AVL Trees

CSE 373 - Data Structures

April 17, 2002

Readings and References

- Reading
  - › Section 4.4, *Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in C*, Weiss
- Other References

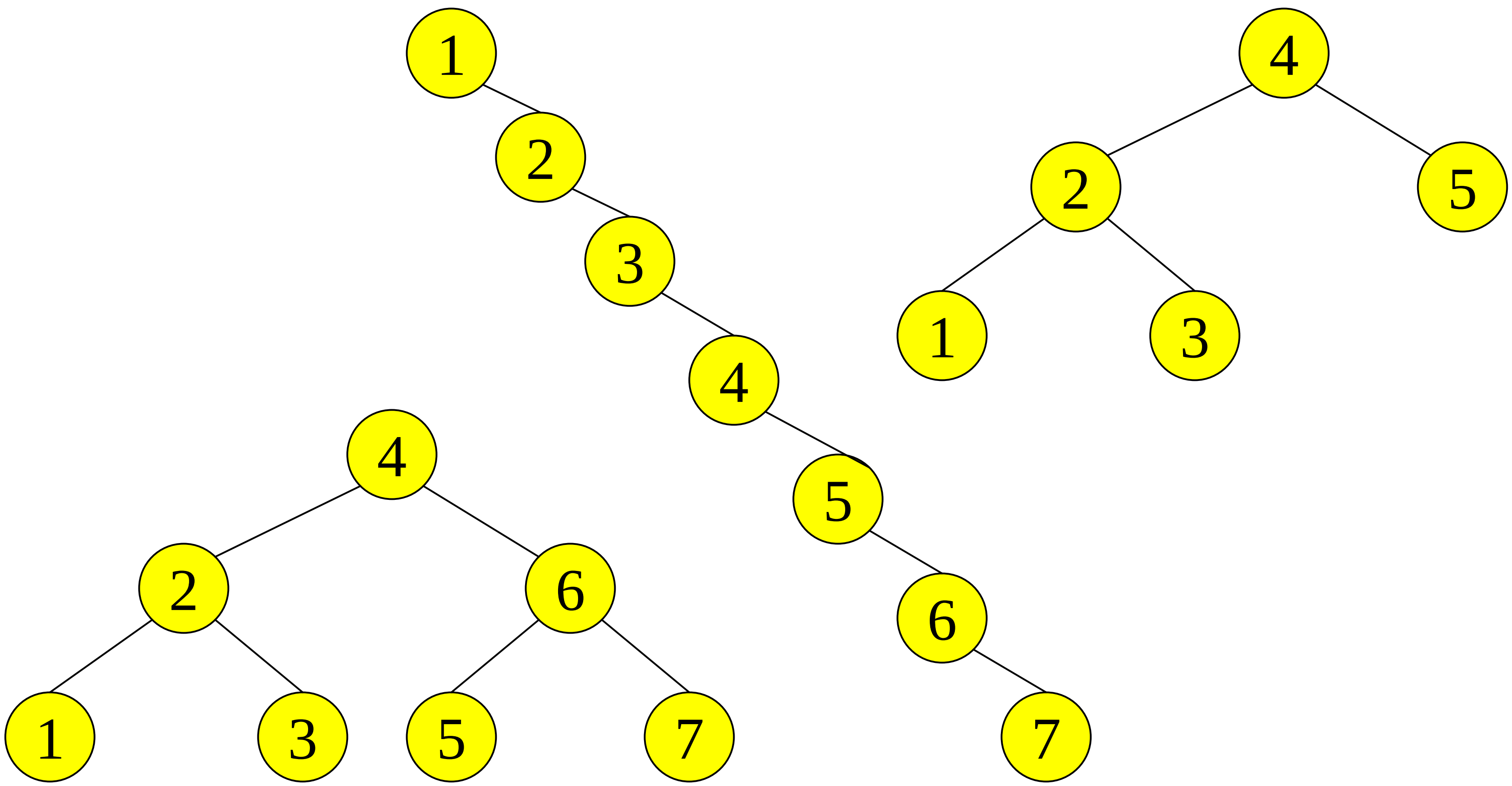
Binary Search Tree - Best Time

- All BST operations are O(d), where d is tree depth
- minimum d is $\log N \le d \le \log (N+1)-1$ for a binary tree with N nodes
  - › What is the best case tree?
  - › What is the worst case tree?
- So, best case running time of BST operations is O(log N)

Binary Search Tree - Worst Time

- Worst case running time is O(N)
  - › What happens when you Insert elements in ascending order?
    - Insert: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 into an empty BST
  - › Problem: Lack of “balance”:
    - compare depths of left and right subtree
  - › Unbalanced degenerate tree

Balanced and unbalanced BST



Approaches to balancing trees

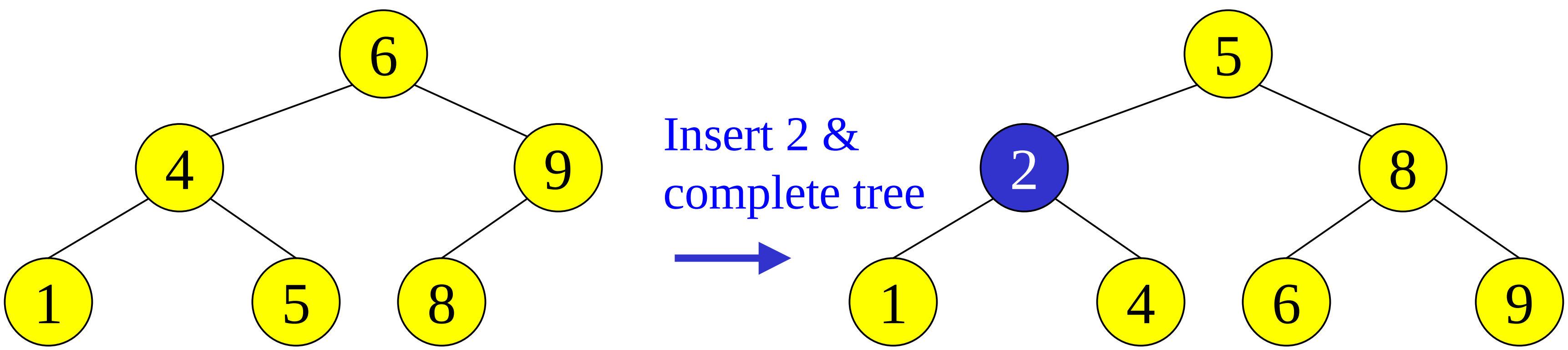
- Don't balance
  - › likely to end up with some nodes very deep
- Strict balance on insert
  - › The tree must always be balanced perfectly
- Pretty good balance on insert
  - › Only allow a little out of balance
- Adjust on access
  - › better balance through self adjustment

Balancing Trees

- Many algorithms exist for keeping trees balanced
  - Adelson-Velskii and Landis (AVL) trees
  - Splay trees and other self-adjusting trees
  - B-trees and other multiway search trees

Perfect Balance

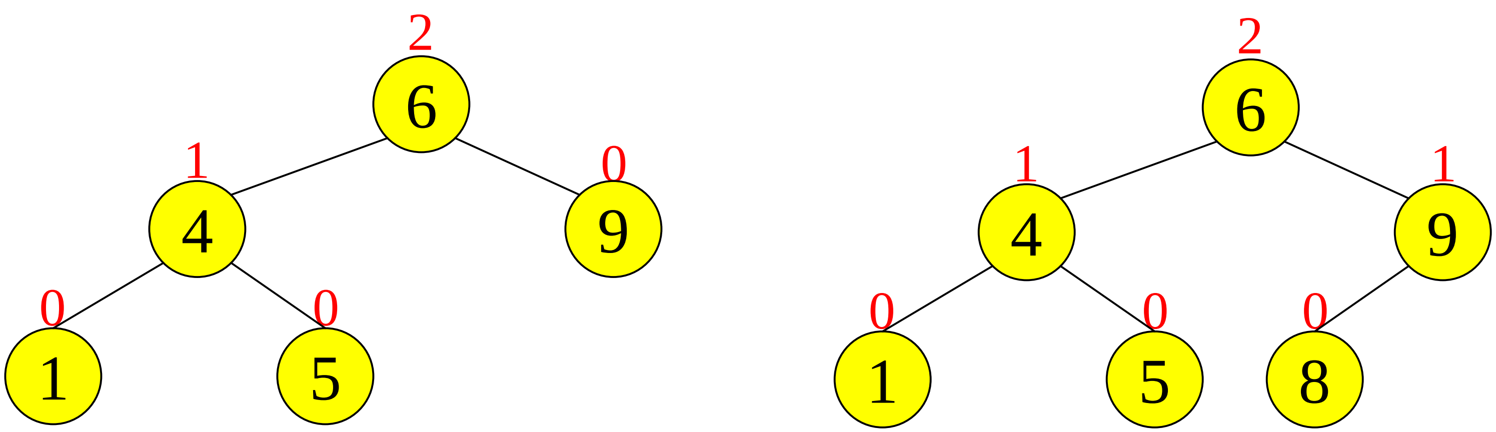
- Want a complete tree after every operation
  - › tree is full except possibly in the lower right
- This is expensive
  - › For example, insert 2 in the tree on the left and then rebuild as a complete tree



AVL - Pretty Good Balance

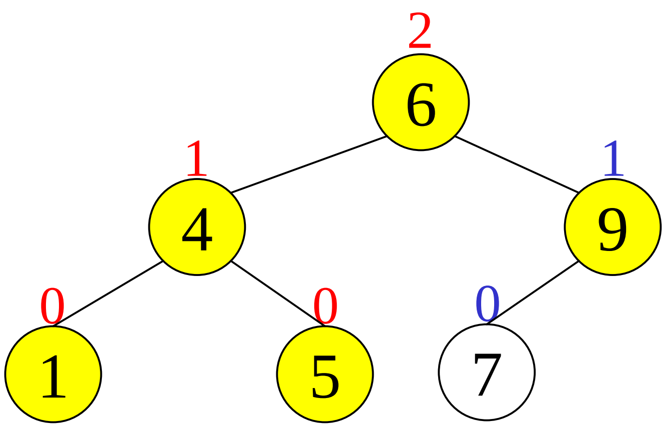
- AVL trees are height-balanced binary search trees
- Balance factor of a node
  - height(left subtree) - height(right subtree)
- An AVL tree has balance factor calculated at every node
  - For every node, heights of left and right subtree can differ by no more than 1
  - Store current heights in each node

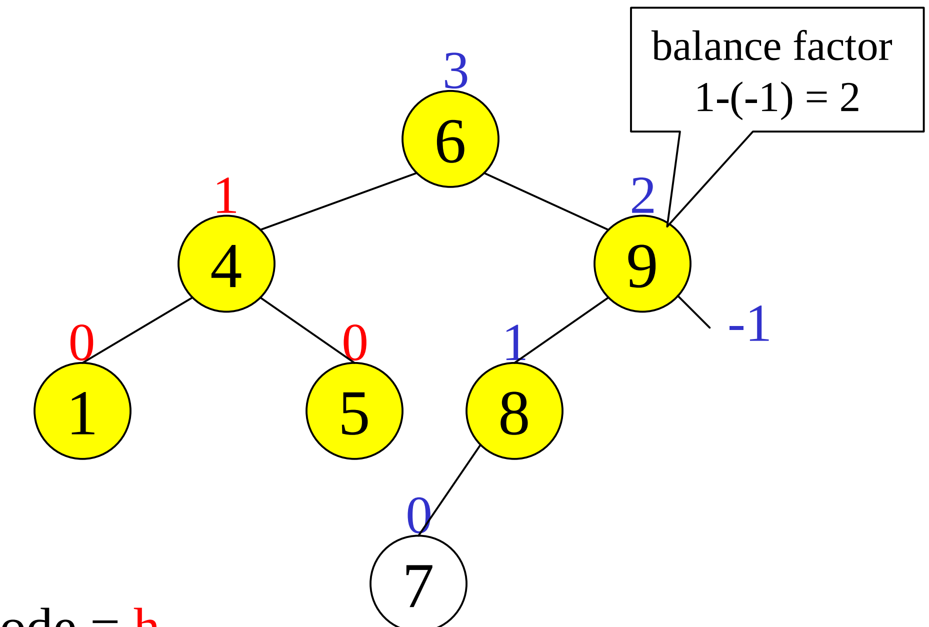
Node Heights



height of node = h
balance factor = h_{left}-h_{right}
empty height = -1

Node Heights after Insert 7



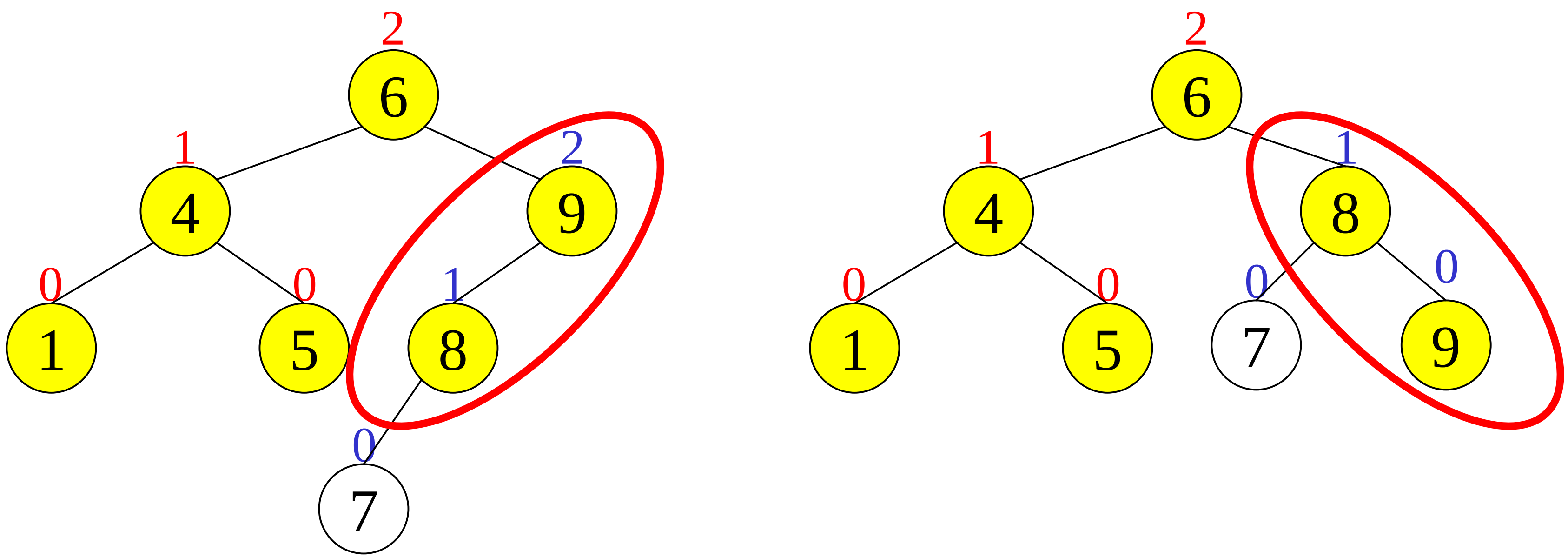


height of node = h
balance factor = h_{left}-h_{right}
empty height = -1

Insert and Rotation in AVL Trees

- Insert operation may cause balance factor to become 2 or –2 for some node
  - › only nodes on the path from insertion point to root node have possibly changed in height
  - › So after the Insert, go back up to the root node by node, updating heights
  - › If a new balance factor (the difference h_{left}-h_{right}) is 2 or –2, adjust tree by *rotation* around the node

Single Rotation in an AVL Tree



Insertions in AVL Trees

Let the node that needs rebalancing be α.

There are 4 cases:

Outside Cases (require single rotation) :

1. Insertion into left subtree of left child of α.
2. Insertion into right subtree of right child of α.

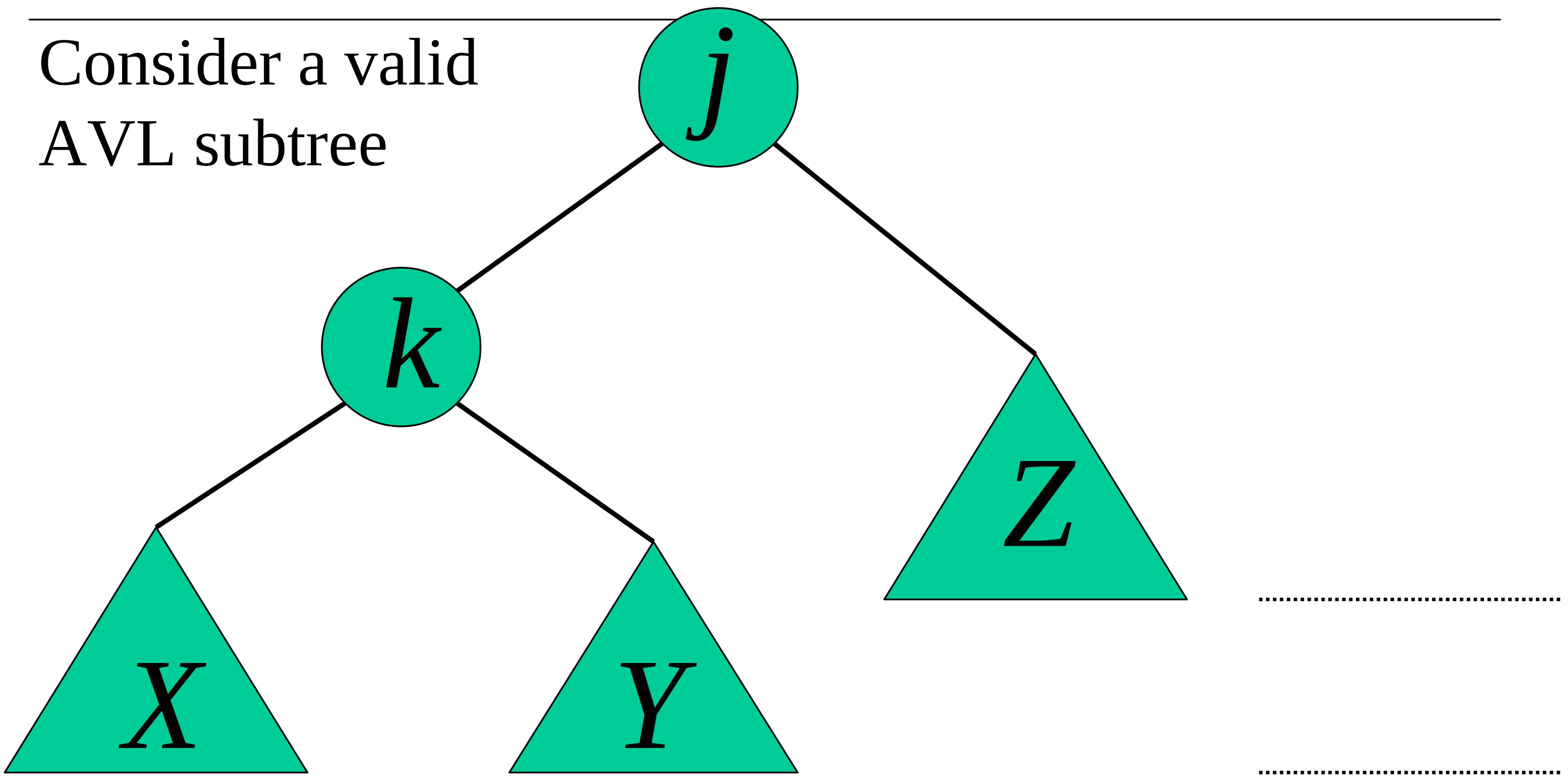
Inside Cases (require double rotation) :

3. Insertion into right subtree of left child of α.
4. Insertion into left subtree of right child of α.

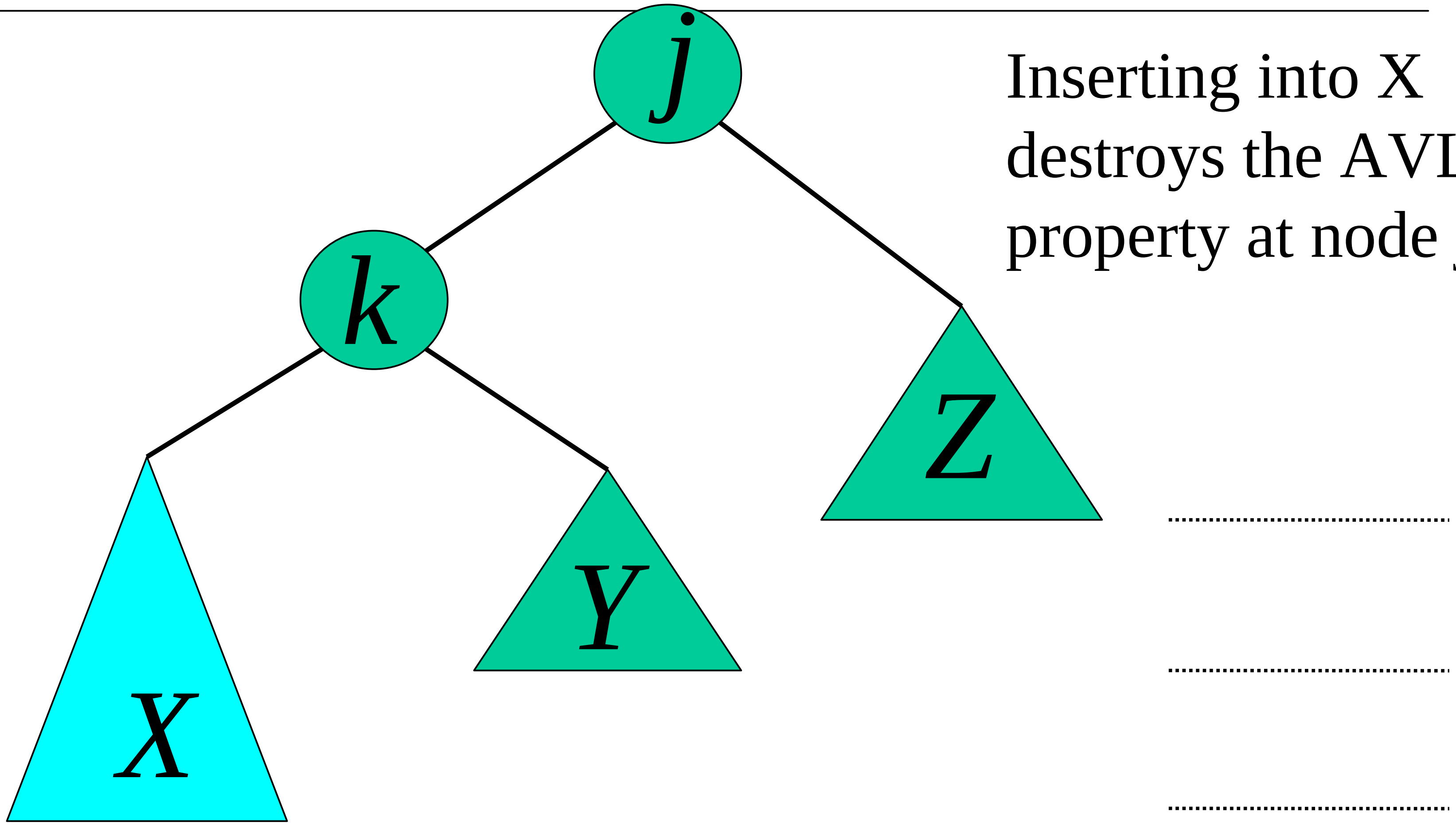
The rebalancing is performed through four separate rotation algorithms.

AVL Insertion: Outside Case

Consider a valid AVL subtree



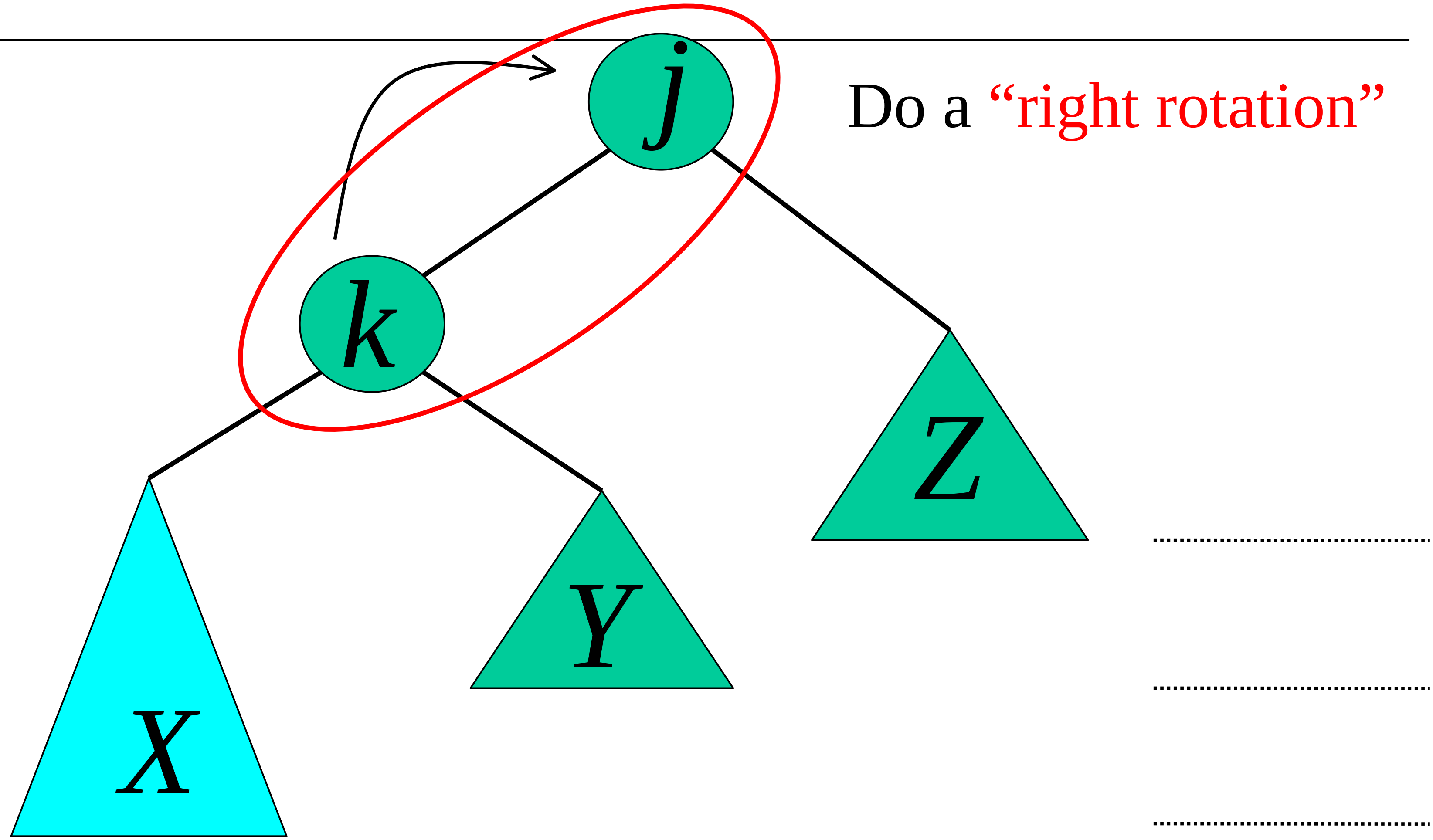
AVL Insertion: Outside Case



Inserting into X destroys the AVL property at node j

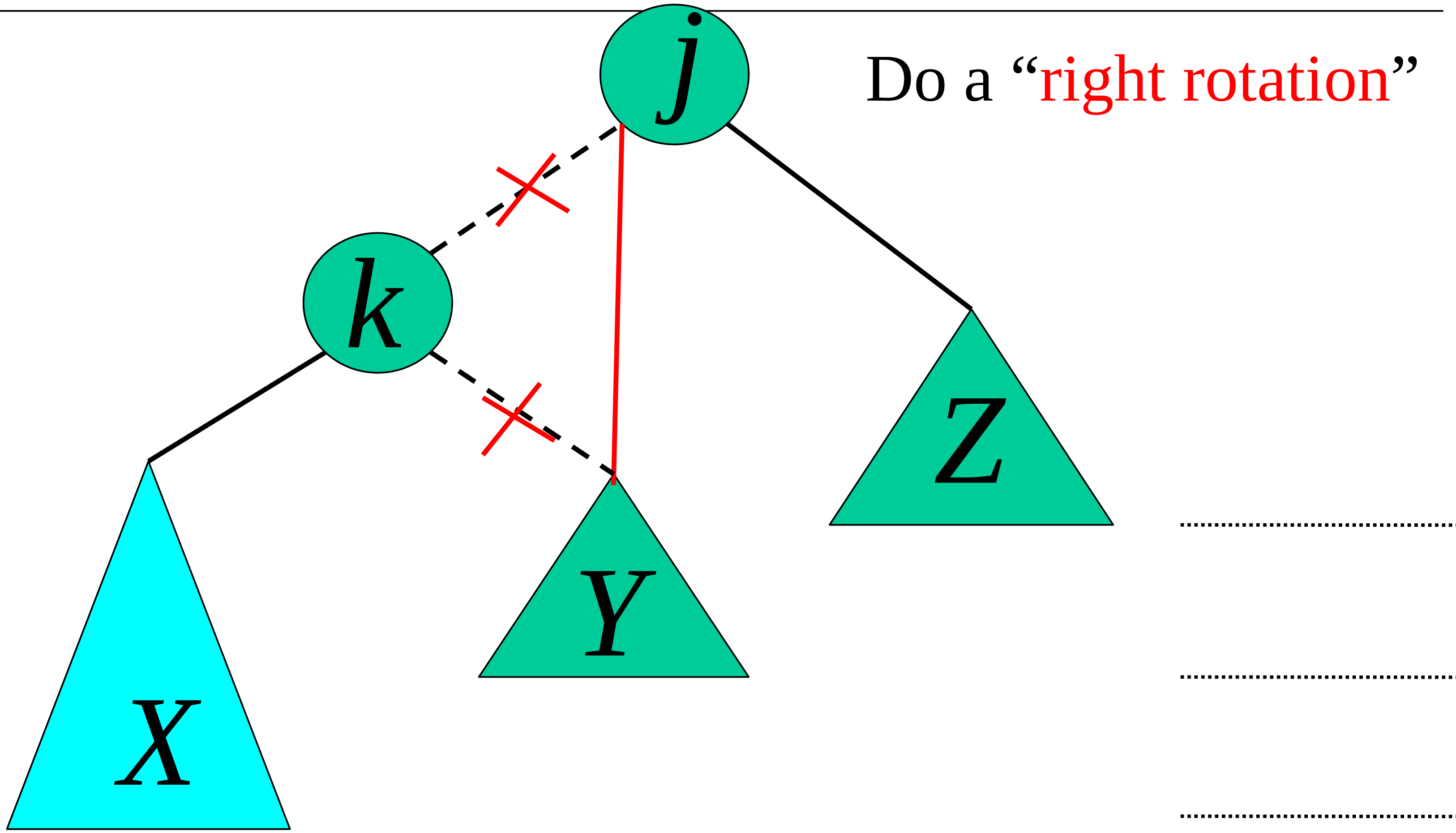
AVL Insertion: Outside Case

Do a "right rotation"

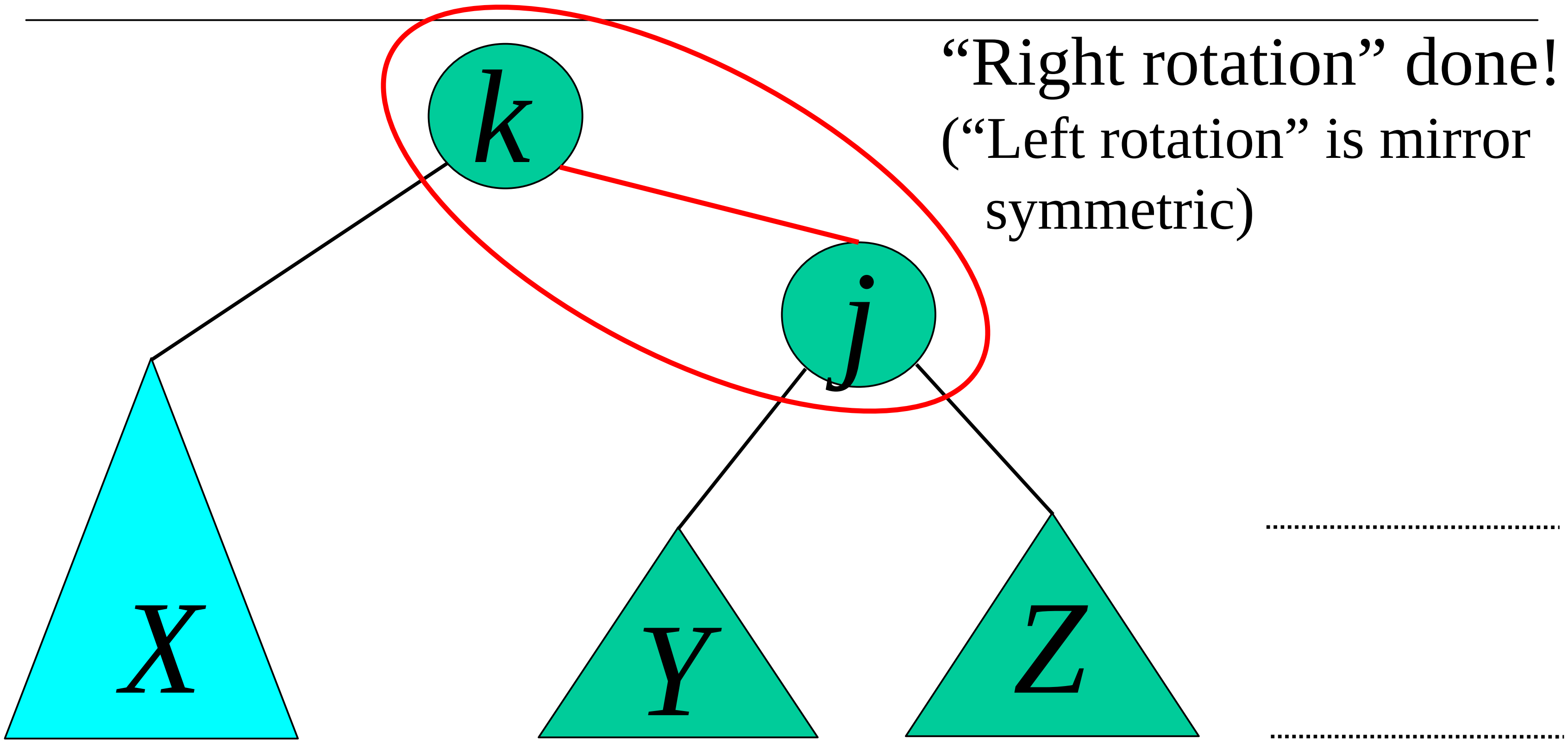


Single right rotation

Do a “right rotation”



Outside Case Completed



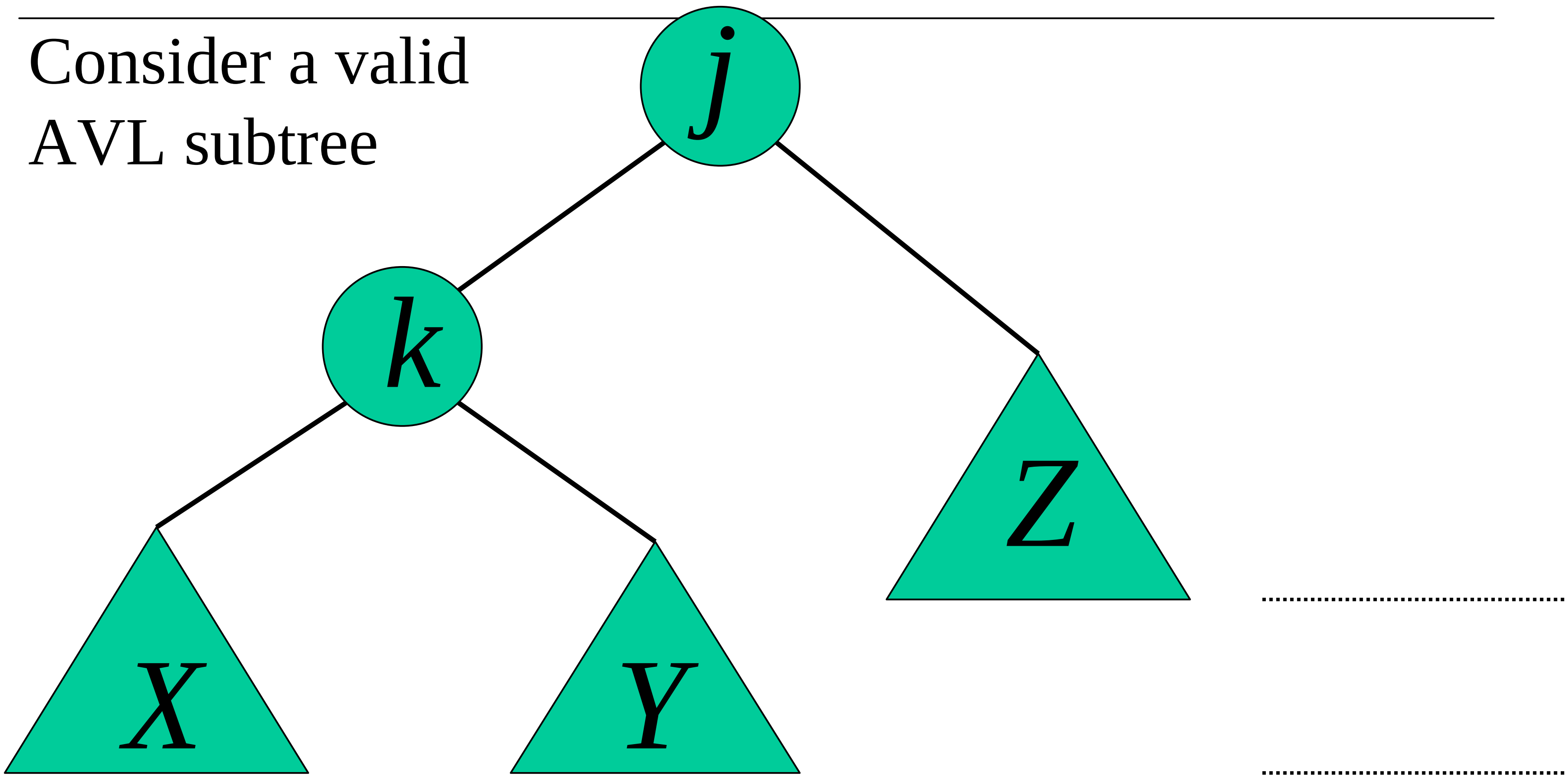
"Right rotation" done!

("Left rotation" is mirror symmetric)

AVL property has been restored!

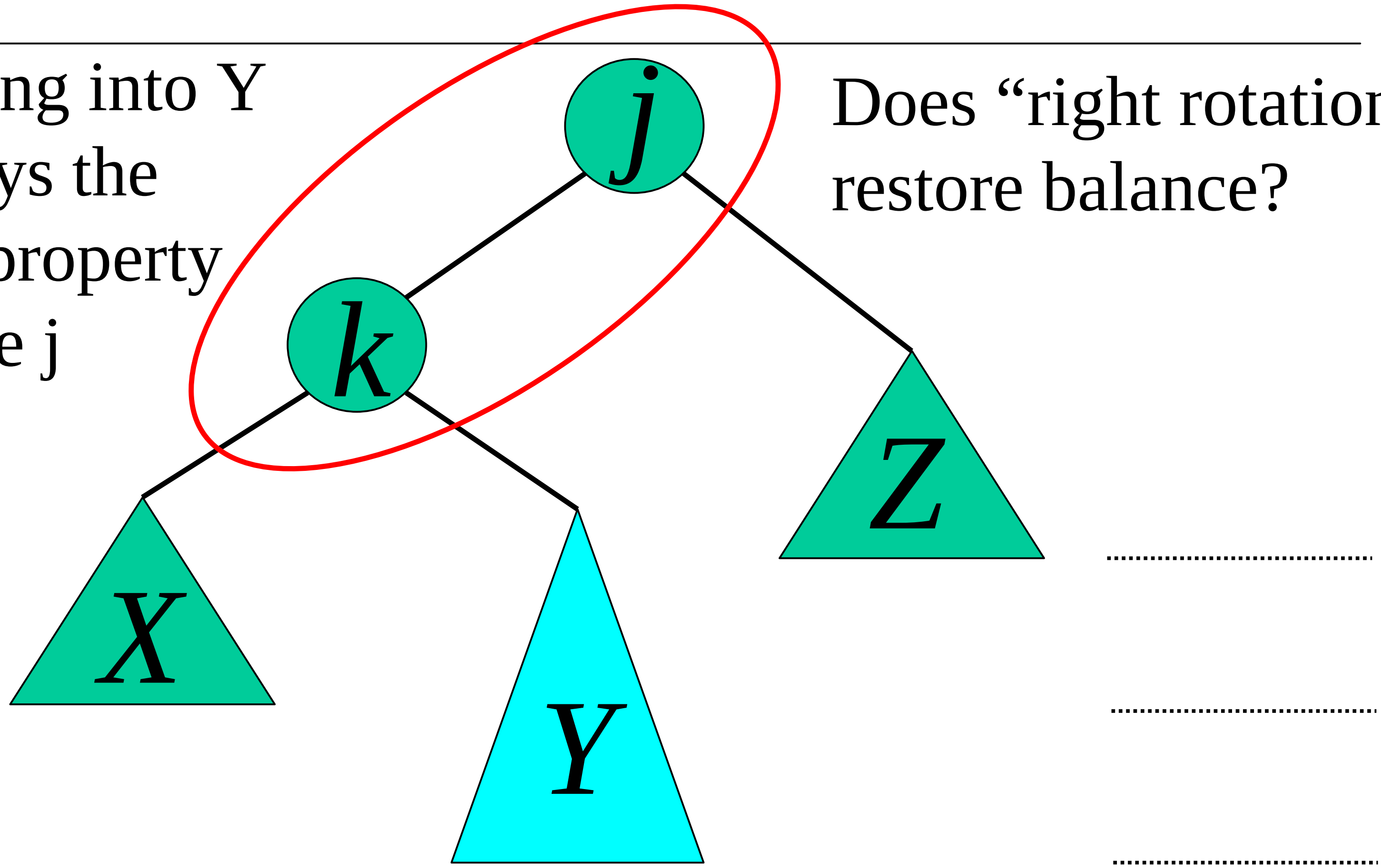
AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Consider a valid AVL subtree



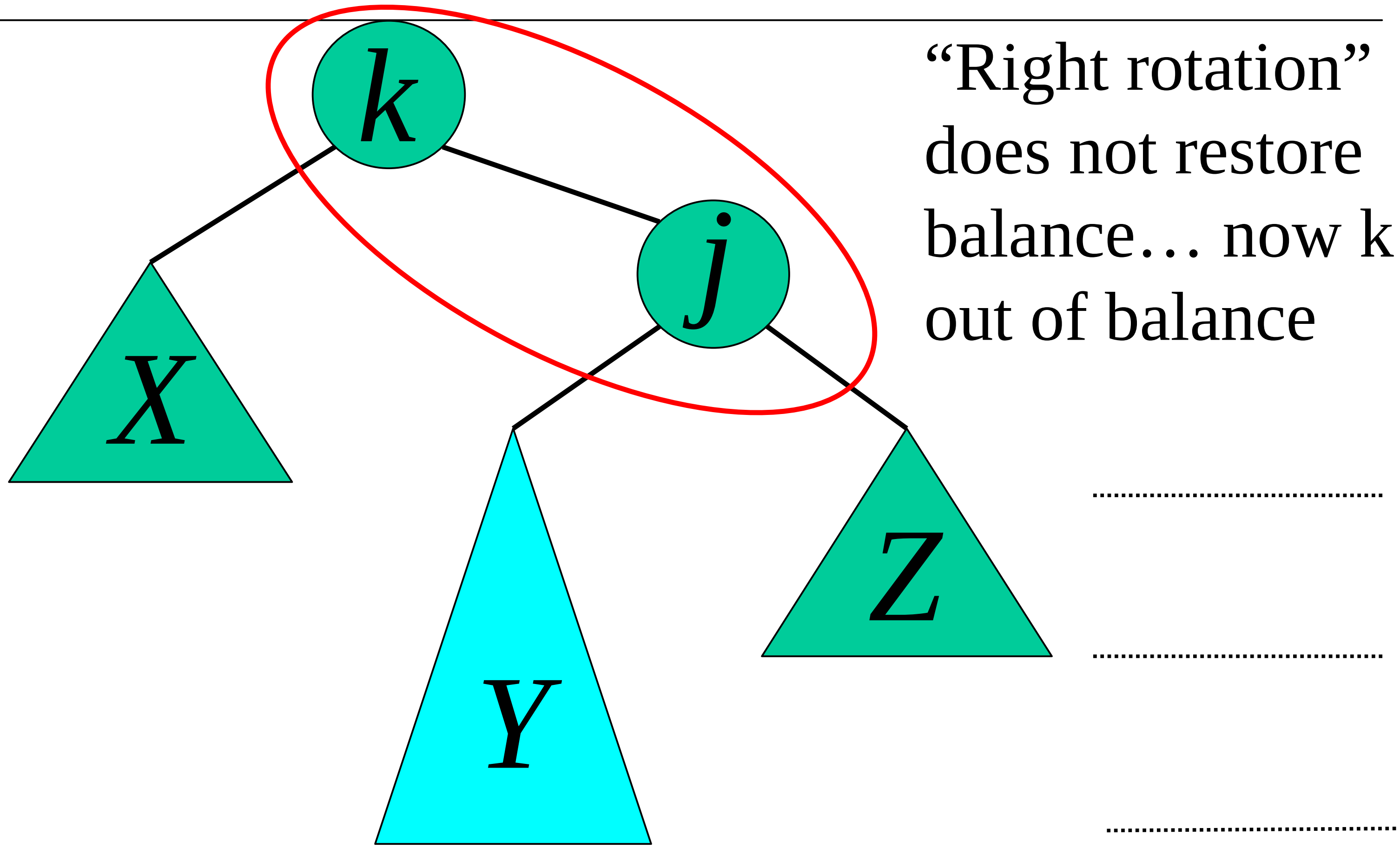
AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Inserting into Y destroys the AVL property at node j



Does "right rotation" restore balance?

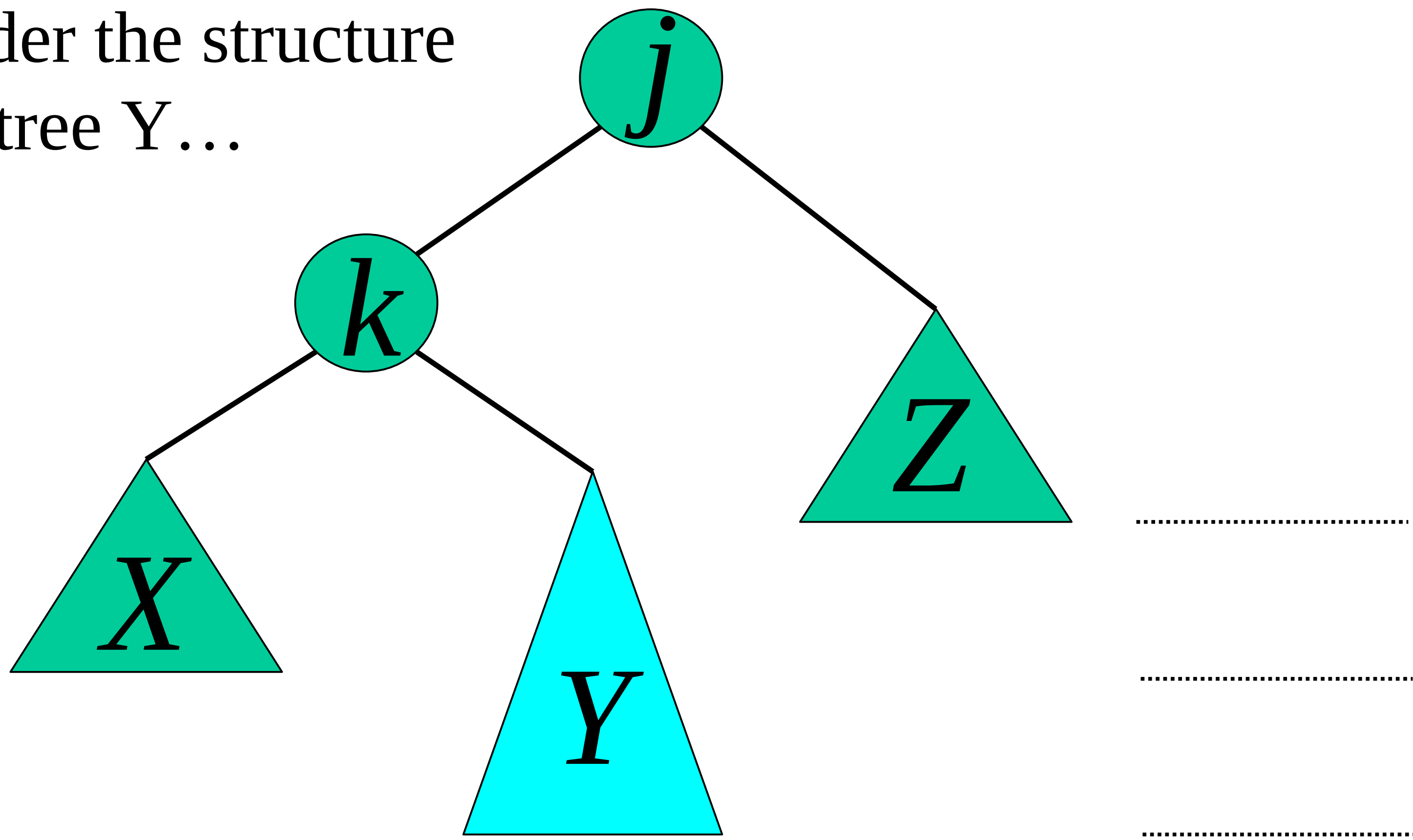
AVL Insertion: Inside Case



"Right rotation" does not restore balance… now k is out of balance

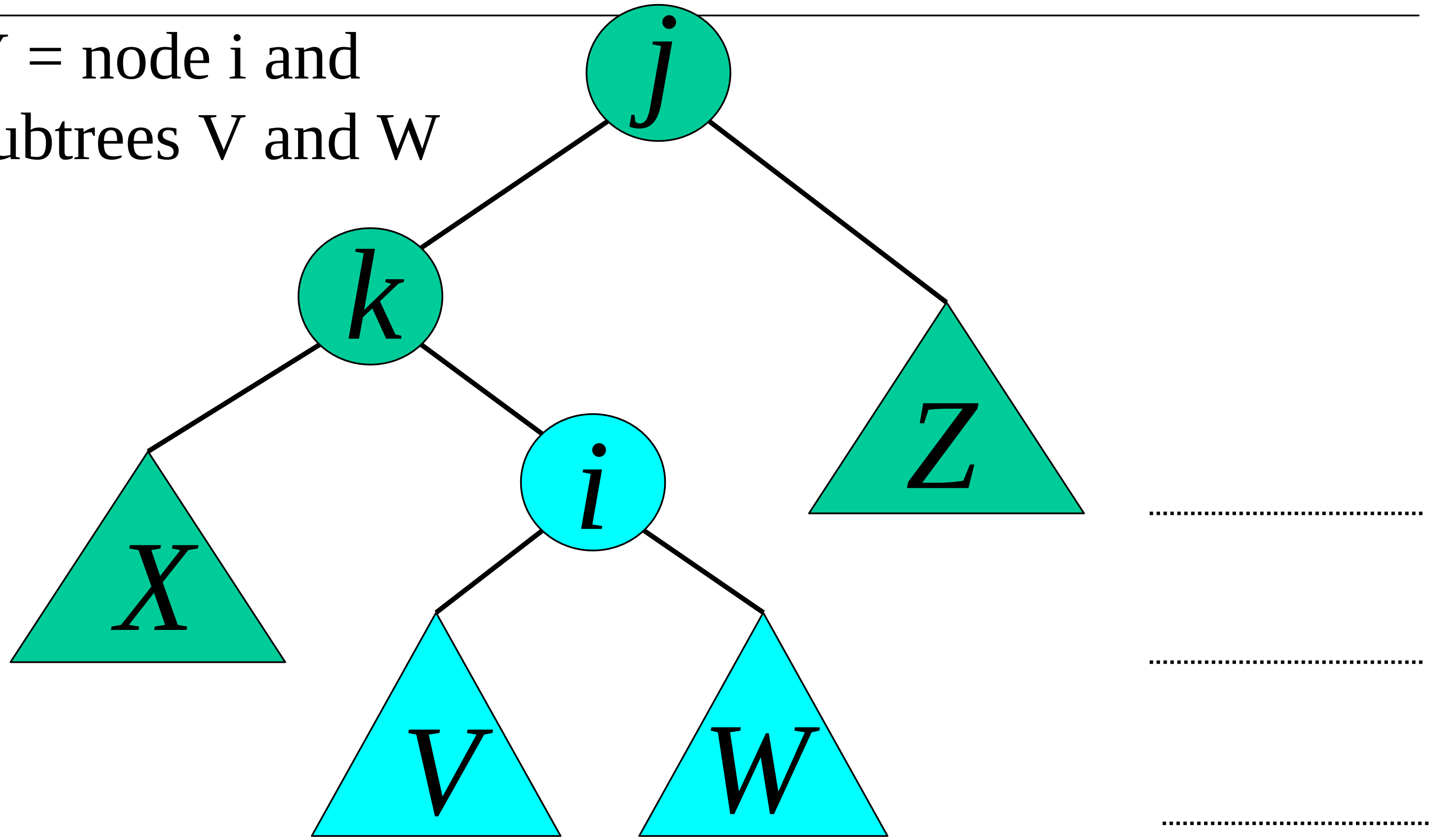
AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Consider the structure of subtree Y…

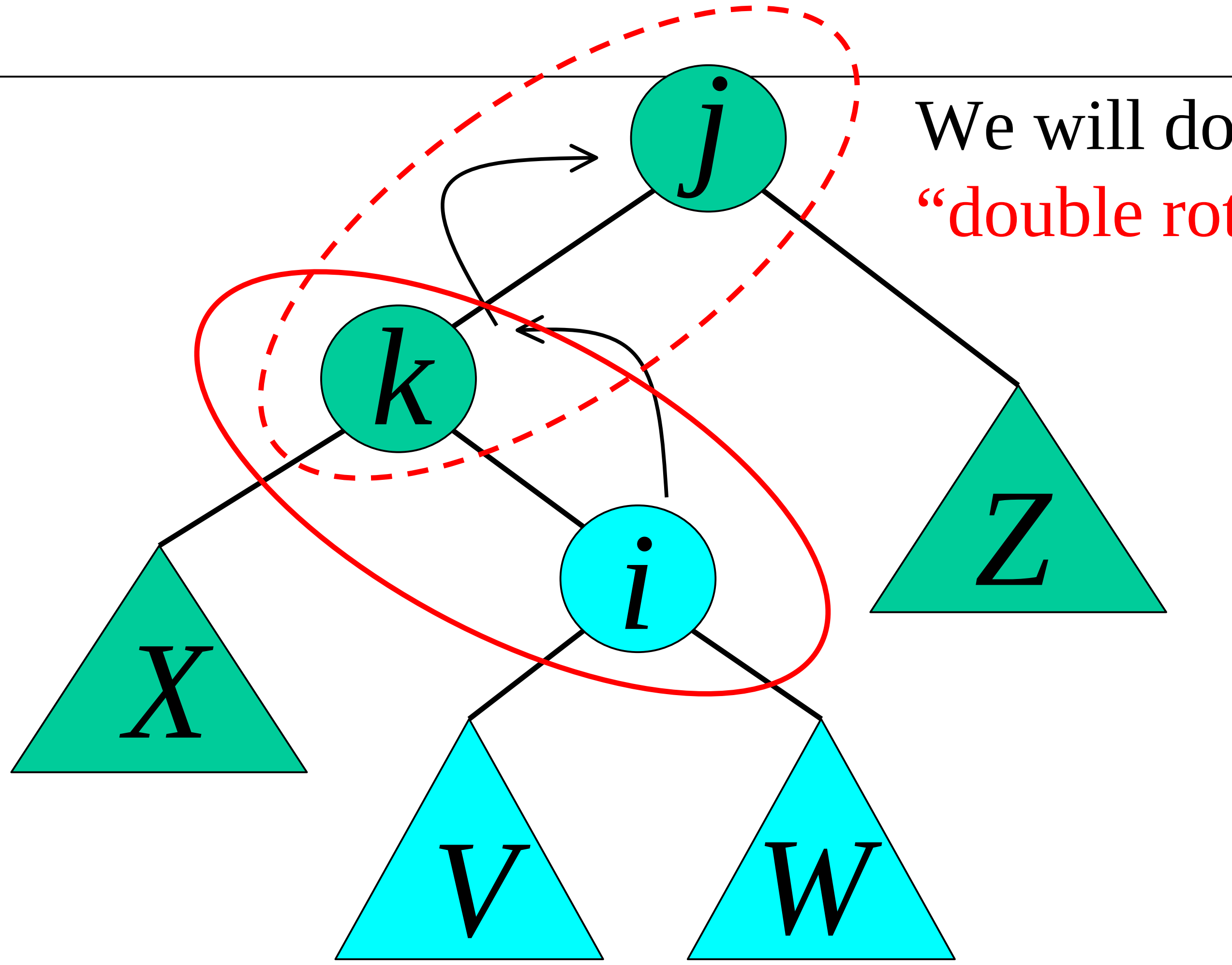


AVL Insertion: Inside Case

Y = node i and subtrees V and W

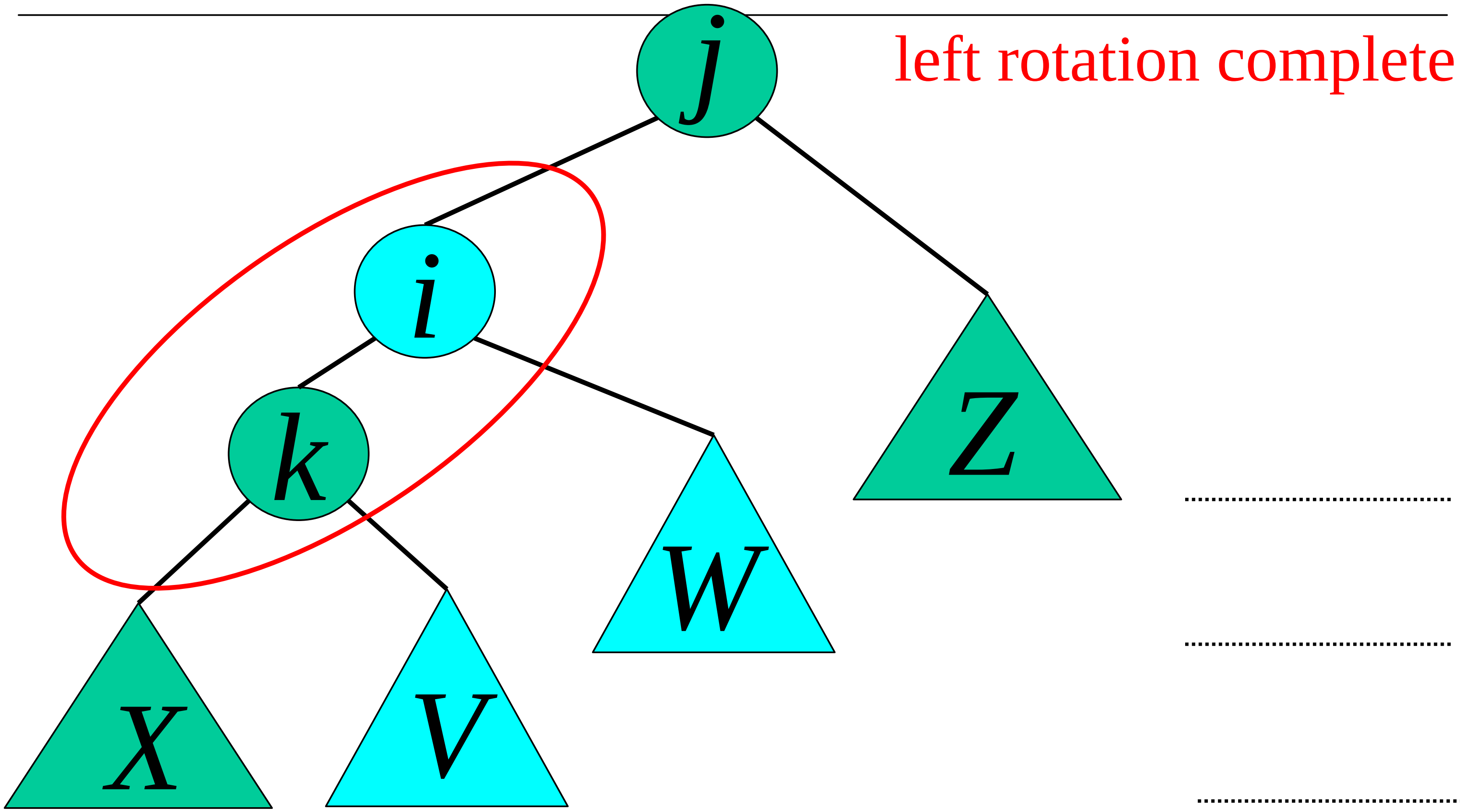


AVL Insertion: Inside Case

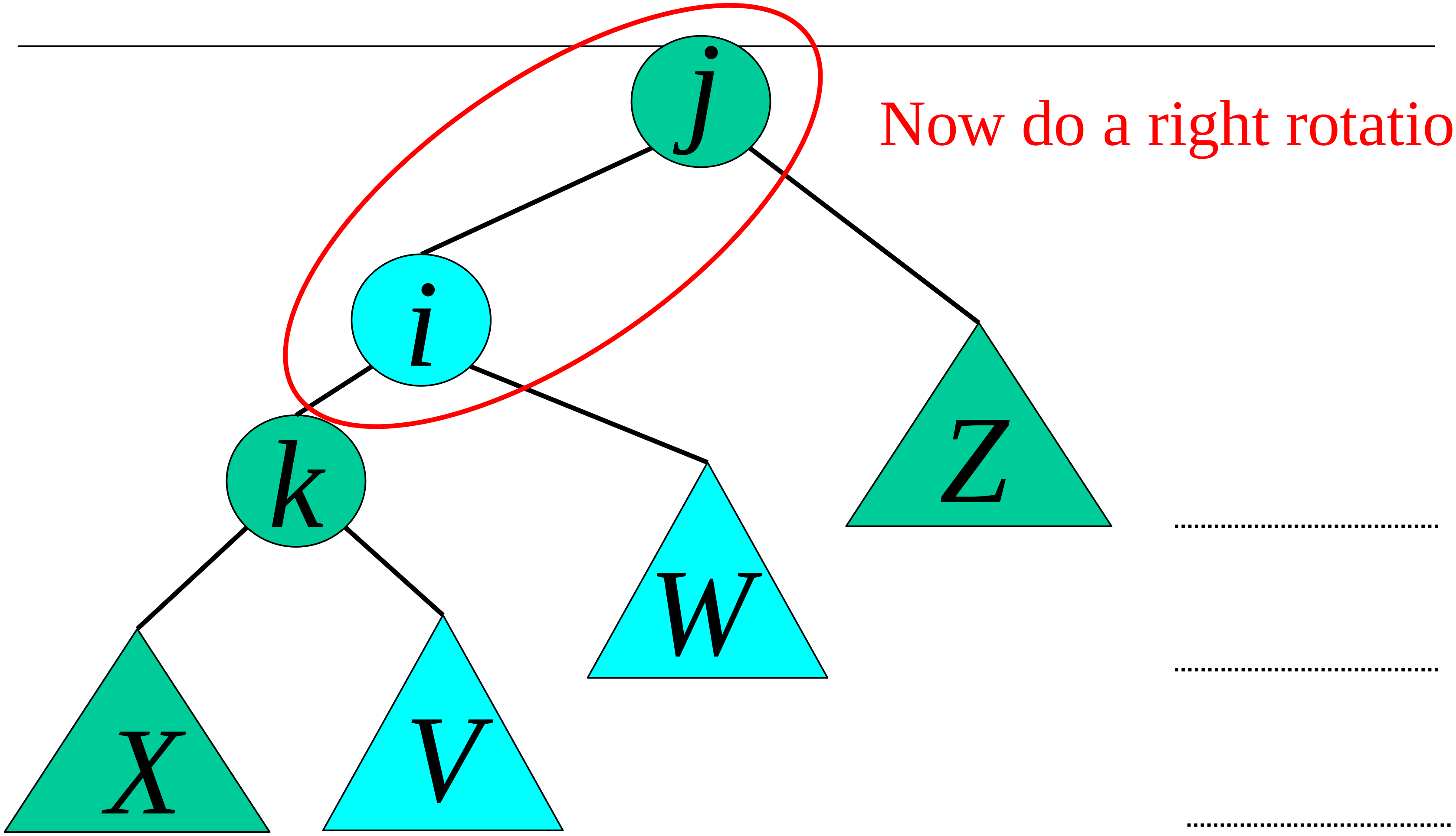


We will do a left-right "double rotation" . . .

Double rotation : first rotation



Double rotation : second rotation

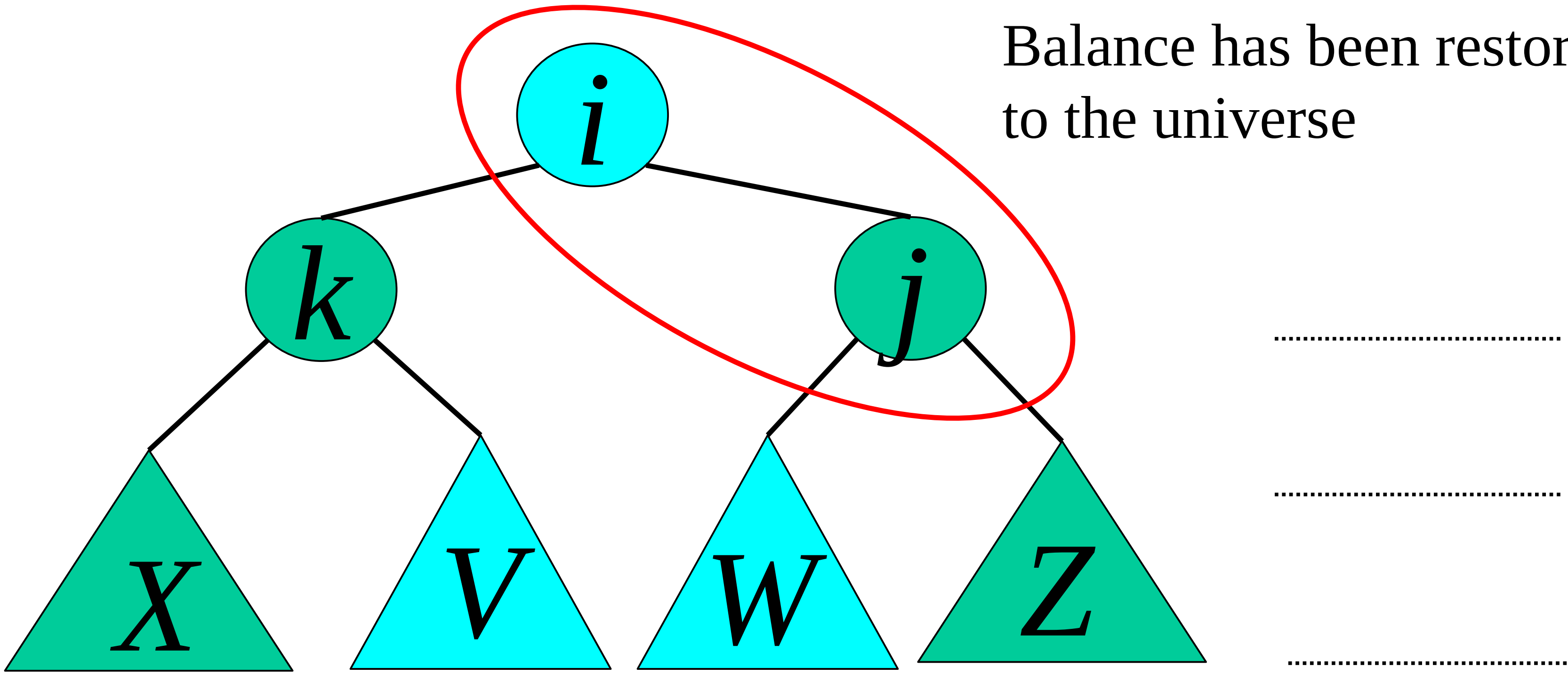


Now do a right rotation

Double rotation : second rotation

right rotation complete

Balance has been restored to the universe



Pros and Cons of AVL Trees

Arguments for AVL trees:

- Search is O(log N) since AVL trees are always balanced.
- The height balancing adds no more than a constant factor to the speed of insertion.

Arguments against using AVL trees:

1. Difficult to program & debug; more space for height info.
2. Asymptotically faster but can be slow in practice.
3. Most large searches are done in database systems on disk and use other structures (e.g. B-trees).
4. May be OK to have O(N) for a single operation if total run time for many consecutive operations is fast (e.g. Splay trees).