

Note that  $(i+1)^2 - i^2 = i^2 + 2i + 1 - i^2 = 2i + 1$ .

For  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ,

start with an empty sequence  $T_0$  of LC trees and  $i=0$ .

After  $2i+1$  operations, construct  $T_{i+1}$  from  $T_i$  and make  $i \leftarrow i+1$ .

The number of operations when  $T_i$  is built is exactly  $i^2$ . So we will have  $i$  LC trees in  $T_i$ , each with  $i$  more operations.

Specifically call the operations  $0, 1, \dots, i^2 - 1$ . The  $j$ th LC tree in  $\mathcal{T}_i$  includes the operations  $0, 1, \dots, ji - 1$  for  $j = 1, \dots, i$ .

To go from  $m_i = i^2$  operations to  $m_{i+1} = (i+1)^2$  note that the new  $2i+1$  operations can be intertwined with the old  $i^2$  in an arbitrary order in the operations sequence.

Call  $t_j$  the position of the  $j.i-1$  old operation for  $j=1, \dots, i$ .

This is the last operation in the  $j$ -th LC tree of  $T_i$ .

Let  $t_0 = -1$ . We want to know the interval in which each  $t_j$  falls with respect to the  $k(i+1)$ -th current  $(i+1)^2$  operations. The  $k(i+1)$ -th current operation is the first one in the  $k$ -th LC tree in  $T_{i+1}$ , that is not in the  $(k-1)$ -st LC tree in  $T_{i+1}$ .

Claim 1:  $t_j < (j+2)(i+1)$  for  $i \geq 0$  and  $j=0, 1, \dots, i$ .

Pf: Note that

$$t_j \leq ji - 1 + 2i + 1 = (j+2)i < (j+2)(i+1). \quad \blacksquare$$

Therefore we can build the  $(j+2)$ -th LC tree for the  $(i+1)^2$  operations from the  $j$ th LC tree for the  $i^2$  old operations.

Specifically we build the two first LC trees from scratch, with the  $i+1$  and the  $2(i+1)$  first of the  $(i+1)^2$  operations.

To build the  $j$ th LC tree for the  $(i+1)^2$  operations, for  $j=3, \dots, i+1$ , we start from the  $(j-2)$ th LC tree for the  $i^2$  operations, which already include  $(j-2)i$  operations, and add the missing  $j(i+1) - (j-2)i = j + 2i$  operations (some new ones from the past and some old ones in the sequel).

This amounts for  $j + 2i \leq i+1 + 2i = 3i+1 < 3(i+1) = 3\sqrt{m_{i+1}}$  insertions in an LC tree with less than  $m_{i+1}$  elements.

So the total amount of insertions we would have to do, to update the  $\lceil m_i \rceil$  LC trees into the  $\lceil m_{i+1} \rceil$  new LC trees, is less than  $3m_{i+1}$ , for a total amortized cost of  $O(m_{i+1} \lg m_{i+1})$ .

Amortizing by the  $2i+1 \leq 2(i+1) = 2\sqrt{m_{i+1}}$  new operation, we get an amortized cost of  $O(\sqrt{m_{i+1}} \lg m_{i+1})$  per operation.

So clarifying the algorithm behind these ideas, we keep track of a sequence of edge insertions, each with an associated time stamp, sorted by time stamp.

Every time the number of operations in the sequence reaches a perfect square, we reorganize the data structure we will keep to answer queries on the MST cost at any instant in time.

Let  $m_i := i^2$ . We will describe how to reorganize the data structure from when the sequence of edge insertions had  $m_i$  operations to when it reached  $m_{i+1}$  operations.

The data structure for a sequence of  $m_i$  edge insertions consists of a sequence of  $i$  LC trees.

The  $j$ -th LC tree contains an MST for the operations from 0 to  $j(i-1)$ .

One could think of building the  $j$ -th LC tree from a copy of the  $(j-1)$ -st LC tree adding the next  $i$  operations. But this is too costly.

We will instead update one of the LC trees from the previous sequence, namely the  $(j-2)$ -th one, to obtain the  $j$ -th LC tree of the new sequence.

So we will add two empty LC trees  $T_{-1}, T_0$  to the beginning of the old sequence  $T_1, \dots, T_i$ , then we will obtain  $T_j$  from  $T_{j-2}$  for  $j = 1, \dots, i+1$  by applying the  $j+2i$  operations from the current sequence that are missing for  $T_{j-2}$  include the first  $j(i+1)$  operations of the current sequence of edge insertions.