

Database Applications (15-415)

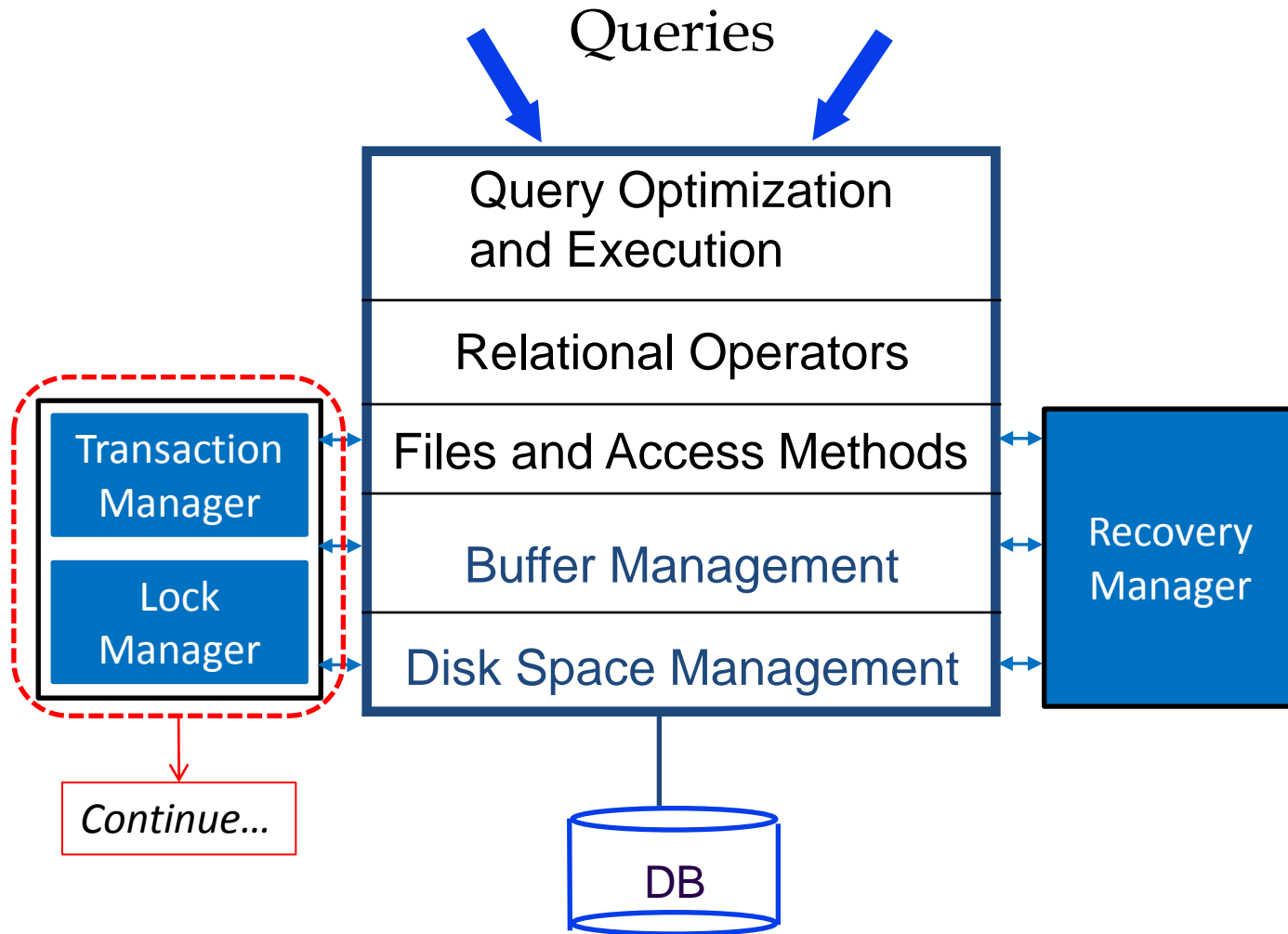
DBMS Internals- Part XII
Lecture 20, April 9, 2014

Mohammad Hammoud

Today...

- Last Two Sessions:
 - DBMS Internals- Part XI
 - Transaction Management
 - Student Presentations of P3
- Today's Session:
 - Transaction Management (*Cont'd*)
- Announcement:
 - PS4 is due on Tuesday, April 15th

DBMS Layers



Outline

Lock Conversions ✓

Dealing with Deadlocks

Dynamic Databases and the Phantom Problem

Concurrency Control in B+ Trees

Lock Conversions

- A transaction may need to change the lock it already acquires on an object
 - From Shared to Exclusive
 - This is referred to as *lock upgrade*
 - From Exclusive to Shared
 - This is referred to as *lock downgrade*
- For example, an SQL update statement might acquire a Shared lock on each row, R , in a table and if R satisfies the condition (in the WHERE clause), an Exclusive lock must be obtained for R

Lock Upgrades

- A lock upgrade request from a transaction T on object O must be handled specially by:
 - Granting an Exclusive lock to T immediately *if no other transaction holds a Shared lock on O*
 - Otherwise, queuing T at the front of O 's queue (i.e., T is favored)
- T is *favored* because it already holds a Shared lock on O
 - Queuing T *in front of* another transaction T' that holds no lock on O , but requested an Exclusive lock on O averts a deadlock!
 - However, if T and T' hold a Shared lock on O , and both request upgrades to an Exclusive lock, a deadlock will arise regardless!

Lock Downgrades

- Lock upgrades can be entirely avoided by obtaining Exclusive locks *initially*, and downgrade them to Shared locks once needed
- **Would this violate any 2PL requirement?**
 - On the surface yes; since the transaction (say, T) may need to upgrade later
 - This is, however, a special case as T conservatively obtained an Exclusive lock, and did nothing but read the object that it downgraded
 - 2PL can be safely extended to allow lock downgrades in the growing phase, *provided that the transaction has not modified the object*
 - This might reduce concurrency (due to obtaining some unnecessary Exclusive locks) but improve throughput (due to reducing deadlocks)!

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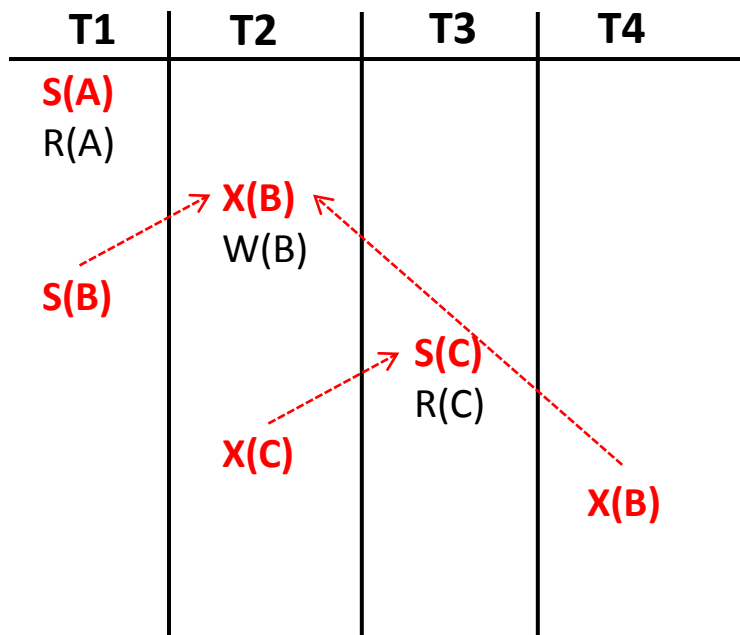
Concurrency Control in B+ Trees

Deadlock Detection

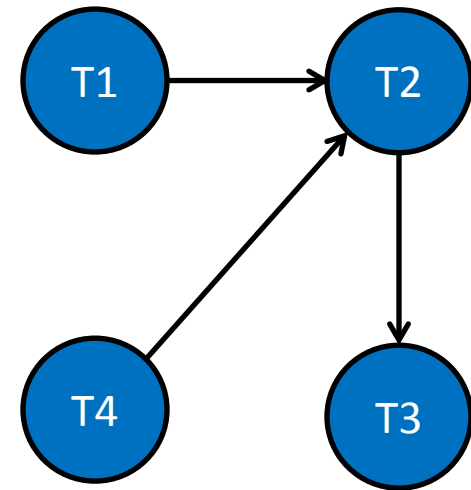
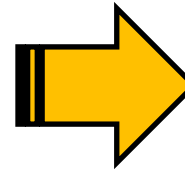
- The lock manager maintains a structure called a *waits-for graph* to *periodically* detect deadlocks
- In a waits-for graph:
 - The nodes correspond to active transactions
 - There is an edge from T_i to T_j *if and only if* T_i is waiting for T_j to release a lock
- The lock manager *adds* and *removes* edges to and from a waits-for graph when it *queues* and *grants* lock requests, respectively
- A deadlock is detected when a *cycle* in the waits-for graph is found

Deadlock Detection (*Cont'd*)

- The following schedule is free of deadlocks:



A schedule without a deadlock



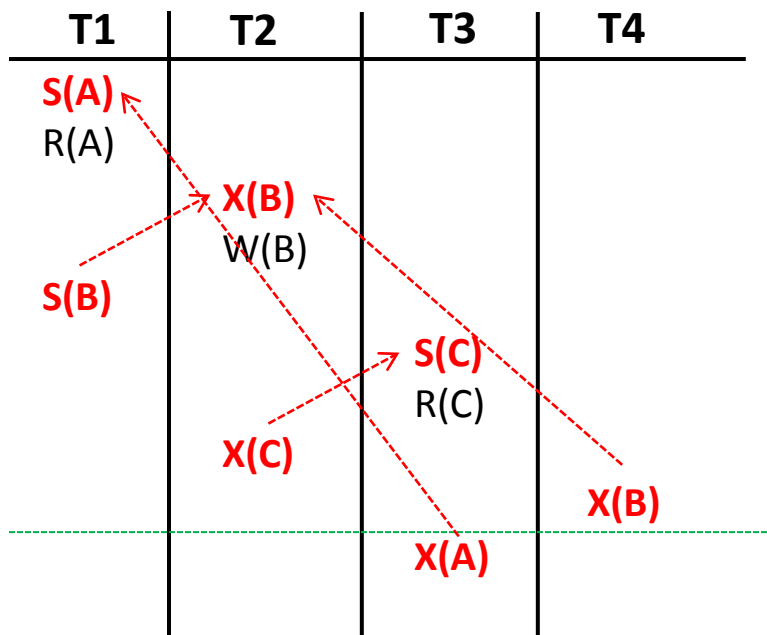
No cycles; hence, no deadlocks!

The Corresponding **Waits-For Graph***

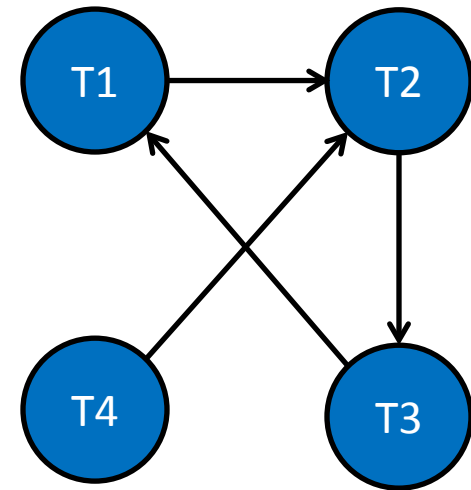
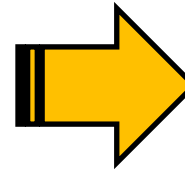
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Deadlock Detection (*Cont'd*)

- The following schedule is **NOT** free of deadlocks:



A schedule *with* a deadlock

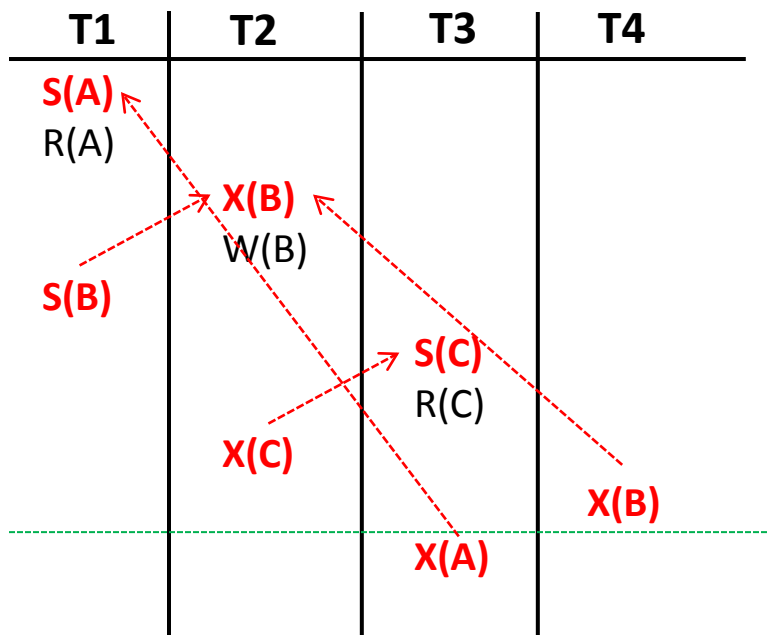


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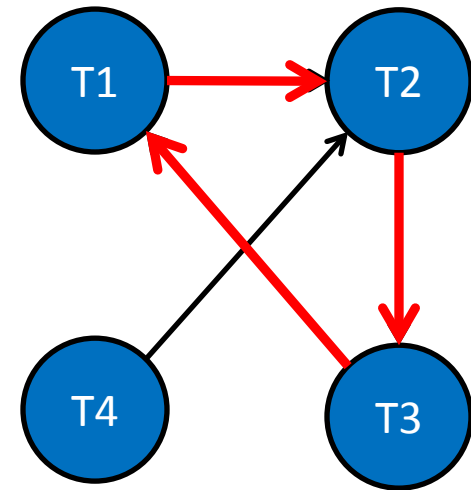
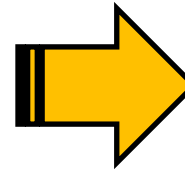
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Deadlock Detection (*Cont'd*)

- The following schedule is **NOT** free of deadlocks:



A schedule with a deadlock



Cycle detected; hence, a deadlock!

The Corresponding **Waits-For Graph***

*The nodes correspond to active transactions and there is an edge from T_i to T_j if and only if T_i is waiting for T_j to release a lock

Resolving Deadlocks

- A deadlock is resolved by aborting a transaction that is on a cycle and releasing its locks
 - This allows some of the waiting transactions to proceed
- The choice of which transaction to abort can be made using different criteria:
 - The one with the fewest locks
 - Or the one that has done the least work
 - Or the one that is farthest from completion (*more accurate*)
- **Caveat:** a transaction that was aborted in the past, should be *favored* subsequently and not aborted upon a deadlock detection!

Deadlock Prevention

- Studies indicate that deadlocks are relatively infrequent and *detection-based schemes* work well in practice
- However, if there is a high level of *contention* for locks, *prevention-based schemes* could perform better
- Deadlocks can be averted by giving each transaction a *priority* and ensuring that lower-priority transactions are not allowed to wait for higher-priority ones (or vice versa)

Deadlock Prevention (*Cont'd*)

- One way to assign priorities is to give each transaction a *timestamp* when it is started
 - Thus, the lower the timestamp, the higher is the transaction's priority
- If a transaction T_i requests a lock and a transaction T_j holds a conflicting lock, the lock manager can use one of the following policies:
 - **Wound-Wait**: If T_i has higher priority, T_j is aborted; otherwise, T_i waits
 - **Wait-Die**: If T_i has higher priority, it is allowed to wait; otherwise, it is aborted

Reissuing Timestamps

- A subtle point is that we must ensure that no transaction is perennially aborted because it never had a sufficiently high priority
- To avoid that, when a transaction is aborted and restarted, it should be given the same timestamp it had originally
 - This policy is referred to as [reissuing timestamps](#)
- Reissuing timestamps ensures that each transaction will eventually become the oldest and accordingly get all the locks it requires!

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Dynamic Databases and the Phantom Problem

Concurrency Control in B+ Trees



Dynamic Databases

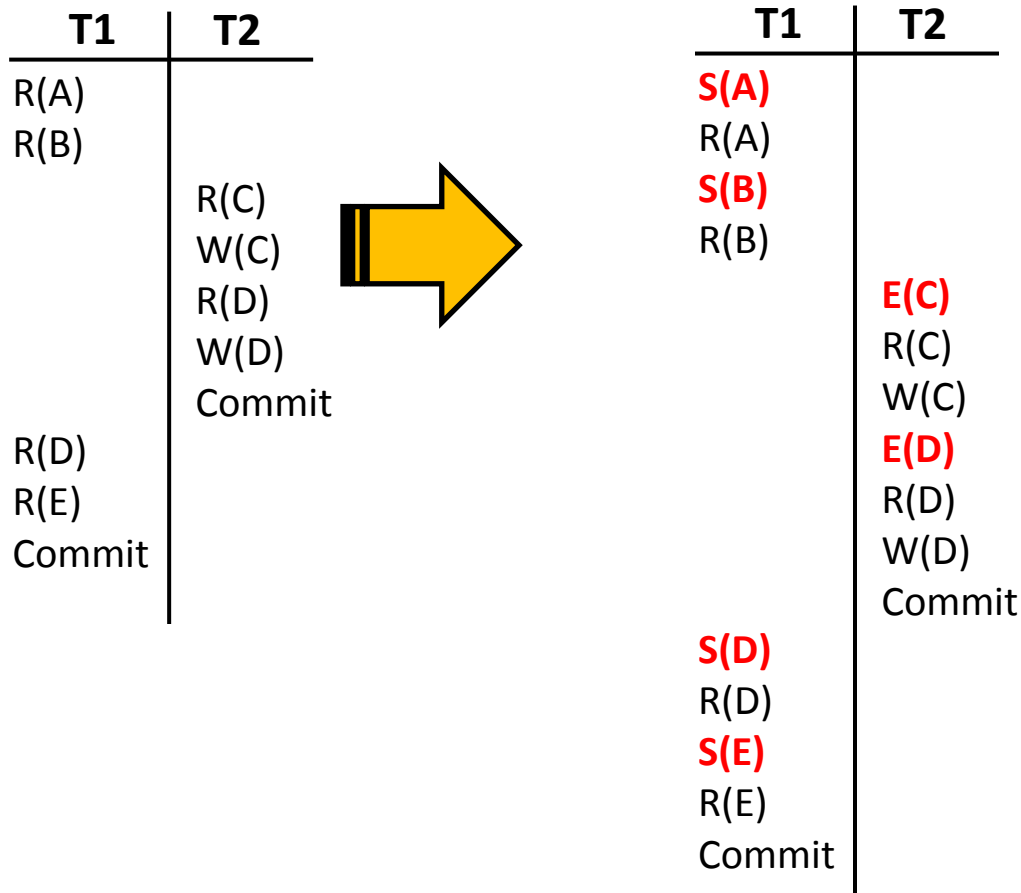
- Thus far, we have assumed *static databases* in a sense that they do not *grow* and *shrink*
- We now relax that condition and assume *dynamic databases* (i.e., databases that grow and shrink)
- To study locking protocols for dynamic databases, we consider the following:
 - A Sailors relation S
 - A transaction **$T1$** which scans S to find the oldest Sailor for each of the rating levels 1 and 2
 - A transaction **$T2$** which inserts a new Sailor with rating 1 and age 96

A Possible Scenario

- Assume a scenario whereby the actions of **T1** and **T2** are interleaved as follows:
 - **T1** identifies all pages containing Sailors with rating 1 (say, pages **A** and **B**)
 - **T1** finds the age of the oldest Sailor with rating 1 (say, 71)
 - **T2** inserts a new Sailor with rating 1 and age 96 (perhaps into page **C** which does not contain any Sailor with rating 1)
 - **T2** locates the page containing the oldest Sailor with rating 2 (say, page **D**) and deletes this Sailor (whose age is, say, 80)
 - **T2** commits
 - **T1** identifies all pages containing Sailors with rating 2 (say pages **D** and **E**), and finds the age of the oldest such Sailor (which is, say, 63)
 - **T1** commits

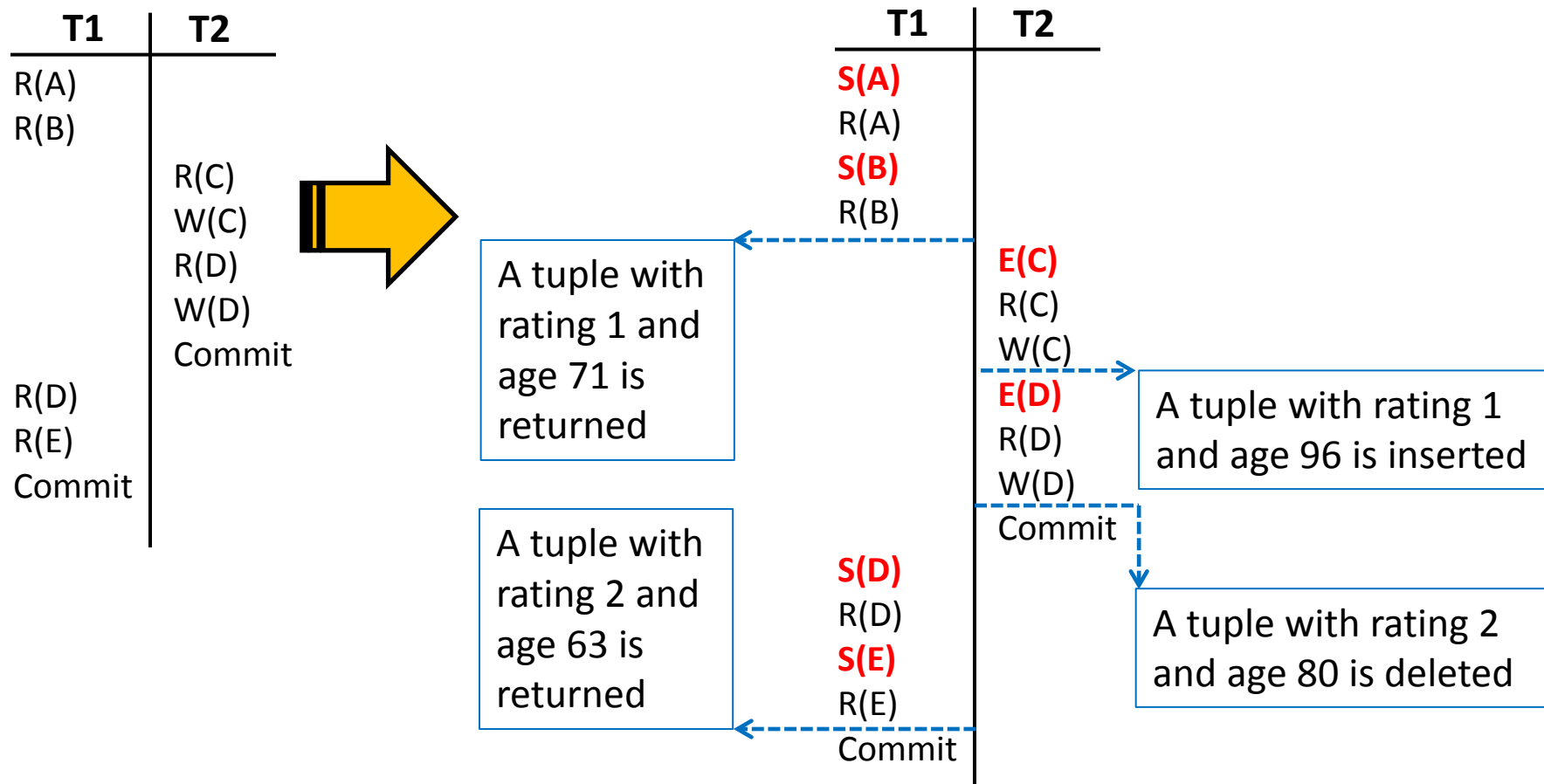
A Possible Scenario (*Cont'd*)

- We can apply strict 2PL to the given interleaved actions of **T1** and **T2** as follows (**S** = Shared; **X** = Exclusive):



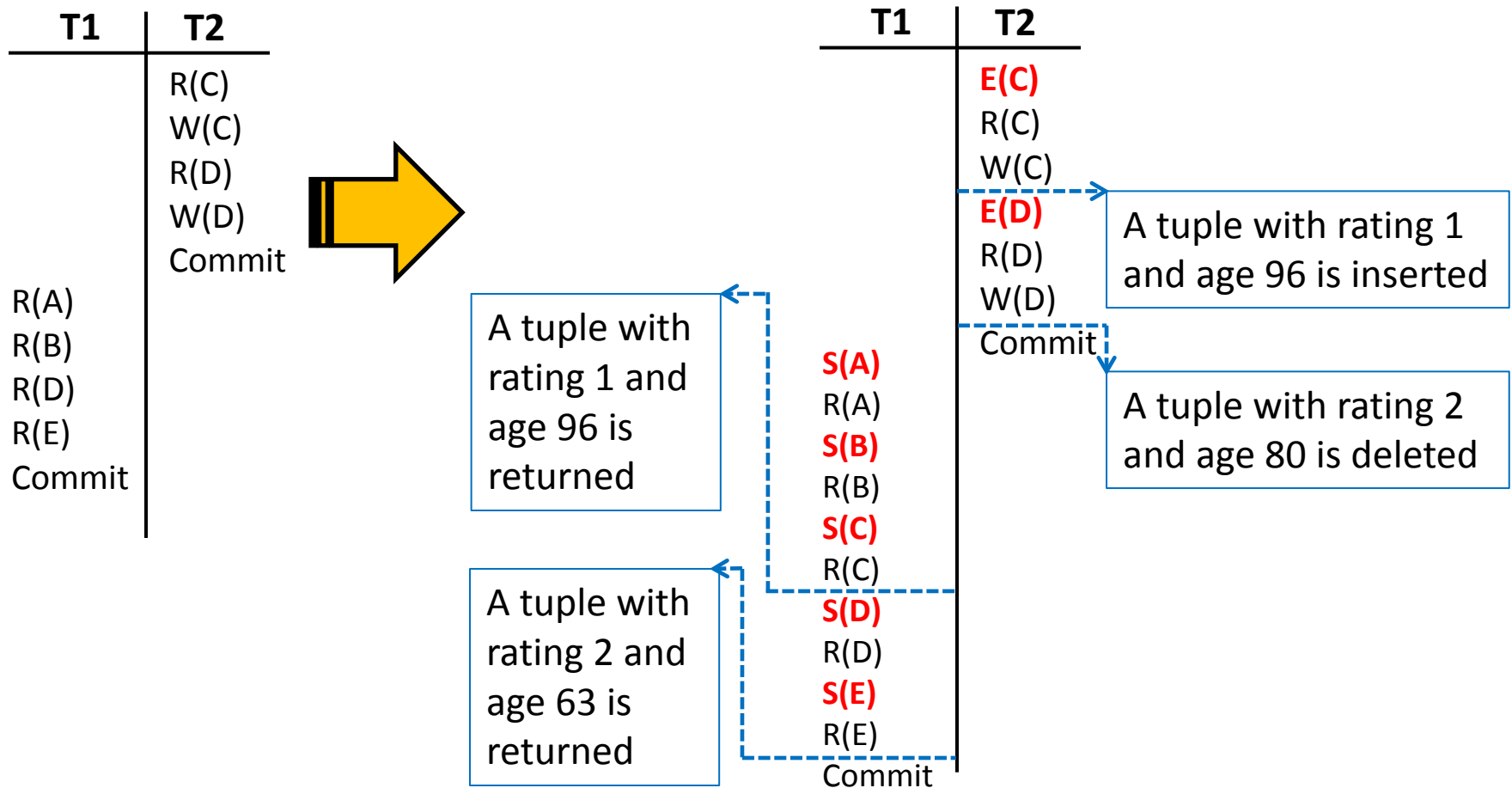
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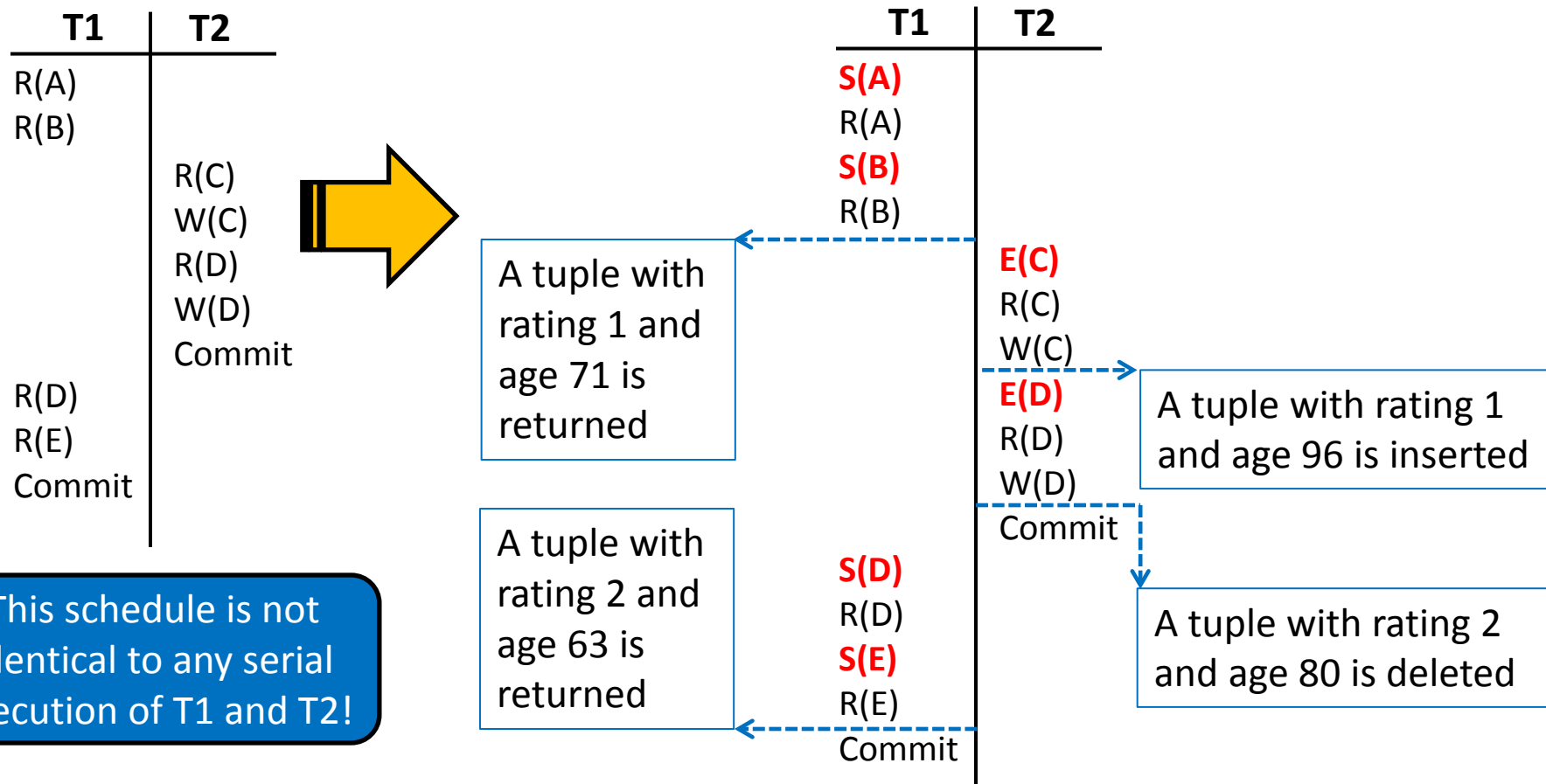
A Possible Scenario (*Cont'd*)

- Another possible serial execution of T1 and T2 is as follows (**S** = Shared; **X** = Exclusive):



A Possible Scenario: *Revisit*

- We can apply strict 2PL to the given interleaved actions of **T1** and **T2** as follows (**S** = Shared; **X** = Exclusive):



The Phantom Problem

- The problem is that ***T1*** assumes that it has locked “all” the pages which contain Sailors records with rating 1
- This assumption is violated when ***T2*** inserts a new Sailor record with rating 1 on a *different* page
- Hence, locking pages at any given time does not prevent new *phantom* records from being added on other pages!
 - This is commonly known as the “*Phantom Problem*”
- The Phantom Problem is caused, not because of a flaw in the Strict 2PL protocol, but because of ***T1***'s unrealistic assumptions

How Can We Solve the Phantom Problem?

- If there is *no index* on rating and all pages in Sailors must be scanned, **T1** should somehow ensure that no *new* pages are inserted to the Sailors relation
 - This has to do with the *locking granularity*
- If there is an *index* on rating, **T1** can lock the index entries and the data pages which involve the targeted ratings, and accordingly prevent new insertions
 - This technique is known as *index locking*

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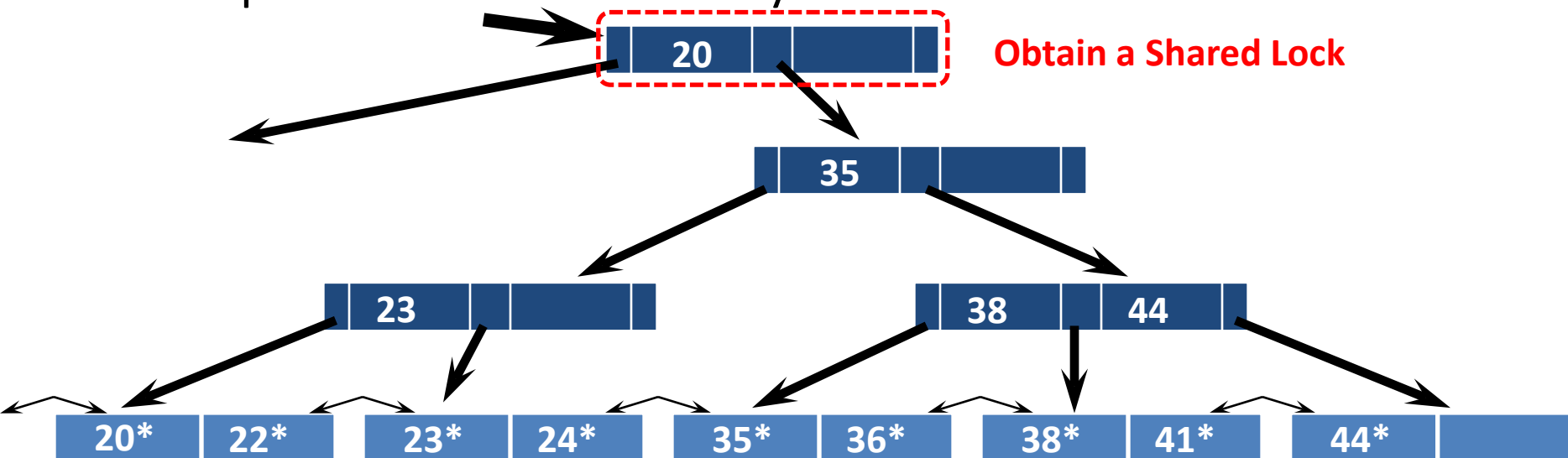


Concurrency Control in B+ Trees

- We focus on applying concurrency control on B+ trees for:
 - Searches
 - Insertions/deletions
- *Three* observations provide the necessary insights to apply a locking protocol for B+ trees:
 1. The higher levels of a B+ tree only direct searches
 2. Searches never go back up a B+ tree when they proceed along paths to desired leafs
 3. Insertions/deletions can cause splits/merges, which might propagate all the way up, from leafs to the root of a B+ tree

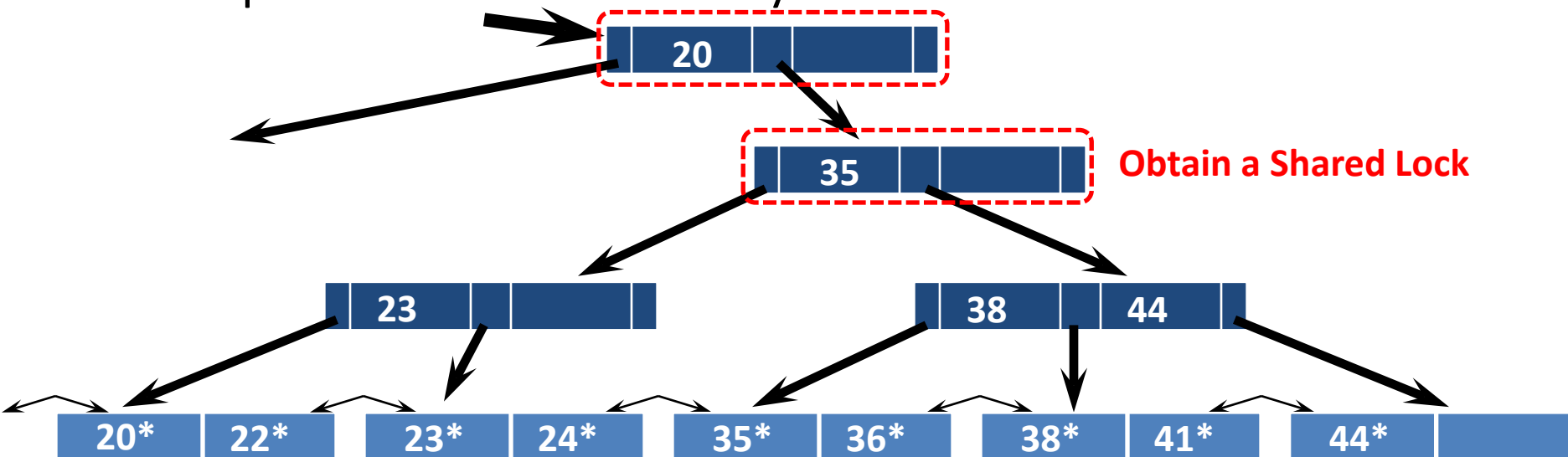
A Locking Strategy for Searches

- A search should obtain Shared locks on nodes, starting at the root and proceeding along the path to the desired leaf
- Since searches never go back up the tree, a lock on a node can be released as soon as a lock on a child node is obtained
- Example: Search for data entry 38*



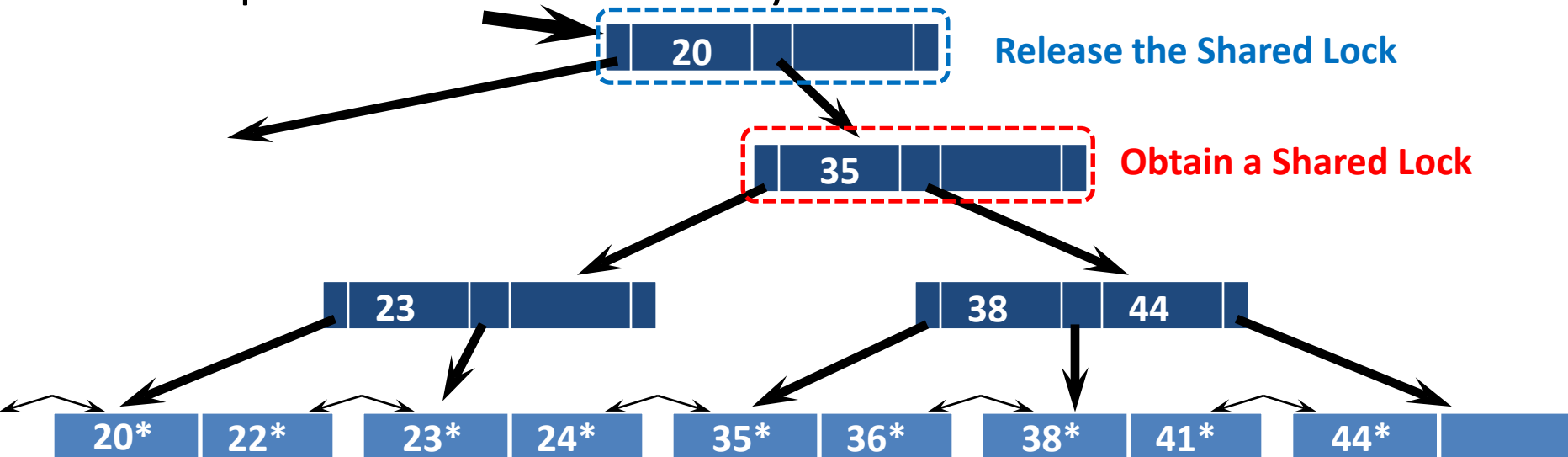
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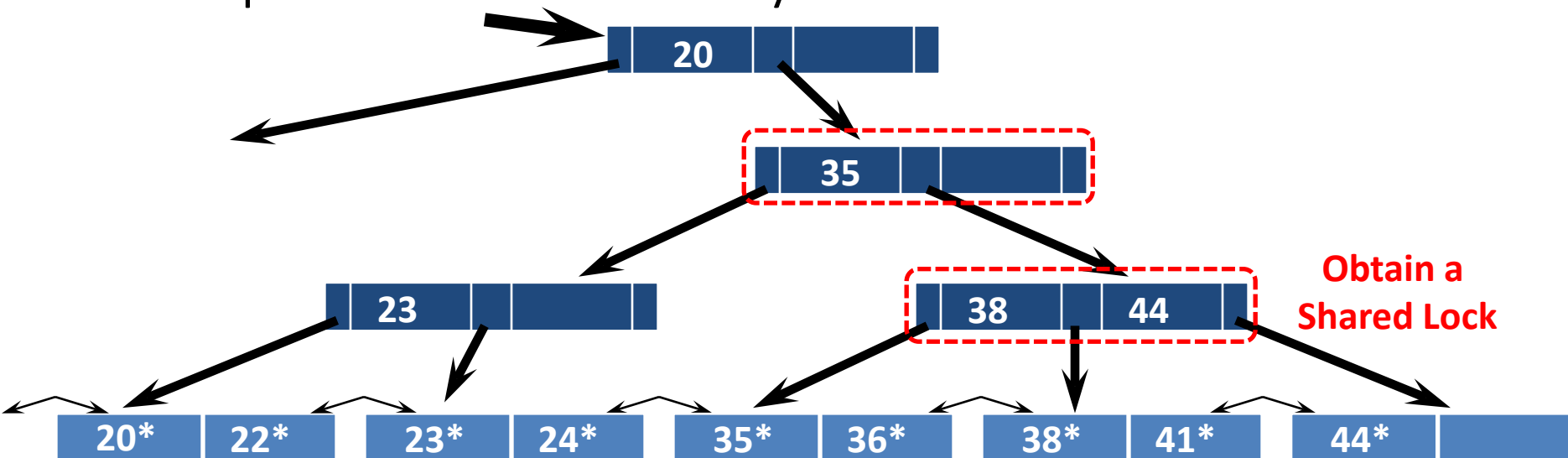
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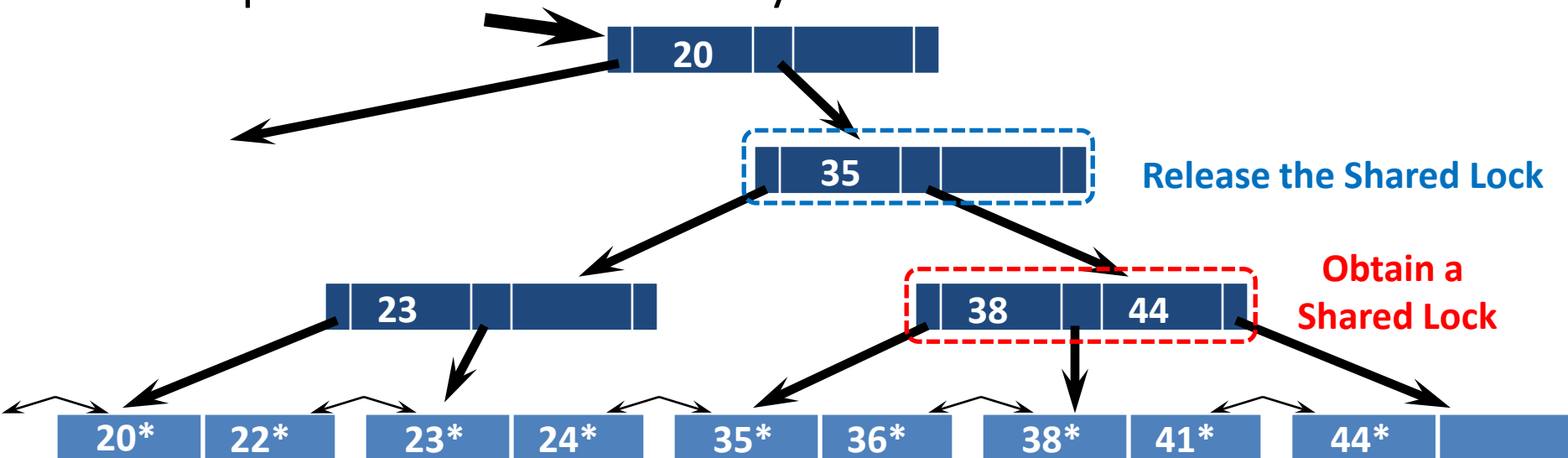
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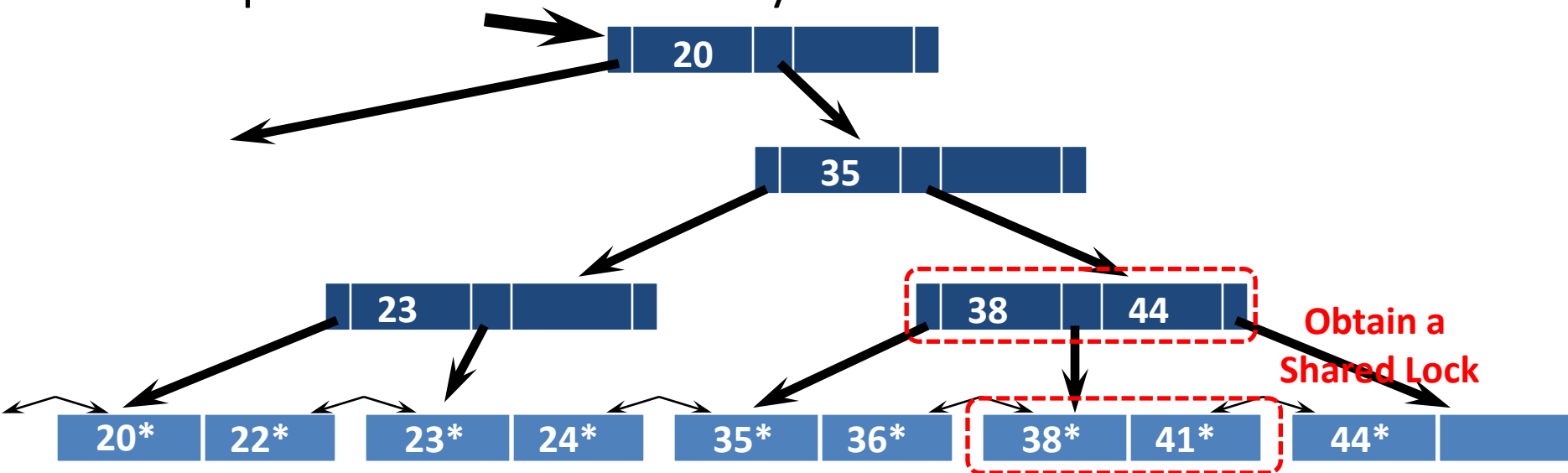
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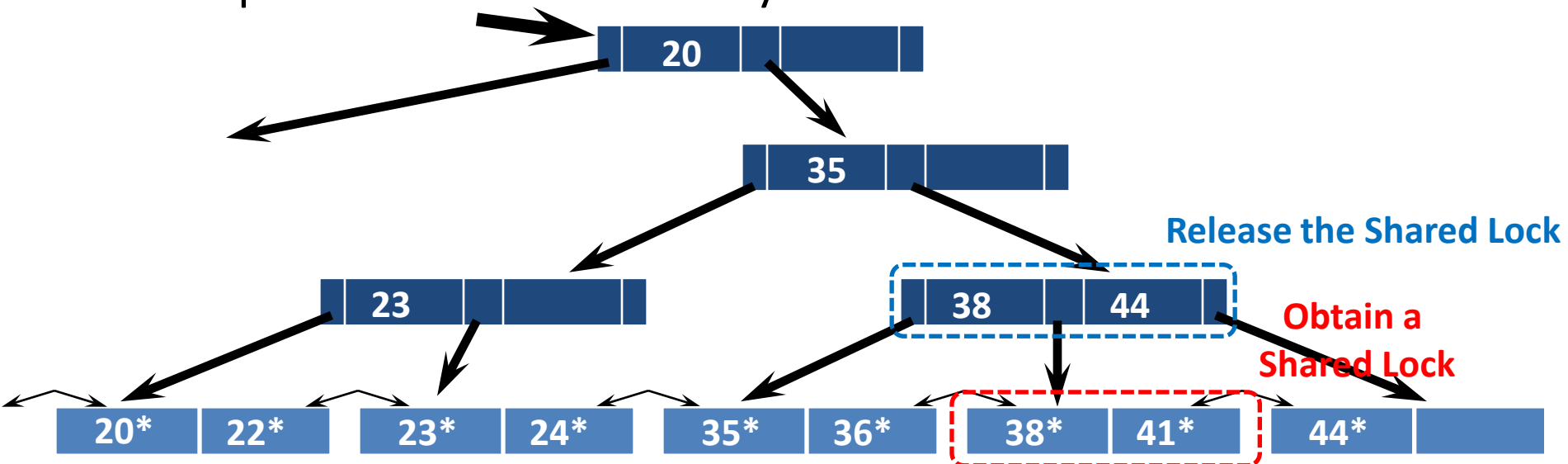
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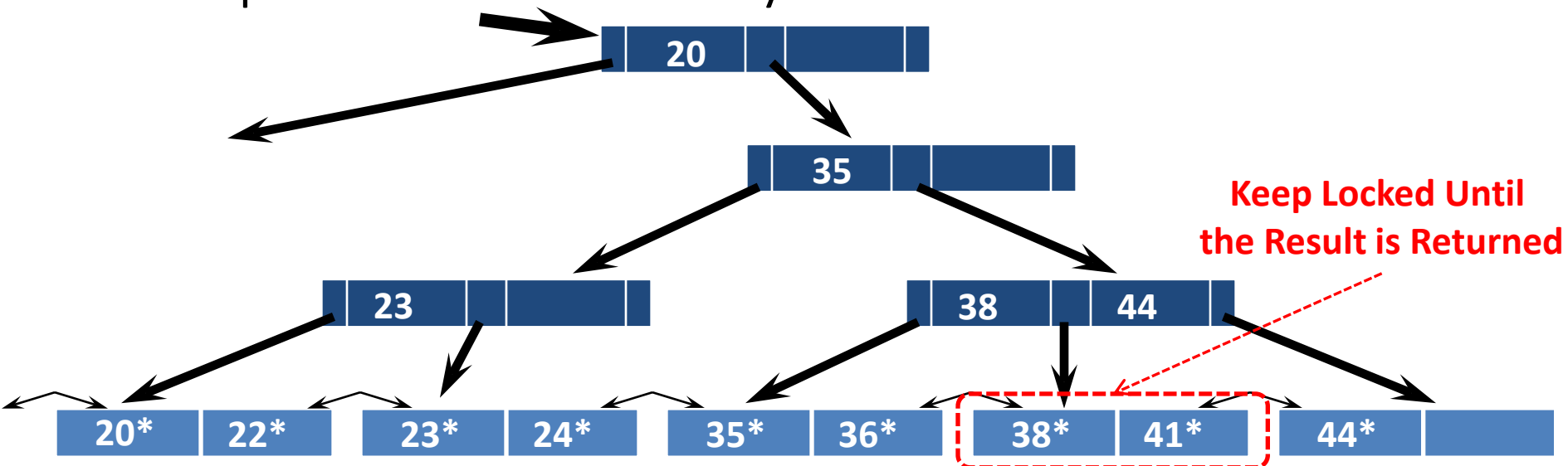
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Towards A Locking Strategy for Insertions/Deletions

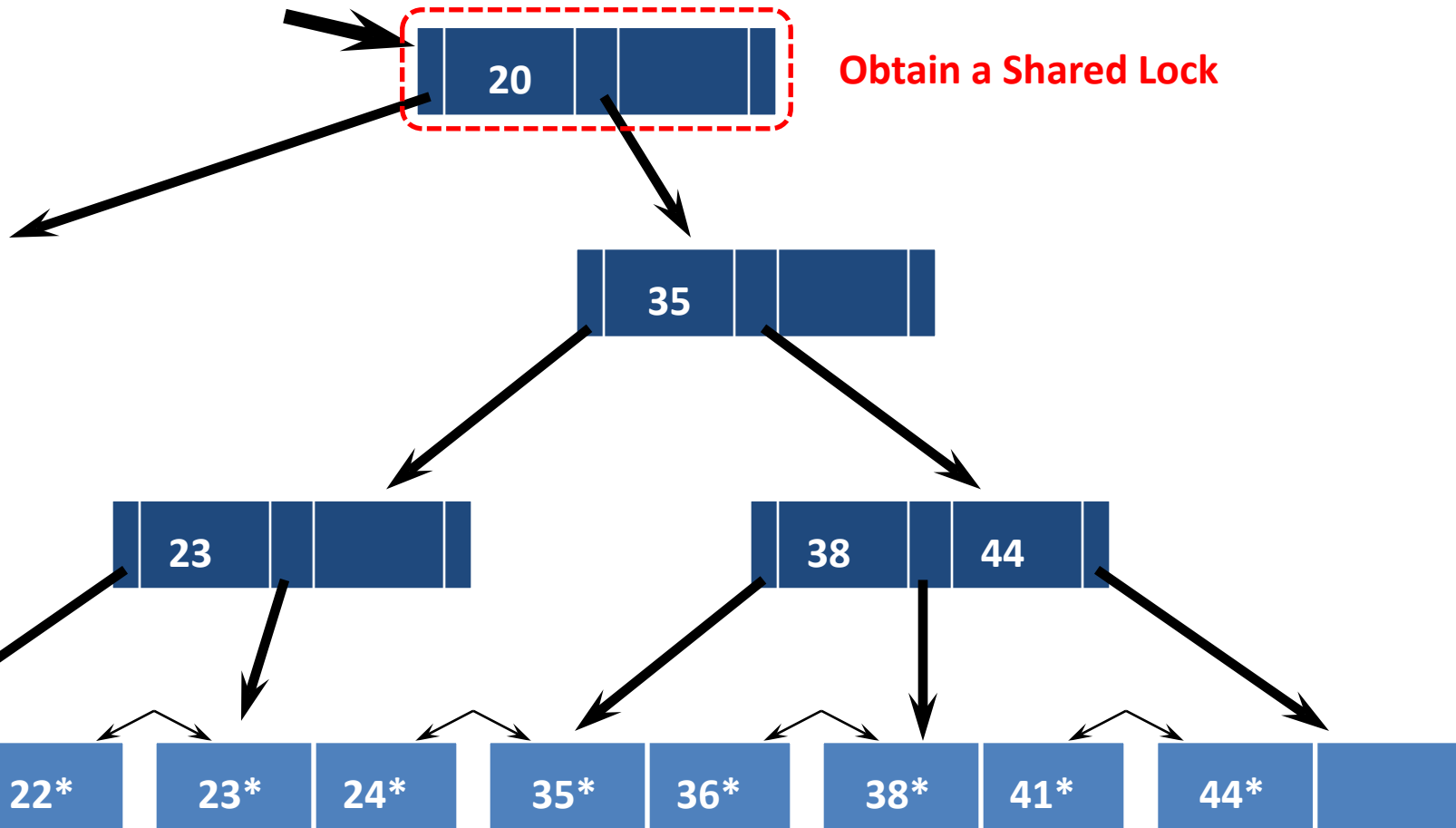
- A conservative strategy for an insertion/deletion would be to obtain Exclusive locks on all the nodes along the path to the desired leaf
 - This is because splits/merges can propagate all the way up to the root
- However, once a child is locked, its lock will be needed only if a split/merge propagates back to it
- When won't a split propagate back to a node?
 - When the node's child is *not full*
- When won't a merge propagate back to a node?
 - When the node's child is *more than half-empty*

Lock-Coupling: A Locking Strategy for Insertions/Deletions (Cont'd)

- A strategy, known as *lock-coupling*, for insertions/deletions can be pursued as follows:
 - Start at the root and go down, obtaining Shared locks as needed (an Exclusive lock is only obtained for the desired leaf node)
 - Once a child is locked, check if it is safe
 - If the child is safe, release all locks on ancestors
- A node is safe when changes will not propagate up beyond it
 - A safe node for an insertion is the one that is not full
 - A safe node for a deletion is the one that is more than half-empty

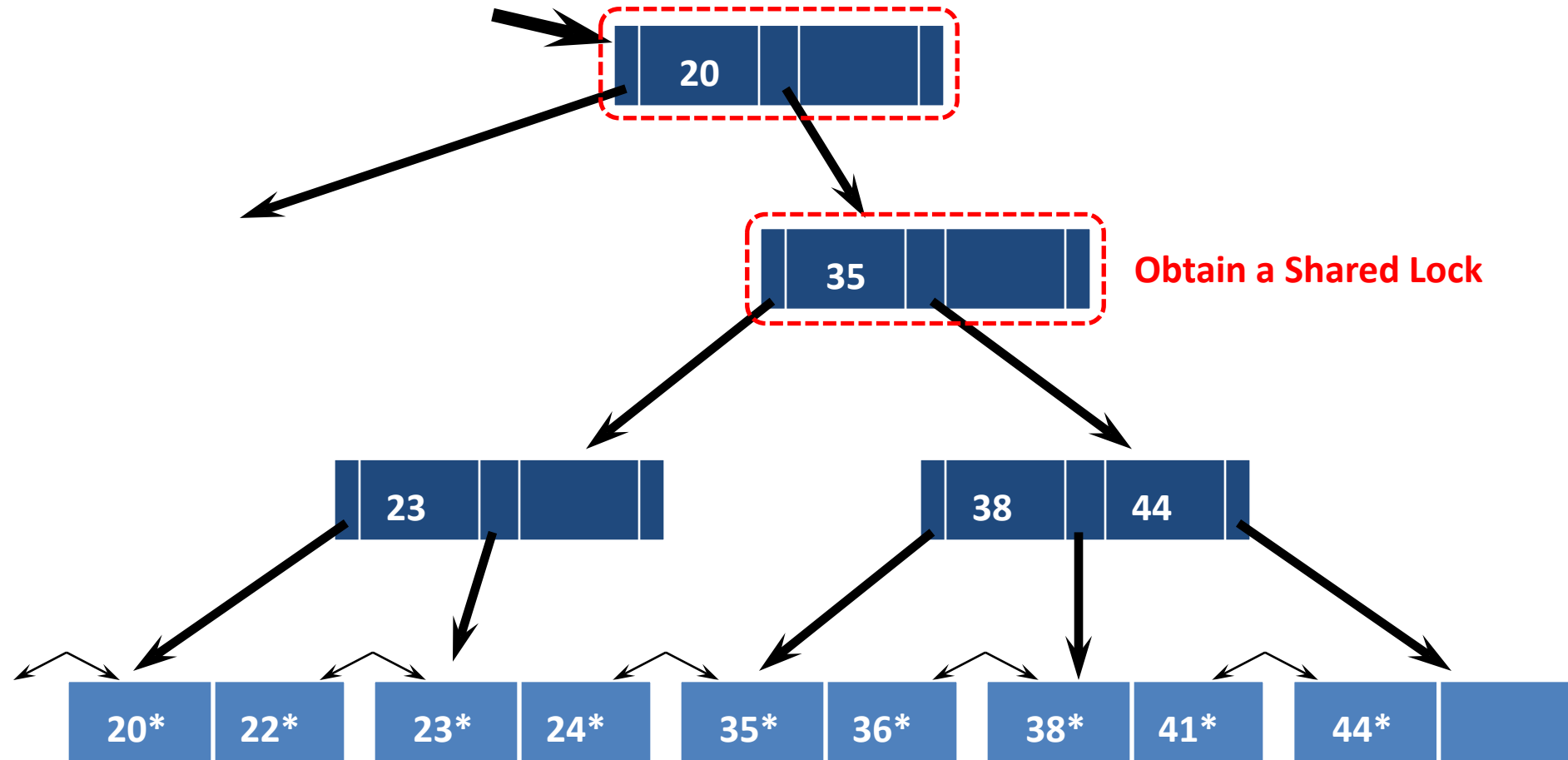
Lock-Coupling: An Example

- Insert data entry **45***:



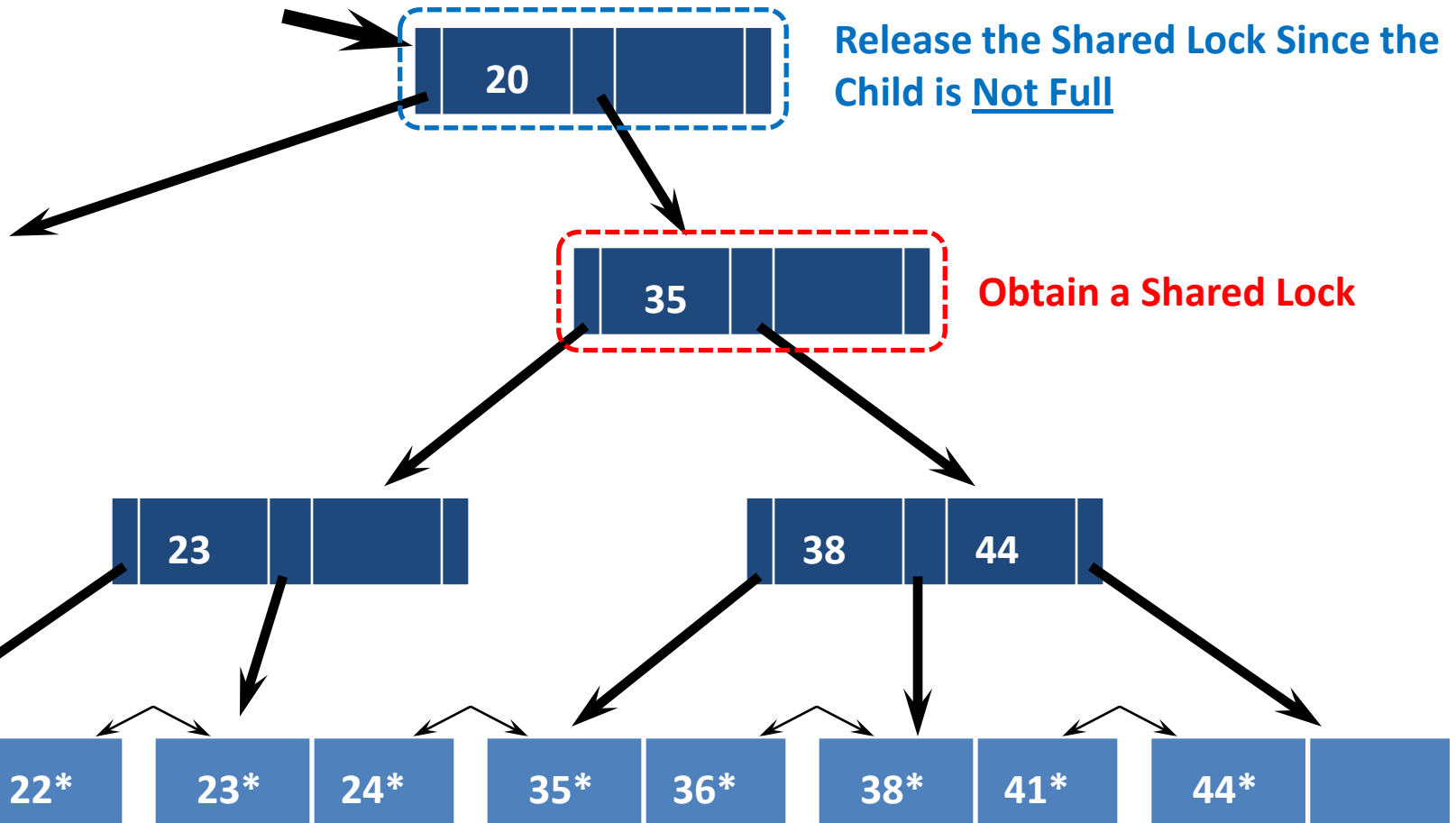
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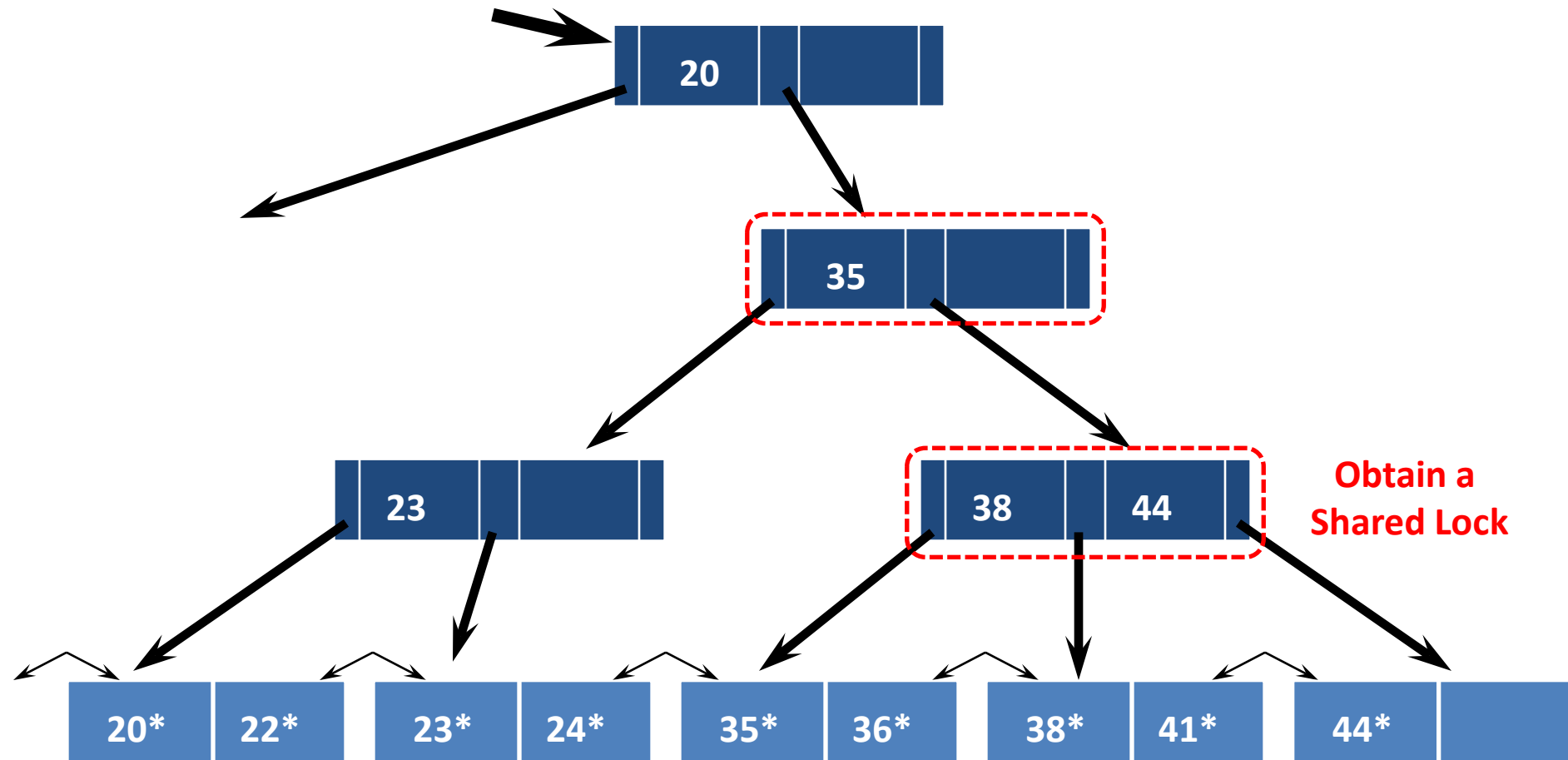
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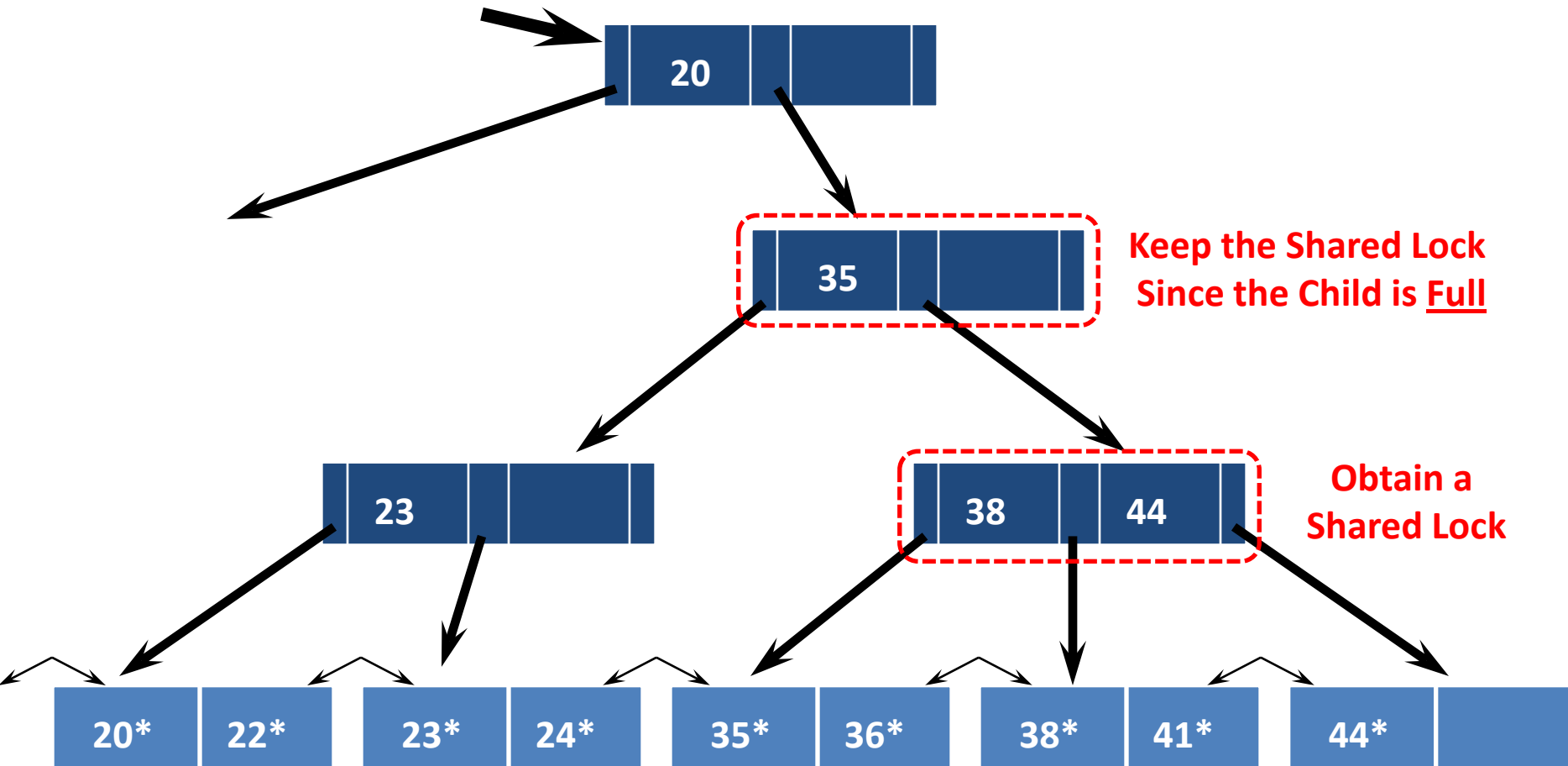
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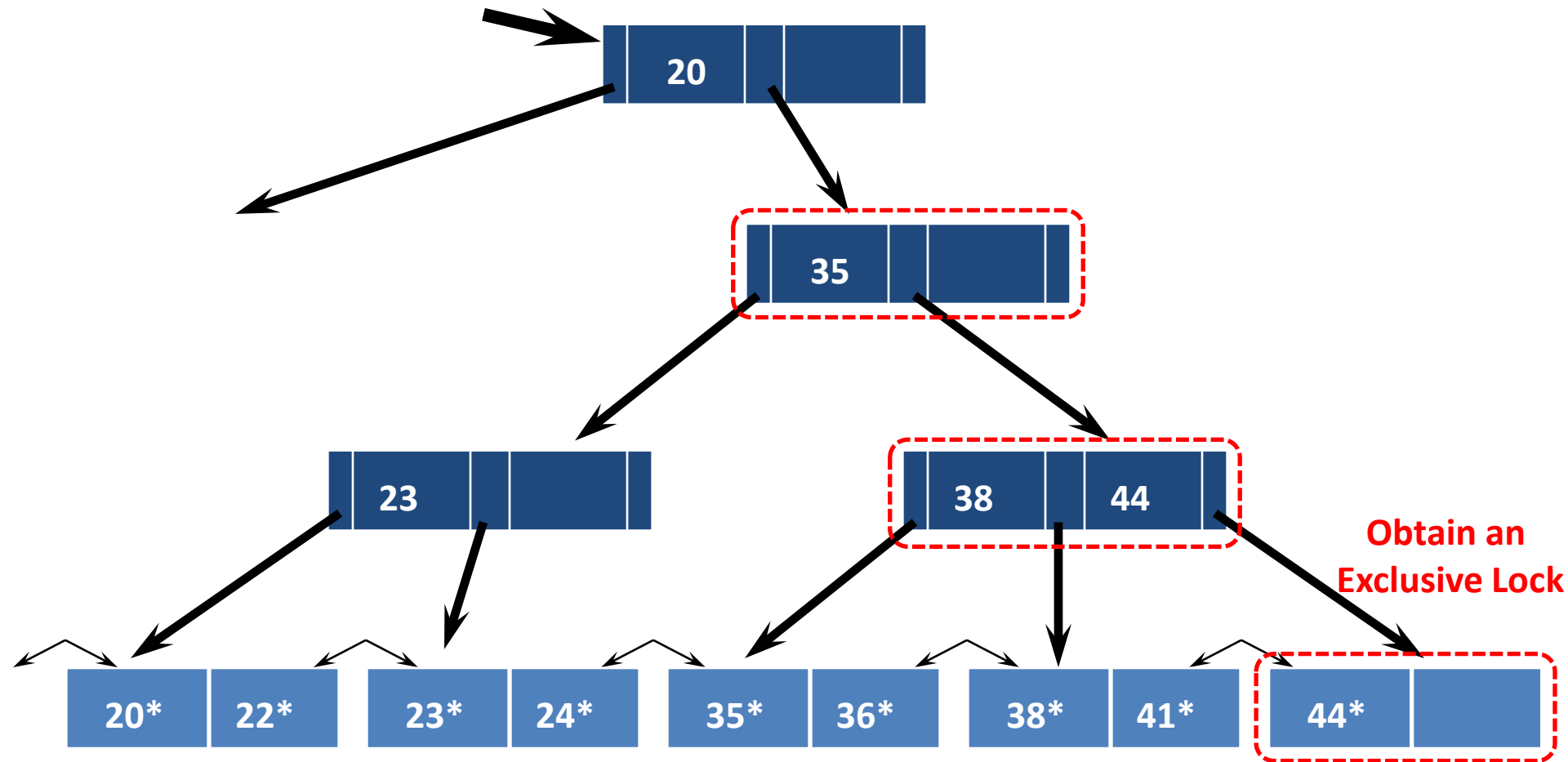
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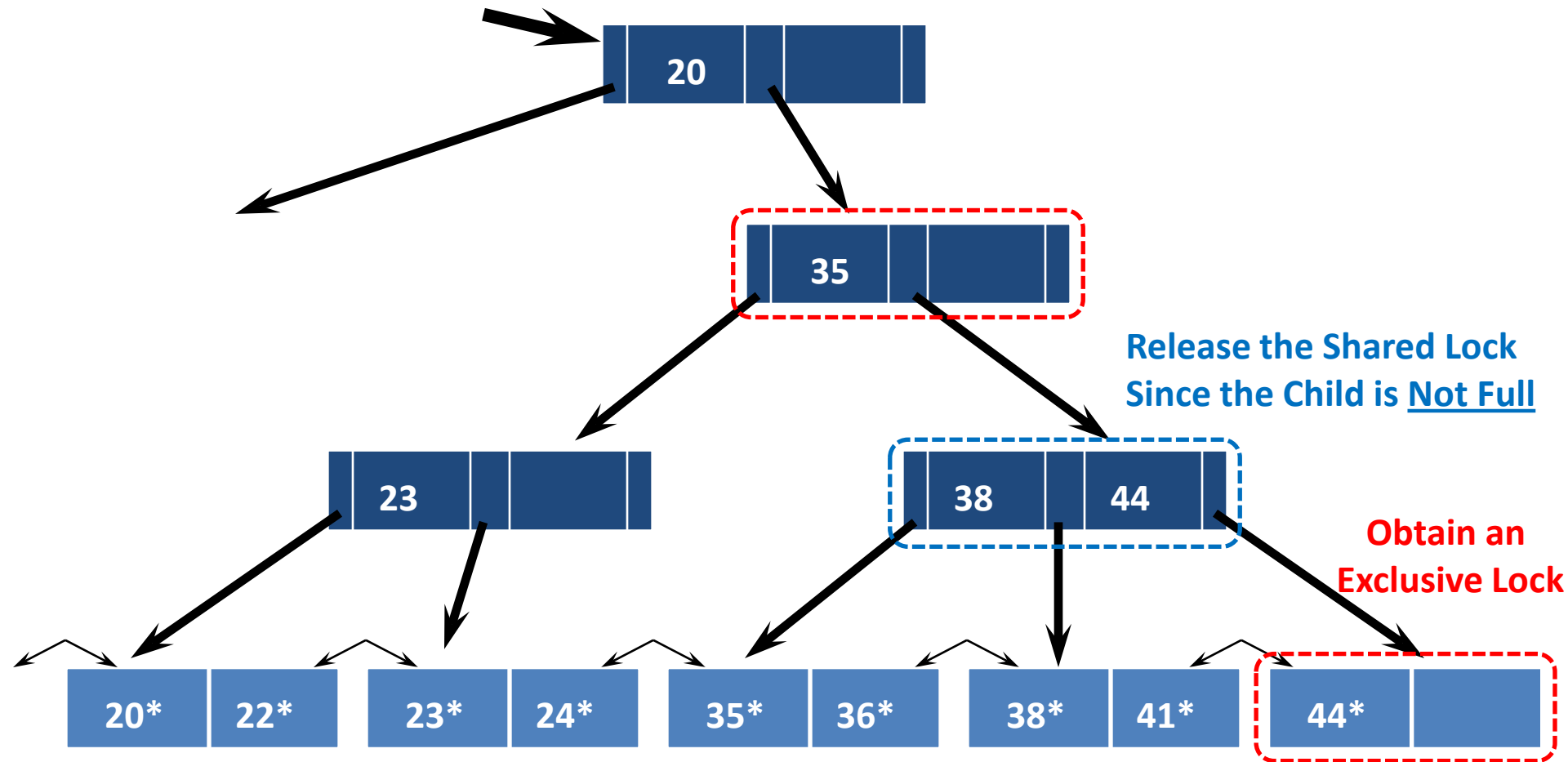
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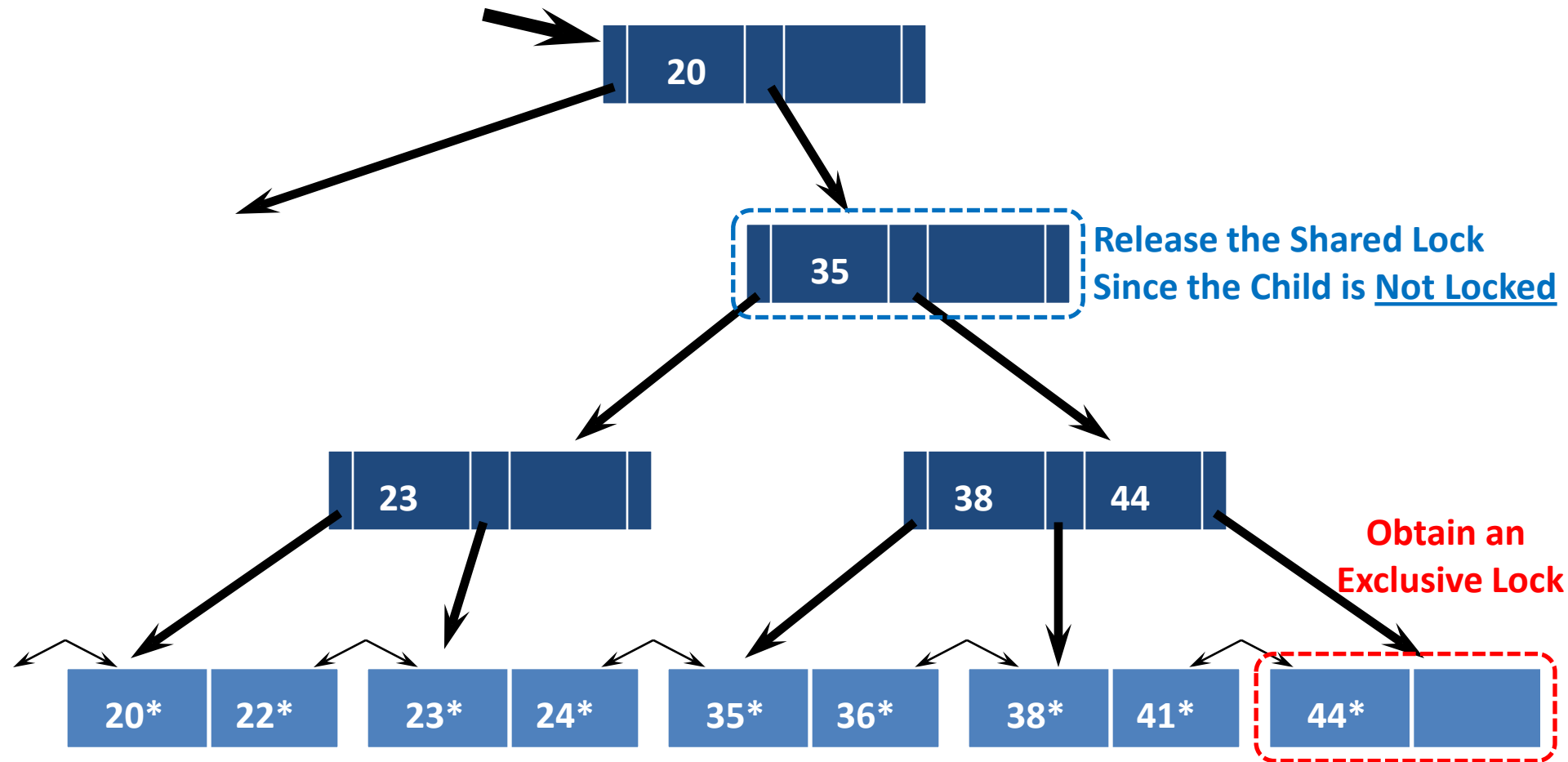
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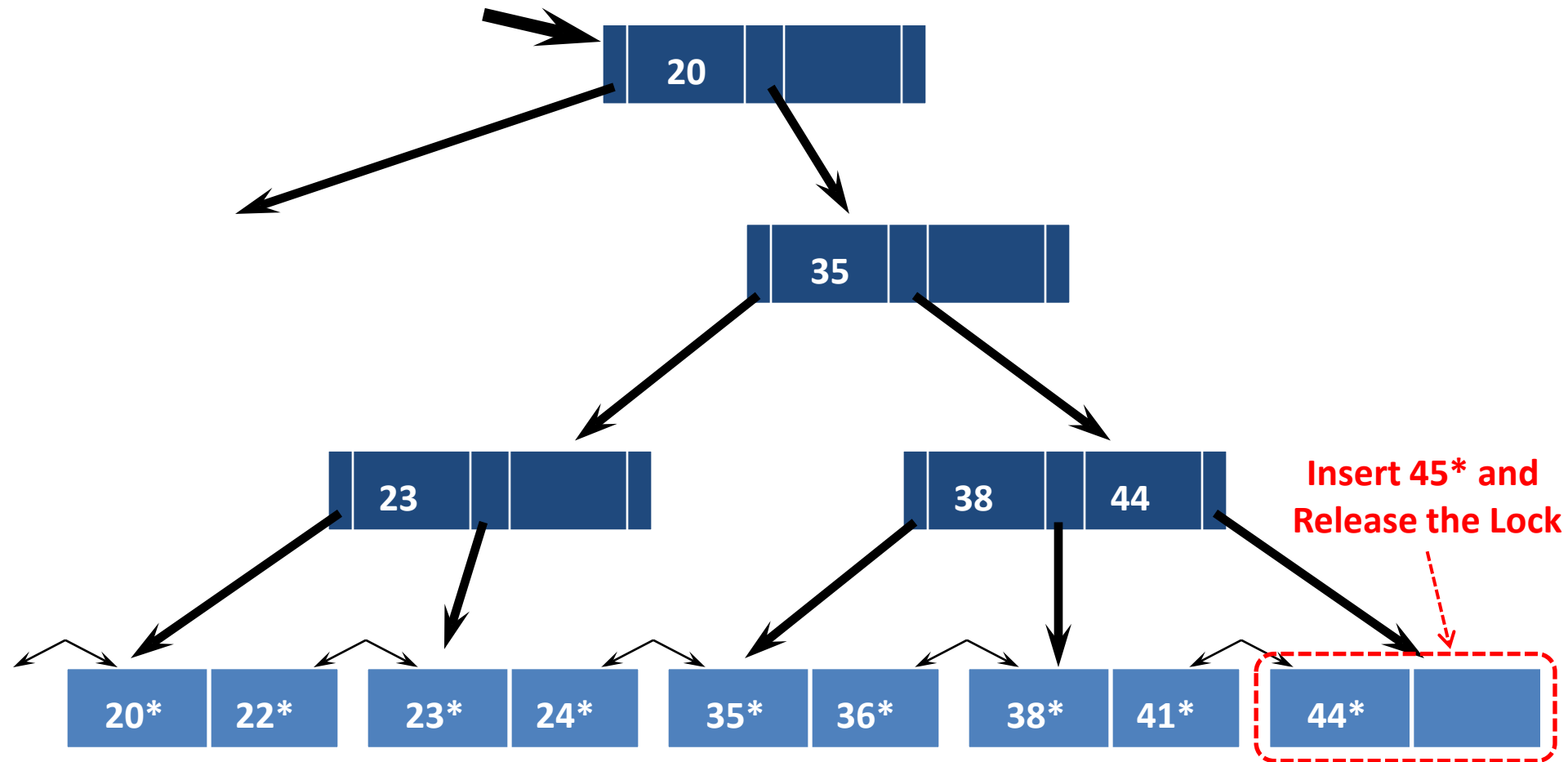
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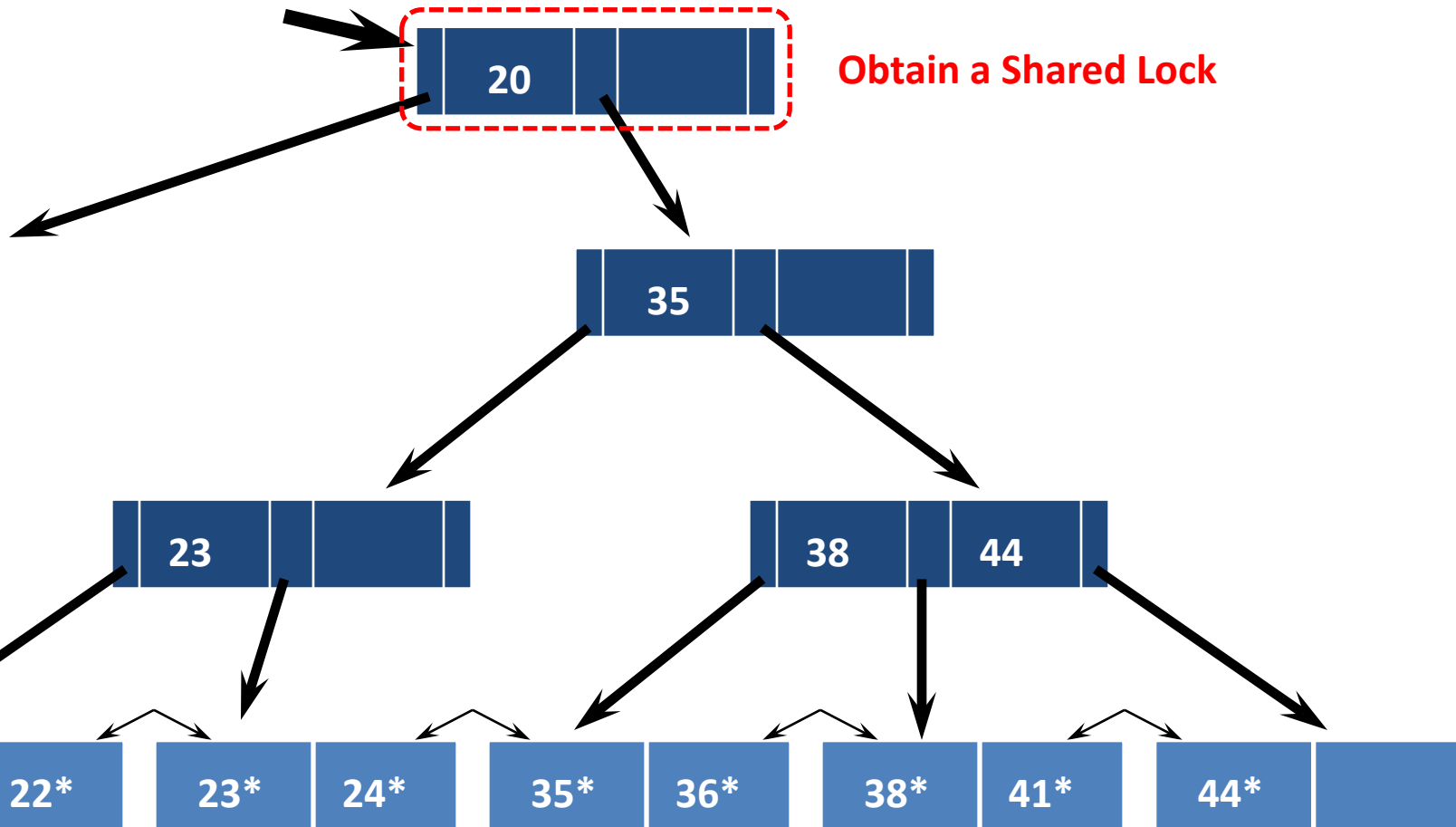
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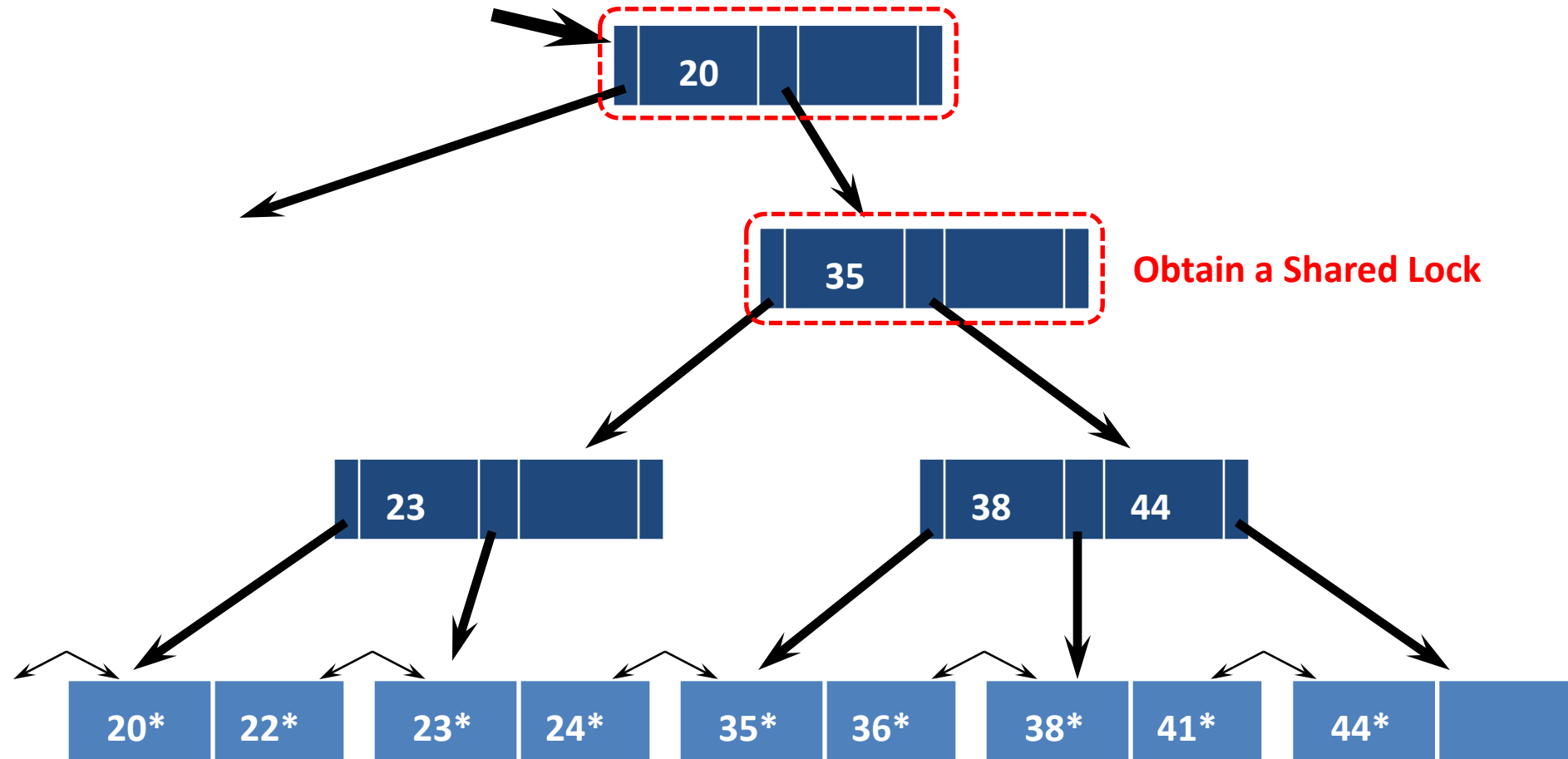
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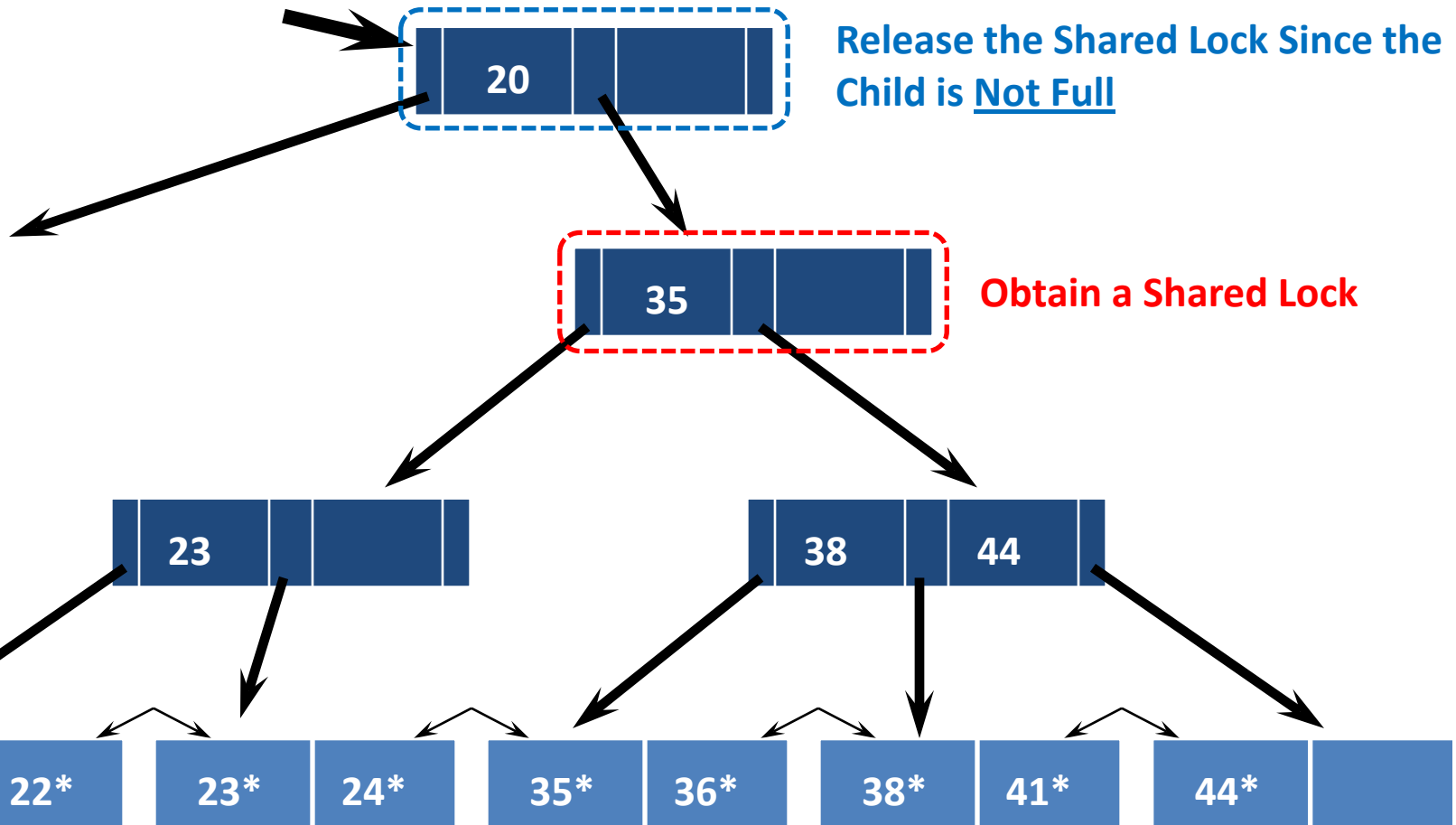
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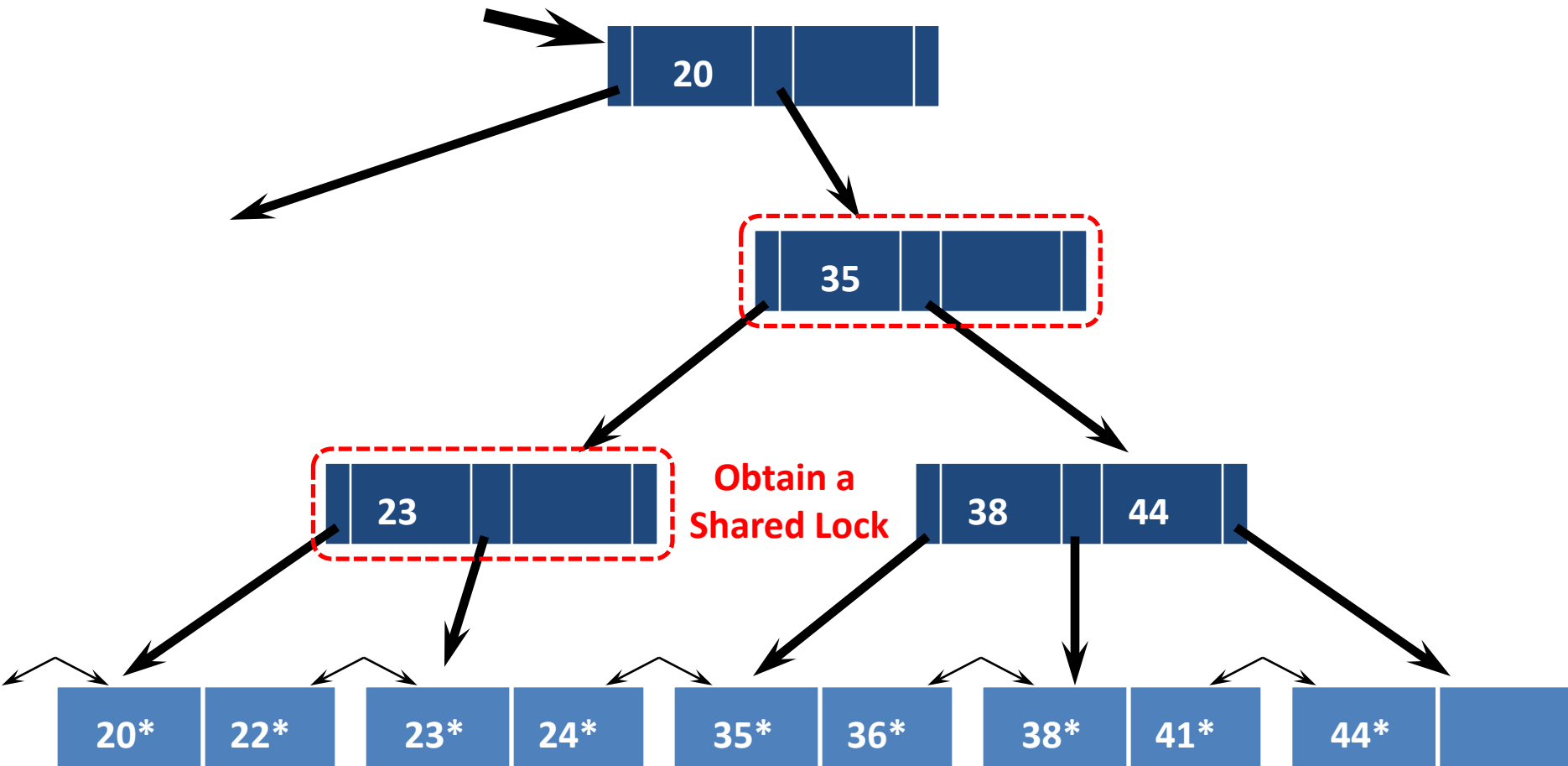
Lock-Coupling: Another Example

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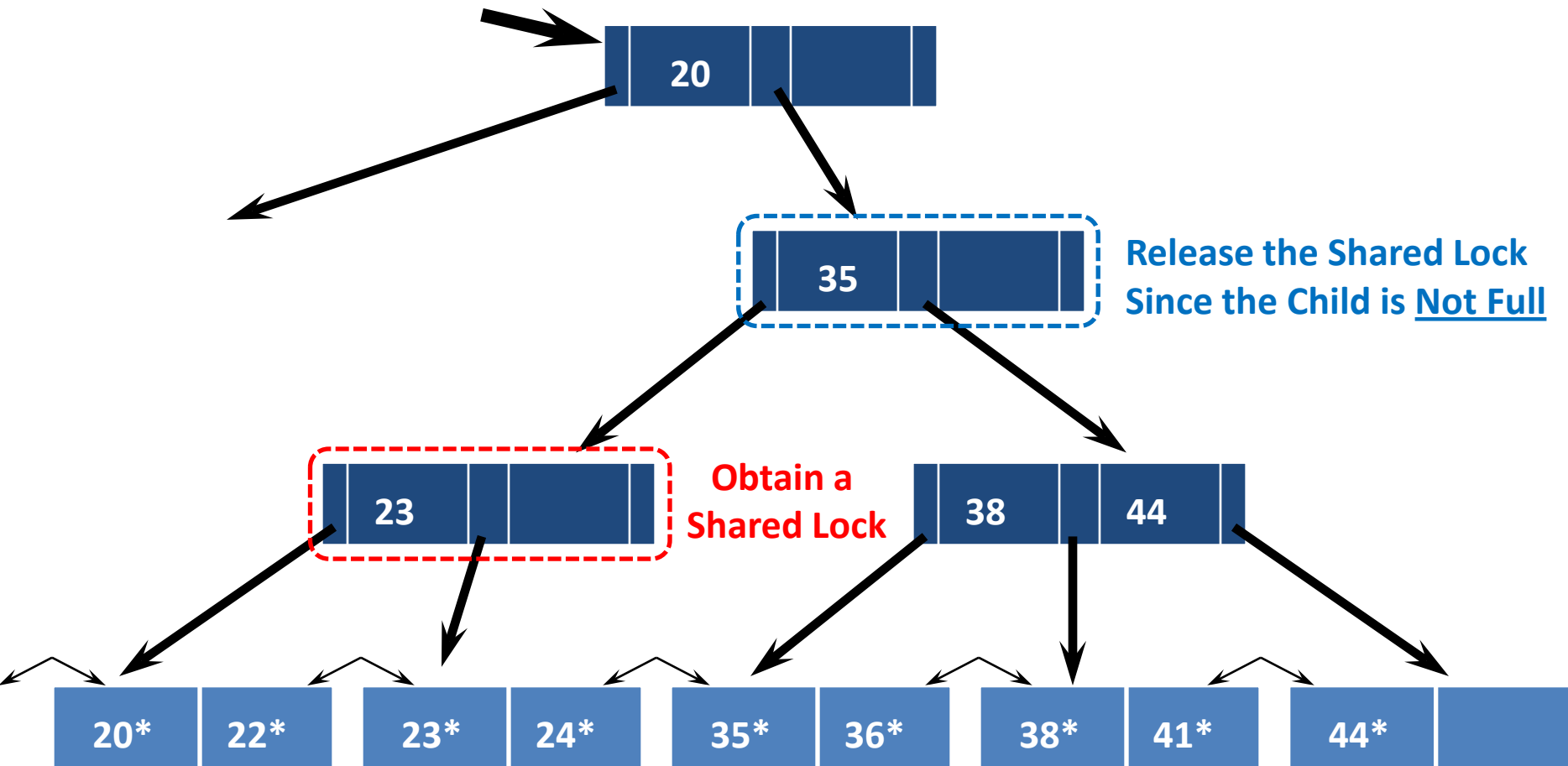
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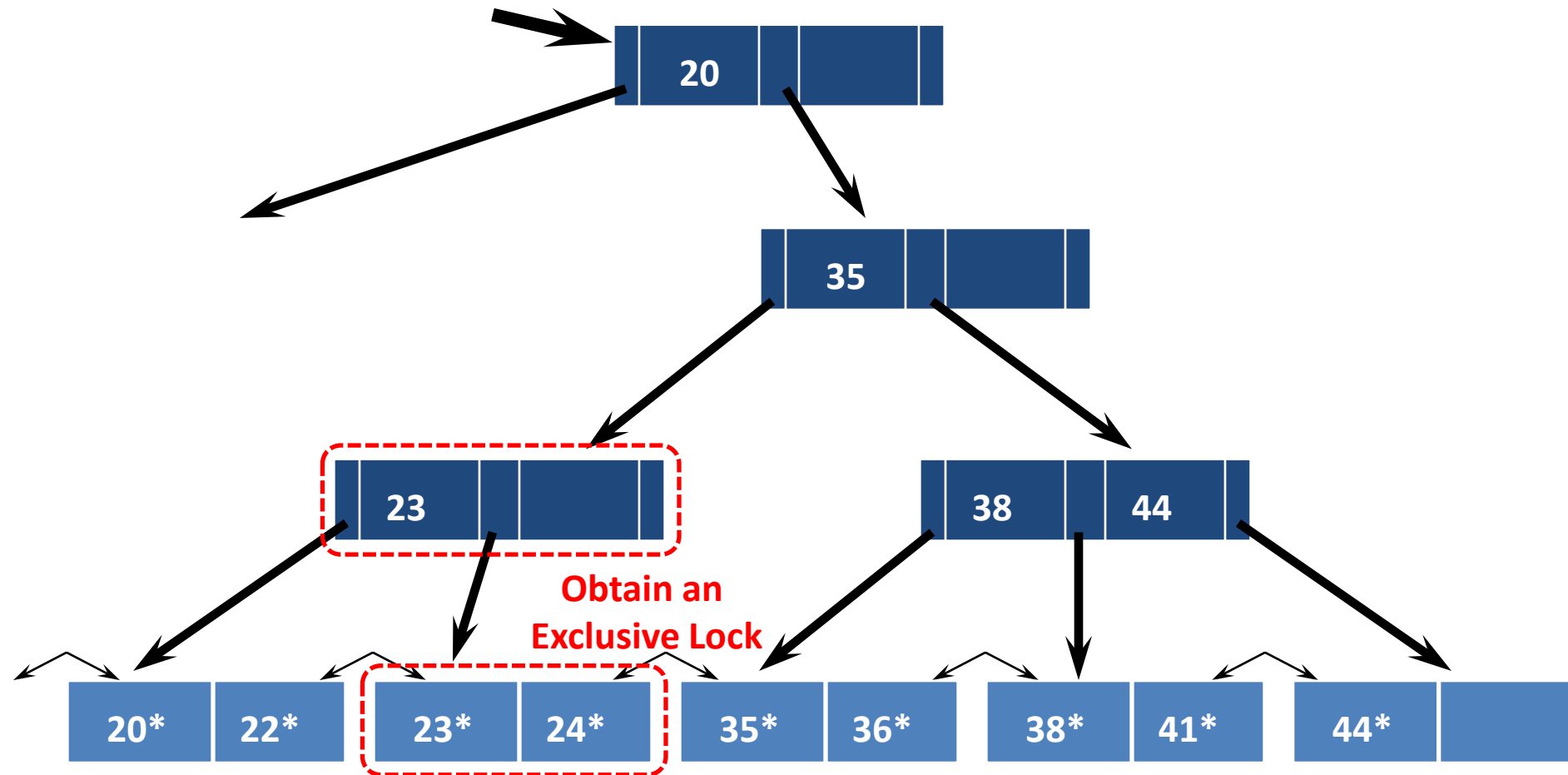
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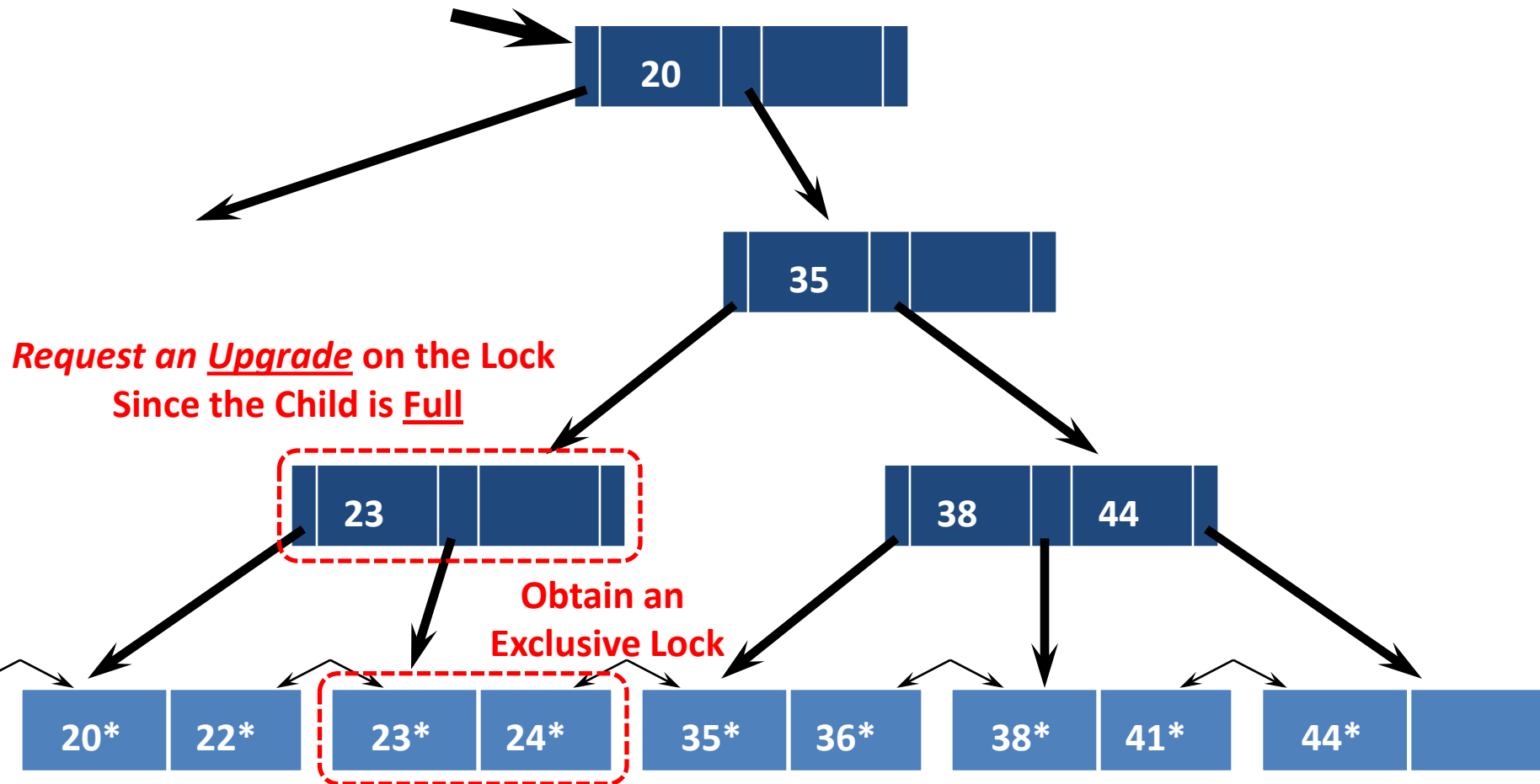
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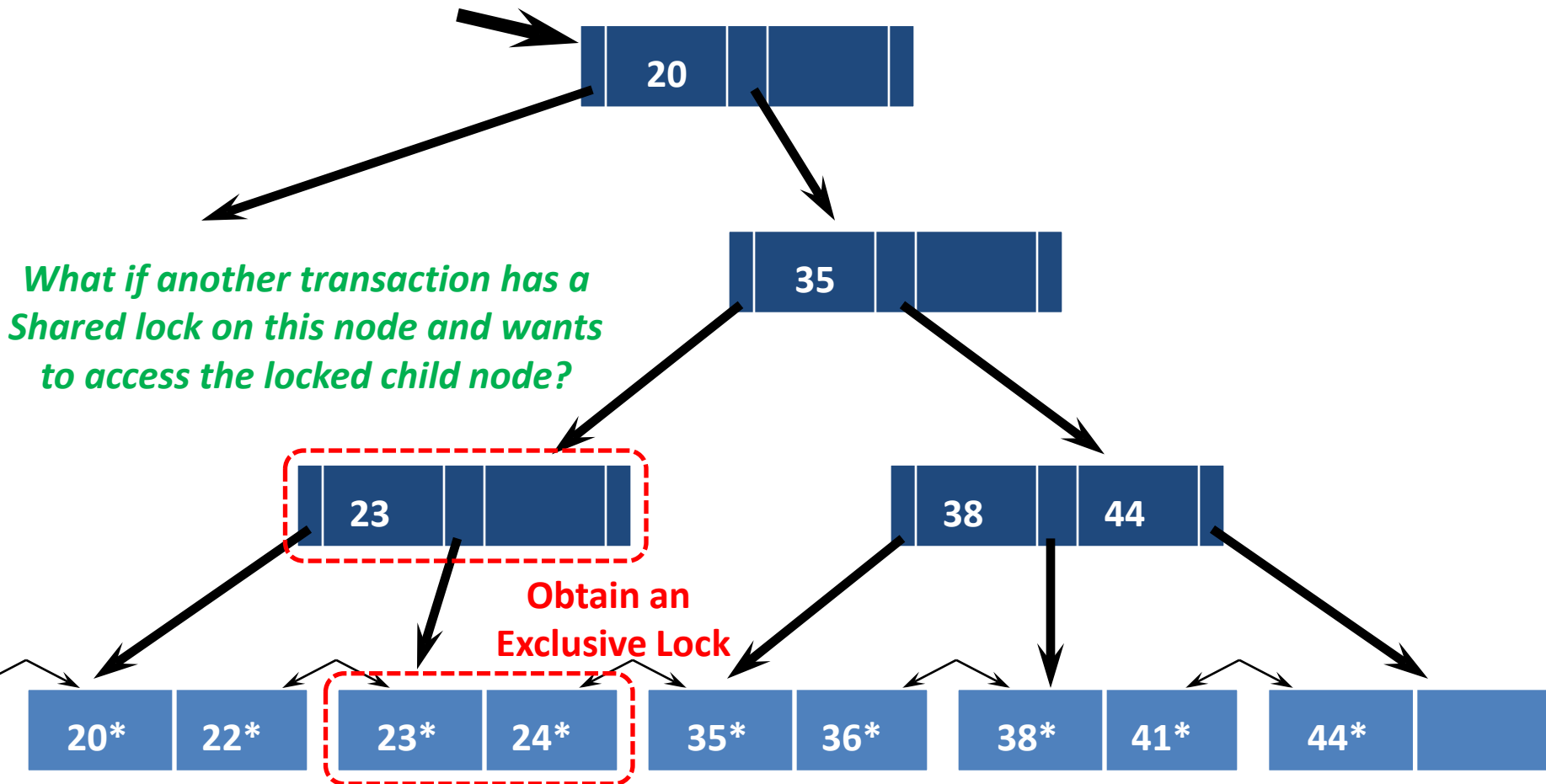
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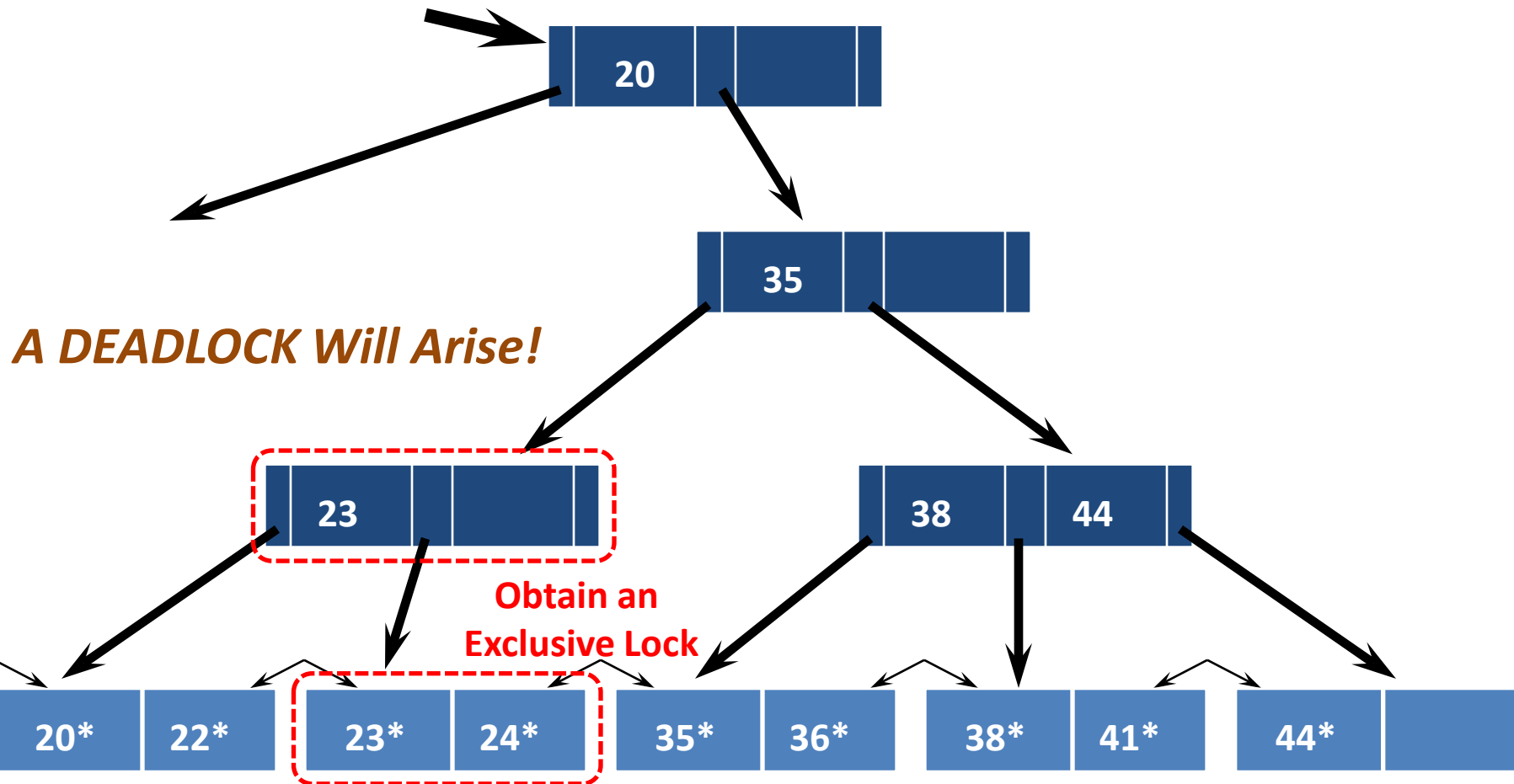
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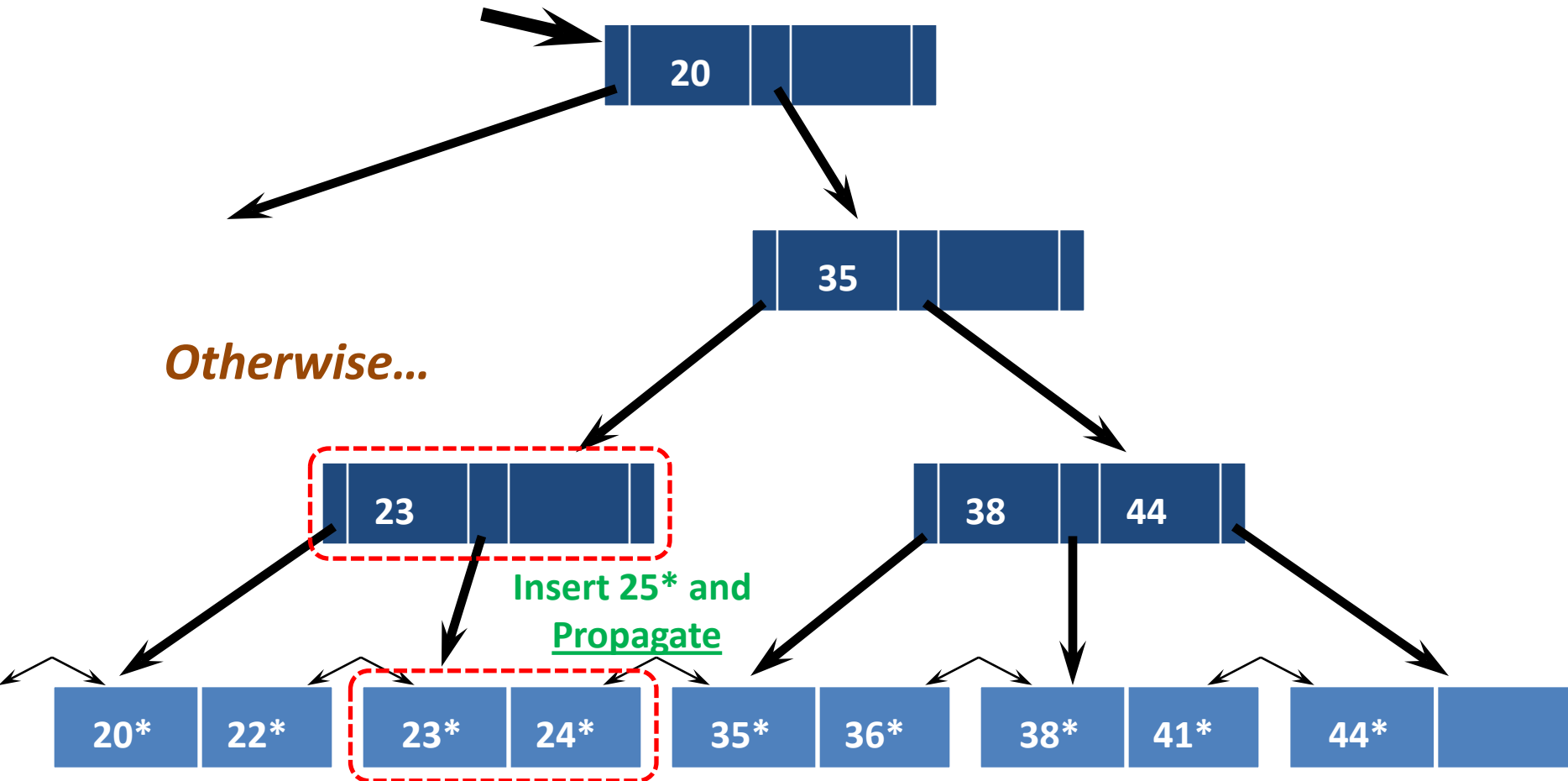
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Next Class

