

The Disjoint Set ADT

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IIIT, Delhi
Winter Semester,
26th May, 2023

The Problem

- Some applications involve grouping n distinct elements into a collection of disjoint sets.
- Important operations:
 - **FIND**: Finding which set a given element belongs to.
 - **UNION**: Unite two sets.

Outline

- Operations supported by a disjoint-set data structure.
- Look at a simple application of a disjoint-set data structure.
- Present a simple linked-list implementation for disjoint sets.
- Look at a more efficient representation using rooted trees.
 - The running time using the tree representation is linear for all practical purposes.
 - But it is theoretically superlinear.

Disjoint-set Data Structure

Disjoint-set Data Structure

- Maintains a collection $\mathcal{S} = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ of **disjoint dynamic sets**.
- Each set is identified by a **representative**, which is some member of the set.
- In some applications, it doesn't matter which member is used as the representative.
 - **Consistent:** If the representative of a dynamic set is asked **twice** without modifying the set between the requests, then both times the answer should be the same.
- In other applications, there may be a prespecified rule for choosing the representative.

For Example: Choosing the smallest member in the set (assuming, that the elements can be **ordered**).

Supported Operations

- **MAKE-SET(x)**: Creates a new set whose only member (and thus representative) is x .
 - Sets are disjoint $\Rightarrow x$ cannot be in any other set.
- **UNION(x, y)**: $S_x \cup S_y$, where x and y are representatives of S_x and S_y , respectively.
 - Prior to the operation $S_x \cap S_y = \emptyset$.
 - The representative of the resulting set can be any member of $S_x \cup S_y$.
 - Many implementations of UNION specifically choose the representative of either S_x or S_y as the new representative.
 - The sets in the collection \mathcal{S} needs to be disjoint \Rightarrow the sets S_x and S_y are “destroyed” by removing them from \mathcal{S} .
- **FIND-SET(x)**: Returns a pointer to the representative of the (unique) set containing x .

Parameters

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 - n : # MAKE-SET operations.
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- **Assumption:** n MAKE-SET operations are the first n operations performed.

A Simple Application of Disjoint-set Data Structure

Connected Components of an Undirected Graph

- **CONNECTED-COMPONENTS(G)**: Run as a preprocessing step, creates connected components of the graphs G .
- **SAME-COMPONENT(u, v)**: Answers queries about whether two vertices are in the same connected component.

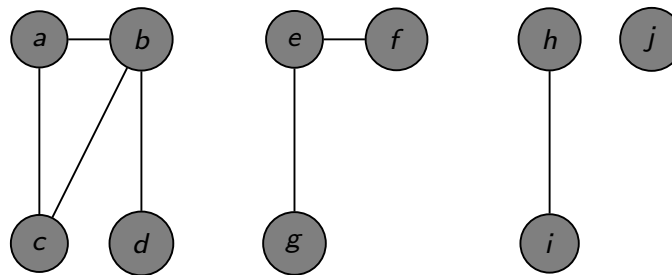
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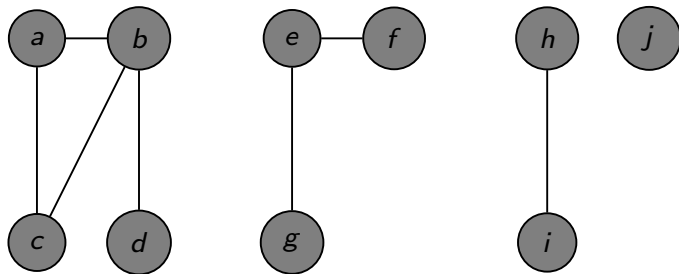
Note:

- When the edges of the graph are “static” (not changing over time) DFS computes the connected components faster.
- But sometimes the edges are added “dynamically”.
- Maintain the connected components as each edge is added.
- Then implementation given here can be more efficient than running a new DFS search for each new edge added.

Connected Components: An Example



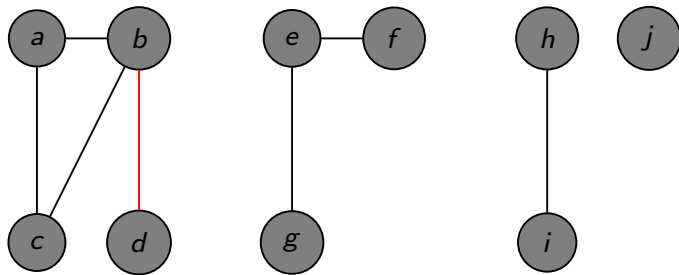
Connected Components: An Example



CONNECTED-COMPONENTS(G)
 for each vertex $v \in V$
 MAKE-SET(v);

Edge processed	Collection of disjoint sets									
Initial sets	{a}	{b}	{c}	{d}	{e}	{f}	{g}	{h}	{i}	{j}

Connected Components: An Example



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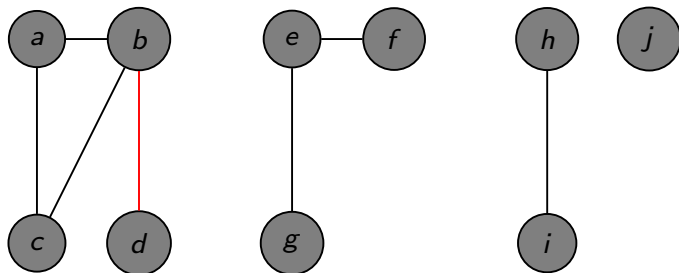
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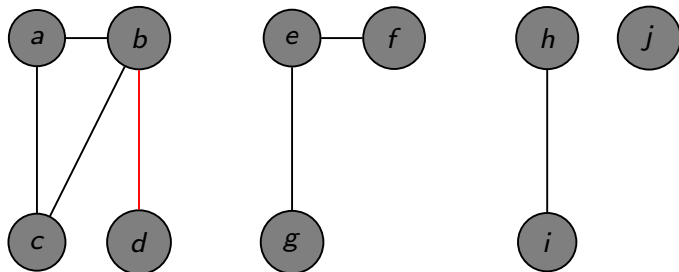
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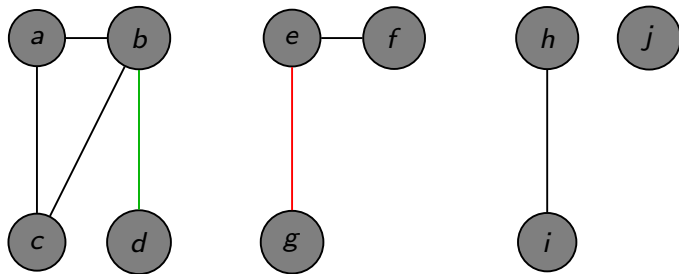


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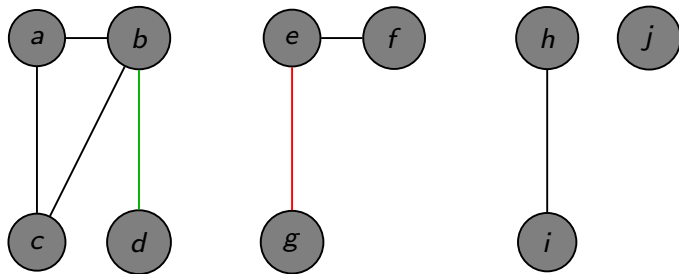


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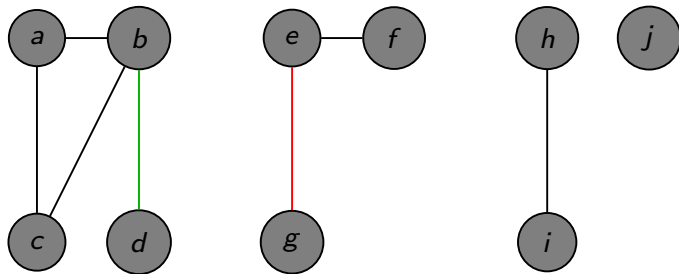


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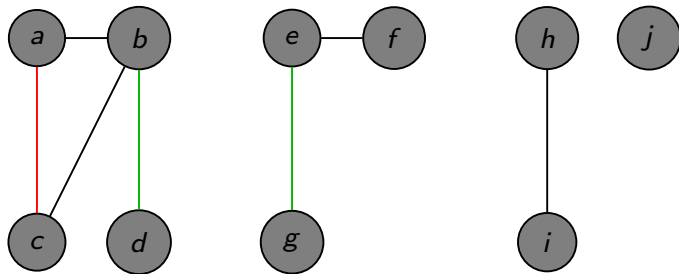


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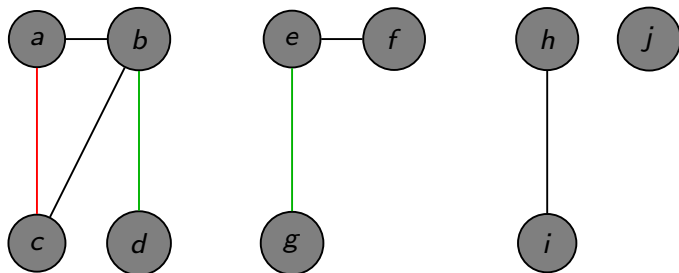


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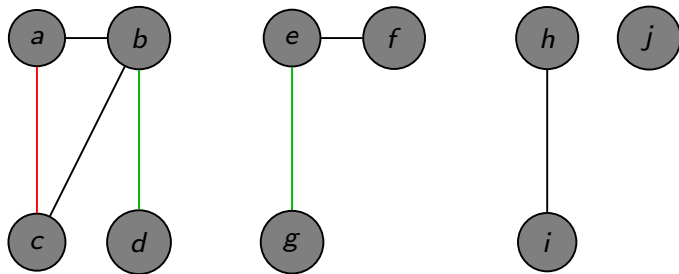


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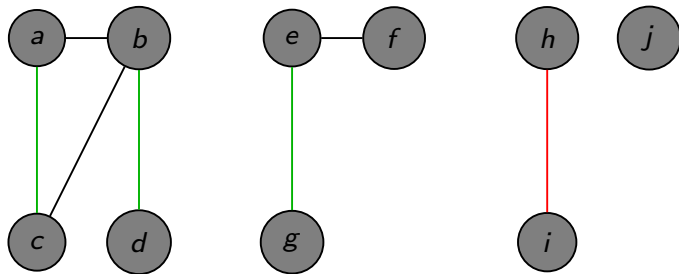


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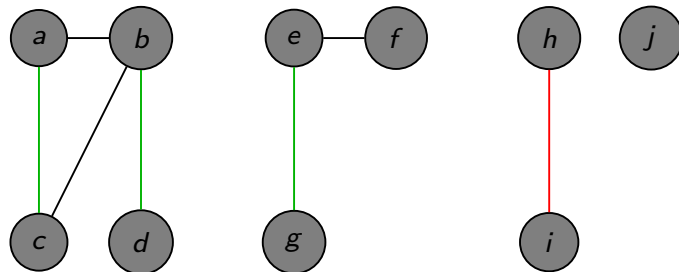


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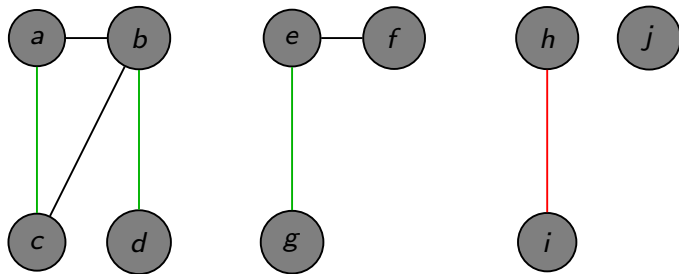


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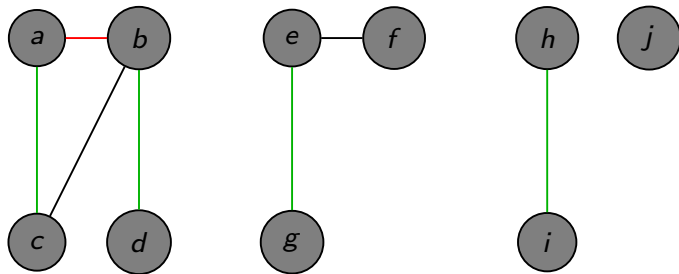


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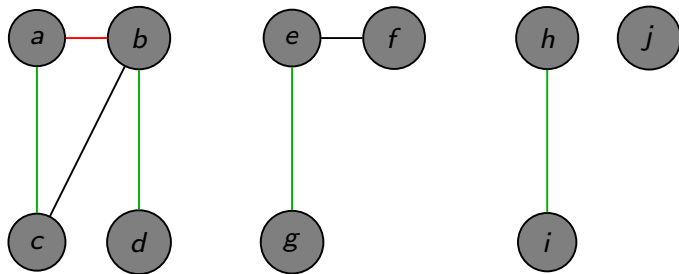


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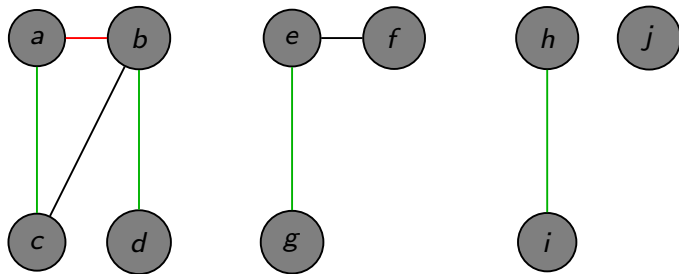


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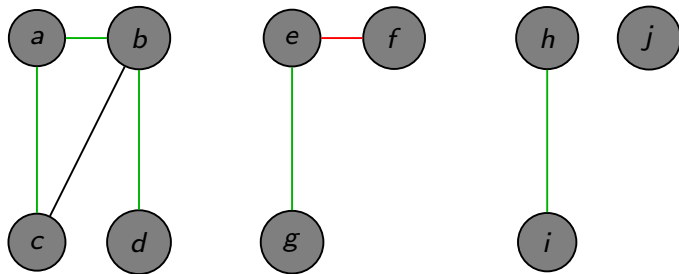


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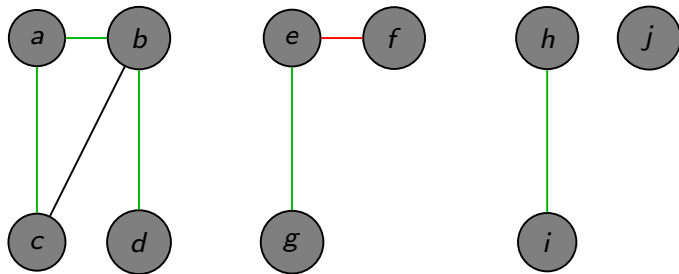


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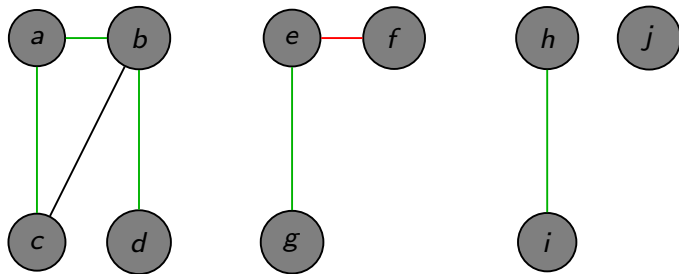


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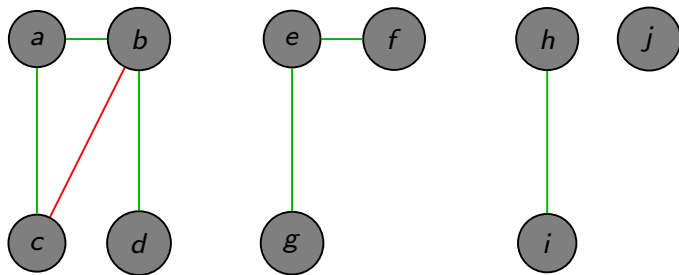


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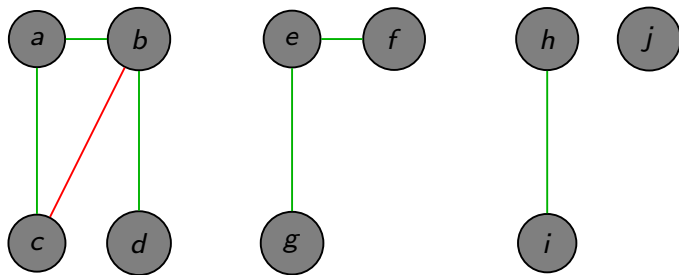


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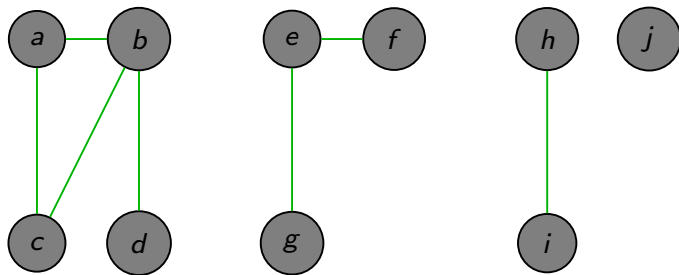


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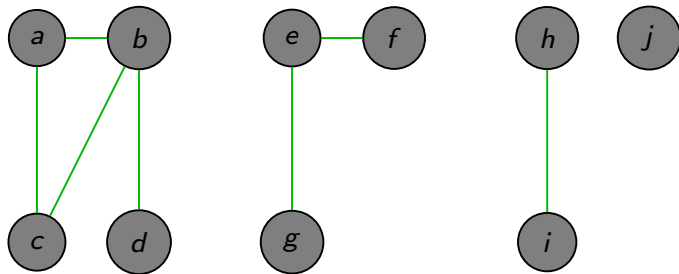


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SAME-COMPONENT

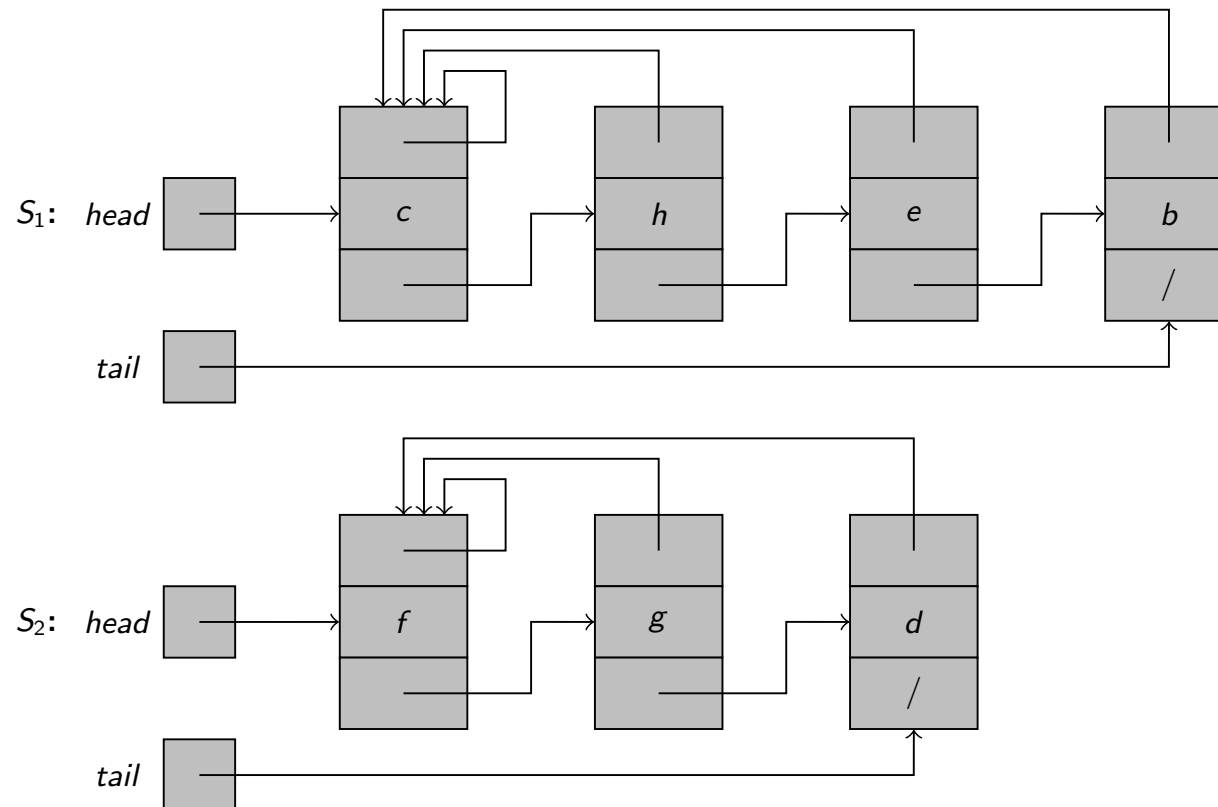
```
SAME-COMPONENT( $u, v$ )  
  if (FIND-SET( $u$ ) = FIND-SET( $v$ ))  
    return TRUE;  
  else  
    return FALSE;
```

Linked-list Representation of Disjoint Sets

Linked-list Representation

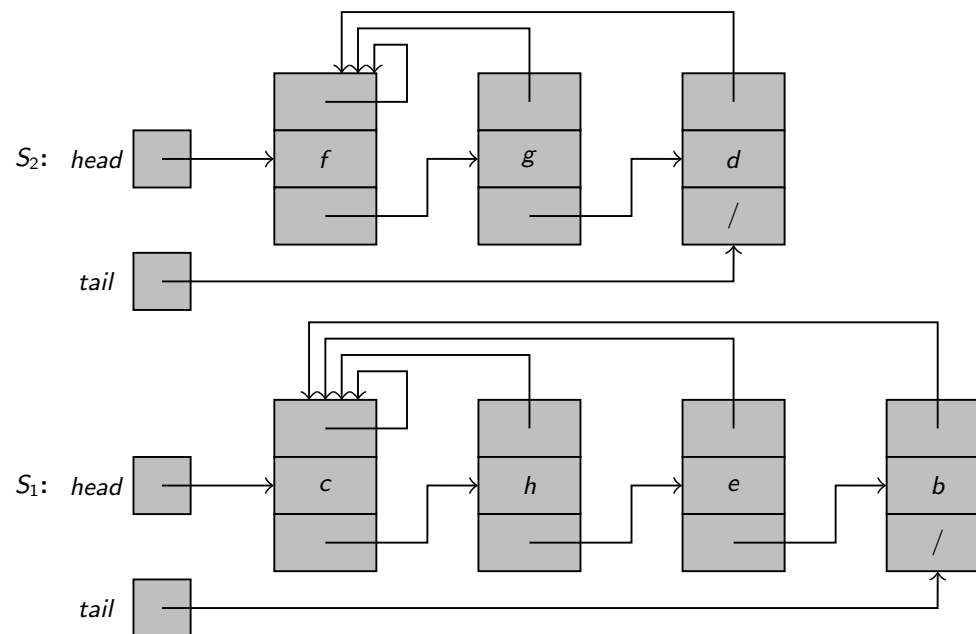
- A simple way to represent disjoint sets.
- **Set representative:** The first object in each linked list.
- Each object in the linked list contains
 - a set member,
 - a pointer to the object containing the next set member, and
 - a pointer back to the set representative.
- Each list maintains pointers
 - **head:** which points to the set representative, and
 - **tail:** which points to the last object in the list.
- Within each linked list, the remaining objects may appear in any order.

An Example

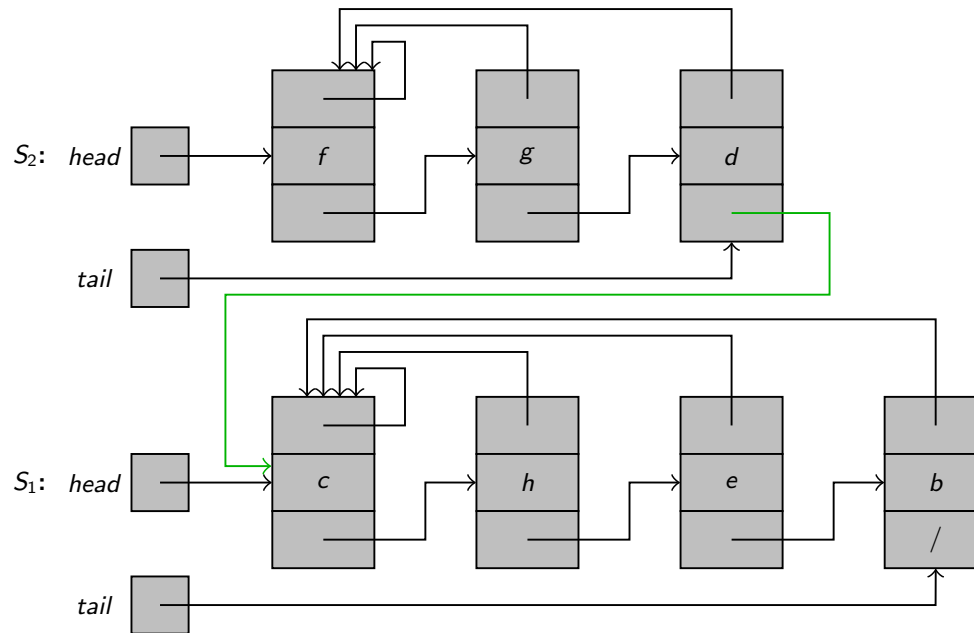


Disjoint sets $S_1 = \{c, h, e, b\}$ and $S_2 = \{f, g, d\}$

An Example: UNION(e, g)

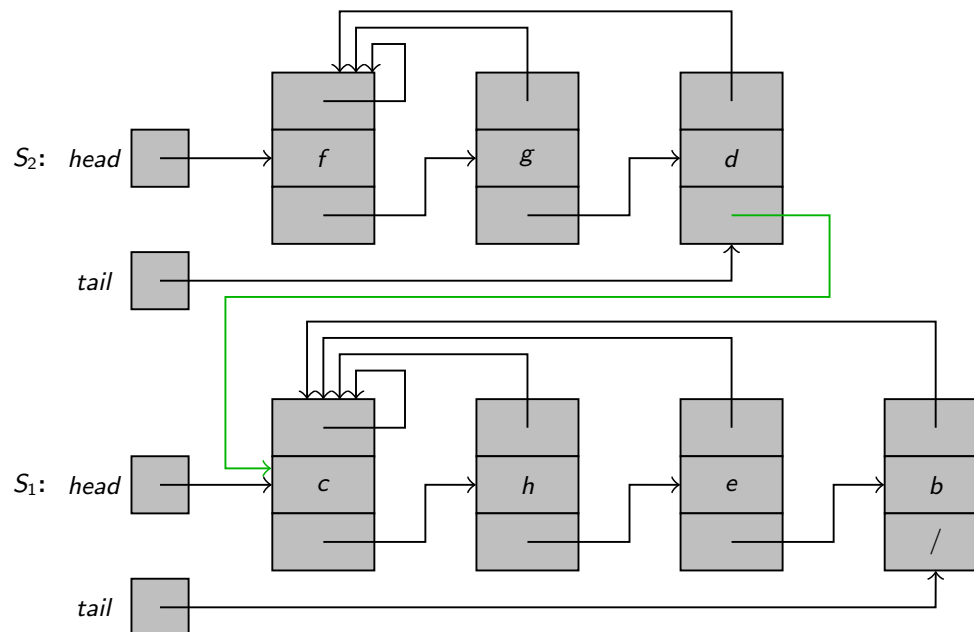


An Example: UNION(e, g)



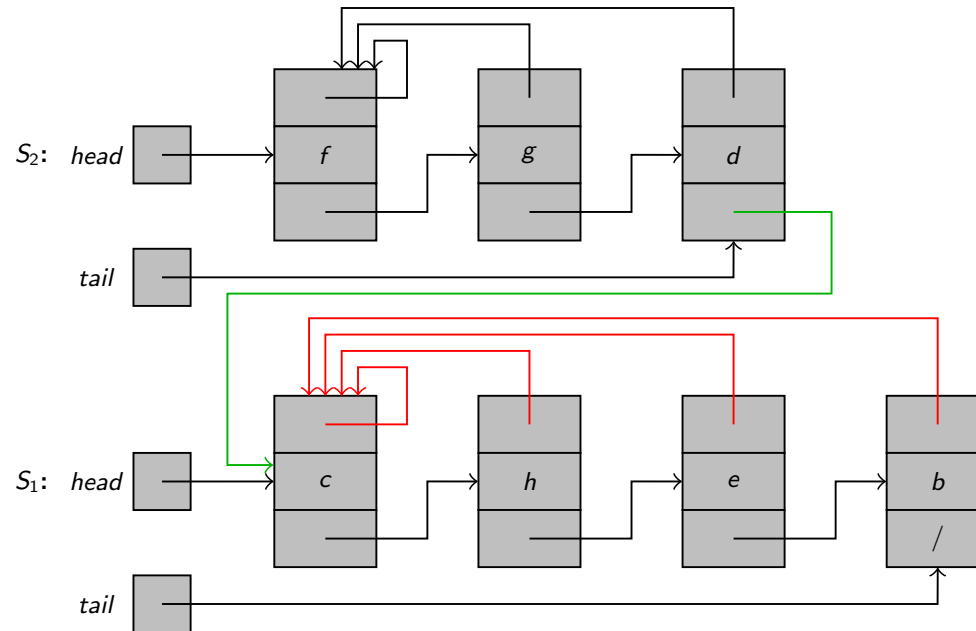
- Use the *tail* pointer for g 's list to quickly find where to append e 's list.

An Example: $\text{UNION}(e, g)$



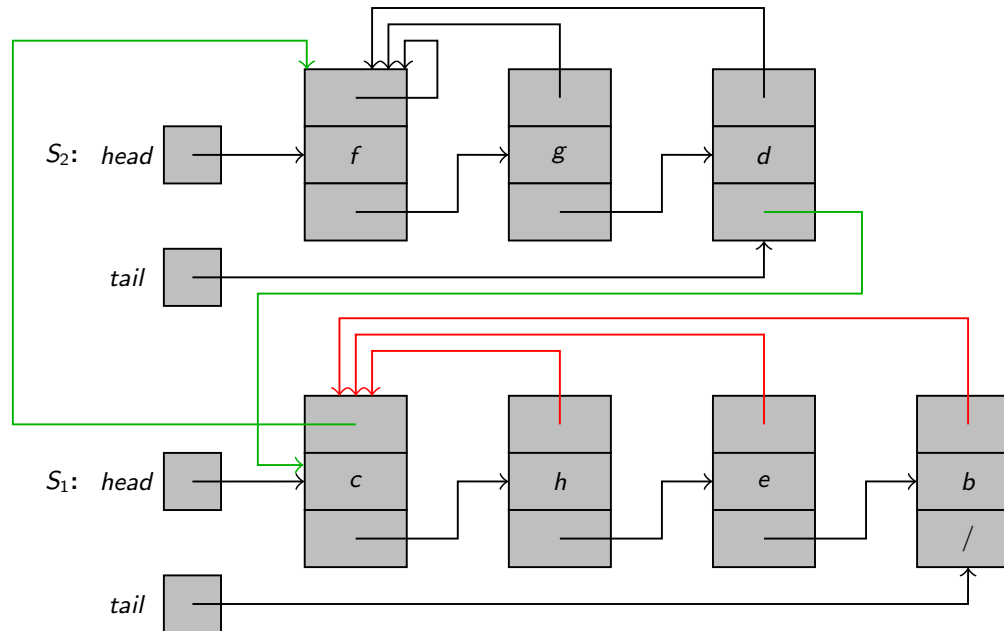
- Use the *tail* pointer for g 's list to quickly find where to append e 's list.
- **Note:** The representative of the new set = representative of the set containing g , i.e., f .

An Example: $\text{UNION}(e, g)$



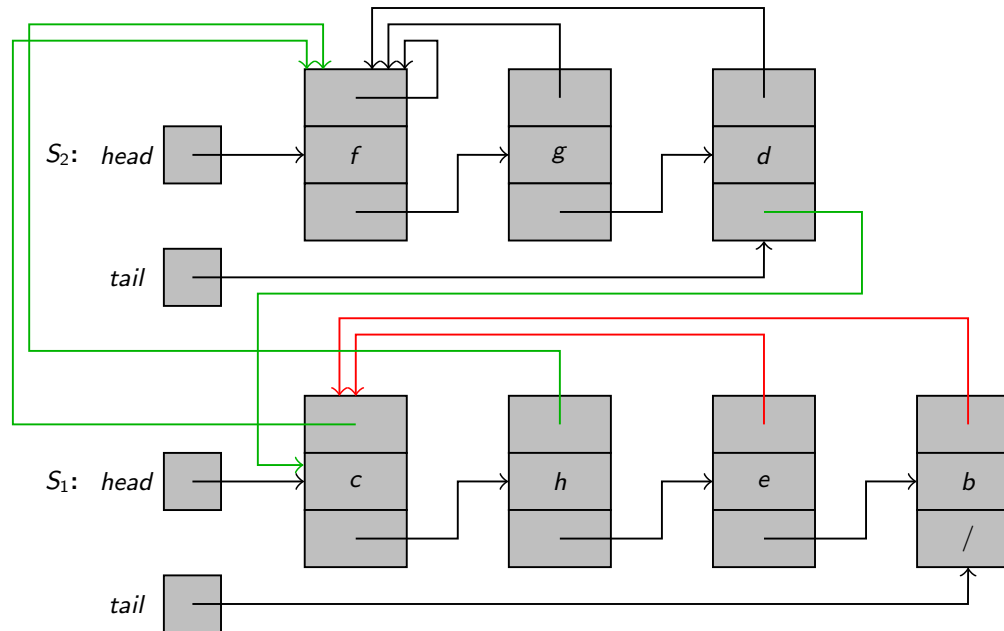
- However, we must update the pointer to the representative for each object originally on e 's list.

An Example: $\text{UNION}(e, g)$



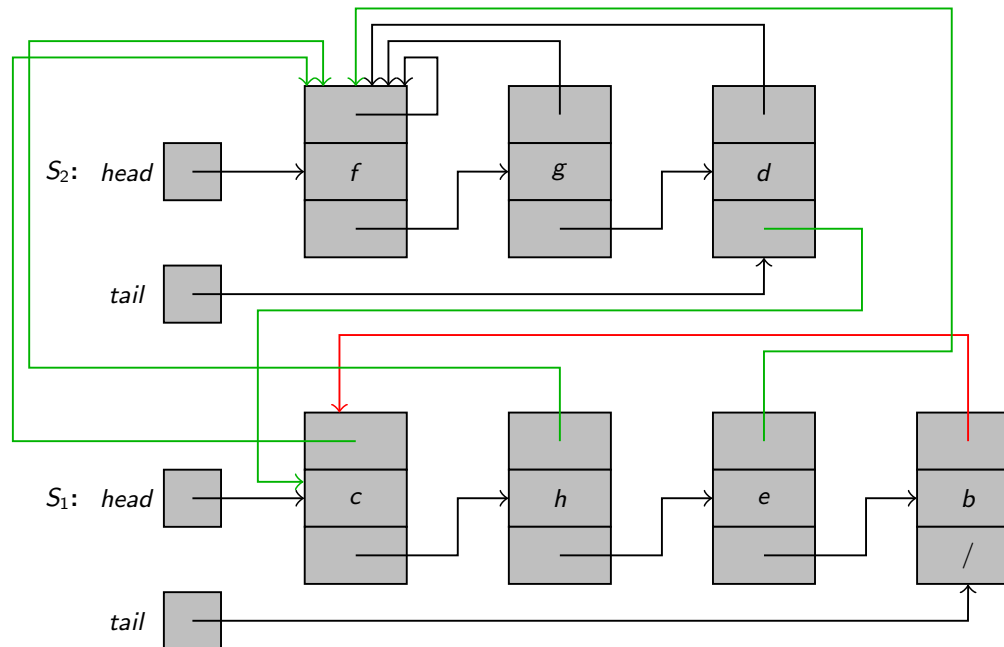
- However, we must update the pointer to the representative for each object originally on e 's list.

An Example: UNION(e, g)



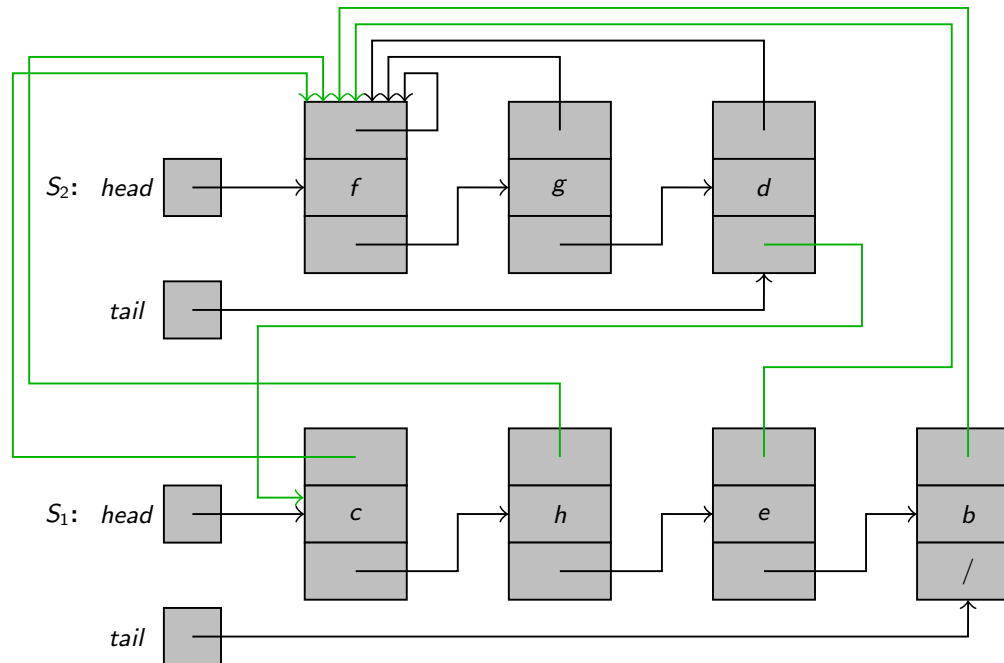
- However, we must update the pointer to the representative for each object originally on e 's list.

An Example: $\text{UNION}(e, g)$



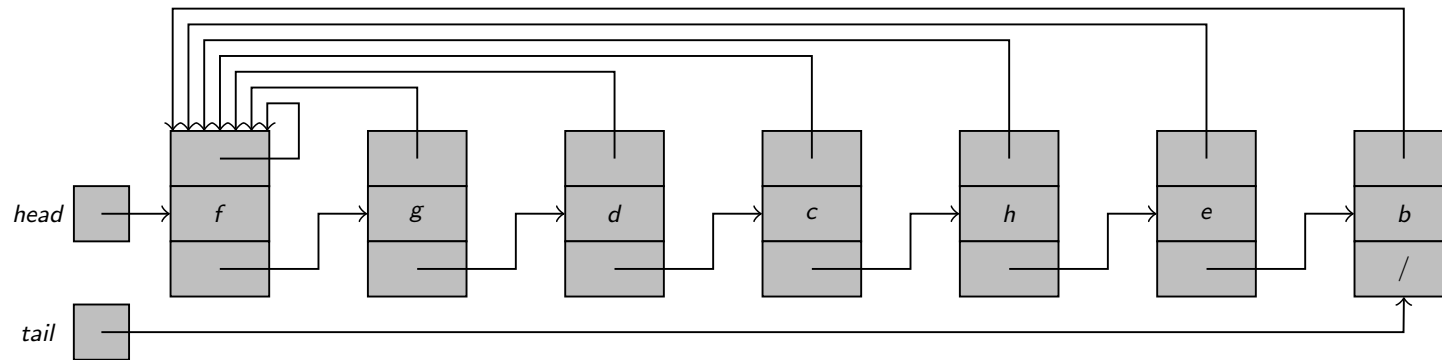
- However, we must update the pointer to the representative for each object originally on e 's list.

An Example: $\text{UNION}(e, g)$



- However, we must update the pointer to the representative for each object originally on e 's list.

An Example: $\text{UNION}(e, g)$



$$\text{UNION}(e, g) = S_1 \cup S_2$$

Time: Linear in the length of e 's list.

Worst Case Complexity

It is not difficult to come up with a sequence of m operations on n objects that requires $\Theta(n^2)$ time.

- Consider n objects x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n .
- # MAKE-SET operations = n .
- # UNION operations = $n - 1$.
- $\therefore m = n + (n - 1) = 2n - 1$.
- i^{th} UNION operation takes, i.e., $\text{UNION}(x_i, x_{i+1})$ takes i time.
- **Worst case complexity:**

$$n + \sum_{i=1}^n i = \Theta(n^2)$$

- $\therefore m = 2n - 1$, \therefore on an average each operation takes $\Theta(n)$ time.

Operations	Number of objects updated
MAKE-SET(x_1)	1
MAKE-SET(x_2)	1
\vdots	\vdots
MAKE-SET(x_n)	1
UNION(x_1, x_2)	1
UNION(x_2, x_3)	2
UNION(x_3, x_4)	3
\vdots	\vdots
UNION(x_{n-1}, x_n)	$n - 1$

Disjoint-set Forests

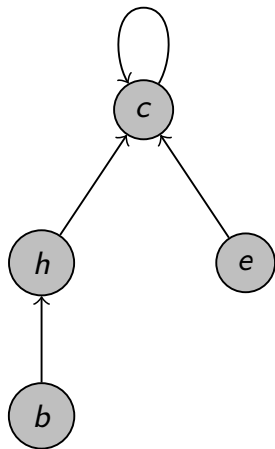
Disjoint-set Forests: A Faster Implementation

- Sets are represent by **rooted trees**.
- Each node contain **one member**.
- Each tree represents **one set**.
- Each member points (nodes) only to its **parent**.
- **Set representative**: The root of each tree.
 - It is it's own parent.
- **Note**: The straightforward algorithms that use this representation are **not faster** than ones that use the **linked-list representation**,
- But by introducing the following two heuristics one can achieve the **asymptotically fastest disjoint-set data structure known**.
 - Union by rank.
 - Path compression.

Operations

- **MAKE-SET:** Creates a tree with just one node.
- **FIND-SET:** Follows the parent pointers until the root of the tree is reached.
 - **FIND-PATH:** Nodes visited on this path toward the root.
- **UNION:** Make the root of one tree to point to the root of the other.

An Example: $\text{UNION}(e, g)$

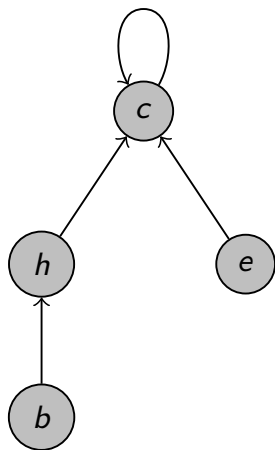


$$S_1 = \{b, c, e, h\}$$



$$S_2 = \{d, f, g\}$$

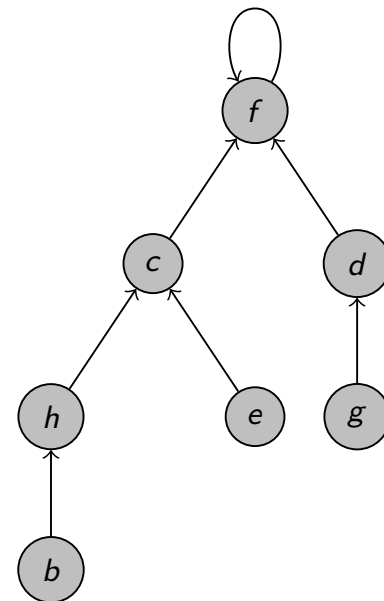
An Example: $\text{UNION}(e, g)$



$$S_1 = \{b, c, e, h\}$$



$$S_2 = \{d, f, g\}$$



$$\text{UNION}(e, g) = S_1 \cup S_2$$

Heuristics to Improve the Running Time

- So far, we have **not improved** on the linked-list implementation!
- A sequence of $n - 1$ UNION operations may create a tree that is just a linear chain of n nodes \Rightarrow FIND-SET takes $\Theta(i)$ time \Rightarrow total complexity is $\Theta(n^2)$
- But by using two heuristics one can achieve a running time that is **almost linear** in the total number of operations m .

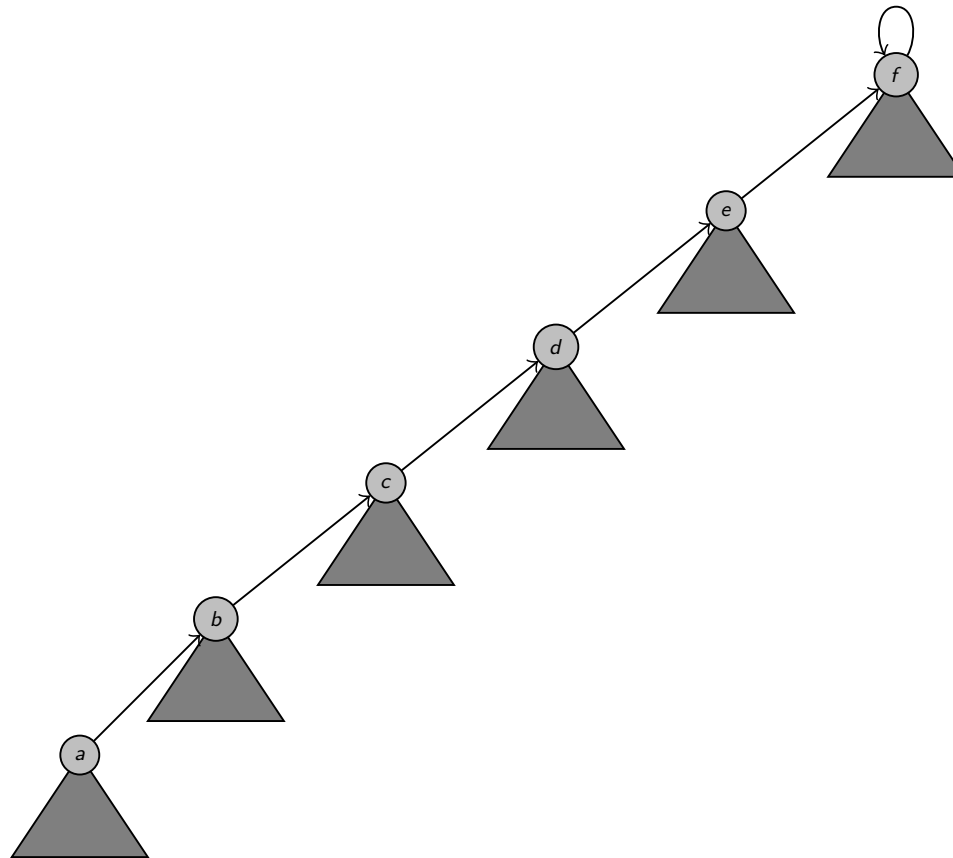
Heuristics 1: Union by Rank

- **Idea:** During UNION operation, make the root of the tree with **fewer nodes** point to the root of the tree with more nodes.
- Rather than explicitly keeping track of the size of the subtree rooted at each node, we shall use an approach that **eases the analysis**.
- For each node, we maintain a **rank** that is an **upper bound** on the height of the node.
- **UNION:** Point the root with **smaller rank** to the root with larger rank.

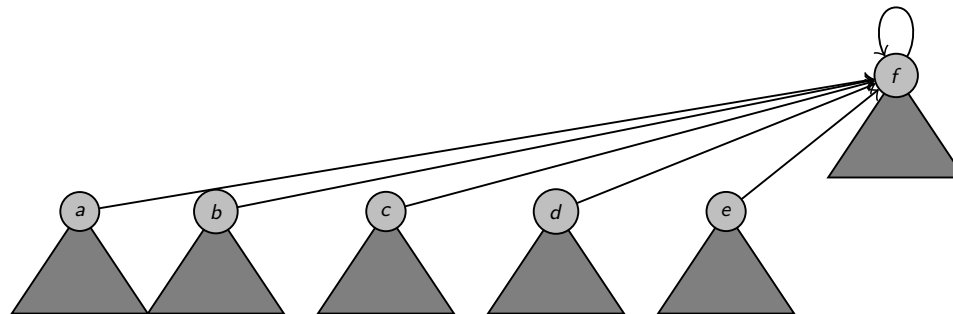
Heuristics 2: Path Compression

- **FIND-SET:** Make each node on the **FIND-PATH** to point directly to the root.
- Path compression **does not** change any ranks.

An Example: Before $\text{FIND-SET}(a)$



An Example: After $\text{FIND-SET}(a)$



Books and Other Materials Consulted

- ① *Introduction to Algorithms* by Thomas H Cormen, Charles E Leiserson, Ronald L Rivest, Clifford Stein.

Thank You for your kind attention!

Questions!!