

Algorithms and Data Structures

B2. Abstract Data Types: Stacks & Queues

Gabriele Röger and Patrick Schnider

University of Basel

March 27, 2025

Algorithms and Data Structures

March 27, 2025 — B2. Abstract Data Types: Stacks & Queues

B2.1 Abstract Data Type

B2.2 Stack

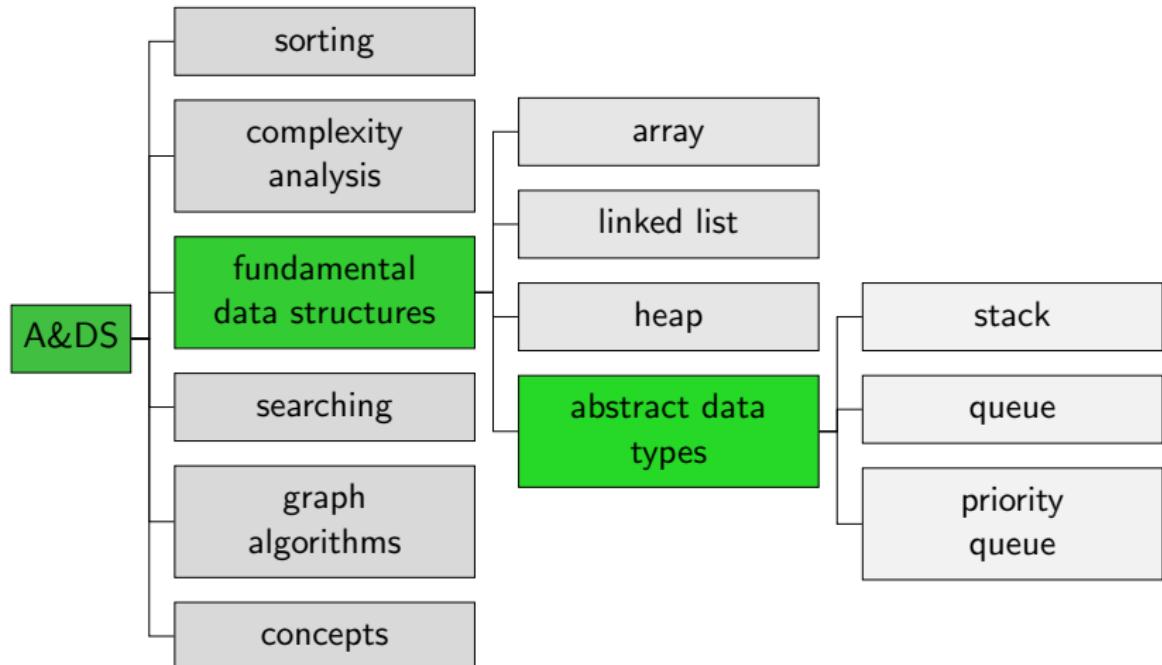
B2.3 Queue

B2.4 Deque

B2.5 Summary

B2.1 Abstract Data Type

Content of the Course



Abstract Data Type

Abstract Data Type

Description of a data type, summarizing the possible data and the possible operations on this data.

- ▶ **User perspective:** How can I use the data type?
- ▶ In contrast to data structures, not specifying the concrete representation of the data.

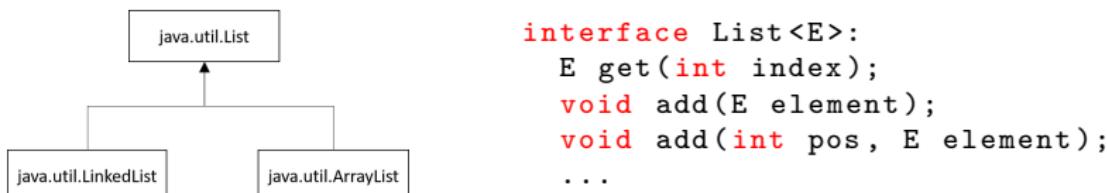
Advantages of Abstract Data Types

- ▶ User codes against an interface.
- ▶ The underlying data structure (representation) is hidden/encapsulated.
 - ▶ Representation can be replaced at any time.
- ▶ Separating two aspects:
 - ➊ What is the data type doing (interface)?
 - ➋ How is this achieved (internal structure)?

We can abstract away the dirty details and stay more flexible.

Abstract Data Types and Classes

- ▶ In object-oriented languages, abstract data types are often implemented as interfaces.
- ▶ For example, lists in Java:



Today: Stacks and Queues



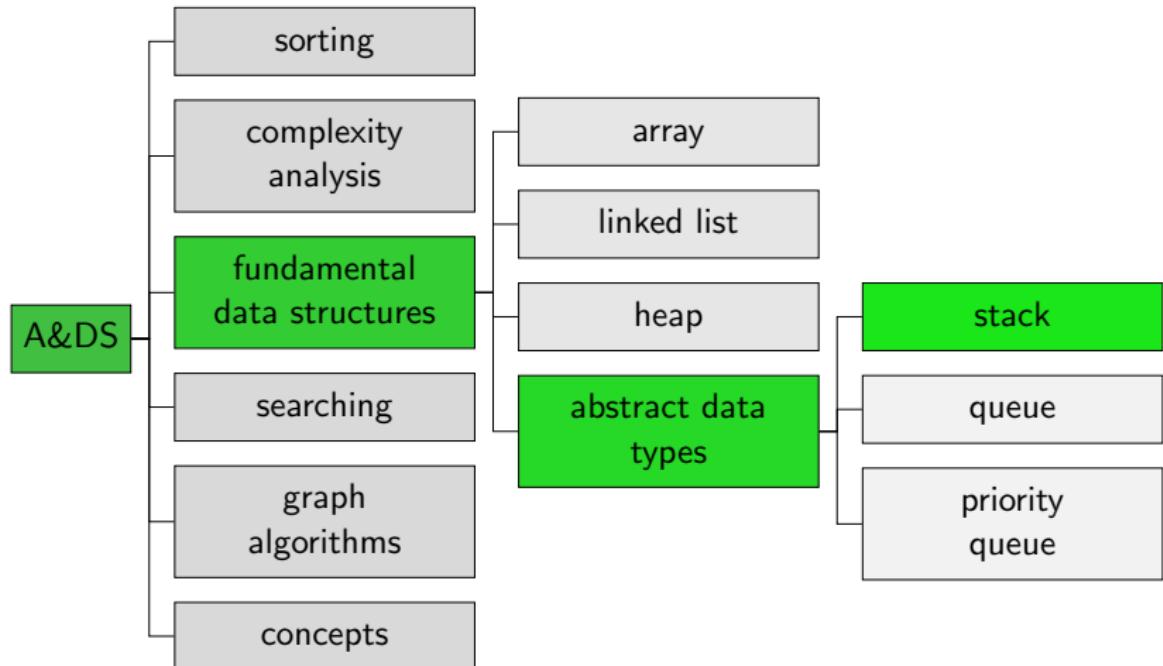
Stack (of plates)



Queue (of persons)

B2.2 Stack

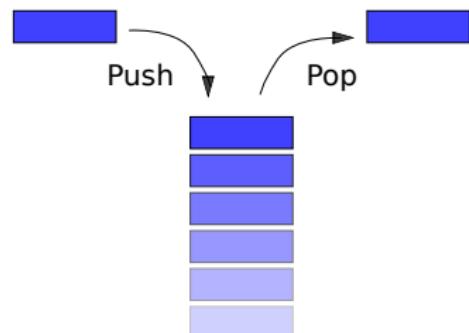
Content of the Course



Stack

A **stack** is a data structure following the **last-in-first-out (LIFO)** principle supporting the following operations:

- ▶ **push**: puts an item on top of the stack
- ▶ **pop**: removes the item at the top of the stack



Both operations should take constant time.

Application: Call Stack

The **call stack** stores information when running subroutines of a computer program.

→ where to resume once the subroutine has terminated

```
File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
merge_sort.py - Visual Studio Code
File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
... merge_sort.py x
home > roeiger > repos > teaching > algorithmen-datenstrukturen-fs2024 > slides > ad-b02-code > merge_sort.py > sort_aux
1 def merge(array, tmp, lo, mid, hi):
2     i = lo
3     j = mid + 1
4     for k in range(lo, hi + 1):
5         if j > hi or (i <= mid and array[i] <= array[j]):
6             tmp[k] = array[i]
7             i += 1
8         else:
9             tmp[k] = array[j]
10            j += 1
11        for k in range(lo, hi + 1):
12            array[k] = tmp[k]
13
14 def sort(array):
15     tmp = [0] * len(array)
16     sort_aux(array, tmp, 0, len(array) - 1)
17
18 def sort_aux(array, tmp, lo, hi):
19     if hi <= lo:
20         return
21     mid = lo + (hi - lo) // 2
22     sort_aux(array, tmp, lo, mid)
23     sort_aux(array, tmp, mid + 1, hi)
24     merge(array, tmp, lo, mid, hi)
25
26 array = [8,3,0,4,8,2]
27 sort(array)
28 print(array)
29
```

merge_sort.py

VARIABLES

Locals

- > array: [8, 3, 0, 4, 8, 2]
- hi: 5
- lo: 3
- > tmp: [8, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0]
- > Globals

WATCH

CALL STACK

Paused on breakpoint

sort_aux merge_sort.py (19:1)

sort_aux merge_sort.py (13:1)

sort merge_sort.py (6:1)

<module> merge_sort.py (7:1)

Jupyter Notebook



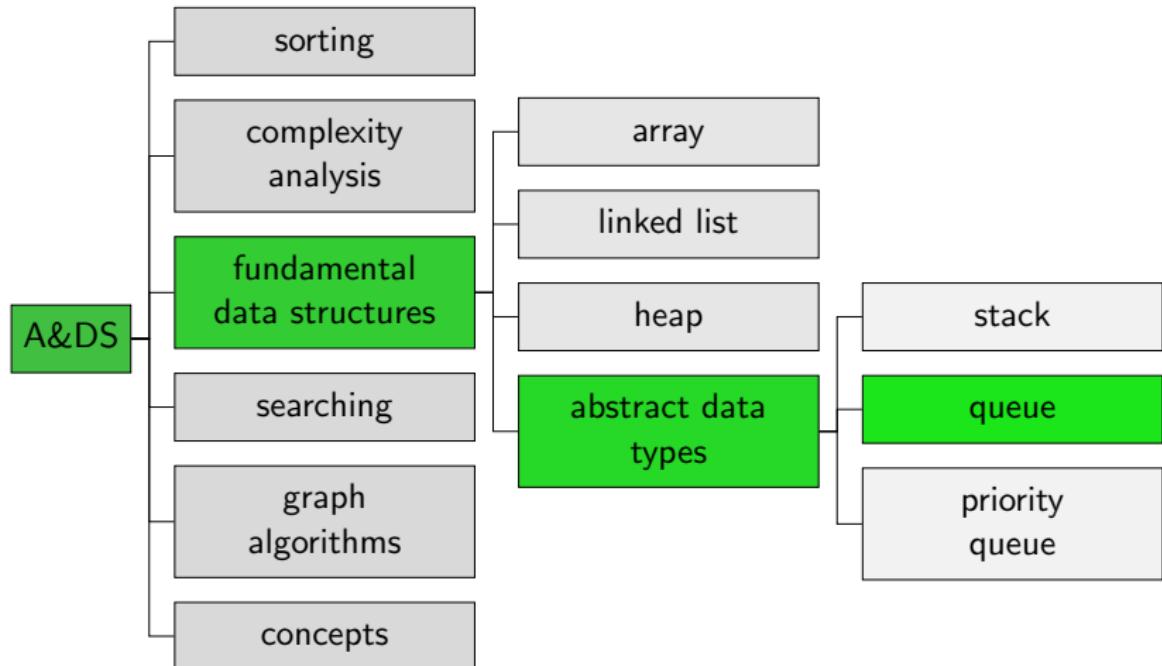
Jupyter notebook: fundamental-adts.ipynb

Stack: Possible Implementation with Doubly Linked Lists

```
class Stack:  
    def __init__(self):  
        self.list = DoublyLinkedList()  
  
    def push(self, item):  
        self.list.prepend(item)  
  
    def pop(self):  
        if self.list.is_empty():  
            raise Exception("popping from empty stack")  
        else:  
            return self.list.remove_first()
```

B2.3 Queue

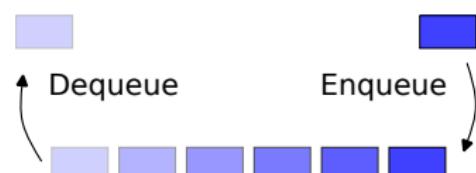
Content of the Course



Queue

A **queue** is a data structure following the **first-in-first-out (FIFO)** principle supporting the following operations:

- ▶ **enqueue**: adds an item to the tail of the queue
- ▶ **dequeue**: removes the item at the head of the queue

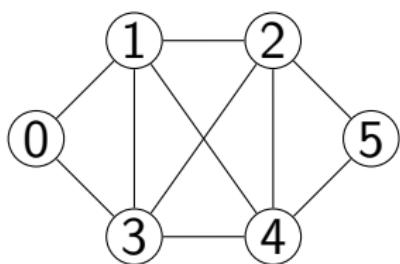


Both operations should take constant time.

Application: Breadth-first Exploration

Queues are always helpful if we need to store elements and process them in the same order.

With a breadth-first exploration, we want to visit all reachable nodes in a graph in the order of their distance from a given start node.



Starting from node 5, any of the following visitation orders would be fine:

- ▶ 5 2 4 1 3 0
- ▶ 5 4 2 1 3 0
- ▶ 5 2 4 3 1 0
- ▶ 5 4 2 3 1 0

Implementation with queue in Jupyter notebook

Jupyter Notebook



Jupyter notebook: fundamental-adts.ipynb

Queue: Possible Implementation with Doubly Linked Lists

```
class Queue:  
    def __init__(self):  
        self.list = DoublyLinkedList()  
  
    def enqueue(self, item):  
        self.list.append(item)  
  
    def dequeue(self):  
        if self.list.is_empty():  
            raise Exception("dequeuing from empty queue")  
        else:  
            return self.list.remove_first()
```

B2.4 Deque

Deques

A **double-ended queue** (deque) generalizes both, queues and stacks:

- ▶ `append`: adds an item to the right side of the deque.
- ▶ `appendleft`: adds an item to the left side of the deque.
- ▶ `pop`: removes the item at the right end of the deque.
- ▶ `popleft`: removes the item at the left end of the deque.

Operation names can differ between programming languages.

All operations should take constant time.

How would you implement a deque?

B2.5 Summary

Summary

- ▶ **Abstract data types** (ADTs) specify the **behavior** of a data type, not the internal representation.
 - ▶ **Stack**: follows last-in-first-out (LIFO) principle.
 - ▶ **Queue**: follows first-in-first-out (FIFO) principle.
 - ▶ **Deque**: generalizes stack and queue.
 - ▶ All: in principle just lists with limited functionality.
 - ▶ Limitations help clarifying intended usage and avoiding mistakes.
- Preferably code against an ADT/interface.