

# 1650. Lowest Common Ancestor of a Binary Tree

III Premium

Medium Topics Companies Hint

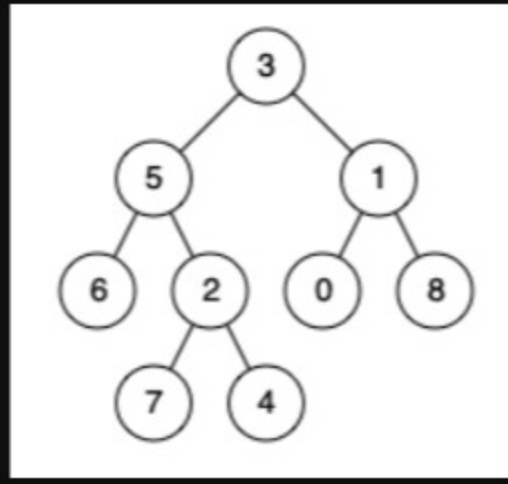
Given two nodes of a binary tree `p` and `q`, return *their lowest common ancestor (LCA)*.

Each node will have a reference to its parent node. The definition for `Node` is below:

```
class Node {
    public int val;
    public Node left;
    public Node right;
    public Node parent;
}
```

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

## Example 1:

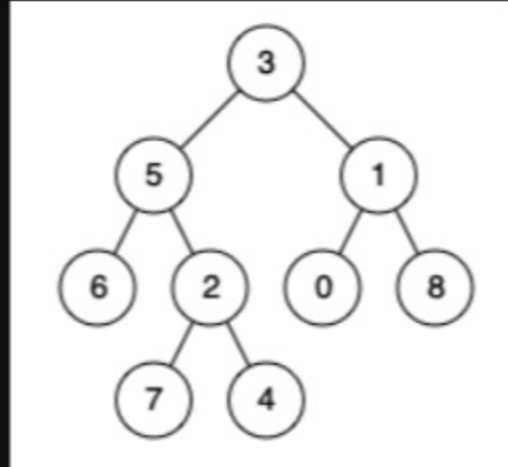


**Input:** `root = [3,5,1,6,2,0,8,null,null,7,4]`, `p = 5`, `q = 1`

**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, 105]`.
- `-109 <= Node.val <= 109`
- All `Node.val` are **unique**.
- `p != q`
- `p` and `q` exist in the tree.

Seen this question in a real interview before? 1/5

Yes No

Accepted 280.6K | Submissions 347.2K | Acceptance Rate 80.8%

Topics Hash Table Two Pointers Tree Binary Tree

Companies 0 - 3 months Meta 58 Amazon 8 LinkedIn 2 0 - 6 months Microsoft 3

Hint 1 Store the path from `p` to the root.

Hint 2 Traverse the path from `q` to the root, the first common point of the two paths is the LCA.

Similar Questions Lowest Common Ancestor of a Binary Search Tree Medium Lowest Common Ancestor of a Binary Tree Medium Lowest Common Ancestor of a Binary Tree II 🔒 Medium Lowest Common Ancestor of a Binary Tree IV 🔒 Medium

Discussion (19)