

# Symmetric Tree

## Key Idea:

A tree is symmetric if:

- The left subtree is a mirror of the right subtree.
- Conditions for mirror:
  1. Node values must match.
  2. The left child of one subtree equals the right child of the other (and vice versa).

We solve this by comparing two subtrees at a time:

- compare left  $\rightarrow$  left with right  $\rightarrow$  right.
- compare left  $\rightarrow$  right with right  $\rightarrow$  left.

## Recursive Solution:

Algorithm:

1. Define a helper function `isMirror(t1, t2)`:
  - If both are null  $\rightarrow$  symmetric.
  - If only one is null  $\rightarrow$  not symmetric.
  - Check  $t1 \rightarrow \text{val} == t2 \rightarrow \text{val}$  and recursively:
    - `isMirror(t1  $\rightarrow$  left, t2  $\rightarrow$  right)`
    - `isMirror(t1  $\rightarrow$  right, t2  $\rightarrow$  left)`
2. Call `isMirror(root  $\rightarrow$  left, root  $\rightarrow$  right)`.

## Iterative Solution:

Idea:

Use a queue to store node pairs to compare:

- Push (`root  $\rightarrow$  left`, `root  $\rightarrow$  right`).
- While queue not empty:
  - Pop pair.
  - If both null  $\rightarrow$  continue.
  - Push children in mirrored order:
    - (`left  $\rightarrow$  left`, `right  $\rightarrow$  right`)
    - (`left  $\rightarrow$  right`, `right  $\rightarrow$  left`)

### Complexity:

- Time:  $O(N)$  - each node visited once.
- Space:  $O(H)$  recursion stack (worst  $O(N)$ ) or  $O(N)$  for queue.