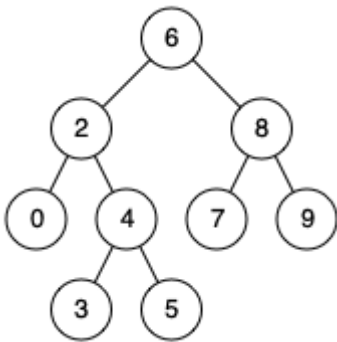


## 235. Lowest Common Ancestor of a Binary Search Tree

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

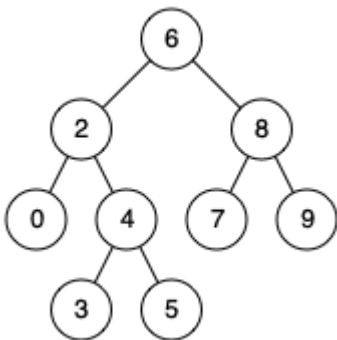
According to the [definition of LCA on Wikipedia](#): “The lowest common ancestor is defined between two nodes  $p$  and  $q$  as the lowest node in  $T$  that has both  $p$  and  $q$  as descendants (where we allow **a node to be a descendant of itself**).”



**Input:** root = [6,2,8,0,4,7,9,null,null,3,5], p = 2, q = 8

**Output:** 6

**Explanation:** The LCA of nodes 2 and 8 is 6.



**Input:** root = [6,2,8,0,4,7,9,null,null,3,5], p = 2, q = 4

**Output:** 2

**Explanation:** The LCA of nodes 2 and 4 is 2, since a node can be a descendant of itself according to the LCA definition.

```
def lowestCommonAncestor(self, root: 'TreeNode', p: 'TreeNode', q:
    'TreeNode') -> 'TreeNode':
    res = self.helper(root,p,q)
    return res
```

```
def helper(self, root, p, q):  
    if root is None:  
        return  
    if root.val > p.val and root.val > q.val:  
        return self.helper(root.left, p, q)  
    elif root.val < p.val and root.val < q.val:  
        return self.helper(root.right, p, q)  
    else:  
        return root
```

Now, here the property is BST is used. If p and q both are less than root, go to left as we can only find the LCA there. If p and q both are greater than root, go to right as we can only find the LCA there. If the val of root is in between the  $p \leq \text{root.val} \leq q$ , then this root is our answer as either going to left or right we won't get both the values.