

# Linked List

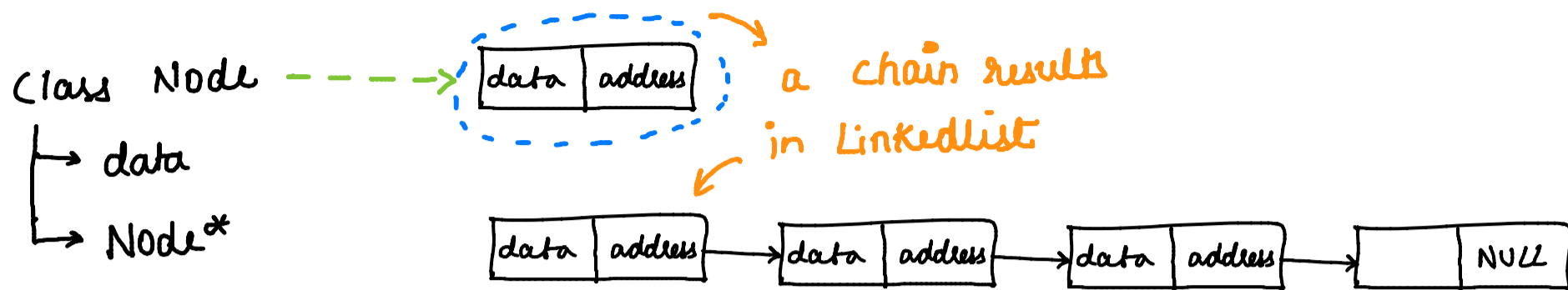
- Karun Karthik

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# Linked List

LinkedList is linear data structure, which consists of a group of nodes in a sequence.



## Advantages

1. Dynamic nature
2. Optimal insertion & deletion
3. Stacks and queues can be easily implemented
4. No memory wastage

## Disadvantages

1. More memory usage due to address pointer.
2. Slow traversal compared to arrays.
3. No reverse traversal in singly linked list
4. No random access.

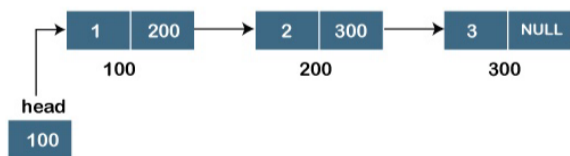
## Real life Applications

1. Previous & next page in browser
2. Image Viewer

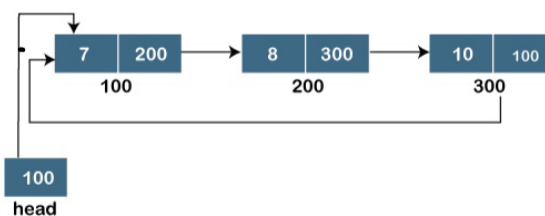
3. Music player

## Types

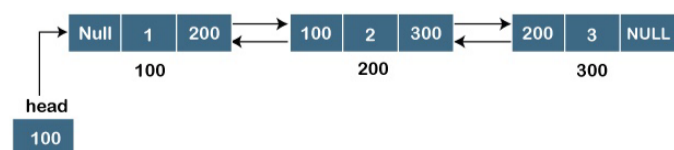
### 1. Singly linkedlist



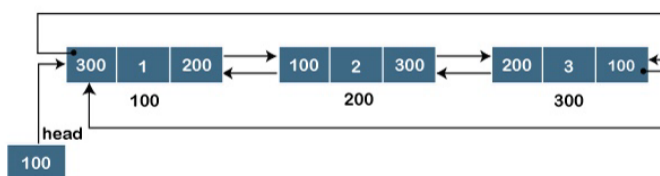
### 3. Circular linkedlist



### 2. Doubly linkedlist



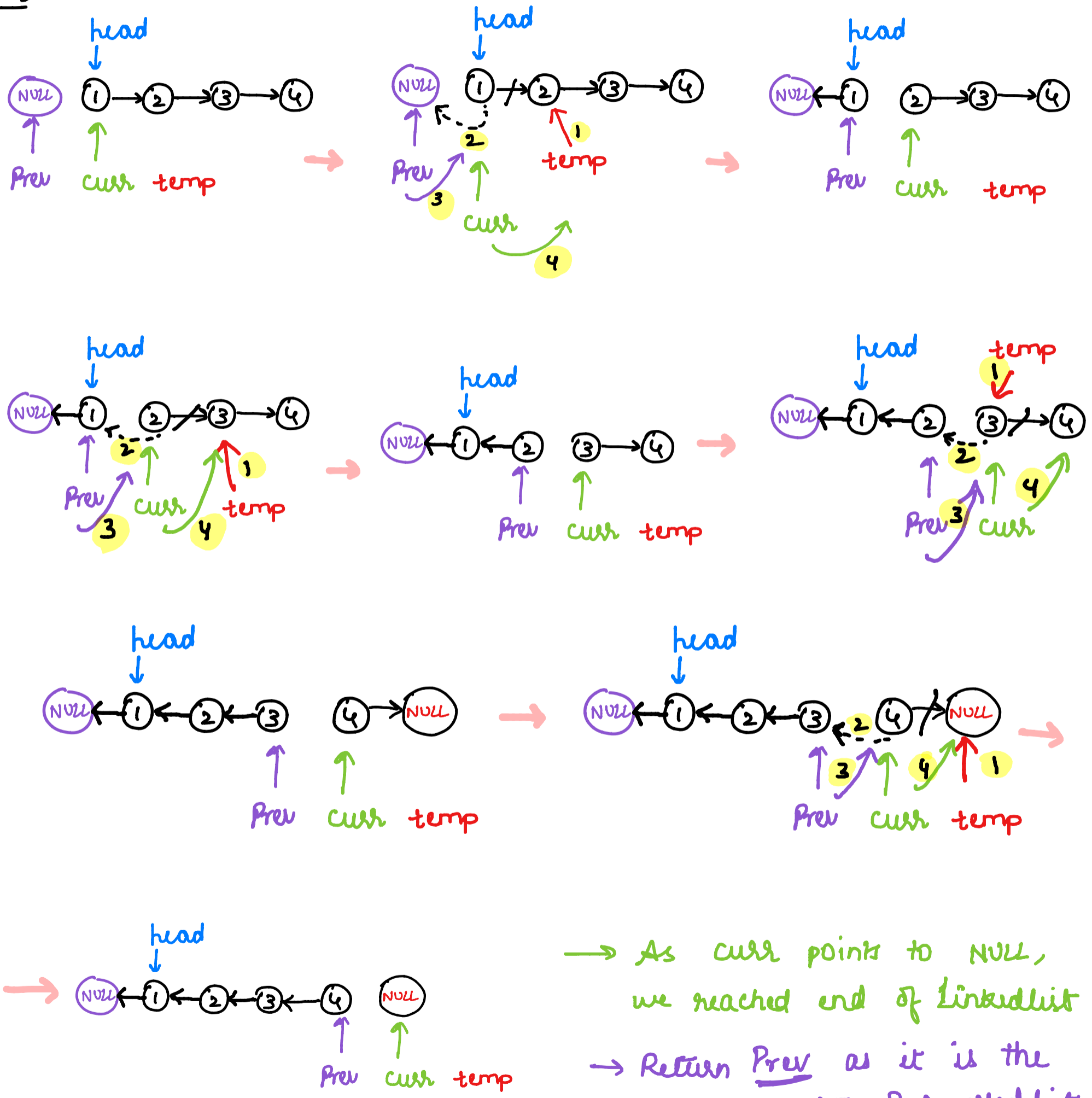
### 4. Doubly circular linkedlist



① Reverse a linkedlist → Given a linkedlist, return reversed list.

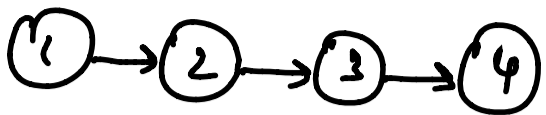
Eg ① → ② → ③ → ④ ⇒ ④ → ③ → ② → ①

Sol)



→ As curr points to NULL, we reached end of linkedlist  
 → Return Prev as it is the starting pointer of reversed list.

# Recursive →



curr, prev

(1, NULL):

newNode = 1 → next = 2

1 → next = NULL

call(2, 1)

curr, prev

(2, 1):

newNode = 2 → next = 3

2 → next = 1

call(3, 2)

curr, prev

(3, 2):

newNode = 3 → next = 4

3 → next = 2

call(4, 3)

curr, prev

(4, 3):

newNode = 4 → next = NULL

4 → next = 3

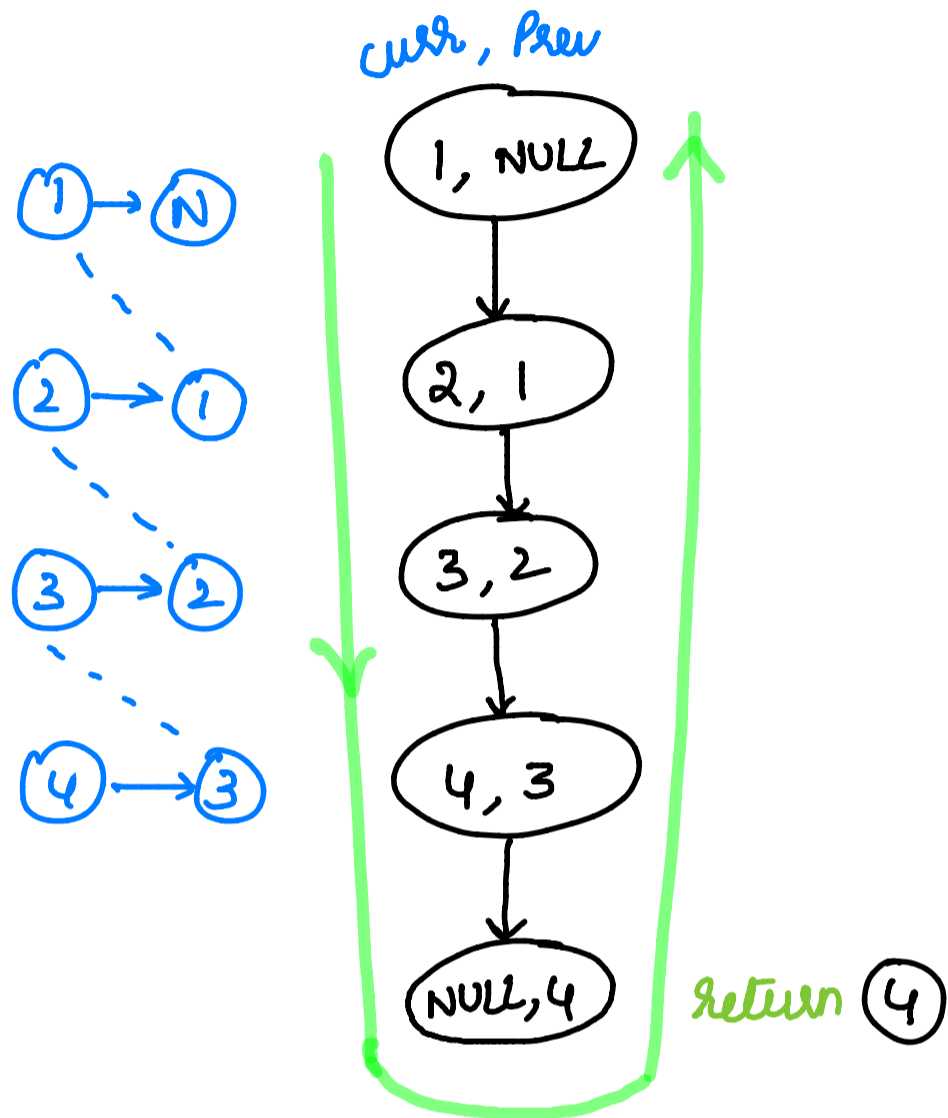
call(NULL, 4)

curr, prev

(NULL, 4):

as curr == NULL

return prev



func(curr, prev):

if curr == NULL

return prev

newNode = curr → next

curr → next = prev

recursively call newNode & curr as  
as curr prev

Code →

$T_c \rightarrow O(n)$

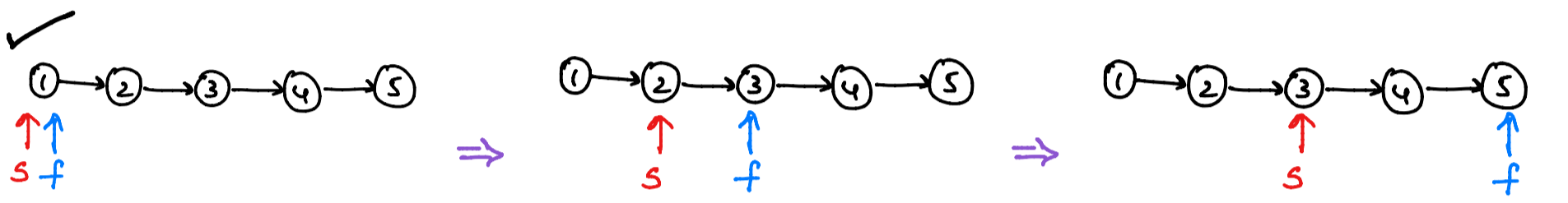
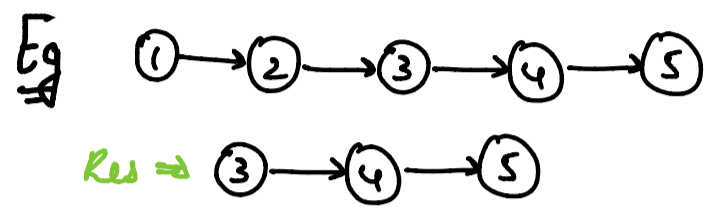
$Sc \rightarrow O(1)$

```
1
2 // Iterative ->
3 class Solution {
4 public:
5     ListNode* reverseList(ListNode* head) {
6         ListNode *prev = NULL, *curr=head, *temp;
7         while(curr){
8             temp = curr->next;
9             curr->next = prev;
10            prev = curr;
11            curr = temp;
12        }
13        return prev;
14    }
15 };
16
17
18 // Recursive ->
19 class Solution {
20 public:
21     ListNode* reverseLinker(ListNode* curr, ListNode* prev) {
22         if(curr==NULL)
23             return prev;
24         ListNode* newNode = curr->next;
25         curr->next = prev;
26         return helper(newNode, curr);
27     }
28
29     ListNode* reverseLinker(ListNode* head) {
30         return helper (head, NULL);
31     }
32 };
```

② Middle of LinkedList → Given the head, return middle node.

Approach 1 → Traverse the list & find no of nodes & return mid

Approach 2 → use 2 pointers → slow (moves by 1) } By time  
fast (moves by 2) } fast reaches end, slow points to the mid.



as fast reached end return slow.



code

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* middleNode(ListNode* head) {
4         if(head == NULL)
5             return head;
6         ListNode* slow = head, *fast = head;
7
8         // Traverse the LinkedList
9         while(fast != NULL && fast -> next != NULL)
10        {
11            slow = slow -> next;
12            fast = fast -> next -> next;
13        }
14
15        return slow;
16    }
17 };
```

Tc → O(n)  
Sc → O(1)

### ③ Delete node in a linkedlist →

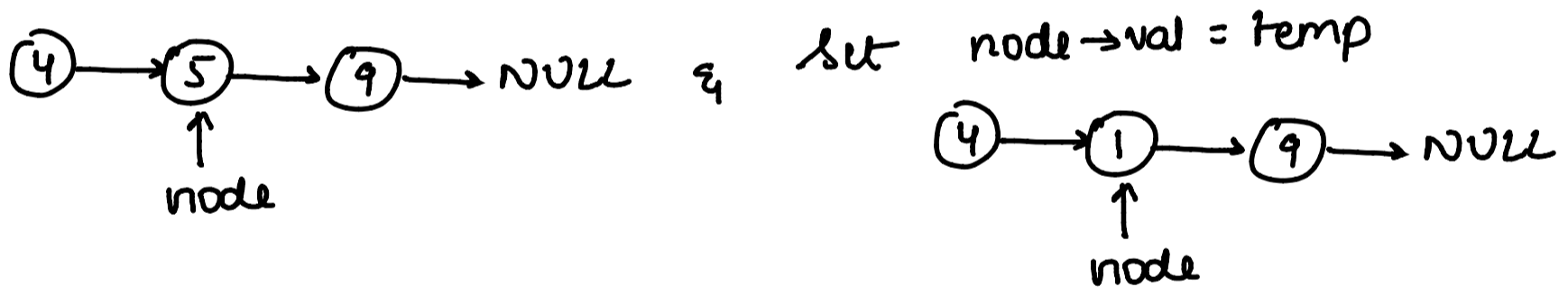
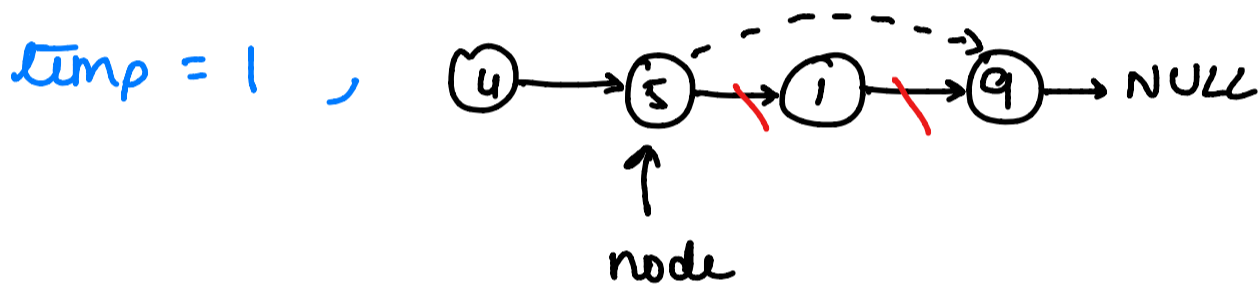
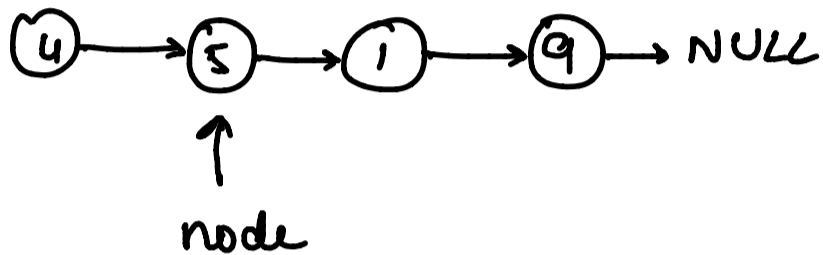
Given a linkedlist's node, delete it.

→ copy node's next node's val into a temp variable

→ skip the node → next node

→ copy the temp variable's value into the node.

Eg

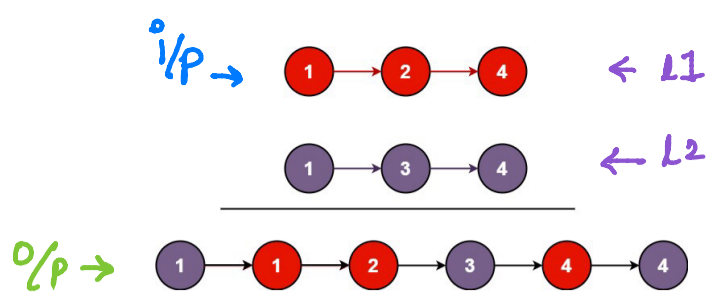


code →

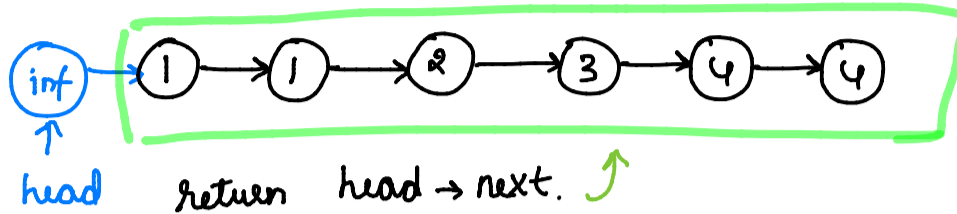
```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     void deleteNode(ListNode* node) {
4         int val = node->next->val;
5         node->next = node->next->next;
6         node->val = val;
7     }
8 };
```

Tc → O(1)  
Sc → O(1)

## ④ Merge two sorted lists



→ Take a dummy node & chain the next node which contains smaller value of L1 & L2



Code →

Tc → O(m+n)

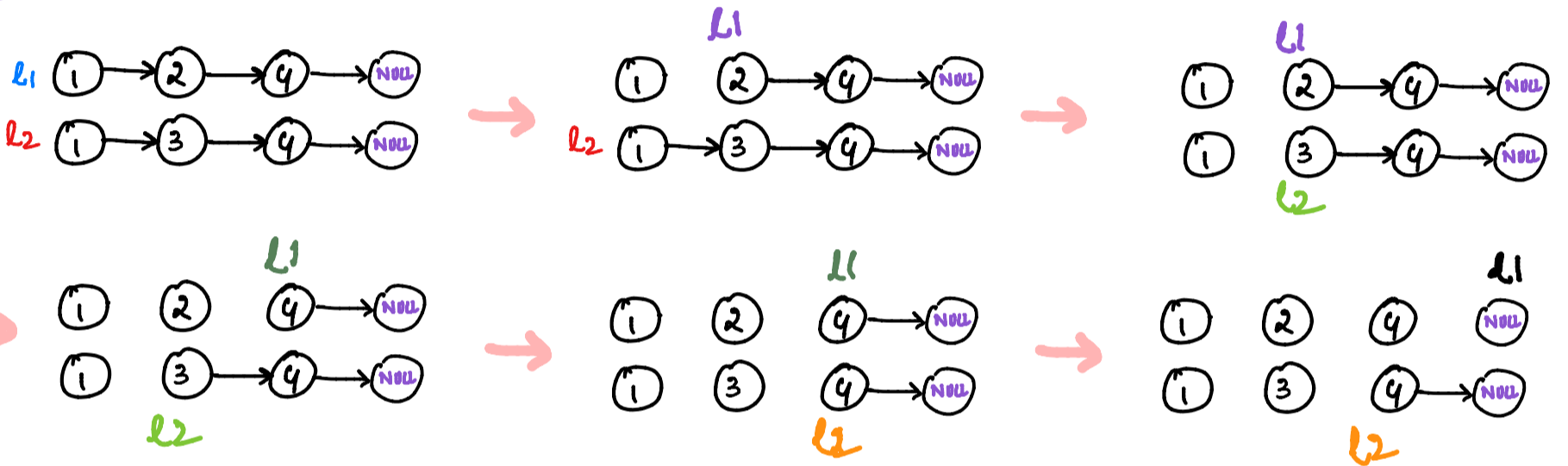
Sc → O(m+n)

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* mergeTwoLists(ListNode* l1, ListNode* l2) {
4
5         if( l1 == NULL ) return l2;
6         if( l2 == NULL ) return l1;
7
8         ListNode* dummy = new ListNode(-101);
9         ListNode* head = dummy;
10
11        // Traverse the lists
12        while( l1 != NULL && l2 != NULL )
13        {
14            if( l1->val < l2->val )
15            {
16                ListNode* newnode = new ListNode(l1->val);
17                dummy->next = newnode;
18                l1 = l1->next;
19            }
20            else
21            {
22                ListNode* newnode = new ListNode(l2->val);
23                dummy->next = newnode;
24                l2 = l2->next;
25            }
26            dummy = dummy->next;
27        }
28
29        /* If a particular list is NULL, the directly chain
30        the other */
31        if(l1!=NULL) dummy->next = l1;
32        if(l2!=NULL) dummy->next = l2;
33
34        return head->next;
35    }
36 };
```

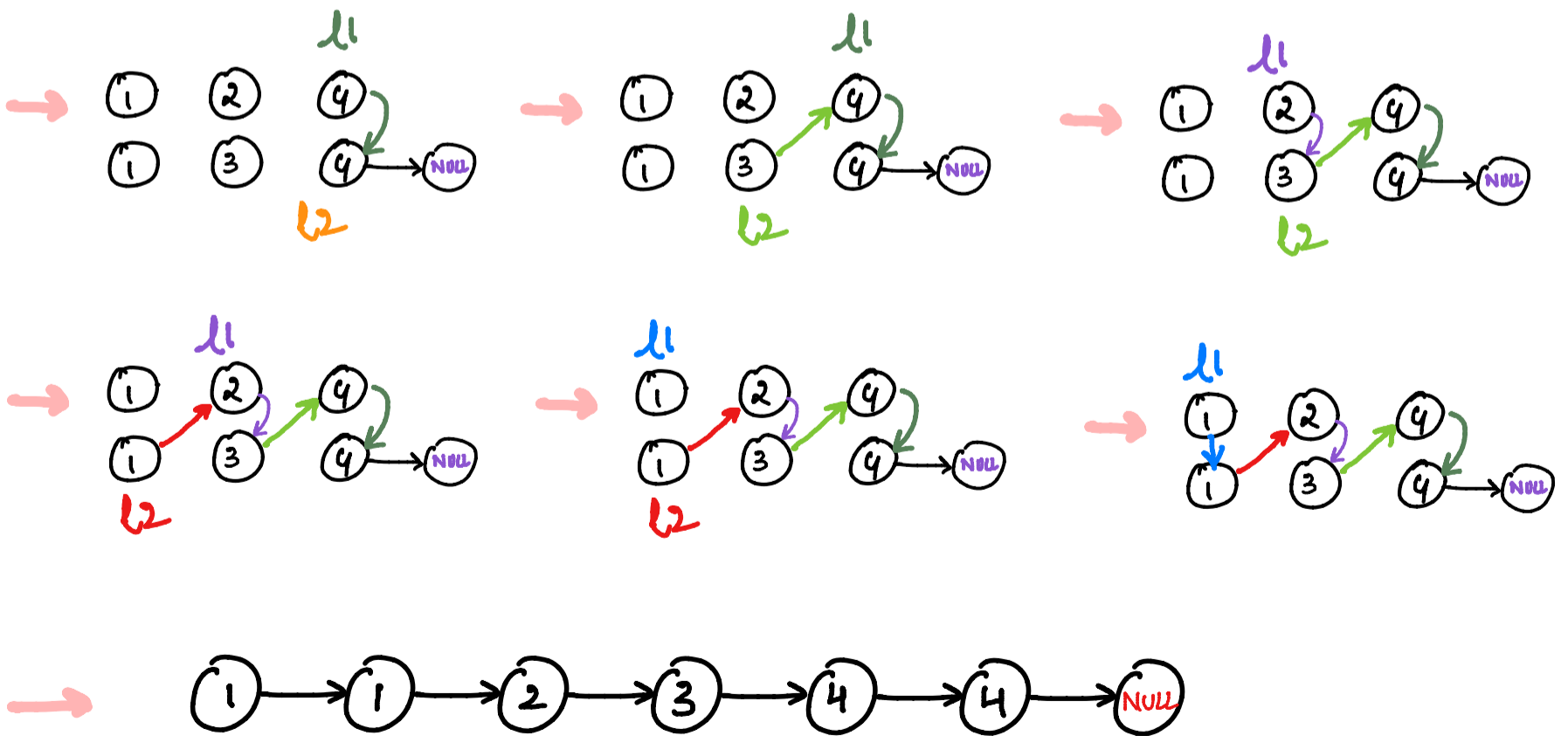
Recursive Code →

```
class Solution {  
public:  
    ListNode* mergeTwoLists(ListNode* l1, ListNode* l2) {  
  
        if (l1 == NULL) return l2;  
        if (l2 == NULL) return l1;  
  
        // compare the starting values and link the nodes  
        if (l1->val <= l2->val) {  
            l1->next = mergeTwoLists(l1->next, l2);  
            return l1;  
        } else {  
            l2->next = mergeTwoLists(l1, l2->next);  
            return l2;  
        }  
    }  
};
```

Dry Run

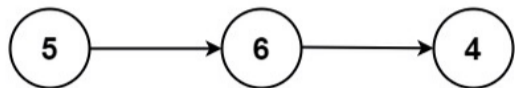
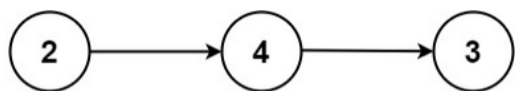


As l1 is null, return l2

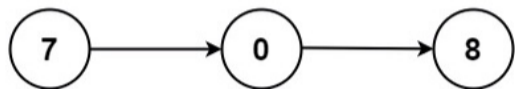


# ⑤ Add two Numbers

Given 2 lists in reverse order, add them and return the sum.



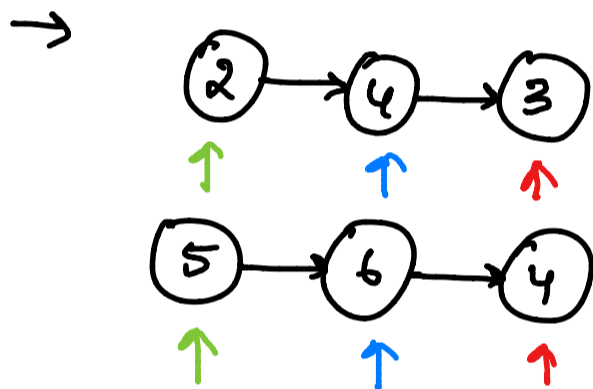
$$\begin{array}{r} 342 \\ + 465 \\ \hline 807 \end{array}$$



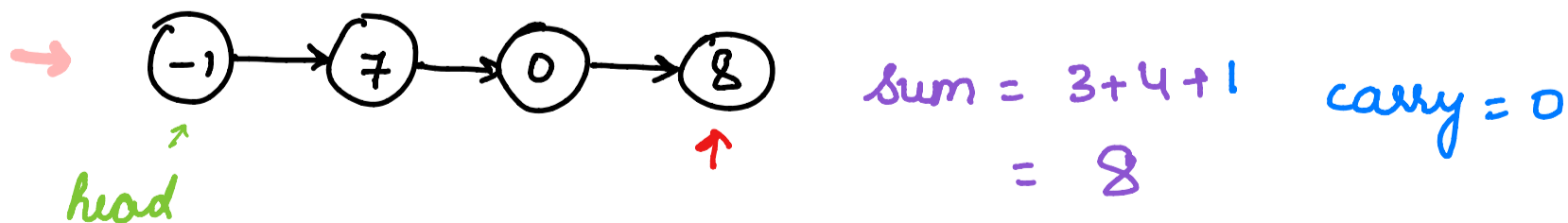
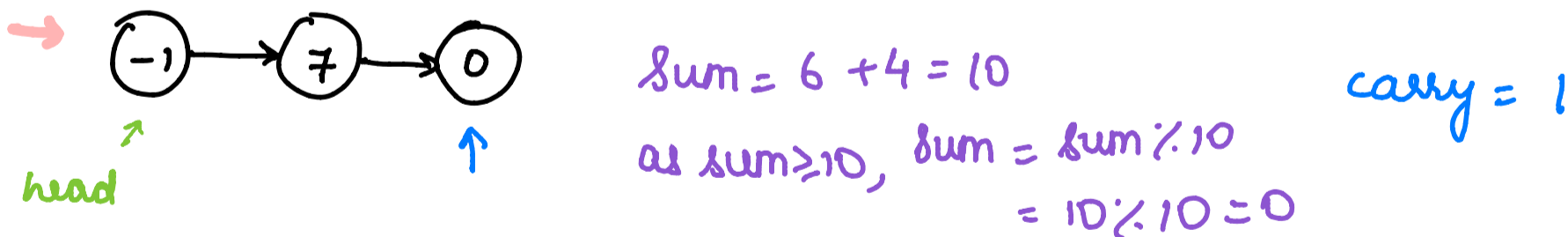
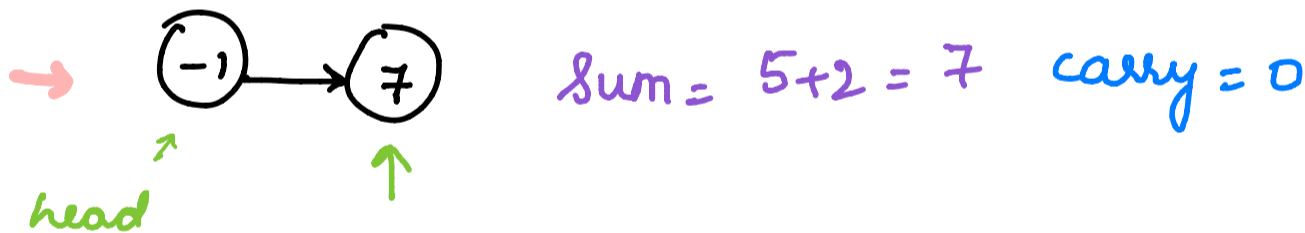
TC  $\rightarrow O(m+n)$

SC  $\rightarrow O(\max(m,n))$

Initially,



- 1) traverse both list simultaneously & if  $sum \geq 10$ , then set  $carry = 1$
- 2) add both values + carry
- 3) create newNode with this value



code

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3
4     ListNode* addTwoNumbers(ListNode* l1, ListNode* l2) {
5
6         ListNode* dummyNode;
7         ListNode* head;
8         dummyNode = head = new ListNode(-1);
9         if(!l1)
10            return l2;
11         if(!l2)
12            return l1;
13
14         int carry = 0;
15
16         while(l1 || l2){
17             int firstVal = l1 ? l1->val : 0;
18             int secondVal = l2 ? l2->val : 0;
19
20             int total = firstVal + secondVal + carry;
21             carry = total / 10;
22             total = total % 10;
23
24             ListNode* newNode = new ListNode(total);
25             dummyNode->next = newNode;
26
27             dummyNode = dummyNode->next;
28
29             l1 = l1 ? l1->next : l1;
30             l2 = l2 ? l2->next : l2;
31         }
32
33         if(carry)
34             dummyNode->next = new ListNode(1);
35
36         return head->next;
37     }
38 };
```

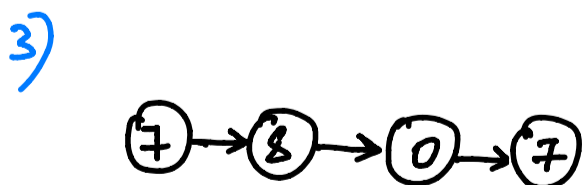
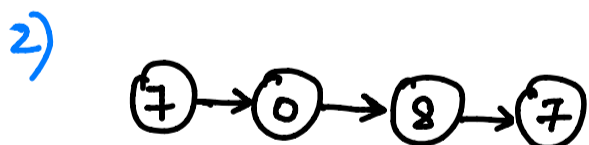
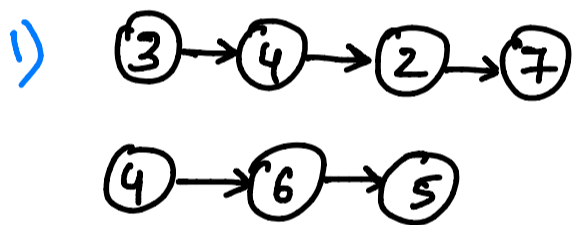
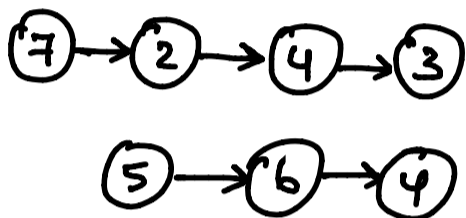
## ⑥ Add two numbers II

→ Problem solving approach is same as previous problem

→ Points to note:

1. Reverse both the lists
2. Add them
3. Reverse the result

Eg →



Result ↑

Code →

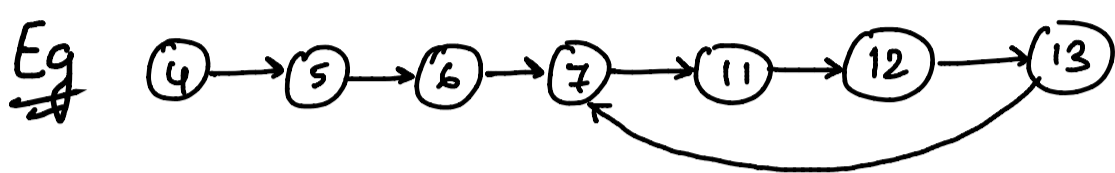
```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* reverseList(ListNode* head) {
4         ListNode* prev = NULL;
5         ListNode* curr = head;
6         ListNode* temp = NULL;
7         while(curr!=NULL)
8         {
9             temp = curr->next;
10            curr->next = prev;
11            prev = curr;
12            curr = temp;
13        }
14        return prev;
15    }
16
17    ListNode* addTwoNumbers(ListNode* l1, ListNode* l2) {
18        l1=reverseList(l1); // O(n)
19        l2=reverseList(l2); //O(n)
20        ListNode* dummyNode;
21        ListNode* head;
22        dummyNode = head = new ListNode(-1);
23        if(!l1)
24            return l2;
25        if(!l2)
26            return l1;
27
28        int carry = 0;
29
30        while(l1 || l2){
31            int firstVal = l1 ? l1->val : 0;
32            int secondVal = l2 ? l2->val : 0;
33
34            int total = firstVal + secondVal + carry;
35            carry = total / 10;
36            total = total % 10;
37
38            ListNode* newNode = new ListNode(total);
39            dummyNode->next = newNode;
40
41            dummyNode = dummyNode->next;
42
43            l1 = l1 ? l1->next : l1;
44            l2 = l2 ? l2->next : l2;
45        }
46
47        if(carry)
48            dummyNode->next = new ListNode(1);
49
50        return reverseList(head->next); //o(max(m,n))
51    }
52};
```

# ⑦ Linked list cycle →

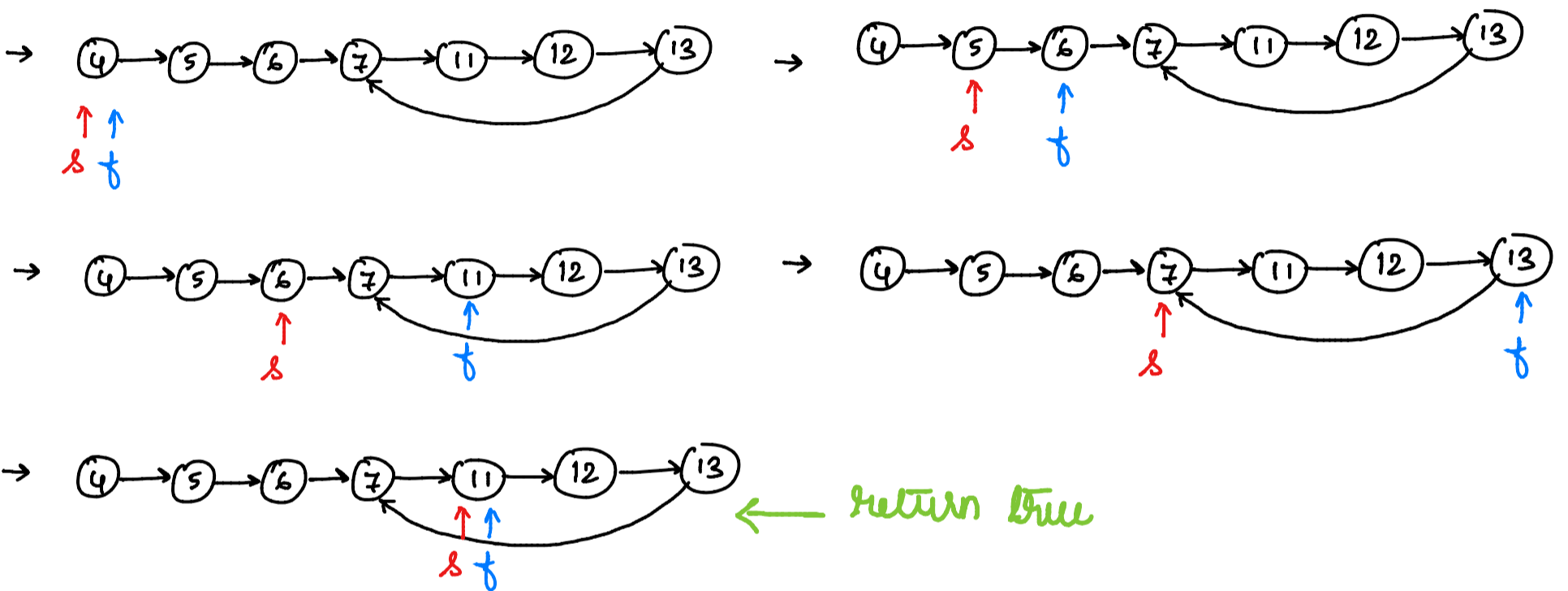
TC → O(n)  
SC → O(1)

Approach - 1 → Create a set of nodes & insert every node into it, if already exist then return True else false.

Approach - 2 → using fast & slow pointer TC → O(n) SC → O(1)



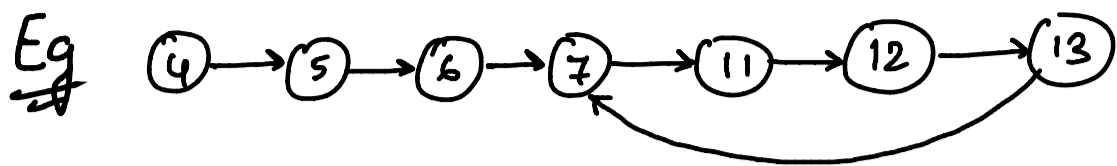
Keep iterating till  
fast → next && fast → next → next exist.



code →

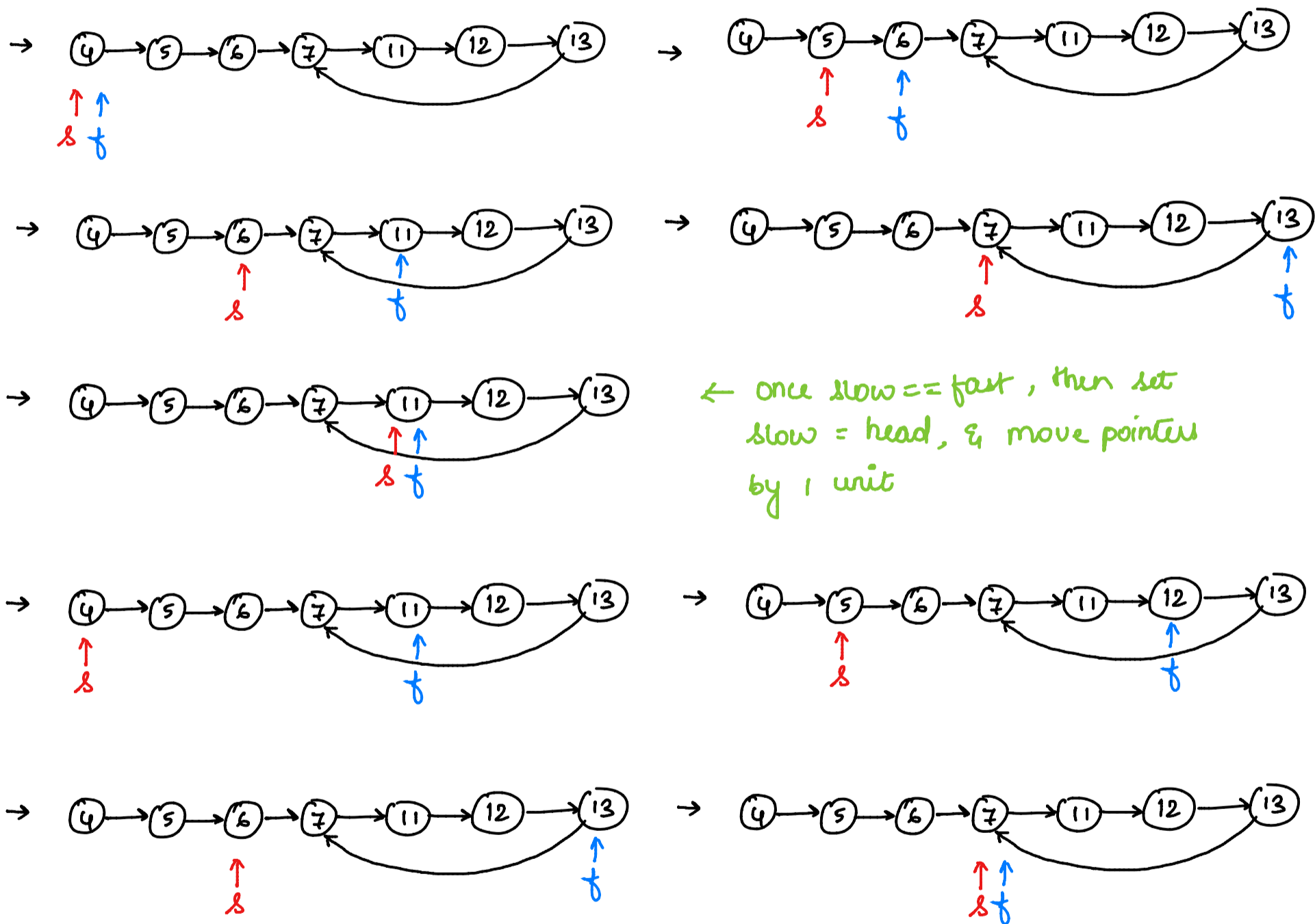
```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     bool hasCycle(ListNode *head) {
4         if(head==NULL) return false;
5         ListNode *fast = head, *slow = head;
6         while(fast->next!=NULL && fast->next->next!=NULL)
7             {
8                 fast=fast->next->next;
9                 slow=slow->next;
10                if(fast==slow) return true;
11            }
12        return false;
13    }
14 };
```

(8) Linked list cycle  $\hat{1}$   $\rightarrow$  returns the node where cycle begins.



Result =  $\hat{7}$

keep iterating while  $fast \rightarrow next$  &&  $fast \rightarrow next \rightarrow next$  exist.



$\rightarrow$  when  $slow == fast$ , it denotes the node where cycle begins.

return  $slow$ ;  $\Rightarrow \hat{7}$

code →

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode *detectCycle(ListNode *head) {
4         if(head==NULL) return NULL;
5         ListNode *fast = head, *slow = head;
6         while(fast->next!=NULL && fast->next->next!=NULL)
7         {
8             fast = fast->next->next;
9             slow = slow->next;
10            if(fast == slow)
11            {
12                slow = head;
13                while (slow != fast)
14                {
15                    slow = slow->next;
16                    fast = fast->next;
17                }
18                return slow;
19            }
20        }
21        return NULL;
22    }
23 };
```

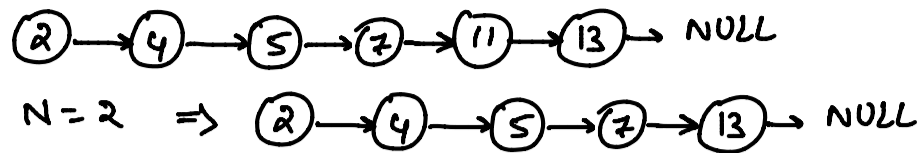
$$T_c \rightarrow O(n) + O(n) = O(2n) = \underline{\underline{O(n)}}$$

\* worst case when its a loop



$$S_c \rightarrow O(1)$$

## 9) Remove N<sup>th</sup> node from End of list



Approach - 1 → find length of list  $l$ , delete  $l - n + 1$ <sup>th</sup> node

Approach - 2 → a) Reverse b) Delete N<sup>th</sup> node c) Reverse

code →

TC →  $O(n)$

SC →  $O(1)$

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* reverseList(ListNode* head) {
4         ListNode *prev = NULL, *curr = head, *temp;
5         while(curr){
6             temp = curr->next;
7             curr->next = prev;
8             prev = curr;
9             curr = temp;
10        }
11        return prev;
12    }
13
14    ListNode* removeNthFromEnd(ListNode* head, int n) {
15        ListNode *dummy = new ListNode(-1);
16        dummy->next = reverseList(head);
17        head = dummy;
18        ListNode *curr = head;
19        ListNode *prev = NULL;
20        // Iteration
21        for(int i=0; i<n; i++)
22        {
23            prev = curr;
24            curr = curr->next;
25        }
26        // Deletion
27        prev->next = curr->next;
28        return reverseList(head->next);
29    }
30 };
```

## (10) Palindrome Linked List

Approach - 1 → create a copy of list & reverse it. Compare value by value.  
If all are equal **true** else **false**.

Approach - 2 → Reach middle node & return the remaining list as new list. Reverse the newList & compare its value by value.

code →

Tc →  $O(n)$

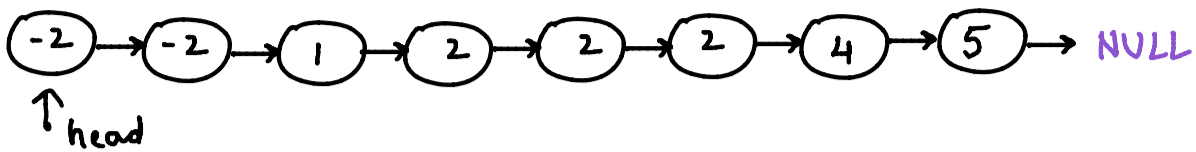
Sc →  $O(1)$

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* midNode(ListNode* head)
4     {
5         ListNode *fast = head, *slow = head;
6         while(fast->next!=NULL and fast->next->next!=NULL){
7             fast=fast->next->next;
8             slow = slow->next;
9         }
10        return slow;
11    }
12    ListNode* reverseList(ListNode* head) {
13        ListNode *prev = NULL, *curr = head, *temp;
14        while(curr!=NULL)
15        {
16            temp=curr->next;
17            curr->next = prev;
18            prev = curr;
19            curr = temp;
20        }
21        return prev;
22    }
23    bool compare(ListNode* l1, ListNode* l2)
24    {
25        while(l1!=NULL && l2!=NULL)
26        {
27            if(l1->val!=l2->val) return false;
28            l1 = l1->next;
29            l2 = l2->next;
30        }
31        return true;
32    }
33    bool isPalindrome(ListNode* head) {
34        if(head==NULL) return false;
35        if(head->next == NULL) return true;
36        ListNode *mid = midNode(head);
37        ListNode *l2 = mid->next;
38        mid->next = NULL;
39        l2 = reverseList(l2);
40        return compare(head,l2);
41    }
42 };
```

① Remove duplicates from sorted list →

Given a linkedlist, return linkedlist without duplicates.

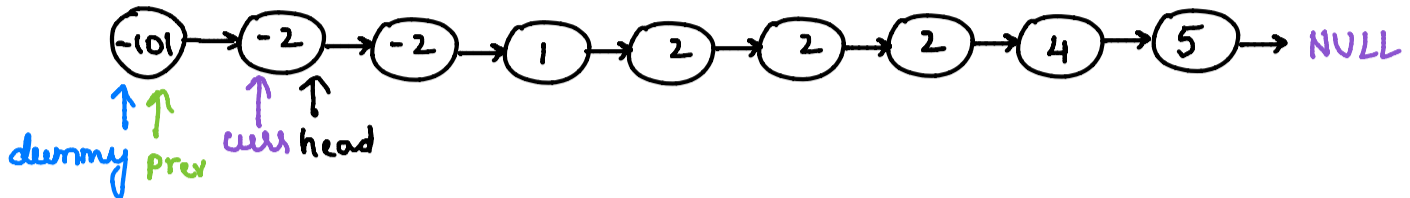
Q11



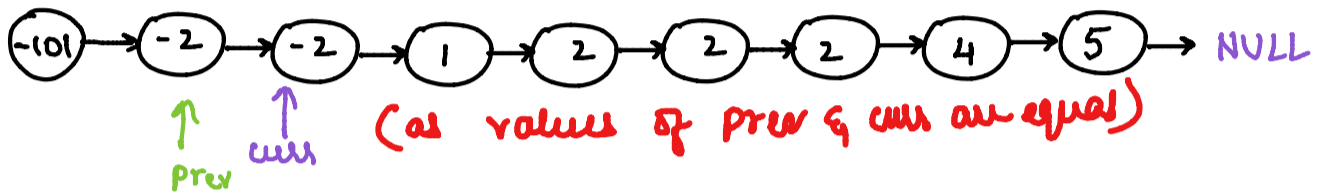
⇒

any out of range value

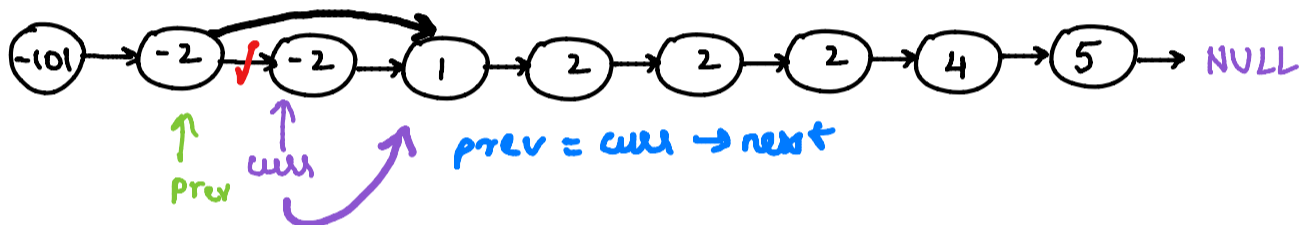
1)



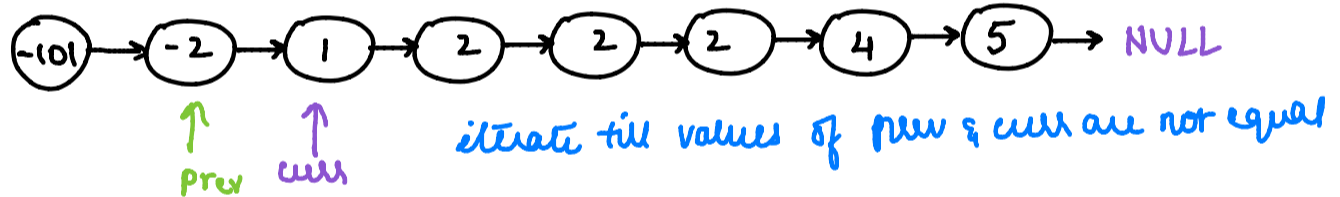
2)



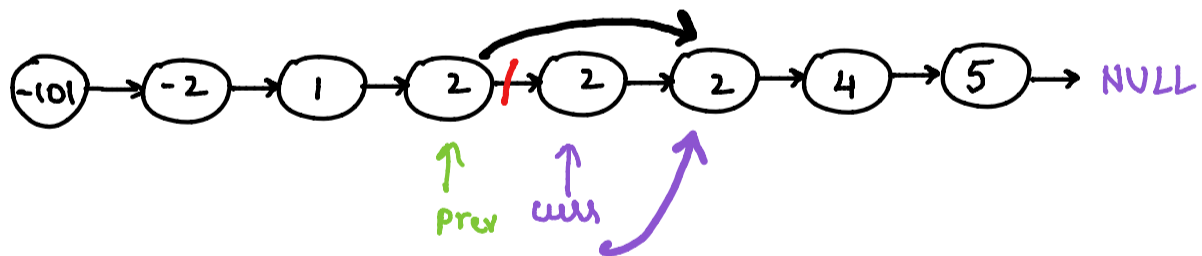
3)



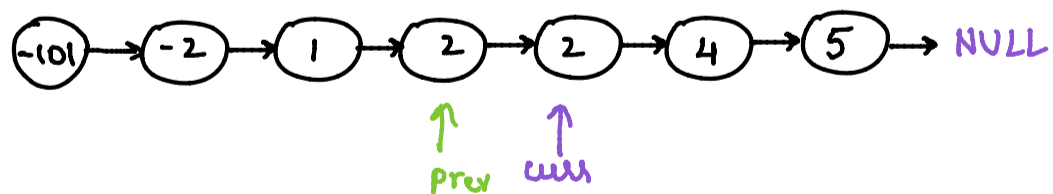
4)



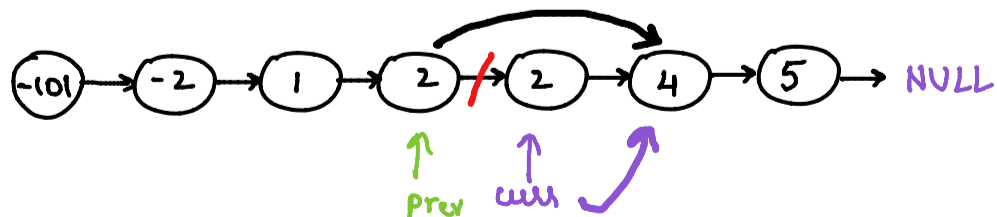
5)



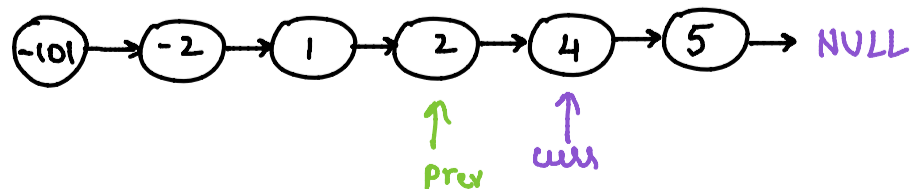
6)



7)



8)



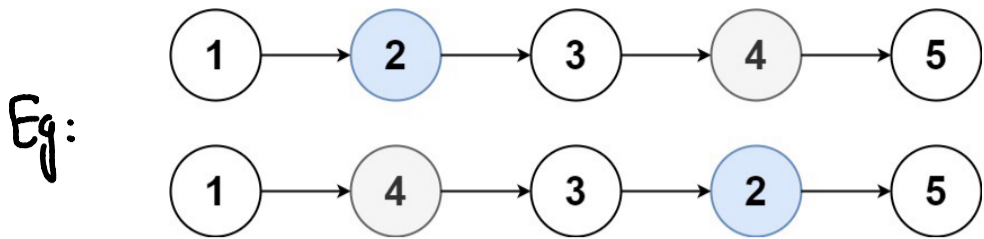
code →

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* deleteDuplicates(ListNode* head) {
4         ListNode* dummy = new ListNode(101);
5         dummy->next = head;
6         ListNode* curr = head;
7         ListNode* prev = dummy;
8         while(curr!=NULL)
9         {
10             if(curr->val==prev->val){
11                 prev->next = curr->next;
12                 curr = curr->next;
13             } else {
14                 prev = curr;
15                 curr = curr->next;
16             }
17         }
18         return dummy->next;
19     }
20 };
21
22
23 // Another approach
24
25 ListNode* deleteDuplicates(ListNode* head) {
26     if(head==NULL || head->next==NULL) return head;
27     ListNode *curr = head;
28     while(curr->next!=NULL){
29         if(curr->val == curr->next->val){
30             curr->next = curr->next->next;
31         } else {
32             curr = curr->next;
33         }
34     }
35     return head;
36 }
```

$T_c \rightarrow O(n)$

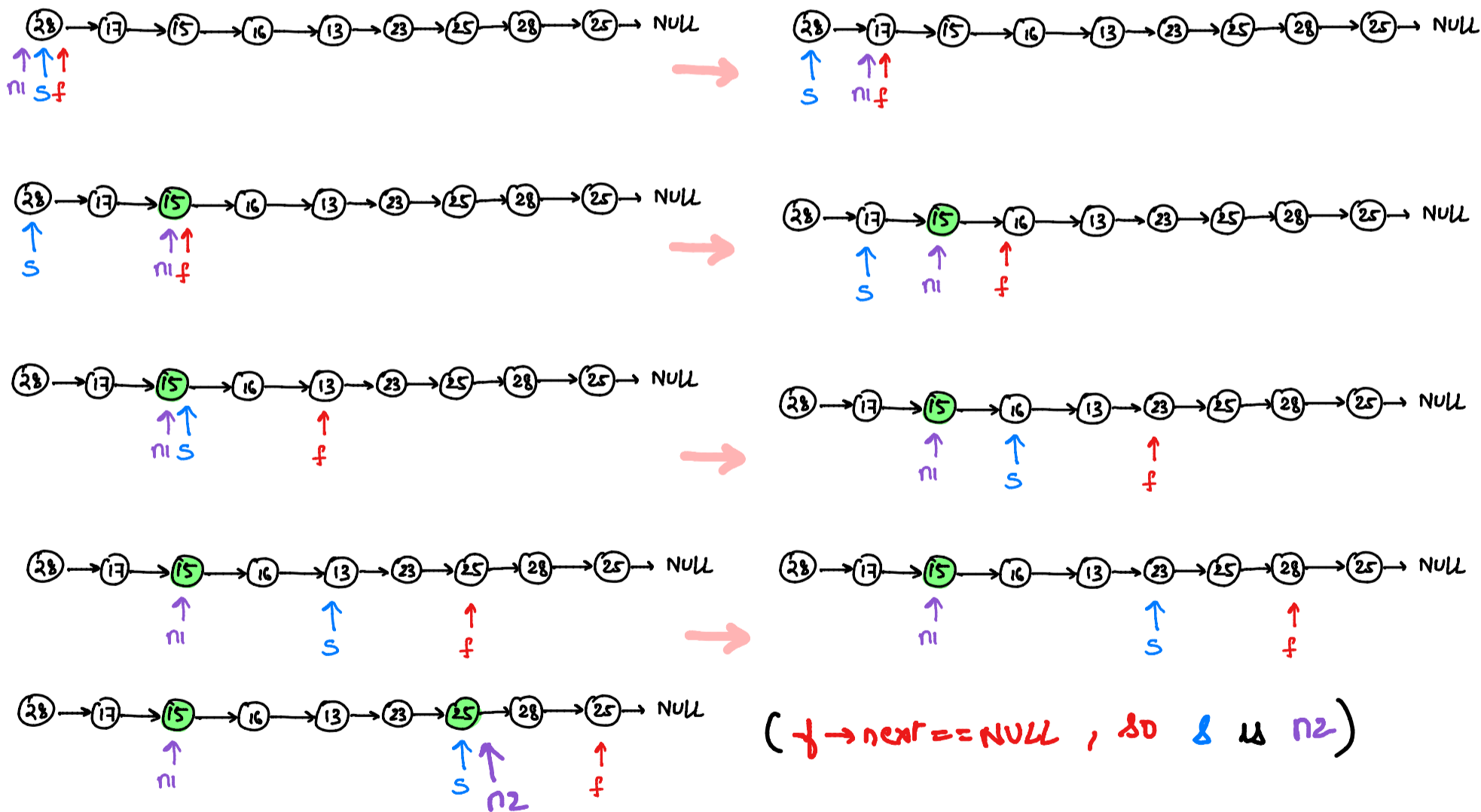
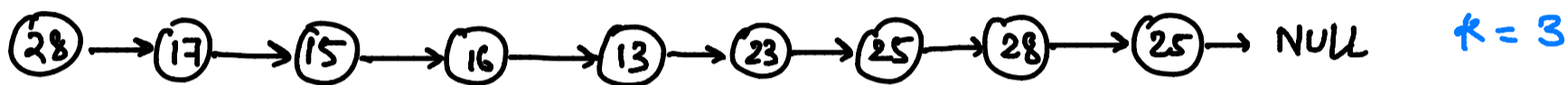
$S_c \rightarrow O(1)$

# (12) Swapping Nodes in Linked List →



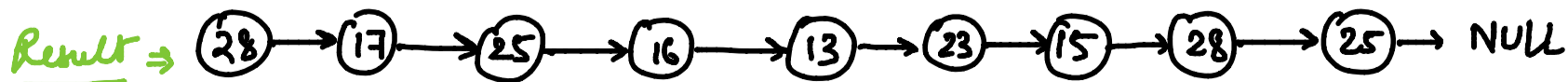
$k=2$  given a linkedlist swap  $k^{\text{th}}$  node from both ends.

SSP \* for  $k-1$  times iterate  $f$  & mark  $n1$ , then iterate  $s$  &  $f$  till  $f$  is not NULL, once null mark  $s$  as  $n2$ .  
 (as it is 1 indexed) swap  $(n1, n2)$



( $f \rightarrow \text{next} == \text{NULL}$ , so  $s$  is  $n2$ )

swap  $(15, 25)$



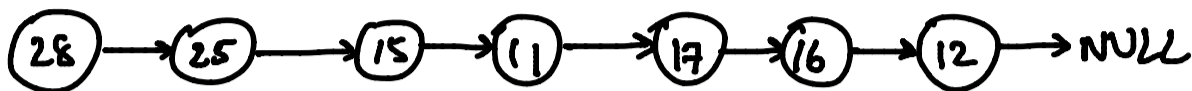
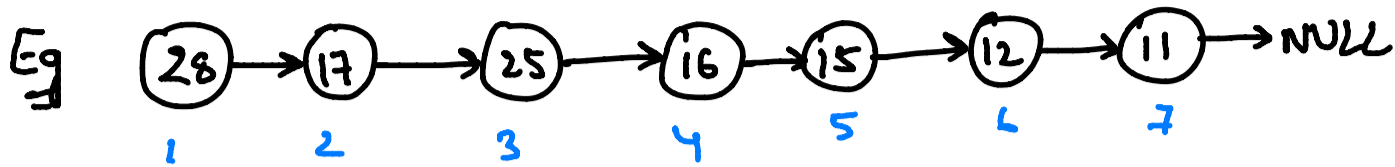
code →

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* swapNodes(ListNode* head, int k) {
4         ListNode *slow = head, *fast = head, *n1 = head;
5         // finding n1
6         for(int i=0; i<k-1; i++){
7             fast = fast->next;
8             n1 = fast;
9         }
10        // finding n2 (i.e slow)
11        while(fast->next!=NULL){
12            fast = fast->next;
13            slow = slow->next;
14        }
15        // swapping
16        int n1_val = n1->val;
17        n1->val = slow->val;
18        slow->val = n1_val;
19        return head;
20    }
21 };
```

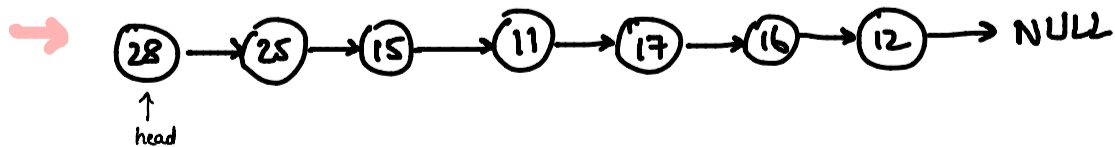
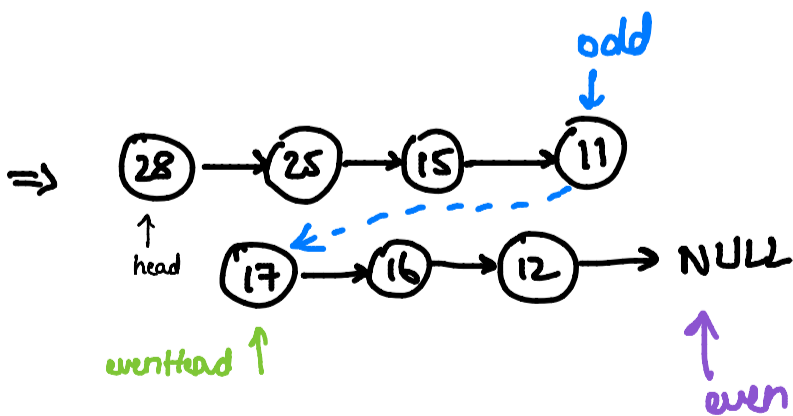
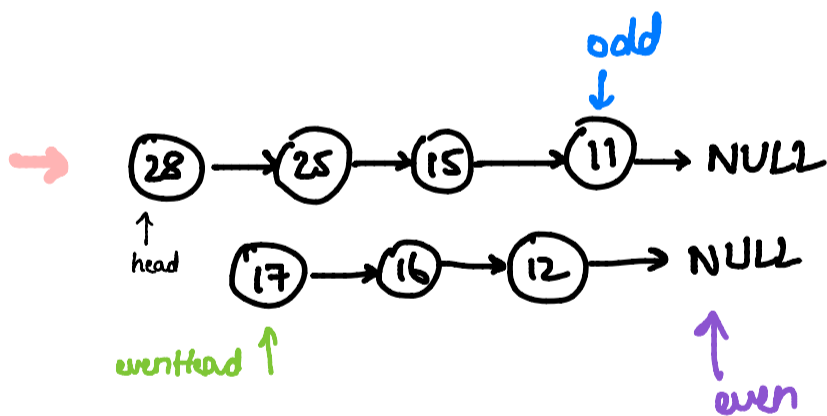
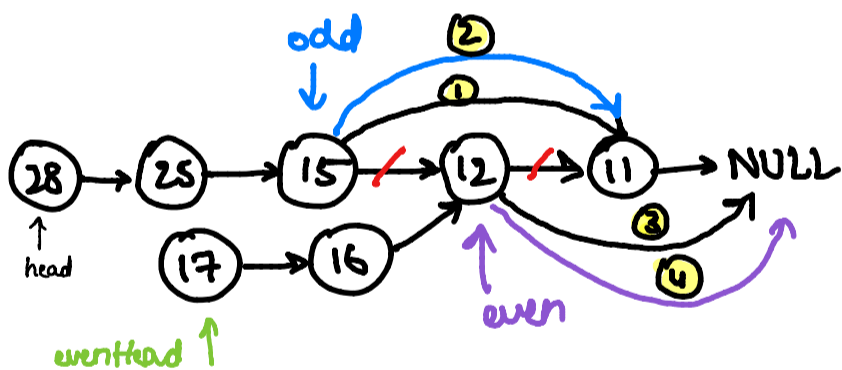
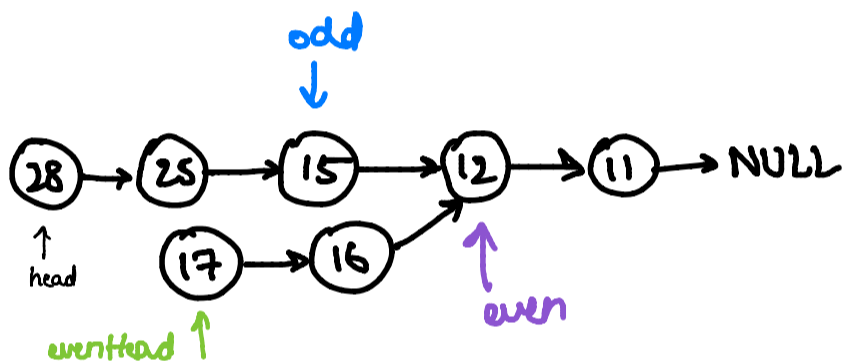
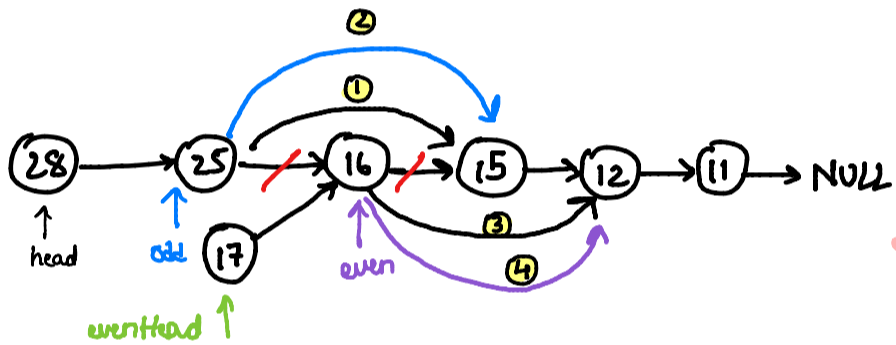
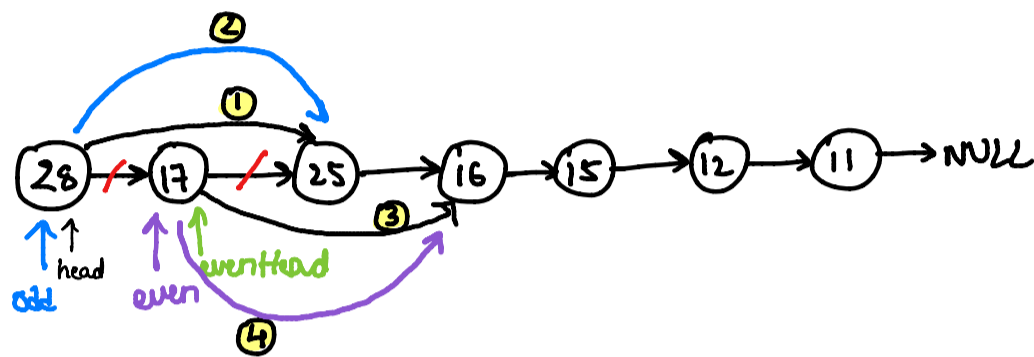
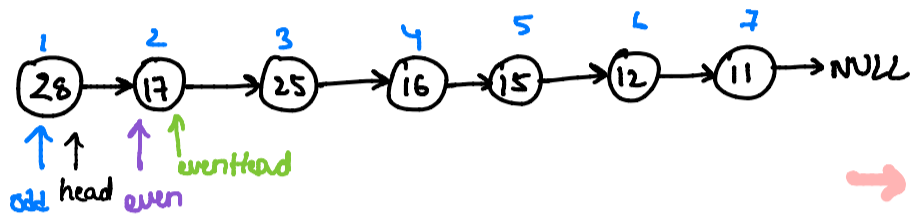
$Tc \rightarrow O(n)$   
 $Sc \rightarrow O(1)$

# 13 Odd Even Linked List →

Given a linkedlist group all odd indices nodes followed by even nodes



⇒



odd → next = evenhead

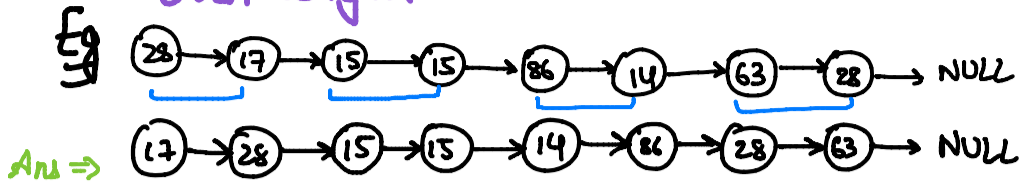
code →

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* oddEvenList(ListNode* head) {
4         if(!head) return NULL;
5
6         ListNode *even = head->next;
7         ListNode *odd = head;
8         ListNode *evenHead = even;
9
10        while(even && even->next){
11            odd->next=even->next;
12            odd=odd->next;
13            even->next=odd->next;
14            even=even->next;
15        }
16
17        // like odd and even lists
18        odd->next = evenHead;
19        return head;
20    }
21 };
```

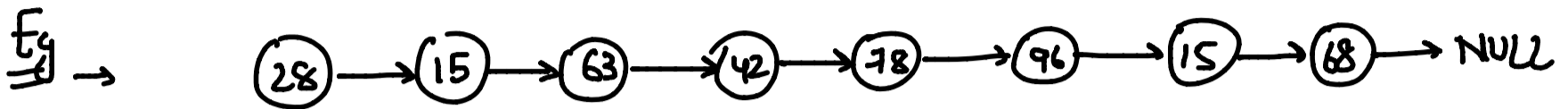
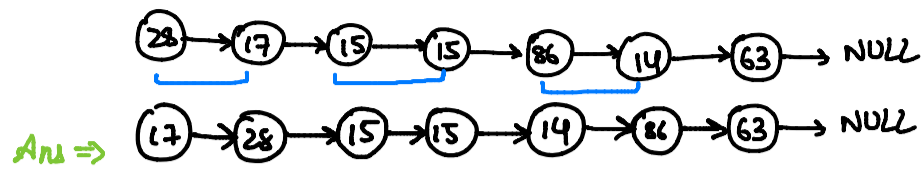
$TC \rightarrow O(n)$   
 $SC \rightarrow O(1)$

(14) Swap Nodes in Pairs → Given a linkedlist swap adjacent nodes.

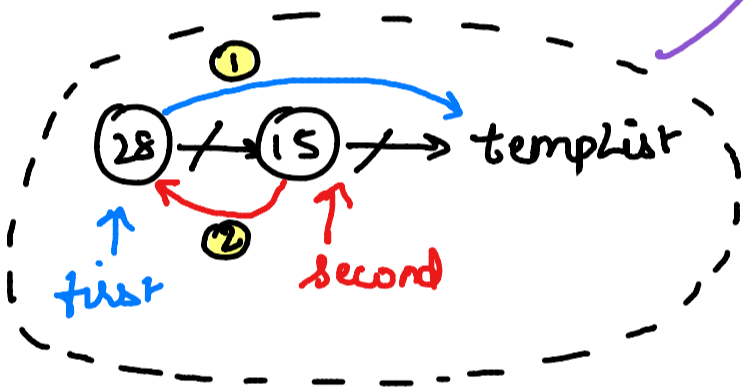
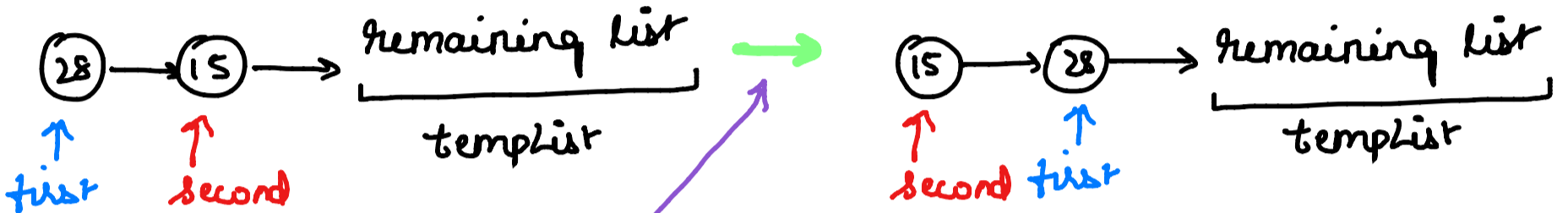
Even length



odd length



Consider for 1st pair,



tempList = second → next  
 first → next = tempList  
 second → next = first  
 } Logic

Solve recursively for all pairs.

Code →

```

1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* SwapAdjacentNodes(ListNode* head)
4     {
5         if(head==NULL || head->next==NULL) return head;
6         ListNode *first = head;
7         ListNode *second = head->next;
8         // start logic
9         ListNode *tempList = SwapAdjacentNodes(second->next);
10        first->next = tempList;
11        second->next = first;
12        return second;
13    }
14    ListNode* swapPairs(ListNode* head) {
15        return SwapAdjacentNodes(head);
16    }
17 };

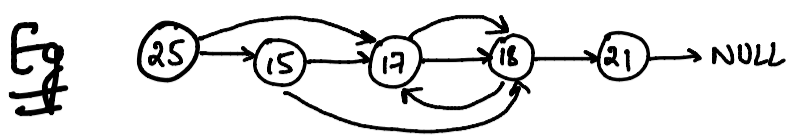
```

Tc → O(N)

Sc → O(1)

Recursive  
 stack → O(N/2)  
 ≈ O(N)

15 Copy list with random pointer → given a list, clone & return.

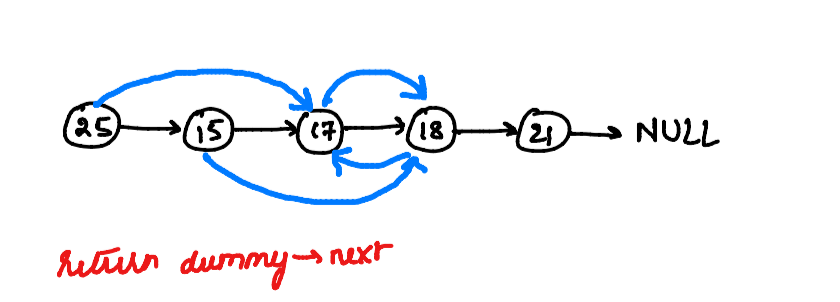
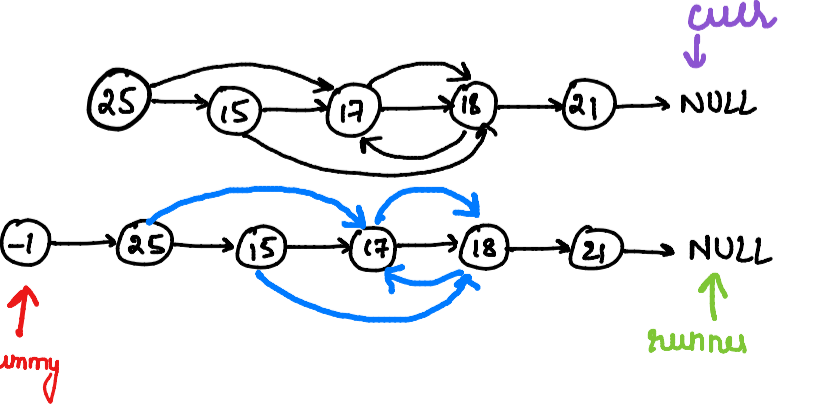
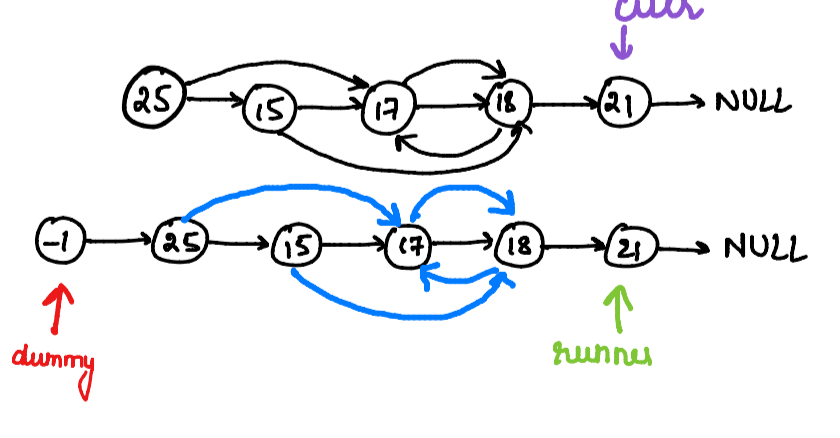
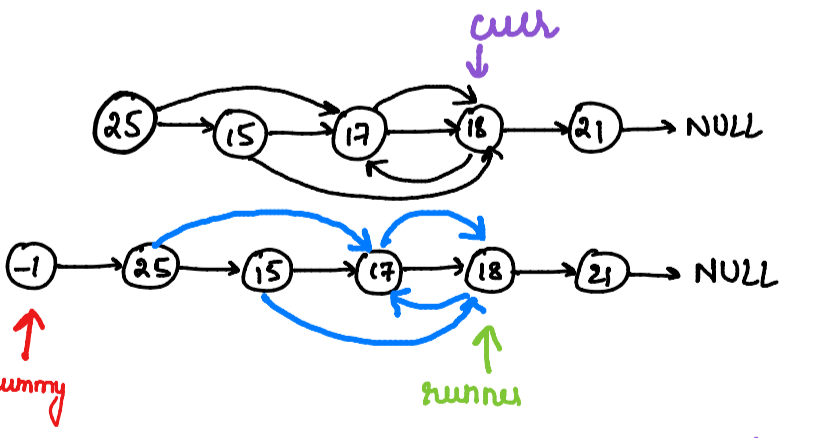
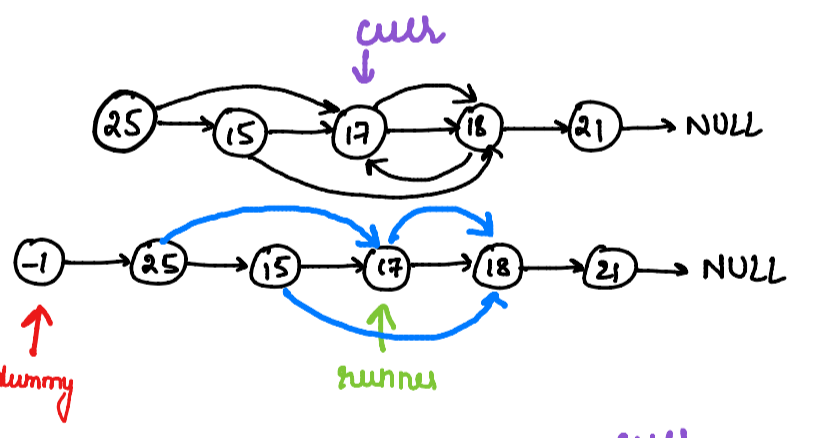
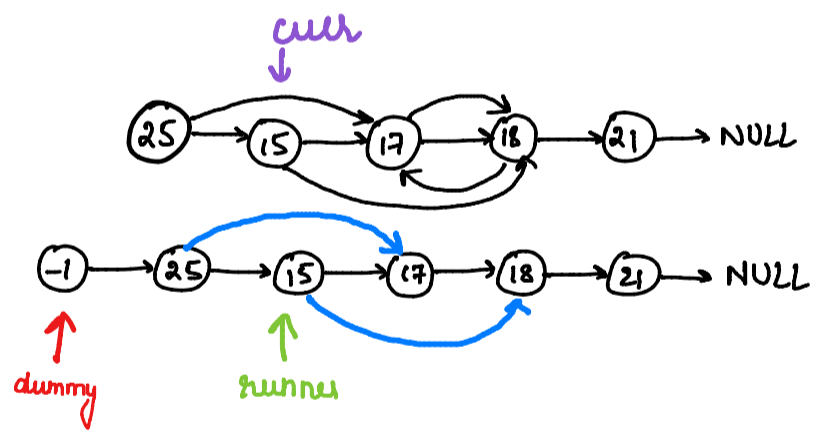
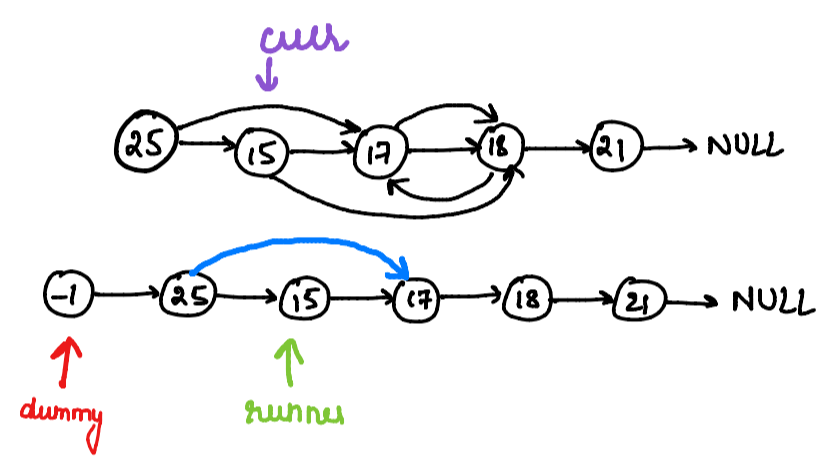
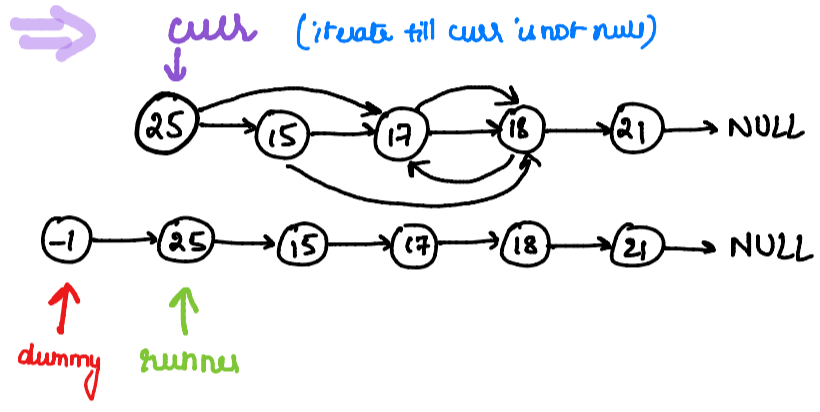


mp

25	25
15	15
17	17
18	18
21	21
NULL	NULL
Old	New

→ In 1st iteration create the list without random pointer & also maintain hashmap for mapping node pointed by random pointer

→ In 2nd iteration use **map** to link node pointed by random pointer



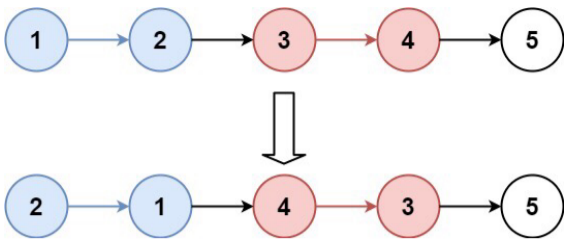
Code →

TC →  $O(n)$

SC →  $O(n)$

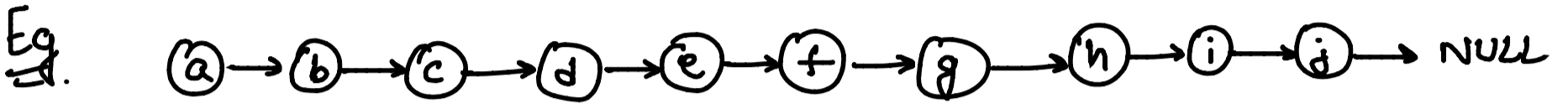
```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     Node* copyRandomList(Node* head) {
4
5         unordered_map<Node*, Node*> mp;
6         Node *dummy = new Node(100001);
7         Node *runner = dummy, *curr = head;
8
9         // initial iteration
10        while(curr != NULL){
11            Node *newNode = new Node(curr->val);
12            runner->next = newNode;
13            mp[curr] = newNode;
14            curr = curr->next;
15            runner = runner->next;
16        }
17
18        // setting starting points in both lists
19        curr = head;
20        runner = dummy->next;
21
22        // setting the random pointers
23        while(curr != NULL){
24            if(curr->random != NULL)
25                runner->random = mp[curr->random];
26            runner = runner->next;
27            curr = curr->next;
28        }
29
30        return dummy->next;
31    }
32};
```

# (1b) Reverse Nodes in K-Group

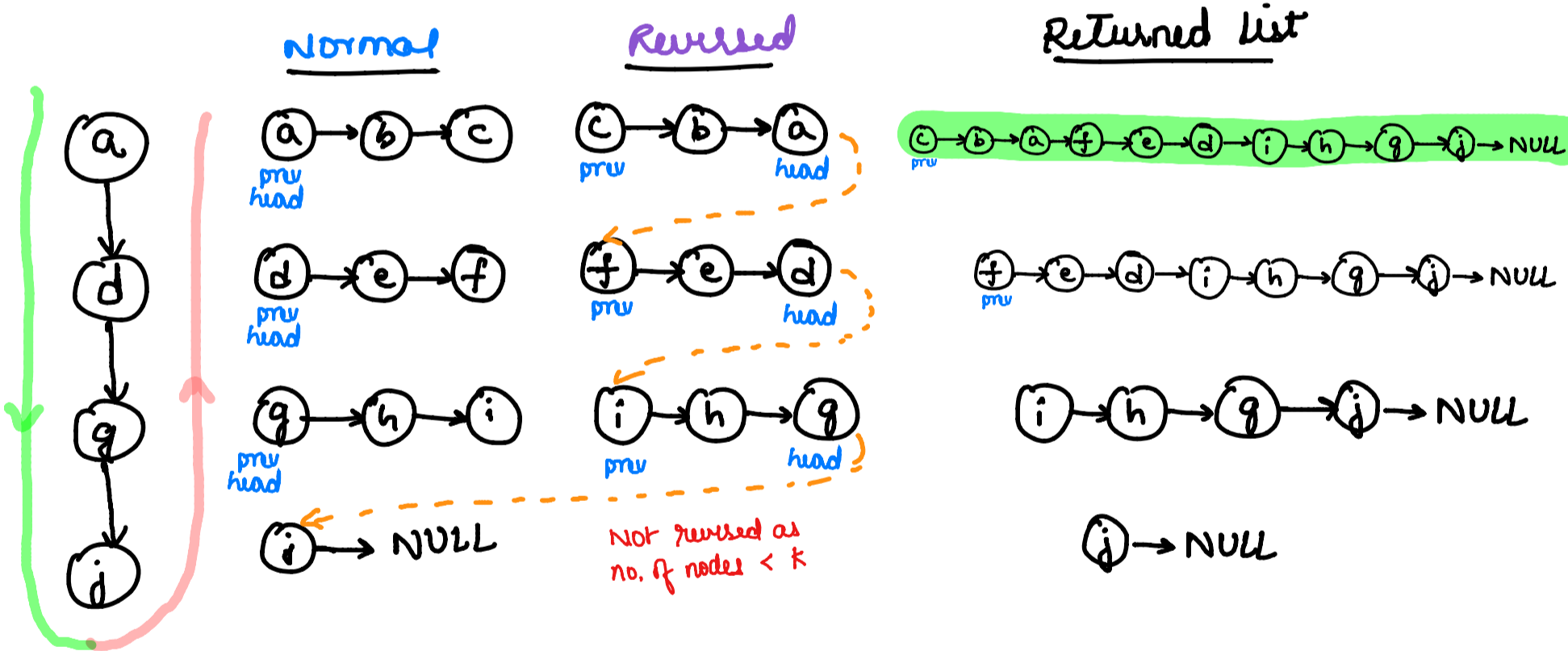
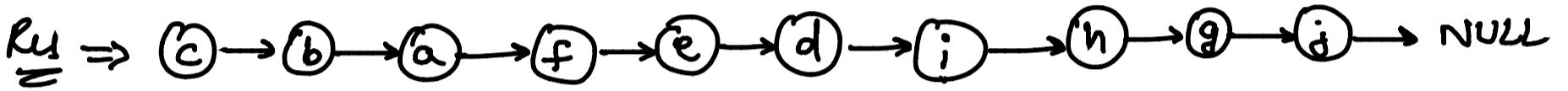


$k = 2$

Given a linkedlist &  $k$ , return a list with reversed nodes by  $k$ -groups.



$k = 3$



\* Consider the case of  $(f) \rightarrow (e) \rightarrow (d)$ , then  $\text{templist} = (i) \rightarrow (h) \rightarrow (g)$   
 linking would happen as  $\text{head} \rightarrow \text{next} = \text{templist}$  & this list  
 would become templist to  $(c) \rightarrow (b) \rightarrow (a)$

code →

TC → O(N)  
SC → O(1)

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* reverseList(ListNode* head)
4     {
5         ListNode *prev = NULL, *curr = head, *temp;
6         while (curr!=NULL)
7         {
8             temp = curr->next;
9             curr->next = prev;
10            prev = curr;
11            curr = temp;
12        }
13        return prev;
14    }
15
16    ListNode* reverseInGroups(ListNode* head, int k)
17    {
18        ListNode *curr = head;
19        int currlen = 1;
20        if(head == NULL) return head;
21        while(curr->next!=NULL && currlen<k ){
22            curr=curr->next;
23            currlen+=1;
24        }
25        if(currlen<k) return head;
26        ListNode *tempNode = curr->next;
27        curr->next = NULL;
28
29        // start linking
30        ListNode *tempList = reverseInGroups(tempNode,k);
31        ListNode *prev = reverseList(head);
32        head->next = tempList;
33        return prev;
34    }
35
36    ListNode* reverseKGroup(ListNode* head, int k) {
37        return reverseInGroups(head,k);
38    }
39 };
```

# ①7 Design linked list → Implementation of Doubly Linked list

code →

```
class Node{
public:
int val;
Node* prev;
Node* next;
Node(int val){
this->val=val;
prev = nullptr;
next = nullptr;
}
};
class MyLinkedList {
public:
Node *head;
Node *tail;
MyLinkedList(){
head = nullptr;
tail = nullptr;
}

int get(int index){
if(head == NULL) return -1;
Node *temp = head;
int count = 0;
while(temp!=NULL){
temp=temp->next;
count++;
}
if(index>=count) return -1;
temp = head;
while(temp != NULL && index>0){
temp=temp->next;
index--;
}
return temp->val;
}

void addAtHead(int val){
Node *newNode = new Node(val);
if(head == NULL){
head = newNode;
tail = newNode;
} else {
newNode->next = head;
head->prev = newNode;
head = newNode;
}
}

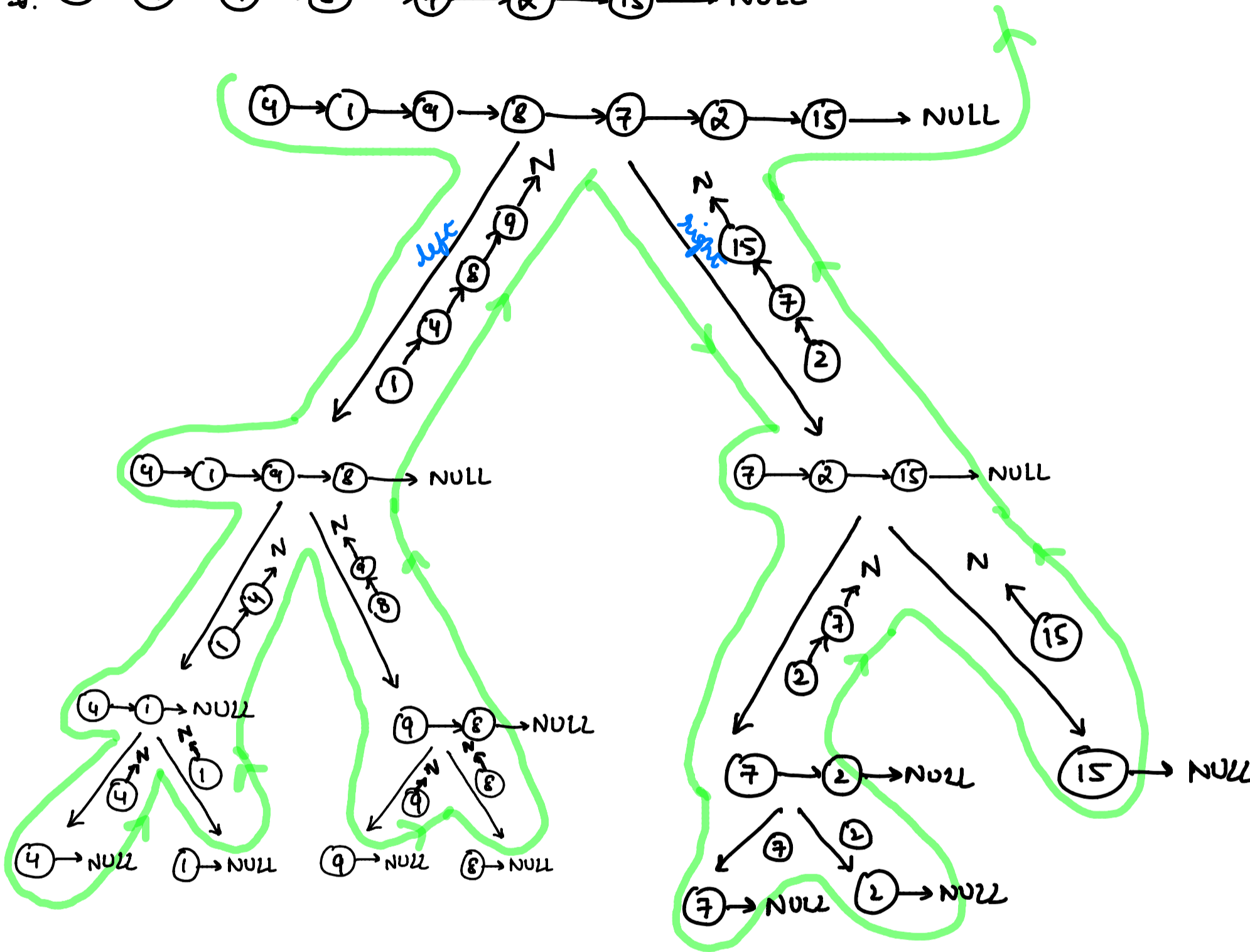
void addAtTail(int val){
Node *temp = head;
if(head == NULL){
Node *newNode = new Node(val);
head = newNode;
tail = newNode;
return;
}
while(temp->next!=NULL){
temp = temp->next;
}
Node *newNode = new Node(val);
temp->next = newNode;
newNode->prev = temp;
tail = newNode;
}
};
```

```
void addAtIndex(int index, int val){
Node *temp = head;
int count = 0;
while(temp != NULL){
temp = temp->next;
count++;
}
if(index>count) return ;
if(index==0){
addAtHead(val);
return;
} else if(count == index){
addAtTail(val);
return;
} else {
temp = head;
while(temp != NULL && index>0){
temp = temp->next;
index--;
}
Node* newNode = new Node(val);
Node* temp2 = temp->prev;
temp->prev->next = newNode;
temp->prev = newNode;
newNode->prev = temp2;
newNode->next = temp;
}
}

void deleteAtIndex(int index) {
Node* temp = head;
int count = 0;
while(temp != NULL){
temp=temp->next;
count++;
}
if(index>=count) return;
if(count==1 && index==0){
head = NULL;
return;
} else if(count-1 == index){
tail = tail->prev;
tail->next = NULL;
return;
} else {
if(index==0){
head->next->prev = NULL;
head = head->next;
return;
}
temp=head;
while(temp!=NULL && index>0){
temp = temp->next;
index--;
}
Node* temp2 = temp->next;
temp->prev->next = temp2;
temp->next->prev = temp->prev;
}
}
};
```

18) Sort List → By following Merge Sort.

Ex. 4 → 1 → 9 → 8 → 7 → 2 → 15 → NULL



In the last step while returning from both branches we have,

left = 1 → 4 → 8 → 9 → NULL & right = 2 → 7 → 15 → NULL

so create dummy node & merge, i.e. -1 → 1 → 2 → 4 → 7 → 8 → 9 → 15 → NULL

return dummy → next, 1 → 2 → 4 → 7 → 8 → 9 → 15 → NULL

\* The same happens at every intermediate merge

code →

$T_c \rightarrow O(m+n)$

$S_c \rightarrow O(n)$

```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     ListNode* merge(ListNode* l1, ListNode* l2) {
4         ListNode *dummy = new ListNode(-1);
5         ListNode *curr = dummy;
6         while(l1 && l2){
7             if(l1->val < l2->val){
8                 curr->next = l1;
9                 l1 = l1->next;
10            } else {
11                curr->next = l2;
12                l2 = l2->next;
13            }
14            curr = curr->next;
15        }
16        if(l1) curr->next = l1;
17        if(l2) curr->next = l2;
18
19        return dummy->next;
20    }
21
22    ListNode* sortList(ListNode* head) {
23        if(!head || !head->next) return head;
24
25        ListNode *slow = head;
26        ListNode *fast = head->next;
27        while(fast && fast->next) {
28            slow = slow->next;
29            fast = fast->next->next;
30        }
31        // dividing the lists into 2 parts
32        fast = slow->next;
33        slow->next = NULL;
34
35        // sort & merge
36        head = sortList(head);
37        fast = sortList(fast);
38        return merge(head, fast);
39    }
40 };
```

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