



Data Structure

(Course Code: 25B11CI318)

Linked List

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Need for Linked Lists

Instead of storing elements in contiguous memory, we store each element in a separate memory location.

Each element stores

- Data
- Address of the next node

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Each element stores

- Data
- Address of the next node

Advantages

- Dynamic Size
- Easy Insertion
- Easy Deletion
- Better Memory Utilization

What is a Linked List?

Definition

A linked list is a linear data structure in which each element is called a **node**.

Each node contains

- ① Data
- ② Address of the next node

The nodes are connected using pointers.

What is a Linked List?

Definition

A linked list is a linear data structure in which each element is called a **node**.

Each node contains

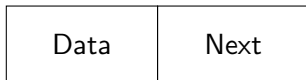
- ① Data
- ② Address of the next node

The nodes are connected using pointers.

$$Node = (Data, Next)$$

Structure of a Node

Node Representation

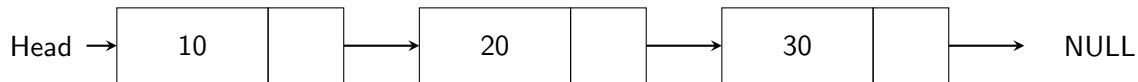


C Structure

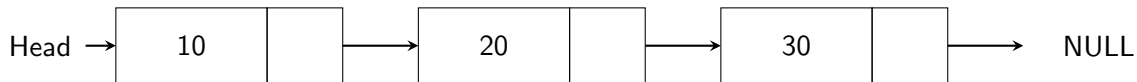
```
1 struct Node
2 {
3     int data;
4     struct Node *next;
5 };
```

The pointer stores the address of the next node.

Representation of a Linked List



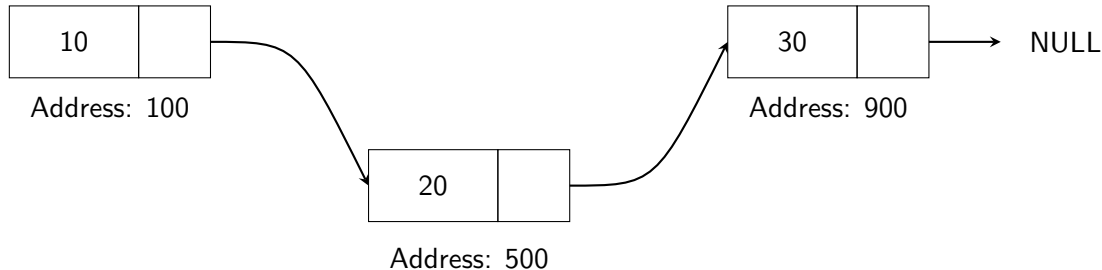
Representation of a Linked List



Nodes are connected using pointers.
The last node points to **NULL**.

Memory Representation of a Linked List

Unlike arrays, linked list nodes are stored at **different memory locations**.

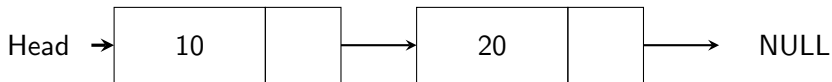


Observation

Nodes need not be stored in contiguous memory.

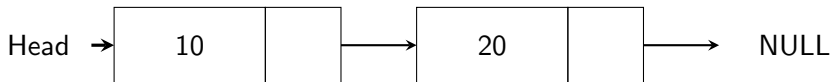
Head Pointer

The **Head Pointer** stores the address of the first node in the linked list.



Head Pointer

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Important

If

Head = NULL

then the linked list is empty.

Dynamic Memory Allocation

Nodes are created during program execution.

```
#include <stdlib.h>

struct Node *newNode;

newNode =
(struct Node*)
malloc(sizeof(struct Node));
```

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```

Memory is allocated from the

Heap Memory

Advantages

- Memory allocated only when required.
- No fixed size limitation.

Creating a New Node

```
1 struct Node *newNode;  
2  
3 newNode =  
4 (struct Node*)  
5 malloc(sizeof(struct Node));  
6  
7 newNode->data = 25;  
8  
9 newNode->next = NULL;
```

Creating a New Node

```
struct Node *newNode;  
  
newNode =  
(struct Node*)  
malloc(sizeof(struct Node));  
  
newNode->data = 25;  
  
newNode->next = NULL;
```

Result

25	NULL
----	------

Traversal of a Linked List

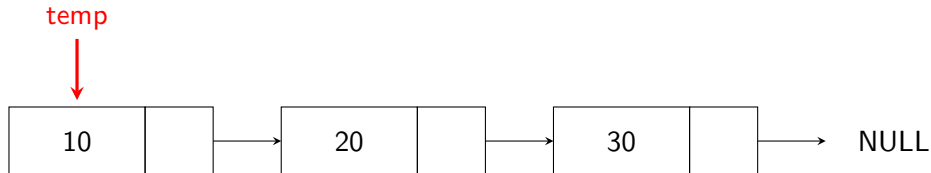
Algorithm

```
temp = head;
while(temp != NULL)
{
    printf("%d ", temp->data);
    temp = temp->next;
}
```

Traversal of a Linked List

Algorithm

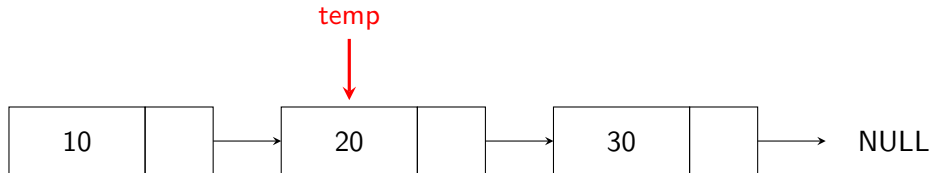
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Traversal of a Linked List

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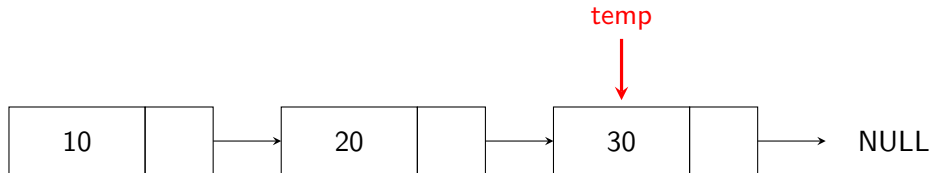
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Traversal of a Linked List

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Accessing Nodes

Unlike arrays,

No Direct Indexing

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To access the 4th node, we must visit

$1^{st} \rightarrow 2^{nd} \rightarrow 3^{rd} \rightarrow 4^{th}$

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Operation	Complexity
Access	$O(n)$
Traversal	$O(n)$
Search	$O(n)$

Key Point

Linked Lists provide sequential access, not random access.

Insertion at the Beginning

Insert node containing **5** at the beginning.

Steps

Insertion at the Beginning

Insert node containing **5** at the beginning.

Steps

- 1 Create a new node.

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- ① Create a new node.
- ② Store the value in the new node.

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Insertion at the Beginning

Insert node containing **5** at the beginning.

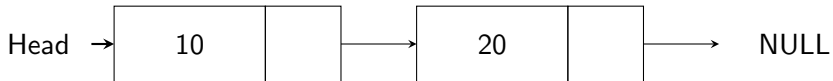
Steps

- ① Create a new node.
- ② Store the value in the new node.
- ③ New node points to the current head.
- ④ Make the new node the new head.

$$\text{Time Complexity} = O(1)$$

Insertion at the Beginning

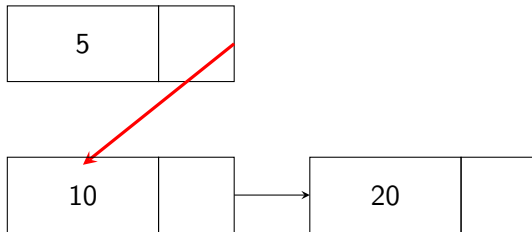
Goal: Insert **5** before the first node.



Insertion at the Beginning

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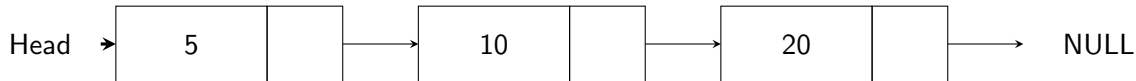
New Node



Time Complexity = $O(1)$

Insertion at the Beginning

Goal: Insert **5** before the first node.



Time Complexity = $O(1)$

Insertion at Beginning

```
newNode = malloc(sizeof(struct Node));  
newNode->data = value;  
newNode->next = head;  
head = newNode;
```

Insertion at Beginning

```
newNode = malloc(sizeof(struct Node));  
newNode->data = value;  
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Time Complexity = $O(1)$

Insertion at the End

Insert node containing **30**.

Steps

Insertion at the End

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Steps

- 1 Traverse to the last node.

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Insertion at the End

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- ➊ Traverse to the last node.
- ➋ Create a new node.
- ➌ Last node's next points to new node.

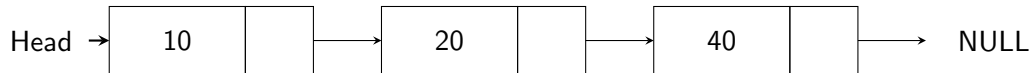
Insertion at the End

Insert node containing **30**.

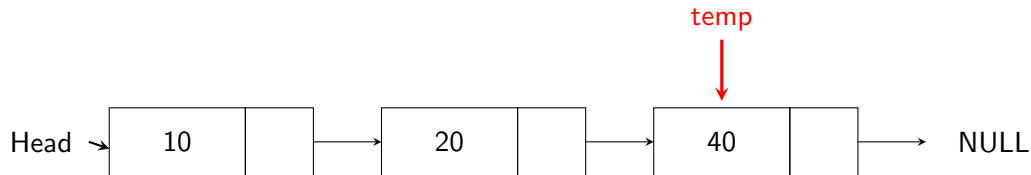
Steps

- ➊ Traverse to the last node.
- ➋ Create a new node.
- ➌ Last node's next points to new node.
- ➍ New node points to NULL.

Insertion at the End

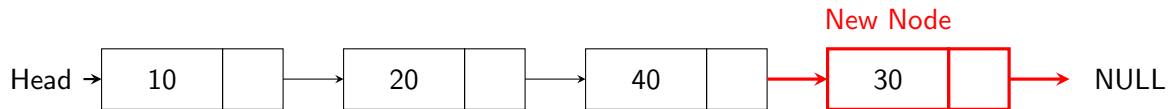


Insertion at the End



Time Complexity = $O(n)$

Insertion at the End



Time Complexity = $O(n)$

Insertion at End

```
1 newNode = malloc(sizeof(struct Node));  
2  
3 newNode->data = value;  
4 newNode->next = NULL;  
5  
6 temp = head;  
7  
8 while(temp->next != NULL)  
9 {  
10     temp = temp->next;  
11 }  
12  
13 temp->next = newNode;
```

Insertion at End

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1 newNode = malloc(sizeof(struct Node));  
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6 temp = head;  
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```

Time Complexity = $O(n)$

Insertion After a Given Node

Insert node containing **25** after node 20.

Steps

Insertion After a Given Node

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Steps

- 1 Traverse to the node containing 20.

Insertion After a Given Node

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Insertion After a Given Node

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- ➊ Traverse to the node containing 20.
- ➋ Create a new node.
- ➌ New node points to the next node of 20.

Insertion After a Given Node

Insert node containing **25** after node 20.

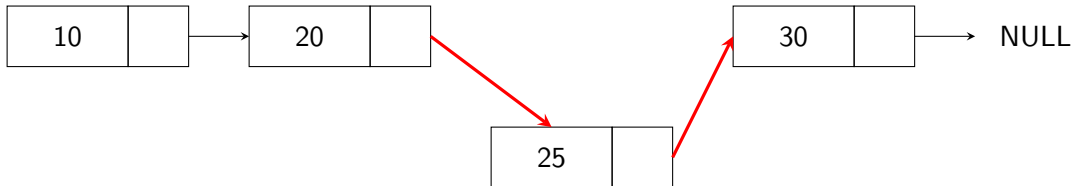
Steps

- ➊ Traverse to the node containing 20.
- ➋ Create a new node.
- ➌ New node points to the next node of 20.
- ➍ Node 20 points to the new node.

Time Complexity = $O(n)$

Insertion After a Given Node

Insert **25** after node containing 20.



Insertion After a Given Node

```
newNode = malloc(sizeof(struct Node));

newNode->data = value;

temp = head;

while(temp != NULL && temp->data != key)
{
    temp = temp->next;
}

if(temp != NULL)
{
    newNode->next = temp->next;
    temp->next = newNode;
}
```

Insertion After a Given Node

```
newNode = malloc(sizeof(struct Node));

newNode->data = value;

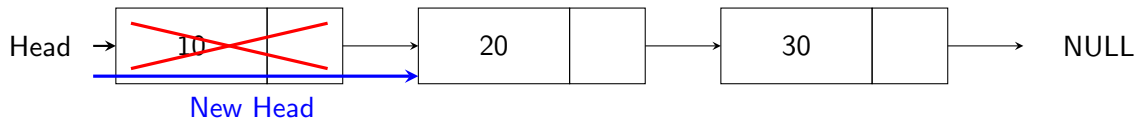
temp = head;

while(temp != NULL && temp->data != key)
{
    temp = temp->next;
}

if(temp != NULL)
{
    newNode->next = temp->next;
    temp->next = newNode;
}
```

Deletion from the Beginning

Delete the first node containing **10**.



Operation:

$\text{Head} = \text{Head} \rightarrow \text{next}$

The first node is removed and **20** becomes the new head.

Deletion from the Beginning

Delete the first node containing **10**.

Steps

Deletion from the Beginning

Delete the first node containing **10**.

Steps

- 1 Check whether the list is empty.

Deletion from the Beginning

Delete the first node containing **10**.

Steps

- ① Check whether the list is empty.
- ② Store the first node in a temporary pointer.

Deletion from the Beginning

Delete the first node containing **10**.

Steps

- ① Check whether the list is empty.
- ② Store the first node in a temporary pointer.
- ③ Move head to the next node.

Deletion from the Beginning

Delete the first node containing **10**.

Steps

- ① Check whether the list is empty.
- ② Store the first node in a temporary pointer.
- ③ Move head to the next node.
- ④ Free the temporary node.

Time Complexity = $O(1)$

Deletion from Beginning

```
temp = head;  
  
if(head != NULL)  
{  
    head = head->next;  
    free(temp);  
}
```

Deletion from Beginning

```
temp = head;  
  
if(head != NULL)  
{  
    head = head->next;  
    free(temp);  
}
```

Time Complexity = $O(1)$

Deletion from the End

Delete the last node containing **30**.



Operation:

Traverse to the last node's predecessor and set:

$\text{temp} \rightarrow \text{next} = \text{NULL}$

The last node is removed.

Deletion from the End

Delete the last node containing **30**.

Steps

Deletion from the End

Delete the last node containing **30**.

Steps

- 1 Check whether the list is empty.

Deletion from the End

Delete the last node containing **30**.

Steps

- ① Check whether the list is empty.
- ② Traverse to the second-last node.

Deletion from the End

Delete the last node containing **30**.

Steps

- ① Check whether the list is empty.
- ② Traverse to the second-last node.
- ③ Store the last node in a temporary pointer.

Deletion from the End

Delete the last node containing **30**.

Steps

- ① Check whether the list is empty.
- ② Traverse to the second-last node.
- ③ Store the last node in a temporary pointer.
- ④ Set the second-last node's next to NULL.

Deletion from the End

Delete the last node containing **30**.

Steps

- ① Check whether the list is empty.
- ② Traverse to the second-last node.
- ③ Store the last node in a temporary pointer.
- ④ Set the second-last node's next to NULL.
- ⑤ Free the last node.

$$\text{Time Complexity} = O(n)$$

Deletion from End

```
temp = head;

while(temp->next->next != NULL)
{
    temp = temp->next;
}

free(temp->next);
temp->next = NULL;
```

Deletion from End

```
temp = head;

while(temp->next->next != NULL)
{
    temp = temp->next;
}

free(temp->next);
temp->next = NULL;
```

Time Complexity = $O(n)$

Deletion After a Given Node

Delete the node containing **25** after node 20.

Steps

Deletion After a Given Node

Delete the node containing **25** after node 20.

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- 1 Traverse to the given node.

Deletion After a Given Node

Delete the node containing **25** after node 20.

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- ② Store the node to be deleted in a temporary pointer.

Deletion After a Given Node

Delete the node containing **25** after node 20.

Steps

- ➊ Traverse to the given node.
- ➋ Store the node to be deleted in a temporary pointer.
- ➌ Change the given node's next pointer.

Deletion After a Given Node

Delete the node containing **25** after node 20.

Steps

- ➊ Traverse to the given node.
- ➋ Store the node to be deleted in a temporary pointer.
- ➌ Change the given node's next pointer.
- ➍ Free the deleted node.

$$\text{Time Complexity} = O(n)$$

Deletion of a Given Node

```
temp = head;

while(temp->next != NULL &&
      temp->next->data != key)
{
    temp = temp->next;
}

del = temp->next;

temp->next = del->next;

free(del);
```

Deletion of a Given Node

```
temp = head;

while(temp->next != NULL &&
      temp->next->data != key)
{
    temp = temp->next;
}

del = temp->next;

temp->next = del->next;

free(del);
```

Time Complexity = $O(n)$

Finding the Middle Node

Use two pointers: **slow** and **fast**.

Steps

Finding the Middle Node

Use two pointers: **slow** and **fast**.

Steps

- 1 Initialize both pointers at head.

Finding the Middle Node

Use two pointers: **slow** and **fast**.

Steps

- ➊ Initialize both pointers at head.
- ➋ Move `slow` one node at a time.

Finding the Middle Node

Use two pointers: **slow** and **fast**.

Steps

- ➊ Initialize both pointers at head.
- ➋ Move **slow** one node at a time.
- ➌ Move **fast** two nodes at a time.

Finding the Middle Node

Use two pointers: **slow** and **fast**.

Steps

- ① Initialize both pointers at head.
- ② Move slow one node at a time.
- ③ Move fast two nodes at a time.
- ④ When fast reaches the end, slow is at the middle.

Slow Pointer: 1 step

Fast Pointer: 2 steps

Finding the Middle Node

```
slow = head;
fast = head;

while(fast != NULL && fast->next != NULL)
{
    slow = slow->next;
    fast = fast->next->next;
}

printf("Middle = %d", slow->data);
```

Finding the Middle Node

```
slow = head;
fast = head;

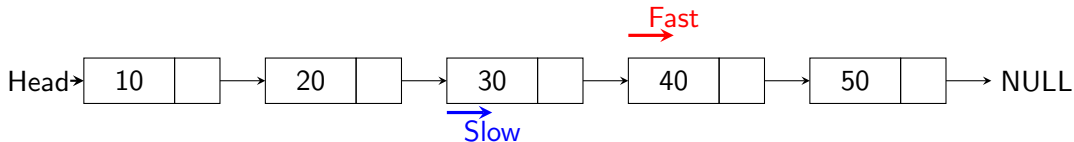
while(fast != NULL && fast->next != NULL)
{
    slow = slow->next;
    fast = fast->next->next;
}

printf("Middle = %d", slow->data);
```

Time Complexity = $O(n)$

Space Complexity = $O(1)$

Finding the Middle Node



slow → 30

fast → 40

Thank You

Questions?