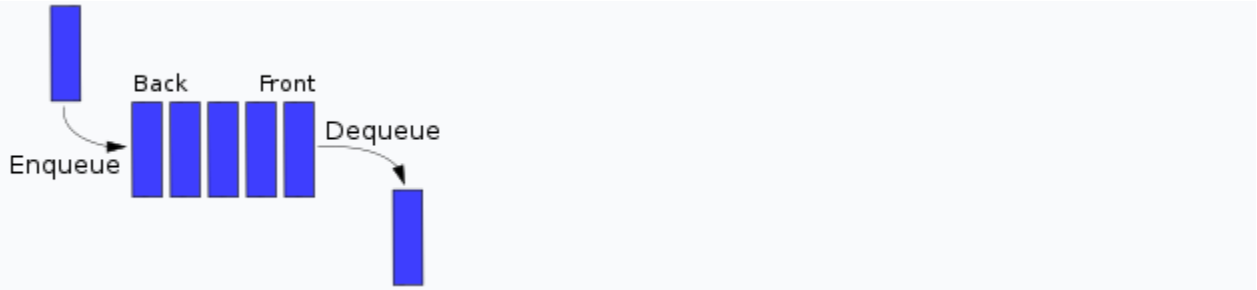
Queue (abstract data type)

In computer science, a **queue** is a collection of entities that are maintained in a sequence and can be modified by the addition of entities at one end of the sequence and the removal of entities from the other end of the sequence. By convention, the end of the sequence at which elements are added is called the back, tail, or rear of the queue, and the end at which elements are removed is called the head or front of the queue, analogously to the words used when people line up to wait for goods or services.

The operation of adding an element to the rear of the queue is known as *enqueue*, and the operation of removing an element from the front is known as *dequeue*. Other operations may also be allowed, often including a *peek* or *front* operation that returns the value of the next element to be dequeued without dequeuing it.

The operations of a queue make it a first-in-first-out (FIFO) data structure. In a FIFO data structure, the first element added to the queue will be the first one to be removed. This is equivalent to the requirement that once a new element is added, all elements that were added before have to be removed before the new element can be removed. A queue is an example of a linear data structure, or more abstractly a sequential collection. Queues are common in computer programs, where they are implemented as data structures coupled with access routines, as an abstract data structure or in object-oriented languages as classes. Common implementations are circular buffers and linked lists.

Queues provide services in computer science, transport, and operations research where various entities such as data, objects, persons, or events are stored and held to be processed later. In these contexts, the queue performs the function of a buffer. Another usage of queues is in the implementation of breadth-first search.



A queue is a useful data structure in programming. It is similar to the ticket queue outside a cinema hall, where the first person entering the queue is the first person who gets the ticket.

Queue follows the **First In First Out (FIFO)** rule - the item that goes in first is the item that comes out first.

FIFO Representation of Queue

In the above image, since 1 was kept in the queue before 2, it is the first to be removed from the queue as well. It follows the **FIFO** rule.

In programming terms, putting items in the queue is called **enqueue**, and removing items from the queue is called **dequeue**.

1. A queue can be defined as an ordered list which enables insert operations to be performed at one end called **REAR** and delete operations to be performed at another end called **FRONT**.

2. Queue is referred to be as First In First Out list.

3. For example, people waiting in line for a rail ticket form a queue.

Applications of Queue

Due to the fact that queue performs actions on first in first out basis which is quite fair for the ordering of actions. There are various applications of queues discussed as below.

1. Queues are widely used as waiting lists for a single shared resource like printer, disk, CPU.
2. Queues are used in asynchronous transfer of data (where data is not being transferred at the same rate between two processes) for eg. pipes, file IO, sockets.
3. Queues are used as buffers in most of the applications like MP3 media player, CD player, etc.
4. Queue are used to maintain the play list in media players in order to add and remove the songs from the play-list.
5. Queues are used in operating systems for handling interrupts.

Complexity

Data Structure	**Time Complexity**							
	Average				**Worst**			
	Access	Search	Insertion	Deletion	Access	Search	Insertion	Deletio
Queue	θ(n)	θ(n)	θ(1)	θ(1)	O(n)	O(n)	O(1)	O(1)