## Jutge.org

The Virtual Learning Environment for Computer Programming

## Lowest common ancestor of a BST

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_bst (Tree $t$, int $x$, int $y$ ); that returns the node that corresponds to the LCA of $x$ and $y$ in a binary search tree of integers $t$. You can assume that $t$ is a binary search tree and that $t$ contains both $x$ and $y$. Note that an efficient solution is expected, exploiting the fact that the tree is a binary search tree.
Most of the program is already writen for you. Download it! It reads several binary search trees in preorder (empty trees are marked with a -1 value) 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_bst () function (and other helper functions, should you need them). Also, write a comment with the time efficiency of your algorithm.

## Sample input

2
$\begin{array}{lllllllllllll}7 & 2 & 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 9 & 8 & -1 & -1 & 15 & -1 & -1\end{array}$
115
151
815
158
215
99
$-1-1$
$\begin{array}{lllllllllllllllll}10 & -1 & 20 & -1 & 30 & -1 & 40 & -1 & 50 & 45 & -1 & -1 & 60 & -1 & -1\end{array}$
1020
1060

```
2060
45 60
```

-1 -1

## Sample output

7
7
9
9
7
9

10
10
20
50

## Problem information

Author : Jordi Petit
Generation : 2023-07-15 12:37:36
© Jutge.org, 2006-2023.
https://jutge.org

