

3-2 Amortized Analysis

Hengfeng Wei

hfwei@nju.edu.cn

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Robert Tarjan



John Hopcroft

*For fundamental achievements
in the design and analysis of algorithms and data structures.*

— *Turing Award, 1986*

AMORTIZED COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEXITY*

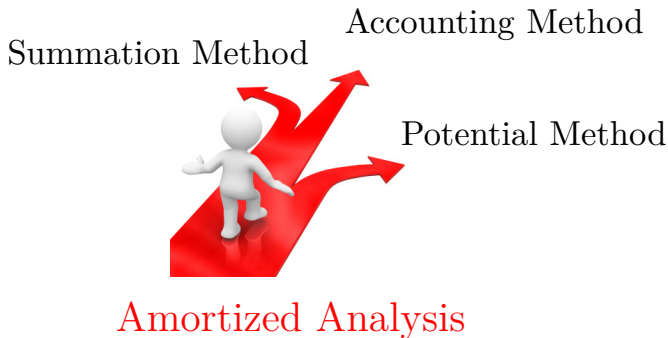
ROBERT ENDRE TARJAN†

Abstract. A powerful technique in the complexity analysis of data structures is *amortization*, or averaging over time. Amortized running time is a realistic but robust complexity measure for which we can obtain surprisingly tight upper and lower bounds on a variety of algorithms. By following the principle of designing algorithms whose amortized complexity is low, we obtain “self-adjusting” data structures that are simple, flexible and efficient. This paper surveys recent work by several researchers on amortized complexity.

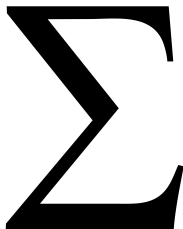
“Amortized Computational Complexity”, 1985

Amortized analysis is
an algorithm analysis technique for
analyzing a sequence of operations
irrespective of the input to show that
the average cost per operation is small, even though
a single operation within the sequence might be expensive.

By *averaging the cost per operation over a worst-case sequence*,
amortized analysis can yield a time complexity that is
more *robust* than *average-case analysis*, since
its *probabilistic assumptions on inputs* may be false,
and more *realistic* than *worst-case analysis*, since it may be
impossible for every operation to take the worst-case time,
as occurs often in manipulation of data structures.



The Summation Method



$$O_1, O_2, \dots, O_n$$

$$C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$$

$$O_1, O_2, \dots, O_n$$

$$C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$$

$$\forall i, \hat{c}_i = \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \right)}{n}$$

The Summation Method for Dynamic Tables

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On **any sequence** of n TABLE-INSERT on an *initially empty* array.

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$o_i :$	o_1	o_2	o_3	o_4	o_5	o_6	o_7	o_8	o_9	o_{10}
$c_i :$	1	2	3	1	5	1	1	1	9	1

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$$c_i = \begin{cases} (i-1) + 1 = i & \text{if } i-1 \text{ is an exact power of 2} \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

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$$c_i = \begin{cases} (i-1) + 1 = i & \text{if } i-1 \text{ is an exact power of 2} \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i = n + \sum_{j=0}^{\lceil \log n \rceil - 1} 2^j = n + (2^{\lceil \log n \rceil} - 1) < n + 2n = 3n$$

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$$\begin{array}{cccccccccc} o_i : & o_1 & o_2 & o_3 & o_4 & o_5 & o_6 & o_7 & o_8 & o_9 & o_{10} \\ c_i : & 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 5 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 9 & 1 \end{array}$$

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$$\boxed{\forall i, \hat{c}_i = 3}$$

The Accounting Method



O_1, O_2, \dots, O_n

C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n

a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n

$$o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n$$

$$c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$$

$$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$$

$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + a_i \quad (a_i \geq 0)$$

Amortized Cost = Actual Cost + Accounting Cost

$$O_1, O_2, \dots, O_n$$

$$C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$$

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Amortized Cost = Actual Cost + Accounting Cost

$$\forall n, \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{c}_i$$

$$o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n$$

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$$\forall n, \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{c}_i \iff \forall n, \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \geq 0$$

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Key Point: Put the accounting cost on specific objects.

The Accounting Method for Dynamic Tables

$$Q : \hat{c}_i = 3 \text{ vs. } \hat{c}_i = 2$$

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$$\hat{c}_i = 3 = \underbrace{1}_{\text{insert}} + \underbrace{1}_{\text{move itself}} + \underbrace{1}_{\text{help move another}}$$

The Accounting Method for Dynamic Tables

$Q : \hat{c}_i = 3 \text{ vs. } \hat{c}_i = 2$

$$\hat{c}_i = 3 = \underbrace{1}_{\text{insert}} + \underbrace{1}_{\text{move itself}} + \underbrace{1}_{\text{help move another}}$$

	\hat{c}_i	c_i	a_i
TABLE-INSERT (<i>normal</i>)	3	1	2
TABLE-INSERT (<i>expansion</i>)	3	$1 + t$	$-t + 2$

The Potential Method



$$D_0, o_1, D_1, o_2, \dots, \underbrace{D_{i-1}, o_i, D_i}_{\text{the } i\text{-th operation}}, \dots, D_{n-1}, o_n, D_n$$

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$$\Phi : \{D_i \mid 0 \leq i \leq n\} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$$

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$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + \left(\Phi(D_i) - \Phi(D_{i-1}) \right)$$

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$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} c_i = \left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \hat{c}_i \right) + \left(\underbrace{\Phi(D_0) - \Phi(D_n)}_{\text{net decrease in potential}} \right)$$

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$$\underbrace{\Phi(D_0) - \Phi(D_n)}_{\text{net decrease in potential}} \leq \square \implies \boxed{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} c_i \leq \left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \hat{c}_i \right) + \square}$$

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$$\square = 0 \ (\forall i, \Phi(D_i) \geq \Phi(D_0)) \implies \forall n, \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} c_i \leq \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \hat{c}_i$$

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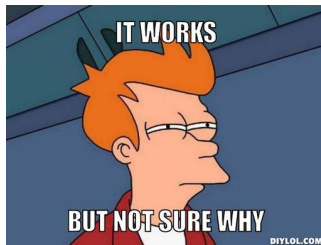
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$$\Phi(D_0) = 0, \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq n : \Phi(D_i) \geq 0 \quad (\text{Typically})$$





The Potential Method for Dynamic Tables

$$\alpha = \frac{T.num}{T.size}$$

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EXPANSION : $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{When to expand?} \\ \text{How large to expand to?} \end{array} \right.$

The Potential Method for Dynamic Tables

$$\alpha = \frac{T.num}{T.size}$$

EXPANSION : $\begin{cases} \text{When to expand?} & \alpha = 1 \\ \text{How large to expand to?} & \alpha = 1/2 \end{cases}$

The Potential Method for Dynamic Tables

$$\alpha = \frac{T.num}{T.size}$$

EXPANSION : $\begin{cases} \text{When to expand?} & \alpha = 1 \\ \text{How large to expand to?} & \alpha = 1/2 \end{cases}$

CONTRACTION : $\begin{cases} \text{When to contract?} \\ \text{How small to contract to?} \end{cases}$

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CONTRACTION : $\begin{cases} \text{When to contract?} & \alpha = 1/4 \\ \text{How small to contract to?} & \alpha = 1/2 \end{cases}$

$$\frac{1}{4} \leq \alpha \leq 1$$

$$\Phi(T) = \begin{cases} 2 \cdot T.num - T.size & \text{if } \alpha(T) \geq 1/2 \\ T.size/2 - T.num & \text{if } \alpha(T) < 1/2 \end{cases}$$

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$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1})$$

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By Case Analysis.

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$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1})$$

By Case Analysis.

TABLE-INSERT

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 & \begin{cases} \alpha_i < 1/2 \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \end{cases} \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 & \begin{cases} \alpha_{i-1} < 1 \\ \alpha_{i-1} = 1 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$\Phi(T) = \begin{cases} 2 \cdot T.num - T.size & \text{if } \alpha(T) \geq 1/2 \\ T.size/2 - T.num & \text{if } \alpha(T) < 1/2 \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 & \begin{cases} \alpha_i < 1/2 \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \end{cases} \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 & \begin{cases} \alpha_{i-1} < 1 \\ \alpha_{i-1} = 1 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 & \begin{cases} \frac{num_{i-1}-1}{size_{i-1}} \geq \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{num_{i-1}-1}{size_{i-1}} < \frac{1}{4} \end{cases} \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 & \begin{cases} \alpha_i < 1/2 \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$\Phi(T) = \begin{cases} 2 \cdot T.num - T.size & \text{if } \alpha(T) \geq 1/2 \\ T.size/2 - T.num & \text{if } \alpha(T) < 1/2 \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1})$$

By Case Analysis.

TABLE-INSERT

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \begin{cases} \alpha_i < 1/2 \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \end{cases} \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \begin{cases} \alpha_{i-1} < 1 \\ \alpha_{i-1} = 1 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \begin{cases} \frac{num_{i-1}-1}{size_{i-1}} \geq \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{num_{i-1}-1}{size_{i-1}} < \frac{1}{4} \end{cases} \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \begin{cases} \alpha_i < 1/2 \left(\frac{num_{i-1}-1}{size_{i-1}} < \frac{1}{4} \right) \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \wedge \frac{num_{i-1} - 1}{size_{i-1}} \geq \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + \left(\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1} \right)$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \wedge \frac{num_{i-1} - 1}{size_{i-1}} \geq \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_i &= c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + (size_i/2 - num_i) - (size_{i-1}/2 - num_{i-1})\end{aligned}$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \wedge \frac{num_{i-1} - 1}{size_{i-1}} \geq \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_i &= c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + (size_i/2 - num_i) - (size_{i-1}/2 - num_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + (size_i/2 - num_i) - (size_i/2 - (num_i + 1)) \\ &= 2\end{aligned}$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \wedge \frac{\text{num}_{i-1} - 1}{\text{size}_{i-1}} \geq \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_i &= c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + (\text{size}_i/2 - \text{num}_i) - (\text{size}_{i-1}/2 - \text{num}_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + (\text{size}_i/2 - \text{num}_i) - (\text{size}_i/2 - (\text{num}_i + 1)) \\ &= 2\end{aligned}$$

Why?

TABLE-DELETE

$$\alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \wedge \alpha_i \geq 1/2$$

$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1})$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \wedge \alpha_i \geq 1/2$$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_i &= c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + (2 \cdot num_i - size_i) - (2 \cdot num_{i-1} - size_{i-1})\end{aligned}$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \wedge \alpha_i \geq 1/2$$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_i &= c_i + (\Phi_i - \Phi_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + (2 \cdot \text{num}_i - \text{size}_i) - (2 \cdot \text{num}_{i-1} - \text{size}_{i-1}) \\ &= 1 + (2 \cdot \text{num}_i - \text{size}_i) - (2 \cdot (\text{num}_i + 1) - \text{size}_i) \\ &= -1\end{aligned}$$

TABLE-INSERT

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_i < 1/2 \text{ (0)} \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \text{ (3)} \end{array} \right. \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_{i-1} < 1 \text{ (3)} \\ \alpha_{i-1} = 1 \text{ (3)} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{num_{i-1}-1}{size_{i-1}} \geq \frac{1}{4} \text{ (1)} \\ \frac{num_{i-1}-1}{size_{i-1}} < \frac{1}{4} \text{ (2)} \end{array} \right. \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_i < 1/2 \text{ (1/2)} \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \text{ (-1)} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$$

TABLE-INSERT

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_i < 1/2 \text{ (0)} \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \text{ (3)} \end{array} \right. \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_{i-1} < 1 \text{ (3)} \\ \alpha_{i-1} = 1 \text{ (3)} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$$

TABLE-DELETE

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_{i-1} < 1/2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\text{num}_{i-1}-1}{\text{size}_{i-1}} \geq \frac{1}{4} \text{ (1)} \\ \frac{\text{num}_{i-1}-1}{\text{size}_{i-1}} < \frac{1}{4} \text{ (2)} \end{array} \right. \\ \alpha_{i-1} \geq 1/2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_i < 1/2 \text{ (1/2)} \\ \alpha_i \geq 1/2 \text{ (-1)} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$$



$$\Phi(T) = \begin{cases} 2 \cdot T.num - T.size & \text{if } \alpha(T) \geq 1/2 \\ T.size/2 - T.num & \text{if } \alpha(T) < 1/2 \end{cases}$$

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$$\hat{c}_{\text{TABLE-INSERT}} = 3$$

$$\hat{c}_{\text{TABLE-DELETE}} =$$

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$$\hat{c}_{\text{TABLE-INSERT}} = 3$$

$$\hat{c}_{\text{TABLE-DELETE}} = 2$$

The Summation Method for “Power of 2” (Problem 17.1-3)

$$c_i = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } i \text{ is an exact power of 2} \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$o_i :$	o_1	o_2	o_3	o_4	o_5	o_6	o_7	o_8	o_9	o_{10}
$c_i :$	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	8	1	1

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$$c_i = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } i \text{ is an exact power of 2} \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$o_i :$	o_1	o_2	o_3	o_4	o_5	o_6	o_7	o_8	o_9	o_{10}
$c_i :$	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	8	1	1

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n c_i &= (n - \lfloor \log n \rfloor - 1) + \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \log n \rfloor} 2^j \\ &= (n - \lfloor \log n \rfloor - 1) + (2^{\lfloor \log n \rfloor + 1} - 1) \\ &\leq (n - \lfloor \log n \rfloor - 1) + (2n - 1) \\ &< 3n \end{aligned}$$

The Summation Method for “Power of 2” (Problem 17.1-3)

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$$\forall i, \hat{c}_i = 3$$

The Accounting Method for “Power of 2” (Problem 17.2-2)

$$c_i = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } i \text{ is an exact power of 2} \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$o_i :$	o_1	o_2	o_3	o_4	o_5	o_6	o_7	o_8	o_9	o_{10}
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$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + a_i \implies a_i = 3 - c_i$$

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Prove by Mathematical Induction on n .

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$$2^k \quad (2^k, 2^{k+1}) \quad 2^{k+1}$$

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$$2^k \quad (2^k, 2^{k+1}) \quad 2^{k+1}$$

$$\hat{c}_i = c_i + a_i \implies a_i = 3 - c_i$$

$$\forall n, \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} a_i \geq 0. \quad \left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq 2^k} a_i \right) + 2(2^k - 1) + (3 - 2^{k+1}) \geq 0$$

Prove by Mathematical Induction on n .

The Potential Method for “Power of 2” (Problem 17.1-3)

$$c_i = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } i \text{ is an exact power of 2} \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$o_i :$	o_1	o_2	o_3	o_4	o_5	o_6	o_7	o_8	o_9	o_{10}
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$a_i :$	2	1	2	-1	2	2	2	-5	2	2

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$$\Phi(D_0) \triangleq 0, \quad \Phi(D_i) \geq 0$$

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Array Merging Dictionary (Additional Problem)

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i	s_i
A_0	1
A_1	2
A_2	4
A_3	8
\vdots	\dots
A_i	2^i

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$$11 = 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^3$$

i	e_i
A_0	[5]
A_1	[4, 8]
A_2	[]
A_3	[2, 6, 9, 12, 13, 16, 20, 25]

Array Merging Dictionary (Additional Problem)

<i>i</i>	<i>s_i</i>		$11 = 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^3$
A_0	1		
A_1	2	<i>i</i>	<i>e_i</i>
A_2	4	A_0	[5]
A_3	8	A_1	[4, 8]
\vdots	\dots	A_2	[]
A_i	2^i	A_3	[2, 6, 9, 12, 13, 16, 20, 25]

CREATE : 1 MERGE(A_i, A_i) : $2 \cdot 2^i$

Array Merging Dictionary (Additional Problem)

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INSERT(10) : $1 + 2 + 4$;

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INSERT(10) : $1 + 2 + 4$; INSERT() : 1; INSERT() : $1 + 2$

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CREATE : 1 MERGE(A_i, A_i) : $2 \cdot 2^i$

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i c_i

1 1

2 $1 + 2$

3 1

4 $1 + 2 + 4$

5 1

6 $1 + 2$

7 1

8 $1 + 2 + 4 + 8$

\vdots \dots

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$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i = \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \log n \rfloor} \lfloor \frac{n}{2^j} \rfloor 2^j \leq n(\lfloor \log n \rfloor + 1)$$

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Why?

The Accounting Method for “Array Merging Dictionary”

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Why?

$$\forall n, \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \geq 0$$

The Potential Method for “Array Merging Dictionary”

$$\text{CREATE} : 1 \quad \text{MERGE}(A_i, A_i) : 2 \cdot 2^i$$

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$$j = \sum_{i=1}^k 2^{x_i} \implies$$

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INSERT _{j} : $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_t \rightsquigarrow A_{t+1}$

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$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_j &= c_j + \left(\Phi(D_j) - \Phi(D_{j-1}) \right) \\ &= 1 + \sum_{i=0}^t 2^{i+1} - \left(\sum_{i=0}^t 2^i (\lfloor \log n \rfloor - i) \right) + 2^{t+1} (\lfloor \log n \rfloor - (t+1))\end{aligned}$$

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Office 302

Mailbox: H016

hfwei@nju.edu.cn