

## 3-2 Amortized Analysis

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October 08, 2018





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*.



## EXAMPLE

### Dynamic Tables

- (I) Summation Method
- (II) Accounting Method
- (III) Potential Method



## EXAMPLE

Dynamic Tables

“Move-to-Front” List

Splay Tree

- (I) Summation Method
- (II) Accounting Method
- (III) Potential Method

## The Summation Method

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

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



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

# The Summation Method for Array Doubling

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$o_i :$	$o_1$	$o_2$	$o_3$	$o_4$	$o_5$	$o_6$	$o_7$	$o_8$	$o_9$	$o_{10}$
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Amortized Cost = Actual Cost + Accounting Cost

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Key Point: Put the accounting cost on specific objects.

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## The Accounting Method for Array Doubling

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

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

	$\hat{c}_i$	$c_i$ (actual cost)	$a_i$ (accounting cost)
INSERT (normal)	3	1	2
INSERT (expansion)	3	$1 + t$	$-t + 2$

## Simulating a queue $Q$ using two stacks $S_1, S_2$ (Problem E3)

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**procedure** ENQ( $x$ )

*Push*( $S_1, x$ )

**procedure** DEQ()

**if**  $S_2 = \emptyset$  **then**

**while**  $S_1 \neq \emptyset$  **do**

*Push*( $S_2, \text{Pop}(S_1)$ )

*Pop*( $S_2$ )

---



## The Summation Method for Queue Simulation

$$\frac{\left( \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \right)}{n}$$

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The operation sequence is *NOT* known.

## The Accounting Method for Queue Simulation

<i>item:</i>	Push into $S_1$	Pop from $S_1$	Push into $S_2$	Pop from $S_2$
	1	1	1	1

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<i>item:</i>	Push into $S_1$	Pop from $S_1$	Push into $S_2$	Pop from $S_2$
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<i>item:</i>	Push into $S_1$	Pop from $S_1$	Push into $S_2$	Pop from $S_2$
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$$\hat{c}_{\text{ENQ}} = 3$$

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

## The Accounting Method for Queue Simulation

<i>item:</i>	Push into $S_1$	Pop from $S_1$	Push into $S_2$	Pop from $S_2$
	1	1	1	1

$$\hat{c}_{\text{ENQ}} = 3$$

$$\hat{c}_{\text{DEQ}} = 1$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \geq 0 \iff \sum_{i=1}^n a_i = \#S_1 \times 2$$

## The Accounting Method for Queue Simulation

$$\hat{c}_{\text{ENQ}} = 3$$

$$\hat{c}_{\text{DEQ}} = 1$$

$$\#S_1 = t$$

	$\hat{c}_i$	$c_i$ (actual cost)	$a_i$ (accounting cost)
ENQUEUE	3	1	2
DEQUEUE ( $S_2 = \emptyset$ )	1	1	0
DEQUEUE ( $S_2 \neq \emptyset$ )	1	$1 + 2t$	$-2t$

















## “Move-to-Front” (MTF) List















*What work are you proudest of?*



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*Proudest? It's hard to choose.*

*What work are you proudest of?*



*Proudest? It's hard to choose.*

*I like the **self-adjusting search tree** data structure  
that Danny Sleator and I developed.*



# Self-Adjusting Binary Search Trees

DANIEL DOMINIC SLEATOR AND ROBERT ENDRE TARJAN

*AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ*

Abstract. The *splay* tree, a self-adjusting form of binary search tree, is developed and analyzed. The binary search tree is a data structure for representing tables and lists so that accessing, inserting, and deleting items is easy. On an  $n$ -node splay tree, all the standard search tree operations have an amortized time bound of  $O(\log n)$  per operation, where by “amortized time” is meant the time per operation averaged over a worst-case sequence of operations. Thus splay trees are as efficient as balanced trees when total running time is the measure of interest. In addition, for sufficiently long access sequences, splay trees are as efficient, to within a constant factor, as static optimum search trees. The efficiency of splay trees comes not from an explicit structural constraint, as with balanced trees, but from applying a simple restructuring heuristic, called *splaying*, whenever the tree is accessed. Extensions of splaying give simplified forms of two other data structures: lexicographic or multidimensional search trees and link/cut trees.

*“Self-Adjusting Binary Search Trees”, JACM, 1985*

## Self-Adjusting Binary Search Trees



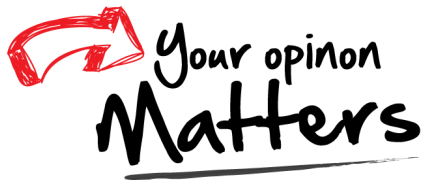












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