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Find Merge Point of Two Lists

by [harsha_s](#)

Problem

Submissions

Leaderboard

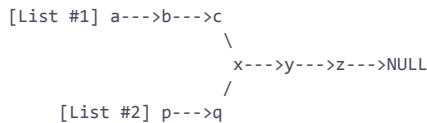
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Editorial

This challenge is part of a tutorial track by [MyCodeSchool](#)

Given pointers to the head nodes of **2** linked lists that merge together at some point, find the Node where the two lists merge. It is guaranteed that the two head Nodes will be different, and neither will be NULL.

In the diagram below, the two lists converge at Node **x**:



Complete the `int FindMergeNode(Node* headA, Node* headB)` method so that it finds and returns the data value of the Node where the two lists merge.

Input Format

The `FindMergeNode(Node*, Node*)` method has two parameters, **headA** and **headB**, which are the non-null head Nodes of two separate linked lists that are guaranteed to converge.

Do not read any input from stdin/console.

Output Format

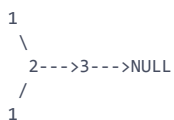
Each Node has a data field containing an integer; return the integer data for the Node where the two lists converge.

Do not write any output to stdout/console.

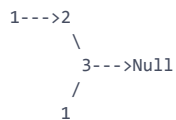
Sample Input

The diagrams below are graphical representations of the lists that input Nodes **headA** and **headB** are connected to. Recall that this is a method-only challenge; the method only has initial visibility to those **2** Nodes and must explore the rest of the Nodes using some algorithm of your own design.

Test Case 0



Test Case 1



Sample Output

```
2
3
```

Explanation

Test Case 0: As demonstrated in the diagram above, the merge Node's data field contains the integer **2** (so our method should return **2**).

Test Case 1: As demonstrated in the diagram above, the merge Node's data field contains the integer **3** (so our method should return **3**).

Easy

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Python 3



```
1 """
2 Find the node at which both lists merge and return the data of that node.
3 head could be None as well for empty list
4 Node is defined as
5
6 class Node(object):
7
8     def __init__(self, data=None, next_node=None):
9         self.data = data
10        self.next = next_node
11
12
13 """
14
15 def FindMergeNode(headA, headB):
16     temp1=headA
17     temp2=headB
18     size1=0
19     size2=0
```

```
20 ▾ while(temp1):
21     size1+=1
22     temp1=temp1.next
23 ▾ while(temp2):
24     size2+=1
25     temp2=temp2.next
26 ▾ if size1>size2:
27     left=size1-size2
28 ▾ while(left!=0):
29     headA=headA.next
30     left-=1
31 ▾ if size2>size1:
32     left=size2-size1
33 ▾ while(left!=0):
34     headB=headB.next
35     left-=1
36 ▾ while(headA and headB):
37 ▾     if headA.data==headB.data:
38         return headA.data
39 ▾     else:
40         headA=headA.next
41         headB=headB.next
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
```

Line: 41 Col: 29

 Upload Code as File☐ Test against custom input

Run Code

Submit Code

Testcase 0 **Congratulations, you passed the sample test case.**Click the **Submit Code** button to run your code against all the test cases.**Input (stdin)**

1

Your Output (stdout)3
3
7**Expected Output**3
3
7