General Lists

DATA STRUCTURES
USING C++

Two Ways of Implementing General Lists

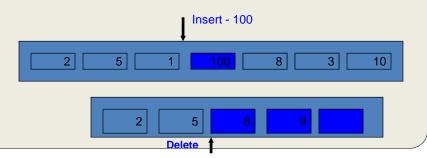
- Array-Based Lists (Using Contiguous storage) •
 an array in which the elements are physically next to one an another in adjacent memory locations
- •Linked-Based Lists (Non

Contiguous storage).

Disadvantage of Contiguous memory

Two Disadvantages,

- 1) Insertion in Position requires moving of elements 'DOWN' one position.
- 2) Deletion requires moving of elements 'UP' one position



Two Ways of Implementing General Lists

• Array-Based Lists .

Static

Linked-Based Lists

Dynamic

Linked List Overview

Definition

in each node.

- a collection of components, called nodes.
- Every node (except the last node) contains some **data** along with **the address** of the next node.
- Every node in a linked list has two components:
 - one to store the relevant information (that is, **data**)
 - one to store **the address**, called **the link**, of the next node in the list.
- The address of the first node in the list is stored in a separate location, called the <u>head</u> or <u>first.</u>

<u>How it works?</u> A linked list uses non-contiguous memory locations and hence requires each node to remember where the next node is

Linked List in Pictures A single node The data you want to store e.g. integer values Example Head NULL Linked List: A list of items, called nodes, in which the order of the nodes is determined by the address, called the link, stored

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Linked List Declaration

- Because each node of a linked list has two components, we need to declare each node as a *class* or *struct*
- The data type of each node depends on the specific application that is, what kind of data is being processed.
 - However, the link component of each node is always a *pointer*.
 - The data type of this pointer variable is the node type itself.

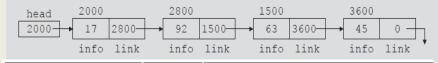
```
struct nodeType
{
    int info;
    nodeType *link;
};

The variable declaration is as follows:
nodeType *head;
```

Question: What are the differences between a class and a struct in C++?

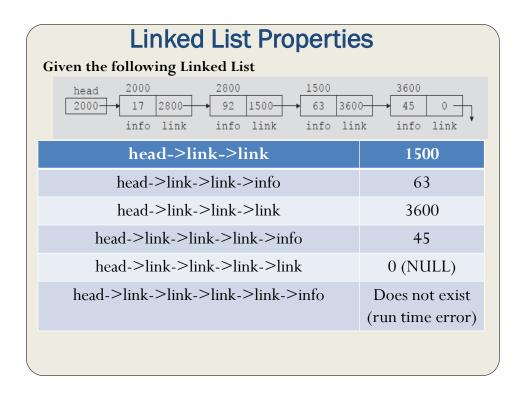
Linked List Properties

Given the following Linked List



	Value	Explanation
head	2000	
head->info	17	Because head is 2000 and the info of the node at location 2000 is 17
head->link	2800	
head->link->info	92	Because head->link is 2800 and the info of the node at location 2800 is 92

Linked List Properties Given the following Linked List 2000 2800 3600 1500 head 2000-2800-1500-63 3600-45 info link info link info link info link head->link->link head->link->info ? head->link->link head->link->link->info head->link->link->link head->link->link->link->info



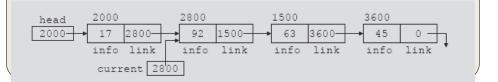
Linked List Properties

Suppose that current is a pointer of the same type as head then
 current = head;

Copies the address of head into current.

• Question: What is the meaning of the following statement?

current = current-> link



Linked List Properties

• Suppose that current is a pointer of the same type as head then

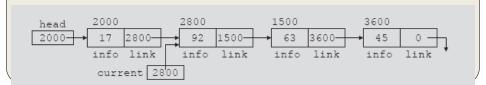
current = head;

Copies the address of head into current.

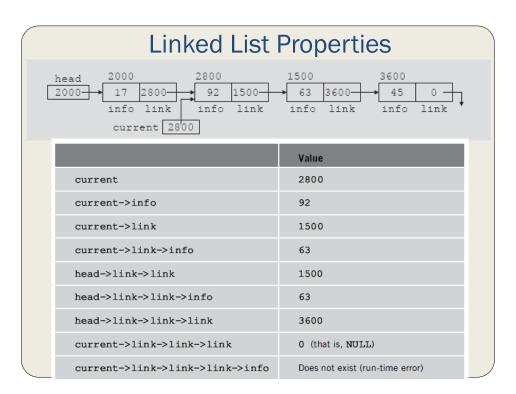
• Question: What is the meaning of the following statement?

current = current-> link

This statement copies the value of current->link, which is 2800, into current. Therefore, after this statement executes, current points to the second node in the list.



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Basic Operations

- The basic operations of a linked list are :
- Search the list to determine whether a particular item is in the list
- Insert an item in the list
- Delete an item from the list.
- These operations require the list to be <u>traversed</u>. That is, given a pointer to the first node of the list, we must step through the nodes of the list.

Next: TRAVERSING A LINKED LIST

TRAVERSING A LINKED LIST

- Traversing means:
 - Given a pointer to the first node of the list, we must step through the nodes of the list.
- Suppose that the pointer *head* points to the first node in the list, and the link of the last node is *NULL*
 - We cannot use the pointer head to traverse the list, WHY?

.....

WHY?

Suppose that the pointer head points to the first node in the list, and the link of the last node is NULL. We cannot use the pointer head to traverse the list because if we use the head to traverse the list, we would lose the nodes of the list. This problem occurs because the links are in only one direction. The pointer head contains the address of the first node, the first node contains the address of the second node, the second node contains the address of the third node, and so on.

If we move head to the second node, the first node is lost (unless we save a pointer to this node). If we keep advancing head to the next node, we will lose all the nodes of the list (unless we save a pointer to each node before advancing head, which is unworkable because it would require additional computer time and memory space to maintain the list).

TRAVERSING A LINKED LIST

- Traversing means:
 - Given a pointer to the first node of the list, we must step through the nodes of the list.
- Suppose that the pointer *head* points to the first node in the list, and the link of the last node is *NULL*
 - We cannot use the pointer head to traverse the list, WHY?

Therefore, we always want head to point to the first node.

• It now follows that we must traverse the list using another pointer of the same type e.g. *current*

TRAVERSING A LINKED LIST

Suppose that current is a pointer of the same type as head.

The following code traverses the list

```
current = head;
while (current!= NULL)
{
    //Process current
    current = current->link;
};
```

Hint:

current = current->link;

Work as

Location++
in arrayBasedList

e.g.To dump (output, print) the contents of each node to the screen one can use the following code

```
current = head;
while (current!= NULL)
{
    cout << current→info << " ";
    current = current→link;
}</pre>
```

Item Insertion and deletion

This section discusses how to insert an item into, and delete an item from, a linked list.

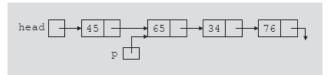
```
//Consider the following definition of a node.
struct nodeType{
  int info;
  nodeType *link;
};

//We will use the following variable declaration:
nodeType *head, *p, *q, *newNode;
```

Item Insertion

Item Insertion

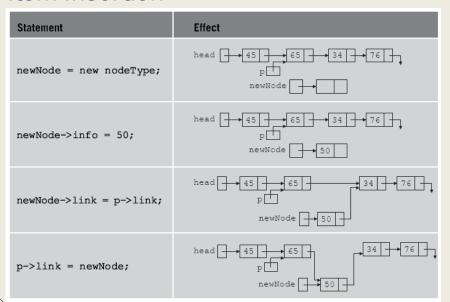
Consider the linked list shown in the following Figure. and a new node with info 50 is to be created and inserted after p.

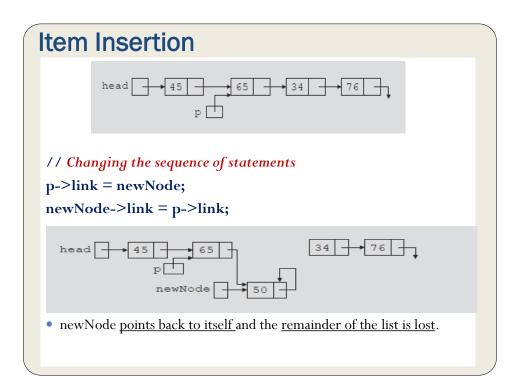


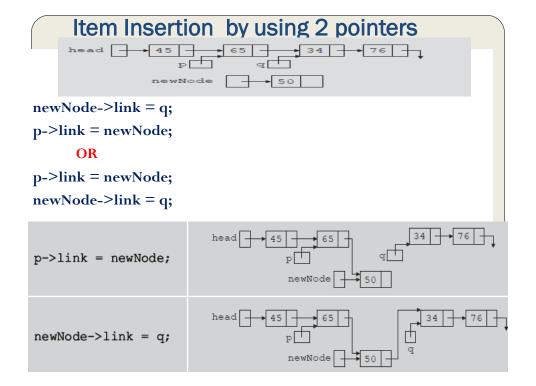
```
newNode = new nodeType; //create newNode
newNode->info = 50; //store 50 in the new node
newNode->link = p->link;
p->link = newNode;
```

//Note that the sequence of statements is very important

Item Insertion



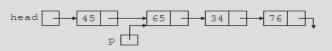




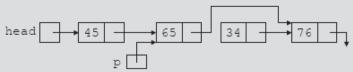
Item Deletion

Item Deletion

• Consider the linked list shown in the following Figure:



Suppose that the node with info <u>34</u> is to be deleted from the list.
 The following statement removes the node from the list:
 p->link = p->link->link;



• It is clear that the node with info 34 is removed from the list. However, the memory is still occupied by this node and this memory is inaccessible.

Item Deletion

To deallocate the memory, we need a pointer to this node, e.g. **q.**

- 1. q = p > link;
- 2. p->link = q->link;
- 3. delete q;

Statement	Effect
q = p->link;	head 45 65 34 76 p
p->link = q->link;	head 45 65 34 76
delete q;	head 45 65 76 p

Building A Linked List

Two manners

- 1) Forward (a new node is always inserted at the end of the linked list).
- 2) Backward (a new node is always inserted at the beginning of the list).

Building A Linked List: Forward

- We need three pointers to build the list:
- One to point to the first node in the list, which cannot be moved (*first).
- One to point to the last node in the list (*last).
- One to create the new node (*newNode).

```
nodeType *first, *last, *newNode;
int num; first = NULL; last = NULL;
```

Building A Linked List: Forward

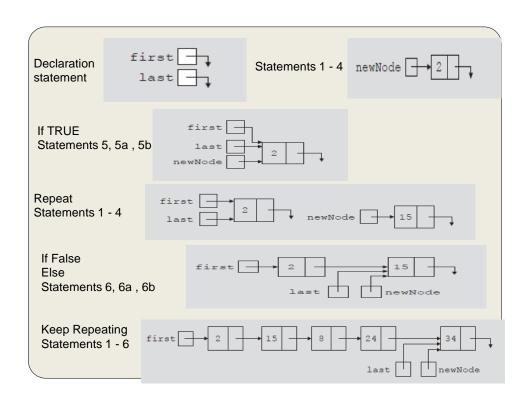
```
nodeType *first, *last, *newNode;
int num; first = NULL; last = NULL;
```

}

process the following data: 2 15 8 24 34

```
cin >> num;
                           //read and store a number in num
 newNode = new nodeType; //allocate memory of type nodeType
                          //and store the address of the
                          //allocated memory in newNode
 newNode->info = num;
                          //copy the value of num into the
                          //info field of newNode
  newNode->link = NULL;
                         //initialize the link field of
                          //newNode to NULL
  if (first == NULL)
                          //if first is NULL, the list is empty;
                          //make first and last point to newNode
5a
     first = newNode;
5b
     last = newNode;
  }
6
                          //list is not empty
 else
6a
     last->link = newNode; //insert newNode at the end of the list
6b
     last = newNode;
                           //set last so that it points to the
```

//actual last node in the list



```
nodeType* buildListForward()
   nodeType *first, *newNode, *last;
   int num;
                                                               Put the
    cout << "Enter a list of integers ending with -999."
                                                              previous
         << endl;
                                                               code in
    cin >> num;
                                                              while loop
    first = NULL;
   while (num !=-999)
        newNode = new nodeType;
        newNode->info = num;
        newNode->link = NULL;
        if (first == NULL)
            first = newNode;
            last = newNode;
        }
        else
        {
            last->link = newNode;
            last = newNode;
        cin >> num;
    } //end while
    return first;
} //end buildListForward
```

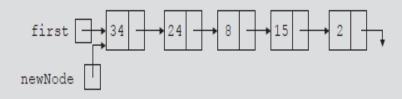
Building A Linked List: Backward

- Because the new node is always inserted at the beginning of the list, we do not need to know the end of the list, so the pointer last is not needed.
- Also, we need to update the value of the pointer first to correctly point to the first node in the list.
- we need only two pointers to build the linked list:
- One to point to the list (*first).
- One to create the new node (*newNode).

```
nodeType *first, *newNode;
int num; first = NULL;
```

Building A Linked List: Backward

process the following data: 2 15 8 24 34



```
nodeType* buildListBackward()
   nodeType *first, *newNode;
   int num;
    cout << "Enter a list of integers ending with -999."
         << endl;
    cin >> num;
    first = NULL;
    while (num != -999)
        newNode = new nodeType; //create a node
                                 //store the data in newNode
        newNode->info = num;
        newNode->link = first;
                                 //put newNode at the beginning
                                  //of the list
                                 //update the head pointer of
        first = newNode;
                                 //the list, that is, first
        cin >> num;
                                  //read the next number
    }
   return first;
} //end buildListBackward
```

Linked Lists

Linked List Operations

- 1. Create the Linked List.
 - The list is initialized to an empty state.
- 2. Determine whether the list is empty.
- 3. Print the Linked List
- 4. Find the length of the Linked list.
- 5. Destroy the list.
- 6. Determine whether an item is the same as a given list element.
- 7. Retrieve the info contained in the first node
- 8. Retrieve the info contained in the last node
- 9. Search the Linked list for a given item
- 10. Insert an item in the linked list
- 11. Delete an item from the linked list
- 12. Make a copy of the Linked list

Linked List As A ADT: linkedListType

We should declare new user define data type using **struct** to define a **node** that consist of two component (**info** to store data from any type, ***link** to keep the address of next node).

Note: we can use class declaration to define a node (later).

In class declaration we need three private data members; two pointers to maintain a linked list:

- One to point to the first node in the list (*first).
- One to point to the last node in the list (*last).

And we need int variable (count) to store the number of nodes in the list.

Linked List As A ADT: linkedListType

```
//Definition of the node

template <class Type>
struct nodeType

{
    Type info;
    nodeType<Type> *link;
};

Member Variables of the class linkedListType

private:
    int count; //variable to store the number of elements in the list
    nodeType<Type> *first; //pointer to the first node of the list
    nodeType<Type> *last; //pointer to the last node of the list
```

```
template <class Type>
struct nodeType
{
    Type info;
    nodeType<Type> *link;
};

template<class Type>
class linkedListType
{
    private:
     nodeType<Type> *first; //pointer to the first node of the list nodeType<Type> *last; //pointer to the last node of the list int count; //variable to store the number of elements in the list
```

```
public:
   void initializeList();
      /* ... */
   bool isEmptyList();
      /* ... */
   bool isFullList();
      /* ... */
    void print();
      /* ... */
   int length();
      //Return the number of elements in the list
    void destroyList();
      /* ... */
    void retrieveFirst(Type& firstElement);
    void retrieveLast(Type& lastElement); /* ... */
    void search(const Type& searchItem);
      /* ... */
    void insertFirst(const Type& newItem);
      /* ... */
    void insertLast(const Type& newItem);
      /* ... */
    void deleteNode(const Type& deleteItem);
      /* ... */
    linkedListType();
      /* ... */
     ~linkedListType();
```

Linked List Operations

1- Default Constructor

It simply initializes the list to an empty state. Recall that when an object of the linkedListType type is declared and no value is passed

```
template<class Type>
linkedListType<Type>::linkedListType() // default constructor
{
    first = NULL;
    last = NULL;
    count = 0;
}
```

What is the time complexity to create a linked list? O(1)

2- Destroy a Linked List

The function destroyList deallocates the memory occupied by each node.

We traverse the list starting from the first node and deallocate the memory by calling the operator delete.

Traversing the linked list need a temporary pointer to move from node to next one and deallocate the memory. Hint: we need while loop for traversing.

Once the entire list is destroyed, we must set the pointers first and last to NULL and count to 0.

2- Destroy a Linked List

What is the time complexity to destroy a linked list? O(n)

3- Initialize a Linked list to an empty state

The function initializeList reinitializes the list to an empty state. This task can be accomplished by using the destroyList operation

```
template<class Type>
void linkedListType<Type>::initializeList()
{
    destroyList(); //if the list has any nodes, delete them
}
```

What is the time complexity to initialize a linked list?

4- isEmptyList Operation

```
template<class Type>
bool linkedListType<Type>::isEmptyList()
{
    return(first == NULL);
}
```

• If first is null, this will guarantee that the linked list is empty

5- isFullList Operation

?

5- isFullList Operation

```
template<class Type>
bool linkedListType<Type>::isFullList()
{
    return false;
}
```

6- Print the Linked List

What is the time complexity to print a linked list? O(n)

7- Length of a Linked List

Returns how many nodes are in the linked list so far

What is the time complexity to get the length a linked list? O(n)

8- Retrieve the Data of the First Node

```
template<class Type>
void linkedListType<Type>::retrieveFirst(Type& firstElement)
{
    assert(first != NULL);
    firstElement = first->info; //copy the info of the first node
}//end retrieveFirst
```

assert terminates the program if the condition inside the parenthesis is wrong.

Note: add header file #include <assert.h>

What is the time complexity of this function? O(1)

9- Retrieve the Data of the Last Node

```
template<class Type>
void linkedListType<Type>::retrieveLast(Type& lastElement)
{
    assert(last != NULL);
    lastElement = last->info; //copy the info of the last node
}//end retrieveLast
```

What is the time complexity of this function? O(1)

10- Destructor

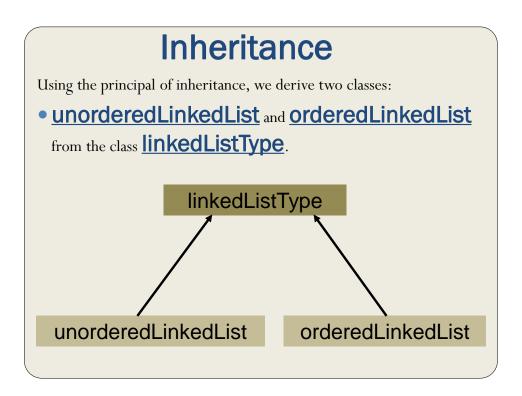
```
template<class Type>
linkedListType<Type>::~linkedListType() // destructor
   nodeType<Type> *temp;
   while(first != NULL) //while there are nodes left in the list
       temp = first;
                            //set temp point to the current node
       first = first->link; //advance first to the next node
                            //deallocate memory occupied by temp
       delete temp;
   }//end while
   last = NULL; //initialize last to NULL; first is already null
}//end destructor
  template <class Type>
  linkedListType<Type>::~linkedListType() //destructor
  {
       destroyList();
  }
       What is the time complexity of this function? O(n)
```

```
int main()
   linkedListType<int> list1, list2;
   cout<<" Enter numbers ending with -999" <<endl;
   while(num != -999)
       list1.insertLast(num);
       cin>>num;
   cout<<endl;
   cout<<" List 1: ";
   list1.print();
   cout<<endl:
   cout<<" Length List 1: "<<li>length()
       <<endl:
   int retfirst; // Add by J
   list1.retrieveFirst(retfirst); // Add by J
   cout<< "list1.retrieveFirst; retfirst = " << retfirst<<endl; // Add by J</pre>
   int retlast; // Add by J
   list1.retrieveLast(retlast); // Add by J
    cout<< "list1.retrieveLast; retlast = " << retlast<<endl; // Add by J
```

Two Types of Linked Lists

In general, there are two types of linked lists:-

- Sorted lists (ordered), whose elements are arranged according to some criteria. e.g. ascending order.
- Unsorted lists (unordered), whose elements are in no particular order.
- The algorithms to implement the operations <u>search</u>,
 <u>insert</u>, and <u>remove</u> slightly differ for sorted and unsorted lists.
- Therefore, the definition of class **linkedListType** is implement the basic operations on a linked list as an abstract class. (the common operations between ordered & unordered linked lists).



Unordered Linked Lists

Unordered Linked List

unorderedLinkedList<Type>

linkedListType

+search(const Type&) const: bool
+insertFirst(const Type&): void
+insertLast(const Type&): void
+deleteNode(const Type&): void

unorderedLinkedList

This class is created by inheriting class linkedListType.

Search Unordered Linked List

- The member function **search** searches the list for a given item. If the item is found, it returns true; otherwise, it returns false.
- Because a linked list is not a random access data structure, we must sequentially search the list starting from the first node.
- We use current pointer and while loop to traverse the linked list.

Search Unordered Linked List

This function has the following steps:

- Compare the search item with the current node in the list. If the info of the current node is the same as the search item, stop the search; otherwise, make the next node the current node.
- Repeat Step 1 until either the item is found or no more data is left in the list to compare with the search item.

Search Unordered Linked List as A void function

```
void linkedListType<Type>::search(const Type& item)
   nodeType<Type> *current; //pointer to traverse the list
   if(first == NULL) //list is empty
       cout<<"Cannot search an empty list. "<<endl;
       current = first; //set current pointing to the first
                         //node in the list
       found = false;
                        //set found to false
       while(!found && current != NULL) //search the list
           if(current->info == item)
                                         //item is found
               found = true;
               current = current->link; //make current point to
                                        //the next node
       if (found)
           cout<<"Item is found in the list."<<endl;
           cout<<"Item is not in the list."<<endl;
  } //end else
```

What is the complexity of this function? O(n)

Search Unordered Linked List as A Boolean Function

```
template <class Type>
bool unorderedLinkedList<Type>::
                   search(const Type& searchItem) const
    nodeType<Type> *current; //pointer to traverse the list
   bool found = false;
    current = first; //set current to point to the first
                     //node in the list
                                       //search the list
    while (current != NULL && !found)
        if (current->info == searchItem) //searchItem is found
            found = true;
       else
           current = current->link; //make current point to
                                     //the next node
   return found;
}//end search
```

What is the complexity of this function? O(n)

Insert in an Unordered Linked List insertFirst (Backward)

- The function **insertFirst** inserts the new item at the beginning of the list that is, before the node pointed to by first.
- The steps needed to implement this function are as follows:
 - 1. Create a new node.
 - 2. If unable to create the node, terminate the program.
 - 3. Store the new item in the new node.
 - 4. Insert the node before first.
 - 5. Increment count by 1.

Insert in an Unordered Linked List insertFirst

What is the complexity of this function? O(1)

Insert in an Unordered Linked List insertLast (Forward)

- The function **insertLast** inserts the new item at the end of the list that is, after the node pointed to by last.
- The steps needed to implement this function are as follows:
 - 1. Create a new node.
 - 2. Store the new item in the new node.
 - 3. Insert the node after first (if first == NULL).
 - 4. Else; Insert the node after last.
 - 5. Increment count by 1.

Insert in an Unordered Linked List insertLast

```
template<class Type>
void linkedListType<Type>::insertLast(const Type& newItem)
   nodeType<Type> *newNode; //pointer to create the new node
   newNode = new nodeType<Type>; //create the new node
   newNode->info = newItem;  //store the new item in the node
                                 //set the link field of new node
   newNode->link = NULL;
                                //to NULL
   if(first == NULL) //if the list is empty, newNode is
                  //both the first and last node
       first = newNode;
       last = newNode;
    else
            //if the list is not empty, insert newNnode after last
       last->link = newNode; //insert newNode after last
       last = newNode; //make last point to the actual last node
}//end insertLast
```

What is the complexity of this function? O(1)

Delete from an Unordered Linked List

- We need to consider the following cases:
- 1. The list is empty.
- 2. The list is nonempty and the node to be deleted is the first node.
- 3. The list is nonempty and the node to be deleted is not the first node, it is somewhere in the list.
- 4. The node to be deleted is not in the list.

Delete from an Unordered Linked List

To deallocate the memory of deleted node we need two pointers.

- 1. *current .This pointer used to traverse the linked list
- 2. *trailCurrent (temp). This pointer just before current

Delete from an Unordered Linked List

```
template<class Type>
void linkedListType<Type>::deleteNode(const Type& deleteItem)
   nodeType<Type> *current; //pointer to traverse the list
   nodeType<Type> *trailCurrent; //pointer just before current
   bool found;
                       //Case 1; list is empty.
   if(first == NULL)
       cout<<"Can not delete from an empty list.\n";
       if(first->info == deleteItem) //Case 2
           current = first;
           first = first ->link;
           if(first == NULL) //list had only one node
              last = NULL;
           delete current;
       else //search the list for the node with the given info
           found = false;
           trailCurrent = first; //set trailCurrent to point to
                                   //the first node
           current = first->link; //set current to point to the
                                   //second node
```

Delete from an Unordered Linked List

```
while((!found) && (current != NULL))
                if(current->info != deleteItem)
                    trailCurrent = current;
                    current = current-> link;
                    found = true;
            } // end while
            if(found) //Case 3; if found, delete the node
                trailCurrent->link = current->link;
                                           //node to be deleted was
                if(last == current)
                                             //the last node
                    last = trailCurrent; //update the value of last
ete current; //delete the node from the list
                delete current;
            }
                cout<<"Item to be deleted is not in the list."<<endl;
        } //end else
    } //end else
} //end deleteNode
```

Delete from an Unordered Linked List

What is the complexity of this function? O(n)

Ordered Linked Lists

Ordered Linked Lists

• The elements of an ordered linked list are arranged using some ordering criteria. e.g. ascending order.

Search in ordered Linked List

This function has the following steps:

- Compare the search item with the current node in the list. If the info of the current node is greater than or equal to the search item; otherwise, make the next node the current node.
- Repeat Step 1 until either an item in the list that is greater than or equal to the search item is found, or no more data is left in the list to compare with the search item.

Search in ordered Linked List as a Void

```
template<class Type>
void orderedLinkedListType<Type>::search(const Type& item)
   bool found;
   nodeType<Type> *current; //pointer to traverse the list
   found = false;
                      //initialize found to false
   current = first;
                      //start the search at the first node
   if(first == NULL)
      cout<<"Cannot search an empty list."<<endl;
       while (current != NULL && !found)
           if(current->info >= item)
               found = true;
               current = current->link;
       if(current == NULL)
                                   //item is not in the list
           cout<<"Item is not in the list"<<endl;
           if(current->info == item) //test for equality
               cout<<"Item is found in the list"<<endl;
               cout<<"Item is not in the list"<<endl;
   }//end else
}//end search
```

Search in ordered Linked List as a Boolean

```
template <class Type>
bool orderedLinkedList<Type>::search(const Type& searchItem) const
{
   bool found = false;
   nodeType<Type> *current; //pointer to traverse the list
   current = first; //start the search at the first node
   while (current != NULL && !found)
        if (current->info >= searchItem)
            found = true;
        else
            current = current->link;

if (found)
        found = (current->info == searchItem); //test for equality
        return found;
}//end search
```

Search in ordered Linked List

What is the complexity of this function? O(n)

Insert a Node in Ordered Linked List

- Here we use two pointers, current and trailCurrent, to search the list. trailCurrent points to the node just before current.
- Case 1: The list is initially empty. The node containing the new item added as the first node in the list.

// Start searching for proper place

• Case 2: The new item is smaller than the smallest item in the list. The new item goes at the beginning of the list.

Insert a Node in Ordered Linked List

- Case 3: The item is to be inserted somewhere in the list.
 - 1) Case 3a: **The new item is larger than all the items in the list.** In this case, the new item is inserted at the end of the list.
 - 2) Case 3b: The new item is to be inserted somewhere in the middle of the list. In this case, the new item is inserted between trailCurrent and current.

Insert a Node in Ordered Linked List

• Here we use two pointers, current and trailCurrent, to search the list. *trailCurrent points to the node just before current*.

```
if(first == NULL) //Case 1
       first = newNode;
       last = newNode;
       /* count++;*/
   else
       current = first;
       found = false;
       while (current != NULL && !found) //search the list
           if(current->info >= newitem)
               found = true;
            else
               trailCurrent = current:
               current = current->link;
        if(current == first)
                               //Case 2
          { newNode->link = first;
            first = newNode; // count++;
        else
                           //Case 3
           trailCurrent->link = newNode; //Case 3b
           newNode->link = current;
           if (current == NULL) //Case 3a
               last = newNode;
           //count++;
    }//end else
}//end insertNode
```

Insert a Node in Ordered Linked List

What is the complexity of this function?
O(n)

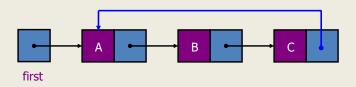
Delete from an Ordered Linked List

- To delete a given item from an ordered linked list, first we search the list to see whether the item to be deleted is in the list.
- The function to implement this operation is the same as the delete operation on general linked lists.
- Because the list is sorted, we can somewhat improve the algorithm for ordered linked lists.

Circular linked lists

Variations of Linked Lists

- Circular linked lists
 - The last node points to the first node of the list



• How do we know when we have finished traversing the list? (Tip: check if the pointer of the current node is equal to the first.)

Circular linked lists

Advantages:

- **Traverse** the entire linked list **from any given node**. (When we revisit the given node, we know we have traversed the entire list).
- A circular linked list is often **used as a buffer** where one portion of the program produces data and another consumes it, such as in communications.
- It **saves time** when we have to go to the first node from the last node.

Circular linked lists

Disadvantages:

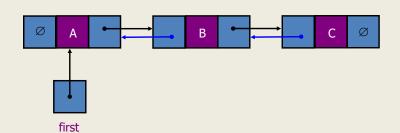
- It is not easy to **reverse** the linked list.
- If proper care is not taken, then an **infinite looping** can be caused while traversing it.

Doubly linked lists

Variations of Linked Lists

Doubly linked lists

- Each node points to not only successor but the predecessor
- There are two NULL: at the first and last nodes in the list
- Advantage: given a node, it is easy to visit its predecessor. Convenient to traverse lists backwards



Doubly Linked Lists

- A doubly linked list is a linked list in which every node has a next pointer and a back pointer.
- Every node contains the address of the next node (except the lastnode), and every node contains the address of the previous node (except the first node).

```
template <class Type>
struct nodeType
{
    Type info;
    nodeType<Type> *next;
    nodeType<Type> *back;
};
```

• A doubly linked list can be traversed in either direction.

Array versus Linked Lists

- Linked lists are more complex to code and manage than arrays, but they have some distinct advantages.
 - Dynamic: a linked list can easily grow and shrink in size.
 - We don't need to know how many nodes will be in the list. They
 are created in memory as needed.
 - In contrast, the size of a C++ array is fixed at compilation time.
 - Easy and fast insertions and deletions
 - To insert or delete an element in an array, we need to copy to temporary variables to make room (space) for new elements or close the gap caused by deleted elements.
 - With a linked list, no need to move other nodes. Only need to reset some pointers.