Building Java Programs

Complex Linked List Code

reading: 16.2 – 16.3
addSorted

- Write a method `addSorted` that accepts an `int` as a parameter and adds it to a sorted list in sorted order.
  - **Before `addSorted(17)`:**

  ![Diagram before `addSorted(17)`](image1)

  - **After `addSorted(17)`:**

  ![Diagram after `addSorted(17)`](image2)
The common case

- Adding to the middle of a list:
  \[\text{addSorted}(17)\]

- Which references must be changed?
- What sort of loop do we need?
- When should the loop stop?
First attempt

• An incorrect loop:

```java
ListNode current = front;
while (current.data < value) {
    current = current.next;
}
```

• What is wrong with this code?
  • The loop stops too late to affect the list in the right way.
changing a list

- There are only two ways to change a linked list:
  - Change the value of `front` (modify the front of the list)
  - Change the value of `<node>`.`next` (modify middle or end of list to point somewhere else)

- Implications:
  - To add in the middle, need a reference to the `previous` node
  - Front is often a special case
Key idea: peeking ahead

- Corrected version of the loop:

```java
ListNode current = front;
while (current.next.data < value) {
    current = current.next;
}
```

- This time the loop stops in the right place.
Another case to handle

- Adding to the end of a list:
  \[ \text{addSorted}(42) \]

```
Exception in thread "main": java.lang.NullPointerException
```

- Why does our code crash?
- What can we change to fix this case?
Multiple loop tests

- A correction to our loop:

```java
ListNode current = front;
while (current.next != null &&
      current.next.data < value) {
    current = current.next;
}
```

- We must check for a `next` of `null` before we check its `.data`.
Third case to handle

- Adding to the front of a list:
  \texttt{addSorted(-10)}

- What will our code do in this case?
- What can we change to fix it?
Handling the front

- Another correction to our code:

```java
if (value <= front.data) {
    // insert at front of list
    front = new ListNode(value, front);
} else {
    // insert in middle of list
    ListNode current = front;
    while (current.next != null &&
           current.next.data < value) {
        current = current.next;
    }
}
```

- Does our code now handle every possible case?
Fourth case to handle

- Adding to (the front of) an empty list:
  \texttt{addSorted(42)}

- What will our code do in this case?
- What can we change to fix it?
Final version of code

// Adds given value to list in sorted order.
// Precondition: Existing elements are sorted
public void addSorted(int value) {
    if (front == null || value <= front.data) {
        // insert at front of list
        front = new ListNode(value, front);
    } else {
        // insert in middle of list
        ListNode current = front;
        while (current.next != null &&
            current.next.data < value) {
            current = current.next;
        }
        current = current.next;
    }
}
Common cases

- **middle**: "typical" case in the middle of an existing list
- **back**: special case at the back of an existing list
- **front**: special case at the front of an existing list
- **empty**: special case of an empty list
Other list features

- Add the following methods to the `LinkedIntList`:
  - size
  - isEmpty
  - clear
  - toString
  - indexOf
  - contains

- Add a `size` field to the list to return its size more efficiently.

- Add preconditions and exception tests to appropriate methods.
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