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## (Bonus) Singly Linked List with Tail

Remember we mentioned that `addLast` and `removeLast` are  $O(N)$  because we have to traverse to the very end of the list? Turns out sometimes we do need to use `addLast` (much less so `removeLast` and there's nothing we can do about `removeLast` being  $O(N)$  for singly linked lists), and we don't want it to be  $O(N)$ . Fortunately, there's a trick we can do. We'll just do a sketch of the implementation.

Let's call this class `AwsmerLinkedList`

This involves appending a `tail` to the entire linked list. In other words, the class would look like

```
// AwsmerLinkedList.java

public AwsmerLinkedList<T> implements Awsmlist<T>, Iterable<T> {
    private AwsmNode<T> head;
    private AwsmNode<T> tail;
    private int tail;

    public AwsmlinkedList() {
        tail = new AwsmNode<>(null, null);
        head = new AwsmNode<>(null, tail); // AHA!
    }
}
```

So now the linked list looks like this:

[head] [tail]

Now think of the `tail` node as a phantom 'shell' node. Why? Look at how we modified the `addLast` method:

```
public void addLast(T item) {
    AwsmNode<T> newTail = new AwsmNode<>(null, null);
    tail.data = item;
    tail.next = newTail;
    tail = newTail;
}
```

See the trick there? If you don't, here's a breakdown:

Let's say we want to add **A**. Instead of creating a new car around **A**, we overwrite **A** into the tail node's **data**.

```
we start with this
[head][tail]
```

```
overwrite tail's data with A
[head][A]
```

```
then create a new tail node
[head][A]      [tail]
```

```
attach the new tail node to A, since we have control over [A] (the previous tail)'s next
[head][A][tail]
```

Isn't this cool? This gives us  $O(1)$  **addLast** which is absolutely crucial in a singly linked list functioning as a queue.