

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
 Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
 6.001—Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs  
 Fall Semester, 19987

**Lecture Notes – October 20, 1998**

### Mutation and Data Structures

A **stack** supports the following operations

<code>(make-stack)</code>	returns an empty stack
<code>(insert elt stack)</code>	adds an element to a stack and returns the new stack
<code>(delete stack)</code>	removes an element from a stack and returns the new stack
<code>(top stack)</code>	returns current top element of stack
<code>(empty-stack? stack)</code>	returns true if no elements, false otherwise

The stack satisfies the following contract: If **s** is a stack, created by `(make-stack)`, and *i* is the number of **insertions** and *j* is the number of **deletions**, then

1. If  $j > i$  it is an error.
2. If  $j = i$  then `(empty-stack? s)` is true and `(top s)`, and `(delete s)` are errors.
3. If  $j < i$  then `(empty-stack? s)` is false and `(top (delete (insert val s))) = (top s)` for any *val*.
4. If  $j \leq i$  then `(top (insert val s)) = val` for any *val*.

We can implement a stack in the following manner:

```
(define (make-stack) '())

(define (empty-stack? stack) (null? stack))

(define (insert elt stack) (cons elt stack))

(define (delete stack)
  (if (empty-stack? stack)
      (error "Stack underflow -- delete")
      (cdr stack)))

(define (top stack)
  (if (empty-stack? stack)
      (error "Stack underflow -- top")
      (car stack)))
```

Now here is another implementation which doesn't require grabbing hold of the new stack after deleting an element;

```
(define (make-stack) (cons 'stack '()))

(define (empty-stack? stack) (null? (cdr stack)))

(define (insert elt stack)
  (set-cdr! stack (cons elt (cdr stack)))
  stack)

(define (delete stack)
  (if (empty-stack? stack)
      (error "Stack underflow -- delete")
      (set-cdr! stack (cddr stack)))
  stack)

(define (top stack)
  (if (empty-stack? stack)
      (error "Stack underflow -- top")
      (cadr stack)))
```

A **queue** supports the following operations:

<code>(make-queue)</code>	returns an empty queue
<code>(insert elt queue)</code>	adds an element to end of queue and returns the new queue
<code>(delete queue)</code>	removes an element from front of queue and returns the new queue
<code>(head queue)</code>	returns element at front of queue
<code>(empty-queue? queue)</code>	returns true if no elements, false otherwise

The queue's contract: If `q` is a queue, created by `(make-queue)`,  $i$  is the number of **insertions**,  $j$  is the number of **deletions**, and  $x_i$  is the  $i$ th item inserted into `q`, then

1. If  $j > i$  it is an error.
2. If  $j = i$  then `(empty-queue? q)` is true, and `(head q)`, and `(delete q)` are errors.
3. If  $j < i$  then `(head q) =  $x_{j+1}$` .

A simple queue implementation:

```

(define (make-queue) '())

(define (empty-queue? queue) (null? queue))

(define (head queue)
  (if (empty-queue? queue)
      (error "Empty queue -- head")
      (car queue)))

(define (delete queue)
  (if (empty-queue? queue)
      (error "Empty queue -- delete")
      (cdr queue)))

(define (insert elt queue)
  (if (null? queue)
      (cons elt '())
      (cons (car queue)
            (insert elt (cdr queue)))))

```

An implementation with mutation. First some abstractions for the data structure which maintains the head and tail pointers.

```

(define (front-ptr queue) (car queue))

(define (rear-ptr queue) (cdr queue))

(define (set-front-ptr! queue item) (set-car! queue item))

(define (set-rear-ptr! queue item) (set-cdr! queue item))

(define (empty-queue? queue) (null? (front-ptr queue)))

(define (make-queue) (cons '() '()))

```

Now we can implement the operations on queues:

```
(define (insert item queue)
  (let ((new-pair (cons item '())))
    (cond ((empty-queue? queue)
           (set-front-ptr! queue new-pair)
           (set-rear-ptr! queue new-pair)
           queue)
          (else (set-cdr! (rear-ptr queue) new-pair)
                 (set-rear-ptr! queue new-pair)
                 queue))))

(define (head queue)
  (if (empty-queue? queue)
      (error "Empty queue -- head")
      (car (front-ptr queue))))

(define (delete queue)
  (cond ((empty-queue? queue)
        (error "Empty queue -- delete"))
        ((eq? (front-ptr queue) (head-ptr queue))
         (set-front-ptr? queue '())
         (set-rear-ptr? queue '())
         queue)
        (else (set-front-ptr! queue (cdr (front-ptr queue)))
                queue)))
```