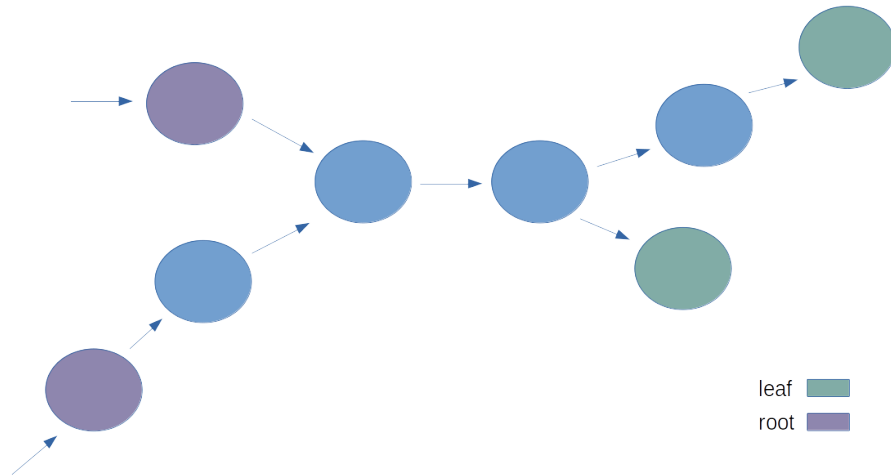
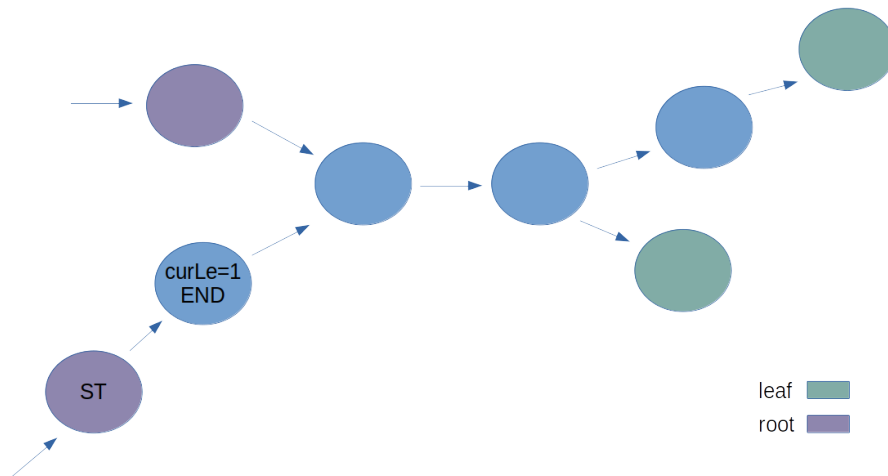


Before showing my solution, It is advised to revise [backtracking](#) as my solution is based on it. In fact, It is an enhancement of traditional backtracking where we shall prune already computed branches of the search-tree.

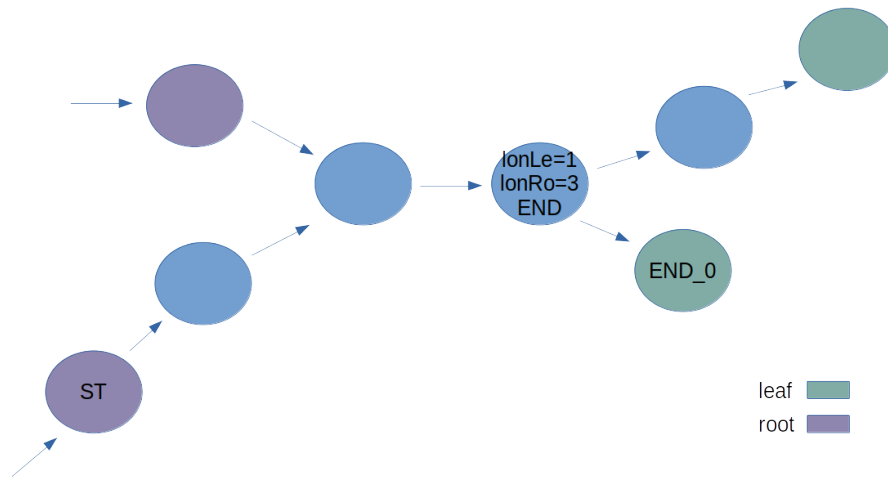


while backtracking, i.e searching within search tree, we maintain a variable *curLe* which indicates how many nodes we traversed beginning from some root. For instance, *curLe* is equal to one as it traversed only one node from root *ST*.

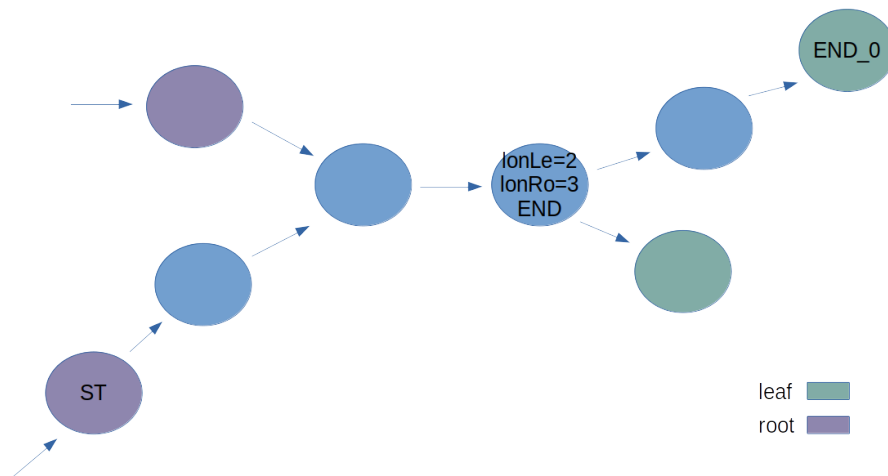


We prune search-tree branches via dynamic programming whereby we store the results of our computations. In case we needed to re-compute while going through the search-tree, We return the stored result. Particularly, Each node contains two variables, *longestRoot* and *longestLeaf*, indicating longest path length from that node to any root, and longest path length from that node to any leaf, respectively.

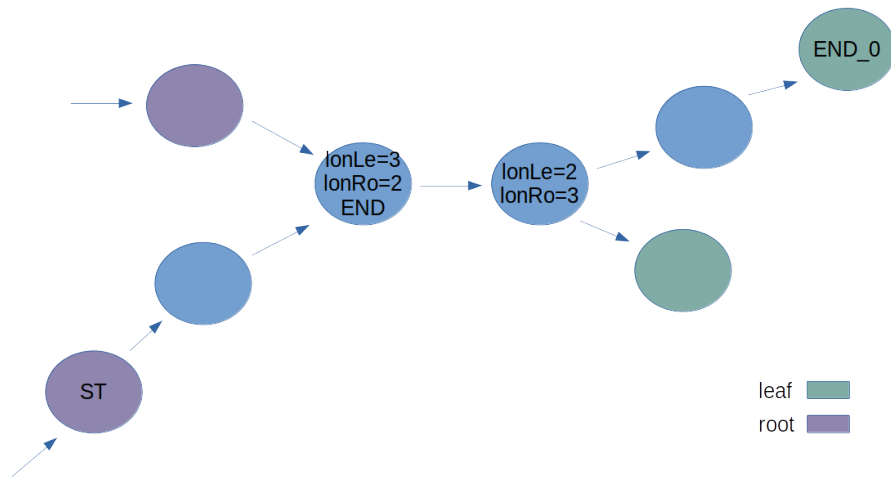
For instance, assume we started from *ST* root, reached *END\_0*, backtracked and ended-up in *END* node. *lonLe* = 1, As there is one node we backtracked beginning from some leaf. Note that *lonLe* value in this snapshot is not the final possible value, As there are still unvisited leafs. *lonRo* is already equal to 3 via our *curLe* as illustrated in the previous figure.



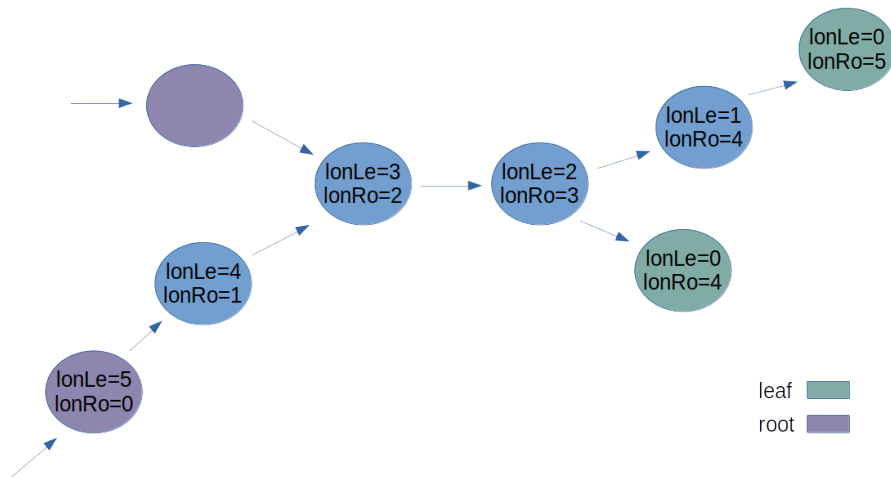
Now, Assume we visited the other leaf  $END\_0$ , then backtracked back again to  $END$ . In this case we have new leaf length value. Only if it is greater than  $lonLe$ , we update  $lonLe$  to it. As we visited all node  $END$  children, We are sure that  $lonLe$  is the final correct answer.



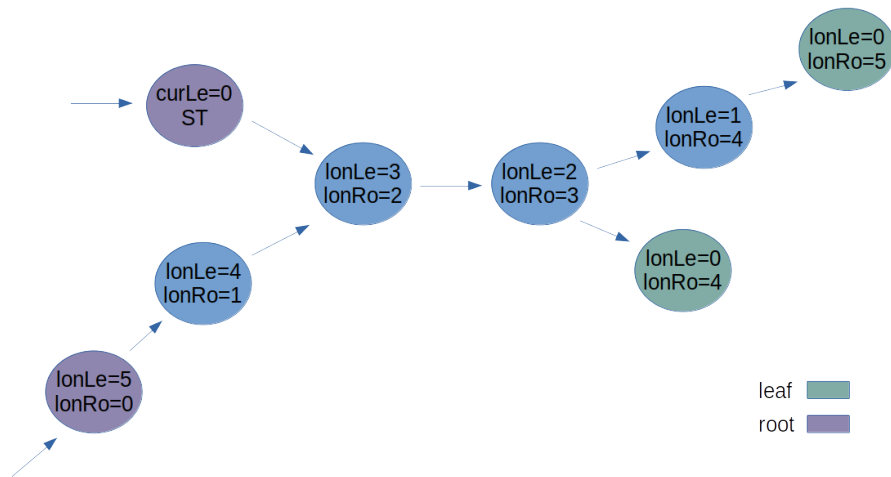
As we backtrack, we could conclude *lonLe* value by adding one. Clearly, its *lonLe* is equal to the node's ahead of it plus one. Note that, *lonRo* is already computed via *curLen* as illustrated earlier.



That is how our graph looks like after completing searching from root *ST*. However, That is not the end of searching, as there is still another root we need to begin searching from.

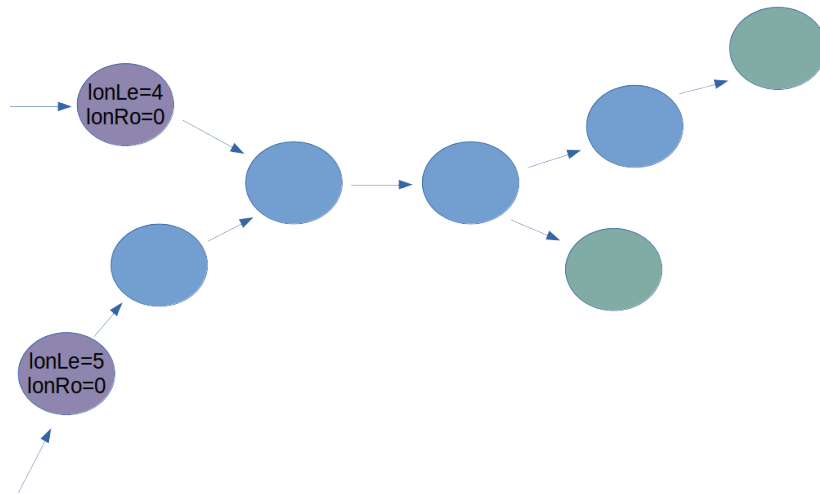


Now, Are we going to re-compute longest leaf and longest root for each node ahead of root  $ST$  again?



In fact, No. The node ahead of  $ST$  has  $lonLe$  computed, So we do not need to

re-compute it again. We already know the longest path from this node to any leaf is 3. In addition, its  $lonRo = 2$ , while the length from  $ST$  up to it is 1. So, we discovered a shorter path from another root. However, since we are interested in longest paths, we do not update  $lonRo$  with 1. But if we discovered a longer path from another root, we would have updated  $lonRo$ . In either cases,  $lonLe$  is left with no modifications. That is how our graph ends up



Finally, we return  $\max(lonLe)$  among all roots. In this case, the answer is 5.