# Union-Find-Algorithm

### union-find: definitions

**spec:** Elements of sets chosen from [0:N-1] algorithm maintains

- $Q \subseteq [1:N]$  set of all elements chosen so far. Initially  $Q = \emptyset$ .
- system (partition) P of Q

$$P = \{S_1, \dots, S_k\} \quad , \quad i \neq j \to S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset$$

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^k S_i = Q$$

For elements  $x \in Q$  define S(x) as the set  $S \in P$  with  $x \in S$ 

• representatives  $r_i \in S_i$  serves as names of sets  $S_i$ . System of representatives:

$$R = \{r_1, \dots, r_k\}$$

### union-find: definitions

**spec:** Elements of sets chosen from [0:N-1] algorithm maintains

- $Q \subseteq [1:N]$  set of all elements chosen so far. Initially  $Q = \emptyset$ .
- system (partition) P of Q

$$P = \{S_1, \dots, S_k\} \quad , \quad i \neq j \to S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset$$

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^k S_i = Q$$

For elements  $x \in Q$  define S(x) as the set  $S \in P$  with  $x \in S$ 

• representatives  $r_i \in S_i$  serves as names of sets  $S_i$ . System of representatives:

$$R = \{r_1, \ldots, r_k\}$$

operations

• make - set(x) with  $x \notin Q$ 

$$Q' = Q \cup \{x\} , P' = P \cup \{\{x\}\}\$$

• union(x, y) with  $x, y \in Q$ 

$$P' = P \setminus S(x) \setminus S(y) \cup \{S(x) \cup S(y)\}$$

• find(x) = r with  $x \in S(r)$  and  $r \in R$ 

### union-find: definitions

**spec:** Elements of sets chosen from [0:N-1] algorithm maintains

- $Q \subseteq [1:N]$  set of all elements chosen so far. Initially  $Q = \emptyset$ .
- system (partition) P of Q

$$P = \{S_1, \dots, S_k\} \quad , \quad i \neq j \to S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset$$

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^k S_i = Q$$

For elements  $x \in Q$  define S(x) as the set  $S \in P$  with  $x \in S$ 

• representatives  $r_i \in S_i$  serves as names of sets  $S_i$ . System of representatives:

$$R = \{r_1, \ldots, r_k\}$$

operations

• make - set(x) with  $x \notin Q$ 

$$Q' = Q \cup \{x\} , P' = P \cup \{\{x\}\}\}$$

• union(x, y) with  $x, y \in Q$ 

$$P' = P \setminus S(x) \setminus S(y) \cup \{S(x) \cup S(y)\}$$

• find(x) = r with  $x \in S(r)$  and  $r \in R$ 

problem size

- n: number of make-set operations; number of elements in all sets
- *m* number of union and find operations

$$n \leq m$$

# disjoint set forest

one tree per set

class TE for tree elements. Nodes x are objects with components

- *x.p*: parent
- *x.r*: rank

#### notation:

$$p(x) = x.p \text{ (parent)}$$

$$r(x) = x.r \text{ (rank)}$$

# disjoint set forest

one tree per set

class TE for tree elements. Nodes x are objects with components

- *x.p*: parent
- *x.r*: rank

#### notation:

$$p(x) = x.p \text{ (parent)}$$
  
 $r(x) = x.r \text{ (rank)}$ 

#### convention:

- x is root of its tree iff p(x) = x, i.e. x points to itself
- roots serve as representatives

one tree per set

class TE for tree elements. Nodes x are objects with components

- *x.p*: parent
- *x.r*: rank

#### notation:

$$p(x) = x.p ext{ (parent)}$$
  
 $r(x) = x.r ext{ (rank)}$ 

#### convention:

- x is root of its tree iff p(x) = x, i.e. x points to itself
- roots serve as representatives

• test if p(x) = x: i.e. x points to itself

```
p(x)=x?: /x is representative, root */
x.p==x
```

one tree per set

class TE for tree elements. Nodes x are objects with components

- *x.p*: parent
- *x.r*: rank

#### notation:

$$p(x) = x.p ext{ (parent)}$$
  
 $r(x) = x.r ext{ (rank)}$ 

#### convention:

- x is root of its tree iff p(x) = x, i.e. x points to itself
- roots serve as representatives

• test if p(x) = x: i.e. x points to itself

```
p(x)=x?: /x is representative, root */
x.p==x
```

• make  $y \in Q$  the parent of  $x \in Q$ :

```
p(x):=y:/*make y parent of x*/
x.p= y
```

one tree per set

class TE for tree elements. Nodes x are objects with components

- *x.p*: parent
- *x.r*: rank

#### notation:

$$p(x) = x.p ext{ (parent)}$$
  
 $r(x) = x.r ext{ (rank)}$ 

#### convention:

- x is root of its tree iff p(x) = x, i.e. x points to itself
- roots serve as representatives

• test if p(x) = x: i.e. x points to itself

```
p(x)=x?: /x is representative, root */
x.p==x
```

• make  $y \in Q$  the parent of  $x \in Q$ :

```
p(x):=y:/*make y parent of x*/
x.p= y
```

• replace x by parent p(x) of x

```
x:=p(x): /* replace x by p(x) */
x=x.p
```

one tree per set

class TE for tree elements. Nodes x are objects with components

- *x.p*: parent
- *x.r*: rank

#### notation:

$$p(x) = x.p ext{ (parent)}$$
  
 $r(x) = x.r ext{ (rank)}$ 

#### convention:

- x is root of its tree iff p(x) = x, i.e. x points to itself
- roots serve as representatives

• test if p(x) = x: i.e. x points to itself

```
p(x)=x?: /x is representative, root */
x.p==x
```

• make  $y \in Q$  the parent of  $x \in Q$ :

```
p(x):=y:/*make y parent of x*/
x.p= y
```

• replace x by parent p(x) of x

```
x:=p(x): /* replace x by p(x) */
x=x.p
```

• assign expression f to rank r(x)

```
r(x):=f /*assign f to rank of x*/
x.r= f
```

# implementation of operations with balancing

### using basic operations

### implementation of operations with balancing

```
make-set(x):

x= new TE;

p(x):=x; r(x):=0
```

# implementation of operations with balancing

### using basic operations

#### implementation of operations with balancing

```
make-set(x):

x= new TE;

p(x):=x; r(x):=0
```

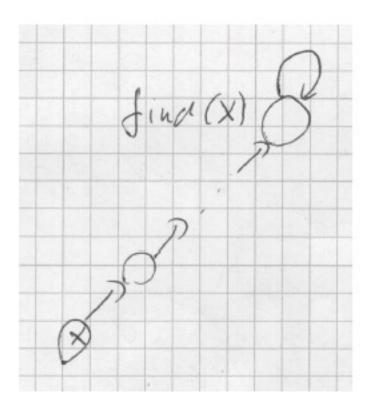


Figure 1: The root find(x) of the tree containing x is found by chasing of parent-pointers

```
find(x):
while p(x) !=x {x:=p(x)};
return x
```

### implementation of operations with balancing

### using basic operations

#### implementation of operations with balancing

```
make-set(x):

x= new TE;

p(x):=x; r(x):=0
```

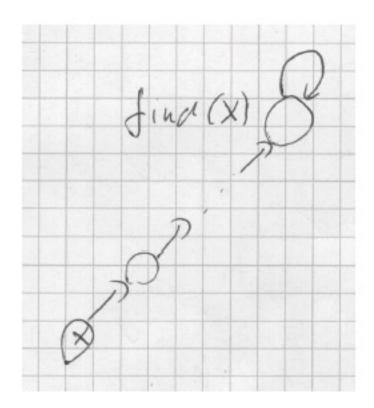


Figure 1: The root find(x) of the tree containing x is found by chasing of parent-pointers

```
find(x):
while p(x) !=x {x:=p(x)};
return x
```

```
union(x,y): link(find(x), find(y))
```

linking trees with roots x and y

```
link(x,y): if r(x) < r(y) {p(x):=y} /*make y predecessor of x*/; if r(x) > r(y) {p(y):=x} /*make x predecessor of y*/; if r(x) = r(y) {p(x):=y; r(y) = r(y) + 1} /*increase rank of y*/
```

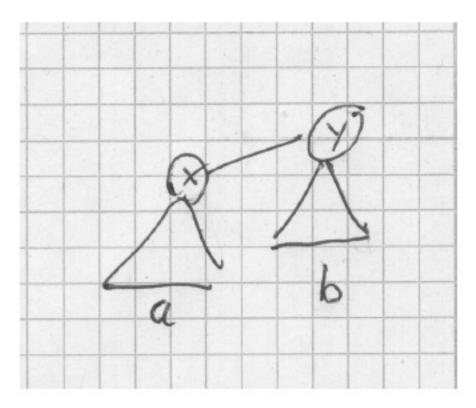


Figure 2: link(x,y): if  $r(x) \le r(y)$  one makes x a son of y. If r(x) = r(y) one increases r(y) to r'(y) = r(y) + 1.

**Lemma 1.** if x is root of tree with n nodes, then

$$r(x) \le \lfloor \log n \rfloor \le n - 1$$

Induction on *n* 

n = 0 and right inequality: trivial

**Lemma 1.** if x is root of tree with n nodes, then

$$r(x) \le \lfloor \log n \rfloor \le n - 1$$

Induction on *n* 

n = 0 and right inequality: trivial

 $n-1 \rightarrow n$ . Let a, b be number of nodes in trees with roots x, y

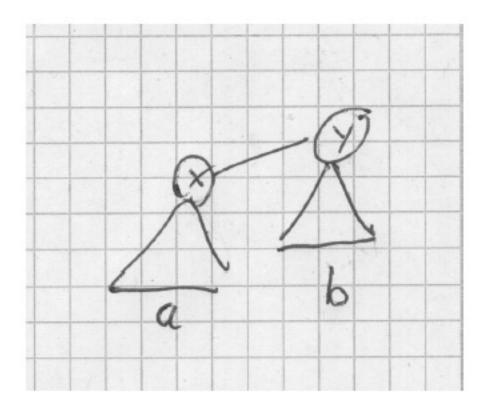


Figure 5: link(x, y): if  $r(x) \le r(y)$  one makes x a son of y. The new tree has a + b nodes.

• 
$$r(x) < r(y)$$
  

$$r(y) \le \lfloor \log a \rfloor \le \lfloor \log(a+b) \rfloor$$

**Lemma 1.** if x is root of tree with n nodes, then

$$r(x) \le \lfloor \log n \rfloor \le n - 1$$

Induction on *n* 

n = 0 and right inequality: trivial

 $n-1 \rightarrow n$ . Let a, b be number of nodes in trees with roots x, y

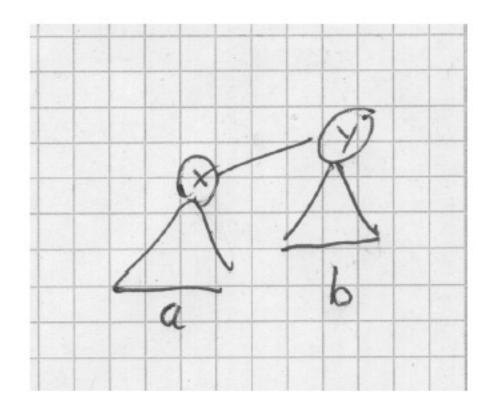


Figure 5: link(x, y): if  $r(x) \le r(y)$  one makes x a son of y. The new tree has a + b nodes.

• 
$$r(x) < r(y)$$
  

$$r(y) \le \lfloor \log a \rfloor \le \lfloor \log(a+b) \rfloor$$

• 
$$r(x) > r(y)$$
 similar

• 
$$r(x) = r(y)$$

$$r'(y) = r(y) + 1$$

$$= r(x) + 1$$

$$\leq \lfloor \log \min\{a, b\} \rfloor + 1$$

$$\leq \lfloor \log \frac{a+b}{2} \rfloor + 1$$

$$= \lfloor \log(a+b) - 1 \rfloor + 1$$

$$= \lfloor \log(a+b) \rfloor$$

### Lemma 2.

$$r(x) \ge h(x)$$

Induction on number of nodes in tree with root *x* 

n = 1 trivial

#### Lemma 2.

$$r(x) \ge h(x)$$

Induction on number of nodes in tree with root x

n = 1 trivial

$$n-1 \rightarrow n$$

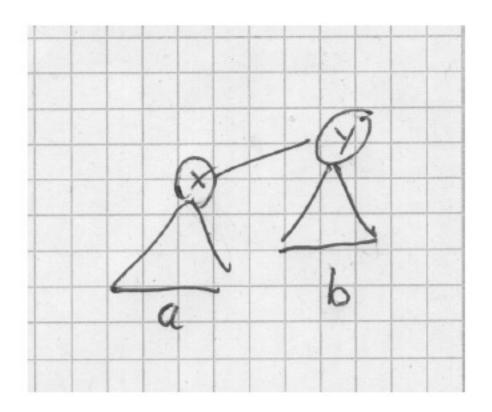


Figure 6: link(x, y): if  $r(x) \le r(y)$  one makes x a son of y. The new tree has height  $h'(y) = \max\{h(x) + 1, h(y)\}$ .

• 
$$r(x) < r(y)$$
  

$$h'(y) = \max\{h(y), h(x) + 1\}$$

$$r'(y) = r(y) \ge r(x) + 1 \ge h(x) + 1$$

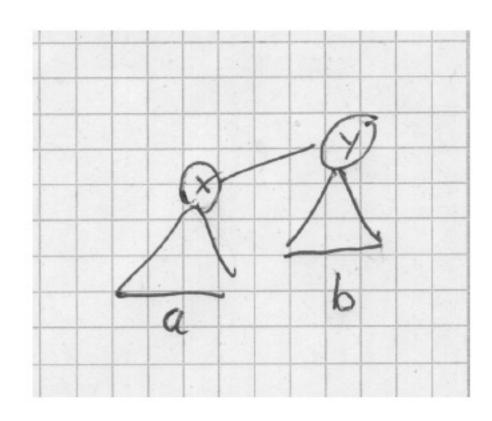
#### Lemma 2.

$$r(x) \ge h(x)$$

Induction on number of nodes in tree with root x

n = 1 trivial

 $n-1 \rightarrow n$ 



- r(x) > r(y) similar
- r(x) = r(y)

$$h'(y) = \max\{h(y), h(x) + 1\}$$

$$h'(y) = h(y) \to h'(y) \le r(y) < r(y) + 1 = r'(y)$$

$$h'(y) = h(x) + 1 \to h'(y) = h(x) + 1 \le r(x) + 1 = r(y) + 1 = r'(y)$$

Figure 6: link(x,y): if  $r(x) \le r(y)$  one makes x a son of y. The new tree has height  $h'(y) = \max\{h(x) + 1, h(y)\}.$ 

• r(x) < r(y)

$$h'(y) = \max\{h(y), h(x) + 1\}$$

$$r'(y) = r(y) \ge r(x) + 1 \ge h(x) + 1$$

### run time

time for operations

- make-set: O(1)
- union: O(1)
- find:

$$O(h(find(x))) = O(r(find(x)))$$
 (lemma 2)  
=  $O(logn)$  (lemma 1)

total runtime:  $O(n + m \log n)$ 

### run time

#### time for operations

- make-set: O(1)
- union: O(1)
- find:

$$O(h(find(x))) = O(r(find(x)))$$
 (lemma 2)  
=  $O(logn)$  (lemma 1)

total runtime:  $O(n + m \log n)$ 

### improved by path compression

- programming: utterly simple
- run time: THE most famous analysis of an algorithm (Tarjan 1975)

spec:

input x at depth t.

$$x = x_t$$
,  $i \ge 0 \to p(x_i) = x_{i-1}$ ,  $p(x_0) = x_0$ 

*output*:  $x_0$ 

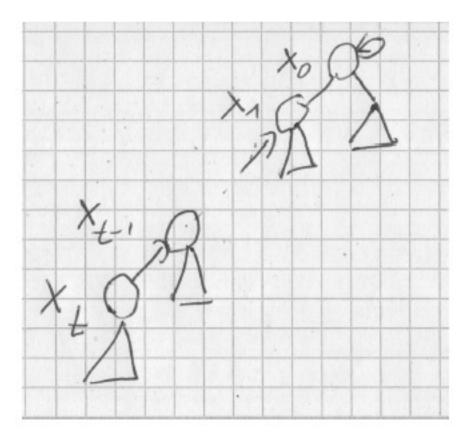


Figure 7: parent chasing from  $x = x_t$  touches elements  $x_{t-1}, \dots, x_0$ 

#### spec:

input x at depth t.

$$x = x_t$$
,  $i \ge 0 \to p(x_i) = x_{i-1}$ ,  $p(x_0) = x_0$ 

output:  $x_0$ 

side effect:

$$p'(x_i) = x_0 \text{ for } i \in [1:t]$$

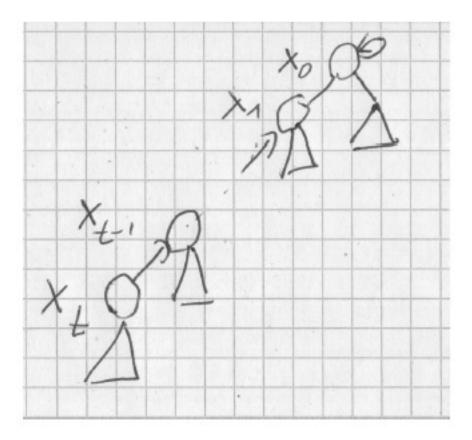


Figure 7: parent chasing from  $x = x_t$  touches elements  $x_{t-1}, \dots, x_0$ 

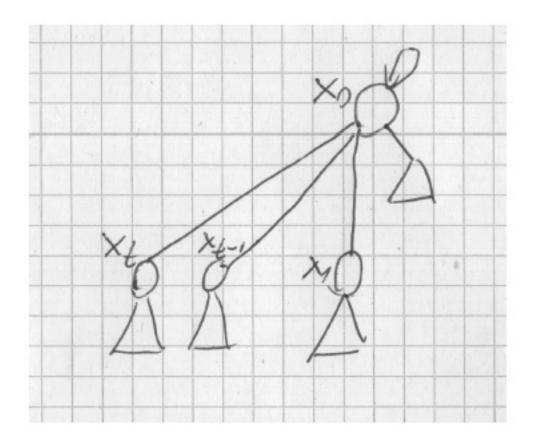


Figure 8: after path compression all nodes  $x_t, \ldots, x_1$  are sons of the root  $x_0$ 

### implementation:

```
find(x):if x != p(x)

{p(x) := find(p(x)) /*recursive call with side effect*/return p(x)
```

#### correctness:

t = 0 trivial

### implementation:

```
find(x):if x != p(x)
{p(x):= find(p(x)) /*recursive call with side effect*/
return p(x)
```

#### correctness:

$$t = 0$$
 trivial

$$t \rightarrow t + 1$$

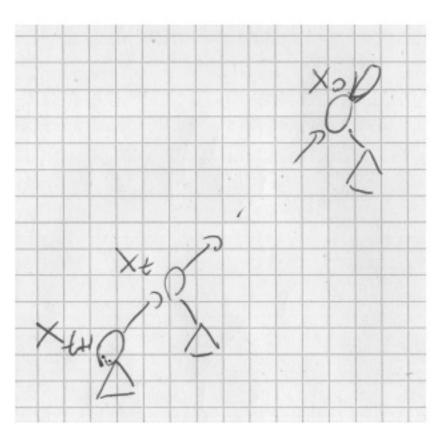


Figure 9: The path from  $x_{t+1}$  to  $x_0$  needs to be compressed

### implementation:

```
find(x):if x != p(x)
{p(x):= find(p(x)) /*recursive call with side effect*/return p(x)
```

#### correctness:

t = 0 trivial

 $t \rightarrow t + 1$ 

$$p(x_{t+1}) = x_t$$

 $find(x_t)$  called.

returns  $find(x_t) = x_0$ 

side effect:

$$p'(x_i) = x_0 \text{ for } i \in [1:t]$$

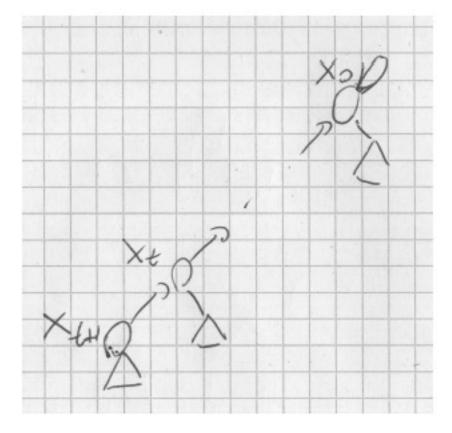


Figure 9: The path from  $x_{t+1}$  to  $x_0$  needs to be compressed

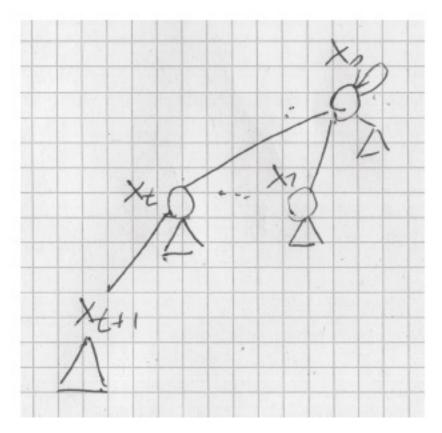


Figure 10: The path from  $x_t$  to  $x_0$  is compressed by the recursive call  $find(x_t)$ 

### implementation:

```
find(x):if x != p(x)
{p(x) := find(p(x)) /*recursive call with side effect*/return p(x)
```

#### correctness:

t = 0 trivial

$$t \rightarrow t + 1$$

$$p(x_{t+1}) = x_t$$

 $find(x_t)$  called.

side effect:

$$p'(x_i) = x_0 \text{ for } i \in [1:t]$$

returns  $find(x_t) = x_0$ .

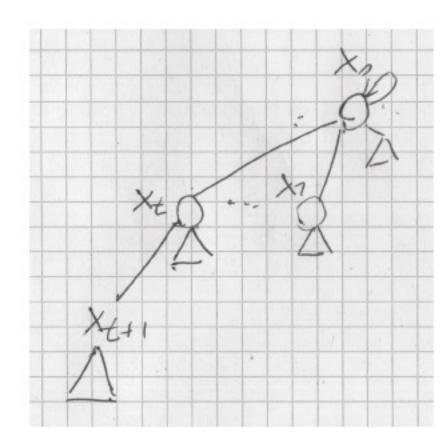


Figure 10: The path from  $x_t$  to  $x_0$  is compressed by the recursive call  $find(x_t)$ 

$$p(x_{t+1}) := x_0$$
 executed

side effect:

$$p''(x_i) = x_0 \text{ for } i \in [1:t+1]$$

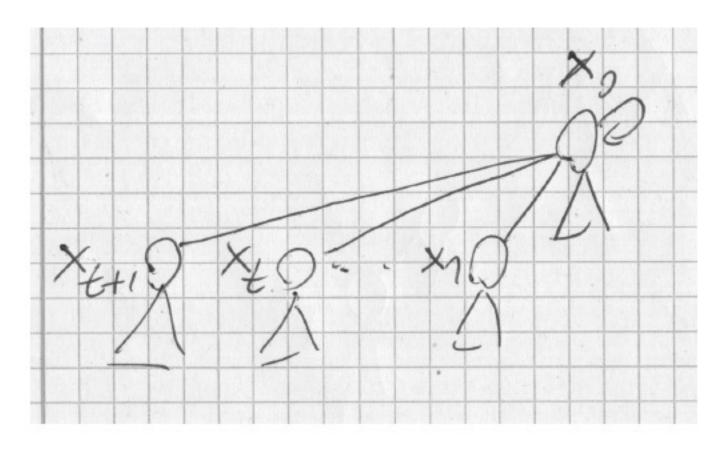


Figure 11: assignment  $p(x_{t+1}) := x_0$  has completed the path compression