Data Structure and Algorithm

Laboratory Activity No. 7

Doubly Linked Lists

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# Objectives

Introduction

A doubly linked list is a type of linked list data structure where each node contains three components:

Data - The actual value stored in the node

Previous pointer - A reference to the previous node in the sequence

Next pointer - A reference to the next node in the sequence.

This laboratory activity aims to implement the principles and techniques in:

* Writing algorithms using Linked list
* Writing a python program that will perform the common operations in a Doubly linked list
* A doubly linked list is particularly useful when you need frequent bidirectional traversal or easy deletion of nodes from both ends of the list.

# Methods

* Using Google Colab, type the source codes below:

class Node:

"""Node class for doubly linked list"""

def \_\_init\_\_(self, data):

self.data = data

self.prev = None

self.next = None

class DoublyLinkedList:

"""Doubly Linked List implementation"""

def \_\_init\_\_(self):

self.head = None

self.tail = None

self.size = 0

def is\_empty(self):

"""Check if the list is empty"""

return self.head is None

def get\_size(self):

"""Get the size of the list"""

return self.size

def display\_forward(self):

"""Display the list from head to tail"""

if self.is\_empty():

print("List is empty")

return

current = self.head

print("Forward: ", end="")

while current:

print(current.data, end="")

if current.next:

print(" ↔ ", end="")

current = current.next

print()

def display\_backward(self):

"""Display the list from tail to head"""

if self.is\_empty():

print("List is empty")

return

current = self.tail

print("Backward: ", end="")

while current:

print(current.data, end="")

if current.prev:

print(" ↔ ", end="")

current = current.prev

print()

def insert\_at\_beginning(self, data):

"""Insert a new node at the beginning"""

new\_node = Node(data)

if self.is\_empty():

self.head = self.tail = new\_node

else:

new\_node.next = self.head

self.head.prev = new\_node

self.head = new\_node

self.size += 1

print(f"Inserted {data} at beginning")

def insert\_at\_end(self, data):

"""Insert a new node at the end"""

new\_node = Node(data)

if self.is\_empty():

self.head = self.tail = new\_node

else:

new\_node.prev = self.tail

self.tail.next = new\_node

self.tail = new\_node

self.size += 1

print(f"Inserted {data} at end")

def insert\_at\_position(self, data, position):

"""Insert a new node at a specific position"""

if position < 0 or position > self.size:

print("Invalid position")

return

if position == 0:

self.insert\_at\_beginning(data)

return

elif position == self.size:

self.insert\_at\_end(data)

return

new\_node = Node(data)

current = self.head

# Traverse to the position

for \_ in range(position - 1):

current = current.next

# Insert the new node

new\_node.next = current.next

new\_node.prev = current

current.next.prev = new\_node

current.next = new\_node

self.size += 1

print(f"Inserted {data} at position {position}")

def delete\_from\_beginning(self):

"""Delete the first node"""

if self.is\_empty():

print("List is empty")

return None

deleted\_data = self.head.data

if self.head == self.tail: # Only one node

self.head = self.tail = None

else:

self.head = self.head.next

self.head.prev = None

self.size -= 1

print(f"Deleted {deleted\_data} from beginning")

return deleted\_data

def delete\_from\_end(self):

"""Delete the last node"""

if self.is\_empty():

print("List is empty")

return None

deleted\_data = self.tail.data

if self.head == self.tail: # Only one node

self.head = self.tail = None

else:

self.tail = self.tail.prev

self.tail.next = None

self.size -= 1

print(f"Deleted {deleted\_data} from end")

return deleted\_data

def delete\_from\_position(self, position):

"""Delete a node from a specific position"""

if self.is\_empty():

print("List is empty")

return None

if position < 0 or position >= self.size:

print("Invalid position")

return None

if position == 0:

return self.delete\_from\_beginning()

elif position == self.size - 1:

return self.delete\_from\_end()

current = self.head

# Traverse to the position

for \_ in range(position):

current = current.next

# Delete the node

deleted\_data = current.data

current.prev.next = current.next

current.next.prev = current.prev

self.size -= 1

print(f"Deleted {deleted\_data} from position {position}")

return deleted\_data

def search(self, data):

"""Search for a node with given data"""

if self.is\_empty():

return -1

current = self.head

position = 0

while current:

if current.data == data:

return position

current = current.next

position += 1

return -1

def reverse(self):

"""Reverse the doubly linked list"""

if self.is\_empty() or self.head == self.tail:

return

current = self.head

self.tail = self.head

while current:

# Swap next and prev pointers

temp = current.prev

current.prev = current.next

current.next = temp

# Move to the next node (which is now in prev due to swap)

current = current.prev

# Update head to the last node we processed

if temp:

self.head = temp.prev

print("List reversed successfully")

def clear(self):

"""Clear the entire list"""

self.head = self.tail = None

self.size = 0

print("List cleared")

# Demonstration and testing

def demo\_doubly\_linked\_list():

"""Demonstrate the doubly linked list operations"""

print("=" \* 50)

print("DOUBLY LINKED LIST DEMONSTRATION")

print("=" \* 50)

dll = DoublyLinkedList()

# Insert operations

dll.insert\_at\_beginning(10)

dll.insert\_at\_end(20)

dll.insert\_at\_end(30)

dll.insert\_at\_beginning(5)

dll.insert\_at\_position(15, 2)

# Display

dll.display\_forward()

dll.display\_backward()

print(f"Size: {dll.get\_size()}")

print()

# Search operation

search\_value = 20

position = dll.search(search\_value)

if position != -1:

print(f"Found {search\_value} at position {position}")

else:

print(f"{search\_value} not found in the list")

print()

# Delete operations

dll.delete\_from\_beginning()

dll.delete\_from\_end()

dll.delete\_from\_position(1)

# Display after deletions

dll.display\_forward()

print(f"Size: {dll.get\_size()}")

print()

# Insert more elements

dll.insert\_at\_end(40)

dll.insert\_at\_end(50)

dll.insert\_at\_end(60)

# Display before reverse

print("Before reverse:")

dll.display\_forward()

# Reverse the list

dll.reverse()

# Display after reverse

print("After reverse:")

dll.display\_forward()

dll.display\_backward()

print()

# Clear the list

dll.clear()

dll.display\_forward()

# Interactive menu for user to test

def interactive\_menu():

"""Interactive menu for testing the doubly linked list"""

dll = DoublyLinkedList()

while True:

print("\n" + "=" \* 40)

print("DOUBLY LINKED LIST MENU")

print("=" \* 40)

print("1. Insert at beginning")

print("2. Insert at end")

print("3. Insert at position")

print("4. Delete from beginning")

print("5. Delete from end")

print("6. Delete from position")

print("7. Search element")

print("8. Display forward")

print("9. Display backward")

print("10. Reverse list")

print("11. Get size")

print("12. Clear list")

print("13. Exit")

print("=" \* 40)

choice = input("Enter your choice (1-13): ")

if choice == '1':

data = int(input("Enter data to insert: "))

dll.insert\_at\_beginning(data)

elif choice == '2':

data = int(input("Enter data to insert: "))

dll.insert\_at\_end(data)

elif choice == '3':

data = int(input("Enter data to insert: "))

position = int(input("Enter position: "))

dll.insert\_at\_position(data, position)

elif choice == '4':

dll.delete\_from\_beginning()

elif choice == '5':

dll.delete\_from\_end()

elif choice == '6':

position = int(input("Enter position to delete: "))

dll.delete\_from\_position(position)

elif choice == '7':

data = int(input("Enter data to search: "))

pos = dll.search(data)

if pos != -1:

print(f"Element found at position {pos}")

else:

print("Element not found")

elif choice == '8':

dll.display\_forward()

elif choice == '9':

dll.display\_backward()

elif choice == '10':

dll.reverse()

elif choice == '11':

print(f"Size: {dll.get\_size()}")

elif choice == '12':

dll.clear()

elif choice == '13':

print("Exiting...")

break

else:

print("Invalid choice! Please try again.")

if \_\_name\_\_ == "\_\_main\_\_":

# Run the demonstration

demo\_doubly\_linked\_list()

# Uncomment the line below to run interactive menu

# interactive\_menu()

* Save your source codes to GitHub

Answer the following questions:

* + 1. What are the three main components of a Node in the doubly linked list implementation, and what does the \_\_init\_\_ method of the DoublyLinkedList class initialize?
    2. The insert\_at\_beginning method successfully adds a new node to the start of the list. However, if we were to reverse the order of the two lines of code inside the else block, what specific issue would this introduce? Explain the sequence of operations that would lead to this problem:

def insert\_at\_beginning(self, data):

new\_node = Node(data)

if self.is\_empty():

self.head = self.tail = new\_node

else:

new\_node.next = self.head

self.head.prev = new\_node

self.head = new\_node

self.size += 1

* + 1. How does the reverse method work? Trace through the reversal process step by step for a list containing [A, B, C], showing the pointer changes at each iteration

def reverse(self):

if self.is\_empty() or self.head == self.tail:

return

current = self.head

self.tail = self.head

while current:

temp = current.prev

current.prev = current.next

current.next = temp

current = current.prev

if temp:

self.head = temp.prev

# Results

A computer screen shot of a program

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 1. Screenshot of program

The three main components of the node in the doubly linked list are data which stores value of information, previous node points to the previous node, and next node points to the next node. The “\_\_init\_\_” method of the DoublyLinkedList class sets up the list when it is first created. It makes head = none which mean no first node yet, tail = none means no last node yet, and size = 0 which the list starts empty.

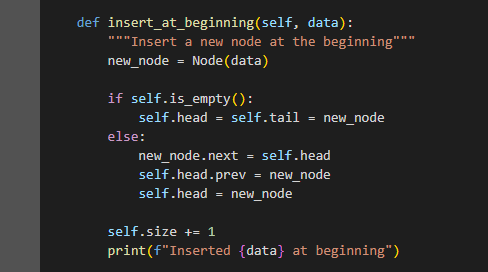


Figure 2. Screenshot of program

If we reverse the two lines inside the else block, the problem is that the links between the new node and the old head node will not be set in the correct order. When self.head.prev = new\_node is done first, the old head immediately points back to the new node, but the new node is not yet connected forward to the old head because new\_node.next is still None. Only afterward is new\_node.next set to the old head, which means there is a short period where the list has an inconsistent connection. This wrong sequence can cause errors if another operation, like traversing or inserting, happens in between because the chain of links is temporarily broken. The correct order should be to first connect the new node forward to the old head, then connect the old head back to the new node, so that the list remains consistent and properly linked.

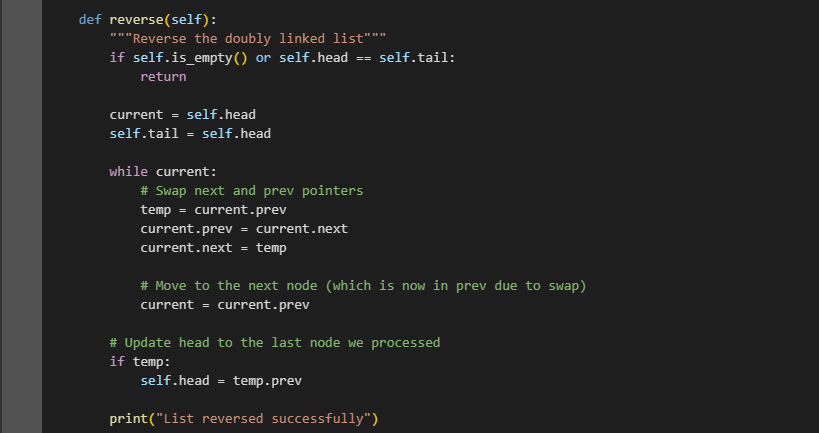


Figure 3. Screenshot of program

The reverse method works by swapping the prev and next pointers of each node until the entire list is reversed. For a list [A ⇄ B ⇄ C], the process starts with current at A and tail set to A which is the old head. In the first step, node A has its links swapped so that A.prev now points to B and A.next becomes None, making it the new tail. The process then moves to node B, where its pointers are switched: B.prev now points to C and B.next points back to A. Finally, at node C, the pointers are reversed so that C.prev becomes None and C.next points to B. At this point, the loop ends because there are no more nodes to process. The last node visited, C, becomes the new head of the list, while A is now the tail. The final structure of the list is [C ⇄ B ⇄ A], showing that the order has been successfully reversed.

# Conclusion

In this laboratory, I learned how a doubly linked list works and how different operations like inserting, deleting, searching, and reversing are done. Each node has three parts: the data which stores value of information, the previous node points to the previous node, and the next node points to the next node. By practicing the methods, I saw how the order of steps is very important to keep the list connected properly. The use of a temporary variable, like “temp” in the reverse method, showed how to change links without losing track of nodes. Overall, the activity helped me understand how data can be managed in a flexible way using pointers and how the list can be changed in both directions.

**References**

[1] GeeksforGeeks, “Doubly linked list in Python,” *GeeksforGeeks*, Jul. 23, 2025. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/dsa/doubly-linked-list-in-python/>

[2] “Node elements in Python,” Jul. 23, 2024. <https://hyperskill.org/university/python/node-elements-in-python>

[3] GeeksforGeeks, “Reverse a doubly linked list,” *GeeksforGeeks*, Jul. 23, 2025. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/dsa/reverse-a-doubly-linked-list/>

[4] GeeksforGeeks, “Insertion in a doubly linked list,” *GeeksforGeeks*, Jul. 23, 2025. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/dsa/introduction-and-insertion-in-a-doubly-linked-list/>