

ECE 220

Lecture x0011 - 03/21/24

Linked Lists - Introduction

Announcements

- Same as last class
 - Exam next week, HKN review session, conflict exam request deadline
 - TA nomination deadline is tomorrow

Recap

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- Last time we discussed:

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 - Automatic vs. dynamic memory allocation

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- Last time we discussed:
 - Automatic vs. dynamic memory allocation
 - `malloc` family of functions
 - `calloc`
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 - Calling `free` to release memory
 - Allocating 2D arrays
 - Memory leak vs. seg-faults
 - `valgrind` to detect memory leaks.

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 - A **list** is collection of *elements/items* which can be accessed sequentially.
 - Entertains the concept of **order**; first, second, last.
 - Note: An empty list is still a list.
- An **array** is an *indexed* list; i.e. can access elements by their index.

Linked list

Linked list

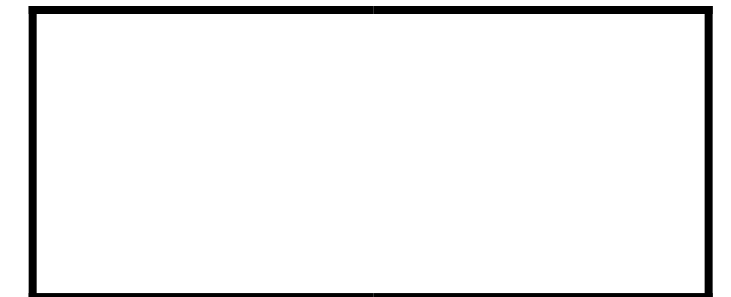
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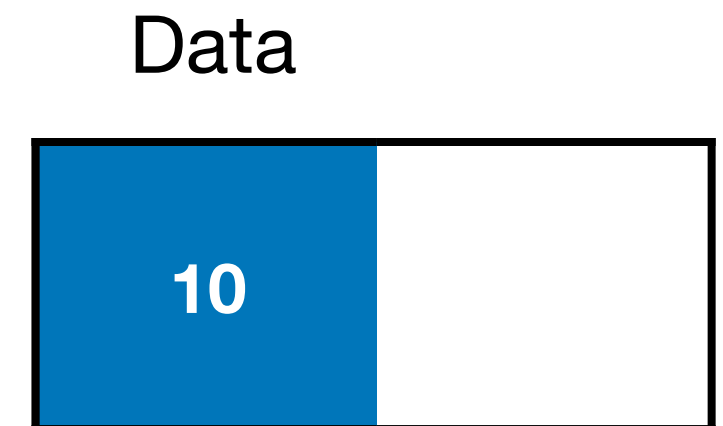
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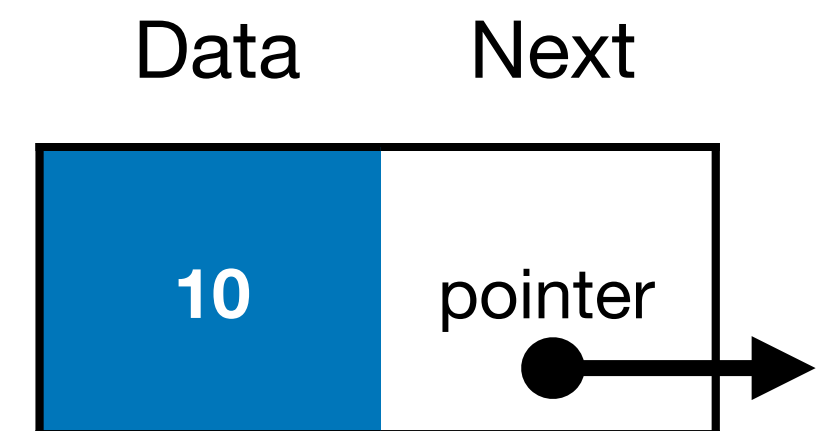
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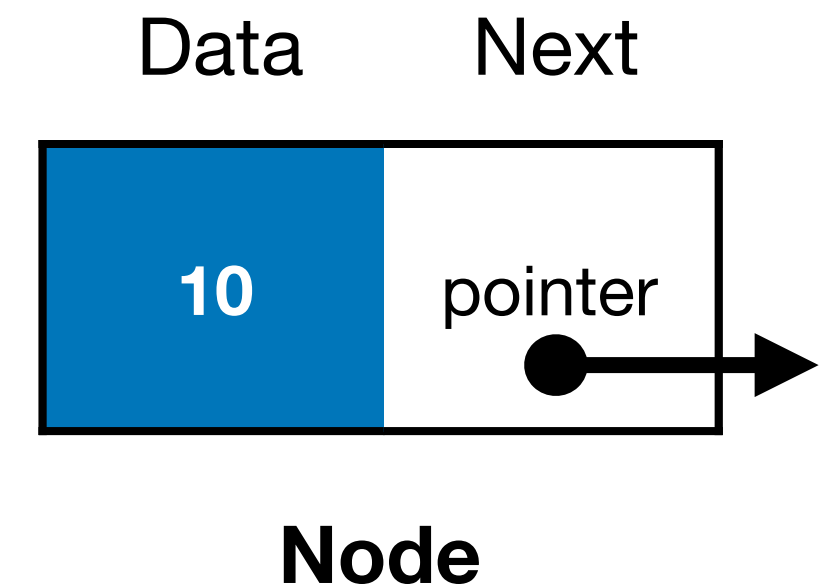
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 - And a ***next*** part (pointer) that stores the address of the next node.



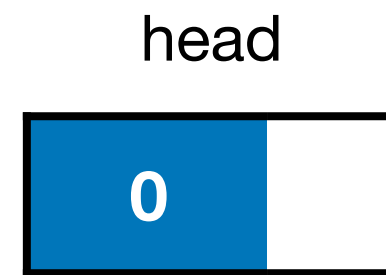
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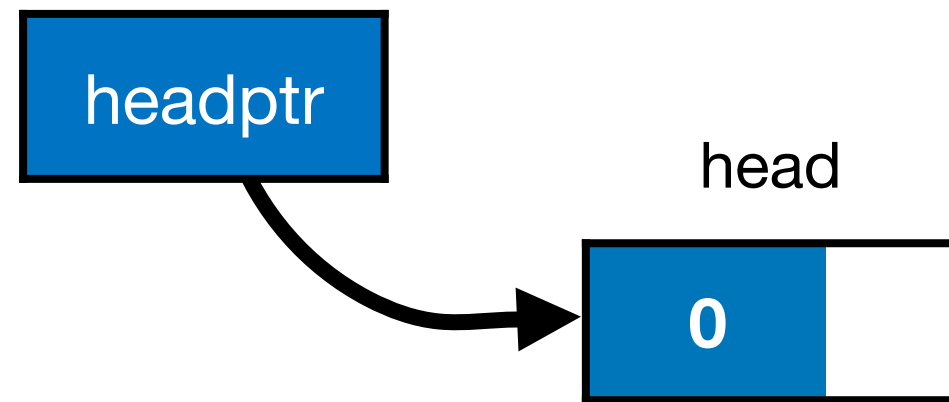
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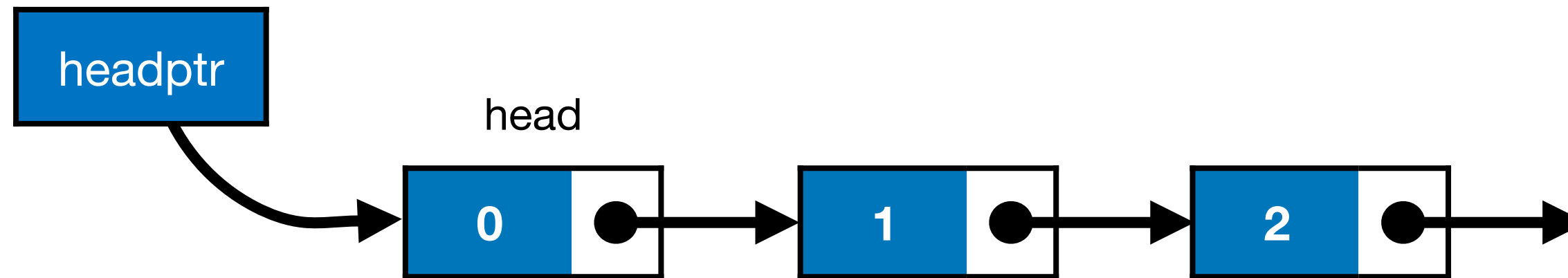
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Linked list



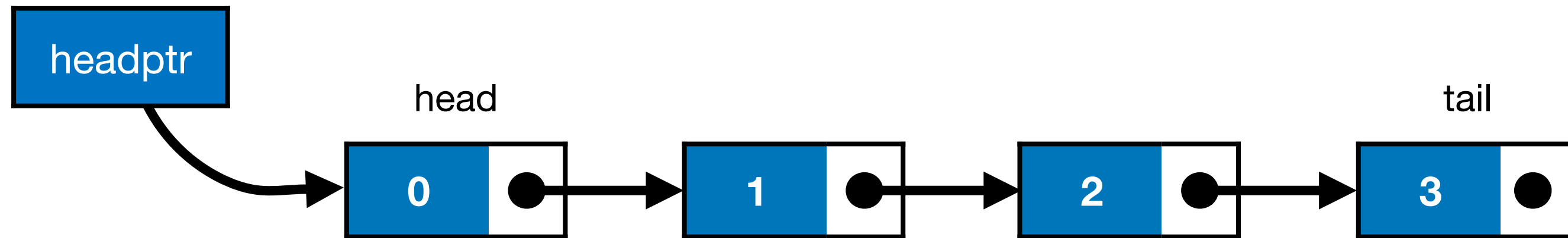
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Linked list



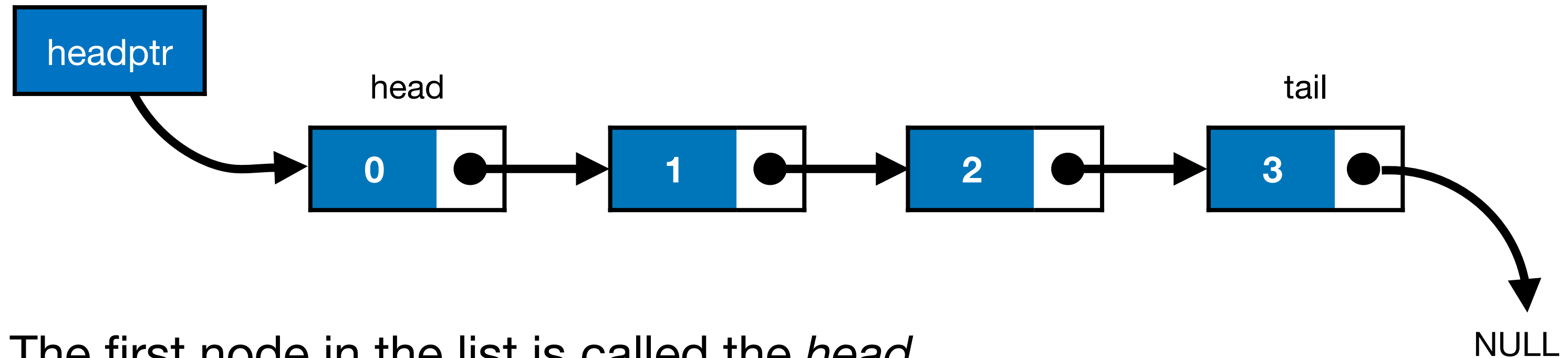
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Linked list



- The first node in the list is called the *head*
 - Accessed using pointer called ***head pointer***
 - Used as the starting reference to *traverse* the list
- The last node in the list is called the *tail*.
 - The tail may contain data, but it always points to NULL value

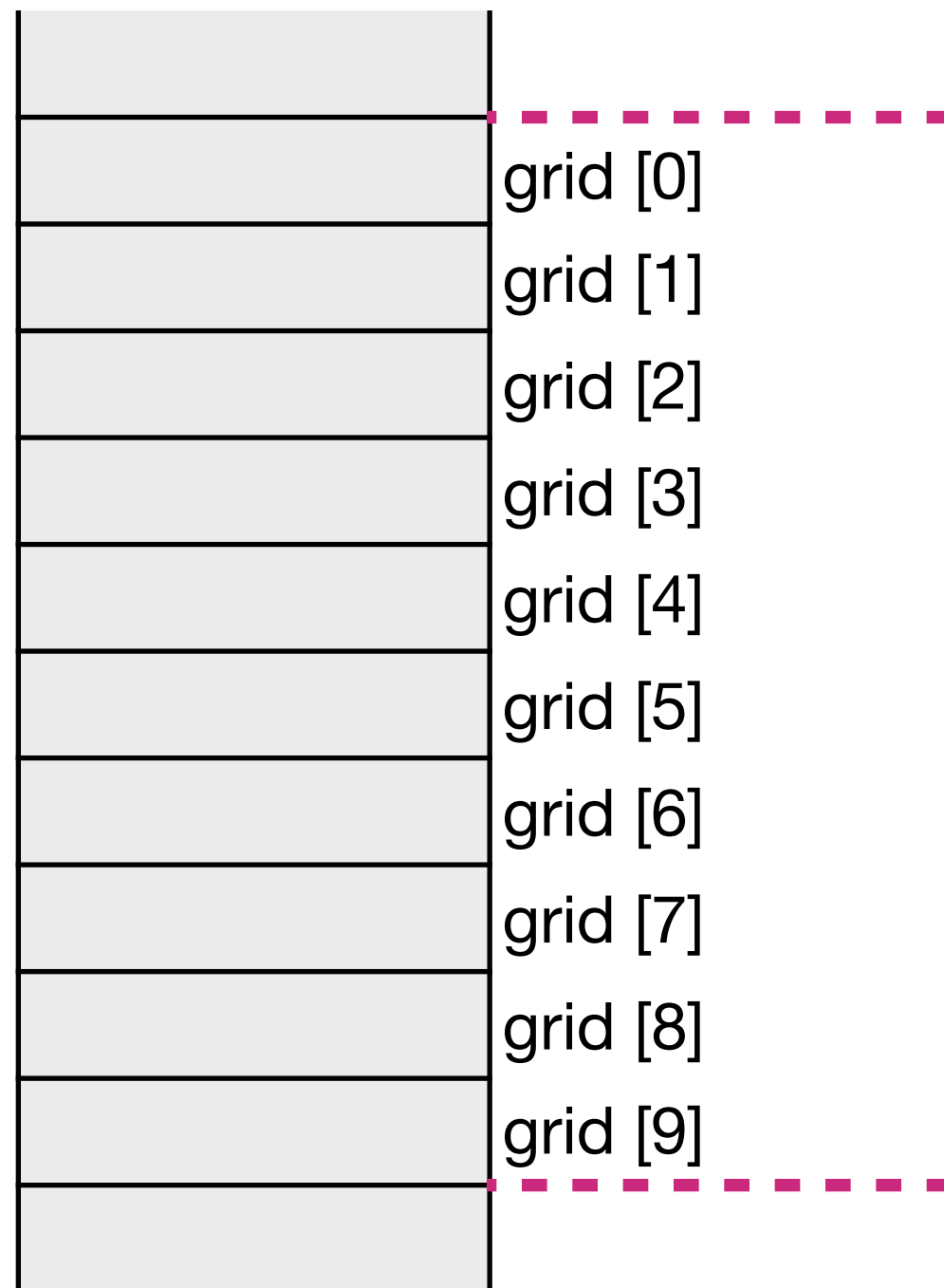
Array vs. linked list

Array vs. linked list

Array

(can be automatic or dynamic)

Array vs. linked list

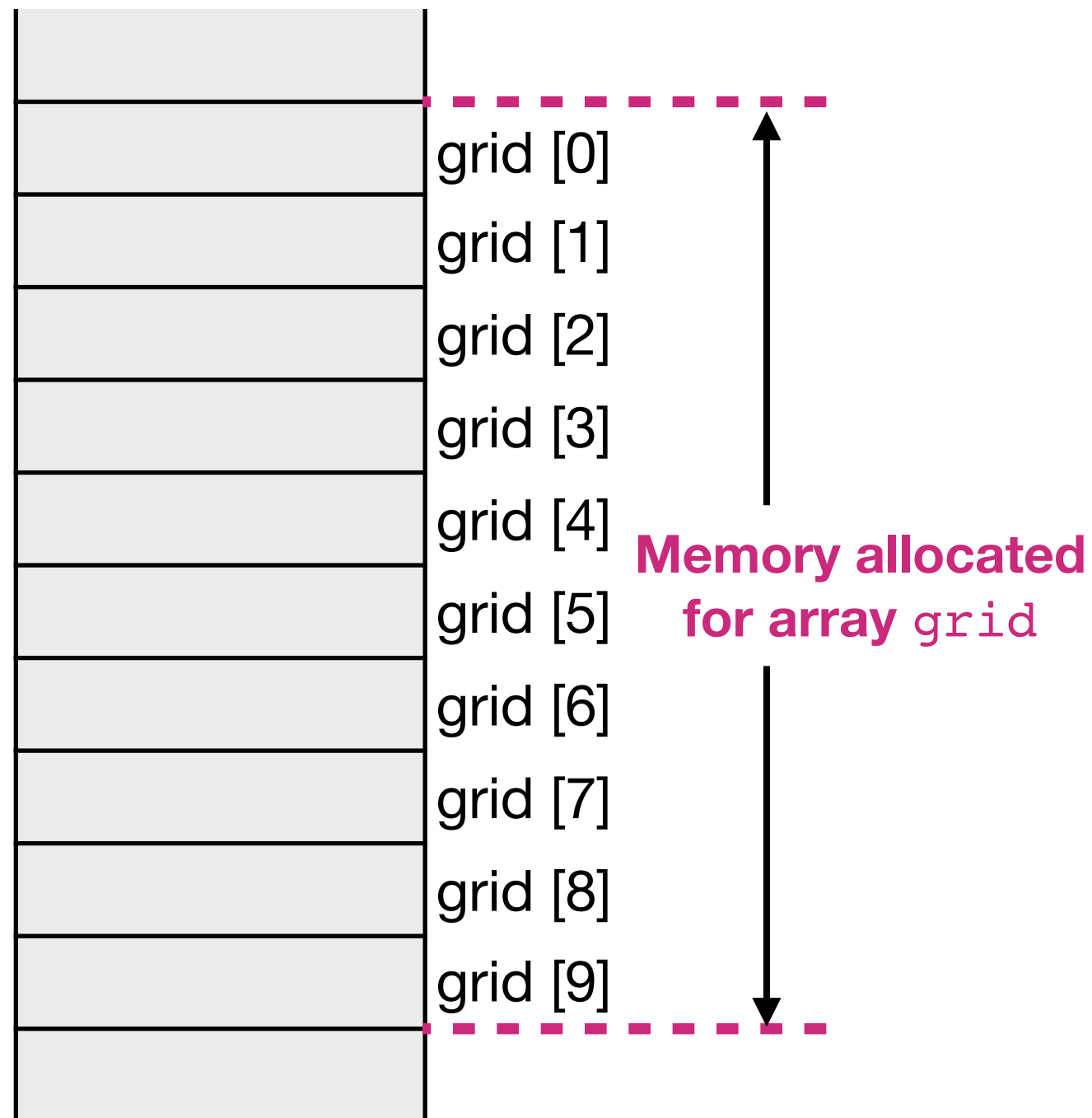


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Array vs. linked list

Memory

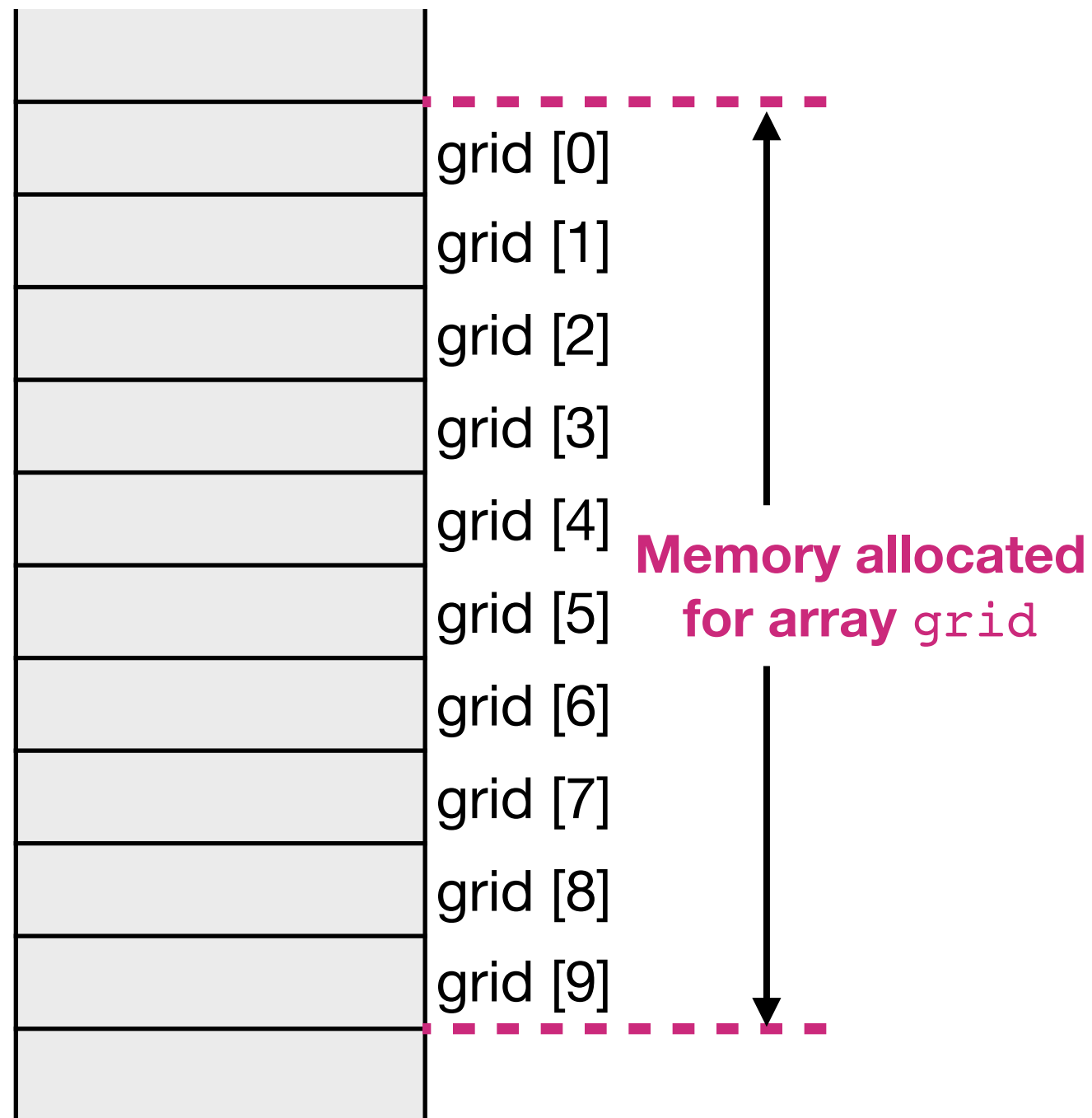


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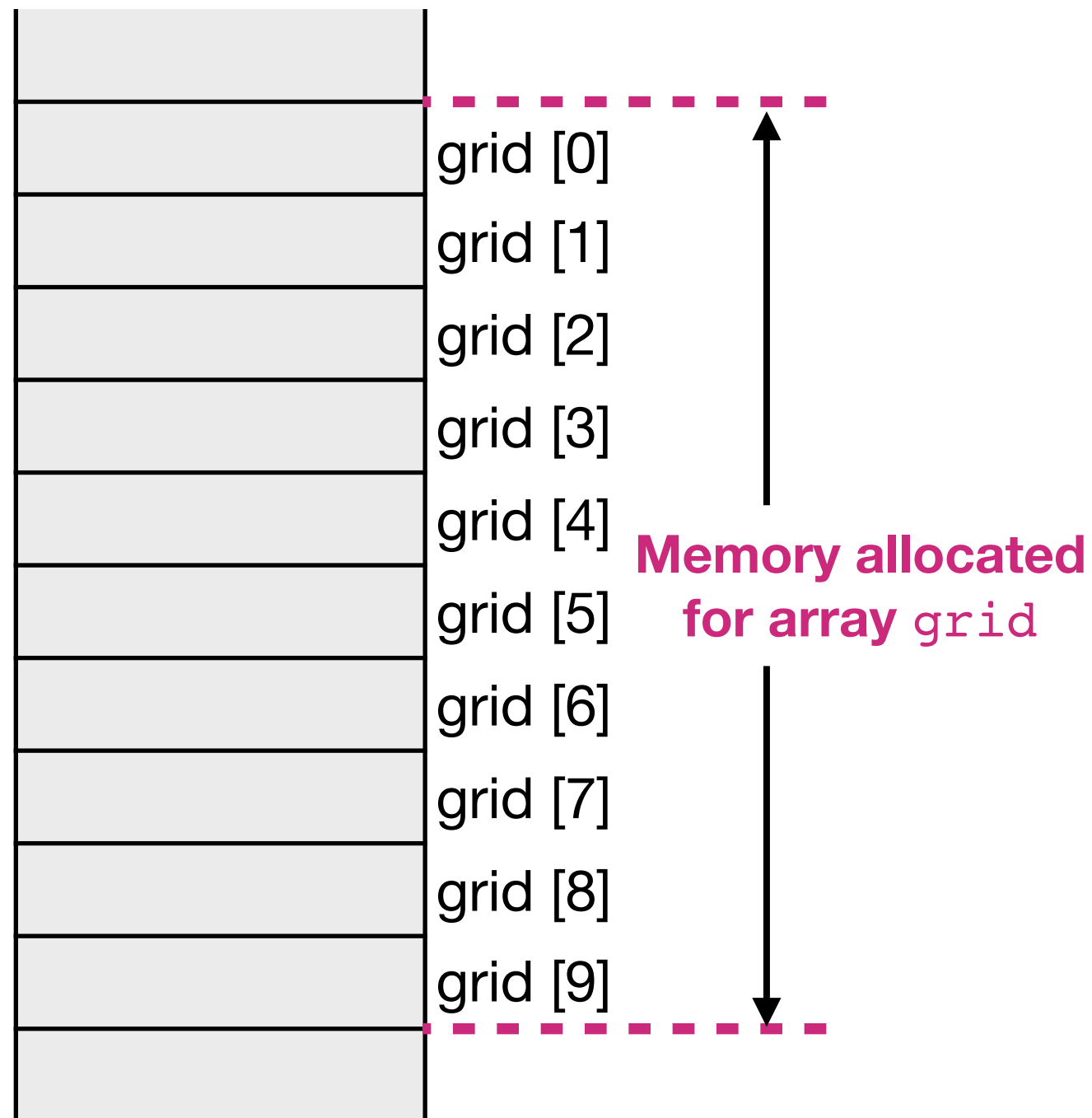
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Linked list

(dynamic only)

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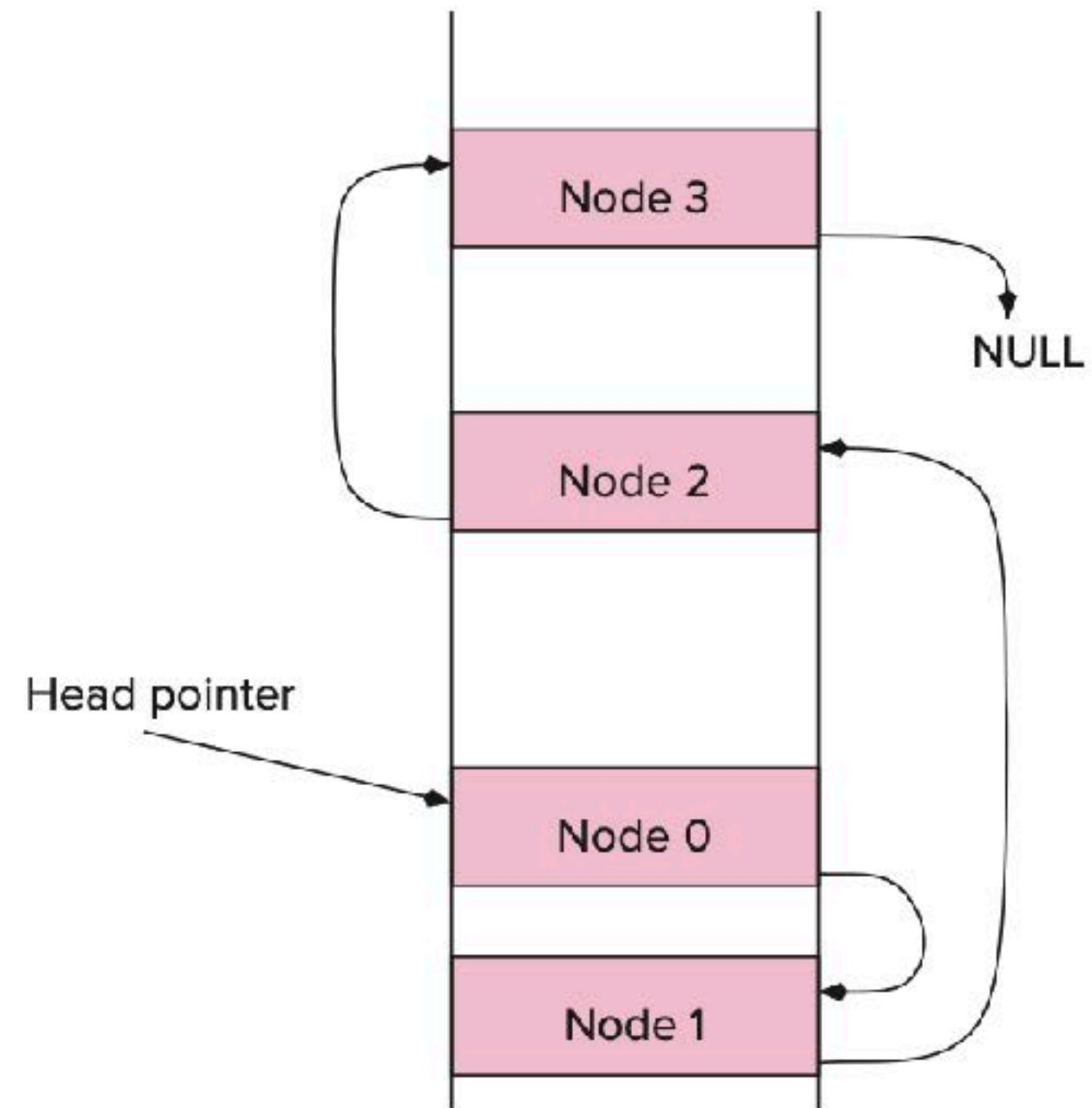
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Array

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A linked list in memory



Linked list

(dynamic only)

Array vs. linked list

	Array	Linked list
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Array vs. linked list

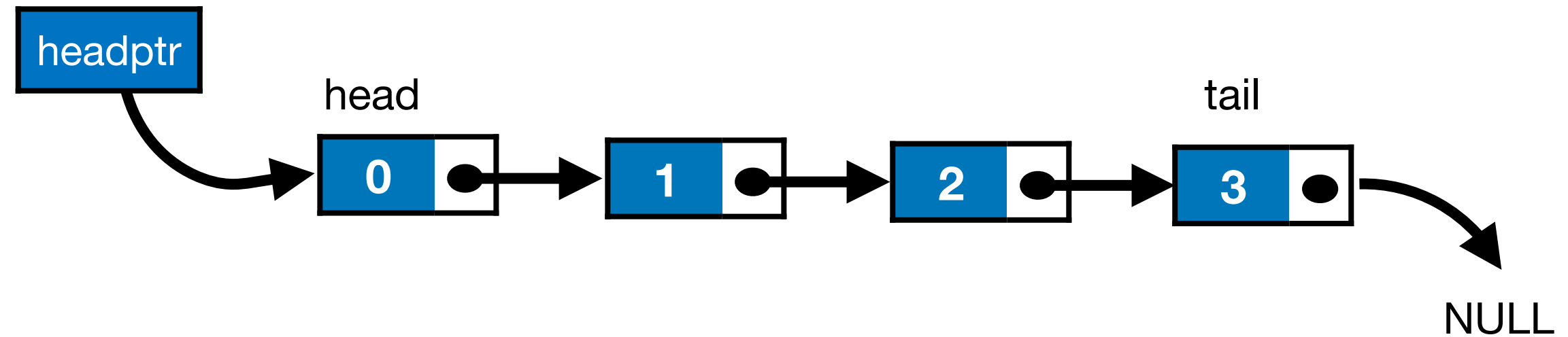
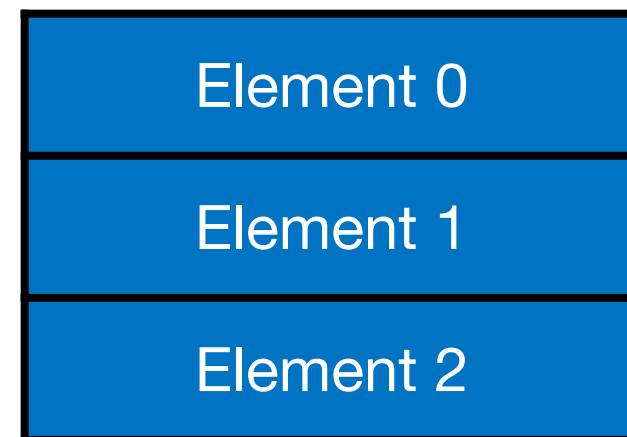
	Array	Linked list
Memory Allocation	Automatic / Dynamic	Dynamic

Array vs. linked list

Element 0
Element 1
Element 2

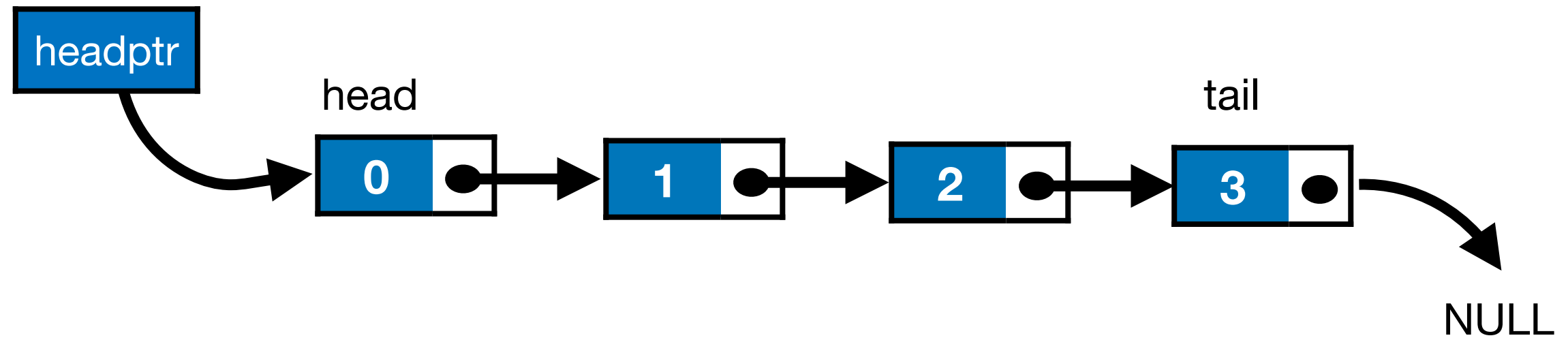
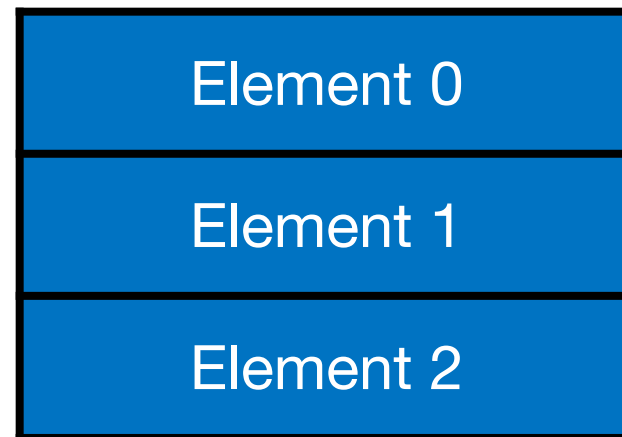
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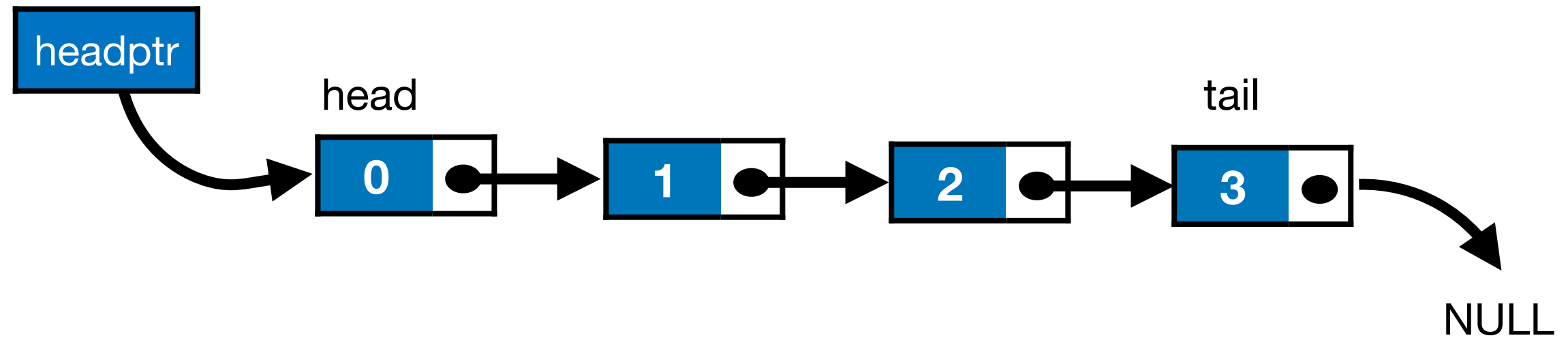
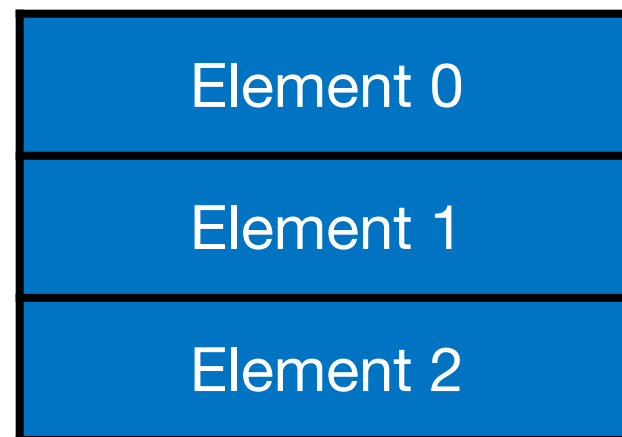
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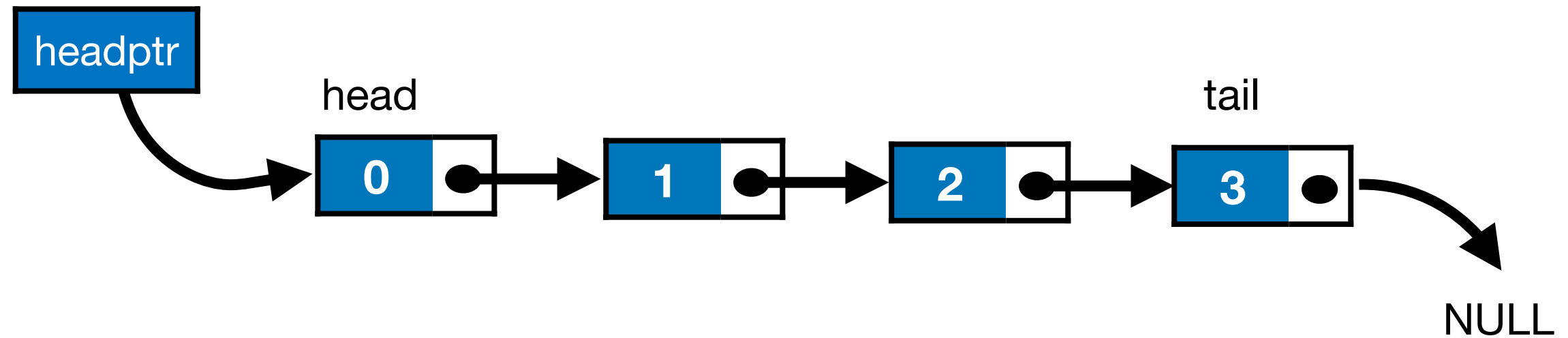
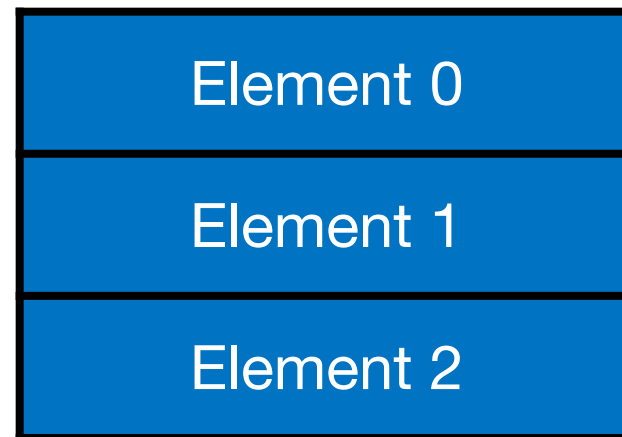
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Memory Structure	Contiguous	Not necessary consecutive

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Order of Access	Random	Sequential

Array vs. linked list



	Array	Linked list
Memory Allocation	Automatic / Dynamic	Dynamic
Memory Structure	Contiguous	Not necessary consecutive
Order of Access	Random	Sequential
Insertion / Deletion	Create/delete space, then shift all successive elements	Change pointer address

Basic operations

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Declaring a linked list

Example: Student record

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typedef struct StudentStruct{  
    int UIN;  
    char *netid;  
    float GPA;  
}student;
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Using structs

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typedef struct StudentStruct{  
    int UIN;  
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    float GPA;  
    struct StudentStruct *next;  
}node;
```

Using linked lists

Declaring a linked list

Example: A person

```
typedef struct person{  
    char *name;  
    unsigned int birthyear;  
}Person;
```

Using structs

```
typedef struct person{  
    char *name;  
    unsigned int byear;  
    struct person *next;  
}node;
```

Using linked lists

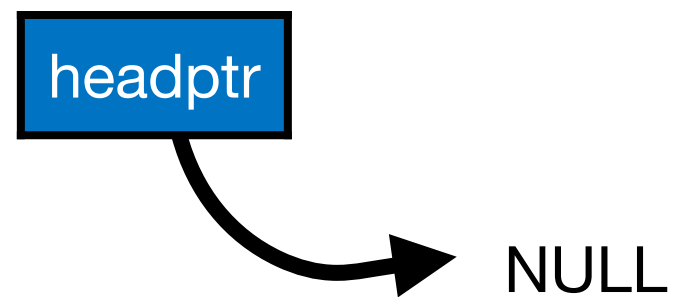
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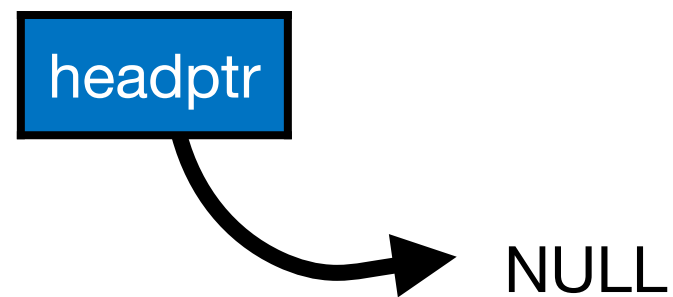
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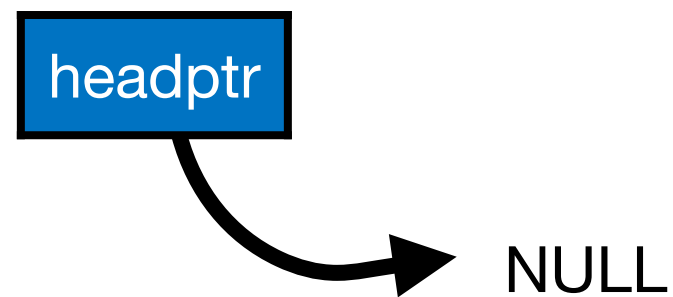
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typedef struct person{  
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node* headptr = NULL;
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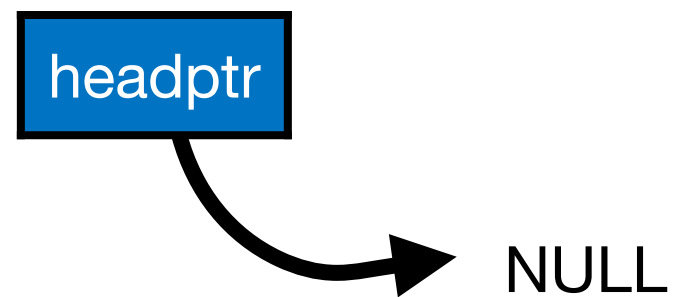


- What should be the singleton list?

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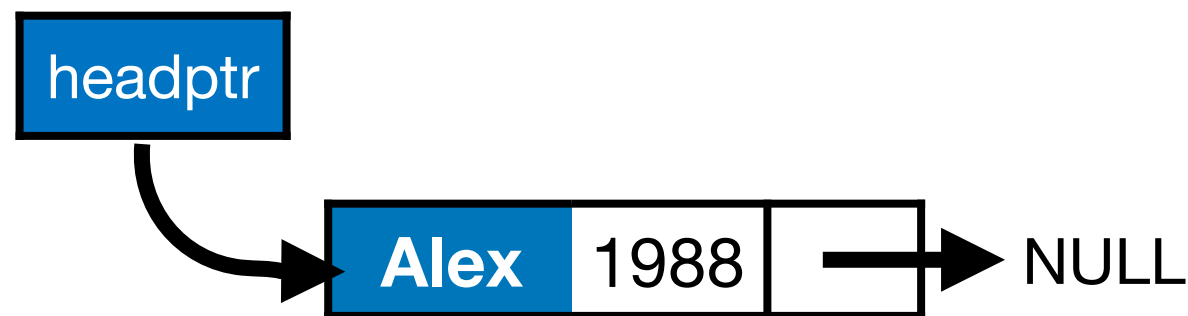
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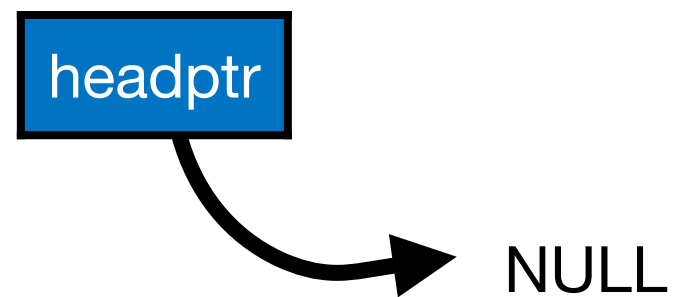
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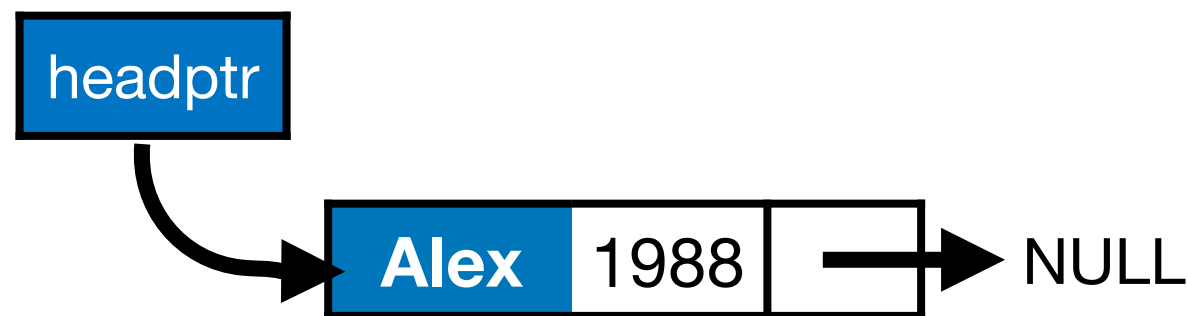


Declaring a linked list

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- What should be the singleton list?



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```
node* headptr;  
node* temp=(node*) malloc(sizeof(node));  
temp->name="Alex"  
temp->byear=1988;  
temp->next=NULL;  
headptr = temp;
```

Linked lists - more elements

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 - Sorted list: Insert so as to maintain sorted property
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Linked lists - more elements

- Suppose we want to add another node
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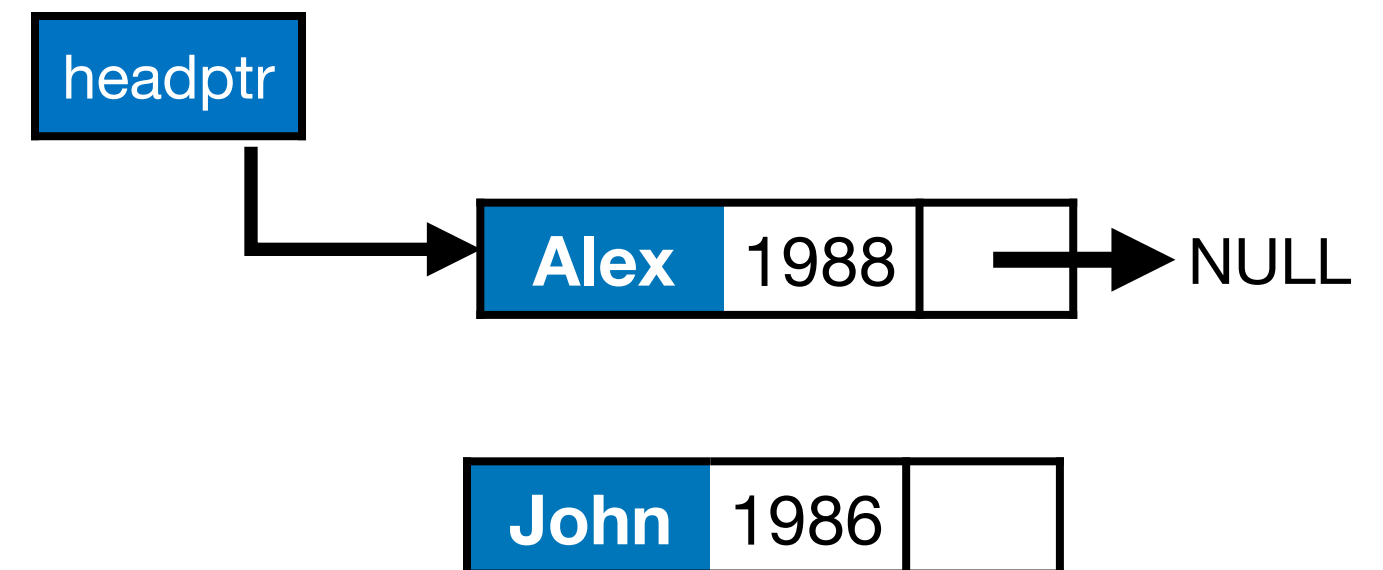
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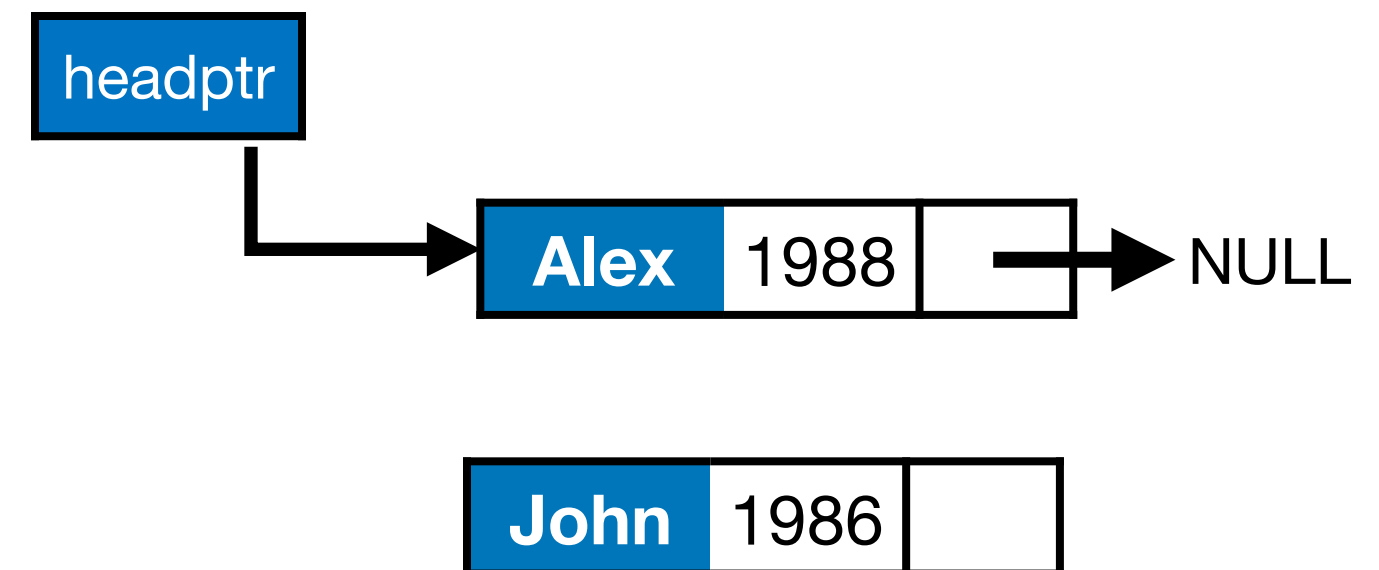
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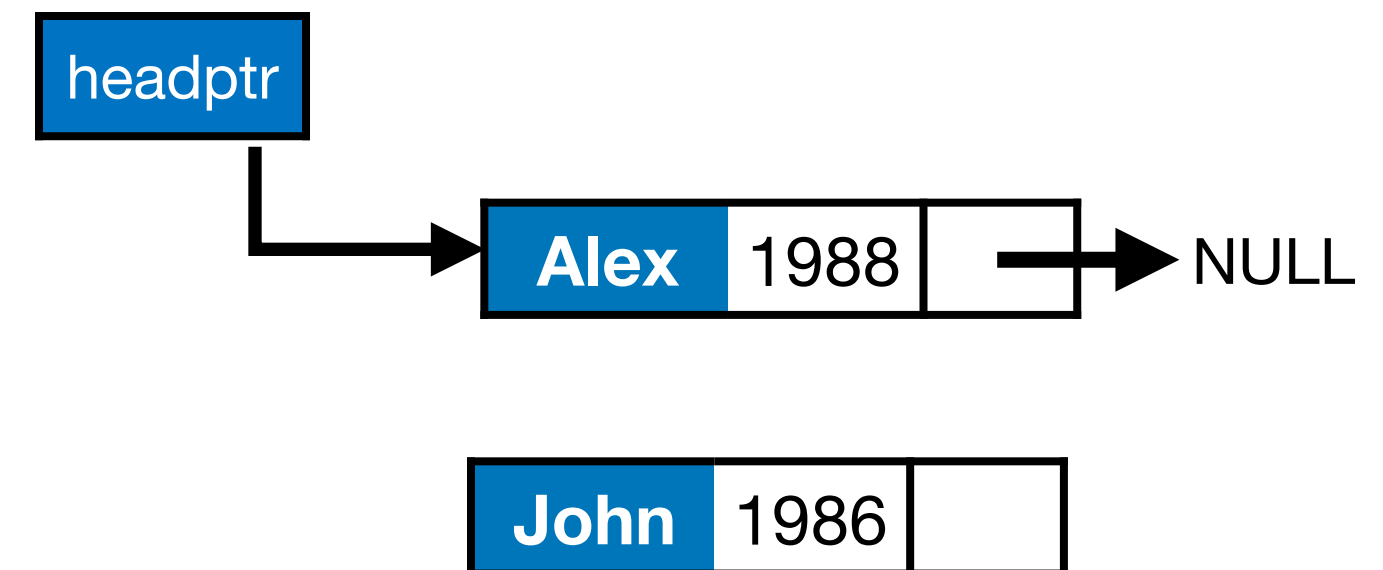
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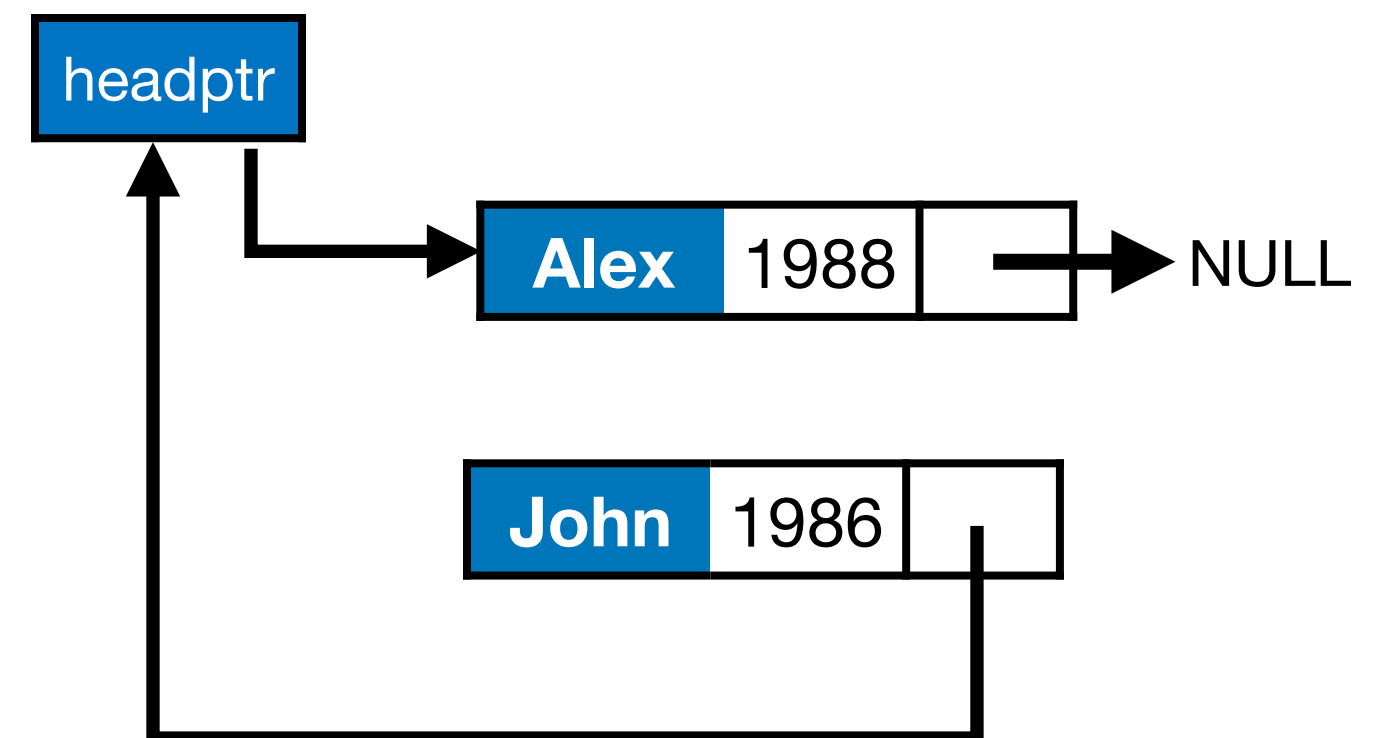
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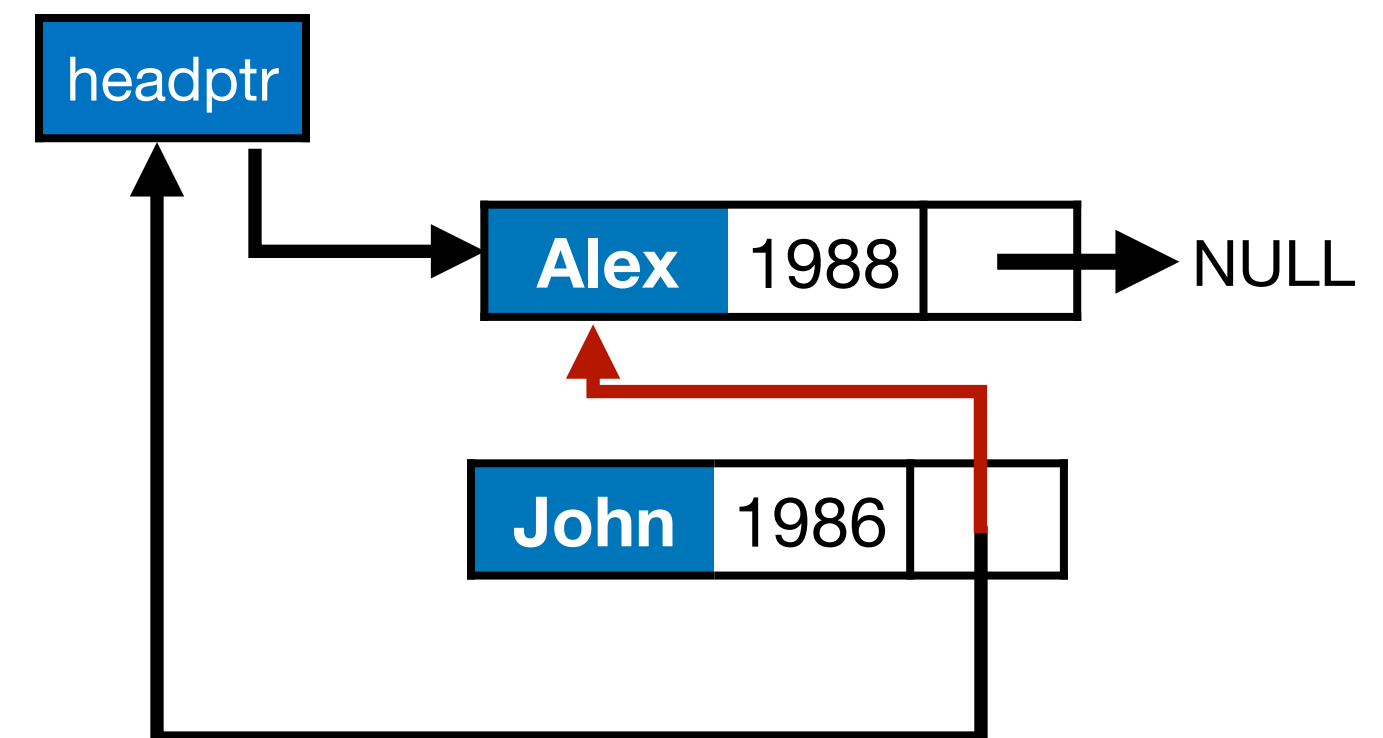
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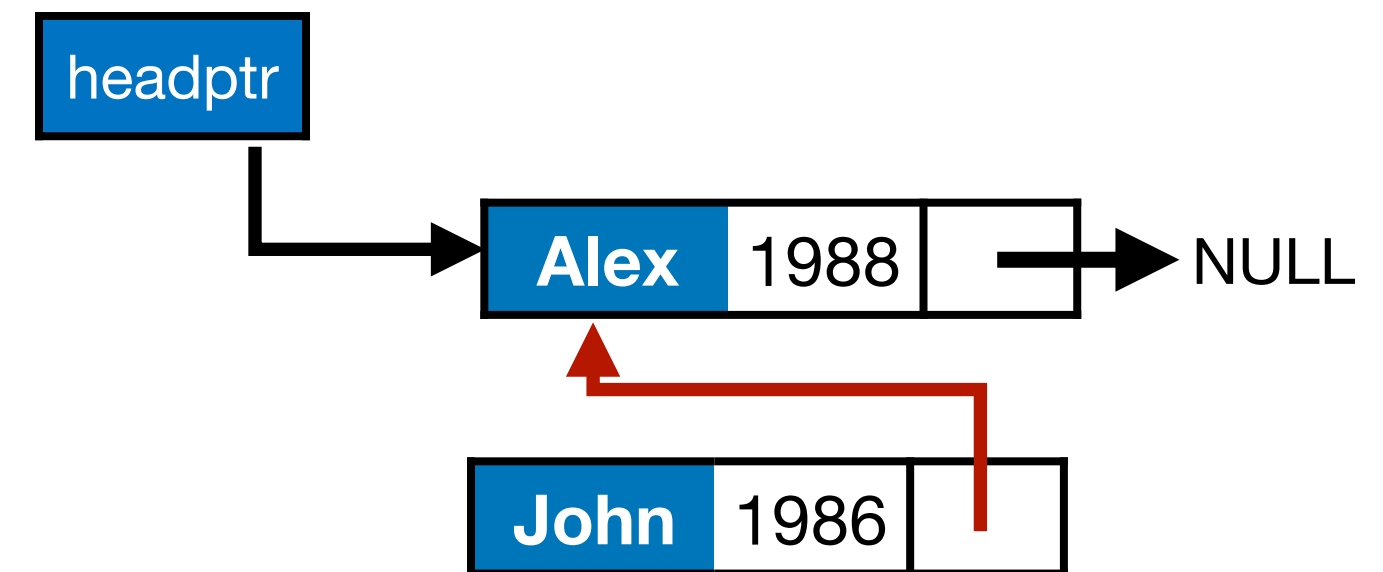
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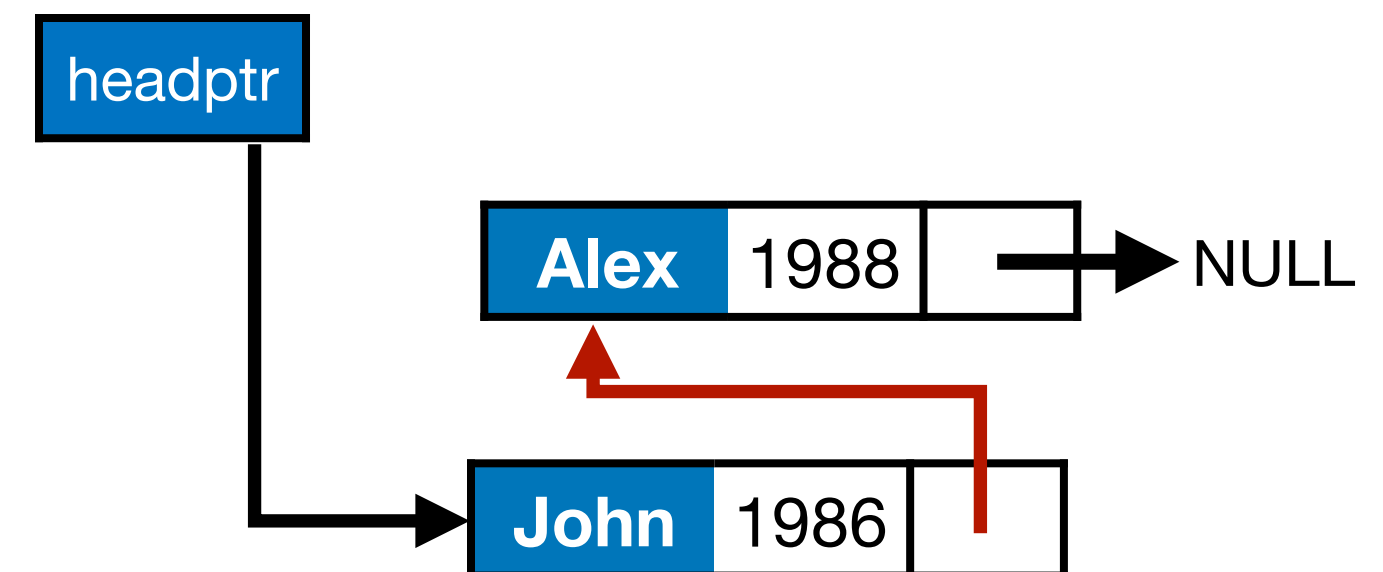
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Linked lists - adding a node

- Suppose we want to **add at head**.
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 - New node should point to current head.
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Linked lists - adding a node

- Suppose we want to add at head.
- What needs to be done?

```
node* temp=(node*) malloc(sizeof(node));  
...  
...
```

Linked lists - adding a node

- Suppose we want to add at head.
- What needs to be done?
 - New node should point to *current* head.

```
node* temp=(node*) malloc(sizeof(node));
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

In our code, cursor will stand for the node currently being examined; in this example the head pointer

```
temp->next = cursor;
```

Linked lists - adding a node

- Suppose we want to **add at head**.
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 - New node should point to *current* head.
 - Current head should be updated to new node.

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```

```
...
```

```
...
```

In our code, cursor will stand for the node currently being examined; in this example the head pointer

```
temp->next = cursor;  
cursor = temp;
```




Linked lists - adding a node

- Suppose we want to **add at head**.
- What needs to be done?
 - New node should point to *current* head.
 - Current head should be updated to new node.
- Deal with case of empty list

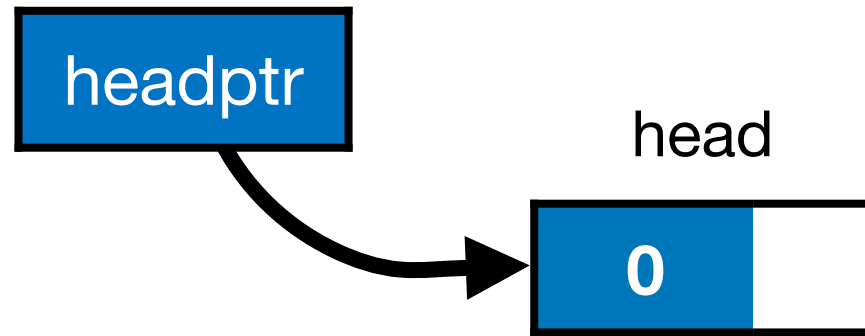
```
node* temp=(node*) malloc(sizeof(node));  
...  
...  
if (cursor == NULL)  
    cursor = temp;  
else{  
    temp->next = cursor;  
    cursor = temp;  
}
```

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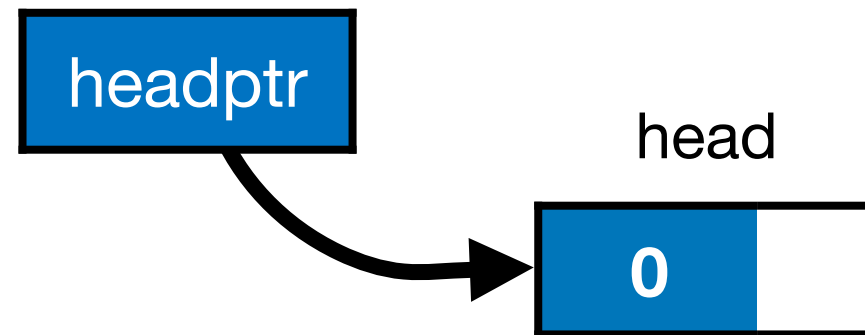
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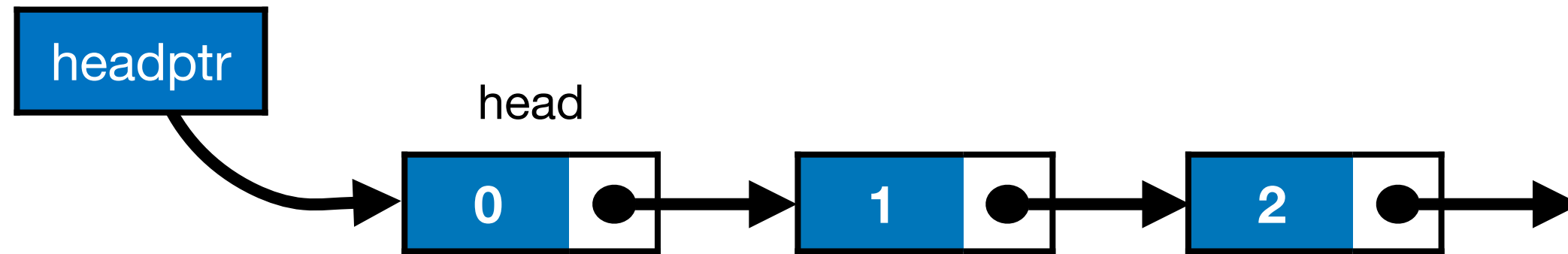
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Traversing a linked list



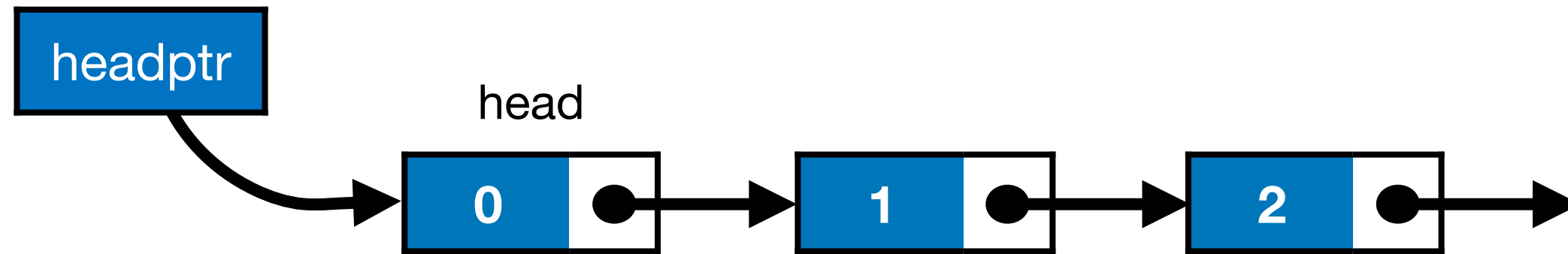
- Head pointer points to the first node of the list.
- To traverse the list we do the following

Traversing a linked list



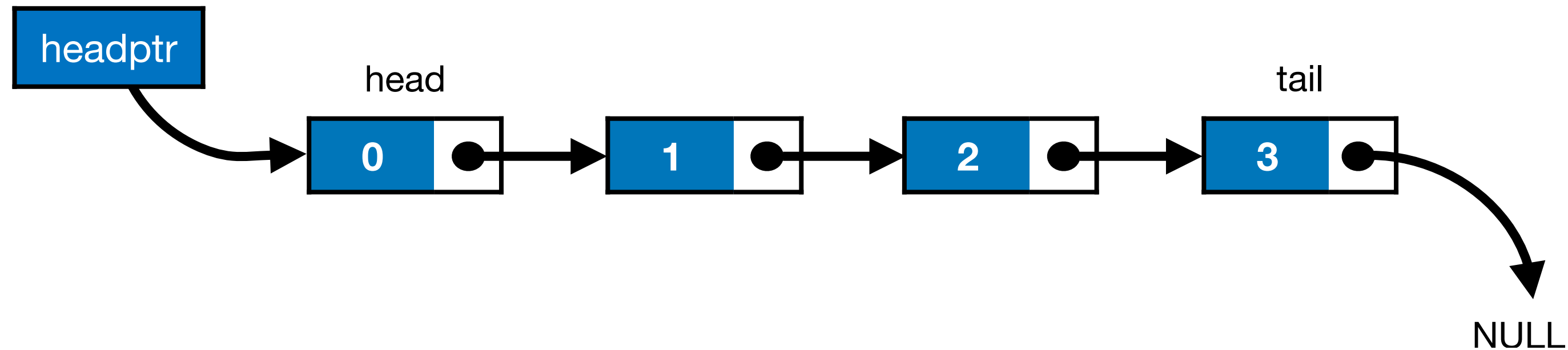
- Head pointer points to the first node of the list.
- To traverse the list we do the following
 - Follow the pointers.

Traversing a linked list



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 - Display the contents of the nodes as they are traversed.

Traversing a linked list



- Head pointer points to the first node of the list.
- To traverse the list we do the following
 - Follow the pointers.
 - Display the contents of the nodes as they are traversed.
 - Stop when the next pointer points to NULL.

Linked lists - traversing

- Inserting an item in the list
 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
 - Sorted list: Insert so as to maintain sorted property
- **Traversing the list**
- Deleting an item from the list
 - Delete from head, tail or middle.

Linked lists - traversing

- Recall that linked lists are defined *recursively*. So to traverse and *print*.

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Linked lists - traversing

- Recall that linked lists are defined *recursively*. So to traverse and *print*.
 - If the list is empty do nothing,

```
void print_list(node *cursor){  
    if (cursor==NULL)  
        return;  
}
```

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Linked lists - traversing

- Recall that linked lists are defined *recursively*. So to traverse and *print*.
 - If the list is empty do nothing,
 - otherwise, print current element &

```
void print_list(node *cursor){
    if (cursor==NULL)
        return;
    else{
        printf("%s was born in %d\n",
            cursor->name,
            cursor->byear);
    }
}
```

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 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
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Linked lists - traversing

- Recall that linked lists are defined *recursively*. So to traverse and *print*.
 - If the list is empty do nothing,
 - otherwise, print current element &
 - recurse on the rest!

```
void print_list(node *cursor){
    if (cursor==NULL)
        return;
    else{
        printf("%s was born in %d\n",
            cursor->name,
            cursor->byear);
        print_list(cursor->next);
    }
}
```

- Inserting an item in the list
 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
 - Sorted list: Insert so as to maintain sorted property
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Exercise

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- Let us put together whatever we tried so far.
- Add the following nodes successively to the head of an empty list and print the list out.

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 - {Alex, 1988}
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Exercise

- Let us put together whatever we tried so far.
- Add the following nodes successively to the head of an empty list and print the list out.
 - {Alex, 1988}
 - {John, 1986}
 - {Mary, 1990}
 - {Sue, 1992}
- Functions to write (a) `print_list` to traverse node and (b) `add_at_head` to add to head.

What happened?

```
void add_at_head(node **cursor, node *new){  
  
    node * temp = (node *) malloc(sizeof(node));  
    temp->name = new->name;  
    temp->next = new->next;  
  
    if (*cursor == NULL)  
        *cursor = temp;  
    else{  
        temp->next = *cursor;  
        *cursor = temp;  
    }  
}
```

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void add_at_head(node **cursor, node *new){  
  
    node * temp = (node *) malloc(sizeof(node));  
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    temp->next = new->next;  
  
    if (*cursor == NULL)  
        *cursor = temp;  
    else{  
        temp->next = *cursor;  
        *cursor = temp;  
    }  
}
```

headptr is a single pointer that should always point to start of list. Since we are relying on a function to make an update, we need to *pass-by-reference* (remember the defective swap function?)

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void add_at_head(node **cursor, node *new) {
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node * temp = (node *) malloc(sizeof(node));  
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    temp->next = *cursor;  
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}
```

headptr is a single pointer that should always point to start of list. Since we are relying on a function to make an update, we need to *pass-by-reference* (remember the defective swap function?)

An pointer to new is passed to add_at_head. We copy that onto the heap so that the calling function can/may reuse the parameter it passed in.

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void add_at_head(node **cursor, node *new) {
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node * temp = (node *) malloc(sizeof(node));  
temp->name = new->name;  
temp->next = new->next;
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    *cursor = temp;  
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}
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headptr is a single pointer that should always point to start of list. Since we are relying on a function to make an update, we need to *pass-by-reference* (remember the defective swap function?)

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if (cursor == NULL)  
    cursor = temp;  
else {  
    temp->next = cursor;  
    cursor = temp;  
}
```

What happened?

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void add_at_head(node **cursor, node *new) {
```

```
node * temp = (node *) malloc(sizeof(node));  
temp->name = new->name;  
temp->next = new->next;
```

```
if (*cursor == NULL)  
    *cursor = temp;  
else {  
    temp->next = *cursor;  
    *cursor = temp;  
}  
}
```

Since we are passing in a double pointer the code on the right (from slide #14) had to be carefully updated to make the types match as done above.

headptr is a single pointer that should always point to start of list. Since we are relying on a function to make an update, we need to *pass-by-reference* (remember the defective swap function?)

An pointer to new is passed to add_at_head. We copy that onto the heap so that the calling function can/may reuse the parameter it passed in.

```
if (cursor == NULL)  
    cursor = temp;  
else {  
    temp->next = cursor;  
    cursor = temp;  
}
```

Adding a node - add at tail

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- A pure implementation of a *singly* linked-list is completely defined by its head pointer.

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 - Aside: A *doubly* linked lists has a pointer to the next element as well as the *previous* element (... tune in next week)

Adding a node - add at tail

- A pure implementation of a *singly* linked-list is completely defined by its head pointer.
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- To add an item at the *tail* position, we need to first **find the tail**.
How: The only element in the list whose next is NULL is the tail element.

Adding a node - add at tail

- A pure implementation of a *singly* linked-list is completely defined by its head pointer.
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- To add an item at the *tail* position, we need to first **find the tail**.
How: The only element in the list whose next is NULL is the tail element.
 - **Inserting an item in the list**
 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
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 - ~~Traversing the list~~
 - Deleting an item from the list
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Adding at tail

- Just like `print_list`, keep traversing/recursing till tail element is found. Then add the new node there.

Adding at tail

- Just like `print_list`, keep traversing/recursing till tail element is found. Then add the new node there.

```
void add_at_tail(node **cursor, node *new){  
    if (*cursor == NULL)  
        add_at_head(cursor, new);  
    else  
        add_at_tail(&(*cursor)->next, new);  
}
```

Adding at tail

- Just like `print_list`, keep traversing/recursing till tail element is found. Then add the new node there.

```
void add_at_tail(node **cursor, node *new){  
    if (*cursor == NULL)  
        add_at_head(cursor, new);  
    else  
        add_at_tail(&(*cursor)->next, new);  
}
```

Note: We don't keep adding large blocks on the stack in this version because we are passing around a *pointer* to `new`. **This is important!**

If we did not do that, then recursion could overflow available space on the stack very quickly!

Deleting a node from head

Deleting a node from head

- To delete a node from the **head** is simple.

- Inserting an item in the list
 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
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- **Deleting an item** from the list
 - Delete from **head**, tail or middle.

Deleting a node from head

- To delete a node from the **head** is simple.
 - Make a copy of the head pointer

```
node *old_head = *headptr;
```

- Inserting an item in the list
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Deleting a node from head

- To delete a node from the **head** is simple.
 - Make a copy of the head pointer
 - Shift the head pointer to its next item

```
node *old_head = *headptr;  
*headptr = (*headptr)->next;
```

- Inserting an item in the list
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Deleting a node from head

- To delete a node from the **head** is simple.
 - Make a copy of the head pointer
 - Shift the head pointer to its next item
 - Call `free` on a copy of the head pointer

```
node *old_head = *headptr;  
*headptr = (*headptr)->next;  
free(old_head);
```

- Inserting an item in the list
 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
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- **Deleting an item** from the list
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Deleting a node from head

- To delete a node from the **head** is simple.
 - Make a copy of the head pointer
 - Shift the head pointer to its next item
 - Call `free` on a copy of the head pointer
- What if list empty?

```
void del_head(node **headptr){  
    if (*headptr==NULL)  
        return;  
    else{  
        node *old_head = *headptr;  
        *headptr = (*headptr)->next;  
        free(old_head);  
    }  
}
```

- Inserting an item in the list
 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
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Deleting a node from head

- To delete a node from the **head** is simple.
 - Make a copy of the head pointer
 - Shift the head pointer to its next item
 - Call `free` on a copy of the head pointer

```
void del_head(node **headptr){  
    if (*headptr==NULL)  
        return;  
    else{  
        node *old_head = *headptr;  
        *headptr = (*headptr)->next;  
        free(old_head);  
    }  
}
```

- What if list empty?

Exercise: Can we delete the entire linked list with just this function?

- Inserting an item in the list
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- Traversing the list
- **Deleting an item** from the list
 - Delete from **head**, tail or middle.

Deleting the tail node

```
void del_tail(node **cursor) {
```

- Traversing the list
- **Deleting an item** from the list
 - Delete from head, **tail** or middle.

Deleting the tail node

- To delete a node from the **tail** is more involved.

```
void del_tail(node **cursor) {
```

- Traversing the list
- **Deleting an item** from the list
 - Delete from head, **tail** or middle.

Deleting the tail node

- To delete a node from the **tail** is more involved.
 - First find the second to last node - how?

```
void del_tail(node **cursor) {
```

- Traversing the list
- **Deleting an item** from the list
 - Delete from head, **tail** or middle.

Deleting the tail node

- To delete a node from the **tail** is more involved.
 - First find the second to last node - how?

```
void del_tail(node **cursor) {
```

```
    node * second_last = *cursor;  
    while (second_last->next->next != NULL)  
        second_last=second_last->next;
```

- Traversing the list
- **Deleting an item** from the list
 - Delete from head, **tail** or middle.

Deleting the tail node

- To delete a node from the **tail** is more involved.
 - First find the second to last node - how?
 - Call **free** on **second_last** elements next.

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    node * second_last = *cursor;  
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        second_last=second_last->next;  
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Deleting the tail node

- To delete a node from the **tail** is more involved.
 - First find the second to last node - how?
 - Call `free` on `second_last` elements next.
 - Set `second_last`'s `next` to `NULL`.

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void del_tail(node **cursor) {
```

```
    node * second_last = *cursor;  
    while (second_last->next->next != NULL)  
        second_last=second_last->next;  
    free(second_last->next);  
    second_last->next = NULL;  
}
```

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- **Deleting an item** from the list
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Deleting the tail node

- To delete a node from the **tail** is more involved.
 - First find the second to last node - how?
 - Call **free** on **second_last** elements next.
 - Set **second_last**'s **next** to **NULL**.
 - What if list empty?

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void del_tail(node **cursor) {  
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    node * second_last = *cursor;  
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        second_last=second_last->next;  
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    second_last->next = NULL;  
}
```

- Traversing the list
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- To delete a node from the **tail** is more involved.
 - First find the second to last node - how?
 - Call **free** on **second_last** elements next.
 - Set **second_last**'s **next** to **NULL**.
 - What if list empty?
 - What if singleton list?

```
void del_tail(node **cursor) {
    if (*cursor==NULL)
        return;
    if ((*cursor)->next==NULL) {
        free(*cursor);
        *cursor=NULL;
        return;
    }
    node * second_last = *cursor;
    while (second_last->next->next != NULL)
        second_last=second_last->next;
    free(second_last->next);
    second_last->next = NULL;
}
```

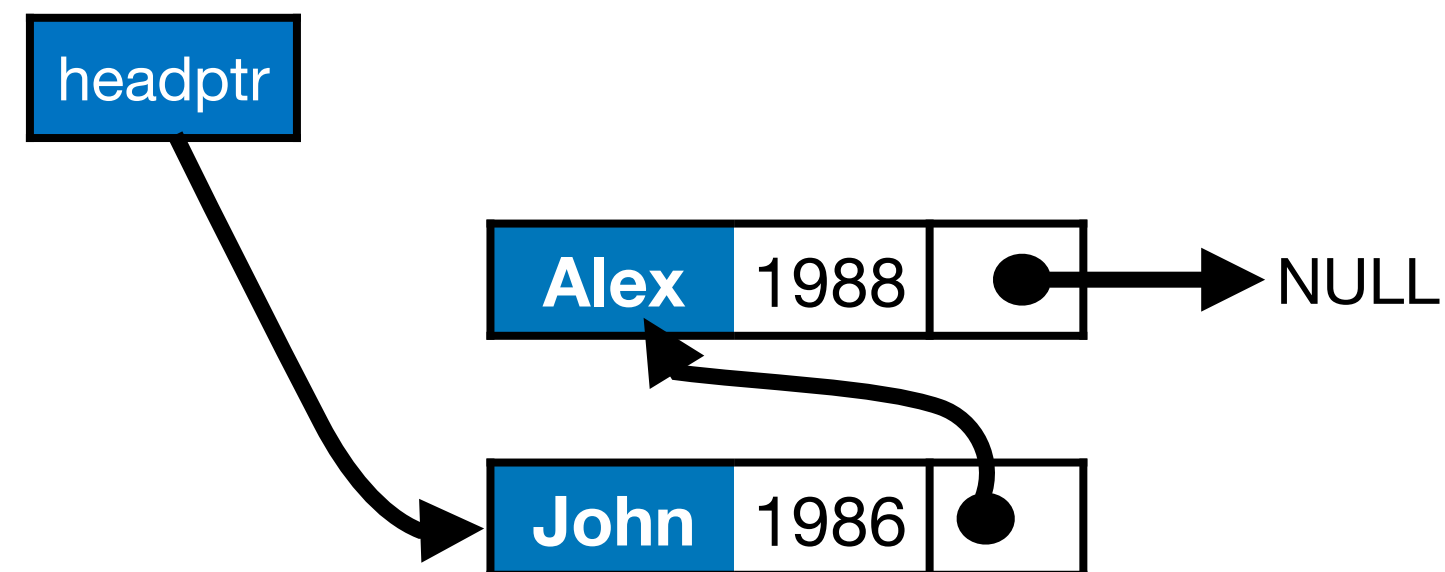
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Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Inserting an item in the list
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Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Suppose our linked list is already sorted by birth year.

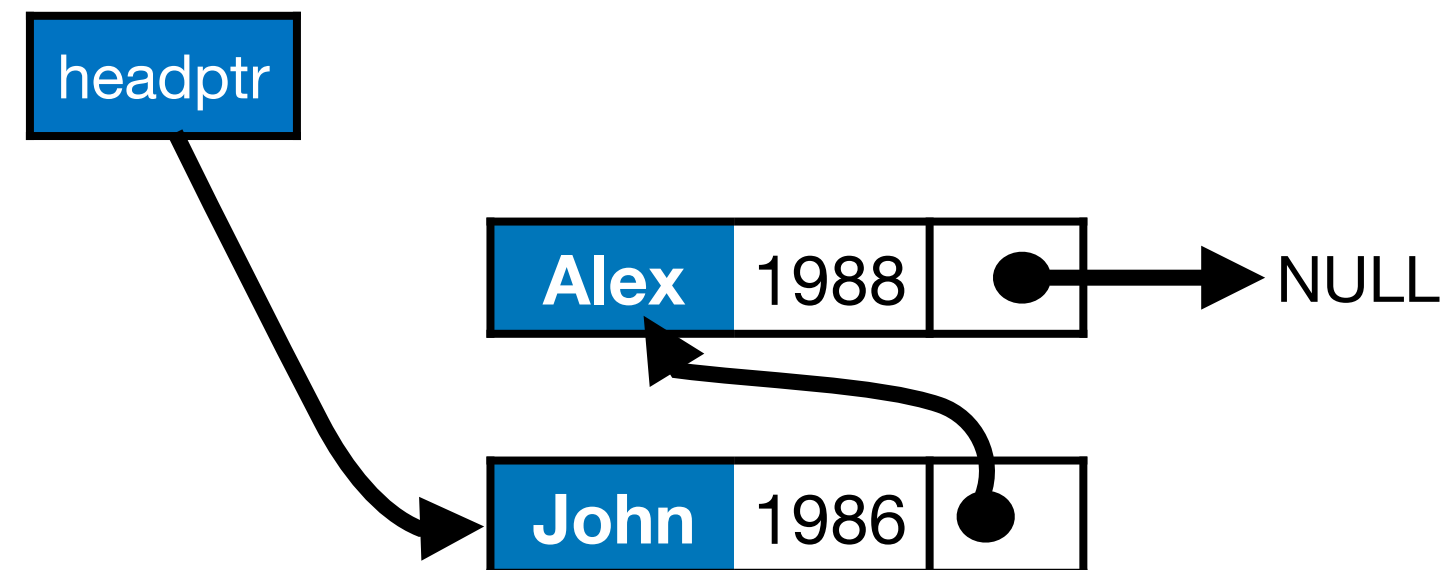


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Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Suppose our linked list is already sorted by birth year.

Give a new node, how to find its insertion point?



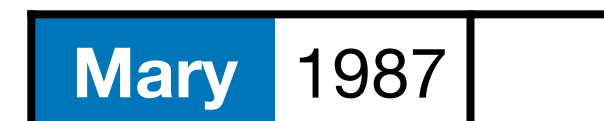
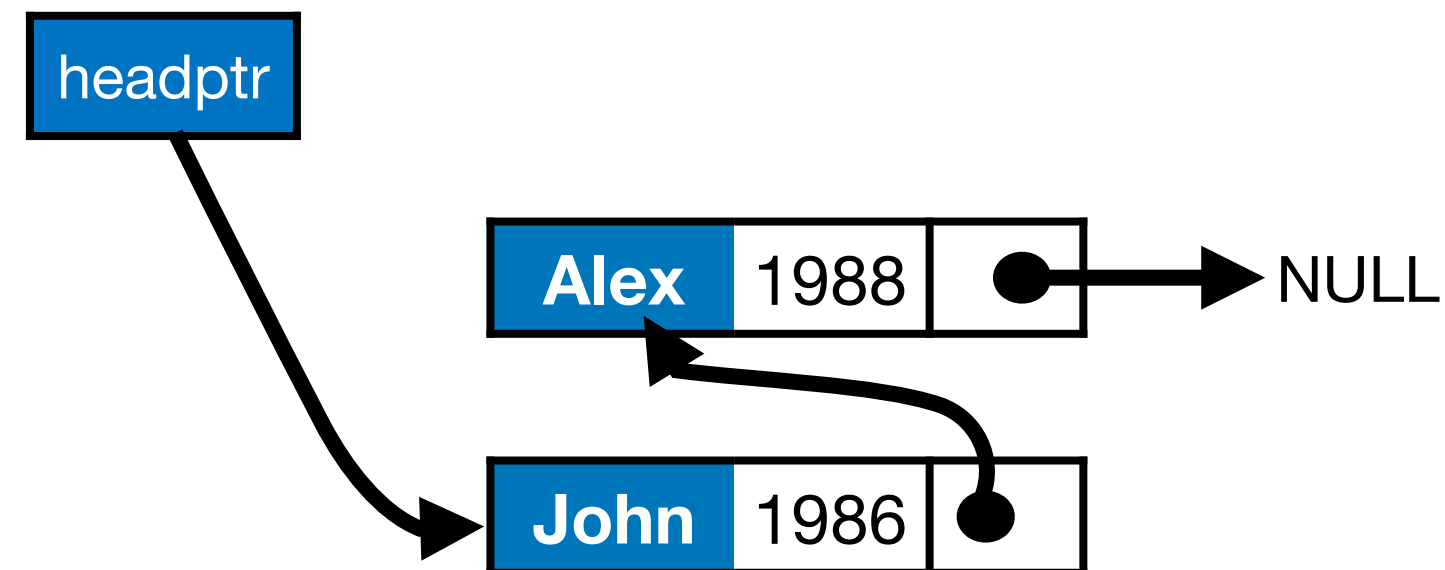
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Let us start from basics!



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Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Suppose our linked list is already sorted by birth year.

```
void insert(node **cursor, node *new) {
```

Give a new node, how to find the its insertion point?



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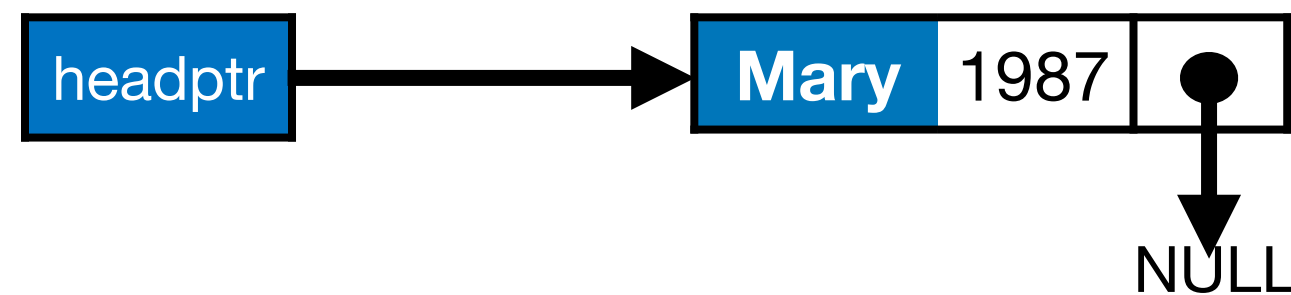
If empty list, add at head.

Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Suppose our linked list is already sorted by birth year.

Give a new node, how to find the its insertion point?

```
void insert(node **cursor, node *new){  
    if ((*cursor == NULL) ||  
  
        add_at_head(cursor, new);  
    return;  
}
```



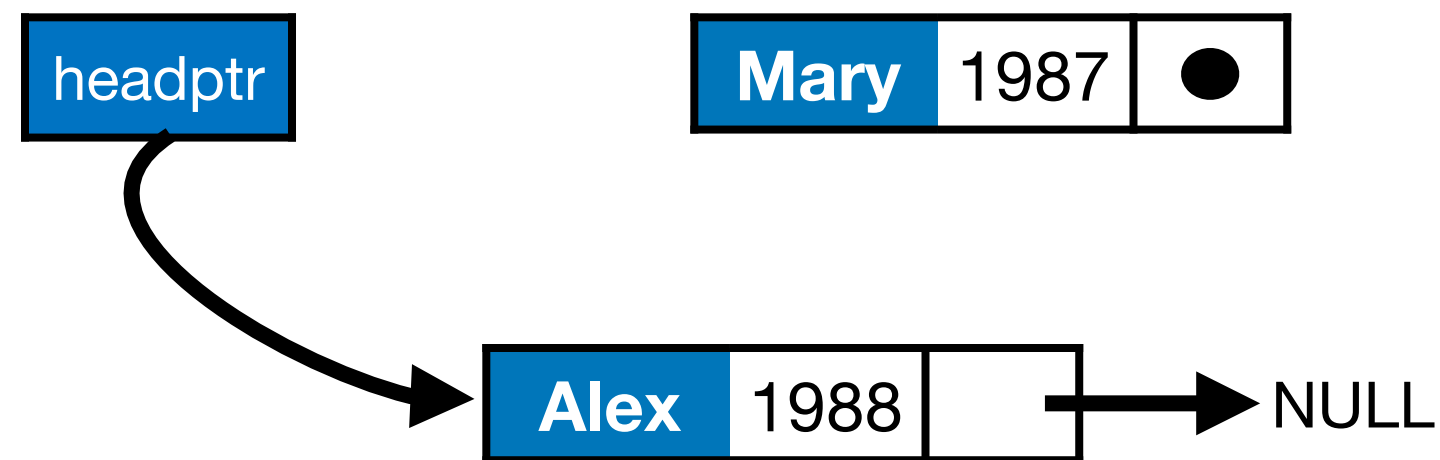
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Insertion in a sorted linked list

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    return;  
}
```



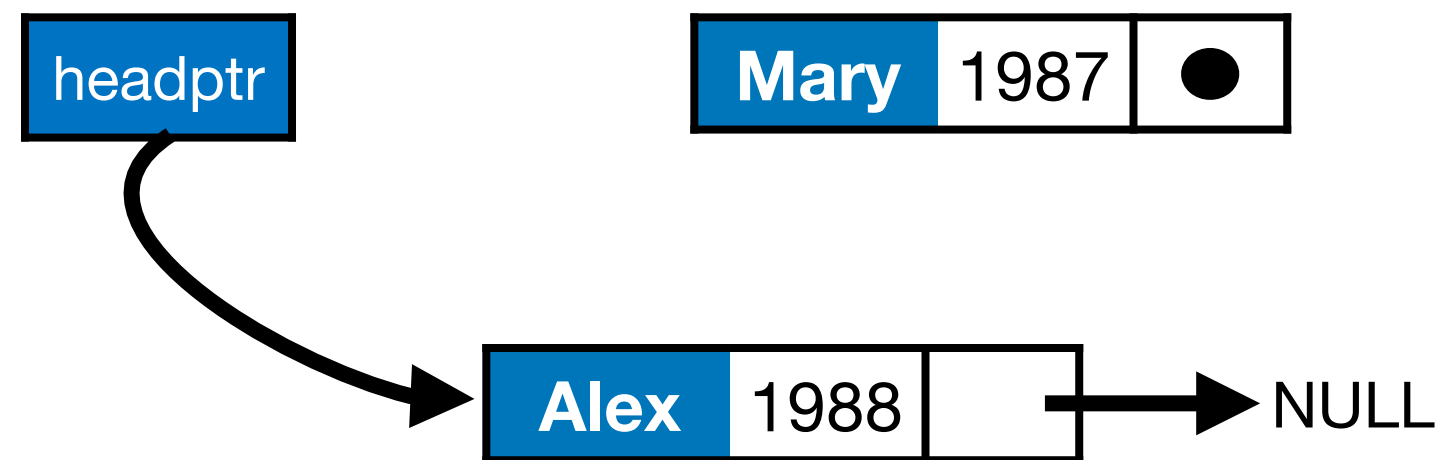
What if not empty?

Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Suppose our linked list is already sorted by birth year.

Give a new node, how to find the its insertion point?

```
void insert(node **cursor, node *new){  
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        add_at_head(cursor, new);  
    return;  
}
```



What if not empty?

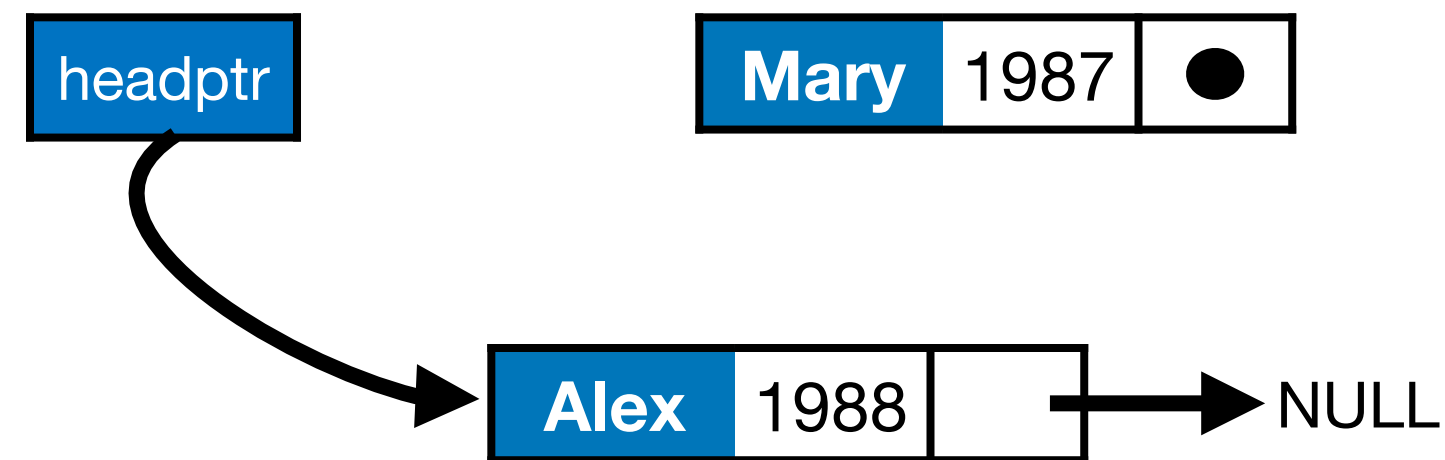
If first item is bigger than new node still add at head!

Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Suppose our linked list is already sorted by birth year.

Give a new node, how to find the its insertion point?

```
void insert(node **cursor, node *new){  
    if ((*cursor == NULL) ||  
        (*cursor)->byear >= new->byear){  
        add_at_head(cursor, new);  
        return;  
    }  
}
```



What if not empty?

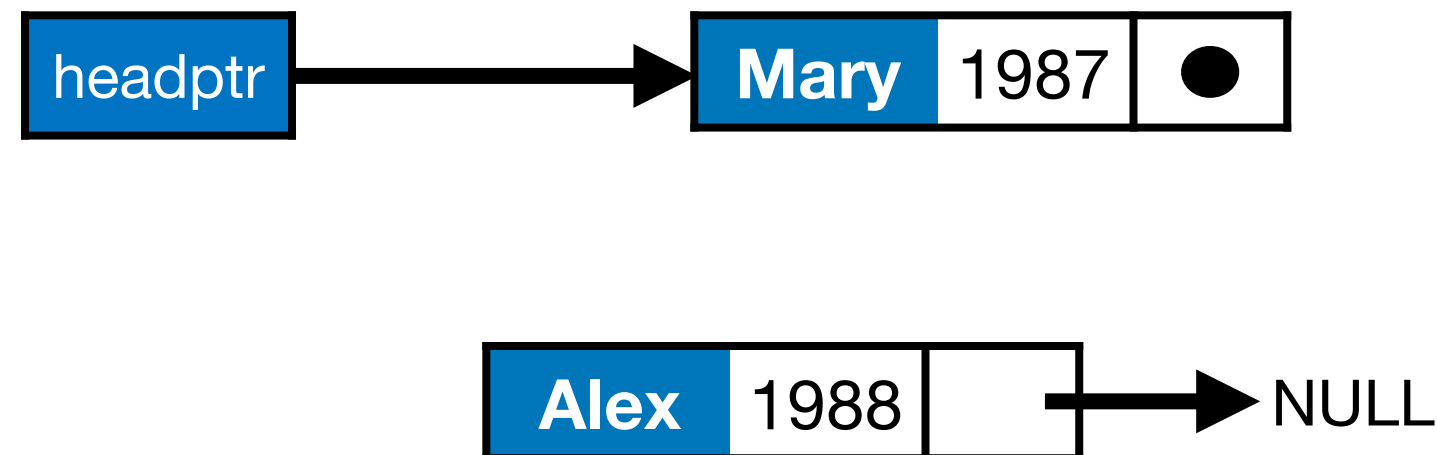
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        return;  
    }  
}
```



What if not empty?

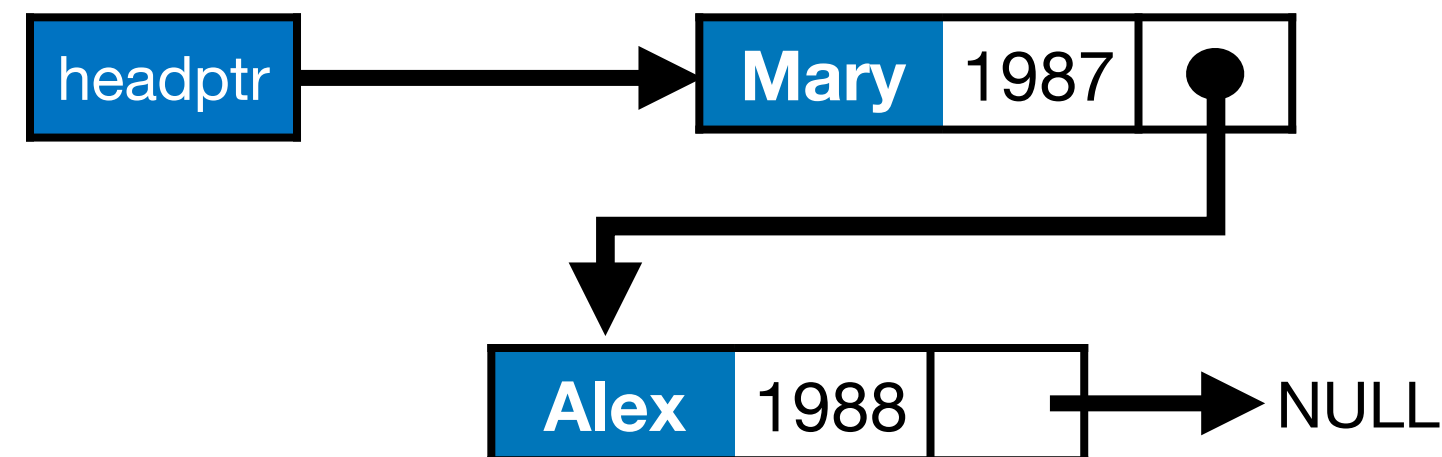
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    }  
}
```



What if not empty?

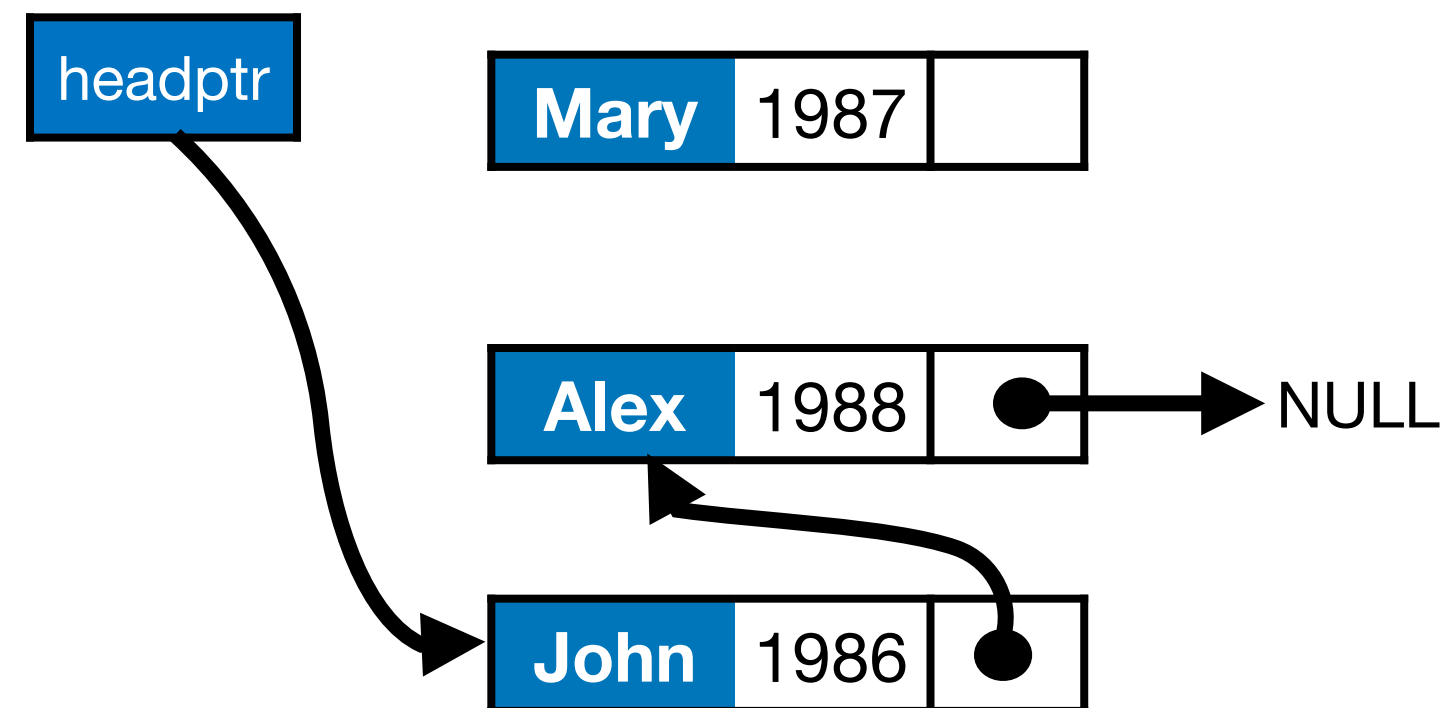
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        return;  
    }  
}
```

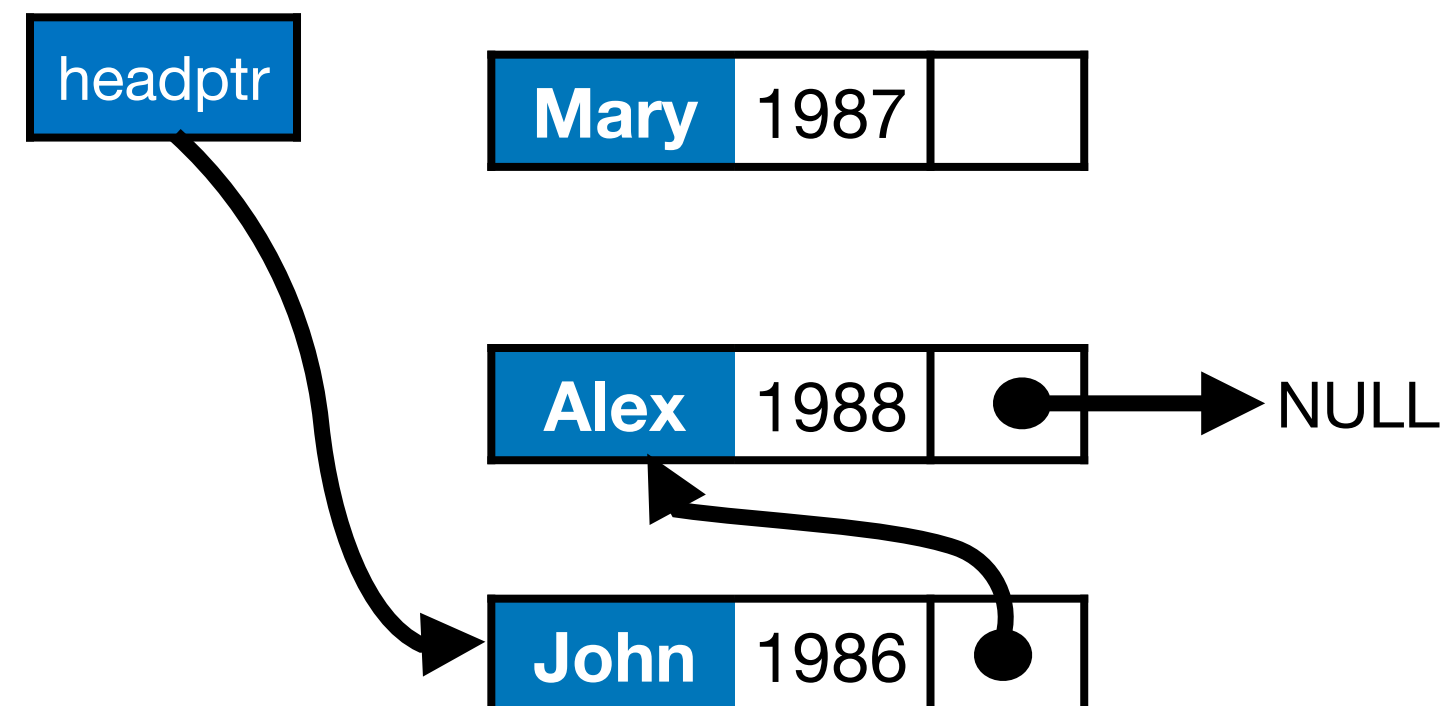


Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Suppose our linked list is already sorted by birth year.

Give a new node, how to find the its insertion point?

```
void insert(node **cursor, node *new){  
    if ((*cursor == NULL) ||  
        (*cursor)->byear >= new->byear){  
        add_at_head(cursor, new);  
        return;  
    }  
}
```

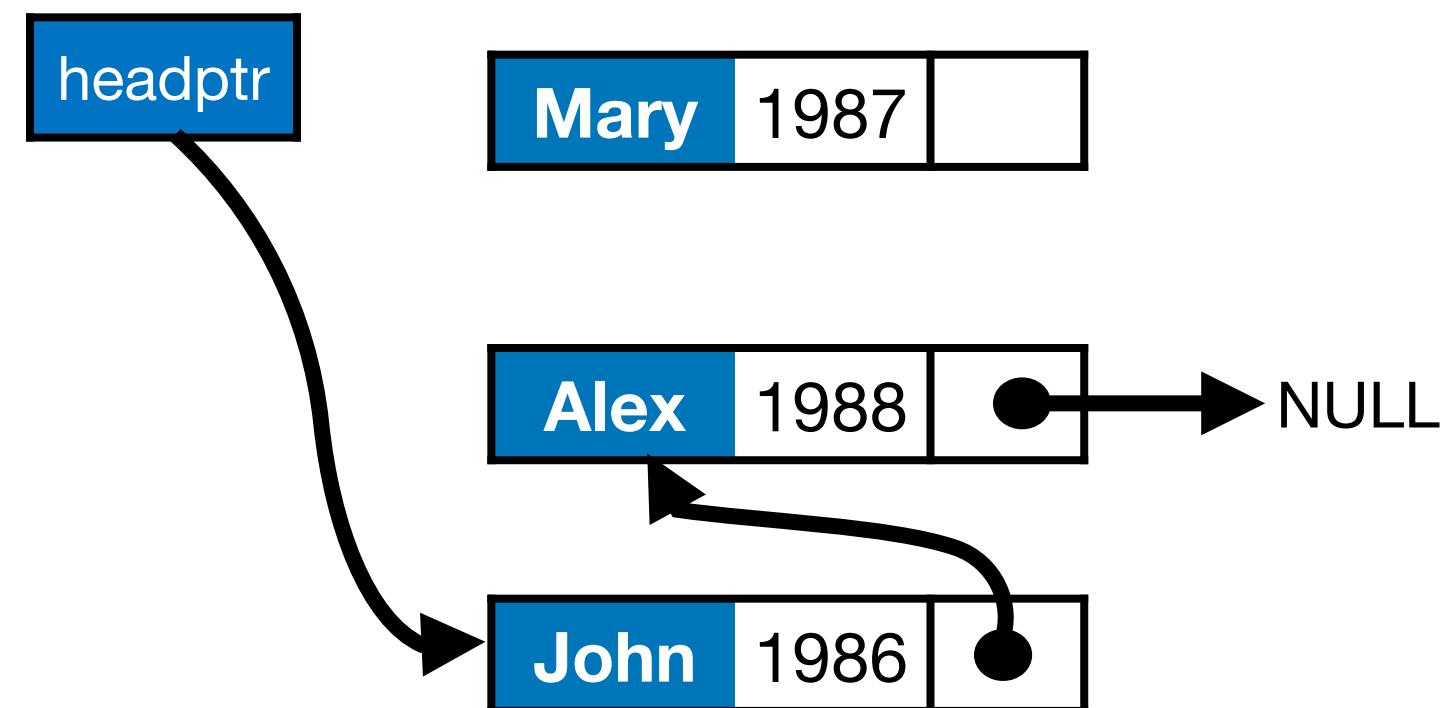


General case: if list is not empty and first item is smaller than new, update pointer & recurse!

Insertion in a sorted linked list

- Suppose our linked list is already sorted by birth year.

Give a new node, how to find the its insertion point?



```
void insert(node **cursor, node *new){
    if ((*cursor == NULL) ||
        (*cursor)->byear >= new->byear){
        add_at_head(cursor, new);
        return;
    }
    else{
        insert(&(*cursor)->next, new);
    }
}
```

General case: if list is not empty and first item is smaller than new, update pointer & recurse!

- Inserting an item in the list
 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
 - Sorted list: Insert so as to maintain sorted property
- Traversing the list
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 - Delete from head, tail **or middle**.

Deletion

- Inserting an item in the list
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Deletion

- To delete a node we have to specify it by some identifying quantity.

```
int delete_node(node **headptr, char *name){
```

- Inserting an item in the list
 - Unsorted list: Can insert at *head* or at *tail*
 - Sorted list: Insert so as to maintain sorted property
- Traversing the list
- Deleting an item from the list
 - Delete from head, tail **or middle**.

Deletion

- To delete a node we have to specify it by some identifying quantity.
- Then we traverse/search through the list. Cases are:

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int delete_node(node **headptr, char *name){
    node *prev;
    node *current = *headptr;

    while (current!=NULL){
        if (strcmp(current->name, name)==0)
            break;
        prev = current;
        current = current->next;
    }
}
```

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    if (current == *headptr)
        *headptr = current->next;
    else
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- To delete a node we have to specify it by some identifying quantity.
- Then we traverse/search through the list. Cases are:
 - Item not found
 - Item found at head
 - Item found elsewhere

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            break;
        prev = current;
        current = current->next;
    }
    if (current==NULL)
        return -1;

    if (current == *headptr)
        *headptr = current->next;
    else
        prev->next=current->next;
    free(current);
    return 0;
}

```

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- Left as an exercise ... should be easy enough now that you have seen how to look for, find and then delete a node!

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 - **Note:** When an element is found, there is no index to return; so what should the search function do?
 - What to return when element is not found in list?

Well time didn't permit ... the next three slides can be skipped. I just think cons cells are cool 🙋

Time permitting ...



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- Cons cells - the original take on linked lists

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 - First introduced in 1960 by the Lisp programming language
 - A cons cell, by default, adds items to the beginning of the list:
 - `cons(1, cons(2, (cons 3)))` gives `1->2->3`
 - The function `cons` takes a value and pointer to head of list as input
 - The function `cons` always returns pointer to head of list

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    unsigned int byear;  
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}Cell;
```

```
Cell *cons(char *name, int byear, Cell *rest){  
    Cell *cell = malloc(sizeof(Cell));  
    cell->name = name;  
    cell->byear = byear;  
    cell->next = rest;  
    return cell;  
}
```

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- Two special functions:
 - **first**: Returns value of first item on list (like a peek on stack)

```
Cell *first(Cell **list){
    if (list){
        Cell *cell = malloc(sizeof(Cell));
        cell->name = (*list)->name;
        cell->byear = (*list)->byear;
        // Uncomment to make first into a pop
        // Cell *temp = *list;
        // *list = (*list)->next;
        // free(temp);
        return cell;
    }
    return NULL;
}
```

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 - **first**: Returns value of first item on list (like a peek on stack)
 - **rest**: Returns pointer to remaining part of the list

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 - **first**: Returns value of first item on list (like a peek on stack)
 - **rest**: Returns pointer to remaining part of the list

```
Cell *rest(Cell *list){  
    if(list){  
        return list->next;  
    }  
    return NULL;  
}
```


Time permitting ...

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- Two special functions:
 - **first**: Returns value of first item on list (like a peek on stack)
 - **rest**: Returns pointer to remaining part of the list

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        Cell *cell = malloc(sizeof(Cell));
        cell->name = (*list)->name;
        cell->byear = (*list)->byear;
        // Uncomment to make first into a pop
        // Cell *temp = *list;
        // list = &(*list)->next;
        // free(temp);
    }
    return Cell; *rest(Cell *list){
        if(list){
            return list->next;
        }
        return NULL;
    }
}
```

Next week

- Doubly linked list
- Implementing stack and queues with linked lists
- C to LC3 with linked lists