Linked List

Slides Credit: IIT KGP

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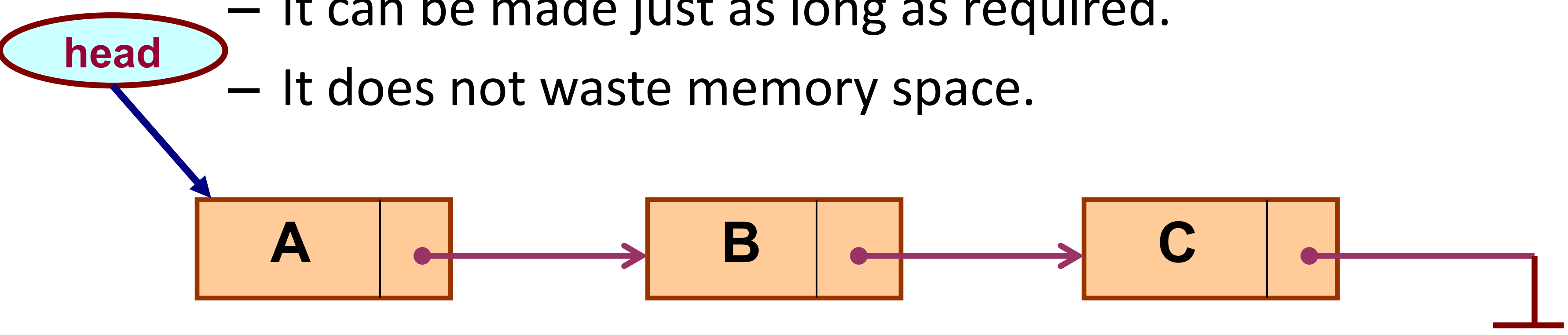
Introduction

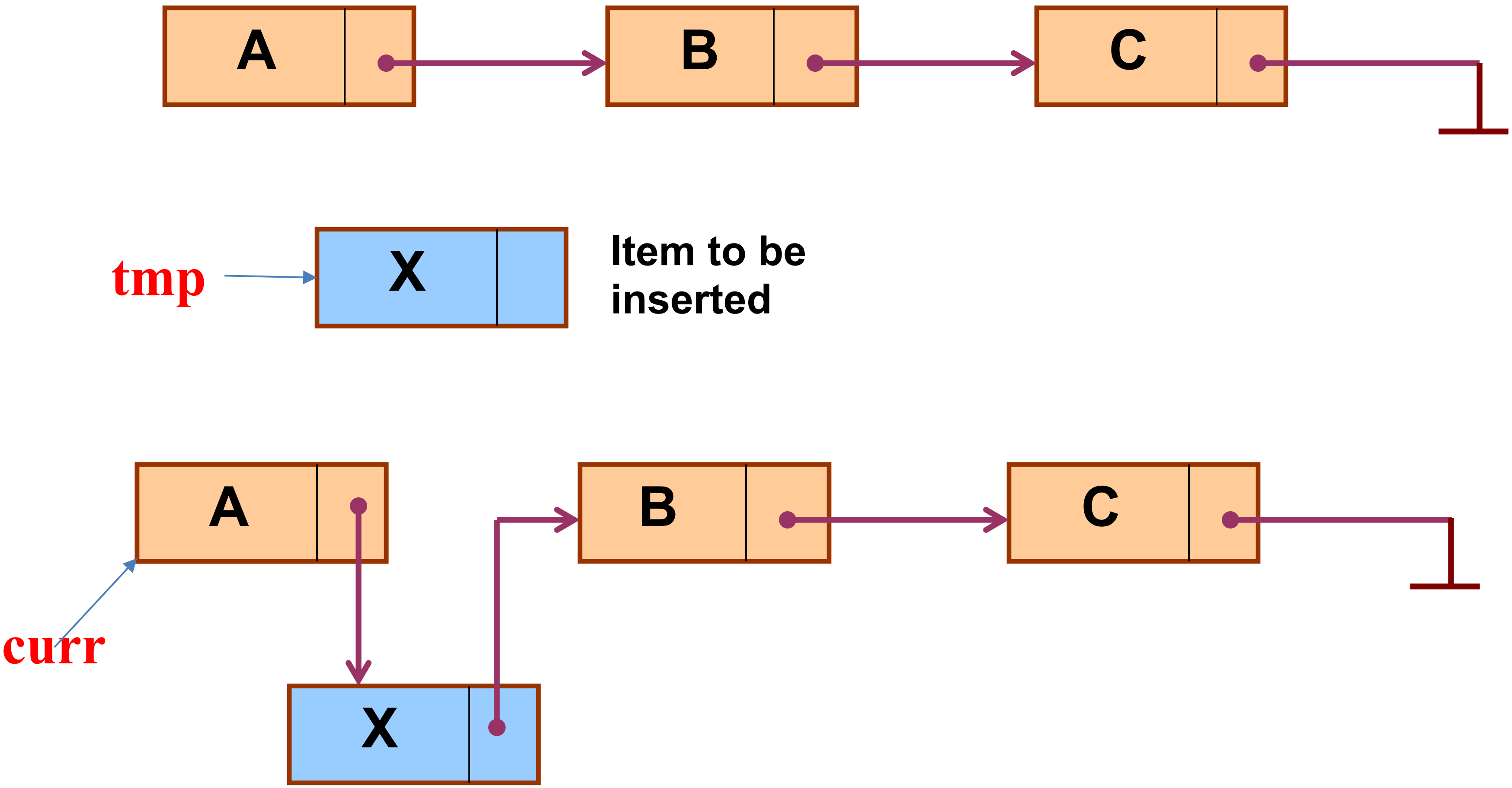
- A linked list is a data structure which can change during execution.
  - Successive elements are connected by pointers.
  - Last element points to `NULL`.
  - It can grow or shrink in size during execution of a program.
  - It can be made just as long as required.
  - It does not waste memory space.



- Keeping track of a linked list:
  - Must know the pointer to the first element of the list (called *start*, *head*, etc.).

- Linked lists provide flexibility in allowing the items to be rearranged efficiently.
  - Insert an element.
  - Delete an element.

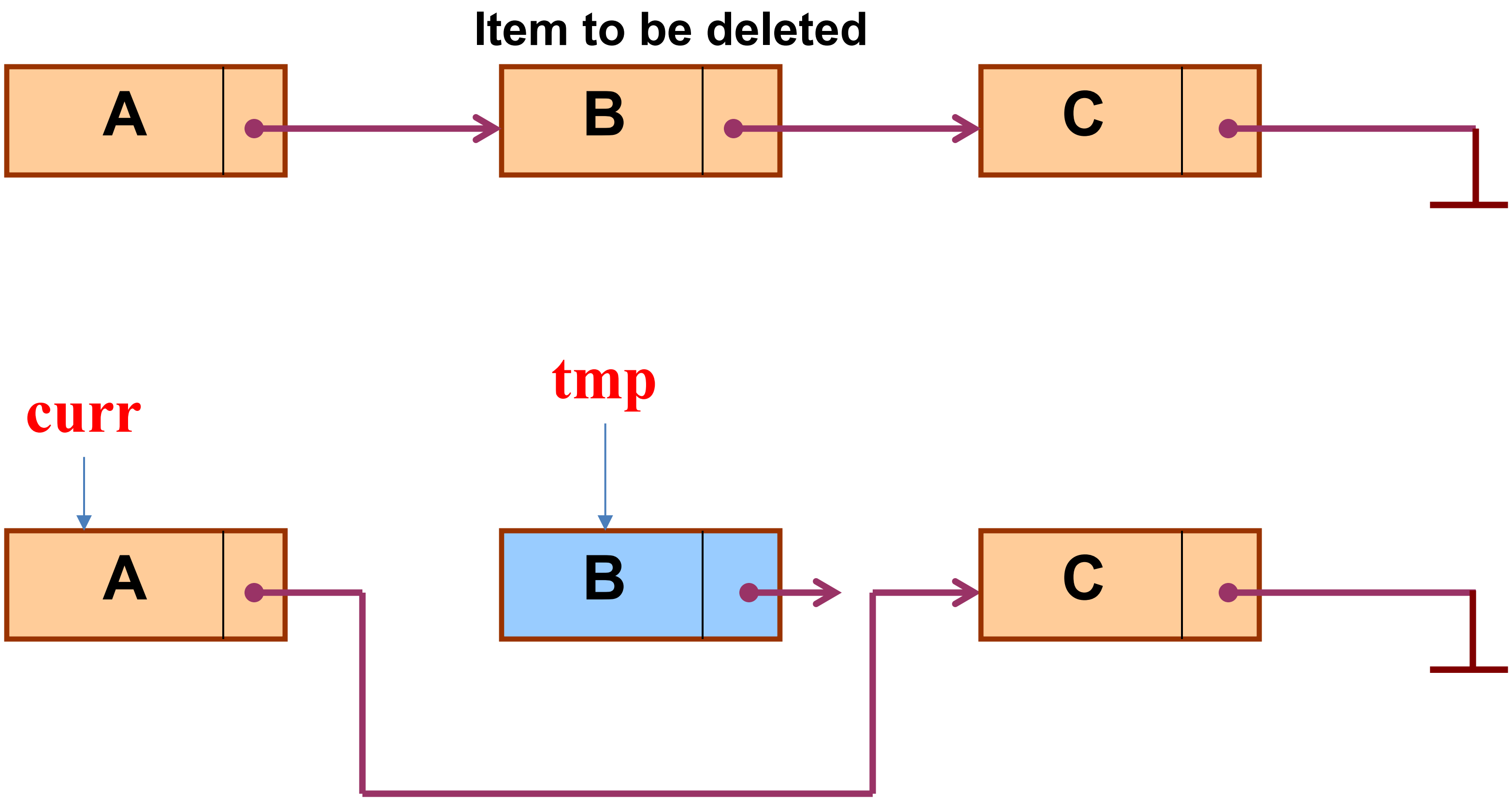
Illustration: Insertion



Pseudo-code for insertion

```
typedef struct nd {
   struct item data;
   struct nd * next;
   } node;

void insert(node *curr)
{
node * tmp;

tmp=(node *) malloc(sizeof(node));
tmp->next=curr->next;
curr->next=tmp;
}
```

Illustration: Deletion



Pseudo-code for deletion

```
typedef struct nd {
   struct item data;
   struct nd * next;
   } node;

void delete(node *curr)
{
node * tmp;
 tmp=curr->next;
curr->next=tmp->next;
free(tmp);
}
```

In essence ...

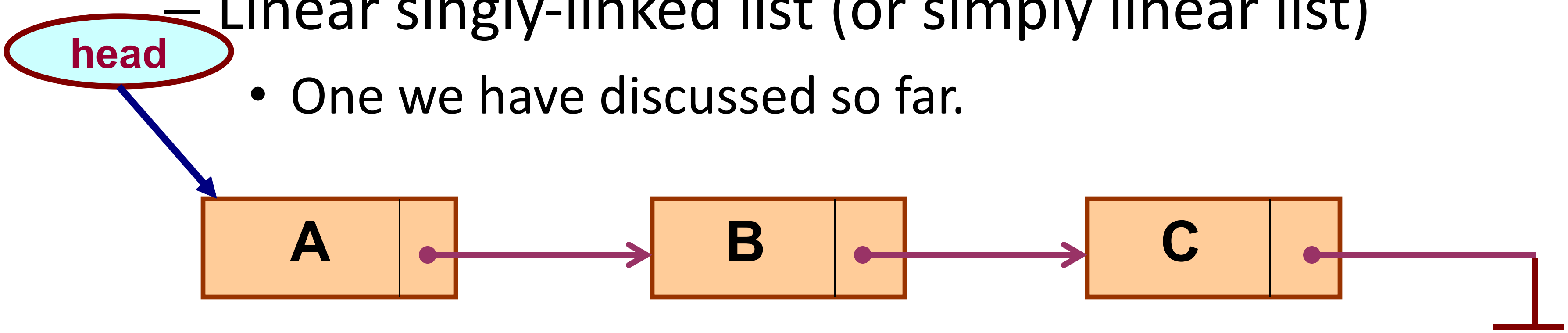
- For insertion:
  - A record is created holding the new item.
  - The next pointer of the new record is set to link it to the item which is to follow it in the list.
  - The next pointer of the item which is to precede it must be modified to point to the new item.
- For deletion:
  - The next pointer of the item immediately preceding the one to be deleted is altered, and made to point to the item following the deleted item.

Array versus Linked Lists

- Arrays are suitable for:
  - Inserting/deleting an element at the end.
  - Randomly accessing any element.
  - Searching the list for a particular value.
- Linked lists are suitable for:
  - Inserting an element.
  - Deleting an element.
  - Applications where sequential access is required.
  - In situations where the number of elements cannot be predicted beforehand.

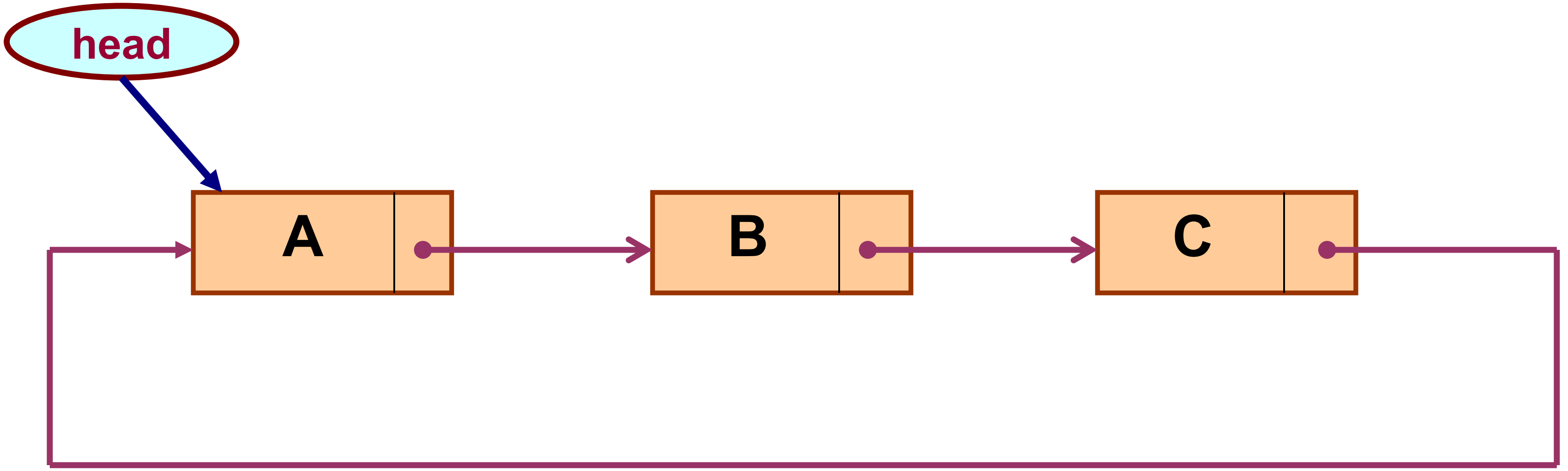
Types of Lists

- Depending on the way in which the links are used to maintain adjacency, several different types of linked lists are possible.
  - Linear singly-linked list (or simply linear list)
    - One we have discussed so far.



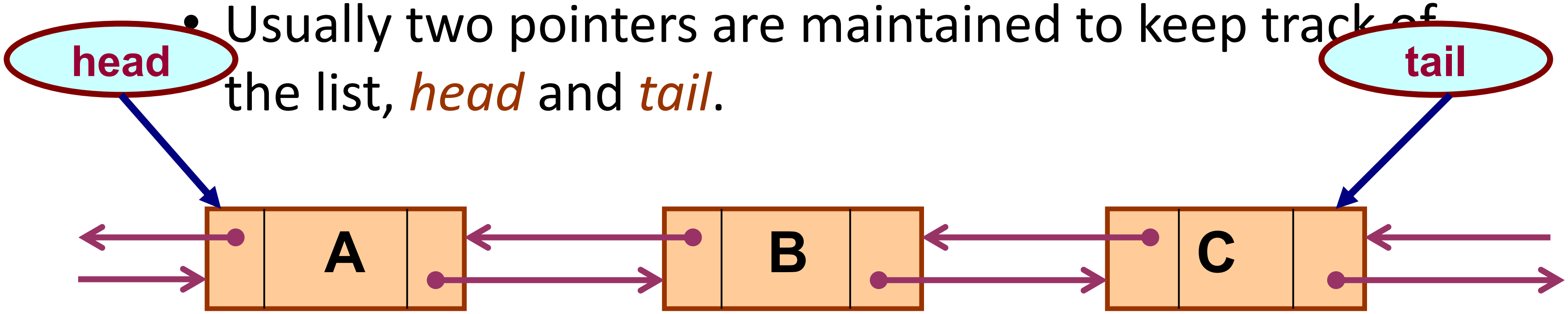
– Circular linked list

- The pointer from the last element in the list points back to the first element.



– Doubly linked list

- Pointers exist between adjacent nodes in both directions.
- The list can be traversed either forward or backward.
- Usually two pointers are maintained to keep track of the list, *head* and *tail*.



Basic Operations on a List

- Creating a list
- Traversing the list
- Inserting an item in the list
- Deleting an item from the list
- Concatenating two lists into one

Example: Working with linked list

- Consider the structure of a node as follows:

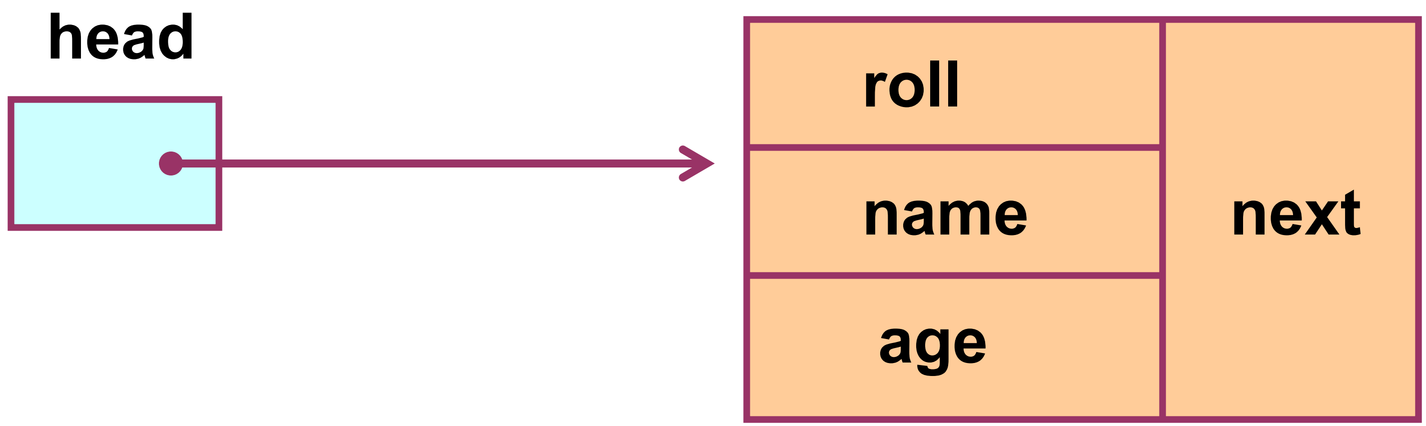
```
struct stud {
              int   roll;
              char  name[25];
              int   age;
              struct stud *next;
            };

  /* A user-defined data type called "node" */

typedef struct stud node;
node *head;
```

Creating a List

How to begin?

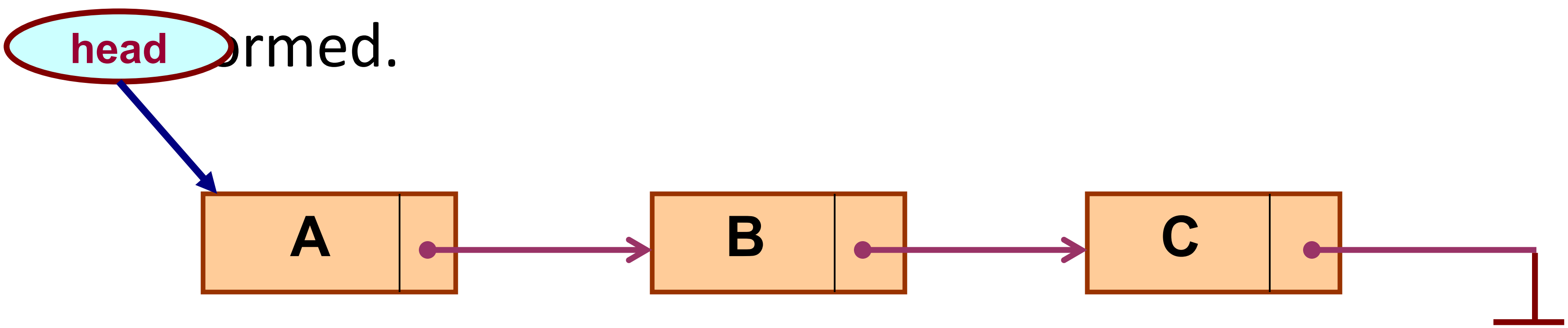
- To start with, we have to create a node (the first node), and make `head` point to it.

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



Contd.

- If there are n number of nodes in the initial linked list:
  - Allocate n records, one by one.
  - Read in the fields of the records.
  - Modify the links of the records so that the chain is formed.



```
node *create_list()
{
    int  k, n;
    node  *p, *head;

    printf  ("\n How many elements to enter?");
     scanf ("%d", &n);

    for  (k=0; k<n; k++)
    {
        if (k == 0) {
          head = (node *) malloc(sizeof(node));
          p = head;
        }
        else {
               p->next  = (node *) malloc(sizeof(node));
               p = p->next;
             }

        scanf ("%d %s %d", &p->roll, p->name, &p->age);
    }

    p->next  =  NULL;
    return (head);
}
```

- To be called from `main()` function as:

```
node *head;
………
head = create_list();
```

Traversing the List

What is to be done?

- Once the linked list has been constructed and *head* points to the first node of the list,
  - Follow the pointers.
  - Display the contents of the nodes as they are traversed.
  - Stop when the *next* pointer points to NULL.

```c
void display (node *head)
{
  int  count = 1;
  node  *p;

  p = head;
  while (p != NULL)
  {
    printf ("\nNode %d: %d %s %d", count,
                       p->roll, p->name, p->age);
    count++;
    p = p->next;
  }
  printf ("\n");
}
```

- To be called from `main()` function as:

```
node *head;
………
display (head);
```

Inserting a Node in a List

How to do?

- The problem is to insert a node *before a specified node*.
  - Specified means some value is given for the node (called *key*).
  - In this example, we consider it to be `roll`.
- Convention followed:
  - If the value of roll is given as *negative*, the node will be inserted at the *end* of the list.

Contd.

- When a node is added at the beginning,
  - Only one next pointer needs to be modified.
    - *head* is made to point to the new node.
    - New node points to the previously first element.
- When a node is added at the end,
  - Two next pointers need to be modified.
    - Last node now points to the new node.
    - New node points to NULL.
- When a node is added in the middle,
  - Two next pointers need to be modified.
    - Previous node now points to the new node.
    - New node points to the next node.

```
void insert (node **head)
{
    int  k = 0, rno;
    node *p, *q, *new;

    new = (node *) malloc(sizeof(node));

    printf ("\nData to be inserted: ");
      scanf ("%d %s %d", &new->roll, new->name, &new->age);
    printf ("\nInsert before roll (-ve for end):");
      scanf ("%d", &rno);

    p = *head;

    if (p->roll == rno)        /* At the beginning */
    {
        new->next = p;
        *head = new;
    }
```

```
  else
    {
       while ((p != NULL) && (p->roll != rno))
         {
              q = p;
              p = p->next;
         }

         if  (p == NULL)          /* At the end */
         {
              q->next = new;
              new->next = NULL;
         }
        else if  (p->roll  == rno)
                             /* In the middle */
                 {
                      q->next = new;
                      new->next = p;
                 }
    }
}
```

The pointers q and p always point to consecutive nodes.

- To be called from `main()` function as:

```
node *head;
………
insert (&head);
```

Deleting a node from the list

What is to be done?

- Here also we are required to delete a specified node.
  - Say, the node whose `roll` field is given.
- Here also three conditions arise:
  - Deleting the first node.
  - Deleting the last node.
  - Deleting an intermediate node.

```
void  delete (node **head)
{
    int  rno;
    node  *p, *q;

    printf ("\nDelete for roll :");
      scanf ("%d", &rno);

    p = *head;
    if  (p->roll == rno)
             /* Delete the first element */
    {
        *head = p->next;
        free (p);
    }
```

```
 else
    {
       while  ((p != NULL) && (p->roll != rno))
       {
           q = p;
           p  =  p->next;
       }

       if  (p == NULL)       /* Element not found */
          printf ("\nNo match :: deletion failed");

       else if (p->roll == rno)
                     /* Delete any other element */
            {
                q->next  =  p->next;
                free (p);
            }
    }
}
```

Few Exercises to Try Out

- Write a function to:
  - Concatenate two given list into one big list.

    ```
    node  *concatenate (node *head1, node *head2);
    ```

  - Insert an element in a linked list in sorted order. The function will be called for every element to be inserted.

    ```
    void  insert_sorted (node **head,  node *element);
    ```

  - Always insert elements at one end, and delete elements from the other end (first-in first-out QUEUE).

    ```
    void  insert_q (node **head,  node *element)
    node  *delete_q (node **head)   /* Return the deleted node */
    ```