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The Virtual Learning Environment for Computer Programming

Lowest common ancestor

The lowest common ancestor (LCA) of two nodes x and y in a tree is the lowest (i.e. deepest) node that has both x and y as descendants, where we define each node to be a descendant of itself.

For instance, in the following tree, 5 is the LCA of 1 and 9, and 6 is the LCA of 1 and 0:



Write a function *Tree lowest_common_ancestor* (*Tree t*, **int** x, **int** y); that returns the node that corresponds to the LCA of x and y in a binary tree of integers. You can assume that t contains both x and y and that t does not contain repeated elements.

Most of the program is already writen for you. Download it! It reads several trees in preorder with leaves marked with -1 and, for each of these, reads severals pairs of values and prints their LCA. You just have to specify and implement the *lowest_common_ancestor()* function (and other helper functions, should you need them). Also, write a comment with the time efficiency of your algorithm.

Sample input

```
2

5 6 1 -1 -1 7 2 -1 -1 0 -1 -1 3 9 -1 -1 4 -1 -1

1 9

1 0

6 3

3 6

5 5

3 3

5 0

-1 -1

5 2 3 -1 -1 8 -1 -1 -1

3 8

3 2
```

Sample output

Problem information

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