# Binary Search Tree (BST)

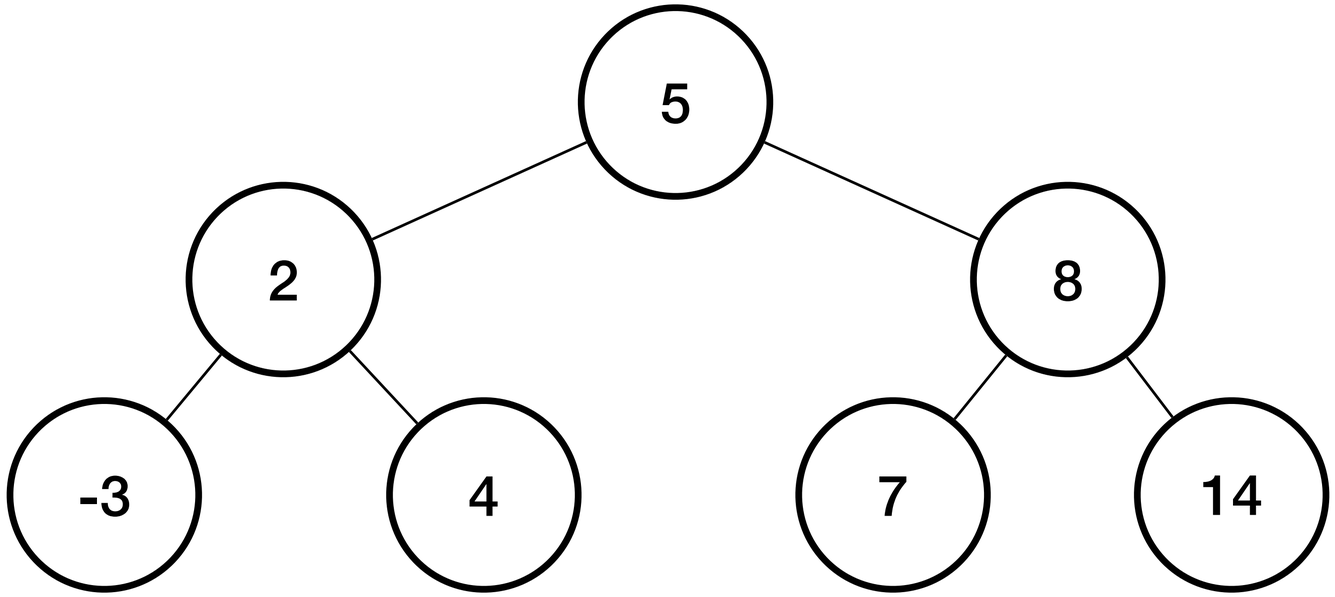
# Lecture Question

**Task: Write a method to convert a BST to a List**

- In the week8.trees.BinarySearchTree class write a method named toList that takes no parameters and returns the values of the tree in a List in sorted order

# BST - Definition

- For each node:
  - All values in the left subtree are less than the node's value
  - All values in the right subtree are greater than the node's value
  - Duplicate values handled differently based on implementation
    - Sometimes not allowed at all



# BST - Code

- To make the BST generic
  - Take a type parameter
  - Take a comparator to decide the sorted order
- Store a reference to the root node

```
class BinarySearchTree[A](comparator: (A, A) => Boolean) {

  var root: BinaryTreeNode[A] = null

  def insert(a: A): Unit
  def find(a: A): BinaryTreeNode[A]
}
```

# BST - Usage

```
class BinarySearchTree[A](comparator: (A, A) => Boolean) {

  var root: BinaryTreeNode[A] = null

  def insert(a: A): Unit
  def find(a: A): BinaryTreeNode[A]
}
```

```
val intLessThan = (a: Int, b: Int) => a < b
val bst = new BinarySearchTree[Int](intLessThan)
bst.insert(5)
bst.insert(2)
bst.insert(8)
bst.insert(4)
bst.insert(7)
bst.insert(14)
bst.insert(-3)

val node = bst.find(4)
```

# BST - Find

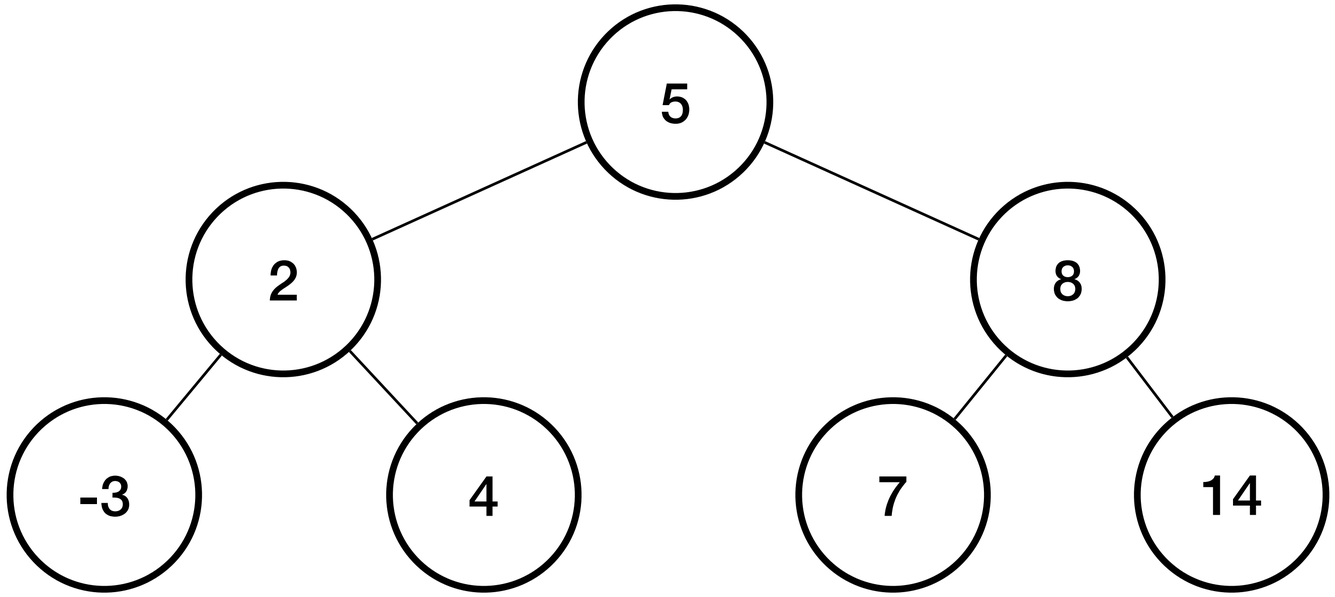
- If the value to find is less than the value of the node - Move to the left child
- If the value to find is greater than the value of the node - Move to right child
- If value is found - return this node
- If value is not found - return null

```
def find(a: A): BinaryTreeNode[A] = {
  findHelper(a, this.root)
}

def findHelper(a: A, node: BinaryTreeNode[A]): BinaryTreeNode[A] = {
  if(node == null){
    null
  }else if(comparator(a, node.value)){
    findHelper(a, node.left)
  }else if(comparator(node.value, a)){
    findHelper(a, node.right)
  }else{
    node
  }
}
```

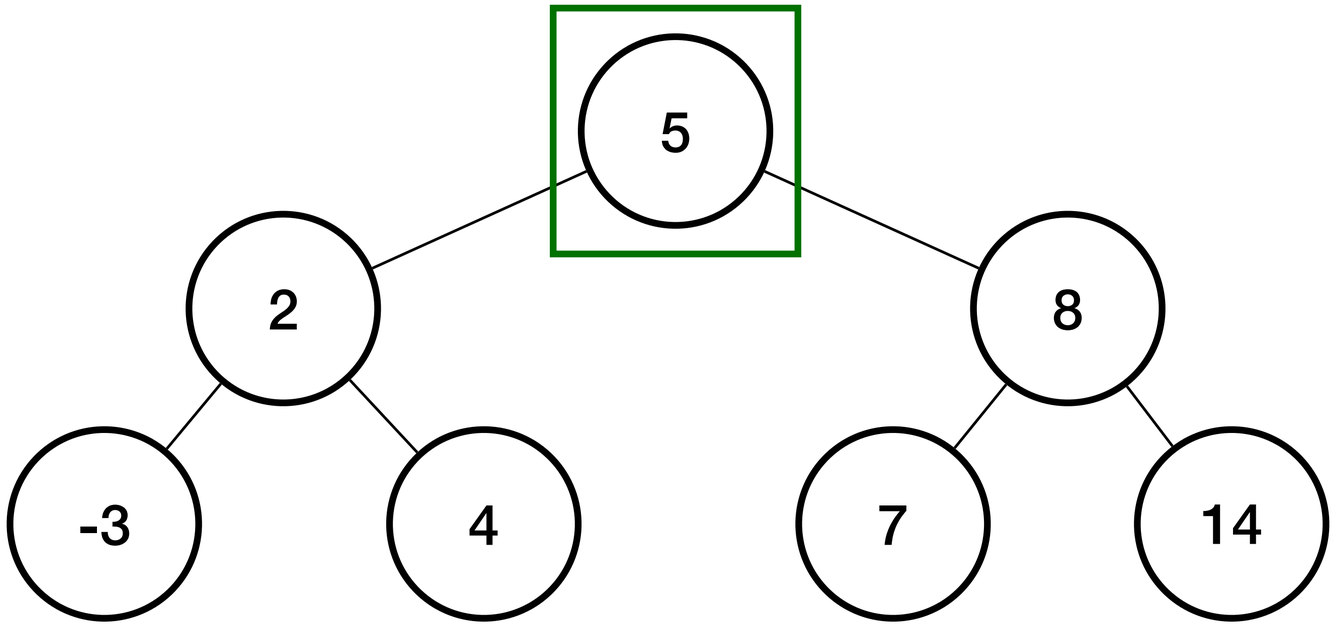
# BST - Find

- Find the value 4



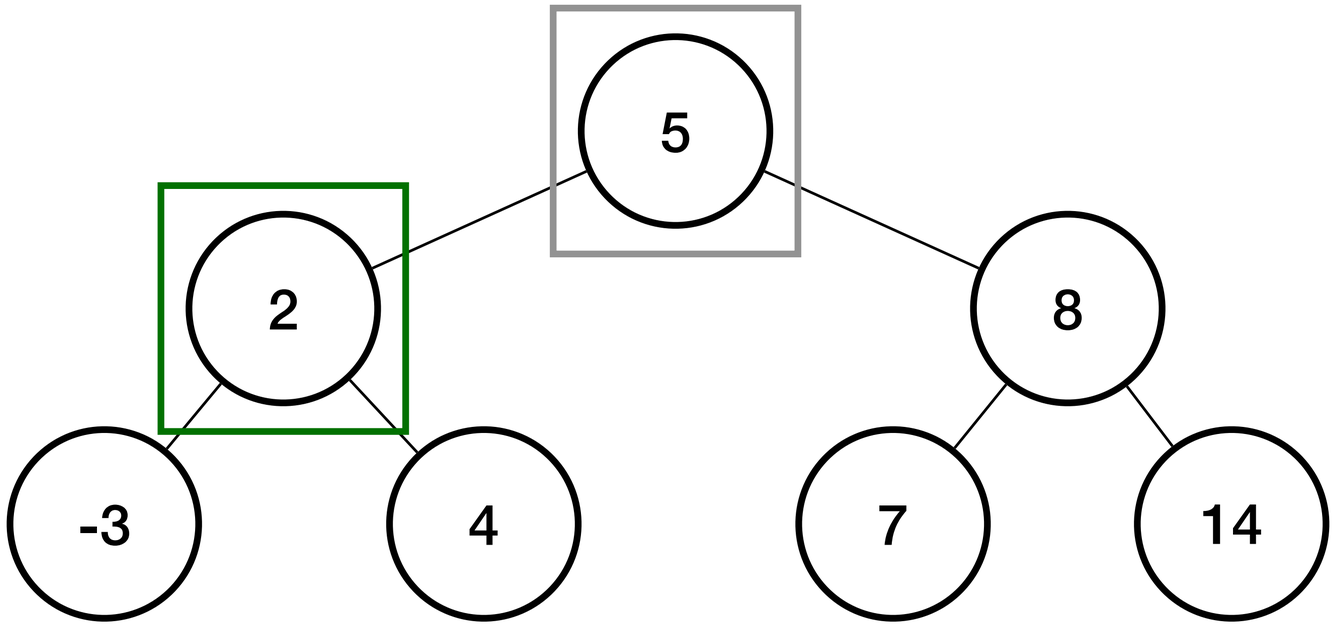
# BST - Find

- Find the value 4
- 4 < 5



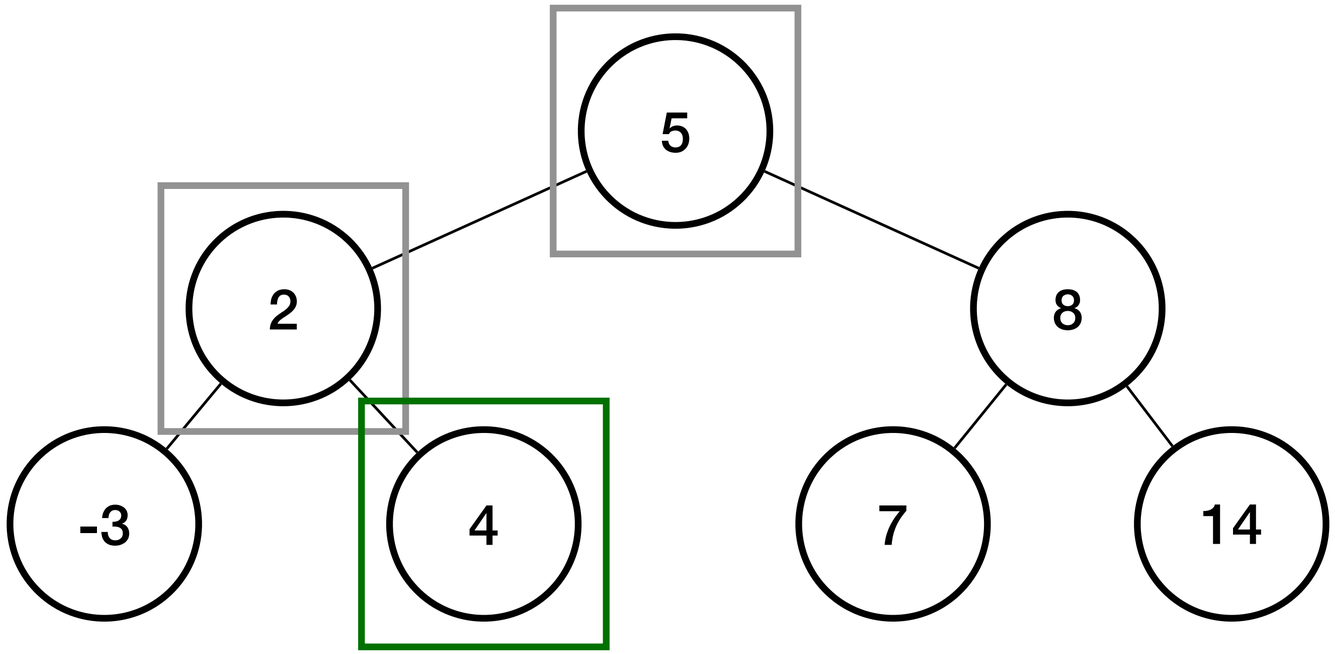
# BST - Find

- Find the value 4
- 4 < 5
- 4 > 2



# BST - Find

- Find the value 4
- 4 < 5
- 2 < 4
- 4 == 4 - return this node



# BST - Insert

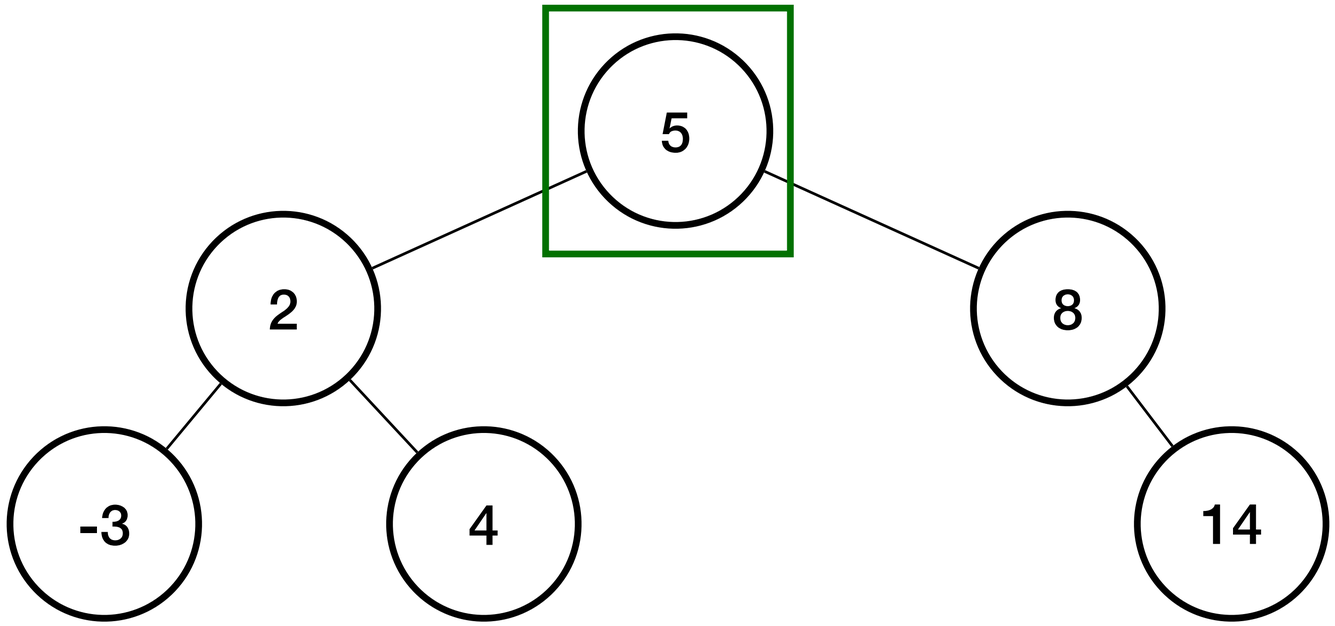
- Run find until a null node is reached - insert new node here
- If value is a duplicate, move to the left

```
def insert(a: A): Unit = {
  if(this.root == null){
    this.root = new BinaryTreeNode(a, null, null)
  }else{
    insertHelper(a, this.root)
  }
}

def insertHelper(a: A, node: BinaryTreeNode[A]): Unit = {
  if(comparator(node.value, a)){
    if(node.right == null){
      node.right = new BinaryTreeNode[A](a, null, null)
    }else{
      insertHelper(a, node.right)
    }
  }else{
    if(node.left == null){
      node.left = new BinaryTreeNode[A](a, null, null)
    }else{
      insertHelper(a, node.left)
    }
  }
}
```

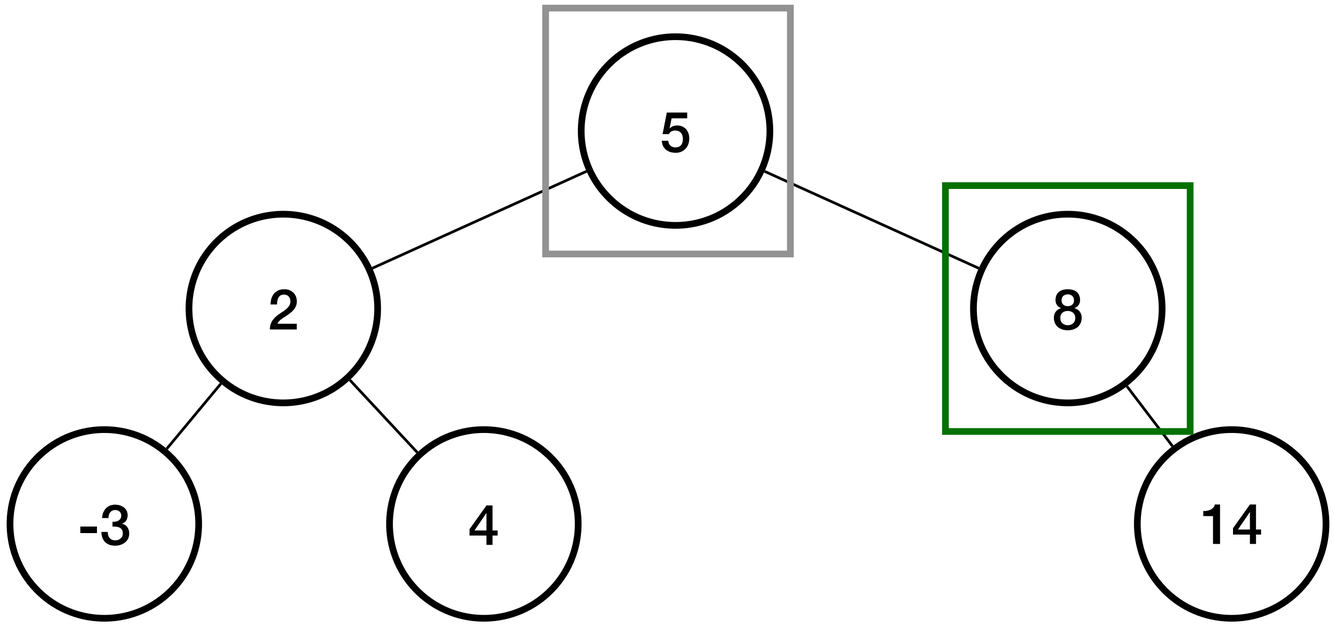
# BST - Insert

- Insert 7



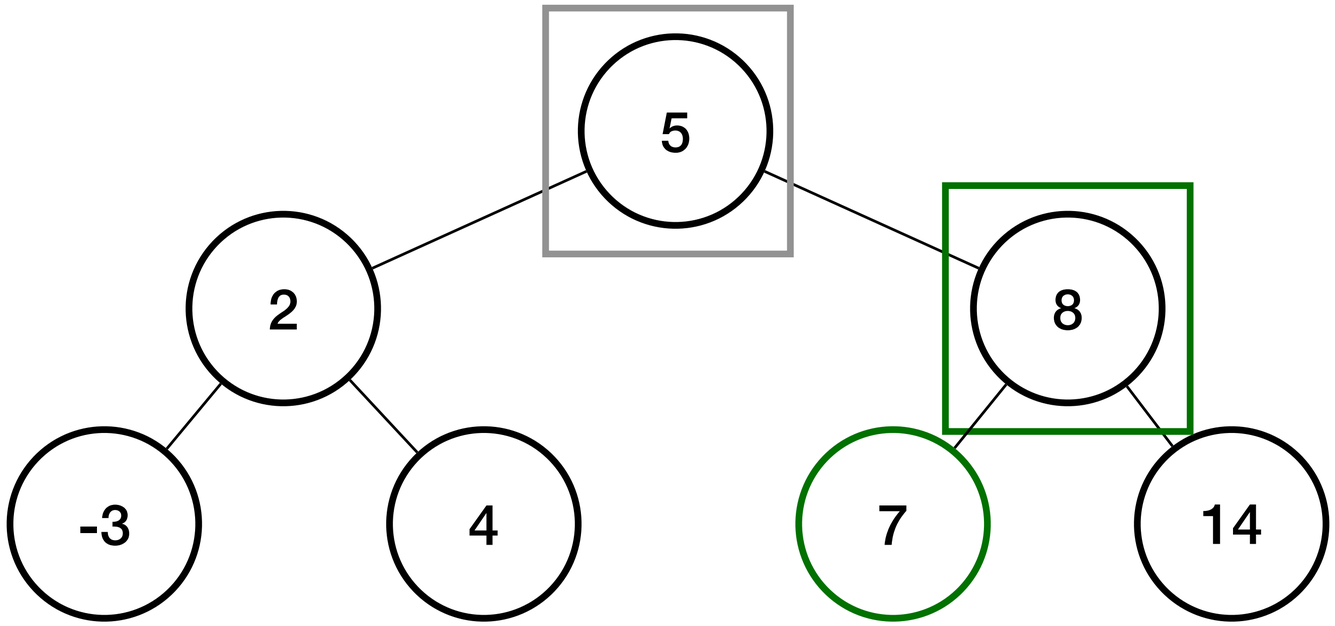
# BST - Insert

- Insert 7
- 5 < 7



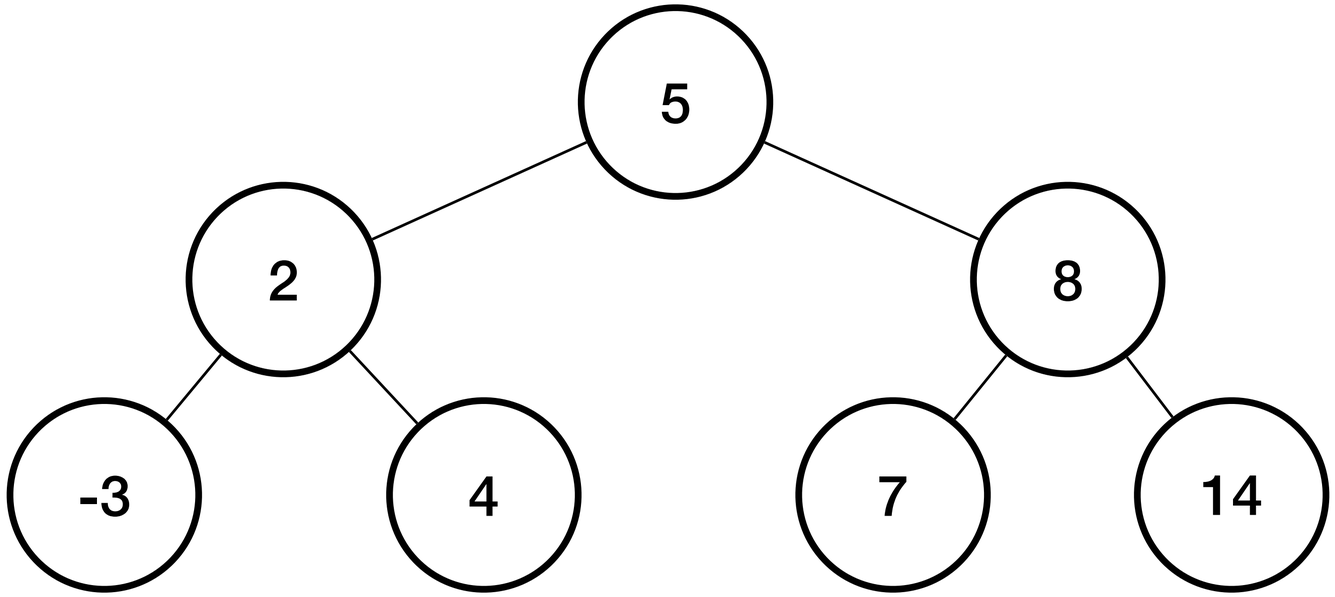
# BST - Insert

- Insert 7
- 5 < 7
- 7 < 8 and left child is null - Insert here



# BST - Insert

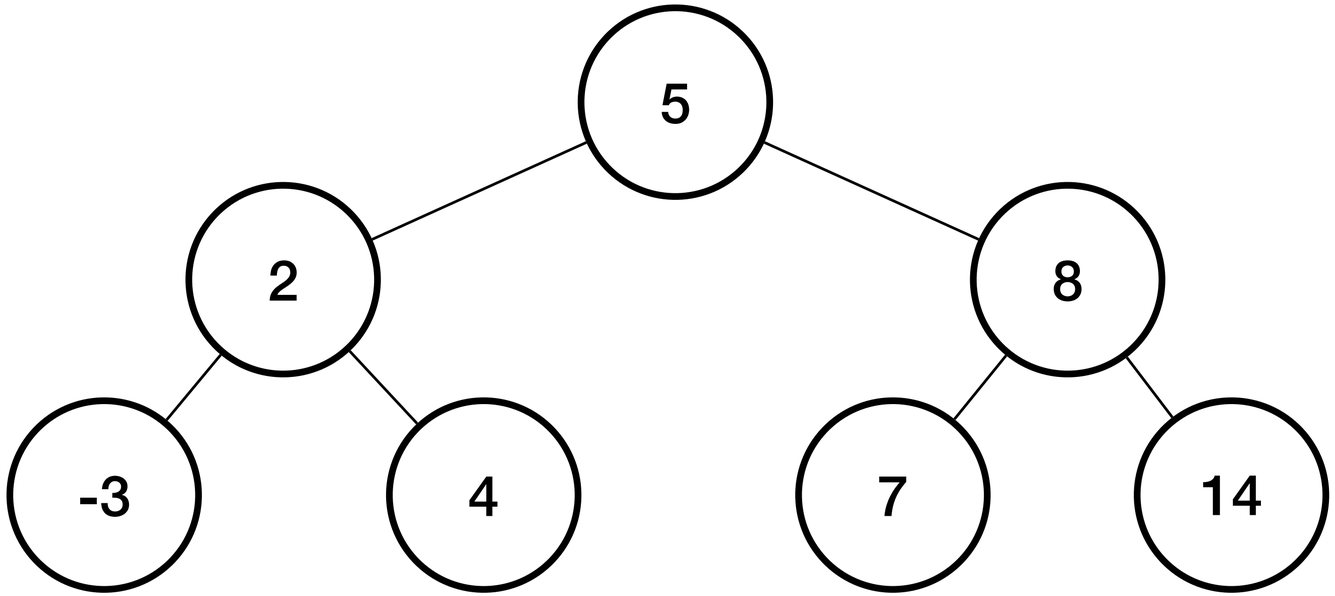
- Insert 7
- 5 < 7
- 7 < 8 and left child is null - Insert here



# In-Order Traversal

- In-Order traversal of a BST iterates over the values in sorted order
- Visit all elements of the left subtree
  - Elements less that the node's value
- Visit the nodes value
- Visit all elements of the right subtree
  - Elements greater than the node's value

**Printed:**
**-3**
**2**
**4**
**5**
**7**
**8**
**14**



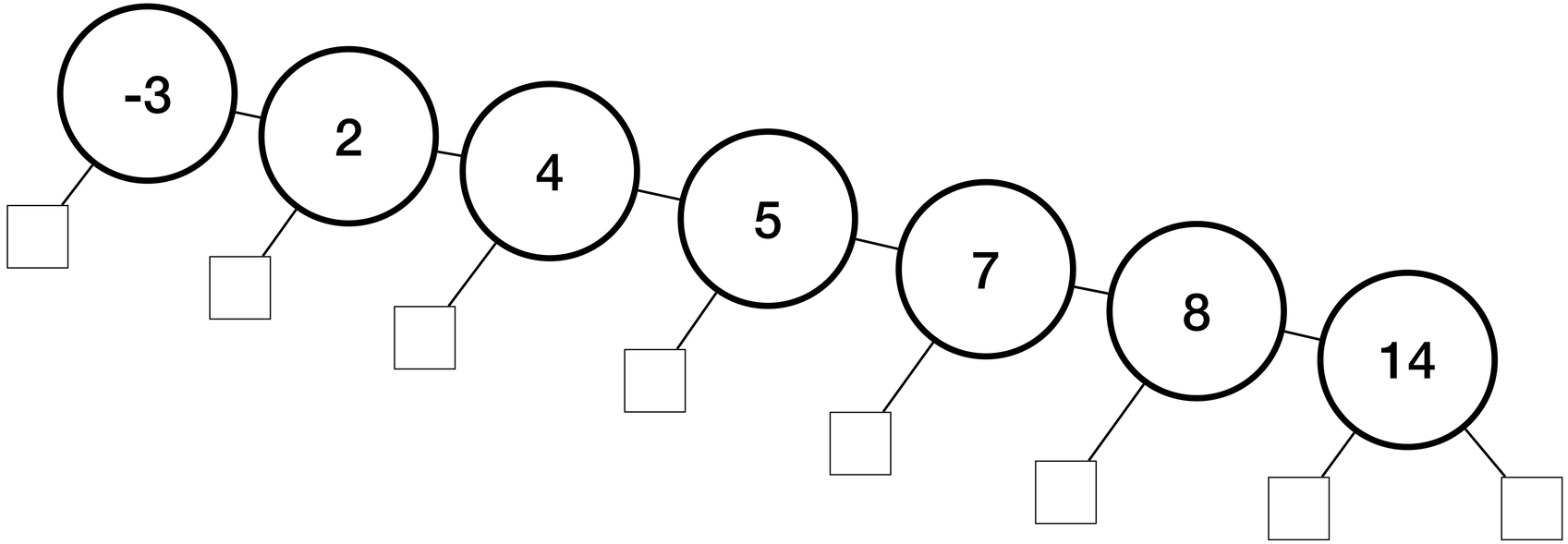
# BST - Efficiency

- Vocab: A tree is balanced if each node has the same number of descendants in its left and right subtrees
- *** If a BST is balanced ***
- The number of nodes from the root to a leaf - the height of the tree - is O(log(n))
- Insert and find take O(log(n)) time
- Inserting n elements effectively sorts in O(n*log(n)) time
- Advantage: Sorted order is efficiently maintained as new elements are added in O(log(n))
  - Array takes O(n) to insert
  - Linked list takes O(n) to find where to insert

# BST - Inefficiency

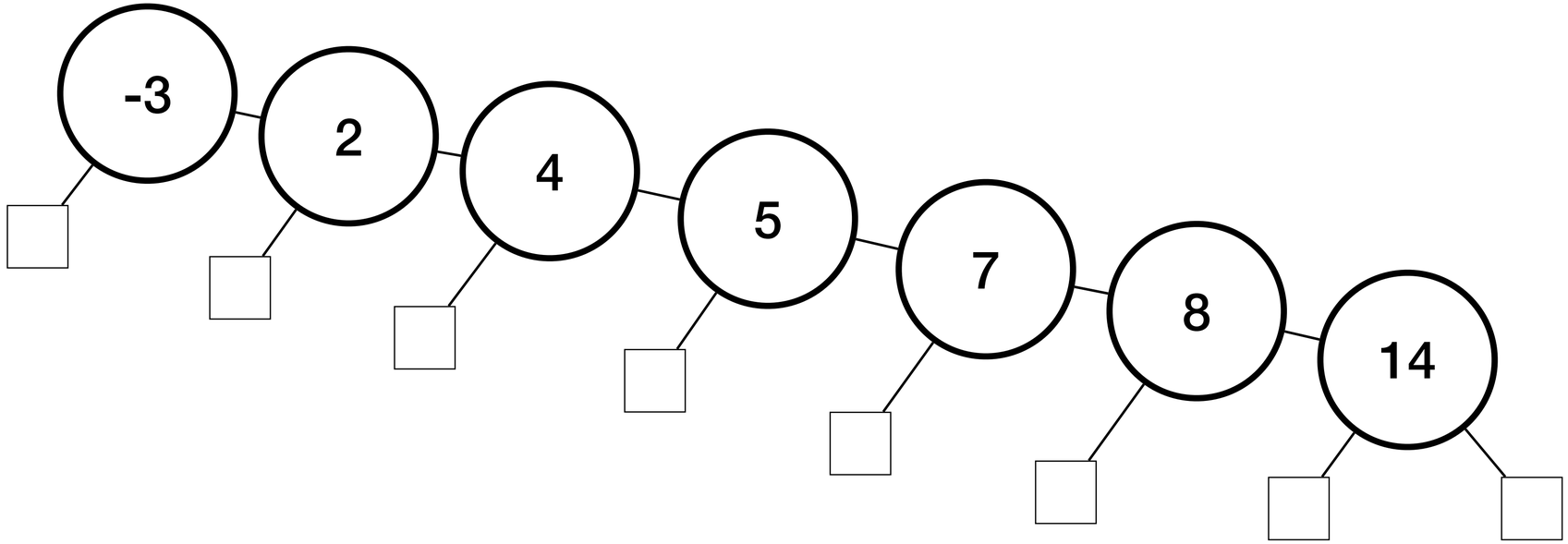
- What if the tree is not balanced?

```
val intLessThan = (a: Int, b: Int) => a < b
val bst = new BinarySearchTree[Int](intLessThan)
bst.insert(-3)
bst.insert(2)
bst.insert(4)
bst.insert(5)
bst.insert(8)
bst.insert(7)
bst.insert(14)
```



# BST - Inefficiency

- If elements are inserted in sorted order
- Tree effectively becomes a linked list
  - O(n) insert and find



# BST for Thought

- How do we keep the tree balanced and still insert in O(log(n)) time
- How would we remove a node while maintaining sorted order?
- How do we handle duplicate values?
  - Should duplicates even be allowed?

- Answers to these questions and more..
  - In **CSE250**

# Lecture Question

**Task: Write a method to convert a BST to a List**

- In the week8.trees.BinarySearchTree class write a method named toList that takes no parameters and returns the values of the tree in a List in sorted order