

# Lecture 2

## Stacks and Queues



**Your Queue**

Though you are able to add DVDs to your queue, your account does not currently allow for movies to be shipped to you.

**DVD (242)** **Instant (42)** Questions? Visit our [FAQ](#) section [Show all DVD activity](#)

**DVD (237)** [Update DVD Queue](#)

List Order	Movie Title	Instant	Star Rating	Genre	Expected Availability	Remove
1	<a href="#">Queen Margot</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Foreign</a>	Now	X
2	<a href="#">Time Out</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Foreign</a>	Now	X
3	<a href="#">The Quiet Family</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Foreign</a>	Now	X
4	<a href="#">The Dinner Game</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Foreign</a>	Now	X
5	<a href="#">American Psycho</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Thrillers</a>	Now	X
6	<a href="#">Motives</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Thrillers</a>	Now	X
7	<a href="#">Following</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Thrillers</a>	Now	X
8	<a href="#">Clueless</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Comedy</a>	Now	X
9	<a href="#">Red Dragon</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Thrillers</a>	Now	X
10	<a href="#">Changing Lanes</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Thrillers</a>	Now	X
11	<a href="#">Freeway</a>		★★★★★ 1	<a href="#">Drama</a>	Now	X

EECS 281: Data Structures & Algorithms

# Data Structures and Abstract Data Types

Data Structures & Algorithms

# Data Structures and ADTs

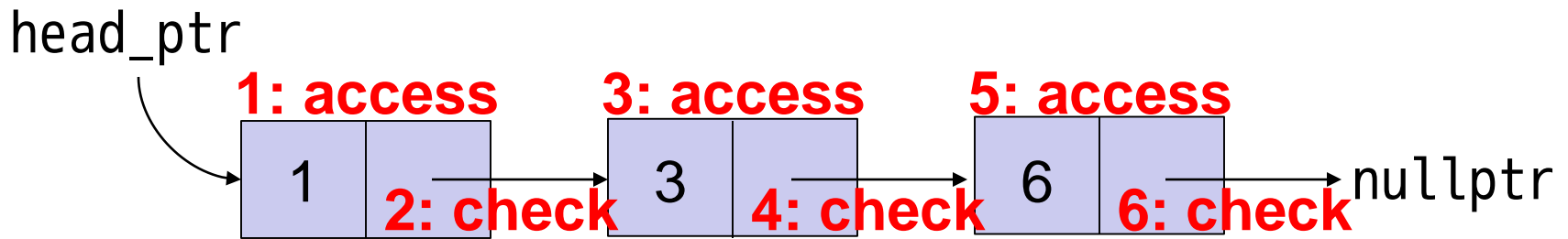
- Need a way to store and organize data in order to facilitate access and modifications
- An **abstract data type (ADT)** combines data with valid operations and their behaviors on stored data
  - e.g., insert, delete, access
  - ADTs define an interface
- A **data structure** provides a concrete implementation of an ADT

# Measuring Performance

- Several design choices for implementing ADTs
  - Contiguous data (arrays or vectors)
  - Connected data (pointers or linked lists/trees)
- Runtime speed and size of data structure
  - How much time is needed to perform an operation? (count number of steps)
  - How much space is needed to perform an operation? (count size of data and pointers/metadata)
  - How does size/number of inputs affect these results? (constant, linear, exponential, etc.)
- We formalize performance measurements with **complexity analysis**

# Analysis Example

- How many operations are needed to insert a value at the end of this singly-linked list?



- Can you generalize this for a list with  $n$  elements?

**7: Create Node**  
**8: Insert Value**  
**9: Update Pointer**

**$2n + 3$**

Linear function is important—coefficients and constants don't matter much

# Choosing a Data Structure for a Given Application

- What to look for
  - The right operations (e.g., `add_elt`, `remove_elt`)
  - The right behavior (e.g., `push_back`, `pop_back`)
  - The right trade-offs for runtime complexities
  - Memory overhead
- Potential concern
  - Limiting interface to avoid problems (e.g., no `insert_mid`)
- Examples
  - **Order tracking at a fast-food drive-through** (pipeline)
  - **Interrupted phone calls to a receptionist**
  - **Your TODO list**

# Data Structures and Abstract Data Types

Data Structures & Algorithms

# Basic Containers: Stack

Data Structures & Algorithms



# Stack ADT: Interface

- Supports insertion/removal in LIFO order
  - Last In, First Out

Method	Description
push(object)	Add object to top of the stack
pop()	Remove top element
object &top()	Return a reference to top element
size()	Number of elements in stack
empty()	Checks if stack has no elements

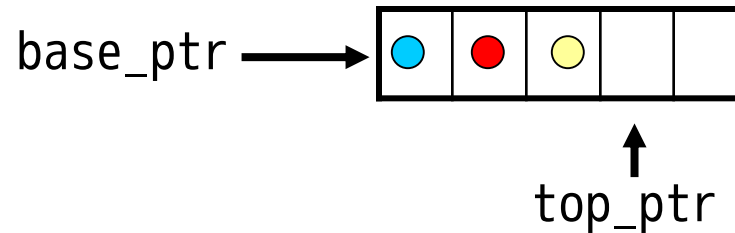
## Examples

- Web browser's "back" feature
- Text editor's "Undo" feature
- Function calls in C++



# Stack: Implementation – Array/Vector

Keep a pointer (`top_ptr`) just past the last element

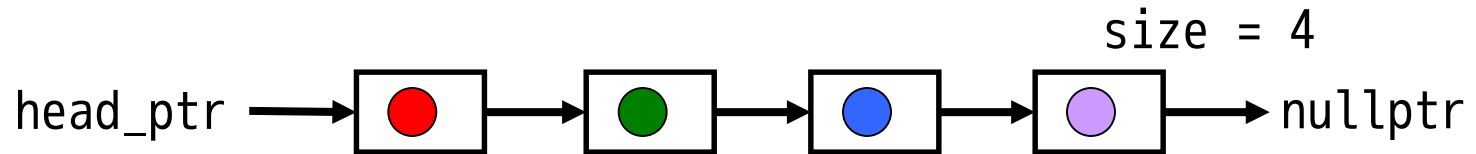


Method	Implementation
<code>push(object)</code>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. If needed, allocate a bigger array and copy data</li><li>2. Add new element at <code>top_ptr</code>, increment <code>top_ptr</code></li></ol>
<code>pop()</code>	Decrement <code>top_ptr</code>
<code>object &amp;top()</code>	Dereference <code>top_ptr - 1</code>
<code>size()</code>	Subtract <code>base_ptr</code> from <code>top_ptr</code> pointer
<code>empty()</code>	Check if <code>base_ptr == top_ptr</code>

How many steps/operations for each method?

# Stack: Implementation – Linked List

Singly-linked is sufficient



Method	Implementation
<code>push(object)</code>	Insert new node at <code>head_ptr</code> , increment size
<code>pop()</code>	Delete node at <code>head_ptr</code> , decrement size
<code>object &amp;top()</code>	Dereference <code>head_ptr</code>
<code>size()</code>	Return size
<code>empty()</code>	Check if <code>size == 0</code> or <code>head_ptr == nullptr</code>

\*Alternative approach: eliminate size, count nodes each time

How many steps/operations for each method?

Is an array or linked list more efficient for stacks?

# Stack: Which Implementation?

Method	Array/Vector	Linked List
push(object)	Constant (linear when resizing vector)*	Constant
pop()	Constant	Constant
object &top()	Constant	Constant
size()	Constant	Constant (with tracked size)
empty()	Constant	Constant

\*Averages out to constant with many pushes (amortized constant)

- The asymptotic complexities of each are similar
- The constant factor attached to the complexity is lower for vector
  - Constant number of operations, but there is “less” to do
  - The linked list must allocate memory for each node individually!
- The linked list also has higher memory overhead
  - i.e. Pointers between nodes as well as the actual data payload

# STL Stacks: `std::stack<>`

- Code: `#include <stack>`
- You can choose the underlying container
- All operations are implemented generically on top of the given container
  - No specialized code based on given container

	Stack
Default Underlying Container	<code>std::deque&lt;&gt;</code>
Optional Underlying Container	<code>std::list&lt;&gt;</code> <sup>†</sup> <code>std::vector&lt;&gt;</code>

<sup>†</sup>`std::list<>` is a doubly-linked list

# Basic Containers: Stack

Data Structures & Algorithms

# Basic Containers: Queue

Data Structures & Algorithms

# Queue ADT: Interface

- Supports insertion/removal in FIFO order
  - First In, First Out

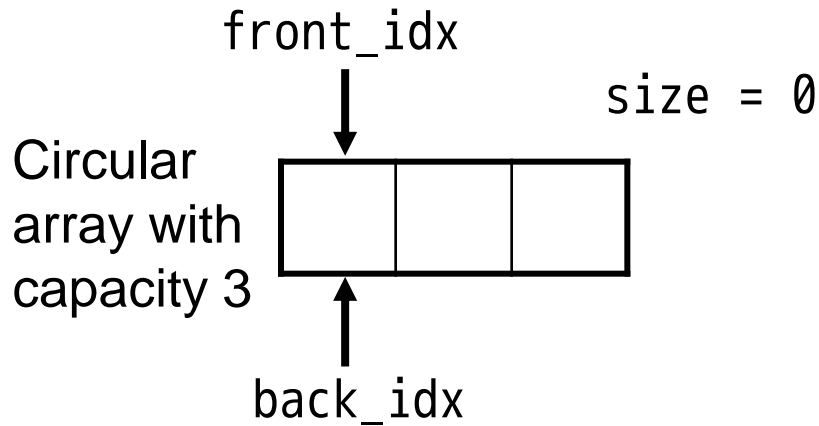
Method	Description
push(object)	Add object to back of queue
pop()	Remove element at front of queue
object &front()	Return reference to element at front of queue
size()	Number of elements in queue
empty()	Checks if queue has no elements

## Examples

- Waiting in line for lunch
- Adding songs to the end of a playlist



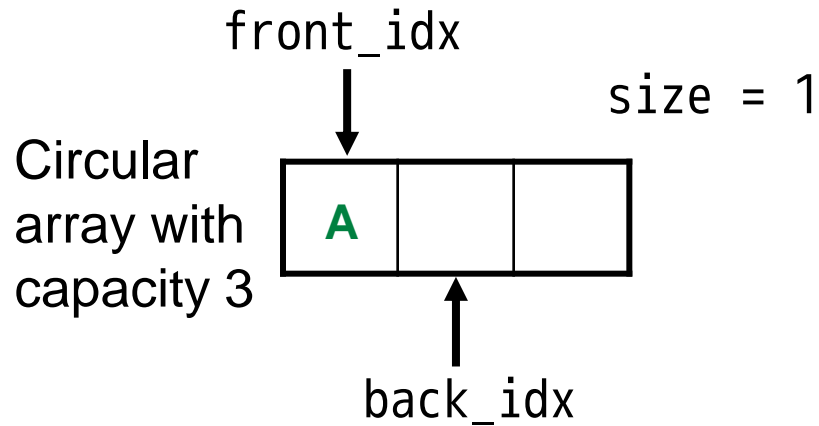
# Queue: Implementation – Circular (Ring) Buffer



## Event Sequence

1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty

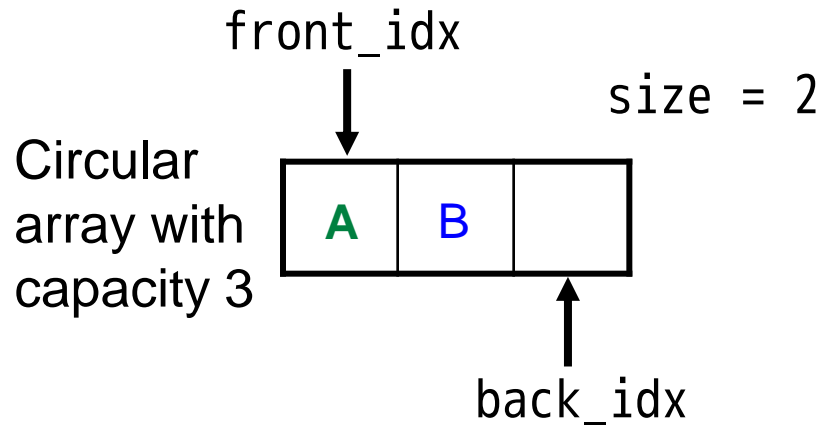
# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer



## Event Sequence

1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty
2. `push A`

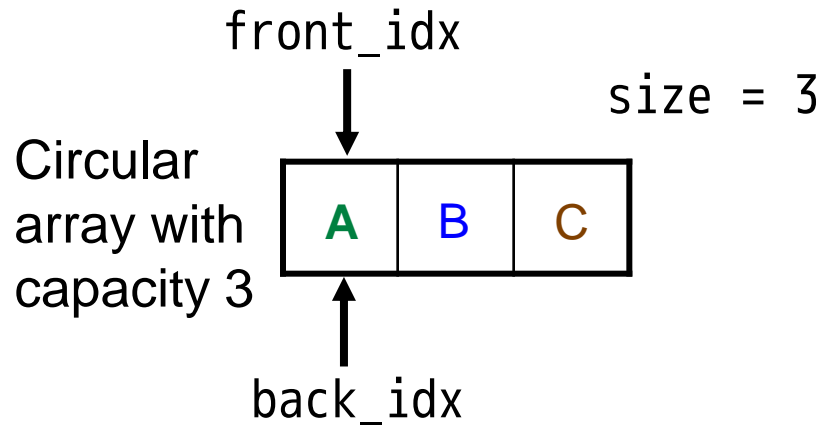
# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer



## Event Sequence

1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty
2. push A
3. push B

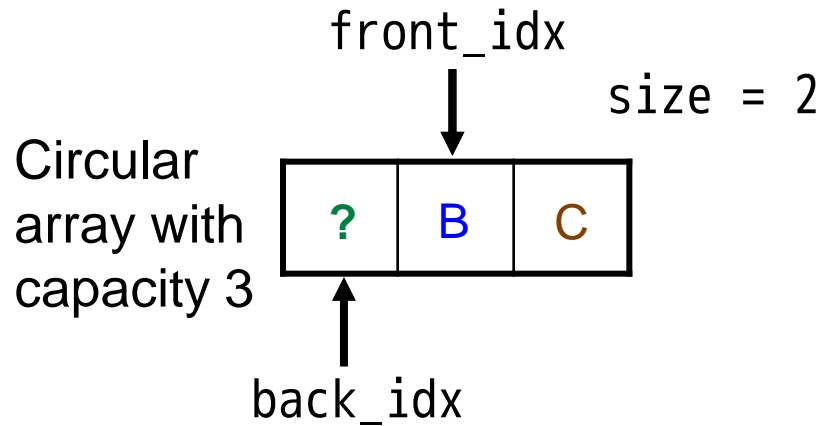
# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer



## Event Sequence

1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty
2. push A
3. push B
4. push C

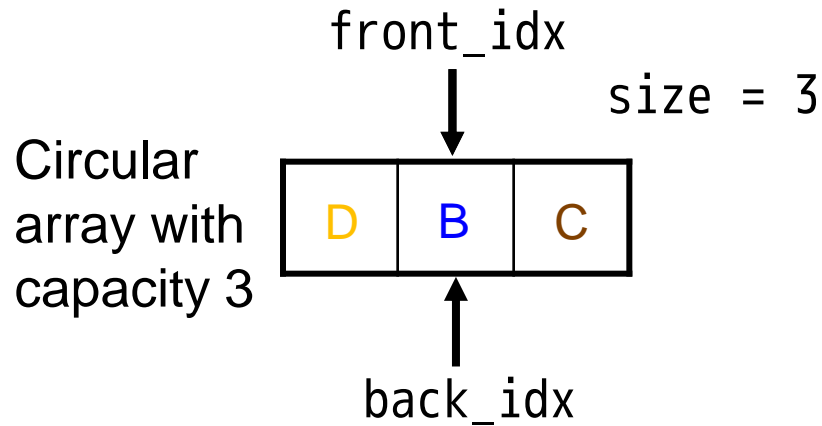
# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer



## Event Sequence

1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty
2. `push A`
3. `push B`
4. `push C`
5. `pop (A)`

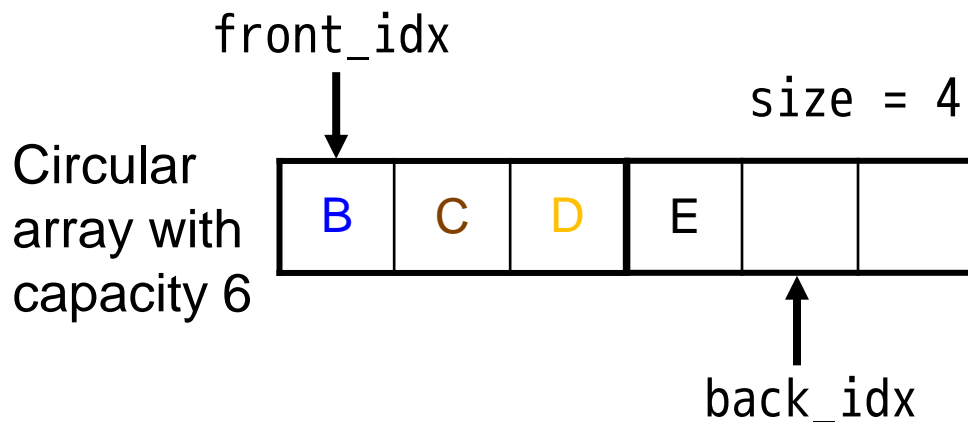
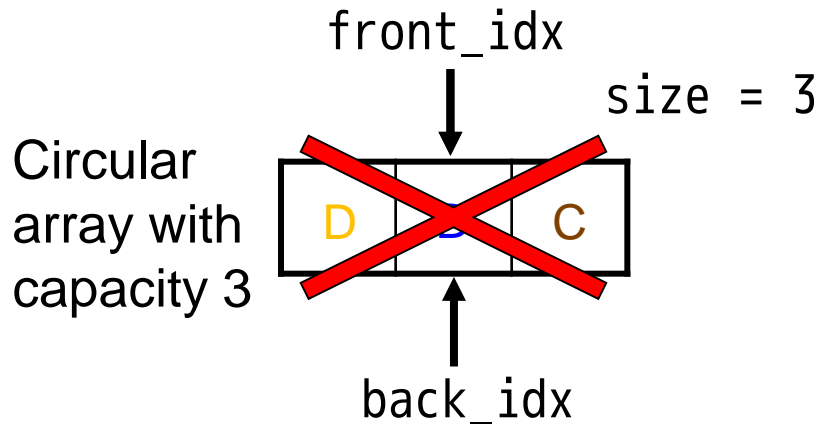
# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer



## Event Sequence

1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty
2. push A
3. push B
4. push C
5. pop (A)
6. push D

# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer



## Event Sequence

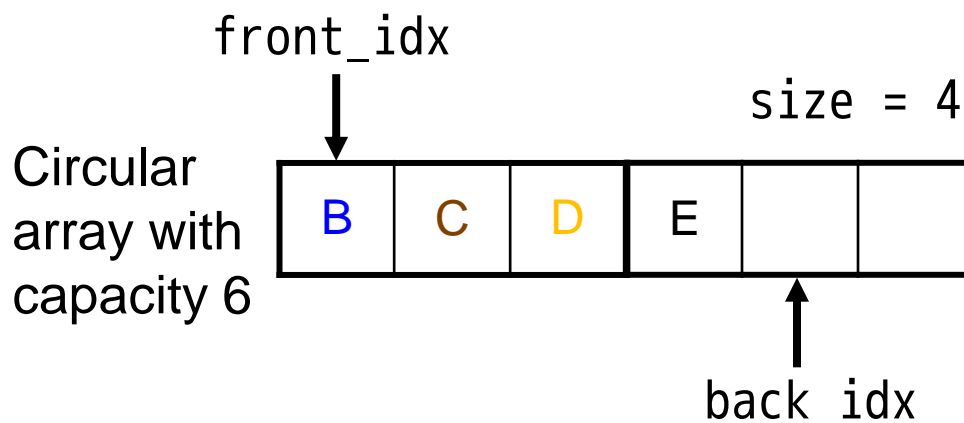
1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty
2. push A
3. push B
4. push C
5. pop (A)
6. push D
7. push E (need to allocate more memory)\*

\* When allocating more memory, it is common to double memory

# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer

## Event Sequence

1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty
2. `push A`
3. `push B`
4. `push C`
5. `pop (A)`
6. `push D`
7. `push E (need to allocate more memory)*`



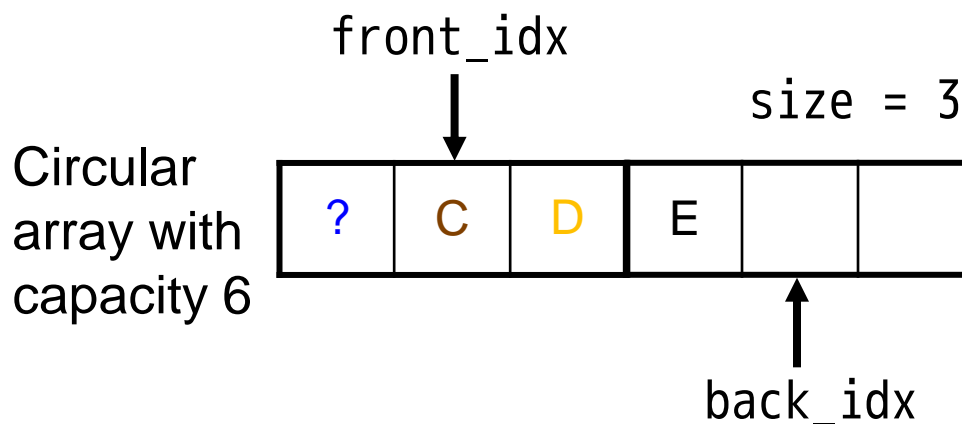
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# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer

## Event Sequence

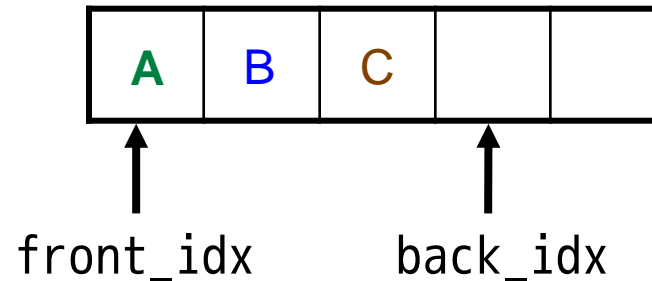
1. `back_idx == front_idx`  
since array is empty
2. `push A`
3. `push B`
4. `push C`
5. `pop (A)`
6. `push D`
7. `push E` (need to  
allocate more memory)\*
8. `pop (B)`



# Queue: Implementation – Circular Buffer

size = 3

Use a circular array

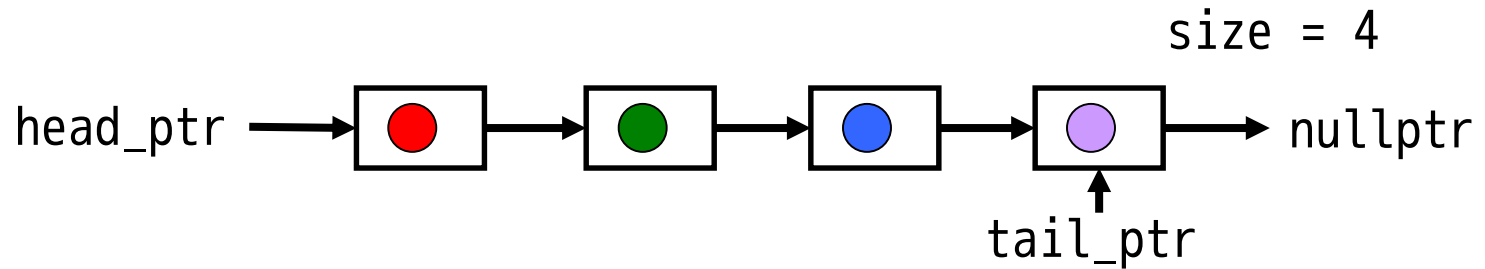


Method	Implementation
push(object)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. If size == capacity, reallocate larger array and copy over elements, "unrolling" as you go unroll: start front_idx at 0, insert all elements</li><li>2. Insert value at back_idx, increment size and back_idx, wrapping around either as needed</li></ol>
pop()	Increment front_idx, decrement size
object &front()	Return reference to element at front_idx
size()	Return size
empty()	Check if size == 0

How many steps/operations for each method?

# Queue: Implementation – Linked List

Singly-linked is sufficient, tail ptr for efficiency



Method	Implementation
push(object)	Append node after tail_ptr, increment size
pop()	Delete node at head_ptr, decrement size
object &front()	Deference head_ptr
size()	Return size
empty()	Return head_ptr == nullptr

\*Alternative approach: count nodes when needed

How many steps/operations for each method?

# Queue: Which Implementation?

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- Code: `#include <queue>`
- You can choose the underlying container
- All operations are implemented generically on top of the given container
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	Queue
Default Underlying Container	<code>std::deque&lt;&gt;</code>
Optional Underlying Container	<code>std::list&lt;&gt;</code>

# Basic Containers: Queue

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# Basic Containers: Deque

Data Structures & Algorithms

# Deque Terminology Clarification

- "Deque" is an abbreviation of Double-Ended Queue.  
Pronounced "deck"
- "Dequeue" is another name for removing something from a queue.  
Pronounced "dee-queue"
- The STL includes `std::deque<>`, which is an implementation of a Deque, and is usually based on a growable collection of fixed-sized arrays.



# Deque ADT: a queue and stack in one (Double-ended Queue)

- ADT that allows efficient insertion and removal from the front and the back
- 6 major methods
  - `push_front()`, `pop_front()`, `front()`
  - `push_back()`, `pop_back()`, `back()`
- Minor methods
  - `size()`, `empty()`
- Can traverse using iterator

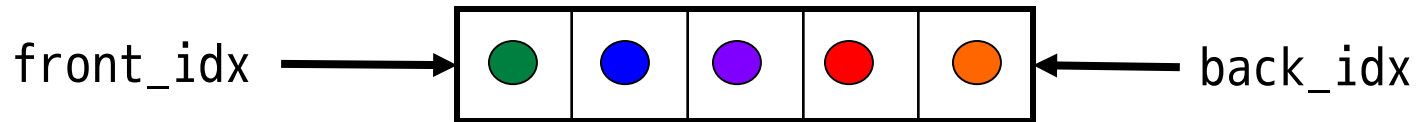


- 
- STL includes constant time `operator[]()`

# Simple Dequeue Implementation

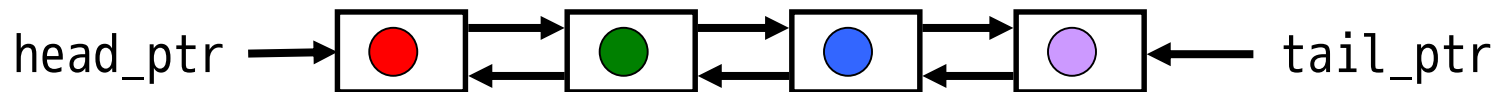
## Circular Buffer

- front\_idx and back\_idx both get incremented/decremented

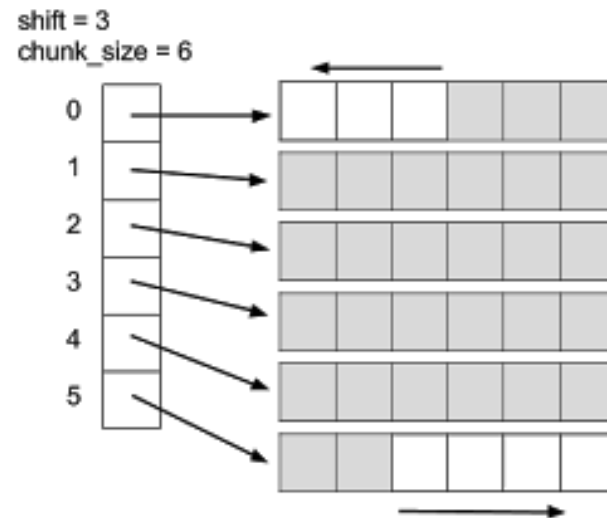
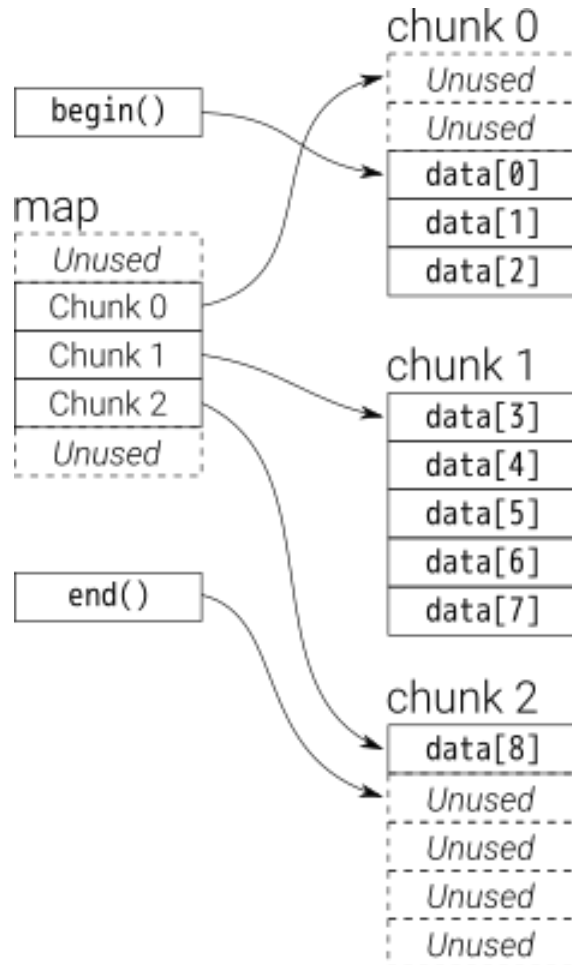


## Doubly-linked list

- Singly-linked doesn't support efficient removal
- Other operations map directly to doubly-linked list operations



# STL Deque, Two Internal Views



Taken from: <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6292332/what-really-is-a-deque-in-stl>  
and <http://cpp-tip-of-the-day.blogspot.com/2013/11/how-is-stddeque-implemented.html>

# STL Deques: `std::deque<>`

- Code: `#include <deque>`
- Stack/Queue-like behavior at both ends
- Random access with `[]` or `.at()`

# Basic Containers: Deque

Data Structures & Algorithms

# Customizable Containers: Priority Queue

Data Structures & Algorithms

# What is a Priority Queue?

- Each datum paired with a priority value
  - Priority values are usually numbers
  - Should be able to compare priority values ( $<$ )
- Supports insertion of data and inspection
- Supports removal of datum with highest priority
  - "Most important" determined by given ordering

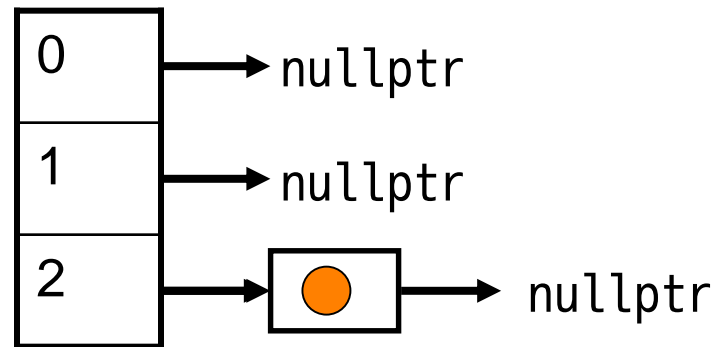


Like a group of bikers  
where the fastest ones  
exit the race first

# Priority Queue Example: Emergency Call Center

- Operators receive calls and assign levels of urgency
- Lower numbers indicate more urgent calls
- Calls are dispatched (or not dispatched) by computer to police squads based on urgency

1. Level 2 call comes in

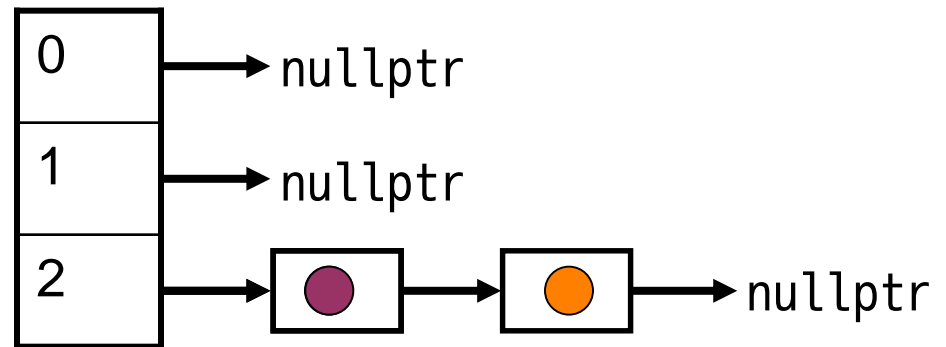




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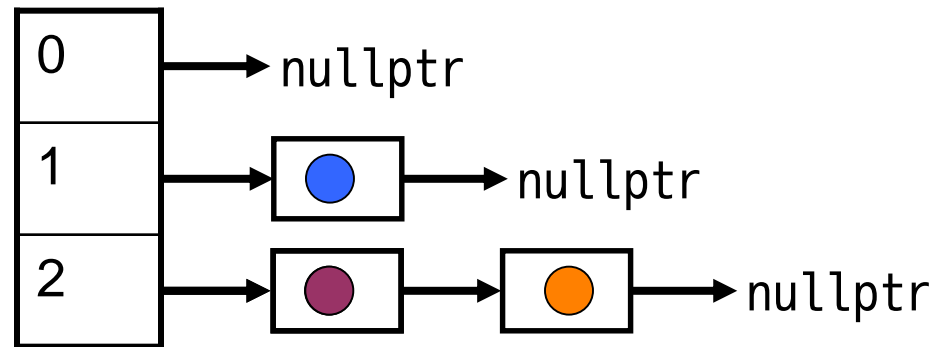
1. Level 2 call comes in
2. Level 2 call comes in



# Priority Queue Example: Emergency Call Center

- Operators receive calls and assign levels of urgency
- Lower numbers indicate more urgent calls
- Calls are dispatched (or not dispatched) by computer to police squads based on urgency

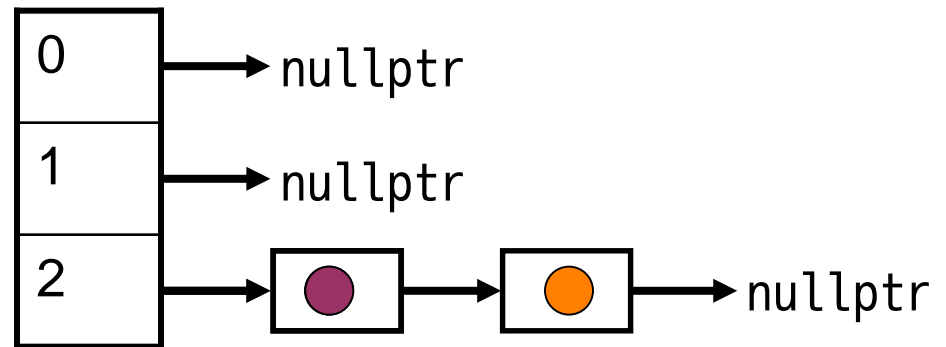
1. Level 2 call comes in
2. Level 2 call comes in
3. Level 1 call comes in



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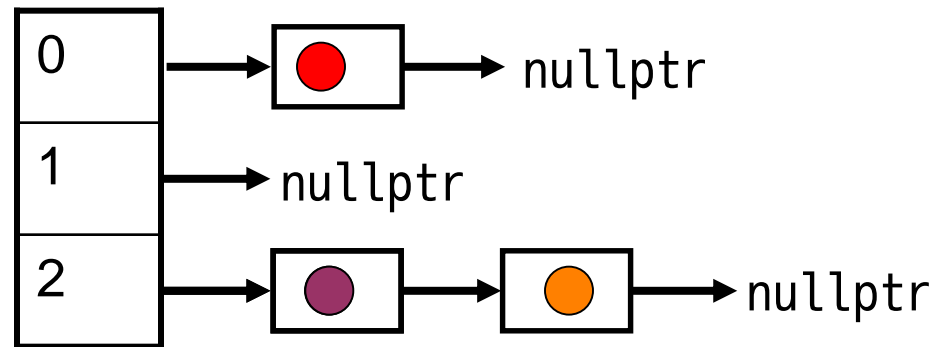
1. Level 2 call comes in
2. Level 2 call comes in
3. Level 1 call comes in
4. A call is dispatched



# Priority Queue Example: Emergency Call Center

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- Lower numbers indicate more urgent calls
- Calls are dispatched (or not dispatched) by computer to police squads based on urgency

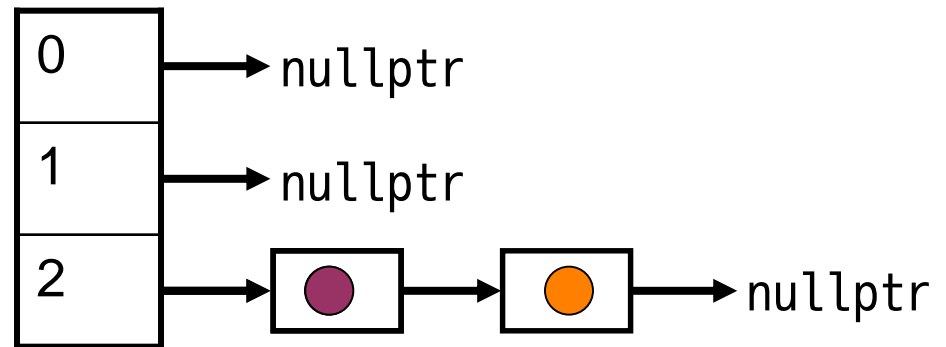
1. Level 2 call comes in
2. Level 2 call comes in
3. Level 1 call comes in
4. A call is dispatched
5. Level 0 call comes in



# Priority Queue Example: Emergency Call Center

- Operators receive calls and assign levels of urgency
- Lower numbers indicate more urgent calls
- Calls are dispatched (or not dispatched) by computer to police squads based on urgency

1. Level 2 call comes in
2. Level 2 call comes in
3. Level 1 call comes in
4. A call is dispatched
5. Level 0 call comes in
6. A call is dispatched



# Priority Queue ADT: Interface

- Supports insertion, with removal in descending priority order

Method	Description
push(object)	Add object to the priority queue
pop()	Remove highest priority element
const object &top()	Return a reference to highest priority element
size()	Number of elements in priority queue
empty()	Checks if priority queue has no elements

## Examples

- Hospital queue for arriving patients
- Load balancing on servers

# Priority Queue Implementations

Underlying Implementation	Insert	Remove
Unordered sequence container	Constant	Linear
Sorted sequence container	Linear	Constant
Heap (presented in a future lecture)	Logarithmic	Logarithmic
Array of linked lists (for priorities of small integers)	Constant	Constant

# A Customizable Container

- By default `std::priority_queue<>` uses `std::less<>()` to determine relative priority of two elements
- A "default PQ" is a "max-PQ", where the largest element has highest priority
- If a "min-PQ" is desired, customize with `std::greater<>()`, so the smallest element has highest priority
- If the PQ will hold elements that cannot be compared with `std::less<>()` or `std::greater<>()`, customize with custom comparator (function object)
- Custom comparators can work with objects, perform tie-breaks on multiple object members, and other functionality



# STL PQs: `std::priority_queue<>`

- STL will maintain a Heap in any random access container
  - `#include <queue>`
- Common `std::priority_queue<>` declarations
  - “Max” PQ using `std::less<>()`  
`std::priority_queue<T> myPQ;`
  - PQ using a custom comparator type, `COMP`  
`std::priority_queue<T, vector<T>, COMP> myPQ;`
- Manual priority queue implementation with standard library functions
  - `#include <algorithm>`
  - `std::make_heap()`
  - `std::push_heap()`
  - `std::pop_heap()`

# Customizable Containers: Priority Queue

Data Structures & Algorithms