

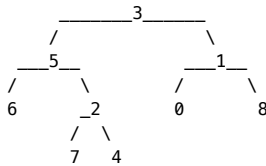
236. Lowest Common Ancestor of a Binary Tree

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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 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lowest_common_ancestor): "The lowest common ancestor is defined between two nodes v and w as the lowest node in T that has both v and w as descendants (where we allow **a node to be a descendant of itself**)."

[Notes](#)

For example, the lowest common ancestor (LCA) of nodes 5 and 1 is 3. Another example is LCA of nodes 5 and 4 is 5, since a node can be a descendant of itself according to the LCA definition.

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```
1 /**
2  * Definition for a binary tree node.
3  * struct TreeNode {
4  *     int val;
5  *     TreeNode *left;
6  *     TreeNode *right;
7  *     TreeNode(int x) : val(x), left(NULL), right(NULL) {}
8  * };
9  */
10 class Solution {
11 public:
12     TreeNode* lowestCommonAncestor(TreeNode* root, TreeNode* p, TreeNode* q) {
13         if(root==NULL||root==p||root==q) return root;
14         TreeNode* left = lowestCommonAncestor(root->left,p,q);
15         TreeNode* right = lowestCommonAncestor(root->right,p,q);
16         if(left&&right) return root;
17         return (left!=NULL)?left:right;
18     }
19 };
20 
```

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