

Exercise 5: Task Management System

Analysis:

- Analyze the time complexity of each operation.
- Discuss the advantages of linked lists over arrays for dynamic data.

Time Complexity:

Operation	Time complexity	Reason
Add(at head)	$O(1)$	Just update pointers to add a node at the beginning.
Add(at tail)	$O(n)$	Requires traversal to the end unless tail is tracked.
Search	$O(n)$	Linear search needed to find a task by name, ID, or status.
Traverse	$O(n)$	Visit each task node sequentially.
Delete	$O(n)$	Need to find the node and update the previous node's pointer.

Advantages of Linked Lists over Arrays for Dynamic Data

Advantage	Explanation
Dynamic size	No need to declare a fixed size. You can grow/shrink the list as tasks are added/removed.
Efficient insertion/deletion	Especially at the beginning or middle—no need to shift elements like in arrays.
No memory reallocation	Unlike arrays, you don't need to allocate a larger block of memory when expanding.
Better suited for frequently changing data	Great for task queues or schedulers where tasks are added/removed often.

Conclusion

- Use a **linked list** when the number of tasks is dynamic and frequent insertions/deletions are needed.
- Use **arrays** only if task count is fixed and random access (by index) is critical.
- For advanced systems (e.g., with priority), you might consider **priority queues**, **doubly linked lists**, or even **heaps**.