

Construct binary tree from preorder & inorder traversal

```
def buildTree(pre, in):
    if not pre or not in:
        return None
    root_val = pre[0]
    root = TreeNode(root_val)
    root_idx = in.index(root_val)
    root.left = buildTree(pre[1:root_idx+1], in[:root_idx])
    root.right = buildTree(pre[root_idx+1:], in[root_idx+1:])
    return root
```

Validate binary search tree (check if it's a BST)

```
def isBST(root):
    def validate(node, low, high):
        if not node:
            return True
        if not (low < node.val < high):
            return False
        return (validate(node.left, low, node.val) and
                validate(node.right, node.val, high))
    return validate(root, float('-inf'), float('inf'))
```

kth smallest element in a BST

```
def kthSmallest(root, k):
    stack = []
    while True:
        while root:
            stack.append(root)
            root = root.left
        root = stack.pop()
        k -= 1
```

```
        if k == 0:
            return root.val
        root = root.right
```

Lowest Common Ancestor

```
def lca(root, p, q):
    cur = root
```

```
while cur:
    if p.val > cur.val & q.val > cur.val:
        cur = cur.right
    elif p.val < cur.val & q.val < cur.val:
        cur = cur.left
    else:
        return cur
```

Implement Tree (Prefix tree)

```
class TrieNode:
    def __init__(self):
        self.children = {}
        self.isEndOfWord = False

class Trie:
    def __init__(self):
        self.root = TrieNode()
    def insert(self, word):
        node = self.root
        for char in word:
            if char not in node.children:
                node.children[char] = TrieNode()
            node = node.children[char]
        node.isEndOfWord = True
    def search(self, word):
        node = self.root
        for char in word:
            if char not in node.children:
                return False
            node = node.children[char]
        return node.isEndOfWord
    def startsWith(self, prefix):
        node = self.root
        for char in prefix:
            if char not in node.children:
                return False
            node = node.children[char]
        return True
```

Design Add & Search Words

```
Data Structure
class TrieNode:
    def __init__(self):
        self.children = {}
        self.isEndOfWord = False

class WordDictionary:
    def __init__(self):
        self.root = TrieNode()
```

```
def addWord(self, word):
    node = self.root
    for char in word:
        if char not in node.children:
            node.children[char] = TrieNode()
        node = node.children[char]
    node.isEndOfWord = True

def search(self, word):
    def dfs(node, i):
        if i == len(word):
            return node.isEndOfWord
        char = word[i]
        if char == '.':
            for child in node.children.values():
                if dfs(child, i+1):
                    return True
            return False
        else:
            if char not in node.children:
                return False
            return dfs(node.children[char], i+1)
    return dfs(self.root, 0)
```

Dynamic Programming (DP)

coin change (min. coins to make amt)

```
def coinChange(coins, amt):
    dp = [float('inf')] * (amt+1)
    dp[0] = 0
    for i in range(1, amt+1):
        for coin in coins:
            if i - coin >= 0:
                dp[i] = min(dp[i], dp[i-coin]+1)
    return dp[amt] if dp[amt] != float('inf') else -1
```

climbing stairs (nbr. ways using 1 or 2 steps)

```
def climbStairs(n):
    dp = [0] * (n+1)
    dp[0], dp[1] = 1, 1
    for i in range(2, n+1):
        dp[i] = dp[i-1] + dp[i-2]
    return dp[n]
```

Length of Longest increasing sub-sequence

```
def lengthOfLIS(nums):
    cnt = len(nums)
    dp = [1] * cnt
    dp[0] = 1
    for i in range(cnt):
        for j in range(i):
            if nums[j] < nums[i]:
                dp[i] = max(dp[i], dp[j]+1)
    return max(dp)
```

Longest common subsequence of 2 strings

```
def lcs(a, b):
    cnta = len(a)
    cntb = len(b)
    dp = [0] * (cntb+1) for i in range(cnta+1)
    for i in range(1, cnta+1):
        for j in range(1, cntb+1):
            if a[i-1] == b[j-1]:
                dp[i][j] = max(dp[i][j], 1 + dp[i-1][j-1])
            else:
                dp[i][j] = max(dp[i-1][j], dp[i][j-1])
    return max(max(dp) for dp in dp)
```

Word break problem

```
def wordBreak(s, wordList):
    wordSet = set(wordList)
    dp = [False] * (len(s)+1)
    dp[0] = True
    for i in range(1, len(s)+1):
        for j in range(i):
            if dp[j] and s[j:i] in wordSet:
                dp[i] = True
                break
    return dp[-1]
```

Combination sum

```
def combinationSum(candidates, target):
    result = []
    def backtrack(remaining, combination, start):
        if remaining == 0:
            result.append(list(combination))
            return
        for i in range(start, len(candidates)):
            if candidates[i] > remaining:
                continue
            combination.append(candidates[i])
            backtrack(remaining - candidates[i], combination, i)
```