

# 1474. Longest ZigZag Path in a Binary Tree

## Difficulty : Medium

<https://leetcode.com/problems/longest-zigzag-path-in-a-binary-tree>

You are given the `root` of a binary tree.

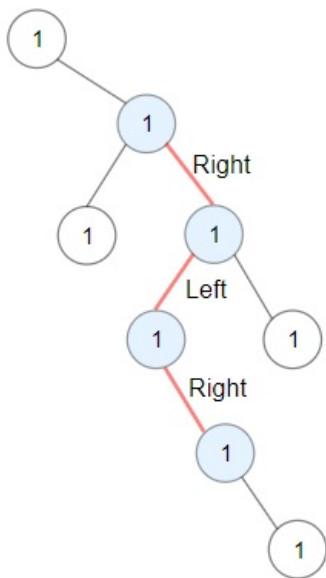
A ZigZag path for a binary tree is defined as follow:

- Choose **any** node in the binary tree and a direction (right or left).
- If the current direction is right, move to the right child of the current node; otherwise, move to the left child.
- Change the direction from right to left or from left to right.
- Repeat the second and third steps until you can't move in the tree.

Zigzag length is defined as the number of nodes visited - 1. (A single node has a length of 0).

Return *the longest **ZigZag** path contained in that tree.*

### Example 1:

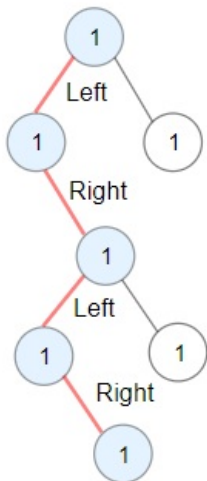


**Input:** `root = [1,null,1,1,1,null,null,1,1,null,1,null,null,null,1]`

**Output:** 3

**Explanation:** Longest ZigZag path in blue nodes (right -> left -> right).

### Example 2:



**Input:** `root = [1,1,1,null,1,null,null,1,1,null,1]`

**Output:** 4

**Explanation:** Longest ZigZag path in blue nodes (left -> right -> left -> right).

### Example 3:

**Input:** `root = [1]`

**Output:** `0`

### Constraints:

- The number of nodes in the tree is in the range  $[1, 5 \cdot 10^4]$ .
- $1 \leq \text{Node.val} \leq 100$