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ELEC 278 - Lecture Notes

FUNDAMENTALS OF INFORMATION STRUCTURES

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1 Tutorial 1

1.1 Pointers

A pointer is a variable type that stores an address star * is used to set a *pointer* and to also *dereference* the pointer You can have a **array of pointers** and a **pointer to an array**, they are different

```
int *arr[5]; # arr is an array of 5 elements
int (*ptr)[5]; # ptr is a pointer than points to an array of 5 ints
```

2 Tutorial 2

Dot operator vs Arrow

```
\\ both of these lines of code are the same
date->month[0];
(*date).month[0];
```

3 What is a Data Structure

A data structure is a way to store and organize data in order to facilitate access and modification

It concerns the representation, manipulation, and efficient management of data. Use cases involve large databases and internet indexing services.

Efficient data structures are key to designing efficient algorithms.

Each data structure supports one or more algorithms for the **operations**, that are insert, delete, search, and modify

Conversely, an algorithm is a step by step procedure in performing a task

4 Overview of C - Review

Incorrect swap function

```
void swap(int a, int b){
   int temp = a;
   a = b;
   b = tmp;
  }
int x = 1;
int y = 2;
swap(x,y);
```

This function is swapping its own copy of the data, and these changes are not reflected outside the function Pointers are necessary to affect the original variables

4.1 Pointers

```
int *nptr = &total;
```

This pointer is pointing to the memory address of the total variable

The & operator returns or takes the address of a variable

Usage:

```
int total = 5;
float speed = 2.3;
int numbers[4];
int *nptr = &total;
*nptr = 12; # this changes 5 to 12
```

The * operator uses or dereferences the value of the pointer

4.2 Correct swap function

```
void swap(int *a, int *b){
    int tmp = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = *a;
    }
int x = 1;
int y = 2;
swap(&x, &y); # x and y are changed
```

Pointer values are copied, and pointers are used to access original values

4.3 Indexing Pointers

Neglecting [] of an array calls its first value (at index 0)

```
int numbers[4];
int *nptr = numbers;
```

Notice, no & for pointing to arrays

You can add or subtract integers from pointers. When you do this, the pointers value is scaled by the size of its referenced type (e.g. nptr + 2 is equivalent to adding 8 bytes if pointing to int since each int is 4 bytes)

You can access array elements using pointer arithmetic:

```
*(nptr+2)=10; # sets the third element of the array to 10
```

4.4 Global and Local Variables

Global variables are always initialized to zero

5 Overview of C - New Types

A data structure is a way to store and organize data in order to facilitate access and modification

5.1 C Structures

This groups items of possibly different types into a single type

```
struct structure_name{
   data_type member_name1;
   data_type member_name2;
};
```

The items in the structure are called **members** or **fields**

We can define structure variables as

```
struct structure_name variable_name1;
```

or at the same time:

```
struct structure_name{
   data_type member_name1;
   data_type member_name2;
   } variable_name1;
```

Where *structure_name* is the defined structure of data, and *variable_name* is an instance of the struct

Use the dot (.) operator to access members

```
var_name.marital_status = 4;
```

and initialize individual fields with the dot notation:

```
struct Student1={.name = "Alice", .section = 'A'};
```

A More Detailed Example



```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
struct student {
  int id;
                                Define the data type
   char name[20];
   float percentage;
};
int main() {
                                       Declare the structure variable
  struct student record;
   record.id=1;
  strcpy(record.name, "Raju");
record.percentage = 86.5;
printf(" Id is: %d \n", record.id);
printf(" Name is: %s \n", record.name);
printf(" Percentage is: %f \n", record.percentage);
                                               Assign values to structure members
                                                                                 Access structure
                                                                                 members
   return 0;
                                                  ELEC278
```

5.2 Typedef

A typedef looks like a variable definition, but defines a new name for an existing type. This can improve code readability.

```
typedef int studentNumberType;
studentNumberType studentNumber1;
```

Here, studentNumberType becomes an alias for int, so studentNumber1 is actually an int but is made clearer.

```
typedef struct {
    char name[50];
    int class;
    char section;
    } Student;
Student s1, s2;
```

5.3 Nested Structures

If we typedef a struct, and use it in another structure, one of the members of a structure is itself another structure

```
typedef struct {
   int imag;
   float real;
} complex;

struct number {
   int flags;
   complex phase;
} num1, num2;
```

Where phase is a struct

5.4 C Enumerated Types

This is a way to create a user-defined type consisting of a set of named integer constants

```
enum colors {RED, GREEN, BLUE}
```

You can also change the starting value by:

```
enum week {Monday = 1; ...} # Sunday is 0
```

We can also combine enums with typedef

6 Overview of C - More Structs and Dynamic Memory

6.1 More Structs

Structs can be used as the base type of an array

```
typedef struct {
   int x;
   int y;
} point;

point vertexes[100];

vertexes[4].x=23;
vertexes[4].x=18;
```

We can also point to members within a struct

```
typedef struct {
    int x;
    int y;
} point;

point a = {23,18};
point *b = &a;
(*b).x=34;
```

We can also return structs as a result of a function

6.2 Pointers to pointers

Pointers to pointers are used to reference the address of another pointer

```
void allocateInt(int **p) {
   *p = malloc(sizeof(int))
}
```

or

```
void swap(point **a, point **b) {
    point = *tmp;
    tmp = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = *tmp;
}
```

6.3 Dynamic Memory

So far, memory was either global or local. Now we add **Heap memory**, to request memory at runtime

```
tax_info *bob = (tax_info*) malloc(sizeof(tax_info));
bab->martial_status = single;
```

The arrow operator is shorthand for (*ptr).field

6.4 Arrays of pointers

Instead of storing 100 structs (3200 bytes), you can store 100 pointers (800 bytes) and allocate each struct individually:

```
tax_info *employees[100];
employees[0] = malloc(sizeof(tax_info));
```

6.5 Dynamic strings

To duplicate a string dynamically:

```
char *s1 = "Hello";
char *s2 = strdup(s1); # strdup is like copying into another string
```

6.6 Function pointers

Since functions also live in memory, we can point to them too:

```
int sum(int a, int b) { return a+b; }
int (*func_ptr)(int,int) = sum;
printf("%d\n", func_ptr(2,3));
```

7 Foundational Data Structures 1

Use structure to group array and count of number elements in the array * Arrays are declared with a maximum length

Linked lists provide an ordered collection that grows with the number of data items * each element is a node with data and a pointer to the next element * Head points to the first element

7.1 Linked Lists

Linked lists are a means of dynamically allocating an ordered collection of elements

Why?: Arrays are rigid. If you don't know how many items youll need, arrays can overflow. Linked lists solve this with dynamic allocation.

Each element (a node) stores: * Data * Pointer to the next node

The list is ended with a *NULL* ptr

```
struct node {
    int value;
    struct node *next;
};
struct node *head; // points to first node
```



7.2 Building a Linked List

To begin building a linked list, memory is first allocated for the head node using malloc, and its value field is set to 14

```
head = (struct node *) malloc (sizeof(struct node));
head-> value = 14;
```

Next, another node is added by allocating memory for head->next, and its value is set to 92

```
head -> next = (struct node *) malloc (sizeof(struct node));
head -> next -> value = 92;
```

After allocating each node, it is important to check if memory allocation succeeded; if head is NULL, the program prints failed and exits

```
if (head == NULL) {
    printf("failed");
    exit(1);
};
```

We can use linked lists with more complex datatypes:

Example:

```
typedef struct {
   float x;
   float y;
   int alt;
} aircraftPos;
```

We can build a node struct, which is the building block of the linked list, where each node contains a value of type aircraftPos and a pointer to the next node on the list

```
typedef struct node {
   aircraftPos value;
   struct node *next;
} node;
```

7.3 Traversing a linked list

Start function

```
void printList(struct node *head) {
```

To traverse a linked list, you begin by pointing a temporary node tmp to the head, then print an opening bracket to start the list display

```
struct node *tmp = head;
printf("[ ");
```

The traversal continues in a loop while tmp is not NULL; this ensures you stop once you reach the end of the list

```
while (tmp != NULL) {
```

Inside the loop, you first access the current nodes value by printing it, and then move forward by updating tmp to its next pointer

```
printf("%d, ", tmp->value);
tmp = tmp->next;
}
```

Finally, you print a closing bracket and a newline to finish displaying the entire list

```
print("]\n");
```

7.4 Adding a new node to an empty list

To simplify creating nodes, we can define a helper function newNode that allocates memory with malloc, assigns the given value, initializes the next pointer to NULL, and returns the new node

```
node *newNode(int value){
   node *tmp = (node *)malloc(sizeof(node))
   tmp -> value = value;
   tmp -> next = NULL;
   return tmp;
}
```

To add a new node to an empty list, we call newNode to create a node with value 14, and if the head is NULL (meaning the list is empty), we set head to point to this new node

```
new = newNode(14);
if (head != NULL) {
   head = new;
}
```

We can also insert at the start of an existing list by creating a new node, setting its next pointer to the current head, and then updating head to point to this new node

```
node *new = newNode(12);
new->next = *h;
*h = new;
```

This insertion-at-front logic can also be written as a reusable function, insertFirst, which takes a double pointer to the head, creates a new node, links it before the current head, and updates the head pointer.

```
void insertFirst(node **h, int data){
   node *new = newNode(data);
   new -> next = *h;
   *h = new;
}
insertFirst(&head,14);
```

8 Foundational Data Structures 2

8.1 Appending to an existing list

Start function

```
void appendList(node **h, int data){
  node *new = newNode(data);
```

Cover empty list case:

```
if (*h == NULL) { *h = new; return; }
```

To append to an existing linked list, we first set a pointer tail to the head of the list, and then create a new node with the desired value using newNode

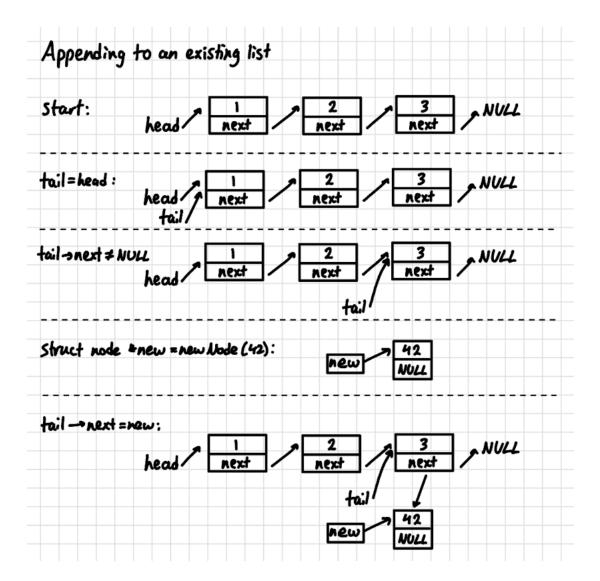
```
node *tail = *h; // start at the head
struct node *new = newNode(42);
```

Next, we traverse the list by moving tail forward until we reach the last node, which is identified when tail->next becomes NULL

```
while (tail -> next != NULL) {
   tail = tail -> next; // traverse to the last node
  }
```

Finally, once at the last node, we attach the new node by setting tail->next to point to it, completing the append operation

```
tail -> next = new; // link the new node at the end
```



8.2 Insert a Value in the Middle of a List (after a specific value)

To insert a new node after a specific value, we first create a temporary pointer tmp starting at the head, and then traverse forward while tmp is not NULL and the current nodes value is not equal to 92

```
struct node *tmp = head; // start at head
while (tmp!=NULL && tmp->value!= 92){
  tmp = tmp->next; // move to the next node
}
```

If the loop finds a node with value 92, then tmp points to the node. At this point, we create a new node with value 42, set its next pointer to the node after tmp, and then adjust tmp->next so that it links to the new node

```
if (tmp != NULL) {
  new = newNode(42); // create node with value 42
  new -> next = tmp -> next; // link new node to the node after tmp
  tmp -> next = new; // insert new node right after tmp
Insert at a specific value
Start:
                                                             NULL
tail=head:
                                                             NULL
                         next
tail-next = 2
new = new Node (42):
                                        new
new - next = tmp -> next
                                                             NULL
                         next
                                                   next
                                new
tmp-next = new
                                                             NULL
                         next
                                                   next
                                      next
```

8.3 Insert Sorted Function

The function starts by creating a new node with the given value using newNode

```
node *new = newNode(value);
```

If the list is empty, the new node becomes the head, and the function immediately returns

If the new value is smaller than the current heads value, the new node is inserted at the front, and head is updated

```
if ((*head)->value > value){    // Case 2: Insert before the first
    node
    new->next = *head;
    *head = new;
    return;
}
```

Otherwise, the function traverses the list using a pointer tmp, always looking one node ahead. If it finds that the next nodes value is larger than the new value, it inserts the new node between tmp and tmp->next

If no larger value is found, the function appends the new node at the end of the list

```
tmp->next = new; // Case 4: Insert at the end
```

8.4 Removing Elements

Often, we want to remove the first node, a specific node, or the last node

8.4.1 Delete First Node

The function removeFirst begins by saving a pointer tmp to the current head of the list and initializing an integer variable value to 0, which acts as a default return value

```
struct node *tmp = *head;  // Save pointer to current head
int value = 0;  // Default return value if list is empty
```

It then checks if the list is non-empty, if so, the head pointer is advanced to the second node, the value of the original head is saved into value, and the memory allocated to the old head node is freed

```
if (*head != NULL){
    *head = (*head)->next;  // Move head to next node
    value = tmp->value;  // Save the value of the old head
    free(tmp);  // Free memory of the old head
}
```

Finally, the function returns the integer value, which is either the removed nodes value or 0 if the list was empty

```
return value'
```

8.4.2 Delete Specific Value

The function deleteValue starts by checking if the head of the list is NULL, and if so, it immediately returns because there is nothing to delete

```
if (*head == NULL) return;
```

Next, it handles the special case where the first node contains the target value: it saves a pointer to the head in tmp, updates head to the second node, frees the old head, and then returns.

```
if ((*head)->value == val) {
  node * tmp = *head;
  *head = (*head)->next;
  free(tmp);
  return;
}
```

If the value is not in the head, the function creates a pointer prev starting at the head, and then iterates while prev->next is not NULL

```
node * prev = *head;
while (prev -> next != NULL) {
```

Inside the loop, it checks if the next node holds the target value; if so, it saves that node in tmp, bypasses it by updating prev->next, frees the node, and returns.

```
if (prev -> next -> value == val){
  node * tmp = prev -> next;
  prev -> next = tmp -> next;
  free(tmp);
  return;
}
```

If the value was not found, the loop moves prev to the next node and continues searching until the end of the list.

```
prev = prev->next;
```

9 Foundational Data Structures 2

9.1 Double Linked List

A single linked list has a single entry point (head)

Idea: Each node has next and prev, plus you often keep head and tail pointers so you can traverse both ways.

Hence a Double Linked List, where one linked list goes forward and one goes backwards

9.2 Dynamic Arrays

Idea: Wrap an array with a count field so you know how many elements are live

```
typedef struct {
   int *array;
   size_t capacity; // available space
   size_t length; // nmber of elements stored in the array
} Array;
```

9.2.1 Initialization

Allocate an initial buffer, starting at length 0 and capacity at initial size

```
void initArray(Array *a, int initialSize){
   a->array = (int *)malloc(initialSize * sizeof(int)); // allocate
   buffer
   a->length = 0; // nothing used yet
   a->capacity = initialSize; // remember capacity
}
```

9.2.2 Append an Element to the Array

```
void addToArray(Array *a, int element){
```

The function begins by checking if the array is already full. It compares the number of used entries (length) to the total slots available (capacity). If they are equal, the array must grow.

```
if (a->length == a->capacity){
```

In that case, it doubles the capacity and resizes the buffer with realloc, ensuring that all existing elements are preserved while making space for new ones

```
a->capacity *= 2;
a->array = (int*)realloc(a->array, a->capacity * sizeof(int));
}
```

After ensuring enough capacity, the function places the new element at the current end of the array (a->array[a->length]), then increments length so the array correctly reflects its new size

```
a->array[a->length++] = element;
```

And free the dynamic array

Note: Arrays are contiguous memory. Inserting an element into the memory of the list means moving the remaining elements up one position

We use memove to copy n bytes from the memory pointed to by src, to the memory pointed to by dst. This function understands memory blocks overlapping

```
void * memove(void *dst, const void *src, size_t n)
```

10 Foundational Data Structures 2 (cont.)

10.1 Inserting an Element in the Middle

```
bool insertAt(Array *a, size_t index, int value){
```

The function begins by validating the requested index. If the index is greater than length, the function returns false

```
if (index > a->length)  // inserting past the end is invalid
  return false;
```

Next, it checks if the array is already full. If length == capacity, the capacity is doubled, and the buffer is resized using realloc. This ensures there is enough space for the new element

```
if (a->length == a->capacity){
  a->capacity *= 2;
  a->array = realloc(a->array, a->capacity * sizeof(int));
}
```

To make room for the new element, all elements from index up to the last used position are shifted one slot to the right. This is efficiently handled with memmove, which safely copies overlapping memory regions

```
\label{lem:memmove} \begin{split} &\texttt{memmove}(\&\texttt{a-}\texttt{-}\texttt{array}[\texttt{index} + 1] \,, \qquad // \, shift \, \, destination \\ & \&\texttt{a-}\texttt{-}\texttt{array}[\texttt{index}] \,, \qquad // \, shift \, \, source \\ & (\texttt{a-}\texttt{-}\texttt{length} - \texttt{index}) \, * \, \texttt{sizeof}(\texttt{int})); \, // \, \, number \, \, of \, \, bytes \, \, to \\ & \hookrightarrow \, \, shift \end{split}
```

Finally, the new value is written into the open slot at index, and length is incremented to account for the insertion. The function returns true to indicate success

```
a->array[index] = value;
a->length++;
return true;
```

10.2 Deleting from the middle

The function begins by validating the index.

```
if (index >= a->length)  // invalid index (out of range)
  return false;
```

If the index is valid, the function reduces the logical size of the array by decrementing length. This means the element at the given index will effectively be removed

```
a->length--;
```

To fill the gap, all elements after the removed one are shifted left by one slot. memmove is used here because it safely handles overlapping regions of memory

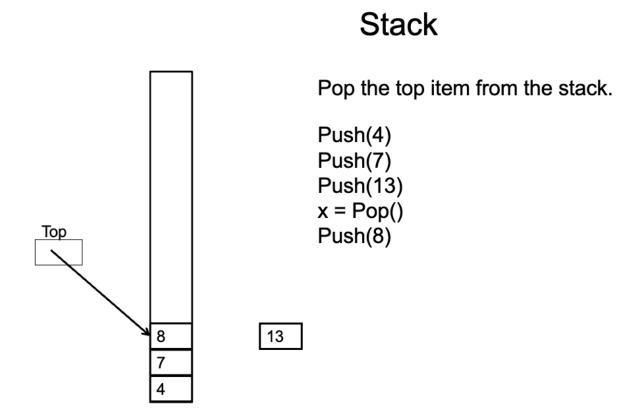
After the shift, the function optionally applies a shrink policy. If the number of elements is at or below one-quarter of the current capacity, the capacity is halved and the buffer resized with realloc

```
if (a->length * 4 <= a->capacity){
   a->capacity /= 2;
   a->array = realloc(a->array, a->capacity * sizeof(int));
}
return true;
```

11 Stack

Definition: A data structure for storing a collection of data items, where items can be added to and removed from the collection, but *only the last item added to the stack can be accessed or removed*. This is a last-in, first-out (LIFO) data structure

Common Functions: push(item) puts an item on the top of the stack item=pop() retrieves the top item from the stack peek() retrieves the top item of the stack without removing it



LIFO is important for use cases such as Reversing a word, web browsers to store addresses of recently visited sites, and undo functions in applications

Implementation requirements

Top variable always indicates to the top element of the stack - expect when the stack is empty - special value to indicate the stack is empty

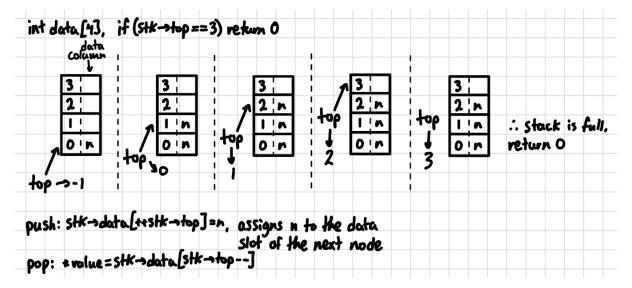
Some mechanism to indicate errors: - attempt to pop an empty stack - out of memory when pushing an element

Example:

typedef struct { ... } ArrayStk defines a new struct type for a stack with an alias, holds an index of the current top element in the stack top, and sets an array data of size 100 to store the stacks elements

This function push tries to insert a value n onto the stack, and returns 1 if successful and 0 if not. The function also pre-increments stk->top (moves it up one position) and stores the new value n in that position in the data array.

The pop function checks if full, stores it in that variable pointed to by value, then post-decrements stk->top (moves it down one position), effectively removing it from the stack



11.1 Modifying the top element

Setup:

```
ArrayStk stk = { .top = -1 };  // empty stack
int i, value, *ptr_top;  // local vars
```

Pushes 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 onto the stack. Then pops them all off, printing in reverse order because of LIFO

```
for (i=0; i<5; i++) { push(&stk, 20+i); }
while (pop(&stk, &value)) {
  printf("%d\n", value);
}</pre>
```

This pushes 100, 101, 102, 103, 104

```
for (i=0; i<5; i++) { push(&stk, 100+i); }</pre>
```

Pops the top into value, calls tos to return a pointer to the new top element after the pop, then adds 50 to that element in place

pops 104 153 152 151 150

```
while (pop(&stk, &value)) {
  printf(" %d", value);
  if (tos(stk, &ptr_top))
    *ptr_top = *ptr_top + 50;
}
```

where tos is:

```
int tos(ArrayStk stk)(int **ptop) {
   if (stk.top == -1) return 0;
   *ptop = &stk.data[stk.top];
   return 1;
}
```

11.2 Implementing Stack using Linked List

Building the stack data structure on top of a linked list instead of using an array:

This defines a struct with an alias, and a pointer to the next node in the stack (meaning the node below the top). This allows us to chain nodes like a linked list. We also have nodval, which is the actual data being stored in the stack

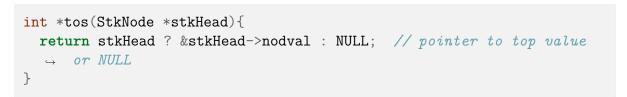
- Function takes a pointer to the stack head pointer to modify the pointer outside the function
- Allocate memory for a new node on the heap, and stores the new value inside the node

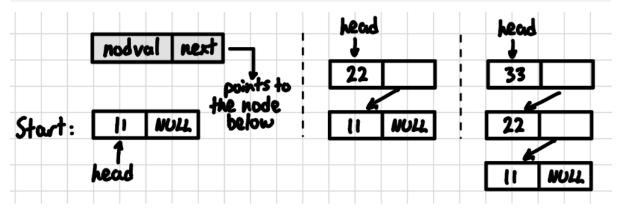
• Links the new node to the current stack and updates the head pointer so the new node is now the stacks top.

```
void push(StkNode **stkHead, int n){
  StkNode *p = malloc(sizeof *p); // allocate new node
  p->nodval = n; // set payload
  p->next = *stkHead; // chain to old top
  *stkHead = p; // new node becomes top
}
```

This pop function removes the top node, and returns 0 if the stack is empty (checks for underflow). It firstly saves the current top node pointer, moves the stack head down to the next node, and releases memory for the removed node.

Top-of-stack returns the address of nodval to the head node, else return NULL





12 Queue

- A linear data structure that is open at both ends and the operations are performed in First In First Out (FIFO)
- Operations: enqueue adds an element to the end, dequeue removes an element from the front, isEmpty
- We need to track the Front (head) and End (tail), thus we need a pointer to the end and front

12.1 Implement Queue with Linked List

Enqueue inserts a node at the rear (end) of the queue

```
void enqueue (int n) {
```

Allocate memory for a new node, assign value and next pointer to NULL

```
struct item *pnew = malloc(sizeof(struct item));
pnew->value = n;
pnew->next = NULL;
```

Nudge n to pnew

Dequeue removes an element from the front (head) of the queue

```
bool dequeue (int *n){
```

Set new node temp to front Give the pointer value *n to front

```
struct item *temp = front;
*n = (front -> value);
```

Move front to the next node

```
front = front-> next;
```

Free memory of old front (temp)

```
free(temp);
count--;
return true;
```

12.2 Implement Queue with Array

Common way to implement queue with array is with a circular model. This fixes the idea of a fixed-size array

```
# initialize
// define max size
// define queue array
// define count, front, end = 0
// define isEmpty and isFull functions
bool enqueue(int n){
// if full, return false
// add to end of queue
end = (end+1) % MAX_SIZE;
count++;
return true;
bool dequeue(int *n){
// if empty, return false
// remove from front of queue
front = (front + 1) % MAX_SIZE;
count--;
return true;
```

12.3 Dequeues

- a double-ended queue, can be done with either an array or double linked list
- Operations: enqueueHead, enqueueTail, dequeueHead, dequeueTail, getHead, and getTail

EnqueueHead inserts a new node before the head

```
void enqueueHead (int n) {
struct item *pnew = malloc(sizeof(struct item)); // allocate memory
→ for node
pnew -> value = n;
pnew -> next = NULL;
pnew -> prev = NULL; // assign value and pointers
// update head node
if (head != NULL) {
   head -> prev = pnew;
   pnew -> next = head;
head = pnew;
// if queue is empty, set tail
if (tail == NULL){
   tail = pnew;
}
count++;
```

EnqueueTail inserts a new node after the tail

```
void enqueueTail (int n){
struct item *pnew = malloc(sizeof(struct item)); // allocate memory
→ for node
pnew -> value = n;
pnew -> next = NULL;
pnew -> prev = NULL; // assign value and pointers
// update tail node
if (tail != NULL){
pnew -> prev = tail;
tail -> next = pnew;
tail = pnew;
// if queue is empty, set front node
if (head == NULL){
head = pnew;
}
count++:
```

DequeueHead removes a node from the head

DequeueTail removes a node from the tail

```
bool dequeueTail (int *n){
    struct item *temp = tail; // create temp pointer to head

if (count == 0) return false; // queue is empty, can't remove
    anything

*n = tail -> value; // store head value to n

if (tail -> next){
    tail -> next -> prev = NULL; // detach old head
    tail = tail->next; // move head to next node
}

if (tail==NULL) head = NULL; // if head is NULL, queue is empty

free(temp); // deallocate old head node
    count--;
    return true;
}
```

13 Recursion

Sometimes a problem can be solved by first solving a smaller version of the same problem. Recursion means to define something in terms of itself

When the problem is small enough, then it can be solved directly, called the base case

Example:

```
Base Case: 1! = 1
```

```
if (n==1) {
temp=1;
}
```

Recursive Case n! = n * (n-1)!

Iterative vs. Recursive:

Iterative

```
def fact(n){
    result = 1;
    for i in range(1,n+1):
        result *= i;
    return result;
}
print(fact(i))
```

Recursive

```
def fact(n){
    if n==0 or n==1: // Base Case
        return 1;
    else:
        return n * fact(n-1); // Recursive Call
}
print(fact(n))
```