

Data Structure

Data Structures are an important part of any language, let's look at a few of the basic data structures :

Arrays

Linked Lists

Stacks and Queues

Note : This is not a comprehensive list of data structures, just a small part of them

Stacks and Queues

The stack and the queue are data types that support insertion and deletion operations with well-defined semantics. Stack deletion deletes the element in the stack that was inserted the last, while a queue deletion deletes the element in the queue that was inserted the earliest. For this reason, the stack is often referred to as a LIFO (Last In First Out) data type and the queue as an FIFO (First In First out) data type.

Arrays

Arrays are <index,value> pairs that can be used to store information and easy retrieval of said information.

An array used to store a list of values in no particular order is known as an unsorted list.

An array where the order of the list of values is important is known as a sorted list.

Linked List

The linked list is an alternative to the array when a collection of objects is to be stored. The linked list is implemented using pointers. Thus, an element (or node) of a linked list contains the actual data to be stored and a pointer to the next node. Pointer is simply the address in memory of the next node. Thus, a key difference from arrays is that a linked list does not have to be stored contiguously in memory.



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