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What is the worst-case time complexity of this `sensor()` definition, if `lyrics` references a `DynamicArrayList` and $N = \text{lyrics.size}()$?

```
/** Replaces all instances of the given `word` with
 *  "****" in these `lyrics`. */
static void sensor(CS2110List<String> lyrics, String word) {
    while(lyrics.contains(word)) { O(N) iterations
        int i = lyrics.indexOf(word); O(N) search
        lyrics.set(i, "****");
    }
}
```

$O(1)$ **(A)**

$O(N)$ **(B)**

$O(N^2)$ **(C)**

$O(N^3)$ **(D)**

Time Complexity of DynamicArrayList

DynamicArrayList

insert(int index, T elem): void

remove(int index): T

size(): int

get(int index): T

set(int index, T elem): void

contains(T elem): boolean

indexOf(T elem): int

delete(T elem): void

add(T elem): void

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{insert} \\ \text{remove} \end{array} \right\} O(N)$, need to shift all elems when index=0

$O(1)$

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{get} \\ \text{set} \end{array} \right\} O(1)$ random access guarantee

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{contains} \\ \text{indexOf} \end{array} \right\} O(N)$ find() does linear search

$O(N)$ because of resize

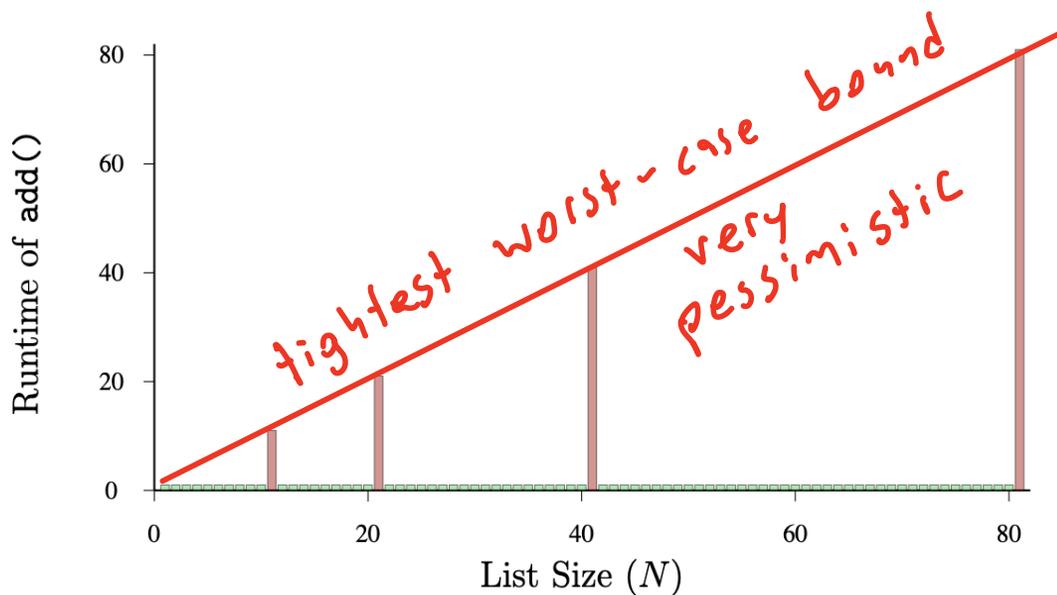
Amortized Time Complexity

Let's think a bit more about runtime of `add()`

- Usually, just write to one array cell, update size
 $O(1)$ operation

- Infrequently, resize and copy, $O(N)$ operation

We'd like a notion of the "typical" runtime
long-run average

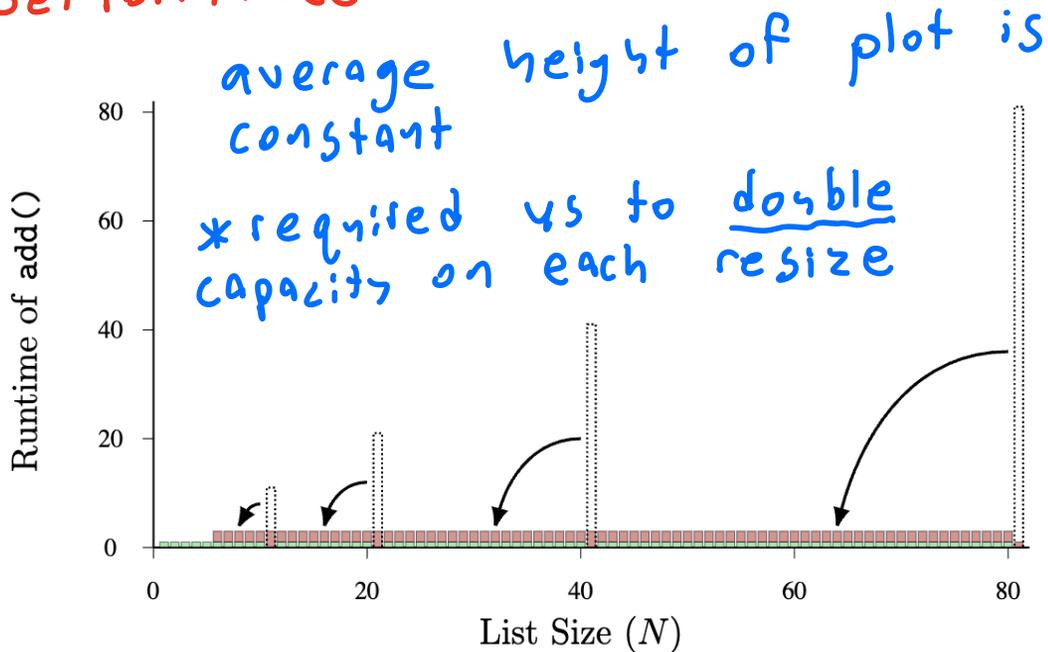


Amortized Time Complexity

||
Total complexity of a sequence of method calls,
divided by # of calls.

≈ average or expected performance

adding N elements to
an empty Dynamic ArrayList
requires $O(N)$ total work,
so $\text{add}()$ has $O(1)$
amortized runtime
complexity.





Lecture 13: Linked Data

CS 2110

March 5, 2026

Today's Learning Outcomes

- 53. Implement a generic class or method with one or more generic type parameters. Use generic classes in client code.
- 57. Compare the performance of a List implemented with a dynamic array and a List implemented with a linked chain. Determine which is preferable for a given use case.
- 58. Draw object (or node) diagrams to visualize linked data structures. Implement methods on linked data structures.

DynamicArrayList Performance

$O(N)$ memory usage

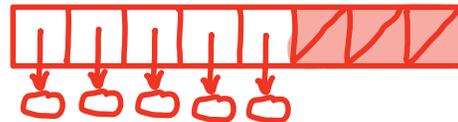
$O(1)$ `get()` and `set()` operations

- "Random access guarantee" of backing storage array

Amortized $O(1)$ `add()` at end of list

$O(N)$ memory copies / shifts to support `insert()` / `remove()` at arbitrary indices (e.g. at beginning of list)

- "Dense", centralized storage



Decentralized Storage

Arrays are single collection objects that "know about" all of their contents.

- Benefits (random access) + drawbacks (expensive modifications)

Alternate approach: split storage across multiple objects that each have a "local view" of the collection

- Need a way to navigate between these objects to interact with all data

Analogy: Large Textbook vs. Research Articles
(Centralized) with Citations (De-Centralized)

Nodes and Linked Chains

Smaller objects = "Nodes"

Each node:

- Carries small amount (1 element) of data
- Holds a reference (i.e., links) to another Node, the "next" node

Linking multiple nodes together forms a "chain"

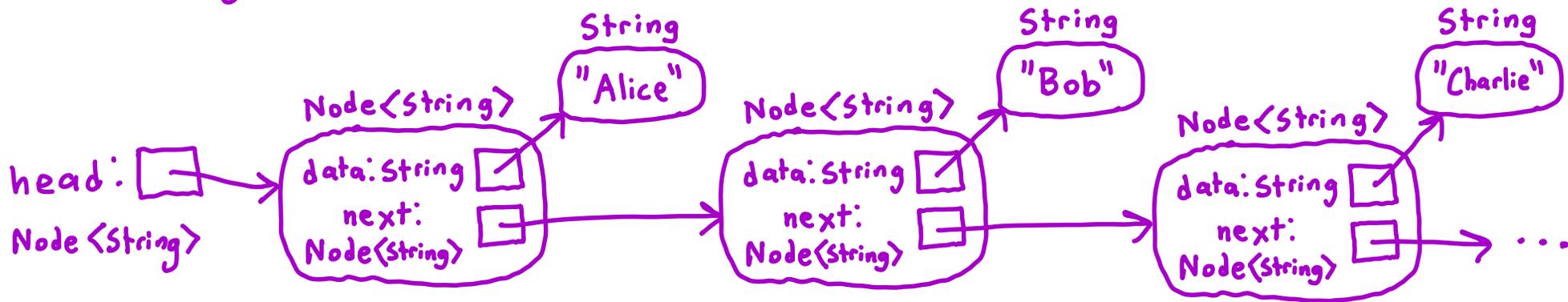
First Node in chain is called the "head"

Starting from the head, we can access any element by following enough links.

```
class Node<T> {  
    /** The element in this node. */  
    T data;  
  
    /** The next node in the chain. */  
    Node<T> next;  
}
```

Visualizing a Linked Chain (of Strings)

Object Diagram:



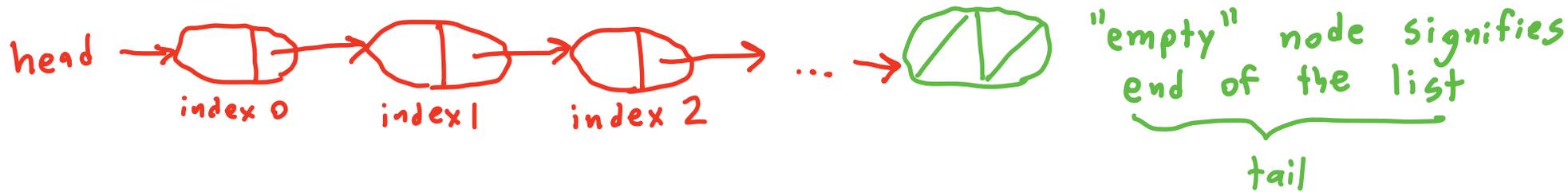
Node Diagram: Retain "link structure", abstract away other details



Linked Lists

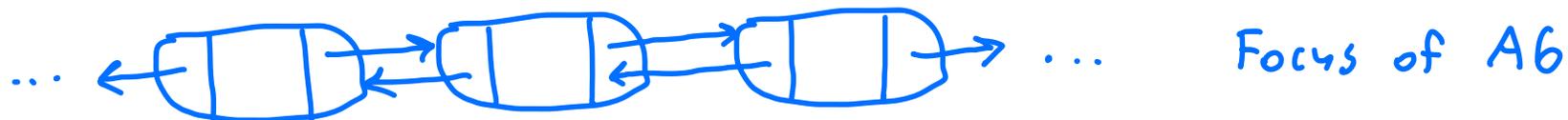
We can use a linked chain to implement the CS2110List interface

Nodes are linked in index order with head at index 0



"SinglyLinked List" class, since each Node links to a single other Node

vs. "DoublyLinked List" with backward pointers



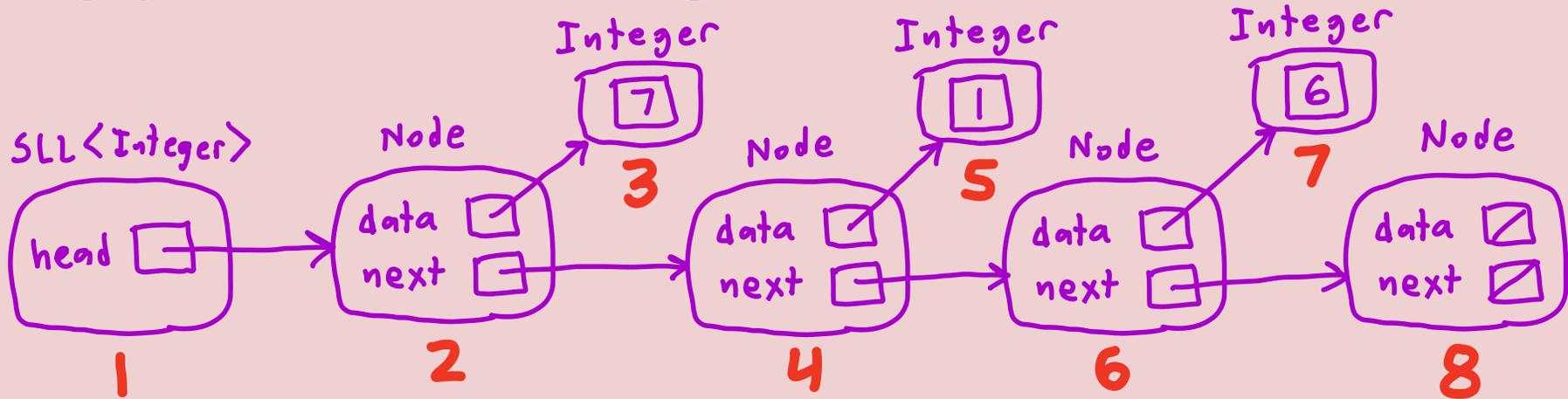
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How many heap objects are required to represent a `SinglyLinkedList<Integer>` object with `size = 3`?



4

(A)

7

(C)

6

(B)

8

(D)



Coding Demo: SinglyLinkedList State



Nested Classes

Sometimes, an auxiliary class is needed to help model the state of an object.

The client doesn't need to know/worry about this class, so we can encapsulate it from their view by nesting it inside of main class.

Two "Flavors":

static nested classes

don't have access to fields of "outer object"

non-static "inner" classes

have access to fields of "outer object"

everything in nested class is visible to outer class



Coding Demo: Constructor / assertInv()

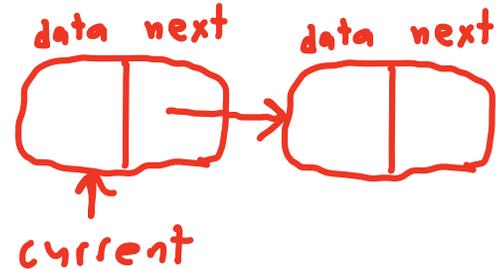


nodeAtIndex() Helper Method

Working with your neighbor, complete the definition of this method.

```
/** Returns a reference to the node at the given `index` (counting from 0) in  
 * this linked list. Requires that `0 <= index <= size`. */
```

```
private Node<T> nodeAtIndex(int index) {  
    assert 0 <= index && index <= size; // defensive programming  
    Node<T> current = head;    int i = 0;  
    while (i < index) { // loop inv: current = ith node in list  
        current = current.next;    i++;  
    }  
    return current;  
}
```





Coding Demo: Using `nodeAtIndex()`



Complexity Analysis

`nodeAtIndex(i)` runs in $O(i)$ time, $O(1)$ per link traversal

- $O(1)$ space complexity ($O(i)$ if recursive)

`get()` / `set()` are $O(i)$, worst-case $O(N)$, operations
for linked lists

worse than dynamic arrays, de-centralization makes
navigation trickier since we lose random access guarantee

Other "Scanning" Methods

contains(T elem)

Idea: Follow links from head, comparing data field of each node with elem. Early return true, return false at tail.

indexOf(T elem)

Idea: Follow links from head, comparing data field of each node with elem. Keep track of indices during traversal.

Both $O(N)$ operations - same as Dynamic Array List - linear search

Exercise:
(on your own)

- code these up
- write loop invariants

Adding Nodes: spliceIn()

```
/** Adds the given `elem` just before this existing list `node`. */  
private void spliceIn(Node<T> node, T elem) { ... }
```

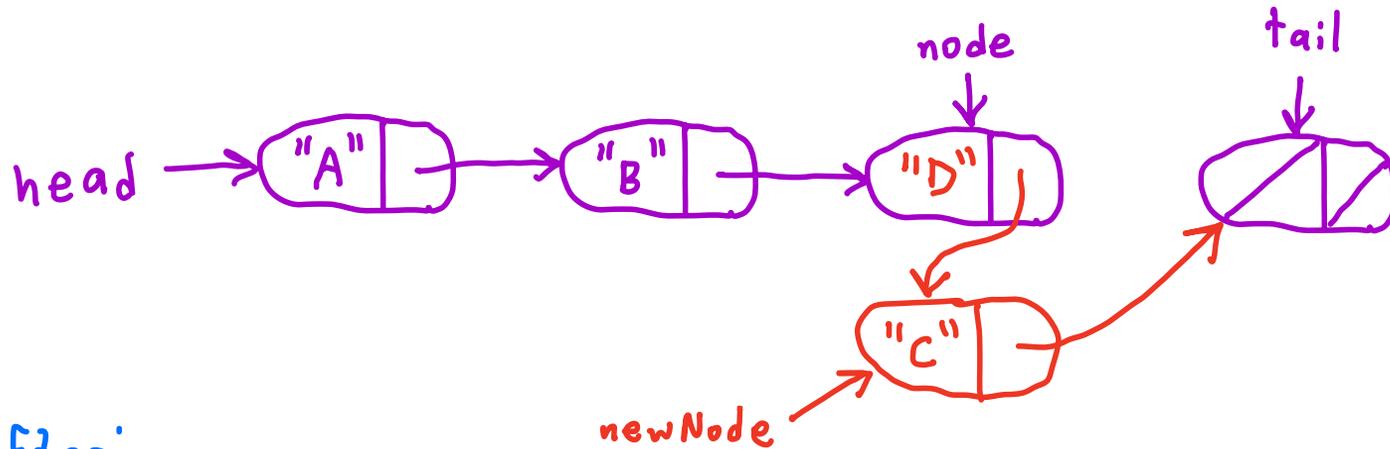
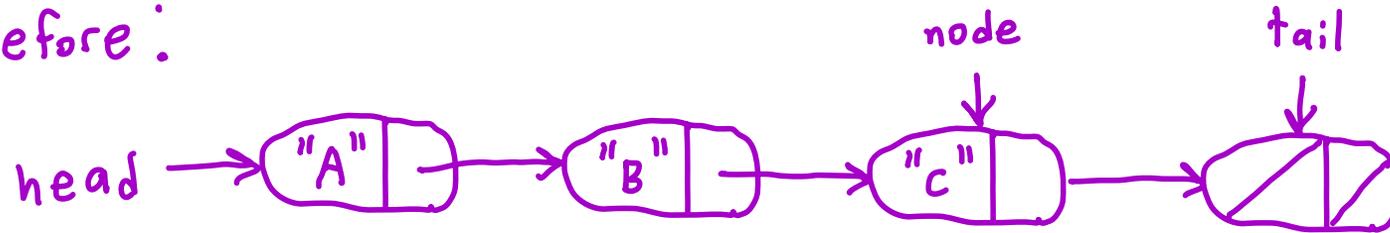
Modifying (adding/removing elements from) a linked chain amounts to rewiring its links.

To improve upon performance of Dynamic Array List, we want these re-wirings to be "local" operations (once we locate node where they take place)

⇒ $O(1)$ runtime of spliceIn()

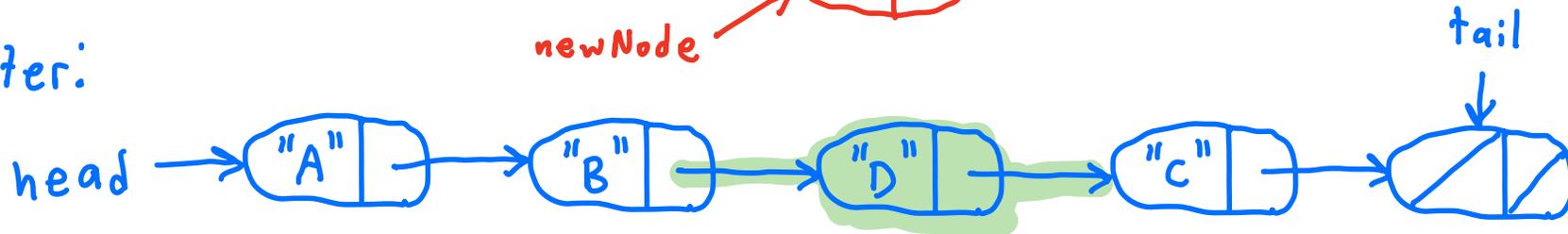
Strategy: Before/After Node Diagrams

Before:



1. make new Node copying node
2. update node.data to elem
3. update node.next to newNode
4. increment size
- (5. fix tail)

After:



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What are the time complexities of adding elements to the beginning / end of a SinglyLinkedList?

Beginning: $O(1)$

End: $O(1)$

(A)

Beginning: $O(1)$

End: $O(N)$

(B)

Beginning: $O(N)$

End: $O(1)$

(C)

Beginning: $O(N)$

End: $O(N)$

(D)



Coding Demo: `add()` / `insert()`



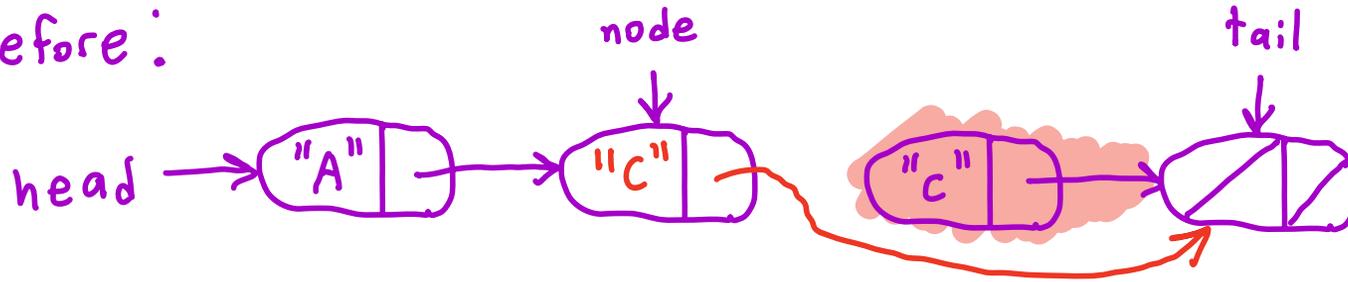
Removing Nodes: spliceOut()

```
/** Removes the given `node` from this list and returns its `data` field.
```

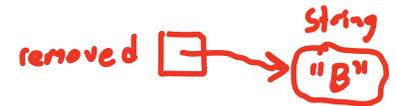
```
* Requires that `node != tail`.*
```

```
private T spliceOut(Node<T> node) { ... }
```

Before:



1. Store return value



2. Update

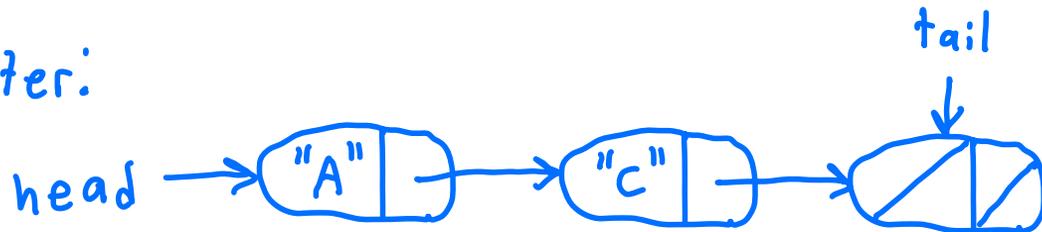
$node.data = node.next.data$

3. Update

$node.next = node.next.next$

4. Update size (+ tail)

After:



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What are the time complexities of removing elements from the beginning / end of a `SinglyLinkedList`?

Beginning: $O(1)$ **End:** $O(1)$ **(A)**

Beginning: $O(1)$ **End:** $O(N)$ **(B)**

Beginning: $O(N)$ **End:** $O(1)$ **(C)**

Beginning: $O(N)$ **End:** $O(N)$ **(D)**



Coding Demo: `remove()` / `delete()`



SinglyLinkedList Summary

$O(N)$ memory usage { all space "actively used"
pointers take up extra space

$O(1)$ re-wiring operations (given reference to location) for addition/removal

- $O(1)$ worst-case `add()`/`remove()` at beginning, `add()` at end
- No global resizing / memory shifting

$O(N)$ linear searching

$O(N)$ element access by index (`get()` / `set()`)

Linked Lists good for frequent updates at ends, bad for queries in middle