Asymptotics, Disjoint Sets

Exam-Level 6: September 25, 2023

1 Asymptotics Introduction

Give the runtime of the following functions in Θ notation. Your answer should be as simple as possible with no unnecessary leading constants or lower order terms.

Solution:

Explanation (1): The inner loop does up to i work each time, and the outer loop increments i each time. Summing over each loop, we get that $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + \ldots + N = \Theta(N^2)$.

Explanation (2): The inner loop does i work each time, and we double i each time until reaching N. $1+2+4+8+\ldots+N=\Theta(N)$

2 Disjoint Sets

For each of the arrays below, write whether this could be the array representation of a weighted quick union with path compression and explain your reasoning.

```
A. a[i]:
B. a[i]:
           9
                0
                    0
                        0
                             0
                                      9
                                          9
                                              9 -10
C. a[i]:
                                              9 -10
D. a[i]: -10
                                                   2
E. a[i]: -10
                        0
                             0
                                      1
                                                   8
F. a[i]: -7
```

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Solution: There are three criteria here that invalidates a representation:

- (1) If there is a cycle in the parent-link.
- (2) For each parent-child link, the tree rooted at the parent is smaller than the tree rooted at the child before the link (you would have merged the other way around).
- (3) The height of the tree is greater than $\log_2 n$, where n is the number of elements.

Therefore, we have the following verdicts.

- A. Impossible: has a cycle 0-1, 1-2, 2-3, and 3-0 in the parent-link representation.
- B. Impossible: the nodes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 must link to 0 when 0 is a root; hence, 0 would not link to 9 because 0 is the root of the larger tree.
- C. Impossible: tree rooted at 9 has height 9 >log₂ 10.
- D. Possible: 8-6, 7-1, 6-1, 5-1, 9-2, 3-0, 4-0, 2-0, 1-0.
- E. Impossible: tree rooted at 0 has height 4 >log₂ 10.
- F. Impossible: tree rooted at 0 has height 3 >log₂ 7.

3 Asymptotics of Weighted Quick Unions

Note: for all big Ω and big O bounds, give the *tightest* bound possible.

- (a) Suppose we have a Weighted Quick Union (WQU) without path compression with N elements.
 - 1. What is the runtime, in big Ω and big O, of isConnected?

```
\Omega(\underline{\phantom{a}}), O(\underline{\phantom{a}})
```

2. What is the runtime, in big Ω and big O, of connect?

```
\Omega(\underline{\hspace{1cm}}), O(\underline{\hspace{1cm}})
```

Solution:

- 1. $\Omega(1)$, $O(\log(N))$
- 2. $\Omega(1)$, $O(\log(N))$

In the best-case, if we're checking if a and b are connected, a is the root, and b is a node directly below the root. This means we only have to traverse one edge of the tree, which is constant time. In the worst-case, we have to traverse the entire height of the tree, and Weighted Quick Union gives us a worst-case height of $\log N$, hence the upper-bound of $O(\log N)$. Similar logic applies to the connect method.

(b) Suppose for the following problem we add the method addToWQU to the WQU class. The method takes in a list of elements and connects them in a random order, stopping when all elements are connected. Assume that all the elements are disconnected before the method call.

```
void addToWQU(int[] elements) {

int[][] pairs = pairs(elements);

for (int[] pair: pairs) {

    if (size() == elements.length) {
        return;

    }

    connect(pair[0], pair[1]);

}

}
```

The pairs method takes in a list of elements and generates all possible pairs of elements in a random order. For example, pairs([1, 2, 3]) might return [[1, 3], [2, 3], [1, 2]] or [[1, 2], [1, 3], [2, 3]].

The size method calculates the size of the largest component in the WQU.

Assume that pairs and size run in constant time.

What is the runtime of addToWQU in big Ω and big O?

```
\Omega(\underline{\hspace{1cm}}), O(\underline{\hspace{1cm}})
```

Solution: $\Omega(N)$, $O(N^2 \log(N))$

Note that the if-statement terminates the method when the disjoint set becomes fully connected. The best case occurs when there is a sequence of pairs such that each connect() operation takes constant

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time and the tree becomes connected as quickly as possible. This will happen if we have a sequence (0,1),(0,2),...,(0,N-1), which consists of N-1 operations each taking constant time (ie. the best case for connect from part a). Note that long running-times occur when an element (e.g. 0) is not connected for many operations, and in the worst-case, 0 is not connected until the last N operations. This results in a tree of height $\log N$ and requires up to N^2-N+1 iterations.

(c) Let us define a **matching size connection** as **connecting** two components in a WQU of equal size. For instance, suppose we have two trees, one with values 1 and 2, and another with the values 3 and 4. Calling **connect(1, 4)** is a matching size connection since both trees have 2 elements.

What is the **minimum** and **maximum** number of matching size connections that can occur after executing addToWQU. Assume N, i.e. elements.length, is a power of two. Your answers should be exact.

minimum: ____, maximum: ____

Solution: minimum: 1, maximum: N - 1

The minimum number occurs for the sequence above, where there is only one matching size connection: (0, 1). The maximum number is a bit more tricky, but occurs if we pairwise-connect the elements together, then pairwise connect those, and so on. An example for N=8 elements is as follows: (0, 1), (2, 3), (4, 5), (6, 7), (0, 2), (4, 6), (0, 4). In general, there are N/2 matching-size connections of size 1, N/4 matching-size connections of size 2, and so on, up until one matching-size connection of size N/2. This is the sum N/2 + N/4 + N/8 + ... + 2 + 1, which simplifies to N-1.