

LeetCode

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July LeetCode Challenge 2021

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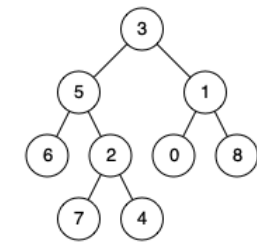
236. Lowest Common Ancestor of a Binary Tree

Medium 6611 220 Add to List Share

Given a binary tree, find the lowest common ancestor (LCA) of two given nodes in the tree.

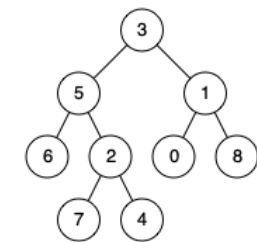
According to the definition of LCA on Wikipedia: "The lowest common ancestor is defined between two nodes *p* and *q* as the lowest node in *T* that has both *p* and *q* as descendants (where we allow **a node to be a descendant of itself**)."

Example 1:



Input: root = [3,5,1,6,2,0,8,null,null,7,4], p = 5, q = 1
Output: 3
Explanation: The LCA of nodes 5 and 1 is 3.

Example 2:



Input: root = [3,5,1,6,2,0,8,null,null,7,4], p = 5, q = 4
Output: 5
Explanation: The LCA of nodes 5 and 4 is 5, since a node can be a descendant of itself according to the LCA definition.

Example 3:

Input: root = [1,2], p = 1, q = 2
Output: 1

Constraints:

- The number of nodes in the tree is in the range $[2, 10^5]$.
- $-10^9 \leq \text{Node.val} \leq 10^9$
- All *Node.val* are **unique**.
- $p \neq q$
- p* and *q* will exist in the tree.

Accepted 717,495 Submissions 1,401,725

Seen this question in a real interview before?

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```
1  /**
2   * Definition for a binary tree node.
3   * public class TreeNode {
4   *     int val;
5   *     TreeNode left;
6   *     TreeNode right;
7   *     TreeNode(int x) { val = x; }
8   * }
9   */
10 class Solution {
11     public TreeNode lowestCommonAncestor(TreeNode root, TreeNode p, TreeNode q) {
12
13     }
14 }
```