

`connect(int a, int b)`

# Disjoint Sets

5 Implementations

`isConnected(int a, int b)`

# What > How



Name	Runtime			Key Characteristic	Pros	Cons
	Constructor	connect()	isConnected()			
List of Sets	$\Theta(N)$	$O(N)$	$O(N)$	-Connected item in same basket	-Focused on connected component	-Worst case have slow operations
Quick Find	$\Theta(N)$	$\Theta(N)$	$\Theta(1)$	-stores setID	-quick isConnected()	-slow connect() (iterate through whole array)
Quick Union	$\Theta(N)$	$O(N)$	$O(N)$	-stores parent item -root item: negative value	-quick connect()	-expensive for tall trees
Weighted Quick Union	$\Theta(N)$	$O(\log N)$	$O(\log N)$	-connects smaller set to larger set	-worst case height $\log N$	
Weighted Quick Union with Path Compression	$\Theta(N)$	$O(\lg^* N)$	$O(\lg^* N)$	-tying all nodes to the root if seen	-tighter bounds than WQU	

# Key Takeaway

1. Care about WHAT are connected not HOW
2. Choice of underlying abstraction impacts runtime & code complexity
  - a. Edges vs. List of sets vs. Array
3. Algorithm development is an iterative process
  - a. Tweaking existing model to greatly improve performance