

Populating Next Right Pointers in Each Node II

This problem differs from the perfect binary tree version because the tree may not be complete.

Key Idea:

- We must connect nodes level by level.
- Each next pointer should link to the adjacent node on the same level.
- Constraints: Constant extra space \rightarrow no queue (BFS) allowed; recursion stack is allowed.

Approach: Iterative constant space (Two pointers):

We use three pointers:

1. curr: iterates over the current level.
2. head: first node of the next level.
3. prev: tracks the previous node in the next level to set its next.

Steps:

1. Initialize curr = root.
2. For each level:
 - Traverse nodes using curr \rightarrow next.
 - Connect children (left, right) for the next level:
 - If prev is not null, link prev \rightarrow next to child.
 - Otherwise, set head to this child (start of next level).
 - Move prev to this child.
3. After finishing one level, move curr = head (start next level) and reset head and prev to null.

Complexity:

- Time: $O(N)$ - each node visited once.
- Space: $O(1)$ extra (only pointers, no additional data structures; recursion stack is allowed).

not used here).