

Level Order Traversal of a Binary Tree (BFS Approach)

Problem Statement:

Given the root of a binary tree, return the level order traversal of its nodes' values. That is, traverse the tree level by level from left to right.

Example 1:

Input:



Output:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Explanation & Logic

The approach used here is **Breadth-First Search (BFS)** using a **queue**:

1. Initialize a Queue:

- o Push the root node into the queue.

2. Process Nodes Level by Level:

- o While the queue is not empty:
 - Extract the front node.
 - Print its value.
 - Push its left and right children into the queue (if they exist).

Code Implementation

```
#include<iostream>
#include<queue>
using namespace std;

class node {
public:
    int val;
    node* right;
    node* left;
    node(int val) {
        this->val = val;
        right = NULL;
        left = NULL;
    }
};

void level_wise_display(node* root, queue<node*>& q) {
    if (root == NULL) return;
    q.push(root);
    while (q.size() > 0) {
        node* temp = q.front();
        q.pop();
        cout << temp->val << " ";
        if (temp->left != NULL) q.push(temp->left);
        if (temp->right != NULL) q.push(temp->right);
    }
}
```

```

int main() {
    node* a = new node(1);
    node* b = new node(2);
    node* c = new node(3);
    node* d = new node(4);
    node* e = new node(5);
    node* f = new node(6);
    node* g = new node(7);

    a->left = b;
    a->right = c;
    b->left = d;
    b->right = e;
    c->left = f;
    c->right = g;

    queue<node*> q;
    level_wise_display(a, q);

    return 0;
}

```

Dry Run of the Code

Step-by-Step Execution

1. Initialization:

- o q = {1}
- o Output: 1
- o Enqueue left child 2 and right child 3
- o q = {2,3}

2. Processing Node 2:

- o q = {3}
- o Output: 1 2
- o Enqueue left child 4 and right child 5

- $q = \{3,4,5\}$

3. Processing Node 3:

- $q = \{4,5\}$
- Output: 1 2 3
- Enqueue left child 6 and right child 7
- $q = \{4,5,6,7\}$

4. Processing Node 4:

- $q = \{5,6,7\}$
- Output: 1 2 3 4

5. Processing Node 5:

- $q = \{6,7\}$
- Output: 1 2 3 4 5

6. Processing Node 6:

- $q = \{7\}$
- Output: 1 2 3 4 5 6

7. Processing Node 7:

- $q = \{\}$ (empty queue, traversal ends)
 - Output: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
-

Time Complexity Analysis

- Each node is **visited once** and pushed into the queue **once**.
 - Each node is removed from the queue **once**.
 - Thus, **$O(N)$ time complexity**, where N is the number of nodes in the tree.
-

Conclusion

- This BFS-based approach is **optimal for level order traversal**.
- It ensures that all nodes are processed level by level.
- Uses **$O(N)$ space complexity** due to queue usage.

This method is widely used in real-world applications like **finding shortest paths in unweighted graphs** and **handling hierarchical structures in databases**. 