

Algorithms on trees: Depth

Depth:

- $\text{depth}(T, v)$ is the number of ancestors of v , excluding v itself

Recursive formulation

- if $v == \text{root}$, then $\text{depth}(v) = 0$
- else, $\text{depth}(v)$ is $1 + \text{depth}(\text{parent}(v))$

Compute the depth of a node v in tree T : `int depth(T, v)`

Algorithm:

```
int depth(T,v) {  
    if T.isRoot(v) return 0  
    return 1 + depth(T, T.parent(v))  
}
```

Analysis:

- $O(\text{number of ancestors}) = O(\text{depth}_v)$
- in the worst case the path is a linked-list and v is the leaf
- $\implies O(n)$, where n is the number of nodes in the tree