

## 5.3: Disjoint Sets

Thomas Sauerwald

## Outline

Disjoint Sets

## Disjoint Sets (aka Union Find)



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Disjoint Sets Data Structure

- Handle MakeSet (Item x) Precondition: none of the existing sets contains $x$ Behaviour: create a new set $\{x\}$ and return its handle



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better to append shorter list to longer $\rightsquigarrow$ Weighted-Union Heuristic

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Amortized Analysis: Every operation has amortized cost $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$, but there may be operations with total cost $\Theta(n)$.

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Can we improve on this further?

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Doubly-Linked List

- MakeSet: $\mathcal{O}(1)$
- FindSet: $\mathcal{O}(n)$
- UNION: $\mathcal{O}(1)$

How to Improve?


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- MakeSet: $\mathcal{O}(1)$
- FindSet: $\mathcal{O}(n)$
- Union: $\mathcal{O}(1)$


Weighted-Union Heuristic

- MakeSet: $\mathcal{O}(1)$
- FindSet: $\mathcal{O}(1)$
- UnIon: $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ (amortized)

How to Improve?


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- FindSet: $\mathcal{O}(n)$
- UNION: $\mathcal{O}(1)$


## Disjoint Sets via Forests

Forest Structure

- Set is represented by a rooted tree with root being the representative
- Every node has pointer . $p$ to its parent (for root $x, x . p=x$ )


## Disjoint Sets via Forests

$\{b, c, e, h\}$


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## Combining Union by Rank and Path Compression

Theorem 21.14
Any sequence of $m$ MAKESET, Union, FindSet operations, $n$ of which are MAKESET operations, can be performed in $\mathcal{O}(m \cdot \alpha(n))$ time.

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\alpha(n)= \begin{cases}0 & \text { for } 0 \leq n \leq 2 \\ 1 & \text { for } n=3 \\ 2 & \text { for } 4 \leq n \leq 7 \\ 3 & \text { for } 8 \leq n \leq 2047 \\ 4 & \text { for } 2048 \leq n \leq 10^{80}\end{cases}
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More than the number of atoms in the universe!

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$\log ^{*}(n)$, the iterated logarithm, satifies $\alpha(n) \leq \log ^{*}(n)$, but still $\log ^{*}\left(10^{80}\right)=5$.

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## Combining Union by Rank and Path Compression

Data Structure is essentially optimal! (for more details see CLRS)
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Simulating the Effects of Union by Rank and Path Compression

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Experimental Setup

1. Initialise singletons $1,2, \ldots, 300$
2. For every $1 \leq i \leq 300$, pick a random $1 \leq r \leq 300, r \neq i$ and perform Union(FindSet( $i$ ), FindSet $(r)$ )

## Simulating the Effects of Union by Rank and Path Compression

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2. For every $1 \leq i \leq 300$, pick a random $1 \leq r \leq 300, r \neq i$ and perform Union(FindSet(i), FindSET(r))
3. Perform $j \in\{0,100,200,300,600,900,1200,1500,1800\}$ many additional FINDSET $(r)$, where $1 \leq r \leq 300$ is random

## Union by Rank without Path Compression


5.3: Disjoint Sets

## Union by Rank with Path Compression



## Union by Rank with Path Compression (100 additional FindSet)


5.3: Disjoint Sets

## Union by Rank with Path Compression (200 additional FindSet)


5.3: Disjoint Sets

## Union by Rank with Path Compression (300 additional FindSet)



## Union by Rank with Path Compression (600 additional FindSet)



## Union by Rank with Path Compression (900 additional FindSet)



## Union by Rank with Path Compression (1200 additional FindSet)



## Union by Rank with Path Compression (1500 additional FindSet)



## Union by Rank with Path Compression (1800 additional FindSet)



## Union by Rank with Path Compression (1800 additional FindSet)



## Overview

|  | Union by Rank | Union by Rank <br> \& Path Compression |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 300 MAKESET \& 300 UNION | 2.12 | 1.75 |
| 100 extra FINDSET | 2.12 | 1.53 |
| 200 extra FINDSET | 2.12 | 1.35 |
| 300 extra FINDSET | 2.12 | 1.22 |
| 600 extra FINDSET | 2.12 | 1.08 |
| 900 extra FINDSET | 2.12 | 1.02 |
| 1200 extra FINDSET | 2.12 | 1.01 |
| 1500 extra FINDSET | 2.12 | 1.00 |
| 1800 extra FINDSET | 2.12 | 0.98 |

