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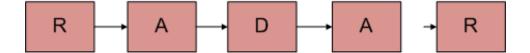
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Function to check if a singly linked list is palindrome

Given a singly linked list of characters, write a function that returns true if the given list is palindrome, else false.



METHOD 1 (Use a Stack)

A simple solution is to use a stack of list nodes. This mainly involves three steps.

- 1) Traverse the given list from head to tail and push every visited node to stack.
- 2) Traverse the list again. For every visited node, pop a node from stack and compare data of popped node with currently visited node.
- 3) If all nodes matched, then return true, else false.

Time complexity of above method is O(n), but it requires O(n) extra space. Following methods solve this with constant extra space.

METHOD 2 (By reversing the list)

This method takes O(n) time and O(1) extra space.

- 1) Get the middle of the linked list.
- 2) Reverse the second half of the linked list.
- 3) Check if the first half and second half are identical.
- 4) Construct the original linked list by reversing the second half again and attaching it back to the first half

To divide the list in two halves, method 2 of this post is used.

When number of nodes are even, the first and second half contain exactly half nodes. The challenging thing in this method is to handle the case when number of nodes are odd. We don't want the middle node as part of any of the lists as we are going to compare them for equality. For odd case, we use a separate variable 'midnode'

```
/* Program to check if a linked list is palindrome */
#include<stdio.h>
#include<stdlib.h>
#include<stdbool.h>

/* Link list node */
struct node
{
    char data;
    struct node* next;
};

void reverse(struct node**);
bool compareLists(struct node*, struct node *);

/* Function to check if given linked list is palindrome or not */
```

```
bool isPalindrome(struct node *head)
    struct node *slow ptr = head, *fast ptr = head;
    struct node *second half, *prev of slow ptr = head;
    struct node *midnode = NULL; // To handle odd size list
    bool res = true; // initialize result
    if (head!=NULL && head->next!=NULL)
        /* Get the middle of the list. Move slow ptr by 1
          and fast ptrr by 2, slow ptr will have the middle
          node */
        while (fast ptr != NULL && fast ptr->next != NULL)
        {
            fast ptr = fast ptr->next->next;
            /*We need previous of the slow ptr for
             linked lists with odd elements */
            prev of slow ptr = slow ptr;
            slow ptr = slow ptr->next;
        }
        /* fast ptr would become NULL when there are even elements in list.
           And not NULL for odd elements. We need to skip the middle node
           for odd case and store it somewhere so that we can restore the
           original list*/
        if (fast ptr != NULL)
        {
            midnode = slow ptr;
            slow ptr = slow ptr->next;
        }
        // Now reverse the second half and compare it with first half
        second half = slow ptr;
        prev of slow ptr->next = NULL; // NULL terminate first half
        reverse(&second half); // Reverse the second half
        res = compareLists(head, second half); // compare
        /* Construct the original list back */
         reverse(&second_half); // Reverse the second half again
         if (midnode != NULL) // If there was a mid node (odd size case) whi
                               // was not part of either first half or second
            prev of slow ptr->next = midnode;
            midnode->next = second half;
         else prev of slow ptr->next = second half;
    return res;
}
/* Function to reverse the linked list Note that this
```

```
function may change the head */
void reverse(struct node** head ref)
{
    struct node* prev
                       = NULL;
    struct node* current = *head ref;
    struct node* next;
    while (current != NULL)
    {
        next = current->next;
        current->next = prev;
        prev = current;
        current = next;
    *head ref = prev;
}
/* Function to check if two input lists have same data*/
bool compareLists(struct node* head1, struct node *head2)
{
    struct node* temp1 = head1;
    struct node* temp2 = head2;
    while (temp1 && temp2)
        if (temp1->data == temp2->data)
            temp1 = temp1->next;
            temp2 = temp2->next;
        else return 0;
    }
    /* Both are empty reurn 1*/
    if (temp1 == NULL && temp2 == NULL)
        return 1;
    /* Will reach here when one is NULL
      and other is not */
    return 0;
}
/* Push a node to linked list. Note that this function
  changes the head */
void push(struct node** head_ref, char new_data)
{
    /* allocate node */
    struct node* new node =
        (struct node*) malloc(sizeof(struct node));
    /* put in the data */
    new node->data = new data;
    /* link the old list off the new node */
```

```
new_node->next = (*head_ref);
    /* move the head to pochar to the new node */
    (*head ref)
                   = new node;
}
// A utility function to print a given linked list
void printList(struct node *ptr)
    while (ptr != NULL)
        printf("%c->", ptr->data);
        ptr = ptr->next;
    printf("NULL\n");
}
/* Drier program to test above function*/
int main()
{
    /* Start with the empty list */
    struct node* head = NULL;
    char str[] = "abacaba";
    int i;
    for (i = 0; str[i] != '\0'; i++)
       push(&head, str[i]);
       printList(head);
       isPalindrome(head)? printf("Is Palindrome\n\n"):
                            printf("Not Palindrome\n\n");
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
a->NULL
Palindrome

b->a->NULL
Not Palindrome

a->b->a->NULL
Is Palindrome

c->a->b->a->NULL
Not Palindrome

a->c->a->b->a->NULL
Not Palindrome
```

```
b->a->c->a->b->a->NULL
Not Palindrome

a->b->a->c->a->b->a->NULL
Is Palindrome

Time Complexity O(n)
Auxiliary Space: O(1)
```

METHOD 3 (Using Recursion)

Use two pointers left and right. Move right and left using recursion and check for following in each recursive call.

- 1) Sub-list is palindrome.
- 2) Value at current left and right are matching.

If both above conditions are true then return true.

The idea is to use function call stack as container. Recursively traverse till the end of list. When we return from last NULL, we will be at last node. The last node to be compared with first node of list.

In order to access first node of list, we need list head to be available in the last call of recursion. Hence we pass head also to the recursive function. If they both match we need to compare (2, n-2) nodes. Again when recursion falls back to (n-2)nd node, we need reference to 2nd node from head. We advance the head pointer in previous call, to refer to next node in the list.

However, the trick in identifying double pointer. Passing single pointer is as good as pass-by-value, and we will pass the same pointer again and again. We need to pass the address of head pointer for reflecting the changes in parent recursive calls.

Thanks to **Sharad Chandra** for suggesting this approach.

```
// Recursive program to check if a given linked list is palindrome
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdbool.h>
/* Link list node */
struct node
    char data;
    struct node* next;
};
// Initial parameters to this function are &head and head
bool isPalindromeUtil(struct node **left, struct node *right)
{
   /* stop recursion when right becomes NULL */
   if (right == NULL)
      return true;
   /* If sub-list is not palindrome then no need to
```

```
check for current left and right, return false */
   bool isp = isPalindromeUtil(left, right->next);
   if (isp == false)
      return false;
   /* Check values at current left and right */
   bool isp1 = (right->data == (*left)->data);
   /* Move left to next node */
   *left = (*left)->next;
   return isp1;
}
// A wrapper over isPalindromeUtil()
bool isPalindrome(struct node *head)
{
   isPalindromeUtil(&head, head);
}
/* Push a node to linked list. Note that this function
  changes the head */
void push(struct node** head_ref, char new_data)
    /* allocate node */
    struct node* new node =
            (struct node*) malloc(sizeof(struct node));
    /* put in the data */
    new node->data = new data;
    /* link the old list off the new node */
    new_node->next = (*head_ref);
    /* move the head to pochar to the new node */
    (*head ref)
                   = new node;
}
// A utility function to print a given linked list
void printList(struct node *ptr)
{
    while (ptr != NULL)
    {
        printf("%c->", ptr->data);
        ptr = ptr->next;
    printf("NULL\n");
}
/* Drier program to test above function*/
int main()
{
    /* Start with the empty list */
```

```
struct node* head = NULL;
    char str[] = "abacaba";
    int i;
    for (i = 0; str[i] != '\0'; i++)
        push(&head, str[i]);
        printList(head);
        isPalindrome(head)? printf("Is Palindrome\n\n"):
                                printf("Not Palindrome\n\n");
    }
    return 0;
}
Output:
a->NULL
Not Palindrome
b->a->NULL
Not Palindrome
a->b->a->NULL
Is Palindrome
c->a->b->a->NULL
Not Palindrome
a->c->a->b->a->NULL
Not Palindrome
b->a->c->a->b->a->NULL
Not Palindrome
a->b->a->c->a->b->a->NULL
Is Palindrome
Time Complexity: O(n)
Auxiliary Space: O(n) if Function Call Stack size is considered, otherwise O(1).
```

Please comment if you find any bug in the programs/algorithms or a better way to do the same.

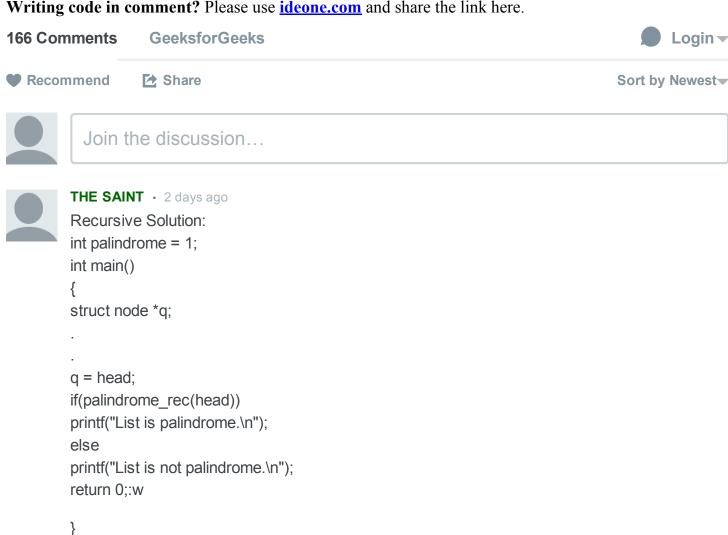
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- Pairwise swap elements of a given linked list by changing links
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• QuickSort on Singly Linked List



Writing code in comment? Please use <u>ideone.com</u> and share the link here.



see more

```
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```

int palindrome rec(struct node *p)



prk · 9 days ago

To do it recursively in java, you can use a wrapper class to store left node and boolean result at each level. Like this:

```
class NodeWrapper{
public boolean result;
public Node left;
public NodeWrapper(boolean result,Node left){
```

```
this.result=result;
this.left=left;
}
public boolean checkPalindrome(Node head){
```

see more

```
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```



Rohit Singla • 11 days ago

in method 3, I think the comparison is going twice.

If the list is a->b->c->b->a->NULL,

first a is compared with a

then b is compared with b

then c is compared with c

then b is again compared with b

then a is again compared with a

Can we stop this 2nd time comparison by using this condition:-

if(*left == right || (*left)->next == right)

i.e., for odd and even length palindrome cases????

```
Reply • Share >
```



Aditya Goel • 15 days ago

Method 1(Stack) using recursion -

```
}
```

Ideone link - http://ideone.com/O4RHwn

Note - Compile it as cpp program and call this function only once in the program as I'm using static variables.

Edit - Just noted that similar appoach is already been used in method 3. :D





Ok → Vamos • 19 days ago Thanks a ton!! :)

```
1 ^ Reply • Share >
```



shellk007 · 21 days ago

- 1.Take two pointers: single_step, Double step.
- 2.single_step takes one step and pushes value on stack. double_step takes two steps.
- 3. when double step reaches end, single step reaches mid.
- 4. Now stop pushing and start poping stack and keep single step moving.
- 5.compare single step and popped element.
- 6.if all same, return true else false.

```
space: o(n/2) time: o(n)
```

P.S.: haven't coded it yet, please rectify the mistakes.

```
Thanks, SK

• Reply • Share >
```



```
guest → shellk007 · 8 days ago
```



bt if in case we have string like aaa then hw will it wrk?

```
1 ^ V • Reply • Share >
```



shellk007 → guest · 7 days ago

Right... the above mentioned work only for list having even number of nodes.... we can keep a count of nodes also... if count is odd then middle element is not compared... rest is the same...



Guest ⋅ 25 days ago

If all algorithms discussed above are taking O(n) time, can we do this by the method suggested below. It seems easier-

- 1. take two pointers i j , one pointing to the start of the list and other pointing to the end of the list.
- 2. move these one by one, and compare values pointed by these pointers. if at any stage there is a difference in the pointed values, break
- 3. continue till i<=j

Please comment if you find any flaw in my approach



Raj Chopra → Guest · 25 days ago

As question mentions that It is a Singly Linked List. It is not possible to move back from the second pointer (From 'end' towards 'start' as you have mentioned in your approach).

```
1 ^ Reply • Share >
```



```
rahul singh · a month ago
void palindrome(struct node **head_ref)
struct node *slow=*head ref;
struct node *fast=*head ref;
struct node *current=*head ref;
struct node *mid=NULL;
int flag=1;
while(slow!=NULL&&fast!=NULL&&fast->next!=NULL)
{
slow=slow->next;
fast=fast->next->next;
mid=slow;
printf("mid data %d",mid->data);
reverse(&mid->next);
mid=mid->next;
while(mid->next!=NULL)
```

see more



darkprotocol • a month ago

I would suggest to use while loop instead or stack since most of the cases it leads stackoverflow when dealed with |lenght| as big number :\



Nikita Chhabra • a month ago

in case of only 1 element: we should check if(right==NULL || right->next==NULL) instead of if(right==NULL)



Tejwinder • a month ago

using static variable

Ideas welcome:)

http://ideone.com/sBqbcU



Ansuraj Khadanga → Tejwinder • 21 days ago

My implementation using static variable in C -

http://ideone.com/ndONRD

I guess this code takes auxiliary space of O(n/2). Is it worth it?



dinesh · 2 months ago

recursion method has flaw.....each time left node is at head position so ans is always not a palindrome..... plz suggest someway except global _/_



AYUSH KUMAR • 3 months ago

http://ideone.com/zmEwrF

code in c++ of checking palindrome



neelabhsingh · 4 months ago

Java implementation http://ideone.com/AaiHty

2 ^ V • Reply • Share >



Akshit Bhatia • 4 months ago

a simple method also exist to check if a string is a possible palindrome or not just like tests can be a palindrome(stets or tsest)

insert all pairs of characters (ie if aaa is given in a string then only a and a is entered in the string while third a wont be counted) in an array and take the length of the array. 1 st point the array length(2) must be even 2nd original string length minus the new array length must not be greater than 1

if these conditions are met the string can be a palindrome.

```
∧ V • Reply • Share >
```



Ankit Srivastava • 4 months ago

This is the C# implementation which can be written in any language with no ugly double pointer needed and we need not find the length in a separate iteration as well.

```
struct LinkedList
{

public int Data;

public LinkedList Next;
};

static bool IsPalindrome(LinkedList head)
{

if (head == null && head.Next == null)

return true;

LinkedList first = head;

LinkedList last = head.Next;

if (Compare(first, last, 2) == null)
```

see more



Rajat Panjwani • 4 months ago

while using Stack, it is inefficient to insert all the n elements into the stack and then pop them up. Just push half elements till the middle element and then continue with the pop operation from middle element till the end of the list.

```
4 ^ V • Reply • Share >
```



karthik A Rajat Panjwani • 2 months ago

How do u determine the middle of stack here?



```
neo → karthik · 23 days ago
```

fast and slow ptr concept.push slow ptr elements into stack and when fastptr reaches null it means odd no of elements , so pop element, and then continue to pop until stack is empty or list is empty, may be this vague idea . I think we can build a concrete implementation of it, please correct me if i am wrong

```
1 A | V • Reply • Share >
```



Guest • 4 months ago

Third method is really nice. Got to learn a new concept.

```
1 ^ | V • Reply • Share >
```



```
Guest ⋅ 5 months ago
```

```
temp = forward = backward = head;
```

```
int i = 0;
```

while(temp.getNext()!=null){

```
if( (i & 1) !=0)
```

forward = backward = temp.getNext();

temp = temp.getNext();

j++;

}

// move forward in front and backward in back direction from center

while(forward!=null && backward !=null && forward.getData() ==backward.getData()){

System out println/"forward is "+forward getData()+" backward is "+backward getData()):

see more



JavaImplementation • 5 months ago

private boolean checkPalindromeRecursiveUsingStatic(Node end) {

```
if(end==null){
```

return true:

}

boolean flag = checkPalindromeRecursiveUsingStatic(end.getNextNode());

```
if(start==null){
return flag;
}
if(start.getNextNode()==end || start==end ||flag==false){
start=null;
```

return flag:

see more

```
Reply • Share >
```



Demon • 5 months ago

@GeeksforGeeks http://goo.gl/EsSvhZ

Please pay attention

Method 3: need modification

I just copy and paste the copy in ideone.com and It giving the wrong OUTPUT (Not same as yours)

For every input it gives output "NOT PALINDROME"

```
3 ^ | V • Reply • Share >
```



Harinder Singh → Demon • 4 months ago

in some compilers it'll give that output

```
just try this
```



Guest → Demon • 4 months ago

i too got the same results http://ideone.com/xg3sfy

```
∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share >
```



Zeus → Demon · 5 months ago

Hi Demon.

here is my java implementation:-

public boolean isPalindrome(Node<item> right) {

```
return true;

boolean isp = isPalindrome(right.next);

if(isp == false) //middle check

return false;

boolean isp1 = (left.item == right.item)? true:false;

left = left.next;

return isp1;

}

but with a minor modification i.e i made left as global Node , with this little change everything works fine.
```



coder.girl • 5 months ago

Can someone please explain the bool variable isp here? how does it work?



Demon → coder.girl • 5 months ago

isp is checking structure wise (like fist node && last, second && second last and so on)

and isp1 is checking the data inside the nodes.

1 ^ Reply • Share >



Guest ⋅ 5 months ago

@GeeksforGeeks why in Method 2 and Method 3 for the input:- a->NULL coming different Answers?

1 ^ Reply • Share



money • 5 months ago

can't we reverse the linked list and compare with the existing one....if the element are same they should be palindrome



The_Geek → money • 5 months ago

Method 1, i.e. stack implementation is same as what u want to say.



ntk18 • 5 months ago

I think this is the better implementation:

http://ideone.com/rkyDBn



codecrecker • 6 months ago

#include<stdio.h>

#include<stdlib.h>

typedef struct nd node;

struct nd{

int d;

node *n;

};

node *head,*ptr,*nx;

node *createNode(int d)

{

node *tmn

see more

```
Reply • Share >
```



valluri • 6 months ago

consider the LL Ex: 1234321.

When node with value 4 is reached "isPalindromeUtil" the left and right pointers cris-cros and the test continuoues. Is there a way this can be emmitted.



vee* • 6 months ago

#include<iostream>

#include<string.h>

#include<cstdlib>

using namespace std;

// strucyture for linkedlist node

```
struct linkedlist
int value;
struct linkedlist * next;
}*head=NULL;
```

see more



Sumit Saurabh • 7 months ago

#include<stdio.h>

#include<stdlib.h>

typedef struct node{

char data;

struct node *next;

}NODE;

void append(NODE **head, int data){

NODE *n = (NODE*)malloc(sizeof(NODE));

n->data = data;

n->next = *head;

see more



Neyaz Ahmad • 7 months ago

Method2: Java Code

http://ideone.com/QMaDAC

Reply • Share >



Mohaan Raja ⋅ 8 months ago

This also can be used to find whether a singly linked list is palindrome or not

http://ideone.com/Wrmt7O

Idea:

- 1. Get the count of nodes
- 2. Move till N/2 or (N+1)/2 -1 depending on even or odd count
- 3. From N/2 onwards push the element in the array.
- 4. Traverse again from begining of the list and compare with the array values.
- 5. Show palindrome or not.

Time Complexity: O(n)



reeetesh11 → Mohaan Raja · 7 months ago

space complexity(n)

Reply • Share >



Kim Jong-il → Mohaan Raja · 7 months ago

Nothing new, Like method 1.

1 ^ Reply • Share >



Mohaan Raja → Kim Jong-il • 7 months ago

Acceptable.. No need for stack.. Thats it..

1 ^ | V • Reply • Share >



Harinder Singh → Mohaan Raja • 4 months ago

yes but instead of using a stack you are using an array...just an alternate version for solving it in O(n) space and O(n) time complexity



VAIBHAV GUPTA • 8 months ago

Method 3 gives single letter as palindrome i.e. output for "a->NULL" is "Is Palindrome" in third method...

whereas in Method 2 output for "a->NULL" is "Not Palindrome"

so slight correction in either of two output is required.

but i want to know whether single letter is considered a palindrome or not???

Reply • Share >



Kim Jong-il → VAIBHAV GUPTA • 7 months ago

Single letter is always a palindrom.

1 ^ V • Reply • Share >



np ⋅ 8 months ago

@GeeksforGeeks correct the output

Given:

a->NULL

Not Palindrome

it should be palindrome.....

Program is correct.

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since the array size is 5, it takes constant...

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lebron

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You saved my time:)

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• EigenHarsha

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