

Union Find Data Structure

aka Disjoint Set

- used in Kruskal's Minimum Spanning Tree
- think of union as merging groups of elements
- think of find as 'finding which group, an element belongs to'
- remarkable data structure – with path compression, both union & find amount to amortized constant time, complexity
- path compression – making all nodes of a component, point to same root node of that component, instead of hopping, to determine root node.