

### **Linked Lists**

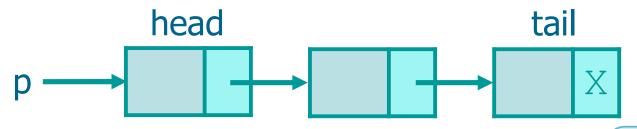
#### **Common Linked List**

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#### **Introduction**

- Basic linked list operations can be used to maintaint simple linked lists with different logic
  - LIFO (Last-In First-Out)
  - > FIFO (First-In First-Out)
  - Sorted list
- They can also be used to maintain more linked lists with different formats
  - Doubly-linked lists
  - List of lists

- The simplest strategy to manipulate a linked list of elements is to insert and extract elements from the same extreme
  - > The list has a head and a tail



- We never operate on the tail
- We always operate on the head
  - The head is often called **top** in this case
  - Insertion is often called push
  - Extraction is often called pop

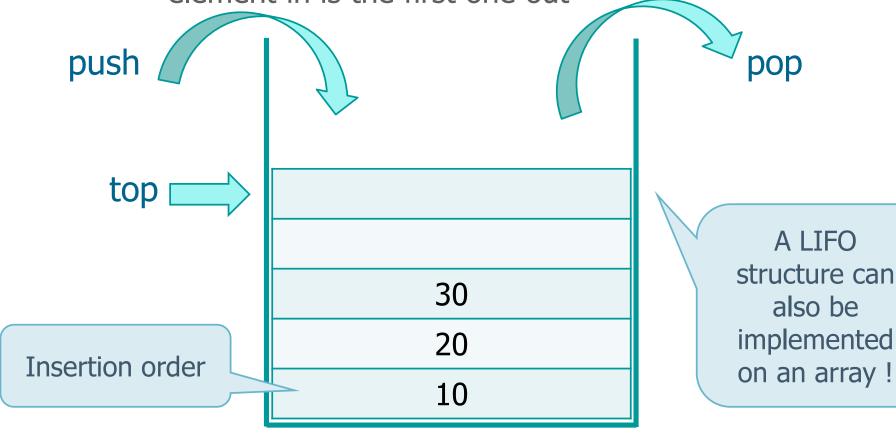
We have a cost equal to O(n) to reach the tail

Push and Pop have a cost O(1)

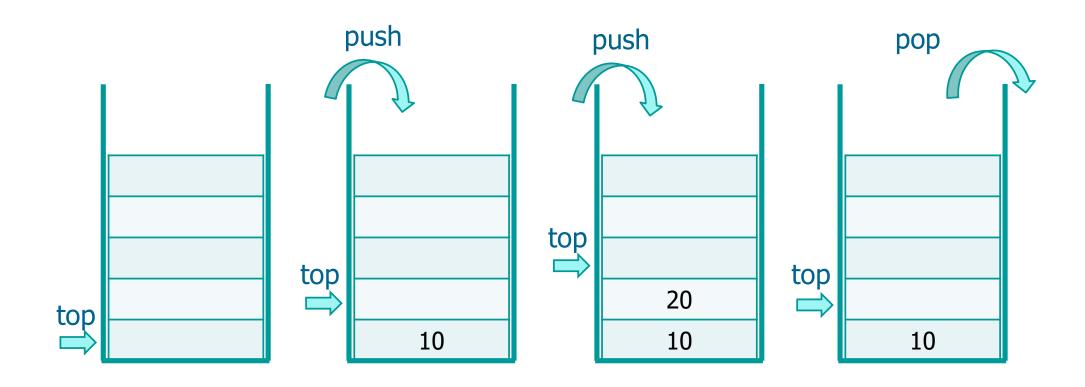
- In computer science, such a data structure is often called stack
  - ➤ A stack is an abstract data type that serves as a collection of elements, with two principal operations, i.e., push and pop
  - Each push adds an element to the collection (whenever this is not full)
  - ➤ Each pop removes the last element that was added (whenever the collection is not empty)
  - ➤ This strategy creates a **pile** of objects, where insertions and extractions are done on the same side

➤ As we insert and extract on the same end of the lists a **stack** is a **LIFO** structure

 LIFO stands for Last In First Out, i.e., the last element in is the first one out



- > A stack is usually represented as a pile of objects
  - A stack usually grows upward (towards smaller memory addresses)



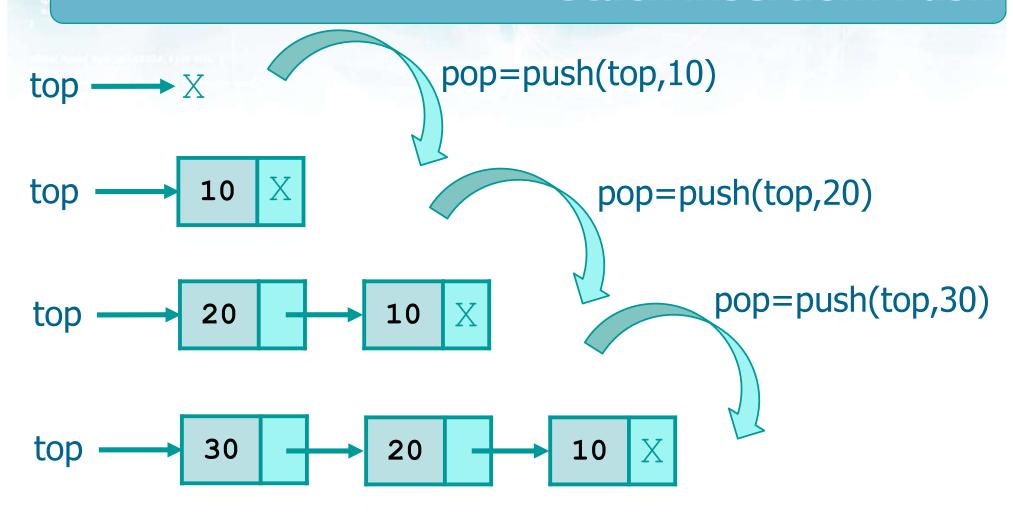
```
list t *top;
int val, status;
top = NULL;
do {
  top = push (top, val);
  top = pop (top, &val, &status);
} while (...);
```

Type definition, initialization, and function calls

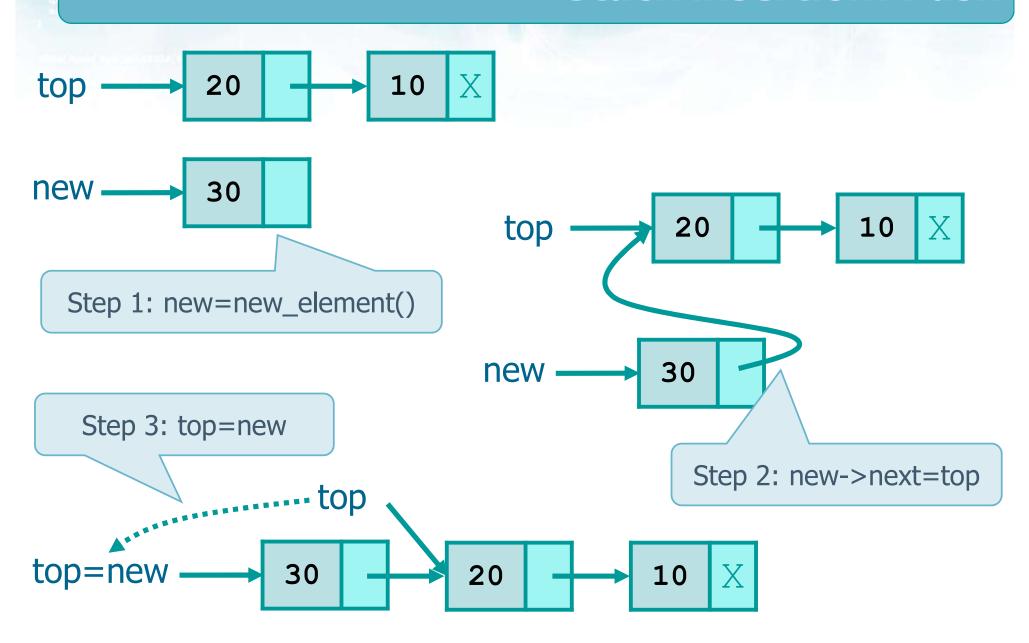
We suppose to exit if we cannot insert an element, otherwise we can return the operation status

If the stack is empty we cannot pop an element

### **Stack insertion: Push**

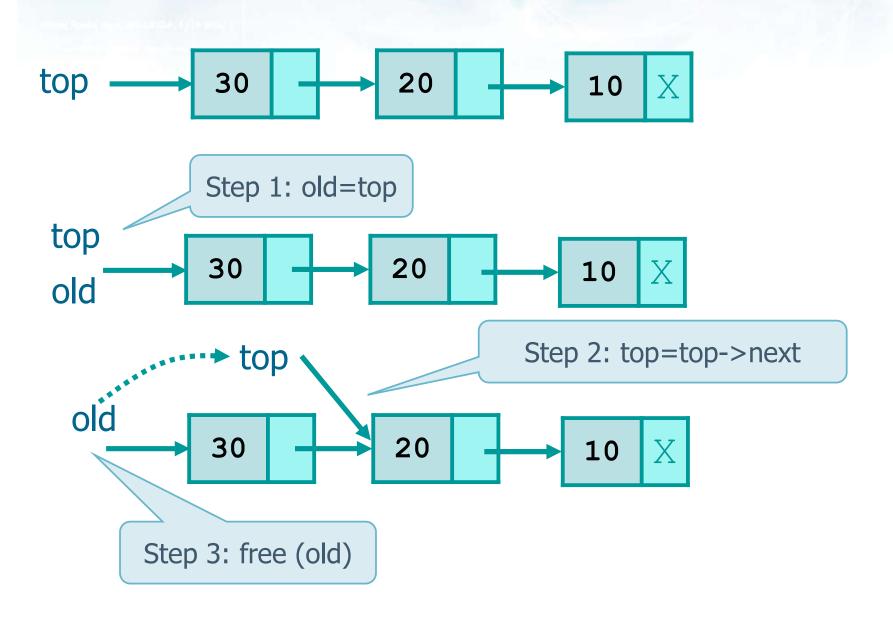


### **Stack insertion: Push**



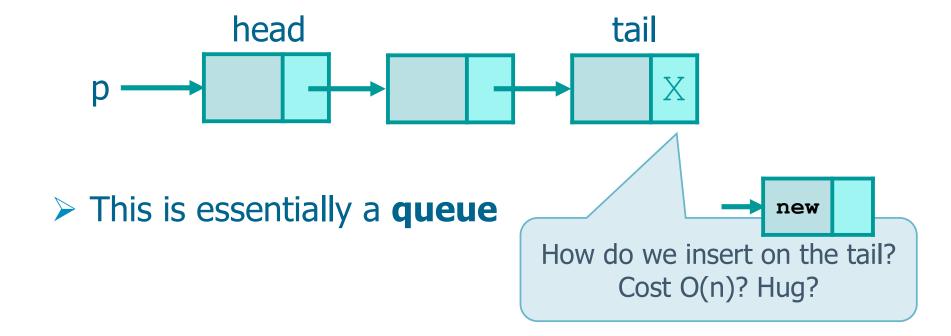
```
list t *push (list_t *top, int val) {
  list t *new;
 new = new element ();
 new->key = val;
 new->next = top;
  top = new;
                                     20
                          top
  return (top);
                                    30
                         new
```

### **Stack extraction: Pop**



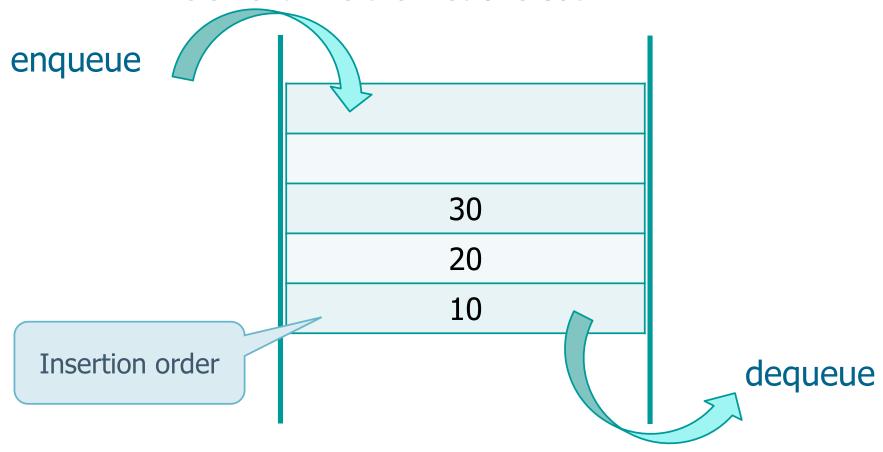
```
list t *pop (list t *top, int *val, int *status) {
  list t *old;
  if (top != NULL) {
    *status = SUCCESS;
                                SUCCESS and FAILURE
    *val = top->key;
                               are pre-defined constant
    old = top;
    top = top->next;
    free (old);
  } else {
    *status = FAILURE;
                                 top
  return (top);
                  top
                            30
                                        20
                 old
```

- A more complex possibility is to manipulate a simple linked list of elements by tail insertion and head extraction
  - > When we arrive we wait on the tail
  - > When we reach the **head** we are **served**



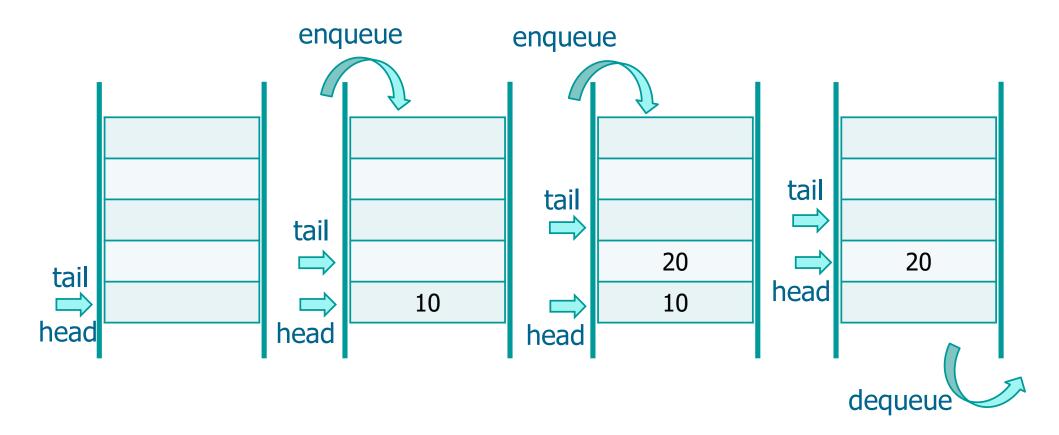
- In computer science, a queue is collection in which the entities are kept in order and the only) operations on the collection are the
  - Addition of entities to the rear terminal position, known as enqueue
  - Removal of entities from the front terminal position, known as dequeue
- This makes the queue a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) data structure
- In a FIFO data structure, the first element added to the queue will be the first one to be removed

- > As we insert and extract on the two opposite extremes a **queue** is a **FIFO** structure
  - FIFO stands for First In First Out, i.e., the first element in is the first one out

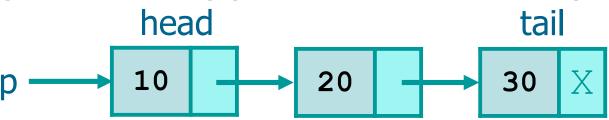


#### > When we

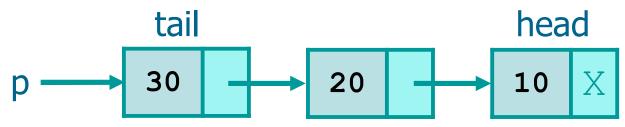
- Enter the structure, we wait on the tail
- Exit the structure, we leave from the head



- A FIFO logic is difficult to implement with the standard linked list structure
  - To insert on the tail we have to visit the entire list (the cost is O(n) and is not admissible)

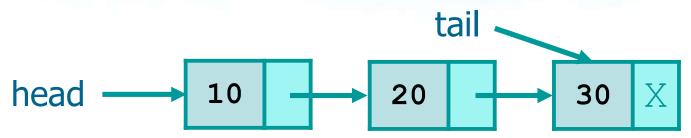


We could also "invert" the logic

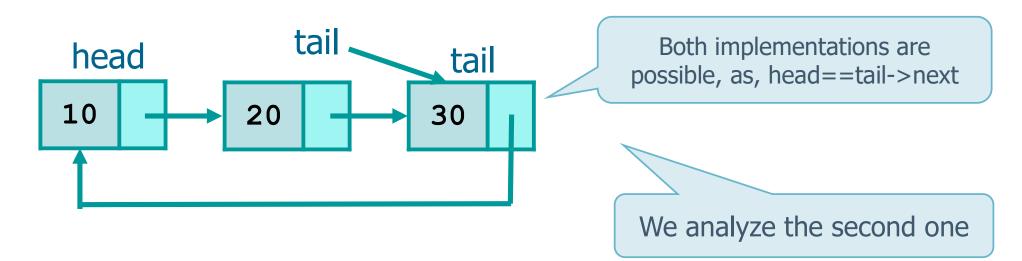


But now, to extract from the head we would have to visit the entire list

> Thus, we either use two pointers



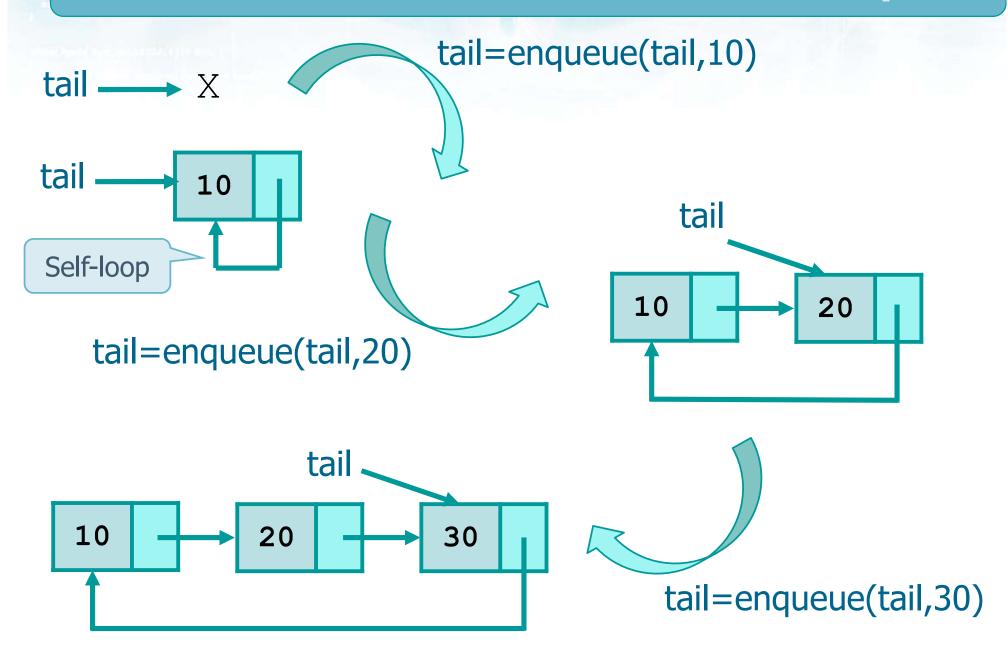
➤ OR we use a circular list and save the **head** pointer by using the pointer to the last element equal to NULL to reference the head

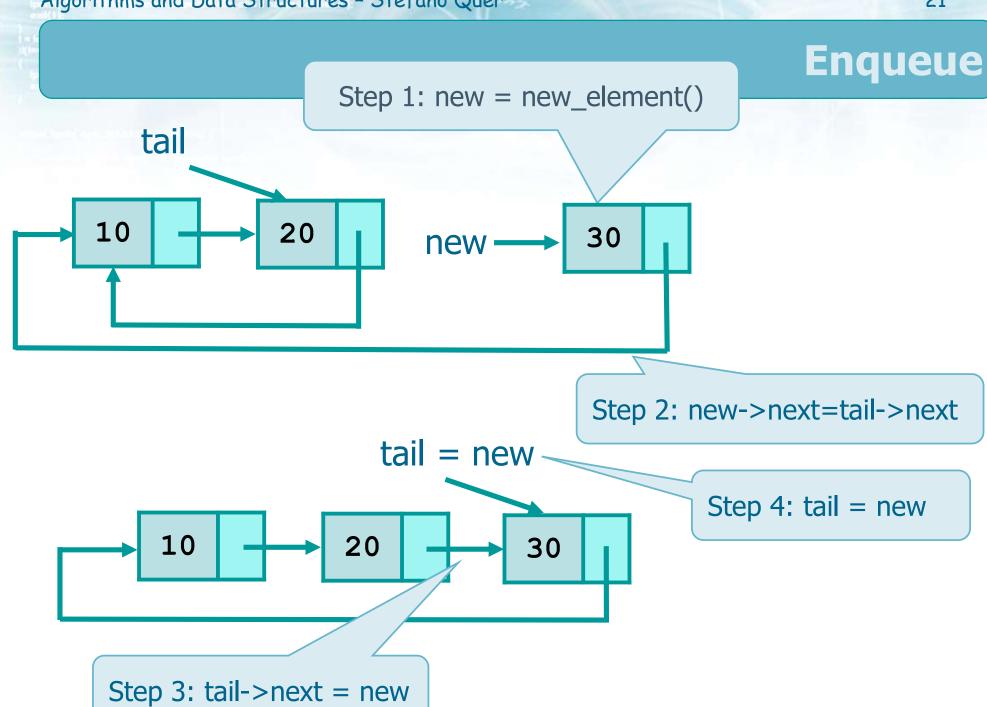


Type definition, initialization, and function calls

```
struct e *tail;
int val, status;
tail = NULL;
do {
  tail = enqueue (tail, val);
  tail = dequeue (tail, &val, &status);
} while (...);
```

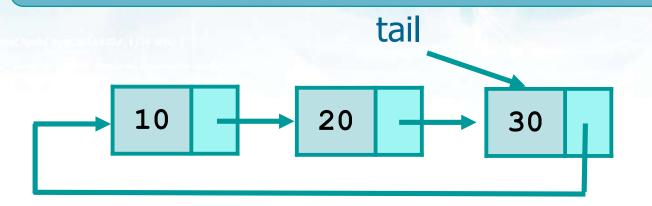
## Enqueue

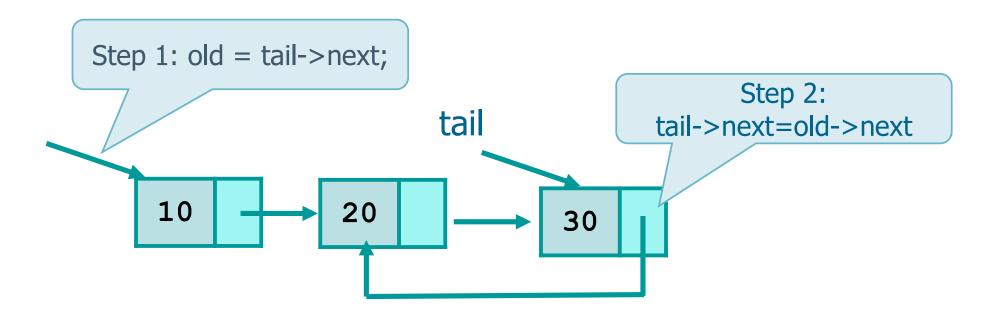




```
list t *enqueue (list t *tail, int val) {
  list t *new;
  new = new element ();
                                         The first insertion (and
  new->key = val;
                                          the self-loop) must be
                                           implemented aside
  if (tail==NULL) {
    tail = new;
                                           tail \longrightarrow X
    tail->next = tail;
  } else {
    new->next = tail->next;
                                           tail
    tail->next = new;
    tail = new;
  return (tail);
```

### Dequeue





```
list t *dequeue (list t *tail, int *val, int *status) {
  list t *old;
                                          The last extraction (and
  if (tail != NULL) {
    *status = SUCCESS;
                                           the self-loop) must be
    if (tail == tail->next) {
                                            implemented aside
      *val = tail->key;
      free (tail);
                                            tail
                                                       10
      tail = NULL;
    } else {
      old = tail->next;
      *val = old->key;
                                            tail \longrightarrow X
      tail->next = old->next;
      free (old);
  } else {
    *status = FAILURE;
  return (tail);
```

#### **Ordered linked list**

- A linked list can be also maintained sorted, i.e., ordered by increasing (or decreasing) values of its keys (integer values in our examples)
- With a sorted list
  - Insertions and extractions are usually performed in the middle of the list
    - Head and tail insertions are particular cases (first and last element in the sorted set) and must be implemented as corner-cases
  - ➤ A search can terminate unsuccessfully when a record with a key larger (or smaller) than the search key is found

Type definition, initialization, and function calls

```
do {
    ...
    head = insert (head, val);
    ...
    search (head, val);
    ...
    head = extract (head, val);
} while ( ... );
```

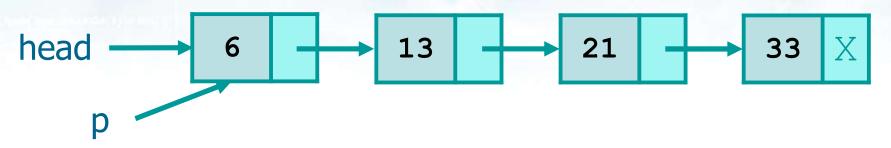
#### Search

#### A search can terminate

- Successfully, when we find the key
- Unsuccessfully when a record with a key larger (or smaller) than the search key is found

### In any case

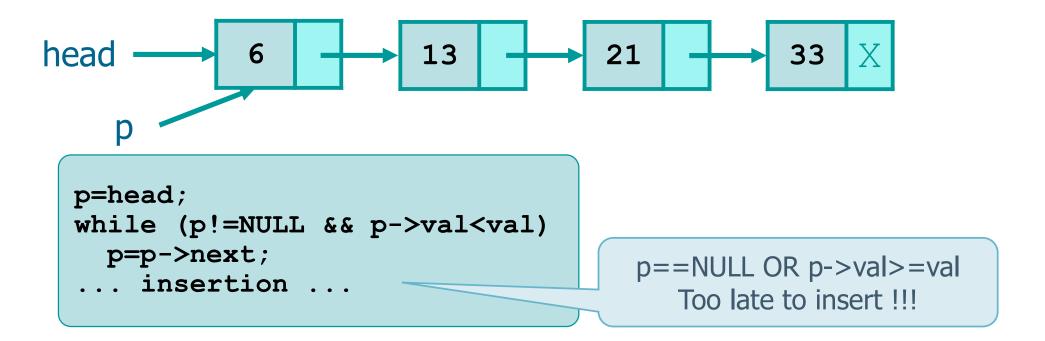
- We can stop the search as soon as the key we are looking for become larger than the current node's key
  - This make the search more efficient
  - Nevertheless, the search still has a linear cost (O(n))
    in the number of elements stored into the list



```
void search (list t *head, int val) {
  list t *p;
  p=head;
  while (p!=NULL) {
    if (p->val=val)
                                       We can stop before; constant time
        return p;
                                        advantage; the process is always
      if (p->val<val)</pre>
                                        linear in the number of elements
        p=p->next;
  return (NULL);
```

#### **Insertion**

- To insert an element into a list, we have to
  - Individuate its correct position
  - > Insert the element in that position
- Unfortunately, when we look for a key, we stop our search too late



#### **Insertion**

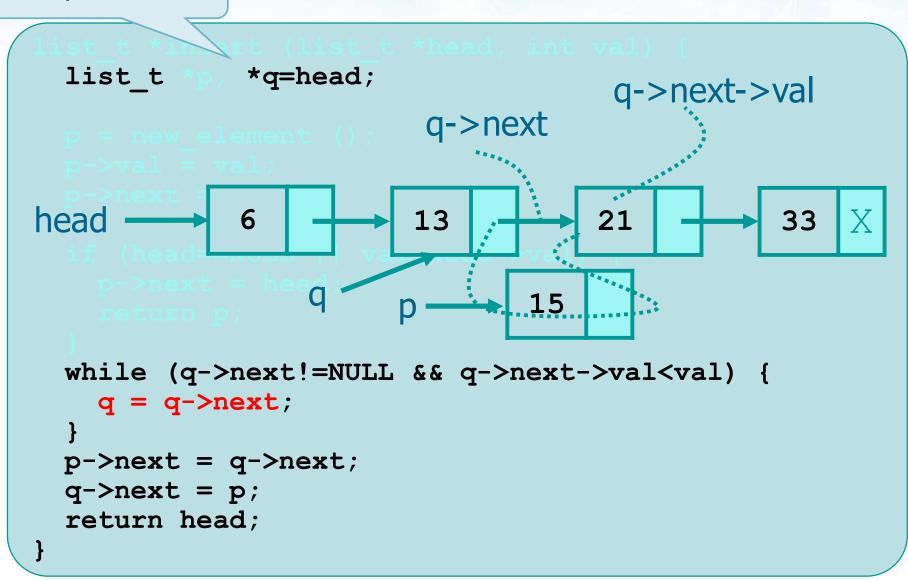
- The are several approaches to solve the problem
  - Use two pointers to individuate two consecutive elements
    - Move them along the list is a synchronized way
    - Use the rightmost to compare and the leftmost to insert
  - Use a the pointer of the pointed element to make the comparison
    - Reach the element referenced by the pointed element to compare, use the direct pointer to insert
- Do not forget to deal with corner-cases (e.g., empty list)

```
list t *insert (list t *head, int val) {
  list t *p, *q=head;
                                         Create a new element
  p = new element ();
 p->val = val;
 p->next = NULL;
                                               Head insertion
  if (head==NULL || val<head->val)
    p->next = head;
    return p;
  while (q->next!=NULL && q->next->val<val) {</pre>
    q = q-next;
  p->next = q->next;
                                      q is used to insert
  q->next = p;
                                  q->next is used to compare
  return head;
```

Example: val=15

```
list t
              *q=head;
                          q->next->val
             q->next
head
                                    21
 while (q->next!=NULL && q->next->val<val) {</pre>
    q = q-next;
 p->next = q->next;
 q->next = p;
  return head;
```

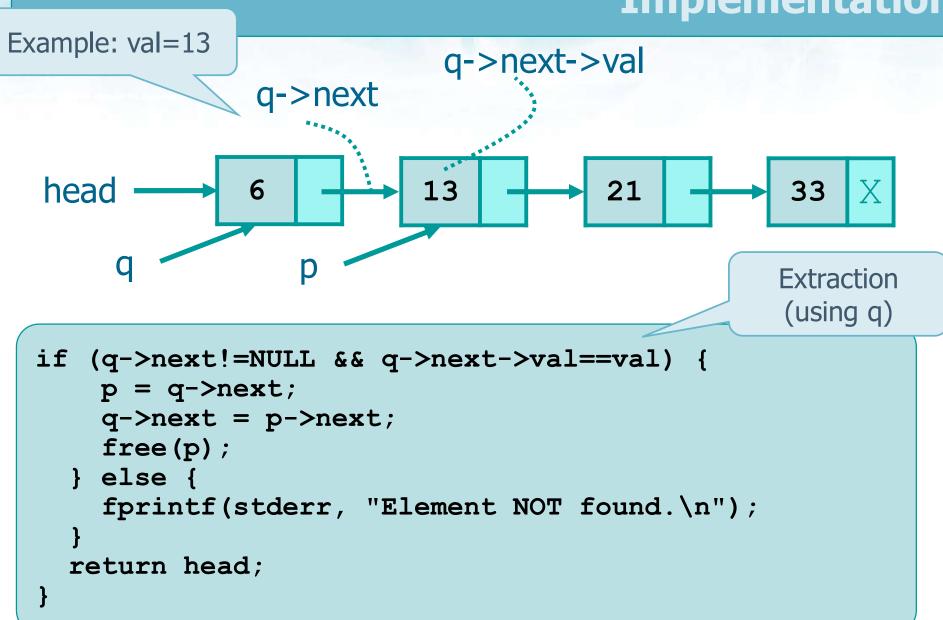
Example: val=15



#### **Extraction**

- To extract (or delete) an element from a list, we have to proceed as for insertion
  - We need two pointers or a look-ahead of one element (the pointer of the pointed element)
  - We need to cope with corner-cases
    - Emply list, element on the head, no element

```
list t *extract (list t *head, int val) {
  list t *p, *q=head;
  if (head == NULL) {
    fprintf(stderr, "Error: empty list\n");
    return NULL;
                                              Empty list
  if (val == head->val) {
    p = head->next;
    free (head) ;
                                           Head extraction
    return p;
  while (q->next!=NULL && q->next->val<val) {</pre>
    q = q-next;
                                               Search
                                           (using q->next)
```



#### **Double-linked lists**



```
typedef struct list_s list_t;
struct list_s {
    ...
    list_t *left, *right;
};
```

We need to manipulate two pointers to insert or extract elements

See laboratory to practice

