QUEUES

- A queue is a list from which items may be deleted at one end (front) and into which items may be inserted at the other end (rear)
- Similar to checkout line in a grocery store first come first served.



- It is referred to as a first-in-first-out (FIFO) data structure.
- Queues have many applications in computer systems:
 - jobs in a single processor computer
 - print spooling
 - information packets in computer networks.

• **Primitive operations**

enqueue $(\overline{q, x})$: inserts item x at the rear of the queue q

x = dequeue (q): removes the front element from q and returns its value.

isEmpty(q): true if the queue is empty, otherwise false.

1

Example





 $x = dequeue (q) \rightarrow x = A'$



Linked List Implementation

We need to keep two pointers: front and rear



3

};

Inserting a node:

```
char dequeue(struct queue *q)
{
    char value;
    struct queueNode * tempPtr;
    value = q->front->data;
    tempPtr = q->front;
    q->front = q->front->next;
    if (q->front == NULL)
        q->rear = NULL;
    free (tempPtr);
    return value;
}
int isEmpty(struct queue q)
{
    return q.front == NULL;
}
```

Array Implementation

A huge array and two variables (indices) front and rear to point the first and the last elements of the queue.



- Good if the queue is often emptied.
- Disadvantage: needs a huge array.

5

Ignoring overflow and underflow, insert and remove can be implemented as:

/* number of elements in the queue = rear - front + 1 */

```
enqueue(q, x):
   q.rear = q.rear +1;
   q.items[q.rear] = x;
x = dequeue(q):
   x = q.items[q.front];
   q.front = q.front + 1;
```

Problems with this representation:

Although there is space we may not be able to add a new item. An attempt will cause an overflow.



It is possible to have an empty queue yet no new item can be inserted.

A Solution: Circular Array

 A good method to implement queues (efficient use of space) is to view the array as if it is a circular array.





– when we pass the MAX-1, we return to 0.

```
- to increment index in a circular array:
if (i == MAX-1)
i = 0;
else i = i+ 1;
(i.e. use % operator)
```

- The condition rear < front is no longer valid as a test for empty queue.
- One solution: Keep a counter that holds the number of elements in the queue.

```
struct queue{
    int count;
    int front;
    int rear;
    int items[max];
};
```

void function initialize (struct queue *q)
{
 q->count = 0;
 q->front = 0;
 q->rear = -1;
}

```
int isEmpty(struct queue q)
{
    return (q.count == 0);
}
```

```
int isFull(struct queue q)
{
    return (q.count == max);
}
```

```
int dequeue(struct queue *q)
{
    int x;
    q->count = q->count -1;
    x = q->items[front];
    q->front = (q->front + 1)% max;
    return x;
}
```

Exercises

- Empty one stack onto the top of another stack.
- Move all items from a queue to a stack.
- Start with a queue and an empty stack and use the stack to reverse the order of all items in the queue.

- How can you implement a queue of stacks?
- How can you implement a stack of queues?