

Handout on ADTs in C:

Abstract Data Type (ADT)

Defn

An ADT consists of:

(1) A set S of "structures" called states.

(2) A set of operations on states.

- Manipulation procedures:
change the state of an instance.
- Access functions:
return information about a state.

Ex. Queue ADT. (of integers)

States: finite sequences of integers

	<u>len.</u>
e.g. (5, 1, -7, 2, 3, -18)	6
(9)	1
()	0

operations

manip. Proc.:

Enqueue()
Dequeue()

access fns:

get Front()
get Length()
is Empty()

history of states:

<u>Operation</u>	<u>state</u>	<u>Return</u>
	()	
Enqueue(5)	(5)	-
Enqueue(1)	(5, 1)	-
Enqueue(7)	(5, 1, 7)	-
Dequeue()	(1, 7)	-
Enqueue(3)	(1, 7, 3)	-
getFront()	(1, 7, 3)	1
getLength()	(1, 7, 3)	3
is Empty()	(1, 7, 3)	false

note: Dequeue() is undefined on empty state.

Preconditions:

define constraints on operations,
i.e. to what states they can be
applied.

Policy: if a precondition is violated,
Print an error message detailing

- what ADT
- what ADT operation
- what precondition,

then quit the Program.

We state preconditions in a
comment block, in terms of access
function calls.

Post conditions :

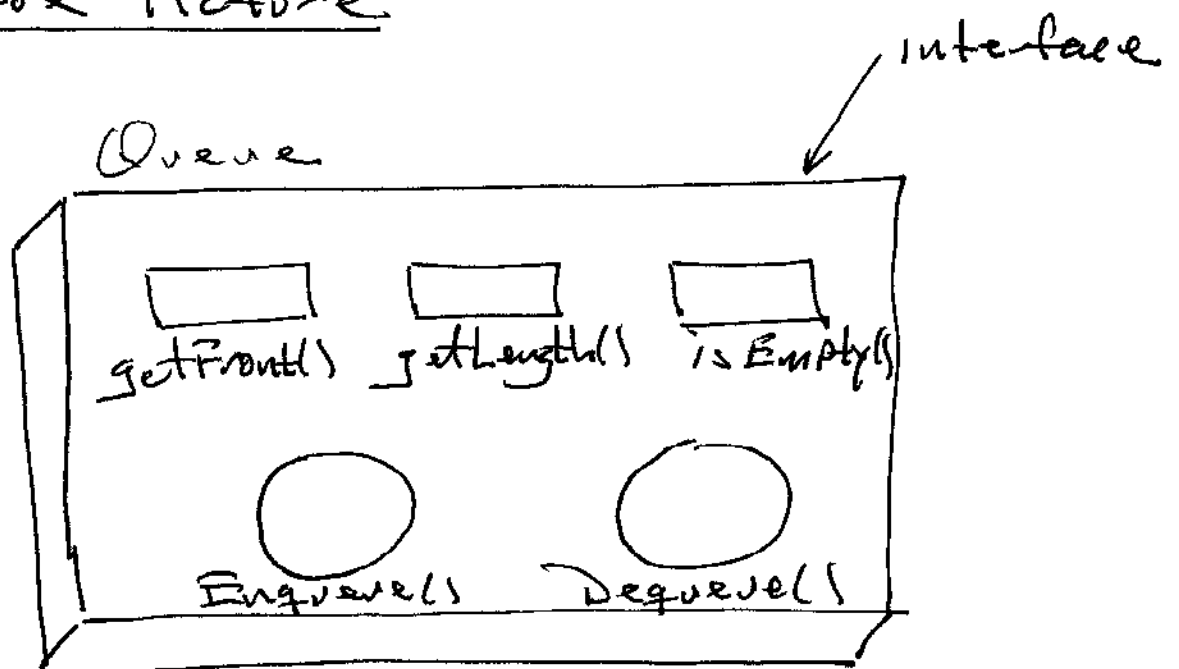
things that are true after the op. is performed.

in C : `Dequeue(Q)`

in C++ : `Q.Dequeue()`

↑
implicit 1st argument

Black Box Picture



information hiding:

client interacts with an ADT only through interface.

