

## Building on Lists

- we will look at how our `slist` class can be extended to include
  - `length`, `reverse` methods
- use recursion and functional programming where appropriate
- we will notice a problem with C++ when applying this technique

## Tutorial answers: length

- firstly we add two helper methods to our class `slist`

- `c++/lists/single-list/int/slist.h`

```
...  
private:  
    element *e_tail (element *l);  
    int *e_length (element *l);  
...
```

## e\_tail

■ [c++/lists/single-list/int/slist.cc](#)

```
/*  
 * e_tail - given a list, l, return the list without the  
 *          head element.  
 *          pre-condition: non empty list.  
 *          post-condition: return the list without the  
 *                          first element.  
 *                          The original list is unaltered.  
 */  
  
element *slist::e_tail (element *l)  
{  
    return l->next;  
}
```

## e\_tail

■ `c++/lists/single-list/int/slist.cc`

```
/*  
 * e_length - return the length of element list, l.  
 */  
  
int slist::e_length (element *h)  
{  
    if (h == 0)  
        return 0;  
    else  
        return (1 + e_length (e_tail (h)));  
}
```

## e\_tail

■ `c++/lists/single-list/int/slist.cc`

```
/*  
 * length - return the length of list, l.  
 */  
  
int slist::length (void)  
{  
    return e_length (head_element);  
}
```

## reverse

- must return the list with its contents reversed
  - not a new list with a copy of the contents reversed!

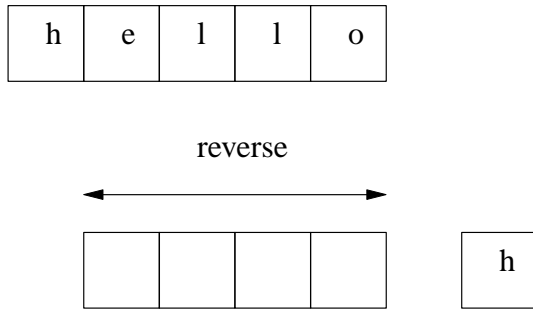
■ `c++/lists/single-list/int/slist.cc`

```
slist slist::reverse (void)
{
    if (is_empty ())
        return *this;
    else
        return tail ().reverse().cons (empty().cons (head ()));
}
```

## reverse

- notice the use of recursion
- notice that `tail` removes and deletes a datum
- `head` obtains the first element
- `cons` appends the first element to an empty list
  - ie creates a list with one element
- this single element list is added to the end of the reversed list
  - the reversed list comes from the tail of the original list

# reverse





## cons (slist l)

■ `c++/lists/single-list/int/slist.cc`

```
/*  
 * cons - concatenate list, l, to the end of the current list.  
 *       pre-condition : none.  
 *       post-condition: returns the current list with a copy of  
 *                       contents of list, l, appended.  
 */  
  
slist slist::cons (slist l)  
{  
    if (l.is_empty ())  
        return *this;  
    else  
        return cons (duplicate_elements (l.head_element));  
}
```

## Recursive version of cons (slist I)

■ `c++/lists/single-list/int/slist.cc`

```
/*
 * cons - concatenate list, l, to the end of the current list.
 *       pre-condition : none.
 *       post-condition: returns the current list with a copy of
 *                       contents of list, l, appended.
 */

slist slist::cons (slist l)
{
    if (l.is_empty ())
        return *this;
    else
    {
        int h = l.head (); // use h to force evaluation order
        return cons (h).cons (l.tail ());
    }
}
```

## Recursive version of cons (slist l)

- notice the *gotya*
  - we must use a temporary variable `h` to contain an intermediate result containing the result of `l.head()`
  - it ensure that the call to `head` occurs before `l.tail()`

## Recursive version of cons (slist I)

- if the code were re-written as:

- `c++/lists/single-list/int/slist.cc`

```
slist slist::cons (slist l)
{
    if (l.is_empty ())
        return *this;
    else
        return cons (l.head()).cons (l.tail ());
}
```

## Recursive version of cons (slist l)

- it would fail, as `l.tail()` is executed before `l.head()`

## Further tutorial questions

- write some test code to generate a large list and perform reverse on the list several times
  - compare the execution time between the iterative and recursive solutions
  - which is faster, why?
  
- hint use `-pg` flags to `g++` and analyse the execution time with `gprof`
  
- see week 1 notes for further hints on using the compiler

## Further tutorial questions

- enable debugging in the `slist.cc` file and watch for the addresses of the new elements created and deleted
  
- when reverse is called - how many new elements are created when the
  - recursive version is run
  - when the iterative version is run