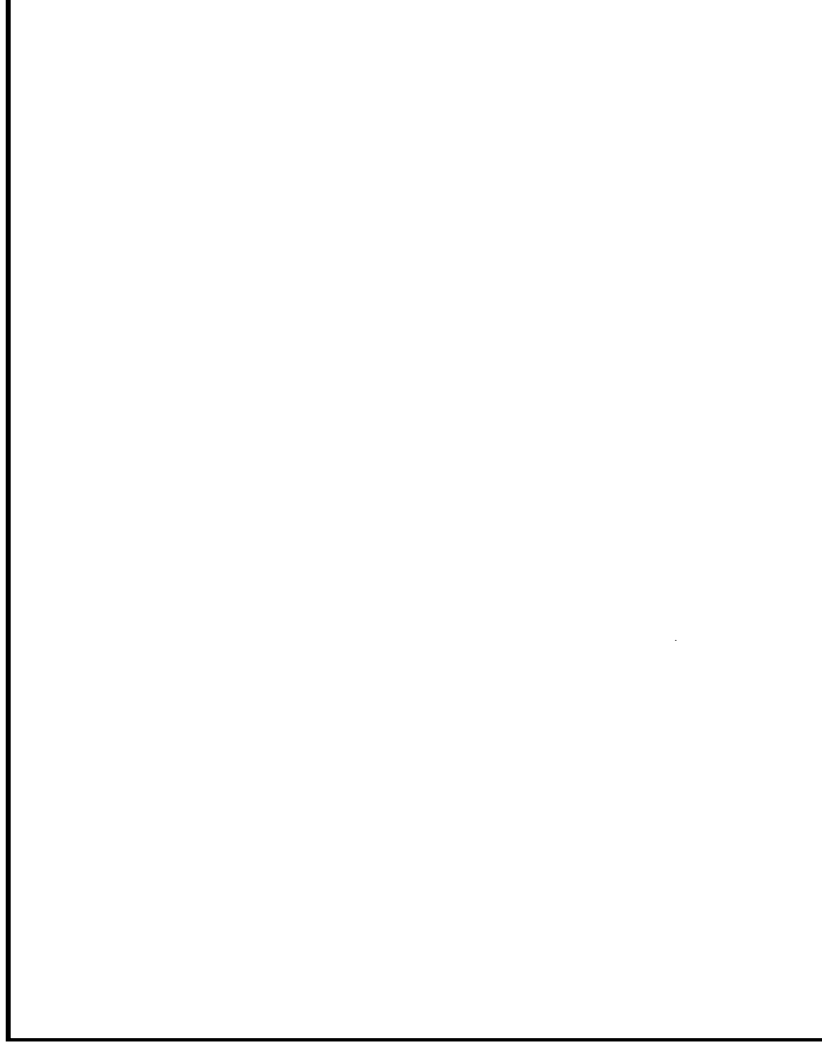
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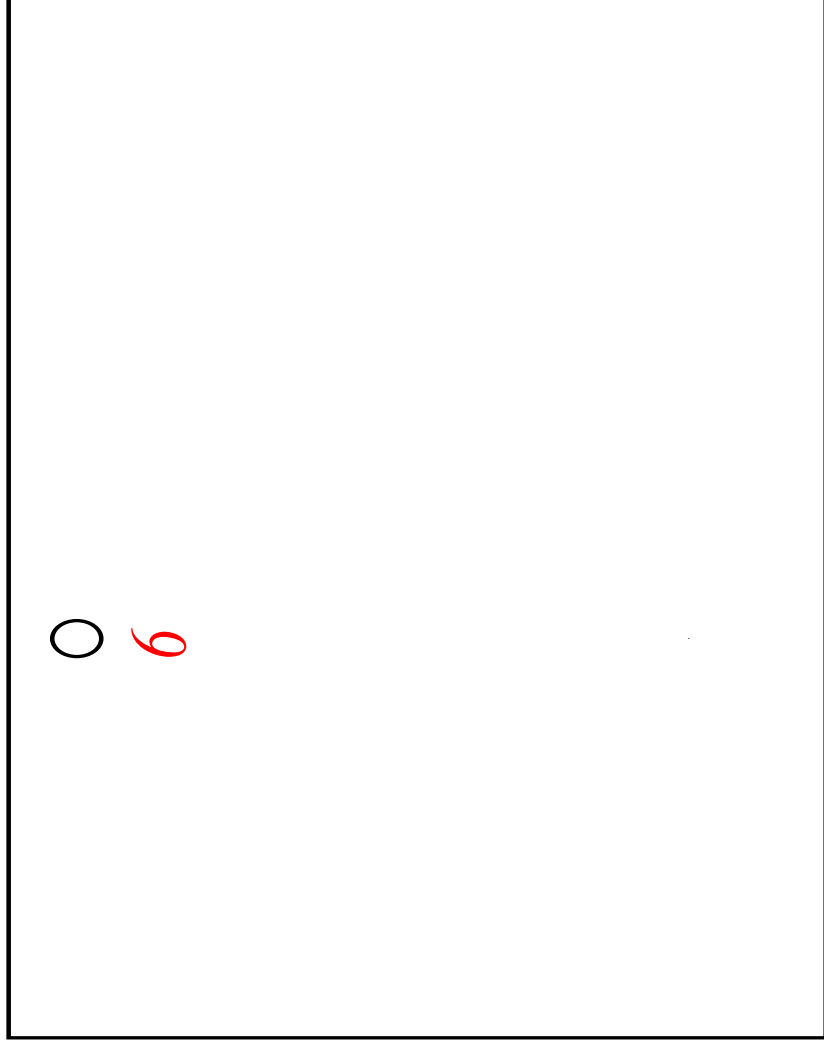
# Binary search tree

Given numbers: 6, 1, 8, 7, 5, 3, 10, 2, 11, 4, 9.



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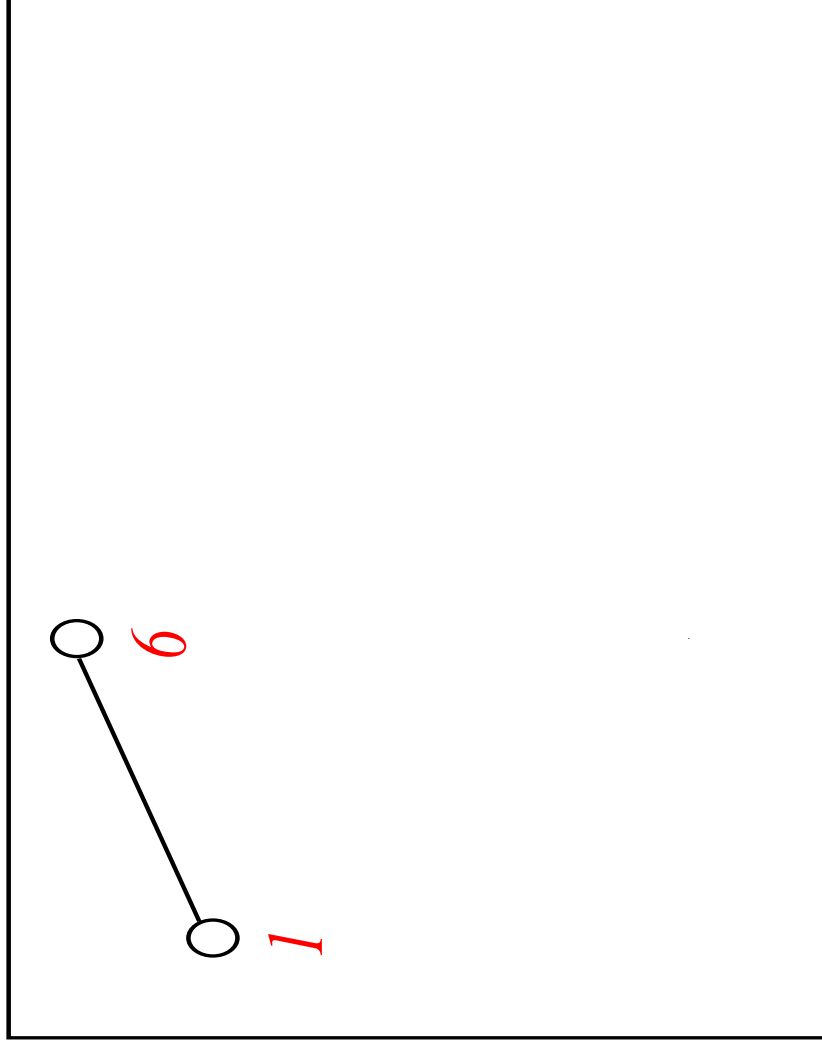


0

6

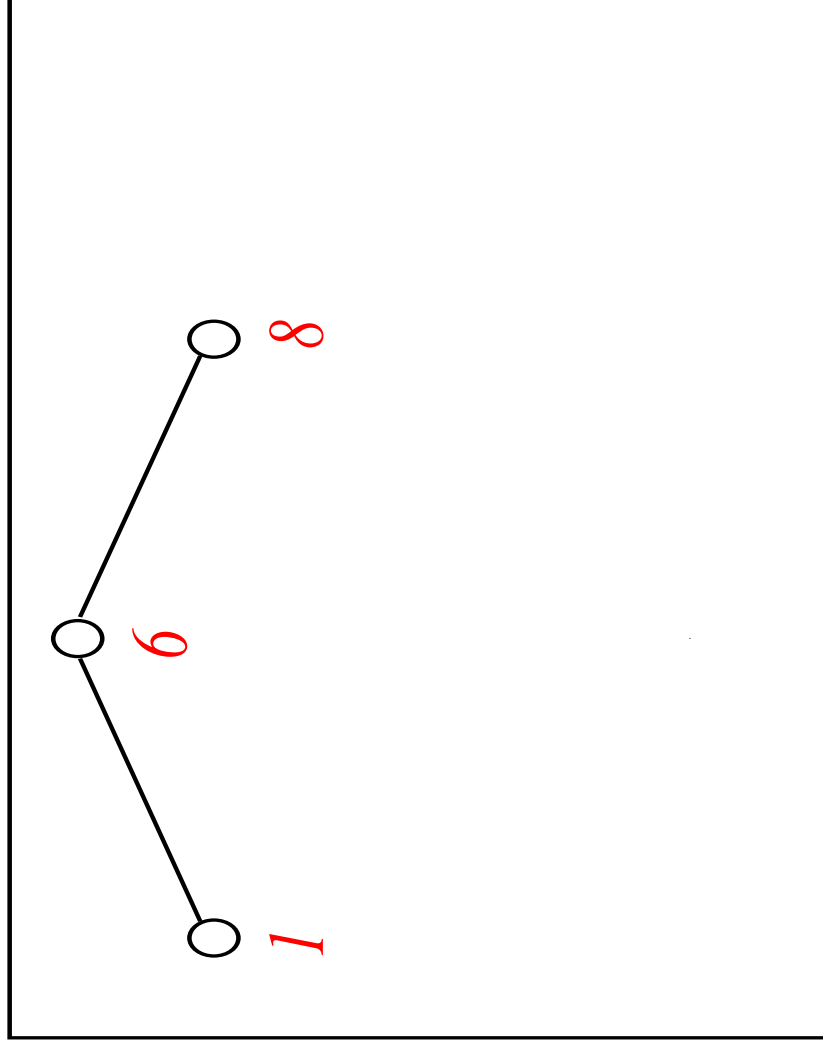
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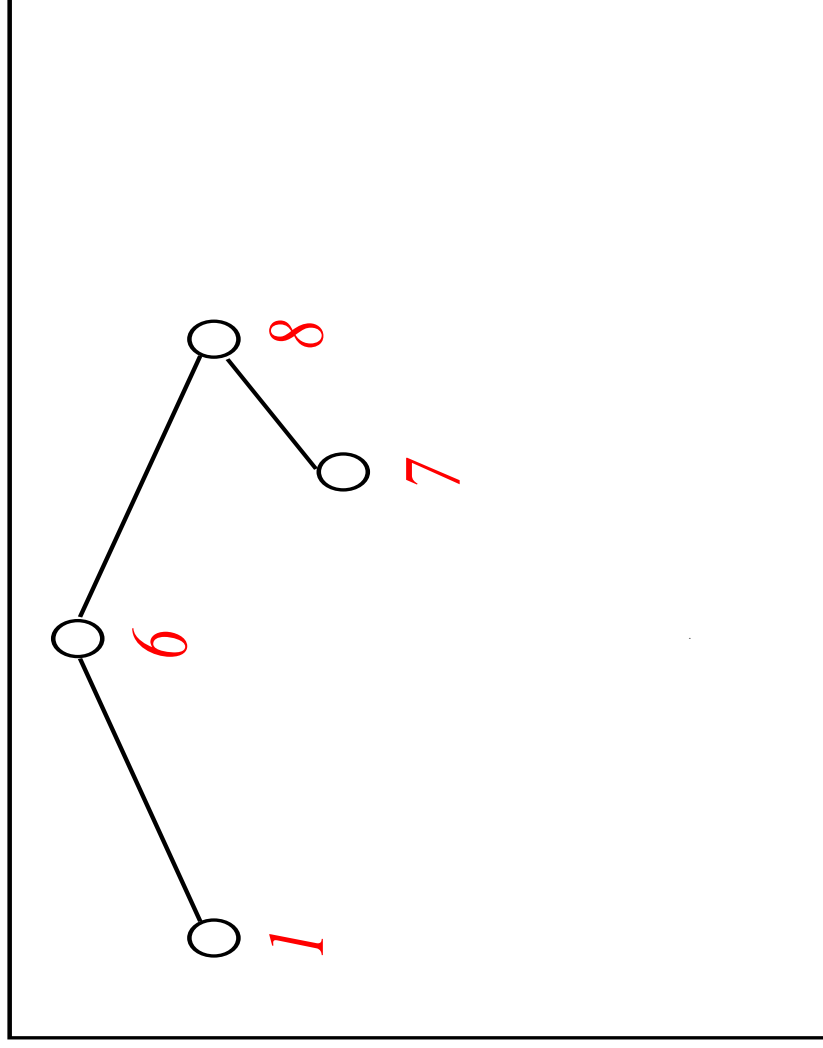
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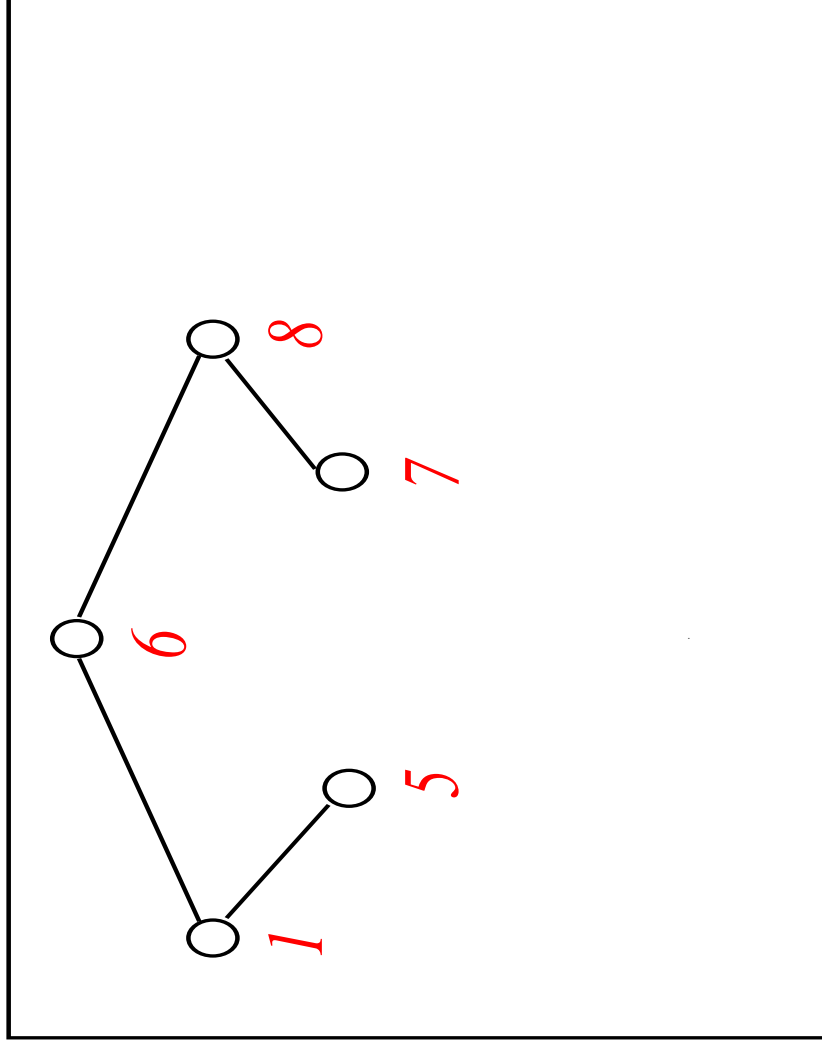
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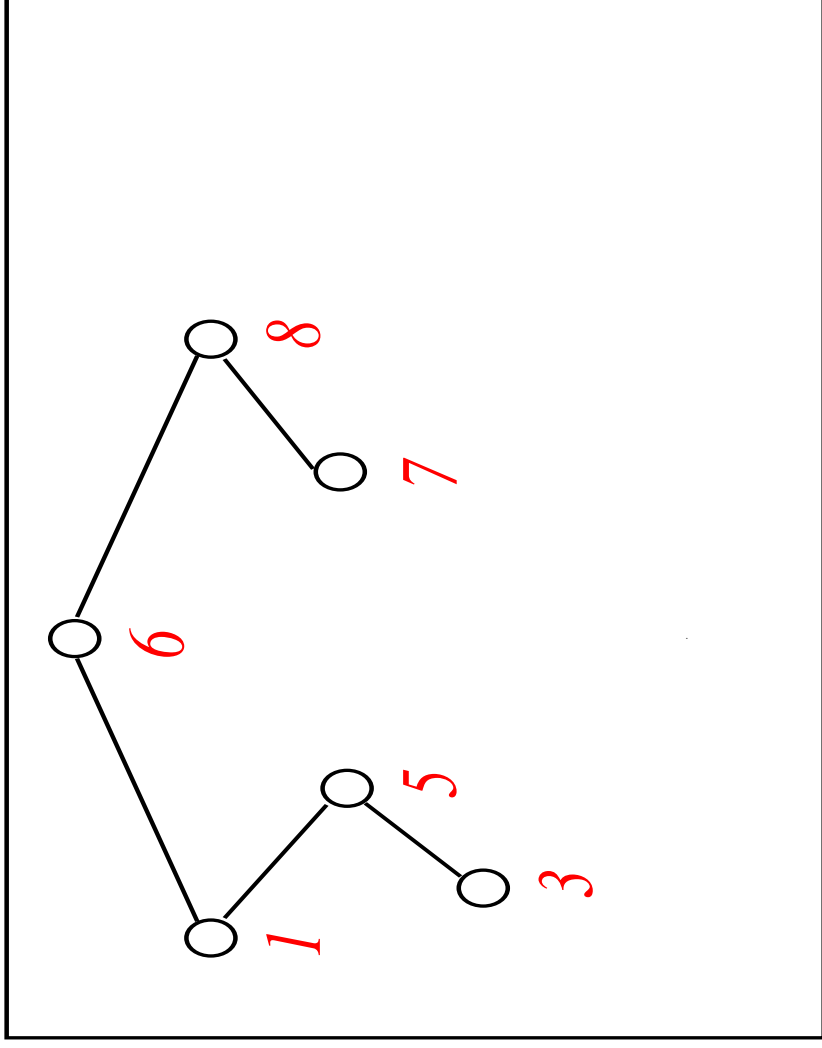
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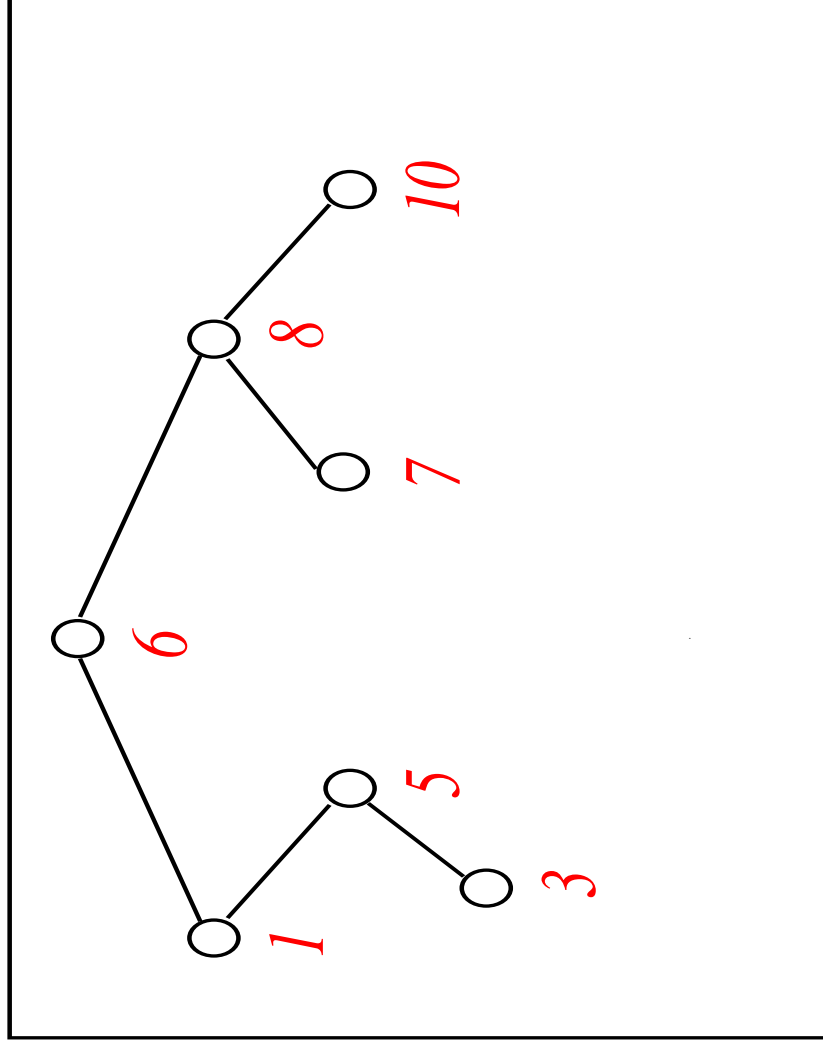
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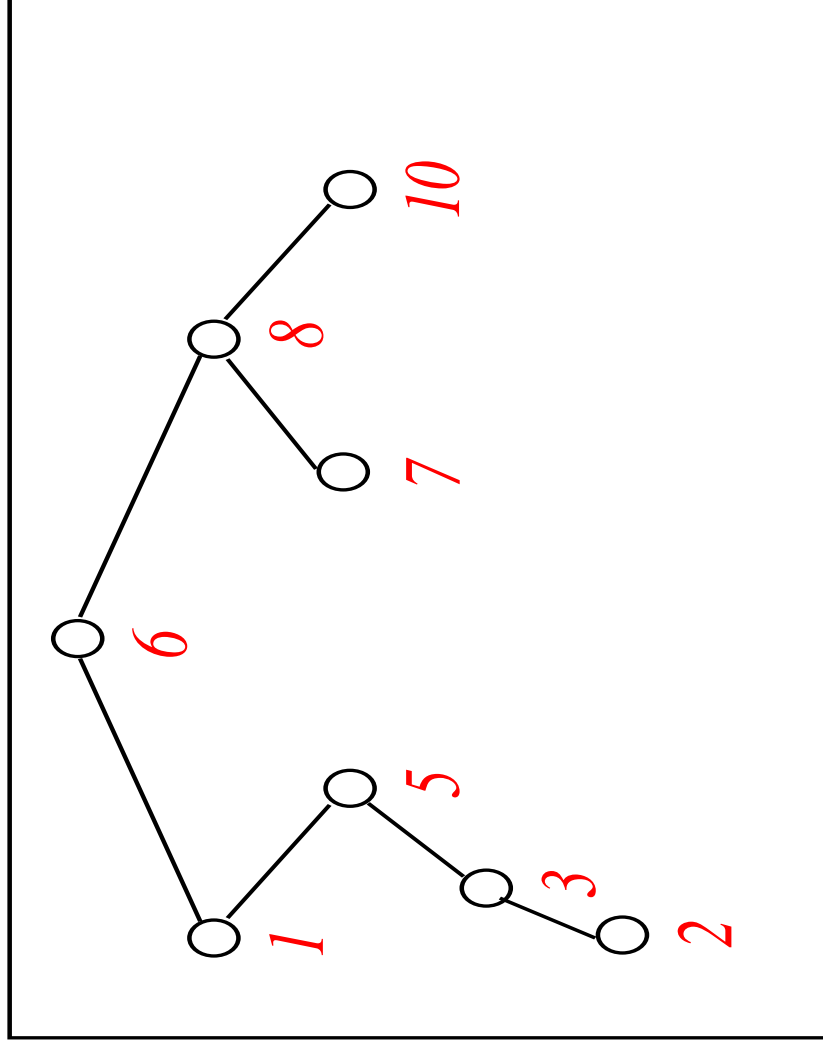
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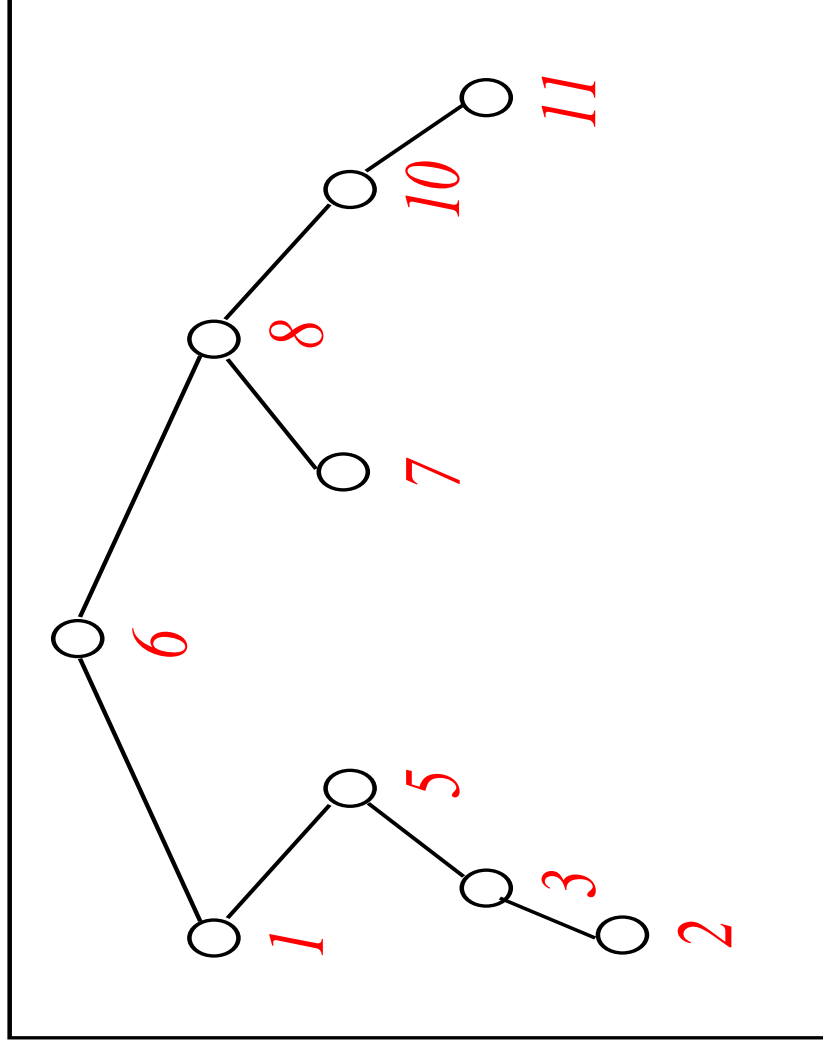
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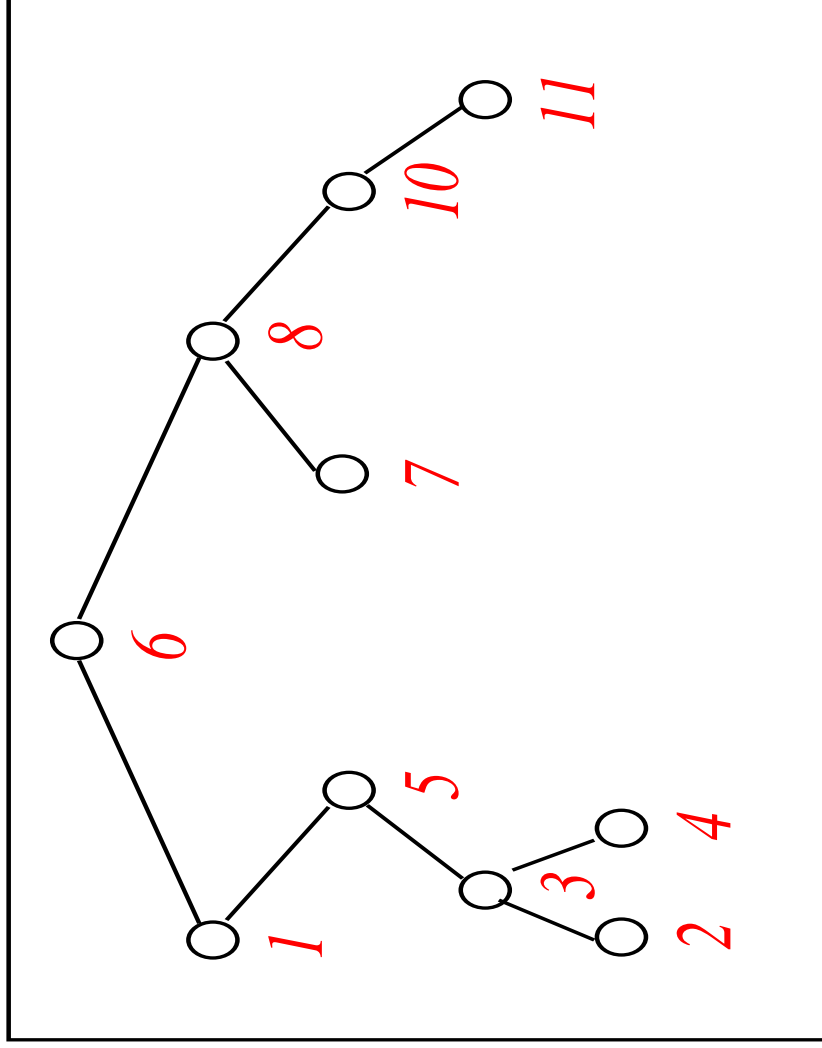
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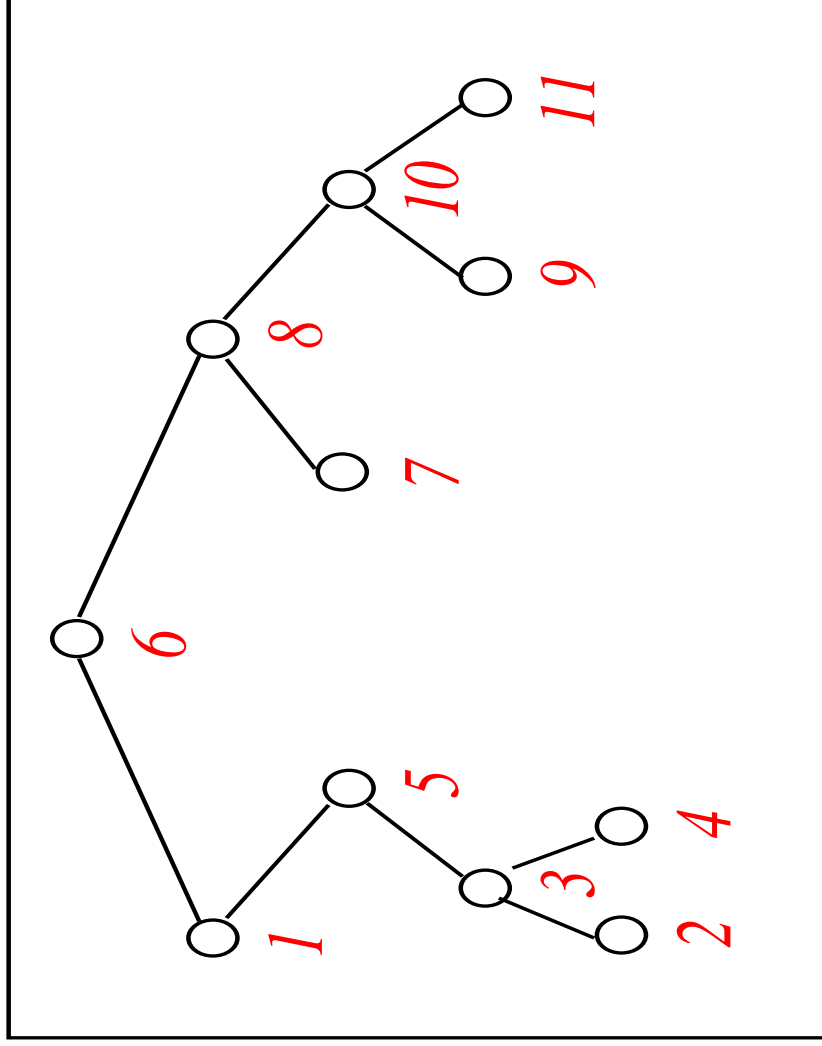
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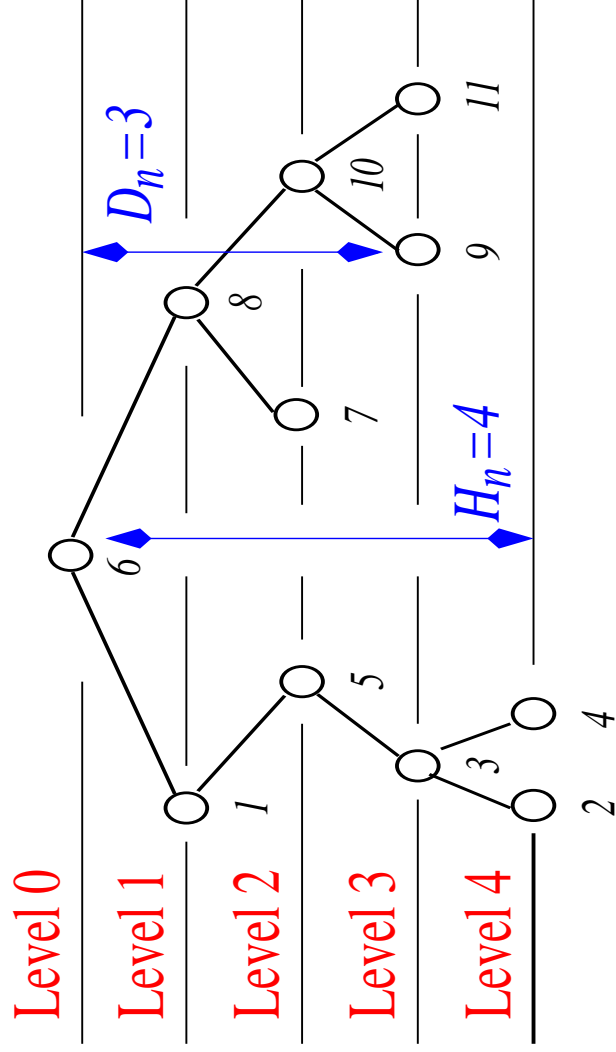


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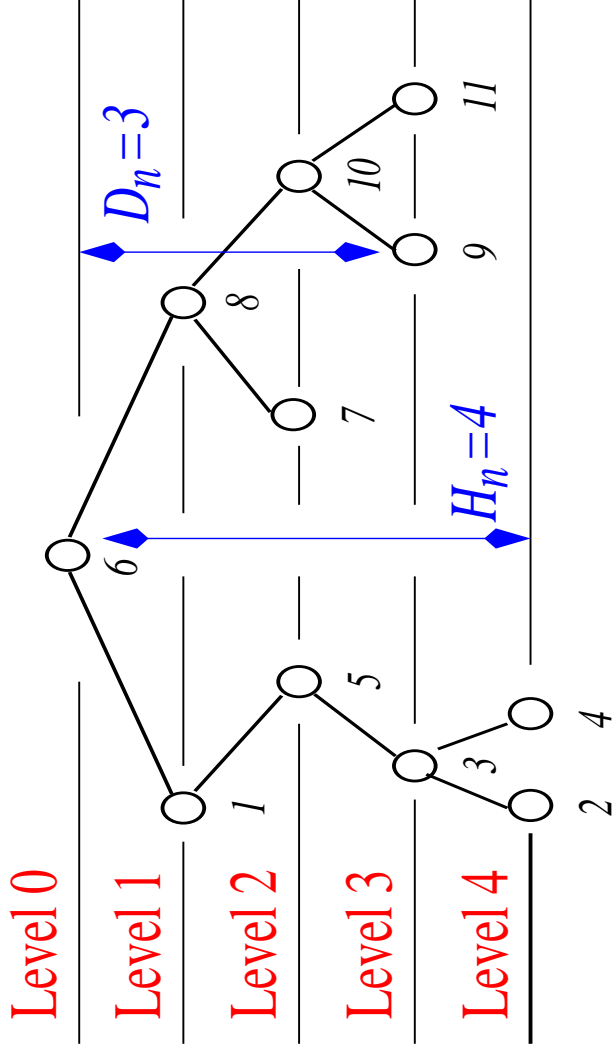


# Quantities in BST



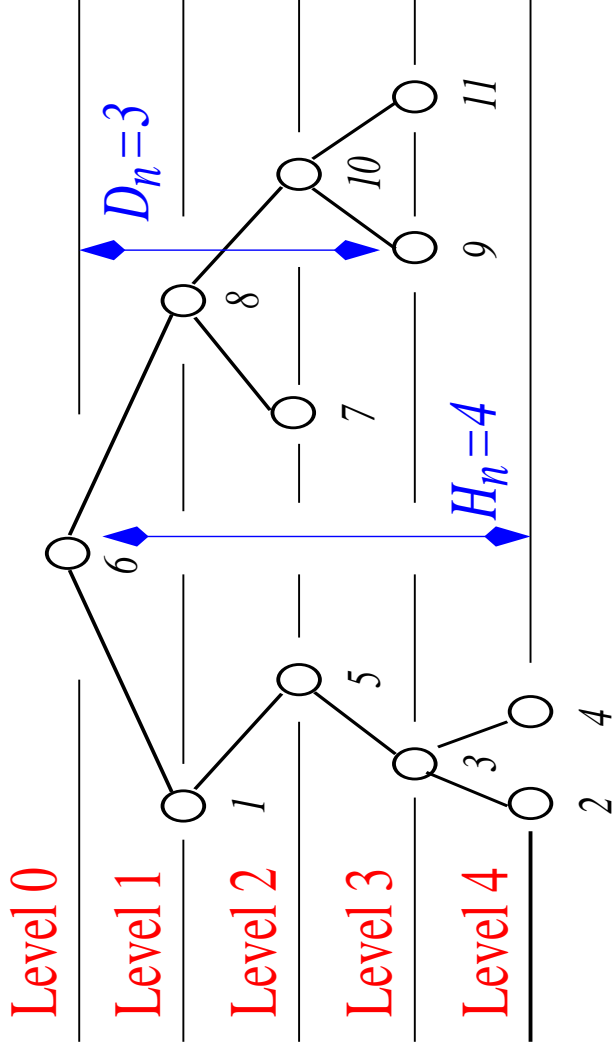


# Quantities in BST



$D_n$  — depth = distance root to  $n$ -th inserted node

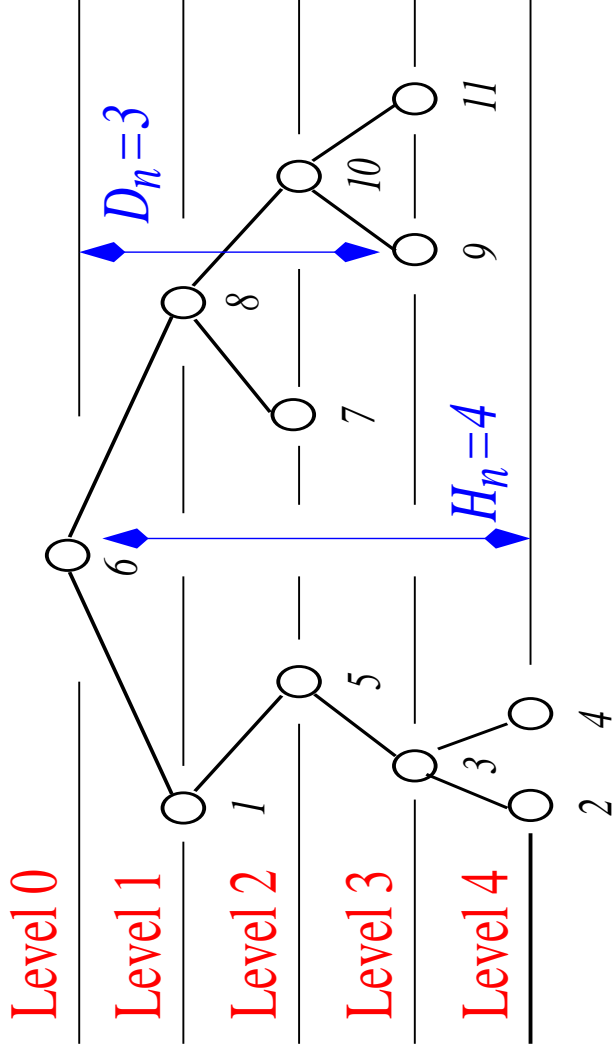
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$H_n = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} D_j$  — height

$Q_n = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq n} D_j$  — internal path length

# Random binary search tree

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Model of randomness:

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All permutations of  $1, \dots, n$  equally likely.

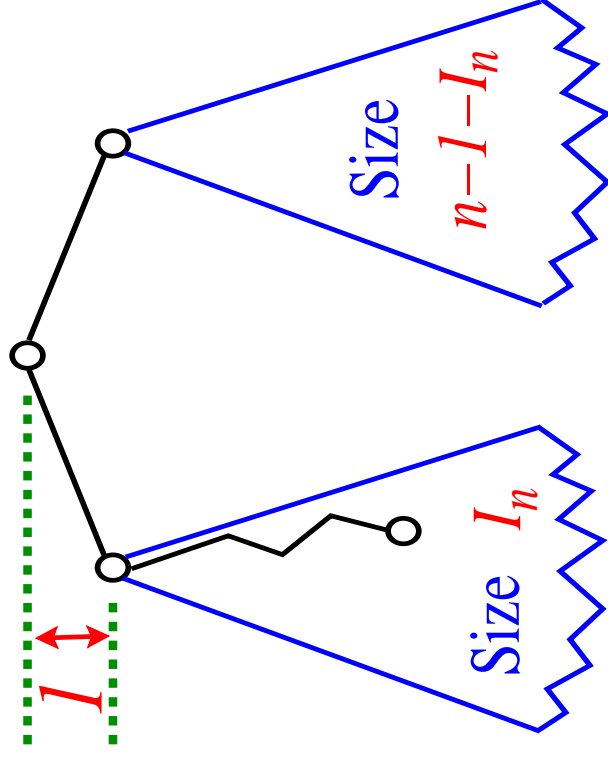
Equivalent: Use  $U_1, \dots, U_n$  i.i.d.  $\text{unif}[0, 1]$ .



# Internal path length

Internal path length  $Q_n$ :

$$Q_n \stackrel{d}{=} Q_{I_n}^* + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} + n - 1$$

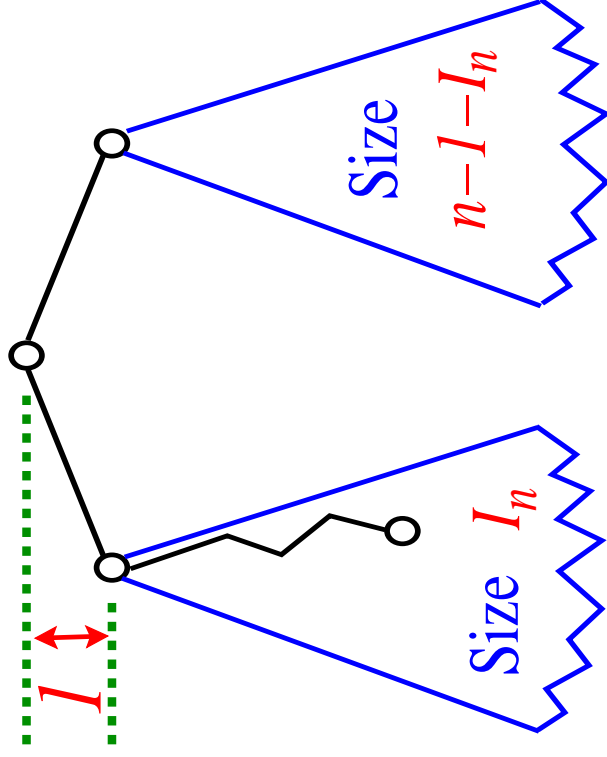


# Internal path length

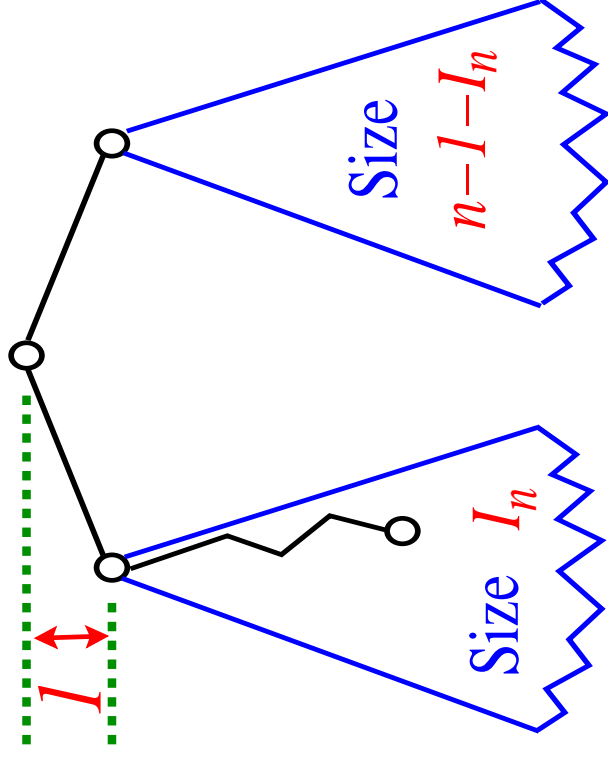
Internal path length  $Q_n$ :

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$Q_0^*, \dots, Q_{n-1}^*, Q_0^{**}, \dots, Q_{n-1}^{**}, I_n$   
indep.,



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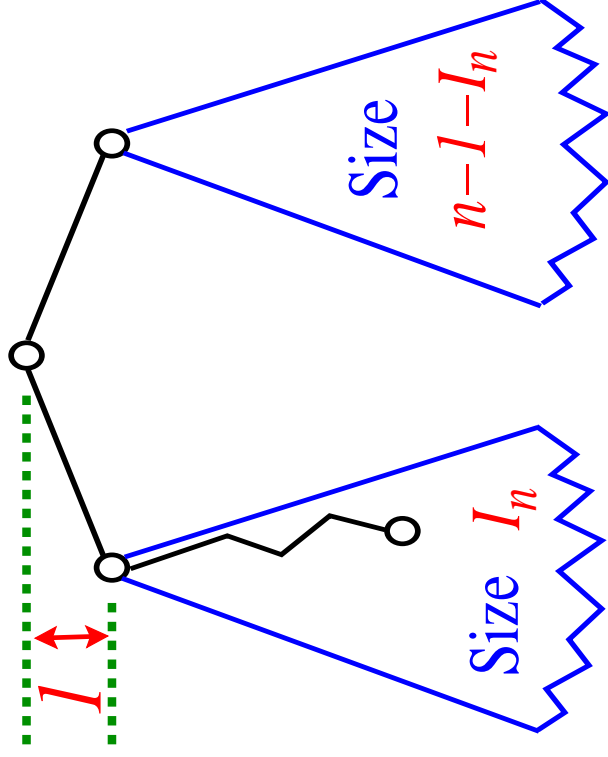
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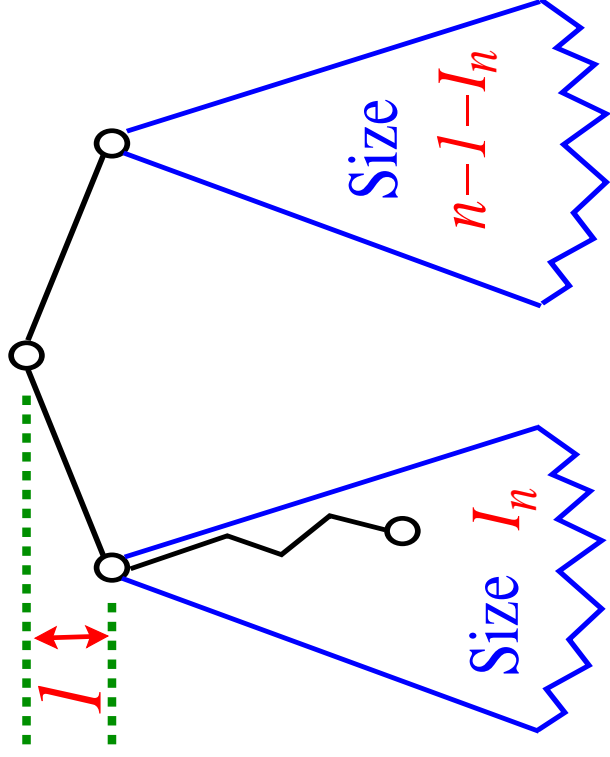
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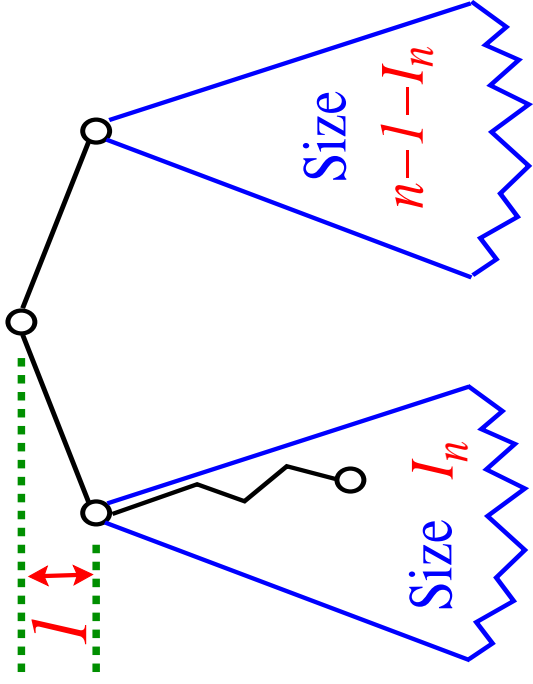
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This needs a proof!

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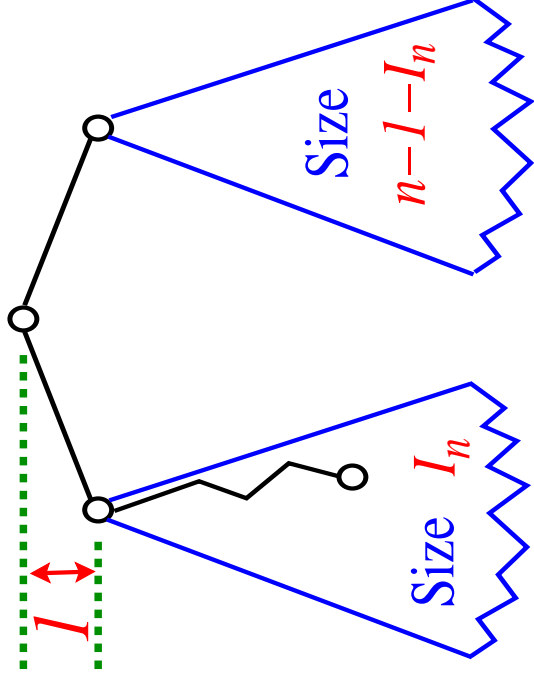
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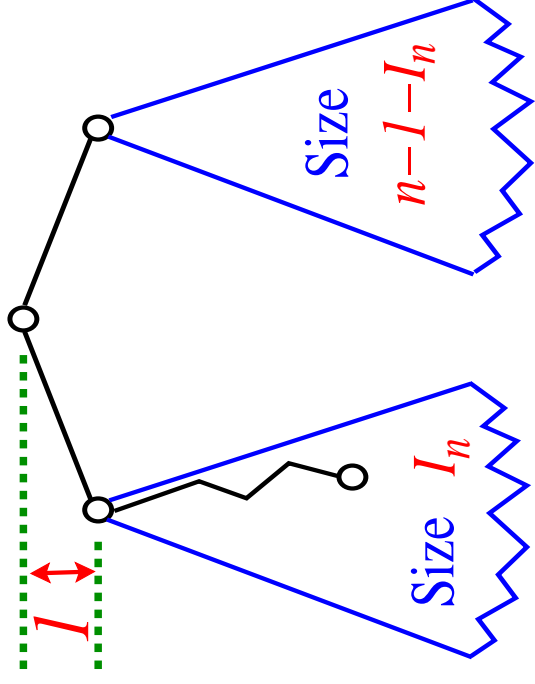
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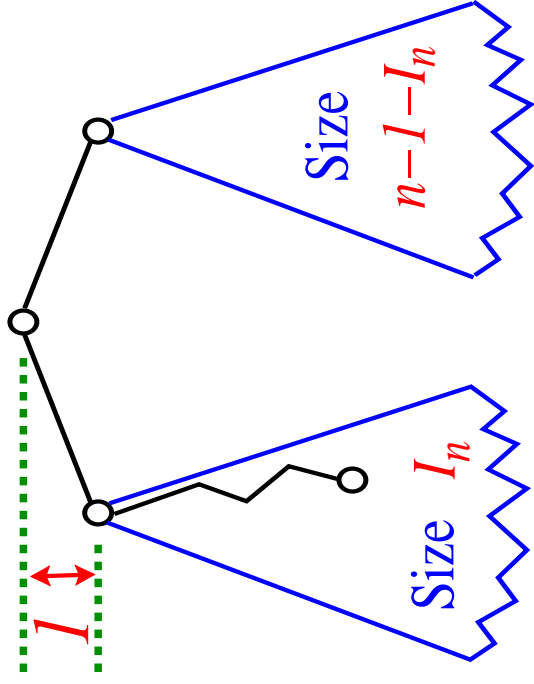
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Sufficient:  $\mathbb{P}(Q_n = j) = \mathbb{P}(Z_n = j)$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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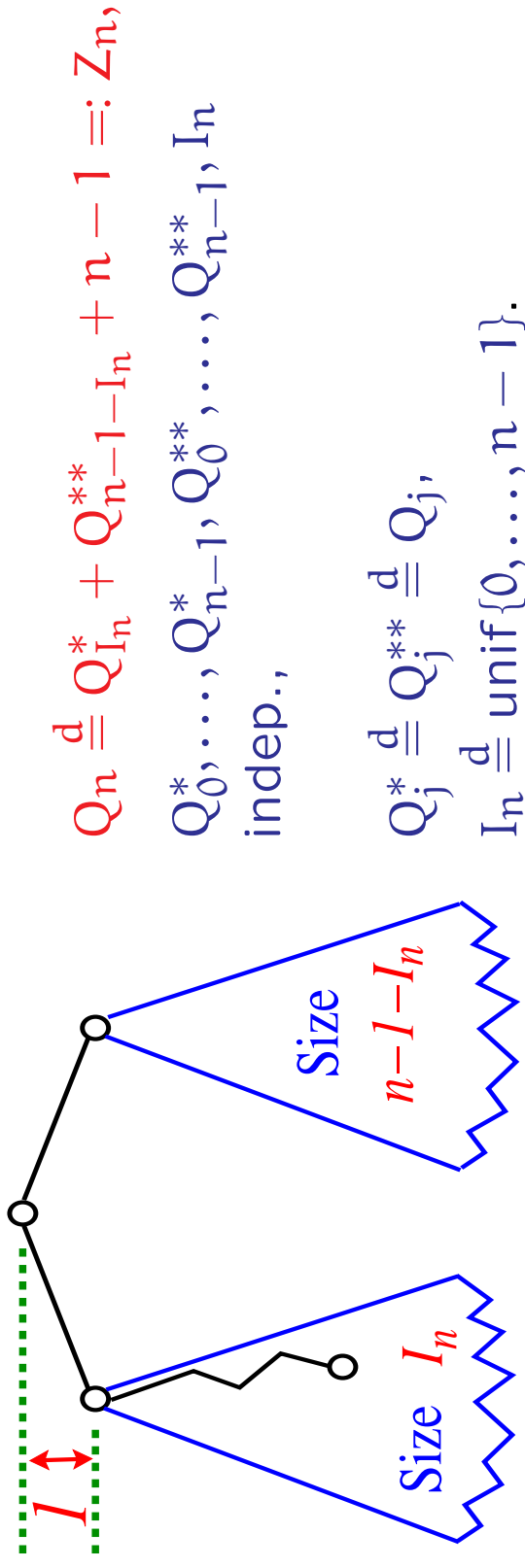
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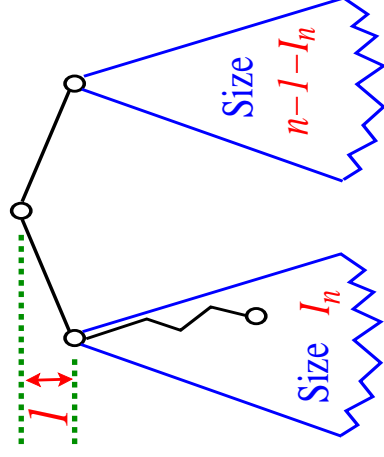
Show: For all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $k \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(Q_n = j | I_n = k) = \mathbb{P}(Z_n = j | I_n = k).$$

[Total probability theorem yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(Q_n = j) &= \sum_k \mathbb{P}(I_n = k) \mathbb{P}(Q_n = j | I_n = k) \\ &= \sum_k \mathbb{P}(I_n = k) \mathbb{P}(Z_n = j | I_n = k) = \mathbb{P}(Z_n = j). \end{aligned}$$

# Proof of the recurrence

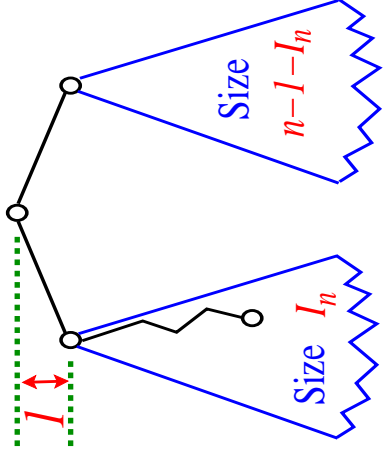


To prove:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}(Q_n = j \mid I_n = k) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(Q_k^* + Q_{n-1-k}^{**} + n - 1 = j). \end{aligned}$$



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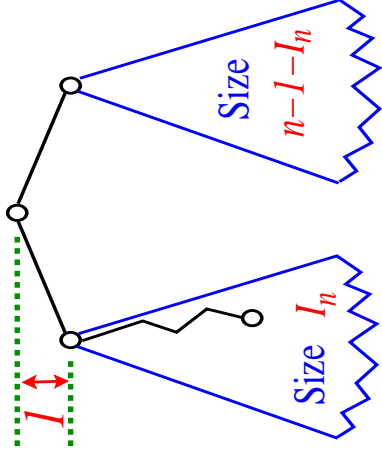
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We show: Given  $\{I_n = k\}$  we have:

- a)  $\mathcal{T}_1$  and  $\mathcal{T}_2$  independent,
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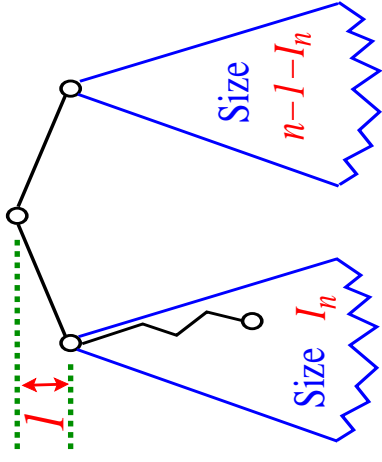
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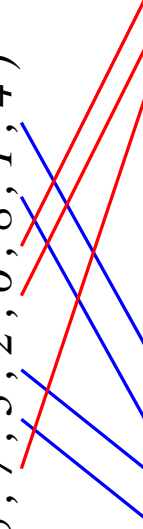
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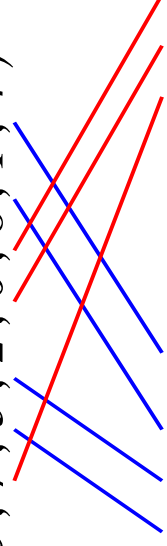


## Proof of the recurrence II

$\pi$  equiprobable in  $S_n$ .

$$\pi = (5, 7, 3, 2, 6, 8, 1, 4)$$

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## Proof of the recurrence II

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We show: Given  $\pi_1 = k + 1$ :

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$\pi_{<}$  and  $\pi_{>}$  independent and equiprobable on  $S_k$  and  $S_{n-1-k}$  resp.

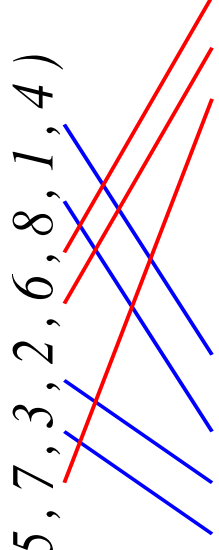
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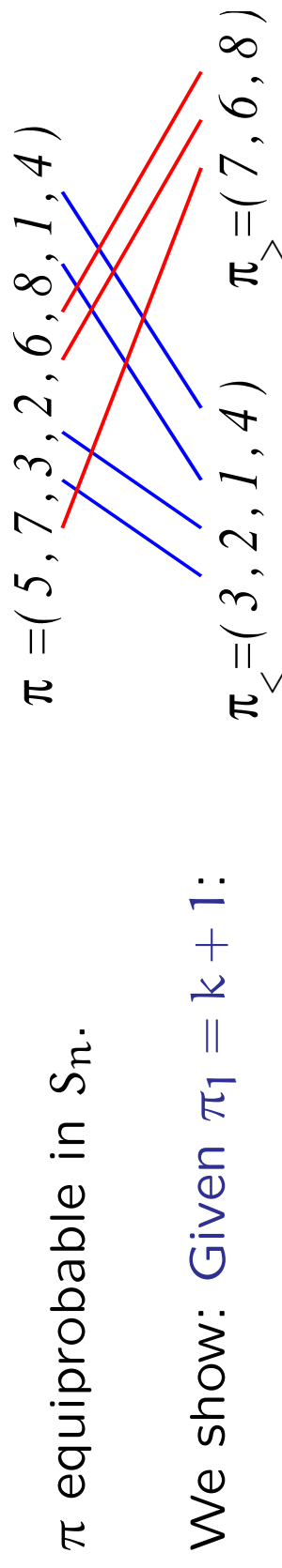


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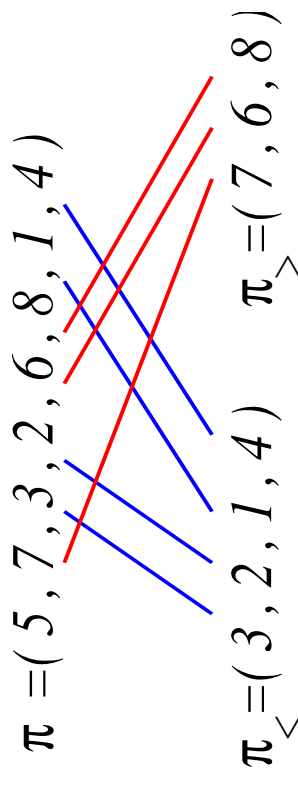
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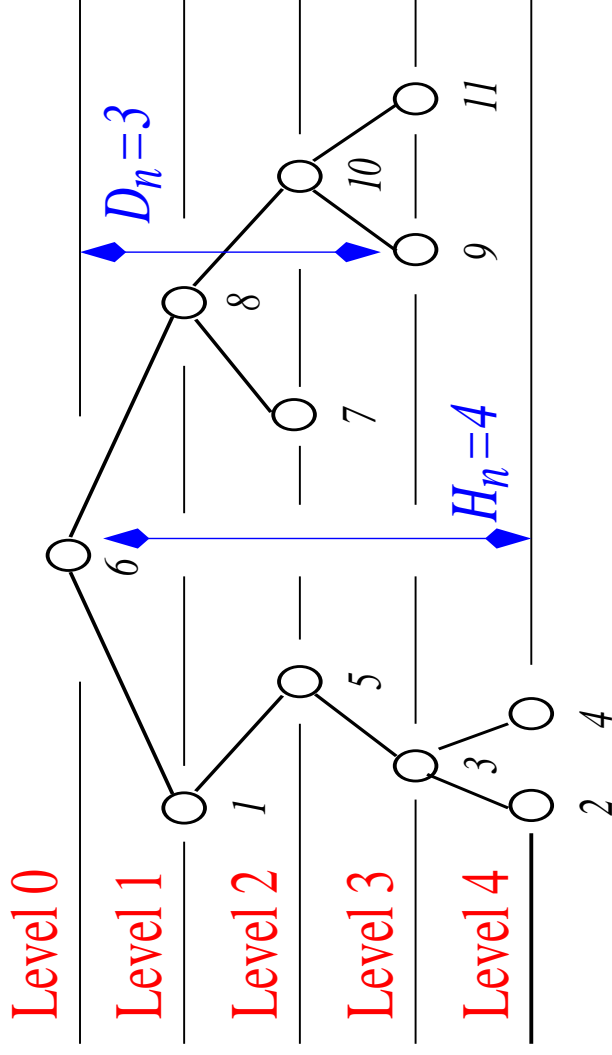
$$\mathbb{P}(\pi_{<} = \sigma \mid \pi_1 = k + 1) = \frac{1}{1/n} \frac{\binom{n-1}{k} (n-1-k)!}{n!} = \frac{1}{k!}$$

Given  $\pi_1 = k + 1$  hence  $\pi_{<}$  equiprobable on  $S_k$ .

Second assertion similar.

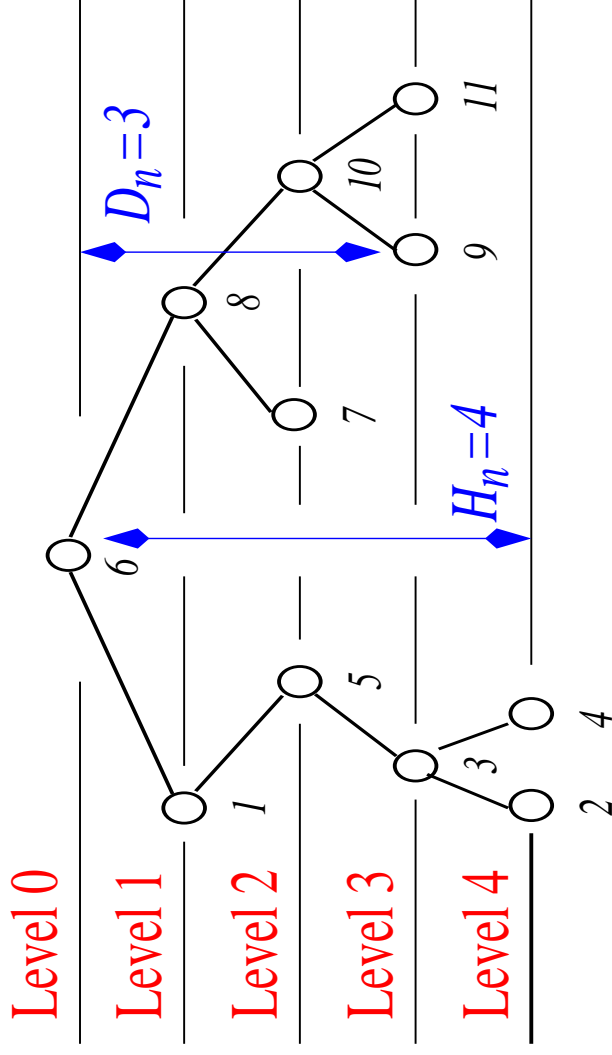


# Other BST recurrences



$$Q_n \stackrel{d}{=} Q_{I_n}^{(1)} + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{(2)} + n - 1$$

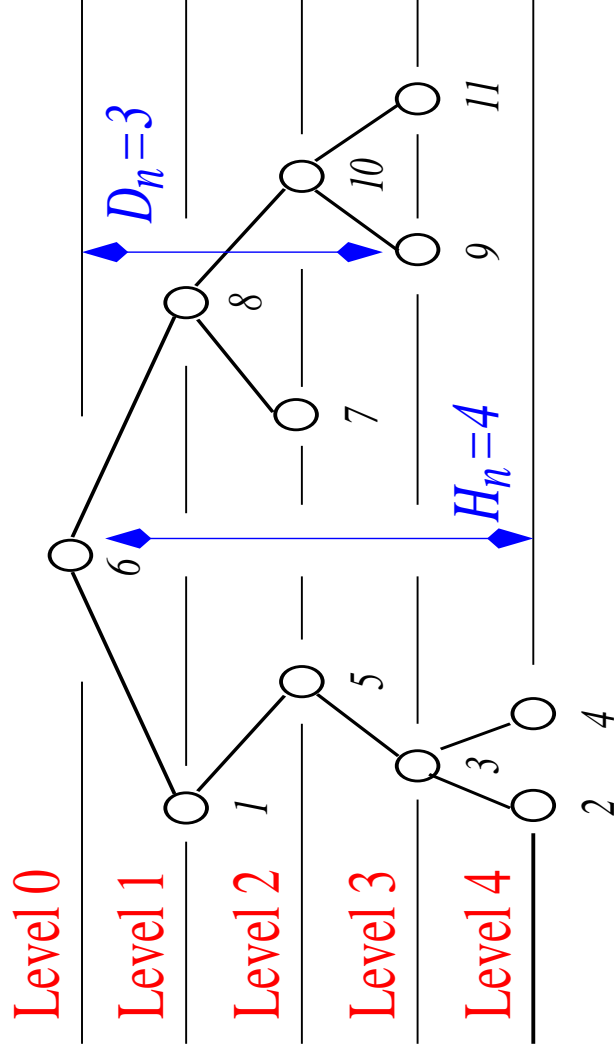
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$$D_n \stackrel{d}{=} \mathbf{1}_{A_n} D_{I_n} + \mathbf{1}_{A_n^c} D_{n-1-I_n} + 1$$

Expected internal path length

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$$Q_n \stackrel{d}{=} Q_{I_n}^* + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} + n - 1, \quad I_n \stackrel{d}{=} \text{unif}\{0, \dots, n-1\}.$$

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$$q_n := \mathbb{E} Q_n = \mathbb{E} [Q_{I_n}^* + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} + n - 1]$$

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Solves easily:

$$q_n = 2(n+1)\mathcal{H}_n - 4n = 2n \log(n) + (2\gamma - 4)n + o(n).$$

[ $\mathcal{H}_n := \sum_{i=1}^n 1/i$  harmonic numbers.]

# Rescaling

$$Q_n \stackrel{d}{=} Q_{I_n}^* + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} + n - 1, \quad q_n = 2n \log(n) + cn + o(n).$$

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$$Y_n := \frac{Q_n - q_n}{n}.$$

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Then

$$Y_n \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{1}{n} (Q_{I_n}^* + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} + n - 1 - q_n)$$

# Rescaling

$$Q_n \stackrel{d}{=} Q_{I_n}^* + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} + n - 1, \quad q_n = 2n \log(n) + cn + o(n).$$

Scaling

$$Y_n := \frac{Q_n - q_n}{n}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} Y_n &\stackrel{d}{=} \frac{1}{n} (Q_{I_n}^* + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} + n - 1 - q_n) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \left( \frac{Q_{I_n}^* \pm q_{I_n}}{I_n} + (n - 1 - I_n) \frac{Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} \pm q_{n-1-I_n}}{n - 1 - I_n} + n - 1 - q_n \right) \end{aligned}$$

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with

$$b^{(n)} = \frac{1}{n} (q_{I_n} + q_{n-1-I_n} - q_n + n - 1).$$



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## Rescaling II

$$q_n = 2n \log(n) + cn + o(n).$$

$$b^{(n)} = \frac{1}{n} (q_{I_n} + q_{n-1-I_n} - q_n + n - 1).$$

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$$= 2 \frac{I_n}{n} \log\left(\frac{I_n}{n}\right) + 2 \frac{n-1-I_n}{n} \log\left(\frac{n-1-I_n}{n}\right) + 1 + o(1)$$

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## Rescaling: Summary

$$Q_n \stackrel{d}{=} Q_{I_n}^* + Q_{n-1-I_n}^{**} + n - 1, \quad q_n = 2n \log(n) + cn + o(n).$$

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$$g(u) = 2u \log(u) + 2(1-u) \log(1-u) + 1$$

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Hence, this suggests

$$Y_n \rightarrow Y$$

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with

$$g(u) = 2u \log(u) + 2(1-u) \log(1-u) + 1$$

Hence, this suggests

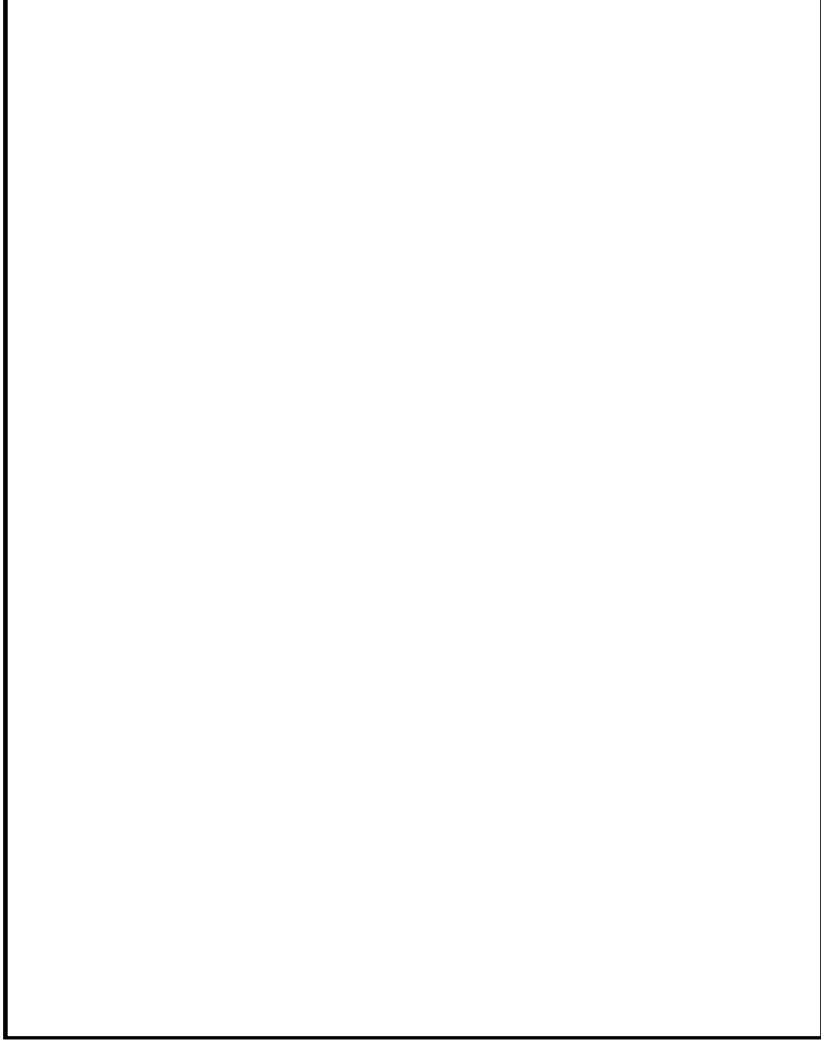
$$Y_n \rightarrow Y \stackrel{d}{=} uY^* + (1-u)Y^{**} + g(u),$$

with  $Y^*, Y^{**}, U$  independent,  $Y \stackrel{d}{=} Y^* \stackrel{d}{=} Y^{**}$ .

# m-ary search trees

Example:  $m = 4$

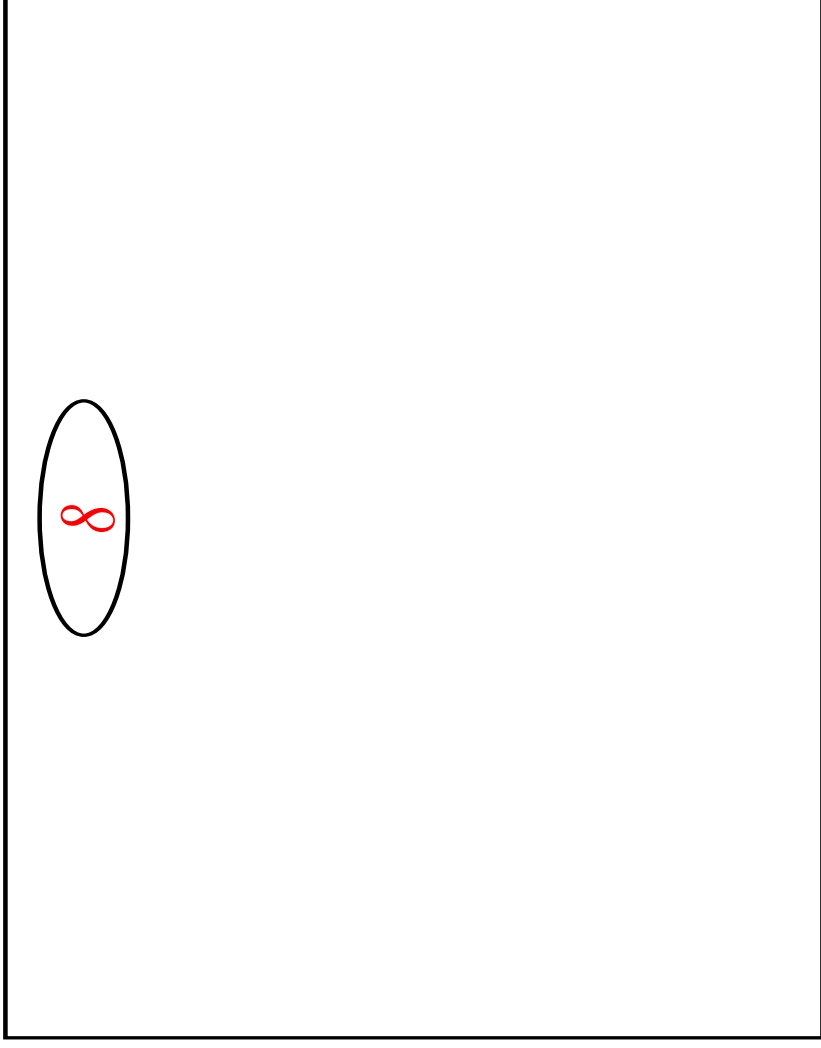
List of data: 8, 3, 9, 6, 2, 1, 11, 7, 10, 4, 5.



# m-ary search trees

Example:  $m = 4$

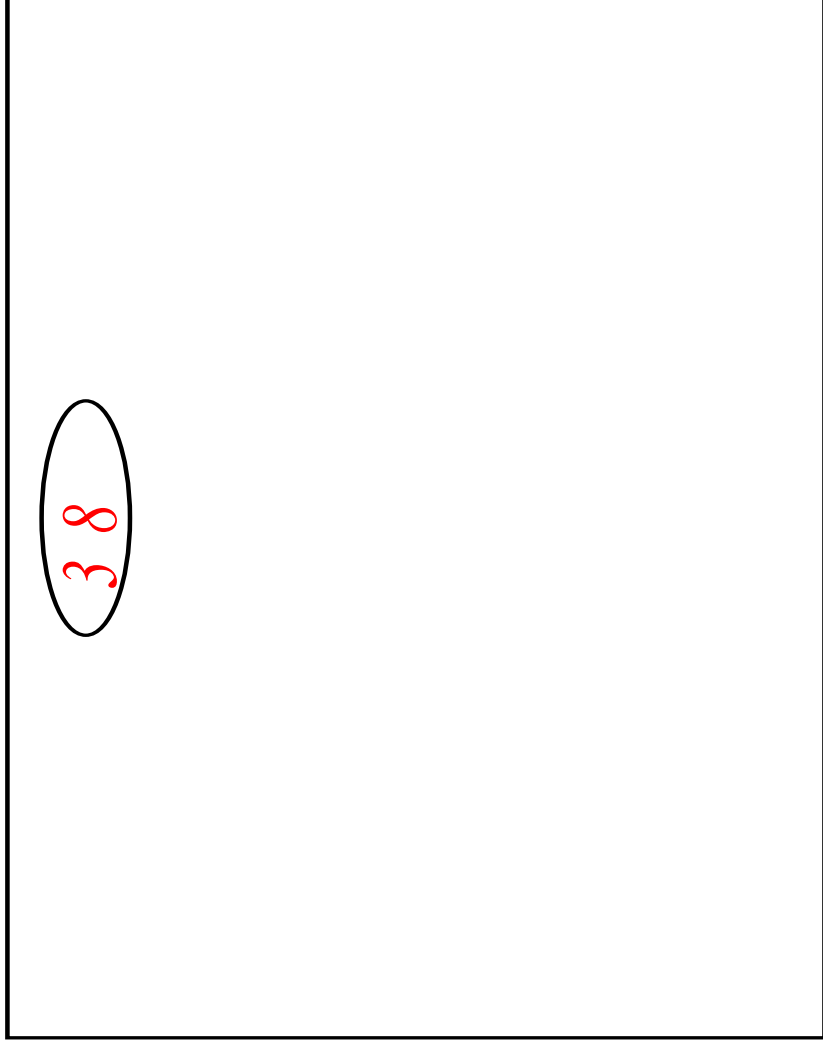
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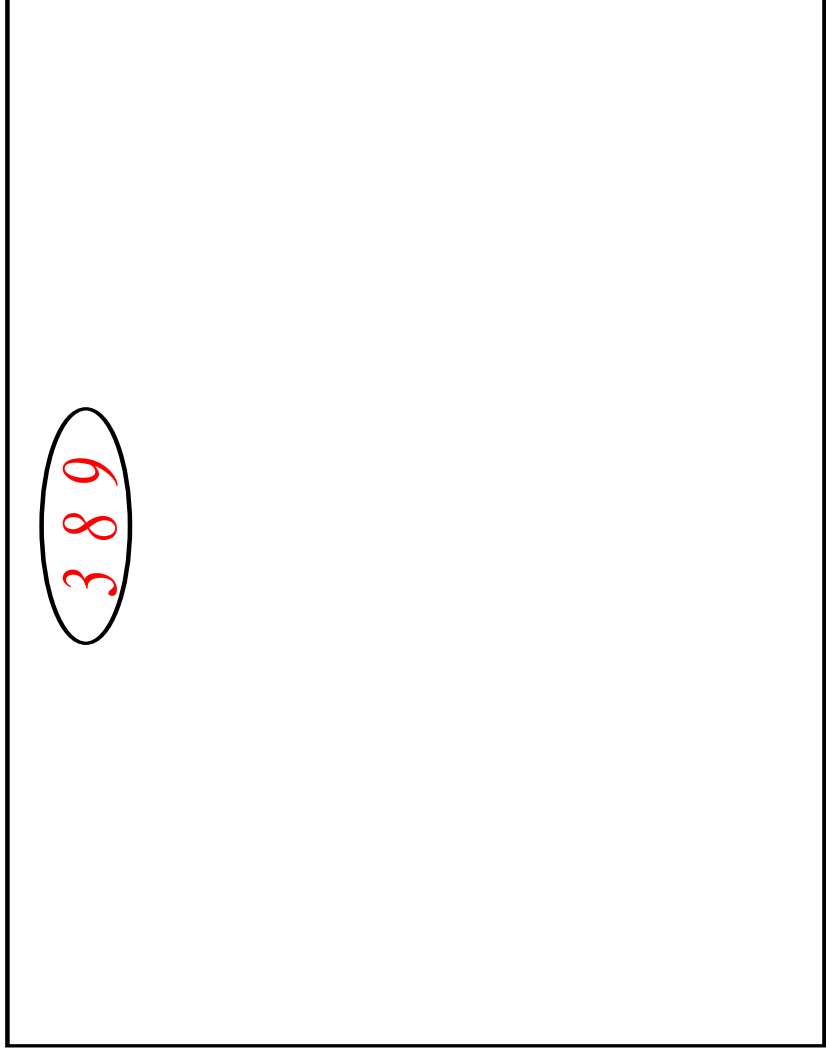
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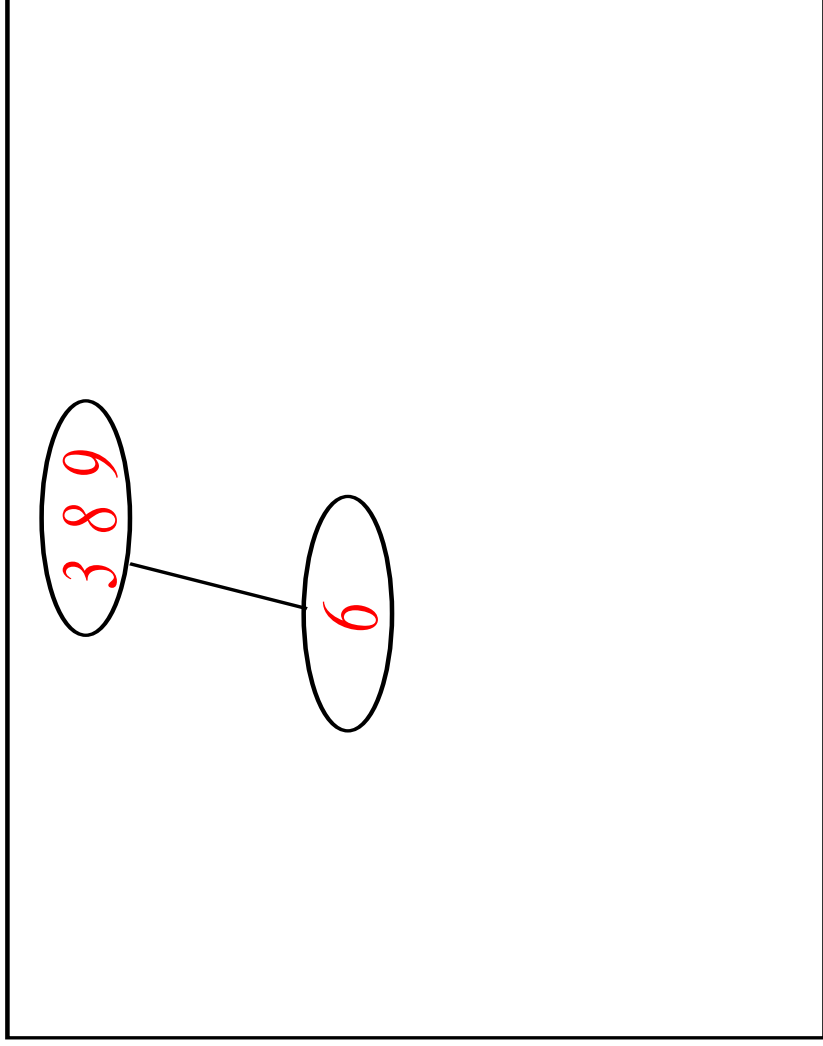




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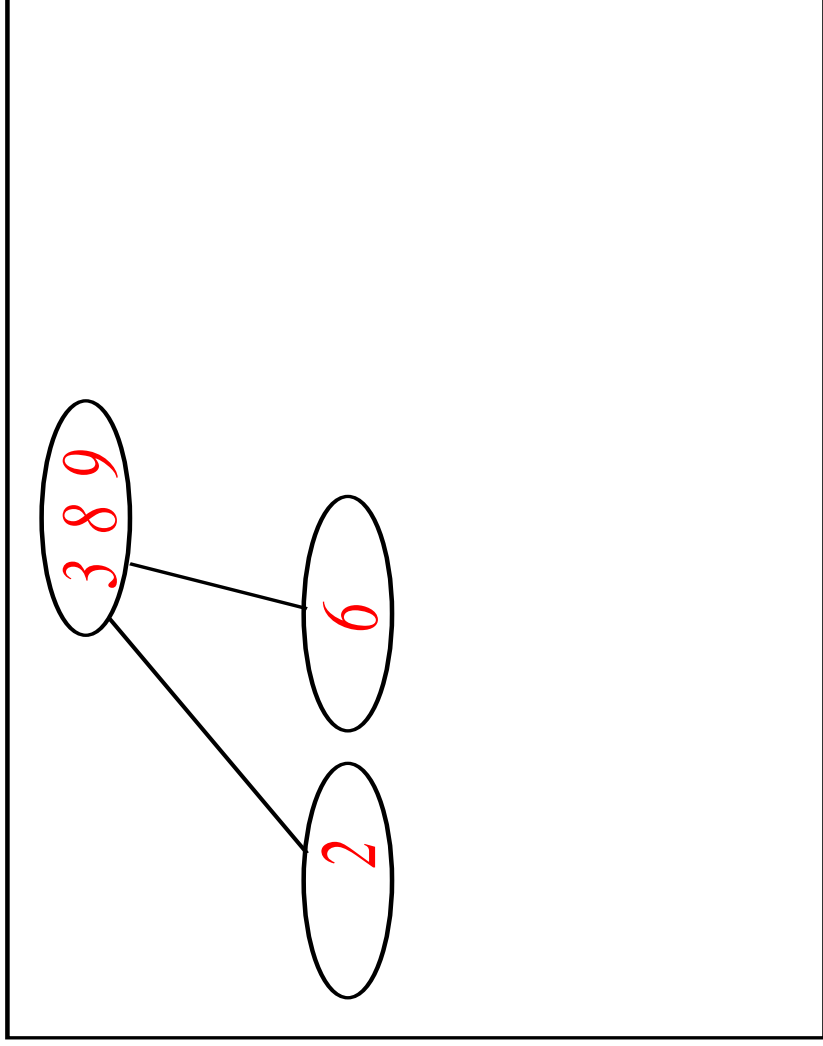
List of data: 8, 3, 9, 6, 2, 1, 11, 7, 10, 4, 5.



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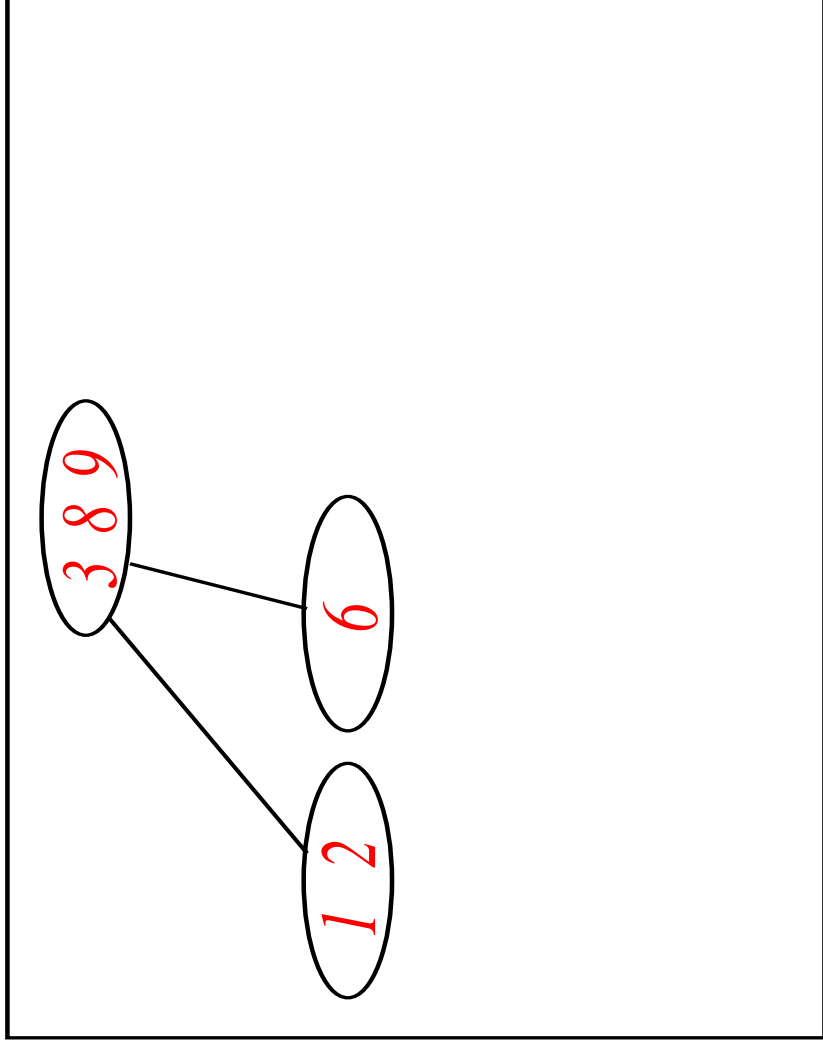
List of data: 8, 3, 9, 6, 2, 1, 11, 7, 10, 4, 5.



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Example:  $m = 4$

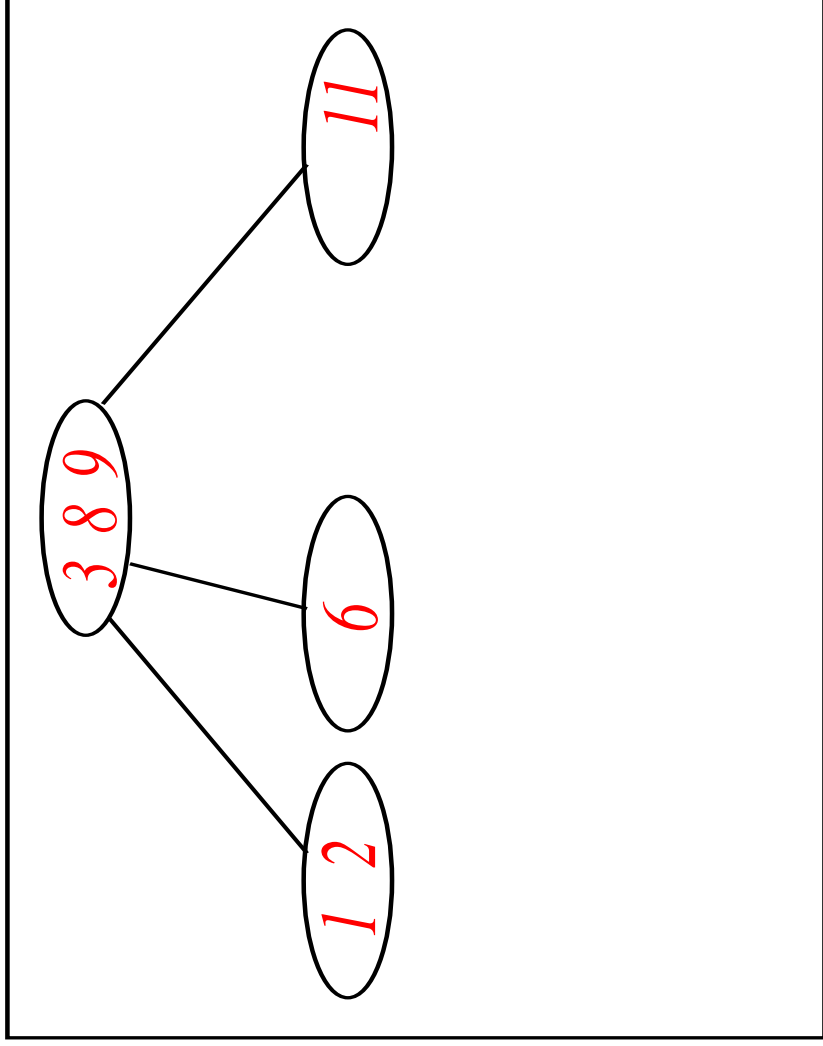
List of data: 8, 3, 9, 6, 2, 1, 11, 7, 10, 4, 5.



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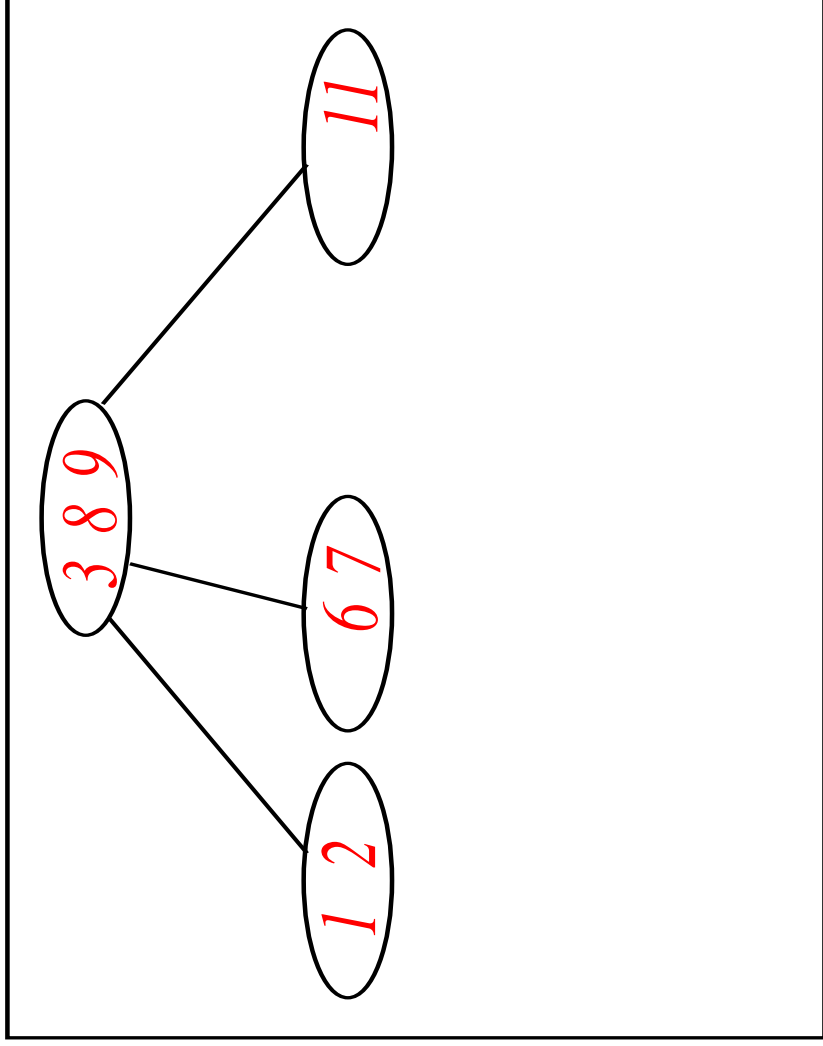
List of data: 8, 3, 9, 6, 2, 1, 11, 7, 10, 4, 5.



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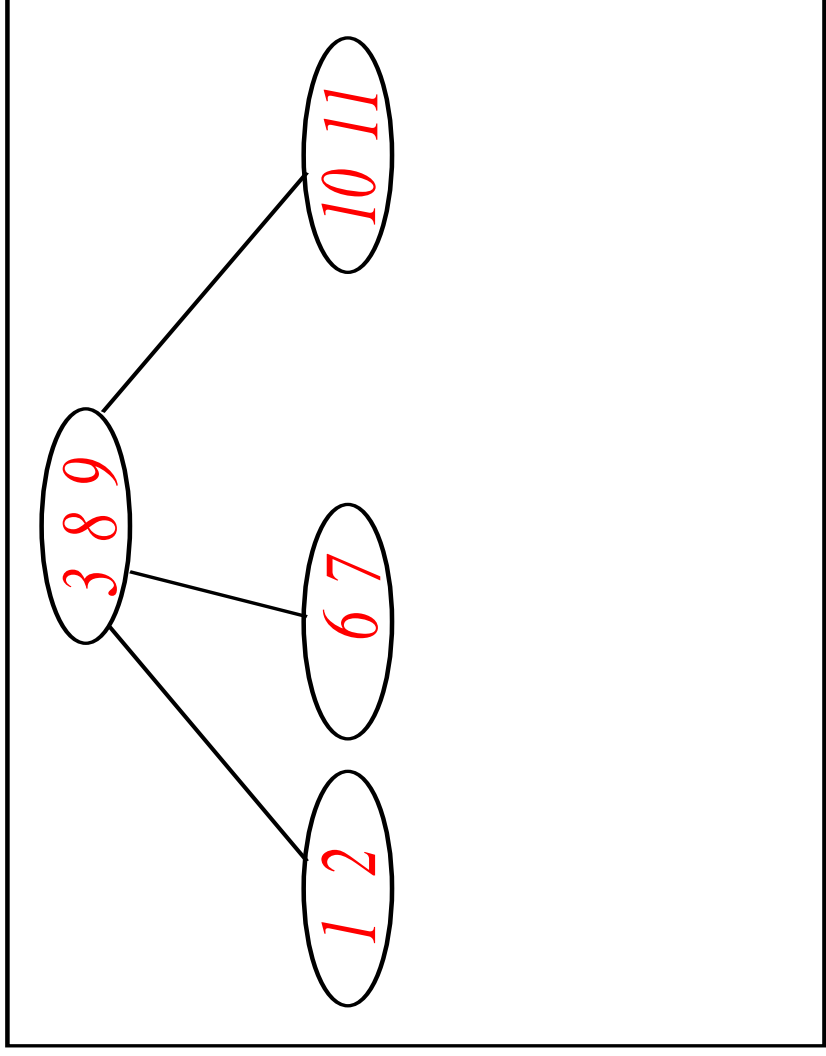
List of data: 8, 3, 9, 6, 2, 1, 11, 7, 10, 4, 5.



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Example:  $m = 4$

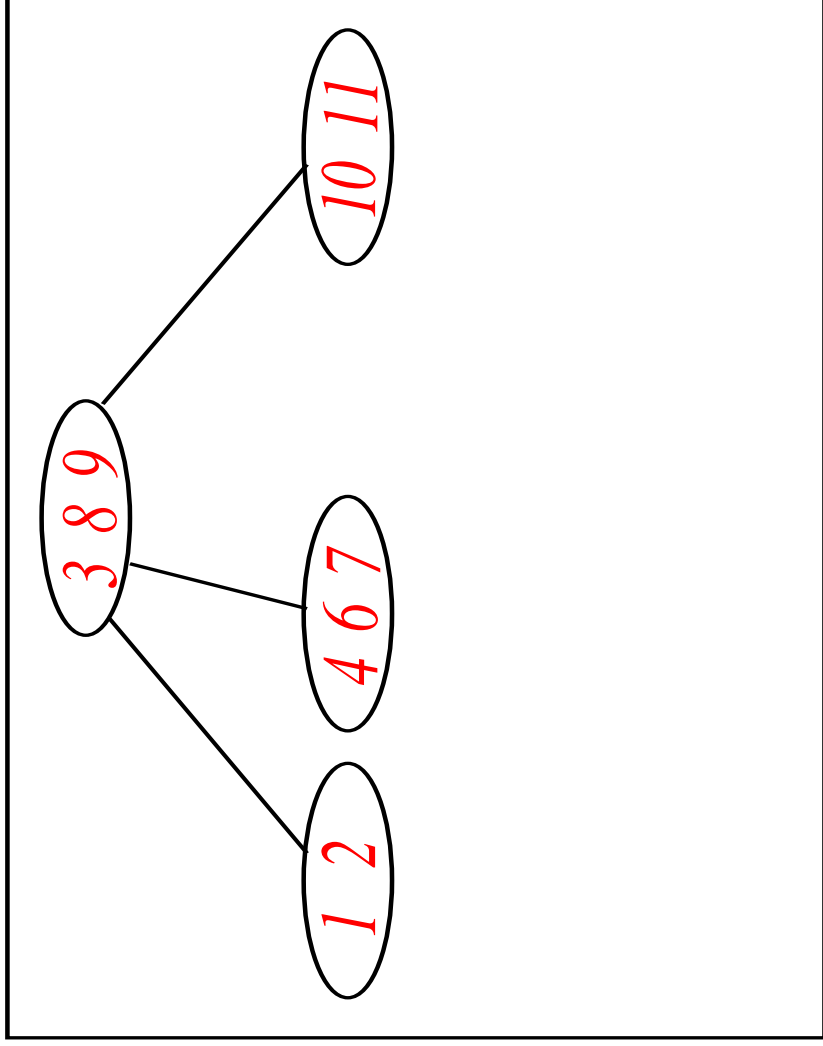
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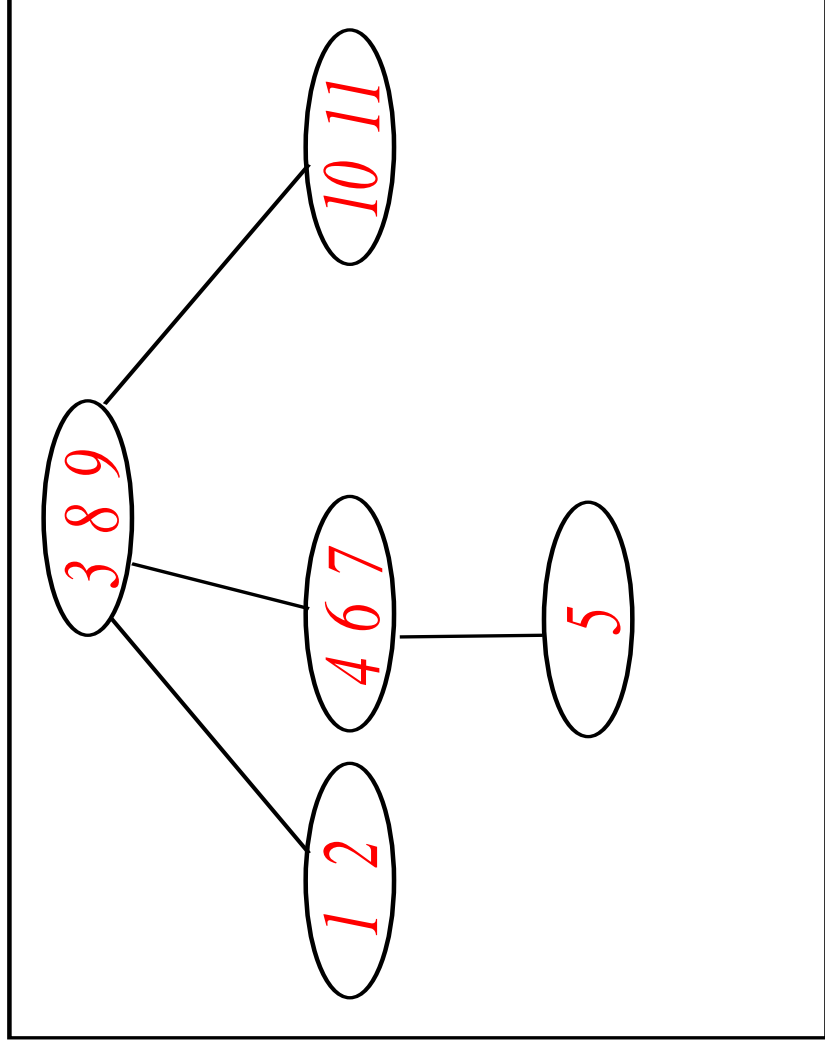
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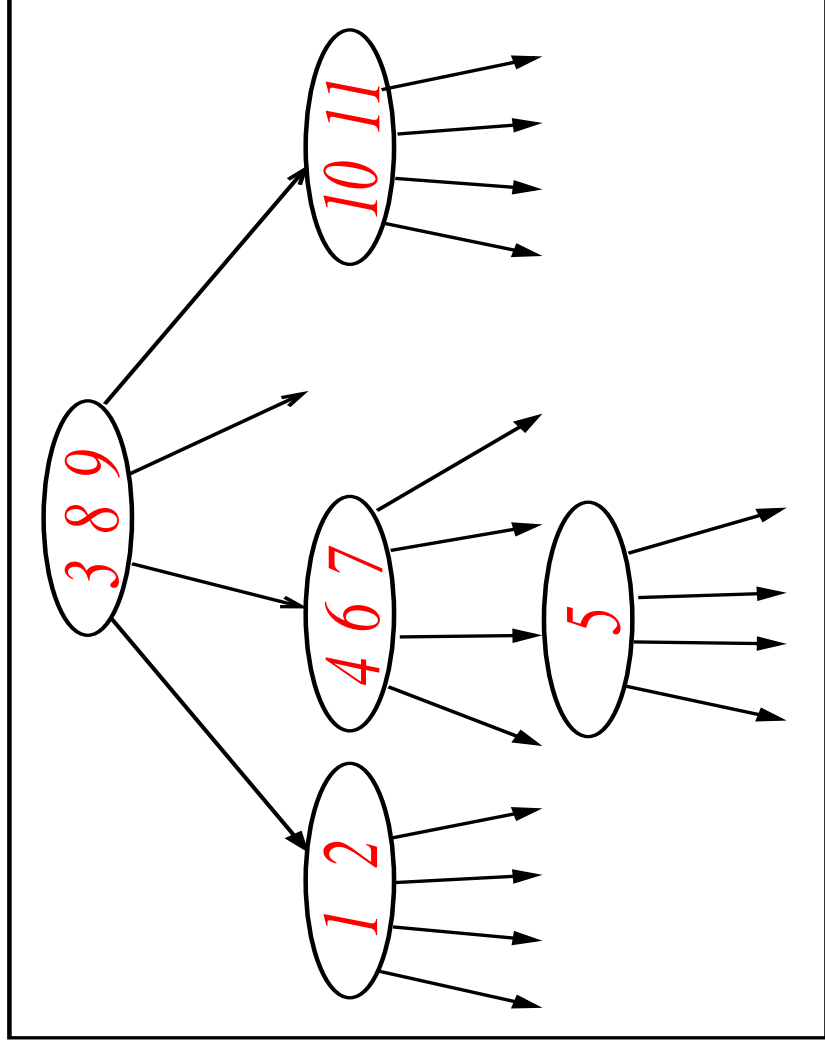




# m-ary search trees

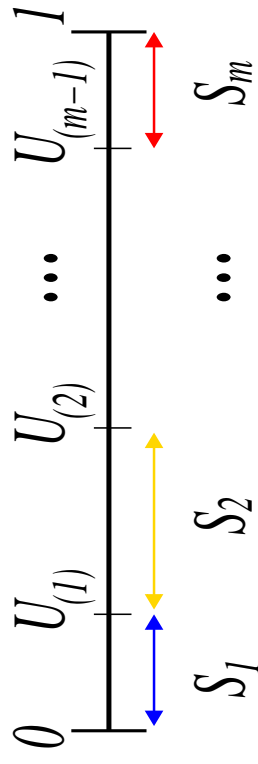
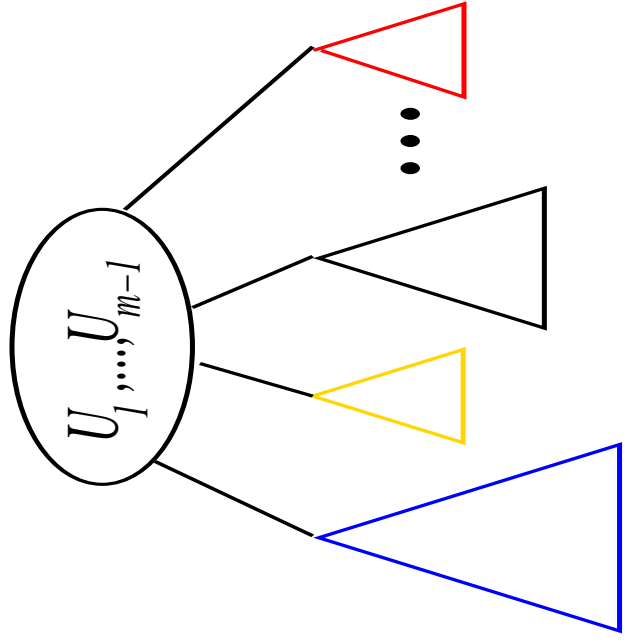
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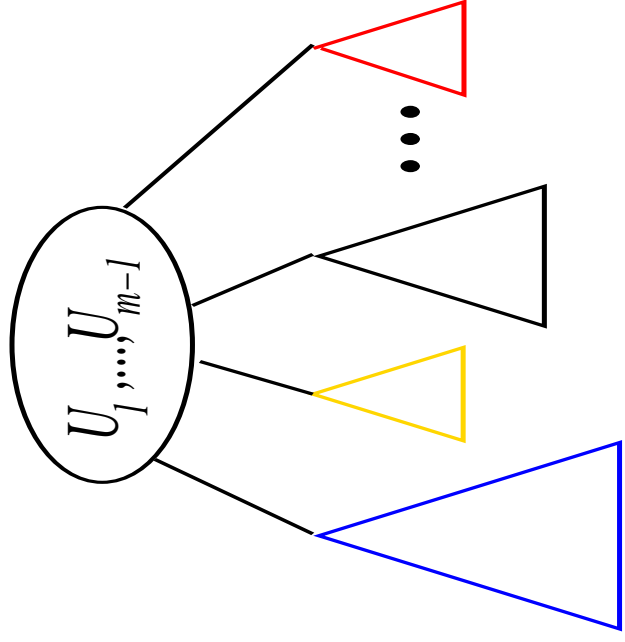


# m-ary search tree

Data:  $U_1, \dots, U_n$  i.i.d. unif[0, 1]  
(or uniform permutation)

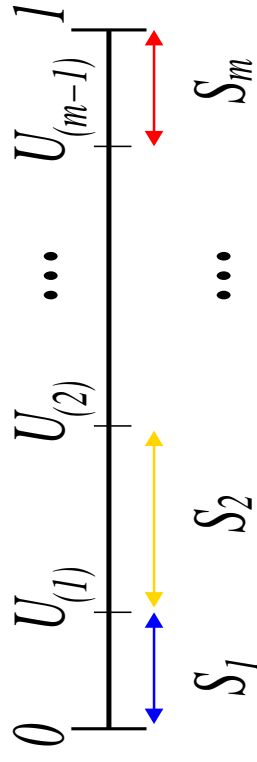


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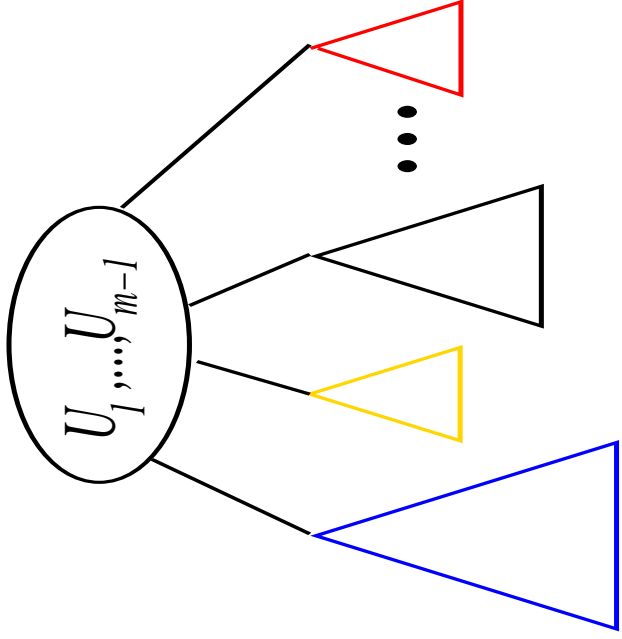
Space needed  
 (number of int. nodes):



$$X_n \stackrel{d}{=} \sum_{r=1}^m X_{I_r^{(n)}}^{(r)} + 1, \quad n \geq m.$$

$$X_0 = 0, X_1 = \dots = X_{m-1} = 1.$$

# m-ary search tree

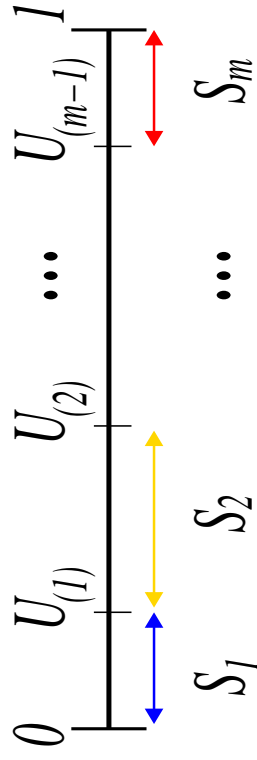


Data:  $U_1, \dots, U_n$  i.i.d. unif[0, 1]  
 (or uniform permutation)

Sizes of subtrees:

$$I^{(n)} \stackrel{d}{=} M(n - m + 1, S_1, \dots, S_m),$$

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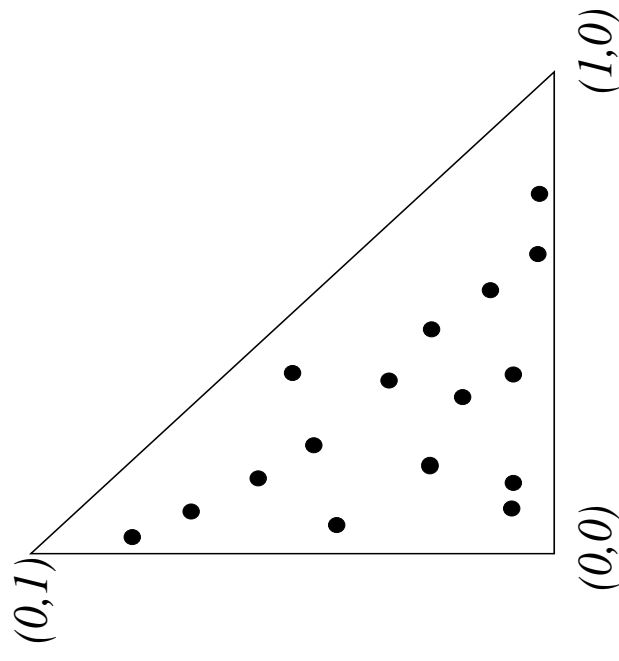


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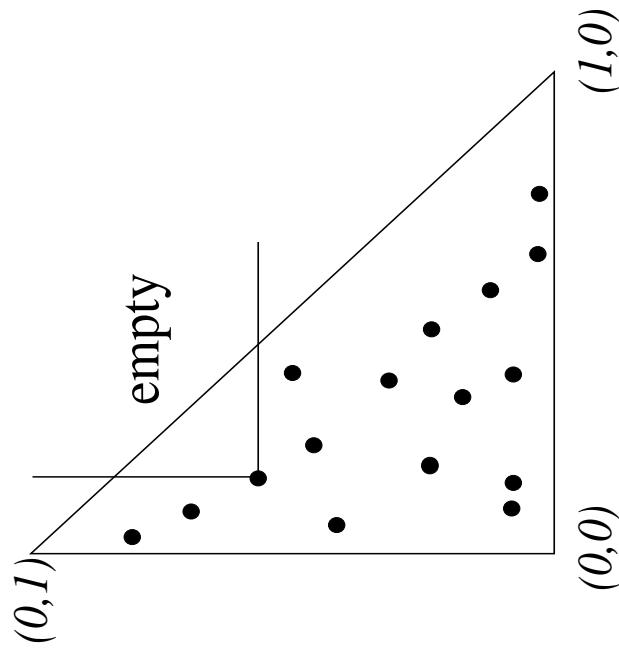
# Maxima in right triangles

Data:  $U_1, \dots, U_n$  indep. unif. in right triangle



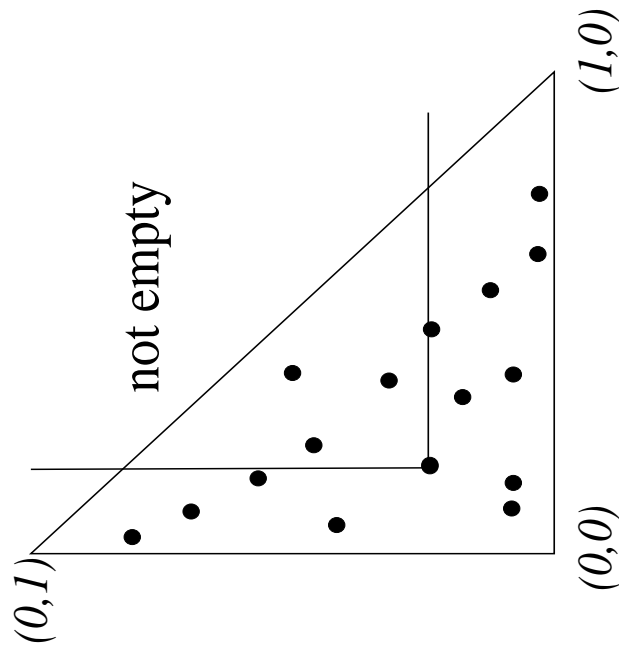
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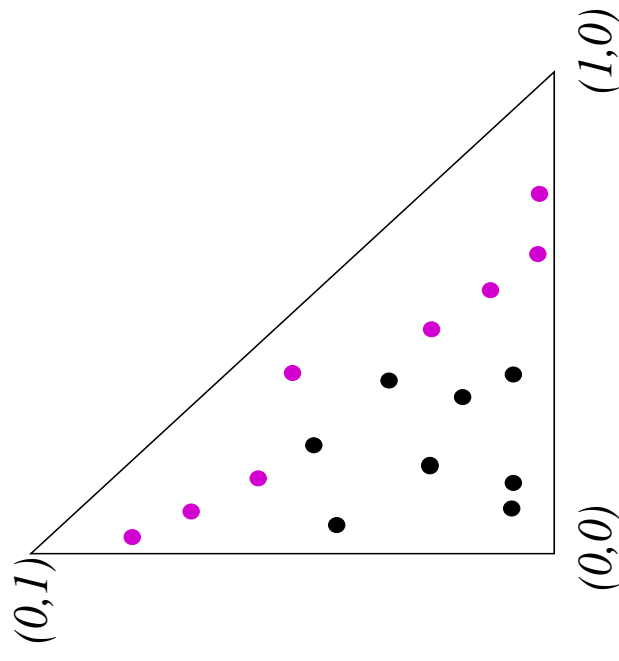
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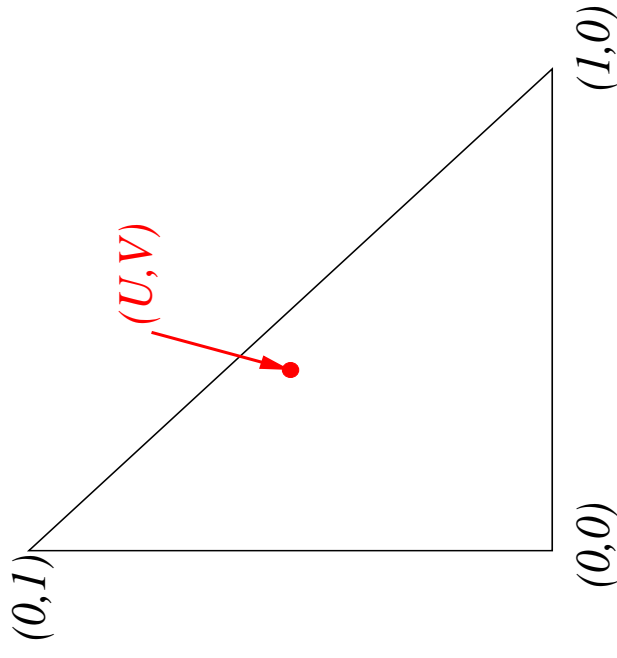
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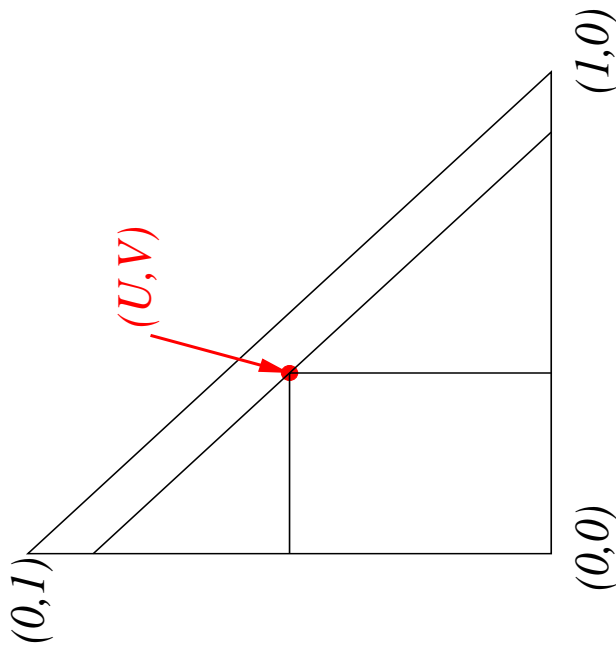
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$(U, V)$  has maximal sum of coordinates.

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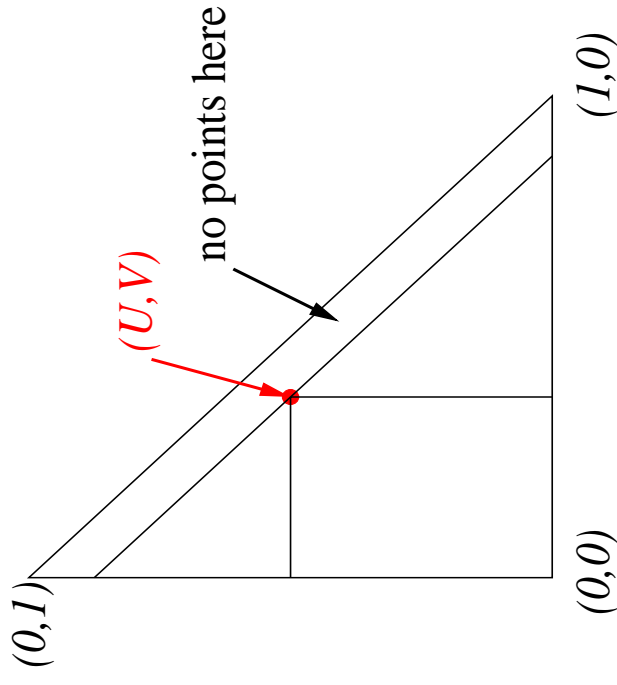
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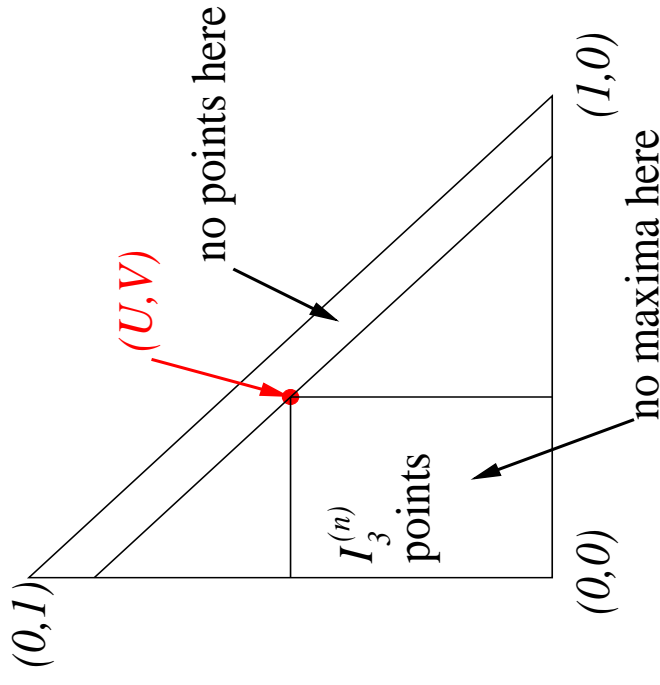
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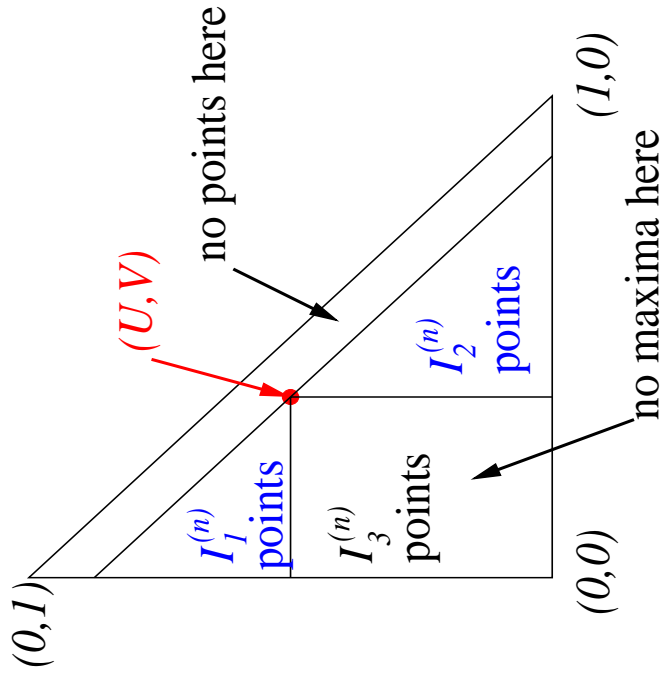
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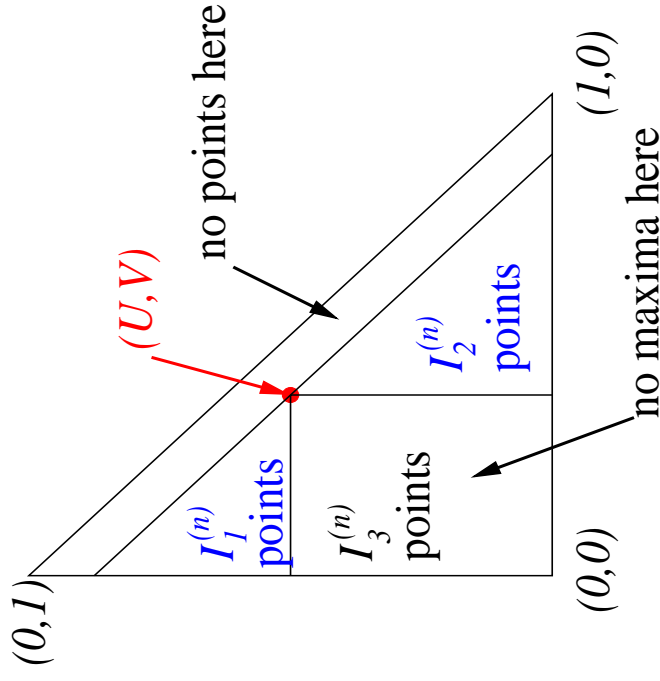
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$$X_n \stackrel{d}{=} X_{I_1}^{(1)} + X_{I_2}^{(2)} + 1, \quad n \geq 2.$$

# General recursion

$$X_n \stackrel{d}{=} \sum_{r=1}^K A_r(n) X_{I_r(n)}^{(r)} + b_n, \quad n > n_0.$$

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- $K \geq 1$  Number of subproblems (also  $K = K_n$ ).
- $X_n^{(r)} \stackrel{d}{=} X_n$  (recursive).
- $I^{(n)} = (I_1^{(n)}, \dots, I_K^{(n)})$  Sizes of subproblems.
- $(X_n^{(1)}, \dots, X_n^{(K)})$ ,  $(A_1(n), \dots, A_K(n), b_n, I^{(n)})$  independent.



# Contraction method

Rösler (1991, 1992)

Rachev and Rüschendorf (1995)

$$X_n \stackrel{d}{=} \sum_{r=1}^K A_r(n) X_{I_r(n)}^{(r)} + b_n, \quad n > n_0.$$

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with

$$A_r^{(n)} = \frac{\sigma(I_r^{(n)})}{\sigma(n)} A_r(n),$$
$$b^{(n)} = \frac{1}{\sigma(n)} (b_n - \mu(n) + \sum_{r=1}^K A_r(n) \mu(I_r^{(n)})).$$

# Convergence

Idea:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \gamma^n & \underline{\underline{d}} & \sum_{r=1}^K A_r^{(n)} \gamma_{I_r}^{(n)} + b^{(n)} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ \gamma & \underline{\underline{d}} & \sum_{r=1}^K A_r^* \gamma^{(r)} + b^* \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbf{Y}^n & \underline{\underline{d}} & \sum_{r=1}^K A_r^{(n)} \mathbf{Y}_{I_r}^{(n)} + \mathbf{b}^{(n)} \\
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 \mathbf{Y} & \underline{\underline{d}} & \sum_{r=1}^K A_r^* \mathbf{Y}^{(r)} + \mathbf{b}^*
 \end{array}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l}
 A_r^{(n)} \longrightarrow A_r^* \\
 \mathbf{b}^{(n)} \longrightarrow \mathbf{b}^*
 \end{array} \right\} \implies \mathbf{Y}^n \longrightarrow \mathbf{Y}.$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 Y_n & \stackrel{d}{=} & \sum_{r=1}^K A_r^{(n)} Y_{I_r^{(n)}} + b^{(n)} \\
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 Y & \stackrel{d}{=} & \sum_{r=1}^K A_r^* Y^{(r)} + b^*
 \end{array}
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Limit map:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T: \mathcal{M} &\rightarrow \mathcal{M} \\
 \nu &\mapsto \mathcal{L}\left(\sum_{r=1}^K A_r^* Z^{(r)} + b^*\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $(A_1^*, \dots, A_K^*, b^*), Z^{(1)}, \dots, Z^{(K)}$  independent,  $Z^{(r)} \stackrel{d}{=} \nu$ .

# The minimal $\ell_p$ metric



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For r.v.  $X$  with distribution  $\mathcal{L}(X) = \mu$  we have  $\|X\|_p = \|\mu\|_p$ .

**Definition:** The minimal  $\ell_p$  metric ( $p \geq 1$  fixed) is given by

$$\ell_p : \mathcal{M}_p \times \mathcal{M}_p \rightarrow [0, \infty)$$

$$(\mu, \nu) \mapsto \inf\{\|X - Y\|_p : \mathcal{L}(X) = \mu, \mathcal{L}(Y) = \nu\}$$

## The minimal $\ell_p$ metric II

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Well-known fact: For a  $\text{unif}[0, 1]$  r.v.  $U$  we have

$$\mathcal{L}(F_X^{-1}(U)) = \mathcal{L}(X).$$

## The minimal $\ell_p$ metric — optimal couplings

2<sup>nd</sup> step: Use the same  $\text{unif}[0, 1]$  r.v.  $U$  for both, i.e.

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**Theorem:** **Optimal coupling do always exist.** For  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}_p$  optimal couplings are given by (??).

**Corollary:** We have

$$\ell_p(\mu, \nu) = \left( \int_0^1 |F_{\mu}^{-1}(u) - F_{\nu}^{-1}(u)|^p \, du \right)^{1/p}.$$

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$\Rightarrow \mu_n \xrightarrow{\ell_p} \mathcal{L}(X) \in \mathcal{M}_p$ . ♣.

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**Corollary:** For  $\mu_n, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_p$  with  $\ell_p(\mu_n, \mu) \rightarrow 0$ :

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Moreover

$$\left| \|\mu_n\|_p - \|\mu\|_p \right| = \left| \|X_n\|_p - \|X\|_p \right| \leq \|X_n - X\|_p \rightarrow 0 \quad \clubsuit$$



Lipschitz continuity on  $(\mathcal{M}_p, \ell_p)$

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**Theorem:** Assume that  $(A_1, \dots, A_k, b)$  are  $L^p$ -integrable r.v.,

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Then, for all  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}_p$ ,

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If  $\sum_{r=1}^k \|A_r\|_p < 1$  then  $T$  is a contraction on  $(\mathcal{M}_p, \ell_p)$ .

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$$T(\mu) = \mathcal{L} \left( \sum_{r=1}^K A_r Z^{(r)} + \mathbf{b} \right), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_p$$

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Hence

$$\ell_p(T(\boldsymbol{\mu}), T(\boldsymbol{\nu})) = \inf\{\|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y}\|_p : \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{X}) = T(\boldsymbol{\mu}), \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{Y}) = T(\boldsymbol{\nu})\}$$

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$$T(\mu) = \mathcal{L} \left( \sum_{r=1}^K A_r Z^{(r)} + \mathbf{b} \right), \quad T(\nu) = \mathcal{L} \left( \sum_{r=1}^K A_r W^{(r)} + \mathbf{b} \right).$$

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Lipschitz on  $(\mathcal{M}_2(0), \ell_2)$

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**Theorem:** Assume  $(A_1, \dots, A_k, b)$  are  $L^2$ -integr. r.v. with  $\mathbb{E}b = 0$ ,

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If  $\sum_{r=1}^k \mathbb{E} A_r^2 < 1$  then  $T$  is a contraction on  $(\mathcal{M}_2(0), \ell_2)$ .

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$$Y_n \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{I_n}{n} Y_{I_n} + \frac{n-1}{n}, \quad \mathcal{L}(I_n) = \text{unif}\{0, \dots, n-1\}$$

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We obtain  $\Delta(n) \rightarrow 0$ .

(E.g., for  $p = 1$  show  $\Delta(n) \leq (C \log n)/n$  by induction.)

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Let  $(Y_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be  $L^p$ -integrable,  $p \geq 1$ , with (as before)

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## Application: Path length in BST

$$Y_n \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{\ln Y_{I_n}^*}{n} + \frac{n-1 - \ln Y_{n-1-I_n}^{**}}{n} + b^{(n)},$$

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## Application: Path length in BST

$$Y_n \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{I_n Y_{I_n}^*}{n} + \frac{n-1-I_n Y_{n-1-I_n}^{**}}{n} + \mathbf{b}^{(n)},$$

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Convergence of coefficients and technical condition satisfied.

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## Application: Central limit theorem

Let  $W_1, W_2, \dots$  be i.i.d.,  $L^p$ -integrable,  $p \geq 2$ ,  
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Limit equation:

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with random  $(A_1^*, \dots, A_K^*)$  with

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# Zolotarev metric II

Spaces of probability measures

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**Short Notation:**  $\zeta_s(X, Y) := \zeta_s(\mathcal{L}(X), \mathcal{L}(Y))$ .

Zolotarev metric: properties

**Lemma:**

## Zolotarev metric: properties

### Lemma:

a)  $\zeta_s$  is  $(s, +)$ -ideal, i.e.,

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c) If  $X_1, \dots, X_k, Y_1, \dots, Y_k$  independent, then

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Second part similar with  $x \mapsto |c|^{-s}f(cx)$  in  $\mathcal{F}_s$  for  $f \in \mathcal{F}_s$ . ♣

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c) Exercise (easy). ♣

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$$T: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}, \quad \mu \mapsto \mathcal{L} \left( \sum_{r=1}^K A_r^* Z^{(r)} \right), \quad \text{with } \sum_{r=1}^K (A_r^*)^2 = 1 \quad \text{a.s.},$$

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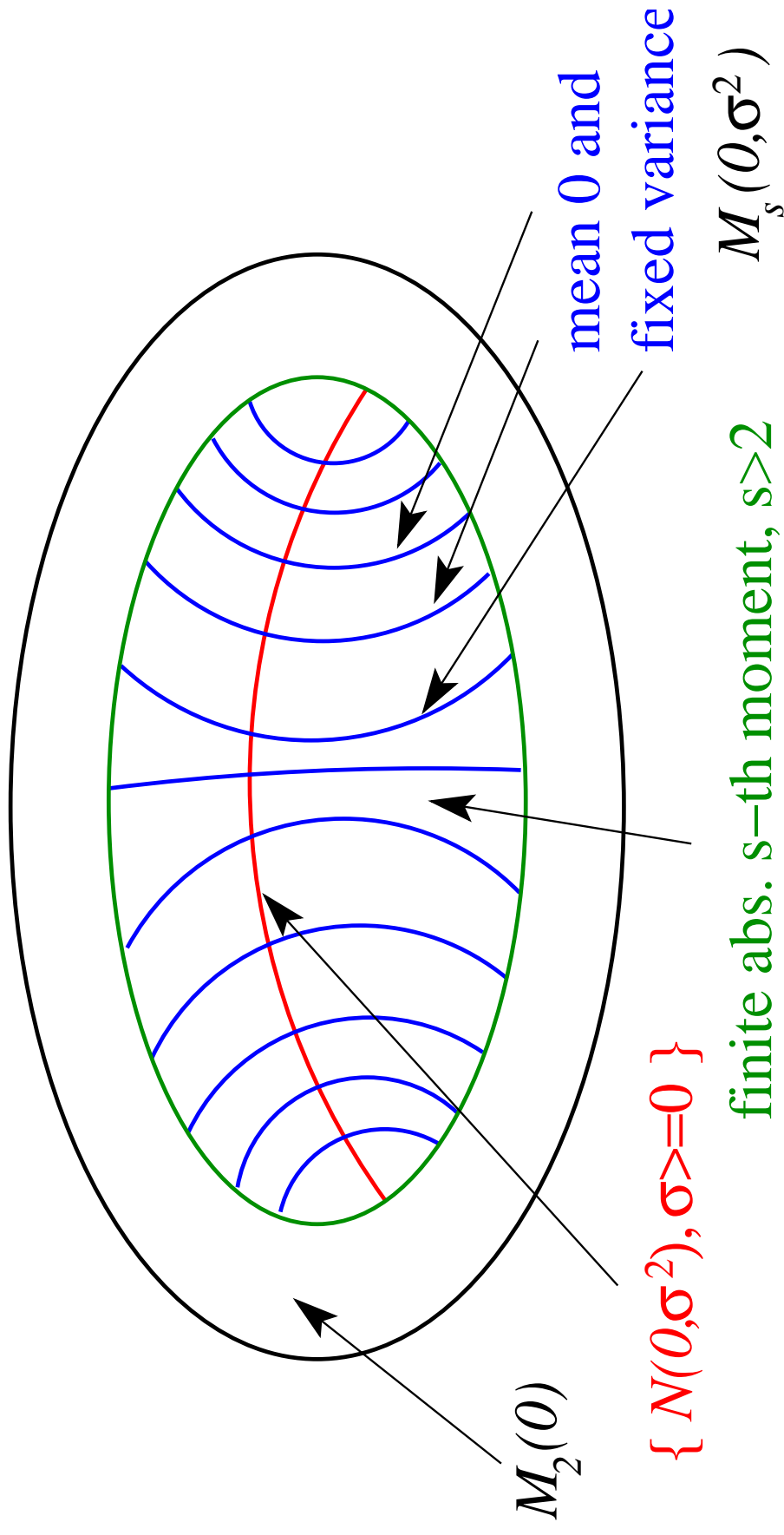
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$\Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  unique fixed point of  $T$  in  $\mathcal{M}_s(0, 1)$ .

# The work space





## Central limit theorem II

$W_1, W_2, \dots$  i.i.d.,  $L^s$ -integr.,  $s > 2$ , with  $\mathbb{E} W_1 = \mu$ ,  $\text{Var}(W_1) = \sigma^2$ .

$$X_n := \sum_{i=1}^n W_i \stackrel{d}{=} X_{\lceil n/2 \rceil}^* + X_{\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{**},$$

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$$\Rightarrow \zeta_s(Y_n, N) < \infty \text{ for all } n \geq 1.$$

# Convergence

$$Y_n \stackrel{d}{=} \sqrt{\frac{\lceil n/2 \rceil}{n}} Y_{\lceil n/2 \rceil}^* + \sqrt{\frac{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}{n}} Y_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{**},$$

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With  $\Delta(\mathbf{n}) := \zeta_s(Y_{\mathbf{n}}, \mathbf{N})$  we obtain

$$\Delta(\mathbf{n}) \leq \left( \frac{\lceil n/2 \rceil}{n} \right)^{s/2} \Delta(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + \left( \frac{\lceil n/2 \rceil}{n} \right)^{s/2} \Delta(\lceil n/2 \rceil).$$

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## A useful extension

**Theorem:**

$$X_n \stackrel{d}{=} \sum_{r=1}^K X_{I_r}^{(n)} + b_n, \quad n > n_0$$

with conditions as before and  $L^s$ -integrable,  $2 < s \leq 3$ .

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Then

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