



Dynamic Graph Algorithms

CSL-531

2026

Introduction

Dr. Shahbaz Khan

Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

shahbaz.khan@cs.iitr.ac.in



Dynamic Graph Algorithms

Offline algo |



Dynamic Graphs: Graphs that keeps changing with time.

Graph Updates. Online sequence of *insertion / deletion* of *edges / vertices*.

Dynamic Graph Algorithms

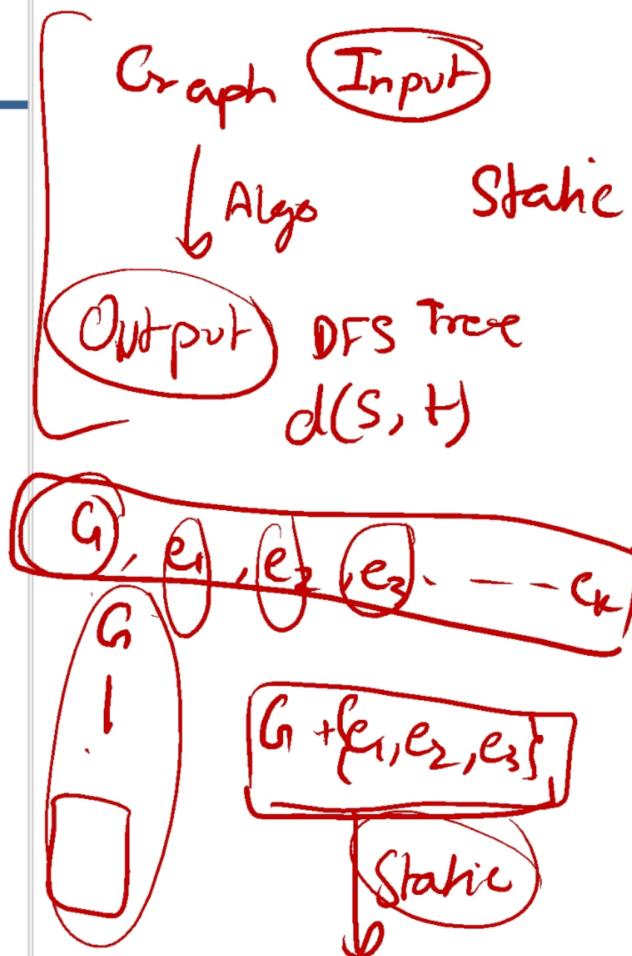
Design and analysis of algorithms for dynamic graphs.

Goal: Maintain a data structure or report query after each update.

Eg. DFS Tree, $d(s,t)$

Trivial: Recompute from scratch after every update using static algorithm.

Aim: Attempt to **reuse previous computation** for computing solution,
to update much faster than static.



Motivation

$$d(s, t) \Rightarrow [O(m+n\log n)]$$



Graph

Motivation

$$d(S, H) \Rightarrow [O(m+n\log n)]$$

log n

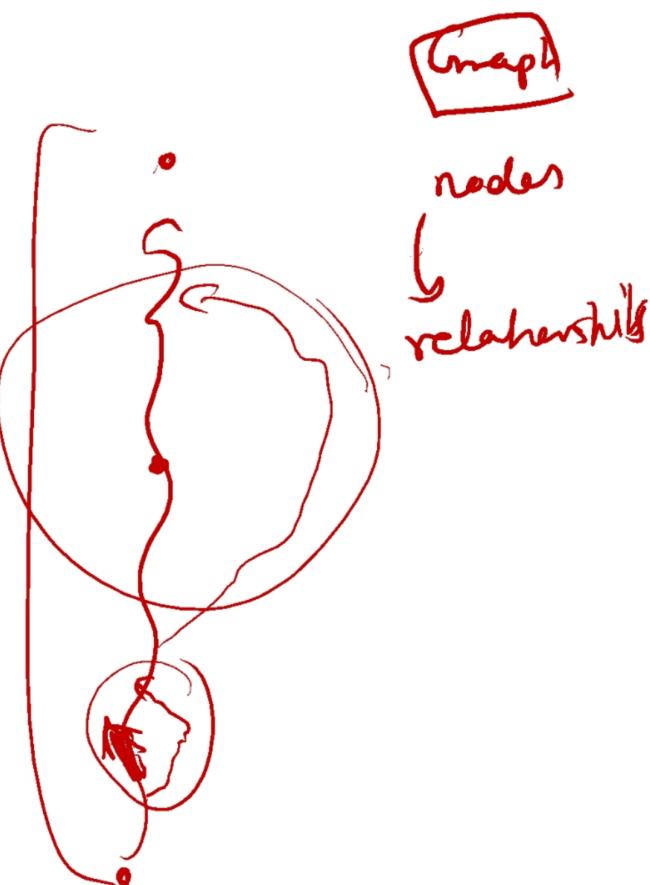
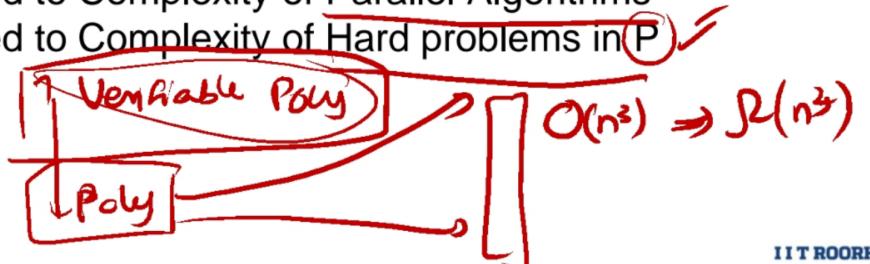


- Most graphs in real world are **dynamic**.
Eg. Social Network, Road Network, Internet Network, Genome Data
Size of data *TB*
- Recomputing solutions on such graphs from scratch **impractical**.
Eg. Shortest Paths, Connectivity, Centers

Theoretical Significance

- Serve as **black box** in other algorithms
- Related to Complexity of Parallel Algorithms
- Related to Complexity of Hard problems in P

NP Hard



Intended Learning Outcomes



Intended Learning Outcomes

Dynamic Graph Algorithms (CSL-531)

- **Design** dynamic graph algorithms using standard design techniques, and **prove** its correctness.
- **Analyze** dynamic graph algorithms using standard analysis techniques, and **prove** its tightness.
- **Prove** the hardness of a given dynamic graph problem, by reducing it to standard hard problems.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Analysis} & \text{WC } G_g \\ A \rightarrow O(n^2) & & \\ O(m) & \underline{\Omega(m)} \Rightarrow \Theta(m) & \end{array}$$



Course Modules

Sl. No.	Contents	Contact Hours
1.	Introduction: Terminology, Definitions, Models, classical problems	2
2.	Amortizations Techniques: Doubling, Monotonicity, Bounded Potential, Case studies: Partially dynamic MIS, BFS, Incremental Connectivity, Reachability.	8
3.	Randomization Techniques: Random Sampling, Hitting Sets, Probability tools, Case studies: Dynamic Matching, Decremental Connectivity, Fully Dynamic MIS.	8
4.	Hierarchical Decomposition Techniques: Decomposition, Multilevel decomposition, Case studies: Dynamic Matching, Fully Dynamic Connectivity, Shortest Paths.	8
5.	Primal Dual Techniques: Definition, Applications in Approximation algorithms, Case studies: Dynamic Vertex Cover, Fractional Matching, Coloring.	8
6.	Fine Grained Complexity: SETH, Polynomial Complexity Conjectures, Reductions, Case studies: Shortest Paths, Connectivity, Reachability, Matching, Diameter.	4
7.	Miscellaneous Topics: State of the Art in DFS Trees, Maximal Independent Sets.	4
	Total	42

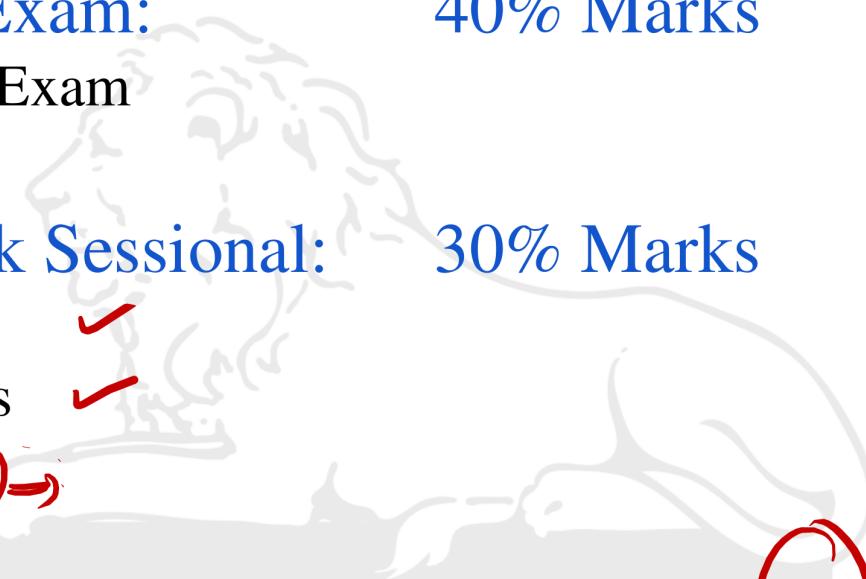


Course Structure and Assessment Criteria



Assessments

- Mid Term Exam: 30% Marks
- End Term Exam:
 - Written Exam 40% Marks
- Class Work Sessional: 30% Marks
 - Quiz ✓
 - Tutorials ✓
 - Project →



OPEN NOTES



WARNING

CHEATING and USE of UNFAIR MEANS

**ENTIRE COMPONENT
(Question/Assignment/Exam)
marked ZERO for BOTH parties**

**REPEAT OFFENDER
dealt with HARSHLY**



Guidelines for interactions

- Accepting different accents, writing styles.
- Always be respectful and do not offend others.
- For disagreements, give constructive feedback.
- It is OKAY to give wrong answers.
- Inappropriate/disrespectful behaviour will have consequences.

Email: Start subject with [CSL531] ✓

MS Teams: Message me directly

Office Hours: Class days evening 3-4pm

(email in advance before coming)



Dynamic Graph Model

Given a graph $G(V, E)$ that changes with time by an [online sequence](#) of updates.

- **Updates**

- Insertion of Edges
- Insertion of Vertices
- Deletion of Edges
- Deletion of Vertices



Shortest Path



- **Goal**

Report the **solution** or maintain the **data structure** after every update.

- Connected, Distance(s,t), Shortest Path Tree, BFS Tree?

- **Classification:**

- **Partially Dynamic:** Have either insertion or deletions
 - Incremental (only insertions), Decremental (only deletions)
- **Fully Dynamic:** Both insertions and deletions
- **Others:** Fault Tolerant, Subgraph, Oracle

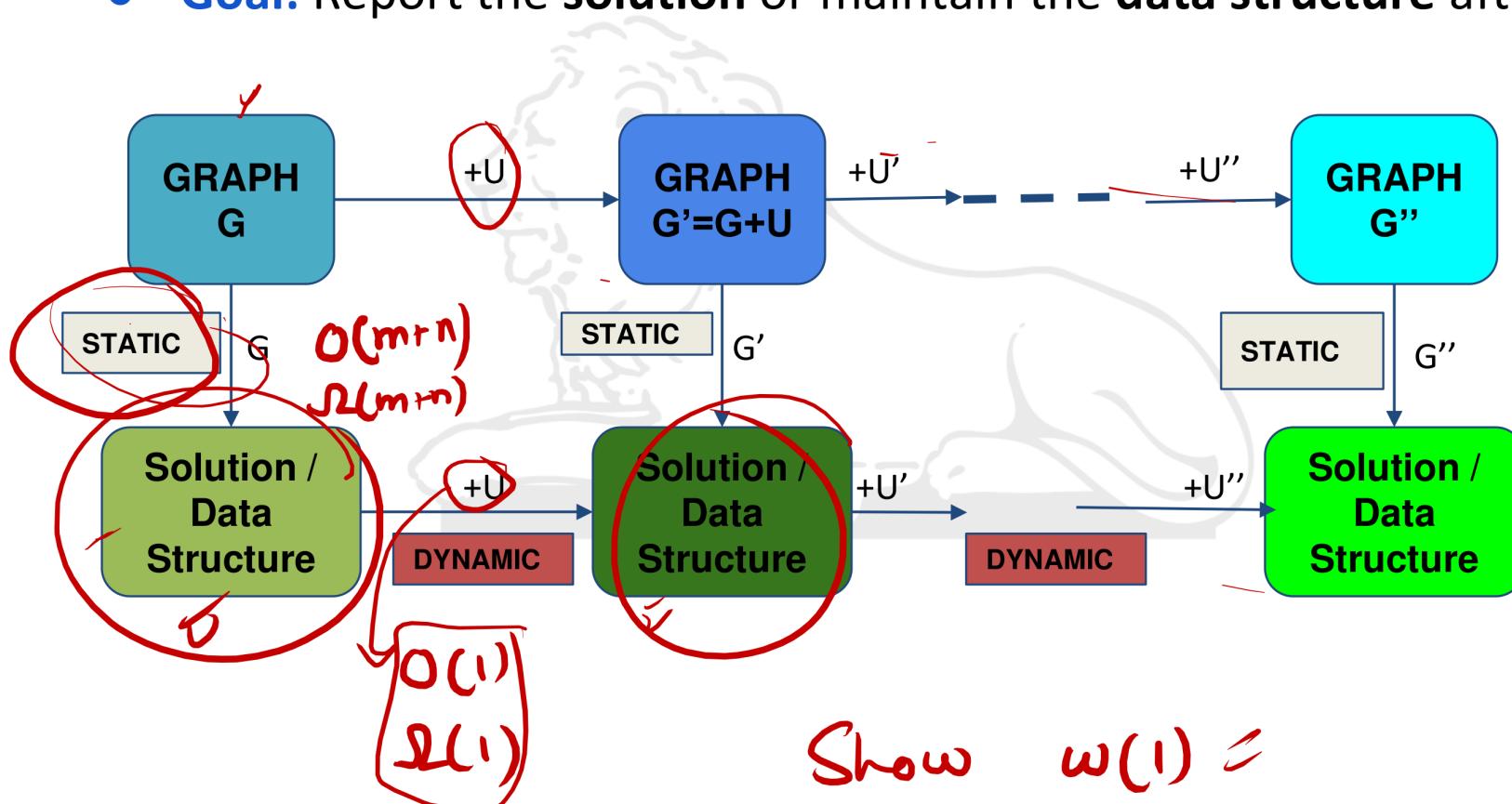
Inc. Connectivity DSO

Dynamic Graph Model

m edges n vertices

Given a graph $G(V, E)$ that changes with time by an **online sequence** of updates.

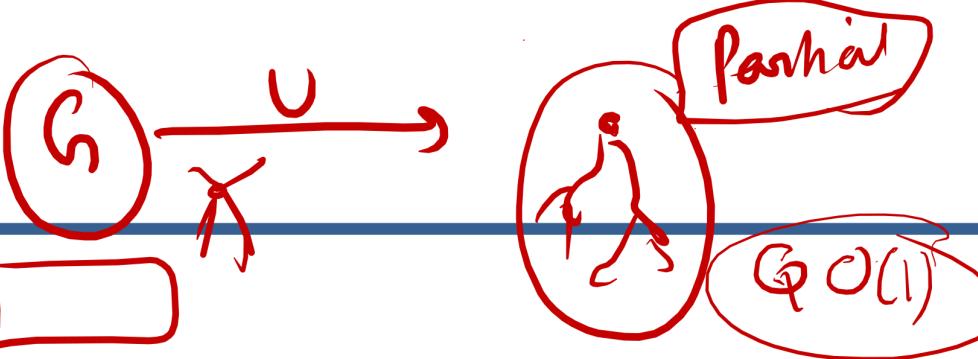
- **Updates:** Insertions/Deletions of Edges/Vertices
- **Goal:** Report the **solution** or maintain the **data structure** after every update.



Show $\omega(1) \vdash$

NOTE: Difference in size of input for static and dynamic algorithms.

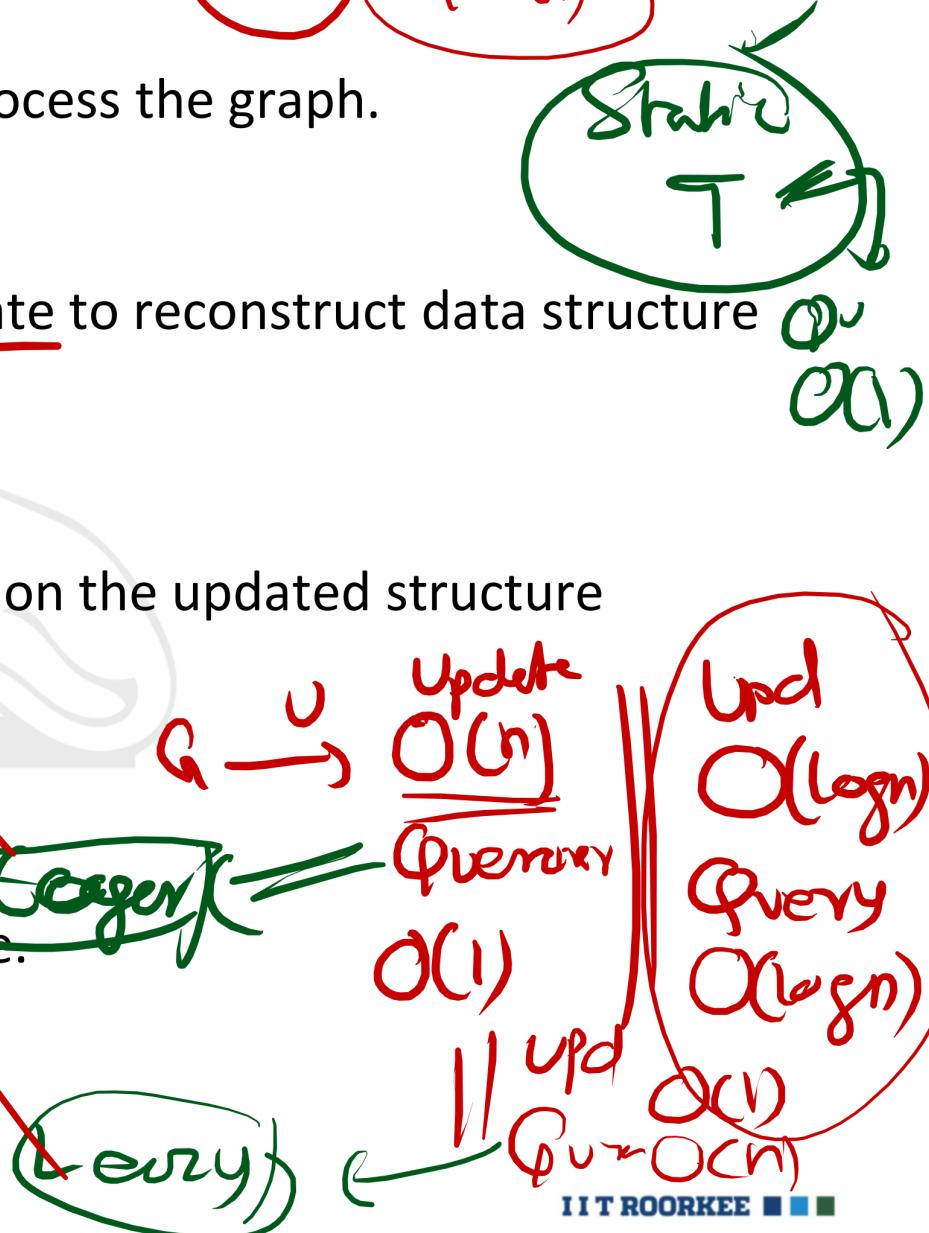
Time Complexity

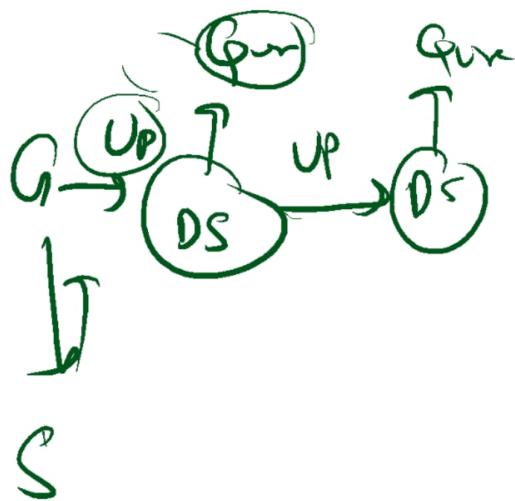


- **Preprocessing Time:** Initial time to preprocess the graph.
 - Shortest Path Tree from s
- **Update Time:** Time taken after each update to reconstruct data structure
 - Max: $\Theta(T)$
 - Min: $O(1)$
- **Query Time:** Time taken to answer query on the updated structure
 - Max: $O(T)$
 - Min: $O(1)$

Different tradeoffs for **Update** and **Query** time.

Worst-Case Bound vs Amortized Bounds.



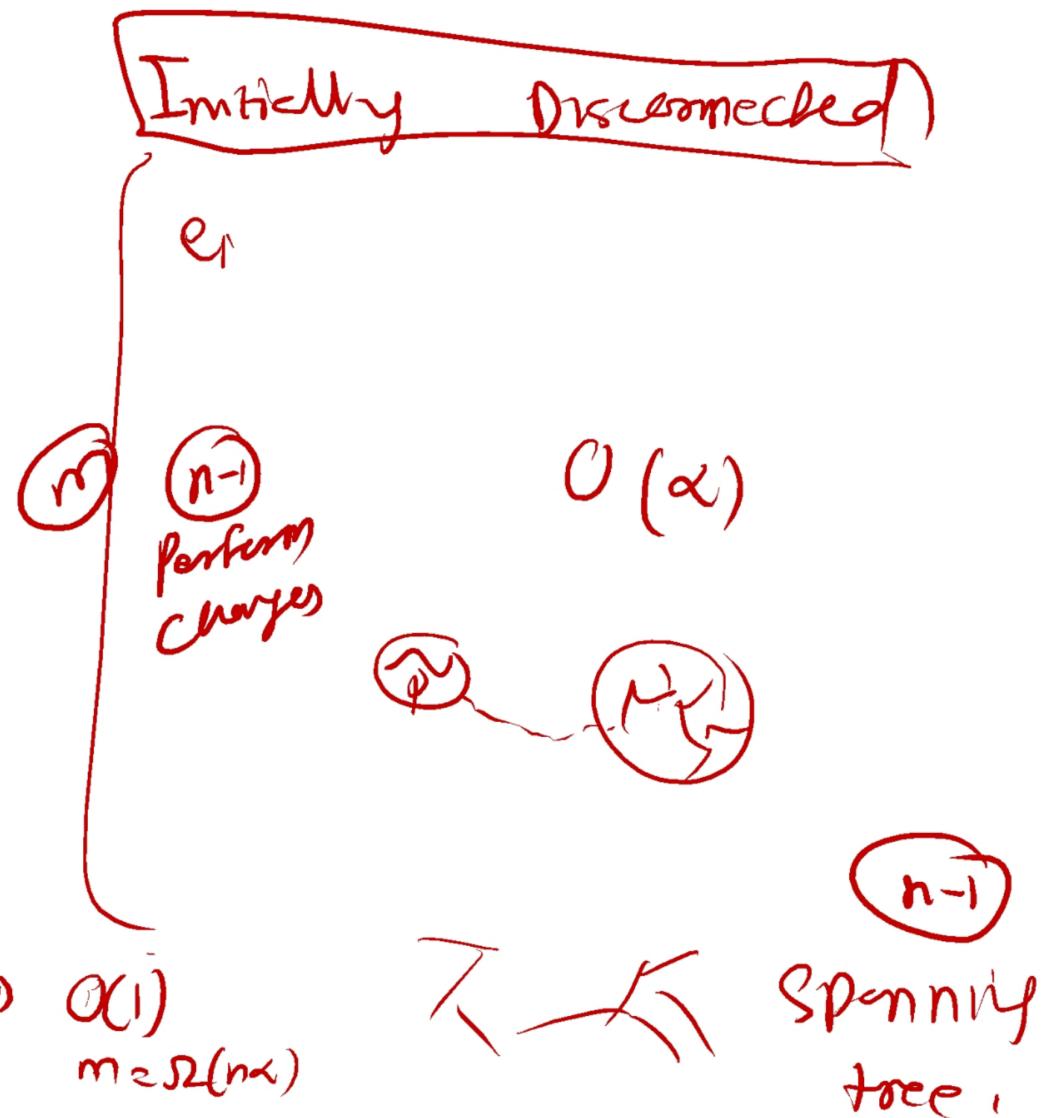


DSU
m update $\underline{O(\alpha)}$

$$\# \text{Updates} = \frac{nd}{m}$$

$O\left(\frac{n\alpha}{m}\right)$ Amortized $\Rightarrow O(1)$
 $m = \Omega(n\alpha)$

$c' \in \mathcal{T}$ $O(1)$



Averaged time

Total time

Total Number
of Updates





Limitations and Bounds

For a given problem P having best static algo time $T_s(n)$
 Dynamic Algorithm $T_d(n)$:

Upper bound:

$$\max(\text{update}, \text{query}) = T_d(n) = O(T_s(n))$$

Lower bound:

$$\max(\text{update}, \text{query}) = T_d(n) = \Omega(n)$$

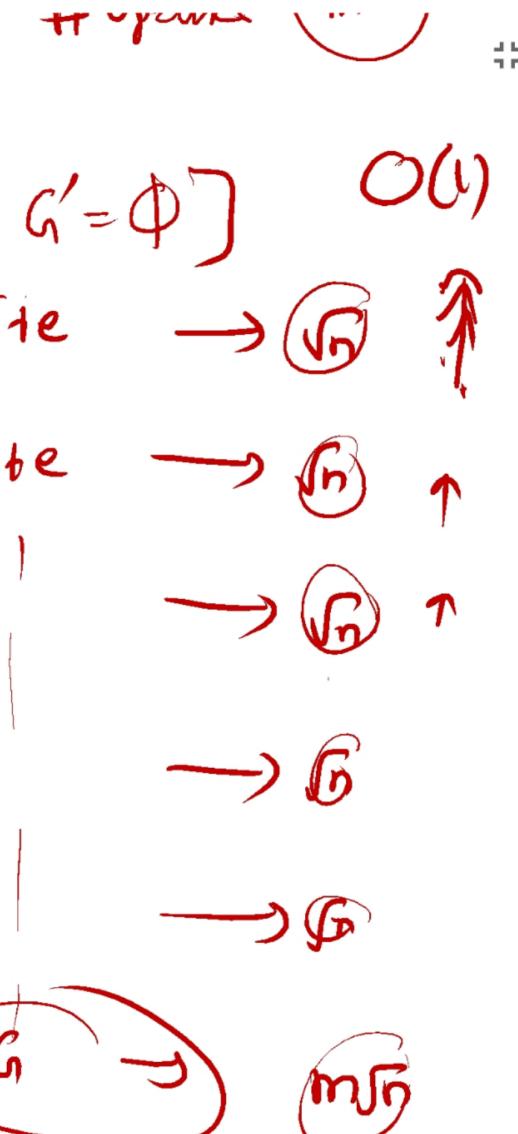
Incremental, Decremental, Fully Dynamic?

$\Omega(T_s/m) \leftarrow \frac{m!}{m} = \Omega(n)$

Dynamic Algorithm for NP Complete Problem in P?



Classical Problem





Classical Problem

Incremental Reachability

Given a graph under edge insertions, maintain
all vertices reachable from s

What is optimal update and query time?



Static

$O(m+n)$

Dynamic

$O(1)$ time

$\hookrightarrow \mathcal{S}^2$

Amortized?

WC. time?