

MERGE SORT: DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Link to practice handout

<https://bit.ly/Divide-and-Conquer-Practice>

Divide and Conquer Algorithms

Algorithm Approach:

- **Divide** a large problem into sub-problems
- **Solve** each sub-problem
- **Combine** the solutions of sub-problems to obtain the solution for the original problem

Merge Sort Algorithm

`MergeSort(vector v)`

- Divide `v` into left half and right half
- Sort the left half, then sort the right half
- Combine (merge) the two sorted halves

Example run of mergesort

[7 2]

Example run of
mergesort

[7 2 3 -1]

[7 2 5 3 -1]

Example run of
mergesort

What is the height of the binary tree trace of mergeSort?

- A. 1. B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

Generalize the
answer for an input
vector of size n

Running Time Analysis

$T(n)$ = # copy operations to split lists +
comparisons to merge lists +
function calls

[7 2 5 3 -1]

[7 2 5] [3 -1]

[7 2] [5] [3] [-1]

[7] [2]

Space Analysis

[7 2 5 3 -1] $S(n) =$

[7 2 5] [3 -1]

[7 2] [5] [3] [-1]

[7] [2]

How much additional space is used by the time mergesort reaches the base case?

- A. $n * \log(n)$
- B. $n + n/2 + n/4 + n/8 + \dots + 1$
- C. $n + n/2 + n/4 + n/8 + \dots + 1 + \log(n)$
- D. Something else

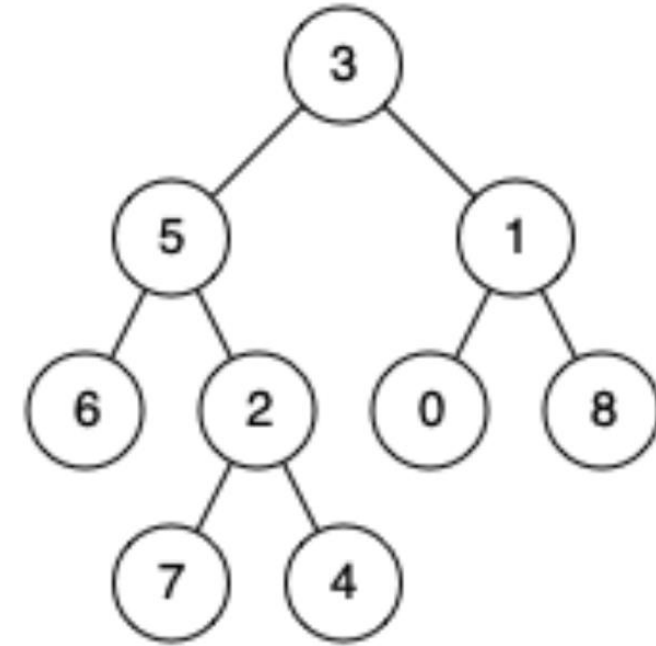
Path: a sequence of nodes in which each node is connected by an edge to the next.

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

Descendant(v): any node that is on a path starting from v

Common ancestor(u, v): any node that is the ancestor of both u and v

Lowest Common ancestor(u, v): deepest node in the tree that is a common ancestor of u and v



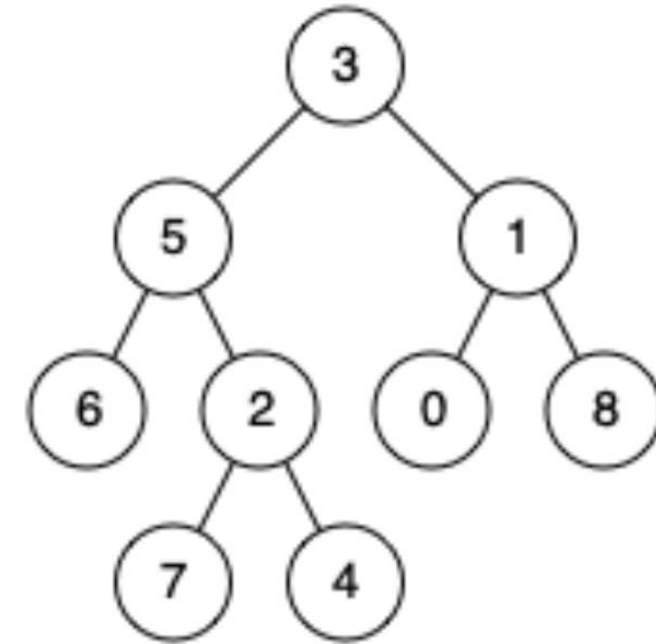
Approach: Divide and Conquer

What is the LCA of each of the following?

5 and 1:

5 and 4:

6 and 7:



Discuss how you would solve the problem with your neighbor, trace your solution, describe in words, then implement Leetcode or handout

<https://bit.ly/Divide-and-Conquer-Practice>

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