LINKED LIST

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A linked list is a non-sequential collection of data items. It is a dynamic data structure. For every data item in a linked list, there is an associated pointer that would give the memory location of the next data item in the linked list. The data items in the linked list are not in consecutive memory locations. They may be anywhere, but the accessing of these data items is easier as each data item contains the address of the next data item.

COMPARISON BETWEEN ARRAY AND LINKED LIST

ARRAY	LINKED LIST
Size of an array is fixed	Size of a list is not fixed
Memory is allocated from stack	Memory is allocated from heap
It is necessary to specify the number of elements during declaration (i.e., during compile time).	It is not necessary to specify the number of elements during declaration (i.e., memory is allocated during run time).
It occupies less memory than a linked list for the same number of elements.	It occupies more memory.
Inserting new elements at the front is potentially expensive because existing elements need to be shifted over to make room.	Inserting a new element at any position can be carried out easily.
Deleting an element from an array is not possible.	Deleting an element is possible.

ADVANTAGES OF LINKED LISTS

Linked lists have many advantages. Some of the very important advantages are:

1. Linked lists are dynamic data structures. i.e., they can grow or shrink during the execution of a program.
2. Linked lists have efficient memory utilization. Here, memory is not preallocated. Memory is allocated whenever it is required and it is de-allocated (removed) when it is no longer needed. 3. Insertion and Deletions are easier and efficient. Linked lists provide

flexibility in inserting a data item at a specified position and deletion of the data item from the given position.
3. Many complex applications can be easily carried out with linked lists.

DISADVANTAGES OF LINKED LISTS

1. It consumes more space because every node requires a additional pointer to store address of the next node.
2. Searching a particular element in list is difficult and also time consuming.

TYPES OF LINKED LIST

Singly Linked List: A Singly Linked List is the most common type of Linked List. Each node has data and a pointer field containing an address to the next node.

Doubly Linked List: A Doubly Linked List consists of an information field and two pointer fields. The information field contains the data. The first pointer field contains an address of the previous node, whereas another pointer field contains a reference to the next node. Thus, we can go in both directions (backward as well as forward).

Circular Linked List: The Circular Linked List is similar to the Singly Linked List. The only key difference is that the last node contains the address of the first node, forming a circular loop in the Circular Linked List.

SOME APPLICATIONS OF LINKED LISTS

1. The Linked Lists help us implement stacks, queues, binary trees, and graphs of predefined size.
2. We can also implement Operating System's function for dynamic memory management.
3. Linked Lists also allow polynomial implementation for mathematical operations.
4. We can use Circular Linked List to implement Operating Systems or application functions that Round Robin execution of tasks.
5. Circular Linked List is also helpful in a Slide Show where a user requires to go back to the first slide after the last slide is presented.
6. Doubly Linked List is utilized to implement forward and backward buttons in a browser to move forward and backward in the opened pages of a website.

SINGLY LINKED LIST

A linked list allocates space for each element separately in its own block of memory called a "node". The list gets an overall structure by using pointers to connect all its nodes together like the links in a chain. Each node contains two fields; a "data" field to store whatever element, and a "next" field which is a pointer used to link to the next node. Each node is allocated in the heap using malloc(), so the node memory continues to exist until it is explicitly de-allocated using free(). The front of the list is a pointer to the “start” node.

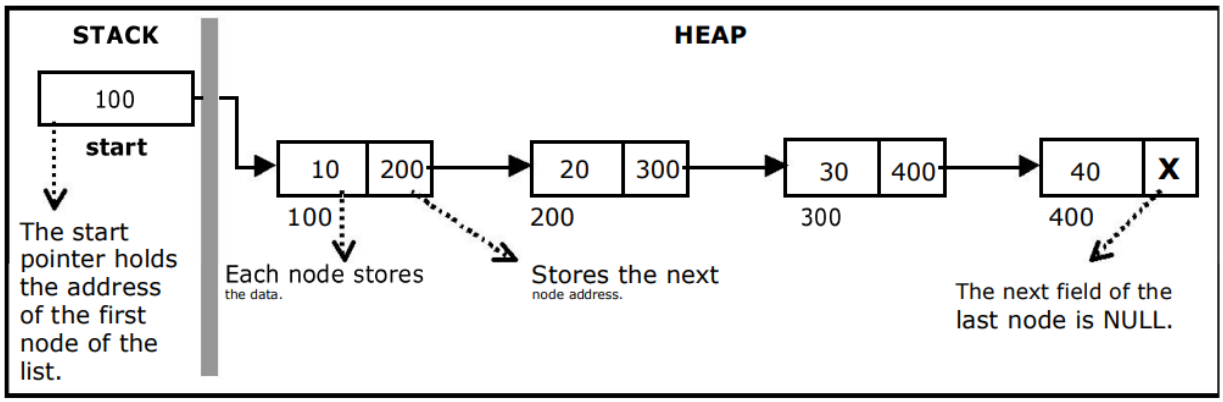


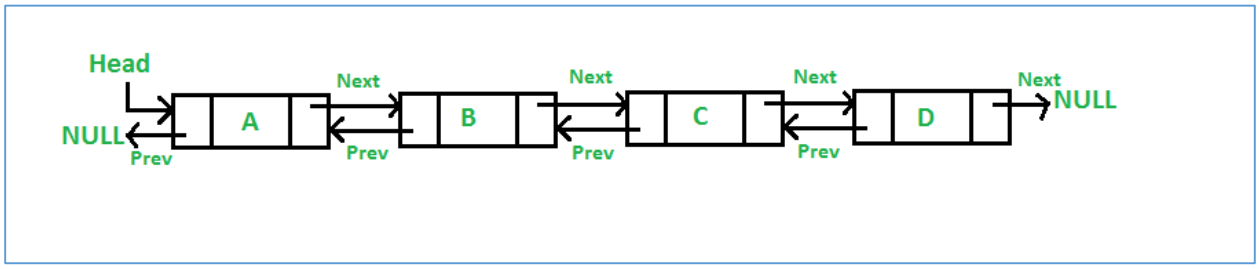
Figure 3.2.1. Single Linked List

OPERATIONS

SN	Operation	Description
1	Insertion at beginning	It involves inserting any element at the front of the list. We just need to a few link adjustments to make the new node as the head of the list.
2	Insertion at end of the list	It involves insertion at the last of the linked list. The new node can be inserted as the only node in the list or it can be inserted as the last one. Different logics are implemented in each scenario.
3	Insertion after specified node	It involves insertion after the specified node of the linked list. We need to skip the desired number of nodes in order to reach the node after which the new node will be inserted. .
1	Deletion at beginning	It involves deletion of a node from the beginning of the list. This is the simplest operation among all. It just need a few adjustments in the node pointers.
2	Deletion at the end of the list	It involves deleting the last node of the list. The list can either be empty or full. Different logic is implemented for the different scenarios.
3	Deletion after specified node	It involves deleting the node after the specified node in the list. we need to skip the desired number of nodes to reach the node after which the node will be deleted. This requires traversing through the list.
4	Traversing	In traversing, we simply visit each node of the list at least once in order to perform some specific operation on it, for example, printing data part of each node present in the list.
5	Searching	In searching, we match each element of the list with the given element. If the element is found on any of the location then location of that element is returned otherwise null is returned. .

DOUBLY LINKED LIST

Doubly linked list is a complex type of linked list in which a node contains a pointer to the previous as well as the next node in the sequence. Therefore, in a doubly linked list, a node consists of three parts: node data, pointer to the next node in sequence (next pointer) , pointer to the previous node (previous pointer).



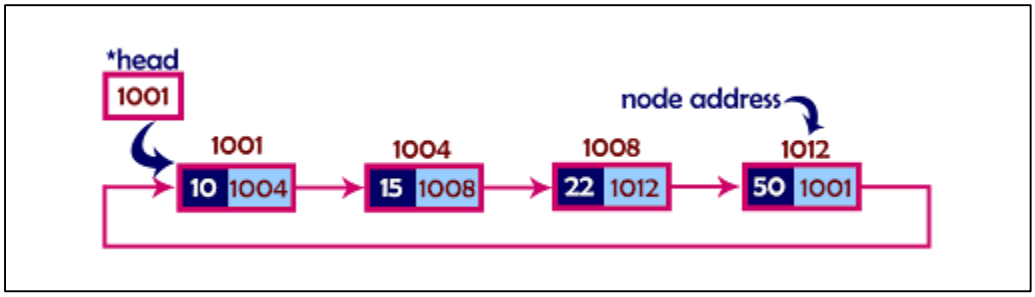
OPERATIONS ON DOUBLY LINKED LIST

SN	Operation	Description
1	Insertion at beginning	Adding the node into the linked list at beginning.
2	Insertion at end	Adding the node into the linked list to the end.
3	Insertion after specified node	Adding the node into the linked list after the specified node.
4	Deletion at beginning	Removing the node from beginning of the list
5	Deletion at the end	Removing the node from end of the list.
6	Deletion of the node having given data	Removing the node which is present just after the node containing the given data.
7	Searching	Comparing each node data with the item to be searched and return the location of the item in the list if the item found else return null.
8	Traversing	Visiting each node of the list at least once in order to perform some specific operation like searching, sorting, display, etc.

CIRCULAR LINKED LIST

In a circular Singly linked list, the last node of the list contains a pointer to the first node of the list. We can have circular singly linked list as well as circular doubly linked list.

We traverse a circular singly linked list until we reach the same node where we started. The circular singly liked list has no beginning and no ending. There is no null value present in the next part of any of the nodes.



OPERATIONS

SN	Operation	Description
1	Insertion at beginning	Adding a node into circular singly linked list at the beginning.
2	Insertion at the end	Adding a node into circular singly linked list at the end.
1	Deletion at beginning	Removing the node from circular singly linked list at the beginning.
2	Deletion at the end	Removing the node from circular singly linked list at the end.
3	Searching	Compare each element of the node with the given item and return the location at which the item is present in the list otherwise return null.
4	Traversing	Visiting each element of the list at least once in order to perform some specific operation.