


Introduction to Linked Lists

Definition
A linear data structure where the **nodes** are linked together.

Key Analogy
Train - Coaches linked to an engine.

Parameters

- Each node contains:
 - a. Data (value)
 - b. Next (pointer/reference to next node)
- The last node points to NULL.
- Head = pointer to the first node.




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Linked List Operations

Search/Traversal
Finding an element **x** in the list.

Pseudo Code

```
SEARCH(head, key)
1 current = head
2 while current != Null:
3     if current.data == key:
4         return TRUE
5     current = current.next
6 return FALSE
```



Linked List Operations

Search/Traversal

Finding an element x in the list.

Pseudo Code

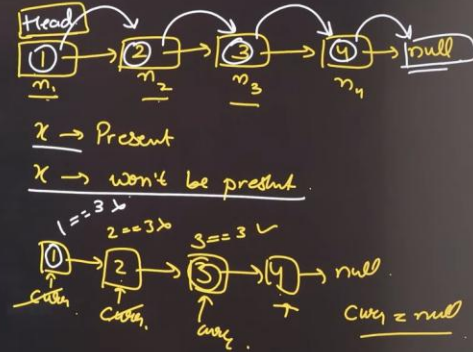
SEARCH(head, key)

```

1 current = head
2 while current != Null: → F
3     if current.data == key:
4         return TRUE
5     → current = current.next
6 return FALSE
  
```

Key = 5

Key = 3



Linked List Operations

Insertion

Adding a node x to the list. Can be done either:

1. At beginning,
2. At end,
3. After a given key.

Linked List Operations

Inserting at the Start $\rightarrow O(1)$ eg.

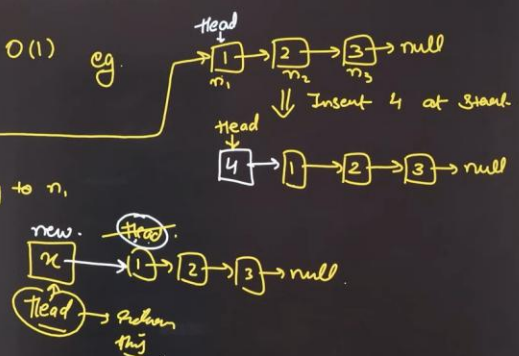
INSERT_BEGIN(head, x)

1 new = Node(x)

2 new.next = head \rightarrow pointing to n_1

3 head = new

4 return head



Linked List Operations

Inserting after a Key

INSERT_AFTER(head, key, x)

1 current = head

2 while current != Null and current.data != key:

3 current = current.next

4 if current == Null:

5 error "key not found"

6 new = Node(x)

7 new.next = current.next

8 current.next = new

9 return head


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Linked List Operations

Deletion

Removing a node **x** from the list. Can be done either

1. At beginning,
2. At end,
3. After a given key.



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Linked List Operations

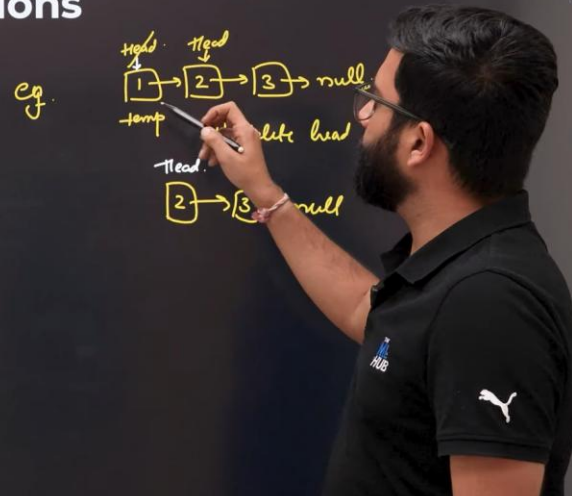
Deleting the Head Node

```
DELETE_BEGIN(head)
1 if head == Null:
2     error "underflow"
3 temp = head
4 head = head.next
5 free(temp)
6 return head
```

eg.

Initial state: head → 1 → 2 → 3 → null

After deletion: head → 2 → 3 → null



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Linked List Operations

Deleting the Last Node

DELETE_END(head)

```

1 if head == Null:
2     error "underflow"
3 if head.next == Null:
4     free(head)
5     return Null
6 current = head
7 while current.next.next != Null:
8     current = current.next
9 free(current.next)
10 current.next = Null
11 return head

```



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Linked List Operations

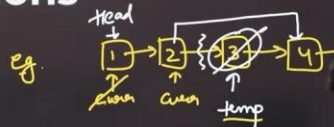
Deleting by Key

DELETE_KEY(head, key)

```

1 if head.data == key:
2     temp = head
3     head = head.next
4     free(temp)
5     return head
6 current = head
7 while current.next != NULL and current.next.data != key:
8     current = current.next
9 if current.next == NULL:
10     error "key not found"
11 temp = current.next
12 current.next = current.next.next
13 free(temp)
14 return head

```



Reversing a Linked List

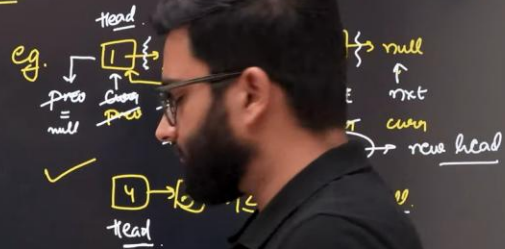
Iterative Approach

REVERSE_ITERATIVE(node): $\rightarrow O(n)$

```

1 prev = Null
2 curr = node
3 while curr != Null:
4     nxt = curr.next
5     curr.next = prev
6     prev = curr
7     curr = nxt
8 return prev  $\rightarrow$  new head.
9

```

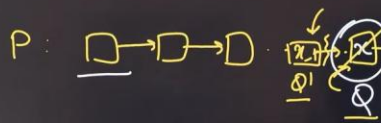


10 head = REVERSE_ITERATIVE(head)

[GATE CS 04]

Q. Let P be a singly linked list, Let Q be the pointer to an intermediate node x in the list. What is the worst-case time complexity of the best-known algorithm to delete the node x from the list?

- a) $\theta(n)$
- b) $\theta(\log^2 n)$
- c) $\theta(\log n)$
- d) $\theta(1)$



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Q. A queue is implemented using a non-circular singly linked list. The queue has a head pointer and a tail pointer, as shown in the figure. Let n denote the number of nodes in the queue. Let enqueue be implemented by inserting a new node at the head, and dequeue be implemented by deletion of a node from the tail.



Which one of the following is the time complexity of the most time-efficient implementation of enqueue and dequeue respectively, for this data structure?

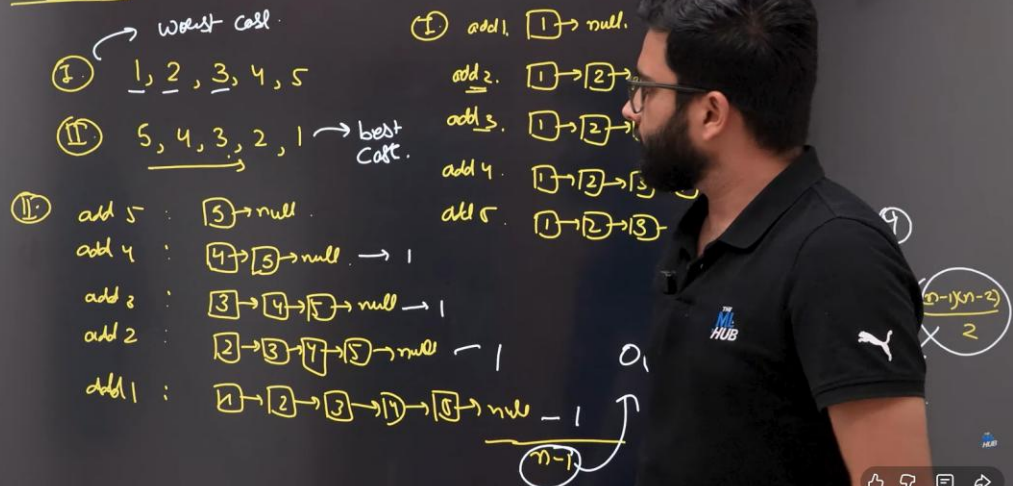
- a) $\theta(1), \theta(1)$
- b) $\theta(1), \theta(n)$
- c) $\theta(n), \theta(1)$
- d) $\theta(n), \theta(n)$

enqueue $(x) \rightarrow$ adding a node at start. (head) $\rightarrow \theta(1)$

dequeue $() \rightarrow$ Remove the last node $\rightarrow \theta(1)$

Q. What is the worst-case time complexity of inserting n elements into an empty linked list, if the linked list needs to be maintained in sorted order?

- a) $\theta(n^2)$
- b) $\theta(n)$
- c) $\theta(n \log n)$
- d) $\theta(1)$



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Module 2: Linked Lists & Hashing.ipynb

```
class Node:
    def __init__(self, data):
        self.data = data
        self.next = None

head = Node(1) # Create a head node with data: 1, next: None
head.next = Node(2)
head.next.next = Node(3)
head.next.next.next = Node(4)

def print_ll(curr):
    while curr:
        print(curr.data, '->', end = '')
        curr = curr.next
    print_ll(head)
```

1 -> 2 -> 3 -> 4 ->



what can i help you build?

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Variables Terminal

02:02 Python 3