

UST
Faculty of Engineering
Software Engineering Department

Data Structure and Algorithms

Lecture 1

Introduction to Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis

Main Text Book

Mark Allen Weiss

*Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis
in C++, 4th Edition, Pearson.*

Additional References

Mark Allen Weiss

Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in Java,
3rd Edition.

**Thomas H. Cormen, Charles Leiserson, Ronald
Rivest, Clifford Stein**

Introduction to Algorithms (CLRS), MIT Press.

Course Assessment Criteria

✓Tutorials	20%
✓Laboratory Work	20%
✓Final Exam	60%

Prerequisite Courses

1. Programming Fundamentals.
2. Object Oriented Programming (OOP)

Course Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the concept of Abstract Data Types (ADTs).
- Implement linear and non-linear data structures.
- Apply searching and sorting algorithms.
- Select appropriate data structures for software engineering problems.
- Analyze the performance of different algorithms.
- Solve programming problems using efficient data structures.

What is Data Structure?

Definition:

- A **data structure** is a specialized way of **organizing, storing, and managing data** in a computer so that it can be accessed, processed, and modified efficiently.
- It provides a systematic method for handling data, allowing algorithms to perform operations such as searching, inserting, deleting, and updating efficiently.

Simple Definition:

- A **data structure** is a method of organizing and storing data in a computer so that it can be used efficiently by algorithms and applications.

Why Are Data Structures Important?

Data structures are essential because they help computers:

- Store large amounts of data efficiently.
- Access data quickly.
- Improve the performance of programs.
- Reduce memory usage.
- Solve complex computational problems effectively.
- Without appropriate data structures, even simple programs can become slow and inefficient.

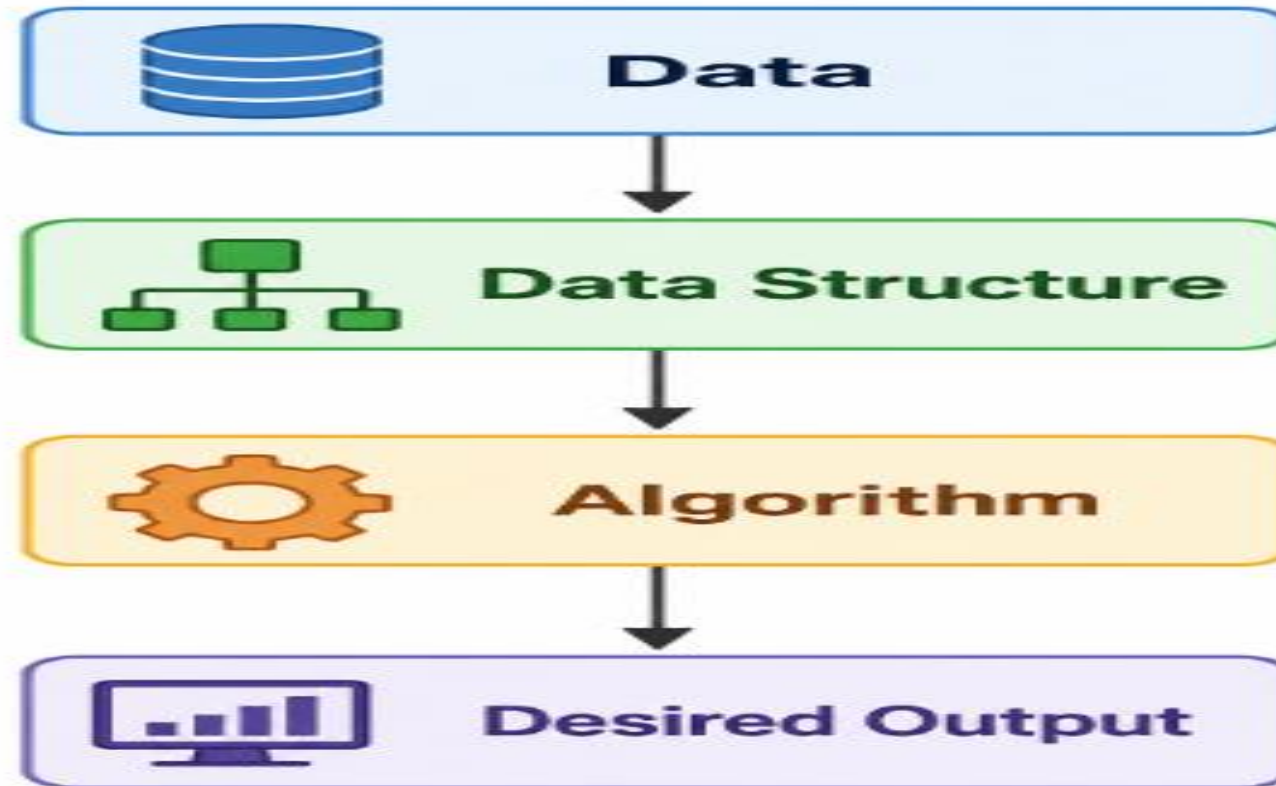
Example:

- Think of a **library**.
- Books represent **data**.
- Shelves represent the **data structure**.
- The librarian represents the **algorithm**.
- If books are placed randomly, finding one book may take a long time. However, if books are organized alphabetically or by category, they can be found much faster.
- Similarly, a computer uses data structures to organize data for efficient processing.

Data Structure and Algorithm Relationship

- A data structure stores and organizes data, while an algorithm defines the steps used to manipulate that data.

Data Flow Process Diagram



Common Operations on Data Structures

Most data structures support the following basic operations:

Operation	Description
Traversing	Visiting each element in the structure
Searching	Finding a specific element
Insertion	Adding a new element
Deletion	Removing an existing element
Updating	Modifying the value of an element
Sorting	Arranging elements in a specific order
Merging	Combining two data structures

Examples of Data Structures

Data Structure	Common Use
Array	Store fixed-size collections of data
Linked List	Dynamic data storage
Stack	Undo operations, function calls
Queue	Printer queues, scheduling
Tree	File systems, databases
Graph	Social networks, maps
Hash Table	Fast searching and lookup

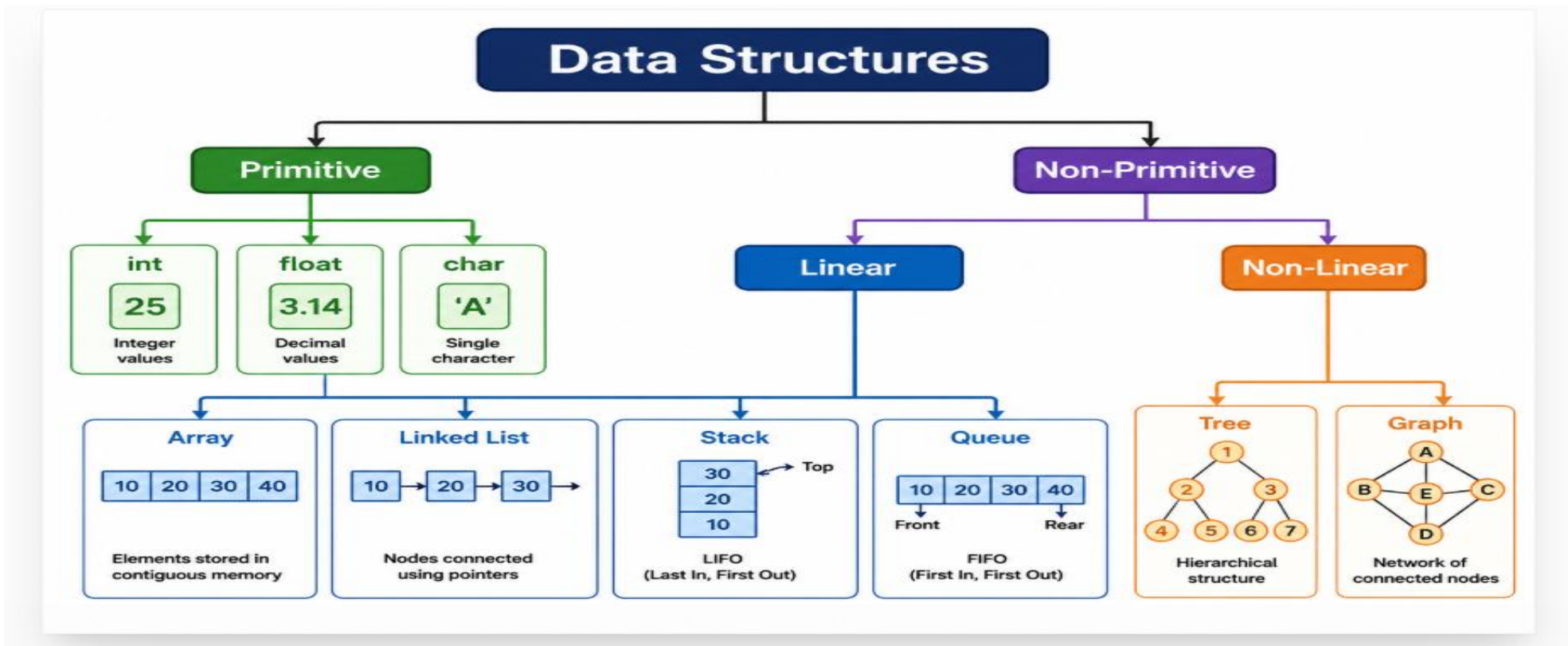
Key Characteristics of Data Structures

- ✓ Organize data efficiently.
- ✓ Improve program performance.
- ✓ Simplify data management.
- ✓ Support efficient algorithm execution.
- ✓ Optimize memory usage.

Types of Data Structures

- Data structures can be classified into different categories based on how data is organized, stored, and accessed.
- The most common classification is into **Primitive** and **Non-Primitive** data structures.

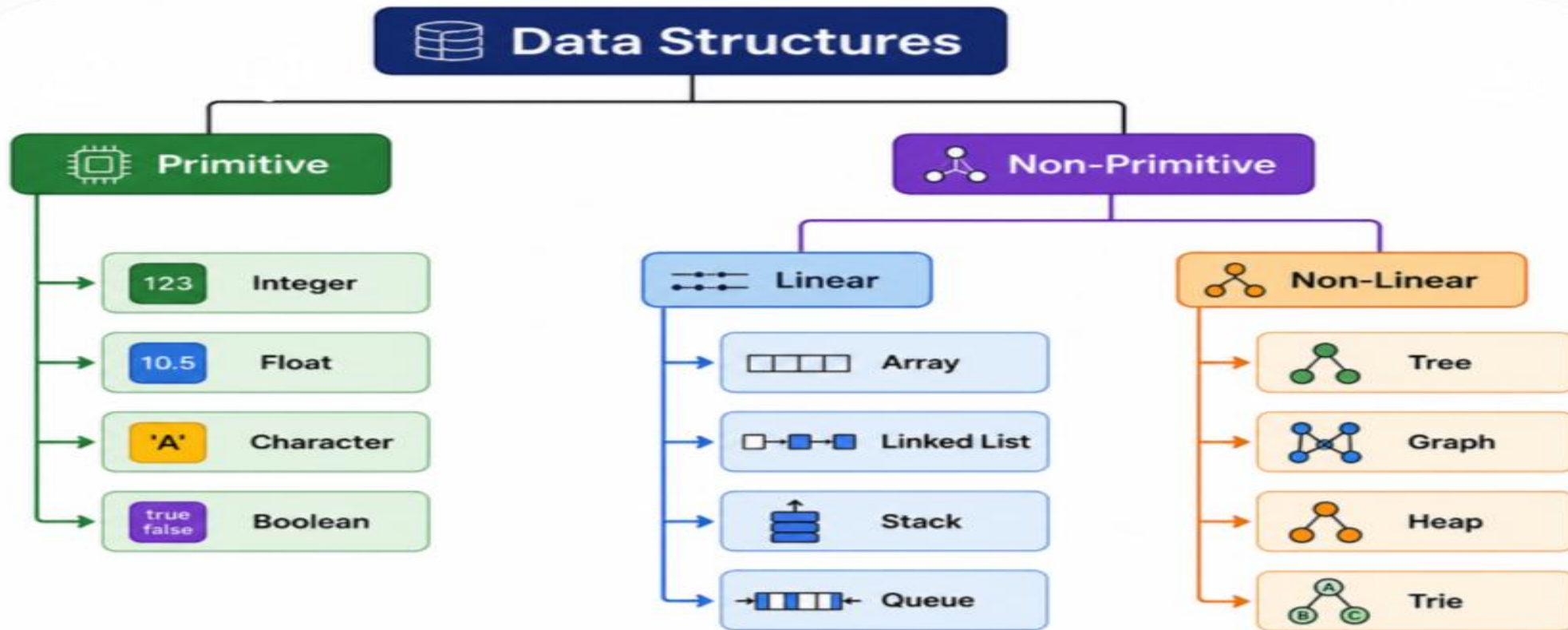
Data Structures Types



Primitive data vs Non-Primitive data

- **Primitive data structures** are the fundamental data types used to store individual values.
- **Non-Primitive data structures** are built from primitive types and are designed to store and organize multiple related values efficiently.

Primitive vs Non-Primitive Data Structures



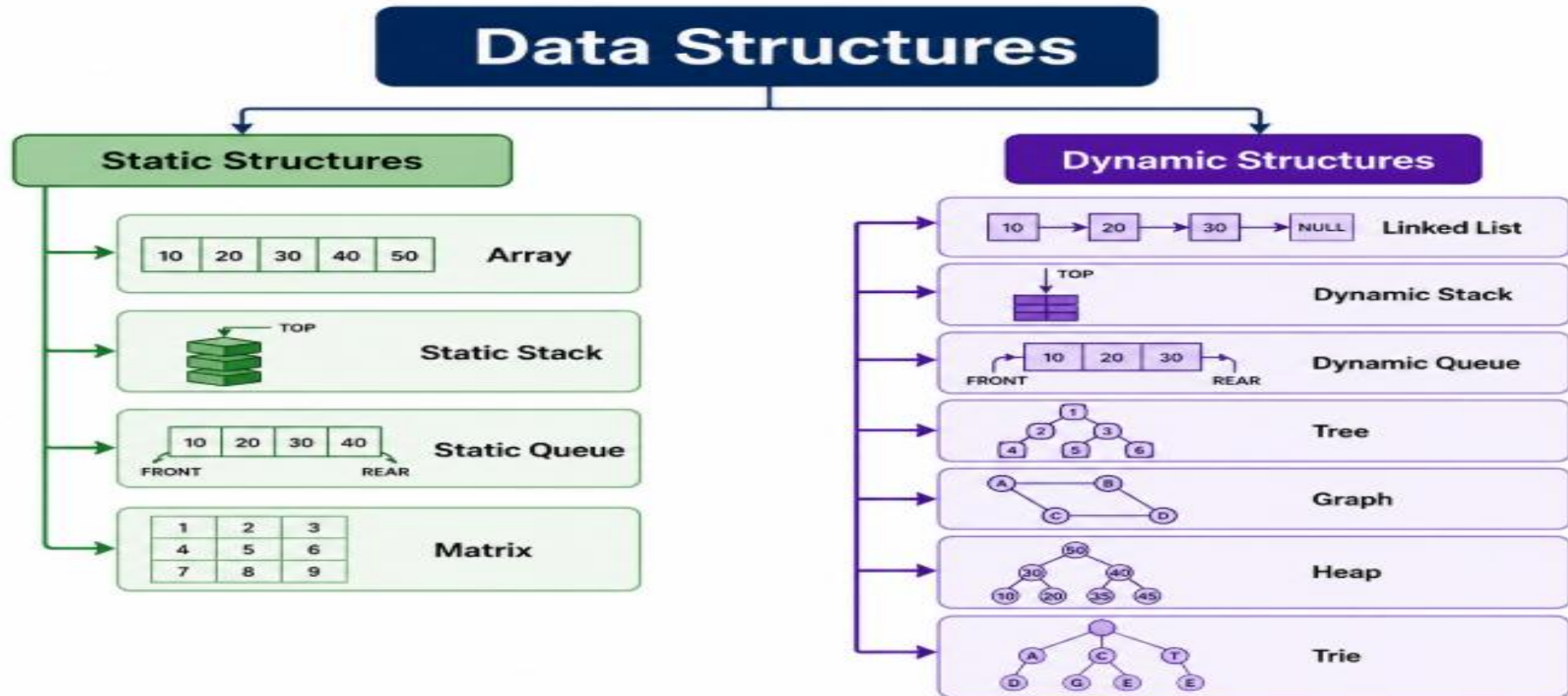
Key Difference

Feature	Primitive	Non-Primitive
Complexity	Simple	Complex
Data Stored	Single value	Multiple values
Memory Usage	Low	Higher
Size	Fixed	Fixed or Dynamic

Static data vs Dynamic data

- **Static data structures** have a fixed size, making them simple and fast, but they may waste memory if the allocated space is not fully utilized.
- **Dynamic data structures** can expand or shrink at runtime, providing greater flexibility and better memory utilization, although they require more complex memory management.

Static data vs Dynamic data



Abstract Data Type (ADT)

- An Abstract Data Type (ADT) is a logical or mathematical model of a data structure that defines what operations can be performed on the data without specifying how those operations are implemented.
- In simple terms: ADT describes what a data structure does, while the data structure describes how it does it.

Characteristics of ADTs

- Defines **data** and **operations**.
- Hides implementation details (**data abstraction**).
- Focuses on functionality rather than memory representation.
- Can have multiple implementations.

ADT Example

Abstract Data Type (ADT)

List

Stack

Queue

Deque

Priority Queue

Dictionary (Map)

Set

Possible Implementations

Array, Linked List

Array, Linked List

Array, Linked List

Circular Array, Doubly Linked List

Heap, Sorted Array

Hash Table, Binary Search Tree

Hash Table, Tree

ADT vs Data Structure

Abstract Data Type (ADT)

Defines **what** operations are performed

Logical concept

Independent of programming language

Focuses on behavior

Example: Stack ADT

Data Structure

Defines **how** the operations are implemented

Physical implementation

Language-dependent implementation

Focuses on memory organization and algorithms

Example: Stack implemented using an Array or Linked List

Relationship Between ADT and Data Structure

