

1 Abstract Data Types (ADTs)

An abstract data type (ADT) is an abstraction of a data structure. An ADT specifies:

- Data stored
- Operations on the data
- Error conditions associated with operations

An ADT does not **specify** the implementation **itself** - hence abstract

2 Concrete Data Types (CDTs)

The actual data structure that we use:

- Possibly consists of Arrays or similar data
- An ADT might be implemented using different choices for the CDT
- The choice of CDT will not be apparent from the interface: data hiding encapsulation e.g. see Object Oriented Methods
- The choice of CDT will affect the runtime and space usage and so is a major topic of this module

Reference section

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