FINAL WRAP UP!

Problem Solving with Computers-II

Preparing for the final exam…

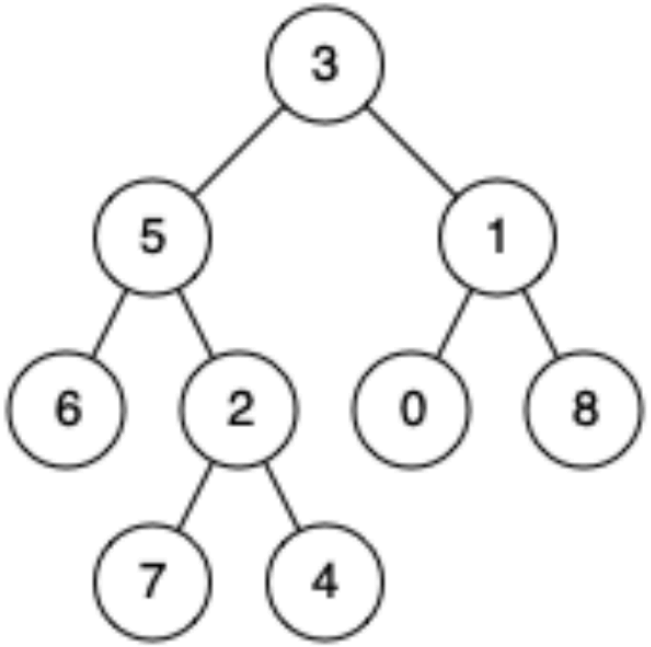
I can deal with pressure, and deadlines.

Approach 1: Turn definitions into an algorithm

Ancestor(u):
any node on a **path** ending in u

Problem:

Find the lowest common ancestor of nodes (u, v) in a binary tree

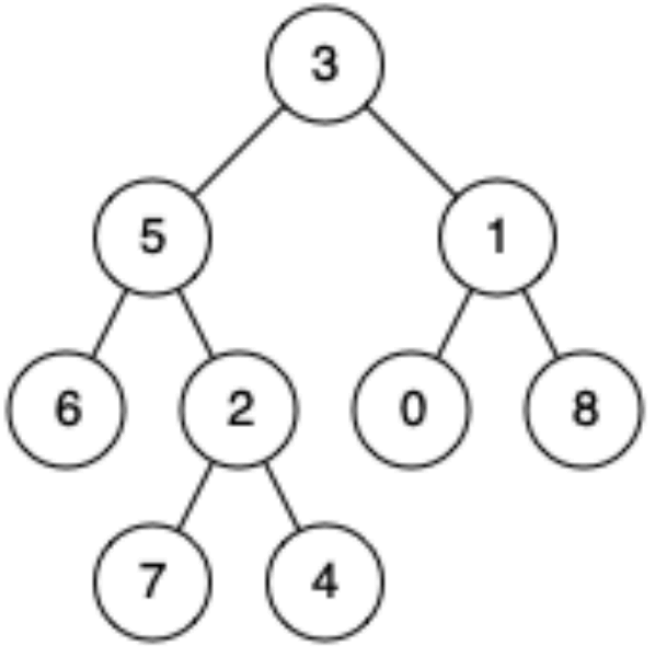


https://leetcode.com/problems/lowest-common-ancestor-of-a-binary-tree/

Approach 1: Turn definitions into an algorithm

Ancestor(u):
any node on a **path** ending in u

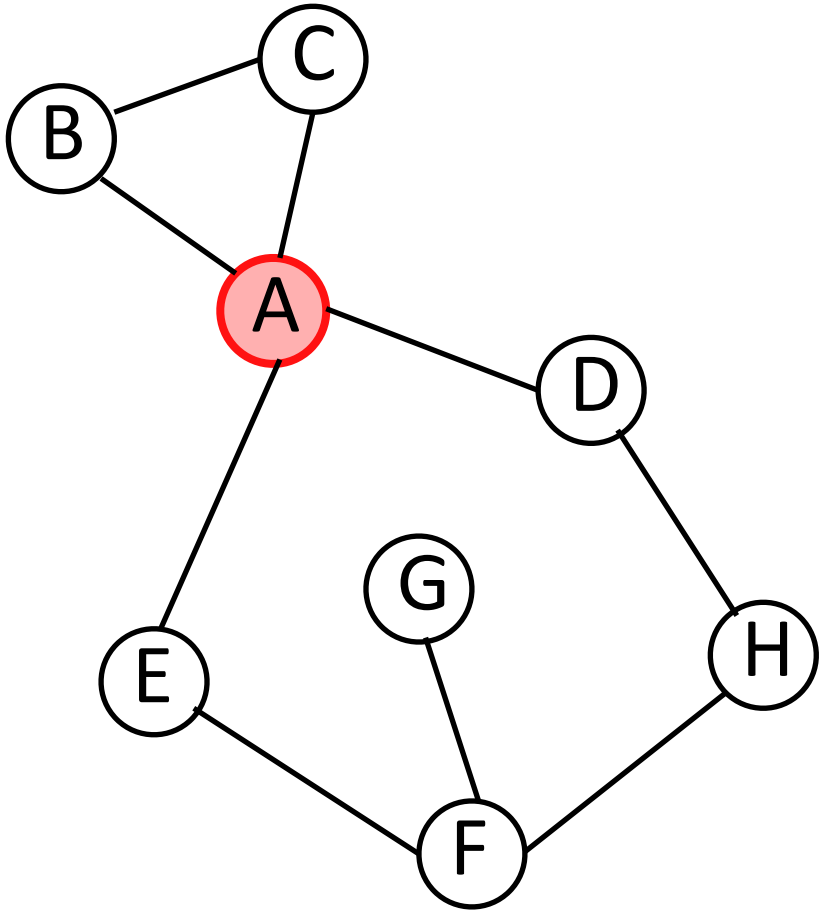
```
LCA(r: root of tree, u, v):
   Find the path from root(r) to u
   Find the path from root(r) to v
   Return common node on both paths
          farthest from the root(r)
```



https://leetcode.com/problems/lowest-common-ancestor-of-a-binary-tree/

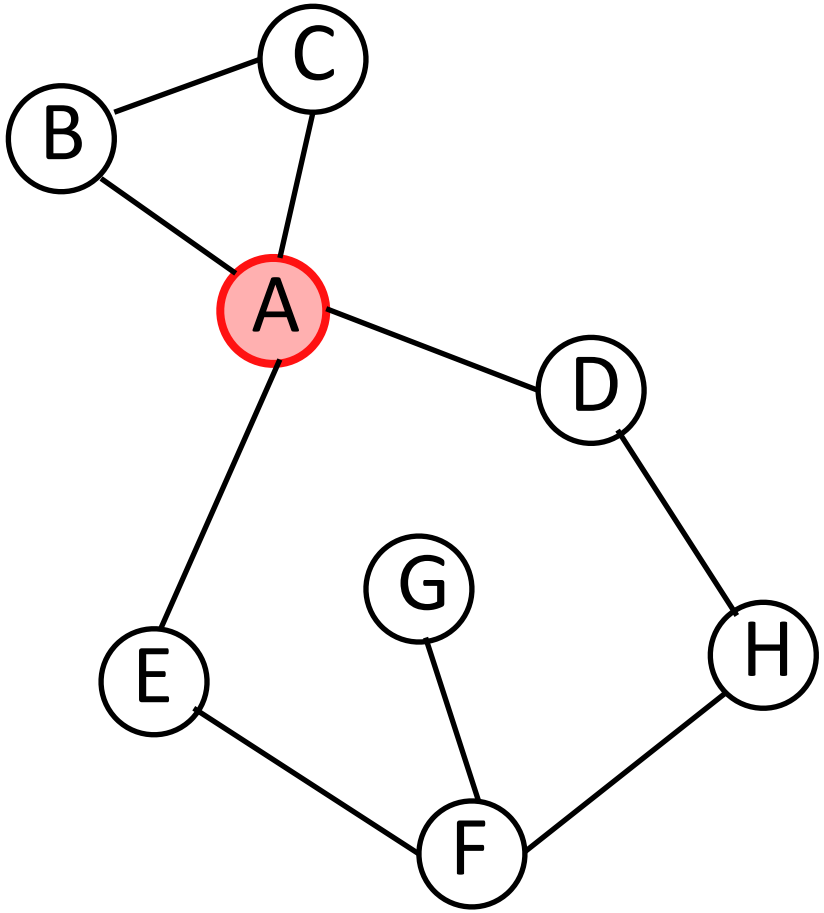
Explore – Depth First on a Graph

```
exploreDFS(v)

  v.visited ← true

  For each edge (v,w)

    If not w.visited

      exploreDFS(w)
```



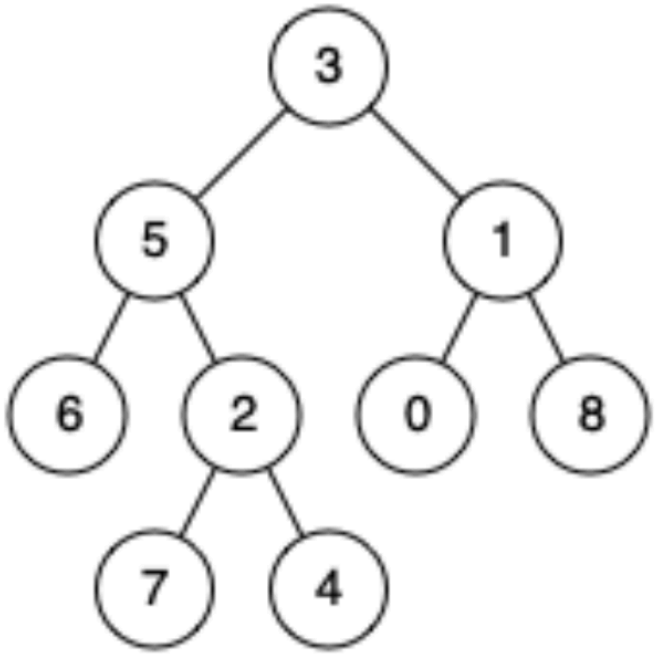
Modify exploreDFS to find paths

```
exploreDFS(v)
  v.visited ← true
  For each edge (v,w)
    If not w.visited
      exploreDFS(w)
      w.prev ← v
```

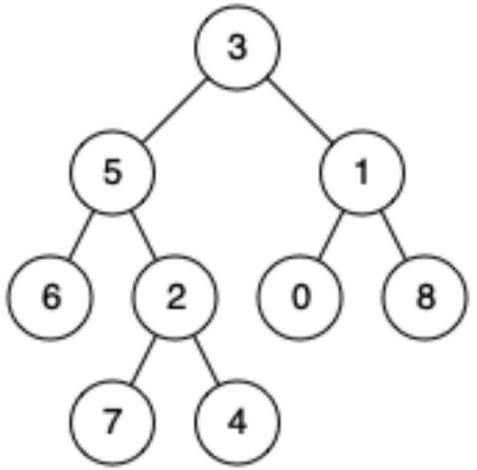


Explore – Depth First on a Tree

```
exploreDFS(r: root node):
 Print r.val
 if(r.left)      exploreDFS(r.left)
 if(r.right)     exploreDFS(r.right)
```

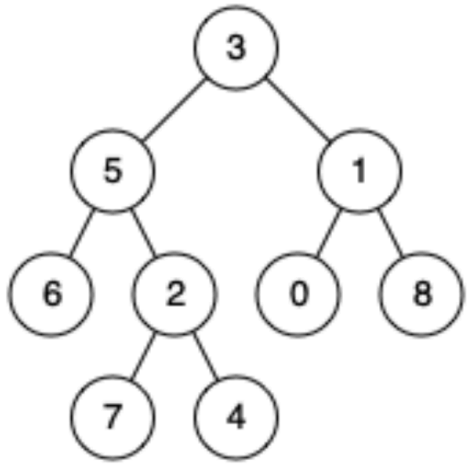


Modify DFS to find node u



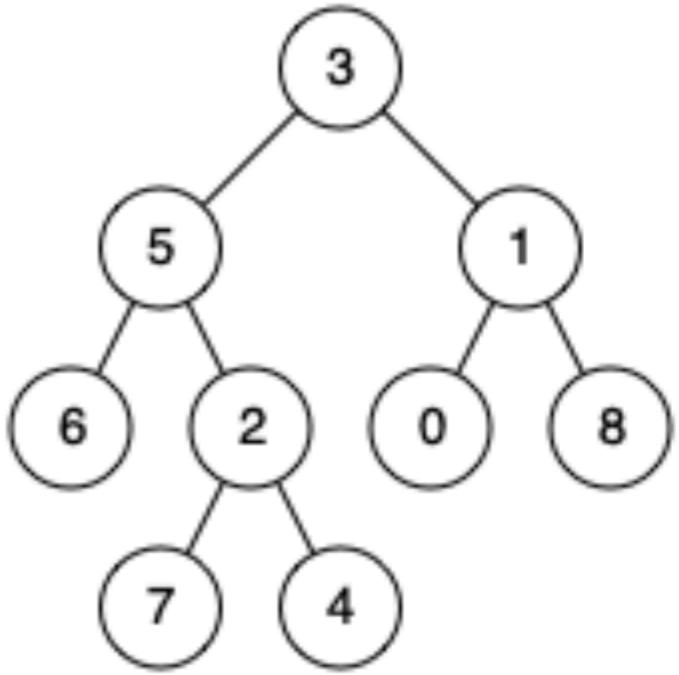

```
DFS_FindNode(r, u, found):


 ____________________________________________

 if(r.left ____________) DFS_FindNode(r.left,____________)

 if(r.right ____________) DFS_FindNode(r.right,____________)
```

Modify DFS to find the path to node u




```
DFS_FindPath(r, u, found, path):

_____________________________________________

 if(r.val == u.val) {found ← true; return;}

 if(r.left ____________) DFS_FindPath(r.left,_____________)

 if(r.right ____________) DFS_FindPath(r.right,_____________)

_____________________________________________
```

Approach 2: Divide and Conquer




```
LCA(r: root of tree, u, v):
  If(r.left && u,v exist in r.left)
     Return LCA(r.left, u, v)
  If(r.right && u,v exist in r.right)
     Return LCA(r.right, u, v)
  If(u or v exists in r.left && u or v exists in r.right):
     Return _____________________________
  If(u or v exists in r.left || u or v exists in r.right ):
    If(r.val == u.val ||r.val== v.val) Return_____________________
```

https://leetcode.com/problems/lowest-common-ancestor-of-a-binary-tree/

Break: Please take a moment to fill the course evaluations!

PROBLEM SOLVING II

Student-FO

https://go.blueja.io/tJ9l2Cs-j068oUfOzQn2jA

To access the evaluation, scan this QR code with your mobile phone.

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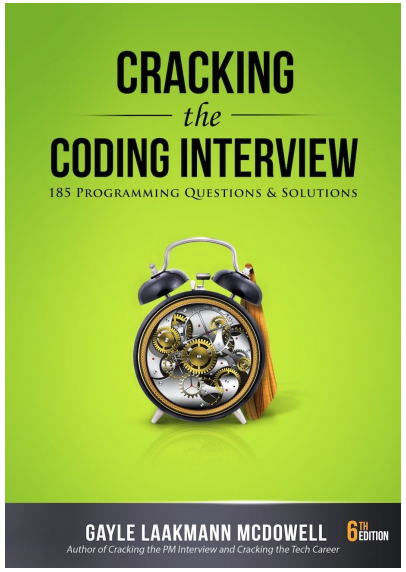
Tips for Technical Interviews

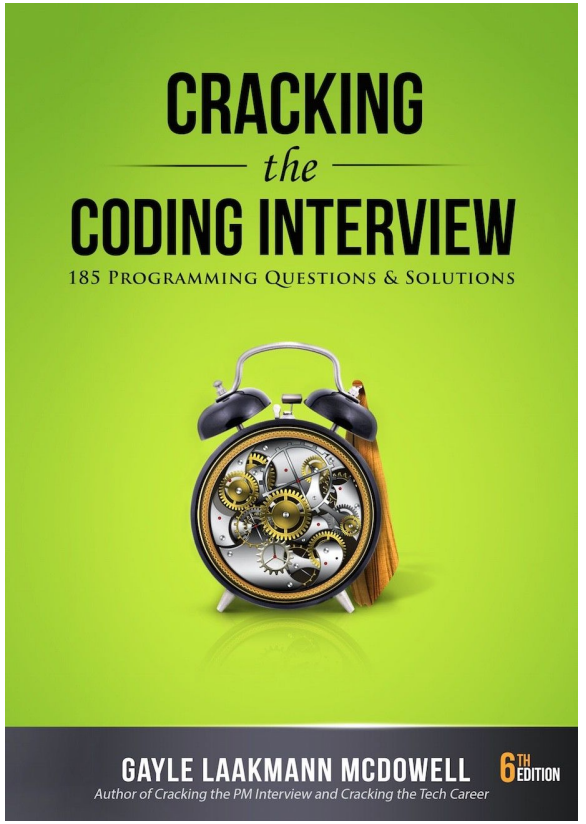


1. Listen carefully
2. Draw an example
3. State the brute force or a partially correct solution
    - then work to get at a better solution
4. Optimize:
    - Make time-space tradeoffs to optimize runtime
    - Precompute information: Reorganize the data e.g. by sorting
5. Solidify your understanding of your algo before diving into writing code.
6. Start coding!

Interview practice!

Write a ADT called minStack that provides the following methods

- push() // inserts an element to the “top” of the minStack
- pop() // removes the last element that was pushed on the stack
- top () // returns the last element that was pushed on the stack
- min() // returns the minimum value of the elements stored so far



Practice the interview tips:

- Draw/solve a small example! (2 min)
  - Think of the most straightforward approach (1 min)
  - Evaluate its performance (1 min)
  - Think of another approach and evaluate it (5 min)
    - Can you trade off space/memory for better runtime?
- Pick the most promising approach and start coding! (10 min)

Thank you and all the best !