

## Copy List with Random Pointer

For this problem we need to construct a deep copy of the list, including both next and random pointers.

Optimal Approach:  $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  space

Key Idea: 3-Step in-place algorithm

We can avoid extra hash maps by modifying the list temporarily

Steps:

Step 1: Interweave copied nodes with original nodes.

- For each node in the original list, create a copy and insert it right after the original node.

- After this step, list looks like:

Original:  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$

Modified:  $A \rightarrow A' \rightarrow B \rightarrow B' \rightarrow C \rightarrow C'$

Step 2: Assign random pointers to copied nodes

- For each original node, set  $\text{copy.random} = \text{original.random.next}$  (if random exists).

Step 3: Separate the two lists

- Detach the copied list from the interleaved structure to restore the original list.

Complexity Analysis:

- Time:  $O(n)$  (Traverse list 3 times)

- Space:  $O(1)$  (In-place without extra hash maps)