

Problem Statement: Implement a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) queue using only two stacks. The implemented queue should support the following functions:

1. `push(int x)`: Pushes element `x` to the back of the queue.
2. `pop()`: Removes the element from the front of the queue and returns it.
3. `peek()`: Returns the element at the front of the queue.
4. `empty()`: Returns `true` if the queue is empty, otherwise returns `false`.

Constraints:

- Only standard stack operations (push to top, pop from top, peek, and checking if empty) are allowed.
 - A list or deque can be used to simulate a stack if necessary.
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Understanding the Approach

Thought Process

- Since a stack follows LIFO (Last-In-First-Out) and a queue follows FIFO (First-In-First-Out), directly implementing a queue using a stack is not possible.
 - To achieve FIFO behavior, we use **two stacks**:
 - `st`: The main stack where elements are pushed.
 - `helper`: A temporary stack used for reversing the order when performing `pop` and `peek` operations.
 - The idea is to transfer elements from `st` to `helper` whenever we need to access the front element.
 - After retrieving the required element, we move elements back from `helper` to `st`.
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Code Explanation

1. Constructor (`MyQueue()`)

```
MyQueue() {}
```

- Initializes the two stacks (`st` and `helper`).
- Time Complexity: **O(1)** (constant-time initialization)

2. Push Operation (`push(int x)`)

```
void push(int x) {  
    st.push(x);  
}
```

- Simply pushes the element onto the `st` stack.

- Time Complexity: **$O(1)$** (push operation on a stack is constant time)

3. Pop Operation (pop())

```
int pop() {
    while (st.size() > 0) {
        helper.push(st.top());
        st.pop();
    }
    int x = helper.top();
    helper.pop();
    while (helper.size() > 0) {
        st.push(helper.top());
        helper.pop();
    }
    return x;
}
```

- Transfers all elements from st to helper, reversing their order.
- Retrieves the front element from helper (which corresponds to the queue's front element).
- Moves the remaining elements back to st to restore the order.
- Time Complexity: **$O(n)$** (since all elements are moved twice in the worst case)

4. Peek Operation (peek())

```
int peek() {
    while (st.size() > 0) {
        helper.push(st.top());
        st.pop();
    }
    int x = helper.top();
    while (helper.size() > 0) {
        st.push(helper.top());
        helper.pop();
    }
    return x;
}
```

```
}
```

- Similar to `pop()`, but instead of removing the front element, it just retrieves it.
- Time Complexity: **$O(n)$** (same reasoning as `pop()`)

5. Empty Check (`empty()`)

```
bool empty() {  
    if (st.size() > 0) return false;  
    else return true;  
}
```

- Simply checks if `st` is empty.
- Time Complexity: **$O(1)$** (constant-time operation)

Time Complexity Summary

Function Time Complexity

`push(x)` $O(1)$

`pop()` $O(n)$

`peek()` $O(n)$

`empty()` $O(1)$

Alternative Optimization

- Instead of transferring elements back to `st` in every `pop()` and `peek()`, we can keep them in helper until helper becomes empty. This improves efficiency and makes `pop()` amortized **$O(1)$** .

Conclusion

- The code correctly implements a queue using two stacks.
- The current approach ensures correctness but can be optimized for better performance.
- While `push()` and `empty()` are $O(1)$, `pop()` and `peek()` have an $O(n)$ worst-case time complexity.