

8. Amortized Analysis

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Define $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_m)$ be a sequence of operations on data structure D

Define t_i time to execute σ_i

Sequence complexity $C(m) = \max\{\sum_1^m t_i: \text{any sequence of } \sigma \text{ of } m \text{ operations}\}$

Amortized complexity $A(m) = \frac{C(m)}{m}$: time each operation takes in average

Example consider a binary counter which keeps a number $x \bmod 2^k$ by increment
Using a data structure $A[0, \dots, k-1]$ to store x

$$A := [a_0, \dots, a_{k-1}], a_i \in \{0, 1\}. x = \sum a_i 2^i$$

increment(A)

j = 0

while j < k and A[j] == 1:

A[j] = 0

j ++

if j == k:

A[j] = 0

A[j] = 1

Method 1 Aggregate

Consider the number of bits flipped in each increment (actual cost of steps)

000 \rightarrow^1 001 \rightarrow^2 010 \rightarrow^1 011 \rightarrow^3 100 \rightarrow^1 101 \rightarrow^2 110 \rightarrow^1 111 $\rightarrow \dots$

$A[0]$ flipped every time, $A[i]$ flipped every second time ...

$A[j]$ flipped every 2^j time

$$C(m) = \#bit \text{ flips} = \sum_0^{k-1} \#A[j] \text{ flip} = \sum_0^{k-1} \text{floor}\left(\frac{m}{2^j}\right) \leq m \sum_0^{k-1} \frac{1}{2^j} \leq m \sum_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^j} = 2m$$

$$A(m) = 2 \in \Theta(1)$$

Method 2 Potential Function

Define D_0 be the initial state of the data structure

D_i be the state of the ds after σ_i

Define $\Phi(D_i)$ be the potential function, $a_i = t_i + \Phi(D_i) - \Phi(D_{i-1})$ be the amortized complexity

Proposition $\Phi(D_i) \geq 0 \Rightarrow \sum^m t_i \leq \sum^m a_i + \Phi(D_0)$

proof $\sum^m t_i = \sum^m (a_i + \Phi(D_{i-1}) - \Phi(D_i)) = \sum^m a_i + \Phi(D_0) - \Phi(D_m)$

Back to binary counter example

Since the most step consumed operation is to flip 1 \rightarrow 0, say $0 \leq j \leq k$ times in each operation, and flip 0 \rightarrow 1 at most once.

Consider t_i , each operation flips at most $j + 1$ bits

Consider $\Phi(A_i) = \#1bit \text{ in } A_i$

Then $\Phi(A_i) - \Phi(A_{i-1}) \leq -j + 1$ Since j number of 1-bit at the end of A_i are flipped, and at most one 0-bit is flipped

$$a_i = t_i + \Phi(A_i) - \Phi(A_{i-1}) \leq (j + 1 - j + 1) = 2$$

Dynamic Table

T: table (e.g. a hash table)

$T.size := \#slots$

$T.num := \#items\ stored$

$loadfactor\ d(T) := \frac{T.size}{T.num}$

Consider operation

insert(T, x)

 if $d(T) == 1$

 allocate T'

$T'.size = 2T.size$

 copy T to T'

 insert x into T'

$T \leftarrow T'$

 insert x into T

Most time consumed operation is copy the stored item into T' .

It's trivial that the empty slots can only exists in the second half of the table after each insertion, hence $0.5 < d(T) \leq 1$

Consider $\Phi(T_i) = 2 \times \#occupied\ slots\ in\ T\ \left[\frac{n}{2} + 1, \dots, n\right] = 2 \left(T_i.num - \frac{T_i.size}{2}\right) = 2T_i.num - T_i.size$

 Since each such slot will store one item and compensate for the future copying to T' .

Consider 2 cases

1. the if branch is not called, then $t_i = 1, \Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1} = 2, a_i = 1 + 2 = 3$
2. the if branch is called, then $t_i = T_{i-1}.size + 1, \Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1} = 2T_{i-1}.num + 2 - 2T_{i-1}.size - 2T_{i-1}.num - T_{i-1}.size = 2 - T_{i-1}.size$
 $a_i = T_{i-1}.size + 1 + 2 - T_{i-1}.size = 3$