
CS2040S Data Structures and Algorithms

Lecture Note #5

List ADT – Array Lists and Linked Lists

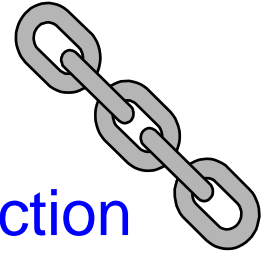
Outline

1. Use of a List (Motivation)
 - List ADT
2. List ADT Implementation via Array
 - Adding and removing elements in an array
 - Time and space efficiency
3. List ADT Implementation via Linked Lists
 - Linked list approach
 - ListNode class: forming a linked list with ListNode
 - BasicLinkedList
4. More Linked Lists
 - EnhancedLinkedList, TailedLinkedList
5. Other Variants
 - CircularLinkedList, DoublyLinkedList
6. Java API: LinkedList class
7. Summary

1 Use of a List

Motivation

Motivation



- ❑ **List** is one of the most basic types of data collection
 - For example, list of groceries, list of modules, list of friends, etc.
 - In general, we keep items of the **same type (class)** in one list
- ❑ **Typical Operations on a data collection**
 - **Add** data
 - **Remove** data
 - **Query** data
 - The details of the operations vary from application to application. The overall theme is the **management of data**



ADT of a List (1/3)

- ❑ A list ADT is a dynamic linear data structure
 - A collection of data items, accessible one after another starting from the beginning (head) of the list
- ❑ Examples of List ADT operations:
 - Create an empty list
 - Determine whether a list is empty
 - Determine number of items in the list
 - Add an item at a given position
 - Remove an item at a position
 - Remove all items
 - Read an item from the list at a position
 - ...

ADT of a List (2/3)

ListInterface.java

```
import java.util.*;

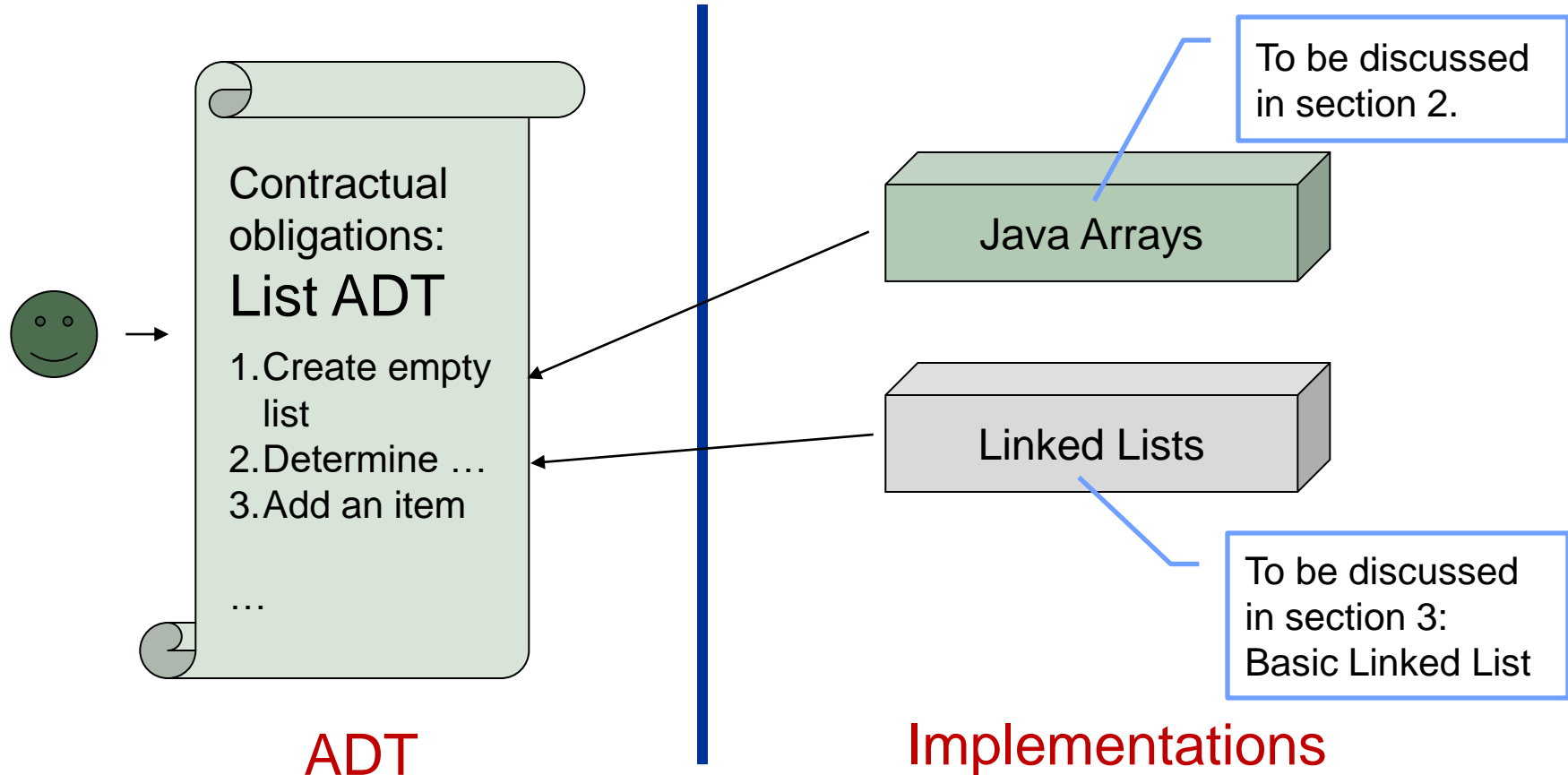
// list interface for a list of integers
// Note: 1st item at index 0 & last item at index N-1
//          (where N is number of items in the list)
public interface ListInterface {
    public boolean isEmpty();
    public int size();
    public int indexOf(int item);
    public boolean contains(int item);
    public int getItemAtIndex(int index);
    public int getFirst();
    public int getLast();
    public void addAtIndex(int index, int item);
    public void addFront(int item);
    public void addBack(int item);
    public int removeAtIndex(int index);
    public int removeFront();
    public int removeBack();
    public void print();
}
```

ADT of a List (2/3)

- ❑ The **ListInterface** defines the operations (methods) we would like to have in a List ADT
- ❑ The operations shown here are just a small sample. An actual List ADT usually contains more operations.
- ❑ Here we assume that the List ADT only contains integer elements
- ❑ Using indices to access the elements in the list, 1st element is at index 0 and last element is at index N-1 (where N is the number of elements in the list)

ADT of a List (3/3)

- We will examine 2 implementations of list ADT, both using the **ListInterface** shown in the previous slide



2 List Implementation via Array

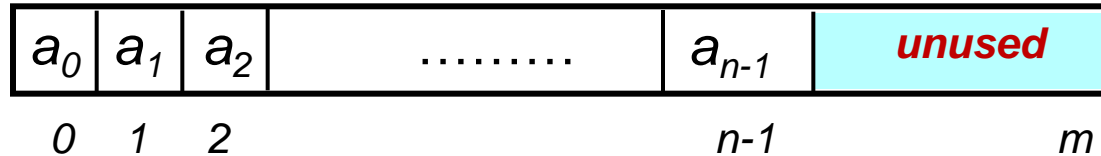


List Implementation: Array

- This is a straight-forward approach
 - Use Java array of a sequence of n items

num_items

arr : array[0..m] of locations



- Since it is an array, items occupy a contiguous block of memory

Basic operations: Insert an item

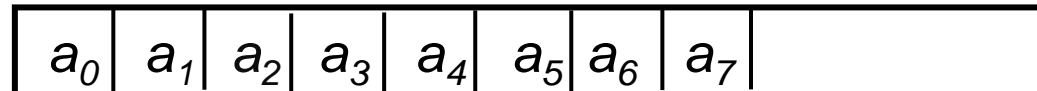
- To insert an item at position/index i
 1. Shift last item to item at index i to the right by 1 to create a “gap”
 2. Insert the new item in the “gap” created

Example: inserting 7 at index 0

num_items

8

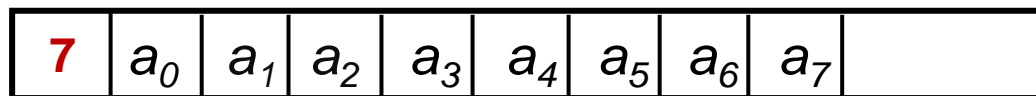
arr



*Step 2 : Insert into gap
and update num_items*

num_items

9



Step 1 : Shift right

Basic operations: Insert an item

- ❑ What happens if the array is already filled when inserting an item?
 1. Enlarge it by creating a new array (usually doubling the size of original array) and copy original array over
 2. Insert new item as per normal
- ❑ This makes the array a **dynamic array** (can be re-sized) instead of a **static array** (fixed size)

Insert method with array resizing

ListUsingArray.java

```
import java.util.*;

class ListUsingArray implements ListInterface {
    public int capacity = 1000; // size of the array
    public int num_items;       // number of items in the array
    public int[] arr = new int[capacity];
    ...

    // helper non-interface methods

    public void insert(int index, int item) {
        if (num_items+1 > capacity) // array is full, enlarge it
            enlargeArr();
        for (int i=num_items-1; i >= index; i--) // create gap
            arr[i+1] = arr[i];
        arr[index] = item; // insert item in gap
        num_items++;
    }
}
```

Insert method with array resizing

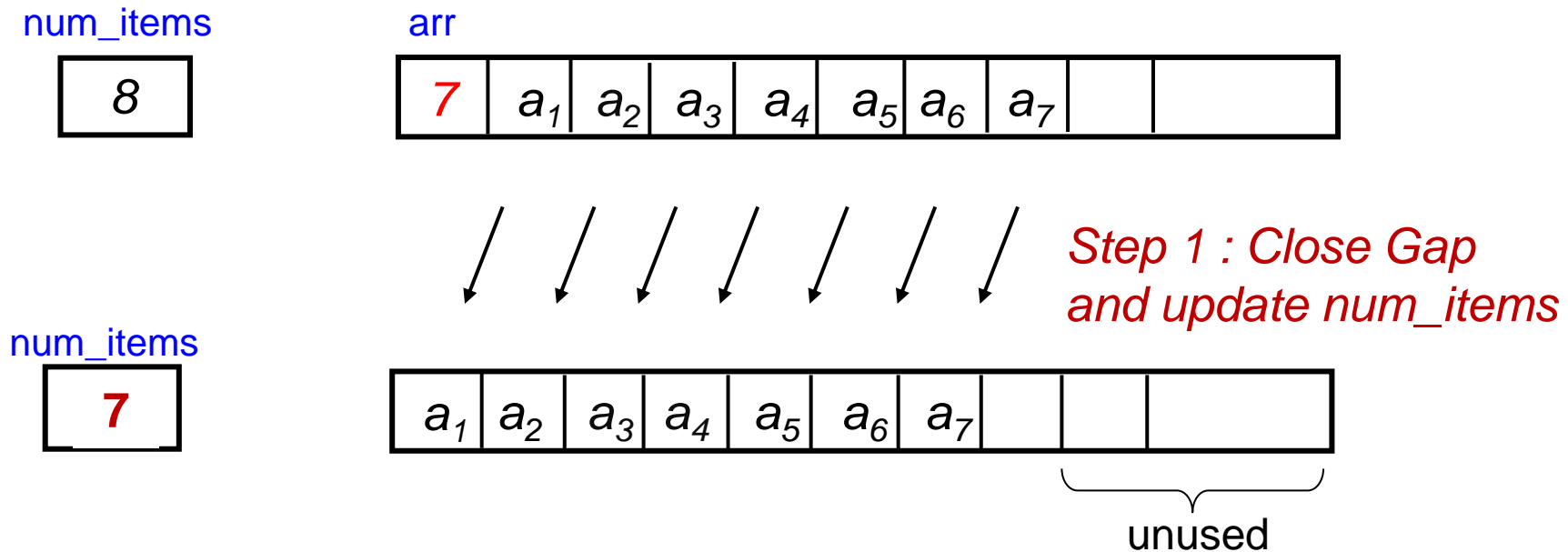
ListUsingArray.java

```
public void enlargeArr() {  
    int newSize = capacity * 2; // double the size  
    int[] temp = new int[newSize];  
  
    if (temp == null) { // not enough memory  
        System.out.println("run out of memory!");  
        System.exit(1);  
    }  
    // copy the original array to the new array  
    for (int j=0; j < num_items; j++)  
        temp[j] = arr[j];  
    arr = temp; // point arr to the new array  
    capacity = newSize;  
}
```

Basic operations: Remove an item

- To remove/delete an item at position/index i
 1. Shift current items from index $i+1$ and onwards to the left by 1 to delete the item and close the gap

Example: remove first item



Remove method

ListUsingArray.java

```
import java.util.*;

class ListUsingArray implements ListInterface {
    ...

    // remove the item at index and return it
    public int remove(int index) {
        int item = arr[index];

        // shift item from index+1 onwards to the left to close the gap
        for (int i=index+1; i < num_items; i++)
            arr[i-1] = arr[i];
        num_items--;

        return item;
    }
}
```


List operations using array implementation

- Useful operations
 - ❑ `empty()` – return true if num_items is 0, false otherwise
 - ❑ `size()` – return num_items
- Operations to check if item exist in the list
 - ❑ `indexOf(int item)` – scan through the array and return the index of item if it is found otherwise return -1
 - ❑ `contains(int item)` – if `indexOf(item) == -1` return false else return true

List operations using array implementation

- Operations to retrieve/access item at index i in the list
 - ❑ `getItemAtIndex(int i)` – if i within the bounds of the array return `arr[i]`
 - ❑ `getFirst()` – return `getItemAtIndex(0)`
 - ❑ `getLast()` – return `getItemAtIndex(num_items-1)`
- Operations to add item at index i in the list
 - * *($i = \text{num_items}$ means add as last item in the list)*
 - ❑ `addAtIndex(int i, int item)` – if $0 \leq i \leq \text{num_items}$ call `insert(i,item)`
 - ❑ `addFront(int item)` – call `addAtIndex(0,item)`
 - ❑ `addBack(int item)` – call `addAtIndex(num_items,item)`

List operations using array implementation

- Operations to remove an item at index i in the list and return it
 - `removeItemAtIndex(int i)` – if i is within the bounds of the array return `remove(i)` otherwise do nothing
 - `removeFront()` – return `removeItemAtIndex(0)`
 - `removeBack()` – return `removeItemAtIndex(num_items-1)`
- Refer to *ListUsingArray.java* for the full program

Testing Array Implementation of List

TestListUsingArray.java

```
import java.util.*;

public class TestListUsingArray {
    public static void main(String [] args) {
        ListUsingArray list = new ListUsingArray();
        list.addFront(1);
        list.addFront(2);
        list.addFront(3);
        list.addBack(4);
        list.addAtIndex(2,5);
        list.print();

        System.out.println("Testing removal");
        list.removeFront();
        list.removeBack();
        list.removeAtIndex(1);
        list.print();

        if (list.contains(1))
            list.addFront(6);
        list.print();
    }
}
```

List is: 3, 2, 5, 1, 4.
Testing removal
List is: 2, 1.
List is: 6, 2, 1.

Analysis of Array Implⁿ of List

- Time complexity of the different list operations
 - Retrieval: *getItemAtIndex(int i)*, *getFirst()*, *getLast()*
 - $O(1)$ – indexing into an array is constant time due to random access memory of the computer
 - Insertion: *addItemAtIndex(int i, int item)*, *addFront()*, *addBack()*
 - Best case = $O(1)$ – if adding at the back and no need to enlarge array
 - Worst case = $O(n)$ – if adding to the front due to shifting all item to the right or adding to the back but need to enlarge the array so have to perform copying of n items to new array (is this realistic?)
 - Average case = $O(n)$ – on average need to shift $\frac{1}{2}(n)$ items to the right
 - Deletion: *removeItemAtIndex(int i)*, *removeFront()*, *removeBack()*
 - Best case = $O(1)$ – if removing from the back
 - Worst case = $O(n)$ – if removing from the front due to shifting all items to the left
 - Average case = $O(n)$ – on average need to shift $\frac{1}{2}(n)$ items to the left

Analysis of Array Implⁿ of List

- What about the Space Complexity?
 - In the best case, we use exactly n space for n items
 - In the worst case, we use $2n$ space for $n+1$ item where n is multiple of 2
 - Either way, the space complexity is $O(n)$

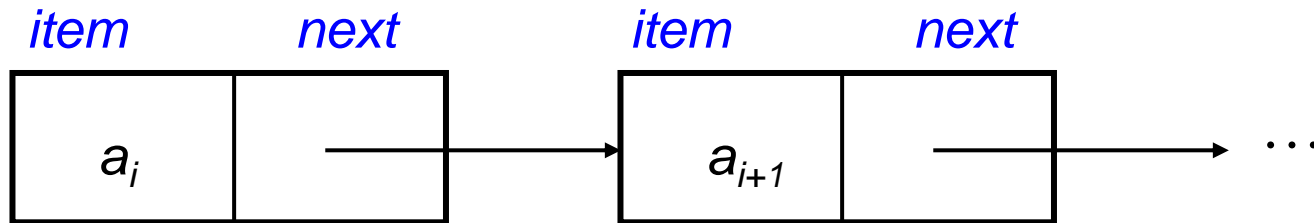
3 List Implementation via Linked List



3.1 Linked List Approach

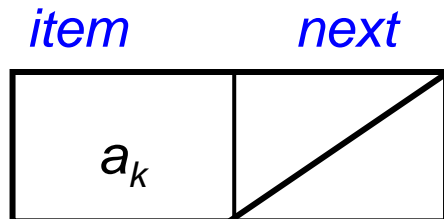
❑ Idea

- ❑ Each item in the list is stored in a *node*, which also contains a *next pointer* that references/points to the node to its right (its neighbour)
- ❑ Order the nodes by associating each with its neighbour(s)
- ❑ Allow elements in the list to occupy *non-contiguous* memory



This is one node
of the collection...

... and this one comes after it in the
collection (most likely not occupying
contiguous memory that is next to the
previous node).



Next pointer of this node is “null”,
i.e. it has no next neighbour.

3.3 ListNode – contain integer element

ListNode.java

```
class ListNode {
    /* attributes */
    public int item;
    public ListNode next;

    /* constructors */
    public ListNode(int val) { this(val, null); }

    public ListNode(int val, ListNode n) {
        item = val;
        next = n;
    }

    /* get the next ListNode */
    public ListNode getNext() { return next; }

    /* set the next reference */
    public void setNext(ListNode n) { next = n };

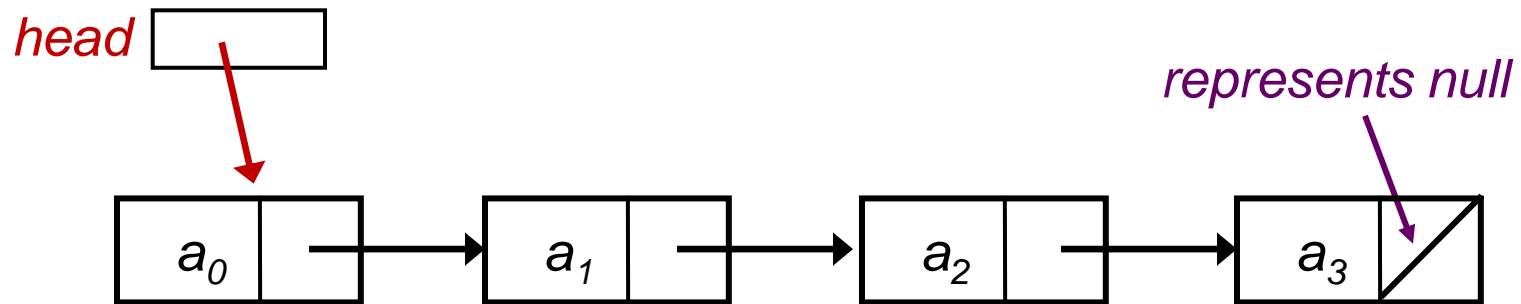
    /* get the item of the ListNode */
    public int getItem() { return item; }

    /* set the item of the ListNode */
    public int setItem(int val) { item = val; }
}
```

Mark this slide – You may need to refer to it later when we study the different variants of linked list.

Forming a Linked List

- For a sequence of 4 items $\langle a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$



We need a *head* to indicate where the first node is. From the *head* we can get to the rest.

- Create a **BasicLinkedList** class that contains a head attribute and implements the list operations

3.5 Basic Linked List

- Using `ListNode` to define `BasicLinkedList`

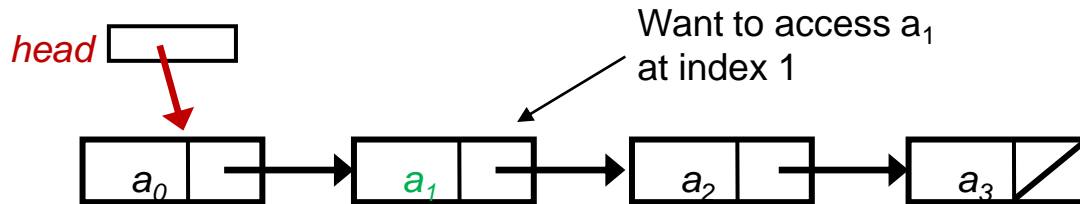
```
import java.util.*;
```

BasicLinkedList.java

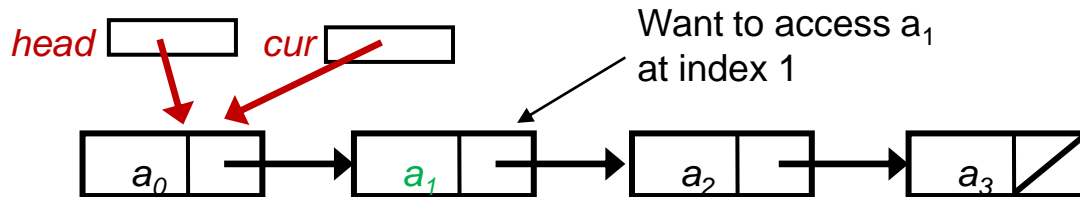
```
class BasicLinkedList implements ListInterface {  
    public ListNode head; // points to the 1st node in the list,  
                          // initialized to null  
    public int num_nodes;  
  
    ...  
}
```

Basic Operations: Accessing items in the LL

- To access an item at index i in the LL we need to have a reference pointing to its node (cannot directly access the node like an array)

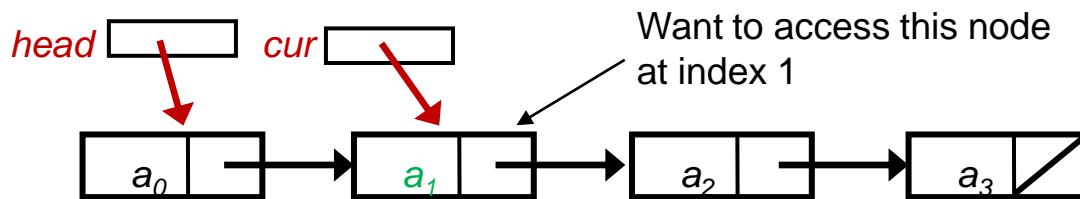


- Have a reference **cur** that start from head



`ListNode cur = head;`

- And "moves" towards node containing a_1



`cur = cur.getNext();`

*To access nodes further away, simply use a loop

Accessing an item: getItemAtIndex(int i)

```
import java.util.*;
```

BasicLinkedList.java

```
class BasicLinkedList implements ListInterface {
```

```
...
```

```
public int getItemAtIndex(int index) {
```

```
    ListNode cur = head;
```

```
    if (index < 0 || index > size()-1) {
```

```
        System.out.println("invalid index");
```

```
        System.exit(1);
```

```
    }
```

```
    for (int counter = 0; counter != index; counter++)
```

```
        cur = cur.getNext();
```

```
    return cur.getItem();
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

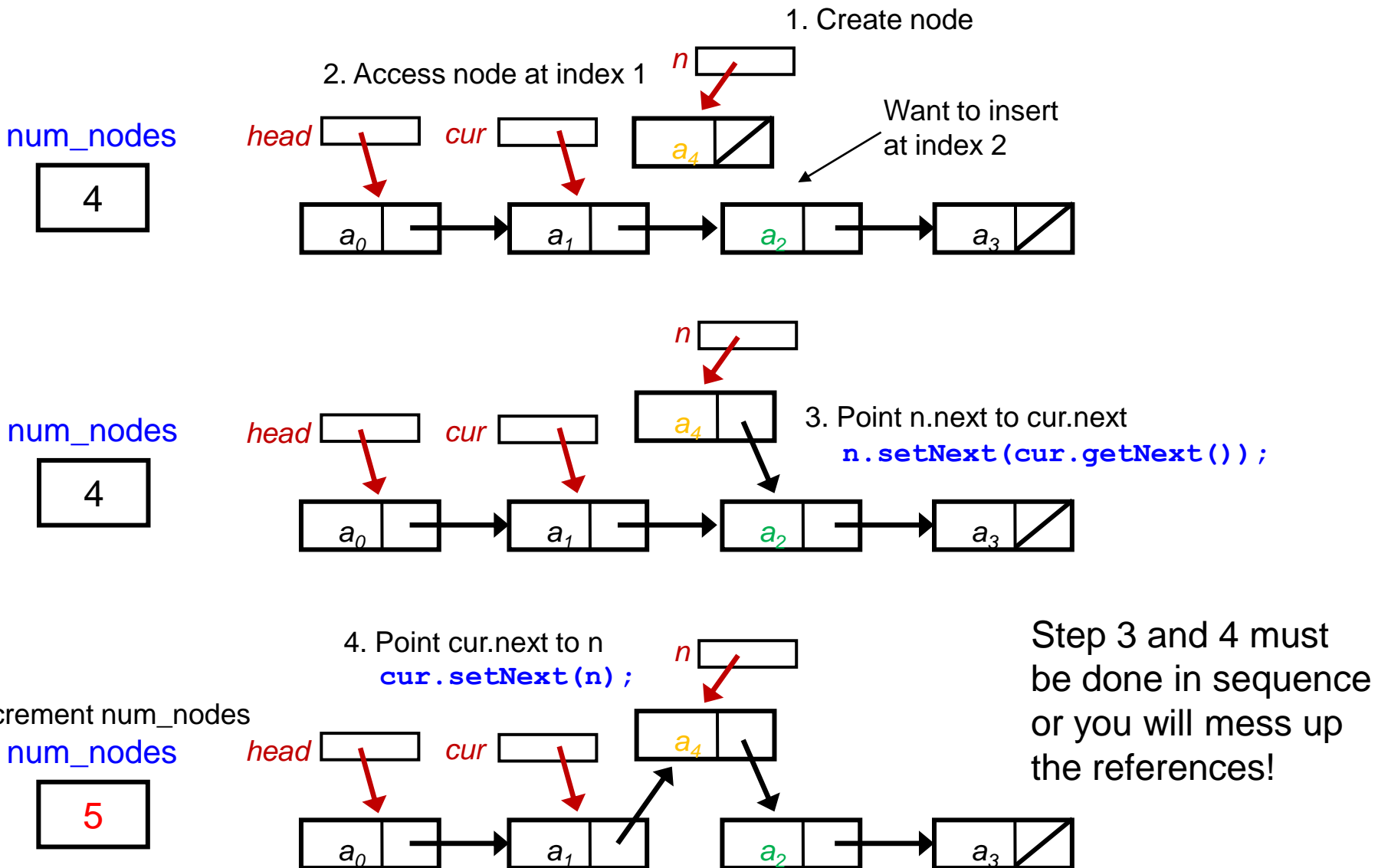
We have an equivalent method **ListNode getNodeAtIndex(int index)** which returns the node instead of item in the node. Refer to BasicLinkedList.java

Move through the list

Basic Operations: Insert an item

- Insert an item at index i in the linked list
 1. Create a new node n containing the item
 2. Access the node cur at index $i-1$
 3. Point next reference of n to neighbor of cur
 4. Point next reference of cur to n
 5. Increment number of nodes

Basic Operations: Insert an item

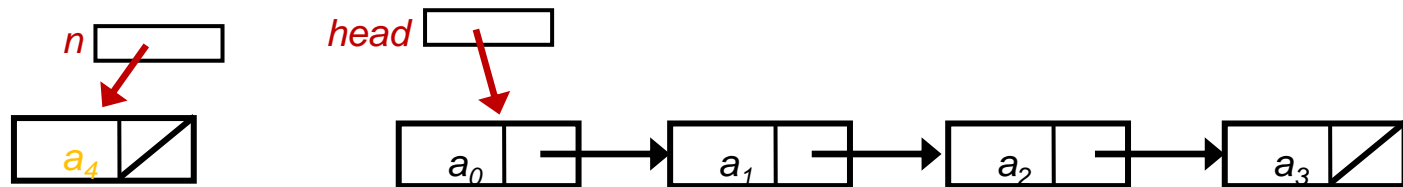


Insert an item – Special cases?

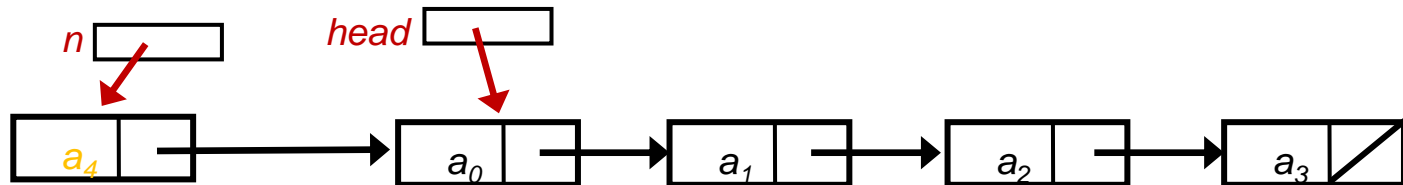
1. When adding to the front of the linked list (i.e index 0) → In this case **cur == null** (no node before index 0)

1. Create new node **n**
2. Point next of **n** to **head**
3. Set head to **n** && increment num_nodes (*not shown due to space constraint*)

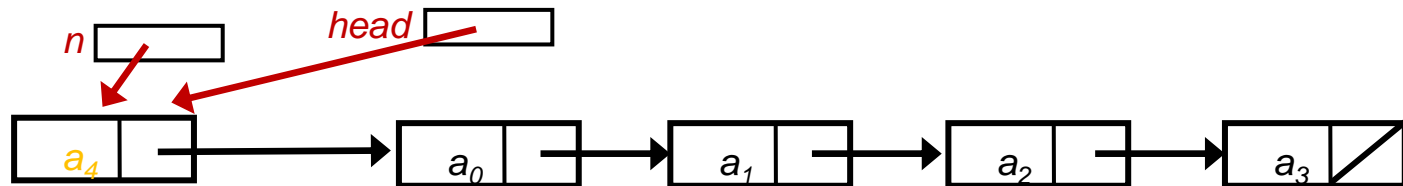
1. Create node



2. Point n.next to head



3. Set head to n



Insert an item – Special cases?

2. When the list is empty

- New item is added to the front of the list therefore this is same case as 1.

3. When adding to back of the list (i.e index num_nodes)

- No need special handling as cur will be pointing to the last node (which is at index num_nodes-1)

Insert an item: insert(ListNode cur, ListNode n)

- Code for inserting a new node **n** at index **i** given reference **cur** to node at index **i-1**

```
import java.util.*;

class BasicLinkedList implements ListInterface {
    ...

    public void insert(ListNode cur, ListNode n) {
        if (cur == null) { // insert in front of list
            n.setNext(head);
            head = n; // update head
        }
        else { // insert anywhere else
            n.setNext(cur.getNext());
            cur.setNext(n);
        }
        num_nodes++; // important !
    }
}
```

BasicLinkedList.java

Time complexity of insert is $O(1)$ (no loops, only a fixed number of statements)

Implement addAtIndex using insert

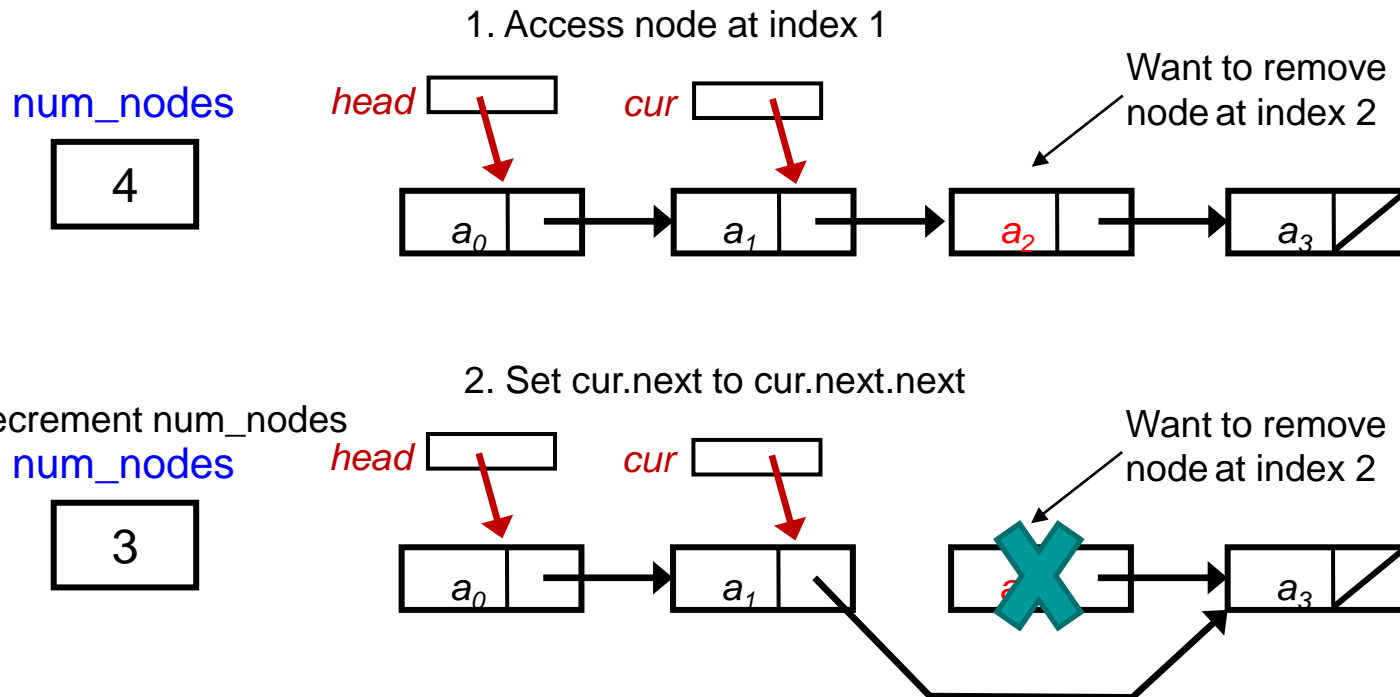
- List operation addAtIndex can now be easily implemented using insert

```
public void addAtIndex(int index, int item) {  
    ListNode cur;  
    ListNode newNode = new ListNode(item);  
  
    if (index >= 0 && index <= size()) {  
        if (index == 0) // insert in front  
            insert(null, newNode);  
        else {  
            cur = getNodeAtIndex(index-1); // access node at index-1  
            insert(cur, newNode);  
        }  
    }  
    else { // index out of bounds  
        System.out.println("invalid index");  
        System.exit(1);  
    }  
}
```

BasicLinkedList.java

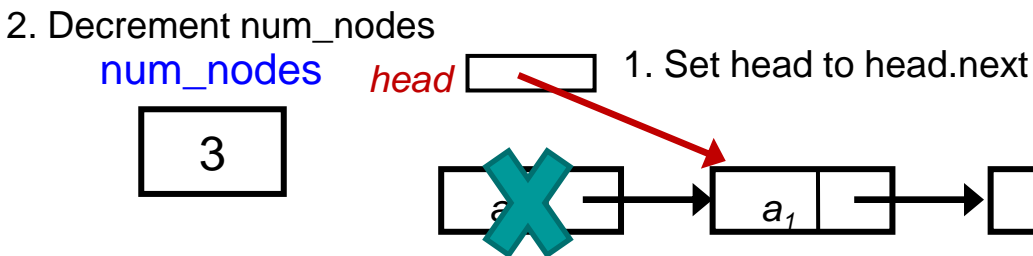
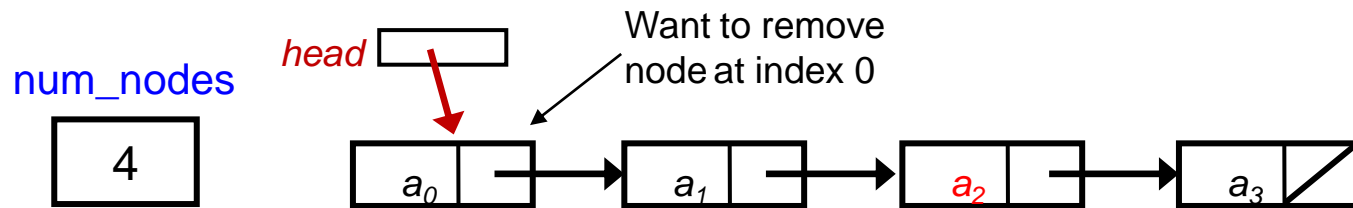
Basic Operation: Remove an item

- Remove an item at index i in the linked list
 1. Access the node **cur** at index $i-1$
 2. Point next reference of **cur** to **neighbor of neighbor of cur**
 3. Decrement number of nodes



Remove an item – Special case

- When removing from the front of the linked list (i.e index 0) → In this case **cur == null** (no node before index 0)
 - Point head to head.next
 - decrement num_nodes



Remove an item: remove(ListNode cur)

- Code for removing a node at index i given reference **cur** to node at index i-1

BasicLinkedList.java

```
import java.util.*;

class BasicLinkedList implements ListInterface {

    public int remove(ListNode cur) {
        int value;

        if (cur == null) { // remove 1st node
            value = head.getItem();
            head = head.getNext(); // update head
        }
        else { // remove any other node
            value = cur.getNext().getItem();
            cur.setNext(cur.getNext().getNext());
        }
        num_nodes--; // important !

        return value;
    }
}
```

Time complexity of remove is $O(1)$ (no loops, only a fixed number of statements)

Implement removeAtIndex using remove

- List operation removeAtIndex can now be easily implemented using remove

```
public int removeAtIndex(int index) {  
    ListNode cur;  
    int item = 0;  
  
    // index within bounds and list is not empty  
    if (index >= 0 && index < size()) {  
        if (index == 0) // remove 1st item  
            item = remove(null);  
        else {  
            cur = getNodeAtIndex(index-1); // access node at index-1  
            item = remove(cur);  
        }  
    }  
    else { // index out of bounds  
        System.out.println("invalid index or list is empty");  
        System.exit(1);  
    }  
    return item;  
}
```

BasicLinkedList.java

3.5 Test Basic Linked List

TestBasicLinkedList.java

```
import java.util.*;

public class TestBasicLinkedList {
    public static void main(String [] args) {
        BasicLinkedList list = new BasicLinkedList();
        list.addFront(1);
        list.addFront(2);
        list.addFront(3);
        list.addBack(4);
        list.addAtIndex(2,5);
        list.print();

        System.out.println("Testing removal");
        list.removeFront();
        list.removeBack();
        list.removeAtIndex(1);
        list.print();

        if (list.contains(1))
            list.addFront(6);
        list.print();
    }
}
```

List is: 3, 2, 5, 1, 4.
Testing removal
List is: 2, 1.
List is: 6, 2, 1.

Analysis of Linked List Implementation of List

- Time complexity of the different list operations
 - Retrieval: *getItemAtIndex(int i)*, *getFirst()*, *getLast()*
 - Best case = $O(1)$ – accessing the first node, return the head
 - Worst case = $O(n)$ – accessing the last node, since you need to move all the way to the back from the head (n moves)
 - Average case = $O(n)$ – need to move about half way through the list to access any node on average so $\frac{1}{2}(n)$ iterations of the for loop
 - Insertion: *addItemAtIndex(int i, int item)*, *addFront()*, *addBack()*
 - Best case = $O(1)$ – if adding at the front (don't have to worry about enlarging the list unlike array)
 - Worst case = $O(n)$ – if adding to the back due to having to move all the way to the back from the head (n moves)
 - Average case = $O(n)$ – on average need to make $\frac{1}{2}(n)$ moves

Analysis of Linked List Implementation of List

- ❑ Deletion: *removeItemAtIndex(int i)*, *removeFront()*, *removeBack()*
 - Best case = $O(1)$ – if removing from the front
 - Worst case = $O(n)$ – if removing from the back, again due to moving all the way to the back from the head
 - Average case = $O(n)$ – on average need to make $\frac{1}{2}(n)$ moves

- What about the **Space Complexity**?
 - ❑ We use as much space as there are nodes in the list so exactly $O(n)$ (plus some constant overhead to store each node which requires more space than a simple integer that is stored in an array)

When to use Array vs LL implementation of List

■ Depends on the problem

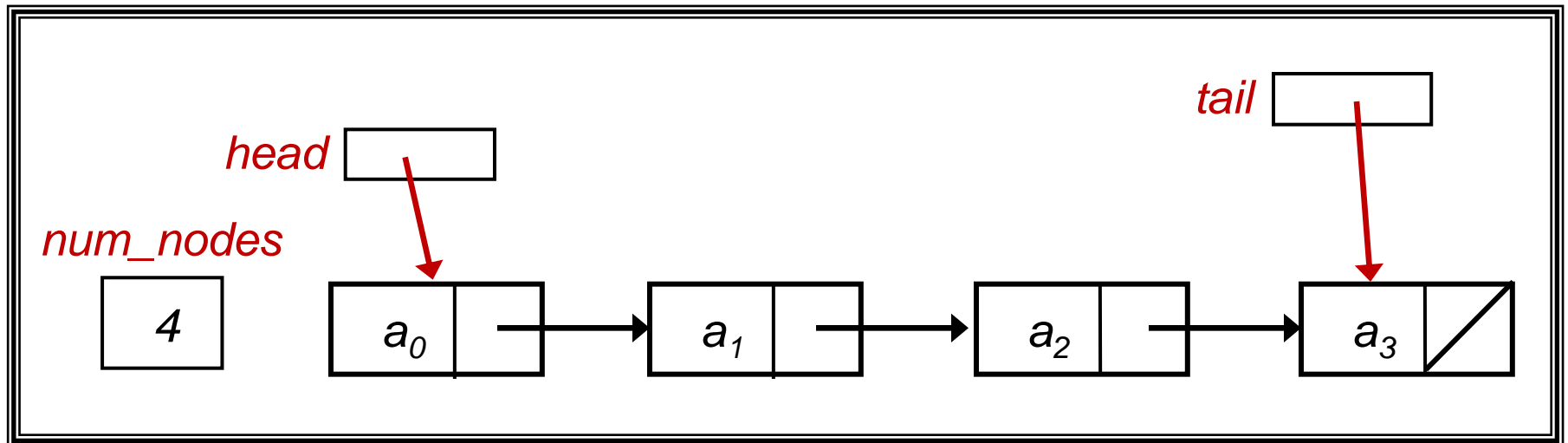
- Only need to add/remove to front of the list → Use LL
- Only need to add/remove to back of the list → Use Array, especially if we know maximum num. of items in advance, just create a large enough array from start
- If we need to add/remove anywhere in the list
 - Equal chance of adding to any index → both LL or Array is the same
 - If we need to keep adding/removing to a particular index i in the list → Use LL, maintain a reference to the node at index $i-1$, all insertions/deletions thereafter is only $O(1)$ time
- If we have few insertions/deletions but a lot of accesses → Use Array since accessing any item is $O(1)$ time

4 More Linked Lists

Exploring variants of linked list

Tailed Linked List

- We further improve on our **Basic Linked List**
 - To address the issue that adding to the end is slow (need to move all the way to the back)
 - Add an extra attribute called **tail** that points to the last node in the list
 - Extra attributes means extra maintenance too – no free lunch!
- Difficulty: Learn to take care of ALL cases of updating...



4.1 Tailed Linked List

- We create a new class TailedLinkedList:

TailedLinkedList.java

```
import java.util.*;

public class TailedLinkedList implements ListInterface {
    ...
    ListNode tail; // additional attribute

    ...
    public ListNode getTail(); // method to return tail
}
```

Accessing an item: getItemAtIndex(int i)

```
class TailedLinkedList implements ListInterface {
```

TailedLinkedList.java

```
    public int getItemAtIndex(int index) {  
        ListNode cur = head;  
  
        if (index < 0 || index > size()-1) {  
            System.out.println("invalid index");  
            System.exit(1);  
        }
```

```
        if (index == size()-1)  
            return tail.getItem();  
        else {
```

Simply return item in tail if
accessing last item, thus
getLast() is $O(1)$ time

```
            for (int counter = 0; counter != index; counter++) {  
                cur = cur.getNext();  
            }  
            return cur.getItem();  
        }
```

Otherwise same as for
BasicLinkedList

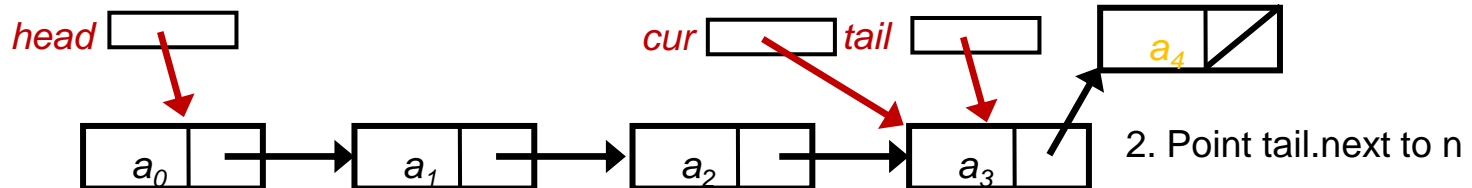
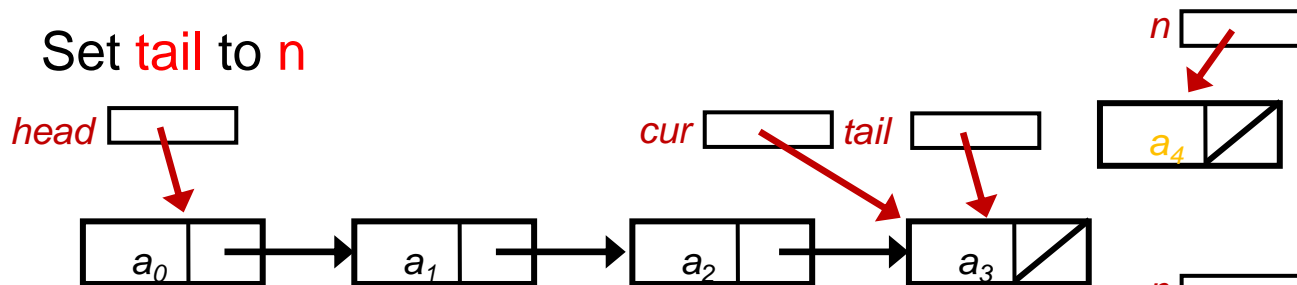
```
    }  
}
```

Inserting in a tailed linked list

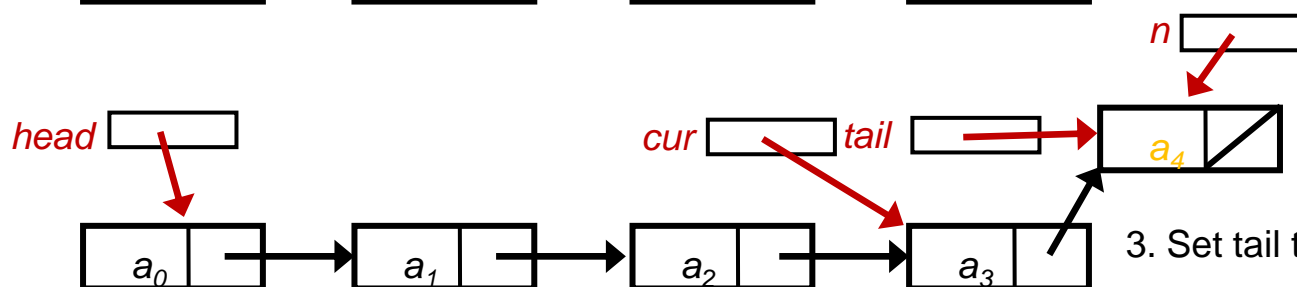
- Inserting at index == size(), Immediately insert using the tail without having to start from head and moving to the back.

1. Create the node **n** to be inserted & set **cur** to **tail**
2. Point next reference of **cur** to **n**
3. Set **tail** to **n**

1. Create node & set cur to tail



2. Point tail.next to n



3. Set tail to n

No Free lunch – Extra book keeping in insert()

- In the insert method need to update tail
 1. When inserting to tail (illustrated in previous slide)
 2. When inserting into empty list (tail == null)

TailedLinkedList.java

```
public void insert(ListNode cur, ListNode n) {  
    if (cur == null) { // insert in front of list  
        n.setNext(head);  
        head = n; // update head  
        if (tail == null) // update tail if list originally empty  
            tail = head;  
    }  
    else { // insert anywhere else  
        n.setNext(cur.getNext());  
        cur.setNext(n);  
        if (cur == tail) // update tail if insert new last item  
            tail = tail.getNext();  
    }  
    num_nodes++;  
}
```

Case 2

Case 1

Simple modification of addAtIndex

- List operation addAtIndex can now be easily modified to support fast insertion to end of the **Tailed Linked List**

TailedLinkedList.java

```
public void addAtIndex(int index, int item) {  
    ListNode cur;  
    ListNode newNode = new ListNode(item);  
  
    if (index >= 0 && index <= size()) {  
  
        if (index == 0) // insert in front  
            insert(null, newNode);  
        else if (index == size())  
            insert(tail, newNode);  
        else {...} // insert anywhere else  
    }  
    else {...} // index out of bounds  
}
```

Use tail as the cur reference when inserting to the back. Don't have to move all the way to the back to insert

Removing from a tailed linked list

- Need to update tail reference whenever last item and only item is removed (NO FREE LUNCH!)

```
class TailedLinkedList implements ListInterface {
```

```
    public int remove(ListNode cur) {  
        int value;
```

```
        if (cur == null) { // remove 1st node  
            value = head.getItem();  
            head = head.getNext(); // update head
```

```
            if (num_nodes == 1)  
                tail = null;
```

Update tail to null if only
item in list is removed

```
        }  
        else { // remove any other node  
            value = cur.getNext().getItem();  
            cur.setNext(cur.getNext().getNext());
```

```
            if (cur.getNext() == null)  
                tail = cur;
```

Update tail to cur if last item
in list is removed

```
        }  
        num_nodes--;  
        return value;
```

```
    }
```

4.2 Test Tailed Linked List (8/10)

TestTailedLinkedList.java

```
import java.util.*;

public class TestTailedLinkedList {
    public static void main(String [] args) {
        TailedLinkedList list = new TailedLinkedList();
        list.addFront(1);
        list.addFront(2);
        list.addFront(3);
        list.addBack(4);
        list.addAtIndex(2,5);
        list.print();

        System.out.println("Testing removal");
        list.removeFront();
        list.removeBack();
        list.removeAtIndex(1);
        list.print();

        if (list.contains(1))
            list.addFront(6);
        list.print();
    }
}
```

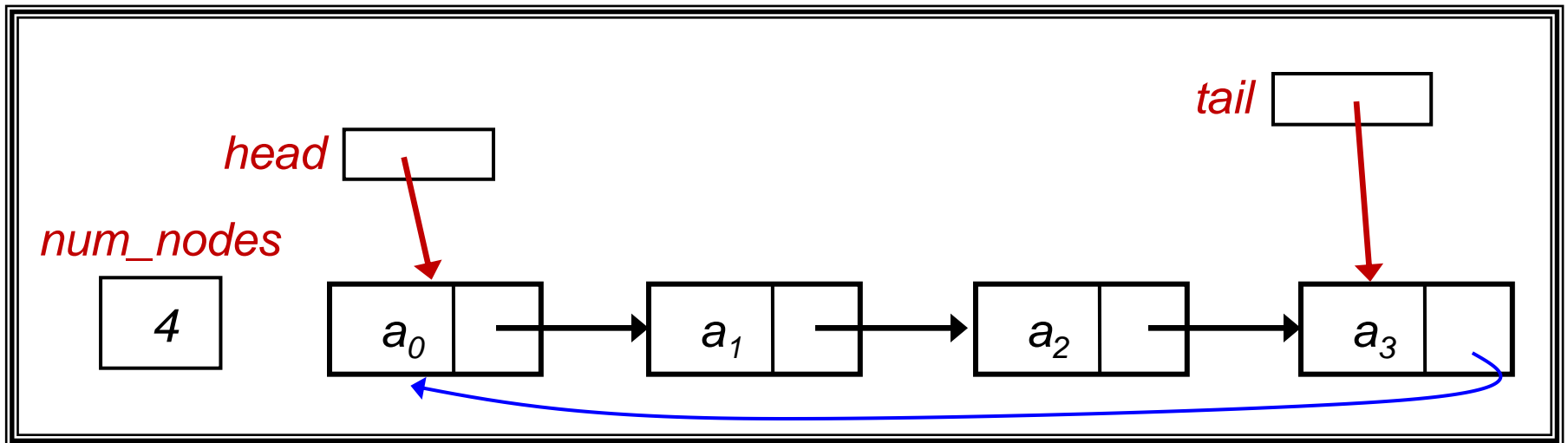
List is: 3, 2, 5, 1, 4.
Testing removal
List is: 2, 1.
List is: 6, 2, 1.

5 Other Variants

Other variants of linked lists

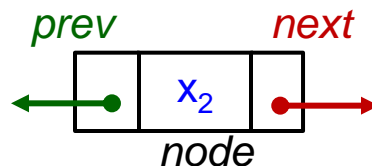
5.1 Circular Linked List

- There are many other possible enhancements of linked list
- Example: **Circular Linked List**
 - To allow cycling through the list repeatedly, e.g. in a **round robin system** to assign shared resource
 - Add a link from **tail** node of the TailedLinkedList to point back to **head** node
 - Difference in linking need different maintenance – no free lunch!
- Difficulty: Learn to take care of ALL cases of updating, such as inserting/deleting the first/last node in a Circular Linked List
- Explore this on your own; write a class **CircularLinkedList**



Doubly Linked List

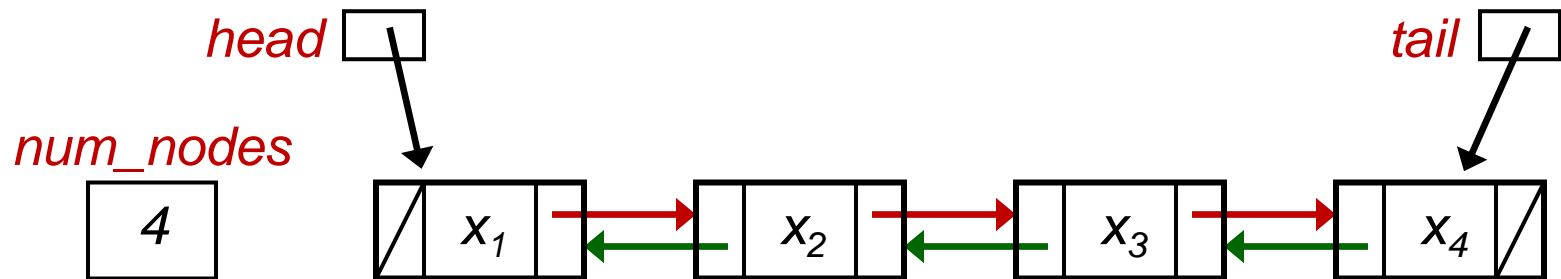
- In the preceding discussion, we have a “**next**” pointer to move forward
- Often, we need to move backward as well
- Use a “**prev**” pointer to allow backward traversal
- Once again, no free lunch – need to maintain “**prev**” in all updating methods
- Instead of [ListNode](#) class, need to create a [DListNode](#) class that includes the additional “**prev**” pointer



- Study [DListNode.java](#) for how to implement a DListNode

Doubly Linked List

- How a doubly linked list looks (has both head and tail reference)



Usefulness of Doubly Linked List

- Reduce moving of references
 - When adding/removing/accessing a particular index, you can start from the end (front or back) that is closer to the index
 - Does not change time complexity of the List operations but improves the constant which is still important in practice! (especially in beating time limit constraints of lab assignments ...)
- Write a class `DoublyLinkedList` to implement the various linked list operations for a doubly linked list.

6 Java API: ArrayList class and LinkedList class

Using the LinkedList class

6 Java Classes: ArrayList and LinkedList

- These 2 are classes provided by Java library which implements the List ADT/interface
- **ArrayList** is the array implementation while **LinkedList** is the linked list implementation
- They have many more methods than what we have discussed so far of our versions of linked lists. On the other hand, we created some methods not available in the Java library class too.
- Please do not confuse this library class from our class illustrated here. In a way, we open up the Java library to show you the inside working.
- For purposes of labs or exam, you can use ArrayList or LinkedList if it is not stated that you have to use your own List implementation

6 Java Classes: ArrayList and LinkedList

- Both ArrayList and LinkedList have the same set of methods as they both implement the List interface
- Thus we can use them interchangeably
 - However note that the time complexity of some methods will differ due to the difference in the underlying data structure used (array vs linked list)
- Also both ArrayList and LinkedList classes are generic containers meaning they can contain objects of any class (but not primitive types)

Eg Using ArrayList

- Declaring an ArrayList variable/reference

- To declare an ArrayList reference, specify the type of the object it contains. For example,

```
ArrayList<Integer> list;
```

list is a reference to an ArrayList containing Integer objects

- Creating an ArrayList object

- Same as declaring an ArrayList reference need to specify the type of object it contains. For example,

```
list = new ArrayList<Integer>();
```

list now points to an ArrayList object that contains Integers

- Make sure the reference type and object type is the same/compatible
- LinkedList is used in the same manner

Why “reinvent the wheel”?

- In a data structures course, students are often asked to implement well-known data structures.
- A question we sometimes hear from students: “Since there is the API, why do we need to learn to write our own code to implement a data structure like linked list?”
- Writing the code allows you to gain an in-depth understanding of the data structures and their operations
- The understanding will allow you to appreciate their time complexity analysis and use the API effectively

7 Summary

- We learn to create our own data structure to implement the List ADT
 - Need to be careful with **boundary cases**
 - Manipulation of **references** (The sequence of statements is important! With the wrong sequence, the result will be wrong.)
 - **Re-use of codes** (Think in terms of basic operations and how more complex operations can re-use the basic ones
→ removeLast & removeFirst, addLast & addFirst)
 - Drawings are very helpful in understanding the cases, which then can help in knowing what can be used/manipulated

End of file