

# ICE-2261 (Data Structure)

## Lecture on Chapter-4: LINKED LISTS

By

**Dr. M. Golam Rashed**

(golamrashed@ru.ac.bd)



Department of Information and Communication Engineering (ICE)  
University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh

# LINKED LISTS: Introduction



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milk  
eggs  
butter  
tomatoes  
apples  
oranges  
bread

milk  
eggs  
~~butter~~  
tomatoes  
apples  
~~oranges~~  
bread  
chicken  
corn  
lettuce

# LINKED LISTS: Introduction



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In linear array.....,

- ✓ The linear relationship between the data elements of an array is reflected by the physical relationship of the data in memory, not by any information contained in the data elements themselves.
- ✓ It is easy to compute the address of an element in an **Array**.

## Arrays have certain disadvantages:



- It is relatively expensive to insert and delete elements in an array,
- One can not simply double or triple the size of an array when additional space is required.

For this reason,

Arrays are

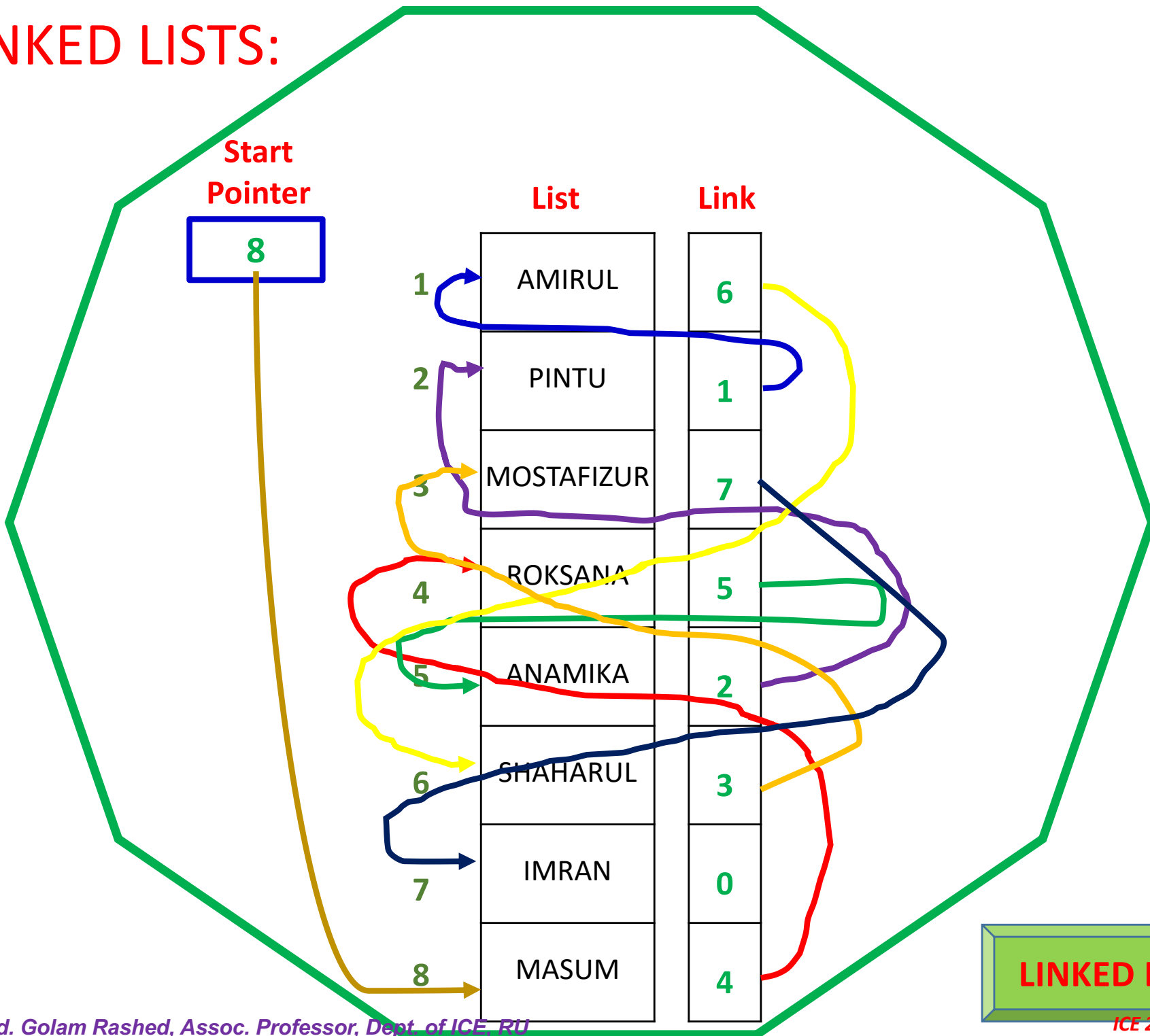
called *Dense lists*, and

said to be *Static* data structure.

# LINKED LISTS:



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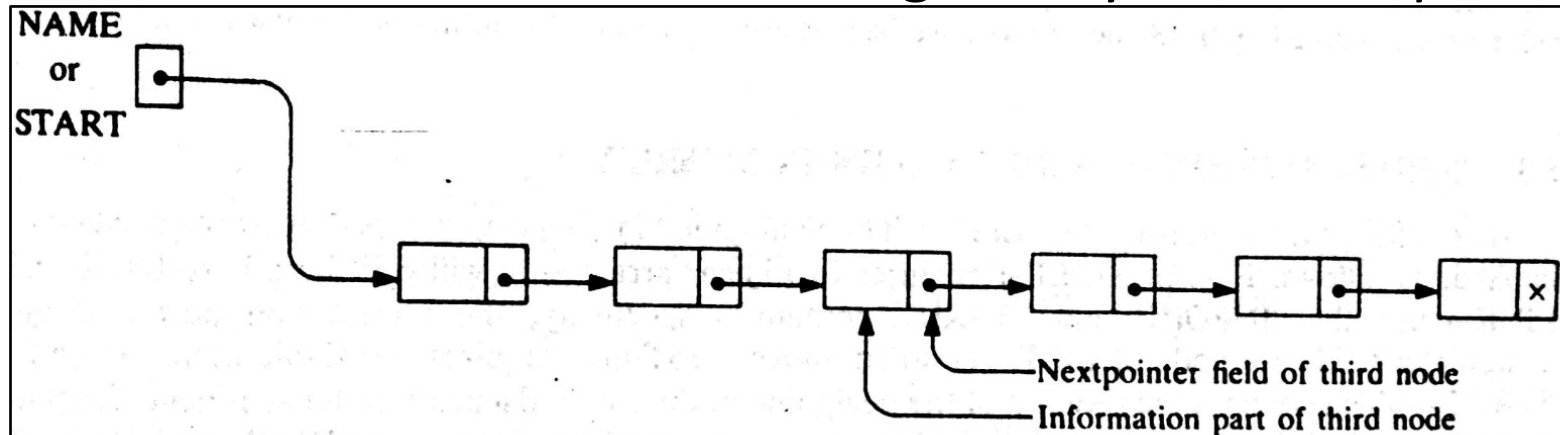
**LINKED LIST**

# LINKED LISTS: Definition



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A *linked list*, or *one-way list*, is a linear collection of data elements, called *nodes*, where the linear order is given by means of *pointers*.

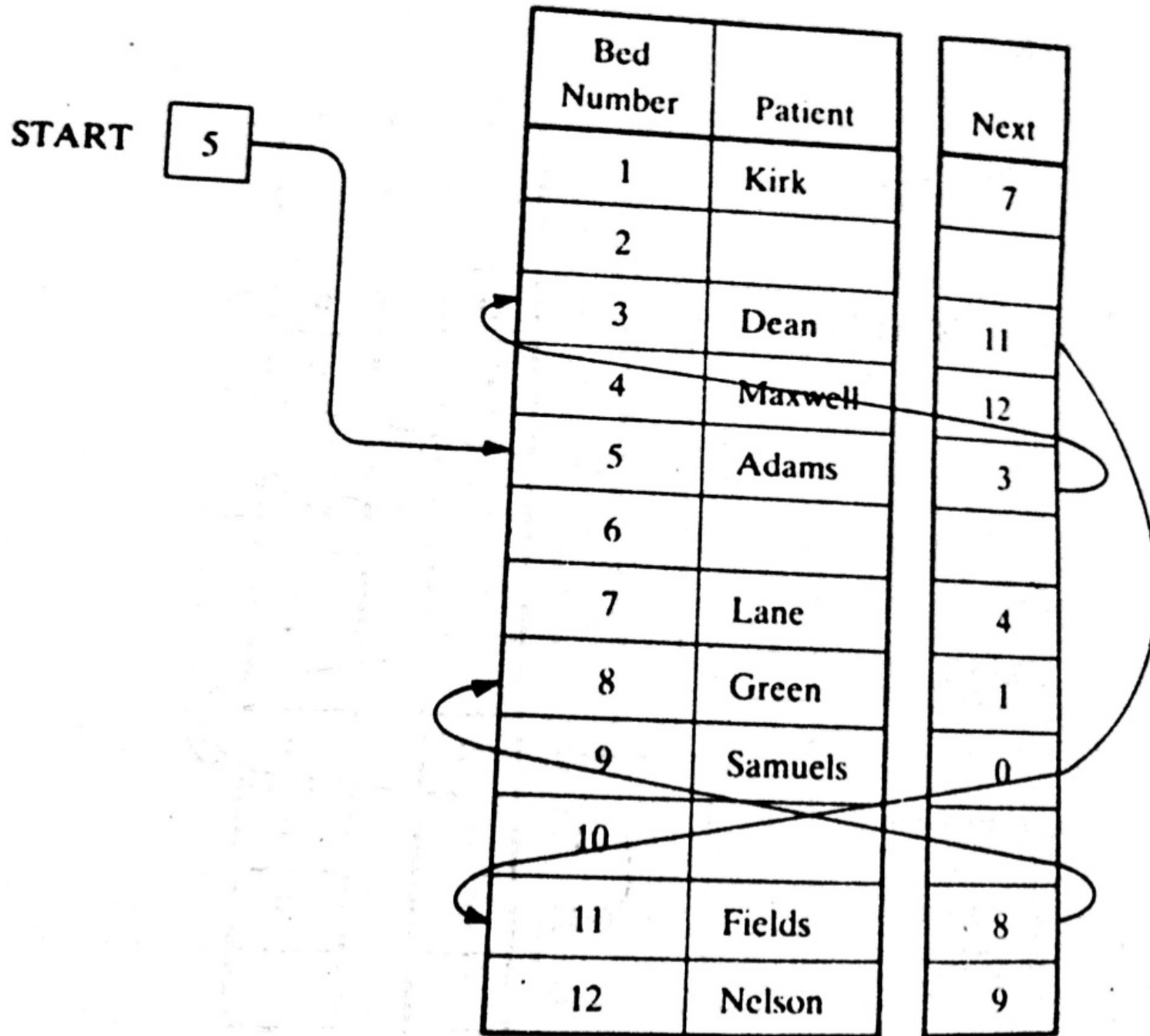


- ✓ Each node is divided into two parts:
  - The first part contains the information of the element,
  - The second part, called the *link field* or *nextpointer field*, contains the address of the next node in the list.
- ✓ There is an arrow drawn from a node to the next node in the list.
- ✓ The pointer of the last node contains a special value, called the *null* pointer, which is any invalid address (0 or a negative number), denoted by  $\times$  in the diagram.
- ✓ The linked list also contain a *list pointer variable*-called START or NAME, which contain the address of the first node in the list.

# LINKED LISTS: Example



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# LINKED LISTS: Representation in Memory



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Let LIST be a linked list which will be maintained in the memory

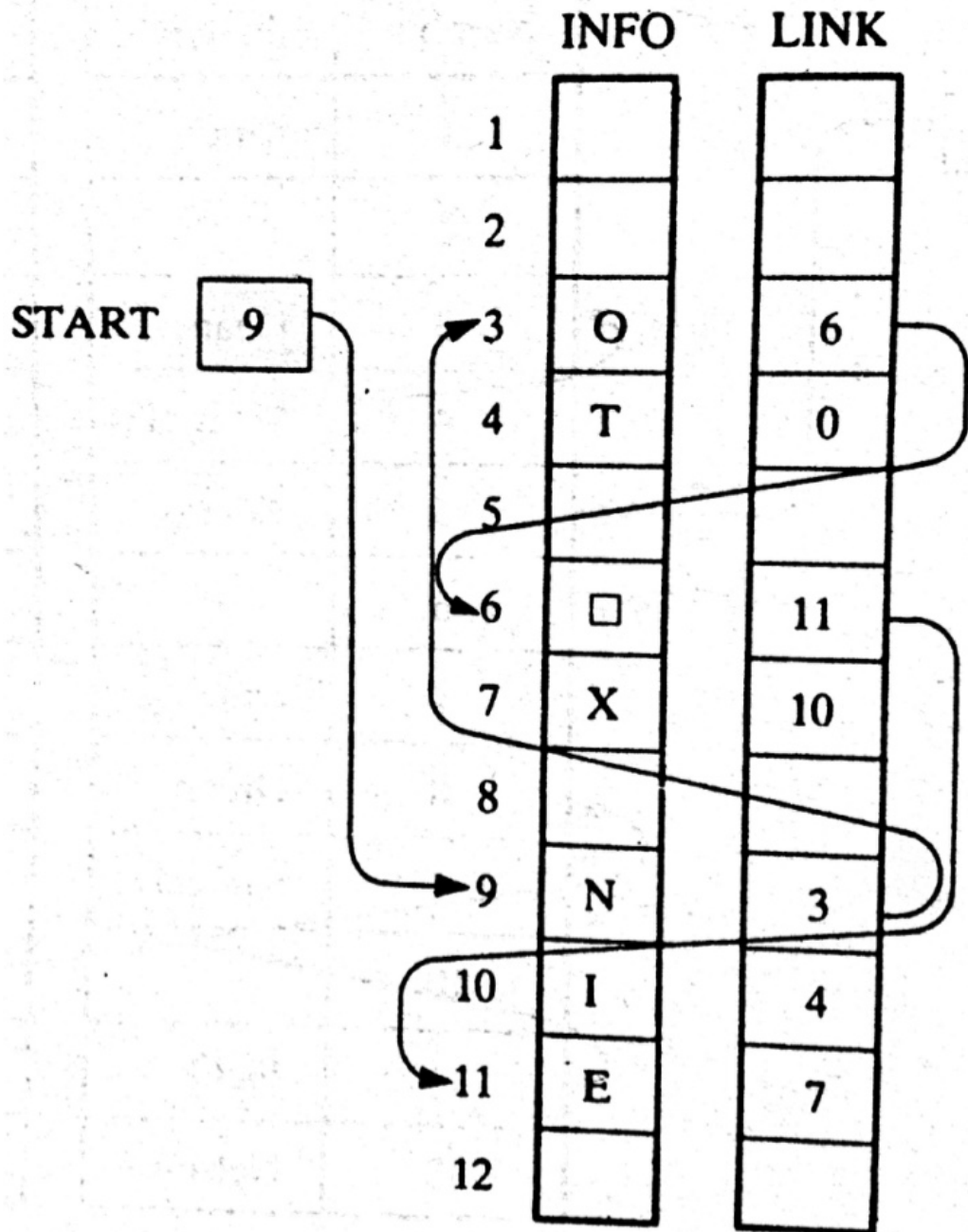
LIST requires.....

- Two linear array,
  - ❑ INFO[K]-Information part, and
  - ❑ LINK[K]-nextpointer field of a node of LIST
- A variable name-**START**, indicating the beginning of the LIST.
- A nextpointer senitel-**NULL**, indicates the end of the LIST
  
- ❖ Since, the subscripts of the array INFO and LINK will usually be positive, NULL=0, unless otherwise stated

# LINKED LISTS: Example



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START=9, so INFO[9]= ? **N**

LINK[9]=3, so, INFO[3]=? **O**

LINK[3]=6, so, INFO[6]=? **□**

LINK[6]=11, so, INFO[11]=? **E**

LINK[11]=7, so, INFO[7]= ? **X**

LINK[7]=10, so, INFO[10]= ? **I**

LINK[10]=4, so, INFO[4]= ? **T**

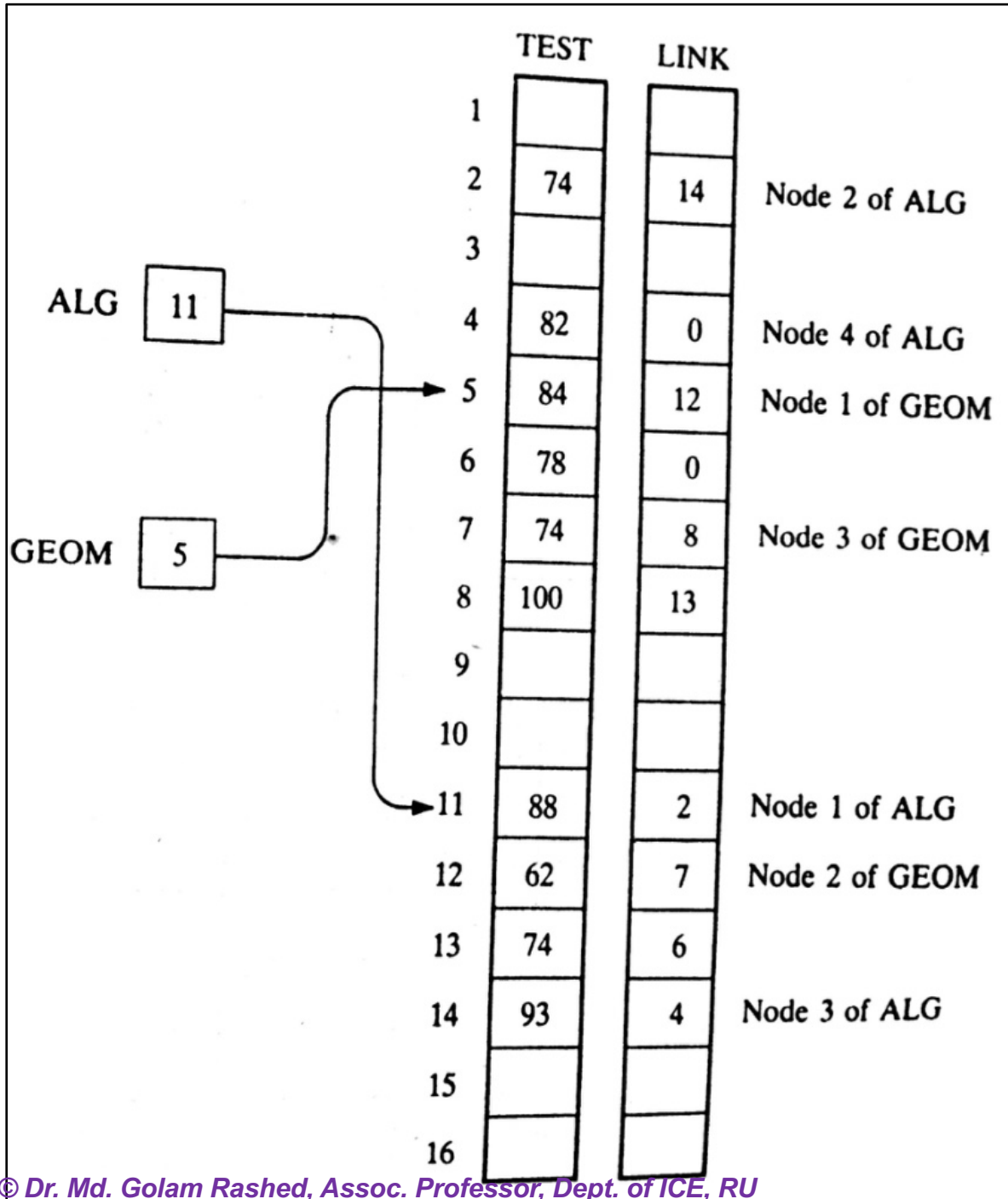
LINK[4]=0, so, INFO[0]= ? **NULL**



# LINKED LISTS: Example



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ALG consists of Test score:  
**88, 74, 93, 82**

GEOM consists of Test score:  
**84, 62, 74, 100, 74, 78**

# LINKED LISTS: Example



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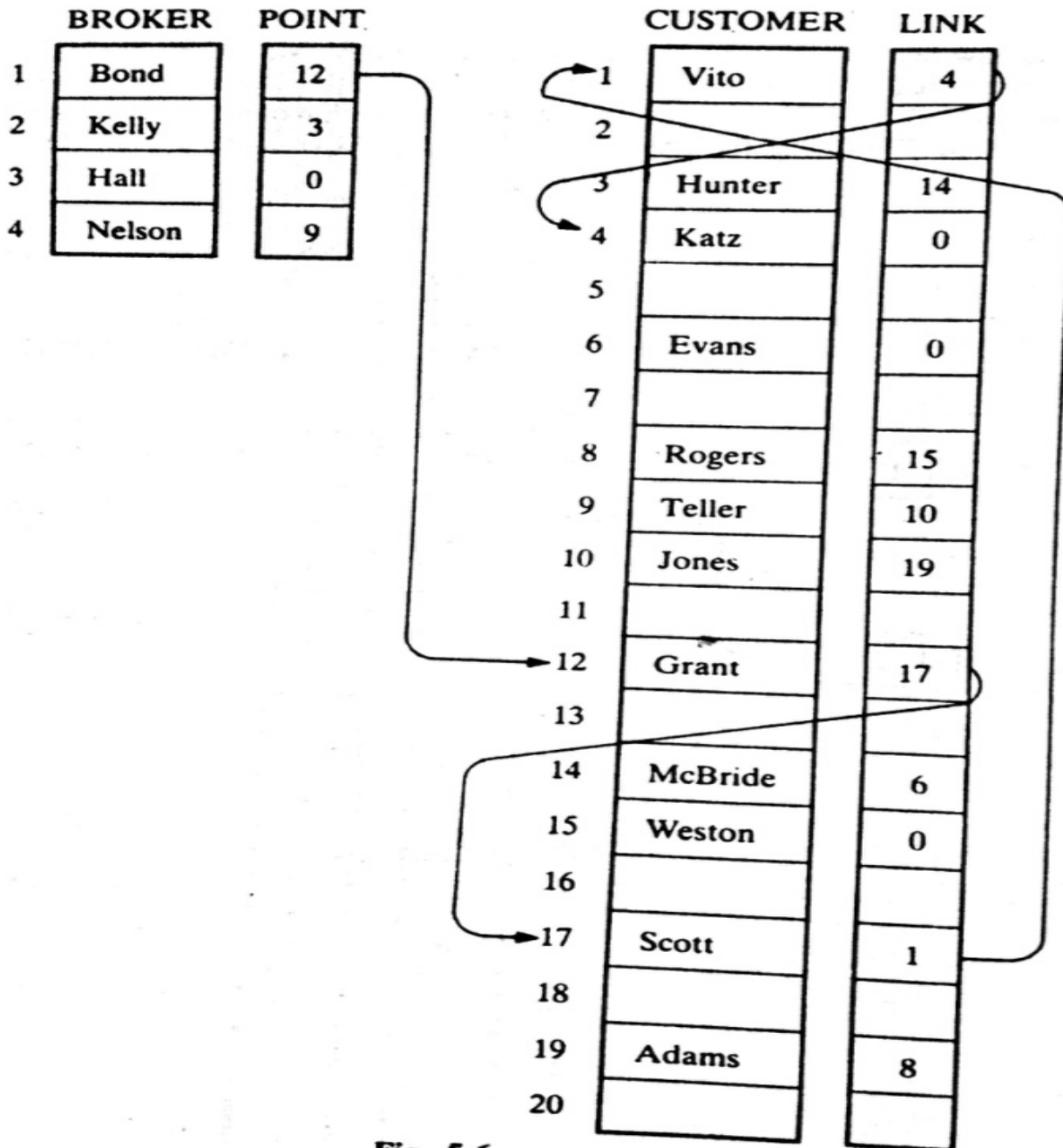


Fig. 5-6

Bond's list of customers:  
**Grant, Scott, Vito, Katz**

Kelly's list of customers:  
**Hunter, McBride, Evans**

Hall's list of customers:  
**NULL / Empty List**

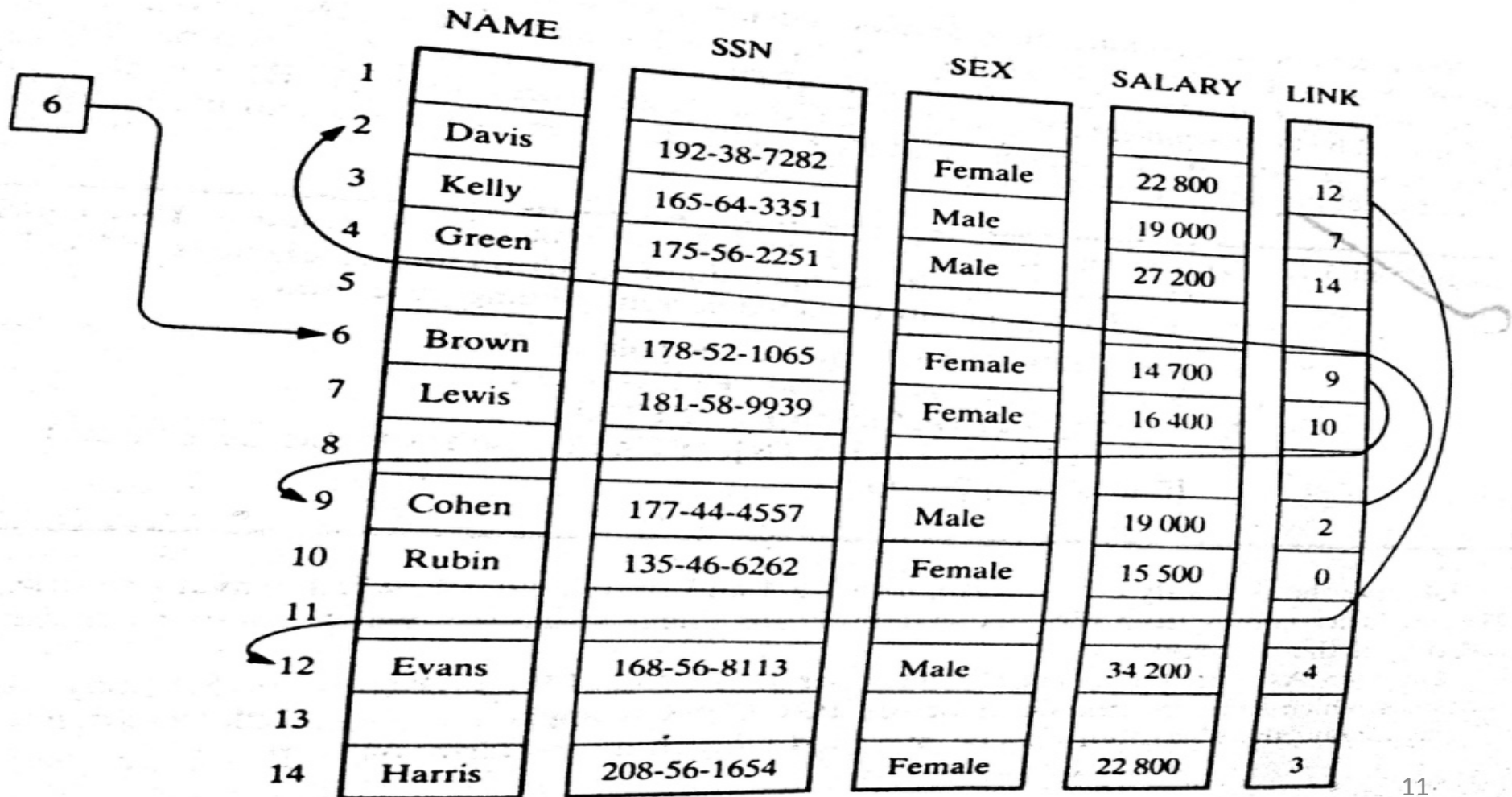
Nelson's list of customers:  
**Teller, Jones, Adams, Rogers, Weston**

# LINKED LISTS: Example



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- In general, the information part of a node may be a record with more than one data item.
- In such a case, the data must be stored in some type of record structure or in a collection of parallel arrays.

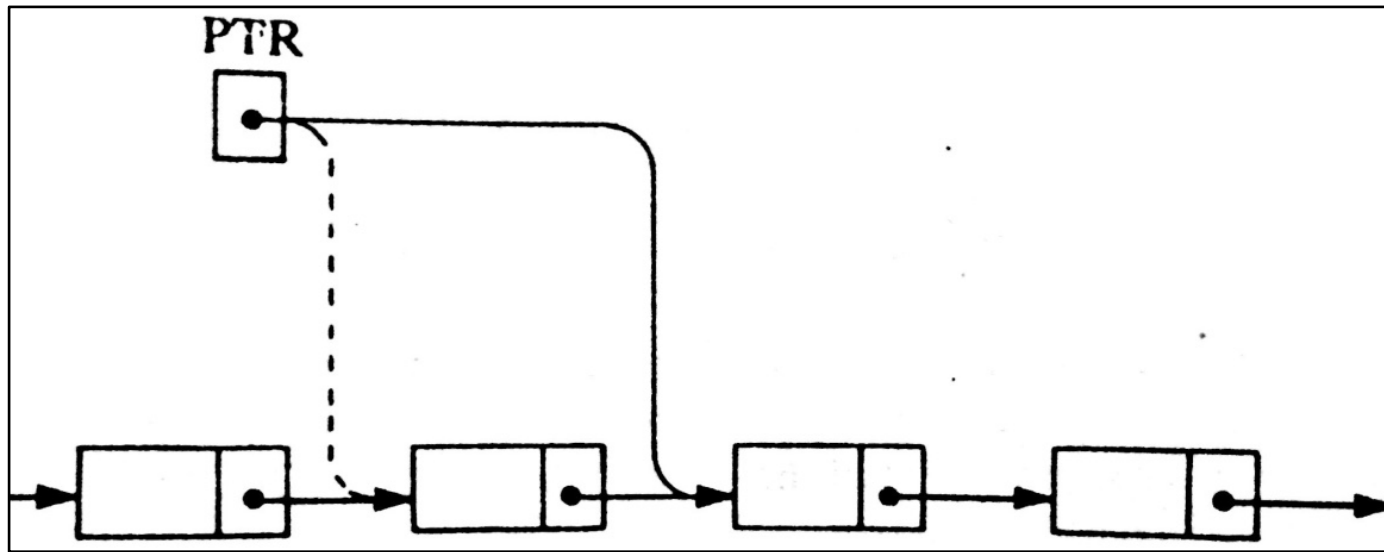


# LINKED LISTS: Traversing



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Let **LIST** be a linked list in memory stored in linear arrays **INFO** and **LINK** with **START** pointing to the first element and **NULL** indicating the end of **LIST**.



- ✓ Traversing algorithm uses a pointer variable **PTR** which points to the node that is currently being processed.
- ✓ Accordingly, **LINK[PTR]** points to the next node to be processed.

Thus,

**PTR:=LINK[PTR]**, moves the pointer to the next node in the list.

# LINKED LISTS: Traversing Algorithm



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Let LIST be a linked list in memory.

## LINKED\_LIST\_Traversing(INFO, LINK, START)

- Step1. Set PTR:=START.[Initialize pointer PTR.]
- Step2. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 while PTR  $\neq$  NULL
- Step3. Apply PROCESS to INFO[PTR]
- Step4. Set PTR:=LINK[PTR]. [PTR now point to the next node.]  
[End of step 2 loop]
- Step5. Exit.

## Any difference with Linear array traversing ??

### LINEAR\_ARRAY\_Traversing

- Step 1. [Initialize counter] Set K:=LB
- Step 2. Repeat Step 3 and 4 while K $\leq$ UB [Repeat while loop]
- Step 3. [Visit element] Apply PROCESS to A[K].
- Step 4. [Increase counter] Set K:=K+1.  
[End of Step 2 loop.]
- Step 5. Exit.

# LINKED LISTS: Practice...



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**Teach yourself:** Example 5.7 (Find the number of elements in a linked list)

# LINKED LISTS: Searching



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Given:

- LIST- a linked list in memory (Unknown/Unseen)
- ITEM- a specific information.

Objective: Finding the location LOC of the node where ITEM first appears in LIST.

Here, TWO searching algorithm will be discussed for finding the location of LOC of the node where ITEM first appears in LIST.

- Algorithm-1 for LIST is Unsorted
- Algorithm-2 for LIST is Sorted.

# LINKED LISTS: Searching Algorithm-1



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## SEARCH (INFO, LINK, START, ITEM, LOC) [when list is unsorted]

Step1. Set PTR:=START

Step2. Repeat Step 3 while PTR  $\neq$  NULL

Step3. If ITEM=INFO [PTR], then:

Set LOC:=PTR, and Exit.

Else:

Set LOC:=LINK[PTR]. [PTR now points to the next node.]

[End of If structure.]

[End of Step 2 loop.]

Step4. [Search is unsuccessful.] Set LOC:=NULL.

Step5. Exit.



# LINKED LISTS: Searching Algorithm-2

## SEARCH (INFO, LINK, START, ITEM, LOC) [when list is sorted]



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Step1. Set PTR:=START

Step2. Repeat Step 3 while PTR  $\neq$  NULL

Step3. If ITEM < INFO [PTR], then:

Set PTR:=LINK[PTR] [PTR now points to next node.]

Else if ITEM=INFO[PTR], then:

Set: LOC=PTR. and Exit [Search is successful]

Else:

Set LOC:= NULL, and Exit. [ITEM now exceeds INFO[PTR]]

[End of If structure.]

[End of Step 2 loop.]

Step4. Set LOC:=NULL.

Step5. Exit.

Descending  
Order Sorted  
LIST

Any change in  
algorithm for  
Ascending Order  
Sorted LIST?

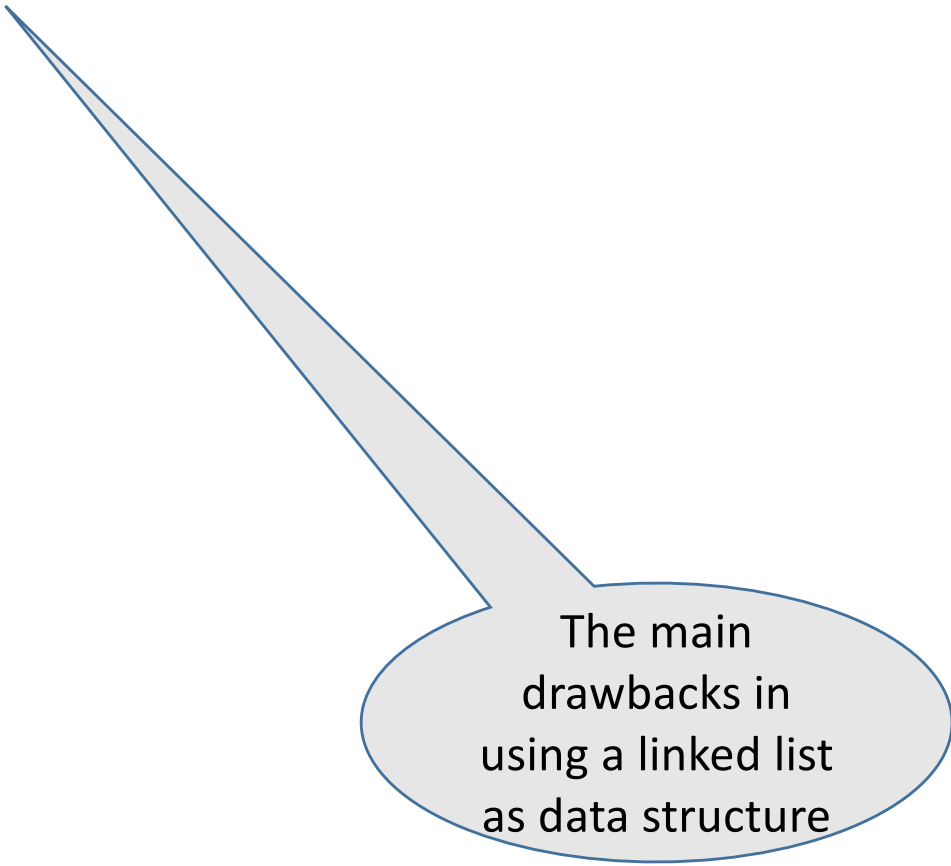
# LINKED LISTS: Searching Algorithm



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Limitations:

NB. A binary search algorithm cannot be applied to a sorted linked list. **Since, there is no way of indexing the middle element in the list.**



The main drawbacks in using a linked list as data structure

# LINKED LISTS: Memory Allocation



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- ✓ The maintenance of linked lists in memory assumes the possibility of .....
- ❖ Inserting new nodes into the lists, and
- ❖ Deleting nodes from the list.
- ✓ Hence, requires some mechanism which provides:
  - Unused memory space for the new nodes.
  - Deleted nodes becomes available for future use.

To meet the necessities.....

# LINKED LISTS: Memory Allocation



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- ✓ Together with the linked lists in memory, a special list is maintained which consists of unused memory cells.
- ✓ This list, which has its own pointer, is called ...
  - ✓ The list of available space or
  - ✓ the free-storage list or
  - ✓ the free pool.

# LINKED LISTS: Memory Allocation



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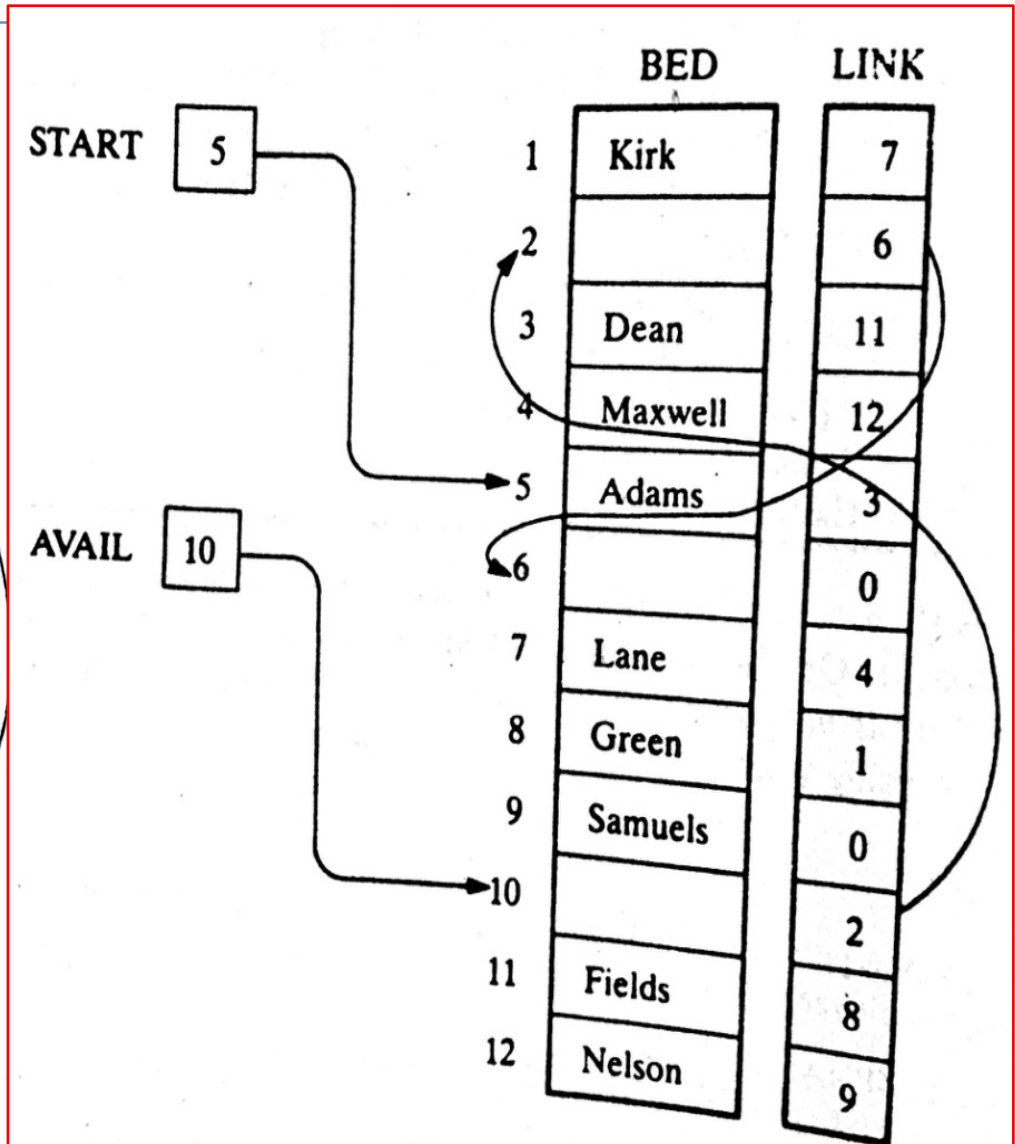
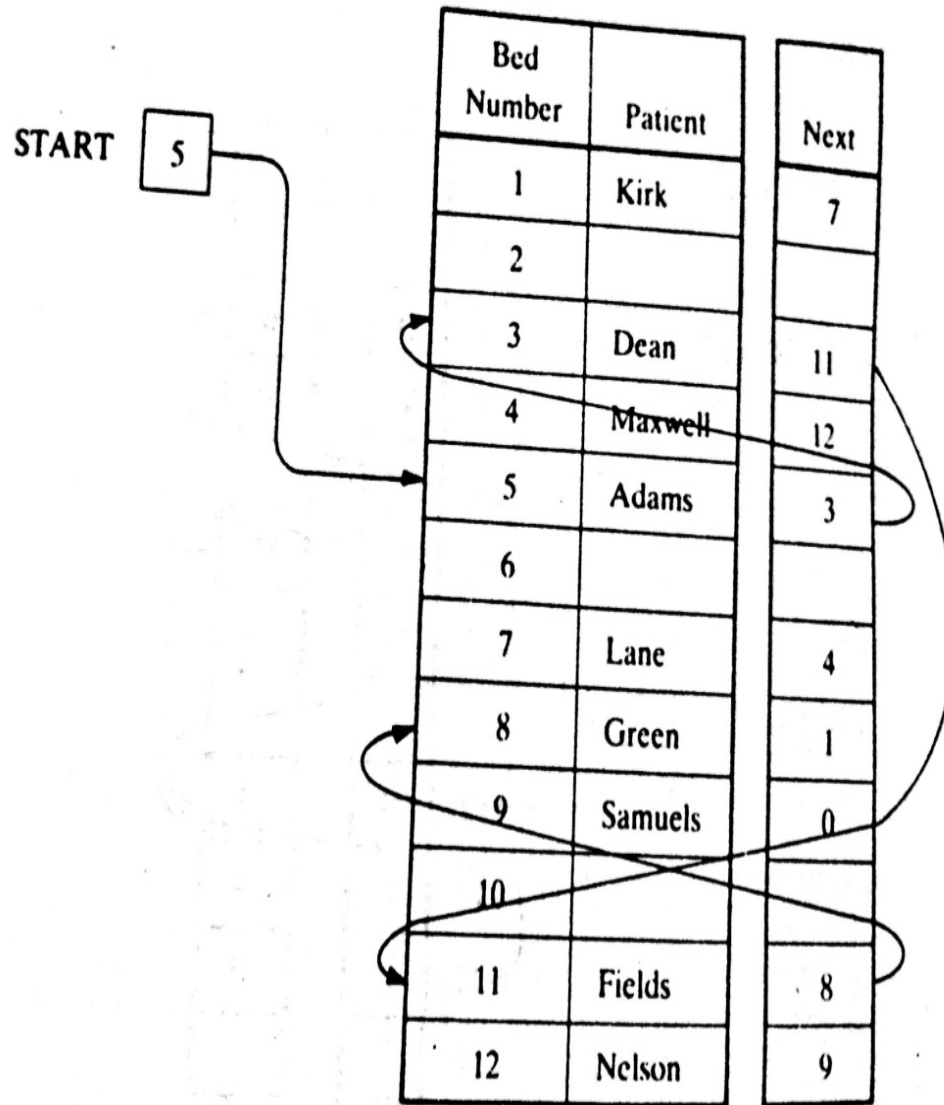
- ✓ Here, linked lists are implemented by parallel arrays.
- ✓ Suppose INSERTIONS and DELETIONS are to be performed on our linked lists.
- ✓ Then the unused memory cells in the arrays will also be linked together to form a linked list using **AVAIL** as its list pointer variable.

**LIST(INFO, LINK, START, AVAIL)**

# LINKED LISTS: Example 5.10



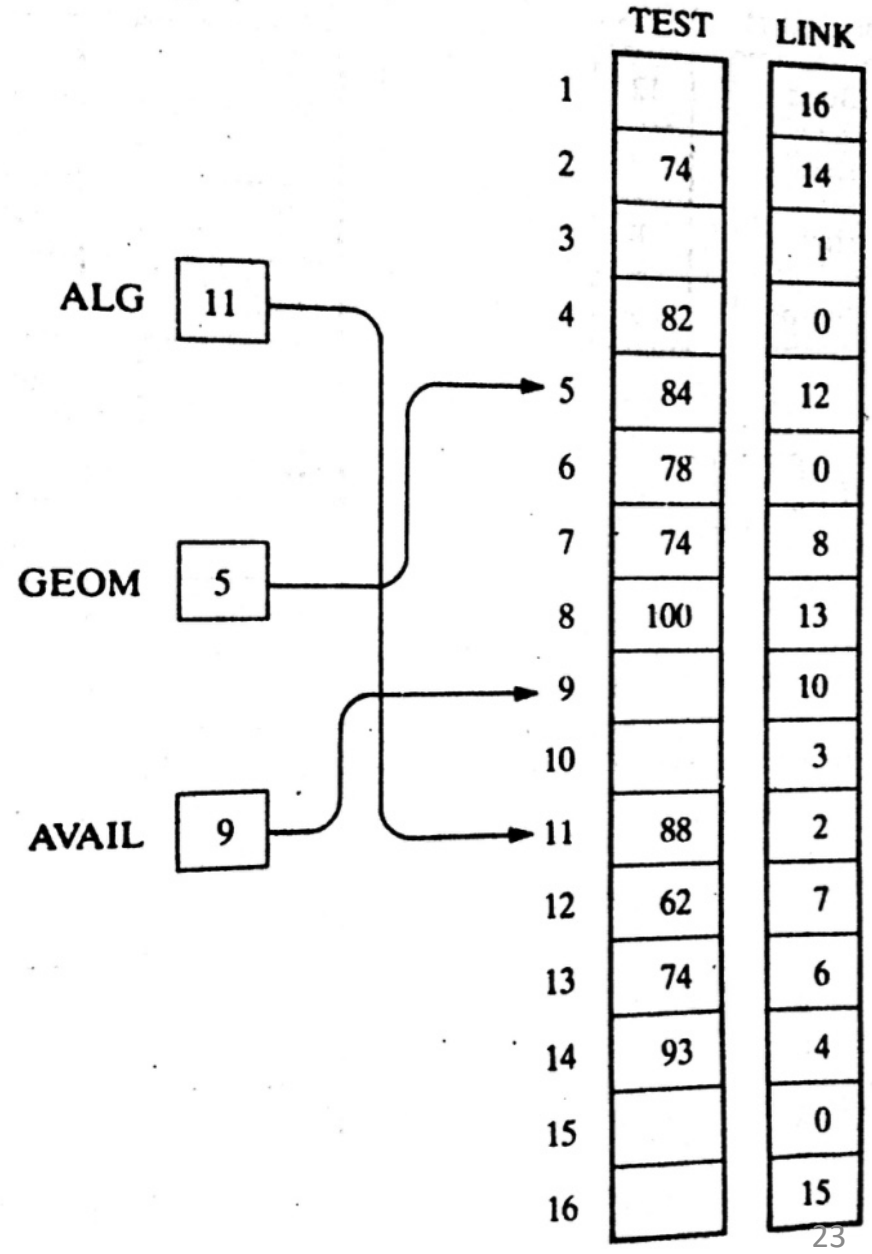
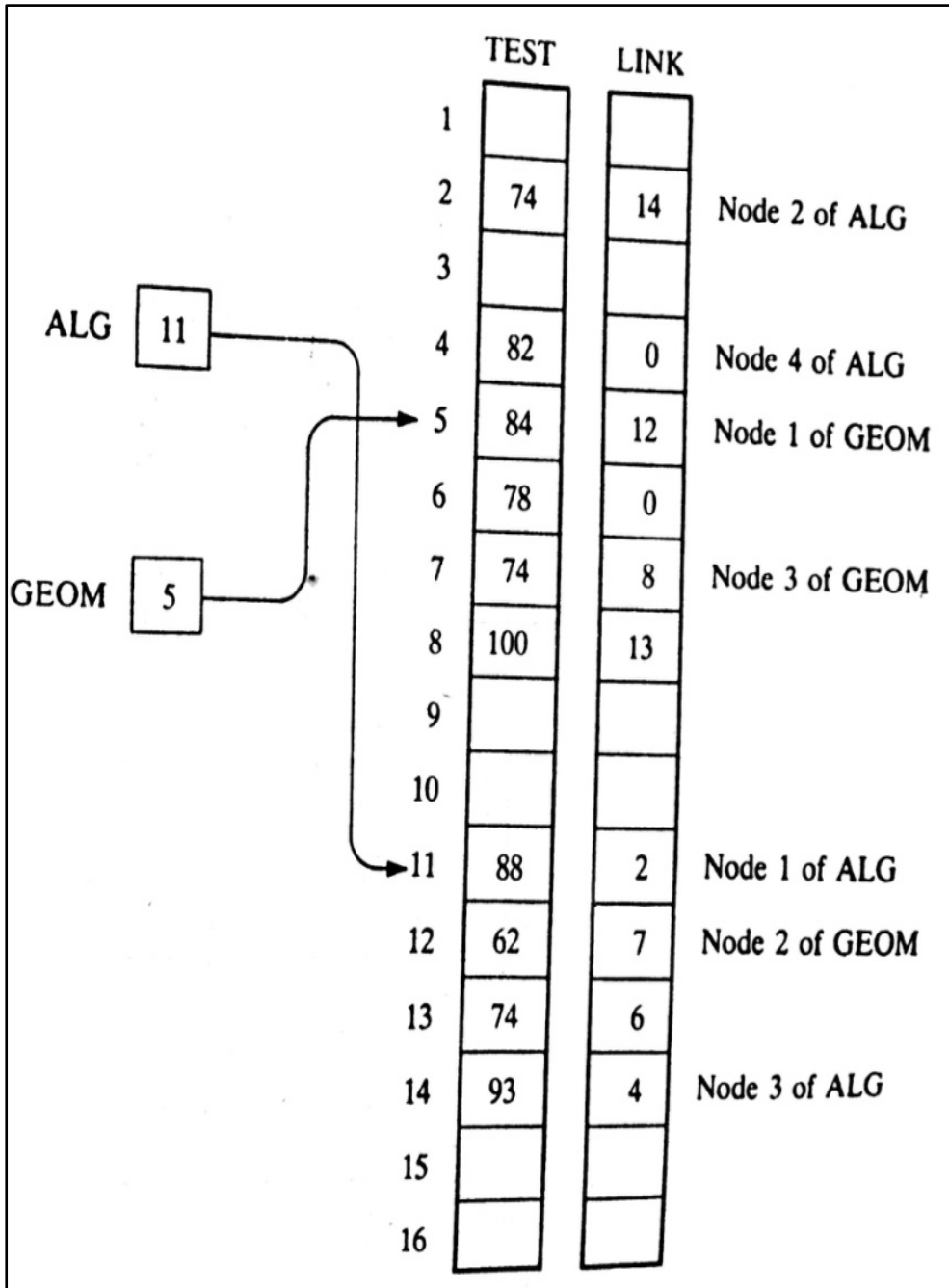
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# LINKED LISTS: Example 5.11(a)



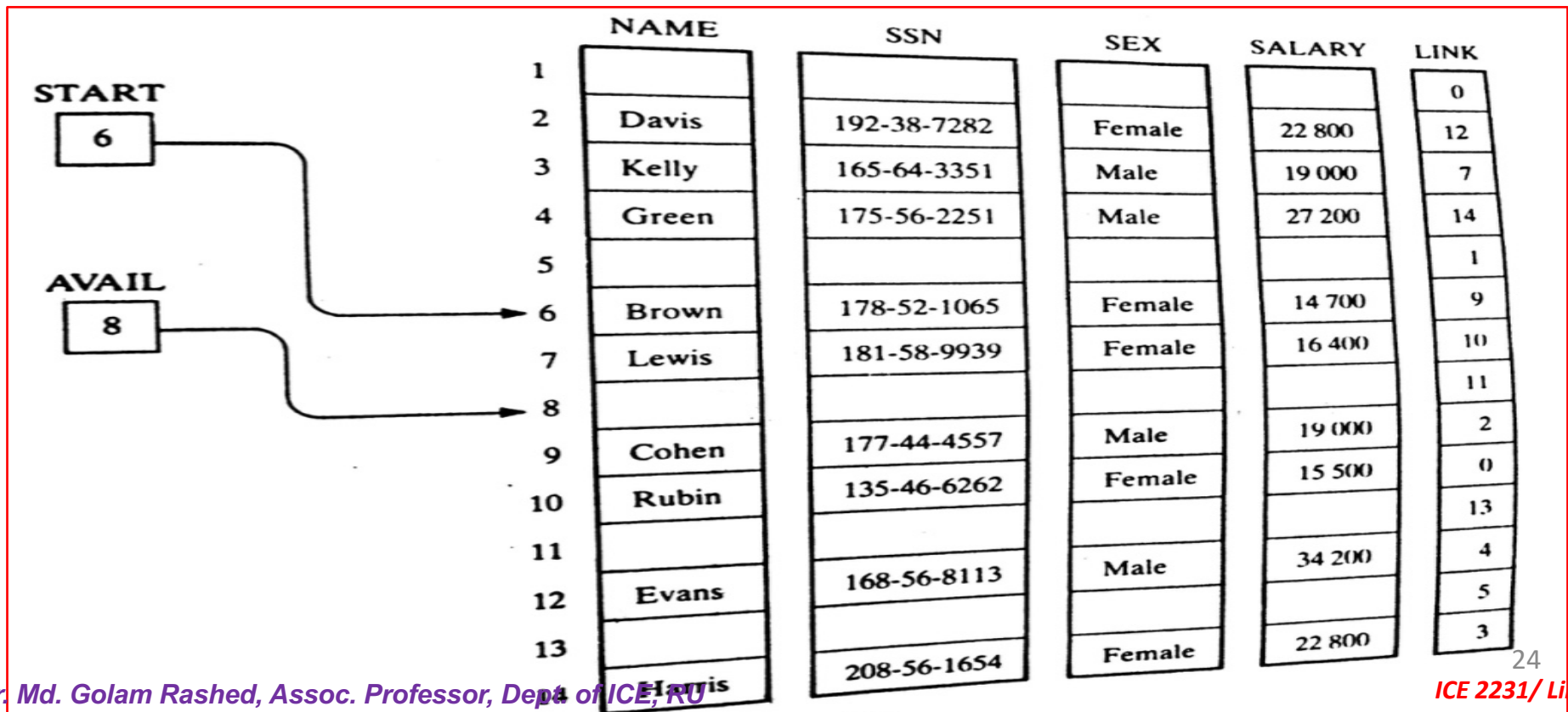
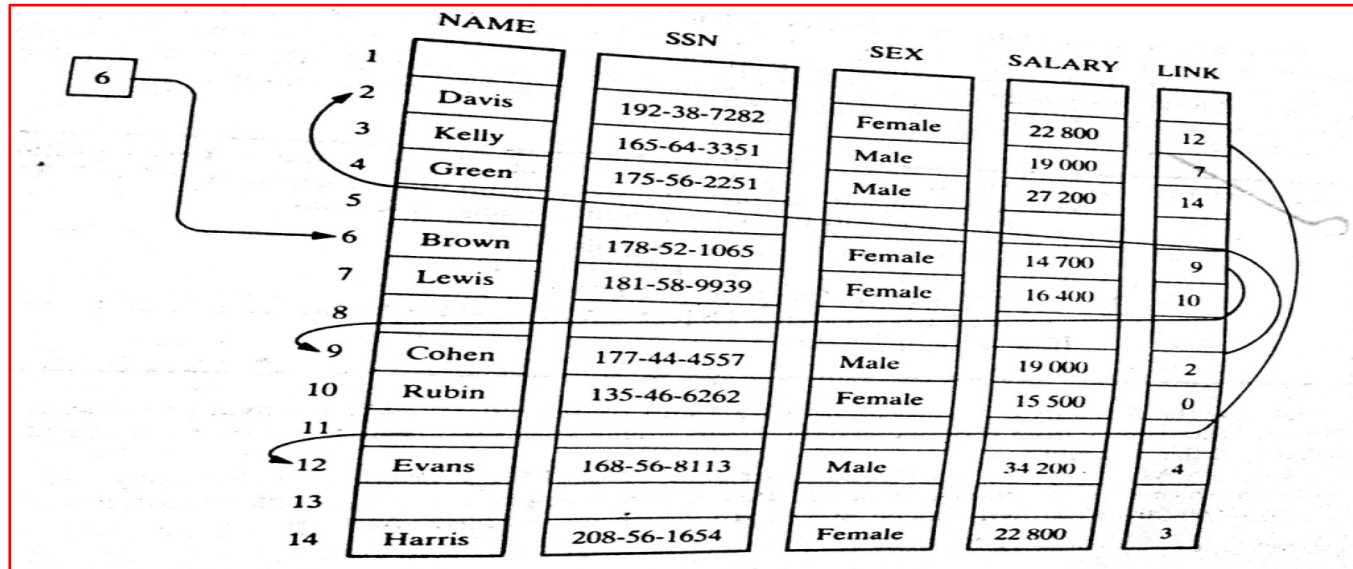
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# LINKED LISTS: Example 5.11(b)



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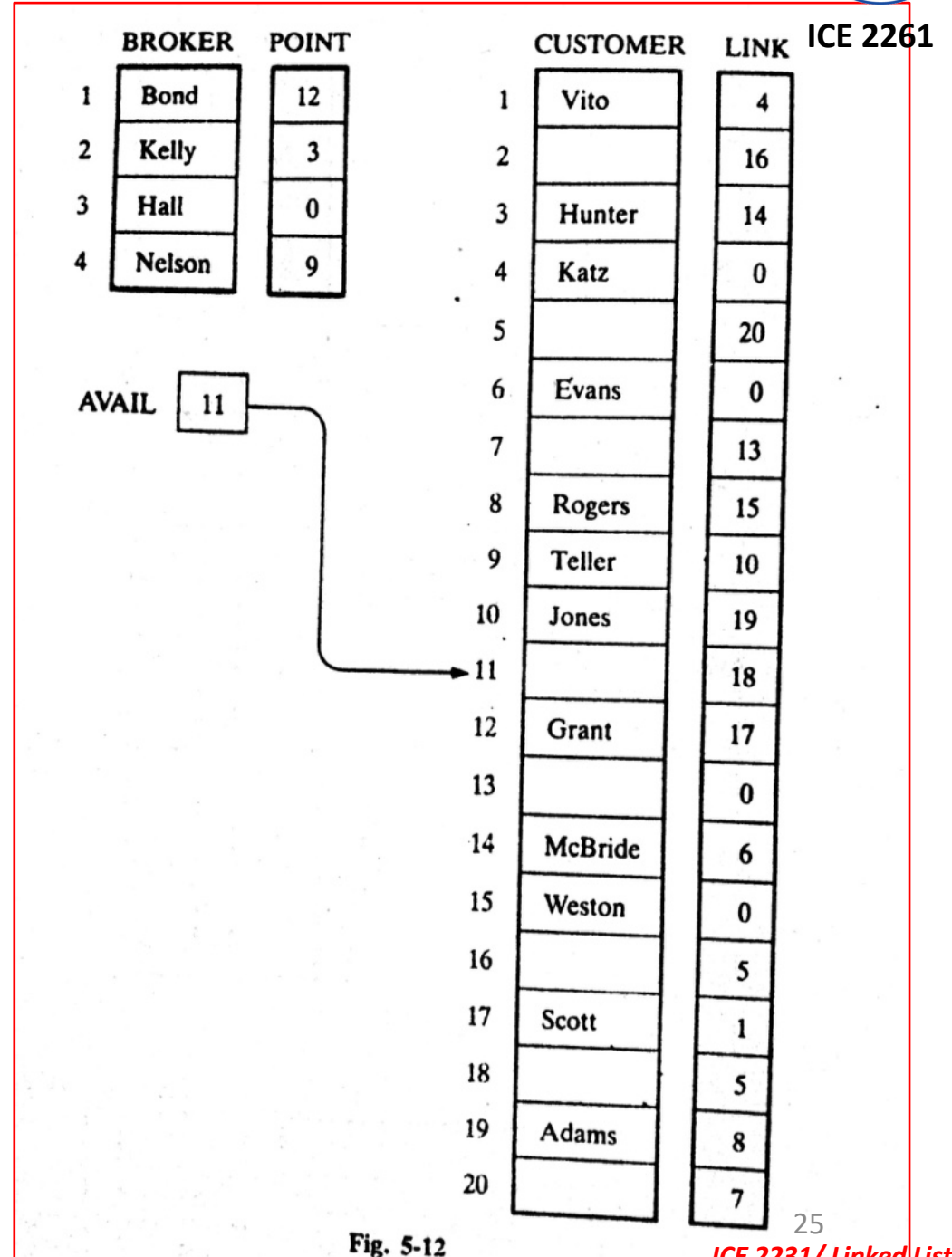
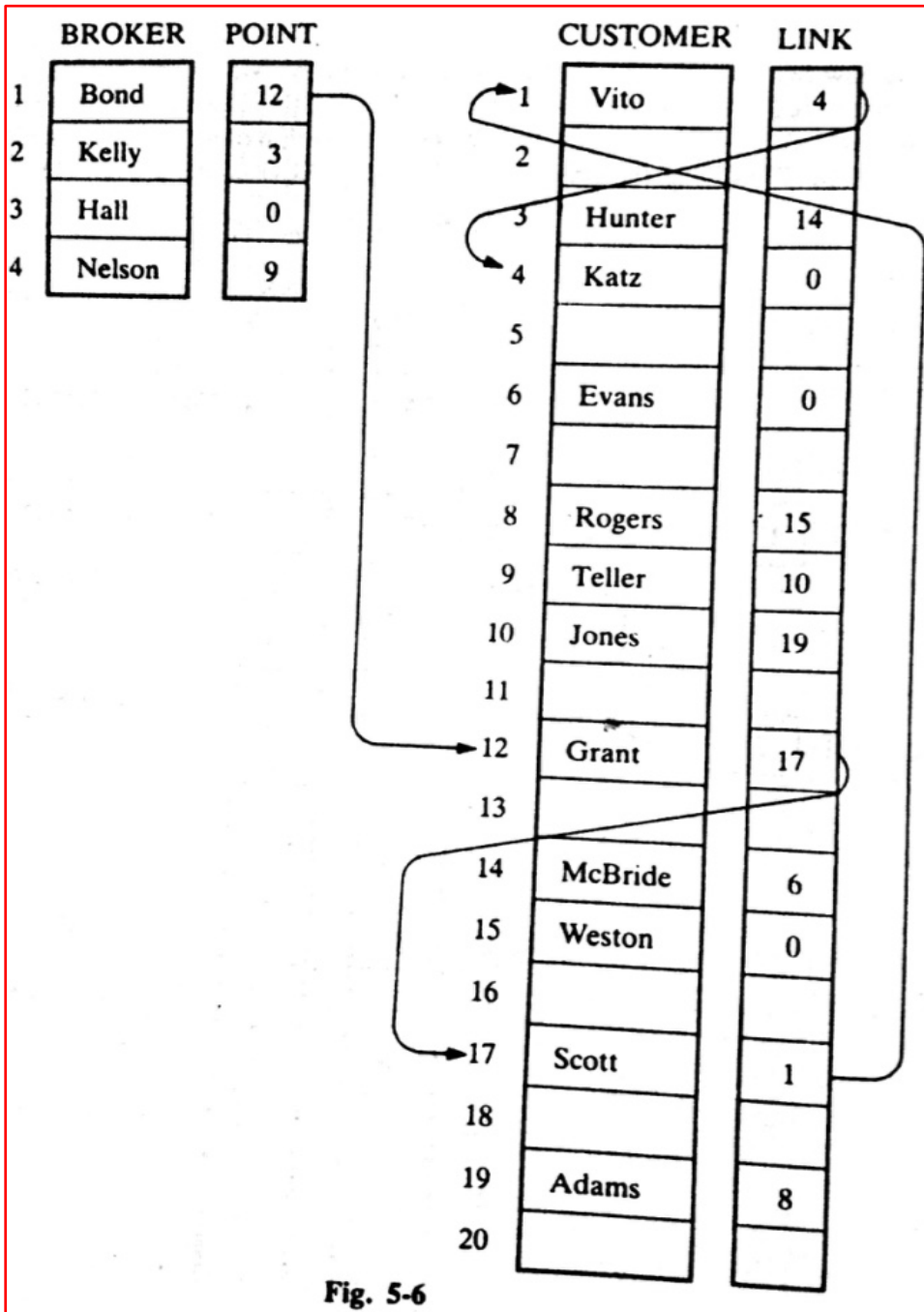




# LINKED LISTS: Example 5.11(c)



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# LINKED LISTS: Example 5.12

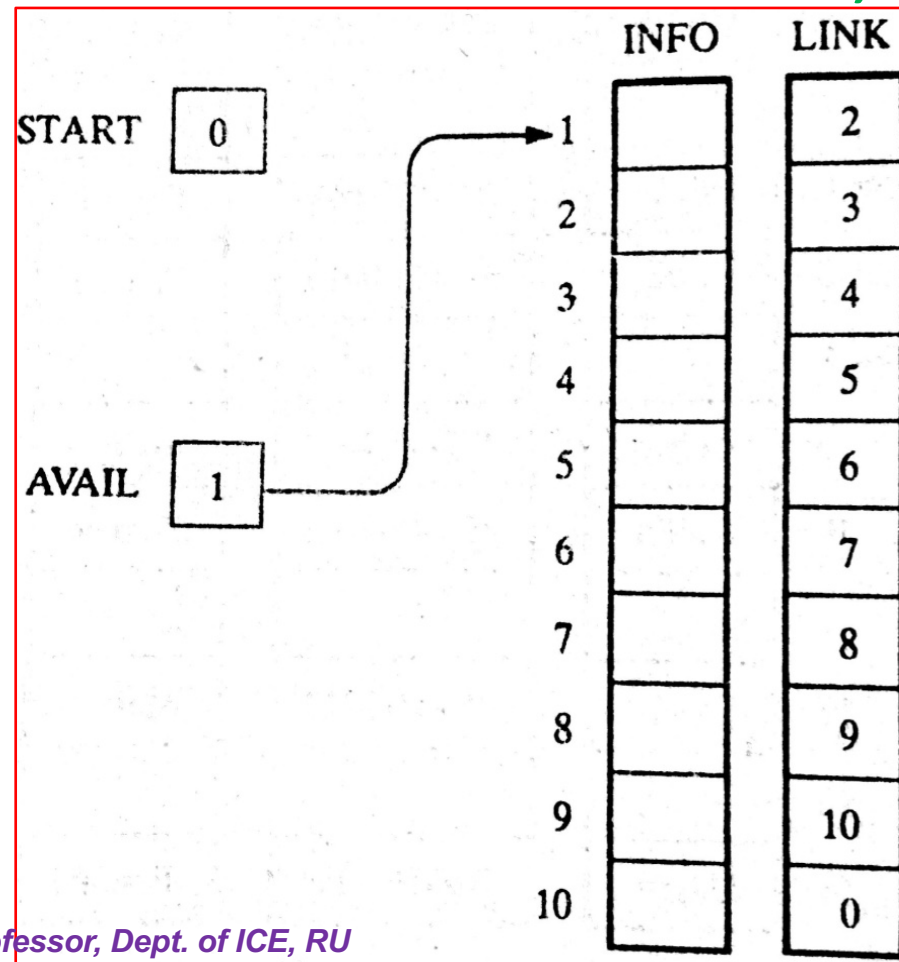


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- Suppose LIST(INFO, LINK, START, AVAIL) has memory space for  $n=5$  nodes,
- Furthermore, suppose LIST is initially empty.

## Your INSTANT Task

Show the LINKED LIST which consists of START, AVAIL, INFO, LINK



# LINKED LISTS: Garbage Collection



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**Time Consuming Method for OS:**

**Time Efficient Method for OS:**

The OS of a computer may periodically collect all the deleted space onto the free-space list. Any technique which does this collection is called *garbage collection*.

*Garbage Collection* usually takes place in **TWO** steps:

- ✓ Firstly, the Computer runs through the memory, tagging those cells which are currently in use, and
- ✓ Then, computer runs through the memory, collecting all untagged space onto the free-storage list.

# LINKED LISTS: Garbage Collection



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## When garbage collection task executed by Computer?

The garbage collection may take place when .....

- There is only some minimum amount of space in the free-storage list, or
- There is no space at all left in the free-storage list, or
- When the CPU is idle and has time to do the collection



**The garbage collection is invisible to the programmer**

# LINKED LISTS: Overflow



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Sometimes new data are to be inserted into a data structure but there is no available space (the free-storage list is empty). This situation is usually called *Overflow*.

Usually, Overflow will occur with our linked list when **AVAIL=NULL** and there is an insertion.

## *How we can handle Overflow situation?*

We may handle the *Overflow* situation by.....

- ✓ Printing the message **OVERFLOW**
- ✓ We may modify the program by adding space to the underlying arrays

# LINKED LISTS: Underflow



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Sometime someone wants to delete data from a data structure where the data structure is empty. This situation is usually called **Underflow**.

Usually, underflow will occur with our linked lists when **START=NULL** and there is a deletion.

## *How we can handle Underflow situation?*

We may handle the *Overflow* situation by.....

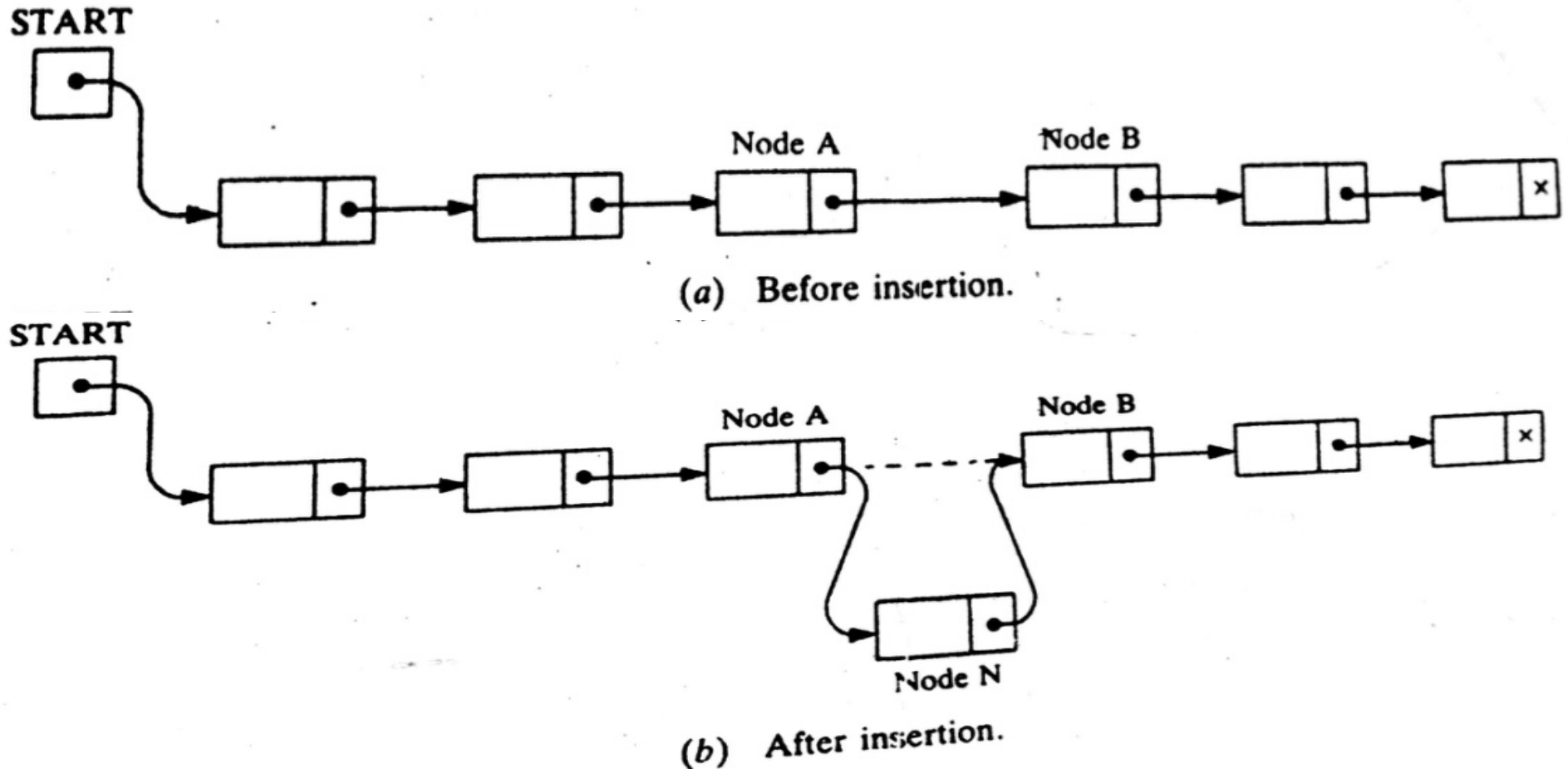
- ✓ Printing the message UNDERFLOW

# LINKED LISTS: Insertion



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Let LIST be a linked list with successive nodes A and B. Suppose, a node N is to be inserted into the list between nodes A and B.



Here, it does not take into account the memory space for the new node N will come from the AVAIL list.

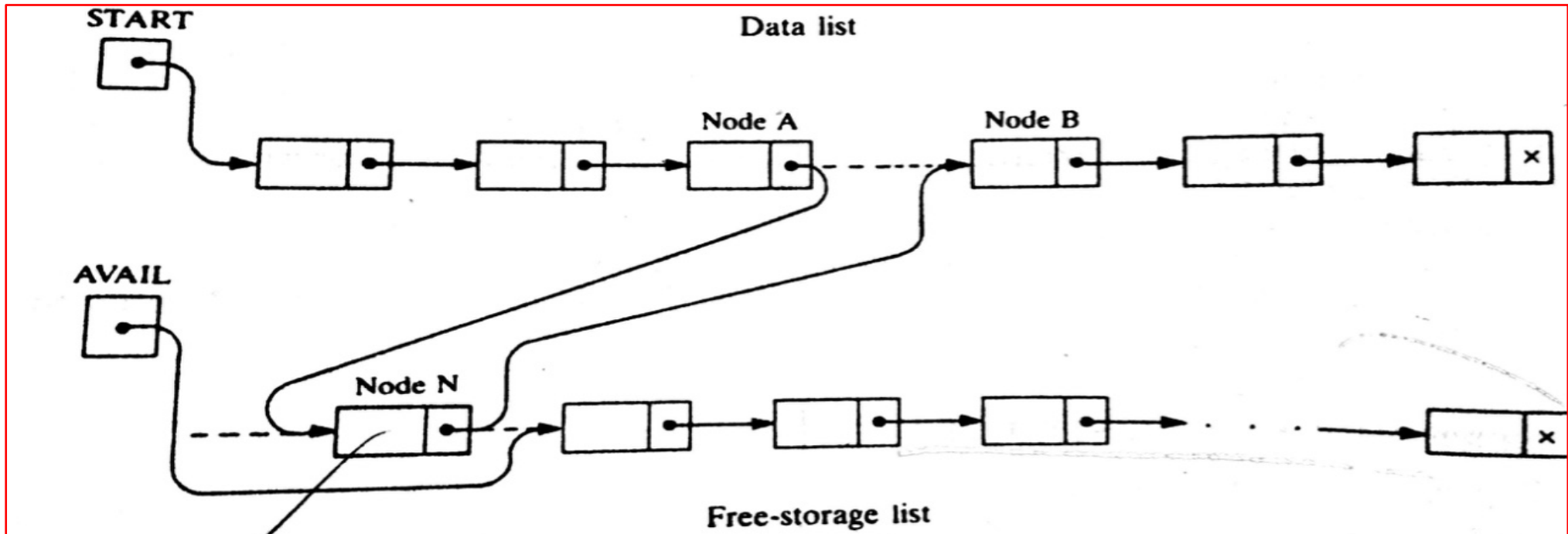
But....for easier processing, the first node in the AVAIL will be used for the new node N.

# LINKED LISTS: Insertion



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## More exact Illustration of such an insertion



Here, THREE pointer fields are changed: ???

**Which are?**

- The nextpointer field of node A now points to the new node N.
- AVAIL now points to the second node in the free pool.
- The nextpointer field of node N now point to node B.



# LINKED LISTS: Insertion



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**There are also TWO special cases:**

- If the new node N is the first node in the list, then START will point to N, and
- If the new node is the last node in the list, then N will contain the null pointer.