Level Ancestor

- Level Ancestor Problem
- Trade-offs

Philip Bille

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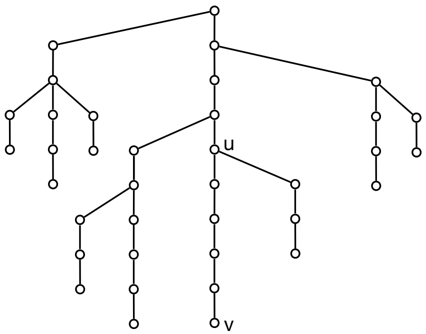
- Level ancestor problem. Preprocess rooted tree T with n nodes to support
  - LA(v,k): return the kth ancestor of node v.



LA(v,5) = u

Level Ancestor

- Applications.
  - Basic primitive for navigating trees (any hiearchical data).
  - Illustration of wealth of techniques for trees.
    - Path decompositions.
    - Tree decomposition.
    - Tree encoding and tabulation.

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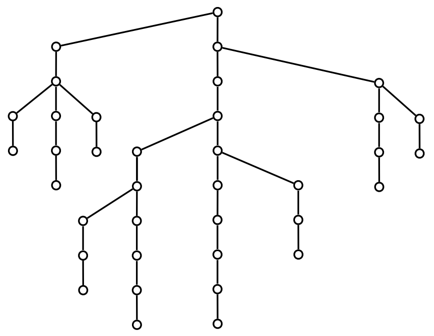
- Solutions?

Level Ancestor

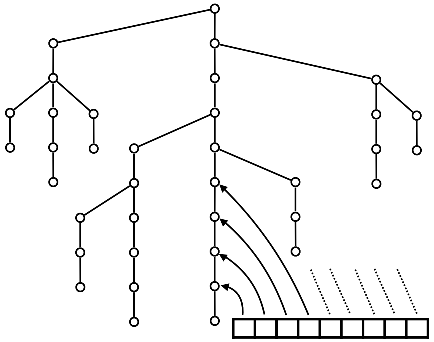
- Goal. Linear space and constant time.
- Solution in 7 steps (!).
  - No data structure. Very slow, litte space
  - Direct shortcuts. Very fast, lot of space.
  - ….
  - Ladder decomposition + jump pointers + top-bottom decomposition. Very fast, little space.

Solution 1: No Data Structure



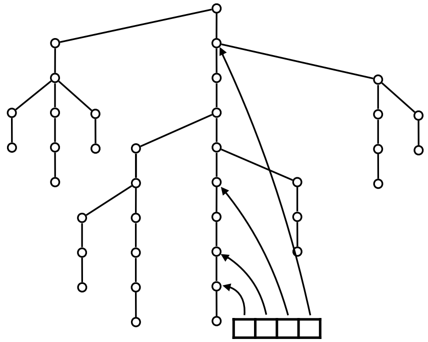
- Data structure. Store tree T (using pointers).
- LA(v,k): Walk up.
- Time. O(n)
- Space. O(n)

Solution 2: Direct Shortcuts



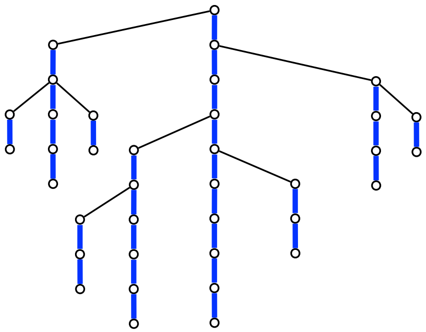
- Data structure. Store each root-to-leaf in array.
- LA(v,k): Jump up.
- Time. O(1)
- Space. $O(n^2)$

Solution 3: Jump Pointers



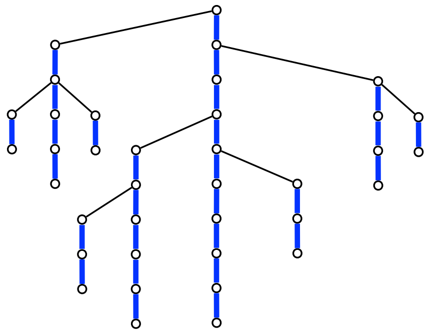
- Data structure. For each node v, store pointers to ancestors at distance 1,2,4, ..
- LA(v,k): Jump to most distant ancestor no further away than k. Repeat.
- Time. O(log n)
- Space. O(n log n)

Solution 4: Long Path Decomposition



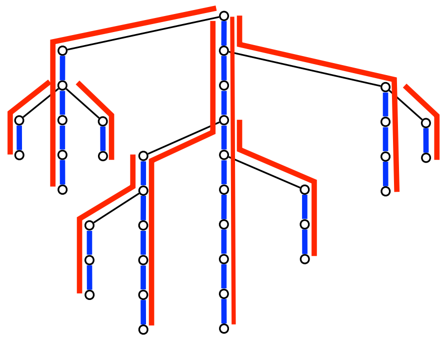
- Long path decomposition.
  - Find root-to-leaf path p of maximum length.
  - Recursively apply to subtrees hanging of p.
- Lemma. Any root-to-leaf path passes through at most $O(n^{1/2})$ long paths.
- Longest paths partition T ⟹ total length of all longest paths is < n

Solution 4: Long Path Decomposition



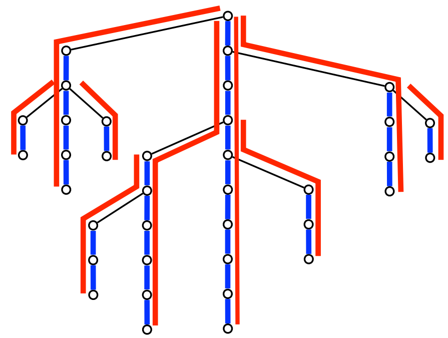
- Data structure. Store each long path in array.
- LA(v,k): Jump to kth ancestor or root of long path. Repeat.
- Time. $O(n^{1/2})$
- Space. O(n)

Solution 5: Ladder Decomposition



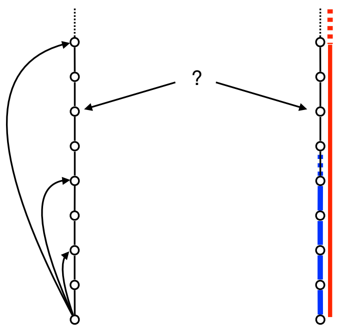
- Ladder decomposition.
  - Compute long path decomposition.
  - Double each long path.
- Lemma. Any root-to-leaf path passes through at most O(log n) ladders.
- Total length of ladders is < 2n.

Solution 5: Ladder Decomposition



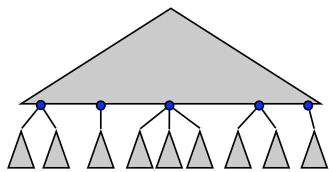
- Data structure. Store each ladder in array.
- LA(v,k): Jump to kth ancestor or root of ladder. Repeat.
- Time. O(log n)
- Space. O(n)

Solution 6: Ladder Decomposition + Jump Pointers



- Data structure. Ladder decomposition + Jump pointers.
- LA(v,k):
  - Jump to most distant ancestor not further away than k using jump pointer.
  - Jump to kth ancestor using ladder.
- Time. O(1)
- Space. O(n) + O(n log n) = O(n log n)

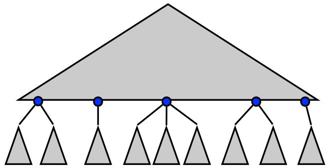
Solution 7: Top-Bottom Decomposition



- Jump nodes. Maximal deep nodes with ≥ 1/4 log n descendants.
- Top tree. Jump nodes + ancestors.
- Bottom trees. Below top tree.

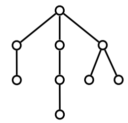
- Size of each bottom tree < 1/4 log n.
- Number of jump nodes is at most O(n/log n).

Solution 7: Top-Bottom Decomposition



- Data structure for top.
  - Ladder decomposition + Jump pointers for jump nodes.
  - For each internal node pointer to some jump node below.
- LA(v,k) in top:
  - Follow pointer to jump node below v.
  - Jump pointer + ladder solution.
- Time. $O(1)$
- Space. $O(n) + (n/\log n \cdot \log n) = O(n)$

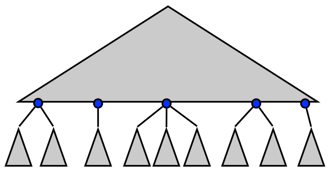
Solution 7: Top-Bottom Decomposition



(()) ((())) (()())

- Tree encoding. Encode each bottom tree B using balanced parentheses representation.
  - $< 2 \cdot 1/4 \log n = 1/2 \log n$ bits.
- Integer encoding. Encode inputs v and k to LA
  - $< 2 \cdot \log(1/4 \log n) < 2 \log\log n$ bits.
- LA encoding. Concatenate into code(B, v, k)
  - $\Longrightarrow |\text{code}(B, v, k)| < 1/2 \log n + 2 \log \log n$ bits.

Solution 7: Top-Bottom Decomposition



- Data structure for bottom.
  - Build table A s.t. A[code(B, v, k)] = LA(v, k) in bottom tree B.
- LA(v,k) in bottom: Lookup in A.
- Time. $O(1)$
- Space. $2^{|\text{code}|} < 2^{1/2 \log n + 2 \log \log n} = n^{1/2} \log^2 n = o(n)$.
- Combine bottom and top data structures $\Longrightarrow$ $O(n)$ space and $O(1)$ query time.

Solution 7: Top-Bottom Decomposition

- Theorem. We can solve the level ancestor problem in linear space and constant query time.

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