Queue Data Structure

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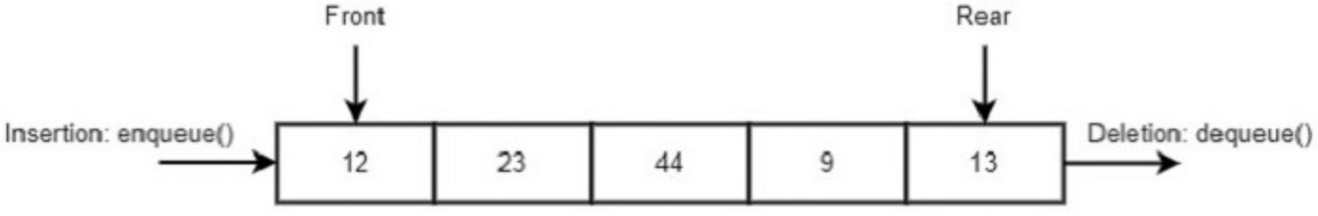
What is a Queue?

A **queue** is a linear data structure where elements are stored in the FIFO (First In First Out) principle where the first element inserted would be the first element to be accessed. A queue is an Abstract Data Type (ADT) similar to stack, the thing that makes queue different from stack is that a queue is open at both its ends. The data is inserted into the queue through one end and deleted from it using the other end. Queue is very frequently used in most programming languages.

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.

Representation of Queues

Similar to the stack ADT, a queue ADT can also be implemented using arrays, linked lists, or pointers. As a small example in this tutorial, we implement queues using a one-dimensional array.



Queue: FIFO Operation

Basic Operations in Queue

Queue operations also include initialization of a queue, usage and permanently deleting the data from the memory.

The most fundamental operations in the queue ADT include: enqueue(), dequeue(), peek(), isFull(), isEmpty(). These are all built-in operations to carry out data manipulation and to check the status of the queue.

Queue uses two pointers — **front** and **rear**. The front pointer accesses the data from the front end (helping in enqueueing) while the rear pointer accesses data from the rear end (helping in dequeuing).