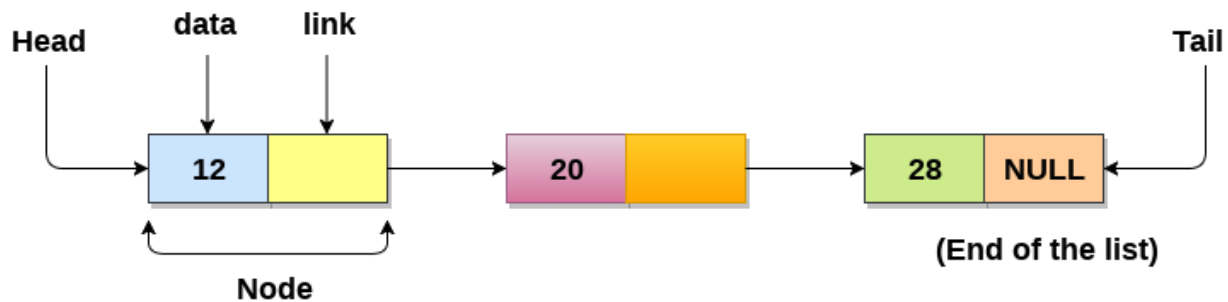


Linked List

- Linked List can be defined as collection of objects called **nodes** that are randomly stored in the memory.
- A node contains two fields i.e. data stored at that particular address and the pointer which contains the address of the next node in the memory.
- The last node of the list contains pointer to the null.



There are three common types of Linked List.

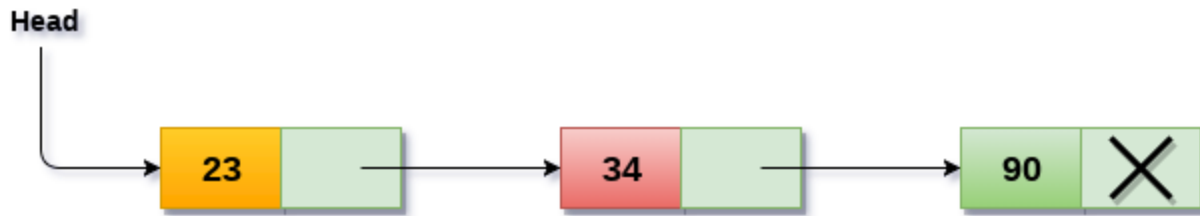
- Singly Linked List
- Doubly Linked List
- Circular Linked List

Singly linked list

Singly linked list can be defined as the collection of ordered set of elements. The number of elements may vary according to need of the program. A node in the singly linked list consist of two parts: data part and link part. Data part of the node stores actual information that is to be represented by the node while the link part of the node stores the address of its immediate successor.

One way chain or singly linked list can be traversed only in one direction. In other words, we can say that each node contains only next pointer, therefore we can not traverse the list in the reverse direction.

Consider an example where the marks obtained by the student in three subjects are stored in a linked list as shown in the figure.



Operations on Singly Linked List

1. Insertion

- Insertion at beginning
- Insertion at end of the list
- Insertion after specified node

2. Deletion

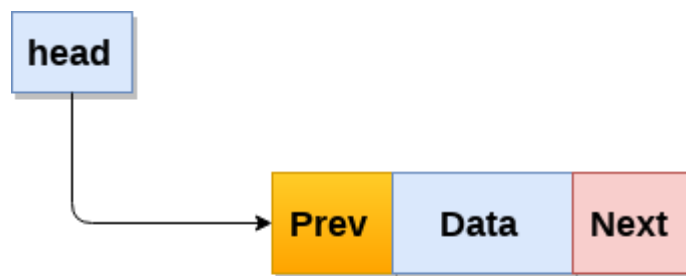
- Deletion at beginning
- Deletion at the end of the list
- Deletion after specified node

3. Traversing

4. Searching

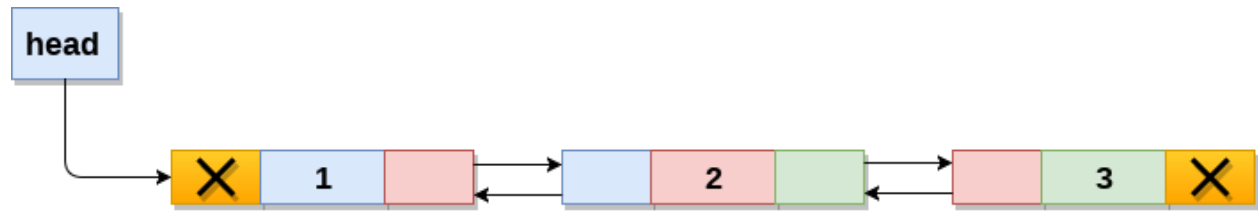
Doubly linked list

Doubly linked list is a complex type of linked list in which a node contains a pointer to the previous as well as the next node in the sequence. Therefore, in a doubly linked list, a node consists of three parts: node data, pointer to the next node in sequence (next pointer), pointer to the previous node (previous pointer). A sample node in a doubly linked list is shown in the figure.



Node

A doubly linked list containing three nodes having numbers from 1 to 3 in their data part, is shown in the following image.



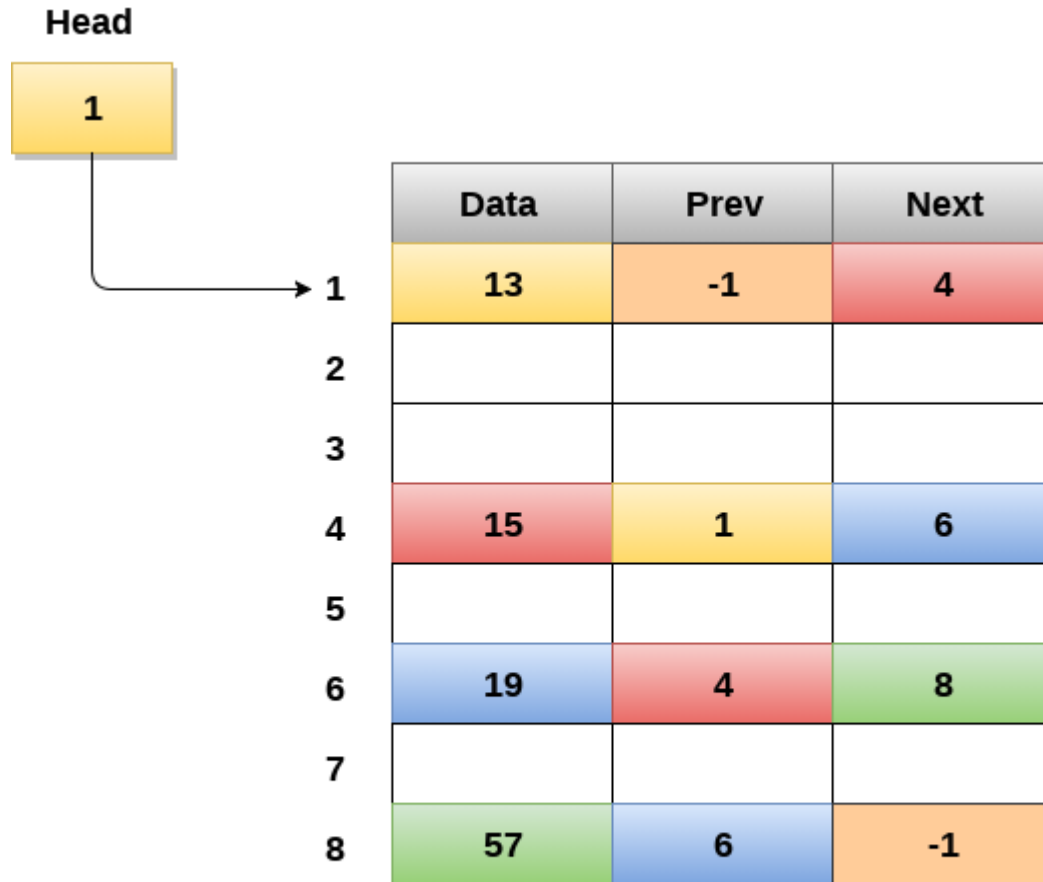
Doubly Linked List

Memory Representation of a doubly linked list

Memory Representation of a doubly linked list is shown in the following image. Generally, doubly linked list consumes more space for every node and therefore, causes more expansive basic operations such as insertion and deletion. However, we can easily manipulate the elements of the list since the list maintains pointers in both the directions (forward and backward).

In the following image, the first element of the list that is i.e. 13 stored at address 1. The head pointer points to the starting address 1. Since this is the first element being added to the list therefore the **prev** of the list **contains** null. The next node of the list resides at address 4 therefore the first node contains 4 in its next pointer.

We can traverse the list in this way until we find any node containing null or -1 in its next part.



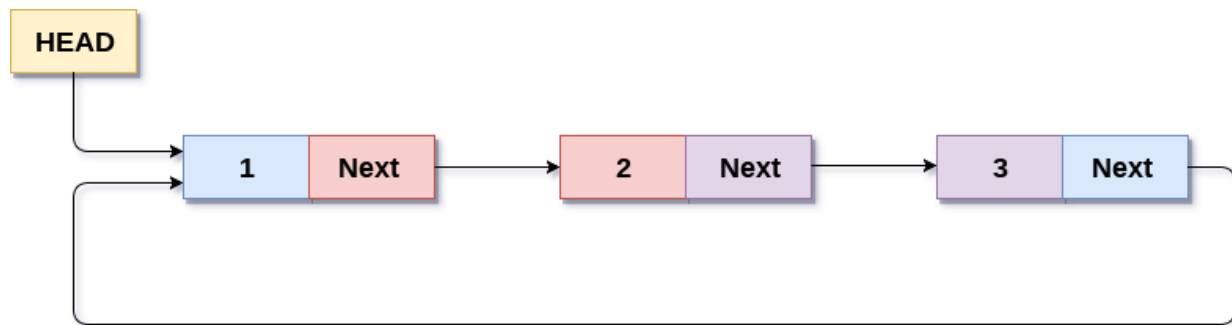
Memory Representation of a Doubly linked list

Circular Singly Linked List

In a circular Singly linked list, the last node of the list contains a pointer to the first node of the list. We can have circular singly linked list as well as circular doubly linked list.

We traverse a circular singly linked list until we reach the same node where we started. The circular singly linked list has no beginning and no ending. There is no null value present in the next part of any of the nodes.

The following image shows a circular singly linked list.



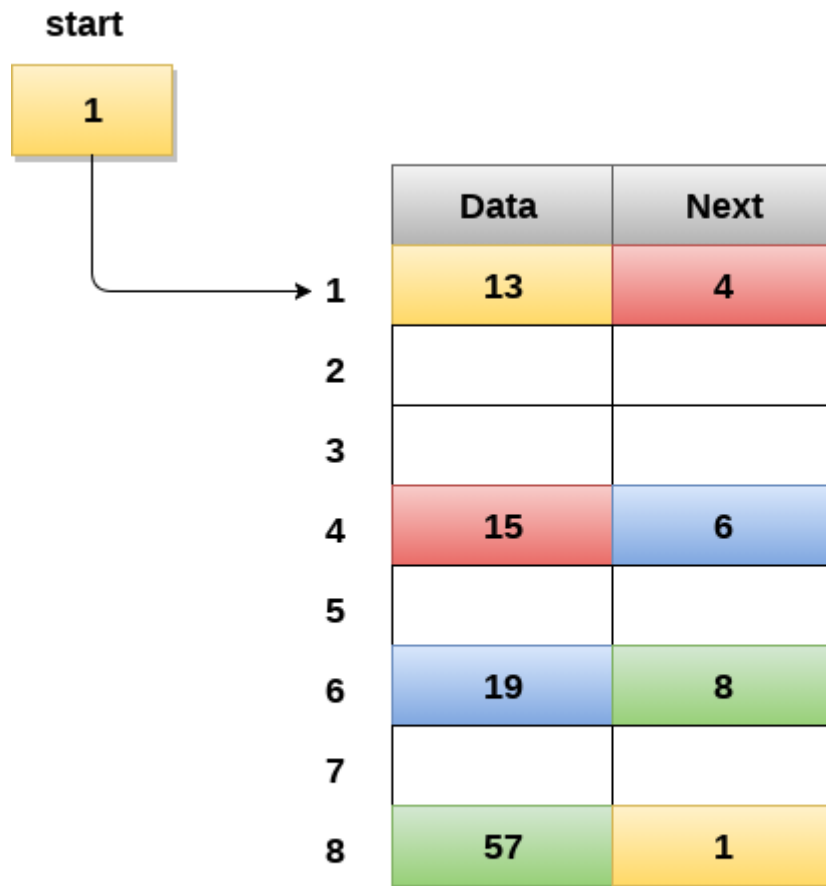
Circular Singly Linked List

Circular linked list are mostly used in task maintenance in operating systems. There are many examples where circular linked list are being used in computer science including browser surfing where a record of pages visited in the past by the user, is maintained in the form of circular linked lists and can be accessed again on clicking the previous button.

Memory Representation of circular linked list:

In the following image, memory representation of a circular linked list containing marks of a student in 4 subjects. However, the image shows a glimpse of how the circular list is being stored in the memory. The start or head of the list is pointing to the element with the index 1 and containing 13 marks in the data part and 4 in the next part. Which means that it is linked with the node that is being stored at 4th index of the list.

However, due to the fact that we are considering circular linked list in the memory therefore the last node of the list contains the address of the first node of the list.



Memory Representation of a circular linked list

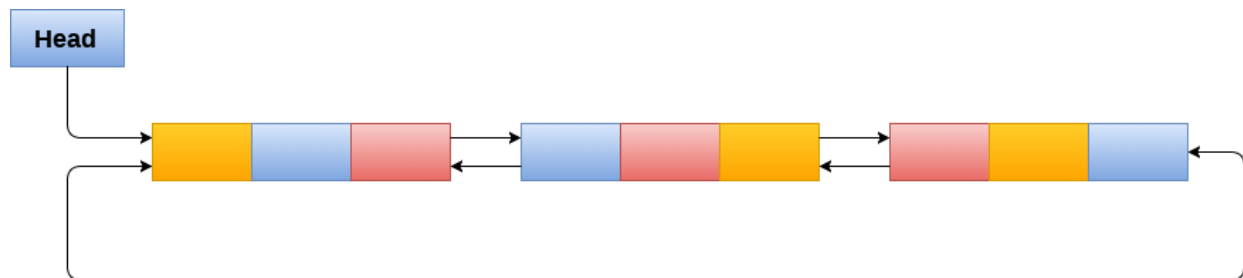
Operations on Circular Singly linked list:

- Insertion at beginning
- Insertion at the end
- Deletion at beginning
- Deletion at the end
- Searching
- Traversing

Circular Doubly Linked List

Circular doubly linked list is a more complex type of data structure in which a node contains pointers to its previous node as well as the next node. Circular doubly linked list doesn't contain NULL in any of the nodes. The last node of the list contains the address of the first node of the list. The first node of the list also contains the address of the last node in its previous pointer.

A circular doubly linked list is shown in the following figure.

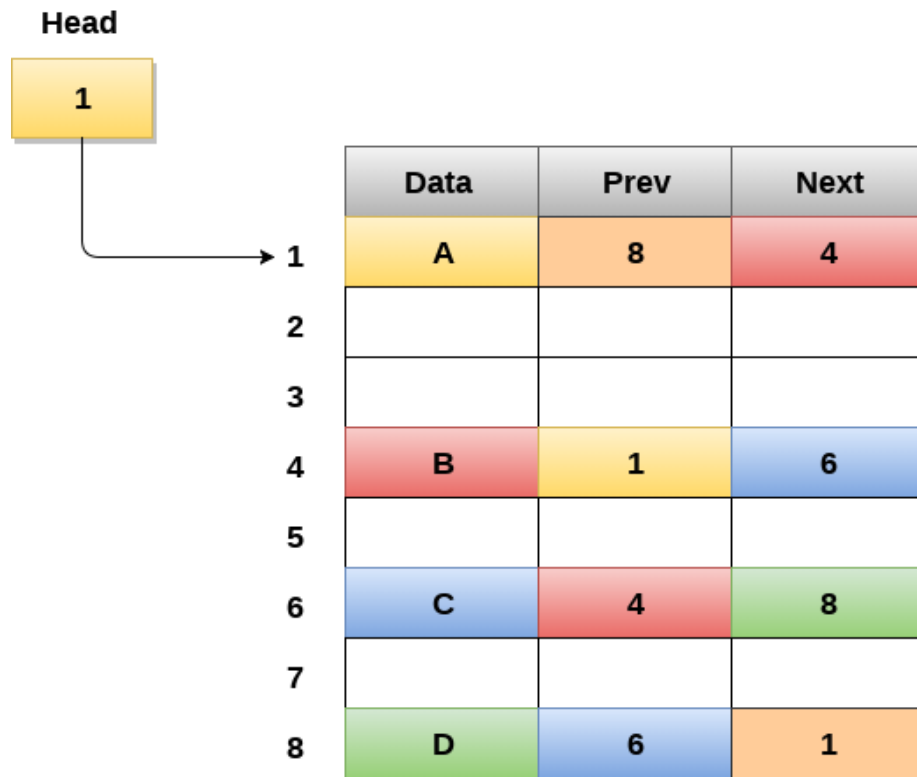


Circular Doubly Linked List

Due to the fact that a circular doubly linked list contains three parts in its structure therefore, it demands more space per node and more expensive basic operations. However, a circular doubly linked list provides easy manipulation of the pointers and the searching becomes twice as efficient.

Memory Management of Circular Doubly linked list

The following figure shows the way in which the memory is allocated for a circular doubly linked list. The variable head contains the address of the first element of the list i.e. 1 hence the starting node of the list contains data A is stored at address 1. Since, each node of the list is supposed to have three parts therefore, the starting node of the list contains address of the last node i.e. 8 and the next node i.e. 4. The last node of the list that is stored at address 8 and containing data as 6, contains address of the first node of the list as shown in the image i.e. 1. In circular doubly linked list, the last node is identified by the address of the first node which is stored in the next part of the last node therefore the node which contains the address of the first node, is actually the last node of the list.



Memory Representation of a Circular Doubly linked list