



香港中文大學 (深圳)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

# CSC3100 Data Structures

## Lecture 6: List

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# List

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- ▶ A general list of the form:  $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_N$ 
  - We say that the size of this list is  $N$
  - For any list except the empty list, we say:
    - $A_{i+1}$  follows (succeeds)  $A_i$  ( $i < N$ )
    - $A_{i-1}$  precedes  $A_i$  ( $i > 1$ )
    - The first element of the list is  $A_1$
    - The last element is  $A_N$
    - We will not define the predecessor of  $A_1$ , or the successor of  $A_N$ .
    - The position of element  $A_i$  is  $i$



# List

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- ▶ Some popular operations on List are:
  - `printList`
  - `makeEmpty`
  - `find`
    - return the position of the first occurrence of a key, e.g., given the list: 34, 12, 52, 16, 12, `Find(52)` returns 3.
  - `insert`
    - insert some key at some position, e.g., `Insert(X, 3)`.
  - `Delete`
    - delete some key from some position, e.g., `Delete(52)`.
  - `next & previous` (optional)



# Array is a list

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- ▶ PrintList and Find implemented in  $O(N)$
- ▶ Require to estimate of the maximum size for memory allocation (often high overestimate, wasting space!)
- ▶ Insertion and Deletion are however expensive
  - Why? What is the major cost?
    - Answer: shift items



# Linked List



- ▶ Consists of a series of nodes (Node class)
- ▶ A singly linked list, each node is composed of data and a reference
- ▶ Not necessarily adjacent in memory
- ▶ Flexible on element insertion and deletion

```
class Node {  
    int element;  
    Node next;  
}
```

```
// constructor  
public Node(int x) {  
    element = x;  
    next = null;  
}
```

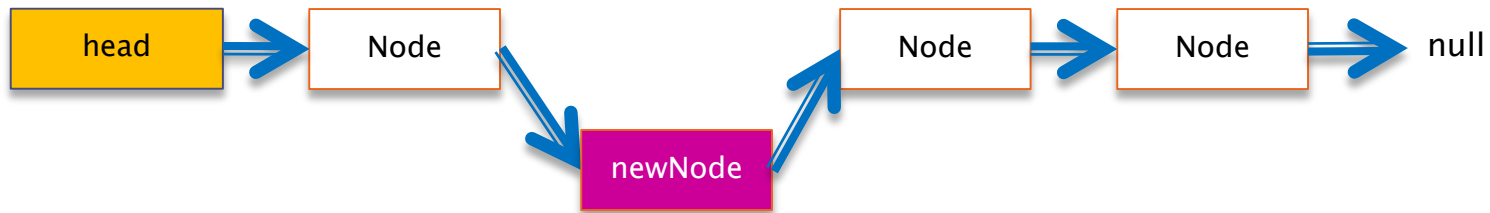
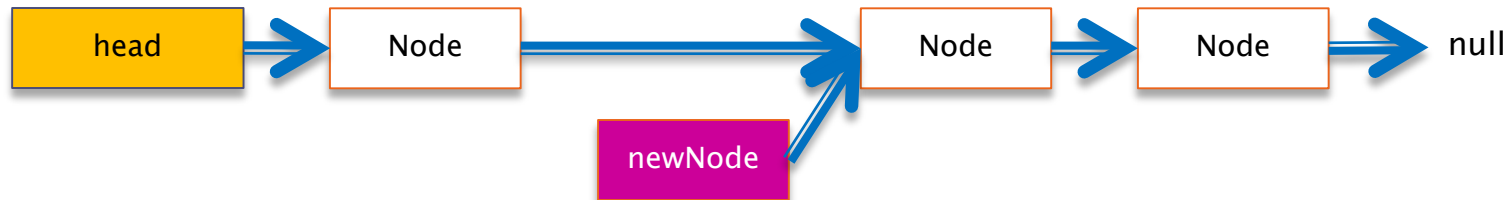
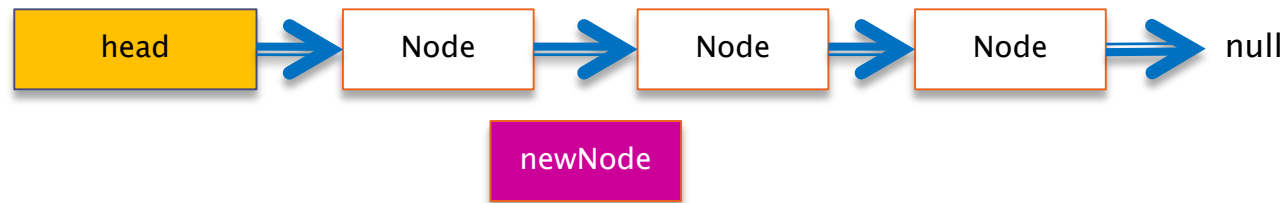
Note:

“*head*” here is a node that does NOT store data



# Linked List :: Insert

- ▶ Add a new element to the list





# Linked List :: Insert

```
void insert(int x, int p) {
```

```
    Node tmpNode = new Node(x);  
    Node prevNode = head;
```

```
    for (int i=0; i<p-1; i++) {  
        if (prevNode.next == null)  
            break;  
        prevNode = prevNode.next;  
    }
```

```
    tmpNode.next = prevNode.next;  
    prevNode.next = tmpNode;
```

```
}
```

- *tmpNode* is a new node that contains x
- *prevNode* will be used for finding the previous node of *tmpNode*

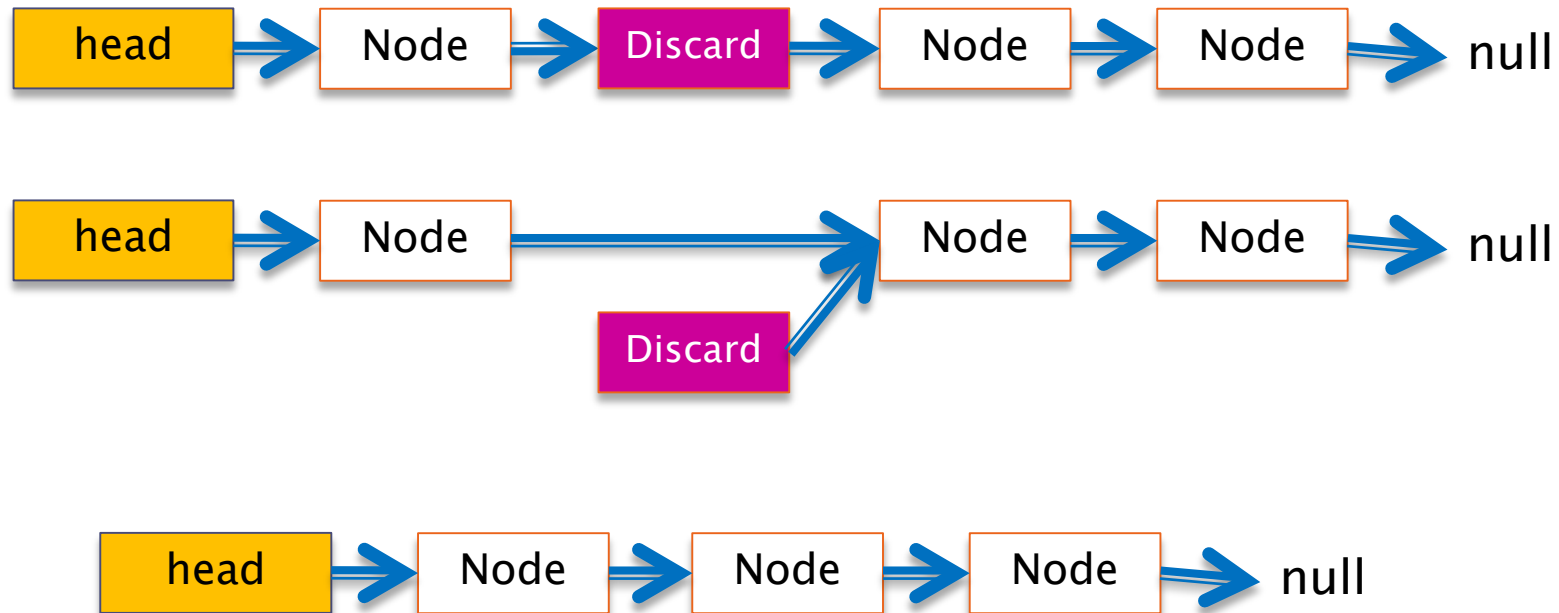
Moves to the end of the list if p is larger than the size of list

Link the new node



# Linked List :: Delete

- ▶ Delete a node from the list







# Linked List :: Delete

```
void delete(int p) {  
    Node prevNode = head;
```

```
    for(int i=0; i<p-1; i++)  
        if (prevNode.next == null)  
            break;  
        else  
            prevNode = prevNode.next;
```

Go to the  
specific  
position

```
    Node targetNode = prevNode.next;  
  
    if (targetNode != null)  
        prevNode.next = targetNode.next;
```

Bypass the  
target node

```
    free(targetNode)
```

```
}
```



# List: Example1

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## ► Single-variable Polynomials

$$F(X) = \sum_{i=0}^N A_i X^i$$

```
class Polynomial {  
    int coeffArray[MaxDegree + 1];  
    int highPower;  
}
```



By array  
implementation



# Example1

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- ▶ Initialize a polynomial

```
void zeroPolynomial(Polynomial poly){  
    int j;  
    for (j = 0; j <= MaxDegree; j++)  
        poly.coeffArray[j] = 0;  
    poly.highPower = 0;  
}
```



# Example1

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## ► Add two polynomials

```
void addPolynomial(Polynomial poly1, Polynomial poly2,  
    Polynomial polySum) {  
    zeroPolynomial(polySum);  
    polySum.highPower = Math.max(poly1.highPower, poly2.highPower);  
    for (int i = polySum.highPower; i>=0; i--)  
        polySum.coeffArray[i] = poly1.coeffArray [i] +  
            poly2.coeffArray[i];  
}
```



# Example1

► Multiply two polynomials

[illegible]



# Example 1

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- ▶ Good or bad?
- ▶ Consider the following situation
$$P_1(X) = 10 X^{1000} + 5X^{14} + 1$$
$$P_2(X) = 3X^{1990} - 2X^{1492} + 11X + 5$$
- ▶ Most of the time is spent multiplying zeros



# Example1

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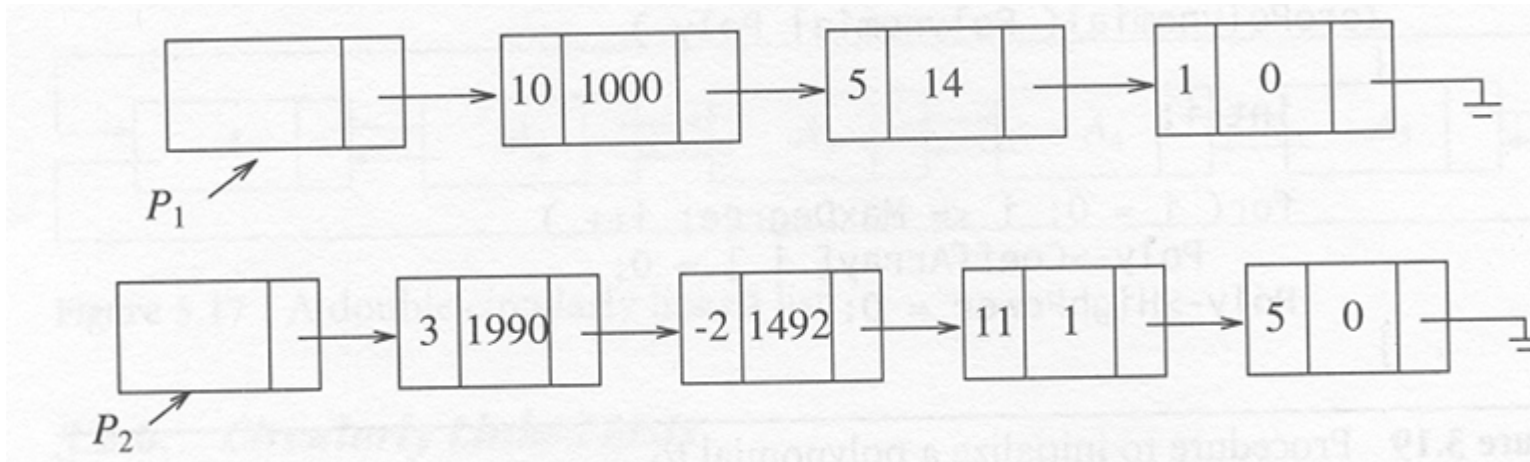
- ▶ Multiply two polynomials: better structure

```
class Node {  
    int    coefficient;  
    int    exponent;  
    Node next;  
}
```



# Example1

- ▶ Linked list representation of the previous structure







## Example2

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- ▶ A university with 40,000 students and 2,500 subjects needs to generate 2 reports:
  1. Lists of students for each class
  2. Lists of classes that each student registered

Implementation: construct 2D array (40Kx2.5K matrix) = 100M entries

if each student takes 3 subjects => only 120K entries (~0.1% of 100M) => waste of resources



## Example2

- First solution: triplet representation (minimum space)

0	0	0	0	9	0
0	8	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	2	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	5
0	0	2	0	0	0

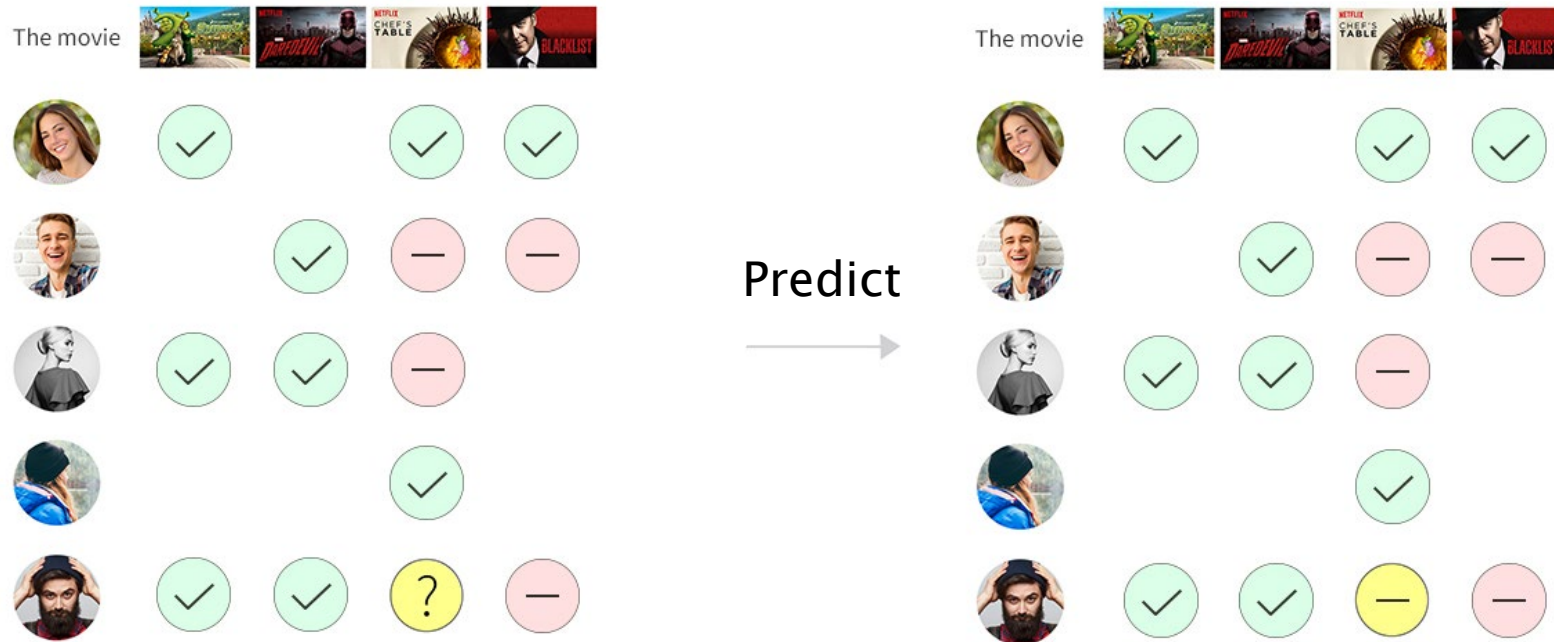


Rows	Columns	Values
0	4	9
1	1	8
2	0	4
2	2	2
3	5	5
4	2	2



# Example3

## ► Recommendation problem



- In a lot of applications, such as music app, taobao, meituan, seems everywhere in social network



## Example3

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- ▶ Suppose we have 10 million people and tens of movies or products
  - $10,000,000 * 10,000 = 100G$  items, how to save?
- ▶ The huge matrix may involve in many computations, such as multiplications, eigen decomposition, etc.
  - Solution: spare data structure based on basic type

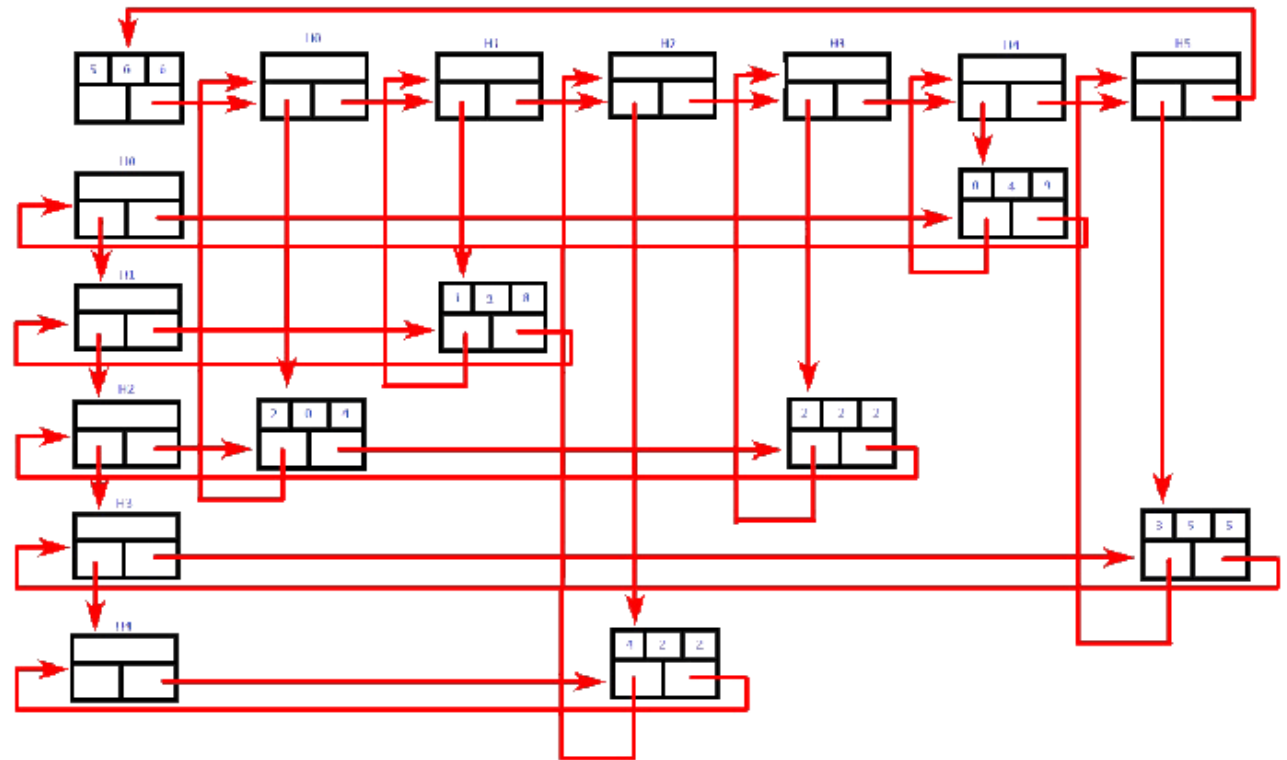


# Example3

## ► Second solution: Linked Representation

Element Node

row	column	value
down/up	right	





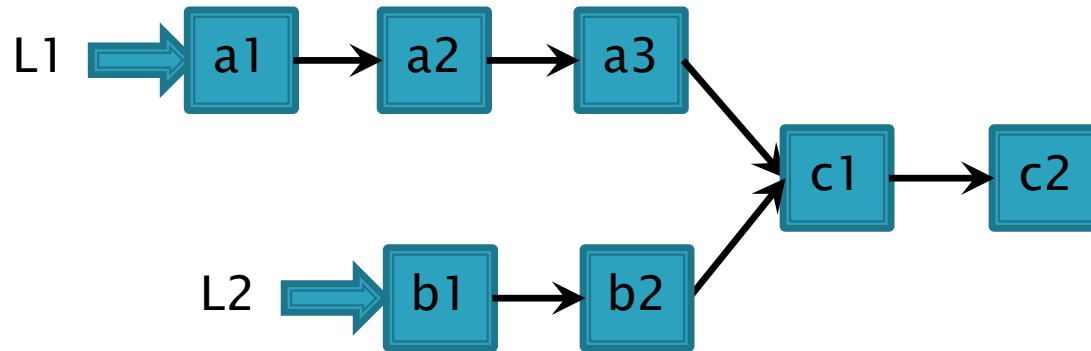
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# Application 1: Intersection of Two Linked List



# Problem Statement

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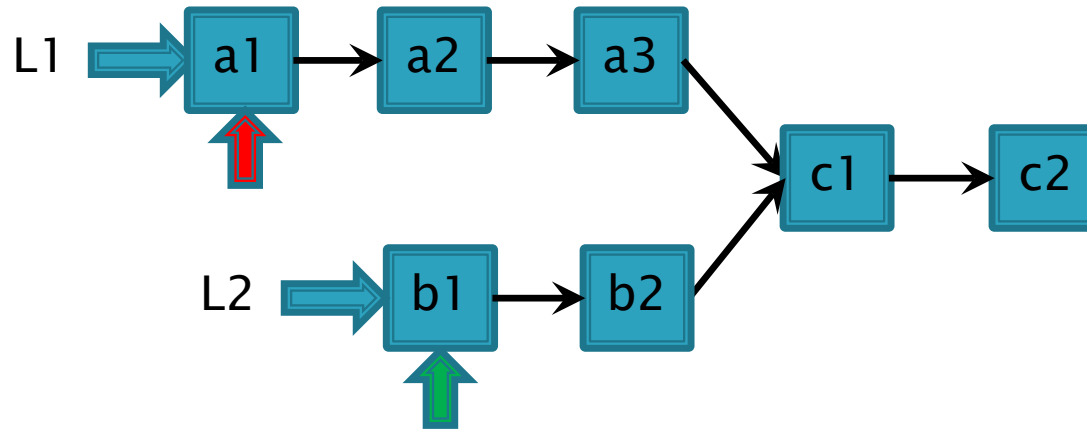


L1 has  $M$  elements while L2 has  $N$  elements.  
Find the first node where L1 and L2 intersect.



# Problem Statement

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- Use pointer *A* to traverse L1, and use pointer *B* to traverse L1
- Compare every possible pair of *A* and *B*





# Method #1

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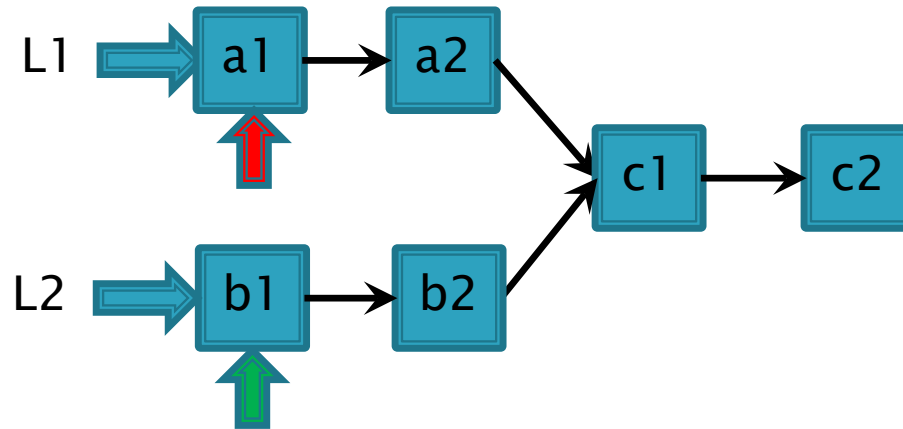
```
A = L1.head
while A != NULL
    B = L2.head
    while B != NULL
        if A == B
            return A
        B = B.next
    A = A.next
```

**$O(MN)$**



# Problem Statement

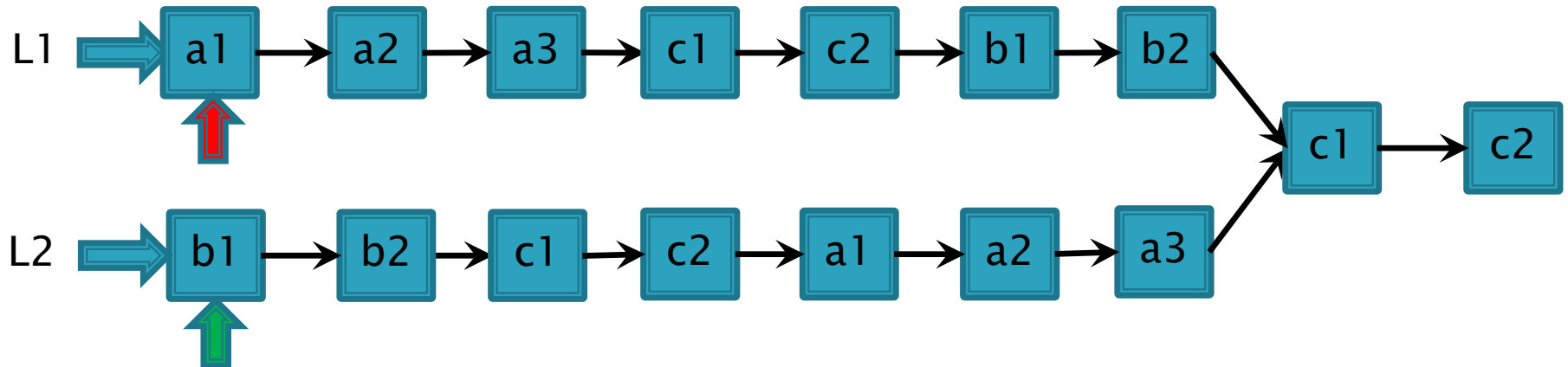
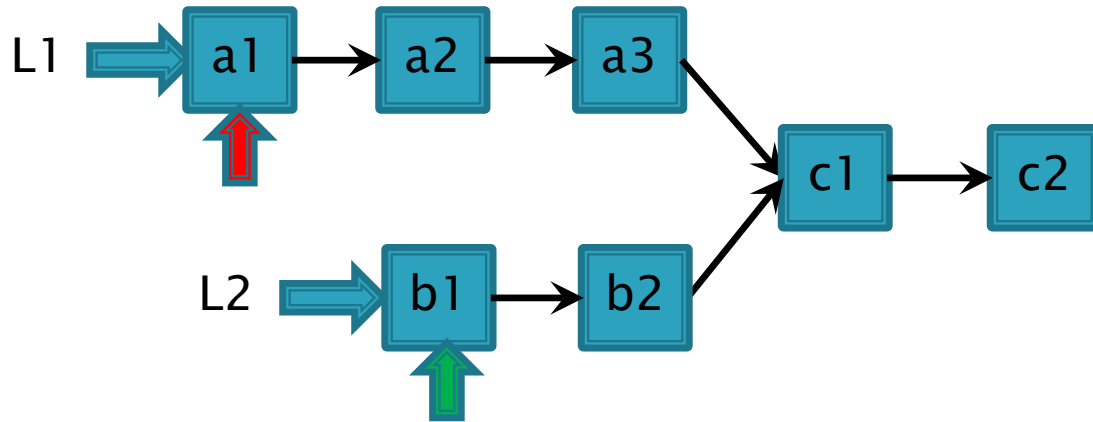
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If L1 and L2 have the same length, the problem is easy to solve

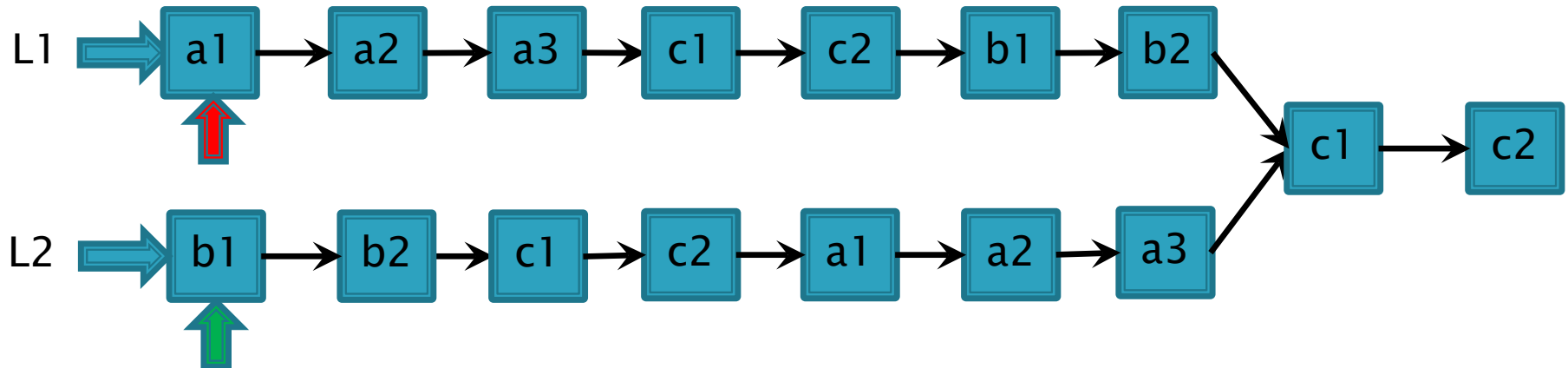
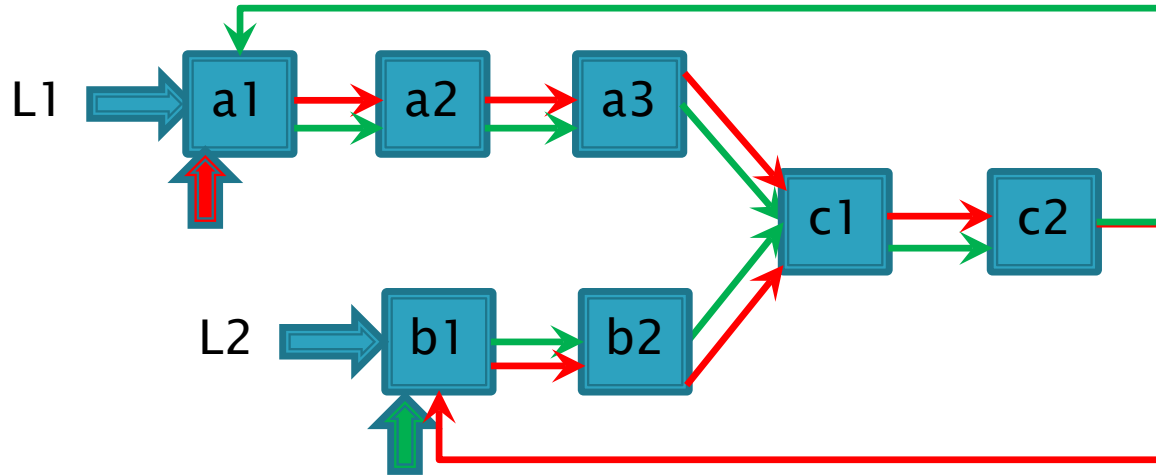


# Method #2





# Method #2





## Method #2

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```
A = L1.head
B = L2.head
while TRUE
    if A == B
        return A
    if A.next == NULL
        A = L2.head
    else A = A.next
    if B.next == NULL
        B = L1.head
    else B = B.next
```

**$O(M+N)$**



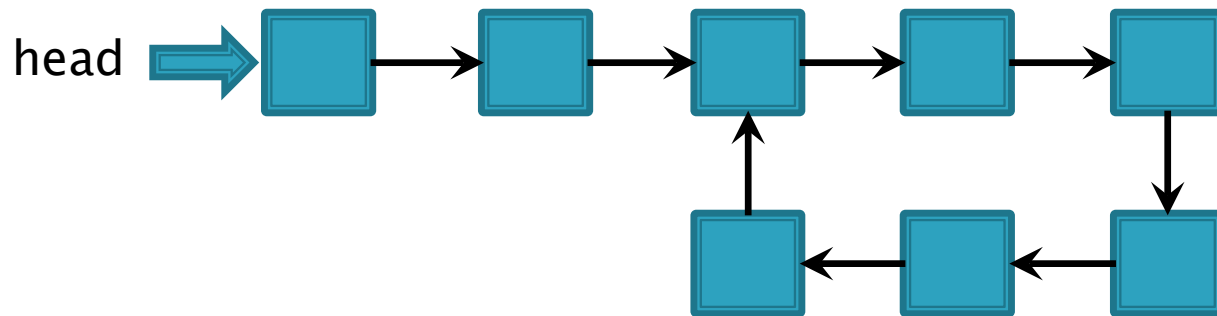
## Application 2: Cyclic or Not?



# Problem Statement

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Given the head of a singly linked list  $L$ , decide if  $L$  has a cycle.





# Method #1

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- If  $L$  is acyclic, we ultimately arrive at NULL by continuously following the next pointer:

$p = L.head$

for  $i = 1$  upto  $M$

if  $p == \text{NULL}$

return "acyclic"

else  $p = p.next$

return "cyclic"

$M$  is some big number

- $M$  must be sufficiently large to guarantee correctness, but it is hard to decide  $M$ .





## Method #2

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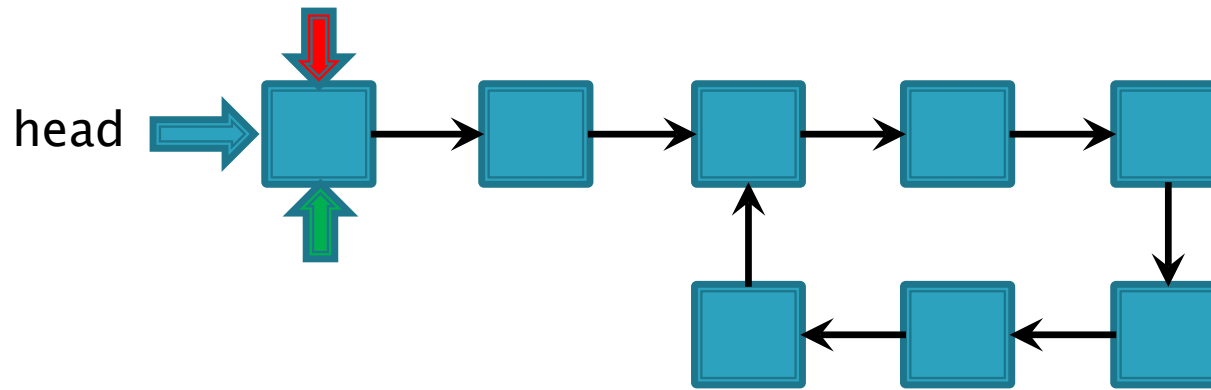


- Store all revisited nodes in a new list  $L'$ :  
     $p = L.head$   
    while  $p \neq NULL$   
        if  $search(L', p) == NULL$   
             $insert(L', p)$   
             $p = p.next$   
        else return "cyclic"  
    return "acyclic"
- $L'$  and search are expensive; use a Hash table.



# Method #3

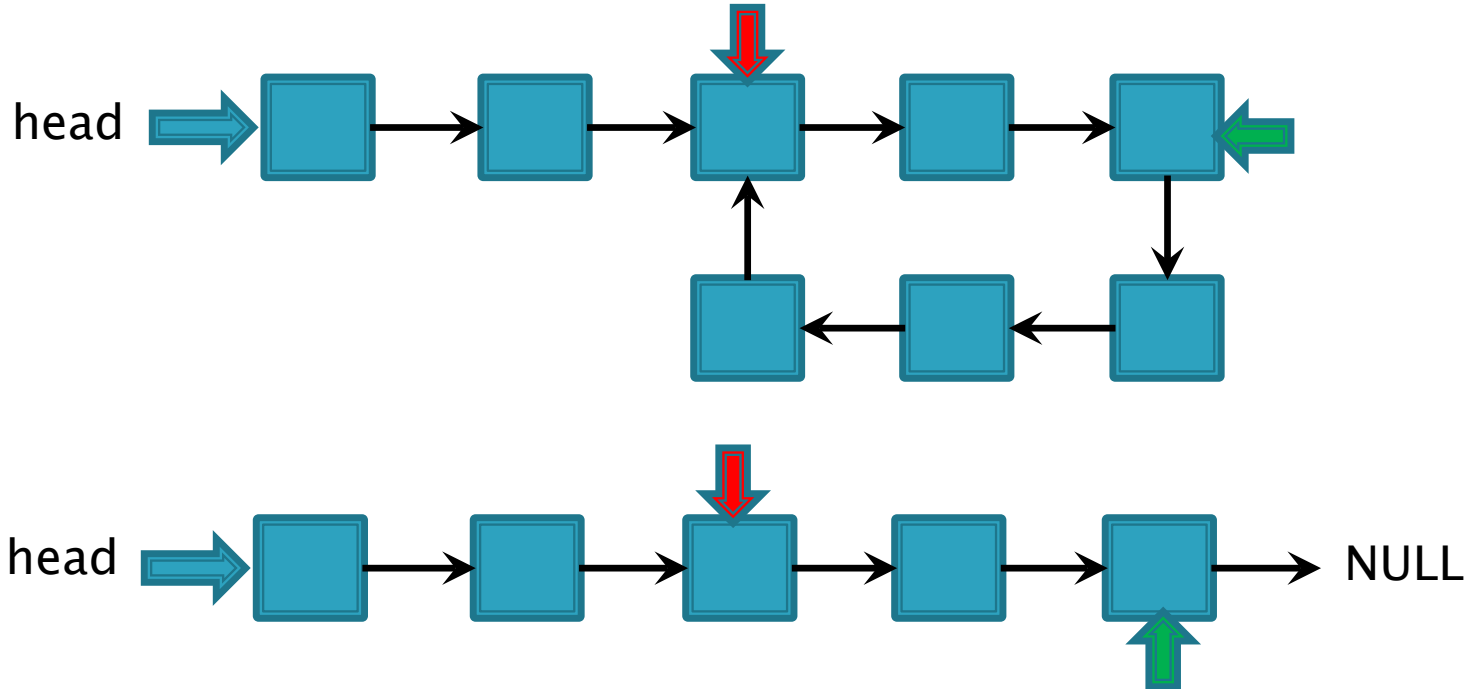
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- Use two pointers  $A$  and  $B$ , both initialized to head
- Every time  $A=A.next$  while  $B=B.next.next$



# Method #3

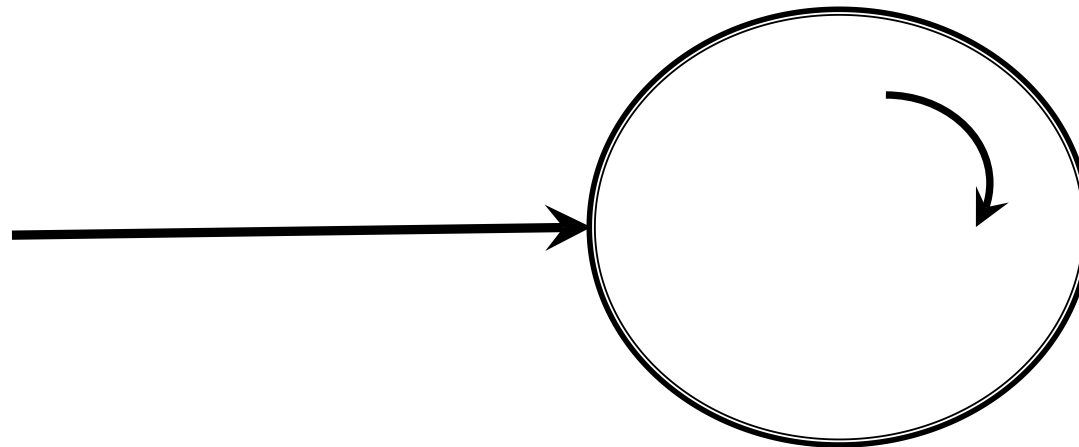
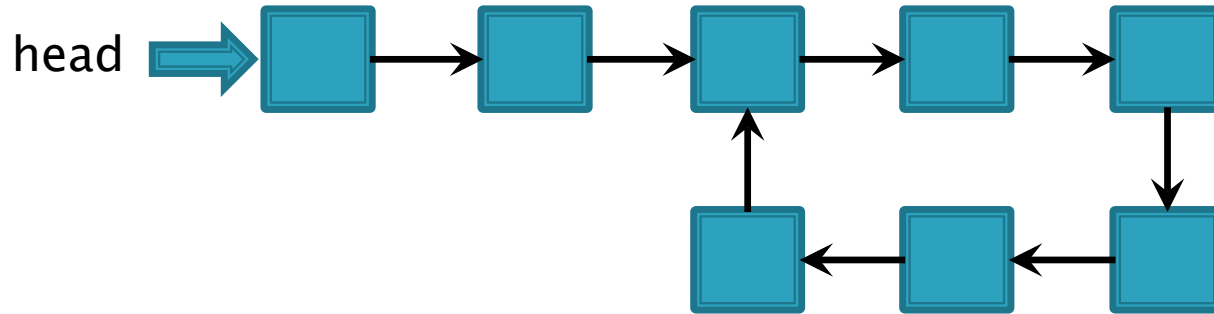


- If  $L$  is acyclic, either  $B$  or  $B.next$  be NULL
- If  $L$  is cyclic,  $B$  enters the cycle earlier than  $A$



# Method #3

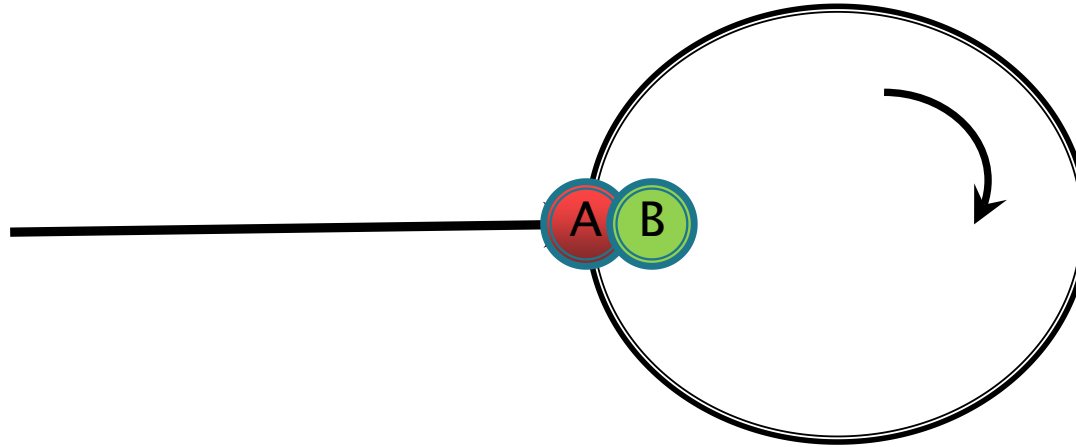
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# Method #3

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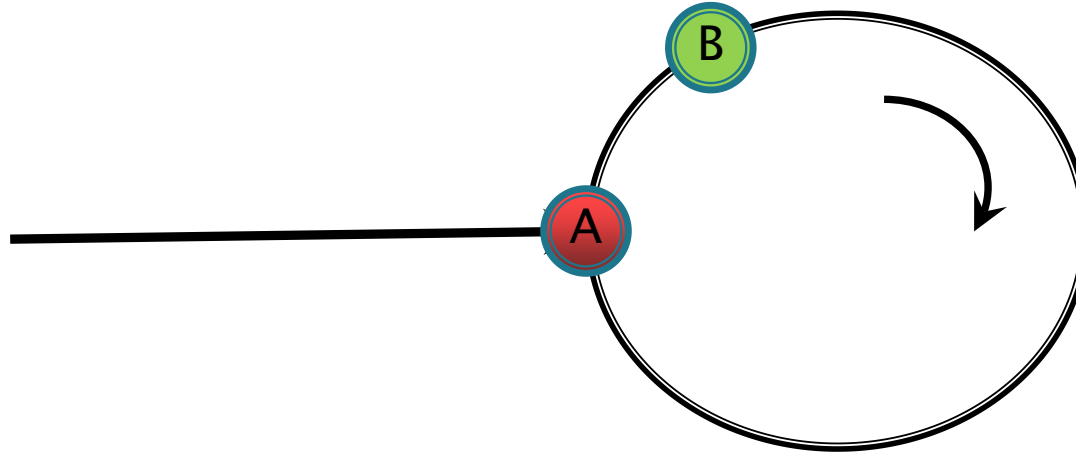


- Case I: B is exactly at entrance when A arrives at the cycle
- So A and B meet at entrance



## Method #3

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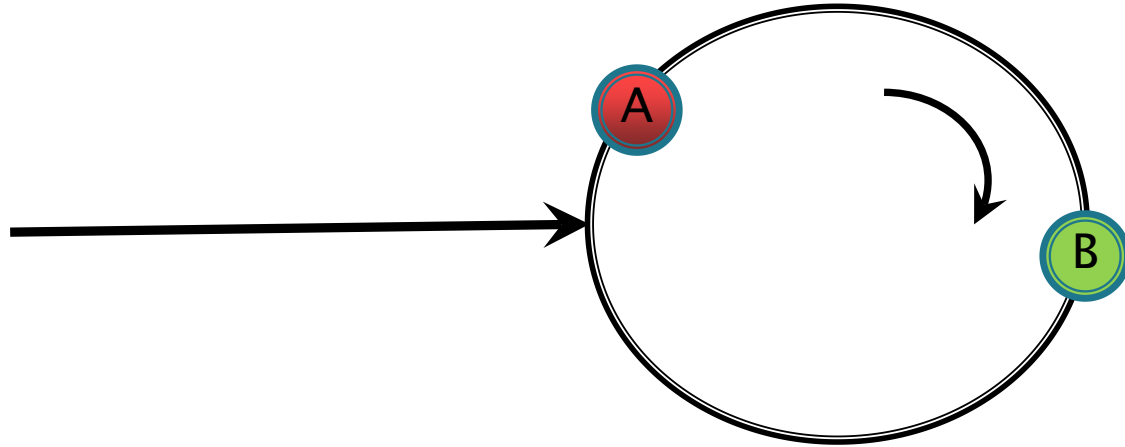


- Case II: B is somewhere else in the cycle when A arrives at entrance



## Method #3

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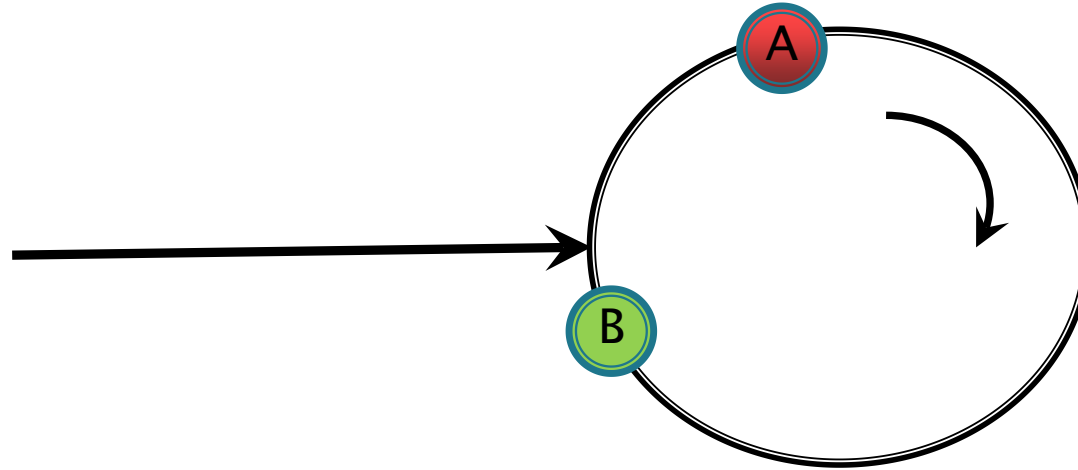


- Since B is moving faster, it must overtake A at a certain point in time



## Method #3

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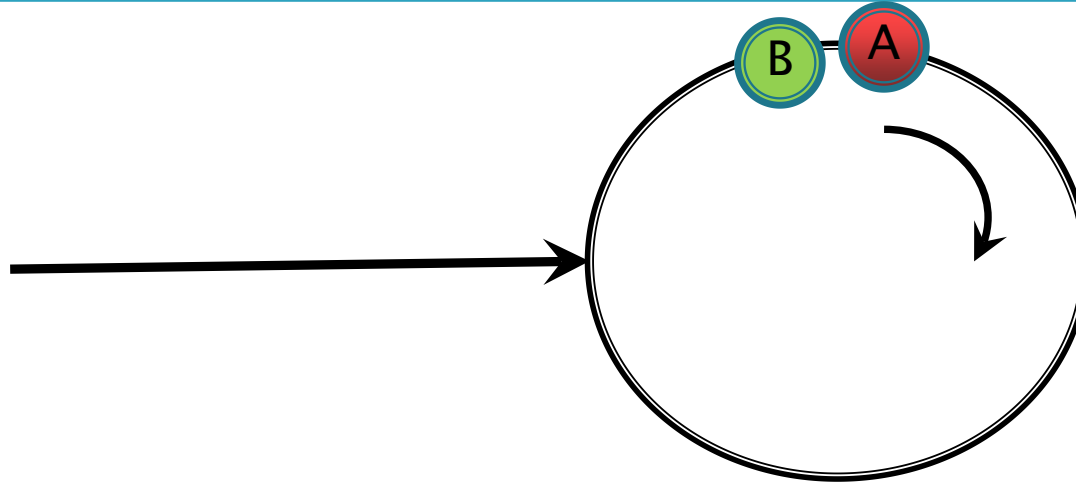
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## Method #3

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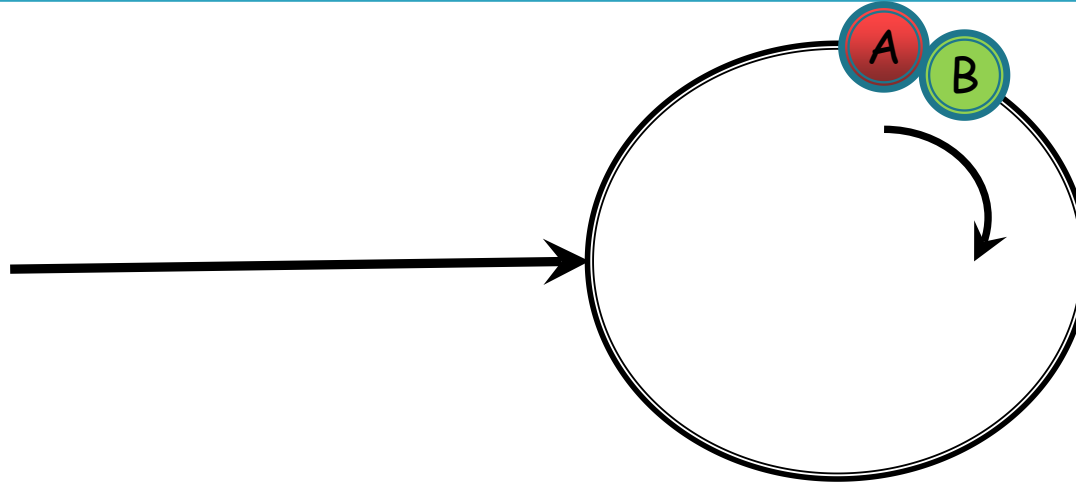


- Since B is moving faster, it must overtake A at a certain point in time



## Method #3

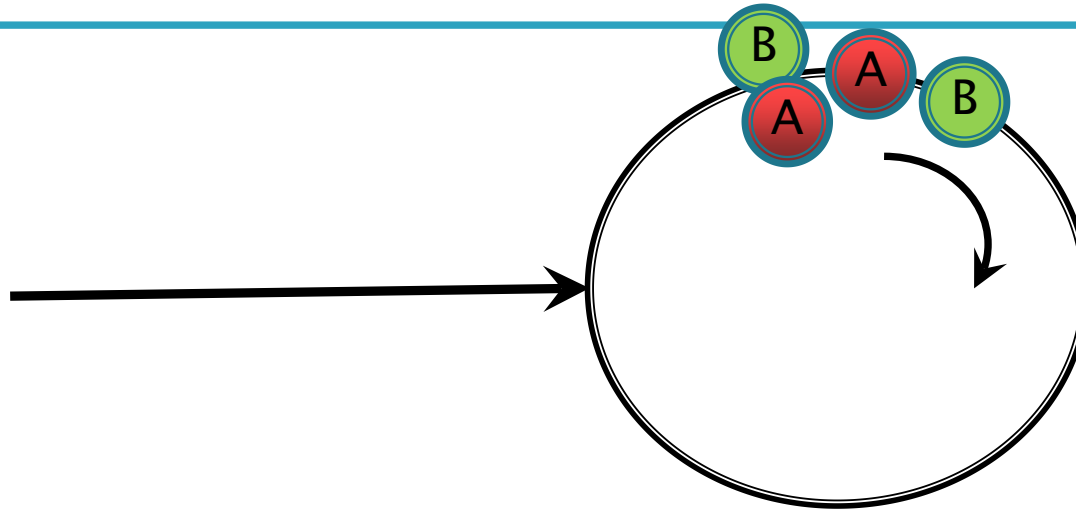
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- Since B is moving faster, it must overtake A at a certain point in time



## Method #3



- And right before B overtakes A, the two nodes meet



## Method #3

---

- Thus, A and B are guaranteed to meet if link is cyclic.

A = L.head; B = L.head

while B != NULL and B.next != NULL

if A == B

return "cyclic"

A = A.next

B = B.next.next

return "acyclic"



# Recommended reading

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- ▶ Reading
  - Chapter 10, textbook
- ▶ Next lectures
  - Stack and queue