

Ch. 17: Linked Lists

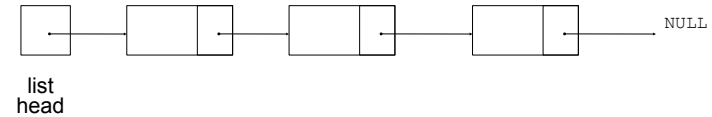
CS 2308
Spring 2013

Jill Seaman

1

17.1 Introduction to Linked Lists

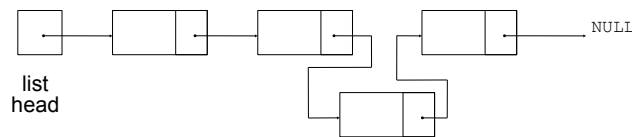
- A data structure representing a list
- A series of nodes chained together in sequence
 - Each node points to one other node.
- A separate pointer (the head) points to the first item in the list.
- The last element points to nothing (NULL)



2

Introduction to Linked Lists

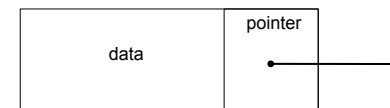
- The nodes are dynamically allocated
 - The list grows and shrinks as nodes are added/removed.
- Linked lists can easily insert a node between other nodes
- Linked lists can easily delete a node from between other nodes



3

Node Organization

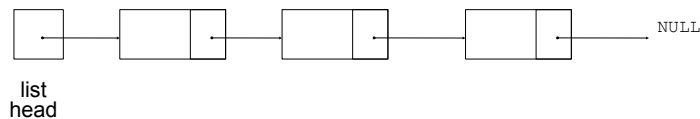
- The node is usually implemented as a struct
- Each node contains:
 - a data field – may be organized as a structure, an object, etc.
 - a pointer – that can point to another node



4

Linked List Organization

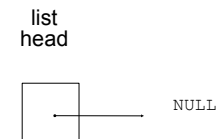
- A linked list contains 0 or more nodes
- The list head is a pointer that points to the first node.
- Each node points to the next node in the list.
- The last node points to NULL (address 0).



5

Empty List

- An empty list contains 0 nodes.
- The list head points to NULL (address 0)
- (There are no nodes, it's empty)



6

Declaring the Linked List data type

- We will be defining a class to represent a linked list data type that can store values of type double.
- This data type will describe the values (the lists) and operations over those values.
- In order to define the values we must:
 - define a (nested) data type for the nodes
 - define a pointer variable (head) that points to the first node in the list.

7

Declaring the Node data type

- Use a struct for the node type

```
struct ListNode {
    double value;
    ListNode *next;
};
```

- (this is just a data type, no variables declared)
- next can hold the address of a ListNode.
 - it can also be NULL
 - “self-referential data structure”

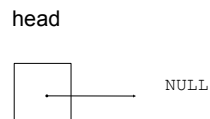
8

Defining the Linked List member variable

- Define a pointer for the head of the list:

```
ListNode *head;
```

- It must be initialized to NULL to signify the end of the list.
- Now we have an empty linked list:



9

Using NULL

- Equivalent to address 0
- Used to specify end of the list
- NULL is defined in the cstdint header:

```
#include <cstdint>
```

- to test a pointer for NULL (these are equivalent):

```
while (p) ... <==> while (p != NULL) ...
```

```
if (!p) ... <==> if (p == NULL) ...
```

10

17.2 Linked List operations

- Basic operations:
 - **create** a new, empty list
 - **append** a node to the end of the list
 - **insert** a node within the list
 - **delete** a node
 - **display** the linked list
 - **delete/destroy** the list

11

Linked List class declaration

```
#include <cstdint> // for NULL
using namespace std;

class NumberList
{
private:
    struct ListNode // the node data type
    {
        double value; // data
        struct ListNode *next; // ptr to next node
    };
    ListNode *head; // the list head

public:
    NumberList(); // creates an empty list
    ~NumberList();

    void appendNode(double);
    void insertNode(double);
    void deleteNode(double);
    void displayList();
};
```

12

Operation: Create the empty list

- Constructor: sets up empty list

```
#include "NumberList.h" NumberList.cpp  
  
NumberList::NumberList()  
{  
    head = NULL;  
}
```

13

Operation: append node to end of list

- appendNode: adds new node to end of list
- Algorithm:

Create a new node and store the data in it
If the list has no nodes (it's empty)
 Make head point to the new node.
Else
 Find the last node in the list
 Make the last node point to the new node

14

appendNode: find last elem

- How to find the last node in the list?
- Algorithm:

Make a pointer p point to the first element
while (the node p points to) is not pointing to NULL
 make p point to (the node p points to) is pointing to

- In C++:

```
ListNode *p = head;  
while ((*p).next != NULL)  
    p = (*p).next;
```

<==>

```
ListNode *p = head;  
while (p->next)  
    p = p->next;
```

p=p->next is like i++ ¹⁵

```
void NumberList::appendNode(double num) { in NumberList.cpp  
  
    ListNode *newNode; // To point to the new node  
  
    // Create a new node and store the data in it  
    newNode = new ListNode;  
    newNode->value = num;  
    newNode->next = NULL;  
  
    // If empty, make head point to new node  
    if (head==NULL)  
        head = newNode;  
  
    else {  
        ListNode *p; // To move through the list  
        p = head; // initialize to start of list  
  
        // traverse list to find last node  
        while (p->next) //it's not last  
            p = p->next; //make it pt to next  
  
        // now p pts to last node  
        // make last node point to newNode  
        p->next = newNode;  
    }  
}
```

16

Driver to demo NumberList

- ListDriver.cpp version 1 (no output)

```
in ListDriver.cpp
#include "NumberList.h"

int main() {
    // Define the list
    NumberList list;

    // Append some values to the list
    list.appendNode(2.5);
    list.appendNode(7.9);
    list.appendNode(12.6);
    return 0;
}
```

17

Traversing a Linked List

- Visit each node in a linked list, to
 - display contents, sum data, test data, etc.
- Basic process:

set a pointer to point to what head points to
while pointer is not NULL
process data of current node
go to the next node by setting the pointer to
the pointer field of the current node
end while

18

Operation: display the list

```
in NumberList.cpp
void NumberList::displayList() {
    ListNode *p; //ptr to traverse the list
    // start p at the head of the list
    p = head;
    // while p pts to something (not NULL), continue
    while (p)
    {
        //Display the value in the current node
        cout << p->value << endl;

        //Move to the next node
        p = p->next;
    }
}
```

19

Driver to demo NumberList

- ListDriver.cpp version 2

```
in ListDriver.cpp
#include "NumberList.h"

int main() {
    // Define the list
    NumberList list;

    // Append some values to the list
    list.appendNode(2.5);
    list.appendNode(7.9);
    list.appendNode(12.6);

    // Display the values in the list.
    list.displayList();
    return 0;
}
```

```
Output:
2.5
7.9
12.6
```

20

Operation: destroy a List

- The destructor must “delete” (deallocate) all nodes used in the list
- To do this, use list traversal to visit each node
- ~NumberList: what’s wrong with this definition?

```
NumberList::~NumberList() {  
    ListNode *p;    // traversal ptr  
    p = head;      //start at head of list  
  
    while (p) {  
        delete p;    // delete current  
        p = p->next; // advance ptr  
    }  
}
```

21

destructor

- You need to save p->next before deleting p:

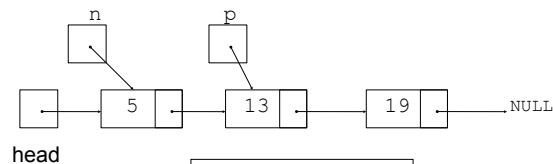
```
NumberList::~NumberList() {  
    ListNode *p;    // traversal ptr  
    ListNode *n;    // saves the next node  
  
    p = head;      //start at head of list  
  
    while (p) {  
        n = p->next; // save the next  
        delete p;    // delete current  
        p = n;       // advance ptr  
    }  
}
```

in NumberList.cpp

22

Operation: **delete** a node from the list

- deleteNode: removes node from list, and deletes (deallocates) the removed node.
- Requires two extra pointers:
 - one to point to the node before the node to be deleted. (n) [why?]
 - one to point to the node to be deleted (p) [why?]

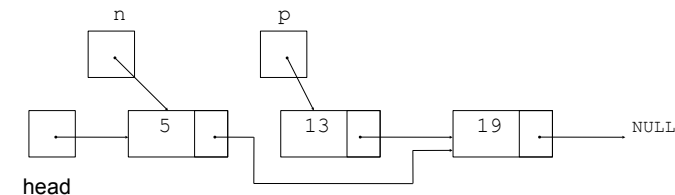


23

Deleting a node

- Change the pointer of the previous node to point to the node after the one to be deleted.

```
n->next = p->next;
```

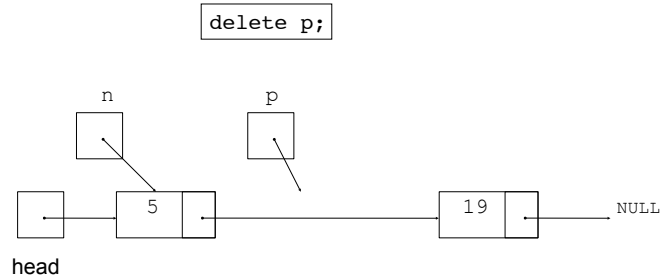


- Now just “delete” the p node

24

Deleting a node

- After the node is deleted:



25

deleteNode code

```
in NumberList.cpp  
void NumberList::deleteNode(double num) {  
    // empty list, exit  
    if (head==NULL)  
        return;  
  
    ListNode *p;        // to traverse the list  
  
    // check if first node is num  
    if (head->value == num) {  
        p = head;  
        head = p->next;  
        delete p;  
    }  
  
    // else is continued on next slide
```

26

deleteNode code cont.

```
in NumberList.cpp  
else {  
    ListNode *n; // trailing node pointer  
  
    // initialize traversal ptr to first node  
    p = head;  
  
    // skip nodes not equal to num, stop at last  
    while (p && p->value != num) {  
        n = p; // save it!  
        p = p->next; // advance it  
    }  
  
    // p not null: num is found, set links + delete  
    if (p != NULL) {  
        n->next = p->next;  
        delete p;  
    }  
    // else: end of list, num not found in list  
}
```

27

Driver to demo NumberList

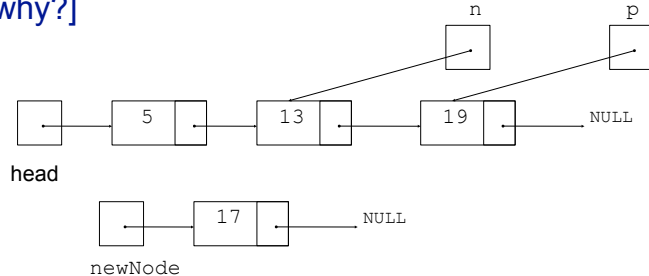
```
in ListDriver.cpp  
// set up the list  
NumberList list;  
list.appendNode(2.5);  
list.appendNode(7.9);  
list.appendNode(12.6);  
list.displayList();  
  
cout << endl << "remove 7.9:" << endl;  
list.deleteNode(7.9);  
list.displayList();  
  
cout << endl << "remove 8.9: " << endl;  
list.deleteNode(8.9);  
list.displayList();  
  
cout << endl << "remove 2.5: " << endl;  
list.deleteNode(2.5);  
list.displayList();
```

```
Output:  
2.5  
7.9  
12.6  
  
remove 7.9:  
2.5  
12.6  
  
remove 8.9:  
2.5  
12.6  
  
remove 2.5:  
12.6
```

28

Operation: insert a node into a linked list

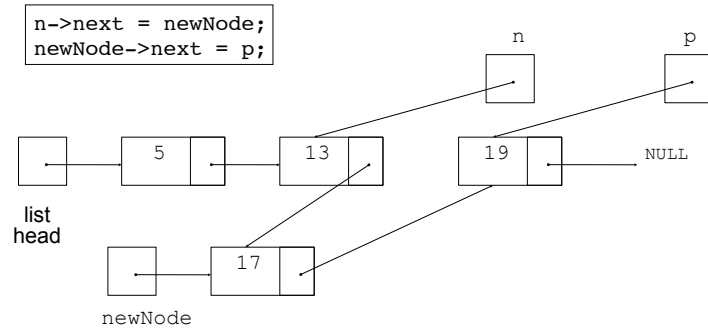
- Inserts a new node into the middle of a list.
- Requires two extra pointers:
 - one to point to node before the insertion point [why?]
 - one to point to the node after the insertion point [why?]



29

Inserting a Node into a Linked List

- Insertion completed:



30

Insert Node Algorithm

How do you determine the insertion point?

- Maintain sorted list: the insertion point is immediately before the first node in the list that has a value greater than the value being inserted. We do this.
- Insert by position: InsertNode takes a second argument that is the index of a node. Insert new value before that node.
- Use a cursor: The list might have a pointer to a "current node", insert new value before the current node.

31

insertNode code

```

in NumberList.cpp
void NumberList::insertNode(double num) {
    ListNode *newNode; // ptr to new node
    ListNode *p; // ptr to traverse list
    ListNode *n; // node previous to p

    //allocate new node
    newNode = new ListNode;
    newNode->value = num;

    // empty list, insert at front
    if (!head) {
        head = newNode;
        newNode->next = NULL;
    }

    //else is on the next slide . . .

```

32

insertNode code cont.

```
else {
    // initialize the two traversal ptrs
    p = head;
    n = NULL;

    // skip all nodes less than num
    while (p && p->value < num) {
        n = p;        // save
        p = p->next;  // advance
    }

    if (n == NULL) { //insert before first
        head = newNode;
        newNode->next = p;
    }
    else {           //insert after n
        n->next = newNode;
        newNode->next = p;
    }
}
}
```

in NumberList.cpp

33

Driver to demo NumberList

```
int main() {
    // set up the list
    NumberList list;
    list.appendNode(2.5);
    list.appendNode(7.9);
    list.appendNode(12.6);

    list.insertNode(10.5);

    list.displayList();

    return 0;
}
```

in ListDriver.cpp

```
Output:
2.5
7.9
10.5
12.6
```

34

Advantages of linked lists over arrays

- A linked list can easily grow or shrink in size.
 - The programmer doesn't need to know how many nodes will be in the list.
 - Nodes are created in memory as they are needed.
- When a node is inserted into or deleted from a linked list, none of the other nodes have to be moved.

35

Advantages of arrays over linked lists

- Arrays allow random access to elements: array[i]
 - linked lists allow only sequential access to elements (must traverse list to get to i'th element).
- Arrays do not require extra storage for "links"
 - linked lists are impractical for lists of characters or booleans (pointer value is bigger than data value).

36

Exercise: find four errors

```
int main() {
    struct node {
        int data;
        node * next;
    }

    // create empty list
    node * list;

    // insert six nodes at front of list
    node *n;
    for (int i=0;i<=5;i++) {
        n = new node;
        n->data = i;
        n->next = list;
    }

    // print list
    n = list;
    while (!n) {
        cout << n->data << " ";
        n = n->next;
    }
    cout << endl;
    return 0;
}
```