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Abstract data types & Arrays

ADTs are the way of classifying data structures by providing a minimal expected interface and set of methods.

ADT → Minimal required functionality
ADT → operations

ARRAY – ADT

An array ADT holds the collection of given elements accessible by an index.

elements → can be int, float, custom

Minimal functionality :- get(i) → get element i
set(i, num) → set element i to num.
representation

Operations :- Max()
Min()
Search(num)
Insert(i, num)
Append(x)

Static and Dynamic arrays

Static arrays → Size cannot be changed

Dynamic arrays → Size can be changed

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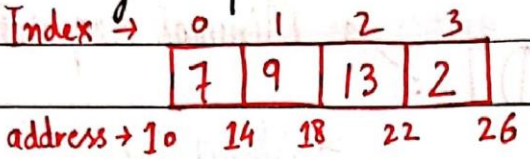
Quick Quiz : Code the operations mentioned above in C language by creating Array ADT using Structures.

Memory representation of Arrays



⇒ Array of Size 4

Elements in an array are stored in contiguous memory locations

Elements in an array can be accessed using the base address in constant time → O(1)

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Operations on an Array

Following operations are supported by an array.

Traversal
Insertion
Deletion
Search

⇒ There can be many other operations one can perform on arrays as well!
eg: Sorting asc., Sorting desc.

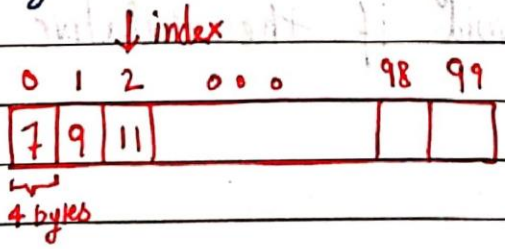
Traversal

Visiting every element of an array once → Traversal

Why traversal? → For use cases like:
→ Storing all elements → using scanf
→ Printing all elements → using printf

An important note about arrays
If we create an array of length 100 using a[100] in C language, we need not use all the elements. It is possible for a program to use just 60 elements out of these 100.
↳ But we cannot go beyond 100 elements.

An array can easily be traversed using a for loop in C language



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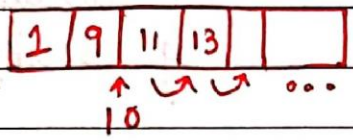
Insertion

An element can be inserted in an array at a specified position.

In order for this operation to be successful, the array should have enough capacity

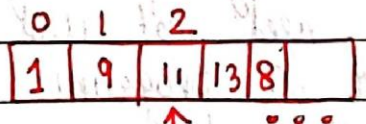


⇒ Elements need to be shifted to maintain relative order.

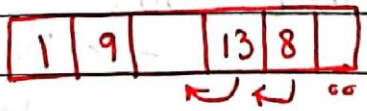
When no position is specified its best to insert the element at the end.

Deletion

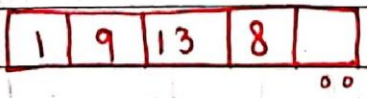
An element at specified position can be deleted creating a void which needs to be fixed by shifting all the elements to the left as follows:



Delete 11 at ind 2



Shift the elements



Deletion done!

We can also bring the last element of the array to fill the void if the relative ordering is not important

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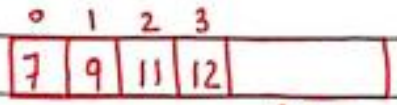
Searching

Searching can be done by traversing the array until the element to be searched is found



→ Search

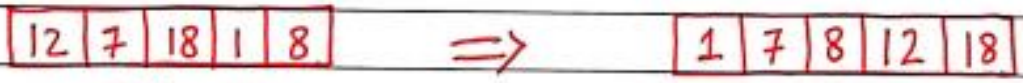
⇓

For sorted array time taken to search is much less than unsorted array!!

Sorting

Sorting means arranging an array in order (asc or desc)

We will see various sorting techniques later in the course.



Unsorted array

Sorted array