

## k-th Smallest Element in a BST

difficulty: Medium

<https://leetcode.com/problems/kth-smallest-element-in-a-bst/>

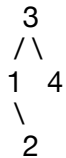
Given a binary search tree, write a function k-thSmallest to find the k-th smallest element in it.

Note:

You may assume k is always valid,  $1 \leq k \leq$  BST's total elements.

### Example 1:

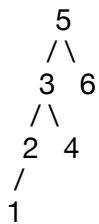
**Input:** root = [3, 1, 4, null, 2], k = 1



**Output:** 1

### Example 2:

**Input:** root = [5, 3, 6, 2, 4, null, null, 1], k = 3



**Output:** 3

### Follow up:

What if the BST is modified (insert/delete operations) often and you need to find the k-th smallest frequently? How would you optimize the k-thSmallest routine?

### Constraints:

- The number of elements of the BST is between 1 to  $10^4$
- You may assume  $k$  is always valid,  $1 \leq k \leq$  BST's total elements.