

A queue is an ordered list of elements where an element is inserted at the end of the queue and is removed from the front of the queue.

Unlike a stack, which works based on the last-in, first-out (LIFO) principle, a queue works based on the first-in, first-out (FIFO) principle.

A queue has two main operations involving inserting a new element and removing an existing element.

The insertion operation is called enqueue, and the removal operation is dequeue. The enqueue operation inserts an element at the end of the queue, whereas the dequeue operation removes an element from the front of a queue.



The above diagram illustrate a queue.

Another important operation of a queue is getting the element at the front called peek. Different from the dequeue operation, the peek operation just returns the element at the front without modifying the queue.

The name queue comes from the analogy to a queue of customers at a bank. The customer who comes first will be served first, and the one who comes later is queued at the end of the queue and will be served later.

Applications of the Queue.

a). Serving request on a single shared resource, eg – PointerEvent, CPU task scheduling, etc.

b). In real life, call center phone system(people should wait in and hold until the service representative is free).

c). Handling of interrupts in real-time systems.

Implementing a JavaScript queue using an array.

You can use an array as a queue by using two methods of the Array type:

- Add an element at the end of the array using the `push()` method. This method is equivalent to the enqueue operation.
- Remove an element from the front of an array using the `shift()` method. It is the same as the dequeue operation.

Follow the following steps to implement a queue:

```
function Queue() {  
  this.elements = [];  
}
```

- The above snippets are the constructor of the queue, The `Queue()` constructor function uses an array to store its elements.

The `enqueue()` method adds an element at the end of the queue. We use the `push()` method of the array object to insert the new element at the end of the queue.

```
Queue.prototype.enqueue = function (e) {  
  this.elements.push(e);  
};
```

The `dequeue()` method removes an element from the front of the queue. In the `dequeue()` method, we use the `shift()` method of the array to remove an element at the front of the queue.

```
// remove an element from the front of the queue  
Queue.prototype.dequeue = function () {  
  return this.elements.shift();  
};
```

The `isEmpty()` method checks if a queue is empty by checking if the `length` property of the array is zero.

```
// check if the queue is empty  
Queue.prototype.isEmpty = function () {  
  return this.elements.length == 0;  
};
```

The `peek()` method accesses the element at the front of the queue without modifying it.

```
// get the element at the front of the queue  
Queue.prototype.peek = function () {  
    return !this.isEmpty() ? this.elements[0] : undefined;  
};
```

To query the length of a queue, we develop the `length()` method:

```
Queue.prototype.length = function() {  
    return this.elements.length;  
}
```

To create a new queue from the `Queue()` constructor function, you use the `new` keyword as follows:

```
let q = new Queue();
```

Enqueue – the follow example will enqueue numbers from 1 to 7.

```
for (let i = 1; i <= 7; i++) {  
  
  q.enqueue(i);  
  
}
```

peek() to get the number in front of a queue the peek method is used:

```
// get the current item at the front of the queue  
  
console.log(q.peek()); // 1
```

As we said earlier also, to get the length of our queue we use length()

```
// get the current length of queue  
  
console.log(q.length()); // 7
```

To remove the element at the front of the queue, you use the dequeue() method as follows:

```
/ dequeue all elements  
  
while (!q.isEmpty()) {  
  
  console.log(q.dequeue());  
  
}
```

What will be the output of the above code? remember we added 1 -7.

I hope this gives you a good understanding of queue Data Structures in JavaScript.

Practice questions.

- a). Define the queue data structure.
- b). List some applications of queue data structure.
- c). What are the drawbacks of array implementation of Queue?
- D). What are the scenarios in which an element can be inserted into the circular queue?
- e). What is a dequeue?
- f). What is the minimum number of queues that can be used to implement a priority queue?
- g). Implement stack using a queue
- h). Reverse first k elements of a queue
- I). Generate binary numbers from 1 to n using a queue

Best wishes,

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