

# Lecture #5

- Stacks
- Queues





# Stacks

## Why should you care?

Stacks are used for:

Solving mazes

Undo in your word processor

Evaluating math expressions

Tracking where to return from C++  
function calls

They're so fundamental that a stack is  
hard-wired into **every CPU**!

So pay attention!

Why  
should  
I care?



# The Stack: A Useful ADT

A stack is an ADT that holds a collection of items (like **ints**) where the elements are always added to one end.

Just like a stack of plates, the last item pushed onto the top of a stack is the first item to be removed.

## Stack operations:

- put something on top of the stack (**PUSH**)
- remove the top item (**POP**)
- look at the top item, without removing it
- check to see if the stack is empty

We can have a stack of any type of variable we like:  
**ints, Squares, floats, strings, etc.**

# The Stack

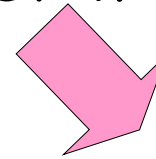
**Note:** The stack is called a **Last-In-First-Out** data structure.

Can you figure out why?

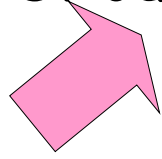
I can...

Push 5 on the stack.  
Push -3 on the stack.  
Push 9 on the stack.  
Pop the top of the stack.  
Look at the stack's top value.  
Push 4 on the stack.  
Pop the top of the stack  
Pop the top of the stack  
Look at the stack's top value.  
Pop the top of the stack

last in



first out



-3  
5

---

**Note:** You can only access the top item of the stack, since the other items are covered.

# Stacks

```
class Stack // stack of ints
{
public:
    Stack();    // c'tor
    void push(int i);
    int pop();
    bool is_empty(void);
    int peek_top();
private:
    ...
};
```

## Question:

What type of data structure can we use to implement our stack?

```
int main(void)
{
    Stack is;

    is.push(10);
    is.push(20);

    ...
}
```

## Answer:

How about an array and a counter variable to track where the top of the stack is?

# 7 Implementing a Stack

```
const int SIZE = 100;
```

```
class Stack
```

```
{
```

```
public:
```

```
Stack() { m_top = 0; }
```

```
void push(int val) {
```

```
    if (m_top >= SIZE) return; // overflow
```

```
    m_stack[m_top] = val;
```

```
    m_top += 1;
```

```
}
```

```
int pop() {
```

```
    if (m_top == 0) return -1; // underflow
```

```
    m_top -= 1;
```

```
    return m_stack[m_top];
```

```
...
```

```
private:
```

```
int m_stack[SIZE];
```

```
int m_top;
```

```
};
```

To initialize our stack, we'll specify that the **first item** should go in the **0<sup>th</sup> slot** of the array.

Let's make sure we never over-fill (overflow) our stack!

Place our **new value** in the **next open slot** of the array... **m\_top** specifies where that is!

Update the location where our **next item** should be placed in the array.

We can't pop an item from our stack if it's empty! Tell the user!

Since **m\_top** points to where our **next item will be pushed**...

Let's **decrement it** to point it to where the **current top item** is!

Extract the value from the top of the stack and return it to the user.

Let's use an array to hold our stack items. This stack may hold a maximum of 100 items.

We'll use a simple **int** to keep track of where the next item **should be added** to the stack.

# Stacks

```
const int SIZE = 100;
class Stack
{
public:
    Stack() { m_top = 0; }
    void push(int val) {
        if (m_top >= SIZE) return -1;
        m_stack[m_top] = val;
        m_top += 1;
    }

    int pop() {
        if (m_top == 0) return -1; // underflow
        m_top -= 1;
        return m_stack[m_top];
    }

    ...
private:
    int m_stack[SIZE];
    int m_top;
};
```

Currently, our **m\_top** points to the **next open slot** in the stack...

But we want to return the **top item** already pushed on the stack.

So **first** we must **decrement** our **m\_top** variable...

```
int main(void)
{
    Stack is;
    int a;

    is.push(5);
    is.push(10);
    a = is.pop();
    cout << a;
    is.push(7);
}
```

is

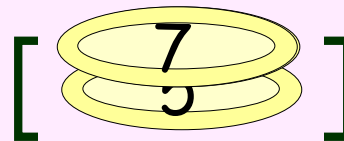
m\_top 2

m\_stack

0	5
1	7
2	
...	...
99	

a

10





```

const int SIZE = 100;
class Stack
{
public:
    Stack() { m_top = 0; }
    void push(int val) {
        if (m_top >= SIZE) return; // overflow
        m_stack[m_top] = val;
        m_top += 1;
    }

    int pop() {
        if (m_top == 0) return -1; // underflow
        m_top -= 1;
        return m_stack[m_top];
    }

    ...
private:
    int m_stack[SIZE];
    int m_top;
};

```

Always Remember:

When we **push**, we:

- A. Store the new item in **m\_stack[m\_top]**
- B. **Post-increment** our **m\_top** variable  
(post means we do the increment after storing)

Always Remember:

When we **pop**, we:

- A. **Pre-decrement** our **m\_top** variable
- B. Return the item in **m\_stack[m\_top]**  
(pre means we do the decrement before returning)

# Stacks

Stacks are so popular that the C++ people actually wrote one for you. It's in the Standard Template Library (STL)!

```
#include <iostream>
#include <stack>

int main()
{
    std::stack<int> istack; // stack of ints

    istack.push(10);        // add item to top
    istack.push(20);

    cout << istack.top();   // get top value
    istack.pop();           // kill top value

    if (istack.empty() == false)
        cout << istack.size();

}
```

Here's the syntax to define a stack:

```
std::stack<type> variableName;
```

For example:

```
std::stack<string> stackOfStrings;
std::stack<double> stackOfDoubles;
```

So to get the top item's value, before popping it, use the `top()` method!

**Note:** The STL `pop()` command simply **throws away the top item** from the stack... but it **doesn't return it**.

# Stack Challenge

Show the resulting stack after the following program runs:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <stack>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
    stack<int> istack;           // stack of ints

    istack.push(6);
    for (int i=0;i<2;i++)
    {
        int n = istack.top();
        istack.pop();
        istack.push(i);
        istack.push(n*2);
    }
}
```

# Stack Challenge

Show the resulting stack after the following program runs:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <stack>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
    stack<int> istack;           // stack of ints

    istack.push(6);
    for (int i=0;i<2;i++)
    {
        int n = istack.top();
        istack.pop();
        istack.push(i);
        istack.push(n*2);
    }
}
```

# Common Uses for Stacks

Stacks are one of the most USEFUL data structures in Computer Science.

They can be used for:

- Storing undo items for your word processor  
The last item you typed is the first to be undone!
- Evaluating mathematical expressions  
 $5 + 6 * 3 \rightarrow 23$
- Converting from infix expressions to postfix expressions  
 $A + B \rightarrow A B +$
- Solving mazes

In fact - they're so fundamental to CS that they're built into EVERY SINGLE CPU in existence!

# A Stack... in your CPU!



Did you know that every CPU has a built-in stack used to hold **local variables** and **function parameters**?

When you **pass a value to a function**, the CPU **pushes** that value onto a **stack** in the computers memory.

```
void bar(int b)
{
    cout << b << endl;
}

void foo(int a)
{
    cout << a << endl;
    bar(a*2);
}

int main(void)
{
    int x = 5;
    foo( x );
}
```

When you **pass a value to a function**, the CPU **pushes** that value onto a **stack** in the computers memory.

... when your **function returns**, the values are **popped** off the **stack** and go away.

Every time you **declare a local variable**, your program **pushes** it on the PC's **stack** automatically!

Local variables are stored on the computer's built-in stack!

Output:

5  
10

b	10
a	5
x	5

So how does the **UNDO** feature of your favorite word processor work?

It uses a **stack**, of course!

Every time you **type a new word**, it's added to the stack!

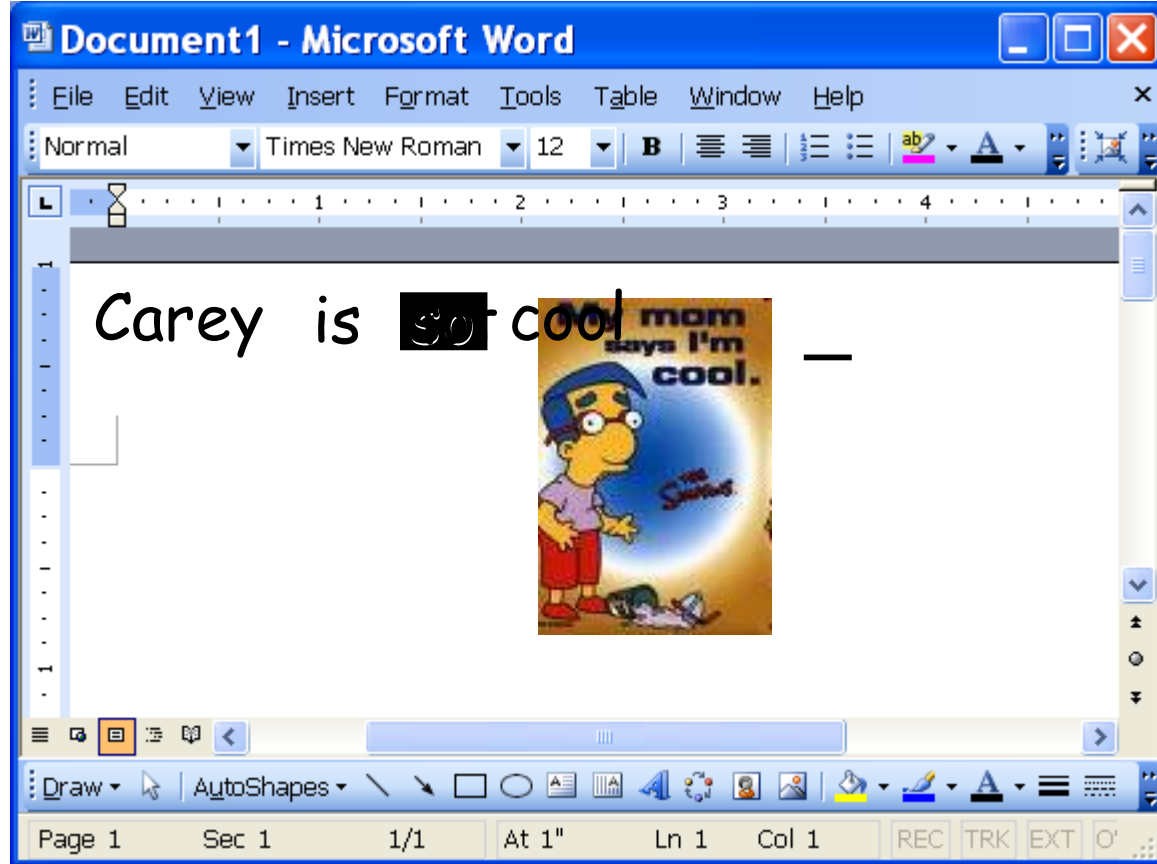
Every time you **cut-and-paste an image** into your doc, it's added to the stack!

And even when you **delete text or pictures**, this is tracked on a stack!

When the user hits the **undo** button...

The word processor **pops the top item** off the stack and **removes it** from the document!

In this way, the word processor can **track the last X things** that you did and properly **undo them**!



"so" → "not"

"cool"

"so"

"is"

"Carey"

undo stack

# Postfix Expression Evaluation

Most people are used to **infix notation**, where the **operator** is **in-between** the two **operands**, e.g.:  $A + B$

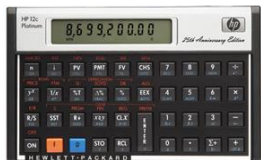
**Postfix notation** is another way to write algebraic expressions  
- here the **operator follows the operands**:  $A B +$

Here are some infix expressions and their postfix equivalents:

Infix	Postfix
$15 + 6$	$15\ 6\ +$
$9 - 4$	$9\ 4\ -$
$(15 + 6) * 5$	$15\ 6\ +\ 5\ *$
$7 * 6 + 5$	$7\ 6\ *\ 5\ +$
$3 + (4 * 5)$	$3\ 4\ 5\ *\ +$

Postfix expressions are easier for a computer to compute than infix expressions, because they're **unambiguous**.

Ambiguous infix expression example:  $5 + 10 * 3$





# Postfix Evaluation Algorithm

**Inputs:** postfix expression string

**Output:** number representing answer

**Private data:** a stack

7 6 \* 5 +

1. Start with the left-most token.
2. If the token is a **number**:
  - a. Push it onto the stack
3. Else if the token is an **operator**:
  - a. Pop the **top value** into a variable called **v2**, and the **second-to-top value** into **v1**.
  - b. Apply operator to v1 and v2 (e.g.,  $v1 / v2$ )
  - c. Push the result of the operation on the stack
4. If there are more tokens, advance to the next token and go back to step #2
5. After all tokens have been processed, the top # on the stack is the answer!

47

# Class Challenge

Given the following postfix expression: 6 8 2 / 3 \* -

Show the contents of the stack after the 3 has been processed by our postfix evaluation algorithm.

## Reminder:

1. Start with the left-most token.
2. If the token is a **number**:
  - a. Push it onto the stack
3. If the token is an **operator**:
  - a. Pop the **top value** into a variable called **v2**, and the **second-to-top value** into **v1**.
  - b. Apply operator to the two #s (e.g.,  $v1 / v2$ )
  - c. Push the result of the operation on the stack
4. If there are more tokens, advance to the next token and go back to step #2
5. After all tokens have been processed, the top # on the stack is the answer!

# Infix to Postfix Conversion

Stacks can also be used to convert **infix expressions** to **postfix expressions**:

For example,

From:  $(3 + 5) * (4 + 3 / 2) - 5$

To:  $3\ 5\ +\ 4\ 3\ 2\ /\ +\ *\ 5\ -$

Or

From:  $3 + 6 * 7 * 8 - 3$

To:  $3\ 6\ 7\ *\ 8\ *\ +\ 3\ -$

Since people are more used to **infix** notation...

You can let the user type in an **infix** expression...

And then convert it into a **postfix** expression.

Finally, you can use the **postfix evaluation alg** (that we just learned) to compute the value of the expression.

# Infix to Postfix Conversion

**Inputs:** Infix string

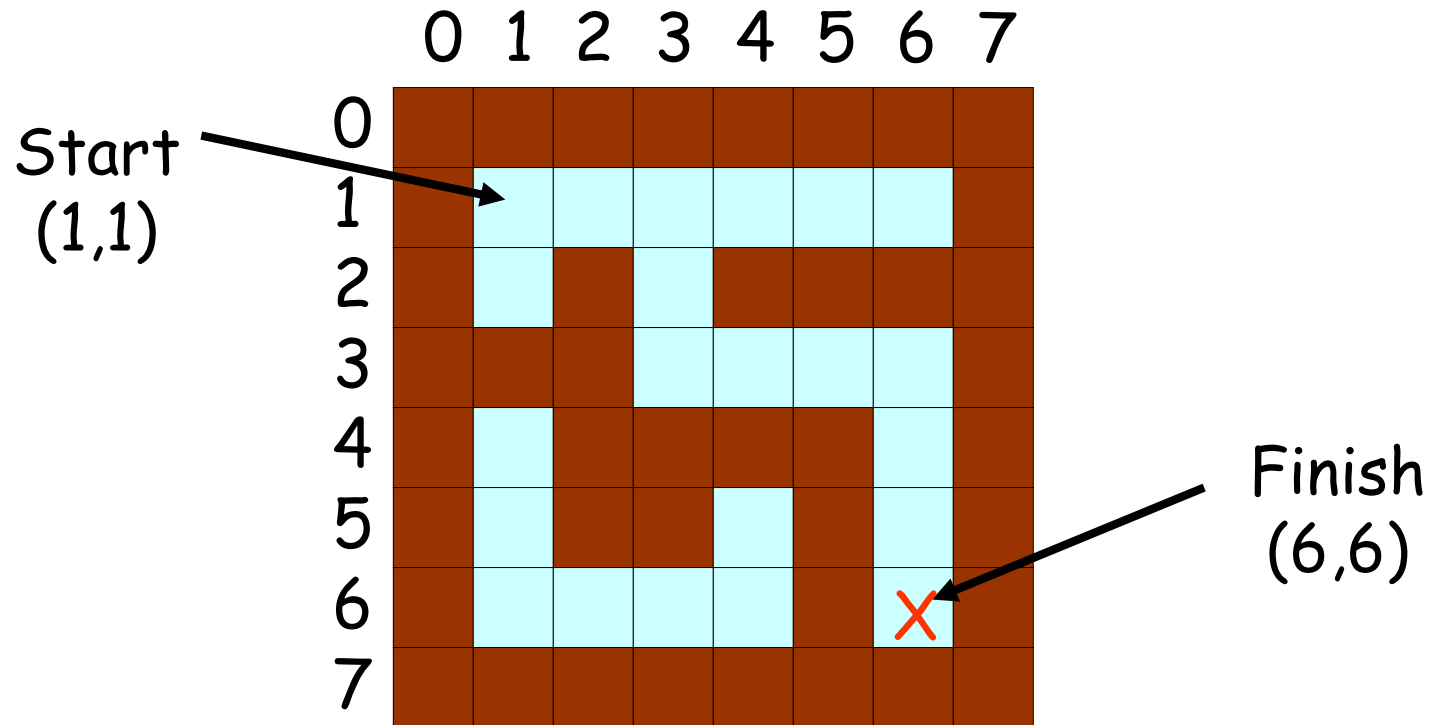
**Output:** postfix string (initially empty)

**Private data:** a stack

1. Begin at left-most Infix token.
2. If it's a #, append it to end of postfix string followed by a space
3. If its a "(", push it onto the stack.
4. If its an operator *and the stack is empty*:
  - a. Push the operator on the stack.
5. If its an operator and the stack is NOT empty:
  - a. Pop all operators with greater or equal precedence off the stack and append them on the postfix string.
  - b. Stop when you reach an operator with lower precedence or a (.
  - c. Push the new operator on the stack.
6. If you encounter a ")", pop operators off the stack and append them onto the postfix string until you pop a matching "(".
7. Advance to next token and GOTO #2
8. When all infix tokens are gone, pop each operator and append it } to the postfix string.

# Solving a Maze with a Stack!

We can also use a stack to determine if a maze is solvable:



# Solving a Maze with a Stack!

**Inputs:** 10x10 Maze in a 2D array,  
Starting point (sx,sy)  
Ending point (ex,ey)

**Output:** TRUE if the maze can be solved, FALSE otherwise

**Private data:** a stack of *points*

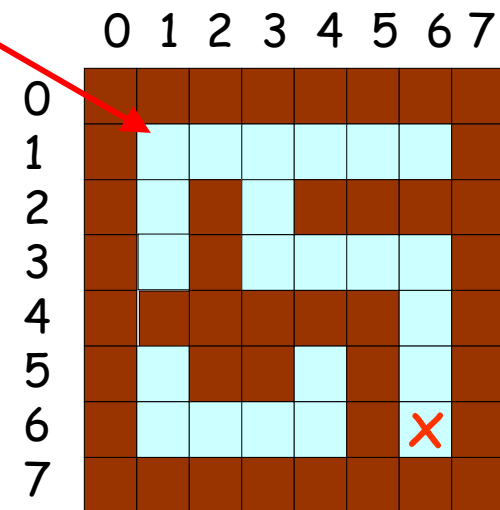
```
class Point
{
public:
    point(int x, int y);
    int getx() const;
    int gety() const;
private:
    int m_x, m_y;
};
```

```
class Stack
{
public:
    Stack();    // c'tor
    void push(Point &p);
    Point pop();
    ...
private:
    ...
};
```

# Solving a Maze with a Stack!

1. PUSH **starting point** onto the stack.
2. Mark the **starting point** as "discovered."
3. If the stack is empty, there is  
**NO SOLUTION** and we're done!
4. POP the top point off of the stack.
5. If we're at the endpoint, DONE! Otherwise...
6. If slot to the **WEST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx-1,cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx-1,cury) on stack.
7. If slot to the **EAST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx+1,cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx+1,cury) on stack.
8. If slot to the **NORTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury-1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx,cury-1) on stack.
9. If slot to the **SOUTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury+1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx,cury+1) on stack.
10. GOTO step #3

$sx, sy = 1, 1$



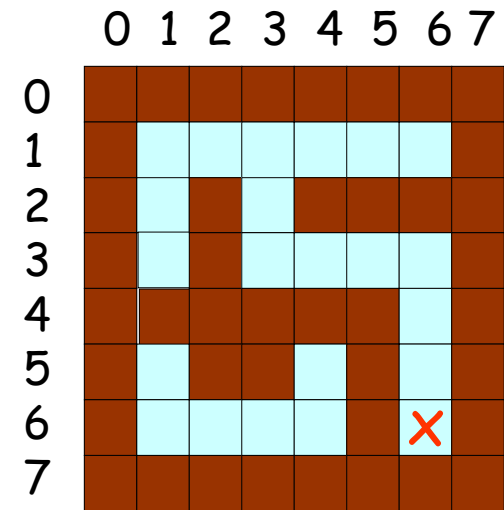
$1, 1 == 6, 6?$   
Not yet!

cur = 1, 1

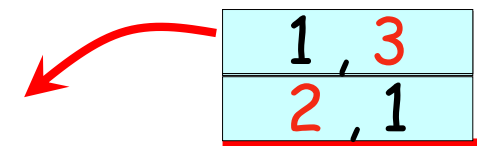
1, 2
2, 1

# Solving a Maze with a Stack!

1. PUSH **starting point** onto the stack.
2. Mark the **starting point** as "discovered."
3. If the stack is empty, there is  
**NO SOLUTION** and we're done!
4. POP the top point off of the stack.
5. If we're at the endpoint, DONE! Otherwise...
6. If slot to the **WEST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx-1,cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx-1,cury) on stack.
7. If slot to the **EAST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx+1,cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx+1,cury) on stack.
8. If slot to the **NORTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury-1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx,cury-1) on stack.
9. If slot to the **SOUTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury+1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx,cury+1) on stack.
10. GOTO step #3



1,2 == 6,6?  
Not yet!

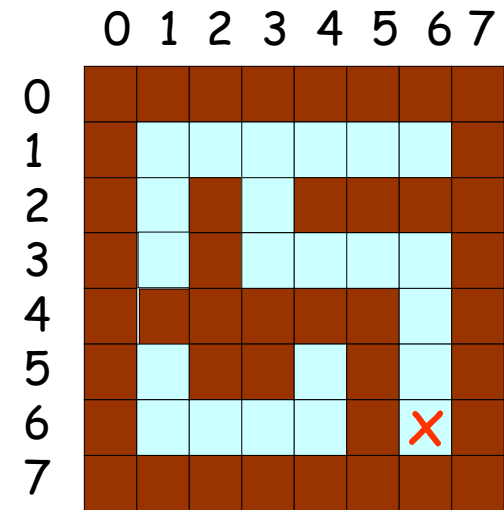


cur = 1,2

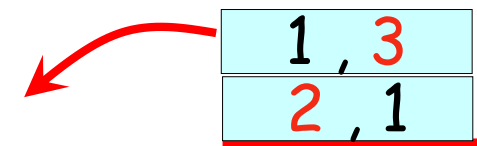


# Solving a Maze with a Stack!

1. PUSH **starting point** onto the stack.
2. Mark the **starting point** as "discovered."
3. If the stack is empty, there is  
**NO SOLUTION** and we're done!
4. POP the top point off of the stack.
5. If we're at the endpoint, DONE! Otherwise...
6. If slot to the **WEST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx-1,cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx-1,cury) on stack.
7. If slot to the **EAST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx+1,cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx+1,cury) on stack.
8. If slot to the **NORTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury-1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx,cury-1) on stack.
9. If slot to the **SOUTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury+1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx,cury+1) on stack.
10. GOTO step #3



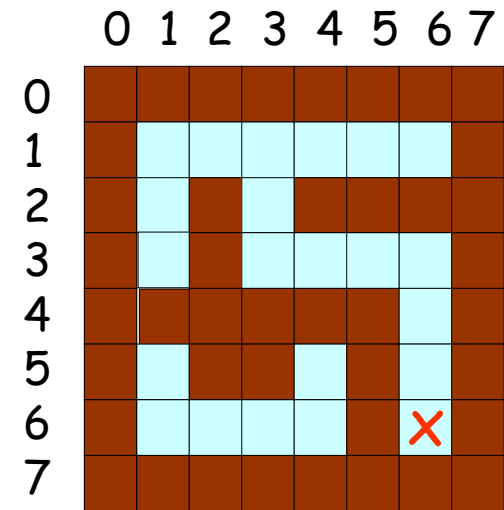
1,3 == 6,6?  
Not yet!



cur = 1,3

# Solving a Maze with a Stack!

1. PUSH **starting point** onto the stack.
2. Mark the **starting point** as "discovered."
3. If the stack is empty, there is  
**NO SOLUTION** and we're done!
4. POP the top point off of the stack.
5. If we're at the endpoint, DONE! Otherwise...
6. If slot to the **WEST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx-1,cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx-1,cury) on stack.
7. If slot to the **EAST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx+1,cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx+1,cury) on stack.
8. If slot to the **NORTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury-1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx,cury-1) on stack.
9. If slot to the **SOUTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury+1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx,cury+1) on stack.
10. GOTO step #3



2,1 == 6,6?  
Not yet!

cur = 2,1

# Solving a Maze with a Stack!

1. PUSH **starting point** onto the stack.
2. Mark the **starting point** as "discovered."
3. If the stack is empty, there is  
**NO SOLUTION** and we're done!
4. POP the top point off of the stack.
5. If we're at the endpoint, DONE! Otherwise...
6. If slot to the **WEST** is open & is undiscovered

Mark (curx-1, cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx-1, cury) on stack.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0								
1								
2								
3								

Eventually, we'll find the solution to the maze, or our stack will empty out, indicating that there is no solution!

This searching algorithm is called a "depth-first search."

8. If slot to the **WEST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx-1, cury) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx-1, cury) on stack.
9. If slot to the **SOUTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx, cury+1) as "discovered"  
PUSH (curx, cury+1) on stack.
10. GOTO step #3

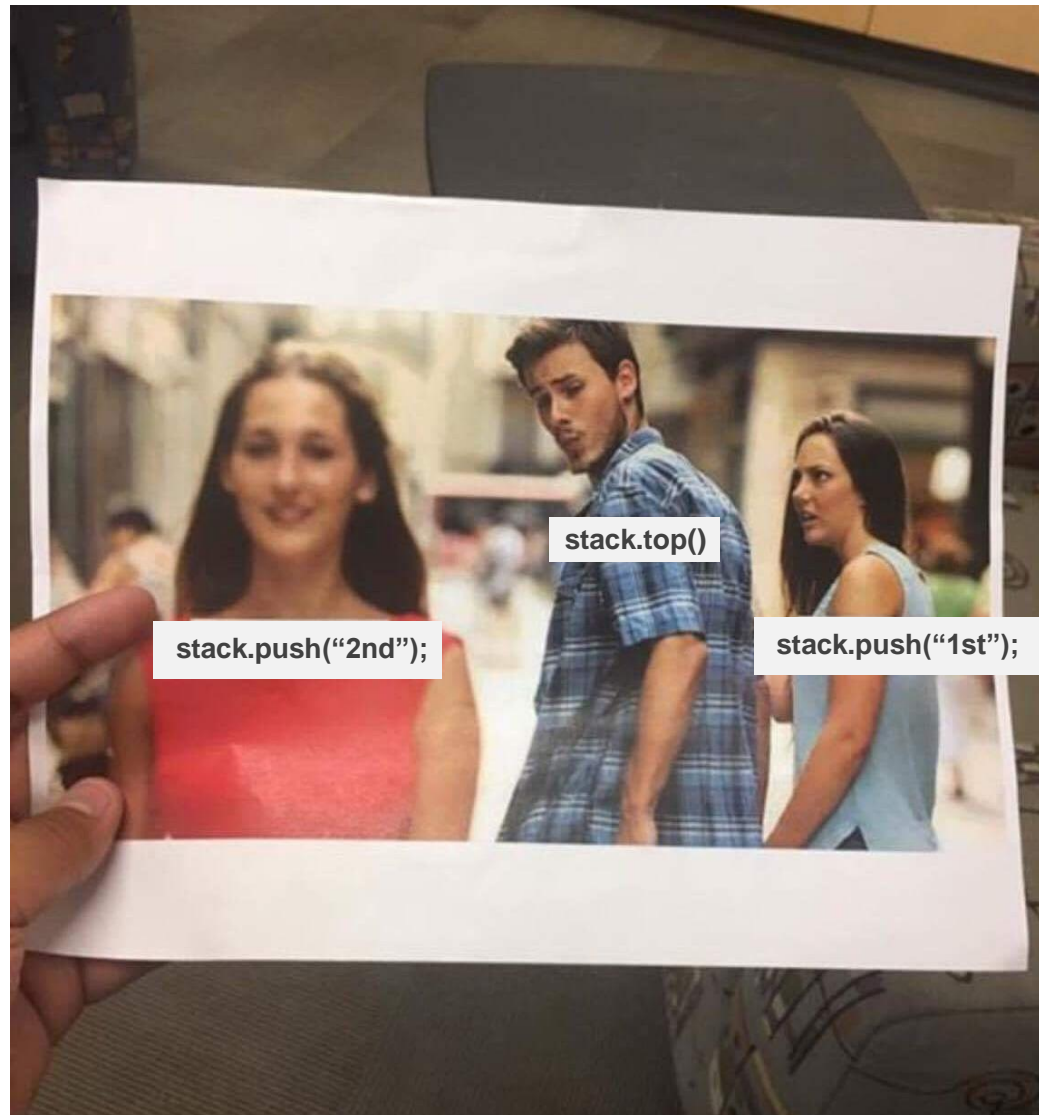
cur = 6,6?  
Not yet!

cur = 3,1

3, 2
4, 1

# Your favorite game!







# Queues

## Why should you care?

Queues are used for:

- Optimal route navigation
- Streaming video buffering
- Flood-filling in paint programs
- Searching through mazes
- Tracking calls in call centers

So pay attention!



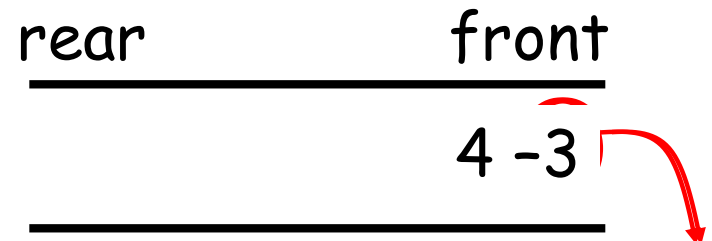
# Another ADT: The Queue

The queue is another ADT that is just a like a *line* at the store or at the bank.

The first person in line is the first person out of line and served.

This is called a FIFO data structure:  
**FIRST IN, FIRST OUT.**

Every queue has a *front* and a *rear*. You **enqueue** items at the *rear* and **dequeue** from the *front*.



What data structures could you use to implement a queue?

# The Queue Interface

`enqueue(int a):`

Inserts an item on the rear of the queue

`int dequeue():`

Removes and returns the top item from the front of the queue

`bool isEmpty():`

Determines if the queue is empty

`int size():`

Determines the # of items in the queue

`int getFront():`

Gives the value of the top item on the queue without removing it like dequeue

Like a Stack, we can have queues of any type of data! Queues of `strings`, `Points`, `Nerds`, `ints`, etc!



# Common Uses for Queues

Often, data flows from the Internet faster than the computer can use it. We use a queue to hold the data until the browser is ready to display it...

Every time your computer receives a character, it enqueues it:

```
internetQueue.enqueue(c) ;
```

Every time your Internet browser is ready to get and display new data, it looks in the queue:

```
while (internetQueue.isEmpty() == false)
{
    char ch = internetQueue.dequeue() ;

    cout << ch;  // display web page...
}
```

# Common Uses for Queues

You can also use queues to search through **mazes**!

If you **use a queue instead of a stack** in our searching algorithm, it will search the maze in a different order...

Instead of **always exploring the last x,y location** pushed on top of the stack first...

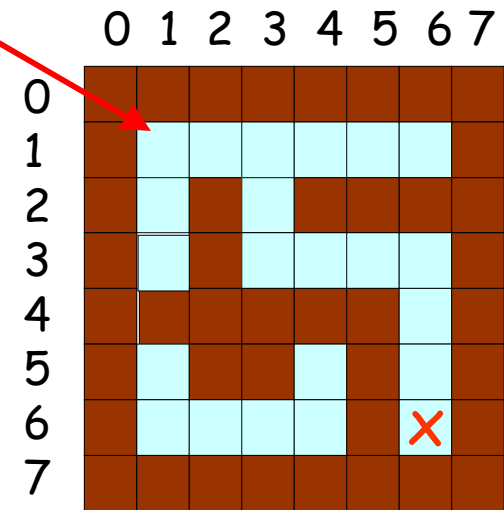
The new algorithm **explores the oldest x,y location** inserted into the queue first.

# Solving a Maze with a Queue!

(AKA Breadth-first Search)

$sx, sy = 1, 1$

1. Insert **starting point** onto the queue.
2. Mark the **starting point** as "discovered."
3. If the queue is empty, there is  
**NO SOLUTION** and we're done!
4. Remove the top point from the queue.
5. If we're at the endpoint, DONE! Otherwise...
6. If slot to the **WEST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx-1,cury) as "discovered"  
INSERT (curx-1,cury) on queue.
7. If slot to the **EAST** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx+1,cury) as "discovered"  
INSERT (curx+1,cury) on queue.
8. If slot to the **NORTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury-1) as "discovered"  
INSERT (curx,cury-1) on queue.
9. If slot to the **SOUTH** is open & is undiscovered  
Mark (curx,cury+1) as "discovered"  
INSERT (curx,cury+1) on queue.
10. GOTO step #3

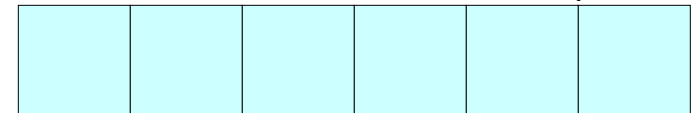


And so on...

$curx, cury =$

rear

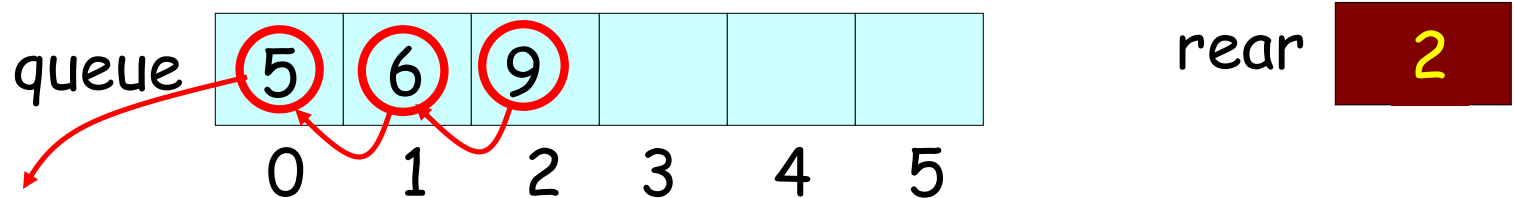
front



# Queue Implementations

We can use an **array** and an **integer** to represent a queue:

```
int queue[6], rear = 0;
```



- Every time you **insert** an item, place it in the rear slot of the array and increment the rear count
- Every time you **dequeue** an item, move all of the items forward in the array and decrement the rear count.

What's the problem with the array-based implementation?

If we have N items in the queue, what is the cost of:

(1) inserting a new item, (2) dequeuing an item

# Queue Implementations

We can also use a **linked list** to represent a queue:

- Every time you **insert** an item, add a new node to the end of the linked list.
- Every time you **dequeue** an item, take it from the head of the linked list and then delete the head node.

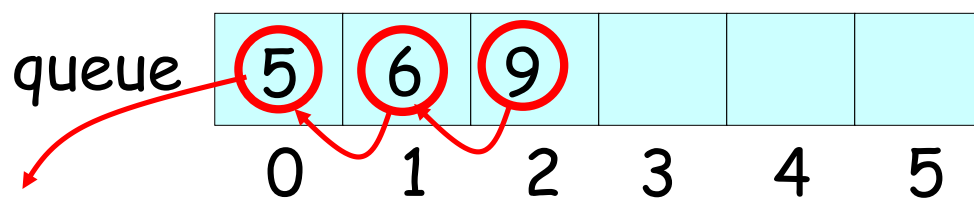
Of course, you'll want to make sure you have both **head** and **tail pointers**...

or your linked-list based queue will be really inefficient!

# The Circular Queue

The circular queue is a clever type of **array-based** queue.

Unlike our previous array-based queue, we never need to **shift items** with the circular queue!



Let's see how it works!

# The Circular Queue

If the count is zero, then you know the queue is empty. If the count is N, you know it's full...



0	1	2	3	4	5
6	4	-1	9	7	5

tail

1

head

3

count

4

- To initialize your queue, set:  
 $\text{count} = \text{head} = \text{tail} = 0$
- To **insert** a new item, place it in  $\text{arr}[\text{tail}]$  and then **increment** the **tail** & **count** values
- To **dequeue** the head item, fetch  $\text{arr}[\text{head}]$  and **increment** **head** and **decrement** **count**
- If the **head** or **tail** go past the end of the array, set it back to 0.

Enqueue: 6  
 Enqueue: 4  
 Enqueue: -1  
 Dequeue -> 6  
 Enqueue: 9  
 Enqueue: 7  
 Dequeue -> 4  
 Enqueue: 5  
 Enqueue: 42  
 Dequeue -> -1

# A Queue in the STL!

The people who wrote the Standard Template Library also built a queue class for you:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <queue>

int main()
{
    std::queue<int> iqueue;    // queue of ints

    iqueue.push(10);          // add item to rear
    iqueue.push(20);
    cout << iqueue.front();   // view front item
    iqueue.pop();             // discard front item
    if (iqueue.empty() == false)
        cout << iqueue.size();
}
```



# Class Challenge

Given a **circular queue** of 6 elements, show the **queue's contents**, and the **Head** and **Tail pointers** after the following operations are complete:

```
enqueue(5)
enqueue(10)
enqueue(12)
dequeue()
enqueue(7)
dequeue()
enqueue(9)
enqueue(12)
enqueue(13)
dequeue()
```