Arrays and Array Lists

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(edits by M. Hudachek-Buswell)

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Array Definition

- An **array** is a sequenced collection of variables all of the same type. Every **cell** in an array has an **index** denoting its location within the array. The index uniquely refers to the value stored in that cell. The cells of an array, A, are numbered (or indexed) beginning with 0, 1, 2, and so on.

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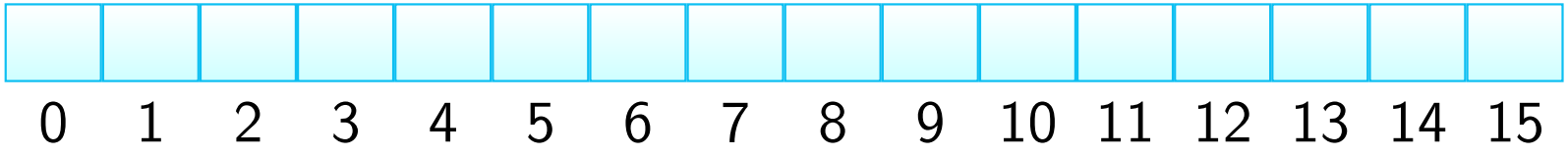
- Each value stored in an array is often called an **element** of that array.



Array Length and Capacity

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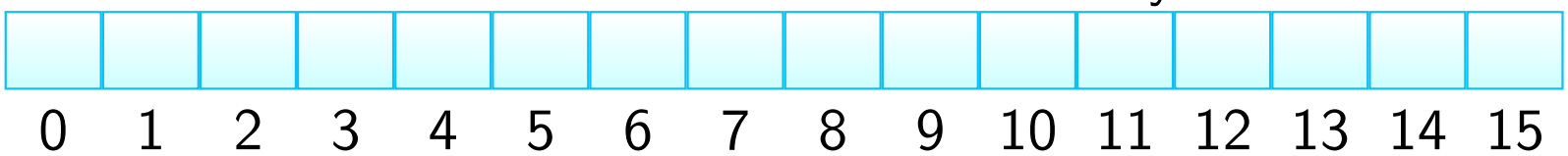
- In Java, the length of an array named `a` can be accessed using the syntax `a.length`. Thus, the cells of an array, `a`, are numbered 0, 1, 2, and so on, up through `a.length-1`, and the cell with index `k` can be accessed with syntax `a[k]`.



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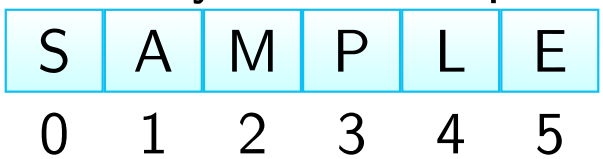
- Given a capacity of N $= 4$,
  Array literal: `int[] myArray = {1, 3, 3, 2}`
  Array declaration: `int[] myArray = new int[4]`

Arrays of Character or Object References

- An array can store primitive elements, such as characters.



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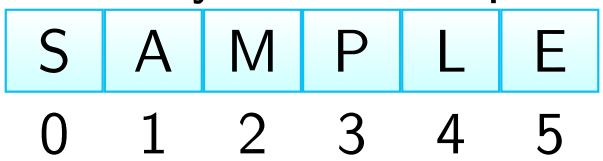
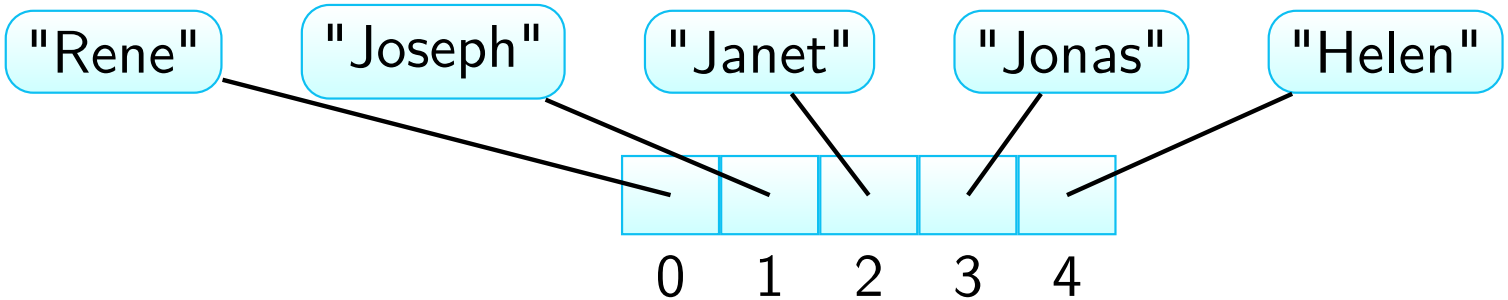


- An array can also store references to objects.



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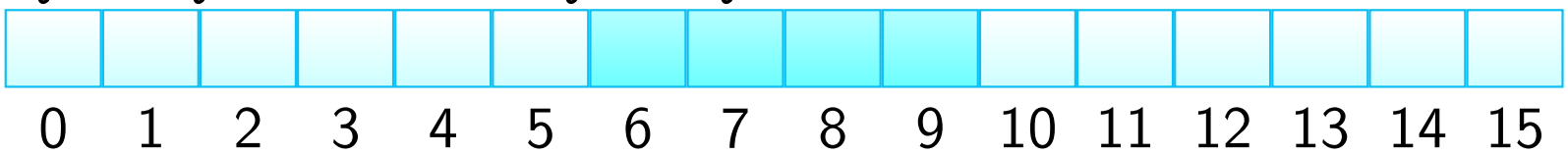
- The resizing policy depends on the implementation. Java's implementation resizes the backing array to 1.5 times the original size.

Adding an Entry

- To add an entry `e` into array `myArray` at index `i`, we need to make room for it by shifting forward the $n - i$ entries `myArray[i], ..., myArray[n - 1]`.



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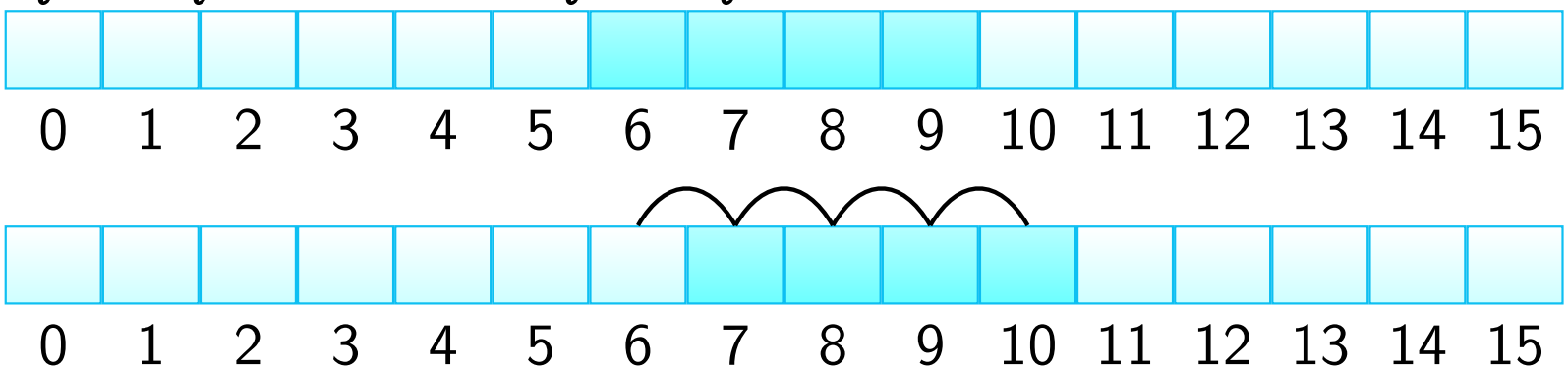

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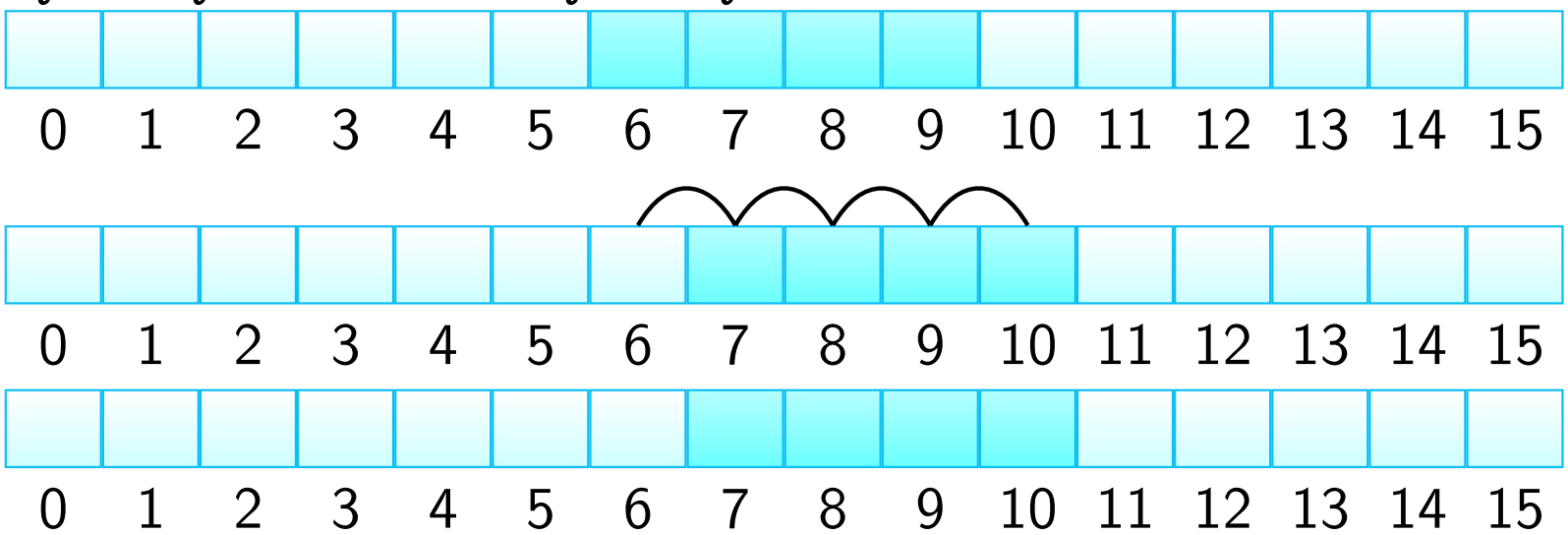


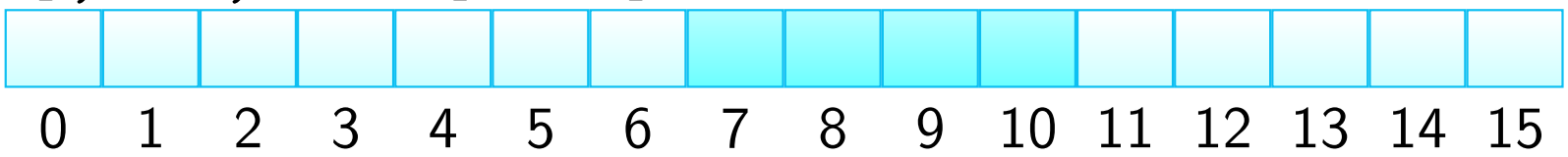
In this example, the capacity of myArray is 16 and size of myArray is n = 10. So adding at i = 6, shifts myArray elements 6-9 to elements 7-10.

Adding an Entry

procedure ADD(i,e)
    if $size >= arr.len$ **then**
        Regrow the array
    end if
    for $j \leftarrow size - 1, i$ **do**
        $arr[j + 1] \leftarrow arr[j]$
    end for
    $arr[i] \leftarrow e$
    $size \leftarrow size + 1$
end procedure

Removing an Entry

- To remove an entry `e` at index `t`, we need to fill the hole left by `e` by shifting backward the $n - i - 1$ elements `board[i + 1], ..., board[n - 1]`.



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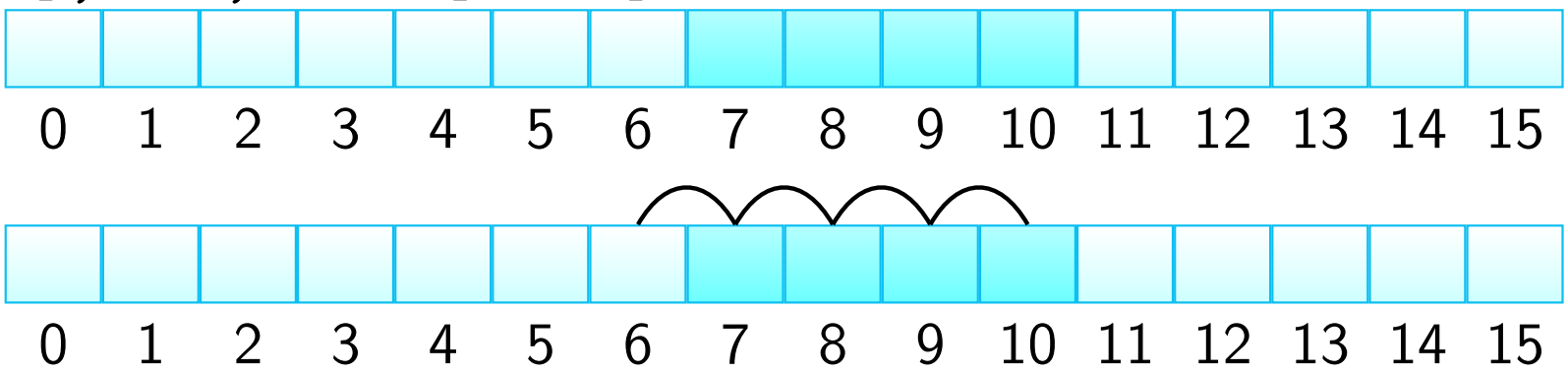

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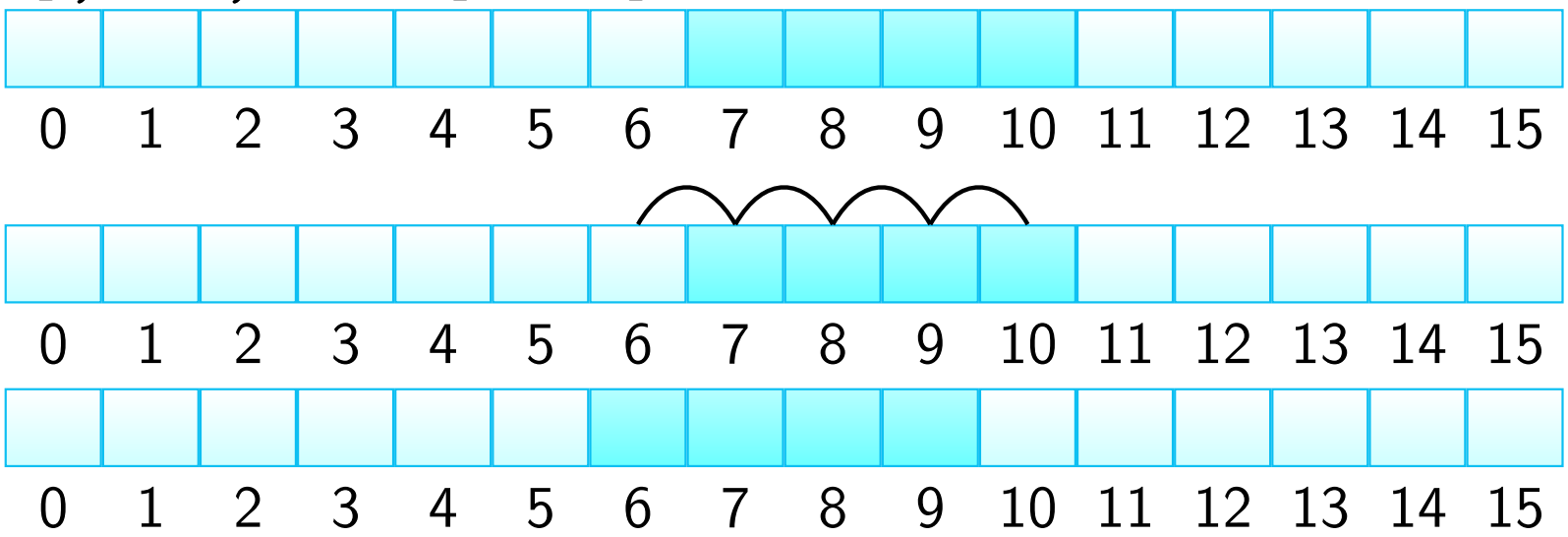

In this example, the capacity of myArray is 16 and size of myArray is n = 11. So removing at i = 6, shifts myArray elements 7-10 to elements 6-9.

Removing an Entry

procedure REMOVE(i)
    $item \leftarrow arr[i]$
    $arr[i] \leftarrow$ `NULL`
    for $j \leftarrow i, size - 2$ **do**
        $arr[j] \leftarrow arr[j + 1]$
    end for
    $size \leftarrow size - 1$
    return *item*
end procedure

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- Accessing elements is a cost of O(1), constant time
- Inserting, searching or removing from anywhere other than the back of the array list is a cost of O(n), linear time
- Array lists are used in tracking characters in an online game map