Grokking the Coding Interview: Patterns for Coding Questions

30% completed

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Pattern: Tree Depth First Search

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We'll cover the following

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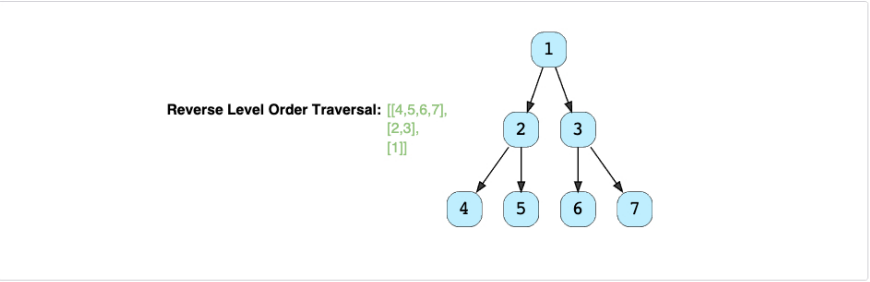
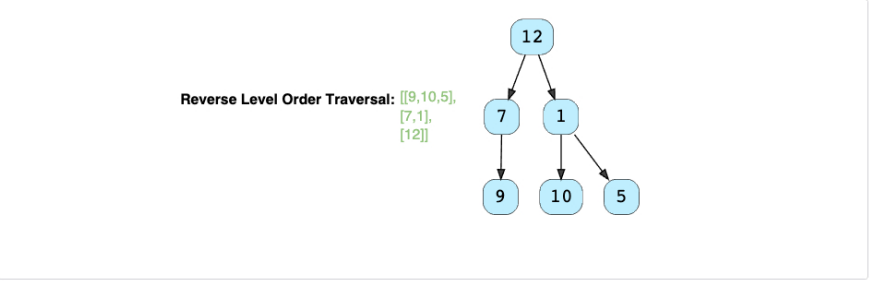
Problem Statement

Given a binary tree, populate an array to represent its level-by-level traversal in reverse order, i.e., the **lowest level comes first**. You should populate the values of all nodes in each level from left to right in separate sub-arrays.

Example 1:



Example 2:



Try it yourself

Try solving this question here:

Java | Python3 | JS | C++

```
class TreeNode {

  constructor(value) {
    this.value = value;
    this.left = null;
    this.right = null;
  }
};

const traverse = function(root) {
  result = [];
  // TODO: Write your code here
  return result;
}

var root = new TreeNode(12)
root.left = new TreeNode(7)
root.right = new TreeNode(1)
root.left.left = new TreeNode(9)
root.right.left = new TreeNode(10)
root.right.right = new TreeNode(5)
console.log(`Reverse level order traversal: ${traverse(root)}`)

```

RUN SAVE RESET

case (medium)
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Pattern: Top 'K' Elements
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'K' Closest Numbers (medium)
Maximum Distinct Elements (medium)
Sum of Elements (medium)
Rearrange String (hard)
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Solution

This problem follows the Binary Tree Level Order Traversal pattern. We can follow the same **BFS** approach. The only difference will be that instead of appending the current level at the end, we will append the current level at the beginning of the result list.

Code

Here is what our algorithm will look like; only the highlighted lines have changed. Please note that, for **Java**, we will use a `LinkedList` instead of an `ArrayList` for our result list. As in the case of `ArrayList`, appending an element at the beginning means shifting all the existing elements. Since we need to append the level array at the beginning of the result list, a `LinkedList` will be better, as this shifting of elements is not required in a `LinkedList`. Similarly, we will use a double-ended queue (deque) for **Python**, **C++**, and **JavaScript**.

Java | Python3 | C++ | JS

```
  while (queue.length > 0) {
    levelSize = queue.length;
    currentLevel = [];
    for (i = 0; i < levelSize; i++) {
      currentNode = queue.shift();
      // add the node to the current level
      currentLevel.push(currentNode.val);
      // insert the children of current node in the queue
      if (currentNode.left !== null) {
        queue.push(currentNode.left);
      }
      if (currentNode.right !== null) {
        queue.push(currentNode.right);
      }
    }
    result.unshift(currentLevel);
  }
  return result;
}


const root = new TreeNode(12);
root.left = new TreeNode(7);
root.right = new TreeNode(1);
root.left.left = new TreeNode(9);
root.right.left = new TreeNode(10);
root.right.right = new TreeNode(5);
console.log(`Reverse level order traversal: ${traverse(root).toArray()}`);
```

RUN SAVE RESET

Close

Output 5.265s

```
Reverse level order traversal: 9,10,5,7,1,12
```

Time complexity

The time complexity of the above algorithm is $O(N)$, where 'N' is the total number of nodes in the tree. This is due to the fact that we traverse each node once.

Space complexity

The space complexity of the above algorithm will be $O(N)$ as we need to return a list containing the level order traversal. We will also need $O(N)$ space for the queue. Since we can have a maximum of $N/2$ nodes at any level (this could happen only at the lowest level), therefore we will need $O(N)$ space to store them in the queue.