

Tree Traversal: Breadth-First Search and Depth-First Search

Depth-First Search Complexity

DFS has time and space complexity of $O(n)$.

DFS Implementations

DFS is an exhaustive search algorithm for searching tree data structures that can be implemented with a recursive approach or an iterative one.

Depth-First Search Algorithm

Our depth-first search algorithm was implemented using recursion. The implementation returns the path to the first `TreeNode` encountered with the matching target value.

```
def dfs(root, target, path=()):  
    path = path + (root,)   
  
    if root.value == target:  
        return path  
  
    for child in root.children:  
        path_found = dfs(child, target, path)  
  
        if path_found is not None:  
            return path_found  
  
    return None
```

Depth-First Search and Stacks

The most concise and efficient DFS implementations use a stack, either explicitly (iterative implementation) or implicitly (call stack from recursion).