

Summary for Capsule 2: Lists and Iterators

LinkedList:

- Data structure like Array or ArrayList
- Comprised of nodes
 - Each node has a value
 - Each node has a pointer reference to another node, to advance down the list
 - The last node does not have a pointer normally
 - The last node could point to the first node to create a circularly LinkedList
 - Each node could have a second pointer, pointing back to the previous node
 - This style of LinkedList is called a Doubly LinkedList
- ListIterator
 - Java's own given interface
 - An iterator describes a position anywhere inside a LinkedList
 - Has a `.next()`, which moves down the LinkedList
 - Has a `.hasNext()` to check if there is another node in the LinkedList
 - Has a `.hasPrevious()` to check if there is a node before the node which the iterator is at (useful for doubly LinkedLists)
 - Has a `.add()` which adds a new node after the node which the iterator is at
 - Has a `.remove()` which removes the node and returns its value
- Traversing a LinkedList and accessing an element
 - To get any one element of a LinkedList takes $O(n)$ iterations (random access)
 - Need the use of an iterator to keep track of where you are in the LinkedList
 - Whereas to get to any one element in an Array takes only $O(1)$ iterations
- Adding or removing an element
 - In ArrayLists it takes $O(n)$ iterations to remove or add an element
 - In LinkedList it takes $O(1)$ iterations to remove or add an element
 - Removal of a node
 - Use an iterator to find the node which is before the node to be removed
 - Take that node and change its pointer to point to the node which is after the node to be removed
 - Java should then garbage collect the node which has no pointers pointing to it
 - Thus removing the node from the LinkedList
 - Could also use the iterator's `.remove()` method
 - If removing the first or last node
 - Can use LinkedList's `.removeFirst()` or `.removeLast()` methods
 - Adding a new node
 - Use an iterator to find the node which is before the location of the new node
 - Create a new node
 - Give this new node's pointer a value by making it point to the node after the one the iterator is on
 - With the node the iterator is on, have its pointer value point to the new node

- Thus adding a new node to the LinkedList
- Could also use the iterator's `.add()` method
- If adding something to the beginning or end of the List
 - Can use LinkedList's `.addFirst()` or `.addLast()` methods