Chapter #5

Data Structure and Algorithms - Stack

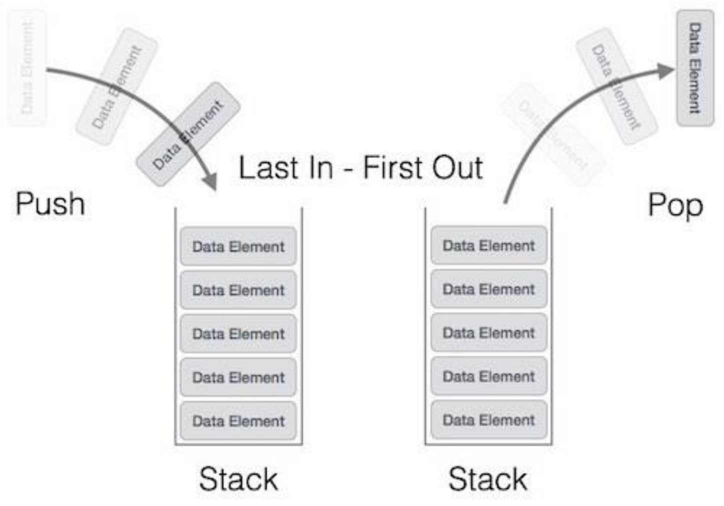
A stack is an Abstract Data Type (ADT), commonly used in most programming languages. It is named stack as it behaves like a real-world stack, for example – a deck of cards or a pile of plates, etc.

A real-world stack allows operations at one end only. For example, we can place or remove a card or plate from the top of the stack only. Likewise, Stack ADT allows all data operations at one end only. At any given time, we can only access the top element of a stack.

This feature makes it LIFO data structure. LIFO stands for Last-in-first-out. Here, the element which is placed (inserted or added) last, is accessed first. In stack terminology, insertion operation is called **PUSH** operation and removal operation is called **POP** operation.

Stack Representation

The following diagram depicts a stack and its operations −



A stack can be implemented by means of Array, Structure, Pointer, and Linked List. Stack can either be a fixed size one or it may have a sense of dynamic resizing. Here, we are going to implement stack using arrays, which makes it a fixed size stack implementation.

Basic Operations

Stack operations may involve initializing the stack, using it and then de-initializing it. Apart from these basic stuffs, a stack is used for the following two primary operations −

- **push()** − Pushing (storing) an element on the stack.
- **pop()** − Removing (accessing) an element from the stack.

When data is PUSHed onto stack.

To use a stack efficiently, we need to check the status of stack as well. For the same purpose, the following functionality is added to stacks −

- **peek()** − get the top data element of the stack, without removing it.
- **isFull()** − check if stack is full.
- **isEmpty()** − check if stack is empty.

At all times, we maintain a pointer to the last PUSHed data on the stack. As this pointer always represents the top of the stack, hence named **top**. The **top** pointer provides top value of the stack without actually removing it.

First we should learn about procedures to support stack functions −

peek()

Algorithm of peek() function −

```
begin procedure peek

  return stack[top]

end procedure
```

Implementation of peek() function in C programming language −

Example

```
int peek() {
  return stack[top];
}
```

isfull()

Algorithm of isfull() function −

```
begin procedure isfull

   if top equals to MAXSIZE
      return true
   else
      return false
   endif

end procedure
```

Implementation of isfull() function in C programming language −

Example

```
bool isfull() {
   if(top == MAXSIZE)
      return true;
   else
      return false;
}
```

isempty()

Algorithm of isempty() function −

```
begin procedure isempty

   if top less than 1
      return true
   else
      return false
   endif
```

```
end procedure
```

Implementation of isempty() function in C programming language is slightly different. We initialize top at -1, as the index in array starts from 0. So we check if the top is below zero or -1 to determine if the stack is empty. Here's the code −

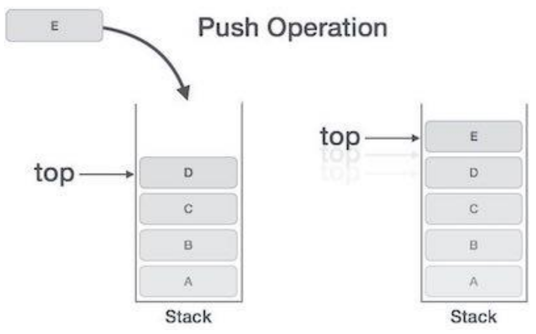
Example

```
bool isempty() {
  if(top == -1)
     return true;
  else
     return false;
}
```

Push Operation

The process of putting a new data element onto stack is known as a Push Operation. Push operation involves a series of steps −

- **Step 1** − Checks if the stack is full.
- **Step 2** − If the stack is full, produces an error and exit.
- **Step 3** − If the stack is not full, increments **top** to point next empty space.
- **Step 4** − Adds data element to the stack location, where top is pointing.
- **Step 5** − Returns success.



If the linked list is used to implement the stack, then in step 3, we need to allocate space dynamically.

Algorithm for PUSH Operation

A simple algorithm for Push operation can be derived as follows −

```
begin procedure push: stack, data

  if stack is full
    return null
  endif

  top ← top + 1

  stack[top] ← data

end procedure
```

Implementation of this algorithm in C, is very easy. See the following code −

Example

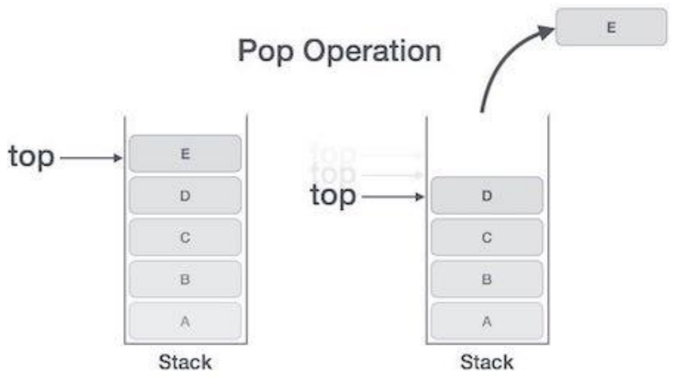
```
void push(int data) {
  if(!isFull()) {
    top = top + 1;
    stack[top] = data;
  } else {
    printf("Could not insert data, Stack is full.\n");
  }
}
```

Pop Operation

Accessing the content while removing it from the stack, is known as a Pop Operation. In an array implementation of pop() operation, the data element is not actually removed, instead **top** is decremented to a lower position in the stack to point to the next value. But in linked-list implementation, pop() actually removes data element and deallocates memory space.

A Pop operation may involve the following steps −

- **Step 1** − Checks if the stack is empty.
- **Step 2** − If the stack is empty, produces an error and exit.
- **Step 3** − If the stack is not empty, accesses the data element at which **top** is pointing.
- **Step 4** − Decreases the value of top by 1.
- **Step 5** − Returns success.



Algorithm for Pop Operation

A simple algorithm for Pop operation can be derived as follows −

```
begin procedure pop: stack

  if stack is empty
    return null
  endif

  data ← stack[top]

  top ← top - 1
  return data


end procedure
```

Implementation of this algorithm in C, is as follows −

Example

```
int pop(int data) {


  if(!isempty()) {
    data = stack[top];
    top = top - 1;
    return data;
  } else {
    printf("Could not retrieve data, Stack is empty.\n");
  }
}
```

Data Structure - Expression Parsing

The way to write arithmetic expression is known as a **notation**. An arithmetic expression can be written in three different but equivalent notations, i.e., without changing the essence or output of an expression. These notations are −

- Infix Notation
- Prefix (Polish) Notation
- Postfix (Reverse-Polish) Notation

These notations are named as how they use operator in expression. We shall learn the same here in this chapter.

Infix Notation

We write expression in **infix** notation, e.g. a - b + c, where operators are used **in**-between operands. It is easy for us humans to read, write, and speak in infix notation but the same does not go well with computing devices. An algorithm to process infix notation could be difficult and costly in terms of time and space consumption.

Prefix Notation

In this notation, operator is **prefix**ed to operands, i.e. operator is written ahead of operands. For example, **+ab**. This is equivalent to its infix notation **a + b**. Prefix notation is also known as **Polish Notation**.

Postfix Notation

This notation style is known as **Reversed Polish Notation**. In this notation style, the operator is **postfix**ed to the operands i.e., the operator is written after the operands. For example, **ab+**. This is equivalent to its infix notation **a + b**.

The following table briefly tries to show the difference in all three notations −

Sr. No.	Infix Notation	Prefix Notation	Postfix Notation
1	a + b	+ a b	a b +
2	(a + b) ∗ c	∗ + a b c	a b + c ∗
3	a ∗ (b + c)	∗ a + b c	a b c + ∗
4	a / b + c / d	+ / a b / c d	a b / c d / +
5	(a + b) ∗ (c + d)	∗ + a b + c d	a b + c d + ∗
6	((a + b) ∗ c) - d	- ∗ + a b c d	a b + c ∗ d -

Parsing Expressions

As we have discussed, it is not a very efficient way to design an algorithm or program to parse infix notations. Instead, these infix notations are first converted into either postfix or prefix notations and then computed.

To parse any arithmetic expression, we need to take care of operator precedence and associativity also.

Precedence

When an operand is in between two different operators, which operator will take the operand first, is decided by the precedence of an operator over others. For example −

$a + b * c \Rightarrow a + (b * c)$

As multiplication operation has precedence over addition, b * c will be evaluated first. A table of operator precedence is provided later.

Associativity

Associativity describes the rule where operators with the same precedence appear in an expression. For example, in expression a + b − c, both + and – have the same precedence, then which part of the expression will be evaluated first, is determined by associativity of those operators. Here, both + and − are left associative, so the expression will be evaluated as **(a + b) − c**.

Precedence and associativity determines the order of evaluation of an expression. Following is an operator precedence and associativity table (highest to lowest) −

Sr. No.	Operator	Precedence	Associativity
1	Exponentiation ^	Highest	Right Associative
2	Multiplication (∗) & Division (/)	Second Highest	Left Associative
3	Addition (+) & Subtraction (−)	Lowest	Left Associative

The above table shows the default behavior of operators. At any point of time in expression evaluation, the order can be altered by using parenthesis. For example −

In **a + b*c**, the expression part **b*c** will be evaluated first, with multiplication as precedence over addition. We here use parenthesis for **a + b** to be evaluated first, like **(a + b)*c**.

Postfix Evaluation Algorithm

We shall now look at the algorithm on how to evaluate postfix notation −

```
Step 1 − scan the expression from left to right
Step 2 − if it is an operand push it to stack
Step 3 − if it is an operator pull operand from stack and perform operation
Step 4 − store the output of step 3, back to stack
Step 5 − scan the expression until all operands are consumed
Step 6 − pop the stack and perform operation
```

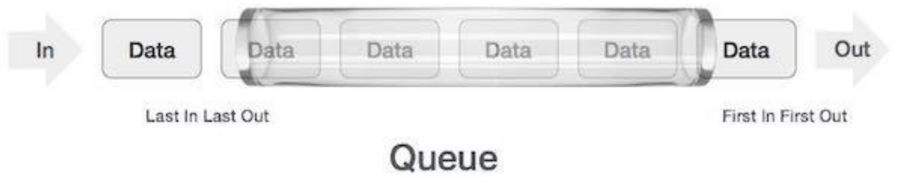
Data Structure and Algorithms - Queue

Queue is an abstract data structure, somewhat similar to Stacks. Unlike stacks, a queue is open at both its ends. One end is always used to insert data (enqueue) and the other is used to remove data (dequeue). Queue follows First-In-First-Out methodology, i.e., the data item stored first will be accessed first.

A real-world example of queue can be a single-lane one-way road, where the vehicle enters first, exits first. More real-world examples can be seen as queues at the ticket windows and bus-stops.

Queue Representation

As we now understand that in queue, we access both ends for different reasons. The following diagram given below tries to explain queue representation as data structure −



As in stacks, a queue can also be implemented using Arrays, Linked-lists, Pointers and Structures. For the sake of simplicity, we shall implement queues using one-dimensional array.

Basic Operations

Queue operations may involve initializing or defining the queue, utilizing it, and then completely erasing it from the memory. Here we shall try to understand the basic operations associated with queues −

- **enqueue()** − add (store) an item to the queue.
- **dequeue()** − remove (access) an item from the queue.

Few more functions are required to make the above-mentioned queue operation efficient. These are −

- **peek()** − Gets the element at the front of the queue without removing it.
- **isfull()** − Checks if the queue is full.
- **isempty()** − Checks if the queue is empty.

In queue, we always dequeue (or access) data, pointed by **front** pointer and while enqueing (or storing) data in the queue we take help of **rear** pointer.

Let's first learn about supportive functions of a queue −

peek()

This function helps to see the data at the **front** of the queue. The algorithm of peek() function is as follows −

Algorithm

```
begin procedure peek

  return queue[front]

end procedure
```

Implementation of peek() function in C programming language −

Example

```
int peek() {
  return queue[front];
}
```

isfull()

As we are using single dimension array to implement queue, we just check for the rear pointer to reach at MAXSIZE to determine that the queue is full. In case we maintain the queue in a circular linked-list, the algorithm will differ. Algorithm of isfull() function −

Algorithm

```
begin procedure isfull

  if rear equals to MAXSIZE
    return true
  else
    return false
  endif

end procedure
```

Implementation of isfull() function in C programming language −

Example

```
bool isfull() {
  if(rear == MAXSIZE - 1)
    return true;
  else
    return false;
}
```

isempty()

Algorithm of isempty() function −

Algorithm

```
begin procedure isempty
```

```

  if front is less than MIN  OR front is greater than rear
     return true
  else
     return false
  endif

end procedure
```

If the value of **front** is less than MIN or 0, it tells that the queue is not yet initialized, hence empty.

Here's the C programming code –

Example

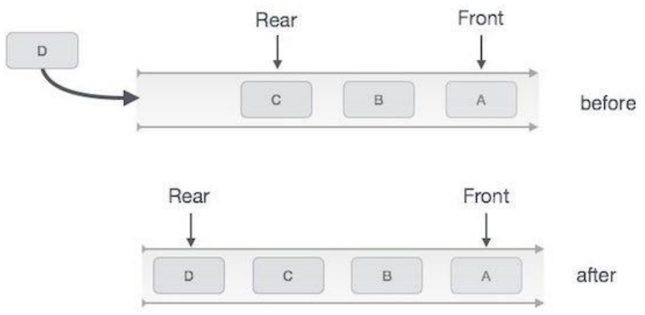
```
bool isempty() {
   if(front < 0 || front > rear)
      return true;
   else
      return false;
}
```

Enqueue Operation

Queues maintain two data pointers, **front** and **rear**. Therefore, its operations are comparatively difficult to implement than that of stacks.

The following steps should be taken to enqueue (insert) data into a queue –

- **Step 1** – Check if the queue is full.
- **Step 2** – If the queue is full, produce overflow error and exit.
- **Step 3** – If the queue is not full, increment **rear** pointer to point the next empty space.
- **Step 4** – Add data element to the queue location, where the rear is pointing.
- **Step 5** – return success.



Queue Enqueue

Sometimes, we also check to see if a queue is initialized or not, to handle any unforeseen situations.

Algorithm for enqueue operation

```
procedure enqueue(data)
   if queue is full
      return overflow
   endif

   rear ← rear + 1

   queue[rear] ← data

   return true

end procedure
```

Implementation of enqueue() in C programming language –

Example

```
int enqueue(int data)
   if(isfull())
      return 0;
```

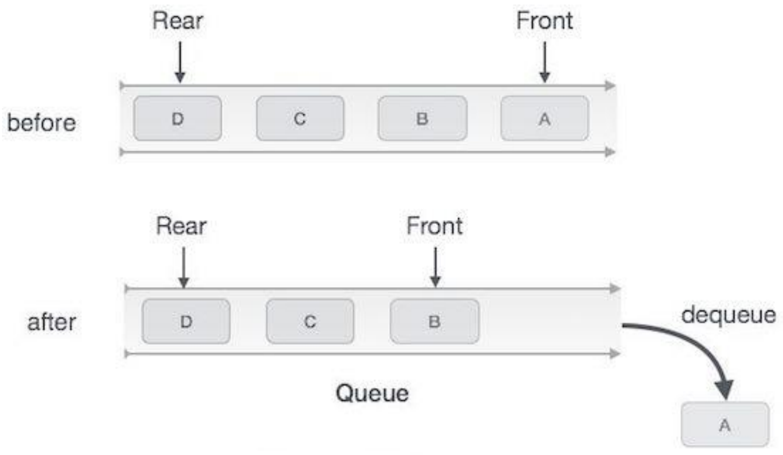
```
  rear = rear + 1;
  queue[rear] = data;

  return 1;
end procedure
```

Dequeue Operation

Accessing data from the queue is a process of two tasks − access the data where **front** is pointing and remove the data after access. The following steps are taken to perform **dequeue** operation −

- **Step 1** − Check if the queue is empty.
- **Step 2** − If the queue is empty, produce underflow error and exit.
- **Step 3** − If the queue is not empty, access the data where **front** is pointing.
- **Step 4** − Increment **front** pointer to point to the next available data element.
- **Step 5** − Return success.



Queue Dequeue

Algorithm for dequeue operation

```
procedure dequeue
  if queue is empty
    return underflow
  end if
```

```
   data = queue[front]
   front ← front + 1

   return true
end procedure
```

Implementation of dequeue() in C programming language −

Example

```
int dequeue() {

   if(isempty())
      return 0;

   int data = queue[front];
   front = front + 1;

   return data;
}
```