Lecture 4: Pointers, Dynamic Arrays, & Linked Lists

Read: Chpt.4, Carrano.

Recall that a variable must be stored in some location in memory. Hence, every variable in a program has two attributes:

Location: Address of memory (left-value) **Content** of the location: Value (right-value)

Example:

int
$$v = 268$$
;

To access a variable, we can use:

- Symbolic name
- Address of memory location (pointer)

Pointer & Pointer variables:

Pointer: Memory address of a variable.

Pointer Variable: Variable that can be used to store the actual memory address of a memory cell.

Q: How do we declare a pointer variable?

Statically Allocating Pointer Variable: Syntax:

type_name *pointer_name1, *pointer_name2;

Example:

int *p;

Or,

Warning:

int* p, q, r;
// p is of pointer type but q, r are of int type!

The "&" and "*" Operators:

The address-of operator, &:

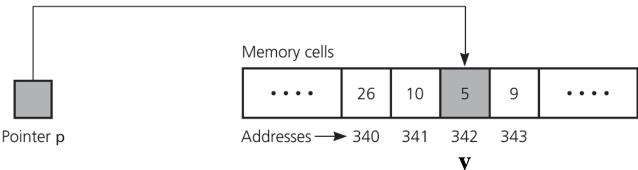
When & is used in front of a variable v, &v corresponds to the address of the variable v.

Example:

```
int *p, v;
v = 5;
p = &v;
// &v places the address of the variable v into the pointer
// variable p
```



Look in location 342 for what you want



The dereferencing (indirection) operator, *:

When * is used in front of a pointer variable p, *p corresponds to the memory cell referencing (pointing) by p.

Example:

```
int v, *p1, *p2;
v = 168;
p1 = &v;
*p1 = 268;
cout << "v = " << v << endl;
p2 = p1;
*p2 = 368;
cout << "v = " << v << endl;</pre>
```

Output:

v = 268

v = 368

Three Roles of * and &:

	Binary	Unary Operator	Unary Declaration Modifier
*	Multiply	Dereference	Declaring pointer
8	Bit-wise AND	Take address of	"what follows is a reference to"

Q: How do we initialize a pointer and/or make pointers point to things?

Pointer Initialization:

Set pointer to NULL:int *p = NULL;

Remark: Null is a special constant pointer value that can be assigned to a pointer variable of any type.

• Set pointer to the address of a variable of the correct type using the reference operator &:

int
$$v = 268$$
;
int $*q = &v$;

• Set pointer to contents of another pointer variable:

• Set pointer to point to dynamically allocated instance:

```
double *p = new double;
int *q = new int(268);
```

Dynamic Allocation:

In many languages, new *unnamed* instance of dynamic variable can be created during run-time.

Using *new* Operator in C++: Syntax:

```
type_name * p; // Define pointer variable p

p = new type_name; // Create a dynamic variable of

// type_name pointed at by p

Or,

type_name * p = new type_name;

p: ?

p: ?
```

Example:

```
int *p,
  p = new int;
  *p = 560;

Or,
  int *p = new int;
  *p = 560;

Or,
  int *p = new int(268);
```

Allocating & De-allocating Dynamic variables:

- Memory for dynamic variable must be allocated from *heap*.
- Size of heap varies according to different languages & systems.
- In C++, dynamic variable is created using *new*. If *new* is called and there is no more memory available in the heap, the program will end!

Remark: Older compiler may return a pointer value NULL when no more new dynamic variable can be created.

- When no longer used, memory for dynamic variables should be freed and returned to the heap.
- Whenever you use dynamic allocation, you must have a plan to de-allocate the dynamic variables. In C++, this is accomplished by using the *delete* operator.

Syntax: delete ptr;

• Once deleted, the dynamic variable will be destroyed. However, the pointer pointing to the dynamic variable remains intact and all pointers pointing to a delete dynamic variable are now undefined (dangling pointer)!

Example of Dangling Pointers:

```
int *p, *q;
p = new int(268);
q = p;
delete p;  // Delete dynamic variable
cout << *q;  // What happens?</pre>
```

After delete p, the pointers p and q are pointers pointing to a de-allocated memory cell. They become *dangling pointers*.

Memory Leak:

Declaring a pointer variable allows the variable to point to an instance of an object of the base type, but it does not actually create such an instance, nor does it set the pointer to point to one! However, if *new* is used, memory for the dynamic variable of the base type will be created.

Warning: Never write a piece of code like the following:

```
int x = 27;

int* p = new int;

p = &x; // Memory leak!
```

Memory leak describes the situation when a programmer allocates one or more variables *dynamically* but they become inaccessible because the programmer never explicitly deletes them.

Example:

- (a) int *p, *q; int x;
- ? ? ? ? p q x

(b) p = &x;

• ? p x or *p

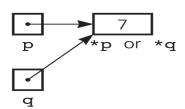
(c) *p = 6;

- p x or *p
- (d) p = **new int**;
- ? 6 x

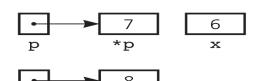
(e) *p = 7;

7 6 xp x

(f) q = p;

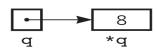


(g) q = **new int;** *q = 8;



(h) p = NULL;

7 6 x



(i) delete q;
q = NULL;

7 6 x

Programming Strategy in Using Dynamic Variables:

- Whenever you use "new" to allocate a dynamic variable, have a plan for exactly where and when you will use "delete" on that variable.
- Do not delete a variable more than once!
- Do not apply "delete" to a pointer variable that is:
 - o Currently pointing to a variable which was not allocated via "new".
 - o Currently set to NULL.
 - o Whose value has not been initialized.
- Do not try to access a variable once it has been deleted.

Scope considerations:

- Recall *scope* describes the region of a program over which a particular variable is "alive" and visible.
- For local variables, once it is going out of scope, all memory used for local variables will be de-allocated.
- For dynamically allocated variables, they will remain allocated until they are explicitly de-allocated (deleted) via the *delete* operator.
- For pointers used in referencing dynamically allocated variables, they will be de-allocated and deleted once they go out of scope. However, the dynamic variables to which they point at will *not* be de-allocated, resulting in memory leaks.

Pointer can also be passed as parameter or returned as function value.

Passing Pointer as Parameter:

```
void example1(int* p);
int example2(int*& q, double r);
```

The * operator is associated with the type_name instead of the parameter in the function prototype.

Returning Pointer as Function Value:

```
double* calculate(double a, double b)
{
    // Return a pointer to a dynamically allocated
    // variable holding the product a*b.
    // Caller responsible for deleting the
    // dynamically allocated memory!

    double* p = new double(a*b);
    return p;
}

void aCaller()
{
    double* p = calculate(3.7, -2.6);
    cout << "The answer is: " << *p << endl;
    delete p;
}</pre>
```

Array and Pointer Variables:

In C++, an *array variable* is a *(const) pointer variable* pointing to the first indexed array variable.

```
Example: Using array and pointer variables.
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
typedef int* IntPtr;
int main()
  IntPtr p;
          a[10];
  int
         index;
  int
  for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
     a[index] = index;
                      // Legal (but never assign a pointer to a)
  p = a;
  for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
     cout << p[index] << " ";
  cout << endl;
  for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
    p[index] = p[index] + 1;
  for (index = 0; index < 10; index++)
     cout << a[index] << " ";
  cout << endl:
  return 0;
```

Output:

```
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
```

Another Example:

```
void func(double* p, int length);
void useArray()
   double* p;
   double x[5];
   for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
      x[i] = 2.0 * i;
   p = x;
   p[3] = 1.3;
   func(x,5);
}
void func(double* p, int length)
{
   for int i = 0; i < length; i++)
       cout \ll p[i] \ll endl;
```

Remark: void func(double*p, int length) is equivalent to void func(double p[], int length).

Manipulating Addresses using Pointers:

Example:

Q: How about <, <=, >, and >=?

They are defined only for pointers that point to the same array or the object that is in the memory immediately after the array.

Using Increment/Decrement Operators:

```
ptr1++; // ptr1 points at A[1]
ptr4—; // ptr4 points at B[3]
```

Using Addition/Subtraction Operators:

```
ptr2 = ptr2 + 3; // ptr2 points at B[3]

ptr2 = ptr2 - 2; // ptr2 now points at B[1]
```

Remark: No multiplication and division of pointers!

Dynamic Array:

An array allocated using new operator and whose array size can be determined during run-time.

Creating Dynamic Arrays using Pointer Type: Syntax:

```
typedef typeName* yourTypeName;
yourTypeName arrayExample;
arrayExample = new type_name[array_size];
```

Example:

```
int array_size = 268;
typedef double* avePtr;
avePtr aveArray;
aveArray = new double[array_size];
```

```
Or,
type *p = new type[array_size];
```

Example:

```
int array_size = 268;
double* aveArray = new double[array_size];
```

Remark: This will create a dynamic array aveArray of size array_size with base type double. Array_size can be a constant or an expression (including a simple variable) whose value may not be known until runtime.

Destroying Dynamic Arrays using delete Operator: Syntax:

delete [] arrayPtr; // Do not use delete arrayPtr

Destructor:

Recall that a dynamic variable is accessible only through a pointer variable and the memory allocated for the dynamic variable is NOT released at the end of its block even though the memory allocated for a local pointer goes away. In C++, there are member functions, called *destructor*, that are implicitly called when a class object passes out of scope.

- Destructor is specially designed to allow us to delete dynamically allocated simple variables, arrays, and class instances. It is sort of the "inverse" of a constructor.
- Unlike constructors, there is exactly one destructor in a class having prototype: ~className();
- If defined correctly, the destructor will do whatever clean-up the programmer intends, part of which is deleting dynamic memory allocated in by the object's constructors.
- As with constructors, C++ will automatically create a destructor (which does nothing) if you do not declare one yourself.
- A destructor is called exactly once when an instance is going out of scope (or otherwise being deleted).
- If in a function, you have a local variable that is an object with a destructor, when the function ends, the destructor will be called automatically.

Potential Problems in Using Array for ADT List:

- Array has fixed size
- Data must be shifted during insertions and deletions

Possible Solution:

Linked data structures

- Linked list is able to grow in size as needed
- Does not require the shifting of items during insertions and deletions

A *linked list* is a collection of objects being "linked" together with pointers such that

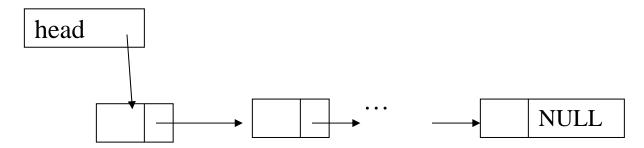
- Each element (node) of the linked list has some data and a_pointer to the location *in memory* where the next element of the list can be found.
- The last element of the list will have a pointer value NULL.

Data Structure:

Node structure:

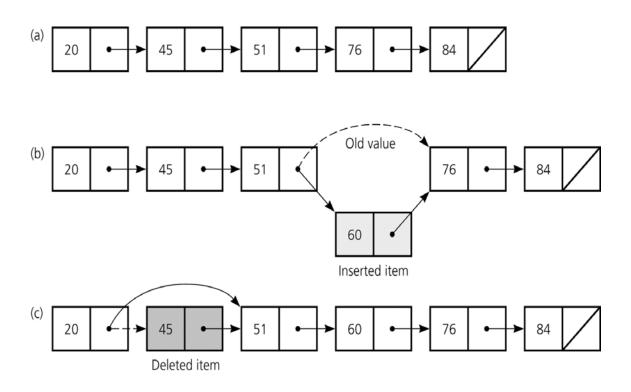


Linked list:



Empty List: head = NULL.

Simple Insertion and Deletion in Linked List:



C++ Implementation Strategy:

Recall that struct and class are essentially the same in C++ except their default accessibility.

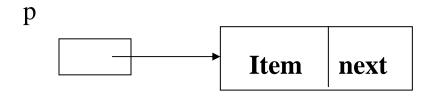
- When we design **ADTs**, we will use *class*.
- When we design **data structures**, we will usually use *struct*.

Hence, a node in a linked list is usually implemented using *struct*.

```
Example: A linked list of integers.
struct Node
{
    int    item;
    Node* next;
    Node(int val) : item(val), next(NULL)
    {
    }
};
```

Allocating a Node Dynamically:

```
Node* p;
p = new Node;
```



Accessing Node Member:

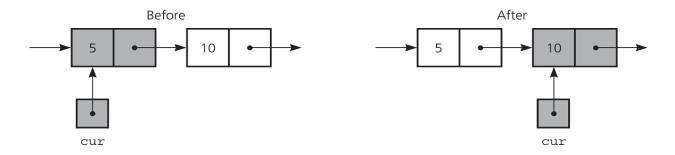
$$(*p).item = 268;$$

Or using
$$\rightarrow$$
 operator,
P \rightarrow item = 268;

Traversing a Linked List:

Use a pointer variable cur to keep track of the current node.

Example: Executing cur = cur -> next.



Example: Searching an Item in a List.

```
Node* search(Node* head, int target)
//Precondition: The pointer head points to the first object
//of a linked list. The pointer variable in the last node is
//NULL. If the list is empty, then head is NULL.
//Postcondition: Returns a pointer that points to the first
//node that contains the target. If no node contains
//the target, the function returns NULL.
  Node* temptr = head; // use temptr for traversal
  if (temptr == NULL) // check for empty list
    return NULL;
  else
    while (temptr -> item != target && temptr -> next !=
             NULL)
        temptr = temptr -> next; // check next node
    if (temptr -> item == target) // target found
       return temptr;
    else
       return NULL;
} // end search
```

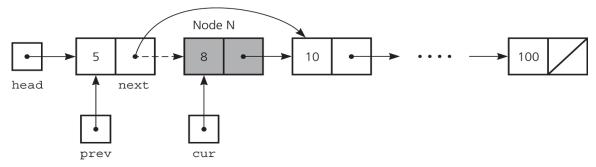
List Modification Algorithms: Deleting a Node from a Linked (Ordinal) List:

- Required function prototype: bool remove(Node*& head, int pos);
- If a node at the indicated position exists, delete it & return TRUE; otherwise; return FALSE.

Remarks:

- 1. Generally NEVER want routines like this to print error messages and the like. Simply return some sort of status code, here a Boolean success code, suffices.
- 2. One must return the deleted node to system.

Approach: Use "prev" and "cur" pointers for deletion, where cur points at the node to be deleted.



Initially, prev = NULL, cur = head.

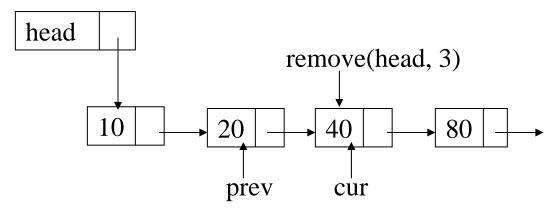
Special Cases:

- 1. Position to be deleted does not exist or list is empty.
- 2. Delete an interior node of list.
- 3. Delete first node of list.

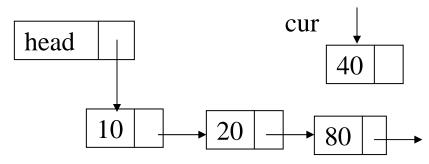
Algorithm:

Consider a "typical" list with some elements.

Before:



After:



prev -> next=cur -> next;

```
bool remove(Node*& head, int pos)
\{
   Node* prev = NULL; // initialize prev and cur pointers
   Node* cur = head;
   int curPos = 1; // start searching at pos = 1
   while ((cur != NULL) && (curPos != pos))
                           // searching for pos to delete
   {
      prev = cur;
      cur = cur \rightarrow next;
      curPos++;
   }
   if (cur == NULL) // no deletion
      return false;
   // cur points to node to be deleted.
   if (prev == NULL) // delete first node
      head = cur \rightarrow next;
   else
                           // delete an interior node
      prev \rightarrow next = cur \rightarrow next;
                           // return node to memory
   delete cur;
   return true;
```

Complication:

A general design principle is that functions should do only one thing! The function *remove* does *two* things:

- (i) Find an element.
- (ii) Delete an element.

Remedy:

Suppose we define a function, say *Node* find(int pos)*, which would return a pointer pointing at the item (based on position) to be deleted. Function "remove" would then call "find", and delete the item found.

Slight Problem:

We want prev, not cur!

Solution:

In the case of ordinal (unsorted) lists, do

```
prev = find(pos-1);
cur = prev -> next;
```

We now need to check for special cases when

- 1. pos == 1.
- 2. pos == lengthOfList + 1.

Implementing *find* **Operation**:

```
Node* find(Node* head, int pos)
{
  if (pos < 1)
    return NULL;

  Node* cur = head;
  int curPos = 1;

  while ( (cur != NULL) && (curPos != pos) )
  {
    cur = cur -> next;
    curPos++;
  }

  return cur;
}
```

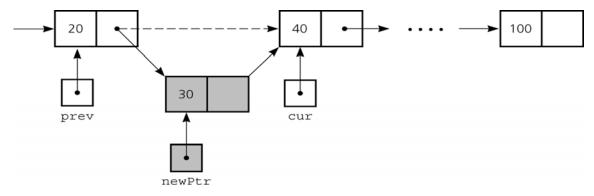
An Improved remove Operation:

```
bool remove(Node*& head, int pos)
\{
  // check for special cases, then use "find" if necessary
  if (head == NULL)
    return false;
  if (pos == 1)
                 // delete first item
    Node* p = head;
    head = head -> next;
    delete p;
    return true;
  // find "prev" and "cur" as identified above
  // Use "find" to locate "prev"; then "cur" is the next one
  Node* prev = find(pos-1);
  if (prev == NULL) // position not found
    return false;
  Node* cur = prev \rightarrow next;
  if (cur == NULL) // pos = lengthOfList + 1
    return false;
  prev -> next = cur -> next; // delete node
  delete cur;
  cur = NULL;
  return true;
```

Inserting a Node into a Linked (Ordinal) List:

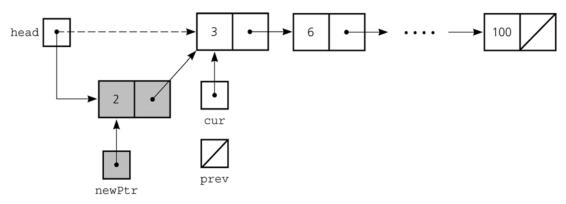
We use a *prev* pointer to point at the node preceding the new node after insertion.

General insert:



Node* newPtr = new Node(item); newPtr -> next = prev -> next; prev -> next = newPtr;

Insert at the beginning of List:



Node* newPtr = new Node(item); newPtr -> next = head; head = p;

```
bool insert(Node*& head, int pos, int item)
//preconditions:
//1. head is either NULL, or it points to the first node in a
//linked list
//2. pos identifies the ordinal position where a new node
//containing "item" is to be placed.
//postconditions:
//If it is possible to do so, a new node containing the "item"
//is created and linked into the appropriate spot in the list.
   if (pos == 1)
                 // insert at the beginning of list
   {
      Node* newPtr = new Node(item);
      newPtr \rightarrow next = head;
      head = newPtr;
      return true;
   }
   Node* prev = find(pos-1); // find prev for insert
   if (prev == NULL)
                                   // position not found
      return false;
   Node* newPtr = new Node(item); // create new node
   newPtr -> next = prev -> next;
   prev -> next = newPtr;
   return true;
```

Packaging Issues:

"Node" as we defined it above is unsuitable for a variety of reasons

- The application data (namely the "int item" in struct Node) is intermixed with list implementation data (namely "next")
- Methods such as remove, insert, and the like should be methods of the *list class*, not an individual *list element*.

Consider:

Node*
$$p = ...;$$

Q: Is p a pointer to a list of nodes, or a pointer to an individual node, or a pointer to application data?

The problem is that so far we have combined three separate abstractions together!

- •• The application data
- •• List elements
- •• The List itself

Three Explicit Classes:

```
Data Class:
class Data
{
    public:
        Data();
        Data(const Data& d);
        Data(...);
        ...
    private:
        ... (in our case, this would be the single integer, but...)
};
```

The other two required classes are the List class and the ListNode class with the latter class being defined as a private struct within the former.

Pointer-Based Implementation of ADT List:

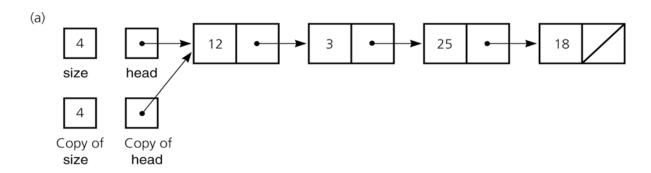
```
// Header file ListP.h for the ADT list using pointer
#include "ListException.h"
#include "ListIndexOutOfRangeException.h"
typedef Data ListItemType;
class List
public:
// List();
                              // default constructor
 List(const List& aList); // copy constructor
 ~List();
                              // destructor
// standard list operations:
 bool isEmpty() const;
       getLength() const;
 int
 void insert(int index, ListItemType newItem)
     throw(ListIndexOutOfRangeException, ListException);
 void remove(int index)
     throw(ListIndexOutOfRangeException);
 void retrieve(int index, ListItemType& dataItem) const
     throw(ListIndexOutOfRangeException);
```

```
private:
 // Note private data structure for the nodes
 struct ListNode
                               // a node on the list
   ListItemType item; // a data item on the list
   ListNode *next;
                      // pointer to next node
  }; // end struct
 int size;
                               // number of items in list
 ListNode *head;
                               // pointer to list of items
 ListNode *find(int index) const;
 // Returns a pointer to the index-th node in the linked list
}; // end class
// End of header file.
```

Default Constructor:

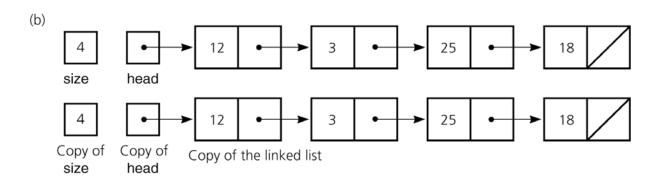
```
List::List(): size(0), head(NULL) {
}
```

Copy Constructor: Shallow Copy:



Only the data members (head, size) will be copied.

Deep Copy:



The whole list is copied; must implement copy constructor.

```
List::List(const List& aList): size(aList.size)
  if (aList.head == NULL) //empty list
    head = NULL;
  else
    head = new ListNode; // get first node
    assert(head != NULL); //check memory allocation
    head -> item = aList.head -> item;
                               //copy first item of old list
    // copy rest of old list
    ListNode *newPtr = head;
    for (ListNode *origPtr = aList.head -> next;
        origPtr != NULL; origPtr = origPtr -> next)
    {
      newPtr -> next = new ListNode;
      assert(newPtr -> next != NULL);
      newPtr = newPtr -> next;
      newPtr -> item = origPtr -> item;
    newPtr \rightarrow next = NULL:
  } // endif
} // end copy constructor
```

```
assert Statement:
  Must use
    #include <cassert>
  Syntax:
    assert(boolean_expression);
  // terminates program if false
Destructor:
List::~List()
  while (!isEmpty())
    remove(1);
} // end destructor
isEmpty():
bool List::isEmpty() const
    return bool(size == 0);
} // end isEmpty
getLength():
int List::getLength() const
  return size;
} // end getLength
```

```
find(index):
List::ListNode *List::find(int index) const
  if ((index < 1) || (index > getLength()))
    return NULL;
                               // index out of range
  else
  { // marching down the list
    ListNode *cur = head;
    for (int skip = 1; skip < index; ++skip)
      cur = cur \rightarrow next:
    return cur;
} // end find
retrieve(index, dataItem):
void List:: retrieve(int index, ListItemType& dataItem) const
  if ((index < 1) || (index > getLength()))
    throw ListIndexOutOfRangeException(
      "ListOutOfRangeException: index out of range");
  else
  { // marching down the list
    ListNode *cur = find(index);
    dataItem = cur -> item;
} // end retrieve
```

Comparing Array-Based & Pointer-Based Implementations:

• Size

 Increasing the size of a resizable array can waste storage and time

• Storage requirements

 Array-based implementations require less memory than a pointer-based ones

Access time

- Array-based: Requires constant access time
- Pointer-based: The time to access the ith node depends on i

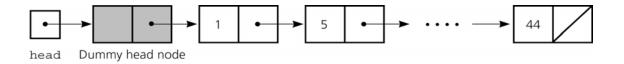
Insertion and deletions

- Array-based: Require shifting of data
- Pointer-based: Require traversing the list

Variations of Linked List:

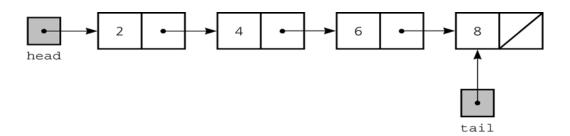
0. Singly linked list:

1. Linked list with dummy header node:



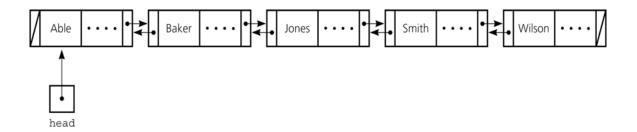
Empty list: head -> next = NULL

2. Linked list with head and tail pointers:



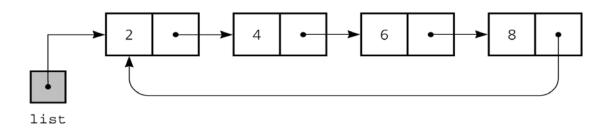
Empty list: head = tail = NULL

3. Doubly linked list:



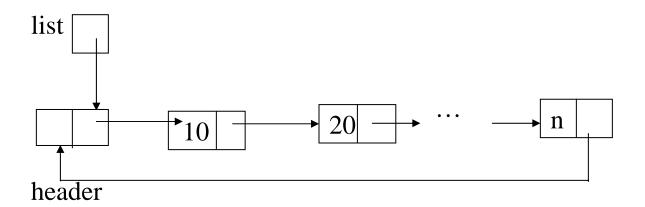
Empty list: head = NULL

4. Circular linked list:



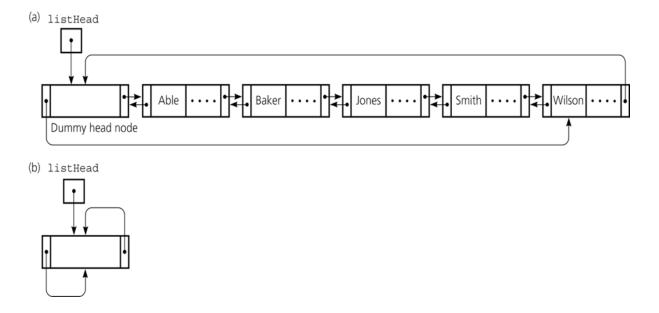
Empty list: list = NULL

5. Circular linked list with header node:



Empty list: list = list -> next

6. Circular doubly linked list with header node:



Empty list: list = list -> next

```
Example: Doubly linked list class.
class dList // Class definition for doubly linked list
public:
// dList();
 dList(const dList& aList);
 ~dList();
 bool isEmpty() const;
 int getLength() const;
 void insert(int index, ListItemType newItem)
     throw(ListIndexOutOfRangeException, ListException);
 void remove(int index)
     throw(ListIndexOutOfRangeException);
 void retrieve(int index, ListItemType& dataItem) const
     throw(ListIndexOutOfRangeException);
private:
 struct doubleNode
   ListItemType item;
   doubleNode *prev, *next; //pointers to previous/next node
  }; // end struct
 int size;
 doubleNode *head:
 doubleNode *find(int index) const;
}; // end dList class
```

```
Copy Constructor:
```

```
dList::dList(const dList& aList): size(aList.size)
  if (aList.head == NULL) //empty list
    head = NULL;
  else
    head = new doubleNode; // get first node
    assert(head != NULL); //check memory allocation
    head -> item = aList.head -> item;
                              //copy first item of old list
    head -> prev = NULL; // set prev pointer of first node
    doubleNode *newPtr, *tempPtr; //copying other node(s)
    *newPtr = head:
    for (doubleNode *origPtr = aList.head -> next;
        origPtr != NULL; origPtr = origPtr -> next)
      newPtr -> next = new doubleNode;
      assert(newPtr -> next != NULL);
      tempPtr = newPtr;
      newPtr = newPtr -> next;
      newPtr -> prev = tempPtr;
      newPtr -> item = origPtr -> item;
    newPtr \rightarrow next = NULL;
  } // endif
} // end copy constructor
```

```
void dList::insert(int index, ListItemType newItem)
  int newlength = getLength() + 1;
  if ( (index < 1) || (index > newLength) ) // no insert
    throw ListIndexOutOfRangeException(
    "ListOutOfRangeException: index out of range");
  else
    doubleNode *newPtr = new doubleNode; //allocate node
    if (newPtr == NULL)
      throw ListException(
      "ListException: Out of memory");
    else
      size = newLength;
      newPtr -> item =newItem:
      if (index == 1) // insert at beginning of list
        newPtr \rightarrow next = head;
        newPtr -> prev = NULL;
        if (head != NULL) // insert to non-empty list
          newPtr -> next -> prev = newPtr;
        head = newPtr;
                              // general insert
      else
```

```
doubleNode *backPtr = find(index - 1);
newPtr -> prev = backPtr;
newPtr -> next = backPtr -> next;
backPtr -> next -> prev = newPtr;
backPtr -> next = newPtr;
} // endif
} // endif
} // end insert
```

HW: Implement other list operations.